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How did you learn about Nordic mythology? It was from the books for me. My house is full of books that talk about different kinds of mythology. I even studied to learn more about the best mythology books. There's nothing I like more about digging into a fresh mythology book to learn about the new pantheon or find out that a new scholar will learn the subject. If that sounds like you, or if you've always wanted to read about Nordic mythology, but you never knew where to start, I sat my favorite as a mere suggestion. Take what you want. There are thousands of books. Can't you see your favorite? Tell me in the comments. In no particular order, there are the best for those looking to learn more about Nordic mythology. Norse Mythology By Neil Gaiman I've already written a pretty long review about Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology, which you can read here, so I'll be brief. Gaiman loves Nordic mythology, and he really liked telling stories to all his children when they were younger. Somewhere along the line, he realized he should write down how he tells them and spread that love around them. While reading this, you'll feel like you're sitting around a fire and listening to him tell a story. They are written as if they were meant to be, exciting, but without all the notes that other books in mythology like to add. They tell them like stories because that's what they are. Buy it here. Continue reading to see which other book from Gaiman was on the list! The Jane Smiley Saga Islander saga took inspiration from a series of Icelandic prose narratives called the family saga. It's called because they focus on the families who first settled Iceland, then Greenland, and finally, made their way to North America before turning back. Goodreads' user called this book a tremendous feat and did. There are tone names that are very similar to each other and a lot of tangents that could be difficult to keep up with. If you've read game of thrones books and are ready to compare in the real world, this is your next step. The Song of Vikings: Snorri and the Making of the Nordic Myths of Nancy Marie Brown Want to Know About the Man Who Sat It All? Nancy Marie Brown has the number Snorri Snurlson. It wasn't just a rock that traveled from Longhouse to Longhouse, or some kind of Norse Homer. He was incredibly smart, politically powerful and one of the richest people in Iceland at the time. He was also an amazing world for the man of the time, and that undoubtedly helped him move the stories we know and love. Brown is known to write for Tor.com, so if you want to get an impression on her writing style, find out if that style is for you. There is a lot of speculation about human life, but it is well explained and researched. Of course, it will help you understand Snurlson's work well. Of course we have to recommend... Poetic Edda by Snorri Snurlson There Are Quite a Few Poetic Edda out there, but I personally prefer that Jackson Crawford. This version covers everything in the Codex Regius from Poetic Edda, but does not Atlamál.It also includes Baldrs draumar, Rígsãula, Völuspá and skamma, and Grottasõngr. If you're not sure what that means, please read it anyway. The reason I personally like it is because a lot of the time, you see translations that try to copy the meter (or Roman scheme and stylistic pattern) of the original when the original meaning of the song is greatly lost. Crawford doesn't take the same view, but focuses on the narrative rather than being destined to understand. I wouldn't recommend that for college. If you're a new guy who wants to understand Poetic Edda, this is a place to start. And if you're okay with that, you should be out of the way... Prose edda with Snorri Snurlson In order to go against the grain, I actually like the Gutenburg project translation of Prose Edda. Project Gutenburg mings books that are without copyright on the Internet and are an extremely valuable tool for those who write about mythology. Edd's prose speaks a lot about the beginnings of Nordic mythology, including who the world came from, who the gods are and how the world is given. If you're looking for a book that tells you all about the gods, it's your book. Fun fact: I hear the word edda comes from the word of great-grandfather. This book is the great-grandfather not only of Nordic mythology, but also of modern fantasy books, because so much of our conception of fantasy comes from Tolkien, who came from Nordic mythology. The Viking Spirit: An Introduction to Norse Mythology and Religion by Daniel McCoy Daniel McCoy's blog, Norse Mythology for Smart People, is without doubt my favorite resource on the Internet. Dan has a very intelligent and deep voice that carefully takes you through every myth, and then dissuades them into scientific assessment. If you are not only interested in myths, but also interested in what they tell us about the human condition and how they relate to other stories and myths over time and around the world, this is a book for you. The D'Aulaires's Book of Norse Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire The D'Aulaires were very famous writers and illustrators of books of mythology for children. In fact, you were probably featured in their Greek mythology book already in primary school. Their Nordic myths were my personal first introduction to the world of