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## **Introduction**

Hello to all pregnant ladies and expecting dads. My name is Cornelia and I'm the proud mother of two wonderful girls (Serena and Adeline). When I was pregnant, I spent a lot of time searching for unique and beautiful names for girls. And so the idea of this book was born.

First of all, I want to say that this book is not just another "list of 1000000+ baby names with one word as a description." In this material, I collected only the most unusual, nontrivial, noble, "exotic" and beautiful names, and tried to describe in detail the history of their origin and their meaning.

After reading this book, you will be able to choose a truly great and unique name for your child, as well as learn something new from the Bible, Scandinavian and Greek myths, legends, sagas, and world history.

## **Names for Boys**

**Abel and Cain** are male given names of the Biblical origin with a very fateful history. A long time ago, just after Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden, they were very sad about disobeying God. They asked God how they could show Him how sorry they were. God told them that they could show Him how they felt by sacrificing a lamb, which they did.

After a while, Adam and Eve had two sons. Their first son was called Cain and their second was called Abel. Cain was a farmer. He grew vegetables and grains. Abel was a shepherd who looked the family's herds. Cain and Abel were like most siblings - they didn't always get along. But they were brothers and loved each other very much, despite their occasional fights. Adam and Eve told Cain and Abel about the message God gave them that they should sacrifice a lamb to God to show how much they appreciated all He'd done and how sorry they were for their sins.

Abel was very concerned that his sacrifice be special to God. He chose his first and best lamb and offered it to the Lord. It was hard for Abel to give up his most prized possession, but it was important to him to try his best to do as God had asked.

Cain thought his little brother was a bit silly for giving up his best lamb. “Good grief,” he thought. “We need that lamb, God doesn’t. I’m sure He’d be just as happy if we sacrificed the runt of the litter. In fact, why does it need to be a lamb at all? I’m a farmer and it’s been a great year for my wheat crop - I can’t use everything I’ve grown. Why don’t I just burn some of the extra straw I have. That way, I won’t be wasting any.”

Cain’s reasoning sounds pretty good when you first hear it, doesn’t it? Cain watched as the lamb burnt up completely on the altar, while his left over straw just smoldered a bit and never really caught fire at all.

That could mean only one thing! God preferred Abel. Cain was jealous! He didn’t take the time or the responsibility to realize that it was his decision to sacrifice straw that caused the difference in God’s response to their sacrifices. Instead, he just got angry at his brother.

Cain asked Abel to go for a walk with him, and while he was still angry, Cain struck Abel to the ground and killed him.

When Cain realized what he’d done, he was more concerned that someone might have seen what he’d done than he was sorry for his brother’s death. He looked around and sighed a breath of relief that no one was nearby.

And then the Lord spoke, “Cain, where is your brother.” Cain shrugged, “I dunno! Am I my brother’s keeper?” God replied, “Cain, how could you be so cruel to your only brother. He has done nothing, but try his best for Me, for his parents... and for you.” Cain fell to the ground sobbing. Finally, he felt the horror of what he’d done. And he had to live with that feeling and the knowledge that he’d murdered his little brother for the rest of his life.

According to Genesis, Cain was the first human born and Abel was the first to die.

**Aidan** (AY-dən), *Aiden* and *Aedan* are the main anglicisations of the Irish male given name *Aodhán* and the Scottish Gaelic given name *Aodhàn*. The main meaning is “little fire” or “fiery one.”

**Ajax** is a given name derived from the Greek *Aias*, perhaps deriving from Greek *aiastes* (mourner) or *aia* (earth, land). The name is borne in Greek mythology by two Greeks renowned for their valor and prowess. *Ajax Telamon* (Ajax the Great) was a strong and brave warrior who led the Greeks in the Trojan War after Achilles withdrew. *Ajax the Lesser*, one of the swiftest runners in the Greek Army,

was the leader of the Locrian contingent during the Trojan War and a significant figure in Homer's *Iliad*.

**Alistair** is the Scottish form of *Alexander*. Alexander is the Latinized form of the ancient Greek name *Alexandros* (*alexein* (meaning "to defend") + *andros* (meaning "man, warrior" in the possessive) and so specifically means: "defender of mankind"). Adopted by the lowland Scots by the seventeenth century, the name didn't become popular outside Scotland and Ireland until the twentieth century.

**Alonso** is the Spanish and Portuguese diminutive version of *Alfonso*, itself deriving from an old Germanic name *Adalfuns* (meaning "ready for battle"). Although the Italian spelling *Alonzo* is more popular in the US, Alonso has its own strong history (Alonso Quijano, for example, is the real name of Miguel de Cervantes' famous character "Don Quixote", written in the early 1600s.)

