

A Simple Spring Blót to Jörð

As spring settles in, and life returns to the fields, the world is awakening from its winter slumber. This is the perfect time to give an offering to Jörð, and thank Her for Her gifts. Jörð is the personification of earth. She is the mother of the thunder god Thor, and was once a partner of Odin. The goddess of the uncivilized, uncultivated, wild earth, it is her awakening we see in the new buds on the trees, and the return of wildlife.



Ari, a spamadhr, writes: “Ah, Jörð! What can I say about her except to sing her praises? She lives in the area of Jotunheim that is the most fertile, and her very touch causes trees to fruit and seeds to sprout. In her own way she is just as much a mistress of fertility as any of the Vanir gods. Long hair and eyes the chocolate of rich, turned earth, skin darker than that of most Jotnar. Nothing small about her — belly of billowing female flesh, breasts that could drown a man, hips broad enough to spill forth triplets with ease. Jörð's Mountain - she is very often pregnant by her various lovers. It is probably impossible to calculate how many children she has borne. She is like the Earth itself, drawing you into her strong, soft, motherly embrace. Probably one of the most generous and giving etin-women in existence. I can see why Odin fell in love with her. I can also see why he left her — a man could get lost in her bed and never come out again to do any brave, heroic deeds. I have to wonder if Thor's ambivalent relationships with giantesses suggest how hard it was to cut the apron strings with such a powerful mother.”

Altar Supplies:

Green candle

Hlautbowl

Fresh water (spring water, preferably)

Mead (or other liquid offering)

Cedar sprig

Horn

The Ceremony:

If you are performing this Blót in a group, I recommend setting the sacred space before your guests arrive. Set all of your supplies on the altar within easy reach. Breathe deeply, and center yourself, find your calm. Pour the water into the hlautbowl, and make your way around the space, using the cedar sprig to sprinkle a circle around the area you are going to be working in. Call out to the Æsir, the Vanir, the Ancestors and the Landvættir as you deem appropriate, and ask them to witness your Blót. Any remaining water in the hlautbowl, pour before the altar with a word of thanks to Njörd.

If you are having guests, now is the time to welcome them to the Blót. I like to greet each by name as they arrive. This makes each attendee feel welcome, and includes them personally into the rite. Once everyone has settled, now is the perfect time to explain the ceremony, and tell a little bit about Jörð.

Turn to the altar, light the green candle, and fill the horn with mead (or whichever drink you are using), and raise it above your head, calling out to Jörð.

"Jörð, Mother of the Earth, great goddess of fertility and life, wilderness and wilds, we call upon you this spring day to look upon us and smile. Fill our hearts with the joy of new life, our minds with the mysteries of the deep unknown caves, the peace of the quiet woodland glades, the happiness of the gurgling brooks. Steady us on our path as you steady the legs of the newborn deer, and lift our spirits as you lift the wings of the eagles. We give you thanks this day for all of the blessings you bring into our world, and honour you as the life-bringer. Hail to you, Jörð!"

Take a drink of the mead, and pass it around the gathered guests. Each should lift the horn before drinking, and give their own salute to Jörð, take a drink, and pass it back. Please make sure to sanitary wipe the lip of the horn between guests.

Once all have partaken of the horn, return to the altar, and lift it once more above your head.

"Jörð, great Mother, we thank you and we honour you. Cast your blessings upon us all. Hail!"

Drink one last time, and pour any remaining drink before the altar as an offering to Jörð and as a thanks to the Landvættir. Thank any other deities, Ancestors, and Landvættir you have called to witness the rite. Snuff the candle, and thank your attendees for coming!