

**Runes** are the symbols in a group of related writing systems that were used to carve the Germanic languages used in much of Europe into stone, wood, bone, antler, horn, and metal during the early medieval period, before adoption of the Latin alphabet. In the Norse myths preserved in the Poetic Edda, the runes were learnt by the god Odin during a self-sacrifice ritual, then given to humans. The word comes from a proto-Germanic root that meant "whisper" or "secret", and runes may have been associated with Northern European divinatory practices described by first-century author Cornelius Tacitus and those who recorded the Sagas. Since the early twentieth century, runes have recaptured the popular imagination thanks to occult writers and pop-culture depictions of Vikings and Norse mythology.



Of the many varieties of Germanic and Scandinavian runes, the **Elder Futhark** (or Older Futhark) is the most ancient, found inscribed on artifacts from 100 AD (or possibly earlier) to 700 AD. It's believed to have developed from an early Greek alphabet (700-400BCE), possibly via the Latin or Etruscan alphabets or an Old Italic (700-100BCE) script, possibly through trade with intermediaries in Eastern Europe. While the Elder Futhark is the most commonly used for divination by far, our knowledge of it is fairly speculative, since its rune names and their translations have been entirely reconstructed in Proto-Germanic by linguists based on later records. Most of what we know of the runes' names comes from the 8th-9th-century Old English Rune Poem (preserved in a 10th-century manuscript), the 9th-century Abecedarium Nordmannicum, the 13th-century Norwegian Rune Poem, and the 15th-century Icelandic Rune Poem. Elder Futhark inscriptions are relatively rare, and scholars believe relatively few people were literate during the Migration Period when the Elder Futhark runes were used.

(The **Gothic Futhark** was an Eastern Germanic variant of the Elder Futhark and was thought by early researchers to be part of rune development from its roots in a Greek alphabet, either directly, or via Etruscan, Latin, or Old Italic. However, runes appear to have existed before the Goths came in contact with ancient Mediterranean cultures. The names of the Gothic runes are also reconstructed and primarily originate with a single manuscript called the Vienna Codex (MS 795), and the Gothic Futhark is represented by only a handful of inscriptions. By the mid-4th century AD the Goths had been Christianized and rune use was replaced with the Gothic alphabet.)

Theories as to how and where the **Anglo-Saxon Futhorc** developed vary, though it is often agreed that it began in Frisia and then migrated to Britain. The Futhorc script included additional symbols to represent new vowel sounds in the Germanic dialects spoken by its users, and was likely in use from the 5th to 11th century AD, with its decline beginning in the 10th century. The few examples from later periods are mostly abecedaria in manuscripts, listed alongside information on cryptography and exotic alphabets.

Meanwhile, the **Younger Futhark** developed in another direction, shrinking in the 7th century AD from 24 runes to 16 simplified runes, with a 'long-branch' form used mostly in Denmark and 'short-twig' form used primarily in Sweden and Norway. The Younger Futhark are the runes used in official and mundane inscriptions like name-tags and graffiti found along the extensive Scandinavian trade routes of the Viking period (750-1050 AD). The Medieval Scandinavian dotted runes (1100–1500 AD) and the Dalecarlian runes (1500–1800 AD) are descended from them.

These educational rune cards are based around **Urd's Snowflake**, a radial rune-stave we designed to have the 6-fold rotational symmetry of a naturally-formed snowflake and contain every historically-attested Nordic and Germanic rune. (Urd's Snowflake was designed for education; it contains far too many runes (with too many meanings) to be used in the way bind-runes may have been used in Nordic magic.) We named it after Urd's Well, the location at the base of Yggdrasil of the Norse myth of Odin's discovery of the runes. The 51 cards can be used as an oracle deck for divination or self-knowledge, and educational flashcards for those interested in runes as a writing system. Our **interdisciplinary lesson plans** connecting a wide range of literary, social studies, mathematics, and science concepts with the medieval runes, while debunking misinformation spread by hate groups and building critical thinking skills, are available for free at **MannazAndWyrd.com**

**Bind runes or rune-staves** are ligatures of two or three runes in an inscription, which may have been done to save space or for decorative reasons. There are a relatively small number of such rune combinations inscribed on amulets and weapons which likely had magical intent (see McLeod & Rees for a full exploration). Early-modern Icelandic grimoires and leechbooks included large, elaborate bind runes called *galdrastafir* that were intended as magical charms for a variety of purposes. These cards include selected early-medieval bind runes, supposed late-medieval bind runes, and recently-created bind runes that will be explored in the syllabus.

