

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

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Abbreviations

- 1st = first-person
- 2nd = second-person
- 3rd = third-person
- acc. = accusative case
- cert. = certainly
- c. = circa
- cf. = confer
- corr. = corrected in the ms.
- cpd. = compound
- dat. = dative case
- e. = excerpt (not the whole verse)
- e.g. = *exemplio gratia*; for instance
- emend. = emended by
- fol. = folio
- gen. = genitive case
- i.e. = *id est*; that is
- l. = line
- ll. = lines
- lit. = literally
- Lomb. = Lombardic
- metr. emend. = metrical emendation
- MHG. = Middle High German
- ms. = manuscript
- mss. = manuscripts
- nom. = nominative case
- norm. = normalized from the ms. spelling
- OE = Old English

- OF = Old Frisian
- OHG = Old High German
- om. = omitted in
- ON = Old Norse
- OS = Old Saxon
- p. = page
- PGmc. = Proto-Germanic
- pl. = plural number
- PN. = Proto-Norse
- PNWGmc. = Proto-North-West Germanic
- sg. = singular number
- v. = verse
- vss. = verses
- viz. = namely
- wo. = without
- wrt. = with regard to

Introduction (INCOMPLETE!)

Introduction to Eddic poetry

Don't go too in depth 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, Hugsvinnsímál) 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 culture

Economy (fief)

Morals

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

Religious conceptions

Cosmic cycles Reincarnation Analogies with other Indo-European traditions

Notes to English 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 the present edition as a tool, I also realize that this is a demanding task 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.

English proper nouns

One of the most idiosyncratic parts of the present edition will be its handling of proper nouns. I have opted to render all cultural and religious terms, names of places, heroes, gods, and other entities by their English cognates (thus *Thunder* for Old Norse *Þórr*) and where such do not exist, their philologically expected English (*Anglish*) forms (e.g. *wallow* for Old Norse *vǫlva*). One 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 Another is philological. Forms like *Odin* and *Thor* are, while now commonly accepted, debased. They do not even represent the Old Norse pronunciation as accurate as would be possible (for instance, *Odin* would be better anglicized as *Othin*; the dental fricative still survives in English!), and many are difficult for English speakers to pronounce. I shudder when hearing a word like *ǣsir* pronounced /aɪ'sɪr/.

Notes to critical edition

My goal with the critical editing of the texts has been to produce something as close to the original mss. as possible, without excessive emendation to the preserved recension(s). There are texts in three languages in the present edition, namely Old Norse, Old English and Old High German. Old Norse texts have been normalized according to roughly the same orthography as Finnur Jónsson (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.

Normalization

My general goal in normalizing texts has been to strive for a uniform orthography, where the same sound is written with the same character. This of course means disregarding local manuscript traditions and philological tradition, but I see this as justified. My goal is to render the texts themselves in a manner that gives as much information as possible; not to present a facsimile edition for students of paleography. Anyway, such aspects as the long *f*, arbitrary punctuation and spelling variants, and lack of line breaks are never reproduced in modern editions of poetry.

In practice this means that the acute accent is used in marking long vowels.

¹For instance in German perhaps *Wuten*, *Donner*, *Froh*, in Swedish *Oden*, *Tor*, *Frö*.

Normalization of Old Norse

The orthography is inspired by Finnur Jónsson (1932) in that it strives for a more archaic form than the mss., one that accords with the date at which the poetry may have been composed. Because of this, it has more in common with that of the First Grammatical Treatise (see (First Grammarian, 1950)) than with the standard Old Icelandic orthography seen in most editions. Thus I make use of *ø* and *é* rather than the traditional *œ* and *æ*, to represent the vowels descended from Proto-Norse *ō* and *ā* after i-umlaut (cf. the short *ø*, *ē* < *o*, *a* + i-umlaut). *á* and *ǿ* are kept separate based on etymology. The old *s*—which is found even in manuscripts such as AM 237 a fol (c. 1150) and was used by Snorre as late as the 1200s but later becomes *r*—is retained in the words *es* ‘which, that, where, when’, *es* ‘is’ (3rd sg. pres. ind. of *vesa* ‘to be’), *vesa* ‘to be’, and inflections of it such as *vas* (3rd sg. pret. ind.). Note that the pl. pres. ind. (*erum* &c.), pl. pret. ind. (*vörum* &c.) and pl. pret. subj. (*vörim* &c.) forms of *vesa* retain their *r*, as it is caused by an ancient alternation termed Verner’s law, and not the result of this much younger sound change. Superfluous and hypermetrical pronouns (usually *ek*, *hann*, *þón*) have in many places been removed. When metrically beneficial I have contracted *ek* ‘I’, *eru* ‘are’ and *es* ‘which &c.’, *es* ‘is’ to *’k*, *’ru* and *’s*. I follow Finnur Jónsson (1932)’s method of distinguishing between the relative particle *es* and verb form *es*; the first is directly appended to the previous word, whereas the second has a space before it. Thus *hann’s* ‘he who, that’ but *hann ’s* ‘he is’.

Normalization of Old English

Normalization of Old High German

Manuscripts

Eddic poetry

There are two surviving ancient mss. 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 *Sighdrive*. 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^C-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 is not complete, consisting only of 6 leaves. It contains only mythological poems, and in a different order from **R**; it notably has no frame narrative. On the first two leaves are contained the final verses of *Hoarbeard*, the complete *Dreams*, and the first verses of *Shirner*. After this some number of leaves have gone missing, but the other four leaves follow each other. On them we find around half of *Webthritner*, *Grimner*, *Hymer* and

the beginning of the prose introduction to *Wayland*. **A** is the only medieval manuscript attesting *Dreams*, and its variants of the poems attested in **R** are clearly not copied from it, but rather derive from a common ancestor. This fact makes it very valuable for textual criticism. For further literature see TODO.

Several Eddic poems are quoted in *Ylfer*, namely (TODO): *Wallow*, *Webthritner*, *Grimner*. The text also quotes a few fragmentary verses of Eddic character (possibly from lost Eddic poems), which have here been edited together with their surrounding prose passages. For *Ylfer* 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 discussion on their internal stemmatics and origins I refer to Haukur Þorgeirsson (2017). When all employed witness mss. of *Ylfer* agree on a reading the siglum **G** is used in the critical apparatus, which is thus equivalent to **STWU**.

A few other Eddic poems have also been edited. One of them, *Rígh*, only survives in **W**, though it is sadly incomplete (see its Introduction). Other Eddic poems survive only in younger paper mss., namely: TODO. While I have not consulted these 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 to be late antiquarian works, as is clearly shown by *Dreams*, which among medieval mss. is only attested in the fragmentary **A**. It thus cannot be excluded that some of these poems would have existed in other lost medieval mss., perhaps even in the lost pages of **R** or **A**.

West Germanic poetry

As none of the West Germanic poems edited here (TODO: Will we be editing other poems than Hildebrandslied?) survive in more than one copy, the specific details of their transmission is discussed in their individual Introductions.

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Mythic poetry

The Spae of the Wallow (*Völuspó*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.865)–early C11th (0.121)

Meter: *Firnwörðslaw*

The **Spae of the Wallow** is the most comprehensive mythological text surviving from Heathen times.

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 **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 *Ylfer*. For its constituent manuscripts see the General Introduction.

As seen from the title, the poem is a spae^C (*spó* ‘prophecy’) in the form of a monologue spoken by a wallow^C (*völva* ‘seeress, sibyl, prophetess’), summoned by Woden in order to relate mythological knowledge.

The motif of Woden journeying to ask beings (typically ettins or wallows) is also seen in the poems *Dreams*, wherein Woden summons a wallow out of her grave in Hell^L in order to understand why the god Balder^P is having ominous nightmares, and *Webthrithner*, wherein Woden challenges (and defeats) the wise ettin Webthrithner^P to a wisdom contest.

In its being a sort of mythic catalogue it also resembles the latter part of *Highb*, *Grimner*, *Sighdrive* and *Allwise*, though it differs from them in a key way: it gives a (mostly?) complete chronological overview of the important events of the mythology. That is not to say that the events described are clear. They are related in a highly allusive fashion—certainly presupposing that the audience already be familiar with them—and there may also be gaps and later inserts that obscure our understanding.

The poem begins with a bid for silence (1), and the wallow recalling her earliest memories (2). She then recounts the ordering of the world by the gods (3–6) and the golden age of peace and plenty (7–8), which is, however, interrupted by the intrusion of three unidentified ettin-maidens (8, and see note there). After this follow two verses about the shaping of the dwarfs (9–10), and then several originally separate *dwarf-tallies* (11–15), which are without doubt later inserts. Returning to the main narrative thread is described the creation and endowment of the first man and woman (16–17), the Ash of Ugdrassle (18), and the three norns^G living under it (19).

This is where the two full recensions of the poem diverge. Because of its older age and larger count of verses I have here followed the order of **R**: the wallow recalls how a woman named Goldwey was sacrificed and reborn three times (20), and how she, under the name Heath, practiced sorcery and witchcraft (21). She then recalls the first war in the world, between the Ease and Wanes (22–23), and alludes to the slaying of the smith, who according to *Ylfer* 42 was promised Frow^P and the sun and moon in exchange for building the wall of Osyard (24–25). This is followed by a cryptic verse describing Homedall's hidden silence or hearing (26).

In **H** the structure is quite different. After the description of the norms (19), the Ease go to decide what action to take regarding the promising of Frow to the ettin (my 24–25), and Homedall's hearing is described (26). Then follows the two verses about the old hag in Ironwood who raises the wolves that will swallow the sun and moon (40–41). After this come verses 20–23 in the same order as **R** (see above).

To illustrate the differences between mss., and which verses are attested in which, I have prepared the following table showing the order of verses by manuscript, compared to the present 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 öll* 'Then went the Reins all' are represented by the following sentence.

	<i>Present ed.</i>	R	H	STW	U
1	Hljóðs bið'k allar	1	1	—	—
2	Ek man jǫtna	2	2	—	—
3	Ár vas alda	3	3	+	+
4	Áðr Burs synir	4	4	—	—
5	Sól varp sunnan	5	5	+*	+*
6	... nōtt ok niðjum	6	6	—	—
7	Hittusk ęsir	7	7	—	—
8	Tęfðou í túni	8	8	—	—
9	... hveřr skyldi dverga	9	9	B1	B1
10	Þar vas Móðsognir	10	10	B2*	B2*
11–15	<i>Dwarf-tallies</i>	11–15	11–16	+	+
16	Unz þrír kvømu	16	17	—	—
17	Qnd þau né ǫttu	17	18	—	—
18	Ask veit'k standa	18	19	+	+
19	Þaðan koma meýjar	19–20	20–21	—	—
20	Þat man hōn folkvíg	21–22	27	—	—
21	Hęiði hétu	23	28	—	—
22	... hvárt skyldu ęsir	24	29	—	—
23	Fleygði Óðinn	25	30	—	—
24	... hveřr hęði lopt alt	26	22	C1	C1
25	Þōrr ęinn þar vá	27	23	C2*	C2*
26	Veit hōn Hęimdallar	28	24	—	—

	<i>Present ed.</i>	R	H	STW	U
27	Eín sat hön úti	29	–	–	–
28	Alt veyt'k, Óðinn	29	–	+	+
29	Valði henni Herföðr	30	–	–	–
30	Sá hön valkyrjur	31	–	–	–
31	Ek sá Baldri	32	–	–	–
32	Varð af meðði	33	–	–	–
33	Þó hann éva hendr	34	–	–	–
34	Þá kná Váli	–	31	–	–
35	Hapt sá hön liggja	35	32*	–	–
36	Ö fellr austan	36	–	–	–
37	Stóð fyr norðan	36	–	–	–
38	Sal sá hön standa	37	36	E1	E1
39	Sér hön þar vaða	38	37	E2*	E2*
40	Austr býr hin aldna	39	25	A1	A1
41	Fyllisk fjörvi	40	26	A2	A2
42	Sat þar á haugi	41	34	–	–
43	Gól of ösum	42	35	–	–
44, 49, 57	Geyr Garmr mjök	43, 46, 55	33, 38, 43, 48, 51	–	–
45	Bróðr munu berjask	44	39	–	–
46	Leika Míms synir	45	40	D1*	D1*
47	Skelfr Yggdrasils	45*	41	D1*	D1*
48	Hvat 's með ösum?	49	42	D2	D2*
50	Hrymr ek austan	47	44	D3	–
51	Kjöll fęrr austan	48	45	D4	–
52	Surtr fęrr sunnan	50	46	+, D5	+
53	Þá kęmr Hlínar	51	47	D6	–
54	Þá kęmr hinn mikli	52	–	D7	–
55	Ginn lopt yfir	–	48	—	–
56	Þá kęmr hinn męri	53*	49*	C8	–
57	Sól tēr sortna	54	50	C9	–
59	Sér hön upp koma	56	52	–	–
60	Finnask ęsir	57*	53	–	–
61	Þar munu ęptir	58	54	–	–
62	Munu ősánir	59	55	–	–
63	Þá kná Hönir	60	56	–	–
64	Sal sér hön standa	61	57	+	+
65	Þar kęmr hinn dimmi	62	59	–	–
X	Þá kęmr hinn ríki	–	58	–	–

- 1 „Hljóðs bið'k allar · hęlgar kindir,
2 męiri ok minni · mögu Hęimdallar;
vilt at, Valföðr, · vęl fram tęlja'k

[R 1r/2, H 20r/1]

4 forn spjǫll fira, · þau's frēmst 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 tidings of men, those which I foremost recall?^b

1 hęlgar] om. R

2 męiri ok minni ‘greater and lesser’] It is unclear what is being modified here. It may either be ‘greater and lesser holy kindreds’, in which case it may be equivalent to the phrase *Ease and Elves*^f (both earthly and heavenly supernatural beings; see Encyclopedia for occurrences.) or ‘the greater and lesser sons of Homedall [MEN]’, in which case it refers to all social classes. It seems rather out of character for such a high ranking person in Norse society as the poet must have been to invoke an ancestral relationship between human social classes, considering how biologically such distinctions were otherwise regarded (cf. my introduction to the *Rígb*), but on the other hand this may be part of the likely liminal nature of the performance. In any case, the wallow is clearly asking all intelligent beings that may be present for silence, and the expression is a merism of the type ‘gods and men’; see West (2007)[99–100].

^aCf. *Rígb*, wherein Rígh, identified by the prose as Homedall, sires three castes of men (namely earls, churls and thralls).

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

[R 1r/4, H 20r/2]

2 Ek man jǫtna · ár of borna,
2 þá's forðum mik · fǫdda hǫfðu;
 niu man'k hęima, · niu íviðjur,
4 mǫtvið męran · fyr mǫld neðan.

I recall Ettins^G, born of yore, they who formerly had nourished me. Nine Homes^C I recall; nine Inwithies^G; the renowned Metwood^P beneath the soil.^a

3 íviðjur] thus RH. R was previously read *íviði*, but this was disproved by an x-ray scan undertaken by Stefan Karlsson (1979).

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

[R 1r/6, H 20r/4, G]

3 Ár vas alda · þar's Ymir byggði,
2 vas-a sandr né sęr, · né svalar unnir;
 jǫrð fannsk ęva · né upphiminn;
4 gap vas ginnunga, · ęn gras hęrgi.

'Twas the beginning of elds^C, there as Yimer^P dwelled; was there not sand nor sea, nor cool waves. Earth was never found, nor Up-heaven^L; a gap 'twas of ginnings, but grass nowhere.^a

1 þar's Ymir byggði ‘there where Yimer dwelled’] þat's *ękki* vas ‘that when nothing was’ G 4 hęrgi] *ękki* H

^aAccording to *Yilfer* 4–5 the world first consisted of two extremities: Nivelham in the north, from which the freezing venom-rivers called the *Ilewaves*^L ran until they froze to ice; and Muspellsham in the south, from

which sparking lava flowed. The ice and lava met in the Gap of Ginnings^L (*Ginnungagap*; see Encyclopedia), “which was as calm as windless air”, and there combined to form the first being, Yimer^P, who was the ancestor of the ettins. This is also told in

- 4 Áðr Burs synir · bjǫðum of ypðu, [R 1r/8, H 20r/5]
 2 þeir es Miðgarð · męran skópu;
 sól skęin sunnan · à salar stęina;
 4 þà vas grund gróin · grønum lauki.

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

^aThe sons of Byre (according to *Yilfer* 6: Weden, Will and Wigh) lift the lands out of the primordial chasm.

- 5a Sól varp sunnan, · sinni Mána, [R 1r/11, H 20r/7]
 2 hęndi hinni hógri · of himinjǫður;

Sun cast from the south—the companion of Moon^P—her right hand over heaven’s rim;^a

2 over heaven’s rim] *řvm himin iodyř* ‘over the heaven-horse-beast(?)’ R; *of iǫður* ‘over the rim’ H

1 sinni Mána ‘the companion of Moon’] At times translated as ‘its moon’. This cannot be correct, as *máni* ‘moon’ is masculine, while *sinni*, dative singular of *sinn* ‘its (reflexive)’ is feminine.

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

- 5b sól þat né vissi, · hvar hǫn sali átti; [R 1r/12, H 20r/7, G]
 2 stjǫrnur þat né vissu, · hvar þęr staði ǫttu;
 mǫni þat né vissi, · hvat hann męgins átti.

Sun knew not where halls she owned; stars knew not where steeds they owned; Moon knew not what sort of might he owned.

2 stjǫrnur ... ǫttu] In G this line follows 5, so that the order is sun, moon, stars.

- 6 Þà gingu řęin ǫll · à řokstóla, [R 1r/13, H 20r/9]
 2 ginnheilǫg goð, · ok umb þat gęttusk:
 Nǫtt ok niðjum · nǫfn of gǫfu,
 4 morgin hétu · ok miðjan dag,
 undurn ok aptan, · ǫrum at tęlja.

Then went the Reins 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

^aPresumably their thrones by the Ash of Ugdrassle^L; first element *rpk* defined by CV as ‘reason, ground, origin’.

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

^cCf. *Webbthritner* 23, 25.

[R 1r/16, H 20r/10]

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

The Ease found each other on Idewold^L, they who harrow^C and hove^C high timbered; hearths they laid, wealth they smithed, tongs they shaped and tools they made.

2 þęir’s ... timbruðu ‘they who ... timbered’] *afls kostuðu* · *allz freistuðu* ‘[their] strength they tried; everything they tempted’ H

[R 1r/18, H 20r/12]

8 Tęfðu í tųni, · tętir vęru,
2 vas þęim vęttugis · vant ór golli,
unz þrįar kvęmu · þursa męyjar,
4 ámátkar mjøk, · ór Jętunhęimum.

They played Tavel^C in the yards; merry were they: for them was nothing golden wanting^a—until three came, maidens of Thurses^G, very loathsome out of Ettinham^L.^b

^aIndeed, even the gaming bricks were made out of gold; cf. v. 59.

^bThese are immediately forgotten and not again mentioned (unless they are taken to be the norms 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?

[R 1r/20, H 20r/14, G]

9 Þa gingu ręgin ęll · à rękstóla,
2 ginnhęilęg goð, · ok umb þat gęttusk:
Hvęrr skyldi dverga · drótt of skępja
4 ór brimi blóðgu · ok ór blóum lęggjum?

Then went the Reins all onto the rake-seats: the gin-holy gods, and from each other took counsel about that: Who would shape the retinue of Dwarfs^G, out of the bloody surf, and out of the blue-black legs?

3 hverr skyldi dverga ‘Who would ... of dwarfs’] thus RWU; *at skyldi dverga* ‘That they would ... of dwarfs’ ST; *bverir skyldu dvergar* ‘Which dwarfs would [shape the retinues]’ H 3 drótt ‘retinue’] thus G; *drotin* R with late definite is wo. doubt not original; *dróttir* ‘the retinues’ H 3 of sképja ‘shape’] *spekja* ‘soothe’ U 4 brimi blóðgu ‘bloody surf’] thus HSWU; *Brimis blóði* ‘the blood of Brimmer’ RT 4 blóum ‘blue-black’] metr. emend.; *blám* R; *Bláins* ‘Blown’s’ HW; *Bláms* STU is prob. a corrupt form of *Bláins*

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

According to *Ylfir* 14 the dwarfs first originated as maggots in the corpse of Yimer, whose bones are described in *Grimner* TODO and *Weibtrithner* TODO as being used to make rocks. Dwarfs dwell in the rocks and earth; cf. for instance *IngT* 2, where the Swedish king Swayther (*Sveigðir*) disappears into a rock in pursuit of a dwarf. More difficult to explain is the creation of dwarfs out of Yimer’s blood (which according to *Grimner* TODO and *Weibtrithner* TODO is the sea), since dwarfs are never said to dwell in water. — If one chooses the reading *Bláinn* ‘Blown’ (named in the thules^C as a dwarf) instead of *blóum* ‘blue-black’, then following Gurevich (*Skp* 2017, p. 693) one may see a kenning “the legs of Blown (dwarf) [STONE]”. Blown has otherwise been read as a poetic name for Yimer, but that is never attested elsewhere.

10 Þar vas Móðsognir · mésztr of orðinn
2 dverga allra, · en Durinn annarr;
þeir manlíkun · mǫrg of gērðu,
4 dvergar ór jǫrðu, · sǣm Durinn sagði.

[R 1r/21, H 20r/15, G]

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

1 Þar vas Móðsognir] thus H; *Þar fmoðsognir vitnir* ‘there Mootsowner wolf’ R. The prose of *Ylfir* 14 confirms that the correct form of the name is *Móðsognir*, not *Mótsgognir*. 3 þeir ... gērðu ‘They ... many’] thus RHU; *þar manlíkun · mǫrg of gērðusk* ‘There man-likenesses many were made’ STW 4 ór ‘out of’] thus R; í ‘in’ GH 4 sǣm Durinn sagði ‘as Dorn said’] thus RHSW; *sem fður mennir sagði* ‘as door-men(?) said’ T; *sem fþeim dyrrin kendir* ‘as the animals(?) taught them’ U

1–2 Þar ... annarr ‘There ... second’] om. G, but the author must have had access to the full verse, since he paraphrases it in the following way: *Móðsognir var ęðstr ok annarr Durinn* ‘Moodsowner was the highest in rank, and Dorn the second.’

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 *Ylfir* (see note to last v.) and by the G containing this verse. On the other hand, both R and H have the “worthiest” dwarfs Moodsowner and Dorn shaping “man-likenesses” out of soil. I have chosen 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.

11 Nýi ok Niði, · Norðri, Suðri,
2 Austri, Vestri, · Alþjófr, Dvalinn,

[R 1r/23, H 20r/17, G]

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.

[R 1r/25, H 20r/18, G]

12 Veiðr ok Gandalf, · Vindalf, Þráinn,
 2 Þekkr ok Þorinn, · Þrór, Vitr ok Litr,
 Nár ok Nýráðr, · nú hef'k dverga,
 4 Reginn 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.

[R 1r/28, H 20r/20, G]

13 Fíli, Kíli, · Fundinn, Náli,
 2 Hepti, Víli, · Hannarr, Svíurr,
 Frár, Hornbori, · Frégr ok Lóni,
 4 Aurvangr, Jari, · Eðkinskjaldi.

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

[R 1r/30, H 20r/22, G]

14 Mál es dverga · í Dvalins liði
 2 ljóna kindum · til Lofars tēlja,
 þeir es sóttu · frá salar stēini
 4 aurvanga sjöt · til Jǫruvalla.

’Tis time to tally the dwarfs in Dwollen’s retinue [back] to Loffer for the kindreds of men;^a
 they who sought, from the stone of the hall, the abode of Earwongs^L to the Erwolds^L.^b

3 þeir] þeim H

^aA standard genealogical introduction (compare *HalT* 1). The (patrinlineal) line of dwarfs is to be counted back to their progenitor, Loffer. This possibly disagrees with v. 10, where Moodsowner is said to be the foremost (and presumably the oldest) of the dwarfs, and Loffer is not mentioned.

^bCf. *Ylfir* 14: “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 (*Ingi*), Oakenshield, Fale (*Falr*), Frost, Finn, Ginner.”

[R 1r/32, H 20r/24, G]

15 Þar vas Draupnir · ok Dolgþrasir,

- 2 Hár, Haugspori, · Hlévangr, Glói,
Skirfir, Virfir, · Skáfiðr, Ái,
4 Alfr ok Yngvi, · Eikinskjalði,
Fjalarr ok Frosti, · Finnur ok Ginnarr;
6 Þat mun é uppi, · meðan öld lifir,
langniðjatal · til Lofars hafat.

There was Dleepner 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 age lives,^a the tally of descendants lifted to Lofer.

6 é] om. R 7 til] om. H

^aTwo archaic formulæ. The first literally ‘that will ever [be] 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 norrs!” The second is found in a runic inscription, U 323 (980–1015): “Ever will lie—while the age lives (*meþ + altr + lifir með aldr lifir*)—the hard-hammered bridge, broad, after a good man.” An especially close parallel is found in *Þstf Stuttdr* (v. 5, Kari Ellen Gade ed. in *SkP* II): *Ey mun uppi · Eñdils, meðan stendr // sólborgar salr, · svorgððis fjr*. ‘Always will be remembered—while the hall of the sun’s stronghold [SKY/HEAVEN > EARTH] stands—the journey of the fattener of Andle’s bird-fattener [RAVEN/EAGLE > WARRIOR].’

- 16 Unz þrír kvømu · ór því liði
2 qflgir ok ástkir · észir at húsi;
fundu á landi · lít mēgandi
4 Ask ok Emblu · ørløglaua.

[R 1v/1, H 20r/26]

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

1 þrír] gramm. emend. *þrjár* RH 1 ór því liði] *þussa brúðir* ‘brides of thurses’ H is wo. doubt corrupt. 2 qflgir ok ástkir ‘strong and lovely’] *ástkir ok qflgir* ‘lovely and strong’ H

2 at húsi ‘along the house’] i.e. ‘along the settlement’.

^aAccording to *Ylfir* 9 the sons of Byre (cf. v. 4) were walking along the sea-shore, when they found two logs which they picked up and shaped into humans. That the two were logs seems to be supported by their names; Ash is easily identified with the same-named wood species (*Fraxinus excelsior*). Humans are also very commonly kenneled with tree-names in Scoldish poetry (for a short discussion see *SkP* I, p. lxxv ff.), and while this is rarer in the Eddic corpus it occurs e.g. in *Sigbdrive* 4: *brynþings apaldr* ‘apple-tree of the byrnie-Thing^C [BATTLE > WARRIOR].’

- 17 Qnd þau né ottu, · óð þau né hofðu,
2 ló né létu · né litu góða;

[R 1v/3, H 20r/27]

4 ʀnd gaf Óðinn, · óð gaf Hǫnir,
 lǫ gaf Lóðurr · ok litu góða.

Breath they owned not, wode^C they had not, not craft nor sound nor good countenance.
 Breath gave Weden, wode gave Heener, craft gave Lothar, and good countenance.

[R 1v/5, H 20r/29, G]

18 Ask vǣit^k standa, · heitir Yggdrasill,
 2 hǫr baðmr, ausinn · hvíta auri;
 þaðan koma dǫggvar · þér's í dala falla;
 4 stendr é yfir grønn · Urðar brunni.

An ash I know stand[ing], Ugdrassle^L 'tis called; a high beam [TREE], poured with white mud.^a Thence come the dew-drops which in the dales fall; it stands ever green over the Well of Weird^L.

1 standa 'standing'] thus RHU; *ausinn* 'poured, sprinkled' STW 1 Yggdrasill] Yggdrasils S 2 baðmr 'beam'] *borinn* 'born' U is wo. doubt corrupt. 2 ausinn 'poured'] *heilagr* 'holy' G 3 þér's] *es* 'which' ST 4 é] *om.* U 4 grønn] *grvnn*† S; *grvnn*† U

^ai.e. 'white mud is (or has been) poured upon it.' Cf. perhaps the Indian ritual pouring of beverages onto the *lingam*—For the whole passage cf. v. 26.

[R 1v/8, H 20r/31]

19 Þaðan koma meýjar · margs vitandi
 2 þrjár ór þeim sé, · es und þolli stendr;
 Urð hétu çina, · aðra Verðandi,
 4 skǫru á skíði, · Skuld hina þriðju
 þér lög lögðu, · þér líf kǫru,
 6 alda þǫrnum, · ǫrlög seggja.

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

2 sé 'lake'] *sal* 'hall' H 2 und 'under'] *á* 'on' H 6 seggja 'of men'] *at segja* 'to say' H

^aBut here simply meaning 'tree'; perhaps the same applies for "ash" earlier.

^bi.e. 'they have laid laws, they have chosen lives'. It is well known that in Old Norse as in other old Germanic languages the simple past is often used interchangeably in both the perfective and imperfective sense.

[R 1v/11, H 20v/5]

20 Þat man hǫn folkvíg · fyrst í heimi,
 2 es Gollvęigu · geirum studdu
 ok í hǫll Háars · hana bręnnu,
 4 þrysvar bręnnu · þrysvar borna,
 opt ǫsjaldan, · þó çnn lifir.

That troop-conflict^a [WAR] she recalls, the first in the Home^C, as Goldwey with spears they goaded, and in the hall of Higher^P (= Weden) [= Walhall] burned her: thrice they burned the thrice born; often unseldom, though she yet lives.^b

4 þrýsvar brændu] †þrýsvar brendu þrýsvar brendu† H

^aWhile appealing to read *folk-víg* ‘troop-conflict’ as meaning ‘ethnic conflict’ (between the Ease and Wanes), I more cautiously see the first element *folk* carrying its earlier meaning of ‘troop, group of warriors’.

^bVery cryptic. TODO: double check Snorri. Goldwey was apparently sacrificed, cremated and reborn three times (in short succession?) by the Ease.

- 21 Heiði hétu, · hvar’s til húsa kom,
2 völu velspáa, · vitti ganda;
sęið hvar’s kunni, · sęið hug leikinn;
4 ę vas angan · illrar brúðar.

[R 1v/13, H 20v/7]

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

2 völu] ok völu H 3 hvar’s kunni ‘where she could’] *bon kunni* ‘she could’ R; *bon hvars hvn kunni* ‘she soth where she could’ H 3 hug leikinn ‘deluded minds’] *bon leikinn* R; *bon hugleikin* H

^aGifted at soothsaying.

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

- 22 Þa gingu regin öll · à rökstóla,
2 ginnheilog goð, · ok umb þat gétusk:
Hvart skyldu ęsir · afrað gjalda,
4 eða skyldu goð öll · gildi ęiga?

[R 1v/16, H 20v/9]

Then went the Reins 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?

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

[R 1v/17, H 20v/11]

Weden hurled, and into the opposing troop did shoot;^a that was yet a troop-conflict [WAR] earlier in the Home^L. Broken was the board-wall^b of the fortification of the Ease; the Wanes did by a conflict-spæ^C tread the fields.^c

2 fyrr ‘earlier’] thus H; *fyrst* ‘first’ R. The R reading is certainly due to the close relation with 20/1, but it cannot be correct as this verse is describing a different war, and thus not the first!

^aThe object, a spear, is understood. This seems to reference a ritual, well-attested in the literature, wherein a war-chief would dedicate an opposing army as a human sacrifice to Woden by throwing a spear over them, typically with the incantation *Öðinn á yðr alla* ‘Woden owns you all!’; he would then own the battle-slain in that they joined him as Ownharriers^G in Walhall^L. Woden is also described as “owning” dead men in *Hoarbeard* 24 (namely slain nobles, contrasted with Thunder^P who is insultingly said to “own the kin of thralls”) and in runic inscription *N B380*, here edited under Charms and Spells, a sort of greeting wherein the receiver is wished to be owned by Woden (and “received” by Thunder). For further literature see PCRN HS II:24, p. 560, II:25, p. 617, and especially III:42, p. 1166ff.

^bWall made of planks.

^cThe Wanæs used a magic spell to invade the Easæ.

[R 1v/19, H 20r/34, G]

24 Þà gingu rēgin ǫll · à røkstóla,
2 ginnhēilǫg goð, · ok umb þat gēttusk:
Hvęrr hęfði lopt alt · lęvi blandit
4 eða ęt ȝotuns · Óðs męy gefna.

Then went the Reins 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^C given Wode^P’s maiden [= Frow]?^a

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

[R 1v/20, H 20r/36, G]

25 Þörr ęinn þar vá · þrunginn móði,
2 hann sjaldan sitr, · es slíkt of fregn;
à gingusk ęiðar, · orð ok sóri,
4 mól ǫll męginlig, · es à 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* ‘did, accomplished it’ S; *þat vá* ‘fought it’ W 3–4 à ... fóru.] om. W 4 fóru ‘had gone’] *vęru* ‘had been’ HT

1–4 Þörr ... fóru.] The order followed is that of RH; in G the two helmings (*Þörr ... fregn; à ... fóru*) come in reverse order.

^aOath-breaking, lies and deception.

- 26 Veið hön Heimdallar · hljóð of folgit
 2 und heiðvönum · heilgum baðmi;
 á sér ausask · aurgum forsi
 4 af veði Valföðrs. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

[R 1v/23, H 20v/1]

Knows she the sound of Homedall [= HORN OF YELL?] hidden, 'neath a shady^a, hallowed beam [the Ash of Ugdrassle]. On [it] she sees being poured a muddy torrent^b, from the pledge of Walfather^c (= Weden) [Mimer's well?]^d—know ye yet, or what?^d

^a*heiðvanr*, literally 'clear-, bright-less'.

^blit. '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 ..."

^cPresumably referring to Weden's sacrifice of an eye at Mimer's well.

^d"Do you (Weden) know enough now, or what?"—repeated in 28, 33, 34, 38, 40, 47, 60, 61.

The following two verses are written together as one in R.

- 27 Eın sat hön úti, · þá's hinn aldni kom
 2 yggjungr ása · ok í augu leið;
 hverş fregnið mik? · hví freistið mín?

[R 1v/25]

Lone sat she outside, when the old one came: the Terrifier of the Ease [= Weden], and into [her] eyes looked. [The Wallow:] "Why inquirest thou me? Why triest thou me?"^a

^a*freista* has a sense of testing someone, especially intellectually. Cf. *High* 2, 26, 142, *Webthritbner* 3, 5.

- 28 Alt veið'k, Óðinn, · hvar auga falt
 2 í hinum męra · Mímis brunni;
 drekkur mjöð Mímir · morgin hverjan
 4 af veði Valföðrs. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

[R 1v/26, G]

I know it all, Weden; where thy eye thou hidst: in the renowned Well of Mime^L, [there] drinks Mime mead every morning, from the pledge of Walfather^a (= Weden) [Mimer's well?]^d—know ye yet, or what?"

2 í hinum męra] thus W; þitt (corr.) *i enom męra* 'id.' R; *i þeim hinum meira* 'id.' (norm.) TU; *vr þeim enum męra* 'out of the renowned' S 4 veði 'pledge'] †veiði† 'hunting' S

^aSee note to v. 26.

- 29 Valði hęnni Hęrföðr · hringa ok męn,
 2 fekk spjöll spaklig · ok spáganda;

[R 1v/29]

sá vítt ok umb vítt · of veröld hverja.

Host-father (= Weden) chose for her rings and necklaces; [he] received wise tidings and spæ^C-gands^C; she looked widely and widely about, o'er every world.

2 fekk spjöll spaklig 'received wise tidings'] fé, spjöll spaklig 'wealth, wise tidings' R is metrically deficient, since alliteration would need to fall on the strongly stressed noun *fé*. The emended text also works better in context since it parallels v. 1, where the willow likewise says that she will relate *spjöll* 'tidings, sayings' (cf. English *gospel* lit. 'good news', translating Greek εὐαγγέλιον). See Haukur Þorgeirsson (2020, pp. 51–53), Males (2023, p. 16) for discussion.

2 spáganda 'spæ-gands'] Spirits sent out in order to secretly gather information. See relevant Encyclopedia entries.

[R 1v/30]

30 Sá hön valkyrjur · vítt of komnar,
2 gørvar at ríða · til goðbjóðar:
Skuld hélt skildi, · en Skøgul ønnur,
4 Gunnr, Hildr, Gøndul · ok Geirskøgul;
nú eru talðar · Nønnur Hørjans,
6 gørvar at ríða · grund valkyrjur.

She saw Walkirries^G, widely come, ready to ride to Godthede^L: Shild held a shield and Shagle another; Guth, Hild, Gandle and Goreshagle; now are tallied the Nannies of Harn (= Weden) [WALKIRRIES]; 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.

5 Nønnur Hørjans 'Nans (maidens) of Harn (= Weden) [WALKIRRIES]'] *Nanna* 'Nan^P' was the wife of Balder^P, but her name is here in the plural certainly being used to mean 'maidens, goddesses'. The walkirries are also referred to as Weden's maidens in two thules, namely TODO.

Told allusively in 31–33 is the death of Balder at the hands of his blind brother Hath; it is prophesized with very similar language in *Dreams* 9–11 and described in detail in *Ylfær* 49.

[R 2r/2]

31 Ek sá Baldri, · blóðgum tívir,
2 Óðins barni, · ørløg folgin;
stóð of vaxinn · vøllum héri
4 mjór ok mjøk fagr · mistiltēinn.

I saw Balder's—the bloody tue^G's, Weden's child's—orlay^C sealed;^a grown did stand—higher than the plains—a slender and very fair mistletoe.

1 tívir 'tue'] Dative

^aOr ‘hidden’. The verb *fela* ‘hide, conceal’ is used in poetry to describe burial in mounds, as in *IngT* 24 (“[...] And afterwards the victory-havers hid (*fǫlu*) the ruler on Borrey.”) or the C10th Karlevi stone (“Hidden (*fulkin folginn*) in this mound lies he whom the greatest deeds followed; [...]”)

- 32 Varð af meiði, · þeim’s mēr sýndisk, [R 2r/4]
 2 harmflaug hётlig, · Høðr nam skjóta.
 Baldrs bróðir vas · of borinn snimma,
 4 sá nam, Óðins sonr, · einnéttr vega.

Became of that beam, which meager looked, a baneful harm-flier—Hath took to shoot.
 Balder’s brother [= Hath] was born early; that one took—Weden’s son, one night old—to fight.

- 33 Þó hann éva hendr · né høfuð kembði, [R 2r/6]
 2 áðr à bál of bar · Baldrs andskota.
 Eñ Frigg of grét · í Fensolum
 4 vø Valhallar. · Vituð ér enn 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^a—know ye yet, or what?

^ai.e. Balder’s death.

- 34 Þà kná Váli · vígbond snúa [H 20v/12]
 2 heldr vøru harðgør · høpt ór þørmum.

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

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

^aAccording to *Ylför* 50 the Ease captured Lock’s two sons, Wönnel and Narve (or Nare). They turned Wönnel into a wolf and had him kill his brother Narve, whose intestines were then taken and used to bind Lock so that he lay on top of three pointed stones; one digging into his shoulder-blades, one digging into his loins and one digging into his houghs. The intestine-fetters then turned into iron.

- 35a Hapt sá høn liggja · und Hveralundi [R 2r/8]
 2 léggjarnlíki · Loka æþekkjā;

A captive she saw lying, ’neath Wharlund: the guileful form of similar Lock.

[R 2r/9, H 20v/13]

35b þar sitr Sigyn · þęygi of sínun
 2 veri vęlglýjuð. · Vitud ér ęnn eđa hvat?

There sits Sighyn, not at all cheerful, o'er her husband^a—know ye yet, or what?

^aSee *FrL.*

[R 2r/10]

36 Ó fęllr austan · of ęitrdala
 2 sęxum ok sverðum, · Slíðr hętir sú.

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

[R 2r/11]

37 Stóð fyr norðan · à Niðavøllum
 2 salr ór golli · Sindra ęttar,
 ęn annarr stóð · à Ökólni,
 4 bjórsalr jętuns, · ęn sá Brimir hętir.

Stood to the north, on the Nithewolds, a hall out of gold, of the lineage of Sinder [DWARVES]; but another one stood, on Uncoalner, the beer-hall of an ettin, but Brimmer is that one called.

[R 2r/13, H 20v/19, G]

38 Sal sá hęn standa · sólu fjarri
 2 Nástręndu à, · 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.

[R 2r/15, H 20v/21, G]

39 Sá hęn þar vaða · þunga strauma
 2 męnn męinsvara · ok morðvarga
 ok þann's annars glępr · ęyrarunu.
 4 Þar saug Niðhęggr · nái framgingna;
 slęit vargr vera. · Vituð ér ęnn eđa hvat?

There she saw wading, through heavy streams, oath-breaking men and murder-wargs, and the one who beguiles another's ear-whisperer [WIFE]. There sucked Nithehewer^P from corpses passed-on; the warg tore men asunder—know ye yet, or what?^a

1 Sá hön ‘she saw’] *thus* R; ser hon ‘she sees’ H; skulu ‘shall [be]’ G 4 saug ‘sucked’] *thus* H; súg (*corrupt*) R; kvęlr ‘torments’

^aUniquely in this verse is described punishment in the Heathen afterlife. The crimes are what one might expect from the Germanic worldview: breaking oaths, committing a murder and evading punishment, and seducing a married woman.

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

[R 2r/17, H 20v/2, G]

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

1 býr ‘dwells’] *thus* HG; sat ‘stayed’ R 1 aldna ‘old’] arma ‘wretched’ U 1 Éarnviði ‘Ironwood’] *metr. emend.*; Járniði RHSWU; Járniðjum ‘Ironwoods’ T 2 fōðir] *thus* HG; fōddi ‘nourished’ R 3 af] ór TS 4 tjúgari ‘seizer’] †tuigan† T; tregari ‘griever’ U

4 tjúgari ‘seizer’] As the young agentive suffix *-ari* is found nowhere else in the poem it is possible that this word is corrupt. If it is, it must have occurred early in the transmission as reflexes of **tjúgari* are found in all surviving mss.

^aThe old hag raises the cubs of the wolf Fenrer, of which a particularly fierce one will swallow the moon. According to *Grimner* 40 the sun is chased by a wolf called Skoll, while another wolf, Hate Rothswitner’s son, runs in front of her. This is elaborated upon in *Yilfer* 12, where it is said that Skoll swallows the moon, while Hate swallows the sun. High then explains that “A lone troll-woman (*gýgr*) lives to the east of Middenyard in that forest called Ironwood”, and “feeds the sons of many ettins, all in the likenesses of wolves, and thereof these wolves (i.e. Skoll and Hate) come. And it is also said that from that lineage a single one becomes the mightiest, and he is called Moongarm^P. He fills himself with the life of all those men who die and he swallows the moon and stains heaven and all the air with blood. Thereof the sun loses its rays and the winds are violent and moan hither and thither, and thus it says in the Spae of the Wallow: [...]” after which this and the following verse are quoted. This seems very much like a composite from several sources—probably *Wallow* 40–41 and *Grimner* 40—but becomes contradictory when it states that two wolves swallow the moon. Assuming that this is only a confusion on the part of the author of *Yilfer*, this verse and the next must be describing Skoll, but it is of course not impossible that there was confusion about the exact details of these events among the Heathen poets. In favour of this seems to speak *Webthritner* 46–47, where the sun is said to be swallowed by Fenrer (but see note there).

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

[R 2r/19, H 20v/4, G]

It [= the wolf] fills itself with the life of fey^C men; it reddens the abode of the Reins^G with red gore. Black becomes the sunshine about the summers afterwards;^a the winds all woeful—know ye yet, or what?

^aAfter the air is filled with blood the sun can no longer shine clearly.

[R 2r/21, H 20v/16]

42 Sat þar á haugi · ok sló hǫrpu
2 gýgjar hirðir, · glaðr Eggþér;
gól of hǫnum · í Gaglviði
4 fagrrauðr hani, · sá's Fjalarr hęitir.

Sat there on the howe^C and struck the harp, the troll-woman's herdsman,^a glad Edgethew^P.
Above him crowed, in Galewood^b, a fair-red cock, that one who Feller is called.

^aHe herded the flock of monstrous wolves, as it were.

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

[R 2r/23, H 20v/18]

43 Gól of ǫsum · Gollinkambi,
2 sá vękr hǫlða · at Hęrafðǫrs,
ęn annarr gęlr · fyr jǫrð 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.

