

LESSON SEVEN: RUNIC POETRY

At this stage in your lessons, you have become very familiar with Runes and how to use them in harnessing the Vril. You have experimented with positions, hand mudras, Runic chanting and so on, but now you should familiarize yourself with Runic poetry. There is no limit to the type of poetry you can create for yourself, but we have included examples of Runic poetry for each of the twenty-four Runes of the Elder Futhark. These poems can be recited or you can sing them if you have a good enough voice. Experiment! Recite one Runic poem at a time, combine two or more at one recital, or if you feel brave enough, recite the entire Futhark.

Once again, before reciting the poems, relax, perform your exercises and then begin, by yourself or as part of your group. The entire group should recite each poem together, or you can go around the circle, each member reciting one Runic Poem at a time until all twenty-four have been recited.

We are providing you with a Rune poem that was designed specifically for Vrilology, which is relevant to the modern world of the 21st Century, as well as the ancient, Old English Rune Poem. It is important that you familiarize yourself with both. Like the Yggdrasill, its roots are firmly planted in the past, but its branches are ever reaching upward, into the future.

You will notice words, phrases and terms that might seem unfamiliar to you, for they contain hidden mythical meanings and magical qualities that were commonly understood in the past, but whose meaning we today have forgotten. Some of these terms we have discovered, while others we still need to explore. We will not go into which is which at this time. It is important for you to discover these for yourself. In this way, you might even have a sudden burst of inspiration and discover for yourself some forgotten understanding for yourself that you can contribute to our modern day exploration of this lost lore.

As a student, you will discover that your powers to comprehend the ancient lore will develop within you and become a part of your nature. You will be surprised in time with the realization that you have acquired these powers without even knowing it.

The Old English Rune Poem was preserved in a monastery manuscript by Christian scholars (monks) who wished to save much of the pagan lore. It was eventually copied by George Hicks in his Thesaurus of 1705. Unfortunately, the original manuscript was destroyed in a fire in 1731, but fortunately Hicks has preserved it and passed it down to us. The monks used the poem to help them remember the Runes that were becoming lost to the general public, just as so much of the ancient pagan lore of Europe was forgotten after Christianity swept across Europe.

The Old English Rune Poem is one of only three Rune Poems preserved from pagan times. The other two are also provided in this lesson. They are the

Old Norse Rune Poem and the Icelandic Rune Poem. Of the three, the Old English Rune Poem dates back to a manuscript from the Eighth Century. It is the most authentic and descriptive of all twenty-four Runes of the Elder Futhark.

In England, The Norse settlers were intermarrying with the local folk and adopting their native speech and evolving into the English language. As new sounds were added to the language, new Runes were created to represent the sounds. Eventually the thirty-three Runes of the Anglo-Saxon Futhark were born. The Old English Rune Poem that was passed down included five of these additional nine Runes, but we have not included them in our lesson.

While the English Futhark was expanding, the Scandinavian Futhark was shrinking into the sixteen-Rune Younger Futhark, as the local folk forgot some of the Runes.

OLD ENGLISH RUNE POEM

FEHU

Wealth is a comfort to one and all,
But he must share it who hopes to cast
His lot for judgment before the Lord.

URUZ

The Aurochs is single-minded, with horns
Ascending high, a fierce horn-fighter
Stamping in his moors, a striking beast.

THURISAZ

The thorn is most sharp, an evil thing
To take a grip on, extremely grim
For any man who rests among them.

ANSUZ

The mouth is origin of every speech,
Support of wisdom and wise men's comfort,
Ease and hope to every noble.

RAIDHO

Riding for a hero inside the hall
Is soft, more strenuous when astride
A great horse pounding on mile long paths.

KENAZ

The Torch, familiar to living aflame,
Is blinding and brilliant; it burns most often
Where royal folk are at rest within.

GEBO
Giving, to men, is an ornament
Displaying worth—and to every outcast
Without any other it is substance and honor.

WUNJO
Joy is for one who knows little of woe,
Unhampered by sorrow he will have
Bright fruits and bliss and buildings enough.

HAGALAZ
Hail is the whitest of grains.
It whirls from the sky
Whipped by the gusting wind, then turns to water.

NAUTHIZ
Need is a tight band on the breast,
But it often can be turned into an omen of help,
If attended to early.

ISA
Ice is overcold, very slippery.
It glistens like glass, most like a jewel,
A floor made of frost, fair to see.

JERA
The (harvest) Season is hopeful when heaven's king
Allows the fields to blossom forth.
A bright abundance for rich and poor.

EIHWAZ
Yew on the outside is an unsmooth tree,
But strong and firm, the fire's guardian,
Upheld by deep roots, a joy to the home.

