

# Rune Handbook – Younger Futhark

*16 runes of the Viking Age, c. 800–1100 AD*

The Younger Futhark of the Viking Age has only 16 characters – several sounds share a single rune. The images follow the Old Norse rune poems (public domain).

## Overview

- ᚱ Fé · F – Wealth
- ᚱ Úr · U – Slag/Rain
- ᚳ Þurs · TH – Giant
- ᚦ Óss · A/O – Estuary/Odin
- ᚱ Reið · R – Riding
- ᚱ Kaun · K – Sore
- \* Hagall · H – Hail
- ᚠ Nauðr · N – Need
- ᚠ Ísa · I – Ice
- ᚠ Ár · A – Good Year
- ᚠ Sól · S – Sun
- ᚠ Týr · T – Tyr
- ᚷ Bjarkan · B – Birch
- ᚱ Maðr · M – Human
- ᚠ Lögr · L – Water
- ᚠ Ýr · R/Y – Yew

## The 16 Runes in Detail

### ᚱ Fé · F

*Wealth*

**In the Rune Poem.** Wealth is a source of discord among kinsmen; the wolf lives in the forest.

### ᚱ Úr · U

*Slag/Rain*

**In the Rune Poem.** Dross comes from bad iron; the reindeer often races over the frozen snow.

### ᚳ Þurs · TH

*Giant*

**In the Rune Poem.** The giant causes anguish to women; misfortune makes few men cheerful.

### ᚦ Óss · A/O

*Estuary/Odin*

**In the Rune Poem.** The estuary is the way of most journeys; but a scabbard is of swords.

### ᚱ Reið · R

*Riding*

**In the Rune Poem.** Riding is said to be the worst thing for horses; Reginn forged the finest sword.

**Ʒ Kaun · K***Sore***In the Rune Poem.** The ulcer is fatal to children; grief makes a man pale.**\* Hagall · H***Hail***In the Rune Poem.** Hail is the coldest of grain; Christ created the world of old.**† Nauðr · N***Need***In the Rune Poem.** Constraint gives scant choice; a naked man is chilled by the frost.**ǀ Ísa · I***Ice***In the Rune Poem.** Ice we call the broad bridge; the blind man must be led.**‡ Ár · A***Good Year***In the Rune Poem.** A good harvest is a boon to men; generous was the bountiful Fróði.**ᚠ Sól · S***Sun***In the Rune Poem.** The sun is the light of the lands; I bow to the holy decree.**↑ Týr · T***Tyr***In the Rune Poem.** Tyr is the one-handed among the Æsir; often must the smith blow the bellows.**ᚷ Bjarkan · B***Birch***In the Rune Poem.** The birch has the greenest leaves of any shrub; Loki had the luck of his deceit.**ƿ Maðr · M***Human***In the Rune Poem.** Man is an augmentation of the earth; great is the talon-span of the hawk.**ǃ Lögr · L***Water***In the Rune Poem.** Water is that which falls from the mountain as a torrent; but gold ornaments are costly things.**ᚦ Ýr · R/Y***Yew***In the Rune Poem.** The yew is the greenest of trees in winter; it is wont to crackle when it burns.**Note**

Freely after the Old Norwegian and Old Icelandic rune poems (public domain). © Glanz &amp; Gravur.