

CAHOOTS

Germanic Myth

1. This figure's death was avenged by his elk-hoofed brother, Elgfodi, after the latter saw a pit fill with blood, and in another tradition this figure was born with a single large claw on one of his toes. This figure murdered the sorceress and queen Hvit by placing her in a bag and beating her as revenge for his father, Bjorn, who had been transformed into a bear and fed to his mother Bera; during his final battle, this figure assumes the form of a spectral bear, before he was mistakenly aroused by Hjalti, dooming them both to death. He had earlier helped Hjalti by pulling him from a shield of bones and slaying one of his tormentors with a knuckle bone, and together they slew a dragon which had ravaged a kingdom every Yuletide. This hero's journey to a Danish kingdom to slay a monster is often cited to argue for his identity with another Germanic hero. With a name meaning "warlike bear-cub", this is, FTP, what Norwegian hero, often argued to be identical with Beowulf.

ANSWER: **Bodvar Bjarki** [or **Bothvar Bjarki**; prompt on "Beowulf" before it is mentioned]

2. One figure by this name was defeated by Hromundr Gripsson after accidentally slaying a swan that was protecting him. Another man by this name tricked the giantess Hrimgerth into being turned into stone by the sun, after he had earlier slain the giant Hati. That same figure by this name was born after his father slew the magical eagle that was protecting Sigrínn. The brother of one figure by this name swore to take his wife after refusing to sleep with a giantess riding a wolf, and that figure by this name was later avenged by that brother, Hedin. Another figure by this name was slain by his brother-in-law, Dag, in retribution for the death of this man's father-in-law, Hoegni at the Battle of Frekasstein. These three figures by this name, including one famed for slaying Hunding, were lovers of a valkyrie, who was reincarnated as Svava, Sigrun, and Kara. FTP, give this name, which was shared by three men who were incarnations of one another and which names a cycle of Eddic poems.

ANSWER: **Helgi** [accept **Helgi** Haddingjaskati or **Helgi** Hundingsbane or **Helgi** Hjoervarthsson or **Helgi** Hjoervardsson at any point]

3. According to one tradition, this event was precipitated by the invasion of the lands around the Tanakvisl River, and another tradition holds that it was presaged by the introduction of seid by Heidr. This event saw an attempted murder in the hall of Har, in which a spear-filled body was burned three times, though the owner of that body, Gullveig, did not die. This event, which is described as the first conflict in the world in the *Voluspa*, has popularly been interpreted to be the mythicization of the Indo-European migration to Europe. One tradition holds that the conclusion of this conflict resulted in a figure being born from spittle, Kvasir, and the end of this conflict also saw the exchange of Hoenir and Mimir on one side for Njord, Freyr, and Freyja on the other. FTP, this is what war between two sets of deities in Norse mythology?

ANSWER: **Aesir-Vanir** War [do not prompt on partial answers; accept any logical equivalent for "war" or "conflict"]

4. In one story, this figure jousted Almung, only to allow himself to be tied to a linden tree so that Almung would take Skemming and another horse. Later, this figure, while fighting for King Isung, was defeated after three days of battle when Thedrik acquired the sword Mimung from Vidga. When he was born, this figure was placed in a glass cask, which floated to an island, where this figure was raised by a hind until he was found by the smith Mimir. In another tradition, this figure was informed by Gripir that he must avenge his family by slaying the sons of Hunding, particularly Lyngvi. This figure acquired his sword after giving it to his foster-father in two pieces and, after it was fixed, he cleaved the anvil it was reforged on in two. Following his most famous battle, this figure ate some of the flesh of his enemy and acquired the ability to understand birds; he then slew his foster-father, Regin, with the sword Gram. FTP, name this Germanic hero whose bath in the blood of the dragon Fafnir gave him invulnerability.

ANSWER: **Sigurd** [or **Siegfried**]

5. One member of this group, Jorundr, was captured by Gylaug and hanged for his part in the hanging of Guthlaug in Denmark. Another member of this group, caught his wife Bera sitting on the high throne with his brother and consequently slew and was slain by that brother, also member of this group. In addition to Alfr and Yngvi, another member of this group, Alrek, likewise killed and was killed by his brother Eirik in a battle with horses' bridles. After Ohtere was killed by his brother, another member of this dynasty, Eadgils, retook the throne with the help of arms and men from Beowulf. Another member of this group was Fjolnir, who, while visiting Frodi in Denmark,

drunkenly fell into a vat of mead and drowned. This dynasty is the subject of a saga in the *Heimskringla* of Snorri Sturluson, wherein they are said to be the descendents of Freyr. FTP, name this legendary Swedish dynasty.
ANSWER: Ynglings [or Ynglingar; accept “Scylfings” or “Scylfingar”]

