



MONOCLEDMOOSE STUDIOS PRESENTS

ODIN'S OWN

**A VIKING STYLED ADVENTURE FOR D&D 5E
AND SIMILAR SYSTEMS**



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CHAPTER ONE

THE OLD LORE

Cattle die, kinsmen die,
the self must also die.
But the glory of great deeds
dies never.

Hávamál, 'The Sayings of the High One'
a collection of enriching wisdoms from the
Norse god Odin.

1.1 THE OLD LORE

The stories have been told for a thousand years. Ragnarok comes. The gods fall. The world burns and begins again... but what if things changed?

Odin, the father of all and keeper of Asgard, the realm of gods, awakened from a terrifying vision and immediately called Loki to his chambers. Odin speaks of dangerous visions where he sees Loki's children bringing about Ragnarok, the ultimate destruction of the world and everything in it.

For those who are not versed in Norse Myths, Loki had 3 children, Fenrir Wolf, Jormungandr the world serpent, and Hel queen of death. Odin, fearing his own destruction at Ragnarok, tries to deal with each child accordingly but, in true tragic fashion, the actions he takes to control them did not stop Ragnarok from occurring but only further ensured his own destruction.

While Ragnarok is the end of the old, it's also a new beginning. The concept of the world being created, destroyed, and then recreated is a central theme in most Norse writings. Over and over again, Odin has a vision of the death of all things, Loki keeps sneaking away from his deistic paradise to the frozen hellscape to create 3 monstrous children, and the gods always have good intentions but turn Loki's children against them causing their own demise.

1.2 A NEW BEGINNING

But Odin is wise and Loki fiercely cunning. They may not have the ability to remember their past reincarnations but after failing so many times, both begin to have an uneasy understanding about the circle that they have trapped themselves in. Loki in his craftiness decides that if his normal course of action brings about a never-ending cycle, the only way off the merry-go-round is to live unpredictably.

For others that may have meant causing chaos and trouble but Loki understood himself enough to know that chaos followed in his wake already. If he were to change his nature in an effort to change the things around him, he would need to tame his inner troublemaker. Loki became sober-minded. He did his best to avoid trouble in all its many forms. Rather than sowing his wild oats, he did his best to remain faithful to his first love the frost giant Angrboda, and together they had four children: Fenrir, Jormungandr, Hel... and one more. When his last child was born, a beautiful baby boy, a carbon copy image of his father, Loki felt something shift - the possibility of change was on the horizon.

1.3 AELRIC, THE ENCHANTER

This growing baby boy, Aelric, was there when Odin came to take Loki's three other children away. Fearing for his own life, he quickly shapeshifted into the smallest thing he could think of to conceal himself from Odin's sight, a single snowflake. He began to softly tremble as he fell to the snowy ground. Odin stood silent and still for a moment, smelling the air in confusion for he saw the 3 legendarily monstrous children already in his control but still felt something was missing. Aelric did not move, He did not barely breathe.

Odin could feel something was wrong but not knowing what he was looking for, Aelric would slip through Odin's grasp. As soon as Odin was gone, Loki immediately began thinking about revenge. Odin's selfish actions sent him into an internal rage but he knew his self control changed things enough that the



Odin is traditionally depicted as old man with a long beard and only one eye, because he gave it to Mimir so that he might drink from Mimir's Well, a source of cosmic knowledge beneath Yggdrasil, the World Tree. He exchanged his physical sight for a more profound spiritual and intellectual comprehension of the cosmos and fate, symbolizing his intense yearning for knowledge.



advantage was now on his side. If his instinct was to rain terror on his father, then in this new found reality, a more measured diplomatic approach would be very unsatisfying but necessary.

As Aelric grew, Loki made sure that he remained hidden and protected alongside his mother. Loki finally felt it, the more Aelric grew, the more things seemed to have changed.

1.4 A WHOLE NEW WORLD

While Loki went to Asgard to quietly observe and plot, Angrboda and Aelric hid away. She would instill in him a deep connection to the natural world and all its primal forces. Together, they would dwell in the heart of the untamed wilderness, where the howling winds and ancient trees whispered mystical secrets. Under Angrboda's guidance, he learned to wield his divine magic and discover the truth of his heritage.

