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# THE DIFFERENT WICCAN PANTHEONS

Pantheon is a word that you as a Wiccan will hear often. What are Pantheons anyway? Pantheons are simply different Gods and Goddesses that belong to a certain culture and area of the world and mythology. There are many pantheons and the Gods and Goddesses fall under these. This is not shocking since deities play a major role in all cultures. Before Christianity, Paganism was the name of the game.

#### Invoking Deities

Just like how Christians have saints they call upon, as a Pagan, you can also call upon different Gods and Goddesses depending on your purpose. It is a Wiccan practice to call upon specific

deities in spell-crafting. Wiccans dress up their altar as a tribute to their chosen deity.

It is also very important to take a very careful approach in invoking your deities. The success of each and every encounter with a deity in your meditations or in rituals is mostly determined by how you approach them. So arm yourself with knowledge and tread lightly.

Just as a form of respect, read up on the deity than just cramming about their sphere of influence and what they can do for you. Disregard of studying is very disrespectful to not only the deity but also those who follow that deity and who take their path seriously.







#### The Confusion

One of the most confusing aspects of Wicca is the number of deities there are, and the similarities they have with each other across different pantheons. When Odin, Zeus and Jupiter, pretty much do the same thing, how does one choose? How do I pick just one deity pair?

This is a common misconception especially if you only do shallow reading. should keep in mind that these deities side by side are cardboard cut-outs of each other. They are wholly different. These deities have their own personality, their own life story, their own interests, and their own abilities. You could benefit a lot from immersing yourself in all different pantheons before finally choosing one pair that will serve as your deities.

#### **Choosing Your Deities**

So, how does one go about selecting a God and Goddess? If you are utterly lost about it, do a brief study about a pantheon, and

find out which resonates with you. Commonly, people choose deities that suit the ceremony. Being a Wiccan means being free to choose whatever pantheon you deities want. Celtic or Greco-Roman deities are a popular choice among Wiccans because information about them are readily available. So it's all about personal preference, really. One tip is to look for qualities in a deity that are compatible with your own personality.

When it comes to choosing deities, never pick out Gods and Goddesses from different cultures and put them together. Why? Because the deities of this culture might be enemies of the other culture. Deities are very passionate and powerful, so mixing them up will cause problems.

Imagine invoking Mars, the Roman God of War and Morrigan, the Celtic Goddess of War in the same ritual. If you don't know, the Romans were responsible for destroying Celtic culture. Both deities will end up fighting because of you, which will lead to very poor and ineffective spell-casting.

It's better to have a deity that is an exact fit, than it is to have a deity that almost fits your purpose. It is also much easier to get cooperation out of a deity that you have worked with in the past than to call upon a deity only once and abandon them once you are done with your purpose. These are powerful beings and not your slaves, so if you're gonna choose Brighid, invoke her, talk to her and get to know her deeper. The more you work with them, the more they will come to know you and your wants and needs.

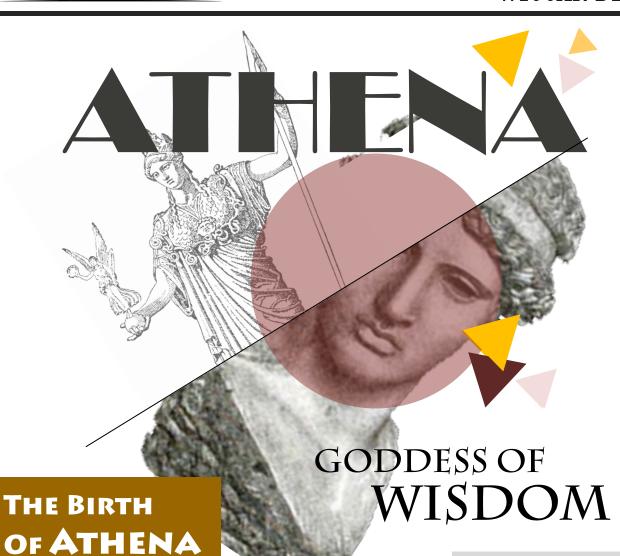
When working with a deity, as with anyone, your must remain respectful and maintain proper

decorum. Flatter them once in awhile, it's fine.

