

A New Critical Edition and Translation of the Poetic Edda
Along with Commentary, Fragments and a Few Other Old Germanic Poems

Hwij täncken I ondt i edor hjerta?

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Introduction

Contents

Introduction	v
Contents	v
Introduction to Eddic poetry	ix
Metrics and conventions	ix
How can we know the age of the Eddic poems?	ix
Ancient Germanic cult(ure)	xi
Economy (fee)	xi
Morals	xi
Religious conceptions	xi
Notes to translation	xiii
Notes to critical edition	xv
Normalization of Old Norse	xv
Manuscripts	xv
Bibliography and sigla	xvii
Abbreviations	xvii

The Spae of the Wallow (<i>Völuspó</i>)	3
The Speeches of Webthrithner (<i>Vafþrúðnismál</i>)	31
Dreams of Balder (<i>Baldrs draumar</i>)	49
The Speeches of the High One (<i>Hávamál</i>)	55
The Speeches of Grimner (<i>Grímnismál</i>)	99
The Thule of Rígh (<i>Rígsþula</i>)	111
The Leed of Hoarbeard (<i>Hárbarðsljóð</i>)	115
The Lay of Hymer (<i>Hymiskviða</i>)	119
The Lay of Thrim (<i>Þrymskviða</i>)	133
The Leed of Hindle (<i>Hyndluljóð</i>)	145
Book of Galders	153
1.1 The two Merseburg charms	153
1.2 Against worms (<i>Contra vermes</i>)	153
1.3 Against a dwarf	153
1.4 Charms from Bergen	154

Eddic fragments from Snorre's Edda	157
The Lay of Wayland (<i>Völundarkviða</i>)	161
First Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane (<i>Helgakviða Hundingsbana fyrsta</i>)	177
The Lay of Hallow Harwardson (<i>Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar</i>)	181
Second Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane (<i>Helgakviða Hundingsbana aðra</i>)	185
The Speeches of Fathomer (<i>Fáfnismál</i>)	189
The Speeches of Sighdrive (<i>Sigrdrífumál</i>)	193
The Third Lay of Guthrun (<i>Guðrúnarkviða þriðja</i>)	197
The Lay of Attle (<i>Atlakviða</i>)	203
The Lay of Hildbrand	213
Index	221
1.1 Cultural and religious terms (C)	221
1.2 Personal names, objects and events (P)	224
1.3 Groups and place names (G)	225

Introduction to Eddic poetry

Don't go too indepth on individual poems! Each one will have its own introduction.

Metrics and conventions

Alliteration Kennings

How can we know the age of the Eddic poems?

Linguistic criteria Archeological evidence Comparison with known Christian texts (Sólarljóð, Hugsvinnsþál) Snorri thought they were old Saxo had access to them Many of them clearly describe non-Icelandic surroundings Especially Hávamál is clearly Norwegian

Ancient Germanic cult(ure)

Economy (fee)

Morals

Honour, personal integrity Notes on the terms *argr* and *ergi*

Religious conceptions

Cosmic cycles Reincarnation Analogies with other Indo-European traditions

Notes to translation

Point about literal translation for use by scholars of comparative mythology The “guiding star” of this translation effort has been literality and consistency. All previous translations (to my knowledge) have such issues as: rendering identically repeated phrases differently at various places; covering up or obscuring technical and cultural terminology; simplifying kennings and other expressions—and this often without notes, to a point where the original meaning is, at times, unrecognizable. While I wholly encourage all readers of sufficient interest to study Old Norse (and other ancient Germanic languages!), perhaps even using this edition as a tool, I also realize that this is a demanding ask which not all interested students and scholars of comparative mythology, anthropology, literature, religion and other fields will be able to fulfill. I therefore want these groups to be able to have a text that is as close to the original as possible, at the very least when it regards sense and expression. Why English names? One of the most idiosyncratic parts of this edition will be its handling of proper names. I have opted to render all cultural terms, names of places, gods, men and other entities in their natural English (*English*) forms. I suppose the primary reason for this is ideological. I believe that these myths and poems are a common Germanic or Northern European heritage, and should be treated as such. The English once knew gods such as Woden and Thunder, and called them by names naturally evolved in their language. So too did the Germans and Scandinavians, of course, and I would hope that any translators into those languages would follow this spirit and render the names in their natural forms there as well.¹

¹For instance in German perhaps Wuten, Donner, Froh.

Notes to critical edition

My goal with the critical editing of the texts has been to produce something as close to the original manuscripts as possible, without excessive emendation to the preserved recension(s). There are texts in three (TODO) languages in this edition, these being Old Norse, Old English and Old High German. Old Norse texts have been normalized according to roughly the same orthography as Finnur 1932. On the other hand the Old High German and Old English texts have only been lightly normalized, correcting obvious errors and marking vowel length with acute accents. For further information see below.

Normalization of Old Norse

The orthography only differs from Finnur 1932 in its use of *ó* rather than *œ* to represent the result of i-umlaut on the ancient Germanic *ō*. Superfluous and hypermetrical pronouns (usually *hann*, *hón*) have in many places been removed. *ek* 'I', and *es* (particle) 'which, that, where, when', *es* (3rd sg. pres. ind. of *vesa* 'to be') have been contracted to *'k* and *'s* when metrically beneficial.

Manuscripts

There are two surviving ancient manuscripts which contain full Eddic poems.

The *first* and most important is GKS 2365 4to, here **R**. It dates to the 1270s and has 45 surviving leaves, containing TODO poems. Of these 10 are mythological, and the rest heroic, dealing with legends mostly of the Migration Period. Notably, following fol. 32, there is a large gap of missing pages. This occurs in the heroic section, specifically cutting off *Sigh*. It is unclear how many leaves and poems went missing. **R** is not just a compilation of poems, it shows editorial input as well. Several of the mythological poems are separated by short prose sections, which tie them together into a loose frame narrative, though it is clear from their style and composition that they are originally separate works. When it comes to the heroic poems long prose sections occur both within and between them, creating a saw[†]-like narrative where the prose in many cases holds up the poetry, rather than the reverse. For further literature see TODO.

The *second* manuscript is AM 748 I a 4to, here **A**. It dates to the 1300s and has just 6 leaves. **A**, as we have it, contains only mythological poems, and in a different order from **R**; it has no frame narrative. On the first two leaves are contained *Hoar* (which lacks its beginning), *Dreams* and *Shirn* (lacking its ending). After this some number of leaves have gone missing, but the other four leaves follow each other. On them we find *Web* (lacking its beginning), *Grim Hym* and the prose introduction of *Way*. **A** is the only medieval manuscript attesting *Dreams*, and further its other poems are not copied from **R**, but rather derive from a shared ancestor. This fact makes it very valuable for textual criticism. For further literature see TODO.

Some Eddic poems survive only in younger paper manuscripts. These being: TODO. While I have not consulted the paper mss. for poems attested in medieval mss., I have had to rely on them for these poems. Their exclusive survival there does not *necessarily* prove them works of late antiquarians; had we not been fortunate enough to have *Dreams* in **A**, it would have been counted among them, yet we now know that it is truly ancient. It is not an impossibility that other poems now only found in paper mss. would have survived in now lost medieval mss., perhaps even in the lost pages of **R** or **A**.

Finally several Eddic poems are quoted in *Yilf*, these being (TODO): *Spae*, *Web*, *Grim*. It also contains a few fragments, which have also been edited. For *Yilf* I have relied on the following four main mss.:

1. The Codex Regius of the Prose Edda **S** (GKS 2367 4to; 1300–1350)
2. The Codex Trajectinus **T** (Traj 1374; a c. 1595 paper copy of a ms. closely related to **S**.)
3. The Codex Wormianus **W** (AM 242 fol.; 1340–70)
4. The Codex Upsaliensis **U** (DG 11; 1300–25)

For sake of brevity I refer to these four collectively as **G**, which is thus equivalent to **STWU**. I refer to Haukur Þorgeirsson 2017 for discussion on their internal stemmatics and origins.

West Germanic poetry

As all West Germanic poems edited here (TODO: Will we be editing other poems than Hildebrandslied?) survive only in one copy, the specific details are discussed in their accompanying introductions.

Bibliography and sigla

Abbreviations

- 1st = first-person
- 2nd = second-person
- 3rd = third-person
- acc. = accusative case
- cert. = certainly
- cf. = confer
- dat. = dative case
- fol. = folio
- gen. = genitive case
- i.e. = *id est*; that is
- l. = line
- ll. = lines
- lit. = literally
- ms. = manuscript
- mss. = manuscripts
- nom. = nominative case
- om. = omits, omitted
- p. = page

- pl. = plural number
- sg. = singular number
- v. = verse
- viz. = namely
- wo. = without

The Spae of the Wallow (*Völuspó*)

The **Spae[†] of the Wallow[†]** is the most comprehensive mythological text surviving from Heathen times. It takes the form of the monologue of a wallow^C, summoned by Weden in order to reveal mythological exposition. In this it fits closely with *Web*, *Grim*, *Sigh* and *Allw*, but differs from them in several ways: there is no format of a dialogue (this it shares with *Grim*) or competition; the meter is in *Law of Ancient Utterings*; and it gives an overview of the mythological chronology in an otherwise unparalleled way.

Many events are related in a very allusive fashion, and not all of them are clear. There are also some likely gaps, possibly the result of misplaced verses. The poem begins with a bid for silence (v. 1), and the wallow reckoning her earliest memories (v. 2). She then recounts the ordering of the cosmos by the gods (vv. 3–6) and the earliest golden age (vv. 7–8), which however is interrupted by the intrusion of three unidentified ettin maidens (v. 8, and see note there). After this follow two verses about the shaping of the dwarfs (9–10), and then several independent *dwarf-tallies* (vv. 11–15), which are undoubtedly later inserts. We then return to the gods, specifically the creation of man (vv. 16–17). Judging from the end of verse 8 and the beginning of verse 16, it seems likely that these various dwarf-related verses have taken the place of some other verse. After this we get a description of the great tree Ugrassle (v. 18), and the three norns living under it (v. 19).

This is where our two full recensions diverge. We have here followed the order of **R**, but whether it is the original is hard to say. In **R** the wallow recounts the earliest war in the world

The poem is attested in full in two independent recensions. The first is **R** (GKS 2365 4to; 1270s), where it is the first poem, found on folios 1r–3r. Second is Hawksbook, **H** (AM 544 4to; 1300–75), where it is found at 20r–21r in the middle of a large collection of saws and Catholics works. Many verses are also cited in *Ylf*, which here has the general siglum **G**—to avoid confusion, it is only used when all employed witness mss. agree. See further the General Introduction.

Order of verses by manuscript, compared to this edition. As most verses in **G** are quoted on their own, and have little relation to the original order, these are simply marked with plus signs. When verses are quoted in a series, they are preceded by an alphabetically incrementing letter denoting which series they belong to. When there is a major difference in a ms. relative to the ed., such as in v. 10 where **G** omits the first two lines, it is then marked with a star. The verses beginning with *Þá gingu regin þll* ... are represented by the following sentence.

	<i>Current ed.</i>	R	H	STW	U
1	Hljóðs bið'k allar hēlgar kindir	1	1	—	—
2	Ek man jǫtna ár of borna	2	2	—	—
3	Ár vas alda þar's Ymir byggð	3	3	+	+
4	Áðr Burs synir bjǫðum of ypðu	4	4	—	—
5	Sól varp sunnan sinni mána	5	5	+*	+*
6	... nǫtt ok niðjum nǫfn of gófu	6	6	—	—

7	Hittusk ęsir á Þðavęlli	7	7	–	–
8	Teęfđu í túni, teętir vęru	8	8	–	–
9	... hveęrr skyldi dverga drótt of skęþja	9	9	B1	B1
10	Þar vas Móðsognir męętr of orðinn	10	10	B2*	B2*
–	<i>Dwarf-tallies</i>	11–15	11–16	+	+
16	Unz þrir kvęmu ór því liði	16	17	–	–
17	Qnd þau né ęttu, óð þau né hęfðu	17	18	–	–
18	Ask veit'k standa heętir Yggdrasill	18	19	+	+
19	Þaðan koma meęjar margs vitandi	19–20	20–21	–	–
20	Þat man hęn folkvęę fyrst í heįmi	21–22	27	–	–
21	Heįði hétu, hvar's til húsa kom	23	28	–	–
22	... hvárt skyldu ęsir afráð gjalda	24	29	–	–
23	Fleyęði Óðinn ok í folk of skaut;	25	30	–	–
24	... hveęrr heęði lopt alt lęvi blandit	26	22	C1	C1
25	Þórr ęinn þar vá þrunginn móði	27	23	C2*	C2*
26	Veit hęn Heįmdallar hljóð of folgit	28	24	–	–
27	Ęin sat hęn úti, þa's hinn aldni kom	29	–	–	–
28	Alt veit'k, Óðinn, hvar auga falt	29	–	+	+
29	Valði hęnni Heęfęðr hringa ok męn	30	–	–	–
30	Sá hęn valkyrjur vítt of komnar	31	–	–	–
31	Ek sá Baldri, blóðgum tívi	32	–	–	–
32	Varð af meįði, þeim's męr sýndisk	33	–	–	–
33	Þó hann ęva hęndr né hęfuð kęmbði	34	–	–	–
34	Þa kná Váli vígbęnd snúa	–	31	–	–
35	Hapt sá hęn liggja und Hveralundi	35	32*	–	–
36	Q fęllr austan of ęitrðala	36	–	–	–
37	Stóð fyr norðan á Niðavęllum	36	–	–	–
38	Sal sá hęn standa sólu fjarri	37	36	E1	E1
39	Sér hęn þar vaða þunga straua	38	37	E2*	E2*
40	Austr býr hin aldna í Járnviði	39	25	A1	A1
41	Fyllisk fjęrvi feįgra manna	40	26	A2	A2
42	Sat þar á haugi ok sló hęrpu	41	34	–	–
43	Gól of ęsum Gollinkambi	42	35	–	–
44, 49, 57	Geęr Garmr mjøk fyr Gniphęlli	43, 46, 55	33, 38, 43, 48, 51	–	–
45	Bróðr munu þęrjask ok at bęnum verðask,	44	39	–	–
46	Lęika Míms synir, ęn mjętuðr kyndisk	45	40	D1*	D1*
47	Skęlfr Yggdrasils askr standandi	45*	41	D1*	D1*
48	Hvat 's með ęsum? hvat 's með ęlfum?	49	42	D2	D2
50	Hrymr ękr austan, heęsk lind fyrir	47	44	D3	–
51	Kjöll fęrr austan koma munu Múspell	48	45	D4	–
52	Surtr fęrr sunnan með sviga lęvi	50	46	+, D5	+

53	Þá kómr Hlínar harmr annarr framm	51	47	D6	—
54	Þá kómr hinn mikli mögr Sigfður	52	—	D7	—
55	Gínn lopt yfir lindi jarðar	—	48	—	—
56	Þá kómr hinn męri mögr Hlōðynjar	53*	49*	C8	—
57	Sól tēr sortna, sökkr fold í mar	54	50	C9	—
59	Sér hōn upp koma qðru sinni	56	52	—	—
60	Finnask ęsir á İðavęlli	57*	53	—	—
61	Þar munu ęptir undrsamligar	58	54	—	—
62	Munu ősánir akrar vaxa	59	55	—	—
63	Þá kná Hōnir hlautvið kjósa	60	56	—	—
64	Sal sér hōn standa sólu fęgra	61	57	+	+
65	Þar kómr hinn dimmi dręki fljógandi	62	59	—	—
X	Þá kómr hinn ríki at ręgindómi	—	58	—	—

Greeting to the audience, bidding of Weden.

RH

- 1 Hljóðs bið'k allar · hęlgar kindir,
 2 męiri ok minni · mögu Hęimdallar;
 vildu at, Valfðor, · vęl fram tęlja'k
 4 forn spjoll fira, · þau's fręmst of man?

For hearing I ask all holy kindreds, greater and lesser, sons of Homedall^a [MEN]! Wilt thou, Walfather <= Weden>, that I well count forth the ancient sayings of men, those which I foremost recall?^b

1 hęlgar] *om.* R

^aCf. *Rígh*, wherein *Rígh*, identified by the prose as Homedall, sires three castes of men (namely earls, churls and thralls). — *męiri ok minni* “greater and lesser” may be understood in two ways. It either modifies “holy kindreds”, in which case it could be equivalent to a phrase like “Ease and Elves^G” (i.e. both earthly and heavenly supernatural beings; see Index for occurrences.), or “the sons of Homedall”, in which case it refers to all social classes. In any case she is asking all intelligent beings that may be present for silence; the expression is a merism, see West (2007), 99–100.

^bCf. *Web* 34, 35 with very similar phrasing. The whole introductory formula is positively Indo-European, see West (2007), 63, 92–93, 312.

Wallow reckons what she recalls; the creation and ordering of the world.

RH

- 2 Ek man jōtna · ár of borna,
 2 þa es forðum · mik fōdda hqfðu;
 níu man'k hęima, · níu íviðjur,
 4 mjōtvið męran · fyr mold neðan.

I recall Ettins[†], born of yore, those who anciently had nourished me. Nine Homes[†] I recall, nine Inwithies[†]; the renowned Metwood[†] beneath the soil.^a

3 íviðjur] *Previously read íviði, but closer study of R has disproven this. See Stefán Karlsson 1979.*

^aCertainly Ugdrassle, “beneath the soil” likely referring to it still being a seed.

RHG 3 Ár vas alda · þar's Ymir byggði,
2 vas-a sandr né sér, · né svars unnir;
 jörð farsk ęva · né upphiminn;
4 gap vas ginnunga, · ęn gras hvergi.

It was the beginning of elds[†], there where Yimer dwelled; was there not sand nor sea, nor cool waves. The earth was never found, nor Up-heaven[†]; a gap was of ginnings,^a but grass nowhere.

1 þar's ... byggði “there ... dwelled”] þat's ekki vas “that which nothing was” G 4 hvergi] ekki H

^a*ginnungr* (of which *ginnunga* would be the genitive plural) means ‘hawk’ in the Scoldish poetry, but that meaning hardly makes sense here, unless it is taken as an obscure sky-kenning referring to the primeval void.

RH 4 Áðr Burs synir · bjōðum of ypðu,
2 þęir es Miðgarð · męran skōpu;
 sól skęin sunnan · ą salar stęina;
4 þa vas grund grōin · grōnum lauki.

Before the sons of Byre the flatlands did upwards lift, they who shaped the renowned Middenyard. Sun shone from the south on the stones of the hall; then was the ground grown with green leek.^a

^aThe sons of Bur, that is Weden, Will and Wigh (cf. *Ylf* TODO), lift the lands out of the primordial chaos (the Gap of Ginnings).

RHG 5 Sól varp sunnan, · sinni mǫna,
2 hęndi hinni hōgri · of himinjōður;
 sól þat né vissi, · hvar hōn sali átti;
4 stjōrnur þat né vissu, · hvar þęr staði ۆttu;
 mǫni þat né vissi, · hvat hann męgins átti.

Sun cast from the south—the companion of Moon^a—her right hand over heaven’s rim;^b
Sun knew not, where halls she owned; stars knew not, where steads they owned; Moon knew
not, what sort of might he owned.

1–2 Sól ... himinjǫður] *om.* G 2 of himinjǫður] *vm* himin iodyr R of iöður H

4 stjörnur ... óttu] In G follows 5, so that order is sun, moon, stars.

^aAt times translated as “its moon”; this cannot be correct, as *máni* ‘moon’ is masculine, while *sinni*, dative singular of *sinn* ‘its (reflexive)’ is feminine.

^bThe sun heaved herself up over the horizon and rose for the first time.

RH 6 Þá gingu rēgin ǫll · à røkstóla,
2 ginnhēilǫg goð, · ok umb þat gétusk.
Nótt ok niðjum · nǫfn of gófu,
4 morgin hétu · ok miðjan dag,
undurn ok aptan, · órum at tēlja.

Then went the Powers all onto the rake-seats^a: the gin-holy gods, and from each other
took counsel about that.^b—To night and the moon-phases names did they give; morning
they called, and middle day; afternoon and evening, the years for to tally.^c

^aJudgment-seats; first element *rpk* defined by *C-V* as ‘reason, ground, origin’.

^b10, 23, 25 (TODO) would suggest two lines be missing here.

^cCf. *Web* 23, 25.

RH 7 Hittusk ęsir · à Iðavęlli,
2 þęir’s hęrg ok hof · hę timbruðu;
afla lęgðu, · auð smíðuðu,
4 tangir skópu · ok tól gęrðu.

The Ease found each other on the Idewolds[†], they who harrows[†] and hoves[†] high tim-
bered: hearths they laid, wealth they smithed, tongs they shaped, and tools they made.

2 þęir’s ... timbruðu “they ... timbered”] afls kostuðu · allz freistuðu “[their] strength they tried; all they
tempted” H

RH 8 Tęflðu í túni, · tętir vęru,
2 vas þęim vęttugis · vant ór golli,

unz þrjár kvømu · þursa meýjar,
 4 ámatkar mjök, · ór Jötunheimum.

They played Tavel[†] in the yards, joyous were they: was for them no lack of gold^a—until three came, maidens of thurses[†], greatly loathsome out of Ettinham[†].^b

^aCf. v. 59.

^bThese are immediately forgotten and not again mentioned (unless they are taken to be the norns in v. 21, but they would then be introduced twice).—There seems to be something missing between here, perhaps giving further information of the three thurse-maidens, or detailing the reason for the creation of dwarfs?

Creation of dwarfs.

RHG

9 Þà gingu regin ǫll · à røkstóla,
 2 ginnheilög goð, · ok umb þat gétusk:
 hværr skyldi dverga · drótt of sképja
 4 ór brimi blóðgu · ok ór blóum leggjum?

— Then went the Powers all onto the rake-seats: the gin-holy gods, and from each other took counsel about that: Who would shape the troops of dwarfs[†], out of the bloody surf, and out of the blue-black legs^a?

3 hværr skyldi dverga “Who would ... of dwarfs”] *thus* RWU; at skyldi dverga “That they would ... of dwarfs” ST; hverir skyldu dvergar “Which dwarfs would [shape the people]” H 3 drótt of] *thus* G; drotin (*late definite wo. doubt not original*) R; dróttir “the people” H 3 sképja] *spekia* “soothe [the troop]” U 4 brimi blóðgu “bloody surf”] *thus* HSWU; Brimis blóði “the blood of Brimmer” RT 4 blóum leggjum “blue-black legs”] *metr. emend*; ‘blám leggiom’ R; Bláins leggjum “the legs of Blown” HW; Bláms leggjum (*wo. doubt corrupt form of former*) STU

4 ór brimi ... leggjum] I think that the poem simply telling of “the bloody surf” and “the blue-black legs” fits better with its general allusive style, but this choice may be somewhat controversial.

^aGurevich (*Skp* 2017, p. 693) (employing the translation of *SnE* (2005) p. 16) interprets the “legs of Blown (*a dwarf*)” as a kenning for ‘stone’, but this disagrees with the prose in *Yilf* (TODO), which states that the dwarfs first originated as maggots in Yimer’s rotting corpse.

RHG

10 Þar vas Móðsognir · mēztr of orðinn
 2 dverga allra, · en Durinn annarr;
 þeir manlíkun · mǫrg of gerðu,
 4 dvergar í jorðu, · sēm Durinn sagði.

There was Moodsowner become the worthiest of all dwarfs, but Dorn [was] second. They made man-likenesses many; dwarfs out of the earth, as Dorn said.

1–2 Þar ... annarr “There ... second”] *om.* **G** 1 Þar vas Móðsognir] *thus* **H**; ‘Þar mótfognir vitnir’ “there Mootsowner wolf” (*wo. doubt corrupt*) **R** — *The prose of Yilf confirms reading Móðsognir.* 3 þeir ... gæðu “They ... many”] *thus* **RHU**; þar manlíkun / mǫrg of gæðusk (*norm.*) “There man-likenesses many were made” **STW** 4 ór “out of”] *thus* **R** í “in” **STWUH** 4 sēm Durinn sagði “as Dorn said”] *thus* **RHSW**; sēm dur menn sagði “as door-men said” **T**; sēm þeim dyrinn kendi “as the animals taught them” **U**

3–4 þeir ... sagði “They ... said.”] There are two conflicting forms of the verse. Either the dwarfs were created on their own; this is supported by the prose of *Yilf* (see note to last v.) and by the form of its verse. On the other hand, both **R** and **H** have the “worthiest” dwarfs Mootsowner and Dorn shaping “man-likenesses” out of soil. I have gone with the latter reading, but both should be considered.

Two lists of dwarfs. That both belonged to the original poem is impossible, since several names (Oakenshield, Great-grandfather) appear in both. The three following verses seem to belong together, since there is no repetition of names. From the last line of the middle one, it seems that it should have been placed at the end of the group.

RHG

- 11** Nýi ok Niði, · Norðri, Suðri,
2 Austri, Vestri, · Alþjófr, Dvalinn,
Bívurr, Bávurr, · Bǫmburr, Nóri,
4 Ánn ok Ánarr, · Ái, Mjǫðvitnir.

— New and Nithe, Norther and Suther, Easter and Wester, Allthief, Dwollen, Bewer, Bower, Bamber, Noor, Own and Owner, Great-grandfather, Meadwitner.

RHG

- 12** Veigr ok Gandalf, · Vindalf, Þráinn,
2 Þekkr ok Þorinn, · Þrór, Vitr ok Lit, r,
Nár ok Nýráðr, · nú hef’k dverga,
4 Ręginn ok Ráðsviðr, · rétt of talða.

Wey and Gandelf, Windelf, Thrown, Thetch and Thorn, Throo, Wit and Lit, Nee and Newred—now have I the dwarfs—Rain and Redswith—rightly tallied.

Second list.

RHG

- 13** Fíli, Kíli, · Fundinn, Náli,
2 Hepti, Víli, · Hannarr, Svíurr,
Frár, Hornbori, · Fręgr ok Lóni,
4 Aurvangr, Jari, · Eikinskjaldi.

Filer, Chiler, Found and Needler, Hefter, Wiler, Hanner, Swigher, Fraw, Hornborer, Fray and Looner, Earwong, Earer, Oakenshield.

- RHG 14 Mál es dverga · í Dvalins liði
 2 ljóna kindum · til Lofars tēlja,
 þeir es sóttu · frá salar stēini
 4 aurvanga sjot · til Joruvalla.

— 'Tis time to tally the dwarfs in Dwollen's host [back] to Loffer, for the kindreds of men;^a they who sought, from the stone of the hall, the abode of Earwongs^{†b} to the Erwolds^{†c}.

3 þeir] þeim H

^aA standard genealogical introduction (compare *Hal* 1). The line of dwarfs is to be counted to their progenitor, Loffer. This possibly disagrees with the earlier introduction ("There was ..."), where Moodsown is said to be the foremost of the dwarfs, and Loffer is not mentioned.

^b*C-V aurvangr* 'a loamy field', and indeed this fits etymologically.

^c*Ylf* (TODO): "But these came from Swornshigh (*Svarinsbaugr*) to the Earwongs on the Erwolds, and thence Loffer is come; these are their names: Sherper (*Skirpir*), Werper (*Virpir*), Showfind, Great-grandfather, Elf and Ing (*Ing*), Oakenshield, Fale (*Falr*), Frost, Finn, Ginner."

- RHG 15 Þar vas Draupnir · ok Dolgþrasir,
 2 Hár, Haugspori, · Hlévangr, Glói,
 Skirfir, Virfir, · Skáfiðr, Ái,
 4 Alfr ok Yngvi, · Eikinskjaldi,
 Fjalarr ok Frosti, · Finnrr ok Ginnarr;
 6 Þat mun é uppi, · meðan öld lifir,
 langniðja-tal · til Lofars hafat.

There was Dreepen and Dollowthrasher, High, Highspurer, Leewong, Glower, Sherver, Werver, Showfind, Great-grandfather, Elf and Ing, Oakenshield, Feller and Frost, Finn and Ginner: That will ever be remembered, while the eld[†] lives^a, the tally of descendants, heaved to Loffer.

6 é] *om. R* 7 til] *om. H*

^aTwo archaic formulae. The first literally "that will ever up above", cf. *HarS* TODO: "We two are cursed, brother, thy bane am I become! That will ever be remembered (*þat mun é uppi*, but both mss. *þat mun enn uppi*), evil is the doom of the norms!". The second is found in a runic inscription, U 323 (980–1015): "Ever will lie, while the eld lives (*meþ + altr + lifir með aldr lifir*), the hard-hammered bridge, broad, after a good man."

Creation of first men.

- RH 16 Unz þrír kvömu · ór því liði

- 2 ǫflgir ok ástkir · ęsir at húsi;
 fundu á landi · lítt meęandi
 4 Ask ok Emblu · ęrlęglausa.

— Until three came out of that host: strong and lovely Ease along the houses; they found on land the little availing Ash and Emble, orlay[†]-less.^a

1 þrír] *gramm. emend.* þrjár (*norm.*) RH 1 ór því liði] þussa brúðir “brides of thurses” (*wo. doubt corrupt*) H
 2 ǫflgir ok ástkir] ástkir ok ǫflgir H

^aFor, according to *Ylf* (TODO: reference), they were pieces of driftwood.

- RH 17 Qnd þau né ęttu, · óð þau né hęfðu,
 2 lę né lęti · né litu góða;
 qnd gaf Óðinn, · óð gaf Hónir,
 4 lę gaf Lóðurr · ok litu góða.

Breath they owned not, wode[†] they had not, not craft nor sound, nor good complexion. Breath gave Weden, wode gave Heen, craft gave Lothar, and good complexion.

The ash of Ugdrassle and its three norns.

- RHG 18 Ask vęit’k standa, · hęitir Yggdrasill,
 2 hęr baðmr, ausinn · hvíta auri;
 þaðan koma dęggvar · þęr’s í dala falla;
 4 stęndr ę yfir grønn · Urðar brunni.

— An ash I know standing, Ugdrassle[†] ’tis called: a high beam^a, poured with white mud^b. Thence come the dew-drops which in the dales fall; it stands ever green over the Well of Weird[†].

1 standa “stand[ing]” *thus* RHU; ausinn “[is] poured” STW 1 Yggdrasill] Yggdrasils S 2 baðmr “beam” borinn “born” (*wo. doubt corrupt*) U 2 ausinn “poured”] hęilagr (*norm.*) “holy” G 3 þęr’s] er “which” ST 4 stęndr] *add.* hann ST 4 ę] *om.* U 4 grønn] ‘grvnn’ S; ‘grein’ U

^aTree.

^bCompare perhaps with the Indian ritual pouring of beverages onto the *lingam*.—For the whole passage compare 27.

- RH 19 Þaðan koma meýjar · margs vitandi
 2 þrjár ór þęim sę, · es und þolli stęndr;

Urð hétu ęina, · aðra Verðandi,
 4 skóru á skíði, · Skuld hina þriðju
 þér lög lögðu, · þér líf kóru,
 6 alda börnum, · orlög sęggja.

Thence come maidens, much knowing: three out of that lake, which stands beneath the pine^a: Weird they called one, the other Worthing—carved they on boards—Shild the third. Laws they laid, lives they chose: for the children of mortals, the orlay^C of men.

2 sę “lake”] sal “hall” H 2 und “beneath”] á “on” H 6 sęggja “of men”] at segia “to say” H

^aBut here simply meaning ‘tree’; perhaps the same applies for “ash” earlier.

The origin of the Wallow.

RH 20 Þat man hōn folkvíg · fyrst í hęimi,
 2 es Gollvęigu · gęirum studdu
 ok í hōll Háars · hana bręnndu,
 4 þrysvar bręnndu · þrysvar borna,
 opt ósjaldan, · þó hōn ęnn lifir.

— That troop-war she recalls^a, the first in the home[†], as Goldwey with spears they goaded, and in the hall of Higher[†] <= Weden>[WALHALL][1] burned her: thrice they burned the thrice born; often unseldom, though she yet lives.^b

4 þrysvar bręnndu] *repeated twice* H

^aWhile appealing to read *folk-víg* ‘troop-war’ as meaning ‘ethnic conflict’, thus describing the war between the Ease and Wanes, *folk* almost certainly here carries its earlier meaning of ‘troop, group of warriors’.

^bVery cryptic. TODO: double check Snorri. Goldwey was apparently burned three times “often unseldom” (in short succession?) by the Ease, which yet did not kill her?

RH 21 Hęiði hétu, · hvar’s til húsa kom,
 2 vōlu velspáa, · vitti hōn ganda;
 sęið hvar’s kunni, · sęið hug lęikinn;
 4 ę vas hōn angan · illrar brúðar.

Heath they called her, where to houses she came: a well-spaeing^a wallow^C, she bewitched gands^C. She soth^b where she could, she soth deluded minds; ever was she the love of an evil bride.

2 völu] ok völu H 2 velspáa] *metr. emend.*; ‘uel spá’ R; ‘vel spá’ H 3 hvar’s kunni] hon kvnni R; hon hvars
hvn kunni H 3 hug leiðinn] hon leikinn R; hon hugleikin H

^aGifted at soothsaying.

^bPast tense of *sit*^c (ON. *síða*) ‘to enchant, bewitch’.

War between Ease and Wanes.

RH 22 Þá gingu reigin öll · à røkstóla,
2 ginnheilög goð, · ok umb þat géttusk:
hvárt skyldu ęsir · afrað gjalda,
4 eða skyldu goð öll · gildi ęiga?

Then went the Powers all onto the rake-seats: the gin-holy gods, and from each other took counsel about that: whether the Ease should tribute yield, or should the gods all a banquet hold?

RH 23 Flęygði Óðinn · ok í folk of skaut;
2 þat vas ęnn folkvíg · fyrst í heimi;
brotinn vas borðveggr · borgar ása,
4 knóttu vanir vígspó · völlu sporna.

Weden flung [a spear], and into the opposing army did shoot; that was yet the first folk-war^a in the home[†]. Broken was the board-wall^b of the fortification of the Ease; the Wanes did by wigh-spae[†] tread the fields.^c

^a*folk* probably in its earlier sense, ‘troop’, though reading it as ‘people, folk’ is attractive, since it would give *folkvíg* the meaning ‘ethnic conflict’.

^bWall made of planks.

^cThe Wanes used magic spells to defeat the Ease.

Building of the wall by the ettin.

RHG 24 Þá gingu reigin öll · à røkstóla,
2 ginnheilög goð, · ok umb þat géttusk:
hvęrr hefði lopt alt · lévi blandit
4 eða ęt jötuns · Óðs meý gefna.

Then went the Powers all onto the rake-seats: the gin-holy gods, and from each other took counsel about that: Who had the air all with treason blended, or to the ettin’s aught[†] given Wode[†]’s maiden^a?

^aThat is, promised Frie to the ettin NAME. TODO: relate with what Snorri writes about the building of the wall.

Thunder slays him.

RHG **25** Þórr ęinn þar vá · þrunginn móði,
 2 hann sjaldan sitr, · es slíkt of fregn;
 á gingusk ęðar, · orð ok sóri,
 4 mól ęll meginlig, · es á meðal fóru.

Thunder alone fought there, pressed by wrath; he seldom sits, when of such^a he learns. Trampled were oaths, speeches and vows; the mighty treaties all, which between them had gone.

1 þar vá “fought there”] *thus* HTU; þar var “was there” R; þat vann “performed it” S; þat ua “fought it” W 3–4 á ... fóru.] *om.* W 4 fóru] voru “[between them] were” HT

1–4 Þórr ... fóru.] In G the two helmings (*Þórr ... fregn; á ... fóru*) come in reverse order of RH, which is here followed.

^aOath-breaking, lies and deception.

Homedall’s hearing hidden beneath Ugdrassle.

RH **26** Veit hōn Hęimdallar · hljóð of folgit
 2 und hęiðvōnum · hęlgum baðmi;
 á sér hōn ausask · aurgum forsi
 4 af veði Valfōðrs. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

— Knows she the hearing of Homedall hidden, ’neath a shady^a, hallowed beam^b. On it she sees being poured a muddy torrent^c, from the pledge of Walfather^d <= Weden> [Mimer’s well?]^e—know ye yet, or what?^e

^a*hęiðvanr*, literally ‘clear-, bright-less’.

