

Preceding 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 "Runic" 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, Hlagal 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 (runescript) 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

Hlagal's Aett

Tyr's Aett



Fehu (fa-hew) Letter: F
Meaning: Cattle Tree: Elder
 Wealth, possession, abundance, directing property



Uruz (oo-ooz) Letter: U
Meaning: Aurochs Tree: Birch
 Strength, changing form, strength, transformation, health



Thurisaz (thu-ri-saz) Letter: T
Meaning: Thor Tree: Hawthorn
 Gateway, awakening, new possibilities, breaking down of boundaries



Ansuz (an-sooz) Letter: A
Meaning: Ancestor Tree: Ash
 Inspiration, speech, voice of the Gods, true vision, justice



Raido (ri-doo) Letter: R
Meaning: Cartwheel Tree: Oak
 Journey, change of life, rationality, ordered growth, mass, large projects



Kano (ka-no) Letter: K
Meaning: Lamb Tree: Pine
 Change, power to create, new reality, vital life of life, creativity, transformation



Gifh (gi-fih) Letter: G
Meaning: Gift Tree: Elm
 Partnership, gift of the Gods, blessing, magical exchange, power to create, devotion, self



Wjanz (wi-yanz) Letter: W
Meaning: Joy Tree: Ash
 Harmony, blissful, joy, peace, inner knowledge



Hagall (ha-gal) Letter: H
Meaning: Hall Tree: Pine
 Disruption, wild power in contained nature, strength, protection



Nauth (no-oo) Letter: N
Meaning: Necessity Tree: Mountain Ash
 Contrast, need, resistance, death or strength, self-induced change



Is (ee) Letter: I
Meaning: Ice Tree: Alder
 Standstill, slow to start, reward, wait for what is to come, self-willed, unity



Ansuz (an-sooz) Letter: A
Meaning: Harvest Tree: Oak
 Good harvest, fruitful season, time of year, abundance, plenty, reward, proper timing



Eihwaz (ee-hwaz) Letter: E
Meaning: Yew tree Tree: Yew
 Release, letting go, enlightenment, initiation, protection



Perth (perth) Letter: P
Meaning: Deer eye Tree: Aspen
 Initiating, determining your path, broad edge of future patterns, self-willed change



Algh (al-gh) Letter: A
Meaning: Elk Tree: Yew
 Protecting, awakening, higher life, connection with the gods, continuity & maintenance of life force



Sowen (so-wen) Letter: S
Meaning: Sun Tree: Juniper
 Self-knowledge, guidance, hope, goals achieved, power of self-renewal



Tylaz (ti-waz) Letter: T
Meaning: The God Tree: Oak
 Honor, Divine Spirit, justice, self-willed, analysis, rationality



Berkana (ber-ka-na) Letter: B
Meaning: Birch Tree: Birch
 Growth, new beginnings, renewal, liberation, life change



Ethuz (eth-ooz) Letter: E
Meaning: Home Tree: Ash
 Movement, journey, trust, loyalty, fertility of ideas



Alfanz (al-fanz) Letter: A
Meaning: Man Tree: Holly
 The Self, Amule, wisdom, knowledge, awareness, intelligence, memory



Laguz (la-ooz) Letter: L
Meaning: Water Tree: Willow
 Flow, life, sea of unconscious, quickening energy, healing power of renewal



Inguz (ing-ooz) Letter: I
Meaning: The God Tree: Apple
 Fertility, internal growth, gestation, sacred power of female sexuality



Dagaz (da-gaz) Letter: D
Meaning: Day Tree: Spruce
 Breakthrough, prosperity & fulfillment, awakening, hope, power of self-change



Othala (oth-la) Letter: O
Meaning: Property Tree: Hawthorn
 Aid in quest for a physical journey, wealth of the Gods, honor & abundance