**Modern rune divination** is a recent development in the runes' history, and depends on the idea that the runes' names were not merely words that demonstrated the sounds they made, but had their roots in magical or religious practices (Runologists, the historians, linguists, and archaeologists who study runic inscriptions, strongly dispute this idea.). Johannes Bureus, a 17th-century Swedish practitioner of Hermeticism (which was derived from 3rd-century Greek-Egyptian writings ascribed to Thoth/Hermes combined with medieval alchemical texts), invented a runic system of divination based on the Kabbalah (from Jewish Mysticism) using the Younger Futhark. Bureus' *Adulruna* system in turn influenced the Armanen (adapted Younger Futhark) rune divination system proposed by ethnic-nationalist Guido von List in 1902; List's system was adopted by the Third Reich and continues to be used by white supremacists. In 1982, Ralph Blum published an influential mass-market rune divination book using Elder Futhark that incorporated elements of divination using the I Ching and Tarot cards, and today most rune divination sets sold draw heavily on his book.

Despite these modern roots and appropriated practices, runic divination is widely marketed as a prehistoric Nordic technique, and has gradually become a mainstay of Norse neo-pagan rituals. Some who use runes for divination view them as a conduit for speaking with gods, spirits, or angels. Others find a psychological basis for rune use by viewing them as archetypal symbols that reveal our subconscious mind and inner self, allowing us to develop self-knowledge. Our feeling is that it's fine to incorporate runes into spiritual or self-help practices, but that rune use could become more meaningful by re-grounding them in their historic contexts

For this card set, we attempted to strip away spurious meanings added by authors who lifted ideas from other spiritual traditions, or whose interpretations had their roots in 19th and early 20th-century ethnic nationalism. Instead we adhered to the source material in recent translations of the attested rune names and rune poems for the divinatory keywords. This was not possible for the cards based on the Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon runes (Cweorth, Calc, Stan, and Gar) or Medieval Dutch and Germanic Magical Runes (Erda, Sol, Ul, Wendhorn, Wan, and Ziu), which do not appear in the rune poems, or for the cards featuring various commonly-found bind-runes; for these we included the consensus meanings and noted what runes they were ligatures of, where applicable. We have listed these select **divination keywords** under the rune names at the tops of the cards.

We have not given **reversed (or merkstave) divination meanings** on the Urd's Snowflake Rune Cards or in the following tables, because that practice was directly borrowed from tarot divination traditions starting in the 1980s. However, this is a common rune divination practice, used when rune cards present upside-down or when rune stones do not land 'right'. Generally, the merkstave divination keywords will be antonyms or shadow readings of the keywords given here; if you wish to explore these further, please see the references.

To use rune cards for divination, start with a question in mind. Avoid questions with yes/no answers; instead, choose a phrasing like "what do I need to know to...," "what advice do you have about...," or "what will happen regarding...". Consider how many cards you might need to pull: we recommend using one, three, five, seven, or nine cards, depending on the complexity of your question and how nuanced an answer you may need. (We provide sample spreads on page 10 of this guidebook, and there are many more in the divination-focussed books in the references.) Thoroughly shuffle the card deck while contemplating your question, then select the number of cards required (either from the top of the deck, or after cutting the deck) and lay them out face-down in the pattern of your choosing (we usually start on the left and place the cards in an inward-moving clockwise spiral, but let your intuition guide you). Turn over the cards, taking care not to change their orientation if you're reading reversals, and interpret using the divination keywords. (For bind rune cards, also looking at the keywords for the runes that are part of the ligature may give you additional insight.)

Format: # in standard rune row, (\*reconstructed) name, **transliteration** (*not on cards*), [IPA phonetic value] / (sounds like), 'translations'

