

With a wry look; aside; askant; sometimes indicating scorn, or contempt, or envy.

Spenser.

ASKING, *ppr.* Requesting; petitioning; interrogating; inquiring.

2. Silently expressing request or desire.

Explain the asking eye. Pope.

ASLAKE, *v. t.* [Sax. *aslacian*. See *Slack*.] To remit; to slacken. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

ASLAN, *n.* A silver coin worth from 115 to 120 aspers. *Encyc.*

ASLANT, *a. or adv.* [a and slant. See *Slant*.]

On one side; obliquely; not perpendicularly with a right angle.

The shaft drove through his neck *aslant* *Dryden.*

ASLEEP, *a. or adv.* [a and sleep, or Sax. *geslapan*, to sleep.]

1. Sleeping; in a state of sleep; at rest.

Sisera was fast asleep. Judges iv.

2. To a state of sleep; as to fall *asleep*.

3. Dead; in a state of death.

Concerning them who are *asleep*, sorrow not.

1 *Thess. iv.*

4. To death.

For since the fathers fell *asleep*, all things continue. 2 *Pet. iii.*

ASLOPE, *a. or adv.* [a and slope. See *Slope*.]

With leaning or inclination; obliquely; with declivity or descent, as a hill; declining from an upright direction.

Set them not upright, but *aslope*. *Bacon.*

ASLUG, *adv.* In a sluggish manner. [Not used.] *Fotherby.*

ASMONEAN, *a.* Pertaining to Asmoneus, the father of Simon, and chief of the Asmoneans, a family that reigned over the Jews 126 years.

ASMONEAN, *n.* One of the family of Asmoneus.

ASOMATOUS, *a.* [Gr. a priv. and *σῶμα*, body.]

Without a material body; incorporeal. [Not used.] *Todd.*

ASP, *n.* [L. *aspis*; Gr. *ἄσπις*, a round shield; and an asp; supposed to be from Heb. and Ch. *אֲסַפִּי*, to gather in, or collect; from the coil of this serpent, with his head elevated in the center, like the boss of a buckler.]

A small poisonous serpent of Egypt and Libya, whose bite occasions inevitable death, but without pain. It is said that the celebrated Cleopatra, rather than be carried a captive to Rome by Augustus, suffered death by the bite of the asp; but the fact has been questioned. Authors are not agreed, as to what species the asp of the ancients should be referred. Bruce thinks it the *coluber cerastes*, Linne.

ASPAITHUS, *n.* A plant.

ASPARAGIN, *n.* White transparent crystals of a peculiar vegetable principle, which spontaneously form in asparagus juice evaporated to the consistence of sirup. They are in the form of rhombohedral prisms. *Ure.*

ASPARAGUS, *n.* [L. and Gr.; probably from *σπαρσσω*, to tear, from its lacerated appearance, or from the root of *σπῆρα*, a spire, from its stem.]

Sparagus; *sperage*; vulgarly, sparrow-grass; a genus of plants. That which is cultivated in gardens, has an upright herbaceous

stalk, bristly leaves, and equal stipules. The roots have a bitterish mucilaginous taste; and the stalk is, in some degree, aperient and deobstruent, but not very efficacious. *Encyc.*

ASPECT, *n.* [L. *aspectus*, from *aspicio*, to look on, of ad and *specio*, to see or look.]

1. Look; view; appearance to the eye or the mind; as, to present an object or a subject in its true *aspect*, or under a double *aspect*. So we say, public affairs have a favorable *aspect*.

2. Countenance; look; or particular appearance of the face; as a mild or severe *aspect*.

3. View; sight; act of seeing. [This sense is now unusual.]

4. Position or situation with regard to seeing, or that position which enables one to look in a particular direction; as, a house has a southern *aspect*, that is, a position which faces or looks to the south.

5. In *astronomy*, the situation of one planet with respect to another. The aspects are five; sextile, when the planets are 60° distant; quartile, or quadrature, when their distance is 90°; or the quarter of a circle; trine, when the distance is 120°; opposition, when the distance is 180°; or half a circle; and conjunction, when they are in the same degree.

ASPECT, *v. t.* To behold. [Not used.] *Temple.*

ASPECT ABLE, *a.* That may be seen. [Not used.] *Raleigh.*

ASPECTED, *a.* Having an aspect. [Not used.] *B. Jonson.*

ASPECTION, *n.* The act of viewing. [Not used.] *Broten.*

ASPEN or **ASP**, *n.* [D. *esp*; G. *aspe*, *aspe*; Sax. *aspe*; Sw. *asp*; Dan. *asp*; Qu. from the Ar. *عشش* *gashafa*, to be agitated.]

