


GALDR - VERBAL RUNE MAGIC

Galdr or Galdor, from the Old Norse, originally meant 'incantation'. The verb "gala" is also used for "to crow". It later came to mean magic in general. These are the sounds used in runic oral spells. The Galdr sounds are from Edred Thorsson's [Futhark, a Handbook of Rune Magic](#).

Rune Pronounced	Magical Value	Galdr Chant
 Fehu "fay-who"	<p>This rune provides success, advancement in career, a turnabout in luck for those in difficulty. The good luck it provides is not permanent, but a single event or a short period of good fortune. After that the charm must be renewed, not only magically but through an act of binding or connection in the social sense. This act can be a gift to charity, help to another, or some other action to like oneself to a social order. This rune is good for areas of money, friendliness, and gaining merit. Fehu is a sign of hope and plenty, success and happiness, but also the responsibilities of those at the top and a social binding at all levels. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.</p> <p>It is the power of generation at its most basic level. Its energies are totally wild and very useful for magick involving swift, radical changes. To hasten affairs to their next stage&mdash;use after the "subject " rune in your runescript. To increase monetary wealth. Protection of valuables. The "sending" rune&mdash;use it to send either your energy or the enrgy of the runes out into the formative spheres. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.</p> <p>Strengthens psychic powers. Channel for power transference or projection; the sending rune. Drawing the projected power of the sun, moon, and stars into the personal sphere. Promotion of personal and social evolution. Increase in monetary wealth. Thorsson, Futhark</p> <p>For attracting wealth and protecting property. Howard, Understanding</p>	<p>fehu fehu fehu f f f f f f f f fu fa fi fe fo of ef if af uf f f f f f f f f</p> <p>(Remember "Fi Fi Fo Fum" from the Jack in the Beanstalk fairy tale?)</p>


Uruz
"ooo-rooze"

Runes

Ur is useful for using primal power to release creativity and create sudden change. It can be used to release or tame power. In all cases there is a certain danger to the action, since it will be the runecaster's personal skill and power which will control that which is unleashed. In conjunction with other runes, ur is useful in the evocation of various natural powers. It helps in areas of risk and beginning an adventure, even that of starting a business or any other area in which you are putting something at risk. In the eighteen runes of which Odin speaks, the sixteenth is one that wins the heart of a woman. This sense of taming a woman was endemic in the attitudes of the Aesir gods and their followers. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

uruz uruz uruz
u u u u u u u u u
u u u u u u r r r r r
u u u u u u u u u

This is the rune of changes. Uruz is the shaping power that brings about manifestation. Use it to give sluggish circumstances a little prod. A rune of vitality and strength, it is useful in healing magick, especially when the patient is weak and needs some extra strength. To draw new situations into your life. To initiate new circumstances purely by a force of will. Healing and maintenance of good physical health. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Shaping and forming circumstances creatively through will and inspiration. Healing and maintenance of good mental and physical health. Bringer of fortunate circumstances. Induction of magnetic earth streams. Realization of causality. Knowledge and understanding of the self. Thorsson, Futhark.

To clear obstacles and change circumstances. Howard, Understanding Runes.


Thurisaz
"thoor-ee-

Thorn (Thurisaz) is useful for attack and sometimes for tests. It makes people careless at the wrong moment; it makes people sicken; it drives people

thurisaz thurisaz
thurisaz
th th th th th th th
th th

saws"

insane. It is particularly suitable for increasing the fear of people already afraid. Of Odin's list of eighteen runes, the sixth turns an enemy's spells against them. In the poem the spell is stated to be the root of a sapling with runes cut into it. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**thur thar thur ther
thor
thu tha thu the tho
th th th th th th th
th th**

Directed cosmic power of defense. It symbolizes Mjollnir, the Hammer of Thor. It is pure will untempered by self-consciousness. It is a projectable form of applied power. The force of Thurisaz is able to direct their energies in an effective fashion. Use it when a "little something extra" is required to get things off the ground. New beginnings. Use when you need luck or when circumstances are beyond your control. Protection or defense. Neutralization of enemies or opposition. To push the issue in love magick. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Defensive (active). Destruction of enemies, curses. Awakening of the will to action. Preparedness for generation in all realms. Love magic. Knowledge of the division and unity of all things. Thorsson, Futhark.

For protection and defense. Howard, Understanding Runes.

F
Ansuz
"awn-sooze"

This is a rune of luck, good fortune, good fortune, immortality, divine impulse of human beings, and the invocation of divine power or help. Compare this to the rune thorn, which calls upon the chaotic or evil powers of the universe. Os is also good for writing poetry or prose or for success in public speaking. In Odin's list of eighteen runes, the fourteenth tells the names of the gods and elves one by one. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**ansuz ansuz ansuz
aw aw aw aw aw aw
aw aw aw
aw aw aw aw aw aw
s s s s s
aw aw aw aw aw aw
aw aw aw aw aw aw
aw aw aw**

Ansuz is the rune of communications. It rules over song, poetry, examinations, interviews and magickal incantations. It is good to use wherever communication is the issue. Convincing and magnetic speech. To gain wisdom. Confidence

and luck with exams. Increase of active magickal energies. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Increase of both active and passive magical powers and clairvoyant abilities, etc. Convincing and magnetic speech, and the power of suggestion and hypnosis. Acquisition of creative wisdom, inspiration, estacy, and divine communication. Thorsson, Futhark.

To increase communicative skills, pass exams and gain wisdom. Howard, Understanding Runes.

R
Raidho
"rye-though"

This rune symbolizes the journey to a place of power, the realms of the dead. Thus it can be used to gain knowledge from the dead through necromancy, seance, and divination. It is also useful for promoting change, unblocking stymied situations, and hallowing things. It can be used to bless, in both positive and negative sense. A negative blessing is simply an injunction against dark forces, much like the Orthodox "God save you from all demons." But it can also be used to invoke positive forces. In both cases there is a link to the dead who have positive or negative wisdom for and intentions toward us. It is good for understanding great changes, anything to do with ancestors (apart from inheritance), traveling in safety, and immigration. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

raidho raidho raidho
r r r r r r r r r
ru ra ri re ro
rudh radh ridh redh
rodh
(rut rat rit ret rot)
or er ir ar ur
r r r r r r r r r

Raidho is not only a rune of travel but also rules over the cosmic laws of Right and Order. It is useful for legal matters, especially when you have been unjustly accused and need to bring those forces of Right to bear on the issue. Safe and comfortable travel. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes. Strengthens ritual abilities and experience. Access to "inner advice". Raises consciousness to right and natural rhythms. Obtaining justice according to right. Thorsson, Futhark.

To ensure a safe journey. Howard,

Understanding Runes.

For sex magic, seidr.


Kenaz
"cane-awze"

Ken is useful for spiritual understanding, initiation, the harnessing of power, and guardianship. It can be used to bring strength to an individual, or for the banishment of dark forces of any kind. It can help overcome obstacles through learning. It is also a good luck charm. It is not, however, any good for combat. It banishes the dark; it doesn't defeat it. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**kenaz kenaz kenaz
ku ka ki ke ko
kun kan kin ken kon
ok ek ik ak uk
kaunnnnnnnnn**

Kenaz is another rune of Fire, but unlike Fehu, it is a gentle, more controlled form which gives the ability and the will to create. It is the rune of the artist and craftsman and is useful either when creativity is the issue or when artistic things are very important to the person for whom you are creating the runescript. It also governs the technical aspects of magick. It is the rune that governs passion, lust and sexual love as firey, positive attributes. Use to strengthen any runescript. Healing, physical well-being. Love, stability and passion in relationships. Fresh starts. Protection of valuables. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Strengthening of abilities in all realms. Creative inspiration. Higher polarization as a tool of operation. Operations of regeration, healing. Love (especially sexual love). Thorsson, Futhark.

To restore self-confidence and strengthen will-power. Howard, Understanding Runes.


Gebo
"gay-boe"

Propitiation; removal of a curse (or karmic debt) through a sacrifice which brings with it right intention and action. A sign under which gifts can be made to the gods. Of Odin's eighteen runes, the last is secret. It could be the secret of sacrifice. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**gebo gebo gebo
gu ga gi ge go
gub gab gib geb gob
og eg ig au ur
g a a a f f f f**

Gifu is the rune of partnerships in all

realms. It contains the power to integrate the energies of two or more people in order to produce a force that is greater than the sum total of their individual parts. It is the primary rune of sex magick. Love and sex magick. Increase magickal powers. Anything to do with partnerships. Mental and physical equilibrium. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Sex magic. Sex magic initiation. Mystical union. Increase in magical powers. Harmony between brothers and sisters and lovers. Acquisition of wisdom. Thorsson, Futhark.

To create harmony in personal relationships. Howard, Understanding Runes.


Wunjo
"woon-yo"

Gaining the favor or untapped power of superiors, whether mortal or immortal; obtaining promotion or passing tests. It is also useful for gaining wisdom, and is very useful for timing spell results. If you want a spell to work at a particular time, wunjo can be used to control the release of spell energy. So a talisman might use wynn to made to work for nine days, in nine days, or some similar feature. Our method of measuring time (e.g; ., four o'clock on Thursday) is not suitable, and the rune works at its best in a multiple of nine. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

wunjo wunjo wunjo
wu wa wi we wo
wun wan win wen
won
wo we wi wa wu
w w w u u u n n n

Wunjo is the rune of "happily ever after". It is generally used in the final position as a signifier of success and happiness. Fulfillment in any area, especially love or career. Success in travel. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

.Strengthens links and bonds.
Invocation of fellowship and harmony.
Banishes alienation. Happiness and well-being. Realization of the links and multiplicity of relationships of all things. Binding runes toward specific purposes. Thorsson, Futhark.

To bring happiness and spiritual

transformation. Howard, Understanding Runes.

H

Hagalaz
"haw-gaw-laws"

This is a rune of meditation and the council of silence, and aids consideration, decision, and meditation. It is also useful for overcoming aspects of our lower nature, including prankishness or bad habits. It is therefore very useful in overcoming impediments or obstacles to success. This is the rune of self-undoing and overcoming the tendency to undo one's own efforts. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**hagalaz hagalah
hagalaz
h h h h h h h h
hu ha hi he ho
hug hag hig heg hog
(hul hal hil hel hol)
oh eh ih ah uh
h h h h h h h h**

The meaning of Hagall in magick is very different from its meanings in divination. In magick, it is a rune of evolution, but it is evolution of the slow but sure type within a fixed framework. Its fixed nature promotes security and keeps negative energies from entering your space. Protection. Use where luck is needed. To encourage a positive result within a fixed framework. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Completeness and balance of power. Mystical and numinous experience and knowledge. Evolutionary, becoming operations. Protection. Thorsson, Futhark.

To attract positive influences. Howard, Understanding Runes.

†

Nauthiz
"now-these"

For all forms of success and all types of achievement. However, remember that a gift, and take note of the associated god. Useful for harnessing internal power, intuition and creativity, the ability to achieve, as with a sudden rush of adrenaline or creation of momentum. The fourth of Odin's runes frees one from locks and fetters, which ties in well with the meaning of nyd. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.


**naudhiz naudhiz
naudhiz
n n n n n n n n
nu na nu ne no
nudh nadh hudh
nedh niodh
(nut nat nit net not)
un an in en on
n n n n n n n n**

This rune has two aspects and you would do well to remember them when formulating your runescript. Nied

represents need and distress but also the release from that distress. Through the utilization of this rune by the will, one can change Fate via knowledge and wisdom. This rune is a very powerful rune in Icelandic love magick and represents the primal needs and desires that drive you to seek out a lover. Overcoming distress. Achieving your goals. Protection. Love magick and to find a lover. Impetus to get a relationship off the ground. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Overcoming distress or negative energy. Development of magical will. Development of "spiritual" powers. Protection. Use of the force of "resistance" under will toward magical goals. Sudden inspiration. Eliminates hate and strife. Creates a need for order. Recognition of personal need. Love magic--to obtain a lover. Divination. Thorsson, Futhark.

To achieve long-term goals or help lost causes. Howard, Understanding Runes.


 Isa
 "ee-saw"

Representative of masculinity, of authority, delineation and circumcision. Also represents a circumcision of action through the weather. Anything to do with authority. It is also good for dealing with conflict, and for magically gathering allies [who must be your equals, or nearly so]. It can also uncover enemies. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

isa isa isa
 i i i i i i i i
 i i i i i s s s s s s
 (s s s s s i i i i i i)
 i i i i i i i i

The Isa rune rules the forces of inertia and entropy. It is also a symbol of the ego. To "freeze" a situation as it is. Development of will. Halting of unwanted forces. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Development of concentration and will. Constriction, halting of unwanted dynamic forces. Basic ego integration within a balanced multiversal system. Power of control and constraint over other beings. Thorsson, Futhark.

To make a situation static, ground

wayward emotions and calm volatile actions. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Jera
"yare-awe"

Comfort; harmony with others. A symbol of right thoughts and right action leading to right results, a culmination of efforts over a long period of time. It is also good for gardening, farming, having a happy home, and good times. Put jera over the door of your house on New Year's Eve. Use indelible ink because the luck is meant to last as long as jera remains there. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

jera jera jera
j j j e e e r r r a a a
j j j j j j j j j j
ju ja ji je jo
(jur jar jir jer jor)
j j j e e e r r r a a a

Jera is the rune of the harvest, of rewards arriving at their proper time. It also governs legalities of all sorts and is useful in all legal matters. Use when a tangible result is expected for an outlay of money, time or effort. Helps to bring events to pass. Helps in legal matters. Fertility. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Fertility, creativity. Peace, harmony. Enlightenment. Realization of the cyclical nature of the multiverse. Realization of the mystery of the omnipresent circumference. Bringing other concepts into material manifestation. Thorsson, Futhark.

To bring events to culmination.
Howard, Understanding Runes.



Eihwaz
"eye-wawz"

Protection of oneself and one's rights. When things are out of kilter this rune can help this rune can help set them back in line. However, if it is the runecaster who is out of whack, things suffer for it. This rune can thus be used in conjunction with other runes to keep the magic of the whole within reasonable bounds. It forms a kind of feedback mechanism within talismans and rune magic. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

eihwaz eihwaz
eihwaz
(iwaz iwaz iwaz)
e e e e e e e e e e
[a neutral, closed
vowel sound]
iwu iwa iwi iwa iwu
iwo iwe iwi iwa iwu
e e e e e e e e e e

Eihwaz symbolizes the yew tree and is a very powerful rune of banishing and protection. Protection. Increase in

power. Removal of obstacles. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Initiation into the wisdom of the World-Tree (the axis of the multiverse).
Realization of the death/life mystery and liberation from the fear of death.
Development of spiritual endurance and hard will. Spiritual creativity and vision.
Protection from detrimental forces.
General increase in personal power.
Communication between levels of reality. Memories of former existences in the the ancestral stream. Thorsson, Futhark.

To end situations and solve problems. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Perthro
"pear-throw"

It opens or provides a barrier to the dark forces including the realms of the dead. It confronts us with our weaknesses, our failures, and our regrets. It makes us deal with the question of what we would do if we died now. It is therefore a useful rune of test and attack. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**perthro perthro
perthro
pu pa pi pe po
purdh pardh pirdh
perdh pordh
po pe pi pa pu
p p p e e e r r r th th
th r r r o o o**

Perdhro is a rune of time and change. It rules over secrets and things hidden and is also allied with karmic energies. Evolving your magickal ideas. Use when dealing with investments or speculation. Use for finding lost things. To promote good mental health in healing. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Perception of rlog (fate/destiny/karma). Divination. Placing runic forces into the stream of cause and effect. To evolve ideas or events as a magical act. Thorsson, Futhark.

To find lost property, obtain inner guidance and make financial speculations. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Algiz
or Elhaz
"all-geese"
or "ale-
hawz"

Every possible form of protection from every possible source of danger is Algiz's domain. Protection and defense, physical or spiritual, personal or collective. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

Another powerful rune of protection, Eolh was often carved into weapons for victory and safety during battle. As its shape is the one we stand in when we invoke the gods or draw energy from the heavens, it is also seen as the connecting bridge between gods and men. Protection from enemies. Protection from evil. Promotes friendships. Strengthens luck and the life force. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Protection, defense. Mystical and religious communication with nonhuman sentient beings. Communication with other worlds, especially Asgard and the cosmic wells of Urdhr, Mirmir, and Hvergelmir. Strengthening of magical power and luck and life force. Thorsson, Futhark.

elhaz elhaz elhaz
z z z z z z z z
[a deep whirring,
whistling sound]
uz az iz ez uz
oz ez iz az uz
z z z z z z z z
(m m m m m m m m
m)



Sowilo
"soe-wee-
low"

Transcendent power, salvation, knowledge, strength in times of trouble. Also useful for matters of success and divination. Will counter all dark forces. The sun is a symbol of personal, transcendent salvation. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

Sigel is the rune of the will. It is that spiritual energy which guides all true seekers. A rune of success. Victory, success. Used for healing. Used when strength and self-confidence are needed. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Strengthening of the psychic centers. Increase in spiritual will. Guidance through the pathways, "enlightenment". Victory and success through individual will. Thorsson, Fuhark.

To increase good health, vitality and sexual powers. Howard, Understanding

sowilo sowilo sowilo
s s s s s s s s s s
s s s o o o l l l
su sa si se so
(sul sal sil sel sol)
us as is es os
si se su sa su
s s s s s s s s s s

Runes.



Tiwaz
"tea-wawz"

A symbol of divine protection, of justice and honor in war or duel. It can be used to defend against or attack known enemies. It ensures victory and the righting of injustice, and can be used to bind an oath. Painted on shields to give bearers more courage and to protect in battle. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

tiwaz tiwaz tiwaz
t i i i i r r r r r
tu ta ti te ter tor
tur tar tir ter tor
ot et it at ut
(Tyr Tyr)
T i i i i r r r r r

This is the great rune of victory and symbolizes kings and leaders of men. Tir is the rune of "might for right" and as such is valuable in a runescript when you have been unfairly denied something or have been falsely accused. It is indicative of the fighting spirit, of trial by combat and fearlessness. It is the primary masculine rune. Victory. Use whenever competition is a factor. Good for health and encourages quick recuperation. In love matters, Tir is used to symbolize the ardent male. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Obtaining just victory and success. Building spiritual will. Develops the power of positive self-sacrifice. Develops the "force of faith" in magic and religion. Thorsson, Futhark.

To achieve victory over adversity and justice. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Berkano
"bear-kawn-oh"

Healing, good health, calming troubled minds and atonement, childbirth and fertility. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

Beorc is the rune of the Great Mother and as such is the primary rune of fertility. It also conceals and protects and rules over all protective enclosures, such as houses or temple areas. It is very good to use in a runescript for the peace, projection and harmony of a household. It represents a very feminine and nurturing female type. Fertility. Protection. Family matters. To bring ideas to fruition. To represent a certain type of female in a

berkano berkano
berkano
bu ba bi be bo
b e e e e e r r r r r
(burk bark birk berk bork)
ob eb ib ab ub
b e e e e e r r r r r

runescript.Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Rebirth in the spirit. Strengthens the power of secrecy. Works of concealment and protection. To contain and hold other powers together. Realization of the oneness of the moment as the mother of all things. Bringing ideas to fruition in the creative process. Thorsson, Futhark.

For fertility, family matters and love affairs. Howard, Understanding Runes.

M

Ehwaz
or Ehwo
"ay-wawz"
or "ay-woh"

A call for divine aid in times of trouble, gathering of bonds of friendship, and the protection of friends. It can call aid from unlooked-for places. It is also a general good luck charm. In the poem of Odin, the seventh rune puts out fires of a friend's house. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

ehwo ehwo ehwo
e e e e h w o o o
ehwu ehwa ehwi
ehwe ehwo
ehwo ehwe ehwi
ehwa ehwu
e e e e h w o o o

This is a rune of abrupt changes and is good for initiating bold new ventures. Use Ehwaz after the "subject" runes in your runescript to facilitate change. Brings change swiftly. Ensures safe travel. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Facilitations of "soul travel". Realization of fundamental unity of the psychosomatic complex. Imparts trust and loyalty. A source of prophetic wisdom. Projection of magical power. Thorsson, Futhark.

To cause changes. Howard, Understanding Runes.

M

Mannaz
"mawn-
nawz"

Mann helps in knowing oneself. It can therefore be used in mediation, to increase dreaming, or to enhance the truth of dreams. It can be used in conjunction with other runes to personalize matters or magic for or on a particular individual. It is also useful for cleansing oneself, a ritual which makes the afterlife more pleasant. In Odin's poem of runes, the second is

mannaz mannaz
mannaz
m m m a a a a a n
n n
mu ma mi me mo
mun man min men
mon
um am im em om
mon men min man
mun

one that must be learned by anyone who hopes to be a healer. Without knowing the patient, no healing is possible. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**m m m a a a a a n
n n
m m m m m m m m
m**

Mannaz is the symbol of mankind as a whole and is often used when assistance from others is needed. It also symbolizes the powers of the rational mind. To gain the assistance of others. Increase in memory and mental powers. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Realization of the divine structure in mankind. Increase in intelligence, memory, and mental powers generally. Balancing the "poles of personality". Unlocking the mind's eye. Thorsson, Futhark.

To attract goodwill and new social contacts. Howard, Understanding Runes.


Laguz
"law-gooze"

Useful as a symbol of water, of transitions between states, e.g., birth, life, growth and death. It is a perfect means for building an oath. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**laguz laguz laguz
l l l l l l l l l l
lu la li ke lo
(lug lag lig leg log)
ul al il el ol
lo le li la lu
l l l a a a g g g u u u
l l l l l l l l l l**

Laguz is a rune of intuition and imagination. It is also a feminine rune, but unlike Beorc it represents a strong and assertive female type. Use to contact your intuitive faculties. Increase in vitality and the life force (especially in women). Helps to gather in energies for use by the will. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Guidance through difficult initiatory tests. Increase in vitality and life force. Gathering of amorphous magical power for formation and structuring by the will. Increase in "magnetism". Development of "second sight". Thorsson, Futhark.

To manifest psychic powers. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Ingwaz
"eeeng-
wawz"

To gather people or to influence them. It can be used to establish dedication and loyalty, the "we" of a group. It can be used as a rune of fascination, which makes it suitable for strengthening hypnosis, trance, or meditation. It can also be used for gaining the respect of others, or gaining influential positions in a community. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**ingwaz ingwaz
ingwaz
i i i n n n n g g g g
ung ang ing eng ong
ong eng ing ang ung
i i i n n n n g g g g**

Ing represents the male consort of the Earth Mother and as such is also a symbol of fertility. It is often used in the final position of the runescrpt to indicate a successful outcome. It is a very positive rune. Fertility. To release energy suddenly. To bring something to a satisfactory end. To "fix" the outcome of your runescrpt so that the benefits indicated therein do not drain away. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Storage and transformation of power for ritual use. Fertility rites. Passive meditation and centering energy and thought. Sudden release of energy. Sex magic. Thorsson, Futhark.

To end a cycle of events or specific situation. Howard, Understanding Runes.



Dagaz
"thaw-
gauze"
with a voiced
"th"

It is a good luck charm, and can also be used to advance one's station in life. It is helpful for spiritual advancement and understanding. It is an expression of universal love. Symbol of day, daylight and the powers of life: powers which exceed human control, structuring things by their own right, yet human-oriented. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

**dagaz dagaz dagaz
dh dh dh dh dh dh
dh dh dh
d d d a a a g g g a a
a z z z
du da di de do
dh dh dh dh dh dh
dh dh dh
odh edh idh adh udh
od ed ud ad ud
d d d a a a g g g a a
a z z z**

Daeg is the rune of the New Day. It symbolizes the feelings embodied in the expression "Today is the first day of the rest of your life". It is particularly good for fresh starts in any endeavor. Good for financial increase. To change an attitude, either yours or someone else's. New beginnings. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Attaining mystical moment through penetration of paradox. Reception of mystical inspiration. Thorsson, Futhark.

To create new beginnings or opportunities. Howard, Understanding Runes.


Othala
"oath-awe-
law"

To call on ancestral powers, including calling up their spirits. This is a rune of merchants, but also the land-holding nobles and both classes in which inheritance, property and goods play a key role. It thus aids in partnerships, whether those of business, politics, or marriage. It can be used to guard family fortunes or build the strength of a dynasty. It can also develop strengths and talents in an individual. These abilities are considered latent, and brought out by reference to ancestral (or genetic) potential. In Odin's poem, the seventeenth rune is a charm that will make a girl loathe to leave him; that is, it draws her into a commitment. Cooper, Esoteric Rune Magic.

othala othal othal
o o o o o o o o o
o o o o o o
othul othal othil
othel othol
othol othel othil
othal othul
o o o o o o

Othel signifies possessions or ancestral lands and characteristics. This rune encourages a down-to-earth attitude of life. When paired with Fehu, good for monetary gains. Use wherever the health of the elderly is the issue. Protection of possessions. Peschel, A Practical Guide to the Runes.

Maintaining order among fellows. Concentration on common interests in home and family. Shift from ego-centricity to clan loyalty. Collection of numinous power and knowledge from past generations. Acquisition of wealth and prosperity. Thorsson, Futhark.

For property matters. Howard, Understanding Runes

Galdor Curse

I came across a very ancient galdor spell. Traces of its use can be found in many cultures. It is generally used against one who has

wronged the wizard who pronouces the curse. Make sure you read the whole thing before you try it. Be aware that use by novices is not recommended. Here it is:

This spell requireth ye hand gesture to be made in ye following way. Extend thy power hand outward toward thy intended target with thy palm facing thy face. Fold thy thumb, first, third, and small fingers into thy palm. If this be done properly, then ye finger of death and damnation shall be extended towards the heavens.

Whilst making the sign of malediction indicated above, intone the following incantation in a great and wrathful voice:

 **N** *YYYYYUUUUU*

M  *EEEESSSS*

 **H** *OOOOHHHHH*

B **M** *BBBBBEEEE*

This being done, the wrongdoer's fate is sealed. Great care must be taken with this most potent curse. It has been known in some instances for angry howling demons to take control of the intended target, causing great bodily harm to the unfortunate wizard. Enjoy this one. I know I will.

The Runic Alphabet

The magical runic alphabet long forgotten through the course of time was once widely used by old European cultures eg Viking, Germanic, Celt and Anglo Saxon tribes. The Runes have been in existence for many thousands of years, some older runes appear in ancient cave paintings around the world. The word 'rune' means mystery, secret or whisper and was a written language rather than spoken, each symbol having its own individual sound and meaning.

Legend of Runes

According to ancient legend the runes are a magical alphabet bequeathed by the Lord Odin. He sought divine wisdom and knowledge through self-sacrifice as he hung upside down from the Yggdrasil or World tree, cut by his own sword and tormented by hunger and thirst, he hung for nine days and nights. Whilst hanging there, the tree swayed with the wind and the vision of the Runes appeared before him within the branches. Hence the Runic Alphabet came to be there, after Odin was granted the gift of prophecy and divinations which he bestowed upon the world.

The runes can be used to see in the future, explain the past and give advice on what is now. They can be used for meditation or simply worn as a charm or talisman to help with, for example, health, wealth and happiness. The runes can only help us to focus on all aspects of our lives and help us realise the opportunities for change.

The runes can be used as a secret magical Alphabet to write with, swapping our modern letters for Runes.

The art of rune playing

Runes should be played with an open mind, if their language is learned they can speak many messages. They direct your attention towards inner thoughts and mirror subconscious desires. When pulling the Runes, let them fall naturally between your fingers, or pass your hand over them with your eyes shut, let your subconscious choose.

Odins Rune

Drawing or wearing one single Rune helps to focus on a particular issue and to provide fresh perspective. This is one of the most simple ways of using the Runes and is particularly good in stressful situations that demand immediate action.

3 Rune spread

- 3
- 2
- 1

outcome
action
situation

Pull the Runes, one by one, laying them from Right to Left. Face them downwards, avoid changing their direction before slowly turning them over. First, read the Situation, this will focus on your concerns, next is the course of action you should take and thirdly the outcome after you have accomplished what you need to do.

The Runic Cross

6

outcome

5

3
challenge
1

future
2
past

present

4

force

A spread which covers many issues, the Runic Cross can incite deep thoughts and reflection. The first Rune represents the Past from which you are leaving, the second represents Now and the issue, the Future Rune is what lies ahead of you and what is coming. The fourth Rune shows the elements and Forces which are influencing the situation and the fifth indicates the Challenge you will have to face, before reaching the sixth Rune, the Outcome.

If you still lack clarity of action after this spread, replace the Runes and draw a 7th being the Resolution Rune.

Symbol meanings and their stones

Ansur / Ansuz -Wisdom

To help growth in learning abilities&wisdom. The origin of all speech and communication of that which is yet to come, or news in advance. Perhaps there could be success in a test or examination or a journey to gain knowledge. This Rune highlights teacher/pupil relationships on all levels.

Amethyst

Amethyst is a powerfull blood cleanser and energiser, strengthening the immune and endocrine system. It can help mental disorders and has strong protective qualities. It can also enhance spiritual and psychic abilities inspiring healing and divine love.

Beorc / Berkana - Birth

To give creativity, growth and completeness. Positively influences the birth of new life and re-birth, highlights all matters relating to fertility and the family and social occasions such as marriage, engagements and baptism. The stone of lasting happiness.