[R 2r/25]

44 Gęyr Garmr mjǫk · fyr Gnipahęlli,
2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;
fjǫlð vęit hǫn fróða, · framm sé'k lęngra
4 of ragna rǫk, · rǫmm 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 Reins, of the victory-tues.

[R 2r/28, H 20v/24, G]

45 Bróðr munu bęrjask · ok at bǫnum verðask,
2 munu systrungar · sífjum spilla;
hart 's í hęimi, · hórdómr mikill,
4 skęggǫld, skalmǫld, · skildir klofnir,
vindǫld, vargǫld, · áðr verǫld steypisk
6 mun ęngi maðr · ǫðrum 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† T 3 í hēimi 'in the Home'] *thus* RHU; með hǫlðum 'among men' STW 4 skildir 'shields'] *add.* 'ru 'are' R 4 klofnir 'cloven'] klofna 'become cloven' U 5 áðr 'before'] unz (*norm.*) 'until' U 5 stęypisk 'tumbles down'] grundir gjalla · gífr fljúgandi (*norm.*) 'foundations shrill, fiends flying' *add. after this line* H 6 ęngi] †enn† U

5 vindöld 'wind-eld'] In H capitalized, marking the beginning of a new verse.

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'.

46 Lęika Míms synir, · ęn mjǫtuðr kyndisk
 2 at hinu galla · Gjallarhorni;
 hǫtt blęss Hęimdallr, · horn 's á lopti;
 4 męlir Óðinn · við Míms hǫfuð.

[R 2r/32, H 20v/27, G]

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 męlir 'speaks'] †mey† S; †nie† T

1–4 Lęika ... hǫfuð. In G ll. 1–2 (*Lęika ... Gjallarhorni*; 'Play ... Horn of Yell.') are missing, and ll. 3–4 (*hǫtt ... hǫfuð*. 'High ... head [of Mime].') are instead paired with the first two lines of the next v. (*Skęlfir ... losnar*);

47 Skęlfir Yggdrasils · askr standandi,
 2 ymr it aldna tré, · ęn jǫtunn losnar;
 hręðask allir · á hęlvegum
 4 áðr Surtar þann · sefi of glęypir.

[R 2v/3, H 20v/28, G]

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 Skęlfir ... losnar 'Quakes ... loosens'] *thus* HG; in R the two lines are reversed.

3–4 hręðask allir ... glęypir 'All are frightened ... devour [it.]' Only in H.

48 Hvat 's með ǫsum? · hvat 's með ǫlfum?
 2 gnýr allr Jǫtunhęimr, · ęsir 'ru á þingi,
 stynja dvergar · fyr stęindurum
 4 vęggbergs vísir — · vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

[R 2v/8, H 20v/30, G]

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 *ölfum* 'Elves'] *asynivm* 'Ossens' U 2 *gnýr ... þingi*] *om.* U 3 *stęindurum*] *steins* U— *-dyrum* HWU
4 *veggbergs visir*] *om.* U 4 *veggbergs* 'wedge-rock'] *vegbergs* 'way-rock' HTW

[R 2v/4, H 20v/32]

- 49 Geyr nú Garmr mjök · fyr Gnipahelli,
2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;
 fįlđ vęit hōn fróđa, · framm sé'k lęgra
4 of ragna røk, · 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 Reins, of the victory-tues.

[R 2v/4, H 20v/32, STW]

- 50 Hrymr ękr austan, · hęfsk lind fyrir,
2 snýsk Jǫrmungandr · í jǫtunmóði;
 ormr knýr unnir, · ęn ari hlakkar,
4 slitr 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'] *qrn mun hlakka* 'the eagle will scream' ST

[R 2v/6, H 20v/34, STW]

- 51 Kjólł fęrr austan · koma munu Múspells
2 of lǫg lýðir, · ęn Loki stýrir;
 fara fįflmęgir · með Freka allir,
4 þęim es bróðir · Býlęists í fǫr.

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

[R 2v/10, H 20v/36, G]

- 52 Surtr fęrr sunnan · með sviga lęvi,
2 skínn af sverði · sól valtíva;
 grjótbjǫrg gnata, · ęn gífir 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^L, but heaven is cloven.

1 Surtr] Svartr U 3 gífr rata] guðar hrata '[but] the gods stagger' Uis wo. *doubt corrupt, the anachronistic masc. pl. of guð is proven enough*

53 Þá kómr Hlínar · harmr annarr framm,
2 es Óðinn fęrr · við ulf vega,
—ęn bani Bęlja · bjarttr at Surti—
4 þa mun Friggjar · falla angan.

[R 2v/13, H 20v/37, STW]

Then comes Line^P's second sorrow to pass,^a as Weden goes to strike against the wolf—but the bane of Bellow^P [= Free], bright, [goes] against Surt—then will Frie's beloved [= Weden] fall.

4 angan] angantyr R

^aThat the first sorrow was the death of Balder (see vv. 31–33) is unanimously understood. Line is described in *Ylfęr* 35 as a minor goddess *sett til gęzlu yfir þeim mönnum, er Frigg vill forða við báka nökkurum* 'placed to watch over those men which Frie wishes to protect against any particular danger'. In spite of this, almost all translators and commentators have understood Line as here referring to Frie, or questioned whether her existence as a separate goddess is not a misunderstanding on the part of the author of *Ylfęr*. Hopkins (2017) argues excellently that this need not be the case; as a subordinate goddess of Frie, Line's two sorrows would be her failing to protect Balder and Weden (the son and husband of her mistress, respectively) from harm.

54 Þá kómr hinn mikli · męgr Sigfęður,
2 Víðarr vega · at valdýri;
lętr męgi Hveðrungs · mund of standa
4 hjęr til hjarta; · þa 's hefnt fęður.

[R 2v/15, STW]

Then comes the great lad of Sighfather^P (= Weden): Wider, to strike at the murderous beast. He lets his hand plunge the sword into the heart of Whethring^P's (= Lock) lad [= Wolf]; then is the father [= Weden] avenged.

1 Þá kómr ... Sigfęður 'Then ... Sighfather'] Gęngr Óðins sonr · við ulf vega 'Goes Weden's son against the wolf to fight' G 2 vega] of veg G

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

[H 20v/39]

Yawns over the air the girdle of the earth [= Middenyardsworm]; gape the jaws of the fierce worm in the heights. The venom of the beast will meet Weden's son [= Thunder], after the deaths of Wider's kinsmen [= the Ease].

3 *ęitri* ‘venom’] emend.; *ormi* ‘the worm’ H. It seems likely that the author of *Ylfęr* had access to this verse. Cf. *Ylfęr* 51: “Thunder bears the bane-word from the Middenyardsworm and thence strides away nine paces. Then he falls dead to the earth due to the venom (*ęitri*) which the Worm blows on him.” 4 *daũða*] *da...* H

1–4 *Ginn ... niðja.*] The final part of this verse is almost completely illegible. For the present edition I have relied on the reading of Jón Helgason (1971, pp. 13, 44 ff.).

[R 2v/17, H 20v/41, STW]

- 56 Þà kǫmr hinn męri · mǫgr Hlǫðynjar
2 ęęngr Óðins sonr · við orm vega.
Drepr af móði · Miðgarðs véurr;
4 munu halir allir · ęęmstǫð ryðja;
ęęngr fet níu · Fjǫrgynjar burr
6 neppr frá naðri, · níðs ókviðnum.

Then comes the renowned lad of Lathyn [= Thunder]: the son of Weden goes the worm^C to meet. Middenyard’s Wigh-ward strikes out of wrath; all men will clear their homesteads.^a The son of Fergyn goes nine paces, pained, away from the loathsome adder [= Middenyardsworm].^b

1 þà kǫmr ‘then comes’] *ęęngr* ‘goes’ G 2 *ęęngr ... vega*] Only in R 3–6 Drepr ... ókviðnum ‘Middenyard’s ... adder’] *neppr af naðri / níðs ókviðnum / munu halir allir / ęęmstǫð ryðja, / es af móði drepr / Miðgarðs véurr* ‘[Goes the renowned lad of Lathyn,] pained, away from the loathsome adder. All men will clear their homesteads, when Middenyard’s wigh-ward strikes out of wrath.’ G

^aIt seems likely that the order found in *Ylfęr* is original. After Thunder (appropriately kenned ‘Middenyard’s wigh-ward’) is slain, the Ettins take over the lands and make farming impossible. Cf. *Thrim* 18: “Shortly the Ettins will settle Oyard, unless thou thy hammer for thyself dost fetch!”

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

[R 2v/20, H21r/1, G]

- 57 Sól tér sortna, · sökkr fold í mar,
2 hverfa af himni · ęęiðar stjǫrnur;
ęęisar ęimi · við aldrnara;
4 lęikr hǫr hiti · við himin sjalfan.

The sun does blacken, sinks the fold [EARTH] into the sea; disappear off heaven the clear stars. Rages smoke from the nourisher of life [fire]; 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 *Þorfdr* 24¹¹): *sökkr fold í mar dökkvan* ‘sinks the fold into the dark sea’. For this reason, *sökkr* ‘sinks’ STW has been chosen over *sigr* ‘descends’ RHU.

[R 2v/22, H21r/2]

- 58 ęęyr nú Garmr mjǫk · fyr Gniphęlli,
2 fęstr mun slitna, · ęn Freki rinna;

fjorð velt hön fróða, · fram sé'k lengra
4 of ragna rök, · 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 Reins, of the victory-tues.

59 Sér hön upp koma · öðru sinni [R 2v/23, H21r/4]
2 jörð ór égi · iðjagrøna;
falla forsar, · flýgr ørn yfir,
4 sá's à fjalli · fiska veldir.

Up she sees coming, another time: the earth out of the ocean, ever green anew. Fall torrents; flies an eagle above, he who on the fells fish does catch.

60 Finnask esir · à Iðavelli [R 2v/24, H21r/5]
2 ok umb moldþinur · mötkan dōma,
ok minnask þar · à megingdōma
4 ok à Fimbultýs · fornar rúnar.

The Ease find each other on Idewold, and about the mighty earth-strip [the Midden-yardsworm] converse, and there look back on mighty verdicts, and on Fimbletue's (Weden's) ancient runes.

1 finnask 'find each other'] *bittask* H provides closer parallelism with v. 7. 3 ok minnask ... megingdōma 'and remember ... mighty judgements'] om. R

61 Þar munu eftir · undrsamligar [R 2v/26, H21r/7]
2 gollnar tölur · í grasi finnask,
þér's í árdaga · áttar höfðu.

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.

62 Munu ósánir · akrar vaxa; [R 2v/28, H21r/9]
2 þols mun alls batna · mun Baldr koma;
búa Höðr ok Baldr · Hropts sigtoptir,
4 vel valívar. · Vituð ér enn eða hvat?

Unsown will fields grow; the bale will all be bettered; Balder will come. Hath and Balder bedwell the victory-plots of Roft (= Weden)—well, the slain-Tues—know ye yet, or what?^a

^aThe evil of Hath's slaying Balder will be forgotten as the two peacefully live together.

[R 2v/30, H21r/11]

63 Þá kná Høñir · hlautvið kjósa
2 ok burir byggva · brøðra tveggja
vindhęim víðan. · Vituð ér ęnn eða hvat?

Then does Heener choose the leat^C-wood,^a and the sons of two brothers [= Hath and Balder] settle the wide wind-home [HEAVEN]—know ye yet, or what?

2 brøðra tveggja 'of two brothers'] Alternatively *brøðra Tveggja* 'the brothers of Tway (= Weden)', attested in *Ylfēr* 6 as Will^P and Wigh^P, but they are never attested as having children, and it is thus more natural to read *tveggja* as the gen. pl. of *tveir* 'two'.

^aRestore the blout and practice divination.

[R 2v/31, H21r/12, G]

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 during their life-days enjoy delight.

1 sér hōn 'she sees'] *veit* 'I know' G 2 golli þakðan 'thatched with gold'] *golli bętra* 'better than gold' ST
2 Gimléi] metr. emend.; *Gimlé* RHG 3 þar 'there'] *þann* '[in] that [hall]' TW

[R 3r/2, H21r/15]

65 Þar kōmr hinn dimmi · dręki fljúgandi,
2 naðr frānn neðan · frā Nīðafjōllum;
berr sér í fjōðrum · —flýgr vōll yfir—
4 Nīðhōggr nái; · nú mun hōn sōkkvask.“

Then comes the shadowy dragon flying; the gleaming adder down below from the Nithefells^L. Nithehewer in his feathers—flying over the field—carries corpses.” — Now she will sink!^a

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

[H21r/14]

X Þá kōmr hinn ríki · at ręgindōmi

2 ǫflugr ofan · sá's ǫllu rēðr.

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

1–2 þá ... rēðr.] 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*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C9th (0.105)–C10th (0.894)

Meter: *Leed-meter*

A wisdom contest poem, known by the author of *Ylfer*.

Weden first asks his wife, Frie, for counsel, as he is curious about the ancient wisdom which the ettin Webthrithner might possess (1). Frie expresses worry, as she considers Webthrithner wiser than all other ettins (2), but Weden says that he has travelled far and wide, and wishes to know what Webthrithner's hall is like (3). Frie wishes Weden good luck against the ettin (4) and he departs, to challenge Webthrithner's *orðspeki* 'word-wisdom' (5). He arrives at hall of Webthrithner (6), who promptly declares that Weden will not come out of the hall unless he be wiser than him (7). Weden introduces himself as Gainred, saying that he has travelled far in need of Webthrithner's hospitality (8). Webthrithner invites Weden to sit down (9), but he instead utters a gnomic verse not unlike those of the first section of *Híð* (10).

Webthrithner then begins to ask questions relating to the mythology, each answered by Weden in turn. The questions concern which horses pull the day (11–12) and night (13–14), the river which divides the gods and ettins (15–16) and the plain where Surt and the gods will fight (17–18).

Webthrithner calls the god learned, invites him to sit on the bench, and declares that the loser of the contest must give his head (19). It is now Weden's turn to ask and the ettin's to answer, namely about the origins of earth and heaven (20–21), of sun and moon (22–23), of day, night, and the phases of the moon (24–25), and of winter and summer (26–27); then about the earliest god or ettin, namely Earyelmer^P (28–29), his origins (30–31) and how he reproduced asexually (32–33). He continues by asking what Webthrithner first remembers (34–35), about the origin of the wind (36–37) and of the god Nearth^P (38–39), then about Walhall (40–41) and where Webthrithner learned these esoteric pieces of wisdom (42–43).

After this the structure and tone of the questions change; each one begins with the same first half as that of verse 3, and they concern the end-times. Weden asks about the humans who will survive after the Fimble-winter (44–45), how the sun will rise after Fenrer has destroyed the current one (46–47), about some obscure ettin-maidens (48–49; see there), which Ease will survive after the flame of Surt goes out (50–51) and how Weden will die (52–53). Finally, the god asks what he spoke in the ear of Balder before

he burned on the pyre (54). Webthriðner finally realizes the identity of his guest, and says that no man may ever know what he spoke in the ear of his son. He laconically accepts his imminent death, and the futility of his wisdom (55); the poem ends with his admission that Weden is ever the wisest of beings (56).

[R REGTODO] [Weden^P quoth:]
 1 Ráð mér nú Frigg · alls mik fara tíðir
 2 at vitja Vafþrúðnis;
 forvitni mikla · kveð'k mér á fornum stöfum
 4 við þann hinn alsvinna jötun.

“Counsel me now, Frie^P, as I desire to journey to visit Webthriðner^P; great curiosity I have of ancient staves by that all-wise ettin^{G, a}.”

^ai.e. ‘I am greatly curious of the all-wise ettin’s ancient pieces of wisdom.’ Cf. v. 55.

[R REGTODO] [Frie quoth:]
 2 Hęima lętja · mynda'k Hęrjafoðr
 2 í gøðum goða;
 ęngi jötun · hugða'k jafnramman
 4 sęm Vafþrúðni vesa.

“I would hold the Father of Hosts [= Weden] at home^a in the yards of the gods, for no ettin [have] I thought to be even-strong with Webthriðner.”

^alit. perhaps ‘I would dissuade/hinder ... at home’

[R REGTODO] [Weden quoth:]
 3 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð freistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek reynda regin;
 hitt vil'k vita, · hvé Vafþrúðnis
 4 salakynni sei.

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins^G. This I wish to know: how the condition of the halls of Webthriðner might be.”

[R REGTODO] [Frie quoth:]
 4 Hęill þú farir, · hęill þú aptr komir,
 2 hęill á sinnum séir;
 øði þér dugi · hvar's skalt, Aldafoðr,

4 orðum mēla jōtun.

“Whole journey thou, whole come thou back, whole be thou on thy paths! Thy wisdom avail thee, where thou shalt, Eldfather^P (= Weden), words with the ettin exchange.”

5 Fór þá Óðinn · at freista orðspēki [R REGTODO]
 2 þess hins alsvinna jōtuns;
 at hōllu kom, · es átti Hymis faðir;
 4 inn gekk Yggr þegar.

Then journeyed Weden, to test the word-wisdom of that all-wise ettin. To a hall he came, which the father of Hymer^P [= Webthrithner] owned; shortly Ug^P (= Weden) walked in.

3 es] ok R 3 Hymis] metr. emend. after Finnur Jónsson (1932); Íms R

[Weden quoth:]

6 Hēill þú nú, Vafþrúðnir, · nú em’k í hōll kominn [R REGTODO]
 2 á þik sjalfan séa;
 hitt vil’k fyrst vita, · ef fróðr séir
 4 eða alviðr, jōtunn.

“Hail thee now, Webthrithner; now am I come into the hall, to gaze upon thy self! This I wish first to know, if learned thou be, or all-wise, ettin.”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

7 Hvat’s þat manna, · es í mínum sal [R REGTODO]
 2 verpumk orði á?
 út þú né kōmr · órum hōllum frá.
 4 nema þú inn snotrari séir.

“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 cleverer.”

[Weden quoth:]

8 Gagnráðr hēti’k, · nú em’k af gōngu kominn, [R REGTODO]
 2 þyrstr til þinna sala;
 laðar þurfi · hēf’k lēngi farit
 4 ok þinna andfanga, jōtunn.

“Gainred^P I am called, now am I come from walking, thirsty, to thy halls. In need of a welcoming have I journeyed for long; and [in need] of thy reception, ettin!”

1 Gagnráðr] Gagnráðr ‘Journey-adviser’ G

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO]

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

“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 [I].”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO]

10 Óauðigr maðr, · es til auðigs kømr,
 2 mēli þarft eða þęgi;
ofrmēlgi mikil · hygg’k at illa geti
 4 hvęim’s við kaldrifaðan kømr.

“An unwealthy man, who to a wealthy one comes, ought to speak the needful or be silent.^a Great over-speaking, I judge, will bring evil for whomever to a cold-ribbed^b man comes.”

^aLast line identical to *Higb* 18. The verse on the whole bears close resemblance to that poem.

^bi.e. ‘cold-hearted, cunning’.

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO]

11 Sęg mér, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
 2 þíns of frēista frama,
 hvé hęstr hęitir, · sá’s hverjan dręgr
 4 dag of dróttmøgu.

“Say to me, Gainred, since on the floor thou wilt try thy fame: What is the horse called, which pulls each day above the lads of the retinue [MEN]?”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO]

12 Skinfaxi hęitir, · es hinn skíra dręgr
 2 dag of dróttmøgu;
hęsta baztr · þykkir með Hręiðgotum;
 4 ęy lýsir møn af mari.

“Shinefax^P is called he who pulls the bright day above the lads of the retinue. The best of horses he seems among the Reth-Gots^G; the mane of that stallion ever shines.”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

13 Sæg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill [R REGTODO]
 þíns of fręista frama,
 hvę jór hęitir, · sá’s austan dręgr
 nött of nýt ręgin.

“Say this, Gainred, since on the floor thou wilt try thy fame: What is the steed called, which from the east pulls night above the useful Reins^G?”

[Gainred quoth:]

14 Hrímfaxi hęitir, · es hvērja dręgr [R REGTODO]
 nött of nýt ręgin;
 mældropa fęllir · morgin hvērjan;
 þaðan kōmr dōgg of dala.

“Rimefax^P he is called, who pulls each night above the useful Reins. Every morning he lets foam fall from his bit^a; thence comes dew in the dales.^b”

^alit. “he fells bit-drops”.

^bFor another explanation of the origin of dew, see

[Webthrithner quoth:]

15 Sæg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill [R REGTODO]
 þíns of fręista frama,
 hvę ó hęitir, · sú’s dęilir með jōtna sonum
 grund, ok með goðum.

“Say this, Gainred, since on the floor thou wilt try thy fame: How the river is called, which divides the ground between the sons of ettins and the gods?”

[Gainred quoth:]

16 Ífing hęitir ó, · es dęilir með jōtna sonum [R REGTODO]
 grund, ok með goðum;
 opin rinna · hón skal umb aldrdaga;
 verðr-at íss á ó.

“Iving^L 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.”

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO] 17 Sæg þat, Gagnráðr, · alls á golfi vill
2 þíns of fręista frama,
hvé vøllr hęitir, · es finnask vigi at
4 Surtr ok hin svøsu goð.

“Say this, Gainred, since on the floor thou wilt try thy fame: How that plain is called, where Surt^P and the excellent gods find each other at war?”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO] 18 Vigríðr hęitir vøllr, · es finnask vigi at
2 Surtr ok hin svøsu goð;
hundrað rasta · hann's á hverjan veg;
4 sá's þeim vøllr vitaðr.

“Wighride^L is the plain called, where Surt and the cheerful gods find each other at war. A hundred rests^C it stretches in each direction; for them that plain is marked out.”

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO] 19 Fróðr ert nú gęstr, · far á bekk jøtuns,
2 ok męlumk í sessi saman;
høfði veðja · vit skulum høllu í
4 gęstr, of gęðspeki.

“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.”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/1] 20 Sæg þat hit čina, · ef þitt øði dugir
2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
hvaðan jorð of kom · eða upphiminn
4 fyrst, hinn fróði jøtunn.

“Say the one, if thy wisdom suffices, and thou, Webthriðner, knowest: Whence Earth did come, or Up-heaven^L, first, learned ettin.”

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

[Webthrithner quoth:]

- 21 Ór Ymis holdi · vas jorð of sköpuð, [R REGTODO, A 3r/2]
 2 en ór beinum björg,
 himinn ór hausi · hins hrimkalda jötuns,
 4 en ór sveita sér.

“Out of Yimer^P’s hull was the earth created, but out of his bones the crags; heaven out of the skull of the rime-cold ettin, but out of his blood^a the sea.^b”

^a*svēiti* ‘sweat’ is often used to refer to blood.

^bThis v. closely resembles *Grimner* 40–41 TODO.

[Gainred quoth:]

- 22 Seg þat annat, · ef þitt óði dugir [R REGTODO, A 3r/3]
 2 ok þú Vaðprúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan Máni of kom, · svá’t fęrr męnn yfir,
 4 eða Sól hit sama.

“Say the other, if thy wisdom suffices, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence Moon did come, he that travels over men, or Sun likewise?”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

- 23 Mundilfari hętir, · hann’s Mána faðir [R REGTODO, A 3r/4]
 2 ok svá Solar hit sama;
 himin hverfa · þau skulu hverjan dag
 4 óldum at ártali.

“Mundelfare^P is he called; he is the father of the Moon, and likewise of the Sun. Circle in the heaven shall they every day, for people to tally years.”

[Gainred quoth:]

- 24 Seg þat þriðja, · alls þik svinnan kveða [R REGTODO, A 3r/6]
 2 ok þú Vaðprúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan dagr of kom, · sá’s fęrr drótt yfir,
 4 eða nótt með niðum.

“Say the third, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence the day came, the one that travels over the retinue, or night with the moon-phases?”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/8]

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

“Delling^P is called; he is the father of Day^P, but Night^P was born to Narrow^P. The waxing and waning,^a did the useful Reins create, for people to tally years.”

^ai.e. the phases of the moon.

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/9]

26 Sæg þat fjórdá, · alls þik fróðan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vaðprúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan vetr of kom · eða varmt sumar
 4 fyrst með fróð regin.

“Say the fourth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence winter did come, or the warm summer, first among the learned Reins?”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/10]

27 Vindsvallr heitir, · hann's Vetrar faðir,
 2 en Svósuðr Sumars.

“Windswoll^P he is called, he is the father of Winter^P; but Sosuth^P of Summer^P.”

1–2 Vindsvallr ... Sumars] Half of the v. seems to be missing.

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/11]

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

“Say the fifth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Who in days of yore became the eldest of the Ease^G, or of the kinsmen of Yimer [ETTINS]?^a”

^aCf. the question on the C9th Malt Stone (DR NOR1988;5): **hvarisi : alistiqa**, perhaps *Hvar es inn ǫlisti ása?* “Who is the eldest of the Ease?”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/12]

29 Ørófi vetra · áðr véri jorð of sköpuð,

2 þá vas Bergelmir borinn,
 þrúðgelmir · vas þess faðir,
 4 en Aurelmir afi.

“Uncountable winters before the earth would be created, then Bearyelmer^P was born. Thrithyelmer^P was that one’s father, but Earyelmer^P the grandfather.”

[Gainred quoth:]

30 Seg þat sétta, · alls þik svinnan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vaþrúðnir vitir,
 hvaðan Aurelmir kom · með jotna sonum
 4 fyrst, hinn fróði jotunn.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/14]

“Say the sixth, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence Earyelmer came among the sons of ettins, first, learned ettin?”

[Webthrithner quoth:]

31 Ór Élivógum · stukku eitrdropar,
 2 svá óx unz ór varð jotunn;
 órar éttir · kómu þar allar saman;
 4 því’s þat é alt til atalt.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/15]

“Out of the Ilewaves^L splashed venom-drops; thus grew until an ettin emerged. Our lineages came there all together, therefore they are ever wholly fierce.”

1–4 Ór ... atalt] *quoted in G*

3–4 órar ... atalt] *om. RA*

^aOver aeons splashing venom-drops combined into a sentient being, Yimer, the ancestor of all Ettins. The account of the poem is not nearly as detailed as that of *Yilfer*.

[Gainred quoth:]

32 Seg þat sjaunda, · alls þik svinnan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vaþrúðnir vitir,
 hvé sá born gat · hinn baldni jotunn,
 4 es hann hafði-t gýgjar gaman.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/16]

“Say the seventh, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: 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’ Rbreaks alliteration*

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/17]

33 Und hendi vaxa · kvóðu hrimþursi
 2 mey ok mog saman;
 fótr við fóti · gat hins fróða jötuns
 4 sexhöfðaðan son.

“Neath the arm^a on the rime-thurse^G, 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’.

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/18]

34 Seg þat óttunda, · alls þik fróðan kveða,
 2 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 hvat fyrst of mant · eða fremst of vęizt,
 4 þú ert alsviðr jötunn.

“Say the eigth, as they call thee learned, and thou, Webthriðner, knowest: What thou first rememberest, or foremost knowest? Thou art all-wise, ettin.”

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/19]

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

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

1–4 Ørófi ... lagiðr] The whole verse is quoted in *Yilfer*.

^aThe reference here is obscure. According to the prose of *Yilfer*, after the sons of Byre^P (that is, Weden^P, Will^P and Wigh^P) slew Yimer, so much blood flew from his wounds that all the race of Ettins were drowned, save for Bearyelmer and his family, who survived by getting up on his *lúðr*. In regular prose, *lúðr* usually means ‘trumpet’, but it can also refer to a hollow tree-trunk. Considering the transitive nature of Bearyelmer being laid (*of lagiðr*) on it, it could rather be interpreted as describing a boat burial, in which case the first thing Webthriðner remembers would be Bearyelmer’s funeral.

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/21]

36 Seg 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.

“Say the ninth, as they call thee wise, and thou, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence the wind comes, he that travels over the wave; ever men see his self.^a”

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

[Webthrithner quoth:]

37 Hrēsvelgr heitir, · es sitr á himins enda,
2 jotunn í arnar ham;
af hans vengjum · kveða vind koma
4 alla mēnn yfir.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/22]

“Rawswallower^P he is called, who sits at the end of the heavens; an ettin in an eagle’s hame^C. From his wings, they say that the wind comes over all men.”

[Gainred quoth:]

38 Seg þat tiunda, · alls þú tíva røk
2 oll Vafrúðnir vitir,
hvaðan Njorðr of kom · með ása sonum;
4 hofum ok horgum · réðr hundmorgum
ok varð-at osum alinn.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/24]

“Say the tenth, since thou of the Rakes of the Tues^P all, Webthrithner, knowest: Whence Nearth^P did come among sons of the Ease^G? Of hoves^C and harrows^C he rules a hound-many,^a and he was not begotten to the Ease.”

^aThis is probably a reference to the large presence of theophoric place-names relating to Nearth in Norway. Cf. also *Grimner* 16 for Nearth’s connection with harrows.

[Webthrithner quoth:]

39 Í Vanahēimi · skópu hann vís rēgin
2 ok seldu at gíslingu goðum,
í aldar røk · hann mun aptr koma
4 hēim með vísum voðum.

[R REGTODO, A 3r/26]

“In Waneham^L the wise Reins^{Ga} shaped him, and sold him as a hostage to the gods. In the rake of the eld^{Cb} he will come back, home among the wise Wanes^G.”

^aWhile *reggin* ‘Reins’ is usually just a synonym of *goð* ‘gods’, it seems here to refer specifically to the Wanes, in contrast with the Ease^G.

^bi.e. the Rakes of the Reins^P.

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/28]

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

“Say the eleventh: Where men in yards hew away at each other every day? The slain they choose and from the battle ride; [then] they sit more at peace together.”

3 val þeir kjósa ‘the slain they choose’] The same root words are present in *valkyrja* ‘walkirie^G’, though those are women, not men.

^aThis and the next v. are damaged in both R and A; R has only this verse, but splits it in two (the 2nd starting with *val*), while A has l. 1 (Ms.: *S. þ. e. XT*) and then jumps to the answer. They have here been reconstructed, but it is possible some lines are still missing. TODO: use edtext instead

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3r/28]

41 Allir ęinhęrjar · Óðins túnum í
 2 hoggvask hverjan dag,
val þeir kjósa · ok ríða vígi frá,
 4 sitja meir of sáttir saman.

“All the Ownharriers^G in Weden’s yards hew away at each other every day. The slain they choose and from the battle ride; [then] they sit more at peace together.”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/1]

42 Sæg þat tolpta, · hvi þú tíva røk
 2 ęll Vaþrúðnir vítir,
 frá jotna rúnum · ok allra goða
 4 þú hit sannasta sęgir,
 hinn alsvinni jotunn.

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

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/2]

43 Frá jotna rúnum · ok allra goða
 2 ek kann sęja satt,
 því’t hvern hęf’k hęim of komit,
 4 níu kom’k hęima · fyr niflhel neðan;
 hinig deýja ór hęlju halir.

“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^L; that way die men out of Hell^L.^a”

^aPresumably lower underworlds, more severe than the ‘normal’ one. Finnur Jónsson (1932) considers *ór hęljju* ‘out of Hell’ a later interpolation, presumably for metric reasons, but there is no textual support for it.

[Gainred quoth:]

44 Fjoľð ek fór, · fjoľð fręistaða’k, [R REGTODO, A 3v/4]
 2 fjoľð ek ręynda ręgin;
 hvat lifir manna, · þá’s hinn męra líoř
 4 fimbulvetr með firum?

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins.^a What remains of men, when the renowned Fimble-winter^L passes among people?”

^aCf. v. 3.

[Webthrithner quoth:]

45 Líf ok Lífþrasir, · ęn þau lęynask munu [R REGTODO, A 3v/6]
 2 í holti Hoddmímis;
 morgindęggvar · þau sér at mat hafa;
 4 þaðan af aldir alask.

“Life^P and Lifethrasher^P, but they will hide themselves in Hoardmimer^P’s wood.^a Morning-dew [will] they have as their food; thence generations [will] be bred.”

^aPerhaps in the hollowed-out Uggdrassle.

[Gainred quoth:]

46 Fjoľð ek fór, · fjoľð fręistaða’k, [R REGTODO, A 3v/8]
 2 fjoľð ek ręynda ręgin;
 hvaðan kęmr sól · á hinn slętta himin,
 4 es þessa hęfr Fęnrir farit?

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. Whence comes Sun onto the smooth heaven, when Fenrer^P has this one^a slain?”

4 þessa hęfr Fęnrir farit ‘when Fenrer has this one slain.’] Cf. *Wallow* TODO. Here it is Fenrer himself who will swallow the sun unless it there be taken as a poetic synonym for ‘wolf’ (which undoubtedly is its original meaning). TODO

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

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/9]

47 Eina dóttur · berr alfróðull,
 2 áðr hana Fenrir fari;
 sú skal ríða, · þá's regin deyja,
 4 móður brautir mér.

“One daughter the elf-wheel [= Sun] bears before Fenrer might slay her. She shall ride—when the Reins die—the maiden, her mother's paths.”

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/10]

48 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð fręistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek ręynda ręgin;
 hveřjar 'ru meyjar, · es líða mar yfir,
 4 fróðgeðjaðar fara.

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

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/11]

49 Þriar þjóðáar · falla þorp yfir
 2 meyja Mogþrasis;
hamingjur einar · þér's í hęimi eru,
 4 þó þér með jotnum alask.

“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?

[Gainred quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/13]

50 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð fręistaða'k,
 2 fjölð ek ręynda ręgin;
 hveřir ráða esir · eignum goða,
 4 þá's sloknar Surtalogi?

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. Which Ease rule the estates of the gods, when the flame of Surt^P goes out?”

[Webthriðner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/14]

51 Viðarr ok Váli · byggva vé goða,

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

“Wider^P and Wonnell^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.

[Gainred quoth:]

52 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð fręistaða’k,
2 fjölð ek ręynda ręgin;
hvat verðr Óðni · at aldrlagi,
4 þá's rjúfask ręgin?

[R REGTODO, A 3v/16]

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. What brings Weden’s life to
an end, when the Reins are rent?^a”

^aFormulaic; see *Dreams* 14 and Note.

[Webthritner quoth:]

53 Ulfr glęypa · mun Aldaföðr,
2 þess mun Víðarr vreka;
kalda kjapta · hann klyfja mun
4 vitnis vígi at.

[R REGTODO, A 3v/17]

“The wolf will devour Eldfather^P (= Weden); that will Wider avenge. The cold jaws he
will cleave, of the Wolf at the battle.”

[Gainred quoth:]

54 Fjölð ek fór, · fjölð fręistaða’k,
2 fjölð ek ręynda ręgin;
hvat męlti Óðinn, · áðr á bál stigi,
4 sjalfr í ęyra syni?

[R REGTODO, A 3v/19]

“Much I journeyed, much I tried, much I tested the Reins. What spoke Weden, before
[he = Balder] would mount the pyre,^a himself in the ear of the son [= Balder]?”

^aI agree with Finnur Jónsson (1932) that the subject is *sonr* ‘son’ from the next line. The phrase *stíga á* ‘step onto, mount’ is also used to refer to one stepping aboard a ship or mounting a horse (see CV: *stíga* for citations), and so its use for a person being borne onto the pyre seems formulaic. This has been compared with *Beowulf* 1118b: *gúðrinc ástáð* ‘the warrior mounted [his pyre]’, but the interpretation of that line is not controversial; Fulk et al. (2008)[186] follow Grundtvig in emending *gúðrinc* to *gúðréc* ‘war-smoke’, relating it to *Beowulf* 3144b

(*wuduréc ástáb* ‘wood-smoke rose up’, also in a description of a cremation). They state that *Grimner* 54 ‘almost certainly refers not to Baldr but to Óðinn, probably imagined to mount the pyre in order to set fire to it.’

[Webthrithner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 3v/19]

55 E̅y manngi v̅eit, · hvat þú í árdaga
 2 sagðir í ęyra s̅yni;
 ę̅igum munni · m̅elta’k mína f̅orna stafi
 4 ok of r̅agna r̅ok.

“Ever no man knows, what thou in days of yore saidst in the ear of the son. With fey^{Ca} mouth I spoke my ancient staves^C, and of the Rakes of the Reins.

1 manngi] *manni* dat. sg. RA is impossible; a subject is needed.

^aWebthrithner realizes that he was bound to die (*f̅ęigr* ‘fey’, a word with strong fatalistic connotations) from the moment he proposed the wager (v. 19), as no being can outwit Weden.

[R REGTODO, A 3v/21]

56 Nú við Óðin · d̅elda’k mína or̅ðsp̅ęki;
 2 þú ert ę̅ v̅isastr v̅era.

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’. For other instances of gods being called men, see TODO.

Dreams of Balder (*Baldrs draumar*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C9th (0.110)–C10th (0.890)

Meter: *Firnwörðslaw*

In ancient manuscripts only preserved in A, but the poem also survives in later manuscripts with a few extra verses (see below). It follows the structure of a riddle contest.

The poem begins *in medias res*; Balder^P has been having nightmares, and so the gods meet at the Thing to figure out why (1). Woden^P rides to Hell^L, where he has an encounter with a bloody dog (2). It barks for a long time at him, but he passes it and continues to “the high house of Hell^P” (3), from which he rides west, to the grave of a certain wallow^C, whom he revives using magic (4). She asks which man has forced her out of the grave (5), and Woden introduces himself as Waytame, before asking for whom the benches of Hell are covered with gold (6). The wallow responds that barrels of mead stand brewed for Balder and that the gods are very anxious (7). Woden asks her who will slay Balder (8), and she responds that it is Hath, carrying a “high fame-beam” (9). Woden then asks her who will avenge Balder’s death by slaying Hath (10). The wallow responds that Rind^P will give birth to Woden’s son Wonnell^P, who will slay Hath when only one night old (11). Woden then asks about some mysterious maidens (12; see Note), which betrays his identity. The wallow tells him that she now knows his true identity, to which Woden responds that he does as well: she is not a wallow, but rather the “mother of three thurses” (13). The wallow tells him to ride home and “be famous”; he must still die at the Rakes of the Reins^L (14).

-
- 1 Senn vǫru ésir · allir á þingi
2 ok ósynjur · allar á máli,
 ok of þat réðu · ríkir tívar:
4 hví véri Baldri · ballir draumar?

[A 1v/18]

Soon were the Ease^G all at the Thing^C, and the Ossens^G all at speech, and of this counseled the mighty Tues^G:^a Why did Balder have troubling dreams?

^aIdentical to *Thrim* 13.

- [A 1v/19] 2 Upp reïs Óðinn, · aldinn gautr,
 2 ok hann á Sleipni · soðul of lagði,
 reïð niðr þaðan · niflheljar til;
 4 mótta hvelpi, · þeim's ór helju kom.

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

- [A 1v/21] 3 Sá vas blóðugr · of brjóst framan,
 2 ok galdrs fōður · gól oflengi,
 fram reïð Óðinn, · foldvegr dunði,
 4 kom at hou · Heljar ranni.

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

^aA similarity may be noted with the description of Thunder^P's riding in *Harvest-long* 14: *dunði ... mána vegr und bōnum* 'the moon's way [HEAVEN] [...] resounded beneath him') and *Thrim* 20; see also note there.

- [A 1v/22] 4 Þá reïð Óðinn · fyr austan dyrr,
 2 þar's hann vissi · voļu leiði;
 nam hann vittugri · valgaldr kveða,
 4 unz nauðug reïs, · nás orð of kvað:

Then rode Weden east from the door, there as he knew the wallow's grave; he took to sing a corpse-galder^{Ca} for the cunning woman, until forced she rose, a corpse's words did speak:

^aAn incantation to wake her up; cf. *High* 156 where Weden describes a spell that can revive hanged men.

- [The wallow quoth:]
 [A 1v/24] 5 „Hvat 's manna þat · mér ókunnra,
 2 es mér hefðr aukit · erfitt sinni;
 vas'k snifin snévi, · ok slegin regni,
 4 ok drifin doggu, · dauð vas'k lengi.“

“What sort of man is that, unknown to me, who has caused for me this toilsome journey?^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. *HHund II* 47–48 (TODO).

[Weden quoth:]

- 6 „Vegtamr hęiti’k, · sonr em’k Valtams, [A 1v/25]
 2 sęg mę́r ór hęlju, · ek ór hęimi mun,
 hveim eru bękkir · baugum sánir?
 4 flęt fagrliga · flóuð eru golli.“

“Waytame I am called, I am Waltame’s son; tell me the news of Hell—I will [tell thee those] of the world. For whom are the benches sown with bighs^C? Fairly are the rooms flooded with gold.”

[The wallow quoth:]

- 7 „Hér stęndr Baldri · of brugginn mjøðr, [A 1v/27]
 2 skírar vęigar, · liggr skjǫldr yfir,
 ęn ásmęgir · í ofvęni;
 4 nauðug sagða’k, · nú mun’k þęgja.“

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

^aShields covering casks of mead is a common trope. Cf. TODO.

[Weden quoth:]

- 8 „Þęgj-at vǫlva, · þik vil’k fregna, [A 1v/29]
 2 unz ’s alkunna, · vil’k ęnn vita,
 hvęrr mun Baldri · at bana verða,
 4 ok Óðins son · aldri ręna?“

“Shut not up, wallow; thee I wish to ask! Until all is known I wish to know further: Who will for Balder become the bane, and Weden’s son [= Balder] rob of age?”

[The wallow quoth:]

- 9 „Hǫðr berr hǫvan · hróðrbaðm þinig, [A 2r/1]
 2 hann mun Baldri · at bana verða,
 ok Óðins son · aldri ręna;
 4 nauðug sagða’k, · nú mun’k þęgja.“

“Hath^P bears the high fame-beam [MISTLETOE] thither;^a he will for Balder become the bane, and Weden’s son [= Balder] rob of age; forced I spoke, now I will shut up.”

^aCf. particularly

[Weden quoth:]

- [A 2r/3] **10** „Þęgj-at vǫlva, · þik vil'k fregna,
 2 unz 's alkunna, · vil'k ęnn vita,
 hverr mun hęipt Hęði · hęfnt of vinna,
 4 eða Baldrs bana · á bál vega?“

“Shut not up, wallow; thee I wish to ask! Until all is known I wish to know further: Who will for the evil-doing take revenge on Hath, or bear onto the pyre Balder's bane [= Hath]?”

[The wallow quoth:]

- [A 2r/4] **11** „Rindr berr Vála · í vestrşolum,
 2 sá mun Óðins sonr · ęinnętttr vega;
 hond of þvęr-at · né hǫfuð kęmbir,
 4 áðr á bál of berr · Baldrs andskota;
 nauðug sagða'k, · nú mun'k þęgja.“

“Rind bears Wonne^P in the western halls; that one will, Weden'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 shut up.^a”

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

[Weden quoth:]

- [A 2r/6] **12** „Þęgj-at vǫlva, · þik vil'k fregna,
 2 unz 's alkunna, · vil'k ęnn vita,
 hverjar 'ró męyjar, · es at muni gráta
 4 ok á himin verpa · halsaskautum?“

“Shut not up, 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”

^aWat mean...

[The wallow quoth:]

- [A 2r/8] **13** „Ert-at Vętamr, · sem ęk hugða,
 2 hęldr ert Óðinn, · aldinn gautr.“
 „Ert-at vǫlva · né vís kona,
 4 hęldr ert þriggja · þursa móðir.

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

[The wallow quoth:]

14 „H_eim ríð Óðinn · ok hróðigr ves,
2 svá komi-t m_ann_a · m_eirr aptr á vit,
es lauss L_oki · líðr ór b_ondum
4 ok r_agna r_ok · rjúfendr koma.“

[A 2r/9]

“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^P the renders come.^b”

^aA sarcastic, taunting statement, the sense being: “Your renown, Weden, will not save you at the Rakes of the Reins^L.”

^bThe *rjúfendr* ‘renders’ are presumably Surt and Lock with his children, as described in *Wallow* 40 ff. The root *rjúf* ‘CV: to break, rip up, break a hole in’ is also used in this context in *Webthritner* 52: þá’s rjúfask regin ‘when the Reins^G are rent’, *Grimner* 4, *Lock* TODO and *Sigdrive* TODO: unz (of) rjúfask regin ‘until the Reins are rent’, all of which attest to this formula.

