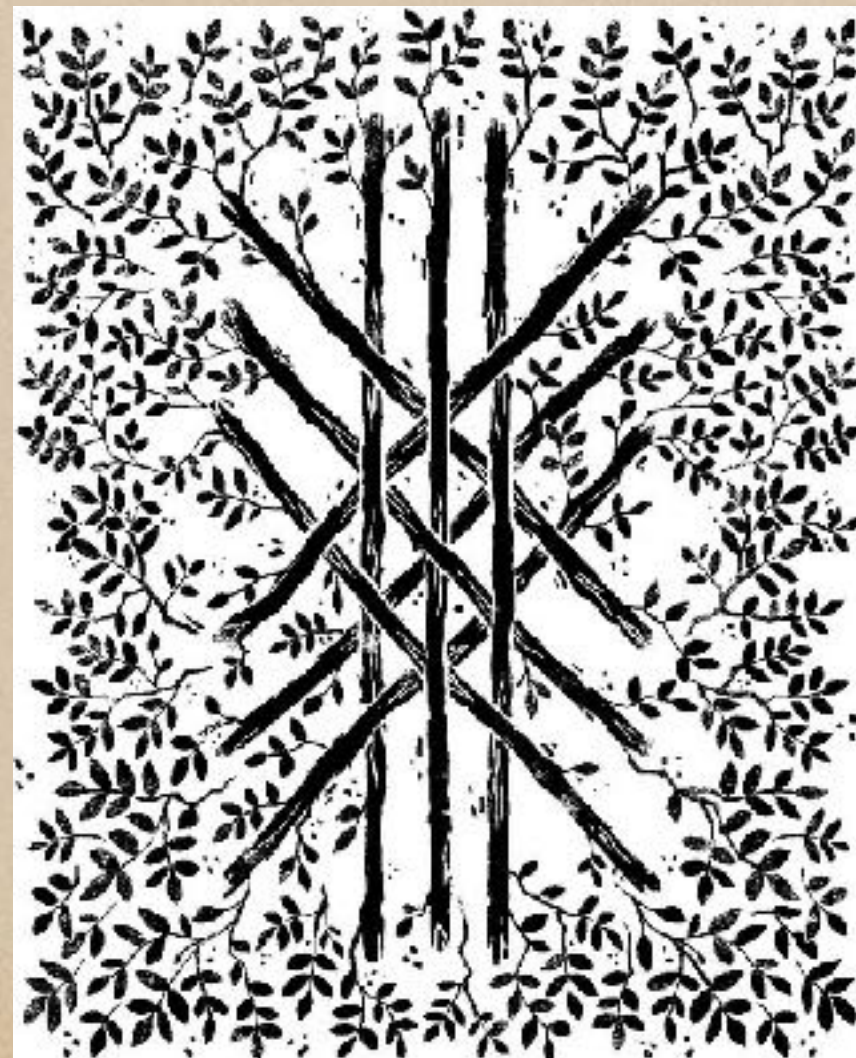
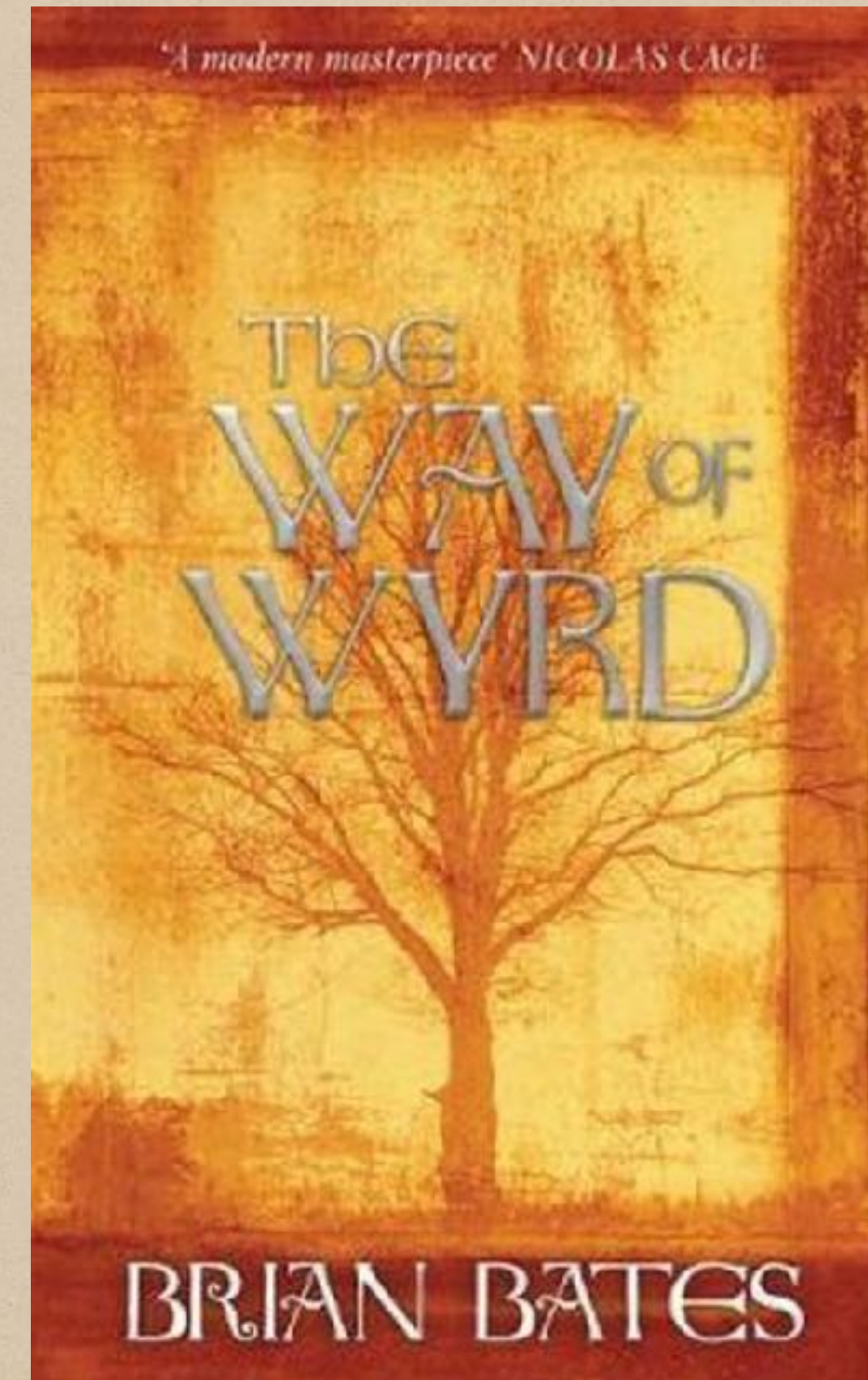
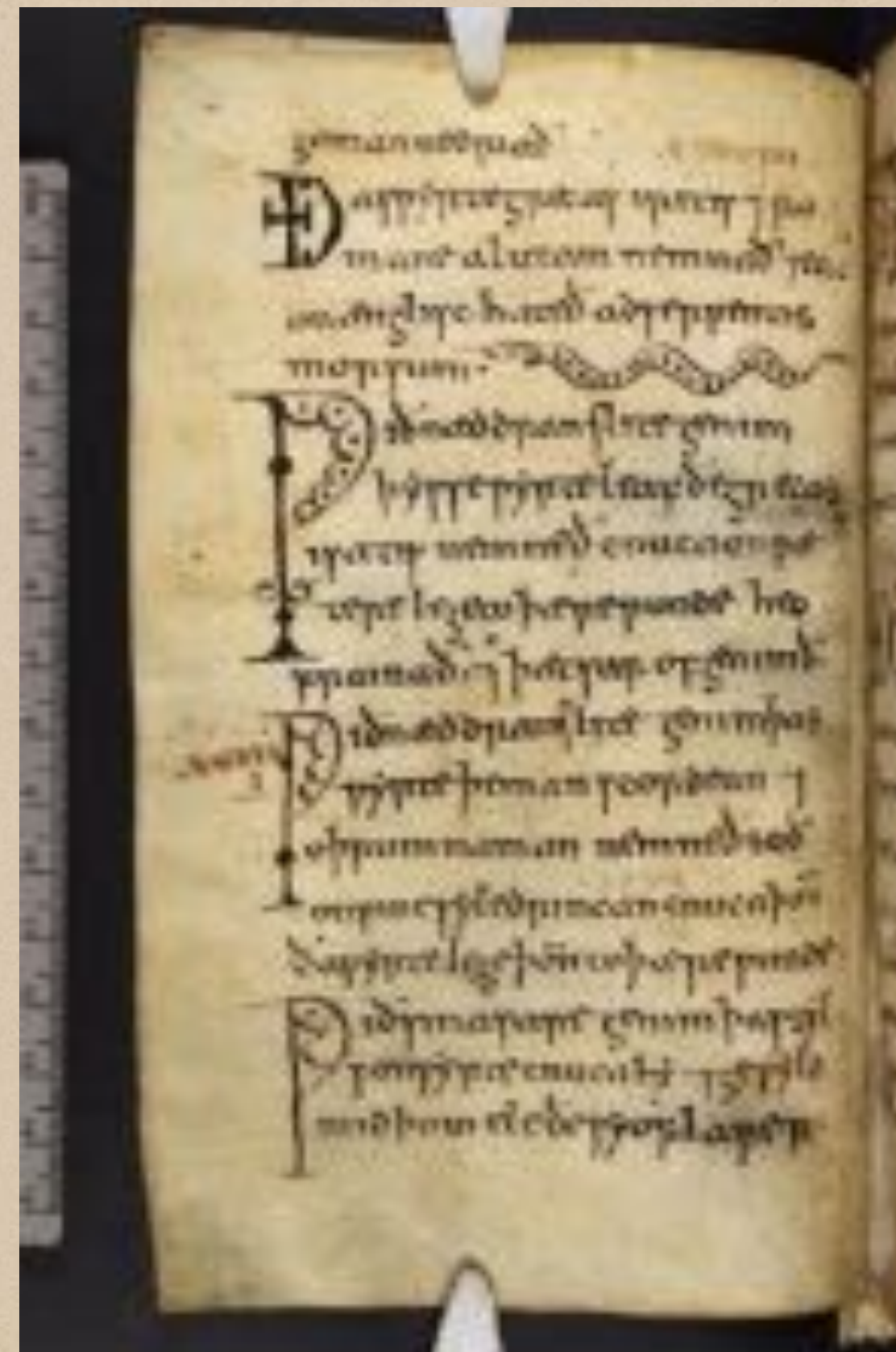
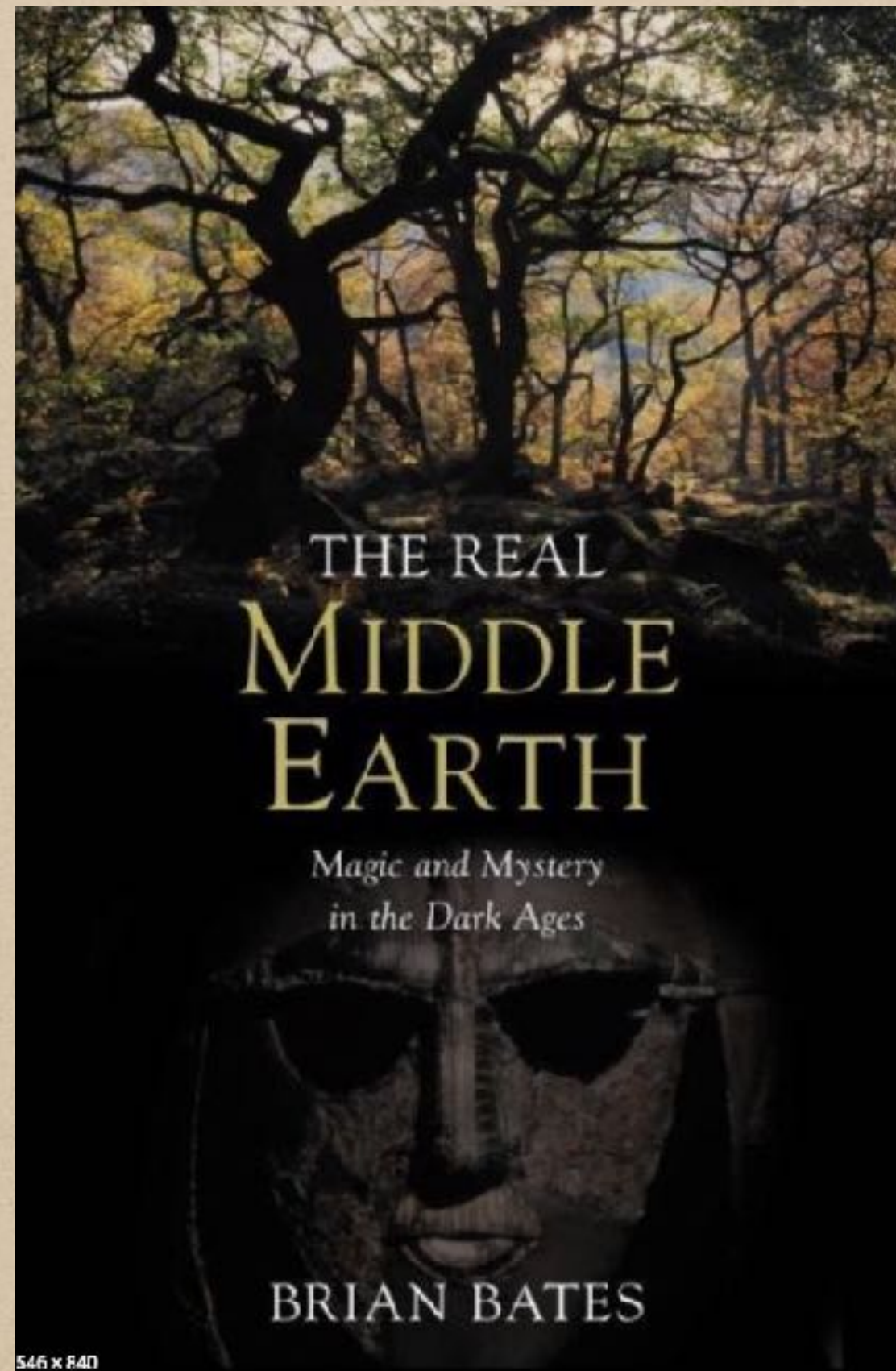
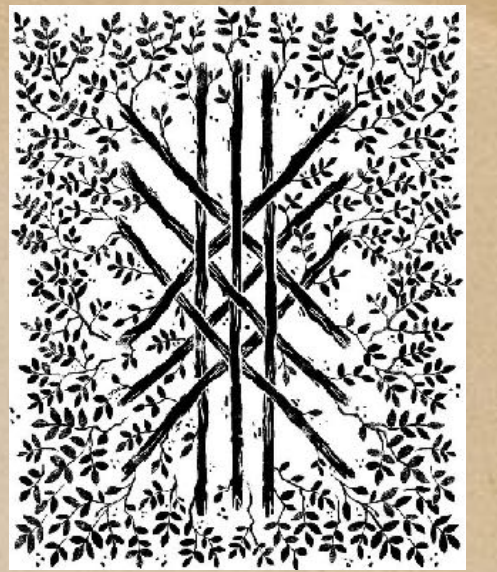