Carnelian

A highly evolved healer aiding kidneys, lungs, pancreas and galbladder helping tissue regeneration while vitalising the blood. It connects you with the Inner Self, giving good concentration and opening the heart, bringing joy and warmth. It has electro-magnetic properties, which benefits the wearer by sending energy directly through the skin.

Daeg / Dagaz - Dawn

To start new adventures while enhancing creativity. Referring to the day, light and prosperity all pertaining to the future. As the day ticks deliberately on it reflects steady progress rather than one off change. Deag symbolises growth and optimism possibly in material circumstances.

Citrine

Citrine is beneficial in cleansing and purifying the endocrine and digestive systems helping to heal constipation and diabetes. It has the power to transmute fears of an emotional and mental level, dispelling anger and bringing on fresh beginnings.

Ehwaz / Eihwaz - Movement

To mark events with change and speed. Representing intellect Ehwaz is connected with wisdom and the mind. Indicating transport or movement, a change of adress and circumstances. Also referring to journeys of the mind it can mean a change in consciousness, a Rune of large scale changes.

Hawk Eye

Hawk Eye can help to become practical and discrete mind, as well as grounded. It can eliminate the ?blues? bringing brightness and optimism. It can assist in providing insight to internal mental battles while prompting admiration for the pure and beautiful.

Feoh / Fehu - Possessions

To create good fortune and guard material possessions. Representing wealth and prosperity, money, property and possessions in general are all highlighted. There may be a reward gained through hard effort and consolation. A victory gained after a struggle.

Red Jasper

This semi-precious gemstone enhances healing, digestion and protection. It was traditionally used by healers for enhanced diagnosis. It is a powerful healer with the main impact being on the physical body. Red Jasper is also a good grounding stone giving a sense of balacing to the Spirit.

Gyfu / Gebo - Love

To understand the balance of life, peace and goodwill. Meaning Love it may denote a marriage or engagement. A Rune of good omens particularly for romantic relationships. It implies generosity and the act of giving and signifies sharing or a gift in the light of love.

Rose Quartz

The "Love Stone" helps the development of forgiveness, love and compassion. It helps clear stored anger, resentment, fear and jealousy. Aiding the spleen and kidneys, it also eases sexual and emotional imbalance and increases fertility. Rose Quartz is a great enhancer of self confidence.

Hagal / Hagalaz - Air

To help remove bad energies and create positive influence. Hagal's message is "Be content with what you have" in order to have a stress free environment. Certain things are beyond control but when you cease to desire something, then you are open to receiving. Liberating, freeing one from old ways and restrictions.

Labradorite

This mystical iridescent stone helps reactivate ancient and future memories relevant to one's future growth. Labradorite activates with the balance of the sexual and life-force, Kundalini. It influences nerves, bones, brain, pineal and pituitary glands. It enhances communication with Spirit Guides.

Is / Isa - Ice

To freeze events and earth unwanted emotions. It represents the power of cooling and preservation. Indicating the things should be "put on ice" for a while. It may suggest a lack of drive and therefore the need for patience until things are understood with crystal clarity.

White Agate

Brings a sense of courage and fortitude, helping to discover truth and accept fate. A stone useful for reflection while strengthening the body and mind. Grounding and energetic it is a powerful healer assisting the colon, circulatory system, lymphatics and pancreas.

Ger / Jera - Harvest

To receive fruitful rewards from hard work. Meaning harvest, in a one year cycle, fair and just repayment for actions past will come about. This suggests the ending of one cycle and the beginning of another. Ger symbolises a leader and powerful personality.

Moss Agate

Moss Agate comes in many shades of green and has the appearance of moss, reminding us of growing plants. It carries the energy of nature and aids all who work the land. A healing stone which assists the colon, lymphatic and circulatory system. It imparts a sense of strength and courage, helping the ability of discovering truth and accepting fate.

Ken / Kenaz - Fire

To re-establish will power, strength and procreation, indicating a surge of energy and growth. It positively affects all dealings. A good omen for personal relationships bringing durability and permanence.

Red Tiger Eye

Red Tiger Eye can be beneficial to the spleen, pancreas, colon and the digestive organs. It can inspire you to be brave and enhances personal power and will. It also helps soften stubbornness, a grounding and balancing stone giving clearer perception and insight. It can discipline sexual and emotional life bringing "light" and practically.

Lagu / Laugaz - Water

To develop psychic awareness and clear vision. Lagu denotes water and associated elements of the sea. As the sea tests the sailor, Lagu suggests testing experiences in life. It brings consecration and initiation and the ability to be psychically receptive to the waters of life and the cycle of tides.

Lapis Lazuli

Called the "Night Stone" Lapis Lazuli strengthens the skeletal system and releases tension and anxiety, bringing vitality and mental clarity. It enhances a flowing of the mind and communication with the higher self and Spirit Guides. It helps inspire creative expression and illumination.

Man / Mannaz - The Self

To bring on the union of friendship. Man signifies man as the magician who has lost the power to control evil or instill good. It reflects the part of us which can recognise and put into action the right things at the right time. Relationships should be correctly maintained and understood, referring to our attitudes towards the self, others and the World.

Quartz Crystal

Quartz can be beneficial to the circulatory system. It can reduce fevers and pain while stabilising emotions. Quartz is also extensively used in meditation, healing and spiritual development. Quartz Crystal is a symbol and a mirror of our soul, it represents our struggle for clarity within the Self.

Nyd / Naudiz - Need

To help dreams become reality, balancing the Inner Self. Nyd signifies a time to do what needs to be done, but to be patient as events cannot be forced. By biding time, things become resolved and dreams become reality. By using thought and effort challenges are met.

Tormalinated Quartz

This double powered stone holds combined forces of Quartz Crystal and Tormaline and can aid in adjusting imbalances throughout the body. It can initialise strength in all relationships producing a solving atmosphere. Representing the yin and yang within us it aids in letting go of old patterns that are destructive to growth and development.

Odel / Othala - Home

To bring the home close to the heart. Odel refers to the family, love or possessions which have been inherited, wills and legacies are denoted suggesting legal matters regarding properties. The home reflects the inner sanctum, the private place within yourself, the trails of life, success and failures are all part of this.

Malachite

Malachite reduces stress and tension, assisting in a good night sleep. It aids functions of the pancreas, spleen and tissue regeneration. It can strengthen the heart and circulatory system, pineal and pituitary glands. An excellent emotional balancer, vitalising body and soul.

Peorth / Perthro - Chance

To venture is to gain but all is left to chance. A good omen bringing a secret, or wealth gained through effort. Appearances are not what they seem and one must look beneath the surface. When you see life differently you could be better off and ideals could change.

Smoky Quartz

Smoky Quartz balances yin-yang energy and works with the physical body. A very powerful stone where the darkness is not negative but represents the mysterious. Being earthly in its character it helps sharpen abstract thinking and can help dissolve negative energies and

emotional blockades. It activates survival instincts to improve intuition in challenging activities and decisions.

Rad / Raido - Travel

To follow the right path and protect when travelling. Rad is a good omen suggesting successful pursuits of projects. When travelling you travel with the Self and the effort is transformative. Rad denotes much mental activity and shrewd tactics for protection.

Turquoise

A profound master healer, Turquoise tones and strengthens the entire body, vitalising the blood and nervous system. Known as the Traveller stone it was often used by North American natives. It enhances meditation and emotional balance, peace of mind, loyalty and friendship.

Sigel / Sowilo - Sun

To enhance strength, health, wealth and happiness. Sigel is the Rune of the Sun, it denotes inspiration, life-force, affluence, health and happiness. It is also the symbol of the soul. It denotes success and has the power to banish evil.

Tiger Eye

This popular quartz is beneficial to the spleen, pancreas, colon and the digestive organs. It inspires you to be brave and enhances personal power and will. Helping to soften stubbornness it's a grounding and balancing friend, giving you clearer perception and insight.

Tyr / Tiwaz - Justice

To protect against injustice and to secure triumph. Tyr signifies victory in a battle or contest, maybe pertaining to business. Being the sign of invincibility it represents positive movement towards a goal and pursuance of a cause.

Bloodstone

Bloodstone is beneficial to the spleen and aids in purifying the blood, kidneys and intestines, eliminating toxins within the body. It is an intense healing stone and a stone of courage. It's message is 'be here now' and it instills a sense of wisdom and sensitivity. It can help to demonstrate unselfishness to improve talents and abilities.

Ur / Uruz - Strength

To find the inner sun, giving hope and persistence. Ur gives the chance to prove oneself through challenge and opportunity. Great strength is available but only with the right attitude. A persistent effort is required rather than disruptive force.

Yellow Agate

Brings a sense of courage and fortitude, helping to discover truth and accept fate. A stone useful for reflection while strengthening the body and mind. It provides perceptiveness in situations and awakens hidden talents. It can be used to produce inspiration from connectivity with the spirit world.

Wyn / Wunjo - Joy

To bring out new levels of joy and happiness. Wyn denotes a state of emotional stability, happiness and contentment. It indicates a love of one's work, bringing the fulfillment and satisfaction of a job well done. It also represents balance in all things.

Green Onyx

Green Onyx is good for balancing male and female polarities. It strengthens bone marrow and relieves stress by enhancing self control and spiritual serenity. Balancing and grounding it absorbs and flattens emotional intensity. It can also work with the heart to inspire love and soften the heart.

Eolh / Elhaz - Protection

To help guard against all outside negativity. Eolh is the Rune of defence and protection, with this protection plans can be pursued in confidence knowing obstacles will be met and overcome. It can be used to defend against hostile forces.

Aventurine

Aventurine has been used to treat disorders of the heart, lungs and muscular systems. It provides a balancing of male/female energies, enhancing creativity and stimulating a pioneering spirit. It is an excellent protection stone blocking entry from negative energies which 'tap in' on the soul. It also reinforces decisiveness, amplifying leadership and instinct.

Eoh / Ehwaz - Change

To deal with life's unforeseen changes positively. Eoh offers protection in letting go and is the symbol of eternal life. Time is an energy which causes change. It is well to live in the present and not cling to the past or look to the future.

Fossil Jasper

Fossil Jasper can be used for treating disorders of the kidneys, spleen, bladder and stomach. Considered to be a sacred stone it was used by shamen to provide protection while increasing awareness. It can balance yin-yang energies and stabilises the aura helping to eliminate negativity and allow progression.

Ing / Ingwaz - Fertility

To enhance fertility and growth within lifecycles. Ing denotes beginnings and the birth of a project or completion of a plan. The arrival of an event which may look minor but is very significant. This Rune symbolises energy for change and refers to the seed of thought before starting a project.

Moonstone

Moonstone can be used to promote ease in pregnancy and childbirth and to enhance fertility. Its energy is introspective and reflective and can help with changes in life on a mental and spiritual level. It relates to new beginnings, while helping to recognise 'ups and downs' and changing cycles.

Thorn / Thurisaz - Gateway

To protect, shelter and defend. Thorn denotes protection from the stresses of life and highlights the need to be shelved for a better time and care should be taken in decision making. Good luck may come from an unexpected source.

Black Onyx

Black onyx can be used in the treatment of bone marrow disorders and to soft tissue structures. An excellent stone for centering and alignment of the Self and can be used to enhance self-control and stimulate the power of decision making. It helps one to absorb energies which are needed to encourage happiness and good fortune.

Odin- Destiny

To understand and cope with uncertainty in life. Odin represents unavoidable events both positive and negative. Expect the unexpected but never presume too much, for what will be will be, it is our destiny. It denotes the web of events unfolding controlled by powerful forces.

Rainbow Moonstone

Known as the 'Mother Earth' stone, relieving anxiety and stress. It has a healing affinity with the stomach, spleen and pancreas. It can aid fertility and the birthing process and inspires flexibility and wisdom while keeping emotions in balance. A stone for feeling through intuition and emotions rather than reasoning, it cleanses negativity, enhancing feminine aspects.

THREE METHODS OF CREATING YOUR OWN RUNES

METHOD ONE

You can buy some Fimo Clay, sold in many different places, such as WalMart, K-Mart, etc. and form your own runes. You just follow the instructions on the package and within a few days you have your own personally charged set of divinatory runes.

METHOD TWO

If you live by the ocean or can get your hands on some seashells, these would make an excellent set of runes. You paint your symbols on the shells, allow them to dry, and it's that simple.

METHOD THREE

Collect various rocks, wash them, paint the symbols on the, and you've just made your own personal set.

~ RUNE and STONE DIVINATION ~

WHAT IS RUNE MAGICK and WHERE DID IT ORIGINATE?

The Runic system was used by ancient cultures and are thousands of years old. Runes were used by the ancient Norse, Germanic, and Saxon peoples as alphabetical characters and magical symbols. The oldest runes that have been reliably researched by conventional archaeological methods date from more than 1,700 years ago. This set is therefore known as the Elder Futhark, although because it is associated with the culture of the Germanic peoples of Northern Europe, it is sometimes called the Common Germanic Futhark. These symbols were used in poetry, stone monuments, and on small stones for casting fortunes. Though they were an alphabet, they were thought too powerful to be used for common speech. Therefore they were reserved for ritual language, becoming the voice of the gods and a means of insight into the present and future. Harness Runes to control the flow of life force for stamina, endurance, and mental and physical energy.

The symbols on the rune stones are pictographs representing objects from nature and spiritual forces. Runes can be used similar to Tarot Cards, with readings using 3, 5 or 7 stones. They can also be used to answer simple questions of "Yes" or "No"; but always the Rune stones, like Tarot, are meant to guide one through life's difficult decisions. Although some people are gifted with further divination gifts, I find the Runes easy for the anyone man or woman and even some children! Use the Runes in daily meditation by contemplating on the meaning of the rune and how it may apply to you that day. This directs your subconscious mind to find answers and strength within, as well as aiding in the development of your natural intuition. You can also use them for fortune telling to reveal the motivations of others, the possible near future and your part in it, and long range outcomes if certain paths are taken.

Please do not use wood for making RUNES! Do not kill a tree to represent a tree. If you want to do readings and scrying with the RUNES, then you would best work with a set made specifically for you. If you purchase a set of RUNES, there is an initiation you can do that will awaken them. This initiation process takes 13 lunar months, initiating one rune in the new moon and one in the full moon. The "sacred seven" are initiated for the entire 13 lunar cycles.

If you're curious, then read on ~ Vampyress

Why use a set of runes?

A set of runes is helpful when studying individual runes or for meditation purposes. It is also helpful for "consultation" when one or more runes can be picked blind and "at random" from a bag. The runes picked then have some bearing on the situation or question at hand. This form of divination is quite common found and relies on the effect that Carl Jung called "synchronicity" and that the original users of the runes would have called Wyrð.

Those tempted to use runes for fortune-telling may well be disappointed, as although they can help show developing future patterns, the effect of personal will needs also to be considered. They can best be used in those situations for insights, advice or perhaps a fresh view of things. Refer to the bottom of my page to see the variety of Rune Sets and Rune Spreads for better understanding!
~ Vampyress

The 25 Common Runes and Their Meanings:

FEHU - Cattle, property, material wealth, prosperity, or money.

In predictions it announces: In times that there is abundance we must remember not to be selfish but to share. We also need not be reckless in our dealings in business, life, and our loves. We need to nourish and take care of what we have, not as a miser would hoard his gold but with the love of a good parent. When love is reciprocated, it is the best self nourishment of all. This is a positive Rune of increased wealth, success, new financial opportunities, and overcoming a struggle. Something worked for is now within reach. Okay to take advantage of opportunities in buying and selling. Always be fair. Prosperity, money, plenty, and wealth, satisfaction of physical and financial needs and requirements, goal, promotion/advancement, self-respect, prosperity in some form. This is what the community considers wealth. The important reminder is to always be thankful and humble when things are well in the economy. Meditation on this rune focuses on a type of thanksgiving for what has been acquired and not to squander when things are plentiful. Appreciate that there will be a rainy day by the rules of cycles and to prepare for it. This rune has some interesting implications based on the fact that cattle, unlike land, move about of their own accord. Cattle also reproduce, so this rune often speaks of wealth that renews or perpetuates itself. Wealth takes many forms, but this rune generally represents the value that is purely material or monetary in nature.

Upright position: Financial success, inheritance, assesses your efforts and actions to answer your question, fulfillment of wishes pertaining to romance and relationships. Don't be greedy or miserly, but also be careful of what is yours acquired through diligence and hard work. Always share and make your guests feel welcome. Prepare the best meal and provide the best bed. When you receive a gift, you must give a gift. Always give a gift of equal value. Never ever give a better gift than the one you received so not to embarrass the original giver.

Inverse position: Timing wrong for any new financial or romantic endeavors. It can represent barrenness or the loss of wealth. Some interpret Fehu as representing children, in which case the reversal may portend the distancing of a child from her or his parents.

Use in magic purposes: For money, business, advancement, employment, and attainment of goals, commencement of new undertakings. Green. (refer to my COLOR Page)

UR or URUZ - Wild ox, courage, personal or brut strength, and virility

In predictions it announces: Represents courage and boldness. Experience good health and vitality. Lots of energy. Rune of challenge, exciting events ahead, and opportunities. Can represent a power that must be tamed such as one's very own ego. Forceful, driving, male rune, good health, instincts, and wildness, (surprise) natural change. The strength of the wild animal is desired by the best warriors. The notion of living to survive and to know the possibility of death and to accept it as the simple answer to what life is. Meditation is knowing that life is to be lived at full speed and to live life for life. When your life is over, a new life will begin in your place on earth and you will go on. A person who lives like this has no regrets of a premature death, for each day was fully lived. Uruz symbolizes the Auroch, a member of the ox family that became extinct long ago. This rune represents the strength, bravery, and endurance of this animal of old. Uruz is a symbol of Vitality, resistance to negative influences, wild force, energy, strength, good health, good fortune, success, a forceful male rune. If found in a health reading, you may find a speedy

recovery from any illness using the natural powers of resistance. When in a relationship reading, this rune may signify a strong, emotional male energy. This rune focuses on the "quick burst" and these energies will usually not last forever. It can also signify sudden, but natural, changes.

These

changes may include the loss of certain things from your life - but these losses may be necessary. Uruz portends the ability to meet problems head on and to overcome them. When the world was new, warriors used to test their strength against the Auroch. Hence, this rune has come to represent the masculine principle and the capacity to meet a challenge.

Upright position: Important for the questions to develop your strength, energy, and ability to endure. Advancement in careers after great effort. Things are not as bad as they seem. Act with confidence and courage that this rune encourages and conditions one to improve. Some of the experiences an individual goes through are part of an initiation. The initiation process tempers one to become the very best an individual can possibly become. This strength enables one to protect themselves and loved ones with honor. This is an excellent rune for healing energies when needed. You may need to reach into

your inner strength to deal with the changes. During a business reading this rune may be indicating an improvement, but one that you will need to keep working toward. You may also be ready to receive a

new career or promotion. This change may bring added responsibility to your position, but you will have the strength to overcome these new challenges.

Inverse position: Failures to take advantage of opportunities, minor illnesses, and surprise changes. Reversed may be indicating a failure to "seize the moment". You should work on your ability to take advantage of "spur of the moment" opportunities. You may also be experiencing weak motivation or a desire for someone else to lead. Look at your layout to determine if someone else may actually be draining or using your power against you. This rune reversed may also mean an upcoming illness or a male sexual problem. Reversed and grouped with other "change" runes can indicate that a surprise change in your life will pass you by ... possibly due to your weak motivation.

negative change, but one that will turn out OK

Use for Magic Purposes: Never abuse the energies of this rune for evil or selfish reasons. This rune could indicate a cloudiness of energy or just not feeling well. It can also indicate misdirected energies or a misappropriation of power used over others for selfish use. To encourage and strengthen will, improve sexual potency and energy, hunt. Green or Brown. (refer to my COLOR Page)

THURISAZ - Thorn, protection from evil, luck ending

In predictions it announces: Being wrong-minded or stubborn, being opposed by others stronger than oneself, can indicate powerful forces for luck, protection, and health. There is a controversy of the meaning of this rune. Some note the negative forces of the dark side ourselves. Some say that it represents the ugly things like demons, trolls and giants. Overall these may be in the same area of meaning. There is a dark side that we must take control of in ourselves to break free of them and not become them. Be careful on the meditation. Focus mainly on the identification and overcoming of the darker sides of things inside and outside ourselves. Seeing of things to pass. Thurisaz represents a thorn, the most basic of barriers to our boon or our bane. In the case of hedges, thorns protect our encampments from that which skulks towards us from the outlands. In the case of rosebushes, thorns keep us from beauty. Though thorns are passive and have no

thoughts, they puncture, tear, and may even be poisonous. Hence, this rune may also represent irrational violence and anger. Thurisaz is a symbol of protection, luck, new possibilities, and good health (minor). The meaning of this rune in your casting will depend greatly on the surrounding runes. Being a rune designed after Thor's Hammer, it can give you great protection and strength when needed. It may also be indicating a lightning bolt of good luck. This good luck will probably not be from something that you expect, and you probably will not see it coming. Thurisaz, although, can be a tricky rune. It may also be indicating that your luck is about to end, so take care not to push yourself. If surrounded by negative runes, or "warning" runes, it may be indicating that you are being strong-headed and stubborn. At this time you might do best by deferring opinions and decisions or seeking a second opinion. It may also be indicating that your "opposition" is morally, physically, or financially stronger than you.

Upright position: Beware! Protect yourself. A dilemma will occur for you. You must make an important decision. Think it through then act. Sometimes it is strongly advised to be very careful in making any important decision hastily and beware of evil, danger, untruths, and/or betrayal. If you haven't the self-confidence to act, then wait for expert advice or until you have thoroughly evaluated the situation after all the facts have been weighed carefully.

Inverse position: do not make hasty thoughtless decisions. Think first everything through or you will regret your decision or what is to come of the situation bringing bad results to your relationships and/or family. You may be about ready to run across someone older and wiser than yourself. Look to the surrounding runes, Ansuz may be indicating that is time for you to do some careful thinking and / or seek the advice of others. The advice will be unbiased, helpful, and honest. Make sure that your question is as clear as possible, or else the answer will not make sense. May also indicate that you will soon be learning a new "trade", or you are about to get some good schooling in a certain area.

Use for magic purposes: What really is bugging you? Do you need luck or protection? No one is an island, get the help you need and quit being stubborn! As an aid in the process of learning, assistance in meditating and attaining self-discipline, for clearing up the meaning and essence of a grave situation. Black. (refer to my COLOR Page)

ANSUZ or LOKI - Mouth, the spoken word, messages, signals, heeding wisdom of another

In predictions it announces: Noting marks tell us where we are and what action we should take from this point. The Ash tree is represented here and this is a strong tree, usually weathering storms and leaving clues of its battles. Ansuz is a symbol of the spoken word, advice, wisdom, and voice of the Goddess. This is the Rune of knowledge and learning. When drawing this rune, seek the wisdom or wise counsel of an elder or a knowledgeable person as a teacher or mentor. A person choosing this Rune is probably an intellectual interested in communicating ideas or a seeker of wisdom. The seeker is usually a teacher, a journalist, someone in communications, is metaphysical, or an occultist. This Rune may indicate the beginning of an apprenticeship in acquiring knowledge, extra skills and experience necessary to nurture natural talents. We grow as we weather our own storms and the perceptive person can read the marks of our environment. The meditation here is to focus on the marks on our past to direct us in our future plans. Authoritative personality, leader, balance of spirit and body, justice, shaman, keen intuition. To gain ancient wisdom. Ansuz refers to a god or the spoken word of god. It is the voice of reason, law, prophecy and truth. It is the truth heard in the wind. This rune represents wisdom obtained or

knowledge delivered. It is the rune of absolute good advice and true council - the message we all must strive to hear. When the Messenger Rune brings sacred knowledge, you are truly blessed. You may be about ready to run across someone older and wiser than yourself. Look to the surrounding runes, Ansuz may be indicating that it is time for you to do some careful thinking and / or seek the advice of others. The advice will be unbiased, helpful, and honest. Make sure that your question is as clear as possible, or else the answer will not make sense. May also indicate that you will soon be learning a new "trade", or you are about to get some good schooling in a certain area.

Upright position: seek assistance, authority, business, and learning, investigate, inquire, and ask your elders to help you with your question. Maybe you will receive word or news from an elderly or authoritative person (parent, teacher, relative, etc.) or an unknown wiser person. This knowledge given to you that you will learn about from another is a gift to you, a gift of knowledge or something associated with knowledge or learning. Learn all you can and strive for the best and highest. Intellectual attainment and spiritual transformation through the runes is possible. Language is a gift as so are the runes. Use them all wisely.

Inverse position: is there an elderly person seeking assistance from you, or someone needing your time and energy that now you find is an inconvenience. Seek help with the matter. If traveling for business it could mean an unsuccessful trip or outcome. Reversed may mean you are or will be the victim of lies, deceit and trickery. Be very careful what you believe at this time ... some suggest to not believe anything. Seek second opinions and general thoughts from others. There may also be someone in your life that is acting very selfishly. They may be seeking what is best for them and not what is best for you. You may be receiving a lot of interference from parents and superiors. Also look at communication, there may be a lack of it at this time. You may also be unwilling to learn from the lessons that life is teaching you. If Wyrð, in addition to negative runes, appears in connection with Ansuz reversed it might be indicating that you are hoarding knowledge but never really using it.

Use for magic purposes: Some mischief may be afoot when drawn depending on the question or circumstance of the reading. Beware of smooth talkers, get rich schemes, and tricksters. A confusing atmosphere can prevent you from discerning fact from fiction. Must be careful and alert sometimes to signs of the trickster. Sometimes it is necessary for us to learn from these experiences and make changes in our lives in order to grow as an individual and spiritually as well. For bringing wise decisions, success, and achievement of leadership; as assistance in predicting and in magic. Indigo and Purple. (refer to my COLOR Page)

RAIDO or RAIDHO - Wagon, travel, journeys, quest, progress, and communication

In predictions it announces: moving, motion, travel (for pleasure), change, communication, fate, searching, progress, life lessons will be learned, life goes on no matter what the outcome. There was always a time when a far traveled journey must be taken. Sometimes it is a spiritual journey and sometimes it is physical. Anxiety is always a factor, some positive and some negative. Journeys are a type of calling for a learning. Meditate on what is the right time and method of your particular journey. Identify if the higher forces are telling you that it is time to learn away from your home base. Most journeys are favorable in retrospect. To find that which you seek. Raido is union and reunion. The end of conflicts. Journey, pilgrimage, change, destiny, quest, progress, life lessons. This is the moment to act. Find out what your heart wishes. Resistance's will be

gone.

Upright position: a journey is coming up either physical or a souls journey, visit from a friend or relative, receiving news from a far away person, communication from afar, going on vacation or thinking planning one wanting a vacation to get away from it all. Not all journeys are good ones especially if it is one you do not want to take because you may not be physically, mentally, or spiritually ready. Some journeys we must take anyway!. Remember our Higher Power is always there to help us. At one time, traveling by horseback was as important as our travel by automobile. At least we can travel in comfort and prepare better than our ancestors did.

Inverse position: Cancellations of arrangements or plans, news from an unpleasant or unexpected person, not expecting news you hoped for, communication seems to be lost, changes you hoped for are not taking place yet. Time will come , do not let this spoil your mood. A disruption of travel or communication. Analysis of this rune has also given it interpretations of advice or justice, and of being in a position of moral correctness. Reversed, there is an indication of the lack of solid council, or the holding of a position that is not morally sound.

Use for magic purposes: Incorrect communication can occur giving you the wrong answers you desire. Be patient for rationality, order and justice will return. Protection of travelers, relief or bringing change along, renewal of links. Blue or Violet. (refer to my COLOR Page)

KANO or KENAZ - Controlled fire, light, opening

In predictions it announces: Very optimistic Rune in beginnings or renewals. Can signify healing is on the way. In matters of the heart, there is a possibility of commitment. Otherwise, more positive overtones in a relationship can develop. Wisdom keen intuition, solution of problems, creativity, inspiration, enlightenment, gaining knowledge, expression, " you will see the light" , strength, energy, and power. Transforming Fire As an offering or for skill. When you are in the darkness, an opening with light is the best and most gracious thing to have bestowed upon you. This is a great time for putting energies into new opportunities. Meditation revolves around seeing out of seemingly dark situations for there is a way out of every situation. Focus on what the action is and invest energies into breaking through.

Upright position: Could signify an ending, a loss, a delay or blockage in progress. In matters of the heart, a possible realization it was never meant to be. Not a good time for business opportunities. In terms of relationships: successful business relations, a couple will find a solution and end their argument , two friends will come to an agreement, with love: a man will give and a woman will receive, both will express love. In all relationships the circumstances are favorable. In terms of material: a man will deliver, a woman will receive. Men, take this hint to deliver your message or gift in order to receive much happiness in the future.

Inverse position: not taking advantage of the light that has been shone on you, not accepting the knowledge, being lazy, lagging behind. Or it can stand for a loss of friendship or breakup of business deals.

