

= Fensalir =

In Norse mythology , Fensalir (Old Norse " Fen Halls ") is a location where the goddess Frigg dwells . Fensalir 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 . Scholars have proposed theories about the implications of the location , including that the location may have some connection to religious practices involving springs , bogs , or swamps in Norse paganism , and that it may be connected to the goddess Sága 's watery location Sökkvabekkr .

= = Attestations = =

In the Poetic Edda poem Völuspá , Frigg is described as weeping over her son Baldr 's death in Fensalir . This stanza is absent in the Hauksbók manuscript of the poem . The portion of the stanza mentioning Fensalir foretells that vengeance will come for the death of Baldr and that :

while Frigg wept
in Fen Halls
for Valh?ll 's woe .

In chapter 35 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , High tells Gangleri (described as king Gylfi in disguise) that Frigg is the highest among the ásynjur , and that " she has a dwelling called Fensalir and it is very splendid . " In chapter 49 , High says that when Loki witnessed that Baldr had gained invincibility due to the oath all things took not to harm him , Loki went to a Fensalir appearing as a woman . In his disguise , Loki there asked Frigg why Baldr was not harmed by the objects . Frigg revealed that it is due to the oath they have taken . The disguised Loki asks if nothing can hurt Baldr , and Frigg reveals that only mistletoe can , for it seemed to her too young to demand an oath from . After this , Loki immediately disappears , and subsequently engineers the death of Baldr with a mistletoe projectile .

In the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , Fensalir receives a third and final mention . In chapter 19 , ways to refer to Frigg are provided , including that Frigg may be referred to as " queen of Æsir and Asyniur , of Fulla and falcon form and Fensalir . "

= = Theories = =

In 1882 , the German scholar Anton Edzardi proposed that Fensalir may point to religious practices involving springs . John Lindow comments that " I have no idea why Frigg should live in a boggy place , despite the old argument that there is an association with a cult situated at a spring . " Rudolf Simek comments that Edzardi 's theory " must remain unanswered . " In addition , Edzardi theorized a connection between Fensalir and a belief in folklore that particular swamps act as an entrance to the realm of Holda , whom he connects with Frigg .

In a 19th @-@ century work , Paul Henri Mallet and Walter Scott write that the " fen " element of Fensalir " may also be made to sig [nify] the watery deep , or the sea . " This etymology has resulted in theories that the name Fensalir may mean " Sea Halls " rather than " Fen Halls . " In his 19th @-@ century translation of the Poetic Edda , Henry Adams Bellows comments that " some scholars have regarded [Frigg] as a solar myth , calling her the sun @-@ goddess , and pointing out that her home in Fensalir (" the sea @-@ halls ") symbolizes the daily setting of the sun beneath the ocean horizon . "

John Lindow says that due to similarity between the goddess Sága 's Sökkvabekkr and Fensalir , the open drinking between Sága and Odin , and the potential etymological basis for Sága being a seeress " have led most scholars to understand Sága as another name for Frigg . " Stephan Grundy states that Sága and Sökkvabekkr may be by @-@ forms of Frigg and Fensalir used for the purpose of composing alliterative verse .

Britt @-@ Mari Näsström theorizes that " Frigg 's role as a fertility goddess is revealed in the name of her abode , Fensalir [...] " , that Frigg is the same as Sága , and that both the names Fensalir and Sökkvabekkr " imply a goddess [sic] living in the water and recall the fertility goddess Nerthus . "

