

GIMLE

The name Gimle is a compound of Gim meaning “fire” and le meaning “leeward”. In Norse mythology, it is the hall with a golden roof where the survivors after Ragnarök fled.

The last people to survive Ragnarök were the woman Liv and the man Livtrásir. Livtrásir means “one who clings to life”. Before Ragnarök, they lived at Mimer’s well, where their descendants were called Ásmegir which is Old Norse for “power of the gods”. Liv and Livtrásir escaped Ragnarök’s firestorms by hiding in the forest Hoddmími’s grove where they survived by feeding on morning dew. When the chaos after Ragnarök subsides, they move into the hall of Gimle, which was surrounded by sown fields and bushes with berries ready to harvest.

Their destiny now became to populate the recreated earth. In Snorre’s “Gylfaginning,” it is stated that all the families of the earth are descended from the progenitors Liv and Livtrásir.

The surviving gods Vide, Vale, Nanna, Balder, and Höder also come to Gimle along with Thor’s sons Magne and Mode to recreate the lineage of the gods.

In “Völuspá”, Völvan - who here speaks of herself in the third person - predicts the following about the time after the great world fire: *She sees a hall fairer than the sun standing, covered with gold, on Gimle. There shall the chieftain’s loyal hosts live and forever possess a multitude.*