ELHAZ
A lively Tune [lot box] means laughter and games
Where brave folk sit in the banquet hall,

Beer drinking warriors blithe together.

SOWILO

The Sun to seafarers always means hope,
When they ferry across the fish's bath
Till the horse of the sea brings them to harbor.

TIWAZ

Tyr is a special sign. With princes
It keeps faith well, is ever on course
Over the night's dark; it never fails.

BERKANO

The Poplar (Birch) is fruit-less, even so puts forth
Shoots without seeding, has shining branches
High in an ornamented helmet,
Laden with leaves, in touch with the sky.

EHWAZ

The Horse before peers is a princely joy,
Stepping out proudly when spoken of
By wealthy riders all around him--
And to one who's unquiet he is ever a comfort.

MANNAZ

A man in his gladness is dear to his kinsman;
Yet each must fail the friend he loves
For the lord in his judgment will allot
That unfortunate flesh to the earth.

LAGUZ

Water to landsmen seems overly long
If they must go on the galloping ship,
And the sea-waves scare them excessively,
And the horse of the sea heeds not his bridle.

INGWAZ

Ing at first was seen by the folk
Among the East Danes, till afterwards he
Went over the waves, followed by his wagon.

DAGAZ

Day, God's message, is dear to men:
The great lord's light means gladness and hope
To rich and poor, a profit to all.

OTHALA

Home is beloved of everyone human
If there he may properly and in peace
Enjoy in the hall a frequent harvest.

VRILOLOGY RUNE POEM**FEHU**

Fehu, Rune of wealth, necessity to live,
a comfort when owned, freely you should give.
For your generosity and how you use your wealth,
will determine your place in the realm of death.

URUZ

Uruz is fearless, an unstoppable bull,
power primeval, the man-force in us all.
Courageous and brave, the Rune is a vital force,
auroch, the fierce beast, you should tame at all cost.

THURISAZ

A force unbridle, chaotic, destruction,
thunder and lightning, quake, shake, flood, eruption.
Mighty Thurisaz, thunderer with hammer,
can master this force, and restore for us, order.

ANSUZ

In Asgard he lives, Ansuz, the all-father,
the master of Runes, his one eye can see the future.
He rides the wild wind, collector of the dead,
his wisdom boundless, he sacrificed to himself, instead.

RAIDHO

Raidho is the Rune, you ride this road to enlightenment.
Drive the horse forward, seek wisdom and contentment.
No quest comes easy, all growth is hard to take,
complete the journey, the chains of ignorance you break.

KENAZ

The torch of Kenaz, lights up the world anew,
 direct the power outward, across the cosmic brew.
 From inner self springs, new life reborn in light,
 the Folk Soul burns bright, it drives away the night.

GEBO

Opposites attract, in Bebo's love unite,
 exchanged gifts contract, man and woman delight.
 Wedding does produce, in new generations,
 the Folk grows anew, in continuations.

WUNJO

Wunjo Rune of joy, well-being to us all,
 hope springs eternal, harmony in the hall.
 It is a blessing, to all our blood kingdom,
 but without wisdom, pleasure leads to doom.

HAGALAZ

From ice's eternal floes, and Musspell's flames burn,
 did opposites join, and Hagalaz was born.
 Slain by three in one, to replace chaos with order,
 the world pillar was formed, the steed of the all-father.

NAUTHIZ

The need to evolve, is the Rune Nauthiz,
 the need to procreate, is our manifest destiny.
 Past, present, future, the Norns know your lot,
 use your destiny, strive against it not.

ISA

Isa is inert, of contraction and slice,
 rime from Niflheim, unmoving is the ice.
 Rune of the ego, the stillness of the tomb,
 power to control, over death and doom.

JERA

Frey claims this Rune, solar cycle is he,
 creativity, Jera is eternal harmony.
 This rune turns the year, birth, growth, death, rebirth,
 to sow the seed, rise again it will from the earth.

EIHWAZ

Yggdrasill is Eihwaz, the steed that Odin rides,
to gain the knowledge, on this Rune Odin dies.
The axis it is, the realms of dusk, day and dawn,
its life-giving force, through it Odin is reborn.

PERTHRO

Perthro is the Rune, the well of the Wyrð,
past, present and future, the three Norns dwell here.
By this force is woven, everyone's beginning and end,
lots cast from this cup, both Gods and men must bend.

ELHAZ

Rune of protection, the tune of rebirth,
ascend to Asgard, from Middle-Earth.
Life-giving force, that you must earn,
to call back the Gods upon Balder's return.

SOWILO

Will to power, Balder is the light,
Rune of victory, Sowilo is his might.
Turning of the wheel, the symbol of the sun,
giver of life, death is undone.

