

RUNEHOSE



Signe

The origins of runes date back to 200AD when they were used by Germanic tribes in Northern Europe. Over the centuries they have intrigued many and have been used for a plethora different reasons and in many different ways.

There are many runestones with inscriptions; some are graffiti-like scribbles, usually a name, scratched into stone or wood. Others make up sentences to mark an occasion or place. The more magical meaning was bestowed to the runes many centuries later for means of divination. I rather not mention the nasty misuse of runes in the second world war and present day to spread fear and hate. So let`s not dwell on that. Luckily we also find a positive use of runes when look to connect our devices. The Bluetooth icon is a modern day example of a bindrune.

You see in Viking times the runes were used creatively, changed shape or were bound together like the Bluetooth logo. Perhaps to give them extra power, to highlight a name, or simply to save writing space. Who knows.

When I was young girl with a keen interest in mythology, sagas and stories, it was Tolkien who steered me towards Scandinavian mythology. I am sure my name coming from the Northern hemisphere, helped to focus my attention to those regions. In the long forgotten days without internet, I started gathering a collection of books on runes. From inexpensive, simple booklets to hard-to-come-by luxury editions from the library. I noticed the runes were explained very differently in all these books.

Therefore I wrote down all of the meanings from all the books I could find and started making sketches of what they 'felt' like to me. In a way this was like going on a shamanic journey. Repeating the words guided me to a meditative state of consciousness I previously only found when drawing or horse-riding.

I still use the runes as a means to contemplate aspects of life, focus my thoughts and I enjoy making bindrunes. For example my horses. By thinking about their characters, my wishes for them and what aspects suit them. Keeping in mind, the meaning of a rune can vary when they are combined with other runes. I have found them to be fluid and changing as I change, gain experience and well... get older.

This book contains the illustrations I made during *Inktober 2019*, a month where artists all over the world challenge themselves to draw every day of October. I granted myself the time to take at least an hour a day, no matter how busy I was, to do what I love. No rules, no restrictions, just me and the runes and horses.

So here they are, my 24 runehorses and what they mean to me.

Love

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Signe'.



WUNJO



The rune of joy. A fleeting feeling that comes and goes and flaps in the wind like a banner or a weather vane. Youthful mirth, a heartfelt joke or the simple contentment of a happy moment shared.



KENAZ



The torch. The flame that lights up the dark. The inner fire of creativity. The true power of this light is the control over it. Harnessing the wildness. A balance of getting close enough to feel the heat without being consumed by it.



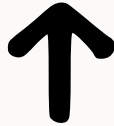
GEBO



A gift of partnership. A mutual love that binds two individuals. An offering of hospitality and equality. Do not look a gift horse in the mouth, but receive it and what it stands for. Nowadays, this mark is still used as a sign of a kiss, exchanged silently without touching.



TIWAZ



The rune of righteousness and sacrifice. Best illustrated by the story of Tyr. He led by example when the gods tried to persuade Fenris to let himself be bound. Fenris did not trust their word. Tyr offered to put his hand in the wolf's mouth. He knew he would lose his hand, for it was indeed a ruse. It needed to be done for the greater good and he was the only one willing to do so.



EHWAZ



The rune of movement. The faithful loyal horse will carry you anywhere you wish to go. As long as you treat it well. It is a partnership that facilitates speed and progression as you reach for the next milestone.



BERKANA

B

Healing, renewal and growth. The birch tree is resilient and will sprout even after being burnt. Fertility and flowing sap fed by soil, rain and sunshine. It smells like spring and fresh green leaves dance in the light.



MANNAZ



The rune of self. Humankind finds it hard to surrender a part of the self. The fear of losing what we think we are is too great. Our excessive longing for belonging is blinding us from seeing what we really are and what we have around us. We are a part of the whole.



ISA



Ice will freeze and conserve. Keep safe what is frozen for future times. In winters of snow and ice, time slows down and might even come to a standstill. A quiet concentration and a single visible breath.



EIWAZ



The rune of life and death, rebirth and renewal. The yew tree will have a branch cut and made into a bow that shoots a deer to feed a family through a harsh winter. A cycle sustained by necessity.



INGWAZ



A seed planted. The rune of reproduction and fertility. It is the drive of the stallion that sparks procreation.



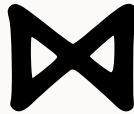
LAGUZ



The flow of water cannot easily be stopped or contained. A babbling brook or the thundering rapids in a river. We must surrender our sense of control and let go, to float along with it.



DAGAZ



A fresh start, a reboot. As the light signals a new day it is a breakthrough that gives you the clarity you need. The end of one thing is the start of something else. You can always start over.



PERTHO



The rune of hidden knowledge. The secret. A chamber waiting to be unlocked. Following a gut feeling, deepest instincts that cannot be explained. A journey into subconsciousness through oracles and divination.



HAGALAZ

N

The rune of hail. A sudden violent disruption making you take shelter. A painful suffering in a time of crisis that you must endure. The hail will melt away.



RAIDO

R

The wheel that turns as you travel. The rune of the quest, with the only goal being the journey itself. Weathering the hardships and adversity. These experiences will be the cherished fulfilment.



