



# Under the Cloak: A Pagan Ritual Turning Point in the Conversion of Iceland

*Jon Hnefill Adalsteinsson*

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## **Under the Cloak: A Pagan Ritual Turning Point in the Conversion of Iceland** Jon Hnefill Adalsteinsson

This book takes its title from the momentous decision of the Icelandic law-giver, Thorgeir, in AD 1000, to adopt Christianity as the island's official religion. According to tradition, this was taken as he lay "under a cloak", presumably seeking inspiration from his, pagan, deities. First published in 1979, the present edition expands its discussion of the background to this peacable adoption of the new faith, and its growth under succeeding generations. The author shows how tolerance and pragmatism were early features of the Icelandic church.

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