

OLD NORSE SERIES • VOLUME 11

NJÁL'S SAGA



# Njáls saga

*Njáls's Saga*

*Part One: Gunnar of Hlíðarendi*

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with a word-for-word interlinear English translation  
preserving the original word order

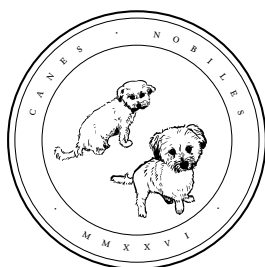


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The Old Norse text follows Valdimar Ásmundarson's edition  
of *Njáls saga* in the *Íslendinga sögur* (Reykjavík, 1894), chapters 1–81

Set from page scans of the 1894 printing, with the edition's own corrections

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Artwork by Esther Steves

The spelling is Valdimar Ásmundarson's: in the prose ö for the hooked o, æ for both front vowels, -st in the middle voice, *enn* for the conjunction *en*, and a single consonant before another in *alt*, *ilt*, *fanst*, and *kendi*, with the occasional *og* he prints beside *ok*; the verses keep æ and ø apart and the older -sk. Parentheses are the edition's own, its stanza numbers are not printed, and an em dash stands under the expletive particle *of*, which has no English equivalent. The chapters are numbered as Valdimar numbers them, and he prints no rubrics, so every English chapter title in the book is this press's.

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*Mörðr gígja is a powerful chieftain and lawyer at Völlr whose daughter Unnr is the best match in Rangárvellir. In the west Höskuldr of Höskuldsstaðir is introduced with his half-brother Hrútr, handsome, strong, and wise. At a feast Höskuldr shows off his young daughter Hallgerðr, whose hair reaches her belt, and asks Hrútr what he thinks of her. Hrútr says many will pay for her beauty and wonders how thief's eyes came into their family.*

Mörðr hét maðr, er kallaðr var gígja. Hann var sonr Sigvats  
*Mord was-called a-man who called was Fiddle He was son of-Sigvat*  
 hins rauða. Hann bjó á Velli á Rangárvöllum. Hann var ríkr  
*the Red He dwelt at Voll in Rangárvellir He was a-powerful*  
 höfðingi ok málafylgjumaðr mikill, ok svá mikill lögmaðr, at  
*chieftain and a-case-pleader great and so great a-law-man that*  
 engir þóttu löglegir dómar dæmdir, nema hann væri við.  
*no seemed lawful judgments judged unless he were present*  
 Hann átti dóttur eina, er Unnr hét. Hon var væn kona ok  
*He had a-daughter one who Unn was-called She was a-fair woman and*  
 kurteis ok vel at sér; ok þótti sá beztr kostur á Rangárvöllum.  
*courteous and well at herself and seemed that (the)-best match in Rangárvellir*  
 Nú víkr sögunni vestr til Breiðafjarðardala. Maðr er nemndr  
*Now turns the-saga west to Breiðafjardardalir A-man is named*  
 Höskuldr. Hann var Dala-Kolls son. Móðir hans hét  
*Hoskuld He was of-Dala-Koll son Mother his was-called*  
 Þorgerðr, ok var dóttir Þorsteins hins rauða, Óláfs sonar hins  
*Thorgerd and was daughter of-Thorstein the Red of-Olaf son the*  
 hvíta, Ingjalds sonar, Helga sonar. Móðir Ingjalds var Þóra,  
*White of-Ingjald son of-Helgi son Mother of-Ingjald was Thora*  
 dóttir Sigurðar orms í auga, Ragnars sonar loðbrókar. Uðr  
*daughter of-Sigurð Snake in eye of-Ragnar son Hairy-breeches Ud*  
 hin djúpúðga var móðir Þorsteins rauðs, dóttir Ketils flatnefs,  
*the Deep-minded was mother of-Thorstein (the)-Red daughter of-Ketil Flat-nose*

Bjarnar sonar bunu, Gríms sonar hersis ór Sogni. Höskuldr  
*of-Bjorn son Buna of-Grim son (the)-lord out-of Sogn Hoskuld*  
 bjó á Höskuldsstöðum í Laxárdal. Hrútr hét bróðir hans.  
*dwelt at Hoskuldssadair in Laxardal Hrut was-called brother his*  
 Hann bjó á Hrútsstöðum. Hann var sam-mæðra við Höskuld.  
*He dwelt at Hrutssadair He was same-mothered with Hoskuld*  
 Faðir hans var Herjólf. Hrútr var vænn maðr, mikill  
*Father his was Herjolf Hrut was a-handsome man big*  
 ok sterkr, vígr vel ok hógværr í skapi, manna vitrastr,  
*and strong fighting well and even-tempered in temper of-men wisest*  
 hagráðr við vini sína, enn tillagagóðr hinna stærri mála.  
*wise-in-counsel toward friends his but good-in-counsel of-the greater matters*  
 Þat var einu hverju sinni, at Höskuldr hafði vinaboð, ok  
*It was on-one some time that Hoskuld had a-friends'-feast and*  
 þar var Hrútr bróðir hans ok sat hit næsta honum. Höskuldr  
*there was Hrut brother his and sat the next to-him Hoskuld*  
 átti sér dóttur, er Hallgerðr hét. Hon lék sér á  
*had for-himself a-daughter who Hallgerd was-called She played for-herself on*  
 gólfi við aðrar meyjar. Hon var frið sýnum ok mikil vexti  
*(the)-floor with other girls She was fair in-looks and tall in-stature*  
 ok hárit svá fagrt sem silki ok svá mikit, at þat tók ofan  
*and the-hair so fair as silk and so great that it reached down*  
 á belti. Höskuldr kallar á hana: “Far þú hingat til mín”,  
*to (the)-belt Hoskuld calls to her Go you hither to me*  
 sagði hann. Hon gekk þegar til hans. Hann tók undir hökuna  
*said he She went at-once to him He took under the-chin*  
 ok kysti hana. Síðan gekk hon í braut. Þá ræddi Höskuldr  
*and kissed her Then went she off away Then spoke Hoskuld*  
 til Hrúts: “Hversu lízt þér á mey þessa? Þykki þér eigi  
*to Hrut How seems to-you on girl this seems to-you not*  
 fögr vera?” Hrútr þagði við. Höskuldr talaði til annat sinn.  
*fair to-be Hrut was-silent at Hoskuld spoke to another time*

Hrútr svaraði þá: “Ærit fögr er mæð sjá, ok munu margir  
*Hrut answered then Ample fair is maid this and will many*  
 þess gjalda. Enn hitt veit ek eigi, hvaðan þjófsaugu eru  
*of-that pay But the-other know I not whence thief's-eyes are*  
 komin í ættir várar”. Þá reiddist Höskuldr, ok var fátt um  
*come into kindreds our Then grew-angry Hoskuld and was little about*  
 með þeim bræðrum nakkvara hríð. — Bræðr Hallgerðar váru  
*between those brothers some while Brothers of-Hallgerd were*  
 þeir Þorleikr, faðir Bolla, ok Óláfr, faðir Kjartans ok Bárðr.  
*they Thorleik father of-Bolli and Olaf father of-Kjartan and Bard*

## II · HRÚTR IS BETROTHED TO UNNR

*At the Althing Höskuldr urges Hrútr to marry and points out Unnr, Mördðr's daughter. The brothers go to Mördðr's booth and settle the terms: Unnr's dowry of sixty hundreds, Hrútr's properties, and a half-share partnership if there are heirs. Then Hrútr's uncle Özurr arrives by ship with news that Hrútr's brother Eyvindr has died in Norway and enemies will seize the inheritance. Mördðr agrees to a three-year betrothal, and Hrútr sails with Özurr to the Vík.*

Þat var einu hverju sinni, at þeir bræðr riðu til alþingis,  
*It was on-one some time that those brothers rode to (the)-Althing*  
 Höskuldr ok Hrútr. Þar var fjölmenni mikit. Þá ræddi  
*Hoskuld and Hrut There was a-crowd great Then spoke*  
 Höskuldr við Hrút: “Þat vilda ek, bróðir, at þú bættir  
*Hoskuld with Hrut That would-wish I brother that you bettered*  
 ráð þitt ok bæðir þér konu”. Hrútr svarar: “Lengi hefir  
*state your and asked-for yourself a-wife Hrut answers Long has*  
 mér þat í hug verit; ok hefir mér þó tvent un sýnzt.  
*to-me that in mind been and has to-me yet two-ways about seemed*  
 Enn nú vil ek gera at þínu skapi. Eða hvar skulu vit  
*But now will I do after your mind Or where shall we-two*

á leita". Höskuldr svaraði: "Hér eru nú höfðingjar margir  
*on seek Hoskuld answered Here are now chieftains many*  
 á þingi, ok er gott um at velja. Enn þó hefi ek í  
*at (the)-assembly and is good about to choose But yet have I in*  
 einum stað á stofnat fyrir þína hönd. Kona heitir Unnr,  
*one place on made-a-start on your behalf A-woman is-called Unn*  
 ok er dóttir Marðar gígju, hins vitrasta manns, ok er hann  
*and is daughter of-Mord Fiddle the wisest man and is he*  
 hér á þingi, ok svá dóttir hans; ok mátt þú nú sjá  
*here at (the)-assembly and so daughter his and may you now see*  
 hana, ef þú vill". Ok annan dag eftir, er menn gengu  
*her if you will And (the)-second day after when men went*  
 til lögrétu, sá þeir konur úti hjá Rangæingabúð,  
*to (the)-Law-Council saw they women outside by (the)-Rangarvellir-men's-booth*  
 vel búnar. Þá mælti Höskuldr við Hrút: "Þar er hon nú  
*well dressed Then spoke Hoskuld with Hrut There is she now*  
 Unnr, er ek sagða þér frá. Eða hversu lízt þér á hana?"  
*Unn whom I told you of Or how seems to-you on her*  
 "Vel", sagði hann, "enn eigi veit ek, hvárt vit eigum heill  
*Well said he but not know I whether we-two have luck*  
 saman". Síðan ganga þeir til lögrétu. Mörðr gígja mælti  
*together Then go they to (the)-Law-Council Mord Fiddle spoke*  
 lögskil at vanda sínum og gekk heim til búðar sinnar.  
*law-points by custom his and went home to booth his*  
 Höskuldr stóð upp, ok Hrútr, ok gengu til búðar Marðar  
*Hoskuld stood up and Hrut and went to (the)-booth of-Mord*  
 ok inn í búðina. Mörðr sat í innanverðri búðinni. Þeir  
*and in into the-booth Mord sat in inner the-booth They*  
 kvöddu hann. Hann stóð upp í móti þeim og tók í hönd  
*greeted him He stood up in meeting them and took in hand*  
 Höskuldi, ok settist hann niðr hjá honum. Enn Hrútr sat  
*of-Hoskuld and sat-himself he down by him But Hrut sat*

hit næsta Höskuldi. Síðan töluðu þeir mart. Ok kvámu þar  
*the next to-Hoskuld Then talked they much And came there*  
 niðr ræður Höskulds, — at “ek mæli til kaupa við þik.  
*down (the)-talks of-Hoskuld that I speak for a-bargain with you*  
 Vill Hrútr gerast mágur þinn ok kaupa dóttur þína; ok skal  
*Wishes Hrut to-become in-law your and to-buy daughter your and shall*  
 ek eigi mitt til spara”. Mörðr svaraði: “Veit ek at þú ert  
*I not mine to spare Mord answered Know I that you are*  
 höfðingi mikill, enn bróðir þinn er mér ókunnigr”. Höskuldr  
*a-chieftain great but brother your is to-me unknown Hoskuld*  
 mælti: “Framar er hann enn ek”. Mörðr mælti: “Mikit munt  
*spoke Greater is he than I Mord spoke Much will*  
 þú þurfa fram at leggja með honum; því at hon á allan  
*you need forth to lay with him because that she has all*  
 arf eftir mik”. “Eigi þarf ok lengi at bíða, hvat ek  
*inheritance after me Not needs-(one) also long to wait what I*  
 skal ákveða”, sagði Höskuldr, “hann skal hafa Kambsnes ok  
*shall decide said Hoskuld he shall have Kambsnes and*  
 Hrútsstaði ok upp til Þrándargils. Hann á ok kaupskip  
*Hrutstadir and up to Thrandargil He owns also a-merchant-ship*  
 í siglingum”. Hrútr talaði þá til Marðar: “Hugsu svá um,  
*on voyages Hrut spoke then to Mord Think so about*  
 búandi, at bróðir minn mun mér mjök hafa fram haldit  
*farmer that brother my will to-me much have forth held*  
 fyrir ástar sakir. Enn ef þér vilið gera málit at álitum, þá  
*for love's sakes But if you will make the-matter by estimate then*  
 vil ek, at þér gerit kostinn”. Mörðr svaraði: “Hugsat hefi  
*will I that you make the-terms Mord answered Thought-out have*  
 ek kostinn. Hon skal hafa sex tigu hundraða ok skal aukast  
*I the-terms She shall have six tens of-hundreds and shall increase*  
 þriðjungi í þínum garði. Enn ef þit eiguð erfingja, þá  
*by-a-third in your household But if you-two have heirs then*

skal vera helmingarfélag með ykkur". Hrútr mælti: "Þenna  
*shall be a-half-partnership between you-two Hrut spoke This*  
 kost vil ek; ok höfum nú vátta við". Síðan stóðu þeir upp  
*offer will I and have now witnesses by Then stood they up*  
 ok tókust í hendr, ok fastnaði Mördur Hrúti dóttur sína  
*and took-each-other by hands and betrothed Mord to-Hrut daughter his*  
 Unni. Ok skyldi boð vera hálfum mánaði eftir mitt sumar  
*Unn And should (the)-feast be half month after mid summer*  
 at Marðar. Nú ríða þeir heim af þingi hváirtveggju.  
*at Mord's Now ride they home from (the)-assembly both-parties*  
 Ok ríða þeir vestr hjá Hallbjarnarvörðum. Þá reið í móti  
*And ride they west by Hallbjarnarvordur Then rode in meeting*  
 þeim Þjóstólfr, sonr Bjarnar gullbera ór Reykjadal, ok sagði  
*them Thjostolf son of-Bjorn Gold-bearer out-of Reykjadal and told*  
 þeim skipkvámu í Hvítá; ok var þar kominn út Özur,  
*them a-ship-arrival in Hvita and was there come out Ozur*  
 föðurbróðir Hrúts, ok vildi, at Hrútr kæmi til fundar við  
*father's-brother of-Hrut and wished that Hrut came to a-meeting with*  
 hann sem fyrst. Enn er Hrútr spurði þetta, þá bað hann  
*him as soonest But when Hrut learned this then asked he*  
 Höskuld fara til skips með sér. Höskuldr fór, ok þeir báðir.  
*Hoskuld go to (the)-ship with him Hoskuld went and they both*  
 Enn er þeir kvámu til skips, fagnar Hrútr Özuri frænda  
*But when they came to (the)-ship welcomes Hrut Ozur kinsman*  
 sínum vel ok blíðlega. Özur bauð þeim inn í búð at  
*his well and warmly Ozur invited them in into (the)-booth to*  
 drekka. Síðan var tekit af hestum þeirra; ok gengu þeir inn  
*drink Then was taken from horses their and went they in*  
 ok drukku. Hrútr mælti til Özurar: "Nú skalt þú ríða vestr  
*and drank Hrut spoke to Ozur Now shall you ride west*  
 með mér, frændi, ok vera með mér í vetr". "Eigi hendir  
*with me kinsman and be with me in winter Not suits-(it)*

svá”, sagði hann, “því at ek segi þér lát Eyvindar  
*so said he because that I tell you (the)-death of-Eyvind*  
 bróður þíns. Enn hann leiddi þik til arfs á Gulapingi;  
*brother your But he named you to inheritance at (the)-Gulathing*  
 ok munu nú taka óvinir þínir, ef þú kemr eigi til”.  
*and will now take enemies your if you come not there*  
 “Hvat er nú til ráðs, bróðir?” sagði Hrútr, “þykki mér nú  
*What is now to counsel brother said Hrut seems to-me now*  
 vandast málit, er ek hefi áðr ráðit brúðhlaup mitt”.  
*grows-difficult the-matter since I have already arranged wedding my*  
 Höskuldr mælti: “Þú skalt ríða suðr til fundar við Mörrð;  
*Hoskuld spoke You shall ride south to a-meeting with Mord*  
 ok bið hann, at þit skipið máldaga annan, ok siti dóttir  
*and ask him that you-two arrange terms other and sit daughter*  
 hans þrjá vetr í festum. Enn ek mun ríða heim ok flytja  
*his three winters in betrothal But I will ride home and carry*  
 vöru þína til skips”. Hrútr mælti: “Nú vil ek, at þú takir  
*wares your to (the)-ship Hrut spoke Now will I that you take*  
 mjöl ok við ok slíkt annat, sem þér líkar, af varningi”.  
*meal and timber and such other as to-you pleases from (the)-wares*  
 Hrútr lét taka hesta sína, ok reið hann suðr, enn Höskuldr  
*Hrut had take horses his and rode he south but Hoskuld*  
 reið heim vestr. Hrútr kom austr á Rangárvöllu til Marðar,  
*rode home west Hrut came east to Rangarvellir to Mord*  
 ok hafði þar góðar viðtökur. Hrútr sagði Merði alt efni  
*and had there good receptions Hrut told Mord all matter*  
 sitt ok bað hann ráð á leggja. Mörrð mælti ok spurði,  
*his and asked him counsel on lay Mord spoke and asked*  
 hversu mikit fé þat væri. Hrútr sagði vera tvau hundruð  
*how great wealth that were Hrut said to-be two hundreds*  
 marka, ef hann fengi alt. Mörrð mælti: “Mikit er þat í  
*of-marks if he got all Mord spoke Great is that in*

móti erfðinni minni; ok skalt þú víst fara, ef þú vill".  
*against the-inheritance mine and shall you surely go if you will*  
 Síðan breyttu þeir máldaganum; ok skyldi Unnr sitja þrjá  
*Then changed they the-terms and should Unn sit three*  
 vetr í festum. Nú riðr Hrútr til skips ok er við skip  
*winters in betrothal Now rides Hrut to (the)-ship and is by (the)-ship*  
 um sumarit þar til er búit var. Höskuldr færði fé alt  
*during the-summer there until that ready was Hoskuld brought wealth all*  
 til skips það sem Hrútr átti. Hrútr fekk Höskuldi í hendr  
*to (the)-ship that which Hrut owned Hrut gave to-Hoskuld in hands*  
 fjárvarðveizlu sína vestr þar, meðan hann væri utan. Reið  
*money-keeping his west there while he were abroad Rode*  
 Höskuldr heim til bús síns. Litlu síðar gaf þeim byr,  
*Hoskuld home to farm his A-little later gave-(it) them a-fair-wind*  
 og sigla þeir í haf. Þeir váru úti þrjár vikur ok kvámu  
*and sail they into (the)-sea They were out three weeks and came*  
 at við Hernar á Hörðalandi og sigldu síðan austr til Víkr.  
*in at Hernar in Hordaland and sailed then east to Vik*

### III • HRÚTR AND QUEEN GUNNHILDR

*Queen Gunnhildr learns that Hrútr has come to claim an inheritance held by a man named Sóti, and invites him and Özurr to her court. Hrútr presents himself boldly to King Haraldr gráfeldr and asks to become his retainer. Gunnhildr gives him her own high seat, takes him into her upper room for half a month, and threatens death to anyone who speaks of it. The king makes Hrútr his retainer, and he winters in high esteem.*

Haraldr gráfeldr réð fyrir Noregi. Hann var sonr Eiríks  
*Harald Gray-cloak ruled over Norway He was son of-Eirik*  
 blóðöxar, Haralds sonar hins hárfagra. Gunnhildr hét  
*Blood-axe of-Harald son the Fair-haired Gunnhildr was-called*



móðir hans ok var dóttir Özurar tóta. Þau höfðu atsetu  
*mother his and was daughter of-Ozur Toti They had residence*  
 austr í Konungahellu. Nú spurðist skipkváman austr þangat  
*east in Konungabella Now was-learned the-ship-arrival east thither*  
 til Víkrinnar. Ok þegar er þetta fréttir Gunnhildr, spurði hon  
*to the-Vik And as-soon as this learns Gunnbild asked she*  
 eftir, hvat íslenzkra manna væri á skipi. Henni var sagt,  
*after what Icelandic men were on (the)-ship To-her was said*  
 at Hrútr hét maðr ok var bróðursonr Özurar. Gunnhildr  
*that Hrut was-called a-man and was brother's-son of-Ozur Gunnbild*  
 mælti: “Ek veit gerla — hann mun heimta erfð sína.  
*spoke I know clearly he will claim inheritance his*  
 Enn sá maðr hefir at varðveita, er Sóti heitir”. Síðan  
*But that man has to keep who Soti is-called Then*  
 kallar hon á einn herbergissvein sinn, er Ögmundr hét:  
*calls she on one chamber-boy her who Ogmund was-called*  
 “Ek vil senda þik norðr í Víkina á fund Özurar og  
*I will send you north into the-Vik to (the)-meeting of-Ozur and*  
 Hrúts; ok seg, at ek býð þeim báðum til mín í vetr,  
*of-Hrut and say that I invite them both to me in winter*  
 ok ek vil vera vinr þeira. Ok ef Hrútr ferr mínum ráðum  
*and I will be friend their And if Hrut goes my counsels*  
 fram, þá skal ek sjá um fémál hans, ok um þat annat,  
*by then shall I see about money-matter his and about that other*  
 er hann tekr at henda. Ek skal ok koma honum fram við  
*which he takes to handle I shall also bring him forth with*  
 konunginn”. Síðan fór Ögmundr ok kom á fund þeira.  
*the-king Then went Ogmund and came to (the)-meeting their*  
 Enn þegar er þeir vissu, at hann var sveinn Gunnhildar,  
*But as-soon as they knew that he was (the)-boy of-Gunnbild*  
 tóku þeir við honum sem beztr. Hann sagði þeim erendi  
*took they to him as best He told them errands*

sín af hljóði. Síðan töluðu þeir ráðagerðir sínar, frændr,  
*his in quiet Then talked they plans their (the)-kinsmen*  
 leynilega; ok ræddi Özurr við Hrút: “Svá lízt mér, frændi,  
*secretly and spoke Ozur with Hrut So seems to-me kinsman*  
 sem nú muni vit hafa gert ráð okkat — því at ek  
*as now will we-two have made plan our because that I*  
 kann skapi Gunnhildar: jafnskjótt sem vit viljum eigi  
*know (the)-temper of-Gunnhild as-soon as we-two will not*  
 fara til hennar, mun hon reka okkr ór landi, enn taka  
*go to her will she drive us-two out-of (the)-land but take*  
 fé okkat alt með ráni; enn ef vit förum til hennar,  
*wealth our all with robbery but if we-two go to her*  
 þá mun hon gera okkr sæmd, slíka sem hon hefir heitit”.  
*then will she do us-two honor such as she has promised*  
 Ögmundr fór heim. Ok er hann fann Gunnhildi, sagði  
*Ogmund went home And when he met Gunnhild told*  
 hann henni erendislok sín ok þat, at þeir mundu koma.  
*he her errand-outcome his and that that they would come*  
 Gunnhildr mælti: “Slíks var ván; því at Hrútr er vitr  
*Gunnhild spoke Of-such was expectation because that Hrut is a-wise*  
 maðr og vel at sér. Enn nú haf þú njósn af, nær er þeir  
*man and well at himself But now have you watch on when that they*  
 koma til bæjarins, ok seg mér”. Þeir Hrútr fóru austr  
*come to the-town and tell me They Hrut(-and-bis) went east*  
 til Konungahelln. Enn er þeir kvámu þar, gengu í móti  
*to Konungahella But when they came there went in meeting*  
 þeim frændr ok vinir ok fögnuðu þeim vel. Þeir spurðu,  
*them kinsmen and friends and welcomed them well They asked*  
 hvárt konungr var í bænum. Þeim var sagt, at hann var  
*whether (the)-king was in the-town To-them was said that he was*  
 þar. Síðan mættu þeir Ögmundi. Hann sagði þeim kveðju  
*there Then met they Ogmund He told them (the)-greeting*

Gunnhildar ok þat með, at hon mundi eigi bjóða þeim  
*of-Gunnbild and that with that she would not invite them*  
 fyrr enn þeir hefði fundit konung, fyrir orðs sakir: — “at  
*before than they had met (the)-king for word's sakes that*  
 svá þykki, sem ek grípa gulli á vit þá. Enn ek mun  
*so seem as I snatch with-gold on meeting them But I will*  
 þó til leggja slíkt er mér sýnist; ok veri Hrútr djarfmæltr  
*yet to lay such as to-me seems and be Hrut bold-spoken*  
 við konung og biði hann hirðvistar”. “Eru hér ok klæði,  
*with (the)-king and ask he court-service Are here also clothes*  
 er drotningin sendir þér, ok skalt þú í þeim ganga fyrir  
*which the-queen sends you and shall you in them go before*  
 konunginn”. Síðan fór Ögmundr aftr. Annan dag eftir  
*the-king Then went Ogmund back (The)-second day after*  
 mælti Hrútr við Özur: “Göngu vit nú fyrir konung”.  
*spoke Hrut with Ozur Go we-two now before (the)-king*  
 “Þat má vel”, sagði Özur. Þeir gengu tólf saman — ok  
*That may well said Ozur They went twelve together and*  
 váru þeir allir frændr þeira ok vinir. Þeir kvámu í höllina,  
*were they all kinsmen their and friends They came into the-hall*  
 er konungr sat yfir drykkju. Gekk Hrútr fyrstr ok kvaddi  
*where (the)-king sat over drink Went Hrut first and greeted*  
 konunginn. Konungr hugði vandlega at manninum, er vel  
*the-king (The)-king looked carefully at the-man who well*  
 var búinn, ok spurði hann að namni. Hann nemnir sik.  
*was dressed and asked him by name He names himself*  
 “Ert þú íslenzkr maðr?” sagði konungr. Hann sagði, at svá  
*Are you an-Icelandic man said (the)-king He said that so*  
 var. “Hvat hvatti þik hingat á várn fund?” “At sjá tign  
*was What urged you hither to our meeting To see majesty*  
 yðra, herra — ok þat annat, at ek á erfðamál mikit  
*your lord and that other that I have an-inheritance-case great*

hér í landi, ok mun ek yðvar verða við at njóta, at ek  
*here in (the)-land and will I of-you need by to benefit that I*  
 fái rétt af”. Konungr mælti: “Hverjum manni hefi ek heitit  
*get justice of (The)-king spoke To-every man have I promised*  
 lögum hér í landi. Eða hver eru fleiri erendi þín á várn  
*law here in (the)-land Or what are more errands your to our*  
 fund?” “Herra”, sagði Hrútr, “ek vil biðja yðr hirðvistar  
*meeting Lord said Hrut I will ask you court-service*  
 ok gerast yðvarr maðr”. Konungr þagnar við. Gunnhildr  
*and become your man (The)-king falls-silent at Gunnbild*  
 mælti: “Svá lízt mér, sem sjá maðr bjóði yðr hina mestu  
*spoke So seems to-me as this man offers you the greatest*  
 sæmd; því at mér lízt svá, ef slíkir væri margir innan  
*honor because that to-me seems so if such were many within*  
 hirðar, sem þá væri vel skipat”. “Er hann vitr maðr?”  
*(the)-bodyguard as then were well manned Is he a-wise man*  
 sagði konungr. “Bæði er hann vitr ok framgjarn”, segir  
*said (the)-king Both is he wise and forward says*  
 hon. “Svá þykki mér, sem móðir mín vili, at þú fái  
*she So seems to-me as mother my wishes that you get*  
 namnbót slíka, sem þú mælir til. Enn fyrir tígnar sakir  
*rank such as you speak for But for dignity's sakes*  
 várrar og landssiðar, þá kom þú til vár á hálfsmánaðar  
*our and land-custom's then come you to us at half-month's*  
 fresti. Skalt þú þá gerast hirðmaðr minn — enn móðir  
*delay Shall you then become retainer my but mother*  
 mín haldi þér kost þar til — ok kom síðan á minn  
*my keep for-you board there until and come then to my*  
 fund”. Gunnhildr mælti við Ögmund: “Fylg þeim til húsa  
*meeting Gunnbild spoke with Ogmund Follow them to houses*  
 minna ok ger þeim þar góða veizlu”. Ögmundr gekk út ok  
*my and make them there good feast Ogmund went out and*

þeir með honum, og fylgdi hann þeim í eina steinhöll.  
*they with him and led he them into one stone-hall*  
 Þar var tjaldat hinum fegrsta borða. Þar var ok hásæti  
*There was hung the fairest tapestry There was also (the)-high-seat*  
 Gunnhildar. Þá mælti Ögmundur: “Nú mun þat sannast,  
*of-Gunnbild Then spoke Ogmund Now will that prove-true*  
 er ek sagða þér frá Gunnhildi: Hér er hásæti hennar,  
*which I told you of Gunnbild Here is high-seat her*  
 ok skalt þú í setjast, ok halda mátt þú þessu sæti, þó  
*and shall you in sit-yourself and keep may you this seat though*  
 at hon komi sjálf til”. Síðan veitti hann þeim veizlu. Þeir  
*that she come herself there Then gave he them a-feast They*  
 höfðu skamma hríð setit áðr þar kom Gunnhildr. Hrútr  
*had short while sat before there came Gunnbild Hrut*  
 vildi upp spretta ok fagna henni. “Sit þú”, segir hon, “og  
*wished up to-spring and to-greet her Sit you says she and*  
 skalt þú jafnan þessu sæti halda, þá er þú ert í boði  
*shall you always this seat keep then when you are at feast*  
 mínu”. Síðan settist hon hjá Hrúti, ok drukku þau. Ok um  
*my Then sat-herself she by Hrut and drank they And in*  
 kveldit mælti hon: “Þú skalt sofa í lofti hjá mér í  
*the-evening spoke she You shall sleep in (the)-upper-room with me in*  
 nótt, ok vit tvau saman”. “Þér skuluð ráða”, sagði hann.  
*night and we-two two together You shall decide said he*  
 Síðan gengu þau til svefnis; ok læsti hon þegar loftinu  
*Then went they to sleep and locked she at-once the-upper-room*  
 innan; ok sváfu þau þar um nóttina. Um morgininn eftir  
*from-inside and slept they there through the-night In the-morning after*  
 fóru þau til drykkju. Ok allan þann hálfá mánað lágu þau  
*went they to drink And all that half month lay they*  
 í loftinu tvau ein. Þá mælti Gunnhildr við þá menn,  
*in the-upper-room two alone Then spoke Gunnbild with those men*

er þar váru: “Þér skuluð engu fyrir týna nema lífinu, ef  
*who there were You shall nothing for lose except the-life if*  
 þér segið nokkurum frá um hagi vára”. Hrútr gaf henni  
*you tell anyone of about affairs our Hrut gave her*  
 hundrað álna hafnar váðar ok tólf vararfeldi. Gunnhildr  
*a-hundred of-ells of-standard cloth and twelve fur-cloaks Gunnbild*  
 þakkaði honum gjöfina. Hrútr gekk í braut ok mintis við  
*thanked him the-gift Hrut went off away and kissed with*  
 hana áðr ok þakkaði henni. Hon bað hann vel fara. Um  
*her first and thanked her She bade him well fare On*  
 daginn eftir gekk Hrútr fyrir konung við þrjá tigu manna  
*the-day after went Hrut before (the)-king with three tens of-men*  
 ok kvaddi konung. Konungr mælti: “Nú munt þú vilja, at  
*and greeted (the)-king (The)-king spoke Now will you want that*  
 ek efna við þik, Hrútr, þat sem ek hét þér”. Gerði  
*I fulfill toward you Hrut that which I promised you Made*  
 konungr þá Hrút hirðmann sinn. Hrútr mælti þá: “Hvar  
*(the)-king then Hrut retainer his Hrut spoke then Where*  
 vísist þér mér til sætis?” “Móðir mín skal því ráða”, sagði  
*show you me to a-seat Mother my shall that decide said*  
 konungr. Síðan fekk hon honum hinn sæmilegasta sess. Ok  
*(the)-king Then got she him the most-honorable seat And*  
 var hann með konungi um vetrinn, vel metinn.  
*was he with (the)-king through the-winter well esteemed*

## IV • GUNNHILDR FITS OUT HRÚTR

*In spring Hrútr learns that Sóti has gone south to Denmark with the inheritance. Gunnhildr gives him two manned longships and her bravest guest-chief, Úlfr ópvegin, and sends him to take leave of the king. When Hrútr tells King Haraldr of his plan, the king adds two more longships and remarks that Hrútr will need every man of the fleet. Then Hrútr sails south with his company.*

Um v́́rit spurði hann til Sóta, at hann var farinn suðr  
*In the-spring learned he of Soti that he was gone south*  
 til Danmerkr með erfðina. Þá gekk Hrútr á fund  
*to Denmark with the-inheritance Then went Hrut to (the)-meeting*  
 Gunnhildar ok segir henni frá ferðum Sóta. Gunnhildr mælti:  
*of-Gunnbild and tells her of journeys of-Soti Gunnbild spoke*  
 “Ek mun fá þér tvau langskip, skipuð mönnum, ok þar með  
*I will get you two longships manned with-men and there with*  
 hinn hraustasta mann, Úlf óþvegin, gestahöfðingja várn. Enn  
*the bravest man Ulf Unwashed guest-chief our But*  
 þó gakk þú at finna konung áðr þú farir”. Hrútr gerði svá.  
*yet go you to meet (the)-king before you go Hrut did so*  
 Ok er hann kom fyrir konung, þá segir hann konungi um  
*And when he came before (the)-king then tells he (the)-king about*  
 ferð Sóta, ok þat með, at hann ætlar eftir honum at  
*(the)-journey of-Soti and that with that he intends after him to*  
 halda. Konungr mælti: “Hvern styrk hefir móðir mín til lagit  
*hold (The)-king spoke What support has mother my to laid*  
 með þér?” Hrútr svarar: “Langskip tvau ok fyrir liðinu  
*with you Hrut answers Longships two and before the-company*  
 Úlf óþvegin”. Konungr mælti: “Vel er þar til fengit; nú vil  
*Ulf Unwashed (The)-king spoke Well is there to gotten now will*  
 ek fá þér önnur tvau langskip; ok munt þú þó þurfa þessa  
*I get you other two longships and will you yet need this*  
 liðs alls”. Síðan fylgdi hann Hrúti til skips ok mælti:  
*company all Then led he Hrut to (the)-ship and spoke*  
 “Farist þér nú vel”. Síðan sigldi Hrútr liði sínu suðr.  
*Fare you now well Then sailed Hrut with-company his south*

*In the Øresund Hrútr meets the viking Atli Arnviðarson, an outlaw of both the Danish and Swedish kings, and they fight. Hrútr kills Atli's forecastle-man Ásólftr, Atli spears Úlfr óþveginn, and Hrútr cuts off Atli's leg and kills him. Meanwhile Sóti turns back toward Norway, tells Gunnhildr's man Ögmundr that he is bound for England, and is hanged by her son Guðröðr. Hrútr returns rich, the king takes a third of the booty, and when Gunnhildr tells him she has seized the inheritance and had Sóti killed, he gives her half of everything.*

Atli hét maðr. Hann var sonr Arnviðar jarls ór  
*Atli was-called a-man He was son of-Arnvid Earl out-of*  
 Gautlandi hinu eystra. Hann var hermaðr mikill ok lá úti  
*Gautland the eastern He was a-raider great and lay out*  
 austr í Leginum. Hann hafði átta skip. Faðir hans hafði  
*east in the-Lake He had eight ships Father his had*  
 haldit sköttum fyrir Hákonu Aðalsteinsfóstra, og stukku þeir  
*held taxes from Hakon Atbelstan's-foster-son and fled those*  
 feðgar til Gautlands ór Jamtalandi. Atli helt liðinu  
*father-and-son to Gautland out-of Jamtaland Atli held the-company*  
 ór Leginum út um Stokkssund, ok svá suðr til Danmerkr,  
*out-of the-Lake out through Stokkssund and so south to Denmark*  
 og liggr úti í Eyrasundi. Hann var ok útlagi bæði  
*and lies out in Oresund He was also an-outlaw both*  
 Danakonungs ok Sviakonungs af ránum og manndrápum,  
*of-(the)-Danish-king and of-(the)-Swedish-king for robberies and manslaughters*  
 er hann hafði gert í hvárutveggja ríkinu. Hrútr helt  
*which he had done in both the-realms Hrútr held*  
 suðr til Eyrasunds. Ok er hann kom í sundit, sér hann  
*south to Oresund And when he came into the-sound sees he*  
 fjölda skipa í sundinu. Þá mælti Úlfr: "Hvat skal nú til  
*a-multitude of-ships in the-sound Then spoke Ulf What shall now to*



ráða taka, Íslendingr?” “Halda fram ferðinni”, segir Hrútr,  
*counsel take Icelandic Hold forth the-journey says Hrut*  
 “Því at ekki dugir ófreistat. Skal skip okkat Özurar fara  
*because that nothing avails untried Shall ship our-two of-Ozur go*  
 fyrst, enn þú skalt leggja fram sem þér líkar”. “Sjaldan hefi  
*first but you shall lay forth as to-you pleases Seldom have*  
 ek haft aðra at skildi fyrir mér”, segir Úlfr. Leggr hann  
*I had others as shield before me says Ulf Lays he*  
 fram skeið sína jafnfram skipi Hrúts og halda svá fram  
*forth warship his abreast with-(the)-ship of-Hrut and bold so forth*  
 í sundit. Nú sjá þeir, er í sundinu eru, at skip fara at  
*into the-sound Now see they who in the-sound are that ships go toward*  
 þeim, ok segja Atla til. Hann svaraði: “Þá gefr vel til  
*them and tell Atli of-(it) He answered Then gives-(it) well to*  
 fjár at vinna, ok reki menn af sér tjöldin ok búist  
*wealth to win and strike men off themselves the-awnings and make-ready*  
 við sem hvatlegast á hverju skipi. Skip mitt skal vera í  
*with as briskest on every ship Ship my shall be in*  
 miðjum flotanum”. Síðan greiddu þeir róðrinn á skipum  
*middle the-fleet Then plied they the-rowing on (the)-ships*  
 Hrúts. Ok þegar er hvárir heyrðu mál annarra, stóð Atli  
*of-Hrut And as-soon as each-side heard speech of-(the)-other stood Atli*  
 upp og mælti: “Þér farið óvarlega. Sáð þér eigi, að herskip  
*up and spoke You go unwarily Saw you not that warships*  
 váru í sundinu? Eða hvert er namn höfðingja yðvars?”  
*were in the-sound Or what is (the)-name of-(the)-chieftain your*  
 “Hrútr heiti ek”, segir hann. “Hvers maðr ert þú?” segir  
*Hrut am-called I says he Whose man are you says*  
 Atli. “Hirðmaðr Haralds konungs gráfeldar”, segir Hrútr.  
*Atli Retainer of-Harald king Gray-cloak says Hrut*  
 Atli mælti: “Lengi höfu vit feðgar eigi kærir verit  
*Atli spoke Long have we-two father-and-son not dear been*

Noregskonungum yðrum". "Ykkur ógæfa er það", segir Hrútr.

*to-Norway-kings your Your-two ill-luck is that says Hrut*

"Svá hefir borit saman fund okkarn", segir Atli, "at þú skalt

*So has brought together meeting our-two says Atli that you shall*

eigi kunna frá tíðendum að segja", — og þreif upp spjót ok

*not be-able of tidings to tell and seized up a-spear and*

skaut á skip Hrúts, og hafði sá bana, er fyrir varð.

*shot at (the)-ship of-Hrut and had that-one death who before was*

Síðan tókst orrosta með þeim, ok sóttist þeim seint skip

*Then began a-battle between them and went for-them slowly (the)-ship*

þeirra Hrúts. Úlfr gekk vel fram ok gerði ýmist, at

*of-those Hrut(-and-his) Ulf went well forth and did by-turns that*

hann skaut eða lagði. Ásólfr hét stafnbúi Atla. Hann

*he shot or thrust Asolf was-called forecastle-man of-Atli He*

hljóp upp á skip Hrúts ok varð fjögurra manna bani,

*leaped up onto (the)-ship of-Hrut and became of-four men slayer*

áðr Hrútr varð varr við. Snýr hann þá í mót honum.

*before Hrut became aware of-(it) Turns he then in against him*

Enn er þeir finnast, þá leggur Ásólfr í skjöld Hrúts ok

*But when they meet then thrusts Asolf into (the)-shield of-Hrut and*

í gegnum; enn Hrútr hjó til Ásólfs, og varð þat banabögg.

*in through but Hrut hewed at Asolf and was that (the)-death-blow*

Þetta sá Úlfr óþvegin ok mælti: "Bæði er nú, Hrútr,

*This saw Ulf Unwashed and spoke Both is now Hrut*

at þú höggr stórt, enda áttu mikit at launa Gunnhildi".

*that you hew big and have-you much to repay to-Gunnhild*

"Þess varir mik", segir Hrútr, "at þú mælir feigum munni".

*That expects me says Hrut that you speak with-doomed mouth*

Nú sér Atli beran vápnastað á Úlfi ok skaut spjóti í

*Now sees Atli bare weapon-place on Ulf and shot with-a-spear into*

gegnum hann. Síðan varð hin strangasta orrosta. Atli hleypr

*through him Then became the fiercest battle Atli leaps*

upp á skip at Hrúti ok ryðzt um fast. Ok nú snýr  
*up onto (the)-ship at Hrut and clears-bis-way about hard And now turns*  
 í móti honum Özurr ok lagði til hans ok fell sjálfir á bak  
*in against him Ozur and thrust at him and fell himself on back*  
 aftr, — því at annarr maðr lagði til hans. Hrútr sneri  
*backward because that another man thrust at him Hrut turned*  
 nú í mót Atla. Atli hjó þegar í skjöld Hrúts ok klauf  
*now in against Atli Atli hewed at-once into (the)-shield of-Hrut and split*  
 allan niðr. Þá fekk Atli steinshögg á höndina og fell niðr  
*all down Then got Atli a-stone-blow on the-hand and fell down*  
 sverðit. Hrútr tók sverðit ok hjó undan Atla fótinn. Síðan  
*the-sword Hrut took the-sword and hewed from-under Atli the-foot Then*  
 veitti hann honum banasár. Þar tóku þeir fé mikit  
*gave he him (the)-death-wound There took they wealth great*  
 ok höfðu með sér tvau skip, þau er best vóru, ok  
*and had with themselves two ships those which best were and*  
 dvöldust þar litla hríð síðan. Þeir Sóti fórust hjá. Sigldi  
*stayed there a-little while after They Soti(-and-he) passed by Sailed*  
 hann aftr til Noregs. Kom hann við Limgarðssíðu ok gekk  
*he back to Norway Came he to Limgardssida and went*  
 þar á land. Þar mætti hann Ögmundi sveini Gunnhildar.  
*there onto land There met he Ogmund (the)-boy of-Gunnbild*  
 Ögmundr kendi Sóta þegar ok spyrr hann: “Hvé lengi  
*Ogmund knew Soti at-once and asks him How long*  
 ætlar þú hér at vera?” “Þrjár nætr”, segir Sóti. “Hvert ætlar  
*intend you here to be Three nights says Soti Whither intend*  
 þú þá”, sagði Ögmundr. “Vestr til Englands”, segir Sóti,  
*you then said Ogmund West to England says Soti*  
 “ok koma aldri til Noregs, meðan ríki Gunnhildar er”.  
*and come never to Norway while (the)-rule of-Gunnbild is*  
 Ögmundr gekk þá í braut og ferr á fund Gunnhildar;  
*Ogmund went then off away and goes to (the)-meeting of-Gunnbild*

því at hon var þaðan skamt á veizlu og Guðröðr sonr  
*because that she was thence short-way at a-feast and Gudrod son*  
 hennar. Ögmundr sagði Gunnhildi frá ætlan Sóta; enn  
*her Ogmund told Gunnbild of (the)-intention of-Soti and*  
 hon bað þegar Guðröð son sinn fara ok taka Sóta af  
*she bade at-once Gudrod son her go and take Soti from*  
 lífi. Guðröðr fór þegar ok kom á óvart Sóta ok lét leiða  
*life Gudrod went at-once and came on unawares Soti and had lead*  
 hann á land upp ok festa þar upp, enn tók fé alt ok  
*him on land up and hang there up but took wealth all and*  
 færði móður sinni. Hon fekk til menn; at færa alt féit  
*brought to-mother his She got to men to bring all the-wealth*  
 á land upp ok austr til Konungahellu ok fór sjálf þangat.  
*on land up and east to Konungabella and went herself thither*  
 Hrútr helt aftr um haustit ok hafði fengið fjár mikils  
*Hrut held back in the-autumn and had gotten wealth great*  
 ok fór þegar á fund konungs ok hafði af honum  
*and went at-once to (the)-meeting of-(the)-king and had from him*  
 góðar viðtökur. Hann bauð þeim at hafa slíkt af fénu,  
*good receptions He offered them to have such of the-wealth*  
 sem þau vildi; enn konungr tók af þriðjunginn. Gunnhildr  
*as they wished but (the)-king took off the-third Gunnbild*  
 segir Hrúti, at hon hafði tekið erfðina, enn látit drepa  
*tells Hrut that she had taken the-inheritance and let kill*  
 Sóta. Hann þakkaði henni ok gaf henni alt hálf við sik.  
*Soti He thanked her and gave her all half with himself*

*In spring Hrútr grows silent and denies having a woman in Iceland, and Gunnbildr grudgingly lets him go. At parting she gives him a gold ring and lays a spell on him: he may have no pleasure with the woman he means to marry. Hrútr marries Unnr, but their married life goes badly. Unnr weeps before her father at the Althing, yet no charge is brought, and the trouble returns the next winter and grows worse toward spring.*

Hrútr var með konungi um vetrinn í góðu yfirlæti. Enn  
*Hrut was with (the)-king through the-winter in good treatment But*  
 er váraðist, gerist Hrútr hljóðr mjök. Gunnbildr fann þat  
*when spring-came becomes Hrut silent very Gunnbild found that*  
 ok talaði til hans, er þau vǫru tvau saman: “Ert þú  
*and talked to him when they were two together Are you*  
 hugsjúkr, Hrútr?” sagði hon. “Þat er mælt”, segir Hrútr, “at  
*heartsick Hrut said she That is said says Hrut that*  
 ilt er þeim er á ólandi er alinn”. “Vill þú til Íslands?”  
*ill is to-him who on foreign-land is raised Will you to Iceland*  
 segir hon. “Þat vil ek”. sagði hann. “Áttu konu nakkvara  
*says she That will I said he Have-you a-wife any*  
 út þar?” segir hon. “Eigi er þat”, sagði hann. “Þat hefi  
*out there says she Not is that said he That have*  
 ek þó fyrir satt”, segir hon. Síðan hættu þau talinu. Hrútr  
*I yet for true says she Then stopped they the-talk Hrut*  
 gekk fyrir konung ok kvaddi hann. Konungur mælti: “Hvat  
*went before (the)-king and greeted him (The)-king spoke What*  
 vilt þú nú, Hrútr?” “Ek vil beiðast, herra, at þér gefið  
*want you now Hrut I will ask lord that you give*  
 mér orlof til Íslands”. “Mun þar þinn sómi meiri enn hér?”  
*me leave to Iceland Will there your honor greater than here*  
 segir konuugr. “Eigi mun þat vera”, sagði Hrútr, “enn þat  
*says (the)-king Not will that be said Hrut but that*

verðr hverr at vinna, er ætlat er". Gunnhildr mælti: "Við  
*becomes each to do which intended is Gunnbild spoke Against*  
 ramman mun reip at draga. Ok gefið honum gott orlof,  
*a-strong-one will (the)-rope to pull And give him good leave*  
 at hann fari, sem honum líkar best". Þá var ært illa  
*that he go as to-him pleases best Then was harvest ill*  
 í landi; enn þó fekk konungrinn honum mjöl, sem hann  
*in (the)-land but yet got the-king him meal as he*  
 vildi hafa. Nú býst hann út til Íslands ok Özurr með  
*wished to-have Now makes-ready he out to Iceland and Ozur with*  
 honum. Ok er þeir váru búnir, þá gekk Hrútr at finna  
*him And when they were ready then went Hrut to meet*  
 konunginn ok Gunnhildi. Gunnhildr leiddi hann á eintal  
*the-king and Gunnbild Gunnbild led him to private-talk*  
 ok mælti til hans: "Hér er gullhringr, er ek vil gefa þér",  
*and spoke to him Here is a-gold-ring which I will give you*  
 ok spenti á hönd honum. "Marga gjöf góða hefi ek af  
*and clasped on arm his Many gift good have I from*  
 þér þegit", segir Hrútr. Hon tók höndum um háls honum  
*you received says Hrut She took with-hands about neck his*  
 ok kysti hann ok mælti: "Ef ek á svá mikit vald á  
*and kissed him and spoke If I have so great power over*  
 þér, sem ek ætla, þá legg ek þat á við þik, at þú megir  
*you as I think then lay I that on with you that you may*  
 engri munuð framkoma við þá konu, er þú ætlar þér  
*no pleasure have with that woman whom you intend for-yourself*  
 á Íslandi at eiga. Enn fremja skaltu mega við aðrar konur  
*in Iceland to have But work shall-you be-able with other women*  
 vilja þinn. Ok hefir nú hvártki okkat vel. Þú trúðir mér  
*will your And has now neither of-us-two well You trusted me*  
 eigi til málsins". Hrútr hló at ok gekk í braut. Síðan fór  
*not for the-matter Hrut laughed at and went off away Then went*

hann til fundar við konunginn ok þakkaði honum, hversu  
*he to a-meeting with the-king and thanked him how*  
 höfðinglega hann hefði alla hluti til hans gert. Konungrinn  
*princely he had all things to him done The-king*  
 bað hann vel fara ok kvað Hrút vera hinn röskvasta mann  
*bade him well fare and said Hrut to-be the most-valiant man*  
 ok vel kunna at vera með tígnum mönnum. Hrútr gekk  
*and well know to be with high-born men Hrut went*  
 síðan til skips ok sigldi í haf. Þeim gaf vel byri  
*then to (the)-ship and sailed into (the)-sea To-them gave-(it) good fair-winds*  
 ok tóku Borgarfjörð. Enn þegar er skip var landfast, reið  
*and made Borgarfjord But as-soon as (the)-ship was fast-to-land rode*  
 Hrútr vestr heim; enn Özurr lét ryðja skipit. Hrútr reið  
*Hrut west home but Ozur had clear the-ship Hrut rode*  
 á Höskuldsstaði, ok tók bróðir hans vel við honum, sagði  
*to Hoskuldstadir and took brother his well with him told*  
 Hrútr honum alt um ferðir sínar. Síðan sendi hann mann  
*Hrut him all about journeys his Then sent he a-man*  
 austr á Rangárvöllu til Marðar gigju at búast við boði.  
*east to Rangarvellir to Mord Fiddle to make-ready for (the)-feast*  
 Enn þeir bræðr riðu síðan til skips, ok sagði Höskuldr  
*But those brothers rode then to (the)-ship and told Hoskuld*  
 Hrúti fjárhagi hans, ok hafði mikit á aflazt síðan Hrútr  
*to-Hrut money-affairs his and had much on gained since Hrut*  
 fór í braut. Hrútr mælti: “Minni mun ömbun verða, bróðir,  
*went off away Hrut spoke Less will reward be brother*  
 enn skyldi; enn fá vil ek þér mjöl, svá sem þú þarft, í  
*than should but give will I you meal so as you need into*  
 bú þitt í vetr”. Síðan réðu þeir skipinu til hlunns, ok  
*household your in winter Then brought they the-ship to rollers and*  
 bjoggu um, enn færðu varning allan vestr í Dala. Hrútr  
*made-fast about but carried wares all west into Dalir Hrut*

var heima á Hrútsstöðum til sex vikna. Þá bjoggust  
*was at-home at Hrutsstadir until six weeks Then made-ready*  
 þeir bræðr — ok Özurr með þeim — at ríða austr til  
*those brothers and Ozur with them to ride east to*  
 brúðhlaups Hrúts ok riðu við sex tigu manna. Þeir riðu þar  
*(the)-wedding of-Hrut and rode with six tens of-men They rode there*  
 til er koma austr á Rangárvöllu. Þar var fjöldi fyrir  
*until that come east to Rangarvellir There was a-multitude before*  
 boðsmanna. Skipuðust menn þar í sæti, enn konur skipuðu  
*of-guests Placed-themselves men there in seats but women filled*  
 pall, ok var brúðrin heldr döpr. Drekkja þeir veizluna, ok  
*(the)-dais and was the-bride rather downcast Drink they the-feast and*  
 ferr hon vel fram. Mörðr greiddi út heimanfylgju dóttur  
*goes it well forth Mord paid out (the)-dowry of-daughter*  
 sinnar, ok reið hon vestr með Hrúti. Þau riðu þar til  
*his and rode she west with Hrut They rode there until*  
 er þau kvámu heim. Hrútr fekk henni öll ráð í  
*that they came home Hrut gave her all management into*  
 hendr fyrir innan stökk, ok líkaði þat öllum vel. Enn  
*hands before inside (the)-threshold and pleased that all well But*  
 fátt var um með þeim Hrúti um samfarar, ok fer svá  
*little was about between them Hrut(-and-her) about marriage and goes so*  
 fram alt til várs. Ok þá er váraði, átti Hrútr för  
*forth all until spring And then when spring-came had Hrut a-journey*  
 í Vestfjörðu at heimta fyrir varning sinn. Enn áðr hann  
*into (the)-West-fjords to collect for wares his But before he*  
 færi heiman, talaði Unnr við hann: “Hvart ætlar þú aftur at  
*went from-home talked Unn with him Whether intend you back to*  
 koma, áðr menn ríða til þings?” “Hvat er at því”, segir  
*come before men ride to (the)-assembly What is to that says*  
 Hrútr. “Ek vil ríða til þings”, segir hon, “ok finna föður  
*Hrut I will ride to (the)-assembly says she and meet father*



minn". "Svá skal þá vera", sagði hann, "ok mun ek ríða til  
*my So shall then be said he and will I ride to*  
þings með þér". "Vel er þat ok", segir hon. Síðan fór  
*(the)-assembly with you Well is that also says she Then went*  
hann heiman ok vestr í fjörðu ok bygði alt féit ok  
*he from-home and west into (the)-fjords and let all the-money and*  
fór þegar vestan. Ok er hann kom heim, bjó hann  
*went at-once from-the-west And when he came home made-ready he*  
sik þegar til þings ok lét ríða með sér alla nábúa  
*himself at-once to (the)-assembly and had ride with himself all neighbors*  
sína. Höskuldr reið ok bróðir hans. Hrútr mælti við konu  
*his Hoskuld rode and brother his Hrut spoke with wife*  
sína: "Ef þér er jafnmikill hugr á at fara til þings,  
*his If to-you is equally-great mind on to go to (the)-assembly*  
sem þú lézt, þá bú þú þik ok ríð til þings með  
*as you declared then prepare you yourself and ride to (the)-assembly with*  
mér". Hon bjó sik skjótt, ok síðan ríða þau unz  
*me She made-ready herself quickly and then ride they until*  
þau koma til þings. Unnr gekk til búðar föður síns.  
*they come to (the)-assembly Unn went to (the)-booth of-father her*  
Hann fagnaði henni vel; enn henni var skapþungt nakkvat.  
*He welcomed her well but to-her was heavy-at-heart somewhat*  
Ok er hann fann þat, mælti hann til hennar: "Sét hefi  
*And when he found that spoke he to her Seen have*  
ek þik með betra bragði — eða hvat býr þér í skapi?"  
*I you with better bearing or what dwells to-you in mind*  
Hon tók at gráta ok svaraði engu. Þá mælti hann við  
*She took to weep and answered nothing Then spoke he with*  
hana: "Til hvers reitt þú til alþingis, ef þú vill eigi svara  
*her For what rode you to (the)-Althing if you will not answer*  
mér eða segja mér trúnað þinn? eða þykki þér eigi gott  
*me or tell me confidence your or seems to-you not good*

vestr þar?" Hon svaraði: "Gefa munda ek til alla eigu  
*west there She answered Give would I for-it all property*  
 mína, at ek hefða þar aldri komit". Mörðr mælti: "Þessa  
*my that I had there never come Mord spoke Of-this*  
 má ek skjótt viss verða". Þá sendi hann mann eftir þeim  
*may I quickly aware become Then sent he a-man after them*  
 Hrúti ok Höskuldi. Þeir fóru þegar. Ok er þeir kvámu á  
*Hrut and Hoskuld They went at-once And when they came to*  
 fund Marðar, stóð hann upp í móti þeim ok fagnaði  
*(the)-meeting of-Mord stood he up in meeting them and welcomed*  
 þeim vel ok bað þá sitja. Töluðu þeir lengi ok fór tal  
*them well and bade them sit Talked they long and went (the)-talk*  
 þeira vel. Þá mælti Mörðr til Hrúts: "Hví þykkir dóttur  
*their well Then spoke Mord to Hrut Why seems to-daughter*  
 minni svá ilt vestr þar?" Hrútr mælti: "Segi hon til, ef  
*my so ill west there Hrut spoke Let-say she of-(it) if*  
 hon hefir sakagiftir nakkvarar við mik". Enn þær urðu  
*she has charges any against me But they became*  
 engar upp bornar við Hrút. Þá lét Hrútr eftir spyrja  
*none up brought against Hrut Then had Hrut after ask*  
 nábúa sína ok heimamenn, hversu hann gerði til hennar.  
*neighbors his and household-men how he did toward her*  
 Þeir báru honum gott vitni ok sögðu hana ráða öllu því  
*They bore him good witness and said her to-manage all that*  
 er hon vildi. Mörðr mælti: "Heim skaltu fara, ok una  
*which she wished Mord spoke Home shall-you go and be-content*  
 vel við ráð þitt; því at honum ganga öll vitni betr  
*well with match your because that to-him go all witnesses better*  
 enn þér". Síðan reið Hrútr heim af þingi ok kona  
*than to-you Then rode Hrut home from (the)-assembly and wife*  
 hans með honum, ok var nú vel með þeim um sumarit.  
*his with him and was now well between them during the-summer*

Enn þá er vetaði, þá dró til vanda um samfarar þeira,  
*But then when winter-came then drew to difficulty about marriage their*  
 ok var þess verr, er meir leið á várit. Hrútr átti enn  
*and was of-that worse which more passed on the-spring Hrut had again*  
 ferð vestr í fjörðu at fjárreiðum sínum ok lýsti yfir  
*a-journey west into (the)-fjords to money-business his and declared over*  
 því, at hann mundi eigi til alþingis ríða. Unnr talaði fátt  
*that that he would not to (the)-Althing ride Unn talked little*  
 um. Hrútr fór þá er hann var til þess búinn.  
*about-(it) Hrut went then when he was to that ready*

VII · UNNR DIVORCES HRÚTR

*At the Althing Unnr tells her father, in verses and then plainly, that Hrútr's body is so swollen that they cannot enjoy each other, though before they part he shows he is like other men. Mörðr devises a plan. She is to be gentle with Hrútr through the winter and feign illness in spring, and once he has gone west to the fjords and men are riding to the Althing, she is to declare her divorce before witnesses at his bed and at the main door and ride south. She follows it exactly, and Mörðr announces the divorce at the Law Rock.*

Nú líðr til þings framan. Unnr talaði við Sigmund  
*Now passes toward (the)-assembly onward Unn talked with Sigmund*  
 Özurarson, ok spurði, ef hann vildi ríða til þings með  
*Ozur's-son and asked if he would ride to (the)-assembly with*  
 henni. Hann kveðst eigi ríða mundu, ef Hrúti frænda  
*her He says-of-himself not to-ride would if to-Hrut kinsman*  
 hans þætti verr. “Því kveð ek þik til”, segir hon, “at ek á  
*his seemed worse For-that call I you to-(it) says she that I have*  
 á þér helzt vald allra manna”. Hann svaraði: “Gera mun ek  
*over you most power of-all men He answered Make will I*

þér kost á þessu: þú skalt ríða vestr með mér aftr, ok hafa  
*you terms on this you shall ride west with me back and have*  
 engin undirmál við Hrút eða mik". Hon hét því. Síðan  
*no plots against Hrut or me She promised that Then*  
 ríða þau til þings. Mördör var á þingi, faðir hennar.  
*ride they to (the)-assembly Mord was at (the)-assembly father her*  
 Hann tók henni við allvel, ok bað hana vera í búð sinni,  
*He took her with very-well and bade her be in booth his*  
 meðan þingit væri. Hon gerði svá. Mördör mælti: "Hvat  
*while the-assembly were She did so Mord spoke What*  
 segir þú mér frá Hrúti, félaga þínum?" Hon kvað vísu:  
*say you me of Hrut partner your She spoke a-verse*

Víst segik gott frá geystum

*Surely say-I good of (the)-impetuous*

geirhvessanda þessum,

*spear-whetter this*

þat er sjalfráðlegt silfra

*that is self-evident of-silvers*

sundrhreyti er fundit.

*scatterer is found*

Verðk þvít almr er orðinn

*Must-I because-that (the)-elm is become*

eggþings fyr gerningum,

*of-edge-assembly for spells*

— satt er at ek sék við spotti —

*true is that I guard against mockery*

segja mart eða þegja.