Late verses in paper manuscripts? TODO

The Speeches of the High One

(*Hávamól*)

The **Speeches of the High One** is the second poem of **R**, which is also the only ancient manuscript in which it is attested. Several verses are however cited in other places, such as Eyv *Hák* (TODO: formatting) 21 and *FbrS* TODO.

The poem as it currently comes down to us hardly seems like a single composition, much rather like a grab bag of traditional verses and poems associated with the god Woden. It combines two separate advice-poems with verses concerning Woden's love adventures, runes and spells. Little unites these various strands other than their speaker.

Following previous authors, I identify several such strands, excepting various lone insert-verses. In the present edition each of them is given a separate, short introduction:

- 1–79 The Guest-strand, containing practical life advice placed within a frame narrative of a guest arriving at a homestead.
- 81–89 Other verses of advice, mostly composed in *Firnwordslaw*.
- 90–109 Woden's love adventures, advice for love and seduction.
- 110–135 The Speeches of Loddfathomer (*Loddfáfnismól*), advice given to Loddfathomer.
- 136–144 The Rune-tally (*Rúnatal*), various verses relating to runes.
- 145–163 The Leed-tally (*Ljóðatal*), Woden's listing of 18 spells.
- 164 Final verse, composed when the poem as we have it was assembled.

Whatever their origins, it is clear from the final verse that they have been thought of as a single work, but it is notable that this verse, which also contains the title *Hávamól* 'Speeches of the High One', is highly metrically irregular. It has likely been composed by the person who assembled the disparate elements listed above into one text.

The Guest-strand

The Guest-Strand (Old Norse: *Gestabáttir*) is possibly the finest work in Norse poetry. Sadly, its structure has been obscured by various inserted and possibly displaced verses. My hope is to shed some light on the original vision behind the poem, while as usual not changing the order of verses as they appear in the only surviving witness manuscript.

The poem moves through many elements of life, but in a poetically almost seamless way. To move from one topic to another, the poet often employs transitions where a verse recalls the structure of the previous one, but with a new subject. This is particularly evident in verses 4–5 and 10–11.

The strand begins with a verse encouraging travellers to be wary of entering strange houses without first spying out who is inside (1), after which a voice inside of a farmstead (possibly Weden?) announces that a guest is waiting to be let in (2). The same speaker then lists several things which the newly arrived guest needs from the host, namely: fire, food and clothes (3), water, a towel, a great welcome, a good reception, an opportunity to speak and silence in return (4).

After this focus shifts to the conduct of the wanderer, with an introductory verse explaining that he needs wit (specifically *manwit*^C (*manvit*); see Encyclopedia), lest he become a laughing-stock (5). He should be silent but attentive, and choose his words carefully (6–7). He should be confident in himself and his own decisions, and not rely too much on the opinions of others (8–9), since there is nothing better one may bring along on the journey than much *manwit* (10).

Here the advice moves to the subject alcohol. Where the best thing one may bring along on the journey is *manwit*, the worst is too much ale (11). It is not as good as men call it (12) since it “robs [them] of their senses”; it is even personified as a “heron of forgetfulness” (13). A drinking round is best when the participants do not drink too much, but rather regain their senses afterwards (14).

Verse 15 contains some general advice; a royal child should be silent, thoughtful and bold in battle, and all men should stay happy, until they die.

TODO.

-
- 1 Gáttir allar · áðr gangi framm
 2 of skoðask skyli,
 of skygnask skyli;
 4 því't óvíst 's at vita, · hvar óvinir
 sitja á flęti 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 Gefęndr heilir, · gęstr 's inn kominn,

2 hvar skal sitja sjá?
 mjök es bráðr · sá's á bröndum skal
 4 síns of fręista 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.

^bPossibly referring a Norwegian folk custom, wherein a guest would sit down on the wood-pile outside of the door, waiting until being let in. See further TODO SOME ARTICLE on this custom. The speaker thus announces to the hosts that a frozen, wet and tired guest has arrived and currently sits impatiently on the wood-pile, and ought to be taken in.

3 Elds es þorrf · þeim's inn es kominn
 2 ok á knúi kalinn,
 matar ok váða · es manni þorrf,
 4 þeim'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 of clothing is there need for the one who over the fell has fared.

4 Vats es þorrf · þeim's til verðar kómr,
 2 þerru ok þjóðlaðar,
 góðs of óðis, · —ef sér geta mętti—
 4 orðs ok ĩndrþęgu.

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

^aThere is a well thought-out linear progression throughout this verse. The guest must first wash himself, then dry himself with a towel, then be welcomed to sit and eat at the table and speak with the host. The host has done his part, and now it is the guest's turn. This nicely leads the transition to the following verses, where the proper conduct of the guest (first in speech, and then in various other areas) is discussed.

5 Vits es þorrf · þeim's víða ratar;
 2 deilt es hęima hvat;
 at augabragði · verðr sá's ekki kann
 4 ok með snotrum sitr.

Of wit is there need for the one who widely roams; everything is easy 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 heldr gétinn at gæði,
 þá's horskr ok þøgull · kømr hëimisgarða til,
 4 sjaldan verðr víti vorum.
 því't óbrigðra vin · fēr 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 kømr,
 2 þunnu hljóði þęgir;
 ęyrum hlýðir, · ęn augum skoðar,
 4 svá nýsisk fróðra hverr fyrir.

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

^ai.e. is in attentive silence.

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

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

9 Sá es sęll, · es sjalfr of á
 2 lof ok vit meðan lífr;
 því't ill ręð · hęfr maðr opt þęgit
 4 annars brjóstum ór.

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

10 Byrði bętri · berr-at maðr brautu at,

- 2 an sé manvit mikit;
 auði bętra · þykkir þat í ókunnum stað;
 4 slíkt es válaðs vera.

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

- 11 Byrði bętri · berr-at maðr brautu at,
 2 an sé manvit mikit;
 vegnest verra · vegr-a velli at,
 4 an sé ofdrykkja óls.

A better burden bears man not on the road than much manwit. Worse way-provision he drags not along in the field^a than a too great drink of ale.

^a*vollr* '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, · sęm gótt kveða,
 2 ól alda sonum;
 því't fęra veit, · es fęira drekk,
 4 síns til geðs gumi.

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

- 13 Óminnishegri heitir, · sá's yfir ólðrum þrumir,
 2 hann stelr geði guma;
 þess fogls fjoðrum · ek fjoðraðr vas'k
 4 í garði Gunnlaðar.

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

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

- 14 Ólr ek varð, · varð ofrólvi,
 2 at hins fróða Fjalars;
 því es ólðr bazt, · at aptr of heimtir
 4 hvęrr sitt geð gumi.

15 þagalt ok hugalt · skyli þjóðans barn
2 ok vígdjarft vesa;
3 glaðr ok reifr · skyli gumna hværr,
4 unz sinn bíðr bana.

16 Ósnjallr maðr · hyggsk munu ey lifa,
2 ef við víg varask;
 en elli gefr hónum · engi frið,
4 þótt hónum geirar gefi.

^aHe might have been spared by the spears, but death will still find him. The underlying meaning seems to be that since death is unavoidable it is better to live bravely, even if one risks dying in battle, than to live cowardly and die of old age. This verse connects well to the ancient view of the 'straw-death'.

17 Kópir afglapi, · es til kynnis kœmr,
2 þýlsk hann umb eða þrumir;
alt es senn, · ef sylg of getr,
4 uppi es þá geð guma.

18 Sá  inn  eit,   es v  a ratar
2 ok hefr fj    of farit,
hverju ge i   st yrir gumna hverr,
4 s  es vitandi 's vits.

19 Haldi-t maðr á keri, · drekki þó at hófi mjöð,

- 2 méli þarft eða þegi;
 ókynnis þess · váar þik ęngi 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 shut up.^a For that uncouthness will no man blame thee, that thou go early to sleep.

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

- 20 Gróðugr halr, · nema gęðs viti,
 2 etr sér aldrtrega;
 opt fęr hlógis, · es með horskum kęmr,
 4 manni hęimskum magi.

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

- 21 Hjarðir þat vitu, · nęr hęim skulu,
 2 ok ganga þá af grasi;
 ęn ósviðr maðr · kann ęvagi
 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
 2 hlęr at hvívetna;
 hitki hann vęit, · es vita þyrpti,
 4 at hann es-a yamma vanr.

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

- 23 Ósviðr maðr · vakir umb allar nętr
 2 ok hyggj at hvívetna;
 þá es móðr, · es at morni kęmr;
 4 alt es víl sęm 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 · hyggr sér alla vesa
 2 viðrhleǵendr yini;
 hit-ki hann fiðr, · þótt þeir of hann fár lesi,
 4 ef með snotrum sitr.

The unclever man thinks all who laugh with him friends. This he finds not, that they find flaws in him, if among the clever he sits.

- 25 Ósnotr maðr · hyggr sér alla vesa
 2 viðhléǵendr yini;
 þá þat fiðr · es at þingi kømr,
 4 at á forméǵendr fáa.

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

^aRepeated in v. 62. He has few who are ready to take his side and speak up for him; the sense is that true friends are proven in conflict, not in talking. The Thing (see Encyclopedia) was the old Germanic legal assembly, and so the specific reference here is legal disputes, but it should be kept in mind that they could easily turn into deadly feuds.

- 26 Ósnotr maðr · þykkisk alt vita,
 2 ef á sér i vó veru;
 hitki hann væt, · hvat hann skal við kveða,
 4 ef hans fręista fırar.

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

- 27 Ósnotr maðr, · es með aldir kømr,
 2 þat 's bazt at hann þęgi;
 ęngi þat væt, · at hann ękki kann,
 4 nema hann męli til mart.
 væt-a maðr, · hinn's vętki væt,
 6 þótt hann męli til mart.

The unclever man, when among people he comes, 'tis best that he shut up. 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 sęja hit sama,
 eyvitu lęyna · męgu yta synir
 4 því es gęngr of 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 Örna męlir, · sá's ęva þęgir,
 2 saðlausu stafi;
 hraðmęlt tunga, · nema haldęndr ęigi,
 4 opt sér ógótt of gęlr.

Quite enough speaks he—who never shuts up—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’. The ‘holders’ may perhaps refer to the teeth holding the tongue in places.

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

1 flótta ‘flee’] Emended to *flátta* ‘mock’ by Guðmundur Finnbogason (1929)

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

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

Many men are hold^C 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 fou.

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, although he on the highway live; but to a good friend lie the shortest ways, although he far gone be.

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

One shall go; shall not be a guest forever in one place. The loved becomes loathed if for long he sits on another's benches.

3 ljufr verðr lęðr 'the loved becomes loathed']

36 Bú es bętra, · þótt lítit sé,
 2 halr es hęima hęrr;

þótt t̥v̥eṛ ǵeitr ǵigi · ok taugreptan sal,
 4 þat es þó b̥etra an b̥ón.

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

37 Bú es b̥etra, · þótt lítit sé,
 2 halr es h̥eima h̥veṛr;
 blóðugt es hjarta · þeim's biðja skal
 4 sér í mál hv̥ert matar.

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

38 Vópnum sínum · skal-a maðr v̥elli á
 2 feti ganga framarr;
 því't óvíst 's at v̥ita, · n̥eṛ verðr á v̥egum úti
 4 ǵeirs of þor̥f guma.

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

2 feti ganga framarr 'take one step further'] Cf. *Lock* 1: *svát ǵinugi feti gangir framarr*, 'so that thou not take one step further'.

39 Fann'k-a mildan mann · eða svá matar góðan,
 2 at v̥eiri-t þiggja þ̥eṛit;
 eða síns f̥ear · svági [...],
 4 at l̥eĩð sé laun, ef þegi.

I found not a generous man, or one so good of meat^C, that a gift were not accepted; or one of his fee^C so not [...], that the rewards were loathed, if he accepted [them].^a

1 matar góðan 'good of meat'] A Viking Age expression; see Encyclopedia.

3 [...] It is doubtless that a word has been lost here; the meter and sense require it. Finnur Jónsson (1932) suggests *glöggvan* 'miserly, stingy', giving a litotes 'so not stingy', i.e., 'so generous'.

^aNo man is so generous that he would refuse a gift presented to him, nor loathe receiving a favour as thanks for his generosity.

40 F̥éar síns, · es f̥engit h̥eṛf,
 2 skyli-t maðr þor̥f 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; many a thing goes worse than one expects.

41 Vǫpnum ok vǫðum · skulu vinir glæðjask;
 2 þat 's á sjölfum sýnst;
 viðrgefendr ok endrgefendr · erusk vinir lengst,
 4 ef þat biðr at verða vǫl.

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

^ai.e. in one's own lived experience.

^bThe friendship.

42 Vin sínum · skal maðr vinr vesa,
 2 ok gjalda gjof við gjof;
 hlátr við hlátri · skyli hǫlðar 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 Veiðt, ef vin átt, · þann's vǫl trúir
 2 ok vilt af hǫnum gótt geta,
 gæði skalt við þann · ok gjöfum skipta,
 4 fara at finna opt.

Know, if thou have a friend, one on which thou well trust, and wilt receive good from: mind and gifts shalt thou share with him; journey to find him oft.^a

^aThis verse is closely related to 117, which seems like an abridged version of this one.

45 Ef þú átt annan, · þann's þú illa trúir,
2 vilt af hönnum þó gótt geta,
fagrt skalt mæla, · en flátt hyggja
4 ok gjalda lausung við lygi.

If thou have another, one on which thou badly trust, and wilt yet receive good from:
fairly shalt thou speak, but falsely think, and pay duplicity against lie.

46 Þat 's enn umb þann, · es þú illa trúir
2 ok þér es grunr at gæði,
hléja skalt við þeim · ok of hug mæla;
4 glík skulu gjöld gjöfum.

'Tis yet regarding that one, on which thou badly trustest, and who 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 einn 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 became lost about the ways. Wealthy I thought
myself when another one I found; man is the pleasure of man.

48 Mildir fróknir · menn bazt lifa,
2 sjaldan sút ala;
ósniðallr maðr · uggir hvatvetna,
4 sýtir é glöggr við gjöfum.

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

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

49 Váðir mínar · gaf'k velli at

- 2 tveim trémønnum;
 rekkar þat þóttusk, · es ript hofðu;
 4 nęiss es nokkviðr halr.

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

^aOne of the hardest verses in the poem. After much thought I consider the probable sense to be that the clothes make the warrior; under expensive gear a thin tree-man might be hiding, and likewise even a strong man (I see the choice of the word *halr* 'warrior' rather than the more neutral *maðr* 'man, person' as intentional) when naked and facing a heavily armoured opponent becomes as vulnerable as the 'tree-man' on a plain.

- 50 Hrørnar þoll, · sú's stęndr þorpi á,
 hlýrat hęnni þorkr né barr;
 svá es maðr, · sá's manngi ann;
 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; for what shall he live for long?

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

Hotter than fire burns peace among bad 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 Encyclopedia.

- 52 Mikit ęitt · skal-a manni gefa;
 opt kaupir sér í lítlu lof,
 með holfum hleif · ok með hollu kęri
 fekk ek mér felaga.

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

- 53 Lítilla sanda, · lítilla sęva,
 lítil eru gęð guma;
 því't allir męnn · urðu-t jafnspakir;
 holf es ęld hvar.

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

^aThe genitive “of small sands, of small seas” is probably a partitive; man’s horizons are small, the universe is far greater than he, and always will be. On the meaning of the second half of the verse I find that of Gudmundur Finnbogason (1929) most convincing, namely that everybody has both strengths and weaknesses. As nobody can excel at everything, nobody is complete; every person is half. This fits particularly closely with v. 71 and 131.

54 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hvęrr,
 2 ęva til snotr sę;
 þęim es fyrða · fęgrst at lifa,
 4 es vęl mart vitu.

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

55 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hvęrr,
 2 ęva til snotr sę;
 snotrs manns hjarta · verður sjaldan glatt,
 4 ef sá ’s alsnotr es á.

Middle-clever should each man be; never too clever. The clever man’s heart is seldom gladdened, if he is all-clever that owns [it].

56 Meðalsnotr · skyli manna hvęrr,
 2 ęva til snotr sę;
 ęrlęg sín · viti ęngi fyr;
 4 þęim es sorgalausastr sęfi.

Middle-clever should each man be; never too clever. His own orlay^C ought none to know ahead; his is the most sorrowless mind.^a

^aWho knows not his fate. It is fitting that Weden would say this, having knowledge of the inevitable destruction of the world and himself.

57 Brandr af brandi · brinnr unz brunninn es,
 2 funi kvęykisk af funa;
 maðr af manni · verður at máli kuðr;
 4 ęn til dólskr af dul.

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

- 58 Ár skal rísa, · sá's annars vill
 2 fécða fīor hafa;
 sjaldan liggjandi ulfr · lēr of getr,
 4 né sofandi maðr sigr.

Early shall rise he 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 dvelr · þann's umb morgin sefr,
 4 halfr es auðr und hvotum.

Early shall rise he 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 mjot,
 ok þess viðar, · es vinnask megi
 4 mál ok misseri.

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

^aOver the winter.

- 61 Þvęinn ok mętr · ríði maðr þingi at,
 2 þótt hann sé-t vęddr til vęl;
 skúa ok bróka · skammisk engi maðr
 4 né hęsts in hęldr,
 þótt hann hafit góðan.

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

5 þótt ... góðan "although ... good one"] As Finnur Jónsson (1932) points out, surely a late insertion. Whoever made it was not aware of the rules of the *Leed-meter*, interpreting the c-line as a *Firnwordslaw* a-line, and then insreting the supposed b-line.

- 62 Snapir ok gnapir, · es til sęvar kęmr,

- 2 orn á aldinn mar;
 svá es maðr, · es með morgum komr
 4 ok á formélendr fáa.

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

^aCf. v. 25.

- 63 Fregna ok segja · skal fróðra hverr,
 2 sá's vill heitinn horskr;
 çinn vita · né annarr skal,
 4 þjóð veit ef þrir 'ró.

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

^aþjóð lit. 'people, nation'; cf. *Scold* (TODO): þjóð eru þrír tígir "thirty are a people".

- 64 Ríki sitt · skyli ráðsnotra
 2 hverr í hófi hafa;
 þá hann þat finnr, · es með fróknum komr,
 4 at çngi es çinna 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 *Wals* 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 çðrum segir,
 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 çn til sið í suma;
 çl 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 heim of boðit,
 2 ef þyrpta’k at mólungi mat,
 eða tvau lér hengi · at hins tryggva vinar,
 4 þar’s ek hafða ett etit.

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 one had eaten.^a

^aNot everyone is hospitable, especially with regards to food, which was valuable and had to be closely counted among subsistence farmers. The poet notes that even a “trusty friend” (might be sarcastic) would invite him to eat at his house more often if he brought more food than he ate.

68 Eldr es baztr · með yta sonum
 2 ok sólar sýn,
 heylyndi sitt, · ef hafa náir,
 4 án við lōst at lifa.

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

69 Es-at maðr alls vesall, · þótt sé illa heyll,
 2 sumr es af sonum séll,
 sumr af frændum, · sumr af fé órnu,
 4 sumr af verkum vel.

Man is not all wretched, though he of poor health be: someone is blessed by sons, someone by kinsmen, someone by ample fee^C, someone by works done well.

70 Bętra ’s lifðum, · ok séllifðum,
 2 eý getr kvikr kú;
 eld sá’k upp brinna · auðgum manni fyr,
 4 eñ úti vas dauðr fyr durum.

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

^ai.e. the living.

^bA 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 Haltr ríðr hrossi, · hjorð rekr handarvanr,
 2 daufr vegr ok dugir;
 blindr es betri, · an brenðr séi;
 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 bautarsteinar · standa brautu nér,
 4 nema ręisi 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, save by kinsman after 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 Tvęir 'ru ęins hęjar, · tunga es hofuðs bani;
 2 mér 's í heðin hvęrn · handar vęni.

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

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

^a*hęjar* gen. sg. of *hęrr* 'host, army' may alternatively be read as the nom. pl. meaning 'harriers, raiders,' present in *ęinhęjar* (Ownharriers^G). Thus 'two are the destroyers of one (i.e. the person)'.

^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 orð havr giuit · Glöpr orða verstr · Tunga bouuðbani · Liggi i vgildum 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 Nött verðr fęinn, · sá's nesti trúir,
 2 skammar 'ru skips ráar,
 hverf es haustgríma;
 4 fjorð of viðrir · á fimm dogum,
 ęn męir á mánaði.

At night he rejoices, who trusts on his provisions; short are the ship's sailyards;^a ever-shifting is the autumn night. The weather shifts much in five days^{C, b} but more in a month.

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

^bSee note to v. 51 and Encyclopedia.

75 Vei^t-a hinn, · es vetki vei^t,
 2 margr verðr af aurum api;
 maðr es auðigr, · annarr óauðigr,
 4 skyli-t þann vítka 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 fé, · deyja frén^dr,
 2 deyr sjalfr hit sama;
 en orðstírr · deyr aldrigi
 4 hvēm'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, pp. 99 ff.).

77 Deyr fé, · deyja frén^dr,
 2 deyr sjalfr hit sama;
 ek vei^t einn · at aldrigi deyr:
 4 dómr of dauðan hvēn.

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

78 Fullar grindr · sá'k fyr Fitjungs sonum,

2 nú bera þeir v́anar v́ol;
svá es auðr · sēm augabragð,
4 hann es valtastr v́ina.

Full pens I saw for the sons of Fitting; now they carry the staff of hope.^a So is wealth like the twinkling of an eye; it is the ficklest of friends.

^aA beggar's staff.

79 Ósnotr maðr, · es eignask getr
2 fé eða fljóðs munuð;
metnaðr hōnum þróask, · en manvit aldrigi;
4 framm gengr hann drjúgt í ðul.

The unclever man, if he gets to own fee or a girl's grace: his conceit flourishes, but never his manwit; far he goes forth in delusion.

80 Þat es þá reynt, · es þú at rúnum spyr · hinum rēginkunnum,
2 þeim's gērðu ginnrēgin
ok fāði fimbulþulr;
4 þá hefr hann bāzt, ef hann þegir.

Then that is proven of which thou inquires the runes, the ones born of the Reins, those which the gin-Reins^G made, and the Fimblethyle (= Weden) painted. (Then he has it best, if he shuts up.)^a

1 hinum rēginkunnum 'the ones born of the Reins'] This expression also appears on the C4th–6th Noleby stone; see Encyclopedia rune^C.

^aThis verse, dealing with runic magic, hardly fits into the previous or following section. It would on the other hand fit very well in the much later Rune-Tally. The last verse with its shift in person is likely to be an insert.

Verses of practical advice, mostly in *Firnwordslaw*.

81 At kveldi skal dag leyfa, · konu es brēnnd es,
2 mēki es rēyndr es, · mēy es gefin es,
ís es yfir kōmr, · ǫl 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 hoggva, · veðri á sé róa,
 2 myrkri við man spjalla, · morg eru dags augu,
 á skip skal skriðar orka, · en á skjöld til hlífar,
 4 méki til hoggs, · en mey 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, but a shield for shelter; a sword for striking, but a maiden for her kisses.

- 83 Við eld skal ol drekka, · en á ísi skríða,
 2 magran mar kaupa, · en méki saurgan,
 heima hest feita, · 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.

- 84 Meyjar orðum · skyli manngi trúa,
 2 né þvít's kveðr kona;
 þvít á hverfanda hvéli · voru þeim hjortu skopuð,
 4 brið*ð* í brjóst 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 voru] *er FbrS* 3 hjortu skopuð] *h*jarta skapat *FbrS* 4 brið*ð*] *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 kroku,
 rýtanda svíni, · rótlausum víð*i*,
 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 fleini, · fallandi bóru,
 2 ísi einnétum, · ormi hringlęnum,
 brúðar þęðmólum · eða brotnu sverði,
 4 bjarnar leiki · eða barni konungs,
 sjúkum kalfi, · sjalfráða þręli,
 6 völu vilmęli, · val nýfęldum.

the flying spear, the falling billow, the one-night old ice, the coiled-up serpent, the bed-speeches 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 pleasing speech of a wallow, newly felled corpses,

In the following two verses come in the opposite order, but it is clear that 88 should conclude the old list of things not to trust. It is clear from its meter that 87 is a separate composition; it was probably inserted in between 86 and 88 by an inattentive scribe.

- 88 bróðurbana sínum · þótt á brautu móti,
 2 húsi halfbrunnu, · hęsti alskjótum,
 þá 's jór ónýtr, · ef einn fótr brotnar;
 4 verður-it maður svá tryggir · at þessu trúi öllu.

his brother's bane-man—though on the highway they meet—a half-burned house, an all-fleet horse: then is the steed useless, if one foot breaks. There may be no man so trusting, that he trust in all this.

- 87 Akri ársónum · trúi engi maður,
 2 né til snimma syni;
 veður reður akri, · en vit 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.

Advice on love and Weden's failed seduction of Billing's maiden.

- 89 Svá 's friður kvinna · þęira's flátt hygga,
 2 sęm aki jó óbryddum · á ísi hólum
 tęitum, tvévetrum · ok sé tamr illa,
 4 eða í byr óðum · þęiti stjórnlauðu,

eða skyli haltr henda · hrein í þáfalli.

So is the love of women—those who falsely think—like one rode an unshod horse on slippery ice—a merry one, two winters old, and badly tamed—or in mad wind tacked a rudderless [ship], or [as] should a halt man catch a reindeer on a thawing mountain.

90 Bert nú mēli'k, · því-at bēði vēt'k,
2 brigðr es karla hugr konum,
þá fęgrst mēlum, · es flást hyggjum;
4 þat tēlir horska hugi.

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

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

Fairly shall speak, and offer fee^C, he who will earn a girl's love; [he shall] praise the body of the light maiden; he gets, who woos.^a

^ai.e., 'he who woos her gets her'.

92 Ástar firna · skyli engi maðr
2 annan aldrigi;
opt fāa á horskan, · es á heimskan né fāa,
4 lostfagrir litir.

For [his] love should no man ever blame another; oft they seize the sharp one, when they seize not the foolish one, lust-fair looks.^a

^aLooks so fair

93 Eyvitar firna, · es maðr annan skal,
2 þess es of margan gengr guma;
heimska ór horskum · gerir hólða sonu
4 sá hinn mátki munr.

For nothing shall man ever blame another, which happens to many a man; fools out of sharp ones makes—among the sons of men—that mighty delight [LOVE].

- 94 Hugr einn þat veit, · es býr hjarta nér,
 2 einn es hann sér of sefa;
 øng es sótt verri · hveim snotrum manni
 4 an sér øngu at una.

The thought alone knows what dwells close to the heart; he is alone with his mind. No ailment is worse for any clever man, than to be content with nothing.

- 95 Þat þá reyndak, · es í reyri sat'k,
 2 ok vetta'k míns munar,
 hold ok hjarta · vas mér hin horska mér,
 4 þeygi hana at hel^{dr} hef'k.

That I then discovered, as I sat in the reed, and awaited my pleasure. My flesh and heart that sharp maiden was; I have her none the more.

- 96 Billings m^{ey} · ek fann bęðjum á
 2 sólhvíta sofa;
 jarls ynði · þótti mér ekki vesa
 4 nema við þat lík at lifa.

Billing's maiden I found on the beds, sun-white, sleeping. An earl's pleasure seemed me naught to be, save for living alongside that body.

[Billing's maiden:]

- 97 „Auk nér aptni · skalt-u Óðinn koma,
 2 ef vilt þér męla man,
 alt eru ósk^op, · nema ein vitim
 4 slikan l^ost saman.“

“And by evening shalt thou, Weden, come, if thou wilt for thee have the maiden [= me]; all is misshapen, if we might not know one such vice together.”

- 98 Aptr ek hvarf · ok unna þóttumk
 2 vísun vilja frá;
 hitt ek hugða, · at hafa mynda'k
 4 gęð hennar alt ok gaman.

Back I turned—and thought myself to love [her]—away from my wise will; this I thought, that I would own her senses all and pleasure.

- 99 Svá kom'k nęst, · at hin nýta vas
 2 vígdrótt ęll of vakin;
 með hrinnođdum ljosum · ok hornum viði,
 4 svá vas mér vilstígr of vitađr.

So I came next, as was the useful^a battle-people all awake; with burnings lights and carried wood;^b so was for me a miserable path^c marked out.

^aSarcastic.

^bThey were presumably armed with sticks.

^cAmbiguous whether it refers to the beating he would have received at the hands of the men had he entered, or to his walk of shame away from the hall.

- 100 Auk nęr morni, · es va's'k ęnn of kominn,
 2 þá vas saldrótt of sofin;
grey ęitt þá fann'k · hinnar góđu konu
 4 hundit hęđjum á.

And by morning, when I was come again, then was the hall-people asleep. A lone bitch I then found, owned by the good woman, bound on the beds.

- 101 Męrg es góđ męr, · ef gęrva kannar,
 2 hugbrigđ við hali;
 þá þat ręynda'k, · es hit ráđspaka
 4 tęgđa'k á flęđęir fljóđ.
hóđungar hvęrrar · lęitađi mér hit horska man
 6 ok hađđa'k þess vętki výfs.

Many a good maiden—if one knows her clearly—is heart-fickle towards men; that I learned when into sins I lured that counsel-clever woman. All sorts of disgraces that sharp girl sought out for me, and I had naught of that wife.

Weden's obtaining of the mead of poetry

This story is told in *Ylfęr*. Weden under the name Baleworker used a drill named Rate^P in order to drill into the mountains. TODO.

- 102 Hęima glađr gumi · ok við gęsti ręifr,
 2 sviđr skal of sik vesa;
minnigr ok mólugr, · ef vill margfróđr vesa;

- 4 opt skal góðs geta;
 fimbulfambi heitir, · sá's fátt kann segja;
 6 þat es ósnotrs aðal.

At home shall man be glad, and cheerful towards a guest; wise about himself. Remembering and speaking, if he wishes to be many-learned; oft shall he speak of good. A fimple-fool is called he who can say little; that is an unclever man's nature.

- 103 Hinn aldna jötun sóttak, · nú em'k aptr of kominn;
 2 fátt gat'k þegjandi 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 Gunnlōð mér of gaf · gollnum stóli á
 2 drykk hins dýra mjaðar;
 ill iðgjöld · lét'k hana eptir hafa
 4 síns hins heila hugar.
 (síns hins svára sefa).

Guthlathe^P did give me, on the golden chair, a drink of the dear mead; evil recompense I let her have afterwards, for her whole heart; for her severe affection.

- 105 Rata munn · létumk rúms of fāa
 2 ok of grjót gnaga;
 yfir ok undir · stóðumk jǫtna vegir,
 4 svá hētta'k hǫfði til.

Rate's mouth I let bring me room, and gnaw away at the rubble. Over and under me stood the roads of the ettins [MOUNTAINS]; so I risked my head.

- 106 Vēl keypts hlutar · hef'k vēl notit;
 2 fās es fróðum vant;
 því't Óðrerir · nú upp 's kominn
 4 á alda vés jarðar.

The well purchased thing [MEAD OF POETRY] I have used well; little is lacking for the learned—for Woderearer is now come up onto the earths of the wigh^C of men [Midden-yard].^a

^aWeden says that he has made good use of the mead of poetry, since it can now be tapped and served by wise humans.

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

There is doubt in me, that I were still 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 hrímþursar
 2 Háva ráðs at fregna,
 (Háva hǫllu í,)
 4 at Bolverki spurðu, · ef véri með bǫndum kominn
 eða hefði hǫnum Suttungr of sóit.

The other day went the Rime-Thurses to ask for the counsel of the High One; in the hall of High One. About Baleworker (= Weden) [me] they asked, if he [I] were come among the bonds (gods), or if Suttung had slain him.

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

A high-oath^c I ween that Weden has sworn; how shall one trust his truces? He let Suttung walk betrayed from the simple, and Guthlathe made to weep.

The Speeches of Loddfathomer

Loddfáfnismól. Advice given to Loddfathomer. In **R** this section is marked out with a large initial, like the beginnings of separate poems.

-
- 110 Mál's at þylja · þular stóli á;

- 2 Urðar brunni at
 sá'k ok þagðá'k, · sá'k ok hugðá'k,
 4 hlýdda'k á manna mál;
 of rúnar heyrðá'k dóma, · né umb róðum þögðu
 6 Háva hollu at,
 Háva hollu í
 8 heyrðá'k segja svá:

'Tis time to thill^C, upon the chair of the thyle^C. At the well of Weird, I saw and I shut up: I saw and I thought: 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 (= Weden) [= Walhall], in the hall of the High One, I heard [them] say thus:^a

^aThe speaker, describing himself as a thyle (*þulr* 'sage, chanter of memorized poetry'), says that he will relate what he has heard said at the hall of the High One (= Weden) [= Walhall]. Considering the location, it seems almost certain that the giver of this advice was Weden^P. The receiver of the advice, Loddfathomer^P (see Encyclopedia for etymologies), is otherwise unknown.

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

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: At night thou rise not, unless at scouting thou be, or thou art forced out from within a place.^a

^aVery difficult phrase. Possibly a euphemism for needing to relieve oneself?

- 112 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 fjolkunnigri konu · skal-at-tu í faðmi sofa,
 svá't 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.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: In the bosom of a feal-cunning^C woman shalt thou never sleep, so that she might lock you in [her?] limbs. She makes it

so that thou heed not the Thing^C, nor the ruler's speech; food wilt thou not [have], nor any man's pleasure; thou farest sorrowful to sleep.

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

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Never lure another man's woman into [becoming] thy ear-whisperer [LOVER].

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

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: on the fell or firth—if thou desire to travel—get thyself a good meal.

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

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: An evil man let thou never know of thy misfortunes. From an evil man receivest thou never recompense for thy good heart.

5 óhopp at þér vita] Excluding some corruption (but there hardly seems to be any) this line is probably one the few undisputed cases of *v*-alliterating with a vowel.

- 116 Ofarla bíta · sá'k einum hal
 2 orð illrar konu,

flárǫð tunga · varð hǫnum at fjǫrlagi
 4 ok þeygi of sanna sǫk.

Biting I saw, high up on one man, the words of an evil woman; a deceit-counseling tongue brought his life to end, and in no way over a truthful charge.

117 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 v̥eizt, ef vin átt, · þann's v̥el trúir,
 f̥ar þú at finna opt;
 6 því't h̥rísí v̥ex · ok h̥ou grasi
 v̥egr, es v̥etki trøðr,

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Know, if thou have a friend, one on which thou well trust, journey to find him oft; for with brushwood and tall grass grows the way which no man treads.

6 h̥rísí v̥ex ok h̥ou grasi 'with brushwood and with tall grass grows'] Identical with *Grimner* 17/1.

118 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 góðan mann · t̥eyg þér at gamanrúnun
 ok nem líknargaldr meðan lífir.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Lure a good man to thee through pleasure-runes,^a and learn healing-galders while thou livest.

^aPleasurable conversation. Cf. 128.

119 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 vin þínum · v̥es aldrigi
 f̥yrri at f̥laumslitum.
 6 sorg etr hjarta, · ef þú s̥egja né náir
 e̥inhv̥erjum allan hug.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: With thy friend be thou never the

first to tear apart the company. Sorrow eats thy heart if thou cannot speak to anyone thy whole mind.^a

^acf. v. 122.

120 R̥ðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú r̥ðð nemir,
2 n̥jóta munt ef n̥emr,
þér munu g̥ðð ef g̥etr:
4 orðum s̥kipta · skalt aldri
við ósvinna apa.

I counsel thee Loddfather, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Words shalt thou never exchange with unwise apes.

121 Þvi't af illum manni · munt aldrigi
2 góðs laun of geta,
 en góðr maðr · mun þik gerva meða
4 líknfastan at lofi.

For from an evil man wilt thou never get a reward for thy goodness, but a good man will know make thee health-firm by [his] praise.

4 *likn*fastan 'health-firm'] A cpd. from *likn* ONP: 'mercy, compassion, relief, comfort, help' and *fast* 'fast, firm'. La Farge and Tucker (1992) give a tentative 'assured of favour', while CV gives 'fast in goodwill, beloved'. I read it as literally as possible, since the word *likn* has some connections with healing.

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

Kinship is then blended,^a when any man decides to speak to one man his whole mind. Everything is better than to be among the fickle; he is no friend, who speaks that which is wanted alone.

^acf. v. 44.

123 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
4 þrím orðum senna · skal-at-tu þér við verra mann,

opt hinn betri bilar.

6 þá's hinn verri vegr.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: With three words shalt thou not flyte with a worse man;^a oft the better one breaks when the worse one strikes.

^ai.e. 'not even with three words'.

124 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,

2 njóta munt ef nemr,

þér munu góð ef getr:

4 skósmiðr þú verir · né skęptismiðr,

nema sjölfum þér séir.

6 Skór 's skapaðr illa · eða skapt sé vrangt,

þá 's þér bols beðit.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Thou ought not to be a shoe-maker nor shaft-maker, unless thou be one for thyself. [If] the shoe is shaped badly or the shaft be crooked, then for thee a bale^C is bidden.^a

^ai.e. 'the customer will put a curse you'.

125 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,

2 njóta munt ef nemr,

þér munu góð ef getr:

4 hvars þú bol kant, · kveð þér bolvi at

ok gefat þínum fjóndum frið.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Where thou a bale knowest, declare it to be a bale, and give not thy enemies peace.^a

^ai.e. 'if somebody puts a curse on you, do not ignore it, but respond forcefully', though it should be noted that the verse has often been interpreted as a command to call out evil, even when done towards somebody else, and there is nothing in it that goes against that reading.

126 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,

2 njóta munt ef nemr,

þér munu góð ef getr:

4 illu fęginn · ves þú aldriđi,

ęn lát þér at góðu getit.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Gladdened by evil be thou never, but let thyself be pleased by good.

5 ęn lát þér at góðu getit ‘but rather let thyself be pleased by good’] This construction is equivalent to the sense ACC. A. IV. in CV.

127 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð 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.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Up shalt thou not look in battle—alike to a madman become the sons of men—lest men bewitch thy [sense/life/face].^a

^aA very difficult verse. CV explains *gjalti* as an old dative of *goltr* ‘boar, hog’, and thus sees the closely related phrase *verða at gjalti* as “to be turned into a hog”, i.e. ‘to turn mad with terror’, esp. in a fight”. The vowel breaking is however unexpected here, since *goltr* (< Proto-Norse **galtur*) is an u-stem, which makes the stem-vowel in the dat. sg. *galti* (< **galtiu*, cf. *kunimudiu*, dat. sg. of **Kunimundur*, on the Tjurkö 1 bracteate) the result of i-umlaut rather than an original short **e*.

La Farge and Tucker (1992) instead explains the word as a borrowing from Old Irish *geilt* ‘insane, mad’. Pettit (1986) follows this, and argues that the whole theme of the verse probably be of Celtic origin, giving several examples from Celtic literature of warriors going mad upon looking up into the sky during battle. In this case the men (*balir*, which word seems to have an association with warriors; cf. 36–37, 49) would be to quote Pettit some sort of “supernatural sky warriors”, in my opinion most likely the Ownharriers^G.

128 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 Ef vilt þér góða konu · kvęðja at gamanrúnum
 ok fá fǫgnuð af,
 6 fǫgru skalt heita · ok láta fast vesa;
 leįðisk manngi gótt ef getr.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: If thou wilt for thee welcome a good woman to pleasure-runes, and receive good cheer from [her]; fair things shalt thou promise, and let it be fast; none loathes a good thing if one gets it.

4 gamanrúnum ‘pleasure-runes’] While easily interpreted as ‘intercourse’, the word is used in 118 with a decidedly non-sexual meaning. It probably just means ‘good, light-hearted conversation’.

- 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 leiði.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Wary I ask thee to be, and not over-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 hláttri · hað aldriđi
gęst né ganganda.

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

- 131 Opt vitu ęęrla, · þęir's sitja inni fyr,
 2 hvęrs þęir 'ru kyns es koma;
 es-at maðr svá góðr · at galli né fylgi,
 4 né svá ęllr at ęinu-đi dugi.

They oft hardly know, who sit inside, of what sort those men are who come; no man is so good that no flaw follows him, nor so evil that he to nothing avails.

- 132 Róðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú róð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 at hęrum þul · hlę aldriđi,
 opt 's gótt þat's gamlir kveða,
 6 opt ór skęrpum bęlg · skilin orð koma
 þęim's hangir með hęum
 8 ok skollir með skręum,
 ok váfir með vilmęum.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou

learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: At a hoary thyle laugh thou never; oft 'tis good, that which the old sing. Oft out of a scorched leather discerning words come; out of that one that hangs with hides, and dangles with dry skins, and sways among lads of toil [THRALLS].^a

^aTODO: Some note on this. *vilmǫgum* meaning 'veal-stomachs'? Cf. Crawford's video on this.

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 grið hrékir;
 get þú vǫluðum vel.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: 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 qllum at upploki;
 baug þú gef · eða þat biðja mun
 4 þér lés hvørs á liðu.

Strong is that wood which shall swing to open for all;^a give a high, or it will bid thee every kind of deceit onto thy limbs.

^ai.e. the beam of the gate in front of the farm.

135 Rǫðumk þér Loddfáfnir, · at þú rǫð nemir,
 2 njóta munt ef nemr,
 þér munu góð ef getr:
 4 hvar's ql drekkir · kjós þér jarðar męgin,
 því't jǫrð tekr við qlðri, · en ęldr við sóttum,
 6 ęik við abbindi, · ax við fjǫlkyngi,
 hǫll við hýrógi; · hęiptum skal mána kvęðja,
 8 bęiti við bitsóttum, · en við bǫlvi rúnar;
 fold skal við flóði taka.

I counsel thee Loddfathomer, that thou learn the counsels; thou wilt benefit if thou learnest; they will be good for thee if thou gettest: Wherever thou ale drinkest, choose for thee the might of the earth; for earth takes against drunkenness, but fire against

sickness; oak against dysentery, the ear [of wheat] against sorcery, bearded rye against hernia—in conflicts shall one invoke Moon^a—heather against bite-sicknesses; but runes^C against bale^C; ^b the fold [EARTH] must take against the flood.

^aAccording to *Wallow* 5, the moon has some sort of power, and based on *Lock* P3 *kvęðja* ‘greet, call’ seems to be the word used for invoking in prayer.

^bcf. v. 124, 149.

The Rune-Tally

These scattered verses have the header *Rúnatal*s þátrr ‘Strand of the Rune-Tally’ in younger Eddic paper manuscripts. They give an archaic, mystic impression; it is as if they were drawn from the lips of an Odinic priest.

- 136 Vęit’k at ek hekk · vindga męiði á
 2 nętr allar niu,
 gęiri undaðr · ok gefinn Óðni,
 4 sjalfr sjolfum mér,
 á þęim męiði, · es manngi vęit,
 6 hvęrs af rótum rinnr.

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

- 137 Við hlęifi mik sęldu-t · né við horni-gi;
 2 nýsta’k niðr, · nam’k upp rúnar,
 ópandi nam, · fell’k aþr þaðan.

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

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

Nine fimble-leeds^C I learned from the famous son of Balethorn^P, the father of Bestle^P—and a drink I got, of that dear mead poured to Woderearer^P.^a

^aThis verse fits poorly here and seems like an insert. It mentions *ljóð* 'leeds; (magical) songs, incantations' rather than runes, and has nothing to do with Weden's hanging on the tree. Bestle was Weden's mother and Balethorn his maternal grandfather. The famous son of Balethorn would then be his maternal uncle. The custom of sending sons away to be fostered by their maternal uncles or grandfathers (which seems to be what is going on here) was quite common in Germanic society, cf. TODO.

139 Þá nam'k frévask · ok fróðr vesa
 2 ok yaxa ok v̥l hafask;
 orð mér af orði · orðs l̥itaði
 4 verk mér af verki verks.

Then I took to thrive, and be learned, and grow and have myself 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 fimbulpulr
 ok gērðu ginnrēgin
 6 ok r̥eist Hroptr ragna.

Runes^C wilt thou find, and interpreted staves: very large staves, very stiff staves, which Fimblethyle^P (= Weden) painted, and the gin-Reins^G made, and Roft (= Weden) of the Reins carved.

