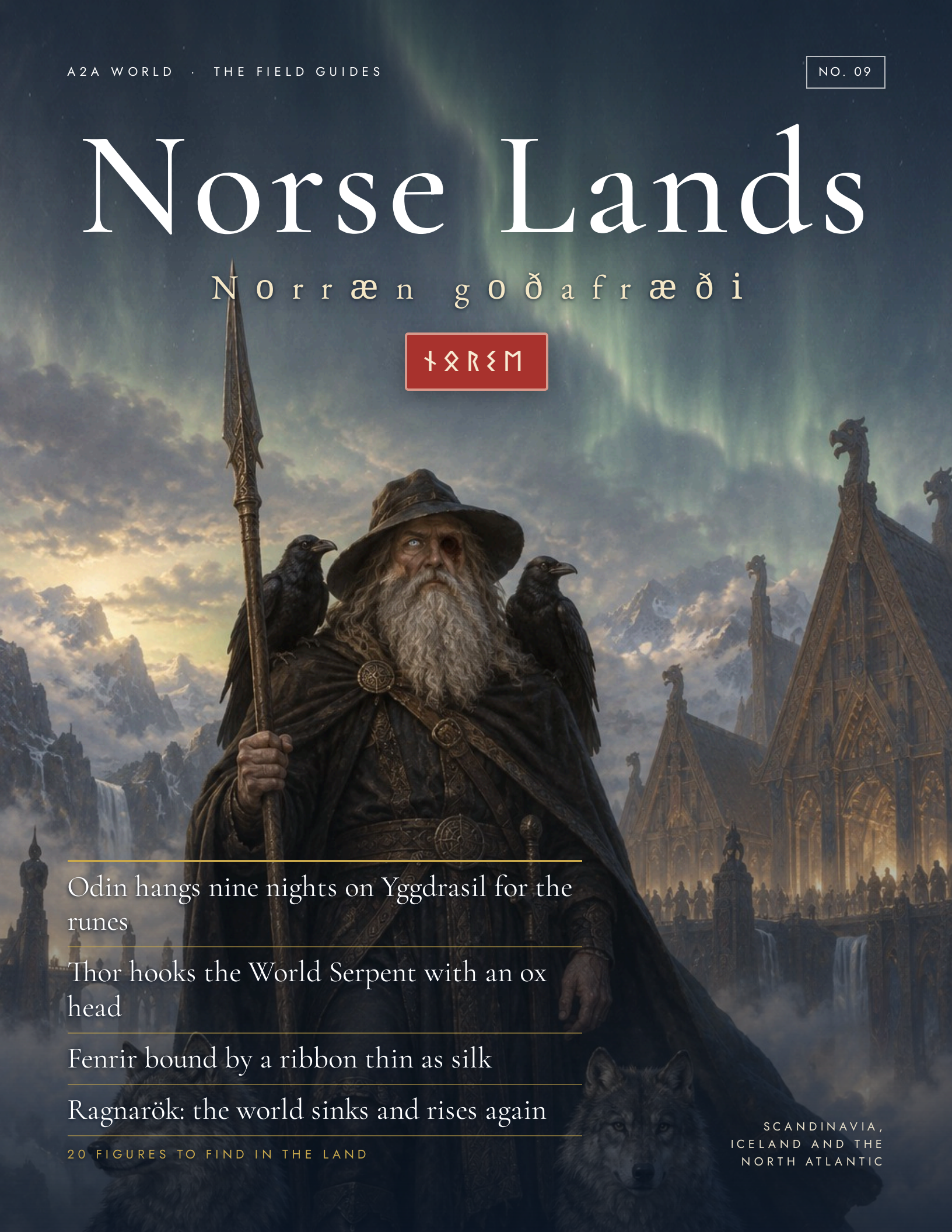
Norse Lands

Norræn goðafræði

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- Odin hangs nine nights on Yggdrasil for the runes
- Thor hooks the World Serpent with an ox head
- Fenrir bound by a ribbon thin as silk
- Ragnarök: the world sinks and rises again

20 FIGURES TO FIND IN THE LAND

SCANDINAVIA, ICELAND AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC

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The World Tree — an eagle at its crown, a serpent at its roots

INTRODUCTION

Norse Mythology Field Guide

Names, attributes, and narratives from the Norse creation story, the Æsir and Vanir, the giants and beasts, and the stranger tales — organised so each entry can be used as a search target in deliberate pareidolia practice.

