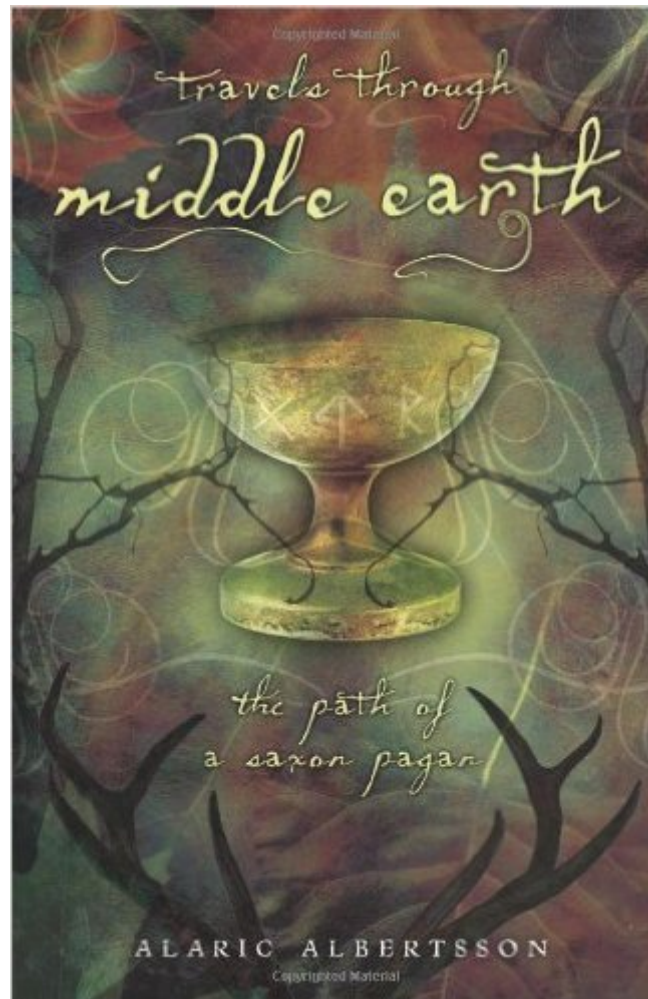


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Travels Through Middle Earth: The Path Of A Saxon Pagan



Synopsis

Tolkien's enduring vision of Middle Earth was largely inspired by the worldview of ancient Saxon Pagans. In this pagan guidebook, Alaric Albertsson presents a complete introduction to Anglo-Saxon cosmology, deities, spirits, and rituals. *Travels Through Middle Earth* offers practical information about the Saxon Pagan path, including many ways to incorporate Saxon rituals into contemporary spiritual life. Discover the *hǣsel*, a basic ritual for honoring personal ancestors, the Gods, and dwarves and elves. Learn how to set up a *wædofod*, the Saxon altar, to connect with the Gods. Also covered in this handbook: the concept of *wyrd* and how it shapes your destiny, the holy tides and how to celebrate them, rites of passage, worship, magic, and even instructions for making mead.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Travels through Middle Earth: The Path of a Saxon Pagan is a book by Alaric Albertsson, a Neo-Pagan writer and practitioner based in the United States. Thus, the work isn't about traditional Anglo-Saxon religion (of which little is known anyway), but rather about a contemporary movement freely based on ancient Anglo-Saxon paganism. Apart from actual Anglo-Saxon sources (such as *Beowulf* and Bede's writings "but note that *Beowulf* is about Scandinavia), Anglo-Saxon Neo-Paganism is heavily dependent on Norse mythology as explained in the Eddas, medieval English folklore and herblore (which had incorporated some ancient Greek elements), and traditions no older than the 17th or even 19th centuries. I wouldn't be surprised if Wicca is part of

the brew, as well. Nothing wrong with any of this, per se. Spiritual traditions do change over time, and Albertsson is clever enough to acknowledge, even embrace, the evolving aspect of his religion. Besides, similarities undoubtedly existed between different Germanic or even Indo-European religions, so using Old Norse sources to fill in the Anglo-Saxon blanks isn't an entirely frivolous enterprise. To Albertsson, a spiritual tradition is true if it works, and as he points out, most people of Anglo-Saxon descent can relate to Anglo-Saxon Neo-Paganism since it's based on stories they heard already as children, or on notions coded into the English language. I admit that his modern synthesis **does** sound pretty authentic!â œTravels through Middle Earthâ • speaks for itself, but here are some of the highlights. Albertsson is unabashedly polytheistic, and he interprets the gods and goddesses as personal beings, not Jungian archetypes or some kind of metaphors.

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