



## **Oswald the Runemaker's Pocket Guide to Rune Meanings**

The images show both the Elder Futhark and Anglo-Saxon Futhorc versions of each primary rune, where these are different.

The later Anglo-Saxon (or Northumbrian) Futhorc was eventually expanded with new glyphs to a total of 38 runes. But these are not commonly used in divination or design motifs, so they are not featured here

## FEHU The Rune of Wealth (F)



Fehu means cattle, a measure of wealth to the ancients. Today Fehu means movable wealth, such as money and possessions. It also implies the energy and hard work that leads to wealth. Fehu can mean emotional and spiritual riches, as well as money.

Fehu is Frey's rune, and he is the god of fertility, itself a form of wealth. It is a rune of unselfish abundance. Let it shine forth to lighten your path and the paths of others. You will never run out of your spiritual richness, but don't waste it on those who will abuse it. Discernment is important.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
1	Elder	Nettle	Light Red	Moss Agate
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Fire. Earth	Frey, Freyja	Audhumla, the primal cow	

## URUZ The Rune Of Strength (U)



Uruz means aurochs, the European wild ox that became extinct in 1627. Uruz encompasses physical strength, endurance, courage, and the raw, wild power of freedom. It includes emotional and spiritual strength, male sexual potency, and good health. It can also imply a challenge leading to a major life change.

You have the strength within you to fulfill all your dreams, but with strength comes responsibility. Strength is not a force with which to exert power over others, but a force to stop others exerting power over **you**. Use your strength to keep yourself focused on **your** path, to stop yourself being outmaneuvered by others. There will always be negative people, but don't let them upset you. Master your own ego and you will succeed.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
2	Birch	Iceland Moss	Dark Green	Carbuncle
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Earth	Thor, Urd	The horns of the ox	

## THURISAZ The Devil's Rune (TH)



The energy of Thurisaz can be used for good or for chaos. It represents the forces of the human psyche, including anger and lust. The thorn is a symbolic weapon. It can pierce, stab or tear. But it can also be protective, like a thorny hedge. Thurisaz may also signify a stroke of luck, but is more often a warning that your luck is running out.

You have the power within you to face anything. Fear nothing, for you have the authority to claim your destiny. Let no one deter you from your search for the truth. Spiritual authority brings power and it is up to you to use that power in an unselfish and loving way. Power can corrupt if you do not have a true and honest heart.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
3	Oak, blackthorn	Houseleek	Bright Red	Sapphire
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Fire	Thor	A thorn, the hammer of Thor	

## ANSUZ The Messenger Rune (A)



Ansuz is associated with Loki the trickster and the messenger of the Nordic gods, particularly Odin. It represents communication, creativity, controlled and divine power. Spiritually, it is the rune of prophecy and revelation. It also encompasses the ideas of wisdom, knowledge, reason, and therefore of instruction and good advice. It might also refer to a test, examination, or perhaps an interview.

The answers to your questions are already here, you have just not heard them yet. Look for signs and confirmations which are all around you. Everything has significance and if you learn this truth, you will understand the messages. Check that you are not ignoring the message because you do not like its content Trust that everything that comes to you comes to teach you, and that by acknowledging the truth you will grow in knowledge and wisdom.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
4	Ash	Fly Agaric	Dark Blue	Emerald
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Air	Odin, Eostre	Yggdrasil, the World Tree	

## RAIDO The Traveller's Rune (R)



Raido can mean wheel, ride, or travel, but it also has a deeper meaning. Riding a horse includes both movement and direction. A journey can be long and arduous, requiring planning, foresight, determination, and fortitude. Raido can therefore refer to the journey of life, or to a spiritual quest. Raido might also mean transport or communication, such as delivering or receiving a message, wise counsel, or the wheel of life.

Recognize that everything comes in cycles and that by following them you will progress quickly and efficiently. Align your lifestyle to the seasons and honor the turning of the year. Embrace hard times knowing that the harder it is now, the easier it will get in the future. Everything has its opposite, and challenges bring equal and opposite rewards.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
5	Oak	Mugwort	Bright Red	Chrysoprase
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Air	Ing, Nerthus	A wheel under a cart	

## KAUNO The Rune of Fire (C or K)



Kauno sheds light on the path, dispels the dark shadows of ignorance, and helps us to see with true discernment. It suggests that understanding must lead to action, and light in the darkness implies spiritual illumination. Kauno also represents the natural warmth and companionship of the home fire and thus, good health.

