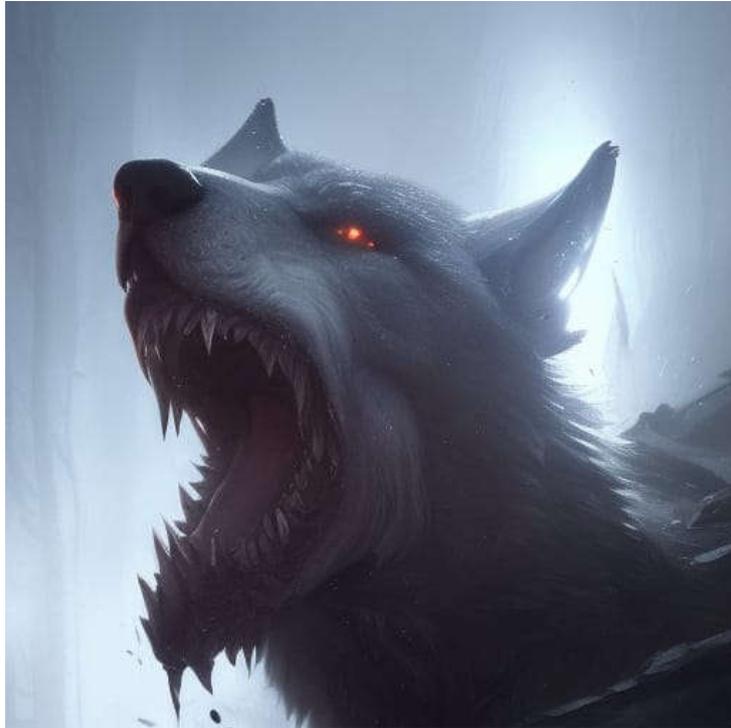


Tyr And The Fenris Wolf – two sides to a story....



The Fenris Wolf was one of the three children of the god Loki and the giantess Angrboda, along with the Midgard Serpent and Hela.

The Norse gods recognized the threat posed by the Fenris Wolf and its siblings brought it to Asgard to keep a closer eye on it. However, the initially harmless wolf grew from day to day to such immense size that the gods feared he would devour them. In order to bind him, two heavy chains were first made, but the wolf broke them without any problem. Finally, the magic shackle Gleipnir was to test its strength, made by the artful dwarves from the things that do not exist - like the sinews of bears or the saliva of birds and the sound that cat's paws make. The Fenris Wolf agreed to be bound with Gleipnir, but demanded as a pledge that one of the gods put his right hand in his mouth and if he could not break the chain, he would bite off the hand. . No one would give himself up for this, except Tyr, the god of war. He put his right hand into the mouth of the Fenris wolf, knowing that it would not get free.

And so it happened: Fenris remained bound and bit off Tyr's hand. Tyr the Warrior had given his sword hand to protect Creation itself and the Nine Worlds.

This is the "official story" as told in Norse mythology since the days of the Germanic tribes and the Vikings. But every story has more than one side.

Here is another...



Tyr...

My friend...

My brother...

My betrayer...

I am Fenris, son of Loki and Amrboda. And I am the mortal enemy of Asgard and Odin. Your own cowardice and fear made me that. I could see the fear in your eyes and I could smell it since the first moment you brought me to Asgard along with my brother Joermungandr and my sister Hela. You feared us because of a prophecy that we help destroy Asgard and all of Odin's creation.

And yes, when Ragnarok comes we will, with great pleasure. And you brought that upon yourselves.

Oh, you hid your fear well behind courtesy and laughter but I am no fool anymore than my father is. I could sense the lies behind the smiling lips, the hypocrisy behind the kindness. You were afraid of me. Except one.

Tyr, god of war and victory, the only true warrior amongst the Aesir. They say he is the soul of Ymir and maybe that is right. I could not smell fear from you brother Tyr. You were a man after my heart. You alone could look me in the eyes and not tremble.

You alone had my friendship, my trust.

And then the god pretended they wanted to play a game with me, a game to see if I was strong enough to break the bond they forged.

What kind of imbecile did they think I am? I knew my strength and I broke the chains, one after the other until they brought Gleipnir. I sniffed at the fine strand and I knew something was wrong. I knew they had added another layer to their deceit so I said I would only be bound

by Gleipnir if one of the gods put his right hand into my mouth and I would bite it off if I could not break this chain.

Again they trembled in fear. But not you, brother Tyr. You stepped forward, glowing with courage and offered your sword hand, placed it between my gapping jaws.

And that moment I failed. I did not understand the extent of your loyalty to Odin nor the true extent of your courage. You knew the bond would hold. You knew I would keep my word and bit your hand off.

You willingly sacrificed yourself for Odin's dream. You threw away our kinship for the ego of the one-eyed raven god.

How could you do that my brother-in-arms? How could you of the little god and goddesses be so deceitful? How could you betray me? And how can I do nothing but bow before your bravery while I despise your foolishness.

Can't you see that without your fear it could all have been different? Can't you see that Baldur would still be alive had my father not sacrificed so much for Odin? My father, my siblings and I will be the destroyers of creation because that is the only role you left for us to play.

And so I wait until Ragnarok will break my bond. I still honor your bravery Tyr while I hate you with every fiber of my being.

Tyr ... My betrayer ... my brother...