REVIVING LOKI
MYTH – DEVIL – HISTORY – COMMUNITY

OCEAN KELTOI
LOKI AND LOKEANS

- Most controversial deity in both Heathenry and scholarship
- Most controversial modern practice
- Troth ban
- Ban from myriad of Heathen organizations and groups
- Norse myth’s Satan
- Lokeans and nokeans
THREE ARGUMENTS AGAINST LOKI WORSHIP

- LOKI IS EVIL
- LOKI CONTRIBUTES TO MORAL DECAY
- LOKI WAS NEVER WORSHIPPED IN HISTORY
RECONSTRUCTIONISM

- Reconstruction as a historical process
- Those in the past gained connection
- We seek to imitate that connection
- What we build will not be the same
- Unsolvable puzzles of history and spirituality
LOKI’S EDDIC MYTHS

POSITIVE MYTHS
- BLOOD OATH WITH ODIN
- THOR IN A WEDDING DRESS
- LOKI VS LOGI
- LOKI THE CREATOR / LODURR CONNECTION

NEGATIVE MYTHS
- THOR VS GERRIOD
- LOKI HATES GOATS
- DEATH OF BALDR
- LOKI TALKS SMACK
- SAXO’S BOUND UTGARDA - LOKI
- FATHER OF MONSTERS
- RAGNAROK
LOKI’S EDDIC MYTHS

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

- MAKING ASGARD GREAT AGAIN
  - LOKI BENEFITS THE GODS
- TRAGEDY OF OTTER
- SIF’S BAD HAIR DAY
  - GIFTS TO THE GODS
- KIDNAPPING OF IDUNN
  - LOKI AND HIS WORD
# Loki’s Eddic Myths

## Negative Myths

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<tr>
<th>Negative Myths</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Thor vs Gerriod</td>
<td>- Saxo’s Bound Utgarda - Loki</td>
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<td>- Inconsistent associations with Loki</td>
<td>- May not be Loki, but if it is, it’s evidence of worship</td>
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<td>- Thor’s protecting his friend</td>
<td>- Saxo’s bias</td>
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<td>- Loki hates goats</td>
<td>- Condemnation of Paganism</td>
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<td>- Inconsistent associations</td>
<td>- Father of Monsters</td>
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<td>- Death of Baldr</td>
<td>- Appears to be Christian influence</td>
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<td>- Loki’s involvement inconsistent</td>
<td>- Angrboda and Bera</td>
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<td>- Irish influence</td>
<td>- Ragnarok</td>
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<td>- Loki talks smack</td>
<td>- Christian Frankensteins monster of myths</td>
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<td>- Murder appears to be a late addition</td>
<td>- Loki’s involvement is limited, and only associated with Heimdallr</td>
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<td>- Depicts Loki as the rebellious truth teller</td>
<td>- Pagan sources do not mention Loki</td>
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IS LOKI THE DEVIL?

- Parallels between Lokeans and Satanists
- Parallels between Loki and Satan
- Saxo’s Utgarda-Loki and the Demonization
  - Saxo’s Bias
- Hakonarmal and Eiriksmal
  - Snorri, Fenrir, and Created Binding Legends
IS LOKI THE DEVIL?

- Rooth and the Authentic Loki
- Christianization and Demonization
- Irish Influence
- Christian Influence
- What is the Authentic Loki?
- Viking Age Loki
- Migration Period Loki
- Gothic Loki
- Identifying the Origins of Christianizations
- Snorri and Saxo’s Distinct Stages of Demonization
- Multiplicity of Loki Traditions
- Kennings and the Positive Loki
THE LOKI OF MYTH

- HONEST
  - HOLDS TO HIS WORD AND WORDS HIS PROMISES CAREFULLY
  - HONESTY IS OFTEN EXPLOITED
- OWNERSHIP OF HIS ACTIONS
  - THREATS MADE AGAINST LOKI
  - CREATES SOLUTIONS
- JUST AS FRUSTRATED AT HIS PREDICAMENTS AS ANYONE ELSE
- OUTSIDER
  - PARENTAGE – POSSIBLY JOTUN FATHER AND AESIR MOTHER
- GENDER BENDER
  - SHAPESHIFTING / GENDER
# Historical Loki Worship