*say much or be-silent*

Mörðr varð hljóðr við ok mælti: “Þat býr þér nú í skapi,  
*Mord became silent at-(it) and spoke That dwells to-you now in mind*  
 dóttir, at þú vill, at engi viti nema ek, ok munt þú trúa mér  
*daughter that you wish that none know except I and will you trust me*  
 beztr til órráða um þitt mál”. Þá gengu þau á tal, þar er engir  
*best for counsels about your matter Then went they to talk there where no*  
 menn heyrdú þeira viðræði. Þá mælti Mörðr til dóttur sinnar:  
*men heard their conversation Then spoke Mord to daughter his*  
 “Seg þú mér nú allt þat er á meðal ykkar er, ok lát þér ekki  
*Tell you me now all that which on between you-two is and let to-you nothing*  
 í augum vaxa”. “Svá mun vera verða”, segir hon ok kvað vísu:  
*in eyes grow So will be must says she and spoke a-verse*

Víst hefr hringa hristir

*Surely has of-rings shaker*

Hrútr líkama þrútin,

*Hrut body swollen*

njótr þá er linnbeðs leitar

*enjoyer then when of-snake-bed seeks*

lundýgr munuð drýggja.

*mind-eager pleasure to-perform*

Leita ek með ýti

*Seek I with (the)-launcher*

undlinna þá finna

*of-wound-snakes then to-find*

yndi okkars vanda,

*joy of-our-two custom*

aldraðr boði skjaldar.

*aged offerer of-shield*

Ok enn kvað hon vísu:

*And again spoke she a-verse*

Þó veitk hitt at hreytir

*Yet know-I the-other that (the)-scatterer*

handfúrs jökuls spannar

*of-hand-fire of-icicle of-span*

meiðr er jafnt sem aðrir

*tree is equally as other*

ýtendr boga nýtir.

*launchers of-bow able*

Vilda ek við öldu

*Would-wish I from of-wave*

jókennanda þenna

*horse-knower this*

— rjóðr lít þú orð ok íðir

*reddener see you words and deeds*

undleggs — skilit seggja.

*of-wound-leg parted of-men*

“Hversu má svá vera?” segir Mörðr, “ok seg mér enn gerr”.

*How may so be says Mord and tell me yet more-fully*

Hon svaraði: “Þegar hann kemr við mik, þá er hörund

*She answered When he comes against me then is flesh*

hans svá mikit, at hann má ekki eftirlæti hafa við mik;

*his so great that he may no pleasure have with me*

enn þó höfu vit bæði breytni til þess á alla vega, at

*but yet have we-two both effort for that on all ways that*

vit mættim njótast; enn þat verðr eigi. Enn þó áðr

*we-two might enjoy-each-other but that happens not But yet before*

við skilim, sýnir hann þat af sér, at hann er í æði

*we-two part shows he that of himself that he is in nature*

sínu rétt sem aðrir menn". Mördör mælti: "Vel hefir þú nú  
*his right as other men Mord spoke Well have you now*  
 gert, er þú sagðir mér. Mun ek leggja ráð á með þér,  
*done that you told me Will I lay counsel on with you*  
 þat er þér mun duga, ef þú kant með at fara, ok bregðir  
*that which to-you will avail if you know with to go and swerve*  
 þú hvergi af. Nú skaltu heim ríða fyrst af þingi, ok  
*you nowhere from-(it) Now shall-you home ride first from (the)-assembly and*  
 mun bóndi þinn heim kominn ok taka við þér vel. Þú skalt  
*will husband your home come and take with you well You shall*  
 vera við hann blíð ok eftirmál, ok mun honum þykkja góð  
*be toward him gentle and compliant and will to-him seem good*  
 skipan á komin: þú skalt enga fáleika á þér sýna. Enn þá  
*order on come you shall no coldness on you show But then*  
 er várar, skaltu kasta á þik sótt ok liggja í rekkju.  
*when spring-comes shall-you cast on yourself sickness and lie in bed*  
 Hrótr mun engum getum vilja um leiða um sóttarfar  
*Hrut will no guesses wish about to-lead about sickness-manner*  
 þitt ok ámæla þér í engu; heldr mun hann biðja, at allir  
*your and blame you in nothing rather will he ask that all*  
 geymi þín sem bez. Síðan mun hann fara í fjörðu vestr  
*tend you as best Then will he go into (the)-fjords west*  
 ok Sigmundr með honum, ok mun hann flytja alt fé sitt  
*and Sigmund with him and will he move all wealth his*  
 vestan ór fjörðum, ok vera í brautu lengi sumars. Enn  
*from-the-west out-of (the)-fjords and be off away long of-summer But*  
 þá er menn ríða til þings, ok allir menn eru riðnir ór  
*then when men ride to (the)-assembly and all men are ridden out-of*  
 Dölum, þeir er ríða ætla, þá skalt þú rísa ór rekkju, ok  
*Dalir those who ride intend then shall you rise out-of bed and*  
 kveðja menn til ferðar með þér. Enn þá er þú ert albúin,  
*summon men to journey with you But then when you are all-ready*

þá skaltu ganga til hvílu þinnar ok þeir menn með þér, sem  
*then shall-you go to bed your and those men with you who*  
 förunautar þínir eru. Þú skalt nemna vátta hjá rekkjustokki  
*companions your are You shall name witnesses by bed-board*  
 búanda þíns ok segja skilit við hann lagaskilnaði, sem þú  
*of-husband your and declare parted from him with-lawful-divorce as you*  
 mátt framast at alþingismáli réttu ok allsherjar lögum. Slíka  
*can furthest by Althing-procedure right and of-all-men law Such*  
 váttnemnu skaltu hafa fyrir karldurum. Síðan ríð þú í  
*witness-naming shall-you have before (the)-men's-door Then ride you off*  
 braut, og ríð Laxárdalsheiði ok svá til Holtavörðuheidar —  
*away and ride Laxardalsheidr and so to Holtavordubeidr*  
 því at þín mun eigi leitast til Hrutafjarðar — ok ríð þar  
*because that for-you will not searched to Hrutafjord and ride there*  
 til er þú kemr til mín. Ok mun ek þá sjá fyrir málinu,  
*until that you come to me And will I then see for the-matter*  
 ok skaltu aldri síðan koma honum í hendr”. Nú ríðr hon  
*and shall-you never after come to-him into hands Now rides she*  
 heim af þingi. Ok var Hrutr heim kominn ok fagnaði  
*home from (the)-assembly And was Hrut home come and welcomed*  
 henni vel. Hon tók vel máli hans ok var við hann blíð  
*her well She took well speech his and was toward him gentle*  
 ok eftirmál. Þeira samfarar váru góðar þau misseri. Enn  
*and compliant Their marriage were good those seasons But*  
 er váraði, tók hon sótt ok lagðist í rekkju. Hrutr fór  
*when spring-came took she sickness and laid-herself in bed Hrut went*  
 í fjörðu vestr ok bað henni virkta áðr. Nú er kemr at  
*into (the)-fjords west and bade for-her care before Now when comes to*  
 þingi, bjó hon ferð sína í braut ok fór með öllu svá  
*(the)-assembly readied she journey her off away and went with all so*  
 sem fyrir var sagt ok ríðr á þing síðan. Heraðsmenn  
*as before was said and rides to (the)-assembly then District-men*



leituðu hennar ok fundu hana eigi. Mörðr tók við dóttur  
*searched for-her and found her not Mord took with daughter*  
 sinni vel ok spurði hana, hversu hon hefði með farit  
*his well and asked her how she had with gone*  
 ráðagerð hans. “Hvergi hefi ek af brugðit”, sagði hon. Hann  
*plan his Nowhere have I from swerved said she He*  
 gekk til Lögbergs ok sagði skilit lagaskilnaði með þeim  
*went to (the)-Law-Rock and declared parted with-lawful-divorce between them*  
 at Lögbergi. Þetta gerðu menn at nýjum tíðendum. Unnr  
*at (the)-Law-Rock This made men to new tidings Unn*  
 fór heim með föður sínum ok kom aldri vestr þar síðan.  
*went home with father her and came never west there since*

VIII · THE BOYS' GAME AT LUNDR

*At the next Althing Mörðr sues Hrútr for Unnr's dowry of ninety hundreds. Hrútr accuses him of greed and challenges him to a duel for the money, and Mörðr, warned by his friends that he would lose his life, declines in disgrace. Riding home, the brothers lodge with Þjóstólfr at Lundr, where two boys mimic the case. Höskuldr strikes the one playing Mörðr, but Hrútr gives him a gold ring and wins praise for it, and so ends the quarrel with Mörðr.*

Hrútr kom heim ok brá mjök í brún, er kona hans var  
*Hrut came home and started much in brow when wife his was*  
 í brautu, ok er þó vel stiltr, ok var heima öll þau misseri  
*off away and is yet well composed and was at-home all those seasons*  
 ok réðst við engan mann um sitt mál. Annat sumar eftir  
*and consulted with no man about his matter (The)-second summer after*  
 reið hann til alþingis ok Höskuldr bróðir hans með honum  
*rode he to (the)-Althing and Hoskuld brother his with him*  
 ok fjölmentu mjök. Enn er hann kom á þing, þá  
*and came-in-numbers much But when he came to (the)-assembly then*

spurði hann hvárt Mörðr gíjja væri á þingi. Honum var  
*asked he whether Mord Fiddle were at (the)-assembly To-him was*  
 sagt, at hann var þar. Ok ætluðu allir, at þeir mundu tala  
*said that he was there And thought all that they would talk*  
 um mál sín; enn það varð eigi. Einn hvern dag, er  
*about matters their but that happened not One some day when*  
 menn gengu til Lögbergs, nemndi Mörðr sér vátta ok  
*men went to (the)-Law-Rock named Mord for-himself witnesses and*  
 lýsti fésök á hendr Hrúti um fémál dóttur  
*declared a-money-charge against hands Hrut about money-matter of-daughter*  
 sinnar, ok taldi níu tigu hundraða fjár: lýsti hann til  
*his and reckoned nine tens of-hundreds of-wealth declared he to*  
 gjalda ok til útgreiðslu, ok lét varða þriggja marka útleð:  
*payment and to paying-out and had carry of-three marks fine*  
 hann lýsti í fjórðungsdóm þann, er sökin átti í at  
*he declared into quarter-court that which the-charge belonged in to*  
 koma at lögum: lýsti hann löglýsing ok í heyranda  
*come by law declared he a-lawful-declaration and in bearing*  
 hljóði at Lögbergi. Enn er hann hafði þetta mælt,  
*sound at (the)-Law-Rock But when he had this spoken*  
 svaraði Hrútr: “Meir sækir þú þetta mál með fjárágirnd ok  
*answered Hrut More pursue you this case with greed and*  
 kappi, er heyrir til dóttur þinnar, heldr enn með góðvild  
*zeal which belongs to daughter your rather than with goodwill*  
 eða drengskap; enda mun ek hér láta nakkvat í mót  
*or manliness and-indeed will I here let something in against*  
 koma — því at þú hefir enn eigi féit í hendi þér,  
*come because that you have yet not the-wealth in hand your*  
 þat er ek fer með. Mæli ek svá fyrir, at þeir sé allir  
*that which I go with Say I so for that they be all*  
 heyrandi vátтар, er hjá eru at Lögbergi, at ek skora þér  
*bearing witnesses who by are at (the)-Law-Rock that I challenge you*

á hólum. Skal við liggja mundrinn allr, ok þar legg ek  
*to (the)-holm Shall by lie the-bride-price all and there lay I*  
 í mót annat fé jafnmikit. Ok eigi sá hvárttveggja  
*in against other wealth equally-great And own that-one both*  
 féit, er af öðrum berr. Enn ef þú vill eigi berjast við  
*the-wealth who from (the)-other bears But if you will not fight with*  
 mik, þá skaltu af allri fjárheimtunni". Þá þagnaði Mörðr  
*me then shall-you off all the-money-claim Then fell-silent Mord*  
 ok réðst um við vini sína um hólmgönguna. Honum  
*and consulted about with friends his about the-holm-going To-him*  
 svaraði Jörundr goði: "Eigi þarftu við oss ráð at eiga  
*answered Jorund (the)-Priest Not need-you with us counsel to have*  
 um þetta mál; því at þú veizt, ef þú berst við Hrut,  
*about this matter because that you know if you fight with Hrut*  
 at þú munt láta bæði lífit ok féit. Er honum vel farit:  
*that you will lose both the-life and the-wealth Is to-him well gone*  
 hann er mikill af sjálfum sér ok manna fræknastr". Þá  
*he is great of self himself and of-men bravest Then*  
 kvað Mörðr þat upp, at hann mundi eigi berjast við Hrut.  
*spoke Mord that up that he would not fight with Hrut*  
 Þá varð óp mikit at Lögbergi ok óhljóð, ok hafði  
*Then became a-shout great at (the)-Law-Rock and uproar and bad*  
 Mörðr af hina mestu svívirðu. Síðan riðu menn heim af  
*Mord of-(it) the greatest disgrace Then rode men home from*  
 þingi. Þeir bræðr riðu vestr til Reykjardals, Höskuldr ok  
*(the)-assembly Those brothers rode west to Reykjardal Hoskuld and*  
 Hrutr, ok gistu at Lundi. Þar bjó Þjóstólfr, sonr Bjarnar  
*Hrut and lodged at Lund There dwelt Thjostolf son of-Bjorn*  
 gullbera. Regn hafði verit mikit um daginn, ok höfðu  
*Gold-bearer Rain had been great during the-day and had*  
 menn orðit vátir, ok váru gervir langeldar. Þjóstólfr búandi  
*men become wet and were made long-fires Thjostolf (the)-farmer*

sat á meðal þeira Höskulds ok Hrúts. Sveinar tveir léku á  
*sat on between them Hoskuld and Hrut Boys two played on*  
 gólfinu — þeir váru veizlusveinar Þjóstólfs — ok lék mæ-  
*the-floor they were feast-boys of-Thjostolf and played a-girl*  
 ein hjá þeim. Þeir váru málgir mjök; því at þeir váru  
*one by them They were talkative very because that they were*  
 óvitrir. Annarr þeira mælti: “Ek skal þér Mörðr vera ok  
*witless One of-them spoke I shall to-you Mord be and*  
 stefna þér af konunni ok finna þat til foráttu, at þú hafir  
*summon you from the-woman and find that for fault that you have*  
 eigi sorðit hana”. Annarr svaraði: “Ek skal þér Hrútr vera:  
*not bedded her (The)-other answered I shall to-you Hrut be*  
 tel ek þik af allri fjárheimtunni, ef þú þorir eigi at berjast  
*count I you off all the-money-claim if you dare not to fight*  
 við mik”. Þetta mæltu þeir nökkurum sinnum. Þá gerðist  
*with me This spoke they some times Then arose*  
 hlátr mikill af heimamönnum. Þá reiddist Höskuldr ok  
*laughter great among household-men Then grew-angry Hoskuld and*  
 laust sveininn með sprota, þann er Mörðr nemndist; enn  
*struck the-boy with a-stick the-one who Mord named-himself but*  
 sprotinn kom í andlitit og sprakk fyrir. Höskuldr mælti  
*the-stick came into the-face and split before Hoskuld spoke*  
 við sveininn: “Verð úti ok drag engan spott at oss”. Hrútr  
*with the-boy Be out and draw no mockery at us Hrut*  
 mælti: “Gakk hingat til mín”. Sveinninn gerði svá. Hrútr  
*spoke Go hither to me The-boy did so Hrut*  
 dró fingrgull af hendi sér ok gaf honum ok mælti: “Far  
*drew a-finger-ring off hand his and gave him and spoke Go*  
 í braut ok leita á engan mann síðan”. Sveinninn fór í  
*off away and seek on no man after The-boy went off*  
 braut ok mælti: “Þínum drengskap skal ek við bregða æ  
*away and spoke Your manliness shall I on remark ever*

síðan". Af þessu fekk Hrútr gott orð. Síðan fóru þeir vestr  
*after Of this got Hrut good word Then went they west*  
 heim. Ok er nú lokit þrætum þeira Marðar.  
*home And is now ended quarrels of-them of-Mord*

IX · HALLGERÐR IS MARRIED TO ÞORVALDR

*Hallgerðr grows up tall and beautiful but lavish and harsh, fostered by the violent Hebridean Þjóstólfr. Þorvaldr Ósvífsson of Meðalfellsströnd, a wealthy man somewhat hasty in temper, is looking for a wife, and his father Ósvifr suggests Hallgerðr but warns that the two are ill-suited. Þorvaldr insists, and Höskuldr frankly tells them that she is hard-tempered. Þorvaldr says her temper will not stand in the way, and the marriage is settled without asking Hallgerðr at all.*

Nú er þar til máls at taka, at Hallgerðr vex upp, dóttir  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take that Hallgerd grows up daughter*  
 Höskulds, ok er kvenna fríðust sýnum ok mikil vexti. Ok  
*of-Hoskuld and is of-women fairest in-looks and tall in-stature And*  
 því var hon langbrók kölluð. Hon var fagrhar, ok svá  
*therefore was she Long-breeches called She was fair-haired and so*  
 mikit hárit, at hon mátti hylja sik með. Hon var örlynd  
*great the-hair that she could cover herself with-(it) She was lavish*  
 ok skaphörð. Þjóstólfr hét fóstri hennar. Hann var  
*and harsh-tempered Thjostolf was-called foster-father her He was*  
 suðreyskr at ætt. Hann var styrkr maðr ok vígr vel ok  
*Hebridean by descent He was a-strong man and fighting well and*  
 hafði margan mann drepit ok bætti engan mann fé.  
*had many a-man killed and paid-for no man with-money*  
 Þat var mælt, at hann væri engi skapbætir Hallgerði. Maðr  
*It was said that he were no temper-mender to-Hallgerd A-man*  
 er nemndr Þorvaldr. Hann var Ósvífrs son. Hann bjó út  
*is named Thorvald He was of-Osvif son He dwelt out*

á Meðalfellsströnd, undir Felli. Hann var vel auðigr at fé.  
*at Medalfellsstrond under Fell He was well wealthy in money*  
 Hann átti eyjar þær er heita Bjarneyjar. Þær liggja út á  
*He owned islands those which are-called Bjarneyjar They lie out in*  
 Breiðafirði. Þaðan hafði hann skreið ok mjöl. Þorvaldr var vel  
*Breidafjord Thence had he dried-fish and meal Thorvald was well*  
 styrkr maðr ok kurteiss, nakkvat bráðr í skaplyndi. Þat var  
*a-strong man and courteous somewhat hasty in temper It was*  
 einu hverju sinni, at þeir feðgar ræddu með sér, hvar  
*on-one some time that those father-and-son talked between themselves where*  
 Þorvaldr mundi á leita um kvánfang. Enn það fanst á, at  
*Thorvald would on seek for a-marriage But it was-found on that*  
 honum þótti sér óviða fullkosta. Þá mælti Ósvífr: "Vill  
*to-him seemed for-himself in-few-places fully-matched Then spoke Osvif Will*  
 þú biðja Hallgerðar langbrókar, dóttur Höskulds?" "Hennar  
*you ask-for Hallgerd Long-breeches daughter of-Hoskuld Her*  
 vil ek biðja", segir hann. "Þat mun ykkur eigi mjök hent",  
*will I ask-for says he That will to-you-two not much suited*  
 sagði Ósvífr; "hon er kona skapstór, enn þú ert harðlyndr  
*said Osvif she is a-woman high-tempered but you are hard-minded*  
 ok óvægin". "Þar vil ek þó áleita", segir hann, "ok mun eigi  
*and unyielding There will I yet try says he and will not*  
 tjóa at letja". "Þú átt ok mest í hættu", segir Ósvífr. Síðan  
*avail to dissuade You have also most at risk says Osvif Then*  
 fóru þeir bónorðsför ok kvámu á Höskuldsstaði ok höfðu þar  
*went they a-wooing-journey and came to Hoskulsstadir and had there*  
 góðar viðtökur. Þeir ræddu þegar erendi sín fyrir Höskuldi ok  
*good receptions They raised at-once errands their before Hoskuld and*  
 vöktu bónorðit. Höskuldr svaraði: "Kunnigt er mér um hag  
*broached the-suit Hoskuld answered Known is to-me about condition*  
 ykkarn. Enn ek vil enga vél at ykkur draga — at dóttir  
*your-two But I will no deceit on you-two draw that daughter*

mín er hörð í skapi. Enn um yfirlit hennar ok kurteisi  
*my is hard in temper But about appearance her and courtesy*  
 meguð þit sjálfir sjá”. Þorvaldr svaraði: “Ger þú kostinn;  
*may you-two yourselves see Thorvald answered Make you the-terms*  
 því at ek mun skaplyndi hennar eigi láta fyrir kaupi  
*because that I will temper her not let before (the)-bargain*  
 standa”. Síðan tala þeir um kaupit, ok spurði Höskuldr  
*stand Then talk they about the-bargain and asked Hoskuld*  
 dóttur sína eigi eftir — því at honum var hugr á at  
*daughter his not after because that to-him was mind on to*  
 gifta hana — ok urðu þeir ásáttir um allan kaupmála.  
*marry her and became they agreed about all (the)-marriage-contract*  
 Síðan rétti Höskuldr fram höndina, enn Þorvaldr tók í  
*Then stretched Hoskuld forth the-hand and Thorvald took in*  
 ok fastnaði sér Hallgerði, ok reið heim við svá búit.  
*and betrothed to-himself Hallgerd and rode home with so done*

X • THE WEDDING AT HÖSKULDSSTAÐIR

*Hallgerðr is bitter that she was betrothed without being consulted, and Þjóstólfr promises to take her side everywhere except against her father or Hrútr. Hrútr foresees ill luck in the match but agrees to attend the wedding. Hallgerðr invites her uncle Svanr, a surly sorcerer from Bjarnarfjörðr, and at the wedding people remark on how much Þjóstólfr talks with her and with Svanr. Höskuldr pays out her dowry, and when he asks about adding gifts, Hrútr tells him he will have chances enough to spend money on Hallgerðr later and should stop there.*

Höskuldr sagði Hallgerði kaupit. Hon mælti: “Nú em ek  
*Hoskuld told Hallgerd the-bargain She spoke Now am I*  
 at raun komin um þat, er mik hefir lengi grunat, at þú  
*to proof come about that which me has long suspected that you*

mundir eigi unna mér svá mikit, sem þú sagðir jafnan, er  
*would not love me so much as you said always since*  
 þér þótti eigi þess vert, at við mik væri um talat þetta  
*to-you seemed not of-it worth that with me were about talked this*  
 mál; enda þykki mér ráð þetta eigi svá mikils háttar  
*matter and-indeed seems to-me match this not so great of-kind*  
 sem þér hétuð mér”. Ok fanst þat á í öllu, er hon  
*as you promised me And was-found that on in all that she*  
 þóttist vargefn. Höskuldr mælti: “Ekki legg ek svá mikit  
*thought-herself ill-married Hoskuld spoke Not lay I so great*  
 við ofmetnað þinn, at hann standi fyrir kaupum mínum:  
*by pride your that it stand before bargains my*  
 ok skal ek ráða, enn eigi þú, ef okkr skilr á”. “Mikill er  
*and shall I decide but not you if us-two parts on Great is*  
 metnaðr yðvarr frænda”, segir hon, “ok er þat eigi undarlegt,  
*pride your of-kinsmen says she and is that not strange*  
 at ek hafi nakkvarn”, — ok gekk á braut síðan. Hon fann  
*that I have some and went off away then She found*  
 fóstura sinn Þjóstólf ok segir honum, hvat ætlat var, ok  
*foster-father her Thjostolf and tells him what intended was and*  
 var henni skapþungt. Þjóstólfr mælti: “Ger þú þér gott  
*was to-her heavy-at-heart Thjostolf spoke Make you yourself good*  
 í skapi: þú munt vera gefin í annat sinn, ok munt þú  
*in mind you will be given in a-second time and will you*  
 þá eftir spurð — því at allstaðar mun ek gera at þínu  
*then after asked because that everywhere will I do after your*  
 skapi, nema þar er faðir þinn er eða Hrútr”. Síðan tala  
*mind except there where father your is or Hrut Then talk*  
 þau ekki um fleira. Höskuldr bjó veizlu ok reið at bjóða  
*they not about more Hoskuld prepared a-feast and rode to invite*  
 mönnum til ok kom á Hrútsstaði ok kallar Hrút út til  
*men to and came to Hrutsstadir and calls Hrut out to*



máls við sik. Hann gekk út, ok gengu þeir á tal, ok sagði  
*speech with himself He went out and went they to talk and told*  
Höskuldr honum kaupmála allan ok bauð honum til  
*Hoskuld him (the)-marriage-contract all and invited him to*  
boðs, — “ok vilda ek, frændi, at þér þætti eigi verr,  
*(the)-feast and would-wish I kinsman that to-you seemed not worse*  
þótt ek gerða þér eigi orð áðr enn kaupmálinn réðst”.  
*though I sent you not word before than the-marriage-contract was-settled*  
“Betr þætti mér, at ek kvæma hvergi í nánd”, segir  
*Better would-seem to-me that I came nowhere in nearness says*  
Hrútr, “því at hvárigu mun í þessu kaupi gífta, honum  
*Hrut because that to-neither will in this bargain luck to-him*  
né henni. Enn þó mun ek fara til boðs, ef þér þykkir  
*nor to-her But yet will I go to (the)-feast if to-you seems*  
sæmd í”. “Þat þykki mér víst”, segir Höskuldr ok reið  
*honor in-(it) That seems to-me surely says Hoskuld and rode*  
heim síðan. Ósvífr ok Þorvaldr buðu ok mönnum, ok var  
*home then Osvif and Thorvald invited also men and was*  
eigi boðit færa enn hundraði. Maðr er nemndr Svanr. Hann  
*not invited fewer than a-hundred A-man is named Svan He*  
bjó í Bjarnarfirði, á bæ þeim er heitir á Svanshóli.  
*dwelt in Bjarnarfjord at farm that which is-called at Svansbol*  
Þat er norðr frá Steingrímsfirði. Svanr var fjölkunnigr mjök.  
*That is north from Steingrimsfjord Svan was skilled-in-magic very*  
Hann var móðurbróðir Hallgerðar. Hann var ódæll ok  
*He was mother's-brother of-Hallgerd He was overbearing and*  
illr viðreignar. Honum bauð Hallgerðr til boðsins ok sendi  
*ill to-deal-with Him invited Hallgerd to the-feast and sent*  
Þjóstólf eftir honum. Hann fór, ok váru vináttumál með  
*Thjostolf after him He went and were friendship-words between*  
þeim þegar. Nú koma menn til veizlunnar, ok sat Hallgerðr  
*them at-once Now come men to the-feast and sat Hallgerd*

á palli, ok var brúðrin allkát, ok gekk Þjóstólfr jafnan til  
*on (the)-dais and was the-bride very-merry and went Thjostolf always to*  
 tals við hana, enn stundum talar hann við Svan, ok fanst  
*talk with her but sometimes talks he with Swan and seemed*  
 mönnum mikit um tal þeira. Veizlan fór vel fram. Höskuldr  
*to-men much about talk their The-feast went well forth Hoskuld*  
 leysti út fé Hallgerðar með hinum bezta greiðskap.  
*paid out (the)-wealth of-Hallgerd with the best readiness*  
 Síðan mælti hann til Hrúts: “Skal ek nakkvarar gjafar fram  
*Then spoke he to Hrut Shall I any gifts forth*  
 leggja?” Hrútr svaraði: “Kostr mun þér af tómi at eyða  
*lay Hrut answered Opportunity will to-you from leisure to waste*  
 fé þínu fyrir Hallgerði, ok lát hér staðar nema”.  
*wealth your for Hallgerd and let here stop take*

## XI • ÞJÓSTÓLFR KILLS ÞORVALDR

*Hallgerðr is grasping and wasteful, and by spring the household is short of meal and dried fish. When she taunts Þorvaldr for starving himself, he strikes her in the face and rows out to the Bjarneyjar for supplies. Þjóstólfr sees her bloodied face, rows after him, and finds him loading the boat. They quarrel, Þorvaldr stabs at him with a short sword, and Þjóstólfr breaks his arm and kills him with an axe.*

Þorvaldr reið heim frá boðinu ok kona hans með honum  
*Thorvald rode home from the-feast and wife his with him*  
 ok Þjóstólfr. Hann fylgdi hesti Hallgerðar ok töluðu þau  
*and Thjostolf He followed (the)-horse of-Hallgerd and talked they*  
 jafnan. Ósvífr veik at syni sínum ok mælti: “Unir þú vel  
*always Osvif turned to son his and spoke Are-content you well*  
 ráðinu? Eða hversu fór tal með ykkur?” “Vel” segir  
*with-the-match Or how went (the)-talk between you-two Well says*

hann, “alla blíðu lét hon uppi við mik; ok mátt þú sjá  
*he all kindness showed she forth toward me and may you see*  
mót á, er hon hlær við hvert orð”. “Eigi ætla ek hlátr  
*sign on-(it) when she laughs at every word Not think I laughter*  
hennar jafngóðan sem þú”, segir Ósvífr, “enn þat mun þó  
*her as-good as you says Osvif but that will yet*  
síðar reynast”. Þau ríða þar til er þau koma heim. Um  
*later be-proved They ride there until that they come home In*  
kveldit sat hon hjá búanda sínum ok skipaði Þjóstólfi hit  
*the-evening sat she by husband her and placed Thjostolf the*  
næsta sér innar frá. Fátt áttust þeir við Þjóstólfr  
*next herself further in Little had-dealings they with-each-other Thjostolf*  
ok Þorvaldr, ok varð þeim fátt at orðum, ok fór svá fram  
*and Thorvald and became to-them little in words and went so forth*  
um vetrinn. Hallgerðr var fengsöm ok stórlynd; enda  
*through the-winter Hallgerd was grasping and high-minded and-indeed*  
kallaði hon til alls þess er aðrir áttu í nánd ok hafði  
*called she for all that which others owned in nearness and had*  
alt í sukki. Enn er váraði, var þar búskortr ok skorti  
*all in waste But when spring-came was there household-shortage and lacked*  
bæði mjöl ok skreið. Hallgerðr kom at máli við Þorvald ok  
*both meal and dried-fish Hallgerd came to speech with Thorvald and*  
ræddi: “Eigi munt þú þurfa at sitja til alls; því at bæði  
*spoke Not will you need to sit for all because that both*  
þarf í búit mjöl ok skreið”. Þorvaldr mælti: “Ekki fekk  
*needs in the-household meal and dried-fish Thorvald spoke Not got*  
ek nú minna til bús, enn vant var, ok endist þó  
*I now less for (the)-household than was-used was and lasted yet*  
alt á sumar fram”. Hallgerðr mælti: “Ekki fer ek at því,  
*all into summer forth Hallgerd spoke Not go I at that*  
þó at þú hafir svelt þik til fjár ok faðir þinn”. Þá  
*though that you have starved yourself for wealth and father your Then*

reiddist Þorvaldr ok laust hana í andlitit svá at blæddi,  
*grew-angry Thorvald and struck her in the-face so that bled-(it)*  
 ok gekk síðan á braut ok kvaddi húskarla sína með sér,  
*and went then off away and summoned house-carls his with himself*  
 ok hrundu þeir fram skútu, ok hljópu þar á átta karlar  
*and pushed they forth a-boat and leaped there on eight fellows*  
 ok reru út í Bjarneyjar. Tók hann þar skreið sína ok  
*and rowed out to Bjarneyjar Took he there dried-fish his and*  
 mjöl. Nú er at segja frá Hallgerði, at hon sat úti ok var  
*meal Now is to tell of Hallgerd that she sat outside and was*  
 skapþungt. Þjóstólfr gekk at ok sá, at hon var særð í  
*heavy-at-heart Thjostolf went up and saw that she was wounded in*  
 andlitinu ok mælti: “Hví ert þú svá illa leikin?” “Þorvaldr  
*the-face and spoke Why are you so ill treated Thorvald*  
 veldr því búandi minn”, sagði hon, “ok stótt þú mér þá  
*causes that husband my said she and stood you me then*  
 fjarri, ef þér þætti nakkvat undir um mik”. “Ek vissi eigi”,  
*far if to-you seemed anything at-stake about me I knew not*  
 segir hann, “enn þó skal ek þessa hefna”. Síðan gekk hann  
*says he but yet shall I this avenge Then went he*  
 á braut ok til fjöru ok hratt fram skipi sexæru ok hafði  
*off away and to (the)-shore and pushed forth a-ship six-oared and had*  
 í hendi öxi mikla, er hann átti, vafinskeftu. Hann stígr  
*in hand an-axe great which he owned haft-wound He steps*  
 á skip ok rær út í Bjarneyjar. Ok er hann kom þar,  
*on (the)-ship and rows out to Bjarneyjar And when he came there*  
 váru allir menn rónir, nema Þorvaldr ok förunautar hans.  
*were all men rowed-away except Thorvald and companions his*  
 Hann var at hlaða skútuna, enn þeir báru á út, menn  
*He was to load the-boat but they carried on out men*  
 hans. Þjóstólfr kom at í því ok hljóp upp á skútuna ok  
*his Thjostolf came up in that and leaped up onto the-boat and*

hlóð með honum ok mælti: “Bæði ert þú at þessu lítilvirkr  
*loaded with him and spoke Both are you at this little-working*  
 ok óhagvirkr”. Þorvaldr mælti: “Hyggst þú munu betr gera?”  
*and badly-working Thorvald spoke Think you will better do*  
 “Þat eitt munu vit at hafast, at ek mun betr gera enn  
*That one will we-two at be-busy that I will better do than*  
 þú”, segir Þjóstólfr, “ok er sú kona illa gift, er þú átt,  
*you says Thjostolf and is that woman ill married whom you have*  
 ok skyldi ykkar samfarar skammar vera”. Þorvaldr þreif upp  
*and should your-two marriage short be Thorvald seized up*  
 handsax eitt, er var hjá honum, ok leggr til Þjóstólfs.  
*a-short-sword one which was by him and thrusts at Thjostolf*  
 Þjóstólfr hafði öxina á öxl sér ok laust á móti ok kom  
*Thjostolf had the-axe on shoulder his and struck in against and came*  
 á hönd Þorvaldi ok brotnaði handleggrinn, enn saxit  
*on (the)-hand of-Thorvald and broke the-arm but the-short-sword*  
 fell niðr. Síðan færði Þjóstólfr upp öxina í annat sinn ok  
*fell down Then raised Thjostolf up the-axe in a-second time and*  
 hjó í höfuð Þorvaldi ok hafði hann þegar bana.  
*hewed into (the)-head of-Thorvald and had he at-once death*

XII · SVANR’S FOG AND HRÚTR’S AWARD

*Þjóstólfr sinks Þorvaldr’s boat with the body and the cargo, and Hallgerðr sends him north to Svanr and rides home to her father. Ósvífr gathers men, but Svanr waves a goatskin and raises a fog and phantoms that turn them back three times. Ósvífr then asks Höskuldr for compensation, and Hrótr, saying plainly that Hallgerðr planned the killing, awards two hundreds of silver and gives Ósvífr a cloak. The property is divided, Þjóstólfr comes home at Hallgerðr’s request, and her wealth keeps growing.*

Þá fóru þeir ofan, menn Þorvalds, með byrðarnar. Þjóstólfr  
*Then went they down (the)-men of-Thorvald with the-burdens Thjostolf*  
 tók til ráða skjótt. Höggr hann þá tveim höndum borð  
*took to counsels quickly Hews he then with-two hands (the)-gunwale*  
 skútunnar — ok gekk sundr borðit um tvau rúm — ok  
*of-the-boat and went asunder the-plank over two spaces and*  
 hljóp í skip sitt. Enn á skútunni fell inn sær kolblár,  
*leaped into ship his But in the-boat fell in sea coal-blue*  
 ok sökk hon niðr með öllum farminum. Þar sökk ok niðr  
*and sank it down with all the-cargo There sank also down*  
 lík Þorvalds: ok máttu förunautar hans eigi sjá, hversu  
*(the)-body of-Thorvald and could companions his not see how*  
 hann var til gerr; enn hitt vissu þeir, at hann var dauðr.  
*he was to done but the-other knew they that he was dead*  
 Þjóstólfr reri inn á fjörðinn; enn þeir báðu hann illa  
*Thjostolf rowed in along the-fjord but they bade him ill*  
 fara ok aldri þrífast. Hann svaraði engu ok reri inn á  
*fare and never thrive He answered nothing and rowed in along*  
 fjörðinn ok þar til er hann kom heim — ok brýndi upp  
*the-fjord and there until that he came home and drew up*  
 skipinu, ok gekk heim ok hafði uppi öxina, ok var hon  
*the-ship and went home and had up the-axe and was it*  
 blóðug mjök. Hallgerðr var úti ok mælti: “Blóðug er öx  
*bloody very Hallgerd was outside and spoke Bloody is axe*  
 þín: Hvat hefir þú unnit?” “Nú hefi ek þat at gert”, segir  
*your What have you done Now have I that about done says*  
 hann, “at þú munt gefin vera í annat sinn”. “Dauðan segir  
*he that you will given be in a-second time Dead tell*  
 þú mér Þorvald þá”, segir hon. “Svá er”, sagði hann, “ok sé  
*you me Thorvald then says she So is said he and see*  
 þú nakkvart ráð fyrir mér”. “Svá skal vera”, sagði hon, “ek  
*you some counsel for me So shall be said she I*

skal senda þik norðr til Bjarnarfjarðar á Svanshól, ok mun  
*shall send you north to Bjarnarfjord to Svansbol and will*  
 Svanr taka við þér báðum höndum. Er hann svá mikill fyrir  
*Svan take with you with-both hands Is he so great for*  
 sér, at þangat sækir þik engi”. Hann söðlaði hest, er  
*himself that thither seeks you none He saddled a-horse which*  
 hann átti, ok steig á bak ok reið norðr til Bjarnarfjarðar  
*he owned and stepped on back and rode north to Bjarnarfjord*  
 á Svanshól. Ok tók Svanr við honum báðum höndum  
*to Svansbol And took Svan with him with-both hands*  
 ok spurði hann at tíðendum. Enn Þjóstólfr segir honum  
*and asked him of tidings But Thjostolf tells him*  
 víg Þorvalds, með þeim atburðum, er orðið höfðu.  
*(the)-slaying of-Thorvald with those circumstances which happened had*  
 Svanr mælti: “Slíkt kalla ek menn, er eigi láta sér alt  
*Svan spoke Such call I men who not let to-themselves all*  
 í augu vaxa at gera, ok mun ek því heita þér, ef þeir  
*in eyes grow to do and will I therefore promise you if they*  
 sækja þik hingat, at þeir skulu hafa af því hina mestu  
*seek you hither that they shall have of it the greatest*  
 svívirðing”. — Nú er þar til máls at taka, er Hallgerðr  
*disgrace Now is there to (the)-story to take where Hallgerd*  
 er, at hon kvaddi til ferðar með sér Ljót hinn svarta  
*is that she summoned to (the)-journey with herself Ljot the Black*  
 frænda sinn, ok bað hann söðla hesta þeira, — “ok vil  
*kinsman her and bade him saddle horses their and will*  
 ek ríða heim til föður míns”. Hann bjó ferð þeira. Hon  
*I ride home to father my He prepared journey their She*  
 gekk til kistna sinna ok lauk upp ok lét kalla til sín  
*went to chests her and opened up and had call to herself*  
 alla heimamenn sína ok gaf þeim nakkvara gjöf öllum. Enn  
*all household-men her and gave them some gift all But*

þeir hörmuðu hana allir. Nú reið hon þar til er hon  
*they mourned her all Now rode she there until that she*  
 kom á Höskuldsstaði. Ok tók faðir hennar við henni vel;  
*came to Hoskuldssadair And took father her with her well*  
 því at hann hafði eigi spurt tíðendin. Höskuldr mælti til  
*because that he had not learned the-tidings Hoskuld spoke to*  
 Hallgerðar: “Hví fór eigi Þorvaldr með þér?” Hon svaraði:  
*Hallgerd Why went not Thorvald with you She answered*  
 “Dauðr er hann”. Höskuldr mælti: “Þjóstólfr mun því valda”.  
*Dead is he Hoskuld spoke Thjostolf will that cause*  
 Hon sagði svá vera. Höskuldr mælti: “Þat mun mér sízt í  
*She said so to-be Hoskuld spoke That will to-me least into*  
 tauma ganga, er Hrótr segir mér — at hér mundi til  
*reins go which Hrut tells me that here would to*  
 mikillar ógiftu draga um kaup þessi. Enn ekki mun týja  
*great ill-luck draw about bargain this But not will avail*  
 at saka sik um orðinn hlut”. — Nú er þar til máls  
*to blame oneself about happened lot Now is there to (the)-story*  
 at taka, er förunautar Þorvalds eru, at þeir biðu til  
*to take where (the)-companions of-Thorvald are that they waited until*  
 þess er skip kvámu at landi. Þeir sögðu víg Þorvalds,  
*that when ships came to land They told (the)-slaying of-Thorvald*  
 ok báðu sér skips inn til lands. Þeim var lét þegar.  
*and asked for-themselves a-ship in to land To-them was lent at-once*  
 Ok reru þeir inn at Reykjanesi ok fundu Ósvíf ok sögðu  
*And rowed they in to Reykjanes and found Osvif and told*  
 honum tíðendin. Hann mælti: “Illa gefast ills ráðs leifar.  
*him the-tidings He spoke Ill turn-out of-ill counsel (the)-leavings*  
 Ok sé ek nú alt eftir, hversu farit hefir. Hallgerð mun hafa  
*And see I now all after how gone has Hallgerd will have*  
 sendan Þjóstólfr til Bjarnarfjarðar, enn hon mun riðin heim  
*sent Thjostolf to Bjarnarfjord but she will-be ridden home*



til föður síns. Skulu vér nú samna liði ok sækja hann  
*to father her Shall we now gather a-company and seek him*  
 norðr þangat". Þeir gerðu svá ok fóru í liðsbón — varð  
*north thither They did so and went into force-gathering became*  
 þeim gott til manna — ok riðu til Steingrímsfjarðar ok til  
*to-them good for men and rode to Steingrimsfjord and to*  
 Ljótárdals ok þaðan til Selárdals ok svá til Bassastaða, ok  
*Ljotardal and thence to Selardal and so to Bassastadir and*  
 þaðan um hálsinn til Bjarnarfjarðar. Nú tók Svanr til orða  
*thence over the-ridge to Bjarnarfjord Now took Svan to words*  
 ok geispaði mjök: "Nú sækja at fylgjur Ósvífrs". Þá spratt  
*and yawned much Now press on (the)-fetches of-Osvif Then sprang*  
 Þjóstólfr upp ok tók öxi sína. Svanr mælti: "Gakk þú út  
*Thjostolf up and took axe his Svan spoke Go you out*  
 með mér. Lítils mun viðþurfa". Síðan gengu þeir út báðir.  
*with me Little will be-needed Then went they out both*  
 Svanr tók geitskinn eitt ok veifði yfir höfði sér ok mælti:  
*Svan took goatskin one and waved over head his and spoke*  
 "Verði þoka ok verði skrípi ok undr öllum þeim er eftir  
*Become fog and become phantoms and wonders to-all them who after*  
 þér sækja". Nú er frá því at segja, at þeir ríða á hálsinn,  
*you seek Now is of that to tell that they ride onto the-ridge*  
 Ósvífr ok hans förunautar. Þá kom þoka mikil á móti  
*Osvif and his companions Then came fog great in against*  
 þeim. Ósvífr mælti: "Þessu mun Svanr valda. Ok væri vel, ef  
*them Osvif spoke This will Svan cause And were well if*  
 eigi fylgdi meira ilt". Litlu síðar brá svá miklum sorta fyrir  
*not followed more ill A-little later came so great darkness before*  
 augu þeim, at þeir sá ekki. Ok fellu þeir þá af baki ok  
*eyes to-them that they saw nothing And fell they then off back and*  
 týndu hestunum ok gengu í fen ofan sjálfir, enn sumir  
*lost the-horses and went into bog down themselves but some*

í skóginn, svá at þeim helt við meiðingar. Þeir töpuðu  
*into the-wood so that to-them held near injuries They lost*  
 af sér vápnunum. Þá mælti Ósvífr: "Ef ek fynda hesta  
*from themselves the-weapons Then spoke Osvif If I found horses*  
 mína ok vápn, þá munda ek aftir hverfa". Ok er hann  
*my and weapons then would I back turn And when he*  
 hafði þetta mælt, þá sá þeir nakkvat ok fundu hesta sína  
*had this spoken then saw they somewhat and found horses their*  
 ok vápn. Þá eggjuðu margir á, at enn skyldi við leita um  
*and weapons Then urged many on that yet should with try about*  
 atreiðina. Ok var þat gert, ok urðu þeim þegar hin sömu  
*the-attack And was that done and befell them at-once the same*  
 undr. Ok fór svá þrim sinnum. Þá mælti Ósvífr: "Þó at  
*wonders And went so three times Then spoke Osvif Though that*  
 förin sé eigi góð, þá skal þó nú aftir hverfa. Nú skulu  
*the-journey be not good then shall yet now back turn Now shall*  
 vér gera ráð vart í annan stað. Ok hefi ek þat helzt í hug  
*we make plan our in another place And have I that most in mind*  
 mér at fara ok finna Höskuld föður Hallgerðar ok beiða  
*my to go and meet Hoskuld father of-Hallgerd and ask*  
 hann sonarbóta; því at þar er sæmdar ván, sem gnóg  
*him son-compensation because that there is of-honor expectation where plenty*  
 er til". Síðan riðu þeir til Breiðafjarðardala. Ok er nú ekki  
*is for Then rode they to Breidafjardardalir And is now nothing*  
 fyrr frá at segja, enn þeir koma á Höskuldsstaði. Þar var  
*sooner of to tell than they come to Hoskuldstadir There was*  
 þá fyrir með Höskuldi Hrútr bróðir hans. Ósvífr kvaddi út  
*then before with Hoskuld Hrut brother his Osvif called out*  
 Höskuld ok Hrút. Þeir gengu út báðir ok heilsuðu Ósvífri.  
*Hoskuld and Hrut They went out both and greeted Osvif*  
 Enn síðan gengu þeir á tal. Höskuldr spurði Ósvífr, hvaðan  
*But then went they to talk Hoskuld asked Osvif whence*

hann kvæmi at. Hann kveðst hafa farit at leita Þjóstólfs  
*he came from He says-of-himself to-have gone to seek Thjostolf*  
 ok fundit hann eigi. Höskuldr kvað hann kominn mundu  
*and found him not Hoskuld said him come would*  
 norðr á Svanshól, “ok er þat eigi allra manna at sækja  
*north to Svanshol and is that not of-all men to seek*  
 hann þangat”. “Því em ek hér kominn”, sagði Ósvífr, “at  
*him thither For-that am I here come said Osvif that*  
 ek vil beiða þik sonarbóta”. Höskuldr svaraði: “Eigi drap  
*I will ask you son-compensation Hoskuld answered Not killed*  
 ek son þinn, ok eigi réð ek honum bana; enn þó heldr  
*I son your and not planned I him death but yet holds*  
 þik várkunn til at leita á nökkur”. Hrútr mælti: “Náit er,  
*you excuse to to seek on something Hrut spoke Near is*  
 bróðir, nef augum; ok er nauðsyn at drepa niðr illu  
*brother (the)-nose to-(the)-eyes and is need to strike down ill*  
 orði ok bæta honum son sinn ok rífa svá ráð  
*word and compensate him son his and enlarge so (the)-prospects*  
 fyrir dóttur þinni. Er sá einn til, at þetta orðtak falli  
*for daughter your Is that alone for that this saying fall*  
 niðr sem skjótast: því at þá er betr, at hér sé fátt  
*down as quickest because that then is better that here be little*  
 til talat”. Höskuldr mælti: “Vill þú þá gera um málit?”  
*about talked Hoskuld spoke Will you then make about the-case*  
 “Þat vil ek”, segir Hrútr, “ok mun ek ekki hlífa þér í  
*That will I says Hrut and will I not spare you in*  
 gerðinni; því at ef satt skal tala, þá hefir dóttir þín  
*the-award because that if true shall speak then has daughter your*  
 ráðit honum banann”. Þá setti Höskuld dreyrrauðan ok  
*planned him the-death Then turned Hoskuld blood-red and*  
 mælti ekki nakkvara hríð. Síðan stóð hann upp ok mælti  
*spoke not some while Then stood he up and spoke*

til Ósvífrs: "Vill þú nú handsala mér niðrfall at sökinni?"  
*to Osvif Will you now hand-pledge me dropping of the-charge*  
 Ósvífr stóð upp ok mælti: "Eigi er þat jafnsætti at bróðir  
*Osvif stood up and spoke Not is that even-settlement that brother*  
 þinn geri um. Enn þó hefir þú svá vel til lagit, Hrútr,  
*your make about-(it) But yet have you so well to laid Hrut*  
 at ek trúi þér vel til málsins". Síðan tók hann í hönd  
*that I trust you well to the-matter Then took he in hand*  
 Höskuldi, ok sættust þeir svá á málit, at Hrútr skyldi  
*of-Hoskuld and settled they so on the-case that Hrut should*  
 gera ok lúka upp gerðinni, áðr Ósvífr færi heim.  
*make-(the)-award and declare up the-award before Osvif went home*  
 Síðan gerði Hrútr ok mælti: "Fyrir víg Þorvalds  
*Then made-(the)-award Hrut and spoke For (the)-slaying of-Thorvald*  
 geri ek tvau hundruð silfrs" — þat þóttu þá vera góð  
*award I two hundreds of-silver that seemed then to-be good*  
 manngjöld — "ok skalt þú gjalda þegar, bróðir, ok leysa  
*man-price and shall you pay at-once brother and discharge*  
 vel af hendi". Höskuldr gerði svá. Þá mælti Hrútr til  
*well from hand Hoskuld did so Then spoke Hrut to*  
 Ósvífrs: "Ek vil gefa þér skikkju góða, er ek hafða út".  
*Osvif I will give you a-cloak good which I had out*  
 Hann þakkaði honum gjöfina ok undi nú vel við, þar  
*He thanked him the-gift and was-content now well with where*  
 sem komit var, ok fór heim. Litlu síðar kvámu þeir þannug,  
*that come was and went home A-little later came they thither*  
 Hrútr ok Höskuldr, ok skiftu fé því sem þar stóð  
*Hrut and Hoskuld and divided (the)-wealth that which there stood*  
 saman — ok urðu þeir Ósvífr á þat vel sáttir ok fóru  
*together and became they Osvif(-and-they) on that well agreed and went*  
 heim með féit, ok er nú Ósvífr ór sögunni. Hallgerðr  
*home with the-wealth and is now Osvif out-of the-saga Hallgerd*

beiddi Höskuld at Þjóstólfr skyldi fara heim. Höskuldr  
*asked Hoskuld that Thjostolf should go home Hoskuld*  
 veitti henni þat — ok var lengi mart talat um víg  
*granted her that and was long much talked about (the)-slaying*  
 Þorvalds. Fé Hallgerðar gekk fram ok gerðist mikit.  
*of-Thorvald (The)-wealth of-Hallgerd went forth and became great*

XIII · GLÚMR ASKS FOR HALLGERÐR

*Glúmr, a wealthy trader and brother of the lawspeaker Þórarinn Ragabróðir, wants to marry Hallgerðr despite her history. Hrútr advises Höskuldr to tell the suitors her merits and faults, and proposes that she choose for herself and that Þjóstólfr not follow her south, on pain of being killed without redress. Hallgerðr arrives splendidly dressed, speaks graciously, and accepts Glúmr on her father's and Hrútr's advice. The wedding is fixed for Höskuldsstaðir.*

Bræðr þrír eru nemndir til sögunnar. Hét einn Þórarinn,  
*Brothers three are named to the-saga Was-called one Thorarin*  
 annarr Ragi, þriði Glúmr. Þeir váru synir Óleifs hjalta.  
*(the)-second Ragi (the)-third Glum They were sons of-Oleif Hjalti*  
 Þeir váru virðingamenn miklir ok vel auðgir at fé. Þórarinn  
*They were men-of-esteem great and well wealthy in money Thorarin*  
 átti þat kenningarnamn, at hann var kallaðr Ragabróðir.  
*had that byname that he was called Ragi's-brother*  
 Hann hafði lögsögu eftir Hrafn Hæingsson. Hann var  
*He had law-speaking after Hrafn Haeing's-son He was*  
 stórvitr maðr. Hann bjó at Varmalæk ok áttu þeir Glúmr  
*greatly-wise a-man He dwelt at Varmalæk and had they Glum(-and-be)*  
 bú saman. Glúmr hafði verit lengi í förum. Hann var  
*household together Glum had been long on voyages He was*  
 mikill maðr vexti ok sterkr ok fríðr sýnum. Ragi var  
*a-big man in-stature and strong and fair in-looks Ragi was*

vígamaðr mikill bróðir þeira. Þeir bræðr áttu suðr Engey  
*a-killer great brother their Those brothers owned south Engey*  
 ok Laugarnes. Þeir bræðr töluðu, Glúmr ok Þórarinn, ok  
*and Laugarnes Those brothers talked Glum and Thorarin and*  
 spurði Þórarinn Glúm, hvárt hann ætlaði utan sem hann  
*asked Thorarin Glum whether he intended abroad as he*  
 var vanr. Hann svaraði: "Hitt hafða ek nú heldr ætlat,  
*was used He answered The-other had I now rather intended*  
 at hætta kaupferðum". "Hvat er þér þá í skapi?" segir  
*to give-up trading-voyages What is to-you then in mind says*  
 Þórarinn. "Vill þú biðja þér konu?" "Þat vilda ek", sagði  
*Thorarin Will you ask-for yourself a-wife That would-wish I said*  
 Glúmr, "ef ek gæta vel fyrir mér sét". Þá taldi Þórarinn  
*Glum if I could well for me seen Then counted Thorarin*  
 upp konur þær sem váru í Borgarfirði ógiftar ok spurði ef  
*up women those who were in Borgarfjord unmarried and asked if*  
 hann vildi nakkvara eiga af þeim, — "ok mun ek ríða til  
*he would any have of them and will I ride to*  
 með þér". Hann svaraði: "Enga vil ek þessa eiga". "Nemn  
*with you He answered None will I of-these have Name*  
 þú þá at því þá er þú vill eiga", segir Þórarinn. Glúmr  
*you then to that the-one whom you will have says Thorarin Glum*  
 svaraði: "Ef þú vill þat vita, þá heitir hon Hallgerðr ok er  
*answered If you will that know then is-called she Hallgerd and is*  
 dóttir Höskulds í Dölum vestr". "Eigi er nú þat sem mælt  
*daughter of-Hoskuld in Dalir west Not is now that as said*  
 er", segir Þórarinn, "at þú látir þér annars víti at  
*is says Thorarin that you let for-yourself another's punishment for*  
 varnaði. Gift var hon manni ok réð hon þeim bana".  
*warning Married was she to-a-man and planned she him death*  
 Glúmr mælti: "Má at hana hendi eigi slík ógifta í annat  
*Glum spoke May-(be) that her befall not such ill-luck in a-second*

sinn; ok veit ek víst, at hon ræðr eigi mér bana. Enn ef  
*time and know I surely that she plans not me death But if*  
 þú vill mér nakkvara sæmd veita, þá rið þú til með mér  
*you will me some honor grant then ride you to with me*  
 at biðja konunnar”. Þórarinn mælti: “Ekki mun mega við  
*to ask-for the-woman Thorarin spoke Not will be-able against*  
 gera; þat mun verða fram at koma sem ætlat er”. Oft  
*do that will be forth to come as intended is Often*  
 kom Glúmr á um þetta mál við Þórarin. Enn hann fór  
*came Glum on about this matter with Thorarin But he went*  
 lengi undan. Enn þar kom um síðir at þeir sömnuðu  
*long from-under-(it) But there came at last that they gathered*  
 at sér mönnum ok riðu tuttugu saman vestr til Dala  
*to themselves men and rode twenty together west to Dalir*  
 ok kvámu á Höskuldsstaði ok tók Höskuldr vel við þeim,  
*and came to Hoskuldssadur and took Hoskuld well with them*  
 ok váru þeir þar um nóttina. Enn snimma um morgininn  
*and were they there through the-night But early in the-morning*  
 sendir Höskuldr eftir Hrúti — ok kom hann þegar ok var  
*sends Hoskuld after Hrut and came he at-once and was*  
 Höskuldr úti fyrir, er hann reið í tún. Höskuldr  
*Hoskuld outside before when he rode into (the)-homefield Hoskuld*  
 segir Hrúti hvat þar var komit manna. “Hvat munu þeir  
*tells Hrut what there was come of-men What will they*  
 vilja?” sagði Hrútr. “Engi hafa þeir erendi enn upp borit  
*wish said Hrut No have they errands yet up brought*  
 fyrir mik”, sagði Höskuldr. “Við þik munu þó erendin”,  
*before me said Hoskuld With you will yet the-errands*  
 segir Hrútr; “þeir munu biðja Hallgerðar — eða hversu  
*says Hrut they will ask-for Hallgerd or how*  
 munt þú svara?” “Hvat þykki þér ráð?” sagði Höskuldr.  
*will you answer What seems to-you counsel said Hoskuld*

“Vel skalt þú svara ok segja þó kost ok löst á konunni”,  
*Well shall you answer and tell yet merit and fault on the-woman*  
 segir Hrútr. Enn í þessu tali þeira bræðra ganga þeir út  
*says Hrut But in this talk of-those brothers go they out*  
 gestirnir. Höskuldr ok Hrútr gengu í mót þeim. Fagnaði  
*the-guests Hoskuld and Hrut went in against them Welcomed*  
 Hrútr vel Þórarni ok þeim báðum bræðrum. Síðan gengu  
*Hrut well Thorarin and them both brothers Then went*  
 þeir allir samt á tal. Ok mælti Þórarinn: “Ek em kominn  
*they all together to talk And spoke Thorarin I am come*  
 hingat með Glúmi bróður mínum þess erendis at biðja  
*hither with Glum brother my on-this errand to ask-for*  
 Hallgerðar dóttur þinnar, Höskuldr, til handa Glúmi bróður  
*Hallgerd daughter your Hoskuld to hands of-Glum brother*  
 mínum. Skalt þú þat vita, at hann er vel mannaðr”. “Veit  
*my Shall you that know that he is well accomplished Know*  
 ek þat”, sagði Höskuldr, “at þit eruð mikilsháttar menn,  
*I that said Hoskuld that you-two are of-great-account men*  
 bræðr, enn ek vil ok segja þér í mót at ek réð ráði  
*brothers but I will also tell you in return that I ruled (the)-match*  
 hennar fyrri ok varð oss þat at mikilli ógæfu”. Þórarinn  
*her before and became to-us that to great ill-luck Thorarin*  
 svarar: “Ekki munu vér þat láta fyrir kaupum standa; því  
*answers Not will we that let before bargains stand because*  
 at eigi skal einn eiðr alla verða — ok má þetta verða vel,  
*that not shall one oath all become and may this turn-out well*  
 þó at hitt yrði illa, enda spilti Þjóstólfr þar mest  
*though that the-other turned-out ill and-indeed spoiled Thjostolf there most*  
 um”. Þá mælti Hrútr: “Gefa munda ek yðr til ráð, ef  
*about-(it) Then spoke Hrut Give would I you for counsel if*  
 þér vilið eigi þetta láta fyrir ráðum standa, er áðr hefir  
*you will not this let before matches stand which before has*



orðit um hagi Hallgerðar, — at Þjóstólfur fari ekki suðr  
*happened about affairs of-Hallgerd that Thjostolf go not south*  
 með henni, þó at ráðin takist, ok veri þar aldri þrim  
*with her though that the-match be-made and be there never with-three*  
 nóttum lengr, nema Glúmr lofi, enn falli óheilagr fyrir  
*nights longer unless Glum permit but fall unballowed before*  
 Glúmi, ef hann er lengr — enn heimilt á Glúmr at lofa  
*Glum if he is longer but allowed has Glum to permit*  
 þat; enn ekki er þat mitt ráð. Skal nú ok eigi svá fara sem  
*that but not is that my counsel Shall now also not so go as*  
 fyrr, at Hallgerði sé eigi sagt: Skal hon vita allan þenna  
*before that to-Hallgerd be not told Shall she know all this*  
 kaupmála ok sjá Glúm ok ráða sjálf, hvárt hon vill eiga  
*marriage-contract and see Glum and decide herself whether she will have*  
 hann eða eigi — ok megi hon eigi öðrum kenna, þó at  
*him or not and may she not to-others ascribe-(it) though that*  
 eigi verði vel. Skal þetta alt vélalaust vera”. Þórarinn mælti:  
*not become well Shall this all deceitless be Thorarin spoke*  
 “Nú er sem jafnan, at þat mun best gegna, at þín ráð  
*Now is as always that that will best serve that your counsels*  
 sé höfð”. Þá var sent eftir Hallgerði ok kom hon þangat  
*be bad Then was sent after Hallgerd and came she thither*  
 ok tvær konur með henni. Hon hafði yfir sér vefjarmöttul  
*and two women with her She had over herself a-woven-mantle*  
 blán ok var undir í rauðum skarlazkyrtli ok silfrbelti um  
*blue and was under in red scarlet-tunic and silver-belt about*  
 sik, enn hárit tók ofan á bringuna tveim megin ok drap  
*herself but the-hair reached down to the-breast on-two sides and tucked*  
 hon undir belti sér. Hon settist niðr í milli þeira Hrúts  
*she under belt her She sat-herself down in between them Hrut*  
 ok föður síns. Hon kvaddi þá alla góðum orðum ok mælti  
*and father her She greeted them all with-good words and spoke*

vel ok skörulega ok spurði tíðenda. Síðan hætti hon at  
*well and nobly and asked for-tidings Then stopped she to*  
 tala. Glúmr mælti: “Um kaup við föður þinn höfu vit  
*talk Glum spoke About a-bargain with father your have we-two*  
 Þórarinn bróðir minn talat, at ek munda fá þín, Hallgerðr,  
*Thorarin brother my talked that I would get you Hallgerd*  
 ef þat er þinn vili sem þeira. Munt þú nú ok segja, er þú  
*if that is your will as theirs Will you now also say as you*  
 ert kölluð skörungr mikill, hvárt þat er nakkvat nær þínu  
*are called a-paragon great whether that is anything near your*  
 skapi, enn ef þér er engi hugr á kaupum við oss, þá  
*mind but if to-you is no mind on bargains with us then*  
 vilju vér ekki um tala”. Hallgerðr mælti: “Veit ek at þit  
*wish we nothing about to-talk Hallgerd spoke Know I that you-two*  
 eruð mikilsháttar menn, bræðr, ok veit ek, at ek mun nú  
*are of-great-account men brothers and know I that I will now*  
 miklu betr gefin enn fyrr; enn vita vil ek, hvat þér hafið  
*much better given than before but know will I what you have*  
 um talat eða hvé mjök þér hafið fram mælt málinu; enn  
*about talked or how much you have forth spoken the-matter but*  
 svá lízt mér á þik, at ek mun þér vel unnandi verða  
*so seems to-me on you that I will to-you well loving become*  
 ef vit komum skapi saman”. Glúmr sagði henni sjálf  
*if we-two come in-temper together Glum told her himself*  
 allan skildaga ok veik hvergi af ok spurði þá Höskuld  
*all terms and turned nowhere from and asked then Hoskuld*  
 ok Hrút, hvárt hann hermdi rétt. Höskuldr sagði svá vera.  
*and Hrut whether he reported right Hoskuld said so to-be*  
 Hallgerðr mælti þá: “Svá vel sem þér hefir farit til  
*Hallgerd spoke then So well as to-you has gone toward*  
 mín, faðir, um þetta mál, ok þér Hrútr, þá vil ek þetta  
*me father about this matter and to-you Hrut then will I this*

að ykkru ráði gera, ok skal þessi kaupmáli vera sem  
*by your-two counsel do and shall this marriage-contract be as*  
 þit hafið stofnat". Þá mælti Hrútr: "Þat þykki mér ráð,  
*you-two have established Then spoke Hrut That seems to-me counsel*  
 at vit Höskuldr nemnim vátta, enn Hallgerðr festi sik  
*that we-two Hoskuld name witnesses but Hallgerd betroth herself*  
 sjálf, ef lögmanni þykkir þat rétt": "Rétt er þat", sagði  
*herself if to-(the)-law-man seems that right Right is that said*  
 Þórarinn. Síðan váru virð fé Hallgerðar, ok skyldi  
*Thorarin Then were valued (the)-wealth of-Hallgerd and should*  
 Glúmr leggja í móti jafnmikit, ok skyldi vera helmingarfélag  
*Glum lay in against equally-great and should be half-partnership*  
 með þeim. Glúmr fastnaði sér þá Hallgerði, ok riðu  
*between them Glum betrothed to-himself then Hallgerd and rode*  
 þeir suðr heim. Enn Höskuldr skyldi hafa boð inni. Er  
*they south home But Hoskuld should have (the)-feast inside Is*  
 nú kyrt þar til er menn ríða til boðs.  
*now quiet there until that men ride to (the)-feast*

