

= Gná and Hófvarpnir =

In Norse mythology , Gná is a goddess who runs errands in other worlds for the goddess Frigg and rides the flying , sea @-@ treading horse Hófvarpnir (Old Norse " he who throws his hoofs about " , " hoof @-@ thrower " or " hoof kicker ") . Gná and Hófvarpnir are attested in the Prose Edda , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson . Scholarly theories have been proposed about Gná as a " goddess of fullness " and as potentially cognate to Fama from Roman mythology . Hófvarpnir and the eight @-@ legged steed Sleipnir have been cited examples of transcendent horses in Norse mythology .

= = Attestations = =

In chapter 35 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , the enthroned figure of High provides brief descriptions of 16 ásynjur . High lists Gná thirteenth , and says that Frigg sends her off to different worlds to run errands . High adds that Gná rides the horse Hófvarpnir , and that this horse has the ability to ride through the air and atop the sea . High continues that " once some Vanir saw her path as she rode through the air " and that an unnamed one of these Vanir says , in verse :

" What flies there ?

What fares there ?

or moves through the air ? "

Gná responds in verse , in doing so providing the parentage of Hófvarpnir ; the horses Hamskerpir and Garðrofa :

" I fly not

though I fare

and move through the air

on Hofvarpnir

the one whom Hamskerpir got

with Gardrofa . "

The source for these stanzas is not provided and they are otherwise unattested . High ends his description of Gná by saying that " from Gna 's name comes the custom of saying that something gnaefir [looms] when it rises up high . " In the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , Gná is included among a list of 27 ásynjur names .

= = Theories = =

Rudolf Simek says that the etymology that Snorri presents in Gylfaginning for the name Gná may not be correct , yet it is unclear what the name may otherwise mean , though Gná has also been etymologically theorized as a " goddess of fullness . " John Lindow calls the verse exchange between the Vanir and Gná " strange " and points out that it 's unclear why it should specifically be the Vanir that witness Gná flying through the air .

Ulla Loumand cites Hófvarpnir and the eight @-@ legged horse Sleipnir as " prime examples " of horses in Norse mythology as being able to " mediate between earth and sky , between Ásgarðr , Miðgarðr and Útgarðr and between the world of mortal men and the underworld . " In the 19th century , Jacob Grimm proposed a cognate in the personified rumor in Roman mythology ; Fama . However , Grimm notes that unlike Fama , Gná is not described as winged but rather that Hófvarpnir , like the winged @-@ horse Pegasus , may have been .