

Essay No.2 - Creation Myths

Creation stories are an essential part of humanity's culture and mythological research. Many people around the world and throughout time have individual perspectives on the origins of life and the universe. Norse mythology studies stories from Nordic cultures and takes a look at German/ Scandinavian history to examine Viking beliefs. Some characteristics of the Nordic creation involve the creation of giants from an abyss of fire and Ice, and three brothers destined to destroy the family of giants to create the world.

According to Norse Mythology, before the creation of life there was a vast abyss called, Ginungagap, which stood between a very dark/cold place and a land of fire. Ymir, the first in the nordic giants family, was born from the emptiness between these opposite lands. While Ymir the giant slept, his armpits and other parts of his body grew into other giants, male and female. They were sustained by a giant cow who like Ymir, also emerged from the abyss of Ginungagap. Out of the vast emptiness the cow and giants also created a couple, Borr and his wife Bestla: who gave birth to three sons, Odin, Vili, and Ve. Despite originating from Ymir & the giants, the three brothers despised Ymir and the fact that they were outnumbered by the giants. The godlike brothers succeeded in attacking Ymir and the giants while sleeping, they used Ymir's body to create life and the world, his flesh became Earth, his bones became mountains, his blood the seas and lakes and his skull, the skies. The brothers created the sun and moon, then a fertile garden called Midgard. On Midgard the brothers found fallen trees, Odin gave the the logs spirit and life, Ve gave them movement &

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intelligence, and Vili gave them shape, emotions, and senses: creating the the first two humans Ask (man) and Embla (woman).

Although I find the entirety of this story to be unbelievable, it is still one of the most interesting creation myth I have ever heard. The four functions of Mythology: Mystical, cosmological, sociological, and psychological, help us interpret these stories and their roles within communities throughout time. I believe this Nordic myth is best applied to a cosmological function, seeing as this is a vast cultural specific story that gives structure to their beliefs and ideas of creation. It creates a clear image of the universe and how life came to be through the eyes of Nordic culture.

Works Cited

four-functions.pdf (Canvas Article file)

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CrashCourse. "Earth Mothers and Rebellious Sons - Creation Part 3: Crash Course World Mythology #4" Online video. YouTube, 17 Mar 2017 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIFVFRkEfw&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtNCG9Vq7vdvJytS-F-xGi7_&index=5