

**BERBER/AMAZIGH NAMES**

Compiled by Jessica Hammer

**NOTES**

If using these names in a medieval setting, the appropriate form for a last name is an Arab-style patronymic. Men have names like Iken ibn Tariq, and women names like Geduda bint Amina. Names of the form al- are also perfectly reasonable. The greatest heroine of the Berber people, for example, is Dihya al-Kahina. In a more modern setting, last names are appropriate.

**FEMALE NAMES 1**

1. Amina
2. Bakka
3. Dihya
4. Silya
5. Fariza
6. Ghida
7. Jedira
8. Kella
9. Tafrara
10. Lalla
11. Laysa
12. Tasa
13. Melila
14. Tigmi
15. Myassa
16. Talalit
17. Riuza
18. Tamilla
19. Mernissa
20. Tannina

**MALE NAMES 1**

1. Abayghur
2. Alwas
3. Mennac
4. Atissi
5. Berkan
6. Seghada
7. Firmus
8. Ghanim
9. Gildun
10. Tiljad
11. Gulussan
12. Hotha
13. Idir
14. Meddur
15. Kadidu
16. Taqfarinas
17. Madidu
18. Yaghmurasen
19. Masmud
20. Zerwal

**FEMALE NAMES 2**

1. Sekura
2. Rula
3. Darifa
4. Susa
5. Tadla
6. Tafat
7. Geduda
8. Kisa
9. Taklit
10. Randja
11. Temzi
12. Tawnat
13. Tayri
14. Ghnima
15. Tella
16. Megduda
17. Tisent
18. Wrina
19. Zamra
20. Zunagha

**MALE NAMES 2**

1. Mejdun
2. Firhun
3. Abazza
4. Mezwar
5. Mezian
6. Oukesson
7. Nguna
8. Amastan
9. Sekla
10. Sifal
11. Tabat
12. Iken
13. Tariq
14. Mastenissa
15. Uksem
16. Afalku
17. Yeften
18. Yunes
19. Zayar
20. Kenan

## **SURNAMES**

1. Aknin
2. Hamuy
3. Ohana
4. Mammeri
5. Ouaknin
6. Tanzir
7. Ouyahia
8. Abrika
9. Mehenni
10. Othmani
11. Menguellet
12. Tabaamrant
13. Demsiri
14. Massi
15. Guerouabi
16. Assouline
17. Feraoun
18. Djaout
19. Zidane
20. Hasnaoui

## **SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS**

Amazigh culture (the Berber word for the Berber - it means "the people") is based on a strongly nomadic, shamanistic ancestry. For that reason, their arts are mostly the portable and useful kind, such as weaving rugs and baskets. However, the symbology put into their works has mystical significance within the culture. The meaning of a work is equally as important as its skill. The following are twenty common symbols found in Berber culture, along with their meanings.

1. Lion's Paw (protection through strength)
2. Barley (fertility)
3. Partridge Eyes (beauty and femininity)
4. Chessboard (religious trance)
5. Frog (fertility and magical power, male)
6. Spider (fertility and magical power, female)
7. Eye (protection against the evil eye)
8. Scissors (anti-magic; symbol of metalworkers; metal is inimical to all Berber magic)
9. Snake (holy person)
10. Snake Skeleton (healing)
11. Eagle (power)
12. Lizard (human aspiration)
13. Turtle (protection)
14. Bird (destiny)
15. Fish (prosperity)
16. Crow's Beak (protection for children)
17. Gold (evil)
18. Hen (a good wife)
19. Seeds (hope for children)
20. Saw (active defense against evil spirits)