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*The History of*  
**FAIRIES**

**PART TWO**

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(PART TWO)

ANCIENT  
ORIGINS

# CELTIC AND GAELIC TRADITIONS

## TUATHA DÉ DANANN

The Tuatha Dé Danann, often simply referred to as the Tuatha Dé, are a group of supernatural beings or deities in Irish mythology. The name "Tuatha Dé Danann" translates to "the people of the goddess Danu." They are a central and powerful group in the mythology of ancient Ireland and are associated with magic, wisdom, and divine influence.

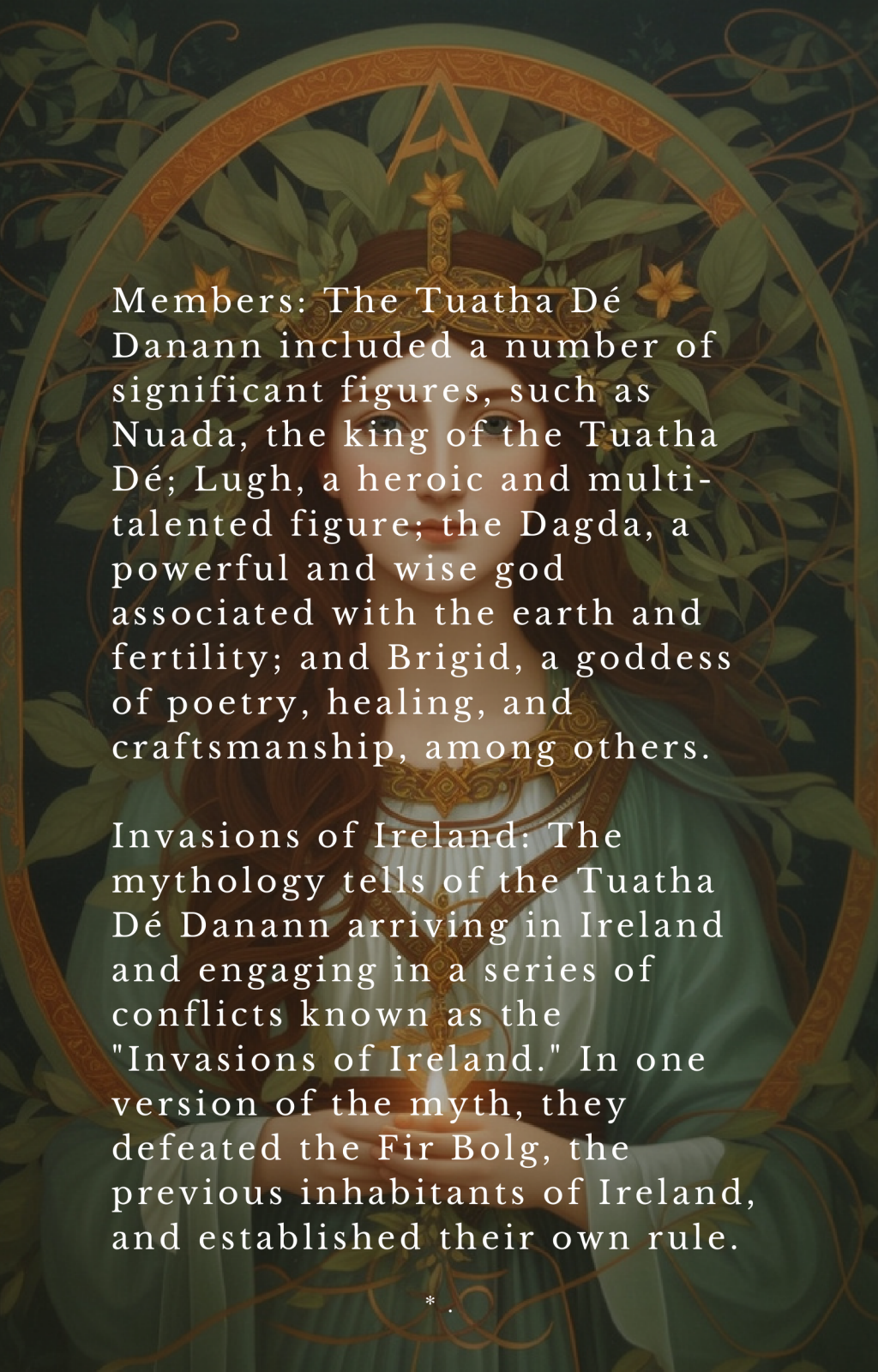




## KEY ASPECTS OF THE TUATHA DÉ DANANN INCLUDE:

**Origin:** According to Irish mythology, the Tuatha Dé Danann descended from the goddess Danu, who was considered the mother of the gods. Their origin is often linked to a time before the arrival of humans in Ireland.