A species of the poplar, so called from the trembling of its leaves, which move with the slightest impulse of the air. Its leaves are roundish, smooth, and stand on long slender foot-stalks.

ASPEN, *a.* Pertaining to the aspen, or resembling it; made of aspen wood.

Nor *aspens* leaves confess the gentlest breeze.

ASPER, *a.* [L. See *Asperate*.] Rough; rugged. [Little used.] *Bacon.*

ASPER, *n.* [L. *aspiro*, to breathe.] In *grammar*, the Greek accent, importing that the letter over which it is placed ought to be aspirated, or pronounced as if the letter *h* preceded it. *Encyc.*

ASPER, *n.* A Turkish coin, of which three make a medine. Its value is about a cent and 12 decimals.

ASPERATE, *v. t.* [L. *aspero*, from *asper*, rough.]

To make rough or uneven. *Boyle.*

ASPERATION, *n.* A making rough.

ASPERIFOLIATE, *a.* [L. *asper*, rough, and *folium*, a leaf.]

Having rough leaves. Plants of this kind are, by some authors, classified according to this character. They constitute the forty-first order of Linne's fragments of a natural method. In the methods of Herman, Boerhave, and Ray, this class consists of plants which have four naked

seeds. Their leaves stand alternately on the stalks, and the flower is monopetalous in five divisions. *Encyc.* *Milne.*

ASPERIFOLIOUS, *a.* Having leaves rough to the touch. [See the preceding word.]

ASPERITY, *n.* [L. *asperitas*, from *asper*, rough.]

1. Roughness of surface; unevenness: opposed to smoothness. *Boyle.*

2. Roughness of sound; that quality which grates the ear; harshness of pronunciation. *Warton.*

3. Roughness to the taste: sourness.

4. Roughness or ruggedness of temper; moroseness; sourness; crabbedness. *Rogers.*

5. Sharpness. *Berkeley.*

ASPEROUS, *a.* [L. *asper*, rough.] Rough; uneven. *Boyle.*

ASPERSE, *v. t.* *aspers'*. [L. *aspergo*, *asper-* *sus*, of ad and *spargo*, to scatter; Ar. *س* *to split, divide, scatter.* See Class Brg.]

1. To bespatter with foul reports or false and injurious charges; to tarnish in point of reputation, or good name; to slander or calumniate; as, to *asperse* a poet or his writings; to *asperse* a character.

2. To cast upon. *Heywood.*

ASPERER, *n.* One that asperes, or vilifies another.

ASPERSION, *n.* A sprinkling, as of water or dust, in a literal sense. *Shak.*

2. The spreading of calumnious reports or charges, which tarnish reputation, like the bespattering of a body with foul water.

Bp. Hall.

ASPHALT, *n.* [Gr. *ασφαλτος*.] Bitumen

ASPHALTUM, *n.* [Gr. *ασφαλτος*.] Bitumen; a smooth, hard, brittle, black or brown substance, which breaks with a polish, melts easily when heated, and when pure, burns without leaving any ashes. It has little taste, and scarcely any smell, unless heated, when it emits a strong smell of pitch. It is found in a soft or liquid state on the surface of the Dead Sea, which, from this substance, is called *Asphaltite*, or the Asphaltic Lake. It is found also in the earth, in many parts of Asia, Europe and America. Formerly, it was used for embalming dead bodies; the solid asphalt is still employed in Arabia, Egypt, and Persia, instead of pitch for ships; and the fluid asphalt is used for varnishing, and for burning in lamps. A species found in Neuchâtel is found excellent as a cement for walls and pavements; very durable in air, and not penetrable by water. A composition of asphalt, lamp black and oil is used for drawing black figures on dial-plates. *Encyc.* *Nicholson.*

ASPHALTIC, *a.* Pertaining to asphalt, or containing it; bituminous. *Milton.*

ASPHALTITE, *a.* Pertaining to or containing asphalt. *Bryant. Wilford.*

ASPHODEL, *n.* [L. and Gr. See *Thope*.] Lib. 7. Phn. Lib. 21. 17. Perhaps it is from the root of *spid*; Sw. *spyd*; Ice. *spioot*, a spear, from the shape of its leaves.]

King's-spear; a genus of liliaceous plants, cultivated for the beauty of their flowers. The ancients planted asphodels near graves, to supply the manes of the dead with nourishment. *Encyc.* *Johnson.*