




Predating the first century C.E., Runes are the sacred symbols of the Teutonic people, and were used by the village shamans for divination and magick. The word "Rune" means, simply, "secret" or "mystery". The oldest and most familiar runic system comes from the Germanic tribes, known as the Elder Futhark, the name "futhark" is derived from the first six letters of the runic alphabet. Consisting of 24 Runes, each glyph of the Elder Futhark is named for an animal, object, emotion or, occasionally, a god. It is a divinatory system closely associated with the earth. The traditional Germanic futhark is divided into three families of eight, or "aett", named for the Norse gods Freyr, Hagal and Tyr. Runes are typically used as an oracle, a means of finding guidance from the Higher Self. However, they can also be worn as a piece of amulet jewelry, carved or written in sets (rune scripts) and charged, or utilized in a spell for a specific outcome. Below is the Elder Futhark, with the rune names, pronunciation, corresponding phonetic value, traditional meaning, associated tree, and a quick reference summary for each.


### Freyr's Aett


 **Fehu** (fa-hew) LETTER: f  
MEANING: Cattle TREE: Elder  
SUMMARY: *Wealth, possessions, nourishment, abundance, divination, prophecy*


 **Uruz** (oo-rooz) LETTER: u  
MEANING: Aurochs (wild bison, now extinct) TREE: Birch  
SUMMARY: *Strength, changing form, tenacity, transformation, health*


 **Thurisaz** (thu-ri-saz) LETTER: th  
MEANING: Thorn TREE: Hawthorn  
SUMMARY: *Gateway, awakening, new possibilities, breaking down of boundaries*

 **Ansuz** (an-sooz) LETTER: a  
MEANING: Mouth TREE: Ash  
SUMMARY: *Signals, inspiration, speech, voice of the Goddess, true vision, synthesis*


 **Raido** (ri-tho) LETTER: r  
MEANING: Cartwheel TREE: Oak  
SUMMARY: *Journey, dance of life, rationality, ordered growth, maze, larger perspective*


 **Kano** (ka-no) LETTER: k  
MEANING: Torch TREE: Pine  
SUMMARY: *Opening, power to create your reality, vital fire of life, creativity, transformation*


 **Gebo** (gay-bo) LETTER: g  
MEANING: Gift TREE: Elm  
SUMMARY: *Partnership, gifts of the Goddess, blessings, magical exchange, power to create from within self*


 **Wunjo** (woon-jo) LETTER: w  
MEANING: Joy TREE: Ash  
SUMMARY: *Joy of life, harmony, fellowship, prosperity, secret knowledge*


### Hagal's Aett


 **Hagalaz** (ha-ga-laz) LETTER: h  
MEANING: Hail TREE: Yew  
SUMMARY: *Disruption, wild power in untamed nature, strength, protection*


 **Nauthiz** (now-thiz) LETTER: n  
MEANING: Necessity TREE: Mountain Ash  
SUMMARY: *Constraint, need, resistance (leads to strength), self-initiated change*


 **Isa** (e-sa) LETTER: i  
MEANING: Ice TREE: Alder  
SUMMARY: *Standstill, time to turn inward, wait for what is to come, self-control, unity*

 **Jera** (jer-a) LETTER: j  
MEANING: Harvest TREE: Oak  
SUMMARY: *Good harvest, fruitful season, time of peace & happiness, plenty, reward, proper timing*


 **Eihwaz** (a-waz) LETTER: ei  
MEANING: Yew-tree TREE: Yew  
SUMMARY: *Defense, release, letting go, enlightenment, endurance, initiation, protection*

 **Perth** (perth) LETTER: p  
MEANING: Dice cup TREE: Aspen  
SUMMARY: *Initiation, determining your path, knowledge of future patterns, evolutionary change*


 **Algiz** (al-gez) LETTER: z  
MEANING: Elk TREE: Yew  
SUMMARY: *Protection, awakening, higher life, connection with the gods, continuity & nurturance of life force*


 **Sowelu** (so-way-loo) LETTER: s  
MEANING: Sun TREE: Juniper  
SUMMARY: *Wholeness, self-knowledge, guidance, hope, goals achieved, power of self-renewal*


### Tyr's Aett


 **Teiwaz** (ta-waz) LETTER: t  
MEANING: the God Tyr TREE: Oak  
SUMMARY: *Warrior, Divine Spinner, justice, self-sacrifice, analysis, rationality*


 **Berkana** (ber-ka-na) LETTER: b  
MEANING: Birch goddess TREE: Birch  
SUMMARY: *Growth, new beginnings, renewal, liberation, life changes*

 **Ehwaz** (eh-waz) LETTER: e  
MEANING: Horse TREE: Ash  
SUMMARY: *Movement, teamwork, harmony, trust, loyalty, fertility of ideas*

 **Mannaz** (man-naz) LETTER: m  
MEANING: Mankind TREE: Holly  
SUMMARY: *The Self, female wisdom, knowledge, awareness, intelligence, memory*

 **Laguz** (la-gooz) LETTER: l  
MEANING: Water TREE: Willow  
SUMMARY: *Flow, life, sea of unconscious, quickening energy, healing power of renewal*

 **Inguz** (ing-gooz) LETTER: ng  
MEANING: the God Ing TREE: Apple  
SUMMARY: *Fertility, internal growth, gestation, sacred power of female sexuality*

 **Dagaz** (tha-gaz) LETTER: d  
MEANING: Day TREE: Spruce  
SUMMARY: *Breakthrough, prosperity & fulfillment, awakening, hope, power of self-change*

 **Othila** (o-the-la) LETTER: o  
MEANING: Property TREE: Hawthorn  
SUMMARY: *Aid in spiritual & physical journeys, womb of the Goddess, increase & abundance*