



The English Runes

The Bright Runes

(Anglo-Saxon)

By Simon H Lilly

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Published by: Tree Seer Publications
'Llanddewi' Cefn Gorwydd, Llangammarch Wells, Powys, Wales LD4 4DN
tel: 01591 610792

Card Layouts

A good card reader will be able to describe a coherent picture illustrating the issues that concern the questioner in a clear and understandable way. This takes practice, so don't be disheartened if at first your own readings seem stilted and somewhat disjointed.

Remember that the oracular process ensures that the selection of cards cannot be wrong. Only your interpretation, and the clues offered or withheld by the questioner, may be more or less accurate.

Oracular energies are strongest when there is mutual need – the desire of the questioner to know a way forward in life, and the desire of the reader to help provide that information. The reader should never feel as though they have to prove themselves. If and when you find yourself in this situation remind the questioner that the process is not 'fortune-telling', nor is it 'prediction'.

Oracles provide a means to reveal unexplored possibilities, to uncover what is hidden, to surprise and clarify – to help people to make useful changes in their lives.

Eventually, with practice, certain combinations of cards when they appear to you, will come to represent the same set of circumstances, and when this begins to happen you know that you are beginning to really learn the language of the oracle.

Choosing a Single Card

For a clear, simple indication of what a situation is, or may be, choosing a single card can be a good way to start off a reading.

Choosing one card can also be a way to show what energies will be helpful, for example, where one faces a known challenge or difficulty, or simply to help you through the day, or to support the reading you are about to do.

Here the rune selected not only shows what sort of strategy will be helpful but also can be consciously used as a focus to bring those strengthening influences to bear on the circumstances.

To Reverse or not to Reverse

When turning over cards that have been selected from the deck it is possible that they will appear upside-down, or reversed. Some readers use this as another way to fine-tune the meaning of that card.

When a card is reversed it is interpreted with the opposite meaning to that it has in an upright position.

Thus, a card with a generally favourable interpretation is now read using its negative connotations, whilst one with a negative outlook becomes, when reversed, much more positive than usual. To some extent this makes it a little easier for the

reader to decide on the most appropriate angle of interpretation. However, with set card spreads the placement of each card already dictates whether it is to be seen in its positive or negative context, making reverse meanings a little redundant.

In the end, whether or not reversed cards are used depends upon the individual reader.

It is worth remembering, however, that if reversed cards are to be taken into account, the cards, when they are being shuffled, need also to be randomly turned – otherwise the same cards will always turn up as reversed!

Even if you do not generally use reversed cards they will appear every so often in a spread. This is a good indication that their more difficult, negative meanings might be relevant to the reading.

FEOH

KEYWORDS:



Wealth, Abundance

acquirement of wealth; looking after what has been gained; opposition successfully overcome.

Reversed: frustration; failure; wasting energy; what is gained divides; delay

UR

KEYWORD: **Vitality**



power; strength; ability to face challenges; opportunities for change and responsibility.

THORN

KEYWORD: **Caution**



important decisions require guidance; move carefully; protection; self-protection; unexpected help; setback.

Reversed: extreme caution required; do nothing; wait for help; be flexible

OS

KEYWORD: **Communication**



information; news; messages; learning; wisdom from unexpected sources; elderly or knowledgeable persons



RAD

KEYWORD: Action

action is preferable to words; broaden experience; short journeys; the right path



Reversed: delays; bad, difficult paths; learning the hard way; boasting

CEN

KEYWORD: Creativity

creative energy; positivity; strength; power; transformation; health



GYFU

KEYWORD:

Gifts

giving; responsibilities, obligations; partnership; generosity; unity of action and intentions - feeling at home in the world; love; relationship



WYN

KEYWORD:

Harmony

joy; happiness;

transformation for the better; will-power

Reversed: unhappiness; grief; loss of affection



HAEGEL

KEYWORD: Transformation

disruptive natural forces; disruption of plans; apparent setbacks that in the end are helpful; lack of control

