



Heathenry and Threat Identification

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Scope

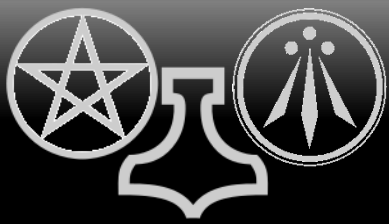


This brief will not cover all white supremacist or white nationalist threats and symbols.

This brief will not cover all Heathen symbols and activities.

Many symbols in this brief will be shown in their white supremacist / white nationalist context.

An observer must be able to determine if the current situation matches the **context**.



Scope

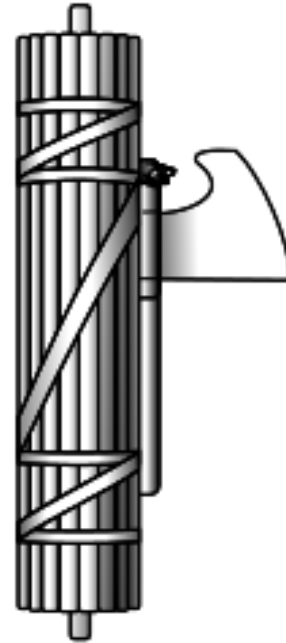


This brief is about trying to identify context in which symbols are warning signs and red flags. Most of these symbols are used by religions that do not inherently pose any concern.

A fasces is a bound bundle of wooden rods, sometimes including an axe with its blade emerging.

It was the origin of the name of the National Fascist Party in Italy and is the source from which the term fascism is derived. During the first half of the twentieth century both the swastika and the fasces became heavily identified with the authoritarian/fascist political movements of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

The fasces had its origin in the Etruscan civilization and was passed on to ancient Rome, where it symbolized a magistrate's power and jurisdiction. It is one of the oldest symbols of Greek civilization. The image has survived in the modern world as a representation of magisterial or collective power, law, and governance.



Look for Additional Context.



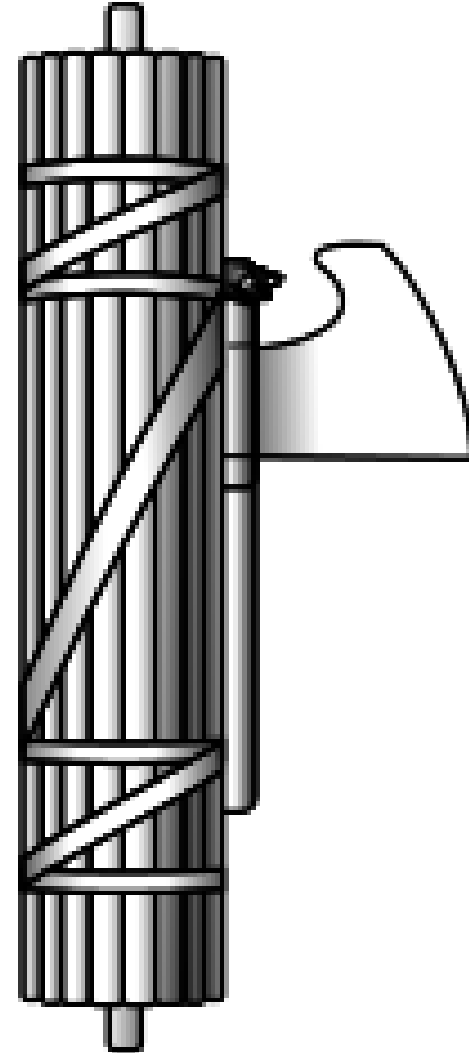
Scope



Heathenry is not inherently racist and many Heathens actively oppose racist activities.

White supremacists, white nationalists, and other hate groups have sought to **hijack and coopt Heathen symbols**. Much of this is rooted in the appropriation of these symbols in Nazi Germany to support their propaganda efforts.

Several organizations and movements exist which are attempting to counter this theft.





