

POETIC SCIENCE? OR LOST SCIENCE TRANSFORMED INTO MAGIC AND MYTH?

Our myths tell us of a time, thousands of years before recorded history, when the Gods descended to Midgard and taught our ancestors how to use Runes to harness Vril energy and use it to transform ourselves and the world around us. You have only to read the tale of how Rig visited humans, mixed his Life Force (Vril) with humans, creating the divisions of the Human species, and then returned and taught the sons of Jarl (Europeans), Kon (Erlaz or Rune Wizards), how to use the Runes. The myths also speak of a Golden Age that was destroyed when Gullveig appeared and corrupted the souls of humanity. **With its destruction, much of the knowledge of how the universe was ordered was either lost, or transformed into legends and explained in "magical" terms.**

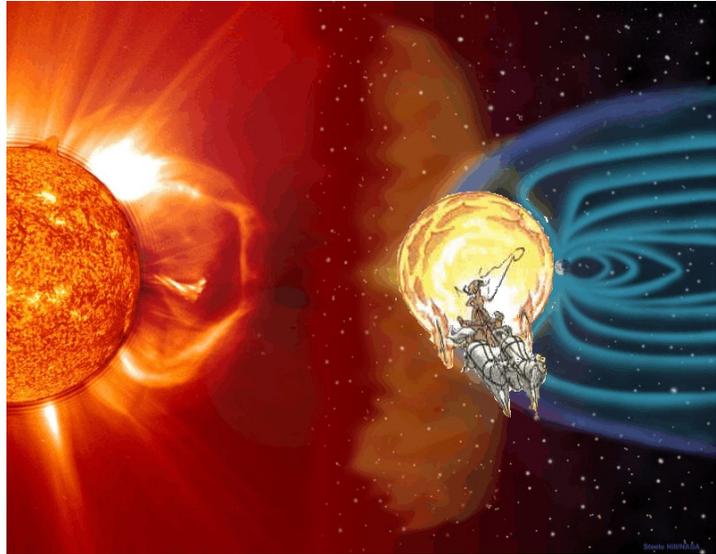
The section "Poetic Science: Northern Traditional Cosmology" of Nigel Pennick's book *Runic Astrology* gives several examples of the transformation of knowledge into legend. Here is one: "On a geophysical level, Jormungand represents the mid-oceanic ridges, which were not discovered scientifically until after World War II. Tectonic movements of the ridges are the origin of undersea earthquakes and tidal waves. When we look at the old myths in a new light, we are often surprised at the wisdom they contain."

Below is an illustration of the mid-oceanic ridges. You will notice that they encircle the entire globe and they look like a sea serpent, with Iceland as an eye, and jaws ready to devour Greenland. This can only be explained as a residue of scientific knowledge that survived the destruction of the "Ur-civilization" (Atlantis on the Black Sea) that was destroyed around 5600 BCE. Its memory survived in the myths from those who survived the destruction.



Pennick also points out that our ancestors knew the stars generated their own light, while it was held by most of the world that starlight was a reflection of sunlight, just as the moon reflects the sun's light.

Another example showing lost scientific knowledge's survival in Norse myths is the description of the shield Svalin, which protects the Earth from the Sun's harmful rays. This shield can be interpreted as either the ozone layer, which



protects the Earth from the Sun's ultra-violet radiation, or the magnetic field, which protects against cosmic and solar ionizing radiation, or both.

Still another example of this "poetic Science" is that of the snowflake or crystalized ice. The Rune Hagalaz refers to a hailstone, and represents the fundamental structure of all things in the primal seed. What interests us in this case is an alternative form of Hagalaz, the six-armed cross, which resembles an ice crystal. What is amazing is that this runic symbol is thousands of years old, yet the shape of the ice crystal was unknown until much later. Although snowflakes were seen to have 6-fold symmetry, how did our ancestors know this form would persist all the way down to sub-microscopic size, unless this knowledge was passed down to them from a long-forgotten time, remembered only in legends of a lost civilization such as Atlantis?

