

= Nótt =

In Norse mythology , Nótt ( Old Norse " night " ) is night personified , grandmother of Thor . In both the Poetic Edda , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources , and the Prose Edda , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson , Nótt is listed as the daughter of a figure by the name of Nörvi ( with variant spellings ) and is associated with the horse Hrímfaxi , while the Prose Edda features information about Nótt 's ancestry , including her three marriages . Nótt 's third marriage was to the god Dellingr and this resulted in their son Dagr , the personified day ( although some manuscript variations list Jörð as Dellingr 's wife and Dagr 's mother instead ) . As a proper noun , the word nótt appears throughout Old Norse literature .

= = Attestations = =

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

In stanza 24 of the poem Vafþrúðnismál , the god Odin ( disguised as " Gagnráðr " ) asks the jötnunn Vafþrúðnir from where the day comes , and the night and its tides . In stanza 25 , Vafþrúðnir responds :

Dellingr hight he who the day 's father is ,  
but night was of Nörvi born ;  
the new and waning moons the beneficent powers created ,  
to count the years for men .

In stanza 14 of the Vafþrúðnismál , Odin states that the horse Hrímfaxi " draws every night to the beneficent gods " and that he lets foam from his bit fall every morning , from which dew comes to the valleys . In stanza 30 of the poem Alvíssmál , the god Thor asks the dwarf Alvíss to tell him what night is called in each of the nine worlds , whom " Nórr " birthed . Alvíss responds that night is referred as " night " by mankind , " darkness " by the gods , " the masker " by the mighty Powers , " unlight " by the jötnunn , " joy @-@ of @-@ sleep " by the elves , while dwarves call her " dream @-@ Njörun " ( meaning " dream @-@ goddess " ) .

In Sigdrífumál , after the valkyrie Sigdrífa is woken from her sleep curse by the hero Sigurd , Sigurd asks her name , and she gives him a " memory @-@ drink " of a drinking horn full of mead , and then Sigdrífa says a heathen prayer . The first verse of this prayer features a reference to the " sons of Dagr " and the " daughter of Nótt " :

Hail to the Day ! Hail to the sons of Day !  
To Night and her daughter hail !  
With placid eyes behold us here ,  
and here sitting give us victory .  
Hail to the Æsir ! Hail to the Asyniur !  
Hail to the bounteous earth !  
Words and wisdom give to us noble twain ,  
and healing hands while we live !

= = = Prose Edda = = =

In the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , Nótt is again personified . In chapter 10 , the enthroned figure of High states that Nótt is the daughter of a jötnunn from Jötunheimr by the name of " Norfi or Narfi " . Nótt is described as " black and swarthy " , and has had three marriages . Her first marriage was with Naglfari , and the two produced a son by the name of Auðr . Nótt 's second marriage was to Annar , resulting in their daughter Jörð , the personified earth . Finally , Nótt marries the god Dellingr , and the couple have Dagr , who takes after his " father 's people " in brightness and fairness . Odin took Nótt and her son Dagr , placed them into the sky with a chariot and a horse each , and they ride around the earth every 24 hours . Nótt rides before Dagr , and foam from her

horse Hrímfaxi 's bit sprinkles the earth .

However , scholar Haukur Thorgeirsson points out that the four manuscripts of Gylfaginning vary in their descriptions of the family relations between Nótt , Jörð , Dagr , and Dellingr . In other words , depending on the manuscript , either Jörð or Nátt is the mother of Dagr and partner of Dellingr . Haukur details that " the oldest manuscript , U , offers a version where J?rð is the wife of Dellingr and the mother of Dagr while the other manuscripts , R , W and T , cast Nótt in the role of Dellingr 's wife and Dagr 's mother " , and argues that " the version in U came about accidentally when the writer of U or its antecedent shortened a text similar to that in RWT . The results of this accident made their way into the Icelandic poetic tradition " .

In the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , means of referring to Jörð are provided , including " daughter of Nótt " . Chapter 58 states that " Hrimfaxi or Fiorsvartnir draw the night " , and in chapter 64 , " nótt " is stated as one of various words for time and a version of the Alvíssmál passage is cited .