

Gerda (NG Lesser Goddess of Agriculture and Beauty)

by Joel McGraw (from "For better or Norse: I", Dragon Magazine #110)

ARMOR CLASS: 1

MOVE: 15"

HIT POINTS: 280

NO. OF ATTACKS: 3/2

DAMAGE/ATTACK: By weapon type +8

SPECIAL ATTACKS: Nil

SPECIAL DEFENSES: +2 or better weapon  
to hit; also see below

MAGIC RESISTANCE: 50%

SIZE: M (6')

ALIGNMENT: Neutral good

WORSHIPER'S ALIGN: Good alignments  
and farmers

SYMBOL: Basket full of wheat

PLANE: Gladsheim

CLERIC/DRUID: 14th level in each

FIGHTER: 10th level fighter

MAGIC-USER/ILLUSIONIST: 8th level  
magic-user

THIEF/ASSASSIN: Nil

MONK/BARD: 12th level bard

PSIONIC ABILITY: Nil

Attack/Defense Modes: Nil/nil

S: 20 (+3, +8)

I: 20

W: 21

D: 24

C: 25

Ch: 25

LEVEL/X.P. VALUE: (determine)



Gerda, wife of Frey, appears as a beautiful woman who shines with an intense aura. This nimbus glow will dazzle any attacker, so that he suffers a penalty of -4 on his chances to hit her. Her voice acts as a continual *Suggestion* spell. She has absolute power over all cultivated plants and animals, and can cause them to give great yields or none at all.

Gerda is not related to the Aesir or Vanir, but is actually the daughter of Angur-boda and the frost giant Gymir. She was originally as evil as her parents, and would have remained so had not Frey stolen a glance from Odin's forbidden "all-seeing throne". Frey became so enamored in her radiance as it shone from Jotunheim that he could think of nothing else. The lovesick god sent Skirnir to Gymir's hall, and Skirnir eventually convinced Gerda to meet Frey. When Frey took Gerda into his arms, he melted her icy heart and she became his loving wife.

Farmers who worship Gerda give a portion of each harvest to her temples, where the grain is stored for times of famine.