

= Skaði =

In Norse mythology , Skaði (sometimes anglicized as Skadi , Skade , or Skathi) is a jötunn and goddess associated with bowhunting , skiing , winter , and mountains . Skaði is attested in the Poetic Edda , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources ; the Prose Edda and in Heimskringla , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson , and in the works of skalds .

In all sources , Skaði is the daughter of the deceased Þjazi , and Skaði married the god Njörðr as part of the compensation provided by the gods for killing her father Þjazi . In Heimskringla , Skaði is described as having split up with Njörðr and as later having married the god Odin , and that the two produced many children together . In both the Poetic Edda and the Prose Edda , Skaði is responsible for placing the serpent that drips venom onto the bound Loki . Skaði is alternately referred to as Öndurguð (Old Norse " ski god ") and Öndurdís (Old Norse " ski díś " , often translated as " lady ") .

The etymology of the name Skaði is uncertain , but may be connected with the original form of Scandinavia . Some place names in Scandinavia , particularly in Sweden , refer to Skaði . Scholars have theorized a potential connection between Skaði and the god Ullr (who is also associated with skiing and appears most frequently in place names in Sweden) , a particular relationship with the jötunn Loki , and that Scandinavia may be related to the name Skaði (potentially meaning " Skaði 's island ") or the name may be connected to an Old Norse noun meaning " harm " . Skaði has inspired various works of art .

= = Etymology = =

The Old Norse name Skaði , along with Sca (n) dinavia and Skáney , may be related to Gothic skadus , Old English sceadu , Old Saxon scado , and Old High German scato (meaning " shadow ") . Scholar John McKinnell comments that this etymology suggests Skaði may have once been a personification of the geographical region of Scandinavia or associated with the underworld .

Georges Dumézil disagrees with the notion of Scadin @-@ avia as etymologically " the island of the goddess Skaði . " Dumézil comments that the first element Scadin must have had ? or once had ? a connection to " darkness " " or something else we cannot be sure of " . Dumézil says that , rather , the name Skaði derives from the name of the geographical region , which was at the time no longer completely understood . In connection , Dumézil points to a parallel in Ériu , a goddess personifying Ireland that appears in some Irish texts , whose name he says comes from Ireland rather than the other way around .

Alternatively , Skaði may be connected with the Old Norse noun skaði (" harm ") , source of the Icelandic and Faroese skaði (? harm , damage ?) and cognate with obsolete English scathe , which survives in unscathed and scathing .

= = Attestations = =

Skaði is attested in poems found in the Poetic Edda , in two books of the Prose Edda and in one Heimskringla book .

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

In the Poetic Edda poem Grímnismál , the god Odin (disguised as Grímnir) reveals to the young Agnarr the existence of twelve locations . Odin mentions the location Þrymheimr sixth in a single stanza . In the stanza , Odin details that the jötunn Þjazi once lived there , and that now his daughter Skaði does . Odin describes Þrymheimr as consisting of " ancient courts " and refers to Skaði as " the shining bride of the gods " . In the prose introduction to the poem Skírnismál , the god Freyr has become heartsick for a fair girl (the jötunn Gerðr) he has spotted in Jötunheimr . The god Njörðr asks Freyr 's servant Skírnir to talk to Freyr , and in the first stanza of the poem , Skaði also tells Skírnir to ask Freyr why he is so upset . Skírnir responds that he expects harsh words from their son

Freyr .

In the prose introduction to the poem Lokasenna , Skaði is referred to as the wife of Njörðr and is cited as one of the goddesses attending Ægir 's feast . After Loki has an exchange with the god Heimdallr , Skaði interjects . Skaði tells Loki that he is " light @-@ hearted " and that Loki will not be " playing [...] with [his] tail wagging free " for much longer , for soon the gods will bind Loki to a sharp rock with the ice @-@ cold entrails of his son . Loki responds that , even if this is so , he was " first and foremost " at the killing of Þjazi . Skaði responds that , if this is so , " baneful advice " will always flow from her " sanctuaries and plains " . Loki responds that Skaði was more friendly in speech when Skaði was in his bed ? an accusation he makes to most of the goddesses in the poem and is not attested elsewhere . Loki 's flyting then turns to the goddess Sif .

In the prose section at the end of Lokasenna , the gods catch Loki and bind him with the innards of his son Nari , while they turn his son Narfi into a wolf . Skaði places a venomous snake above Loki 's face . Venom drips from the snake and Loki 's wife Sigyn sits and holds a basin beneath the serpent , catching the venom . When the basin is full , Sigyn must empty it , and during that time the snake venom falls on to Loki 's face , causing him to writhe in a tremendous fury , so much so that all earthquakes stem from Loki 's writhings .