6 ragna 'of the Reins'] 'rōgna' R

141 Óðinn með ósum, · en fyr olfum Dáinn,
 2 Dvalinn dvergum fyr,
 Ásviðr jotnum fyr,
 4 ek r̥eist sjalfr sumar.

Weden^P among the Ease^G, but for the Elves^G Downen^P; Dwollen^P for the Dwarfs^G; Onswith^P for the Ettins; I myself carved some.^a

^aThe identity of the speaker is not clear.

142 V̥eizt, hvé r̥ista skal? · V̥eizt, hvé ráða skal?
 2 V̥eizt, hvé fáa skal? · V̥eizt, hvé fr̥eista skal?
 V̥eizt, hvé biðja skal? · V̥eizt, hvé blóta skal?

4 Vei^zt, hvé senda skal? · Vei^zt, 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 try? 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

^aA symmetric structure would be attained if the first four verbs refer to runes^C—carving, interpreting, painting (with blood?), and divining—while the latter four refer to sacrifice—praying, sacrificing, sending (the sacrifice or the prayer; making sure the gods receive it), and slaying the victim. See further relevant Encyclopedia entries. The meter of the v. is unusual, but bears some resemblance to Vg 216 (the Högstena galder). TODO: Elaborate.

143 B̥etra 's óbeðit · an sé ofblótít,

2 e^y sér til gildis g^jof;
b̥etra 's ós̥ent · an sé ofs̥óit;

4 [...]

'Tis better unbid than overblooded^C; a gift always sees recompense. 'Tis better unsent than oversooed^C; [...].^a

4 [...] Last line probably missing here; the meter and sense require it.

^aIdentical wording (*biðja* 'to bid; to pray' : *blóta* 'to blood; to sacrifice'; *senda* 'to send' : *sóa* 'to soo; to slay') suggests a close relation to the previous verse. — The sense seems to be that it is better not to sacrifice at all than to sacrifice in excess, since even a small gift (to the gods) will be rewarded. This mechanistic system of gifts and rewards between man and the gods is also seen in other Indo-European pagan literatures. Compare the Sanskrit *Debī me, dādāmi te* 'Give to me; I give to thee' or Latin *dō ut dēs* 'I give that thou might give'.

144 Svá Þundr of reist · fyr þjóða røk

2 þar's upp of reis, · es aptr of kom.

Thus Thound^P (= Weden) carved for the rakes of nations, where up he rose as back he came.^a

^aA very cryptic v. TODO.

The Leed-Tally

This final section of the poem has fittingly been called the Leed-Tally (*Ljóðatal*). The speaker (certainly Weden) recounts eighteen spells, aristocratic and Odinic in character; they deal with such things as healing (2, 12), battle (3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13), countering sorcery (6, 10), stilling the elements (7, 9), and seduction (16, 17).

In particular the fourth spell bears a strong likeness to the first Merseburg charm.

- 145 Ljóð þau kann'k, · es kann-at þjóðans kona
 2 ok manskis mōgr.
 Hjǫlp heitir ęitt, · þat þér hǫlpa mun
 4 við sorgum ok sōkum, · ok sūtum gōrvōllum.

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 griefs.^b

^aLegal proceedings.

^bTODO: elaborate on translation

- 146 Þat kann'k annat, · es þurfu ýta synir,
 2 þeir's vilja lęknar lifa.

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

^aIdentical wording to 164/2.

- 147 Þat kann'k þriðja, · ef mér verðr þōrf mikil
 2 hǫpts við mína hęiptmōgu,
 ęggjar dęfi'k · minna andskota,
 4 bíta-t þeim vōpn né vélir.

I know the third, if I come in great need of hindrance against my conflict-lads [ENEMIES];
 I dull the edges of my opponents; for them neither weapons nor wiles bite.

- 148 Þat kann'k fjórða, · ef mér fyrðar bera
 2 þōnd at þóglimum,
 svá ek gęl, · at ganga má'k,
 4 sprettr mér af fótum fjōturr.
 ęn af hōndum hǫpt.

I know the fourth, if men bear bonds onto my shoulder-limbs [ARMS]: so I gale that walk
 I may; springs from my feet the fetter, but from my hands the bond.

- 149 Þat kann'k fimta, · ef sé'k af fǫri skotinn
 2 flęin í folki vaða,
 flýgr-a svá stint, · at stōðvi'g-a'k,
 4 ef hann sjónum of sę'k.

I know the fifth, if I see a dangerous arrow wading in the troop; it flies not so stiffly that I may not hinder it, if I see it with my sights.

150 Þat kann'k sétta, · ef mik sérir þegn
 2 á rótum rás víðar.
 þann hal, · es mik hęipta kvęðr,
 4 þann eta męin hęldr an mik.

I know the sixth, if athane injures me on the roots of a green tree;^a that man who sings hatred against me, him the harms eat rather than me.

^ai.e., he carves harmful magic runes into the roots.

151 Þat kann'k sjaunda, · ef sé'k hóvan loga
 2 sal of sessmogum,
 brinnr-at svá bręitt, · at hónum bjargi'g-a'k;
 4 þann kann'k galdr at gala.

I know the seventh, if I see a high hall burning above seat-lads [WARRIORS]: it burns not so broadly that I do not save it [= the hall]^a—that galder I can gale.

^ai.e. he can reduce the fire so that the hall is not destroyed (and presumably so that the trapped warriors survive).

152 Þat kann'k átta, · es ǫllum es
 2 nytsamligt at nema,
 hvar's hatr vęx · með hildings sonum,
 4 þat má'k bóta brátt.

I know the eighth, which for all is useful to learn: wherever hatred grows among the sons of princes, it I may shortly mend.

153 Þat kann'k níunda, · ef mik nauðr of stęndr
 2 at bjarga fari mínu á floti,
 vind ek kyrri · vági á
 4 ok svęf'i'k allan sę.

I know the ninth, if need requires me to save my friend on a floater [SHIP]: the wind I calm on the wave, and put all the sea asleep.

154 Þat kann'k t*í*unda, · ef sé'k t*ún*riður
 2 l*ę*ika l*opti* á,
 ek svá vinn'k, · at þ*ę*r villar fara
 4 sinna h*ę*im-hama
 sinna h*ę*im-huga.

I know the tenth, if I see town-riders^G playing aloft: I accomplish it so that they journey lost of their home-hames^C; of their home-minds.^a

3 þ*ę*r villar fara 'they (*feminine*) journey lost'] emend.; þ*ę*ir villir fara 'they (*masculine*) journey lost' R

^aThe *riður* 'female riders' were witches who were thought to leave their hames (*hamir* 'skins, shapes') in a form of astral projection in order to fly around in the air, tormenting villagers. Their original bodies would of course be lying in a comatose state, and with the bodies their original minds; their humanness. Woden was through his second sight able to see these riders, and could use his superior magical abilities in order to confuse them so that they were not able to return to their original hames or minds; a cruel fate. — Woden likewise brags about tricking *riders* in *Hoarbeard* 20.

155 Þat kann'k ęllipta, · ef skal'k til orrostu
 2 l*ę*iða langvini,
 und randir gęl'k, · ęn þ*ę*ir með r*í*ki fara,
 4 h*ę*ilir hildar til,
 h*ę*ilir hildi frá,
 6 koma þ*ę*ir h*ę*ilir hvaðan.

I know the eleventh, if I shall lead old friends into battle: beneath the shields I gale, and they go powerfully, healthy to the conflict; healthy from the conflict; they return healthy from wherever.

156 Þat kann'k t*ol*pta, · ef sé'k á tré uppi
 2 v*á*fa v*ir*gilmá,
 svá ek r*í*st · ok í r*ú*num f*á*'k,
 4 at sá gęngr gumi.
 ok m*ę*lir við mik.

I know the twelfth, if I see high up on a tree a gallow-corpse waving: so I carve, and paint in the runes, that that man walks and speaks with me.

157 Þat kann'k þrettánda · ef skal'k þegn ungan
 2 verpa vatni á,
 mun-at hann falla, · þótt í folk komi,
 4 hnigr-a sá halr fyr h*ę*ðrum.

I know the thirteenth, if I shall upon a young thane throw water:^a he will not fall, although he comes into battle; that man sinks not down before swords.

^aDescribing the pagan ritual of pouring water on a newborn child. Cf. *Rígh* 7, 21, 34.

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

I know the fourteenth, if I shall count the Tues before the retinue of men: of all the Ease and Elves I know the discernments;^a few unwise men can do so.

^aCf. *Hymir* 38, where the corresponding verb *skilja* is used in the context of god-knowledge.

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

I know the fifteenth, which Thedrearer galed, the dwarf before Delling's doors. Power he galed for the Ease, but for the Elves fame; thought for Roft-Tue (= Weden).

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

I know the sixteenth, if I will from the wise girl have her whole sense and pleasure; the heart I change of the white-armed woman, and I turn her whole affection.

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

I know the seventeenth, that the girl-young girl will lately shun me.

162 Ljóða þessa · munt Loddafáfnir
 2 lengi vanr vesa;
 þó sé þér góð ef getr,
 4 nýt ef nemr,

þor̥f ef þiggr.

Of these leeds wilt thou, Loddfathomer, long be deprived, although they might be good for thee if thou gettest, beneficial if thou learnest, needful if thou acceptest.

163 Þat kann'k átjanda, · es éva k^ēnni'k
 2 mey né manns konu,
 —alt es b^etra · es einn of kann,
 4 þat fylgir ljóða lokum—
 nema þ^eiri einni, · es mik armi v^err,
 6 eða mín systir s^e.

I know the eighteenth, which I will never teach a maiden nor man's woman—everything is better when one alone can do it; that follows the end of the leeds—save for her alone who wraps me in her arm,^a or who my sister is.

^aThis interesting expression is also used *Wayland* 2. — The one who wraps Weden in her arm may be his wife, Frie. He has no known sister.

164 Nú eru Háva mól kveðin · Háva h^ollu í;
 2 allþor̥f yta sonum,
 óþor̥f j^otna sonum;
 4 heill sá's kvað, · heill sá's kann,
 njóti sá's nam,
 6 heilir þ^eir's h^lyddu.

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 [them]; hail he who knows [them]; may he benefit who learned [them]; hail those who heeded [them]!

3 jōtna] *yta corrected in margin R*

The Speeches of Grimner (*Grímnismól*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.976)

Meter: *Leed-meter*, *Firnwordslaw* (2/3–4, 28/3–5, 45/3–5, 48/4, 49/1–2, 53),
Galder-law (46)

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

The poem itself is surrounded by two long introductory prose narratives containing some very old motifs, which are here brought up in the notes. It's hard to say for how long these texts have accompanied the poem (TODO: I may write about this in the Introduction, since this question is important for several other poems), but since they are found in both **R** and **A** and contain these motifs it would seem that they are fairly old. Together with verses 1–3 they form a frame narrative that gives additional meaning to the gnomic verses enclosed within.

The gnomic verses themselves, the meat of the poem, are mythological and often quite obscure. In this they align closely with the gnomic verses in other Eddic poems such as *High*, *Webthritner*, *Sighdrive*, and *Allwise*.

Weden begins by listing the halls of the gods (4–17). This section has been discussed in detail by de Vries (1952) TODO! who considers it corrupt. Specifically, he sees the second half of v. 4 as a later insert, since it does not elaborate on the “holy land” mentioned in the first half. Jackson (1995) has argued convincingly against this, showing how the first half serves as a generalized introduction to the list; the holy land is the dwelling-places of the gods.

After this list come several verses relating to Weden and his hall, Walhall (18–23). Mentioned are the preparation of food in Walhall (18), Weden's wolves (19) and ravens (20), the river through which the dead have to wade (21) and the gate through which they have to pass (22), the count of doors in Walhall (23), the count of doors in Thunder's hall Bilshirner (24), and two animals which stand on the hall and gnaw on the branches of the tree Leered (25–26). From the latter animal's—the stag Oakthirner's—horns droplets fall into Wharyelmer, which is the origin of all rivers (26).

This introduces a list of mythic rivers (27–28), ending with the waters through which Thunder must wade on his way to Ugdrassle (29). This leads to a list of the horses ridden by the other gods on their way to Ugdrassle (31) which is followed by a description of the roots of Ugdrassle (31), then its animals (32–36) the Walkirries (37), and beings associated with the sun and moon (38–40), the things created from Yimer's body (41–42) with a digression on the significance of the blood^P for men in the present (43, see

note there!), the creation of the ship *Shidebladner* (44) and finally a list of the noblest of several categories of things and groups (45).

After these lists Woden 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 poem ends.

In the final prose section we are told that Garfrith, after learning that he was torturing Woden, hurried up to take the god away from the fires, but tripped and fell on his sword and died. After this his son Eyner ruled for a long time.

From the sons of king Reeding (*Frá sonum Hrauðungs konungs*)

- [R REGTODO, A 3v/23] **PP1a** Hrauðungr konungr átti tvá sonu. Hét annarr Agnarr, enn annarr Geirrøðr.
 2 Agnarr var tíu vetra enn Geirrøðr átta vetra. Þeir reru tveir á báti með
 dorgar sínar at smáfiski. Vindr rak þá í haf út. Í náttmyrkri brutu þeir
 4 við land ok gingu upp; fundu kotbónda einn. Þar vóru þeir um vetrinn.
 Kerling fostaði Agnar enn karl Geirrøð. At vóri fekk karl þeim skip. Enn
 6 er þau kerling leiddu þá til strandar, þá mælti karl einmæli við Geirrøð. Þeir
 fengu byr ok kvómu til stöðva fæður síns. Geirrøðr var fram í skipi. Hann
 8 hljóp upp á land enn hratt út skipinu, ok mælti: "Far þú þar er smyl hafi
 þik." Skipit rak út. Enn Geirrøðr gekk út til bójar; hánun var vel fagnat;
 10 þá var faðir hans andaðr. Var þá Geirrøðr til konungs tekinn, ok varð maðr
 ágétr.

King Reeding owned two sons. One was called Eyner, and the other Garfrith. Eyner was ten winters old, and Garfrith eight winters. The two were rowing in a boat with their trolling-lines for small fishing. The wind then drove them out into the sea. In the dark of night they crashed into land and walked up; they found a lone cottage-farmer. There they were over the winter. The wife fostered Eyner, but the husband Garfrith.^a In the spring the husband gave them ships, but when they followed the farmer's wife in leading them to the shore, the husband spoke privately with Garfrith.^b They got a good gust, and came to their father's harbour. Garfrith was in the front of the ship. He leapt up onto land and pushed out the ship, and spoke: "Go thou whither the fiends may have thee!" The ship drove out. But Garfrith walked towards the farm; he was welcomed well; by then his father was passed-on. Then Garfrith was taken as king, and became an excellent man.

^aThe wife was Frie, and the husband Woden; this is clarified by the following prose. The motif of Woden preferring the youngest brother is also found in *Rígh*.

^bSurely instructing him to push his brother out to sea.

- PP1b** Óðinn ok Frigg sátu í Hliðskjölfu ok sá um heima alla. Óðinn mælti: Sér [R REGTODO, A 4r/3]
 2 þú Agnar fóstura þinn, hvar hann elr börn við gýgi í hellinum? En Geirrøðr,
 fóstri minn, er konungr ok sitr nú at landi. Frigg segir: Hann er matníðingr
 4 sá at hann kvelr gesti sína ef hánúm þykkja ofmargir koma. Óðinn segir
 at þat er in mesta lygi. Þau veðja um þetta mál. Frigg sendi eskismey
 6 sína, Fullu, til Geirrøðar. Hon bað konung varask at eigi fyrgerði hánúm
 fjolkunnigr maðr sá er þar var kominn í land ok sagði þat mark á at engi
 8 hundr var svá ólmr at á hann myndi hlaupa. En þat var inn mesti hégómi
 at Geirrøðr væri eigi matgóðr ok þó lét hann handtaka þann mann er eigi
 10 vildu hundar á ráða. Sá var í feldi blám ok nefndisk Grímnir ok sagði ekki
 fleira frá sér þótt hann væri atspurðr. Konungr lét hann pína til sagna ok
 12 setja milli elda tveggja ok sat hann þar átta nētr. Geirrøðr konungr átti son
 tíu vetra gamlan ok hét Agnarr eftir bróður hans. Agnarr gekk at Grímni
 14 ok gaf hánúm horn fullt at drekka, sagði að konungr gerði illa er hann
 lét pína hann saklausan. Grímnir drakk af. Þá var eldrinn svá kominn at
 16 feldrinn brann af Grímni. Hann kvað:

Weden and Frie sat in Lithshelf^f and looked over all the Homes.^a Weden spoke: “Seest thou Eyner, thy foster-son, where he begets children with the troll-woman in the cave?^b But Garfrith, my foster-son, is king and now sits at land.” Frie says: “He is such a meat-nithing that he tortures his guests if he judges too many are coming.” Weden says that this is the greatest lie; they make a wager about this matter. Frie sent her handmaid Full to Garfrith’s. She bade the king be wary, that he not be ended by that feel-cunning^c man who was come in the land, and said that his sign was that no hound was so fierce that he would leap at him. But that was the greatest vainglory that Garfrith were not meat-good, and yet he has that man seized, whom the hounds would not touch. He was clad in a blue cloak, and called himself Grimner, and did not tell any more about himself, even though he was interrogated. The king had him tortured that he would speak, and set him between two fires, and he sat there for eight nights. King Garfrith had a son ten winters old, and he was named Eyner after his brother. Eyner walked up to Grimner, and gave him a full horn to drink, saying that the king did ill as he had him tortured without cause. Grimner drank from it. Then the fire had come such that the cloak burned on Grimner. He quoth:

^aVery similar to the Longbeard Origin Myth (TODO: reference and elaborate).

^bThis may relate to Frie’s role as love-goddess. Eyner is in any case a degenerate^c man, what one would call a ‘coomer’.

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

[R REGTODO, A 4r/17]

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.

[R REGTODO, A 4r/18]

3 Átta nętr · sat'k milli ęlda hęr,
2 svá't męr mann-gi mat né bauð
nema ęinn Agnarr, · es ęinn skal ráða,
4 Gęirrøðar sonr, · Gotna landi.

For eight nights sat I in the middle of 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!

[R REGTODO, A 4r/20]

4 Hęill skalt, Agnarr, · alls hęilan biðr
2 þik Veratýr vesa;
ęins drykkjar · skalt aldrigi
4 bętri gjöld geta:

Hale shalt thou be, Eyner, as hale Weretue (= Weden) bids thee be; for one drink shalt thou never get a better recompense:^a

^aThe recompense being the esoteric lore which is told from the following verse onwards.

[R REGTODO, A 4r/22]

5 Land es hęilagt, · es liggja sé'k
2 ọsum ok ọlfum nęr;
ęn í Þrúðhęimi · skal Þórr vesa
4 unz of rjúfask ręgin.

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

[R REGTODO, A 4r/23]

6 Ýdalir hęita, · þar's Ullr of hęfr
2 sér of gora sali;
Alfhęim Fręy · gófu í árdaga
4 tívar at tannfęi.

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.

- 7 Bór 's hinn þriði, · es blíð regin [R REGTODO, A 4r/25]
 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 [the hall] which the os in days of yore won through wiles.^a

^aSeveral previous editors and translators (e.g. Finnur Jónsson (1932), Pettit (1986), Larrington (2014)) has rendered this phrase with variants of ‘craftily made for himself’ but I disagree.

- 8 Sökkvabekkr heitir hinn fjórði, · en þar svalar knegu [R REGTODO, A 4r/26]
 2 unnir glymja yfir;
 þar þau Óðinn ok Sága · drekka umb alla daga
 4 glöð ór gollnum krum.

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

- 9 Gláðshæimr heitir hinn fimti · þar's hin gollbjarta [R REGTODO, A 4r/28]
 2 Valholl víð of þrumir;
 en þar Hroptir · 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.^a

^aCf. v. 14.

The order of the following two verses is that of A. R has them reversed.

- 10 Mjök 's auðkent · þeim's til Óðins koma [R REGTODO, A 4r/30]
 2 salkynni at séa,
 skoptum 's rann reft, · skjöldum 's salr þakiðr,
 4 brynjum of þekki stráat.

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

- 11 Mjök 's auðkent · þeim's til Óðins koma [R REGTODO, A 4r/31]
 2 salkynni at séa,

vargr hangir · fyr vestan dyrr
 4 ok drúpir ǫrn yfir.

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

2 salkynni at séa 'the hall to see'] 'sia at sia' A

[R REGTODO, A 4v/2]

12 Þrymhęimr hęitir hinn sętti, · es Þjazi bjó,
 2 sá hinn ámatki jötunn;
 ęn nú Skaði byggvir, · skír brúðr goða,
 4 fornar toptir fęður.

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

[R REGTODO, A 4v/3]

13 Bręiðablik eru hin sjaundu, · ęn þar Baldr hęfir
 2 sér of gǫrva sali,
 á því landi · es liggja vęit'k
 4 fęsta fęiknstafl.

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.

[R REGTODO, A 4v/5]

14 Himinbjörg eru hin ǫttu · ęn þar Hęimdall
 2 kveða valda véum.
 þar vǫrðr goða · drekkur í vęru ranni
 4 glaðr góða mjǫð.

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

[R REGTODO, A 4v/6]

15 Folkvangr es hinn níundi · en þar Freyja ręður
 2 sessa kostum í sal;
 halfan val · hon kýss hvęrjan dag
 4 ęn halfan Óðinn á.

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

^aThis verse is cited and closely paraphrased in *Yilfer* 24. — The roots of *kjósa val* ‘choose the slain’ are the same as those in walkirrie^C (*val-kyrja* ‘chooser of the slain’), and as Frow is a prominent goddess this would surely make her the chief walkirrie. This is paralleled by *Sarle*, where Frow assumes the name Gandle^C (*Gǫndul*, a name attested in several lists of walkirries; see *Wallow* 30 and Notes) and incites the legendary never-ending Conflict of the Headnings (*Hjǫðningavíg*). In spite of this parallel, there are good arguments for believing that the chief walkirrie should be Frie^C, Woden’s wife. First, one of the functions of the walkirries is to bear ale to the Ownharriers (*Grimner* 37). This mirrors royal Germanic banquets attested in heroic poetry, where the host’s wife or daughter would pour ale to his retainers and guests (the so-called ‘lady with a mead cup’ ritual; see Enright (1996) and Riseley (2014)). As Woden’s wife, we would expect Frie to have this role. Second, TODO Third, TODO.

16 Glitnir es hinn tíundi; · hann es gulli studdr

[R REGTODO, A 4v/8]

2 ok silfri þakðr it sama;
 4 en þar Forseti · byggir flestan dag
 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,

17 Nóatún eru hin elliptu · en þar Njǫrðr hęfir

[R REGTODO, A 4v/9]

2 sér um gǫrva sali,
 manna þengill · inn meinsvani
 4 hǫtimbruðum hǫrgi ręðr.

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

^aCf. *Webbthritbner* 38.

18 Hrísi vęx · ok hǫu grasi

[R REGTODO, A 4v/11]

2 Viðars land, viði,
 en þar mǫgr of lęzk · af mars baki
 4 frókn at hęfna fǫður.

With brushwood and with tall grass grows Wider^P’s land, with forest; but there the lad [= Wider] declares—on the back of his steed—valiant, to avenge his father [= Woden].^a

1 hrísi vęx ok hǫu grasi ‘with brushwood and with tall grass grows’] Identical with *Highb* 117/6.

^aWider will avenge his father, Woden. See *Webbthritbner* 53.

19 Andhrímnir · lętr í Eldhrímnri

[R REGTODO, A 4v/12]

2 Sęhrímni soðinn,
 flęska bęzt, · ęn þat fáir vitu,
 4 við hvat ęinhęrjar alask.

Andrimner lets in Eldrimner Sowrimner be boiled. The best of meats, but few know that, 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.

[R REGTODO, A 4v/14]

20 Gera ok Freka · sęðr gunntamiðr,
 2 hróðigr Hęrjaføðr,
 ęn við vín ęitt · vápngøfugr
 4 Óðinn ę lifir.

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

[R REGTODO, A 4v/15]

21 Huginn ok Muninn · fljúga hvērjan dag
 2 jǫrmungrund yfir;
 óumk of Hugin, · at aptr né komit;
 4 þó séumk męir of Munin.

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

2 jǫrmungrund 'ermin-ground' 'the immense ground' (for the rare prefix ermin-^C see Encyclopedia.); the earth as a vast expanse of land. This compound also occurs in a kenning in the verse on the late C10th Karlevi stone (Öl 1) referring to the unbounded sea as the "ermin-ground of Andle" (*Ęndils jǫrmungrund*, Andle being a sea-king), and in *Beowulf* 859 as *eormengrund* with the same sense.

[R REGTODO, A 4v/17]

22 Þýtr Þund, · unir Þjóðvitis
 2 fiskr flóði í;
 áarstraumr · þykkir ofmikill
 4 valglaumi at vaða.

Thound^P roars; thrives Thedwitner's fish [= Middenyardsworm?] in the flood; the river-stream seems far too great for the noisy slain host [= Ownharriers] to wade through.^a

1-2 Þjóðvitis fiskr 'Thedwitner's fish' Thedwitner is easily analyzed as þjóð 'great, main' + vitnir 'wolf'. Thus the main, great wolf, i.e. the Fenerswolf^P. Its 'fish' would then be the Middenyardsworm; cf. *Hymer* 24.

^aThound is presumably the river surrounding Walhall, which the dead have to pass over to reach the hall.

- 23 Valgrind heitir · es stendr velli á [R REGTODO, A 4v/18]
 2 heilog fyr heigum durum;
 forn 's sú grind, · en þat fáir vitu,
 4 hvé hon 's í lás of lokin.

Walgrind^{La} 'tis called, which stands on the plain; holy in front of the holy doors. Ancient is that gate, but few know that, how its lock is locked.

^a'Corpse-gate;' the gate guarding Walhall.

- 24 Fimm hundruð golfa · ok umb fjórum tögum [R REGTODO, A 4v/22]
 2 svá hygg'k Bilskirni með bugum;
 ranna þeira, · es reft vita'k,
 4 míns veit'k mest magar.

With five hundred floors, and around forty, so I judge Bilshirner^L altogether. Of those houses, which I might know rafted, I know my lad's [= Thunder] to be the greatest.

- 25 Fimm hundruð dura · ok umb fjórum tögum, [R REGTODO, A 4v/20]
 2 svá hygg at Valhöllu vesa;
 átta hundruð Eihertja · ganga ór einum durum,
 4 þá's fara við vitni at vega.

Five hundred doors, and around forty, so I judge there to be on Walhall. Eight hundred Ownharriers^G go out of one door,^a when to fight with the wolf they journey.

^aThe hundred is probably here the long hundred (120, rather than 100), which gives a sum of 640 * 960 = 614, 400 Ownharriers.

- 26 Heiðrún heitir geit, · es stendr höllu á [R REGTODO, A 4v/24]
 2 ok bítr af Léraðs limum;
 skapker fylla · skal hins skíra mjaðar,
 4 kná-at sú veyg vanask.

Heathrune is called the goat, which stands on the hall [= Walhall], and bites off the branches of Leered. The shape-vats^a shall she fill with the pure mead; those draughts cannot wane.^b

1 höllu á 'on the hall'] TODO.

^aAccording to CV the central beer-vat, from which drinks were poured into smaller vessels.

^bThe mead is the goat's milk.

[R REGTODO, A 4v/26]

27 Eikþýrnir heitir hjörtr · es stendr hǫllu á
 2 ok bítr af Léraðs limum;
 en af hans hornum · drýpr í Hvergǫlmi
 4 þaðan ęiga vǫtn ęll vega:

Oakthirner is called the stag, which stands on the hall [= Walhall], and bites off the branches of Leered. But from his horns does drip into Wharyelmer; thence all waters have their ways:^a

1 hǫllu á 'on hall'] TODO. See previous v.

^aAfter which several vv. of mythic river-names are listed.

[R REGTODO, A 4v/28]

28 Síð ok Víð, · Sękin ok Eikin, · Svǫl ok Gunnþró,
 2 Fjorm ok Fimbulþul,
 Rín ok Rinnandi,
 4 Gipul ok Gǫpul, · Gǫmul ok Gęirvimul,
 þęr hverfa umb hodd goða,
 6 Þyn ok Vin, · Þęll ok Hęll,
 Gráð ok Gunnþorin.

Side and Wide, Seeken and Oaken, Swale and Guththrew, Ferm and Fimblethule, Rine and Rinnend, Gipple, Gapple, Gamble and Garwimble—they circle around the hoard of the gods [osyard]—Thin and Win, Thall and Hall, Grade and Guththorn.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/1]

29 Vína heitir enn, · ęnnur Vegsvinn,
 2 þriðja Þjóðnuma,
 Nytt ok Nętt, · Nęnn ok Hręnn,
 4 Slíð ok Hríð, · Sylgr ok Ylgr,
 Víð ok Vęn, · Vęnd ok Stręnd,
 6 Gjęll ok Lęiptr, · þęr falla gumnum nęr
 es falla til hęljar heðan.

TODO

[R REGTODO, A 5r/4]

30 Kęrmt ok Qrmt · ok kęrlaugar tvęr
 2 þęr skal Þórr vaða
 dag hvērn · es dóma fęrr
 4 at aski Yggdrasils;
 því't ęsbrú · bręnn ęll loga
 6 hęilęg vętn hlóa.

Carmt and Armt, and the two Carlays, those shall Thunder wade^a every day when to judge he fares, at the ash of Ugdrassle^L; for the os^G-bridge [RAINBOW] burns all with flame; the holy waters bellow.

6 hlóa] A hapax. TODO.

^aFor Thunder's association with wading cf. TODO.

- 31 Glǫðr ok Gyllir, · Glęr ok Skeiðbrimir, [R REGTODO, A 5r/6]
 2 Silfrintoppr ok Sinir,
 Gísl ok Falhófnir, · Gulltoppr ok Léttfeti,
 4 þeim ríða ęsir jóum
 dag hvęrn · es dóma fara
 6 at aski Yggdrasils.

Glad and Yiller, Glare and Sheathbrimmer, Silvrentop and Sinewer, Yissel and Fallowhofner, Goldtop and Lightfeet; on those horses ride the Ease, every day when to judge they fare, at the ash of Ugdrassle^L.

- 32 Þríar rótr · standa á þría vega [R REGTODO, A 5r/8]
 2 undan aski Yggdrasils;
 Hęl býr und ęinni, · annarri hrímþursar,
 4 þriðju męnnskir męnn.

Three roots stand on three ways, from beneath the ash of Ugdrassle. Hell lives under one, [under] another the Rime-Thurses^G, [under] the third manly men.

- 33 Ratatoskr hętir íkorni · es rinna skal [R REGTODO, A 5r/9]
 2 at aski Yggdrasils;
 arnar orð · hann skal ofan bera
 4 ok sęja Níðhoggvi niðr.

Wratetusk is called the squirrel, who shall run at the ash of Ugdrassle. The eagle's words he shall carry from above, and say to Nithehew below.

- 34 Hirtir eru ok fjórir · þęir's af hęfingar [R REGTODO, A 5r/11]
 2 á gaghálsir gnaga:
 Dáinn ok Dvalinn, · Dúnęyr ok Duraþrór.

TODO

[R REGTODO, A 5r/12]

35 Ormar fleiri · liggja und aski Yggdrasils
 2 an þat of hyggi hværr ósviðra apa:

More worms lie under the ash of Ugdrassle than each unwise ape^C might think:

[R REGTODO, A 5r/13]

36 Góinn TODO
 TODO

[R REGTODO, A 5r/14]

37 Askr Yggdrasils · drýgir erfði
 2 meira an menn viti:
 Hjörtr bítr ofan · en á hliðu fúnar,
 4 skerðir Níðhoggr neðan.

The ash of Ugdrassle suffers hardship greater than men might know: a hart bites it from above, but it rots on the side; Nithehew gnaws at it from below.

[R 10r/30, A 5r/16]

38 Hrist ok Mist · vil'k at mér horn beri,
 2 Skeggjöld ok Skoggul,
 Hildr ok Þrúðr, · Hlökk ok Hærfjotur,
 4 Goll ok Geirólul,
 Randgríð ok Ráðgríð, · Reginleif;
 6 þér bera einhærum ǫl.

Rist and Mist I wish might bear to me a horn^a—Shageld and Shagle; Hild and Thrith, Lank and Harfetter, Gall and Garalel; Randgrith, Redegrith and Rainlaf; they bear to the Ownharriers ale.

3 Hildr ok Þrúðr 'Hild and Thrith'] thus A; *Hildi ok Þrúði* R stems from *ðz*, *ðz* with r rotunda being interpreted and copied as *ðr*, *ðr*, see the digitalized images.

^ai.e. for to drink out of.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/18]

39 Árvakr ok Alsviðr, · skulu upp heðan
 2 svangir sól draga;
 en und þeira bógum · fǫlu blíð regin,
 4 ǣsir, ísarnkol.

Yorewaker and Allswith^a shall above hence—slender [horses]—pull the sun; but under their shoulders hid the blithe Reins—the Ease—iron-coal.

^aThese figures both appear in *Sighdrive* TODO. Along with the close formulation of the next verse, it is clear that they are closely related.

40 Svalinn heitir, · hann stendr sólu fyrir,
 2 skjöldr skínanda goði;
 björg ok brim · væt'k at brinna skulu,
 4 ef hann fellr í frá.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/20]

Swollen is [one] called, he stands before the sun; a shield [before] the shining god [= Sun]. Crag and surf^a I know shall burn, if he falls away.^b

^aThe mountains and seas; the whole world.

^bThe sun-disc was apparently thought to be a translucent shield, which protected the earth from the full power of the Sun. Cf. also *Sighdrive* TODO.

41 Skoll heitir ulfr, · es fylgir hinu skírlęita
 2 goði til varna víðar,
 en annarr Hati, · hann 's Hróðvitnis sonr,
 4 sá skal fyr heiða brúði himins.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/21]

Skoll^P is called the wolf, which follows the pure-skinned god [= Sun] to the protection of the woods; but another one [is called] Hate^P—he is Rothwitner^P's son—that one shall [run] in front of the bright bride of heaven [= Sun].^a

^aAccording to *Ylfir* 12, which is probably based on this verse, Skoll chases the sun but Hate chases the moon. See note to *Wallow* 40 for discussion on this.

42 Ór Ymis holdi · vas jörð of sköpuð,
 2 en ór sveita sér,
 björg ór beinum, · baðmr ór hári,
 4 en ór hausi himinn.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/23]

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

^aIn poetry *sveiti*, while cognate with ModEngl. 'sweat', almost always carries the meaning of 'blood'. This is also seen in the OE cognate *swát* (e.g. *Beowulf* 1286a: *sweord swáte fáb* 'sword stained with sweat', 2689b–2690: *he geblódegod wearð // sáwuldriore; · swát fðum wéoll*. 'he was bloodied by soul-gore; the sweat gushed in waves').

^bThe understanding is of the heavens as a dome, something that fits well with the clouds being Yimer's brains as mentioned in the next verse.

43 En ór hans bróm · gęrou blíð reġin
 2 Miðgarð manna sonum,
 en ór hans heila · vöru þau hin harðmóðgu
 4 ský ęll of sköpuð.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/25]

But out of his eyebrows the blithe Reins^G made Middenyard^L for the sons of men;^a but out of his brains were the hard-stirred clouds all shaped.

^aI agree with Finnur Jónsson (1932) in that this describes the gods enclosing Middenyard ('the middle enclosure') by using the hair of his eyebrows as poles.

[R REGTODO, A 5r/26]

44 Ullar hylli · hefr ok allra goða
2 hverr's tekr fyrstr á funa,
því't opnir heimar · verða of ása sonum,
4 þá's hefja af hvera.

The holdness^C of Woulder^P—and of all the gods—has each who first touches the fire; for the Homes^C become open o'er the sons of the Ease, when the cauldrons are heaved off.^a

1 hylli 'holdness'] i.e. 'favour, loyalty, grace'. This word and its adjectival equivalent *hollr* 'hold; favourable, loyal, gracious' are often used when speaking about divine grace, not just in Christian texts, but likewise as here wrt. to the Heathen gods. See Encyclopedia for other examples.

^aThis verse is one of the most difficult in the poem, and many interpretations have been made (for a summary see Nordberg (2005)). Finnur Jónsson (1932) and Sijmons and Gering (p. 208, TODO) interpret this verse as relating to the frame narrative, with Woden still bound between the two fires, wishing for the gods to rescue him. This, however, scarcely makes sense given its placement in the middle of various gnomic verses. I believe instead (and here I agree with (Nordberg, 2005)) that the verse refers to the cooking and eating of sacred stew in large cauldrons during the blót^C, and Woulder's role in the setting of the ritual fire (see Encyclopedia and (af Edholm, 2009)). This interpretation is especially interesting in that this verse immediately follows two verses dealing with the primordial sacrifice of Ymer to create the world. This shows that the blót was viewed as a ritual reenactment of the creation of the world by the gods (and indeed a continuation of that creation), something that is well attested comparatively (see (Lincoln, 1986), especially the first two chs., for its Indo-European analogues).

[R REGTODO, A 5r/28]

45 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, the useful son of Nearth [= Free].

[R REGTODO, A 5r/29]

46 Askr Yggdrasils, · hann es óztr við
2 en Skíðblaðnir skipa,
Óðinn ása · en jóa Sleipnir,
4 Bilrøst 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.

- 47 Svipum hefð nú ypt · fyr sigtíva sonum, [R REGTODO, A 5v/2]
 2 við þat skal vilbjörg vaka,
 öllum ósum · þat skal inn koma
 4 Égis bekkir á
 Égis drekkur at.

My gaze have I now lifted up before the sons of the victory-Tues [= Ease]; by that shall the willed rescue awake.^a With all the Ease shall it come in, onto the benches of Eagre, at the drinking of Eagre.

^aWeden has made the Ease aware of his identity, and thus they will come to help him.

- 48 Hétumk Grímr, · hétumk Gangleri, [R REGTODO, A 5v/4]
 2 Herjann ok Hjalmbéri,
 Þekkr ok Þriði, · Þunðr ok Uðr,
 4 Hælblindir ok Hár.

I called myself Grim, I called myself Gangler; Harn and Helmbearer. Theck and Third, Thound and Ith, Hellblind and High.

- 49 Saðr ok Svipall · ok Sanngættill, [R REGTODO, A 5v/5]
 2 Herteitr ok Hnikarr,
 Bileygr, Báleygr, · Bolverkr, Fjölgr,
 4 Grímr ok Grímnir, · Glapsviðr ok Fjolsviðr.

Sooth and Swiple, and Soothgettle; Hartat and Nicker. Bileye, Baleeye, Baleworker, Fillner, Grim and Grimmer, Glapswith and Fellswith.

- 50 Síðhotttr, Síðskeggr, · Sigföðr, Hníkuðr, [R REGTODO, A 5v/7]
 2 Alföðr, Valföðr, · Atríðr ok Farmatýr;
 einu nafni · hétumk aldrigi
 4 síð ek með folkum fór.

Sidehat, Sideshag, Sighfather, Nicked, Allfather, Walfather, Atrider and Farm-Tue; by one name I never called myself, since among men I fared.

[R REGTODO, A 5v/9]

51 Grímni mik hétu · at Geirraðar
 2 en Jálk at Ósmundar
 en þá Kjalar · es ek kjalka dró,
 4 Þrór þingum at.

Grimner they called me at Garred's [estate], but Yelk at Osmunds. But Keller then, as I drew the sled; Throo at Things^C.^a

^aPresumably referencing other now-lost myths involving Weden travelling in disguise. The last is possibly a reference to the name under which Weden would be invoked at the start of Things (legal assemblies, see Encyclopedia).

[R REGTODO, A 5v/10]

52 Óski ok Ómi TODO
 TODO

[R REGTODO, A 5v/11]

53 Sviðurr ok Sviðrir TODO
 TODO

[R REGTODO, A 5v/13]

54 Qlr ert Geirrøðr, · hefr þú of drukkit;
 2 miklu ert hnugginn, · es þú ert mínu gęngi,
 øllum ęinherjum · ok Óðins hylli.

Worse for ale art thou, Garfrith; thou hast drunk too much. Of much art thou bereft when thou art [bereft] of my support; of all the Ownharriers, and of Weden's holdness^C.^a

^aLinguistically, Garfrith is not bereft of the support of the Ownharriers but rather of the Ownharriers themselves, but presumably the sense is the same. By breaking the code of conduct to which he owns his success he lost Weden's favour, and thus been excluded from the community of oath-bound Odinic warriors (the Ownharriers). Cf. here

[R REGTODO, A 5v/15]

55 Fjølð þér sagða'k, · ęn þú fátt of mant,
 2 of þik véla vinir;
 męki liggja · sé'k míns vinar
 4 allan í dreyra drifinn.

Much I said to 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 expresses his disappointment in Garfrith's conduct and predicts his imminent death.

[R REGTODO, A 5v/16]

56 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!

- 57 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.

[R REGTODO, A 5v/18]

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.

- 58 Ófnir ok Sváfnir · hygg at orðnir sé
 2 allir at einum mér.

[R REGTODO, A 5v/20]

Ofner and Sweefner, I ween, are become all for me alone.

- P1 Geirröðr konungr sat ok hafði sverð um kné sér ok brugðit til miðs. En er
 2 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
 4 fæti ok steiptiz áfram en sverðit stóð í gögnum hann ok fekk hann bana.
 Óðinn hvarf þá. En Agnarr var þar konungr lengi síðan.

[R REGTODO, A 5v/21]

King Garfrith sat and had a sword about his knee, and it was brandished half-way up.
 But when he heard that Weden were come there, he stood up and wanted to 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 went through him, and he received his
 bane. Weden then disappeared, but Eyner was there king for a long while afterwards.

4 hann] þar af A 5 Óðinn hvarf þá.] om. A 5 var þar] varð A 5 lengi síðan.] om. A

The Leed of Hoarbeard (*Hárbarðsljóð*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): early C11th (0.578)–late C11th (0.377)

Meter: Unclear (TODO)

In my opinion the poem can be seen as an allegory on class relations, namely between the self-owning Norwegian and later Icelandic farmers, and the warlike Norwegian earls.

Of all Eddic poems this one is probably the strangest in terms of form. Verse length varies greatly, and many of the lines (see especially the final verse) are of an obscene length reminiscent of late continental Germanic poems like the *Heliand*; some simply have no metrical qualities at all. The young clitic definite is (uniquely) employed frequently throughout the poem. These criteria would seem to point towards a late origin for the poem (though not later than the late C13th, when *R* was written).

Against this late origin speaks the presence of rare words (e.g. *ǫgurr* v. 13) and a thorough understanding of the personalities of the two gods which would seem unlikely to stem from several centuries after the conversion of Iceland. The model devised by Sapp gives the poem a 57.8% likelihood of being from the early C11th, and a 37.7% likelihood of being from the late 11th. These scores are most similar to those obtained by *Griper*, a poem that on the surface seems much more archaic.

What could we then be dealing with? It may of course be that the poem is heavily corrupt, but there is no good evidence for this (apart from the above-mentioned irregularities). Most lines are readily understandable and fit well both within their respective context and the poem as a whole. I think a better solution to this problem is to assume that the poem has been acted out as a sort of carnivalesque theatre, with two masked actors, each playing one of the gods. This would explain the variations in meter and line length, and the prose; some lines were simply shouted out, and the lack of alliteration in them would then have a powerful, discordant effect.

This is shown also by uses of the word ‘here’ in vv. 9 and 14. TODO: mention concept of “double scene” by Lars Lönnroth?

P1 Þórr fór ór austrvegi ok kom at sundi einu. Qðrum meguð sundsins var [R 12r/30]
2 ferjukarlinn með skipit. Þórr kallaði:

Thunder journeyed 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:

[R 12r/32] 1 „Hvęrr ’s sá sveinn sveina · es stęndr fyr sundit handan?“
 “Who is that swain of swains, that stands across the sound?”

[R 12v/1] 2 „Hvęrr ’s sá karl karla · es kallar of váginn?“
 “Who is that churl of churls, that calls out over the wave?”

