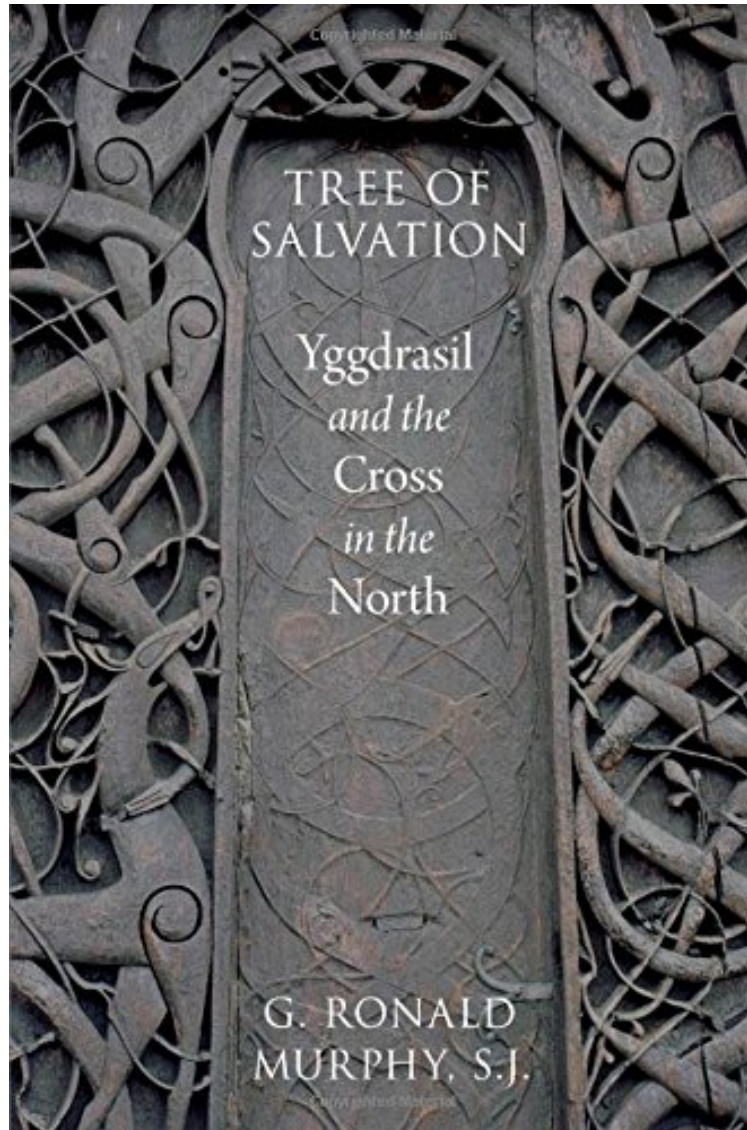


[Download ebook] Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North

## Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North

*G. Ronald Murphy*

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**G. Ronald Murphy : Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross in the North:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. ImaginaiveBy JoeyWhile giving this book 5 stars, I'm not exactly saying I agree with everything the author has put forward. But I will say that this is a fascinating tale of the meaning of the Norse myth of the world tree and how it prevailed during the conversion process to Christianity in Germanic lands. The tree Yggdrasil saved the human race from annihilation during the fall of the gods. This story was absorbed into

Christian imagery rather than it being forgotten. The author sees Yggdrasil in old churches, art, artifacts, the rune row, all the way down to our Christmas tree. Most of his work takes place in Scandinavia, so if you love anything Nordic this will be a great read. The writing is engaging and accessible and it feels as if this was a labor of love on the part of the author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Inspirational, thought-provoking book  
By Penny  
This book far exceeded my expectations. I found it inspirational, thought-provoking and insightful. I was hooked when I read the scripture verse in the dedication ("each one heard them speaking in his own native language" Acts 2:6) and realized that the Lord was speaking to the Norsemen through their own stories and traditions, that He had prepared their hearts for the good news of the gospel long before they actually heard it. G. Ronald Murphy, S.J. has a wonderful way of bringing history to life and of opening up new worlds of ideas. I enjoyed the book so much that I ordered his translation of the "Heliland, the Saxon Gospel" and am finding it fascinating. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating  
By Raven 389  
I can't evaluate this work as art history, except to say it is extremely interesting. From a more general point of view, and theologically, it is very fine, offering an uncommon view of early medieval religious enculturation. The book is also elegantly written and beautifully made (in cloth).

Winner of the 2014 Mythopoeic Myth Fantasy Studies Award  
At the heart of the mythology of the Anglo-Scandinavian-Germanic North is the evergreen Yggdrasil, the tree of life believed to hold up the skies and unite and separate three worlds: Asgard, high in the tree, where the gods dwelled in their great halls; Middlegard, where human beings lived; and the dark underground world of Hel, home to the monstrous goddess of death. With the advent of Christianity in the North around the year 1000, Yggdrasil was recast as the cross on which Christ sacrificed himself. G. Ronald Murphy offers an insightful examination of the lasting significance of Yggdrasil in northern Europe, showing that the tree's image persisted not simply through its absorption into descriptions of Christ's crucifix, but through recognition by the newly converted Christians of the truth of their new religion in the images and narratives of their older faith. Rather than dwelling on theological and cultural differences between Christianity and older Anglo-Scandinavian beliefs, Murphy makes an argument internal to the culture, showing how the new dispensation was a realization of the old. He shows how architectural and literary works, including the Jelling stone in Denmark, the stave churches in Norway, The Dream of the Rood, the runes of the futhark, the round churches on Bornholm, the Viking crosses at Middleton in Yorkshire and even the Christmas tree, are all indebted to the cultural interweaving of cross and tree in the North. Tree of Salvation demonstrates that both Christian and older Northern symbols can be read as a single story of salvation.