Merry Musing #2 - The Way of Wyrd

Exploring a West European Tradition of Subtle Interconnectedness



The Way of Wyrð

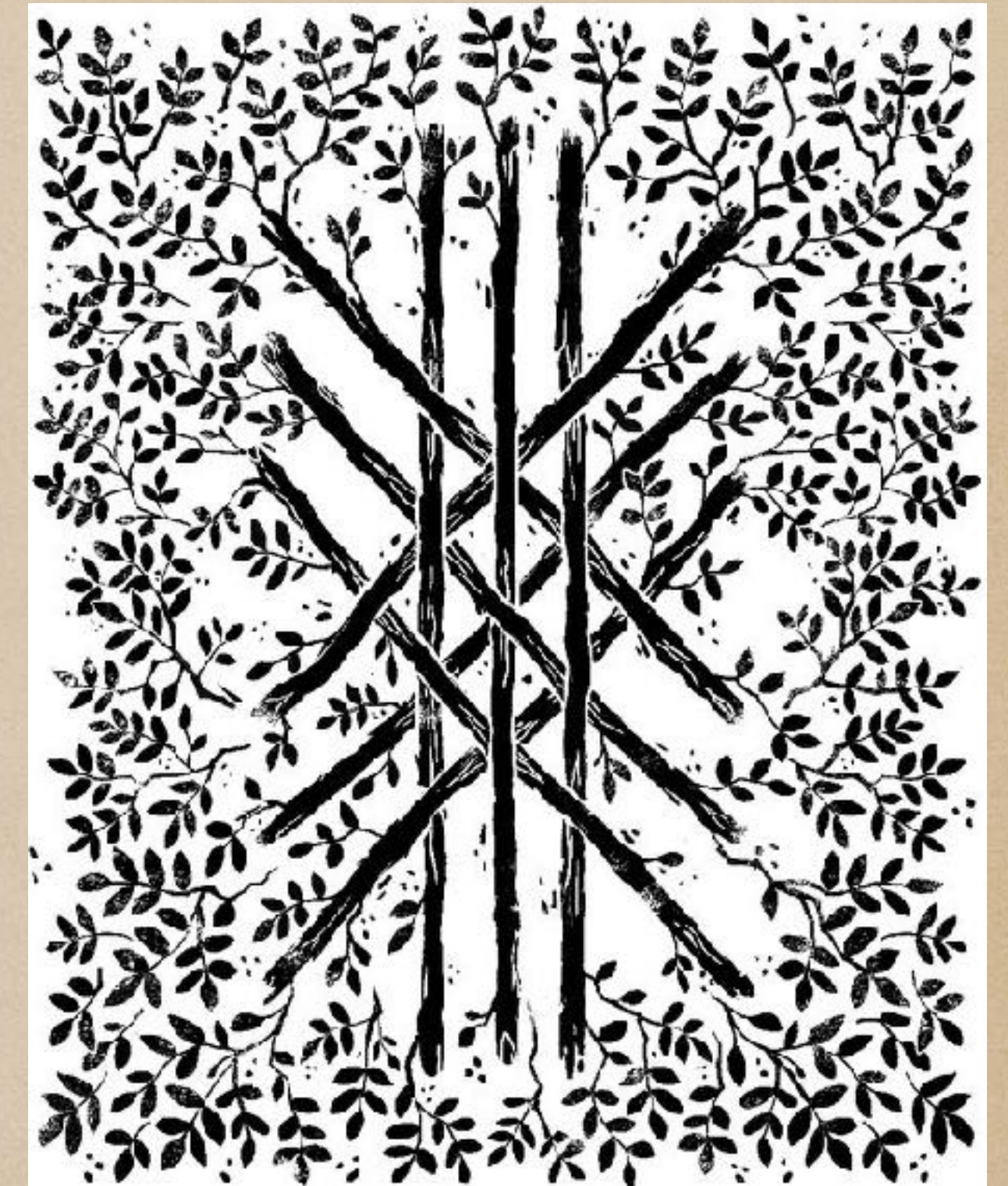


Lacnunga, Harley ms 585 (10th-11th Century)



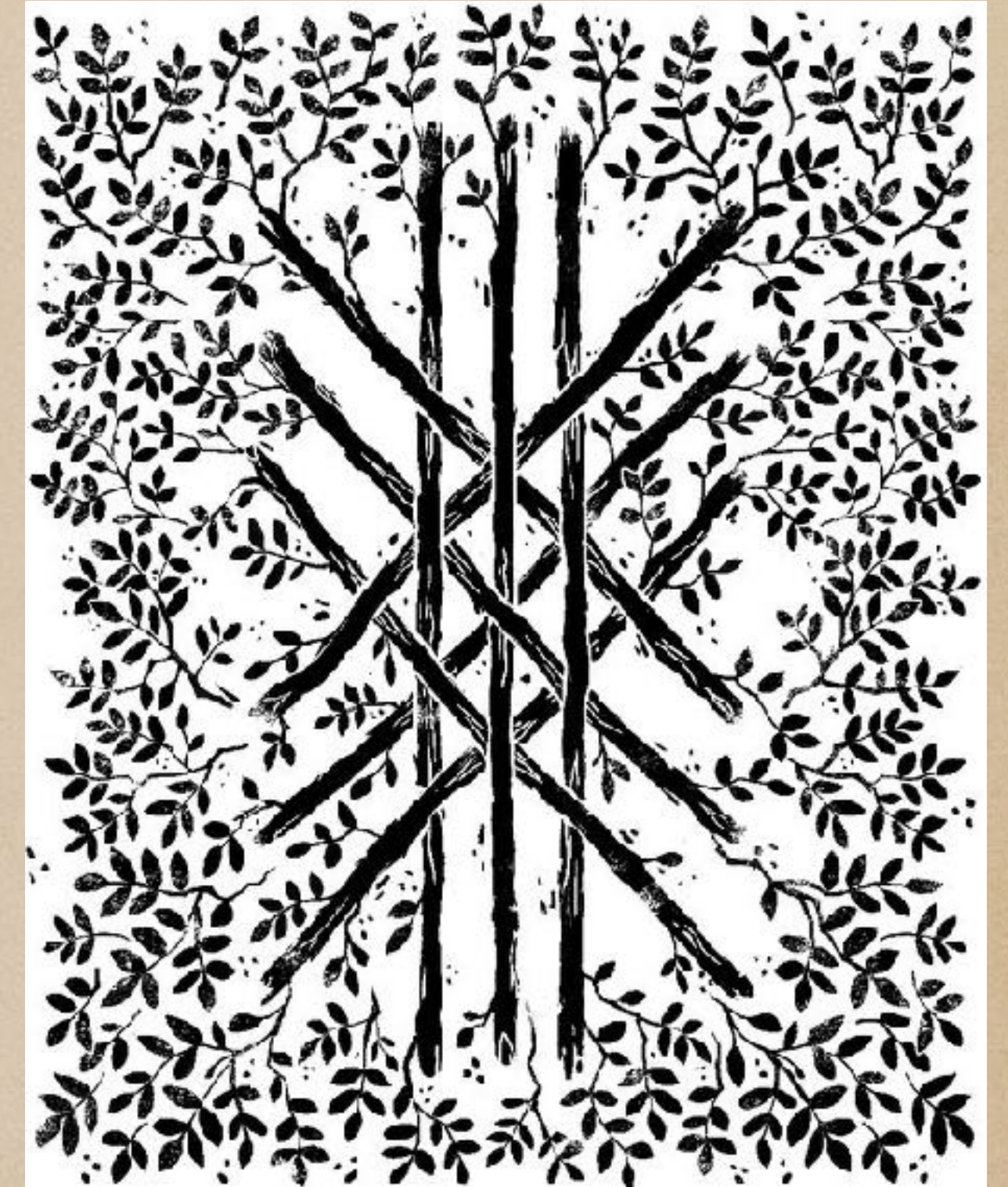
The Way of Wyrð

“The Anglo-Saxon sorcerer dealt directly with life-force, a vital energy which permeated everything but which in humans was generated in the head, flowed down the spinal column and from there throughout the body. This system of energy, which has intriguing similarities to Eastern concepts of prana and chi, encapsulated physical psychological and spiritual domains within a single, unified system.”



