

# The Odinic Heathen Way



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# Chapter One

## Who are the Heathens and what is Odinism?

The word Aryan today conjures up the image in many people's minds of extreme right-wing neo-nazi groups and a creed of racial hatred and violence. This is very unfortunate and is due to a combination of ignorance and deliberately misleading information fed to the public by the media and by those who are trying to replace the true meaning of the word Aryan with something else, something that has connotations of racial supremacy and aggressive domination. In fact it is these very distortions that inspire many right-wing groups to act in a way detrimental to the very meaning of the word Aryan, which is Sanskrit for "noble." The world has many races and tribes and each has its own history and legacy of land and folk. There is as much domination theory in Islam as there is in Christianity and the so-called Aryan is not the bearer of the sword in terms of these two monopolist faiths and their creed of conversion or death. Instead he bears his own badge of honour and wears it to denote his acceptance for and toleration of the races and faiths of others, but never at the expense of his own.

The original Heathens were a race of people who came from North Western Europe and spread across the globe, founding many civilizations and leaving their genetic footprints from Aryan Northern India to ancient Egypt. They founded the family of languages known as "Indo-European" (in which is incorporated "Indo-Aryan") and places such as Iran are named after them. Ireland (Erin) is also named after them and so is the knitting style of the Aran Isles that has similarities with styles all the way to Scandinavia in the popular "Fair Isle" pattern.

If you try to look up the history of the Heathen people in an encyclopaedia or reference book it is unlikely that you will find anything but the shortest reference to these people. Most frequently mentioned is the use the Nazis made of the term Aryan and incorrect references to Aryan as a definition of human superiority of this race as expressed in the Nordic peoples of Scandinavia. It is as though the real Keltoid Aryans have been wiped from the map and the history of the world and now

reside in the popular imagination as evil German supremacists who hate everyone who is not white.

Not only is this view extremely insulting to anyone who is white, but it is also completely incorrect.

Odinism is the nature-based religion of the Heathens and was fundamentally similar across a broad spectrum of ancient European cultures. Today Odinism (Wotanism in Germany, Wodenism in England), also referred to as Asatru and often as Heathenism, is the resuscitation of this faith and of the customs and lore of the Heathen peoples who have begun to realise that their original faith was replaced by Christianity and that Heathenism is a viable polytheistic world view that is quite capable of being integrated into modern life. In fact, many young people are actively searching for their roots and finding spiritual peace and inspiration and a sense of positive racial and cultural identification in the Odinic faith in particular or the Heathen way in general.

The Odinic faith itself is discussed in [Chapter Four](#).

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# Chapter Two

## Heathen Life

If one looks at human life in general, one could say that all life is the same in that every individual has the interests of food, shelter and reproduction at heart and that societies all exhibit the phenomenon we have elected to call “culture”. Heathen society is no different in these fundamental aspects, but when it comes to specific cultural ways and beliefs then, like Africans or Orientals, those people who call themselves Heathens, Aryans, Teutonic, Germanic or Nordic exhibit a distinctive manner of living that sets them apart and gives to their culture uniqueness and character that is related to Heathen ideals and aspirations specifically.

The Heathen lifestyle, like the African or Native American, always centred on an awareness of nature as the cornerstone of religious belief and social organization. After the period of the Christian conversion, over a thousand years ago, Heathens moved away from nature and their nature deities as a central concern and began to concentrate more closely on the idea of the world as the creation of one God, whose name was Jehovah, or Yahweh, the great God and Creator of the Jewish people and on the teachings of a man called Jesus purported by his followers to be the semi-divine son of Jehovah and the saviour of humankind from sin and corruption which were, according to this Judaic heresy, a natural part of human nature. In brief, our ancestors were coerced into making the paradigm shift from polytheism to monotheism and consequently breaking with their past in a way that would eventually separate them from it and cause them to view their Heathen ancestors as evil, superstitious and primitive. The role of women was particularly affected by this shift of perspective. Heathen women went from free spirits to originators of sin and have shouldered the unpleasant and often tragic consequences ever since.

