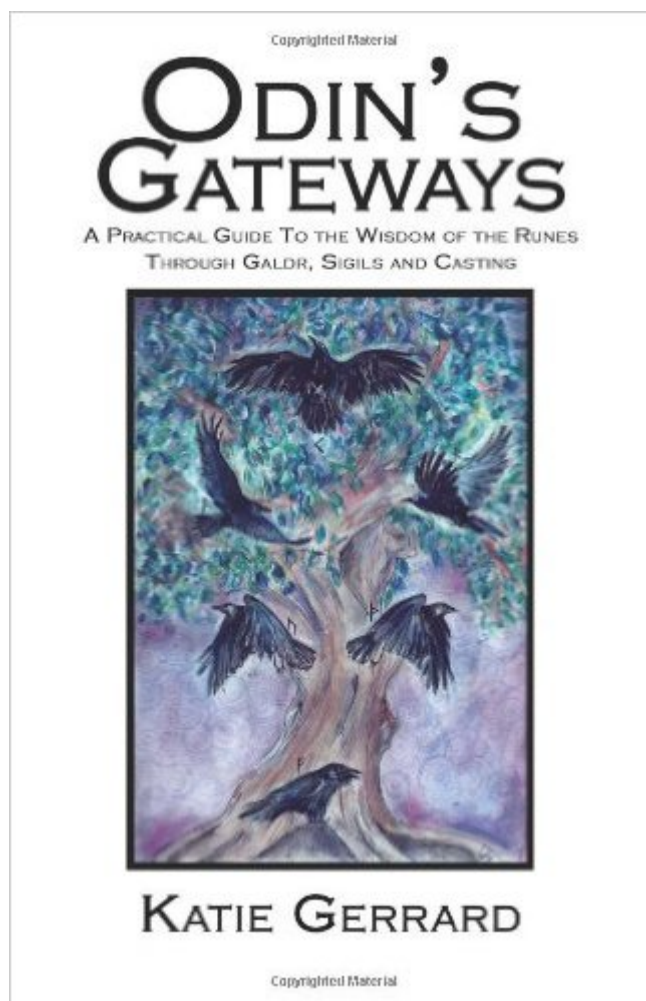


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Odin's Gateways: A Practical Guide To The Wisdom Of The Runes Through Galdr, Sigils And Casting



Synopsis

"The runes you must find ... Which the mighty sage stained and the powerful gods made and the runemaster of the gods carved out." (The Poetic Edda, translated by C. Larrington) The runes are mysterious and powerful magical keys to the primal forces of nature that shaped Norse and Northern European culture. These twenty-four unique and inspiring symbols of the Elder Futhark (first runic alphabet) each possess powerful energies, identities, meanings, and sounds. The runes are invoked and harnessed to create change through inspiration, healing, protection, knowledge and divine wisdom from the Norse gods. *Odin's Gateways* is a practical guide to using the runes in our lives, in magic and in divination - a unique journey into the mysteries hidden within the runes, filled with the information and practices necessary to developing a deep personal understanding and relationship with them. By focusing on how to directly harness and channel the energy of the individual runes, the author guides the reader along the path to self knowledge and empowerment. With a deft hand and lucid style, Katie Gerrard cuts to the heart of the runes, combining the wisdom of the Norse Sagas and Rune Poems with practical advice and techniques gained through living and experiencing their powers. The divinatory meanings of the runes are given, with a range of different reading methods, bindrunes are explained in detail, with numerous examples presented ready for use; galdr (incantation) and spellcraft, charms and talismans are all seamlessly explored and made accessible in this fluid, concise and practical guide.

