

title: Gísla 14 layout: default

Gísla saga Súrssonar 14

Vésteinn is buried in a mound

1. Gísli býz nú til at heygja Véstein, með allt lið¹ sitt, í sandmel þeim, er á stenz ok seftjörn² fyrir neðan Sæból. Ok er Gísli var á leið kominn, þá fara³ þeir Þorgrímr með marga menn til haugsgerðarinnar. 2. En þá er þeir höfðu veitt Vésteini umbúnað, sem siðr var til, gekk Þorgrímr at Gísla ok mælti: "Þat er tízka,"⁴ segir hann, "at binda monnum helzkó⁵ þá er þeir skulu ganga á til Valhallar,⁶ ok mun ek þat gera við Véstein."

3. Ok er hann hafði þat gort, þá mælti hann: "Eigi kann ek helskó at binda ef þessir losna."

4. Eftir þetta setjaz þeir niðr fyrir útan hauginn ok talaz við ok láta allólíkliga,⁷ at nokkur viti, hverr þenna glæp hefir gort. 5. Þorkell spurði Gísla: "Hversu berz Auðr af⁸ um bróður dauðann? Hvárt grætur hón mjök?"⁹

"Vita muntu þat þykjaz,"¹⁰ segir Gísli; "hón berz af vel¹¹ ok þykkir mikit.¹² 6. Draum¹³ dreymði mik," segir Gísli, "í fyrri nátt, ok svá í nótt; en þó vil ek eigi á kveða, hverr vígit hefr unnit; en á hitt horfir um draumana.¹⁴ 7. Þat dreymði mik ena fyrri nátt, at af einum bæ¹⁵ hrökkðiz¹⁶ hoggormr ok hjoggi Véstein til bana, en ena síðarri nátt dreymði mik, at vargr rynni af sama bæ ok biti Véstein til bana. Ok sagða¹⁷ ek því hvárngan drauminn fyrr en nú, at ek vilda, at hvárgi réðiz."¹⁸

8. Ok þá kvað hann vísu:

4

Betr hugpak þá, brigr
(þíkat draums ens þriðja
slíks) af svefne vökbom,
sárteina, Vésteine,
þás vit í sal sötum
Sigrhadds víþ mjöþ gladder,
komska maþr á miþli
mín né hans, at víni.¹⁹

9. Þorkell spurði þá: "Hversu berz Auðr af um bróðurdauðann? Hvárt grætur hón mjök?"

"Opt spyrr þú²⁰ þessa, frændi!" segir Gísli, "ok er þér mikil forvitni á at vita þetta."

Gísli kvað vísu:

5

Hylr (á laun) und líne
linnvenges skap (kinna)
grípar (leggsk ór góþum)
Gefn (él kerom svefna;
eik berr (angre) lauka

(eir reksk) bráa geira
(brópor) dögga á bæþe
blíp qndvege síþan.²¹

11. Ok enn kvað hann:

6

Hrynja lætr af hvítom
hvarmskóge Gnó bógar
hraun fylvingar, hremmir
hlátrs bann, í kné, svanna;
hnøtr less, en þreyr þessom,
þogn, at mærbær rögne,
snáka túns af síno
sjónhesle þolgróno.²²

12. Nú ganga þeir bræðr heim eptir þetta báðir saman. Þá mælti Þorkell: "Mikil tíðindi hafa hér gort, ok munu þér verða nokkuru meiri tíðindi með harmi en oss;²³ en eigi at síðr verðr hverr með sjálfum sér lengst at fara.²⁴ 13. Vilda ek, at þú létir þér eigi þetta svá mikils fá, at menn renni þar af því grunum í;²⁵ vilda ek, at vér tækum upp leika, ok væri nú svá vel með oss, sem þá er bezt hefir verit."

14. "Þetta er vel mælt," segir Gísli, "ok vil ek þat gjarna, ok þó með þeim hætti,²⁶ ef nokkut kann þat til at bera á þinni æfi, at þér þykki jafnmikit sem mér þykkir þetta, þá skaltu mér því heita, at gera þá með sama hætti, sem þú beiðir mik nú."

15. Þessu játar Þorkell. Síðan fara þeir heim, ok er þá drukkit erfi eptir Véstein. Ok er þat er gort, ferr hver heim til síns heimilis, ok var nú allt kyrt.



Notes

1: 1 lið, s. household, see. *heimalið* in S. ↩

2: *í sandmel--seftjörn*, "in the sandy stretch that runs along the reed pond," that is, parallel to the fjord and the pond, see the map in Árbók s. 16-17. ↩

3: *fara*, "come." ↩

4: *tízka*, f. "custom." ↩

5: *at binda--helskó*, this interesting custom can only be found here; it is sufficient [to our reading] that it was commonplace. ↩

6: *þá--Valhallar*, may be an interpolation, even in S, Valhöll is not mentioned. ↩

7: *láta allóglíkliga*, "to express that it would be very unlikely." ↩

8: *Hversu berz Auðr af*, (that is, *berr af sér*), "how does A. endure the pain?" ↩