Conversion to the Christian religion was neither peaceful nor pleasant for thousands of Heathen people across their European homeland. A race which had previously considered itself free, proud and fearless wherever its people had gone and whatever cultures and civilizations they had

founded and developed, now began to look on itself as lowly, humble, wretched, sinful, weak and pathetic in the eyes of Jehovah the Jewish God and the new Christian evangelists taught their recruits that the only way Heathens could be free of this terrible burden of inferiority and fallen status was to worship and follow the teachings of Jesus, the self-proclaimed Judaic messiah and the semi-divine son of Jehovah. (Bear in mind that the Jews themselves had no interest in Christ's claims and thought he was a rebel and an upstart. This antagonism culminating in Christ's reputed crucifixion was the start of anti-Semitism practised and advocated by the Christian Church and indoctrinated into generations of believers for centuries, leading to the demonisation of an entire folk group on the strength of a myth about a dead man nailed to a cross of wood and the identification of the gentiles with him and the so-called Holy Land when no such identification is in any way related to the former pagans of Northern Europe.)

Across Europe and into Scandinavia, the sacred land of the Vikings, the Christian missionaries took their message of "hope" for the fallen products of nature, the so-called Gentiles. At first the Heathen peoples refused to accept the new faith unconditionally and so the leaders among the Christian clergy decided to help them along a little by confiscating land, applying torture to those who would not succumb and instilling by psychological indoctrination a fear of eternal damnation into those who stood firm against the dangers of the new faith, or simply by lying about the wonders that awaited them in the "heaven" of the true believers in Jesus). As a fear-inducing mechanism that could not fail, they finally slaughtered thousands of chieftains and dissidents to get their way, or bought kings and chieftains who converted and then did their dirty work for them. The spread of learning by ecclesiastically inspired rulership and expanding kingdoms saw to it that the heathen peoples had a dose of catechism with every attempt to acquire learning.

The bravery of the victims was to no avail. No matter how hard they fought against it, our ancestors were eventually all forced to acknowledge the God of the Jews and his son, Jesus, as their new spiritual guides – on pain of death. To rebel was to invite torture and retribution of the cruellest kind. So many of our ancestors pretended to convert and secretly practised their old faith. When discovered they were severely punished by torture and privation and often with death. As the years went by the developing Church became more and more anxious that its doctrine be the only one and so began an inquisition against all those who had differing views concerning the Christian doctrine and who

still held pagan beliefs, or who merely held heretical views on Christianity. Many were burned alive at the stake, many were tortured savagely and those who did the torturing were declared saints and rewarded handsomely with property and gold. Those who died at the hands of pagans were declared martyrs of Christ. It was a dark and hysterical age. Women were especially targeted as “witches”. In truth these Celtic and Heathen women were the wise ones of the tribes, whose status was near to that of Goddesses and whose veneration was respectful and sincere. The Catholic priests called them evil sorceresses and saw them as hags crouched over cauldrons bubbling with human and animal remains. The wisdom these women carried in their minds that would have been passed on to succeeding generations of Heathen children was wiped out when they were murdered by the Christians. Even children and domestic animals were killed and burned. Thus were our ancestors deprived of their heritage and put to work in the industry of the Catholic Church, doomed to follow the path of the born sinner to the end of their days, kneeling before Yahweh/Jehovah and his son Jesus and fearing the fires of hell.

Today, many Christians still believe that their Pagan ancestors were wicked and evil and turned away from God. They have no idea of their true history and see themselves as extensions of the Jewish race, some even believing that Christian Heathens are the chosen people of God and that Yahweh is in fact the God of the Heathens and not of the Jews. This has led to a form of religious and cultural schizophrenia that has brought infamy on our people since the conversion, and made us the enemy of the Arab world because we have always sided with the Jews against the Arabs and fought wars and gone on crusades to save “The Holy Land” that have nothing whatsoever to do with Heathen reality and that have made others hate us and many despise us for the things we have done in the name of Yahweh the God of the Jews and in the name of Jesus, the son of Yahweh.

Until Heathens realise their true nature and rediscover their true religion we will be a divided folk, fighting to save the Jewish people from their enemies and neglecting to build and develop our own destiny. It is a tragic story and it has not ended. It has, in fact, only just begun.

Fortunately, Heathens brought with them through the centuries the basic tenets of Heathen life and this has been our saving grace. We still respect nature, despite the destruction of industrialization and Capitalism, we still believe in valour and truth and we still strive to

improve our conditions by continuous development and scientific investigation of the world. But we are also plagued by the influence of our adopted faith and socio-political forces such as Marxism and Liberalism have eaten their way into our belief system like caterpillars and now feast off our weakness as we die in supplication to their demands. We can, in fact, no longer live a Heathen way of life. We have allowed ourselves to become the victims of usurpers who have stolen everything we once had and replaced it with cheap imitations and a lot of mirrors all reflecting the nothingness of the foreign cult. We are no longer the converts of Christianity but its victims. Liberal humanism is Christianity without Christ and now our dictator-politicians prey on our once firm faith with legislation that forces us to behave in a way that suits them and their ideals of multicultural integration and globalisation. Our original faith and civilizations have all but vanished, along with the faiths and cultures of other races who have also fallen victim to the scourges of Christianity, Islam and the universalising force of Marxist doctrine.