Indicators



“Heathen” “Norse Pagan

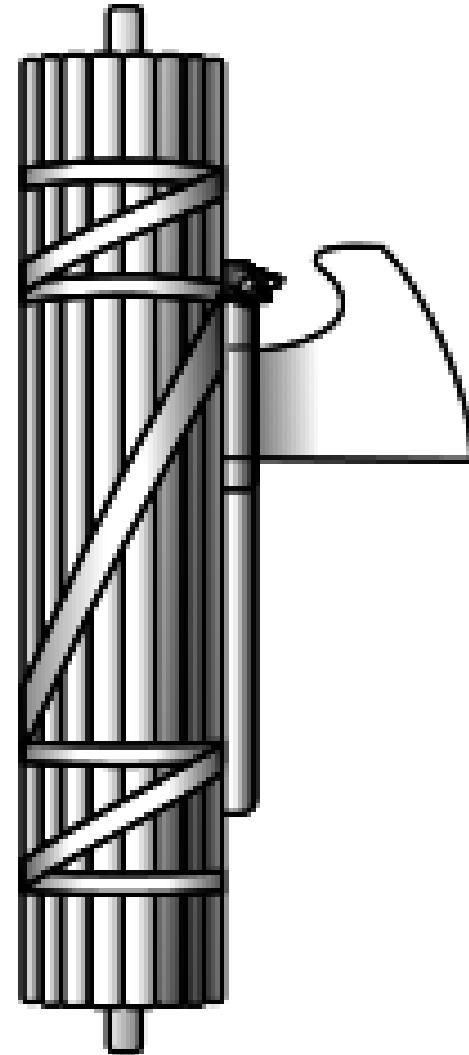
Rune Use

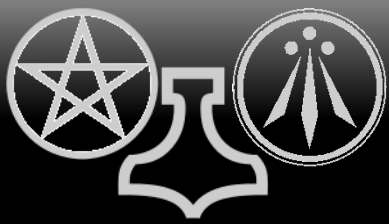
“Asatru”

“Odinist”

Specific Rune Use

“Folkish”





Heathenry



A Heathen belongs to one of a collection of religions.
These religions include a range of beliefs.

Heathenry is centered on the classical beliefs of
several Northern European cultures.

**Many Heathens take a “universalist” approach,
welcoming anyone who is interested
in learning about their gods and practices.**





Heathenry



Some branches of the Heathen religion include:

- Scandinavian focus: Ásatrú, Vanatrú, Rokkatru, or Forn Sed.
- Anglo-Saxon focus: Fyrnsidu.

Other methods of identification include:

- Norse Pagan, Germanic Pagan, etc.

These have no particular political or social implications and identification with Heathenry or one of these terms is **not a clear indicator.**





Heathenry



"Nine Noble Virtues"

- Courage
- Truth
- Honor
- Fidelity
- Discipline
- Hospitality
- Self Reliance
- Industriousness
- Perseverance



Most Heathens focus on some version of these principles.

This formulation is controversial because it was created by the Odinic Rite. Eventually the Odinic Rite reformulated these into the "Nine Charges."

Versions of this list have also been promoted by the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Heathenry



Heathens Against Hate, Declaration 127 and the **Declaration of Deeds** are activities seeking to organize resistance in the Heathen community to Folkish ideas. **The Troth** is one of the oldest active universalist Heathen organization.



DECLARATION OF DEEDS



HEATHENS
AGAINST
H A T E
:NMFPMKs · FXFXKsT · NFMM:





Folkish



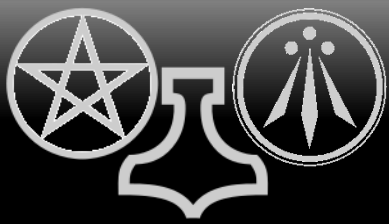
This is a key and central term.

“Folk” / “Volk” or “folkish” / “volkish” beliefs are racist (sometimes stylized “racialist”) and individuals not of “proper ancestry” either should not practice at all or are discriminated against.

Self-identification with this term is a significant red flag. Use of this term in a name is a clear declaration of specific positions which are at direct odds with the Army Values and the UCMJ.



This is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**



Folkish



A key organization is the **Asatru Folk Assembly, or AFA.**

In 2018, the Southern Poverty Law Center added the Asatru Folk Assembly to its list of hate groups, describing it as a “neo-Völkisch hate group.”



This is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/neo-volkisch>

<https://godsandrationalists.org/2018/05/19/binding-the-wolf/>



Odinist



Folkish and far-right perspectives often favor the terms Odinism, Wotanism, Wodenism, or Odalism.

Individuals with a personal practice involving the god Odin may dispute the use of these terms as inherently Folkish.

Wotan is an alternative spelling/pronunciation of Odin.

Strong Possible Indicator.



