

## Re: About the name Rasputin...

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- *From:* "Heidi Graw" <[hgraw@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hgraw@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 29 Jan 2007 18:17:36 GMT
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"Harlan Messinger" <[hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:526qubF1mco4bU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:526qubF1mco4bU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Heidi Graw wrote:  
My own fancy:

Considering Rasputin believed himself to be a mystic and a healer...a man of god,

"Like many spiritually minded Russians, Rasputin spoke of salvation as depending less on the clergy and the church than on seeking the spirit of God within. He also maintained that sin and repentance were interdependent and necessary to salvation."

and he considered himself a mystic healer, I'm wondering if the name Rasputin came from a completely different language...ie. Amharic or some other Semitic language:

"Ras" meaning head, prince, in Amharic

I couldn't find anything regarding the rest of the word "putin." However, in German the word "putin" pertains to the colour purple or crimson.

Rasputin: Prince--purple...purple being a royal colour. Jesus was also reported to wear a red robe.

Any other ideas?

Harlan wrote:

Yes, my idea is that it's highly doubtful that he was playing some kind of hybrid cross-language word game like this, and I'd be astonished if he had any knowledge of Amharic or that particular term, Rastafarians not being so well known in his day.

Might he have been familiar with another Semitic language, though?

Re: About the name Rasputin...

I didn't mean to imply that he created a name using two languages to form that hybrid. I did mention that I could only find a meaning for "Ras"...head, prince in the Amharic language. Yet, I couldn't find anything to indicate what the "putin" might mean, except for what I found in German. Perhaps that "putin" was derived from a Semitic language of one kind or another.

And since Rasputin thought so highly of himself, I doubt he would have chosen a derogatory name. It is entirely possible he thought himself a royal prince of a religious kind. And since he did travel to the Holy Land and moved among the Semites, I think it might be an idea to investigate the Semitic languages for the etymology of the name "Rasputin."

Heidi

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