**Attributes:** The Tuatha Dé Danann were renowned for their exceptional skills in magic, arts, and warfare. They possessed various magical treasures and artifacts, each with specific powers.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a green dress and a golden crown with a cross-like symbol, is the central figure. She is framed by a decorative arch with intricate patterns and surrounded by green leaves and vines. The background is dark green.

Members: The Tuatha Dé Danann included a number of significant figures, such as Nuada, the king of the Tuatha Dé; Lugh, a heroic and multi-talented figure; the Dagda, a powerful and wise god associated with the earth and fertility; and Brigid, a goddess of poetry, healing, and craftsmanship, among others.

Invasions of Ireland: The mythology tells of the Tuatha Dé Danann arriving in Ireland and engaging in a series of conflicts known as the "Invasions of Ireland." In one version of the myth, they defeated the Fir Bolg, the previous inhabitants of Ireland, and established their own rule.

The Second Battle of Mag Tuired: One of the central events in the mythology involving the Tuatha Dé Danann is the Second Battle of Mag Tuired. In this epic battle, the Tuatha Dé faced the Fomorian, another group of supernatural beings with whom they had conflicts. The Tuatha Dé emerged victorious, securing their dominance in Ireland.

Later Connections: Over time, as Irish mythology evolved and blended with historical narratives, the Tuatha Dé Danann became associated with the fairy folk or the Sidhe, residing in the mystical realm of Tir na nÓg. In later folklore, they were often depicted as fairy-like beings living in the mounds or hills of Ireland.



The stories of the Tuatha Dé Danann have left a lasting impact on Irish folklore, literature, and cultural identity, and they continue to be a source of inspiration in modern Irish storytelling and fantasy literature