We now view nature as a resource, something to use for holidays or for raw materials. Since Christianity replaced the Odal mystery (the creed of folk and soil) with heaven and hell, Jehovah and Satan, Jesus and sinfulness we have been removed from ourselves and no longer know who we are or why we are here. Post-Christianity westerners are obsessed with themselves and their state of health, have fallen in love with their own bodies and see sex as a sort of entertaining activity. As the earth is abused beneath our feet and the waters are fouled by pollution and human waste, we revel in our apparent power over nature. As societies are destroyed and races, tribes and animals and plant species disappear, we rejoice in the merits of integration. The weather is changing, the soil is acidifying and the end of the natural world's capability to sustain our demands doesn't bother us half so much as political correctness and outdoing our neighbour in car size, holiday location and, of course, moral "goodness".

This is not the Heathen way. This is not the Odinic way. This is the way of the false faith that overlays our intellect and poisons our spring of life. To think of nothing but personal salvation when you have done nothing wrong in the first place is to act like an idiot who cannot think for him or herself. To look forward to life after death at the footstool of the Jewish God is sheer madness when our own world and people are dying from neglect. Let the Jews look after themselves and let the Heathens once more look to their own. We are not Yahweh's chosen people. We have convinced ourselves of a lie. We are to blame. We are the children of

Odin, the inheritors of Midgard the earth, and we live according to the sacred cycles of the sun and moon. We took the blood money of the false prophets of Christianity and turned away from the truth. It is no one's fault but our own. We failed our children and we failed our folk. We are more interested in cash than in sunshine and clear water. We see more beauty in our bauble-encrusted Christian heaven than there is in the jewel of the earth. When we were Pagan we were spiritually free. Now we sit in our chains and weep. We are the victims of our politicians, who have no faith in anything but their social structures and their democratic ideals, their pleasure domes and their cash culture, their multicultural heaven and their lies. And we have given them the right to dictate to us and to our children what our destiny will be.

The true Heathen way of life lies in the understanding and acknowledgement that Nature is our shaping force, not Jehovah. We lie within her sacred being like unfurled leaves and we fold out into the world at the touch of sunlight and water, of starlight and moonshine and we move with the breath of the wind. Odin, our All-Father leads us in wisdom and in honour and we follow not because we are afraid of him or because we worship him but because we respect what this God represents. We walk the path of the Light that emanates not from the sacrificial Lamb of Jehovah but from the ever-renewing glory of the sun and the seasons and the fire of life that burns within all things and that drives the cosmos to manifest itself in cycles of birth, death and renewal through time. For true Heathens, for Odinists, the way of life is the way of the warrior, the sword or spear is the blade that cleaves the darkness and the shield is the barrier against evil and chaos. For the Odinic Heathen the Gods are the resplendent and transcendent beauty of the natural world, caught within the nine spheres and upheld by the great Tree of Life Yggdrasil. For Heathens of the Odinic creed the fountain of memory is within the ancestral line and the threads of destiny are woven from our life's actions. For Odinic Heathens reward results from hard work and punishment is self-inflicted. We are the children of the storm and our destiny is shaped by the energy and the power of the storm God Thor. Our way of life is rooted in blood (kin or folk) and honour (the creed of courage) and the soil of Odal lands and we answer to no one but ourselves.

We cannot, under any circumstances be tamed. When we give up our spirit of adventure and exchange courage and truth and blood and honour for weakness and imperfection and the adoration of mass mentality then we are no longer true Heathens and become the lambs of



slaughter that Christianity so admires and we willingly offer our necks to the executioner of the Marxist state or its pussy cat relative the liberal democracy that hides weakness and corruption within its grand scheme of libertarian rights. When we no longer defend ourselves, our children, our heritage or our faith, our lands or our honour then we have ceased to be Heathens and are tame animals in the zoo of our adopted faith, bleating inconsolably for what was and can never be again.

