

NORSE PANTHEON

In many respects gods and goddesses worshipped by Vikings were similar to humans. Like humans they had good and bad characteristics and, like humans, they could die.

BALDIN was the son of Odin and Frigga and was the most beloved of all the Aesir. He was the god of radiance and light, bringing joy to all around him.

BRAGI was the god of poetry. He also was son of Odin. With his magical harp he could sing so beautifully that Odin declared him the bard to the gods.

FORSETE: was the god of justice because of his great wisdom.

FREYA was the goddess of love and fertility, and the most beautiful of the goddesses. She is the patron goddess of crops and birth. She loved music, spring and flowers, and was particularly fond of the elves (fairies).

FREYR was the god of sun and rain, and the patron of bountiful harvests. He was both a god of peace and a brave warrior. He possessed a magic sword that could fight by itself. He could hold all the other gods in the bag he carried in his belt.

FRIGG was the wife of Odin, and patron of marriage, motherhood and fertility.

HEIMDALL was the guardian of Asgard (the home of the gods) because he could see perfectly for a hundred miles in night or day and needed little sleep.

LOKI was the god of mischief or evil, because he was capable of the cruelest treachery. He betrayed the gods on numerous occasions.

NJORD was the god of the sea during the summer and was known to provide good weather to those who pleased him.

ODIN was the leader of gods, and father of many of them. He was the god of wisdom, war and death. Odin had the power to make the dead speak and in this way he could question the wisest amongst them.

THOR was the Norse god of thunder and one of the most powerful gods. Thor was usually portrayed as a large, powerful man with a red beard and eyes of lightning. Despite his ferocious appearance, he was very popular as the protector of both gods and humans against the forces of evil.

SIF was the golden-haired wife of the god Thor and a fertility goddess.

TYR was the boldest of the gods, who inspired courage and heroism in battle. Tyr was represented as a man with one hand, because his right hand had been bitten off by the gigantic wolf Fenrir (in old-Norse, the wrist was called 'wolf-joint'). His attribute is a spear, which was a symbol of justice as well as a weapon.

ULLER was the god of winter. He dressed in fur and walked in snowshoes through the western mountains.

VIDAR was the god of silence and revenge.