[R 12v/2] 3 „Fęr þú mik of sundit, · fęði’k þik á morgun;
 2 męis hęfi’k á baki, · verðr-a matrinn bętri.
 Át ek í hvíld · áðr ek hejman fęr,
 4 síldr ok hafra; · saðr em’k ęnn þęss.“
 “Ferry me over the sound, I feed thee in the morning! A basket I have on my back; the food does not get better.^a I ate for a while before I journeyed from home, herring and hegoats; I am still full from that.”

^ai.e. ‘you will not get better food than that.’

[R 12v/5] 4 „Árligum verkum · hrósar þú vęrðinum;
 2 vęizt-at-tu fyr gęrla,
 dępr ’ru þín hejmkygni, · dauð hygğ’k at þín móðir sé.“
 “[In place of] early works boastest thou of thy eating! Thou knowest not the future clearly; dismal is the state of thy home, dead I think thy mother might be.”

[R 12v/6] 5 „Þat sęgir þú nú · es hverjum þikkir
 2 męst at vita— · at mín móðir dauð sé.“
 “Thou now sayest that which to each man seems most important to know: that my mother might be dead!”

[R 12v/8] 6 „Þęgyi ’s sem þú · þrjú bú ęigir góð;
 2 bęrbęinn þú stęndr · ok hęfir brautinga gęrvi,
 þat-ki at þú hafir brękr þínar.“
 “’Tis hardly as if thou might own three good homesteads; bare-legged thou standest, and hast the gear of a tramp; ’tis not even as if thou have thy own breeches!”

[R 12v/9] 7 „Stýrðu hingat ęikjunni, · ek mun þér stęðna kęnna

2 eða hværr á skipit · es þú heldr við landit?“

“Steer hither the boat! I will show thee to the harbour—or who owns the ship which thou holdest by the shore?”

8 „Hildólfr sá heitir · es mik halda það, [R 12v/11]
2 rekr inn ráðsvinni · es býr í Ráðseyjarsundi;
 það-at hann hlennimenn flytja · eða hrossþjófa,
4 góða æina · ok þá's ek gërva kunna;
 sęg-ðu til nafns þíns · ef þú vill of sundit fara.“

“Hildolf is called he who asked me to hold it, the counsel-wise man who lives in Redeseyrsound. He bade me not to carry robbing-men, nor horse-thiefs; good men only, and those whom I know well—state thy name if thou wilt fare o'er the sound!”

9 „Sęja mun'k til nafns míns · þótt ek sękr sjá'k [R 12v/15]
2 ok til alls øðlis: · Ek em Óðins sonr,
 Męila bróðir · ęn Magna faðir,
4 þrúðvaldr goða · við þór knátt-u hér dóma! Hins vil'k nú spyrja ·
 hvat þú heitir?“

“I will state my name—[and would] even if I were outlawed—and all my origin: I am Woden's son, Male's brother and Main's father, the strength-wielder of the Gods; with Thunder dost thou here speak! This I will now ask, what thou art called?”

10 „Hárbarðr ek heiti, · hyl'k of nafn sjaldan.“ [R 12v/18]
“Hoarheard I am called, seldom I conceal my name.”

11 „Hvat skalt-u of nafn hylja · nema þú sakar ęgir?“ [R 12v/18]
“Why shalt thou conceal thy name, unless thou be guilty of crime?”

12 „En þótt ek sakar ęiga · fyr slíkum sem þú ert [R 12v/19]
2 þá mun'k forða fjörvi mínu · nema ek fęigr sé.“
“Even though I were guilty of crime, for such a one as thou art I would still protect by life, unless I be fey^C.”

- [R 12v/30] 17 „Hversu snúnuðu yðr konur yðrar?“

“How did your women pleasure (TODO!!!) you?.^a”

^aSeemingly a prose line; see Introduction.

- 18 „Sparkar ǫttum vér konur · ef oss at spökum yrði; [R 12v/30]
 2 horskar ǫttum vér konur · ef oss hollar véri,
 þér ór sandi · síma undu
 4 ok ór dali djúpum
 grund of grófu;
 6 varð’k þeim einn ǫllum · øfri at rǫðum;
 hvílda’k hjá systurum sjau
 8 ok hafða’k gæð þeira allt ok gaman; hvat vannt-u þá meðan,
 þórr?“

“We [I] owned frisky women, if they were pleasing towards us [me]; we [I] owned wise women, if they were hold^C towards us [me]; out of the sand a rope they wound, and out of a deep dale dug up the ground; I alone became superior to all of them in counsels; I rested by those sisters seven, and had their senses all, and pleasure—what didst thou then meanwhile, Thunder?”

- 19 „Ek drap Þjaza, · hinn þrúðmóðga jǫtun, [R 13r/2, A 1r/1 (l. 4bff.)]
 2 upp ek varp augum · Allvalda sonar
 á þann hinn hęiða himin;
 4 þau ’ru męrki męst · minna verka,
 þau’s allir męnn síðan of sé;
 6 hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Hárbarðr?“

“I slew Thedse^C, the strength-minded ettin; up I threw the eyes of the son of Allwald [= Thedse] onto that clear heaven; those are the greatest marks of my works, those that all men since do see^a—what didst thou then meanwhile, Hoarbeard?”

^aWe here have a rare example of native Germanic star-lore. Is the exact constellation identifiable? TODO.

- 20 „Miklar manvélar · hafða’k við myrkriður [R 13r/5, A 1r/1]
 2 þá’s ek vélta þér frá verum;
 harðan jǫtun · hugða’k Hlébarð vesa;
 4 gaf hann mér gambantęin
 en ek vélta hann ór viti.“

“Great girl-tricks I used against mirk-riders^C, when I tricked them away from their husbands.^a A hard ettin I judged Leebeard to be; he gave me a gombentoe^C, but I tricked him out of his wits.”

^aAlternately 'away from men'. The *riður* '(female) riders' were witches thought to torment people and cause disease and suffering. See *Higb* 154 for a more detailed explanation.

[R 13r/7, A 1r/3]

21 „Illum huga launaðir þú þá góðar gjafar.“

“With an evil mind rewardedst thou that good gift.”

[R 13r/8, A 1r/4]

22 „Þat hefir eik · es af annarri skęfr;
2 umb sik es hveřr í slíku;
hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Þórr?“

“An oak has that which it scrapes from another; each is for himself in such [a matter]—what didst thou then meanwhile, Thunder?”

[R 13r/9, A 1r/4]

23 „Ek vas austr · ok jǫtna barða'k
2 brúðir bǫlvísar · es til bjargs gengu;
mikil myndi ęt jǫtna · ef allir lifði,
4 vętr myndi manna · undir Miðgarði;
hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Hárbarðr?

“I was in the east, and ettins I fought; bale-wise brides who walked to the mountain. Great would the lineage of ettins be if all lived; naught would remain of men within Middenyard^a—what didst thou then meanwhile, Hoarbeard?”

^aA remarkable clear statement of purpose. This conception is far from unique to this verse; in *Hymer* 11, for instance, Thunder is described as “the opponent of Rooder”, “the friend of manly retinues” and “Wighward”, attesting his role in the slaying of ettins and the protection of men and their sanctuaries (wighs^c). kenneđ as the wigh-ward (sanctuary-defender) of Middenyard. For Thunder's killing of women cf. vv. 37–39 below and also

[R 13r/11, A 1r/6]

24 „Vas'k á Vallandi · ok vígum fylgða'k,
2 atta ek jǫfrum · en aldrigi sętta'k;
Óðinn á jarla · þá's í val falla
4 en Þórr á þręla kyn.“

“I was in Walland^L and followed conflicts; I incited princes, and never reconciled them. Weden owns the earls which fall among the slain, but Thunder owns the kin of thralls.^a”

^aWe see here a sort of aristocratic, Odinic disregard for lower life and life as a good in itself; where Thunder boasts of saving men, Weden sarcastically responds that he caused the deaths of men so that he could have them for himself.

- 25 „Ójafnt skipta · es þú myndir með ósum liði [R 13r/13, A 1r/8]
 2 ef þú éttir vilgi mikils vald.“

“Translation.”

- 26 „Þórr á afl órit · en ekki hjarta; [R 13r/14, A 1r/9]
 2 af hręðslu ok hugblęyði · þér vas í hanzka troðit
 ok þóttisk-a þú þá Þórr vesa;
 4 hvárki þá þorðir · fyr hręðslu þinni
 hnjósa né fisa · svá't Fjalarr heyrði.“

“Thunder owns ample strength, but no heart; out of fear and mind-softness didst thou tread into a glove, and then seemedest thou not to be Thunder. Thou daredest neither—for thy fear—to sneeze nor to fart so that Feller might hear [it].^a”

^aThis story is also referenced in *Lock* 60. It is elaborated heavily on in *Yilfer* 45: Thunder, Lock, and the siblings Thelve and Wrash had travelled east for a long time when they discovered a large hall, with an opening on one end, as wide as the building. They took rest inside, but in the middle of the night there was a great earthquake and the ground beneath them trembled. Thunder rose and led the party to a side-room to the right in the middle of the hall. He sat closest to the opening with his hammer ready, while the others sat terrified further inside. At daybreak they left the hall and found a huge ettin named *Skrymir* (Shrimer^p) sleeping next to them. His snoring had caused the earth-quakes, and the hall was his mitten; the side-room was the thumb-part.

- 27 „Hárbarðr hinn ragi, · munda'k þik í Hęl drepa [R 13r/17, A 1r/11]
 2 ef mętta'k seilask of sund.“

“Hoarbeard the degenerate^C, I would strike thee into Hell^L, if I might sail o'er the sound!”

- 28 „Hvat skyldir of sund seilask · es sakir 'ru allz ęngar? [R 13r/18, A 1r/12]
 2 hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Þórr?“

“Why should thou sail o'er the sound when there are no offenses?—what didst thou then meanwhile, Thunder?”

- 29 „Ek vas austr · ok ána varða'k [R 13r/19, A 1r/13]
 2 þá's mik sóttu · þęir Svárangs synir;
 grjóti mik bęrðu, · gagni urðu þó lítt fęgnir,
 4 þó urðu mik fyrri · frįðar at biðja.
 hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Hárbarðr?“

“I was in the east, and warded the river, when the sons of Sweering attacked me. With rocks they fought me, yet they rejoiced little in victory; yet they earlier had to beg me for peace—what didst thou then meanwhile, Hoarbeard?”

[R 13r/22, A 1r/15]

30 „Ek var austr · ok við ęinhverja dómða'k,
 2 lék'k við ina lindhvítu · ok long þing háða'k,
 gladda'k ina gullbjörtu, · gamni mér unði.“

“I was in the east, and with a certain woman conversed; I played with the linen-white one, and held long-lasting trysts:^a I gladdened the gold-bright one; the maiden enjoyed pleasure.”

^a*þing* (see Thing^C) usually means ‘legal assembly’, but clearly not here.

[R 13r/24, A 1r/17]

31 „Góð óttu þeir mankynni þar þá.“

“Then they had good girl-visits there.”

[R 13r/24, A 1r/17]

32 „Liðs þíns véra'k þá þurfi, Þórr, · at helda'k þęiri inni línhvítu mey.“

“Of thy help I might have been in need then, Thunder, that I might hold that linen-white maiden.”

[R 13r/25, A 1r/18]

33 „Ek mynda þér þat þá vęita · ef ek viðr of kęmisk.“

“I would then have granted thee that, if I were able.”

[R 13r/26, A 1r/18]

34 „Ek mynda þér þá trúa, · nema mik í tryggð véltir.“

“I would then have trusted thee, unless thou betrayed my trust.”

[R 13r/27, A 1r/19]

35 „Em'k-at ek sá hęlbítr · sem húðskór forn á vár.“

“I am not such a heel-biter as an old hide-shoe in spring.^a”

^aProverbial (a heel-biter being someone who betrays his companions); the leather of a shoe would become very stiff and chafing over the winter.

[R 13r/28, A 1r/20]

36 Hvat Shed þá meðan, Þórr?“

“What didst thou then meanwhile, Thunder?”

[R 13r/28, A 1r/20]

37 „Brúðir bersęrkja · barða'k í Hléseyju;
 2 þęr hofðu vęrst unnit, · vélta þjóð alla.“

“The brides of berserks I fought in Leesie; they had done the worst: deceived a whole people.”

38 „Klęki þá, Þórr, · es þú á konum barðir.“

[R 13r/29, A 1r/21]

“A great disgrace didst thou then, Thunder, when thou foughtest women.”

39 „Vargynjur vóru þér · en varla konur,
2 skelldu skip mitt · es ek skorðat hafða’k,
ógöu mér járnlurki · en ęltu Þjálf.
4 hvat vannt-u þá meðan, Hárbarðr?“

[R 13r/30, A 1r/22]

“She-wolves were they, but hardly women; they knocked my ship which I had propped; frightened me with an iron-cudgel, but chased Thelvé around—what didst thou then meanwhile, Hoarbeard?”

40 „Ek vas’k í hęrnum · es hingat gjörðisk
2 gnęfa gunnfana, · gęir at rjóða.“

[R 13r/32, A 1r/23]

“I was in the army, as hence it made ready to raise the war-standard; to redden the spear.”

41 „Þess vilt-u nú geta, es þú fórt oss óljúfan at bjóða.“

[R 13v/1, A 1r/24]

“This wilt thou now mention, as thou wentest to bid us [= the Ease] hatred!”

1 óljúfan] oliyfan A; †olubann† R

42 „Bóta skal þér þat þá · munda baugi
2 sem jafnęndr unnu · þęir’s okkr vilja sętta.“

[R 13v/2, A 1r/25]

“I will then restore thee for that with a hand-bigh, like the settlers [have] considered, those who wish to reconcile us.”

43 „Hvar namt þęssi · in hnófiligu orð
2 es heyrða’k aldrigi · hnófiligri?“

[R 13v/3, A 1r/26]

“Where learnedst thou these sarcastic words, which I never heard more sarcastic?”

44 „Nam’k at męnnum þęim inum aldrónum es búa í hęimisskógum.“

[R 13v/5, A 1r/27]

“I learned them from the old men who dwell in the home-forests.”

[R 13v/5, A 1v/1]

45 „Þó gefr þú gótt nafn dysjum, es þú kallar þat heimis-skóga.“

“Yet thou givest a good name to poor cairns,^a as thou callest them home-forests.”

^acf. his waking the dead in various poems TODO.

[R 13v/6, A 1v/2]

46 „Svá dómi’k of slíkt far.“

“So I speak about such matters.”

[R 13v/7, A 1v/2]

47 „Orðkringi þín · mun þér illa koma

2 ef ek réð á vág at vaða;

ulfi héra · hygg’k at ópa mynir

4 ef hlýtr af hamri hogg.“

“Thy word-glibness will bring thee evil, if I resolve to wade on the wave; higher than a wolf I think that thou wilt scream, if thou suffer a strike from the hammer.”

[R 13v/9, A 1v/4]

48 „Sif á hó heima, · hans munt fund vilja,

2 þann munt þrek drýgja, · þat ’s þér skyldara.“

“Sib has a whoremonger at home, him wilt thou wish to meet; then shalt thou use thy strength, that is for thee more befitting!”

[R 13v/10, A 1v/5]

49 „Mélir þú at munns ráði · svá’t mér skyldi vęrst þikkja,

2 halr inn hugblauði, · hygg’k at þú ljúgir.“

“Thou speakest to the counsel of thy mouth that which would seem to me the worst; heart-soft man, I think that thou liest!”

[R 13v/12, A 1v/6]

50 „Satt hygg’k mik segja, · seinn ert at fęr þinni,

2 langt myndir nú kominn, þórr, · ef þú litum fęrir.“

“I think myself to speak truly: late art thou in thy journey; far would thou now be come, Thunder, if thou had brought thy colours.”

2 litum fęrir ‘brought thy colours’] Very unclear expression. *fęra litum* TODO.

51 „Hárbarðr inn ragi, · heðr hefir nú mik dvalðan!“ [R 13v/14, A 1v/8]
 “Hoarheard the degenerate; thou hast now delayed me greatly!”

52 „Ása-Þórs · hugða’k aldrigi myndu [R 13v/14, A 1v/8]
 2 gleppja féhirði farar.“
 “The journey of Thunder of the Ease I never thought that a shepherd [= I] would divert.”

53 „Ráð mun’k þér nú ráða: · Ró þú hingat bátinum, [R 13v/15, A 1v/9]
 2 hettum hótingi, · hitt fœður Magna!“
 “I will now counsel thee a counsel: Row hither the boat; seize with the taunting; come to the father of Main [= Thunder = me]!”

54 „Far þú firr sundi, · þér skal fars synja!“ [R 13v/17, A 1v/10]
 “Go far from the sound; the ferry shall be denied thee!”

55 „Visa þú mér nú leiðina · allz þú vill mik eigi of váginn fœrja!“ [R 13v/17, A 1v/11]
 “Show me now the path, as thou wilt not ferry me o’er the wave!”

56 „Lítit ’s at synja, · langt ’s at fara; [R 13v/18, A 1v/11]
 2 stund ’s til stokksins, · qnnur til stęinsins,
 halt svá til vinstra vegsins · unz þú hittir Verland;
 4 þar mun Fjörgyn · hitta Þór, son sinn,
 ok mun hōn kenna hōnum óttunga brautir · til Óðins landa.“
 “Tis little to deny, ’tis long to journey: an hour to the log, another to the stone; hold thus to the left road, until thou findest Wereland; there will Firgyn find Thunder, her son, and she will show him to the highways of her ancestors, to Weden’s lands [= Osyrd].”

57 „Mun’k taka þangat í dag?“ [R 13v/22, A 1v/14]
 “Will I come thither today?”

58 „Taka við víl ok erfði · at uppvesandi sólu [R 13v/22, A 1v/14]
 2 es ek get þána.“

“[Thou wilt] come with toil and hardship at the rising of the sun, as I think it be thawing.”

[R 13v/23, A 1v/15]

59 „Skammt mun nú mál okkat vesa, · allz þú mér skótingu ęinni svarar;
2 launa mun ek þér farsynjun · ef vit finnumk í sinn annat.
Far þú nú þar's þik hafi allan gramir!“

“Short will now our speech be, as thou answerest me with scoffing alone; I will reward thee for this ferry-denial if we meet another time. Now go, whither the fiends may have all of thee!”

The Lay of Thrim (*Þrymskviða*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C9th (0.741)–C10th (0.259)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

Compare *Harvest-long*, *Hymer*, other poems and refer to the SkP intro to one of the big Thunder poems. TODO.

-
- 1 Vręiðr vas þá Ving-Þórr · es hann vaknaði
2 ok síns hamars · of saknaði,
 skegg nam at hrista, · skqr 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 Vręiðr] TODO: Note about ambiguity of alliteration.

- 2 Ok hann þat orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
2 „Hęyrðu nú, Loki, · hvat ek nú męli
 es ęigi vęit · jarðar hvēgi
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^{L:a} the os^G [= Thunder = I] has been robbed of his hammer!”

^aA common Germanic poetic formula, see Encyclopedia: Earth and Up-heaven^L.

- 3 Gengu þęir fagra · Fręyju túna
2 ok hann þat orða · allz fyrst of kvað:
 „Muntu mér, Fręyja, · fjaðrhams léa
4 ef ek míninn hamar · mętta’k hitta?“

Went they to the fair yards of Frow^P, and he that word, first of all did speak: “Wilt thou me, Frow, the feather-hame^P lend, if I my hammer might find?”

[Frow quoth:]

4 „Þó mynda’k gefa þér · þótt ór gulli véri
2 ok þó selja · at véri ór silfri.“

“I would yet give it to thee, though it were out of gold, and yet offer^a it to thee, as it were out of silver.”^b

^a*selja* ‘sell’ here has its earlier meaning, cf. Gotish *saljan* Streitberg (1910, p. 116): ‘*opfern*; θύειν’.

^bRegaining the hammer is of such importance to the gods (cf. v. 17; without it the Ease stand powerless against the Ettins^G), that Frow would lend the feather-hame to the greedy and untrusty Lock, even if it were made out of solid gold or silver.

5 Fló þá Loki, · fjaðrhamr dunði,
2 unz fyr útan kom · ása garða
ok fyr innan kom · jötna hęima.

Flew then Lock^a—the feather-hame rustled—until outside he came of the yards of the Ease^L, and inside he came of the homes of the Ettins^L.

^aThough Thunder is the one asking for the hame (“if I *my* hammer might find”), Lock is the one that takes off flying.

6 Þrymr sat á haugi, · þursa dróttinn,
2 greyjum sínum · gullbønd snøri
ok mǫrum sínum · mǫn jafnaði.

Thrim sat on the howe, the lord of Thurses^G: on his greyhounds the golden leashes he twirled, and on his mares the manes he cut even.

7 „Hvat ’s með ósum? · Hvat ’s með ǫlfum?
2 Hví est ęinn kominn · í jötunhęima?“
„Illt es með ósum, · illt es með ǫlfum!
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^L?” — [Lock quoth:] “’Tis ill with the Ease, ’tis ill with the elves! Hast thou the hammer of Lorde (= Thunder) hidden?”

3 illt es með ǫlfum] Inserted in analogy with the first pair, regardless it is needed for metrical reasons.

[Thrim quoth:]

- 8 „Ek hefí Hlórriða · hamar of folginn
 2 átta røstum · fyr jorð neðan;
 hann engi maðr · aptr of heimtir
 4 nęma fōri mér · Freyju at kvęn.“

“I have the hammer of Loride hidden, eight rests^C beneath the earth; it no man will fetch again, unless he bring me Frow as wife.”

- 9 Fló þá Loki, · fjaðrhamr dunði,
 2 unz fyr útan kom · jøtna hęima
 ok fyr innan kom · ása garða;
 4 mōtti hann Þór · miðra garða
 ok þat hann orða · allz fyrst of kvað:

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 [= Thunder] that word first of all did say:

[Thunder quoth:]

- 10 „Hęfir þú ørendi · sem erfði?
 2 Segðu á lopti · lęng tíðendi!
 Opt sitjanda · sogur of fallask
 4 ok liggjandi · lygi of bęllir.“

“Hast thou an errand of hardship?^a Say thou aloft, the long tidings! Often sitting, tales fail each other, and lying down, lies are dealt.”^b

^alit. “Hast thou an errand, as hardship?” Thunder asks Lock if he has bad news.

^bProverbial. If one sits down and thinks too much over bad news, details will be left out, excuses thought up. Thus it is best that Lock immediately tell Thunder what he has learned.

[Lock quoth:]

- 11 „Hefí ek ørindi · erfði ok:
 2 Þrymr hefí þinn hamar, · þursa dróttinn;
 hann engi maðr · aptr of heimtir
 4 nęma hōnum fōri · Freyju at kvęn.“

“I have an errand, hardship also: Thrim has thy hammer, the lord of Thurses; it no man will fetch again, unless he bring him Frow as wife.”

- 12 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 jötunhæima.“

Go they the fair Frow to find, and he^a that word, first of all did say: “Bind thee, Frow, with a bride’s linen^b! We two shall drive into the Ettin-homes.”

^aUnclear. Possibly Lock, since he was the speaker of the last verse.

^bA linen band tied around the bride’s head. TODO: Reference this note.

- 13 Vreð varð þá Freyja · ok fnasaði,
 2 allr ása salr · undir bifðisk,
 stökk þat it mikla · mæn Brisinga:
 4 „Mik velt verða · vergjarnasta
 ef ek ek með þér · í jötunhæima.“

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,^a if I drive with thee into the Ettin-homes.”

^aEither Frow is speaking out of self-awareness of her own lust, or the sense is that she will be accused of being lustful by the other gods, but there is no verb here corresponding to ‘accuse’.

- 14 Senn vóru ésir · allir á þingi
 2 ok ósynjur · allar á máli,
 ok of þat réðu · ríkir tívar:
 4 hvé þeir Hlórriða · hamar of sótti.

Soon were the Ease^G all at the Thing^C, and the Ossens^C all at speech, and of this counseled the mighty Tues^G:^a how they the hammer of Loride would seek out.

^aIdentical to *Dreams* 1.

- 15 Þá kvað þat Heimdallr, · hvítastr ása,
 2 vissi hann vel framm · sœm vanir aðrir:
 „Bindu vér Þór þá · brúðar líni;
 4 hafi hann it mikla · mæn Brisinga!

Then quoth that Homedall^P, the whitest of the Ease; he knew well forth,^a like the other Waness^G: “Let us bind Thunder with the bride’s linen; may he have the great necklace of the Brisings^P.”

^a*vita fram* ‘to know forth’, i.e. to know the future. Compare *framvís* ‘forth-wise; prescient.’

- 16 Lötum und hönnum · hrynja lukla
 2 ok kvenváðir · umb kné falla
 en á brjósti · breiða stëina
 4 ok hagliga · umb hofuð typpum!“

Let us place by his side keys to jingle, and women’s garments to fall down about his knees, and on the breast broad stones, and skillfully let us tip his head!^a”

^aThis verse contains an interesting description of Viking age bridal dress: As the everyday manager of the household, keys were the mark of a respectable married woman. The “broad stones” on the breast are probably tortoise brooches, while the tipping of the head refers to some sort of bridal hat (TODO: Literature). Breast-brooches are also mentioned in *Wayland* 25, 36.

- 17 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 would the Ease call degenerate^C, if I let myself be bound with bride’s linen!”

- 18 Þá kvað þat Loki · Laufęjar sonr:
 2 „Þęgi þú, Þórr, · þęira orða!
 Þegar munu jętnar · Ásgarð búa
 4 nęma þú þinn hamar · þér of hęimtir.“

Then quoth that Lock, the son of Leafie: “Shut thou, Thunder, those words up! Shortly the Ettins will settle Osyrd, unless thou thy hammer for thyself dost fetch!”

- 19 Bundu þęir Þór þá · brúðar líni
 2 ok inu mikla · męni Brisinga,
 létu und hönnum · hrynja lukla
 4 ok kvenváðir · umb kné falla
 ęn á brjósti · breiða stëina
 6 ok hagliga · of hofuð typpðu.

Bound they Thunder then, with bride’s linen, and with the great necklace of the Brisings. They placed by his side keys to jingle, and women’s garments to fall down about his knees, and on the breast broad stones, and skillfully they tipped his head.

- 20 Þá kvað þat Loki · Laufeyjar sonr:
 2 „Mun ek ok með þér · ambótt vesa,
 vit skulum aka tvau · í jötunhëima.“

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, i.e. 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.

- 21 Senn vóru hafrar · hëim of vrekni,
 2 skyndir at sköklum, · skyldu vël renna;
 björg brotnuðu, · brann jörð loga;
 4 ók Óðins sonr · í jötunhëima.

Soon he-goats^{Ca} were driven home, hasted onto the cart-poles; they were to run well. Crag burst, the earth burned with flame; the son of Weden [= Thunder] drove into the Ettin-homes.^b

^aThunder's cart was driven by he-goats, and he is likewise called “the lord of he-goats” in *Hymer* 20, 31. See Encyclopedia.

^bA very similar but more detailed description of Thunder driving is found in Thedwolf's *Harvest-long* 14–16. In both poems his wagon is drawn by he-goats, causing great cosmic disturbance: crags (*björg* in both) are rent asunder and fires rage before him. See also *Dreams* 3 for a related description of Weden riding.

- 22 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:
 2 „Standið upp, jötnar, · ok stráið þekki!
 Nú fórið mér · Freyju at kván,
 4 Njarðar dóttur · ór Nóatúnum.

Then quoth that Thrim, the lord of Thurses: “Stand ye up, ettins, and strew the benches! Now bring me Frow as wife; the daughter of Nearth^P of the Nowetowns^L.”

- 23 Ganga hér at garði · gullhyrnðar kýr,
 2 øxn alsvartir, · jötni at gamni,
 fjöld á'k meïðma, · 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 [= me]. A great deal I own of treasures, a great deal I own of necklaces; of Frow alone methinks is missing.”

- 24 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 before the ettins ale brought forth. Ate he [= Thunder] one ox, eight salmons, and all the dainties which were meant for the women; drank the husband of Sib [= Thunder] three sieves of mead.^a

^aCf. *Hymr* 15. It is rather interesting that the same kenning is used in both verses when both concern Thunder's great eating; possibly one poet was playing on the other's expression, or they were both referencing some now-lost work.

- 25 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:
 2 „Hvar sátstu brúðir · bíta hvassara?
 Sá'k-a brúðir · bíta enn breiðara
 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.”

- 26 Sat in alsnotra · ambótt fyr
 2 es orð of fann · við jǫtuns máli:
 „Át vętr Freyja · átta nǫttum,
 4 svá vas hón óðfús · í jǫtunheima.“

Sat the allclever maid-servant [= Lock] 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.”

- 27 Laut und línu, · lysti at kyssa,
 2 en hann útan stókk · endlangan sal:
 „Hví eru ǫndótt · 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 flame coming out of the eyes!^a”

^aLit. “Methinks out of the eyes burn.”

- 28 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 [= Lock] 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] add. *f. f.* R is possibly a lost word.

- 29 Inn kom in arma · jötna systir,
 2 hin es brúðfjár · biðja þorði:
 „Láttu þér af höndum · 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 [my] holdness^C.”^a

^aThe sister, who already asked for the hammer, now has the audacity to ask Thunder (still disguised as Frow) to give her the very rings on his hands.

- 30 Þá kvað þat Þrymr, · þursa dróttinn:
 2 „Berð inn hamar · brúði at vígja,
 leggið Mjöllni · í meýjar kné,
 4 vígið okkr saman · Várar hęndi!“

Then quoth that Thrim, the lord of Thurses: “Bear ye in the hammer, the bride to bless; lay Millner in the maiden’s knee, bless us two together by the hand of Ware^P!”^a

^aA minor goddess presumably presiding over marriage. See Encyclopedia.

- 31 Hló Hlórriða · hugr í brjósti
 2 es harðhugaðr · hamar of þekkði;
 Þrym drap hann fyrstan, · þursa dróttin,
 4 ok ęt jötuns · alla lamði.

The heart of Lorde laughed in his breast, when, hard-hearted, he recognized the hammer. Thrim he slew first, the lord of Thurses, and all the lineage of the ettin he thrashed.

- 32 Drap hann ina ǫldnu · jötna 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.

33 Svá kom Óðins sonr · endr at hamri.

Thus Woden's son regained his hammer.

The Lay of Hymer (*Hymiskviða*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.694)–early C11th (0.268)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

Attested in two manuscripts, **R** and **A**. The two are surprisingly consistent; all verses are shared, and come in the same order. The title *Hymiskviða* ‘the Lay of Hymer’ comes from **A**. **R** instead has in the usual red ink the header *Þórr dró Miðgarðsorm* ‘Thunder pulled the Middenyardsworm’.

1 Á r valtívar · veiðar nómu
2 ok sumblsamir · áðr saðir yrði,
 hristu tēja · ok á hlaut sǫu,
4 fundu at Égis · ørkost hvera.

[R 13v/26, A 5v/25]

Of yore the slain-Tues [GODS] had caught game^a, and at the simble^c 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 (*blaut* ‘sacrificial blood’) of the beasts and interpreted the pattern; they found it most auspicious to feast at Eagre’s. TODO: reference to leat-twigs.

2 Sat herghúi · harntǣitr fyrir,
2 mjök glíkr męgi · Miskorblinda,
 lęit í augu · Yggs barn í þrá:
4 „þú skalt ósum · opt sumbl gęra!“

[R 13v/28, A 5v/27]

Sat the mountain-dweller [ETTIN = Eagre] there, merry like a child, much alike to the lad of Misherbblind;^a into his eyes looked the child of Ug (= Weden) [= Thunder] stubbornly: “Thou shalt for the Ease oft host simbles!”^b

4 gęra ‘host’] gęfa ‘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.

[R 13v/31, A 5v/29]

3 Qnn fekk jǫtni · 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 heita.“

Great toil for the ettin the word-peevisn man [= Thunder] caused; he [= Eagre] thought of revenge, soon, against the god; he bade Sib's husband [= Thunder] bring him a cauldron, “that one with which I for you all ale might heat.”^a

^aEagre gets back at Thunder by telling him that he needs a single cauldron which can hold enough ale to supply all the Ease.

[R 14r/1, A 5v/30]

4 Né þat mǫttu · mērir tívar
2 ok ginnrēgin · of geta hvergi,
unz af tryggðum · Týr Hlórriða
4 ástráð mikit · einum sagði:

But that one might the renowned Tues^G and the gin-Reins^G nowhere get ahold of—until, out of loyalty, a great loving counsel Tue to Lorde (= Thunder) alone did say:

[R 14r/3, A 6r/2]

5 „Býr fyr austan · Élivága
2 hundvíss Hymir · at himins enda,
á minn faðir · móðugr ketil,
4 rúmbrugðinn hver · rastar djúpan.“

“Dwells to the east of the Ilevaves^L the hound-wise Hymer, at heaven's end.^a Owns my father [= Hymer], fierce, a kettle; a size-renowned cauldron, a rest^C deep.”

4 rúmbrugðinn] †rumbrygðan† A

^aAccording to *Webbithner* 31 the Ilevaves were the poisonous wild rushes out of which the ettins emerged, and so it only makes sense that they would be found in the east, where the ettins dwell. Hymer's dwelling even further east than them illustrates his fierceness.

[Thunder quoth:]

[R 14r/4, A 6r/4]

6 „Veizt, ef þiggjum · þann lögveli?“
2 [Tue quoth:] „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

^aLike elsewhere in this poem the 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 kvómu;
hirði hafra · hornöfgasta;
4 hurfu at hollu · es Hymer átti.

[R 14r/5, A 6r/4]

— Journeyed they with great strides from the beginning of the day, from Oyard, until to Agle’s [home] they came—he herded the horn-noblest he-goats^a—they turned to the hall which Hymer owned.

1 dag þann framan ‘from the beginning of the day’] emend. following Finnur Jónsson (1932); *dag þann fram* ‘on that day forth’ R; *dag frálíga* ‘swiftly at day’ A 2 Egils ‘Agle’s [home]’] thus R; *Égils* ‘Eagre’s [home]’ A is probably from confusion with Eagre (the ettin) described earlier in the poem, alternatively the shepherd shared his name.

^aThunder left his goats in the care of Agle, whose identity is unclear, but is also mentioned in Snorri TODO.

8 Mōgr fann ommu, · mjök leiða sér,
2 hafði hofða · hundruð níu.
en onnur gekk · algollin framm
4 brúnhvít bera · bjórveig syni.

[R 14r/7, A 6r/6]

The lad [= Tue] found his grandmother very 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 jötna · ek vilja’k ykr
2 hugfulla tvá · und hvera setja;
es mín fríi · mōrgu sinni
4 glöggr við gæsti · gorr ills hugar.“

[R 14r/9, A 6r/8]

“Descendant 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; *fáðir* ‘father’ A

^aTue’s mother hides him and Thunder, lest Hymer find them.

[R 14r/11, A 6r/9]

- 10 Æn váskapaðr · varð síðbúinn,
 2 harðráðr Hymir, · heim af vęiðum;
 gekk inn í sal, · glumðu jøkklar,
 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^a—on the churl who came [= Hymer] was the cheek-shaw [BEARD] frozen.

1 síðbúinn 'come late'] om. A

^aIn Icelandic the word *jökull* comes to specifically mean 'glacier', but this development is peculiar and its base meaning is 'icicle', a word with which it is also cognate. The icicles are certainly those in Hymer's beard.

[R 14r/13, A 6r/11]

[Tue's mother quoth:]

- 11 „Ves þú heill, Hymir, · í hugum góðum!
 2 Nú 's sonr kominn · til sala þinna,
 sá's vit vęttum · af vęgi lōngum;
 4 fylgir hōnum · Hrōðrs andskoti,
 vinr verliða; · Véurr heitir 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 awaiting from a long way off. Follows him the opponent of Rooder <ettin>, the friend of manly retinues; Wighward^P (= Thunder) is that one called.

^aThis formula is very closely paralleled in runic inscription N B380 (edited under Charms and Spells). Cf. also *Beowulf* 407a: *Wæs þú Hrōðgár hál* 'Be thou, Rothgar, hale!'

[R 14r/15, A 6r/13]

- 12 Sé þú hvar sitja · und salar gaffi,
 2 svá forða sér, · stęndr súl fyrir.“
 Sundr stōkk súla · fyr sjón jōtuns,
 4 ęn allr í tvau · áss brotnaði.

See where they sit 'neath the hall's gable: thus they protect themselves—a pillar stands before them!^a The pillars sprang asunder before the sight of the ettin, but all in two the roof-beam was broken.

2 forða sér] forðask A 2 súl] *†solt†* A 4 allr] *áðr* 'earlier, before that' RATODO: elaborate, mention Finnur

^aTue's mother reveals the hiding place of the gods.

[R 14r/17, A 6r/15]

- 13 Stukku áttar, · ęn ęinn af þeim
 2 hverr harðslęgin · heill af þolli;

framm gingu þeir, · en forn jötunn
4 sjónum leiddi · sinn andskota.

Eight [cauldrons] sprung apart, but one of them—a hard-forged cauldron—[came] whole off its peg.^a Forth went they, but the ancient ettin with his sight closely followed his opponent [= Thunder].

^aThe cauldrons were presumably hanging on the roof-beam. Eight of them broke, but a single one remained whole.

14 Sagði-t hǫnum · hugr vël þá's sá
2 gýgjar gróti · á golf kominn,
þar vǫru þjórar · þrír of tēknir,
4 bað sænn jötunn · sjóða ganga.

[R 14r/19, A 6r/16]

His [Hymer's] 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 [his servants] to go roast [them].

2 gróti 'distresser' gēti 'keeper, warder' A 4 sænn 'at once' sun '[his] son [= Tue]?' A

15 Hvern létu þeir · hǫfði skēmra
2 ok á seyði · síðan bǫru,
át Sifjar verr · áðr sofa gingi,
4 einn með ǫllu · øxn tvá Hymis.

[R 14r/21, A 6r/18]

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 by himself two of Hymer's oxen.^a

^aCf. *Thrim* 24.

16 Þótti hǫrum · Hrunnis spjalla
2 verðr Hlórriða · vël fullmikill,
„munum at aptni · ǫðrum verða
4 við veiðimat · vér þrír lifa.“

[R 14r/23, A 6r/19]

To the hoary friend of Rungner (ettin) [= Hymer] seemed Loride's meal well full-great; “next evening will we three by game-meat have to live.”^a

^aThe construction is difficult, but should probably be read in prose word order as *vér þrír munum at ǫðrum aptni verða lifa við veiðimat*, where *verða* has a similar use as its modern German cognate *werden*. Hymer's stinginess—he refuses to share more of his own food, forcing his guests to go hunt—breaks all Indo-European rules of hospitality and illustrates the otherness of the Ettins. See Introduction to the poem.

[R 14r/24, A 6r/21]

- 17 Véurr kvaðsk vilja · á vág róa,
 2 ef ballr jötunn · beitur gæfi.
 „Hverf þú til hjarðar, · ef hug trúir,
 4 brjótr berg-Dana, · beitur 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] *ballar* corr. A

[R 14r/26, A 6r/23]

- 18 Þess vëntir mik, · at þér mynit
 2 ogn at oxa · auðfeng vesa.“
 Sveinn sýsliga · sveif til skógar,
 4 þar's oxi stóð · alsvartr fyrir.

I ween that the oxen for bait will not be an easy catch for thee.”—The swain (= Thunder) sharply turned to the woods, there where an ox stood, all-black, before [him].

1 vëntir mik] *vénti ek* R 1 mynit ‘will not’] thus A; *myni* ‘will’ R. I prefer the A reading since it makes this the first of Hymer's several challenges to Thunder, ones which the god easily accomplishes.

[R 14r/28, A 6r/24]

- 19 Braut af þjóri · þurs ráðbani
 2 hótún ofan · horna tveggja.
 „Verk þikkja þín · verri myklu
 4 kjóla valdi · an kyrr sitir.“

Off from the bull broke the counsel-slayer of the thurse [= Thunder] 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 calm did sit.”^a

^aHymer snidely belittles Thunder's feat of pulling off the head of the ox (presumably by the horns).

[R 14r/30, A 6r/26]

- 20 Bað hlunngota · hafra dróttinn
 2 átrunn apa · útar fœra,
 en 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 átrunn] *fatrænn* A 3 talði] *milldi* (corr.) A 4 lengra at róa] metr. emend.; *at róa lengra* RA

^aThe specific sense of *api* is uncertain. It seems to generally refer to a fool, but see Encyclopedia.

^bThere is some humour in the situation as Hymer, who just mocked Thunder, is now forced to do his willing by rowing.

- 21 Dró męrr Hymir · móðugr hvala [R 14r/31, A 6r/27]
 2 ęinn á ęngli · upp sęnn tváa,
 ęn apr í skut · Óðni sífaðr
 4 Véurr við vélar · vað gęrði sér.

Pulled renowned Hymer—fierce—whales: one on the hook, soon up two; but back in the stern the Weden-related Wighward (= Thunder) wilily^a made himself a fishing-line.

1 męrr ‘renowned’] thus R; męirr ‘more, further’ A

^aProbably in the sense that he made the fishing line behind Hymer’s back when he was distracted pulling up the whales.

- 22 Eęnði á ęngul · sá’s ęldum bergr, [R 14v/1, A 6r/29]
 2 orms ęinbani · oxa hęfði;
 gęin við agni, · sú’s goð fia,
 4 umbgjørð neðan · allra landa.

On the hook fastened he who saves men [= Thunder]—the lone slayer of the Worm—the head of the ox. At the bait snapped the one whom the gods hate [= Middenyardsworm]—the encircler of all lands^a from below.

3 agni ‘bait’] thus A; ęngli ‘hook’ R

^aThis kenning occurs identically in a fragment by C9th scold Alewigh Snub (Qlv Þórr, edited by Margaret Clunies Ross in *SkP* III).

- 23 Dró djarfliga · dáðrakkr Þórr [R 14v/3, A 6v/1]
 2 orm ęitrfaan · upp at borði;
 hamri kníði · hęfjall skarar
 4 ofljótt ofan · ulfs hnitbróður.

Pulled boldly deed-ready Thunder the venom-glistening Worm up on the gunwale; with the hammer he struck the high mountain of hair^a [HEAD]—very hideous, from above—on the clash-brother of the Wolf [= Middenyardsworm].

^aA rather unfitting kenning, since serpents do not have hair.

- 24 Hraungólkn hrutu, · ęn hólkn þutu, [R 14v/5, A 6v/2]

- 2 fôr hin forna · fold ǫll saman;
 [...]
 4 sökðisk síðan · sá fiskr í mar.

The lavafield-monsters [ETTINS] bounded, but the bedrock resounded; moved the ancient earth all at once; [...]; sank thereafter that fish [= Middenyardsworm] into the sea.

1 hrutu] thus A; *blumðu* 'dashed' R

1 hraungǫlkn 'lavafield-monsters'] Both mss. have *brēin-*, which may mean either 'clean' or 'reindeer', neither of which fit. 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; but it is attested in three Scoldish verses, always in kennings of the type "troll-woman of the shield [AXE]". While the mss. '*galkn*' (norm. *gǫlkn*) 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 interpretation of Larrington (2014): "the sea-wolf shrieked".

3 [...] It is very likely that a line is missing here. In other texts describing this narrative Hymer cuts Thunder's fishing line, and so that is probably what has gone missing. It is of course impossible to know what form it had; for the reader's enjoyment I've composed the following line: *unz vinr Hrungrnis · vað Þórs of skar* 'until the friend of Rungner [= Hymer] cut Thunder's fishing-line' which may be inserted at will.

[R 14v/6, A 6v/3]

- 25 Ótęitr jǫtunn, · es aptr rǫru,
 2 [...]
 svá't ár Hymir · ękki męlti,
 4 vęifði rǫði · veðrs annars til.

The unmerry ettin [= Hymer], as they rowed back, [...], so that in the early morning Hymer spoke nothing; he pulled the oar around, against the storm:

2 [...] There is without doubt a line missing here; the meter usually requires four lines, and the first half of the sentence is incomplete without a verb (unless one understands an implied "was", so that the verse would begin "Unmerry was the ettin").