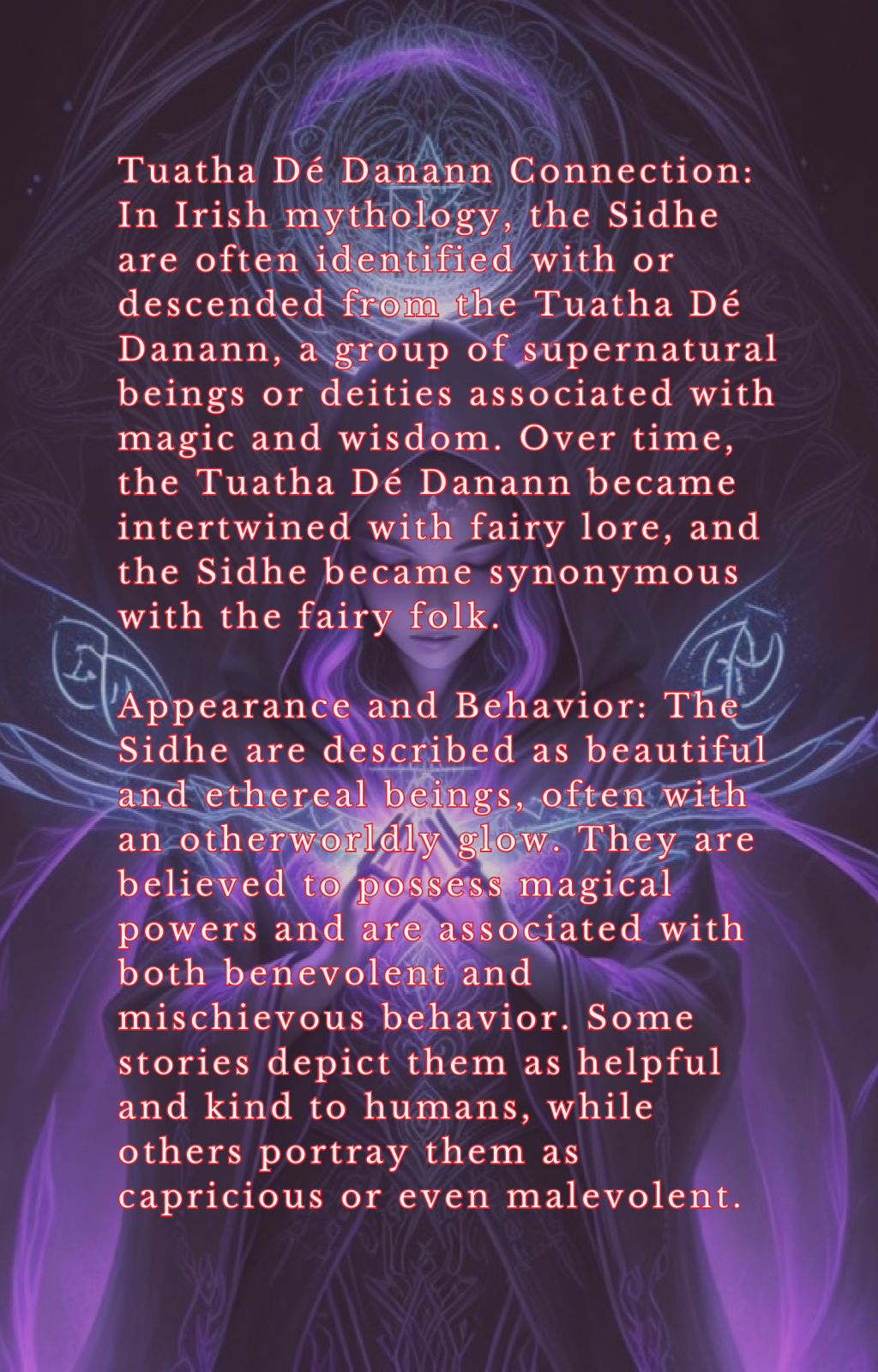
## SIDHE FOLK

The Sidhe Folk, also known simply as the Sidhe, are supernatural beings or fairies in Irish and Scottish folklore. The term "Sidhe" is often used to refer to a mystical, otherworldly realm where these beings reside. Pronounced "shee," it is derived from the Irish word "sí" or "síd," which means a fairy mound or hill.



## KEY ASPECTS OF THE SIDHE FOLK INCLUDE:

Residence in Mounds (Sidhe):  
The Sidhe are believed to live in underground mounds or fairy hills, often referred to as "sidhe." These mounds are considered entrances to the Otherworld, a magical realm separate from the human world. The Sidhe are associated with these hidden places, and entering their realm can lead to encounters with these fairy beings.



**Tuatha Dé Danann Connection:**  
In Irish mythology, the Sidhe are often identified with or descended from the Tuatha Dé Danann, a group of supernatural beings or deities associated with magic and wisdom. Over time, the Tuatha Dé Danann became intertwined with fairy lore, and the Sidhe became synonymous with the fairy folk.

**Appearance and Behavior:** The Sidhe are described as beautiful and ethereal beings, often with an otherworldly glow. They are believed to possess magical powers and are associated with both benevolent and mischievous behavior. Some stories depict them as helpful and kind to humans, while others portray them as capricious or even malevolent.




Interaction with Humans: \*\*  
The Sidhe are said to interact with humans, especially during certain times of the year such as Samhain (Halloween) or Beltane. During these times, the boundaries between the human world and the Otherworld are believed to thin, allowing for increased interaction or visitation. inent passing of someone.



**Banshees:** In addition to the general Sidhe Folk, the Banshee is a specific type of fairy often associated with foretelling death. The Banshee's wailing cry is said to herald the imminent passing of someone.



Fairy Forts and Circles:  
Folklore often warns against disturbing fairy forts or circles, believed to be places where the Sidhe gather. It is said that bad luck or even curses may befall those who interfere with these magical spaces.



The Sidhe Folk play a significant role in Celtic mythology and Irish folklore, and their stories have endured over the centuries. They continue to be a source of inspiration in literature, art, and contemporary fantasy, contributing to the rich tapestry of fairy lore in Celtic cultures.