Odinist

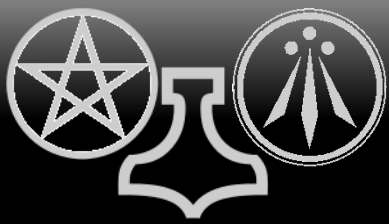


Odinic Rite is a folkish group founded in the 1970s.

It has heavily influenced and been influenced by the Asatru Folk Association (AFA).

This is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**





Odinist



Holy Nation of Odin

Offshoot from the Aryan Brotherhood.

The founder decided the parent organization “wasn’t pure enough.”

This is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**



Irminism



A Germanic focused branch of Heathenry.

Recognized as a type of Ariosophy, which translates as 'the wisdom of the Aryans.'

Heinrich Himmler's personal occultist identified the religion of Irminism as the 'true ancestral belief,' claiming that other types of Wotanism / Odinism were a false religion.

This is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**

This is not to be confused with the reference to the term *Irminsûl* (Old Saxon 'great pillar'), a sacred, pillar-like object that played an important role in the Germanic paganism of the Saxons, destroyed by Charlemagne (772 AD).



Ásatrú



“Asatru” means “followers of the Aesir.”

The Aesir are a collection of gods which includes many of those familiar to the public including Odin, Thor, Heimdall, Frejya, Frigg, Tyr, and (sometimes) Loki among others.

Because of the prevalence of the Asatru Folk Assembly, many Folkish individuals will tend to describe themselves as Asatru.

Non-Folkish Heathens will also identify as Asatru, so this is **not a clear indicator.**



Theodism



Unlike most of Heathenry and Paganism, Theodism is intensely hierarchical. Many Heathens consider its rituals, practices, and initiatory processes to be concerning and cult-like.

Theodism has rigid gender roles, and does not recognize transgender status.

Theodish leaders have stated theoretical support for universalist theories, but no information is available on that in practice.

While many Heathens and others have concerns about the development of the Theodish faith, it is currently **not a clear indicator.**



Forn Siðr / Forn Sed

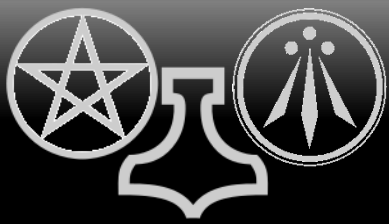


Forn Siðr and Forn Sed mean “the old ways.”

Several organizations have been established under this name in the late 1990s:

- Forn Sidr of America, <https://fornsidrofamerica.org/>
- Forn Sed Norge, <http://www.forn-sed.no/>
- The Forn Siðr — Ásatrú and Vanatrú Association in Denmark, <https://www.fornsidr.dk/>

These are Universalist Heathen organizations.



Forn Siðr / Forn Sed



In 2000 the owner of the website / company **NORSKK** filed for trademark on the term Forn Siðr and is attempting to force other organizations not to use this term.

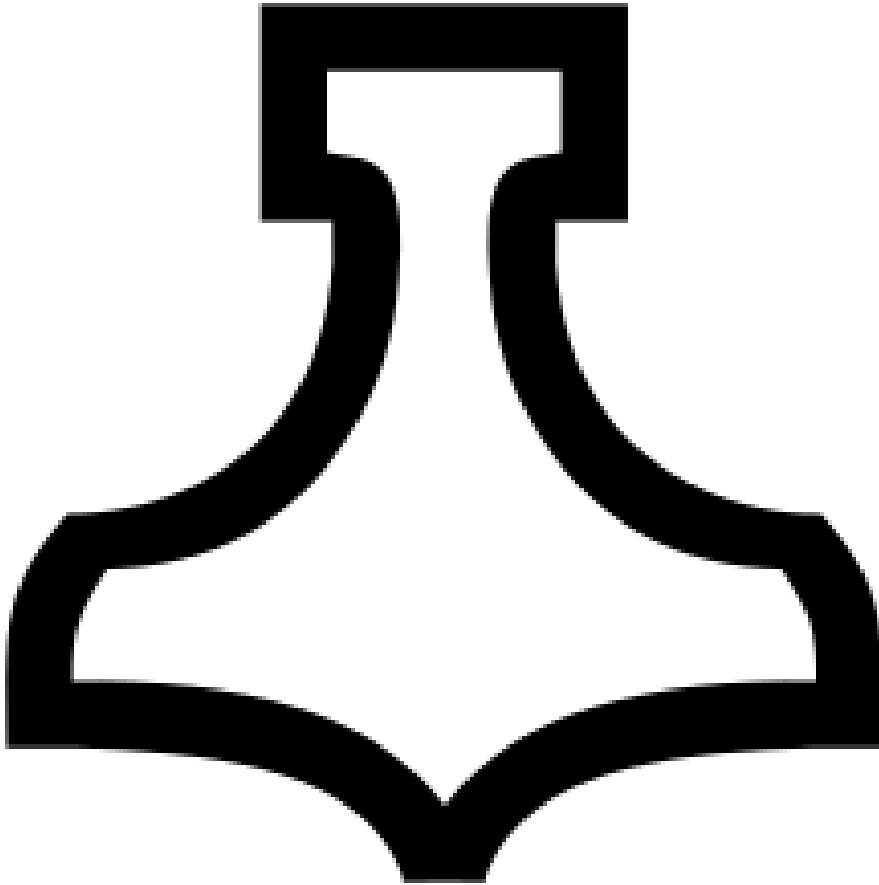
NORSKK promotes a creed that is racist, sexist, and authoritarian.