You are coming into a new understanding of life and its meaning. New insights await, but don't be complacent. Use this new understanding or it will be worthless. Look for ways to use your insights for the good of yourself and others. Enlightenment is replenishable. The more you use, the more knowledge you gain. Enlightenment itself is not the goal, it is just the starting point of a great adventure that will show you great wisdom and understanding if you proceed with truth and honesty.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
6	Pine	Cowslip	Light Red	Bloodstone
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Fire	Heimdall, Freyja, Frey	Fire of a torch, primal fire of Muspellheim	

## GEBO The Rune of Forgiveness (G)



Gebo is the origin of our "lucky seven" superstition. It represents a gift, whether it is a present, an attribute, a certain skill or ability. To the ancients, a gift always called for another in return. so accepting a gift places you under an obligation to the giver - the gods, destiny, another person. Gebo can also mean a partnership or union, in business or in love. Or it can mean forgiveness - perhaps the greatest gift of all - to give **or** to receive. Gebo is commonly used as the sign of a kiss -the symbol of affection.

A gift presents you with the choice of acceptance or rejection. If you accept you must be prepared to give in return. Everything has its price, but with spiritual gifts the cost is always worth it in the end. You must find the balance between giving and receiving and learn to give responsibly. This means deciding when to give and who to give to as it is not appropriate to give to everyone indiscriminately.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
7	Ash, Elm	Hearsease	Deep Blue	Opal
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male & Female	Air	Gefn	The Sacred mark, a kiss	



## WUNJO The Rune of Joy (V or W)



Anglo-Saxon  
and Elder

Wunjo is linked to a reward, a feeling of goodness and satisfaction, peaceful winning, and ultimate achievement. It contains the idea of everything going well because you are in total harmony with life. Wunjo also implies close co-operation and companionship with other people, because joy is not usually a solitary emotion. When so much of life can be negative, it is important to allow Wunjo's joy to reach into every part of your life.

Happiness is yours if you are willing to work for it. You must strive for balance and harmony in your life. Always look for solutions rather than dwell on problems. For happiness to last, it must be founded on truth and honesty. Hide from the truth and you shall never see true happiness. Seek only what is good and right, and good fortune cannot fail to follow.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
8	Ash	Flax	Yellow	Diamond
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Earth	Odin, Frigg	A wind vane or a flag	

## HAGALAZ The Rune of Disruption (H)

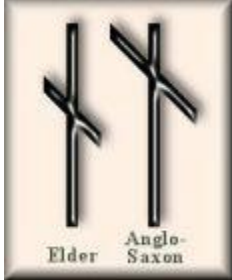


Hagalaz represents hail and it's portent may be likened to an unexpected hailstorm, an elemental disruption of your life. When Hagalaz is linked with other runes, it can suggest limitation, interruption, or delay, and imply a complete change in direction. Hagalaz can also mean suffering, hardship, illness, or injury.

Challenges are occurring in your life. These are not to be feared, but faced. A hailstorm is daunting, but if you catch a hailstone you will see that it is only water, nothing to be feared. So it is with challenges. Fire up your determination, and face the challenges head-on knowing they are just stepping stones on the way to your goal. The greater the challenge, the more you gain by overcoming it.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
9	Ash, Yew	Bryony	Light Blue	Onyx
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Ice	Urd, Heimdall	The world, a hailstone, a serpent	

## NAUDIZ The Rune of Necessity (N)



Naudiz represents need, hardship, or adversity. Luckily, it includes the perseverance to endure, and reserves of inner strength. Naudiz is a rune that counsels patience. However unpleasant the hardship it is a learning experience that will ultimately benefit you. Naudiz can also warn against taking a risky path. In conjunction with other runes, Naudiz tends to have a delaying influence.