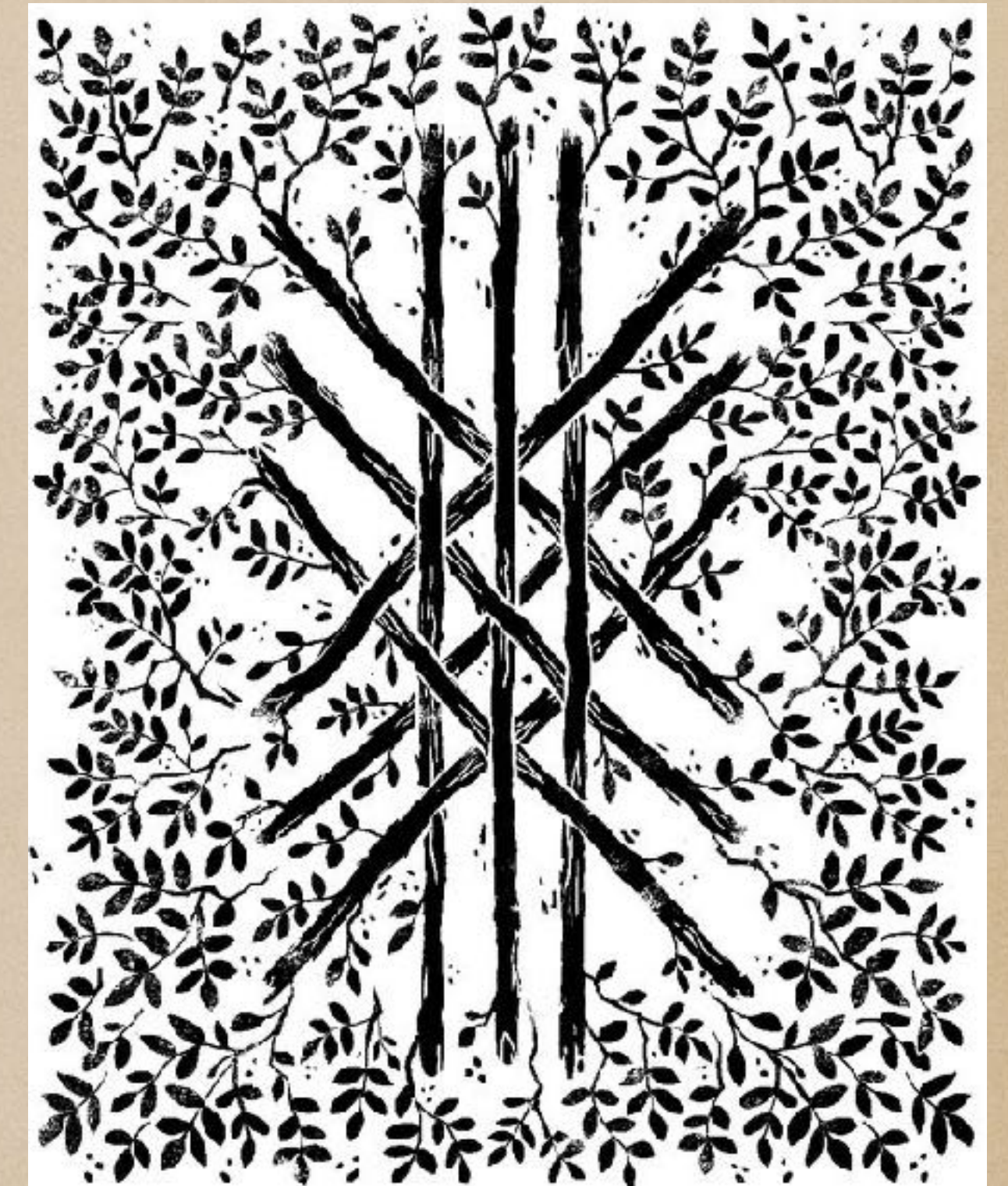
The Way of Wyrd

“You may start at any point on the web
and find that you are at the centre.”



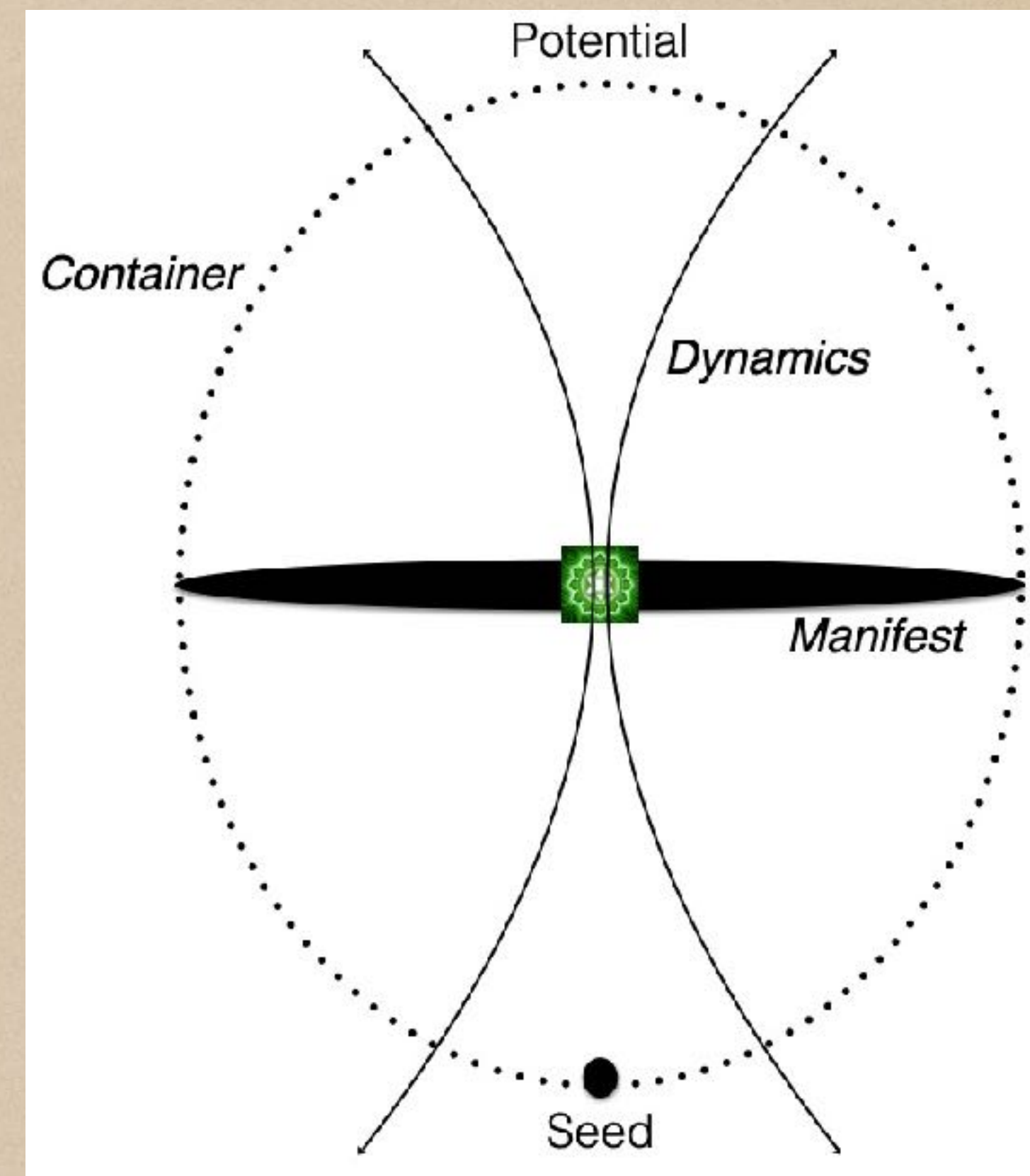
The Way of Wyrd

“Everything vibrates the web of wyrd, whether it is an act of the gods or the movement of the tiniest insect. ... All our lives are locked together in the shimmering world of wyrd in which all things are enmeshed and connected to one another by the threads of wyrd.”



The Way of Wyrd

“The weave of the cloth reveals to us the pattern of *wyrd*. Your individual destiny is laid out on a loom. All the incidents in your life, all the dreams, thoughts, fears, are a pattern woven onto the loom. The duration of your life is measured by the vertical thread, held taut by the weights of life-force. The horizontal threads of the loom are the forces to be encountered during the course of your life, rather than days and nights. The pattern woven onto this loom is the pattern of your life, and the pattern is woven by the Three Sisters of Wyrd.”



Evolution (“spin”)

The Way of Wyrd

“There is no need for your free will. Although the Wyrd Sisters spin the web of Wyrd and weave the loom of life, they do not thereby determine it, for they are agents of Wyrd and are therefore just as much a part of the pattern of Wyrd as we. The Wyrd sisters simply express the will of Wyrd. And so do we. We cannot control our lives, because we too are inseparable aspects of Wyrd and express its will. But this is not the same as saying our life is determined. Rather, it is saying we live like an ocean voyager, trimming our sails to the winds and tides of Wyrd as we skim across the waters of life. And cresting the waves of Wyrd is something that happens at every instant. The pattern of life is not woven ahead of time, like cloth to be worn later as a tunic. Rather, life is woven at the very instant you live it.”



The Way of Wyrd

“It is not a question of one thing causing the other. Rather, they arise together held up by the web of wyrd.”

“Nothing may happen without wyrd, for it is present in everything, but wyrd does not make things happen. Wyrd is created at every instant and so wyrd is that happening.”



The Way of Wyrd

“The forces of wyrd are like the winds and tides for a fisherman. If they are known, the sailor can trim his sails to adapt to them. He can be in harmony with the forces and use their power. But he cannot thereby change them.”



The Way of Wyrd

“The pattern of wyrd is like the grain in wood or the flow of a stream; it is never repeated in exactly the same way. But the threads of wyrd pass through all things and we can open ourselves to its pattern by observing the ripples as it passes by. When you see the ripples in a pool, you know that something has dropped in the water. Nothing may happen without wyrd, for it is present in everything, but wyrd does not make things happen. Wyrd is created at every instant and so wyrd is that happening.”



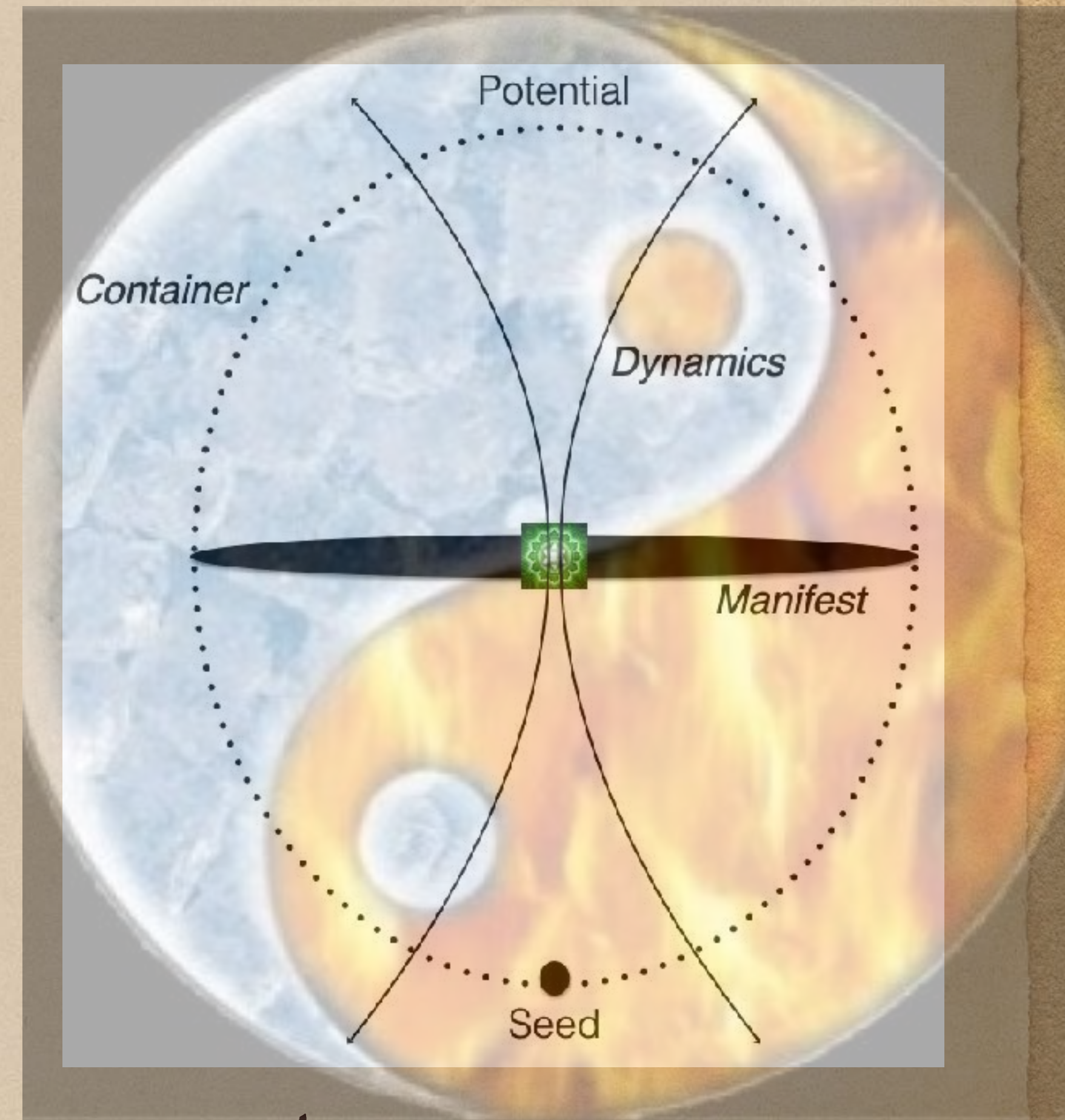
The Way of Wyrð

“Wyrð existed before the gods and will exist after them. Yet wyrð lasts only for an instant, because it is the constant creation of the forces. Wyrð is itself constant change, like the seasons, yet because it is created at every instant, it is unchanging, like the still centre of a whirlpool. All we can see are the ripples dancing on top of the water.”