Odin and the other gods, already in first class. While these books are written for children, they belong in the collection of all who love Nordic myths-- if not because of their lyrics, then for their images. Their style is entirely unique, using bright colors and very complex drawings to bring these stories out of the imagination and on the page. They have a tracking book called Norse Gods and Giants, which is well worth being in your collection. American gods with Gaiman This is the only fiction book to make the list, although there are TONS really amazing fictional novels out there that use Nordic mythology as inspiration (probably enough to be able to write another full list!). I decided to list it here because it doesn't just include Nordic myths - it tells them that. He calls the american gods an All-American novel. Although written by a British man, no other book captures the American spirit and how it feels to travel around the United States.As Shadow and Mr Wednesday travel, Shadow and we readers learn so much about Nordic mythology. We are learning the relationship between the Nordic gods, learning the history of how the Mad Men first came to America, and we learn in very and in very and powerful ways how these two cultures stood together. The legend of Sigurd and Gudrun by JRR Tolkien In case you are completely out of the loop, JRR Tolkien was the author of The Hobbit and Lord of the Rings, the largest Nordic mythological stan. In fact, his passion was not writing fiction. She translated Norse and Anglo-Saxon stories into English. You could say That Tolkien was a very cunning linguo. Sigurd and Gudrun consist of two epic, narrative poems, as well as some related lyrics. These songs come from Edde Snorri Snurlson's poetic poem. They found in detail the story of the great hero Sigurd, who fought the dragon Fafnier, and Princess Gudrun, who cheated on her into marriage. What book draws you into Nordic mythology? What would you suggest to add to our list? Comment below and tell us! Did you know we're writing a book about how to use the media? Prepare the lysa jars. Comments will be approved before display. Odin riding Sleipnir (details from Tjängvide Runestone) There are so many books on Nordic mythology out there, especially at the initial level that if you had made a pile with one copy of each it would probably go all the way to Asgard himself. Trying to decide where to start – or where to go from your current position, no matter where it is – can be insane. Hoping to help people navigate this area and get to good things, here is a list of the 10 best books on Nordic mythology (last updated In April 2019). This list is written primarily with a beginner or intermediate student of Nordic mythology in mind, although some of the more specialized books on this list will be very useful to those who are already familiar with the basics of ancient mythology and religion of Nordic and other Germanic peoples and want to go further. The order of books from this list runs around from the most friendly to the newborns to the most advanced. Lower numbered books are not necessarily better than higher numbered books, but lower numbering is more accessible. If you find this list useful enough to choose to buy one or more books listed here, the best way to say thank you is to buy you choose to purchase through amazon links, which are available at the end of each book's description. When you do, I get an automatic small commission on your purchase at no extra cost or so much for you anyway. 1. The Viking Spirit: An Introduction to Norse Mythology and Religion by Daniel McCoy As you probably already know, this is my book. My intention in writing was to create an ideal introduction to Nordic mythology and religion, and in my (apparently consenting) assessment, achieve this goal. Check for yourself and see if you agree. The Viking soul is a prelude to Nordic mythology like no other. As you would expect from the creator of this ever popular website, it is written according to scholarly standards, but in a simple, clear and fun style that is easy to understand and pleasure to read. It includes narratives of no fewer than 34 epic Nordic myths – more than any other book in this field – while providing an equally comprehensive overview of the fascinating Viking religion of which Nordic mythology was a part. You will learn about viking gods and goddesses, about their concept of destiny, their views on the restive life, their moral code, how they thought the universe was structured, how they practiced their faith, the role that magic played in their lives, and much more. The book gives equal weight to non-fiction, historical material and stories. By incorporating the latest ground-breaking research in this field, the Viking soul is the ultimate introduction to the timeless glow of Nordic mythology and religion for the 21st century. Click here to view or purchase Viking Spirit in Amazon, where there is a discount of 10% of your price. 