Use for magic purposes: for attainment of creative inspiration, assistance in learning/studying a fertility, driving uneasiness and fears away. White or Gold. (refer to my COLOR Page)

GEBO or GIFU - The Gift of Harmonic Relationships, union, sex magick, partnerships

In prediction it announces: Gift either emotional or material, proposal/offer, relation, love, marriage, partnership, generosity, unexpected good luck, making connections, strengthening or confirming relations or commitments with gifts or offerings, could mean a birth of a child. When we acknowledge our higher power and in turn the higher power gives back to us, then we have harmony. This is a great representation of the working of karma. Good things come in return for good deeds. We need to meditate on the magic of working with knowing our spiritual forces and treating them as we want a pleasing and easy environment to allow us to set us up for good things to come. There is a strong showing for respect of nature. Gebo means gift, and like any gifts, the rune may be understood on many levels. Gifts are generally positive things, for both the giver and the recipient. In many cultures however, gifts and favors carry with them an obligation to respond in kind. It is for this reason that gifts, and hence the rune Gebo, are frequently symbolic of friendships, marriages, alliances, mergers, and other bonds between people or organizations.

No Specific Upright and Inverse positions: It is always a good omen. Don't be selfish! Share and think about others. Benevolence is a gift you can give yourself! What a feeling! Giving always returns ten-fold. Remember to give thanks to your Higher Power.

Use for magic purposes: Always return a gift for a gift. Never return a gift that is more valuable than the gift received. Always make sure the gift is of equal value. For finding or reinforcing a love relation, fertility, bringing luck, for designation of a present, or offer. Pink, Red or Purple. (refer to my COLOR Page)

WUNJO - Happiness, bliss, glory, harmony, joy, and victory

In predictions it announces: Drawing this Rune is a sure sign that one's luck is changing. Joy is on the way. Happiness and laughter will come into your life shortly. We humans normally have low times in our lives. With this Rune it is interesting to note that if we do not experience sorrow, how would we know joy? Choosing this Rune also indicates a change of luck. It doesn't always mean winning the lottery, it could simply mean a piece of good news, finding something lost or a good joke on you. When asking a question of love, it could mean a positive outcome with that individual. Whether it's permanent depends on the fates and your compatibility! Success, recognition, just reward, joy, blessedness, attainment of goals, satisfaction, fulfillment. This can mean a lot of aspects of joy, but mainly it is the lack of need and lack of pain. It is the realization of what you have worked for and the temporary enjoyment of all your goods. Being in this mind frame sometimes induces a separate state of mind. It is a good meditation to realize where you are now and what you have and being satisfied to the point of bliss. Preparation for meditation is not needed when a tough task is completed.

Upright Position: Does not always mean happiness is on the way! How much happiness you get out of anything depends on you. It is a warning to get back in the swing of life. Don't dwell on

sadness, loneliness and aloofness. Happiness, pleasure, satisfaction, peace, calm. Usually is associated with fair-haired people and traveling over water.

Inverse position: Exact opposite of upward position, things slow in coming to fruition. An emotional problem, love triangle, a third person is somehow involved

Use in magic purposes: Seek out friends, relatives, and seek others that make you feel happy and loved. Honor your ancestors and learn about their feats, their accomplishments and their goals. Know that you are important and they are proud of you as their offspring. For success in everything. Pink and Yellow. (refer to my COLOR Page)

HAGAL or HAGALAZ - Destructive forces, The Unexpected, Hail, limitations, delay

In Prediction it announces: Drawing this Rune can represent the reality of life. All living things grow, bear some kind of spore, seed, fruit or root division so they can die and live again. The opposites of life and death we all must face represent the ultimate balance. Drawing this Rune is an indication that although things can look bleak, there can be a real triumph over a situation. It can also be a warning to maintain a balance in your life at the time of this reading. If you have been sick, it can indicate recovery is on the way. Elemental disruption, sudden loss, hard temptation, destruction, misfortune, accident, and a drastic change. This is an acknowledgement of the force of nature at its worst. The Vikings had many a harsh winter and year-round poor weather. Months of work could be ruined by an act of nature. This also represents those things that are out of our control. We should meditate on the acceptance of the tough times brought on by the seasons. We cannot control everything that goes on around, so we should learn to "let go and let God" as the saying goes. Hagalaz is the rune of hail. Hail is a destructive and elemental force, so one can expect this rune to represent the disruption of one's life. In the harsh northern winter there is a halt to activity, and so delay or hindrance is frequently associated with this rune. The opposite of chaos is yet more chaos, as illustrated by the fact that this rune cannot be reversed.

No Upright or Inverse Positions: Unexpected occurrences and changes of plans, sometimes a death, and not the right time for new starts.

Use for magic purposes: Pay attention to the opposites in your life. What is really going on? Can you bring balance into your life now? For elimination of un-wished influence and destructive patterns

NAUTHIZ, NYD or NIED - Need, patience, constraint, self control, protection, delay

In predictions it announces: When drawing this Rune, it is a good time to remember that it is much better to think on something carefully rather than act on it too soon and do the wrong thing. Any parent understands this Rune firsthand. Children often make demands of their parents that if they did not think about carefully, could result in pain and constraint for all! Drawing this Rune encourages weighing all possibilities carefully before committing oneself and the ability to say "no" if necessary. Passing through a difficult learning situation. It was at the hardest times that the true meaning of what is needed for survival is missed the most. It was at these times that misery sometimes was the only companion. The proof of how delicate we really are in this sometimes

harsh world comes clear in the mind. One should meditate how bad things can really get and what things are not needed to maintain true survival at the deepest times of need. Nyd represents many things, most of them unpleasant - heed it well. Constraint, delay, loss, need, and sorrow are all frequently seen in this rune. Nyd speaks most strongly of pause, the hallmark of the both the timid and the patient, and is often interpreted as foretelling a delay in the effect of other runes that it accompanies. Fortunately, even where there is misery and danger there are valuable lessons to be learned - the trick is to learn them before you are overtaken by despair.

Upright position: Troubles are coming up, meeting head-on could be catalyst to overcoming obstacles. It is also good to remember that sometimes this is something you need to experience but did not ask for! Patience and inner wisdom will aid in making the correct choice which will lead to the right accomplishment in the end.

Inverse position: A risky adventure that is possible to prevent, looking to start new venture in wrong direction.

Use for magic purposes: to represent and depict the needs that are to be satisfied, met. White and Blue. (refer to my COLOR Page)

ISA - Ice, freeze, immobility.

In predictions it announces: Inactivity, blockage, for rest or to stop slander; stagnation, potentials, patience, shades, revoke, rest. There are dangers of the cold. Slippery ice and freezing weather were well regarded in these northern regions. This is a powerful rune for the rune spell caster, for the one who understands this force can have great power of influence. Meditate on the physics of nature and notice the slowing of all things when the cold is omnipresent. This rune suggests heat removed not just from anger or conflict, but from passion as well. Paradoxically, Isa conveys images of slippery slopes and unsure footing, but also of circumstances that have crystallized and become utterly immutable. Sometimes in a person's life, there are standstills. We must recognize it for what it is. Take it easy, make the best of it, go slowly or just wait. Sooner or later a thaw will come and we can accomplish that much more when the time is right. (refer to my TAROT Section).

No separate upright or inverse positions: no action at this moment, wait for the things to start changing by themselves

Use for magic purposes: to halt processes, for presentation of original forms. White or Silver. (refer to my COLOR Page)

JERA or GER - Justice, cycle of one year, harvest or justice

In predictions it announces: This Rune is an indication of planting your seeds or ideas. As they germinate, grow and then are harvested at the end of a complete cycle or season, you can then partake in the completion of the handiwork of your patience and hard work. Drawing this Rune in

a Past reading means you have completed that cycle. Drawing this Rune in the Present means you are at the beginning of the cycle. Drawing Jera in a Future reading means you are getting somewhere near the end of the cycle of completion of what you are doing. Change, cycle, motion, movement, productivity, and unavoidable development, just reward (Karma). Ger can represent pregnancy or other forms of fruitfulness, and is especially indicative of the cycles of providence and karma - that which has been sown is now being reaped. This rune can also represent the cycles of wealth, for crops were frequently a sign of wealth. These cycles are eternal, which is represented in the rune by the fact that it is unchanged by reversal.

No specific upright and inverse positions: recognition's and rewards after a long time waiting, receiving old debts, money, might be connected with the legal system, the law.

Use for magic purposes: Do not speak ill of others until the facts are well known. Once the word is spoken you can never take it back. For bringing change about; for fertility and growth. White or Green. (refer to my COLOR Page)

EIHWAZ or EOH - Yew tree (refer to my TREE Section), communication

In Predictions: Change, initiation, confrontation to fear, turning point, death: not necessarily a physical death. Weapons decided if you would keep your land and resources. To defend themselves, the Vikings found the use of the Yew tree and made bows. This tree gave them the ability to defend themselves. The characteristic crackle of the wood soothed them during the cold winter nights. Meditate on the actions necessary to defend our position in our lives and to enjoy the things we have worked for in our "down" time. Keep learning the best ways to defend against the malicious actions of others and strive to never be caught off-guard. Communications with other realms. The Yew does not go dormant and therefore represents endurance. Even the wood of the tree is strong, resilient, and pliable - the Yew bends, but does not break. The evergreen nature of the Yew is present even in the rune itself, as it cannot be changed even by reversal. This rune is historically symbolic of death, but, as in the Tarot (refer to my TAROT Section) and as suggested by the nature of the Yew tree itself, death is seen only as a transmutation of something eternal and unchanging - the spirit. Gain from the strength of this Rune and use assertiveness to take charge of things. You can be assertive but you can also be flexible. A positive and realistic view is called for by looking to the other Runes when interpreting this Rune

No specific upright and inverse positions: change, a way out, and end, reasonable goals have been set

Use for magic purposes: Problems that were thought to be solved may pop up again needing attention. Deal with effectively by questioning the way you think and act. For bringing about a complete change, for facilitation of going through life. Indigo and Purple. (refer to my COLOR Page)

PERTH or PERDHRO - Secret, Karma, unexplainable, things hidden, occult abilities

In predictions it announces: When drawing this Rune, there is a good indication you may encounter a secret or unexpected gain as in a game of chance. It does not necessarily mean that you may win the lottery, although a possibility! More likely, an example would be, you over paid a

bill and have a refund coming back. This is a Rune of finding lost items or possibly an old friend or long lost relative you probably lost contact with. It can mean you are about to go on a quest or search for something unknown. In the quest you obtain more knowledge and growth along the way from the experience itself. Meditating with this Rune can also help one to remember what one needs to remember. It could also mean the death experience of old beliefs and ideas as your spirit is renewed through new ideas and self-growth. This Rune can also signify a journey into Wyrð, the place of past, present and future. We are each responsible for our own actions be they good or bad. This could be a time to come to terms with a reparation one needs to make. New birth, mystery, magick, divine influence, fertility, sexuality, new beginning, prophecy. We often wonder why things are still so random when science explains so much. The female end of the miracle of life is also noted. The so called "Murphy's Law" is also a big part of this rune. Vikings often wondered why some survived in battle that should have died. Mysteries bothered them and seemed to not have anything to do with the gods. We can meditate on this rune that there will always be things unexplainable and to hope for these mysteries to work in our favor. Hidden forces for unexpected Luck and Opportunity.

Upright position: This is a psychic Rune used to meditate to find lost items and to obtain information needed for self-growth. This is a Rune that allows one to experience Wyrð. That place of "that which is", "that which is becoming" and "that which will become." A hidden secret, you do not know everything, but you will soon, may receive information to help you or money to assist you.

Inverse position: prepare for a disappointment because information you have received recently will prove wrong or untrue. This can have many possible meanings. It could represent secrets revealed or mysteries uncovered. It could be a warning against gambling - now might not be the time to take a chance.

Use for magic purposes: Our energies get scattered to the four winds when we expect too much of ourselves, our friends and our co-workers. We get totally stressed out, ugly or depressed. This is a wasteful use of our energies. We need to concentrate on the moment at this time. What is true? What will hurt? What will heal? Whatever it is only concentrate on one thing at a time and let go. Quit trying to accomplish everything at one time. That is being too scattered and energy draining. Collect yourself together and quit worrying! For fertility, to facilitate giving birth, for success in predicting and in practices of magic, reinforcement of powers of psyche. Blue and Green. (refer to my COLOR Page)

ALGIZ or EOLH - Protection, fortunate new influence, unnoticed

In predictions it announces: This is a very positive Rune indicating protection in your work or in your love life. Also a Rune of friendship, good influences, and protection from misfortunes. If harm does threaten, you will receive a strong premonition of the disaster that enables you to take caution and prepare. Our Higher Power, Spirit Guides, Guardian Angels or Protectors look out for us at all times. This Rune makes us more aware of them! Algiz serves as a mirror for the Spiritual Warrior, the one whose battle is always with the self. Remain mindful that timely right action and correct conduct are your only true protection. Help, support, cooperation, warning. This Rune is a place to feel the full pain and not to shy away, for there is a lesson here. Meditation on this rune should involve the painful things in life and what is to be learned from the anguish. Facing the pain will make you stronger and wiser for the next battle. The elk can represent victory, but is much more appropriately associated with the thrill of the hunt itself. This rune therefore can portend vigor and success in active endeavors. Also, this rune seems

symbolic of a hand with outstretched fingers - a protective hand. This hand may suggest that you will be shielded from things negative - the problems still exist, you are spared the brunt of their force.

Upright position: Always be careful of theft - don't invite it. Lock up belongings, car, house, etc. Leave nothing to chance. In any new relationship always use your intuition and proceed with caution until you are assured you have mutual friends and trust established. You will find the road you took is the right one, use intuition as it will prove correct

Inverse position: A warning, protect yourself, don't let people or situations take advantage of you.

Use in magic purposes: For protection, success for hunting. White. (refer to my COLOR Page)

SOWELU or SIGEL - Victory, The Sun, Giver of all Life.

In predictions it announces: This Rune is one of great power and success. Especially if you are involved in a taxing project. Still, know when to quit or slow down. The energy is there when you really need it - don't abuse it, center and balance yourself. In relationships, success is possible. The usual compatibility thing of common interests, et., will determine the longevity, though. Success, positive energy, growth, power, activity, fertility, health. The spiritual warrior knows where the true power of all things reigns. The life force which is felt from the warm sun on a cold day makes itself obvious. Be aware of your essence and where life began. We are dependent on the sun which is the ultimate ruler of all the forces and is in a sense the true source of all the gods. Meditate on the fact that realization of this truth can bring you to wholeness. For healing or vital energy. Unlike equatorial cultures who may see the sun as a harsh and imperial force capable of causing droughts, in the cold north the sun is a purely feminine force that gives life and allows crops to grow. In dark times, this rune represents clarity of sight and the victory of good over evil. Sowelu is irreversible, as the cycles of the sun and seasons are perpetual.

No upright or inverse position: Success, good times ahead, take care of your health , energy (the sun)

Use for magic purposes: Warning signs before it's too late! For achievement of energy, strength, curing, fertility, success. Orange, Red and Gold. (refer to my COLOR Page)

TEIWAZ or TIR - Passion, Victory, Success

In predictions it announces: Duty, discipline, responsibility, self-sacrificing, dispute, strength, physical injury, warrior's path. This is the rune of Tyr, the god of war, and was often seen painted on the shields of many warriors in battle. This is the protector of the warrior and the giver of victory. For meditation, this rune is best known for gaining strength in overcoming an adversarial situation. It is also a great rune to keep serious physical harm as far away as possible. Drawing this Rune indicates a victory in a competition. It indicates the need for a quest or a cause to

believe in and defend whether it be physical or spiritual. It is a spiritual warrior's Rune of success. It also indicates a time of high energy and strong motivation. It is time for a turn around of "bad luck." It can mean winning or achieving an actual material item that was just a thought in a rainbow of the past. In work and life's endeavors always play fair. In romance, this Rune indicates passion, sex, and fertility.

Upright position: A love affair, full of energy and activity, you will give your all to something and achieve positive results. Sometimes when there is a delay or blockage in success, you have to proceed with caution. Self examine your motives and always act positively with a pure heart while using your energy and reliance.

Inverse position: This could mean that a sacrifice made will not lead to the desired result. It could also mean a loss, or a victory overturned. This rune warns against entering into conflicts or negotiations, especially ones requiring that an offering or concession be made - the wolf might take your hand and yet remain unbound. Note also that Tyr was the god of law, so there is a suggestion of a wrongdoer who will avoid justice. Failure, waning enthusiasm, lack of fidelity, impeded energy flow.

For magic purposes: for protection, victory, strength, reinforcement of will, wound healing. White and Gold. (refer to my COLOR Page)

BERKANA or BEORC - Birch Tree, Birth, the Goddess, New beginnings, fertility (Family) and growth

In Predictions: Celebration, fertility, health, new beginning, growth, removal of obstacles and barriers. A spring-like perpetual growing is the meaning of this rune. The Birch tree (refer to my TREE Section) is highly associated with Beorc and the "b" is with smooth lips, not like saying "bird". The meditations associated would concentrate on the rapid growth of a new situation or fertility. Problems that are treated with Beorc usually come to pass with fruitful outcomes. The birch is frequently symbolic of renewal, rebirth, birth, growth and fertility. This rune is a joyous one, representing good outcomes from ventures undertaken. It is the rune of the family and of a good household. One of four cycle runes, it signifies growth in relationships, families, fertility and fruition. Indicates a birth or a wedding is in the offspring. Modesty, fairness, generosity and patience are all called for to accomplish any work. A Rune that leads to blossoming and ripening, Berkana is concerned with the flow of beings into their new forms. Its actions is gentle, penetrating and pervasive. Your goals must be attended to what is right. Trying to accomplish something when there are dark corners in your life, calls for a cleansing of the darkness.

Upright position: wedding or engagement is at hand for you or someone you know. Some type of family celebration is coming up, could also mean a birth within in the family is coming up. Indicates the sexual union as a joyous act of the life force, not an act of sin. Sexual union is not be treated with a casual attitude but with responsibility and sacred reverence. Overall this is a rune of health, beauty and love encouraging growth and renewal of the life force.

Inverse position: problems in the family, maybe relating to children or siblings, problems with pregnancy, problems between a couple.

Use for magic purposes: curing (especially of infections), achievement of , enabling new starts(the birch broom is used for pagan weddings). Green and White. (refer to my COLOR Page)

EHWAZ - The Sacred Horse and rider, movement, change, travel

In Predictions:: transport, movement, assistance and help, energy, power, communication, willpower, imprudence, a horse throughout history is a symbol of power, strength and movement, travel and communication). Where would the Viking be without their horses to take them on the long journeys. The goddess Frey had special appreciation for these animals. The message here is to not forget the useful beast given to us for us to train to take us to a higher level of civilization. In meditation, we focus on the tools that take us to higher levels in our lives. We thank those responsible for making these things accessible and then we learn the use of these items to their full potential, as if it were not for our tools, we would make little progress. For safe journey and perfect for besom.

Upright position: The direction or path you are on now is the right one. Follow your heart and dreams to find happiness and the results you want. Change of residence, changing job positions, promotions, a change is coming up for the better. This rune stands for gradual developmental and steady progress. Get rid of hang ups and throw yourself into an adventure. Move, do something!

Inverse position: be wary of deals not going through. Overseas trip in store?

Use for magic purposes: For realization of power, establishment of communication, for casting spells. Blue (refer to my COLOR Page)

MANNAZ - mankind, the nature of humankind, society, perfected man, meditation, self improvement.

In Predictions: Self in relation to others, family, relations, school, associations. The self and its place in the collective conscience of humanity is the recognition here. We are all part of each other, made of the same things, subject to similar experiences. This is a time of personal reflection, of what it is all about and what one person can really do for the community. Also, acknowledgment of the importance of every one self to the greater many. Man refers to Mankind and your interaction with the whole of human population. This rune evokes the image that although we must make much of our way in the world on our own, there is nevertheless an entire populoug that shares similar experiences. Thus, this rune represents the relationship of the self with the whole - working together we can produce great results. Additionally, Man speaks to intellect and culture that separate us from the animals.

Upright position: in relation to others cooperation and respect is at hand in order for the good of all. If all business deals are agreed upon then you can profit in the near future (30 days ?). The question has to be interpreted in a way so that everyone involved can profit, succeed or get the most results. If you have a problem, you have the energy within to resolve it. If the problem is too large, then seek help. Remember that no one is an island. We are all a part of humankind and there is always a higher power or someone else that can help.

Inverse position: watch your back, others are in the background. Be wary of signing any deals in which you will not get your rewards. Nobody will profit if things go as they are going.

Use for magic purposes: represents an individual or it can stand for a group of people or an establishment (business, school, etc.). Indigo and Violet. (refer to my COLOR Page)

LAGAZ or LAGUZ - Intuitive knowledge, feminine, water, emotions

In Predictions: principally female rune, just as a body of water can be calm and peaceful it can also mean danger and/or unpredictability, like peoples emotions. Fear, irrational thinking, secrets, intuition, paths of spiritual development, psychic, paranormal. All aspects of water are implied here. Flow, sea, river, lake, etc. are all one thing in the greater picture. The mystery of the tides also imply as it was not known that the moon had such a profound influence. The flow of the water is incorporated and respected in the human body. This is for deep meditation of higher forces and the materials that make up the body. Cleansing is important now. Laguz is the most strongly feminine of runes, representing water. Deep sexuality is suggested by this rune. Through Laguz, water is seen as the ocean - vast, uncontrollable, ever-changing, and vital. When interpreted as the returning tide, Laguz can also predict the inevitable return from a long journey.

Upright position: pay attention to your feelings, but do not allow yourself to withdraw too deeply into yourself. Listen to what you are trying to tell yourself. A chance to achieve and progress yourself due to your intellect is at hand, a female may play an upcoming role pertaining to the question at hand with insight into the situation to put your fears at bay or fill you in where you don't have the answer. A woman may be wondering if she is pregnant.

Inverse position: do not dwell inside, go outside and be with others. Do not live in your unconscious mind and analyze everything, enjoy what life has for you now, be aware of what is not seen.

Use in purposes of magic: mental stability, to reveal hidden things. Blue and Violet. (refer to my COLOR Page)

ING or INGUZ - God of Fertility, Completion, invoke the gods.

In predictions it announces: work, productivity, growth, earthy, fertility. Another linking to Frey, this represented the fertility of the joining of human beings. This has a direct meditative purpose of the wanting of pregnancy. A lot can be learned from deep meditation on this rune. The presence of this rune suggests that tasks which have been initiated will come to fruition. This rune is associated with Ing and Frey, it is this connection that explains its connotations of both fertility and sexuality. The variant of this rune shown here is reminiscent of the twin strands of life, and of the challenge and rewards of bringing together things complimentary. When this Rune is drawn, be assured you can achieve completion and then start a new beginning! This can be a joyous realization of a new path, a new life. Can also mean news of a stranger or family member not heard from in a long time. This rune was often found on houses and barns for protection and fertility of home, animals, fields and other buildings.

No upright and inverse positions: successes with fertility, new changes ,new plans, good business deals, profits, is a birth at hand?

Use for magic purposes: for fertility, agriculture, growth, overall health, balance. Indigo. (refer to my COLOR Page)

DAEG or DAGAZ - prosperity, fulfillment, daylight, a new dawn

In Predictions: Drawing Dagaz often signals a major shift or breakthrough in the process of self-change, a complete transformation in attitude, a 180-degree turn. For some, the transition is so radical that they are no longer able to live the ordinary life in the ordinary way. Happiness, success, satisfaction, activity, realization of the wished way of life. This is the time of the light, the time to work and the period of the normal day. God's light is given to save man from the chaos of darkness. The meditation here is to concentrate on performing well in the days' working hours. This is the time for labor to bring about "fruit". Use this time to do your part to make the things around you better for the people in the community. Dagez means daylight, and represents divine light. This rune generally refers to dawn (the initial sparking of energy) or to midday (the climax of energy). A major period of achievement and prosperity is often introduced by this Rune. The darkness is behind you, daylight has come. Both dawn and midday are symbolic of change, but unlike the changes in the perpetual circle of the year which are slow and subtle, the changes over a day are much faster and more dramatic. The breaking of a new day is symbolic of the rapid illumination of dismal circumstances. With this Rune your Warrior Nature reveals itself.

No upright and inverse positions: You can see the light now, you will find a solution to your problem, significant change in life, the way you have always done something, thought of something to be will suddenly change.

Use for magic purposes: For achievement of positive results. Pale Violet. (refer to my COLOR Page)

OTHEL or OTHILA - Inheritance, Usually from Separation, property, possession

In Predictions: Real property is associated with Othila, for it is the Rune of acquisition and benefits. However, the benefits you receive-the Inheritance-may be derived from something you must give up. Whether it is your attachment to your position in society, to the work you do, or even to your beliefs about your own nature, the separation called for will free you to become more truly who you are. Home, inheritance, heritage, property, land. We inherit by our birthright. When a life's cycle ends, the next of the lineage inherits the wealth and responsibility. Sometimes a retreat is necessary from the severity of the loss. Meditation is to take the retreat to find the true meanings of what actions are to be taken since the influences of the past are now gone. New ideas may be introduced and tried with the acquiring of the new items. Nobility to know one's place in the established order. Land was the purest form of immovable wealth in Norse civilization, distinct from the movable wealth represented by Fehu. This rune speaks of stability and safety stemming from inheritance, both material and genetic. With respect to the question asked, consider the background of the people and families involved.

Upright position: Avoid doing excess. Don't spend in excess. Don't eat too much. Also check the bookkeeping and accounting on a bill when monthly payments are about to be paid off. Money may be owed to you because of overpayment! Sometimes money is found in the strangest places such as refunds on deposits, overpayments, or was hidden somewhere you forget, etc. Money, material gains (donations, gifts, inheritance ,etc.). Also remember that to inherit something , something else must be given up, perhaps you will inherit but also lose something else in exchange.

Inverse position: material loss, misfortune, damage, accident, failure, something is preventing you from receiving what is due you, or something will happen so that you wont receive what is due you. The obstacles you confront are among those things in your background that you take for granted and consider fairly stable. Problems from the "homeland", from family inheritance, or from our own origins may be worked around, but they cannot be made to go away. Fortunately, for many problems, this is all that is required.

Use for magick purposes: to complete business deals involving land and property, to strengthen family ties, anything to do with family, inheritance and property, home. White and Gold. (refer to my COLOR Page)

WYRD - Past, Present, Future: Fate Sisters, all knowing, or no meaning

In Predictions: The Divine Blank is the end, blank the beginning. This is the Rune of total trust and should be taken as exciting evidence of your most immediate contact with your own true destiny, which, time and again, rises like the phoenix from the ashes of what we call fate. The appearance of this Rune can portend a death. But that death is usually symbolic and may relate to any part of your life as you are living it now. Relinquishing control is the ultimate challenge for the Spiritual Warrior. A gateway to another dimension, best interpreted by way it relates to other runes, destiny can not be avoided, things presently hidden from view. Some dispute the existence of this as a true rune. The meaning is that of the non-knowable nature. It is the black hole of knowledge. Zero by anything is still zero and it sometimes represents the darkest fears of us because it represents the nothingness we may come from and may return to. Use meditation on this concept to confront your darkest fears of our reality.

No Upright or Inverse Position: always look to the runes surrounding Wyrd, especially the rune in the result position, indicates the hands of fate are in control at this time.

Magickally: The Norse sisters were the patrons of the art of divination, all knowing.

*** Also considered to be a "non-rune" as this rune actually is a blank and has no picture. ***

VARIETY OF RUNE SPREADS:

For divinatory purposes runes are often arranged in patterns known as "spreads". In a spread

the sequence in which runes are drawn determines their position and significance. Each place in a rune spread has a meaning attached to it, so the first rune might represent "Past Events", the second "That Which prevents Growth", the third "Current Situation" etc. Spreads can range from anything from two runes up to a full 24 rune layout. All spreads in use today are modern inventions since we know very little about ancient forms of divination involving the runes. Spreads are a useful divinatory tool. Many people will find one particular spread they like and use this consistently. Others will make use of different spreads depending on circumstances and the type of information they are hoping to obtain.

The Celestial spread is a yearly (13 Runes needed) spread - starting with the month you are in now. Runes chosen 1 -12 are set up in a diamond shape starting with the right and ending up with Rune 12 at the top of the diamond. The last or 13th Rune should be placed in the middle. Rune 1 should be month 1 and so on. The 13th Rune should be the final and should represent the "Influence for the Year".

The Celtic Cross spread is a ten rune spread based on the Celtic Cross (refer to my TAROT section for this spread description).

The Cross spread is used to plot the arc of your life and the forces acting on it. It is the most popular spread, giving a very complete view of the situation. The left rune represents an important element of the past. The middle rune represents a deciding element of the present. The top rune represents a force that works for you. The bottom Rune represents a force that works against you. The right rune represents the critical element of the future, at the core of the final outcome.

The Diamond spread reveals the dynamic forces at work in a situation. It is the spread of choice for understanding a hidden conflict. The bottom rune represents the foundation that forms the basis of the issue. The left rune represents one of the forces acting on the issue at hand. The right rune represents another of the forces acting on the issue at hand. The top rune represents the conclusion to which your strivings can carry you.

The Elements Spread shows the four elements and their corresponding qualities. The top rune; Earth are lessons to be learned on the physical plane. The right rune; Air, lessons to be learned on the mental plane. The bottom rune; Fire, Lessons to be learned on the spiritual plane. The left rune; Water, lessons to be learned on the emotional plane.

The Fork spread is used at critical turning points, to understand the dynamics of an important decision. The left rune represents the first possible outcome. The right rune represents the second possible outcome. The bottom rune represents the critical factor that determines what will come to pass.

Medicine Wheel spread is a five Rune cast to give guidance to a specific problem when the

questioner does not know which path to follow. The left sided rune deals with The past or Source of the problem. The right rune represents the The present or Current influences. The bottom rune deals with The future or the way energies are flowing. The top rune shows the challenge. The center rune represents The power to call upon.