# Maintaining a Relationship with your Deity

So, how can you develop a personal and intense relationship with a deity? Learn more about them by reading all the stories that you can find on them. When you invoke them in your rituals, do something for them afterward like write them a poem in your journal or book of shadows. This will make the experience for fulfilling and it will bring your relationship on a different spiritual plane.



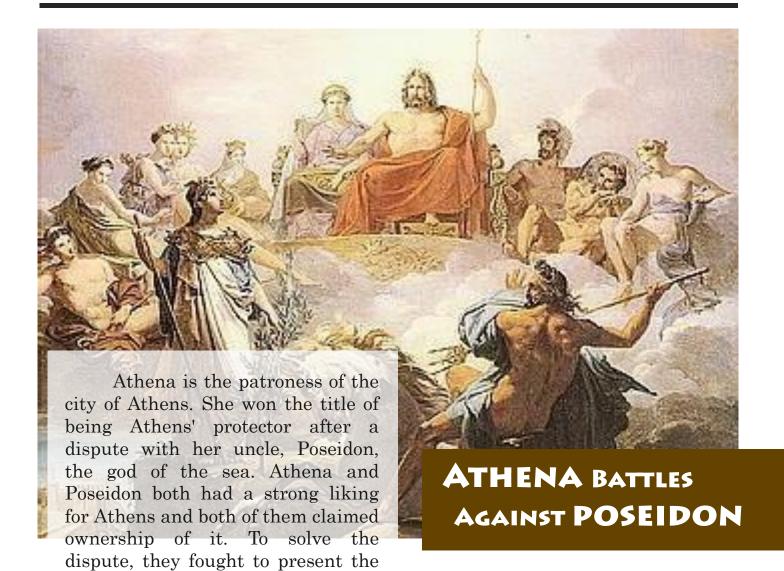


Athena was the child of Zeus and his first wife, Metis, the goddess of wisdom. Zeus was so fearful that Metis might give birth to a son mightier than himself, Zeus swallowed her.

While inside Zeus, Metis began making a helmet and a robe for her unborn daughter. All that noise coming from them made Zeus suffer terrible headaches. Zeus called for his son Hephaestus, the smith of the gods, to split his skull open to relieve the pain. When Hephaestus cracked open his skull, Athena came out, fully grown and wearing the new robe and helmet Metis made.

To the Greeks,
Athena was the great
protectress; the symbol
of personal discipline
and prowess, especially on the
battlefield.

She is the goddess of wisdom and the patroness of spinners, the craftspeople who create with their hands.



So Athena and Poseidon headed to the Acropolis. Poseidon struck the cliffside with his mighty trident, opening up a spring, which impressed the citizens, and would have stayed that way if the spring water wasn't saltwater. Poseidon's spring creation wasn't really of much use to anyone.

city with the best gift. For the one

who does will forever be the patron/

patroness of the city.

When it was Athena's turn, she presented the citizens with a simple olive tree. Though not as impressive as having a spring well up from the side of a cliff, the olive tree was far more useful to the citizens because it provided the people with wood and sustenance.

Feeling so grateful for the gift, they named the city Athens. Every spring, they honored Athena with a festival called the "Plynteria" and pay homage to her at the Acropolis. During this time, altars and statues are cleansed as part of the ritual. They would give Athena a new wardrobe, give her offerings, and take her images out for cleansing.







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making her the Goddess

The

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Athena

of Wisdom.

**GODDESS** OF

lead

It was a Greek Grecian art shows legend that Athena, as a Athena with a spear and goddess of war, would show up to assist various accompanied by an owl. heroes. Some of the popular heroes include Heracles, portrayal of Athena in Odysseus and Jason. fact is with an owl They all got a helping her hand from Athena. What shoulder or her hand. she does is help warriors This owl would reveal make wise choices. And truths to her that she these choices are what herself couldn't see with will eventually her own eyes. In return, them to victory. only speak only the full truth,

#### THE VIRGIN

Athena never had any lovers and that's why she's also called Athena the Virgin, or Parthenos. Athena Sounds familiar? This is where the Parthenon temple in Greece got its name.

Athena was the adoptive mother of Erichthonius, a child given to her by Gaia. She raised him all by herself.

#### **Honoring Athena**

Athena represents protection, victory, courage and leadership. To remember her by and honor her, you can use new clothing, olives, owls and oak. You can dust off images or sculptures of her, give her a new dress and an oak leaf. Or you can apply it to yourself by buying a new dress and adding olives to your diet. You can also place a small piece of oak leaf in your shoe today so Athena's leadership and bravery will be with you. This will not only honor her but draw her attributes into your life.