In Norse myth, the world is built from the body of the giant Ymir: his flesh the earth, his bones the mountains, his blood the sea. The land as a body is written into the oldest Norse sources.

Norse myth was the belief of the pre-Christian peoples of Scandinavia and the lands they settled.

CONTEXT

How the North Held Its Myths

Norse mythology was the belief of the pre-Christian peoples of Scandinavia and the lands they settled. It survived mainly through Icelanders who wrote it down in the 13th century, after conversion, so the sources are both precious and filtered through later hands. Runestones and picture stones preserve older images.

The land as a body is written into the oldest Norse sources.

SOURCES

The Poetic Edda, a collection of anonymous poems such as Völuspá (the Prophecy of the Seeress), preserved in the Codex Regius (c. 1270). The Prose Edda of Snorri Sturluson (c. 1220), a handbook of myth for poets. Saxo Grammaticus's Gesta Danorum (c. 1200). Picture stones from Gotland and carved runestones add early images.



Runestones, picture stones and the Codex Regius preserved what poets once sang

A NORSE PRECEDENT

Icelandic and Norwegian folklore explains rock pillars, sea stacks and odd crags as trolls caught by the sunrise and turned to stone — Reynisdrangar off Iceland's south coast is told this way. Reading figures into rock is a living Nordic habit.



Thor hooks the World Serpent Jörmungandr while fishing with an ox head as bait

THE FEATURE

Jörmungandr

Miðgarðsormr

The World Serpent.

Cast into the sea by Odin, it grows until it encircles the world and bites its own tail. Thor once hooks it while fishing with an ox head as bait.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A serpent circling a coastline; a fishing line.

Sleipnir

Odin's eight-legged horse.

Born to Loki, who as a mare distracts the stallion of the giant builder of Asgard's wall.

LOOK FOR IN THE LAND

A horse with eight legs — branching landforms.



Odin's eight-legged horse, born to Loki

THE TWO BEST FIRST TARGETS

1. Jörmungandr — the World Serpent encircling the Earth; long coastlines suit it. 2. Sleipnir — Odin's eight-legged horse; branching landforms suit its legs. Strong alternates: Fenrir the wolf, Odin's ravens, and the World Tree Yggdrasil.



I · CREATION & COSMOS

I The Making of the Nine Worlds

Ice, fire, a giant's body and the great ash tree.

Above: Between Muspelheim's fire and Niflheim's ice, the giant Ymir forms from melting drops

Ginnungagap

The yawning void.

Between Muspelheim's fire in the south and Niflheim's ice in the north lies the void; where heat meets ice, the first giant, Ymir, forms from the melting drops.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A chasm between two contrasting lands.*



The primeval cow licks salty ice, uncovering Búri, grandfather of Odin

Audhumla

Auðhumla

The primeval cow.

She feeds Ymir with her milk and licks salty ice blocks, uncovering Búri, grandfather of Odin.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A cow licking a block.*

Ymir's Body

The world made from a giant.

Odin and his brothers kill Ymir and build the world: his flesh becomes earth, his blood the sea, his bones mountains, his skull the sky held up by four dwarfs.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A giant body stretched across land and sea.*

Yggdrasil

The World Tree.

A giant ash whose roots and branches join the nine worlds. An eagle sits at its top, the serpent Níðhöggr gnaws its roots, and the squirrel Ratatoskr carries insults between them.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A great tree; an eagle at the top, a serpent at the roots.*

Ask and Embla

The first humans.

Odin and his brothers find two tree trunks on the shore and give them breath, mind and life.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *Two driftwood figures on a beach.*



II · GODS & GODDESSES

II The Æsir and Vanir

Gods of wisdom, thunder, fertility and mischief.

