

Stubborn Farmer

The Norse explorer Erik the Red had two sons. One, Leif, got all the publicity, and the other, Rudolf, got all the hair, to the extent that he too became known as "the Red". Rudolf was like his father, a great seafarer. He studied ancient lore and became adept at predicting the weather. He became well known for this, timing his attacks on the mainland to coincide with an incoming storm that made life miserable for the defending troops on the shore. After a long career, he retired to a farming community. One evening he found himself in a pub seated at a table not far from his neighbors Thorbjorn and Gudrid. He went over to their table and declared in a brusque voice that Thorbjorn would do well to harvest his barley as soon as possible, because a storm was coming in late the next day that would ruin his crop. Thorbjorn grew angry "Maybe it rains, maybe it doesn't rain, but I'll do as I choose with my own barley!" Gudrid pulled him away before matters turned worse. Thorbjorn muttered to her, "Who does he think he is to tell me how to farm?" Gudrid replied softly, "Maybe you should listen to him. Rudolf the Red knows rain, dear."