TIWAZ

Pillar of the cosmos, points to the North Star,
Tiwaz, Rune of Tyr, god of law, and war.
Tamer of Fenrir, self-sacrifice for all,
the symbol of success, Rune of Irminsul.

BERKANO

Mother of all things, Rune of the great mother,
both Freyja and Friggs, Nerthus, the earth mother.
Rebirth in Berkano, sign of mysteries,
she gives life to us all, mother of destinies.

EHWAZ

Ehwaz is the Rune, to expand your power and grace,
to nine worlds in the tree, on Sleipnir you'll race.
Twin gods together, trust and loyalty,
harmoniously, with sensuality.

MANNAZ

Mannaz, Rune of Rig, shaper of the gene pool,
 Heimdall is the god, maker of genius and fool.
 Mortal and immortal, in blood we are one,
 through its sacred power, we rise to the sun.

LAGUZ

Laguz is the Rune, the power of the Vrill,
 Giver of new life, help to grow, it will.
 From its deep waters, organic life will spring.
 the Rune of baptism, into the fold it brings.

INGWAZ

The Rune of God Ing, Ingwaz, Nerthus' mate,
 father of the Vanir, a force to regenerate.
 Gestation needed to grow, secrets of sex magic,
 potential growth, the power of the phallic.

DAGAZ

The Rune of Dagaz, a divine enchantment,
 when opposites unite, a mystical moment.
 A gift from Odin, divine inspirations,
 day dawns in east, spiritual recreations.

OTHALA

Othala the Rune of the Folk, integrated homeland,
 kin and kindred come first, in the closure of the clan.
 The Rune imprints, in our genetic codes,
 it speaks across time, in blood eternal odes!

THE OLD NORSE RUNE POEM (16 Runes)**FEHU**

Wealth causes strife among kinsmen,
 the wolf grows up in the woods.

URUZ

Slag is from bad iron;
 oft runs the reindeer on hard snow.

THURISAZ

Thurs causes the sickness of women;

few are cheerful from misfortune.

ANSUZ

Ship passage is the way of most journeys;
but the sheath is for swords.

RAIDHO

Riding, it is said, is the worst for horses;
Regin forged the best sword.

KENAZ

A sore is the cause of children;
grief makes a man pale.

HAGALAZ

Hail is the coldest of grains,
Horthr (a giant) shaped the world in ancient times.

NAUTHIZ

Need makes for a difficult situation,
the naked freeze in the forest.

ISA

Ice we call the broad bridge,
and the blind need to be led.

JERA

Good harvest is the profit of me;
I say that Frodhi (a Danish king) was generous.

EIHWAZ

Yew is the greatest wood in winter,
There is usually, when it burns, singeing.

SOWILO

Sun is the light of the lands;
I bow to the holiness.

TIWAZ

Tyr is the one-handed among the Aesir,
the smith has to blow often.

BERKANO

Birch twig is the limb greenest with leaves,
Loki brought the luck to deceit.

MANNAZ

Man is the increase of dust;
mighty is the talon-span of the hawk.

LAGUZ

Water is that which falls from the mountain as a force,
but gold objects are costly things.

THE OLD ICELANDIC RUNE POEM (16 Runes)**FEHU**

Wealth is the cause of strife among kinsmen,
and the fire of the flood-tide,
and the path of the serpent.

URUZ

Drizzle is the weeping of the clouds,
and the diminisher of the rim of ice,
and an object for the herdsman's hate.

THURISAZ

Thurs is the torment of women,
and the dweller in the rocks,
and the husband of a giantess.

ANSUZ

Ase (Odin) is the olden-father,
and Asgard's chieftain,
and the leader of Valhalla.

RAIDHO

Riding is a blessed sitting,
and a swift journey,
and the toil of the horse.

KENAZ

A sore is the bane of children,

and a scourge,
and the horse of rotten flesh.

HAGALAZ

Hail is a cold grain,
and the shower of sleet,
and the sickness of snakes.

NAUTHIZ

Need is the grief of the bondmaid,
and a hard condition to be in,
and toilsome work.

ISA

Ice is the rind of the river,
and the roof of the waves,
and a danger for fey men.

JERA

Good harvest is the profit of all men,
And a good summer,
and ripened field.

EIHWAZ

Yew is a strung bow,
and brittle iron,
and Farbauti [a giant] of the arrow.

SOWILO

Sun is the shield of the clouds,
and a shining glory,
and the life long sorrow of ice.

TIWAZ

Tyr is the one-handed god,
And the leavings of the wolf,
and the ruler of the temple.

BERKANO

Birch is a leafy limb,
And a little tree,
and a youthful wood.

MANNAZ

Man is the joy of man,
and the increase of dust,
and the adornment of ships.

LAGUZ

Wetness is churning water,
And a wide kettle,
and the land of fish.