Yggdrasil is an immense and central sacred tree in Norse cosmology. In stanza 138 of the poem *Hávamál*, Odin describes how he once sacrificed himself to himself by hanging on a tree. The stanza reads:

I know that I hung on a windy tree
nine long nights,
wounded with a spear,
dedicated to Odin,
myself to myself,
on that tree of which no man knows
from where its roots run.

In the stanza that follows, Odin describes how he had no food nor drink there, that he peered downward, and that "I took up the runes, screaming I took them, then I fell back from there."

Odin later used "the knowledge of the sacred runes" as a magical tool to give to humanity to increase humans' skill in magic and poetry

Angrboda would do anything for her son but raising the son of Loki is difficult to say the least. It was only a short time before his knowledge and power began to challenge her own understanding. She knew her teachings would soon limit his growth, but Angrboda remembered the ancient tale of how Odin himself famously sacrificed to gain wisdom. If it worked for Odin, why not his heir.

Angrboda did not tell Aelric of her plans, but together they embarked on a pilgrimage to Yggdrasil and Mimir's sacred grove. Wanting to give her son what she could never provide, Angrboda offered herself to the ancient tree's roots in exchange for Aelric's access to its cosmic wisdom.

Mimir's disembodied head laughed "Many come but very few are worthy. Intentions are almost always twisted and evil. Sacrifices are never great enough."

But as he studied Angrboda and considered her pure intentions it gave him pause. He looked at Aelric up and down and was surprised. This young boy was already very capable but a second deeper look showed the great possibilities that lay before him. Much like Odin before him, this was the boy's destiny. Mimir paused a beat and then solemnly nodded in agreement. Angrboda embraced her son one final time before giving herself freely to the world tree. As her essence merged with the ancient roots, Aelric was overcome with grief and began to cry. He took a deep breath as he steeled his nerves. He would not let this opportunity pass and allow his mother's sacrifice to be in vain. Understanding the importance of the moment he wasted little time. He bowed at the water's edge and drank deeply from the wellspring of knowledge, forever changed.

Aelric matured quickly surviving in the rugged landscapes of the frost giants. The locals saw his gifts for what they were – something older and wilder than any craft learned by books. They trusted him not because of his blood, but because the world seemed to respond to him differently than it did to anyone else. They began to see him not as an outcast but as a leader touched by the Gods. One by one, the scattered giant tribes stopped fighting each other long enough to listen and learned they had much more to gain together than constantly fighting with each other. Word eventually reached Asgard that something unexpected was growing in the frost – and the fact that Odin was troubled by it only made Aelric's people believe in him more.

In the quiet times, Aelric thought about his siblings and wished for a future where they were free from Odin's control. Of all he knew about the All Father, one thing puzzled him more than anything else. He knew of Odin's visions of Ragnarok and Aelric himself had even seen similar dreams of the end of all things. Where Odin thought his control of Aelric's siblings would allow him to control this destiny and bend it to his will, Aelric believed Odin's actions



only brought his vision closer to reality. Odin captured his siblings to prevent Ragnarok but what if the bringer of Ragnarok was not his siblings, but Odin himself?

1.5 HATCHING THE PLAN

He met his siblings one by one. In each encounter, Aelric outlined his plan to imprison Odin in a realm of his own creation. By his own calculations, Aelric would need to stay imprisoned in this pocket realm as well but if it meant ending the vicious cycle of destruction and freeing his siblings, it was a sacrifice he was willing to make. If the cycle existed because Odin kept pulling the strings, then the only real answer was to take Odin's hands off the strings entirely. For three beings who had known nothing but cages and chains, the idea that someone had a plan for their freedom – their brother, no less – was enough.

With the trap set, Fenrir's rumored freedom in the frozen lands of Niflheim became the bait that drew Odin in. As Odin quickly flew to reclaim Fenrir, he unwittingly stumbled into the trap. Fenrir played his role flawlessly, leading Odin to the designated location where the Aelric waited. With Jormungandr coiling around the perimeter and Hel controlling the shadows to obscure their movements, Odin was overwhelmed and his fate was sealed. Aelric had just done what no one had ever been able to do before and subdue the King of the Gods.

"Then is fulfilled Hlín's second sorrow, when Óðinn goes to fight with the wolf, and Beli's slayer, bright, against Surtr. Then shall Frigg's sweet friend fall!"

Stanza 40 of the poem Völuspá, a völva (seer) divulges to Odin that he will be consumed by Fenrir at Ragnarök

SYMBOLS OF ODIN

