

any attendants who bound up his kinsman,  
 Carried him quickly when occasion was granted  
 That the place of the slain they were suffered to manage.  
 40 This pending, one hero plundered the other,  
 His armor of iron from Ongentheow ravished,  
 His hard-sword hilted and helmet together;  
 {Eofor takes the old king's war-gear to Higelac.}  
 The old one's equipments he carried to Higelac.  
 He the jewels received, and rewards 'mid the troopers  
 45 Graciously promised, and so did accomplish:  
 The king of the Weders requited the war-rush,  
 Hrethel's descendant, when home he repaired him,  
 {Higelac rewards the brothers.}  
 To Eofor and Wulf with wide-lavished treasures,  
 To each of them granted a hundred of thousands  
 [101] 50 In land and rings wrought out of wire:  
 {His gifts were beyond cavil.}  
 None upon mid-earth needed to twit him[3]  
 With the gifts he gave them, when glory they conquered;  
 {To Eofor he also gives his only daughter in marriage.}  
 And to Eofor then gave he his one only daughter,  
 The honor of home, as an earnest of favor.  
 55 That's the feud and hatred--as ween I 'twill happen--  
 The anger of earthmen, that earls of the Swedemen  
 Will visit on us, when they hear that our leader  
 Lifeless is lying, he who longtime protected  
 His hoard and kingdom 'gainst hating assailers,  
 60 Who on the fall of the heroes defended of yore  
 The deed-mighty Scyldings,[4] did for the troopers  
 What best did avail them, and further moreover  
 {It is time for us to pay the last marks of respect to our lord.}  
 Hero-deeds 'complished. Now is haste most fitting,  
 That the lord of liegemen we look upon yonder,  
 65 And \_that\_ one carry on journey to death-pyre  
 Who ring-presents gave us. Not aught of it all  
 Shall melt with the brave one--there's a mass of bright jewels,  
 Gold beyond measure, grewsomely purchased  
 And ending it all ornament-rings too  
 70 Bought with his life; these fire shall devour,  
 Flame shall cover, no earlman shall wear  
 A jewel-memento, nor beautiful virgin  
 Have on her neck rings to adorn her,  
 But wretched in spirit bereaved of gold-gems  
 75 She shall oft with others be exiled and banished,  
 Since the leader of liegemen hath laughter forsaken,  
 [102] Mirth and merriment. Hence many a war-spear  
 Cold from the morning shall be clutched in the fingers,  
 Heaved in the hand, no harp-music's sound shall  
 80 Waken the warriors, but the wan-coated raven  
 Fain over fey ones freely shall gabble,  
 Shall say to the eagle how he sped in the eating,  
 When, the wolf his companion, he plundered the slain."  
 So the high-minded hero was rehearsing these stories  
 85 Loathsome to hear; he lied as to few of  
 {The warriors go sadly to look at Beowulf's lifeless body.}  
 Weirds and of words. All the war-troop arose then,  
 'Neath the Eagle's Cape sadly betook them,  
 Weeping and woful, the wonder to look at.  
 They saw on the sand then soulless a-lying,  
 90 His slaughter-bed holding, him who rings had given them  
 In days that were done; then the death-bringing moment  
 Was come to the good one, that the king very warlike,  
 Wielder of Weders, with wonder-death perished.