Unfortunately, because of this the term **Forn Siðr**
Must be contextualized.

Association with **NORSKK**, or NORSKK lead Forn Siðr, is a **CLEAR INDICATOR OF EXTREMISM.**



Mjolnir



The Mjolnir is a symbol representing a stylized hammer symbol. It is one of the most common and well known symbols of the Heathen faith.

This symbol should be treated and viewed in the same as a cross, crucifix, or other holy symbol.



RUNES



Runes come from several alphabets. The best known being the Elder Futhark.

These are widely used across Heathen and Pagan religions with **no particular political or social significance.**

Must be contextualized.

Runes - The Elder Futhark



F Fehu
cattle,
wealth



U Uruz
aurochs,
strength



Th Thurisaz
giant,
thor



A Ansuz
god,
odin



R Raido
journey,
wheel



K Kaunan
ulcer,
fire



G Gebō
gift



W Wunjō
joy



H Hagalaz
hail,
air



N Naudiz
need,
necessity



I Īsaz
ice



J Jēra
year,
harvest



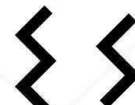
E Eiwaz
yew tree,
tree of life



P Perth
unclear meaning



Z Algiz
elk
protection



S Sōwilō
sun



T Tīwaz
the god Tīwaz,
victory



B Berkanan
birch,
birth



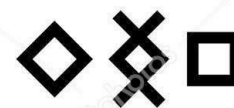
E Ehwaz
horse



M Mannaz
man



L Laguz
water,
lake



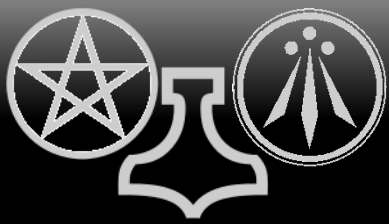
Ng Ingwaz
the god Ingwaz,
fertility



O Othila
heritage,
property



D Dagaz
day,
dawn



RUNES





















Armanen runes are a runic alphabet based on the Younger Futhark.

They were created by one of the leaders in the creation of Wotanism and early volkish (folkish) concepts that would be adopted by Nazis.

Use of this set of runes is a **strong indicator of extremism.**

Armanen Runes

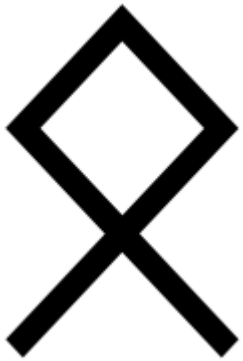
	fa F		hagal / hag H		Bar B
	Ur U		Nauth / Not N		Laf L
	Thurs Th (Þ)		Is I		Man M
	Os A (O)		Ar A		Yr Y
	Rit R		Sig / Sol S		Eh E
	Ra K		Tyr T		Gibor / Ge / Gi G



RUNES



Four particular Elder Futhark runes have been given particular meaning in **specific contexts**:



Odal



Sowilo



Tiwaz



Algiz

However, these runes are popular across Heathenry and may appear in tattoos or on clothing.

Context matters.



Odal Rune



Insignias of the 7th SS Volunteer Mountain Division Prinz Eugen and the 23rd SS Volunteer Panzer Grenadier Division Nederland.



The rendition of the Odal rune **with wings or feet** (serifs) was the badge of the SS Race and Settlement Main Office, which was responsible for maintaining the racial purity of the Nazi Schutzstaffel (SS)

In November 2016, the leadership of the National Socialist Movement announced their intention to replace the Nazi-pattern swastika with the Odal rune on their uniforms and party regalia in an attempt to enter mainstream politics.

