

Class 2

Tuesday, July 3, 2018

12:55 PM

- Where are we going this semester?
 - Starts around 500-600
 - Beowulf is oral tradition from 500-1000
 - Around 1000 Beowulf becomes a written document
 - The period from 500-1066 is known as the Anglo Saxon/Old English language
 - English is a combination of several different groups that came together
 - As Western Europeans invade early England they push the Celtic people out.
 - ◆ The Celtic people inhabit Ireland, Scotland, The Isle of Man and Wales.
 - ◇ These people would need to communicate with one another in trade etc.
 - ▶ The two prominent languages from the Anglos and the Saxons and thus they blend together and that's how we get Anglo-Saxon
 - Who were these people and what was their world like?
 - In England (Angle land corrupted today into the word England.)
 - Tribal people led over by a chieftain (a king)
 - Lived in wattle and daub huts



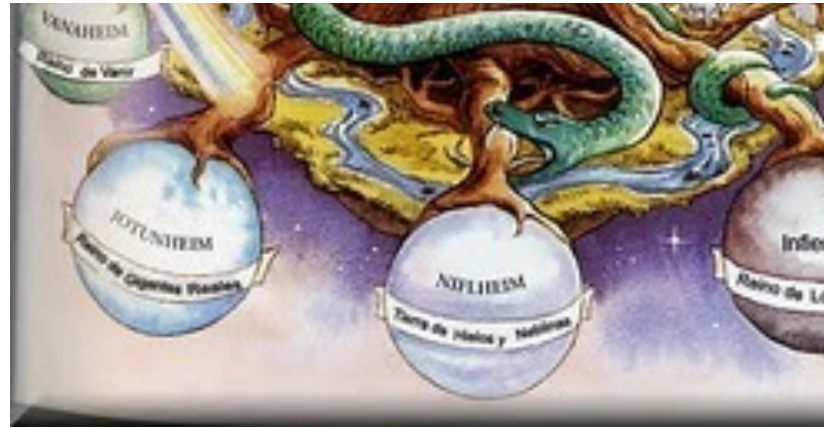
- Typically never traveled far
- Held a job
 - Learned the jobs early in life and did their jobs for life
 - ◆ Would sometimes start their days by socializing then

eventually get around to working.

- Lived in a place where it would get dark early
 - Would have to deal with long, dark, cold nights.
 - ◆ To combat this they had large (mead) halls in the middle of their towns.
 - ◇ Towns of people would fill these halls and share stories and songs
 - ▶ Mead was the most significant drink they had
 - Mead was fermented honey
 - The role of Alcohol in antiquity
 - ◆ Water was dangerous
 - ◆ Alcohol could be stored and is safe to drink
- Beliefs at this time
 - Revolved around the Teutonic mythologies
 - ◆ They believed the great tree was the universe (Yggdrasil)
 - ◇ Yggdrasil is the WORLD TREE
 - ◇ Lived in the middle (Midgard)







- ◇ The heavens where Asgard, ruled by Odin
 - ▶ The days of the week are derived from the gods in Asgard, (except the weekend and Monday.)
 - ▶ The gods where not benevolent
 - Most tried not to be noticed by the gods
- ◆ Below Midgard
 - ◇ The cosmos
 - ◇ Protected by a giant serpent
 - ▶ Eats all who try to enter
- ◆ The prophesy of the end of days
 - ◇ Great war known as Ragnarok
 - ▶ All will be slaughtered except those who live in Midgard, as they will not engage in the war.
 - ▶ Human kind will exist peacefully free from the gods
- ◆ Death
 - ◇ When you die you're gone
 - ◇ The greatest fighters (both men and women) will be brought up by the Valkyrie (Val=dead Kyrie= carries/ carriers of the dead) to a great mead hall (Valhalla) Val=death Halla=hall Death Hall/ Hall of the dead
- ◆ Introduction to Christianity
 - ◇ Accepting the concept that Christ died and this being a good thing was hard for the Anglo-Saxons.
 - ▶ They thought death was the ultimate



failure. This would be accepted over time.

- Words we should know

- Transliteration

- Taking an older form of a language and translating it to a modern form of English.

- Lof

- Single most important concept to the Anglo-Saxon people. Something like fame, but also something like Glory. Is also like immortality and is simply being remembered.
 - The concept that if you can remember someone, especially someone we have never met, and we can see them in our minds. They can see what we see and they can see what we see.

- Wyrð

- Pronounced weird
 - Means fate/destiny.
 - ◆ Believe in predestination. Gods decided their fate.
 - ◆ In 1606 a clever playwright was looking for a word to describe three magical sisters who could see the future. He called the three sisters the weird sisters.

- Scop

- Pronounced SHOP
 - The poet, Historian, Storyteller of the Comitatus.
 - ◆ His job is every evening is to tell a story.
 - ◆ Uses some structures such as the Kenning

- Se Anhaga ("The Wanderer" - The Solitary One

- Comitatus (War Band)

- Not Anglo-Saxon
 - Latin term for an armed escort or retinue.

- Kenning

- A compound poetic descriptor such as:
 - ◆ Gold-Friend (Ring breaker)
 - ◇ The king, demonstrates his approval by giving you gold.
 - ▶ The gold would be crafted into a fine chain and he would give those he approved of a length of chain that he would break with his hand.

- ◆ Swan-road

- ▼ Swaif-Hoau
 - ◇ The river
 - ◆ Whale Road
 - ◇ The Ocean
 - The Anglo Saxon's used the Runic alphabet
 - Ð Eth is pronounced "f" but gives the hard TH sound.
 - Ðaem feower bairn hað forð geriddan into þa worold gewoken.
 - Them four children had forth ridden into the world awoken.
- Medial Rhyme
 - Rhyme happening in the middle of the line
 - The Anglo-Saxon's used Medial Rhyme
 - Hreran Mid Hondum Hrimceald sae
 - Hereran
 - To make
 - Mid
 - With
 - Hondum
 - Hands
 - UM makes it plural
 - Hrimceald
 - Frost-cold
 - ◆ Cold-frost
 - Sae
 - Sea
 - The transliteration changed hands to an Oar, this changes the meaning of the phrase greatly.
- Original title of the Wanderer is *Se Anhaga* means *The One Solitary* or the *Solitary One*
 - The king and Comitatus where killed, he has lost everything. He has no home, no lof.
 - Not only has he lost his personal belongings, his people's memory will be forgotten.
 - He has even lost the memory of who he is in the world.
- Nostalgia
 - The pain of memory
 - A nainful recollection

- repair/reconnection