The Way of Wyrd

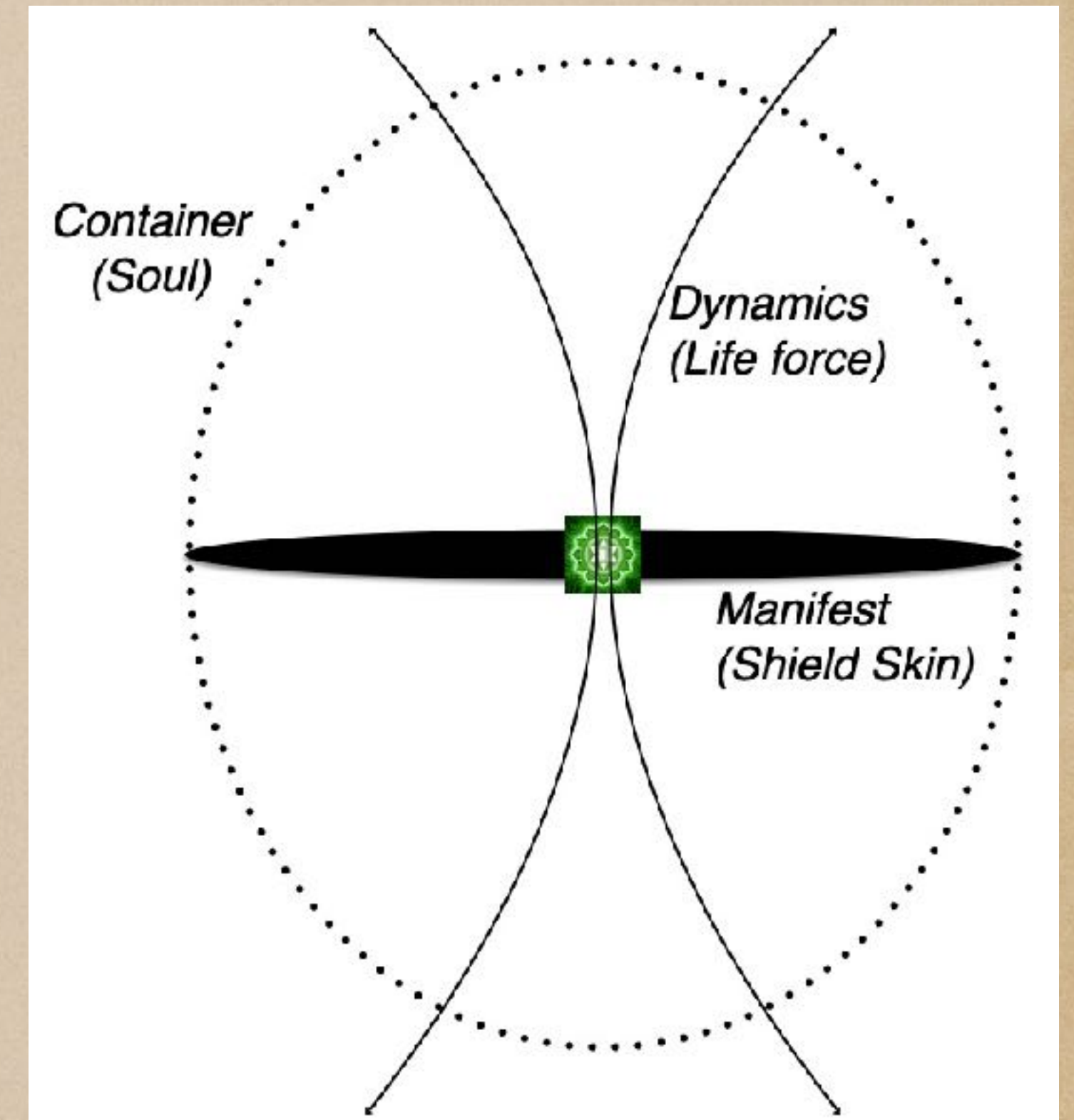
“By themselves, neither Fire nor Frost accomplish anything. But together they create the world. Yet they must maintain a balance, for too much fire would melt the frost and excessive frost would extinguish the fire. But just as the worlds of Gods, Middle-Earth and the dead are constantly replenished by the marrying of fire and frost, so also do they depend on the balance and eternal cycle of Night and Day, winter and summer, woman and man, weak and strong, moon and sun, death and life. These forces, and countless others, form the end points of a gigantic web of fibres that cover all worlds. The web is the creation of the forces, and its threads, shimmering with power, pass through everything.”



Evolution (“spin”)

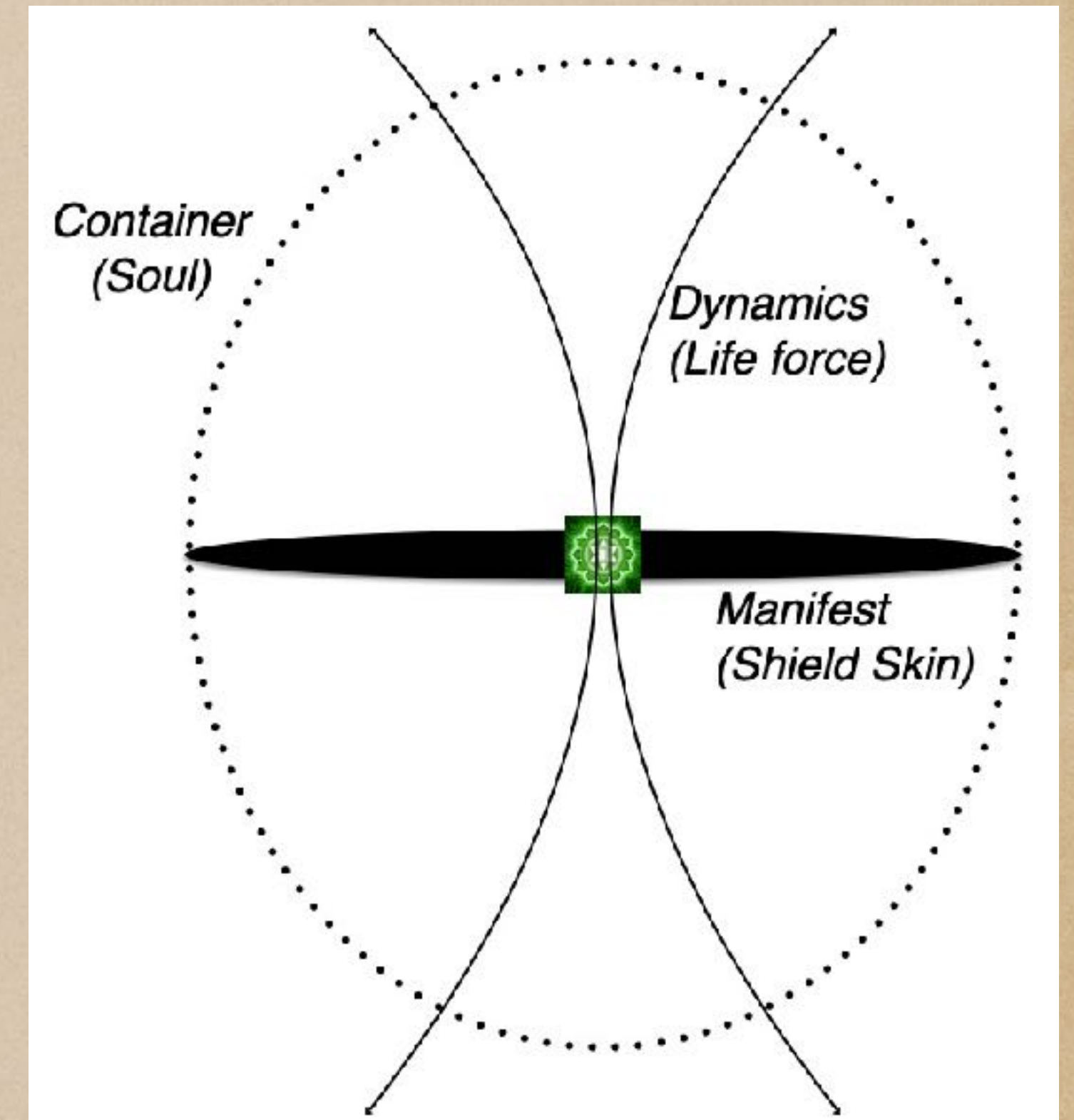
The Way of Wyrd

“Within each person, three forces surge like three streams converging on a whirlpool. These forces are the life force, soul and shield skin. The soul is the essence of wyrd, present in everything. It is the very being of which we are formed. The soul is what gives form, direction and pattern to all things, for it forms a shield-skin around the life-force, enveloping vitality in a recognisable shape. The form of the shield-skin defines the kind of creature we are. The shield must be continually maintained with each succeeding breath, for if it is not then life-force would burst from it like molten metal, shapeless, uncontrollably leaking back into the Earth. The soul is the essence and at the moment of death, when the shield-skin ceases and life-force returns to the mother Earth, the soul leaves the body and leads an existence separate from it.



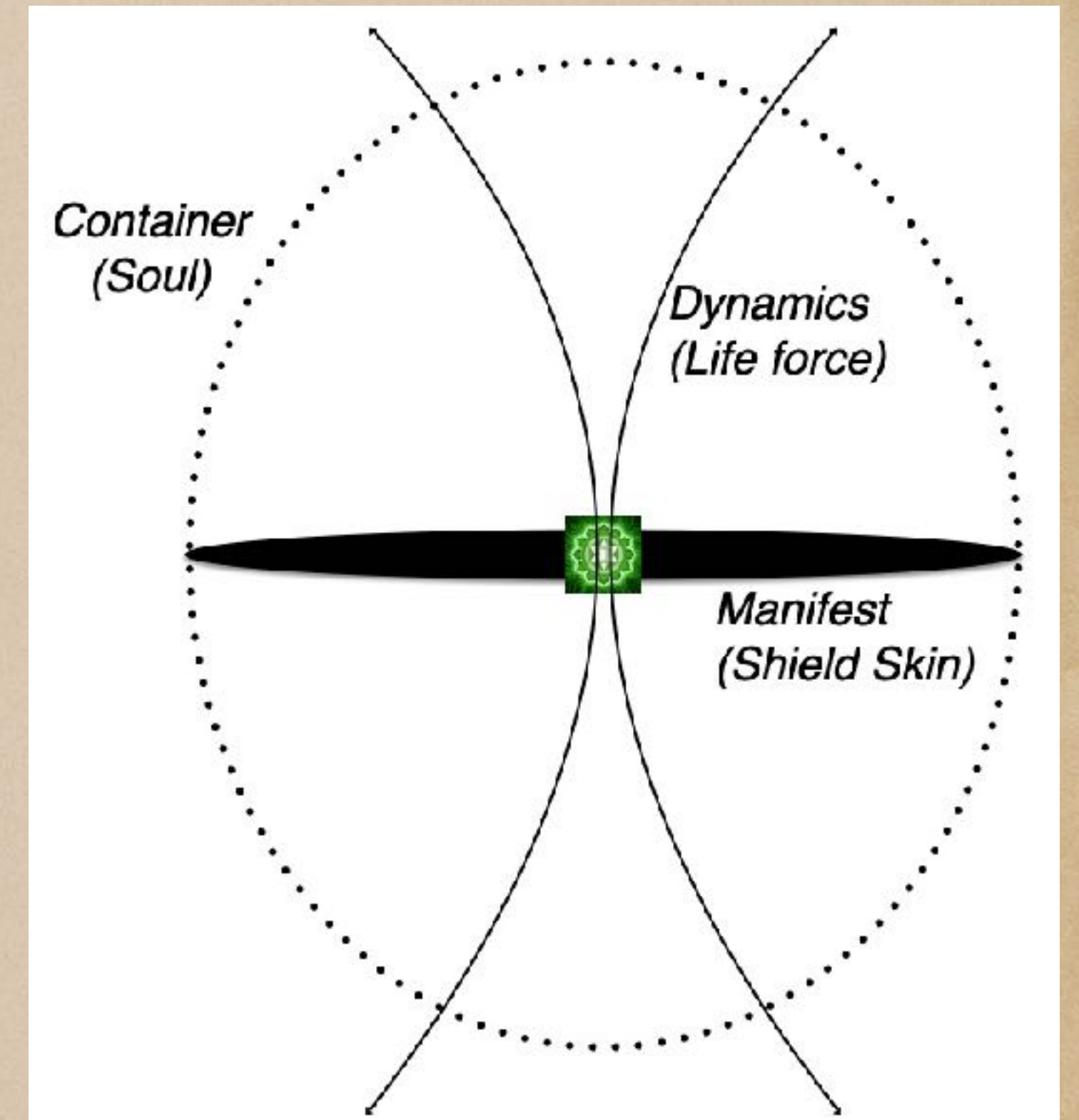
The Way of Wyrd

“Whatever has no soul, does not exist in Middle-Earth, for without a soul there can be no concentration of life-force and no shield-skin to envelop it. That is why everything you can see in Middle Earth has soul. [...] It is apparent that the soul is present in everything observable in Middle-earth, for the soul continually breathes out the shield-skin which strikes your eye. Without it the object would be invisible and therefore have no soul.”