3 *ár* 'in the early morning'] Finnur Jónsson (1932) suggests *svá't at ęr* 'so that by the oar'. Assuming my interpretation is correct, the three would have been fishing

[Hymer quoth:]

[R 14v/8, A 6v/4]

- 26 „Munt of vinna · verk halft við mik,
 2 at hęim hvala · haf til bójar
 eða flotbrúsa · fęstir okkarn.“

"Thou wilt win a half work by me if thou carry the whales home to the farm, or our float-jar [BOAT] do fasten."³

³Hymer tells Thunder, who since he did not actually pull up the Worm now has nothing to show for the trip, that he can accomplish something half as good as the pulling of the whales if he carries them home, or if he fastens the boat (by the shore).

- 27 Gekk Hlórriði · greip á stafni
 2 vatt með austri · upp logfáki;
 einn með órum · ok með austskotu
 4 bar til bójar · brimsvín jötuns
 ok holtriða · hver í gegnum.

[R 14v/9, A 6v/6]

Went Lorde (= Thunder), grasped the stern; hurled with the bilge-water the lake-nag [BOAT] up.^a 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^b [VALLEY?].

1 á] til á R 5 holtriða] †holtriba† R

^aThunder did not pour the bilge-water, something that makes its weight considerably heavier, out of the boat. This was a great work of strength.

^bTODO. What do other editors and translators say?

- 28 Ok enn jötunn · umb afrændi,
 2 þrágirni vanr, · við Þór sænti,
 kvað-at mann ramman, · þótt róa kynni,
 4 kröpturligan, · nema kalk bryti.

[R 14v/12, A 6v/7]

And yet the ettin, used to stubbornness, regarding strength of hand flyted with Thunder; he called not the man strong—although he could row, mightily—unless he broke the chalice.^a

1 Ok] enn A

^aHymer accuses Thunder of weakness, refusing to call him strong unless he breaks a certain chalice.

- 29 En Hlórriði, · es at hōndum kom,
 2 brátt lét bresta · brattstęin glęri,
 sló sitjandi · súlur í gōgnum;
 4 bóru þó hęilan · fyr Hymi síðan.

[R 14v/14, A 6v/9]

But Lorde (= Thunder), when [it] came in his hands, impatiently crashed steep stone^a with the glass [= chalice]; he struck right through the fastened^b pillars; yet they [= Hymer's servants?] bore it whole before Hymer afterwards.

^aFinnur Jónsson (1932) interprets the word as referring to stone pillars.

^bsitjandi 'sitting' is ambiguous and can modify either Thunder or the (roof-bearing) pillars. I think it is more likely to modify the pillars, signifying their stability.

- 30 Unz þat hin fríða · fríðla kęndi
 2 ástráð mikit, · ęitt es vissi,

[R 14v/16, A 6v/10]

„drep við haus Hymis, · hann ’s harðari,
 4 kostmóðs jötuns, · kalki hverjum.“

Until the handsome mistress [= Tue’s mother] gave a great loving counsel, 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 choicest food.

[R 14v/18, A 6v/12]

31 Harðr rēis á kné · hafra dróttinn,
 2 fōrðisk allra · í ásmegin;
 heill vas karli · hjalmstofn ofan,
 4 en vínferrill · 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 rēis] om. A

^aCompare *Ylfēr* in its description of Thunder attempting to pull up the Worm: *Þá varð Þórr reiðr ok fērðist í ásmegin* “Then Thunder became wroth, and summoned his os-might.”

[Hymer quoth:]

[R 14v/20, A 6v/13]

32 „Morg væt’k mēti · mér gingin frá,
 2 es kalki sé’k · fyr knéum hrundit,
 karl orð of kvað: · „kná’k-at segja
 4 aptr évagi: · þú ert ǫðr of heitt.

“I know many good things to be 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] heated!’^a”

2 es] om. R 2 fyr] *fyr* R

^aHymer laments that since his finest vessel is now broken, he will never again be able to enjoy strong drink.

[R 14v/22, A 6v/15]

33 Þat ’s til kostar · ef koma mēttið
 2 út ór óru · ǫlkjól hofi.“
 Týr lēitaði · tysvar hróra;
 4 stóð at hvöru · 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*þljól* is the accusative form, but in this sense (CV: *koma*, B) we would expect the dative *þljóli*, something that the meter does not allow for.

^b*hof* ‘hall’ usually means ‘hove; temple’.

- 34 Faðir Móða · fekk á þremi [R 14v/24, A 6v/16]
 2 ok í gognum sté · golf niðr í sal;
 hóf sér á hofuð upp · hver Sifjar verr,
 4 en á hælum · 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 *Ylfir* 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 FGT (1950): *beyrði til hōddu, 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 Fóru-t lengi, · áðr líta nam [R 14v/26, A 6v/18]
 2 aptr Óðins sonr · enu sinni;
 sá hann ór hreysum · með Hymi austan
 4 folkdrótt fara · fjalhōðaða.

They journeyed not 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 [= ETTINS] journeying.

- 36 Hóf sér af hēðum · hver standandi, [R 14v/28, A 6v/19]
 2 vęifði Mjólni · morðgjörnum 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] all he slew.

- 37 Fóru-t lengi, · áðr liggja nam [R 14v/30, A 6v/21]
 2 hafr Hlórriða · halfdauðr fyrir,
 vas skér skøkuls · skakkr á beini,

4 en því hinn lévísi · Loki of olli.

They journeyed not for long before the he-goat of Loride (= 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 cause.^a

3 skér] emend. from meaningless *fskirr* RA

^aApparently Lock (who is not mentioned earlier in the poem) was placing curses on the returning party. Snorre mentions this, TODO.

[R 14v/32, A 6v/22]

38 En ér heyrtr hafið, · hværr kann of þat
2 goðmólugra · gørr at skilja,
 hvær 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 [ETTIN] 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. — What myth is being referred to is unclear. TODO: What do other authors write

[R 15r/1, A 6v/24]

39 Þróttöflugr kom · á þing goða
2 ok hafði hver, · þann's Hymir átti;
 en véar hverjan · vël skulu drekka
4 ölðr at Égis · ęitt hørmeitið.

The valour-mighty one [= Thunder] came onto the Thing^C of the gods, and had that cauldron which Hymer owned; but the Wigh-beings^G (= gods) shall well drink an ale-feast at Eagre's, every flax-cutting [FALL?].

4 ęitt hørmeitið ‘one ... flax-cutting’] A very obscure kenning. La Farge and Tucker (1992) give several interpretations, viz. *ęitr-hør-meitir* ‘poison-rope-cutter [SNAKE > WINTER]’, *ęitr-orm-meitir* ‘poison-worm-injurer’ [WINTER]. The solution with the minimal amount of emendation is to read *ęitt* ‘one’ as modifying *ölðr* ‘ale-feast’, and *hverjan* ‘every’ as modifying *hør-meitiðr* ‘flax-cutting’, a compound made up of *hørr* ‘flax, cord’ and *meita* ‘to cut’ and referring to an obscure harvest festival. The interpretation is by no means certain.

The Flying of Lock (*Lokasenna*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.965)

Meter: *Leed-meter*

Preserved in **R**, directly following *Hymer*, though the poems without doubt were originally separate; the stylistic differences are drastical.

The poem has been interpreted as blasphemous (TODO: elaborate), but shows no linguistic signs of being particularly late.

From Eagre and the gods (*Frá Egi ok goðum*)

Égí, er öðru nafni hét Gymir, hann hafði búit ásum ǫl þá er hann hafði fengit ketil inn mikla sem nú er sagt. Til þeirar veizlu kom Óðinn ok Frigg kona hans. Þórr kom eigi þvíat hann var í austrvegi. Sif var þar, kona Þórs; Bragi, ok Íðunn kona hans. Týr var þar, hann var einhendr; Fenrisulfr sleit hönd af hánum, þá er hann var bundinn. Þar var Njörðr ok kona hans Skaði; Freyr ok Freyja; Víðarr son Óðins. Loki var þar, ok þjónustumenn Freys, Byggvir ok Beyla. Mart var þar ása ok alfa. Égír átti tvá þjónustumenn; Fimafengr ok Eldir. Þar var lýsigull haft fyr eldsljós; sjalft barsk þar ǫl. Þar var griðastadr mikill. Menn lofuðu mjök hversu góðir þjónustumenn Égis vóru. Loki mátti eigi heyra þat, ok drap hann Fimafeng. Þá skóku ésir skjöldu sína ok óptu at Loka, ok eltu hann braut til skógar, en þeir fóru at drekka. Loki hvarf aptr ok hitti úti Eldi; Loki kvaddi hann:

Eagre^P, who by another name is called Gymer^P, had prepared an ale-feast for the Ease when he had got the great kettle as now is told.^a

To that gathering came Weden^P and Frie^P, his woman. Thunder^P came not, for he was in the East-way^L. Sib was there, Thunder's woman; Bray^P and Idun^P, his woman. Tue^P was there, he was one-handed. The Fenrerswolf^P tore his hand off when it was bound.^b There was Nearth^P, and his woman Shede^P; Free^P and Frow^L; Wider^P, the son of Weden^P. Lock^P was there, and the servants of Free: Bew^P and Beal^P. There was a great many of the Ease^G and Elves^{Gc}.

^aSee the immediately preceding *Hymer*.

^bThis detail is probably brought up to chronologically date the events of the poem as happening after the binding of Fenrer in the mythology.

^cA formulaic expression, see Ease and Elves^F.

Eagre had two servants: Femfinger^P and Elder^P. There was glowing gold used instead of fire; the ale there poured itself. There was a great grith-stead^{C, d}. Men greatly praised how good the servants of Eagre were. Lock could not stand that, and he slew Femfinger.

Then the Ease shook their shields and screamed at Lock,^e and chased him away to the forest, but then they went to drink. Lock came back and found Elder outside; Lock greeted him:

1 „Seg þú þat, Eldir, · svá't einugi
2 feti gangir framarr,
hvat hér inni · hafa at ǫlmólum
4 sigtíva synir.“

“Say thou it, Elder, so that thou take not one step further: what here within they bring up over the ale,^a the sons of the victory-Tues [GODS].”

1–2 svá't ... framarr ‘so that ... further’] Cf. *Hígh* 38: *feti ganga framarr* ‘take one step further’.

^alit. ‘have for their ale-speeches’

Elder quoth:

2 „Of vǫpn sín dóma · ok of vígrisni sína
2 sigtíva synir;
ása ok alfa, · es hér inni eru,
4 manngi 's þér í orði vinr.“

“Of their weapons they converse, and of their fight-valiance, the sons of the victory-Tues [GODS]; of the Ease and Elves which are here within, none is thee a friend in words.”

4 manngi ... vinr “none ... words.”] i.e. “none of them say anything good about you.” — The (lack of) alliteration here is very notable, and also occurs in v. 10. Both of these verses are otherwise perfect, and so it may be that *v* /*w*/ is rarely alliterating with the vowel. While this is never seen in Scoldish poetry, it could have been delegated to the simpler Eddic styles. Alternatively the poem is of such age that it was composed before the North Germanic loss of /*w*-/ before rounded vowels. This is supported by the fact that in both this verse and v. 10 the words that alliterate with /*w*-/ have cognates in other Germanic languages that begin with /*w*-/, in the case of *ulfr* in v. 10 this consonant is well attested in old runic inscriptions. To be clear, this retention does not require dating the whole poem to the Proto-Norse period; perhaps the poet was aware of the change which had taken place a few generations before him, and employed it as an archaism. For metrical reasons it must certainly post-date the syncope period (in the C6th), but we know from the transitional C7th Blekinge runestones from Stentoften (DR 357), Gummarp (DR 358) and Istaby (DR 359) that syncope occurred before the loss of /*w*-/ anyway. A C7th Proto-Norse form of the c-line might be: *mannagi 's þér in wordé winr*.

Lock quoth:

^dA place wherein all violence was forbidden, see Encyclopedia.

^eSome sort of ancient war dance. Cf. the Old Swedish Heathen Law: “TODO”.

3 „Inn skal ganga · Égis hallir í
 2 á þat sumbl at séa,
 jöll ok ófu · föri’k ása sonum
 4 ok blænd’k þeim svá meini mjöð.“

“In shall I go into Eager’s halls, for to see that simble^C; scorn and strife I bring to the sons of the Ease, and I mix for them so the mead with harm.”

3 jöll ok ófu “scorn and spite”] joll oc áfo R These two interesting words have been interpreted in a variety of ways: CV sees the first word as *jöll* ‘wild angelica’, whereas the second is taken to be an error for *áfr* ‘a beverage [...] translated by Magnaeus by *sorbitio avenacea*, a sort of common ale brewed of oats’.

Elder quoth:

4 „Veizt, ef inn gengr · Égis hallir í
 2 á þat sumbl at séa,
 hrópi ok rógi · ef eyss á holl regin,
 4 á þér munu þau þerra þat.“

“Know, if in thou goest into Eager’s halls, for to see that simble: if slander and strife thou pourest onto the hold^C Reins^G, they will dry it off on thee.”

Lock quoth:

5 „Veizt þat Eldir, · ef einir skulum
 2 sáryrðum sakask,
 auðigr verða · mun’k í andsvorum,
 4 ef þú mēlir til mart.“

“Know it, Elder, if alone we two shall banter with wound-words: I will become wealthy in my answers, if thou speak too much.^a”

^aCf. *Higb* TODO mēla til mart.

P1 Síðan gekk Loki inn í höllina; en er þeir sá, er fyrir váru, hverr inn var
 2 kominn, þögnuðu þeir allir.

Thereafter Lock walked into the hall, but when those who were there before him saw who was come inside, they all turned silent.

Lock quoth:

6 „Þyrstr ek kom · þessar hallar til
 2 Loptr of langan veg,
 ósu at biðja, · at mér einn gefi

4 mēran drykk mjaðar.

“Thirsty I, Loft (= Lock), came to these halls over a long way, to ask the Ease that they to me give a single renowned drink of mead.

7 Hví þegið ér svá · þrungen goð,
2 at mēla né mēguð;
sessa ok staði · vęlið mér sumbli at,
4 eða hęitið mik heðan.“

Why shut ye up so, pressed gods, that ye may not speak? Seats and places choose for me at the simble, or call me [away] hence.^a”

^ai.e. “Cease your ambiguity; give me a seat or tell me to leave!”

Bray quoth:

8 „Sessa ok staði · vęlja þér sumbli at
2 ęsir aldrigi;
því't ęsir vitu · hveim þęir alda skulu
4 gambansumbl of geta.“

“Seats and places choose the Ease never for thee at the simble; for the Ease know which men they shall bid to the gomben-simble.”

[Lock quoth:]

9 „Mant þat Óðinn, · es vit í árdaga
2 blendum blóði saman?
ólvi þęrgja · lézk ęigi mundu,
4 nema okkr vęri bōðum borit.“

“Recallest thou, Weden, as we two in days of yore blended our blood together? Thou saidst thou wouldst not taste ale, unless it were for us both brought forth.”

[Weden quoth:]

10 „Rís þú Víðarr · ok lát ulfs fōður sitja sumbli at, síðr oss Loki ·
kveði lastastofum ęgis hollu í.“

“Rise thou, Wider, and let the father of the wolf [= Lock] sit at the simble, lest Lock accuse us of fault in the hall of Eage.”

1 Rís ... fōður “Rise ... wolf”] For the missing alliteration see note to v. 2. A C7th Proto-Norse form of the line might be: *Rís þú Víðarr · auk lát wulfs fāður*.

P2 Þá stóð Víðarr upp ok skenkti Loka, en áðr hann drykki, kvaddi hann
 2 ásuna:

Then Wider stood up and poured to Lock, but before he [= Lock] drunk, he greeted the
 Ease:

11 „Heilir ésir, · heilar ósynjur
 2 ok öll ginnheilög goð,
 nema sá einn óss · es innar sitr
 4 Bragi þekkjum á.“

“Hail the Ease^G! Hail the Ossens^G, and all the gin-holy^C gods!^a Save for that one os^G,
 who sits further within: Bray, on the benches.”

^aThe first two half-lines prayer formula are identical to *Sigdrive* 2–3, for which reason it is possibly of authentic Heathen origin. To the original audience Lock’s parody of it would then have been seen as highly offensive and blasphemous.

[Bray] quoth:

12 „Mar ok męki · gef’k þér míns féar
 2 ok bótir þér svá baugi Bragi,
 síðr þú ósum · ofund of gjaldir,
 4 gręmjat goð at þér.“

“Steed and sword I give thee of my own wealth, and so recompenses thee Bray with a
 bigh^C, since thou repayest the Ease with envy; do not anger the gods towards thee.”

[Lock] quoth:

13 „Jós ok armbauga · munt é vesa
 2 þęggja vanr Bragi,
 ása ok alfa, · es hér inni eru,
 4 þú ert við víg varastr, ok skjarrastr við skot.“

“Of both steed and arm-bighs wilt thou ever be, Bray, lacking; of the Ease and Elves
 which are here within, art thou the wariest of war, and the shyest of shot.”

[Bray] quoth:

14 „Veit’k, ef fyr útan véra’k, · sem fyr innan em’k,
 2 Égis holl of kominn,
 hofuð þitt · bęra’k í hendu mér;
 4 lít’k þér þat fyr lygi.“

“I know if outside I were, as inside I am come into the hall of Eagre: thy head I would bear in my hands; this I see for thy lie.”

⁴ lit'k þér þat fyr lygi | 'litt ec þer þat fyr lygi' R. A variety of emendations have been proposed for this line. Simplest would be *litt es þér þat fyr lygi* 'that is little [punishment] for thee for lying'. Based on the similarity of *c* and *ċ* (= *tt*) Finnur Jónsson (1932) gives *lykak þér þat fyr lygi* 'so I would bring to thee for thy lie'.

[Lock] quoth:

15 „Snjallr ert í sessi, · skalattu svá gera,
 2 Bragi þekkskrautuðr;
 vega þú gakk · ef vręiðr séir;
 4 hyggsk vętr hvatr fyrir.“

“Valiant art thou in the seat; thou shalt not do thus, Bray the bench-ornamenter! Go to strike if thou art wroth; the bold does not think in advance.^a”

^aCf. *High* nýsisk fróðra TODO, really the opposite sentiment.

[Idun] quoth:

16 „Bið'k, Bragi, · barna sífar duga
 2 ok allra óskmaga,
 at þú Loka · kveðir-a lastastöfum
 4 Égis hǫllu í. “

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

17 „Þęgi þú, Iðunn, · þik kveð'k allra kvinna
 2 vergjarnasta vesa
 síz þú arma þína · lagðir ítrþvegna
 4 umb þinn bróðurbana.“

“TRANSLATION”

[Idun] quoth:

18 „Loka ek kveð'k-a · lastastöfum
 2 Égis hǫllu í;
 Braga ek kyrrí · bjórreifan,
 4 vil'k-at ek at it vręiðir vegisk.“

“TRANSLATION”

[Giben] quoth:

19 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

20 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Weden] quoth:

21 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

22 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Weden] quoth:

23 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

24 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Frie] quoth:

25 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

26 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Frie] quoth:
27 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
28 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Frow] quoth:
29 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
30 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Frow] quoth:
31 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
32 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Nearth] quoth:
33 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
34 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Nearth] quoth:

35 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

36 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Tue] quoth:

37 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

38 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Tue] quoth:

39 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

40 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Free] quoth:

41 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:

42 „VERSE“

“TRANSLATION”

[Bew] quoth:
43 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
44 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Bew] quoth:
45 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
46 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Homedall] quoth:
47 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

[Lock] quoth:
48 „VERSE“
“TRANSLATION”

The Speeches of Shirner (*Skírnismól*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.897)
Meter: *Leed-meter*, *Galder-law* (TODO)

The whole poem is attested in both **R** and **A**. The name *Skírnismól* ‘Speeches of Shirner’ comes from **A**; **R** has the header *För Skírnis* ‘Shirner’s journey’.

- P1** Freyr, sonr Njarðar, hafði einn dag setsk í Hliðskjálf ok sá um heima alla; [R REGTODO, A 2r/11]
2 hann sá í Jötunheima ok sá þar mey fagra, þá er hon gekk frá skála fýður
síns til skemmu; þar af fekk hann hugsóttir miklar. Skírnir hét skósveinn
4 Freys. Njörðr bað hann kveðja Frey máls. Þá mælti Skaði:

Free^P, son of Nearth^P, had one day sat himself down in Lithshelf^L and looked about all the Homes^C. He looked into the Ettinhomes^L and saw there a fair maiden as she walked from her father’s hall to her bower; thereof he got great heart-aches. Shirner^P was called the shoe-swain of Free. Nearth asked him to speak with Free. Then Shede^P spoke:

- 1 „Rís-tu nú Skírnir · ok gakk at þeiða [R REGTODO, A 2r/15]
2 okkarn mála mög,
ok þess at fregna · hvæim hinn fróði séi
4 ofvræði afi.“

“Rise thou now, Shirner, and go to ask our lad [= Free] to speak; and to learn at whom the learned man [= Free] might be cross.”

1 rís ... þeiða ‘rise ... speak’] Alliteration is missing here. A simple solution would be to replace *gakk* ‘go’ with a synonym like *rinn* ‘run’ or *ráð* ‘resolve’, but this breaks the mirroring in 2/2.

4 afi ‘man’] While this word usually means ‘father’ or ‘grandfather’, it must here certainly mean ‘man’ without a connotation of old age. See further CV.

Shirner quoth:

- 2 „Illra orða · es mér ón at ykrum syni, [R REGTODO, A 2r/17]
2 ef ek geng at mæla við mög,

ok þess at fregna, · hvēim hinn fróði séi
 4 ofvręðiði afi.“

“Bad words I expect from your son [= Free], if I go with the lad to speak; and to learn at whom the wise man might be cross.”

Shirner quoth:

[R REGTODO, A 2r/18]

3 „Sęg þat Fręyr, · folkvaldi goða,
 2 ok ek vilja vita,
 hví þú ęinn sitr · ęndlanga sali
 4 minn dróttinn of daga.“

“Tell it, Free, troop-wielder of the gods, I too would want to know: why thou alone stayest in the endlong halls, my lord, during the days.”

Free quoth:

[R REGTODO, A 2r/20]

4 „Hví of sęgia’k þér, · sęggr hinn ungi,
 2 mikinn móðtrega?
 því’t alfrøðull · lýsir of alla daga
 4 ok þęygi at mínum munum.“

“Why should I tell thee, young man, about great mood-grief? For the elf-wheel [SUN] shines during all days, and naught to my liking.”

Shirner quoth:

[R REGTODO, A 2r/21]

5 „Muni þína · hykk-a svá mikla vesa,
 2 at þú mér sęggr né sęgir;
 ungir saman · vorum í árdaga,
 4 vęl męttim tveir trúask.“

“Thy liking I do not think so large, that thou me, man, oughtst not tell it. Young together were we in days of yore; we two might well trust each other.”

2 sęggr ‘man’] usually means simply ‘man’, its original meaning was ‘messenger’ and it seems to have some connotation with youth, something also seen in *Wayland* 23 where it’s used in reference to the young sons of king Nithad. It’s here used to mirror Free’s addressing Shirner as *sęggr hinn ungi* ‘the young man’; Shirner points out that the two are of equal age, so Free is as much of a young man as he.

Free quoth:

[R REGTODO, A 2r/23]

6 „Í Gymis gørdum · ek ganga sá
 2 mér tíða męy;

armar lýstu, · en af þaðan
4 allt lopt ok lōgr.

“In Gymer’s yards I saw walking a maiden, dear to me. The arms shone, but thereof all the air and sea.

7 Mēr es mēr tíðari · an manna hveim
2 ungum í árdaga;
ása ok alfa · þat vill engi maðr,
4 at vit sátst séim.“

[R REGTODO, A 2r/24]

“The maiden is dearer to me than to any young man in days of yore. Of the Ease and Elves^F no man^a wants that we two be reconciled.”

^aFor other examples of gods being called men see TODO.

It is likely that a verse is missing here, where Free asks Shirner to go to fetch the maiden for him.

Shirner quoth:

8 „Mar gef mér þá, · es mik of myrkvan beri
2 vísan vafrloga,
ok þat sverð, · es sjalft vegisk
4 við jōtna éttr.“

[R REGTODO, A 2r/25]

“Then give me the steed, which might bear me over the dark, wise wavering-flame; and that sword, which by itself might strike against the lineage of the Ettins^G.”

Free quoth:

9 „Mar þér þann gef’k, · es þik of myrkvan berr
2 vísan vafrloga, ok þat sverð, · es sjalft mun vegask,
ef sá ’s horskr es hēfr.“

[R REGTODO, A 2r/27]

“That steed I give thee, which bears thee over the dark, wise wavering-flame; and that sword, which by itself will strike, if he is wise who owns it.”

1–3 berr ‘bears’; mun vegask, ef sá ’s horskr es hēfr ‘will strike, if he is wise who owns it’] Responding, Free switches out the subjunctive verb forms (“might bear [...] might strike”), giving a sense of certainty and authority. The steed and sword are faultless, and if Shirner fails on the mission, it would be only due to his own fault.

Shirner spoke with the horse:

10 „Myrkt es úti, · mál kveð’k okr fara

[R REGTODO, A 2r/28]

2 úrig fjöll yfir
 þursa þjóð yfir;
 4 báðir vit komumk · eða okr báða tēkr sá hinn ámatki jötunn.“

“’Tis dark outside; I call it time for us two to journey: over the drizzling mountains, over the people of the Thurses^G. Both two we come, or us both that terrifying ettin takes.^a”

4 ámatki jötunn ‘terrifying ettin’] Formulaic. *ámáttigr* ‘terrifying’ seems to have a supernatural connotation, and only occurs in four other places in the Poetic Edda: in *Wallow* 8, *Grimner* 11 and *HHarw* 17 it is paired with *jötunn* ‘ettin’, while in *HHarw* 14 it describes a man with clearly supernatural attributes.

^aShirner declares his intention not to abandon his horse.

[R REGTODO, A 2v/1]

P2 Skírnir reið i Jötunheima til Gymis garða; þar váru hundar ólmir ok bund-
 2 nir fyrir skíðgarðs hliði þess, er um sal Gerðar var. Hann reið at þar, er
 fēhirðir sat á haugi, ok kvaddi hann:

Shirner rode into the Ettinhomes to Gymer’s yards. There were hounds, fierce and bound in front of the slope of that wooden fence which surrounded Gird’s^a hall. He rode to where a shepherd sat on a mound, and greeted him:

^aRather strangely, it is first now that we are informed of the maiden’s name.

[R REGTODO, A 2v/4]

11 „Seg þat hirðir, · es á haugi sitr
 2 ok varðar alla vega:
 hvé ek at andspilli · komumk hins unga mans
 4 fyr greyjum Gymis.“

“Say it, herdsman, who sittest on the mound, and guardest all ways: How I to discourse might come with the young maiden, past Gymer’s greyhounds?”

[The herdsman quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 2v/5]

12 „Hvárt ert feigr, · eða ert fram ginginn
 2 [...];
 andspillis vanr · þú skalt é vesa
 4 góðrar meýjar Gymis.“

“Whether thou art fey, or passed-on; [...]? . Lacking discourse shalt thou ever be, with Gymer’s good maiden.”

1 fram ginginn ‘passed-on’] i.e. ‘dead’.

[Shirner quoth:]

13 „Kostir ’ru bętri · hęldr an at klękkva sęi
 2 hveim es fúss es fara,
 ęinu dęgri · męr vas aldr of skapaęr
 4 ok alt lřf of lagit.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/7]

“Choices are better, rather than sobbing, for whomever is eager to depart. On a single day was my age shaped, and all my life was laid.^a”

1 kostir ‘choices’] i.e. ‘alternative choices, other ways’.

^aThe Germanic fatalistic beliefs, wherein one’s course of life was predetermined at birth, are here clearly seen. Cf. *Wallow* 19, *Lock* 48.

[Gird quoth:]

14 „Hvat ’s hlym hlymja · es hlymja hęyri’k nú til
 2 ossum ręnnum í?
 jęrę bifask, · ęn allir fyr
 4 skjalfa garęar Gymis.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/8]

“What is the din of dins, which I of dins now hear in our houses? The earth trembles, and in front, all the yards of Gymer quake.”

A servant-woman quoth:

15 „Maęr ’s hęr úti, · stiginn af mars baki,
 2 jó lętr til jaręar taka.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/10]

“A man is here outside, stepped down off a horse’s back; he lets take his steed to the ground.^a (TODO: translation)”

^aAccording to Finnur Jónsson (1932) a still-known Icelandic expression; Shirner lets his horse graze.

[Gird quoth:]

16 „Inn bię þú hann ganga · í okkarn sal
 2 ok drekka hinn męra mjęę,
 þó ek hitt óumk, · at hęr úti sęi
 4 minn bróęurbani.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/11]

“Bid thou him to go in into our hall, and to drink the renowned mead; though I fear that here outside might be my brother’s bane-man.”

[Gird quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 2v/13]

17 „Hvat ’s þat alfa · né ása sona,
 2 né víssa vana;
 hví ęinn of komt · ęikinn fúr yfir
 4 ór salkynni at séa?“

“What sort is that, not of Elves, nor of sons of the Ease, nor of wise Wanes? Why camest thou alone over the raging fire, to see the state of our hall?”

[Shirner quoth:]

[R REGTODO]

18 „Em’k-at alfa · né ása sona
 2 né víssa vana,
 þó ęinn of kom’k · ęikinn fúr yfir
 4 yður salkynni at séa.

“I am not of the Elves, nor of sons of the Ease, nor of wise Wanes; yet I came alone over the raging fire, to see the state of your hall.

[R REGTODO, A 2v/14]

19 Epli ęllifu · hér hef’k algollin,
 2 þau mun’k þér Gęřör gefa,
 frið at kaupa, · at þú þér Frey kveðir
 4 óleįðastan at lifa.“

Apples eleven I have here, all-golden; those I will to thee, Gird, give to purchase the love, that thou callest Free for thee most unloathsome [LOVELIEST] to live.^a”

^aThe second half of the verse is difficult, but the meaning is clearly that Gird should love Free.

[Gird quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 2v/15]

20 „Epli ęllifu · ek þigg aldrigi
 2 at mans-kis munum,
 né vit Freyr, · meðan okkart fјor lifir,
 4 byggum bæði saman.“

“Apples eleven I never accept, to any man’s liking; nor do I and Free—while our lives remain—dwell both together.”

[Shirner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 2v/17 (ll. 1–2)]

21 „Baug þér þá gef’k, · þann’s bręndr of vas
 2 með ungum Óðins syni,
 átta ’ró jafnhęfgir, · es af drjúpa

4 hina níundu hverja nótt.“

“The bigh^C I then give thee, that one which was burned with Weden’s young son [= Balder]. Eight are even-heavy, which from it drip, every ninth night.^a”

3–4 Baug ... nótt ‘The bigh ... night.’] In A these lines and 22:1–2 are missing. Instead 1–2 here and 22:3–4 are combined into one.

^aThe bigh, while not named, is clearly the same as Dleepner, known from *Ylfir* 49: “Weden laid on the pyre that gold ring which is called Dleepner. It had such nature that every ninth night, eight even-heavy golden rings dripped from it.” When Harmod^P came to visit him in Hell^L, Balder gave him the gift to bring to Weden as a personal token.

[Gird quoth:]

22 „Baug þikk-a’k, · þótt brændr séi,
2 með ungum Óðins syni;
es-a mér golls vant · í gøðum Gymis
4 at deila fé fðður.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/18 (ll. 3–4)]

“The bigh I accept not, though it be burned with Weden’s young son [= Balder]; I have no want of gold in Gymer’s yards, sharing the fee^C of my father.”

[Shirner quoth:]

23 „Sér þú mēki, mēr, · mjóvan, málfaan,
2 es hef’k í hendi hér?
hofuð hoggva · mun’k þér halsi af,
4 nema mér sétt segir.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/19]

“Seest thou, maiden, this sword—slender, pictured-painted^a—which I have here in my hand? Off thy neck will I hew thy head, unless thou agree with me.^b”

^aThe sword is inlaid with metal forming a pattern. For examples see TODO.

^blit. ‘unless thou to me sayest an agreement/settlement.’

[Gird quoth:]

24 „Ánauð þola · vil’k aldrigi
2 at manskis munum,
þó hins get’k, · ef it Gymir finnizk
4 vígs ótrauðir · at ykkv vega tíði.“

[R REGTODO, A 2v/20]

“Suffer coercion will I never, to any man’s liking; though I mean, if thou and Gymer meet—men unreluctant of conflict—that ye two will wish to fight.^a”

2 manskis “any man’s (lit. ‘no man’s’)”] *mannz ænskis* A

^aGird says that she will let herself be forced to marry Free, even if this means that Shirner and Gymer will fight over her.

[Shirner quoth:]

[R REGTODO, A 2v/22]

25 „Sér þú mēki, mēr, · mjóvan, málfaan,
2 es hef'k í hendi hér?
fyr þessum eggjum · hnígr sá hinn aldni jötunn,
4 verðr þinn feigr faðir.

“Seest thou, maiden, this sword—slender, pictured-painted—which I have here in my hand? Before these edges the aged ettin [= Gymer] sinks down; fey^C becomes thy father.

[R REGTODO, A 2v/24]

26 Tamsvendi þik drep'k, · en þik tēmja mun'k,
2 mēr, at mínum munum,
þar skalt ganga · es þik gumna synir
4 síðan éva séi.

With the taming-wand I strike thee, but I will tame thee, maiden, to my liking. There shalt thou go, where the sons of men never since may see thee.

1 tamsvendi ‘taming-wand’] Has been interpreted as a sword, TODO.

[R REGTODO, A 2v/26]

27 Ara þúfu á · skalt ár sitja,
2 horfa heimi ór;
snugga heilar til;
4 matr sé þér mēr leiðr · an manna hveim
hinn fráni ormr með firum.

On an eagle's hill shalt thou early sit, [and] turn out of the world; hanker after Hell^L. May food be thee more loathsome, than to any man the gleaming serpent [the Midden-yardsworm] among firs [MEN].^a

1 ara þúfu á · skalt ár sitja ‘on an eagle's hill shalt thou early sit’] ár skalt sitja · ara þúfu á ‘early shalt thou sit on an eagle's hill’ A 2–3 horfa heimi ór; snugga heilar til ‘turn out of the world; hanker after Hell’] horfa ok snugga heilar til ‘turn and hanker to hell’ A

^aPresumably her food will be as disgusting as the Middenyardsworm. The threat seems to be that Gird will be forced to sit alone on an eagle's nest, deprived of food and longing to die.

[R REGTODO]

28 At undrsjónum verðir · es út of kœmr,
2 á þik Hrímnir hari

á þik hotvetna stari,
 4 víðkunnari verðir · an vörðr með goðum,
 gapi þú grindum frá.

A wondrous sight mayst thou become, when out thou comest; at thee may Rimner ogle;
 at thee may anyone stare. More widely known mayst thou become than the ward among
 the Gods [= Homedall]; mayst thou gape from the gates.

29 Tópi ok ópi, · tjosull ok óþoli, [R REGTODO]
 2 vaxi þér tór með trega;
 sezk þú niðr · en mun'k segja þér
 4 sváran súsbreka,
 ok tvinnan trega.

Toop and oop, tessle and impatience; may thy tear grow with grief! Sit thyself down, and
 I will say thee a severe roaring-breaker, and a twined grief.

30 Tramar gneypa · þik skulu gærstan dag [R REGTODO]
 2 jötna gorrðum í,
 til hrímþursa hallar · þú skalt hverjan dag
 4 kranga kostalaus;
 kranga kostavon;
 6 grát at gamni · skalt í gogn hafa
 ok leiða með tórum trega.

Thee shall fiends torment at the dismal day, in the yards of the Ettins. To the halls of
 the Rime-thurses shalt thou every day creep choiceless; creep choice-deprived. Weeping
 for joy shalt thou have in exchange, and nurse grief with tears.

31 Með þursi þríhöfðuðum · þú skalt é nara [R REGTODO]
 2 eða verlaus vesa,
 þitt geð grípi;
 4 þik morn morni
 ves þú sem þistill, · sá's þrunginn vas
 6 í ofanverða ónn.

With a three-headed thurse shalt thou ever live, or be husband-less. May thy senses grasp;
 may murrain mourn thee; be thou like the thistle that was pressed in the uppermost
 working season.

[R REGTODO]

32 Til holts ek gekk · ok til hrás viðar
 2 gambantęin at geta
 gambantęin ek gat.

To the wood I went, and to the young tree, the gombentoe^C for to get; the gombentoe I got.

[R REGTODO]

33 Vręiðr 's þér Óðinn, · vręiðr 's þér Ásabragr,
 2 þik skal Freyr fíask,
 hin firinilla męr, · ęn fingit hęfr
 4 gambanvręiði goða.

Wroth with thee is Woden; wroth with thee is Ease-Bray ⟨*⟩= Thunder?; thee shall Free come to hate, shockingly bad maiden, if thou hast earned the gomben-wrath of the gods.

[R REGTODO]

34 Hęyri jętnar, · hęyri hrímþursar,
 2 synir Suttunga, · sjalfir áslíðar,
 hvé fyrir býð'k, · hvé fyrir banna'k
 4 manna glaum maní,
 manna nyt maní.

Hear Ettins, hear Rime-thurses, sons of Suttung [ETTINS], the os-retinues [= Ease] themselves: how I forbid, how I forban the company of men from the maiden; the use of men from the maiden.

[R REGTODO]

35 Hrímgrímnir hętítr þurs, · es þik hafa skal
 2 fyr nágrindr neðan,
 þar þér vílmęgir · á viðarrótum
 4 geitahland gefi; óðri drykkju · fá þú aldrigi,
 męr, af þínum munum,
 6 męr, at mínum munum.

Rimegrimner is called the thurse, who shall have thee, down beneath Nawgrind; there to thee the lads of toil [THRALLS], on the roots of the tree, goat-piss may give. A better drink mayst thou never get, maiden, of thy liking; maiden, to my liking!

[R REGTODO]

36 Þurs ríst'k þér · ok þría stafi,
 2 ęrgi ok óði ok ópola,
 svá ek þat af ríst · sem ek þat á ręist,
 4 ef gęrvask þarfar þess.“

“Thurse^G I carve for thee, and three staves: degeneracy^C and madness and impatience. So I carve it off as I carved it on, if need arises of that.^a”

1 þurs ‘thurse’] Thurse is the name of the þ-rune (þ); it is carved as part of the curse.

1 þria stafi ‘three staves’] Three runic letters, possibly representing each of the three following words (*ergi* ‘degeneracy’ etc.). This formula also appears on the C7th Gummarp stone: **hþuwołfr sðte stðbð þrið fff** ‘Hathwolf placed three staves: fff’, where the f-rune (f) is standing for its name, fee^C (i.e. wealth, cattle).

2 *ergi* ok *óði* ok *óþola* ‘degeneracy and madness and impatience’] Both *ergi* ‘degeneracy’ and *óþoli* ‘impatience’ (here probably with a sexual connotation), are found in the love magic charm on the rune stick B257 from Bryggen, here edited under Charms and Spells. *ergi* is found in the curse-formula on the C7th Proto-Norse runestones from Stentofen and Björketorp.

^aShirner has carved the curse, but tells Gird that he will scrape it off if she will accept his demands. She then responds:

[Gird quoth:]

37 „Heill ves þú heldr, sveinn, · ok tak við hrimkálki

[R REGTODO]

2 fullum forns mjaðar,

þó haðá’k étlat, · at mynda’k aldrigi

4 unna vaningja vël.“

“Be thou rather hale, swain, and receive the rime-chalice, full of ancient mead,^a although I had intended that I never would love the Waning [= Free] well.”

4 vaningja ‘Waning’] A rare word, lit. ‘descendant of the Wanes^G’, it only occurs at one other place in the corpus, namely in the thule^C of boar-names. Boars were sacred to Free, TODO.

^aOccurs identically in *Lock* 52.

[Shirner quoth:]

38 „Ørendi mín · vil’k ǫll vita,

[R REGTODO]

2 áðr ríða’k heim heðan,

nér á þingi · munt hinum þroska

4 nenna Njarðar syni.“

“My errands all I wish to know, before I might ride home hence; when on the Thing^C thou wilt with the vigorous son of Nearth [= Free] be joined.”

[Gird quoth:]

39 „Barri heitir, · es vit báðir vitum,

[R REGTODO]

2 lundr lognfara,

en ępt nętr níu, · þar mun Njarðar syni

4 Gęðor unna gamans.“

“Barrey is called—as we both know—a grove of calm rushes, and after nine nights there will to the son of Nearth [= Free] Gird her pleasure grant.”

P3 Þá reið Skírnir heim. Freyr stóð úti ok kvaddi hann ok spurði tíðenda:

Then Shirner rode home. Free stood outside and greeted him and asked him for the tidings:

[R REGTODO] **40** „Sæg mér, Skírnir, · áðr verpir sǫðli af mari
 2 ok stígir feti framarr,
 hvat þú árnaðir · í Jǫtunheima
 4 þíns eða míns munar?“

“Say me, Shirner, before thou throwest the saddle off the steed, and takest a step further: what thou earnedst in the Ettinhomes^L, to thy or my liking?”

[R REGTODO] [Shirner quoth:]
 41 „Barri heitir, · es vit báðir vitum,
 2 lundr lognfara,
 en ępt nętr níu, · þar mun Njarðar syni
 4 Gęrðr unna gamans.“

“Barrey is called—as we both know—a grove of calm rushes, and after nine nights there will to the son of Nearth [= Free] Gird her pleasure grant.”

[R REGTODO, G] [Free quoth:]
 42 Lęg es nętt, · langar ’ró tvęr,
 2 hvę of þręyja’k þrjár?
 opt mér mánaðr · minni þótti
 4 an sjá hęlf hýnętt.

Long is a night; long are two; how can I yearn for three? Oft’ a month to me seemed less, than this half wedding-night.^a

1 langar ’ró tvęr ‘long are two’] thus R; *lęg es ęnnur* ‘long is another’ G

^aThe wedding-night (TODO: it’s a hapax so explain the interpretation) is half in that it is not consumated.

The Thule of Rígh (*Rígsþula*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): early C11th (0.240), late C11th (0.204), late C12th (0.195),
C13th (0.280)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

Dumezil hypothesis. Irish influence? Many interesting things to write here!

P1 Svá segja menn í fornum sǫgum, at einnhvęrr af ǫsum, sá es Heimdallr
2 hét, fór ferðar sinnar ok framm með sjóvarströndu nokkurri, kom at einum
húsabó ok nefndisk Rígr; ęptir þęiri sǫgu es kvęði þetta.

Thus say men in ancient saws^C, that one of the Ease^G—he who was called Homedall^P—
went on his journey forth along some lakeshore, came upon a lone homestead and called
himself Rígh. According to that saw is this poem.

1 Ár kvǫðu ganga · grónar brautir
2 ǫflgan ok aldinn · ǫs kunnigan,
ramman ok rǫskvan · Rígr stíganda.

Of yore they said did walk the green paths, a mighty and aged os^G, cunning; the strong
and brisk Rígh, striding.

2 Gekk hann męir at þat · miðrar brautar,
2 kom hann at húsi, · hurð vas á gętti;
inn nam at ganga, · ęldr vas á golfi,
4 hjón sǫtu þar · hǫr at arni,
Ái ok ędda · 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.

- 3 Rigr kunni þeim · rǫð at sęja;
 2 męir sęttisk hann · miðra flętja
 ęn á hlið hvára · hjón salkynna.

Righ knew to tell them counsels; he further set himself down on the middle of the floor-bench, but on each side [sat] the couple of the hall.

- 4 Þá tók Edda · økkvinn hleif,
 2 þungan ok þykkvan, · þrunginn sǫðum,
 bar hǫn męir at þat · miðra skutla,
 4 soð vas í bolla · sętti á bjóð;
 vas kalfr soðinn · krása bęztr;
 6 ręis hann upp þaðan, · réðsk at sofna;

Then took Great Grandmother a lumpy loaf, heavy and thick, stuffed with chaff. She carried it further at that on the middle of a trencher—broth was in the bowl—she set it on a plate; a cooked calf was the best dainty; he rose up thence, resolved to sleep.

- 5 Rigr kunni þeim · rǫð at sęja;
 2 męir lagðisk hann · miðrar rękkju,
 ęn á hlið hvára · hjón salkynna.

