

GOTHAR

A Gothi or a Gythia is a spiritual leader of tribe or kindred. It is their responsibility to teach, influence, and guide the kindred members in practice and in ritual. The Gothar (plural) are key pieces to a kindred for they need to be knowledgeable and trustworthy in their teachings. Technically you do not need anything other than a following to become a Gothi or Gythia. There is no special school or training camp one needs to attend, but it is wise to best practice the faith and know it in and out to carry the title of Gothi or Gythia.

In some instances, certain groups or kindred will indeed have a program shaped for members to take before becoming a Gothi or Gythia, but this is typically groups or communities who offer 'their' version or 'their' practice of Asatru/Norse Paganism. There is both good things and bad things this method has to offer. The good things to take away from kindreds or groups who require a program to take to be ordained Gothi or Gythia is the fact that these members are put to the test and are indeed taught rituals, faith, and spiritual discipline. This is to ensure these members are fit for the job to lead kindreds and rituals such as blots and symbols. The bad things that can come out of special programs and apprenticeships are the fact that usually these kindred or groups teach their own way of being heathen, or their own way to practice Asatru. Though this is not wrong, it is not exactly what was practiced in the past by our ancestors. In fact, certain rituals and practices would differ from tribe to tribe back in the pagan days. The meaning to be the same, but the practice may be different than a tribe from another land.

Here in the Nine Faith Kindred, we do not recognize the demand to teach one how to practice, we focus more on the connection one has to the faith of Asatru and relate to the modern world. Therefore, we have many different spiritual leaders because they all bring something different to teach the kindred. NFK recognizes the value of a Gothi and Gythia, therefore we do have our Gothi and President Nick Younger. Specializing in ritual work and knowledge of the Eddas, Nick likes to connect the faith of Asatru to the modern time we are living, after all our ancestors followed some sort of pagan faith many hundreds of years ago. NFK does indeed require and encourage our members to keep the search for knowledge going. Keep up the study of our faith and keep up the approach of new ways to implement the past practices to our future time.

The Nine Faith Kindred Gothar levels:

Gothi/Gythia 1 – A spiritual leader with knowledge of the faith and beliefs. One who has good people skills and can lead several people in ritual and symbol. Good knowledge of our sources such as the Eddas, Sagas, and Archaeological finds.

Gothi/Gythia 2 - A spiritual leader with vast knowledge of the faith and beliefs. One with experience in ritual work, mentoring and guiding members in practice. Vast knowledge of our sources including the translations of the Eddas. One who can lead many people in ritual and symbol.

Gothi/Gythia 3 - A spiritual leader with broad experience of leading a kindred. Amazing knowledge of all sources. Experience with life celebrations such as coming of age ceremonies, pagan weddings, and death ceremonies. NFK will recognize a Gothar 3 to be an elite leader in spiritual leadings.

What exactly does a the Gothar do?

- Personally, gets to know all members of the kindred, to assess who they are in spirit, where they are in their practice, and what is important to them.
- To mentor and lead the new kindred members to help them get involved in the kindred.
- Be a resource for guidance, advising, provide encouragement, and assist in one's practices.
- To help connect the faith of Asatru to the spirit, the mind, the life of a practitioner.
- Provide guidance of the understanding how to honor our gods, ancestors, landvaettir.
- Set examples to the rest of the kindred by maintaining practice, learning new things, working hard at being a better pagan.
- Spiritually maintain (Bless, Cleanse, and Secure) items during rituals. Blessing spaces and homes, and places of spiritual significance to the kindred.
- Assist with the leadership of the kindred.

Nine Faith Kindred's Gothi - Nick Younger



Meet the Gothi:

My name is Nick Younger, and I have been pagan in spirit for nearly 15 years. I will say, I did not pick up practice until I was nearly 30 years of age. I got involved in small groups and started to resort to the sources for better understanding of what Norse Paganism is. I fell out of practice for nearly 2 years, I had just given up for my only influence to get involved was no longer available to me. After the death of my best friend Megsoh, the rainbow bridge was not good enough for me. I needed to know more about the afterlife and if I was every going to see my boy again. I immediately went back into practice and have never looked back. I have read book after book, watched video after video, and have even reached out to relatives who know Old Scandinavian stories and pagan rituals. From both Poetic and Prose Eddas, to Asatru books and Pagan readings I have dove deep into the beliefs of our ancestors. Saga of the Icelanders, to Norse Visions of paganism are all sources of vast knowledge. I am still a young Gothi with much to explore and learn, but I do have a great grasp on what our ancestors viewed the Norse Pagan faith to be. My teachings from my experiences are simply taking the practices and rituals from our ancestors hundreds and hundreds of years ago and practicing them in our modern time. I am currently specializing in decoding the myths, breaking them down to what our ancestors were trying to teach us. Lessons on life, lessons on spirit, lessons on facing fear, lessons on the nature of life. Unlocking the importance of the mind, the spirit, the soul is a key element in any paganistic faith, and it just so happens that my teachings of Asatru go hand in hand with our body and the conscious. My goal as a spiritual leader is to not show you how to be pagan, nor force you to believe a certain way, but to help you connect your modern life to a faith that can help you become the best version of yourself.