



Tree Lore - Lesson 2

Last meeting we shared some information on tree lore. Today we're going to look into the Ogham Staves, a system of writing and, later, of divination.

Ogham is a very early medieval script from Ireland that was often written on wooden or stone uprights, and has been used for spellcrafting and magic throughout the years since.

Witches were often borrowers of secret knowledge... after all, if you could write in a language that only other 'wise' people could read, you could code where to meet or something similar.

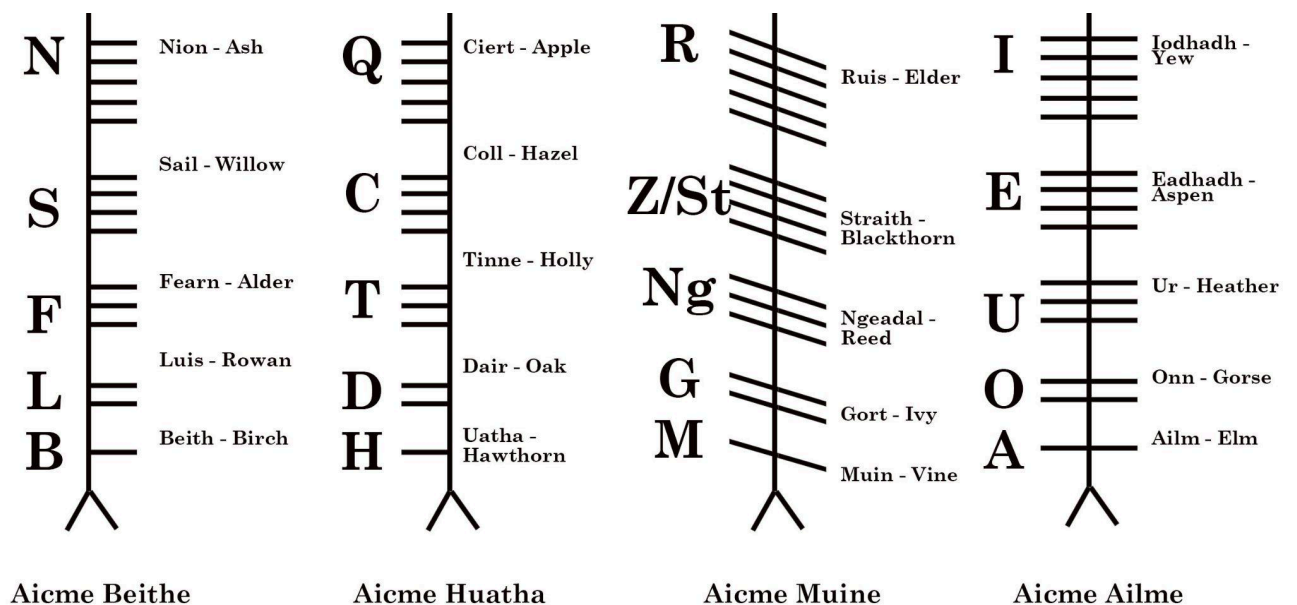
The staves themselves are separated into 5 groups...

The four main groups or families, known as aicme, and the fifth, later in date, the forfeda (extra letters).

Each of the staves of the main aicme represent letters and trees, and each have their meanings.

As follows:

The Aicme



The Aicme make up the oldest parts of the Ogham Alphabet, although over time, there were inclusions made called the Forfeda.

The Forfeda

P		Peith /Beith - Soft Bog Wood
AE	###	Eamhancholl - Witch Hazel
IA	XXX	Pin / Ifin - Pine
UI	□	Uileann - Honeysuckle
OI	◇	Oir - Spindle Tree
EA	X	Eabhadh - Aspen

When it comes to using the Ogham Staves as a writing tool, a line can be drawn to read the Staves from... and the letters are read as trees grow, bottom to top.

Another way to use the staves to write is to find a straight corner edge of a wooden or stone surface and use the corner edge as the mid-line.



Ogham stones are found all over Ireland, although some are found in Scotland too.

Quite often, castle entrances or door frames would be marked with a message to let travelers know if they could ask inside for food, if they could get a bed for the night, or perhaps, a message to say, 'Don't Stop Here! They are cruel'.

Witches and 'wise-ones' would use the staves to mark safe places, meeting places, and even things such as, 'Do Not Pass! Giant Hogweed!'

As well as being used in writings the Ogham Staves can also be used as sigils, talismans, objects for meditation or grounding, and for divination purposes.

For each of these, we need meanings...

To start with, let us focus on the oldest of the Ogham, The Aicme.