# NORSE MYTHOLOGY

## ALFAR AND DWARFS

The Alfar and Dwarfs are mythical beings found in Norse mythology, each with distinct characteristics and roles in the cosmology of the Norse world. Here's a brief overview of both:

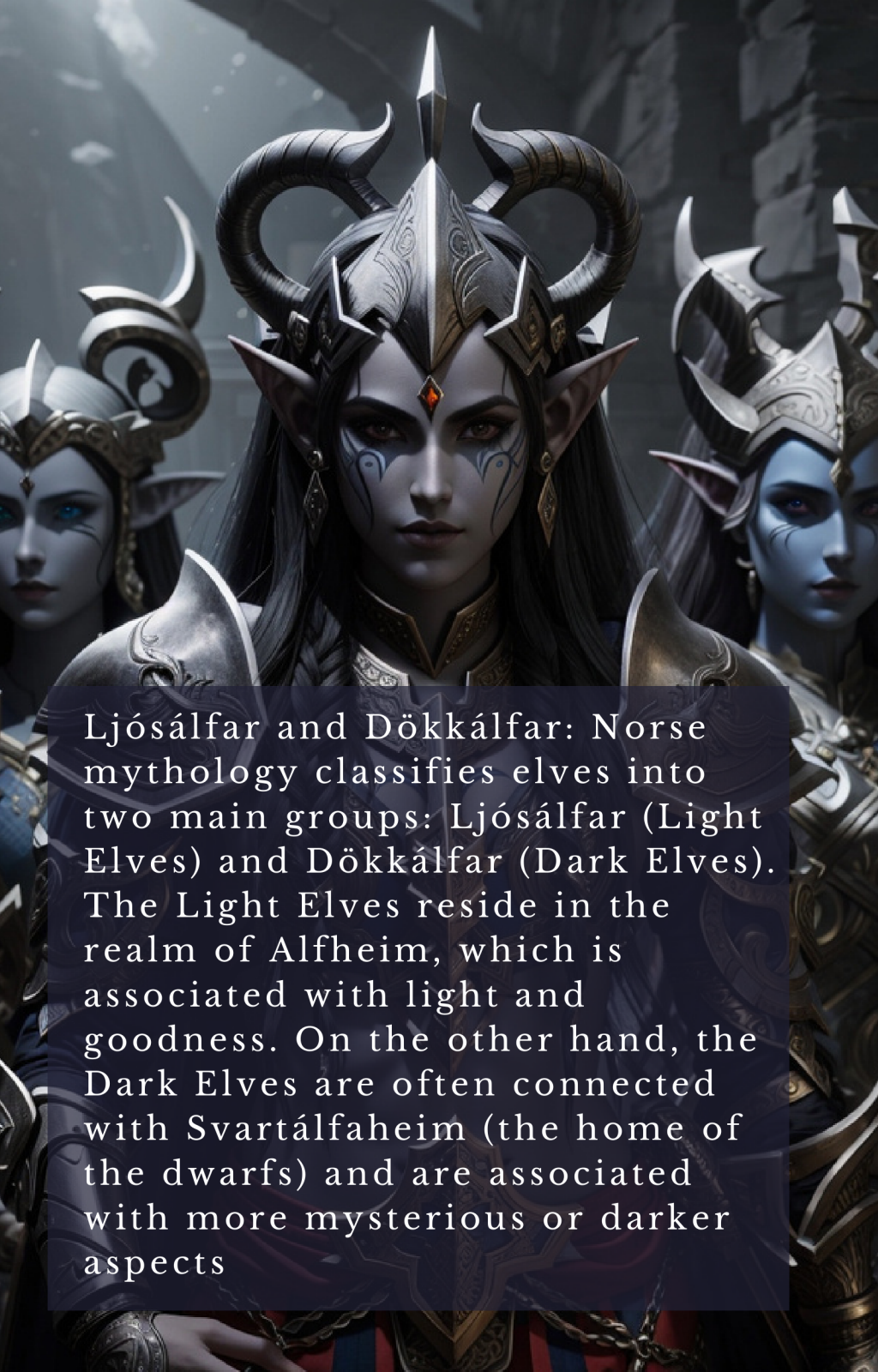




## **ALFAR:**

**Nature and Characteristics:** The term "Alfar" (singular: "Alfr") is often translated as "elves" in English, but it's important to note that Norse elves are different from the elves of many other mythologies. The Alfar are supernatural beings associated with beauty, light, and divine qualities. They are often depicted as ethereal and luminous.





