

DICTIONARY OF RUNES & THEIR PROPERTIES

by Merrick

A Brief History of Runes

Extract from: Runes: Ancient Wisdom for the New Age; The Secrets of the Stones by Anders Andersson

Odin, the most tragic and noble of the Norse gods was doomed to a dark and gloomy life. His wisdom and ability to see into the future, when the gods would fall, lay heavy upon him. He is often pictured with two ravens, representing meaning and memory. They were his far-reaching eyes and ears, as they soared above the earth, constantly adding to his great wisdom.

One of many mystical achievements Odin is credited with is the formulation of the runes, symbols carved into stone. Aware that knowledge is only attained through sacrifice, he hanged himself from the branches of Yggdrasil, the tree of knowledge, for nine days and nights. This image is echoed on the Hanged Man card in the Tarot. Odin's body was not equal to the suffering and he died. But through his infomitable will he was reborn, bringing with him the knowledge of the world beyond. And from this came the runes.

The Elder Futhark

This is the oldest Futhark - the European common heritage. It is not known for certain when or by who it originated, however it could be among Germanic tribes at the beginning of our era.

The Elder Futhark consists of 24 runes separated into three groups of eight (aett) – Freys Aett, Hagalls Aett and Tyrs Aett. This "runic alphabet" was named after the sound of what is traditionally held to be the first six runes in this "alphabet":

F - U - Þ - A - R - K

FREY'S AETT

ANZUS



Other Names: Germanic: Aza (Ansuz); Norse: Óss, Áss; Anglo Saxon: Aesc, (Os, Ac); Icelandic: Óss, Áss; Norwegian: As

Meaning: God, Asa god, divinity

Sound: A

The Rune of Signals is associated with Loki, the ancient trickster from the Pantheon of the Norse Gods. He is heyeohkah of the North American Indian, a mocking shadow of the creator of the God the bringer of benefits to humankind. Even scoundrels and arc-thieves can be bearers of wisdom. When you draw this Rune, expect the unexpected, the message is always a call, a call to new life.

FEOH

Other Names: Germanic: Fe (Fehu); Norse: Fé; Anglo-Saxon: Feo, Feoh; Icelandic: Fé; Norwegian: Fe

Meaning: Cattle, livestock, riches, landed property, movable property
Sound: F

Feoh is the rune of fulfillment: Ambition, satisfaction fulfilled and rewards received. It promises nourishment from the most worldly to the sacred and divine. Moreover, as the ancient hermetic principle, as above so below is true, then we are also here to nourish our spirituality.

GEBO

Other Names: Germanic: Geuua (Gebo); Norse: Gipt, Giöf; Anglo Saxon: Geofu (Gyfu); Icelandic: Gjöf; Norwegian: Gjöf

Meaning: Gift
Sound: G

Gebo, the Rune of partnership, has no reverse, it signifies the gift of freedom from which flow all other gifts.

KANO

Other Names: Germanic: Chozma (Kenaz); Norse: Kaun; Anglo Saxon: Cen, Ken; Icelandic: Kaun; Norwegian: Kaun

Meaning: Boil, carbuncle
Sound: K (C)

Kano is the Rune for the morning of activities, for seriousness, clear intent and concentration. All of which is essential at the beginning of work. The protection offered by Kano is this, "The more light you have, the better you can see what is trivial and outmoded in your conditioning."

RAIDO

Other Names: Germanic: Reda (Raidho); Norse: Reið, Reiðr; Anglo Saxon: Rad (Radh); Icelandic name: Reið; Norwegian: Reid, Reidr
BR>

Meaning: Riding, Travel
Sound: R

This Rune is concerned with communication, with the attunement of something that has two sides, two elements and with the ultimate reunion that comes at the end of the journey, when what is above and what is below are unified and are of one mind.

THURISAZ

Other Names: Germanic: Thyth (Thurisaz); Norse: Þurs; Anglo Saxon: (Thorn); Icelandic: Þurs; Norwegian: Thurs

Meaning: Thorn, Giant, Troll
Sound: Þ, Th

Drawing Thurisaz reversed denotes contemplation on your part. Hasty decisions this time may cause regrets, for the probability is that you will act from weakness, deceive yourself about your motive and create new problems more severe than those you are attempting to resolve. Impulses must be tempered by thought for correct procedure. Do not attempt to go beyond that which you have not yet begun. Be still, correct yourself and wait on the will of Heaven.

URUZ



Other Names:	Germanic: Uraz (Uruz); Norse: Úr; Anglo Saxon: Ur; Icelandic: Úr; Norwegian: Ur
Meaning:	Primitive ox, wild ox
Sound:	U

The original symbol for Uruz was the aurochs, a wild ox. When the wild ox was domesticated, a nearly impossible task(!), it could transport heavy loads. Learn to adapt yourself to the demands of such a creative time. Firm principles attach at this same time in order to rule, you must learn how to serve. Unuz lets you know that your soul and the universe support the new growth.

