

Viking Saga Songs

2. Odin, Mighty-World Creator

NIGEL

Hello, and welcome back to *Viking Saga Songs*, where today we'll be visiting some different places in Viking stories - or 'Sagas'. Some are real, and some are imaginary.

JOANNA

The Vikings came from "the Northlands", so we'll be visiting Scandinavian landscapes, with their mountains and fjords, and the cold, cold sea.

NIGEL

Today's song is called "Odin, Mighty World-Creator", and it's about Odin, who, according to Viking myth, was Father of the Gods. His name was sometimes written and spoken to sound like "Votan" or "Woden", and that's where we get our name for the day in the middle of the week, "Wednesday" or "Woden's-Day".

JOANNA

And according to the ancient myth, Odin was the Creator of the World or even the whole universe...the Mighty World-Creator!



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JOANNA

Let's learn the introduction to Odin's song.
It's like a "chant" calling out Odin's name, and
echoing in the hills:

SINGING

*Odin...Odin...**Odin...Odin...*

JOANNA

Did you hear how the tune for Odin's name was
made from just two notes, rising upwards
"O-din"...? They're both quite long especially the
second note and you'll sing the name loudly at
first, then softly like an echo, then loud again,
then soft again.

NIGEL

Get the idea? See if you can join in with us. Just
before you sing, there are three drumbeats to
bring you in: Ready?

SINGING

*Odin...Odin...**Odin...Odin...*

JOANNA

OK, so that's the introduction to the song. Next
we'll learn a "verse", with what we know about
Odin. Odin, Mighty World-Creator, Viking Norse
God – Odin.



Let's try it as a Follow-my-Leader, a few words at a time. Nigel will start with the first half of the verse, then you copy singing with me. And then you'll do the same with the second half. So, ready to listen first?

NIGEL

Odin, Mighty World-creator

JOANNA

Odin, Mighty World-creator

NIGEL

Viking Norse-God, Odin

JOANNA

Viking Norse-God, Odin

NIGEL

Right, see now if you can join the introduction from before with the verse you've just learnt. Ready to sing?

Odin...Odin...

Odin...Odin...

Odin, Mighty World-creator

Viking Norse-God, Odin

NIGEL

Now, according to the Viking story, before the world was created there were just gods and giants. And one of Odin's first tasks was to banish the giants to a frozen wasteland called "Jotunheim". So Verse 2 of our song tells all about it:



*Jotunheim,
Frost and Ice,
Cold winds blowing,
Land of Giants,
Jotunheim...*

JOANNA

Like before, you start with an echoey introduction for the name Jotunheim. So sing along, starting with the echoes, and perhaps you could make your voice sound icy, frosty and co-o-o-ld. There'll be three drumbeats to bring you in. Ready?

JOANNA:

*Jotunheim...Jutenheim...
Jotunheim...Jutenheim...
Jotunheim, Frost and Ice,
Cold winds blowing,
Land of Giants, Jotunheim*

JOANNA

Next in the story, Odin creates a special place for the first human beings, where they can live alongside nature, a beautiful place called "Midgard": "Midgard, Middle-Earth, Nature blooming, Home for humans, Midgard". But you'll sing the Midgard-echoes first, then sing those words with a smooth, flowing voice. Listen for the three drumbeats to start. Off you go!



Midgard...Midgard...

Midgard...Midgard...

Midgard, Middle-Earth, Nature blooming,

Home for humans, Midgard.

NIGEL

Next up is somewhere called "Asgard". This is a magnificent citadel created by Odin for the gods, high up in the mountains: "Asgard, Citadel, Golden, shining, Home for Norse-Gods, Asgard".

JOANNA

There are loud horns and big, brassy wind instruments booming out! So, you'll need to sing with a strong, loud, shining voice! Ready?

Asgard...Asgard...

Asgard...Asgard...

Asgard, Citadel, Golden, shining,

Home for Norse-Gods, Asgard

NIGEL

According to the Vikings, Bifrost was a "rainbow-bridge", which connected Asgard, home of the gods, with the earth. So, Odin's song has a verse about Bifrost, verse 5: "Bifrost, Rainbow-Bridge, Arching over, Colours shimmering, Bifrost".



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JOANNA

Are you ready to try singing those words,
starting with some echoes, and with a shiny,
mysterious voice? Off you go!

*Bifrost...Bifrost...**Bifrost...Bifrost...**Bifrost, Rainbow-Bridge, Arching over,
Colours shimmering, Bifrost*

NIGEL

But unfortunately, not everything was light-and-air in the Viking world...there was a dark, gloomy side too. So, in verse six, we visit a place called Helheim: "Helheim, Under-World, Realm of Darkness, House of Evil, Helheim". So, with a dark, gloomy voice, it's echoes first. Here we go!

*Helheim...Helheim...**Helheim...Helheim...**Helheim, Under-World, Realm of Darkness,
House of Evil, Helheim*

JOANNA

Now, in Viking myth, all these different worlds Midgard, Asgard, Helheim and so on, are held together by the "World Tree", called "Yggdrasil."



Yggdrasil is a huge Ash-Tree, with roots stretching deep into the ground and branches reaching up into the sky. And verse 7 says: "Yggdrasil, Ash-Tree, Sky-Earth growing, Roots and branches, Yggdrasil..." So, ready to sing that, with an elegant, rising-up voice? Echoes first, Here goes:

Yggdrasil... Yggdrasil...

Yggdrasil... Yggdrasil...

*Yggdrasil, Ash-Tree, Sky-Earth growing,
Roots and branches, Yggdrasil*

NIGEL

The song ends with the echoes from the first introduction, calling out the name...Odin. And the last note of all is held on, as a "pause", fading away into the distance. Ready to sing?

BOTH SING

Odin... Odin...

Odin... Odin...

NIGEL

We hope you've enjoyed exploring Jotunheim, and Midgard, and Asgard...

JOANNA

...and Bifrost and Helheim and Yggdrasil and the Viking Father-God who was supposed to have started it all...Odin!



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NIGEL

Now you've sung all the verses, you can put the whole song together in your own time. So, till next time.

BOTH

"Farvel", bye!

BOTH SING

Odin...Odin...

Odin...Odin...