^bThe tree must be Ugdrassle.

^cLiterally “on she sees being poured with a muddy torrent”, which should be the same mud as in v. 19. However, if ms. *á* is read as *ę* ‘river’, it would mean “A river she sees being fed by a muddy waterfall, from ...”

^dPresumably referring to Weden’s sacrifice of an eye at Mimer’s well.

^e“Do ye (Weden) know enough now, or what?”—repeated in 28, 33, 34, 38, 40, 47, 60, 61.

Weden sought out the wallow.—The following two verses are written together as one in R.

- R 27 Eín sat hön úti, · þá's hinn aldni kom
 2 yggjungur ása · ok í augu leit;
 hvers fregnið mik? · hví freistið mín?

— Lone sat she outside, when the old one came: the Terrifier of the Ease^a, and into [her] eyes looked. “Why inquierest thou me? Why temptest thou me?”^b

^aWeden.

^bThe Wallow speaks.

- RG 28 Alt veit’k, Óðinn, · hvar auga falt
 2 í hinum mēra · Mímis brunni;
 drekkur mjöð Mímir · morgin hverjan
 4 af veði Valföðrs. · Vituð ér enn eða hvat?

I know it all, Weden; where thine eye thou hidst: in the renowned Well of Mime[†], [there] drinks Mime mead every morning, from the pledge of Walfather^a <= Weden> [Mimer’s well?]²—know ye yet, or what?”

2 í hinum mēra] *thus* W; þitt (*with points marking as error*) i enom mēra Rí þeim hinum meira (“id.”) (*norm.*) TU; vr þeim envm mēra “out of the renowned” S 4 veði “pledge”] veiði “hunting”

^aSee note to v. 26.

- R 29 Valði henni Hærföðr · hringa ok mēn;
 2 fēspjöll spaklig · ok spáganda;
 sá hön vítt ok umb vítt · of veröld hverja.

Host-father chose for her, rings and necklaces, wise wealth-spells, and spae-gands^a; saw she widely and widely about, o’er every world.

2 “wise wealth-spells”] By some authors (see Haukur 2020, p. 51 ff.) emended to *fekk spjöll spaklig* “he (= Weden) received wise tidings”

^aThe meaning of a *gand* not fully clear. In this verse perhaps staffs used in ritual?

The Walkirries.

- R 30 Sá hön valkyrjur · vítt of komnar,
 2 gorrvar at ríða · til goðþjóðar.

Skuld hēlt skildi, · ęn Skōgul ęnnur,
 4 Gunnr, Hildr, Gōndul · ok Geirskōgul;
 nú eru talðar · nōnnur Hęrjans,
 6 gōrvar at ríða · grund valkyrjur.

Saw she walkirries, widely come, ready to ride to Godthede[†]. Shild held a shield, and Shagle another; Guth, Hild, Gandle, and Goreshagle; now are tallied the women of the Lord of Hosts: walkirries[†] ready to ride the ground.

3–6 Skuld ... valkyrjur] These four lines, especially from the out-of-place ending (*nú eru talðar*), seem to be a latter insert from a *thule* counting the walkirries.

The fate of Balder.

R 31 Ek sá Baldri, · blóðgum tívi,
 2 Óðins barni, · ørlōg folgin;
 stóð of vaxinn · vōllum hęri
 4 mjór ok mjōk fagr · mistiltęinn.

— I saw Balder's, the bloody tue's, the child of Weden's, orlay[†] sealed^a; grown did stand, higher than the fields, slender and greatly fair, the mistletoe.^b

^aNotably, *fela* 'hide, conceal' is used to describe burial in mounds, as in *IngT* 24, ÖI 1 (900s): "hidden (*fulkin folginn*) in this mound lies he whom the greatest deeds followed..."

^bTold allusively in the following three verses is the death of Balder at the hands of his blind brother Hath. *Yif* TODO

R 32 Varð af meįði, · þęim's męr sýndisk,
 2 harmflaug hęttlig, · Hōðr nam skjóta.
 Baldrs bróðir vas · of borinn snimma,
 4 sá nam, Óðins sonr, · ęinnętttr vega;

Became of that beam, which meager seemed, a baneful harm-flier; Hath began to shoot. Balder's brother was born early; that one began, Weden's son, one night old, to fight.

R 33 þó hann ęva hęndr · né hōfuð kęmbōi,
 2 áðr à bál of bar · Baldrs andskota.
 ęn Frigg of grét · í Fęnsōlum
 4 vō Valhallar. · Vituð ęr ęnn eða hvat?

Washed he never hands, nor head combed, before onto the pyre he did bear Balder's opponent. But Frie did lament, in the Fenhalls, the woe of Walhall—know ye yet, or what?

- H 34 Þá kná Váli · vígbond snúa
2 heldr vöru harðgort · hopt ór þormum.

Then did Wonnel^P the war-bonds turn; were they rather sturdy, fetters made out of intestines.

1–2 Þá ... þormum.] Only attested in H where it is combined with the last two lines of the next v. (*þar ... hvat?*).

The imprisoned Locke.

- RH 35 Hapt sá hön liggja · und Hveralundi
2 léggjarnlíki · Loka æþekkjā;
þar sitr Sigyn · þeygi of sínum
4 veri vęlglyjuð. · Vitud ér enn eða hvat?

A captive she saw lying, 'neath Wharlund: the guileful form of similar Locke. There sits Sighyn, not at all cheerful, above her husband;^a—know ye yet, or what?

1–2 Hapt ... æþekkjā] *om.* H

^aSee *FrL.*

- R 36 Ó fęllr austan · of ęitrdala
2 sọxum ok sverðum, · Slıðr hętir sú.

A river falls from the east, above the venom-dales, with saxes and swords; Slide is that one called.

Two halls.

- R 37 Stóð fyr norðan · á Niðavøllum
2 salr ór golli · Sindra ętta,
ęn annarr stóð · á Ókólni,
4 bjórsalr jötuns, · ęn sá Brimir hętir.

Stood to the north, on the Nithewolds, a hall out of gold, of the aught[†] of Sinder; but another one stood, on Uncoalner, the beer-hall of an ettin, and Brimmer 'tis called.

The worst hall.

- RHG **38** Sal sá hōn standa · sólu fjarri
 2 Náströndu á, · norðr horfa dyrr;
 falla ęitrdropar · inn umb ljóra,
 4 sá's undinn salr · orma hryggjum.

A hall she saw standing, far from the sun, on Nawstrand, north face the doors; fall venom-drops in through the smoke-vent, that hall is wound by the spines of snakes.

- RHG **39** Sá hōn þar vaða · þunga strauma
 2 mēnn mēinsvara · ok morðvarga
 ok þann's annars glepr · ęyrarúnu.
 4 Þar saug Niðhoggr · nái framgingna;
 sleit vargr vera. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

There she saw wade, through heavy streams, oath-breaking men and murderwargs, and the one who confounds another's understanding^a. There sucked Nithehew from corpses passed-on; the warg tore men asunder—know ye yet, or what?

1 Sá hōn “she saw”] *thus* R; ser hōn “she sees” H; skulu “shall” G 4 saug “sucked”] *thus* H; sūg (*corrupt form of saug*) R; kvęlr “torments”

^aLiterally “who confounds another's ear-rune;” false counsellors.

The hag nourishes the destroyers in Ironwood.

- RHG **40** Austr býr hin aldna · í Járnvíði
 2 ok fōðir þar · Fęnris kindir;
 verðr af þeim ęllum · ęinna nøkkurr
 4 tungls tjúgari · í trolls hami.

In the east dwells the old woman, in Ironwood[†], and nourishes there the kindreds of Fenner[†]; from them all becomes one most particular: a seizer of the moon, in the hame[†] of a troll.^a

1 býr] *Thus* HG sat “stayed [the old]” R 1 aldna] arma “the wretched woman” U 1 Járnvíði] jarnuidiom “[in] Ironwoods” T 2 fōðir] *Thus* HG; fōddi “nourished” R 3 af] ór “out of [them]” TS 4 tjúgari] tuigan T

wo. doubt corrupt; tregari “griever [of the moon]” U — As the young agentive suffix *-ari* is found only here in the poem, it is possible that this word is corrupt. In that case, it must have occurred quite early in the transmission, as reflexes of **tiugari* are found in all surviving mss.

^aThe old hag raises the offspring of the wolf Fenner, of which one will swallow the moon (and according to *Ylf* TODO the other the sun). See note to the next v.

- RHG 41 Fyllisk fjörvi · feigra manna,
 2 rýðr ragna sjöt · rauðum dreyra,
 svört verða sólskin · umb sumur ęptir,
 4 veðr ęll válynd. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

He^a fills himself with the life of fey[†] men; he reddens the abode of the Powers[†] with red gore. Black becomes the sunshine about the summers afterwards^b; the storms all woeful—know ye yet, or what?

^aThe wolf.

^bAfter the sun is swallowed. But since the wallow does not tell us that this is a different wolf (it seems rather it be one and the same), it may reflect an earlier version of the myth, where one son of Fenner swallowed both the sun and moon. Yet, according to *Web* 36–37 it is Fenner himself who will swallow the sun (and thus likely the moon as well,) unless it there be taken as a general hote[†] for ‘wolf’ (which undoubtedly is its original meaning). TODO

Edgethew struck harp; a fair-red cock crowed.

- RH 42 Sat þar á haugi · ok sló hęrpu
 2 gýgjar hirðir, · glaðr ęggþér;
 gól of hęnum · í Gaglviði
 4 fagrrauðr hani, · sá’s Fjalarr hętir.

Sat there on the high[†] and struck the harp, the troll-woman’s herdsman, glad Edgethew[†]. Above him crowed, in Galewood^a, a fair-red cock, that one who Feller is called.

^a*gagl* ‘wild goose’, maybe here referring to carrion-eating ravens? Possibly the same as Ironwood.

A golden cock crowed in Osyard; a soot-red in Hell.

- RH 43 Gól of ęsum · Gollinkambi,
 2 sá vękr hęlða · at Hęrjafęðrs,
 ęn annarr gęlr · fyr jęrð neðan
 4 sótrauðr hani · at solum Hęljar.

Above the Ease crowed Goldencombe: he wakes men at the Father of Hosts's [estate];
but another one crows beneath the earth: a soot-red cock, at the halls of Hell.

RH 44 Geyr Garmr mjök · fyr Gnipahelli,
2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;
fjölð vęit hęn fróða, · framm sé'k lęngra
4 of ragna røk, · rømm sigtíva.

Barks Garm loudly before the Gnip-caverns; the rope will tear, and Freck run. Much
she knows of learning, forth I see yet further; about the mighty Rakes of the Powers, of the
victory-tues.

Degeneration of man.

RHG 45 Bróðr munu berjask · ok at þonum verðask,
2 munu systrungar · sifjum spilla;
hart 's í hęmi, · hórdömr mikill,
4 skęggöld, skalmöld, · skildir klofnir,
vindöld, vargöld, · áðr veröld steypisk
6 mun ęngi maðr · qðrum þyrma.

Brothers will fight, and become each other's slayers; sister's sons will spill their kinship.^a
'Tis hard in the Home, whoredom great: axe-eld, sword-eld—shields are rent—wind-eld,
warg-eld; before the world^b tumbles down, no man will another spare.

2 systrungar "sister's sons"] stystrungar (*wo. doubt corrupt*) T 3 í hęmi "in the home"] *thus* RHU; með
hólðum "among men" STW 4 skildir "shields"] *add.* ró "are" R 4 klofnir "cloven"] klofna "become cloven"
U 5 áðr "before"] unz (*norm.*) "until" U 6 ęngi] enn (*wo. doubt corrupt*) U

5 vindöld "wind-eld"] In H capitalized, marking as new verse.

5 steypisk "tumbles down"] After this word H has a line not found in R or G: *grundir gjalla / gífr fljúgandi* (*norm.*)
"foundations shrill, fiends flying"

6 mun ... þyrma "before ... spare."] *om.* STW

^aWhether through incest or treachery. TODO: literary evidence of the phrase *spilla sifjum*.

^b*ver-öld* 'world' is literally 'man-eld', 'the eld of man'.

Prophesied events come to pass.

RHG 46 Leika Míms synir, · ęn mjötuðr kyndisk

- 2 at hinu galla · Gjallarhorni;
hótt bléss Heimdallr, · horn 's á lopti;
4 mēlir Óðinn · við Míms hofuð.

Play the sons of Mime, and the Metted is kindled, at [the sounding of] the shrill Horn of Yell. Loudly blows Homedall; the horn is aloft; Weden speaks with the head of Mime.

4 mēlir “speaks”] mey S; nie T *both wo. doubt corrupt*

1–4 Lēika ... hofuð.] In G ll. 1–2 (*Lēika ... Gjallarborni*; “Play ... Horn of Yell.”) are missing, and ll. 3–4 (*hótt ... hofuð*. “High ... head [of Mime.]”) are instead paired with the first two lines of the next v. (Skelfr ... losnar;)

- RHG 47 Skelfr Yggdrasils · askr standandi,
2 ymr it aldna tré, · en jötunn losnar;
hrēðask allir · à hēlvegum
4 áðr Surtar þann · sefi of gleypir.

Quakes the ash of Ugdrassle, standing; groans the old tree, and the ettin loosens. All are frightened on the Hell-ways, before Surt's kinsman does devour it.

1–2 Skelfr ... losnar “Quakes ... loosens.”] thus HG; in R the two lines are reversed.

3–4 hrēðask ... gleypir “[All] are frightened ... devour [it.]”] only in H

- RHG 48 Hvat 's með ósum? · hvat 's með ǫlfum?
2 gnýr allr Jötunheimr, · ęsir 'ro à þingi,
stynja dvergar · fyr steindurum
4 veggbergs vísir — · vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

— What is with the Ease? What is with the Elves? Roars all Ettinham, the Ease are at the Thing. Dwarfs groan before gates of stone, the princes of the wedge-rock—know ye yet, or what?

1 ǫlfum “Elves”] asynivm “Osennies” U 2 gnýr ... þingi] *om.* U 3 steindurum] steins U— -dyrum HWU
4 veggbergs vísir] *om.* U 4 veggbergs “wedge-rock”] vegbergs “way-rock” HTW

- RH 49 Geyr nú Garmr mjök · fyr Gnipahelli,
2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;
fjöld vęit hōn frōða, · framm sé'k lęngra
4 of ragna rōk, · rōmm sigtíva.

Barks now Garm loudly before the Gnip-caverns; the rope will tear, and Freck run. Much she knows of learning, forth I see yet further; about the mighty Rakes of the Powers, of the victory-tues.

The enemies of the gods assemble.

RHSTW

50 Hrymr ękr austan, · heřsk lind fyrir,
2 snýsk Jormungandr · í jötunmóði;
ormr knýr unnir, · ęn ari hlakkar,
4 slítr nái neffǫlr; · Naglfar losnar.

Rim drives from the east, holding his shield before himself; Ermingand writhes about in ettin's wrath. The worm propels the waves, but the eagle screams: the pale-beak tears corpses; Nailfare loosens.

3 ęn ari hlakkar “but the eagle screams”] ǫrn mun hlakka “the eagle will scream” ST

RHSTW

51 Kjóll fęrr austan · koma munu Múspells
2 of lǫg lýðir, · ęn Loki stýrir;
fara fíflmeęir · með Freka allir,
4 þeim es bróðir · Býlęists í fǫr.

A ship travels from the east—come will Muspell's subjects by sea—but Locke steers it. Travel the warlocks all with Freck; with them comes the brother of Bylest [LOCKE][1] along.

Surt comes; the final battle begins.

RHG

52 Surtr fęrr sunnan · með sviga lévi,
2 skínn af sverði · sól valtíva;
grjótbjǫrg gnata, · ęn gífr rata,
4 troða halir hęlveg, · ęn himinn klofnar.

Surt comes from the south, with the betrayer of the stick [FIRE]; from the sword shines the sun of the slain-tues; boulders clash, but the fiends reel; men march on the Hell-ways[†], but heaven is sundered.

1 Surtr] Svartr U 3 gífr rata] guðar hrata “[but] the gods stagger” (*wo. doubt corrupt, young masc. pl. is proof enough.*) U

Weden falls to the Wolf and Free to Surt.

RHSTW

- 53 Þá kómr Hlínar · harmr annarr framm,
 2 es Óðinn færr · við ulf vega,
 en bani Belfja · bjartr at Surti;
 4 þá mun Friggjar · falla angan.

Then comes Line[†]'s second sorrow to pass, as Weden goes to strike against the wolf; but the bane of Bellow^{†a}, bright, [goes] against Surt; then will Frie's beloved^b fall.

4 angan] angantyr R

^aFree[†].

^bWeden, her husband.

Wider avenges Weden and slays the Wolf.

RSTW

- 54 Þá kómr hinn mikli · mögr Sigföður,
 2 Víðarr vega · at valdýri;
 léttr hann megi Hveðrungs · mund of standa
 4 hjör til hjarta; · þá 's heftt föður.

Then comes the great lad of Sighfather[†], Wider, to strike at the murderous beast; he lets his hand plunge the sword into the heart of Whethring[†]'s lad^a; then is the father avenged.

1 Þá kómr ... Sigföður "Then ... Sighfather"] Gængr Óðins sonr / við ulf vega "Goes Weden's son against the wolf to fight" G 2 vega] of veg G

^aThe son of Locke; the wolf.

H

- 55 Gínn lopt yfir · lindi jarðar,
 2 gapa ýgs kjaptar · orms í hécum;
 mun Óðins son · çitri móta
 4 vargs at dauða · Víðars niðja.

Yawns over the air the girdle of the earth [THE MIDDENYARDSWORM][1]; gape the jaws of the fierce worm in the heights. The venom of the beast will meet Weden's son [THUNDER][1], after the deaths of Wider's kinsmen [THE EASE][1].

3 çitri "venom"] ormi "the worm" H, cf. the prose of Ylf: "Thunder bears the bane-word from the Middenyardsworm and thence strides away nine paces. Then he falls dead to the earth by the **venom** (çitri) which the Worm blows on him." 4 dauða] da... H

1–4 Ginn ... niðja.] Reading taken from Jón Helgason 1971, pp. 13, 44ff.

Thunder and the Worm kill each other.

RHSTW

- 56** Þà kœmr hinn méri · mœgr Hlœðynjar
 2 gœngr Óðins sonr · við orm vega.
 Drepr af móði · Miðgarðs véurr;
 4 munu halir allir · heimstœð ryðja;
 gœngr fet níu · Fjœrgynjar burr
 6 neppr frá naðri, · niðs ôkvíðnum.

Then comes the renowned lad of Lathyn: the son of Weden goes the worm[†] to meet. Middenyard's wigh-ward strikes out of wrath; all men will their homesteads empty.^a The son of Fîrgyn goes nine paces, pained, away from the loathsome adder.^b

1 Þà kœmr] Gœngr G 2 gœngr ... vega] Only in R 3–6 Drepr ... ôkvíðnum] neppr af naðri / niðs ôkvíðnum / munu halir allir / heimstœð ryðja, / es af móði drepr / Miðgarðs véurr “[Goes the renowned lad of Lathyn,] pained, away from the loathsome adder. All men will empty their homesteads, when Middenyard's wigh-ward strikes out of wrath.” G

^aIt seems likely that the order found in *Ylf* is original. After Thunder dies, farming becomes impossible, and thus men must leave their homes.

^bThunder, mortally wounded, struggles nine steps away from the Worm before he falls. See note to previous verse.

Culmination.

RHG

- 57** Sól tér sortna, · sökkr fold í mar,
 2 hverfa af himni · heðar stjœrnur;
 geisar çimi · við aldrnara;
 4 leíkr hœr hiti · við himin sjalfan.

The sun does blacken, sinks the fold into the sea; disappear off heaven the clear stars. Rages smoke from the nourisher of life^a; licks the high heat heaven itself.

1 sökkr ... mar] This line is very similar to a line of v. 24 in Arnthur ‘earl-scold’ Thurthson’s Drape of Thurfinn (*Skp*: Arn Þorðar 24¹¹): *sökkr fold í mar dœkkvan* “sinks the fold into the dark sea”. For this reason, *sökkr* ‘sinks’ STW has been chosen over *sígr* ‘descends’ RHU.

^aFire.

RH

- 58** Gœyr nú Garmr mjœk · fyr Gnipahœlli,

- 2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;
 fjölð veit hön fróða, · framm sé'k lęgra
 4 of ragna røk, · rømm sigtíva.

Barks now Garm loudly before the Gnip-caverns; the rope will tear, and Freck run. Much she knows of learning, forth I see yet further; about the mighty Rakes of the Powers, of the victory-tues.

The world is reborn.

- RH **59** Sér hön upp koma · ǫðru sinni
 2 jorð ór ęgi · iðjagróna;
 falla forsar, · flýgr ǫrn yfir,
 4 sá's à fjalli · fiska veiðir.

Sees she come up, a second time: the earth out of the sea, ever green anew. Torrents fall; flies an eagle above, the one who on the fells fish does catch.

- RH **60** Finnask ęsir · à Iðavęlli
 2 ok umb moldþinur · mótkað dōma,
 ok minnask þar · à meęindōma
 4 ok à Fimbultýs · fornar rúnar.

The Ease find each other on the Idewolds, and about the mighty earth-strip^a converse, and remember there mighty judgements, and Fimbletue's <= Weden's> ancient runes.

^aThe Middenyardsworm.

A new golden age.

- RH **61** Þar munu ęptir · undrsamligar
 2 gollnar tǫflur · í grasi finnask,
 þęr's í árdaga · áttar hǫfðu.

There will afterwards wondrous golden Tavel-bricks in the grass be found: those which in days of yore they had owned.^a

^aCf. v. 9. The rediscovering of the golden game pieces symbolizes a new golden age.

- RH **62** Munu ósánir · akrar vaxa;

- 2 þols mun alls batna · mun Baldr koma;
 búa Høðr ok Baldr · Hropts sigtoptir,
 4 vël valtívar. · Vituð ér enn eða hvat?

Unsown will fields grow: evil will all be bettered: Balder will come. Bedwell Hath and Balder the victory-plots of Roftr <= Weden>, well, the slain Tues—know ye yet, or what?

- RH 63 Þà kná Hónir · hlautvið kjósa
 2 ok burir byggva · bróðra Tveggja
 vindheim viðan. · Vituð ér enn eða hvat?

Then does Heen choose the leat[†]-wood^a, and the sons of the brothers of Tway <= Weden> settle the wide wind-home[SKY.]^b—know ye yet, or what?

^aRestore the blout and practice divination.

^bWill and Wigh? Who their sons are is unknown.

- RHG 64 Sal sér hōn standa · sólu fęgra,
 2 golli þakðan, · à Gimléi;
 þar skulu dyggvar · dróttir byggva
 4 ok umb aldrdaga · ynðis njóta.

A hall she sees standing, fairer than the sun: thatched with gold, on Gemlee; there dutiful men shall dwell, and in their life-days delights enjoy.

1 sér hōn “she sees”] vęit’k (*norm.*) “I know” G 2 þakðan “thatched”] betra “better [than gold]” ST 2 Gimléi] *metr. emend.* Gimlé (*norm.*) RHG 3 þar “there”] þann “it [shall dutiful men bedwell]” TW

The dragon still lives; the wallow descends.

- RH 65 Þar kōmr hinn dimmi · dręki fljúgandi,
 2 naðr frānn neðan · frá Niðafjōllum;
 berr sér í fjōðrum · —flýgr vōll yfir—
 4 Níðhoggr nái; · nú mun hōn søkkvask.

— Then comes the shadowy dragon flying; the gleaming adder down below from the Nithfells[†]. Nithehew bears in his feathers—flying over the field—corpses.” — Now she will sink!^a

^aThe wallow, referring to herself in third person, descends back down into her grave, whence Weden woke her.

Spurious verse from H.

H X Þá kómr hinn ríki · at regindómi
 2 oflugar ofan · sá's öllu réðr.

— Then comes the mighty one, for the great judgement; strong from above, the one who over all things wields.

1–2 Þá ... réðr.] This verse is found only in H, in between the last two vv. It is without doubt a late, Christian addition.

The Speeches of Webthrithner
(*Vafþrúðnismól*)

(Óðinn kvað:)

- 1 Ráð mér nú Frigg · alls mik fara tíðir
 2 at vitja Vafþrúðnis;
 forvitni mikla · kveð'k mér á fornum stofum
 4 við þann hinn alsvinna jötun.

Weden[†] quoth: “Counsel me now, Frie[†], as I desire to travel to visit Webthriðner[†]; greatly curious am I of ancient staves^a by that all-wise ettin[†].”

^aAncient (pieces of) lore; cf. v. 55.

(Frigg kvað:)

- 2 Hęima lęta · mynda'k Hęrjafðör
 2 í gøðum goða;
 ęngi jötun · hugða'k jafnramman
 4 sęm Vafþrúðni ęsa.

Frie quoth: “I would encourage the Leader of Armies[†] to [stay at] home in the yards of the gods, for I've judged no ettin be as strong as³ Webthriðner.”

³lit. ‘equal-strong’.

(Óðinn kvað:)

- 3 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda ręgin;
 hitt vil'k vita, · hvé Vafþrúðnis
 4 salakynni séi.

Weden quoth: “Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins^G. This will I know, how the condition of the halls of Webthriðner might be?”

(Frigg kvað:)

- 4 Hęill þú farir, · hęill þú aptr komir,
 2 hęill á sinnum séir;
 0ði þér dugi · hvar's skalt, Aldafðör,
 4 orðum męla jötun.

Frie quoth: "Whole mayst thou travel, whole mayst thou come back, whole mayst thou be on thy paths! May [thy] wisdom avail thee, when thou shalt, Eldfather[†], words with the ettin exchange."

5 Fór þá Óðinn · at fręista orðspeki
 2 þess hins alsvinna jötuns;
 at hollu hann kom, · es¹ átti Íms faðir;
 4 inn gekk Yggr þegar.

Then went Weden, to try the word-wisdom of that all-wise ettin. To the hall he came, which the father of Ime^{†5} owned; shortly the Frightener^{†6} walked in.

^aMs. *ok* corrected to *es*. Alliteration is lacking in this line, for which reason FJ emends *Íms* to *Hymis*.

^eWebthritner.

^fWeden.

(Óðinn kvað:)

6 Heill þú nú, Vafþrúðnir, · nú em'k í holl kominn
 2 á þik sjalfan séa;
 hitt vilk fyrst vita, · ef fróðr séir
 4 eða alsviðr, jötunn.

Weden quoth: "Hail thee now, Webthritner; now I am come into the hall, to see thee thyself. This I will first know, if learned thou be, or all-wise, ettin."

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

7 Hvat's þat manna, · es í mínum sal
 2 verpumk orði á?
 út þú né kōmr · órum hollum frá.
 4 nema þú inn snotrari séir.

Webthritner quoth: "What sort of man is that, who in *my* hall throws words at me? Out comest thou not from our halls, unless thou be the wiser."

(Óðinn kvað:)

8 Gagnráðr⁵ hęiti'k, · nú em'k af gōngu kominn,
 2 þyrstr til þinna sala;

laðar þurfi · hef'k lengi farit
 4 ok þinna andfanga, jötunn.

Weden quoth: “Gainred[†] I am called, I am come from the journey, thirsty to thy halls. I have travelled for a long time in need of a reception, and of thy hospitality, ettin!”

[†]R's *Gagnráðr* ‘Gainred,’ is attested as *Gangráðr* ‘Journey-adviser’ in *Gylf*.

(*Vafþrúðnir* kvað:)

9 Hví þú þá, Gagnráðr, · mēlisk af golfi fyrir?
 2 far þú í sess í sal;
 þá skal fręista, · hvárr fleira viti,
 4 gęstr eða hinn gamli þulr.

Webthrithner quoth: “Why then, Gainred, speakest thou from the floor before me? Take a seat in the hall! Then it shall be tried, which of the two might know more; the guest, or the old thyle^C.”

(*Gagnráðr* kvað:)

10 Óauðigr maðr, · es til auðigs kómr,
 2 mēli þarft eða þęgi;
 ofrmēlgi mikil · hygg'k at illa geti
 4 hveim's við kaldrifjaðan kómr.

Gainred quoth: “An unwealthy man, who to a wealthy one comes, ought to speak the needful or be silent.¹⁴ Great over-speaking, I judge, will bring evil for the one who to a cold-ribbed¹⁶ one comes.”

¹⁴Line identical to *Highb*18/2.

¹⁶i.e. ‘cold-hearted, cunning’.

(*Vafþrúðnir* kvað:)

11 Sęg mér, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
 2 þíns of fręista frama,
 hvé hęstr hętir, · sá's hveįjan dreęr
 4 dag of dróttmęgu.

Webthrithner quoth: “Say to me, Gainred, since on the floor I will to try thy fame: What is the horse called, which pulls each *day* above the sons of the retinue [MEN]?”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 12 Skinfaxi heitir, · es hinn skíra dręgr
 2 dag of dróttmęgu;
 hesta baztr · þykkir með Hreðgotum;
 4 ey lýsir męn af mari.

Gainred quoth: “Shinefax[†] is called he who pulls the bright day above the sons of the retinue. The best of horses he seems among the Reth-gots[†]; the mane of that stallion ever shines.”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 13 Sęg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
 2 þíns of fręista frama,
 hvé jór heitir, · sa’s austan dręgr
 4 nótt of nýt ręgin.

Webthritner quoth: “Say this, Gainred, since on the floor I will to try thy fame: What is the steed called, which from the east pulls night above the useful Reins[†]?”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 14 Hrímfaxi heitir, · es hverja dręgr
 2 nótt of nýt ręgin;
 méldropa fęllir · morgin hverjan;
 4 þaðan kęmr dęgg of dala.

Gainred quoth: “Rimefax[†] [that one] is called, who pulls each night above the useful Reins. Every morning he lets foam fall from his bit²⁶; thence comes dew in the dales.”

²⁶lit. “he fells bit-drops”.

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 15 Sęg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
 2 þíns of fręista frama,
 hvé ó heitir, · sú’s deilir með jętna sonum
 4 grund ok með goðum.

Webthritner quoth: “Say this, Gainred, since on the floor I will to try thy fame; How the river is called, which divides the ground between the sons of ettins and the gods?”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 16 Ífing heitir ó, · es deilir með jötna sonum
 2 grund ok með goðum;
 opin rinna · hón skal um aldrdaga;
 4 verðr-at íss á ó.

Gainred quoth: “Iving[†] the river is called, which divides the ground between the sons of ettins and the gods. Throughout [her] life-days she shall flow open; ice forms not on the river.”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 17 Sæg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
 2 þíns of freista frama,
 hvé völr heitir, · es finnask vigi at
 4 Surtr ok hin svösu goð.

Webthrithner quoth: “Say this, Gainred, since on the floor I will to try thy fame: How that plain is called, where Surt[†] and the excellent gods find each other at war?”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 18 Vígríðr heitir völr, · es finnask vígi at
 2 Surtr ok hin svösu goð;
 hundrað rasta · hann’s á hverjan veg;
 4 sá’s þeim völr vitaðr.

Gainred quoth: “Wighride[†] is the plain called, where Surt and the cheerful gods find each other at war. A hundred rest^C, he stretches in each direction; that plain is known for them.^a”

^aThat is, known for its great size.

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 19 Fróðr estu nú gęstr, · far á þekk jötuns,
 2 ok męlumk í sessi saman;
 hofði vęðja · vit skulum hollu í
 4 gęstr, of gęðspęki.

Webthriðner quoth: “Learned art thou now, guest, sit down on the ettin’s bench and let us speak on the seat together. Wager a head, shall we two in the hall, guest, over god-wisdom.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

20 Sæg þat hit ęina, · ef þitt óði dugir
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan jorð of kom · eða upphiminn
 4 fyrst, hinn fróði jötunn.

Gainred quoth: “Say the one, if thy wisdom avail, and thou, Webthriðner, might know: Whence Earth did come, or Up-heaven[†], first, learned ettin.”

1 óði] The first word on fol. 3r. of A; from this point we have the poem in both manuscripts.

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

21 Ór Ymis holdi · vas jorð of sköpuð,
 2 ęn ór þeinum björg,
 himinn ór hausi · hins hrimkalda jötuns,
 4 ęn ór svęita sęr.

Webthriðner quoth: “Out of Yimer’s[†] hull,^a was the earth created, but out of his bones the boulders; heaven out of the skull of the rime-cold ettin, but out of his blood^b

^ai.e. is body.

^bsvęiti ‘sweat’ is often used to refer to blood. — This v. closely resembles *Grim* 40.

the sea.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

22 Sæg þat annat, · ef þitt óði dugir
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan Máni of kom, · svá’t fęrr menn yfir,
 4 eða Sól hit sama.

Gainred quoth: “Say the other, if thy wisdom suffices, and thou, Webthriðner, might know: Whence Moon did come, he that travels over men, or likewise Sun?”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 23 Mundilfari heitir, · hann's Mána faðir
 2 ok svá Solar hit sama;
 himin hverfa · þau skulu hverjan dag
 4 öldum at ártali.

Webthritner quoth: "Moundelfare[†] is called; he is the father of the Moon and so likewise of the Sun. They shall circle in the heavens every day, for men to tally years."

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 24 Seg þat þriðja, · alls þik svinnan kveða
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan dagr of kom, · sá's færr drótt yfir,
 4 eða nótt með niðum.

Gainred quoth: "Say the third, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthritner, might know: Whence the day came, the one that travels over the retinue, or night with the moon-phases?"

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 25 Dellingr heitir, · hann's Dags faðir,
 2 en Nótt vas Nörvi borin;
 ný ok nið · skópu nýt regin
 4 öldum at ártali.

Webthritner quoth: "Delling[†] is called; he is the father of Day[†], but Night[†] was born to Narrow[†]. The waxing and waning, did the useful Reins create, for men to tally years."

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 26 Seg þat fjórða, · alls þik fróðan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan vetr of kom · eða varmt sumar
 4 fyrst með fróð regin.

Gainred quoth: "Say the fourth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthritner, might know: Whence winter did come, or the warm summer, first among the learned Reins?"

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 27 Vindsvalr heitir, · hann's Vettrar faðir,
 2 en Svósuðr Sumars.¹⁵

Webthritrithner quoth: "Windswoll[†] [that one] is called, he is the father of Winter[†]; but Sosuth[†] [is the father of] Summer[†]."

^oSecond half of the v. seems missing.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 28 Sæg þat fimta, · alls þik fróðan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hværr ása ęlztr · eða Ymis niðja
 4 yrði í árdaga.

Gainred quoth: "Say the fifth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthritrithner, might know: Who, in days of yore became the eldest of the Ease[†], or of the descendants of Yimer [ETTINS]?"

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 29 Ørófi vetra · áðr véri jorð of sköpuð,
 2 þá vas Bergęlmir borinn,
 Þrúðgęlmir · vas þess faðir,
 4 en Aurgęlmir afi.

Webthritrithner quoth: "Uncountable winters before the earth would be created, then Bear-yeller[†] was born. Strength-yeller[†] was *that one's* father, and Mud-yeller[†] the grandfather."

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 30 Sæg þat sétta, · alls þik svinnan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan Aurgęlmir kom · með jötna sonum
 4 fyrst, hinn fróði jötunn.

Gainred quoth: "Say the sixth, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthritrithner, might know: Whence Earyelmer came among the sons of ettins, first, learned ettin?"

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 31 Ór Élivógum · stukku ęitrdropar,
 2 svá óx unz ór varð jötunn;
 órar ęttr · kómu þar allar saman;
 4 því's þat ę alt til atalt.²⁰

Webthrithner quoth: “Out of the Ellwaves[†] splashed venom-drops; thus it grew until an ettin emerged. Our kindreds came there all together, therefore they are ever wholly fierce.^a”

[†]Lines 3–4 missing in R and 748, but quoted in *Gylf*.