The Norn spread is used to plot the crucial elements of past, present, and future, and to reveal the evolution of the situation through the arc of time. The left rune represents an important element of the past. The middle rune represents a deciding element of the present. The right rune represents the critical element of the future.

Odin's Casting spread is a five rune cast dealing with the past, present and future. The far left rune is the distant past and the rune next to this (also on left) represents the recent past. The center top Rune represents the present. The right rune represents the recent future and the far right rune represents the distant future.

Relationship spread is very useful to get an understanding of the purpose of people who are partners. It shows the role of each person in the other person's life and the potential direction of the relationship. Rune #1: This rune represents the energy or attitude towards the relationship of the person asking the question. Rune #2: This one represents the partner's energy or attitude about the relationship. Rune #3: The third rune shows how the partnership is doing or what the purpose of the people being together is.

Single Rune Spread is used to gain a quick insight into what drives the situation, or to reduce it to the most concise summary possible. The rune represents the critical factor in the issue at hand.

The 3 Rune spread enables you to deal with the subject as it presents itself at this moment in time. The left rune is the past. The center rune represents the present. The right rune is the future. (refer to my TAROT Section).

VARIETY OF RUNE SETS

In addition to each rune having a meaning, the material in which the runes are carved can color the reading. Most people consistently use runes made of ceramic, stone, or wood

Gold Runes - Are used for questions about business, career, and property

Jade Runes - Are used for questions about love, friendship, and relationships.

Ice Runes - Are used for questions about struggle, conflict, and achievement.

Spirit Runes - Are used for questions about mysticism, spirituality, and religion.

Stone Runes - Are used for questions about the natural world and things beyond human control.

Amethyst Runes - Are used for partnership, protection, love, success and growth.

USING A CASTING CLOTH OR GROUND:

This step is as important as the RUNES themselves. A Ground Cloth, or Casting Cloth will determine how each RUNE is read. Beginners and those doing RUNES and/or a ground for the first time might consider waiting until you are more familiar with both RUNES and Ground. Others may have a Druid ground their RUNES to a cloth on their behalf. Once the RUNES are 'grounded' do not use them on any other surface than the Ground Cloth.

Some Ground Cloths are very beautiful. Some are quite simple. The four basic circles and the four elements or directions, are present, the Ground Cloth will work. The more elaborate the drawing on the Ground Cloth, the more difficult it will be for the reader to determine the true placement of the RUNES. Even the most minor miscalculation can greatly impact the final results of a reading. For this reason, I always work with a simple Ground, so that I may concentrate on the RUNES.

The basic RUNE cloth, or Ground, consists of material onto which are drawn three circles. Any material may be used so long as it is durable, soft and of natural material. Leather works better than cotton because it will last longer and provides better protection for the RUNES stones when they are thrown on a hard surface. Cotton, backed by quilting or any other insulating material will work just as well. Do not use glue on any item that will come in contact with the RUNES.

Circle 1 - The center circle is where the reading begins. This is referred to as Circle 1 - the Self. The inner-most self, representing what is held secret or sacred.

Circle 2 - The Circle of Relationships and Life Path. These are those people who are in your life and effecting your life on a day-to-day basis.

Circle 3 - The Circle of Elemental Forces and External Influences - Spirit Guides. The symbols within the third circle represent the four elements and the four directions. Air, Earth, Water, Fire and East, South, West, North. These directions and elements are not fixed. This area represents events that effect more than just you, such as; the weather, politics, taxes, etc... The elements will influence everything in life. When we work with these energies, things are not necessarily easier, but they do move along much more quickly and support is more evident.

In the 4th area - May or may not be in a circle are four RUNE symbols. These symbols are not assigned. It is what binds the chosen RUNES to this particular cloth. Once the RUNES are bound to the cloth they are considered 'grounded' and therefore the cloth is called the 'Ground'. This is the circle of Karma. The RUNE symbols which are placed in the corners of the ground cloth

define both the cloth itself and the karma of the reading.

When one or more RUNES are thrown Off the Cloth Entirely they will be read as representing past lives. Anything that is not on the cloth indicates either a lesson learned from a past life, or one that is being repeated here. Which is true depends on the RUNE and the quadrant of Karma.

INSTRUCTIONS AND CARE FOR YOUR RUNES

Care for your runes: Oil your wooden runes with a natural oil to keep them moist. (Treat them like you do fine furniture. Over time, the wood will age and develop its own patina.)

Runes should be stored in either handmade or store bought bags with draw strings. They should be large enough to hold all of the Runes plus allow a hand to go into the bag to pull a Rune out. The bag used to store the Runes can be made from natural materials like cotton, leather, velvet, wool, or silk.

Blessing your Rune Set: Before using, it is recommended that you honor and consecrate your rune set in whatever way you treat things that are sacred and special to you.

Please keep the runes away from children because they are not toys and may be harmful if swallowed.

All rune readings, interpretations, and actions based on the runes are strictly the responsibility of the owner.

Use your personal rune set with Wisdom and in the Light knowing that any information revealed to you in your readings is done so that you have the opportunity to consciously choose your own path and make changes as necessary. There are never negative readings with these runes, only wake-up calls, as Spirit and the Divine are always watching over us.

Runes of the Elder Futhark

Introduction

Runes letters (or staves) as a group is known as the Futhark. Futhark actually spells the first six rune staves of the oldest set, known as the Elder Futhark. Essentially there are four periods through which the shapes of the Runes, and their numbers, changed. The various sets of these Runes are known as the Elder Futhark, Frisian Futhark, Aramen, Futhark, and the Younger Futhark. The rune staves are organized into three groupings, known as Aettes. The Aettes are Freyja's Aette, Hagals Aette, and Tyr's Aette. This grouping focuses aspects of the rune staves with regard to their respective secrets and the god/dess they are attributed.

The word Rune itself means "whisper" or "secret". It is the nature of the Rune to keep within them the secrets of the multiverse, that is, the various realms the cosmos is based upon. The world within which we live is but only the material layer, that of Midgard (middle garden), and while Midgard was set as the center through which all passes, this realm is by no means the only nor most significant one. Through the veils which we draw while casting, we become increasingly aware of how much these other planes or spheres of existence effects us. Whether directly or indirectly, the forces hidden within the outer regions of the multiverse moves among us, changing some forever. Those that practice and extend their tendrils of awareness become attuned to those forces, and in time learn to shift them to that persons will. This is what we essential call Magick. Runes are the symbolic representation of the forces that comprises the multiverse. In them all things can be revealed or manipulated. It is, however, with great undertaking and wisdom that these forces can be called.

Odhinn represents the Vitki (magician) that travels on the ecstatic journey towards enlightenment. In his journeys of discovery, he often made a sacrifice of himself to gain further knowledge. Odhinn sacrificed his eye to the Well of Mimir where he learned a great many things. He learned from Freyja the secrets of the Seid of which she was high priestess among the Vanir. Still he sought more and clearer wisdom's and thus hung himself upon the Great Tree Yggdrasil for nine days and nights until the Runes were revealed in the surface of the well where one of its might roots delved. Odhinn is the Hanged Man..the seeker of knowledge, even if at his own cost.

Technique

Runes have been traced to many uses. They represented the letters of their alphabet in their mundane use. They were used in purposes in divination by casting chips or slender sticks of wood with a rune carved or painted in blood on each, often called "blood-twigs" in the sagas. More importantly, they were used in the evocation or enchanting of items to offer protection, health, or to give an item certain magickal abilities - such as carving runes upon the blade of a sword.

I have read peoples concept, with regard to divination, in a use of runes the way many people practice tarot readings. A brief word on this.

The Runes Staves

Fehu : F

Property, wealth (cattle, gold, material gain)

The basic meaning is wealth in the sense of material gain, whether via money or possessions. In their time, cattle was a measuring of one's wealth. Fee, or payment, comes from this root of this stave. It may also be interpreted as an increase of fellowship and friendship, a wealth of another kind.

Sharing or "loaning" cattle to others who then returned the cattle with "interest" in the form of a larger herd or other property was a way of increasing wealth. Those who herded the cattle often kept them safe by invoking magical powers to call and to protect their cattle. Audhumla, the primal cow, is also invoked by Fehu (see Uruz). While often considered a creative force, Audhumla can be a dynamic, shaping force. Cattle, as they were considered valuable, were suitable for sacrifice and offerings at festivals.

Gold, being one of Freyja's attributes is also associated with Fehu. There is the story of how Freyja was lured from Odhinn's side by dwarves with a beautiful necklace of gold (in exchange for relations with them).

This is essentially the wealth or increase in prosperity that comes from one's energy and wise use of resources. Relating this back to the concept of cattle and raising livestock, it can be said that one's efforts and possessions produced of themselves (breeding).

Divination: Wealth or prosperity due to efforts

Magickal: Fruition of one's efforts, to increase. The will behind to act, and thus the property of the result. An active catalyst of gain.

Uruz : U

Primal force, strength.

Audhumla, the great cow (primal force) which was formed from the dripping rime produced from the meeting of the fires of Muspilheim and the yeast laden ice of Neiflheim. She was the "shaping force" that licked the ice into the form of the primal giant Ymir, and was the source of sustenance for him.

The auroch is the wild ox, large and fierce. It is protective when in defense of its territory or young. Though controllable, the Ox is undomesticable and can be dangerous. Uruz is associated with the primal creative force, primitive, earliest or original.

Divination: A formative or protective force, unmanifested but which can shape things to come.

Magickal: Force and freedom, or a force always straining to be free if contained. The runemaster or Vitki (magician) learns to direct it with the knowledge of its wild nature.

Thurisaz : Th

Thor, the enemy of unfriendly forces; The thorn on brambles.

Thurisaz is a force of defense and destruction. "Bramble" or thorny bushes were

used to "fence" and protect boundaries. One form of Norse/Germanic execution was to throw criminals "into thorns", pikes which were stuck into the earth.

Thor is the god that protects sacred enclosures in much the same way that the thorny hawthorn, blackthorn, or rose does. It is the thicket that protected Sleeping Beauty's castle, the hedge that surrounded sacred enclosures. The thorn or the "spindle" was used to put "sleep" spells on beings, even those on a cosmic level, and was equally a thorn of awakening.

No matter how beautiful the rose, one should be careful to watch for thorns. The TH-rune is also associated with the thurs, (pl. thursar) or a "giant" in the Old Norse. There were several groups of these beings, the "rime-thurses" or frost-giants, were wise (or witless.. according to various sources) and very old and who fought with the gods. They are primal forces, elemental in nature.

Divination: A rune testing and challenge. Also as protection and defense, both in passive (bramble fences) or active (Thor himself as guardian) nature.

Magickal: Protection from harmful forces. Barrier to effects of chaos or resistance.

Ansuz : A

Windblown cloak of Odhinn, giver inspired speech (Ond)

This is the rune of inspired speech and incantation as a creative expression. It is linked with the ancestors, the magic of speech which passes along knowledge with the breath of life, the passing of knowledge through the spoken word, as differentiated from the written. It is the rune of the poet, the saga, the seer, those of inspired speech. It thus represents the ecstasy of inspiration, the "swan song" chanting out one's life as he or she prepares to meet death, the first cry of a newborn baby. It is whistling in the dark to banish fear. It encompasses the power of suggestion and sublimation.

Divination: Words of inspiration, enthusiasm, transformation, manipulation, encouragement, compassion.

Magickal: Increases the active powers of Ond, inspires speech, writing and poetry. It can be used for the acquisition of inspiration, and understanding of inspired words.

Raido : R

A cosmic chariot, solar chariot. A chariot of a god or goddess; The Ecstatic journey

Rhythm and movement are important to the concept of Raido. The sound and dance of the ecstatic traveler who is carried on a circular journey. The spiral journey of the sun on it's annual course from North to South and back, as in the journey of Nerthus and Freyr's processions. It is the wheeling of stars around the cosmic axis. It can be thought of as the chariot of Thor or Freyja or any other cosmic "transportation." As the chariot is primal forces controlled by conscious thought.

Divination: It can mean a possible or necessary journey in a reading, or transportation. It can mean a path or road, a way through a dilemma. It can be a

journey in consciousness, or a change in viewpoint.

Magickal: Transformative change, shifting of energies. The evoking of discovery or ancient knowledge's.

Kenaz : K

Torch, the of bearing illumination

It is the flame of transformation and regeneration. It is associated with kin and the sacred fires of sexual generation as well as the "kith and kin" who gather around the hearth. It is the flame of the forge, the volcano and deep earth energies. It is the controlled flame of the artist and craftsman. It "breaks out" in unexpected ways, and holds the power to create and/or destroy. It is a primal force of creation, in the myths it is fire and ice that produce the life force.

Ken in English and kennen in German are also terms meaning "to know." They are also related to Old English Cen, "to know" or "to beget." It is a fire that is expressed in physical forms, and knowledge that although intuitive is obtained through physical means and experience.

Divination: It can be a symbol of a sexual relationship or the product of that relationship. It can be a craft or a creative outlook. It can be the "barrier" that must be crossed to reach the inner secrets -- the light in the journey of the shaman or hero through the labyrinth darkness and mystery.

Magickal: Bring about change, or effect a transformation, or create. It must be used carefully and in a controlled manner or it will break out with destructive results. It is dynamic energy, used for discovery and as a catalyst.. but must be carefully watched and maintained.

Gebo : G

Exchanged gifts

Gebo represents hospitality, generosity and giving. It is the joining of giver and the one who receives. As Thorsson points out in "Futhark: A Handbook of Rune Magic" it also has the meaning of a gift from the Deities, particularly through union. He relates the gift to the wisdom received by the hero from the valkyrja.

It is a form of the solar wheel used traditionally on the saffron colored sweet rolls which celebrate the changing of the seasons and the gifts of grain and wealth from the gods which is given back in the form of sweetened offerings.

It is a symbol of exchanged vows, marriage, ecstasy both physical and mystic. In the Norse traditions a gift required "a gift."

Divination: A sacrifice, giving and receiving, exchange, marriage, partnership, increase because of consolidation.

Magickal: Promote harmony in the exchange in forces or energies. To bring about union, receive divine instruction and gifts, increase magical power.

: W

Happiness and joy, glory. The battle well-fought and won. A wand. Prosperity and good fellowship. Peacefulness.

There is a term in Anglo-Saxon, "wuldortanas", which is "glory twigs." which many experts associate with the rune.

It is especially good in bind runes for ensuring victory. Old Norse _vend_ or Vindr, "Wind." As such wynn, or vend, can be visualized as a wind-vane, which shows "which direction the wind is blowing." Wend, also means to change the direction of something, to turn or to run with or against the wind. To change one situation into another, is another use of Wunjo both magically and in divination. It is, in its essence, that which is favorable.

This rune also suggests the peaceful joy found in the shamanic ecstatic state of bliss, that place where the spirit can travel and experience a pleasure and peace that the body cannot travel to. In this, there are many joy's, that of love, sexual, a simple contentedness or at ease. Wunjo can promote these things and indicate a time of favor. For this reason, Wunjo appears significantly in sex magicks in that attempt to promote the harmony of forces between two people and their energy, as well as the increase of energy to achieve ecstatic bliss.

Divination: Favorable time ahead, the victory in a struggle, calm waters.. potentially a happy love.

Magickal: Promote accord in energies, increase favorable outcomes, build energies in that of emotions.

Hagalaz : H

Hagalaz hail, egg (?)

The Anglo-Saxon rune poem refers to "hail" as being "grain" which falls and turns into water after being tossed about by wind. The layered nature of a hailstone was recognized, as well as the potential for destruction and the transformative qualities. The concepts that surround Hagalaz recognize that the destructive potential for hail out of season is balanced by the potential for transformation that will bring new fertility and growth as it thaws.

It can be seen as representative of the cosmic "egg" that primal layered egg of ice that was transformed in combination with fire. Out of the primal chaos which we think of as destructive comes a tangible force that carries the potential for destruction and/or transformation. The transformation from destruction to fertility comes after "being tossed by the winds," and in its own season.

Hagal represents a dramatic event or trauma which comes from outside your own immediate perceptions. It represents a deep reshaping. The rune is deeply integrated into the mysteries of renewal through destruction, the shaman who, like Odhinn, loses all in order to find his or her own personal power. It is the rune of winter, the grain of that season. It is a crystalline form, one that is sharp and hard, yet clear and possibly deadly. It has also been said that it is a rune of the bridge of the cosmos, Bifrost, and the dangerous path between worlds or experiences which can bring transformation or destruction.

Divination: Difficult period change, but for the better. A problem or situation that may have more than one layer or facet to them. Transformation after the storm.

Magickal: To promote change and transformation, usually a hastening of events to "bite the bullet" and deal with matters at hand. The wrapping or layering of forces or energies to be stored and later released.

Nauthiz : N

Need

Nauthiz is another of the cosmic forces which is recognized as being a "shaping" power which form the fates of the world and mankind. It is associated with the Nornir who are the "shapers." In the rune poems it represents the layered concept of necessity providing the friction that leads to transformation. It represents the fire bow which engenders the "need-fire." It is the cause of the spark that leads to the fire. The friction that begets the raging flames.

It is a rune of desire that produces the "need-fire" that drives a man or woman to obtain that which he or she desires. It is strongly associated with love magic, and the driving desires that produce not only the heat of sexual desire, but that of the desire to obtain or achieve. It is representative of the "spinning tree" or the windy tree which was the source of all fertility. The fire that combines with the cosmic ice to achieve transformation.

If directed, and used with knowledge and wisdom, the need-fire becomes creative and procreative. If used unwisely it can become a force for destruction burning to useless ashes. It is the step just before Kennaz. It can also be the release of the Hail to that of its waters.. Haglaz transformed into Laguz via the heat and fire it promotes.

It can be used to obtain a lover, to eliminate hate and strive, develop will and resistance.

Divination: A time of action ahead. Pay strong attention to drives, ambitions, and energies that shape your path.

Magickal: Promote love and sex magicks. Increase will and internal strength or integrity. A catalyst to release via its energy.

Isa : I

Ice

It is the primal ice, the icy stream (or glacier) that flows from Niflheimr. Is an "elemental" rune. It's form can be seen in nearly all of the other runes. It is associated with the rime-giants, the hrimthursar, and the wisdom of age. Ice can be considered "static" as many do, however, ice whether one is speaking of the rune or of actual ice is a mysterious substance. Isa can bring things to a halt, or place something in suspension. But the mysterious flow of the glacier is also inherent in Isa, as it is related to the primal stream. Ice can also be an expansive force, or one that crushes anything caught in its grasp.

It can provide a bridge over an expanse of dark water, or a dangerous trap. It is self-contained, and as such has the power of control and constraint. It should be used cautiously. It is all things Ice can be.. mysterious, revealing, beautiful, dark, dangerous.. Its is the cessation of motion within it, the placing of dynamic energies into a statis. The formation of something less

tangible into a more tangible.. energy into matter.. idea into event, as well as the unstoppable force.

Divination: Potential dangers unseen or something unavoidable ahead

Magickal: Placing energies or events in statis. Transformative from energy to matter or intent to event.

Jera : J / Y

The (good) year, harvest

It is the completion of a cycle, a season, or a year, representing the dynamic rotation and changes of the cycles. It is the fruitful completion of a cycle, or the eternal contrast of opposites which provide a whole. It is invoked for a good season (or harvest) and is associated with fertility. The name is similar to "Ari" which is another OldNorse word for eagle, a solar symbol. In either case it is the energy which brings to fruition our efforts.

Magically it is used to invoke fertility and increase, or to bring something to fruition or completion. It can bring peace and harmony. It represents the nearly universal law of harvest. What was sown will be reaped. It is the path or cycle of Sowing, Growing, and Harvesting.. as well as the time when the lands lay fallow until the following year.

Divination: Watch to reap what has been sown, things may be coming about.. prepare.

Magickal: Evoking the potential of energies to be released. To bring about the events which you prepare for.

Eiwaz : EI / I

Yew tree

Eiwaz represents the spinning World Tree, Yggdrasil. It is the axis about which all else revolves and spins out of. It contains the mystery of life and death. It is a life giving force which has its roots in the Underworld, and death. The yew is a powerful stave of protection and banishing, not only because of its association with the forces of life and death, but because of its association with the bow made of yew wood. The yew bow was an extremely powerful weapon, thus associating itself with the power of active defense, and death. The spinning Yggdrasil, from which all else revolves, is also thus the sustainer of thing. In it is the both creation and destruction.. the process of Birth, Evolution, and Entropy.

Divination: It suggests the passage and communication between different worlds and layers of reality, that of spirit and living. Possibly a new or different stage on life.

Magickal: A rune of wisdom when invoked in accessing the mysteries of Yggdrasil. It can take the natural state of energy or events to the next logical step. Evoking powers of active defense.

Perthro : P

Dice cup or Lot cup

Perthro is one of the mysteries of the runes. As a container with the lots of life, Perthro represents the opportunities of chance which can not be controlled. However the pieces fall, the player must move boldly taking what is cast and make up for in skill and wisdom any lack in luck itself. It contains the mystery of the Nornic runes. It is the rune of the vitki, the one who seeks the mysteries of the cosmos through the understanding of synchronicity. It is the rune of the warrior who constantly tests himself against chance and luck, even to that of Fate.

The Norns were the aspects of time and Fate. Thus, this rune is frequently associated with the Norns for it is upon their shoulders that events fall. Even the gods were subject to the path of the Norns and the chance of pure luck. To some, the roles of luck and fate seem somewhat contradictory. Fate and chance are the aspects of forces to which we are subjected to. All events and things are under their domain. This too, may also lead one to believe that this rune is also thus closely related to chaos energy and magicks.

Divination: Taking a gamble, unexpected turn of events

Magickal: It is the mystery of luck and life, the applying to the Norns for a favorable fate. Influencing chance. Shaping chaotic energies.

Elhaz or Algiz: E

Protection, the antlers of the Elk, the splayed hand thrust forward

The Old English name, "elk-sedge" is a kenning for sword, and thus may represent a two-edged blade. It can be seen as the godhi or gydhja (priest or priestess) in the attitude of addressing or invoking the gods. Thorsson gives the esoteric interpretation of the name as the protective forces, valkyrijur. It can represent the splayed hand, the horns of the elk, a swan in flight, the branches or a tree, a divergence or convergence of paths or forces. It is a sign used to promote victory and protection. The Gothic word "alhs" or sanctuary is also closely related. If you look at the rune, and were to enclose it with a circle, you would also have the commonly displayed "peace" symbol. In this instance, the peace is found within the containing circle, protected.

This symbol has also been found repeating itself on the horizontal axis, where there is another "divergence" facing the bottom as well. This would give the appearance of branches of the tree with the inclusion of roots in the earth. This variation is usually indicative of the World Tree, Yggdrasil, as well.

Divination: A change in apparent directions, divergence or convergence. The need of caution.

Magickal: To strengthen magical power, as well as the life force. Protective energy to hold back the negative.

Sowilo : S / Z

Sol / Sun

The S-rune is that of the sun, part of the solar wheel. Both the words "sol" and "sunna" for the sun in Old Norse are feminine in nature as were the cosmic

forces represented by the sun. It is the counter-force to Isa, or the cosmic ice. The S-rune is often connected to the lightning bolt, or a flash of inspiration or ecstasy. It strengthens the spiritual and psychic powers and abilities, increasing spiritual might. It provides "enlightenment" and success through individual will. The sun is referred to as the White Sow even today in Scandinavian countries.

It is a rune of education and understanding, as well as one that transforms ice to water, a transformative force. It can represent high achievements, honor and obtained goals. It is power radiating, from the source and lighting all it touches. It can be healing as well as a cleansing energy or light. Also, this can be the persistence of an influence or energy to which things may flourish, or be steadily weathered away.

Divination: A positive influence, transformation or change in a slow but steady nature to the positive.

Magickal: Heightening spiritual or magickal strengths. Healing. Transformations evoked, clearing of negative energies.

Tiwaz : T

The god Tyr -- A spear point, or arrow. A guiding star.

The T-rune is primarily one of justice since Tyr is the Norse god who presided at the "thing", (the Germanic general judiciary assembly). Judgment was not always arrived at by discussion, judgment by arms was a common concept to the Norse/Germanic cultures. It is associated with the idea that "justice will prevail." The Old English Rune Poem, says Tir is a star, it keeps its faith well. It is always on its course over the mists of night. It represents the guiding principles which are steadfast and can be relied on to judge one's position.

This is also a powerful striking rune, for it was on Odhinn's spear that oaths were recorded. Violations of the oaths to Odhinn were to be met with a swift and destructive action. Swearing upon Odhinn spear was to hold a vow to one's death or incur the gods wrath. Because the spear is so involved, it is often observed that this is the masculine energy evoked. In sex magicks it is a symbol of the male, or power, and of surety. In defense, it is the potential to strike.

Divination: Judgments, matters of law, decisions, or guidance. being examined by outside factors or individuals. Needs for cautious weighing and judging.

Magickal: It can be invoked where justice should be done. Gather forces to apply swiftly and surely. Increase sexual energies in men.

Berkano : B

Birch, the birch goddess, birch twigs

The B-rune is related to the Great Mother, the Earth Goddess. It is the mother of manifestation and of birth and rebirth. The birch tree was often planted before a home to protect it in Scandinavian countries, and the custom continued to be observed in America where settlers built new homes. It is used in "birthing" new ideas, bringing them to life. The birch is frequently the wood from which many a wand was also carved, thus the striking of an object or

magickally charged item with the wand is thought to be the releasing action of energies applied before. It can represent or bring about a rebirth in spirit, as well as the renewal of spring after a period of winter.

It is representative of the Feminine energies at work. Nurturing, frequently subtle, and thus thought to be the counterpart to the energies found in Tiwaz.

Divination: Subtle forces at work, a period of release from pressures or events, usually resulting in transformation.

Magickal: Used in protective work, in concealment or quietness, promoting safety or secrecy. Release of nurtured energies. Increase sexual energies in women.

Ehwaz : E

Horse, or ehwo: the "two" horses

Ehwaz is associated with "twin" gods or heroes, the divine twins, or two horses. The Saxon conquerors of Britain were Hengist and Horsa (stallion and horse). It is the harmonious relationship between two forces. With its close connection to the horse it is also a symbol of fertility, and partnerships. These partnerships thus act as one, although from two or more distinctly different parts.

The Ehwaz was connected closely to the concept of a man's fetch, the spiritual "horse" that carries one on the journey between worlds. It is the rune of Sleipnir, Odhinn's eight legged horse which bore him on journeys across both Asgard and Midgard. Also, it was upon Sleipnir that Hermod rode to the netherworld to Hella's domain to request that Balder be returned to the living gods. It facilitates "soul travel" or the shaman's journey. As such it can be used to obtain hidden knowledge or knowledge from a distance. The term "nightmare" is closely related, the spiritual horse we ride during the night as we sleep.

It can represent a journey in consciousness, a swifter travel than that of Raido, and one that is protected or guided. Either deeper within or in the Astral. Although the fetch is in many ways symbolized by the horse, the fetch may be of man, woman, or any spirit form. Any spirit guide you work with closely may be one's fetch. Carl Jung also thought that a person's sexual opposite or "shadow-self" is closely if not directly related to the concept of the fetch. It is well known that the Valkyrie also acted as servants to Odhinn, and were also termed "fetch-wives".

Divination: Emphasis on partnerships and working together. A guide or assistance from another.

Magickal: Increase in fertility. Forces or energies working smoothly together. To deepen one's spiritual journeys or ask for a guide on such journeys. Enhance communication to the Fetch-Spirit within.

Mannaz : M

Human, mankind

The Old English Rune Poem says: (Mann) is, in his mirth, dear to his kinsman; although each shall depart from the other. It is a rune of the human existence, of which life and death are both part. It is the rune of mortality. It also

represents interdependence and support, as well as duty and responsibility. No individual is independent of others, each is part of a larger pattern. We are individuals, but in a society.. for all there are roles which, whether we realize it or not, all effect.

The similarity to Dagaz should be noted, here, the cyclical pattern is "smaller" the microcosm of mortality compared to the larger cycles of the cosmos. It is the cycles of causality within the domain of mankind.

Divination: an individual (man or woman) or a group plays a major role. Inner qualities that represent one's connections to other people. Volunteer work, healing, a friend needing your aid.

Magickal: Invokes assistance, and bonding with close friends or the community. It is a rune of social order and can invoke cooperation among energies at work.

Laguz : L

A body of water (or laukaz: leek)

The sea and other bodies of water, like the earth, were considered a source of wealth and fertility and an expression of the unconscious and undiscovered mysteries of life and death. The Aegir, the gods and goddesses of the sea, both gave and took life and offered fertility and wealth. They were the brewers and the Norse looked at the foaming vat of beer and related it to froth of the ocean. Mead brewed during the full moon was often given as a gift to newly-weds .. thus the term Honey-Moon.

It represents ebb and flow, and dark currents. Those currents may be soft and trickling, or sweeping and forceful. It can carve through rock and yet be moved by one's hand. Laguz can be the water in a well, bubbling up from secret depths, or dark and still, reflecting and yet revealing nothing beneath the surface. It seeks its own level, taking the path of least resistance at times, at other times sinking into the earth to rise in a distant place. The ship burials, and stone "boat" graves reveal the association of water with the journey of death, a rite of passage.

