

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Spicy  
LO: To understand the features of Myths.

# How Odin Created the World

## Norse Mythology

In the time before anything, lay a bleak darkness. Before people, before animals, before the land we live in – there was nothing. Odin (god of all Viking gods) wanted to create a spectacular world which would be the envy of all those who had the fortune to behold it. After much contemplation, he thought: ‘I must create a world for our greatest enemy – the giants.’

As their greatest enemy, the giant’s often laid waste to the Norse god’s homes – causing destruction and devastation where ever they went. Puzzled, the other gods looked at Odin but, with a wry smile he turned from them, inhaled deeply and let out a bellowing roar. Even in the darkness, the roar shook the gods. From Odin’s mouth came a chilling breath which began to gently settle on the empty ground. Shards of ice, mountains of snow and frozen lakes merged together in a melting pot of nothingness. Abandoned and desolate, the land for the giants was nothing more than frozen wastes. In amazement, the gods stared and marvelled at what the king of the gods had done; he had created something which would be truly despised by their foe. “This home for the giants should make sure they don’t bother us again!” bellowed Odin.

“What will you call this place, my lord?” Enquired Loki.

“It shall be known as Jotunheim, Loki.” Replied Odin, as he turned to face his fellow gods. “Now, I shall make a place for people – a group of mortals who will do our bidding and work to serve us.” He added.

This time, Odin breathed out a warm, gentle wind which floated lightly across the deep darkness. Colours danced, shapes formed and in seconds, a land was born. Rolling green hills, vast forests of evergreen trees, elegant flowers and peaceful lakes settled themselves onto the landscape. Whilst admiring his work, Odin thought: ‘There is something missing...’ With that he waved his crook across the newly formed sky and tapped the ground.

As quick as a flash, strange shapes began to emerge from the grass, in the water and overhead in the crystal-blue skyline. Here were the animals. Their skin, fur and feathers varying in colour, with paws, claws and trotters separated to give a differing variety of creatures.

“This,” Odin announced triumphantly, “Is the home for humans.”

“Excuse me, great Odin,” Loki timidly interjected “but what are humans?”

Once again, a wry smile wrapped around Odin’s face and with one whispered phrase, he spectacularly concocted two humans – what we know today as a man and a woman!

“Go!” Spoke Odin, “Enjoy the land I have made for you – revel in the wonder of Midgard!”

With that, the two humans wandered into the wilderness.

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Quite content with his creation, Odin turned to the only place of blackness left and began to wonder. 'A place for the gods.' He thought. Once again, he took a deep breath and blew a glittering cacophony of colours. Rays of gold and silver intertwined as they wandered blissfully through the dark. Eventually, these shapes merged to create a fantastical palace sitting high above the clouds. Towers of shimmering gold and walls of glittering silver reflected in the light of the sun and shadow of the moon high above the realm of Midgard below.

"This is amazing!" Proclaimed Freya.

"Outstanding!" Added Thor.

"Dazzling!" Exclaimed Loki.

Odin stepped back to admire what he had done. He began to view the flawless design of his creation and marvel in his brilliance. However, something was again missing.

Looking down on Midgard below, Odin needed a way in which to go and see his people. Smiling once again, Odin waved his staff and there appeared a beautiful rainbow, sparkling gracefully in the beaming sunlight. "A bridge to link our world to Midgard." Odin proclaimed. "Finally, my creation is complete."

## Ambrus and Cerbrus

### Greek Mythology

As the waves rolled on to the warm, golden beach, a young man sauntered happily amongst the multi-coloured seashells. Gracefully, he tiptoed around the shells being careful not to crush one. He had a kind and gentle heart but a strong and muscular body. His name was Ambrus. On top of Ambrus's head, was a cascade of beautiful hair that trickled down his back like liquid gold. Around his waist, hung a tan coloured animal skin and his top half was bare to expose his bronze, sun-kissed physique.

Ambrus looked at the scenery around him. Behind him, beyond the beach, lay a small, quiet village. The houses were simple and made from the wreckage of ships that had washed up on to the shore. In the centre of the quaint, fishing village was something rather unusual. It was a huge, majestic fountain. The fountain was in the shape of Aphrodite- the Greek Goddess of Love. Ambrus loved to hear the trickle of crystal-clear water as he fell to sleep at night.

During the daylight hours, Ambrus adored the sound of the waves, whether they were gentle and relaxing or crashing and thundering against the shore. Far out to sea, Ambrus looked with his piercing emerald-green eyes and he could just make out another island in the distance. He often wondered who lived there as he had never left his home in all his 24 years of life.

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Later that day, while Ambrus was helping the fishermen drag their small, wooden boats on to shore for the evening, a messenger came galloping past them, heading for the centre of the village. The fishermen looked at each other bewildered but Ambrus knew that the arrival of the strange messenger spelt doom. When they arrived in the village, a large, noisy crowd had begun to gather around the fountain. "What's happening?" Ambrus asked a nearby woman.

"Help is needed Ambrus. The island across the sea is suffering greatly from the terrible, merciless beast....Cerberous!"

Ambrus felt his stomach roll with sickness and dread. He knew what he had to do. He set off on his quest to defeat the 3-headed hound from hell.

First, he rowed his sturdy boat across the sea which had suddenly become like a bubbling witch's cauldron. The waves frothed and fizzed as the water swirled and twirled violently. Looking out worriedly, Ambrus suddenly saw a hand rise from a nearby wave. The hand looked as though it was made of silver. It gripped tightly a mighty sword. It must have been 5ft in length and the metal glimmered with magic. Ambrus took the sword and he smiled. He knew now that the Gods were on his side and this was a gift to aid his quest. The hand disappeared down in to the murky depths and the hero journeyed on.

After he had reached the island, he climbed snow-capped mountains. At the top of the highest peak, in the middle of the fiercest storm when the hero had almost given up hope, a Goddess of Olympus appeared. She gave him a cloak of invisibility. The cloth was of a fine silk and it shimmered even in the howling storm. The iridescent cape was down to the floor and had a hood to cover his head. Although she did not move, Ambrus heard the Goddesses voice in his head. "This cloak will help you defeat Cerberus and get him back to the Underworld." Her voice echoed with the tinkling sound of bells.

Finally, Ambrus came to a dark, damp cave. As he looked in, it was as though he was glaring in to a bottomless pit. Something moved in the shadows...something big.

Before he could blink, the creature in the darkness launched itself at the mighty hero with all 3 of its heads snapping with anger. Sliding swiftly, the hero dodged the fierce creature's razor-sharp jaws.

He reached behind his back to reveal the mighty sword he had received from the Gods. Stabbing powerfully, he lunged towards the abomination. Cerberous let out a yelp of pain as the sword pierced his thick, leathery flesh. However, the hound did not die.

Thinking quickly, Ambrus threw the cloak of invisibility over his sweaty head to hide from the beast. Instantly, the creature was startled by the disappearance of its prey. Ambrus crept nearer to strike the deadly blow. The sword sliced open its target and the beast was no more.

Can you create a list of features that you discovered?