

TO HELP MAKE UP FOR MY RECENT ATTEMPTS TO VERBALLY POINT MORE DIRECTLY TO THE PHYSIOLOGICAL WORKINGS OF THE MIND, I WILL RETURN AGAIN TO MY PERSONAL INTERPRETATION OF ANCIENT, BUT STILL REMEMBERED MYTHS WHICH I READ AS UNRECOGNIZED EXAMPLES OF OUR CEREBRAL CELLS' CODED COMMENTARIES AND RUMINATIONS REGARDING THE HISTORY AND SPECULATIVE FUTURE OF THE CONSCIOUSNESS THEY HAVE CAUSED TO FUNCTION IN MAN'S BRAIN. AND WHILE I DO APOLOGIZE FOR MY PERIODIC EFFORTS TO MAP OUT THIS MATTER AS PLAINLY AS POSSIBLE, I PERSONALLY FIND IT BENEFICIAL TO ALTERNATE BETWEEN INDIRECT, METAPHORICAL APPROACHES, AND MORE LITERAL ONES, (BUT TONIGHT, HERE COMES ANOTHER OF THE FORMER.)

I AM GOING TO USE AS MY SPRINGBOARD, STORIES FROM THE SO-CALLED, NORSE TRADITION, AND IN THAT THEY ARE GENERALLY LESS FAMILIAR TO MOST PEOPLE THAN THE GREEK AND ROMAN ONES, I WILL FIRST GIVE A BASIC FRAMEWORK OF THE MYTHOLOGY AS PER ACADEMICALLY ACCEPTED, ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS THEREOF, AND WHILE THE FOLLOWING IS VERBALLY FAITHFUL TO SUCH TRANSLATIONS, THE ACTUAL WORDS USED ARE MINE, AND I BRING THIS TO YOUR ATTENTION BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT I DO NOT HAVE TO TWIST THESE TALES TO MAKE THEM FIT THE POINTS I INTEND TO MAKE, BUT RATHER, I FIND THEM, AS TOLD, TO ALREADY CONVEY MESSAGES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY NATURE, ALTHOUGH, FROM MY VIEW, IN A CODE NOT READILY RECOGNIZABLE AT THE HUMAN LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS. TO ME, THESE MYTHS APPEAR IN MAN'S THINKING AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE THINKING GOING ON IN THE CEREBRAL CELLS WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAN'S THINKING. THUS, WHILE THEIR THINKING MUST SURELY BE CLEAR TO THEM, OURS, BEING FUNCTIONALLY, ONE-STEP-REMOVED FROM THE SOURCE, APPEARS PERFORCE, ENCODED -- BUT, WHICH CIPHER -- I HEREIN INTEND TO UNLOCK, AS MAY BE PERTINENT TO OUR PARTICULAR INTEREST.

INTRODUCTORY OUTLINE

THE MYTHICAL WORLD OF THE NORSE GODS IS A SINGULAR PLACE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE, WHEREIN THEY ARE NOT ASSURED OF VICTORY, BUT OF INEVITABLE DEFEAT.

THE GODS LIVE UNDER THE CONSTANT THREAT OF DESTURCTION, AND WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH WILL BE THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINY.

THEY KNOW THEIR CAUSE TO BE FUTILE -- AND YET, THEY FIGHT FOR IT TO THE VERY END.

THEY ARE AWARE THAT NO ACTION THEY CAN TAKE WILL SAVE THEM, THAT ALL THEY CAN DO IS DIE, RESISTING, AND BY SO DOING -- REAP THE HERO'S REWARD.

THE NORSE GODS DO NOT SEE THEIR SITUATION AS FATALISTIC IN A NEGATIVE SENSE, FOR ALTHOUGH THEY ARE CERTAINLY DOOMED IF THEY PASSIVELY YIELD TO THEIR FATE, THEY HAVE THE CHOICE BETWEEN EITHER: YIELDING, OR FIGHTING, AND THIS DECISION IS UP TO THEM - AND NOT TO FATE, AND FROM THEIR PERSPECTIVE, TO MEET THEIR END IN THIS MANNER IS NOT A DEFEAT -- BUT A TRIUMPH.

THE GODS THEMSELVES TELL OF ONE SUCH HERO WHO, AS HIS HEART WAS BEING CUT OUT OF HIS STILL LIVING BODY, LAUGHED AT HIS TORMENTORS SHOWING HIMSELF SUPERIOR EVEN TO THOSE FORCES WHICH ULTIMATELY OVERCAME HIM.

THE MESSEGE OF SUCH A LIFE SEEMS TO BE THAT:
"ALTHOUGH I COULD NOT WIN -- YOU STILL COULD NOT DEFEAT ME.
I CARE NOT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO ME, FOR EVEN SHOULD YOU KILL ME,
IT MATTERS NOT,
FOR BY MY OWN UNYIELDING STRUGGLE,
I HAVE ALREADY -- DIED TO MYSELF."