NYD

KEYWORD: Necessity

caution; wait and see; patience; what is needed rather than wanted; slow and deliberate action over a long time

Reversed: reconsider; misguided action; inevitable failure; hasty action that fails



IS

KEYWORD: Standstill

end of activity; wait, do not act; disagreements; things stay the same; cooling of a relationship; focus; the self



GER

KEYWORD: Harvest

growth; regeneration; endings and beginnings; reaping what has been sown; plans succeed in their own time



EOH

KEYWORD: Hope

News from the past; recurrence of old problems; defence against danger; all will turn out for best; hope; survival; a quiet situation will awaken to life again



PEORTH

KEYWORD: Secrets

hidden knowledge;
surprises; subtle changes;
help;

Reversed: unpleasant
surprise; disappointment

EOL-SECG

KEYWORD: Protection

protection from harm; new
positive influence;
friendship; trust;
expansion of life; optimism

Reversed: danger;
vulnerability; naivety;
greed; gullibility

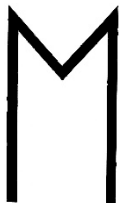


EH

KEYWORD: Movement

A change for the better;
change involving travel;
progress; new attitudes;
means of travel

Reversed: unplanned
change; changes for worse; a
distant journey



MAN

**KEYWORD:
Interdependence**

cooperation; help; assistance;
rational mind; relatives;
contracts

Reversed: self-imposed
isolation; selfishness
obstruction; someone from
outside



SIGEL

KEYWORD: Success
Health; energy to be used
wisely, wise direction

TIR



KEYWORD: Courage
tenacity; motivation; increase
in wealth, power; justice;
positive balance
Reversed: lack of energy;
impatience; failure

BEORC



KEYWORD: Growth
generation; new beginnings;
birth; a tangible result;
endless expansion; family;
mother
Reversed: family problems;
friction; disputes; misfortunes

LAGU

KEYWORD: Intuition



fluidity; psychic abilities;
inspiration; source of all life;
journey over water
Reversed: confused
thought; wrong decisions;
uncreative, neurosis

ING

KEYWORD: Completion



Realisation of a dream;
successful conclusion; inner
harmony; relief; freedom
from worry and anxiety;
important stage of life

ETHEL



KEYWORD: Home

properties, heirlooms;
culmination of one stage of
development; return home;
inherited possessions;
persistence; prestige;
reexamine the past

Reversed: financial loss; delay;
frustration; impatience;
standing on your own feet

AC



KEYWORDS: Steady Growth

slow and steady growth;
dependability; perseverance;
ability to manifest practical
energy; endurance

Reversed: lack of foresight;
impatience; unreliability

DAEG



KEYWORDS: Dawn, Balance

Dawn of a new day; new start;
increase, growth;

prosperity; optimism; shift
from one state to another,
change of mind

AESC

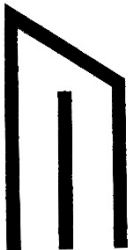


**KEYWORDS: High
Communication**

similar to AC, except AESC is
at a fine level; subtle and high
level intuition; inspiration
from the Source

Reversed: confusion over
thought, ideas, messages; false
information; deception

YR



KEYWORD: Synthesis

Focusing of skills; synthesis
of ideas and practices;
control; concentration on
goals; one-pointedness;
drawing together

Reversed: aimlessness;
clumsiness; lack of focus;
lack of control and
understanding

EAR



KEYWORD: Collapse

endings; things falling
apart; dissolution;
looking beyond apparent
death/collapse ; examine
every issue

Reversed: failure to
examine all options;
apparent failure;
uselessness

IAR



**KEYWORD: Non-
attachment**

Acceptance of apparent evil
and negativity; don't try to
change what cannot be
changed; living happily
under all sorts of
conditions; equanimity

CWEORTH



**KEYWORD:
Transformation**

ritual; action to bring
about change;
purification;

transformation; sacrifice

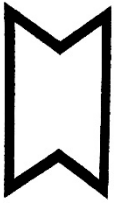


CALC

KEYWORD: Roots

need to look at one's core needs; source of strength; unconscious; talking with one's ancestors

Reversed: lack of practicality, egotism



STAN

KEYWORD: Stability

solidity, strength; entrance or blocked doorway, to other levels; restrained energy; waiting; still centre; power place; crystallisation

GAR



Gar is the 33rd rune card. It means 'spear' and links to Odin and the World Tree. It can mean centre, microcosm, hitting the mark ('yes'). It may represent the questioner who seeks wisdom (the 'querent'). For those who use the blank rune or 'wyrd' (a modern invention) it can

represent that energy.

