

= Delligr =

Delligr ( Old Norse possibly " the dayspring " or " shining one " ) is a god in Norse mythology . Delligr is attested in the Poetic Edda , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources , and in the Prose Edda , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson . In both sources , Delligr is described as the father of Dagr , the personified day . The Prose Edda adds that , depending on manuscript variation , he is either the third husband of Nótt , the personified night , or the husband of Jörð , the personified earth . Delligr is also attested in the legendary saga Hervarar saga ok Heiðreks . Scholars have proposed that Delligr is the personified dawn , and his name may appear both in an English surname and place name as well as German surnames .

= = Attestations = =

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

Delligr is referenced in the Poetic Edda poems Vafþrúðnismál and Hávamál . In stanza 24 of 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 :

Delligr 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 Hávamál , the dwarf Þjóðr?rir is stated as having recited an unnamed spell " before Delligr 's doors " :

For the fifteenth I know what the dwarf Thiodreyrir  
sang before Delligr 's doors .

Strength he sang to the Æsir , and to the Alfar prosperity ,  
wisdom to Hroptatyr .

In the poem Fjölsvinnsmál , Svipdagr asks " What one of the gods has made so great the hall I behold within ? " Fjölsviðr responds with a list of names , including Delligr . In a stanza of the poem Hrafnagaldur Óðins , the appearance of Dagr , horse , and chariot are described , and Dagr himself is referred to as " the son of Delligr . "

= = = Prose Edda = = =

In chapter 10 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , the enthroned figure of High states that Delligr is a god and the third husband of Nótt . The couple have Dagr , who carries the features of his " father 's people " , which are described as " bright and beautiful " . Odin placed both Delligr 's son , Dagr , and Delligr 's wife , Nótt , in the sky , so that they may ride across it with their horses and chariots every 24 hours .

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 Delligr . In other words , depending on the manuscript , either Jörð or Nótt is the mother of Dagr and partner of Delligr . Haukur details that " the oldest manuscript , U , offers a version where J?rð is the wife of Delligr and the mother of Dagr while the other manuscripts , R , W and T , cast Nótt in the role of Delligr '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 " .

= = = Hervarar saga ok Heiðreks = = =

Five riddles found in the poem Heiðreks gátur contained in the legendary saga Hervarar saga ok Heiðreks employ the phrase " Delligr 's doors " ( Old Norse Dellings durum ) once each . As an

example , in one stanza where the phrase is used Gestumblindi ( Odin in disguise ) poses the following riddle :

What strange marvel  
did I see without ,  
in front of Delling 's door ;  
its head turning  
to Hel downward ,  
but its feet ever seek the sun ?

This riddle ponder ,  
O prince Heidrek !

'Your riddle is good , Gestumblindi , ' said the king ; ' I have guessed it . It is the leek ; its head is fast in the ground , but it forks as it grows up.'

= = Theories = =

Jacob Grimm states that Dellingr is the assimilated form of Deglingr , which includes the name of Dellingr 's son Dagr . Grimm adds that if the -ling likely refers to descent , and that due to this Dellingr may have been the " progenitor Dagr before him " or that the succession order has been reversed , which Grimm states often occurs in old genealogies . Benjamin Thorpe says that Dellingr may be dawn personified , similarly to his son Dagr , the personified day .

Regarding the references to " Delling 's door " as used in Hervarar saga ok Heiðreks , Christopher Tolkien says that :

What this phrase meant to the maker of these riddles is impossible to say . In Hávamál 160 it is said that the dwarf Thjóðrørir sang before Delling 's doors , which ( in view of the fact that Delling is the father of Dag ( Day ) in Vafþrúðnismál 25 ) may mean that he gave warning to his people that the sun was coming up , and they must return to their dark houses ; the phrase would then virtually mean ' at sunrise . ' As regarding d?glings for Dellings in H , and D?glingar were the descendants of Dagr ( according to SnE . 183 ) .

John Lindow says that some confusion exists about the reference to Dellingr in Hávamál . Lindow says that " Dellingr 's doors " may either be a metaphor for sunrise or the reference may refer to the dwarf of the same name .

The English family name Dallinger has been theorized as deriving from Dellingr . The English place name Dalbury ( south of Derbyshire ) derives from Dellingeberie , which itself derives from Dellingr . In Germany , the family names Dehlinger and Dellinger have also been theorized as deriving from Dellingr .