

Question 8: Elder Futhark runes

Author: Catherine Sheard

Old Norse was the language of the Vikings, the language spoken in Scandinavia and in the Scandinavian settlements found throughout the Northern Hemisphere from the 700s to the 1300s. Old Norse was the ancestor of the North Germanic languages: Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish. Old Norse was written first in runic alphabets, then later in the Roman alphabet. The first runic alphabet, found on inscriptions dating from throughout the first millennium, is known as “Elder Futhark” and was used for both proto-Norse and early Old Norse.

Below are nine Anglicized names of Old Norse gods and the nine Elder Futhark names to which they correspond. Listed below are also two other runic names for gods.

Anglicized names

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	i.
Baldur	Dallinger	Day	Earth	Freya	Freyr	Ithun	Night	Sun

Old Norse Runes

1	ᚼᚠᚢᚱᚱ	4	ᚱᚠᚦᚱ	7	ᚱᚦᚱᚱ	10	ᚱᚠᚢᚠ
2	ᚱᚦᚱ	5	ᚠᚦᚠᚠ	8	ᚱᚠᚢᚠᚱᚱ	11	ᚱᚦᚠ
3	ᚠᚱᚢᚠᚠ	6	ᚱᚱᚠᚢᚱᚠ	9	ᚱᚱᚱᚱ		

B1. Match the Anglicized names to the correct Elder Futhark names.

(9 pts)

B2. What are the two leftover Elder Futhark names, in the Roman alphabet? (2 pts)

B3. Write the runic names of the following gods: (9 pts)

- a. Tyr
- b. Ran
- c. Sif