rune	Gothic Futhark (*reconstructed Gothic rune names)	Elder Futhark (*reconstructed Common Germanic rune names)	Younger Futhark (Old Norse rune names)	Anglo-Saxon Futhorc (Old English rune names)	Pronunciation and usage comments	Modern divination keywords
ƿ	*fe / *faihu f [f] cattle	1 *fehu f [f] cattle / moveable wealth	fe f [f] wealth	1 feoh / feo f [f] wealth / generosity	[f] as in fairy	wealth · abundance · generosity
ᚱ	*uraz / *urus / *uruz u [u] 'aurochs'	2 *uruz u [u] 'aurochs' / 'wild ox' / 'strength'	(see line below)	2 ūr u [u] 'aurochs' / 'mettle'	[u] is the vowel in "who", but short as in French "ou"	strength · vitality · tenacity · rite of passage
ᚲ	(see line above)	(see line above)	Úr u [u] 'drizzle' (Iceland) / 'slag'? (Norway)	(see line above)		drizzle · slag · something from nothing
ᚷ	*thyth / *thauris th [θ or th] goodness	3 *thurisaz? / *pur(i)saz? [θ or th] giant / monster	Thurs Þ [d or th] giant / ogre / Thor's hammer	3 thorn [θ or th] thorn hedge	[θ] is the 'voiceless' th of "think" or "breathe"	chaos · defense · breakthrough · gateway · hidden dangers or protections
ᚹ ᚻ ƿ	ᚹ *aza/*ansus a [a] ?	4 ᚹ *ansuz [a] 'one of the Aesir (gods)' / 'Odin' / 'breath'	4 ᚹ ás / áss / óss a/o [ã]/[o] 'deity' (Iceland) or 'breath' / 'river mouth' / 'beginning' (Norway)	4 ƿ ōs o [o] 'mouth' / 'breath'	[o] is the vowel of "go" or "boat", but short as in French "eau"	communication · insight · divinity · leadership
ᚺ	*reda / *raida r [r] 'ride'	5 *raidho / *raiðō r [r] 'ride'	5 raeidh / reidh / reið r [r] 'ride' / 'journey' / 'wagon'	5 rād / ræd / radh r [r] 'ride' / 'travel'	[r] as in "ride"	journey · travel · movement · action
< ᚥ	< *kusma / *chosma k/c/ch [k]	6 < k [k] *kenaz / *kiznaz 'torch' / *kauna 'ulcer' / 'boil' / *kano 'skiff'	ƿ (see line below)	6 ᚥ cēn / ken c [c/k] 'torch'	[k] is 'hard' as in "cat"; ᚥ cen before i, e, or y, pronounced [tʃ] (like "church")	knowledge · fire · vitality · insight · creativity · quest for truth
< ƿ	< *kusma / *chosma k/c/ch [k]	6 < k [k] *kauna / *kaunan 'ulcer' / 'boil' / *kano 'skiff' / *kenaz 'torch'	6 ƿ kaun k [k]/[g] 'ulcer' / 'boil'/'blister' / 'wound' / 'sore'	(see line above)		opening · healing · sacrifice · truth

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𐍆	*giba / *geuua <b>g</b> [g] 'gift'	7 *gebō <b>g</b> [g] gift	not present	7 gyfu / geofu <b>g</b> [g] 'gift' / 'partnership'	[g] is 'hard' as in "good"; gyfu is a glottal stop, or before i or e pronounced [j] (like "yellow")	generosity · help · partnership · balance · sustenance · reciprocity
𐍅	*uuinne / *uujnja <b>w</b> [w] 'joy'	8 *wunjō <b>w</b> [w] 'joy'	not present	8 pynn / wynn / wyn / wēn <b>w</b> [w] 'joy' / 'success'	[w] as in "win"	happiness · well-being · fulfillment · hope · pleasure
𐍇 𐍇	𐍇 *haal / *hagl <b>h</b> [h] 'hail'	9 𐍇 *hagalaz <b>h</b> [h] 'hail'	7 𐍇 or 𐍇 hagall <b>h</b> [h] 'hail'	9 𐍇 hægl/ hagall/ hagal <b>h</b> [h] 'hail' (as precipitation)	[h] as in "hail"; Younger Futhark's asterisk-like form misused by Nazi Germany & extremists ( 'hagall' )	challenge · disruption · loss · setbacks · limitation
𐍂	𐍂 *noicz / *nauths <b>n</b> [n] ?	10 𐍂 *naudhiz / *nauthiz <b>n</b> [n] 'need' / 'affliction'	8 𐍂 or 𐍂 naudhr / nauðr <b>n</b> [n] 'need' / 'constraint'	10 𐍂 nȳd <b>n</b> [n] 'need' / 'plight'	[n] as in "need"	plight · hardship · pragmatism · conflict · necessity
𐍄	*iiz / *eis <b>i</b> [i] ice	11 *īsa / *īsaz <b>i</b> [i] ice	9 íss / is [i] 'ice' / 'rest'	11 īs [i] 'ice' / 'ice bridge'	[i] is the vowel of "see", but short like French "il"	stasis · patience · reflection · rest · bridge
𐍉 𐍉 𐍈 𐍈	𐍉 *gaar / *jer <b>y/j</b> [j] 'year'	12 𐍉 *jera <b>j</b> [j] 'year'	10 𐍈 or 𐍈 ár / ar <b>a/æ</b> [a]/[æ] '(good) year' / 'harvest'	12 𐍉 iar <b>j</b> [j] ?, or gēr / jara <b>j</b> [j] 'year' / 'harvest'	[j] is the y sound of "year" or "yet"	harvest · reward · bounty · cycle · time · completion
𐍂	*aihs / *uuaer <b>e</b> [ɛ] 'cauldron?'	13 *eihwaz? / *ihwaz? [i?] 'yew' / 'Yggdrasil (the World Tree)'	not present	ēoh ī, 𐍂 [i] 'yew' / 'protection'	Elder Futhark sound-value uncertain; where used is usually [i], the vowel of "see", but short like French "il"; but can have other values (including [x] and ch as in German "nicht").	protection · reliability · motivation · transformation · secrecy

