

Myths - ways of telling, ways of arguing

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Many studies of mythology sway, when applied to empirical material, between an understanding of myth as genre and myth as defined by content. The paper will be an attempt to discuss the tension between form and content in myth analyses, taking the descriptions of the early phases of the *ragnarøk* narrative (in Snorri and *Völuspá*) as point of departure.

What was apparently a productive flux for the Norse writer can hopefully also support a more profound understanding of literary forms, cultural variability and the transition from oral to literate culture.