

## **RUNE STUDY GROUP - Diviners Anonymous (Discord)**

*Led by Eira Olfrid Ceilskona-Loptsjarsen (pen/devotional name of Deb Merriam, she/they) of inclusive Norse pagan runic artists' collective Mannaz&Wyrð, artist-designer and head writer for Urd's Snowflake Rune Cards, vitki-trainee for North Alberta Kindred*

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**Suggested reading before study group:** the Urd's Snowflake Rune Cards booklet (free on M&W website / 26 cents on Etsy if you'd like to help a homegirl out by leaving a review) I'll also drop links and provide a complete bibliography later.

**Goals:** to provide background for the server's book club readings; to bring you from absolute beginner to confident rune user, and prep you for more advanced rune self-study and divination for yourself or others; for already-advanced rune users to share their personal gnosis and practices so we all learn from each other in community. We'll be simultaneously grounding our rune practice in scholarship, critiquing commonly-published meanings for appropriation from Tarot or I Ching and racist/gendered/colonial mindsets, and considering what additional meanings the runes may have in the 21st century world.

**Structure:** Informal and collaborative! First class, we'll just chat in voice. Once we start discussing the runes I'll have a slideshow. If you have a question or comment, please feel free to interrupt. Interaction guidelines: be kind, don't judge, hold space for opposing ideas (even in your own head!), and cite your sources (including noting when something is UPG).

### **Outline of what we'll cover over several meetings**

1. What are runes? Where do they come from historically and spiritually? Do you think of them as a writing system, as archetypal or magical symbols, as spirits with unique identities?
2. The different rune rows over time: Elder Futhark (and Gothic), Anglo-Saxon Futhorc; Younger Futhark (and descendent Medieval Scandinavian dotted runes and Dalecarlian runes); and the ahistorical Armanen runes
3. The Rune Poems: our wellspring for interpreting the runes' meanings.
4. Modern divination in broad strokes: history, influences, and tools
5. Self-study guidelines for a daily practice
6. The Elder Futhark's First Aett (and the corresponding runes in ASF & YF)
7. The Elder Futhark's Second Aett (and the corresponding runes in ASF & YF)
8. The Elder Futhark's Third Aett (and the corresponding runes in ASF & YF)
9. The (Northumbrian) Anglo-Saxon Futhorc's Fourth Aett (and runes in YF)
10. The blank rune / Gar
11. Divination techniques: drawing or casting with stones/tiles/sticks, spreads for stones/tiles/sticks/cards, using rune dice
12. Non-divination uses of runes for meditation, magic, and the mundane: galdr, healing, spellwork
13. Creating bindrunes (and a bit about galdrastafir)
14. An introduction to runology (history/linguistics/archaeology), and transcribing runic records as a form of gnosis, or: playing with bracteates
15. Runic calendars and an introduction to runic astrology