^aSplashing venom-drops somehow combined into a being, the ancestor of all Ettins.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 32 Sęg þat sjaunda, · alls þik svinnan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvé sá bęrn gat · hinn baldni jötunn,
 4 es hann hafði-t gýgjar gaman.

Gainred quoth: “Say the seventh, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, might know: How did that one, the defiant ettin, beget children, when he did not enjoy the pleasure of a troll-woman?”

3 baldni] *thus A*; aldni ‘the aged, old’ *R* breaks alliteration

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 33 Und hęndi vaxa · kvóðu hrímþursi
 2 męy ok męg saman;
 fótr við fóti · gat hins fróða jötuns
 4 sexhöfðaðan son.

Webthrithner quoth: “Neath the arm^a on the rime-thurse[†], they said that a maiden and lad grew together. A foot against a foot begot, of the learned ettin, a six-headed son.”

^alit. ‘hand’.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 34 Sęg þat áttunda, · alls þik fróðan kveða,

2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
hvat fyrst of mant · eða fremst of vęizt,
4 þú est alsviðr jötunn.

Gainred quoth: “Say the eighth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthrithner, might know: What thou first rememberest, or foremost knowest? Thou art all-wise, ettin.”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

35 Ørófi vetra · áðr vęri jorð of sköpuð,
2 þá vas Bergelmir borinn;
þat fyrst um man’k, · es hinn fróði jötunn
4 á vas lúðr of lagiðr.

Webthrithner quoth: “Uncountable winters before the earth would be created, then Bear-yeller was born. That I first remember, when the learned ettin on the tree-trunk^a was laid.”

1–4 Ørófi ... lagiðr] Quoted in *Ylf*

^a*lúðr* is a very tricky word. TODO.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

36 Sęg þat níunda, · alls þik svinnan kveða,
2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
hvaðan vindr of kōmr · svá’t fęrr vág yfir,
4 ę menn hann sjalfan of séa.

Gainred quoth: “Say the ninth, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, might know: Whence the wind comes, it that travels over the wave; ever men see hisself.^a”

^aAlmost certainly a negation has been lost here, men can of course not see the wind.

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

37 Hręsvelgr hętir, · es sitr á himins ęnda,
2 jötunn í arnar ham;
af hans vęngjum · kveða vind koma
4 alla menn yfir.

Webthrithner quoth: “Rawswallower[†] is called, who sits at the end of the heavens; an ertin in an eagle’s hame^C. From his wings, they say that the wind comes over all men.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 38 Sæg þat tíunda, · alls þú tíva røk
 2 öll Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan Njörðr of kom · með niðjum ása.
 4 Hófum ok horgum · hann rēðr hundmorgum
 ok varð-at hann ósum alinn.

Gainred quoth: “Say the tenth, since thou of the Rakes of the Tues^P all, Webthrithner, might know: Whence Nearth[†] did come among kinsmen of the Ease[†]? Of hoves[†] and harrows[†], he rules a great many, and he was not among the Ease begotten.”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 39 Í Vanahęimi · skópu hann vís ręgin
 2 ok sęldu at gíslingu goðum,
 í aldar røk · hann mun aptr koma
 4 hęim með vísu vqnum.

Webthrithner quoth: “In Waneham[†], created him the wise Reins^{†a} created him, and sold him as a hostage to the gods. In the rake of the eld[†] he will come back, home among the wise Wanes[†].”

^aAlthough *ręgin* ‘Reins’ usually serves as a direct synonym of *goð* ‘gods,’ it seems here to refer specifically to the Wanes, in contrast with the Ease[†] or gods.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 40 Sæg þat ęllipta, · hvar ýtar túnum í
 2 höggvask hverjan dag;
 val þęir kjósa · ok ríða vígi frá,
 4 sitja męir of sáttir saman.^a

Gainred quoth: “Say the eleventh: Where men in yards hew away at each other each day. The slain they choose, and ride from the battle; sit they more content together.”

^aThis and the next v. are damaged in both R and 748; R has only this verse, but splits it in two (the 2nd starting with *val*), while 748 has 40:1 (Ms.: *S. þ. e. XI*) and then jumps to the answer v. 41. They have here been

reconstructed, but it is possible some lines are still missing. TODO: use edtext instead

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 41 Allir einherjar · Óðins túnú*m* í
 2 höggvask hverjan dag,
 val þeir kjósa · ok riða vígi frá,
 4 sitja meir of sáttir saman.

Webthrithner quoth: “All the One-harriers[†] in Weden’s yards hew away at each other every day. The slain they choose, and ride from the battle; sit they more content together.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 42 Sæg þat tolpta, · hví þú tíva røk
 2 öll Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 frá jötna rúnum · ok allra goða
 4 þú hit sannasta segir,
 hinn alsvinni jötunn.

Gainred quoth: “Say the twelfth: Why thou, the rakes of the Tues all, Webthrithner, might know? From the runes^C of the ettins and of all the gods speakest thou the truest, all-wise ettin.”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 43 Frá jötna rúnum · ok allra goða
 2 ek kann segja satt,
 því’t hvern hef’k heim of komit,
 4 níu kom’k h^eima · fyr niflh^el neðan;
 hinig deyja ór h^elju halir.

Webthrithner quoth: “From the runes of the ettins and of all the gods I can speak truly, for I have come into each Home^C. Into nine Homes I came beneath Nivelhell; that way die men out of Hell.^a”

^aPresumably lower hells (i.e. underworlds). Finnur Jónsson (1932) considers *ór h^elju* “out of Hell” a later interpolation, but this has no textual support.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 44 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda regin;
 hvat lifir manna, · þá's hinn méra líðr
 4 fimbulvetr með firum?

Gainred quoth: "Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins[†].^a What lives of men, when the renowned passes, Fimble-winter[†] among firs?^b"

^aCf. v. 3.

^bi.e. "among men".

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 45 Líf ok Lífþrasir, · en þau leynask munu
 2 í holti Hoddmímis;
 morgindöggar · þau sér at mat hafa;
 4 þaðan af aldir alask.

Webthrithner quoth: "Life and Lifethrasher, but they will hide themselves in the wood of Hoard-Mimer^a. Morning-dew they have as food; thereof generations are bred."

^aPerhaps in the hollowed-out Uggdrassle.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 46 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda regin;
 hvaðan kómr sól · á hinn slétta himin,
 4 es þessa hefr Fēnrir fārit?

Gainred quoth: "Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. Whence comes Sun onto the smooth heaven, when Fenner[†] has this one^a slain?"

^ai.e. the current incarnation of the sun, as explained in the next v.

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 47 Eina dóttur · berr alfrøðull,
 2 áðr hana Fēnrir fari;
 sú skal riða, · þá's regin deyrja,

4 móður brautir mér.

Webthrithner quoth: “One daughter the elf-wheel [SUN] [1] bears before Fenner might slay her. She shall ride—when the Reins die—a maiden her mother’s paths.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

48 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða’k,
2 fjölð ek reynda regin;
hverjar ’ro meýjar, · es líða mar yfir,
4 fróðgæðjaðar fara.

Weden quoth: “Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. Which are the maidens that pass over the ocean; learned-minded they go?”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

49 Þrjár þjóðar · falla þorp yfir
2 meýja Møgþrasis;
hamingjur einar · þér’s í heimi eru,
4 þó þér með jötnum alask.

Webthrithner quoth: “Three great rivers fall over the settlement of the maidens of Maythrasher; the only Hamings are they in the Home,^a though they are among the ettins begotten.”

^aIn Ettinham, or in the entire world?

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

50 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða’k,
2 fjölð ek reynda regin;
hverir ráða ésir · eignum goða,
4 þá’s sloknar Surta logi?

Gainred quoth: “Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. Which Ease rule the estates of the gods, when the flame of Surt[†] goes out?”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

51 Víðarr ok Váli · byggva vé goða,

- 2 þá's sloknar Surtalogi;
 Móði ok Magni · skulu Mjólni hafa
 4 Vingnis at vígþroti.

Webthrithner quoth: “Wider^P and Weel^P inhabit the wighs^C of the gods, when the flame of Surt goes out. Mood^P and Main^P shall own Millner^P, when Wingner^P is too tired to fight.^a”

^alit. ‘at Wingner’s fight-exhaustion,’ referring to his death.

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 52 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða’k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda rēgin;
 hvat verðr Óðni · at aldragi,
 4 þá's rjúfask rēgin?

Gainred quoth: “Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. What brings Weden’s life to an end, when the Reins are broken?^a”

^aCf. the formulation in *Dreams* 14: *es lauss Loki · líðr ór bændum // ok ragna røk · rjúfēndr koma*. ‘when loose Lock passes out of his bonds, and at the rakes of the Reins[†], the breakers come.’

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

- 53 Ulfr gleypa · mun Aldaföðr,
 2 þess mun Víðarr vrekka;
 kalda kjapta · hann klyfja mun
 4 vitnis vígi at.

Webthrithner quoth: “The wolf will devour Eldfather[†]; that will Wider avenge. The cold jaws he will cleave, of the Wolf at the battle.”

(Gagnráðr kvað:)

- 54 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða’k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda rēgin;
 hvat mēlti Óðinn, · áðr á bál stigi,
 4 sjalfr í eyra syni?

Gainred quoth: “Much I travelled, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. What spoke Weden, before the pyre would be set, himself in the ear of the son?”

(Vafþrúðnir kvað:)

55 Eý manngi veit, · hvat þú í árdaga
 2 sagðir í eyra syni;
 fęigum munni · męlta’k mína forna stafi
 4 ok of ragna røk.

Webthrithner quoth: “Ever no man knows, what thou in days of yore saidst in the ear of the son. With death-doomed^a mouth I spoke my ancient utterings, and of the Rakes of the Reins.

1 manngi] manni **RA** *is impossible; we need a nominative here*

^aWebthrithner here realizes that he was bound to die from the moment (v. 19) he proposed the wager, as no being can outwit Weden.

56 Nú við Óðin · dęilda’k mína orðspęki;
 2 þú est é vísastr vera.
 Now with Weden I shared my word-wisdom^a; thou art ever wisest of beings.^b”

^aThe same word-wisdom Weden in v. 5 set out to try.

^b*verr* literally means ‘husband, man,’ but here surely in the broader sense of ‘(male) being’.

Dreams of Balder (*Baldrs draumar*)

In ancient manuscripts only preserved in A, but the poem also survives in later manuscripts in longer form.

- 1 Senn vǫru ęsir · allir á þingi
2 ok ęsynjur · allar á máli,
 ok of þat réðu · ríkir tívar,
4 hví vęri Baldri · ballir draumar.

Soon were the Ease^G all at the Thing^C, and the Ossens^G all at speech, and of this counseled the mighty tues[†]: why for Balder were baleful dreams.

- 2 Upp reis Óðinn, · aldinn gautr,
2 ok hann á Sleipni · sǫðul of lagði,
 reiš niðr þaðan · niðhęljar til;
4 mótti hvelpi, · þeim's ór hęlju kom.

Up rose Weden—the aged Geat—and he on Slapner^P the saddle did lay; rode down thence to Nivel-hell^G; met the whelp that out of Hell came.

- 3 Sá vas blóðugr · of brjóst framan,
2 ok galdrs fęður · gól oflęngi,
 framm reiš Óðinn, · foldvegr dunði,
4 hann kom at hǫu · Hęljar ranni.

That one was bloody on the front of the chest, and at the father of galder^C for a long time bayed.—Forth rode Weden, the fold-way resounded;^a he came to the high house of Hell.

^aThe verb *dynja* 'to resound' also occurs in connection with the movement of a god in Thedwolf's Harvest-long (Þjóð *Haustl*, edited by Margaret Clunies Ross in *SkP* III) 14–16, particularly: *Ók at ísarnleikj · Jarðar sunr, en dunði*

— *móðr svall Meila blóða* — *· mána vegr und hónum*. 'Drove to the iron-play [BATTLE] the son of Earth [= Thunder], but the path—the wrath of Mole's brother swelled—of the moon [HEAVEN] resounded beneath him.'

- 4 Þá reiš Óðinn · fyr austan dyrr,
2 þar's hann vissi · vǫlu lęði;
 nam hann vittugri · valgaldr kveða,
4 unz nauðug reís, · nás orð of kvað:

Then rode Weden east of the door, there as he knew the wallow's grave; he took to sing a slain-galder^C for the witchcraft-skilled woman, until forced she rose, a corpse's words did speak:

5 „Hvat 's manna þat · mér ókunnra,
2 es mér hefr aukit · erfitt sinni;
vas'k snifin snévi, · ok slęgin regni
4 ok drifin döggu, · dauð vas'k lengi.“

“What sort of man is that, unknown to me, who has caused for me this toilsome walk?^a I was snowed by snow and struck by rain, and sprayed with dew;^b dead was I for long.”

^ai.e. out of the grave.

^bCf. Thou alone causest Hallow etc. TODO

6 „Vegtamr heiti'k, · em'k Valtams sonr,
2 sęg mér ór heľju, · ek ór heľmi mun,
hveim eru þekkir · baugum sánir?
4 flet fagrliga · flóuð eru golli.“

“Waytame I am called, I am Waltame's son. Tell me about Hell—I will [tell] about the world; for whom are the benches sown with high^Chighs; the fair rooms are flooded with gold.”

7 „Hér stęndr Baldri · of brugginn mjøðr,
2 skírar veigar, · liggr skjöldr yfir,
ęn ásmęgir · í ofvéni;
4 nauðug sagða'k, · nú mun'k þęgja.“

“Here stands brewed for Balder mead, pure draughts—a shield lies over;^a but the os-lads [Ease] [stand] in great suspense; forced I spoke, now I will be silent.”

^aShields covering casks of mead is a common trope.

8 „Þęgjat vølva, · þik vil'k fregna,
2 unz 's alkunna, · vil'k ęnn vita,

- hverr mun Baldri · at bana verða,
4 ok Óðins son · aldri réna?“

“Be not silent, wallow! Thee I wish to ask; until all is known I wish to know further:
Who will for Balder become the bane, and Woden’s son [= Balder] rob of life?”

- 9 „Höðr berr hóvan · hróðrbaðm þinig,
2 hann mun Baldri · at bana verða,
ok Óðins son · aldri réna;
4 nauðug sagða’k, · nú mun’k þegja.“

“Hath^P bears the high, renowned beam [MISTLETOE] thither; he will for Balder become
the bane, and Woden’s son [= Balder] rob of life; forced I spoke, now I will be silent.”

- 10 „Þegjat vǫlva, · þik vil’k fregna,
2 unz ’s alkunna, · vil’k ęnn vita,
hverr mun heipt Hęði · hefnt of vinna,
4 eða Baldrs bana · á bál vega?“

“Be not silent, wallow! Thee I wish to ask; until all is known I wish to know further:
Who will for the evil-doing get revenge on Hath, or bear onto the pyre Balder’s bane [= Hath]?”

- 11 „Rindr berr Vála · í vestrsǫlum,
2 sá mun Óðins sonr · einnęttr vega,
hond of þvérat · né hǫfuð ķembir,
4 áðr á bál of berr · Baldrs andskota;
nauðug sagðak, · nú munk þegja.“

“Rind bears Wonne^P in the western halls; that one will, Woden’s son, one night old,
fight. His hand he washes not, nor head combs, before onto the pyre he bears Balder’s
opponent [= Hath]; forced I spoke, now I will be silent.^a”

^aNote the similarity with *Spae* 34–35 and the irregularity of the verse length, which may suggest that a line (most likely 2) has been inserted.

- 12 „Þegjat vǫlva, · þik vil’k fregna,

- 2 unz 's alkunna, · vil'k ęnn vita,
 hveįjar 'ró meįjar, · es at muni gráta
 4 ok á himin verpa · halsaskautum?“

“Be not silent, wallow! Thee I wish to ask; until all is known I wish to know further: Which are the maidens that weep as they wish, and onto heaven throw their throat-corners?^a”

^aWāt mean...

- 13 „Estat Vegtamr, · sem ek hugða,
 2 hęldr est Óðinn, · aldinn gautr.“
 „Estat vǫlva · né vís kona,
 4 hęldr est þriggja · þursa móðir.

“Thou art not Waytame, as I thought; rather art thou Weden, the aged Geat!”—“Thou art not a wallow, nor a wise woman; rather art thou of three thurses^G the mother!”

- 14 „Hęim ríð Óðinn · ok hróðigr ves,
 2 svá komit manna · meįrr aptr á vit,
 es lauss Loki · líðr ór bęndum
 4 ok ragna rǫk · rjúfęndr koma.“

“Ride home Weden, and be renowned!^a So may no other man come again to visit [me], when loose Lock passes out of his bonds, and at the rakes of the Reins[†], the breakers come.^b”

^aA sarcastic statement, the sense being: “Your renown, Weden, will not save you.”

^bCf. wording of *Web* TODO: *þá's rjúfask ręgin* ‘when the Reins are broken’.

Late verses in paper manuscripts? TODO

The Speeches of the High One (*Hávamól*)

Introduction.

The **Speeches of the High One** is the second poem of **R**, which is also the only place where it is attested.

Advice to wanderers.

- 1 Gáttir allar · áðr gangi framm
 2 of skoðask skyli,
 of skyggnask skyli;
 4 því't óvíst 's at vita, · hvar óvinir
 sitja á flæti fyrir.

All doorways—before one might go forth—should be watched, should be spied at; for uncertain 'tis to know, where enemies sit on the benches inside.

2 of skoðask skyli] *om.* G

- 2 Gefendr heilir, · gęstr 's inn kominn,
 2 hvar skal sitja sjá?
 mjök es bráðr · sá's á bröndum skal
 4 síns of freista frama.

Hail the givers,^a a guest is come in! Where shall this one sit? Very impatient is he, who on the fires shall try his distinction.^b

^aThe hosts.

^bAccording to Finnur Jónsson (1932) referring a Norwegian folk custom, wherein a guest would sit down on the wood-pile, waiting until being called in. One may thus picture the frozen, wet and tired traveller impatiently biding to see whether he will be let in or not. See further TODO: some article on this custom.

- 3 Elds es þorf · þęim's inn es kominn
 2 ok á knéi kalinn,
 matar ok váða · es manni þorf,
 4 þęim's hefr of fjall farit.

Of fire is there need for the one who is come in and cold about the knees; of food and clothing is there need for the man who over the fell has fared.

- 4 Vats es þorf · þęim's til verðar kómr,
 2 þęrru ok þjóðlaðar,

góðs of ððis, · —ef sér geta métti—
 4 orðs ok ęndrþogu.

Of water^a is there need for the one who comes for a meal, a towel and a good welcome; of a kind reception—if he might get one—of speech, and silence in return.

^ai.e. for washing oneself.

5 Vits es þor^f · þeim's víða ratar;
 2 délt es hęima hvát;
 at augabragði · verðr sá's ękki kann
 4 ok með snotrum sitr.

Of wits is there need for the one who widely roams; all is familiar at home. A laughing-stock^a becomes he who nothing knows, and among the clever sits.

^aAn idiom, *augabragð* lit. 'twinkling of an eye, moment'.

6 At hyggjandi sinni · skyli-t maðr hrósinn vesa,
 2 hęldr gétinn at gęði,
 þá's horskr ok þogu^{ll} · kōmr hęimisgarða til,
 4 sjaldan verðr víti vorum.
 því't óbrigðra vin · fęr þú aldrigi,
 6 an manvit mikit.

Of his thinking should man not be boastful; rather guarding of his senses, when sharp and silent he comes to a homestead; sudden injury seldom strikes the wary, (for thou gettest never an unfickler friend, than much manwit^C.)

5–6 [því ... mikit] The shift in person from third to second, along with the abnormal verse length (six lines instead of four), indicates that this is an insertion.

7 Hinn vari gęstr, · es til verðar kōmr,
 2 þunnu hljóði þęgir;
ęyrum hlýðir, · ęn augum skoðar,
 4 svá nýsisk fróðra hverr fyrir.

The wary guest, when he comes for a meal, with thin heed is silent.^a With ears he heeds, but with eyes observes; so pries each learned man about.

^ai.e. "is in attentive silence".

8 Hinn es séll, · es sér of getr
 2 lof ok líknstafi;
óðélla es við þat, · es ęiga skal
 4 annars brjóstum í.

The one is fortunate, who for himself gets praise and staves of grace. 'Tis uneasy regarding that, which one shall own in another's breast.

9 Sá es séll, · es sjalfr of á
 2 lof ok vit meðan lífir;
 þvít ill rǫð · hefr maðr opt þęgit
 4 annars brjóstum ór.

That one is fortunate, who himself owns praise and wits while he lives; for ill counsels has man oft taken, out of another's breast.

10 Byrði ęetri · berr-at maðr brautu at,
 2 an sé manvit mikit;
auði ęetra · þykkir þat í ókunnum stað;
 4 slíkt es válaðs ęera.

A better burden bears man not on the road than much manwit. In an unknown place it seems better than wealth; such is the refuge of the impoverished.

11 Byrði ęetri · berr-at maðr brautu at,
 2 an sé manvit mikit;
ęegnest ęerra · ęegr-a ęelli at,
 4 an sé ofdrykkja ols.

A better burden bears man not on the road than much manwit. Worse provision is not dragged along on the plain^a than a too great drink of ale.

^a*vǫllr* ‘plain, (uncultivated) field’ is repeated in vv. 38 and 49. It is easily understood that the heaths and plains of Iron Age Norway were particularly unsafe places, where a traveller needed to keep his wits with him lest he fall victim to robbers or murderers.

12 Es-a svá gótt, · sēm gótt kveða,
 2 ǫl alda sonum;
 því't fēra vait, · es fleira drekkir,
 4 síns til gæðs gumi.

’Tis not so good, as good they sing, ale for the sons of men; for the less he knows, as the more he drinks, man of his own senses.

13 Óminnishegri hēitir, · sá's yfir ǫðrum þrumir,
 2 hann stelr gæði guma;
 þess fōgls fīððrum · ek fīðtraðr vas'k
 4 í garði Gunnlaðar.

The heron of forgetfulness is called he who above ale-feasts hovers;^a he robs men of their senses. With that bird's feathers I was fettered in the yards of Guthlathe.

^aHere drunkenness is personified as a bird, a “heron of forgetfulness”.

14 Ǫlr ek varð, · varð ofrǫlvi,
 2 at hins fróða Fjalars;
 því es ǫðr bazt, · at aþtr of hēimtir
 4 hvęrr sitt gæð gumi.

Drunk I became—I became the drunkest by far—at the learned Fealer's [abode]. Thus is an ale-feast best, as each man recovers his senses.

15 Þagalt ok hugalt · skyli þjóðans barn
 2 ok vígdjarft vesa;
 glaðr ok reifr · skyli gumna hvęrr,
 4 unz sinn bíðr þana.

Silent and thoughtful should the ruler's child be, and battle-bold. Glad and cheerful should each man be, until he suffer his bane.

- 16 Ósnjallr maðr · hyggsk munu ey lifa,
 2 ef við víg varask;
 en elli gefr h^onum · engi frið,
 4 þótt h^onum g^eirar g^efi.

The unvalorous man thinks he will ever live, if he of war is wary; but old age gives him no peace, although spears would.

- 17 Kópir afglapi, · es til kynnis kømr,
 2 þylsk hann umb eða þrumir;
 alt es s^enn, · ef sylg of getr,
 4 uppi es þá g^eð guma.

Gapes the oaf when to visit he comes; he mumbles about or loiters. All at once—if a sip he gets—are the senses of the man exposed.

- 18 Sá einn v^eit, · es víða ratar
 2 ok h^efr f^jöð of farit,
 hv^erju g^eði · stýrir g^uma hv^err,
 4 sá es vitandi's vits.

He alone knows, who widely roams, and has travelled much: his own senses does each man control, who is aware of his wits.

- 19 Haldi-t maðr á k^eri, · drekki þó at hófi mjöð,
 2 m^eli þarft eða þ^egi;
 ókyⁿnis þess · v^aar þik engi maðr,
 4 at gangir snimma at sofa.

Man ought not to hold onto the cask, yet drink a fitting serving of mead; he ought to speak the needful or be silent.^a For that uncouthness will no man blame thee, that thou go early to sleep.

^aIdentical to a certain verse in *Web* TODO: which one

- 20 Gróðugr halr, · nema g^eðs viti,

- 2 etr sér aldrtrega;
 opt fér hlógis, · es með horskum kømr,
 4 manni heimskum magi.

The gluttonous man—unless he know his senses—eats himself a life-sorrow. Oft the belly—when among the sharp he comes—brings a foolish man ridicule.

- 21 Hjarðir þat vitu, · nér heim skulu,
 ok ganga þá af grasi;
 en ósviðr maðr · kann évagi
 4 síns of mál maga.

Herds know when homewards they shall [turn], and then part from the grass; but an unwise man never knows the measure of his own belly.

- 22 Vesall maðr · ok illa skapi
 hlér at hvívetna;
 hitki hann væt, · es vita þyrpti,
 4 at hann es-a yamma vanr.

The wretched man, and the ill-spirited, laughs at whatever. He knows it not, which he might need to know: he is not free of blemishes.

- 23 Ósviðr maðr · vakir umb allar nétr
 ok hyggir at hvívetna;
 þá es móðr, · es at morni kømr;
 4 alt es víl sem vas.

The unwise man is awake for all nights, and thinks of whatever. Then he is weary when the morning comes; his trouble is all as it was.

- 24 Ósnotr maðr · hyggir sér alla vesa
 viðhléþendr vini;
 hitki hann fiðr, · þótt þeir of hann fár lesi,
 4 ef með snotrum sitr.

The unclever man thinks all who laugh with him^a his friends. He finds it not, although they speak foully of him, if among the clever he sits.

^alit. 'with-laughers, mutual laughers'.

25 Ósnotr maðr · hyggr sér alla vesa
 2 viðhléjendr vini;
 þá þat fiðr · es at þingi kœmr,
 4 at á formélendr fáa.

The unclever man thinks all who laugh with him his friends. Then he finds, when to the Thing^C he comes, that he has spokesmen^a few.

^aMen ready to take his side.

26 Ósnotr maðr · þykkisk alt vita,
 2 ef á sér i vó veru;
 hitki hann veit, · hvat hann skal við kveða,
 4 ef hans freista firar.

The unclever man seems to know everything, if he takes refuge in a nook. He knows it not, what he shall say in return if men test him.

27 Ósnotr maðr, · es með aldir kœmr,
 2 þat 's bazt at hann þęgi;
 ęngi þat veit, · at hann ękki kann,
 4 nema hann meli til mart.
 veit-a maðr, · hinn's vetki veit,
 6 þótt hann meli til mart.

The unclever man, when among people he comes—'tis best that he is silent. None knows that he nothing knows, unless he speak too much. (Man knows not, who nothing knows, although he speak too much.^a)

^aThat is, mindless speech will not make him any wiser.

28 Fróðr sá þykkisk, · es fregna kann,

- 2 ok sęgja hit sama,
 eyvitu lęyna · męgu yta synir
 4 því es gęngr umb guma.

Learned seems he, who can ask and answer the same. Naught may the sons of men conceal, of that^a which goes about a man.

^aRumours and gossip.

- 29 Órna męlr, · sá's ęva þęgir,
 2 staðlausu stafi;
 hraðmęlt tunga, · nema haldęndr ęigi,
 4 opt sęr ógótt of gęlr.

Quite enough speaks he, who is never silent, utterings of absurdity. A quick-spoken tongue—unless it be held in place^a—oft sings evil [into being] for itself.

^alit. 'unless holders own it' or 'unless it own holders'.

- 30 At augabragði · skal-a maðr annan hafa,
 2 þótt til kynnis komi;
 margr fróðr þykkisk, · ef freginn es-at
 4 ok nái þurrfjallr þruma.

As a laughing-stock shall man not have another, although he come to visit. Many a one seems learned if he is not asked, and manages to loiter about dry-skinned.^a

2 þótt "although"] Perhaps an error? *es* 'when' would surely work better in context.

^aThis sense of *fjall* is apparently almost non-existent in Old Norse literature, but compare Swedish *fjäll* 'scale (on fish and reptiles)'. The meaning is in any case figurative, equivalent to the English "get one's feet wet".

- 31 Fróðr þykkisk · sá's flótta tękr
 2 gęstr at gęst hęðinn;
 vęit-a gęrla · sá's of verði glissir,
 4 þótt með gręmum glami.

Learned seems he who takes to flight,^a when a guest at a guest is scoffing. He knows not clearly, who grins above the food, that he with fiends be prattling.

^aProbably not literally, rather “pulls back, does not take part”.

- 32 Gumnar margir · erusk gagnhollir,
 2 en at yirði vrekask;
 aldar róg · þat mun é vesa;
 4 órir gęstr við gęst.

Many men are loyal to each other, but over a meal drive each other away. The strife of mankind will that ever be; guest raves against guest.

- 33 Árliga verðar · skyli maðr opt fáa,
 2 nema til kynnis komi;
 sitr ok snópir, · léttr sęm solginns sé,
 4 ok kann fregna at fęu.

An early meal should man oft get, unless he come to visit: he sits and idles haplessly, makes as if starved, and can ask about little.

- 34 Afhvarf mikit · es til ills vinar,
 2 þótt á brautu búi,
 en til góðs vinar · liggja gagnvegir,
 4 þótt hann sé firr farinn.

A great detour 'tis to a wicked friend, though he on the highway live; but to a good friend lie the shortest ways, though he far gone be.

- 35 Ganga skal, · skal-a gęstr vesa
 2 ęy í ęinum stað;
 ljúfr verðr lęiðr, · ef lęngi sitr
 4 annars fletjum á.

Go one shall; one shall not be a guest forever in one place. The beloved becomes loathed if long he sits, on another's benches.

- 36 Bú es bętra, · þótt lítit sé,
 2 halr es hęima hęęrr;
 þótt tvęr gęitr ęigi · ok taugręptan sal,
 4 þat es þó bętra an bón.

A dwelling is better, though small it be: each is a man at home. Though two goats he own, and a cord-roofed hall, that is yet better than begging.

- 37 Bú es bętra, · þótt lítit sé,
 2 halr es hęima hęęrr;
 blóđugt es hјarta · þęim's biđja skal
 4 sér í mál hęęrt matar.

A dwelling is better, though small it be: each is a man at home. Bloody is the heart of the one who shall beg for himself each meal of food.

- 38 Vópnum sínun · skal-a mađr vęlli á
 2 feti ganga framar;
 því't óvíst 's at vita, · nęr verđr á vegum úti
 4 gęirs of þorf guma.

From his weapons shall man on the plain not take a footstep further; for uncertain 'tis to know, when on the ways outside, man comes in need of a spear.

- 39 Fann'k-a mildan mann · eđa svá matar góđan,
 2 at vęri-t þiggja þęgit;
 eđa síns fęar · svági [...],
 4 at leiđ sé laun, ef þęgi.

I found not a generous man, nor one so good of meat,^a that a gift was not accepted; nor one of his fee^c so not [...], that the reward was loathed, if he received it.^b

3 [...]] It is doubtless that a word has been lost here; the meter and sense require it. Finnur Jónsson (1932) inserts *glęggvan* 'miserly, stingy' and this may very well be correct.

^a*matar góđr* 'good of meat, food' is an old expression appearing in several Runic inscriptions, such as Sm 39: *mildan orđa ok matar góđan* "mild of words and good of meat", U 805: *bóna góđan matar* "a farmer good of meat", U 703: *mandr matar góđr auk málsrisinn* "a man good of meat and gallant in speech". Compare also U 739: *hann var mildr matar auk málsrisinn* "he was mild (i.e. generous) of meat and bold in speech."

^bNo man is so generous that he would refuse a gift, or loathe a reward for his generosity.

40 Féar síns, · es fengit hefr,
 2 skyli-t maðr þor^f þola;
 opt sparir leiðum · þat's hefr ljúfum hugat;
 4 mart gengr verr an varir.

Of his own fee^C, which he has earned, should man not suffer need. Oft one saves for the loathed what was meant for the loved; much goes worse than one expects.

41 Vopnum ok vóðum · skulu vinir glæðjask;
 2 þat 's á sjölfum sýnst;
 viðrgefendr · erusk vinir lengst,
 4 ef þat bíðr at verða vel.

With weapons and garments shall friends gladden each other; that is most seen on oneself.^a Mutual givers are friends for the longest, if it^b comes to last long.

^aIn one's own experience.

^bThe friendship.

42 Vin sínum · skal maðr vinr vesa,
 2 ok gjalda gjof við gjof;
 hlátr við hlátri · skyli hólðar taka,
 4 en lausung við lygi.

With his friend shall man be a friend, and reward gift against gift; laughter against laughter should men take, but duplicity against lie.

43 Vin sínum · skal maðr vinr vesa,
 2 þeim ok þess vin;
 en óvinar síns · skyli engi maðr
 4 vinar vinr vesa.

With his friend shall man be a friend, with him and his friend; but with his enemy's, should no man, friend's friend be.

- 44 Vei^zt, ef þú vin átt, · þann's þú vel trúir
 2 ok vilt af h^onum gótt geta,
 gęđi skalt við þann · ok g^oðum skipa,
 4 fara at finna opt.

Know: if thou hast a friend, whom thou trustest well and wilt receive good from: thoughts shalt thou exchange with him, and gifts; travel to see him oft.

- 45 Ef þú átt annan, · þann's þú illa trúir,
 2 vild-u af h^onum þó gótt geta,
 fagrt skalt m^ela, · ęn fl^átt hyggja
 4 ok gjalda lausung við lygi.

If thou have another, whom thou trust little, and wilt yet receive good from: fairly shalt thou speak, but falsely think, and reward duplicity against lie.

- 46 Þat 's ęnn umb þann, · es þú illa trúir
 2 ok þér es grunr at gęđi,
 hl^eja skalt við þeim · ok of hug m^ela;
 4 g^lik skulu g^old g^oðum.

'Tis yet regarding that one, whom thou poorly trustest, and causes thy senses doubt^a: laugh shalt thou with him, and speak with care; rewards shall be equal to gifts.^b

^alit. "and for thee is doubt in senses".

^bEquivalent to the last line of the previous v. ("reward duplicity against lie").

- 47 Ungr vas'k forðum, · fór'k ęinn saman,
 2 þá varð'k villr vega;
 auðigr þóttumk, · es annan fann'k,
 4 maðr es manns gaman.

Young was I once; I travelled alone; then I got lost about the ways. Wealthy I thought myself when another I found; man is the joy of man.

- 48 Mildir fróknir · męnn bazt lifa,

- 2 sjaldan sút ala;
 ósnjallr maðr · uggir hvatvetna,
 4 sýtir é gløggr við gjöfum.

Generous, bold men live the best; seldom they nourish sorrow. The unvalorous man is frightened by whatever; ever the stingy man laments at gifts.^a

^aRefer back to v. 39; after receiving a gift, one was culturally obliged to give something back.

- 49 Váðir mínar · gaƿ'k velli at
 2 tveim trémönnum;
 rekkar þat þóttusk, · es ript höfðu;
 4 nęiss es nökkiðr halr.

My garments I gave on the plain, to two tree-men.^a Champions they seemed when cloaks they had; shameful is the naked man.

^aTODO: Note on their identity. Aniconic wooden statues? Scarecrows? What do previous authors write?

- 50 Hrørnar þöll, · sú's stęndr þorpi á,
 2 hlýrat hęnni þorkr né barr;
 svá es maðr, · sá's manngi ann;
 4 hvat skal hann lęngi lifa?

Wilters the pine that stands on the yard; shields her not bark nor needle. So is the man who loves none; why shall he live long?

- 51 Eldi hęitari · brinnr með illum vinum
 2 friðr fimm daga,
 ęn þá slokna, · es hinn sętti kęmr,
 4 ok versnar allr vinskapr.

Hotter than fire burns peace among poor friends, for five days^C; ^a but then goes out when the sixth one comes, and all the friendship worsens.

^aA reference to the five-day week (see also v. 74); the number is symbolic. See further Index.

