In the time before anything lay a bleak darkness. Before people, before animals, before the land we live in – there was nothing. Odin (god of all Viking gods) wanted to create a spectacular world which would be the envy of all those who had the fortune to behold it. After much contemplation, he thought: ‘I must create a world for our greatest enemy – the giants.’

As their greatest enemy, the giant’s often laid waste to the Norse god’s homes – causing destruction and devastation where ever they went. Puzzled, the other gods looked at Odin but with a wry smile he turned from them, inhaled deeply and let out a bellowing roar. Even in the darkness, the roar shook the gods. From Odin’s mouth came a chilling breath which began to gently settle on the empty ground. Shards of ice, mountains of snow and frozen lakes merged together in a melting pot of nothingness. Abandoned and desolate, the land for the giants was nothing more than frozen wastes. In amazement, the gods stared and marvelled at what the king of the gods had done, he had created something which would be truly despised by their foe. “This home for the giants should make sure they don’t bother us again!” bellowed Odin.

“What will you call this place, my lord?” enquired Loki.

“It shall be known as Jotunheim, Loki.” Replied Odin, as he turned to face his fellow gods. “Now, I shall make a place for people – a group of mortals who will do our bidding and work to serve us.” he added.

This time, Odin breathed out a warm, gentle wind which floated lightly across the deep darkness. Colours danced, shapes formed and in seconds, a land was born. Rolling green hills, vast forests of evergreen trees, elegant flowers and peaceful lakes settled themselves onto the landscape. Whilst admiring his work, Odin thought: ‘There is something missing…’ With that he waved his crook across the newly formed sky and tapped the ground.

As quick as a flash, strange shapes began to emerge from the grass, in the water and overhead in the crystal, blue skyline. Here were the animals. Their skin, fur and feathers varying in colour, with paws, claws and trotters separated to give a differing variety of creatures.

“This,” Odin announced triumphantly, “Is the home for humans.”

“Excuse me, great Odin,” Loki timidly interjected “but what are humans?”

Once again, a wry smile wrapped around Odin’s face and with one whispered phrase, he spectacularly concocted two humans – what we know today as a man and a woman!

“Go!” spoke Odin, “Enjoy the land I have made for you – revel in the wonder of Midgard!”

With that, the two humans wondered into the wilderness.

Quite content with his creation, Odin turned to the only place of blackness left and began to wonder. ‘A place for the gods.’ He thought. Once again, he took a deep breath and blew a glittering cacophony of colours. Rays of gold and silver intertwined as they wandered blissfully through the dark. Eventually, these shapes merged to create a fantastical palace sitting high above the clouds. Towers of shimmering gold and walls of glittering silver reflected in the light of the sun and shadow of the moon high above the realm of Midgard below.

“This is amazing!” proclaimed Freya.

“Outstanding!” added Thor.

“Dazzling!” exclaimed Loki.

Odin stepped back to admire what he had done. He began to view the flawless design of his creation and marvel in his brilliance. However, something was again missing.

Looking down on Midgard below, Odin needed a way in which to go and see his people. Smiling once again, Odin waved his staff and there appeared a beautiful rainbow, sparkling gracefully in the beaming sunlight.

“A bridge to link our world to Midgard.” Odin proclaimed. “Finally, my creation is complete.”