Representing the Well of Wyrð, Laguz holds all the secrets of the unconscious and the collective or universal knowledge. It represents psychic abilities. It is the ale which can be charged with runic knowledge. It is the reflection in which we gain a new perspective, and the depths to which we look for understanding.

Divination: It is the unknown, the primeval water of birth and creation as well as death and the abyss.. the shadows that lurk below.

Magickal: Develop second sight and increase psychic powers, reveal hidden events, knowledge, or new perspectives.

Ingwaz : Ng

The god Ing / Freyer

Ingwaz is associated with Nerthus as well as Ing, and thus also Freyer. It is primarily a rune of fertility and growth. The circuit of the wagon that was associated with their respective worship, represented the "king's circuit", the

walking of the bounds, or the circuit of the sacred wagon which insured fertility to the land. It is a rune of ritual embodying action on behalf of the earth and mankind. Just as the greening of the earth follows the northerly progression of the sun, and retreats in it's wake, the rune is one of movement as well as action and reaction.

It is a rune of invocation and action, as well as responsibility. It is a rune of warmth and inner fire. It can be used to stimulate the growth of slumbering abilities into full growth. It is the container of energies to be released to promote growth. Ing is closely related to Jera, as well that of the respective runes for male and female fertility. The seed from which things will grow and be transformed.

Divination: A gradual change, the seed which must be, or has been sown.

Magickal: Hold energies to be released in a gentle transformative nature. Increase fertility.

Othala : O

Ancestral property

Othala is the rune of the sacred enclosure, the homeland, the village, the homestead. It is the family group, its customs, lands and language as well as the duties and responsibilities that go along with maintaining family ties. Its the concept of ones ancestry, not only of the immediate and extend family, but also that of long bloodlines.. the root of one's birth. It can be used to invoke a solid and peaceful family or group life, and to continual growth and prosperity. It is the "inherited" wealth that comes from one's ancestors, the customs as well as property or physical attributes. It represents the wise management of family assets or one's family or kin.

It is the divine ancestry from which man is related. The qualities of spirit from us to our deities. It is the link that draws us to our roots, our deepest behaviors and characteristics from events and lineage which we may not be aware of. Its the final link and bond to the beginning of our existence from the gods.

Divination: Attention to domestic matters, focus on the home or relatives.

Magickal: Linking to our deities, becoming aware of our ancestral ties and potentials. Promotes peace and prosperity within the family.

Dagaz : D

Day or Twilight (the border of the new day)

Dagaz refers to the a day, a period of darkness and light, since the Norse counted their days from evening to evening, with the mid-point being dawn and the rising of the sun. It is the rune of awakening, and metaphorically, of rebirth. It represents a time that cannot be defined, a place between places that are yet still interdependent of the other.

It is a rune of paradox, the balancing of opposites and movement, not as contradictions and opposition, but as counterbalances and compliments. It represents light, paradox. It is the rune of "clear vision" and "enlightenment." It represents time and space, and the weaving movement of the loom of life. One

can also liken this rune to that of the symbol of Yin-Yang. In this we also see the theory of Dynamic energies, as well as that of the living counterpart.

Often, Dagaz is found as the last rune of the Futhark, which is the position that I prefer. However, Eldred Thorsson's maintains that the arrangement might normally appear with Othala last as it implies the final, and ancient link, between our knowledge that of Ancestry.

Divination: It is the rune of polarization, of sunlight, and good fortune. A period of new beginnings.

Magickal: It can be invoked to bring new awareness or an awakening of the senses. A shifting of balances, of energies, or forces.

Closing Comments

It is important to remember that it is the journey of the Shaman, the Vitki, the Runester, that defines their skill and insight as to the secret of the Runes. This document serves only as a foundation to the wonder and power behind the mysteries presented here.

A few suggestions follow to help you with your workings:

Meditate on the shape and form of each Rune. Each has their own specific vibration and sound. Try to feel them with all your senses, allow yourself to experience each one and think upon the sensations.

Reading, lots of it. Edred Thorsson has some excellent works available to the public. Among them are "Futhark: " and "RuneLore". Both of these works are very thoroughly researched and provides many insights as to the construct of the Norse concept of the Metaverse / Multiverse.

Use them in your regular workings. As you begin to work with Runes, you will be able to perceive their subtleties and raw strength. I would suggest setting them with your candles or tarot when working with spells. The presence of the Runes with your normal workings will strengthen the patterns which you weave, and the skill you have over your well practiced elements may shed light on some of the Runic mysteries. Trace them in the air before you, and envision their shape and patterns as you work them.

I don't recommend carving Runes until you feel much more comfortable with their workings. There are many stories that demonstrate the workings of Runes by the unskilled that had far less than positive effects. Don't do anything permanent until you feel like you have a firm grasp on the energies you are working.

Runes of the Elder Futhark

Fehu : F

Trees

yew

Color

green

Totems

cattle, swallow

Direction

South

Deity

Freya

Stones

carnelian, amber

green tourmaline

Element

fire

Attributes

Zodiac: Taurus

Tarot: III Empress

Dragons

Key Word

Acquisition

Meaning

cattle

Herb

Nettle

Fe

Wealth is a source of discord among kinsmen;
the wolf lives in the forest.

Feoh

Wealth is a comfort to all men;
yet must every man bestow it freely,
if he wish to gain honor in the sight of the Lord.

Wealth

Source of discord among kinsmen
and fire of the sea
and path of the serpent.

Portents

Realized ambition. Good health. Wealth.
Love fulfilled. Good fortune.
But remember - be charitable and show compassion

Reverse

Failed ambition.
Health problems. Poverty.
Love unrequited.
Bad luck

Converse

Hidden reward.
Undiscovered wealth.
Nourishment withheld

Property, wealth (cattle, gold, material gain)

The basic meaning is wealth in the sense of material gain, whether via money or possessions. In their time, cattle was a measuring of one's wealth. Fee, or payment, comes from this root of this stave. It may also be interpreted as an increase of fellowship and friendship, a wealth of another kind.

Sharing or "loaning" cattle to others who then returned the cattle with "interest" in the form of a larger herd or other property was a way of increasing wealth. Those who herded the cattle often kept them safe by invoking magical powers to call and to protect their cattle. Audhumla, the primal cow, is also invoked by Fehu (see Uruz). While often considered a creative force, Audhumla can be a dynamic, shaping force. Cattle, as they were considered valuable, were suitable for sacrifice and offerings at festivals.

Gold, being one of Freya's attributes is also associated with Fehu. There is the story of how Freya was lured from Odhinn's side by dwarves with a beautiful necklace of gold (in exchange for relations with them).

This is essentially the wealth or increase in prosperity that comes from one's energy and wise use of resources. Relating this back to the concept of cattle and raising livestock, it can be said that one's efforts and possessions produced of themselves (breeding).

Divination: Wealth or prosperity due to efforts

Magical: Fruition of ones efforts, to increase. The will behind to act, and thus the property of the result. An active catalyst of gain.

Uruz : U

Trees
 Birch
 Color
 Green.
 Totems
 Ox.

Direction
 North
 Deities

Stones

Element
 Air/Earth

Qualities
 strength
 Attributes
 Planet : Pluto.
 Tarot : High Priestess.

Ur

Shower
 lamentation of the clouds
 and ruin of the hay-harvest
 and abomination of the shepherd.

Ur

Dross comes from bad iron;
 the reindeer often races over the frozen snow.

Ur

The aurochs is proud and has great horns;

it is a very savage beast and fights with its horns;
a great ranger of the moors, it is a creature of mettle.

Portents

Terminations, new beginnings.
An opportunity disguised as a threat.
Mental agility.
Physical development.
Power.

Reverse

Failure to think clearly.
Ill-health or lack of mental fortitude.
Beware signs of weakness, threats to your person or position.

Converse

Hidden strengths must be realized.
Shun apparent opportunities.

Primal force, strength.

Audhumla, the great cow (primal force) which was formed from the dripping rime produced from the meeting of the fires of Muspilheim and the yeast laden ice of Neiflheim. She was the "shaping force" that licked the ice into the form of the primal giant Ymir, and was the source of sustenance for him.

The auroch is the wild ox, large and fierce. It is protective when in defense of its territory or young. Though controllable, the Ox is undomesticable and can be dangerous. Uruz is associated with the primal creative force, primitive, earliest or original.

Divination: A formative or protective force, unmanifested but which can shape things to come.

Magical: Force and freedom, or a force always straining to be free if contained. The runemaster or Vitki (magician) learns to direct it with the knowledge of its wild nature.

Thurisaz : Th

Thor, the enemy of unfriendly forces; The thorn on brambles.

Trees

blackthorn
Color

red or white
Totems
snake

Treasures

Divinities
Thor
Loki
Stones

Element
fire/water
Attributes

Dragons

Herb
Houseleek
Half Month

Tide

Direction
southwest
Planet
Mars
Key word
Challenge

Germanic:
Thurisaz
giant (thurse, strong one)

Gothic:
Thiuth
the good one

Old English:
Thorn

thorn

Old Norse:

Thurse

giant Thor, Norse God of thunder

Gaelic:

None

None

The thorn is exceedingly sharp,
an evil thing for any knight to touch,
uncommonly severe on all who sit among them.

Giant

torture of women

and cliff-dweller

and husband of a giantess

Thurs

Giant causes anguish to women;

misfortune makes few men cheerful.

Portents

Threats from persons of power or position.

Resist temptation which offer reward through dishonesty or trickery.

Heed the omen of dishonor or physical harm.

Reverse

Evil may be overcome.

An omen of good.

An exhortation to proceed.

The danger is small.

Converse

The Evil will be hidden or may

appear as good.

Thurisaz is a force of defense and destruction. "Bramble" or thorny bushes were used to "fence" and protect boundaries. One form of Norse/Germanic execution was to throw criminals "into thorns", pikes which were stuck into the earth.

Thor is the god that protects sacred enclosures in much the same way that the thorny hawthorn,

blackthorn, or rose does. It is the thicket that protected Sleeping Beauty's castle, the hedge that surrounded sacred enclosures. The thorn or the "spindle" was used to put "sleep" spells on beings, even those on a cosmic level, and was equally a thorn of awakening.

No matter how beautiful the rose, one should be careful to watch for thorns. The TH-rune is also associated with the thurs, (pl. thursar) or a "giant" in the Old Norse. There were several groups of these beings, the "rime-thurses" or frost-giants, were wise (or witless.. according to various sources) and very old and who fought with the gods. They are primal forces, elemental in nature.

Divination: A rune testing and challenge. Also as protection and defense, both in passive (bramble fences) or active (Thor himself as guardian) nature.

Magical: Protection from harmful forces. Barrier to effects of chaos or resistance.

Thurisaz:

Reactive force
Directed force of destruction

Directed force of defense
Conflict

Instinctual will
Vital eroticism

Regenerative catalyst
A tendency toward change

Catharsis
Purging

Cleansing fire
Male sexuality

Fertilization

Thurisaz Reversed:

Danger
Defenselessness

Compulsion
Betrayal

Dullness
Evil

Malice
Hatred

Torment
Spite

Lies
A bad man or woman

Rape

Ansuz : A

Windblown cloak of Odhinn, giver inspired speech (Ond)

Trees
Ash
Color
Purple
Totems
Wolf, Raven

Treasures

Deities
Odin
Stones

Element
Air
Qualities

Dragons

Herb
Amanita muscaria
Half Month

Tide

Direction
East
KEY WORD: Knowledge

Portents
A letter, book, paper or message. Information. A surprise.
Because Loki was a renowned trickster, Ansuz may also portend a trick or subterfuge.

Reverse
Take care not to misinterpret information. Something you read is more important than it appears.
Beware pranks.

Converse
Failed communication. Lack of clarity or awareness. Hidden messages. Secrets.
Information disguised.
What appears to be a trick is genuine.

This is the rune of inspired speech and incantation as a creative expression. It is linked with the ancestors, the magic of speech which passes along knowledge with the breath of life, the passing of knowledge through the spoken word, as differentiated from the written. It is the rune of the poet, the saga, the seer, those of inspired speech. It thus represents the ecstasy of inspiration, the "swan song" chanting out one's life as he or she prepares to meet death, the first cry of a newborn baby. It is whistling in the dark to banish fear. It encompasses the power of suggestion and sublimation.

Divination: Words of inspiration, enthusiasm, transformation, manipulation, encouragement, compassion.

Magical: Increases the active powers of Ond, inspires speech, writing and poetry. It can be used for the acquisition of inspiration, and understanding of inspired words.

Raidho : R

A cosmic chariot, solar chariot. A chariot of a god or goddess; The Ecstatic journey

Germanic name: Reda (Raidho)
 Norse name: Reið, Reiðr
 The Anglo Saxon name: Rad (Radh)
 Icelandic name: Reið
 Norwegian name: Reid, Reidr

"I know a fifth. If a foe shoots a shaft/
 into the host, it cannot fly so fast/
 that I cannot stop it, if I catch sight of it."

"Riding in the hall to every warrior is easy,
 but very hard for the one who sits up on a powerful horse over miles road"

Trees
 Oak
 Color
 Black
 Totems
 Mountain Goat

Treasures

Divinities

Tyr

Stones

Turquoise "warder of travelers & traditionally to improve marksmanship", Jacinth "warder of travelers so that they will be treated with fitting hospitality"

Element

Air

Attributes

Dragons

Herb

Mugwort

Snapdragon

Half Month

Tide

5:00 PM

Tarot:

Chariot

I-ching

56 - the Wanderer

Key Word: Travel
 Meaning: Wagon
 Direction East

Portents

Travel is indicated.
 New friends or old friends return.
 Jobs connected with transport or overseas locations.

Reverse

Stagnation, lack of movement or change.
 Isolation.
 Mechanical breakdown or failure to arrive.
 A missed deadline.

Converse

Meetings take an unexpected course.
 A secret mission.
 Home-based jobs.
 An enemy disguised as a friend

Rhythm and movement are important to the concept of Raidho. The sound and dance of the ecstatic traveler who is carried on a circular journey. The spiral journey of the sun on it's annual course from North to South and back. It is the wheeling of stars around the cosmic axis. It can be thought of as the chariot of Thor or Freya or any other cosmic "transportation." As the chariot is primal forces controlled by conscious thought.

Raidho represents the path of a person's life and how it intersects and interacts with other paths. The complex network of relationships formed by these threads of fate can be thought of as a web. Every chance encounter forms another connection in the web, and by tugging on one thread you affect everything else in the system. Most people do this completely unconsciously, but by becoming aware of the pattern of the threads surrounding you, it becomes possible to recognize and follow up on the kind of catalytic events that previously seemed to happen to randomly

In this way, you can find your way more easily along the path of your own journey, . Otherwise we tend to get distracted and end up on detours and dead ends. Raidho reminds us that, although it may seem that we have accomplished our goals at Ansuz, life and change continue and we must always go on. We will eventually end up where we began, but on a higher level and with a better perspective. The journey never really ends.

Divination: It can mean a possible or necessary journey in a reading, or transportation. It can mean a path or road, a way through a dilemma. It can be a journey in consciousness, or a change in viewpoint.

Magical: Transformative change, shifting of energies. The evoking of discovery or ancient knowledge. Since Raidho connects with the element of Air. Speed is both its greatest strength and most difficult point. Magical uses of Raidho include helping cause changes and improvements, locating things, or for any matter involving travel, transportation or communication. You can use it for finding things, and to plan the best way to take a trip, look for something, or carry out transactions. Thorr Sheil identifies the prefix "trans-" as the Latin equivalent for Raidho. Thus, words beginning with "trans-" are things which can be brought about by Raidho!

Kenaz : K

Torch, the of bearing illumination

Trees
Pine
Color
yellow
Totems
Night Owl

Direction
South
Deities
Frey
Stones

Element
Fire
Attributes

Dragons

Herb
Cowslip
Half Month

Tide

KEY WORD: Enlightenment

MEANING:

Torch

Portents

Beware sources of heat or light.

A warning of physical danger.

Treat any illness or infirmity.

Resolve a dilemma.

Reverse

Benign warmth.

Healing.

Improvement in Health.

Converse

Beware hidden danger.

Treat a minor medical condition before it

It is the flame of transformation and regeneration. It is associated with kin and the sacred fires of sexual generation as well as the "kith and kin" who gather around the hearth. It is the flame of the forge, the volcano and deep earth energies. It is the controlled flame of the artist and craftsman. It "breaks out" in unexpected ways, and holds the power to create and/or destroy. It is a primal force of creation, in the myths it is fire and ice that produce the life force.

Ken in English and kennen in German are also terms meaning "to know." They are also related to OldEnglish Cen, "to know" or "to beget." It is a fire that is expressed in physical forms, and knowledge that although intuitive is obtained through physical means and experience.

Divination: It can be a symbol of a sexual relationship or the product of that relationship. It can be a craft or a creative outlook. It can be the "barrier" that must be crossed to reach the inner secrets -- the light in the journey of the shaman or hero through the labyrinth darkness and mystery.

Magical: Bring about change, or effect a transformation, or create. It must be used carefully and in a controlled manner or it will break out with destructive results. It is dynamic energy, used for discovery and as a catalyst.. but must be carefully watched and maintained.

Gebo : G

Exchanged gifts

Trees

Color

Totems

Treasures

Divinities

Stones

Element

Qualities

Dragons

Herb

Half Month

Tide

Portents

Ask forgiveness and it will be given.

A gift, present or windfall is foretold.

Discovery or development of a skill or talent.

Artistic or musical ability.

Show compassion.

Be not afraid to declare love.
 Good fortune in partnerships.
 Gebo is the origin of the "Lucky 7" concept in Anglo-Saxon Culture.

Reverse
 Gebo has no reverse.

Converse
 Personal animosity, particularly from partners. Hidden talents need uncovering. Think again about romance.

Gebo represents hospitality, generosity and giving. It is the joining of giver and the one who receives. As Thorsson points out in "Futhark: A Handbook of Rune Magic" it also has the meaning of a gift from the Deities, particularly through union. He relates the gift to the wisdom received by the hero from the valkyrja.

It is a form of the solar wheel used traditionally on the saffron colored sweet rolls which celebrate the changing of the seasons and the gifts of grain and wealth from the gods which is given back in the form of sweetened offerings.

It is a symbol of exchanged vows, marriage, ecstasy both physical and mystic. In the Norse traditions a gift required "a gift."

Divination: A sacrifice, giving and receiving, exchange, marriage, partnership, increase because of consolidation.

Magical: Promote harmony in the exchange in forces or energies. To bring about union, receive divine instruction and gifts, increase magical power.

Wunjo : W

Trees

Color

Totems

Treasures

Divinities

Stones

Element

Qualities

Dragons

Herb

Half Month

Tide

Happiness and joy, glory. The battle well-fought and won. A wand. Prosperity and good fellowship. Peacefulness.

He enjoys Delight who knows little of woe,
Of suffering and sorrow,
And has for his own prosperity, pleasure,
Eke the plenty of cities

Portents

Understanding, realization of ambition, success in romance and good health.

Partnerships flourish.

New beginnings are blessed with joyfulness.

Your eyes are opened to the truth.

Reverse

Misunderstanding.

Ambition stalled.

Romantic or partnership difficulties.

Not a good time for new ventures.

Converse

The truth is hidden from you.
 Success is elusive - work hard.
 Imagined love is false.
 Partnerships under strain through secretive behavior.

There is a term in Anglo-Saxon, "wuldortanas", which is "glory twigs." which many experts associate with the rune.

It is especially good in bind runes for ensuring victory. Old Norse *_vend_* or *Vindr*, "Wind." As such *wynn*, or *wend*, can be visualized as a wind-vane, which shows "which direction the wind is blowing." *Wend*, also means to change the direction of something, to turn or to run with or against the wind. To change one situation into another, is another use of *Wunjo* both magically and in divination. It is, in its essence, that which is favorable.

This rune also suggests the peaceful joy found in the shamanic ecstatic state of bliss, that place where the spirit can travel and experience a pleasure and peace that the body cannot travel to. In this, there are many joy's, that of love, sexual, a simple contentedness or at ease. *Wunjo* can promote these things and indicate a time of favor. For this reason, *Wunjo* appears significantly in sex magic's in that attempt to promote the harmony of forces between two people and their energy, as well as the increase of energy to achieve ecstatic bliss.

Divination: Favorable time ahead, the victory in a struggle, calm waters.. potentially a happy love.

Magical: Promote accord in energies, increase favorable outcomes, build energies in that of emotions.

Any questions or comments about this site
 -- just click on the envelope in Bluey's hands and he'll deliver your message

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Three ancient poems were created as mnemonic aids for remembering the rune symbols, their names, meanings and properties. Because the runes changed slightly in each culture the three poems differ in some aspects.

From Runic and Heroic Poems by Bruce Dickins

As
Estuary is the way of most journeys;
but a scabbard is of swords.

Reidh
Riding is said to be the worst thing for horses;
Reginn forged the finest sword.

Kaun
Ulcer is fatal to children;
death makes a corpse pale.

Isa
Ice we call the broad bridge;
the blind man must be led.

Ar
Plenty is a boon to men;
I say that Frodi was generous.

Sol
Sun is the light of the world;
I bow to the divine decree.

Bjarkan
 Birch has the greenest leaves of any shrub;
 Loki was fortunate in his deceit.

Madhr
 Man is an augmentation of the dust;
 great is the claw of the hawk.

Logr
 A waterfall is a River which falls from a mountain-side;
 but ornaments are of gold.

Yr
 Yew is the greenest of trees in winter;
 it is wont to crackle when it burns.

Norwegian Rune Poem in Old Norse

(in Modern English)
 From : Runic and Heroic Poems, by Bruce Dickins.

Thorn
 The thorn is exceedingly sharp,
 an evil thing for any knight to touch,
 uncommonly severe on all who sit among them.

Os
 The mouth is the source of all language,
 a pillar of wisdom and a comfort to wise men,
 a blessing and a joy to every knight.

Rad
 Riding seems easy to every warrior while he is indoors
 and very courageous to him who traverses the high-roads
 on the back of a stout horse.

Cen
 The torch is known to every living man by its pale, bright flame;
 it always burns where princes sit within.

Gyfu
 Generosity brings credit and honour, which support one's dignity;
 it furnishes help and subsistence
 to all broken men who are devoid of aught else.

Wynn

Bliss he enjoys who knows not suffering, sorrow nor anxiety,
and has prosperity and happiness and a good enough house.

Is

Ice is very cold and immeasurably slippery;
it glistens as clear as glass and most like to gems;
it is a floor wrought by the frost, fair to look upon.

Ger

Summer is a joy to men, when God, the holy King of Heaven,
suffers the earth to bring forth shining fruits
for rich and poor alike.

Eolh

The Eolh-sedge is mostly to be found in a marsh;
it grows in the water and makes a ghastly wound,
covering with blood every warrior who touches it.

Sigel

The sun is ever a joy in the hopes of seafarers
when they journey away over the fishes' bath,
until the courser of the deep bears them to land.

Beorc

The poplar bears no fruit; yet without seed it brings forth suckers,
for it is generated from its leaves.
Splendid are its branches and gloriously adorned
its lofty crown which reaches to the skies.

Eh

The horse is a joy to princes in the presence of warriors.
A steed in the pride of its hoofs,
when rich men on horseback bandy words about it;
and it is ever a source of comfort to the restless.

Mann

The joyous man is dear to his kinsmen;
yet every man is doomed to fail his fellow,
since the Lord by his decree will commit the vile carrion to the earth.

Lagu

The ocean seems interminable to men,
if they venture on the rolling bark
and the waves of the sea terrify them
and the courser of the deep heed not its bridle.

Ing

Ing was first seen by men among the East-Danes,
till, followed by his chariot,

he departed eastwards over the waves.
So the Hearingas named the hero.

Ethel

An estate is very dear to every man,
if he can enjoy there in his house
whatever is right and proper in constant prosperity.

Dæg

Day, the glorious light of the Creator, is sent by the Lord;
it is beloved of men, a source of hope and happiness to rich and poor,
and of service to all.

Ac

The oak fattens the flesh of pigs for the children of men.
Often it traverses the gannet's bath,
and the ocean proves whether the oak keeps faith
in honourable fashion.

Æsc

The ash is exceedingly high and precious to men.
With its sturdy trunk it offers a stubborn resistance,
though attacked by many a man.

Yr

Yr is a source of joy and honour to every prince and knight;
it looks well on a horse and is a reliable equipment for a journey.

lor

lar is a river fish and yet it always feeds on land;
it has a fair abode encompassed by water, where it lives in happiness.

Ear

The grave is horrible to every knight,
when the corpse quickly begins to cool
and is laid in the bosom of the dark earth.
Prosperity declines, happiness passes away
and covenants are broken.

Anglo-Saxon Rune Poem (in Anglo-Saxon)

(in Modern English)

From Runic and Heroic Poems by Bruce Dickins

Shower

Lamentation of the clouds
and ruin of the hay-harvest
and abomination of the shepherd.

Giant
Torture of women
and cliff-dweller
and husband of a giantess.

God
Aged Gautr
and prince of Ásgardr
and lord of Vallhalla.

Riding
Joy of the horsemen
and speedy journey
and toil of the steed.

Ulcer
Disease fatal to children
and painful spot
and abode of mortification.

Hail
Cold grain
and shower of sleet
and sickness of serpents.

Ice
Bark of rivers
and roof of the wave
and destruction of the doomed.

Plenty
Boon to men
and good summer
and thriving crops.

Sun
Shield of the clouds
and shining ray
and destroyer of ice.

Birch
Leafy twig
and little tree
and fresh young shrub.

Man
Delight of man
and augmentation of the earth
and adorer of ships.

Water
Eddying stream
and broad geysir

and land of the fish.

Icelandic Rune Poem (in Old Icelandic)

There is yet another rune poem, the Abcledarium Nordmanicum, discovered in a manuscript written in the 9th century, written in high and low German. This is sometimes referred to as the "Old Swiss Rune Poem". It relates to the Younger Futhark.

Fee first,
Aurochs after,
Thurs the third stave,
The Åse is above him,
Wheel is written last,
Then cleaves cancre;

Ice, year, and sun.
Tiu, birch and man in the middle;
Water the bright,
Yew holds all.

Runes: First Aettir

1 FEHU: COSMIC FIRE

Keywords: Mobile Force. Energy. Fertility. Creation\ Destruction. Becoming.

Mythology: Fire-Etins. The raw archetypal energy of motion and expansion in the multi-verse. The force that flows from Muspell-Realm: cosmic fire. Fehu, like fire, is both creative (the formation of the multiverse) and destructive (Ragnarok). Matter.

Lore: The F-Rune is the essence of a mobile form of power. The basic meaning in this sense is wealth: money or currency. Cattle were a mobile method of measuring one's wealth. Fee, a payment, comes from this term, as does fellowship and friendship, wealth of another kind. Mobile power can also be seen as the Hamingya, illustrating the concept of a "Guardian Spirit," and "Luck." The Hamingya is each individual magicians' pool of psycho-mystical power.

Gold, being one of Freya's attributes is also associated with Fehu.

Brisingamen, Freya's necklace, is made of gold (or amber), thus this rune may mean fertility. This is money or wealth that comes from one's energy and use of resources (i.e. one's fertility). The money (minerals) and wealth (fruits) of the earth is also fertility. Gold is the fertility of the wallet.

Magick: Strengthening psychic powers. increase of personal wealth. drawing down the moon/sun/divine powers. the "sending rune". energy to create wealth.

Divination: Rune of wealth and expansive energy. new beginnings and the circulation of power. positive: new beginnings, social success, foresight, energy, travel, money, control. negative: greed, failure, atrophy, poverty, discord.

Stone: Moss Agate- friendship and agriculture.

2 URUZ: AUROCHS

Keywords: Archetypal Patterning. Organic Organization. Wisdom. Health. Vital Strength and Endurance..

Mythology: Audhumla. The Mother of Manifestation. The creating (patterning and formulating) power in the multi-verse. The dripping Rime (ice, salt, and yeast) produced when Primal Fire met Primal Ice. Cleansing and transforming by water.

Lore: The auroch was a wild ox, very large and very fierce. In the ancient Teutonic world, a test of strength was to fight the auroch, and bring back the horns. The energy of the auroch is indestructable, raw, primitive and unbelievably strong. Uruz symbolizes strength, persistence, durability, and adaptability to environmental changes.

Uruz is associated with the primal creative force: primitive, earliest or original. Audhumla, the great cow which was formed from the dripping rime produced from fire and ice. She was the "shaping force" that licked the ice into the primal giant, and was the source of sustenance for the cosmic giant Ymir.

Uruz is a spiritual or creative force which pervades the universe, a vital essence. It is protective, as the auroch, when used in defense of one's territory or children. It is also associated it with the primal well, Wyrð (ON Urdh).

Magick: Shaping and forming. healing. knowledge of the self. good luck. realizing causes.

Divination: A formative or protective force. unmanifested but which can shape things to come. Rune of vital power and will. formation and organic structuring. positive: strength, constancy, vitality, tenacity, pattern, luck, health, knowledge, understanding. negative: weakness, obsession, misdirected force, inconstancy, sickness, ignorance.

Stone: Lava and Pumice- manifestation.

3 THURISAZ: THURSE

Keywords: Force of Destruction. Force of Defense. Action. Applied Power. Direction of Polarities. Regeneration Following Destruction. Mythology: Thunar and Myollnir. The directed cosmic force of destruction and defense. The archetypal instinctual will. Cosmic Phallic Power. Dynamic/Disruptive unity. Forces of Chaos.