#### XIV • HALLGERÐR AT VARMALÆKR

*At the wedding Þjóstólfr swaggers about with his axe while no one objects. Þórarinn gives the Varmalækr farm to Glúmr and Hallgerðr and moves to Laugarnes. Hallgerðr bears a daughter, Þorgerðr, named for Glúmr's grandmother and descended from Sigurðr Fáfnisbani. Svanr is lost at sea, though fishermen say they saw him welcomed into the mountain Kaldbaksbörn. Þórarinn tells Glúmr he will reclaim Varmalækr if he outlives him.*

Þeir bræðr fjölmenna mjök til veizlunnar ok höfðu valit lið.  
*Those brothers gather-many much to the-feast and had chosen men*  
 Þeir riðu vestr til dala ok kvámu á Höskuldsstaði, ok var  
*They rode west to Dalir and came to Hoskuldstadir and was*

þar fjölmenni mikit fyrir. Skipuðu þeir Höskuldr ok Hrutr  
*there a-crowd great before Filled they Hoskuld and Hrut*  
 annan bekk, enn brúðgumi annan. Hallgerðr sat á palli  
*one bench but (the)-bridegroom (the)-other Hallgerd sat on (the)-dais*  
 ok samdi sér vel. Þjóstólfr gekk með reidda öxi ok lét hit  
*and bore herself well Thjostolf went with raised axe and acted the*  
 dólglegasta, ok lét þat engi sem vissi. Enn er boði var  
*most-threatening and let that none as knew But when (the)-feast was*  
 lokit, fór Hallgerðr suðr með þeim. Enn er þau kvámu suðr  
*finished went Hallgerd south with them But when they came south*  
 til Varmalækjar, þá spurði Þórarinn Hallgerði, ef hon vildi  
*to Varmalaek then asked Thorarin Hallgerd if she would*  
 taka við búráðum. “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir hon. Hallgerðr  
*take with household-management Not will I that says she Hallgerd*  
 sat mjök á sér um vetrinn, ok líkaði við hana ekki illa.  
*sat much on herself through the-winter and liked-(it) with her not ill*  
 Enn um várit töluðu þeir um fjárhagi sína, bræðr, ok  
*But in the-spring talked they about money-affairs their brothers and*  
 mælti Þórarinn: “Ek vil gefa ykk upp búit at Varmalæk;  
*spoke Thorarin I will give you-two up the-farm at Varmalaek*  
 því at ykk er þat hægst um hönd. Enn ek mun  
*because that to-you-two is that easiest about hand But I will*  
 fara suðr í Laugarnes ok búa þar. Enn Engey skulu vit  
*go south to Laugarnes and dwell there But Engey shall we-two*  
 eiga báðir saman”. Glúmr vildi, at svá væri. Fór Þórarinn  
*own both together Glum wished that so were Went Thorarin*  
 suðr bygðum. Enn þau bjoggu þar eftir. Réð Hallgerðr  
*south to-dwelling But they dwelt there after Hired Hallgerd*  
 sér hjón. Hon var örlynd ok fengsöm. Enn um sumarit  
*for-herself servants She was lavish and grasping But in the-summer*  
 fæddi hon meybarn. Glúmr sagði henni, hvat heita skyldi:  
*bore she a-girl-child Glum told her what be-called should*

“hana skal kalla eftir föðurmóðir minni — ok skal heita  
*her shall call after father's-mother my and shall be-called*  
 Þorgerðr — því at hon var komin frá Sigurði fáfnisbana í  
*Thorgerd because that she was come from Sigurd Fafnir's-slayer in*  
 föðurætt sína at langfeðgatölu”. Mærin var vatni ausin —  
*father's-line her by long-forefather-count The-maiden was with-water sprinkled*  
 ok þetta nafn gefit. Hon óx þar upp ok gerðist lík  
*and this name given She grew there up and became like*  
 móður sinni at yfirlitum. Þau sömdust vel við, Glúmr  
*mother her in looks They agreed well with-each-other Glumr*  
 ok Hallgerðr; ok fór svá fram um hríð. — Þau tíðendi  
*and Hallgerd and went so forth for a-while Those tidings*  
 spurðust ór Bjarnarfirði norðan, at Svanr hafði róit at  
*were-learned out-of Bjarnarfjord from-the-north that Svan had rowed to*  
 veiðiskap um várit, ok kom at þeim austanveðr mikít, ok  
*fishng in the-spring and came at them an-east-storm great and*  
 rak þá upp at Veðílausu ok týndust þar. Enn fiskimenn  
*drove them up at Veidilausa and were-lost there But fishermen*  
 þeir er váru í Kaldbak þóttust sjá Svan ganga inn í  
*those who were in Kaldbak thought-themselves to-see Svan go in into*  
 fjallit Kaldbakshorn, ok var honum þar vel fagnat. Enn  
*the-mountain Kaldbaksborn and was to-him there well welcomed But*  
 sumir mæltu því í mót ok kváðu engu gegna. Enn þat  
*some spoke that in against and said-(it) nothing mean But that*  
 vissu allir, at hann fanst hvárki lífs né dauðr. Enn er  
*knew all that he was-found neither alive nor dead But when*  
 Hallgerðr spurði þessi tíðendi, þótti henni skaði mikill eftir  
*Hallgerd learned these tidings seemed to-her loss great after*  
 móðurbróður sinn. Glúmr bauð Þórarni at skifta um löndin.  
*mother's-brother her Glum offered Thorarin to exchange about the-lands*  
 Hann kveðst eigi þat vilja, “enn seg þú Hallgerði, ef ek  
*He says-of-himself not that to-wish but tell you Hallgerd if I*

lifi þér lengr, at ek ætla mér Varmalæk". Glúmr segir  
*live you longer that I intend for-myself Varmalæk Glum tells*  
 Hallgerði. Hon svaraði: "Maklegr er Þórarinn þess frá oss".  
*Hallgerd She answered Deserving is Thorarin of-that from us*

## XV · ÞJÓSTÓLFR COMES SOUTH

*Driven off by Höskuldr for beating a house-carl, Þjóstólfr rides to Varmalæk. Hallgerðr embraces Glúmr and asks him to let her foster-father stay, and Glúmr agrees on condition that Þjóstólfr cause no trouble. For a while he behaves, then begins to spoil everything, deferring to no one but Hallgerðr. Þórarinn warns Glúmr that keeping him will end as before, but Glúmr answers mildly and goes his own way.*

Þjóstólfr hafði barit húskarl Höskulds, ok rak Höskuldr  
*Thjostolf had beaten a-house-carl of-Hoskuld and drove Hoskuld*  
 hann í braut. Hann tók hest sinn ok vörn sín ok mælti  
*him off away He took horse his and weapons his and spoke*  
 við Höskuld: "Nú mun ek á braut fara ok koma aldri aftur".  
*with Hoskuld Now will I off away go and come never back*  
 "Allir munu því fagna", segir Höskuldr. Þjóstólfr reið til  
*All will that welcome says Hoskuld Thjostolf rode until*  
 þess er hann kom til Varmalækjar. Hann hafði þar góðar  
*that when he came to Varmalæk He had there good*  
 viðtökur af Hallgerði, enn eigi illar af Glúmi. Hann sagði  
*receptions from Hallgerd but not ill from Glum He told*  
 Hallgerði at faðir hennar hefði hann á braut rekit, ok bað  
*Hallgerd that father her had him off away driven and asked*  
 hana ásja. Hon svaraði honum því at hon kveðst honum  
*her protection She answered him that that she says-of-herself him*  
 engu mega heita um þarvist hans fyrr enn hon fyndi  
*nothing to-be-able promise about stay his before than she met*

Glúm. “Ferr vel með ykkur?” segir hann. “Vel er um ástir  
*Glum Goes well between you-two says he Well is about loves*  
 okkrar”, segir hon. Síðan gekk hon til máls við Glúm ok  
*our-two says she Then went she to speech with Glum and*  
 lagði hendr upp um háls honum ok mælti: “Skalt þú veita  
*laid hands up about neck his and spoke Shall you grant*  
 mér bæn þá er ek mun biðja þik?” “Veita mun ek þér,  
*me request that which I will ask you Grant will I you*  
 ef þér er sæmd í”, segir hann, “eða hvers vill þú biðja?”  
*if to-you is honor in-(it) says he or what will you ask*  
 Hon mælti: “Þjóstólfr er rekinn í braut vestan þaðan —  
*She spoke Thjostolf is driven off away from-the-west thence*  
 ok vilda ek, at þú leyfðir honum at vera hér. Enn ek  
*and would-wish I that you allowed him to be here But I*  
 vil þó eigi þvert taka, ef þér er lítit um”. Glúmr mælti:  
*will yet not flatly take-(it) if to-you is little about-(it) Glum spoke*  
 “Nú er þér ferr svá vel, skal ek veita þér þetta. Enn seg,  
*Now since to-you goes so well shall I grant you this But say*  
 at hann skal í brautu verða, ef hann tekr nakkvat til  
*that he shall off away be if he takes-up anything ill*  
 til”. Hon gengr til Þjóstólfs ok segir honum. Hann svaraði:  
*to-do She goes to Thjostolf and tells him He answered*  
 “Nú ferr þér enn vel, sem ván var at”. Síðan var hann  
*Now goes to-you yet well as expected was to Then was he*  
 þar ok sat á sér um hríð. Enn þar kom, at hann þótti  
*there and sat on himself for a-while But there came that he seemed*  
 þar öllu spilla. Tók hann þá at hlífast við engan mann,  
*there all to-spoil Took he then to spare-himself toward no man*  
 nema við Hallgerði. Enn hon veitti honum aldri eftirmæli  
*except toward Hallgerd But she gave him never blame*  
 þá er hann átti við aðra. Þórarinn bróðir Glúms  
*then when he bad-(dealings) with others Thorarin brother of-Glum*

taldi á við hann, er hann lét Þjóstólf þar vera, ok  
*remonstrated on with him when he let Thjostolf there be and*  
 kvað illa gefast mundu ok fara enn, sem fyrr, ef hann  
*said-(it) ill to-turn-out would and go again as before if he*  
 væri þar. Glúmr svaraði vel, ok brá þó á sitt ráð.  
*were there Glum answered well and turned yet to his course*

## XVI · THE QUARREL OVER THE SHEEP

*One autumn many of Glúmr's wethers are missing, and Þjóstólfr refuses to search for sheep with the thralls. Glúmr tells Hallgerðr what passed; she takes Þjóstólfr's side, and when they quarrel Glúmr slaps her and walks away. She loves him and weeps aloud. Þjóstólfr comes and says she is badly treated. She tells him he is not to avenge it or have any part in it, and he goes off grinning.*

Þat var eitthvert haust, at heimtur váru illar á fé manna,  
*It was some autumn that round-ups were bad of livestock of-men*  
 ok var Glúmi vant margra geldinga. Þá mælti Glúmr við  
*and was to-Glum missing many wethers Then spoke Glum with*  
 Þjóstólf: “Gakk þú á fjall með húskörlum mínum —  
*Thjostolf Go you to (the)-mountain with house-carls my*  
 ok vitið, ef þér finnið nakkvat af sauðum”. “Ekki eru mér  
*and find-out if you find any of sheep Not are to-me*  
 fjárleitir hentar”, sagði Þjóstólfr, “enda er þat ærit eitt til,  
*sheep-searches suited said Thjostolf and-indeed is that ample one for*  
 at ek vil eigi ganga í spor þrælum þínum; ok far þú sjálf  
*that I will not go in (the)-tracks of-thralls your and go you yourself*  
 ok mun ek þá fara með þér”. Þetta varð þeim at orðum  
*and will I then go with you This became to-them in words*  
 mjök. Hallgerðr sat úti ok var á veðr gott. Glúmr gekk  
*much Hallgerd sat outside and was on weather good Glum went*



at henni ok mælti: “Ílt höfu vit Þjóstólfr nú saman átt ok  
to her and spoke Ill have we-two Thjostolf now together had and  
munu vit skamma stund saman búa” — og sagði henni  
will we-two short while together dwell and told her  
alt þat er þeir höfðu við ræðzt. Hallgerðr mælti þá eftir  
all that which they had with spoken Hallgerd spoke then after  
Þjóstólfi ok varð þeim þá mjök at orðum. Glúmr drap til  
Thjostolf and became to-them then much in words Glum struck at  
hennar hendi sinni ok mælti: “Ekki deili ek við þik lengr”,  
her with-hand his and spoke Not quarrel I with you longer  
ok gekk síðan í braut. Hon unni honum mikit ok mátti  
and went then off away She loved him much and could  
eigi stilla sik ok grét hástöfum. Þjóstólfr gekk at henni ok  
not restrain herself and wept loudly Thjostolf went to her and  
mælti: “Sárt ert þú leikin ok skyldi eigi svá oft”. “Ekki skalt  
spoke Sorely are you treated and should not so often Not shall  
þú þessa hefna”, segir hon, “ok engan hlut í eiga, hversu  
you this avenge says she and no share in have however  
sem með okkr ferr”. Hann gekk í braut ok glotti við.  
as between us-two goes He went off away and grinned at-(it)

XVII · THE KILLINGS OF GLÚMR AND ÞJÓSTÓLFR

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*On the sheep round Glúmr and Þjóstólfr end up alone, insult each other, and fight; Þjóstólfr kills Glúmr and takes his ring. Hallgerðr laughs at the news and sends him to Hrótr, who is already awake when he strikes the door, learns that he has killed Glúmr, and kills him. Þórarinn rides west to ask compensation. Höskuldr points out that Hrótr has already killed the slayer, but the brothers give Þórarinn gifts anyway, and Hallgerðr moves to Laugarnes.*

Glúmr kvaddi menn til ferðar með sér ok bjóst  
*Glum summoned men to (the)-journey with himself and made-ready*  
 Þjóstólfr með Glúmi. Þeir fóru upp Reykjardal hinn syðra  
*Thjostolf with Glum They went up Reykjardal the southern*  
 ok upp hjá Baugagili ok upp til Þverfells ok skifta þar  
*and up by Baugagil and up to Thverfell and divide there*  
 liðinu — ok fóru sumir í Skorradalsleit, enn suma sendi  
*the-company and went some to Skorradalsleit but some sent*  
 hann suðr til Súlna, ok fundu þeir allir fjölda fjár. Svá  
*he south to Sulus and found they all a-multitude of-sheep So*  
 kom, at þeir váru tveir sér, Glúmr og Þjóstólfr. Þeir  
*came-(it) that they were two by-themselves Glum and Thjostolf They*  
 gengu suðr frá Þverfelli ok fundu þar sauði skjarra ok eltu  
*went south from Thverfell and found there sheep wild and chased*  
 sunnan at fjallinu. Kvámust sauðirnir upp á fjallit  
*from-the-south to the-mountain Came the-sheep up onto the-mountain*  
 fyrir þeim. Ámælti þá hvárr þeira öðrum — og mælti  
*before them Blamed then each of-them (the)-other and spoke*  
 Þjóstólfr við Glúm at hann mundi til engis hafa afla  
*Thjostolf with Glum that he would for nothing have strength*  
 annars enn brölta á maga Hallgerði. Glúmr mælti: “Án  
*other than to-flounder on (the)-belly of-Hallgerd Glum spoke Lacking*  
 er ilt gengi, nema heiman hafi; ek skal taka hæðirði  
*is ill support unless from-home have-(it) I shall take mocking-words*  
 af þér, þar sem þú ert þræll fast á fótum”. Þjóstólfr  
*from you where that you are a-thrall fast on feet Thjostolf*  
 mælti: “Þat skalt þú eiga til at segja, at ek em eigi þræll;  
*spoke That shall you have to to say that I am not a-thrall*  
 því at ek skal hvergi undan þér láta”. Þá reiddist  
*because that I shall nowhere back-from you give-way Then grew-angry*  
 Glúmr ok hjó til Þjóstólfs með saxi, enn hann brá  
*Glum and hewed at Thjostolf with a-short-sword but he swung*

við öxinni ok kom í fetann ok beit í ofan um tvá  
*against-(it) the-axe and came into the-blade and bit in down about two*  
 fingr. Þjóstólfr hjó með öxinni í móti, ok kom á öxlina  
*fingers Thjostolf hewed with the-axe in against and came on the-shoulder*  
 ok tók í sundr axlarbeinit ok viðbeinit, og blæddi inn  
*and took in asunder the-shoulder-bone and the-collarbone and bled in*  
 ór sárinu. Glúmr greip til Þjóstólfs annarri hendi svá  
*out-of the-wound Glum gripped to Thjostolf with-(the)-other hand so*  
 fast at hann fell við. Glúmr mátti ekki halda, því at  
*hard that he fell with-(it) Glum could not hold because that*  
 dauðinn fór á hann. Þjóstólfr huldi hræ hans með grjóti  
*the-death came on him Thjostolf covered corpse his with stones*  
 ok tók af honum gullhring. Hann gekk þar til er hann  
*and took from him a-gold-ring He went there until that he*  
 kom til Varmalækjar. Hallgerð var úti ok sá at blóðug  
*came to Varmalaek Hallgerd was outside and saw that bloody*  
 var öxin. Hann kastaði til hennar gullhringinum. Hon mælti:  
*was the-axe He threw to her the-gold-ring She spoke*  
 “Hvat segir þú tíðenda?” “eða hví er öx þín blóðug?” Hann  
*What say you of-tidings or why is axe your bloody He*  
 svaraði: “Eigi veit ek, hversu þér mun þykkja; ek segi  
*answered Not know I how to-you will seem I tell*  
 þér víg Glúms”. “Þú munt því valda”, segir hon. Hon  
*you (the)-slaying of-Glum You will that cause says she She*  
 hló at og mælti: “Eigi ert þú engi í leikinum”. Hann  
*laughed at-(it) and spoke Not are you none in the-game He*  
 mælti: “Hvert ráð sér þú fyrir mér nú?” “Far þú til Hrúts  
*spoke What counsel see you for me now Go you to Hrut*  
 föðurbróður míns”, segir hon, “ok sjái hann fyrir þér”. “Eigi  
*father's-brother my says she and see he for you Not*  
 veit ek”, sagði Þjóstólfr, “hvárt þetta er heilræði, enn þó  
*know I said Thjostolf whether this is good-counsel but yet*

skal ek þínum ráðum fram fara um þetta mál". Tók hann  
*shall I your counsels forth follow about this matter Took he*  
 þá hest sinn ok reið á braut ok lýkr eigi ferð sinni fyrr  
*then horse his and rode off away and ends not journey his before*  
 enn hann kom á Hrútsstaði um nótt. Hann bindr hest  
*than he came to Hrutsstadir in (the)-night He ties horse*  
 sinn á bak húsum — gengr síðan at durum og lýstr á  
*his on back of-(the)-houses goes then to (the)-door and strikes on*  
 högg mikit. Eftir þat gengr hann norðr um húsin. Hrútr  
*a-blow great After that goes he north around the-houses Hrut*  
 hafði vakat ok kipti upphávum skóm á fætr sér, fór í  
*had been-awake and pulled high shoes on feet his went into*  
 treyju ok tók sverð í hönd sér. Hann vafði mötli um  
*a-jacket and took a-sword in hand his He wrapped a-mantle around*  
 vinstri hönd sér ok upp um handlegginn. Menn vöknuðu  
*left hand his and up about the-forearm Men woke*  
 við, er hann gekk út. Hann gekk norðr um vegginn ok  
*with-(it) when he went out He went north along the-wall and*  
 sá þar mann mikinn ok kendi, at þar var Þjóstólfr. Hrútr  
*saw there a-man big and recognized that there was Thjostolf Hrut*  
 spurði tíðenda. "Ek segi þér víg Glúms", segir Þjóstólfr.  
*asked for-tidings I tell you (the)-slaying of-Glum says Thjostolf*  
 "Hverr veldr því", segir Hrútr. "Ek vá hann", segir Þjóstólfr.  
*Who causes that says Hrut I slew him says Thjostolf*  
 "Hví reitt þú hingat?" segir Hrútr. "Hallgerðr sendi mik  
*Why rode you hither says Hrut Hallgerd sent me*  
 til þín", segir Þjóstólfr. "Eigi veldr hon þessu þá", segir  
*to you says Thjostolf Not causes she this then says*  
 Hrútr og brá sverðinu. Þetta sá Þjóstólfr ok vill eigi verða  
*Hrut and drew the-sword This saw Thjostolf and will not be*  
 seinni ok högg þegar til Hrúts. Hrútr brást skjótt undan  
*later and bews at-once at Hrut Hrut swerved quickly from-under*

höggvinu ok laust vinstri hendi utan á hlýr öxinni svá  
*the-blow and struck with-left hand outside on (the)-cheek of-the-axe so*  
 snart, at öxin hraut úr hendi Þjóstólfi. Hrútr hjó með  
*sharply that the-axe flew out-of (the)-hand of-Thjostolf Hrut bewed with*  
 hægri hendi á fót Þjóstólfs fyrir ofan knéit ok hljóp at  
*right hand on (the)-leg of-Thjostolf above over the-knee and leaped at*  
 honum við og hratt honum. Fell Þjóstólfr á bak aftr,  
*him with-(it) and pushed him Fell Thjostolf on back backward*  
 enn fóttrinn loddi. Þá hjó Hrútr annat högg hann til bana,  
*but the-leg dangled Then bewed Hrut a-second blow him to death*  
 ok kom þat í höfuðit. Þá kvámu út húskarlar Hrúts ok  
*and came that into the-head Then came out house-carls of-Hrut and*  
 sá verks of merki. Hrútr lét færa Þjóstólf í braut ok  
*saw of-(the)-deed — (the)-marks Hrut had carry Thjostolf off away and*  
 hylja hræ hans. Síðan fór Hrútr að finna Höskuld og sagði  
*cover corpse his Then went Hrut to meet Hoskuld and told*  
 honum víg Glúms ok svá Þjóstólfs. Honum þótti skaði  
*him (the)-slaying of-Glum and so of-Thjostolf To-him seemed loss*  
 mikill at um Glúm, enn þakkaði honum vígit Þjóstólfs. —  
*great at about Glum but thanked him the-slaying of-Thjostolf*  
 Nú er þar til máls at taka, að Þórarinn Ragabróðir  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take that Thorarin Ragi's-brother*  
 spyrr lát Glúms bróður síns. Ríðr hann við tólfta  
*learns (the)-death of-Glum brother his Rides he with (the)-twelfth*  
 mann vestr til Dala ok kom á Höskuldsstaði. Höskuldr tók  
*man west to Dalir and came to Hoskuldssadair Hoskuld took*  
 báðum böndum við honum, ok er hann þar um nóttina.  
*with-both hands with him and is he there through the-night*  
 Höskuldr sendir þegar eftir Hrúti, at hann kvæmi þangat.  
*Hoskuld sends at-once after Hrut that he came thither*  
 Hann fór þegar. Ok um daginn eftir töluðu þeir mart um  
*He went at-once And on the-day after talked they much about*

látit Glúms. Þórarinn mælti: “Vill þú nokkuru bæta  
*the-death of-Glum Thorarin spoke Will you anything compensate*  
 mér bróðurinn? því at ek hefi mikils mist”. Höskuldr  
*me the-brother because that I have much lost Hoskuld*  
 svaraði: “Eigi drap ek bróður þinn, ok eigi réð dóttir  
*answered Not killed I brother your and not planned daughter*  
 mín honum bana; enn þegar Hrútr vissi, þá drap hann  
*my him death but as-soon-as Hrut knew then killed be*  
 Þjóstólf”. Þá þagnaði Þórarinn, og þótti vandast  
*Thjostolf Then fell-silent Thorarin and seemed-(to-him) grow-difficult*  
 málit. Hrútr mælti: “Geru vit góða ferð hans — hann  
*the-matter Hrut spoke Make we-two good journey his be*  
 hefir víst mikils mist — ok mun þat vel fyrir mælast,  
*has surely much lost and will that well for be-spoken*  
 ok gefum honum gjafar, ok sé hann vinr okkarr alla æfi  
*and give-we him gifts and be he friend our-two all life*  
 síðan”. Ok fór þetta fram, at þeir gáfu honum gjafar,  
*after And went this forth that they gave him gifts*  
 bræðr. Ok reið hann suðr afr. Þau Hallgerðr skiftu um  
*brothers And rode he south back They Hallgerd(-and-be) exchanged about*  
 bústaði um vartit — ok fór hon suðr á Laugarnes,  
*dwelling-places in the-spring and went she south to Laugarnes*  
 enn hann til Varmalækjar. Ok er Þórarinn ór sögunni.  
*but he to Varmalaek And is Thorarin out-of the-saga*

## XVIII • MÖRÐR GÍGJA DIES

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*Mörðr gígja falls ill and dies, and his daughter Unnr inherits all his wealth. Not yet married a second time, she is lavish and careless with money, and her movable goods waste away until she has nothing left but her lands and treasures.*

Nú er þar til máls at taka, at Mörðr gígja tók sótt ok  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take that Mord Fiddle took sickness and*  
 andaðist, ok þótti þat skaði mikill. Unnr dóttir hans tók fé  
*died and seemed that loss great Unn daughter his took wealth*  
 alt eftir hann. Hon var þá ógefin í annat sinn. Hon var  
*all after him She was then unmarried in a-second time She was*  
 örlynd mjök ok óforsjál um fjárhagi, ok tók at eyðast fyrir  
*lavish very and improvident about money-affairs and began to be-wasted before*  
 henni lausaféit svá at hon átti ekki nema lönd ok gripi.  
*her the-movable-wealth so that she had nothing except lands and treasures*

XIX • GUNNARR OF HLÍÐARENDI

*Gunnarr Hámundarson of Hlíðarendi, Unnr's kinsman, is introduced with his descent. He is tall, strong, and the best fighter of all: he strikes with either hand, shoots unerringly, can leap higher than his own height in armor, and swims like a seal. He is handsome, courteous, generous, and a loyal friend. His brothers are Kolskeggr, strong and steadfast, and the boy Hjörtr, and his sister Arngunnr is the mother of Hámundr halti.*

Gunnarr hét maðr. Hann var frændi Unnar. Rannveig  
*Gunnar was-called a-man He was kinsman of-Unn Rannveig*  
 hét móðir hans ok var Sigmundardóttir, Sigvatssonar hins  
*was-called mother his and was Sigmund's-daughter of-Sigvat's-son the*  
 rauða. Hann var veginn við Sandhólaferju. Faðir Gunnars  
*Red He was slain at Sandholaferja Father of-Gunnar*  
 hét Hámundr, ok var sonr Gunnars Baugssonar. Við þann  
*was-called Hamund and was son of-Gunnar Baug's-son After him*  
 er kent Gunnarsholt. Móðir Hámundar hét Hrafnhildr.  
*who is-named Gunnarsholt Mother of-Hamund was-called Hrafnhild*  
 Hon var Stórolfsdóttir, Hæings sonar. Stórolfr var bróðir  
*She was Storolf's-daughter of-Haeing son Storolf was brother*

Hrafn's lögsögumanns. Sonr Stórólfs var Ormr hinn sterki.  
*of-Hrafn (the)-law-speaker Son of-Storolf was Orm the Strong*  
 Gunnarr Hámundarson bjó at Hlíðarenda í Fljótshlíð. Hann  
*Gunnar Hamund's-son dwelt at Hlidarendi in Fljotsblid He*  
 var mikill maðr vexti ok sterkr ok allra manna bezt vígr.  
*was a-big man in-stature and strong and of-all men best fighting*  
 Hann hjó báðum höndum ok skaut, ef hann vildi; ok  
*He bewed with-both hands and shot if he wished and*  
 hann vá svá skjótt með sverði, at þrjú þóttu á lofti  
*he struck so quickly with (the)-sword that three seemed in (the)-air*  
 at sjá. Hann skaut manna bezt af boga ok hæfði alt  
*to see He shot of-men best with a-bow and hit all*  
 þat er hann skaut til. Hann hljóp meir enn hæð sína  
*that which he shot at He leaped more than height his*  
 með öllum herklæðum ok eigi skemra aftr enn fram fyrir  
*with all war-gear and not shorter back than forward before*  
 sik. Hann var syndr sem selr. Ok eigi var sá leikr, at  
*himself He was swimming as a-seal And not was that sport that*  
 nakkvarr þyrfti við hann at keppa, ok hefir svá verit sagt,  
*any needed with him to compete and has so been said*  
 ar engi væri hans jafningi. Hann var vænn at yfirliti ok  
*that none were his equal He was handsome in looks and*  
 ljóslitaðr, rétt nefit ok hafit upp í framan vert, bláeygr  
*light-complexioned straight the-nose and raised up in front part blue-eyed*  
 ok snareygr ok rjóðr í kinnum, hárit mikit, gult, ok fór  
*and keen-eyed and ruddy in cheeks the-hair great yellow and lay*  
 vel. Manna var hann kurteisast, harðgerr í öllu, ráðhollr  
*well Of-men was he most-courteous bardy in all wise-in-counsel*  
 ok góðgjarn, mildr ok stiltr vel, vinfastr ok vinavandr.  
*and well-meaning generous and composed well firm-in-friendship and choosy-of-friends*  
 Hann var vel auðigr at fé. Bróðir hans hét Kolskeggr.  
*He was well wealthy in money Brother his was-called Kolskegg*



Hann var mikill maðr ok sterkr, drengr góðr ok öruggr í  
*He was a-big man and strong a-fellow good and steadfast in*  
 öllu. Annarr bróðir hans hét Hjörtr. Hann var þá í  
*all (The)-second brother his was-called Hjort He was then in*  
 barnæsku. Ormr skógarnef var bróðir Gunnars laungetinn;  
*childhood Orm Wood-spur was brother of-Gunnar born-out-of-wedlock*  
 ok er hann ekki við þessa sögu. Arngunnr hét systir  
*and is he not in this saga Arngunn was-called sister*  
 Gunnars. Hana átti Hróarr tungugóði, sonr Una hins  
*of-Gunnar Her had Hroar Tunga-priest son of-Uni the*  
 óborna, Garðars sonar. Sá fann Ísland. Sonr Arngunnar  
*Unborn of-Gardar son That-one found Iceland Son of-Arngunn*  
 var Hámundr halti, er bjó á Hámundarstöðum.  
*was Hamund (the)-Lame who dwelt at Hamundarstadir*

XX · NJÁLL OF BERGPÓRSHVÁLL

*Njáll Þorgeirsson of Bergþórshváll in Landeyjar is wealthy and handsome but grows no beard. He is so great a lawyer that he has no equal, and he is wise, prescient, gentle, and far-seeing, with a long memory; whatever he advises turns out well, and he solves the difficulties of all who come to him. His wife is Bergþóra Skarpheðinsdóttir, a formidable woman but somewhat harsh-tempered. They have three sons and three daughters, all of whom figure in the saga.*

Njáll hét maðr. Hann var sonr Þorgeirs gollnis, Ófeigs sonar.  
*Njal was-called a-man He was son of-Thorgeir Gollnir of-Ofeig son*  
 Móðir Njáls hét Ásgerðr. Hon var dóttir Áskels hersis hins  
*Mother of-Njal was-called Asgerd She was daughter of-Askel (the)-lord the*  
 ómálga. Hon hafði komit út hingat til Íslands ok numit land  
*Dumb She had come out hither to Iceland and taken land*  
 fyrir austan Markarfljót milli Öldusteins ok Seljalandsmúla.  
*on (the)-east-of Markarfljot between Oldustein and Seljalandsmuli*

Sonr hennar var Holta-Þórir, faðir þeira Þorleifs kráks, er  
*Son her was Holta-Thorir father of-them Thorleif Crow whom*  
 Skógverjar eru frá komnir ok Þorgríms hins mikla ok  
*(the)-Skogar-men are from come and of-Thorgrim the Big and*  
 Þorgeirs skorargeirs. Njáll bjó at Bergþórshváli í Landeyjum.  
*of-Thorgeir Skorargeir Njal dwelt at Bergthorshvol in Landeyjar*  
 Annat bú átti hann í Þórólfsfelli. Njáll var vel auðigr at fé  
*Another farm owned he in Thorolfsfell Njal was well wealthy in money*  
 ok vænn maðr yfirlits. Enn sá hlutr varð á ráði hans, at  
*and a-bandsome man in-looks But that thing was in condition his that*  
 honum óx eigi skegg. Hann var lögmaðr svá mikill, at engi  
*to-him grew not beard He was a-law-man so great that none*  
 var hans jafningi, vitr ok forspár, heilráðr ok góðgjarn —  
*was his equal wise and foresighted good-counseling and well-meaning*  
 ok varð alt at ráði þat er hann réð mönnum, —  
*and became all to counsel that which he counseled men*  
 hógværr ok drenglyndr, langsýnn ok langminnigr. Hann leysti  
*gentle and magnanimous far-seeing and long-remembering He solved*  
 hvers manns vandræði, er á hans fund kom. Bergþóra hét  
*of-every man's difficulties who to his meeting came Bergthora was-called*  
 kona hans. Hon var Skarpheðinsdóttir, kvenskörungr mikill ok  
*wife his She was Skarphedin's-daughter a-woman-paragon great and*  
 drengr góðr ok nakkvat skaphöð. Þau Njáll áttu sex börn,  
*a-fellow good and somewhat harsh-tempered They Njal(-and-she) had six children*  
 þrjá sonu ok þrjár dætr ok koma þeir allir við þessa sögu.  
*three sons and three daughters and come they all into this saga*

*Having spent her money, Unnr rides to Hlíðarendi and asks her kinsman Gunnarr to recover her dowry from Hrútr. Gunnarr offers her money instead and says he knows little law, but she tells him Hrútr won the case by force rather than law and that no one else will take it up. Gunnarr agrees and goes to ask Njáll's advice. Njáll warns that the case is dangerous and says his plan will work only if Gunnarr follows it exactly.*

Nú er þar til máls at taka, er Unnr hefir látit alt  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take where Unn has lost all*  
 lausaféit. Hon gerði heiman ferð sína til Hlíðarenda, ok  
*the-movable-wealth She made from-home journey her to Hlidarendi and*  
 tók Gunnarr vel við frændkonu sinni, ok var hon þar um  
*took Gunnar well with kinswoman his and was she there through*  
 nóttina. Um daginn eftir sátu þau úti ok töluðu. Kom þar  
*the-night On the-day after sat they outside and talked Came there*  
 niðr tal hennar, at hon sagði honum, hversu þungt henni  
*down talk her that she told him how heavily to-her*  
 fell til fjár. “Illa er þat”, sagði hann. “Hver órræði vill þú  
*fell for money Ill is that said he What help will you*  
 veita mér?” sagði hon. Hann svaraði: “Haf þú fé svá mikit,  
*grant me said she He answered Have you wealth as much*  
 sem þú þarft, er ek á á leigustöðum”. “Eigi vil ek þat”,  
*as you need which I have at lending-places Not will I that*  
 segir hon, “at eyða fé þínu”. “Hversu vill þú þá?” segir  
*says she to waste wealth your How will you then says*  
 hann. “Ek vil at þú heimtir fé mitt undan Hrúti”, segir  
*he I will that you recover wealth my from-under Hrut says*  
 hon. “Eigi þykki mér þat vænt”, segir hann, “þar er faðir  
*she Not seems to-me that hopeful says he there where father*  
 þinn fekk eigi heimt; ok var hann lögmaðr mikill, enn ek  
*your could not recover-(it) and was he a-law-man great but I*

kann lítt til laga". Hon svaraði: "Meir þreytti Hrútr þat með  
*know little of law She answered More pressed Hrut that with*  
 kappi, enn með lögum; enn faðir minn var gamall — ok  
*zeal than with law but father my was old and*  
 þótti mönnum því þat ráð, at þeir þreytti þat ekki með  
*seemed to-men therefore that counsel that they pressed that not between*  
 sér. Enda er sá engi minn frændi, at gangi í þetta  
*themselves And-indeed is that no my kinsman who would-go into this*  
 mál, ef þú hefir eigi þrek til". "Þora mun ek", segir hann,  
*matter if you have not strength for-(it) Dare will I says be*  
 "at heimta fé þetta; enn eigi veit ek, hversu upp skal taka  
*to recover wealth this but not know I how up shall take*  
 málit". Hon svaraði: "Far þú ok finn Njál at Bergþórshváli.  
*the-case She answered Go you and meet Njal at Bergthorshvol*  
 Hann mun ráðin kunna til at leggja. Er hann ok vinr  
*He will the-counsels know to to lay Is he also friend*  
 þinn mikill". "Ván er mér, at hann ráði mér heilt sem  
*your great Expectation is to-me that he counsel me soundly as*  
 öllum öðrum", segir hann. Svá lauk með þeim, at Gunnarr  
*to-all others says be So ended between them that Gunnar*  
 tók við málinu enn fekk henni fé til bús síns, sem  
*took with the-case but gave her wealth for household her as*  
 hon þurfti. Ok fór hon heim síðan. Gunnarr ríðr nú at  
*she needed And went she home then Gunnar rides now to*  
 finna Njál, ok tók hann við honum vel — ok gengu þeir  
*meet Njal and took he with him well and went they*  
 á tal. Gunnarr mælti: "Heilræði em ek kominn at sækja at  
*to talk Gunnar spoke Good-counsel am I come to seek from*  
 þér". Njáll svaraði: "Margir eru þess vinir mínir maklegir,  
*you Njal answered Many are of-that friends my deserving*  
 at ek leggi til þat sem heilt er; enn ætla ek, at ek leggja  
*that I lay to that which sound is but think I that I lay*

mesta stund á við þik”. Gunnarr mælti: “Ek vil gera þér  
*most effort on with you Gunnar spoke I will make to-you*  
 kunnigt, at ek hefi tekit fjárheimtu af Unni á Hrút”.  
*known that I have taken a-money-claim from Unn on Hrut*  
 “Þat er mikit vandamál”, segir Njáll, “ok mikil hættu, hversu  
*That is a-great difficult-case says Njal and great risk how*  
 ferr, enn þó mun ek til leggja með þér þat er mér þykkir  
*goes but yet will I to lay with you that which to-me seems*  
 vænst; ok mun þat endast, ef þú bregðr hvergi af; enn  
*likeliest and will that last if you swerve nowhere from but*  
 líf þitt er í hættu, ef þú gerir eigi svá”. “Hvergi skal ek  
*life your is in danger if you do not so Nowhere shall I*  
 af bregða”, segir Gunnarr. Þá þagði Njáll nakkvara stund  
*from swerve says Gunnar Then was-silent Njal some while*  
 ok mælti síðan: “Hugsat hefi ek málit, ok mun þat duga”.  
*and spoke then Thought-out have I the-case and will that avail*

## XXII • NJÁLL’S PLAN: KAUPA-HEÐINN

*Njáll instructs Gunnarr in every detail. He is to disguise himself as Kaupa-Heðinn, a quarrelsome peddler from Eyjafjörðr, ride west selling faulty smithwork, and pick a fight near Hrútsstaðir so that Hrútr invites him in. There he must draw Hrútr into talk about Rangárvellir and the old dowry case, get Hrútr to recite the summons for Unnr’s money claim, deliberately garble his own repetition, and then repeat Hrútr’s second recital correctly so that his companions hear. He is to slip away in the night and hide in the hills for three nights before riding home.*

“Nú skalt þú ríða heiman við hinn þriðja mann. Skalt  
*Now shall you ride from-home with the third man Shall*  
 þú hafa váskufi yztan klæða ok undir söluváðarkyrtil  
*you have a-coarse-cloak outermost of-clothes and under a-selling-cloth-tunic*

mórendan. Þar skalt þú hafa undir hin góðu klæði þín ok  
*russet            There shall you have under the good clothes your and*  
 taparöx í hendi. Tvá hesta skal hafa hverr yðvarr — aðra  
*a-small-axe in hand    Two horses shall have each of-you    one*  
 feita enn aðra magra. Þú skalt hafa heðan smíði. Þér  
*fat and (the)-other lean    You shall have from-here smith-work You*  
 skuluð ríða þegar á morgin. Ok er þér komið yfir Hvítá  
*shall ride at-once in (the)-morning And when you come over Hvita*  
 vestr, þá skalt þú láta slota hatt þinn mjök. Þá mun eftir  
*west then shall you let droop hat your much Then will after*  
 spurt, hverr sá sé hinn mikli maðr. Förunautar þínir skulu  
*asked who that be the big man    Companions your shall*  
 segja, at þar sé Kaupa-Heðinn hinn mikli, eyfirzkr maðr, ok  
*say that there be Huckster-Hedin the Big an-Eyjaþford man and*  
 fari með smíði. Hann er maðr skapillr ok margmæltr —  
*goes with smith-work He is a-man ill-tempered and talkative*  
 þykkist einn vita alt. Hann rekr aftr kaup sín oftlega ok  
*thinks-himself alone to-know all He drives back bargains his often and*  
 flýgr á menn, þegar er eigi er svá gert, sem hann vill! Þú  
*flies on men as-soon as not is so done as he wishes You*  
 skalt ríða vestr til Borgarfjarðar ok láta þá falt hvarvetna  
*shall ride west to Borgarfjord and offer then for-sale everywhere*  
 smíðit ok reka aftr kaupin mjök. Þá mun sá orðrómr  
*the-smith-work and drive back the-bargains much Then will that rumor*  
 á leggjast, at Kaupa-Heðinn sé manna verstr viðfangs ok  
*on be-laid that Huckster-Hedin be of-men worst to-deal-with and*  
 sízt sé logit frá honum. Þú skalt ríða til Norðrárdals ok  
*least be lied about him    You shall ride to Nordrardal and*  
 svá til Hrutafjarðar ok til Laxárdals ok til þess er þú  
*so to Hrutafjord and to Laxardal and until that when you*  
 kemr á Höskuldsstaði. Þar skalt þú vera um nótt ok sitja  
*come to Hoskuldssadur    There shall you be over night and sit*

utarlega ok drepa niðr höfði. Höskuldr mun mæla, at ekki  
*low-down and droop down head Hoskuld will say that no-one*  
 skyli eiga við Kaupa-Heðinn, ok segja, at hann sé  
*shall have-dealings with Huckster-Hedin and say that he be*  
 óvinveitttr. Síðan munt þú fara í braut um morgininn eftir  
*unfriendly Then will you go off away in the-morning after*  
 ok koma á næsta bæ hjá Hrútsstöðum. Þar skalt þú láta  
*and come to (the)-next farm by Hrutsstadir There shall you offer*  
 falt smíðið ok hafa þat uppi af, er verst er, ok  
*for-sale the-smith-work and have that up of-(it) which worst is and*  
 berja í brestina. Búandi mun at hyggja ok mun hann  
*hammer in the-cracks (The)-householder will at look and will be*  
 finna brestina. Þú skalt hnykkja af honum ok mæla ilt við  
*find the-cracks You shall snatch off him and speak ill with*  
 hann. Hann mun segja, at þat sé ván, at þú gefist  
*him He will say that that be expected that you give-yourself*  
 honum eigi vel: — “er þú gefst öllum öðrum illa”. Þá  
*him not well since you give-yourself all others ill Then*  
 skalt þú fljúga á hann, þó at þú sér því óvanr; ok stilt  
*shall you fly on him though that you be to-it unused and restrain*  
 þó aflinu, at þú verðir eigi kendr ok ekki sé grunat.  
*yet the-strength that you become not known and nothing be suspected*  
 Þá mun sendr maðr á Hrútsstaði at segja Hrúti, at betra  
*Then will sent a-man to Hrutsstadir to tell Hrut that better*  
 mun at skilja ykk. Hann mun þegar senda eftir þér, enn  
*will to separate you-two He will at-once send after you but*  
 þú skalt ok þegar fara. Þér mun skipat á hinn óæðra  
*you shall also at-once go To-you will placed on the lower*  
 bekk gegnt öndugi Hrúts. Þú skalt kveðja hann. Hann mun  
*bench opposite high-seat of-Hrut You shall greet him He will*  
 vel taka þér ok spyrja, hvárt þú sér norðlenzkr. Þú skalt  
*well take you and ask whether you be a-northerner You shall*

segja at þú sér eyfirzkr maðr. Hann mun spyrja, hvárt þar  
*say that you be an-Eyja-fjord man He will ask whether there*  
 sé allmargir ágætismenn. “Ærinn hafa þeir klækiskap”, skalt  
*be very-many excellent-men Ample have they meanness shall*  
 þú segja. “Er þér kunnigt til Reykjardals?” mun hann  
*you say Is to-you known to Reykjardal will he*  
 segja. “Kunnigt er mér um alt Ísland”, skalt þú segja.  
*say Known is to-me about all Iceland shall you say*  
 “Eru í Reykjardal kappar miklir?” mun hann segja. “Þjófar  
*Are in Reykjardal champions great will be say Thieves*  
 eru þar ok illmennir”, skalt þú segja. Þá mun Hrútr hlæja  
*are there and villains shall you say Then will Hrut laugh*  
 ok þykkja gaman at. Munuð þit þá tala um menn  
*and think fun at-(it) Will you-two then talk about men*  
 í austfirðingafjórðungi; ok skalt þú öllum leggja nakkvat  
*in (the)-East-fjords-quarter and shall you to-all lay some*  
 ámæli. Tal ykkat mun koma á Rangárvöllu. Þá skalt þú  
*blame Talk your-two will come to Rangarvellir Then shall you*  
 segja, at þar sé sízt mannval, síðan Mörðr gígja var dauðr.  
*say that there be least choice-of-men since Mord Fiddle was dead*  
 Þú skalt kveða vísur nakkvarar — því at þú ert skáld  
*You shall recite verses some because that you are a-poet*  
 gott — ok mun Hrúti þykkja gaman at. Hann mun  
*good and will to-Hrut seem fun at-(it) He will*  
 spyrja, hvat þú færir til þess, at eigi megi koma maðr  
*ask what you bring for that that not may come a-man*  
 í stað hans. Þú skalt því svara, at hann var maðr svá  
*in place his You shall that answer that he was a-man so*  
 vitr ok svá mikill laga maðr ok málafylgju, “at aldri varð  
*wise and so great of-law a-man and of-case-pleading that never happened*  
 á um hans höfðingsskap”. Hann mun spyrja, hvárt þér  
*amiss about his chieftainship He will ask whether to-you*



er nakkvat af kunnigt, “hversu fór með okkr”. “Kunnigt  
*is anything of-it known how went between us-two Known*  
er mér”, skalt þú segja, “at hann tók af þér konuna, enn  
*is to-me shall you say that he took from you the-woman but*  
þú hafðir ekki”. Þá mun Hrútr svara: “Þótti þér ekki  
*you had nothing Then will Hrut answer Seemed to-you not*  
á verða fyrir honum, er hann náði eigi fénu, enn  
*on come-short before him since he got not the-money but*  
bjó þó til málit?” “Hér má ek þér vel svara”, skalt þú  
*prepared yet to the-case Here may I you well answer shall you*  
segja, “þú skoraðir honum til einvígis; enn hann var maðr  
*say you challenged him to single-combat but he was a-man*  
gamall, ok réðu vinir hans honum, at hann berðist eigi  
*old and counseled friends his him that he fought not*  
við þik. Ok drap svá niðr málinu”. “Mæltu ek þat”, mun  
*with you And struck so down the-case Spoke I that will*  
Hrútr segja, “ok þótti þat heimskum mönnum sem lög  
*Hrut say and seemed that to-foolish men as law*  
væri; enn málit mátti þó upp taka á öðru þingi, ef hann  
*were but the-case could yet up take at another assembly if he*  
hefði þrek til haft”. “Veit ek þat”, skalt þú segja. Hann  
*had strength to had Know I that shall you say He*  
mun þá spyrja þik: “Kant þú nakkvat í lögum?” “Kunna  
*will then ask you Know you anything in law Know*  
þótti ek norðr þar”, skalt þú segja, “enn þú munt þó segja  
*seemed I north there shall you say but you will yet tell*  
mér verða, hversu málit skyldi upp taka”. Hrútr mun mæla:  
*me must how the-case should up take Hrut will say*  
“At hverju máli vill þú spyrja?” “At því”, skalt þú segja,  
*For what case will you ask For that shall you say*  
“er mik skiftir engu, hversu upp skal taka fjárheimtuna  
*which me concerns nothing how up shall take (the)-money-claim*

Unnar". "Stefna skal málinu svá at ek heyra á eða at  
*of-Unn Summon shall to-the-case so that I hear on or at*  
 lögheimili mínu", mun Hrútr segja. "Stefn þú nú þá", skalt  
*legal-home my will Hrut say Summon you now then shall*  
 þú segja, "enn ek mun í annat sinn". Þá mun Hrútr  
*you say but I will in a-second time Then will Hrut*  
 stefna; ok skalt þú at því vandlega hyggja, hver atkvæði  
*summon and shall you to that carefully heed what words*  
 hann hefir. Þá mun Hrútr mæla, at þú skyllir stefna. Þú  
*be has Then will Hrut say that you should summon You*  
 skalt þá stefna; ok skal rangt svá at eigi sé meir enn  
*shall then summon and shall wrongly so that not be more than*  
 annat hvert orð rétt. Þá mun Hrútr hlæja — ok mun  
*every other word right Then will Hrut laugh and will*  
 hann þá ekki gruna — enn mæla þó, at fátt sé rétt  
*be then nothing suspect but say yet that few be right*  
 í. Þú skalt kenna förunautum þínum, at þeir hafi glapit  
*in-(it) You shall blame companions your that they have confused*  
 þik. Þá skalt þú biðja Hrút, at hann mæli fyrir þér, ok  
*you Then shall you ask Hrut that he speak before you and*  
 at hann leyfi, at þú stefnir í annat sinn ok mælir eftir  
*that he allow that you summon in a-second time and speak after*  
 honum. Hann mun leyfa þér ok stefna sjálfr málinu. Þú  
*him He will allow you and summon himself to-the-case You*  
 skalt þegar stefna eftir ok mæla þá rétt ok spyrja Hrút,  
*shall at-once summon after and speak then right and ask Hrut*  
 hvárt rétt sé stefnt. Hann mun segja þér, at eigi megi þat  
*whether right be summoned He will tell you that not may that*  
 ónýta. Þá skaltu mæla hátt, svá at förunautar þínir heyri:  
*be-voided Then shall-you speak loudly so that companions your hear*  
 "Stefni ek handseldri sök Unnar Marðardóttur". Enn  
*Summon I (the)-hand-pledged charge of-Unn Mord's-daughter But*

þegar er menn eru sofnaðir, þá skuluð þér upp standa —  
*as-soon as men are asleep then shall you up stand*  
 ok fara hljóðlega — ganga út ok bera söðla yðra í  
*and go quietly go out and carry saddles your into*  
 haga til hinna feitustu hestanna ok ríða þeim enn láta hina  
*pasture to the fat horses and ride them but leave the-others*  
 eftir. Þér skuluð ríða upp ór búfjárhögum ok vera þar  
*bebind You shall ride up out-of cattle-pastures and be there*  
 þrjár nætr. Svá nokkuru mun yðvar leita farit lengi. Síðan  
*three nights So somewhat will of-you search gone long Then*  
 skuluð þér ríða heim suður — ok ríða um nætr, enn liggja  
*shall you ride home south and ride by nights but lie*  
 um daga. Enn vér munum fara til þings ok veita at  
*by days But we will go to (the)-assembly and support at*  
 málunum”. Gunnarr þakkaði honum ok reið heim fyrst.  
*the-cases Gunnar thanked him and rode home first*

XXIII • GUNNARR TRICKS HRÚTR

*Gunnarr follows the plan and is received at Hrútsstaðir. When talk turns to Rangárvellir, Heðinn recites a verse praising Mördur and another recalling how Mördur's friends kept him from fighting Hrútr. Heðinn garbles the summons Hrútr shows him, then repeats Hrútr's second recital correctly before witnesses and leaves in the night. Höskuldr dreams of a great bear with two cubs entering Hrútsstaðir and knows it was Gunnarr's fetch, and Hrútr sees he has been outwitted. A three-day search finds nothing, and Gunnarr reaches home and tells Njáll the plan worked.*

Gunnarr reið heiman tveim nóttum síðar ok tveir menn með  
*Gunnar rode from-home two nights later and two men with*  
 honum. Þeir riðu þar til er þeir kvámu á Bláskógaheiði.  
*him They rode there until that they came to Blaskogabeidr*

Þar riðu menn í móti þeim ok spurðu, hvern sá væri hinn  
*There rode men in meeting them and asked who that were the*  
 mikli maðr, er svá litt var sýndr. Förunautar hans sögðu,  
*big man who so little was shown Companions his said*  
 at þar var Kaupa Heðinn hinn mikli. Þeir svöruðu: “Eigi er  
*that there was Huckster Hedin the Big They answered Not is*  
 þar hins verra eftir ván, er slíkr ferr fyrir”. Heðinn lét  
*there of-the worse after expectation where such goes before Hedin acted*  
 þegar sem hann myndi á þá ráða; enn þó fóru hvárir leið  
*at-once as he would on them attack but yet went each way*  
 sína. Gunnarr fór með öllu sem fyrir hann var lagt ok var  
*their Gunnar went with all as before him was laid and was*  
 á Höskuldsstöðum um nótt ok fór þaðan ofan eftir dal  
*at Hoskuldstadir over night and went thence down along (the)-dale*  
 ok kom á næsta bæ hjá Hrútsstöðum. Þar lét hann falt  
*and came to (the)-next farm by Hrutsstadir There offered he for-sale*  
 smíðit ok seldi þrjá smíðisgripi. Búandi fann, at  
*the-smith-work and sold three smith-wares (The)-householder found that*  
 á var smíðinu, ok kallaði fals í Heðinn réð þegar á  
*on was the-smith-work and called cheating in-(it) Hedin set at-once on*  
 búanda. Þat var sagt Hrúti; ok sendi hann eftir Heðni.  
*(the)-householder That was told to-Hrut and sent he after Hedin*  
 Hann fór þegar á fund Hrúts ok hafði þar góðar  
*He went at-once to (the)-meeting of-Hrut and had there good*  
 viðtökur. Skipaði Hrútr honum gegnt sér. Ok fór orðtak  
*receptions Placed Hrut him opposite himself And went talk*

þeira sem Njáll gat til. Enn er talit kom á Rangárvöllu  
*their as Njal guessed to-(it) But when the-talk came to Rangarvellir*  
 ok Hrútr frétti þar at mönnum, þá kvað Heðinn vísu þessa:  
*and Hrut asked there about men then spoke Hedin verse this*

Menn eru sízt — at sönnu  
*Men are least in truth*  
 slíkt talar þjóð í hljóði —  
*such talks (the)-people in quiet*  
 oft heyrt er þat — eftir  
*often heard is that after*  
 — öll — á Rangárvöllum.  
*all in Rangarvellir*  
 Mörd frá ek gígju gerðu  
*Mord heard I Fiddle made*  
 gunnhriðar margkunnar;  
*of-battle-storm much-knowing*  
 engr var seima slongvir  
*no was of-gold-threads slinger*  
 slíkr at spekt ok ríki.  
*such in wisdom and power*

Hrútr mælti þá: “Skáld ert þú Heðinn — enn hefir þú  
*Hrut spoke then A-poet are you Hedinn but have you*  
 heyrt, hversu fór með okkr Merði?” Heðinn kvað þá enn  
*heard how went between us-two Mord Hedinn spoke then again*  
 vísu:

*a-verse*

Heyrt hafak hringa at bjartri  
*Heard have-I of-ring to (the)-bright*  
 Hristi þráðs með ráðum  
*Sbaker of-thread with counsels*  
 iarðar undirgørðar  
*of-earth under-girdle*  
 almr væntik þik rænti.  
*elm expect-I you robbed*  
 Réðu hodka hlæði  
*Counseled of-boards loader*  
 haldendr við þik skjaldar  
*holders against you of-shield*  
 — áðr rauð seima sneiðir  
*before reddened of-gold-threads cutter*  
 sverð — at hann eigi berðisk.  
*sword that he not fought*

