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Heart is up – seats of memory in skaldic poetry

Abstract:

The abstract concept of ”memory” is conceptualized in skaldic poetry through kenning metaphors that periphrase the heart and the breast, and embody domains of experience mapped usually as orientation metaphors. Knowing that the most proeminent of the orientational metaphors is good is up, the conceptualization of the heart as the very locus of memory in kennings such"the ship of thought", "the hard apple of the life-cliff"", "the mountain of the mind", or "the rock of the fear", illustrates that skalds used the vertical dimension of space to set the abstract dimension of memory where the positive valenced are localized. My paper will explore how this perspective of ”memory” is always mapped onto the semantic fields related to physical power health and vitality.