Gnostic Runology – The "LAF" Rune (Historically)

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The "Lögr" or L-Rune According to Friedrich Fischbach (1900)

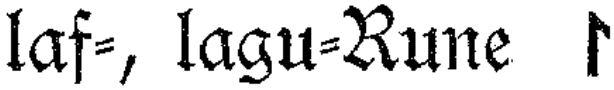
ᛚ The L Rune indicates the Connection of its Shape, which is most likely the shape of the Boat-Hook [*Bootshaken*], and thus [is associated] with the Lake/Sea [*See*]. However, in the runic form, this Boat-Hook or Anchor is directed upward, in later forms it is turned downward.



The "Laf, Lagu, Lögr" Rune According to Guido von List (1907)

ᛚ **laf, lagu, lögr,** Primordial Law or *Ur*-Law [*Urgesetz*], Ocean [*Meer*], Life [*Leben*], Downfall/Decline [*Untergang*] (Defeat /Failure [*Niederlage*]).

A Fourteenth I sing to the assembled People
by Naming the divine Names;
For I [Know] all the Gods [*Aesir*] and Elven [*Alben*] Kind
[and] I Know [them] like No One [else].



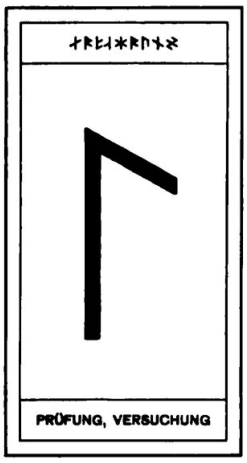
The intuitive Recognition of the organic Essence of the Universe, and thus of the Natural-Laws [*Natururgesetze*], forms the unshakeable Foundation of the ancient Doctrine-of-Salvation [*Heilslehre*] or "*Wihinei*" (Religion), which was able to grasp and embrace the Universe, and therefore also the Individual, in its [1] Arising, [2] Ruling, and [3] Passing-Away to new Arising.

Such esoteric Knowledge was communicated to the People in symbolically formulated Myths, since the naïve Eye-of-the-People (unaccustomed to such Deep- and Distant-Vision) is just as incapable of seeing the *Ur*-Law [*Urgesetz*] as the physical Eye is incapable of seeing the whole Ocean, or the untrained inner spiritual Eye of seeing the Endlessness of Life in the Universe.

Therefore the fourteenth Rune says: "First learn to steer [*steuern*], then dare to Sail!"

The "Laf, Lagu, Lögr" Rune According to E.T. Kurtzahn (1924)

Exoterically: Test [*Prüfung*], Temptation [*Versuchung*]
Esoterically: Experiential-Knowledge [*Erfahrung*]
Generally: Ocean [*Meer*], Existence/Being [*Dasein*], Failure [*Misserfolg*], Downfall/Decline [*Untergang*].



If the preceding Rune (the *Bar*-Rune) means Birth [*Geburt*], then it is only logical that this Rune is connected with the Existence that follows Birth: Life.

Life is a great determined Test [*eine festgesetzte große Prüfung*] and a painful Initiation. The few golden Hours in it should be understood as Rewards for any well-passed Sections of these multi-part Exams.

"Does Life even have a Purpose?!" one often hears asked, but no one could give a satisfactory Answer to such a Questioner except – the questioner themselves!

"If you do not feel it, you will never be able to claim it [*er sagen*]!" But what is it that one must feel?

Well, a feeling of Certainty of one's own Reconnection (*re-ligio*) with the unnamable God, the Source or *Ur*-Reason of all Being [*dem Urgrund alles Seins*], and consequently also with the nameable Deities... Our Ancestors had this Feeling of Reconnection [*Gefühl der Rückverbindung*] in the very highest Degree!

We have seen up to now, in every Rune, that it is always about the *Wihinei* (or *Ur*-Religion) with its actual esoteric Significance.

Being-Conscious [*Bewusst-Sein*] of this *Ur*-Religion results in a Realization, which for the person concerned (well understood, however, only for themselves) brings Knowledge instead of Faith in Regards to the Purpose of Life [*das Warum des Lebens*], the Continuation of Individuality, etc.