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𐌷	*pertra <b>p</b> [p] ?	14 *perthrō? / *perthō? / *perðō? [p] meaning uncertain	not present	peorð /peorth / peorðh [p] meaning uncertain; dice cup / luck in rune poem	[p] as in “penny”	gambling · luck · chance · hidden things
𐌷	*algs / *ezec <b>z</b> [z] ‘coin?’	15 *algiz? / *elhaz? <b>z</b> or <b>-R</b> [z] or possibly [r] ‘elk?’	not present	eolh / eolhx / iolx / ilcs <b>x</b> [ks]/[xs] ‘elk?’ / ‘elk-sedge’ / ‘protection’	original sound- value is uncertain; [z] as in “zoo”; [r] trilled; [ks] as in “ox”; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (‘leben’)	protection · higher self · support
𐌸 𐌺 𐌻 	𐌸 or 𐌺 *sugil / *sáuil <b>s</b> [s]	16 𐌸 or 𐌺 *sōwilō / *sowulo / *sowila <b>s</b> [s] ‘sun’	11 𐌺 or   sól / sol <b>s</b> [s] ‘sun’	16 𐌺 or 𐌻 sigel / sigil <b>s</b> [s] ‘sun’ / segl ‘sail’	[s] as in “sun”; Old English g pronounced like w; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (‘sig’)	wholeness · success · energy · revelation
↑	↑ *tyz / *teiws <b>t</b> [t] god	17 ↑ *tīwaz / *teiwas <b>t</b> [t] ‘the god Týr’	12 ↑ or   týr <b>t</b> [t]/[d]/[z] ‘the god Týr’ / ‘justice’	17 ↑ tir <b>t</b> [t] ‘guiding star’ / ‘pole star’ OR tiw / Tīp <b>t</b> [t] ‘the god Tiw’ / ‘creator’ / ‘glory’ / ‘duty’	[t] as in “to”; Ziu, Tyr, and Tiw are names of the same sky god; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (‘tyr’)	judgement or justice · duty · self-sacrifice · courage · parenthood
𐌲 𐌳	𐌲 *bercna / *bairkana / *bern <b>b</b> [b] ‘birchwood?’	18 𐌲 *berkano / *berkana / *berkanan <b>b</b> [b] ‘birchwood?’	13 𐌲 or 𐌳 bjarkan / björk / bjarken <b>b</b> [b]/[p] ‘birch twig’	18 𐌲 beorc / bar <b>b</b> [b] ‘birch’ or ‘poplar’ / ‘(re)birth’	[b] as in “birch”	fresh start · gestation · sanctuary · fertility · spring
𐌺	*eyz <b>e</b> [ɛ] ‘horse’	19 𐌺 e [e] *ehwaz ‘horse’	not present	19 𐌺 eh e [e] ‘horse’	[e] is a ‘close’ e sound like “ebb” or French “été”	swift change · partnership · teamwork · trust · distance · movement

