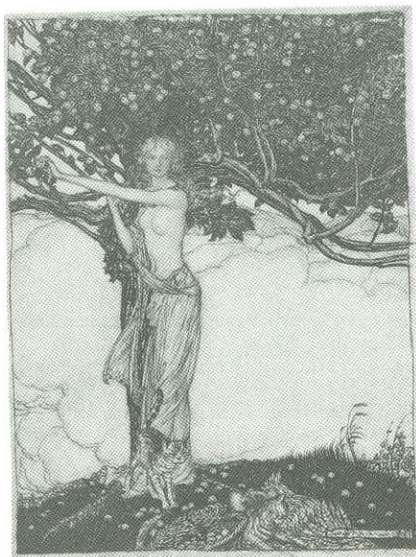


## Scene 2: Story

### Open Space on a Mountain Top

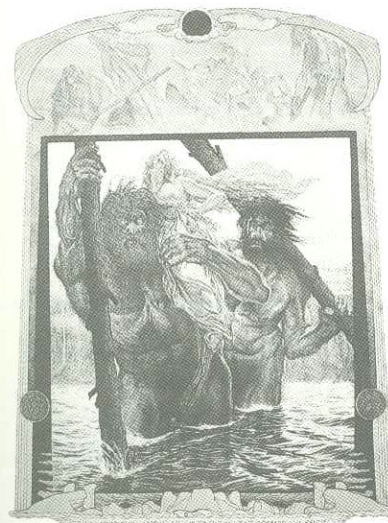
Wotan hails his new fortress, Walhall, which the giants Fasolt and Fafner have built for him. His wife Fricka reminds him of the price he agreed to pay the giants – Freia, her own beautiful young sister. Wotan plays for time, expecting shortly to hear from Loge, his sly adviser, when Freia hastens to the scene, pursued by the giants. Freia's brothers, Donner and Froh, are unable to protect the goddess, while Wotan refuses to accede to the giants' demands. Loge arrives at last. He reports Alberich's theft of the Rhinegold and renunciation of love. He also discloses that Alberich has succeeded in forging a ring from the gold. The giants are now prepared to revoke their original agreement, provided Wotan procures Alberich's gold for them. Wotan, however, wishes to obtain the ring for himself. The giants carry Freia off, and the gods begin to grow feeble and old, since they are no longer sustained by Freia's golden apples. Wotan resolves to descend to Nibelheim, Alberich's abode. Guided by Loge, he plans to win Alberich's gold.



Freia's golden apples;  
illustration by Arthur  
Rackham (1909)

## Scene 2: Action

1. Orchestra: Introduction
2. Fricka wakes the dreaming Wotan
5. Wotan greets Walhall
4. Wotan parries Fricka's reproaches
5. Freia demands help: Wotan relies on Loge
6. Giants demand their wages
7. Wotan refuses
8. Fasolt as moralist
9. Fasolt's grief
10. Golden Apples plot
11. Donner and Froh guard Freia
12. Wotan remonstrates with Donner
15. Loge's sophistry
14. Loge's narration
15. Loge's report causes confusion
16. Wotan and giants as contestants for the gold
17. Freia abducted
18. Gods grow old
19. Wotan resolves to obtain the ring
20. Orchestra: Wotan's and Loge's descent into Nibelheim



Fasolt and Fafner seize  
Freia; lithograph by Franz  
Stassen (1914)