The Heathen way of life is characterised by freedom of the individual, by land ownership, by scientific and technological progress, by a nature-centred worldview and by tolerance for the views, opinions and beliefs of others in their own lands. Marxism is anathema to the Heathen way of life and so is industrialised Capitalism. The Heathen way promotes healthy competition and freedom to trade where and with whom the individual chooses. Although Christianity was brought into line with the Heathen way (and not the other way around) many aspects of this Judaic faith are unsuitable to the Heathen world view and have consequently caused a schism in thinking between Middle Eastern and Western ways in all of the people who adopted, or where forced to adopt, this foreign creed. Odinists believe that until Heathens rediscover their original beliefs centred in the natural order Christianised Heathens will continue to be influenced and directed by opinions that lie outside of the basic tenets of Heathen thought and continue to be the pawns of their overlords and the victims of their own heavenly aspiration toward the Divine Commune.

Please note that this booklet is written from an Odinist point of view and that in such a view the admixture of Judeo-Christian theory is discouraged in order that the true Heathen character of the individual may be released from the stranglehold of the adopted faith. In Odinism there is no Jehovah and no such place as the Christian Hell. Therefore the Christian creed of reward and punishment based directly upon the wishes of Jehovah is out of line with the freedom of will practised by European Pagans worldwide. One of the most important aspects of the concept of Heathenism is the responsibility of the individual for his or her own behaviour. And this responsibility is grounded in the practise of oath swearing, or giving one's word. For Heathens, an individual's word is his or her bond. To break a promise is to reveal oneself as weak and untrustworthy and therefore great importance is attached to truth and honour in upholding the things in which the Heathen individual believes and which he or she has promised to defend.

Like many other races, Heathens are a warrior people. The struggle for survival is at the centre of our thinking. To overcome the darkness by invoking the light is the central theme of Ragnarok and the Festival of the Winter Solstice. Striving to better oneself and one's standard of living have become ingrained in the Heathen Way, but are connected to the striving for that which reconnects one to the concept of the sun's power and not to the notion of economic wealth alone. From an Odinic perspective, this struggle is sacred and is epitomised in the High God Odin's Discovery of the Runes. Knowledge is the Heathen's most valuable tool and the getting of wisdom the most noble ambition. Honouring the sun is our way of identifying with that in the universe which is strong, life-affirming, fearless and true.

It is not the Heathen way to set oneself up as the entire world's protector and to force one's way of life upon others. Heathens are self-responsible and therefore do not impose their will on others in terms of belief or ambition. To each his own is the Heathen motto and this has clashed disastrously with the Christian viewpoint of the crusader and the notion of dominion over earth's wayward flock. It has also caused the two great Judaic-based faiths of Christianity and Islam to clash repeatedly through the centuries over ambitions of world domination and the concept of the "infidel" as anyone who does not conform to the faith. Hence the need to go out into the world and conquer and convert everyone who has the misfortune to encounter either a Christian or a Muslim army. The disappearance of countless cultures, tribes and belief systems can be directly related to this missionary zeal. The Odinic Heathen has a pantheistic and not monotheistic view of the world and its peoples and is not interested in "winning souls" for some celestial battle of Armageddon or to avoid punishment by God for not "doing his work".

The Heathen's work is to preserve the folk, the folk faith, the folk-consciousness and to defend the hearth and the homelands. Heathen ambition is related to discovering as much about the world as possible in order to ensure survival. Heathens have always been happy and willing to share this knowledge with anyone who has sought it. Honesty and integrity are the watchwords. Victory and order are the aims and noble struggle is the inevitable route to further development. Destiny is a function of the interaction of the will and opportunity. Realism is the bedrock of Heathen philosophy, tempered with intuition and the implicit understanding that man is mortal and part of the eternal cycle of death and renewal that characterises the world.

In short, to be Heathen is to be essentially pragmatic, yet spiritually aware. To be Odinic Heathen is to respect nature as the womb of the life world and the vehicle through which the Gods materialise and make themselves known and understood to us.

The Odinic Heathen way has been corroded by Christianity and has almost disappeared in its original form. Marxism and contemporary Liberal philosophy are completing the destructive process and unless large groups of Heathen people can be reintroduced to their folk-soul Odinism will become a quaint anachronism, practised by a few and largely ignored by a burgeoning population of converts to the new Global mindset of universalism and a way of life where the individual is nothing more than a wage slave in an Orwellian corporation of like-minded souls.