**Alvaro** (AL-vah-roh) is a Spanish and Portuguese masculine name borrowed from the Germanic language (rather than Latin). Its origins can be found in the Old Norse *Alfarr* (from the components *alfr* (elf) and *arr* (army)). Some etymologists believe that the English *Oliver* may be derived from the same Germanic root elements. *Álvaro* was the name

borne by 14 Kings of Kongo between 1568 and 1896.

**Amir** (a-MEER) is a male given name of Arabic origin that means “prince” or “ruler.” In the United States, the name Amir is used primarily among those of Middle Eastern descent. While the name is common among Arabs and Muslims, it is not generally used by English-speaking nations.

**Anders** (AN-ders) is the Scandinavian form of *Andrew*, which are both ultimately derived from the Greek *andros* (man, manly, warrior).

**Angus** (ANG-guss) is the Anglicized form of an Old Gaelic name *Aonghus*, a name traditionally used among the Irish and Scottish Gaels, particularly the Scots. The name means “one force”, “one strength”, or “one of excellence”, depending on the translation. It is also sometimes said to mean “one choice.” The feminine form of Angus is *Angusina*.

**Aramis** (AIR-a-miss) is a male given name taken from Alexandre Dumas’s “The Three Musketeers”; Aramis characterized as a famous swordsman, notable for his ambition and religious aspirations.

**Archibald** is the Modern English and Scottish form of an Old High German name *Erchanbald* derived from the elements *ercan* (genuine) and *bald* (bold). In medieval Europe, the name's meaning was meant to signify the strength and solidity of one's Christian faith. The name was later altered with the Greek prefix *archos* (meaning "master"). The Norman French brought the name to England after the Conquest of 1066 where it proved most popular among the Scots (particularly the clans Campbell and Douglas).

**Athelstan** is a given name of Old English origin that means "noble stone." It was the name of King Athelstan the Glorious of England who reigned from 924 - 940 AD. He was the first king of a united England and obtained the submission of the Welsh and Scots.

**Atticus** (AT-a-kuss) is an old Roman (Latin) name meaning "man of Attica." Attica is a place name; dating back to Antiquity, it is the region in Greece which surrounds Athens. The name was made most famous by author Harper Lee as the protagonist of her 1960 novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

**August** (AW-gust) is both a given name and surname developed from the Latin *Augustus* (derived from the Latin word *augere* (to



increase)). Augustus had the meaning “esteemed, great, or venerable” and was a title given to Roman emperors. August is also the eighth month of the calendar year.

**Basil** is a given name that comes from the male Greek name *Vassilios*, which first appeared during the Hellenistic period. It is derived from *basileus* (a Greek word of pre-Hellenic origin meaning “king”), from which words such as *basilica* and *basilisk* (via Latin) as well as the eponymous herb (via Old French) derive, and the name of the Italian region *Basilicata*, which had been long under the rule of the Byzantine Emperor (also called *basileus*). This name was brought to England by the Crusaders, having been common in the eastern Mediterranean. It is more often used in Britain and Europe than in the US and is also the name of a common herb. In Arabic, Basil is a name for boys that means “brave, fearless, and intrepid.”

**Bellamy** is a male given name derived from the Old French *bel amy* (fair friend, beautiful friend), which is from the Latin *bellus* (fair, beautiful) and *amicus* (friend).

**Benedict** (BEN-a-dikt) is a given name, which comes from Late Latin word *Benedictus* (meaning “blessed”). Etymologically, it is derived from the Latin words *bene* (good) +

*dicte* (speak) i.e. “well spoken.” The name was borne by Saint Benedict of Nursia, the founder of the Order of Saint Benedict and thereby of Western Monasticism. This name was also borne by the American general Benedict Arnold (1741-1801), who defected to Britain during the American Revolution.

Shakespeare’s Benedick in “Much Ado about Nothing” is a self-assured, witty bachelor.

**Bodhi** is a Hindu name, from the Sanskrit *Bodhi* (meaning “awakened, enlightened”). In Buddhist philosophy, the path to liberation from the cycle of rebirth (*moksha*) is a path of coming out of delusional beliefs to find the Truth. This path is referred to as the awakening, which results in an understanding of life and consciousness - or *bodhi*. Some individuals who reach this spiritual understanding may enter into the state of *bodhicitta*, where they assist and serve others on the path to enlightenment.

In some schools of Buddhism, it is thought that bodhi is inherent in the mind and that individuals must remove distractions in order to obtain or behold it. Yogacara Buddhism, a school of Buddhism that centers on seeing the world through the practice of yoga, also holds this belief.