- 52 Mikit ęitt · skal-a manni gefa;

- 2 opt kaupir sér í lítlu lof,
 með holfum hleif · ok með hollu keri
 4 fekk ek mér félaga.

Much at once shall one not give a man; oft one buys praise for little. With half a loaf and an awry cask, I got me a companion.

- 53 Lítilla sanda, · lítilla séva,
 2 lítill eru gæð guma;
 því't allir menn · urðu-t jafnspakir;
 4 holf es old hvar.

Of small sands, of small seas; small are the senses of man. For all have not become evenly foreseeing; half is each man.^a

^aWhere shores are small, seas are small. Compared to the power of the natural forces man is but a grain of sand in the desert, a drop of water in the sea. His wisdom will always be incomplete.

- 54 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hverr,
 2 éva til snotr sé;
 þeim es fyrða · fęgrst at lifa,
 4 es yel mart yitu.

Middle-clever should each man be; never too clever. For those men 'tis fairest to live, who know well enough.

- 55 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hverr,
 2 éva til snotr sé;
 snotrs manns hjarta · verður sjaldan glatt,
 4 ef sá 's alsnotr es a.

Middle-clever should each man be; never too clever. The clever man's heart turns seldom glad, if he is all-clever that owns it.

- 56 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hverr,
 2 éva til snotr sé;
 orlög sín · viti engi fyrir;

4 þeim es sorgalausastr sefi.

Middle-clever should each man be; never too clever. May no man know his orlay^C ahead; his is the most sorrowless mind.^a

^aWho knows not his fate. One may contrast Woden who has knowledge of his own inevitable doom.

57 Brandr af brandi · brinnr unz brunninn es,

2 funi kveykisk af funa;

maðr af manni · verðr at máli kuðr;

4 en til dólskr af dul.

Fire from fire burns until it burnt is; flame is kindled from flame. Man from man becomes known by speech, but the too dull from his conceit.

58 Ár skal rísa, · sá's annars vill

2 fé eða fjör hafa;

sjaldan liggjandi ulf · lér of getr,

4 né sofandi maðr sigr.

Early shall he rise, who another's fee^C or life will have. Seldom does the lying wolf get a thigh, or the sleeping man victory.

59 Ár skal rísa, · sá's á yrkjendr fáa,

2 ok ganga síns verka á vit;

mart of dvęlr · þann's umb morgin sefr,

4 halfr es auðr und hvötum.

Early shall he rise, who owns workers few, and go his work to meet. Much is kept back from him who in the morning sleeps; half the wealth is due to the brisk.^a

^aHalf of a man's wealth is due to his briskness.

60 Þurra skíða · ok þakinna néfra,

2 þess kann maðr mjöt,

ok þess viðar, · es vinnask megi

4 mál ok missęri.

Of dry planks and thatching birch bark: of that man knows the measure—and of that firewood, which may be used for a season and half-year.^a

^aOver the winter.

- 61 Þvegin ok mettr · ríði maðr þingi at,
 2 þótt hann sé-t vęddr til vel;
 skúa ok bróka · skammisk ęngi maðr
 4 né hęsts in heldr, þótt hann hafit góðan.

Washed and filled ought man to ride to the Thing, though he be not dressed too well; of his shoes and breeches ought no man to be ashamed, nor indeed of his horse, (although he has not a good one.)

4 þótt ... góðan “Although ... good one”] As Finnur Jónsson (1932) points out, surely a later insertion. The insertor seems to have attempted a *Law of Ancient Utterings* B-verse, but this cannot work.

- 62 Snafir ok gnafir, · es til sęvar kęmr,
 2 ęrn á aldin mar;
 svá es maðr, · es með męrgum kęmr
 4 ok á formęlęndr fáa.

Shuffles and stoops, when to the sea it comes, the eagle on the aged ocean. So is the man, who among the many comes, and has spokesmen few.

- 63 Fregna ok sęgja · skal fróðra hęrr,
 2 sá's vill hęitinn horskr;
 ęinn vita · né annarr skal,
 4 þjóð vęit ef þrír 'ró.

Ask and speak shall each learned man, who wishes to be called sharp; one shall know, but another not: thirty^a know if there are three.

^aþjóð lit. ‘people, nation’; cf. *Scold* (Guðni Jónsson (1954) p. 241): þjóð eru þrír tigr “thirty are a people”.

- 64 Ríki sitt · skyli ráðsnotra
 2 hęrr í hófi hafa;

þá hann þat finnr, · es með fróknum kómr,
 4 at engi es einna hvatastr.

His power should each counsel-clever man use in moderation; then he finds it—when among the bold he comes—that none is the briskest of all.^a

^ai.e., every man has his match. For the expression compare particularly *WalsS* TODO þviat hverr sa, er með maugum kemr, ma þat finna eitthvert sinn, at einge er einna hvatastr “for each one who comes among the many must at some point find that none is the briskest of all.”

65 Orða þeira, · es maðr oðrum sęgir,
 2 opt hann gjöld of getr.

For those words which man to another says, he oft gets recompense.

66 Mikilsti snimma · kom’k í marga staði,
 2 en til síð í suma;
 ol vas drukkit, · sumt vas ólagat;
 4 sjaldan hittir leiðr í lið.

Much too early I came to many places, and too late to some. The ale was drunk, at other times yet unbrewed;^a seldom finds the loathsome man his place.

^alit. “some [of it] was unbrewed”

67 Hér ok hvar · myndi mér hęim of boðit,
 2 ef þyrpta’k at mólungi mat,
 eða tvau lęr hęngi · at hins tryggva vinar,
 4 þar’s ek hafða ęitt ętit.

Here and there would I to a home be invited, if at no meal-time I needed food; or [if] two hams would hang at the trusty friend’s [home], where I had eaten one.

68 Eldr es baztr · með ýta sonum
 2 ok sólar sýn,
 hęilyndi sitt, · ef hafa náir,
 4 án við lęst at lifa.

Fire is best among the sons of men, and the sight of the sun; one's good health—if he manage to keep it—and living without vice.

69 Es-at maðr alls vesall, · þótt sé illa heill,
2 sumr es af sonum sēll,
sumr af frændum, · sumr af fē órnu,
4 sumr af verkum vel.

Man is not all wretched, though he of poor health be: someone finds joy in sons, someone in friends, someone in ample fee^C, someone in works done well.

70 Bętra es lifđom, · ok sęllifđom,
2 ęy getr kvikr kú;
ęld sá'k upp brinna · auđgum manni fyr,
4 ęn úti vas dauđr fyr durum.

'Tis better with the living, and the joyfully living: ever gets the quick^a a cow.^b A fire^c I saw burn on high for a wealthy man, but outside he was dead before the door.

^ai.e. the living.

^b A reference to the cattle-based economy (see also v. 76), the cow being used as a metonym. The meaning is that new opportunities always present themselves.

^cHis funeral-pyre.

71 Haltir ríðr hrossi, · hjorð rekr handarvanr,
2 daufr vegr ok dugir;
 blindr es bętri, · an breñdr sęi;
4 nýtr manngi nás.

A halt man rides a horse, a handless drives a herd, a deaf fights and avails. Blind is better than be burnt: no man has use for a corpse.

72 Sonr es betri, · þótt sé sið of alinn
 2 eptir ginginn guma;
 sjaldan hautarsteinar · standa hrautu ner,
 4 nema reisi niðr at nið.

A son is better, although he late be born after a passed-on man^a: seldom beat-stones^b near the highway stand, unless by kinsman for kinsman raised.

^ai.e. after the father is dead.

^bLarge menhirs raised as memorial stones, later and especially in Upland decorated with Runic inscriptions.

73 Tveir 'ro ęins herjar, · tunga es hęfuęs bani;
2 męr 's í hęđin hveřn · handar vēni.

Two are of one host;^a the tongue is the head's bane;^b in every cloak I expect a hand.

1–2 Tveir ... vēni] Whole v. undoubtedly a later insertion, the divergent meter is proof enough.

^a*herjar* gen. sg. of *herr* 'host' may alternatively be read as the nom. pl. meaning 'harriers, raiders,' present in *einherjar* 'One-Harriers^P'.

^bThe tongue and the head are part of the same body and need each other, yet the former often leads to the demise of the latter. — For this phrase cf. especially the Old Swedish Heathen Law (Läffler 1879): *Faldr þan orđ havr giuit · Glępr orđa værstr · Tunga houeđbani · Ligg i vęildum acri* "Falls the one who has given the word—wickedness is the worst of words; the tongue the head's bane-man—may he lie in an unpaid field (i.e. no weregild will be paid for him)."

74 Nótt veręr fęginn, · sá's nesti trúir,
2 skammar 'ro skips ráar,
 hverf es haustgríma;
4 fjolđ of viðrir · á fimm đogum,
 ęn męir á mánađi.

At night he rejoices, who can rely on his provisions; short are the ship's sailyards;^a fickle is the autumn night. The weather shifts much in five days^{Cb} but more in a month.

^aTODO: Write about the varying interpretations (Finnur, Cleasby, Skp) of this line.

^bSee note to v. 51.

75 Vęit-a hinn, · es vētki vēit,
2 margr veręr af aurum api;
 mađr es auđigr, · annarr óauđigr,
4 skyli-t þann yítka váar.

The one knows not, who nothing knows: many a man becomes by treasures the fool.^a
A man is wealthy, another not wealthy; one oughtn't to curse him for his woe.

2 af aurum] ‘aflaðrom’ *ms.*

^aFor *api*, here “fool”, see *ape*^C.

76 Deyr fē, · deyja frēndr,
 2 deyr sjalfr hit sama;
 en orðstírr · deyr aldrigi
 4 hveim’s sér góðan getr.

Fee^C dies, kinsmen die, oneself dies the same;^a but a word-glory never dies, for whomever gets himself a good one.

^aThe power of this succinct merism may be less clear to the modern reader. In Germanic Iron Age society a man’s wealth was reckoned by how many heads of cattle (for which compare particularly English *chattel* ‘tangible, movable property’ and the etymology of *capital*) he owned, and his social power by the number of able male relatives ready to side with him in conflict. The meaning is thus: all your power will pass away, and so too must you. — For poetic analogues, see West (2007), 99 ff.

77 Deyr fē, · deyja frēndr,
 2 deyr sjalfr hit sama;
 ek veit einn · at aldri deyr:
 4 dómr umb dauðan hvern.

Fee dies, kinsmen die, oneself dies the same. I know one that never dies: the Doom^C over each man dead.

78 Fullar grindr · sá’k fyr Fitjungs sonum,
 2 nú bera þeir v́anar v́ol;
 svá es auðr · sem augabragð,
 4 hann es valtastr v́ina.

Full pens I saw by the sons of Fitting; now they bear a beggar’s staff.^a Thus is wealth like the twinkling of an eye; it is the ficklest of friends.

^alit. “the staff of hope”.

79 Ósnotr maðr, · es eignask getr

2 fé eða fljóðs munuð;
 metnaðr h^onum þr^oask, · en manvit aldrigi;
 4 fram gengr hann drjúgt í dul.
 78

80 Þat es þá reynt, · es þú at rúnum spyr · hinum reginkunnum,
 2 þeim's gerðu ginnr^egin
 ok faði fimbulþulr;
 4 þá hęfr hann bazt, ef þęgir.

Then that is proven of which thou inquires the runes, the ones born of the Powers, those which the yin-Powers made, and the Fimble-thyle [WEDEN][1] painted. (Then he has it best, if he shuts up.)

81 At kveldi skal dag leyfa, · konu es bręnd es,
 2 męki es reyndr es, · męy es gefin es,
 įs es yfir kęmr, · ęl es drukkit es.

At evening shall one praise day, a woman when she is burned, a sword when it is tried, a maiden when she is given,^a ice when one crosses over, ale when it is drunk.

^ai.e. in marriage.

82 Í vindi skal við hęggva, · veðri á sę róa,
 2 myrkri við man spjalla, · męrg eru dags augu,
 á skip skal skriðar orka, · en á skjöld til hlíf,ar,
 4 męki til hęggs, · en męy til kossa.

In wind shall one cut wood, in storm row on the sea, in darkness meet with a maiden; many are the eyes of day. A ship shall one have for its speed, a shield for shelter, a sword for striking, but a maiden for her kisses.

83 Við eld skal ęl drekka, · en á įsi skríða,
 2 magran mar kaup, · en męki saurgan,
 hęima hęst fęita, · en hund á búi.

By fire shall one drink ale, and on the ice skate; buy a meager stallion, and a rusty sword;
fatten the horse at home, and the hound in the household.

Regarding the love of women, and Woden's failed love-adventures.

- 84 Meyjar orðum · skyli manngi trúa,
 2 né því's kveðr kona;
 þvít á hverfanda hvéli · vóru þeim hjortu sköpuð,
 4 brigð í briðst of lagið.

The words of a maiden should no man believe, nor that which a woman sings. For on
a spinning wheel were their hearts shaped; fickleness in their breasts was laid.

3 þvít] *om. FbrS* 3 vóru] *er FbrS* 3 hjortu sköpuð] *hjarta skapat FbrS* 4 brigð] *ok brigð FbrS* 4
lagið] *'laginn' FbrS*

3–4 þvít ... lagið] Quoted in slightly divergent form in *FbrS* (Thott 1768 4^{ox}, fol. 210r): “*And then he remembered
the ditty which had been composed about loose women: [...]*”

- 85 Brestanda boga, · brinnanda loga,
 2 gínanda ulfi, · galandi króku,
 rýtanda svíni, · rótlausum víði,
 4 vaxanda vági, · vellanda katli,

The bursting bow, the burning flame, the gaping wolf, the crowing crow, the roaring
swine, the rootless tree, the waxing wave, the swelling kettle,

- 86 fljúganda fleiini, · fallandi bóru,
 2 ísi einnéttum, · ormi hringlęgnum,
 brúðar beðmólum · eða brotnu sverði,
 4 bjarnar lejiki · eða barni konungs, sjúkum kalfi, · sjalfráða þręli,
 völu vilmęli, · val nýfęldum.

the flying spear, the falling billow, the one-night old ice, the coiled-up serpent, the
bed-speaking of a bride, or the broken sword, the play of a bear, or the child of a king, the
sick calf, the freed slave, the kind word of a wallow, newly felled corpses.

- 87 Akri ársónum · trúi engi maðr,

- 2 né til snimma syni;
 veðr ręðr akri, · ęn vít syni;
 4 hętt es þęira hvárt.

An early sown field ought no man to trust, nor too early^a a son. The weather rules the field, but the wits the son; there is risk to both of them.

^ai.e. in life.

- 88 Bróðurbana sínnum · þótt á brautu móti,
 2 húsi halfbrunnu, · hęsti alskjótum,
 þá 's jór ónýtr, · ef ęinn fóttr brotnar;
 4 verðr-it maðr svá tryggr · at þessu trúi ęllu.

His brother's bane-man—though on the highway they meet,—a half-burned house, an all-fleet horse; then is the steed of no use if one foot breaks. There is no man so trusting, that he trust all of these.

- 89 Svá 's friðr kvinna · þęira's flátt hyggja,
 2 sem aki jó óbryddum · á ísi hólum
 ęitum, tvévetrum · ok sé tamr illa,
 4 eða í byr óðum · hęti stjórnlausu,
 eða skyli haltr hęnda · hreın í þárfalli.

So is the peace of women—those who falsely think—like riding an unshod horse on slippery ice—a joyous, two winters old, and poorly tamed one—or in a mad gust tacking without a rudder;^a or as if a halt man would catch a reindeer on a thawing hill.

^alit. “tacking a rudderless [ship]”.

- 90 Bert nú męli'k, · því-at hęði vęit'k,
 2 brigðr es karla hugr konum,
 þá ęęrst męlum, · es flást hyggjum;
 4 þat ęlir horska hugi.

Plainly I now speak, for I know both: fickle are men's hearts towards women. We then speak the most fairly, when the most falsely we think; that entices sharp minds.

91 Fagrt skal méla · ok fé bjóða,
 2 sá's vill fljóðs óst fáa,
 líki leyfa · hins ljósa mans,
 4 sá fér, es fríar.

90

92 Ástar firna · skyli ęngi maðr
 2 annan aldrigi;
 opt fáa á horskan, · es á hęmskan né fáa,
 4 lostfagrir litir.

91

93 Eyvitar firna, · es maðr annan skal,
 2 þess es of margan ęngr guma;
 hęmska ór horskum · ęęrir holða sonu
 4 sá hinn mátki munr.

92

94 Hugr ęinn þat vęit, · es býr hjarta nér,
 2 ęinn es hann sér of sefa;
 ęng es sótt verri · hvęim snotrum manni
 4 an sér ęngu at una.

The mind alone knows what lives close to the heart; each one's mind is his own. No worse ailment is there for each clever man, than to be content with nothing.

95 Þat þá ęyndak, · es í ęyri sat'k,
 2 ok vętta'k míns munar,
 hold ok hjarta · vas mér hin horska męr,
 4 þęgi hana at hęldr hęf'k.

94

- 96 Billings mey · · ek fann bęđjum á
 2 sólhvíta sofa;
 jarls ynđi · · þótti mér ękki vesa
 4 nema við þat lík at lifa.
 95
- 97 “Auk nér aptni · · skalt-u Óðinn koma,
 2 ef vilt þér męla man,
 alt eru óskop, · · nema ęin vitim
 4 slikan lęst saman.”
 96
- 98 Aptr ek hvarf · · ok uнна þóttumk
 2 vísun vilja frá;
 hitt ek hugđa, · · at hafa mynda’k
 4 gęđ hęnnar alt ok gaman.
 97
- 99 Svá kom’k nęst, · · at hin nýta vas
 2 vígdrótt ęll of vakin;
 með brinnoðum ljósum · · ok þorum viði,
 4 svá vas mér vilstígr of vitaðr.
 98
- 100 Auk nér morni, · · es vas’k ęnn of kominn,
 2 þá vas saldrótt of sofin;
 grey ęitt þá fann’k · · hinnar góðu konu
 4 bundit bęđjum á.
 99

- 101 Mǫrg es góð mér, · ef gǫrva kannar,
 2 hugbrigð við hali;
 þá þat reynda'k, · es hit ráðspaka
 4 tēygða'k á flérðir fljóð.
 hǫðungar hveðrar · leitaði mér hit horska man
 6 ok hafða'k þess vǣtki vífs.
 100

Side-composition to the previous poem, starting with a general maxim.

- 102 Heima glaðr · ok við gæsti reifr,
 2 sviðr skal of sik vesa;
 minnigr ok mólugr, · ef vill margfróðr vesa;
 4 opt skal góðs geta;
 fimbulfambi hētir, · sás fátt kann segja;
 6 þat es ósnotrs áðal.
 101

- 103 Hinn aldna jǫtun sóttak, · nú em'k aptr of kominn;
 2 fátt gat'k þęgjandi þar;
 mǫrgum orðum · mēlta'k í minn frama
 4 í Suttungs solum.

The old ettin I sought, now am I come back; I got little silence there. Many words I spoke to my furtherance, in the halls of Sutting.

- 104 Gunnloð mér of gaf · gollnum stóli á
 2 drykk hins dýra mjaðar;
 ill iðgjöld · lét'k hana ęptir hafa
 4 síns hins hēila hugar.
 (síns hins svára sefa).
 103

105 Rata munn · létumk rúms of fáa
 2 ok of grjót gnaga;
 yfir ok undir · stóðumk jotna vegir,
 4 svá héttak hofði til.
 104

106 Vel keypts hlutar · hef'k yel notit;
 2 fás es fróðum vant;
 Óðrerir · nú upp 's kominn
 4 á alda vé jaðars.
 105

107 Ifi es mér á, · at véra'k enn kominn
 2 jotna gorrðum ór,
 ef Gunnlaðar né nytá'k, · hinnar góðu konu,
 4 es lögðumk arm yfir.

I have doubt, of whether I were yet come out of the yards of the Ettins, if Guthlathe I had not used, that good woman, whom I laid my arm over.

108 Hins hindra dags · gingu hrímpursar
 2 (Háva ráðs at fregna,) Háva hollu í,
 4 at Bolverki spurðu, · ef véri með hondum kominn
 eða hefði hónum Suttungr of sóit.
 107

109 Baugęið Óðinn · hygg at unnit hafi,
 2 hvat skal hans tryggðum trúa?
 Suttung svikvinn · hann lét sumbli frá
 4 ok grótta Gunnlǫðu.

A bigh-oath^C I ween that Weden has sworn; how shall one trust his truces? He let

Sutting walk betrayed from the feast, and Guthlathe made to weep.

Advice of the Fimble-Thyle, given to Loddfathomer.

- 110 Mál 's at þylja · þular stóli á;
 2 Urðar brunni at
 sá'k ok þagða'k, · sá'k ok hugða'k,
 4 hlýdda'k á manna mál;
 of rúnar heyrða'k dóma, · né umb rǫðum þogðu
 6 Háva hǫllu at,
 Háva hǫllu í
 8 heyrða'k segja svá:

'Tis time to thill^C, upon the chair of the thyle^C. At the well of Weird, I saw and I was silent: I saw and I pondered: I heeded the matters of men. Of runes I heard them speak, nor about counsels were they silent, at the hall of the High One, in the hall of the High One, I heard them say thus:

- 111 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 nótt þú ris-at, · nema á njósn séir,
 eða leitir þér innan út staðar.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou take the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou take; they will be good for thee if thou get: At night thou rise not, unless at scouting thou be, or TODO

- 112 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 fjölkunnigri konu · skal-at-tu í faðmi sofa,
 svá at hon lyki þik liðum.
 6 Hón svá gerir · at þú gáir ęigi
 þings né þjóðans máls;
 8 mat þú vill-at · né manskis gaman

fęrr þú sorgafullr at sofa.

111

- 113 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 annars konu · tęyg þér aldrigi
 ęyrarúnu at.

112

- 114 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 á ffalli eða firði, · ef þik fara tíðir,
 fásk-tu at virði vel.

113

- 115 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 illan mann · lát aldrigi
 óhöpp at þér vita.
 6 af illum manni · fęr þú aldrigi
 gjøld hins góða hugar.

114

- 116 Ofarla bíta · sá'k ęinum hal
 2 orð illrar konu,
 fláróð tunga · varð hönnum at fęrlagi
 4 ok þęygi of sanna søk.

115

117 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 vęizt ef vin átt, · þann's vel trúir,
 far þú at finna opt.
 6 því't hrísi vęx · ok hóu grasi
 vegr, es vętki trøðr,

116

118 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 vin þinum · ves þú aldrigi
 fyrri at flaumslitum.
 6 sorg etr hjarta, · ef þú sęgja né nair
 ęinhverjum allan hug.

117

119 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 góðan mann · tęg þér at gamanrúnunum
 ok nem líknargaldr meðan lífir.

118

120 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 orðum skípta · þú skalt aldrigi
 við ósvinna apa.

119

121 Af illum manni · undu aldrigi
 2 góðs laun of geta,
 en góðr maðr · mun þik gerva meða
 4 líknfastan at lofi.

120

122 Sifjum es þá blandit · hværr es sęgja ręðr
 2 ęinum allan hug;
 alt es ęetra · an sé brigðum at vesa:
 4 es-a sá vinr es vilt ęitt sęgir.

121

123 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 þrimr orðum sęnna · skal-at-tu þér við verra mann,
 opt hinn ęetri þilar.
 6 þás hinn verri vegr.

122

124 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 skósmiðr þú verir · né sķęptismiðr,
 nema sjölfum þér sęir.
 6 Skór 's skapaðr illa · eða skapt sé rangt,
 þá 's þér þols beðit.

123

125 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,

þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 hvars þú þol kant, · kveð þér þolvi at
 ok gefat þinum fjöndum frið.

124

126 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 illu feginn · ves þú aldri,gi,
 en lát þér at góðu getit.

125

127 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 upp líta · skal-at-tu í orrostu
 gjalti glíkir · verða gumna synir
 6 síðr þitt of heilli halir.

126

128 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 Ef vilt þér góða konu · kveðja at gamanrúnum
 ok fā fognuð af,
 6 fōgru skaldur heita · ok láta fast vesa;
 leiðisk manngi gótt ef getr.

127

129 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,

- þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 varan bið'k þik vesa · ok ęigi ofvaran,
 ves þú við ęl varastr, ok við annars konu
 6 ok við þat hit þriðja, · at þjófar né leiki.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou take the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou take; they will be good for thee if thou get: Wary I ask thee to be, and not too wary; be wariest with ale, and with another man's woman, and with the third, that thieves do not outplay [thee].

- 130 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 at háði né hlátri · haf þú aldrigi
ęęst né ęanganda.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou take the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou take; they will be good for thee if thou get: In mockery or laughter have thou never a guest nor wanderer.

- 131 Opt vitu óęorla, · þęir's sitja įnni fyrir,
 2 hvers þęir 'ro kyns es koma;
 es-at maðr svá góðr · at galli né fylgi,
 4 né svá įllr at ęinugi dugi.

130

- 132 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 at hórum þul · hlę þú aldrigi,
 opt es gótt þats gamlir kveða,
 6 opt ór skorpum þęlg · skilin orð koma
 þęims hangir með hóm
 8 ok skollir með skróm,
 ok váfir með vilmęugum.

131

- 133 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 gest þú né geyj-a · né á griðd hrékir;
 get þú vóluðum vel.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou take the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou take; they will be good for thee if thou get: Bark not at a guest, nor spit at the gate;^a furnish the impoverished well.

^aBehind which the guest stands, waiting for the farmer to open.

- 134 Ramt es þat tré, · es ríða skal
 2 ollum at upploki;
 baug þú gef · eða þat biðja mun
 4 þér les hvers á liðu.
 133

- 135 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 hvars ol drekkir · kjós þér jarðar megin,
 því't jorð tækir við oldri, · en eldr við sóttum,
 6 eik við abbindi, · ax við fjolkyngi,
 holl við hýrógi; · heiptum skal mána kvęðja,
 8 bęiti við bitsóttum, · en við bolvi rúnar;
 fold skal við flóði taka.

For earth takes against drunkenness, but fire against sickness; oak against dysentery, the ear [of corn] against sorcery, bearded rye against hernia, in conflicts shall one invoke the moon. TODO

Of Woden's taking of the runes. It is clear that these verses have very little to do with

the rest of the poem, but instead are separate. It is for this reason that they are labelled as *Rúnatals þátrr* (The strand of the Runecount) in younger Eddic paper manuscripts. Many give an archaic, pagan impression. It is as if they were drawn from the lips of an Odinic priest.

- 136 Veið'k at ek hekk · vindga meðiði á
 2 nętr allar níu,
 gęiri undaðr · ok gefinn Óðni,
 4 sjalfr sjolfum mér,
 á þeim meðiði, · es manngi veið,
 6 hvers af rótum rinnr.

I know that I hung on a windy tree, for all of nine nights; wounded by spear and given to Woden—myself to myself—on that tree, which no man knows, of whose roots it runs.

- 137 Við hleiði mik sęldu-t · né við hornigi;
 2 nýsta'k niðr, · nam'k upp rúnar,
 óþandi nam, · fell'k aptr þaðan.

With loaf they gladdened me not, nor with horn's drink. I peered down, I took up the runes, screaming I took; then I fell back thence.

- 138 Fimbulljóð níu · nam'k af hinum fręgja syni
 2 Bolþorns, Bęstlu fęður,
 ok ek drykk of gat · hins dýra mjaðar
 4 asinn Óðreri.

Nine fimble-songs, I got from the famous son of **Balethorn**, the father of **Bestle**—and a drink I got, of that expensive mead, poured to **Woderearer**.

^aIt has been noted (FJ) that this verse fits better in the next section of the poem. It is awkwardly placed here, since it mentions *ljóð* '(magical) songs, incantations', rather than runes.

- 139 Þá nam'k fręvask · ok fróðr vesa
 2 ok yaxa ok yel hafask;
 orð mér af orði · orðs lęitaði
 4 yerk mér af yerki yerks.

Then I began to thrive, and be learned, and grow and have it well. A word for me of a

word a word sought out; a work for me of a work a work.^a

^aEach good word and deed was followed by another.

140 Rúnar munt finna · ok ráðna stafi,
 2 mjök stóra stafi,
 mjök stinna stafi,
 4 es fáði fimbulþulr
 ok gerðu ginnręgin
 6 ok ręist Hroptr ragna⁵.

Runes wilt thou find, and interpreted staves: much large staves, much stiff staves, as painted the **Fimble-thyle**, and made the **yin-Powers**, and carved **Roft** of the Powers.

^cCorrected from *ręgna*. Cf. *Eskál Vell* 31/2 in SkP I, p. 322.

141 Óðinn með ósum, · ęn fyr ólfum Dáinn,
 2 Dvalinn dvergum fyrir,
 Ásviðr jętnum fyrir,
 4 ek ręist sjalfr sumar.

Weden among the **Ease**, but before the **Elves Downen**, **Dwollen** before the **Dwarfs**, **Osswith** before the **Ettins**; I myself^a carved some.

^aWeden?

142 Vęiz-tu, hvé rísta skal? · vęiz-tu, hvé ráða skal?
 2 vęiz-tu, hvé fáa skal? · vęiz-tu, hvé freista skal?
 vęiz-tu, hvé hiðja skal? · vęiz-tu, hvé blóta skal?
 4 vęiz-tu, hvé sęnda skal? · vęiz-tu, hvé sóa skal?

Knowest thou how one shall carve? Knowest thou how one shall read? Knowest thou how one shall paint? Knowest thou how one shall tempt? Knowest thou how one shall bid? Knowest thou how one shall blood^C? Knowest thou one shall send? Knowest thou how one shall soo^C?^a

^aThis v. bears strong resemblance with Vg 216 (Högstena golder). TODO: Elaborate.

- 143 Betra 's óbeðit · an sé ofblótit,
 2 ey sér til gildis gjof;
 betra 's ósent · an sé ofsóit.⁶

Better is unbid than be excessively blooted; a gift always looks to a tribute. Better is unsent than be excessively sooted.

^fA final line is likely missing here. — Identical word-pairing (*biðja – blóta, senda – sóa*) may reveal this v.'s relation with the previous one.

- 144 Svá pundr of reist · fyr þjóða rok
 2 þar's upp of reis, · es aptr of kom.

Thus Thound^p <= Weden> catved for the rakes of nations, where up he rose as back he came.^a

^aA very cryptic v.

Weden's recounting of his Songs.

- 145 Ljóð þau kann'k, · es kann-at þjóðans kona
 2 ok manskis mogr.
 Hjolp hēitir eitt, · þat þér hjalpa mun
 4 við sorgum ok sokum, · ok sutum gōrvøllum.

Those leeds^c I know, as knows not the ruler's woman, and no man's lad. Help is called one, it will help thee against sorrows and sakes,^a and all kinds of misfortunes.^b

^aLegal proceedings.

^bTODO: elaborate on translation

- 146 Þat kann'k annat, · es þurfu yta synir,^a
 2 þeir's vilja leknar lifa.

I know another, which the sons of men need; they who wish to live as healers.

^a(TODO NUMBERING) Identical wording to 163/2.

- 147 Þat kann'k þriðja, · ef mér verðr þorf mikil

2 hapts við mina hęiptmøgu,
 ęggjar dęfi'k · minna andskota,
 4 bítat þeim vöpn né vélir.

I know the third,

148 Þat kann'k fjórða, · ef mér fyrðar bera
 hönd at hoglimum,
 svá ek gęł, · at ganga má'k,
 4 sprettr mér af fótum fjöturr.
 ęn af höndum hapt.

147

149 Þat kann'k fimta, · ef sé'k af fári skotinn
 fłęin í folki vaða,
 flýgr-a svá stint, · at stöðvigak,
 4 ef hann sjónum of sé'k.

148

150 Þat kann'k sétta, · ef mik sérir þegn
 á vrótum hrás viðar.
 þann hal, · es mik hęipta kvęðr,
 4 þann eta męin hęldr an mik.

149

151 Þat kann'k sjaunda, · ef sé'k hóvan loga
 sal of sessmøgum,
 brinnrat svá breitt, · at hönum bjargigak;
 4 þann kann'k galdr at gala.

150

- 152 Þat kann'k áttá, · es ǫllum es
 2 nýtsamligt at nema,
 hvar's hatr vęx · með hildings sonum,
 4 þat má'k bóta brátt.
 151
- 153 Þat kann'k níunda, · ef mik nauðr of stęndr
 2 at bjarga fari á floti,
 vind ek kyrrí · vági á
 4 ok svęfi'k allan sę.
 152
- 154 Þat kann'k tíunda, · ef sé'k túnriður
 2 leika lopti á,
 ek svá vinn'k, · at þęr villar fara
 4 sinna hęim-hama
 sinna hęim-huga.
 153
- 155 Þat kann'k ęlliþta, · ef skal'k til orrostu
 2 leiða langvini,
 und randir gęlk, · ęn þęir með ríki fara,
 4 hęilir hildar til,
 hęilir hildi frá,
 6 koma þęir hęilir hvaðan.
 154
- 156 Þat kann'k tolþta, · ef sé'k á tré uppi
 2 váfa virgilná,
 svá ek rist · ok í rúnnum fá'k,
 4 at sá gęngr gumi.

ok mélir við mik.

155

157 Þat kann'k þrettánda · ef skal'k þegn ungan
 2 verpa vatni á,
 munat hann falla, · þótt í folk komi,
 4 hnigr-a sá halr fyr hǰorum.

156^a

^aDescribing the pagan ritual of pouring water on a newborn child. Cf. *Rígb7*, 21, 34.

158 Þat kann'k fjogurtánda, · ef skal'k fyrða liði
 2 tǣlja tíva fyrir,
 ása ok alfa · ek kann allra skil,
 4 fár kann ósnotr svá.

157

159 Þat kann'k fimtánda, · es gól Þjóðrørir
 2 dvergr fyr Dǣllings durum,
 afl gól ósum, · en olfum frama,
 4 hyggju Hroptatý.

158

160 Þat kann'k sextánda, · ef vil'k hins svinna mans
 2 hafa gæð alt ok gaman,
 hugi hverfi'k · hvitarmri konu
 4 ok sný'k hennar ollum sefa.

159

161 Þat kann'k sjautjánda · at mik seint mun firrask
 2 hit manunga man.

160

162 Þat kann'k átjándá, · es éva k^énni'k
 2 mey né manns konu,
 alt es b^étra · es éinn of kann,
 4 þat fylgir ljóða l^okum,
 nema þ^éiri éinni, · es mik armi v^érr,
 6 eða mín systir s^é.

161

163 Nú eru Háva mál kveðin · Hávahöllu í
 2 allþ^orf yta sonum,
 óþ^orf j^otna sonum;
 4 heill sá's k^vað, · heill sá's kann,
njóti sá's nam,
 6 heilir þ^éir's hlýddu.

Now are the speeches of the High One sung, in the hall of the High One, of great need for the sons of men, of harm for the sons of ettins! Hail he who sang, hail he who knows! May he benefit who took, hail they who heeded!

3 j^otna] yta *corrected in margin R*

The Speeches of Grimner (*Grímnismól*)

From the sons of king Reeding

BPG BPA Hraðungur konungr átti tvá sonu. Hét annarr Agnarr, enn annarr Geirrøðr. BPA Agnarr var tíu vetra enn Geirrøðr átta vetra. Þeir reru tveir á báti með dorgar sínar at smáfiski. BPA Vindr rak þá í haf út. Í náttmyrkri brutu þeir við land ok gingu upp; fundu kotbónda einn. BPA Þar vöru þeir um vetrinn. Kerling fostaði Agnar enn karl Geirrøð. BPA At vári fekk karl þeim skip. Enn er þau kerling leiddu þá til strandar, þá mælti karl einmæli við Geirrøð. BPA Þeir fengu byr ok kvómu til stöðva föður síns. Geirrøðr var fram í skipi. BPA Hann hljóp upp á land enn hratt út skipinu, ok mælti: "Far þú þar er smyl hafi þik." BPA Skipit rak út. Enn Geirrøðr gekk út til bójar; hánum var vel fagnat; þá var faðir hans andaðr. BPA Var þá Geirrøðr til konungs tekinn, ok varð maðr ágætr.

