

THE NUMBER 9.

In the Norse history along with Norse Paganism, the number 9 is a truly important number. The number 9 is found all over the sources such as the Havamal, The Eddas, and in some of the sagas. The number 9 is often associated with the number of nights Odin hung himself from the World Tree, Yggdrasil. The number 9 is associated with the steps Thor takes after destroying the World Serpent, Jormungandr. Also, the number of points on the Valknut symbol, associated with the 9 realms of the cosmos. Despite where you look, the number 9 appears often in the Norse sources.

However, there is also another form of 9, in the Nine Noble Virtues.

The virtues, or values are often labeled as non-relation to the Norse faith, but regardless of opinion the Nine Noble Virtues were created from the sources including the Havamal, Eddas, and Sagas. There is a view of many that the Nine Noble Virtues are only followed by Folk communities or clans, and this is due to their creation. The Nine Noble Virtues were originally created by [Edred Thorsson](#) which was the first leader of the AFA, Asatru Folk Assembly. He created these virtues by unfolding the common themes of the Norse Eddas, and Icelandic Sagas. There is a big debate on if one heathen should follow the virtues or not, all based on their creator. However, the virtues or values themselves aren't anything but moral codes that an Asatruar or heathen should live by, though not required to practice this faith, the virtues or values themselves are common logic to live a happy and dedicated life.

The Nine Faith Kindred took in these virtues because they are a recommended moral code to live by that makes perfect sense in order to live an honest, fulfilled life. NFK feels that since the Nine Noble Virtues were pulled from our sources, no matter who put their name on them, they are a core set of values that can easily help people live guided lives. How they were created or who their creator was isn't the value that one should live by, it's the values themselves that are tips to live good lives.

By the logic of many pagan communities today we would have nothing left with this faith if we were to give up everything Folk communities use or represent from our faith. It's not the value, or faith that separates our communities, it's the individuals themselves. If Folk communities or those of bigotry where to use the Havamal word for word as a creed on their community, by the logic of many pagan groups today they would surrender the Havamal, the words of the All Father himself to the wrong hands and this is exactly why we are losing our symbols, beliefs, and values to the other side.

The one thing no one ever wants to talk about is what exactly makes our community different from the Folk Community. The Folk community are often labeled as racist, white supremacist, and bigots, and most of this may be true, but it's not their faith, gods, celebrations, or representations that make them different than ours, it's their belief that Norse Paganism is meant for White lineage only. That's the only major difference between those who are Folkish, and non-folkish, is the belief of who can practice Norse

paganism and who can't. For the most part, the faith in the gods is the same, the celebrations are the same, the holidays are the same, the study, lore, mythology are all the same.

This is one huge reason why NFK fights back with proper symbolization and value. The faith itself isn't different, it's the beliefs, the individual.

I want to share with you a blog by a member of the kindred currently. This blog is a breakdown of what we call the Nine Faiths, and how one could use them in everyday life.

Blog by Brendon Donegan, Junior Member of NFK:

What are the 9 Faiths of Asatru? What do they mean and how can I apply them to my everyday life? Do I want to? When first getting on the path these are the first few questions I had. I feel these are pretty common questions to ask even when you are further down the line on your own path.

While the origin of the 9 virtues is debated what is fact is these 9 words essentially summarize the Havamal and many other texts such as the Edda's and the sagas. Almost everything involving the path can be laid out in this manner. Which for many new Asatru and those curious can use as a great starting point to jump from. As a "how should I act" kind of guide. This religion is non-Dogmatic, saying that while these virtues are great to put in our life, it's not required and you will not go to the Christian Hell if you do not obey. I do ask that you question.

What are the nine noble virtues?

☑ **Courage** – to me is the most important, without a drop of courage you can't do the rest. Courage is the ability to do something that frightens you. This can be anything minor to something incredible, some examples being signing up for the military during a time of war, deciding to be more social and inserting yourself into social engagements, or even taking care of a spider that has decided to use your house as its nest (this one I admittedly have a hard time with).

Courage can be used every second of every day, it's up to you on how to apply it for yourself.

📖 **Truth** – in accordance with reality

Your version of the truth will always be half. Everything you do has 2 sides, when told expands and twist's the origin of the story until it is something truly magical. So, live by your truth and your purpose of living.

