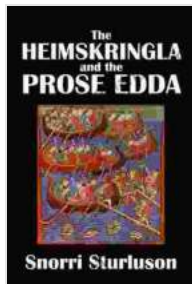


The Heimskringla and The Prose Edda by Snorri Sturluson: Annotated Civitas



The Heimskringla and the Prose Edda by Snorri Sturluson [Annotated] (Civitas Library Classics)

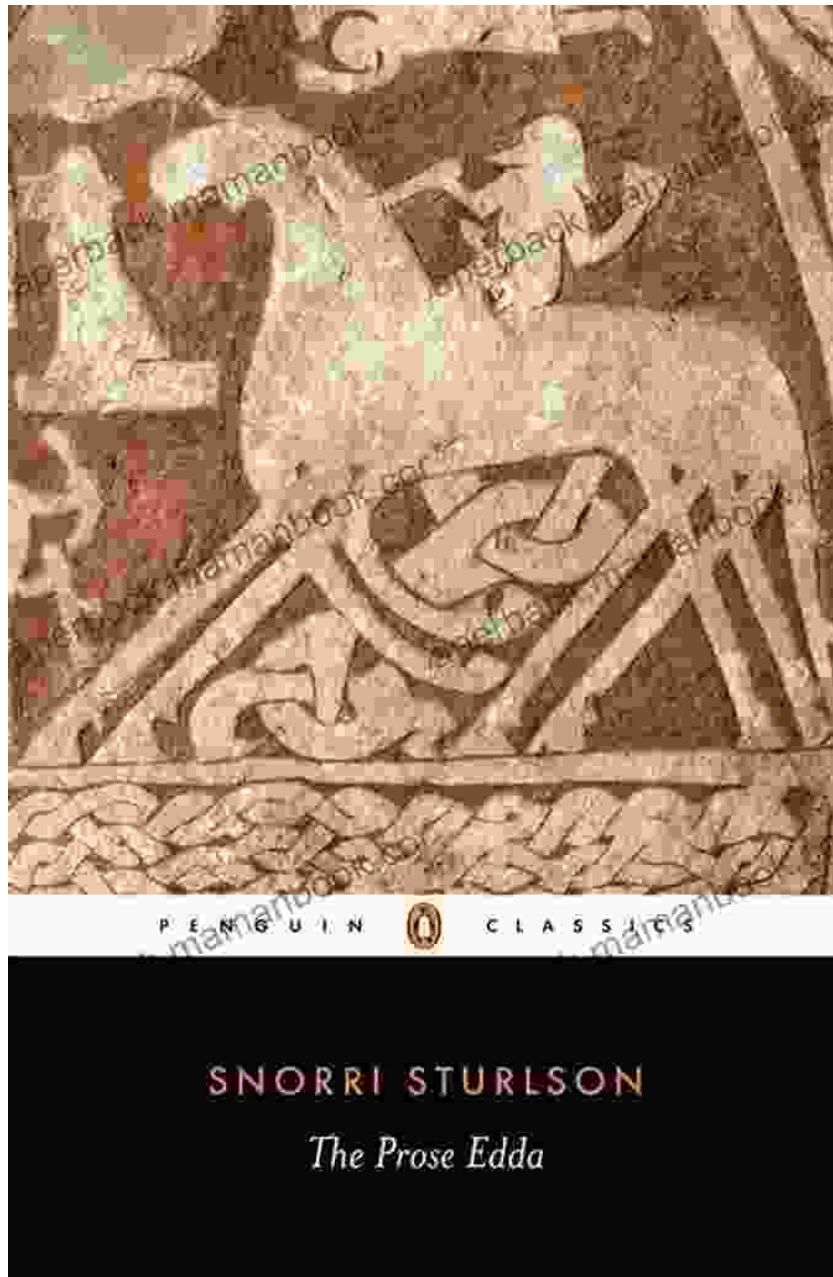
★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 608 pages
Lending : Enabled

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Snorri Sturluson, an Icelandic chieftain, historian, and poet who lived from 1179 to 1241, made significant contributions to Norse literature and mythology through his two seminal works: the "Heimskringla" and the "Prose Edda." These works have played a pivotal role in preserving and transmitting the history, culture, and beliefs of the ancient Norse people.

