

YDALIR

Ydalie, which means “the yew valleys”, is the home of the god Ull. Ull has been an archer and it is clear from the name of the house – Ýr means “yew” and the best bows were made of yew.

Ull is the son of the goddess Siv and the stepson of Tor. He is a handsome and well-traveled man. It is not known who Ull’s biological father is. Ull (which is sometimes also called Ullin, Uller, Oller, or Ollerus) means “to shine” and he is the god of hunting and stubbornness. During Nordic antiquity, Envig or Holmgång was a life-and-death duel with weapons and an accepted way to resolve legal disputes.

Ull makes his way on skis or snowshoes. According to some, Ull should also be able to cross the water standing on tiptoes. Several skates made of bones from cattle and horses have been found at Birka in archaeological excavations.

In addition to the bow and skis, the shield is also considered one of Ull’s attributes, and “Ull’s ship” is a kenning (paraphrase) for a shield. In the Poetic Edda, it is also said that Ull owns a ring, at which one can take an oath to give special power to the words. Oath rings were used when oaths and promises were to be made and when truth or fidelity was to be sworn. They were often found at court and cult sites from the Iron Age.

In 2007, a cult site dedicated to Ull was found in Upplands Bro outside Stockholm, which provided evidence that this performance may have been used in cult practice. Ull is mentioned in several Swedish place names, such as Ullevi, Ulleråker, and Ultuna.