You are getting exactly what you need right now to make the best progress on your spiritual path. It may appear to be the very opposite of what you want, but this state is not permanent, it is merely a series of lessons that must be learnt so that you can make the transition from negative to positive. Accept your past, keep your mind fixed on your goal, and learn from your present situation. The past is just a memory, the future just a dream, the present is where the action is, the only place you have influence.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
10	Beech, Rowan	Snakeroot	Black	Lapis Lazuli
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Fire	Skuld	A fire-bow & block	

## ISA The Rune of Stagnation (I)



Isa means ice. Although ice can be beautiful, it is also dangerous. It can be slippery or treacherously thin, or block your progress. Isa means that you may have to delay your plans until a more favourable season. But it can take the heat out of a confrontation, or protect against magical attack. Emotionally, Isa implies a cooling of affection, or frigidity. It has a freezing, delaying, or preserving effect on other runes around it.

Things appear to be at a standstill and this is not a time to try to force movement. Patience and wisdom are called for. This is not the time to abandon goals, but an opportunity to reaffirm them. This is a time for contemplation and preparation, not despondency or regrets. Things will change as surely as winter changes to spring and then summer.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
11	Alder	Henbane	Black	Catseye
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Ice	Verdandi	An icicle, the primal ice of Niflheim	

## JERA The Rune of Success (J)



Jera means the year or the harvest. It implies fruitfulness, profit or achievement of a goal. It also means the cycle of seasons implying movement, change, natural development. .It is usually very positive, but as a symbol of cause-and-effect it may portend the end-result of past actions. Jera may therefore represent justice, which can be positive or negative, a reward or a punishment.

This is a time of reaping rewards from seeds sown in the past. It is a time of plenty, of joy and celebration. But it is also a time to work with no time for complacency. The harvest is followed by winter you should make sure you have stored enough wisdom to face your next challenge. This is another turning point in life, not a goal. There are greater harvests ahead, but like the farmer, you must prepare the land, sow the seed, tend the seedlings and feed the fruit.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
12	Oak	Rosemary	Light Blue	Cornelian
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male & Female	Earth	Frey, Freyja	Sacred marriage, Heaven & Earth	

## IHWAZ The Rune of Defence (Y)

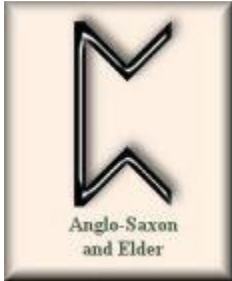


Ihwaz means the Yew tree. This tree has mistakenly been linked with death because of the pagan custom of planting yew trees around graveyards. That is the origin of the superstition of "unlucky thirteen". But the **real** reason the ancients planted Yew trees was to keep out unwanted animals, because the evergreen Yew is both poisonous and impenetrable year-round. Ihwaz should not be feared, because it also means continuity and endurance. The best longbows were always made from yew trees. As well as being strong, long-lasting, and flexible, they contained protective magic. Thus, Ihwaz represents safety from attack and a weapon of defense.

This is a time of transformation, a time to let go of the old and embrace the new, new beginnings, new life and new dreams. The only constant is change, and quick progress requires an acceptance of change, not resistance to it. Don't be afraid. Change **is** scary, but if you remain true to yourself and stick to your path, you will soon achieve your goal.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
13	Yew, Poplar	Bryony	Dark Blue	Topaz
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Earth, Air, Fire & Water	Ullr	Trunk of the yew tree	

## PERTH The Rune of Mystery (P)



No-one knows the real meaning of Perth for sure. It may mean a dice-cup or gaming piece. It represents a gamble, a mystery. Spiritually, Perth suggests the disclosure of a secret. It could also refer to pregnancy and birth. Perth is linked with the sensible and moderate enjoyment of sexuality. Because of the mystery surrounding it, common sense and prudence are called for in the interpretation of Perth.

You always have a choice in everything. No-one can upset you, you can only choose to be upset. No-one can exert power over you unless you choose to subject yourself to it. Claim your right to choice. Don't allow others to compromise your truth or prevent you from doing what you need to do. The only danger here is **not** to make a choice, to leave things to fate, and have no say in your own future.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
14	Beech, Aspen	Aconite	Black	Aquamarine
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Water	Frigg	The womb, a dice cup	

## ALGIZ The Rune of Opportunity (Z)



Algiz illustrates both the antlers of the elk, and the shape of the sedge-grass herb. It also suggests the splayed fingers of a warding-off hand. It is a powerful rune of protection and, spiritually, it symbolizes reaching up to the divine. Algiz also represents success through endeavour in a hunt, quest, or other enterprise.