Lore: Thurisaz is a great force of defense. "Bramble" or thorny bushes were used to "fence" and protect boundaries. Thunar is the god that protects sacred enclosures in much the same way that the thorny hawthorne, blackthorn, or rose does. It is in this manner that thurisaz is a rune of protection.

Thurisaz is also a force of destruction and the indiscriminatory power of decay in nature. It is associated with the thurses, or "giants" in the Old Norse.

There were several groups of these beings, the "rime-thurses" or Frost-Etins, were wise and very old and who fought with the gods. They are primal forces, elemental in nature.

It is also the rune of regeneration after destruction and fertilization. It is the rune of sexual libido and lust.

Magick: Active defense. destruction (of enemies and curses). awakening. preparedness. sex magick.

Divination: Testing and challenge. as well as protection and defense. Rune of reactive and directed force. catalyst of change through resistance. positive: reactive force, directed force, vital eroticism, regenerative catalyst.

negative: danger, defenselessness, compulsion, betrayal, dullness.

--Stone: Sapphire- achieving goals

4 ANSUZ: ASE-LORD

Keywords: Reception- Transformation- Expression. Container. Numinous Knowledge. Inspiration. Ecstasy. Word-Song. Death Mysteries.

Mythology: Wodann. The Ases and Elves. The God of Magick and Inspiration. The reception of Runic Wisdom. Wodann's gift. The Wind-Song.

Lore: Using this rune, Wodann gives order to the multiverse and on, vital breath, to humankind. This rune represents consciousness, intelligence, communication, and reason. It is the magickal use of sound and chanting runes. This is the rune of inspired speech and incantation as a creative expression.

It is linked with the ancestors, the magic of speech which passes along knowledge with the breath of life, the passing of knowledge through the spoken word, as differentiated from the written. It is the rune of the poet, the saga, the seer, those of inspired speech. It thus represents the ecstasy of inspiration, the "swan song" chanting out one's life as he or she prepares to meet death, the first cry of a newborn baby. It is whistling in the dark to banish fear. It encompasses the power of suggestion and sublimation.

It is the rune of the Wild Hunt, the movement of the God or Goddess who rides the howling winds, gathering lost souls and those newly released from life back into the arms of the ancestors who await them with horns of mead and pleasurable company.

Magick: increases active magickal power. inspires speech. writing and poetry. the acquisition of inspiration. and understanding. releasing fetters.

Divination: Inspiration. enthusiasm. transformation. manipulation. encouragement. compassion. Rune of ancestral sovereign power. archetypes. consciousness. enthusiasm. the power of the use of symbols for transformation of consciousness. Rune of Wodann. positive: divine inspiration, word-power, synthesis, transformation, intellect. negative: misunderstanding, delusion, manipulation by others, boredom.

--Stone: Emerald- perception and inner clarity

5 RAIDHO: COSMIC CHARIOT

Keywords: Right Action and Order. Cosmic Cyclic Law. Religion & Magick. Ritual. Rhythm. Journey.

Mythology: Forseti. The Cosmic Law of Right. Archetypal Order in the multi-verse. Solar Journey. The Journey to the Under/Upper-World. The Chariot of the Gods.

Lore: This is the rune of ritual, or, the correct way to seek the Gods. It is the channelling of force according to the natural laws. Rhythm and movement are important to the concept of Raidho. The sound and dance of the ecstatic traveler who is carried on a circular journey. The spiral journey of the sun on it's annual course from North to South and back, as in the journey of Nerthus and Frey's processions. It is the wheeling of stars around the cosmic axis. Raidho is also the rune of travelling, wether astral or actual. It can be thought of as the chariot of Thunar or Sunna or any other cosmic "transportation." As the chariot is primal forces controlled by conscious thought. It is being in control of the journey of your life. Magick: Strengthening ritual abilities. access to inner advice. obtaining justice according to right.

Divination: A possible or necessary journey. It can mean a path or road. a way through a dilemma. It can be a journey in consciousness. or a change in viewpoint. Rune of ordered change and progress. rationality and right order in the world. positive: rationality, good advice, action, justice, ordered growth, journey. negative: crisis, rigidity, stasis, injustice, irrationality.

Stone: Quartz Crystal- clear goal.

6 KENAZ: MYSTIC TORCH

Keywords: Controlled Energy. Ability. Transformation. Regeneration. Will to Generate. Sexual Lust. Creativity.

Mythology: Freya and the Dwarves (Freya and Brisngamen). Passion, Lust, and Sexual Love. Fire under human control. The ritual fire burning away the outer shell to reveal the pure core. Hidden Shaping: Creation of the Swart Elves.

Lore: Kenaz is the flame of transformation and regeneration. It is associated with kin and the sacred fires of sexual generation. It is the flame of the forge, the crematorium, the volcano and deep earth energies. It is the controlled flame of the artist and craftsman. It "breaks out" in unexpected ways, and holds the power to create and/or destroy. It is a primal force of creation, in the myths it is fire and ice that produce the life force.

Kenaz is the torch of knowledge passed from one generation to another. On an inner level, it is clarity of thought, insight, consciousness of the self, inborn/hereditary knowledge (wisdom passed by the hamingya), confidence, trust in one's intuition, and determined effort. Kenaz lights the path to inner knowledge as well as lighting the path during astral travel.

Magick: bring about change. effect a transformation. creative inspiration. love. gaining occult knowledge.

Divination: It can be a symbol of a sexual relationship or the product of that relationship. It can be a craft or a creative outlook. It can be the "barrier" that must be crossed to reach the inner secrets of the shaman or hero on his journey through the labyrinth darkness. Rune of creativity. the ability to make and create. art. positive: artistic or technical ability, craft, transformation, offering. negative: disease, decay, break-up, inability, lack of creativity.

Stone: Emerald- artistic ability.

7 GEBO: SACRIFICE

Keywords: Magickal Force. Giver- Giving- Given. Ecstasy. Sacrifice. Sex Magick.

Mythology: Wodann's Trial. The gift of self to self for greater wisdom. The

gift of Runic Wisdom. The unconscious magickal force present before creation, neither god nor goddess. Sacrifice.

Lore: Gebo represents hospitality, generosity and giving. It is generosity and hospitality as virtues. It is the joining of giver and the one who receives. It also has the meaning of a gift from the Deities, particularly through union.

The gift is often the wisdom received from the walkyrike, as well as the Blot, the sacrificial rite. But it is also the concept that a gift demands a gift.

Asking (the god/desses) for something requires a gift returned.

It is a form of the solar wheel used traditionally on the saffron colored sweet rolls which celebrate the changing of the seasons and the gifts of grain and wealth from the gods which is given back in the form of sweetened offerings. It is a symbol of exchanged vows, marriage, ecstasy both physical and mystic. It is an awareness of the self-sacrificial and balanced nature of love between two people. This rune also refers to agreements, settlements, legal matters, and the honoring of contracts. It is the sealing of an alliance by the exchange of hostages.

Magick: to promote harmony. bring about union. receive divine instruction and gifts. increase magical power. binding someone to an obligation.

Divination: self-sacrifice. giving and receiving. giving something to gain something of greater value. be ready to sacrifice your current ideas and state of awareness and being for the sake of reaching greater wisdom. exchange as a binding of loyalty. every act demands a payment: when someone gains, someone else loses. the alchemical marriage and endless exchange of ideas.

partnership. increase because of consolidation. Rune of the gift - of exchange between two poles. sacrifice of the self. hospitality and generosity. positive: generosity, gift, magickal exchange, honor, sacrifice, divine vision. negative: influence buying, greed, loneliness, dependance, over-sacrifice.

Stone: Emerald as an emblem of love and loyalty. Jade to open awareness to the need of sacrifice to seal a relationship.

8 WUNJO: HARMONY

Keywords: Harmony. Well Being. Fellowship. Binding.

Mythology: Frey, Lord of Elves. Harmonious existence of various affiliated forces. Harmony and Unity of Will.

Lore: Wunjo contains all that is kind, beautiful, and loving in the Gods and Goddesses. It is the Divine forces in nature bestowing wishes and giving blessings. This rune is joy, glory and striving towards perfection. It is the power of the realization of the true will.

The power of Wunjo is also the fellowship and brotherhood which binds groups of people together. When all the members of a group work together, victory surely follows. United we stand, divided we fall is a saying inspired by this rune.

Wunjo is also the energy that binds different fields of force together and is therefore invaluable in bind runes.

Magick: Strengthens links and bonds. invocation of fellowship and harmony. banishes alienation. happiness and well-being.

Divination: The Rune of pleasure. finding harmony within yourself and with society. well-being. positive: joy, harmony, fellowship, prosperity. negative: stultification, sorrow, strife, alienation. --Stone: Diamond-

Rune Introduction

Could working with the Runes possible help you to better discover who and what you truly are and then you can give more fully of yourself to others?

I think so. I have been doing the Runes for about 10 years now. They have given me an insight into a fuller understanding of who and what I more truly am, not only now but has given me insights into my past and also into my future.

How did I find out about the Runes? Glad you asked.

I am sure that this has never happened to you but one day I went into the bookstore, just to look around and found myself in the Metaphysical section. As I browsed, this set of Runes in a box jumped out, grabbed me by the throat, and said it a very authoritative voice, "YOU WILL TAKE ME HOME!"

Well, you can bet you bottom dollar I was not about to argue with this, so I bought them, took them home and the great adventure began!

My first Runes were from Ralph Blum and his book THE BOOK OF RUNES The runes were made of clay? and in carrying them around with me I broke one or two. Now I am using a beautiful set carved in rock and the rocks, themselves look like wood. The carved staves or symbols are done in gold. If there is a Metaphysical bookstore or shop you can usually find sets there.

RUNES & MUCH MUCH MORE!

Why Runes, over the I-Ching, Tarot, etc. etc.?

I like the "feel" of the Runes when I swish my hand into the bag. They also are not a divination tool per say, but a very subtle way of finding out about yourself, in ways you never thought possible.

I believe we are in a time when these Runes, like they did in the past will speak to our inner self to awaken our Higher Self - the highest and most noble aspect of your being. Then you will find that the Greater Self will respond by giving of Itself for the benefit of the little self. This is what has been true for me. I also have become aware of my Spiritual Warrior within.

Now there are many books on the Runes because I believe this is "their time." I would like to recommend only two that I use daily and am familiar with. These are:

Blum, Ralph, THE BOOK OF RUNES, Michael Joseph, 1982.

Meadows, Kenneth, RUNE POWER, Element Books Inc. 1996.

May I recommend the same thing that Blum did in his book on working with the Runes.

"Contemplating the Runes is a process by which we may grow in clarity, in stillness, in being at one with the Self. To that end , a single question, a simple prayer, will always suffice:

Show me what I need to know for my life now."

Above all else, let your work with the Runes be as play! My inner guides, teachers seem to like it this way. Maybe yours will too!

The Opening Ritual For Rune Magic

In important ritual work the vitki may wish to recite an invocatory GALDER into which the hammer rite may be incorporated. Such a GALDR would serve to invoke devine forces or simply act as a general invocation to the runic powers, or both. The knowledgeable vitki will compose his or her own rite and GALDR, for this would be a great deed of runecraft! Note how the hammer rite is interwoven into this example:

1. Standing in the middle of the VE, face north or east, in the STADHA and intone:

Fare now forth
mighty Fimbultyr "The Awesome God"
from heavenly homes all eight
Sleipnir be saddled,
hither swiftly to ride:
Galdrsfadhir, "The Father of Incantation" might to give and gain.
Holy rune-might flow
from the hoves of Hangatyr's, "The God of the Hanged", steed;
in streams of steadfast strength -
through staves of stalwart standing!

2. Go to the northern (or eastern) rim of the VE and with the wand trace the circle in the direction of the sun, from left to right. During this process sing:

The rune-might is drawn
'round the holy-stead,
unwanted wights wend away!

3. When the circle is complete return to the center and facing the original direction, perform the rune-ring portion of the hammer rite.

THE HAMMER RITE

This example is written in a northward orientation, and appropriate changes of course should be made in the order of GALDRAR in rites of an eastward orientation.

- a) With the rune wand in the right hand, face the North Star.
- b) Beginning with FEHU in the north sign and send the runes of the futhark in a ring around you at the level of the solar plexus as far out as the circle on the ground or floor, always "with the sun" in a clockwise direction. The runes should form a complete band ending with OTHALA next to FEHU in the north.
- c) Stand in the cross STADHA and visualize an equilateral cross lying horizontally in the plane of the rune ring and your solar plexus, with that point as the center of the cross. The arms of this cross should end at the points where they intersect the rune band. Imagine a surrounding sphere of shimmering blue light with the red rune band as its equator. then visualize the vertical axis coming through your length from the infinite space above and from the infinite space below.

d) Feel and see the force flowing into your centre from all six directions as it builds a sphere of glowing red might. The colour may be altered depending on the ritual intension (see section on colour symbolism).

When this is complete say:

The worrisome wights
now wend their way
eastward toward etin-home;
hallowed be the hall of Hroptatyr, "The God of Hidden Things"
with the help of Hrungrnir's slayer! "Thorr"

4. Now perform the rest of the hammer rite.

e) The vitki should touch the hinder part of the wand to the breast at the center of power and thrust it forward, projecting the force from that center to a point on the inside face of the outer sphere. Then the runester should sign the hammer from the mass of magical might. During this process intone:

Hammer in the North hallow and hold this holy-stead!

Then, turning 90 degrees to the right, send and sign another hammer sign vibrating.

Hammer in the East hallow and hold this holy-stead!

In the South:

Hammer in the South hallow and hold this holy-stead!

And in the West:

Hammer in the West hallow and hold this holy-stead!

Returning to the north, direct your attention overhead, there send and sign the HAMARSMARK on the "ceiling" of the sphere, saying:

Hammer over me hallow and hold this holy-stead!

And then project the hammer sign below the "floor" of the sphere (not the ground or room floor) and intone:

Hammer under me hallow and hold this holy-stead!

f) Now, strike the cross STADHA again and sing:

Hammer hallow and hold this holy-stead!

Turning in the center of the VE, repeat this once for each of the other four directions and once for the vertical axis. The visual effect should be one of axes connecting all six shinning red hammers to your personal center, all engulfed by a field of sparkling deep blue light and surrounded by a band of bright red runes.

g) Finally, center all the forces of the VE by folding your arms from the cross STADHA in toward your center, with your fingertips touching at the solar plexus, and saying:

Around me and in me Asgardhr and Midhgardhr!

5. After which, if the ritual calls for a brazier, the fire should be enkindled. If the vitki knows it, and the ritual needs it, this fire may be enkindled by the need-fire friction method; but normally, the runester will light the fire-pot with a previously prepared flame. Also necessary at this juncture are containers of salt and brewer's yeast; a pinch of each should be added to the flame at the point indicated in the GALDR. Lighting the brazier, sing:

Endless light of life
 give thy living gift
 fill the night of need;
 to the hearth of this hall
 bring thy boon so bright
 to quicken this salt (add salt)
 and yeast (add yeast) all so cold
 together live long and well
 in the hearts of Har's, "The High One's", sib.

6. Once the fire-pot is enkindled, the vitki also may add leaves, thin strips of wood from trees, or herbs that correspond to the intention of the rite to be performed. The body of the magical ritual may now begin in a "loaded" atmosphere.

The Closing Ritual For Rune Magic

When a rite has been begun with an opening formula, a closing rite is in order.

1. Face north or east in the elhaz STADHA and intone:

Now is done the holy work
of word and deed
Helpful to godly children
Hurtful to etin-churls
Hail to (him/her/them) who speak(s) them
Hail to (him/her/them) who grasp(s) them
Needful to (him/her/them) who know(s) them
Hail to (him/her/them) who heed(s) them.

2. At this point the hammer rite (without the rune ring) may be performed, although this would be optional.

3. If it is not TOTALLY SAFE to allow the brazier to burn itself out, extinguish it by placing a cover over it with the words:

Fire that glows without
forever be kindled within
by the might of Odhinn-Vili-Ve.

4. If the energy built up by the entire operation is to be internalized, then draw the collected energies into your personal center by standing in the cross position, and while deeply inhaling, draw your arms in so that your fingertips touch your solar plexus. Turn in all four directions and repeat this action, each time visualizing the sphere being drawn into your center. If the energy of the rite has been sent abroad, then you may simply split the sphere with your hand or knife and step out of the circle.

Runes: Second Aettir

9 HAGALAZ: HAILSTONE

Keywords: Cosmic Pattern. Cosmic Framework. Completion. Union. Evolution within Framework. Protection.

Mythology: Ymir. The primal ice egg filled with cosmic pattern: the Primal Rime-Etin. The Cosmic Egg of Manifestation. The framework of the multi-verse. Universal Form.

Lore: The layered nature of a hailstone was recognized, as well as the potential for destruction and the transformative qualities. It can be seen as representative of the cosmic egg: that primal layered egg of ice and rime that was transformed into the multi-verse by Wodann, Will, and Weh. Out of the primal chaos which we think of as destructive comes a tangible force that carries the potential for destruction and transformation. The transformation from destruction to fertility comes after "being tossed by the winds," and in its own season.

Hagalaz represents a dramatic event or trauma which comes from outside your own immediate perceptions. It represents a deep reshaping. It is also read as the rune of the bridge of the cosmos, the dangerous path between worlds or experiences which can bring transformation or destruction.

Magick: completeness and balance of power. mystical experience and knowledge. evolution. protection.

Divination: Rune of crisis and catastrophe. condensation of powers into a seed-form from which further developments (positive or negative) become possible. positive: change according to ideals, controlled crisis, completion, inner harmony. negative: catastrophe, crisis, stagnation, loss of power, loss of prosperity.

Stone: Onyx-

10 NAUTHIZ: DISTRESS

Keywords: Resistance. Distress. Deliverance (Need-Fire). Stepping Forth.

Mythology: The Wind-Etins. Forces working against form (the Wind-Etins).

Resistance: the cosmic power used to form orlog. Cleansing and transforming by fire.

Lore: Nauthiz is another of the cosmic forces which is recognized as being a "shaping" power which form the fates of the world and mankind. It represents the concept of necessity providing the friction that leads to transformation. It is a rune of desire that produces needs (need-fire= self-reliance) that drives a human to obtain that which he or she desires. It is strongly associated with love magic, and the driving desires that produce not only the heat of sexual desire, but that of the desire to obtain or achieve. If directed, and used with knowledge and wisdom, needs (need-fire) causes us to become creative and procreative. If used unwisely, it can become a force for destruction burning to useless ashes.

Magick: to obtain a lover. to eliminate hate and strive. develop will and resistance. overcoming stress and negative orlog. creates a need for order.

Divination: Rune of resistance. the power of the ordeal. strengthening through crisis. positive: resistance leading to strength, recognition of karma, innovation, need-fire (self-reliance). negative: constraint of freedom, distress, toil, drudgery, laxity.

Stone: Lapis Lazuli-

11 ISA: PRIMAL ICE

Keywords: World Ice. Antimatter. Concentration. Constriction. Ego.

Mythology: Rime-Etins. The raw archetypal force of stillness, lack of

vibration, and contraction in the multi-verse. The force that flows from Nibel-Realm: cosmic ice. Anti-matter. Immobile Unity.

Lore: It is the primal ice, the icy stream (or glacier) that flows from Nibel-Realm. It is associated with the Rime-Etins, and the wisdom of age. Ice can be considered "static," however, whether one is speaking of the Isa rune or of actual ice is a mysterious substance. Isa can bring things to a halt, or place something in suspension. But the mysterious flow of the glacier is also inherent in Isa, as it is related to the primal stream.

Isa is a symbol for the ego because of its concentrating and centralizing effect. It is a force that holds the ego-self together during stressful trials.

Magick: development of concentration and will. providing a bridge over an expanse of "dark water." (a dangerous trap). control and constriction.

Divination: Rune of constriction and coagulation. concentration of things into a static (or frozen) state. positive: concentrated self, ego-consciousness, self-control, unity of being. negative: ego-mania, dullness, blindness, dissipation.

Stone: Catseye

12 JERA: COSMIC CYCLE

Keywords: Cyclical Development. Lunar Year Cycle (13). Reward. Fruition. Eagle.

Mythology: Balder. The cyclical pattern of the universe.

Birth-Life-Death-Rebirth. Cosmic fertility. Growth of the godly seed in humanity.

Lore: Jera is the reward for honorable, right, and lawful. It has no moral connotations- it is natural law. It is karma: life after death in the form of reincarnation- the cycles of justice in life after life.

It is the completion of a season, or a year, representing the dynamic rotation and changes of the cycles. It is the fruitful completion of a cycle, or the eternal contrast of opposites which provide a whole. It is invoked for a good season (or harvest) and is associated with fertility. The Old Norse name ar is similar to 'ari' which is the ON word for eagle, a solar symbol.

Magick: fertility and increase. to bring something to fruition or completion. peace and harmony. the nearly universal law of harvest. Divination: Rune of reward for, or reaction to, actions in a naturally ordered (horizontal) cyclical process. karma. the results of actions. positive: reward for positive action, plenty, peace, proper timing. negative: repetition, bad timing, poverty, conflict.

Stone: Cornelian-

13 EIWAZ: YEW-TREE

Keywords: Vertical Cosmic Axis. Numinous Initiation. Life/Death. Endurance. Protection.

Mythology: Yggdrasil. The vertical axis of the multi-verse. Mystical journey.

Lore: Ehwaz represents the World Tree, Yggdrasil. It is the axis about which all else revolves and spins out of. It contains the mystery of life and death.

It is a life giving force which has its roots in the Underworld and death and its Branches in the Upper-World and life. The yew is a powerful stave of protection and banishing, not only because of its association with the forces of life and death, but because of its association with the bow made of yew wood.

Magick: wisdom. accessing the mysteries of Yggdrasil. protection. increasing personal power and defense. passage and communication between different worlds and layers of reality. recalling memories of past lives.

Divination: Rune of enlightenment from the divine (vertical). the axis of the spiritual process of becoming. axis of unity between the upper and lower worlds meeting in Middle-Garth. positive: enlightenment, endurance, initiation, protection. negative: confusion, destruction, dissatisfaction, weakness.

Stone: Topaz

14 PERTHRO: WYRD (FATE)

Keywords: Fate & Destiny. Time. Wyrð, Werthende, Skuld. Cause and Effect. Evolution- Change.

Mythology: Wyrð, Werthende, and Skuld: The Norns. Orlog, the layers of destiny. Layers of action describing future results. The Well of Wyrð which shapes the worlds of being.

Lore: Perthro is one of the mysteries of the runes. As a container with the lots of life, perthro represents the vagaries of chance which can not be controlled. However the pieces fall, the player must move boldly taking what is cast and make up for in skill and wisdom any lack in the casting itself. The mystery of divination is central to Perthro. It contains the mystery of the Nornic runes. It is the rune of the vitki, the one who seeks the mysteries of the cosmos through the understanding of synchronicity. It is the rune of the warrior who constantly tests himself against chance and luck.

Magick: perception of fate. destiny. and wyrð. divination. evolving ideas or events.

Divination: Rune of the Nornic process of birth-life-death-rebirth. change and the evolutionary process. positive: good omen, knowledge of karma and destiny, fellowship, joy, evolutionary change. negative: addiction, stagnation, loneliness, uneasiness.

Stone: Aquamarine-

15 ELHAZ: PROTECTION

Keywords: Protection. Enclosure. Life. The Rainbow Bridge. Path of Branches and Roots. Connection (Between God/desses and Humans). Mythology: The Walkyrige. Divine protection. Personal cosmic defense. Communication between humans and gods.

Lore: The Walkyrige are protective, life-giving beings representing a mode by which Wodann communicates to his chosen heroes. Elhaz is the rune of divine protection, defense and communication.

It can also represent: the splayed hand (defense). the horns of the elk (protection). a swan in flight (walkyrige fly using swan feathers). a divergence or convergence of paths or forces. It is a sign used to promote victory and protection.

Elhaz is the power of human life and spirit striving towards the world of the AEsir.

Magick: to strengthen magical power and luck. protection. defense. communication with other worlds.

Divination: Rune of the link to the divine, or archetypal patterns. link to the collective unconscious. positive: connection with the god/desses, awakening, higher life, protection. negative: hidden danger, consumption by divine forces, loss of divine link.

Stone: Amethyst-

16 SOWILO: SOLAR DISK

Keywords: Solar Wheel. Magickal Will. Guide. Goal and Path. Success. Honor.

Mythology: Lady Sunna. The archetypal sun and light of the sun. The Solar Chariot which carries the Solar Disk. Magickal Willpower. Magickal Will triumphant.

Lore: The S-rune is that of the sun, part of the solar wheel. Sowilo is often connected to the lightning bolt, or a flash of inspiration or ecstasy. It is the Spiritual Wheels (hvel), corresponding to the Sanskrit Chakras.

Sowilo is the eminent spiritual force that guides the vitki through the paths of Yggdrasil. It is the aspect of a goal and the path to that goal. It is the

connection between Ase-Garth and Middle-Garth. It can represent high achievements. honor and obtained goals. Magick: strengthening of the psychic centers. increase in spiritual will. guidance through the pathways. victory and success.

Divination: Rune of guidance from an outside force in the process of making a journey (or transformation). the link of the inner sun to the outer sun.

positive: guidance, hope, success, goals, honor. negative: false goals, bad advice, false success, gullibility, loss of goals. Stone: Ruby

Runes :- Their Meanings

 What are the runes?

Very simply, runes are an ancient alphabet. They can be used in many other ways though. For divination, a few runes can be pulled from a bag and their meanings interpreted to represent the past, present and future (or just the past, present or the future). If they are used for divination, the meanings should be read to fit the issue you are putting to them. A direct (Yes/No) question is difficult to interpret through the runes as the outcome is dependent on many factors. When using the runes for this purpose, instead of saying "Will I be rich?" try to rephrase it along the lines of "Future wealth". This way the meanings of the runes you pull can be related more to what you are asking. There is no rune for either Yes or No!

Below, is a simplified list of the runic meanings. It is by no means meant to be the only meaning of the runes and with practice you should be able to read much more into them than what is here. There are also many different ways of divining with the runes, one of the simplest being to draw three runes from the bag reading the first for the past, second for the present and third for the future. I normally replace each rune after I have drawn and read it so I am always working with a full set. This way it is possible to draw the same rune twice.

Feoh F 1 Cattle

Wealth, Money and possessions. Financial success, usually earned. Indicates the successful development of schemes already under way.

REVERSED - Difficulties with money. A warning not to waste what you have and to think of the future.

Ur U, OO 2 An Auroch or Wild Ox

The strength to advance, persistence and patience.

REVERSED - Missed chances. A weakness or lack of vitality

Thorn To 3 A Thorn

A threshold reached, an important decision. Protection, good news. A test of will and sincerity.

REVERSED - Indicates a need for caution, make no hasty decisions.

As A 4 Communication

Communications, advice and wisdom of the creative self.

REVERSED - Indicates bad advice or information.

Rad R 5 A Wheel

Travel, usually for pleasure, completed happily. Communication to receive a message.

REVERSED - A bad or difficult journey, communications breaking down, negotiations going badly.

Ken K, C 6 A Torch

New beginnings. A period of good luck. Understanding or new energy.

REVERSED - An end to something. A loss.

Gyfu G 7 A Gift

Partnerships, generosity, a gift, sharing.

Wynn W 8 Joy

Joy and happiness, an improvement of life. A very good omen.

REVERSED - Unhappiness, loss of affection. Signifies the need for caution and to put off any important decisions if possible.

Hagall H 9 Hail

Elemental forces may disrupt, delay of plans. Unknown factors.

Nied N 10 Necessity

Patience, caution. Leave things as they are for now, understand your limitations.

REVERSED - A warning that you are on the wrong path.

Is I 11 Ice Standstill.

Put a temporary hold on any plans. A time of emotional cooling.

Jerra J 12 Harvest

A deserved reward. Justice. The harvest of your plans

Eoh Eo 13 Yew Tree

Defend against danger. News from the past, old problems recurring.

Peorth P 14 A Dice Cup

Discovery of something previously hidden. Initiation, unexpected gains.

REVERSED - Disappointment, uncovering of things best left hidden.

Elhaz ZZ, Y 15 An Elk

A Fortunate new influence. A new career or friendship.

REVERSED - Vulnerability. Beware of being used

Sigel S 16 The Sun

Wholeness, success, good health.

Tiw T 17 The God Tyr

An increase of power or wealth. Courage or self sacrifice.

REVERSED - Waning enthusiasm, failure.

Beorc B 18 A Birch Tree

New beginnings. Birth, marriage.

REVERSED - Friction, family problems.

Ehwaz Eh 19 A Horse

A change for the better. Often involves moving or travel.

REVERSED - Restlessness, travel difficulties.

Man M 20 Man,

Self Good help or advice will be given to you

REVERSED - Expect no assistance. Self imposed isolation.

Lagu L 21 Water,

Flow Success in an artistic or spiritual matter. Emotional understanding. Intuition/feeling.

REVERSED - Confusion, delusion, bad intuition and disruptive influences.

Ing Ng 22 Fertility

Completion of one project and the start of a new one.

Odal O 23 Home,

Odin Inherited possessions. Ancestral influences. Duties.

REVERSED - Delay and frustrations.

Deag D 24 Dawn

Personal growth. New dawn. Total transformation.

