

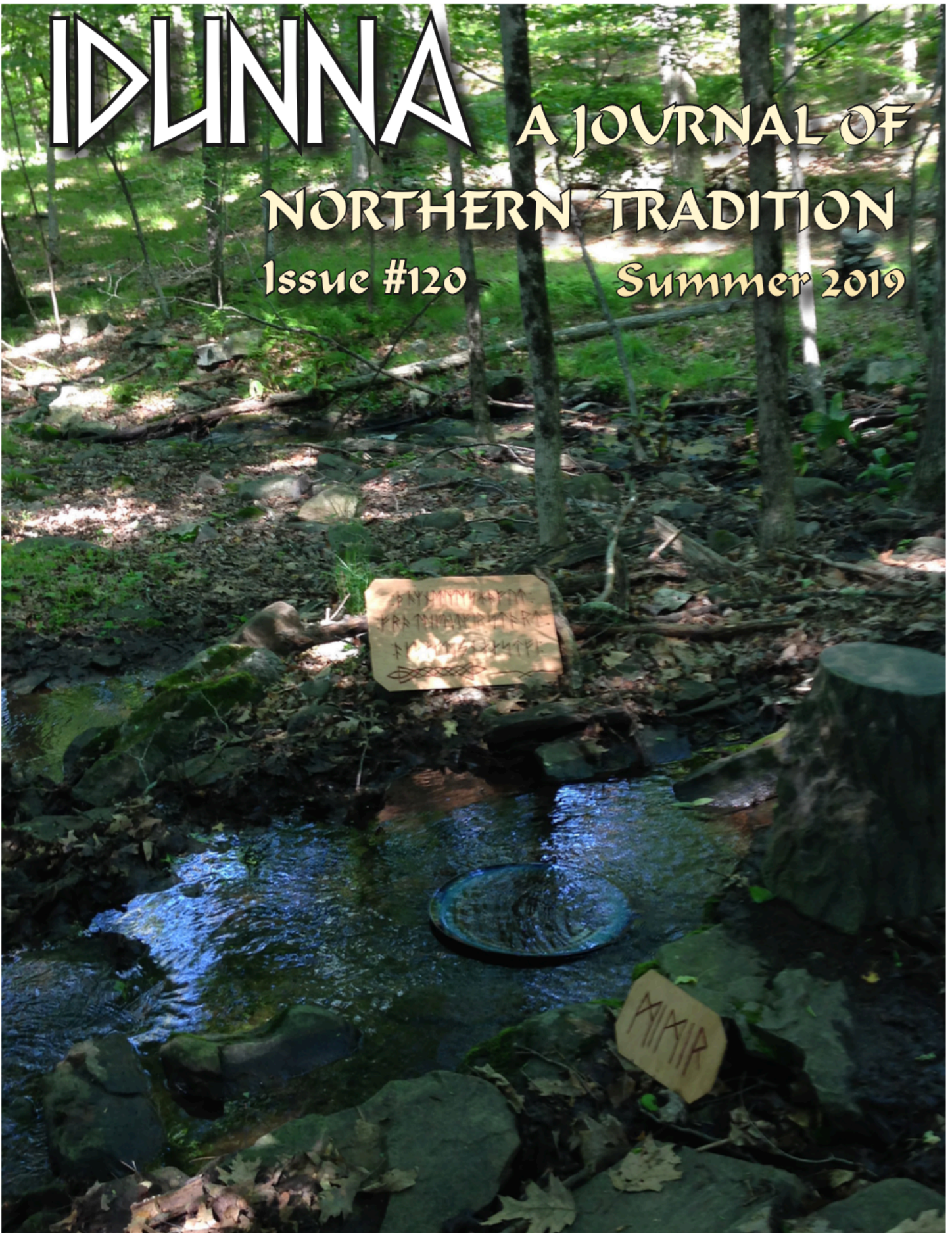
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SOWING NEW SEEDS & STRENGTHENING OLD ROOTS

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I draw on historical sources and my own personal gnosis to portray characters and objects from Norse tales, history and ancient religion through my wooden sculptures. As a traditional carver, I stay away from power tools and do all of my work with hatches, chisels and a mallet.

Everyone, of every culture, has a heritage of working with wood; it is in our DNA as a species. At some point in the past one of your ancestors was shaping wood with either metal, stone or bone.

I find comfort in connecting with this. Holding a chisel feels natural to the body. It feels real. Staying away from power tools forces me to work alongside the tree. Dremel-bits, chainsaws and rotary machines, while all fantastic tools, allow a level of control when shaping wood that is unnatural to the tree. By utilizing simple hand tools, I force myself to carve within the confines of nature and the structure of the tree. I force myself to let the tree have a voice in the work.

The aim of my work is two-fold. First and foremost is to honor the sacred. As a Heathen, for me the act of carving is one of devotion. I can think of no better way to respect the divine than to carve their likenesses. The many hours spent carving is time that I spend meditating and reflecting on the different aspects of what I am shaping.

The second aim of my work is to use these figures as a way to communicate ideas and teachings. I use my work to facilitate conversation about the Northern Tradition, both in a historical and modern context. I invite others to approach their worldview from a different perspective, to examine the way they interact with nature, history, and the divine.

When I look back, I can see that my life has been rather undirected. I have moved across the country twice, worked in law firms and served in the infantry in the Canadian Armed Forces. More

often than not I see that I was allowing others to make my life choices for me.

In 2016, seeking change, I opted to attend evening workshops at a local craft school. I had become hopeless regarding my day-to-day-direction and chose to invest my free time in my creative interests instead of risking complete stagnation. I had never been much of an artist, but I have always been drawn to working with wood, so I took the plunge into my first evening wood class.

Now, years later, things have come full circle and I have been asked to teach the same evening workshops that turned my life to this new direction a few years back.

I recently finished my first series of large pieces: Odin, Vili, and Vé.

In *Gylfaginning*, it is said that the first two humans were made from wood. Odin breathed life into them, Vé gave them their physical appearance and Vili gave them conscious thought and understanding. I believe it is these three things: the breath of life, our material form, and our conscious thought, that define what makes us human.

First and foremost, I wanted to pay tribute to these three brothers, the first carvers, as I pursue my own career in creating with wood.