#### **Invoking Athena**

When you find yourself lacking in self-control or needing the courage to withstand trials and tribulations, call upon Athena and she will come to the rescue. Use pitted olives in your spells, and write the word that best describes what you need from Athena on a small piece of paper. Stuff the piece of paper into the olive and bury it. By the time the olive decomposes, you will begin to see your desires manifesting.



PROTECTOR OF THE HEARTH

Brighid, whose name means "the exalted one," "lofty or elevated one," and "she who is on high" in Celtic *brig*, is the daughter of Dagda, making he a part of the Tuatha de Dannan. Her two sisters were also named Brighid, and were associated with healing and crafts. The three Brighids make up the three aspects of a single deity.

Brighid has many titles. She is the Brighid the Goddess of flame, Brighid the Sun Goddess, Brighid the Goddess of the Dawn, and Brighid the Goddess of the Well and the Waters. She is also the patron goddess of poets, bards, healers and magicians, inspiring action, inspiration, achievement, and creativity.



# BRIGHID





Brighid wears a green mantle and anyone who seek shelter in it will be protected. She is the protector of the hearth. As William Sharp says so poetically, "Brighid is whom the druids hold in honour as a torchbearer of the eternal light, a Daughter of the Morning, who held sunrise in one hand as a little yellow flame, and in the other held the red flower of fire without which men would be as the beasts who live in caves and holes...."

Brighid's representation is a sacred flame on the hearth which is maintained by a group of priestesses. She is invoked when it comes to matters of prophecy, divination, and achievement.

Due to Brighid's fierce protective nature, she became known as a Warrior Goddess. Think of her as the Mother Bear. It is her protective nature that makes her ruthless in her role. She is passionate in her caring and does a good job protecting women and children.



#### **Honoring Brighid**

Brighid is honored by making crafts that honor her role as the protector of the hearth. Some examples are making a Brighid corn doll, Brighid's cross, and a bride's bed for her to sleep in.

In return, Birghid will increase the fertility of land, livestock, and the women. Brighid is believed to be present at every birth. She is there to bless the midwives in their work. She also protects all infants and children.



Cernunnos is a horned god in Celtic mythology. His name even means "the horned." He is the lord of the forest, linked to the male animals, most especially the stag, which is why he is also considered the master of the hunt, the lord of wild things, and the lord of the animals. He is the protector of the forest and the guardian of the portal leading to the Otherworld.





Cernunnos is described as a mature man who has mighty stag antlers, a beard, wild shaggy hair, and wearing a torc. A torc translates to nobility in the Celtic culture. He is usually portrayed seated and crosslegged, in a meditative or praying position. And always depicted with animals.

Cernunnos, apart from being pictured with other wild animals, also associates with an animal that is unique to him. This animal is a serpent with the horns of a ram. The serpent symbolizes transformation while the horns symbolize fertility and strength.



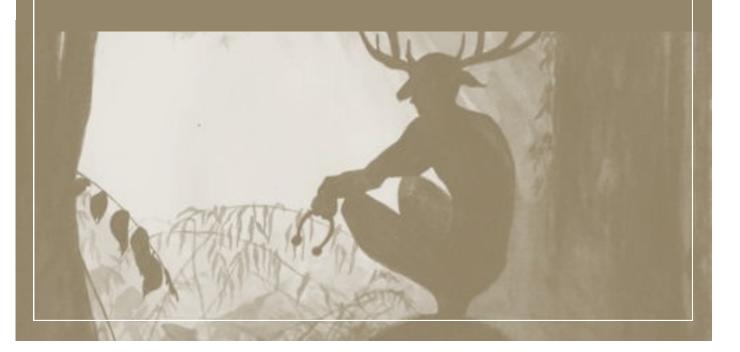
Cernunnos goes by many names across different cultures. He is called the Green Man, as a god of vegetation and trees. He is also called a god of lust and fertility when connected with Pan, the Greek satyr. And to others, he is seen as a god of death and dying, and is known to take time to comfort the dead by singing to while they make their way to the spirit world.