BPB King Reeding owned two sons. One was called Eyner, and the other Garfrith. BPB Eyner was ten winters old, and Garfrith eight winters. The two were rowing in a boat with their trolling-lines for small fishing. BPB Wind then drove them out into the sea. In the darkness of night they crashed into land and walked up; they found a single cottage-farmer. BPB There they were about the winter. The wife fostered Eyner, but the husband Garfrith. BPB At spring the man gave them ships, but when they and the farmer's wife brought them to the shore, the husband spoke privately with Garfrith. BPB They got a good gust, and came to their father's harbour. Garfrith was in the front of the ship. BPB He leapt up onto land and pushed out the ship, and spoke: "Go thou where the smil^G might have thee." BPB The ship drove out. But Garfrith walked towards the farm; he was welcomed well; his father had by then drawn his final breath. BPB Then was Garfrith taken as king, and became an excellent man. EPG

BPG BPA Óðinn ok Frigg sátu í Hliðskjölfu ok sá um heima alla. BPA Óðinn mælti: Sér þú Agnar fóstara þinn, hvar hann elr börn við gýgi í hellinum? BPA En Geirrøðr, fóstri minn, er konungr ok sitr nú at landi. BPA Frigg segir: Hann er matniðingr sá at hann kveir gesti sína ef hánum þykkja ofmargir koma. BPA Óðinn segir at þat er in mesta lygi. Þau veðja um þetta mál. BPA Frigg sendi eskismey sína, Fullu, til Geirrøðar. Hon bað konung varask at eigi fyrgerði hánum fjölkunnigr maðr sá er þar var kominn í land ok sagði þat mark á at engi hundr var svá olmr at á hann myndi hlaupa. BPA En þat var inn mesti hégómi at Geirrøðr væri eigi matgóðr ok þó lætr hann handtaka þann mann er eigi vildu hundar á ráða. BPA Sá var í feldi blám ok nefndisk Grímnir ok sagði ekki fleira frá sér þótt hann væri atspurðr. BPA Konungr lét hann pína til sagna ok setja milli elda tveggja ok sat hann þar átta nætr. BPA Geirrøðr konungr átti son tíu vetra gamlan ok hét Agnarr eftir bróður hans. BPA Agnarr gekk at Grími ok gaf hánum horn fullt at drekka, sagði að konungr gerði illa er hann lét pína hann saklausan. BPA Grímnir drakk af. Þá var eldrinn svá kominn at feldrinn brann af Grími. Hann kvað:

BPB Weden and Frie sat in Litheshelf^G and looked about all the Homes. BPB Weden spoke: Seest thou Eyner thy foster-son, where he begets children with the troll-woman in the cave? BPB But Garfrith, my foster-son, is king and now sits at land. BPB Frie says: He is such a meat-nithing that he tortures his guests if he thinks there are too many of them. BPB Weden says that this is the greatest lie; they make a bet about this matter. BPB Frie

sent her handmaid Full to Garfrith's. She asked the king to be wary, that he might not be ended by that feelcunning^C man who was come in the land, and said that his mark was that no hound were so fierce that he would leap onto him. BPB But that was the greatest vainglory that Garfrith would not be meat-good, and yet he has that man seized, whom the dogs would not touch. BPB He was clad in a blue cloak, and called himself Grimen, and did not tell any more about himself, even though he was interrogated. BPB The king had him tortured so that he would speak, and set him between two fires, and he remained there for eight nights. BPB King Garfrith had a son ten winters old, and he was named Eyner after his brother. BPB Eyner walked up to Grimen, and gave him a full horn to drink, saying that the king did ill as he had him tortured without cause. BPB Grimen drank from it; then the fire had come such that the cloak burned on Grimen. He quoth: EPG

The **Speeches of Grimmer** are preserved whole in both **R** and **A**.

The structure of the poem is mostly clear; the first three verses set the stage, repeating some of what we got in the prose. It is certain that Weden is the speaker. After this various lore is touched on, not always clearly. In this the poem aligns closely with ones such as *Web Sigh* and *Allw*.

First are listed the halls of the gods (4–17), though the numbering does not seem to agree with the count of locations mentioned. Then the conditions and surroundings of Weden's animals and hall are elaborated on (18–23). Mentioned are the preparation of food (18), his wolves (19) and ravens (20), the river through which dead men have to wade (21), the gate through which they have to pass (22), the count of doors in the hall (23) and the two animals who gnaw on the branches of the tree (25–26). We then have a long list of rivers (28–30) and horses ridden by the gods (31). Then is told of the conditions and animals of Ugdrassle (32–36).

Thereafter follow several discordant verses. A list of Walkirries (37), the progression of the sun and moon (38–40), the creation of the world from Yimer's body (41–42), the significance of blood-kettles^C (43), the creation of the ship Shidebladner (44) and finally the noblest of several categories of things and groups (45).

After all of this Weden utters an unclear verse invoking the gods (46), before listing many of his names and the circumstances in which they were used (47–50). He then turns to Garfrith, disappointed by the inhospitality and poor conduct of his former protégé, and predicts his imminent death (51–53). He finally reveals himself by his true name, daring Garfrith to face him (53). After this he repeats several of his names (54), and the poetry ends.

In the final prose section we are told that Garfrith tripped and fell on his sword, after which is son Eyner rules for a long time.

- 1 Hęitr est hripuðr · ok hęldr til mikill,
- 2 gongumk firr funi.
- Loði sviðnar, · þótt á lopt bera'k;
- 4 brinnumk feldr fyrir.

Hot art thou, flame, and rather too large; go far from me, fire! The woolen cape is singed though I hold it aloft; the cloak burns before me.

- 2 Átta nętr satk · milli ęlda hér,
 2 svát mér mangi · mat né bauð
 nema ęinn Agnarr, · es ęinn skal ráða,
 4 Geirręðar sonr, · Gotna landi.

For eight nights sat I between the fires here, while no man offered me food; save for lone Eyner, who lone shall rule—the son of Garfrith—the land of the Gots!

- 3 Heill skalt, Agnarr, · alls heilan biðr
 2 þik Veratýr vesa;
 ęins drykkjar · þú skalt aldrigi
 4 bętri gjöld geta.

Hale shalt thou be, Eyner, as hale Weretue <= Weden> bids thee to be; for one drink shalt thou never get a better recompense.^a

^aThe recompense being the esoteric lore.

- 4 Land es heilag, · es liggja sé'k
 2 ęsum ok ęlfum nęr;
 ęn í Þrúðęimi · skal Þórr vesa
 4 unz of rjúfask ręgin.

The land is holy, which I see lying close to the Ease and elves; but in Thrithham shall Thunder be, until the Reins are rent.^a

^aThrithham is not

- 5 Ýdalir heita, · þar's Ullr of hefr
 2 sér of gęrva sali;
 Alfheim Frey · gófu í árdaga
 4 tívar at tannféi.

Yewdales are called where Woulder has made himself a hall. Elfham to Free in days of yore the Tues as a tooth-gift^a gave.

^aThe gift that a child receives when he gets his first tooth.

6 Bór 's hinn þriði, · es blíð regin
2 silfri þokðu sali;
 Valaskjölf heitir, · es vélti sér
4 óss í árdaga.

Bower is the third, where the blithe Reins with silver thatched a hall. Waleshef is called, where tricked himself, the os in days of yore.

7 Sökkvabekkr heitir hinn fjórði, · en þar svalar knegu
2 unnir glymja yfir;
 þar þau Óðinn ok Sága · drekka umb alla daga
4 glöð ór gollnum kęrum.

Sinkbench is called the fourth, but there cool waves do clash above; there Weden and Sey drink all days, gladly out of golden vats.

8 Gláðshęimr heitir hinn fimti · þar's hin gollbjarta
2 Valholl víð of þrumir;
 en þar Hroptr · kýss hverjan dag
4 vápndauða vera.

Gladsham is called the fifth, where the gold-bright Walhall, wide, stands fast; but there Roft <= Weden> chooses every day weapon-dead men.

9 Mjök 's auðkęnt · þęim's til Óðins koma
2 salkynni at séa,
 skoptum 's rann reþt, · skjöldum 's salr þakiðr,
4 brynjum of bękki stráat.

Very easily recognized, for those who to Weden come, is the hall to see: With shafts is the house roofed; with shields is the hall thatched; with byrnies the benches strewn.

- 10 Mjök 's auðkent · þeim's til Óðins koma
 2 salkynni at séa,
 vargr hangir · fyr vestan dyrr
 4 ok drúpir orn yfir.

Very easily recognized, for those who to Weden come, is the hall to see: A wolf hangs before the western door, and an eagle droops over.

- 11 Þrymhjelmr heitir hinn sétti, · es Þjazi bjó,
 2 sá hinn ámatki jötunn;
 en nú Skaði byggvir, · skír brúðr goða,
 4 fornar toptir fður.

Thrimham is called the sixth, where Thedse dwelled, that terrifying ettin; but now Scathe bedwells—pure bride of the gods—the ancient plots of her father.

- 12 Bræðablik eru hin sjaundu, · en þar Baldr hefir
 2 sér of gorrva sali,
 á því landi · es liggja veyit'k
 4 fęsta feiknstafi.

Broadblicks are the seventh, and there Balder has made for himself a hall; on that land, where I know lie the fewest staves of treachery.^a

^aEvil deeds.

- 13 Himinbjörg eru in öttu · en þar Heimdall
 2 kveða valda véum.
 þar vörðr goða · drękr í véru ranni
 4 glaðr góða mjöð.

Heavenbarrows are the eighth, and there Homedall, they say, wields over wighs. There in the tranquil house the ward of the gods [HOMEDALL][1] drinks glad the good mead.

- 14 Folkvangr es inn níundi · en þar Fręyja ręðr
 2 sessa kostum í sal;

halfan val · hon kýss hverjan dag
 4 en halfan Óðinn á.

Folkwong is the ninth, and there Frow wields the choice of seats in the hall; half of the slain she chooses each day, but half Weden owns.

15 Glitnir es inn tíundi; · hann es gulli studdr
 2 ok silfri þakðr it sama;
 en þar Forseti · byggir flestan dag
 4 ok svéfir allar sakir.

Glitner is the tenth, it is studded by gold, and thatched by silver the same; but there Forset dwells most of the day, and resolves^a all [legal] matters.

^aPuts to sleep,

16 Nóatún eru in elliiftu · en þar Njörðr hefir
 2 sér um gorrva sali,
 manna þengill · inn meinsvani
 4 hátimbruðum horgi réðr.

Nowetowns are the tenth, and there Nearth has made himself a hall. The prince of men, the guileless one, rules the high-timbered harrow[†].

17 Hrísí vęx · ok há grasi
 2 Viðars land, viði,
 en þar mögr of lézk · af mars baki
 4 frókn at hefna fœður.

TO-DO.

18 Andhrímnr · léttr í Eldhrímni
 2 Sęhrímni soðinn,
 fleska bezt, · en þat fáir vitu
 4 við hvat ęinherjar alask.

Andrimner lets in Eldrimner Sowrimner be boiled. The best of pork, but few know it, by what the Ownharriers are nourished.^a

^aThe cook Andrimner ‘face-sooty’ has the boar Sowrimner ‘sow-sooty’ boiled in the cauldron Eldrimner ‘fire-sooty’; by this meat are the Ownharriers nourished.

- 19 Gera ok Freka · seðr gunntamiðr,
 hróðigr Herjafóðr,
 en við vín ęitt · vǫpngöfugr
 Óðinn ę lifr.

The battle-accustomed, glorious Father of Hosts [WEDEN][1] feeds Gerr and Freck; but by wine alone, the weapon-worshipful Weden ever lives.

- 20 Huginn ok Muninn · fljúga hverjan dag
 jǫrmungrund yfir;
 óumk of Hugin, · at apr né komit;
 þó séumk meir of Munin.

Highen and Minden fly every day over the ermin-ground^C. I fear for Highen, that he come not back; yet I worry more for Minden.

- 21 Þýtr Þund, · unir Þjóðvitnis
 fiskr flóði í;
 áarstraumr · þykkir ofmikill
 valglæmi at vaða.

Thound^P roars; dwells Thedwitner’s fish^a in the flood; the river-stream seems far too great, for the noisy slain host to wade through.^b

^aA very difficult kenning to interpret, but see TODO.

^bPresumably describing the river which surrounds Walhall, and which the dead have to pass on their way to it.

- ...
 22 Ór Ymis holdi · vas jǫrð of sköpuð,
 en ór sveita sér,
 björg ór beinum, · baðmr ór hári,

4 en ór hausi himinn.

Out of Yimer's hull was the earth shaped, but out of his blood the seas; crags out of his bones, trees from his hair, but heaven out of his skull.

23 En ór hans bróum · gęřou blíð řęin
2 Miðgarð manna sonum,
 en ór hans hęila · vęru þau hin harðmóðgu
4 ský ęll of skępuð.

But out of his brows the blithe Reins made Midyard for the sons of men; but out of his brains were the hard-stirred skies all shaped.

24 Ullar hylli · hęfr ok allra goða
2 hvęrr 's tękr fyrstr á funa,
 því't opnir hęimar · verða of ása sonum, þá's hęfja af hvera.

The favour of Woulder, and of all the Ease, has each who first touches the fire; for the Homes become open about the sons of the Ease, when the cauldrons are lifted off.

25 Ívalda synir · gingu í árdaga
2 Skíðblaðni at skapa,
 skipa bazt · skírum Frey,
4 nýtum Njarðar bur.

The sons of Iwald went, in days of yore, Shidebladner to shape; the best of ships for the pure Free, for the useful son of Nearth [FREE][1].

26 Askr Yggdrasils, · hann es óztr við
2 en Skíðblaðnir skipa,
 Óðinn ása · en jóa Sleipnir,
4 Bilręst brúa · en Bragi skalda,
 Hábrók hauka · en hunda Garmr.

The ash of Ugdrassle, that is the noblest of trees, but Shidebladner of ships; Weden of the Ease, but of horses Slopner; Bilrest of bridges, but Bray of scolds; Highbrook of hawks, but of hounds Garm.

...

- 27 Qlr est Geirrðör, · hefr þú of drukkit;
 2 miklu est hnugginn, · es þú est mínu gengi,
 øllum einherjum · ok Óðins hylli.

Worse for ale art thou, Garfrith, hast thou too much drunk. Of much art thou bereft, as thou art of my support, of all the Ownharriers, and of Weden's favour.

- 28 Fjølð þér sagðak, · en þú fátt of mant,
 2 of þik véla vinir; mēki liggja · sé'k míns vinar
 allan í dreyra drifinn.

Much I told thee, but thou recallest little; 'tis friends that deal with thee. The sword I see, of my friend, lying all drenched in gore.^a

^aWeden predicts Garfrith's imminent death.

- 29 Eggmóðan val · nú mun Yggr hafa,
 2 þitt veytk líf of liðit;
 varar ro dísir, · nú knátt Óðin séa;
 4 nálgask mik ef þú megir.

An edge-tired corpse will Ug now have; I know thy life to be passed. Wary are the dises; now thou dost see Weden—approach me, if thou mayst!

- 30 Óðinn nú heiti'k, · Yggr áðan hét'k,
 2 hétumk þundr fyr þat,
 Vakr ok Skilfingr, · Vöfuðr ok Hroptatýr
 4 Gautr ok Jalkr með goðum.
 Ófnir ok Sváfnir · hygg at orðnir sé
 6 allir at einum mér.

Weden I am now called, Ug was I earlier called; I called myself Thound before that. Wacker and Shelfing, Waved and Roft-Tue, Geat and Gelding among the gods. Ofner and Sweefner, I ween, are become all for the one me.

Geirrðör konungr sat ok hafði sverð um kné sér ok brugðit til miðs. En er hann heyrði

at Óðinn var þar kominn stóð hann upp ok vildi taka Óðin frá eldinum. Sverðit slapp ór hendi hánun; vissu hjöltin niðr. Konungr drap fēti ok steyptiz áfram en sverðit stóð í gögnum hann ok fekk hannþar af A bana. Óðinn hvarf þá.*om.* A En Agnarr var þarvarð A konungr lengi síðan.*om.* A

King Garfrith sat and had a sword about his knee, and it was brandished half-way up. But when he heard that Weden was come there, he stood up and would take Weden from the fire. The sword slipped out of his hand; the hilt pointed downwards. The king tripped and threw himself forth, but the sword pierced him, and he received his bane. Weden then disappeared, but Eyner was there king for a long while thence.

The Thule of Righ (*Rígsþula*)

BPG BPA Svá segja menn í fornum sögum, at einnhværr af ósum, sá es Heimdallr hét, fór ferðar sinnar ok framm með sjóvarströndu nokkurri, kom at einum húsabó ok nefndisk Rígr; eftir þeiri sögu es kvæði þetta.EPA

BPB Thus say men in ancient saws, that one of the Ease†—he who was called Homedall—went on his journey forth along some lakeshore, came upon a lone homestead and called himself Rígh. According to that saw is this poem:EPB EPG

- 1 Ár kvǫðu ganga · grónar brautir
- 2 ǫflgan ok aldinn · ós kunnigan,
ramman ok rǫskvan · Ríg stíganda.

Of yore they said did walk the green paths, a mighty and aged os†, cunning; the strong and brisk Rígh, striding.

- 2 Gekk hann meir at þat · miðrar brautar,
- 2 kom hann at húsi, · hurð vas á gétti;
inn nam at ganga, · eldr vas á golfi,
- 4 hjón sǫtu þar · hǫr at arni,
Ái ok Edda · aldinfalda.

Went he further at that, on the middle of the road; came he to a house; the door was wide open. He took to go inside; fire was on the floor. A couple sat there, hoary by the hearth: Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother, old-fashioned.

TODO

The Leed of Hoarbeard (*Hárbarðsljóð*)

BPG BPAÞórr fór ór austrvegi ok kom at sundi einu. Qðrum megum sundsins var ferjukarlinn með skipit. Þórr kallaði:EPA

BPBThunder travelled out of the eastern ways and came to a sound. At the other side of the sound was the ferryman with the ship. Thunder called out:EPB EPG

1 „Hvęrr ’s sá sveinn sveina · es stęndr fyr sundit handan?“

“Who is that swain of swains, that stands across the sound?”

2 Hann svaraði: „Hvęrr ’s sá karl karla · es kallar of váginn?“

He answered: “Who is that churl of churls, that calls out over the wave?”

3 „Fęr þú mik of sundit, · fōði’k þik á morgun;

2 męis hęfi’k á baki, · verðr-a matrinn bętri.“

“Ferry me over the sound, I feed thee in the morning! A basket^a I have on my back, the food does not get better.”

^aTODO: Note about *męis* and its connection with the later verse previously interpreted as referring to the scroum.

4 „Át ek í hvíld · áðr ek hęiman fór,

2 síldr ok hafra; · saðr em’k ęnn þęss.“

“I ate for a while before I travelled from home, herring and hegoats; I am still full from that.

5 Árligum verkum · hrósar þú verðinum;

2 veizt at u fyr görla, · döpr eru þín heimkynni,
dauð hygg ek að þín móðir sé.,

Gaming

Þórr kvað:

6 „Skammt mun nú mál okkat vesa, · allz þú mér skótingu ęinni svarar;

2 launa mun ek þér farsynjun · ef vit finnumk í sinn annat!

Farþú nú þar’s þik hafi allan gramir!“

Thunder quoth: "Now our speech will be short, as thou answers me with taunts alone; I will reward thee for this ferry-refusal if we meet another time! Now go whither the fiends may have all of thee!"

The Lay of Hymer (*Hymiskviða*)

Attested in two manuscripts, **R** and **A**. The two are surprisingly consistent.

Þórr dró Miðgarðsorm.

Thunder pulled up the Middenyardsworm.

- 1 Ár valtívar · veiðar nómu
2 ok sumblsamir · áðr saðir yrði,
hristu tēina · ok á hlaut sōu,
4 fundu þeir at Égis · ørkost hvera.

Of yore the slaughter-Tues had caught game^a, and banqueting before they might eat^b, they shook the twigs and looked at the leat^c; they found at Eagre's a great choice of cauldrons.^c

^aLit. 'took game'

^bLit. 'might become sated'

^cThe gods sprinkled the leat (sacrificial blood) of the beasts and interpreted the pattern; they found it most auspicious to feast at Eagre's.

- 2 Sat bergbúi · barntēitr fyrir,
2 mjök glíkr megi · Miskorblinda,
lēt i augu · Yggs barn i þrá:
4 „þú skalt ósum · opt sumbl gēra!“

— Sat the mountain-dweller [= Eagre] there, joyous like a child, much like the lad of Misherblind^a; into his eyes looked the child of Ug <= Weden> [= Thunder] in defiance: “Thou shalt for the Ease oft' host banquets!”^b

4 gēra “host”] gefa “give” **A**

^aA reference to a lost myth? Unless Misherblind is an alternative name for Firneet, Eagre's father.

^bHaving seen that Eagre has a great store of cauldrons, Thunder orders him to host future banquets for the Ease.

- 3 Qnn fekk jōtni · orðbéginn halr,
2 hugði at hefndum · hann nēst við goð,
bað hann Sifjar ver · sér fōra hver,
4 „þann's ek ǫllum ǫl · yðr of hēita.“

Great toil for the ettin the word-peevisish man [= Thunder] caused; thought he [= Eagre] of revenge, soon, against the god: asked he Sib's husband [= Thunder] to bring him a cauldron, “that one with which I for you all ale might brew.”^a

⁰This is the only title the poem has in **R**. **A** has the proper title *Hymiskviða* instead.

^aEagre asks Thunder to find a single cauldron which can hold enough ale to supply all the Ease.

4 Né þat mǫttu · mǣrir tívar
 2 ok ginnręgin · of geta hvegi,
 unz af tryggðum · Týr Hlórriða
 4 ástráð mikit · ęinum sagði:

But that might the renowned Tues^G and the gin-Reins^G nowhere get ahold of; until out of loyalty, a great word of loving advice Tue to Loride <= Thunder> alone did say:

5 „Býr fyr austan · Élivága
 2 hundvíss Hymir · at himins ęnda,
 á minn faðir · móðugr ketil,
 4 rúmbrugðinn hver · rastar djúpan.“

“Lives to the east of the Ilewaves the hound-wise Hymer, at the end of heaven. Owns my father^a, fierce, a kettle; a size-renowned cauldron a rest^C deep.”

4 rúmbrugðinn | ‘rumbrygðan’ A

^aHymer being Tue’s father.

6 „Veiztu, ef þiggjum · þann lögveli?“
 2 „Ef, vinr, vélar · vit gørvum til!“

“Knowest thou if we will receive that liquid-boiler [CAULDRON]?” — “If, friend, we two make use of wiles!”^a

^aThe speakers are not indicated, but it is most sensible that Thunder asks and Tue answers.

7 Fóru drjúgum · dag þann framan
 2 Ásgarði frá · unz til Egils kvǫmu.
 Hirði hann hafra · hornęofgasta;
 4 hurfu at hǫllu · es Hymir átti.

— Journeyed they with great strides from the beginning of the day, from Osyard, until to Agle’s they came—he herded the horn-noblest he-goats—they turned to the hall which Hymer owned.

1 dag þann framan “from the beginning of the day”] *Emendation from Finnur 1932*; dag þann fram “on that day forth” R; dag frálaga “swiftly at day” A 2 Egils “Agle’s”] *thus* R; Egis “Eagre’s” A; — A *reading possibly from confusion with Eagre described earlier in the poem, but or the shepherd did share his name.*

- 8 Mōgr fann qmmu, · mjök leiða sér,
2 hafði hofða · hundruð níu.
en qnnur gekk · algollin framm
4 brúnhvít bera · bjórveig syni.

The lad [= Tue] found his grandmother greatly loathsome; heads she had, nine hundred.— But another woman, all-golden, stepped forth: white-browed, she carried a beer-draught for her son [= Tue]:

- 9 „Áttniðr jōtna · ek vilja’k ykr
2 hugfulla tvá · und hvera sētja;
es mín fríi · mōrgu sinni
4 glōggr við gēsti · gōrr ills hugar.“

“Kinsman of ettins [= Tue]! I would wish to set you high-mettled two under the cauldrons; my lover [= Hymer] has many a time been stingy against guests, quick to ill temper.”^a

3 fríi “lover”] *thus* R; faðir “father” A

^aTue’s mother hides him and Thunder, lest Hymer find them.

- 10 En váskapaðr · varð síðbúinn,
2 harðráðr Hymir, · heim af veidum;
gekk inn í sal, · glumðu jōklar,
4 vas karls, es kom, · kinnskógr frørinn.

But the misshapen one was come late—the hard-minded Hymer—home from the hunt. He entered the hall—icicles clattered—on the churl who came [= Hymer] was the cheek-shaw [BEARD] frozen.

1 síðbúinn] *om.* A

[Tue's mother quoth:]

- 11 „Ves þú heill, Hymir, · í hugum góðum!
 2 Nú 's sonr kominn · til sala þinna,
 sá's vit vettum · af vęgi lęngum;
 4 fylgir hęnum · Hróðrs andskoti,
 vinr verliða; · Véurr hętir sá.

“Be thou hale, Hymer, in good spirits!^a Now the son [= Tue] is come to thy halls, the one whom we two have been expecting, from a long way off. Follows him the opponent of Rooder <ettin> [= Thunder], the friend of manly retinues [= Thunder]; Wighward <= Thunder> is that one called.

^aFormula also seen in runic inscription N B380: *Heill sé þú · ok í hugum góðum.*

Þórr þik þiggí,

Óðinn þik eigi.

“May thou be hale, and in good spirits! May Thunder receive thee, may Weden own thee.”

Cf. also *Bee* l. 407: *Wæs þú Hrōðgár hál!* “Be thou, Rothgar, hale!”

- 12 Sé þú hvar sitja · und salar gaffi,
 2 svá forða sér, · stęndr súl fyrir.“
 Sundr stękk súla · fyr sjón jętuns,
 4 ęn allr í tvau · áss brotnaði.

See where they sit, 'neath the hall's gable: thus they hide themselves—a pillar stands before them!^a” The pillars sprang asunder before the sight of the ettin, but all in two the beam was broken.

2 forða sér] forðask A 2 súl] ‘sol’ A 4 allr] áðr RATODO: elaborate, mention Finnur

^aTue's mother reveals the hiding place of the gods.

- 13 Stukku átta, · ęn ęinn af þeim
 2 hverr harðslęginn · heill af þolli;
 framm gingu þęir, · ęn forn jętunn
 4 sjónum lęiddi · sinn andskota.

Eight^a sprung apart, but one of them, a hard-forged cauldron, [came] whole off its peg^b. Forth went they, but the ancient ettin with his sight beheld^c his opponent [= Thunder].

^aEight cauldrons.

^bPresumably the one in which Tue and Thunder were hiding.

^cLiterally “led with his sight”.

- 14 Sagðit hǫnum · hugr vǫl þá's sá
 2 gýgjar gróti · á golf kominn,
 þar vǫru þjórar · þrír of tǣknir,
 4 bað senn jǫtunn · sjóða ganga.

His heart was not pleased then, when he saw the distresser of troll-women [= Thunder] come on the floor. There were three bulls taken: bade the ettin at once them be cooked.

2 gróti “distresser”] gǣti “keeper, warder” A 4 senn] ‘sun’ A

- 15 Hvęrn létu þeir · hǫfði skęmra
 2 ok á sęði · síðan bǫru,
 át Sifjar verr · áðr sofa gingi,
 4 ęinn með ǫllu · ęxn tvá Hymis.

Each [bull] they let shorten by a head, and onto the fire-pit then carried: ate the husband of Sib [= Thunder]—before he might go to sleep—alone all together, two of Hymer’s oxen.

- 16 Þótti hǫrum · Hrunnis spjalla
 2 verðr Hlórriða · vǫl fullmikill,
 „munum at aptni · ǫðrum verða
 4 við vęiðimat · vér þrír lifa.“

To the hoary friend of Rungner <ettin> [= Hymer] seemed Lorida’s meal far too great; “next evening will we three by game-meat have to live.”^a

^aHymer’s stinginess—he refuses to share more of his own food, forcing his guests to go hunt—goes against all Indo-European rules of hospitality and illustrates the otherness of the Ettins. See introduction to the poem.

- 17 Véurr kvaðzk vilja · á vág róa,
 2 ef ballr jǫtunn · bęitur gęfi.
 „Hverf þú til hjarðar, · ef hug trúir,
 4 brjótr berg-Dana, · bęitur sókja.

Wighward <= Thunder> called himself willing to row on the wave, if the baleful ettin might give pieces of bait. “Turn to the herd, if thou trust in thy heart—breaker of boulder-Danes [ETTINS > = Thunder]!—to seek pieces of bait.

3 hjarðar] hallar (*corr.*) A

- 18 Þess vęntir mik, · at þér mynit
 2 oęn at oxa · auðfeng vesa.“
 Sveinn sýsliga · sveif til skógar,
 4 þar's oxi stóð · alsvartr fyrir.

I expect that the oxen for bait will not be easily caught by thee.”—The swain <= Thunder> sharply turned to the woods, there where an ox stood, all-black, before [him].

1 vęntir mik] vęnti ek R 1 mynit “will not”] myni “will” R

- 19 Braut af þjóri · þurs ráðbani
 2 hótún ofan · horna tveggja.
 „Verk þikkja þín · verri myklu
 4 kjóla valdi · an kyrr sitir.“

From the bull broke the treacherous slayer of the thurse [= Thunder] off the high meadow of the two horns [HEAD] from above.—“Thy works seem far worse to the wielder of keels [= Hymer = me], than if thou didst sit calm.”^a

^aHymer snidely belittles Thunder's feat of pulling off the head of the ox (presumably by the horns).

- 20 Bað hlunngota · hafra dróttinn
 2 áttrunn apa · útar fóra,
 ęn sá jötunn · sína talði,
 4 lítla fýsi · lengra at róa.

The lord of he-goats [= Thunder] bade the kinsman of the ape^{Ca} [ETTIN = Hymer] to push the launching-steed [BOAT] further out; but that ettin told of his scarce wish to row longer.^b

2 áttrunn] ‘atrænn’ A 3 talði] ‘millði’ (*corr.*) A

^aThe specific sense of *api* is uncertain. It seems to generally refer to a fool, but see Index.

^bThe parallelism is notable, as Hymer, who just mocked Thunder, is now forced to do his willing by rowing.

- 21 Dró męrr Hymir · móðugr hvala
 2 ęinn á ęngli · upp sęnn tváa,
 ęn apr í skut · Óðni sífaðr
 4 Véurr við vélar · vað gęrði sér.

Pulled the renowned Hymer, fierce, up whales: one on the hook, soon up two; but back in the stern the Weden-related Wighward [= Thunder], cleverly^a made himself a fishing-line.

1 męrr] *thus* R; 'męirr' A

^alit. 'by wiles'.

- 22 Eęnði á ęngul · sá's ęldum bergr,
 2 orms ęinbani · oxa hęfði;
 gęin við agni, · sú's goð fía,
 4 umbgjęrð neðan · allra landa.

On the hook fastened he who saves men [= Thunder]—the lone slayer of the Worm [= Thunder]—the head of the ox. At the bait snapped the one whom the gods hate [= Middenyardsworm]; the encircler of all lands^a [= Middenyardsworm] from below.

3 agni "bait"] *thus* A; ęngli 'hook' R

^aThis kenning occurs identically in a fragment by 9th century scold Alewigh Snub (Qlv Þórr, edited by Margaret Clunies Ross in *SkP* III).

- 23 Dró djarfliga · dáðrakkr Þórr
 2 orm ęitrfaan · upp at borði;
 hamri kníði · hęfjall skarar
 4 ofljótt ofan · ulfs hnitbróður.

Daringly pulled deed-bold Thunder the venom-glistening Worm up on the gunwale; with the hammer he struck the high mountain of hair^a [HEAD]—greatly hideous, from above—of the clash-brother of the Wolf [= Middenyardsworm].

^aA rather unfitting kenning, since serpents do not have hair.

- 24 Hraungǫlkn hrutu, · ęn hǫlkn þutu,
 2 fǫr hin forna · fold ǫll saman;
 sökðisk síðan · sá fiskr í mar.

The rock-monsters [ETTINS] bounded,^a but the bedrock resounded; moved the ancient earth all at once; sank thereafter that fish [= Middenyardsworm] into the sea.

1 hraungǫlkn] *emend.*; hręingǫlkn RA 1 hrutu] *thus* A; hlumðu R

^a*braun-golkn* “rock-monsters”. Both mss. have *bręin-*, which if retained the meaningless and unparalleled “reindeer-monsters”. On the other hand *braun ONP*: ‘stone/barren area, wasteland; lava-field’ is well attested in Scoldish kennings for ettins. The precise meaning of *galkn* ‘monster’ (plural *gǫlkn*) is unclear; apart from this, it is attested in three Scoldish verses, always in kennings of the type “troll-woman of the shield [AXE]”. While the mss. ‘*galkn*’ (norm. *gálkn*) could be both singular and plural, the form of the verb precludes the former. This means that the word cannot be referring to the Middenyardsworm, refuting the renderings of Crawford (“the monster howled”) and Larrington (“the sea-wolf shrieked”).

- 25 Óteitr jǫtunn, · es aptr rǫru,
 2 [...]
 svá’t ár Hymir · ękki męlti,
 4 vęifði róði · veðrs annars til.

The not joyous ettin, as they rowed back, [...], so that in the early morning^a Hymer spoke nothing; he pulled the oar around, against the storm:

3 ár “in the early morning”] Finnur Jónsson (1932) *suggests* svá’t at ęr “so that by the oar.”

2 [...]] There is without doubt a line missing here, the grammar and sense require it.

^aAssuming this is the correct reading, it would seem like the group has spent the whole night at sea, with Hymer being the only one rowing.

[Hymer quoth:]

- 26 „Mundu of vinna · verk halft við mik,
 2 at hęim hvala · haf til bójar
 eða flotbrúsa · fęstir okkarn.“

“Thou wilt win half the work by me,^a if thou carry the whales home to the farm, or our float-jar [BOAT] do fasten.”

^aHymer offers Thunder, who now has nothing to show for the trip, that he can share with him half the glory of pulling up the whales if he does what he asks.

- 27 Gekk Hlórriði · greip á stafni
 2 vatt með austri · upp logfáki;
 einn með órum · ok með austskotu
 4 bar hann til bójar · brimsvín jötuns
 ok holtriða · hver í gegnum.

Went Loride <= Thunder>; grasped the stern; hurled with the bilge-water the lake-nag [BOAT] up. Alone with the oars and the bilge-bucket, he bore to the farm the brim-swines [WHALES] of the ettin, even through the cauldron of woodland ridges^a [VALLEY?].

1 á] til á R 5 holtriða] holtriba R

^aTODO. What do other editors and translators say?

- 28 Ok enn jötunn · of afrendi,
 2 þrágírnir vanr, · við þór sænti,
 kvað-at mann ramman, · þótt róa kynni,
 4 kröpturligan, · nema kalk bryti.

And still the ettin, used to stubbornness, about [his] strength of hand jibed at Thunder;^a he called no man strong, although he could row, mightily, unless he broke the chalice.

^ai.e. Hymer accused him of weak physical strength.

- 29 Æn Hlórriði, · es at hǫndum kom,
 2 brátt lét bresta · brattstęin glęri,
 sló sitjandi · súlur í gǫgnum;
 4 bóru þó heilan · fyr Hymi síðan.

But Loride <= Thunder>, when [it] came in his hands, impatiently crashed sharp stone^a with the glass;^b he struck, sitting, right through the pillars; yet they^c carried it whole before Hymer afterwards.

^aStone pillars.

^bThe chalice seems to have been glazed.

^cPresumably Hymer's servants.

