

ASATRU/ODINISM

The information on Asatru/Odinism has been provided by a recognized community resource for this faith. This information is not endorsed by the Oregon Department of Corrections, nor does it constitute Oregon Department of Corrections policy.

Theology/Background

Odinism is a pagan religion and is based on the ancient religious and moral concepts of the northern Indo-European tribes or nations. These people have practiced pagan beliefs since antiquity.

The four gods of Odinism are Odin, Tyr, Thor, and Freys. These are the four gods giving names to the weekdays Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The main goddesses are Frigga, Frays, and Iduana.

Odinism stresses the importance of the family unit and the extended family. It teaches honesty, courage, and personal responsibility. It advises moderation in all things and encourages the individual to rely on his/her own resources and always conduct him/herself in a manner that will hurt no one but bring respect and dignity to him/herself and his/her family.

Odinism has no special value structure but holds to the value system taught by all world religions.

While Odinism has no official holy book, it uses Norse mythology as a means to explain or illustrate admired characteristics.

Odinism is not connected with Wicca or witchcraft in any form. Odinism is closest to Zen Buddhism but it is not the same as this faith group.

Holy Days/Festivals

Spring Evennight, a major observance, is the Spring Equinox and a celebration of fertility of the womb and of the crops. March 20-21

May Day, a major observance to Celtic influenced kindreds, is primarily a fertility festival with emphasis on light and fire as the life-giving opposites of darkness and cold. May 1

Summer Sunstead, a major observance, is the Summer Solstice, and an observance of the changing of seasons as the Sun begins its slide into darkness as the days grow shorter. It is a recognition of the death of Baldur, as evidence by the dying of the light. June 21

Lammas, a major observance to Celtic influenced kindreds, is a pre-harvest celebration, marking the turning point in the year, and honoring those goddesses whose concerns are earth and harvest-related. August 1

Fall Evennight, a major observance, is the Autumnal Equinox and a recognition of the harvest's end and the coming of winter, as well as a thanksgiving for the abundance stored for winter. September 22-23

Winter Sunstead, a major Yule observance, is the Winter Solstice, and marks the turning point when the days begin to grow longer again, symbolizing a rebirth of the sun and of all life. December 21-22

The Sunwheel/Light Festival, a major Yule observance, is the celebration of Baldur's rebirth and the renewal of the world. December 24

The Tribal Yule Feast, a major Yule observance, is a celebration of the culmination of the Yule festival, a time of gathering together of family and friends to share gifts and companionship. December 25

Private Worship

Individuals frequently study the ancient Edda for spiritual enlightenment.

Corporate Worship

No mandatory requirement. However, weekly group sessions for discussion of religious and moral concern is encouraged, provided there is a recognized sponsor present.

Holy Books

No official holy book. However, the *Edda*, an ancient Nordic collection of pagan stories, is frequently used for individual study. Guidelines come from the *Havanal* which is part of the *Poetic Edda*.

Diet

No mandatory requirement.

Practitioners

No official clergy.

Other Items/Recommendations

The Odinist is the official publication of the Odinist Fellowship.

Sunwheel, the official religious symbol of the Odinist Fellowship.

Edda, an ancient collection of pagan stories frequently used for individual study.

Thors Hammer, to be worn around the neck on a chain.