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ᚖ ᚗ ᚘ	*manna <b>m</b> [m] 'man'	20 ᚖ *mannaz <b>m</b> [m] 'man' / 'person'	14 ᚗ ᚗ or ᚗ madr / madr / maðr <b>m</b> [m] 'man' / 'person' / frith	20 ᚖ mann / monn <b>m</b> [m] 'man' / 'person' / help	[m] as in 'man'; was not gendered; Younger Futhark's algiz-like form misused by Armanen runes & extremists (‘man’)	humanity · society · relationships · self-awareness · kindness
ᚠ	ᚠ *laaz / *lagus <b>l</b> [l] 'liquid'	21 ᚠ *laguz <b>l</b> [l] 'water' / 'liquid'	15 ᚠ or ᚡ lögr <b>l</b> [l] '(cleanse by) water' (also: laucr 'leek', lina 'linen')	21 ᚠ lagu <b>l</b> [l] 'liquid' / 'lake' / 'ocean' / 'sea' / 'water' or 'law' / 'rule' / 'custom'	[l] as in "lake"	life force · growth · intuition fluidity · purified · unpredictability
ᚢ ᚣ	not present	not present	16 ᚢ ᚣ or ᚤ ýr early <b>R</b> (between [z] and [r]), later <b>y</b> [y] 'yew' / 'bow'	not present	shape represents Yggdrasil's roots; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (‘toten’)	yew · defense · death
ᚦ ᚧ	*enguz / *igguus <b>ng</b> [ng] Ing	22 ᚦ or ᚧ *Ingwaz / *inguz <b>ng</b> [ng] 'the fertility god Ing'	not present	22 ᚦ or ᚧ Ing <b>ng/ŋ</b> [ng] 'fertility' / 'the hero Ing' / 'seed'	[ng] or [ŋ] is the ng sound of "long"; Ing is likely a by-name of the god Freyr	seed · shielded · fertility · goals · productivity · potential
ᚨ	*daaz / *daz / *dags <b>d</b> [d] 'day'	23 ᚨ *dagaz <b>d</b> [d] 'day' / 'dawn'	not present	24 ᚨ dæg <b>d</b> [d] 'day' / 'daylight'	[d] as in "day"	day · awakening · illumination · hope · new projects · breakthrough
ᚫ	*utal / *othal <b>o</b> [o] 'inheritance?'	24 ᚫ *ōthala / *ōthila / ᚫpala / *ōpila <b>o</b> [o] 'inherited land' / 'home'	not present	23 ᚫ eðel / ethel / otæl / æðil <b>œ</b> [œ] 'estate' / 'ancestral home' / 'landed property'	[o] is the vowel of "go", but short as in French "eau"; [œ] is the vowel of French "oeuf"; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (‘odal’)	home · possessions · experiences · ancestors · inheritance · legacy · family responsibilities

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ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	25 ᚦ āc a [a] ‘oak tree’	[a] is the vowel of “father” or German “mann”; bind-rune of Elder Futhork’s ansuz & kenaz that was used for healing	steadfastness · sturdiness · health · endurance · deep roots
ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	26 ᚦ æsc æ [æ] ‘ash tree’	[æ] is the vowel of “ash” or “cat”	resilience · adaptability · spirituality · self-protection
ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	27 ᚦ or ᚦ yr y [y] ‘yew bow?’ / ‘horn?’ / ‘saddle?’	[y] is the vowel of French “tu” or the oo in “soothe”	skill · on target · lost and found · defense · divination
ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	28 ᚦ ior / iar n/a [io/ia] ‘beaver’ (most likely) / ‘fish?’ / ‘eel?’ / ‘Jormungandr (the world serpent)?’ / ‘boat?’	[ia] is the vowel sound in “yard”; manuscript sources only	dual nature · balance · duplicity · hard choices · boundaries
ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	29 (or 28) ᚦ ear ea [ea] ‘grave soil?’ / ‘harrow’ / ‘ocean’ / ‘wave’	Diphthong of [æ] + [ɑ] (try the vowel in “cat” followed by the vowel in “hot”)	unavoidable ends · decay · ancestors · life and death
ᚦ	possibly *quairtra / *quetra q [kw]	not present	not present	30 ᚦ cweorð / cweorðh / cweorð q/kw [kw]? ‘sword’ / forged in fire / cremation pyre / hearth-fire / bonfire	Northumbrian, manuscript sources only	spiritual evolution · difficult transition · destruction · liberation · phoenix
ᚦ	not present	not present	not present	31 (or 30) ᚦ calc k [k] ‘chalice’ / ‘cup’ / ‘chalk’ / ‘sandal’	Northumbrian, rarely inscribed; [k] is ‘hard’ as in “cat”	death · transformation · offering · spiritual insight

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𐌺	not present	not present	not present	32 𐌺 stān st [st] 'stone' / 'game piece'	Northumbrian, manuscript sources only; bind rune of stacked dagaz or closed perthro	obstruction · protection · collapse · blocked opportunities
𐌸	not present	not present	not present	33 (or 29) 𐌸 gar ḡ [g] 'spear'	Northumbrian, rarely inscribed, also inscribed as bind-rune of gebo and Ingwaz; [g] is 'hard' as in "good"	fate · destiny · unknowable mystery · centre point · reliable success · <i>can substitute for the blank "Wyrd" or "Odin" rune that originated in California-made runestones, first described by R. Blum (1982)</i>
𐌹	not present	not present	not present	- (or 31) 𐌹 (unknown name) k̄ [k]	Northumbrian, rarely inscribed	<i>confused with gar or left out of divination; not included in deck</i>

