



# WHO WAS ODIN?

As the world's greatest pirates, naturally the Vikings worshipped a one-eyed god—Odin. He was head of the gods the mystical, unpredictable god of wisdom, poetry and battle. His pet ravens, Hugin and Munin, flew around the world everyday and brought him the news. His favourite weapon was the spear, and he rode the eight-legged horse named Sleipnir.

He was also known as the All Father, God of Cargoes, Father of Battle and God of Hanged men. This last nickname is tied to the picturesque custom of hanging dead bodies in the trees around Norse temples as sacrifices to Odin. Yes, that includes dead humans.

Apparently Odin was a bit of a masochist: he sacrificed his eye to drink from the spring of wisdom; he hung himself for nine days from Yggdrasil, the tree at the centre of the world, in order to learn the secret meaning of runes; and once, he took on the shape of a giant snake to befriend a giant's daughter and trick her into giving him the mead of inspiration. Not surprisingly, people hardly ever named their children after Odin.

LO: I am learning to understand the meaning of words.



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sly

holy

scant

beggar

ugly

angry

weak

healing

immense

well-spoken

overbearing

lucky

strange

wise

almighty

healing

loveless

helpful

poor

revengeful

dangerous

courageous

bold

skilful

rich

harmless

elderly

clever

sly

Barely sufficient or something that is provided grudgingly or in insufficient amounts.

scant

Having complete power.

overbearing

Showing a willingness to take risks—brave and courageous.

almighty

Unpleasantly overpowering. Controlled by emotional pressure or physical force.

bold

Having or showing skill in achieving something by deceit or evasion.

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