WUNJO



Other Names:	Germanic: Uuinne (Wunjo); Norse: Vend; Anglo Saxon: Wynn; Icelandic: Vin; Norwegian: Wynn
Numerology:	7
Meaning:	Good fortune, Delight
Sound:	W

This rune is a fruit-bearing branch. The term of travail has ended and you have come to yourself in some regard. The shift that was due has occurred and now you can freely receive Wunjo's blessings, whether they be in material gain, in your emotional life or in a heightened sense and awareness of your own well-being.

HAGALL'S AETT

ALGIZ



Other Names:	Germanic: Algis, Algiz or Elhaz; Anglo Saxon: Eolh; Norwegian: Elgr
Meaning:	Elk
Sound:	Z (-R)

Algiz serves as a mirror for the Spiritual Warrior, the one whose battle is always with the self. The protection of the warrior is like the warning rustle of sedge grass or like the curved horns of the elk, for both serve to keep open space around you. Remain mindful that timely action and correct conduct are the only true protection.

Note: The Algiz-rune, the Elk-rune, should only be used when the sound of "r" is the last rune in a word. When you see runic inscriptions written with Latin letters, the Algiz-rune is written as a capitalized "R".

EIHWAZ



Other Names:	Germanic: Ezck (Eihwaz); Anglo Saxon: Yr (Eoh); Norwegian: (Eo)
Meaning:	Tree, Yew
Sound:	E

Patience is the counsel of Eihwaz. Nothing hectic, no acting needy or lusting after desired outcomes. This Rune speaks to the difficulties that arise at the beginning of a new life. Often announces a time of waiting – for a spring to fill up with water, for a fruit to ripen on the bough.

HAGALAZ



Other Names:	Germanic: Haal (Hagalaz); Norse: Hagall; Anglo Saxon: Hagall (Haeg!); Icelandic: Hagall; Norwegian: Hagall, Hagl
Meaning:	Hail
Sound:	H

The Rune of elemental disruption, of events that seem to be totally beyond your

control. Hagalaz has only the upright position and yet it always operates through reversal. When you draw this Rune, expect disruption, for it is the great awakener, although the form of the awakening can take many forms.

ISA



Other Names: Germanic: Ioz (Isa); Norse: Íss; Anglo Saxon: Is; Icelandic: Íss; Norwegian: Is

Meaning: Ice

Sound: I

Ice – Usually Isa requires a sacrifice of the personal and yet there is no reason for anxiety. Submit and be still, for what you are experiencing is not necessarily the result of your actions or habits, but of the conditions of the time against which you can do nothing. What has been full must be empty. What has increased must be decreased. This is the way of Heaven and Earth. To surrender is to display courage and wisdom.

JERA



Other Names: Germanic: Gaar (Jera); Norse: Ár; Anglo Saxon: ger (Jara); Icelandic: Ár; Norwegian: Jara, Ar

Meaning: Year, harvest, produce, crop, good year

Sound: J (Y)

A Rune of beneficial outcomes. Jera applies to any activity or endeavour to which you are committed. Be aware, however, that no quick results can be expected. A span of time is always involved; hence the key words 'one year', symbolizing a full circle before the reaping the harvest of deliverance.

NAUTHIZ



Other Names: Germanic: Noicz (Nauthiz); Norse: Nauð, Nauðr; Anglo Saxon: Nied (Nyd); Icelandic: Nauð; Norwegian: Naudr, Naud

Meaning: Suffer want, crowd, bondage, slavery

Sound: N

The necessity of dealing with severe constraint is the lesson of Nauthiz. The positive aspects of this Rune represent the limitations we directly cause ourselves. Its negative side attracts limitation from those around us. Both can be equally difficult to handle.

PERTH



Other Names: Germanic: Pertra (Perthro); Anglo Saxon: Peordh (Pertra); Icelandic: (Perð), (Plástur); Norwegian: (Pertra)

Meaning: Uncertain, but might be Stone, Rock

Sound: P

A hieratic or mystery Rune, Perth points to that which is beyond our trivial, manipulative powers. This Rune is on the side of Heaven, the Unknowable, and has associations with the phoenix, that mystical bird which consumes itself in fire and then rises from its own ashes. Its ways are secret and hidden. For some Perth means experiencing a death.

If need be a "let go of everything" to experience the renewed spirit.

SOWELU



Other Names: Germanic: Sugil (Sowilo); Norse: Sól; Anglo Saxon: Sigel; Icelandic: Sól; Norwegian: Sol; Old Danish: sulu; Old German: sil, sulhil, sigo

Meaning: Sun, the power of the sun

Sound: S

Seeking after wholeness is the Spiritual Warrior's quest. Yet what you are

striving to become is quite naturally, what you already are. You must become conscious of your essence and bring it to form. Express energy available to you. Sowelu marks a time for regeneration right down to the cellular level.