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# Chapter Three

## The Odinic Code of Behaviour

Odinists base their behaviour on nine principles which are known as The Nine Noble Virtues and on nine instructions known as the Nine Charges. The Eddic origin and veracity of the code are disputed by those who are sceptical of Heathen ability to create such a thing, but because it presents such an excellent way of living one's life, there seems little point in discarding it for Moses' ten commandments to the Children of Israel.

The Nine Noble Virtues are:

Courage, Truth, Honour, Fidelity, Discipline, Hospitality, Industriousness, Self-Reliance and Perseverance.

The Nine Charges are:

- **To maintain candour and fidelity in love and devotion to the tried friend: though he strike me I will do him no scathe.**
- **Never to make wrongsome oath: for great and grim is the reward for the breaking of plighted troth.**
- **To deal not hardly with the humble and the lowly.**
- **To remember the respect that is due to great age.**
- **To suffer no evil to go unremedied and to fight against the enemies of Faith, Folk and Family: my foes I will fight in the field, nor will I stay to be burnt in my house.**
- **To succour the friendless but to put no faith in the pledged word of a stranger people.**
- **If I hear the fool's word of a drunken man I will strive not: for many a grief and the very death groweth from out such things.**
- **To give kind heed to dead men: straw dead, sea dead or sword dead.**
- **To abide by the enactments of lawful authority and to bear with courage the decrees of the Norns.**

The devout Odinist institutes these principles in his and her life whenever possible and tries wherever possible to live up to the ideal of the noble human who strives toward civilization in harmony with natural law and who uses him or herself as an instrument of this evolutionary progress, and not as a weapon.

Heathens strive to be the best they can be and are unconcerned about whether or not other races, cultures and creeds are “equal” or not. It’s not a question of equality or supremacy; it’s a question of striving for excellence. If the majority of members of some other race do not excel at some activity or skill, Heathens find no reason to use this as a yardstick whereby to measure the members of other races as “superior” or “inferior” in terms of Heathen endeavour.

The Odinic Heathen Code is the Code of the Noble Warrior (whether male or female) and is taken directly from aspects of the warrior Gods, Odin, Tyr and Thor, not forgetting the role of the Valkyrie, who chooses the brave and who represents love, honour and beauty in every noble struggle. Intrinsic to this code is also the code of the Vanir warrior: respect for the natural order and, like Tolkien’s Elfin guardians, true to the protective oath.

The Odinic Heathen Code of behaviour, therefore, is based upon the idea of the noble struggle. Heathens are born into the world to strive toward excellence, whether their station and employment be considered lowly or high. To be noble and true and attain respect, the individual does his job to the best of his ability and never squeals when the chips are down or when competition is fierce. Every task is approached with the warrior spirit and every individual is proud of work accomplished and goals achieved, no matter what these may be. A job well done by a hardy survivor is the goal. It is not a question of jutting chins and ramrod spines marching like machines into the sunset, it is instead honourable sacrifice to worthy ends. The sacrifice of the Heathens, not the punctured patheticism of the Christian offering. For Christians it is the masochistic ideal of “it is holy to suffer” – for Heathens it is the unselfish rendering of the body to the struggle and the soul to the Gods in the name of honour.

In ancient pagan cultures these things were taken for granted and the tribe’s survival was dependent on the individual’s ability to work as part of a team. Everyone had a job to do and if it was well done, the tribe became a force to be reckoned with and grew from survival-oriented to goal-directed. The input of the individual working to complete the

ambition of the whole is the key. Thinking on one's feet is an essential cognitive tool and courage to keep on trying until success is achieved makes the goal a reality.

In today's world of self-orientation, the individual is encouraged to make himself the centre of all his action and aspiration. He works mainly to enrich himself and as a result has developed into a selfish, greedy monster who has little interest in anyone else and who strives constantly to maintain his own personal comfort zone. He brings his children up to do likewise and as a result modern society is heading for a crash. When the folk structure no longer has any meaning, the folk culture and folk aspirations die.

Modern Heathens who follow the Odinic path are determined to bring the individual's consciousness back to the tribe and to help individuals achieve their personal ambitions within the general ambitions of the Heathen folk as a whole.