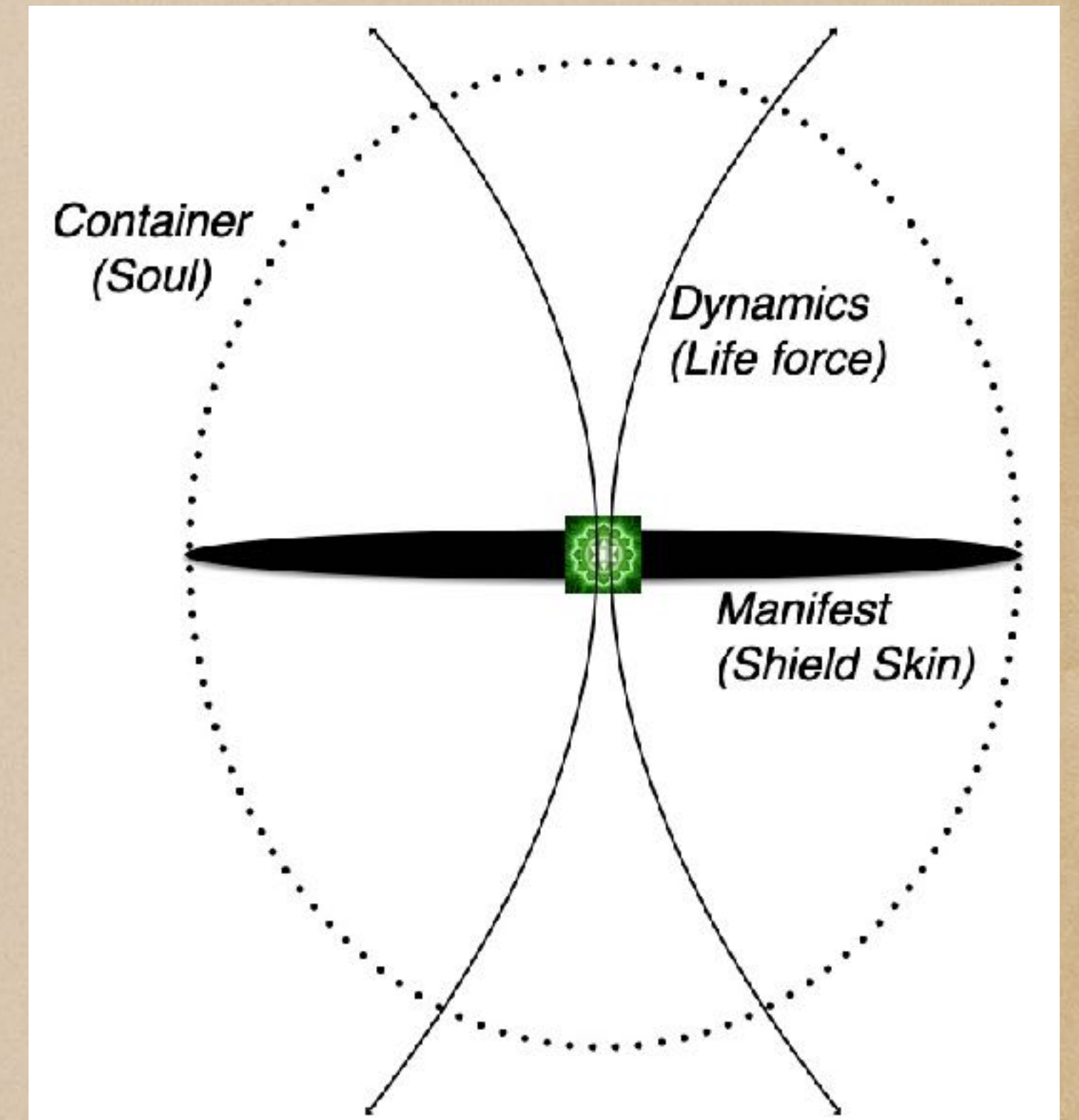
The Way of Wyrd

“Trying to preserve the shield-skin merely dams up the flow of life force. The shield-skin is a temporary existence; life-force flows like a stream and the shield-skin should be the valley through which it flows, not a stagnant pool blocking its movement.”



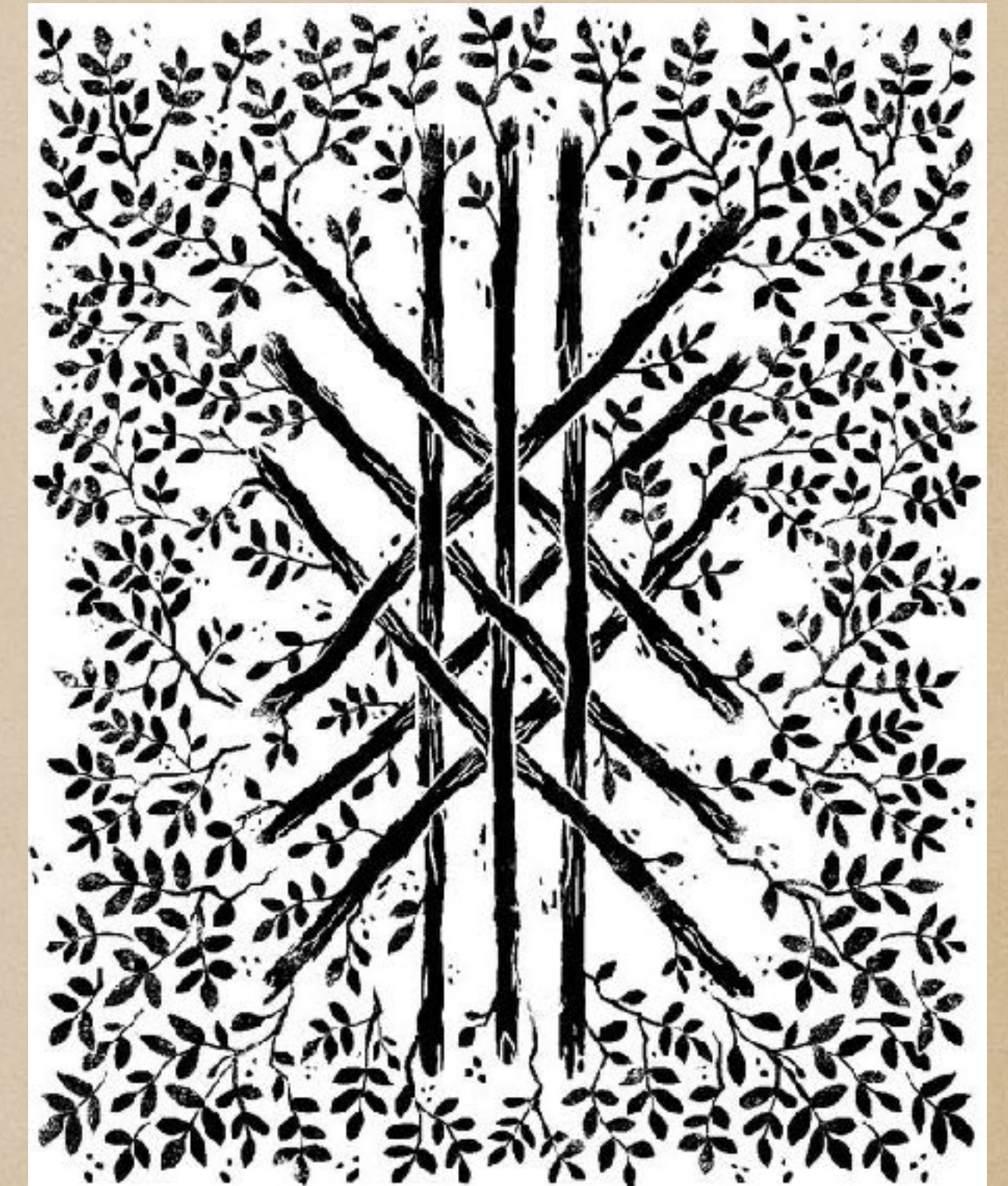
The Way of Wyrd

“Rocks breathe, but each breath lasts longer than life and death for a man. Hills and mountains breathe, but each breath lasts a thousand human lifetimes.”



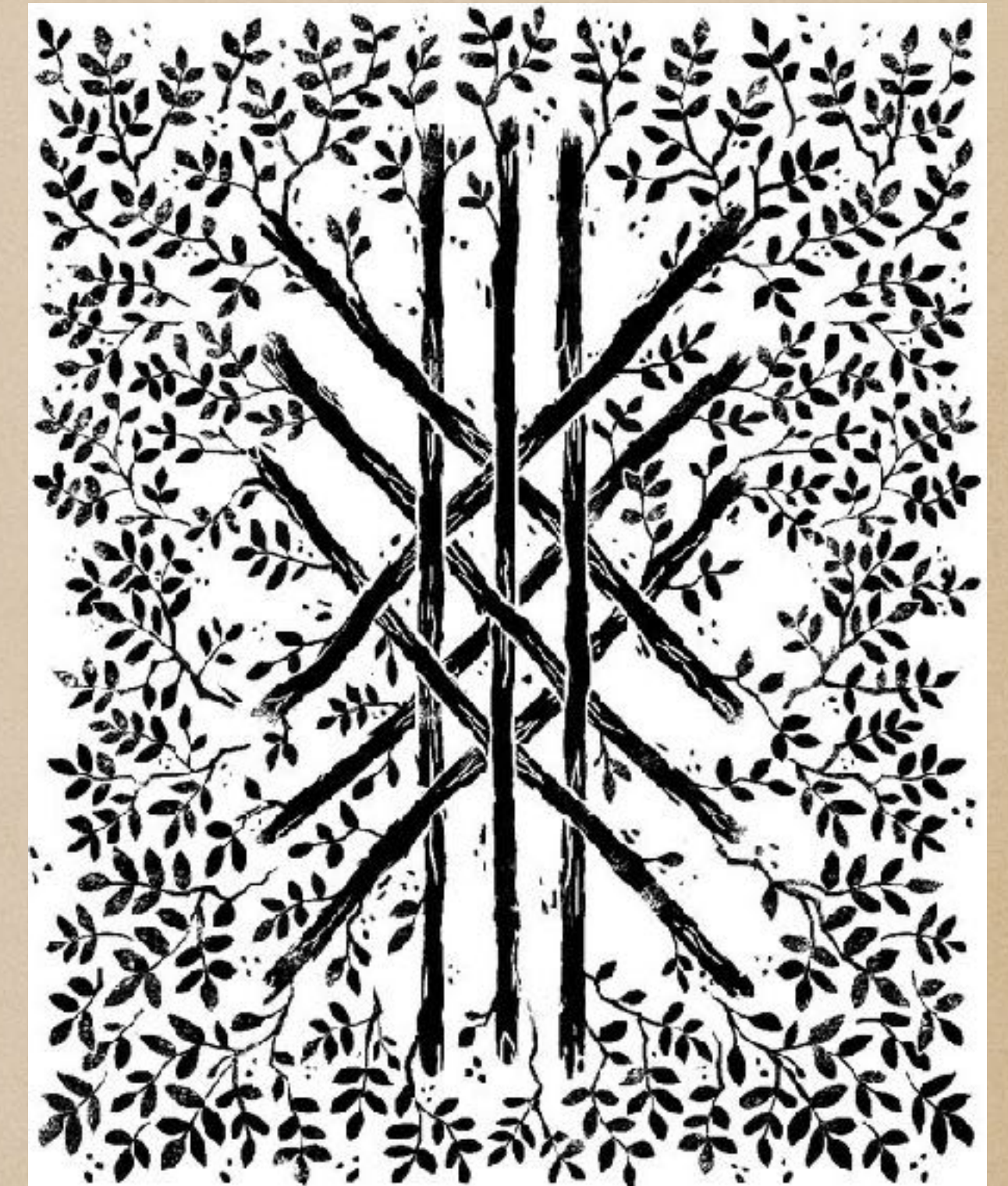
The Way of Wyrd

“Wyrd is too vast, too complex, for us to comprehend, for we are ourselves part of wyrd and cannot stand back to observe it as if it were a separate force. Just as a fisherman cannot see the full extent of the seas, so even a sorcerer cannot view the totality of wyrd. So we carve runes into wood or bone and cast them like nets onto the sea of wyrd. The messages the runes bring back are like a good catch: enough for us to feed on until the tides of life carry us back again.”