#### Wiccan Tradition

Some Wiccans see the cycle of seasons as the relationship between the Horned God and the Goddess. In the fall, the Horned God dies, and the vegetation dies along with him; in the spring the Horned God is resurrected, impregnating the goddess of the land, to bring to life the crops and vegetation in the summer.

#### Misunderstanding

Because of his horns, Cernunnos misinterprets him as a symbol of Satan. This is because of nineteenth century paintings of the Devil, or the false god, which depicted large, ram-like horns, bringing to mind the image of Cernunnos.





CRONE GODDESS
AND THE
UNDERWORLD

KEEPER OF THE CAULDRON OF KNOWLEDGE

Cerridwen's magical cauldron held a potion that gave you knowledge and inspiration. This potion had to be brewed for a year and a day to reach its maximum potential.

It is for the wisdom she carries that Cerridwen is granted the status of Crone, the wisest stage in a woman's life.

On the flip side, the Crone stage also equates Cerridwen with the darker aspect of the Triple Goddess. She is also a goddess of the Underworld.

Cerridwen represents the crone, the wiser and mature stage of the goddess. Cerridwen is known for her powers of prophecy.

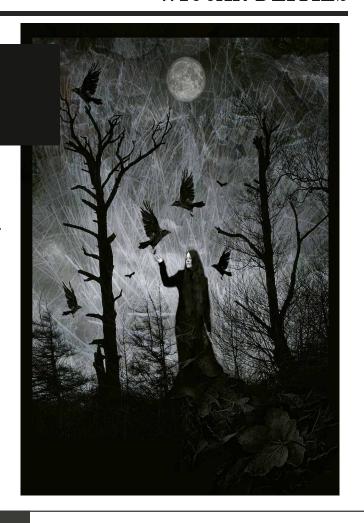
She is the keeper of the cauldron of knowledge and inspiration in the Underworld.

Cerridwen is often pictured as a white sow, which represents her fertility and strength as a mother. Cerridwen has two children, one daughter who is fair and light and one son who is dark, ugly and malevolent.

# SWALLOWING GWION

In Welsh legend, Cerridwen brewed up a potion in her magical cauldron to give to her son, Afagddu. She puts young Gwion in charge of guarding the cauldron. She placed three drops of the brew on his finger, blessing him with knowledge held within.

Cerridwen pursues Gwion through many seasons until the time when she swallowed Gwion while she was in the form of a hen and Gwion was disguised as an ear of corn. Nine months later, she gives birth to the greatest Welsh poet, Taliesen.



# CERRIDWEN AND TRANSFORMATION

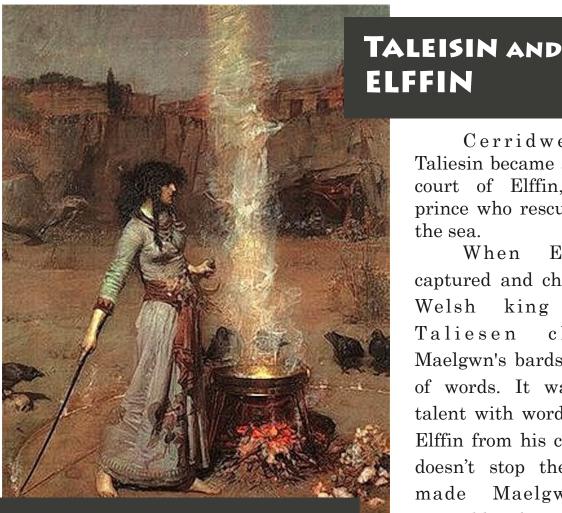
Stories of Cerridwen have an element of transformation in them. Like when she was chasing Gwion, the two of them change into any number



of animal and plant shapes before she succeeded in swallowing him.

giving birth After Taliesen. Cerridwen contemplated killing the infant but changed her mind. But does something equally horrible, she him throws into the Taliesen doesn't die but is rescued by the Celtic prince, Elffin, which in a way is a form of Taliesen being reborn and given a new life.

The stories involving Cerridwen show transformation. This is why she holds powers in transformation and rebirth.



Cerridwen's Taliesin became a bard in the court of Elffin, the Celtic prince who rescued him from

the sea.

Elffin When captured and chained by the Welsh Maelgwn, king Taliesen challenges Maelgwn's bards to a contest of words. It was Taliesen's talent with words that frees Elffin from his chains. But it doesn't stop there. Taliesen Maelgwn's bards made incapable of speech and was able to free Elffin from his chains.