Although your path ahead is fraught with danger, you need have no fear, for you have the power of protection within you. You will be safe as long as you are not reckless. This is a favourable time for risky ventures, although all things must be built on firm foundations. Do not become complacent.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
15	Yew, Service Tree	Sedge	Gold	Amethyst
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male & Female	Air	Heimdall	The elk, a flying female swan, an open hand	



## SOWILO The Rune of Revelation (S)

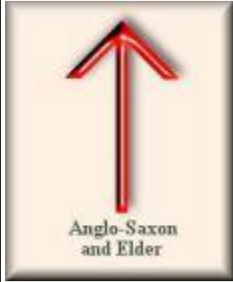


Although Sowilo is well known as a victory symbol, it can also be used as a force of attack. It is a positive force, because it is the natural power of the sun. Spiritually, Sowilo symbolizes clear vision, and the victories of light over darkness, good over evil. It admonishes one to use the powers of good to vanquish evil.

You have the power to bring things to fruition. Good fortune awaits you and there is a positive feel to everything. This is not a time to rest and relax, but to examine the darker aspects of your nature. The power of the sun will enable you to face them without fear and to overcome them. Seek solutions to problems, they are all within your grasp.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
16	Juniper, Bay	Mistletoe	White	Ruby
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Air	Baldur	The solar wheel	

## TIWAZ The Warrior's Rune (T)



Tiwaz is named for the Norse god Tiw, after whom Tuesday is named. Tiw is the Norse equivalent of Zeus or Jupiter. He was the god of war and justice, fair law and regulation, and success through sacrifice. He was courageous, fearless, the master tactician and a consummate diplomat. He allowed a wolf to bite off his right hand in order to bind the wolf's chaotic force and thus protects the disabled and the left-handed. Tiwaz also represents determination and male sexuality. It symbolizes new challenges and initiations into new understandings.

There is a need for courage now, as your victory is already assured if your heart remains true. Make use of all the skill and wisdom you have acquired so far. Protect your faith, as it will be challenged. But truth, honesty and justice will always be the eventual victors.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
17	Oak	Aconite	Bright Red	Coral
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Air	Tiw	The sky, the heavens, Valhalla	

## BERKANAN The Rune of Growth and Fertility (B)



Berkanan refers to renewal, regeneration, purification, healing, and recovery. It is the rune of the family and the home, and represents the enjoyment of sexual relations, fertility, and birth. Birth in this context can be literal or symbolic, such as the successful start of any new idea or enterprise.

This is an exciting time of new beginnings, fresh adventures, great activity and energy. This is a time to sow seeds, but the harvest is yet to come so don't expect immediate reward for your effort. Put the past in its place, and if you have learned from experience, it need never be revisited. This is also a good time for spiritual spring cleaning, clearing away misconceptions and accepting new ideas.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
18	Birch	Lady's Mantle	Dark Green	Moonstone
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Earth	Nerthus, Holda	The Earth Mother Goddess	

## EHWAZ The Rune of Momentum (E)

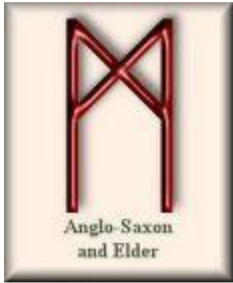


Ehwaz represents the horse, purposeful motion, progress. The speed, strength, and beauty of a horse makes it much more than a means of transport. It is a sacred animal, a vehicle for material and spiritual advancement. Ehwaz implies controlled change, progress, and sometimes a journey. It also represents partnership, trust, loyalty, and faithfulness, such as that between horse and rider, brother and sister, two halves of the whole.