In the poem Hyndluljóð , the female jötunn Hyndla tells the goddess Freyja various mythological genealogies . In one stanza , Hyndla notes that Þjazi " loved to shoot " and that Skaði was his daughter .

= = = Prose Edda = = =

In the Prose Edda , Skaði is attested in two books : Gylfaginning and Skáldskaparmál .

= = = = Gylfaginning = = = =

In chapter 23 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , the enthroned figure of High details that Njörðr 's wife is Skaði , that she is the daughter of the jötunn Þjazi , and recounts a tale involving the two . High recalls that Skaði wanted to live in the home once owned by her father called Þrymheimr . However , Njörðr wanted to live nearer to the sea . Subsequently , the two made an agreement that they would spend nine nights in Þrymheimr and then the next three nights in Njörðr 's sea @-@ side home Nóatún (or nine winters in Þrymheimr and another nine in Nóatún according to the Codex Regius manuscript) . However , when Njörðr returned from the mountains to Nóatún , he said :

" Hateful for me are the mountains ,

I was not long there ,

only nine nights .

The howling of the wolves

sounded ugly to me

after the song of the swans . "

Skaði responded :

" Sleep I could not

on the sea beds

for the screeching of the bird .

That gull wakes me

when from the wide sea

he comes each morning . "

The sources for these stanzas are not provided in the Prose Edda or elsewhere . High says that afterward Skaði went back up to the mountains and lived in Þrymheimr , and there Skaði often travels on skis , wields a bow , and shoots wild animals . High notes that Skaði is also referred to as " ski god " (Old Norse Öndurgud) or Öndurdis and the " ski lady " (Öndurdís) . In support , the above @-@ mentioned stanza from the Poetic Edda poem Grímnismál is cited . In the next chapter (24) , High says that " after this " , Njörðr " had two children " : Freyr and Freyja . The name of the mother of the two children is not provided here .

At the end of chapter 51 of Gylfaginning , High describes how the gods caught and bound Loki . Skaði is described as having taken a venomous snake and fastening it above the bound Loki , so that the venom may drip on to Loki 's face . Loki 's wife Sigyn sat by his side and held a bowl out . The bowl catches the venom , but when the bowl becomes full Loki writhes in extreme pain , causing the earth to shake and resulting in what we know as an earthquake .

== = Skáldskaparmál = = =

In chapter 56 of the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , Bragi recounts to Ægir how the gods killed Þjazi . Þjazi 's daughter , Skaði , took a helmet , a coat of mail , and " all weapons of war " and traveled to Asgard , the home of the gods . Upon Skaði 's arrival , the gods wished to atone for her loss and offered compensation . Skaði provides them with her terms of settlement , and the gods agree that Skaði may choose a husband from among themselves . However , Skaði must choose this husband by looking solely at their feet . Skaði saw a pair of feet that she found particularly attractive and said " I choose that one ; there can be little that is ugly about Baldr . " However , the owner of the feet turned out to be Njörðr .

Skaði also included in her terms of settlement that the gods must do something she thought impossible for them to do : make her laugh . To do so , Loki tied one end of a cord around the beard of a nanny goat and the other end around his testicles . The goat and Loki drew one another back and forth , both squealing loudly . Loki dropped into Skaði 's lap , and Skaði laughed , completing this part of her atonement . Finally , in compensation to Skaði , Odin took Þjazi 's eyes , plunged them into the sky , and from the eyes made two stars .

Further in Skáldskaparmál , a work by the skald Þórðr Sjáreksson is quoted . The poem refers to Skaði as " the wise god @-@ bride " and notes that she " could not love the Van " . Prose below the quote clarifies that this is a reference to Skaði 's leaving of Njörðr . In chapter 16 , names for Loki are given , including " wrangler of Heimdall and Skadi " . In chapter 22 , Skaði is referenced in the 10th century poem Haustlöng where the skald Þjóðólfr of Hvinir refers to an ox as " bow @-@ string @-@ Var 's [Skaði 's] whale " . In chapter 23 , the skald Bragi Boddason refers to Þjazi as the " father of the ski @-@ dis " . In chapter 32 , Skaði is listed among six goddesses who attend a party held by Ægir . In chapter 75 , Skaði is included among a list of 27 ásynjur names .

