

A VIKINGVERSE ONE SHOT

YGGDRASIL

IN THE BEGINNING



OUTLAND
ENTERTAINMENT

IAN STUART
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VIKINGVERSE

FOREWORD

In the beginning...

Seems like an appropriate place to start a story. Or does it? After all, where does anything begin?

It turns out Genesis is borrowed from the Greek word for origin, which in turn was inspired by the Biblical Hebrew, which scholars argue dates all the way back to the court of Solomon. Or maybe Nebuchadnezzar.

No one has the faintest idea.

When I set out to write the alternate sagas of the Vikingverse, a parallel timeline where Christianity was expunged by the fury of the Northmen, I also had no idea I would end up tumbling down so many historical rabbit holes. The Norse creation myth as described in *Völuspá* is no less primeval or mysterious than anything in the Bible, and may well have been influenced by it. Like any good story, it probably got embellished.

And that's what this comic is. A tall tale, an origin myth reimaged, made as part of the Kickstarter for *When the Wolf Comes*.

The first thing you'll notice is – there are no words. It is a silent comic. I think that, when you look at it in the context of the RPG rulebook, it is better for being stripped down to just the pictures. The story is told over aeons and involves all manner of life, both human and non-human. We might have thrown in archaic grunts or alien alphabets, on speech bubbles, but that suggest that trees talk in a conventional sense. They also tended to distract from central theme of the pages: we have more in common than that which divides us. That's an important thing to remember when tussling with races, ancestries and origins in a fledgling RPG!

Norse fans will also notice that the comic forms a retread of *Gylfaginning*. You might be able to spot characters such as a rewoven Ask and Embla, Auðumbla and Norðri, all threaded into the Vikingverse. If you have read the *All-Father Paradox* novel, you find find it serves as a kind of epilogue. If you are just interested in the RPG, you can consider it a prologue. If sitting round a table role-playing has taught us anything, it is that as one journey ends, another begins.

--Ian Stuart Sharpe
April 2024

◆VIKINGVERSE◆

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IN THE BEGINNING

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