Must be contextualized.



Sowilo Rune



Sowilo



Anglo-Saxon sigel
Younger Futhark Sol

Classical runic writing does not use repeated / double runes.



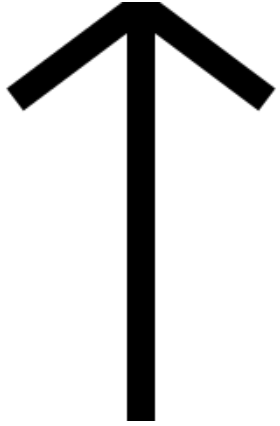
The sig rune corresponds to the Younger Futhark sigel, changing the concept associated with it from "sun" to "victory" (German Sieg).

It was adapted into the emblem of the SS in 1933. This design consisted of two sig runes drawn side by side like lightning bolts, and was soon adopted by all branches of the SS.

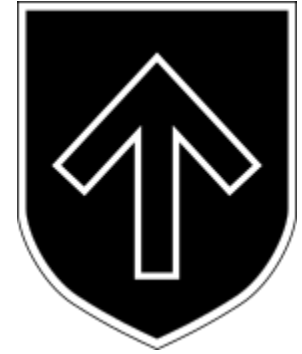
Must be contextualized.



Tiwaz Rune



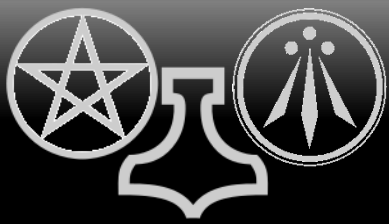
Divisional insignia of the 32nd SS Volunteer Grenadier Division "30 Januar"



The Nordic Resistance Movement has been described as a terrorist organization due to their aim of abolishing democracy along with their paramilitary activities, weapons caches and connections to other terrorist organizations.



Must be contextualized.



RUNES



The Algiz rune was directly copied into the Armanen rune system, where it was given additional meanings.

In this context it remains a popular symbol for Nazi occultism and Folkish groups.

Must be contextualized.

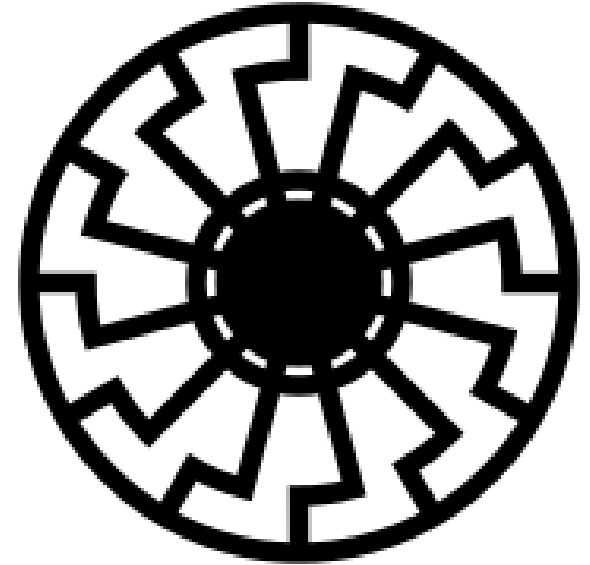


Black Sun



The sonnenrad or sunwheel is an ancient Indo-European symbol and was appropriated by Nazi Germany.

The Black Sun (German: Schwarze Sonne) is a Nazi symbol. This is a specific type of sun wheel.



The symbol's design particularly features twelve radial sig runes. It first appeared in Nazi Germany as a design element in a castle at Wewelsburg remodeled and expanded by the head of the SS, Heinrich Himmler, which he intended to be a center for the SS.



Sun Cross

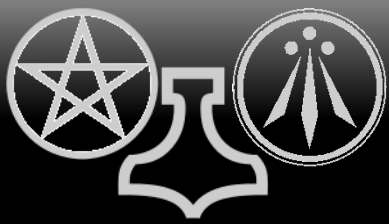


A sun cross, solar cross, or wheel cross is a solar symbol consisting of an equilateral cross inside a circle.