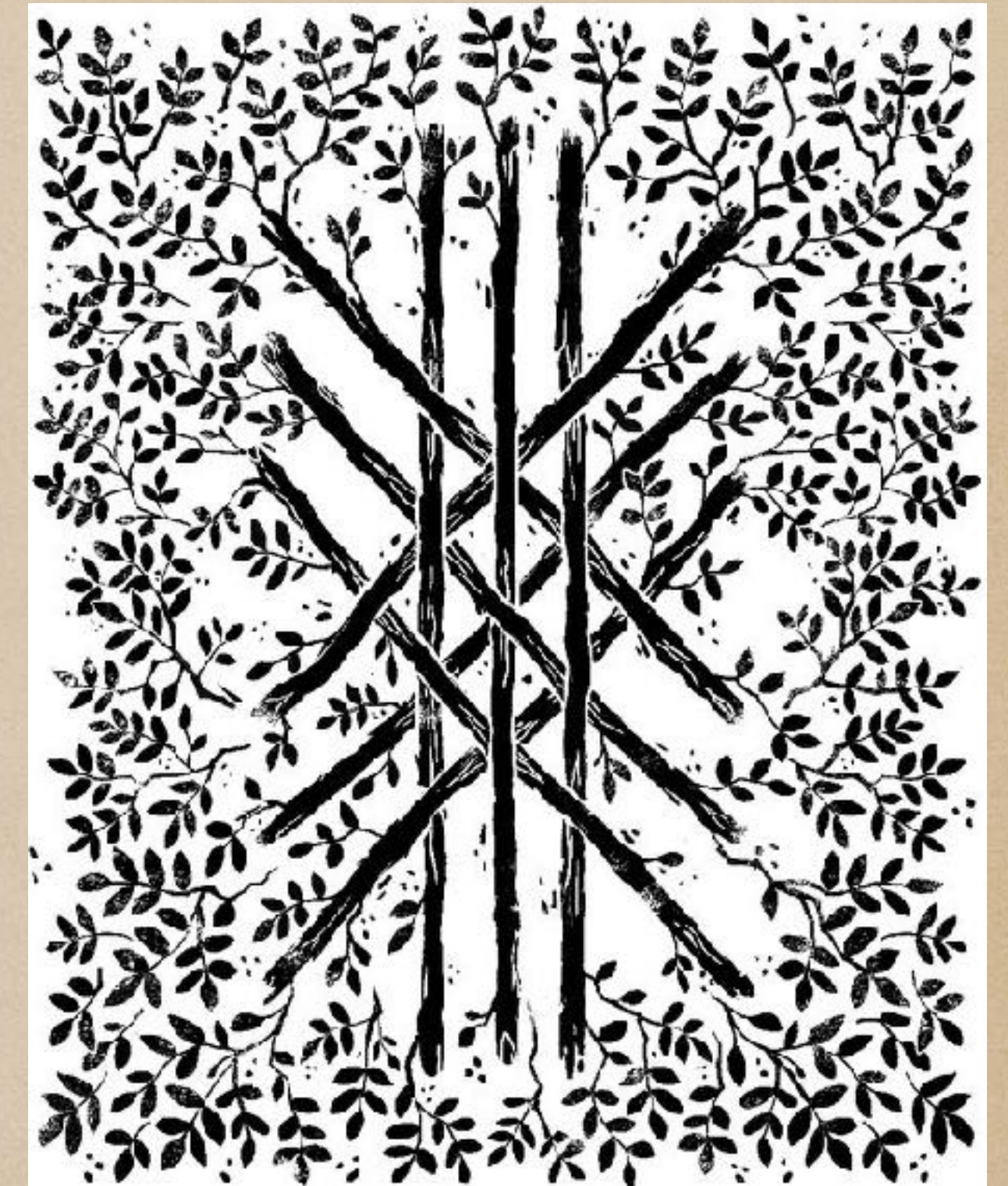
The Way of Wyrd

“Thoughts are like raindrops. They fall, make a splash and then dry up. But the world of wyrd is like the mighty oceans from which raindrops arise until which they return in rivers and streams.”



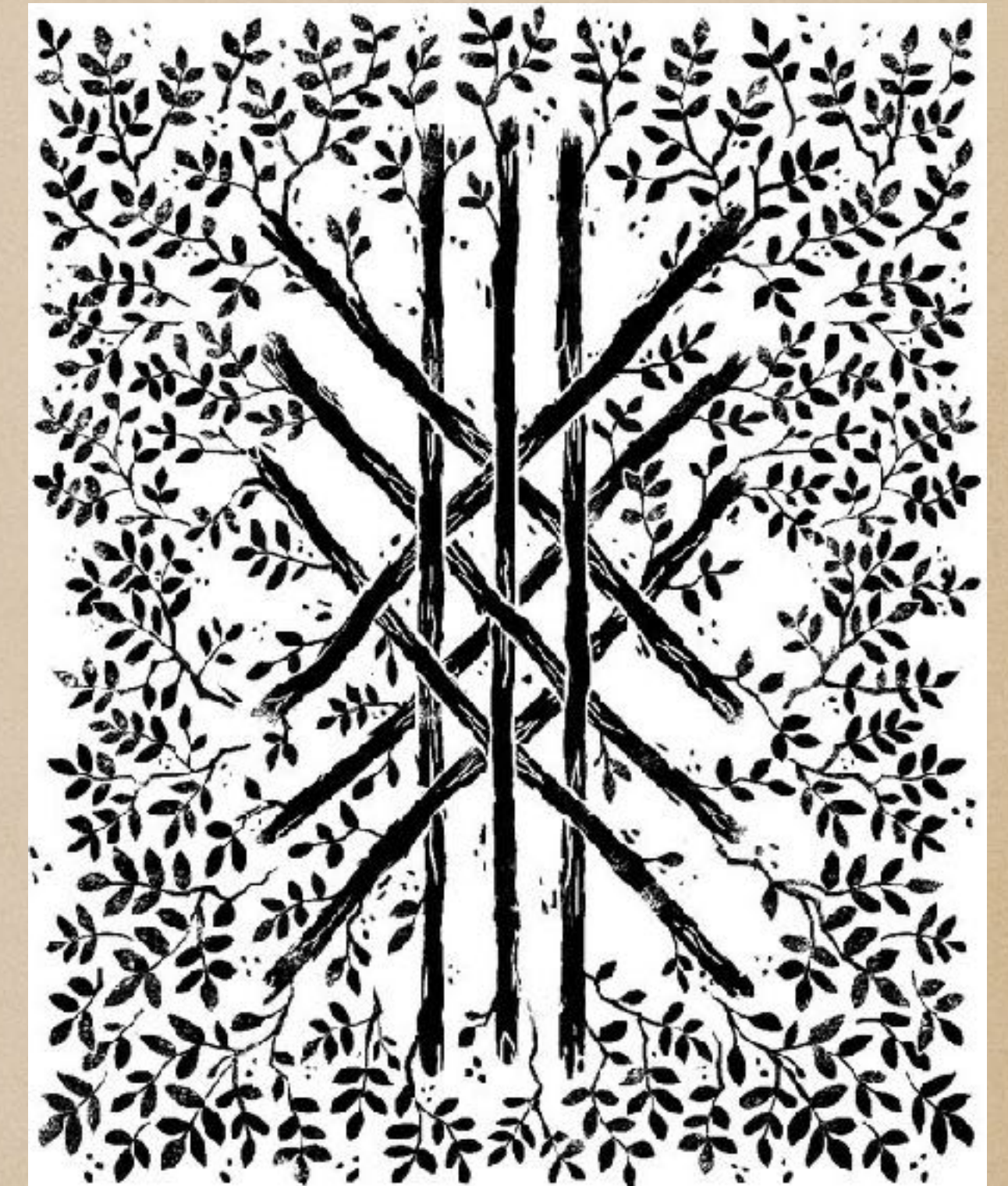
The Way of Wyrd

“The threads of wyrd are a dimension of ourselves that we cannot grasp with words. We spin webs of words, yet wyrd slips through like the wind. The secrets of wyrd do not lie in our word-hoard, but are locked in the soul. We can only discern the shadows of reality with our words, whereas our souls are capable of encountering the realities of wyrd directly. This is why wyrd is accessible to the sorcerer: the sorcerer sees with his soul, not with eyes blinkered by the shape of words.”



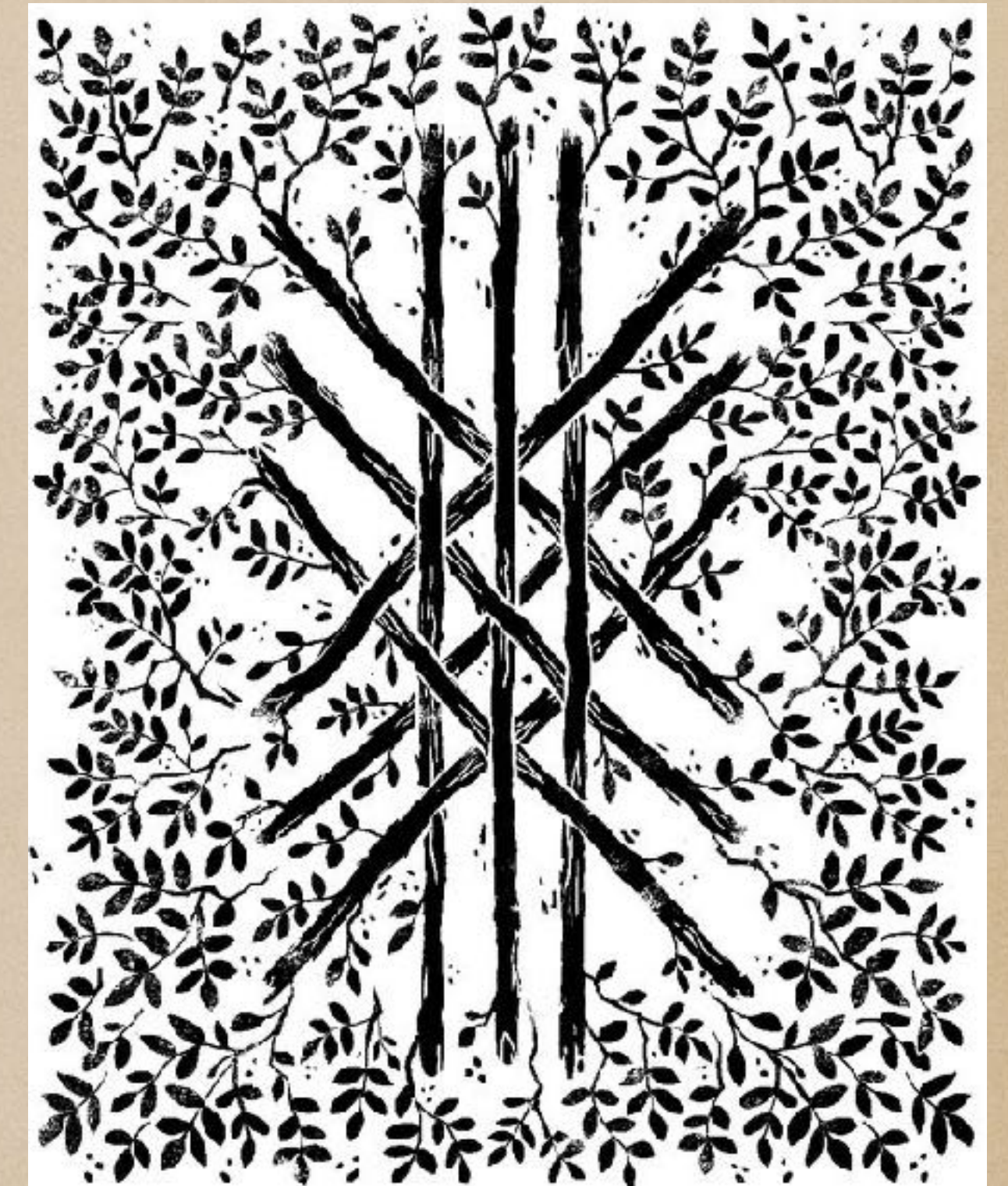
The Way of Wyrd

“You are strangling *your* life-force with words. Do not live your life searching around for answers in *your* word-hoard. You will find only words to rationalize *your* experience. Allow *yourself* to open up to *wyrd* and it will cleanse, renew, change and develop *your* casket of reason. Your word-hoard should serve *your* experience, not the reverse.”