First they beheld there a creature more wondrous,  
 {They also see the dragon.}  
 95 The worm on the field, in front of them lying,  
 The foeman before them: the fire-spewing dragon,  
 Ghostly and grisly guest in his terrors,  
 Was scorched in the fire; as he lay there he measured  
 Fifty of feet; came forth in the night-time[5]  
 100 To rejoice in the air, thereafter departing  
 To visit his den; he in death was then fastened,  
 He would joy in no other earth-hollowed caverns.  
 There stood round about him beakers and vessels,  
 Dishes were lying and dear-valued weapons,  
 105 With iron-rust eaten, as in earth's mighty bosom  
 A thousand of winters there they had rested:  
 {The hoard was under a magic spell.}  
 That mighty bequest then with magic was guarded,  
 Gold of the ancients, that earlman not any  
 The ring-hall could touch, save Ruling-God only,  
 [103] 110 Sooth-king of Vict'ries gave whom He wished to  
 {God alone could give access to it.}  
 [6](He is earth-folk's protector) to open the treasure,  
 E'en to such among mortals as seemed to Him proper.  
 [1] For 'góða,' which seems a surprising epithet for a Geat to apply  
 to the "terrible" Ongentheow, B. suggests 'gomela.' The passage would  
 then stand: '\_The old one went then,' etc.\_  
 [2] For 'segn Higeláce,' K., Th., and B. propose 'segn Higeláces,'  
 meaning: \_Higelac's banner followed the Swedes (in pursuit).\_--S.  
 suggests 'sæcc Higeláces,' and renders: \_Higelac's pursuit.\_--The  
 H.-So. reading, as translated in our text, means that the banner of  
 the enemy was captured and brought to Higelac as a trophy.  
 [3] The rendering given in this translation represents the king as  
 being generous beyond the possibility of reproach; but some  
 authorities construe 'him' (2996) as plu., and understand the passage  
 to mean that no one reproached the two brothers with having received  
 more reward than they were entitled to.  
 [4] The name 'Scyldingas' here (3006) has caused much discussion, and  
 given rise to several theories, the most important of which are as  
 follows: (1) After the downfall of Hrothgar's family, Beowulf was king  
 of the Danes, or Scyldings. (2) For 'Scyldingas' read  
 'Scylfingas'--that is, after killing Eadgils, the Scylfing prince,  
 Beowulf conquered his land, and held it in subjection. (3) M.  
 considers 3006 a thoughtless repetition of 2053. (Cf. H.-So.)  
 [5] B. takes 'nihtes' and 'hwílum' (3045) as separate adverbial cases,  
 and renders: \_Joy in the air had he of yore by night, etc\_. He thinks  
 that the idea of vanished time ought to be expressed.  
 [6] The parenthesis is by some emended so as to read: (1) (\_He\_ (i.e.  
 \_God\_) \_is the hope of men\_); (2) (\_he is the hope of heroes\_). Gr.'s  
 reading has no parenthesis, but says: ... \_could touch, unless God  
 himself, true king of victories, gave to whom he would to open the  
 treasure, the secret place of enchanters, etc\_. The last is rejected  
 on many grounds.

#### XLIII.

##### WIGLAF'S SAD STORY.--THE HOARD CARRIED OFF.

Then 'twas seen that the journey prospered him little  
 Who wrongly within had the ornaments hidden[1]  
 Down 'neath the wall. The warden erst slaughtered  
 Some few of the folk-troop: the feud then thereafter  
 5 Was hotly avengèd. 'Tis a wonder where,[2]  
 When the strength-famous trooper has attained to the end of  
 Life-days allotted, then no longer the man may  
 Remain with his kinsmen where mead-cups are flowing.  
 So to Beowulf happened when the ward of the barrow,  
 10 Assaults, he sought for: himself had no knowledge

How his leaving this life was likely to happen.  
 So to doomsday, famous folk-leaders down did  
 Call it with curses--who 'complished it there--  
 [104] That that man should be ever of ill-deeds convicted,  
 15 Confined in foul-places, fastened in hell-bonds,  
 Punished with plagues, who this place should e'er ravage.[3]  
 He cared not for gold: rather the Wielder's  
 Favor preferred he first to get sight of.[4]  
 {Wiglaf addresses his comrades.}  
 Wiglaf discoursed then, Wihstan his son:  
 20 "Oft many an earlman on one man's account must  
 Sorrow endure, as to us it hath happened.  
 The liegelord belovèd we could little prevail on,  
 Kingdom's keeper, counsel to follow,  
 Not to go to the guardian of the gold-hoard, but let him  
 25 Lie where he long was, live in his dwelling  
 Till the end of the world. Met we a destiny  
 Hard to endure: the hoard has been looked at,  
 Been gained very grimly; too grievous the fate that[5]  
 The prince of the people pricked to come thither.  
 30 \_I\_ was therein and all of it looked at,  
 The building's equipments, since access was given me,  
 Not kindly at all entrance permitted  
 {He tells them of Beowulf's last moments.}  
 Within under earth-wall. Hastily seized I  
 And held in my hands a huge-weighing burden  
 35 Of hoard-treasures costly, hither out bare them  
 To my liegelord belovèd: life was yet in him,  
 And consciousness also; the old one discoursed then  
 Much and mournfully, commanded to greet you,  
 {Beowulf's dying request.}  
 Bade that remembering the deeds of your friend-lord  
 40 Ye build on the fire-hill of corpses a lofty  
 Burial-barrow, broad and far-famous,  
 As 'mid world-dwelling warriors he was widely most honored  
 While he reveled in riches. Let us rouse us and hasten  
 [105] Again to see and seek for the treasure,  
 45 The wonder 'neath wall. The way I will show you,  
 That close ye may look at ring-gems sufficient  
 And gold in abundance. Let the bier with promptness  
 Fully be fashioned, when forth we shall come,  
 And lift we our lord, then, where long he shall tarry,  
 50 Well-beloved warrior, 'neath the Wielder's protection."  
 {Wiglaf charges them to build a funeral-pyre.}  
 Then the son of Wihstan bade orders be given,  
 Mood-valiant man, to many of heroes,  
 Holders of homesteads, that they hither from far,  
 [6] Leaders of liegemen, should look for the good one  
 55 With wood for his pyre: "The flame shall now swallow  
 (The wan fire shall wax[7]) the warriors' leader  
 Who the rain of the iron often abided,  
 When, sturdily hurled, the storm of the arrows  
 Leapt o'er linden-wall, the lance rendered service,  
 60 Furnished with feathers followed the arrow."  
 Now the wise-mooded son of Wihstan did summon  
 The best of the braves from the band of the ruler  
 {He takes seven thanes, and enters the den.}  
 Seven together; 'neath the enemy's roof he  
 Went with the seven; one of the heroes  
 65 Who fared at the front, a fire-blazing torch-light  
 Bare in his hand. No lot then decided  
 Who that hoard should havoc, when hero-earls saw it  
 Lying in the cavern uncared-for entirely,