<b>medieval rune or bind rune</b>	<b>Usage comments</b> <i>(bind runes are not usually used for divination)</i>	<b>Optional divination keywords</b>
stacked tiwaz TT or TTT (called Týr's Spears in this deck) - medieval (inscriptions abt. 400AD) magical rune	ligature of Elder Futhark's tiwaz, repeated and stacked; used to add power or emphasis to the rest of an inscription	divine energy
ALU 'dedication' (to a deity) / 'ale' or 'beer' / 'holy' - medieval (inscriptions abt. 500AD) magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's ansuz & laguz & uruz; flow of power from the gods, or directs energy to desired outcome	dedication
Gibu Auja or GA - medieval (inscriptions abt. 500AD) magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's gebo & ansuz; invokes the gods, or gives good luck; often inscribed as GAGAGA	good luck
Erda (oe) 'Mother Earth' - medieval Dutch or Germanic	bind rune of Elder Futhark's othala & laguz; reincorporates human action with world & universe; encloses, nurtures & protects; misused by Nazi Germany & extremists (as 'odal')	Mother Earth
Sól [s] sun-disc or Germanic sun goddess - medieval Dutch or Germanic	bind rune of Elder Futhark's isa & Ingwaz; bridge to the sun's gentle healing power	healing · illumination from outside
UI (ue/ö) turning point - medieval Dutch or Germanic	bind rune of Elder Futhark's uruz & laguz; helps endurance in a health crisis or strength in other crises; associated with Frisian god Waldh	turning point
Wan or irings (no sound) emptiness / void of space - medieval Dutch or Germanic	represents Ginnungagap, where existence began	emptiness
Wendhorn (mm) phases of the moon / cycle of life - medieval Dutch or Germanic	bind rune of Elder Futhark's isa & nauthiz; reminds us we must experience both good & bad	"qué sera, sera" or "this too shall pass"
Ziu (zz) thunderbolt of Ziu, byname of Tyr or Tiw - medieval Dutch or Germanic	bind rune of Elder Futhark's sowilo & tiwaz; channels energy, striking through resistance to maintain divine order; used internationally as graffiti to mark anarchist squats	justice · the truth will out
L-A-NG medieval magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's laguz & ansuz & Ingwaz; health and joy, or fertility and vitality	good health and joy
M-A ('hugrune') 'mind-power' medieval magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's mannaz & ansuz; requests help with matters of mind & memory, knowledge & wisdom	mind-power
R-U - medieval magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's ur & raidho; safe journey, or strength to make changes	safe journey
(called Stan-knot in this deck) - medieval magical rune	bind rune of Anglo-Saxon futhorc's stan & nyd & ior; binds and obstructs actions by its target	"stop it!" · powerful binding
T-O-R medieval magical rune	bind rune of Elder Futhark's tiwaz & othala & raidho; courage or personal motivation	courage · motivation
J-O-G - modern (abt. 2009) magical bind rune "Eternal Love"	bind rune of Elder Futhark's jera + othala + gebo / love or coming home	love

## Sample Rune Card Spreads:

**1 card: Odin's Rune**, used for quick advice in straightforward situations or a rune-of-the-day reading

### **3 cards: The Norns: Urd, Verdandi, and Skuld**

**1 2 3** (1/2/3 is past/present/future or situation/action/outcome)

### **5 cards: Runic Spiral**

(Spirals, found in the art of many cultures, were a Viking-age Norse decorative motif symbolising change, growth, and the path of life; we lay the cards out clockwise from left. This spread is sometimes called 'Thor's cross'.)

1(left): you / the issue at hand

2 (above): matters of the mind / influences working against you / challenges

3 (right): matters of the body / action you should take

4 (below): matters of the spirit / influences helping you / what to let go of

5 (centre): predicted outcome if advice is followed

2  
1            5 3  
                 4

### **7 cards: the Vé**

(Source: Pennick. This spread is based on the shape of a grouping of standing stones enclosing a holy place. The second set of questions can be used when asking about an interpersonal problem.)

1: past influences / what you desire

2: present influences / your point of conflict

3: prospects for the future / how you're contributing to the issue

4 (keystone): best course of action

5: feelings & attitudes of those around you / how they're contributing to the issue

6: possible obstacles or delays / their point of conflict

7: likely outcome / what they desire

1            7  
2    6  
3 5  
4

### **9 cards: the Grid of Nine**

(Source: Pennick. This past-present-future spread's shape is based on the nine squares of the Utisetia platform used in seidr divination. Pennick's suggested order of cards comes from the Magic Square of Saturn, a concept from Kabbalah; we recommend instead using the red numbers to lay cards out in a clockwise spiral from lower left.)

8 or 1: the effect of the past

7 or 6: your attitude to past events

1 or 8: past secrets and hidden influences

9 or 5: your present state

6 or 7: your attitude to the present

2 or 3: present hidden influences

4 or 9: best possible outcome

5 or 2: your feelings about the future

3 or 4: future hidden obstacles, or how present influences may affect the outcome

4 9 2  
3 5 7  
8 1 6  
  
3 4 5  
2 9 6  
1 8 7

### **9 cards: the Nine Realms spread**

(Source: Mountfort. This spread for self-analysis is based on maps of the 9 realms on Yggdrasil, the World Tree.)