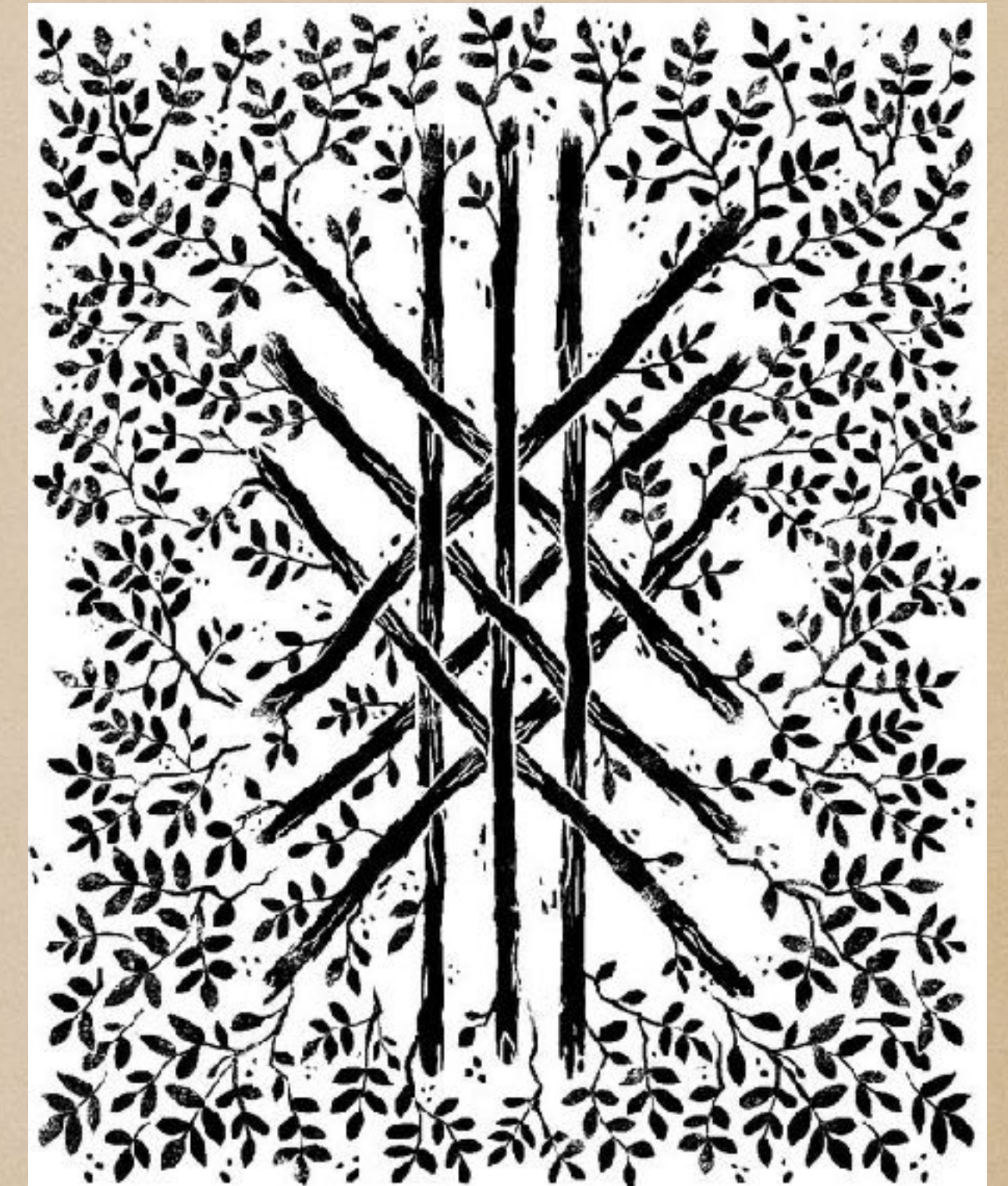
The Way of Wyrd

“Words can be potent magic indeed, but they can also enslave us. We grasp from wyrd tiny puffs of wind and store them in our lungs as words. But we have not thereby captured a piece of reality, to be poured over and examined as if it were a glimpse of wyrd. We may as well mistake our fistfuls of air for wind itself or a pitcher of water for the stream from which it was dipped. That is the way we are enslaved by our own power to name things.”



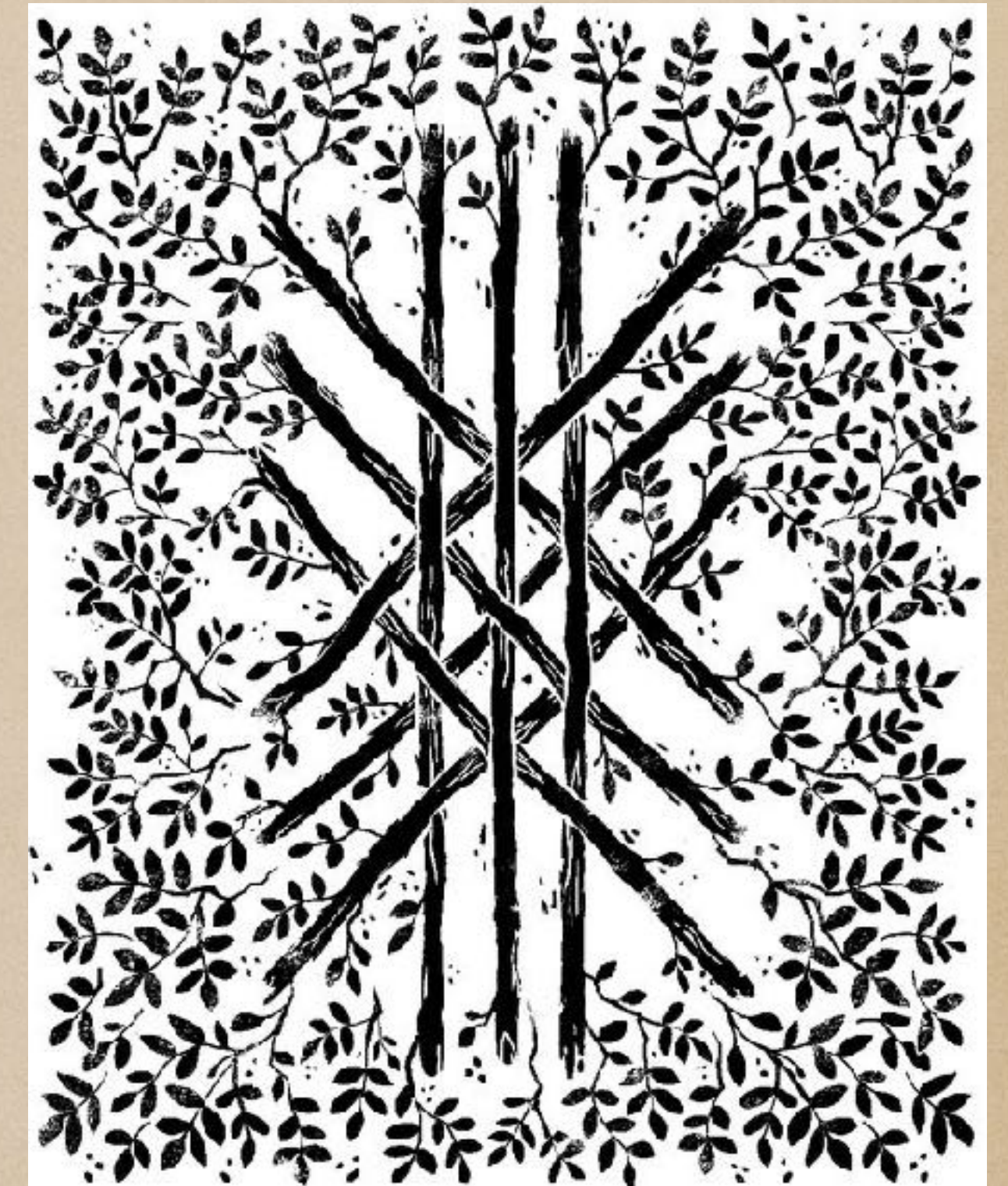
The Way of Wyrd

“It is a mistake to assume that events far apart in time are thereby separate. All things are connected as in the finest web of a spider. The slightest movement on any thread can be discerned from all points in the web.”



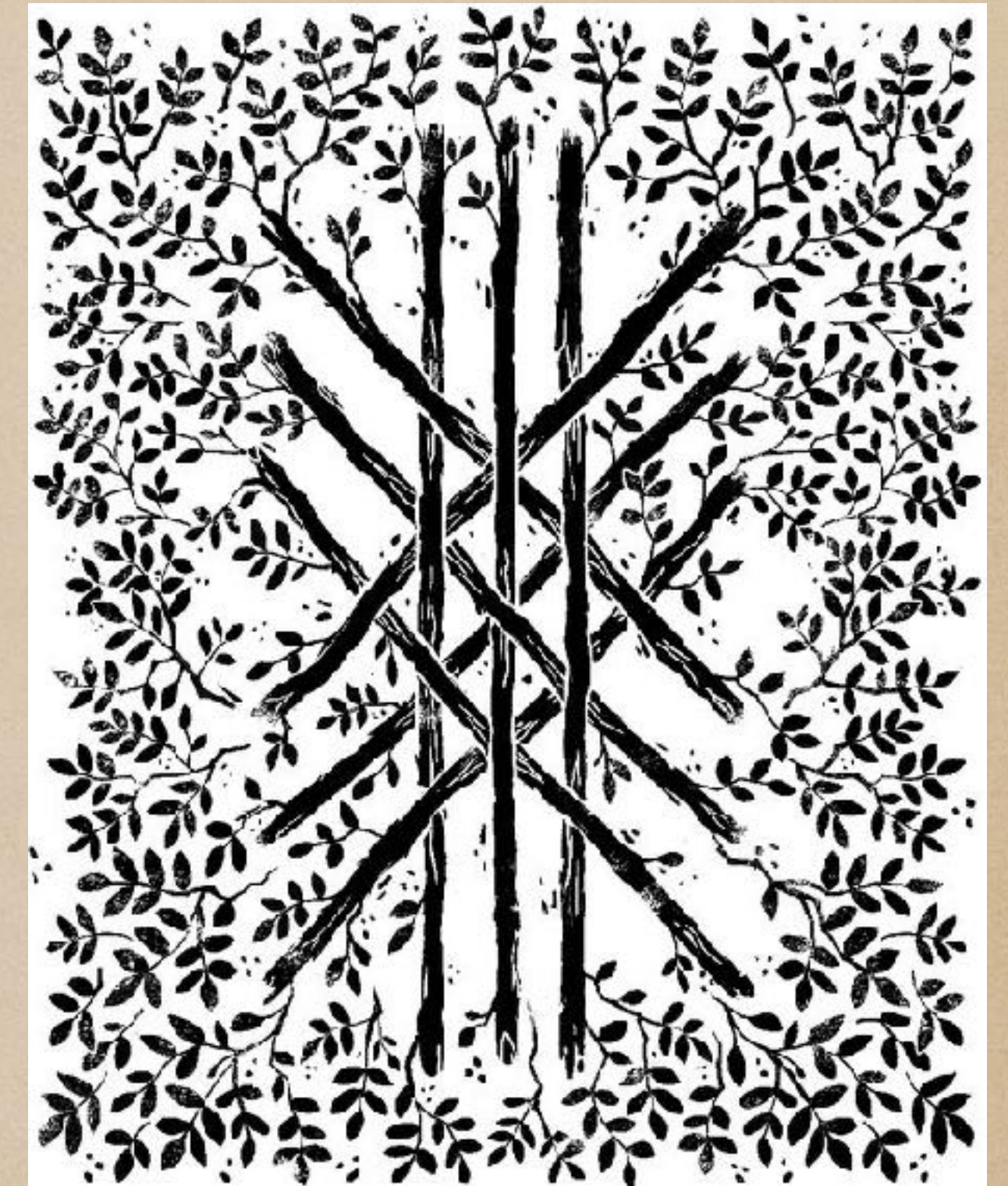
The Way of Wyrd

“Omens frighten the ordinary person because they believe them to be predictions of events that are bound to happen: warnings from the realms of destiny. But this is to mistake the true nature of omens. A sorcerer can read omens as pattern pointers, from which the weaving of wyrd can be admired and from which connections between different parts of patterns can be assumed.”