Wyrd Fate/Karma The Blank Rune

The blank "Wyrd" rune is that of divine knowledge, destiny or karma.

 Another way to use the runes is to carve them for specific magickal purposes such as attracting wealth, protecting the home or relations etc. One thing to

remember with any magick is that no living thing should be harmed in any way. Neither should any magick be performed for somebody without their permission and full understanding of what is to be done. Combinations of runes (bind runes) can be very powerful. I have not put any examples of bind runes on this page as their use can be easily misinterpreted. If you need a bind rune for a specific purpose, please feel free to E-Mail me at runemaker@princep.demon.co.uk stating exactly what it is for and for how long it is to be used.

The simplified meanings of the magickal runes are as follows:-

For attracting wealth and protecting property.

To clear obstacles and change circumstances.

For protection and defense.

To increase communicative skills, pass exams and gain wisdom.

To ensure a safe journey.

To restore self confidence and strengthen will power.

To create harmony in personal relationships.

To bring happiness and spiritual transformation.

To attract positive influences.

To achieve long term goals and help lost causes.

To make a situation static, ground wayward emotions and solve problems.

To bring events to a culmination.

To end situations and solve problems.

To find lost property, obtain inner guidance and make financial speculations.

For protection from negative forces.

To increase good health, vitality and sexual powers.

To achieve victory over adversity and justice.

For fertility, family matters and love affairs.

To cause changes.

To attract good will and new social contracts.

To manifest psychic powers.

To end a cycle of events or specific situation.

For property matters.

To create new beginnings or opportunities.

I hope this helps you understand and enjoy the runes a little more. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to me.

Runes: Third Aettir

17 TIWAZ: DIVINE JUSTICE

Keywords: Justice. World Order. Victory (According to Law). Self-Sacrifice. Spiritual Discipline.

Mythology: Tyr. Divine Law and Order. Force of passive regulation.

Self-sacrifice. Force directed by form.

Lore: A three-fold mystery is contained in the T-rune: justice, war, and the world-column. The T-rune is primarily one of justice since Tyr is the Norse god who presided at the thing (the Germanic general assembly). Tyr is also a War-God: Jupiter-Mars. Judgment was not always arrived at by discussion, judgment by arms was a common concept to the Norse cultures. It is associated with the idea that "justice will prevail." The Old English Rune Poem says "Tyr is a star, it keeps its faith well. It is always on its course over the mists of night." Tiwaz is the mystery of spiritual discipline (faith) according to divine law. Magick: obtaining justice. building spiritual will. develops force of faith.

Divination: it will mean judgment. matters of law. decisions. or guidance. The Rune of divine balance and justice. sacrifice for the greater good. positive:

truth, faith, loyalty, justice, rationality, self-sacrifice, analysis, victory.

negative: mental paralysis, over analysis, over sacrifice, injustice, imbalance.

Stone: Coral-

18 BERKANO: BIRCH GODDESS

Keywords: Earth Mother. Birth. Life- Death Cycle. Containment. Moment.

Mythology: Hella. The Great Mysterious Mother. The Dark Empress. Cosmic Birth and Rebirth. Rites of Passage. Birth- Adolescence- Marriage- Death. Vessel of cleaning and transforming.

Lore: The B-rune is related to the Great Mother, the Earth Goddess. The Birch Goddess is the mother of manifestation and of birth and rebirth. The Birch Goddess is also the Terrible Mother and rules over death. The soul travels to the safety of her cauldron to be transformed before rebirth. Berkano is the passive receptor and the conserving protective force. Like the cauldron of the Goddess, it conceals and protects.

The birch tree was often planted before a home to protect it. The rune is used in "birthing" new ideas, bringing them to life.

Magick: rebirth of the spirit. protective work. concealment spells. promoting safety and secrecy. the renewal of spring after a period of winter. realization of the Great Mother in all things.

Divination: Rune of containment and release of energy leading to continual renewal. liberation and becoming. positive: birth, becoming, life changes, shelter, liberation. negative: blurring of consciousness, deceit, sterility, stagnation.

Stone: Moonstone-

19 EHWAZ: TWIN WAR HORSES

Keywords: Harmonious Duality. Vehicle of Otherworldly Journey. Fertility. Trust. Loyalty. Legal Marriage.

Mythology: The Alcis, the Divine Twins. Power of Duality. The Divine Hero or Horse. The love of the God and Goddess. Mobile unity.

Lore: Ehwaz is associated with "twin" gods or heroes, the divine twins, or two horses. It is the harmonious relationship between two forces. It is the combination of two forces or entities (man/horse, horse/chariot, man/fetch) that work harmoniously together towards one goal. This is a rune of trust and

loyalty.

Ehwaz was connected closely to the concept of a man's fetch, the "horse" that carries one on the journey between worlds. It is the rune of Sleipnir. It facilitates the journey between the worlds of Yggdrasil. As such it can be used to obtain hidden knowledge or knowledge from a distance. It can represent a journey in consciousness, a swifter flight than that of Raidho, and one that is protected or guided.

Magick: astral travel. trust and loyalty. prophetic wisdom. projection of magickal power. swiftness.

Divination: Rune of harmonious teamwork and trust. pairs of entities working together for a common goal. your divine partner/twin/guide. positive: harmony, teamwork, trust, marriage, loyalty. negative: duplication, disharmony, mistrust, betrayal.

--Stone: Iceland Spar-

20 MANNAZ: HUMANKIND

Keywords: Divine Structure. Divine Link. Intelligence. Androgyne. Initiate.

Mythology: Heimdall. The divine structure in humankind. The Vitki claiming the full godly inheritance.

Lore: Mannaz is the mystery of the divine, archetypal structure in each individual imparted by Heimdall as the progenitor of humankind. Heimdall is the genetic link between the Gods and humankind. He also represents the physical link between the Gods and humans, for he guards Bifrost, the bridge to heaven. Mannaz is the power of human intelligence, rationality, memory, and tradition. It is a rune of the perfected human existence, of which life and death are both part. It is the rune of mortality. It also represents interdependence and support, as well as duty and responsibility. No individual is independent of others, each is part of a larger pattern.

Magick: assistance. bonding with the community. social order. cooperation. realizing the divine in man. balancing the poles of the personality.

Divination: Rune of the divine structure of intelligence in the human soul or psyche. awareness and awareness off the horizons of human existence. positive: divine structure, intelligence, awareness, social order, divine influence in life. negative: depression, mortality, blindness, self delusion.

Stone: Garnet- Malachite-

21 LAGUZ: WATER

Keywords: Life. Primal Water. Passage to and from Life. Growth. Vital Power.

Mythology: Nerthus. Sea Goddess. Life energy in the multi-verse. The secret source of all organic life. Elemental Water. Orlog, layers of the past governing the future. Water journey.

Lore: Laguz is the law of life, throughout the multiverse. Laguz represents the primal waters of Nibel-Realm that contain the potential of life, which must be solidified with salt and yeast, and energized with fire before the pattern may be manifested.

This is a potent rune of initiation. Cultures often sprinkle their young with water to adopt them into society. It is also the watery rite of passage at the end of life- the crossing of the primeval waters to the realm of the dead.

The rune may also mean leek, a water plant, and therefore it rules over herbalism.

It represents ebb and flow, and dark currents. Laguz can be the water in a well, bubbling up from secret depths, or dark and still reflecting the querent but revealing nothing beneath the surface.

Representing the Well of Wyrð, laguz holds all the secrets of the unconscious and the collective or universal knowledge. It represents psychic abilities. It is the ale which can be charged with runic knowledge. Magick: to develop second

sight and psychic powers. guidance through initiatory rites. gathering magickal power.

Divination: it is the unknown, the primeval water of birth and creation as well as death and the abyss. The Rune of the matrix of action. upward growth out of roots in the unconscious to unfoldment and blossoming in the light. the context of becoming. unconscious evolution. positive: life, passing a test, sea of vitality, the unconsciousness, growth. negative: fear, circular motion, avoidance, withering.

Stone: Pearl-

22 INGWAZ: EARTH GOD

Keywords: Potential Energy. Gestation.

Mythology: Fro Ing. Earth Lord. Power sent into the hidden realms for the sake of creation.

Lore: Ingwaz is associated with Nerthus as well as Fro Ing. The circuit of the wagon that was associated with their respective worship insured fertility to the land. The female consumes the male to replenish herself after she gives fertility to the land.

Ingwaz is a storehouse of potential energy that must undergo a gestation period in order to gain strength. It is a rune of ritual embodying action on behalf of the earth and mankind. Just as the greening of the earth follows the northerly progression of the sun, and retreats in it's wake, the rune is one of movement as well as action and reaction.

It is a rune of invocation and action, as well as responsibility. It can be used to stimulate the growth of slumbering abilities into full growth.

Magick: storage and transformation of power for spiritual use. fertility. meditation. release of blocked energy.

Divination: it represents a gradual change or an adherence to ritual or ceremonial responsibilities: Rune of gestation and internal growth. isolation and separation in order to create a space where transformation may occur. positive: resting, gestation, internal growth. negative: impotence, scattering, movement without change.

Stone: Amber-

23 DAGAZ: DAYLIGHT

Keywords: Light. Polarity. Syncretization. Wodannic Paradox. Mythology: Ostara. The light of day. Sunrise- Dawn- Sunset- Twilight. Cosmic Awakening. Mystic Light. Transcendent quality of human and godly awareness.

Lore: Dagaz refers to the a day, a period of darkness and light, since the Norse counted their days from evening to evening, with the mid-point being dawn and the rising of the sun. It is the rune of awakening, and metaphorically, rebirth.

It is a rune of paradox, the balancing of opposites and movement, not as contradictions and opposition, but as counterbalances and compliments. It represents light, paradox, syncretization. It is the rune of "clear vision" and "enlightenment." It represents time and space, and the weaving movement of the loom of life.

Magick: attaining a mystical moment. reception of mystical inspiration.

Divination: the rune of polarization. of sunlight and good fortune. Rune of the final synthesis of consciousness. the ultimate enlightenment of the mind.

positive: awakening, awareness, hope, happiness, the ideal. negative: lack of vision, sleep, blindness, hopelessness.

Stone: Diamond-

24 OTHALA: ENCLOSURE

Keywords: Sacred Enclosure. Inherited Power. Preserved Freedom. Prosperity.

Mythology: Middle-Garth. The enclosure in the middle. The stronghold enclosure. Inheritance of being. Stronghold of the will.

Lore: Othala is the rune of the sacred enclosure, the homeland, the village, the homestead. It is the family group, its customs, lands and language as well as the duties and responsibilities that go along with maintaining family ties.

Othala is the rune of inborn qualities that are the result of being born into a certain bloodline. It is the mystery of the fetch which is a spiritual source of magickal power derived from the humans' past lives.

It can be used to invoke a solid and peaceful family or group life, and to continual growth and prosperity. It is the "inherited" wealth that comes from one's ancestors, the customs as well as property or physical attributes. It represents the wise management of family assets or one's family or kin. Magick: maintaining order among fellows. concentration on common interests. collecting knowledge from past lives. acquisition of wealth and prosperity.

Divination: Rune of the homeland. freedom and security. positive: a home, group, prosperity, group order, freedom, productive interaction. negative: lack of customary order, slavery, poverty, homelessness, totalitarianism.

--Stone: Ruby-

THE RUNIC JOURNEY

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WHAT ARE RUNES?

Runes are an alphabetic script used by the peoples of Northern Europe from the first century c.e. until well into the Middle Ages.

In addition to their use as a written alphabet, the runes also served as a system of symbols used for magic and divination. Runes

into disuse as the Roman alphabets became the preferred script of most of Europe, but their forms and meanings were preserved in inscriptions and manuscripts.

The primary characteristic which distinguishes a runic alphabet from other alphabets is that each letter, or rune, has a meaning. For example, whereas "ay", "bee", and "cee" are meaningless sounds denoting the first three letters in our alphabet, the names the first three runes, "fehu", "uruz", and "purisaz" are actual words in the Germanic language, meaning "cattle", "aurochs", and "giant", respectively. Runes also have magical and religious significance as well, thus transforming the simple process of writing into a magical act. They are also used for divinatory readings and to create magical spells.

Today, runes have been rediscovered as a symbolic system and have gained immense popularity as a means of divination. However, much more than a curious alternative to Tarot cards for telling fortunes. They provide a key to understanding the lives beliefs of the ancient people who created them, and have much to teach us about a way of life that was perhaps more intimately connected to the natural world, and to the realm of spirit, than our own.

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HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE RUNES

What we now know as the runic alphabet seems to have developed from two distinct sources - one magical, one literate. Pre-runic symbols, or *hällristningar*, have been found in various Bronze Age rock carvings, primarily in Sweden. Some of these symbols are readily identifiable in the later alphabets, while others represent ideas and concepts which were incorporated into the names of runes (sun, horse, etc.). The exact meanings of these symbols are now lost to us, as is their original purpose, but they are believed to have been used for divination or lot-casting, and it is fairly certain that they contributed to the magical function of the later runic alphabets.

There is some debate over the origin of the "alphabet" aspect of the runes. Cases have been made for both Latin and Greek derivation, but historical and archaeological evidence strongly indicates a Northern Italic origin. The parallels between the two alphabets are too close to be ignored, particularly in the forms of the letters, as well as in the variable direction of the writing. This would also explain why so many of the runes resemble Roman letters, since both Italic and Latin scripts are derived from the Etruscan alphabet (itself a branch of the Western Greek family of alphabets). This theory would place the original creation of the futhork sometime before the 1st. century c.e., when the Italic scripts were absorbed and replaced by the

Latin alphabet. Linguistic and phonetic analysis points to an even earlier inception date, perhaps as far back as 200 b.c.e.

When the northern tribes began integrating the Italic alphabet into their own symbolic system, they gave the letters names relating to all aspects of their secular and religious lives, thus transforming their simple pictographs into a magical alphabet which could be used for talismans, magical inscriptions and divination.

The name "futhork", like the word "alphabet", is derived from the first few letters in the runic sequence, which differs considerably from the Latin alphabet and is unique amongst alphabetic scripts. The futhork originally consisted of 24 letters, beginning with F and ending with O, and was used by the northern Germanic tribes of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Northern Germany. This form of the runes is known as the Elder, or Germanic Futhork.

Sometime around the fifth century AD, changes occurred in the runes in Frisia (the area around the northern Netherlands and north-western Germany). This period coincided with the Anglo-Saxon invasions from this area and the appearance of similar runes in the British Isles. The forms of several of the runes changed, notably the runes for A/O, C/K, H, J, S, and Ng. Also, changes in the language led to between five and nine runes being added to the alphabet to compensate for the extra sounds, and several runes were given different corresponding letters. This alphabet has become known as the Anglo-Saxon Futhorc.

In Scandinavia, the Elder Futhark remained in use until some time around the eighth century (the time of the Eddas), when changes in the Old Norse language occurred, and corresponding changes in the runic alphabet were made to accommodate the new sounds. However, unlike the Anglo-Saxon Futhorc, the Younger Futhark (as it is now called) reduced the number of runes from 24 to 16, and several runes came to represent multiple sounds. The forms of the runes were also changed and simplified. There are several variations of this futhark - Danish, long branch, Norwegian, dotted, etc.

One form of the runic alphabet spread from Denmark north into Sweden and Norway, and was carried into Iceland and Greenland by the Vikings. It is possible that they were also brought to North America with the Vinland expeditions, but so far no authenticated inscriptions have been found.

The Runic Revival

The runes, primarily in their Younger form, remained in common use until well into the 17th century. Up until this time, they were everywhere from coins to coffins, and in some places their use was actually sanctioned by the Church. Even the common folk knew simple runic spells, and the runes were frequently consulted on matters of both public and private interest. Unfortunately, with the magical arts, they were officially banned in 1639 as part of the Church's efforts to "drive the devil out of Europe". The rune masters were either executed or went underground, and the knowledge of the runes may well have died with them. Some say that the knowledge was passed on in secret, but it is almost impossible to separate ancient traditions from more modern esoteric philosophies in such cases.

Perhaps the darkest period in the history of runic studies was their revival by German scholars connected with the Nazi movement in the 20's and 30's. What began as a legitimate folkloric resurgence unfortunately became so tainted by Nazi ideology and racism that the research from this period was rendered all but useless to any serious student of runic lore.

After the Second World War, the runes fell into disfavor as a result of their association with Nazism, and very little was written about them until the fifties and sixties. It was not until the mid-eighties, with the widespread appeal of the "New Age" movement and revival of Pagan religions (especially the Asatru movement) that the runes regained their popularity as both a divinatory system and a tool for self-awareness.

THE MEANINGS OF THE RUNES

Sources

There are several historical runic inscriptions, found on everything from swords to stones to bronze pendants, which list the entire runic alphabet in order. One of the oldest and most complete of these is the Kylver stone, found in Gotland, Sweden and dating from the fifth century c.e. Others are less complete, but show a remarkable continuity in the order in which the runes until are listed. The only surviving written accounts of the actual names and meanings of the runes, however, were not recorded until the advent of the Christian era. Some of these manuscripts, which date from the 9th. century until well into 12th, are known as rune poems. These poems have a verse for each rune, each of which begins with the rune itself and its name. Some of these poems are more Pagan than others, particularly those from Iceland, where Christianity was not yet as widespread as it was in the Anglo-Saxon regions.

The rune names themselves appear to have been passed down relatively intact, and although no manuscript exists listing the names of the older, Germanic runes, the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian rune poems agree to such an extent that their common origin can be deduced. These names are probably our best clue as to what the individual runes actually meant to the people that used them.

Interpretation

The unique order of the fupark and its traditional division into three 'aetts' (a word meaning 'families' or 'groups') may be of significance in decyphering the complex interrelationships between the runes. Several authors have noted certain pairings and groupings within the order (cattle / aurochs, hagalah / nauthiz / isa, etc.), but so far the meaning of the overall pattern has remained a mystery. Recently, a few authors (notably myself and Freya Aswynn) have independantly developed systems of interpreting the fupark as a whole, using Norse mythology and literature as a guide, and division into aetts as the underlying structure. Although these efforts are mostly speculative, they do provide some insight into how the Norse might have used the runes as a symbolic key to their understanding of the physical and spiritual world.

I tend to approach the fupark as a journey - a spiritual odyssey in which the traveller encounters obstacles, receives gifts, learns vital lessons that will aid in their development as a human being. This process is at once personal and mythic, following cycles and patterns that reflect the Norse world-view. This world-view was fundamentally different from that of the average 20th century Westerner, so a thorough understanding of the myths, culture and lifestyle of the ancient peoples of northern Europe is a complete understanding of the runes. Please see the online resourses on these subjects, as well as my recommended reading list for more information.

It should be noted that the following interpretations of the meanings of the runes, while firmly founded in historical evidence and understanding of the Norse culture, are at least partially speculative and should not be taken as the "True and Original Meanings of the Runes".

Given that so little is actually known about the runes, it is to be expected that even the most cynical scholar writing about them will inevitably bring their own theories and biases to their subject. I am no exception. To make things a little clearer, I have tried to distinguish hard fact from my own speculation wherever possible.

The First Aett

fehu : cattle

Phonetic equivalent: f

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

prosperity, money, wealth, concern with physical and financial needs, goals, promotion, self-esteem, centredness, karma

MAGICAL USES:

for money, business, promotion, finding a job, achieving a goal, starting new enterprises

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Freyr, Brisingamen, Gullveig, Dwarfs, Sigurd & the Otter's Gold

ANALYSIS:

Fehu is both the day-to-day reality of our lives and the catalyst that awakens us to what lies beyond. It is whatever we think we are which frequently bears no resemblance to what we will eventually find. It is also our home, for after all our wanderings we will need to attend to our physical needs and ground ourselves in the simple pleasures of home, family, and good work. Oz might be a fun place to visit, but after a while all you really want to do is go back to Kansas.

Fehu reminds us that we must be secure in our physical situation before embarking upon any spiritual journey. We all must begin with the mundane reality of our lives, although many people never get beyond this. In many ways, we have become as

domesticated as the cattle, living our day to day existence without wanting or even being aware of anything more being possible. The first step in breaking away from this situation is to catch a glimpse of what is possible, without dwelling on what security we may lose to attain it.

uruz : aurochs

Phonetic equivalent: u

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

passion, vitality, instinct, wildness, sexuality, fertility, the unconscious, primitive mind, irrationality, shamanic experience, rite of passage

MAGICAL USES:

to strengthen the will, increase sexual potency and energy; for hunting

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Ullr, Loki, Odin (as shaman)

ANALYSIS:

The aurochs was a species of wild ox, similar to a bison, that was once found all over Europe, but which became extinct sometime in the 17th. century. They were said to be slightly smaller than elephants, and had horns as long as six feet, which were highly prized by the Germanii as drinking horns. Paintings of aurochs have been found in Neolithic caves, and it is believed that the aurochs hunt had some significance as a rite of passage for a boy entering manhood. The aurochs is the epitome of the wild animal, as opposed to the domesticated cattle represented by fehu.

Uruz is the rune of the God of the sacred hunt and his shaman/priest. Following the kind of mundane, day to day survival represented by fehu, it is the first recognition by mankind of the divine in nature, and his first attempt to control it through the use of sympathetic magic. It also represents an awareness of death and our own mortality, which may well be the only thing which truly distinguishes us from other animals. The energy of this rune is raw, powerful, and distinctly masculine, in the sense that it is

first pure, elemental fire. The boy who has killed the aurochs has just entered manhood, and has therefore been initiated into the first level of the mysteries - the awareness that the source of life is death.

purisaz : giant

Phonetic equivalent: th (as in 'thing')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

hardship, painful event, discipline, knowledge, introspection, focus

MAGICAL USES:

aid in study and meditation, self-discipline, clearing out a bad situation

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

the Frost Giants, Loki

ANALYSIS:

purisaz is the first of the 'obstacle' runes. These obstacles are not necessarily destructive things, but are placed in our path to strengthen and teach us. After all, you can't have a mythic hero without dragons to slay or giants to fight!

The lesson of this rune is 'to learn you must suffer', meaning not only literal suffering, but also in the biblical sense of 'allowing' - allowing one's destiny to unfold as it should, and allowing one's self to experience all that life offers us. What may at first appear to be a negative, destructive event, may well turn out to contain an important lesson. The Giants may seem to be evil and destructive to the Aesir, but they bring about change, and eventually clear the way for a new age.

ansuz : Odin

Phonetic equivalent: a (as in 'fall')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

authority figure, leader, mind & body balance, justice, shaman, clairvoyant

MAGICAL USES:

for wise decisions, success, leadership; to help in divination and magic

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Odin

ANALYSIS:

This rune represents the instinctive, primal energy of uruz tempered with the discipline and experience of purisaz. These elements are combined in the personage of Odin, who exhibits the characteristics of both chieftain and shaman - a god of wisdom as well as war. Odin is also a shaman, travelling between the worlds on his eight-legged horse, Sleipnir.

Ansuz is a balanced rune. As with fehu, many people choose to remain at this point in their journey. It represents power, both secular and magical, and this power can be quite seductive. Odin has learned the lessons of the first three runes, thus gaining the wisdom to rule wisely, but this is really only another beginning. He has only gained temporal power, and has only a few of the tools he will need to perfect himself spiritually. There is a certain lack of compassion and perspective in this rune. Odin sits high above his world, looking down and making decisions, but he doesn't yet have the capacity to really care about or understand his people or himself. He still needs that emotional connection to become a truly great leader.

raiðo : journey

Phonetic equivalent: r

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

journey, pilgrimage, change, destiny, quest, progress, life lessons

MAGICAL USES:

protection for travellers, to ease or bring about change, to reconnect

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

the Norns, Sigurd's journey

ANALYSIS:

Raiðo represents the path of a person's life and how it intersects and interacts with other paths. In Norse mythology, these paths are seen as threads of fate, and are regulated by the Norns. The Norns are three sisters who live near the first root of Yggdrasil, which they tend with the water from the well of Wyrð. They also spin the fates of Gods and men, which is important when understanding the mechanism of runic divination and magic.

The complex network of relationships formed by these threads of fate can be thought of as a web. Every chance encounter forms another connection in the web, and by tugging on one thread you affect everything else in the system. Most people do this

completely unconsciously, but by becoming aware of the pattern of the threads surrounding you, it becomes possible to recognize and follow up on the kind of catalytic events that seemed to happen to us randomly back at fehu. In this way, we can find our way more easily along the path of our own journey, thus deriving the greatest benefit from its lessons. Otherwise we tend to get distracted and end up on detours and dead ends.

Raiðo reminds us that, although it may seem that we have accomplished our goals at ansuz, life and change continue and we must always go on. We will eventually end up where we began, but on a higher level and with a better perspective. The journey never really ends.

kenaz : torch

Phonetic equivalent: c (as in 'candle')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

wisdom, insight, solution to a problem, creativity, inspiration, enlightenment

MAGICAL USES:

for creative inspiration, aid in study, fertility, dispelling anxiety and fear

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Mimir, the Dwarfs, Muspellheim

ANALYSIS:

In modern usage, the Scottish 'ken' means to know or understand, and this is the sense in which the rune should be interpreted. Today, light, inspiration and knowledge are often associated, as in 'gaining enlightenment' and 'shedding light on the problem', even in the image of a lightbulb going on over someone's head when they get an idea. To bring light is to make the invisible visible.

Unlike the wisdom gained at þurisaz, kenaz only allows us to take bits and pieces of this knowledge away with us as we need it, usually at the discretion of the Gods. This knowledge will generally come in the form of a sudden inspiration, and we

be able to see clearly the answer that was once hidden from us. This form of wisdom is more closely associated with the right half of the brain than the left, since it does not come through conscious effort but rather through passively opening one's self

to it. Thus, a more feminine element is added to our journeyer's experience.

The act of bringing light into the darkness is also a creative one. Again consider the image of the person carrying a torch, representing the masculine elements of fire and air, entering the cave and penetrating the feminine realm of earth and water. This joining of masculine and feminine elements results in the creation of new ideas. In physical terms, this can be correlated to the application of fire to mold and shape matter - the art of the smith.

gebo : gift

Phonetic equivalent: g (as in 'girl')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

gift, offering, relationship, love, marriage, partnership, generosity, unexpected good fortune

MAGICAL USES:

to find or strengthen a relationship, for fertility, to mark a gift or offering, to bring luck

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Sigurd & Brunhild; Aesir & Vanir treaty

ANALYSIS:

Gebo is a rune of connection, particularly the connections between people. Up until now, our journey has been a solitary one. This rune represents those places where our path intersects with others, and allows us to begin to form conscious relationships. Such relationships are strengthened and sanctified by the exchange of gifts.

The use of the gift as a symbol of an oath or a bond is an ancient one. When a lord wanted to ensure the loyalty of one of his subjects, he would give that person a gift. The gift would create a debt on the part of the person receiving it, and this debt

would ensure his readiness to serve his lord. Similarly, a gift given between lovers, especially that of the ring, symbolizes the bond between them. Originally, only the man gave the ring in a marriage for much the same reason as the lord giving gifts to his

vassals, but today the arrangement is usually more equitable. Gifts or offerings given to the Gods often carry the same meaning, representing the giver's love for or loyalty to their Gods. The giving of a gift implies the acceptance of a debt with the understanding that the debt will not be repaid. It is this imbalance which forms the bond.

wunjo : glory

Phonetic equivalent: w

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

success, recognition of achievements, reward, joy, bliss, achievement of goals, contentment

MAGICAL USES:

for success in any endeavor, to motivate, to complete a task.

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Baldr, Asgard

ANALYSIS:

Wunjo is the last rune of the first aett, and thus represents both the end of one cycle and preparation for the next. It is a very positive, stable rune, and is another place where people tend to get stalled along their journey. Christian poets related it to heaven, but in fact it more closely resembles the Pagan Valhalla, since this particular paradise is not a permanent one.

Like the wealth of fehu, the glory of wunjo is only an illusion. We have achieved success on one level only, and there are many more lessons to be learned. It is, however, a welcome respite which allows us to rest, re-charge our batteries and prepare

ourselves for the rest of the journey. It also gives us some perspective, allowing us to look back and reflect on the road thus far. Wunjo gives us a glimpse of what is possible, but if we try too soon to reach out and grab it, like the Grail it will disappear between our fingers.

The Second Aett

hagalaz : hail

Phonetic equivalent: h

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

sudden loss, ordeal, destruction, disaster, clearance, testing, karmic lesson, drastic change.

MAGICAL USES:

removing unwanted influences, breaking destructive patterns

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Ragnarok, Loki, Frost Giants

ANALYSIS:

The idea of the destruction of the old being necessary to the growth of the new, as contained in the Norse myth of Ragnarok, is essential to our understanding of this rune. Interestingly enough, haglaz lies between sowulo (fire) and isa (ice), reminding us of the Norse creation myth and the creative potential that lies between these two opposites, even though their meeting may seem first to be destructive. Like the Tower in the Tarot, haglaz is only a negative rune if we choose to view it in that way, and refuse to learn its lessons. Appearing as it does at the beginning of the second aett, it marks both a beginning and an end, and knocks us out of the safety and complacency of wunjo. It represents what a friend of mine used to refer to as the 'flying ladle Fates, syndrome' - that whenever things appear to be going too well, you can expect a good, healthy whack in the head from the Fates, just to make sure you're paying attention.