Þá sagði Hrútr honum hversu upp skyldi taka málit, og  
*Then told Hrut him how up should take the-case and*  
 stefndi fyrir málinu. Enn hann mælti eftir ok stefndi rangt.  
*summoned for the-case But he spoke after and summoned wrongly*  
 Þá brosti Hrútr ok grunaði ekki. Þá mælti hann, at  
*Then smiled Hrut and suspected nothing Then spoke he that*  
 Hrútr skyldi stefna í annat sinn. Svá gerði Hrútr. Heðinn  
*Hrut should summon in a-second time So did Hrut Hedinn*

stefndi þá í annat sinn ok stefndi þá rétt ok vitnaði  
*summoned then in a-second time and summoned then rightly and called-witness*  
 undir förunauta sína, at hann stefndi handseldri sök  
*to companions his that he summoned (the)-hand-pledged charge*  
 Unnar Marðardóttur. Hann fór til svefnis um kveldit, sem  
*of-Unn Mord's-daughter He went to sleep in the-evening as*  
 aðrir menn. Enn er Hrútr var sofnaðr, tóku þeir fōng sín  
*other men But when Hrut was fallen-asleep took they gear their*  
 ok höfðu til hesta sinna, riða síðan yfir ána ok svá fram  
*and had to horses their ride then over the-river and so forth*  
 Hjarðarholts megin, þar til er þraut dalinn, ok eru þar  
*Hjardarbolt side there until that ran-out the-dale and are there*  
 í fjöllum þeim millum Haukadalsskarðs ok kvámu sér  
*in mountains those between Haukadalsskard and came themselves*  
 þar, er eigi mátti finna þá fyrr enn riðit væri at þeim.  
*there where not could find them sooner than ridden were at them*  
 Söðlar þeira ok vápn höfðu varðveitt verit í smiðju, svá  
*Saddles their and weapons had kept been in (the)-smithy so*  
 at þeir máttu sjálfir út ná. Urðu því engir menn varir  
*that they could themselves out get Became therefore no men aware*  
 við brautferð þeira. Þessa nótt öndverða vaknaði Höskuldr  
*of departure their This night early woke Hoskuld*  
 á Höskuldsstöðum ok vakti upp alla heimamenn sína. “Ek  
*at Hoskuldssadir and woke up all household-men his I*  
 vil segja yðr draum minn”, segir hann, “ek þóttumst sjá  
*will tell you dream my says he I thought-myself to-see*  
 bjarndýri mikit ganga út ór húsunum — ok vissa ek,  
*bear great go out out-of the-houses and knew I*  
 at eigi fanst þessa dýrs maki — ok fylgdu því húnar  
*that not was-found of-this beast (the)-match and followed it cubs*  
 tveir, ok vildu þeir vel dýrinu. Þat stefndi til Hrútsstaða ok  
*two and wished they well to-the-beast It made-for to Hrutssadir and*

gekk þar inn í húsin. Síðan vaknaða ek. Nú vil ek spyrja  
*went there in into the-houses Then awoke I Now will I ask*  
 yðr, hvat þér sáð til hins mikla manns”. Einn maðr svaraði  
*you what you saw of the big man One man answered*  
 honum: “Þat sá ek, at fram undan ermi hans kom eitt  
*him That saw I that forth from-under sleeve his came one*  
 gullhlað ok rautt klæði, enn á hinni hægri hendi hafði  
*gold-lace and red cloth but on the right hand had*  
 hann gullhring”. Höskuldr mælti: “Þetta er engis manns  
*he a-gold-ring Hoskuld spoke This is of-no man*  
 fylgja nema Gunnars frá Hlíðarenda. Þykkjumst ek nú sjá  
*(the)-fēth except of-Gunnar from Hlidarendi Think-myself I now to-see*  
 alt eftir, ok skulu vér nú ríða á Hrútsstaði”. Þeir gengu út  
*all after and shall we now ride to Hrutstadir They went out*  
 allir ok fóru á Hrútsstaði, ok drápu á dyrr. Enn maðr  
*all and went to Hrutstadir and knocked on (the)-doorway But a-man*  
 gekk út ok lauk upp hurðinni. Þeir gengu þegar inn. Hrútr  
*went out and opened up the-door They went at-once in Hrut*  
 lá í lokrekkju ok spyr, hverir komnir eru. Höskuldr sagði  
*lay in a-closet-bed and asks who come are Hoskuld said*  
 til sín, ok spurði hvat þar væri gesta. Hann svarar: “Hér  
*of himself and asked what there were of-guests He answers Here*  
 er Kaupa-Heðinn”. Höskuldr mælti: “Breiðari mun um bakit;  
*is Huckster-Hedin Hoskuld spoke Broader will across the-back*  
 því at ek get hér verit hafa Gunnar frá Hlíðarenda”.  
*because that I guess here been have Gunnar from Hlidarendi*  
 “Þá mun hér slægleiksmunr orðit hafa”, segir Hrútr. “Hvat  
*Then will here a-difference-in-cunning become have says Hrut What*  
 er at orðit?” segir Höskuldr. “Ek sagða honum, hversu  
*is to happened says Hoskuld I told him how*  
 upp skyldi taka fjárheimtuna Unnar, ok stefnda ek mér  
*up should take (the)-money-claim of-Unn and summoned I to-myself*



sjálf, enn hann stefndi eftir; ok mun hann þann hafa  
*myself but he summoned after and will be that have*  
 málatilbúnaðinn, ok er sá réttur. “Mikill er vizkumunr  
*the-case-preparation and is that right Great is (the)-difference-in-wisdom*  
 orðinn”, segir Höskuldr, “og mun eigi Gunnarr einn hafa  
*become says Hoskuld and will not Gunnar alone have*  
 um ráðit. Njáll mun þessi ráð hafa til lagit; því at  
*about counseled Njal will these counsels have to laid because that*  
 engi er hans maki at viti”. Þeir leita nú Heðins, ok er  
*no-one is his match in wit They search now for-Hedin and is*  
 hann allr í brautu. Þeir sömnuðu liði ok leituðu þeira  
*he all off away They gathered a-company and searched for-them*  
 þrjá daga ok þrjár nætr ok fundu þá eigi. Gunnarr reið  
*three days and three nights and found them not Gunnar rode*  
 til Haukadals ór fjallinu ok fyrir austan skarð ok svá  
*to Haukadal out-of the-mountain and on east-of (the)-pass and so*  
 til Holtavörðuheiðar ok létti eigi fyrr enn hann kom heim.  
*to Holtavordubeidr and stopped not sooner than he came home*  
 Hann fann Njál ok sagði honum, at vel hafði dugat ráðit.  
*He met Njal and told him that well had availed the-counsel*

## XXIV • GUNNARR RECOVERS UNNR'S DOWRY

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*At the Althing Gunnarr prosecutes Unnr's case in the Breiðafjörðr Quarter Court. Hrútr finds a flaw in the witnessing, and when Njáll offers to save the case Gunnarr refuses and instead challenges Hrútr to a duel on the island in the Öxará, as Hrútr had once challenged Mörðr. Höskuldr refuses to let Hrútr fight and the brothers pay the whole sum. Gunnarr gives it all to Unnr, and Hrútr predicts that Gunnarr will turn to their kin in friendship.*

Gunnarr reið til alþingis. Þeir Hrútr ok Höskuldr riðu ok  
*Gunnar rode to (the)-Alþing They Hrut and Hoskuld rode also*  
 til þings ok fjölmentu mjök. Gunnarr sækir mál þetta  
*to (the)-assembly and came-in-numbers much Gunnar prosecutes case this*  
 á þingi. Hann kvaddi búa til máls — ok höfðu þeir  
*at (the)-assembly He summoned neighbors to (the)-case and had they*  
 Hrútr ætlat at veita honum atgöngu enn treystust eigi.  
*Hrut(-and-bis) intended to make on-him an-attack but dared not*  
 Síðan gekk Gunnarr at Breiðfirðinga dómi ok bauð Hrúti at  
*Then went Gunnar to (the)-Breiðaford-men's court and bade Hrut to*  
 hlýða til eiðspjalls síns ok framsögu sakar ok sóknargagna  
*listen to oath-taking his and statement of-(the)-charge and evidence*  
 allra. Eftir þat vann hann eið ok sagði fram sök. Síðan  
*all After that swore he an-oath and stated forth (the)-charge Then*  
 lét hann bera stefnuvætti — þá sakartökuvætti. Njáll var  
*had he bear summons-testimony then case-taking-testimony Njal was*  
 eigi við dóminn. Nú sótti Gunnarr málit þar til er hann  
*not at the-court Now prosecuted Gunnar the-case there until that he*  
 bauð til varna. Hrútr nemndi vátta ok sagði ónýtt málit ok  
*offered to defenses Hrut named witnesses and said void the-case and*  
 sagði hann mist hafa þeira þriggja váttorða, er í dóminn  
*said him missed to-have those three testimonies which into the-court*  
 áttu at koma — eitt þat er nemnt var fyrir rekkjustokki,  
*ought to come one that which named was before (the)-bed-board*  
 annat fyrir karldurum, þriðja at Lögbergi. Njáll var þá  
*(the)-second before (the)-men's-door (the)-third at (the)-Law-Rock Njal was then*  
 kominn til dómsins ok kveðst borgit munu geta málinu  
*come to the-court and says-of-himself saved would be-able the-case*  
 ok sökinni, ef þeir vildi þat þreyta. “Eigi vil ek þat”, sagði  
*and the-charge if they wished that to-press Not will I that said*  
 Gunnarr, “ek skal gera Hrúti slíkan, sem hann gerði Merði  
*Gunnar I shall do to-Hrut such as he did to-Mord*

frænda mínum. Eða hvárt eru þeir bræðr svá nær, Hrútr  
*kinsman my Or whether are those brothers so near Hrut*  
 ok Höskuldr, at þeir megi heyra mál mitt?” “Heyra megu  
*and Hoskuld that they may hear speech my Hear may*  
 vit”, segir Hrútr, “eða hvat vill þú?” Gunnarr mælti: “Þeir  
*we-two says Hrut or what will you Gunnar spoke They*  
 sé heyrandi váttar, er hjá eru, at ég skora þér, Hrútr, til  
*be hearing witnesses who by are that I challenge you Hrut to*  
 hólmgöngu. Ok skalt þú berjast við mik í dag í hólmi  
*holm-going And shall you fight with me in day on holm*  
 þeim er hér er í Öxará. Enn ef þú vill eigi berjast, þá  
*that which here is in Oxara But if you will not fight then*  
 greið þú út féit alt í dag”. Þá kvað Gunnarr vísu:  
*pay you out the-money all in day Then spoke Gunnar a-verse*

Þér skal ek, Hrútr, at hváru  
*You shall I Hrut at any-rate*  
 — hef ek óð í dag góðan —  
*have I poem in day good*  
 skora á hólmi ok hjalma  
*challenge to holm and of-helmets*  
 hjaldruðr við mik skjalda  
*battle-tree with me of-shields*  
 — þeir sé er hirðendr heyra  
*they be who keepers hear*  
 Heðins gáttar nú váttar —,  
*of-Hedin of-door now witnesses*  
 auðs nema út vilir greiða  
*of-wealth unless out want pay*  
 ölr mund refsils grundar.  
*alder bride-price of-tapestry of-ground*

Síðan gekk Gunnarr frá dóminum með öllu liði sínu. Þeir  
*Then went Gunnar from the-court with all company his They*  
 Höskuldr ok Hrútr gengu ok heim, ok var málit hvártki  
*Hoskuld and Hrut went also home and was the-case neither*  
 sótt né varit þaðan af. Hrútr mælti, er hann kom inn  
*prosecuted nor defended thence from Hrut spoke when he came in*  
 í búðina: “Þat hefir mik aldri hent, at sá nakkvarr maðr  
*into the-booth That has me never befallen that that any man*  
 hafi mér einvígi boðit, at ek hafa undan gengit”. “Þat  
*has to-me single-combat offered that I have from-under gone That*  
 munt þú ætla at berjast”, segir Höskuldr, “enn eigi skal þat ef  
*will you intend to fight says Hoskuld but not shall that if*  
 ek ræð — því at eigi ferr þér nær við Gunnar, enn Merði  
*I decide because that not goes to-you near with Gunnar than to-Mord*  
 myndi við þik — ok skulu vit heldr greiða féit báðir  
*would with you and shall we-two rather pay the-money both*  
 saman Gunnari”. Síðan spurðu þeir bræðr búendr, hvat þeir  
*together to-Gunnar Then asked those brothers householders what they*  
 vildi til leggja. Þeir svöruðu allir, at þeir myndi til leggja slíkt  
*would to lay They answered all that they would to lay such*  
 sem Hrútr vildi. “Göngum þá”, segir Höskuldr, “til búðar  
*as Hrut wished Go-we then says Hoskuld to (the)-booth*  
 Gunnars ok greiðum af höndum féit”. Þeir gengu til búðar  
*of-Gunnar and pay off hands the-money They went to (the)-booth*  
 Gunnars ok kölluðu hann út. Hann gekk út í búðardyrnar  
*of-Gunnar and called him out He went out into the-booth-doorway*  
 ok menn með honum. Höskuldr mælti: “Nú er at taka við  
*and men with him Hoskuld spoke Now is to take with*  
 fénu”. Gunnarr mælti: “Greiði nú þá. Ek em búinn við at  
*the-money Gunnar spoke Pay now then I am ready with to*

taka". Þeir greiddu féit alt vel af hendi. Þá mælti Höskuldr:

*take They paid the-money all well off hand Then spoke Hoskuld*

"Njót þú nú sem þú hefir aflat". Gunnarr kvað þá vísu þessa:

*Enjoy you now as you have gained Gunnar spoke then verse this*

Auðs munu æski-meidrar

*Of-wealth will wishing-trees*

óttlaust fyrir því njóta

*fearlessly for that enjoy*

hægs at hvergi ljúgum

*easy that nowhere lie-we*

hjörþings til penninga.

*of-sword-assembly to pennies*

Ferr — enn vitnis varrar

*Goes but of-wolf lips*

vér rjóðum — þá fljóði

*we reddened then to-woman*

verr enn oss, ok errinn

*worse than to-us and valiant*

almr hraustr funa hjalma.

*elm brave of-fire of-helmets*

"Ílla mun þér launat vera", segir Hrútr. "Ferr þat sem má",

*Ill will to-you repaid be says Hrut Goes that as may*

segir Gunnarr. Þeir Höskuldr gengu heim til búðar sinnar,

*says Gunnar They Hoskuld(-and-Hrut) went home to booth their*

ok var honum mikit í skapi ok mælti til Hrúts: "Hvart mun

*and was to-him much in mind and spoke to Hrut Whether will*

Gunnari aldri hefnast þessi ójafnaðr?" "Eigi mun þat", segir

*on-Gunnar never be-avenged this injustice Not will that says*

Hrútr, "hefnast mun honum víst, ok mun oss verða í því engi

*Hrut be-avenged will on-him surely and will to-us be in that no*

hefnd né frami. Enn þó er þat líkast, at hann snúist til várrar  
*revenge nor glory But yet is that likeliest that he turn to our*  
 ættar um vinfengit". Hættu þeir þá talinu. Gunnarr sýndi Njáli  
*kin about friendship Stopped they then the-talk Gunnar showed Njal*  
 féit. Njáll mælti: "Vel hefir nú vegnat", sagði hann. "Ok hefir  
*the-money Njal spoke Well has now gone said he And has*  
 af þér til leitt", segir Gunnarr. Menn riðu heim af þingi,  
*from you to led says Gunnar Men rode home from (the)-assembly*  
 ok hafði Gunnarr hina mestu sæmd af málinu. Gunnarr færði  
*and had Gunnar the greatest honor from the-case Gunnar brought*  
 féit alt Unni, ok vildi hann ekki af hafa — enn kveðst  
*the-money all to-Unn and would he nothing of-it have but says-of-himself*  
 meira heimta þykkjast eiga at henni síðan, eða at hennar  
*more to-claim to-think-himself to-have from her after or from her*  
 frændum, enn at öðrum mönnum. Hon kvað þat svá vera.  
*kinsmen than from other men She said that so to-be*

## XXV · VALGARÐR, MÖRÐR, AND THE SONS OF NJÁLL

*Unnr marries Valgarðr grái of Hof without her kinsmen's approval, and they have a son, Mördur, who grows up cunning and malicious and hostile to Gunnarr. The sons of Njáll are described: Skarpheðinn, tall and strong, a swift runner and skilled poet with a crooked nose and ugly mouth; Grímr, dark and handsome; Helgi, handsome and wise; and Höskuldr, Njáll's son out of wedlock. Skarpheðinn marries Þórbíldr and Grímr marries Ástríðr.*

Valgarðr hét maðr. Hann bjó at Hofi við Rangá. Hann  
*Valgard was-called a-man He dwelt at Hof by Ranga He*  
 var sonr Jörundar goða, Hrafns sonar hins heimskas,  
*was son of-Jorund (the)-Priest of-Hrafn son the Foolish*  
 Valgarðs sonar, Ævars sonar, Vémundar sonar orðlokars,  
*of-Valgard son of-Aevar son of-Vemund son Word-plane*

Þórólfs sonar vaganefs, Þrándar sonar hins gamla, Haralds  
*of-Thorolf son Bay-nose of-Thrand son the Old of-Harald*  
 sonar hilditannar, Hræreks sonar slöngvanbauga. Móðir  
*son War-tooth of-Hraerek son Ring-slinger Mother*  
 Haralds hilditannar var Auðr, dóttir Ívars víðfaðma, Hálfðanar  
*of-Harald War-tooth was Aud daughter of-Ivar Wide-fathom of-Halfðan*  
 sonar hins snjalla. Bróðir Valgarðs hins grá var Úlfr örgoði,  
*son the Valiant Brother of-Valgard the Gray was Ulf Aurgodi*  
 er Sturlungar eru frá komnir ok Oddaverjar. Úlfr örgoði  
*whom (the)-Sturlungs are from come and (the)-Oddi-men Ulf Aurgodi*  
 var faðir Svarts, föður Loðmundar, föður Sigfúss, föður  
*was father of-Svart father of-Lodmund father of-Sigfus father*  
 Sæmundar hins fróða. Loðmundr Svartsson var faðir Gríms,  
*of-Saemund the Learned Lodmund Svart's-son was father of-Grim*  
 föður Svertings, föður Vigðisar, móður Sturlu í Hvammi. Enn  
*father of-Sverting father of-Vigdis mother of-Sturla in Hvamm But*  
 frá Valgarði er kominn Kolbeinn ungi. Þeir bræðr Úlfr  
*from Valgard is come Kolbein (the)-Young Those brothers Ulf*  
 örgoði ok Valgarðr hinn grái fóru at biðja Unnar, ok giftist  
*Aurgodi and Valgard the Gray went to ask-for Unn and married*  
 hon Valgarði án ráði allra frænda sinna. Enn þat þótti  
*she Valgard without counsel of-all kinsmen her But that seemed*  
 Gunnari illa ok Njáli ok mörgum öðrum; því at Valgarðr  
*to-Gunnar ill and to-Njal and to-many others because that Valgard*  
 var maðr grályndr ok óvinsæll. Þau gátu sér son er  
*was a-man malicious and unpopular They begot for-themselves a-son who*  
 Mörrðr hét; ok er sá lengi við þessa sögu. Þá er  
*Mord was-called and is that-one long in this saga Then when*  
 hann var fullkominn at aldri, var hann illa til frænda sinna  
*he was full-grown in age was he ill to kinsmen his*  
 ok einna verst til Gunnars. Hann var slægr í skapferðum  
*and of-all worst to Gunnar He was sly in disposition*

ok illgjarn í ráðum. — Nú skal nemna sonu Njáls.  
*and malicious in counsels Now shall name (the)-sons of-Njal*  
 Skarpheðinn hét hinn elsti. Hann var mikill maðr vexti  
*Skarphedin was-called the eldest He was a-big man in-stature*  
 ok styrkr, vígr vel, syndr sem selr, manna fóthvatastr,  
*and strong fighting well swimming as a-seal of-men swiftest-footed*  
 skjótráðr ok örugg, gagnorðr ok skjótorðr ok skáld gott,  
*quick-deciding and steadfast pitby-spoken and quick-spoken and a-poet good*  
 enn þó löngum vel stiltr. Hann var jarpr á hár — ok  
*but yet for-long well composed He was chestnut of hair and*  
 sveipr í hárinu, — eygðr vel, fölleitr ok skarpleitr — liðr  
*curl in the-hair eyed well pale and sharp-featured a-bend*  
 á nefi ok lá hátt tanngarðrinn —, munnljótr nakkvat ok  
*on (the)-nose and lay high the-teeth-row ugly-mouthed somewhat and*  
 þó manna hermannlegastr. Grímr hét annarr sonr Njáls.  
*yet of-men most-warlike Grim was-called (the)-second son of-Njal*  
 Hann var svartr á hár ok þó fríðari sýnum enn Skarpheðinn  
*He was dark of hair and yet fairer in-looks than Skarphedin*  
 ok var bæði mikill ok sterkr. Helgi hét hinn þriði sonr  
*and was both big and strong Helgi was-called the third son*  
 Njáls. Hann var fríðr maðr sýnum ok hærðr vel. Hann  
*of-Njal He was a-handsome man in-looks and haired well He*  
 var sterkr maðr ok vel vígr. Hann var vitr maðr ok stiltr  
*was a-strong man and well fighting He was a-wise man and composed*  
 vel. Allir váru þeir ókvángaðir synir Njáls. Höskuldr hét  
*well All were they unmarried (the)-sons of-Njal Hoskuld was-called*  
 hinn fjórði sonr Njáls. Hann var laungetinn. Móðir hans  
*the fourth son of-Njal He was born-out-of-wedlock Mother his*  
 hét Hróðný ok var Höskuldsdóttir, systir Ingjalds frá  
*was-called Hrodny and was Hoskuld's-daughter sister of-Ingjald from*  
 Keldum. Njáll spurði Skarpheðinn, ef hann vildi kvángast.  
*Keldur Njal asked Skarphedin if he would marry*



Hann bað föður sinn ráða. Bað Njáll þá til handa honum  
*He bade father his decide Asked Njal then to hands his*  
 Þórhildar, dóttur Hrafns ór Þórólfsfelli — ok átti hann  
*for-Thorbild daughter of-Hrafn out-of Thorolfsfell and had he*  
 því þar annat bú síðan. Skarpheðinn fekk Þórhildar ok  
*therefore there another farm after Skarphedin got Thorbild and*  
 var þó vistum með föður sínum. Til handa Grími bað  
*was yet in-lodging with father his To hands of-Grim asked*  
 hann Ástriðar af Djúpárbakka. Hon var ekkja ok auðig  
*he for-Astrid from Djuparbakki She was a-widow and wealthy*  
 mjök. Grímr fekk hennar ok var þó með Njáli.  
*very Grim got her and was yet with Njal*

XXVI • NJÁLL PLANS A MATCH FOR HELGI

*Ásgrímr Elliða-Grímsson is described with his kin, among them his foster-brother Gaukr Trandilsson, whom Ásgrímr killed. Ásgrímr has two sons named Þórballr, a son Grímr, and a daughter Þórhalla, the fairest and most courteous of women. Njáll tells his son Helgi that he has found him a wife, and when Helgi agrees to follow his advice, Njáll names Ásgrímr's daughter as the best match.*

Ásgrímr hét maðr; hann var Elliða-Gríms son, Ásgríms  
*Asgrim was-called a-man he was of-Ellida-Grim son of-Asgrim*  
 sonar, Öndóttis sonar kráku. Móðir hans hét Jórunn ok  
*son of-Ondott son Crow Mother his was-called Jorunn and*  
 var Teits dóttir, Ketilbjarnar sonar hins gamla frá Mosfelli.  
*was of-Teit daughter of-Ketilbjorn son the Old from Mosfell*  
 Móðir Teits var Helga, dóttir Þórðar skeggja, Hrapps sonar,  
*Mother of-Teit was Helga daughter of-Thord Beard of-Hrapp son*  
 Bjarnar sonar bunu, Gríms sonar hersis ór Sogni. Móðir  
*of-Bjorn son Buna of-Grim son (the)-lord out-of Sogn Mother*

Jórunnar var Álof, dóttir Böðvars hersis, Víkinga-Kára sonar;  
*of-Jorunn was Alof daughter of-Bodvar (the)-lord of-Vikinga-Kari son*  
 bróðir Ásgríms Elliða-Gríms sonar hét Sigfúss. Hans dóttir  
*Brother of-Asgrim of-Ellida-Grim son was-called Sigfus His daughter*  
 var Þorgerðr, móðir Sigfúss, föður Sæmundar hins fróða.  
*was Thorgerd mother of-Sigfus father of-Saemund the Learned*  
 Gaukr Trandilsson var fóstbróðir Ásgríms, er fræknastr maðr  
*Gauk Trandil's-son was foster-brother of-Asgrim who bravest man*  
 hefir verit ok bezt at sér gerr. Þar varð illa með þeim  
*has been and best at himself made There happened ill between them*  
 Ásgrími; því at Ásgrímr varð banamaðr Gauks. Ásgrímr  
*Asgrim(-and-him) because that Asgrim became slayer of-Gauk Asgrim*  
 átti tvá sonu, ok hét hvárrtveggi Þórhallr. Þeir váru báðir  
*had two sons and was-called each Thorhall They were both*  
 efnilegir menn. Grímr hét ok sonr Ásgríms, enn Þórhalla  
*promising men Grim was-called also a-son of-Asgrim and Thorballa*  
 dóttir. Hon var kvenna fríðust ok kurteisust ok vel at sér  
*(the)-daughter She was of-women fairest and most-courteous and well at herself*  
 ger í öllu. Njáll kom at máli við Helga son sinn ok mælti:  
*made in all Njal came to speech with Helgi son his and spoke*  
 “Hugat hefi ek þér kvánfang, frændi, ef þú vill at mínu  
*Thought-of have I for-you a-marriage kinsman if you will by my*  
 ráði gera”. “Þat vil ek víst”, segir hann, “því at ek veit, at  
*counsel do That will I surely says he because that I know that*  
 bæði er, at þú vill vel, enda kant þú vel. Eða hvar hefir  
*both is that you wish well and-indeed know you well Or where have*  
 þú á stofnat?” Njáll svaraði: “Vit skulum biðja dóttur  
*you on made-a-start Njal answered We-two shall ask-for (the)-daughter*  
 Ásgríms Elliða-Grímssonar; því at sá er kostur bestr”.  
*of-Asgrim Ellida-Grim's-son because that that is (the)-match best*

*Njáll and Helgi ride west over the Þjórsá to Tunga, where Ásgrímr gladly betroths his daughter Þórhalla to Helgi. Gunnarr attends the wedding with many other leading men. Afterward Njáll takes Ásgrímr's son Þórballr as his foster-son, and the boy loves him more than his own father. Njáll teaches him law so thoroughly that he becomes the greatest lawyer in Iceland.*

Litlu síðar fara þeir ok báðu konunnar — riðu vestr yfir  
*A-little later go they and asked-for the-woman rode west over*  
 Þjórsá, ok fóru þar til er þeir kvámu í Tungu. Ásgrímr var  
*Thjorsa and went there until that they came to Tunga Asgrim was*  
 heima ok tók við þeim vel — ok váru þar um nóttina. Enn  
*at-home and took with them well and were there through the-night But*  
 um daginn gengu þeir á tal. Þá vakti Njáll til um bónorðit  
*in the-day went they to talk Then raised Njal to about the-suit*  
 ok bað Þórhöllu til handa Helga syni sínum. Ásgrímr  
*and asked-for Thorballa to hands of-Helgi son his Asgrim*  
 svaraði því máli vel, ok sagði eigi þá menn vera, at hann væri  
*answered that speech well and said not those men to-be that he were*  
 fúsari við at kaupa enn þá. Síðan töluðu þeir um málit; ok  
*more-eager with to bargain than them Then talked they about the-matter and*  
 lauk svá, at Ásgrímr festi Helga dóttur sína, ok var kveðit  
*ended so that Asgrim betrothed to-Helgi daughter his and was appointed*  
 á brúðhlaupsstefnu. Gunnarr var at veizlu þessi ok margir  
*on a-wedding-date Gunnar was at feast this and many*  
 aðrir hinir beztu menn. Enn eftir veizluna bauð Njáll Þórhalli  
*others the best men But after the-feast offered Njal to-Thorhall*  
 Ásgrímssyni til fósturs. Ok fór hann til hans ok var með honum  
*Asgrim's-son to fostering And went he to him and was with him*

lengi síðan. Hann unni meira Njáli enn föður sínum. Njáll  
*long after He loved more Njal than father his Njal*  
 kendi honum lög svá at hann varð mestr lögmaðr á Íslandi.  
*taught him law so that he became greatest law-man in Iceland*

## XXVIII • GUNNARR PREPARES TO GO ABROAD

*A Norwegian named Hallvarðr hvíti winters at Hlíðarendi and urges Gunnarr to go abroad. Njáll approves and agrees to look after Gunnarr's farm and property while he is away with Kolskeggr. Hallvarðr says he has sailed to all the lands between Norway and Garðaríki, as well as to Bjarmaland. Gunnarr decides to sail with him to the Baltic, leaving everything in Njáll's care.*

Skip kom út í Arnarbælisós — ok stýrði skipinu Hallvarðr  
*A-ship came out into Arnarbaelisos and steered the-ship Hallvard*  
 hvíti, víkverskr maðr. Hann fór til vistar til Hlíðarenda  
*(the)-White a-Vik man He went to lodging to Hlidarendi*  
 ok var með Gunnari um vetrinn — ok bað hann jafnan,  
*and was with Gunnar through the-winter and asked him always*  
 at hann skyldi fara utan. Gunnarr talaði fátt um ok tók  
*that he should go abroad Gunnar talked little about-(it) and took*  
 á engu ólíklega. Ok um vórit fór hann til Bergþórshváls  
*on nothing unlikely And in the-spring went he to Bergthorshvol*  
 ok spurði Njál, hvé ráðlegt honum þætti, at hann færi utan.  
*and asked Njal how advisable to-him seemed that he went abroad*  
 “Ráðlegt þykki mér þat”, segir Njáll, “munt þú þér þar vel  
*Advisable seems to-me that says Njal will you yourself there well*  
 koma, sem þú ert”. “Vill þú nakkvat taka við fjárfari mínu”,  
*come as you are Will you anything take with property my*  
 segir Gunnarr, “meðan ek em í brautu? Því at ek vil, at  
*says Gunnar while I am off away because that I will that*

Kolskeggr bróðir minn fari með mér; enn ek vilda, at þú  
*Kolskegg brother my go with me but I would-wish that you*  
 sæir um búit meðan með móður minni”. “Ekki skal þat  
*saw about the-farm meanwhile with mother my Not shall that*  
 við nema”, segir Njáll, “alt skal ek styðja þik um þat, er  
*at stop says Njal all shall I support you about that which*  
 þú vill”. “Vel mun þér fara”, segir Gunnarr. Ríðr hann þá  
*you will Well will to-you go says Gunnar Rides he then*  
 heim. Austmaðr kom enn á tal við Gunnar, at hann myndi  
*home The-Norwegian came again to talk with Gunnar that he would*  
 utan fara. Gunnarr spyr, ef hann hefði nakkvat siglt til  
*abroad go Gunnar asks if he had anything sailed to*  
 annara landa. Hann kveðst siglt hafa til landa þeira allra,  
*other lands He says-of-himself sailed to-have to lands those all*  
 er váru meðal Noregs ok Garðaríkis, — “ok svá hefi ek siglt  
*which were between Norway and Gardariki and so have I sailed*  
 til Bjarmalands”. “Vill þú sigla með mér í Austrveg?” segir  
*to Bjarmaland Will you sail with me into (the)-East-way says*  
 Gunnarr. “Þat vil ek víst”, segir hann. Síðan réð Gunnarr  
*Gunnar That will I surely says he Then decided Gunnar*  
 utanferð sína með honum. Njáll tók við öllu fjárfari Gunnars.  
*voyage his with him Njal took with all property of-Gunnar*

## XXIX • GUNNARR GOES RAIDING

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*Gunnarr and Kolskeggr winter at Tünsberg, where Hákon jarl now rules after the fall of Haraldr gráfeldr and Gunnhildr. Gunnarr declines to serve Hákon and plans to go raiding instead. Hallvarðr takes him to his kinsman Ölvir in Hising, who, impressed by Gunnarr, gives him two longships and crews of his house-carls and farmers. Ölvir warns that the viking brothers Vandill and Karl have come into the Göta älv.*

Gunnarr fór utan ok Kolskeggr bróðir hans með honum. Þeir  
*Gunnar went abroad and Kolskegg brother his with him They*  
 sigldu til Túnbergs ok váru þar um vetrinn. Þá var orðit  
*sailed to Tunsberg and were there through the-winter Then was happened*  
 höfðingjaskifti í Noregi. Var þá dauðr Haraldr gráfeldr ok  
*change-of-rulers in Norway Was then dead Harald Gray-cloak and*  
 Gunnhildr. Réð þá ríki Hákon jarl Sigurðarson, Hákonar  
*Gunnbild Ruled then (the)-realm Hakon Earl Sigurd's-son of-Hakon*  
 sonar, Grjótgarðs sonar. Móðir hans hét Bergljót, ok  
*son of-Grjotgard son Mother his was-called Bergljot and*  
 var dóttir Þóris jarls þegjanda. Móðir hennar hét Álof  
*was daughter of-Thorir Earl (the)-Silent Mother her was-called Alof*  
 árbót, ok var dóttir Haralds hins hárfagra. Hallvarðr  
*Year's-bounty and was daughter of-Harald the Fair-haired Hallvard*  
 spurði Gunnar, ef hann vildi ráðast til Hákonar jarls.  
*asked Gunnar if he would engage-himself to Hakon Earl*  
 “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Gunnarr. “Átt þú nakkvat langskip?”  
*Not will I that says Gunnar Have you any longship*  
 segir Gunnarr. “Á ek tvau”, segir Hallvarðr. “Þá vilda ek,  
*says Gunnar Have I two says Hallvard Then would-wish I*  
 at vit færim í hernað”, segir Gunnarr, “ok réðim menn  
*that we-two went into raiding says Gunnar and hired men*  
 til með okkr”. “Þat vil ek þá”, segir Hallvarðr. Síðan fóru  
*to with us-two That will I then says Hallvard Then went*  
 þeir til Víkrinnar ok tóku þar skip tvau ok bjoggust þaðan.  
*they to the-Vik and took there ships two and made-ready thence*  
 Þeim varð gott til manna; því at mikil ágæti váru sögð  
*To-them became good for men because that great excellences were told*  
 frá Gunnari. “Hvert vill þú nú halda?” segir Gunnarr. “Fyrst  
*of Gunnar Whither will you now hold says Gunnar First*  
 suðr í Hising”, segir Hallvarðr, “á fund Ölvis frænda  
*south to Hising says Hallvard to (the)-meeting of-Olvir kinsman*

míns". "Hvat vill þú honum?" segir Gunnarr. "Hann er drengur  
*my What will you with-him says Gunnar He is a-fellow*  
 góðr", segir Hallvarðr, "ok mun hann fá okkr nakkvarn styrk  
*good says Hallvard and will he get us-two some support*  
 til ferðarinnar". "Förum vit þangat þá", segir Gunnarr.

*for the-journey Go we-two thither then says Gunnar*  
 Þegar er þeir váru búnir, heldu þeir austr til Hísingar ok  
*As-soon as they were ready held they east to Hising and*  
 höfðu þar góðar viðtökur. Skamma stund hafði Gunnarr þar  
*had there good receptions Short while had Gunnar there*  
 verit áðr Ölvi fanst mikit um hann. Ölvir spurði um  
*been before to-Olvir seemed much about him Olvir asked about*  
 ferð hans. Hallvarðr segir, at Gunnarr vill í hernað ok  
*journey his Hallvard says that Gunnar will into raiding and*  
 afla sér fjár. "Þat er engi ætlan", segir Ölvir, "þar sem  
*gain for-himself wealth That is no plan says Olvir where that*  
 þit hafið lið ekki". "Nú mátt þú ok við auka", segir  
*you-two have company none Now may you also to add says*  
 Hallvarðr. "Ek ætla gott at styrkja Gunnarr at nökkuru", segir  
*Hallvard I think good to support Gunnar in something says*  
 Ölvir, "ok þó at þú eigir frændsými at telja við mik, þá  
*Olvir and though that you have kinship to reckon with me then*  
 þykkir mér þó meiri slægr til hans". "Hvat vill þú nú þá til  
*seems to-me yet more gain to him What will you now then to*  
 leggja?" segir Hallvarðr. "Langskip tvau — annat tvítugsessu,  
*lay says Hallvard Longships two one twenty-bencher*  
 enn annat þrítugsessu", segir Ölvir. "Hverir skulu þar á?"  
*and (the)-other thirty-bencher says Olvir Who shall there on*  
 segir Hallvarðr. "Ek skal skipa húskörlum mínum annat,  
*says Hallvard I shall man with-house-carls my one*  
 enn búöndum annat. Enn þó hefi ek spurt, at ófriðr er  
*and with-farmers (the)-other But yet have I learned that hostility is*

komin í Elfina; ok veit ek eigi hvert þit komizt í  
*come into the-Elf and know I not whether you-two get off*  
 braut". "Hverir eru þar komnir?" segir Hallvarðr. "Bræðr  
*away Who are there come says Hallvard Brothers*  
 tveir", segir Ölvir, "heitir annarr Vandill, enn annarr Karl —  
*two says Olvir is-called one Vandil and (the)-other Karl*  
 synir Snæúlfs hins gamla ór Gautlandi austan". Hallvarðr  
*sons of-Snaeulf the Old out-of Gautland from-the-east Hallvard*  
 segir Gunnari, at Ölvir hafði lagit til skipin. Gunnarr varð  
*tells Gunnar that Olvir had laid to the-ships Gunnar became*  
 glaðr við þat. Þeir bjoggu ferð sína þaðan. Ok er þeir  
*glad at that They prepared journey their thence And when they*  
 váru búnir, gengu þeir fyrir Ölvi ok þökkðu honum. Enn  
*were ready went they before Olvir and thanked him But*  
 hann bað þá vel fara ok varlega fyrir þeim bræðrum.  
*he bade them well fare and warily before those brothers*

## XXX · GUNNARR'S VICTORIES IN THE BALTIC

*Gunnarr defeats Vandill and Karl at the mouth of the Göta älv and then raids successfully in Denmark, Småland, and Reval. At Eysýsla a captive Dane named Tófi warns him of the brothers Hallgrímr and Kolskeggr, and of Hallgrímr's enchanted halberd, which sings before a killing. In the battle Gunnarr takes the halberd from Hallgrímr and runs him through with it, vowing in a verse to carry it all his life, and then kills Kolskeggr. Tófi then leads him to the vikings' hidden treasure.*

Gunnarr helt út ór Elfinni — ok váru þeir Kolskeggr  
*Gunnar held out out-of the-Elf and were they Kolskegg(-and-he)*  
 á einu skipi báðir, enn Hallvarðr var á öðru skipi. Þeir  
*on one ship both but Hallvard was on (the)-other ship They*



sjá nú skipin fyrir sér. Þá mælti Gunnarr: “Veru vér at  
*see now the-ships before them Then spoke Gunnar Be we in*  
 nökkuru viðbúnir, ef þeir leita á oss; enn eigum ekki  
*something prepared if they attack on us but have nothing*  
 við þá ellegar”. Þeir gerðu svá ok bjoggust við á skipum  
*with them otherwise They did so and made-ready with on ships*  
 sínum. Hinir skildu í sundr skipin ok gerðu hlið í millum  
*their The-others parted in asunder the-ships and made a-gap in between*  
 skipanna. Gunnarr fór fram í milli skipanna. Vandill þreif  
*the-ships Gunnar went forth in between the-ships Vandil seized*  
 upp stafnljá ok kastaði á meðal skipanna ok í skipit  
*up a-grappling-hook and threw on between the-ships and into the-ship*  
 Gunnars ok dró þegar at sér. Ölvir hafði gefið Gunnari sverð  
*of-Gunnar and drew at-once to himself Olvir had given Gunnar a-sword*  
 gott. Gunnarr brá nú sverðinu — ok hafði hann eigi sett á  
*good Gunnar drew now the-sword and had he not set on*  
 sik hjálminn — hleypr þegar á saxit á skip Vandils  
*himself the-helmet leaps at-once onto the-gunwale on (the)-ship of-Vandil*  
 ok hjó þegar mann til bana. Karl lagði at öðrum megin  
*and hewed at-once a-man to death Karl laid to (the)-other side*  
 sínu skipi ok skaut spjóti um þvert skip Gunnars —  
*with-his ship and shot with-a-spear across athwart (the)-ship of-Gunnar*  
 ok stefndi á hann miðjan. Gunnarr sér þetta ok snerist  
*and aimed at him middle Gunnar sees this and turned-himself*  
 svá skjótt, at eigi mátti auga á festa, ok tók hinni vinstri  
*so quickly that not could eye on fix and took with-the left*  
 hendi spjótit ok skaut á skip til Karls — ok hafði sá  
*hand the-spear and shot to (the)-ship to Karl and had that-one*  
 bana, er fyrir varð. Kolskeggr þreif upp akkeri ok kastar á  
*death who before was Kolskegg seized up an-anchor and throws onto*  
 skip Karls, ok kom fleinninn í borðit ok gekk út í  
*(the)-ship of-Karl and came the-fluke into the-planking and went out in*

gegnum, ok fell þar inn sær kolblár, ok hljópu menn allir af  
*through and fell there in sea coal-blue and leaped men all off*  
 skeiðinni ok á önnur skipin. Gunnarr hljóp nú aftr á sitt  
*the-warship and onto other the-ships Gunnar leaped now back onto his*  
 skip. Þá kom at Hallvarðr, ok tókst nú bardagi mikill. Sá  
*ship Then came up Hallvard and began now a-battle great Saw*  
 þeir nú, at formaðr var örugg; ok gerði hverr at slíkt er  
*they now that (the)-leader was steadfast and did each thereto such as*  
 mátti. Gunnarr gerði ýmist at hann hjó eða skaut, ok hafði  
*could Gunnar did by-turns that he hewed or shot and had*  
 margr maðr bana fyrir honum. Kolskeggr fylgdi honum vel.  
*many a-man death before him Kolskegg followed him well*  
 Karl hljóp á skip til Vandils bróður síns ok börðust þeir  
*Karl leaped onto (the)-ship to Vandil brother his and fought they*  
 þaðan báðir um daginn. Kolskeggr tók hvíld um daginn  
*thence both through the-day Kolskegg took rest during the-day*  
 á skipi Gunnars, ok sér Gunnar þat. Hann kvað þá vísu:  
*on (the)-ship of-Gunnar and sees Gunnar that He spoke then a-verse*

Þú hefr átgjörnum erni

*You have to-food-greedy eagle*

— etr hrafn — verit betri

*eats (the)-raven been better*

greiðir — gumna dauða —

*dealer men's death*

gjalfrdags, enn þér sjalfum.

*of-surf-day than to-you yourself*

Hér gengr margr í morgin

*Here goes many in (the)-morning*

muninn bekki vargs drekka

*eager (the)-benches of-wolf to-drink*

æstr, enn þik tekr þýsta,

*excited but you takes to-thirst*

þingalmr fetilstinga.

*assembly-elm of-strap-stingers*

Síðan tók Kolskeggr justu eina af miði fulla ok drakk ok

*Then took Kolskegg a-bowl one of mead full and drank and*

barðist eftir þat. Ok þar kom, at þeir bræðr hljópu upp á

*fought after that And there came that those brothers leaped up onto*

skip þeira Vandils, ok gekk Kolskeggr með öðru borði

*(the)-ship of-them Vandil(-and-Karl) and went Kolskegg along one side*

enn Gunnarr með öðru. Í móti Gunnari gekk Vandill ok

*but Gunnar along (the)-other In against Gunnar went Vandil and*

hjó þegar til hans — ok kom í skjöldinn. Gunnarr snaraði

*bewed at-once at him and came into the-shield Gunnar twisted*

hart skjöldinn, er sverðit festi í, ok brotnaði sverðit undir

*hard the-shield when the-sword stuck in and broke the-sword under*

hjöltunum. Gunnarr hjó í móti, ok sýndist hinum þrjú

*the-bilt Gunnar bewed in against and seemed to-the-other three*

vera sverðin á lofti — ok sá hann eigi, hvar hann skyldi

*to-be the-swords in (the)-air and saw he not where he should*

sér helzt hlífa. Gunnarr hjó undan honum báða fætr.

*himself most shield Gunnar bewed from-under him both feet*

Kolskeggr lagði Karl spjóti í gegnum. Eftir þat tóku þeir

*Kolskegg thrust Karl with-a-spear in through After that took they*

herfang mikit. Þaðan heldu þeir suðr til Danmerkr ok þaðan

*booty great Thence held they south to Denmark and thence*

austr í Smálönd ok börðust jafnan ok höfðu ávalt sigr.  
*east to Smaland and fought always and had ever victory*  
 Ekki heldu þeir aftr at hausti. Annat sumar heldu þeir til  
*Not held they back in autumn (The)-second summer held they to*  
 Rafala ok mættu þar víkingum, ok börðust þegar ok fengu  
*Reval and met there vikings and fought at-once and got*  
 sigr. Síðan heldu þeir austr til Eysýslu ok lágu þar nakkvara  
*victory Then held they east to Eysysla and lay there some*  
 hríð undir nesi einu. Þeir sá mann einn ganga ofan  
*while under a-headland one They saw a-man one go down*  
 af nesinu. Gunnarr gekk á land upp at finna manninn,  
*from the-headland Gunnar went on land up to meet the-man*  
 ok töluðust þeir við. Spurði Gunnarr hann at namni, enn  
*and talked-together they with Asked Gunnar him of name and*  
 hann nemndist Töfi. Gunnarr spurði, hvat hann vildi. “Þik  
*he named-himself Tofi Gunnar asked what he wished You*  
 vil ek finna”, segir hann. “Herskip liggja hér öðrum  
*will I meet says he Warships lie here on-(the)-other*  
 megin undir nesinu — ok mun ek segja þér, hverir fyrir  
*side under the-headland and will I tell you who before*  
 ráða. Þar ráða fyrir bræðr tveir; heitir annarr Hallgrímr, enn  
*rule There rule before brothers two is-called one Hallgrim and*  
 annarr Kolskeggr. Þá veit ek mesta orrostumenn — ok  
*(the)-other Kolskegg Them know I greatest battle-men and*  
 þat með, at þeir hafa vápn svá góð, at eigi fær önnur  
*that with that they have weapons so good that not are-got others*  
 slík. Hallgrímr hefir atgeir þann er hann hefir látit seiða  
*such Hallgrim has a-halberd that which he has let enchant*  
 til, at honum skal ekki vápn at bana verða nema hann. Þat  
*to that to-him shall no weapon to death become except it That*  
 fylgir ok, at þegar veit, er víg er vegit með atgeirinum;  
*follows also that at-once knows when slaying is slain with the-halberd*

því at svá syngir í honum áðr, at langt heyrir til. Svá  
*because that so sings in it before that far hears to-(it) So*  
 hefir hann náttúru mikla með sér”. Gunnarr kvað þá vísu:  
*has it nature great with itself Gunnar spoke then a-verse*

Æst skal ek geir ok geystan

*Urged shall I spear and impetuous*

gnýsvellanda fella,

*din-swelling fell*

hlœðir hildar skóða,

*loader of-battle of-harm*

hjalmangrs þegar fanga.

*of-helmet-grief at-once capture*

Ölungrundar skal, Endils

*Of-Olun-ground shall of-Endil*

eykríðandi, of síðir

*steed-rider at last*

eitrs ok eyðir láta

*of-poison and destroyer lose*

ört líf Sigars drífu.

*quickly life of-Sigar of-snowstorm*

“Kolskeggr hefir sax. Þat er hit bezta vápni. Þeir hafa

*Kolskegg has a-short-sword That is the best weapon They have*

lið þriðjungi meira enn þér hafið. Fé hafa þeir ok

*a-company by-a-third greater than you have Wealth have they also*

mikit ok hafa fólgt á landi — ok veit ek gerla, hvar er. Enn

*great and have bidden on land and know I clearly where is But*

þeir hafa sent njósnarskip fyrir nesit, ok vitu þeir alt til

*they have sent a-spy-ship past the-headland and know they all about*

yðvar. Þeir hafa nú ok viðbúning mikinn ok ætla þegar at

*you They have now also preparation great and intend at-once at*

yðr at leggja, er þeir eru búnir. Er yðr nú annat hvárt til:  
*you to lay when they are ready Is to-you now one of-two to*  
 at leggja í braut þegar — ella búizt þér við sem skjótast.  
*to lay off away at-once or make-ready you with as quickest*  
 Enn ef þér hafið sigr, þá skal ek fylgja þér til fjárins alls”.  
*But if you have victory then shall I lead you to the-wealth all*  
 Gunnarr gaf honum fingurgull ok gekk síðan til manna sinna  
*Gunnar gave him a-finger-ring and went then to men his*  
 ok sagði þeim, at herskip lágu öðrum megin nessins —  
*and told them that warships lay on-(the)-other side of-the-headland*  
 “ok vitu þeir alt til vár. Töku vér nú vápn vár ok búumst  
*and know they all about us Take we now weapons our and make-ready-we*  
 við öllu vel ok skjótt, því at nú er til fjár at vinna”. Síðan  
*with all well and quickly because that now is to wealth to win Then*  
 bjoggust þeir við. Ok þá er þeir váru búnir, sjá þeir, at  
*made-ready they with-(it) And then when they were ready see they that*  
 skipin fara at þeim. Tekst nú orrosta með þeim, ok berjast  
*the-ships go toward them Begins now a-battle between them and fight*  
 þeir lengi, ok verðr mannfall mikit. Gunnarr vá margan mann.  
*they long and becomes slaughter great Gunnar slew many a-man*  
 Þeir Hallgrímr hljópu á skip til Gunnars. Gunnarr sneri  
*They Hallgrim(-and-his) leaped onto (the)-ship to Gunnar Gunnar turned*  
 í mót Hallgrími. Hallgrímr lagði til hans með atgeirinum.  
*in against Hallgrim Hallgrim thrust at him with the-halberd*  
 Slá ein var um þvert skipit, ok hljóp Gunnarr aftur  
*A-crossbeam one was across athwart the-ship and leaped Gunnar back*  
 yfir öfugr. Skjöldr Gunnars var fyrir framan slána, ok  
*over backward (The)-shield of-Gunnar was before in-front-of the-crossbeam and*  
 lagði Hallgrímr í hann ok gegnum ok svá í slána.  
*thrust Hallgrim into it and through and so into the-crossbeam*  
 Gunnarr hjó á hönd Hallgrími, ok lamdist handlegggrinn,  
*Gunnar bewed on (the)-arm of-Hallgrim and was-bruised the-arm*

enn sverðit beit ekki. Fell þá niðr atgeirrinn. Gunnarr tók  
*but the-sword bit not Fell then down the-halberd Gunnar took*  
 atgeirrinn ok lagði í gegnum Hallgrím ok kvað þá vísu:  
*the-halberd and thrust in through Hallgrim and spoke then a-verse*

Feldan hefík þann eyði öldu  
*Felled have-I that destroyer of-wave*  
 eisu, er kunni hildi at reisa;  
*of-ember who knew battle to raise*  
 leyfðan frá ek at Hallgrímr hefði  
*praised heard I that Hallgrim had*  
 hjalmavönd í öðrum löndum.  
*helmet-wand in other lands*  
 Allir viti, hvé ulfa fylli  
*All know how of-wolves fill*  
 atgeirr of kom, dyggvir skatnar.  
*halberd — came trusty princes*  
 Hann skal mér, því at herskap kunnum,  
*It shall me because that warfare know-we*  
 hendi fylginn lífs til enda.  
*with-band following of-life to end*

Ok þat efndi Gunnarr, at hann bar atgeirrinn meðan hann  
*And that fulfilled Gunnar that he bore the-halberd while he*  
 lifði. Þeir börðust namnar — ok var nær, hvárum vænna  
*lived They fought (the)-namesakes and was near to-which likelier*  
 horfði. Þá kom Gunnarr at ok hjó Kolskegg banahögg.  
*looked Then came Gunnar up and hewed Kolskegg a-death-blow*  
 Eftir þat beiddu víkingar sér griða. Gunnarr lét þess  
*After that asked vikings for-themselves quarter Gunnar let of-that*  
 kost. Hann lét þá kanna valinn ok taka fé þat, er  
*choice He had then search the-slain and take wealth that which*

dauðir menn höfðu átt. Enn hann gaf hinum vápn sín ok  
*dead men had owned But he gave to-the-others weapons their and*  
klæði, er hann gaf grið, ok bað þá fara til fóstrjarðar  
*clothes to-whom he gave quarter and bade them go to homeland*  
sinnar. Þeir heldu í braut, enn Gunnarr tók fé alt þat  
*their They held off away but Gunnar took wealth all that*  
er eftir var. Tófi kom at Gunnari eftir bardagann og bauð  
*which left was Tofi came to Gunnar after the-battle and offered*  
at fylgja honum til fjár þess er víkingar höfðu fólgt —  
*to lead him to wealth that which vikings had bidden*  
kvað þat vera bæði meira ok betra enn hitt, er þeir  
*said that to-be both more and better than the-other which they*  
höfðu áðr fengit. Gunnarr kveðst þat vilja. Gekk hann á  
*had before gotten Gunnar says-of-himself that to-wish Went he on*  
land með Tófa. Fór Tófi fyrir til skógar, enn Gunnarr eftir.  
*land with Tofi Went Tofi before to (the)-wood but Gunnar after*  
Þeir kvámu at, þar sem viðr var borinn saman mikill. Tófi  
*They came to there where wood was carried together great Tofi*  
segir, at þar var feit undir. Ruddu þeir þá af viðinum  
*says that there was the-wealth under Cleared they then off the-wood*  
ok fundu undir bæði gull ok silfr, klæði ok vápn góð.  
*and found under both gold and silver clothes and weapons good*  
Þeir bera fé þetta til skipa. Gunnarr spurði Tófa, hverju  
*They carry wealth this to (the)-ships Gunnar asked Tofi with-what*  
er hann vildi at hann launaði honum. Tófi svaraði: “Ek  
*that he wished that he repaid him Tofi answered I*  
em danskur maðr að ætt — ok vilda ek, at þú flyttir  
*am a-Danish man by descent and would-wish I that you carried*  
mik til frænda minna”. Gunnarr spurði, hví hann væri í  
*me to kinsmen my Gunnar asked why he were in*



Austrvegi. “Ek var tekinn af víkingum”, segir Tófi, “ok var  
*(the)-East-way I was taken by vikings says Tofi and was*  
 mér skotit hér á land í Eysýslu, ok hefi ek hér verit síðan”.  
*me put here on land in Eysýsla and have I here been since*

XXXI · GUNNARR AT THE COURTS OF DENMARK AND NORWAY

*Gunnarr sails with ten ships to Hedeby, where King Haraldr Gormsson finds no man his equal and offers him a wife and great power if he will settle. When Gunnarr says he will go first to Iceland, they exchange gifts: a longship and treasures for robes of honor, gold-embroidered gloves, and a Russian hat. At Hising he gives Ölvir his ships. In Trondheim Hákon jarl keeps him for the winter and gives him a gold ring, and Gunnarr sets his mind on the jarl's kinswoman Bergljót, whom the jarl seems ready to give him.*

Gunnarr tók við honum ok mælti til Kolskeggs ok Hallvarðar:  
*Gunnar took with him and spoke to Kolskegg and Hallvard*  
 “Nú munu vér halda til Norðrlanda”. Þeir létu vel yfir því  
*Now will we hold to (the)-Northlands They spoke well of that*  
 ok báðu hann ráða. Gunnarr siglir ór Austrvegi með fé  
*and bade him decide Gunnar sails out-of (the)-East-way with wealth*  
 miklu. Hann hafði tíu skip ok helt þeim til Heiðabæjar í  
*great He had ten ships and held them to Hedeby in*  
 Danmörk. Haraldr konungr Gormsson var þá á land upp.  
*Denmark Harald king Gorm's-son was then on land up*  
 Honum var sagt til Gunnars — ok þat með, at engi var  
*To-him was told of Gunnar and that with that none was*  
 hans maki á öllu Íslandi. Ok sendi konungr menn sína til  
*his match in all Iceland And sent (the)-king men his to*  
 hans at bjóða honum til sín. Gunnarr fór þegar á konungs  
*him to invite him to himself Gunnar went at-once to (the)-king's*

fund. Konungr tók við honum vel ok setti hann hit næsta  
*meeting (The)-king took with him well and set him the next*  
 sér. Þar var Gunnarr hálfan mánuð. Konungr hafði þat at  
*himself There was Gunnar half month (The)-king had that for*  
 gamni, at hann lét Gunnarr reyna ýmissar íþróttir við  
*amusement that he had Gunnar try various accomplishments with*  
 menn sína, ok váru þeir engir, at né eina íþrótt hefði  
*men his and were they none that nor one accomplishment had*  
 til jafns við hann. Konungr mælti til Gunnars: “Svá virðist  
*to equal with him (The)-king spoke to Gunnar So seems*  
 mér, sem óvída muni þinn jafningi fást”. Konungr bauð  
*to-me as in-few-places will your equal be-found (The)-king offered*  
 at fá Gunnari kvánfang og ríki mikit, ef hann vildi þar  
*to get for-Gunnar a-marriage and realm great if he would there*  
 staðfestast. Gunnarr þakkaði konungi boð sitt ok mælti: “Fara  
*settle Gunnar thanked (the)-king offer his and spoke Go*  
 vil ek fyrst til Íslands at finna vini mína ok frændr”. “Þá  
*will I first to Iceland to meet friends my and kinsmen Then*  
 munt þú aldri oftár koma til vár”, segir konungr. “Auðna  
*will you never more come to us says (the)-king Fortune*  
 mun því ráða, herra”, segir Gunnarr. Gunnarr gaf konungi  
*will that decide lord says Gunnar Gunnar gave (the)-king*  
 langskip gott ok marga dýrgripa aðra, er hann hafði fengið  
*a-longship good and many treasures other which he had gotten*  
 í hernaði. Konungr gaf honum tignarklæði sín ok glófa  
*in raiding (The)-king gave him robes-of-honor his and gloves*  
 gullfjallaða ok skarband — ok gullknútar á — ok hatt  
*gold-embroidered and a-headband and gold-knots on and a-hat*  
 gerzkan. Gunnarr fór norðr til Hisingar. Ölvir tók við honum  
*Russian Gunnar went north to Hising Olvir took with him*  
 báðum höndum. Hann færði Ölvi skip sín ok kallar þat vera  
*with-both hands He brought Olvir ships his and declares that to-be*

hans hlutskifti. Ölvir tók við fénu ok kvað Gunnar vera  
*his share Ölvir took with the-wealth and said Gunnar to-be*  
 dreng góðan ok bað hann vera þar nakkvara hríð. Hallvarðr  
*a-fellow good and bade him be there some while Hallvard*  
 spurði Gunnar, ef hann vildi finna Hákon jarl. Gunnarr sagði  
*asked Gunnar if he would meet Hakon Earl Gunnar said*  
 sér þat vera nær skapi, — “því at nú em ek at nökkuru  
*to-himself that to-be near mind because that now am I in something*  
 reyndr; enn þá var ek at engu, er þú batt þess næstum”.  
*tried but then was I in nothing when you asked for-that last-time*  
 Síðan bjoggu þeir ferð sína og fóru norðr til Þrándheims  
*Then prepared they journey their and went north to Trondheim*  
 á fund Hákonar jarls ok tók hann vel við Gunnari ok  
*to (the)-meeting of-Hakon Earl and took he well with Gunnar and*  
 bauð honum at vera með sér um vetrinn. Hann þá þat.  
*invited him to be with himself through the-winter He accepted that*  
 Gunnarr virðist þar hverjum manni vel. At jólum gaf jarl  
*Gunnar is-esteemed there by-every man well At Yule gave (the)-earl*  
 honum gullhring. Gunnarr lagði hug á Bergljótu frændkonu  
*him a-gold-ring Gunnar laid mind on Bergljot kinswoman*  
 jarls; ok fanst þat oft á jarli, at hann myndi hana  
*of-(the)-earl and was-found that often on (the)-earl that he would her*  
 hafa gift honum, ef Gunnarr hefði nakkvat þess leitat.  
*have married to-him if Gunnar had anything of-it sought*

*In spring Hákon jarl gives Gunnarr meal and timber despite a poor harvest, and he reaches Iceland early in the summer, before the Alþing, no prouder than before. At Bergþórshváll he tells Njáll of his travels, and Njáll calls him a man of great deeds but warns that many will envy him and that he will always have to defend himself. Njáll will not ride to the Alþing and wishes Gunnarr would stay away too, but Kolskeggr urges him to go, and Hallvarðr offers to ride with them.*

Um v́arit spurði jarl Gunnar, hvat hann vildi láta ráða  
*In the-spring asked (the)-earl Gunnar what he would have of-plans*  
 sinna. Hann kveðst vilja til Íslands. Jarlinn kvað vera illa  
*his He says-of-himself to-wish to Iceland The-earl said to-be ill*  
 ært í landi, — “ok mun vera litil útsigling; enn þó skalt  
*harvested in (the)-land and will be little sailing-out but yet shall*  
 þú hafa mjöl ok við í skip þitt sem þú vill”. Gunnarr  
*you have meal and timber into ship your as you will Gunnar*  
 þakkaði honum ok bjó skip sitt snimmendis. Hallvarðr fór  
*thanked him and prepared ship his early Hallvard went*  
 út með þeim Kolskeggi. Þeir kvámu út snimma sumars  
*out with them Kolskegg(-and-him) They came out early in-summer*  
 ok tóku Arnarbælisós, ok var þat fyrir alþingi. Reið Gunnarr  
*and made Arnarbaelisos and was that before (the)-Alþing Rode Gunnar*  
 þegar heim frá skipi, enn fekk menn til að ryðja skipit, ok  
*at-once home from (the)-ship but got men to to clear the-ship and*  
 fór Kolskeggr með honum. Enn er þeir kvámu heim, urðu  
*went Kolskegg with him But when they came home became*  
 menn þeim fegnir. Þeir v́aru blíðir við heimamenn sína,  
*men of-them glad They were kind toward household-men their*  
 ok hafði ekki vaxit dramb þeira. Gunnarr spurði, hvárt Njáll  
*and had not grown pride their Gunnar asked whether Njal*  
 væri heima. Honum var sagt, at hann var heima. Lét hann  
*were at-home To-him was said that he was at-home Had be*

þá taka hest sinn ok reið til Bergþórshváls ok Kolskeggr  
*then take horse his and rode to Bergthorshvol and Kolskegg*  
 með honum. Njáll varð feginn kvámu þeira ok bað,  
*with him Njal became glad at-(the)-coming their and asked*  
 at þeir skyldi vera þar um nóttina. Þeir gerðu svá, ok  
*that they should be there through the-night They did so and*  
 sagði Gunnarr frá ferðum sínum. Njáll sagði hann vera hinn  
*told Gunnar of journeys his Njal said him to-be the*  
 mesta afreksmann, — “ok ert þú mjök reyndr, enn þó munt  
*greatest man-of-deeds and are you much tried but yet will*  
 þú meir síðar; því at margr mun þik öfunda”. “Við alla  
*you more later because that many will you envy With all*  
 vilda ek gott eiga”, segir Gunnarr. “Mart mun til verða”,  
*would-wish I good to-have says Gunnar Much will to happen*  
 segir Njáll, “ok munt þú jafnan eiga hendr þínar at verja”.  
*says Njal and will you always have hands your to defend*  
 “Undir því væri þá”, segir Gunnarr, “at ek hefða málaefni  
*Under that were then says Gunnar that I had case-grounds*  
 góð”. “Svá mun ok vera”, segir Njáll, “ef þú geldr eigi annarra  
*good So will also be says Njal if you pay not of-others*  
 at”. Njáll spurði Gunnar, hvárt hann myndi til þings  
*for-(it) Njal asked Gunnar whether he would to (the)-assembly*  
 ríða. Gunnarr segir, at hann mundi ríða — ok spyrr, hvárt  
*ride Gunnar says that he would ride and asks whether*  
 Njáll mundi ríða. Enn hann kveðst eigi ríða mundu, —  
*Njal would ride But he says-of-himself not to-ride would*  
 “ok svá vilda ek at þú gerðir”. Gunnarr reið þá heim  
*and so would-wish I that you did Gunnar rode then home*  
 ok gaf Njáli góðar gjafar og þakkaði honum fjárvarðveizluna.  
*and gave Njal good gifts and thanked him the-money-keeping*  
 Kolskeggr bróðir hans fýsti hann at ríða til þings, —  
*Kolskegg brother his urged him to ride to (the)-assembly*