FEHU



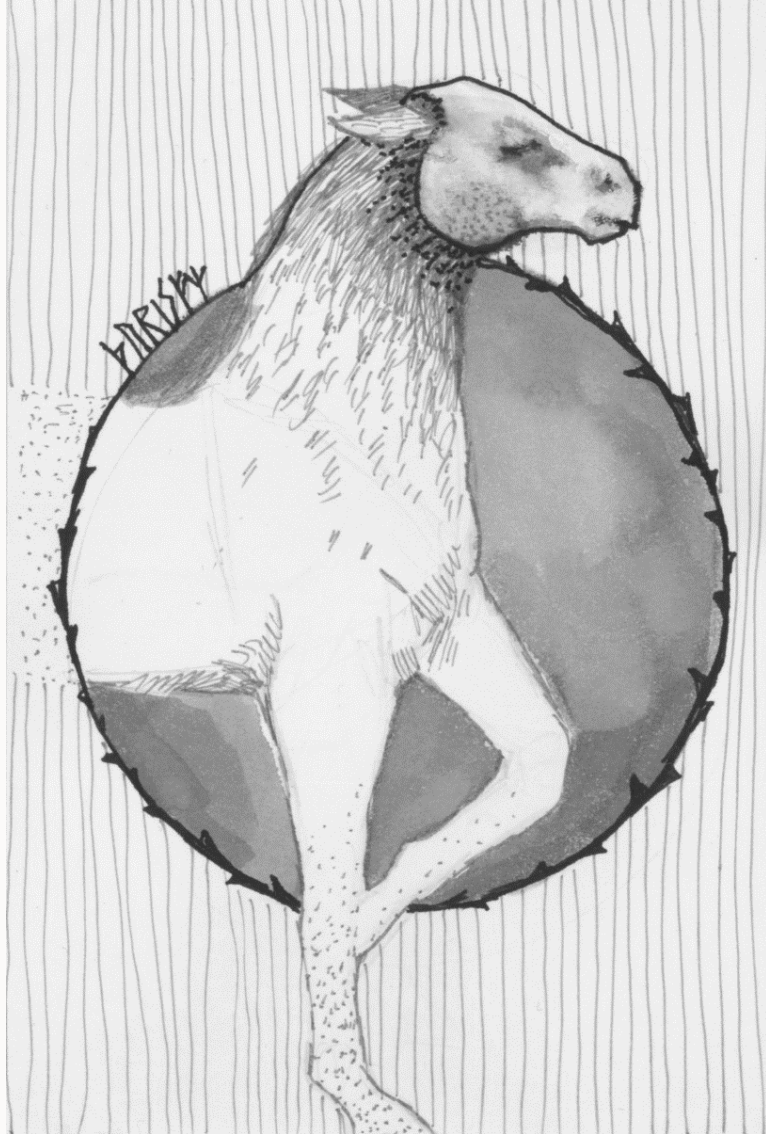
The rune of possessions. Often regarded as wealth and abundance. Investing energy into creating a stockpile that will nourish you, both physically and mentally. Do not grieve for material losses, for the immaterial and spiritual wealth will last a lifetime.



SOWILO



Triumph and victory soars through you as you feel the endless power of the sun. A burst of energy like lightening in a dark sky. A force that can be harnessed to achieve your goals.



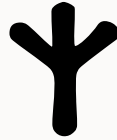
THURISAZ



A wall of thorns is the gateway to a treasure. It will wound you and tear your flesh. At your feet, a tiny hare slips by leaving a slight bit of fur behind as an offering for the safety of the bramble bush.



ALGIZ



The rune of protection and security. Feel the warmth of safety pull you in as it wraps around you like a warm blanket. Be aware, this smothering shield also isolates you from your herd.



JERA



The harvest rune. If you invest in all the seasons of the year and complete the cycle, you can enjoy the fruits of the energy you have put in. Reap, sow and give thanks.



OTHILA



The rune of ancestry and belonging. The roots of home, whether they are physical or metaphysical. This is your tribe, your family, your clan, your herd.



ANSUZ

F

Signs that make thoughts into words that can be spoken. The wisdom that was bestowed on Odin to use wisely. The knowledge of the world whispered in his ears by his ravens.



URUZ



The rune of strength. Untamed and raw power that can flow as a continuous energy or burn and consume you from within. It can even be a sudden and immense outbreak, bursting into existence.



NAUDIZ



The rune of need and requirement. Finding the right tools and friends to keep poverty and exhaustion at bay. Determination and resilience are your guides through adversity.

I have introduced the runehorses to you in an order that felt right for me and for these illustrations. These runes are usually grouped in Aetts where the first runes spell FUTHARK.

FEHU

URUZ

THURISAZ

ANSUZ

RAIDO

KENAZ

GEBO

WUNJO

HAGALAZ

NAUDIZ

ISA

JERA

EIWAZ

PERTHO

ALGIZ

SOWILO

TIWAZ

BERKANA

EHWAZ

MANNAZ

LAGUZ

INGWAZ

OTHILA

DAGAZ

If you are interested in runes I urge you to conduct your own research. Go on your own quest, for it is the journey that matters most. There is a lot to discover, many views and opinions. True knowledge is scarce and overrated.

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Runehorses

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Thank you, Lydia and Claudine, for finding my mistakes and making this book the best it can be.

