



Tracing Old Norse Cosmology: The World Tree, Middle Earth and the Sun in Archeological Perspectives (Vagar Till Midgard)

By Anders Andrén



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The study of Old Norse religion is a truly multidisciplinary and international field of research. The rituals, myths, and narratives of pre-Christian Scandinavia have been studied and interpreted in detail relying mainly on Christian Icelandic literature from the Middle Ages. Here, Anders Andrén offers a long-term perspective on Old Norse cosmology and argues that the fundamental ideas of an ordered universe, time, and space in Old Norse religion can be studied in a dialogue between archaeology and the Icelandic narrative tradition. Ideas about the world tree, middle earth, and the sun can be traced in images and material culture from Scandinavian prehistory. By combining the prehistoric representations with the later written record the author presents a fresh and nuanced study of the fascinating Old Norse world.



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- Sales Rank: #1991125 in Books
- Published on: 2014-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.80" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 248 pages



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About the Author

Anders Andréén is professor of archaeology at Stockholm University. He was formerly professor of medieval archaeology at Lund University, and has also been a visiting scholar in Athens, Cambridge, Copenhagen, Heidelberg, Sydney, and Uppsala.

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