Rusting to ruin: they rued then but little

70 That they hastily hence hauled out the treasure,

{They push the dragon over the wall.}

The dear-valued jewels; the dragon eke pushed they,

The worm o'er the wall, let the wave-currents take him,

[106] The waters enwind the ward of the treasures.

{The hoard is laid on a wain.}

There wounden gold on a wain was uploaded,

75 A mass unmeasured, the men-leader off then,

The hero hoary, to Whale's-Ness was carried.

[1] For 'gehýdde,' B. suggests 'gehýðde': the passage would stand as above except the change of 'hidden' (v. 2) to 'plundered.' The reference, however, would be to the thief, not to the dragon.

[2] The passage 'Wundur ... búan' (3063-3066), M. took to be a question asking whether it was strange that a man should die when his appointed time had come.--B. sees a corruption, and makes emendations introducing the idea that a brave man should not die from sickness or from old age, but should find death in the performance of some deed of daring.--S. sees an indirect question introduced by 'hwár' and dependent upon 'wundur': \_A secret is it when the hero is to die, etc\_.--Why may the two clauses not be parallel, and the whole passage an Old English cry of '\_How wonderful is death!?'--S.'s is the best yet offered, if 'wundor' means 'mystery.'

[3] For 'strude' in H.-So., S. suggests 'stride.' This would require 'ravage' (v. 16) to be changed to 'tread.'

[4] 'He cared ... sight of' (17, 18), S. emends so as to read as follows: \_He (Beowulf) had not before seen the favor of the avaricious possessor.\_

[5] B. renders: \_That which drew the king thither\_ (i.e. \_the treasure\_) \_was granted us, but in such a way that it overcomes us.\_

[6] 'Folc-ágende' (3114) B. takes as dat. sing. with 'gódum,' and refers it to Beowulf; that is, \_Should bring fire-wood to the place where the good folk-ruler lay\_.

[7] C. proposes to take 'weaxan' = L. 'vescor,' and translate \_devour\_. This gives a parallel to 'fretan' above. The parenthesis would be discarded and the passage read: \_Now shall the fire consume, the wan-flame devour, the prince of warriors, etc\_.

XLIIII.

THE BURNING OF BEOWULF.

{Beowulf's pyre.}

The folk of the Geatmen got him then ready

A pile on the earth strong for the burning,

Behung with helmets, hero-knights' targets,

And bright-shining burnies, as he begged they should have them;

5 Then wailing war-heroes their world-famous chieftain,

Their liegelord beloved, laid in the middle.

{The funeral-flame.}

Soldiers began then to make on the barrow

The largest of dead-fires: dark o'er the vapor

The smoke-cloud ascended, the sad-roaring fire,

10 Mingled with weeping (the wind-roar subsided)

Till the building of bone it had broken to pieces,

Hot in the heart. Heavy in spirit

They mood-sad lamented the men-leader's ruin;

And mournful measures the much-grieving widow

15 \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

20 \* \* \* \* \*

{The Weders carry out their lord's last request.}

The men of the Weders made accordingly

A hill on the height, high and extensive,  
Of sea-going sailors to be seen from a distance,  
And the brave one's beacon built where the fire was,  
25 In ten-days' space, with a wall surrounded it,  
As wisest of world-folk could most worthily plan it.  
They placed in the barrow rings and jewels,  
[107]

