

# The World Tree



FIG. 131

## Yggdrasil -

*World Tree by Jen Delyth*

Most of what we know about *Norse Mythology* comes from *Iceland*, where early educational interests recorded and preserved the old myths. The cosmology left behind depicts the Earth as a *Circle* of land surrounded by *Ocean*. In this *Ocean* lies the *World Serpent*, while in the *Center* of the land is a mighty *Tree*-

**The World Ash** that would come to be known as **Yggdrasil**.

This *World Tree* is the foundation

stone upon which *Norse mythology* is built. It is the *Guardian Tree* of the Gods, for beneath its canopy they hold council. It's a symbol of universality, linking the various races of beings, and forming the *Center of the Nine Worlds*.

Fate, destiny and wisdom were all linked to this *Tree*. *Odin*, *King of the Norse Gods* voluntarily hung himself in agony from it for nine nights, to gain power over the *runes*, one of several forms of

*Norse divination*. He died in this trial but *resurrected himself* with the knowledge learned. Before he died, *Odin* was pierced by the spear and cried out in pain.

After triumphing over death, *Odin* cut his great spear *Gjng-nir* from *Yggdrasil* and carefully carved *magical runes* on its shaft. It never missed its mark in battle.

*Yggdrasil* is the most stately tree in the world. It was looked upon as the *backbone of the universe*.