

Senatorius Sacerdos Harpyiae

Note: Those persons whom intend to become financial members of the Ordo, need to copy this Rune Poem into their 'Book of Darkness' as part of their 'Page' study work - The Magister

The Old English Rune Poem



THE FIRST AETT

- ƿ 1. FEOH Wealth
Wealth is a benefit to all men;
yet every man must share it freely,
who hopes for destiny to grant him glory before the Lord.
- ᚱ 2. UR The Aurochs
The aurochs is courageous and has long horns,
a very fierce beast - it fights with its horns -
a notorious moor-stalker. That is a brave creature !
- ᚦ 3. THORN Thorn
The thorn is extremely sharp, painful
for any warrior to grasp, immeasurably fierce
to any man who rests among them.
- ᚷ 4. OS Mouth
The mouth is the source of every utterance;
the support of wisdom and a comfort to the wise;
and the joy and delight of every noble.
- ᚨ 5. RAD Riding
Riding is easy for warriors sitting in the hall,
and very strenuous for one who bestrides
a powerful horse travelling the long roads.
- ᚠ 6. CEN Torch
The torch is known to all the living by its flame,
shining and bright; most often it burns
inside where princes sit at ease.
- ᚨ 7. GYFU Giving, generosity
Generosity is a grace in men of position and deserving of praise,
a prop to their honour, and for all the dispossessed,
it is a help and means of survival, when they have no other.
- ᚱ 8. WYN Joy
Joy is for one who knows little of woes,
of pain or of sorrow; who has for his own
prosperity and bliss and a strong berg [*fortified house*] of his own.

The Old English Rune Poem

THE SECOND AETT

II

9. HA EGL Hail

Hail is the whitest of grains; it whirls down from heaven's height,
whipped by the scouring winds; then it turns into water.

+

10. NYD Need

Need is a tight band on the breast;
yet is changed for the children of men
into a source of help and salvation, if only they heed it in time.

I

11. IS Ice

Ice is extremely cold and exceedingly slippery;
it glitters clear as glass, very like gemstones;
it is a floor wrought by the frost, fair to behold.



◇

12. GER Harvest season

Harvest is a joy to men, when God,
the holy king of heaven, lets the earth bring forth
bright fruits for rich and poor alike.

⚡

13. EOH Yew

The Yew is a tree with rough bark outside,
hard and firm in the earth, a keep of flame,
upheld by deep roots, a pleasure on one's land.

⚡

14. PEORTH Table game

A game is a source of pleasure and laughter
Where brave fellows sit in the banqueting hall,
Beer-drinking warriors happy together.

Y

15. EOLHX-SECG Elk sedge

Elk-sedge usually grows in the fens;
growing in water, it gives grievous wounds,
Staining with blood every man
who tries to get hold of it.

⚡

16. SIGEL Sigel

The sun to sea-farers always brings hope,
when they row their sea-steed across the fishes' bath,
until it brings them to land.

The Old English Rune Poem

THE THIRD AETT



17. TIR Tir [the name of a god]
Tir is one of the guiding signs; it keeps faith well
with princes; it always hold its course
above the night-clouds; it never fails.



18. BEORC Birch
The birch has no fruit; nonetheless it bears
shoots without seed; it is beautiful in its branches,
high of crown, fairly adorned,
tall and leafy, it reaches up to touch the sky.



19. EH Horse
The Horse is a joy of prince in noble company;
The charger steps proudly with its hoofs,
When wealthy warriors on horse-back discuss its points;
for those who are restless, it offers a remedy.



20. MAN Man
Man, rejoicing in life, is cherished by kinsmen;
Yet each must betray and abandon the friends he loves,
because the Lord decides by his decree
the unfortunate flesh to return to the earth.



21. LAGU Lake, water, sea
The sea seems unending to men,
if they are obliged to go forth on a galloping vessel;
and the sea-billows afright them exceedingly
and their sea-steed will not respond to the bridle.



22. ING Ing [the name of a god or ancient hero]
Ing was seen first by men among the East-Danes,
until later he departed across the waves, followed by his wagon;
This was the name those stern warriors gave to the hero.



23. ETHEL Land, property
Family land is dear to every man,
as long as he can enjoy in his own house
all that is right and proper in constant prosperity,



24. DAEG Day
Day is sent by the Lord, beloved by mankind,
the glorious light of the Creator, source of joy and hope
to rich and to poor, of benefit to all.

The Old English Rune Poem

THE ADDITIONAL OLD ENGLISH RUNES

25. AC Oak



The oak on the land nourishes the people
giving food for their meat ;
often it travels on the gannet's bath;
the spear-sharp sea tests the troth of the oak.

The most riddling of the stanzas. Oak nourishes folk because acorns feed their pigs; the gannet's bath is the sea; the stormy seas test the oak ship-timbers to see if they will live up to the trust men put in them.

26. AESC Ash



The ash is very tall, precious to mankind;
strong on its base, it holds its ground as it should,
Though many men attack it.

27. YR Bow



The bow is a pleasure and brings honour
to all princes and nobles; it looks fine on a steed,
is quick in its course; a fine piece of gear.

28. IAR Beaver



The beaver is a river-fish; yet it takes food on the land;
it has a beautiful dwelling-place,
surrounded by water, where it lives in delight.

29. EAR Earth



Earth is dreadful to every noble,
when irresistibly the flesh begins to grow cold
and the pale corpse must choose earth as its bedfellow;
fruits fail; joys vanish, man-made covenants are broken.



NOTES:

Modern rune casters should meditate on the stanzas to deepen and enlarge their understanding of rune symbolism. Although the poem was probably originally written around 900 c.e. somewhere in the south-west of England, it is believed to preserve traditional material from much more ancient Elder Futhark lore. Each stanza begins with a rune-name. Here, the Old English rune-name and its modern translation are inserted on a separate line before each stanza. *

The medieval manuscript, the only known source of this poem, was destroyed when the library in Ashburnham House was devastated by fire in 1731. Fortunately, a hand-written copy had been made at the beginning of the 18th century, from which the poem was copied for George Hickes' *Thesaurus of Old Norse* [1705]. The runes in the margin are copied from Hickes' *Thesaurus*. The translation here is based on that by Maureen Hassall [1985], carefully compared with the original and the 1915 translation by Bruce Dickins.