6. This figure carried a load of coal across the sea in order to excite one king to avenge his father, and this figure was orphaned when his own father, Storkvirkr was burned alive by Fjori and Fyri, because Storkvirkr had kidnapped their sister and this man's mother, Unn. This hero saved Frotho's daughter, Helga, from picking lice from a goldsmith's pubic hair. This warrior incited Ingjald to slay Swerking's sons and he slew Lennius after accepting gold from that man to betray and murder King Olo the Strong. This man or his namesake grandfather was a multi-armed giant, whose extra limbs were ripped off by Thor. A hero of the Battle of Bravellir, this man betrayed his childhood friend and first king, Vikar, when a reed stalk and a loose willow noose transformed into a spear and iron band respectively. That murder followed a debate in which this hero received three lifetimes, but was cursed to commit three great crimes. FTP, name this Norse hero, equally cursed and blessed in a meeting with Thor and Odin.
ANSWER: Starkad [or Starkadr or Starkathr or Storkudr or Storkuthr]

7. This weapon was wielded by one hero during a battle against his half-brother Hloed, a Hun who laid claim to a Gothic throne, and according to another tradition, this weapon was awarded to another hero, the son of Hoefund, by his mother when he accidentally slew his own brother with a stone. This weapon was used to slay one of its owners when a group of thralls stole it, but Heidrek's death was avenged by his son. This weapon earned the nickname “Hjalmar's Bane” after it slew that hero on the island of Samsey, where it was recovered from the tomb of Angantyr by that man's daughter, the shield maiden Hervoer. This weapon was made to shine like a ray of the sun, and its poisoned blade was attached to a golden hilt by the dwarves Dvalinn and Durin for its first owner Svafrlami, whose life it was cursed to take. FTP, name this sword owned by two different Angantyr's and cursed to slay a man every time it was unsheathed.
ANSWER: Tyrfing [accept “Heidrek's Sword” before he is named; accept “Hjalmar's Bane” before it is said; accept “Angantyr's Sword” before they are named; accept “Hervoer's Sword” before she is named; accept “Svafrlami's Sword” before he is named]

8. In one tale, this man became king of Northumbria after marrying the daughter of Nordri, Ogn, the mother of this man's son Agnar. This man cut off the foot of Hrok when the latter threw away his favorite ring, an event which prompted Hrok to overthrow and murder him. With the help of his foster-father, Regin, this man and his brother, using the names Hrani and Ham, hid with the magician Vifill, after his uncle Frothi slew his father Halfdan. Another tradition relates that this man, who succeeded his brother Heoregar, tried to use Freawaru to weave peace between his clan and that of Ingeld, as he had earlier won peace with the Helmings by marrying Wealhtheow. This king also settled a blood feud between the Wulfings and Ecgtheow and mourned Aeschere's death when the latter was slain by the mother of another enemy of this man. FTP, name this king, whose hall Heorot is attacked by both Grendel and his mother.
ANSWER: Hrothgar [or Hrodgar or Hroar or Roar or Roas]

9. One myth about this figure found in *Beowulf* states that he slew a dragon with the aid of his nephew Fitela, while in another account this man slew two other nephews after they refused to prepare bread because there was a snake in the flour. After his entire face was coated in honey, this hero bit out the tongue of a wolf, which had eaten his nine brothers and which was actually the mother of his enemy Siggeir in disguise. With Borghild, this man fathered the hero Helgi Hundingsbane, and he was slain in battle after his sword broke while striking against Odin's spear. That battle with Hunding's son Lyngvi was prompted by a dispute over another wife, Hjoerdis, who gave birth to this man's most famous son. Earlier, this hero alienated his brother-in-law when he refused to sell a sword for thrice its weight in gold, after he drew that sword, Gram, from a tree. Gram was later used by the son of, FTP, what Norse hero, the father of Sigurd?
ANSWER: Sigmund [or Sigmundr or Sigmunth or Sigmunthr]

10. One king of these people was forced, with his friend, Bosi, to acquire a vulture's egg inscribed with gold lettering from the temple of Jomuli; another king of this people was born with the lower parts of a dog because his mother was forced to eat part of her husband. In addition to Herraud and Thorir Hound's-Foot, the bones of another king of this people were kept by the Franks as a curiosity, because of their gigantic size, after he was killed by them during a raid, and a later king of this people was slain by Onela, because he gave refuge to Onela's nephews. In addition to Hygelac and Heardred, another leader of this people engaged in a seven-day swimming contest with

Breca the Bronding, during which he slew nine sea monsters and swam from Sweden to Finland. This people is terrorized after a precious cup was stolen from a hoard, before another of their leaders and Wiglaf slay the dragon. FTP, name this Scandinavian people, the most famous of whom is Beowulf.