THUS IT BE THAT THE GODS OF THE NORSE MYTHOLOGY ARE INESCAPABLY DOOMED, BUT THEY DIE AS HEROES -- THEY DIE UNDEFEATED.

II

THOSE WHO PERISH WHILE STILL RESISTING
GAIN ENTRY INTO THE HALL OF VALHALLA
WHEREIN RESIDES ODIN, THE CHIEF OF ALL THE GODS,
ALONG WITH THE SPIRITS OF ALL WHO DIED THE HERO'S DEATH,
BUT THIS PLACE TOO PROVES UNEXPECTED,
FOR ODIN HIMSELF FACES ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION,
AND HIS SUPREME DUTY CONSISTS OF SIMPLY POSTPONING THE DAY OF DOOM
FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY, ODIN NEITHER STIRS FROM HIS THRONE,
NOR PARTAKES OF ANY OF THE PHYSICAL PLEASURES AVAILABLE IN VALHALLA;
ALL HE DOES IS SIT AND PONDER THE FATE OF ALL THAT IS.

HE IS ASSISTED BY TWO RAVENS WHO SLEEP, PERCHED ON HIS SHOULDERS,
THEN AWAKE EACH MORN TO FLY THROUGHTOUT THE WORLD AND BRING HIM BACK
NEWS OF ALL OCCURED THAT DAY, ON BOTH THE DEVINE AND MORTAL LEVELS.
THE TWO BIRDS ARE NAMED; OBSERVATION, AND MEMORY,
AND IT IS FROM THEIR REPORTS ALONE THAT ODIN RECEIVES NOURISHMENT,
WHICH, WHEN DIGESTED, PRODUCES IN HIM THE NEEDED ENERGY OF: UNDERSTANDING,
WHICH IS VITAL TO HIS PLANNING OF HOW TO BEST POSTPONE
THE FINAL DAY OF DOOM.

ODIN'S ONLY WEAPON AGAINST THE INEVITABILITY OF HIS FATE IS, UNDERSTANDING,
AND IN PURSUIT THEREOF, HE BARGANED WITH THE KEEPER OF THE SECRET
FOR ACCESS TO THOSE THINGS STILL NOT KNOWN TO HIM,
IN RETURN FORWHICH HE AGREED TO UNDERGO THE WORSE SUFFERING POSSIBLE,
THIS SIDE OF THE FINAL DEATH.

ODIN HIMSELF DESCRIBED WHAT HAPPENED:

"FOR NINE LONG YEARS, HUNG I
FROM A BRANCH OF THAT MYSTERIOUS TREE,
OVER A DARK REVINE,
THE BOTTOM OFWHICH, NO ONE HAS SEEN;
ENDLESSLY BLEEDING FROM A SPEAR IN MY SIDE;
SACRAFICED TO ODIN -- FOR THE SAKE OF ODIN;
ME GIVEN OVER TO MYSELF AS PAYMENT,
TO HAVE THAT TREE,
TELL TO ME,
THOSE THINGS, KNOWN TO NO MAN."

II

THOSE WHO PERISH WHILE STILL RESISTING
GAIN ENTRY INTO THE HALL OF VALHALLA
WHEREIN RESIDES ODIN, THE CHIEF OF ALL THE GODS,
BUT THIS TOO IS A PLACE, UNEXPECTED.

III

THE MYTH OF SIGURD (SIG-ERD)

BRYNHILD, ONE OF THE VALKYRIE MAIDENS WHO ATTENDS ODIN,
WAS PUNISHED FOR DISOBEDIANCE BY BEING PUT INTO A DEEP STATE OF SLEEP
WITHIN A CIRCLE OF BLAZING FIRE,
FROMWHICH SHE COULD BE AWAKENED AND RESCUED
ONLY BY A MAN OF HEROIC RESOLVE.

SIGURD PROVES TO BE THE MAN;
HE RIDES THROUGH THE FLAMES, AND AWAKENS BRYNHILD,
AND THOUGH THEY PLEDGE THEIR ETERNAL DEVOTION,
SIGURD IS EVENTUALLY FORCED TO RETURN HOME,
AND LEAVES BRYNHILD, FOR THE MOMENT, IN HER FIREY IMPRISONMENT.

WHEN BACK IN HIS HOMELAND, SIGURD TELLS THE KING OF HIS ADVENTURE,
AND HIS LOVE FOR BRYNHILD, BUT THE QUEEN MOTHER WANTS HIM TO MARRY HER DAUGHTER,
GUDRUN (GOOD-ROON), AND SLIPS SIGURD A MAGICAL POTION WHICH MAKES HIM
IMMEDIATELY FORGET BRYNHILD.

SIGURD THEN MARRIES GUDRUN, BUT THE QUEEN MOTHER IS NOT YET SATISFIED,
AND THROUGH FURTHER MAGIC, TRANSFORMS SIGURD INTO THE IMAGE OF THE KING
AND CAUSES HIM TO RIDE BACK TO BRYNHILD, AND RESCUE HER
SINCE HER SON, THE KING HAS NOT THE COURAGE TO DO SO.

WHEN