They then know that with physical Death "not everything is over", provided that his or her Individuality acquired so far through Experiences did not extend to just Eating, Drinking and what People are used to calling 'Love' (but at most may be called Child-Procreation).

For if this would have been the Case, then he or she would be nothing more than an Instrument of Nature, which then, after it was sufficiently used up and worn out, would continue to exist only according to its Components for a different Use in the cosmic Economy [*andere Verwendung im kosmischen Haushalt*], and thus without any Individuality (which we are to acquire here or on other Planets in the course of probably quite many existences as Man and Woman). This is because, as a rule, nothing at all can be lost in the cosmic Economy... Therefore the *Laf*-Rune is suitable to the Planet Mercury (☿), which is said to be neither masculine, nor feminine.

The ancients knew that, during their Life-on-Earth [*Erdenlebens*], they slowly form a 'etherial or subtle Body' [*feinstofflichen Leib*] in their earthly Body [*irdischen Körper*], which escapes like a Phoenix from the used up Body-Envelope [*Körperhülle*] during the so-called Dying. They also knew that this new 'etherial or subtle Body' will only belong to them for a Time [*eine Zeitlang*], in order to make Way for a far more glorious one.

They knew that there is only one type of development: the return to God [*zurück zu Gott*], to the Source or *Ur*-Reason of everything [*dem Ur-Grund von allem*] that was, is and will be. They knew that this was for everyone who seriously wants it and not only wants it, but needs it. And those discerning ancients who knew even more, knew the Path to develop the 'Etherial-Body' [*Feinstoffleib*] to Perfection here in Earthly-Existence and – even how to make use of it.

Although this Path is secret [*ist dieser Weg geheim*], it is clearly marked out in the Runes for the Knower [*den Wissenden*]. What would be the use of further Clarification here? Everyone should go this way alone, because "no one becomes an Initiate except through themselves".

Then there are here dangerous Deviations and Aberrations which lead to Labyrinths, where Monsters prey on misguided Victims (such as Spiritualism, Hypnosis) and demands of Sexual-Magic to a terrible extent. Therefore, the *Laf*-Rune also means Downfall/Decline [*Untergang*] – it fears the Gods of the Human-Race – only the Initiate really knows "all the *Aesir* and Elven Kind/Types".

The "Laf, Lagu, Lög, Laug" Rune According to R.J. Gorsleben

Letter L and Number 14.

Laf, Lagu, Liquidification, *Lex*, Law-of-Life [*Lebensgesetz*], *Lux*, Illumination [*Erleuchtung*], the Light that descends into the Darkness. Through Initiation and Illumination, the Heaviness [*Schwere*] of Life is taken away.

Dr. Friedrich Teltscher's *Ur*-word is *Bestimmung* meaning "Determination" as well as Decisiveness, Resolution, Regulation, Purpose, etc.



A Fourteenth I sing to the assembled People
By Speaking out the divine Names –
The *Aesir* and *Albes* [are] of different Types
[and] No one knows how to utter [them].



The Rune means Life, Leaf/Foliage, which also is "Life", Refreshment [*Labe*], Position/Location [*Lage*], Law [*Gesetz*], Liver, Lye, Glue [*Leim*], Leeks (which have a Clarifying/Purifying-Effect [*Läuterungseffekt*] and were highly valued by the Ancients). As Foliage-Rune, the *Laf*-Rennet-Foliage-Life Rune [*Laf-Lab-Laub-Leben Rune*] shows also the Leaf that is on its Stem.

Martin Luther [the seminal figure of the Protestant Reformation] has the Runes *Laf* and *Tar* [another name for *Tyr*] in his name. His Name, written in Runes, would be ᚴᛏ [LAFTAR] for short. Thus we have *Laf-Tar*, the Procreator-of-Life [*Lebenszeuger*], and he shows himself to be a Pure-One [*Lauterer*].