1: Asgard (realm of the Aesir deities): your higher self

2: Ljossalfheim (realm of elves): thought, creativity, and your subconscious; what nurtures you

3: Vanaheim (realm of the Vanir deities): fertility and your emotions

4: Muspelheim (realm of fire giants): your passion, dedication, and drive

5: Midgard (realm of humans & trolls): your present self, your centre

6: Niflheim (fog, mist, and ice): your confusions and illusions

7: Jotunheim (realm of frost giants): your unconscious obstacles

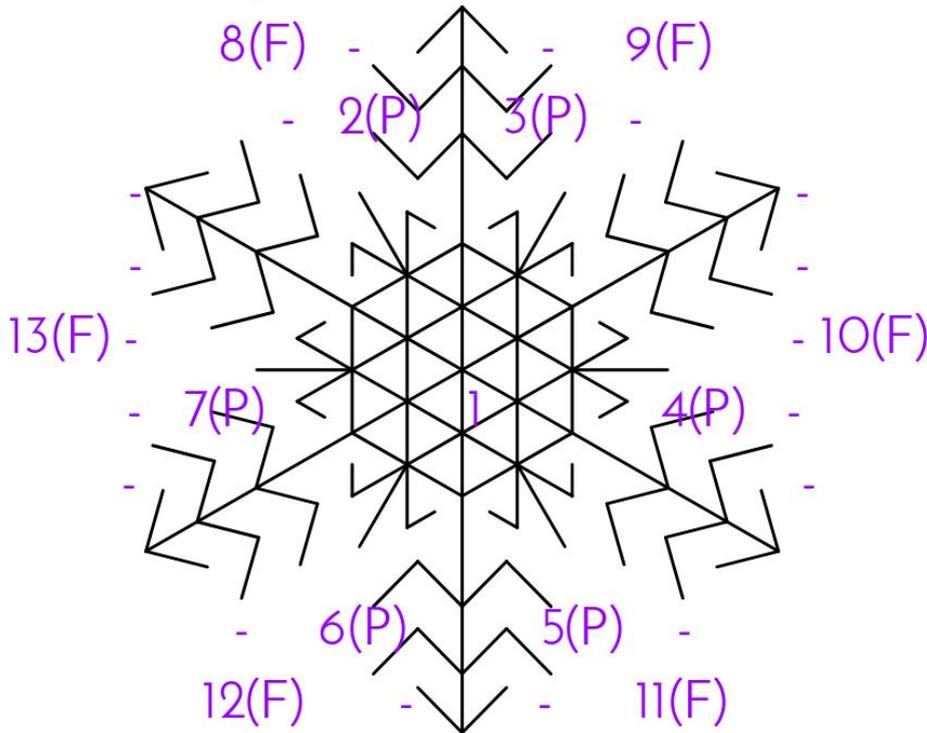
8: Svartalfheim (realm of dwarves): your sensuality

9: Helheim (realm of the dead): what you need to do shadow-work on

1  
2  
3 4  
5  
6 7  
8  
9

# Urd's Snowflake Divination Cloth

by MANNAZ & WYRD



We have also created the following divination cloth design using Urd's Snowflake for rune casting using individual runes (or rune dice). At its heart, rune casting is based on Tacitus' description of Germanic peoples drawing lots (tossing randomized wooden runes onto a white cloth), and the descriptions of rune use in the Sagas and Eddas.

This design differs from others currently available (which were proposed by a white supremacist author) in its 6-fold symmetry (instead of 4-fold or 8-fold). To cast the runes, shake them in a box or bag to mix them up while thinking of your question, then pull the desired number of runes from the bag and toss them gently onto the cloth. Use the key below to help interpret their meaning. More simply, you may also use the hexagon at the centre of the snowflake to denote the past, the arms of the snowflake to denote the present, and the area outside the snowflake to represent the future.

