

The Dream of the Rood

Monday, July 2, 2018

2:17 PM

- 4
 - A scop wishes to tell a dream he had of a tree.
 - We see the mentioning of a wonderous tree
 - Tree is decadent
 - The tree is guarded by all the angels of gods fair creation
- 11
 - "That was no cross of a criminal.."
 - It was the cross of Christ, not one of the other two men.
- 14
 - I am stained by sin and stricken by guilt
 - The narrator tells how he is guilted by the sight of the cross
- 18
 - The tree bled down the right hand side
 - Significance of the right?
- 20-25
 - Lost?
- 27
 - The finest of the trees speaks
 - Tells of his origin from the edge of the forest
- 35
 - "The lord of mankind.. Such courage to climb upon me"
 - Christ is strong and brave, he does not hesitate to climb upon the cross. Christ could have fought them off, but he chose to climb upon the cross as if he intended for this to happen.
- 38
 - "I could have felled all my foes"
 - Christ is depicted to the Anglo-Saxon's as a strong commanding presence, because they would only accept a strong harrowing force.
- 45-50
 - The tree is the cross Christ was nailed upon
- 50
 - They insulted us both together

- This shows that there is an identification that Christ=cross, they are suffering the same fate. Despite the fact that they are
- 65-70
 - "And here they began to build a sepulcher.."
 - They build the tomb of Christ
 - The Scop knew the Christian story better than most, he may even already be converted. Unlike in the Wanderer, we don't feel like the individual is a Pagan rather he already converted.
- 75-80
 - The cross is buried in a pit before being dug up by the followers of the lord. The cross is then decorated in gold and silver.
- 85-105
 - The tree/cross tells the man to share the story of how he endured bitter anguish he endured by evil man. To tell them with words that he is the tree of glory, where Christ suffered for the sins of man committed, and for Adam's weakness long ago
 - The cross told him to describe the story to all men, it was not a dream; it was a vision.
- 109-114
 - Tells how God will judge them at the gates of Heaven
 - Promises if you embrace Christianity you get the hope of salvation
- 123-130
 - The man prays to the cross hoping for strength to honor it fully
- 133-136
 - Speaks of how his friends have passed, signifying perhaps his involvement in a holy war or that he is old.
- 136-145
 - The man shows his hope for the day he will venture to Heaven.
- 148-end
 - "Hope is renewed"
 - Lost in these phrases

This poem is saying, rather than your religion is wrong, that your religion is right! The cross is referred to as a tree more than anything else. Yggdrasil is the child version of the cross. It is the stepping stone to where any can live their life properly and still get to a life after death. There has always been a life after

death, we just didn't understand it. Warriors got to go to Valhalla but so did everyone else.

Christians included Pagan ideas into Christianity in an attempt to include these new Pagan individuals; Easter bunnies and Christmas Trees