These sorts of 'wake-up calls' from the Gods will happen frequently throughout a person's life, but are often misinterpreted as divine punishment for some imagined wrong when in fact they are merely a way of drawing your attention to a recurrent pattern

in your life. Unfortunately, these types of events have a tendency to repeat themselves with greater and greater severity until the lesson is learned and the pattern is broken. For example, someone who needs to break their dependency on a certain type of person will find themselves in relationships with such people over and over again with more and more disastrous results until they recognize the pattern as emanating from themselves and break it willingly.

naupiz : need, necessity

Phonetic equivalent: n

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

poverty, hardship, responsibility, discontent, obstacle, frustration

MAGICAL USES:

to represent a need to be filled

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Freyr & Gurd, the Otter's Gold

ANALYSIS:

If hagalaz is a flying ladle, then naupiz is the empty pot. It is a gentle, nudging reminder that all is not as it should be. Life appears to be out of synch, and nothing seems to be going right. No matter how much you have, it is never enough, and there is an ever present desire for something more, something better. On the positive side, this dissatisfaction with the status quo can serve to draw one away from the relative safety of wunjo and motivate towards change.

Naupiz represents an imbalance between one's desires and one's assets. How you resolve this situation will influence the of the journey, but the awareness of the imbalance itself can also be illuminating. It causes you to closely examine and perhaps reassess your values and priorities, and forces you back onto the path of your own happiness. Perhaps mythologist Joseph Campbell said it best when he enjoined us to 'follow our bliss'; in other words, that we will know that we are on the right track spiritually when we are doing those things which make us the most happy and fulfilled. Naupiz helps us to take the first step on that path by letting us know when we have strayed from it.

isa : ice

Phonetic equivalent: i (as in 'inch')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

inactivity, blockage, stagnation, potential, patience, reflection, withdrawl, rest

MAGICAL USES:

to stop a process; to represent primal form

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Auðumla, Nifelheim

ANALYSIS:

In modern symbology, fire is generally masculine and ice (or earth) is feminine, but it is unknown whether the Norse shared this association. Certainly, ice was a constant factor in their day to day lives. It threatened their crops and their ships almost throughout the year, but it also served as a symbol of creation, from which all life will eventually spring. It says something about the Norse mind that they could recognize the need to have such a seemingly destructive joining of elements in order to create maintain life. Fire may be warm and pleasant, but it must be balanced by the freezing of winter just as birth must be balanced by death. Even the little death of sleep has been proven to be vital for our mental and physical well-being.

Isa encompasses all of these ideas, but primarily represents a period of rest before activity, and itself forms the material from which life can be created. It is matter, inert by itself, but transformed into the stuff of stars when wedded with energy. It is the

immovable form acted upon the irresistible force. In many ways, the Norse predicted Einstein with their version of the creation of the universe, recognizing that everything in their world contained both fire and ice (energy and matter), and that the relationship between the two defined the processes of life itself.

jera : year, harvest

Phonetic equivalent: y (but may be used in place of 'j')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

change, cycle turning, reward, motion, productivity, inevitable development

MAGICAL USES:

to bring change; for fertility and growth

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Sif, Thor, Freyr, Granni

ANALYSIS:

In this modern age of central heating and oranges in February, it is difficult to imagine the close ties that people once had with the cycles of the year, particularly in the more Northern climes. The changing seasons affected not only the weather, but also the to day activities and even the diets of ancient peoples. Constant change was the norm, and the object was to become attuned those changes, not to fight against them. An ancient farmer (or even some modern ones) wouldn't need to look at a calendar to tell him when to plant, or read a weather forecast to know when the snows were coming. The changing seasons were a part of his blood and bones, and his very existence depended on adapting to change.

Jera follows isa just as spring follows winter. The frozen stagnancy of ice is broken by the turning of the wheel, and things are once again moving along as they should. In fact, we have now broken out of the entire set 'negative' runes with which we

began this aett. This has been accomplished not by fighting to escape the ice or railing against the unfairness of fate, but by learning from those experiences and simply waiting for the inevitable thaw. Jera is the communion wine - the product of the joining of opposites bringing life. Storms may come and go, but the sun is always there and life is generally pretty good. Enjoy it while you can.

eihwaz : yew

Phonetic equivalent: ei

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

change, initiation, confrontation of fears, turning point, death, transformation

MAGICAL USES:

to bring about profound change, to ease a life transition

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Hel, Yggdrasil

ANALYSIS:

The yew tree has been associated with runes, magic and death in northern and western Europe since time immemorial. The reasons for this ancient association are numerous, but seem to principally derive from the fact that yews are evergreens which retain their greenery even through the death of winter, and because their red berries are symbolic of the blood of life. The yew is extremely long-lived, thus effectively 'immortal'. Reverence for the yew dates back to before the times of the Celts, and continues today in Christian tradition.

Eihwaz is the thirteenth rune in the fupark, and marks the middle of the alphabet. (It is interesting to note that the Death card in the Tarot is also the thirteenth card.) This rune is the turning point in the runic journey, and represents the transformation the initiatory process. All rites of passage, particularly those marking the transition into adulthood, contain the symbolism of death, the idea being that one's former 'self' has died and given birth to a new persona.

Eihwaz is the passage through which we must enter the realm of Hel in order to gain the knowledge and acceptance of our mortality, as well as those mysteries which can only be learned from the dark Lady of the dead. The process is a truly frightening one, but it is something we all must go through if we are to confront our deepest fears and emerge with the kind of wisdom that be taught but must be experienced. Eihwaz is the gateway to this wisdom, and lies between life (jera) and rebirth (perþ).

perþ : dice-cup? vulva?

Phonetic equivalent: p

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

rebirth, mystery, magic, divination, fertility, sexuality, new beginning, prophecy

MAGICAL USES:

fertility, easing childbirth, to aid in divination and magic, enhancing psychic abilities

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Freya, Angrbode

ANALYSIS:

The actual interpretation of perþ has been the subject of much controversy among runic scholars. The problem lies in the fact that the initial P sound doesn't occur anywhere else in the old Germanic language, leading to the belief that the word was imported from another language. The Old English rune poem seems to indicate that it had to do with some sort of game, leading many to interpret it as 'chess pawn' or 'dice-cup'. The dice-cup meaning is particularly interesting as it not only fits the shape of rune, but also hints at such an object's original use as a container for the runes themselves. An alternate interpretation of perþ is derived from the Slavic 'pizda', meaning 'vulva'. This meaning (although obscure and somewhat unlikely) fits quite into the progression of runes up until this point, symbolizing the rebirth that follows death. Viewing it as a symbol of the womb of the Goddess, it represents the same element of the mysterious and hidden as 'dice-cup', but taken literally as 'vulva', it adds a powerful, feminine, sexual counterpart to uruz that would otherwise be missing from the fupark.

However you choose to interpret the literal meaning of perþ (and again, nobody really knows what that is), the basic symbolism is that of a vessel, nurturing and giving 'birth', keeping hidden and secret all those mysteries which can be uncovered only after the initiation of death. The rune is closely tied in with the idea of fate, that the road we travel, regardless of what we choose to do along the way, is pre-determined from the moment of our birth. The very act of being born sets us along a course of cause and effect, action and reaction that we

may choose to follow blindly, or try to divine through the runes or other means order that we may better understand the lessons we will learn. Perþ is the beginning of this process, as well as the tool for accomplishing it.

algiz : protection

Phonetic equivalent: x, z

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

protection, assistance, defence, warning, support, a mentor, an ethical dilemma

MAGICAL USES:

for protection, hunting

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Heimdall, Gjallerhorn

ANALYSIS:

Heimdall is an interesting and mysterious figure in Norse mythology, and I associate him with the rune algiz because of his role as protector and guardian. He is the watcher at the gate who guards the boundaries between the worlds and who charges all entering and leaving with caution. He is best known for his famous horn, but his sword is also important in the consideration of rune. Snorri mentions that the poetic name for a sword is 'Heimdall's head', and the poetic name for a head is 'Heimdall's sword'. This is particularly significant if we consider that one form of his name was 'Heimdali', meaning 'ram'. Through the image of the ram, Heimdall's sword and his horn can be seen as two different sides of the same image. Both the sword and the horns (or the elk's antlers) are symbols of power which may be used for either offence or defence, depending on the situation.

In terms of the journey, we have passed through death and rebirth, and must now face the Guardian before returning to our world. It is he who charges us to use our new-found power wisely. The person can no longer be simply concerned with their

own personal development, but must now consider the effect that their actions may have on others. This is a crucial turning point, and the person will either choose to adopt a system of ethics or ignore the effect on others and only work to serve their own ends. Again, the sword is in their hands, but they must decide whether to use it for defence or offence.

sowulo : sun

Phonetic equivalent: s

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

success, positive energy, increase, power, activity, fertility, health

MAGICAL USES:

energy, strength, success, healing, fertility

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Sunna

ANALYSIS:

The sun is held sacred by almost every religion in the world. Its light and warmth symbolize life and growth and all that is good. Norse cosmology describes the sun being driven around the heavens in a chariot and chased by a great wolf, which will devour at Ragnarok. Throughout Indo-European Paganism, the sun has frequently been associated with the horse, often described as being carted around the sky by a horse. Both are symbolic of life and fertility, and are usually considered 'masculine' in polarity, although in Norse myth the chariot is driven by a girl. The swastika or sun wheel is a constant motif in rock carvings dating Neolithic times, and occurs throughout Europe and Asia. The sun rune itself is a variation on this symbol, and represents motion and energy.

Sowulo marks the end of the second aett, and like wunjo represents success and glory. However, unlike the rest and relaxation of Valhalla, the sun is very much an active symbol. We have reached the end of the aett successfully, and the conclusion is a positive one, but in this case we are fully aware of the changing and transient nature of the universe. We can see the wolf at heels, and we know that we must move on. Here, though, the journeyer may pause briefly in the warmth and light of the sun, absorbing and applying its energy to the work ahead. This time we won't need to be blasted out of our safe position, but will rather choose to leave it in order to continue on the journey.

The Third Aett

teiwaz : Tyr

Phonetic equivalent: t

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

duty, discipline, responsibility, self-sacrifice, conflict, strength, a wound, physicality, the warrior path

MAGICAL USES:

protection, victory, strength, strengthening the will, healing a wound

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Tyr and the Fenris Wolf, Odin's ordeals

ANALYSIS:

Just as the second aett began with the cleansing destruction of hagalah, so too does the third aett begin with a loss. However, hail is imposed by the Gods to force the sacrifice of those things which aren't really vital to our development. Teiwaz, on the other hand, represents a voluntary sacrifice, made by someone who understands exactly what they are giving up and why.

Tyr's sacrifice of his hand to allow the binding of the Fenris Wolf was a noble one, and notable in a pantheon of deities not known for their sense of duty and ethical responsibility. He is believed to be one of the oldest of the Norse Gods - a Bronze-age rock carving was found in Scandinavia depicting a one-handed warrior - and his position may well have originally superseded Odin. Tyr's rune is also one of the oldest in the fuþark, having survived virtually unchanged from the earliest Bronze-age carvings. It represents all those qualities associated with the God: strength, heroism, duty and responsibility. But it also represents a deeper mystery - that of the wounded God. Like þurisaz, the pain of teiwaz focuses the attention and forces discipline. However, in this case the effect is more conscious and the wound carries a greater significance. Uruz has been confronted and bound, and the lessons of teiwaz and hagalah have been learned. This is the path of the warrior.

berkana : birch

Phonetic equivalent: b

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

fertility, health, new beginnings, growth, conception, plenty, clearance

MAGICAL USES:

healing (especially infections), achieving conception, making a fresh start

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Frigg, Idunna

ANALYSIS:

The birch is fundamentally a symbol of fertility. There are numerous instances in European folk tradition where birch twigs are to bring prosperity and encourage conception. They were fixed above a sweetheart's door on May Day in Cheshire, England, and were placed in stables and houses to promote fertility. On the continent, young men, women and cattle were struck with birch twigs for this same purpose, and young boys would be sent out to "beat the bounds of the parish" with branches of birch to prosperity in the coming year. Witches were said to ride broomsticks made from birch, an image which probably originated with fertility rituals where dancers would 'ride' brooms through the fields, the height of their jumping indicating how high the grain should grow.

If teiwaz is the fundamental male mystery, then berkana certainly belongs to the women, for it represents the path of the mother, the healer and the midwife, bringing new life after death just as the birch puts out the first leaves after winter. While Tyr's wound is acquired through his encounter with death, berkana's wound is that of menstruation, and her ordeal is that of childbirth. The birch is abundant and all providing, and heals through nourishment, cleansing and empathy.

ehwaz : horse

Phonetic equivalent: e (as in 'egg')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

transportation, motion, assistance, energy, power, communication, will, recklessness

MAGICAL USES:

power, aiding in communication, transportation; to 'send' a spell

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Sleipnir, Freya's feathered cloak

ANALYSIS:

The horse has been a powerful symbol in nearly every culture and every age. They were often believed to draw the sun about heavens. Strong, swift and loyal, their relationship with humankind is unique. They allow us to perform tasks that would normally be beyond our strength, and to travel distances that would normally be beyond our reach. The mare symbolizes fertility fecundity, and the stallion is the epitome of virility and raw energy. It is an animal that never lost its power by being domesticated.

Like the sun which is its counterpart, ehwaz represents energy and motion. In this case, however, there is also respect for the source of the power to be considered. This is not merely an impersonal energy source - it is a living, breathing thing whose needs and desires must be taken into consideration, rather than be simply used as a slave. This is the power that was given by the God at algiz, and this rune reminds us of our oath to only use it to help, never to harm. Like the two-edged sword, the horse powerful tool, but must be carefully controlled to avoid harming yourself or other. It is tempting to just go barrelling along recklessly, but to do so is to risk loosing that power forever. This is the balance that must be achieved on the path of pure magic.

mannaz : man, humankind

Phonetic equivalent: m

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

significator, self, family, community, relationships, social concerns

MAGICAL USES:

to represent a specific person or group of people; to establish social relationships

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Ask and Embla, Midgard

ANALYSIS:

In its broadest sense, mannaz represents all of humanity, and therefore the entire realm of Midgard. In more practical terms, it is those with whom we have personal connections, from our immediate circle of family and friends to the wider community around us, reminding us of our nature as social animals. It also represents our connection with the Gods (Ymir), and with nature (the two trees). It takes the raw energy of ehwaz and controls it through our social conscience, reminding us of those we affect with our deeds both magical and mundane.

The rune itself resembles gyfu with its joining of masculine and feminine elements, but is much more complete. It is the entire web of human relationships, with the self at the centre, which mirrors the web of fate explored through raiðo. But while that web joined was more or less fixed, this one is mutable and alive. Past and present, male and female, self and other - all opposites are joined here and made whole. Mannaz is our home, and speaks for all those whose lives we touch when we use the gifts we have been given through the runes.

laguz : water

Phonetic equivalent: l

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

emotions, fears, unconscious mind, things hidden, revelation, intuition, counselling

MAGICAL USES:

enhancing psychic abilities, confronting fears, stabilizing mental or emotional disorders, uncovering hidden things

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Njord, Midgard Serpent

ANALYSIS:

When most people think of water, they generally think of its more pleasant associations - peacefulness, love, compassion, intuition, and the emotions in general. However, we must remember that, to the Norse, water most often meant the sea, and the sea was a terrifying, unpredictable place, home of the Midgard serpent and the grave of many sailors. Laguz, then, should be thought of in terms of the lighter and the darker sides of the element of water. It speaks to our primal fears of the dark, the cold, and all those terrifying things hidden deep within our subconscious minds.

Like eihwaz, which forced the journeyer to confront his or her mortality, laguz makes us examine the underlying roots of our and behavior, and allows us to modify those aspects which are hindering our spiritual development. The understanding and wisdom gained through eihwaz and the runes which followed have prepared the journeyer to face this darker side (represented by laguz) and accept it as an integral part of their selves. Laguz also prepares the person to take on the task of helping others through this self-examination process, allowing them to empathize more strongly and share their own experiences, making it (among other things) the rune of the spiritual counsellor.

inguz : Ing

Phonetic equivalent: ng

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

work, productivity, bounty, groundedness, balance, connection with the land

MAGICAL USES:

fertility, farming, growth, general health, balance

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Freyr / Ing, Nerthus, Thor, the Vanir

ANALYSIS:

Ing is a Danish / Anglo-Saxon name for Freyr, the God of agriculture and fertility. Agriculture represents one of the first attempts by mankind to control the environment, and the fertility of crops, animals and people has always been the primary concern and religious focus of most Pagan agrarian societies. From the earliest Sumerian accounts to modern-day British folk custom, people throughout history have sought to ensure the success of their crops.

The vast majority of people in Western society have lost all contact and connection with the land and the process of growing things. The spiritual consequences of this segregation from the earth have been disastrous, since most people find it difficult to relate to deity in a purely man-made environment. The shape of this rune can be likened to that of a field, but its real significance may lie in its balance, representing the harmonious relationship between ourselves and the four elements / four directions. Inguz reminds us of that ancient connection between the Gods and the land, and re-links (the real meaning of the 'religion') us with our spiritual natures through the realm of the physical. It is quite literally a grounding rune, and by reintroducing us to the earth, it reconnects our bodies, our minds and our spirits.

ðagaz : day

Phonetic equivalent: d (pronounced as 'th', as in 'this')

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

happiness, success, activity, a fulfilling lifestyle, satisfaction

MAGICAL USES:

to bring a positive outcome

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

Sunna, Baldr, Nerthus, Yggdrasil

ANALYSIS:

This rune effectively marks the end of the third aett, leaving only opila to complete the cycle. As in the previous two aetts, ðagaz concludes the third with light and hope. However, while wunjo represented earthly glories and the sun, heavenly the day brings these two realms together, bringing the more abstract light and power of sowulo 'down to earth' and applying it to our everyday lives.

The shape of the rune itself denotes this kind of interconnection. It is reminiscent of gebo, with its balance of masculine, feminine and the four elements, but ðagaz makes further connections to the celestial and the realm of nature. Like inguz, it symbolizes harmony with one's environment. but again takes it a step further, implying a harmonious relationship with the spiritual environment as well. It is a bringing together of all six cardinal points - the four compass directions, the celestial realm above us where the Gods are thought to dwell; and that which is below - all the spirits of the earth and of nature. All of these things are balanced and integrated through ðagaz and brought into our daily lives.

OpILA : property

Phonetic equivalent: o

DIVINATORY MEANINGS:

property, land, inheritance, home, permanence, legacy, synthesis, sense of belonging

MAGICAL USES:

for acquiring land or property, to complete a project, to strengthen family ties

ASSOCIATED MYTHS & DEITIES:

the nine worlds of Yggdrasil

ANALYSIS:

In Opila, we find ourselves back in the seemingly mundane realm of wealth and property, just like the first rune, fehu. However, while cattle represented a more movable, transitory form of wealth, the land (as Mr. O'Hara said) is the only thing that lasts. It can be passed on as a legacy, but more importantly, it defines who we are by defining where we are. It is, ultimately, our home.

This rune brings us to the seventh cardinal point, which is the centre. It is the meeting place between Midgard and Asgard; between ourselves and our Gods. It is the axis around which our lives revolve. The idea of land or property is only a symbol - we must all find our own "centre" (or, as Joseph Campbell termed it, our "bliss") to give our lives meaning, and this is really the ultimate goal of the runic journey. Like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, we discover that after all our travels and adventures, we all eventually end up going home. But this doesn't mean that the travels and adventures are pointless. On the contrary, it is only through those explorations that our 'home' or spiritual centre can have any real meaning for us. "There's no place like home" of will have no power to send us there unless we come to truly understand what and where our home is to us. Conversely, none of lessons learned along the way can be of any real use to us unless we actively integrate them into our 'mundane' lives and find that centre point to anchor them to. Opila not only completes the smaller cycle of the third aett, but also brings us back to the beginning of the fupark itself, only on a higher level. We may now begin the grand cycle of the runic journey again.

 RUNIC DIVINATION

Thence come maidens who know much,

Three from that hall beneath the tree:

One was named Origin, the second Becoming.

These two fashioned the third, named Debt.

They established law,

They selected lives

For the children of ages,

And the fates of men.

- Völuspá

Learning to Read

The first step in learning to read the runes must be to get to know the runes themselves. This doesn't necessarily mean memorizing interpretations out of a book, although the literal meanings of the rune names should be memorized as a starting point. Instead, take one rune each day, starting with fehu and ending with opila, and meditate on it. There are several exercises you can do daily to aid in this: word association with the rune names, visualization, physical connection with the rune, etc.

Always keep a record of your rune readings in a journal. Although it's not quite as easy to draw a nine rune cast as it is to record a tarot spread, do try and make the effort. Record which runes landed face up and face down, what you think each one

meant in the context of the reading, and what your general impressions were. Even if a reading makes no sense to you when you do it, its meaning might become clearer later on, and this will encourage you to pay closer attention to your instincts (even if you are sure you're wrong!).

Some Methods of Runic Divination

Since there are no reliable historical descriptions of runic divination, virtually any method one chooses can be considered valid. However, certain characteristics of the runes make them better suited to some methods than others. For example, most runes are carved onto small bits of wood, clay or stone. These are better designed to be picked up and scattered, rather than being laid out in a specific pattern like the Tarot. This is verified by descriptions of runic divination in Norse literature, all of which refer them being 'thrown', 'cast' or 'scattered'. Now, I used to recommend using Tarot-type patterns as a transitional method for those who are most comfortable with the Tarot, but I have come to the conclusion that it really isn't necessary. The best way to learn how to swim is to just jump right in!

Some books give upright and reversed meanings for the runes (like Tarot cards). This is obviously impractical if one is casting the runes, since many will land sideways or at odd angles. Also, one would think that if this had been the intention of the original creators of the fuþark, they wouldn't have designed so many runes to look the same upright as inverted. In addition to these practical considerations, there is also the fact that the Norse don't appear to have seen their world in such black and white. Polarizing the meanings of the runes in this way, even if those opposites aren't phrased in terms of 'positive' and 'negative', tends to limit the range of possible interpretations and ignores the complex and subtle relationships between the different runes in a cast.

The most important thing, however, is that you feel comfortable with the method you choose. If you feel the need for a more structured reading than a simple cast provides, devise a pattern for your casting cloth that has some meaning for you to give the reading a more tangible context. If you find nine or twelve runes to be a bit overwhelming, use three or four. If you want to just grab a handful and cast them, go right ahead. The runes themselves should tell you how they want to be read. Different sizes, shapes and materials lend themselves to different methods, and through meditation and experimentation you should be

able to choose a technique that best suits both the runes' 'personality' and your own. Just make sure your method is consistent.

Most people eventually end up devising their own method of reading, but here are a few to get you started in the meantime:

1. The One-Rune Quicky.

As you might imagine, this method is designed to provide a quick, concise answer to a specific question. It can also be used daily as a subject for meditation, or as a general overview of the day before you go to bed. Think of a specific question. Pull a rune from the pouch and look at it. The answer may be an obvious yes or no, or the rune might provide a more conditional response. If the rune you picked seems to make no sense at all as a response to your question, ask another question or try again later.

2. The Norns (or, The Three-Rune Quicky).

This method is helpful in getting an overall fix on a given situation, and providing some idea about a future outcome. How much information you get out of it will depend on how much time you spend analyzing the reading and how well you understand the runes. Pull one rune and lay it down face up. This rune represents the first Norn - those events in the past which affect the current situation. Pull another rune and lay it next to the first. This is the second Norn - the present situation, which frequently leads to a choice that needs to be made. Pull a third and lay it down. This is the third Norn, and the most difficult rune to interpret. In some cases it might represent the person's inevitable fate. In others, it might simply be the end result if the current situation remains unchanged, or even just one of several results. You must rely on your instincts to decide which is the case.

3. The Roman Method.

This is the method described by Tacitus in 'Germania'. The method itself is really another variation of the Three-Rune Quickie, with a few ritual details to lend it authenticity. If you really want to do it right, go out and find a fruit-bearing tree and use the wood to carve your runes fresh each time. Lay out a white cloth on the floor. Take all of the runes in your hands and scatter them. Invoking the aid of Odin, and without looking at the runes, pick three at random. You may look at them as a group, without considering them in any particular order, or you can pick them one at a time, using the 'Norns' method described above to interpret them.

4. The Nine-Rune Cast.

This method will give a detailed overview of a person's situation, providing insight into where they are in terms of their spiritual path, clarifying the options and possible outcomes available to them. Nine is a somewhat arbitrary number - you may use any number that feels comfortable to you. I have chosen nine because a) three and its multiples were magically significant numbers to the Norse, and b) it is a large enough number to provide a detailed reading, but not so large that it over-complicates things. It is also easy for most people to hold nine runes in their hands.

Pick nine runes from the pouch. Hold them between your hands for a moment, and focus on your question (if you have one). Then scatter the runes on the table, floor, or cloth if you have one. Read the runes which land face up first. These will relate to the current situation and the circumstances which led to it. How the runes are read is largely subjective, but in general, runes lying in the centre are the most immediately relevant, while those lying around the edges are less important, or represent more general influences. Runes that are close together or even touching often compliment each other, or may even represent a single thing, while runes which fall on opposite sides of the pattern frequently represent opposing influences. Occasionally, a rune will land completely off the cloth or fall off the table. Some people consider such runes to be particularly significant, while others ignore them completely.

Once you have looked at the runes which landed face up (and remembered which ones they are), turn over the rest of the without moving them from their positions. These represent outside or future influences, and will point to possible outcomes. It is up to you to decide what the various positions and patterns in a reading mean, but once you have come up with a few general rules, try to stick with them. As I have said before, consistency is very important. However, rune readings by their nature are fluid, subjective things. Try not to impose too much order on your readings by inventing set meanings for every triangle, square and tetrahedron. Runes are like people - you never know how they will get along together until you introduce them. Just look at the patterns and relationships that appear in each reading and see what interpretations make sense to you.

Once the reading is done, I usually like to pull one more rune out of the pouch. This helps to confirm (or sometimes dispute) the conclusions drawn from the reading, and may provide a focus or centre to an otherwise scattered and complicated cast.

RUNES AND MAGIC

Types of Rune Spells:

Inscriptions

Today, many people take written language for granted and use runes as an alphabet without really understanding the magical importance of doing so. When you write a word in runes, it empowers that word. The Norse would often finish inscriptions with the statement, "So-and-so wrote this", or "So-and-so made me". This was a way of magically connecting the writer or carver of the runes with what they had just written. For example, there was a bone plate found in Derbyshire which bears an inscription that reads, "God will preserve the honour of Hadda because he wrote this". Thus, the very act of writing something in runes is a spell in itself, bringing the statement into concrete reality.

Rune Scripts

Another way of using the runes for magic is to write out rune rows, or rune scripts. These are type of shorthand spell, made up a sequence of two or more runes. For example, if you wanted to create a rune row to help enhance your psychic abilities, you incorporate laguz/water (relating to the subconscious and mysteries), perth/dice-cup (for divination and magic), ansuz/Odin (the God of the runes), and kenaz/torch (for inspiration).

Bindrunes

A bindrune consists of two or more runes that have been superimposed or joined together in some way. Occasionally, runes like fehu, raidho or wunjo would be joined at the base of their "stems", forming a wheel. Other times, runes would be joined side by side, or combined into a single rune. This latter method is the most popular today. Historically, bindrunes were as "contractions" in an inscription, either to save space or to reduce the number of runes in the inscription to a more magically auspicious total. Today they are commonly used in rune magic by themselves to create a magical sigel that will encompass several runes at once. For example, if we were to transform the above runescript for psychic ability into a bindrune, we would end up with something like this:

Fig. 2: Bindrune for enhancing psychic ability

Additional runes will often appear when creating a bindrune, and these can contribute to or detract from the purpose. However, rune is only truly present if you consciously include it by tracing its shape. If you can avoid including a conflicting rune by changing the configuration, then by all means do so. However, you shouldn't worry about it too much.

Materials and Methods

Runic inscriptions, rune scripts and bindrunes can be used in many ways. They can be inscribed on a talisman - a permanent, physical manifestation of the magic of the runes that a person would wear or carry around with them. They may also be used for more immediate purposes, by carving them into a piece of wood and then burning it, by scratching them into a candle and lighting it, or in any number of other ways. Making runes for magical use is a little bit different from making a set for divination, but the process of marking, colouring and naming them is essentially the same.

The choice of materials when making a talisman or spell is important, since this will be the medium which 'carries' your message and add it's own peculiar energies to the process. A permanent talisman or inscription can be carved on anything you like, although natural materials are best. Specific rune spells are traditionally sent by burning them, so your medium must be flammable. Paper or parchment is handy and will do in a pinch, but keep in mind that your average Norseman wouldn't have had access to such finery. Paper is also magically quite neutral, and while it won't detract from what you are trying to accomplish, it certainly won't add anything.

Rune spells and talismans were traditionally cut or scratched into wood. Of the few wooden runic artifacts recovered from that many were made from yew, which has a long history of association with the runes and magic. There are many other woods which have their own magical associations. For more information on these, see the Sacred Woods page.

The process of creating a rune spell is a ritual in itself. The technique traditionally involved the following steps:

Carving or cutting the runes into the wood, bone or stone

Colouring ('reddening') the runes with either red ochre paint or the magician's own blood (this would connect the spell magically to the person doing it)

Speaking or singing the names of the runes to empower them

Sending the rune spell to its destination (if it is not a permanent talisman), often by burning

Making an offering (a 'blot') of thanks to the Gods, usually of mead or ale

You can elaborate on this simple ritual as much as you like.