## Urd's Snowflake Divination Cloth

### suggested map for rune casting or a detailed reading

- 1 = past (centre is distant, edge is recent), or querent
- 2(P) = mind (present) = current thinking & creativity
- 3(P) = body (present) = current health & behavior
- 4(P) = spirit (present) = subconscious & spirituality
- 5(P) = emotions (present)
- 6(P) = present challenges
- 7(P) = potential obstacles & hidden influences
- 8(F) = mind (future) = best attitude/plan
- 9(F) = body (future) = best action to take
- 10(F) = spirit (future) = advice from higher self
- 11(F) = emotions (future) = hopes
- 12(F) = future challenges = goals
- 13(F) = future obstacles / fears for the future

### Recommended Reading and References used to create Urd's Snowflake Rune Cards:

(those marked with an asterisk are scholarly works; the rest are mass-market divination books)

#### Publications:

- \*Michael P. Barnes, **Runes: A Handbook** (2012): page 22 (Fig 7, probable or possible elder futhorc rune names and translations, as reconstructed by linguists) and pages 161-162 (on rune names)
- \*Martin Findell, **Runes** (2014): transliterations & phonetic values (p 18, pp 36-37, p 58) and the names of runes, pages 75-77
- \*Mindy MacLeod and Bernard Mees, **Runic Amulets and Magic Objects** (2006): page 14 (attested names of the runes and their meanings in Old English, Nordic, and Gothic languages); see index for the many pages on inscriptions containing ALU, Gibu Auja / GAGAGA, and stacked tiwaz
- Paul Rhys Mountfort, **Nordic Runes** (2003). (Divination meanings, distilled from several other mass-market esoteric/new-age authors, and divination spreads)
- \*Raymond Ian Page, **An Introduction to English Runes** (1999).
- Diana Paxson, **Taking Up The Runes** (2005, new edition coming Dec 2021). (Divination meanings)
- Nigel Pennick, **Runic Lore and Legend: Wyrdstaves of Old Northumbria**, 2nd Ed. (2019): Divination meanings of the full AngloSaxon Futhorc. Chapters 6-9.
- Nigel Pennick, **The Complete Illustrated Guide To Runes** (1999): page 76 (quairta), page 77 (supposedly “medieval Dutch and Germanic runes of magic and healing” Erda, Sol, UI, Wan, Wendhorn; we have been unable to find another citation for these), pages 164-175 (card reading layouts)
- Nigel Pennick, **Rune Magic** (1992), page 198 (Fig 35 bind runes, includes T-O-R, stacked tiwaz, gibu auja, stan-knot, M-A, R-U, A-L-U, L-A-NG, and more... he states elsewhere that these are compiled from medieval manuscripts)
- \*Suzanne Rance, **The English Runes** (2017). (Covers the 29 ASF runes in the OERP, but not the 4 Northumbrian additions; OERP translation by Stephen Pollington used, along with up-to-date scholarship about early-Medieval English life to enrich understanding of the riddles in the rune poem)
- \* Immaculada Senra Silva. **The significance of the rune-names: evidence from the Anglo-Saxon and Nordic sources** (Doctoral Thesis, 2003). Universidad de Sevilla, Sevilla. <https://idus.us.es/handle/11441/15113>

#### Internet:

- 3-Fold Witchery, source of Modern (2009) Bind Runes (repeats Pennick’s Fig. 35, and some from galdrstafir collections, but many appear new such as J-O-G) <https://3fold-witchery.livejournal.com/2680.html> accessed 3/21/2021
- Ingrid Halvorsen’s “Runes, Alphabet of Mystery”: <http://sunnyway.com/runes/>
- Arild Hauge’s rune website: <https://www.arild-hauge.com/eindex.htm>
- International Phonetic Association: <https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/ipa-chart>
- OmniGlot on Common Germanic aka Gothic Futhorc: <https://omniglot.com/writing/gothicrunes.htm> Elder, Younger, and Medieval (Latinized) Futhorc: <https://omniglot.com/writing/runic.htm> and Anglo-Saxon Futhorc: <https://omniglot.com/writing/futhorc.htm> (all in one PDF: <https://www.sfu.ca/~ramccall/Runicalphabet.pdf> )
- Viking Rune’s “Norse Rune Symbols and the Third Reich”:  
<https://www.vikingrune.com/2009/07/norse-runic-third-reich-symbols/>

We also recommend:

<http://futhorc-journal.com/> for recent academic studies

<https://runicstudies.org/runic-resources/> lists additional scholarly runic resources

Modern divination keywords: we recommend the rune cheat sheets (with reversals) from L.E. Lifthrasir:

<https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/970551196/keywords-series-the-elder-futhorc> and

<https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/984510867/keywords-series-the-anglo-saxon-futhorc>

**Please note that you should avoid the following authors due to their strong links with early-twentieth-century racist/eugenicist occultism, the Asatru Folk Assembly or other present-day white supremacist groups, or tells such as glorification of Nazi symbols such as the Black Sun: Guido von List; the Armanen Order; Stephen McNallen; A.D. Mercer; Steven Edred Flowers aka Edred Thorsson aka Michael Moynihan aka Darban-i-Den; Faolchu Ifreann; Galina Krasskova; Troy Wisehart; Woden’s Folk Kindred.**

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