Lagu [= Ocean]*, Laach*, Pool [*Lache*], Hole [*Loch*], *Lech*, Leak, Larva, Spawn [*Laich*] are Words relating to the Water [*Meeres-Worte*]. Other Concepts that are contained in the Rune and the imagery of which it mediates are: Light, Air [*Luft*], Love, Body [*Liebe*], Flame [*Lohe*], Luminary, Sound [*Laut*], sincerely [*lauter*], Spring [*Lenz*], Linden-Tree, Course [*Lauf*], Purely [*Laren*], Song [*Lied*], Locks/Curls/Ringlets [*Locken*], Praise [*Lob*], Ladder [*Leiter*], Lesson [*Lehre*], leaning [*lehnen*], Eyelid [*Lid*], Clay [*Lehm*], Glue [*Leim*], peek (sight) [*lugen (sehen)*], Steering [*Lenkung*], Leeward [the side sheltered from the wind], Scythe.



Compare the Shape of the Rune, which shows the Silhouette of a Scythe, but also of a Whip, with which Life, the *Laf*, whips us forward. The Rune also connects with the German suffixes of *-lich* and *-ling*, and the English word 'Limb'. Other words that belong to the *Laf*-Rune are: Suffering [*Leid*], Bait (on the Fishing-Rod of the *Laf*-Rune), to stop/refrain, to leave; as well as: Lingam, Love, Logos.

From the Stone [*Lapis*], that which was Set-Down, or Laid-Down, therefore the "*Lex*", the Law was recognized or the Position of Things and of the Stars. On the other hand, the superior Logos is [truly] the Law, the *Ur*-Position [*Urlage*], the Primoridal set-down, laid-down Law! We read the Law of the Times in the Heavens.

The *Ur*-Word *Laf* or *Lag* contains not only the brilliant Fire-of-Heaven, but also the destructive Flame of the Fire-of-Life, of the Light-of-Life. The *Laf*-Rune is dedicated to the wise Planet Mercury, the *Merk-Ur*, the *Ur-Merk*, the *Merker*, the Star-of-Intelligence.

As we see, each Rune is a Secret-Symbol of a huge amount of ideas and concepts, a collection of all constructive thoughts and of the building material of the spiritual world.

If the previous Rune *Bar* refers especially to Birth, then the Rune *Laf* emphasizes Life, Life as a Law, as a heavy Load [*große Belastung*] of Duties, Tasks and more or less painful Experiences.

Great as the ocean (*lagu*), unbridgeable, appears life and law which is based on the earthbound eye, which cannot look into itself and therefore cannot look beyond what is earth bound. One should know the lawfulness of the eternal change of life & death, and then one's spiritual eye can overlook the vast expanses of life and of the sea of *laf* and *lag*.

As was mentioned, the LAF Rune is equally the whip, with which life whips us into error and confusion. This means that as long as the human being is alive, the torturous state of tension will exist in his soul between his striving towards higher spiritual demands (that correspond with his Divine nature) and the low physical demands (of his animal nature).

We could also see this Rune as a Self (an *Is*- or *Ich*-Rune), with an arm hanging down. The one Self is a wavering stalk, which goes with the wind and which can break in the storm, yet if it fraternizes with a second Self-*Laf*, then it is more resistant.

Combat/Struggle is the *Ur*-Law of Life, even if it is for Harmonization and Convergence of two Lives united in Marriage [*Ehe*].

Two Runes-of-Life combine ᛚᛚ = ᛗᛗ = to form a matrimony [*ehelichen*], that is, a legal Union, resulting in the *Eh*- or *Ehe-Rune* ᛗ , the Marriage-Rune. In old German, *Ehe* [Wedlock, Marriage, Matrimony] has still kept the *Ur*-meaning of 'Law'.





Laf = "life" and *Lag* = "that which was laid-down, which was set in stone" (the Law). Live following the law, the original law: the procreation of life. Adjust to the natural-*Ur*-law, the highest law of nature. The ideas of Lion [*Löwe*] and Life [*Leben*] are closely connected. In heraldry, the Lion was used as a symbol of this Rune.

Two LAF Runes crossed over in such a way that the arms touch each other in the upper angle of a rhomboid, result in the ᛟ OTHIL Rune, which equates with *od-hil* = spiritual healing, or *Od-Heil* ('*Od*' or Odin aka Wotan; and '*Heil*' meaning Hail, Heal, Salvation, Deliverance, Well-Being), that is 'Healing-*Od*'.

