

To get a new name

Crying and illness could affect the child. The name and the child may not have matched. In that case, the naming ritual could be redone. It could happen several times in a person's life. Changing the name would drive away the disease.

The new naming ritual was performed by *Lávvgomieddne*, the godmother. She washed away the old name in a cleansing bath and threw away the water. She then monitored when new water was heated. In the cauldron were two twigs, one shaped like a ring. *Lávvgomieddne* said: - You shall be healthy and strong like this twig. Then she put a name gift in the form of a silver or brass object in the water. Then she continued: -May you become as shining and beautiful as this brass ring. She poured water over the child's head and washed it. She then took the brass ring out of the water and gave it to the child. The ring was protection that always followed you, even as an adult.

After the ritual, the family sacrificed to the goddess *Sáráhkká*, to a guardian spirit or to a deceased relative.

The idea that name and illness can be connected lingered on for a long time, long after one was believed to be a Christian. From early 19th century Jokkmokk, it is told about a couple who changed their original baptismal names to Jovva and Sigga. From Jukkasjärvi it is told about a girl with the baptismal name Britta who had to change her name after an illness. She was called Helena, Elin or Elle instead. This was something that the church turned against and called a pagan custom.