

A Timeline of Pagan poetry writing into Christianity (fra M. Kvillhaug)

### **834 Oseberg Ship Burial**

#### **855 Þjóðólfr ór Hvini or Thiodolf the Wise**

writes pagan poems for Harald Fairhair from Rogaland.

**872 Harald** won the final battle at Hafsfjord which unified Norway under his crown.

Many Norwegian chief families escape his tyranny by moving to Iceland.

Harald and his wife Ragnhild Eriksdotter are of the Ynglinga Dynasty and could name 30 generations, their relationships and how they died.

That brings their timeline to 200 BC - 1000 years of origin stories back to the mythical past/deified ancestral progenitors - Freyr and Gerd.

Thiodolf composed poems about the paintings on the shield, shieldpoem Skjoldkvad as well as Husdrappa - House Poem based on the paintings in the house, namely the Seal and Walrus Heimdal and Loki fight for Freyja's necklace. He wrote Haustlög and many other poems.

**930 Haakon the Good** (one of Harald's sons) tries unsuccessfully to convert Norway to Christianity

933 Harald Fairhair dies at age 80

### **960 Denmark officially Christianized**

960 - 1000

**Olaf Tryggvason was King of Norway from 995 to 1000.** He was the son of Tryggvi Olafsson, king of Viken (Vingulmark, and Rånrike), and, according to later sagas, the great-grandson of Harald Fairhair, first King of Norway. He built the first Christian church and attempted conversion through violence (Olaf I).

**995 to 1030 Olaf II Haraldsson** (c. 995 – 29 July 1030) converted to Christianity for political purposes but did not bring Norway into state religion until after his death and the miracles associated with it. He is called St. Olaf.

**1000 Icelandic Parliament** votes for Christianity as a state religion for 2000 years - paganism still legal - this event is known as the kristnitaka (literally, "the taking of Christianity"). The law speaker of the Althing, Thorgeir Thorkelsson, gothi of Ljósavatn spent a day and a night resting under a fur blanket, contemplating. The following day he announced that Iceland was to become Christian for 1000 years, with the condition that old laws concerning the exposure of infants and the eating of horseflesh would remain, and that private pagan worship be permitted.

**1030 Norway** declares Christianity as state religion after Olaf's death.

**1056 - 1133 Sæmundr the Wise** - he is the first to write books in Old Norse, wrote a lost history of the kings of Norway which is referenced by Snorri. Was attributed to have been the recorder of the Eddas

but not proven. Many folk stories abound about how he tricked the devil. He was said to have studied at the Svartskoli or Black school for dark arts. He was trapped here for many long years but finally managed to trick the headmaster, the devil.

**1100** Paganism is outlawed in Iceland - The Edda Poems were written down from oral tradition after paganism is outlawed and hidden away in a family until 1643.

**1100** Christianity is declared official religion of Sweden

1178 Snorri Sturluson is born

**1220 Snorri** writes Heimskringla and Prose Edda to preserve Skaldic poetry - Snorri got the oral transmission from a very old woman whose father had been a pagan priest and a grown man before paganism was completely outlawed in 1100 when Sæmundr the Wise began writing in the Norse Language. The same year the Edda poems were written down and hidden away by the same family in Iceland until 1643 when they felt it was safe enough to resurface these pagan poems.

**2000** - Kristintakker of Iceland ends - Pagan temple is restored