

## Excerpt 3: Grendel Arrives—From Lesson 2

'Neath the cloudy cliffs came from the moor then  
Grendel going, God's anger bare he.  
The monster intended some one of earthmen  
In the hall-building grand to entrap and make way with:  
He went under welkin where well he knew of  
The wine-joyous building, brilliant with plating,  
Gold-hall of earthmen. Not the earliest occasion  
He the home and manor of Hrothgar had sought:  
Ne'er found he in life-days later nor earlier  
Hardier hero, hall-thanes more study!  
Then came to the building the warrior marching,  
Bereft of his joyance. The door quickly opened  
On fire-hinges fastened, when his fingers had touched it;  
The fell one had flung then—his fury so bitter—  
Open the entrance. Early thereafter  
The foeman trod the shining hall-pavement,  
Strode he angrily; from the eyes of him glimmered  
A lustre unovely likest to fire.  
He beheld in the hall the heroes in numbers,  
A circle of kinsmen sleeping together,  
A throng of thanemen: then his thoughts were exultant,  
He minded to sunder from each of the thanemen  
The life from his body, horrible demon,  
Ere morning came, since fate had allowed him  
The prospect of plenty. Providence willed not  
To permit him any more of men under heaven  
To eat in the night-time. Higelac's kinsman  
Great sorrow endured how the dire-mooded creature  
In Unlooked-for assaults were likely to bear him.  
No thought had the monster of deferring the matter,  
But on earliest occasion he quickly laid hold of  
A soldier asleep, suddenly tore him,  
Bit his bone-prison, the blood drank in currents,  
Swallowed in mouthfuls: he soon had the dead man's  
Feet and hands, too, eaten entirely.

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