MUIN PRONUNCIATION: [MwIn] MEANING: PROPHECY, PERSEVERANCE, POWER - EMOTIONAL COMMUNICATION.	BEITH PRONUNCIATION: [Beh] MEANING: BRIGHT BEGINNINGS, FINE GROWTH, TRANSITION - VITAL BEGINNINGS.	AIM PRONUNCIATION: [Ah-Im] MEANING: CLARITY, VOCALISATION, BEGINNINGS, PERSEVERANCE - FOCUSING CHAOS.	HÚATH PRONUNCIATION: [Hoo-Ah] MEANING: CHALLENGES, BOUNDARIES, VIGILANCE - CHALLENGING FEAR.
GORT PRONUNCIATION: [Gurth] MEANING: TENACITY, PERSEVERANCE, GROWTH IN CARE - CULTIVATED SANCTUARY.	LUS PRONUNCIATION: [Luss] MEANING: RADIANCE, ATTENTION AND INSIGHT, BRILLIANCE - LOOK AROUND.	ONN PRONUNCIATION: [Ow-n] MEANING: PROTECTION, ENERGETIC RESPONSE, RESOURCEFULNESS - NECESSARY JOURNEYS.	DAIR PRONUNCIATION: [Dahr] MEANING: STRENGTH, STABILITY, MOST EXALTED - RIGHTEOUS ENDURANCE.
NGÉTAL PRONUNCIATION: [NYAYThall] MEANING: DIRECT ACTION, TREATMENT, MEDICINE, CLARITY - ACTIVE HEALING.	FERN PRONUNCIATION: [FERN] MEANING: SHIELDING, PROTECTION, AND STEADFASTNESS - ROOTED GUARDIAN.	ÚR PRONUNCIATION: [Oor] MEANING: COLD CONDITIONS, HARSHNESS, DIFFICULTY, DREAMING - LETTING GO.	TINNE PRONUNCIATION: [Thinneh] MEANING: WARFARE, COURAGE, CIRCULATION, DURABILITY - MARTIAL TOOLS.
STRAIF PRONUNCIATION: [Straff] MEANING: ADVERSITY, INTENSITY, VIVIDNESS, TRANSFORMATION - FORCED CHANGE.	SAIL PRONUNCIATION: [Sail] MEANING: INTUITION, FLEXIBILITY, AND GRIEF - ANCESTRAL MESSAGES.	EDAD PRONUNCIATION: [EH-DAD] MEANING: DISCERNING, UNDERSTANDING, SUPERNATURAL COMMUNICATION - OTHERWORLD SUPPORT.	COLL PRONUNCIATION: [Cull] MEANING: KNOWLEDGE, INSPIRATION, AND CREATIVITY - VISIONARY WISDOM.
RUIS PRONUNCIATION: [Rish] MEANING: ENDINGS, OVERCOMING, HUMILIATION, RENEWAL - CONTROLLING POWER.	NIN PRONUNCIATION: [Nyonn] MEANING: INTERCONNECTEDNESS, STABILITY, WORLDLY WISDOM - WOMEN'S PEACE.	IDAD PRONUNCIATION: [IH-DAD] MEANING: AGE, LONGEVITY, GUARDIAN OF DEATH, ETERNITY - ANCIENT POWER.	CEIRT PRONUNCIATION: [Kert] MEANING: SHELTER, INSIGHT, EVENTUAL HEALING - TEMPORARY SETBACKS.

Take some time to learn these - Over the next few meetings, we'll be gathering sticks and twigs to make our own Ogham Staves.

Coven Activities -

First Coven Activity - Call The Energies - We'll create An Energy Circle

All of us will stand in a circle, **left palm facing downwards, right palm facing upwards...**

Some of you have been around the coven and done this before, but here we'll do something a bit different... a negativity push.

Here we ask that you think of the person standing on your right, turn your face to them (you'll see the back of their heads if we're doing it right). Visualise Breathing In Their Darkness - If You Can, Imagine A Cloud Of Darkness Entering Your Lungs... This Is Not Yours - It Will Be Eliminated. Think of anything they have suffered or gone through and, breathing in, accept their woes as yours, then turn to the left, breaking the circle to face behind you, and push that negativity out using your left hand as you blow outwards.

As we turn to our left and backwards, imagine your own light rising and forcing out the darkness — Then raise your left palm to push it outside the circle as you blow the black cloud out - **BLOW HARD** - Remove Negativity. We will repeat this three times.

Once We Have Repeated This 3 Times, We'll Go To The Next Step... Healing

In The Same Stance - We'll Start To Move Our Positive Vibes Around The Circle.

Visualisation - Try To Think Of Happy Thoughts, Of Love, Of Joy... Imagine How You Would Love To Feel And How You Would Like Others To Feel - We Then Begin To Raise Our Right Arm And Breathe In -

Coming In Together Now As Close As We Can... We Imagine Joy, Peace, Love And We Are Going To Send It Out To The World - As We Come As Close To The Centre As We Can - We Imagine Our Thoughts And Energies Combined And Forming An Energy - A Glow - A Joyful Colour... And, at the sound of the bell - say the feeling you send to the world.

You May Choose Something Along The Lines Of: Joy, Peace, Love, Healing...

We Then Shout - **Harayah!** as we imagine our intention being sent. (don't be surprised if you laugh or feel like you can't help but smile)

We then take two steps backwards and join hands - at the sound of the bell - we raise our joined hands and shout our words loud - followed again by **'harayah!'**

We then take one more step back and, smiling, laughing - at the sound of the bell we raise our joined hands and shout our words once more - followed again by **'harayah!'**

NEXT - Book of Shadows Workshop

THEN - Spellcrafting Workshop