Righ knew to tell them counsels; he further laid himself down in the middle of the bed, but on each side [lay] the couple of the hall.

- 6 Þar var hann at þat · þrjár nętr saman;
 2 gekk hann męirr at þat · miðrar brautar;
 liðu męirr at þat · mǫnuðr níu.

There was at that for nine nights in all; went he further at that, on the middle of the road; passed further at that nine months.

- 7 Jóð ól Edda · jósu vatni
 2 hǫrundsvartan, · hétu Þręl.

Great Grandmother begot a child, they poured it with water^a—swarthy of skin—they called him Thrall.

2 hǫrundsvartan 'swarthy of skin'] *emend.*; hǫrvi svartan 'swarthy with flax' W

^aA reference to the Heathen naming ceremony, wherein water would be poured on a newborn (quite similar to the Christian baptism). Cf. *Higb* 156.

- 8 Hann nam at vaxa · ok vęl dafna;
 2 vas þar á hęndum · hrokkit skinn,
 kropnir knúar, · [...]
 4 fingr digrir, · fúlligt andlit,
 lotr hryggr, · langir hęlar.

He took to grow, and thrive well; there on his hands was skin wrinkled, knuckles crooked, [...], fingers thick, a face foul, back stooping, heels long.

- 9 Nam hann męirr at þat · magns of kosta,
 2 bast at binda, · byrðar gęrva;
 bar hann hęim at þat · hrís gęrstan dag.

Took he further at that to try his power; bast to bind, burdens to make; he carried home at that brushwood on a dismal day.^a

^aThe thrall had to work in even the most hostile weather.

- 10 Þar kom at garði · gęngilþęina,
 2 aurr vas á iljum, · armr sólbrunninn,
 niðrbjúgt vas nęf, · nęfndisk þír.

There came to the farm a gangleboned woman; mud was on her footsoles, her arm sun-burnt; downturned was her face; she called herself Thew.

1 'gangleboned woman'] Derogatory term for somebody that only travels on their legs.

3 Þír 'Thew'] The name probably means 'maid-servant' or 'female slave'. Unlike Thrall, it is not attested in any prose texts, but probably corresponds to OS *thiwi* 'maid(-servant)', being further root-related to *þéa* -*þjá* 'to enthrall', Proto-Norse *þewar* 'servant', OE *þéow* 'slave, servant',.

- 11 Męir settisk hęn · miðra flętja,
 2 sat hjá hęnni · sonr húss,
 róddu ok rýndu, · rękkju gęrðu
 4 Þręll ok þír · þrungin dógr.

She further set himself down on the middle of the floor-bench; beside her sat the son of the house [= Thrall]. They spoke and whispered; made a bed—Thrall and Thew—on hard-pressed days.

- 12 Bęrn ólu þau, · bjuggu ok unðu;
 2 hyggr at hęti · Hręimr ok Fjósni,
 Klúrr ok Klęggi, · Kęfsir, Fúlnir,

- 4 Drumbr, Digraldi, · Drøttr ok Høsvir,
 Lútr ok Leggjalði; · lögðu garða,
 6 akra tōddu, · unnu at svínum,
 gęita gęttu, · grófu torf.

Children they begot, they settled and were content. I judge that they were called Ream and Feasner, Clour and Cleg, Chafser, Foulner, Drumbr, Dighrald, Draught and Hazer, Lout and Leggald, they laid yard-fences, dunged fields, fed swine, tended to goats, dug turf.

- 13 Dótr vōru þēr · Drumba ok Kumba,
 2 Økkvinkalfa · ok Arinnęfja,
 Ysja ok Ambótt, · Eikintjasna,
 4 Tōtrughypja · ok Trōnubęina;
 þaðan eru komnar · þræla ættir.

The daughters were Drumb and Cumb; .

14 VERSE.

Translation.

15 VERSE.

Translation.

16 VERSE.

Translation.

17 VERSE.

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18 VERSE.

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Translation.

66 VERSE.

Translation.

67 VERSE.

Translation.

The Leed of Hindle (*Hyndluljóð*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.428)–early C11th (0.475)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

-
- 1 „Vaki mę̃r mę̃yja, · vaki mın vına,
2 Hyndla systir, · es í hę̃lli býr;
nú ’s rōkr rōkra, · rı̃ða vit skulum
4 til Valhallar · ok til vės hę̃ilags.

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 Hę̃rjafōðr · í hugum sitja,
2 hann geldr ok gefr · gull verðugum,
gaf hann Hę̃rmóði · hjalm ok brynju,
4 ę̃n Sigmundi · sverð at þiggja.

Let us bid Harryfather (= Weden) in good spirits to remain; he rewards and gives gold to the worthy: He gave Heremod^P helmet and byrnie, but Sighmund^P a sword to receive.

2 verðugum] emended to *verðungu* ‘to the retinue’ by Finnur Jónsson (1932), Guðni Jónsson (1954)

- 3 Gefr hann sigr sonum, · ę̃n svinnum aura,
2 mę̃lsku mōrgum · ok manvit firum,
byri gefr brōgnum, · ę̃n brag skōldum,
4 gefr hann mannsę̃mi · mōrgum rekki.

He gives victory to sons, but to the wise silver; speech to many, and manwit^C to men. Fair wind he gives to noble ones, and poetry to scolds^C; he gives valour to many a champion.

- 4 Þór munk blóta, · þess munk biðja,
 2 at hann ẽ við þik · ẽinart láti;
 þó 's hǫnum ótitt · við ȝotuns brúðir.

To Thunder I will blood^C, of this I will bid: that he always show friendliness to thee, although he dislikes the brides of the ettins.

- 5 Nú taktu ulf þinn · ẽinn af stalli,
 2 lát hann rinna · með runa mínum.“
 Hyndla kvað:
 „Sẽinn es ȝoltr þinn · ȝoðveg troða,
 4 vil'k-at mar minn · méttan 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 load my noble steed.”

- 6 Fló ert Fręyja, · es fręistar mín,
 2 visar þú augum · á oss þannig,
 es hafir ver þinn · í valsinni
 4 Óttar unga · Innstęins 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 Oughter, Instone's offspring.”

[Frow quoth:]

- 7 „Dulið ert Hyndla, · draums ẽtlak þér,
 2 es kveðr ver minn · í valsinni.

Deluded art thou, Hindle; I think thee dreamy as thou sayest that my man is on the Walways.

- 8 Þar's ȝoltr glóar · Gullinbursti,
 2 Hildisvíni, · es mér hagir ȝerðu,
 dvergar tvęir · Dáinn ok Nabbi.

There where the boar glows, Goldenbristle; the Hildswine, which for me the two skillful dwarfs Downen and Nab made.

2 Hildisvíni 'Hildswine'] Presumably an alternative name of Goldenbristle.

- 9 Senn í sǫðlum · sitja vit skulum
 2 ok of jǫfra · ęttir dǫma,
 gumna þęira, · es frá goðum kómu.

Soon in the saddles we two shall sit, and converse about the lineages of princes; [the lineages] of those men who came from the gods.

- 10 Þęir 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 must be divulged,^a so that the young prince may have the fatherly inheritance left behind by his kinsmen.

^aHindle must reveal what she knows

- 11 Hǫrg hann mér gęrði · hlaðinn stęinum;
 2 nú 's grjót þat · at glęri orði;
 rauð hann í nýju · nauta blóði;
 4 ę trúði Óttarr · á ǫsynjur.

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; Oughter ever trusted on the Ossens^G.

- 12 Nú lát forna · niðja talða
 2 ok uppbornar · ęttir manna
 hvat 's Skjǫldunga, · hvat 's Skilfinga,
 4 hvat 's Ǫðlinga · hvat 's Ylfinga
 6 hvat 's hǫldborit, · hvat 's hęrsborit
 męst manna val · und Miðgarði?“

Now let ancient ancestors 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 Middenyard?”

- 13 „Þú ert Óttarr · borinn Innstęini,

- 2 en Innsteinn vas · Alfi inum gamla,
 Alfr vas Ulfi, · Ulfr Sǣfara,
 4 en Sǣfari · Svan inum rauða.

Hindle quoth: "Thou^a art, Oughter, born to Instone, but Instone was born to Elf the old, Elf to Wolf, Wolf to Seafare, but Seafare to Swan the red.

^aHindle, maybe in a trance-like state, speaks straight to Oughter.

- 14 Móður átti faðir þinn · menjum gofga,
 2 hygg at hēti · Hlédís gyðja,
 Fróði vas faðir þeirar, · en Fríund móðir;
 4 oll þótti ęt sú · með yfirmönnum.

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 lineage seemed to be among overmen^C.

3 Fríund] emend. from meaningless *†friauf†* F

- 15 Auði vas áðr · oflgastr manna,
 2 Halfdanr fyrri · hēstr Skjöldunga,
 frég vóru folkvíg, · þau's framir gerðu,
 4 hvarfla þóttu verk · með himins skautum.

Ead was before [that] the mightiest of men, Halfdane earlier the highest of Shieldings. Renowned were the troop-conflicts [wars] 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 svolum eggjum,
 eiga gekk Almvæg, · ózta kvinna,
 4 ólu þau ok óttu · átján sonu.

He (= Halfdane) became the in-law of Iemund^a, 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.

^aLit. "[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 hqldborit, · þaðan es hersborit,
 4 mest mannaval · und Miðgarði;
 alt 's þat ęt þín, · Óttarr heĩmski.

Thereof are the Shieldings! Thereof are the Shilvings! Thereof are the Inglings!^a Thereof is born of hero! Thereof is born of chief, the mightiest choice of men in Middenyard! That is all thy lineage, foolish Oughter!"

^aNote the contradiction with v. 12. Since the Inglings have already been mentioned (under the name Shilvings, for the difference between the two see Encyclopedia), it seems likely that Wolvings is the original reading.

- 18 Vas Hildigunnr · heĩnnar móðir,
 2 Svófu barn · ok sękonungs;
 alt 's þat ęt þín, · Óttarr heĩmski.
 4 varði at viti svá, · viltu ęnn lęgra?

Hildguth was her mother, the child of Swabe and Seaking; that is all thy lineage, foolish Oughter!—It is meaningful that one might know thus; wilt thou [go] yet further?

- 19 Dagr átti Þóru · dręngjamóður,
 2 ólusk í ęt þar · óztir kappar,
 Fraðmarr ok Gyrðr · ok Frekar báðir,
 4 Ámr ok Jqsurmarr, · Alfr hinn gamli.
 varðar at viti svá, · viltu ęnn lęgra?

Day had Thure, the mother of valiant men; in that lineage 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 Keĩtill hét vinr þęira · Klypps arþęęi,
 2 vas hann móðurfaðir · móður þinnar;
 þar vas Fróði · fyrr ęnn Kári,
 4 ęn 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.

...

The Lay of Wayland (*Völundarkviða*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.428)–early C11th (0.475)

Meter: *Firnwörðslaw*

The **Lay of Wayland** (*Wayland*) is a story of immense psychological complexity, one of the 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 (OE *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 kidnapped out of Nithad's greed, nor hamstrung out of 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 corrupt steward, and hamstrung after being caught attempting to poison the king's food in revenge.

Most frustratingly the personality of Beadhild is entirely expulged. She is the anonymous "king's daughter", an unnamed maiden (*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 the present poem than to *ThedS*). Parts of the narrative are depicted on the early C8th 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:

Person	
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 Wolfdales,
—	Nithad learns that Wayland
—	

Regarding Wayland (*Frá Völundi*)

BPG BPA Níðuðr hét konungr í Svíþjóð. BPA Hann átti tvá sonu ok eina dóttur. Hon hét Böðvildr. BPA Bréðr váru þrír, synir Finnakonungs. BPA Hét einn Slagfíðr, annarr Egill, þriði Völundr. BPA Þeir skriðu ok veiddu dýr. Þeir kómu í Úlfðali 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 váru hjá þeim álfarhamir þeira. Þat váru valkyrjur. BPA Þar váru tvær dætr Hlökkvís konungs, Hlaðguðr svanhvít ok Hervör alvitr, in þriðja var Ölrún Kjársdóttir af Vallandi. BPA Þeir höfðu þér heim til skála með sér. Fekk Egill

Ölrúnar, en Slagfiör Svanhvítar, en Völundr Alvittrar. BPA Þau bjuggu sjau vetr. Þá flugu þér at vitja víga ok kómu eigi aftr. BPA Þá skreið Egill at leita Ölrúnar, en Slagfiör leitaði Svanhvítar, en Völundr sat í Úlfðölum. BPA Hann var hagrastr maðr, svá at menn viti, í fornum sögum. BPA Níðuðr 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 Męjar flugu sunnan · Myrkvið í gognum
- 2 alvittr ungar, · ørlög drýgja;
- þér á sęvarströnd · settusk 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 · Eęil at vęrja
- 2 fęgr męr fira · faðmi ljósum;
- ęnnur vas Svanhvít, · svanfjaðrar dró,
- 4 [...]
- ęn hin þriðja · þęira systir
- 6 varði hvítan · hals Vęlundar.

One of them began—the fair maiden of men—to embrace Agle in her light bosom. Another was Swanwhite—her swan-feathers she pulled; but the third sister warded the white throat of Wayland.

4 [...] A line mentioning the name of Slayfinn has certainly gone missing here.

^aThe Roman emperor; see Encyclopedia.

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 · ørlög 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, · sali fundu auða,
 4 gingu út ok inn · ok umb sǫusk.

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 skreið Egill · at Qlrúnu,
 2 en suðr Slagfiðr · at Svanhvítu,
 en einn Völundr · sat í Ulfdǫlum.

East skied Agle for Alerune, but south Slayfinn for Swanwhite; but alone Wayland stayed in the Woldfdales.

6 Hann sló goll rautt · við gim fastan,
 2 lukði hann alla · linnbaugum vǽl;
 svá beidd hann · sinnar ljóssar
 4 kvánar, ef hǫnum · of koma gērði.

He struck the red gold by fastened gemstone, enclosed he all the serpent-bighs^{Ca} well; thus awaited he his bright wife, if to him she might come.

^aArmlets, torcs resembling serpents, perhaps even literally shaped like them; cf. 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;
 nótum 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 sððlum · at salar gaffi,
 2 gingu inn þaðan · endlangan sal,
 sðu þeir á bast · bauga drægna,
 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 bighs 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 bigh 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 Beadchild 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 Völundi.

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 · ęins saknaði.
 hugði at hefði · Hlōðvés dóttir,
 4 Alvittr unga, · véři 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 ęn á fótum · fјotur 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 „Hvērir 'ró jōfrar · þęir's á lōgðou
 2 þętisíma · 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 ęigi · á Grana lęiðu,
 fjarri hugða'k vārt land · fјollum 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^P's path; far I thought our land from the fells of the Rhine.^a”

^aGrane was the horse of the legendary hero Siward^P, slayer of the dragon Fathomer^P. These events were thought to have taken place in Germany. The sense of the is thus sarcastic: “Where did you get that gold? A dragon's hoard?”

[Wayland quoth:]

- 15 „Man'k at męiri · męti óttum,
 2 es vér heil hjú · heima vōrum.
 Hlaðguðr ok Hervōr · borin vas Hlōðvé,
 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 rather cryptically. It seems that by asserting the noble lineage of the three swan-wives he gives a legitimate reason for his wealth, although he seems to be aware, judging by the tone, that the greedy Nithad neither cares nor believes him.

- 16 Úti stóð kunnig · kvön Níðaðar,
 2 hón inn of gekk · ęndlangan sal,
 stóð á golfi, · stilti rǫddu:
 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 hǫnum tęgjask · es hǫnum’s tęt sverð
 2 ok hann Bǫðvildar · baug of þękkir.
 Ómun eru augu · ormi hinum 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 gǫrt, at skornar vǫru sinar í knésfótum ok settr í holm einn, er
 þar var fyrir landi, er hét Sęvarstaðr. Þar smíðaði hann
 konungi allskyns gǫrsimar; engi maðr þorði at fara til
 hans, nema konungr einn. Vǫlundr kvæð:

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, which was called Seastead. There he smithed for the king all manner of jewels. No man dared journey to him, save for the king alone. Wayland quoth:

- 18 „Sé’k Níðaði · sverð á linda,
 2 þat’s ek hvęsta · sęm hagast kunna’k
 ok ek hęrða’k · sęm hǫgst þótti;

- 4 sá 's mér fránn mēkir · é fjarri borinn.
sé'kk-a þann Völundi · til smiðju borinn.

"I see a sword on Nithad's belt, that one I sharpened as most handily I knew, and hardened as most pleasingly seemed. Now that gleaming blade is ever far from me carried; I see it not for Wayland to the smithy carried.

- 19 Nú berr Bøðvildr · brúðar minnar,
2 bið'k-a þess bót, · bauga rauða."

Now Beadhild bears my bride's—I get no bettering for that—red bighs."

- 20 Sat né svaf ávalt · ok sló hamri;
2 vél gæði heldr · hvatt Níðaðí;
drifu ungir tveir · á dýr séa
4 synir Níðaðar · í Ségvarstøð.

He sat—never slept—and struck the hammer; he very boldly planned wiles for Nithad.—
Two young ones hurried to look at precious things: Nithad's sons, to Seastead.

- 21 Kvómu til kistu, · kröfðu lukla,
2 opin vas illúð, · es í sǫu,
fjöld vas þar meina, · es mögum sýndisk
4 at véri goll rautt · ok gorsimar.

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 einir tveir, · komið annars dags;
2 ykkir lét'k þat goll · of gefit verða;
sęgið-a meyjum · né salþjóðum,
4 manni engum, · 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: · „gǫngum baug séa!"

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 bighs!”. Came they to the chest, demanded the keys; open was the evil when inside they looked.

24 Snęið af hofuð · huna þęira
 2 ok und fęn fjoturs · fotr of lagði,
 ęn þęr skálar, · es und skorum voru,
 4 sveip utan silfri, · sęldi Níðaði.

He sliced off the heads of those bear-cubs^a [BOYS], 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 Bearserks?

^bVery unclear. TODO.

^cTheir skulls.

25 Ęn ór augum · jarknastęina
 2 sęndi kunnigri · kvon Níðaðar;
 ęn ór tønnum · tvęggja þęira
 4 sló brjóstkringlur, · sęndi Bęðvildi.

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 Bęðvildr · baugi at hrósa
 2 [...] · es brotit hafði,
 „þori’k-a’k sęgja, · nema þęr 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 þinum · 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.”^a

^aKing Nithad and his wife.

- 29 „Vęl ek,“ kvað Vølundr, · „verða’k á fitjum,
2 þęim’s mik Níðaðar · nómu rekkar.“
Hléjandi Vølundr · hófsk at lopti,
4 grátandi Bøðvildr · gekk ór ęyju.
tregði fęr friðils · ok fęður vręiði.

“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.

^a*C-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 · kvęn Níðaðar,
2 ok hón inn of gekk · ęndlangan sal,
ęn hann á salgarð · sęttisk 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 rjóð 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,
 af heilum hvat varð · húnum mínum?“

“Say it to me, Wayland, leader of elves: what became of my healthy bear-cubs [BOYS]?”

[Wayland quoth:]

- 33 „Eiða skalt mér áðr · alla vinna,
 at skips borði · ok at skjaldar rýnd,
 at mars bógi · ok at mækis egg
 4 at þú kveļj-at · kvön Völundar,
 né brúði minni · at bana verðir,
 6 þótt kvön ęigim, · þá's ęr 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,
 snęið'k af hofuð · 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 [BOYS], 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,

4 ɛn ór augum · jarknasteina,
 sɛnda'k kunnigri · kvón 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 ɛn ór ɬonnum · tveggja þeira
 2 sló'k brjóstkringlur, · sɛnda'k Bøðvildi;
 nú ɣɛngr Bøðvildir · barni aukin,
 4 ɛingadóttir · ykkur þeggja.

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 „Mɛltir-a þú þat mál, · es mik mɛir tregi,
 2 né þik vilja'k Vølundr · verr of níta;
 es-at svá maðr hør, · at þik af hɛsti taki,
 4 né svá øflugr, · 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 against the cloud-cover above!"

38 Hlɛjandi Vølundr · hófsk at lopti,
 2 ɛn ókátr Níðuðr · þá ɛptir sat.

Laughing Wayland threw himself in the air, but gloomy Nithad thereafter stayed.

[Nithad quoth:]

39 „Upp rís Þakkráðr, · þrɛll minn bazti,
 2 bið Bøðvildi, · mɛy hina bráhvítu,
 gangi faqrvarið · við føður 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 Bøðvildr, · es soggðu mér,
2 sǫtuð it Vǫlundr · saman í holmi?“

“Is it true, Beadchild, 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 Vǫlundr · saman í holmi
eina qgurstund, · éva skyldi;
4 ek vétr hǫnum · vinna kunna’k,
ek vétr hǫnum · vinna máttu’k.“

“’Tis true, Nithad, as *he* said^a to thee: I and Wayland stayed together on the island, for one burdensome hour—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 (*kunna* ‘to know, understand’) and physically (*mega* ‘to have strength to do, avail’) incapable of struggling against him. — As Finnur Jónsson (1932) comments, an unsurpassed final verse.

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.”

This passage is closely paralleled in Saxo (TODO). See Hopkins (2021).

P1 Inn þriði áss er sá, er kallaðr er Njörðr. Hann býr á himni, þar sem heitir
2 Nóatún. Hann ræðr fyrir göngu vinds ok stillir sjá ok eld. Á hann skal heita
til sáfara ok til veiða. Hann er svá auðigr ok fésæll, at hann má gefa þeim
4 auð landa eða lausafjár. Á hann skal til þess heita. Eigi er Njörðr ása ættar.
Hann var upp fæddr í Vanaheimi, en Vanir gísluðu hann goðunum ok tóku
6 í mót at gíslingu þann, er Hænir heitir. Hann varð at sætt með goðum ok
Vönum. Njörðr á þá konu, er Skaði heitir, dóttir Þjaza jötuns. Skaði vill
8 hafa bústað þann, er átt hafði faðir hennar, þat er á fjöllum nökkurum, þar
sem heitir Þrymheimr, en Njörðr vill vera nær sæ. Þau sættust á þat, at
10 þau skyldu vera níu nætr í Þrymheimi, en þá aðrar níu at Nóatúnum. En
er Njörðr kom aftr til Nóatúna af fjallinu, þá kvað hann þetta:

The third Os is that one who is called Nearth. He lives in heaven, there as is called Nowetowns. He rules the motion of the wind and calms sea and fire. Upon him shall one call for sea-faring and for hunting. He is so wealthy and blessed with cattle that he may give them a wealth of lands or loose cattle. Upon him shall one call for that. Nearth is not of the lineage of the Ease. He was brought up in Wanehome, but the Wanegave him as a hostage towards the gods and received as a hostage that one who is called Heener. He was used for reconciling the gods and the Waneg. Nearth owns that woman who is called Shede, the daughter of the ettin Thedse. Shede wishes to have the dwelling place which her father had owned, that is on some fells, there as is called

Thrimham, but Nearth wishes to be near the sea. They agreed to it that they would be for nine nights in Thrimham, but the other nine at Nowetowns. But when Nearth came back to the Nowetowns from the fell, then he quoth this:

„Leið erumk fjöll, · vas'k-a lęgi á,
 2 nętr ęinar niu;
 ulfar þytr · mér þótti illr vesa
 4 hjá sęngvi svana.“

“The fells are loathsome to me; I was not long on them, only for nine nights. The howling of the wolves thought me bad to be, held against the song of the swans.”

P2 Þá kvað Skaði þetta:

Then Shede quoth this:

„Sofa né māt'k-a'k · sęvar bęðjum á
 2 fugls jarmi fyrir;
 sá mik vękr · es af víði kęmr
 4 morgun hverjan már.“

“I could not sleep on the beds of the sea, due to the bleating of the bird. That one wakes me when from the wide sea it comes, every morning, the mew.”

„Vax-at-tu nú, Vimur, · alls mik þik vaða tíðir
 2 jętna garða í;
 vęizt, ef þú vęx · at þá vęx mér ósmęgin
 4 jafnhátt upp sem himinn.“

“Grow thou not now, Wimbre, as I wish to wade through thee into the yards of the ettins; know that if thou growest, that my os-might then grows as high as heaven.”

Heroic poetry of the Codex Regius

First Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane (*Helgakviða Hundingsbana fyrsta*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): early C11th (0.103), late C12th (0.805)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

Here begins the lay regarding the men of Hallow Hundingsbane and Hathbrod. A lay of the Walsings.

- 1 Ár vas alda · þat's arar gullu [R 20r/21]
2 hnigu heilög vötn · af Himinfjöllum;
 þá hafði Hēlga · inn hugumstóra
4 Borghildr borit · í Brálundi.

It was the beginning of elds^C, 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 bó, · nornir kvómu, [R 20r/23]
2 þér's öðlingi · aldr of skópu;
 þann böðu fylki · frégstan verða
4 ok buðlunga · þęztan þykkja.

It turned night in the settlement; norns came, those who shaped the age of the nobleman [= Hallow]. They bade the battle-arrayer be the noblest, and among princes seem the best.

- 3 Sneru þęr af afli · ørløgbøttu [R 20r/25]
2 þá's borgir braut · í Brálundi;
 þęr um greiddu · gullinsímu
4 ok und mána sal · miðjan fęstu.

They turned mightily orlay-strands, when castles were broken in Browlund. They arranged a golden band, and beneath the moon-hall [sky] fastened it in the middle.

[R 20r/27] 4 Þér austr ok vestr · enda fǫlu,
 2 þar átti lofðungr · land á milli,
 brá nipt Nera · á norðrvega
 4 ęinni fęsti, · ęy bað hon halda.

They in the east and west hid its ends; there the praised one owned land in between. The kinswoman of Nare <unknown person> [NORN] tugged onto the northern ways a single cord; she bade it hold forever.

The Lay of Hallow Harwardson

(*Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): early C11th (0.385)–late C11th (0.550)

Meter: *Firnwordslaw*

Regarding Harward and Sighlind (*Frá Hjörvarði ok Sigrínn*)

- P1 Hjörvarðr hét konungr. Hann átti fjórar konur. Ein hét Alfhildr; sonr
2 þeira hét Heðinn. Önnur hét Sereifr; þeira sonr hét Humlungr. In þriðja
hét Sinrjóð; þeira sonr hét Hymlingr. Hjörvarðr konungr hafði þess heit
4 strengt at eiga þá konu er hann vissi vænsta. Hann spurði at Sváfni kon-
ungr átti dóttur allra^a fegrsta; sú hét Sigrínn. Tömundr hét jarl hans; Atli
6 var hans sonr er fór at biðja Sigrínnar til handa konungi. Hann dvalðisk
vetrlangt með Sváfni konungi. Fránmarr hét þar jarl, föstri Sigrínnar; dót-
8 tir hans hét Álf. Jarlinn réð, at meyjar var synjat, ok fór jarlinn heim.
Atli jarls sonr stóð einn dag við lund nokkurn, en fugl sat í limunum uppi
10 yfir hánun ok hafði heyrt til, at hans menn kǫlluðu vænstar konur þær, er
Hjörvarðr konungr átti. Fuglinn kvakaði, en Atli hlýddi, hvat hann sagði.
12 Hann kvað:

TODO. He quoth:

^a‘vænallra’ *corr.* R

- 1 „Sáttu Sigrínn, · Sváfnis dóttur,
2 meyna fęgrstu · i munarheimi?
þó hagligar · Hjörvarðs konur
4 gumnum þykkja · at Glasislundi.“

2 „Mundu við Atla · Iðmundar son
 2 fugl fróðhugaðr · fleira mēla?“
 „Mun’k ef mik buðlungr · blóta vildi
 4 ok kys’k þat’s ek vil · ór konungs garði.“
 2

3 3
 3

4 4
 4

5 5
 5

6 6
 6

7 7
 7

8 Sverð veit’k liggja · i Sigarsholmi,
 2 fjórum fēra · enn fimm tōgu;
 eitt es þeira · ǫllum bētra
 4 vígnesta bǫl · ok varið golli.

Swords I know lying, in Sigharsholm, four less than fifty. One of them is better than all—the bale^C of war-needles^a [SPEARS?]^a—and inlaid with gold.

^aThe kenning *vígnest* also appears in

9 Hringr ’s i hjalti, · hugr ’s i miðju,
 2 ógn ’s i oddi, · þeim’s eiga getr;

liggr með eggju · ormr dreyrfáiðr
 4 en á valbøstu · 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^a an adder chases its tail.

^aAn unclear part of the sword-hilt; see *Sigðrive* 7.

Second Lay of Hallow Hundingsbane

(*Helgakviða Hundingsbana aðra*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): early C11th (0.346)–late C11th (0.587)

Meter: *Firnwörðslaw* (TODO)

TODO: Introduction.

- P1 Helgi fekk Sigrúnar ok áttu þau sonu; var Helgi eigi gamall. Dagr Högna
2 sonr blótaði Óðin til fǫðurhefnda. Óðinn léði Dag geirs síns. Dagr fann
Helga, mág sinn, þar sem heitir at Fjöturlundi. Hann lagði í gognum
4 Helga með geirnum. Þar fell Helgi en Dagr reið til fjalla ok sagði Sigrúnu
tíðindi:

Hallow got Sighrun, and they owned sons; Hallow was not old. Day, son of Hain, blooted^C 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:

- 1 „Trauðr em ek, systir, · trega þér at segja
2 þvíat ek hefí nauðigr · nipti grétta:
Fell í morgun · und Fjöturlundi
4 buðlungr sá's vas · þeztr 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 · valdogg slæginn,
 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:^a
 the hands wet-cold on the kinsman of Hain. How shall I for thee, lord, remedy that?”

^aFor the formulation cf. *Dreams* 5.

3 „Eín veldr þú, Sigrún · frá Sefafjöllum,
 2 es Hęłgi es · harmdogg slæginn:
 Grętr þú, gullvarit, · grimmum tǫrum,
 4 sólbjǫrt 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*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.442), early C11th (0.402), late C11th (0.155)

Meter: *Leed-meter* (TODO)

[Fathomer quoth:]

- 1 „Sveinn ok sveinn! · Hverjum estu sveini of borinn?
2 Hverra estu manna mögr?
es þú á Fáfní 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 mikít ef hann þolvaði 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 fey^C man could do much if he baled 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.”

[Fathomer quoth:]

- 3 „Veizt, 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, by which wonder thou wast born?”

[Siward quoth:]

4 „Ætterni 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—Sigmund 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 any glory. He is not saying that he is lineage is unknown even to himself, since *sjalfan mik* ‘my self’ is accusative, not dative.

[Fathomer quoth:]

5 „Hvęrr þik hvatti, · hví hvętjask lézt,
2 mínu fjorvi at fara?
Hinn fráneygi sveinn, · þú áttir fęður bitran,
4 ábornu skjór á skęið.“

“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 skęið* means roughly ‘rapidly, quickly’; thus *ríða á skęið* CV: ‘to ride at full speed’, but the other words are uncertain. 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

TODO: More verses...

The Speeches of Sighdrive (*Sigrdrífumól*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.961)

Meter: *Leed-meter*

Many of the verses are quoted in *WalsS*, but notably the two prayer-verses are missing; possibly an instance of Christian censorship. TODO

[Sighdrive quoth:]

1 „Lengi ek svaf, · lengi ek sofnuð vas,
2 long eru lýða lé;
Óðinn því veldr · es eigi máttak
4 bregða blundstofum.“

“Long I slept, long was I asleep, long are the deceits”

P1 Sigurðr settisk niðr ok spyrr hana nafns. Hón tók þá horn fullt mjaðar ok
2 gaf hönnum minnisveig.

Siward set himself down, asking for her name. Then she took a horn full of mead, and gave him a mind-draught:

2 Heill Dagr, · heilir Dags synir,
2 heil Nött ok nipt!
Óreiðum augum · lítið okkr þinig
4 ok gefið sitjendum sigr!

“Hail Day^P! Hail the sons of Day!^a Hail Night and [her] kinswoman [= Earth]!^b With unwrathful eyes look ye upon us two, and give the sitting ones [= us] victory.

^aTODO. Who?

^bAccording to *Ylför* 10 Earth is the daughter of Night and Aner^P.

¹ *bánom* ms.

4 ok nefna tysvar Tý.

Victory-runes shalt thou know, if thou wilt have victory, and carve on the hilt of the sword; some on weight-rims;^a some on wallbasts^b, and name Tue^P twice.

^aUnclear.

^bPossibly the sword-pommel, the word also occurs in *HHarw* 9.

6 Qlrúnar skalt kunna · ef þu vilt annars kvén
2 vèli t þik i trygd ef þú trúir.
á horni skal þér rísta · ok á handar baki
4 ok merkia a nagli næþ.

Ale-runes shalt thou know, if TODO

7 Full skal signa · ok við fári séa
2 ok verpa lauki í lög;
þá þat vèitk, · at þér verðr aldri
4 meini blandinn mjöðr.

TODO

3–4 þá ... mjöðr] *thus WalsS, om. R*

...
8 Þá mælti · Míms höfuð
2 fróðligt it fyrsta orð,
ok sagði sanna stafi.

Then spoke the head of Mime learnedly the first word, and said true staves:

9 Á skildi kvað ristnar · þeim's stendr fyr skínanda goði,
2 á eyra Árvakrs, · ok á Alsvinns hófi,
á því hvéli es snýz · undir reið Hrungnis,
4 á Sleipnis tönnum · ok á sleða fjotrú, ·
á bjarnar hrammi · ok á Braga tungu,
6 á ulfs klóm · ok á arnar nefi,
á blóðgum vengjum · ok á brúar sporði,
8 á lausnar lófa · ok á líknar spori,
á glæri ok á gulli · ok á gumna heillum,
10 í víni ok virtri · ok vilisessi.

Á Gungnis oddi · ok á Grana brjósti,
 12 á nornar nagli · ok á neði uglu;

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,^b 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, on the point of Gungner, and on the breast of Grane, on the nail of a norn, and on the beak of an owl.

^aAccording to *Grimner* 39 the sun is covered by a shield, protecting the earth from its heat. Without it, the whole world would burn up.

^bThe two horses that pull the sun across the heavens; cf. *Grimner* 38.

10 Allar vǫru af skafnar, · þér es vǫru á ristnar,
 2 ok hverfðar við inn hēlga mjǫð
 ok sendar á víða vega.

All were shaven off—those that were carved on—and thrown into the holy mead, and sent on wide ways:

11 Þér 'ró með ósum, · þér 'ró með ǫlfum,
 2 sumar með vísun vǫnum,
 sumar hafa męnskir męnn.

They are among the Ease, they are among the Elves; some among wise Waners; some manly men have.

...

[Sighdrive quoth:]

12 ...

“Now shalt thou choose, as the choice is offered to thee, maple-tree of sharp weapons [WARRIOR]! Speech or silence have thou in thy own heart; all the harms are measured [by the Norns].”

[Siwrd quoth:]

13 ...

“I shall not flee, although thou know me to be fey; I am not born with softness.^a Thy loving counsels all will I have, for as long as I live.”

^aNote about this common heroic expression.

[Sighdrive quoth:]

14 ...

“That I counsel thee first: that thou against thy kinsmen defend thyself faultlessly. Late ought thou to take revenge, although they incur charges; that they say befits the dead.

15 Þat réð'k þér annat, · at eið né sverir,

2 nema þann 's saðr séi,

grimmar simar · ganga at tryggðrofi;

4 armr es vára vargr.

That I counsel thee second: that thou not swear an oath, save for that one which is true.
Grim strands befall the troth-breaker; wretched is the outlaw of vows.

16 ...

That I counsel thee third: that thou on the Thing bandy not with foolish men; for an unwise man often lets be spoken worse words than he ought to know.

17 ...

All is missing if thou shut up towards it; then thou seemest born with softness, or truthfully accused. Risky is the verdict of neighbours, unless one gets himself a good one.

18 ...

At another day make his breath go away, and thus repay the people for the lie.

The Third Lay of Guthrun

(*Guðrúnarkviða þriðja*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.731), early C11th (0.178)

Meter: *Firnworslaw*

P1 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:

Herch 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:

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 méltir · ok mik séir.“

What is with thee, Attle? Always, son of Bodle, art thou sad at heart; why laughest thou never? TO-DO

2 „Tregr mik þat, Guðrún, · Gjúka dóttir,
2 mér í hollu · Herkja sagði
at þit Þjóðrekr · undir þaki svéfið
4 ok léttliga · líni vərðið.“

It troubles me, Guthrun, Yivick's daughter, which in the hall Herch 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 stęini.
 at ek við Þjóðmar · þat-ki átta’k
 4 es vǫrðr né verr · vinna knátti.

GAGAGGAGAG

- 4 Nema ek halsaða · hęrja stilli,
 2 jǫfur óneisinn, · ęinu sinni;
 aðrar vǫru · okkrar spękjur
 4 es við hǫrmug tvau · hnigum at rúnum.

TESTETET STET T

- 5 Hér kom Þjóðrekr · með þrjá tǫgu,
 2 lífa þęir né ęinir, · 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,
 2 sé’k-a síðan · svása bróðr;
 sverði myndi Hǫgni · slíks harms reka,
 4 nú verð’k sjǫlf fyr mik · synja lýta.“

“Now Guthur 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 hón til botns · björtum lófa

- 2 ok hón upp of tók · jarknasteina:
 „Sé nú sęggir · sykn em ek orðin
 4 heilagliga— · hvé 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 heilar sá · hendr Guðrúnar:
 „Nú skal Herkja · til hvers ganga,
 4 sú's Guðrúnu · grandi vęnti.“

Then the heart of Atle laughed in his breast, when he saw the hands of Guthrun unscathed: “Now shall Herch go to the cauldron, she who to Guthrun hoped to cause harm.”

- 10 Sá-at maðr armligt, · hverr es þat sá at,
 2 hvé þar á Herkju · hendr sviðnuðu;
 leiddu þá mey · í mýri fúla,
 4 svá þá Guðrún · sinna harma.

Each man saw not something so pitiful, who saw that: how there on Herch the hands were scorched. Led they the maiden into the foul bog; thus was Guthrun reconstituted for her affronts.

The Lay of Attle (*Atlakviða*)

Dating (Sapp, 2022): C10th (0.719)–early C11th (0.212)

Meter: *Speech-meter, Firnwordslaw*

The Death of Attle (*Dauði Atla*)

P1 Guðrún Gjúkadóttir hefndi bróðra sinna, svá sem frégt er orðit. Hon drap
2 fyrst sonu Atla, en eptir drap hon Atla ok brendi hollina ok hirðina alla;
 um þetta er sjá kviða ort.

Guthrun Yivicksdaughter 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 sendi · ár til Gunnars
2 kunnan segg at ríða, · Knéfrøðr vas sá heitin;
 at gørdum kom hann Gjúka · ok at Gunnars hollu,
4 bękkjum 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 dróttmegir · —en dyljendr þogðu—
2 vín í valhollu, · vręði sǫusk þęir Húna;
 kallaði þá Knéfrøðr · kaldri rǫddu,
4 seggr inn suðróni · sat hann á bękk 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:

1 dyljendr ‘concealed ones’] Finnur Jónsson (1932) reasonably interprets this as referring to Atle’s spies at Guthur’s court.

2 valhøllu ‘the walhall’] The interpretation of this compound is difficult in context. The first element *val-* could be (1) *valr* ‘falcon’, referring to the aristocratic hunting practice; (2) *valr* ‘Wale’^G, cognate with ‘Welsh’ but in ON referring to the French or Romans, stressing the southern location or appearance of the hall; or (3) *valr* ‘(collective) the battle-slain’, foreshadowing the inevitable death (feyness^C) of the Yivickings^G. In this case it is linguistically identical to Walhall^L, Weden’s hall, whither the battle-slain go.

3 “Atli mik hingat sændi · ríða ørændi,
2 mar inum mēlgreypa, · Myrkvið inn ókunna
at biðja yðr, Gunnarr, · at it á þekk kómið
4 með hjölmum aringreypum · at sókja heim Atla.

“Atle 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 Atle.

4 Skjöldu kneguð þar vëlja · ok skafna aska,
2 hjalma gullroðna · ok Húna mengi,
silfrgyllt sǫðulklēði, · sērki valrauða,
4 dafar, darraða, · drǫsla mēlgreypa.

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 ykk ok myndu gefa · víðrar Gnitahęiðar
2 af geiri gjallanda · ok af gylltum stǫfnum,
stórar męiðmar · ok staði Danpar,
4 hrís þat it męra · es meðr Myrkvið kalla.

GAGAGA

6 Hǫfði vatt þá Gunnarr · ok Hǫgna til sagði:
2 Hvat réðr þú okkr, sęggr inn ǫri, · allz vit slíkt heyrum?
Gull vissa ek ekki · á Gnitahęiði,
4 þat es vit ęttim-a · annat slíkt.

His head turned Guthur 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 · hjolt ór gulli;
 mín vęit ek mar þęztan · ęn męki hvassastan,
 4 boga þękksóma · 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 mín þętri · ęn sé allra Húna.

A helmet and the whitest shield, taken out of the hall of Chear; alone is mine better, than [those] of all of the Huns.”

- 9 Hvat hyggr þú brúði þęndu · þá es hón okkr baug sęndi,
 2 varinn váðum þęiðingja? · Hykk at hón vörnuð byði!
 Hár fann ek þęiðingja · riðit í hring rauðum;
 4 ylfskr es vegr okkarr · at ríða øręndi.

“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 hvottu Gunnar · né náungr annarr,
 2 rýnęndr né ráðęndr, · né þęir es ríkir vöru;
 kvaddi þá Gunnarr · sęm konungr skyldi,
 4 męrr 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, Fjörnir, · lát-tu á flet vaða
 2 greppa gullskálir · með gumna hönðum!

“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 þreftǫnnum,
 4 gamna greystóði, · ef Gunnarr né kǫmr-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 Lǣiddu landrǫgni · lýðar ónǣsir,
 2 grátǣndr, gunnhvatan, · ór garði Húna;
 þá kvað þat inn óri · ǣrfivǫrðr Hǫgna:
 4 Hǣilir farið nú ok horskir · hvar’s ykkir hugr tǣygir!

GAGAGA

- 14 Fetum létu fróknir · um fjöll at þyrja
 2 marina mǣlgreypu, · Myrkvið inn okunna;
 hristisk ǫll Húnmǫrk · þar es harðmóðgir fóru,
 4 vrǫku þeir vannstyggva · vǫllu algróna.

GAGAGA

- 15 Land sǫu þeir Atla · ok liðskjalfar djúpar
 2 Bikka greppar standa · á borg inni há
 sal of suðrþjóðum, · slæginn sessmǣiðum,
 4 bundnum rǫndum, · blǣikum skjǫldum,

The land of Attle saw they, TODO

- 16 dafar, darraða; · ǣn þar drakk Atli
 2 vín í valhöllu; · vǣrðir sǫtu úti
 at varða þeim Gunnari · ef þeir hér vitja kómi
 4 með gǣiri gjallanda · at vǣkja gram hildi.

TODO 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 kvómu,
 2 bróðr hennar báðir, · bjóri var hón lítt drukkin:
 Ráðinn ert-u nú, Gunnarr, · hvat munt-u, ríkr, vinna
 4 við Húna harmbrögðum? · Hóll 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, Guthur; why wilt thou, mighty one, struggle against Hunnish harm-tricks? Go early out of the hall!”^a

^aBefore anything evil might happen.

- 18 Bætr hefðir þú, bróðir, · at þú í brynju fórir,
 2 sëm hjölmum aringreypum · at séa heim Atla;
 sëtir þú í sǫðlum · sólheiða daga,
 4 nái nauðfólva · létir nornir gráta.

Better hadst thou, brother, if thou in byrnie travelled, and with hearth-surrounding helmets, to see the home of Atle.

- 19 Húna skjaldmeyjar · herfi kanna
 2 en Atla sjalfan · létir þú í ormgarð koma;
 nú es sá ormgarðr · ykkir of folginn.

GAGAGA

- 20 Sęinað 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 Hǫgni · sverði hvössu
 4 en inum átta hratt hann · í ęld 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 vērjask;
 2 Hogni varði · hēndr Gunnars.
 frógu fróknan · ef fjǫr 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 ... vērjask] 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:

[Guthur quoth:]

- 23 “Hjarta skal mér Hogna · í hēndi liggja
 2 blóðugt, ór brjósti · skorit baldriða,
 saxi slíðrbeitu, · syni þjóðans.”

“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 logðu · ok bǫru 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 · Hogni ins frókna,
 4 es mjök bifask · es á bjóði liggr;
 bifðisk hǫlfu 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 Hogni · es til hjarta skóru
 2 kvikvan kumblasmið · klökkva hann sízt hugði;
 blóðugt þat á bjóð lögðu · ok bǫru fyr Gunnar.

Hain laughed then, when to the heart they cut on the living wound-smith [WARRIOR]; 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 · Hagna 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 Guthur, the Gore-Nifling: “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 sęm munt · menjum verða;
 es und ęinum mér · ǫll 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 Niflings—now Hain lives not!

- 29 Eý vas mér týja · meðan vit tvęir lifðum,
 2 nú es mér ęngi · es ęinn lifi’k;
 Rín skal ráða · rógmalmi skatna,
 4 svinn, ǫskunna · 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 Niflings.

- 30 Í veltanda vatni · lýsask valbaugar
 2 hęldr an á hǫndum gull · skíni Húna bǫrnum.

In tumbling water the Welsh bigs gleam, rather than gold might shine on the hands of the children of Huns.”

...

- 31 Ełdi gaf hón alla · es inni vōru
 2 ok frá morði þęira Gunnars · komnir vōru ór Myrkþęimi;
 forn timbr fellu, · þjarghús ruku,
 4 bōr Buðlunga, · brunnu ok skjaldmęyjar,
 inni aldrstamar, · hnigu í ęld þęitan.

To the fire she gave all those who were inside, who from their murder of Guthen 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 Fullrōtt's umb þetta; · fęrr ęngi svá síðan
 2 brúðr í brynju · bróðra at þęfna;
 hón þęfir þriggja · þjóðkonunga
 4 banorð borið, · þjort, 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,^a bright woman, before she may die.

^ai.e. 'She has slain three great kings.' This expression and its Germanic and Indo-European relatives is discussed in detail in Watkins (1995)[417–422].

- 33 Enn segir gleggri í Atlamálum inum grónlenskum.

Yet this is told more clearly in the Greenlandish Speeches of Atle.

Other heroic poetry

The Lay of Hildbrand

Dating: C8th

Meter: Germanic alliterative meter

For the text of original poem I generally present the manuscript text. I have found it impossible 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 *cæsuræ* and at others sporadically placed, has not been retained.

Where they appear in *cæsuræ*, the words *quad Hiltibrant* ‘Hildbrand quoth’ (found in ll., 30, 49, and 58) replace the usual interpunct. I had originally planned to remove these as hypermetrical, instead indicating the speaker above the verse, but after comparison with *Rein* 3, wherein the words *kvað Loki* ‘Lock quoth’ appear in the first *cæsura* of the verse, I have come to believe that these represent an ancient oral indication, seemingly going back as far as the Migration Period (as it seems incredulous to think that the scribe of *Hild ms.* would have influenced the scribe of *R* four centuries later in such a minor point.)

-
- 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.^a 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.*

^ai.e. each man was a champion of his respective army.

- Hiltibrant gimahalta · her was héróro man
 8 f^{er}ahes frótóro · her frágén gistuont
fóhém wortum · hwer sín fater wári
 10 fireo in folche · [...]
 [...] · „eddo hwelíhhes cnuosles dú sís
 12 ibu dú mí enan sagés · ik mí de odre wét
chind in chunincríche · 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] *welíbbes Hild ms.* 13 chunincríche] *chunnincriche Hild ms.*

- Hadubrant gimahalta · Hiltibrantes sunu
 „dat sagetun mí · úsere liuti
 16 alte anti fróte · dea erhina 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 fur^laet in lante · luttila 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 feh^ta 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 many thanes. He abandoned 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] *gibueit Hild ms.* 21 brút] *prut Hild ms.* 22 her raet] *beraet Hild ms.* 24 fateres] *fatereres Hild ms.* 26 Deotrichhe] add. *darba gistontun Hild ms.* 27 feh^ta] *pebeta 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 (quad Hiltibrant) 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, above in heaven, that thou never with such a close man once more lead dispute.” Unwound he then from his arm some twisted bighs^C, made from imperial coin, which the king once gave him, the lord of the Huns—“This I now give thee for [thy] holdness^C.^a”

30 hebane] *beuane Hild ms.*

^aThe giving of *bighs* (armlets, torcs) in exchange for loyalty among warriors is well attested; see Encyclopedia. This encounter is particularly reminiscent of *Hoarbeard* 42.

- 36 Hadubrant gimahalta · Hiltibrantes sunu
 „mit geru scal man · geba infáhan
 38 ort widar orte · [...] dú bist dir altér hun · ummet spáhér
 40 spenis mih mit díném wortun · wili mih dínu speru werpan
bist alsó gialtét 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 lurest 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-sea^a, that war took that man: dead is Hildbrand, Harbrand's son!”

41 bist] *pist Hild ms.*

^aThe 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 (quad Hiltibrant) 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 énig reht habés“

"Well now, wielding God! woeful Weird^a 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 zeal avail thee—from such a hoary man win the equipment; bear away the booty, if thou thereto have any right."

57 birahanen] *bibrahamen Hild ms.*

^aThe personification of fate, in this case most likely just a noun. OE *Wyrð* (*Beowulf* 455: *Gæð á Wyrð swá bío scel* "Ever goes Weird as she must"), ON *Urðr* 'one of the norns'.

58 „der sí doh nú argósto (quad Hiltibrant) 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 of the eastern peoples, who refuse thee the fight, when thou so greatly cravest to struggle together.—Try he who might, which one of us today of these garments may boast, or both of these byrnies wield!"

61 hwedar] *werdar Hild ms.* 61 hiutu déro] metr. emend.; *dero biutu Hild ms.* 61 hruomen] *brumen 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 harmlicco · hwítte scilti
 unti imo iro lintún · luttilo wurtun
 68 giwigan miti wábum · [...]

Then let they first their ash-spears glide, in sharp showers, 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.*

Ancient Germanic Charms and Spells

I have here gathered sundry charms spells; galders and leeds, assembled from sources across the ancient Germanic world. I have generally only included those with clear Heathen elements or contexts, though a few are of Christian origin. The Old Saxon baptismal vow, while explicitly anti-pagan, has also been included due to its mention of Germanic Heathen deities.

Continental Germanic spells

The two Merseburg charms

- 1 Eiris sázun idísi · sázun hera dóder;
2 suma hapt heptidun · suma heri lezidun
suma clubodun · umbi cóniowidi
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 this strange mark in the ms.

- 2 Fol ende Wódan · fórun zi holza
2 dú wart demo Balderes folon · sín fóz birenkit
thú bigól en Sinthgunt · Sunna era swister
4 thú bigól en Frija · Folla era swister
thú bigól en Wódan · só hé wola conda
6 sóse bénrenkí · sóse blótrenkí
sóse lidirenkí
8 bén zi béna
blót zi blóda
10 lid zi geliden · sóse gelimida sín.

Phol and Weden journeyed to the woods; then was the foot of Balder's foal sprained. Then begaled^C him Sithguth^P, Sun^P her sister; then begaled him Frie^P, Full^P 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!"

1 Fol] *Phol* ms.

Against worms (Contra vermes)

- 3 Gang út, nesso, · mid nigun nessiklínon,
 2 ut fana themo marge an that bēn,
 fan themo bēne an that flesg,
 4 ut fan themo flesgke an thia hūd,
 ut fan thera hūd an thesa strála.
 6 Drohtin, werthe só.

Go out, Nesse, with nine small Nesses! Out from the marrow onto the bone, from this bone onto the flesh, out from the flesh onto the skin, out from the skin onto these arrows. Lord, may it be so.

The Old Saxon Baptismal vow

- P1 „Forsachistu diabolæ?“ *et respondeat*: „ec forsacho diabolæ“
 “Forsakest thou the Devil?” and he should respond: “I forsake the Devil.”
- P2 „end allum diabol geldē?“ *respondeat*: „end ec forsacho allum diabol geldæ.“
 “And all Devil-yields?” he should respond: “I forsake all devil-yields.”
- P3 „End allum dioboles wercum?“ *respondeat* „end ec forsacho allum dioboles
 2 wercum and wordum, Thunær ende Wóden ende Saxnóte ende allēm them
 unholdum the hira genótas sint.“
 “And all the works of the Devil?” he should respond: “and I forsake all the works and words of the Devil; Thunder and Weden and Saxneet and all those unhold ones who are their fellows.”
- P4 „Gelóbistu in got alamehtigun fadær?“ „Ec gelóbo in got alamehtigun
 2 fadær.“
 “Believest thou in God, the almighty father?” “I believe in God, the almighty father.”
- P5 „Gelóbistu in Crist godes suno?“ „Ec gelóbo in Crist gotes suno.“
 “Believest thou in Christ, God’s son?” “I believe in Christ, God’s son.”
- P6 „Gelóbistu in hálogan gást?“ „Ec gelóbo in hálogan gást.“

“Believest thou in the Holy Ghost?” “I believe in the Holy Ghost.”

Old English spells

Against a dwarf

Wið færstice

Attested in *Lacnung*.

- Hlúde wæran hý, lá, hlúde, · ðá hý ofer þone hlæw ridan,
2 wæran ánmóde, · ðá hý ofer land ridan.
Scyld ðú ðé nú, þú ðysne nið · genesan móte.
4 Út, lýtel spere, · gif hér inne síe!

Loud were they, lo, loud, when they rode over that mound; they were steadfast, when they rode over land. Shield thyself now; thou mayst escape this evil! Out little spear, if here within it be!

- Stód under linde, · under leohtum scylde,
2 þær ðá mihtigan wíf · hýra mægen beræddon
and hý gyllende · gáras sændan;
4 ic him óðerne · eft wille sændan,
fléogende fláne · forane tógéanes.
6 Ut, lytel spere, · gif hit her inne sy!

Stood under the linden [SHIELD]—under the light shield—where those mighty wives their might arrayed, and they yelling spears did send. I to them another will afterwards send: a flying arrow, back against [them]. Out little spear, if here within it be!

- Sæt smið, · sloh seax
2 lytel iserna, · wund swiðe.
Ut, lytel spere, · gif her inne sy!

Sat the smith, struck the sax; a little iron-thing; a wound severe. Out little spear, if here within it be!

- Syx smiðas sætan, · wælspera worhtan.
 2 Ut, spere, · næs in, spere!
 Gif her inne sy · isenes dæl,
 4 hægtessan geweorc, · hit sceal gemyltan.

Six smiths sat, wrought slaughter-spears; out, spear; be not in, spear! If here within be a part of iron, a work of a hag-tess^C—it shall melt.

- Gif ðu wære on fell scoten · oððe wære on flæsc scoten
 2 oððe wære on blod scoten · [...]
 oððe wære on lið scoten, · næfre ne sy ðin lif atæsed;

If thou wert shot in the skin, or wert shot in the flesh, or wert shot in the blood, [or wert shot in bone], or wert shot in the limb—never be thy life injured.

- gif hit wære esa gescot · oððe hit wære ylfa gescot
 2 oððe hit wære hægtessan gescot, · nu ic wille ðin helpen:
 þis ðe to bote esa gescotes, · ðis ðe to bote ylfa gescotes,
 4 ðis ðe to bote hægtessan gescotes; · ic ðin wille helpen.

If it were the shot of Ease, or it were the shot of elves,^a or it were the shot of a hag-tess—now I will help thee. This for thee as remedy to the shot of Ease; this for thee as remedy to the shot of elves; this for thee as remedy to the shot of a hag-tess—I will help thee.

^aFormulaic; see Ease and Elves^F. That they are held in the same category as the hag-tess—a witch—indicates Christian influence. Among the Germanic peoples the elves and Ease were originally beneficial, something shown by numerous names like Alfred (OE *Ælfréd* ‘Elf-counsel’), Oswald (OE *Ósweald* ‘Os-power’), Elfwin (Lomb. *Alboin* ‘Elf-friend’), Oshelm (Lomb. *Anselm* ‘Os-helmet’).

- Fleo þær on · fyrgen-hæfde,
 2 hal westu, · helpe ðin drihten,
 nim þonne þæt seax, · ado on wætan.

TODO.

Nine herbs charm

- Gemyne ðú mugwyrht · hwæt þú ámeldodest
 2 hwæt þu renadest · æt Regenmelde?

Rememberest thou, Mugwort, what thou madest known; what thou arrangedest at Rein-meld?

Una þú hattest · yldost wyrta
 4 þú miht wið III · and wið XXX
 þú miht wiþ attre · and wið onflyge
 6 þú miht wiþ þám láþan · ðe geond lond færð

thou availest against three and against thirty; thou availest against the venom and against the onflier; thou availest against the loathsome one that goes through the lands.

+ Ond þú wegbráde · wyrta módor
 8 éast[a]n op[e]ne · inn[a]n mihtigu
 ofer ðy cræte curran · ofer ðy cwéne réodan
 10 ofer ðy brýde brýodedon
 ofer ðy fearras fnærdon.

And thou, Waybread, mother of worts, open from the east, mighty from within. Over thee TODO.

Eallum þu þon wiðstóde · and wiðstunedest
 8 swá ðú wiðstonde attre · and onflyge
 and þæm láðan · þe geond lond fereð.

Them all withstoodest thou then, and stoppedst; so may thou withstand the venom and the onflier, and the loathsome one that goes through the lands.

Stune hætte þeos wyrta, · héo on stáne geweax
 8 stond héo wið attre, · stunað héo wærce
 Stiðe héo hatte, · wiðstunað héo attre
 10 wreceð héo wráðan, · weorpeð út attor

Ston is this wort called; she grew on stone; she withstands venom, she stops aches. Stithe is she called; she stops venom; she drives away the wroth one; she casts out the venom.

+ Þis is séo wyrta · séo wiþ wýrm gefeaht
 8 þeos mæg wið attre, · héo mæg wið onflyge
 héo mæg wið ðám láþan · ðe geond lond fereþ

This is the wort which fought against the worm; this one avails against the venom; she avails against the onfler; she avails against the loathsome one that goes through the lands.

Fleoh þú nú attorláðe, · séo lāsse ðá máran
8 séo máre þá lássan, · oððæt him beigra bót sý

TODO

Gemyne þú, mægðe, · hwæt þú ámeldodest
8 hwæt ðú geændadest · æt Alorforda
þæt náfne for gefloge · feorh ne gesealde
10 syþðan him mon mægðan · tú mete gegyrede

TODO

Þis is séo wurt · ðe wergulu hatte
8 ðás onsænde seolh · ofer sás hrygc
ondan attres · óþres tó bóte

TODO

Ðás VIII magon · wið nygon attrum.

TODO

+ Wyrn cóm snícan, · toslát hé man
8 ðá genam Wóden · VIII wuldortánas
slóh ðá þá náddran · þæt héo on VIII tófléah
10 þær geændade æppel · and attor
þæt héo náfne ne wolde · on hús búgan

A Worm^C came crawling; he tore apart a man. Then took Weden nine glory-twigs; slew then that adder, that it TODO into nine [parts]. There ended apple and venom, that he would never come into a house.

+ Fille and finule, · felamihtigu twá
8 þá wyrte gesceop · wítig drihten

- hálīg on heofonum, · þá hé hongode
 10 sette and sǣnde · on VII worulde
 earmum and éadigum · eallum tó bóte

Fill and Fennel, many-mighty two; those worts shaped the wise lord, holy on heaven,
 when he hung. He set and sent them onto seven worlds; to the wretched and the wealthy,
 to all for healing.

- Stond héo wið wærce, · stunað héo wið attre
 8 séo mæg wið III · *and* wið XXX
 wið [féondes] hond · and wið færbregde
 10 wið malscrunge · manra wihta

against three and against thirty

8 wið III and wið XXX ‘against three and against thirty’] Formulaic; an uncountable amount; “snakes” are probably understood. This oral formula appears in many folk ballads, viz. (Child) 4EFG, 18B, 20C, 30, 53BCDEIKM, 63EFH, 73I, 97AC, 100AG, 110BGH, 156G, 185A, 187A, 187C, 190A, 192A, 193B, 203C, 211A, 217GHLN, 244A, 268A, 269C, 281ABC. Things described include horses, heads of cattle, warriors, days, years, winters.

- + Nu magon þás VIIII wyrta · wið nygon wuldorgeflogenum
 8 wið VIIII attrum · and wið nygon onflygnum
 wið ðý réadan attre, · wið ðý runlan attre
 10 wið ðý hwitan attre, · wið ðý [hæwe]nan attre
 wið ðý geolwan attre, · wið ðý grénan attre
 12 wið ðý wonnan attre, · wið ðý wedenan attre
 wið ðý brúnan attre, · wið ðý basewan attre
 14 wið wyrmegeblæd, · wið wætergeblæd
 wið þorngelæd, · wið þystelgeblæd
 16 wið ýsgeblæd, · wið attorgeblæd

Now these nine worts avail against glory-onfliers: against nine venoms and against
 nine onfliers; against the red venom; against the TODO venom; against the white
 venom; against the TODO venom; against the yellow venom; against the green venom;
 against the TODO venom; against the TODO venom; against the brown venom; against
 the TODO venom; against worm-TODO; against water-TODO; against thorn-TODO;
 against thistle-TODO; against ice-TODO; against venom-TODO.

- Gif ænig attor cume · éastan fleógan
 8 oððe ænig norðan cume
 oððe ænig westan · ofer werðeóde

If any venom come from the east, flying; or any come from the north; or any from the west, over man-kind.

+ Críst stód ofer ádle · ángan cundes
 8 Ic ána wát · ea rinnende
 þær þá nygon nǣdran · néan behealdað

TODO

Motan ealle wéoda · nu wýrtum áspringan
 8 sǣs tóslúpan, · eal sealt wæter
 ðonne ic þis attor · of ðé gebláwe

TODO

PROSE SECTION. Mucgwyr̥t, wegbrade þe eastan open sy, lombescyr̥se, attorlaðan, mageðan, netelan, wudusuræppel, fille & finul, ealde sapan. Gewyr̥c ða wyr̥ta to duste, mængc wiþ þa sapan and wiþ þæs æpples gor.

wyr̥c slypan of wætere and of axsan, genim finol, wyl on þære slyppan and beþe mid æggemongc, þonne he þa sealfē on do, ge ær ge æfter.

* Sing þæt galdor on æcre þara wyr̥ta, :III: ær he hy wyr̥ce and on þone æppel ealswa; ond singe þon men in þone muð and in þa earan buta and on ða wunde þæt ilce galdor, ær he þa sealfē on do :.

Old Norse spells

Ribe rune charm

- Jorð bið ak varðe · ok uphimen
2 söl ok santę María · ok salfen guð dróttęn
þet han lę mik lęknęshand · ok lyftunge
4 at lyfe þifjandę · þer bótę þarf.
Ór bak ok ór bryst ór líkę ok ór lim
6 ór ofen ok ór oreę
ór alle þe þer illt kann í atkumeę.
8 Svart hétęr stęnn · han stęr í hafę úteę,
þer liggęr á þe níu nauðęr;
10 þer skuleę hverki sötęn sofeę;
ęð varmen vakeę;
12 fęrr en þu þessa bót biðęr, þer ak orð atkvęðę ronti.

I ask earth to ward, and up-heaven, sun and saint Mary—and lord God himself, that he lend me a healing-hand and curing tongue, to cure the trembling one who needs remedy. Out of back and out of breast; out of body and out of limb; out of eyes and out of ears; out of everything where evil which might come in! Swart is called a stone—he stands out in the ocean—there lie on it nine needs; they will not [let thee] sleep sweetly nor wake warmly—until thou prayest this remedy, where I tried the words of the charms.

Charms from Bryggen

These charms are found inscribed on medieval pieces of wood found at Bryggen in the city of Bergen, Norway.

A stick with four sides, dated to c. 1335. It is clearly a love-charm and—as seen by the feminine dative adjective *sjalfri* ‘self’ on side C—addressed to a woman. The

Be thou hale, and in good spirits;^a may Thunder receive thee, may Weden own thee.

3 Óðinn þik eigi “may Weden own thee”] See note to *Wallow* 23.

^aA formula also attested in *Hymn* 41; see there for parallels.

Runic plates

Encyclopedia (INCOMPLETE!)

NOTE: This encyclopedia is both incomplete and inconsistently formatted. New entries will be added, and old ones be corrected and expanded in the future.

Cultural and religious expressions (C)

ape (ON *api*, OE *apa*, OS *apo*, OHG *affo*, PNW/Gmc. **apô*) 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?

auht (ON *étt*, OE *éht* ‘possession, property’) The Nordic (paternal) clan or family line.

begale (OHG *bigalan*) To affect, bewitch something using galders^C. See also gale^C.

bigh (ON *baugr*, OE *béag*, OHG *boug*) Armlets used as currency during the Migration Period. — The giving of rings and armlets in exchange for loyalty (holdness^C being the word used for a warrior’s loyalty towards his lord, and of a lord’s grace towards his servants) was common across all of Germanic Europe, as seen in the many poetic ruler-kennings of the type “breaker of rings” (e.g. *béaga brytta* ‘the breaker of bighs’ in *Beowulf* ll. 35, 352, 1487). An illustrative example of this is *Hildbrand* 33–35. This is also connected with the oath-ring, and the famous ring-swords. TODO? reference some literature on this.

bloot (ON *blót*, OE *blót*, OHG *bluoz*) A sacrifice or a sacrificial feast, one of the best attested Germanic pagan practices. The animals would be sacrificed by the host, cooked in large kettles and eaten communally.

bloot-kettle The large pots used for cooking the bloot-stew.

Doom (ON *dómr*, OE *dóm*) Commonly ‘judgement, verdict’ (whence Doomsday, ‘Judgement Day’), in the Norse and Anglo-Saxon poetry often specifically referring to one’s fame or good reputation (that is, how others will judge one’s character and deeds), especially after death. It is clear that this verdict was of utmost importance to the ancient Germanic people. The clearest examples are *High* 77 (see there): *I know one that never dies: the Doom o’er each man dead.* and *Beowulf* 1384–1389, where Beowulf consols king Rothgar after Grendel’s mother has slain his trusted advisor Asher (*Æschere*): *Ne sorga, snotor guma! · Sélre bið éghwém, // þæt hé his fréond wrece, · þonne hé fela murne. // Úre éghwylc sceal · ende gebidan // worolde lífes; · wyrce sé þe móte // dómes ér déape; · þæt bið drihtguman // unlífendum · æfter sélest.* ‘Sorrow not, wise man! ’Tis better for each man that he avenge his friend, than that he might mourn much. Each one of us shall suffer the end of life in the world—win he who might, **Doom** before death; that is for the warrior, unliving, afterwards the best.’ Other illustrative examples in *Beowulf* include 884b–887a: ... · *Sigemunde gesprong // æfter déaðdæge · dóm unlýtel // syððan wíges beard · wyrn ácuwalde // hordes byrde · ...* ‘For Sighmund^P sprang up after his day of death an unlittle [= great] **Doom**, since hard in conflict he defeated the Worm^C, the herder of the hoard.’ and 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 *High* TODO.

feel-cunning (ON *fjǫlkunnigr*) Literally ‘much-cunning, cunning in many ways’. Skilled with sorcery.

fey (ON *fēigr*, OE *fēge*, OHG *feigi* ‘cowardly’) Being doomed or fated to die, with a sense of predestination and inevitability. Its earliest use is on the Rök stone: **aft uamuþ stanta runar þar + n uarin faþi faþir aft** faikiān **sunu** *Apt Vámóð standa rúnar þár, en Varinn fáði, faðir aft feigjan sonu* ‘After Woemood (*Vámóðr*) stand these runes^C, but Warren (*Varinn*) painted, the father after the **fey** son.’ It was believed that one’s See PCRN HS II:35, p. 928 ff. (TODO)

feyness (ON *fēigð*) The state of being fey^C.

fimble- (ON *fimbul-*) The ultimate, final, greatest. See Fimblethyle^P, Fimble-winter^L.

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 days** is used as the equivalent of *week* in *High* 51 and 74, in the second of which it is contrasted with *month*. Related to this is the legal term *fifþ* (ON *fimmt*, OSw. *fæmt*), a meeting or gathering set to be held at a five-day notice. See *fimt* in CV, Love et al. (2020) for further discussion.

galder (ON *galdr*, OE *gealdor*, OHG *galdar*) A magical spell or song. See the Merseburg charms (TODO?) for examples. See also *gale*^C.

gale (ON *gala*, OE *galan*, OHG *galan*) To sing *galders*^C.

gand (ON *gandr*, Latin *gandus*) A witch’s familiar, a spirit sent out to do her bidding. See PCRN HS I:17, p. 361 and II:26, p. 656. TODO

gid (ON *goði*, OE *Gydda* masc. nom. prop.) A heathen priest or master of ceremonies.

gidden (ON *gyðja*, OE *gyden* ‘goddess’) The feminine equivalent of *gid*^C.

gin- (ON *ginn-*) A rare augmentative prefix. TODO.

gin-holy (ON *ginnheilagr*) Sacrosanct, highest holy.

good of meat (ON *matar góðr*) An old expression, appearing not just in *High* 39 (“I found not a generous man, or so **good of meat**, that a gift were not accepted;”) but also several Viking Age Runic inscriptions, such as Sm 39: *mildan orða · ok matar góðan* ‘mild of words and **good of meat**’, U 805: *bónða góðan matar* ‘a farmer **good of meat**’, U 703: *mandr matar góðr · auk máls risinn* ‘a man **good of meat** and proud in speechTM’; compare also U 739: *bann var mildr matar · auk máls risinn* ‘he was **mild of meat** and proud in speech’. — See *meat-nothing*^C for its opposite.

hame (ON *hamr*) A skin, shape. Individuals can through magic “shift hames” (ON *skipta hǫmum*), and leave their human *hames* behind, instead entering into the shapes of wolves, bears, birds. During this process the original hame would be sleeping in a vulnerable state, as described in the Saw of the Walsings, chap. TODO: . See also feather-hame^P, town-riders^C, evening-riders^C.

harrow (ON *hǫrgr*, OE *bearg*, PNWGmc. **barugar*) A cairn constructed for ritual purposes. *Hindle* 10 describes one: “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; Oughter^P ever trusted on the Ossens^G.” See also wigh^C.

hold (ON *hollr*, OE *hold*, OS *hold*, OHG *hold*) ‘Favourable, loyal, gracious’, often of a ruler towards his subject (in the sense of ‘gracious, benevolent’) or the reverse (in the sense of ‘loyal, devoted’). Mirroring these earthly relations, it is likewise often used to refer to divine grace, both of the Christian God—thus in the *Ecclesiastical Laws of King Cnut* ALIE I (p. 372): *Ðam byþ witodlice God hold þe bið his bláforde rihtlice hold* ‘Indeed God is **hold** towards him who is rightly **hold** towards his lord’—but in the oldest Scandinavian material likewise of the Heathen gods. Thus *Lock* 4: *holl regin* ‘**hold** Reins^G’, and *Ordrun* 10 (TODO: Numbering is very uncertain): *Svá hjalpi þér · hollar véttr,*
Frigg ok Fręyja · ok flęiri goð
‘So help thee **hold** wights^C; Frie^P and Frow^P, and more gods [...]’.

The word is also used in this way several medieval oath-formulæ, for instance in the Elder West-Geatish Law: *Svá sé mér goð holl* ‘So may the gods(!) be **hold** towards me,’ in medieval Norwegian laws (NgL 2[197,397]) and Grey-Goose (TODO: cite): *Guð sé mér hollr ef ek satt segi, gramr ef ek lýg* ‘God be **hold** towards me if I speak truly, wroth if I lie,’ in Grey-Goose (TODO) also: *Sé guð hollr þeim er heldr griðum, en gramr þeim er grið rýfr* ‘God be **hold** towards him who keeps the truce, but wroth against him who breaks the truce’. I refer to Löffler (1895) for further discussion on these formulæ.

holdness Closely connected to this is of course the abstract noun **holdness** (ON *hylli*, OE *hyldu*, OHG *huldi*) ‘favour, loyalty, grace,’ with the same semantics as the adjective.

Notably, this word appears three times in connection with the grace of gods in the poetry, namely in *Grimner* 43, where (according to my interpretation) the preparer of food at the bloot is said to earn the “**holdness** of Woulder^P and of all the gods;” and *Grimner* 53 where the disgraced king Garfrith is said to have been bereft of “my [= Weden’s] support; of all the Ownharriers (see note to the v.), and of Weden’s **holdness**”. Weden’s holdness (*Óðins hylli*; the phrase is identical in both occurrences) is also mentioned in a verse by Hallfred (edited as Hfr Lv 7 by Diana Whaley in SkP V) where the scold states that: ‘The whole race of man has wrought songs to win the **holdness** of Weden; I recall the fully rewarded works of our kinsmen/ancestors.’

From all these citations the Germanic view on divine favour is clear: the gods are **hold** towards those who do good works, which in the aforementioned instances include swearing true oaths, faithfully observing truces, partaking in the bloot,

thill (ON *þylja*) To chant poetry or lists (so called thules^C) acquired by rote memorization. See 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.

thule (ON *þula*) A poetic list, typically of various items of a category (e.g. gods, legendary horses) or poetic synonyms (e.g. for swords, men, Weden). Decoratively also a ditty, poorly composed poem. See *thyle*^C.

thyle (ON *þulr*, OE *þyle*, PNWGMc. **þulir*) A sage who through rote learning has acquired a large amount of mythological lore (cf. *thule*^C ‘a list in poetic form; a ditty, bad poem’ and *thill*^C ‘to recite, to chant’). Thus Weden^P is the Fimblethyle^P, being the unbeaten master of lore, as can be seen in his wisdom contests (like *Webthritner*). 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 the poet Unferth being described (l. 1456) 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^C 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: “Guther <= 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 Guther could not be apprehended or punished for his crime while in it. — In OE the word means ‘pagan idol’. It is not immediately clear which meaning is the original one, but in the present 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. **wóþur*) Heener^P’s gift to men, though the name would suggest it be from Weden^P. The word has several related meanings: ‘poetic inspiration, madness, rage’.

Persons and objects (P)

Attile (*Attila*, ON *Atli*, OE *Ætla*, MHG. *Etzel*, PNWGMc. **Attilō*) The ruler of the Huns^G (historically from 434–453). Husband of Guthrun^P, and with her father of Earp and Oatle^P. 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.

Balder (ON *Baldr*, OE *Bældæg* (not directly cognate), OHG *Balter*, PNWGmc. **Baldrar*) The beautiful son of Woden^P, slayed by his brother Hath^P, avenged by his other brother Wonnell^P.

Earp and Oatle (ON *Erpr ok Eitill*) The sons of Attle^P and Guthrun^P.

Earth (ON *jǫrð*, OE *eorþe*, OHG *erda*, PNWGmc. **erþu*, PGmc. **erþō*) The personified Earth. Through Woden^P the mother of Thunder^P.

feather-hame (ON *faðrhamr*) A hame^C owned by the Ease, by which its wearer flies like a bird, more specifically a falcon, between the Homes^C.

Free (ON *Freyr*, OE *fréa* 'lord', PNWGmc. **Frawjar*) Son of Nearth^P, brother of Frow^P. See also Ing^P.

Frie (ON *Frigg*, OE **Frige*, OHG *Frija*, PNWGmc. **Frijju*) Wife of Woden^P, mother of Balder^P. Related to Full^P, who is either her sister (Second Merseburg Charm, though this may be metaphorical, as in *Hindle* 1) or her maid-servant (the Norse sources).

Frow (ON *Freyja*) Cat-goddess, daughter of Nearth^P, sister of Free^P, wife of Wode^P. Promised to the Ettin. Possibly = Easter?

Full (ON *Fulla*, OHG *Folla*) Maid-servant (or sister?) of Frie^P; see there.

Guthrun (ON *Guðrún*) Daughter of king Yivick^P, sister of Guthur^P and Hain^P. The wife of Attle^P.

Hain [Hain 1] (ON *Hogni*, OE *Haguna*, *Hagena*, OHG *Hagano*, Ger. *Hagen*, PNWGmc. **Hagunō*) A Nifling^G and Yivicking^G, son of king Yivick^P, brother of Guthur^P and Guthrun^P. In *AtL* he defeats seven warriors before being captured by Attle^P, who has his heart cut out at the request of Guthur.

Hain 2 [2] A petty king of East Geatland^L, contemporary with Granmer^P, the king of Southmanland^L and Ingeld Illred, the Ingling^G king of Upland^L.

Hath (ON *Høðr*) The blind son of Woden^P, the slayer of his brother Balder^P.

Heener (ON *Hónir*, PNWGmc. *Hónijar* 'the little swan(?)') An obscure god. Rydberg (1886)[552] has convincingly argued that he is connected with the stork, connecting his name with the Greek κύκνος 'swan' and Sanskrit *śakuna* 'bird of omen', and noting that his epithets *langi fōtr* 'long foot' and *aurkonungr* 'mud-king' (both found in *Scold* 22) accurately describe the stork. He gives wode^C TODO.

Hindle (ON *Hyndla*) A witch awoken by Frow^P in *Hindle*.

Homedall (ON *Heimdallr*, OE **Hámdall*) Ward of the gods, whitest of the Ease^G.

Hymer (ON *Hymir*) Tue^P's father according to *Hymer*.

Ing (ON *Yngvi*, OE *Ing*) Probably an older name of Free^P. The legendary ancestor of the Ingling^G. Cf. the Old English Rune Poem.

- Lothar** (ON *Lóðurr*, OS *Logaþore*, PNWGmc. **Logaþorjar* ‘Flame-darer(?)’) Gives three gifts to man. The Old-Saxon attestation is a bit uncertain.
- Millner** (ON *Mjöllnir*, OE **Meldne*, PNWGmc. **Meldunjar*) Powerful hammer owned by Thunder.
- Nearth** (ON *Njǫrðr*) The father of Free^P and Frow^P by Shede^P.
- Nithad** (ON *Níðuðr*, OE **Hámdall*) The Swedish king that imprisons Wayland^P in *Wayland*. Father of Beadhild^P.
- Oughter** (ON *Óttarr*, OE *Óththere*, PNWGmc. **Óhtabarjar*) Legendary Swedish king.
- Rotholf** (ON *Hrólfr kraki*, OE *Hrǫpulf*, PNWGmc. **Hróþiwulfar*) A king of the Shieldings^G (see family tree). As foreshadowed in *Beowulf* 1017–9, 1180–90, he betrays the sons of Rothgar^P, his cousins Rethrich and Rothmund^P, 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 *Hrǫpgár*, PNWGmc. **Hróþigairar*) A king of the Shieldings^G (see family tree), one of the main characters in *Beowulf*.
- Shield** (ON *Skjldr*, OE *Scyld*) Legendary Danish king, founder of the Shieldings^G.
- Sighmund** (ON *Sigmundur*, OE *Sigemund*, MHG. *Siegmund*) A hero of the Walsings^G, in *Beowulf* attested as the slayer of the dragon along with his nephew Sinfittle^P. In the Norse tradition however, it is his half-brother Siward^P that slays the dragon instead.
- Sithguth** (OHG *Sinthgunt*, PNWGmc. **Sinþagunþiz*) Only known from *Mers II* as the sister of Sun^C.
- Sun** (ON *Sól*, OHG *Sunna*) The personified sun (see also Moon^P). In *Mers II*, described as the sister of Sithguth^C.
- Thrim** (ON *Þrymr*) The ettin responsible for stealing Thunder’s hammer in *Thrim*.
- Thunder** (ON *Þórr*, OE *þunor*, OHG *Donar*, PNWGmc. **þonarar*) Son of Weden^P and Earth^P.
- Tue** (ON *Týr*, OE *Tīw*) Son of Hymer^P. One-handed god. TODO.
- Webthrithner** (ON *Vafþrúðnir*) The ettin defeated by Weden in the wisdom contest in *Webthrithner*.
- Weden** (rhymes with *leaden*; ON *Óðinn*, OE *Wóden*, *Wéden*, OHG *Wuotan*, PNWGmc. **Wóðanar*) Chief of the Ease^G, his name is clearly related to wode^C, referring to his role as the patron of scolds^C and berserks^C. Husband of Frie^P, and by her father of Balder^P. Also father of Thunder^P by Earth^P. Brother of Heener^P and Lothar^P.

- Wider** (ON *Viðarr*, OE **Wīðbere*) A son of Woden^P, who avenges him at the Rakes of the Reins^L.
- Wode** (ON *Óðr*, OE *Wód*) Husband of Frow^P. His name looks to be the same word as wode^C.
- Wonnell** (ON *Váli*, OE **Wonela*, PNWGmc. **Wanilô* ‘the little Wane^G’) The son of Woden^P, who one-night old avenged his brother Balder^P through slaying Hath^P, his half-brother.
- Woulder** (ON *Ullr*, **Wuldor*, PNWGmc. **Wulþuz*) A rather obscure god. He is mentioned in connection with oath-rings (TODO) and the setting of ritual fires (*Grimner* TODO). These obscure references are likely related to the interesting finds at Lilla Ullevi (‘the small wigh^C of Woulder’) in Upland, Sweden, consisting of several dozen fire striker-shaped iron amulet rings dating to 660–780 (for a detailed description see (af Edholm, 2009)).
- Yimer** (ON *Ymir*, OE **Yime*) The first ettin, probably equivalent to Earyelmer^P.
- Yivick** (ON *Gjúki*, OE *Gifca*, OHG *Gibicho*, MHG. *Gibeche*) King of the Burgends^G (historically from late 300s–407) of the Nifling dynasty, ancestor of the Yivickings^G. Father of Guthrun^P, Guther^P and Hain^P.

Groups and tribes (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^G and Jutes^G. 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^G, Tues^G, Wanes^G, Reins^G. Noted members: Woden^P, Thunder^P, Frie^P, Hath^P and Balder^P Attestations: TODO
- Elves** (ON *alfar*, OE *ielfe*, PNWGmc. **alþír*) 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^G, Thurses^G. Noted members: Hymer^P, Thrim^P, Webthrithner^P, Yimer^P 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^L, Swedes^G. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- gin-Reins** (ON *ginnregin*) 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 *húnir*, OE *Húne*, OHG *Húni*, *Hunni*, PNWGmc. **húnir*) 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
- Inglings** (ON *ynglingar*, PNWGmc. **ingwalingór* ‘the descendants of Ing^P’) Difference between this term and Shelvings^G is a bit unclear. They seem to be used synonymously in the Norse sources, whereas the English only use the later.
- Nears** (ON *níarar* -*njárar*) A Swedish tribe, only mentioned in *Wayland*, 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: *Nærikiar* ‘inhabitants of Närke’, *Nærisker* ‘belonging to Närke; Nearish’, in which case the Old Swedish stem *nær-* (with unclear vowel length, though it is probably long) would be a reduced form of *níar-*, *njár-*.
- Norns** (ON *nornir*) A group of supernatural women responsible for declaring the fates of men.
- Ossens** (ON *ósynjur*) The women of the Ease^G, see there.
- Ownharriers** (ON *einberjar*, OE **ánbergas*) Earthly (chthonic) supernatural beings, often referred to as living in rocks and mountains. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Reins** (ON *rogn*, *regin*) The divine powers. Based on *Webbtrithner* (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 *skjoldungar*, OE *Scyldingas*, PNWGmc. **skeldungór*) The descendants of Shield^P; the legendary Danish^G royal dynasty. With Harward^P’s death after his slaying of Rotholf^P their rule ended. TODO Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO
- Shelvings** (ON *skilfingar*, OE *scilfingas*, PNWGmc. **skilþingór*) The descendants of Shelf^P; the legendary Swedish^G royal dynasty. The exact difference between the terms Shelvings and Inglings^G is unclear, but the first may have referred to the old royal family in Sweden, while the latter to the Norwegian branch which claimed descent from the former. TODO Noted members: TODO Attestations: *Hindle* 15, 20
- Swedes** (ON *svíar*, OE *swéon*, PNWGmc. **swibanir*) The tribe around the Mälar valley in eastern Sweden. Noted members: TODO Attestations: TODO

- Thurses** (sg. Thurse; ON *þurs*, OE *þyrs*, OS *thuris*, OHG *duris*, PNWGmc. **þurisaz*) Possibly a poetic synonym for Ettins^G. See also Rime-Thurses^G. Noted members: TODO Attestations: Wäl 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^G. Attestations: TODO
- Wanes** (ON *vanir*, OE *wan-?*) A subgroup or tribe of the gods, associated with fertility, harvests and fishing. Noted members: Nearth^P, Ing^P, Frow^P Attestations: TODO
- Yivickings** (ON *gjúkungar*) The descendants of Yivick^P, including Guthur^P, Guthrun^P and Hain^P. Attestations: TODO

Place names, locations and events (L)

- Eastway** (ON *Austrvegr*) The eastern lands of the Ettins^G (probably identical in meaning to Ettinham^L), whither Thunder^P goes to fight.
- Ettinham** (ON *Jotunheimr*, *Jotnabheimr*) The ‘Ettin^G-Home^C’ or ‘home of the Ettins’; the eastern realm of chaotic and inhospitable beings. See also Eastway^L, Outyards^L.
- Fimble-winter** (ON *fimbulvetr*) The great winter, which kills all humans apart from Life and Lifethrasher^P.
- Hell** (ON *hēl*, PNWGmc. **halju*, Got. *halja*) The underworld, personified as and formally identical with Hell^P. After Christianity the word came to refer to the Christian hell (= Gehenna), as is the case in all attested languages apart from the Old Norse. See also Nivelhell^L.
- Middenyard** (ON *Miðgarðr*, OE *Middangeard*, OS *Middilgard*, OHG *Mittilgart*, Got. *midjungards*) The ‘middle enclosure’; the realm of men. See also Osyard^L, Outyards^L.
- Nivelhell** (ON *niflhel*) ‘Mist-Hell’, from the poetic evidence it seems like it may originally have been a synonym for Hell^L. In poetry it is attested in *Webbithner* TODO: *níu kom’k þeima |hld fyr Niflhel neðan,*
þiníg deýja ór þelju þalir. ‘into nine homes I came, beneath Nivelhell; thither die men out of Hell’, the second by *Dreams* 2: *reið niðr þaðan |hld niflþeljar til;*
mótti hvelpi, |hld þeim’s ór þelju kom. ‘[Weden] rode down thence to Nivel-hell; met the whelp that out of Hell came.’ Possibly the distinction was held by the first poet but not the second.
- Osyard** (ON *Ásgarðr*) The ‘enclosure of the Ease^G’; the heavenly realm. See also Middenyard^L, Outyards^L.
- Outyards** (ON *Útgarðar*) Not eddic. The ‘outer enclosures’, described in *Yilfer*. See also Ettinham^L, Middenyard^L, Osyard^L.
- Rakes of the Reins** (ON *ragna røk*) The ‘fates of the Reins^G’, euphemism for the destruction of the world.

Rakes of the Tues (ON *tíva røk*) The Rakes of the Reins^L.

Up-heaven (ON *Upphiminn*, OE *Upheofon*, OS *Upphimil*, OHG *úfhimil*) Highest heaven. See also Earth and Up-heaven^F.

Walhall (ON *Valhöll*, OE *Wælheall*) The hall of the slain, held by Woden^P and inhabited by the Ownharriers^G.

Poetic formulæ (F)

All formulæ are given in English translation, their attested forms and a Proto-Germanic rendition. For those consisting of two words bound together by a conjunction, & is written in its place.

Earth and Up-heaven (ON *jörð & upphiminn*, OE *eorþe & upheofon*, PGmc. **erþō & uphiminaz*) ON: Ribe charm *Wallow* 3, *Webthritner* 20, *Thrim* 2, *Ordrun* 17, OE: Acreboot

Ease and Elves (ON *ésir & alfar*, OE *ése & ielfe*, PNWGmc. **alþír & ansiwír*) A merism; both heavenly and earthly spiritual beings. Notably the two words always occur in this order (never 'Elves and Ease'), even in OE.

words and works (ON *orð & verk*, OE *word & weorc*, PGmc. **wurdó & werkô*) *Beewolf* 289, 1100, 1833