- 30 Unz þat hin friða · friðla kęndi

- 2 ástráð mikit, · ęitt es vissi,
 „drep við haus Hymis, · hann ’s harðari,
 4 kostmóðs jötuns, · kalki hverjum.“

Until the handsome mistress gave a great word of loving advice, the one she knew:
 “Strike against Hymer’s skull; it is harder—on the choice-weary^a ettin—than every chalice.”

^aA reference to the gods having eaten up his best food.

- 31 Harðr rejs á kné · hafra dróttinn,
 2 fórðisk allra · í ásmegin;
 heill vas karli · hjalmstofn ofan,
 4 ęn vínęerill · valr rifnaði.

Hard rose on the knees the lord of he-goats [= Thunder]; he summoned his highest
 os-might.^a Whole was on the churl [= Hymer] the helmet-stump [HEAD] above, but the
 round wine-track [CHALICE] rent apart.

1 rejs] *om.* A

^aCompare *Ylf* in its description of Thunder attempting to pull up the Worm: *Þá varð Þórr reiðr ok fęrðist í ásmegin*
 “Then Thunder became wroth, and summoned his os-might.”

- 32 „Morg vęitk męti · mér gingin frá,
 2 es kalki sé’k · fyr knéum hrundit,
 karl orð of kvað: · „kná’k-at sęgja
 4 aptr ęvagi: · þú est ęlðr of heitt.

“I know many good things have gone from me, when I see the chalice thrown before
 [his] knees;”—the churl [= Hymer] then words did speak: “I cannot say it, ever again:
 ‘Thou art, ale, [well] brewed!’^a.”

2 es] *om.* R 2 fyr] ‘yr’ R

^aHymer laments that since his finest vessel is now broken, he will never again be able to enjoy strong drink.

- 33 Þat ’s til kostar · ef koma męttið
 2 út ór óru · ęlkjól hofi.“
 Týr lęitaði · tysvar hróra;

4 stóð at hvóru · hverr kyrr fyrir.

It would be well done, if ye might make the ale-keel^a [CAULDRON] to come out of our hall.^b Tue attempted, twice, to move it; stood nevertheless the cauldron still before [him].

^a*þlǫjóll* is the accusative form, but in this sense (*C-V: koma*, B) we would expect the dative *þlǫjóli*, something that the meter does not allow for.

^b*hof* ‘hall’ usually means ‘hove; temple’.

34 Faðir Móða · fekk á þrēmi
2 ok í gognum sté · golf niðr í sal;
hóf sér á hofuð upp · hver Sifjar verr,
4 en á hélum · hringar skullu.

The father of Moody [= Thunder] grasped the brim, and stepped down through the floor in the hall;^a heaved the husband of Sib [= Thunder] up onto his head the cauldron, but on his heels rings clattered.^b

^aIn the account of *Ylf* Thunder is said to have stepped through the boat when trying to pull up the Midden-yardsworm. This detail is also seen on the carving of the Altuna stone from Uppland, Sweden; it may have been transposed to this place in the narrative.

^bThe rings from the cauldron-chain; this detail is mentioned in an example sentence contrasting long and short phonemes in the *1GT*: *heyrði til hǫddu, þá er Þórr bar hverinn* ‘one heard the pot-links when Thunder bore the kettle’. According to Finnur Jónsson (1932) this chain reached from one end of the kettle to another, in which case this would be an oblique reference to the cauldron’s size, its diameter being the same as Thunder’s height.

35 Fórut lengi, · áðr líta nam
2 aptr Óðins sonr · einu sinni;
sá hann ór hręsum · með Hymi austan
4 folkdrótt fara · fjolhǫfðaða.

They journeyed for long, before the son of Weden [= Thunder] took to look back, a single time;—saw he out of stone-heaps, with Hymer from the east, a many-headed folk-troop faring.

36 Hóf sér af hęðum · hver standandi,
2 vęifði Mjǫlni · morðgjǫrnum framm,
ok hraunhvala · hann alla drap.

Heaved he off from his shoulders the cauldron, [while] standing; he swung the murder-eager Millner forth, and the rock-whales [= ETTINS] he slew all.

- 37 Fórut lengi, · áðr liggja nam
 2 hafr Hlórriða · halfdauðr fyrir,
 vas skér skökuls · skakkr á beini,
 4 en því hinn lévísi · Loki of olli.

They journeyed not for long, before the he-goat of Lorde <= Thunder> took to lie half-dead before [them]; the steed of the cart-pole [GOAT] was halt in the leg, but that the deceitful Lock did wield.^a

3 skér] *emend. from meaningless 'skirr' RA*

^aApparently Lock (who has not been mentioned previously in the poem) was placing curses on the returning party.

- 38 En ér heyrtr hafið, · hverr kann of þat
 2 goðmólugra · gørr at skilja,
 hver af hraunbúa · hann laun of fekk,
 4 es bæði galt · börn sín fyrir.

But ye have heard; each god-knowledgeable^a man knows about this more clearly discern: which rewards he [= Lock] from the rock-dweller got, as he yielded up both his own children for it.^b

^a*goð-mólugr* 'able to speak about the god-lore; versed in the mythology' is a *hapax*.

^bAs pointed out in Finnur Jónsson (1932) a verse containing such an address to the audience is otherwise unheard of. — On the whole it seems to be referring

- 39 Þróttöflugr kom · á þing goða ok hafði hver, · þann's Hymir átti; en
 Véar hverjan · vël skulu drekka ǫlðr at Égis · ǣtt
 hǫrmęitið.

The valour-mighty one [= Thunder] came onto the Thing of the gods, and had that cauldron which Hymer owned; but the Wighers <= Gods> shall well drink an ale-feast at Eage's, one every flax-cutting [FALL?].

1 ǣtt hǫrmęitið "one ... flax-cutting"] A very obscure kenning. La Farge and Tucker (1992) give several interpretations, viz. *ǣitr-hǫr-męitir* 'poison-rope-cutter [SNAKE > WINTER]', *ǣitr-orm-męiðir* 'poison-worm-injurer' [WINTER]. The solution with the minimal amount of emendation is to read *ǣitt* 'one' as modifying *ǫlðr* 'ale-feast', and *hverjan* 'every' as modifying *hǫr-męitiðr* 'flax-cutting', a compound made up of *hǫrr* 'flax, cord' and *męita* 'to cut' and referring to an obscure harvest festival. The interpretation is by no means certain.

The Lay of Thrim (*Þrymskviða*)

- 1 Vreǰðr vas þá Ving-Þórr · es hann vaknaði
 2 ok síns hamars · of saknaði,
 skegg nam at hrista, · skǫr nam at dýja,
 4 réð Jarðar burr · umb at þreifask.

Wroth was then Wing-Thunder when he woke, and of his hammer was bereaved. His beard he took to shake, his locks he took to pull; resolved the son of Earth to look about.

1 Vreǰðr] TODO: Note about ambiguity of alliteration.

- 2 Ok hann þat orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
 2 “Heyrðu nú, Loki, · hvat ek nú mæli
 es ęigi vęit · jarðar hveęgi
 4 né upphimins: · áss es stolinn hamri!”

And he that word, first of all did speak: “Hear thou now, Lock, what I now speak, which nowhere is known, not on earth nor up-heaven[†]G: the os^G [= Thunder = I] has been robbed of his hammer!”

- 3 Gengu þęir fagra · Freyju túna
 2 ok hann þat orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
 “Muntu mér, Freyja, · fjaðrhams ljá
 4 ef ek mínna hamar · mętta’k hitta?”

Went they to the fair yards of Frow, and he that word, first of all did speak: “Wilt thou me, Frow, the feather-hame[†]P lend, if I my hammer might find?”

[Freyja kvað:]

- 4 “Þó mynda’k gefa þér · þótt ór gulli vęri
 2 ok þó selja · at vęri ór silfri.”
 Fló þá Loki, · fjaðrhamr dunði,
 4 unz fyr útan kom · ása garða
 ok fyr innan kom · jǫtna hęima.

Frow quoth: “I would yet give it to thee, though it were out of gold, and yet offer^a it to thee, if it were out of silver.”^b Flew then Lock^c—the feather-hame rustled—until outside he came of the yards of the Ease, and inside he came of the homes of the Ettins.

^a*selja* 'sell' here has its earlier meaning, cf. Gothic *saljan* 'opfern; 𐌱𐌰𐌶𐌵' (Streitberg 1910:116).

^bRegaining the hammer is of such importance to the gods (cf. v. 17; without it the Ease stand powerless against the Ettins¹⁷T), that Frow would lend the feather-hame to the greedy and unreliable Lock, even if it were made out of solid gold or silver.

^cThough Thunder is the one asking for the hame ("my hammer"), Lock is the one that takes off flying.

5 Þrymr sat á haugi, · þursa dróttinn,
2 gręyjum sínum · gullbǫnd snøri
ok mǫrum sínum · mǫn jafnaði.

Thrim sat on the mound, the lord of thurses: on his greyhounds the golden leashes he twisted, and on his mares the manes he cut even.

[Þrymr kvað ok Loki:]

6 »Hvat es með ósum? · Hvat es með ǫlfum?
2 Hví estu ęinn kominn · í jǫtunęima?»
»Illt es með ósum, · [illt es með ǫlfum!]^a
4 Hęfir þú Hlórriða · hamar of folginn?»

"What is with the Ease? What is with the elves? Why art thou alone come into the Ettin-homes?" [Lock quoth:] "Tis ill with the Ease, 'tis ill with the elves! Hast thou the hammer of Lorde hidden?"

^aSecond half-line inserted in analogy with the first pair, regardless it is needed for metrical reasons.

[Þrymr kvað ok Loki:]

7 Ek hęfi Hlórriða · hamar of folginn
2 átta rǫstum · fyr jǫrð neðan;
hann ęngi maðr · aptr of hęimtir
4 nęma fóri mér · Fręyju at kvęn.

"I have the hammer of Lorde hidden, eight rests[†] beneath the earth; it no man will fetch again, lest he bring me Frow as wife."

8 Fló þá Loki, · fjaðrhamr dunði,
2 unz fyr útan kom · jǫtna hęima
ok fyr innan kom · ása garða;

- 4 mótta hann Þór · miðra garða
 ok þat hann orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
 6 Hefir þú ørendi · sem erfði?

Flew then Lock—the feather-hame rustled—until outside he came of the homes of the Ettins, and inside he came of the yards of the Ease. He met Thunder in the middle of the yards, and he that word, first of all did say: “Hast thou an errand, as hardship^a?

^aA difficult phrase to translate; Thunder asks Lock if he has bad news.

- 9 Segðu á lopti · long tíðendi!
 2 Opt sitjanda · sǫgur of fallask
 ok liggjandi · lygi of þellir.

Say thou aloft, the long tidings! Often [when] sitting, tales fail each other, and [when] lying down, lies are dealt.”^a

^aProverbial, meaning being that if one sits down and thinks too much over bad news, things will be left out, excuses thought up. Thus it is best that Lock immediately tell Thunder what he has learned.

- 10 Hefi ek ørindi · erfði ok:
 2 Þrymr hefir þinn hamar, · þursa dróttinn;
 hann engi maðr · aptr of heimtir
 4 nēma hǫnum fóri · Freyju at kvén.

“I have an errand, hardship also: Thrim has thy hammer, the lord of thurses; it no man will fetch again, lest he bring him Frow as wife.”

- 11 Ganga þeir fagra · Freyju at hitta
 2 ok hann þat orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
 Bittu þik, Freyja, · brúðar líni!
 4 Vit skulum aka tvau · í jötunhēima.

Go they the fair Frow to find, and he that word, first of all did say: “Bind thee, Frow, with a bride’s linen^a! We two shall drive into the Ettin-homes.”

^aA linen band tied around the bride’s head. TODO: Reference this note.

- 12 Vręið varð þá Freyja · ok fnasaði,

- 2 allr ása salr · undir bifðisk,
 stökk þat it mikla · mæn Brisinga:
 4 Mik vęiztu verða · vergjarnasta
 ef ek ęk með þér · í jötunhęima.

Wroth became then Frow, and snorted—the whole hall of the Ease trembled below—threw she off the great necklace of the Brisings: “Thou knowest that I will become the most man-eager, if I drive with thee into the Ettin-homes.”

- 13 Senn vǫru ęsir · allir á þingi
 2 ok ásynjur · allar á máli,
 ok of þat réðu · ríkir tívar
 4 hvé þęir Hlórriða · hamar of sótti.

Soon the Ease were all at the Thing, and the Osennies all at speech, and of that decided the rich Tues: how they the hammer of Loride would regain.^a

^a*sókja* ‘attack, seek’; they decide how to handle the hammer issue.

- 14 Þá kvað þat Heimdallr, · hvítastr ása,
 2 vissi hann vel fram · sęm vanir aðrir:
 “Bindu vér Þór þá · brúðar líni;
 4 hafi hann it mikla · mæn Brisinga!

Then quoth that Homedall, the whitest of the Ease — he knew well the future, like the other Wanæs —: “Let us bind Thunder with the bride’s linen; he may have the great necklace of the Brisings.

- 15 Lótum und hǫnum · hrynja lukla
 2 ok kvenváðir · umb kné falla
 en á brjósti · bręiða stęina
 4 ok hagliga · umb hǫfuð typpum!”

Let us have by him jingling keys^a, and women’s garments falling down about his knees, but on the breast broad stones^b, and skillfully let us tip his head!^c”

^aAs the everyday manager of the household, keys were the mark of the married housewife.

^bLarge jewels.

^cWith a (pointed) hood (TODO: literature).

- 16 Þá kvað þat Þórr, · þrúðugr áss:
 2 “Mik munu ęsir · argan kalla
 ef ek bindask lét · brúðar líni!”

Then quoth that Thunder, the mighty Os: “*Me*, the Ease would call an arrow† man, if I let myself be bound with bride’s linen!”

- 17 Þá kvað þat Loki · Laufeyjar sonr:
 2 “Þęgi þú, Þórr, · þęira orða!
 Þegar munu jǫtnar · Ásgarð búa
 4 nęma þú þinn hamar · þér of hęimtir.”

Then quoth that Lock, the son of Leafie: “Be silent thou, Thunder, of those words! Shortly the ettins will Osyard inhabit, unless thou thy hammer for thyself dost fetch!”

- 18 Bundu þęir Þór þá · brúðar líni
 2 ok inu mikla · męni Brísinga,
 létu und hǫnum · hrynja lukla
 4 ok kvenváðir · umb kné falla
 ęn á brjósti · bręiða stęina
 6 ok hagliga · of hǫfuð typpðu.

Bound they Thunder then, with bride’s linen, and with the great necklace of the Brisings. They had by him keys jingling, and women’s garments falling down to his knees, but on the breast broad stones, and skillfully they tipped his head.

- 19 Þá kvað þat Loki · Laufeyjar sonr:
 2 “Mun ek ok með þér · ambótt vesa,
 vit skulum aka tvau · í jǫtunhęima!”

Then quoth that Lock, the son of Leafie: “I will also with thee be a handmaid; we two^a shall drive into the Ettin-homes.”

^aThe form used, *tvau*, is the neuter plural, ie. one of the pair is female and the other male. This is either an error due to mindless copying of v. 11, or a backhanded insult against Thunder.

- 20 Senn vǫru hafrar · heim of vrekni,
 2 skyndir at skǫklum, · skyldu vel renna;
 björg brotnuðu, · brann jǫrð loga,
 4 ók Óðins sonr · í jötunheima.

Soon he-goats were driven home, hastened onto the cart-poles; they were to run well. Crag burst, the earth burned with flame; the son of Woden drove into the Ettin-homes.^a

^aFor a similar account of Thunder driving, see *Haustlög*, v. 14-16 in *Skp* 3 (pp. 453-456).

- 21 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:
 2 “Standið upp, jǫtnar, · ok stráið þekki!
 Nú fœrið mér · Freyju at kván,
 4 Njarðar dóttur · ór Nóatúnum.”

Then quoth that Thrim, the lord of thurses: “Stand ye up, ettins, and strew ye the benches! Now bring ye me Frow as wife, the daughter of Nearth of the Nowetowns.

- 22 Ganga hér at garði · gullhyrnðar kýr,
 2 oxn alsvartir, · jǫtni at gamni,
 fjöld á’k meiddma, · fjöld á’k menja;
 4 einnar mér Freyju · ávant þykkir.

Here march to the estate golden-horned cows, all-black oxen, to the enjoyment of the ettin; a multitude I own of treasures, a multitude I own of necklaces; of Frow alone methinks is missing.”

- 23 Vas þar at kveldi · of komit snimma
 2 ok fyr jǫtna · ǫl framm borit.
 Einn át oxa, · átta laxa,
 4 krásir allar, · þér’s konur skyldu,
 drakk Sifjar verr · sáld þrjú mjaðar.

There was the evening come quickly, and for the ettins ale brought forth. [Thunder] ate one ox, eight salmons, and all the delicacies, which the women were supposed to; drank the husband of Sib [THUNDER][1] three sieves of mead.^a

^aCompare *Hym* 15 for a strikingly similar description of Thunder’s great eating.

24 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:

2 “Hvar sátu brúðir · bíta hvassara?

Sá’k-a brúðir · bíta enn bręðara

4 né enn meira mjöð · mey of drekka!”

Then quoth that Thrim, the lord of thurses: “Where sawest thou brides bite sharper? Saw I never brides bite yet broader, nor yet more mead a maiden drink.”

25 Sat in alsnotra · ambótt fyr

2 es orð of fann · við jötuns máli:

“Át vętr Freyja · átta nóttum,

4 svá vas hón óðfús · í jötunhęima.”

Sat the allclever maid-servant^a in front, when she a word did find against the speech of the ettin: “*Ate* Frow naught, for eight nights; so madly was she longing for the Ettin-homes.”

^aLock in disguise.

26 Laut und línu, · lysti at kyssa,

2 ęn hann útan stókk · ęndlangan sal:

“Hví eru ęndótt · augu Freyju?

4 Þykki mér ór · augum brenna!”

He looked ’neath the linen, he lusted for a kiss, but he from the outside leapt back, across the length of the hall: “Why are the eyes of Frow fiery? Methinks there is fire coming out of the eyes!”^a

^aLit. “Methinks out of the eyes burn.”

27 Sat in alsnotra · ambótt fyrir

2 es orð of fann · við jötuns máli:

“Svaf vętr Freyja · átta nóttum,

4 svá vas hón óðfús · í jötunhęima.”

Sat the allclever maid-servant in front, when she a word did find against the speech of the ettin: “*Slept* Frow naught, for eight nights; so madly was she longing for the Ettin-homes.”

1 fyrir] ‘f.’ *add. R* possibly representing a lost word

- 28 Inn kom in arma · jǫtna systir,
 2 hin es brúðfjár · biðja þorði:
 “Láttu þér af hǫndum · hringa rauða
 4 ef þú ǫðlask vill · ástir mínar,
 ástir mínar, · alla hylli!”

In came the wretched sister of the ettins, the one who for the bride-price had dared ask: “Take off from thy hands the red rings, if thou wilt win my loves; my loves, [and] all favour.”^a

^aThe sister, who already asked for the hammer, now has the audacity to ask “Frow” (Thunder) to take the rings off her hands and give them to her.

- 29 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:
 2 “Berð inn hamar · brúði at vígja,
 leggið Mjöllni · í meýjar kné,
 4 vígið okkr saman · Várar hendi!”

Then quoth that Thrim, the lord of thurses: “Bear ye in the hammer, the bride to bless; lay ye Millner in the maiden’s knee, bless ye us two together by the hand of Ware!^a”

^aA minor goddess presumably presiding over marriage.

- 30 Hló Hlórriða · hugr í brjósti
 2 es harðhugaðr · hamar of þekkdøi;
 Þrym drap hann fyrstan, · þursa dróttin,
 4 ok ǣtt jǫtuns · alla lamði.

The heart of Loride laughed in his breast, when, hard-hearted, he recognized the hammer. Thrim he slew first, the lord of thurses, and all the aught of the ettin he thrashed.

- 31 Drap hann ina ǫldnu · jǫtna systur,
 2 hin es brúðfjár · of beðit hafði;
 hón skell of hlaut · fyr skillinga
 4 en hogg hamars · fyr hringa fjöld.

He slew the old sister of the ettins, the one who for the bride-price had asked; she received a smiting before shillings, and a strike of the hammer before a multitude of rings.

32 Svá kom Óðins sonr · ændr at hamri.

Thus Woden's son regained his hammer.

The Leed of Hindle (*Hyndluljóð*)

- 1 „Vaki mér meýja, · vaki mín vina,
 2 Hyndla systir, · es í helli býr;
 nú 's røkr røkra, · ríða vit skulum
 4 til Valhallar · ok til vés hēilags.

Frow quoth: “Wake maiden of maidens, wake my friend, sister Hindle, who lives in the rock-face. Now is the twilight of twilights, we two shall ride to Walhall, and to the holy wigh^C!

- 2 Biðjum Hērjafōðr · í hugum sitja,
 2 hann geldr ok gefr · gull verðugum,
 gaf hann Hēr móði · hjalm ok brynju,
 4 en Sigmundi · sverð at þiggja.

Let us bid the Father of Hosts [WEDEN][1] to be in his favour; he rewards and gives gold to the worthy. Gave he to Heremood helmet and byrnie, but Sighmund a sword to receive.

2 verðugum] verðungu ‘to the retinue’ *emend.* Finnur Jónsson (1932) Guðni Jónsson (1954)

- 3 Gefr hann sigr sumum · en sumumura,
 2 mēlsku mōrgum · ok manvit firum,
 byri gefr brōgnum, · en brag skōldum,
 4 gefr hann mannsēmi · mōrgum rekki.
s. sonum s. suinnum

He gives victory to some, but to some, silver;^a speech to many, and manwit to men. Fair wind he gives to noble ones, and poetry to scold^Cscolds; he gives valour to many a champion.

^a,
^b_a
^a_m
^b_m

^alit. “ounces”

- 4 Þór munk blóta, · þess munk biðja,
 2 at hann é við þik · einart láti;

þó 's hǫnum ótítt · við jǫtuns brúðir.

To Thunder I will blout^C, of this I will bid, that he always show friendliness to thee, though he is prejudiced against the brides of the ettins.^a

^alit. "though [it] is to him infrequent with ettin's brides".

5 Nú taktu ulf þinn · ęinn af stalli,
2 lát hann rinna · með runa mínum.“
Hyndla kvað:
„Sęinn es ęoltr þinn · ęoðveg troða,
4 vilkat mar minn · mętan hlóða.

Now take thy single wolf from the stable; let him run with my boar.” [Hindle quoth:]
“Slow is thy boar, to tread the Godways; I wish not lade my dear steed.”

6 Fló est Freyja, · es fręistar mín,
2 visar þú augum · á oss þannig,
es hafir ver þinn · í valsinni
4 Óttar unga · Innsteins bur.“

Deicitful art thou, Frow, as thou temptest me; thou showest thy eyes on us this way, as thou hast thy man on the Walways: the young Oughthere, Instone's offspring.”

7 Freyja kvað: „Dulið est Hyndla, · draums ętlaک þér,
2 es kveðr ver minn · í valsinni.

Frow quoth: Thou art foolish, Hindle, I think thee dreamy, who sayest that my man is on the Walways.

8 Þar's ęoltr glóar · Gullinbursti,
2 Hildisvíni, · es mér hagir ęerðu,
dvergar tveir · Dáinn ok Nabbi.

Where the boar glows, Goldenbristle; the hildswine¹, which the skillful for me made: the two dwarves Döwen and Nab. ¹ *Hildisvíni* 'battle-swine', in this case probably an alternative name for Goldenbristle.

- 9 Senn í sǫðlum · sitja vit skulum
 2 ok of jǫfra · éttir dóma,
 gumna þeira, · es frá goðum kómu.

Soon in the saddles we two shall sit, and judge about the lineages of princes, of those men who came from the gods.

- 10 Þeir hafa vęðjat · Vala malmi
 2 Óttarr ungi · ok Angantýr;
 skylt 's at vęita, · svá't skati hinn ungi
 4
 fǫðurlęifð hafi · ępt fręndr sína.

They have wagered the Welsh ore [GOLD], young Oughter and Ongenthew; it is required to grant, so that the young prince might have the fatherly inheritance left behind by his kinsmen.^{1 1} Lit. 'the father-remains after his kinsmen'. — Happening seems to be that Oughthere and Ongenthew each lay claim the inheritance. In order to settle the matter (in Oughthere's favour) Hindle must (*skylt es* "it is required, obligated") divulge (*vęita* 'to grant, to give away') what she knows about his lineage.

- 11 Hǫrg hann mér gęrði · hlaðinn steinum;
 2 nú 's grjót þat · at glęri orði;
 rauð hann í nýju · nauta blóði;
 4 ę trúði Óttarr · á ǫsynjur.^{1 1} Frow argues yet further in favour of
 Oughthere, bringing up his piety shown towards the
 goddesses.

A harrow^C he made for me, loaded with stones; now that stone-pile is become into glass. He reddened [it] in fresh blood of oxen; Oughthere ever trusted on the ossens^G.

- 12 Nú lát-tu forna · niðja talða
 2 ok uppbornar · éttir manna
 hvat 's Skjǫldunga, · hvat 's Skilfinga,
 4 hvat 's Qðlinga · hvat 's Ylfinga
 6 hvat 's hǫldborit, · hvat 's hęrsborit

męst manna val · und Miðgarði?“

Now let ancient kinsmen be counted, and the high-born lineages of men: What is of the Shieldings? What is of the Shilvings? What is of the Athlings? What is of the Wolvings? What is born of hero? What is born of chief, the mightiest choice of men in Midyard?^aoble.

^aN

- 13 „Þú est Óttarr · borinn Innsteini,
 2 ęn Innsteinn vas · Alfi inum gamla,
 Alfr vas Ulfi, · Ulfr Sęfara,
 4 ęn Sęfari · Svan inum rauða.

Hindle quoth: “Thou^art, Oughthere, born to Instone, but Instone was born to Elf the old, Elf to Wolf, Wolf to Seafare, but Seafare to Swan the red. ^aindle, apparently in a trance-like state, speaks straight to Oughthere.

^aa

^aH

- 14 Móður átti faðir þinn · męnjum gøfga,
 2 hygg at hęti · Hlędis gyðja,
 Fróði vas faðir þęirar, · ęn Friund móðir;
 4 ęll þótti ęt sú · með yfirmęnnum.

Thy father had thy mother, beautiful with neck-rings, I think that she was called Leedise the gidden^C. Frood was her father, but Friend her mother; all her aught seemed to be among overmen^C.

3 Friund] *meaningless* friaut F

- 15 Auði vas áðr · ęflgastr manna,
 2 Halfdanr fyrri · hęstr Skjoldunga,
 fręg vøru folkvíg, · þaus framir gęrðu,
 4 hvarfla þóttu verk · með himins skautum.

Ed was before [that] the most powerful of men, Halfdane earlier the highest of Shieldings. Renowned were the troop-battles which the famous ones performed; his <= Halfdane's> works seemed to travel around the corners of heaven.

- 16 Eflðisk við Eymund · óztan manna
 2 en vá Sigtrygg · með svølum eggjum,
 eiga gekk Almveig, · ózta kvinna,
 4 ólu þau ok óttu · átján sonu.

He <= Halfdane> became the in-law of Iemund¹, the noblest of men, but he slew Sightrue with cool edges. He went on to have Elmwey, the noblest of women; they begot and had eighteen sons. ¹ Lit. "[he] was strengthened by". Parallelism of "noblest of men/women" makes the meaning yet clearer. Elmwey was Iemund's daughter or sister.

- 17 Þaðan eru Skjöldungar, · þaðan eru Skilfingar,
 2 þaðan eru Qðlingar, · þaðan eru Ynglingar,
 þaðan es hǫldborit, · þaðan es hęrsborit,
 4 mest mannaval · und Miðgarði;
 alt's þat ęt þín, · Óttarr heimski.

Thereof are the Shieldings! Thereof are the Shilvings! Thereof are the Inglings!¹ Thereof is born of hero! Thereof is born of chief, the mightiest choice of men in Midyard! That is all thy lineage, foolish Oughthere!" ¹ Note the contradiction with v. 12. Since the Inglings have already been mentioned (under the name Shilvings, of the difference between the two see the index), it seems likely that Wolvings is the original reading.

- 18 Vas Hildigunnr · hęnnar móðir,
 2 Svófu barn · ok sękonungs;
 alt's þat ęt þín, · Óttarr hęimski.
 4 varðar^at viti svá, · viltu ęnn lęngra?

^amended from ms. *varði*.

Hildguth was her mother, the child of Swabe and Seaking; that is all thy lineage, foolish Oughthere!—It is meaningful that one might know thus; wilt thou [go] yet further?

^a_a

^a_E

- 19 Dagr átti Þóru · dręngjamóður,
 2 ólusk í ęt þar · óztir kappar,
 Fraðmarr ok Gyrðr · ok Frekar báðir,
 4 Ámr ok Jǫsurmarr, · Alfr hinn gamli.

varðar at viti svá, · viltu enn lengra?

Day had Thure, the mother of valiant men; in that aught were begotten the noblest champions: Fradmer and Yird, and both Frecks; Ame and Essirmer; Elf the old.—It is meaningful that one might know thus; wilt thou [go] yet further?

20 Ketill hét vinr þeira · Klypps arfþegi,
 2 vas hann móðurfaðir · móður þinnar;
 þar vas Fróði · fyrr enn Kári,
 4 en Hildi vas · Hóalfr of getinn.

Kettle, the inheritor of Clip, was their friend; he was the father of thy mother's mother. There was Frood, yet earlier Keer, but Highelf was by Hild begotten.

...

Book of Galders

Old High German galders

1.1 The two Merseburg charms

- 1 Eiris sázun idísi · sázun hera duoder;
 2 suma hapt heptidun · suma heri lezidun
 suma clubodun · umbi cuoniowidi
 4 insprinc haptbandun · infar figandun .H.

Of yore stayed dises, stayed here and there: some fastened fetters, some hindered hosts, some cleaved shackles.—Break the fetter-bonds, flee the fiends! .H.^a

^aTODO: note about the

- 2 Phol ende Wóðan · fuórun zi holza
 2 dú wart demo Balderes folon · sín fuóz birenkit
 thú biguól en Sinthgunt · Sunna era swister
 4 thú biguól en Fríja · Folla era swister
 thú biguól en Wóðan · só hé wola conda
 6 sóse bénrenkí · sóse bluótrenkí · sóse lidirenkí
 bén zi béna · bluót zi bluóða
 8 lid zi geliden · sóse gelimida sín

Phol and Weden went to the woods; then was the foot of Balder's foal sprained. Then begaled him Sithguth—Sun her sister^a; then begale^C him Frie—Full her sister; then begaled him Weden, as he well knew: “Like bone-sprain, like blood-sprain, like joint-sprain! Bone to bone, blood to blood, joint to joints, like were they glued together!”

^ai.e. ‘the sister of Sun’.

1.2 Against worms (Contra vermes)

Old English galders

1.3 Against a dwarf

Old Norse galders

1.4 Charms from Bergen

N B380 (1185CE)

3 Heill sé þú · ok í hugum góðum;

2 þórr þik þiggi,
 Óðinn þik eigi.

Mayst thou be hale, and in good spirits. May Thunder receive thee, may Weden own thee.

Eddic fragments from Snorre's Edda

TODO: Go through Snorre's Edda and gather the fragments thence.

The Galder of Homedall

1 „Níu em'k móðra mogr,

2 níu em'k systra sonr.“

“Of nine mothers am I a lad, of nine sisters am I a son.”

The Lay of Wayland (*Vǫlundarkviða*)

The **Lay of Wayland** (*Way*) is a story of immense psychological complexity, one of the greatest masterpieces of Norse poetry.

The poem begins with a prose introduction, which survives in both **R** and **A**.

Wayland gets his revenge on the whole royal household. He murders Nithad's two young sons (affectionately, his "bear-cubs") and thus ends his male lineage. Likewise he defangs Nithad's "cunning wife" (she is never called anything else) by reducing her once powerful counsels to cold words; and finally he rapes Beadhild, depriving her of her maidenhood and value in marriage. They are thus reduced to the same state of complete powerlessness as he himself experienced, something clearly seen in the repetition of the adjective *viljalauss* 'powerless'; in v. 12 it describes Wayland after he wakes in shackles, but in v. 31 Nithad uses it to refer to his own mental state after the deaths of his sons. This sense of hopelessness is also seen in Beadhild's haunting concluding speech. "I knew by naught struggle against him; I could by naught struggle against him."

From the other versions of the story it is known that Beadhild gave birth to a son, Woody (Old English *Wudga*, *ThedS Viðga*, in Danish ballads *Vidrik Verlandson*). He went on to become a great hero, and in the later heroic ballads by far eclipses his father. His birth seems heavily foreshadowed by Wayland forcing Nithad to swear an oath in v. 33, but he is nowhere directly mentioned in the poem, probably for artistic reasons.

Apart from this lay there is one other telling of the full story, namely the Strand of Wayland the Smith in *ThedS*. While written in Old Norse, it is clear from the proper names and content that it is based on German sources (probably heroic ballads). Thus the native form *Völundr* is replaced with *Velent* [*sic*], *Niðuðr* with *Niðungr*. Interestingly there is a note within it showing that the native form was still known, namely about "Velent, the excellent smith, whom Warrings (*Væringjar*) call Wayland (*Völundr*)". Apparently Wayland was so famous that "all men seem to praise his workmanship so, that the maker of any smith's work which is made better than other works, is called a Wayland (*Völundr*) with regards to workmanship."

Far more stark than minor differences of language is that of tone. The psychological complexity and tension of the older redaction is almost entirely gone: Wayland is no longer a mysterious wild man, but a chivalrous knight who can escape from any peril through his ingenuity and craftsmanship. He is not captured due to Nithad's greed or hamstringing due to the suspicion of his cruel wife, but rather a loyal servant of Nithad's, banished from the kingdom after defending himself against the king's steward and hamstringed after being caught attempting to poison his food in revenge.

Frustratingly the personality of Beadhild is entirely expulged. She is the anonymous "king's daughter", an unnamed virgin (*jungfrú*, a borrowing from Low German) who is peacefully seduced by Wayland and quickly falls in love with him. Likewise the person of Nithad's cunning wife is completely gone, and the murder of his sons no longer ends his lineage, since he has another, older son who survives him and takes over the kingdom. Wayland still flies away laughing after telling Nithad what he has done, but only four years (his son with Beadhild is three years old) later reconciliates with Nithad's son, retrieves

Beadhild and their son and lives a long life as a famous craftsman.

With this it is clearly seen that the story by the time of the *ThedS* had been heavily distorted, a tragic victim of medieval romantic sensibilities. It does not have any high literary value, but is of interest since it shows the wide reception and variation of the narrative.

Finally there are also traces of the story in the Anglo-Saxon tradition, where it is alluded to in both *Walder* and *Dear*, the latter of which particularly emphasising the powerlessness felt by Wayland and Beadhild (thus being much closer in spirit to *Way* than *ThedS*). Some of it is also depicted on the early 8th century Frank's casket, where it is as prominent as the depiction of the Adoration of the Magi—a true testament to the weight with which it was regarded within that culture.

