

The Story of Creation as Told by the North Germanic Peoples

BIRTH OF THE JÖTNAR

In the beginning there was that abyss **Ginnungagap**. It lay between the place of elemental fire **Muspelheim** and elemental ice **Niflheim**.

Frost and flame met in the abyss. Flames melted ice and the drops that fell formed **Ymir**, the first of the godlike and destructive giants. While he slept, more giants leapt forth from his legs and the sweat of his armpits.

As the ice continued to melt, a cow, **Audhumla** emerged from it. While she nourished **Ymir** with her milk, she was nourished with salt-licks in the ice. Eventually, her licks revealed **Buri**, the first of the Aesir gods. **Buri** had a son named **Bor**, who married **Bestla** the daughter of the giant **Bolthorn**.

This union produced the half-god/half-giants **Odin**, the eventual leader of the Aesir, and his brother **Vili** and **Ve**.

CREATION OF THE COSMOS

The brothers would slay **Yamir** and create the cosmos from his corpse. They fashioned the oceans from his **blood**, the soil from his **skin** and **muscles**, vegetation from his **hair**, clouds from his **brains**, and the sky from his **skull**.

From his rotting body crawled **maggots** that formed the dwarves. Out of fear that his rotting body would cause the sky to fall, four dwarves **Austri, Vestri, Nordri**, and **Sudri** were selected to uphold the sky - one from each direction.

CREATION OF THE HUMANITY

With the cosmos now formed, the gods formed the first man, **Ask**, and woman, **Embla**, from two tree trunks. Finally, the gods took **Yamir's eyebrows** to build a fence around **Midgard** to protect the humans from the giants.

And thus, the world and its gods and its people were formed. While this was a glorious beginning, little did they know Ragnarök awaited...

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