GAR can also be used for a meditative focus before a reading to calm and quieten the mind of the reader

Rune Cards Spreads

The questioner themselves knows best their situation, and also usually has a good idea of the possible options that are open to them. Thus, allowing the questioner to choose the cards for themselves means that whatever reading arises it has been their energy involved rather than your own.

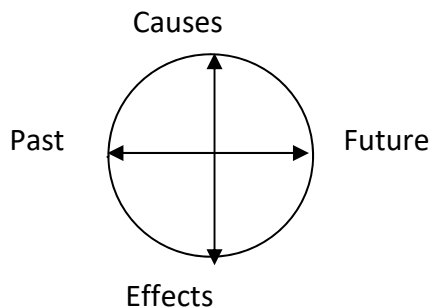
Simply ensure that both of you are clear about the intention of each rune spread before any runes are selected.

You, as reader, will need to hold in your mind the number of cards that will be drawn and, if you are using a set pattern, what each placement is going to signify. As the questioner picks out each rune card ask that it is either laid down on the table or given to you so that it can be placed appropriately into the layout. This will be particularly important when taking reversed positions of runes into account.

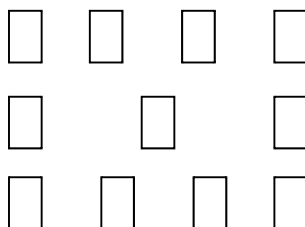
Spread Patterns.

One of the simplest spread patterns is a circle divided into four quarters by an equal-armed cross. The horizontal axis represents the flow of time with the past on the left and the future on the right. A card placed to the left are energies of the past, that at the centre show the current situation, that towards the right show what energies are approaching the questioner.

The vertical axis represents the movement of energies from potential or subtle, spiritual influences at the top, towards manifesting, physical effects at the base of the line. Thus, cards in the top half of the circle show hidden causes, or situations that might appear at some time, while the closer to the base the more the energies can be seen working in the physical world.



Another excellent pattern to give an initial reading or a detailed answer uses a particular placement of eleven cards in a rectangular shape.

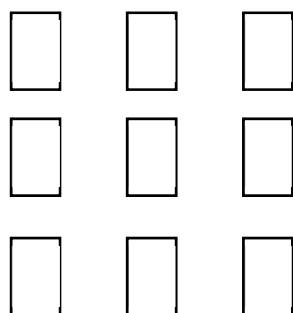


Three cards are placed in a vertical line on the left, three on the right. Two runes are placed making a top and bottom row and a final rune is put in the centre. This central rune is examined first as it reveals the main energy or central issue of the reading. The three runes on the left show the personal energies of the questioner.

The three opposite show the people around the questioner or their current situation. The whole of the lower row gives an indication of how matters are progressing whilst the whole of the top row show the likely outcome.

Layout of Nine

To expand the simple three-card layout of past, present and future, a layout of nine can be used. This simple square can be read in many different ways, from top to bottom, from left to right or as an expansion and contraction from start to conclusion diagonally.



Using Runes to Resolve Issues

Once a reading has clarified a situation it is very easy to use rune cards to encourage a more positive outcome. This is because the runes and the shapes of the runestaves themselves have a strong resonance with the universal energies they represent.

Looking at the rune shapes, meditating upon the energies that are needed to help, will automatically allow these energies to influence someone's life whether they are familiar with the runes or not.

Asking for runes to help a situation and then simply drawing out one or two that 'feel' right in the hand is simple and effective.