“mun þar vaxa sæmd þín við; því at margr mun þar at þér  
*will there grow honor your at-(it) because that many will there to you*  
 víkja”. “Lítt hefi ek þat skap haft”, segir Gunnarr, “at hrósa  
*give-way Little have I that temper had says Gunnar to boast*  
 mér; enn gott þykki mér at finna góða menn”. Hallvarðr  
*myself but good seems to-me to meet good men Hallvard*  
 var ok þar kominn ok bauð at ríða til þings með þeim.  
*was also there come and offered to ride to (the)-assembly with them*

## XXXIII · GUNNARR MEETS HALLGERÐR

*At the Althing Gunnarr, splendidly dressed, meets Hallgerðr outside the booths, and she asks about his travels. They talk long, and he asks whether she is unmarried. He then asks Höskuldr and Hrútr for her. Hrútr frankly lists her faults and calls the match unequal, but agrees when Gunnarr insists, and Hallgerðr betrots herself again. Njáll takes the news heavily and says every evil will come from her, yet he promises to attend the wedding.*

Gunnarr reið — ok þeir allir — til þings. Enn er  
*Gunnar rode and they all to (the)-assembly But when*  
 þeir kvámu á þing, þá váru þeir svá vel búnir, at  
*they came to (the)-assembly then were they so well dressed that*  
 engir váru þeir þar, at jafnvel væri búnir; ok fóru menn  
*none were they there that equally-well were dressed and went men*  
 út ór hverri búð at undrast þá. Gunnarr reið til búðar  
*out out-of every booth to marvel-at them Gunnar rode to (the)-booth*  
 Rangæinga ok var þar með frændum sínum. Margr  
*of-(the)-Rangarvellir-men and was there with kinsmen his Many*  
 maðr fór at finna Gunnar ok spyrja hann tíðenda. Hann  
*a-man went to meet Gunnar and ask him for-tidings He*  
 var við alla menn léttr ok kátr ok sagði öllum slíkt er  
*was toward all men light and merry and told all such as*

vildu. Þat var einn dag, er Gunnarr gekk frá Lögbergi. —  
*wished It was one day that Gunnar went from (the)-Law-Rock*  
Hann gekk fyrir neðan Mosfellingabúð. Þá sá hann konur  
*He went on below (the)-Mosfell-men's-booth Then saw he women*  
ganga í móti sér — ok váru vel búnar. Sú var  
*go in against himself and were well dressed That-one was*  
í ferðarbroddi konan, er bezt var búin. Enn er þau  
*in (the)-journey's-point the-woman who best was dressed But when they*  
fundust, kvaddi hon þegar Gunnar. Hann tók vel kveðju  
*met greeted she at-once Gunnar He took well greeting*  
hennar ok spurði, hvat kvenna hon væri. Hon nemndist  
*her and asked what of-women she were She named-herself*  
Hallgerðr ok kvaðst vera dóttir Höskuldar Dala-Kollsssonar.  
*Hallgerd and said-of-herself to-be daughter of-Hoskuld Dala-Koll's-son*  
Hon mælti til hans djarflega ok bað hann segja sér frá  
*She spoke to him boldly and bade him tell her of*  
ferðum sínum. Enn hann kvaðst ekki varna mundu henni  
*journeys his But he said-of-himself not to-deny would her*  
máls. Settust þau þá niðr ok töluðu. Hon var svá búin, at  
*speech Sat they then down and talked She was so dressed that*  
hon var í rauðum kyrtli — ok var á búningr mikill.  
*she was in a-red tunic and was on-(it) finery great*  
Hon hafði yfir sér skarlazkikkju — ok var búin hlöðum  
*She had over herself a-scarlet-cloak and was trimmed with-lace*  
í skaut niðr. Hárit tók ofan á bringu henni ok var  
*into (the)-skirt down The-hair reached down onto (the)-breast of-her and was*  
bæði mikit ok fagrt. Gunnarr var í tignarklæðum þeim,  
*both great and fair Gunnar was in robes-of-honor those*  
er Haraldr konungr Gormsson gaf honum. Hann hafði  
*which Harald king Gorm's-son gave him He had*  
ok hringinn á hendi, Hákonarnaut. Þau töluðu lengi hátt.  
*also the-ring on arm Hakon's-gift They talked long aloud*

Þar kom, er hann spurði, hvárt hon væri ógefin. Hon  
*There came-(it) that he asked whether she were unmarried She*  
 sagði at svá væri, “ok er þat ekki margra at hætta á þat”,  
*said that so were and is that not of-many to risk on that*  
 segir hon. “Þykkir þér hvergi fullkosta?” segir hann. “Eigi  
*says she Seems to-you nowhere a-full-match says he Not*  
 er þat”, segir hon, “enn mannvönd mun ek vera”. “Hversu  
*is that says she but choosy-of-men will I be How*  
 munt þú svara, ef ek bið þín?” segir Gunnarr. “Þat mun  
*will you answer if I ask-for you says Gunnar That will*  
 þér ekki í hug”, segir hon. “Eigi er þat”, segir hann.  
*to-you not in mind says she Not is that says he*  
 “Ef þér er nakkvarr hugr á”, segir hon, “þá finn þú  
*If to-you is any mind on-(it) says she then meet you*  
 föður minn”. Síðan skildu þau talit. Gunnarr gekk þegar  
*father my Then broke-off they the-talk Gunnar went at-once*  
 til búðar Dalamanna ok fann menn úti fyrir búðinni  
*to (the)-booth of-(the)-Dalir-men and found men outside before the-booth*  
 ok spyrr, hvárt Höskuldr væri í búð. Enn þeir sögðu,  
*and asks whether Hoskuld were in (the)-booth But they said*  
 at hann var víst þar. Gekk þá Gunnarr inn. Höskuldr ok  
*that he was surely there Went then Gunnar in Hoskuld and*  
 Hrútr tóku vel við Gunnari. Hann settist niðr í meðal  
*Hrut took well with Gunnar He sat-himself down in between*  
 þeira, — ok fanst þat ekki í tali þeira, at þar hefði  
*them and was-found that not in talk their that there had*  
 nökkurr misþykkja í meðal verit. Þar kom niðr ræða  
*any ill-feeling in between been There came down (the)-talk*  
 Gunnars, at hann spurði, hversu þeir bræðr myndi því  
*of-Gunnar that he asked how those brothers would that*  
 svara, ef hann bæði Hallgerðar. “Vel”, segir Höskuldr, “ef  
*answer if he asked-for Hallgerd Well says Hoskuld if*



þér er þat alhugat". Gunnarr segir sér þat alvöru, —  
*to-you is that whole-hearted Gunnarr says to-himself that earnest*  
 "enn svá skildu vit næstum, at mörgum myndi þat  
*but so parted we-two last that to-many would that*  
 þykkja líklegt, at hér myndi ekki samband verða". "Hversu  
*seem likely that here would no union be How*  
 lízt þér, Hrútr frændi", segir Höskuldr. Hrútr svaraði: "Eigi  
*seems to-you Hrut kinsman says Hoskuld Hrut answered Not*  
 þykkir mér þetta jafnræði". "Hvat finnr þú til þess", segir  
*seems to-me this an-equal-match What find you for that says*  
 Gunnarr. Hrútr mælti: "Því mun ek svara þér um þetta,  
*Gunnarr Hrut spoke That will I answer you about this*  
 er satt er: þú ert maðr vaskr ok vel at þér, enn hon er  
*which true is you are a-man valiant and well at yourself but she is*  
 blandin mjök. Ok vil ek þik í engu svíkja". "Vel mun þér  
*mixed much And will I you in nothing deceive Well will to-you*  
 fara", segir Gunnarr, "enn þó mun ek þat fyrir satt hafa,  
*go says Gunnarr but yet will I that for true have*  
 at þér virðið í fornan fjandskap, ef þér vilið eigi gera  
*that you count in old enmity if you will not make*  
 mér kostinn". "Eigi er þat", segir Hrútr, "meir er hitt, at  
*me the-match Not is that says Hrut more is the-other that*  
 ek sé, at þú mátt nú ekki við gera. Enn þó at vit  
*I see that you can now nothing against do But though that we-two*  
 keyptim eigi, þá vildi vér þó vera vinir þínir". Gunnarr  
*made-a-bargain not then would we yet be friends your Gunnarr*  
 mælti: "Ek hefi talat við hana, ok er þetta ekki fjarri  
*spoke I have talked with her and is this not far*  
 hennar skapi". Hrútr mælti: "Veit ek, at svá mun vera, at  
*her mind Hrut spoke Know I that so will be that*  
 ykkir er báðum girndarráð. Hættið þit ok mestu til,  
*to-you-two is to-both a-desire-match Risk you-two also most for*

hversu ferr". Hrútr sagði Gunnari ófregit alt um skapferði  
*how goes Hrut told Gunnar unasked all about disposition*  
 Hallgerðar. Ok þótti Gunnari þat fyrst ærit mart, er áfátt  
*of-Hallgerd And seemed to-Gunnar that first ample much ubich amiss*  
 var. Enn þar kom um síðir, at saman fell kaupmáli  
*was But there came at last that together fell (the)-marriage-contract*  
 þeira. Var þá sent eftir Hallgerði, ok var þá um talat  
*their Was then sent after Hallgerd and was then about talked*  
 svá at hon var við. Létu þeir nú enn sem fyrr, at hon  
*so that she was present Let they now again as before that she*  
 festi sik sjálf. Skyldi þetta boð vera at Hlíðarenda, ok  
*betroth herself herself Should this feast be at Hlidarendi and*  
 skyldi fara fyrst leynilega; enn þó kom þar, er allir vissu.  
*should go first secretly but yet came-(it) there that all knew*  
 Gunnarr reið heim af þingi ok reið þegar at finna  
*Gunnar rode home from (the)-assembly and rode at-once to meet*  
 Njál ok sagði honum kaupin. Hann tók þungt á kaupum  
*Njal and told him the-bargains He took heavily on bargains*  
 hans. Gunnarr spurði, hvat hann fyndi til, at honum  
*his Gunnar asked what he found for-it that to-him*  
 þótti slíkt svá óráðlegt. Njáll svaraði: "Af henni mun standa  
*seemed such so ill-advised Njal answered From her will stand*  
 alt hit illa, er hon kemr austr hingat". "Aldri skal hon  
*all the evil when she comes east hither Never shall she*  
 spilla okkru vinfengi", segir Gunnarr. "Þat mun þó svá nær  
*spoil our-two friendship says Gunnar That will yet so near*  
 leggja", segir Njáll, "enn þó munt þú jafnan bæta fyrir  
*lie says Njal but yet will you always make-amends for*  
 henni". Gunnarr bauð Njáli til boðs ok öllu því þaðan,  
*her Gunnar invited Njal to (the)-feast and all those thence*

sem hann vildi at færi. Njáll hét at fara. Síðan reið  
*as he wished that went Njal promised to go Then rode*  
 Gunnarr heim ok reið um heraðit at bjóða mönnum.  
*Gunnar home and rode about the-district to invite men*

XXXIV · THE WEDDING AT HLÍÐARENDI

*Many kinsmen attend the wedding at Hlíðarendi, including Práinn Sigfússon, whose wife Þorbildr skáldkona has a sharp tongue. When she sees Práinn staring at Hallgerðr's daughter Þorgerðr, she mocks him in a couplet, and he divorces her on the spot. Práinn then asks for Þorgerðr, Njáll vouches for him, and she is betrothed to him at the same feast. Hallgerðr takes charge at Hlíðarendi and proves grasping and forceful, while Þorgerðr becomes a good housewife at Grjótá.*

Práinn hét maðr. Hann var Sigfúss son, Sigvats sonar  
*Thrain was-called a-man He was of-Sigfus son of-Sigvat son*  
 hins rauða. Hann bjó at Grjótá í Fljótshlíð. Hann var  
*the Red He dwelt at Grjota in Fljotsblid He was*  
 frændi Gunnars ok virðingamaðr mikill. Hann átti Þórhildi  
*kinsman of-Gunnar and a-man-of-esteem great He had Thorbild*  
 skáldkonu. Hon var orðgífr mikit ok fór með flimtan.  
*Poet-woman She was a-word-monster great and went with lampooning*  
 Práinn unni henni lítit. Honum var boðit til boðsins til  
*Thrain loved her little To-him was invited to the-feast to*  
 Hlíðarenda; ok skyldi kona hans ganga um beina ok Bergþóra  
*Hlidarendi and should wife his go about serving and Bergthora*  
 Skapheðinsdóttir, kona Njáls. Ketill hét annarr Sigfúss  
*Skarphedin's-daughter wife of-Njal Ketil was-called (the)-second of-Sigfus*  
 son. Hann bjó í Mörk fyrir austan Markarfljót. Hann átti  
*son He dwelt in Mork on east-of Markarfljot He had*  
 Þorgerði Njálsdóttur. Þorkell hét hinn þriði Sigfúss son;  
*Thorgerd Njal's-daughter Thorkel was-called the thirð of-Sigfus son*

fjórði Mörðr, fimti Lambi, sétti Sigmundr, sjaundi  
*(the)-fourth Mord (the)-fifth Lambi (the)-sixth Sigmund (the)-seventh*  
 Sigurðr. Þessir váru allir frændr Gunnars ok váru kappar  
*Sigurd These were all kinsmen of-Gunnar and were champions*  
 miklir. Þeim hafði Gunnarr boðit öllum til boðsins. Gunnarr  
*great Them had Gunnar invited all to the-feast Gunnar*  
 hafði ok boðit Valgarði hinum grá ok Úlfi örgoða ok sonum  
*had also invited Valgard the Gray and Ulf Aurgodi and sons*  
 þeira, Rúnólfi ok Merði. Þeir Höskuldr ok Hrótr kvámu  
*their Runolf and Mord They Hoskuld and Hrut came*  
 til boðsins fjölmennir. Þar váru synir Höskulds, Þorleikr ok  
*to the-feast in-numbers There were sons of-Hoskuld Thorleik and*  
 Óláfr. Þar var brúðrin í för með þeim ok Þorgerðr dóttir  
*Olaf There was the-bride in company with them and Thorgerd daughter*  
 hennar, ok var hon kvenna fríðust. Hon var þá fjórtán  
*her and was she of-women fairest She was then fourteen*  
 vetra gömul. Mart var með henni annarra kvenna. Þar var  
*winters old Many were with her of-other women There was*  
 ok Þórhalla, dóttir Ásgríms Ellíða-Grímssonar, ok dætr  
*also Thorhalla daughter of-Asgrim Ellida-Grim's-son and daughters*  
 Njáls tvær, Þorgerðr ok Helga. Gunnarr hafði marga fyrir  
*of-Njal two Thorgerd and Helga Gunnar had many for*  
 boðsmenn — ok skipaði hann svá sínum mönnum: hann sat  
*guests and placed he so his men he sat*  
 á miðjan bekk, enn innar frá Þráinn Sigfússon, þá Úlfr  
*on middle bench but further-in from Thrain Sigfus's-son then Ulf*  
 örgoði, þá Valgarðr hinn grái, þá Mörðr ok Rúnólfr, þá  
*Aurgodi then Valgard the Gray then Mord and Runolf then*  
 Sigfússynir. Lambi sat instr. Hit næsta Gunnari utar frá sat  
*Sigfus's-sons Lambi sat innermost The next to-Gunnar outward from sat*  
 Njáll, þá Skarpheðinn, þá Helgi, þá Grímr, þá Höskuldr, þá  
*Njal then Skarphedin then Helgi then Grim then Hoskuld then*

Hafr hinn spaki, þá Ingjaldr frá Keldum, þá synir Þóris  
*Hafr the Wise then Ingjald from Keldur then (the)-sons of-Thorir*  
 austan ór Holti. Þórir vildi sitja yztr virðingamanna;  
*from-the-east out-of Holt Thorir wished to-sit outermost of-men-of-esteem*  
 því at þá þótti hverjum gott þar sem sat. Höskuldr sat á  
*because that then seemed to-each good there where sat Hoskuld sat on*  
 miðjan bekk, enn synir hans innar frá honum. Hrótr sat  
*(the)-middle bench but sons his further-in from him Hrut sat*  
 utar frá Höskuldi. Enn þá er eigi frá sagt, hversu öðrum  
*further-out from Hoskuld But then is not of told how others*  
 var skipat. Brúðr sat á miðjum palli, enn til annarrar  
*were placed (The)-bride sat on middle dais but to one*  
 handar henni Þorgerðr dóttir hennar. Á aðra hönd sat  
*hand of-her Thorgerd daughter her On (the)-other hand sat*  
 Þórhalla dóttir Ásgríms Elliða-Grímssonar. Þórhildr gengr  
*Thorhalla daughter of-Asgrim Ellida-Grim's-son Thorhild goes*  
 um beina, ok báru þær Bergþóra mat á borð. Þráinn  
*about serving and carried they Bergthora(-and-she) food to (the)-table Thrain*  
 Sigfússon var starsýnn á Þorgerði Glúmsdóttur. Þetta sér  
*Sigfus's-son was staring at Thorgerd Glum's-daughter This sees*  
 kona hans Þórhildr. Hon reiðist ok kveðr til hans kviðling:  
*wife his Thorhild She gets-angry and speaks to him a-ditty*

Era gapriplar góðir —

*Are-not gaps good*

gægr er þér í augum,

*a-leer is to-you in eyes*

“Þráinn”, segir hon. Hann steig þegar fram yfir borðit ok  
*Thrain says she He stepped at-once forth over the-table and*  
 nemndi sér vátta ok sagði skilit við Þórhildi, — “vil ek  
*named for-himself witnesses and declared parted from Thorhild will I*

eigi hafa flimtan hennar né fáryrði yfir mér". Ok svá var hann  
*not have lampooning her nor abuse over me And so was he*  
kappsamr of þetta, at hann vildi eigi vera at veizlunni, nema  
*vehement about this that he would not be at the-feast unless*  
hon væri í braut rekin. Ok þat varð, at hon fór í braut.  
*she were off away driven And that happened that she went off away*  
Ok nú sátu menn hverr í sínu rúmi ok drukku ok váru  
*And now sat men each in his place and drank and were*  
kátir. Þá tók Þráinn til orða: "Ekki mun ek gera at launtali  
*merry Then took Þrainn to words Not will I make to secret-talk*  
þat sem mér býr í skapi: Þess vil ek spyrja þik, Höskuldr  
*that which to-me dwells in mind This will I ask you Hoskuld*  
Dala-Kollsson — vill þú gifta mér Þorgerði frændkonu  
*Dala-Koll's-son will you give-in-marriage me Thorgerd kinswoman*  
þína?" "Eigi veit ek þat", sagði Höskuldr, "mér þykki þú litt  
*your Not know I that said Hoskuld to-me seems you little*  
hafa við þessa skilit, er þú hefir áðr átt; eða hvern maðr  
*have with this-one parted whom you have before had or what man*  
er hann, Gunnarr?" Hann svarar: "Eigi vil ek frá segja —  
*is he Gunnar He answers Not will I of-(him) tell*  
því at mér er maðrinn skyldr — ok seg þú frá, Njáll.  
*because that to-me is the-man related and tell you of-(him) Njal*  
Því munu allir trúa". Njáll mælti: "Þat er frá manni at segja,  
*That will all believe Njal spoke That is of (the)-man to tell*  
at maðr er vel auðigr at fé ok gerr at sér um alt ok  
*that (the)-man is well wealthy in money and made at himself about all and*  
hit mesta mikilmenni ok meguð þér fyrir því gera honum  
*the greatest great-man and may you for that make him*  
kostinn". Þá mælti Höskuldr: "Hvat sýnist þér ráð, Hrútr  
*the-match Then spoke Hoskuld What seems to-you counsel Hrut*  
frændi?" Hrútr svaraði: "Gera mátt þú fyrir því kostinn, at  
*kinsman Hrut answered Make may you for that the-match that*

þetta er henni jafnræði". Þá tala þeir um kaupin ok verða  
*this is to-her an-equal-match Then talk they about the-bargains and become*  
 á alt sáttir. Stendr þá Gunnarr upp ok Þráinn ok ganga at  
*on all agreed Stands then Gunnar up and Thrain and go to*  
 pallinum. Spurði Gunnarr þær mæðgur, hvárt þær vildi  
*the-dais Asked Gunnar them mother-and-daughter whether they would*  
 játa þessum kaupum. Þær kváðust eigi bregða mundu.  
*agree to-these bargains They said-of-themselves not to-refuse would*  
 Fastnaði Hallgerðr Þorgerði dóttur sína. Þá var skipat  
*Betrothed Hallgerd Thorgerd daughter her Then was placed*  
 konum í annat sinn, sat þá Þórhalla meðal brúða. Ferr  
*women in a-second time sat then Thorballa between (the)-brides Goes*  
 nú boðit vel fram. Ok er lokit var, ríða þeir Höskuldr  
*now the-feast well forth And when ended was ride they Hoskuld(-and-his)*  
 vestr, enn Rangæingar til sinna heimila. Gunnarr gaf  
*west but (the)-Rangarvellir-men to their homes Gunnar gave*  
 mörgum góðar gjafar ok virðist þat vel. Hallgerðr tók við  
*many good gifts and is-esteemed that well Hallgerd took with*  
 búráðum ok var fengsöm ok atkvæðamikil. Þorgerðr  
*household-management and was grasping and forceful Thorgerd*  
 tók við búráðum at Grjótá ok var góð húsfreyja.  
*took with household-management at Grjota and was a-good housewife*

## XXXV · THE QUARREL OVER THE SEAT

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*Gunnarr and Njáll take turns giving each other winter hospitality. At Bergþórshváll Bergþóra tells Hallgerðr to make room on the dais for Helgi's wife Þórhalla, and Hallgerðr refuses. At the hand-washing Hallgerðr mocks Bergþóra's nail-lumps and Njáll's beardlessness, and Bergþóra retorts that Hallgerðr plotted the death of her husband Þorvaldr, who had a beard. When Hallgerðr demands vengeance, Gunnarr takes her home, refusing to be her goading-fool, and she warns Bergþóra that they are not finished.*

Þat var siðvenja þeira Gunnars ok Njáls, at sinn vetr  
*It was custom of-them Gunnar and Njal that his winter*  
 þá hvárr þeira heimboð at öðrum ok vetrgríð fyrir  
*received each of-them home-feast at (the)-other and winter-hospitality for*  
 vináttu sakir. Nú átti Gunnarr at þiggja vetrgríð at Njáli,  
*friendship's sakes Now had Gunnar to receive winter-hospitality at Njal*  
 ok fóru þau Hallgerðr til Bergþórshváls. Þá váru þau  
*and went they Hallgerd(-and-be) to Bergthorsbval Then were they*  
 Helgi eigi heima. Njáll tók vel við þeim Gunnari, ok  
*Helgi(-and-she) not at-home Njal took well with them Gunnar(-and-her) and*  
 þá er þau höfðu þar verit nakkvara hríð, kom Helgi heim  
*then when they had there been some while came Helgi home*  
 ok Þórhalla kona hans. Þá gekk Bergþóra at pallinum ok  
*and Thorhalla wife his Then went Bergthora to the-dais and*  
 Þórhalla með henni ok mælti Bergþóra til Hallgerðar: “Þú  
*Thorhalla with her and spoke Bergthora to Hallgerd You*  
 skalt þoka fyrir konu þessi”. Hon svarar: “Hvergi mun ek  
*shall move for woman this She answers Nowhere will I*  
 þoka, því at engi hornkerling vil ek vera”. “Ek skal hér  
*move because that no corner-bag will I be I shall here*  
 ráða” sagði Bergþóra. Síðan settist Þórhalla niðr. Bergþóra  
*decide said Bergthora Then sat-herself Thorhalla down Bergthora*  
 gekk at borðinu með handlaugar. Hallgerðr tók höndina  
*went to the-table with hand-washing Hallgerd took the-hand*  
 Bergþóru ok mælti: “Ekki er þó kosta munr með ykk  
*of-Bergthora and spoke Not is yet of-choice a-difference between you-two*  
 Njáli: þú hefir kartnagl á hverjum fingri, enn hann er  
*Njal you have nail-lumps on every finger but he is*  
 skegglaus. “Satt er þat”, sagði Bergþóra, “enn hvártki okkart  
*beardless True is that said Bergthora but neither of-us-two*  
 gefr þat öðru at sök, enn eigi var skegglaus Þorvaldr  
*gives that to-(the)-other for fault but not was beardless Thorvald*



búandi þinn ok rétt þú þó honum bana". "Fyrir lítit kemr  
*husband your and planned you yet him death For little comes*  
mér", segir Hallgerðr, "at eiga þann mann, er vaskastr er á  
*to-me says Hallgerd to have that man who most-valiant is in*  
Íslandi, ef þú hefnir eigi þessa, Gunnarr". Hann spratt upp  
*Iceland if you avenge not this Gunnar He sprang up*  
ok steig fram yfir borðit ok mælti: "Heim mun ek fara —  
*and stepped forth over the-table and spoke Home will I go*  
ok er þat maklegast, at þú sennir við heimamenn þína, enn  
*and is that most-fitting that you quarrel with household-men your but*  
eigi í annarra manna híbýlum, enda á ek Njáli marga  
*not in of-other men's houses and-indeed have I to-Njal much*  
sæmd at launa, ok mun ek ekki vera eggjanarfífl þitt". Síðan  
*honor to repay and will I not be a-goading-fool your Then*  
fóru þau heim. "Mun þú þat, Bergþóra", sagði Hallgerðr,  
*went they home Remember you that Bergthora said Hallgerd*  
"at vit skulum eigi skildar". Bergþóra sagði, at ekki skyldi  
*that we-two shall not parted Bergthora said that not should*  
hennar hlutr batna við þat. Gunnarr lagði ekki til ok  
*her lot improve by that Gunnar laid nothing to and*  
fór heim til Hlíðarenda ok var heima allan þann vetr í  
*went home to Hlidarendi and was at-home all that winter in*  
gegnum. Líðr nú á sumarit ok alt til þings framan.  
*through Passes now on the-summer and all toward (the)-assembly onward*

*While Gunnarr and Njáll are at the Alþing, Bergþóra sends her house-carl Svart to cut wood in the shared forest at Rauðaskriður. Hallgerð sends her overseer Kolr to kill him. Gunnarr tells Njáll at once and gives him self-judgment, and Njáll awards twelve ounces of silver. Bergþóra says an equal sum will be paid for Kolr. She hires Atli, a hot-tempered man from the East Fjords, who agrees to do any work she sets, even killing.*

Gunnarr ríðr til þings, enn áðr hann reið heiman, mælti  
*Gunnar rides to (the)-assembly but before he rode from-home spoke*  
 hann til Hallgerðar: “Ver þú dæl meðan ek em heiman, ok  
*he to Hallgerd Be you gentle while I am from-home and*  
 sýn af þér enga farskapi, þar sem við vini mína er um  
*show of yourself no mischief where that with friends my is about*  
 at eiga”. “Troll hafi þína vini”, segir hon. Gunnarr ríðr til  
*to deal Trolls have your friends says she Gunnar rides to*  
 þings ok sá at eigi var gott orðum við hana at koma.  
*(the)-assembly and saw that not was good with-words with her to come*  
 Njáll reið til þings ok synir hans allir. Nú er frá því at  
*Njal rode to (the)-assembly and sons his all Now is of that to*  
 segja, hvat heima er tíðenda. Þeir áttu skóg saman, Njáll ok  
*tell what at-home is of-tidings They owned a-wood together Njal and*  
 Gunnarr í Rauðaskriðum. Þeir höfðu eigi skift skóginum,  
*Gunnar in Rauðaskridur They had not divided the-wood*  
 enn hvárr var vanr at höggva sem þurfti, ok taldi hvárrgi  
*but each was used to cut as needed and blamed neither*  
 á annan of þat. Kolr hét verkstjóri Hallgerðar. Hann  
*on (the)-other about that Kol was-called (the)-overseer of-Hallgerd He*  
 hafði verit með henni lengi ok var hit mesta illmenni.  
*had been with her long and was the greatest villain*  
 Svart hét maðr; hann var húskarl Njáls ok Bergþóru  
*Svart was-called a-man he was house-carl of-Njal and of-Bergþora*

ok líkaði þeim við hann vel. Bergþóra mælti við hann, at  
*and pleased them with him well Bergthora spoke with him that*  
hann skyldi fara í Rauðaskriður ok höggva skóg, — “enn  
*he should go into Raudaskridur and cut wood but*  
ek mun fá til menn at draga heim viðinn”. Hann kveðst  
*I will get to men to haul home the-timber He says-of-himself*  
vinna mundu þat er hon legði fyrir hann. Hann fór  
*to-do would that which she laid before him He went*  
upp í Rauðaskriður. Tekr hann þar ok höggv skóg ok  
*up into Raudaskridur Begins he there and cuts wood and*  
skyldi þar at vera viku. Snauðir menn kvámu til Hlíðarenda  
*should there to be a-week Poor men came to Hlidarendi*  
austan frá Markarfljóti, ok sögðu at Svarttr hefði verit  
*from-the-east from Markarfljot and said that Svart had been*  
í Rauðaskriðum ok höggvit skóg ok gert mikit at. “Svá  
*in Raudaskridur and cut wood and done much at-(it) So*  
mun Bergþóra til ætla”, segir Hallgerðr, “at ræna mik mörgu;  
*will Bergthora to intend says Hallgerd to rob me of-much*  
enn því skal ek ráða, at hann höggvi eigi oftar”. Rannveig  
*but that shall I decide that he cut not more-often Rannveig*  
heyrði, móðir Gunnars, ok mælti: “Þó hafa húsfreyjur þótt  
*heard mother of-Gunnar and spoke Yet have housewives seemed*  
góðar austr hér, at ekki hafi staðit í mannráðum”. Nú leið  
*good east here that not have stood in manslaughters Now passed*  
af nóttin ok of morgininn kom Hallgerðr at máli við Kol  
*off the-night and in the-morning came Hallgerd to speech with Kol*  
ok mælti: “Verk hefi ek þér hugat” — ok fekk honum  
*and spoke Work have I for-you thought-of and gave him*  
öxi — “far þú í Rauðaskriður. Þar munt þú finna  
*an-axe go you into Raudaskridur There will you find*  
Svart”. “Hvat skal ek honum”, segir hann. “Spyrr þú at  
*Svart What shall I with-him says he Ask you about*

því”, segir hon, “þar sem þú ert hit mesta illmenni. Drepa  
*that says she where that you are the greatest villain Kill*  
 skalt þú hann”, segir hon. “Gert mun ek þat geta”, segir  
*shall you him says she Done will I that be-able says*  
 hann, “enn þat er þó líkast at ek gefa mik við”. “Vex þér  
*he but that is yet likeliest that I give myself up Grows to-you*  
 hvetvetna í augu”, segir hon, “ok ferra þér illa, þar sem  
*everything in eyes says she and goes to-you ill where that*  
 ek hefi mælt eftir þér hvern hlut. Mun ek fá til annan  
*I have spoken for you every thing Will I get to another*  
 mann at gera þetta, ef þú þorir eigi”. Hann tók öxina ok  
*man to do this if you dare not He took the-axe and*  
 var reiðr mjök ok tekr hest, er Gunnarr átti, ok ríðr þar  
*was angry very and takes a-horse which Gunnar owned and rides there*  
 til er hann kemr austr at Markarfljóti. Hann steig þar  
*until that he comes east to Markarfljót He stepped there*  
 af baki ok beið í skóginum þar til er þeir höfðu borit  
*off back and waited in the-wood there until that they had carried*  
 ofan viðinn ok Svartr var einn eftir. Hleypr Kolr þá at  
*down the-timber and Svart was alone behind Leaps Kol then at*  
 honum ok mælti: “Fleiri munu kunna at höggva stórt enn  
*him and spoke More will know to cut big than*  
 þú einn”, ok setti öxina í höfuð honum ok hjó hann  
*you alone and set the-axe into (the)-head of-him and hewed him*  
 banahöggvi ok ríðr heim síðan ok segir Hallgerði vígit.  
*with-a-death-blow and rides home then and tells Hallgerd the-slaying*  
 “Njót heill handa”, segir hon “ok skal ek þik svá varðveita,  
*Enjoy whole hands says she and shall I you so keep*  
 at þik skal ekki saka”. “Vera má þat”, segir hann, “enn  
*that you shall nothing harm Be may that says he but*  
 hinn veg dreymdi mik þó áðr enn ek vá vígit”. Nú  
*the-other way dreamed me yet before than I slew the-slaying Now*

koma þeir upp í skóginn ok finna Svart veginn ok flytja  
*come they up into the-wood and find Svart slain and carry*  
 hann heim. Hallgerðr sendi mann til þings at segja  
*him home Hallgerd sent a-man to (the)-assembly to tell*  
 Gunnari vígit. Gunnarr hallmælti Hallgerði ekki um  
*Gunnar the-slaying Gunnar blamed Hallgerd not about-(it)*  
 fyrir sendimanninum — ok vissu menn eigi, hvárt honum  
*before the-messenger and knew men not whether to-him*  
 þótti vel eða illa. Litlu síðar stóð hann upp ok bað menn  
*seemed well or ill A-little later stood he up and bade men*  
 sína ganga með sér. Þeir gerðu svá — ok fóru til búðar  
*his go with him They did so and went to (the)-booth*  
 Njáls. Gunnarr sendi mann eftir Njáli ok bað hann út  
*of-Njal Gunnar sent a-man after Njal and bade him out*  
 koma. Njáll gekk út þegar, ok gengu þeir Gunnarr á  
*come Njal went out at-once and went they Gunnar(-and-be) to*  
 tal. Gunnarr mælti: “Víg hefi ek at segja þér — ok  
*talk Gunnar spoke A-slaying have I to tell you and*  
 hefir valdit Hallgerðr kona mín, enn vegit hefir Kolr  
*has caused-(it) Hallgerd wife my but slain-(it) has Kol*  
 verkstjóri minn, enn fyrir hefir orðit Svartr húskarl þinn”.  
*overseer my but before has become Svart house-carl your*  
 Njáll þagði meðan Gunnarr sagði söguna. Þá mælti Njáll:  
*Njal was-silent while Gunnar told the-story Then spoke Njal*  
 “Þurfa munt þú at láta hana eigi öllu fram koma”. Gunnarr  
*Need will you to let her not in-all forth come Gunnar*  
 mælti: “Sjálfr skalt þú dæma”. Njáll mælti: “Erfitt mun þér  
*spoke Yourself shall you judge Njal spoke Difficult will to-you*  
 verða at bæta öll slys Hallgerðar; ok mun annarsstaðar  
*become to compensate all mishaps of-Hallgerd and will elsewhere*  
 meira slóða draga enn hér, er vit eigum hlut at; ok  
*greater trail draw than here where we-two have a-share in and*

mun hér þó mikit á vanta at vel sé; ok munu vit  
*will here yet much on be-lacking that well be and will we-two*  
 þess þurfa at muna þat, er vit höfum lengi vel við  
*of-that need to remember that which we-two have long well with*  
 mælt; ok væntir mik, at þér fari vel; enn þó munt þú  
*spoken and expects me that to-you go well but yet will you*  
 verða mjök at þreyttr". Njáll tók sjálfðæmi af Gunnari ok  
*be much at tried Njal took self-judgment from Gunnar and*  
 mælti: "Ekki mun ek halda máli þessu til kapps: Þú skalt  
*spoke Not will I hold case this to zeal You shall*  
 gjalda tólf aura silfrs; enn þat vil ek til skilja, þó at  
*pay twelve ounces of-silver but that will I to stipulate though that*  
 nakkvat komi þat ór várum garði, er þér eigið um at  
*something come that out-of our yard which you have about to*  
 gera, at þér stillið eigi verr gerðinni". Gunnarr sagði þat  
*do that you settle not worse the-award Gunnar said that*  
 maklegt vera. Gunnarr greiddi af hendi féit vel ok reið  
*fitting to-be Gunnar paid from hand the-money well and rode*  
 heim síðan. Njáll kom heim af þingi ok synir hans.  
*home then Njal came home from (the)-assembly and sons his*  
 Bergþóra sá féit ok mælti: "Vel er þessu í hóf stilt;  
*Bergthora saw the-money and spoke Well is this in measure set*  
 enn jafnmikit fé skal koma fyrir Kol, er stundir líða".  
*but equally-great money shall come for Kol when times pass*  
 Gunnarr kom heim af þingi ok taldi á Hallgerði. Hon  
*Gunnar came home from (the)-assembly and blamed on Hallgerd She*  
 kallaði betri menn óbætta liggja margstaðar. Gunnarr kvað  
*said better men uncompensated to-lie in-many-places Gunnar said*  
 hana ráða mundu tiltekjum sínum, — "enn ek skal ráða,  
*her to-manage would undertakings her but I shall decide*  
 hversu málin lúkast". Hallgerðr hældist jafnan um víg  
*how the-cases end Hallgerd boasted always about (the)-slaying*

Svarts, enn Bergþóru líkaði þat illa. Njáll fór upp í  
*of-Svart but to-Bergthora pleased that ill Njal went up into*  
 Þórólfsfell ok synir hans at skipa þar til bús. Enn þann  
*Thorolfsfell and sons his to arrange there to (the)-farm But that*  
 sama dag varð sá atburðr, er Bergþóra var úti, at hon  
*same day happened that event when Bergthora was outside that she*  
 sér mann ríða at garði svörtum hesti. Hon nam staðar  
*sees a-man ride to (the)-yard on-a-black horse She stopped still*  
 ok gekk eigi inn. Hon kendi eigi manninn. Sjá maðr hafði  
*and went not in She knew not tbe-man This man had*  
 spjót í hendi — ok girðr saxi. Hon spurði þenna  
*a-spear in hand and girt with-a-short-sword She asked this*  
 mann at namni. “Atli heiti ek”, sagði hann. Hon spurði,  
*man for name Atli am-called I said he She asked*  
 hvaðan hann væri. “Ek em austfirzkr maðr”, segir hann.  
*whence he were I am an-East-fjord man says he*  
 “Hvert skalt þú fara?” segir hon. “Ek em maðr vistlauss”,  
*Whither shall you go says she I am a-man lodging-less*  
 segir hann, “ok ætlaða ek at finna Njál ok Skarpheðin ok  
*says he and intended I to meet Njal and Skarphedin and*  
 vita, ef þeir vildi taka við mér”. “Hvat er þér hentast at  
*know if they would take with me What is to-you handiest to*  
 vinna?” segir hon. “Ek em akrgerðarmaðr, ok mart er mér  
*do says she I am a-field-worker and much is to-me*  
 vel hent at gera”, segir hann. “enn eigi vil ek því leyna,  
*well handy to do says he but not will I that conceal*  
 at ek em maðr skapharðr, ok hefir jafnan hlotit um sárt  
*that I am a-man hard-tempered and has often befallen about sore*  
 at binda fyrir mér”. “Ekki gef ek þér þat at sök”, segir  
*to bind for me Not give I you that for fault says*  
 hon, “þó at þú sér engi bleyðimaðr”. Atli mælti: “Ert  
*she though that you be no coward Atli spoke Are*

þú nakkvars ráðandi hér?" "Ek em kona Njáls", segir hon,  
*you of-anything managing here I am wife of-Njal says she*  
 "ok ræð ek ekki síðr hjón enn hann". "Vill þú taka við  
*and manage I not less servants than he Will you take with*  
 mér?" segir hann. "Gera mun ek kost á því", segir hon,  
*me says he Make will I terms on that says she*  
 "ef þú vill vinna allt þat er ek legg fyrir þik, ok svá  
*if you will do all that which I lay before you and so*  
 þó at ek vilja senda þik til mannráða". "Átt þú svá til  
*though that I wish to-send you to manslaughters Have you so to*  
 varit of menn", segir hann, "at þú munt ekki mín þurfa  
*arranged about men says he that you will not me need*  
 at því at kosta". "Þat skil ek, er ek vil", segir hon.  
*for that to employ That understand I which I wish says she*  
 "Kaupa munu vit at þessu", sagði hann. Þá tók hon  
*Bargain will we-two on this said he Then took she*  
 við honum. Njáll kom heim ok synir hans. Njáll spurði  
*with him Njal came home and sons his Njal asked*  
 Bergþóru, hvat manna sjá væri. "Hann er húskarl þinn",  
*Bergthora what of-men this were He is house-carl your*  
 segir hon, "ok tók ek við honum, því at hann lézt  
*says she and took I with him because that he professed*  
 vera óhandlutr". "Ærit mun hann stórvirkr", segir Njáll, "enn  
*to-be not-slow-handed Ample will he a-big-worker says Njal but*  
 eigi veit ek hvárt hann er svá góðvirkr". Skarpheðinn var  
*not know I whether he is so good-worker Skarphedin was*  
 vel til Atla. Njáll reið til þings of sumarit ok synir  
*well to Atli Njal rode to (the)-assembly in the-summer and sons*  
 hans. Gunnarr var á þingi. Njáll tók upp fésjóð, er  
*his Gunnar was at (the)-assembly Njal took up a-money-purse when*  
 hann fór heiman. Skarpheðinn spyrr: "Hvat fé er þat  
*he went from-home Skarphedin asks What money is that*



faðir?” “Hér er fé þat”, segir Njáll, “er Gunnarr greiddi  
*father Here is money that says Njal which Gunnar paid*  
 mér fyrir heimamann vörn fyrri sumar”. “Koma mun þat  
*me for household-man our last summer Come will that*  
 til nakkvars”, sagði Skarpheðinn ok glotti við.  
*to something said Skarpheðinn and grinned at-(it)*

XXXVII · ATLI KILLS KOLR

*Bergþóra sends Atli to find and kill Kolr, and he meets him riding from the shieling and spears him. Bergþóra thanks him and warns that Hallgerðr will keep no settlement. When the news reaches the Althing, Skarpheðinn scoffs that thralls have grown more energetic, and Njáll lets Gunnarr judge the case; Gunnarr prices Kolr equal to Svart, and Njáll pays him the very same twelve ounces of silver. Hallgerðr rages, but Gunnarr keeps faith with Njáll.*

Nú er at taka til heima, at Atli spurði Bergþóru, hvat hann  
*Now is to take to at-home that Atli asked Bergþóra what he*  
 skyldi vinna um daginn. “Hugat hefi ek þér verkit”, segir  
*should do during the-day Thought-of have I for-you the-work says*  
 hon, “þú skalt fara at leita Kols þar til er þú finnr hann;  
*she you shall go to seek Kol there until that you find him*  
 því at nú skalt þú vega hann í dag, ef þú vill minn vilja  
*because that now shall you slay him in day if you will my will*  
 gera”. “Hér er vel á komit”, segir Atli, “því at hvárrtveggi  
*do Here is well on come says Atli because that each*  
 okkarr er illmenni. Enn þó skal ek svá til hans ráða, at  
*of-us-two is a-villain But yet shall I so at him set that*  
 annarr hvárr okkarr skal deyja”. “Vel mun þér fara”, segir  
*one or-other of-us-two shall die Well will to-you go says*  
 hon, “ok skalt þú eigi til engis vinna”. Hann gekk ok tók  
*she and shall you not for nothing work He went and took*

vápn sín ok hest ok reið í braut. Hann reið austr til  
*weapons his and horse and rode off away He rode east to*  
 Fljótshlíðar ok mætti þar mönnum, er fóru frá Hlíðarenda.  
*Fljotsblid and met there men who went from Hlidarendi*  
 Þeir áttu heima austr í mörk. Þeir spurðu Atla, hvert hann  
*They had homes east in Mork They asked Atli whither he*  
 ætlaði. Hann kveðst ríða at leita klárs eins. Þeir kváðu  
*intended He says-of-himself to-ride to seek a-nag one They said*  
 þat litit erendi slíkum verkmanni, — “enn þó er þá helzt  
*that little errand for-such a-workman but yet is then most*  
 eftir at spyrja, er á ferli hafa verit í nótt”. “Hverir  
*after to ask who on (the)-move have been in night Who*  
 eru þeir?” segir hann. “Viga-Kolr, húskarl Hallgerðar”, sögðu  
*are they says he Slaying-Kolr house-carl of-Hallgerd said*  
 þeir, “hann fór frá seli áðan ok hefir vakat í alla  
*they he went from (the)-shieling just-now and has waked through all*  
 nótt”. “Eigi veit ek, hvárt ek þori at finna hann”, segir Atli,  
*night Not know I whether I dare to meet him says Atli*  
 “hann er skapillr ok búð ek láta annars víti at varnaði”.  
*he is ill-tempered and bid I let another's punishment for warning*  
 “Hinn veg værir þú undir brún at líta”, segja þeir, “sem þú  
*The-other way were you under brow to look say they as you*  
 myndir eigi vera ragr”, — ok vísuðu honum til Kols. Hann  
*would not be cowardly and directed him to Kol He*  
 keyrir þá hest sinn ok ríðr mikinn. Ok er hann mætir  
*spurs then horse his and rides hard And when he meets*  
 Kol, mælti Atli til hans: “Gengr vel klyfjabandit?” segir  
*Kol spoke Atli to him Goes well the-load-binding says*  
 Atli. “Þat mun þik skifta engu, mannfýlan”, segir Kolr, “ok  
*Atli That will you concern nothing wretch says Kol and*  
 engan þann er þaðan er”. Atli mælti: “Þat átt þú eftir, er  
*none that who thence is Atli spoke That have you left which*

erfiðast er; enn þat er at deyja". Síðan lagði Atli spjóti  
*hardest is but that is to die Then thrust Atli with-(the)-spear*  
 til hans, ok kom á hann miðjan. Kolr sveiflaði til hans  
*at him and came on him middle Kol swung at him*  
 öxi ok misti hans. Síðan fell Kolr af baki ok dó þegar.  
*(the)-axe and missed him Then fell Kol off back and died at-once*  
 Atli reið þar til er hann fann verkmenn Hallgerðar ok  
*Atli rode there until that he found workmen of-Hallgerd and*  
 mælti: "Farið upp til hests Kols ok geymið hans. Kolr er  
*spoke Go up to (the)-horse of-Kol and mind it Kol is*  
 fallinn af baki, ok er hann dauðr". "Hefir þú vegit hann",  
*fallen off back and is he dead Have you slain him*  
 sögðu þeir. Hann svarar: "Svá mun Hallgerði sýnast, sem  
*said they He answers So will to-Hallgerd seem as*  
 hann hafi eigi sjálf dauðr orðit". Síðan reið Atli heim ok  
*he have not self-dead become Then rode Atli home and*  
 segir Bergþóru vígit. Hon þakkar honum verk þetta ok  
*tells Bergthora the-slaying She thanks him deed this and*  
 orð þau, sem hann hafði um haft. "Eigi veit ek", segir  
*words those which he had about had Not know I says*  
 Atli, "hversu Njáli mun þykkja". "Vel mun hann í höndum  
*Atli how to-Njal will seem Well will he in hands*  
 hafa", segir hon, "ok mun ek segja þér eitt til marks  
*have says she and will I tell you one to token*  
 um — at hann hefir haft til þings þrælskjöld þau,  
*about-(it) that he has had to (the)-assembly thrall-price that*  
 er vér tókum við fyrra sumar; ok munu þau nú koma  
*which we took with last summer and will they now come*  
 fyrir Kol. Enn þó at sættir verði, þá skalt þú þó vera  
*for Kol But though that settlements be then shall you yet be*  
 varr um þik; því at Hallgerðr mun engar sættir halda".  
*wary about yourself because that Hallgerd will no settlements keep*

“Vill þú nakkvat senda mann til Njáls”, segir Atli, “at segja  
*Will you anything send a-man to Njal says Atli to tell*  
 honum vígit?” “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir hon, “mér þætti  
*him the-slaying Not will I that says she to-me would-seem*  
 betr, at Kolr væri ógildir”. Þau hættu nú talinu. Hallgerði  
*better that Kol were uncompensated They stopped now the-talk To-Hallgerd*  
 var sagt víg Kols ok ummæli Atla. Hon kvaðst  
*was told (the)-slaying of-Kol and (the)-words of-Atli She said-of-herself*  
 launa skyldu Atla. Hon sendi mann til þings at segja  
*to-repay should Atli She sent a-man to (the)-assembly to tell*  
 Gunnari víg Kols. Hann svaraði fá ok sendi mann at  
*Gunnar (the)-slaying of-Kol He answered little and sent a-man to*  
 segja Njáli. Hann svaraði engu. Skarpheðinn mælti: “Miklu  
*tell Njal He answered nothing Skarpbedin spoke Much*  
 eru þrælur atgerðameiri enn fyrr hafa verit. Þeir flugust þá  
*are thralls more-energetic than before have been They flew then*  
 á — ok þótti þat ekki saka — enn nú vilja þeir  
*at-each-other and seemed that nothing harm but now will they*  
 vegast”, ok glotti við. Njáll kipti ofan fésjóðnum, er  
*slay-each-other and grinned at-(it) Njal pulled down the-money-purse which*  
 uppi var í búðinni, ok gekk út. Synir hans gengu með  
*up was in the-booth and went out Sons his went with*  
 honum. Þeir gengu til búðar Gunnars. Skarpheðinn mælti  
*him They went to (the)-booth of-Gunnar Skarpbedin spoke*  
 við mann er stóð í búðardurum: “Seg þú Gunnari, at  
*with a-man who stood in the-booth-doorway Tell you Gunnar that*  
 faðir minn vill finna hann”. Sá segir Gunnari. Gunnarr  
*father my wishes to-meet him That-one tells Gunnar Gunnar*  
 gekk út þegar ok fagnaði vel Njáli ok sonum hans. Síðan  
*went out at-once and welcomed well Njal and sons his Then*  
 gengu þeir á tal. “Illa hefir nú orðit”, segir Njáll, “er  
*went they to talk Ill has now happened says Njal since*

húsfreyja mín skal hafa rofið grið ok látit drepa húskarl  
*housewife my shall have broken (the)-truce and let kill house-carl*  
 þinn. “Ekki ámæli skal hon af þessu hafa”, segir Gunnarr.  
*your No blame shall she of this have says Gunnar*  
 “Dæm þú nú málit”, segir Njáll. “Svá mun ek gera”, segir  
*Judge you now the-case says Njal So will I do says*  
 Gunnarr, “læt ek þá vera menn jafndýra, Svart ok Kol:  
*Gunnar let I then be men equally-priced Svart and Kol*  
 Skalt þú greiða mér tólf aura silfrs”. Njáll tók fésjóðinn  
*Shall you pay me twelve ounces of-silver Njal took the-money-purse*  
 ok seldi Gunnari. Hann kendi féit — at þat var  
*and handed-(it) to-Gunnar He recognized the-money that it was*  
 hit sama, sem hann hafði greitt Njáli. Fór Njáll nú til  
*the same as he had paid Njal Went Njal now to*  
 búðar sinnar. Ok var jafnvel með þeim síðan sem áður.  
*booth his And was equally-well between them after as before*  
 Þá er Njáll kom heim, taldi hann á Bergþóru. Enn hon  
*Then when Njal came home blamed he on Bergþora But she*  
 kvaðst aldri vægja skyldu fyrir Hallgerði. Hallgerðr leitaði  
*said-of-herself never to-yield should for Hallgerð Hallgerð pressed*  
 á Gunnar mjök, er hann hafði sæzt á vígit. Gunnarr  
*on Gunnar much when he had settled on the-slaying Gunnar*  
 kveðst aldri bregðast skyldu Njáli né sonum hans. Hon  
*says-of-himself never to-fail should Njal nor sons his She*  
 geisaði mjök. Gunnarr gaf ekki gaum at því. Svá gættu  
*raged much Gunnar gave not heed to that So kept-watch*  
 þeir til á þeim misserum, at ekki varð at.  
*they to on those seasons that nothing happened to*

*Njáll urges Atli to leave, but he would rather die in Njáll's house than change masters and asks not to be paid for with a thrall's price; Njáll promises him a free man's compensation and says Bergþóra will promise him vengeance. Hallgerðir hires her kinsman Brynjólfur rósta, who kills Atli while he is burning charcoal at Þórólfsfell. At the Althing Gunnarr gives Njáll self-judgment, and Njáll awards a hundred of silver, a free man's price. Hallgerðir scorns the payment, and Bergþóra says her own promise remains.*

Um v́́rit ræddi Njáll við Atla: “Þat vilda ek, at þú  
*In the-spring talked Njal with Atli That would-wish I that you*  
 réðist austr í fjörðu, at eigi skapi Hallgerðir þér  
*engaged-yourself east into (the)-fjords that not shape Hallgerd you*  
 aldr”. “Ekki hræðumst ek þat”, segir Atli, “ok vil ek  
*(the)-life-span Not fear I that says Atli and will I*  
 heima vera, ef ek á kosti”. “Þat er þó óráðlegra”, segir  
*at-home be if I have choice That is yet more-ill-advised says*  
 Njáll. “Betra þykkir mér at látast í þínu húsi”, segir Atli,  
*Njal Better seems to-me to lose-life in your house says Atli*  
 “enn skifta um lánardrotna. Enn þess vil ek biðja þik, ef  
*than exchange about masters But this will I ask you if*  
 ek em veginn, at eigi komi þrælskjöld fyrir mik”. “Svá skal  
*I am slain that not come thrall-price for me So shall*  
 þik bæta sem frjálsan mann”, segir Njáll, “enn Bergþóra  
*you compensate as a-free man says Njal but Bergthora*  
 mun þér því heita, sem hon mun efna, at fyrir þik munu  
*will you that promise which she will fulfill that for you will*  
 koma mannhefndir”. Réðst Atli þar þá at hjóni. Nú  
*come man-vengeances Engaged-himself Atli there then to service Now*  
 er at segja frá Hallgerði, at hon sendi mann vestr til  
*is to tell of Hallgerd that she sent a-man west to*

Bjarnarfjarðar eftir Brynjólfi rósta, frænda sínum. Hann var  
*Bjarnarfjord after Brynjolf Brawl kinsman her He was*  
 sonr Svans laungetinn. Hann var hit mesta illmenni.

*son of-Svan born-out-of-wedlock He was the greatest villain*

Gunnarr vissi ekki til þessa. Hallgerðr kvað hann sér

*Gunnar knew nothing of this Hallgerd said him for-herself*

vel fallinn til verkstjóra. Brynjólfr kom vestan; ok spurði

*well suited to oversee Brynjolf came from-the-west and asked*

Gunnarr, hvat hann skyldi. Hann kveðst þar vera skyldu.

*Gunnar what he should He says-of-himself there to-be should*

“Ekki munt þú bæta híbýli vár”, segir Gunnarr, “svá er

*Not will you improve household our says Gunnar so is*

mér frá þér sagt; enn ekki mun ek vísa í braut frændum

*to-me of you told but not will I send off away kinsmen*

Hallgerðar, þeim er hon vill at með henni sé”. Gunnarr

*of-Hallgerd those whom she wishes that with her be Gunnar*

var til hans fár, ok ekki illa. Leið nú svá fram til þings.

