

= Sigyn =

In Norse mythology , Sigyn (Old Norse " victorious girl @-@ friend ") is a goddess and is the wife of Loki . Sigyn is attested 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 the Poetic Edda , little information is provided about Sigyn other than her role in assisting Loki during his captivity . In the Prose Edda , her role in helping her husband through his time spent in bondage is stated again , she appears in various kennings , and her status as a goddess is mentioned twice . Sigyn may appear on the Gosforth Cross and has been the subject of an amount of theory and cultural references .

= = Attestations = =

Sigyn is attested in the following works :

= = = Poetic Edda = = =

In stanza 35 of the Poetic Edda poem Völuspá , a völva tells Odin that , amongst many other things , she sees Sigyn sitting very unhappily with her bound husband , Loki , under a " grove of hot springs " . Sigyn is mentioned a second (and final) time in the ending prose section of the poem Lokasenna . In the prose , Loki has been bound by the gods with the guts of his son Nari , his son Váli is described as having been turned into a wolf , and the goddess Skaði fastens a venomous snake over Loki 's face , from which venom drips . Sigyn , again described as Loki 's wife , holds a basin under the dripping venom . The basin grows full , and she pulls it away , during which time venom drops on Loki , causing him to writhe so violently that earthquakes occur that shake the entire earth .

= = = Prose Edda = = =

Sigyn appears in the books Gylfaginning and Skáldskaparmál in the Prose Edda . In Gylfaginning , Sigyn is introduced in chapter 31 . There , she is introduced as the wife of Loki , and that they have a son by the name of " Nari or Narfi " . Sigyn is mentioned again in Gylfaginning in chapter 50 , where events are described differently than in Lokasenna . Here , the gods have captured Loki and his two sons , who are stated as Váli , described as a son of Loki , and " Nari or Narfi " , the latter earlier described as also a son of Sigyn . Váli is changed into a wolf by the gods , and rips apart his brother " Nari or Narfi " . The guts of " Nari or Narfi " are then used to tie Loki to three stones , after which the guts turn to iron , and Skaði places a snake above Loki . Sigyn places herself beside him , where she holds out a bowl to catch the dripping venom . However , when the bowl becomes full she leaves to pour out the venom . As a result , Loki is again described as shaking so violently that the planet shakes , and this process repeats until he breaks free , setting Ragnarök into motion .

Sigyn is introduced as a goddess , an ásynja , in the Prose Edda book Skáldskaparmál , where the gods are holding a grand feast for the visiting Ægir , and in kennings for Loki : " husband of Sigyn " , " cargo [Loki] of incantation @-@ fetter 's [Sigyn 's] arms " , and in a passage quoted from the 9th @-@ century Haustlög , " the burden of Sigyn 's arms " . The final mention of Sigyn in Skáldskaparmál is in the list of ásynjur in the appended Nafnaþulur section , chapter 75 .

= = Archaeological record = =

The mid @-@ 11th century Gosforth Cross located in Cumbria , England , has been interpreted as featuring various figures from Norse mythology . The bottom portion of the west side of the cross features a depiction of a long @-@ haired female , kneeling figure holding an object above another prostrate , bound figure . Above and to their left is a knotted serpent . This has been interpreted as Sigyn soothing the bound Loki .

= = Theories = =

While the name Sigyn is found as a female personal name in Old Norse sources (Old Norse *sigr* meaning ' victory ' and *vina* meaning ' girl @-@ friend ') , and though in surviving sources she is largely restricted to a single role , she appears in the 9th century skaldic poem *Haustlöng* from pagan times , written by the skald Þjóðólfr of Hvinir . Due to this early connection with Loki , Sigyn has been theorized as being a goddess dating back to an older form of Germanic paganism .

= = Modern influence = =

The scene of Sigyn Loki has been depicted on a number of paintings , including " *Loke och Sigyn* " (1850) by Nils Blommér , " *Loke och Sigyn* " (1863) by Mårten Eskil Winge , " *Loki och Sigyn* (1879) by Oscar Wergeland , and the illustration " *Loki und Sigyn ; Hel mit dem Hunde Garm* " (1883) by K. Ehrenberg . Various objects and places have been named after Sigyn in modern times , including the Norwegian stiff @-@ straw winter wheat varieties *Sigyn I* and *Sigyn II* , a Marvel Comics character (1978) of the same name the Swedish vessel *MS Sigyn* , which transports spent nuclear fuel in an allusion to Sigyn holding a bowl beneath the venom to spare Loki , and the arctic *Sigyn Glacier* .