

= Dagr =

In Norse mythology , Dagr (Old Norse " day ") is day personified . This personification appears 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 . In both sources , Dagr is stated to be the son of the god Dellingr and is associated with the bright @-@ maned horse Skinfaxi , who " draw [s] day to mankind " . Depending on manuscript variation , the Prose Edda adds that Dagr is either Dellingr 's son by Nótt , the personified night , or Jörð , the personified Earth . Otherwise , Dagr appears as a common noun simply meaning " day " throughout Old Norse works . Connections have been proposed between Dagr and other similarly named figures in Germanic mythology .

= = Attestations = =

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

Dagr is mentioned in stanzas 12 and 25 of the poem Vafþrúðnismál . In stanza 24 , the god Odin (disguised as " Gagnráðr ") asks the jötunn Vafþrúðnir from where the day comes , and the night and its tides . In stanza 25 , Vafþrúðnir responds :

Delling 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 12 , the horse Skinfaxi , his mane gleaming , is stated by Vafþrúðnir as " drawing day to mankind " .

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 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 !

In the poem Hrafnagaldur Óðins , the appearance of Dagr and his horse and chariot are described :

The son of Delling
urged on his horse
adorned with
precious jewels .
Over Mannheim shines
the horse 's mane ,
the steed Dvalin 's deluder
dew in his chariot .

= = = Prose Edda = = =

In the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , Dagr is again personified . In chapter 10 , the enthroned figure of High states that Dagr is the son of the couple of Dellingr of the Æsir and his wife Nótt (" night ") . Dagr is described as " as bright and beautiful as his father 's people " . Odin took Dagr and his mother Nótt , gave them each a chariot and a horse ? Dagr receiving the horse Skinfaxi , whose

mane illuminates all the sky and the earth ? and placed them in the sky to ride around the earth every 24 hours .

Dagr is again personified in chapter 24 of the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , where he is stated as a brother of Jörð . As a common noun , Dagr appears in chapter 58 , where " Skinfaxi or Glad " is stated as pulling forth the day , and chapter 64 , where Dagr is stated as one of various words for time .

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 Nótt 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 " .

= = Theories = =

Otto Höfler theorized that Dagr may be related to (or may be the same figure as) the hero Svipdagr (whose name means " the suddenly dawning day ") who is attested in various texts . Among other sources , this figure is found in two poems compiled together and known as Svipdagsmál in the Poetic Edda , the Prologue to the Prose Edda , and by the name Swæfdæg in the mythical genealogies of the Anglian houses of Anglo @-@ Saxon England . Otto Höfler also proposed that Svipdagr may have been a " Dagr of the Suebi " , and because of the names of his family members , Sólbjartr (" the sun @-@ light " , indicating a potential god of the skies) and Gróa (" growth " , indicating a possible goddess of growth) , and his wooing of Menglöð (often identified with the goddess Freyja) , he further suggested that Svipdagr may have been a fertility god .