You have the support you need to make swift progress towards your goal. But you must be loyal and supportive to those around you, as they are to you. The horse is proud, but that does not impede its purpose. So while you can be proud of your achievements, you must remain humble to ensure your journey reaches a successful conclusion.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
19	Oak, Ash	Ragwort	White	Iceland Spar
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male & Female	Earth	Frey, Freyja	2 poles bound together	

## MANNAZ The Rune of Humanity (M)



Mannaz represents the human race, humanity, the shared human nature within each individual. We are all members of the human family, yet alone in life and in the final journey into death. Mannaz symbolizes creativity, intelligence, forward planning, and speech and implies co-operation between individuals for the common good.

Destiny awaits you, so claim it. But to be a spiritual being, you must balance body, mind and spirit. Embrace everything, good and bad alike, with total acceptance, knowing that each new experience will teach more of life. By learning each lesson you will go onwards and upwards.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
20	Holly	Madder	Deep Red	Garnet
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male & Female	Air	Heimdall, Odin, Frigg	The joining of heaven & earth	

## LAGUZ The Water Rune (L)



Laguz means water, a vital part of life, but a constant danger, just as our journey through life encounters risks. Laguz contains elements of fluidity, changeability, and a lack of control. It represents the sensual madness of sexuality, the unconscious, intuitive, and psychic abilities. It's deceptive elements come from its variety, rather than from any menace. Traditionally, Laguz is the ultimate female rune.

Only by attunement to creation will your life truly flow as it is meant to. Emotional balance comes from harmony with creation around you. For example, natural foods lead to natural flow, whereas unnatural foods lead to disharmony and stagnation. The sea is always fluid and moving, so it should be with your life. Embrace change itself, for it is the only true constant in life.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Crystal
21	Willow	Leek	Deep Green	Pearl
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Water	Njord, Nerthus	A sea wave, a waterfall	

## INGWAZ The Rune of Harmony (NG)



Ingwaz is named for the Norse hero-god Ing, who came from across the sea to unite his people. It represents completion, the certainty of a conclusion. This could include the male orgasmic force, or birth as the conclusion to pregnancy. Ingwaz is associated with healthy, wholesome sexuality, a strong, affectionate family, and a safe, secure hearth and home. It also symbolizes protection, and contains the idea of a beacon, a light shining in the darkness, and therefore, spiritual inspiration.

On your spiritual path you may feel isolated, but within you burns the fire of inspiration urging you onward and upward. Feed the fire by perseverance. Seek answers but don't get encumbered with irrelevant questions. Live one day at a time, knowing that the past is just a memory, the future just a dream, and the here and now is what matters.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
22	Apple	Selfheal	Yellow	Amber
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Female	Water, Earth	Ing, Frey	Partnership, marriage	

## OTHILA The Rune of Acquisition (O)



Othila means the ancestral country or home, property, and fixed wealth or inheritance. This can include your inherited characteristics from past generations of your family that you will pass on to your children – or it can represent a united family's strength. Othila can be seen as everything that you have accumulated during your lifetime, and can also represent your spiritual home.

At this time of re-focussing, fix your goal firmly in your mind and let your thoughts attract the energy you need to reach it. You must concentrate to read all the signs, but don't try to force the issues. Your objective is like a wild bird in the palm of your hand. If you grip too tightly, you risk killing it.

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
23	Hawthorn	Clover	Deep Yellow	Ruby
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Earth	Odin	Enclosed estate, land, property	



## DAGAZ The Rune of Transformation (D)



Dagaz means day, and in the Nordic lands of long nights and winters, the day is strongly associated with light and life. Dagaz is the essence of natural daylight, the new light of dawn, and the strength of the sun. Spiritually, it is the divine light, the high point of the natural cycle of darkness-light-darkness. It signifies brightness, growth, progress, development, and sometimes fundamental change.

The divine light is guiding you towards your goal. Remain true, and good fortune will be with you. You are well protected by the power of the light. It will give you clear vision to avoid dangers, but don't be blinded by your ego. Remain humble and thankful for all the good things that come to you

Number	Tree	Plant	Color	Gemstone
24	Spruce	Clary Sage	Light Blue	Chrysolite
Polarity	Elements	Deities	Symbolic Meaning	
Male	Fire, Air	Heimdall	Balance (Night & Day)	

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