The "Laf, Lögr, Lagu, Laug" Rune According to S.A. Kummer (1932-1933)



(L) The *L*-Rune, *Laf, lögr, lagu, laug* means Life, Law-of-Life [*Lebensgesetz*], Liver, Charge (or supply with power), Refreshment [*Labe*], Lye, the Lye-Water (an Alkaline solution), Leaf/Foliage, Leek (the healing Plant), Glue, *Lagu* = Ocean [*Meer*], Pool/Laugh [*Lache*], Loch, Leak, Spawn. – Numeric-Value 14.

Furthermore it also relates with: Love, Air, Light, Flame/Blaze [*Lohe*], Light-Life [*Lebenslicht*], Insight-into-Life [*Lebenseinsicht*], Luminary, Enlightenment/Illumination [*Erleuchtung*], Salmon/Pollack [*Lachs*], Refreshment, Sound, Spring-Time, Linden- or Lime-Tree, Affliction [*Leid*], Instruction, Leash/Rope, guide = learn/study.

Laf the Rune of Initiation/Inauguration into the higher Life [*Einweihung in das höhere Leben*], which therefore also reaches down into the Life of the painful Experiences and Negations, Suffering, Corpse, Corpse-Life, Easily-Corpse, Loose/Lot/Lottery, the Lot-in-Fate/Destiny or Lottery-of-Destiny [*Schicksalslos*], Gap/Opening [*Lücke*], Emptiness/Void, Response, Whim/Mood, Lie/Falsehood, *Loki, Logos*.

Laf, the Initiation-Rune [*Einweihungsrune*], but also the Rune of Experiential-Knowledge [*die Rune der Erfahrungen*]: that is to say, of the more or less painful Tests on the Path to the true God, to All-Father.

The Windward [*Lüv*], Living [*Leb*], *Lew*, Lion. The Heraldic-Animal or Emblem of all Life is the twisted or *Kala*-ified *Laf*-Rune (*Kala* = Mystery/Secret, Veiling, Twisting).

Laf is the Law-of-Life [*Lebensgesetz*], Right/Law, Dignity, Force/Power and Strength.

But woe to the Unclean who dares to approach this Law [*Gesetz*] of the *Laf*-Rune: then it works in the Demonic and leads to painful Destruction/Annihilation [*qualvollen Vernichtung*].

The one who lets themselves be tempted by Egoism [*Egoismus*], Greed and Sensual-Pleasure [*Sinneslust*] will suffer heavily and painfully from the Forces of the *Laf*-Life-Rune until one has found-one's-way-back [*zurückgefunden*] and knows how to sail [*steuern*] on the *Lagu* = Ocean [*Meer*] of Life and Death.

The *Laf*-Rune is also the Rune of the Flesh, of the Flesh of light [*leichten Leibes*], and of the Astral-Flesh [*des Astralleibes*].

Two *Laf*-Runes, two *Ichs* make up the Initiation-Rune of Marriage ᛗ [*die Einweihungsrune der Ehe*] which leads to the Elevated-Life [*Höhenleben*] by Surmounting the Demonic [*Überwindung des Dämoniums*] and gives birth [*gebiert*] to the Son-of-God through Pure- and High-Cultivation [*Rein- und Hochzucht*].

The Demonic of the *Laf*-Rune ᛝ is Ruin/Rotting, Destruction/Annihilation, Lying and Delusion, pathologically egotistical, useless Fight against the Fate/Destiny and the Law, vindictive, black magic Procreation of the Descendants.

The *Laf*-Rune is the Signpost to the higher divine Life [*das höhere, göttliche Leben*]; it is also in you: feel/experience it, and consciously recognize it...

"Runes can be found in the Soil and Stones of the Earth;
Runes greet you as Rocks/Cliffs, Peaks and Mountains.

Runes flow as Streams and Rivers through Land and Forest;
Runes shine in every Form [*Gestalt*].