== = Heimskringla = = =

In chapter 8 of the Heimskringla book Ynglinga saga , Skaði appears in an euhumerized account . This account details that Skaði had once married Njörðr but that she would not have sex with him , and that later Skaði married Odin . Skaði and Odin had " many sons " . Only one of the names of these sons is provided : Sæmingr , a king of Norway . Two stanzas are presented by the skald Eyvindr skáldaspillir in reference . In the first stanza , Skaði is described as a jötunn and a " fair maiden " . A portion of the second stanza is missing . The second stanza reads :

Of sea @-@ bones ,
and sons many
the ski @-@ goddess
gat with Óthin

Lee Hollander explains that " bones @-@ of @-@ the @-@ sea " is a kenning for " rocks " , and believes that this defective stanza undoubtedly referred to Skaði as a " dweller of the rocks " in connection with her association with mountains and skiing .

= = Theories = =

= = = Völsunga saga = = =

Another figure by the name of Skaði who appears in the first chapter of Völsunga saga . In the

chapter , this Skaði ? who is male ? is the owner of a thrall by the name of Breði . Another man , Sigi ? a son of Odin ? went hunting one winter with the thrall . Sigi and the thrall Breði hunted throughout the day until evening , when they compared their kills . Sigi saw that the thrall 's kills outdid his own , and so Sigi killed Breði and buried Breði 's corpse in a snowdrift. Byock (1990 : 35) .

That night , Sigi returned home and claimed that Breði had ridden out into the forest , that he had lost sight of Breði , and that he furthermore did not know what became of the thrall . Skaði doubted Sigi 's explanation , suspected that Sigi was lying , and that Sigi had instead killed Breði . Skaði gathered men together to look for Breði and the group eventually found the corpse of Breði in a snowdrift . Skaði declared that henceforth the snowdrift should be called " Breði 's drift , " and ever since then people have referred to large snow drifts by that name . The fact that Sigi murdered Breði was evident , and so Sigi was considered an outlaw . Led by Odin , Sigi leaves the land , and Skaði is not mentioned again in the saga .

Scholar Jesse Byock notes that the goddess Skaði is also associated with winter and hunting , and that the episode in Volsunga saga involving the male Skaði , Sigi , and Breði has been theorized as stemming from an otherwise lost myth .

= = = Other = = =

Scholar John Lindow comments that the episode in Gylfaginning detailing Loki 's antics with a goat may have associations with castration and a ritual involving making a goddess laugh . Lindow notes that Loki and Skaði appear to have had a special relationship , an example being Skaði 's placement of the snake over Loki 's face in Lokasenna and Gylfaginning .

Due to their shared association with skiing and the fact that both place names referring to Ullr and Skaði appear most frequently in Sweden , some scholars have proposed a particular connection between the two gods . On the other hand , Skaði may potentially be a masculine form and , as a result , some scholars have theorized that Skaði may have originally been a male deity .

Scholar Hilda Ellis Davidson proposes that Skaði 's cult may have thrived in Hålogaland , a province in northern Norway , because " she shows characteristics of the Sami people , who were renowned for skiing , shooting with the bow and hunting ; her separation from Njord might point to a split between her cult and that of the Vanir in this region , where Scandinavians and the Sami were in close contact . "

= = Modern influence = =

Modern works of art depicting Skaði include Skadi und Niurd (illustration , 1883) by K. Ehrenberg and Skadi (1901) by E. Doepler d . J. Skaði also appears in A. Oehlenschläger 's poem (1819) Skades Giftermaal . Art deco depictions of both the god Ullr (1928) and Skaði (1929) appear on covers of the Swedish ski annual På Skidor , both skiing and wielding bows . E. John B. Allen notes that the deities are portrayed in a manner that " give [s] historical authority to this most important of Swedish ski journals , which began publication in 1893 " . A moon of the planet Saturn (Skathi) takes its name from that of the goddess .

Taking her name from that of the goddess , Skadi is the main character in a web comic by Katie Rice and Luke Cormican on the weekly webcomic site Dumm Comics .

The Eye of Skadi is a purchasable item in Dota 2 , a real time action strategy game , by Valve Corporation .

Skadi can be summoned as a persona in the Empress Arcana of the Persona series , a JRPG series by Atlus .

Skadi is an unlockable huntress in the MOBA Smite .

The Rowing Club of Rotterdam is named after Skadi .

The Skadi Mons , a mountain on Venus , is named after the goddess .

The skiing and alpine club of the Te Ra Waldorf primary school Kapiti New Zealand is named " Te Ra , Skadi " (after the Maori god of the sun ; and Skadi Ski goddess) .