Ljósálfar and Dökkálfar: Norse mythology classifies elves into two main groups: Ljósálfar (Light Elves) and Dökkálfar (Dark Elves). The Light Elves reside in the realm of Alfheim, which is associated with light and goodness. On the other hand, the Dark Elves are often connected with Svartálfaheim (the home of the dwarfs) and are associated with more mysterious or darker aspects



**Connection to Freyr:** In some accounts, Freyr, a prominent Norse deity associated with fertility and prosperity, is said to be the ruler of Alfheim. This association emphasizes the positive and benevolent aspects of the Light Elves.

The image features a large, ornate hammer, likely Mjölhnir, as the central focus. The hammer has a blue and gold geometric pattern on its head and handle. The background is a cloudy sky with a mountain peak visible on the right. The text is overlaid on the hammer and sky.

## Dwarfs (Dvergar):

Nature and Characteristics: Dwarfs, or Dvergar in Old Norse, are beings associated with craftsmanship, mining, and the forging of powerful artifacts. They are often depicted as skilled artisans who live underground in subterranean realms.

Creation of Mjölhnir and Gungnir: Dwarfs are renowned for their craftsmanship and are credited with creating some of the most famous items in Norse mythology. For example, the god Thor's hammer, Mjölhnir, and the spear Gungnir were said to be crafted by dwarfs.

Conflict with the Gods: Dwarfs are known for their interactions, sometimes contentious, with the gods. These interactions often involve the gods seeking the dwarfs' skilled craftsmanship but may lead to conflicts or challenges.

Mention in Poetic Edda: The Poetic Edda, a collection of Old Norse poems, contains references to dwarfs and their interactions with the gods, providing insights into Norse cosmology and the relationships between various mythical beings.

Both the Alfar and Dwarfs contribute to the rich tapestry of Norse mythology, reflecting the Norse worldview and the complex relationships between different supernatural entities in their cosmology.



*It's essential to note that Norse mythology contains variations and uncertainties, and interpretations of these beings can differ among scholars and sources. The dichotomy between Light and Dark Elves contributes to the complex cosmology of Norse mythology, reflecting the Norse understanding of different realms and the diversity of supernatural entities within their mythological framework.*



## LIGHT AND DARK ELVES

In Norse mythology, the concepts of Light Elves (Ljósálfar) and Dark Elves (Dökkálfar) represent distinct categories of supernatural beings with contrasting characteristics and associations. While the exact nature of these beings can vary in different sources, the Poetic Edda and Prose Edda, two major collections of Old Norse poetry and prose, provide some insights into the nature of Light and Dark Elves.



## LIGHT ELVES (LJÓSÁLFAR)

### Realm and Residence

Light Elves are associated with the realm of Alfheim, a world characterized by light and beauty. Alfheim is considered a realm of divine radiance and is often portrayed as a place of joy and purity.



## APPEARANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS

Light Elves are described as luminous and radiant beings, embodying an otherworldly beauty. They are often associated with benevolence, goodness, and positive qualities.





## ASSOCIATION WITH FREYR

Some sources mention that Freyr, a prominent Norse deity associated with fertility, prosperity, and sunlight, is the ruler of Alfheim. This connection reinforces the positive nature of the Light Elves and their association with fertility and abundance.



DARK ELVES  
(DÖKKÁLFAR)

**Realm and Residence:** Dark Elves are associated with Svartálfaheim, a realm that is often translated as the "home of the dark elves" or "land of the black elves." Svartálfaheim is sometimes portrayed as an underground or subterranean world.

**Appearance and Characteristics:** The nature and appearance of Dark Elves are less clear in Norse mythology. Unlike the radiant Light Elves, Dark Elves are often depicted in more mysterious or ambiguous terms. Some interpretations suggest that they may be associated with shadows or darkness.

**Association with Dwarfs:** In certain texts, the distinction between Dark Elves and Dwarfs becomes blurred. The term "dwarf" is sometimes used interchangeably with "dark elf" or "black elf." This connection may reflect the dual nature of dwarfs, who are skilled craftsmen associated with both light and dark aspects.

**Mentions in Poetic Edda:** The Poetic Edda, particularly the poem "Völuspá," briefly mentions both Light Elves and Dark Elves. The precise details are minimal, leaving much of the characteristics and stories of these beings to interpretation.