

= Fólkvangr =

In Norse mythology , Fólkvangr (Old Norse " field of the host " or " people @-@ field " or " army @-@ field ") is a meadow or field ruled over by the goddess Freyja where half of those that die in combat go upon death , while the other half go to the god Odin in Valhalla . Fólkvangr is attested in the Poetic Edda , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources , and the Prose Edda , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson . According to the Prose Edda , within Fólkvangr is Freyja 's hall Sessrúmnir . Scholarly theories have been proposed about the implications of the location .

= = Attestations = =

In the poem Grímnismál collected in the Poetic Edda , Odin (disguised as Grímnir) tells the young Agnar that Freyja allots seats to half of those that die in her hall Fólkvangr , while Odin receives the other half (Fólkvangr is here anglicized to Fôlkvang and Folkvang) :

In chapter 24 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , High tells Gangleri (described as king Gylfi in disguise) that Freyja is " the most glorious of the ásynjur " , that Freyja has a dwelling in the heavens called Fólkvangr , and that " whenever she rides to battle she gets half of the slain , and the other half Odin , as it says here : [the stanza above from Grímnismál is then quoted] " . High then continues with a description of Freyja 's hall Sessrúmnir .

= = Theories = =

= = = Egils saga = = =

In Egils saga , when Egill Skallagrímsson refuses to eat , his daughter Þorgerðr (here anglicized as " Thorgerd ") says she will go without food and thus starve to death , and in doing so will meet the goddess Freyja :

Thorgerd replied in a loud voice , ' I have had no evening meal , nor will I do so until I join Freyja . I know no better course of action than my father 's . I do not want to live after my father and brother are dead.'

Britt @-@ Mari Näsström says that " as a receiver of the dead her [Freyja 's] abode is also open for women who have suffered a noble death . " Näsström cites the above passage from Egils saga as an example , and points to a potential additional connection in the saga Hervarar saga ok Heiðreks , where the queen hangs herself in the dísarsalr (Old Norse " the Hall of the Dís ") after discovering that her husband has betrayed both her father and brother . Näsström comments that " this Dís could hardly be anyone but Freyja herself , the natural leader of the collective female deities called dísir , and the place of the queen 's suicide seems thus to be connected with Freyja . "

= = = Implications = = =

John Lindow says that if the Fólk- element of Fólkvangr is to be understood as " army " , then Fólkvangr appears as an alternative to Valhalla . Lindow adds that , like Odin , Freyja has an association with warriors in that she presides over the eternal combat of Hjaðningavíg .

Rudolf Simek theorizes that the name Fólkvangr is " surely not much older than Grímnismál itself " , and adds that the Gylfaginning description keeps close to the Grímnismál description , yet that the Gylfaginning descriptions adds that Sessrúmnir is located within Fólkvangr . According to Hilda Ellis Davidson , Valhalla " is well known because it plays so large a part in images of warfare and death , " yet the significance of other halls in Norse mythology such as Ýdalir , where the god Ullr dwells , and Freyja 's Fólkvangr have been lost .

Britt @-@ Mari Näsström places emphasis on that Gylfaginning relates that " whenever she rides into battle she takes half of the slain , " and interprets Fólkvangr as " the field of the Warriors . "

Näsström comments that :

Freyja receives the slain heroes of the battlefield quite respectfully as Óðinn does . Her house is called Sessrumnir , ' filled with many seats ' , and it probably fills the same function as Valhöll , ' the hall of the slain ' , where the warriors eat and drink beer after the fighting . Still , we must ask why there are two heroic paradises in the Old Norse View of afterlife . It might possibly be a consequence of different forms of initiation of warriors , where one part seemed to have belonged to Óðinn and the other to Freyja . These examples indicate that Freyja was a war @-@ goddess , and she even appears as a valkyrie , literally ' the one who chooses the slain ' .

Siegfried Andres Dobat comments that " in her mythological role as the chooser of half the fallen warriors for her death realm Fólkvangr , the goddess Freyja , however , emerges as the mythological role model for the Valkyrjar and the dísir . "

= = Modern influence = =

Early in the 20th century , Karl Ernst Osthaus developed the " Folkwang @-@ Gedanke " or " Folkwang @-@ Konzept " , that art and life can be reconciled . Several cultural institutions bearing the name Folkwang (the German spelling of Fólkvangr) were founded on this concept . These institutions include the Museum Folkwang in Essen (opened 1902) , the publishing house Folkwang @-@ Verlag (founded 1919) , Folkwang Kammerorchester Essen (founded 1958) , Folkwang @-@ Musikschule in Essen (founded 1974) , and Folkwang University of the Arts , focusing on music , theater , dance , design and academic studies .