{Rings and gems are laid in the barrow.}  
All such ornaments as erst in the treasure  
War-mooded men had won in possession:  
30 The earnings of earlmen to earth they entrusted,  
The gold to the dust, where yet it remaineth  
As useless to mortals as in foregoing eras.  
'Round the dead-mound rode then the doughty-in-battle,  
Bairns of all twelve of the chiefs of the people,  
{They mourn for their lord, and sing his praises.}  
35 More would they mourn, lament for their ruler,  
Speak in measure, mention him with pleasure,  
Weighed his worth, and his warlike achievements  
Mightily commended, as 'tis meet one praise his  
Liegelord in words and love him in spirit,  
40 When forth from his body he fares to destruction.  
So lamented mourning the men of the Geats,  
Fond-loving vassals, the fall of their lord,  
{An ideal king.}  
Said he was kindest of kings under heaven,  
Gentlest of men, most winning of manner,  
45 Friendliest to folk-troops and fondest of honor.  
[109]

#### ADDENDA.

Several discrepancies and other oversights have been noticed in the H.-So. glossary. Of these a good part were avoided by Harrison and Sharp, the American editors of Beowulf, in their last edition, 1888. The rest will, I hope, be noticed in their fourth edition. As, however, this book may fall into the hands of some who have no copy of the American edition, it seems best to notice all the principal oversights of the German editors.

~From hām~ (194).--Notes and glossary conflict; the latter not having been altered to suit the conclusions accepted in the former.

~ƿær gelyfan sceal dryhtnes dōme~ (440).--Under 'dōm' H. says 'the might of the Lord'; while under 'gelyfan' he says 'the judgment of the Lord.'

~Eal bencþelu~ (486).--Under 'benc-þelu' H. says \_nom. plu.\_; while under 'eal' he says \_nom. sing.\_

~Heatho-ræmas~ (519).--Under 'ætberan' H. translates 'to the Heathoremes'; while under 'Heatho-ræmas' he says 'Heathoræmas reaches Breca in the swimming-match with Beowulf.' Harrison and Sharp (3d edition, 1888) avoid the discrepancy.

~Fāh féond-scaða~ (554).--Under 'féond-scaða' H. says 'a gleaming sea-monster'; under 'fāh' he says 'hostile.'

~Onfeng hraðe inwit-þancum~ (749).--Under 'onfón' H. says 'he \_received\_ the maliciously-disposed one'; under 'inwit-þanc' he says 'he \_grasped\_, ' etc.

~Níð-wundor séon~ (1366).--Under 'níð-wundor' H. calls this word itself \_nom. sing.\_; under 'séon' he translates it as accus. sing., understanding 'man' as subject of 'séon.' H. and S. (3d edition) make the correction.

~Forgeaf hilde-bille~ (1521).--H., under the second word, calls it instr. dat.; while under 'forgifan' he makes it the dat. of indir. obj. H. and S. (3d edition) make the change.

~Brád~ and ~brún-ecg~ (1547).--Under 'brád' H. says 'das breite Hüftmesser mit bronzener Klinge'; under 'brún-ecg' he says 'ihr breites Hüftmesser mit blitzender Klinge.'

[110]

~Yðelíce~ (1557).--Under this word H. makes it modify 'ástód.' If this be right, the punctuation of the fifth edition is wrong. See H. and S.,

appendix.

~Sélran gesóhte~ (1840).--Under 'sél' and 'gesécan' H. calls these two words accus. plu.; but this is clearly an error, as both are nom. plu., pred. nom. H. and S. correct under 'sél.'

~Wið sylfne~ (1978).--Under 'wið' and 'gesittan' H. says 'wið = near, by'; under 'self' he says 'opposite.'

~þéow~ (2225) is omitted from the glossary.

~For duguðum~ (2502).--Under 'duguð' H. translates this phrase, 'in Tüchtigkeit'; under 'for,' by 'vor der edlen Kriegerschaar.'

~þær~ (2574).--Under 'wealdan' H. translates þær by 'wo'; under 'mótan,' by 'da.' H. and S. suggest 'if' in both passages.

~Wunde~ (2726).--Under 'wund' H. says 'dative,' and under 'wæl-bléate' he says 'accus.' It is without doubt accus., parallel with 'benne.'

~Strengum gebæded~ (3118).--Under 'strengo' H. says 'Strengum' = mit Macht; under 'gebæded' he translates 'von den Sehnen.' H. and S. correct this discrepancy by rejecting the second reading.

~Bronda be láfe~ (3162).--A recent emendation. The fourth edition had 'bronda betost.' In the fifth edition the editor neglects to change the glossary to suit the new emendation. See 'bewyrcañ.'

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