HOLY GRAIL AND THE CAULDRON

There has been speculation that the Holy Grail, what Arthur spent his whole life searching for, might actually be the Cauldron. the mighty warrior-god, Bran. obtains the magical cauldron of Cerridwen and was used to resurrect the corpse of dead warriors.

Bran offers the cauldron as a sister wedding present his Branwen and her husband, the King of Ireland. But when war

broke out, Bran decides to take the cauldron back.

He was accompanied by a band of a loyal knights, with only seven left returning home. Just like in the legend of Arthur. Bran is wounded in the foot by a poisoned spear, just as what happens to the guardian of the Holy Grail, Fisher King. When Bran travels after his death to the otherworld. Arthur makes his way to Avalon.



GOD OF THE SUN STORMS GRAINS AND SKILLS

Lugh was a god of both skill and talent. He was also called the "Sun God" and the "God of Storms". He was a very important warrior to the Celtic people. Although he was not exactly a war god like Mars, to the Celts, being a warrior with crafting and smithing skills makes one of very high value. They would call him "sam ildanach," skillful in many arts.

# THE ORIGINS OF LUGH

Lugh's grandfather was the god of the underworld, Balor. Balor had an evil eye capable of killing anyone he looks at. He was the leader of the Fomorii, the evil people of the underworld.

A prophecy warned Balor saying he was going to be killed by his grandson. To prevent this from happening, Balor tried to kill his grandson, Lugh. But Lugh

miraculously survived. Lugh was taken in and cared for by the god of the sea ,Manannan. It was under his care that Lugh became an expert warrior.

When Lugh reached manhood, he joined the Tuatha De Danaan people of the goddess Dana. He did this to help them in their struggle against the Fomorii and Balor. Lugh was able to defeat Balor by throwing a magic stone into his eye, and killing him.

#### THE LEGEND

Legend has it that when Lugh arrived at Tara, the hall of the high kings of Ireland, the guard told him that only person will be admitted. And that one person should be with a particular skill. Either a blacksmith, a wheelwright, or a bard. Lugh proceeds to tell the guard all the great things he can do. But for each skill he gives, the guard would just say, "Sorry, we've already got someone here who can do that."

Lugh then asks, "Ah, but do you have anyone here who can do them ALL?" At that statement, Lugh was allowed entrance to Tara.

#### **LUGH THE** UNIVERSAL GOD

According to Julius Caesar, all cultures worship the same gods. They just go by different names. In his Gallic War essays, he names the popular deities of the Gauls and then proceeds to call them by what he believed was their equivalent Roman name. For example, Ceasar thought that the god Mercury is just like the god Lugus or Lugh.

The Celts had many gods and goddesses. Each tribe had its own deities, and there are gods and goddesses assigned to each place or landmark. However, Lugh was a god who was honored nearly universally by the Celts. He transgressed lines and he was very adaptive.

#### **LUGH THE WARRIOR**

The Celts would hold anyone who knew smithcraft in high regard. The skill of a smith was considered a magical gift. The ability to master the element of Fire and mold the metals of the earth was an amazing display of strength and skill.

# LUGH THE SKILLED CRAFTSMAN

Lugh is also honored as the god of crafts and skills. Pagans invoke Lugh when they need assistance with creativity in their works.

#### LUGH THE SMITH

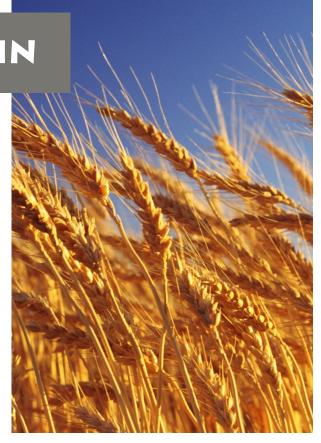
Although not exactly a war god, Lugh was a highly skilled warrior. He's wielded a very powerful magic spear so bloodthirsty that it could fight without Lugh. In battle, the spear would spit fire and tear through the enemy ranks if left unchecked.

The people then believed that when a thunderstorm rolls in, it means Lugh and Balor are sparring. This is why Lugh is also called the God of Storms.

