

Odin Creates the World

Odin was the chief of the Viking gods. He was also god of magic, war, battle and victory. Immortal, he was very old by human standards, with a long, silky white beard that hung from his chin. His dark, intelligent eyes showed that he was a sly and calculating character. He would later lose one of his eyes in a canny exchange that would give him great wisdom. Odin's sweeping white cloak, gave him a compelling aura of sorcery and power. On occasions, Odin could be seen flying past on his magical eight-legged horse, racing at the speed of light!

When it came to creating the world, Odin started by making a home for the enemies of the Vikings, the giants. He sent this freezing wind across the blackness, and a terrible land of frost and ice appeared wrapped in a thick, thick mist. It was a dreadful, perilous place of miserable cold. The giants would hate it. He called it Jotunheim – home of the giants.

Next, he created a land for the people. Blowing gently, a warm zephyr meandered across the sky. A beautiful green world full of trees, lakes, flowers and rivers appeared. Odin gazed down upon his creation and felt a glow of pride. He called it Midgard. Then, taking two trees, he whispered into the leaves and rubbed them together. Before his eyes, they turned into people – the first man and woman in the world.

After, he created a land for the gods. In the blinking of an eye there rose up a shining, dazzling city, full of palaces made of gold and silver, with towers that almost touched the clouds. He named it Asgard. Odin's first task was complete. He had created the world.

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