

NFK'S 6 STEP GUIDE TO BECOMING NORSE PAGAN.

Step 1.

Introduction books on Asatru/Norse Paganism.

You can find these books everywhere even in audiobook form. These are basic introductions to Norse Mythology and Asatru. These books are a great way to get your feet wet and get you practicing this faith from the start.

NOTE:

There are many of these books from different authors and I highly recommend reading at least 2-3 of these books before moving forward into the next steps. Doing this will get you a wider view of the basics and beliefs from multiple sources and practitioners.

Step 2.

The Prose Edda

I recommend the Prose Edda first because it is in storybook form and easier to read. The Prose Edda alone can really open us the foundations of this faith, including the ideas and mythology of Norse Paganism.

NOTE:

Depending on the version you decide to obtain of the Prose Edda, please keep in mind that Snorri Sturluson's original version of the Prose Edda is written long after the times of the Norse Peoples, especially long after they have converted to Christianity. This is important because there may be many bias and unofficial parts of the Codex Regius included inside the Prose Edda. Nevertheless, it is still a good starting point when it comes to the Eddas.

Step 3.

The Poetic Edda

The difference between the Poetic Edda and the Prose Edda are by how it was written in the time it was written. The Prose Edda was written more as a story, where the Poetic is written in sections in a form of Old Norse Poetry, mini stories if you will. Many would say the Poetic Edda is the closest thing this faith has to a "Book" of faith. It's been translated from the Codex Regius by many authors, but many would highly recommend the translation by Jackson Crawford.

NOTE:

In time, after you have finished step 3, before moving forward I would highly recommend again to buy a version of the Poetic Edda that is in full Old Norse literature, also obtaining a Old Norse Dictionary and personally translating Poetic Edda yourself. I promise you after you finish the Eddas, and then personally translate it yourself, this faith and the metaphors hidden in the Eddas will make much more sense. A good copy of the Poetic Edda in original form are both:

Lee M. Hollander's version along with Maria Kvilhaug's Old Norse Cosmology Poems.

Step 4.

The Sagas

Once you have reached step 4 you should have a wide idea of what this faith stands for in both Mythical and logical forms, especially if you did your own translation of the Poetic Edda. The sagas of our ancestors take what the mythology gives and places it in real world scenarios. Not to be confused with the Heroic Poems often labeled as Sagas, the original historical Sagas like Leif Erikson, Erik the Red, Erik Blood Axe, and many more are the ones I speak of. Any Saga you can get your hands on from the Iron/Bronze Age will be plenty informative.

NOTE:

I also recommend getting any Saga around those Iron Age and Bronze Age times that aren't Old Norse, this is because this can give you a view of other cultures around the Norse and give you a different view of how they experienced and encountered the Old Norse peoples. You'll learn a lot this way since many cultures were ahead of the Norse in writing and literature.

Step 5.

Influence

Skip this step if you do not have a reliable, strong, experienced influencer in your access. This could be a Gothi/Gythia, a historian of Old Norse, experienced Pagans of the Asatru way, or a person who with proof has taken these or identical steps that I have mentioned. If you have access to a Kindred or a group practitioner, you may want to request to join them in some of their practices.

NOTE:

Depending on where you find your influence, please remember that this faith of Asatru doesn't have any Dogma, therefore certain practices may be different from kindred to kindred, or group to group. This is beneficial to you in the long run, it will give you many ways to learn and understand Asatru and the many way practitioners practice it. Take advantage of this and learn as much as you can, this will widen your knowledge in your own practice.

Step 6.

The Chase

By now you have finished all the recommended steps that you should take to truly understand Asatru, and the Old Norse way. I can recommend books on archaeological finds, symbols of the past, and meanings of the rituals, but this is where I think many practitioners should go their own way. After completing this step-by-step guide on how to learn and be a Asatruar, or Norse Pagan you should know enough to determine your own explanations of things that come your way. This faith is very special because we have little to no proof on many things including in this faith, therefore it is up to the researchers and ones who study to give us their best example of what may have been.

NOTE:

This faith got its nickname "Faith of Study" for a reason, even though you completed a strong step by step guide on the Asatru faith, it is now up to you to retain this knowledge by going back and starting the system over again, but also to do your own independent research. This faith is every evolving into modern times, it is important to understand why our ancestors did things a certain way back then and that's because we need to find a modern way to do it now. We strive to keep this faith as original as possible to hold honor to our ancestors and beliefs, but it is necessary to change what needs to be changed because of the time gap from back then to now.

Things to keep in mind are your sources of knowledge, you want to ensure that they are reliable, solid, full proof sources to go forward with. Most importantly understand that you'll never know everything,

and this is perfectly ok. As Odin did in our sources, I encourage you to keep the strive for knowledge going forward and never assume that you know it all.