#### LUGH, GOD OF GRAIN

Lugh became associated with grain in Celtic mythology because he harvested fair in honor of his foster mother, Tailtiu. This was on August 1st, coinciding with the first grain harvest in many agricultural societies. They called the day Lughnasadh. It is when Lugh is honored with grains, bread, and all other symbols of the harvest.

Later, in Christian England, they adapted the name Lammas, after the Saxon phrase hlaf maesse, or "loaf mass."





Morrigu, Morgain, Morgan and The Morrigan is a powerful Celtic goddess of many many titles! Brace yourself, she goes by the following names: the Lady of the Lake; the Goddess of Water and Magick; the Phantom Queen; the Goddess of War, Fate and Death; the Goddess of Battle, Strife, and Fertility; the Moon Goddess; the Queen of the Fairies; the Goddess of Rivers, Lakes and Freshwater; the Patroness of Priestesses and Witches.

Morrigan is always pictured as standing on a battlefield holding two spears. Many people fear this war goddess. She does not fight physically, but is known to use magick as a way to ensure victory in a war.

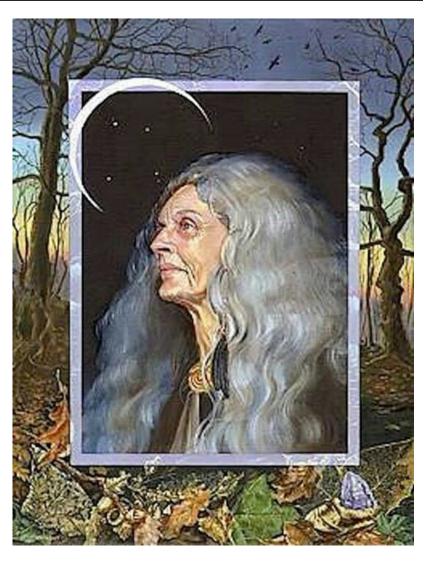
She is also a shapeshifter, frequently taking the form of the raven or crow. She has the unique ability to encourage a person to draw from his or her inner strength and in a way giving that person the courage to face challenges.



#### SYMBOL

Just as she has many Morrigan is names. associated with many things like revenge, the night, magick, prophecy, rebirth, fate, and the female energy. Morrigan oftentimes takes of the form the Triple Goddess. She can appear as a Maiden, Mother, or Crone. But her most favored stage is the wise Crone stage.





Morrigan was linked to the consort of the Dagda, the Leader of the Tuatha De Danaan, and the son of the Great Mother Goddess Danu. She is also believed to be the wife of Merlin, the sorcerer. And it was Merlin who taught her all she knew about magick.

One of Morrigan's favorite aspect is as 'The Washer at the Ford'. She would wash the blood

#### WASHER AT THE FORD

laundry of the warriors who were destined to die. It is this particular role that made Morrigan deeply and directly involved with the war. Washing their clothes made her deeply connected to not only the warriors, but also all the death, darkness and horror that comes with the territory.

Morrigan also had the unique position to choose which warriors were going to die. It was for this reason that many feared her. And

most of the people back then thought about the war, it would be an image of a bloodthirsty Morrigan having the same savage qualities of the war.

Morrigan has much more powers than mentioned here. Yet, even with all those powers, it should not be forgotten that she is also a woman capable of the wide spectrum of feelings. She is a glorious Goddess, a magnificent woman and a courageous hero. She is a powerful and positive feminine force.





Odin is described as wearing a winged helm or a floppy hat, and a blue-grey cloak. He would be with his Gungnir spear, which never misses its target, the ring Draupnir, where eight new rings appear after every ninth night, and his eight-footed steed Sleipnir. He is also accompanied by his wolves called Freki and Geri. To his wolves, he gives all his food. For Odin consumes nothing but wine. All these attributes are probably why Odin is used to represent the concept of the wild hunt, war and bloodshed.

Odin is a god of magick, wisdom, and learning. He was the Father of all the gods and men, the supreme deity of all gods.

Odin resided in none other than Asgard, the home of the gods. His hall is called Valaskjalf or "the shelf of the slain," and it is where his throne Hlidskjalf is located. And he was the defender of Asgard against its enemies.

#### **SHAPESHIFTER**

Odin was a shapeshifter who frequently roamed the world in disguise, a task only possible through the power of Mental thought. One of his favorite disguises was that of a one-eyed old man. But when this one-eyed man appeared to heroes, he brought with him wisdom and knowledge.