2. The Nordic mythology of Neil Gaiman In Nordic mythology, the commso-grateful fiction writer Neil Gaiman is to re-examine the selection of Nordic myths that have served as an essential source of inspiration for many of his previous works, perhaps especially the much-popular novel American Gods. Although Gaiman convinces only a few dozen surviving Viking myths, his decisions involve almost all the most important ones, such as the creation of the universe and its cataclysmic decline, as well as some that are particularly strange and funny. And with limitations to a certain part of the myth, he is able to expel these myths in a vast, novelistic form that is perhaps the greatest power of the book. He turns some of the greatest stories in world literature into a great contemporary novel in his own way. The only page for some future readers will be that Nordic mythology does not have much discussion about the Nordic religion from which the myths have been excommunication. But if you're only interested in stories, it's hard to beat this book, and if you want more than just stories, you can always round up the picture by reading another of the books on this list, which includes more non-fiction, historical debates about religion. I've heard it from a lot of people. that Nordic mythology and viking spirit are particularly nicely complementary. Click here to view or purchase Nordic mythology from Amazon, where 25% of the list prices are discounted. 3. D'Aulaires's Book of Norse Myths by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire If you are a parent looking for a book on Nordic mythology for your child, D'Aulaires's Book of Norse Myths is easily the best book on Nordic mythology for children. It's not even close to a second. D'Aulaires's Book of Norse Myths is specially written for ages 5 to 9 years, or kindergarten to fourth grade. Lovingly andevoly written and very easy to understand, these tales of Nordic stories and descriptions of the gods and their world will surely forgive your child's imagination and interest in Nordic mythology. Many color images are intercepted throughout. It is also entirely family-friendly – d'Aulaires excludes the lurid elements of Nordic mythology that some parents might find objectionable to their children's reading materials. Click here to view or purchase the D'Aulaires'Book of Norse Myths at Amazon, where it discounted 42% of its price price. 4. The gods and myths of Northern Europe H. R. Ellis Davidson Hilda Roderick Ellis Davidson was one of the most important scientists of Nordic mythology in the twentieth century, but most of her works were written for the general audience and not only for her fellow academic experts. The gods and myths of northern Europe are her most accessible work and it is ideal for beginners who want scholars to take on the Nordic faith. Her book describes the pre-Christian religion of the Nordic and other Germanic Democrats in a way that focuses less on storytelling than on historical religion, whose narratives were only one part. The reader comes out with a picture of the pre-Christian Germanic religion, which is more thorough and nisč than just any other unanimous popular introduction to this topic or similar. For decades, the gods and myths of northern Europe have rightly been one of the most read books about the Viking era. Click here to view or buy the Gods and Myths of Northern Europe on Amazon, where the discount is 14% of the list prices. 5. Myth and Religion of the North: Religion of Ancient Scandinavia by E.O.G. Turville-Petre Many lycens on the gods and myths of Northern Europe of Elisa Davidson (#4), the legendary Oxford Old Norse professor E.O.G. Turville-Petre's Myth i religion of the north gives an obimanical overview of the pre-Christian religion of Scandinavia. Although it is slightly more academic than Ellis Davidson's book (which is why I am the gods and myths of northern Europe as #4 and the myth and religion of the North fed up as #5), Turville-Petre is more than self-emaning with its own integrity and sharpening of insight. Where Ellis Davidson is very admirable, Turville-Petre is astounding. In many universities around the world, the myth and faith of the North as the go-to reference book for all things related to Nordic mythology, and for a reason. Reading this book is like an intellectual initiative. To put it simply: until you read this absolutely essential book, you're just a dabbler in Nordic mythology. Click here to view or purchase the Myth and Religion of the North: The Religion of Ancient Scandinavia on the Amazon. 6. Poetic Edda in the translation of Jackson Crawford Now we come to the primary sources ourselves (in English translation, of course). Poetic Edda is the work of such vision and the sheer ment of beauty that she has little rival in all world literature. It is a collection of old Nordic mythical and heroic poems, which were composed by anonymous poets in Iceland or Scandinavia during the Viking period and soon after. Taken together, these poems are our most important source of information for Nordic mythology and religion. To be perfectly honest, no English translation that has been published so far is close to the transfer of full-scale dimensions and fluctuations (both aesthetic and philosophical) old-fashioned texts. To a large extent, this is inevitable; As Robert Frost once said: I could define poetry this way: that is what is lost both from prose and in translation. However, Jackson Crawford's translation achieves what no other translation to date has: the style is clear and easy to understand, while preserving many of the beauty of the original. (Other translations are on one or the other, but not both.) That's a lot of pressure. Click here to view or purchase Poetic Edda on Amazon. 7. Prose Edda Snorri Sturluson, 2000, 2000, was 200,000,000,000