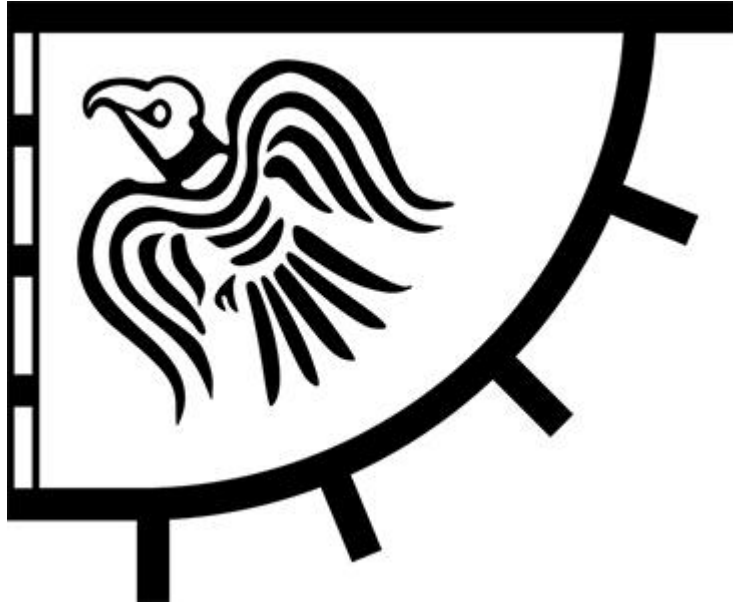
The design is frequently found in the symbolism of prehistoric cultures.

The same symbol is in use as a modern astronomical symbol representing the Earth. The Celtic cross is a variant of this symbol.

Neo-Nazi and white supremacist movements have sought to take possession of this symbol, but it is **not a clear indicator**.



Raven Flag



A common battle flag used by Viking age groups. This flag has been used for years by reenactors and reconstructionist.

Represents Odin's raven companions.

Neo-Nazi and white supremacist movements have sought to take possession of this symbol, but it is **not a clear indicator**.

Many Heathen groups have "Raven" in their name and on their flags, banners, clothing, and tattoos.



Valknut



Extremely common on historical artifacts from Germany.

Sometimes associated with Odin or other mythic figures.

The game Assassin's Creed: Valhalla used this symbol, causing it to become much more mainstream.

Many white nationalists and white supremacists have used this symbol heavily, but it is **not a clear indicator**.



Interactions



Many of these symbols and terms have both benign and “bad” uses.

This can be confusing for people **new to the religion**. Generally, if asked, people with less experience will **express confusion or surprise**.

More **experienced individuals**, when asked, are likely to express understanding of the issue and frustration. They should **make clear statements that their symbols and terms are not supremacist or hateful in nature**.

Red flags include evasive or non-specific responses.



Vignette 1



Scenario:

You encounter an 18 year old white male who identifies as Asatruar.

They have a clearly displayed Mjolnir pendant and have been practicing for less than a year.



Vignette 1



Explanation:

There's nothing of concern here.

They may be a rich target for recruitment or radicalization. However, nothing in this description indicates attention should be anything other than mentorship, education, and encouragement.

Possibly direct them to one of the universalist heathen websites for more information.



Vignette 2



Scenario:

You encounter a 25 year old white male who identifies as an Norse Heathen and has been practicing for several years.

They have prominent tattoos including numerous strings of runes, Mjolnir, and Valknut symbols. In the lines of runes you can identify a double Sowilo along with several Odal, Tiwaz, and Algiz runes.



Vignette 2



Explanation:

There's nothing of immediate concern here.

The only notable items are runes, all of which are part of runic “statements.” Use of Sowilo, Odal, Tiwaz, and Algiz runes in this way is similar to using the letters S, O, T, and Z. Even double Sowilo will appear if the individual is converting statements into runes or is not well educated on how to do so.

If a translation of what the runes say produces other indicators of white supremacy or radicalism (14 words, 88 precepts, etc) that is obviously an indicator of extremism.



Vignette 3



Scenario:

You encounter a 30-40 year old white male who identifies as an Odinist.

When asked for clarification they expand that they've been practicing for 8-9 years and had an online association with the group Irminfolk.

They then ask why they're being interrogated and point out that as a civilian they're not subject to UCMJ.



Vignette 3



Explanation:

Odinist is **likely** a term of concern, and is reason for heightened awareness.

Irminfolk is a **clear red flag**, with the terms “folk” and Irman(ism) having ties to white supremacy.

Civilians are not subject to UCMJ, but may be considered security risks and are subject to restrictions based on association with known threats.