#### VALHALLA

Odin led the fallen warriors across the sky and he summoned them to Valhalla, where they would go accompanied by the Valkyries. In Valhalla, they would engage in feasting and combat.

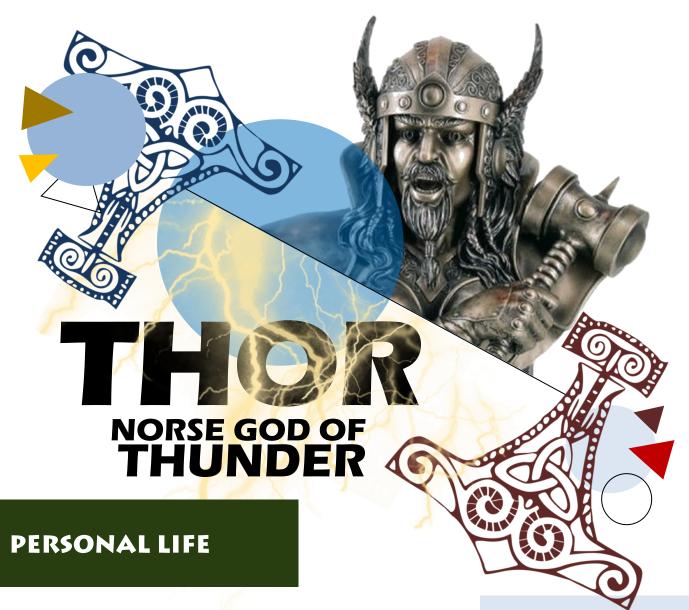
#### **BERSERKERS**

Odin's warrior followers, the Berserkers, dressed themselves in pelts of a wolf or bear on the battlefield. It was their habit to work themselves up into a frenzy. And being in a state of frenzy made them oblivious to the pain of their wounds and injuries.

# WISDOM AND THE NUMBER NINE

When Odin was a young man Odin's quest for wisdom was so strong that he sacrificed an eye at the well of Mimir and hung himself on the world tree, the Yggdrasil, for nine days. He stayed there pierced by his own javelin. This experience made him learn the magic of the runes and obtain the wisdom of the nine worlds. Odin can travel to any realm within the 9 Nordic worlds. And this is why the number nine always appears and is significant in Norse sagas.





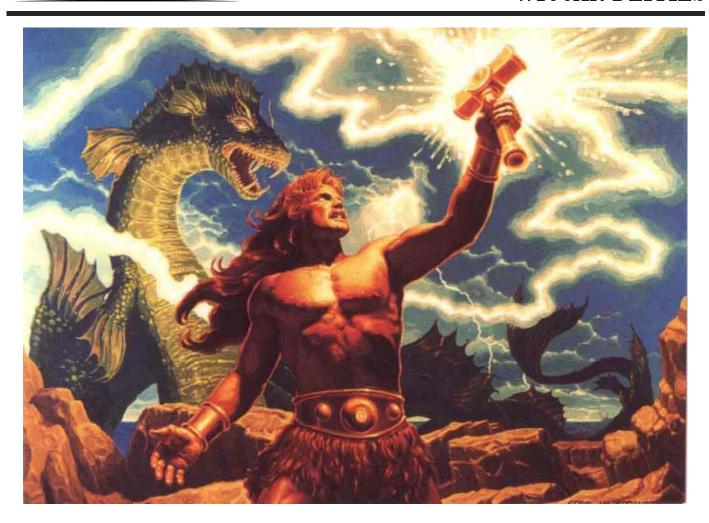
Thor is the son of Jord, the earth goddess, and Odin, who ruled the lives of mortal men. Thor was the strongest of the Norse gods called Aesir. He is called the god of thunder, and his hall is located in a place of might called Bilskirnir.

Thor was very well-known for his quick and hot temper, and he often let it out on the giants, which were the main enemies of the gods. Thor would smash their heads with Mjölnir.

Thor also had a big appetite for food and drink and he enjoyed immense popularity, especially since he was the protector of both gods and humans against the forces of evil. He was even

Thor is the god of thunder. He is depicted as red-headed and bearded. He's also known for weilding Mjölnir, his magical hammer.