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Against</th>
<th>Points in Favor</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Scholars generally hold that there was no historical worship</td>
<td>- Enduring folk practices featuring Loki</td>
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<tr>
<td>- No placenames</td>
<td>- Fire, nets, knots, spiders</td>
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<td>- Lack of legends in which he engages with humanity</td>
<td>- Worship of Odin in Iceland</td>
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<tr>
<td>- King Gorm and Utgarda-Loki</td>
<td>- Arguments and evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Point of centralized religious cultus and social stability</td>
<td>- Romans and the Lares</td>
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<td>- Strongest point against</td>
<td>- Materials of personal idols</td>
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<td>- Questionable artifacts</td>
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THE HISTORICAL LOKEAN

IF THEY EXISTED:
- LIKELY PERSONAL OR HOUSEHOLD PRACTICE
- SIMILAR SOCIAL SPACE AS LOKI
- EXISTED ON FRINGES
- PEOPLE WHO VIOLATED SOCIAL NORMS
- ASSOCIATIONS WITH MAGICAL PRACTICE
RECONSTRUCTIONISM

- RECONSTRUCTION AS A HISTORICAL PROCESS
- THOSE IN THE PAST GAINED CONNECTION
- WE SEEK TO IMITATE THAT CONNECTION
- WHAT WE BUILD WILL NOT BE THE SAME
- UNSOLVABLE PUZZLES OF HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY
TREND TOWARD LOKI

- DAWN IN THE 1970S
- FICTION, NOVELS, MARVEL
- NOT TOTALLY HERO NOR VILLAIN
- TREND TOWARD APPRECIATION OF THIS REPRESENTATION
- EMBRACE OF COMPLEX HEROES
- QUEER ICON
- LOKEAWS EXIST AND IN LARGE NUMBERS
- LOKEAWS AND LGBTQ IDENTITY
CHALLENGES TO LOKEANS

- HISTORICAL CRITICISM
- NEOPAGAN VS RECON DYNAMIC
- PURITY OF RECONSTRUCTIONISM
  - UNCHANGING RELIGION
  - HISTORY OF CHANGING RELIGION
  - APPLICATIONS TO HEATHENRY
- WHAT IS BEING REVIVED VS WHAT IS KEPT IN HISTORY
  - THRALLDOM
  - ERGI
  - STIGMAS
- BEHAVIORAL CRITICISMS RELATED TO MORAL DECAY / DEVIANCE
THREE ARGUMENTS AGAINST LOKI WORSHIP

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ARGUMENTS
- LOKI IS EVIL
  - OVERSIMPLIFICATION OF CHARACTER
- LOKI CONtributes TO MORAL DECAY
  - LARGELY QUEERPHOBIC CRITICISM
  - SOURCE OF THE CRITICISM
- LOKI WAS NEVER WORSHIPPED IN HISTORY
  - QUESTIONABLE AND IRRELEVANT
- ARGUMENTS BOIL DOWN TO: MORAL DECAY
  - WHAT IS THE MORAL DECAY THO?
  - STRATEGY OF UNDERMINING POINTS ASSOCIATED WITH QUEER COMMUNITIES BY FEMINIZING AND INFANTALIZING
  - QUESTIONS OF HARM
BANNING LOKI

- PEACEKEEPING AND POLITICS
  - FEEDING INTO QUEERPHOBIA AND PERPETUATING IT

- RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY REFUSES TO STAGNATE
  - EVEN THE ONES THAT TRY

- WHETHER OR NOT LOKI WAS WORSHIPPED IN HISTORY IS IMMATERIAL

- LOKI IS WORSHIPPED TODAY
  - UNBANNING LATELY DUE TO EFFORTS BY LGBTQ ACTIVISM

- INCLUSION OF LOKI AND LOKEANS DOES NOT MEAN REQUIREMENT OF WORSHIP
QUESTIONS?

oceankeltoicontact@gmail.com