ANSWER: Geats [or Geatas or Gautar or Gotar; prompt on “Goths”, since there has been debate about their being identical or closely related]

11. According to one story, this figure rescued Hadding from his defeat by Lokur, carrying that man on his back over the sea, and one theory regarding the appearance of this figure compares him to Bagri Mori of Gondi myth and to a funeral bier. In another tale, this figure appeared always over the next hill in a race involving Gullfaxi, prompted by the boasting of Hrungr, while in another story, this figure was able to overleap the gates on the other side of the River Gjoell, when he accompanied Hermothr on a trip to the underworld. This creature is cited as the kin of Grani and he derived many of his special abilities from his father, Svathilfari, who was seduced while attempting to help a hrímthurs win the sun, the moon, and Freyja by completing a wall in only three seasons. Born from Loki, this is, FTP, what eight-legged horse owned by Odin?

ANSWER: Sleipnir [prompt on Odin and Lysir before “on his back”]

12. After this figure’s father, Vadi, was buried in a landslide, this figure was forced to murder two dwarves who had been promised his life if his father did not arrive by a certain time. This figure lived at sea for a time in a chest that he constructed for himself from a whole tree, and he also cut in half the fully armored Amilias with a sword that he forged from iron he twice collected from the dung of a chicken. Egil, the brother of this figure, collected birds so that this man could construct a flying suit, after he avenged himself on a king by making dinnerware and goblets from the bones of that king’s two sons and raping Bodvild, that king’s daughter, when she sought to have a ring reforged. This father of Vidga was unable to walk because Nidung or Nidud had him hamstrung, but it did not prevent him from creating Mimung, Beowulf’s armor, or Gram. FTP, name this mythical Germanic smith.

ANSWER: Wayland [or Voelund or Voelundr or Velent or Velentr or Violant]

13. This figure was the victim of a trap during a continuation of a wedding feast by his son-in-law and warnings about that danger from his prophetic daughter prompted this figure to cite a vow that he made in the womb never to flee iron or fire. The birth of this king of the Huns came by caesarian section after his mother’s sixth year of pregnancy and his conception was achieved through the consumption of a special apple given to his parents by the daughter of Hrimnir at the behest of Odin. This hero and son of Rerir married the valkyrie who delivered that apple, Hljoed, who gave birth to this man’s eleven children, nine of whom were killed after this man was defeated in battle by the Geatish king Siggeir, but he was avenged by his oldest son and daughter. The builder of a mead-hall which housed the tree Branstock, this is, FTP, what king of Norse myth, the father and grandfather of Sigmund and Sigurd?

ANSWER: Voelsung [or Voels or Wael]

14. Hjordvard became a vassal of this figure when he tricked the former into holding his sword belt. In another tradition, Mjoldfjardr-Skeggi was responsible for bringing the sword Skofnung to Iceland when he stole it from this figure’s tomb. Gold became known as the “seed of” this man in a kenning after he threw gold across a field to slow down an army pursuing him. This owner of the hound Gram lost the favor of Odin when he refused a gift of armor from the farmer Hrani, after Hrani used tests of freezing cold, thirst, and tremendous heat to help this man in his battle against the Swedish king Adils. The one-eyed Svipdagr and Bodvar Bjarki were warriors of this king, who was the son of his own sister Yrsa, after the latter unknowingly married her own father Halga. Despite Wealhtheow seeking protection from this man for her children, he succeeds his uncle as king of Heorot in another tradition.

Given the nickname “Kraki”, which means “pole-ladder”, this is, FTP, what Danish king and nephew of Hrothgar?

ANSWER: Hrolfr Kraki [or Hrolf Kraki or Hrothulf or Hrodulf or Rolf Krage]

15. One member of this dynasty ordered Fenja and Menja to mill gold, peace, and prosperity with the giant mill Grotti, but instead they created an army and slew him; another member of this dynasty, Gram, won Groa after pretending to be a giant. Several figures, including Gram and Beow, whose name means “barley”, are regarded as the second member of this dynasty. In one myth, the founder of this dynasty fought a gigantic bear with only his belt, defeating and tying it up. That founder of this dynasty, who is sometimes regarded as the son of Heremod or Odin, took his name from the sheaves of wheat found in his hand as an infant, after the boat he was set adrift in landed, as related in *Beowulf*. Taking its name from a mysterious king with the last name “Scefing”, whose story opens *Beowulf*, this is, FTP, what Danish dynasty which includes Hrolf Kraki and Hrothgar?