Pennick writes: "The northern creation myth tells of the coming into being by the dynamic interaction of opportunities. During the first phase of this cycle of existence, there was a yawning abyss, the gaping void, Ginnungagap. However, this void was not formless, but contained potential polarities within its whole everything-nothingness: it also had absolute orientation, expressed as the north-south axis. The concepts of north and south are rather those of the polarities than actual physical directions, which may not be defined in the absence of matter. To its north lay the zone of the static principle of coldness and crystalline form, Niflheim. To its south, Muspellheim, the zone of the active principle of energy: fire. Between these two polar zones, in Ginnungagap, the principles of ice, static, crystalline form, and fire, unformed energy, came into contact, and from this, matter was formed. Modern physicists have talked of matter as being 'frozen light,' and this is what is described in the northern creation myth."

This brings us to a discussion of Hagalaz as the Grain of Reality. When Natural order is observed in any endeavor, it will manifest itself in accordance with the "Eternal One." This Eternal One is the Odinic Consciousness, of which

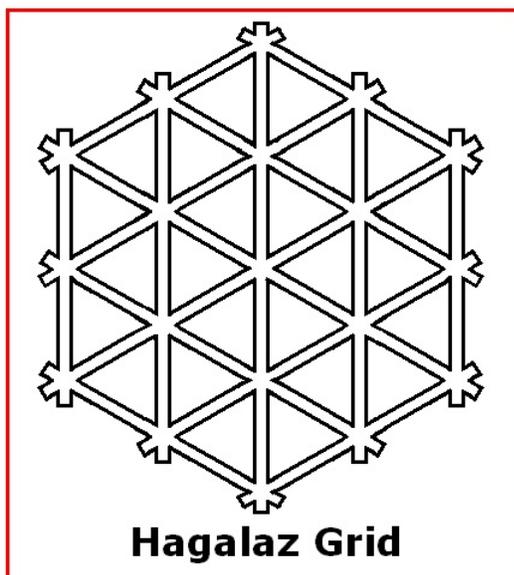
all the Gods, including Odin, are a part. Regarding the workings of humans within the realm of Midgard, this eternal consciousness can manifest itself in what might appear to be an infinite variety of ways, but in reality only what is possible can occur according to the dictates of Orlog. This principle is expressed within the runic energies of Hagalaz. Esoterically it is referred to as the Mother Rune, because within its geometric form all other Runes can be generated. Hagalaz means hail, or crystalized water, solidified by freezing cold, and falls from the sky. In the Anglo-Saxon Rune poem we read:

Hail is the whitest of grains,
It falls from the sky,
Whirled by the blowing wind,
It then turns to water.

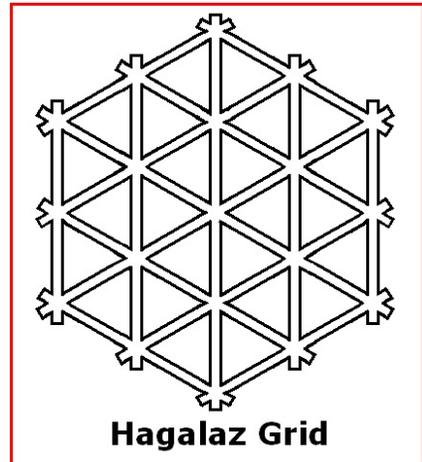
As hails falls to the Earth, it is solid. When it hits the ground, its effect can be devastating and destructive, destroying all that it crashes into. But then it transforms itself into a liquid: water. As it melts, it is absorbed by the Earth and gives it nourishment, permitting the Earth to bring forth new life. Thus, Hagalaz represents transformation and manifestation. Destruction and rebirth is the principle of evolution and progress. It is the underlying structural pattern of all things. Pennick writes: "On a symbolic level, [Hagalaz] is the underlying structural pattern of all things. Although this pattern is generally unmanifested, it is that intrinsic framework of reality without which there would be no existence. But on a more intelligible level, [Hagalaz's] *form underlies the basic geometric structure of the physical universe.*" The runic pattern of Hagalaz pervades all nature as the archetypical matrix. This matrix is known as the *hexagonal lattice*, and is the most basic configuration of self-ordering systems like crystalline molecules. There is a reason why so many magical systems and traditions regard crystals with wonder, regarding them as instruments

possessing great powers to harness the universal energy source we refer to as Vril. Their structural matrix reflects the ordering principle of the Gods. The Gods work to give order and structure to all things, which is expressed in the structural matrix of the crystal, and this can be witnessed in the geometric matrix of the Rune Hagalaz.