TYR'S AETT

BERKANA



Other Names: Germanic: Bercna (Berkano); Norse: Bjarkan; Anglo Saxon: Beroc; Icelandic: Bjarkan; Norwegian: Bjarkan

Meaning: Birch, twigs of birch

Sound: B

A Rune that leads to blossoming and ripening. Berkana is concerned with the flow of beings into their new forms. Its action is gentle, penetrating and pervasive. Another cyclic Rune that fosters the growth both symbolically and actually.

DAGAZ



Other Names: Germanic: Daaz (Dagaz); Norse: Dagr; Anglo Saxon: Daeg; Icelandic: Dagur; Norwegian: Dagr

Meaning: Day

Sound: D

A major period of achievement and prosperity is often introduced by this Rune. The darkness is behind you, daylight has come. However, as always, you are reminded not to collapse yourself into thoughts for the future or to behave recklessly in your new situation. Considerable hard work can be involved in a time of transition. Undertake to do it joyfully!

EHWAZ



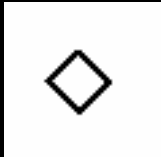
Other Names: Norse: Ehol, Ior; Germanic: Eys (Ehwaz); Anglo Saxon: Eoh; Icelandic: Eykur; Norwegian: Eh, Eol

Meaning: Horse

Sound: E

Ehwaz is a Rune of transition and movement of physical shifts, new dwelling places, new attitudes or life. It also signifies movement in the sense of improving or bettering any situation.

INGUZ



Other Names: Norse: Ing, Ingvarr; Germanic: Enguz (Ingwaz); Anglo Saxon: Ing; Icelandic: Ing; Norwegian: Ing

Meaning: Phallus, name of a God

Sound: NG

This Rune is akin to the Moon. The intuitive part of our nature, with its urge toward harmonizing and adjusting, in the sphere of personal relationships. Inguz embodies the need to share, the yearning to be desired, a search for similarities.

Note: Ing, or Yngvi (an "other name of Frey") is a god of fertility and conquering. Ironically, in the Norse tradition it was often the women who conducted rites involving sexuality. Ing is related to the old Nerthus-cult which dealt with the mystery of fecundity and birth.

LAGUZ

Other Names: Germanic: Laaz (Laguz); Norse: Lögr; Anglo Saxon: Lagu; Icelandic: Lögur; Norwegian: Laukr

Meaning: Water



Sound: L

This Rune often signals a time for cleansing, for reevaluating, reorganizing and realigning. A Rune of deep knowing. Laguz may call you to study spiritual matters in readiness for self transformation. Success now lies in contracting your intuitive Knowing, in attuning to your own rhythms. A Rune of self relating rightly to the Self. Laguz signifies what alchemists called the conjunction, or sacred marriage. In fairy tales, it is the end where the hero and heroine live happily ever after.

MANNAS



Other Names: Germanic: Manna (Mannaz); Norse: Maðr; Anglo Saxon: Mann; Icelandic: Maður; Norwegian: Madr

Meaning: Man, husband, human being

Sound: M

If you take the Rune of the Self and cut it down the middle, you will see the Rune for Joy with its mirror image. There is subtle caution here amongst carefulness. The dancing acrobatic energy of balance is called for now – The Self is required to balance the self. Nothing in excess was the second phrase written over the gateway to the Delphi. The first counsel was 'Know Thyself'.

OTHILA



Other Names: Germanic: Utal (Othala); Norse: Óðal; Anglo Saxon: Otael (Ethe); Icelandic: Óðal; Norwegian: Odal

Meaning: Allodium, Land-holding, Inheritance

Sound: O

This is a time of separating paths. Old skins must be shed, outmoded relationships discarded. When this Rune appears in a spread, a peeling away is called for, part of the cycle of initiation. Othila is a Rune of severance. Submission and Retreat.

TEIWAZ



Other Names: Germanic: Tys (Tiwaz); Norse: Týr; Anglo Saxon: Tir, Tiw; Icelandic: Týr; Norwegian: Ty

Meaning: Warrior, The god Tyr

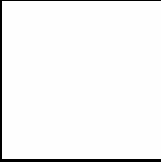
Sound: T

Embodied in this Rune is the energy of discrimination, the sword like quality that enables you to cut away the old, the dead, the extraneous. And yet, with Teiwaz comes certain knowledge that the universe always has the first move. Patience is the virtue of this Rune, and it recalls the words of St Augustine that the reward of patience is patience.

Other Stones & Groupings

ODIN

The unknowable. The blank Rune is said to portend a death but that death is more likely to be symbolic in nature. It may related to any part of your life as you are living it now. Relinquishing control is the ultimate challenge for the spiritual Warrior! What beckons is the creative power of the unknown. Whenever you



draw the blank Rune take heart, know that the work of selfchange is progressing in your life.