9: *mjök*, here S expresses: *Auðr hafði ekki farit með líkinu*, a write-off remark (explanatory conjecture). ↩

10: *Vita--þykkjaz*, "you should know that yourself." ↩

11: *hón berz af vel*, "she bears it well;" so it is in S (M has *lítt* instead of *vel*, which would be the opposite sense). ↩

12: *ok þykkir mikít*, "and (yet) it appears (what she has to bear) is much" (she feels it deeply). ↩

13: *Draum* etc., with the following words Gísli indicates in a manner that his brother does not understand that he knows who killed Vésteinn. ↩

14: *á hitt--draumana*, "it is the opposite of dreams" (they speak in clear language). ↩

15: *auf einum bæ*, this indeterminacy is speech enough for Þorkell. ↩

16: *hrøðiz* (from *hrøkkva*), "curled out." ↩

17: *Ok sagða* etc., see above XIII, 1. ↩

18: *réðiz*, "would come true." ↩

19: **Str. 4.** Prose word order: *Betr hugþak þá, brígr þer sárteina! Vésteine, vökpom af svefne* (þípkat ens þríþja daums slíks), *þás vit sötom at víne í sal Sigrhadds, gladder víþ mjöþ; komska maþr á miþle mín né hans.*

"I think, oh warrior, that Vésteinn, awakening from sleep, felt better (I do not wish such a dream for the third time), then, when we both sat by the wine in the Sigrhadds, amused by our meeting, no one sitting between us."

- *Betr, vesa*, is implied. *þá* is repeated in the following *þás. brígr þer sárteina*, voc., "bringer of the banquet of wounds, the swords" (see the sword name, *Mistilteinn*); these word of Þorkell seems to be chosen with reference to chapters 13 and 15. The last sentence emphasizes the close relationship between Gísli and Vésteinn. ↩

20: *Opt spyrr þú*, Þorkell's repeated questions and his interest in Auðr that is quietly alluded to with Þorgrímr in chapter 9, is substantiated here. ↩

21: **Str. 5.** Prose word order: *Linnvenges Gefn hylr grípar-skap und líne; leggsk á laun kinna él ór góþom svefna kerom; blíp lauka eik berr síþan bráa dögg á bæþe ǫndvege geira; eir reksk angre bróþor.*

"The excited woman hid under the veil, she secretly collects cheek rain from the good barrels of sleep. The woman then wipes the dew of her eyes with her hands, the peace is heightened by the mourning for her brother."

- *linnvenge*, "the bed of the dragon," gold; the vessels of the gold; woman (Auðr). see *linnvenges Bil*, Oddr. 31².
- *grípar* v. *gríp* (or *gríþr*) appears to mean, "passion," "sensory excitement" (in modern Icel. it is often used as a stress prefix, for example, *gríðarstór*).
- *kinnaél*, "the rain or the hail of the cheeks," e.g. tears.
- *svafna ker*, "the barrels of sleep," meaning, the eyes.
- *lauka eik*, "the oak of the leek," the woman.
- *síþan*, soon (after); when she has cried a little, she wipes her tears from her eyes, *bráa dögg*, "the dew of her brows," the tears.
- *ǫndvege*, "upright."
- *ǫ. geira*, "the spear's head," the hand.
- *eir*, f. "rest" (only poet.). ↩

22: **Str. 6.** Prose word order: Bógar hraun-Gnó lætr fylvingar hrynja af hvítom hvarmskóge í kné; hlátrs bann hremmir svanna; þögn snáke túns less hnøtr af síno þölgróno sjónhesle, en þreyr at þessum mærbær rögne.

"The woman drops the tears from her brows, down upon her lap, the woman grasps grief, the woman collects nuts from the sickness of the face, grown from her grief (as ground); but seeks to cure her pain through (longing =) the love of the poet (me)."

- *Bógr*, "arm," *hraun*=*grót*, stones; "the stones of the arm," the arm-ring, the Gnó (asin, god) of a ring, a woman.
- *fylvingar* (gender uncertain) = nuts (see Sn.E. II, 430,514).
- *hvarmskógr*, "the forest of eyelids," the eyelashes.
- *hlátrs bann*, "the prohibition of the laughter," "the sorrow, the misery"
- *hremmir* is an approximation for *hyljar* in S, *hranna* in M.
- *þögn*, a Valkyrie.
- *snáka tún* = *linnvenge*, in str. 4; "the Valkyrie of gold" = woman.
- *sjónhelsi*, a bold description of the eye; *helsi*, (v. *hasl*) ntr. = nut tree.
- *þreyja at*, "to yearn for one."
- *mærdar röggnir*, "the god (or, the one who sets in motion) the poem," the poet; by this, Gísli means himself; see K. Gíslason *Njála* II, 551-52. ↩

23: *munu þér--oss*_, "this will be a much greater grief for you than for us." ↩

24: *verðr--fara*, a proverb, "everyone is most likely to deal with their own selves" (so must they take care of themselves first). ↩

25: *renni-í*, "as a result, one becomes suspicious," and probably reveals the true facts. With these words Þorkell admits that Þorgrímr is the murderer. ↩

26: *með þeim hætti*, "under the condition." ↩