In the Northern Tradition sacred geometry is expressed in the Hagalaz Grid. The Hagalaz Grid is made of seven smaller hexagons overlapping to form a larger hexagonal lattice. This sevenfold figure represents the seven days of the week and the seven planets of traditional astrology.



There are 19 foci which enclose 24 equilateral triangles between the links. 19 is the smallest number of solar years which is a multiple of a complete lunation period, and there are 235 synodical months in 19 Julian years, which is the period known as the Metronic Cycle. There are 24 Runes in the Elder Futhark, the oldest Runic row. Around the outer walls of the Hagalaz grid are 12 foci representing the 12 months of the year. Within the complete grid we can find the form of every runic character. For these reasons, Hagalaz is known as the Mother Rune.



Because of this matrix of self-organizing patterns, Hagalaz is omnipresent in the natural world. Its form is found in ice crystals, quartz, surface cracks, cellular structure of plants, and the wax honeycombs of bees. Basalt rocks form six-sided columns, and so do glaciers when they crack and break apart. The most famous formation of basalt rock is the Giant's Causeway found off the coast of Ireland.

Robert Temple's book *Conversations with Eternity* mentions the research conducted by two Japanese scientists. They investigated the importance of hexagonal lattices in the formative processes of life. Starting with simple cracks that can be found in sidewalks, they eventually move on to similar patterns found in organic structures. "Terada and Watanabe found that when any solid structure, such as paving slab, cracks, then the pattern of cracks will conform to parts of a hexagonal lattice ('quasi-hexagonal cells') along the line of stress. Physically, cracks are a place where macroscopic discontinuity is produced in a field which apparently is uniform and homogenous, but which is subject to microscopic fluctuations. Whenever these fluctuations occur, they are subject to the basic laws of physics, and the cracks produced also conform to those laws, producing a hexagonal lattice, which is especially noticeable when the cracks fill up with some other matter."

We can see the pattern developing that supports the hypothesis that by installing Hagalaz as the Mother Rune, the Northern tradition was expressing 6-fold symmetry as the archetypal basic pattern of the universe. Although Hagalaz is carved in two dimensions, its six-pointed form stands for the directions of space: forward and backwards, left and right, up and down. This makes the Mother Rune, Hagalaz, the center of all things, hence. This concept is known in geomancy as the *omphalos*—the navel or *nowl* of the world. The cosmic axis intersects with the earthly plane at this central point. Here we see within Hagalaz's form the access-point or portal toward other states of consciousness and alternative dimensions of reality. Hagalaz is the entrance to the cosmic axis described as Yggdrasil. With it we can move into other realms or all nine worlds of the Yggdrasil—up toward Ljossalfheim and Asgard, downward to Svartalfheim and Hel, and along the cosmic equator to the four

realms of Vanaheim, Jotunheim, Muspellheim, and Niflheim. The six-branched form of Hagalaz is a blueprint of the mysterious structure of the microcosm interacting with the macrocosm. Here we can see the interaction of the universe with the lesser realm of humanity.

In the *Old Icelandic Rune Poem*, we read:

Hagalaz is a cold seed
And a fall of sleet
And a disease of serpents.

We can see from this poem that Hagalaz is associated with the serpent Nidhogg, who winds itself around the Yggdrasill and gnaws on its roots, causing it to decay, or Jormungand, the world serpent, that encircles the globe and whose trashing about causes earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tidal waves, unleashing great destruction. But in both cases, the effects of the serpent are necessary to cause evolutionary change and transformation, which are part of the principles of progression and change. This is the nature of Hagalaz as hail, which falls to the earth, destroys everything, and then melts, transforming into life-giving water so that new life can replace what was destroyed.