Runes draw the Clouds in the Sky;
Runes shine as Constellations of the Night.

Runes sing and foam the Ocean-Wave;
Runes pull the Storm with Might [*Macht*].

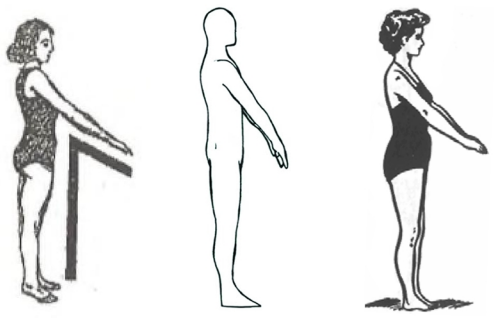
Runes whisper [*raunen*] in Colors and sound in Tones
harmoniously permeating the great Universe;
Runes point-out Truth, Law and Right.

Runes lead to Victory [*Sieg*].

Runes whisper in our Breast;
Rune Man, Rune Woman: consciously recognize the All-Embracing Royal-Rune in Thyself!"

Full Body Rune Exercise(s):

The Practitioner, again, takes the *Ich*-Rune-Position, and then slightly raises both arms which are placed laterally, obliquely forward, so that when seen from the side it produces the *Laf*-Rune.



One let's the cosmic Waves pulsate in their Body and sings "L" or "Laf". Later, the Sound-Formula: "la-le-li-lo-lu" can also be used.

Then one concentrates on the following Meditation:

"Through Pain, Failure, Need/Hardship [*Not*], Temptation and Suffering, I have come to know the true Life.

I now know the divine Path and the cosmic Laws [*Gesetze*].

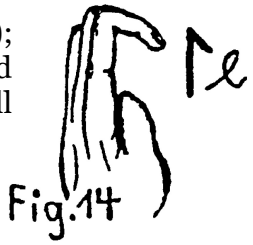
Light and Enlightenment/Illumination [*Erleuchtung*] were granted unto me through you, All-Father.

My *Ich* rejoices and exults!

So I dare the Journey, and learn to guide and steer thereby."

After these two Practices the Student lingers for a Quarter-of-an-Hour in complete Calm/Peace, turning off all Thoughts, or if that is not yet possible for them, then one has only Thoughts of Love and Harmony, Confidently awaiting Advice/Counsel [*Rat*], Instruction, Inspiration or an Answer.

Hand Rune Exercise ('Mudras' or "Rune-Grips"):



The Rune Practitioner should take up the *Ich*-Rune-Position (Military "At-Attention"); this is followed by a deep Breathing-Exercise three times, with thoughts directed toward physical and spiritual purification; a practice which must be observed with all the Rune-Grips.

The Practitioner raises the left Arm upward and assumes the Hand-Position in Figure 14, the *Laf*-Rune-Grip. One uses the following Sound-Formulas with this Grip: "L-a-f" and "la-le-li-lo-lu".

Thoughts are focused on Love for the *Fa-tor*, and on the Enlightenment/Illumination [*Erleuchtung*] of the Self [the Illumination of the Being]. The Practitioner will observe a mild Warming of the left Hand. With this Grip one is able to have a fortifying effect on one's Aura.

It is also the Grip for Initiation into the higher Life [*die Einweihung in das höhere Leben*].

Remember that each Rune-Grip must be repeated three times (for 3 Minutes each, followed by a short Pause in the *Ich*-Rune-Position between sets), since otherwise no satisfactory Collection of Subtle-Force [*Feinkräfte*] can be reached in the Hand-Centers.

Afterwards, a conscious-willed [*willensbewußt*] Circulation through the whole Body should not be forgotten. After Completion of the Exercise, Kummer could notice a Smell similar to Rubber several times. The astral Color is bright-fire-red by Day, ruby-red by Night.

Note that the following themes can be highlighted in the descriptions of this Rune: **Life** (insight into life, life as an initiatory process), the 'Waters of Life' and the *Logos* that fecundates those 'Waters'; **Light** (learning from life in order to be illuminated); **Love** (love for humanity and allowing others to have their Free-Will); and **Law** (the *Ur*-Law of life).