



WINTER NIGHTS BLÓT

BY

ALE GLAD

[AN ÁSATRÚ BLOG](#)

Ritual Items

Hörgr

Good ale or mead

Hlautbolli

Blowing Horn

Drinking Horn

Blessing Tine

Hallowing

Note: At the start of the Hallowing, the BLOWING HORN should be sounded. The number of times is completely up to you. The purpose of sounding the horn is to get the attention of all the landvættir that might be around and it marks the beginning of the rite. This part is not required if you are using a permanent space that has already been hallowed.

Hail Unseen Ones, greetings we give
Holy landvættir, full of might and main
Our bond in urð is old and strong
By land and blood, in Troth and Frith

We come here, blót-stone to stain
A holy stead I wish to make
This place is yours, where hörgr stands
Before we start, your help we ask

On hallowed ground, for sacral time
Drink we share, to give you gifts
Ward this vé, and worship watch
My purpose set, your fee we give

Note: After speaking this line, pour some ale onto the ground.

The vé is built, steadfast and holy
Round us to stay, Unseen Ones
Holy landvættir, full of might and main
Your presence felt, this vé is hallowed

Calling

Note: I tend to favor facing the HÖRGR. I take this approach because I believe we should be addressing the Gods directly.

Hail the Æsir! Hail the Vanir!
Glorious Host of our kin
We bid you welcome, High Ones
Stand with me, as in day of old
We pray you accept our offerings true

Hail the Gods of the North
Shining Ones, Mighty Ones
We give honor to you, Holy Kin
So that our Troth may be renewed

Hail the álfar! Hail the dísir!
Worthy ancestors of our blood
We bid you welcome, Honored Kin
Stand with me, as in days of old
We pray you accept our offerings true

Hail the ancestors of our lines
Ancient Ones, Recent Ones
We give honor to you, Worthy Kin
So that our Urð may be strengthened

Hail the Landvættir! Hail the Huldrafolk!
Hidden dwellers of Midgard
We bid you welcome, Beloved Friends
Stand with me, as in days of old
We pray you accept our offerings true

Hail Unseen Ones, greetings we give
Holy vættir, full of Might and Main
We give honor to you, warders of land and home
So that this place may be protected

Rede

Winter Nights celebrates the coming of winter, when the weather starts to turn cold and the frost starts to form. The days grow shorter and less friendly to us. The nights grow longer and more treacherous. The Furious Host, led by Odin himself, begins to ride, hunting anything it finds out of doors. All manner of ill-willing wights grow more powerful in the dark and wild places. Vargr come out of the woods in search of food. Trolls, smelling the blood of the culled herd, howl and terrify children in the dead of night, ready to snatch one away if given the chance.

All is not dark and grim, however, for now is the time when families gather together to celebrate the end of their laborings throughout the year and to rejoice in all that they have accomplished. The soil begins to rest and recover for next year's crops, tucked under a blanket of white. There is fresh meat, fresh baked bread, and there is plenty of ale to drink. Now is a time to celebrate with kith and kin.

In ancient times strangers were not welcome at Winter Nights celebrations. It is a time to spend with those closest to us and those upon whom we know we can rely in the dead of winter. It is a time to reaffirm our bonds of troth and friendship. It is a time to feast and make merry. It is a time to make offerings to the gods for a mild winter. It is a time to honor the álfar and thank them for their aid during the growing months and during the harvest.

Holy Offering

< Raise the DRINKING HORN into the air >

Hail Óðinn, Hanged God, Lord of the Gallows, Drighten of the Hunt, Granter of Victory!

Hail Pórr, Thunder, Mighty Áss, Great Champion of the Æsir, Warder of Miðgarðr!

Hail Ingvi-Freyr, Giver of Wealth, God of the World, Lord of Álfheim, Shining One!

Hail the Æsir, Holy Powers of Ásgarðr! Hail the Vanir, Mighty Lords of Vanaheim!

Hail the landvættir! Hail the house gods! Hail the álfar! Hail the Ancestors!

We bid you join us and receive our offerings true. We raise this horn of ale in your honor and share it as a token of our gratitude for the gifts you have given us. Accept this sacrifice, a symbol of our labor to provide for our families, and find it worthy. Grant us your blessings as winter draws near and keep us safe through the cold nights. Protect us from all ill-willing wights, trolls, and niðlings. Keep our homes safe from storms and make our hearths warm. Let good friends find comfort in our company and may we find that food is plentiful and our cups are always full. We offer up this horn of worthy ale to you, may it be well received.

< Pour the contents of the DRINKING HORN into the HLAUTBOLLI >

Note: Some people like to make a holy sign over the horn before pouring it into the hlautbolli. I prefer to make a Hammer Sign and say "Thor, make sacred."

< Raise the HLAUTBOLLI into the air >

In days of old our folk spilled the blood of sacred animals, offering up the life of the sacred animal and the livelihood of our folk, as a gift for the blessings they had received. Today we offer up this horn of ale in place of blood, a symbol of our livelihood in our modern world. It is a token of the work we do to provide for our families and is something dearly cherished. This is the most precious thing we have to offer, may it be well received.

Note: Additional offerings may be made at this time. Folks making offerings are encouraged to say a prayer of their own.

< Dip the BLESSING TINE into the HLAUTBOLLI and sprinkle each person >

May the blessings of the Æsir and Vanir be upon you.

< Sprinkle the surrounding ground and HÖRGR >

May this place be blessed with holy might and warded against ills and bad luck.

< Pour the contents of the HLAUTBOLLI onto the HÖRGR >

We return to you that which is rightly yours. We thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon us.

Closing

Let us wend our way from here, taking the blessings of the Gods of the North with us. Hail the Æsir! Hail the Vanir! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Landvættir!

Glossary

Álfar: Elves; one of the various races of beings. Male ancestors are believed to become a type of álf.

Álfheim: Elf Home, one of the Nine Worlds of Norse cosmology.

Ásgarðr: Home of the Æsir, one of the Nine Worlds.

Áss: Masculine singular; one of the Æsir.

Æsir: One of the two “tribes” of gods in Norse mythology.

Blessing Tine: A small branch cut from a tree to sprinkling *hlaut*, preferably evergreen.

Blót-stone: An outdoor altar upon which *hlaut* is poured. An alternate term for *hörgr*.

Drighthen: Leader of a warband.

Dísir: Powerful female spirits. Female ancestors are believed to join them.

Hlaut: Originally, blood from a sacrificed animal. It is any liquid used for offerings and blessings.

Hlautbolli: A bowl for collecting *hlaut*.

Huldrafolk: Hidden Folk, a term used to refer to all unseen wights.

Hörgr: Old Norse, harrow. An outdoor altar, often a single large stone or a pile of stones.

Landvættir: Spirits of the land.

Miðgarðr: Old Norse, Midgard. One of the Nine Worlds.

Troll: A general term for any ill-willing wight.

Urð: Old Norse, wyrd. The interconnectedness of all things.

Vanaheim: Home of the Vanir, one of the Nine Worlds.

Vanir: One of the two “tribes” of gods in Norse mythology.

Vargr: Old Norse, warg. Insulting term for a wolf, also used as a way of referring to outlaws.

Vé: A holy place outside for worship.

Wight: Any intelligent being, most often used to describe spirits of places or things.