According to a Christian missionary, Adam of Bremen, after observing the great temple at Uppsala: "Thor, presides over the air; he governs the thunder and lightning, the winds and rains, fair weather and crops. If plague and famine threaten, a libation is offered up to the idol, Thor."



more popular than his father Odin, since unlike his father, he did not require human sacrifices.

Thor was married to fertility goddess, Sif, although that didn't stop him from having a mistress named Jarnsaxa, with whom he had two sons and a daughter.

#### THE LEGEND

Thor was the protector of gods and mortals from the powers of evil. He was the keeper of thunder and lightning and had an important place in the agricultural cycle. If there was a shortage or absence of rain, the people then would offer something up to Thor, hoping that the rains would come.

If there's a thunderstorm, that meant Thor was riding through the heavens on his great chariot, pulled by two magical goats, Tanngrisni ("gap-tooth") and Tanngnost ("tooth grinder"). And whenever lightning flashed across the sky, that meant he was swinging Mjölnir.

#### MJÖLNIR

Mjölnir was made for Thor by the dwarfs Brok and Eitri. Mjölnir itself was such a powerful item that Thor needed a special belt and iron gloves, called the Megingjard just to handle it. After every time it was thrown, the hammer would always return home to Thor.



# DEATH AT RAGNAROK

Thor's greatest enemy was Jormungand, the Midgard Serpent. At the day of Ragnarok, the Doom of Gods and the end of the cosmos, Thor will kill this serpent but will also die from its poison. And his sons will inherit his hammer when he's gone.



#### **Invoking Thor**

Pagans call upon Thor for blessings of fertility. The image and creations with the Mjölnir design became a popular adornment for warriors during the age of the Vikings. People wore hammer shaped amulets even well into the Christianization of Scandinavia. And even to this day, it is still seen as a very popular talisman for Neo-Pagans.

It is easy to see that the legend of Thor has lived on, especially through the mighty Mjölnir.





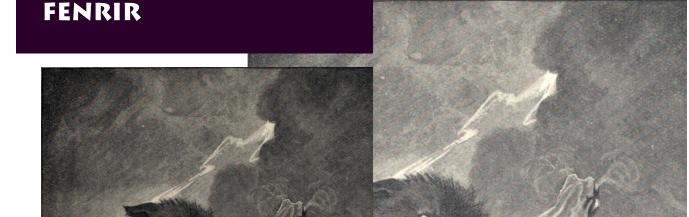
#### THE NAME

The Name Tyr is derived from Tiw or Tiwaz an Tacticus. Roman writers have likened him to Mars, the receiver of human sacrifice. His day is Tuesday.

#### ORIGIN

In Norse legend, Tyr is the Tyr is the God of War, God of Heroic Victory and Triumph, God of Justice, and the God of one-on-one combat. He is a warrior, and known as the bravest of the gods. He was at one point the leader of the Norse Pantheon.

Tyr is originally the son of Odin, although he is made out to be the son of Hymir, the giant. Just like his real father, he has the characteristics of the earlier Germanic gods of battle. It was due to his being a fearless war god that he became Odin's second-in-command when the Vikings came along.



Tyr is bold and brave. And it is through the sacrificing of his right hand that he made the binding of Fenrir possible. But he was not so smart to keep a supernatural monster wolf that is Fenrir, as a pet.

Legend has it that Fenrir, the monstrous wolf, had been causing all kinds of destruction and damage, so the gods decided it was time to put him in shackles. However, this was not an easy task even for the gods. Fenrir was so strong that there was no chain that could hold him down. So the gods asked the dwarves to create a magical ribbon that even Fenrir couldn't escape. Fenrir, not be easily outsmarted, said he would only allow himself to be tied with the ribbon if one of the gods would stick a hand in his mouth. Tyr, not the smartest tool in the shed, put his hand in the monster's mouth as a gesture of goodwill. Fenrir tried to escape, and he bit off Tyr's right hand in the struggle. And it is due to this that he became known as a one-handed god.

Tyr had been waiting for his revenge on the wolf during Ragnarok, which he never did get.



# PENTACLE OF THE BLACK ONYX NECKLACE!

1

Record a short video review of the magazine (be sure to show the magazine on your tablet, computer, in kindle or print) 2

Post it on Youtube and send the link to: <a href="mailto:info@themoonlightshop.com">info@themoonlightshop.com</a>

(include the link: <a href="http://themoonlightpost.com">http://themoonlightpost.com</a> in the video description)

3

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