

A Simple Blót to Oðinn



As June is the time to remember the fallen service members in America for Memorial Day (July in Canada), it is a time to remember the connection between our own fallen warriors, and those who fought among our spiritual forebears -- the Einherjar (Old Norse for "they who fight alone"). They are the fallen who feast beneath the roof of shields in Valhalla, preparing to defend the Æsir from the Jotnar at the final battle of Ragnarok. Their existence is the basis of an ancient name -- Valföðr (Old Norse for "Father of the Slain"). It is but one of the *many* names of the king of Asgard, Oðinn.

Altar Supplies:

- Candle
- Hlautbol
- Fresh water
- Mead (or other liquid offering)
- Evergreen sprig
- Horn

Fill horn with mead, fill hlautból with water. **"With the strength of Thor, with the heart of Tyr, with the grace of Freyja, and with the wisdom of the All-father Odinn himself, hallow this vé and hold it against any powers who may wish to work against us."**

Light the candle. **"With this flame, we remember the first mystery of Muspellheim, and the final mercy of Midgard. Aesir and Vanir, help us to see you as clearly everyday as we see this flame now."**

"Tonight we call on the All-Father Oðinn, the Terrible One, the Concealer, Lord of the Æsir, the Father of Magical Song, the War Father and Father of Victory, the Father of the Slain, the God of Runes, the Hanged One, the Mighty, the Wise One, the Goði of the Raven-Blot, the One who is Many, The Hooded One, High, Just as High, and the Third One. Grant us the wisdom and insight to work with our wyrd and not against it, to weave the fabric of frið and not to fray it, to stand fast and not to fall. Our courage rises to the clouds, now set your shield upon us as a pledge that we may strive, and flourish, and fly. We call on the Strange Fruit of Yggdrasil's Branch as we ask your blessings."

"Hail Odin, the Spear Reddener!" (*Drink then pour offering on ground, onto altar, etc.*)

*If in a group, take the hlautból around the group, using the evergreen sprig to sprinkle those gathered. Give each a unique whispered blessing before moving on to the next person. Appropriate blessings include **"Remember the fallen"** or **"We know about them because they fought for us."** If alone, touch the wet spring to your own forehead and meditate for a few moments on the meaning of this blot.*

*Hold the horn of mead high, and say, **"A gift has made its way from the gods to the earth to us, and now we return the gift to the earth, from which it shall be shared with the gods once more. A gift requires a gift, the All-father has said, and a deed requires a deed. Make good your promise now, O Wanderer!"***

(Take a drink to honour the fallen, then pour out horn onto the ground or altar)

"Gods, goddesses, and any holy powers with us tonight -- we thank you for your presence. We ask tonight for your blessings upon our kindred and our guests, and as you depart, we now wish you a good evening. This ancient rite of blot is now complete."