



An Introduction to Viking Mythology

John Grant

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From the Introduction of this 128 page book: "Viking mythology is Norse mythology, and Norse mythology is in turn the best recorded version of Teutonic mythology. The Vikings were a Teutonic people who established themselves in Scandinavia between the late 8th century and the middle of the 11th century. They were characterized by a mixture of great chivalry and barbaric cruelty. Their gods dictated that men should be almost inhumanly brave in death, and so it was a token of respect to a defeated foe to give him the maximum latitude to display his bravery. In this respect the Vikings did, though, show a great deal of honesty: should one of their number be submitted to similar tortures it was expected of him that he should bear them without undue complaint, and should bear no grudge into the afterlife against his tormentors. Even the most warlike of the Vikings did pay lip-service to an ethical system. The mythology which the Norse people have left us has had a powerful affect on our imaginations. The list of modern fiction based on Norse mythology is long. Viking mythology is not a single continuous story; instead it is a set of stories - many of them very good ones - that relate to each other only with difficulty." From the rear cover: "The whole range of Viking Mythology covered, including gods, goddesses, and the afterlife. Over 100 full-color illustrations, including Viking artifacts; Compelling myths and legends told in a lively style."

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