To illustrate the narrative correspondences and differences of the various redactions, I present the following table:

Detail	
Wayland	
Wayland's brothers	
Father of the brothers	
Nithad	
Nithad's daughter (Beadhild)	
Nithad's sons	
Wayland and Beadhild's son (Woody)	
Wives of the brothers	
—	Wayland and his brothers ski and hunt animals. They settle in V
—	Nithad learns t
—	

Frá Völundi Regarding Wayland

BPG BPA Niðuðr hét konungr í Svíþjóð. BPA Hann átti tvá sonu ok eina dóttur. Hon hét Böðvildr. BPA Bręðr vǫru þrír, synir Finnakonungs. BPA Hét einn Slagfiðr, annarr Egill, þriði Völundr. BPA Þeir skriðu ok veiddu dýr. Þeir kómu í Úlfdali ok gerðu sér þar hús. BPA Þar er vatn, er heitir Úlfsjár. BPA Snemma of morgin fundu þeir á vatnsströndu konur þrjár, ok spunnu lín. BPA Þar vǫru hjá þeim álfarhamir þeira. Þat vǫru valkyrjur. BPA Þar vǫru tvęr dętr Hlödęs konungs, Hlaðguðr svanhvít ok Hervör alvitr, in þriðja var Ölrún Kjársdóttir af Vallandi. BPA Þeir höfðu þęr heim til skála með sér. Fekk Egill Ölrúnar, en Slagfiðr Svanhvítrar, en Völundr Alvitrar. BPA Þau bjuggu sjau vetr. Þá flugu þęr at vitja víga ok kómu eigi afr. BPA Þá skreið Egill at leita Ölrúnar, en Slagfiðr leitaði Svanhvítrar, en Völundr sat í Úlfdölum. BPA Hann var hagastr maðr, svá at menn viti, í fornum sögum. BPA Niðuðr konungr lét hann höndum taka, svá sem hér er um kveðit: EPA

BPB Nithad was named a king in Sweden. BPB He owned two sons and one daughter;

she was called Beadhild. BPB There were three brothers, the sons of a king of the Finns. BPB One was called Slayfinn, another Agle, the third Wayland. BPB They travelled on skis and hunted wild animals. They came into the Wolfdales and made for themselves houses there. BPB There is a water there, called Wolfsea. BPB Early in the morning they found on the lake-shore three women, and they were spinning linen. BPB By them were their swan-hames^C; they were Walkirries. BPB Two of them were the daughters of king Ladguth: Ladguth Swanwhite and Harware Allwit, the third was Alerune, daughter of Kear^P of Walland^{Ga}. BPB The brothers brought the maidens with them to their halls. Agle got Alerune, but Slayfinn Swanwhite, but Wayland Allwit. BPB They lived there for seven winters, then they left to attend battles, and did not return. BPB Then Agle left on skis to look for Alerune, but Slayfinn sought out Swanwhite; but Wayland stayed in the Wolfdales. BPB He was the most skilled craftsman, as men know, in the ancient saws. BPB King Nithad had him captured, about which this has been sung: EPG

- 1 Męyjar flugu sunnan · Myrkvið í gognum
- 2 alvitr ungar, · ørlög drýgja;
þęr á sęvarströnd · sęttusk at hvílask
- 4 drósir suðrónar, · dýrt lín spunnu.

Maidens flew from the south through Mirkwood^a—young allwits^b—to fulfill orlay^C. They on the lake-shore set down to rest; the southern ladies span expensive linen.

^aMirkwood is surely referenced for its association with the war-ravaged lands of the Gots and Huns; a natural environment for Walkirries.

^bMaybe look at what this means. TODO.

- 2 Eın nam þęira · Egil at vęrja
fögr męr fira · faðmi ljósum.
Qnnur vas Svanhvít, · svanfjaðrar dró,
- 4 [...]
ęn hin þriðja · þęira systir
- 6 varði hvítan · hals Völundar.

One of them began—the fair maiden of men—to ward Agle by her light bosom. Another was Swanwhite—her swan-feathers she pulled; but the third sister warded the white throat of Wayland.

4 [...] wo. doubt a line has gone missing here, mentioning the name of Slayfinn.

^aThe Roman emperor; see Index.

- 3 Sötu síðan · sjau vetr at þat,
 2 en hinn átta · allan þróðu,
 en hinn níunda · nauðr of skilði,
 4 meýjar fýstusk · á myrkvan við,
 alvitr ungar · ørløg drýgja.

Then they stayed for seven winters at that, but all the eighth they yearned, but the ninth did need divorce them: the maidens longed for the mirky wood: the young allwits, to fulfill orlay.^a

^aAs Walkirries the *orlay* of the sisters is to preside over battles for Woden. Remembering this duty they become increasingly anxious, until they one day decide to finally leave, as seen from the next verse without telling their husbands. For the significance of Mirkwood, see note to v. 1.

- 4 Kom þar af veiði · veðreygr skyti
 2 Völundr líðandi · of langan veg,
 Slagfiðr ok Egill, · salí fundu auða,
 4 gingu út ok inn · ok umb sýusk.

Came there from the hunt the weather-eyed shooter: Wayland passing over a long way. Slayfinn and Agle found the halls deserted; they walked out and in, and looked about.

- 5 Austr skreifið Egill · at Qlrúnu,
 2 en suðr Slagfiðr · at Svanhvítu,
 en einn Völundr · sat í Ulfdöllum.

East skied Agle for Alerune, but south Slayfinn for Swanwhite; but alone Wayland stayed in the Wolfdales.

- 6 Hann sló goll rautt · við gim fastan,
 2 lukði hann alla · linnbaugum vel;
 svá beifið hann · sinnar ljóssar
 4 kvánar, ef hönnum · of koma gæði.

He struck the red gold by fastened gemstone, enclosed he all the serpent-bighs^{†a} well; thus awaited he his bright wife, if to him she might come.

^ai.e. armlets shaped like serpents, perhaps even literally; compare the Viking age armlet found in a hoard in Undrom, Ångermanland, northern Sweden. Museum ID 108822 HST. TODO: Maybe include photo?

- 7 Þat spyrr Níðuðr, · Níara dróttinn,
 2 at einn Völundr · sat í Ulfdölum;
 nóttum fóru seggir, · næglðar vóru brynjur,
 4 skildir bliku þeira · við hinn skarða mána.

It learns Nithad, lord of the Nears^G, that alone Wayland stayed in the Wolfdales. By night travelled warriors—nailed were their byrnies;^a their shields gleamed by the waning moon.

^aThe soldiers had plated armour.

- 8 Stigu ór sǫðlum · at salar gaffi,
 2 gingu inn þaðan · endlangan sal,
 sǫu þeir á bast · bauga dregna,
 4 sjau hundruð allra, · es sá seggr átti.

They stepped out of the saddles, towards the hall's gables; went inside thence, through the endlong hall. Saw they on a bast-rope bigs drawn up: seven hundred in all, which that man owned.

- 9 Ok þeir af tóku · ok þeir á létu
 2 fyr einn útan, · es af létu;
 kom þar af vęiði · veðreygr skyti
 4 Völundr líðandi · of langan veg.

And they took off and they put back on; but for one, which away they put.^a—Came there from the hunt the weather-eyed shooter: Wayland passing over a long way.

^aThat this is the big mentioned by itself in vv. 17 and 26 seems likely. Finnur Jónsson (1932) writes: "The ring which Nithad kept must have had special properties, and distinguished itself before others. There is no doubt that the ring is a flight ring; whether this was clear to the poet is however questionable. This much is certain, that Wayland seems to be able to fly away only after he has got back the ring; that is, the one which Beadhild brings him." (*My translation from the Danish*).—The reader may for himself judge the plausibility of this, but it seems that Wayland, being an exceptionally handy craftsman, may just as well have crafted wings for himself without need for magical rings. This agrees with the Low German verison and the Daedalus myth, for both of which see the introduction to the poem.

- 10 Gekk brúnni · beru hold stęikja,
 2 ár brann hrísi · allþurru fura,
 viðr hinn vindþurri, · fyr Vólundi.

Went he the brown she-bear's hull to roast; early burned the twigs of all-dry pine—the wind-dry wood—before Wayland.

- 11 Sat á berfjalli, · bauga talði,
 2 alfa ljóði · eins saknaði.
 hugði at hefði · Hlōðvés dóttir,
 4 Alvittr unga, · véri aptr komin.

Sat he on the bear-skin, bighs he counted—the prince of elves was missing one! Thought he that Ladwigh's daughter might have it; that the young Allwit might be come back.

- 12 Sat hann svá lengi, · at hann sofnaði,
 2 ok hann vaknaði · viljalauss;
 vissi sér á hōndum · hōfgar nauðir,
 4 en á fótum · fjōtur of spēntan.

Sat he so long that asleep he fell, and he awoke, powerless. He knew on his hands tortuous restraints, and on his feet were fetters tightened.

[Wayland quoth:]

- 13 „Hverir 'ró jofrar · þeir's á lōgðu
 2 þēstisíma · ok bundu mik?“

“Which are the princes, those that laid on thick bast-ropes, and bound me?”

- 14 Kallaði nú Níðuðr, · Níara dróttinn:
 2 „Hvar gatz Vōlundr, · vísi alfa,
 óra aura, · í Ulfdōlum?
 4 Goll vas þar eigi · á Grana leiðu,
 fjarri hugða'k vart land · fjōllum Rínar.“

Out called Nithad, lord of the Nears: “Where gottest thou, Wayland, leader of elves, *our* ounces in the Wolfdales? Gold was there not on Grane's path; far I thought our land from the mountains of the Rhine.^a”

^aGrane was the horse of the legendary hero Siward, who slew the dragon Fathomer, which events were set in continental Germany. The sense of this sarcastic statement is thus “Where did you get that gold? A dragon’s hoard?”. (This interpretation I first encountered from Finnur Jónsson (1932), but I cannot see any likelier.)

[Wayland quoth:]

- 15 „Man’k at męiri · męti ętum,
2 es vér heil hjú · heima vörum.
Hlaðguðr ok Hervör · borin vas Hlęðvé,
4 kunn vas Qlrún · Kíars dóttir.“

“I remember that we owned greater wealth, when we a whole household were at home: Ladguth, and Harware was born to Ladwigh; known was Alerune, Kear’s daughter.”^a

^aWayland responds by asserting the noble lineage of the three swan-wives as a legitimate reason for his wealth; the tone is nostalgic.

- 16 Úti stóð kunnig · kvęn Níðaðar,
2 hón inn of gekk · ęndlangan sal,
stóð á golfi, · stilti röddu:
4 „es-a sá nú hýrr, · es ór holti fęrr.

Outside stood the cunning wife of Nithad; she inside did walk across the length of the hall; stood she on the floor, steered her voice: “That one^a is not mild now, who comes out of the wood.

^aThe abducted Wayland.

- 17 Tęnn hęnum tęygjask · es hęnum’s tęt sverð
2 ok hann Bęðvildar · baug of þękkir.
Qmun eru augu · ormi hınum frána,
4 sníðið ér hann · sina magni,
ok sętið hann síðan · í Sęvarstöð.“

His teeth are bared when he is shown the sword, and he recognizes Beadhild’s bigh. Reminiscent are the eyes to the gleaming snake’s. Cut ye from him the might of his sinews, and set him thereafter on Seastead!”

P Svá var gørt, at skornar vǫru sínar í knésfótum ok settir í holm einn, er þar var fyrir landi, er hét Sévarstaðr. Þar smíðaði hann konungi allskyns gørsimar; engi maðr þorði at fara til hans, nema konungr einn. Vǫlundr kvað:

Thus was done, that the sinews in his houghs were cut, and he was placed on a lonely islet, which there lay before the land, called Seastead. There he smithed for the king all manner of jewels. No man dared travel to him, but the king alone. Wayland quoth:

18 „Sé’k Níðaði · sverð á linda,
 2 þat’s ek hvēsta · sēm hagast kunna’k
 ok ek hęrðað’k · sēm hógst þótti;
 4 sá ’s mér fránn mękir · ę fjarri borinn.
 sé’kk-a þann Vǫlundi · til smiðju borinn.

I see a sword on Nithad’s belt, the one I sharpened as most handily I knew, and hardened as most pleasingly seemed. Now that gleaming sword is ever far from me carried; I see it not for Wayland to the smithy carried.

19 Nú berr Bøðvildr · brúðar minnar,
 2 bíð’k-a þess bót, · bauga rauða.“

Now Beadhild bears my bride’s—I get no bettering for that—red bighs.”

20 Sat hann né svaf ávalt · ok sló hamri;
 2 vél gęrði hęldr · hvatt Níðaði;
 drifu ungir tvęir · á dýr séa
 4 synir Níðaðar · í Sévarstöð.

He rested not, nor slept ever, and struck the hammer; rather he boldly planned wiles for Nithad. Two young ones hurried to look at precious things: Nithad’s sons, to Seastead.

21 Kvómu til kistu, · krøfðu lukla,
 2 opin vas illúð, · es í sǫu,
 fǫlð vas þar męina, · es mǫgum sýndisk
 4 at vęri goll rautt · ok gørsimar.

Came they to the chest, demanded the keys; open was the evil, when inside they looked.
A great deal was there of harms, which to the lads seemed like were it red gold and jewels.

[Wayland quoth:]

- 22** „Komið ęinir tveir, · komið annars dags;
2 ykkur lét’k þat goll · of gefit verða;
sęgið-a meyjum · né salþjóðum,
4 manni ęngum, · at mik fyndið.“

“Come alone ye two, come another day; to you I will let that gold be given. Say not to maidens, nor to the people of the hall; to no man, that ye met me.”

- 23** Snimma kallaði · sęgr á annan,
2 bróðir á bróður: · „göngum baug sęa!“
Kómu til kistu, · kröfðu lukla,
4 opin vas illúð · es í litu.

Early called one youth to another, brother to brother: “Let us go see the highs!”. Came they to the chest, demanded the keys; open was the evil, when inside they looked.

- 24** Snęið af höfuð · húna þęira
2 ok und fęn fjöturs · fóttr of lagði,
ęn þęr skálar, · es und skorum vóru,
4 svęip útan silfri, · sęldi Níðaði.

He sliced off the heads of those bear-cubs^a, and under the fetter’s fen^b their feet did lay;
but the bowls^c, which were under their curls, he coated with silver and gave to Nithad.

^aAn affectionate term for the young boys. TODO: Relate to Berserks?

^bVery unclear. TODO.

^cTheir skulls.

- 25** Ęn ór augum · jarknasteina
2 sęndi kunnigri · kvön Níðaðar;
ęn ór tönnum · tvęggja þęira
4 sló brjóstkringlur, · sęndi Bøðvildi.

But out of the eyes, earthenstones he sent to the cunning wife of Nithad; but out of the teeth of the two, he struck breast-brooches, sent to Beadhild.

- 26 Þá nam Bøðvildr · baugi at hrósa
 2 [...] · es brotit hafði,
 „þori’k-a’k sęgja, · nema þér ęinum.“

Then Beadhild began to praise the ring,^a [...] which she had broken, “I dare not tell it, save to thee alone.”

2 [...]] The meter requires a half-line here, likely containing a more specific description of the bigh.

^aThe verse is without doubt incomplete, but the story can be gleaned: Beadhild breaks the bigh she has been given by her parents (previously mentioned in vv. 10—see the note there—and 17), and is afraid that her parents may become upset. She thus goes to Wayland in secret, asking him to repair it.

[Wayland quoth:]

- 27 „Ek bóti svá · brest á golli,
 2 at fęðr þínum · fęgri þykkir,
 ok móðr þinni · miklu bętri,
 4 ok sjalfri þér · at sama hófi.“

“I mend such the crack on the gold, that to thy father it fairer seems, and to thy mother far better, and to thyself of the same rank.”

- 28 Bar hann hána bjóri, · þvíat hann bętr kunni,
 2 svát hón í sessi · of sofnaði.
 „Nú hęfk hęfnt · harma minna
 4 allra nema ęinna · íviðgjörnum.“

He overcame her with beer—for he was more cunning—so that she in the seat asleep did fall. “Now have I avenged my harms—all but one—on the insidious ones.”

^aKing Nithad and his wife.

- 29 „Vęl ek,“ kvað Vølundr, · „verða’k á fitjum,
 2 þeim’s mik Níðaðar · nómu rekkar.“

- Hléjandi Völundr · hófsk at lopti,
 4 grátandi Bøðvildr · gekk ór eyju.
 tregði fgr friðils · ok fðður vreiði.

“Well I”, quoth Wayland, “fall on my paddles; those which Nithad’s men bereaved me of!” Laughing Wayland threw himself in the air; weeping Beadhild went from the island: she grieved the lover’s flight, and the father’s fury.

^aC-V: *fit* ‘the webbed foot of water-birds’, the reader may picture for himself. Wayland has crafted a mechanism to take flight, regaining his mobility which he lost when he was hamstrung.

- 30 Úti stóð kunnig · kvón Níðaðar,
 2 ok hón inn of gekk · endlangan sal,
 en hann á salgarð · settisk at hvílask,
 4 „Vakir þú Níðuðr, · Níara dróttinn?“

Outside stood the cunning wife of Nithad; she walked inside across the length of the hall—but he, on the courtyard, set down to rest. “Art thou awake, Nithad, lord of the Nears?”

[Nithad quoth:]

- 31 „Vaki’k ávalt · viljalauss,
 2 sofna’k minst, · síz sonu dauða,
 kelli mik í hofuð, · kold erumk röð þín,
 4 vilnumk þess nú, · at við Völund dóma’k.“

“I am always awake, powerless; I fall asleep the least, since the death of my sons. My head freezes; cold are thy counsels—I wish now but that: to speak with Wayland.”

[Nithad quoth:]

- 32 „Seg mér þat Völundr, · vísi alfa,
 2 af heilum hvat varð · húnum mínum?“

“Say it to me, Wayland, leader of elves: what became of my healthy bear-cubs?”

[Wayland quoth:]

- 33 „Eiða skalt mér áðr · alla vinna,

- 2 at skips borði · ok at skjaldar rønd,
 at mars bógi · ok at mækis egg
 4 at þú kvelj-at · kvön Völundar,
 né brúði minni · at bana verðir,
 6 þótt kvön ęigim, · þá's ér kunnið,
 eða jóð ęigim · innan hallar.

“Before that shalt thou swear to me all oaths:—by the deck of the ship and the rim of the shield, by the bough of the steed and the edge of the sword—that thou wilt not torment the wife of Wayland, nor of my bride become the bane, though a wife we might own, which ye know; or a babe might own, inside of the hall.^a

^aWayland has Nithad swear an oath that he will not harm Beadhild, nor their (yet unborn) child.

- 34 Gakk til smiðju, · es gęrðir þú,
 þar fiðr þú bęlgi · blóði stokna,
 sneið'k af hęfuð · húna þinna
 4 ok und fęn fјoturs · fótr of lagða'k.

Go to the smithy, which thou madest; there wilt thou find bellows, sprinkled with blood. I sliced off the heads of thy bear-cubs, and under the fetter's fen their feet did I lay.

- 35 Ęn þęr skálar, · es und skęrum vęru,
 sveip'k útan silfri, · sęlda'k Níðaði,
 ęn ór augum · jarknastęina,
 4 sęnda'k kunnigri · kvön Níðaðar.

But the bowls, which were under their curls, I coated with silver and gave to Nithad. But out of the eyes, earthenstones I sent to the cunning wife of Nithad.

- 36 Ęn ór tęnnum · tvęggja þęira
 sló'k brjóstkringlur, · sęnda'k Bęðvildi;
 nú gęngr Bęðvildr · barni aukin,
 4 ęingadóttir · ykkur bęggja.“

But out of the teeth of the two, I struck breast-brooches, sent to Beadhild. Now walks Beadhild, swollen with child; the only daughter of you both.”

[Nithad quoth:]

- 37 „Méltir-a þú þat mál, · es mik meir tregi,
 2 né þik vilja’k Völundr · verr of níta;
 es-at svá maðr hǫr, · at þik af hęsti taki,
 4 né svá ǫflugr, · at þik neðan skjóti.
 þar’s þú skollir · við ský uppi.“

“Thou spokest not that speech which might grieve me more; nor could I worse wish, Wayland, to deny thee. There is no man so high that he from horse might take thee, nor so mighty that he might shoot thee down, there where thou jeerest, by the clouds above!”

- 38 Hljándi Völundr · hófsk at lopti,
 2 ęn ókáttr Níðuðr · þá ęptir sat.

Laughing Wayland threw himself in the air, but gloomy Nithad thereafter stayed.

[Nithad quoth:]

- 39 „Upp rís Þakkráðr, · þréll minn bazti,
 2 bið Bǫðvildi, · mey hina bráhvítu,
 gangi fagrvarið · við fǫður róða.“

“Rise up Thankred, my best thrall; ask Beadhild—the brow-white maiden—to go fair-clothed, with her father to counsel.”

[Nithad quoth:]

- 40 „Es þat satt Bǫðvldr, · es sǫgðu mér,
 2 sǫtuð it Völundr · saman í holmi?“

“Is it true, Beadhild, as they said to me: stayed thou and Wayland together on the island?”

[Beadhild quoth:]

- 41 „Satt’s þat Níðuðr · es sagði þér:
 2 sǫtum vit Völundr · saman í holmi
 ęina ǫgurstund, · ęva skyldi;
 4 ek vętr hǫnum · vinna kunna’k,

ek vétr hönnum · vinna máttak.“

“It is true, Nithad, as *he* said^a to thee: I and Wayland stayed together on the island, for one grave moment—it should never have been! I knew by naught struggle against him; I could by naught struggle against him.^b”

^aBeadhild, knowing that the only one who is aware of what happened is Wayland, makes the subtle change in the conjugation, from her father’s general plural (“what *they* said”), to the specific singular (“what *he* said”).

^bShe was both mentally (*C-V*: *kunna* ‘know, understand’) and physically (*C-V*: *mega* ‘to have strength to do, avail’) incapable of struggling against him. As Finnur comments, a potent final verse.

First Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane
(Helgakviða Hundingsbana fyrsta)

- 1 Ár vas alda · þat's arar gullu
 2 hnigu heilög vötn · af Himinfjöllum;
 þá hafði Hǫlga · inn hugumstóra
 4 Borghildr borit · í Brálundi.

It was the beginning of elds[†], as eagles shrieked; holy waters poured down from the Heavenfells; then Burhild in Browlund gave birth to Hallow the Great-hearted.

- 2 Nótt varð í bð, · nornir kvómu,
 2 þér's ǫðlingi · aldr of skópu;
 þann bóðu fylki · frégstan verða
 4 ok buðlunga · þęztan þykkja.

Night came in the settlement; norns came, those who did shape the prince's life; that marshaller <= Hallow> they declared would become most renowned, and of kings seem the foremost.

- 3 Sneru þér af afli · ǫrlǫghǫttu
 2 þá's borgir braut · í Brálundi;
 þér um greiddu · gullinsímu
 4 ok und mána sal · miðjan fęstu.

They turned with their might the strands of orlay[†], as he broke cities in Browlund; they arranged golden bands, and under the moon's hall fastened [them in] the middle.

The Lay of Hallow Harwardson
(*Hęlgakviða Hęrvarðssonar*)

fra hiorvarþi oc sigrlinn.

hiorvarþr het konvgr hann atti iiii. konor einn het alfhildr. sonr þeira het heðinn. onnor het sǣreiþr. þeira sonr het hvmlvgr. in þriþia het sinríoþ. þeira sonr het hymlingr. Hiorvarþr konvgr hafði þess heit strengt át eiga þa kono er hann vissi vænsta. H ann spvrþi at svafnir konvgr. atti dottvr vǣnallra fegrsta sv het sigrlinn. Jþmvndr het iarl hans atli var hans. sonr er for at biþia sigrlinnar til handa konvngi. hann dvalþiz vetr langt með svafni konvngi. Fránmar het þar iarl fostri sigrlinnar. dottir hans het alóf. Jarlinn réþ at meyar var syniat oc fǫr iarlinn. heim. atli iarls sonr stoþ einn dag við lvnd noccorn enn fvgł sat i limonom vppi yfir hanom oc hafði heyrt til at hans. menn. kǫlloþo vǣnstar kónor þér er hiorvarþr konvgr. atti. fvglinn qvacapi enn atli lyddi. hvat hann sagdi. hann qvaþ.

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9 Sverð veyt'k liggja · î Sigarsholmi,
 2 fjórum færa · enn fimm tōgu;
 ęitt es þęira · ęllum bętra
 4 vįgnesta bęl · ok varið golli.

Swords I know lying, in Sigharsholm, four less than fifty. One of them is better than all—the bale of war-neededles^a [SPEARS?]^a—and inlaid with gold.

^aThe kenning *vįgnest* also appears in

10 Hringr 's î hjalti, · hugr 's î miðju,
 2 ógn 's î oddi, · þęim's ęiga getr;
 liggr með ęggju · ormr dreyrfaíðr
 4 en á valbęstu · verpr naðr hala.

A ring is in the hilt; courage is in the middle; fear is in the point, for the one who gets to own it; along the blade lies a serpent painted in blood, but on the walbast an adder chases its tail.

Second Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane
(Helgakviða Hundingsbana aðra)

BPG BPA Helgi fekk Sigrúnar ok áttu þau sonu; var Helgi eigi gamall. Dagr Høgna sonr blótaði Óðin til fǫðurhefnda. Óðinn léði Dag geirs síns. Dagr fann Helga, mág sinn, þar sem heitir at Fjǫturlundi. Hann lagði í gǫgnum Helga með geirnum. Þar fell Helgi en Dagr reið til fjalla ok sagði Sigrúnu tíðindi:

BPB Hallow got Sighrun, and they owned sons; Hallow was not old. Day, son of Hain, blooted† to Weden to take revenge for his father. Weden lent Day his spear. Day found Hallow, his brother-in-law, at a place called Fetterlund; he laid the spear through Hallow. There fell Hallow, but Day rode to the fells and told Sighrun the news: EPB

- 1 „Trauðr em ek, systir, · trega þér at sęja
- 2 þvíat ek hefði nauðigr · nipti grétta:
- Fell í morgun · und Fjǫturlundi
- 4 buðlungr sá's vas · þęztr í heimi
- ok hildingum · á halsi stóð.“

“Regretful am I, sister, to grieve thee by saying—for, forced must I cause my kinswoman to cry: This morning fell, 'neath Fetterlund, that prince who was in the world the best, and on the throats of rulers stood.”

...

- 2 „Fyrr vil'k kyssa · konung ólífðan
- 2 an þú blóðugri · brynju kastir;
- hár es þitt, Helgi, · hélu þrungit,
- 4 allr es vísi · valdǫgg slęinn,
- hendr úrsvalar · Høgna mági;
- 6 hvé skal'k þér, buðlungr, · þess bót of vinna?“

“Sooner would I kiss the unliving king, than thou the bloody byrnie mightst cast away. Thy hair is, Hallow, with hoarfrost thick: the prince is all with corpse-dew whipped: the hands wet-cold on the kinsman of Hain. How shall I for thee, lord, remedy that?”

- 3 „Eiñ veldr þú, Sigrún · frá Sefafjǫllum,
- 2 es Hęlgi es · harmdǫgg slęinn:
- Grętr þú, gullvarit, · grimmum tǫrum,
- 4 sólþjǫrt suðrón, · áðr þú sofa gangir,
- hvęrt fęllr blóðugt · á brjóst grami,
- 6 úrsvalt, innfjalgt · ękka þrungit.“

“Thou alone causest, Sighrun from the Sevefells, that Hallow be by harm-dew whipped;

thou criest, gold-covered, bitter tears, sun-bright southern lady, before thou to sleep mightst go. Each one falls bloody on the breast of the ruler, wet-cold and stifled, pressed forth by grief.”

The Speeches of Fathomer (*Fáfnismól*)

Frá dauða Fáfnis

From the death of Fathomer

1 „Sveinn ok sveinn! · Hverjum estu sveini of borinn?

2 Hverra estu manna mögr?

es þú á Fáfni rautt · þinn hinn frána mēki;

4 stöndumk til hjarta hjörr!“

“Swain and swain! To which swain art thou born; of which men art thou the son? As thou on Fathomer hast reddened thy gleaming blade; the sword stands to my the heart!”

BPG BPA Sigurðr dulði nafns síns fyr því at þat var trúa þeira í forneskju at orð feigs manns métti mikit ef hann bölvæði óvin sínum með nafni. Hann kvað:EPA

BPB Siward concealed his name, because it was their belief in ancient times that the word of a death-doomed man could do much if he cursed his enemy by his name. He [Siward] quoth:EPB EPG

2 „Göfugt dýr ek heiti · en ek gengit hef’k

2 hinn móðurlausi mögr,

föður ek á’kk-a · sem fira synir,

4 geng ek einn saman.“

“Noble beast I am called, but I have walked as the motherless lad. A father I own not, like the sons of men do; I walk alone.”

3 „Veistu ef föður né átt-at · sem fira synir,

2 af hverju vastu undri alinn?“

“Knowest thou, if thou haddest not a father, like the sons of men do, from which wonder thou wast born?”

4 „Étterni mitt · kveð’k þér ókunnigt vesa

2 ok mik sjalfan hit sama:

Sigurðr ek heiti · Sigmundr hét minn faðir

4 es hef’k þik vápnum vegit.“

“My lineage I say is unknown to thee, and my self the same.^a Siward I am called—Sighmund was called my father—who with weapons have struck thee.”

^aThe meaning is that Fathomer would not recognize Siward's lineage (i.e. his father) or name, since he is an orphan who up until this point has not won such renown. He is not saying that he is lineage is unknown even to himself, since *sjalfan mik* 'my self' is accusative, not dative.

5 „Hvęrr þik hvatti, · hví hvętjask lézt,
 2 mínu fjorvi at fara?
 Hinn fráneygi sveinn, · þú áttir fōður bitran,
 4 ábornu skjór á skęð.“

“Who goaded thee, why didst thou let thyself be goaded, my life for to destroy? Gleaming-eyed swain, thou haddest a sharp father; inborn traits show quickly.^a”

^aThe original is unclear. *á skęð* means roughly ‘rapidly, quickly’; thus *ríða á skęð C-V*: ‘to ride at full speed’, but apart from that the words are exceptionally unclear. La Farge and Tucker (1992) read ‘your innate qualities show quickly’, suggesting two unattested words: an adjective **áborinn* ‘innate, inborn’ and a verb *skjóa* ‘to show’. Yet the lack of i-umlaut in the supposed 3rd sg. pres. ind. *skjór* is difficult. We would expect ***skýr*, as in *skjóta* ‘to shoot,’ with 2nd/3rd sg. pres. ind. *skýtr*. A solution here would be reading a 2nd sg. pres. subj. *skjóir*, with a vowel TODO

The Speeches of Sighdrive (*Sigrdrífumól*)

...?

BPG BPA Sigurðr settisk niðr ok spyrr hana nafns. Hón tók þá horn fullt mjaðar ok gaf hönnum minnisveig.EPA

BPB Siward set himself down, asking for her name. Then she took a horn full of mead, and gave him a toast of memory:EPB EPG

1 Heill Dagr, · heilir Dags synir,
2 heil Nött ok nipt!
Óreiðum augum · lítið okkr þinig
4 ok gefið sitjendum sigr!

“Hail Day! Hail the sons of Day! Hail Night and [her] kinswoman!¹⁴ With unwrathful eyes look ye upon us two, and give the sitting ones [us] victory.

¹⁴Her daughter, Earth?

2 Heilir ęsir, · heilar ąsynjur,
2 heil sjá in fjolnýta fold!
Mál ok manvit · gefið okkr męrum tvęim
4 ok lęknishęndr meðan lifum!

Hail the Ease! Hail the Ossens! Hail this bountiful fold <= Earth>! Speech and manwit give ye us renowned two, and healing hands while we live.”

...

3 Þá męlti · Míms hęfuð
2 fróðligt it fyrsta orð,
ok sagði sanna stafi.

Then spoke the head of Mime learnedly the first word, and said true staves:

4 Á skildi kvað ristnar · þęim's stęndr fyr skínanda goði,
2 á ęyra Árvakrs, · ok á Alsvinnz hófi,
á því hvęli es snýz · undir reið Hrungnis,
4 á Sleipnis tönnum · ok á slęða fjotrur,
á bjarnar hrammi · ok á Braga tungu,
6 á ulfs klóm · ok á arnar nęfi,
á blóðgum vęngjum · ok á brúar sporði,

- 8 á lausnar lófa · ok á líknar spori,
 á glęri ok á gulli · ok á gumna heillum,
 10 í víni ok virtri · ok vilisessi.

On a shield it said were carved [runes]—[the shield] that stands before the shining god^a [SUN]—[also] on the ear of Yorewaker, on the hoof of Allswith, on that wheel which turns beneath the chariot of Rungner, on the teeth of Slopner, and on the fetters of sleds, on the paw of the bear, and on the tongue of Bray, on the claws of the wolf, and on the beak of the eagle, on bloody wings, and on the supports of the bridge, on the palm of release, and the track of grace, on glass and on gold, and on the good healths of men, in wine and beerwort, and on the comfortable seat.

^aAccording to *Grim* 39 the sun is covered by a shield, protecting the earth from its heat. Without it, the whole world would burn up.

- 5 Á Gungnis oddi · ok á Grana brjósti,
 2 á nornar nagli · ok á nefi uglu;
 allar vǫru af skafnar, · þér es vǫru á ristnar,
 4 ok hverfðar við inn hęlga mjǫð
 ok sęndar á víða vega.

On the point of Gungner, and on the breast of Grane, on the nail of a norn, and on the beak of an owl;—all were shaven off—those that were carved on—and thrown into the holy mead, and sent on wide ways:

- 6 Þér 'ró með ǫsum, · þér 'ró með ǫlfum,
 2 sumar með vísum vǫnum, · sumar hafa mennskir men.

They are among Ease, they are among Elves; some among wise Wanes, some are had by manly men.

The Third Lay of Guthrun
(*Guðrúnarkviða þriðja*)

BPG BPA Herkja hét ambótt Atla; hón hafði verit frilla hans. Hón sagði Atla at hón hefði sét Þjóðrek ok Guðrúnu bæði saman. Atli var þá allókátr. Þá kvað Guðrún: EPA

BPB Hark was named the female thrall of Attle; she had been his concubine. She told Attle that she had seen Thederick and Guthrun both together. Attle was then wholly displeased. Then Guthrun quoth: EPB EPG

- 1 “Hvat es þér, Atli? · é, Buðla sonr,
2 es þér hryggt í hug; · hví hlér þú éva?
Hitt myndi óðra · jörlum þykkja
4 at við menn mæltir · ok mik séir.”

What is with thee, Attle? Always, son of Bodle, art thou sad at heart; why laughest thou never? TO-DO

- 2 “Treggr mik þat, Guðrún, · Gjúka dóttir,
2 mér í hollu · Herkja sagði
at þit Þjóðrekr · undir þaki svéfið
4 ok léttliga · líni verðið.”

It troubles me, Guthrun, Yivick's daughter, which in the hall Hark has said me: that thou and Thederick beneath thatched roof slept, and ye lightly warded the linen.^a

^ai.e., they threw off their clothes and slept together.

- 3 “Þér mun’k alls þess · eiða vinna
2 at inum hvíta · helga steini.
at ek við Þjóðmar · þat-ki átta’k
4 es vörðr né verr · vinna knátti.

GAGAGGAGAG

- 4 Nema ek halsaða · herja stilli,
2 jöfur óneisinn, · einu sinni;
aðrar vóru · okkrar spækjur
4 es við hörmug tvau · hnigum at rúnum.

TESTETET STET T

- 5 Hér kom Þjóðrekr · með þrjá tǫgu,
 2 lifa þeir né einir, · þriggja tega manna;
 hrinktu mik at bróðrum · ok at brynjuðum,
 4 hrinktu mik at ǫllum · á hǫfuðniðjum.

TESTE TEST EST TES

- 6 Sęntu at Saxa, · sunnmanna gram;
 2 hann kann hęlga · hver vellanda;”
 sjau hundruð manna · í sal gengu
 4 áðr kvęn konungs · í kętil tóki.

Send for Saxe, the prince of southmen; he knows how to hallow a swelling cauldron!”
 — Seven hundred men went into the hall, before the wife of the king might touch the kettle.

- 7 “Kęmr-a nú Gunnarr, · kalli’k-a Hǫgna, sę’k-a síðan · svása bróðr;
 sverði myndi Hǫgni · slíks harms reka, nú verð’k sjǫlf fyr
 mik · synja lýta.”

“Now Guthhere comes not, I call not on Hain; I see not hence [my] sweet brothers.
 With sword would Hain drive away such an affront; now I will for myself disprove the slanders.”