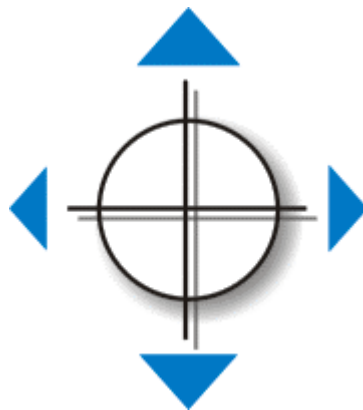
Greater emphasis is being placed on group activities and group awareness and contact between the various Heathen groups is encouraged. The advent of the internet has helped immeasurably in allowing people from all over the Heathen world to make contact and share thoughts, experiences and goals. (In fact, this is a world wide trend among other races as well and many people are being given the chance to find their roots and celebrate their cultural heritage by means of web sites and e-mail.) Perhaps, in the future, we will be able to solve deep-rooted problems such as territorial and racial conflict by the knowledge gained through folk-consciousness. This, itself, is a noble warrior's aim and one that is well worth pursuing for the sake of peace and progress.

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# Chapter Four

## The Heathen Faith of Odinism

Here follows a very brief description of the Heathen faith known as Odinism or Asatru, the nature-based religion of our ancient Northern European ancestors before the coming of Christianity.



At the centre of all being is Nature, an eternal force so powerful and creative that within the circle of existence millions of manifestations are possible. These plants and creatures come and go through the millennia, their appearances ebbing and flowing with the breath of life that is in them and which gives them their strength to survive. At the centre of this evolutionary process is the influence of the sun and the agricultural influence of the moon months.

The mythology tells us that when our worlds were formed from the meeting of ice and fire there appeared out of the dark void a place of mists and sparks and bitter soil through which several sacred rivers ran and whose body took the form of a Giant called Ymir. The great bovine entity Audumla licked away the ice and revealed the bodies of those Giants and Gods imprisoned in the form of the early world. She also nourished them with the first milk and is a principle of nurturing who stands literally at the doorway of life.

From the body of Ymir the Gods made the world of Midgard and the celestial abode of Asgard. They also made the Dwarves, the wise metal workers who lived underground and forged the jewellery and weapons of

the Gods. Man and woman were fashioned from an ash tree and a vine or elm and were called Ask and Embla. In the beginning there were Giants, Gods, humans, dragons and all the myriad of life that fills nine spheres of existence, both spiritual and physical. Niflheim the realm of the dead was presided over by the Goddess Hel and her guard dog Garm in a world of mists and ice Giants and the spirits of those no longer alive in Midgard.

A great Ash tree called Yggdrasil grew through all of the worlds, its roots in Niflheim and its branches reaching to Asgard and spanning the nine spheres of the three worlds. From the roots of Yggdrasil flowed the sacred rivers and their fountains, presided over by the Norns three female deities who watered the roots and wove the tapestry of fate. A serpent continuously gnawed at the roots and a stag browsed on the branches of the tree of life so that its very existence was a function of the interaction of positive and negative, life and death, creation and destruction.

The mythology tells us that the Gods of the Aesir enjoyed a life of plenty until the event of the first war in the world. A mighty battle ensued in which the Aesir and the Vanir (A race of nature deities) engaged in battle.

When the struggle was over the two God races joined forces and a period of renewal began and the Gods of the Aesir returned to the battle field to retrieve objects from their previous existence and things with which to rebuild their world. Together they made a new world in preparation for a new cycle which would culminate in violent cataclysm called Ragnarok.

The principle Gods of the Aesir are the following:

**Odin**, known as the All-Father, a God of battle, poetry and magic. He crucified himself to the Tree of Life in order to gain wisdom through personal suffering and privation, discovered the runes and lost an eye in exchange for the gift of wisdom. His symbol is the triple horned emblem, folknot, a winged golden helmet (eagles' wings), the wolf and the raven. He has two ravens called Hugin and Munin who bring him news of the world and two wolfhounds called Geri and Freki. He possesses an enchanted spear called Gungnir and a ring called Draupnir, made for him by the Dwarves. He is known to be a shape shifter and is thought to have once turned himself into an eagle. He holds a Hall for dead heroes in



Asgard called Valhalla, the Hall of the Brave, which has roof and walls lined with golden spears, breastplates shields. He rides a splendid eight-legged horse called Sleipnir, who has shamanic capabilities and carries Odin through all of the nine worlds and can gallop across land, sea and air with equal ease. Sleipnir has the runes engraved on his teeth. Odin's wife is the Goddess **Frigg**, who taught him magic and whose symbol is the key or a bunch of keys. She is often referred to as the All-Mother.

