

INTRODUCTION TO RUNES: ELDER FUTHARK



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This document expresses ancestral knowledge synthesized in an ebook format for posterity.

For preservation of runic languages, enjoy a comprehensive outline of the Elder Futhark at an introductory level intended to educate all.

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HISTORY OF RUNES

The Elder Futhark is the oldest known runic alphabet, used by Germanic tribes from approximately the 2nd to the 8th century AD. It consists of 24 symbols, each representing a phonetic sound, a concept, and often deeper symbolic or esoteric meanings.

The name “Futhark” comes from the first six runes: Fehu (F), Uruz (U), Thurisaz (Th), Ansuz (A), Raidho (R), and Kenaz (K). These runes were primarily used for writing inscriptions on stone, wood, bone, and metal, but they also held magical and divinatory significance in Norse mythology and culture.

According to Norse lore, the god Odin discovered the runes after hanging from the World Tree Yggdrasil for nine days and nights, sacrificing himself to gain wisdom.

This mythological origin underscores their role as a bridge between the mundane and the divine, often associated with fate, protection, and cosmic forces.

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ELDER FUTHARK: AETTS

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First Aett (Freyja's or Freyr's Aett): Associated with creation, fertility, material abundance, and the natural world. It focuses on turning chaos into order, prosperity, and personal well-being.

Second Aett (Hagal's or Heimdall's Aett): Represents transformation, disruption, natural forces, challenges, and renewal. It embodies change and growth through adversity.

Third Aett (Tyr's Aett): Symbolizes orderly mechanisms such as divinity, justice, social order, honor, and spiritual ascension. It deals with leadership, community, and higher ideals.

ELDER FUTHARK: RUNES

Here is a detailed synopsis for each rune, including its symbol (described), name, phonetic value, literal meaning, keywords, and symbolic interpretations (upright and reversed where applicable). These draw from historical poems and modern esoteric traditions bridging ages of mankind.

ƿ	FEHU	ᚦ	EIHWAZ
ᚢ	URUZ	ᚧ	PERTHRO
ᚦ	THURISAZ	ᚨ	ALGIZ
ᚨ	ANSUZ	ᚩ	SOWILO
ᚱ	RAIDHO	ᚪ	TIWAZ
ᚷ	KENAZ	ᚫ	BERKANA
ᚨ	GEBO	ᚬ	EHWAZ
ᚱ	WUNJO	ᚭ	MANNAZ
ᚱ	HAGALAZ	ᚮ	LAGUZ
ᚦ	NAUTHIZ	ᚯ	INGWAZ
ᚪ	ISA	ᚰ	DAGAZ
ᚨ	JERA	ᚱ	OTHILA

ELDER FUTHARK: RUNES



FEHU

Phonetic: F (as in “fire”)

Literal: Cattle/Wealth

Keywords: Abundance, prosperity, success, resources

Upright: Represents mobile wealth, fulfillment, and material gain. Symbolizes prosperity through hard work and the flow of energy.

Reversed: Loss, greed, or stagnation in resources.

Synopsis: Fehu encourages gratitude for abundance while warning against attachment; it’s about circulating wealth for growth.

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ELDER FUTHARK: RUNES



RAIDHO

Phonetic: R (as in “ride”)

Literal: Ride/Journey/Wagon

Keywords: Travel, progress, rhythm, direction

Upright: Harmonious movement, journeys (physical or spiritual), and disciplined advancement.

Reversed: Delays, blockages.

Synopsis: Raidho represents life’s path, urging alignment with purpose for smooth progression.

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ELDER FUTHARK: RUNES



BERKANA

Phonetic: B (as in “birth”)

Literal: Birch Tree

Keywords: Growth, nurturing, rebirth, femininity

Upright: New beginnings, care, development.

Reversed: Stunted growth, unfulfilling change.

Synopsis: Berkana oversees life’s transitions, fostering nurturing energy.

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ELDER FUTHARK: RUNES



LAGUZ

Phonetic: L (as in “law”)

Literal: Water/Lake

Keywords: Intuition, flow, adaptability, subconscious

Upright: Emotional depths, fluidity, inner journeys.

Reversed: Fear, blocked intuition.

Synopsis: Laguz taps into the unconscious, urging trust in the flow of life.

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