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Norse Openmindedness and the Discovery of Vinland

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Oral Presentation 1.5

**NORSE OPENMINDEDNESS AND
THE DISCOVERY OF VINLAND**

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Much has been said about the Christian/pagan conflict in Icelandic sagas. Eirik's Saga deals with this problem throughout the story. At the time this saga was written, the newly established Christian Church considered paganism evil. The scene entitled "Gudrid is Told Her Future" portrays the noble heathen in an odd way for the pagan magic works. Can the idols be considered evil and still have power to help? The story is definitely told from a Christian perspective, yet this scene does not deny the power of pagan rituals. To reconcile paganism in such a manner, the Norse left room to discuss ideas that conflicted with their beliefs. This open-mindedness may have been integral to their discovery of North America.