📖 **Honor** – adherence to what is right or to a conventional standard of conduct. To do what is right will always be an idea that is one sided. For instance, maybe you stand up for a person that is being beaten because it is wrong to not only gang up and beat on them but the act in general isn't right. But what you may not know is that the person did something horrific to cause the beating to start. What is honorable and what is not will be for you to decide and live with.

📖 **Fidelity** – faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support. While on one hand this is seems like some of the commandments from Christianity kind of like a "thou shall not commit adultery." It's not quite that way simply be faithful to your beliefs and stay consistent with those beliefs. If you are going to marry, be faithful to your spouse. If you want to save the planet don't litter. If you want to lose weight or get healthier stick with it.

📖 **Discipline** – activity or experience that provides mental or physical training. Simply put, doing something even though you know you hate or don't want to do. From getting up every morning and going to the gym or for a run. To sitting in a coffee shop and cranking out a blog post because you gave your word and though you have never done this before. Having the discipline to do new and difficult thing while may suck to start with sooner or later they say it gets easier so keep at it.

☞ **Hospitality** – the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. This is spoken directly in the Havamal on how to be hospitable. Make sure your guest has what they need plenty of food, drink and a warm place.

☞ **Self-reliance** – reliance on one’s own powers and resources rather than those of others. Coming from hospitality to self-reliance don’t take each of these to the extreme. Such as isolating yourself so that you only have yourself remember that the whole point of this faith is about the community.

☞ **Industriousness** – constantly, regularly, or habitually active or occupied
Or simply put stay active always be doing something that with help you move forward in learning or any subject don’t simply be idle and let life just happen to you. If you do are you really living? Or are you just alive?

☞ **Perseverance** – persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. Keep moving forward even if it is a baby step or an inch you are moving and growing, don’t let your own “walls” keep you from doing what you know you need to get done.

How to apply these virtues to everyday life

A day in the life of a average Heathen by Brendon Donegan

Waking up with nuisance to the alarm he set on his phone a few days ago to wake up earlier. He rolls out of bed feet first to an excited pup watching him, anticipating the command to go outside, not to use the bathroom but to bark all morning... at nothing... as is the day. Our subject grabs his phone, stands up, lets the pup out and walks to the kitchen checking

his messages and hoping the stock market for whatever reason has decided to gift him a few million dollars. Starting his morning ritual of coffee, spinach eggs, and oatmeal he remembers that now that the summer college semester is out, he promised his friend he would sit down and do some writing for a while. The subject quick scarves down the meal, bringing his tablet out and begins work. "Hmm I'll treat this like one of the college papers and call it a day. By Sunday I'll have it done to completion in time for the Monday post. Humm how do I even start this? What's popular, I guess? No, that writing class I literally just took told me that to start, I need something to capture the audience or else they would skip whatever you are writing about even if it is the breakthrough of the century"

As the day went on, he continued to write, mocking himself at times not so sure he made the right choice. He continued to do so because, he believed in what his friend was doing. After around 45 minutes of work he got up stretched, noticed the time, and got dress to begin his new cardio regiment because the school gym was closed for the time being. Begrudgingly he got in his car and went to a lake nearby that had a paved trail. With the scorching Texas sun beating down on him, he begins to wonder if it's worth it, starting today. "I mean it is hot, already sweating and just feel miserable. Maybe I can start another day when it isn't so hot". Almost as if he is already trying to psych himself out before even starting. The glimmer of hope begins, if we can run to the beach area 2.5 miles away we can swim and cool off and then walk back and call it a day. And so, he starts. Complaining the whole time but is getting it done regardless. Soaking wet by the time he gets back to the car after an hour passes, not sure if its sweat or the lake water. He drives home lets the pup out, kisses the work from home wife, gets a shower, and ready for work. Has a great workday he hopes, gets home and goes to bed knowing he must make every day like this for him to succeed, here's hoping.

Throughout this little snippet of a day, you can see at work the 9 virtues, think to yourself:

1. Can I identify them
2. How am I using them every day

3. What does that look like to me?

Final thoughts:

The 9 virtues or what NFK calls faiths, summarize a moral code to be Norse Pagan. You should ask yourself, should I even consider thinking about this or installing these codes in my daily life. That answer I cannot help you with. You need to sit down and think, possibly even meditate on this and truly ask yourself. Do I want to encompass a better life, or a stronger faith being Norse Pagan.

Blog by Brendon Dongan

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