**Thor**, a God of the Storm, of fiery energy and great strength who holds a particular affection and sympathy for the common man and woman. He possesses a magic hammer called Mjölfnir (the destroyer) which he hurls at his enemies the Jotuns, or Giants (the powers of chaos or evil). He is thought at times to be reminiscent of the Greek God Zeus and his thunderbolt or Vulcan the heavenly blacksmith and some have suggested that Mjölfnir may even be a meteorite. Thor's symbol is the swastika, a representation of the spinning hammer or fire wheel of the sun. The swastika is associated with great universal energy and power and was often used a good luck symbol. It has been found printed on ancient Greek vases, clothing and engraved on ancient Scandinavian grave stones. For Asatruar and Odinists the swastika is one of the holiest symbols and has nothing whatsoever to do with rabid racism or any political viewpoint. The swastika belongs to the Heathen as the cross of Christ belongs to the Christian or the star of David to the Jew. In fact, the cross (originating from the suncross) is a Pagan symbol and the true symbol of Christ was the fish.

Thor is invoked at handfastings (wedding ceremonies) and his hammer is used as an object upon which to swear oaths. (The ring is another oath-swearing sacred object and sometimes a person will wear a pendent with a hammer attached to a ring round the neck to use whenever an oath will be sworn. Silver rings are also used to swear oaths in honour of Odin.) Thor is married to **Sif** who is the golden-haired Goddess of the grain.

**Tyr**, originally a sky God and once also called "father" whose wife in ancient times was the earth. Tyr's origin is lost in history, but he represents from the very beginning a strong male principle and life-generating energy that fills the world. In the Odinic faith Tyr is the God of Just Battles as he lost a hand to the wolf Fenrir in order to keep a promise made by the Aesir.

**Balder**, known as the God of Light. (He has a blind twin brother called Höd, the God of Darkness. Some view Balder as representative of enlightenment and Höd of ignorance.) Balder, the Lord of the Summer, is the son of Odin and Frigg and is the most physically and spiritually beautiful of all the Aesir. He is, in effect, a representative of the power and beauty of the sun and his death is mourned at the end of summer and his rebirth celebrated at the Winter Solstice when light and warmth will come back to the land. He embodies everything positive, healthy and noble. His wife is called **Nanna**, the goddess of the blossom and an ancient Moon dis, the daughter of the Moon God. In Spring, both Balder and Nanna are present in the world to bring fruitfulness, warmth and fertility to gardens, farmland and the wilderness.

**Heimdall the Van**, Watchman of the Gods, is the Guard of the Rainbow Bridge of Bifrost that spans the gap between Asgard (the world of the Gods) and Midgard (the world of man). He, too, is a God of light and is known as ‘the white God’. He has a golden smile and rides a horse with a glittering mane called Gulltopp. He is posted at the edge of the sky and his hearing is very keen. When he discerns danger at the time of Ragnarok he will sound his horn and alert the Gods who will ride out with the Einheriar (Odin’s elite war band of dead heroes) and fight against the forces of evil that threaten the world. Heimdall is confronted by Loki, the God of Malice and Changes, at the final battle and is killed, taking Loki with him in the struggle.

**Loki**, the God who was turned into a devil by the Christians. Loki is in fact a God of the Aesir who loses favour because he cannot contain his own malicious emotions and his desire to make things change by the events and actions he himself sets in motion by persuading the Gods and others, by fair means or foul, to do his bidding. He is responsible for the death of Balder and is therefore the instigator of the cycle of Ragnarok. His offspring are the wolf Fenrir who devours the sun and the moon at the end of the world, the Midgard Serpent and Sleipnir, a gift from Loki to Odin.

**Frey**, the Lord of the Elves, is a God of the Vanir race of nature deities that join the Aesir. He is a God of fertility and his symbol is the wild boar. Frey’s sister is the Goddess **Freya**, a deity of fertility and beauty who is also a Valkyrie with a great hall of her own in Asgard. The Valkyries are also referred to as the Swan Maidens and are purported to be the daughters of Odin who appear to warriors in visions before they die in battle and thus choose the brave for the halls of Valhalla.

This is a very brief introduction and the individual must read the literature and myths pertaining to the faith in order to get a broader view. There are legends associated with each deity and mythical significance attached to each story. And the myths and deities themselves are all correlatives of Runic mysteries and the cycles of birth, life, death and the eternal return.

Odinism is a faith that is centred in Nature and its growth and expression has always been organic and reflective of the creative powers that both gave birth to it in the minds of our ancestors and shaped its progress through the millennia.