*was to him cool and not ill Passed now so forth to (the)-assembly*

Gunnarr reið til þings ok Kolskeggr með honum. Ok

*Gunnar rode to (the)-assembly and Kolskegg with him And*

er þeir kvámu til þings, fundust þeir Gunnarr ok Njáll

*when they came to (the)-assembly met they Gunnar and Njal*

ok synir hans. Áttust þeir mart við ok vel. Bergþóra

*and sons his Dealt they much with-each-other and well Bergthora*

mælti við Atla: “Far þú upp í Þórólfsfell ok vinn þar

*spoke with Atli Go you up into Thorolfsfell and work there*

viku”. Hann fór upp þangat ok var þar á laun ok brendi

*a-week He went up thither and was there in secret and burned*

kol í skógi. Hallgerðr mælti við Brynjólfr: “Þat er mér

*charcoal in (the)-wood Hallgerd spoke with Brynjolf That is to-me*

sagt, at Atli sé eigi heima; ok mun hann vinna verk í

*told that Atli be not at-home and will be do work in*

Þórólfsfelli". "Hvat þykki þér líkast at hann vinni?" segir  
*Thorolfsfell What seems to-you likeliest that he do says*  
hann. "Í skógi nakkvat", segir hon. "Hvat skal ek honum",  
*he In (the)-wood something says she What shall I with-him*  
sagði hann. "Drepa skalt þú hann", segir hon. Hann varð  
*said he Kill shall you him says she He became*  
um fár. "Minnr myndi Þjóstólfi í augu vaxa", segir hon,  
*about-(it) silent Less would to-Thjostolf in eyes grow says she*  
"ef hann væri á lífi, at drepa Atla". "Ekki skalt þú hér  
*if he were in life to kill Atli Not shall you here*  
enn þurfa mjök á at frýja", segir hann. Tók hann þá vörn  
*yet need much on to goad says he Took he then weapons*  
sín ok hest, stígr á bak ok ríðr í Þórólfsfell. Hann sá  
*bis and horse steps on back and rides to Thorolfsfell He saw*  
kolreyk mikinn austr frá bænum. Ríðr hann þangat til,  
*charcoal-smoke great east from the-farm Rides he thither to*  
stígr af baki hestinum, ok bindr hann — enn hann gengr  
*steps off back of-the-horse and ties it but he goes*  
þar sem mestr er reykrinn. Sér hann þá hvar kolgröfin  
*there where most is the-smoke Sees he then where the-charcoal-pit*  
er — ok er þar maðr við. Hann sá, at hann hafði sett  
*is and is there a-man by He saw that he had set*  
spjót í völinn hjá sér. Brynjólf gengr með reykinum alt  
*a-spear into the-field by himself Brynjolf goes along the-smoke all*  
at honum; enn hann var óðr at verki sínu, ok sá hann eigi  
*to him but he was eager at work his and saw he not*  
Brynjólf. Brynjólf hjó í höfuð honum með öxi. Hann  
*Brynjolf Brynjolf hewed at head of-him with (the)-axe He*  
brást við svá fast, at Brynjólf lét lausa öxina. Þá þreif  
*swerved with so hard that Brynjolf let loose the-axe Then seized*  
Alti spjótit ok skaut eftir honum. Brynjólf kastaði sér  
*Atli the-spear and shot after him Brynjolf cast himself*



niðr við vellinum, enn spjótit flaug yfir hann fram. “Nauzt  
*down at the-field but the-spear flew over him forth Gained*  
 þú nú þess, er ek var eigi við búinn”, segir Atli, “enn nú  
*you now that that I was not with ready says Atli but now*  
 mun Hallgerði vel þykkja: þú munt segja dauða minn. Enn  
*will to-Hallgerd well seem you will tell death my But*  
 þat er til bóta, at þú munt slíkan á baugi eiga brátt;  
*that is to amends that you will such on ring have soon*  
 enda tak þú nú öxi þína, er hér hefir verit”. Brynjólf  
*and-indeed take you now axe your which here has been Brynjolf*  
 svaraði engu, ok tók öxina eigi fyrr enn Atli var dauðr —  
*answered nothing and took the-axe not before than Atli was dead*  
 reið þá heim í Þorólfssfell ok sagði vígit. Síðan reið hann  
*rode then home to Thorolfssfell and told the-slaying Then rode he*  
 heim til Hlíðarenda ok sagði Hallgerði. Hon sendi mann  
*home to Hlidarendi and told Hallgerd She sent a-man*  
 til Bergþórshváls ok lét segja Bergþóru, at nú var launat  
*to Bergthorshval and had tell Bergthora that now was repaid*  
 víg Kols. Síðan sendi Hallgerðr mann til þings at  
*(the)-slaying of-Kol Then sent Hallgerd a-man to (the)-assembly to*  
 segja Gunnari víg Atla. Gunnarr stóð upp ok Kolskegg  
*tell Gunnar (the)-slaying of-Atli Gunnar stood up and Kolskegg*  
 með honum, Kolskegg mælti: “Óþarfir munu þér verða  
*with him Kolskegg spoke Unprofitable will to-you become*  
 frændr Hallgerðar”. Þeir gengu til fundar við Njál. Gunnarr  
*kinsmen of-Hallgerd They went to a-meeting with Njal Gunnar*  
 mælti: “Víg Atla hefi ek at segja þér”, ok segir honum,  
*spoke (The)-slaying of-Atli have I to tell you and tells him*  
 hverr vá, “ok vil ek nú bjóða þér bót fyrir; ok vil  
*who slew and will I now offer you compensation for-(it) and will*  
 ek, at þú gerir sjálf”. Njáll mælti: “Þat höfu vit  
*I that you make-(the)-award yourself Njal spoke That have we-two*

ætlat at láta okkr ekki á greina, enn þó mun ek eigi gera  
*intended to let us-two nothing on divide but yet will I not make*  
 hann at þræli". Gunnarr kvað þat vel vera ok rétti fram  
*him to a-thrall Gunnar said that well to-be and stretched forth*  
 höndina. Njáll nemndi sér vátta — ok sættust at þessu.  
*the-hand Njal named for-himself witnesses and settled on this*  
 Skarpheðinn mælti: "Ekki lætr Hallgerðr verða ellidauða  
*Skarpheðin spoke Not lets Hallgerd become old-age-dead*  
 húskarla vára". Gunnarr mælti: "Svá mun móðir þín til ætla,  
*house-carls our Gunnar spoke So will mother your to intend*  
 at ýmsir eigi högg í garði". "Ærit bragð mun at því",  
*that various have blows in (the)-yard Ample craft will at that*  
 segir Njáll. Síðan gerði Njáll hundrað silfrs; enn Gunnarr  
*says Njal Then awarded Njal a-hundred of-silver and Gunnar*  
 galt þegar. Margir mæltu, er hjá stóðu, at mikit væri gert.  
*paid at-once Many spoke who by stood that great were made*  
 Gunnarr reiddist ok kvað þá bætta fullum bótum, er  
*Gunnar grew-angry and said them compensated with-full compensations who*  
 eigi væri vaskari menn, enn Atli var. Riðu þeir við þat  
*not were more-valiant men than Atli was Rode they with that*  
 heim af þingi. Bergþóra ræddi við Njál er hon sá  
*home from (the)-assembly Bergthora talked with Njal when she saw*  
 féit: "Efnt þykkist þú hafa heitin þín, enn nú eru eftir  
*the-money Fulfilled think-yourself you to-have promises your but now are left*  
 mín heit". "Eigi er nauðsyn á, at þú efnir þau", segir  
*my promises Not is need on-(it) that you fulfill them says*  
 Njáll. "Hins hefir þú þó til getit", sagði hon, "ok skal svá  
*Njal That have you yet to guessed said she and shall so*  
 vera". Í annan stað mælti Hallgerðr við Gunnarr: "Hefir  
*be In (the)-other place spoke Hallgerd with Gunnar Have*  
 þú goldit hundrað silfrs fyrir víg Atla ok gert hann  
*you paid a-hundred of-silver for (the)-slaying of-Atli and made him*

at frjálsum manni?” “Frjáls var hann áðr”, segir Gunnarr,  
*to a-free man Free was he before says Gunnar*  
 “enda skal ek ekki gera at óbótamönnum heimamenn  
*and-indeed shall I not make to men-without-atonement household-men*  
 Njáls”. “Jafnkomit mun á með ykkur Njáli, er hvárrtveggi  
*of-Njal Even-matched will on between you-two Njal since each*  
 er blauðr”, segir hon. “Þat er sem reynist”, segir hann. Var  
*is cowardly says she That is as proves says he Was*  
 þá Gunnarr lengi fár við hana, þar til at hon lét til  
*then Gunnar long cool with her there until that she gave to*  
 við hann. Nú er kyrt þau misseri. Um várit jók Njáll  
*with him Now is quiet those seasons In the-spring increased Njal*  
 ekki hjón sín. Nú ríða menn til þings um sumarit.  
*not servants his Now ride men to (the)-assembly during the-summer*

XXXIX · ÞÓRÐR KILLS BRYNJÓLFR

*Bergþóra sends Þórðr leysingjason, the foster-father of Njáll's sons, to kill Brynjólfir, though Þórðr says he is no killer. Claiming to want to know where Atli's body is buried, he learns from Hallgerðr where Brynjólfir is, and when she mocks him, Gunnarr's mother Rannveig says she thinks Þórðr a steadfast man. The two meet on the road, and Þórðr kills Brynjólfir with an axe and declares the killing. Bergþóra thanks him, while Hallgerðr says much evil will come of it if she has her way.*

Þórðr hét maðr. Hann var kallaðr leysingjason. Sigtrygg  
*Thord was-called a-man He was called Freedman's-son Sigtrygg*  
 hét faðir hans, ok hafði hann verit leysingi Ásgerðar,  
*was-called father his and had he been freedman of-Asgerd*  
 ok druknaði hann í Markarfljóti. Var Þórðr því með  
*and drowned he in Markarfljot Was Thord therefore with*  
 Njáli síðan. Hann var mikill maðr ok styrkr. Hann hafði  
*Njal after He was a-big man and strong He had*

fóstrat alla sonu Njáls. Þórðr lagði hug á frændkonu Njáls,  
*fostered all sons of-Njal Thord laid mind on kinswoman of-Njal*  
 er Guðfinna hét, Þórólfsdóttir. Hon var matselja heima  
*who Gudfinna was-called Thorolf's-daughter She was housekeeper at-home*  
 þar, ok var þá óhraust. Bergþóra kom at máli við Þórð  
*there and was then unwell Bergthora came to speech with Thord*  
 leysingjason: “Þú skalt fara”, segir hon, “ok drepa Brynjólf  
*Freedman's-son You shall go says she and kill Brynjolf*  
 frænda Hallgerðar”. “Engi em ek vígamaðr”, segir hann, “enn  
*kinsman of-Hallgerd No am I killer says he but*  
 þó mun ek til hætta, ef þú vill”. “Þat vil ek”, segir hon.  
*yet will I to risk-(it) if you wish That wish I says she*  
 Síðan tók hann hest ok reið upp til Hlíðarenda ok lét  
*Then took he a-horse and rode up to Hlidarendi and had*  
 kalla Hallgerði út ok spurði, hvar Brynjólfr væri. “Hvat vill  
*call Hallgerd out and asked where Brynjolf were What want*  
 þú honum?” segir hon. Hann mælti: “Ek vil at hann segi  
*you with-him says she He spoke I wish that he tell*  
 mér, hvar hann hefir hulit hræ Atla. Mér er sagt, at  
*me where he has covered (the)-corpse of-Atli To-me is said that*  
 hann hafi illa um búit”. Hon vísaði til hans ok kvað hann  
*be have ill about prepared She directed to him and said him*  
 vera í Akratungu niðri. “Gæt þú”, segir Þórðr, “at honum  
*to-be in Akratunga down-below Watch you says Thord that to-him*  
 verði eigi slíkt sem Atla”. “Engi ert þú vígamaðr”, segir hon,  
*befall not such as to-Atli No are you killer says she*  
 “ok mun ekki undir, hvar þit finnist”. “Aldri hefi ek sét  
*and will nothing at-stake where you-two meet Never have I seen*  
 mannsblóð”, segir hann, “ok veit ek eigi, hversu mér bregðr  
*man's-blood says he and know I not how me turns*  
 við”, ok hleypti ór túninu, ok svá ofan í Akratungu.  
*at-(it) and galloped out-of the-homefield and so down to Akratunga*

Rannveig móðir Gunnars hafði heyrt á viðrtal þeira  
*Rannveig mother of-Gunnar had heard on (the)-conversation their*  
 ok mælti: “Mjök frýr þú, Hallgerðr, honum hugar; enn  
*and spoke Much taunt you Hallgerd him with-courage but*  
 ek ætla hann öruggan mann, ok mun þat frændi þinn  
*I think him a-steadfast man and will that kinsman your*  
 finna”. Þeir mættust á förnum vegi, Brynjólfr ok Þórðr.  
*find They met on beaten way Brynjolf and Thord*  
 Þórðr mælti: “Ver þú þik, Brynjólfr, því at ek vil eigi  
*Thord spoke Guard you yourself Brynjolf because that I will not*  
 níðast á þér”. Brynjólfr reið at Þórði ok hjó til hans.  
*do-dastardly on you Brynjolf rode at Thord and hewed at him*  
 Þórðr hjó í mót með öxi ok í sundr skaftit fyrir  
*Thord hewed in against with (the)-axe and in asunder the-shaft before*  
 framan hendr honum Brynjólfi ok hjó þegar í annat sinn  
*in-front hands of-him Brynjolf and hewed at-once in a-second time*  
 til hans — ok kom framan á bringuna ok gekk þegar á  
*at him and came in-front on the-breast and went at-once into*  
 hol. Fell Brynjólfr þá af baki ok var þegar dauðr. Þórðr  
*(the)-cavity Fell Brynjolf then off back and was at-once dead Thord*  
 fann smalamann Hallgerðar ok lýsti vígi á hönd sér  
*found (the)-shepherd of-Hallgerd and declared (the)-slaying on hand his*  
 ok sagði, hvar Brynjólfr lá, ok bað hann segja Hallgerði  
*and told where Brynjolf lay and bade him tell Hallgerd*  
 vigit. Síðan reið hann til Bergþórshváls ok sagði Bergþóru  
*the-slaying Then rode he to Bergthorshvol and told Bergthora*  
 vigit ok öðrum mönnum. “Njót þú heill handa”, sagði  
*the-slaying and other men Enjoy you whole hands said*  
 hon. Smalamaðr sagði Hallgerði vigit. Hon varð beisk við  
*she (The)-shepherd told Hallgerd the-slaying She became bitter at-(it)*  
 ok kvað hér skyldu mikit ilt af leiða, ef hon mætti ráða.  
*and said here should great evil from lead if she might decide*

*At the Althing Njáll has the news told to him three times and remarks that there are more killers than he expected. Skarpheðinn says the man killed by their foster-father, who had never seen a man's blood, was doomed indeed, and he speaks a verse. Njáll warns his sons that many will expect them to be the first to kill, and before long. Gunnarr calls the killing a small loss, though of a free man, and at Njáll's offer judges the case himself, awarding a hundred of silver, which Njáll pays at once.*

Nú koma tíðendin til þings, ok lét Njáll segja sér  
*Now come the-tidings to (the)-assembly and had Njal tell himself*  
 þrim sinnum ok mælti síðan: “Fleiri gerast nú vígamenn,  
*three times and spoke then More become now killers*  
 enn ek ætlaða”. Þá mælti Skarpheðinn: “Sjá maðr hefir þó  
*than I expected Then spoke Skarpheðinn This man has yet*  
 helzt hraðfeigr verit, er látizt hefir fyrir fóstra várum,  
*most quickly-doomed been who lost-life has before foster-father our*  
 er aldri hefir mannsblóð sét”, ok kvað vísu:  
*who never has man's-blood seen and spoke a-verse*

Hraðfeigan vil ek — hlægir  
*Quickly-doomed will I gladdens*  
 hug minn við þat — svinnan  
*mind my at that wise*  
 eyði orma leiðar  
*destroyer of-snakes of-path*  
 alldálega kalla.  
*very-poorly call*

Vár eru vánir meiri  
*Our are expectations greater*  
 vígsgæðöndum bræðra  
*to-battle-increasers of-brothers*  
 enn at varg munim vinna  
*than that wolf will-we win*  
 vín á fóstura mínum.  
*wine on foster-father my*

Njáll mælti: “Þat munu víst margir ætla, at því skapferli,  
*Njal spoke That will surely many think that by-that disposition*  
 sem hvárir hafa, at þér myndi fyrri víg vega. Enda  
*which each-side have that you would first slaying slay And-indeed*  
 mun til þess eigi langt vera; ok munu þat sumir mæla,  
*will to that not long be and will that some say*  
 at yðr reki nauðsyn til”. Þeir gengu þá til móts við  
*that you drives need to-(it) They went then to a-meeting with*  
 Gunnarr ok sögðu honum vígit. Gunnarr sagði, at þat  
*Gunnar and told him the-slaying Gunnar said that it*  
 var lítill mannskaði, — “enn þó var hann frjáls maðr”. Njáll  
*was little loss-of-man but yet was he a-free man Njal*  
 bauð honum þegar sættina. Gunnarr játti því, ok skyldi  
*offered him at-once the-settlement Gunnar agreed to-that and should*  
 hann sjálfr dæma. Hann dæmdi þegar ok gerði hundrað  
*he himself judge He judged at-once and awarded a-hundred*  
 silfrs. Njáll galt þegar féit — ok sættust at því.  
*of-silver Njal paid at-once the-money and settled on that*

*Gunnarr's kinsman Sigmundr Lambason, a mocking poet, comes to stay with his Swedish companion Skjöldr, and Hallgerðr soon favors him lavishly despite Gunnarr's warning. When she vows revenge for Brynjólfr, Gunnarr has Njáll warn Þórðr leysingjason, who then sees a bloody goat that Njáll calls his fetch. Sigmundr and Skjöldr promise Hallgerðr to kill Þórðr while Gunnarr, Njáll, and his sons are at the Althing, and Þráinn promises to be present. On Þórðr's return from the east, Bergþóra sends him to Þórólfsfell.*

Sigmundr hét maðr. Hann var Lambason, Sigvats sonar  
*Sigmund was-called a-man He was Lambi's-son of-Sigvat son*  
 hins rauða. Hann var farmaðr mikill, kurteiss maðr ok  
*the Red He was a-seafarer great a-courteous man and*  
 vænn, mikill ok sterkr. Hann var metnaðarmaðr mikill ok  
*handsome big and strong He was an-ambitious-man great and*  
 skáld gott ok at flestum íþróttum vel búinn, hávaðamaðr  
*a-poet good and in most accomplishments well accomplished a-loud-man*  
 mikill, spottsamr ok ódæll. Hann kom út austr í Hornafirði.  
*great mocking and unruly He came out east in Hornafjord*  
 Skjöldr hét félagi hans. Hann var sænskr maðr ok illr  
*Skjold was-called partner his He was a-Swedish man and ill*  
 viðreignar. Þeir fengu sér hesta ok riðu austan ór  
*to-deal-with They got themselves horses and rode from-the-east out-of*  
 Hornafirði ok luku eigi ferð sinni fyrr enn þeir kvámu  
*Hornafjord and ended not journey their before than they came*  
 í Fljótshlíð til Hlíðarenda. Gunnarr tók við þeim vel. Var  
*into Fljotsblid to Hlidarendi Gunnar took with them well Was*  
 þar frændsemi mikil með þeim Sigmundi. Gunnarr bauð  
*there kinship great between them Sigmund(-and-bim) Gunnar invited*  
 Sigmundi at vera þar um vetrinn. Sigmundr kvaðst þat  
*Sigmund to be there through the-winter Sigmund said-of-himself that*



þiggja mundu, ef Skjöldr væri þar félagi hans. “Svá er mér  
*to-accept would if Skjold were there partner his So is to-me*  
 frá honum sagt”, sagði Gunnarr, “at hann sé þér engi  
*of him told said Gunnar that he be to-you no*  
 skapbætir; enn þú þarft hins heldr, at bætt sé um með  
*temper-mender but you need the-other rather that bettered be about with*  
 þér. Er hér ok vönd vistin. Vilda ek ráða yðr ráð  
*you Is here also tricky the-lodging Would-wish I to-give you counsel*  
 frændum mínum — at þér hlypið eigi upp við frameggjan  
*kinsmen my that you leap not up at (the)-egging*  
 Hallgerðar konu minnar; því at hon tekur þat mart upp,  
*of-Hallgerd wife my because that she takes that much up*  
 er fjarri er mínum vilja”. “Veldrat sá er varar”, segir  
*which far is from-my will Not-causes-(harm) he who warns says*  
 Sigmundr. “Þá er at gæta ráðsins”, segir Gunnarr, “enn  
*Sigmund Then is to heed the-counsel says Gunnar but*  
 mjök mun þú verða reyndr — ok gakk með mér jafnan ok  
*much will you be tried and go with me always and*  
 hlít mínum ráðum”. Síðan váru þeir í fylgd með Gunnari.  
*follow my counsels Then were they in following with Gunnar*  
 Hallgerðr var vel til Sigmundar — ok þar kom, at  
*Hallgerd was well toward Sigmund and there came-(it) that*  
 þar gerðist svá mikill ákafi, at hon bar fé á hann  
*there became so great eagerness that she bore wealth on him*  
 ok þjónaði honum eigi verr enn búanda sínum; ok lögðu  
*and served him not worse than husband her and laid*  
 margir þat til orðs ok þóttust eigi vita, hvat undir  
*many that to words and thought-themselves not to-know what under*  
 myndi búa. Hallgerðr mælti við Gunnarr: “Eigi er gott við  
*would dwell Hallgerd spoke with Gunnar Not is good with*  
 at una við þat hundrað silfrs, er þú tókt fyrir Brynjólf  
*to put-up with that hundred of-silver which you took for Brynjolf*

frænda minn. Enda skal ek hefna hans láta, ef ek má”,  
kinsman my And-indeed shall I avenge him have if I may  
segir hon. Gunnarr kvaðst ekki vilja skifta orðum við  
says she Gunnarr said-of-himself not to-wish to-exchange words with  
hana ok gekk í braut. Hann fann Kolskegg ok mælti til  
her and went off away He met Kolskegg and spoke to  
hans: “Far þú ok finn Njál ok seg honum, at Þórðr sé  
him Go you and meet Njal and tell him that Thord be  
varr um sik, þó at sættir sé; því at mér þykkir eigi  
wary about himself though that settlements be because that to-me seems not  
trúlega vera”. Hann reið ok sagði Njáli, enn Njáll sagði  
trustworthy be He rode and told Njal but Njal told  
Þórði. Kolskegg reið heim, ok þakkaði Njáll þeim trúleika  
Thord Kolskegg rode home and thanked Njal them loyalty  
sína. — Þat var einu hverju sinni, at þeir sátu úti Njáll  
their It was on-one some time that they sat outside Njal  
ok Þórðr. Þar var vanr at ganga hafr um túnit, ok  
and Thord There was used to go a-be-goat about the-homefield and  
skyldi engi hann í braut reka. Þórðr mælti: “Undarlega  
should no-one it off away drive Thord spoke Strangely  
bregðr nú við”. “Hvat sér þú þess, er þér þykkir með  
turns now at-(it) What see you of-that which to-you seems in  
undarlegu móti vera?” segir Njáll. “Mér þykkir hafrinn liggja  
strange manner be says Njal To-me seems the-goat lie  
hér í dælinni, ok er alblóðigr allr”. Njáll kvað þar vera eigi  
here in the-bollow and is all-bloody all Njal said there to-be not  
hafr ok ekki annat. “Hvat er þat þá?” segir Þórðr. “Þú  
a-goat and nothing other What is that then says Thord You  
munt vera maðr feigr”, segir Njáll, “ok munt þú sét hafa  
will be a-man doomed says Njal and will you seen have  
fylgju þína, ok ver þú varr um þik”. “Ekki mun mér þat  
(the)-fetch your and be you wary about yourself Not will me that

stoða”, segir Þórðr, “ef mér er þat ætlat”. Hallgerðr kom at  
*help says Thord if to-me is that intended Hallgerd came to*  
 máli við Þráin Sigfússon ok mælti: “Mágr þætti  
*speech with Thrain Sigfus’s-son and spoke Kinsman-by-marriage would-seem*  
 mér þú vera, ef þú dræpir Þórð leysingjason”. “Eigi mun  
*to-me you be if you killed Thord Freedman’s-son Not will*  
 ek þat gera”, segir hann, “því at þá mun ek hafa reiði  
*I that do says he because that then will I have (the)-anger*  
 Gunnars frænda míns. Mun ok þar stórt á liggja; því at  
*of-Gunnar kinsman my Will also there greatly on lie because that*  
 vígs þess mun brátt hefnt verða”. “Hverr mun hefna?”  
*(the)-slaying that will soon avenged be Who will avenge*  
 segir hon, “hvárt karl hinn skegglausi?” “Eigi mun  
*says she whether (the)-old-man the beardless Not will*  
 þat”, segir hann, “synir hans munu hefna”. Síðan töluðu  
*that says he sons his will avenge Then talked*  
 þau lengi hljótt — ok vissi engi maðr hvat þau höfðu í  
*they long quietly and knew no man what they had in*  
 ráðagerðum. Einu sinni var þat, at Gunnarr var eigi heima,  
*plans On-one time was it that Gunnar was not at-home*  
 þá var Sigmundr heima — ok þeir félagar. Þar var kominn  
*then was Sigmund at-home and they partners There was come*  
 Þráinn frá Grjóta. Þá sátu þau Hallgerðr úti ok  
*Thrain from Grjota Then sat they Hallgerd(-and-the-others) outside and*  
 töluðu. Þá mælti Hallgerðr: “Því hafið þit heitið félagar,  
*talked Then spoke Hallgerd That have you-two promised partners*  
 Sigmundr ok Skjöldr, at drepa Þórð leysingjason fóstura  
*Sigmund and Skjold to kill Thord Freedman’s-son foster-father*  
 Njálssona; enn þú hefir mér því heitit, Þráinn, at vera  
*of-(the)-Njalssons but you have me that promised Thrain to be*  
 við staddr”. Þeir gengu við allir at þeir höfðu þessu heitit  
*by present They owned to all that they had this promised*

henni. “Nú mun ek gefa ráðit til”, sagði hon, “þit skulut  
*her Now will I give the-plan for-(it) said she you-two shall*  
 ríða austr í Hornafjörð eftir fé ykkru ok koma heim um  
*ride east to Hornafjord after wealth your-two and come home at*  
 þing öndvert; enn ef þit eruð heima, mun Gunnarr  
*(the)-assembly's beginning but if you-two are at-home will Gunnar*  
 vilja at þit ríðið til þings með honum. Njáll mun  
*wish that you-two ride to (the)-assembly with him Njal will*  
 vera á þingi ok synir hans ok svá Gunnarr. Enn þit  
*be at (the)-assembly and sons his and so Gunnar But you-two*  
 skuluð þá drepa Þórð”. Þeir játtu, at þessi ráðagerð skyldi  
*shall then kill Thord They agreed that this plan should*  
 fram koma. Síðan bjoggust þeir austr í fjörðu, ok varaðist  
*forth come Then made-ready they east to (the)-fjords and suspected*  
 Gunnarr þat ekki, ok reið Gunnarr til þings. Njáll sendi  
*Gunnar that not and rode Gunnar to (the)-assembly Njal sent*  
 Þórð leysingjason austr undir Eyjafjöll ok bað hann vera  
*Thord Freedman's-son east under Eyjafjoll and bade him be*  
 í brautu eina nótt. Hann fór austr ok gaf honum eigi  
*off away one night He went east and allowed him not*  
 austan; því at fljótit var svá mikit, at langt var um  
*from-the-east because that the-river was so great that far was about*  
 óreitt. Njáll beið hans eina nótt; því at hann ætlaði, at  
*unfordable Njal waited for-him one night because that he intended that*  
 hann skyldi ríðit hafa til þings með honum. Njáll mælti  
*be should ridden have to (the)-assembly with him Njal spoke*  
 við Bergþóru, at hon skyldi senda Þórð til þings, þegar  
*with Bergthora that she should send Thord to (the)-assembly as-soon-as*  
 hann kvæmi heim. Tveim nóttum síðar kom Þórðr austan.  
*be came home Two nights later came Thord from-the-east*  
 Bergþóra sagði honum, at hann skyldi til þings ríða,  
*Bergthora told him that he should to (the)-assembly ride*

“enn nú skalt þú fyrst fara upp í Þórólfsfell ok sjá þar  
*but now shall you first go up into Thorolfssfell and see there*  
 um bú ok vera þar eigi lengr enn eina nótt eða tvær”.  
*about (the)-farm and be there not longer than one night or two*

XLII · THE KILLING OF ÞÓRÐR LEYSINGJASON

*Sigmundr and Skjöldr return from the East Fjords and learn that Þórðr is at Þórólfsfell. With Þráinn standing by, they ambush him on his way home; Þórðr asks for single combat, is refused, and says Skarphedinn will avenge him. Skjöldr cuts off his hand and Sigmundr runs him through. Rannveig warns Sigmundr that Hallgerðr's next plan will be his death, and Bergþóra, told of the killing by Hallgerðr's messenger, says that ill words are no revenge for so great a matter.*

Sigmundr kom austan ok þeir félagar. Hallgerðr sagði  
*Sigmund came from-the-east and they partners Hallgerd told*  
 þeim, at Þórðr var heima, enn skyldi þegar til þings ríða  
*them that Thord was at-home but should at-once to (the)-assembly ride*  
 á fára náttu fresti, — “mun ykkur nú færi á við hann”,  
*at few nights' delay will to-you-two now a-chance on at him*  
 segir hon, “enn ef þetta berr undan, náð þit honum  
*says she but if this bears from-under get you-two him*  
 eigi”. Menn kvámu til Hlíðarenda frá Þórólfsfelli ok sögðu  
*not Men came to Hlidarendi from Thorolfssfell and told*  
 Hallgerði, at Þórðr var þar. Hallgerðr gekk til Þráins ok  
*Hallgerd that Thord was there Hallgerd went to Thrain and*  
 Sigmundar ok mælti: “Nú er Þórðr í Þórólfsfelli; ok er yðr  
*Sigmund and spoke Now is Thord in Thorolfssfell and is to-you*  
 nú ráð at vega at honum, er hann ferr heim”. “Þat skulu  
*now counsel to set on him when he goes home That shall*  
 vér nú gera”, segir Sigmundr. Gengu þeir þá út ok tóku  
*we now do says Sigmund Went they then out and took*

vápn sín ok hesta ok riðu á leið fyrir hann. Sigmundr  
*weapons their and horses and rode on (the)-way before him Sigmund*  
 mælti til Þráins: “Nú skalt þú ekki at gera; því at oss  
*spoke to Thrain Now shall you nothing to do because that us*  
 mun eigi alla til þurfa”. “Svá mun ek gera”, segir hann. Þá  
*will not all to need So will I do says he Then*  
 reið Þórðr at þeim litlu síðar. Sigmundr mælti til hans:  
*rode Thord toward them a-little later Sigmund spoke to him*  
 “Gef þú upp vápn þín; því at nú skalt þú deyja”. “Eigi  
*Give you up weapons your because that now shall you die Not*  
 skal þat”, segir Þórðr, “gakk þú til einvígis við mik”. “Eigi  
*shall that says Thord go you to single-combat with me Not*  
 skal þat”, segir Sigmundr, “þess skulu vér njóta, at vér  
*shall that says Sigmund of-that shall we benefit that we*  
 erum fleiri. Enn eigi er kynlegt, at Skarpheðinn sé hraustr,  
*are more But not is strange that Skarphedin be valiant*  
 því at þat er mælt, at fjórðungi bregði til fósturs”. “At  
*because that that is said that by-a-fourth takes-after to (the)-fostering To*  
 því mun þér verða”, segir Þórðr, “því at Skarpheðinn mun  
*that will you come says Thord because that Skarphedin will*  
 mín hefna”. Síðan sækja þeir at honum, ok brýtr hann spjót  
*me avenge Then attack they at him and breaks he a-spear*  
 fyrir hvárumtveggja þeira; svá varðist hann vel. Þá hjó  
*for each of-them so defended he well Then bewed*  
 Skjöldr af honum höndina, ok varðist hann þá með annarri  
*Skjold off him the-band and defended he then with (the)-other*  
 nakkvara stund, þar til er Sigmundr lagði í gegnum hann.  
*some while there until that Sigmund thrust in through him*  
 Fell hann þá dauðr til jarðar. Þeir báru at honum torf ok  
*Fell he then dead to earth They carried over him turf and*  
 grjót. Þráinn mælti: “Vér höfum ilt verk unnit, ok munu  
*stones Thrain spoke We have an-ill deed done and will*

synir Njáls illa kunna víginu þá er þeir spyrja". Þeir  
*(the)-sons of-Njal ill take the-slaying then when they learn They*  
riðu heim ok sögðu Hallgerði. Hon lét vel yfir víginu.  
*rode home and told Hallgerd She spoke well of the-slaying*  
Rannveig mælti, móðir Gunnars: "Þat er mælt, Sigmundr, at  
*Rannveig spoke mother of-Gunnar That is said Sigmund that*  
skamma stund verður hönd höggvi fegin; enda mun hér  
*short while becomes (the)-hand of-the-blow glad and-indeed will here*  
svá. Enn þó mun Gunnarr leysa þik af þessu máli. Enn  
*so But yet will Gunnar free you from this case But*  
ef Hallgerðr kemr annarri flugu í munn þér, þá verður þat  
*if Hallgerd comes an-other fly into mouth your then becomes that*  
þinn bani". Hallgerðr sendi mann til Bergþórshváls at segja  
*your death Hallgerd sent a-man to Bergthorsbval to tell*  
vígít, enn annan sendi hon til þings at segja Gunnari.  
*the-slaying but another sent she to (the)-assembly to tell Gunnar*  
Bergþóra kvaðst ekki mundu berja Hallgerði illyrðum  
*Bergthora said-of-herself not would beat Hallgerd with-ill-words*  
um slíkt — kvað þat enga hefnd fyrir svá mikít mál.  
*about such said that no revenge for so great a-matter*

XLIII • NJÁLL ACCEPTS DOUBLE COMPENSATION

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*Gunnarr goes at once to Njáll and offers him self-judgment for Þórðr's killing. Njáll accepts, although he expects blame from his wife and sons, and he awards two hundreds of silver, a double price, without his sons present. When the sons see the money, Skarpheðinn learns that Sigmundr and Skjöldr did the killing with Þráinn nearby, and he recites a verse wondering when they will act. Njáll warns them not to break the settlement.*

Enn er sendimaðr kom til þings at segja Gunnari  
*But when (the)-messenger came to (the)-assembly to tell Gunnar*  
 vígit, þá mælti Gunnarr: “Þetta er illa orðit; ok eigi  
*the-slaying then spoke Gunnar This is ill happened and not*  
 kæmi þau tíðendi til eyrna mér, at mér þætti verri.  
*would-come those tidings to ears my that to-me would-seem worse*  
 Enn þó skulu vér nú fara þegar at finna Njál; ok væntir  
*But yet shall we now go at-once to meet Njal and expects*  
 mik, at honum fari enn vel, þó at hann sé mjök  
*me that to-him go still well though that he be much*  
 at þreyttr”. Gengu þeir þá á fund Njáls ok kölluðu  
*at tried Went they then to (the)-meeting of-Njal and called*  
 hann til máls við sik. Hann gekk þegar til fundar  
*him to speech with themselves He went at-once to a-meeting*  
 við Gunnar. Þeir töluðu — ok var ekki manna við fyrst  
*with Gunnar They talked and was no of-men by at-first*  
 nema Kolskegg. “Hörð tíðendi hefi ek at segja þér”, segir  
*except Kolskegg Hard tidings have I to tell you says*  
 Gunnarr, “víg Þórðar leysingjasonar. Vil ek bjóða þér  
*Gunnar (the)-slaying of-Thord Freedman's-son Will I offer you*  
 sjálfðæmi fyrir vígit”. Njáll þagði nakkvart skeið ok mælti  
*self-judgment for the-slaying Njal was-silent some while and spoke*  
 síðan: “Vel er slíkt boðit”, segir hann, “ok mun ek þat  
*then Well is such offered says he and will I that*  
 taka. Enn þó er eigi örvænt, at ek hafa ámæli af konu  
*take But yet is not unlikely that I have blame from wife*  
 minni eða sonum mínum fyrir þetta; því at þeim mun  
*my or sons my for this because that to-them will*  
 mjök mislíka. Enn þó mun ek á þat hætta; því at ek  
*much displease But yet will I on that risk because that I*  
 veit, at ek á við dreng um. Vil ek ok eigi, at af  
*know that I have-to-do with a-fellow about-(it) Will I also not that from*



mér standi afbrigð okkarrar vináttu”. “Vill þú nakkvat sonu  
*me stand a-breach of-our-two friendship Will you anything sons*  
 þína við láta vera?” segir Gunnarr. “Ekki”, segir Njáll, “því  
*your by let be says Gunnar Not says Njal because*  
 at eigi munu þeir rjúfa þá sátt, er ek geri; enn ef þeir  
*that not will they break that settlement which I make but if they*  
 eru við staddir, þá munu þeir ekki saman draga”. “Svá mun  
*are by present then will they not together draw So will*  
 vera”, segir Gunnarr, “sjá þú einn fyrir”. Þeir tókust þá  
*be says Gunnar see you alone for-(it) They took then*  
 í hendr ok sættust vel ok skjótt. Þá mælti Njáll: “Tvau  
*by hands and settled well and quickly Then spoke Njal Two*  
 hundruð silfrs geri ek — ok mun þér mikit þykkja”. “Eigi  
*hundreds of-silver award I and will to-you much seem Not*  
 þykki mér þetta of mikit”, segir Gunnarr ok gekk heim til  
*seems to-me this too much says Gunnar and went home to*  
 búðar sinnar. Synir Njáls kvámu heim til búðar, ok spurði  
*booth his Sons of-Njal came home to (the)-booth and asked*  
 Skarpheðinn, hvaðan fé þat hit mikla ok hit góða kvæmi,  
*Skarphedin whence money that the great and the good came*  
 er faðir hans helt á. Njáll mælti: “Ek segi yðr víg  
*which father his held on Njal spoke I tell you (the)-slaying*  
 Þórðar fóstura yðvars — ok höfu vit Gunnarr nú sæzt á  
*of-Thord foster-father your and have we-two Gunnar now settled on*  
 málit, ok hefir hann tvennum manngjöldum bætt hann”.  
*the-case and has he with-double man-prices compensated him*  
 “Hverir hafa vegit hann?” segir Skarpheðinn. “Sigmundr ok  
*Who have slain him says Skarphedin Sigmund and*

Skjöldr, enn Þráinn var þó nær staddr”, segir Njáll. “Mikils

*Skjold but Thrain was yet near present says Njal Much*

þótti þeim við þurfa”, segir Skarpheðinn ok kvað vísu:

*seemed to-them for need says Skarpbedin and spoke a-verse*

Eigi þótti Ægis

*Not seemed of-Aegir*

áfestöndum hesta

*to-fasteners of-horses*

þurfa þróttar djörfum

*to-need of-strength to-bold*

þeim lítils við hlíta.

*them little with to-rest-content*

Nær skulum hefja hrœrir

*When shall-we raise mover*

handa lögðis branda

*of-hands of-sword of-brands*

— sverð ruðu frægir fyrðar

*swords reddened famous men*

fyr — ef nú erum kyrrir?

*before if now are-we still*

“Skamt mun til þess”, segir Njáll, “og munt þú þá eigi þess

*Short will to that says Njal and will you then not of-that*

lattr; enn þó þykki mér mikit undir, at þit rjúfið eigi

*dissuaded but yet seems to-me much at-stake that you-two break not*

þessa sætt”. “Svá munu vér þá gera”, segir Skarpheðinn, “enn

*this settlement So will we then do says Skarpbedin but*

ef til verður nakkvat með oss, þá munu vér minnast á hinn

*if to happens something between us then will we remember on the*

forna fjandskap”. “Engis mun ek þá um beiða”, segir Njáll.

*old enmity For-nothing will I then about-(it) ask says Njal*

*Gunnarr rebukes Sigmundr for his mischief. Wandering women from Bergþórshváll describe to Hallgerðr how Njáll's sons prepare weapons and how a servant carts dung on hillocks, and Hallgerðr names Njáll the beardless old man and his sons dung-beardlings. Sigmundr makes verses on it. Gunnarr overhears and warns that the words will be Sigmundr's death, but the women carry them to Bergþóra, who goads her sons until they take their weapons and go out.*

Nú ríða menn heim af þingi. Ok er Gunnarr kom  
*Now ride men home from (the)-assembly And when Gunnarr came*  
 heim, mælti hann til Sigmundar: “Meiri ert þú ógiftumaðr  
*home spoke he to Sigmund Greater are you a-luckless-man*  
 enn ek ætlaða, ok hefir þú til ills þína ment. Enn þó hefi  
*than I thought and have you to evil your skill But yet have*  
 ek nú gervan þik sáttan við Njál ok sonu hans, ok skyldir  
*I now made you reconciled with Njal and sons his and should*  
 þú nú eigi annarri flugu láta koma í munn þér. Ert þú  
*you now not an-other fly let come into mouth your Are you*  
 mér ekki skaplíkr. Þú ferr með spott ok háð, enn þat er  
*to-me not like-in-temper You go with mockery and scorn but that is*  
 ekki mitt skap. Kemr þú þér því vel við Hallgerði, at  
*not my temper Come you yourself therefore well with Hallgerd that*  
 þit eiguð meir skap saman”. Gunnarr taldi á hann  
*you-two have more temper together Gunnarr remonstrated on him*  
 langa hríð. Enn Sigmundr svaraði honum vel, ok kvaðst  
*long while But Sigmund answered him well and said-of-himself*  
 meir hans ráðum skyldu fram fara þaðan af enn þar til  
*more his counsels should forth follow thence from than there until*  
 hafði verit. Gunnarr sagði honum þá hlýða mundu. Helzt  
*had been Gunnarr said him then to-do would Held*  
 með því nakkvara hríð. Jafnan mæltust þeir vel við,  
*with that some while Always spoke they well with-each-other*

Gunnarr ok Njáll ok synir hans, þó at fátt væri meðal  
*Gunnar and Njal and sons his though that little were among*  
 annars liðsins. Sá atburður varð, at farandi konur kvámu  
*(the)-other of-the-people That event happened that wandering women came*  
 til Hlíðarenda frá Bergþórshváli. Þær váru málgar ok heldr  
*to Hlidarendi from Bergthorshvol They were talkative and rather*  
 illorðar. Hallgerðr sat í dyngju; því at hon var því  
*foul-mouthed Hallgerd sat in (the)-bower because that she was to-that*  
 vön. Þar var Þorgerðr dóttir hennar ok Þráinn. Þar var  
*used There was Thorgerd daughter her and Thrain There was*  
 ok Sigmundur ok fjöldi kvenna. Gunnarr var þar eigi  
*also Sigmund and a-multitude of-women Gunnar was there not*  
 né Kolskeggr. Farandkonur þessar gengu inn í dyngjuna.  
*nor Kolskegg Wandering-women these went in into the-bower*  
 Hallgerðr heilsaði þeim ok lét gefa þeim rúm. Hon spurði at  
*Hallgerd greeted them and had give them room She asked for*  
 tíðendum. Enn þær kváðust engi segja. Hallgerðr spurði,  
*tidings But they said-of-themselves none to-tell Hallgerd asked*  
 hvar þær hefði verit um nóttina. Þær sögðust verit hafa  
*where they had been during the-night They said-of-themselves been to-have*  
 at Bergþórshváli. "Hvat hafðist Njáll at?" segir Hallgerðr.  
*at Bergthorshvol What busied Njal at says Hallgerd*  
 "Stritaðist hann við at sitja", sögðu þær. "Hvat gerðu synir  
*Strained he at to sit said they What did sons*  
 Njáls?" sagði Hallgerðr, "þeir þykkjast nú helzt menn".  
*of-Njal said Hallgerd they think-themselves now most men*  
 "Miklir eru þeir at vallarsýn, enn óreyndir eru þeir mjök",  
*Big are they in field-look but untried are they much*  
 sögðu þær. "Skarphedinn hvatti öxi, Grímr skefti spjót, Helgi  
*said they Skarphedin whetted an-axe Grim hafted a-spear Helgi*  
 hnauð hjalt á sverð, Höskuldr treysti mundriða í skildi".  
*riveted a-bilt on a-sword Hoskuld fastened (the)-handle in a-shield*

“Til stórræða nakkvarra munu þeir ætla”, segir Hallgerðr.

*For great-deeds some will they intend says Hallgerd*

“Eigi vitu vit þat”, segja þær. “Hvat gerðu húskarlar

*Not know we-two that say they What did house-carls*

Njáls?” segir Hallgerðr. Þær svöruðu: “Eigi vissu vit, hvat

*of-Njal says Hallgerd They answered Not knew we-two what*

sumir gerðu; enn einn ók skarni á hólá”. “Hví mundi þat

*some did but one carted dung onto hillocks Why would that*

sæta?” segir Hallgerðr. Þær svöruðu: “Þat sagði hann, at þar

*mean says Hallgerd They answered That said he that there*

yrði taða betri enn annarsstaðar”. “Misvitr er Njáll”, segir

*became hay better than elsewhere Unevenly-wise is Njal says*

Hallgerðr, “þar er hann kann til hversvetna ráð”. “Hvat

*Hallgerd there where he knows for everything counsel What*

er í því?” sögðu þær. “Þat mun ek til finna, er satt er”,

*is in that said they That will I for find which true is*

segir Hallgerðr, “er hann lét eigi aka í skegg sér, at hann

*says Hallgerd that he had not cart into beard his that he*

væri sem aðrir karlmenn — ok köllum hann nú karl hinn

*were as other men and call-we him now old-man the*

skegglausa, enn sonu hans taðskeglinga, ok kveð þú um

*beardless and sons his dung-beardlings and compose you about*

nakkvat, Sigmundur, ok lát oss njóta þess, er þú ert skáld”.

*something Sigmund and let us enjoy that that you are a-poet*

“Þess em ek alþúinn”, segir hann ok kvað vísur þessar:

*For-that am I all-ready says he and spoke verses these*

Hvat skulu, hauka setra

*Why shall of-hawks of-seats*

Hildir, mundið í skildi

*Hild handles in shield*

trauðir tryggra ráða

*reluctant of-trusty counsels*

taðskeglingar negla?

*clung-beardlings nail*

því at sviphnuggnir seggir

*because that swiftly-docked men*

svanteigs megu eigi

*of-swan-field may not*

elda björk þau er yrkjum

*of-fires birch those which compose-we*

orð háðuleg forðask.

*words mocking avoid*

Karlinn spyri illra orða

*The-old-man ask of-ill words*

— einsætt er þat — greinir

*self-evident is that sayer*

— vámr nemi víst í tómi

*lout learn surely in leisure*

várt raus — hinn skegglasi.

*our babble the beardless*

Hoddveitir velr heiti

*Hoard-giver chooses names*

hölzti gott af spotti

*rather-too good of mockery*

lið sem ek trautt um trúða

*ale as I hardly about jesters*

taðskeglingum vegleg.

*to-dung-beardlings splendid*

Get ek maklegast miklu

*Guess I most-fitting by-much*

meinsleitöndum heiti

*to-harm-seekers names*

— trauðr rýf ek trygðir — síðan

*reluctant break I truces after*

taðskeglingar neglisk.

*dung-beardlings be-nailed*

Heiti karl, enn knýtum

*Be-called old-man and knot-we*

— kanna ek oft hugi manna —

*know I often minds of-men*

skjal í skömmu máli

*prattle in short speech*

skegglauss tali seggja.

*beardless in-count of-men*

“Gersemi ert þú”, sagði Hallgerðr, “hversu þú ert mér

*A-treasure are you said Hallgerd how you are to-me*

eftirlát”. Gunnarr kom at í þessu. Hann hafði staðit fyrir

*compliant Gunnar came up in this He had stood before*

framan dyngjuna ok heyrtr á öll orðtækin. Þeim brá mjök  
*in-front-of the-bower and heard on all the-sayings To-them started much*  
 við, er þau sáu hann inn ganga. Þá þögnuðu allir, enn  
*at-(it) when they saw him in go Then fell-silent all but*  
 áðr hafði þar verit háreysti mikil ok hlátr. Gunnarr var  
*before had there been uproar great and laughter Gunnar was*  
 reiðr mjök ok mælti til Sigmundar: “Heimskr maðr ert þú  
*angry very and spoke to Sigmund A-foolish man are you*  
 ok óráðhollr. Þú hrópar sonu Njáls ok sjálfan hann, er þó  
*and ill-counseling You slander (the)-sons of-Njal and himself him who yet*  
 er mest vert — enn slíkt sem þú hefir áðr af gert við þá;  
*is most worth and such as you have before of-it done with them*  
 ok mun þetta vera þinn bani. Enn ef nakkvarr maðr hermir  
*and will this be your death But if any man repeats*  
 þessi orð, þá skal sá í brautu verða ok hafa þó reiði  
*these words then shall that-one off away be and have yet anger*  
 mína”. Enn svá var þeim öllum ótti mikill at honum, at  
*my But so was to-them all fear great of him that*  
 engi þorði þessi orð at herma. Síðan gekk hann í braut.  
*none dared these words to repeat Then went he off away*  
 Farandkonurnar töluðu um með sér, at þær myndi taka  
*The-wandering-women talked about between themselves that they would take*  
 laun af Bergþóru, ef þær segði henni þetta — fóru síðan  
*reward from Bergthora if they told her this went then*  
 ofan þangat ok sögðu Bergþóru á laun ófregit. Bergþóra  
*down thither and told Bergthora in secret unasked Bergthora*  
 mælti, er menn sátu undir bordum: “Gjafar eru yðr gefnar  
*spoke when men sat at tables Gifts are to-you given*  
 feðgum — ok verðið þér litlir drengir af, ef þér launið  
*father-and-sons and become you little fellows of-it if you repay*  
 engu”. “Hversu eru gjafar þær?” segir Skarpheðinn. “Þér  
*with-nothing How are gifts those says Skarpbedin You*



synir mínir eiguð allir eina gjöf saman: Þér eruð kallaðir  
*sons my have all one gift together You are called*  
 taðskeglingar — enn búandi minn karl hinn skegglausí”.  
*dung-beardlings and husband my old-man the beardless*  
 “Ekki höfu vér kvenna skap”, segir Skarpheðinn, “at vér  
*Not have we of-women temper says Skarphedin that we*  
 reiðimst við öllu”. “Reiddist Gunnarr þó fyrir yðra hönd”,  
*get-angry at all Grew-angry Gunnar yet on your behalf*  
 segir hon, “ok þykkir hann skapgóðr; ok ef þér rekið eigi  
*says she and seems he good-tempered and if you drive not*  
 þessa réttar, þá munuð þér engrar skammar reka”. “Gaman  
*this redress then will you no shame drive Fun*  
 þykkir kerlingunni at, móður várri, at erta oss”, segir  
*seems to-the-old-woman that mother our to tease us says*  
 Skarpheðinn ok glotti við. Enn þó spratt honum sveiti í  
*Skarphedin and grinned at-(it) But yet sprang to-him sweat on*  
 enni, ok kvámu rauðir flekkar í kinnr honum; enn því var  
*forehead and came red blotches into cheeks of-him but that was*  
 ekki vant. Grímr var hljóðr ok beit á vörrinni. Helga brá  
*not usual Grim was silent and bit on the-lip To-Helgi started*  
 ekki við. Höskuldr gekk fram með Bergþóru. Hon kom  
*nothing at-(it) Hoskuld went out with Bergthora She came*  
 innar í annat sinn ok geisaði mjök. Njáll mælti: “Kemst, þó  
*in in a-second time and raged much Njal spoke Gets-there though*  
 at seint fari, húsfreyja. Ok ferr svá um mörg mál, þó at  
*that slowly go housewife And goes so about many matters though that*  
 menn hafi skapraun af, at jafnan orkar tvímælis, þó at  
*men have provocation from-it that always works two-ways though that*  
 hefnt sé”. Enn um kveldit, er Njáll var kominn í rekkju,  
*avenged be But in the-evening when Njal was come into bed*  
 heyrði hann, at öx kom við þilit, ok söng hátt. Enn  
*heard be that an-axe came against the-paneling and sang loudly But*

lokrekka var önnur, ok hengu þar á skildir — ok sér hann,  
*a-closet-bed was (the)-other and hung there on shields and sees he*  
 at þeir eru í brautu. Hann mælti: “Hverir hafa tekit ofan  
*that they are off away He spoke Who have taken down*  
 skjöldu vára”. “Synir þínir gengu út með”, segir Bergþóra.  
*shields our Sons your went out with-(them) says Bergthora*  
 Njáll kipti skóm á fætr sér ok gekk út öðrummegin  
*Njal pulled shoes on feet his and went out on-(the)-other-side*  
 hússins ok sér at þeir stefna upp í hválinn. Hann mælti:  
*of-the-house and sees that they head up to the-hill He spoke*  
 “Hvert skulið þér fara”. Skarpheðinn kvað þá vísu:  
*Whitber shall you go Skarphedin spoke then a-verse*

Eru umgerðis jarðar,  
*Are of-surrounding of-earth*  
 auðs verpandi, sauða  
*of-wealth thrower of-sheep*  
 eisú einkar fúsir  
*of-ember very eager*  
 oftveitandar leita.  
*often-givers to-seek*  
 Þeir hafa, seima særir,  
*They have of-gold-threads wounder*  
 smíðandar drafniða  
*makers of-dreg-libel*  
 — geystir vinnk geira róstu —  
*hurried win-I of-spears brawl*  
 grasbíta skyn lítit.  
*of-grass-biters sense little*

“Ekki munu þér þá með vápnum vega”, segir Njáll, “ok mun  
*Not will you then with weapons slay says Njal and will*  
 annat vera erendit”. “Laxa skulu vér veiða, faðir, ef vér rötum  
*other be the-errand Salmon shall we catch father if we find*  
 eigi sauðina”, segir Skarpheðinn. “Vel væri þá, ef svá væri,  
*not the-sheep says Skarphedin Well were then if so were*  
 at þá veiði bæri eigi undan”, segir Njáll. Þeir fóru leið sína,  
*that that catch bore not away says Njal They went way their*  
 enn Njáll gekk inn til hvílu sinnar. Hann mælti til Bergþóru:  
*but Njal went in to bed his He spoke to Bergthora*  
 “Úti váru synir þínir með vápnum allir, ok munt þú nú  
*Outside were sons your with weapons all and will you now*  
 hafa eggjat þá til nakkvars”. “Allvel skal ek þakka þeim,  
*have egged them to something Very-well shall I thank them*  
 ef þeir segja mér heim víg Sigmundar”, segir Bergþóra.  
*if they tell me home (the)-slaying of-Sigmund says Bergthora*

XLV • THE KILLINGS OF SIGMUNDR AND SKJÖLDUR

*At dawn the sons of Njáll find Sigmundr and Skjöldr catching horses near Hlíðarendi. Skarpheðinn kills Sigmundr with his axe Rimmugýgr, and Grímr and Helgi kill Skjöldr. Skarpheðinn cuts off Sigmundr's head and sends it to Hallgerðr. Gunnarr refuses to take up the case for three years. Then, at Njáll's prompting, he makes the award himself, two hundreds of silver for Sigmundr and nothing for Skjöldr, and forbids anyone to repeat the lampoon.*

Nú er at segja frá Njálssonum, at þeir fóru upp til  
*Now is to tell of (the)-Njalssons that they went up to*  
 Fljótshlíðar ok váru um nóttina við hliðina ok fóru nær  
*Fljotsblid and were during the-night by the-slope and went near*  
 Hlíðarenda er morna tók. Þenna morgin hinn sama stóðu  
*Hlidarendi when dawn began This morning the same stood*

þeir upp snimma Sigmundr ok Skjöldr, ok ætluðu til  
*they up early Sigmund and Skjold and intended to*  
 stóðhrossa. Þeir höfðu beisl með sér ok tóku hross í  
*stud-horses They had bridles with themselves and took horses in*  
 túni ok riðu í braut. Þeir leita stóðhestsins um hlíðina  
*(the)-homefield and rode off away They seek the-stallion along the-slope*  
 ok fundu hann meðal lækja tveggja, ok leiddu hrossin ofan  
*and found him between brooks two and led the-horses down*  
 at götum mjök. Skarpheðinn sá Sigmund, því at hann  
*to (the)-paths nearly Skarpbedin saw Sigmund because that he*  
 var í litklæðum. Skarpheðinn mælti: “Sjáið þér rauðálfinn,  
*was in colored-clothes Skarpbedin spoke See you the-red-elf*  
 sveinar”. Þeir litu til ok kváðust sjá hann. Þá mælti  
*lads They looked to-(it) and said-of-themselves to-see him Then spoke*  
 Skarpheðinn: “Þú skalt gera at ekki, Höskuldr, því at þú  
*Skarpbedin You shall do at nothing Hoskuld because that you*  
 munt oft sendr einn saman óvarlega, enn ek ætla mér  
*will often sent alone together unguarded but I intend for-myself*  
 Sigmund. Þykki mér þat karlmannlegt, enn þit Grímr ok  
*Sigmund Seems to-me that manly but you-two Grim and*  
 Helgi skuluð vega at Skildi”. Höskuldr settist niðr. Enn þeir  
*Helgi shall slay at Skjold Hoskuld sat-himself down But they*  
 gengu þar til er þeir kvámu at þeim. Skarpheðinn mælti  
*went there until that they came to them Skarpbedin spoke*  
 til Sigmundar: “Tak vörn þín ok ver þik; er þat nú  
*to Sigmund Take weapons your and defend yourself is that now*  
 meiri nauðsyn enn kveða flim um oss bræðr”. Sigmundr  
*greater need than compose lampoons about us brothers Sigmund*  
 tók vörn sín, enn Skarpheðinn beið meðan. Skjöldr sneri  
*took weapons his but Skarpbedin waited meanwhile Skjold turned*  
 í mót þeim Grími ok Helga ok börðust þeir í ákafa.  
*in against them Grim and Helgi and fought they in fury*

Sigmundr hafði hjálm á höfði sér ok skjöld á hlið — ok  
*Sigmund had a-helmet on head his and a-shield on side and*  
 girðr sverði — ok hafði spjót í hendi — snýr nú mót  
*girt with-a-sword and had a-spear in hand turns now against*  
 Skarpheðni ok leggð þegar spjótinu til hans ok kemr í  
*Skarpbedin and thrusts at-once with-the-spear at him and comes into*  
 skjöldinn. Skarpheðinn laust í sundr spjótkaftit ok færir  
*the-shield Skarpbedin struck in asunder the-spear-shaft and brings*  
 upp öxina í annat sinn ok höggð til Sigmundar ok kom í  
*up the-axe in a-second time and hews at Sigmund and came into*  
 skjöldinn ok klauf ofan öðrum megin mundriða. Sigmundr  
*the-shield and split down on-(the)-other side of-(the)-handle Sigmund*  
 brá sverðinu hinna hægri hendi ok höggð til Skarpheðins  
*drew the-sword with-the right hand and hews at Skarpbedin*  
 ok kom í skjöldinn ok festi sverðið í skildinum.  
*and came into the-shield and fixed the-sword in the-shield*  
 Skarpheðinn snaraði svá fast skildinum, at Sigmundr lét  
*Skarpbedin twisted so hard the-shield that Sigmund let*  
 laust sverðið. Skarpheðinn hjó þá enn til Sigmundar með  
*loose the-sword Skarpbedin hewed then again at Sigmund with*  
 öxinni Rimmugýgi. Sigmundr var í panzara. Öxin kom  
*the-axe Battle-troll Sigmund was in a-coat-of-mail The-axe came*  
 á öxlina ok klauf ofan herðarblaðið. Hann hnykkir at  
*on the-shoulder and split down the-shoulder-blade He jerks toward*  
 sér öxinni ok fell Sigmundr á kné bæði ok spratt upp  
*himself the-axe and fell Sigmund on knee both and sprang up*  
 þegar. “Lauzt þú mér nú”, segir Skarpheðinn, “enn þó skalt  
*at-once Bowed you to-me now says Skarpbedin but yet shalt*  
 þú í móðurætt falla áðr vit skiljum”. “Þat er illa þá”,  
*you on mother's-kin fall before we-two part That is ill then*  
 segir Sigmundr. Skarpheðinn laust á hjálminn Sigmundar ok  
*says Sigmund Skarpbedin struck on the-helmet of-Sigmund and*

hjó hann síðan banahögg. Grímr hjó á fótinn Skildi, ok  
*bewed him then a-death-blow Grim bewed on the-foot of-Skjold and*  
 tók af í ristarliðnum, enn Helgi lagði sverði í gegnum  
*took off at the-ankle-joint but Helgi thrust with-a-sword in through*  
 hann, ok hafði hann þá bana. Skarpheðinn sá smalamann  
*him and had he then death Skarphedin saw (the)-shepherd*  
 Hallgerðar. Þá hafði hann höggvit höfuð af Sigmundi.  
*of-Hallgerd Then had he cut (the)-head off Sigmund*  
 Hann seldi smalamanni í hendr höfuðit ok kvað vísu:  
*He banded to-(the)-shepherd into hands the-head and spoke a-verse*

Höfuð þetta skaltu, hrotta  
*Head this shall-you of-sword*  
 hljómstoerandi, fœra  
*sound-increaser bring*  
 — kom þú eldskerðir orðum  
*come you fire-diminisber words*  
 áls ferðar — Hallgerði.  
*of-eel of-journey to-Hallgerd*  
 Hykk, at þöll muni þekkjja  
*Think-I that fir-tree will recognize*  
 Þynjar logs ok skynja  
*of-Thyn of-flame and discern*  
 þýð, hvárt þat hafi smíðat  
*gentle whether that have forged*  
 þungt níð, boði skíða.  
*heavy libel offerer of-skis*

Smalamaðr kastaði niðr þegar höfðinu er þeir skildu; því  
*(The)-shepherd threw down at-once the-head when they parted because*  
 at hann þorði eigi meðan þeir váru við. Þeir bræðr fóru  
*that he dared not while they were by Those brothers went*

nú þar til, er þeir fundu menn niðri við Markarfljót ok  
*now there until that they found men down-below by Markarfljot and*  
 sögðu þeim tíðendin. Lýsti Skarpheðinn vígi Sigmundar  
*told them the-tidings Declared Skarpheðin (the)-slaying of-Sigmund*  
 á hendr sér, enn þeir Grímr ok Helgi vígi Skjaldar  
*on hands his but they Grim and Helgi (the)-slaying of-Skjold*  
 sér á hendr. Fóru þeir þá heim ok sögðu Njáli tíðendin.  
*their on hands Went they then home and told Njal the-tidings*  
 Njáll mælti: “Njótið heilir handa, hér skulu eigi sjálfðæmi  
*Njal spoke Enjoy whole hands here shall not self-judgment*  
 fyrir koma at svá búnu”. — Nú er þar til máls at  
*for come at so done Now is there to (the)-story to*  
 taka, er smalamaðr kemr heim til Hlíðarenda. Hann segir  
*take where (the)-shepherd comes home to Hlidarendi He tells*  
 Hallgerði tíðendin. “Fekk Skarpheðinn mér í hendr höfuð  
*Hallgerd the-tidings Gave Skarpheðin me into hands (the)-head*  
 Sigmundar, ok bað mik færa þér, enn ek þorða eigi at  
*of-Sigmund and bade me bring-(it) you but I dared not to*  
 gera þat”, segir hann, “því at ek vissi eigi, hversu þér  
*do that says he because that I knew not how to-you*  
 myndi þat líka”. “Þat var illa, er þú gerðir þat eigi”, segir  
*would that please That was ill that you did that not says*  
 hon; “ek skylda færa Gunnari höfuðit ok myndi hann þá  
*she I should bring Gunnar the-head and would he then*  
 hefna frænda síns eða sitja fyrir hvers manns ámæli”. Síðan  
*avenge kinsman his or sit under of-every man's blame Then*  
 gekk hon til Gunnars ok mælti: “Ek segi þér víg  
*went she to Gunnar and spoke I tell you (the)-slaying*  
 Sigmundar frænda þíns. Hefir Skarpheðinn vegit hann, ok  
*of-Sigmund kinsman your Has Skarpheðin slain him and*  
 vildi láta færa mér höfuðit”. “Slíks var Sigmundi ván”,  
*wished to-have bring me the-head Of-such was to-Sigmund expectation*

segir Gunnarr, “því at illa gefast ill ráð; enn jafnan gerir  
*says Gunnar because that ill turn-out ill counsels but always does*  
 hvárt ykkat Skarpheðins grálega til annars”. Gekk þá  
*each of-you-two Skarphedin(-and-you) maliciously to (the)-other Went then*  
 Gunnarr í braut. Hann lét ekki búa til vígsmálit ok  
*Gunnar off away He had not prepare to the-slaying-case and*  
 engan hlut at hafa. Hallgerðr minti oft á, ok sagði  
*no part to have Hallgerd reminded often on-(it) and said*  
 Sigmund vera óbættan. Gunnarr gaf ekki gaum at því. Nú  
*Sigmund to-be uncompensated Gunnar gave no heed to that Now*  
 liðu þrjú þing, þau er menn ætluðu at hann myndi  
*passed three assemblies those at-which men thought that he would*  
 sækja málit. Þá kom eitt vandamál at hendi Gunnari, þat  
*prosecute the-case Then came one difficult-case to hand of-Gunnar that*  
 er hann vissi eigi, hversu upp skyldi taka. Reið hann þá  
*which he knew not how up should take Rode he then*  
 til fundar við Njál. Hann fagnar vel Gunnari. Gunnarr mælti  
*to a-meeting with Njal He welcomes well Gunnar Gunnar spoke*  
 til Njáls: “Heilræði em ek kominn at sækja at þér um eitt  
*to Njal Good-counsel am I come to seek from you about one*  
 vandamál”. “Maklegr ert þú þeira”, segir Njáll ok réð honum  
*difficult-case Deserving are you of-them says Njal and gave him*  
 ráðin. Gunnarr stóð þá upp ok þakkaði honum. Njáll  
*the-counsels Gunnar stood then up and thanked him Njal*  
 mælti þá ok tók til Gunnars: “Helzti lengi hefir Sigmundr  
*spoke then and took to Gunnar Too long has Sigmund*  
 frændi þinn óbættur verit”. “Fyrir löngu var hann bættur”,  
*kinsman your uncompensated been For long was he compensated*  
 segir Gunnarr, “enn þó vil ek eigi drepa hendi við sóma  
*says Gunnar but yet will I not strike with-hand against honor*  
 mínum”. Gunnarr hafði aldri illa mælt til Njálssona. Njáll  
*my Gunnar had never ill spoken to (the)-Njalssons Njal*



vildi ekki annat, enn Gunnarr gerði um málit. Hann  
*wished nothing other than Gunnar awarded about the-case He*  
 gerði tvau hundruð silfrs, enn lét Skjöld vera ógildan.  
*awarded two hundreds of-silver but let Skjöld be uncompensated*  
 Þeir greiddu þegar alt féit. Gunnarr sagði sætt þeira  
*They paid at-once all the-money Gunnar declared settlement their*  
 upp á Þingskálapingi, þá er þar var mest fjölmenni, ok  
*up at Þingskalar-assembly then when there was most crowd and*  
 tjáði, hversu þeim hafði vel farit feðgum, ok sagði um  
*showed how to-them had well gone father-and-sons and told about*  
 orð þau hin illu, er Sigmundi dró til höfuðsbana, ok  
*words those the evil which Sigmund drew to head's-death and*  
 skyldi engi þau herma síðan, enn vera ógildir hver  
*should none them repeat after but be uncompensated whoever*  
 sem hermdi. Þeir mæltu þat báðir, Gunnarr ok Njáll, at  
*as repeated They spoke that both Gunnar and Njal that*  
 engir hlutir skyldi þeir til verða, at eigi semdi þeir sjálfir.  
*no things should those to happen that not settled they themselves*  
 Efndist þat ok vel síðan, ok váru þeir jafnan vinir.  
*Was-fulfilled that also well after and were they always friends*

XLVI • GIZURR HVÍTI AND GEIRR GOÐI

*Gizurr hvíti of Mosfell, a great chieftain and father of Bishop Ísleifr, is introduced with his kinsman Geirr goði of Hlíð, and the two support each other in every case. Mörrðr Valgarðsson now lives at Hof, his father abroad and his mother dead. He is cunning, malicious, wealthy, and unpopular, and he envies Gunnarr bitterly.*