The Heimskringla

The "Heimskringla" (meaning "Kings' Circle") is a collection of sagas detailing the history of Norwegian kings from the mythical Yngling dynasty to the reign of King Sverre Sigurdsson in the 12th century. Sturluson compiled the "Heimskringla" based on earlier oral traditions, written sources, and his own research.

The "Heimskringla" comprises 16 individual sagas, each focusing on a specific king or period in Norwegian history. The sagas are arranged chronologically and provide a comprehensive account of political events, battles, and the lives of the Norwegian monarchs.

The "Heimskringla" is not only a valuable historical source but also a literary masterpiece. Sturluson's vivid storytelling, rich characterization, and use of poetic devices create a compelling and immersive reading experience.

Significance of the Heimskringla

The "Heimskringla" has had a profound impact on Norwegian history and culture. It has served as a source of national pride and identity for Norwegians throughout the centuries. Moreover, the "Heimskringla" has been instrumental in shaping the Norwegian language and literature.

The "Heimskringla" has also been praised for its historical accuracy and attention to detail. Despite some embellishments and mythological elements, Sturluson's account is generally considered reliable by historians.

The Prose Edda

The "Prose Edda" (also known as the "Younger Edda" or "Snorra Edda") is a collection of Old Norse poems and stories that provides an extensive account of Norse mythology and cosmology. Sturluson compiled the "Prose Edda" as a guide for skalds (Norse poets) and as a way to preserve the pre-Christian mythology of his people.

The "Prose Edda" consists of four main sections:

- **Prologue:** Provides an overview of the creation of the world and the Norse gods.
- **Gylfaginning:** A series of dialogues between King Gylfi and the gods, detailing the origin, attributes, and relationships of the Norse deities.
- **Skáldskaparmál:** A guide to poetic language and mythology, providing skalds with the knowledge necessary to compose complex kennings (metaphors).
- **Háttatal:** A treatise on the different types of poetic meters and their proper use.

Significance of the Prose Edda

The "Prose Edda" is an invaluable source for understanding Norse mythology and culture. It provides the most comprehensive account of the Norse gods, their relationships, and the creation and destruction of the cosmos.

The "Prose Edda" has also had a significant influence on Western literature and culture. Its mythology and characters have been referenced and adapted by countless artists, writers, and musicians throughout history. The

works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Wagner's Ring Cycle, and Marvel Comics are just a few examples of the enduring influence of the "Prose Edda."

Annotated Civitas

In 2000, the Annotated Civitas edition of the "Heimskringla" and the "Prose Edda" was published. This edition provides readers with a modern English translation of both works, accompanied by extensive annotations that explain the historical, cultural, and linguistic context of the texts.

The Annotated Civitas edition is an essential resource for scholars, students, and general readers alike. It makes the works of Snorri Sturluson more accessible and understandable to a wider audience.

Snorri Sturluson's "Heimskringla" and the "Prose Edda" are monumental works that have had a profound impact on Norse history, literature, and culture. These works have preserved the myths, legends, and historical accounts of the ancient Norse people, ensuring their continued relevance and fascination for centuries to come.

The Annotated Civitas edition of the "Heimskringla" and the "Prose Edda" is a testament to the enduring legacy of Snorri Sturluson's literary contributions. It provides readers with a comprehensive and accessible way to engage with these seminal works and gain a deeper understanding of Norse history and mythology.

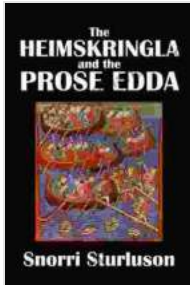
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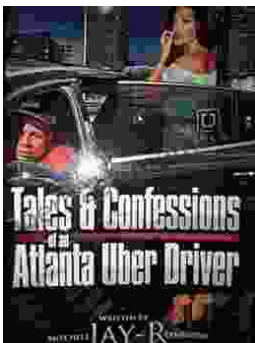


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