

metod and wyrd

Concepts

- metod* (Gothic *mitaps*) original sense “measurer, arranger”. Occurs exclusively in metrical texts (incl. Ælfric), often assumed to have meant “fate” in pre-Christian times but in surviving texts refers to the Christian God.
- wyrd* Presumed from Proto-Germanic *werþ-*, “to become” (alternatively related to Latin *vertere* “turn”). Has an unmistakable pre-Christian sense “fate”, but this concept is either made subservient to or identified with God in a number of texts.

The Wanderer on Governing Forces

2: metudes miltse

5: wyrd bið ful aræd

85: ælda scyppend

100: wyrd seo mære

107: onwendeð wyrda gesceaft weoruld under heofonum

115: Fæder on heofonum

Bibliography I

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