Gizurr hvíti hét maðr. Hann var Teits son, Ketilbjarnar  
*Gizur (the)-White was-called a-man He was of-Teit son of-Ketilbjorn*  
 sonar hins gamla frá Mosfelli. Móðir Gizurar hét Álöf.  
*son the Old from Mosfell Mother of-Gizur was-called Alof*

Hon var dóttir Böðvars hersis, Víkinga-Kára sonar. Ísleifr  
*She was daughter of-Bodvar (the)-lord of-Vikinga-Kari son Isleif*  
 byskup var sonr Gizurar. Móðir Teits hét Helga, ok var  
*bishop was son of-Gizur Mother of-Teit was-called Helga and was*  
 dóttir Þórðar skeggja, Hrapps sonar, Bjarnar sonar bunu,  
*daughter of-Thord Beard of-Hrapp son of-Bjorn son Buna*  
 Grims sonar hersis ór Sogni. Gizurr hvíti bjó at Mosfelli  
*of-Grim son (the)-lord out-of Sogn Gizur (the)-White dwelt at Mosfell*  
 ok var höfðingi mikill. Sá maðr er nemndr til sögunnar, er  
*and was a-chieftain great That man is named to the-saga who*  
 Geirr hét, Ásgeirs son, Úlfs sonar. Hann var kallaðr Geirr  
*Geir was-called of-Asgeir son of-Ulf son He was called Geir*  
 goði. Móðir hans hét Þorkatla ok var dóttir Ketilbjarnar  
*(the)-Priest Mother his was-called Thorkatla and was daughter of-Ketilbjorn*  
 hins gamla frá Mosfelli. Geirr bjó í Hlíð í Biskupstungu.  
*the Old from Mosfell Geir dwelt at Hlid in Biskupstunga*  
 Þeir Geirr ok Gizurr fylgdust at hverju máli. Í þenna  
*They Geir and Gizur supported-each-other in every case In this*  
 tíma bjó Mörrðr Valgarðsson at Hofi á Rangárvöllum. Hann  
*time dwelt Mord Valgard's-son at Hof in Rangarvellir He*  
 var slægr ok illgjarn. Þá var Valgarðr utan, faðir hans, enn  
*was sly and malicious Then was Valgard abroad father his but*  
 móðir hans var önduð. Hann öfundaði mjök Gunnar frá  
*mother his was dead He envied much Gunnar from*  
 Hlíðarenda. Hann var vel auðigr at fé ok heldr óvinsæll.  
*Hlidarendi He was well wealthy in money and rather unpopular*

*Otkell of Kirkjubær is wealthy, and his friend Skammkell is a lying and malicious man. Otkell's brother Hallbjörn brings along an Irish thrall, Melkólfr, whom Otkell acquires. During a famine Gunnarr runs short of hay and food and offers to buy from Otkell, who refuses to sell or give but sells him the lazy thrall. Njáll and his sons bring Gunnarr hay and food from Þórólfsfell, and Njáll tells him to seek help only from him.*

Otkell hét maðr. Hann var Skarfs son Hallkels sonar.  
*Otkel was-called a-man He was of-Skarf son of-Hallkel son*  
 Sá Hallkell barðist við Grím í Grímsnesi ok feldi hann á  
*That Hallkel fought with Grim in Grimsnes and felled him on*  
 hólmi. Þeir váru bræðr Hallbjörn ok Ketilbjörn hinn gamli.  
*(the)-holm They were brothers Hallbjorn and Ketilbjorn the Old*  
 Otkell bjó í Kirkjubæ. Þorgerðr hét kona hans. Hon var  
*Otkel dwelt in Kirkjubaer Thorgerd was-called wife his She was*  
 Más dóttir, Bröndólfs sonar, Naddaðar sonar hins færeyska.  
*of-Mar daughter of-Brondolf son of-Naddod son the Faroese*  
 Otkell var auðigr at fé. Sonr hans hét Þorgeirr. Hann  
*Otkel was wealthy in money Son his was-called Þorgeirr He*  
 var á ungum aldri ok gervilegr maðr. Skammkell hét  
*was at young age and a-promising man Skammkel was-called*  
 maðr. Hann bjó at Hofi öðru. Hann átti vel fé. Hann  
*a-man He dwelt at Hof (the)-other He had well wealth He*  
 var maðr illgjarn ok lyginn, ódæll ok illr viðreignar. Hann  
*was a-man malicious and lying unruly and ill to-deal-with He*  
 var vinr Otkels mikill. Hallkell hét bróðir Otkels. Hann  
*was friend of-Otkel great Hallkel was-called brother of-Otkel He*  
 var mikill maðr ok sterkr, ok var þar með Otkatli. Bróðir  
*was a-big man and strong and was there with Otkel Brother*  
 þeira hét Hallbjörn hvíti. Hann flutti út þræl einn, er  
*their was-called Hallbjorn (the)-White He brought out thrall one who*

Melkólfr hét. Hann var írskr, ok heldr óvinsæll. Hallbjörn  
*Melkolf was-called He was Irish and rather unpopular Hallbjorn*  
 fór til vistar með Otkatli ok svá Melkólfr þræll. Þrællinn  
*went to lodging with Otkel and so Melkolf (the)-thrall The-thrall*  
 mælti þat jafnan, at hann þættist sæll, ef Otkell ætti  
*said that always that he thought-himself happy if Otkel owned*  
 hann. Otkell var vel til hans ok gaf honum kníf ok belti  
*him Otkel was well to him and gave him a-knife and a-belt*  
 ok alklæðnað, enn þrællinn vann alt þat er hann vildi.  
*and full-clothing but the-thrall did all that which he wished*  
 Otkell falaði þrællinn at bróður sínum. Hann kvaðst  
*Otkel bargained-for the-thrall from brother his He said-of-himself*  
 mundu gefa honum þrællinn, enn kvað þó verra grip í  
*would give him the-thrall but said yet worse a-treasure in-(him)*  
 enn hann ætlaði, enn þegar er Otkell átti þrællinn, þá  
*than he thought but as-soon as Otkel owned the-thrall then*  
 vann hann alt verr. Otkell talaði oft um þat fyrir Hallbirni  
*worked he all worse Otkel talked often about that before Hallbjorn*  
 bróður sínum, at honum þótti þrællinn lítit vinna, enn kvað  
*brother his that to-him seemed the-thrall little work but said*  
 honum þó annat verr gefit. — Í þenna tíma kom hallæri  
*to-him yet other worse given In this time came famine*  
 mikit, svá at menn skorti bæði hey ok mat, ok gekk þat  
*great so that men lacked both hay and food and went that*  
 um allar sveitir. Gunnarr miðlaði mörgum manni hey ok  
*through all districts Gunnar shared to-many a-man hay and*  
 mat, ok höfðu allir þeir er þangat kvámu meðan til var.  
*food and had all those who thither came while to-hand was*  
 Svá kom, at Gunnar skorti bæði hey ok mat. Þá kvaddi  
*So came-(it) that Gunnar lacked both hay and food Then summoned*  
 Gunnarr Kolskegg til ferðar með sér ok þá Sigfússonu ok  
*Gunnar Kolskegg to a-journey with himself and those Sigfussons and*

Lamba Sigurðarson. Þeir fóru í Kirkjubæ ok kölluðu Otkel  
*Lambi Sigurd's-son They went to Kirkjubaer and called Otkel*  
 út. Hann heilsaði þeim. Gunnarr mælti: “Svá er háttat, at  
*out He greeted them Gunnar spoke So is arranged that*  
 ek em kominn at fala af þér hey ok mat, ef til er”.  
*I am come to bargain-for from you hay and food if to-hand is*  
 Otkell svarar: “Hvárttveggja er til, enn hvártki mun ek  
*Otkel answers Each is to-hand but neither will I*  
 þér selja”. “Vill þú gefa mér þá”, segir Gunnarr, “ok hætta  
*you sell Will you give me then says Gunnar and risk*  
 til hverju ek launa þér”. “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Otkell.  
*to with-what I repay you Not will I that says Otkel*  
 Skammkell var tillagaillr. Þráinn Sigfússon mælti: “Þess væri  
*Skammkel was ill-counseling Thrain Sigfus's-son spoke Of-tbis were*  
 vert, at vér tækim upp bæði hey ok mat ok legðim verð  
*worthy that we took up both hay and food and laid (the)-price*  
 í staðinn”. “Aldauða eru þá Mosfellingar”, segir Skammkell,  
*in place Dead-all are then (the)-Mosfell-men says Skammkel*  
 “ef þér Sigfússynir skuluð ræna þá”. “Með engi rán munu  
*if you Sigfussons shall rob them With no robbery will*  
 vér fara”, segir Gunnarr. “Vill þú kaupa þræl af mér”,  
*we go says Gunnar Will you buy a-thrall from me*  
 segir Otkell. “Þat spari ek eigi”, segir Gunnarr. Síðan keypti  
*says Otkel That spare I not says Gunnar Then bought*  
 Gunnarr þrælinn ok fór í braut við svá búit. Þetta spyr  
*Gunnar the-thrall and went off away with so done This learns*  
 Njáll ok mælti: “Ílla er slíkt gert, at varna Gunnari kaupis;  
*Njal and spoke Ill is such done to refuse Gunnar purchase*  
 er þar öðrum eigi góðs ván, er slíkir fá eigi”. Bergþóra  
*where there to-others not of-good expectation when such get not Bergthora*  
 húsfreyja mælti: “Hvat skalt þú mart um slíkt tala? Er  
*(the)-housewife spoke Why shall you much about such talk Is*

þér miklu drengilegra at fá honum bæði mat ok hey, er  
*to-you much more-manly to get him both food and hay since*  
 þik skortir hvártki til". Njáll mælti: "Þetta er dagsanna, ok  
*you lacks neither for-(it) Njal spoke This is day-true and*  
 skal ek víst birgja hann at nökkuru". Fór hann þá upp í  
*shall I surely provide him with something Went he then up to*  
 Þórólfsfell ok synir hans ok bundu þar hey á fimtán hesta,  
*Thorolfsfell and sons his and bound there hay onto fifteen horses*  
 enn á fimm hestum höfðu þeir mat. Njáll kom til Hlíðarenda  
*but on five horses had they food Njal came to Hlidarendi*  
 ok kvaddi út Gunnar. Hann fagnar þeim vel. Njáll mælti:  
*and called out Gunnar He welcomes them well Njal spoke*  
 "Hér er hey ok matr, er ek vil gefa þér. Vil ek at þú leitir  
*Here is hay and food which I will give you Will I that you seek*  
 aldri annarra enn mín, ef þú þarft nakkvars við". "Góðar eru  
*never others than me if you need something for-(it) Good are*  
 gjafar þínar", segir Gunnarr, "enn meira þykki mér verð vinátta  
*gifts your says Gunnar but more seems to-me worth friendship*  
 þín ok sona þinna". Fór Njáll heim síðan. Líður nú várit.  
*your and of-sons your Went Njal home then Passes now the-spring*

## XLVIII • THE THEFT FROM KIRKJUBÆR

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*While Gunnarr is at the Althing, Hallgerðr forces Melkólfr to steal butter and cheese from Kirkjubær and burn the storehouse. He kills the dog, which knows him, and on the way home loses his knife and belt when his shoe-thing breaks. Otkell blames the fire on the kitchen built against the storehouse. When Gunnarr comes home, finds cheese and butter on his table, and gets an insolent answer to where it came from, he slaps Hallgerðr, and she says she will remember that slap and repay it if she can.*

Gunnarr ríðr til þings um sumarit. Enn at hans gisti  
*Gunnar rides to (the)-assembly in the-summer But at his lodged*  
 fjölmenni mikit austan af Síðu. Gunnarr bauð at þeir  
*a-crowd great from-the-east from Sida Gunnar invited that they*  
 gisti þar, er þeir riði af þingi. Þeir kváðust svá  
*lodged there when they rode from (the)-assembly They said-of-themselves so*  
 gera mundu — ríða nú til þings. Njáll var á þingi  
*to-do would ride now to (the)-assembly Njal was at (the)-assembly*  
 ok synir hans. Þingit er kyrt. Nú er þar til at taka, at  
*and sons his The-assembly is quiet Now is there to to take that*  
 Hallgerðr kemr at máli við Melkólf þræl: “Sendiför hefi  
*Hallgerd comes to speech with Melkolf (the)-thrall An-errand have*  
 ek hugat þér”, segir hon; “þú skalt fara í Kirkjubæ”. “Ok  
*I thought-of for-you says she you shall go to Kirkjubaer And*  
 hvat skal ek þangat?” segir hann. “Þú skalt stela þaðan mat  
*what shall I thither says he You shall steal thence food*  
 á tvá hesta, ok hafa smjör ok ost, enn þú skalt leggja  
*onto two horses and have butter and cheese but you shall lay*  
 eld í útibúrit, ok munu allir ætla, at af vangeymslu  
*fire into the-storehouse and will all think that from carelessness*  
 hafi orðit, enn engi mun ætla, at stolit hafi verit”. Þrællinn  
*have happened but none will think that stolen have been The-thrall*  
 mælti: “Váðr hefi ek verit, enn aldri hefi ek þjófr verit”.  
*spoke Bad have I been but never have I a-thief been*  
 “Heyr á endimi”, segir Hallgerðr, “þú gerir þik góðan,  
*Hear on (the)-outrage says Hallgerd you make yourself good*  
 þar sem þú hefir verit bæði þjófr ok morðingi, ok skalt  
*where that you have been both thief and murderer and shall*  
 þú eigi þora annat enn fara — ella skal ek láta drepa þik”.  
*you not dare other than go else shall I have kill you*  
 Hann þóttist vita, at hon myndi svá gera, ef hann færi  
*He thought-himself to-know that she would so do if he went*

eigi; tók hann um nóttina tvá hesta ok lagði á lénur  
*not took he in the-night two horses and laid on pack-saddles*  
 ok fór í Kirkjubæ. Hundrinn gó eigi at honum ok kendi  
*and went to Kirkjubaer The-dog barked not at him and knew*  
 hann ok hljóp í mót honum ok lét vel við hann. Síðan  
*him and leaped in against him and acted well with him Then*  
 fór hann til útibúrs ok lauk upp ok klifjaði þaðan  
*went he to (the)-storehouse and opened up and loaded thence*  
 tvá hesta af mat, enn brendi búrit ok drap hundinn.  
*two horses with food but burned the-storehouse and killed the-dog*  
 Hann ferr upp með Rangá. Þá slitnar skópvengr hans, ok  
*He goes up along Ranga Then breaks (the)-shoe-thong his and*  
 tekr hann knífinn ok gerir at. Honum liggr eftir knífrinn  
*takes he the-knife and makes at To-him lies behind the-knife*  
 ok beltit. Hann ferr þar til er hann kemr til Hlíðarenda.  
*and the-belt He goes there until that he comes to Hlidarendi*  
 Þá saknar hann knífsins ok þorir eigi aftur at fara —  
*Then misses he the-knife and dares not back to go*  
 færir nú Hallgerði matinn. Hon lét vel yfir hans ferð.  
*brings now Hallgerd the-food She spoke well of his journey*  
 Um morgininn, er menn kvámu út í Kirkjubæ, sá menn  
*In the-morning when men came out in Kirkjubaer saw men*  
 þar skaða mikinn. Var þá sendr maðr til þings at segja  
*there damage great Was then sent a-man to (the)-assembly to tell*  
 Otkatli, því at hann var á þingi. Hann varð vel við  
*Otkel because that he was at (the)-assembly He became well at*  
 skaðann, ok kvað þat valdit mundu hafa, at eldhúsit var  
*the-damage and said that caused would have that the-kitchen-house was*  
 áfast útibúrinu; ok ætluðu þat þá allir, at þat myndi til  
*attached to-the-storehouse and thought that then all that that would to*  
 hafa borit. Nú ríða menn heim af þingi ok riðu margir  
*have borne Now ride men home from (the)-assembly and rode many*



til Hlíðarenda. Hallgerðr bar mat á borð ok kom innar  
*to Hlíðarendi Hallgerd bore food onto (the)-table and came in*  
 ostr ok smjör. Gunnarr vissi slíks matar þar ekki ván  
*cheese and butter Gunnar knew of-such food there no expectation*  
 ok spurði Hallgerði, hvaðan þat kvæmi. “Þaðan sem þú mátt  
*and asked Hallgerd whence that came Thence where you may*  
 vel eta”, segir hon, “enda er þat ekki karla at annast um  
*well eat says she and-indeed is that not of-men to see about*  
 matreiðu”. Gunnarr reiddist ok mælti: “Ílla er þá, ef ek em  
*food-preparation Gunnar grew-angry and spoke Ill is then if I am*  
 þjófsnautr”, ok lýstr hana kinnhest. Hon kvaðst þann hest  
*a-thief's-partner and strikes her a-cheek-horse She said-of-herself that horse*  
 muna skyldu ok launa, ef hon mætti. Gekkk hon þá fram  
*to-remember should and repay if she might Went she then out*  
 ok hann með henni; ok var þá borit alt af borðinu enn  
*and he with her and was then carried all off the-table but*  
 borit innar slátr, ok ætluðu allir at þat myndi til hafa borit,  
*carried in meat and thought all that that would to have borne*  
 at þá myndi þykkja fengit betr. Fara þingmenn nú í braut.  
*that then would seem gotten better Go assembly-men now off away*

XLIX • GUNNARR'S OFFER TO OTKELL

*Skammkell finds the knife and belt, and Mörrðr Valgarðsson, paid three marks of silver, sends peddler women around the district and proves by matching cheese slices that the theft came from Hlíðarendi. Gunnarr rides to Kirkjubær and offers arbitration by the best men of the district, or to make the award himself and pay double. On Skammkell's advice Otkell asks for time to consult Gizurr and Geirr. Skammkell offers to go in his place, and when Otkell turns back Hallbjörn tells him they will regret sending the most lying man on such an errand.*

Nú er at segja frá Skammkatli, at hann ríðr at sauðum  
*Now is to tell of Skammkel that he rides after sheep*  
 upp með Rangá, ok sér hann at glóar nökkut í götunni,  
*up along Ranga and sees he that glitters something in the-path*  
 ok hleypr af baki ok tekr upp — ok var þat knífr ok belti,  
*and leaps off back and takes up and was that a-knife and a-belt*  
 ok þykkist hann kenna hvárttveggja og ferr í Kirkjubæ.  
*and thinks-himself he to-recognize both and goes to Kirkjubaer*  
 Otkell er úti staddr ok fagnar honum vel. Skammkell  
*Otkel is outside standing and welcomes him well Skammkel*  
 mælti til Otkels: “Kennir þú nakkvat til gripa þessa?”  
*spoke to Otkel Know you anything of treasures these*  
 “Kenni ek víst”, segir Otkell. “Hverr á?” segir Skammkell.  
*Know I surely says Otkel Who owns says Skammkel*  
 “Melkólfr þrall”, segir Otkell. “Kenna skulu þá fleiri”, segir  
*Melkolf (the)-thrall says Otkel Recognize shall then more says*  
 Skammkell, “enn vit tveir — því at trúr skal ek þér í  
*Skammkel than we-two two because that loyal shall I to-you in*  
 ráðum”. Þeir sýndu mörgum mönnum ok kendu þeir allir.  
*counsels They showed to-many men and recognized they all*  
 Þá mælti Skammkell: “Hvat munt þú nú til ráða taka?”  
*Then spoke Skammkel What will you now to counsel take*  
 Otkell svaraði: “Vit skulum fara at finna Mörð Valgarðsson  
*Otkel answered We-two shall go to meet Mord Valgard's-son*  
 ok sýna honum ok vita, hvat hann leggi til ráðs með  
*and show him and know what he lay to counsel with*  
 okkr”. Síðan fóru þeir til Hofs ok sýndu Merði gripina  
*us-two Then went they to Hof and showed Mord the-treasures*  
 ok spurðu, ef hann kendi. Hann kvaðst kenna —  
*and asked if he recognized He said-of-himself to-recognize*  
 “eða hvat er at því? Þykkist þér til Hlíðarenda eiga  
*or what is to that Think-yourselves you to Hlidarendi to-have*

eftir nökkuru at sjá". "Vant þykkir oss með slíku at fara",  
*for something to look Hard seems to-us with such to go*  
 segir Skammkell, "er slíkir ofreflismenn eigu í hlut". "Svá  
*says Skammkell where such overmatching-men have in lot So*  
 er víst", segir Mörðr, "enn þó mun ek vita þá hluti ór  
*is surely says Mord but yet will I know those things out-of*  
 hýbýlum Gunnars, er hvárrgi ykkarr mun vita". "Gefa  
*(the)-house of-Gunnar which neither of-you-two will know Give*  
 vilju vit þér fé til", segja þeir, "at þú leitir eftir þessu  
*wish we-two you money for-(it) say they that you seek after this*  
 máli". Mörðr svaraði: "Þat fé mun mér fullkeypt, enn  
*matter Mord answered That money will to-me dearly-bought but*  
 þó má vera, at ek hættak á". Síðan gáfu þeir honum þrjár  
*yet may be that I risk-it on Then gave they him three*  
 merkr silfrs, at hann skyldi vera með þeim í ráðagerð  
*marks of-silver that he should be with them in counsel*  
 ok liðveizlu. Hann gaf þat ráð til, at konur skyldi fara  
*and support He gave that counsel to-(it) that women should go*  
 með smávarning ok gefa húsfreyjum ok vita, hverju þeim  
*with small-wares and give to-housewives and know with-what to-them*  
 væri launat — "því at allir hafa þat skaplyndi", segir  
*were repaid because that all have that disposition says*  
 Mörðr, "at gefa þat fyrst upp, er stolit er, ef þat hafa  
*Mord that give that first up which stolen is if that have*  
 at varðveita. Mun hér ok svá, ef af mannavöldum er. Skulu  
*to keep Will here also so if by men's-doing is Shall*  
 þær þá sýna mér, af hverju gefit er hvargi. Vil ek þá  
*they then show me of what given is everywhere Will I then*  
 vera lauss máls þessa, ef uppvíst verðr". Þessu játuðu þeir.  
*be free of-case this if found-out becomes This agreed they*  
 Fóru þeir heim síðan. Mörðr sendi konur í herað, ok  
*Went they home then Mord sent women into (the)-district and*

váru þær í brautu hálfan mánað. Þær kvámu aftr ok höfðu  
*were they off away half month They came back and had*  
 byrðar stórar. Mörðr spurði, hvar þeim hafði mest gefit  
*burdens great Mord asked where to-them had most given*  
 verit. Þær sögðu, at þeim hefði at Hlíðarenda mest gefit  
*been They said that to-them had at Hlidarendi most given*  
 verit ok Hallgerðr yrði þeim mestr drengr. Hann spyr, *been and Hallgerd became to-them greatest fellow He asks*  
 hvat þeim væri þar gefit. “Ostr”, segja þær. Hann beiddist  
*what to-them were there given Cheese say they He asked*  
 at sjá. Þær sýndu honum, ok váru þat sneiðir margar. Tók  
*to see They showed him and were that slices many Took*  
 hann þær ok varðveitti. Litlu síðar fór Mörðr at finna  
*he them and kept A-little later went Mord to meet*  
 Otkel. Bað hann at taka skyldi ostkistu Þorgerðar —  
*Otkel Asked he that taken should (the)-cheese-mold of-Thorgerd*  
 ok var svá gert. Lagði hann þar í niðr sneiðirnar ok  
*and was so done Laid he there in down the-slices and*  
 stóðst þat á endum ok ostkistan. Sá þeir þá, at þeim  
*matched that at ends and the-cheese-mold Saw they then that to-them*  
 hafði heill hleifr gefinn verit. Þá mælti Mörðr: “Nú meguð  
*had whole loaf given been Then spoke Mord Now may*  
 þér sjá, at Hallgerðr mun stolit hafa ostinum”. Drógu þeir  
*you see that Hallgerd will stolen have the-cheese Drew they*  
 þá öll dæmi saman. Sagði Mörðr þá, at hann þóttist  
*then all evidence together Said Mord then that he thought-himself*  
 lauss þessa máls. Skildu þeir at því. Kolskeggr kom at máli  
*free of-this case Parted they on that Kolskegg came to speech*  
 við Gunnar ok mælti: “Ílt er at segja: Alræmt er, at  
*with Gunnar and spoke Ill is to tell Widely-rumored is that*  
 Hallgerðr muni stolit hafa, ok valdit þeim hinum mikla  
*Hallgerd will stolen have and caused that the great*

skaða, er varð í Kirkjubæ". Gunnarr kvaðst ætla, at  
*damage which happened in Kirkjubaer Gunnar said-of-himself to-think that*  
 svá myndi vera, — "eða hvat er nú til ráðs?" Kolskeggr  
*so would be or what is now to counsel Kolskegg*  
 svaraði: "Þú munt þykkja skyldastr at bæta fyrir konu  
*answered You will seem most-bound to compensate for wife*  
 þinni, ok þykki mér ráð, at þú farir at finna Otkel ok  
*your and seems to-me counsel that you go to meet Otkel and*  
 bjóðir honum góð boð". "Þetta er vel mælt", segir Gunnarr,  
*offer him good offers This is well spoken says Gunnar*  
 "ok skal svá vera". Litlu síðar sendi Gunnarr eftir Þrání  
*and shall so be A-little later sent Gunnar after Thrain*  
 Sigfússyni ok Lamba Sigurðarsyni ok kvámu þeir þegar.  
*Sigfus's-son and Lambi Sigurd's-son and came they at-once*  
 Gunnarr sagði þeim, hvert hann ætlaði. Þeir létu vel yfir  
*Gunnar told them whither he intended They spoke well of*  
 því. Gunnarr reið við hinn tólfta mann í Kirkjubæ ok  
*that Gunnar rode with the twelfth man to Kirkjubaer and*  
 kallaði út Otkel. Þar var Skammkell ok mælti: "Ek skal  
*called out Otkel There was Skammkel and spoke I shall*  
 út ganga með þér, ok mun nú betra, at hafa vitsmuni  
*out go with you and will now better to have wits*  
 við. Mynda ek þat vilja at standa þér þá næst, er þú  
*by Would I that wish to stand to-you then nearest when you*  
 þyrftir mest, sem nú mun vera. Þykki mér þat ráð, at þú  
*needed most as now will be Seems to-me that counsel that you*  
 látir drjúglega". Síðan gengu þeir út, Otkell ok Skammkell,  
*act haughtily Then went they out Otkel and Skammkel*  
 Hallkell ok Hallbjörn. Þeir heilsuðu Gunnari. Hann tók því  
*Hallkel and Hallbjorn They greeted Gunnar He took that*  
 vel. Otkell spyrr, hvert hann ætlaði at fara. "Ekki lengra  
*well Otkel asks whither he intended to go No further*

enn hingat", segir Gunnarr, "ok er þat erendi mitt at segja  
*than hither says Gunnar and is that errand my to tell*  
 þér um skaða þann hinn mikla ok hinn illa, er hér er  
*you about damage that the great and the evil which here is*  
 orðinn, at hann er af völdum konu minnar ok þræls þess  
*happened that it is by doing of-wife my and of-thrall that*  
 er ek keypta af þér". "Slíks var ván", segir Hallbjörn.  
*which I bought from you Of-such was expectation says Hallbjörn*  
 Gunnarr mælti: "Hér vil ek bjóða fyrir góð boð ok bjóða,  
*Gunnar spoke Here will I offer for-(it) good offers and offer*  
 at hinir beztu menn skipi um í heraðinu". Skammkell  
*that the best men arrange about-(it) in the-district Skammkel*  
 mælti: "Þetta eru áheyruleg boð ok ójafnleg; þú ert vinsæll  
*spoke These are fair-sounding offers and unequal you are popular*  
 af bóndum, enn Otkell er óvinsæll". "Bjóða mun ek", segir  
*with farmers but Otkel is unpopular Offer will I says*  
 Gunnarr, "at gera um sjálfr ok lúka upp þegar, ok leggja  
*Gunnar to award about-(it) myself and declare up at-once and lay*  
 á vináttu mína ok greiða nú alt féit, ok mun ek bæta  
*on friendship my and pay now all the-money and will I compensate*  
 þér tvennum bótum". Skammkell mælti: "Þenna kost skalt  
*you with-double compensations Skammkel spoke This choice shall*  
 þú eigi þiggja, ok er þat grunnúðlegt, ef þú ætlar at selja  
*you not accept and is that shallow-minded if you intend to hand*  
 honum sjálfdæmi, þar er þú ættir at taka". Otkell mælti:  
*him self-judgment there where you ought to take Otkel spoke*  
 "Eigi vil ek selja þér sjálfdæmi, Gunnarr". Gunnarr mælti:  
*Not will I hand you self-judgment Gunnar Gunnar spoke*  
 "Skil ek hér tillögur manna, nærgi er launat verðr;  
*Understand I here (the)-counsels of-men whenever is repaid becomes*  
 enda dæm þú nú sjálfr". Otkell laut at Skammkatli ok  
*and-indeed judge you now yourself Otkel bowed to Skammkel and*

mælti: “Hverju skal ek nú svara?” Skammkell mælti: “Þetta  
*spoke With-what shall I now answer Skammkel spoke This*  
 skalt þú kalla vel boðit, enn víkja máli þínu undir Gizur  
*shall you call well offered but turn case your under Gizur*  
 hvíta ok Geir goða; munu þat þá margir mæla, at þú  
*(the)-White and Geir (the)-Priest will that then many say that you*  
 sér líkr Hallkatli föðurföður þínum, er mestr kappi hefir  
*be like Hallkel father's-father your who greatest champion has*  
 verit”. Otkell mælti: “Vel er þetta boðit, Gunnarr, enn þó vil  
*been Otkel spoke Well is this offered Gunnar but yet will*  
 ek at þú ljáir mér tómstundar til at finna Gizur hvíta  
*I that you lend me leisure for to meet Gizur (the)-White*  
 ok Geir goða”. Gunnarr mælti: “Far þú nú með sem þér  
*and Geir (the)-Priest Gunnar spoke Go you now with-(it) as to-you*  
 líkar. Enn þat munu sumir menn mæla, at þú kunnir eigi  
*pleases But that will some men say that you know not*  
 at sjá sóma þinn, er þú vill eigi þessa kosti, er ek býð  
*to see honor your since you will not these choices which I offer*  
 þér”. Ríðr Gunnarr heim. Ok er Gunnarr var í brautu,  
*you Rides Gunnar home And when Gunnar was off away*  
 mælti Hallbjörn: “Hér veit ek mestan mannemun: Gunnarr  
*spoke Hallbjorn Here know I greatest difference-of-men Gunnar*  
 bauð þér aldri svá góð boð, at þú vildir þiggja, eða hvað  
*offered you never so good offers that you would accept or what*  
 munt þú mega ætla þér at deila við Gunnar illdeilum,  
*will you be-able intend for-yourself to contend with Gunnar with-quarrels*  
 þar sem engi er hans jafningi? Enn þó er hann svá vel at  
*where that none is his equal But yet is he so well at*  
 sér, at hann mun láta standa boð þessi, þó at þú þiggir  
*himself that he will let stand offers these though that you accept*  
 síðar. Þykki mér ráð, at þú farir at finna Gizur hvíta ok  
*later Seems to-me counsel that you go to meet Gizur (the)-White and*

Geir goða nú þegar". Otkell lét taka hest sinn ok bjó  
*Geir (the)-Priest now at-once Otkel had take horse his and prepared*  
sik at öllu. Otkell var ekki glöggskygn. Skammkell gekk  
*himself in all Otkel was not keen-sighted Skammkel went*  
á leið með Otkatli. Hann ræddi við Otkel: "Undr þótti  
*on (the)-way with Otkel He talked with Otkel Wonder seemed*  
mér, er bróðir þinn vildi eigi taka af þér þetta starf. Vil  
*to-me that brother your would not take from you this task Will*  
ek bjóða þér at fara fyrir þik, er ek veit, at þér þykkir  
*I offer you to go for you since I know that to-you seems*  
mikit fyrir ferðum". "Þat mun ek þiggja", sagði Otkell, "ok  
*much before journeys That will I accept said Otkel and*  
ver þú sem réttorðastr". "Svá skal vera", segir Skammkell.  
*be you as most-truthful So shall be says Skammkel*  
Tók Skammkell þá við hestinum ok við klæðum Otkels, enn  
*Took Skammkel then with the-horse and with (the)-clothes of-Otkel but*  
Otkell gengr heim. Hallbjörn var úti ok mælti til Otkels:  
*Otkel goes home Hallbjorn was outside and spoke to Otkel*  
"Ílt er at eiga þræl at engavin. Ok munu vér þessa jafnan  
*Ill is to have a-thrall as no-friend And will we this always*  
iðrast, er þú hefir aftur horfit. Ok er þat óvitrlegt bragð,  
*regret that you have back turned And is that unwise a-trick*  
at senda hinn lygnasta mann þess erendis, er svá mun  
*to send the most-lying man on-that errand which so will*  
mega at kveða at líf manna liggi við". "Hræddr myndir  
*be-able to say that (the)-life of-men lie at-(it) Afraid would*  
þú verða", segir Otkell, "ef Gunnarr hefði á lofti atgeirinn,  
*you become says Otkel if Gunnar had in air the-balberd*  
er þú ert nú svá". "Eigi veit þat", segir Hallbjörn, "hverr  
*when you are now so Not knows that says Hallbjorn who*  
þá er hræddastr; enn þat munt þú eiga til at segja, at  
*then is most-afraid but that will you have to to say that*



Gunnarr mun ekki lengi munda atgeirinum, ef hann færir  
*Gunnar will not long aim the-halberd if he brings*  
 hann á loft ok sé hann reiðr”. Otkell mælti: “Hvikið þér  
*it in air and be he angry Otkel spoke Waver you*  
 allir nema Skammkell”. Váru þeir þá báðir reiðir.  
*all except Skammkel Were they then both angry*

L · SKAMMKELL'S LIE AND THE SUMMONS

*Gizurr and Geirr think Gunnarr's offers very good, but Skammkell reports to Otkell that they advise him to summon Hallgerðr for theft and Gunnarr for receiving. Otkell, Skammkell, and the brothers ride to Hlíðarendi and deliver the summons while Gunnarr stands outside. Skammkell taunts him about the halberd. Gunnarr is furious but restrained, and Njáll tells him the case will bring him great honor.*

Skammkell kom til Mosfells ok hermdi boð öll fyrir Gizuri.  
*Skammkel came to Mosfell and reported offers all before Gizur*  
 “Svá lízt mér”, segir Gizurr, “sem þetta hafi allvel boðit  
*So seems to-me says Gizur as this have very-well offered*  
 verit, eða fyrir því þá Otkell eigi boð þessi?” “Þat var  
*been or for why accepted Otkel not offers these That was*  
 mest í því”, segir Skammkell, “at allir vildu leita þér vegs,  
*most in that says Skammkel that all wisbed to-see for-you honor*  
 ok beið hann af því þinna atkvæða, ok mun öllum þat bezt  
*and waited he for that your decisions and will to-all that best*  
 gegna”. Þar var Skammkell of nóttina. Gizurr sendi mann  
*serve There was Skammkel through the-night Gizur sent a-man*  
 eftir Geiri goða, ok kom hann ofan snimma. Segir þá  
*after Geir (the)-Priest and came he down early Tells then*  
 Gizurr honum alt, hversu farit var — spurði þá hversu með  
*Gizur him all how gone was asked then how with*

skyldi fara. Geirr mælti: “Svá sem þú munt áðr ætlat hafa,  
*should go Geir spoke So as you will before intended have*  
 at gera þat af þessu máli, sem best gegnir. Nú munu vit  
*to do that of this case as best serves Now will we-two*  
 láta Skammkel segja söguna í annat sinn ok vita, hversu  
*let Skammkel tell the-story in a-second time and know how*  
 honum hermist”. Þeir gerðu svá. Geirr mælti: “Rétt munt þú  
*to-him repeats-itself They did so Geir spoke Right will you*  
 sagt hafa sögu þessa; enn þó hefi ek þik sét illmannligstan  
*told have story this but yet have I you seen most-villainous*  
 mann — ok eigi deilir litr kosti, ef þú gefst vel”. Fór  
*man and not divides color merit if you turn-out well Went*  
 Skammkell heim ok ríðr fyrst í Kirkjubæ ok kallar út  
*Skammkel home and rides first to Kirkjubaer and calls out*  
 Otkel. Hann fagnar vel Skammkatli. Skammkell segir honum  
*Otkel He welcomes well Skammkel Skammkel tells him*  
 kveðju Gizurar ok Geirs — “enn um málaferli þessi þarf  
*(the)-greeting of-Gizur and of-Geir but about lawsuits these needs*  
 ekki at tala hljóðlega: at þat er vili þeira Geirs goða ok  
*not to talk quietly that that is will of-them of-Geir (the)-Priest and*  
 Gizurar at sættast ekki á mál þessi. Er þat tillaga þeira,  
*of-Gizur to be-reconciled not on cases these Is that proposal their*  
 at þú farir til Hlíðarenda ok stefnir Hallgerði um stuld,  
*that you go to Hlidarendi and summon Hallgerd for theft*  
 enn Gunnari um afneyzlu”. Otkell mælti: “Svá skal með öllu  
*but Gunnar for receiving Otkel spoke So shall with all*  
 fara, sem þeir hafa ráð til gefit”. “Þeim þótti ok undir því  
*go as they have counsel to given To-them seemed also on that*  
 mest”, segir Skammkell, “at þú heðir sem mikillegast látit;  
*most says Skammkel that you had as haughtiest acted*  
 enn ek gerða þik sem mestan mann af öllu”. Nú segir Otkell  
*but I made you as greatest man of all Now tells Otkel*

bræðrum sínum. Hallbjörn mælti: “Þetta mun vera hin mesta  
*brothers his Hallbjörn spoke This will be the greatest*  
 lygi”. Nú líða stundir þar til er stefnudagar kvámu hinir  
*lie Now pass times there until that summons-days came the*  
 síðustu til alþingis. Otkell kvaddi bræðr sína ok Skammkel  
*last before (the)-Alþing Otkel summoned brothers his and Skammkel*  
 at ríða til Hlíðarenda stefnuför. Hallbjörn kvaðst fara  
*to ride to Hlíðarenda summons-journey Hallbjörn said-of-himself to-go*  
 mundu, enn kvað þá þessar ferðar iðrast mundu — “þá  
*would but said them this journey regret would then*  
 er stundir líða”. Nú ríða þeir tólf saman til Hlíðarenda,  
*when times pass Now ride they twelve together to Hlíðarenda*  
 enn er þeir kvámu í túnit, þá var Gunnarr úti  
*but when they came into the-homefield then was Gunnar outside*  
 ok fann eigi fyrr enn þeir kvámu alt at bænum. Hann  
*and noticed not before than they came all to the-farm He*  
 gengr þá eigi inn. Otkell lætr þegar dynja stefnuna, Enn  
*goes then not in Otkel lets at-once rattle-off the-summons But*  
 er þeir höfðu fram flutt stefnuna, þá mælti Skammkell:  
*when they had forth brought the-summons then spoke Skammkel*  
 “Er rétt stefnt, Gunnarr bóndi?” “Þér vituð slíkt”, segir  
*Is rightly summoned Gunnar farmer You know such says*  
 Gunnarr, “enn minna skal ek þik á ferð þessa, Skammkell,  
*Gunnar but remind shall I you of journey this Skammkel*  
 eitthvert sinn ok tillögur þínar”. “Þat mun oss ekki saka”,  
*some time and counsels your That will us not harm*  
 segir Skammkell, “ef atgeirrinn er eigi á lofti”. Gunnarr var  
*says Skammkel if the-balberd is not in air Gunnar was*  
 hinn reiðasti ok gekk inn ok sagði Kolskeggi. Kolskeggur  
*the angriest and went in and told Kolskegg Kolskegg*  
 mælti: “Illa var, er vér várum eigi úti: þeir skyldu hafa  
*spoke Ill was that we were not outside they should have*

farit hingat hina mestu sneypu, ef vér hefðim við verit”.

*gone hither the greatest humiliation if we had by been*  
 Gunnarr mælti: “Hvat biðr sinnar stundar, enn ekki mun  
*Gunnar spoke Everything bides its time but not will*  
 þeim för sjá til sæmdar verða”. Litlu síðar fór Gunnarr  
*them journey this to honor become A-little later went Gunnar*  
 at finna Njál ok sagði honum. Njáll mælti: “Lát þú lítt á  
*to meet Njal and told him Njal spoke Let you little on*  
 þik fá, því at þetta mun þér verða til hinnar mestu  
*yourself take because that this will to-you become to the greatest*  
 sæmdar, áðr þessu þingi sé lokit. Skulu vér ok fylgja þér  
*honor before this assembly be ended Shall we also support you*  
 allir með ráðum ok kappi”. Gunnarr þakkaði honum ok reið  
*all with counsels and zeal Gunnar thanked him and rode*  
 heim. Otkell ríðr til þings ok bræðr hans ok Skammkell.  
*home Otkel rides to (the)-assembly and brothers his and Skammkel*

#### LI • GUNNARR MAKES THE AWARD

*At the Althing Gunnarr's kinsmen and the sons of Njáll stand by him, and Hrótr advises that Gunnarr challenge Gizurr to a duel and Kolskeggr challenge Geirr. Learning that Skammkell lied, Gizurr offers Gunnarr self-judgment. Gunnarr awards Otkell the value of the storehouse and food, returns the thrall to him, and awards himself an equal sum for the insult of the summons, so that nothing is paid. He warns Otkell to cause him no more trouble.*

Gunnarr reið til þings ok allir Sigfússsynir — svá Njáll  
*Gunnar rode to (the)-assembly and all Sigfussons so Njal*  
 ok synir hans. Þeir gengu með Gunnari allir: ok var þat  
*and sons his They went with Gunnar all and was that*  
 mælt, at engi flokkur myndi jafn-harðsnúinn þeim. Gunnarr  
*said that no band would-be equally-tough-minded to-them Gunnar*

gekk einn dag til búðar Dalamanna. Hrútr var við búð  
*went one day to (the)-booth of-(the)-Dalir-men Hrut was by (the)-booth*  
 ok Höskuldr, ok fögnuðu þeir vel Gunnari. Gunnarr segir  
*and Hoskuld and welcomed they well Gunnar Gunnar tells*  
 þeim alla sögu um málaferli þessi. “Hvat leggur Njáll til  
*them all (the)-story about lawsuits these What lays Njal to*  
 ráðs?” segir Hrútr. Gunnarr svaraði: “Hann bað mik finna  
*counsel says Hrut Gunnar answered He bade me meet*  
 ykkur bræðr ok segja svá, at eitt ráð myndi honum um  
*you-two brothers and say so that one counsel would to-him about*  
 þat sýnast sem ykkur”. “Þat vill hann þá”, segir Hrútr,  
*that seem as to-you-two That will he then says Hrut*  
 “at ek kveða upp fyrir venzla sakir, ok skal svá vera. Þú  
*that I declare up for kinship's sakes and shall so be You*  
 skalt skora á hólmi Gizuri hvíta, ef þeir bjóða þér eigi  
*shall challenge to (the)-holm Gizur (the)-White if they offer you not*  
 sjálfðæmi, enn Kolskeggr Geiri goða; enn fást munu  
*self-judgment but Kolskegg Geir (the)-Priest but be-found will*  
 menn til at ganga at móti Otkatli ok bræðrum hans: ok  
*men for to go at against Otkel and brothers his and*  
 höfu vér nú lið svá mikit allir saman, at þú mátt fram  
*have we now a-company so great all together that you can forth*  
 koma slíku sem þú vill”. Gunnarr gekk heim til búðar  
*bring such as you will Gunnar went home to (the)-booth*  
 ok sagði Njáli. “Slíks var mér ván”, sagði Njáll. Úlfr  
*and told Njal Of-such was to-me expectation said Njal Ulf*  
 örgoði varð viss þessar ráðagerðar ok sagði Gizuri. Gizurr  
*Aurgodi became aware of-this plan and told Gizur Gizur*  
 mælti til Otkels: “Hverr lagði þat til ráðs með þér, at  
*spoke to Otkel Who laid that to counsel with you that*  
 þú skyldir stefna Gunnari?” “Skammkell sagði mér, at þat  
*you should summon Gunnar Skammkel told me that that*

væri ráðagerð ykkur Geirs goða”, segir Otkell. “Enn hvar  
*were (the)-plan of-you-two Geir (the)-Priest says Otkel But where*  
 er mannfýla sú”, segir Gizurr, “er þetta hefir logit?” “Hann  
*is wretch that says Gizur who this has lied He*  
 liggir sjúkr heima at búð”, segir Otkell. “Þar er hann  
*lies sick at-home at (the)-booth says Otkel There where he*  
 standi aldri upp”, segir Gizurr, “enn nú skulu vér allir ganga  
*stand never up says Gizur but now shall we all go*  
 at finna Gunnar ok bjóða honum sjálfðæmi; ok veit ek þó  
*to meet Gunnar and offer him self-judgment and know I yet*  
 eigi, hvárt hann vill þau nú taka”. — Margir menn mæltu  
*not whether he will it now take Many men spoke*  
 ilt við Skammkel, ok lá hann sjúkr um alt þingit. —  
*ill about Skammkel and lay he sick through all the-assembly*  
 Þeir Gizurr gengu til búðar Gunnars. Kend var för  
*They Gizur(-and-bis) went to (the)-booth of-Gunnar Known was journey*  
 þeira, ok var sagt Gunnari inn í búðina. Þeir gengu út  
*their and was told Gunnar in into the-booth They went out*  
 allir ok fylktu. Gizurr hvíti gekk fyrstr. Hann mælti er  
*all and drew-up Gizur (the)-White went first He spoke when*  
 þeir fundust: “Þat er boð vart, Gunnarr, at þú dæmir sjálfr  
*they met That is offer our Gunnar that you judge yourself*  
 málit ykkart Otkels”. “Fjarri mun þat þá þínu ráði”,  
*the-case of-you-two Otkel Far will that then from-your counsel*  
 segir Gunnarr, “er mér var stefnt”. “Eigi réð ek því”,  
*says Gunnar when I was summoned Not counseled I that*  
 segir Gizurr, “ok hvárrgi okkarr Geirs”. “Þá munt þú vilja  
*says Gizur and neither of-us-two Geir Then will you wish*  
 synja þess með skynsemd”, segir Gunnarr. “Hvers beiðist þú  
*to-deny that with proof says Gunnar What ask you*  
 um?” segir Gizurr. “Þess at þú vinnir eið”, segir Gunnarr.  
*for says Gizur That that you swear an-oath says Gunnar*

“Þat vil ek gera”, segir Gizurr, “ef þú vill þiggja sjálfðæmit?”

*That will I do says Gizur if you will accept the-self-judgment*

“Þat bauð ek fyrir stundu”, segir Gunnarr, “enn nú þykki

*That offered I before a-while says Gunnar but now seems*

mér um meira at dæma”. Njáll mælti: “Eigi er at níta

*to-me about more to judge Njal spoke Not is to refuse*

sjálfðæminu: þess at meiri sæmdar er fyrir vert, er meira

*the-self-judgment the that more of-honor is for worth which greater*

er málit”. Gunnarr mælti: “Gera mun ek til skaps vina

*is the-case Gunnar spoke Do will I to temper of-friends*

minna at dæma málit. Enn þat ræð ek Otkatli, at ekki geri

*my to judge the-case But that advise I Otkel that not do*

hann til saka við mik síðan”. Þá var sent eftir Höskuldi

*he to offenses against me after Then was sent after Hoskuld*

ok Hrúti, ok kvámu þeir þangat til. Vann þá Gizurr eið

*and Hrut and came they thither to Swore then Gizur an-oath*

ok Geirr goði. Enn Gunnarr gerði gerðina ok réðst við

*and Geir (the)-Priest But Gunnar made the-award and consulted with*

engan mann um, ok síðan sagði hann upp gerðina: “Þat

*no man about-(it) and then declared he up the-award That*

er gerð mín”, sagði hann, “at ek geri verð húss ok

*is award my said he that I award (the)-value of-house and*

matar þess er inni var. Enn fyrir þrælinn vil ek þér ekki

*of-food that which inside was But for the-thrall will I you not*

bæta, þar er þú leyndir annmarka á honum. Geri ek

*compensate there where you concealed faults on him Award I*

hann þér til handa, Otkell; því at ‘þar eru eyru sæmst

*him you to hands Otkel because that there are ears most-fitting*

sem óxu’. Met ek svá, sem þér hafið stefnt mér til

*where grew Reckon I so as you have summoned me to*

háðungar; ok fyrir þat dæmi ek eigi minna til handa mér,

*disgrace and for that judge I not less to hands my*

enn vert er þetta fé, húsit ok þat er inni brann. Enn  
*than worth is this money the-house and that which inside burned But*  
 ef yðr þykkir betra, at vér sém ósáttir, þá læt ek þess  
*if to-you seems better that we be unreconciled then let I that*  
 enn kost. Enn gert hefi ek þá enn eitt ráð fyrir mér, ok  
*still choice But done have I then still one plan for me and*  
 skal þat þá fram koma. Gizurr svarar: “Þat vilju vér, at þú  
*shall that then forth come Gizur answers That wish we that you*  
 gjaldir ekki fé; enn þess beiðu vér, at þú sér vinr Otkels”.  
*pay no money but this ask we that you be friend of-Otkel*  
 “Þat skal verða aldri”, segir Gunnarr, “meðan ek lifi — ok  
*That shall be never says Gunnar while I live and*  
 mun hann hafa vináttu Skammkels: þeiri hefir hann lengi  
*will he have (the)-friendship of-Skammkel that has he long*  
 hlítt”. Gizurr svarar: “Þó vilju vér nú lúka málinu, þó  
*relied-on Gizur answers Yet wish we now to-end the-case though*  
 at þú ráðir einn skildaganum”. Váru þá handsalaðar þessar  
*that you decide alone the-terms Were then hand-pledged these*  
 sættir allar. Gunnarr mælti til Otkels: “Ráðlegra er þér  
*settlements all Gunnar spoke to Otkel More-advisable is for-you*  
 at fara til frænda þinna. Enn ef þú vill vera þar í sveit,  
*to go to kinsmen your But if you will be there in (the)-district*  
 þá ger þú ekki til saka við mik”. Gizurr mælti: “Þetta  
*then do you not to offenses against me Gizur spoke This*  
 er heilræði, ok skal hann svá gera”. Gunnarr hafði mikla  
*is good-counsel and shall he so do Gunnar had great*  
 sæmd af málinu. Riðu menn síðan heim af þingi.  
*honor from the-case Rode men then home from (the)-assembly*  
 Sittr nú Gunnarr í búi sínu. Ok er nú kyrt um hrið.  
*Sits now Gunnar in farm his And is now quiet for a-while*



*Runólfr, son of Úlfr aurgödi, lives in Dalr east of Markarfljót. Otkell stays with him on the way home from the Althing and gives him a black ox, and Runólfr invites him to visit, but Otkell puts it off. Otkell owns two dun horses, the best in the district, that follow each other everywhere. A Norwegian named Auðólfr is staying with Otkell and wants to marry his daughter Signý.*

Rúnólfr hét maðr, sonr Úlfs örgöða. Hann bjó í Dal  
*Runolf was-called a-man son of-Ulf Aurgodi He dwelt in Dal*  
 fyrir austan Markarfljót. Hann gisti Otkel, er hann reið  
*on east-of Markarfljot He lodged Otkel when he rode*  
 af þingi. Otkell gaf honum uxa alsvartan níu vetra  
*from (the)-assembly Otkel gave him an-ox all-black nine winters*  
 gamlan. Rúnólfr þakkaði honum gjöfina ok bauð honum  
*old Runolf thanked him the-gift and invited him*  
 heim þá er hann vildi fara; ok stóð þetta heimboð  
*home then when he wished to-go and stood this home-invitation*  
 nakkvart skeið svá at hann fór eigi. Rúnólfr sendi honum  
*some time so that he went not Runolf sent him*  
 oft menn ok minti á, at hann skyldi fara; ok hét  
*often men and reminded on-(it) that he should go and promised*  
 hann jafnan ferðinni. Otkell átti hesta tvá bleikálötta. Þeir  
*he always the-journey Otkel owned horses two pale-dun-striped They*  
 váru bestir hestar at reið í heraðinu — ok svá elskr hvárr  
*were best horses in riding in the-district and so fond each*  
 at öðrum, at hvárr rann eftir öðrum. Austmaðr var á vist  
*of (the)-other that each ran after (the)-other A-Norwegian was in lodging*  
 með Otkatli, er Auðólfr hét. Hann lagði hug á Signýju  
*with Otkel who Audulf was-called He laid mind on Signy*  
 dóttur Otkels. Auðólfr var mikill maðr vexti ok styrkr.  
*daughter of-Otkel Audulf was a-big man in-stature and strong*

*Riding east to visit Runólfr, Otkell loses control when both his horses bolt up into Fljótshlíð. Gunnarr is sowing his field alone, and Otkell rides over him, cutting his ear with a spur. Skammkell mocks that Gunnarr was less calm when he held the halberd at the Althing, and Gunnarr answers that Skammkell will see the halberd the next time they meet. In Dalr Skammkell hints that Gunnarr wept, and Runólfr rebukes him, offers to ride home with Otkell for safety, and is refused.*

Þat var um várit, at Otkell mælti, at þeir myndi riða austr  
*It was in the-spring that Otkel spoke that they would ride east*  
 í Dal at heimboði; ok létu allir vel yfir því. Skammkell  
*to Dal to (the)-home-invitation and spoke all well of that Skammkell*  
 var í för með Otkatli ok bræðr hans tveir, Auðúlfr ok  
*was in company with Otkel and brothers his two Audulf and*  
 þrír menn aðrir. Otkell reið hinum bleikálotta hesti, enn  
*three men other Otkel rode the pale-dun-striped horse but*  
 annarr rann hjá lauss. Stefna þeir austr til Markarfljóts.  
*(the)-other ran beside loose Head they east to Markarfljot*  
 Hleypir hann nú fyrir Otkell. Ærast nú báðir hestarnir ok  
*Gallops he now ahead Otkel Go-wild now both the-horses and*  
 hlaupa af leiðinni upp til Fljótshlíðar. Ferr Otkell nú meira  
*run from the-way up to Fljotshlid Goes Otkel now more*  
 enn hann vildi. Gunnarr hafði farit heiman einn samt af  
*than he wished Gunnar had gone from-home alone together from*  
 bæ sínum ok hafði kornkippu í annarri hendi, enn handöxi  
*farm his and had a-seed-basket in one hand but a-hand-axe*  
 í annarri. Hann gengr á sáðland sitt ok sár þar niðr  
*in (the)-other He goes onto sown-field his and sows there down*  
 korninu ok lagði guðvefjarskikkju sína niðr hjá sér ok öxina  
*the-grain and laid fine-cloth-cloak his down by himself and the-axe*  
 ok sár nú korninu um hríð. Nú er at segja frá Otkatli,  
*and sows now the-grain for a-while Now is to tell of Otkel*

at hann ríðr meira enn hann vildi. Hann hefir spora á  
*that he rides more than he wished He has spurs on*  
 fótum ok hleypir neðan um sáðlandit, ok sér hvárrgi þeira  
*feet and gallops up across the-sown-field and sees neither of-them*  
 Gunnars annan. Ok í því er Gunnarr stendr upp, ríðr  
*Gunnar(-and-him) (the)-other And in that when Gunnar stands up rides*  
 Otkell á hann ofan ok rekr sporann við eyra Gunnari,  
*Otkel on him down and drives the-spur against ear of-Gunnar*  
 ok rístr hann mikla ristu, ok blæðir þegar mjök. Þar riðu  
*and cuts him great cut and bleeds at-once much There rode*  
 þá félagar Otkels. “Allir meguð þér sjá”, segir Gunnarr, “at  
*then companions of-Otkel All may you see says Gunnar that*  
 þú hefir blóðgat mik — ok er slíkt ósæmilega farit: hefir  
*you have bloodied me and is such unseemly done have*  
 þú stefnt mér fyrst, enn nú treðr þú mik undir fótum ok  
*you summoned me first but now tread you me under feet and*  
 ríðr á mik”. Skammkell mælti: “Vel er við orðit, búandi;  
*ride on me Skammkel spoke Well is with happened farmer*  
 enn hvergi vart þú óreiðulegri á þinginu, þá er þú tókt  
*but nowhere were you less-calm at the-assembly then when you took*  
 sjálfðæmit ok þú helt á atgeirinum”. Gunnarr mælti: “Þá  
*the-self-judgment and you held on the-halberd Gunnar spoke Then*  
 er vit finnumst næst, skalt þú sjá atgeirinn”. Síðan skilja  
*when we-two meet next shall you see the-halberd Then part*  
 þeir at því. Skammkell æpti upp ok mælti: “Hart ríðið  
*they on that Skammkel whooped up and spoke Hard ride*  
 þér, sveinar”. Gunnarr gekk heim ok gat fyrir engum manni  
*you lads Gunnar went home and spoke to no man*  
 um — ok ætluðu engir, at þetta myndi af mannavöldum  
*about-(it) and thought none that this would by men’s-doing*  
 vera. Einu hverju sinni var þat, at hann sagði Kolskeggi  
*be One some time was it that he told Kolskegg*

bróður sínum. Kolskegg mælti: “Þetta skalt þú segja fleirum  
*brother his Kolskegg spoke This shall you tell more*  
 mönnum, at eigi sé þat mælt, at þú gefir dauðum sök;  
*men that not be that said that you give dead-men a-charge*  
 því at þrætt mun vera í móti, ef eigi vitu vitni áðr, hvat  
*because that denied will be in against if not know witnesses before what*  
 þér hafið saman átt”. Gunnarr sagði nábúum sínum, ok var  
*you have together had Gunnar told neighbors his and was*  
 lítill orðræða á fyrst. Otkell kemr austr í Dal, ok er þar  
*little talk on-(it) at-first Otkel comes east to Dal and is there*  
 við þeim vel tekit — ok sitja þar viku. Otkell sagði Rúnólfi  
*with them well received and sit there a-week Otkel told Runolf*  
 alt, hversu fór með þeim Gunnari. Einn maðr varð til at  
*all how went between them Gunnar One man happened to to*  
 spyrja at því, hversu Gunnarr varð við. Skammkell mælti:  
*ask about that how Gunnar became at-(it) Skammkel spoke*  
 “Þat myndi mælt, ef ótíginn maðr væri, at grátit hefði”.  
*That would said if a-low-born man were that wept had*  
 “Ílla er slíkt mælt”, segir Rúnólfr, “ok munt þú þat eiga til  
*Ill is such said says Runolf and will you that have to*  
 at segja næst er þit finnizt, at ór sé grátraust ór skapi  
*to say next when you-two meet that out be weeping-voice out-of mind*  
 hans; ok væri þat vel, ef eigi gyldi betri menn þinnar ilsku.  
*his and were that well if not paid better men for-your wickedness*  
 Lízt mér nú hitt ráð, þá er þér vilið heim fara, at ek  
*Seems to-me now the-other counsel then when you will home go that I*  
 fara með yðr; því at Gunnarr mun eigi gera mér mein”.  
*go with you because that Gunnar will not do me harm*  
 “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Otkell, “ok munu vér ríða neðarlega  
*Not will I that says Otkel and will we ride low-down*  
 yfir fljótit”. Rúnólfr gaf Otkatli góðar gjafar ok kvað þá  
*over the-river Runolf gave Otkel good gifts and said them*

eigi sjást mundu oftár. Otkell bað hann þá muna  
*not see-each-other would more-often Otkel bade him then remember*  
 syni sínum, ef svá bæri við, þat er með þeim var vel.  
*son his if so bore to that which between them was well*

LIV • THE FIGHT AT THE FORD BY RANGÁ

*Gunnarr's shepherd reports that Otkell and seven others are riding down along Markarfljót and that Skammkell says Gunnarr wept. Gunnarr arms himself, the halberd singing, and rides to the ford. He cuts off Hallbjörn's hand, then kills Skammkell, the Norwegian Auðólf, and Otkell, while Kolskeggr kills Hallkell; eight men fall. Riding home, Gunnarr wonders aloud whether he is less valiant than others because he finds killing harder.*

Nú er þar til máls at taka, at Gunnarr var úti  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take that Gunnar was outside*  
 at Hlíðarenda ok sér smalamann sinn hleypa at garði.  
*at Hlidarendi and sees shepherd his gallop to (the)-yard*  
 Smalamaðrinn reið heim í túnit. Gunnarr mælti: “Hví  
*The-shepherd rode home into the-homefield Gunnar spoke Why*  
 ríðr þú svá hart?” “Ek vilda vera þér trúlyndr”, segir  
*ride you so hard I would-wish to-be to-you loyal says*  
 hann, “ek sá menn ríða ofan með Markarfljóti átta saman  
*he I saw men ride down along Markarfljot eight together*  
 ok váru fjórir í litklæðum”. Gunnarr mælti: “Þar mun vera  
*and were four in colored-clothes Gunnar spoke There will be*  
 Otkell”. “Vilda ek því segja þér”, segir smalamaðrinn,  
*Otkel Would-wish I therefore to-tell you says the-shepherd*  
 “at ek hefi oft heyrt mörg skapraunarorð þeira. Sagði svá  
*that I have often heard many provoking-words their Said so*  
 Skammkell austr í Dal, at þú hefðir grátit þá er þeir ríðu  
*Skammkel east in Dal that you had wept then when they rode*

á þik ofan. Þykkja mér ill vera orðtök vándra manna". "Ekki  
*on you down Seem to-me ill be sayings of-bad men Not*  
 skulu vit vera orðsjúkir", segir Gunnarr, "enn þat eitt skalt  
*shall we-two be word-sick says Gunnar but that one shall*  
 þú vinna heðan í frá, er þú vill". "Skal ek nakkvat segja  
*you do from-here on from which you wish Shall I anything tell*  
 Kolskeggi bróður þínum?" segir smalamaðrinn. "Far þú ok  
*Kolskegg brother your says the-shepherd Go you and*  
 sof", segir Gunnarr, "ek mun segja Kolskeggi slíkt er mér  
*sleep says Gunnar I will tell Kolskegg such as to-me*  
 líkar". Sveinninn lagðist niður ok sofnaði þegar. Gunnarr tók  
*pleases The-boy laid-himself down and fell-asleep at-once Gunnar took*  
 smalahestinn ok lagði á söðul sinn. Hann tók skjöld sinn ok  
*the-shepherd's-horse and laid on saddle his He took shield his and*  
 girði sik sverðinu Ölvirnaut, setr hjálm á höfuð sér, tekr  
*girded himself with-the-sword Olvir's-gift sets a-helmet on head his takes*  
 atgeirinn — ok söng í honum hátt, ok heyrði Rannveig  
*the-halberd and sang in it loudly and heard Rannveig*  
 móðir hans. Hon gekk fram ok mælti: "Reiðulegr ert þú nú,  
*mother his She went forth and spoke Angry-looking are you now*  
 son minn, ok ekki sá ek þik slíkan fyrr". Gunnarr gengr út  
*son my and not saw I you such before Gunnar goes out*  
 ok stingr niður atgeirinum og verpr sér í söðulinn ok ríðr  
*and sticks down the-halberd and throws himself into the-saddle and rides*  
 braut. Rannveig gekk til stuflu. Þar var háreysti mikit.  
*away Rannveig went to (the)-sitting-room There was uproar great*  
 "Hátt kveðið þér", segir hon, "enn þó lét hærra atgeirrinn,  
*Loud speak you says she but yet sounded louder the-halberd*  
 er Gunnarr gekk út". Kolskeggr heyrði ok mælti: "Þat  
*when Gunnar went out Kolskegg heard and spoke That*  
 mun eigi engra tíðenda vita". "Þat er vel", segir Hallgerðr,  
*will not no tidings betoken That is well says Hallgerd*

“nú munu þeir reyna, hvárt hann gengr grátandi undan  
*now will they test whether he goes weeping from-under*  
 þeim”. Kolskeggr tekur vörn sín ok leitar sér at hesti ok  
*them Kolskegg takes weapons his and looks for-himself for a-horse and*  
 riður eftir slíkt er hann mátti. Gunnarr riður um Akratungu  
*rides after such as he could Gunnar rides across Akratunga*  
 þvera ok svá til Geilastofna ok þaðan til Rangár ok ofan  
*athwart and so to Geilastofnar and thence to Ranga and down*  
 til vaðs hjá Hofi. Konur vóru þar á stöðli. Gunnarr  
*to (the)-ford by Hof Women were there at (the)-milking-pen Gunnar*  
 hljóp af hesti sínum ok batt. Þá riðu hinir at. Móhellur  
*leaped off horse his and tied Then rode the-others up Clay-slabs*  
 vóru í götunum við vaðit. Gunnarr mælti til þeirra: “Nú  
*were in the-paths by the-ford Gunnar spoke to them Now*  
 er at verja sik — er hér nú atgeirrinn. Munuð þér nú ok  
*is to defend oneself is here now the-halberd Will you now also*  
 reyna, hvárt ek græt nakkvat fyrir yðr”. Þeir hljópu þá allir  
*test whether I weep anything for you They leaped then all*  
 af baki ok sóttu at Gunnari. Hallbjörn var fremstr. “Sæk þú  
*off back and attacked at Gunnar Hallbjorn was foremost Attack you*  
 eigi at”, segir Gunnarr, “þér vilda ek sízt ilt gera; enn ek  
*not at says Gunnar to-you would-wish I least ill to-do but I*  
 mun þó engum hlífa, ef ek á hendr mínar at verja”. “Þat  
*will yet none spare if I have hands my to defend That*  
 mun ekki gera”, segir Hallbjörn, “þú munt þó drepa vilja  
*will nothing do says Hallbjorn you will yet to-kill wish*  
 bróður minn — ok er þat skömm, ef ek sit hjá”, ok lagði  
*brother my and is that shame if I sit by and thrust*  
 til Gunnars tveim höndum miklu spjóti. Gunnarr skaut  
*at Gunnar with-two hands with-great spear Gunnar shot*  
 fyrir skildinum, enn Hallbjörn lagði í gegnum skjöldinn.  
*before the-shield but Hallbjorn thrust in through the-shield*

Gunnarr skaut svá fast niðr skildinum, at hann stóð fastr  
*Gunnar shot so hard down the-shield that it stood fast*  
 í jörðunni, enn tók til sverðsins svá skjótt, at eigi mátti  
*in the-earth but took to the-sword so quickly that not could*  
 auga á festa, ok hjó með sverðinu — ok kom á höndina  
*eye on fix and hewed with the-sword and came on the-arm*  
 Hallbirni fyrir ofan úlflið svá at af tók. Skammkell hljóp  
*of-Hallbjorn above over (the)-wrist so that off took Skammkel leaped*  
 á bak Gunnari ok höggr til hans með mikilli öxi. Gunnarr  
*at back of-Gunnar and hews at him with a-great axe Gunnar*  
 snerist skjótt at honum ok lýstr við atgeirinum —  
*turned quickly toward him and strikes against-(it) with-the-halberd*  
 ok kom undir kverk öxinni, ok hraut hon ór hendi  
*and came under (the)-beard of-the-axe and flew it out-of hand*  
 honum út á Rangá. Þá kvað Gunnarr vísu:  
*his out into Ranga Then spoke Gunnar a-verse*

Vist spurðir þú vazta  
*Surely asked you of-fishing-grounds*  
 viggrennanda þenna,  
*steed-driver this*  
 hrayggviglópr, áðr hleyptuð  
*sorrow-fool before you-galloped*  
 harðr ór mínum garði,  
*hard out-of my yard*  
 hvárt vígstæris væri  
*whether of-battle-increaser were*  
 — vér rjóðum spjör blóði;  
*we redden spear with-blood*



þess skal ek heiftar hvesi

*of-that shall I of-hatred whether*

hefna — réttar stefnur.