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Customer Reviews

We have all been waiting for a decently researched book on the esoteric side of the runes. Finally, here is one that does not seek to invent a mysterious system and call it "tradition". The author is honest about her research, making a clear distinction between modern usage and the old sources. She uses this knowledge as a firm foundation upon which to explore techniques from a variety of sources. There are very few rune books I can honestly recommend, but this is one. Kate has done the groundwork in both her academic and esoteric approaches. She shows no fear or favour in examining the facts, the urban myths, and her own experimentation. There are a couple of minor mistakes (see comments), that will no doubt be fixed in a later edition. What we end up with is a very balanced, practical, and well rounded perspective on rune esoterica in the modern world. Sweyn

The Rune Primer

I absolutely love the author's "voice", her writing style, as she talks the reader through the story of Odin's sacrifice on the tree. She presents a concise (at times a little too concise) picture of Norse cosmology and gives a clear view of the runes and their meanings. While I might have preferred just a little more "meat", I truly appreciate a short, easily approachable book written in clean, clear language (I've been reading R.I. Page all week). This book is one of my three "go-to" books on runes; Katie Gerrard definitely knows her stuff and she presents it in a way that is a joy to read.

To receive the knowledge of the Runes Odin hung upside down for 9 days and had one of his eyes pecked out by a raven. At least that is how the legend goes. In reality the Runes were developed by the Northern Europeans and spread over the England. Three Runic alphabets developed Futhark, Futhork and Elder Futhork. This book focuses on the Elder Futhork. Author Katie Gerard had worked with the Runes for well over ten years before she decided to write this book. At the beginning there is a brief description of the history. After discussing the history she discusses some of the giants in the Rune world. Most notable are Freya Aswynn, Edred Flowers and Ralph Blum. The author gives some time to the debate of the blank Rune which Ralph Blum is a proponent of. After giving some back and forth over the issue in the end the reader is left to make the decision for them self. Katie also believes that the spiritual seeker should allow the runes to convey their own meaning and lessons rather than relying on so many books. The meat of the book deals with the Runes themselves. This section is very concise and to the point. It is also very thorough. Each rune is given ample explanation of it's meaning, life lesson and how to use it in spellcraft. The reader is also given guidance in how to pronounce the rune as well. This is something that can be referred to many times over. The final part of the book give over information on how to make runes, use bind

runes and some specific spells. Any material can be used for making runes. One can use clay, wood or stones. The actual rune letters should be painted in red. In ancient times they were painted in blood. Now a days you can just add a drop of your own blood if you find that really necessary. This most like one of the best books on the runes that I have read. It is simple and to the point like Norse Magic itself.

I was looking for a introductory Rune book that gave a touch of history, solid info to get started and practical insight on working with the Runes. Info applicable on working magic with the Runes a big bonus. This book fits the bill perfectly! It's concise, easy-to-read and you get the sense the author is very knowledgeable. Just enough history and myth is included in the introductory section to give a little background without overwhelming the reader and getting bogged down. In areas of dissension among the community, the author mentions the disagreement and gives her justification for how she approaches the situation without being dogmatic or disrespectful to those with other views. She credits sources and it's easy to follow how she's come up with conclusions she's presenting. One of my favorite features of this book is such a small thing, but it makes a wonderful addition. In the rune-by-rune discussion, the author gives several examples of each Rune's energy in real-life applications, clear examples of the kind of situations that may come up in divination. Just these 3 or 4 examples for each Rune made it so much clearer how you may see the energy manifest, and helped make the descriptions much more accessible. It was also clear from reading that the author uses the runes in divination. The little hints and tips on how Runes tend to speak to her in readings are very useful. I was also glad to see info on intoning the runes and various ways you can connect to their energy. Sections on Rune magic and bind-runes round out the text. While the author appropriately mentioned the ethical consideration of magic work (and particularly that which could be considered negative magic), she did not include lengthy lectures or leave out relevant information as many authors will in such discussion. I was delighted to see readers respected to make their own decisions. And again, the magic sections had plenty of examples to spur your own understanding and creativity of how individual Runes may be used in magic. Great book! If you're an accomplished Rune caster, this book is most likely of limited value to you. There will be probably be some things you pick up from it but you may choose to pass for something more advanced. But for the beginner, I think this makes an excellent starter book, and compelling enough you'll want to expand your studies after you've read it. I know I do!

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