Interpretation of the faith is fundamentally personal and there is no “right” and “wrong” way to approach the Gods. This is said with reservation, however, as there most certainly is a right and a wrong way to view Odinism itself. It should be borne in mind that Odinism is not in any way similar to the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity or Islam. There is no set of “commandments” which must be obeyed and there is no reward and punishment system in place that motivates the believer to obey out of a sense of dread of the wrath of God. In Odinism the individual retains his or her freedom as an individual and this includes the freedom to change faiths without punishment and to accept the faith of another without feeling the need either to convert to the faith of the other or to convert the other to one’s own faith. This was the way of our ancestors who were free thinkers.

This broadminded approach, however, caused Odinists in the Christian conversion era to become enmeshed in an untenable situation where for their generosity of spirit they were tortured and murdered simply because they refused to give up their nature faith. Admittedly, our ancestors made a mistake and didn’t see the dangers inherent in monotheistic religions. Had we been less tolerant we may have managed to save ourselves from the fate that befell us at the hands of the Christian missionaries priests. Today Islam threatens much of the free world with a similar potential. Great areas of Africa have been conquered and converted to Islam and the indigenous Africans are losing their ancient customs and folklore knowledge, and even their languages and names to the onslaught of Islam. This is a danger Heathens must deal with and avoid for the same reasons. Monotheistic faiths brook no competition and take over total control of socio-political systems with laws and ethics of their own. They are also highly misogynistic. If this danger is not met and

neutralised soon, many ancient cultures will disappear for ever, and one of these will be Heathenism.

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# Chapter Five

## The Heathen ideal of continuous progress

Part and parcel of the Odinic faith is the ideology of aspiration toward the light, toward the most noble expression of life, toward the attainment of sun-being.

Implicit in this progress is the investigation of nature with the purpose of understanding its motivation and basing our future survival on the principles that govern all life. Along the way we have made many mistakes, due largely to our conversion to an alien faith that is centred in sin and salvation from sin, reward and punishment and a moral injunction that far outstrips any rational motivation to be “good”.

We study the stars because we feel at home in the cosmos, not because we see in them the handiwork of Jehovah. When we do the latter, we fall into the habit of submissive gratitude, childlike wonder and naïve perceptions of reality. When we gaze at the stars as the children of the sun, we share their deific power both with our own fire orb and with the fieriness that is within each of us because we are fragments of the great Light. We aren't intellectually aware of this connection, we know it instinctively instead, along with our scientific observations of the sun's make-up, weight, diameter, composition, distance from earth, etc. We know it as a ball of exploding gas but we intuit it as our fiery father, the eye of Odin, the glorious regent of the day.

We study the world because we feel connected to every living cell and feel the energy of the sun-being pulsating from every nucleus. Every animal is a perfect creation of evolution, and if, like the horse, this creature has been changed by us, we see this as an honourable duty not to play God but to make the change as our God might have made it, with an eye to perfection and a sense of grace and power. If what we make or adapt or change is negative or distorted (cows with giant udders, for example, or genetically modified food) then we have performed an act of disrespect, as we have when we perform abortions on the healthy unborn or when we alter the flow of rivers to suit ourselves or flood the ancestral ground of a tribe so we can create an artificial water scheme.

Science is our tool, not our magic wand.

When we study the history of earth's tribes and the races of humankind, we do so without any desire to transform them or to rob them of their evolutionary legacies or their ancestral lands. To mingle and merge the great tribes of Midgard into a single grey population of soulless wanderers who have no direction and have lost the lustre of the sun and the glimmer of the moon is a crime against humanity and an act of disrespect against the force of life that unfolds within all of us when we are born and moves us through the universe of our individual experience until we pass through the gateways of death, enter the eternal fields of our ancestors and meet our racial Gods. No one on earth deserves any less than to be him or herself and those who try to engineer a New World Order out of the many magnificent warrior tribes and races of the earth will fall victim to the vengeance of those same races and tribes when they finally realise that their children are standing on the brink of extinction.

The Heathen way of continuous progress is rooted in our communication with nature and our respect for the sun-being that drives us forward in honour of all that is manifest and of all that will come to pass before the great Orb of Fire grows dim and the Ragnarok of our world begins its last journey to Valhalla. By this time, let us hope that we have come to our senses and found a way to follow the sun that is everywhere apparent in our universe and that streams out to us and through us and beyond us in waves of positive regenerative light.

Let us know the being of God as it is represented by our folk soul in the great Eye of Odin that watches over our endeavour and through which we shall pass like specs of glittering dust when the vortex of time twists the storm of our existence into another brilliant moment and we are thrust once more into the birth pool of eternal Light.

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