ANSWER: Scyldings [or Scyldingas or Skjoldungs or Skjoldungar; prompt on “Scyld” or “Skjold”]

16. One figure with this name outlawed Sigi for the murder of Brethi, a thrall who had bested Sigi in hunting, while the most famous figure with this name has been associated with the Sami because of such titles as Oendurguth and Oendurdis, which hint at the way this figure hunts. A joke featuring Loki tying his testicles to the beard of a goat is said to have made this figure laugh. As with many other goddesses, Loki claims to have seduced this figure in the *Lokasenna*, where he also brags about his role in the death of this figure's father. It is in revenge for that death that this figure later hangs the serpent above the face of the bound Loki. This figure spent nine nights at Noatun, the home of her husband, unable to sleep due to squawking birds, before divorcing that god that she had wed after seeing only his feet. The daughter of Thjazi, this is, FTP, what giantess and wife of Njord?

ANSWER: Skadi [or Skathi]

17. This figure set himself apart from his brothers when his mother sew a seam in his arm to test his endurance, and he later slew two other brothers who followed a rolling gold ring into a room where he was hiding with his father. This figure's father saved his life after witnessing two weasels fighting and receiving a leaf from a raven. The body of this figure was collected by a mysterious stranger in a boat, Odin in disguise, after he failed to use his moustache to sift poison from a drinking horn given to him by his stepmother Borghild. After finding two Saxons sleeping with wolfskins, this man and his father became werewolves, a fact which might be reflected in his name, often translated as "yellow-spotted". This hero was born when his mother traded shapes with a witch to seduce her own brother, who was hiding in a barrow in the woods. That woman was Signy, and this man was sired to take revenge on Siggeir for Voelsung's death. Half-brother to Helgi Hudingsbane and Sigurd, this is, FTP, what eldest son of Sigmund?

ANSWER: Sinfjoetli

18. Friia is named as a sister of this figure in the Merseburg Incantation, in which the two sing a spell in order to restore a horse belonging to Phol, a deity that John McKinnell suggested as a double for this figure. This figure owns a special headpiece, which is used in a kenning for gold and which holds the free-growing hair of this figure, an image which has been used to argue for this deity's relationship to the harvest and prosperity, as reflected in this deity's name, which translates to "plenty". In one story, this figure forewarned Geirrod of a wizard, Grimnir, who would not be attacked by dogs and who was actually Odin in disguise, and in another story, this figure received a finger-ring as a gift from Nanna, while the latter dwelt in Helheim with Baldr. Noted as the bearer of the eski, an ash chest, this is, FTP, what maiden goddess, the servant of Frigg?

ANSWER: Fulla [or Volla]

19. According to *The Saga of Hrolf Kraki*, these creatures make up much of the army with which Skuld defeats her brother Hrolf, and one of these creatures named Thorgunna cooked for her escorts after a farmer refused them food in *Eyrbyggja Saga*. Upon becoming one of these creatures, Aran became ravenous and even bit off the ears of his sworn brother Asmund, in one tale, while in another, these creatures are driven out after legal proceedings are brought against them. Another of these creatures helped his son Thorfinn to take over an entire island by attacking Thorfinn's neighbors; that creature was Kar the Old. The sight of the eyes of one of these creatures in the moonlight made a hero permanently scared of the dark, though that creature, a former shepherd named Glamr, was defeated by Grettir. Frequently, Grendel has been identified with, FTP, what undead creatures from Norse mythology?

ANSWER: Draug [or Draugs or Draugr or Draugrs or Draugar or Draugen or Haugbui or Haugbuar; prompt on "revenants", "ghosts", "zombies", or any logical equivalents thereof until mentioned]

20. In one story, this figure dreamed of eating two bloody trees from his yard, among other oddities, but was lied to as to the meaning by his wife, who was convinced to marry this figure only after drinking a potion from a rune-inscribed horn given to her by her mother. In another tale, this figure, deceived by his maid and former mistress Herkja, tested his wife's fidelity by having her grab jewels from a boiling cauldron, a test that she passed. This figure killed the lover of his sister, Oddrun, while she was away. This figure ate the honey-drenched hearts of Erp and Eitil, who were slain by their own murder as revenge against this son of Budli, who also ordered that Hogni's heart be cut out and that Hogni's brother, Gunnar, be thrown into a snake pit. These two murders resulted Gudrun in turn murdering this king, the brother of her rival Brynhildr. FTP, name this real king of the Huns, found in the Voelsunga Saga and known as the "Scourge of God".

ANSWER: Atli Budlason [or Attila the Hun or Etzel]