

= Fulla =

In Germanic mythology , Fulla (Old Norse , possibly " bountiful ") or Volla (Old High German) is a goddess . In Norse mythology , Fulla is described as wearing a golden band and as tending to the ashen box and the footwear owned by the goddess Frigg , and , in addition , Frigg confides in Fulla her secrets . Fulla is attested in the Poetic Edda , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources ; the Prose Edda , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson ; and in skaldic poetry . Volla is attested in the " Horse Cure " Merseburg Incantation , recorded anonymously in the 10th century in Old High German , in which she assists in healing the wounded foal of Phol and is referred to as Frigg 's sister . Scholars have proposed theories about the implications of the goddess .

= = Attestations = =

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

In the prose introduction to the Poetic Edda poem Grímnismál , Frigg makes a wager with her husband ? the god Odin ? over the hospitality of their human patrons . Frigg sends her servant maid Fulla to warn the king Geirröd ? Frigg 's patron ? that a magician (actually Odin in disguise) will visit him . Fulla meets with Geirröd , gives the warning , and advises to him a means of detecting the magician :

= = = Prose Edda = = =

In chapter 35 of the Prose Edda book Gylfaginning , High provides brief descriptions of 16 ásynjur . High lists Fulla fifth , stating that , like the goddess Gefjun , Fulla is a virgin , wears her hair flowing freely with a gold band around her head . High describes that Fulla carries Frigg 's eski , looks after Frigg 's footwear , and that in Fulla Frigg confides secrets .

In chapter 49 of Gylfaginning , High details that , after the death of the deity couple Baldr and Nanna , the god Hermóðr wagers for their return in the underworld location of Hel . Hel , ruler of the location of the same name , tells Hermóðr a way to resurrect Baldr , but will not allow Baldr and Nanna to leave until the deed is accomplished . Hel does , however , allow Baldr and Nanna to send gifts to the living ; Baldr sends Odin the ring Draupnir , and Nanna sends Frigg a robe of linen , and " other gifts . " Of these " other gifts " sent , the only specific item that High mentions is a finger @-@ ring for Fulla .

The first chapter of the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , Fulla is listed among eight ásynjur who attend an evening drinking banquet held for Ægir . In chapter 19 of Skáldskaparmál , poetic ways to refer to Frigg are given , one of which is by referring to her as " queen [...] of Fulla . " In chapter 32 , poetic expressions for gold are given , one of which includes " Fulla 's snood . " In chapter 36 , a work by the skald Eyvindr skáldaspillir is cited that references Fulla 's golden headgear (" the falling sun [gold] of the plain [forehead] of Fulla 's eyelashes shone on [...] ") . Fulla receives a final mention in the Prose Edda in chapter 75 , where Fulla appears within a list of 27 ásynjur names .

= = = " Horse Cure " Merseburg Incantation = = =

One of the two Merseburg Incantations (the " horse cure ") , recorded in Old High German , mentions Volla . The incantation describes how Phol and Wodan rode to a wood , and there Balder 's foal sprained its foot . Sinthgunt sang charms , her sister Sunna sang charms , Friia sang charms , her sister Volla sang charms , and finally Wodan sang charms , followed by a verse describing the healing of the foal 's bone . The charm reads :

Phol and Wodan went to the forest .

Then Balder 's horse sprained its foot .

Then Sinthgunt sang charms , and Sunna her sister ;
Then Friia sang charms , and Volla her sister ;
Then Wodan sang charms , as he well could :
be it bone @-@ sprain , be it blood @-@ sprain , be it limb @-@ sprain :
bone to bone , blood to blood ,
limb to limb , so be they glued together .

= = Theories = =

Andy Orchard comments that the seeming appearance of Baldr with Volla in the Merseburg Incantation is " intriguing " since Fulla is one of the three goddesses (the other two being Baldr 's mother Frigg and his wife Nanna) the deceased Baldr expressly sends gifts to from Hel . John Lindow says that since the name Fulla seems to have something to do with fullness , it may also point to an association with fertility .

Rudolf Simek comments that while Snorri notes that Baldr sends Fulla a golden ring from Hel in Gylfaginning , " this does not prove that she plays any role in the Baldr myth , but merely shows that Snorri associated her with gold " because of kennings used associating Fulla with gold . Simek says that since Fulla appears in the poetry of Skalds as early as the 10th century that she was likely " not a late personification of plenty " but that she is very likely identical with Volla from the Merseburg Incantation . Simek adds that it is unclear as to who Fulla actually is ; Simek says that she may be an independent deity or simply identical with the goddess Freyja or with Frigg .

John Knight Bostock says that theories have been proposed that the Fulla may at one time have been an aspect of Frigg . As a result , this notion has resulted in theory that a similar situation may have existed between the figures of the goddesses Sinthgunt and Sunna , in that the two may have been understood as aspects of one another rather than entirely separate figures .

Hilda Ellis Davidson states that the goddesses Gefjun , Gerðr , Fulla , and Skaði " may represent important goddesses of early times in the North , but little was remembered about them by the time Snorri was collecting his material . " On the other hand , Davidson notes that it is also possible that these goddesses are viewable as aspects of a single Great Goddess . Davidson calls Fulla and Volla " vague , uncertain figures , emerging from odd references to goddesses which Snorri has noted in the poets , but they suggest the possibility that at one time three generations were represented among the goddesses of fertility and harvest in Scandinavia . " Fulla , also spelled Volla , may be identified by the sound of the name to stand as the deified image of the seers , and harbingers of events of ceremonial force known as völvur , appearing to be special priestesses of Frigg , the goddess mother .

= = Popular culture = =

Fulla is one of the incarnated goddesses in the New Zealand comedy / drama " The Almighty Johnsons " . The part of Stacey / Fulla is played by Eve Gordon .