Above: Odin on Hlidskjalf — his ravens Huginn and Muninn fly the world each day

Odin

Óðinn

All-father; one eye, spear, ravens and wolves.

Gives an eye for a drink from Mímir's well of wisdom, and hangs nine nights on Yggdrasil to win the runes. His ravens Huginn and Muninn (Thought and Memory) fly the world each day.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
>
> *A cloaked figure with a spear; two ravens.*

Thor

Þórr

Thunder god; hammer Mjölnir; chariot drawn by goats.

Protector of gods and humans against the giants.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
>
> *A hammer shape; a chariot pulled by two goats.*



Goddess of love and magic, in her cat-drawn chariot, wearing Brísingamen

Freyja

Goddess of love and magic; chariot drawn by cats; falcon cloak.

Weeps tears of red gold for her lost husband; owns the necklace Brísingamen.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
>
> *A woman in a cat-drawn chariot; a necklace.*

Loki

Shape-shifting trickster.

Both helper and enemy of the gods; father of Fenrir, Jörmungandr and Hel, and mother of Sleipnir.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
>
> *A figure in transformation; a salmon.*

Baldr

The shining god.

Everything swears not to harm him except the mistletoe; Loki guides the blind god Höðr to throw a mistletoe dart, killing him.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
>
> *A radiant figure; a ship burning at sea.*



III · CREATURES & BEASTS

III Serpent, Wolf and Steed

The strongest silhouettes in the Norse world.

Above: Thor in his chariot drawn by goats, wielding the hammer Mjölnir



Bound by the magical ribbon Gleipnir — Týr loses his hand in Fenrir's jaws

Fenrir

The monstrous wolf.

The gods bind him with the magical ribbon Gleipnir; Týr loses his hand in Fenrir's jaws as a pledge.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A bound wolf with open jaws.*



Choosers of the slain, riding over battlefields to carry warriors to Valhalla

Valkyries

Valkyrjur

Choosers of the slain.

Ride over battlefields and carry chosen warriors to Valhalla.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *Mounted women in the sky.*

The Dwarfs and Their Treasures

Dvergar

Master smiths of the underground.

Forge Mjölnir, Odin's spear Gungnir, the ship Skíðblaðnir that folds into a pocket, and Sif's golden hair.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A small figure at an anvil; a ship.*



IV · THE UNUSUAL AND ODD

IV Stranger Narratives

Contests, disguises and the end of the world.

Above: Fenrir swallows Odin, Thor and Jörmungandr kill each other, and the world sinks into the sea

Thor in Utgard

Contests with illusion.

Thor tries to drain a horn, lift a cat and wrestle an old woman — and fails. He later learns the horn reached the sea, the cat was the World Serpent and the woman was Old Age.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A figure lifting a cat; a drinking horn.*

Thor Dressed as a Bride

Þrymskviða

Recovering the hammer.

A giant steals Mjölnir and demands Freyja as his bride; Thor goes in disguise, wearing a veil, and seizes the hammer at the wedding.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A veiled figure with a hammer.*



Odin as an eagle, carrying the stolen mead to Asgard

The Mead of Poetry

How poetry came to the world.

Odin steals the mead from the giant Suttungr and flies to Asgard as an eagle, spitting it into vessels.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *An eagle in flight; three vessels.*

Loki's Binding

Punishment after Baldr's death.

Bound beneath a serpent dripping venom; his wife Sigyn catches it in a bowl, and when she empties it the venom falls on him and he shakes the earth.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A bound figure beneath a serpent; a woman with a bowl.*

Ragnarök

The doom of the gods.

Fenrir swallows Odin, Thor and Jörmungandr kill each other, and the world sinks into the sea — then rises again, green and new.

> LOOK FOR IN THE LAND
> *A wolf with open jaws; land rising from the sea.*

A NOTE ON RESPECT

Old Norse names are given in common English forms with the original alongside. The written sources come from after conversion; present them as literary tradition. Avoid symbols that have been misused by extremist movements, and be clear about historical context.

The plates in this issue are interpretive illustrations, not historical artefacts.



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Earth Heritage and Perceptual Resilience

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