- 8 Brá hǫn til botns · bjǫrtum lófa
 2 ok hǫn upp of tók · jarknastęina:
 Sé nú sęggir · sykn em ek orðin
 4 hęilagliga— · hvę sjá hverr velli.

Brought she the bright palms to the bottom, and she up did take the earthenstones: “See now, men—I am proven innocent, through holy means—how this cauldron boils!”

- 9 Hló þá Atla · hugr í brjósti
 2 es hann hęilar sá · hęndr Guðrúnar:
 Nú skal Hęrkja · til hvers ganga,
 4 sú er Guðrúnu · grandí vęnti.

Then the heart of Atle laughed in his breast, when he saw the hands of Guthrun unscathed: "Now shall Hark go to the cauldron, she who to Guthrun hoped to cause harm."

- 10 Sá-at maðr armligt, · hvęrr es þat sá at,
2 hvé þar á Hęrkju · hęndr sviðnuðu;
lęiddu þá męy · í mýri fúla,
4 svá þá Guðrún · sinna harma.

Each man saw not something so pitiful, who saw that: how there on Hark the hands were scorched. Led they the maiden into the foul bog; thus was Guðrún reconstituted for her affronts.

The Lay of Attle (*Atlakviða*)

Guthrun, the daughter of Yivick, avenged her brothers as has become famous. She first killed the sons of Attle, and after that she killed Attle, and burned the hall and the whole hird. Regarding that this lay is wrought.

- 1 Atli sændi · ár til Gunnars
- 2 kunnan segg at ríða, · Knéfrøðr vas sá heitin;
 - at gørdum kom hann Gjúka · ok at Gunnars hollu,
- 4 bækkjum aringreypum · ok at bjóri svósum.

Attle sent early to Guthur a well-known messenger to ride; Kneefred that one was called. To the estates of Yivick he came, and to the hall of Guthur; to the hearth-surrounding benches, and to the lovely beer.

- 2 Drukku þar dróttmægir · —æn dyljendr þögðu—
- 2 vín í valhollu, · vręðið sósuk þęir Húna;
 - kallaði þá Knéfrøðr · kaldri röðdu,
- 4 seggr inn suðróni · sat hann á bækk hóm:

There the dright-lads drank—but the concealed ones were silent—wine in the walhall; wary were they of the wrath of the Huns. Then Kneefred, the southern man, called with cold voice; he sat on a high bench:

- 3 “Atli mik hingat sændi · ríða øręndi,
- 2 mar inum mélgreypa, · Myrkvið inn ókunna
 - at biðja yðr, Gunnarr, · at it á bækk kómið
- 4 með hjólum aringreypum · at sókja heim Atla.

“Attle me hither sent to ride an errand, with the bit-champing horse through the uncharted Mirkwood, to ask you, Guthur, that ye two on the bench might come, with hearth-surrounding helmets, to seek the home of Attle.

- 4 Skjöldu kneguð þar vęlja · ok skafna aska,
- 2 hjalma gullroðna · ok Húna męngi,
 - silfrgyllt sōðulklęði, · sęrki valrauða,
- 4 dafar, darraða, · drōsla mélgreypa.

There ye might choose shields, and smooth ash-spears, helmets gold-reddened, and the multitude of the Huns, silver-gilt saddle-cloth, walred serks, dafs, standards, bit-champing

steeds.

- 5 Völl lézk ykkar ok myndu gefa · víðrar Gnitahęiðar
 2 af geiri gjallanda · ok af gylltum stöfnum,
 stórar meįðmar · ok staði Danpar,
 4 hrís þat it męra · es meðr Myrkvið kalla.

GAGAGA

- 6 Hęfði vatt þá Gunnarr · ok Hęgna til sagði:
 2 Hvat ręðr þú okkr, sęgr inn óri, · allz vit slíkt hęyrum?
 Gull vissa ek ekki · á Gnitahęiði,
 4 þat es vit ęttim-a · annat slíkt.

His head turned Guthr then, and to Hain said: "What counselest thou we two do, younger man, as we such things hear? I knew of no gold on the Gnitheath, that we did not own as much of.

- 7 Sjau ęigu vit salhús · sverða full,
 2 hverju eru þęira · hjólt ór gulli;
 mínnt veit ek mar bęztan · ęn męki hvassastan,
 4 boga bękksóma · ęn brynjur ór gulli.

We own seven hallhouses, filled with swords—on each of them is a golden hilt; I know my horse to be the best, and my sword the sharpest; my bow bench-fit, and my byrnies of gold.

- 8 Hjalm ok skjöld hvítastan, · kominn ór holl Kjárs;
 2 ęinn es mínnt bętri · ęn sé allra Húna.

A helmet and the whitest shield, taken out of the hall of Chear; alone is mine better, than that of all of the Huns."

- 9 Hvat hyggr þú brúði bęndu · þá es hón okkr baug sęndi,
 2 varinn vǫðum hęiðingja? · Hykk at hón vǫrnuð byði!

- Hár fann ek heiðingja · riðit í hring rauðum;
 4 ylfskr es vegr okkarr · at riða ørænda.

“What does thou think the bride meant, when she us two an armlet sent, wrapped with the cloth of a heath-dweller [WOLF]? I think that she bid us a warning! I found the hair of a heath-dweller wrapped round the red ring; wolver is our way, to ride that errand.”

- 10 Niðjar-gi hvøttu Gunnar · né náungr annarr,
 2 rýnendr né ráðendr, · né þeir es ríkir vöru;
 kvaddi þá Gunnarr · sem konungr skyldi,
 4 mérri í mjöðranni · af móði stórum:

No kinsmen urged Guthur, nor any other close one, nor counselors nor advisors, nor those who mighty were. Guthur then announced—as a king should, renowned in the mead-house—out of great courage:

- 11 Rís-tu nú, Fjörtnir, · lát-tu á flet vaða
 2 greppa gullskálir · með gumna höndum!

“Rise now, Ferner; let on the floorboards wade forth the golden bowls of warriors, along the hands of men!

- 12 Ulfr mun ráða · arfi Niflunga,
 2 gamlir granvarðir, · ef Gunnars missir,
 birnir blakkfjallir · bíta þreftönnum,
 4 gamna greystóði, · ef Gunnarr né kómr-at.

The wolf will rule the inheritance of the Niflings: the old grey guardians, if Guthur is missing. Bears black-furred bite with wrangling teeth, amusing the pack of bitches, if Guthur comes not.”

- 13 Lætdu landrögni · lýðar óneisir,
 2 grátendr, gunnhvatan, · ór garði Húna;
 þá kvað þat inn óri · erfivörðr Högnar:
 4 Heilir farið nú ok horskir · hvar's ykkur hugr tægir!

GAGAGA

- 14 Fetum létu fróknir · um fjöll at þyrja
 2 marina mélgreypu, · Myrkvið inn ókunna;
 hristisk ǫll Húnmǫrk · þar es harðmóðgir fóru,
 4 vróku þeir vannstygga · völlu algróna.

GAGAGA

- 15 Land sǫu þeir Atla · ok liðskjalfar djúpar
 2 Bikka greppar standa · á borg inni há
 sal of suðrþjóðum, · slégin sessmeiðum,
 4 bundnum rǫndum, · bléikum skjöldum,

The land of Attle saw they, TODO

- 16 dafar, darraða; · en þar drakk Atli
 2 vín í valhöllu; · vęðir sǫtu úti
 at varða þeim Gunnari · ef þeir hér vitja kómi
 4 með gęiri gjallanda · at vękja gram hildi.

but there drank Attle wine in the wale-hall^a ...

^aTODO: this is not Weden's hall, rather 'the Roman hall'.

- 17 Systir fann þeira snemmst · at þeir í sal kvǫmu,
 2 bróðr hęnnar báðir, · bjóri var hǫn lítt drukkin:
 Ráðinn ert-u nú, Gunnarr, · hvat munt-u, ríkr, vinna
 4 við Húna harmbrǫgðum? · Höll gakk þú ór snemma!

Their sister found earliest they they had come into the hall, both of her brothers—on beer was she lightly drunk—"Betrayed art thou now, Guther; why wilt thou, mighty one, struggle against Hunnish harm-tricks? Go early out of the hall!"

^aBefore anything evil might happen.

- 18 Bętr hęðir þú, bróðir, · at þú í brynju fǫrir,
 2 sęm hjǫlmum aringreypum · at sjá, hęim Atla;
 sętir þú í sǫðlum · sólheįða daga,

4 náí nauðfólva · létir nornir gráta.

Better hadst thou, brother, if thou in byrnie travelled, and with hearth-surrounding helmets, to see the home of Attle.

19 Húna skjaldmeyjar · herfi kanna
2 en Atla sjalfan · létir þú í ormgarð koma;
nú es sá ormgarðr · ykkir of folginn.

GAGAGA

20 Seinað es nú, systir, · at samna Niflungum,
2 langt es at leita · lýða sinnis til,
of rosmufjöll Rínar, · rekka óneýssa.

GAGAGA

21 Fengu þeir Gunnar · ok í fjötur settu,
2 vinir Borgunda, · ok bundu fastla;
sjau hjó Hogni · sverði hvössu
4 en inum átta hratt hann · í eld heitan.

Caught they Guthur, and in fetters set him—the friends of the Burgends—and bound them tightly. Seven Hain hewed down with sharp sword, and the eighth one threw he into the hot fire.

22 Svá skal frókn · fjándum verjask;
2 Hogni varði · hendr Gunnars.
frógu fróknan · ef fjör vildi
4 Gotna þjóðann · gulli kaupa.

Thus shall the bold against fiends ward himself; Hain warded the hands of Guthur. They asked the bold one if to buy he wished—the ruler of the Gots—his life with gold.^a

1 Svá ... verjask] Line moved from the last verse to this one since it seems to connect semantically with the immediately following line, and also creates a regular line distribution of 4-4 instead of 5-3.

^aThe Huns ask Guthur (it is clear that “ruler of the Gots” refers to him, cf. 1, 3, 10) if he wishes to ransom Hain. He instead responds with the following:

- 23 “Hjarta skal mér Høgna · í hendi liggja
 2 blóðugt, ór brjósti · skorit baldriða,
 saxi slíðrþeitu, · syni þjóðans.”

(Guthur quoth:)

“The heart of Hain shall lie me in the hands: bloody from the breast—cut from the bold rider with a slide-biting sax^a—of the son of the sovereign.”

^ai.e. a short-sword with a blade so sharp that it draws blood when one slides the finger across it.

- 24 Skóru þeir hjarta · Hjalla ór brjósti
 2 blóðugt ok á bjóð lögðu · ok bóru þat fyr Gunnar.

They cut the heart of Helle out of the breast; bloody on a platter they laid it, and carried it before Guthur.

- 25 Þá kvað þat Gunnarr, · gumna dróttinn:
 2 Hér hefi ek hjarta · Hjalla ins blauða,
 ólíkt hjarta · Høgna ins frókna,
 4 es mjök bifask · es á bjóði liggr;
 bifðisk hōlfu meirr · es í brjósti lá!

Then quoth that Guthur, the lord of men: “Here have I the heart of Helle the soft—unlike the heart of Hain the bold!—which much trembles, when on the platter it lies; it trembled twice as much, when in the breast it lay.”

- 26 Hló þá Høgni · es til hjarta skóru
 2 kvikvan kumblasmið · kløkkva hann sízt hugði
 blóðugt þat á bjóð lögðu · ok bóru fyr Gunnar.

Hain laughed then, when to the heart they cut on the living wound-smith; he thought least of sobbing. Bloody on a platter they laid it, and carried it before Guthur.

- 27 Mérr kvað þat Gunnarr, · Geir-Niflungr:
 2 Hér hefi ek hjarta · Hogna ins frókna,
 ólíkt hjarta · Hjalla ins blauða,
 4 es lítt bifask · es á bjóði liggr;
 bifðisk svági mjök · þá's í brjósti lá!

Renowned quoth that Gutherr, the Gore-Niffling: "Here have I the heart of Hain the bold—unlike the heart of Helle the soft!—which little trembles, when on the platter it lies; it trembled not as much, when in the breast it lay.

- 28 Svá skaltu, Atli, · augum fjarri
 2 sëm munt · męnjum verða;
 es und einum mér · ęll of folgin
 4 hodd Niflunga: · Lifir-a nú Hogni!

Thus shalt thou, Attle, be as far from the eyes, as thou wilt from the neck-rings. 'Tis by me alone all concealed, the hoard of the Nifflings—now Hain lives not!

- 29 Eę vas mér týja · meðan vit tveir lifðum,
 2 nú es mér ęngi · es ęinn lifi'k;
 Rín skal ráða · rógmalmi skatna,
 4 svinn, ęskunna · arfi Niflunga.

I was ever in doubt when we two lived; now I am not when alone I live. The Rhine shall rule the strife-ore of princes [GOLD], swift, the os-born inheritance of the Nifflings.

- 30 Í veltanda vatni · lýsask valbaugar
 2 heldr an á hęndum gull · skíni Húna bęrnum.

In tumbling water [shall] gleam the Welsh bighs, rather than gold might shine on the hands of the children of Huns."

...

- 31 Ełdi gaf hón alla · es inni vęru
 2 ok frá morði þęira Gunnars · komnir vęru ór Myrkęimi;
 forn timbr fellu, · fjarghús ruku,

- 4 bór Buðlunga, · brunnu ok skjaldmeyjar,
 inni aldrstamar, · hnigu í ęld hęitan.

To the fire she gave all those who were inside, who from their murder of Guthur were come out of Mirkham. Ancient timbers fell, great houses smoked—the settlement of the Buthlungs—burned the shield-maidens likewise; inside aged trunks bowed into hot fire.

- 32 Fullrótt's umb þetta; · fęrr ęngi svá síðan
 2 brúðr í brynju · bróðra at hęfna;
 hón hęfir þriggja · þjóðkonunga
 4 banorð borið, · björt, áðr sylti.

"Tis fully told of this; none hence fares so, a bride in byrnie, her brothers to avenge. She has of three great kings borne the bane-word, bright woman, before she may die.

- 33 Enn segir glegggra í Atlamálum inum grónlenskum.

Yet this is told more clearly in the Greenlendish Speeches of Attle.

The Lay of Hildbrand

For the text of original poem I generally present the manuscript text. I found it very difficult to produce a normalization without too heavily distorting the received text, being as it is, a blend of several dialects. I have, however, added acute accents to signify long vowels, capitalized proper names, consistently replaced *p* (wynn) and *uu* with *w*, and made minor corrections where the manuscript is clearly in error—these are noted in the critical apparatus. The punctuation of the original, entirely consisting of interpuncts, at times representing line breaks and caesurae and at others sporadically placed, has not been retained. The hypermetrical words *quad Hiltibrant* “Hildbrand quoth” (found in the ms. at the caesurae of ll., 30, 49, and 58) have been removed from the German text, but are presented in small font in the English translation.

- Ik gihórta dat seggen
 2 dat sih urhettun · aenon muotín
Hiltibrant enti Hadubrant · untar heriun twém
 4 sunufatarungo · iro saro rihtun
garutun se iro gúðhamun · gurtun sih iro swert ana
 6 helidos ubar hringa · dó sie to dero hiltiu ritun

I heard it said, that two contenders alone did meet: Hildbrand and Hathbrand, under two hosts. Son and father ordered their armour, readied their war-cloth, girded their swords on, the heroes over the mail, when to that battle they rode.

6 hringa] ringa *Hild ms.*

- Hiltibrant gimahalta · her was héróro man
 8 ferahes frótóro · her frágén gistuont
föhém wortum · hwer sín fater wári
 10 fíreo in fólche · [...]
 [...] · „eddo hwelíhhes cnuosles dú sís
 12 ibu dú mí énan sagés · ik mí de odre wét
chind in chunincriche · chúd ist mín al irmindeot“

Hildbrand spoke—he was the hoarier man, more learned in life—he began to ask, with few words, who his father might be, of men in the troop, [...] “or of which lineage thou be; if thou me one say, I the others will know; child, in the kingdom, known to me are all great men.”

7 gimahalta] *add.* heribrantes sunu “Harbrand’s son” *Hild ms.* 9 hwer] wer *Hild ms.* 11 hwelíhhes] welihhes *Hild ms.* 13 chunincriche] chunnincriche *Hild ms.*

- 14 Hadubrant gimahalta · Hiltibrantes sunu
 „dat sagetun mí · úsere liuti
 16 alte anti fróte · dea érhina wárun
 dat Hiltibrant haetti mín fater · ih heittu Hadubrant
 18 forn her óstar giweit · flóh her Ótachres níd
 hina miti Theotríhhe · enti sínero degano filu
 20 her furlaet in lante · luttilla sitten
 brút in búre · barn unwahsan
 22 arbeolaosa · her raet óstar hina
 det síd Detríhhe · darba gistuontum
 24 fateres mínes · dat was só friuntlaos man
 her was Ótachre · ummet tirri
 26 degano dechisto · unti Deotríhhe
 her was eo folches at ente · imo was eo fehta ti leop
 28 chúd was her · chóném mannum
 ni wániu ih iu líb habbe“

Hathbrand spoke, Hildbrand's son: "It told me our people, the old and learned, those who earlier lived, that Hildbrand was called my father — I am called Hathbrand. Long ago he hurried east — he fled Edwaker's hate — thither with Thedrich, and his great many thanes. He left in the land a little one to stay, a bride in the bower, a bairn ungrown, without inheritance; he rode east thither, as Thedrich was in great need of my father; — that was so friendless a man. He was to Edwaker exceptionally hostile, the dearest of thanes under Thedrich. He was ever at the front of the troop, ever did the fight gladden him, known was he among keen men; I ween not that he have life."

18 giweit] gihueit *Hild ms.* 21 brút] prut *Hild ms.* 22 her raet] heraet *Hild ms.* 24 fateres] fatereres *Hild ms.* 26 Deotríhhe] *add.* darba gistontun *Hild ms.* 27 fehta] pehta *Hild ms.* 28 chóném] chonnem *Hild ms.*

15 dat ... liuti] this l. breaks no rhythmic rules (cf. l. 42), but the needed alliteration is missing.

- 30 „wettu irmingot · obana ab hebane
 dat dú neo dana halt mit sus sippan man
 32 dinc ni gileitós“
 want her dó ar arme · wuntane bauga
 34 cheisuringu gitán · so imo sie der chuning gap
 huneo truhtin · „dat ih dir it nú bí huldí gibu“

“I call on Ermin-god as witness, [quoth Hildbrand], above in heaven, that thou never with such a close man once more lead dispute.” Unwound he then from his arm some twisted bighs¹, made from imperial coin, which the king once gave him, the lord of the Huns—“This I now give thee as pledge.”

30 hebane] heuane *Hild ms.*

¹Armlets used as currency during the Migration Period; ON *baugr*, OE *béag*. — The giving of rings and armlets in exchange for loyalty was common across all of Germanic Europe, as seen in the many ruler-kennings of the type “breaker of rings” (like *béaga brytta* “the breaker of bighs” *Bee* ll. 35, 352, 1487.) This is also connected with the oath-ring, and the famous ring-swords. TODO? reference some literature on this.

- 36 Hadubrant gimahalta · Hiltibrantes sunu
 „mit geru scal man · geba infáhan
 38 ort wídar orte · [...] ort
 dú bist dir altér hun · ummet spáhér
 40 spenis mih mit díném wortun · wili mih dínu speru werpan
 bist alsó gíaltét man · só dú éwín inwit fórtós
 42 dat sagetun mí · séolidante
 westar ubar Wentilséo · dat man wíc furnam
 44 tót ist Hiltibrant · Heribrantes suno“

Hathbrand spoke, Hildbrand's son: “With spear shall one earn gifts, point against point! Thou art, old Hun, exceptionally clever; thou lured me with thy words, wilt thou at me thy spear hurl! Thou art thus old, though thou ever deceit didst work. — It told me seafarers, heading west o'er the Wendle-sea², that war took that man: — dead is Hildbrand, Harbrand's son!”

41 bist] pist *Hild ms.*

²The Mediterranean, referring to the Vandals in North Africa.

- Hiltibrant gimahalta · Heribrantes suno
 46 „wela gisihu ih · in díném hrustim
 dat dú habés héme · hérron góten
 48 dat dú noh bí desemo ríche · reccheo ni wurti“

Hildbrand spoke, Harbrand's son: “I see well on thy equipment, that thou hast a good lord at home, that thou still in this reign didst not become an exile.”

- „welaga nú waltant got · wéwurt skihit
 50 ih wallóta sumaro enti wintro · sehstic ur lante
 dar man mih eo scerita · in folc sceotantero
 52 só man mir at burc énigeru · banun ni gifasta
 nú scal mih swásat chind · swertu hauwan
 54 bretón mit sínu billiu · eddo ih imo ti banin werdan
 doh maht dú nú aodlíhho · ibu dir dín ellen taoc
 56 in sus héremo man · hrusti giwinnan
 rauba birahanen · ibu dú dar eníg reht habés“

“Well now, wielding god, [quoth Hildbrand], woeful Weird³ comes to pass. I wallowed for summers and winters sixty out of the land, where one ever set me in the troop of shooters; thus one at no fortress my bane did inflict. Now shall my own child hew at me with sword; beat down with his blade, or I his bane become. Yet canst thou now easily, if thy courage avail thee, from such a hoary man win the equipment; bear away the booty, if thou thereto have any right.”

57 birahanen] bihrahanen *Hild ms.*

³The personification of fate, in this case most likely just a noun. OE *Wyrð* (*Bee* 455: *Gæð á Wyrð swá bío scel* “Ever goes Weird as she must”), ON *Urðr* ‘one of the norms’.

- 58 „der sí doh nú argósto · óstarliuto
 der dir nú wíges warne · nú dih es só wel lustit
 60 gúdea gimeinun · niuse de mótti
 hwedar sih hiutu déro hregilo · hruomen muotti
 62 eddo desero brunnóno · bédero waltan“

“He be now the weakest [quoth Hildbrand] of the eastern peoples, who refuse thee the fight, when thou so greatly cravest to struggle together; — try he who might, which of us today of these garments may boast, or both of these byrnies wield!”

61 hwedar] werdar *Hild ms.* 61 hiutu déro] dero hiutu *Hild ms.* 61 hruomen] hrumen *Hild ms.* 62 eddo] erdo *Hild ms.*

- dó lettun se aerist · asckim scrítan
 64 scarpén scúrim · dat in dem sciltim stónt
 dó stóptun tosamane · staimbort hlúdun
 66 hewun harmlícco · hwítte scilti

unti imo iro lintún · luttilo wurtun
68 giwigan miti wábnun · [...]

Then let they first their ash-spears glide, in harsh torrents, that in the shields they stuck. Then charged they into each other—the war-boards [SHIELDS] resounded—struck they bitterly the white shields, until for them their lindens [SHIELDS] became little, worn down by the weapons, [...]

65 hlúdun] chludun *Hild ms.*

Index

1.1 Cultural and religious terms (C)

ape (ON. *api*, OE. *apa*, OS. *apo*, OHG. *affo*, PNWGmc. **apó*) In the Old Norse the word seems to mean ‘fool, buffoon’, in the other old languages apparently ‘monkey’, though this sense should be a later development of the former; why would the early Germanic tribes have a word for an animal that they had never encountered?

aught (ON. *étt*, OE. *æht* ‘possession, property’) The Nordic (paternal) clan or family line.

begale (OHG. *bigalan*) To affect something using galders^C. See also gale^C.

bigh (ON. *baugr*, OE. *béag*, OHG. *boug*) A torc or armlet, in the migration period used as currency or tokens of loyalty (see particularly *Hild*). often referenced in ruler-kennings.

blood (ON. *blót*, OE. *blót*, OHG. *bluoz*) Sacrifice or a sacrificial feast.

blood-kettle The large pots used for cooking the blood-stew.

Doom (ON. *dómr*, OE. *dóm*) Commonly ‘judgement’ (whence Doomsday, ‘day of judgement’), but also specifically referring to one’s fame or good reputation (that is, how other men judge one’s character and deeds). Thus *Higb* 77: “I know one that never dies: the **Doom** over each man dead.”; this is further illuminated by passages in *Bee* such as 884b–887a:

... · *Sigmunde gesprong*
æfter déaðdæge · dóm unlýtel
syþðan wiges heard · wyrme ácwealde
hordes hyrde · ...

“For Sighmund sprang up after his day of death unlittle **Doom**, since hard in conflict he defeated the Worm[†], the herder of the hoard.”;

953b–955a:

... · *þú þe self hafast*
dédum gefremed · þæt þín dóm lyfað
áwa tó aldre · ...

“Thou hast for thyself by deeds accomplished that thy **Doom** lives for ever and ever.”

fee (ON. *fé*, OE. *fēoh*) Originally ‘cattle’, however also used in a broader sense to refer to one’s mobile wealth. For this cf. particularly *Higb*TODO.

feelcunning (ON. *fiþlkunnigr*) Skilled with sorcery.

fimble- (ON. *fimbul-*) The ultimate, final, greatest. See Fimble-thyle[†], Fimble-winter[†].

five days (ON. *fimm dagar*) That the old Scandinavian week was **five days** long is well attested. According to the *GolL* there were six weeks in a month, and the expression **five**

in the proper sense) or the recently discovered Svingerud fragment. Thus, Weden's taking of the *runes* should not be interpreted as merely a myth for the invention of profane writing, but rather the origin of esoteric incantations, not at all unlike Indian *mantras*. The word for letter was instead stave^C, see also there.

soo (ON. *sóa*) To ritually waste, the slaying in the animal sacrifice.

thill (ON. *þylja*) To chant poetry or lists (so called thule^C) acquired by rote memorization. See also thyle[C].

Thing (ON., OE. *þing*, OS. *thing*, OHG. *ding*) The legal assembly and gathering place where matters would be settled and the law recited.

thyle (ON. *þulr*, OE. *þyle*, PNWGmc. **þulir*) A sage who through rote learning has acquired a large amount of mythological lore (cf. *þula* 'a list in poetic form; a meaningless poem' and *þylja* 'to recite, to chant'). Thus Weden[†] is the Fimble-thyle[†], being the unbeaten master of lore, as can be seen in his wisdom contests (see *Allw*, *Web*). Runic inscription DR 248 (Snoldelev) suggests the thyle may have tied to a specific place, and in *Beowulf* it seems to have been a court position, with Unferth[†] being described as the "thyle of Rothgar".

wale (ON. *vǫlr*) The staff or sceptre, especially of a wallow. TODO: archeological finds, mention Sutton Hoo.

wallow (ON. *vǫlva*, OE. **wealwe* (cf. ON. *svǫlva*, OE. *swealwe* 'swallow')) A sibyl, seeress, oracle. The word derives from the wale^C, a staff or sceptre probably used for ritual purposes.

wigh (ON. *vé*, OE. *wéoh*, *wih*, PNWGmc. **wihq*) A holy shrine or sanctuary. It seems that where the harrow[†] was a pile of stones or cairn used for carrying out rituals, the *wigh* was an enclosed space. The earliest Norse attestation is the runic inscription Ög N288 (Oklunda), which reads: "Guthhere <= Gunnarr> painted these runes, and he fled, guilty. Sought this wigh, and he fled into this clearing. And he bound. [...]" The implication seems to be that the wigh was considered so sacred that Guthhere could not be apprehended or punished for his crime while in it. — In Old English the word means 'pagan idol'. It is not immediately clear which meaning is the original one, but in this edition the Norse sense has been adopted, since the Anglo-Saxon sources are all of a Christian nature. The *Beowulf* name *Wighstone* (*Wih-* or *Wēohstān*) in any case suggests it is the Norse meaning, since 'idol-stone' makes little sense.

wode (ON. *óðr*, OE. *wód*, PNWGmc. **wōþur*) Hean[†]'s gift to men, though the name would suggest it be from Weden[†]. The word has several related meanings: 'poetic inspiration', 'madness', 'rage'.

1.2 Personal names, objects and events (P)

Attle (ON. *Atli*, OE. *Ætla*, MHG. *Etzel*, PNWGmc. **Attilō*) The ruler of the Huns[†] (historically from 434–453). Husband of Guthrun[†], and with her father of Earp and Oatle[†]. and murderer of I HHb 54, SiL 11, I Gr 23, ShS 28, 29, 33, 37, 54, 56, 57, II Gr 26, 38, 45, III Gr 1, 9, BnOr 0, OdW A, 2, 22, 23, 25, 26, 30, 31, AtD 0, AtL 1, 3, 15, 17, 18, 27, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, B, AtS 2, 4, 21, 22, 44, 52, 60, 64, 71, 73, 77, 80, 86, 87, 97, 98, 108, 113, 117, FGr 0, GrB 12, Ham 6.

Earp and Oatle (ON. *Erpr ok Eitill*) The sons of Attle[†] and Guthrun[†].

Feather-hame (ON. *fjaðrhamr*) A hame[†] owned by the Ease that lets the wearer fly like a bird, more specifically a falcon.

Guthrun (ON. *Guðrún*) Daughter of king Yivick[†], sister of Guthhere[†] and Hain[†]. The wife of Attle[†].

Hain 1 (ON. *Hogni*, OE. *Haguna*, *Hagena*, OHG. *Hagano*, Ger. *Hagen*, PNWGmc. **Hagunō*) A Nifling[†] and Yifking[†], son of king Yivick[†], brother of Guthhere[†] and Guthrun[†]. In *AtL* he defeats seven warriors before being captured by Attle[†], who has his heart cut out at the request of Guthhere.

2 A petty king of East Geatland[†], contemporary with Granmer[†], the king of Southmanland[†] and Ingeld Illrede, the Ingling[†] king of Upland[†].

Hindle (ON. *Hyndla*) A witch awoken by Frow in *Hind*.

Millner (ON. *Mjöllnir*, OE. **Meldne*, PNWGmc. **Meldunjar*) Powerful hammer owned by Thunder.

Oughter (ON. *Óttarr*, OE. *Óbthere*, PNWGmc. **Öhtabarjar*) TODO

Rakes of the Reins (ON. *ragna rök*) The ‘sequence of events of the Reins^G’, euphemistic for the destruction of the Home.

Rakes of the Tues (ON. *tíva rök*) See the Rakes of the Reins^P.

Rotholf (ON. *Hrólfr kraki*, OE. *Hrópulf*, PNWGmc. **Hrōþiwulfar*) A king of the Shieldings[†] (see family tree). As foreshadowed in *Beewolf* (1017–9, 1180–90), he betrays the sons of Rothgar[†], his cousins Rethrich and Rothmund[†], in order to take the throne for himself. In the later Icelandic tradition this has been forgotten, and he is consistently portrayed as a heroic king.

Rothgar (ON. *Hróarr*, OE. *Hróþgár*, PNWGmc. **Hrōþigairar*) A king of the Shieldings[†] (see family tree), one of the main characters in *Beewolf*.

Weden (rhymes with *leaden*; ON. *Óðinn*, OE. *Wóden*, *Wēden*, OHG. *Wuotan*, PNWGmc. **Wōdanar*) Chief of the Ease[†], his name is clearly related to *wode*[†], referring to his role as the patron of scolds[†] and berserks[†]. For the meaning of his other names see Fimblethyle[†], Harn[†] TODO. Husband of Frie[†], and by her father of Bolder[†]. Also father of Thunder[†] by Earth[†]. Brother of Hean[†] and Lothe[†].

Yivick (ON. *Gjúki*, OE. *Gifca*, OHG. *Gibicho*, MHG. *Gibeche*) King of the Burgends[†] (historically from late 300s–407) of the Nifling dynasty, founder of the Yifking[†] aught[†]. Father of Guthrun[†], Guthhere[†] and Hain[†].

1.3 Groups and place names (G)

TODO: Map of rough tribal areas. Genealogies.

Danes (ON. *danir*, OE. *dene*, PNWGmc. **danír*) A tribe in eastern modern-day Denmark and southern Sweden. They probably originated in Scania in southern Sweden, before moving westwards into the Danish isles and eventually Jutland, driving out the Earls[†] and Jutes[†]. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO

Dwarfs (ON. *dvergar*, OE. *dweorgas*, OHG. *twerca*, PNWGmc. **dvergór*) Earthly (chthonic) supernatural beings, often referred to as living in rocks and mountains. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO

Ease (rhyming with *geese*; ON. *ésir*, OE. *ése*, PNWGmc. **ansiwir*; sg. *os*, ON. *áss*, OE. *ós*, PNWGmc. **ansur*) A group of Gods, though the word can also refer to all the Gods. See Gods[†], Tues[†], Wanes[†], Powers[†]. Noted members: Weden[†], Thunder[†], Frie[†], Hath[†] and Bolder[†] Attestations: TODO

Ease and Elves (ON. *ésir ok alfar*, OE. *ése ende ielfe*, PNWGmc. **alβír jah answir*) A merism; both heavenly and earthly spiritual beings. Notably the words always occur in this order.

Elves (ON. *alfar*, OE. *ielfe*, PNWGmc. **alβír*) Earthly (chthonic) supernatural beings. Possibly ancestral spirits? Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO

Ettins (ON. *jǫtnar*, OE. *eotenas*, PNWGmc. **etunór*) The fundamental enemies of the Gods, the agents of chaos and disorder. See Rises[†], Thurses[†]. Noted members: Thrym[†] Attestations: TODO

Geats (ON. *gautar*, OE. *géatas*, PNWGmc. **gautór* from **geut-* ‘to pour’, perhaps ‘the libators’) A tribe in what is today southern-central Sweden. See also Geatland[†]. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO

gin-Reins (ON. *ginnręgin*) gin-^C + Reins^G. The sacrosanct, highest divine powers.

- Gods** (ON. *goð*, OE. *godu*, OHG. *gota*, PNWGmc. **godu*) TODO. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Huns** (ON. *búnir*, OE. *Húne*, OHG. *Húni*, *Hunni*, PNWGmc. **búnir*) An invading Asiatic tribe in the Migration Period. In the legendary material their cultural and ethnic foreignness is not seen. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Nears** (ON. *níarar* *njárar*) A Swedish tribe, only mentioned in *Way*, where it is ruled by king Nithad^P. The name and location may allow us to connect them with the Swedish province of Närke, cf. Old Swedish: *Nerikjar* ‘inhabitants of Närke’, *Nerisker* ‘belonging to Närke; Nearish’. The Old Swedish stem *nær-* would then be a reduced form of *níar-*, *njár-*.
- Reins** (ON. *rogn*, *regin*) The divine powers. Based on *Web* (TODO) the term may be more closely associated with the Wanes^G than the Ease^G.
- Saxons** (ON. *saxar*, OE. *Seaxan*, *Seaxe*) TODO. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Shieldings** (ON. *skjöldungar*, OE. *Scyldingas*, PNWGmc. **skeldungór*) The descendants of Shield^P, the legendary ruling dynasty of the Danes[†]. With Harward[†]’s death after his slaying of Rotholf[†] their rule ended. TODO Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Shelfings** (ON. *skilfingar*, OE. *Scilfingas*, PNWGmc. **skilþingór*) The descendants of Shelf^P. The exact difference between Shelfings and Ingling[†] is unclear. According to the Saw of Geatrich TODO Noted members: TODO Attestations: *Hindle*15, 20
- Swedes** (ON. *svíar*, OE. *Swéon*, PNWGmc. **swihanir*) TODO. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Thurses** (sg. Thurse; ON. *þurs*, OE. *þyrs*, OS. *thuris*, OHG. *duris*, PNWGmc. **þurisar*) Possibly a poetic synonym for Ettins[†]. See also Rime-Thurse[†] Noted members: TODO Attestations: Wal 8, Shr 31, 35, 36, Hyme 17, Thr 5, 10, 21, 24, 29, 30, Alw 2, I HHb 40, HHw 27.
- Tues** (ON. *tívar*, PNWGmc. **tíwór*) A poetic synonym for Gods[†]. Noted members: — Attestations: TODO
- Wanes** (ON. *vanir*, OE. *wan-?*) A tribe of the gods, associated with fertility, harvests and fishing. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Yifkings** (ON. *gjúkungar*) The descendants of Yivick[†], including Guthhere[†], Guthrun[†] and Hain[†]. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO