

VII - HAVSKE AULDTALE

On a Þursdæg Auld Hans seyde cum ond I will tell a tale. I seyde hwæt will ðu tell abut. Auld Hans seyde I will tell of hafn ond scipen. I seyde ðu will tell abut kjollen ond mannen wodlic seyde nei a scipen nei is a kjollen. I seyde hwæt mac a scip nei a kjoll. Mannen seyde Jarlmannens teon kjolls, Engalandmannens frem scips. Kjollen a tol for wearr ond woe is, scipen a tol for fiscen ond seglen is. I seyde ðæn tell ðu sciptale.

Auld Hans seyde a scip haþ a hufr a segl ond a scipmann. He ascde hwic is hiehst. I seyde a scip with nei hufr will sig ond a scip with nei segl will stop. Ond a scip with nei scipmann ascde Auld Hans. A scip with nei scipmann will get un cwiclic I seyde. Auld Hans was wood. He syde ðu ogaefa barn ðu ear jarlmodlic. I seyde hwæt is jarlmoden. Mannen seyde jarlmoden is loken at a mann ond seonen a tol. Scipmannen moden of scipen is. Scipmannens frem a scip a scip nei a kjoll.

I seyde ðis tale is godmodlic. Auld Hans seyde hwisprs min tales will cwiclic becum if barns neimar hlýsn.

Section VII was discovered practically intact in Giftschränk V, Auldhavn. While there are signs of decay and wear, it has been remarkably well preserved, especially compared to other manuscripts (Section XI served as a palimpsest and was only recovered after computer-assisted imaging). It highlights several of the existing social structures and tensions of Havland at the time.

VII - ENGLISH

On a Thursday Old Hans said, "Come and I will tell a story." I said, "what will you talk about?" Auld Hans said, "I will talk of the sea and the ship." I said, "You will talk about the kjoll [Nordic word for ship]?" and he angrily said, "No, a ship is not a kjoll." I said, "What makes a ship not a kjoll?" The man said, "The nobles create kjolls, we make ships. Kjolls are tools for war and suffering, ships are tools for fishing and sailing." I said, "Then tell your story about a ship."

Old Hans said, "A ship has a hull, a sail, and a captain." He asked, "Which is the most important?" I said, a ship with no hull will sink and a ship with no sail will stop. "And a ship with no captain?" asked Old Hans. "A ship with no captain will get one quickly," I said. Old Hans was angry. He said, "You accursed child, you are thinking like a noble." I said, "What do you mean, thinking like a noble?" The man said, "The noble mindset is looking at a man and seeing a tool. The captain is the soul of the ship, captains make a ship a ship and not a kjoll."

I said, "This tale is well-conceived." Old Hans said, "My stories will soon become whispers if no more children hear them."

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