The Way of Wyrd

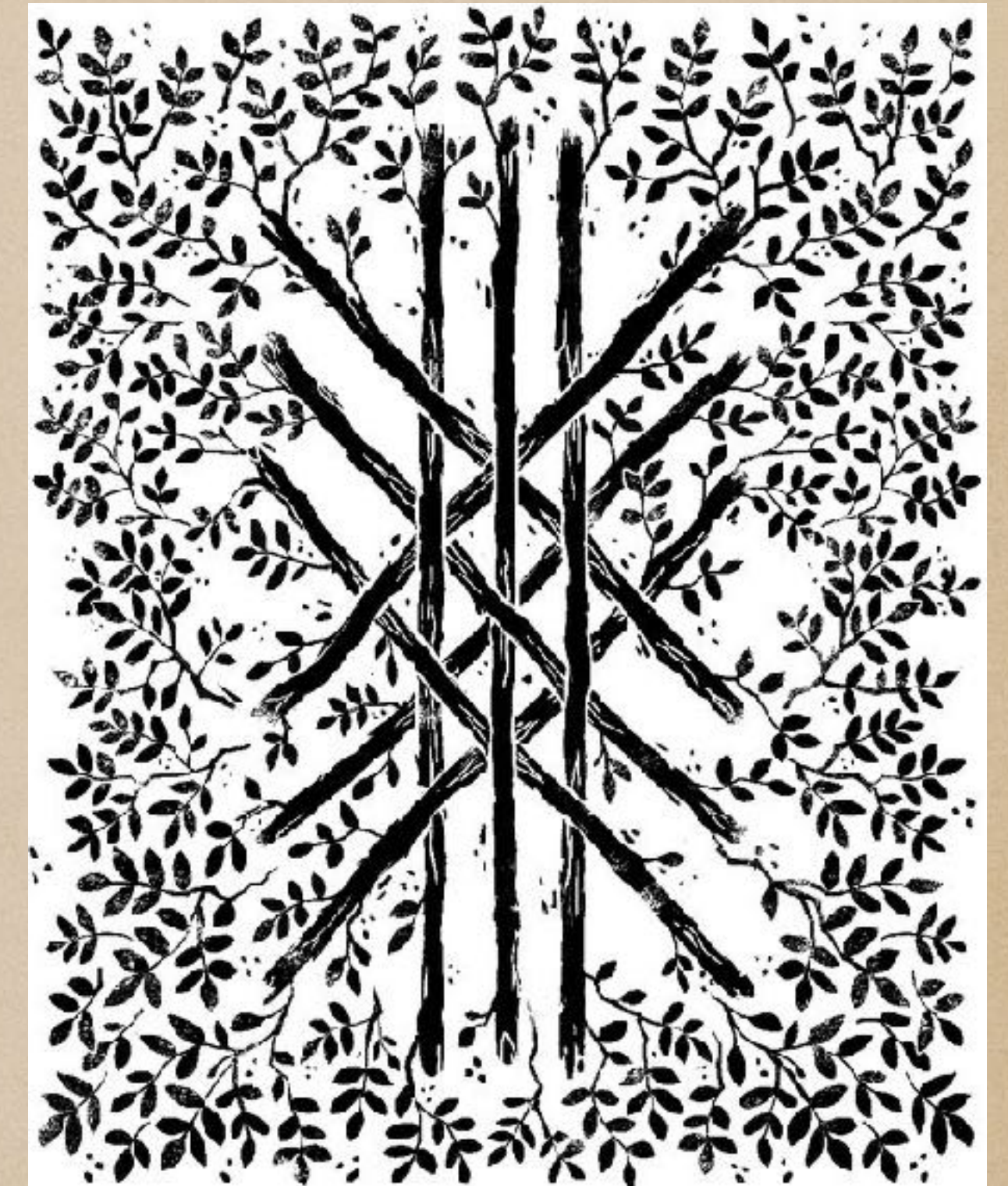
“A dynamic and pervasive world of Spirits coexisted with the material world in Anglo-Saxon culture. The spirits, manifestations of forces pertaining to *wyrd*, were invisible to most humans although they played a prominent and superstitious role in the everyday lives of Anglo-Saxons. But the spirits were visible to the sorcerers, because sorcerers were people naturally endowed with perceptual abilities beyond the normal.”



The Way of Wyrd

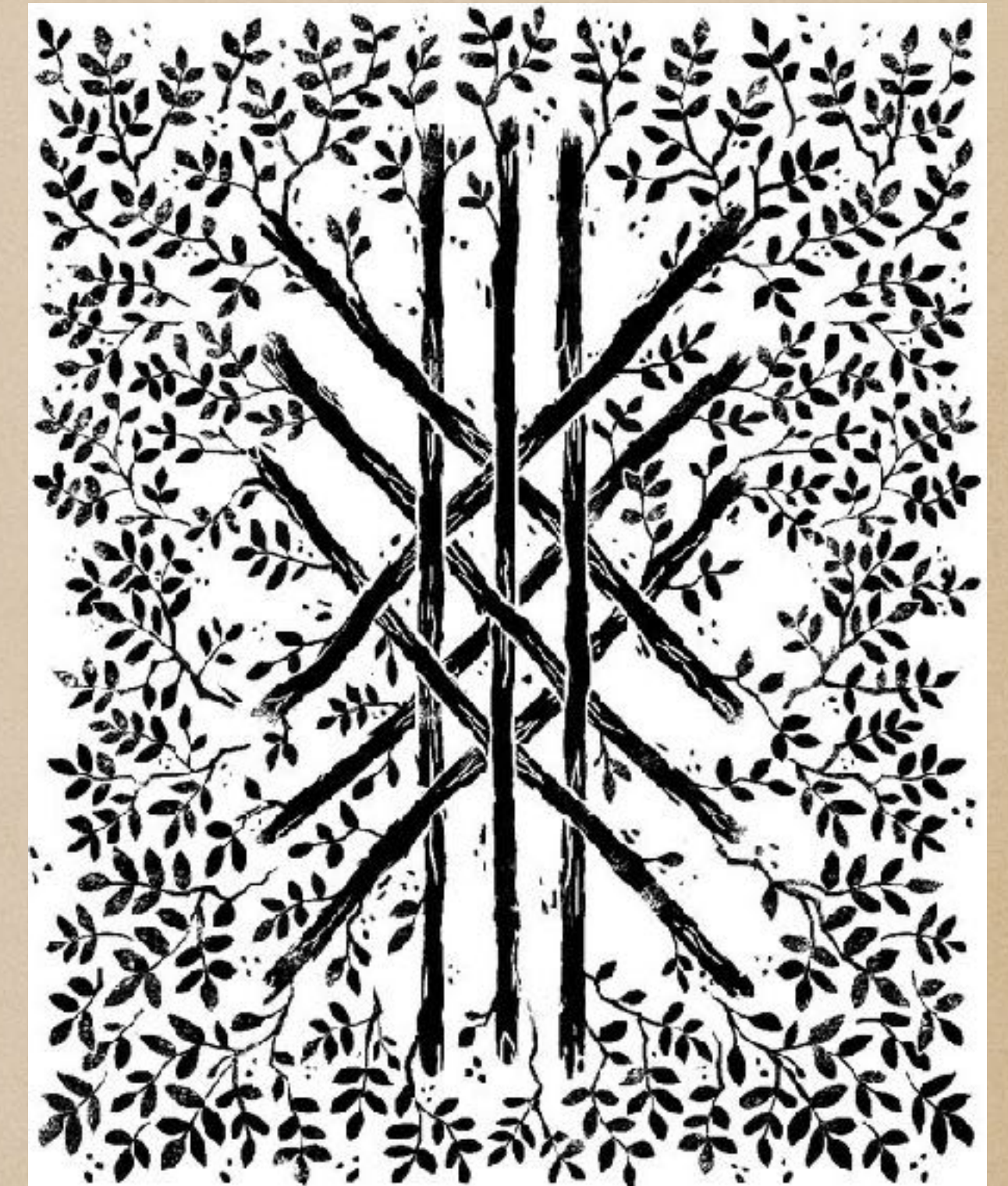
“Patterns change as they are woven. A pattern that is complex has more scope for change, for there are many themes on which a new pattern may be based. But even the simplest of lives changes over the course of time. The task of a sorcerer is to become fully aware and sensitive to all nuances of his life-design as it unfolds.

Aware, as the Weaver, of all the forces that impinge upon the pattern – all colours, shapes, textures. With a weaver like Wyrd, there are no limits to the possible designs and we can never fully appreciate all of our own design. But we can try.”

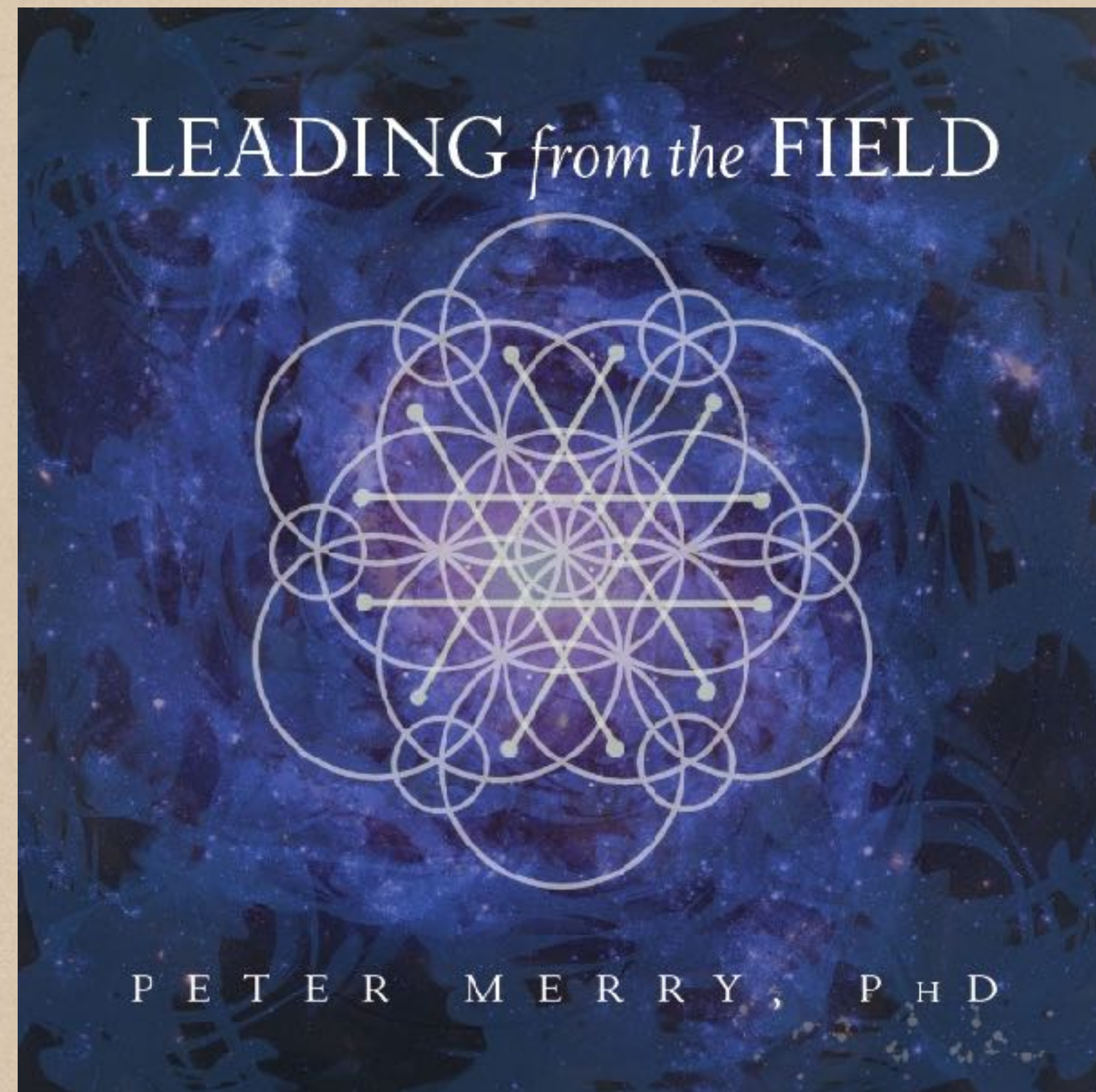


The Way of Wyrd

“The Wyrd Sisters have loosened your fibres. Your fibres can now move freely according to the tides and currents of wyrd, the positions of the stars, the pattern of the sun and moon and the most insignificant of distant events. With your fibres able to move freely, your soul can travel through your shield-skin to the land of the spirits.”



More Wyrd Stuff



<https://petermerry.org>
<https://volutiontheory.net>
<https://whyworkbook.com>
<https://ubiquityuniversity.org>
<https://ubiverse.org>

<https://leadingfromthefield.com>

Book Launch Event
December 1



Introduction to Energetics course
(Starts Nov 6)