*avenge right summonses*

Gunnarr leggr í annat sinn atgeirinum ok í gegnum

*Gunnar thrusts in a-second time with-the-halberd and in through*

Skammkel ok vegr hann upp ok kastar honum í leirgötuna

*Skammkel and lifts him up and throws him into the-clay-path*

at höfðinu. Auðúlfr austmaðr þreif upp spjót ok skaut at

*on the-head Audulf (the)-Norwegian seized up a-spear and shot at*

Gunnari. Gunnarr tók á lofti spjótit ok skaut aftr þegar —

*Gunnar Gunnar took in air the-spear and shot back at-once*

ok fló í gegnum skjöldinn ok austmanninn ok niðr í

*and flew in through the-shield and the-Norwegian and down into*

völlinn. Otkell höggr með sverði til Gunnars — ok stefnir

*the-ground Otkel hews with a-sword at Gunnar and aims*

á fótinn fyrir neðan kné. Gunnarr hljóp í loft upp,

*at the-leg below beneath (the)-knee Gunnar leaped into (the)-air up*

ok missir Otkell hans. Gunnarr leggr atgeirinum til hans ok

*and misses Otkel him Gunnar thrusts with-the-halberd at him and*

í gegnum hann. Þá kemr Kolskeggr at ok hleypr þegar at

*in through him Then comes Kolskegg up and leaps at-once at*

Hallkatli ok höggr hann banahögg með saxinu. Þar vea

*Hallkel and hews him a-death-blow with the-short-sword There slay*

þeir þá átta. Kona hljóp heim, er sá, ok sagði Merði ok

*they then eight A-woman ran home who saw and told Mord and*

bað hann skilja þá. “Þeir einir munu vera”, segir hann, “at

*bade him part them They alone will be says he that*

ek hirði aldri þó at drepizt”. “Eigi munt þú þat vilja

*I care never though that kill-each-other Not will you that wish*

mæla”, segir hon, “þar mun vera Gunnarr frændi þinn ok  
*to-say says she there will be Gunnar kinsman your and*  
 Otkell vinr þinn”. “Klifar þú nakkvat jafnan, mannfýla þín”,  
*Otkel friend your Harp you something always wretch your*  
 segir hann — ok lá hann inni meðan þeir börðust. Gunnarr  
*says he and lay he inside while they fought Gunnar*  
 reið heim ok Kolskeggr eftir verk þessi, ok ríða þeir hart  
*rode home and Kolskegg after deeds these and ride they hard*  
 upp eftir eyrunum ok stökk Gunnarr af baki ok kom  
*up along the-gravel-banks and jumped Gunnar off back and came*  
 standandi niðr. Kolskeggr mælti: “Hart ríðr þú nú, frændi”.  
*standing down Kolskegg spoke Hard ride you now kinsman*  
 Gunnarr mælti: “Þat lagði Skammkell mér til orðs, er ek  
*Gunnar spoke That laid Skammkel to-me to words when I*  
 mælti svá: ‘þér ríðið á mik ofan’”. “Hefnt hefir þú nú  
*spoke so you ride on me down Avenged have you now*  
 þess”, segir Kolskeggr. “Hvat ek veit”, segir Gunnarr, “hvárt  
*that says Kolskegg What I know says Gunnar whether*  
 ek mun því óvaskari maðr enn aðrir menn, sem mér  
*I will therefore less-valiant a-man than other men as to-me*  
 þykkir meira fyrir enn öðrum mönnum at vega menn”.  
*seems more before-(it) than to-other men to slay men*

## LV · NJÁLL'S WARNING

*Gunnarr tells Njáll of the killings, and Njáll says he will win great honor from the case but that this is the beginning of his killings. He warns Gunnarr never to kill more than once in the same family and never to break a settlement made by good men; otherwise he will not live long. Gizurr and Geirr draw lots, and Geirr must prosecute. They summon neighbors, and people expect a turbulent assembly.*

Nú spyrjast tíðendin — ok mæltu þat margir, at eigi þætti  
*Now are-learned the-tidings and spoke that many that not seemed*  
 þetta fyrr fram koma, enn líklegt var. Gunnarr reið til  
*this sooner forth come than likely was Gunnar rode to*  
 Bergþórshváls ok sagði Njáli verk þessi. Njáll mælti: “Mikit  
*Bergthorshvol and told Njal deeds these Njal spoke Much*  
 hefir þú at gert, ok hefir þú verit mjök at þreyttr”. “Hversu  
*have you to done and have you been much at tried How*  
 mun nú ganga síðan”, segir Gunnarr. “Vill þú, at ek segja  
*will now go afier says Gunnar Will you that I tell*  
 þér þat”, segir Njáll, “er eigi er fram komit? Þú munt ríða  
*you that says Njal which not is forth come You will ride*  
 til þings, ok munt þú njóta við ráða minna ok fá af  
*to (the)-assembly and will you benefit from counsels my and get from*  
 þessu máli hina mestu sæmd. Mun þetta upphaf vígaferla  
*this case the greatest honor Will this (the)-beginning of-slayings*  
 þinna”. “Ráð þú mér heilræði nökkur”, segir Gunnarr. “Ek  
*your Counsel you me good-counsels some says Gunnar I*  
 skal þat gera”, segir Njáll: “Veg þú aldri meir í hinn sama  
*shall that do says Njal Slay you never more in the same*  
 knérunn enn um sinn, ok rjúf aldri sætt þá er góðir  
*stock than about once and break never settlement that which good*  
 menn gera meðal þín ok annarra — ok þó sízt á því máli”.  
*men make between you and others and yet least in that case*  
 Gunnarr mælti: “Öðrum ætlaða ek at þat skyldi hættara  
*Gunnar spoke For-others thought I that that should more-dangerous*  
 enn mér”. “Svá mun vera”, segir Njáll, “enn þó skalt þú  
*than for-me So will be says Njal but yet shall you*  
 svá um þitt mál hugsa, ef þetta berr saman, at þá munt  
*so about your case think if this bears together that then will*  
 þú skamt eiga ólifat; enn ella munt þú verða gamall maðr”.  
*you short have to-live but else will you become an-old man*

Gunnarr mælti: “Veizt þú, hvat þér mun verða at bana?”

*Gunnar spoke Know you what to-you will become to death*

“Veit ek”, segir Njáll. “Hvat?” segir Gunnarr. “Þat sem allir

*Know I says Njal What says Gunnar That which all*

munu sízt ætla”, segir Njáll. Síðan reið Gunnarr heim. —

*will least think says Njal Then rode Gunnar home*

Maðr var sendr Gizuri hvíta ok Geiri goða, því at

*A-man was sent to-Gizur (the)-White and Geir (the)-Priest because that*

þeir áttu eftir Otkel at mæla. Fundust þeir þá at ok

*they had after Otkel to prosecute Met they then at-(it) and*

töluðu, hversu með skyldi fara. Kom þat ásamt með þeim,

*talked how with should go Came that agreed between them*

at sótt myndi mál til laga. Var þá at leitat, hvern

*that prosecuted would (the)-case by law Was then to sought who*

við myndi vilja taka; enn engi var til þess búinn. “Svá lízt

*with would wish to-take but none was to that ready So seems*

mér”, segir Gizurr, “at nú muni tveir kostir — at annarr

*to-me says Gizur that now will-be two choices that one*

hvárr okkarr saki málit, ok munu vit þá verða at

*or-other of-us-two prosecute the-case and will we-two then have to*

hluta með okkr; eða ella mun vera maðrinn ógildr. Munu

*draw-lots between us-two or else will be the-man unatoned Will*

vit ok svá mega til ætla, at þungt muni at hræra málit:

*we-two also so be-able to think that heavy will to stir the-case*

er Gunnarr frændmargr ok vinsæll. Enn sá okkarr, er eigi

*is Gunnar rich-in-kin and popular But that of-us-two who not*

hlýtr, skal til riða ok ekki ór ganga fyrr enn til enda

*draws shall to ride and not out go before than to end*

kemr málit”. Síðan hlutuðu þeir, ok hlaut Geirr goði at

*comes the-case Then drew-lots they and drew Geir (the)-Priest to*

fara með sökina. Litlu síðar riðu þeir vestan yfir ár ok

*go with the-charge A-little later rode they from-the-west over rivers and*

kvámu þar sem fundrinn hafði verit við Rangá ok grófu  
*came there where the-fight had been by Ranga and dug*  
 upp líkamina ok nemndu vátta at benjum. Síðan lýstu  
*up the-bodies and named witnesses to wounds Then declared*  
 þeir ok kvöddu níu búa um málit. Þeim var sagt, at  
*they and summoned nine neighbors about the-case To-them was said that*  
 Gunnarr var heima við þrjá tigu manna. Spurði þá Geirr  
*Gunnar was at-home with three tens of-men Asked then Geir*  
 goði, hvárt Gizurr vildi at ríða við hundrað manna. “Eigi  
*(the)-Priest whether Gizur would to ride with a-hundred men Not*  
 vil ek þat”, segir hann, “þó at mikill sé liðsmunr”. Riðu  
*will I that says he though that great be difference-in-men Rode*  
 þeir þá aftir heim. Málatilbúnaðr spurðist um öll heruð;  
*they then back home (The)-case-preparation was-learned about all districts*  
 ok var sú orðræða á, at róstumikið myndi verða þingit.  
*and was that talk on-(it) that turbulent would become the-assembly*

## LVI · THE CASE AT THE ALTHING

*Skafti Þóroddsson and his father Þóroddr are among the chieftains supporting Gizurr. Geirr goði prosecutes the killings, and Gunnarr replies that he had outlawed Otkell for the spur-wound and that Geirr summoned a panel improperly in Auðólftr's case. Njáll threatens an outlawry case against Geirr. The chieftains agree to arbitration: Skammkell is uncompensated, the spur-cut equals Otkell's death, and Gunnarr's kinsmen pay the rest at once.*

Skafti hét maðr. Hann var Þóroddsson. Móðir Þórodds  
*Skafti was-called a-man He was Þborodd's-son Mother of-Þborodd*  
 var Þórvör. Hon var dóttir Þormóðar skafta, Óleifs sonar  
*was Þorvor She was daughter of-Þhormod Skafti of-Oleif son*  
 breiðs, Einars sonar, Ölvis sonar barnakarls. Þeir váru  
*Broad of-Einar son of-Olvir son Children's-man They were*

höfðingjar miklar feðgar ok lögmenn miklir. Þóróddr  
chieftains great father-and-son and law-men great Thorodd  
þótti nakkvat grályndr ok slægr. Þeir veittu Gizuri hvíta  
seemed somewhat malicious and sly They supported Gizur (the)-White  
at hverju máli. Þeir Hlíðverjar ok Rangæingar fjölmentu  
in every case They Hlidarendi-men and Rangarvellir-men came-in-numbers  
mjök til þings. Var Gunnarr svá vinsæll, at allir  
much to (the)-assembly Was Gunnar so popular that all  
sammæltust á þat at fylgja honum. Koma þeir nú allir  
agreed-together on that to support him Come they now all  
til þings ok tjalda búðir sínar. Í sambandi með Gizuri  
to (the)-assembly and pitch booths their In alliance with Gizur  
hvíta váru þessir höfðingjar: Skafti ok Þóróddr, Ásgrímr  
(the)-White were these chieftains Skafti and Thorodd Asgrim  
Ellíða-Grímsson, Oddr frá Kiðjabergi, Halldór Örnólfsson.  
Ellida-Grim's-son Odd from Kidjaberg Halldor Ornolf's-son  
Nú ganga menn til Lögbergs einn hvern dag. Stóð þá upp  
Now go men to (the)-Law-Rock one some day Stood then up  
Geirr goði ok lýsti vígsök á hendr Gunnari um  
Geir (the)-Priest and declared a-slaying-suit against hands Gunnar for  
víg Otkels. Annarri vígsök lýsti hann á hendr  
(the)-slaying of-Otkel (The)-second slaying-suit declared he against hands  
Gunnari um víg Hallbjarnar hvíta, þá um víg  
Gunnar for (the)-slaying of-Hallbjorn (the)-White then for (the)-slaying  
Auðúlfs, þá um víg Skammkels. Þá lýsti hann  
of-Audulf then for (the)-slaying of-Skammkel Then declared he  
vígsök á hendr Kolskeggi um víg Hallkels. Ok  
a-slaying-suit against hands Kolskegg for (the)-slaying of-Hallkel And  
þá er hann hafði lýst öllum vígsökunum, var þat talat,  
then when he had declared all the-slaying-suits was it said  
at honum hefði vel mælt. Hann spurði at þingfesti  
that to-him had well spoken-(it) He asked about assembly-attachment

ok at heimilisfangi. Gengu menn síðan frá Lögbergi.  
*and about legal-domicile Went men then from (the)-Law-Rock*  
 Liðr nú þingit þar til er dómar skyldu fara út til  
*Passes now the-assembly there until that courts should go out for*  
 sóknar. Fjölmentu þá hvártveggju út liði sínu. Geirr  
*prosecution Came-in-numbers then both-sides out with-company their Geir*  
 goði ok Gizurr hvíti stóðu sunnan at Rangæingadómi.  
*(the)-Priest and Gizur (the)-White stood south of (the)-Rangarvellir-court*  
 Gunnarr ok Njáll stóðu norðan at dómnum. Geirr goði  
*Gunnar and Njal stood north of the-court Geir (the)-Priest*  
 býðr Gunnari at hlýða til eiðspjalls síns. Síðan vann hann  
*bids Gunnar to listen to oath-taking his Then swore he*  
 eið. Eftir þat sagði hann fram sök. Þá lét hann bera  
*an-oath After that stated he forth (the)-charge Then had he bear*  
 lýsingarvætti. Þá lét hann bjóða búum í setu. Þá bauð  
*declaration-testimony Then had he bid neighbors into seats Then bade*  
 hann til ruðningar um kviðinn. Þá beiddi hann framburðar  
*he to challenging about the-panel Then asked he verdict*  
 um kviðinn. Þá gengu búar at dómnum, þeir er kvaddir  
*about the-panel Then went neighbors to the-court those who summoned*  
 höfðu verið, ok nemndu sér vátta ok létu þat standa  
*had been and named for-themselves witnesses and let that stand*  
 fyrir kviðburði um mál Auðúlfs, at aðili var í Noregi  
*before panel-verdict about case of-Audulf that (the)-principal was in Norway*  
 ok þeir áttu eigi um at skila málit. Eftir þat báru þeir kvið  
*and they had not about to settle the-case After that bore they verdict*  
 um mál Otkels ok báru Gunnarr sannan at sökinni. Eftir  
*about case of-Otkel and bore Gunnar true to the-charge After*  
 þat bauð Geirr goði Gunnari til varna ok nemndi vátta  
*that bade Geir (the)-Priest Gunnar to defenses and named witnesses*  
 at öllum gögnum þeim er fram váru komin. Gunnarr bauð  
*to all evidence that which forth was come Gunnar bade*

þá at móti Geiri goða at hlýða til eiðspjalls síns ok  
*then in against Geir (the)-Priest to listen to oath-taking his and*  
 þeira varna, er hann myndi fram færa um málit. Þá vann  
*of-those defenses which he would forth bring about the-case Then swore*  
 hann eið. Þá mælti Gunnarr síðan: “Þá færi ek vörn fram  
*he an-oath Then spoke Gunnar then Then bring I defense forth*  
 um þetta mál, at ek nemnda vátta, at ek óhelgaða Otkel  
*about this case that I named witnesses that I made-outlaw Otkel*  
 fyrir búum af þeiri blóðugri ben, er Otkell veitti mér  
*before neighbors from that bloody wound which Otkel dealt me*  
 áverka með spora sínum. Enn ek ver þér, Geirr goði,  
*injury with spur his But I forbid you Geir (the)-Priest*  
 goðalýriti mál þetta at sækja ok svá dómöndum at dæma,  
*with-priest's-veto case this to prosecute and so to-judges to judge*  
 ok ónýti ek með þessu allan þinn málatalibúnað. Ver ek þér  
*and void I with this all your case-preparation Forbid I you*  
 lagalýriti, ifalausú lýriti fullu ok föstu, svá sem ek á at  
*with-lawful-veto unimpeachable veto full and fast so as I have to*  
 verja at alþingismáli réttu ok alls herjar lögum. Ek mun ok  
*defend by Althing-procedure right and of-all of-men law I will also*  
 segja þér aðra meðför mína”, segir Gunnarr. “Munt þú þá  
*tell you other procedure my says Gunnar Will you then*  
 skora mér á hólmi sem þú ert vanr”, segir Geirr, “ok þola  
*challenge me to holm as you are used says Geir and bear*  
 eigi lög?” “Eigi skal þat”, segir Gunnarr. “Ek mun stefna  
*not law Not shall that says Gunnar I will summon*  
 þér at Lögbergi um þat, er þú kvaddir þess kvíðar, er  
*you at (the)-Law-Rock about that that you summoned of-that panel which*  
 eigi átti máli at skifta — um víg Auðúlfs — ok  
*not had with-case to deal about (the)-slaying of-Audulf and*  
 telja þik um þat sekjan fjörbaugsmann”. Njáll mælti: “Ekki  
*count you for that outlawed a-lesser-outlaw Njal spoke Not*



má þetta svá fara; því at þetta mun nú verða mjök með  
*may this so go because that this will now be much with*  
 kappi deilt. Hafa hér hvártveggju mikit til síns máls, at  
*zeal contested Have here both-sides much for their case by*  
 því sem mér lízt. Eru þau sum víg, at þú munt ekki í  
*that which to-me seems Are those some slayings that you will not in*  
 móti mega mæla, at þú munt sekr um verða. Hefir þú  
*against be-able speak that you will outlawed for become Have you*  
 ok þann málatilbúnað á honum, at hann mun ok sekr  
*also that case-preparation on him that he will also outlawed*  
 um verða. Skalt þú ok þat vita, Geirr goði, at enn er  
*for become Shall you also that know Geir (the)-Priest that yet is*  
 eigi uppkastat þeiri skóggangssök, er á þér stendr, ok  
*not taken-up that outlawry-suit which on you stands and*  
 skal sú eigi niðri liggja, ef þú vill ekki gera fyrir mín  
*shall that not down lie if you will not do for my*  
 orð. Þoroddr goði mælti: “Svá lízt oss, sem þat muni  
*words Thorodd (the)-Priest spoke So seems to-us as that will*  
 friðlegast, at sæzt sé á málit — eða hví leggir þú svá  
*most-peaceable that settled be on the-case or why lay you so*  
 fátt til, Gizurr hvíti?” “Svá lízt mér”, segir Gizurr, “sem  
*little to Gizur (the)-White So seems to-me says Gizur as*  
 rammar skorður muni þurfa við at setja, at váru máli, ef  
*strong props will need to to set to our case if*  
 duga skal. Má þat sjá, at nær standa vinir Gunnars; ok  
*avail shall May that see that near stand friends of-Gunnar and*  
 mun sá verða málahluti várr baztr, at góðir menn geri  
*will that be case-outcome our best that good men make-award*  
 um, ef Gunnarr vill þat”. “Sáttgjarn hefi ek verit  
*about-(it) if Gunnar wishes that Settlement-minded have I been*  
 jafnan”, segir Gunnarr, “enda eiguð þér nú eftir mikit  
*always says Gunnar and-indeed have you now after much*

at mæla; enn ek þykkjumst þó mjök neyddr til hafa verit".  
*to prosecute but I think-myself yet much forced to have been*  
 Urðu þær nú málalyktir með ráði hinna vitrustu manna, at  
*Became those now case-conclusions by counsel of-the wisest men that*  
 málin váru öll lágðar í gerð. Skyldu gera um sex  
*the-cases were all laid into arbitration Should make-award about-(it) six*  
 menn. Var þá þegar gert um málit á þingi. Var þat  
*men Was then at-once awarded about the-case at (the)-assembly Was that*  
 gert, at Skammkell skyldi ógildr. Enn manngjöld skyldu  
*awarded that Skammkel should unatoned But man-prices should*  
 vera jöfn ok sporahöggð. Enn bætt váru önnur vígin  
*be equal and the-spur-blow But compensated were other the-slayings*  
 sem vert þótti — ok gáfu frændr Gunnars fé til, at  
*as worth seemed and gave kinsmen of-Gunnar money to-(it) that*  
 þegar váru bætt upp öll vígin þar á þinginu. Gengu  
*at-once were compensated up all the-slayings there at the-assembly Went*  
 þeir þá til ok veittu Gunnari trygðir Geirr goði ok  
*they then to and gave Gunnar pledges-of-peace Geir (the)-Priest and*  
 Gizurr hvíti. Reið Gunnarr heim af þingi ok þakkaði  
*Gizur (the)-White Rode Gunnar home from (the)-assembly and thanked*  
 mönnum liðveizlu ok gaf mörgum gjafar ok fekk af  
*men support and gave many gifts and got from-(it)*  
 hina mestu sæmd. Sitr Gunnarr nú heima í sæmd sinni.  
*the greatest honor Sits Gunnar now at-home in honor his*

## LVII • STARKAÐR AND HIS SONS

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*Starkaðr of Þríhyrningr, son of Börkr blátannarskegg, is introduced with his wife Hallbera and their children Þorgeirr, Börkr, Porkell, and Hildigunnr the healer. His sons are overbearing, hard-tempered, and unruly, and they ride roughshod over other men.*

Starkaðr hét maðr. Hann var sonr Barkar blátannarskeggs,  
*Starkad was-called a-man He was son of-Bork Blue-toothed-beard*  
 Þorkels sonar bundinfóta, er land nam umhverfis Þríhyrning.  
*of-Thorkel son Bound-foot who land took around Thrihyrning*  
 Hann var kvángaðr maðr, ok hét kona hans Hallbera.  
*He was a-married man and was-called wife his Hallbera*  
 Hon var dóttir Hróalds hins rauða ok Hildigunnar, dóttur  
*She was daughter of-Hroald the Red and of-Hildigunn daughter*  
 Þorsteins titlings. Móðir Hildigunnar var Unnr, dóttir  
*of-Thorstein Titling Mother of-Hildigunn was Unn daughter*  
 Eyvindar karfa, systir Móðólfs hins spaka frá Mosfelli,  
*of-Eyvind Karfi sister of-Modolf the Wise from Mosfell*  
 er Móðylfingar eru frá komnir. Synir þeira Starkaðr ok  
*whom (the)-Modylfings are from come Sons their Starkad and*  
 Hallberu váru þeir Þorgeirr ok Börkr ok Þorkell. Hildigunnr  
*Hallbera were they Thorgeir and Bork and Thorkel Hildigunn*  
 lækni var systir þeira. Þeir váru ofsamenn miklir í  
*(the)-Healer was sister their They were overbearing-men great in*  
 skapi, harðlyndir ok ódælir. Þeir sátu yfir hlut manna.  
*temper hard-minded and unruly They sat over (the)-lot of-men*

## LVIII · THE HORSE-FIGHT IS ARRANGED

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*Egill of Sandgil, brother-in-law of Starkaðr, has overbearing sons, and two Norwegians named Þórir and Þorgrímr stay with him. At Þríhyrningr, flatterers tell Egill's sons that no one would dare match a horse against Starkaðr's red stallion, and Hildigunnr names Gunnarr's brown horse. Starkaðr warns them against Gunnarr but allows them to offer a horse-fight if they do not cheat him, and Gunnarr accepts, asking that it bring neither side trouble or shame. Njáll predicts many deaths will follow, though not Gunnarr's from this.*

Egill hét maðr. Hann var Kols son, Óttars sonar ballar,  
*Egil was-called a-man He was of-Kol son of-Ottar son Ball*  
 er land nam meðal Stotalækjar ok Reyðarvatns. Bróðir Egils  
*who land took between Stotalaek and Reydarvatn Brother of-Egil*  
 var Önundr í Trollaskógi, faðir Halla hins sterka, er var  
*was Onund in Trollaskog father of-Halli the Strong who was*  
 at vígi Holta-Þóris með sonum Ketils hins sléttmála.  
*at (the)-slaying of-Holta-Thorir with sons of-Ketil the Smooth-spoken*  
 Egill bjó í Sandgili. Synir hans váru þeir Kolr ok Óttarr  
*Egil dwelt in Sandgil Sons his were they Kol and Ottar*  
 ok Haukr. Móðir þeira var Steinvör, systir Starkaðar undir  
*and Hauk Mother their was Steinvor sister of-Starkad under*  
 Þríhyrningi. Synir Egils váru miklir menn ok kappsamir ok  
*Thrihyrning Sons of-Egil were big men and headstrong and*  
 hinir mestu ójafnaðarmenn. Þeir váru at einu máli ok synir  
*the greatest unjust-men They were at one counsel and (the)-sons*  
 Starkaðar. Systir þeira var Guðrún nátt sól. Hon var kvenna  
*of-Starkad Sister their was Guðrun Night-sun She was of-women*  
 fríðust ok kurteisust. Egill hafði tekit við austmönnum  
*fairest and most-courteous Egil had taken with Norwegians*  
 tveimr. Hét annarr Þórir enn annarr Þorgrímr. Þeir váru  
*two Was-called one Thorir and (the)-other Thorgrim They were*  
 frumferlar út hingat, vinsælir ok auðigir. Þeir váru vígir vel  
*first-comers out hither well-liked and wealthy They were fighting well*  
 ok frækir um alt. Starkaðr átti hest góðan, rauðan at lit;  
*and valiant in all Starkad owned a-horse good red in color*  
 ok þótti þeim svá sem engi hestr myndi hafa við þeim í  
*and seemed to-them so as no horse would have against them in*  
 vígi. Einu hverju sinni var þat, at þeir bræðr ór Sandgili  
*fighting On-one some time was it that those brothers out-of Sandgil*  
 váru undir Þríhyrningi. Þeir höfðu viðræði mikit um alla  
*were under Thrihyrning They had conversation much about all*

bændr í Fljótshlíð — ok þar kom, at þeir töluðu, hvárt  
*farmers in Fljotsblid and there came-(it) that they talked whether*  
 nakkvarr myndi vilja etja hestum við þá. Enn þeir  
*anyone would wish to-match horses against them But those*  
 menn váru, at mæltu þat til sóma þeim ok eftirlætis, at  
*men were that said that to honor to-them and flattery that*  
 bæði myndi vera, at engi myndi þora við at etja, enda  
*both would be that none would dare with to match and-indeed*  
 myndi engi eiga þvílíkan hest. Þá svaraði Hildigunnr: “Veit  
*would none own such-a horse Then answered Hildigunn Know*  
 ek þann mann, er þora mun at etja við yðr”. “Nemn  
*I that man who dare will to match against you Name*  
 þú þann”, segja þeir. Hon svarar: “Gunnarr at Hlíðarenda  
*you that-one say they She answers Gunnar at Hlidarendi*  
 á hest brúnan, ok mun hann þora at etja við yðr ok  
*owns a-horse brown and will he dare to match against you and*  
 við alla aðra”. “Svá þykkir yðr konum”, segja þeir, “sem  
*against all others So seems to-you women say they as*  
 engi muni vera hans maki. Enn þó at auvirðilega hafi  
*none will be his match But though that wretchedly has*  
 farit fyrir honum Geirr goði eða Gizurr hvíti, þá er  
*gone before him Geir (the)-Priest or Gizur (the)-White then is*  
 eigi ráðit, at oss fari svá”. “Yðr mun first um fara”, segir  
*not decided that to-us go so To-you will worst about go says*  
 hon, ok varð þeim af hin mesta deila. Starkaðr mælti:  
*she and became to-them from-(it) the greatest quarrel Starkad spoke*  
 “Á Gunnar vilda ek at þér leitaðið sízt manna; því  
*On Gunnar would-wish I that you pressed least of-men because*  
 at erfitt mun yðr verða at ganga í móti giftu hans”.  
*that hard will to-you become to go in against luck his*  
 “Leyfa munt þú oss, at vér bjóðim honum hestaat?” segja  
*Allow will you us that we offer him a-horse-fight say*

þeir. "Leyfa", segir hann, "ef þér prettið hann í engu". Þeir  
*they Allow says he if you cheat him in nothing They*  
kváðust svá gera mundu. Riðu þeir nú til Hlíðarenda.  
*said-of-themselves so to-do would Rode they now to Hlíðarendi*  
Gunnarr var heima ok gekk út; Kolskeggr ok Hjörtr gengu  
*Gunnar was at-home and went out Kolskegg and Hjort went*  
út með honum — ok fögnuðu þeim vel ok spurðu, hvert  
*out with him and welcomed them well and asked whither*  
þeir ætlaði at fara. "Eigi lengra", segja þeir, "oss er sagt,  
*they intended to go No further say they to-us is said*  
at þú eigir hest góðan — ok vilju vér bjóða þér hestaat".  
*that you own a-horse good and wish we offer you a-horse-fight*  
"Litlar sögur megu ganga frá hesti mínum", segir Gunnarr,  
*Little stories may go of horse my says Gunnar*  
"hann er ungr ok óreyndr at öllu". "Kost munt þú láta  
*he is young and untried in all Choice will you let*  
at etja", segja þeir, "ok gat þess til Hildigunnr, at þú  
*to match say they and guessed that to Hildigunn that you*  
myndir góðr af hestinum". "Hví töluðu þér um þat?"  
*would good of the-horse Why talked you about that*  
segir Gunnarr. "Þeir menn váru", segja þeir, "er þat mæltu,  
*says Gunnar Those men were say they who that said*  
at þú myndir eigi þora at etja við várn hest". "Þora  
*that you would not dare to match against our horse Dare*  
mun ek at etja", segir Gunnarr, "enn grálega þykki mér  
*will I to match says Gunnar but maliciously seems to-me*  
þetta mælt". "Skulu vér til þess ætla", segja þeir, "at þú  
*this spoken Shall we to that expect say they that you*  
munir etja?" "Þá mun yðr þykkja för yður bezt", segir  
*will match Then will to-you seem journey your best says*  
Gunnarr, "ef þér ráðið þessu. Enn þó vil ek þess biðja yðr,  
*Gunnar if you decide this But yet will I this ask you*

at vér etim svá hestunum, at vér gerim öðrum gaman  
*that we match so the-horses that we make for-others fun*  
 enn oss engi vandræði, ok þér gerið mér enga skömm.  
*but for-us no trouble and you make me no shame*  
 Enn ef þér gerið til mín sem til annarra, þá er eigi  
*But if you do toward me as toward others then is not*  
 ráðit, nema ek sveigja þann at yðr, at yðr mun hart  
*decided except I bend that at you that to-you will hard*  
 þykkja undir at búa. Mun ek þar eftir gera, sem þér gerið  
*seem under to bear Will I there after do as you do*  
 fyrir". Ríða þeir nú heim. Starkaðr spurði, hversu þeim  
*before Ride they now home Starkad asked how to-them*  
 hefði farizt. — Þeir sögðu, at Gunnarr gerði góða ferð  
*had gone They said that Gunnar made good journey*  
 þeira — "hann hét at etja hesti sínum, ok kváðu vér  
*their he promised to match horse his and said we*  
 á nær þat hestavíg skyldi vera. Fanst þat á í öllu, at  
*on when that horse-fight should be Was-found that on in all that*  
 honum þótti sik skorta við oss — ok baðst hann undan  
*to-him seemed himself fall-short against us and begged he off*  
 vandræðum". "Þat mun oft á finnast", segir Hildigunnr, "at  
*from-troubles That will often on be-found says Hildigunn that*  
 Gunnarr er seinþreytt til vandræða enn harðdrægr, ef hann  
*Gunnar is slow-to-tire for troubles but hard-pressing if he*  
 má eigi undan komast". Gunnarr reið at finna Njal ok  
*may not from-under come Gunnar rode to meet Njal and*  
 sagði honum hestaatit ok hversu orð fóru með þeim —  
*told him the-horse-fight and how words went between them*  
 "eða hversu ætlar þú at fari hestaatit?" "Þú munt hafa  
*or how think you that go the-horse-fight You will have*  
 meira hlut", sagði Njáll, "enn þó mun hér margs manns  
*greater lot said Njal but yet will here many a-man's*

bani af hljótaskast." "Mun nakkvat hér af hljótaskast minn  
*death from-it result Will something here from-it result my*  
 bani?" segir Gunnarr. "Ekki mun þat af þessu hljótaskast",  
*death says Gunnar Not will that from this result*  
 segir Njáll, "enn þó munu þeir muna fornan fjandskap —  
*says Njal but yet will they remember old enmity*  
 ok nýjan munu þeir at þér færa; ok munt þú ekki annat  
*and new will they on you bring and will you nothing other*  
 mega enn hrökkva við". Gunnarr reið þá heim.  
*be-able than to-flinch at-(it) Gunnar rode then home*

## LIX · THE HORSE-FIGHT

*Hallgerðr has Þorgerðr's newborn son by Þráinn named after the dead Höskuldr. At the horse-fight Þorgeirr Starkaðarson and Kolr Egilsson push their horse against Gunnarr's, but he pushes back and both fall under their own horse. Gunnarr throws Kolr senseless, and when Þorgeirr strikes out his horse's eye, he fells Þorgeirr with the goad. Skarphedinn recites a verse longing for a real fight, and Njáll urges a truce, which Þorgeirr refuses. Óláfr pái later invites Gunnarr home and warns him to ride with many men.*

Nú spyr Gunnarr lát Höskuldar mágs síns.  
*Now learns Gunnar (the)-death of-Hoskuld kinsman-by-marriage his*  
 Fám nóttum síðar varð léttari Þorgerðr at Grjótá dóttir  
*Few nights later became lighter Thorgerd at Grjota daughter*  
 Hallgerðar, enn kona Þráins, ok kom þar til sveinbarn. Sendi  
*of-Hallgerd and wife of-Thrain and came there to a-boy-child Sent*  
 hon þá mann til móður sinnar ok bað hana ráða fyrir, hvárt  
*she then a-man to mother her and bade her decide for whether*  
 heita skyldi eftir Glúmi föður hennar eða eftir Höskuldi  
*be-called should after Glum father her or after Hoskuld*



móðurföður hennar. Hon bað at Höskuldr skyldi heita. Var  
*mother's-father her She bade that Hoskuld should be-called Was*  
 þá þat namn gefit sveininum. Gunnarr ok Hallgerðr áttu  
*then that name given to-the-boy Gunnar and Hallgerd had*  
 tvá sonu. Hét annarr Högni, enn annar Grani. Högni  
*two sons Was-called one Hogni and (the)-other Grani Hogni*  
 var maðr gervilegr ok hljóðlyndr, tortryggr ok sannorðr. —  
*was a-man promising and quiet-tempered distrustful and truthful*  
 Nú ríða menn til hestavígs, ok er þar komit fjölmenni  
*Now ride men to (the)-horse-fight and is there come a-crowd*  
 mikit. Var þar Gunnarr ok bræðr hans ok Sigfússynir, Njáll  
*great Was there Gunnar and brothers his and (the)-Sigfussons Njal*  
 ok synir hans allir. Þar var kominn Starkaðr ok synir  
*and sons his all There was come Starkad and sons*  
 hans, Egill ok hans synir. Þeir ræddu til Gunnars, at þeir  
*his Egil and his sons They proposed to Gunnar that they*  
 myndi saman leiða hrossin. Gunnarr svaraði at þat væri  
*would together lead the-horses Gunnar answered that that were*  
 vel. Skarphedinn mælti: “Vill þú, at ek keyra hest þinn,  
*well Skarphedin spoke Will you that I drive horse your*  
 Gunnarr frændi?” “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Gunnarr. “Hér er  
*Gunnar kinsman Not will I that says Gunnar Here is*  
 þó betr ákomit”, segir Skarphedinn, “vér erum hvártveggju  
*yet better come-on says Skarphedin we are both*  
 hávaðamenn”. “Þér munuð fátt mæla”, segir Gunnarr, “eða  
*loud-men You will little say says Gunnar or*  
 gera, áðr enn yðr munu vandræði af standa; enn hér  
*do before than to-you will troubles from stand but here*  
 mun verða um seinna, þó at alt komi fyrir eitt”. Síðan  
*will be about slower though that all come to one Then*  
 váru hrossin saman leidd. Gunnarr bjó sik at keyra,  
*were the-horses together led Gunnar prepared himself to drive*

enn Skarphedinn leiddi fram hestinn. Gunnarr var í rauðum  
*but Skarphedin led forth the-horse Gunnar was in a-red*  
 kyrtli ok hafði digrt silfrbelti um sik ok hestastaf mikinn  
*tunic and had a-thick silver-belt about himself and a-horse-goat great*  
 í hendi. Síðan rennast at hestarnir ok bítast lengi svá  
*in hand Then run at the-horses and bite-each-other long so*  
 at ekki þurfti á at taka, ok var þat hit mesta gaman. Þá  
*that not needed-(it) on to touch and was that the greatest fun Then*  
 báru þeir saman ráð sitt Þorgeirr ok Kolr, ot þeir myndi  
*brought they together counsel their Thorgeir and Kol that they would*  
 hrinda hesti sínum, þá er á rynnist hestarnir, ok vita, ef  
*push horse their then when on run the-horses and see if*  
 Gunnarr felli fyrir. Nú rennast á hestarnir, ok blaupa þeir  
*Gunnar fell before-(it) Now run on the-horses and leap they*  
 Þorgeirr ok Kolr þegar á lend hesti sínum ok hrinda sem  
*Thorgeir and Kol at-once at (the)-rump of-horse their and push as*  
 þeir megu. Gunnarr hrindr nú ok sínum hesti í móti —  
*they can Gunnar pushes now also his horse in against*  
 ok verðr þar skjótr atburðr, sá, at þeir Þorgeirr fellu  
*and becomes there a-swift happening that that they Thorgeir(-and-Kol) fell*  
 báðir á bak aftir ok hestrinn á þá ofan. Þeir spretta upp  
*both on back backward and the-horse on them down They spring up*  
 skjótt ok hlaupa at Gunnari. Gunnarr varpar sér undan ok  
*quickly and run at Gunnar Gunnar throws himself aside and*  
 þrífir Kol ok kastar honum á völlinn svá at hann liggr í  
*seizes Kol and throws him onto the-field so that he lies in*  
 óviti. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson laust hest Gunnars svá at  
*unconsciousness Thorgeir Starkad's-son struck (the)-horse of-Gunnar so that*  
 út hljóp augat. Gunnarr laust Þorgeir með stafnum — fellr  
*out leaped the-eye Gunnar struck Thorgeir with the-goat falls*  
 Þorgeirr í óvit. Enn Gunnarr gengr til hests síns ok  
*Thorgeir into unconsciousness But Gunnar goes to horse his and*

mælti við Kolskegg: “Högg þú hestinn — ekki skal hann  
*spoke with Kolskegg Hew you the-horse not shall he*  
 lifa við örkuml”. Kolskegg hjó höfuð af hestinum. Þá  
*live with injury Kolskegg hewed (the)-head off the-horse Then*  
 komst á fætr Þorgeirr ok tók vápn sín ok vildi at Gunnari.  
*got to feet Thorgeir and took weapons his and would at Gunnar*  
 Enn þat varð stöðvat, ok varð þröng mikil. Skarpheðinn  
*But that was stopped and became a-throng great Skarpheðin*  
 mælti: “Leiðist mér þóf þetta — ok er miklu drengilegra,  
*spoke Wearies me wrangling this and is much more-manly*  
 at menn vegist með vápnum”. Skarpheðinn kvað vísu:  
*that men slay-each-other with weapons Skarpheðin spoke a-verse*

Hér verðr þröng á þingi,  
*Here becomes a-throng at (the)-assembly*  
 þóf gengr langt ór hófi,  
*wrangling goes far out-of measure*  
 síð mun sætt með þjóðum  
*late will settlement among peoples*  
 sett; leiðisk mér þetta.  
*set wearies me this*  
 Rakklegra er rekkum  
*More-valiant is for-men*  
 rjóða vápn í blóði;  
*to-redden weapons in blood*  
 víst tem ek gráð hinn geysta  
*surely tame I (the)-hunger the fierce*  
 gjarna ylgjar barni.  
*gladly of-she-wolf for-(the)-child*

Gunnarr var kyrr, svá at honum helt einn maðr, ok mælti  
*Gunnar was still so that him held one man and spoke*  
 ekki orð þat er áfátt væri. Njáll mælti, at þeir skyldi  
*no word that which amiss were Njal spoke that they should*  
 sættast ok setja grið. Þorgeirr kvaðst hvártki vildu selja  
*settle and set truce Thorgeir said-of-himself neither would give*  
 grið né taka — kvaðst heldr vilja Gunnar dauðan fyrir  
*truce nor take said-of-himself rather to-wish Gunnar dead for*  
 höggit. Kolskeggr mælti: “Fastara hefir Gunnarr staðit, enn  
*the-blow Kolskegg spoke More-firmly has Gunnar stood than*  
 hann hafi fallit fyrir orðum einum — ok mun enn svá”. Nú  
*he have fallen for words alone and will still so Now*  
 ríða menn af hestapiingi — hverr til síns heima. Veita  
*ride men from (the)-horse-meeting each to his home Make*  
 þeir Gunnari engar atfarar. Liðu svá þau misseri. Á þingi  
*they Gunnar no attacks Passed so those seasons At (the)-assembly*  
 um sumarit fann Gunnarr Ólaf pá mág sinn,  
*in the-summer met Gunnar Olaf Peacock kinsman-by-marriage his*  
 ok bauð Óláfr honum heim, enn bað hann þó vera varan  
*and invited Olaf him home but bade him yet be wary*  
 um sik — “því at þeir munu gera þér slíkt ilt, er þeir  
*about himself because that they will do you such ill as they*  
 megu — ok far þú fjölmennr jafnan”. Óláfr réð honum mörg  
*can and go you in-numbers always Olaf gave him many*  
 heilræði, ok mæltu þeir til hinnar mestu vináttu með sér.  
*good-counsels and spoke they to the greatest friendship between themselves*

*At the Althing Ásgrím's inheritance case against Úlfr Uggason has a flaw, since he summoned five neighbors instead of nine. Gunnarr offers to challenge Úlfr to a duel, and Úlfr pays in full. Ásgrím invites Gunnarr to visit him and promises to support him in all his lawsuits. Njáll warns that the men of Þríhyrningr plan an attack and offers his sons as escorts, and the two agree on it. But when Gunnarr sets out for Tunga, he sends the Njálssons no word, not wishing to bring them into trouble.*

Ásgrím Elliða-Grímsson hafði mál at sækja á þinginu. Þat  
*Asgrim Ellida-Grím's-son had a-case to prosecute at the-assembly That*  
 var erfðamál. Málinu átti at svara Úlfr Uggason. Ásgrími  
*was an-inheritance-case The-case had to answer Ulf Uggi's-son For-Asgrim*  
 tókst svá til, sem sjaldan var vant, at vörn var í máli  
*went so to as seldom was usual that a-defense was in case*  
 hans. Enn sú var vörnin, at hann hafði nemnt fimm búa,  
*his But that was the-defense that he had named five neighbors*  
 þar sem hann átti níu. Nú hafa þeir þetta til varnar. Þá  
*there where he ought nine Now have they this for defense Then*  
 mælti Gunnarr: "Ek mun skora þér á hólmi, Úlfr Uggason,  
*spoke Gunnar I will challenge you to (the)-holm Ulf Uggi's-son*  
 ef menn skulu eigi ná af þér réttu máli". "Ekki á ek  
*if men shall not get from you right case Nothing have I*  
 þetta við þik", segir Úlfr. "Fyrir hitt mun nú þó ganga",  
*this with you says Ulf For the-other will now yet go*  
 segir Gunnarr, "ok myndi þat Njáll ætla ok Helgi vinr  
*says Gunnar and would that Njal think and Helgi friend*  
 minn, at ek mynda hafa nakkvara vörn í máli með þér,  
*my that I would have some defense in case with you*  
 Ásgrím, ef þeir væri eigi við". Lauk svá því máli, at Úlfr  
*Asgrim if they were not by Ended so that case that Ulf*  
 hlaut at greiða feit alt. Þá mælti Ásgrím til Gunnars:  
*had to pay the-money all Then spoke Asgrim to Gunnar*

“Heim vil ek þér bjóða í sumar, ok jafnan skal ek með  
*Home will I you invite in summer and always shall I with*  
 þér vera í málaferlum, enn aldri í móti þér”. Ríðr Gunnar  
*you be in lawsuits but never in against you Rides Gunnar*  
 heim af þingi. Litlu síðar fundust þeir Njáll. Njáll  
*home from (the)-assembly A-little later met they Njal(-and-be) Njal*  
 bað Gunnar vera varan um sik — kvað sér sagt, at  
*bade Gunnar be wary about himself said to-himself told that*  
 þeir undan Þríhyrningi ætluðu at fara at honum — ok  
*they from-under Thrihyrning intended to go at him and*  
 bað hann aldri fara við fámenni ok hafa jafnan vápn sín.  
*bade him never go with few-men and have always weapons his*  
 Gunnarr kvað svá vera skyldu. Hann sagði Njáli, at Ásgrímr  
*Gunnar said so to-be should He told Njal that Asgrim*  
 hefði boðit honum heim, — “ok ætla ek at fara nú í  
*had invited him home and intend I to go now in*  
 haust”. “Lát þú enga menn vita”, segir Njáll, “aðr þú ferr,  
*autumn Let you no men know says Njal before you go*  
 eða hversu lengi þú ert í brautu. Enn ek býð þér þó, at  
*or how long you are off away But I offer you though that*  
 synir mínir ríði með þér — ok mun eigi þá á þik ráðit”.  
*sons my ride with you and will not then on you attacked*  
 Réðu þeir þat þá með sér. Nú líðr á sumarit til átta  
*Discussed they that then between themselves Now passes on the-summer to eight*  
 vikna. Þá mælti Gunnarr við Kolskegg: “Bú þú ferð þína,  
*weeks Then spoke Gunnar with Kolskegg Prepare you journey your*  
 því at nú skulu vér ríða til heimboðs í Tungu”.  
*because that now shall we ride to (the)-home-invitation in Tunga*  
 “Skal nú ekki orð gera Njálssonum?” sagði Kolskegg. “Ekki”,  
*Shall now not word make to-(the)-Njalssons said Kolskegg Not*  
 sagði Gunnarr, “eigi skulu þeir hljóta vandræði af mér”.  
*said Gunnar not shall they get troubles from me*

*Gunnarr, Kolskeggr, and Hjörtr visit Ásgrímr at Tunga. Sigurðr svínhöfði spies on them for Starkaðr, who gathers thirty men to wait at Knafabólar. Þorgeirr boasts to Hildigunnr that she will see Gunnarr dead that evening. Egill's Norwegian Þórir is reluctant to join, but Egill's wife calls him cowardly, so he goes, giving his partner Þorgrímr the keys to his chest and foreseeing his own death.*

Þeir ríða þrír saman Gunnarr ok bræðr hans. Gunnarr  
*They ride three together Gunnar and brothers his Gunnar*  
 hafði atgeirrinn ok sverðit Ölvirnaut, enn Kolskeggr hafði  
*had the-halberd and the-sword Olvir's-gift but Kolskegg had*  
 saxit. Hjörtr hafði ok alvæpni. Ríðu þeir nú í Tunga.  
*the-short-sword Hjort had also full-armor Rode they now to Tunga*  
 Ásgrímr tók vel við þeim, ok váru þeir þar nakkvara hríð.  
*Asgrim took well with them and were they there some while*  
 Þá lýstu þeir yfir því, at þeir ætluðu þá heim at fara.  
*Then declared they over that that they intended then home to go*  
 Ásgrímr gaf þeim góðar gjafar ok bauð at ríða með þeim  
*Asgrim gave them good gifts and offered to ride with them*  
 austr. Gunnarr kvað engis mundu við þurfa, ok fór hann  
*east Gunnar said nothing would for need and went he*  
 eigi. — Sigurðr svínhöfði hét maðr. Hann kom undir  
*not Sigurd Swine-head was-called a-man He came under*  
 Þríhyrning. Hann bjó við Þjórsá. Hann hafði heitit at halda  
*Thrihyrning He dwelt by Thjorsa He had promised to keep*  
 njósn um ferðir Gunnars. Hann sagði þeim nú til ferða  
*watch about journeys of-Gunnar He told them now of journeys*  
 hans ok kvað ekki mundu verða vænna enn svá — “er hann  
*his and said not would be likelier than so as he*  
 er við hinn þriðja mann”. “Hversu marga munu vér menn  
*is with the third man How many will we men*

þurfa”, segir Starkaðr, “í fyrirsát?” “Rýrt mun verða fyrir  
*need says Starkad in ambush Poorly will turn-out before*  
 honum smámennit”, segir Sigurðr, “ok eigi er ráð at hafa  
*him (the)-small-band says Sigurd and not is counsel to have*  
 færi enn þrjá tigu manna”. “Hvar skulu vér fyrir sitja?” segir  
*fewer than three tens of-men Where shall we before sit says*  
 Starkaðr. “Við Knafahóla”, segir Sigurðr, “þar sér eigi  
*Starkad At Knafabolar says Sigurd there sees-(one) not*  
 fyrr enn at er komit”. “Far þú í Sandgil”, segir Starkaðr,  
*before than that is come Go you to Sandgil says Starkad*  
 “ok seg Agli, at þeir búist þaðan fimtán — enn vér  
*and tell Egil that they make-ready thence fifteen but we*  
 munum koma heðan aðrir fimtán til Knafahóla”. Þorgeirr  
*will come from-here other fifteen to Knafabolar Thorgeir*  
 mælti til Hildigunnar: “Þessi hönd skal þér sýna Gunnarr  
*spoke to Hildigunn This hand shall you show Gunnar*  
 dauðan í kveld”. “Enn ek get”, segir hon, “at þú berir  
*dead in evening But I guess says she that you bear*  
 lágt höfuðit af ykkrum fundi”. Þeir fara fjórir feðgar  
*low the-head from your-two meeting They go four father-and-sons*  
 undan Þríhyrningi ok ellifu menn aðrir — fóru þeir til  
*from-under Thrihyrning and eleven men other went they to*  
 Knafahóla ok biðu þar. Sigurðr svínhöfði kom í Sandgil  
*Knafabolar and waited there Sigurd Swine-head came to Sandgil*  
 ok mælti: “Ek em sendr hingat af Starkaði ok sonum hans  
*and spoke I am sent hither by Starkad and sons his*  
 at segja þér, Egill, at þér feðgar farið til Knafahóla at  
*to tell you Egil that you father-and-sons go to Knafabolar to*  
 sitja fyrir Gunnari”. “Hversu margir skyldu vér fara?” segir  
*sit before Gunnar How many should we go says*  
 Egill. “Fimtán með mér”, segir Sigurðr. Kolr mælti: “Nú  
*Egil Fifteen with me says Sigurd Kol spoke Now*



ætla ek mér í dag at reyna við Kolskegg". "Mjök þykki  
*intend I for-myself in day to try against Kolskegg Much seems*  
 mér þú ætla þér", segir Sigurðr. Egill bað austmenn sína  
*to-me you intend for-yourself says Sigurd Egil bade Norwegians his*  
 fara. Þeir kváðust engar sakar eiga við Gunnar —  
*go They said-of-themselves no charges to-have against Gunnar*  
 "enda þarf hér mikils við", segir Þórir, "er fjöldi manns  
*and-indeed needs here much at-(it) says Thorir when a-multitude of-men*  
 skal fara at þrimr mönnum". Gekk þá Egill í braut ok  
*shall go against three men Went then Egil off away and*  
 var reiðr. Húsfreyja mælti þá til austmannsins: "Ílla hefir  
*was angry (The)-housewife spoke then to the-Norwegian Ill has*  
 Guðrún dóttir mín brotit odd af oflæti sínu ok legit hjá  
*Gudrun daughter my broken (the)-point off pride her and lain with*  
 þér, er þú skalt eigi þora at fylgja mági þínum —  
*you since you shall not dare to follow kinsman-by-marriage your*  
 ok munt þú vera ragr maðr", segir hon. "Fara mun ek",  
*and will you be a-cowardly man says she Go will I*  
 segir hann, "með bónda þínum, ok mun hvárrgi okkarr aftur  
*says he with husband your and will neither of-us-two back*  
 koma". Síðan gekk hann til Þorgríms félaga síns ok mælti:  
*come Then went he to Thorgrim partner his and spoke*  
 "Tak þú við kistuluklum mínum, því at ek mun þeim eigi  
*Take you with chest-keys my because that I will them not*  
 lúka oftar. Bið ek, at þú eignist slíkt af fé okkru,  
*open more-often Ask I that you take-for-yourself such of wealth our-two*  
 sem þú vill. Enn far utan ok ætla ekki til hefnda eftir  
*as you wish But go abroad and intend nothing to vengeance after*  
 mik. Enn ef þú ferr eigi utan, þá verður þat þinn bani".  
*me But if you go not abroad then becomes that your death*  
 Austmaðrinn tekur vörn sín ok ræðst í flokk með þeim.  
*The-Norwegian takes weapons his and joins into (the)-band with them*

*Riding home, Gunnarr falls asleep, sleeps badly, and wakes very hot, throwing off his shield. In a verse and then in prose he tells his dream: wolves attacked at Knafabólar, he fought them off with bow, sword, and halberd, but they tore out Hjörtr's heart. He urges Hjörtr to turn back, but Hjörtr will not leave him. At Knafabólar they see spears rising by the knolls, and Gunnarr leads his brothers onto a headland by Rangá to make a stand.*

Nú er þar til máls at taka, at Gunnarr ríðr austr yfir  
*Now is there to (the)-story to take that Gunnar rides east over*  
 Þjorsá. Enn er hann kom skamt frá ánni, syfjaði hann  
*Thjorsa But when he came short-way from the-river grew-sleepy he*  
 mjök, ok bað hann þá æja þar. Þeir gerðu svá. Hann  
*much and bade he then rest-(the)-horses there They did so He*  
 sofnaði fast ok lét illa í svefni. Kolskeggr mælti: “Dreymir  
*fell-asleep fast and acted ill in sleep Kolskegg spoke Dreams*  
 Gunnarr nú”. Hjörtr mælti: “Vekja vilda ek hann”. “Eigi  
*Gunnar now Hjort spoke To-wake would-wish I him Not*  
 skal þat”, segir Kolskeggr, “ok skal hann njóta draums síns”.  
*shall that says Kolskegg and shall he enjoy dream his*  
 Gunnarr lá mjök langa hríð. Hann varp af sér skildinum,  
*Gunnar lay very long while He threw off himself the-shield*  
 er hann vaknaði, ok var honum orðit heitt mjök. Kolskeggr  
*when he awoke and was to-him become hot very Kolskegg*  
 mælti: “Hvat hefir þik dreymt, frændi?” “Þat hefir mik  
*spoke What has you dreamed kinsman That has me*  
 dreymt”, segir Gunnarr, “at ek mynda eigi riðit hafa ór  
*dreamed says Gunnar that I would not ridden have out-of*

Tungu svá fámennr, ef mik hefði þá þetta dreymt”. “Seg  
*Tunga so few-manned if me had then this dreamed Tell*  
 þú okkr draum þinn”, segir Kolskeggr. Gunnarr kvað:  
*you us-two dream your says Kolskegg Gunnar spoke*

Þykkjumk flýtir flokka

*Seem-I hastener of-troops*

fámennr riðinn sennu

*few-manned ridden of-quarrel*

— víst brá ek hrafns á hausti

*surely broke I of-raven in autumn*

hungri — braut ór Tungu,

*hunger away out-of Tunga*

því at, eldveitir öldu,

*because that fire-giver of-wave*

ek fýsumk þat lýsa:

*I am-eager that to-reveal*

— merg etr valr frá vargi

*marrow eats hawk from wolf*

villr — dreymdi mik illa.

*confused dreamed me ill*

“Þat dreymdi mik”, segir Gunnarr, “at ek þóttumst ríða

*That dreamed me says Gunnar that I thought-myself to-ride*

fram hjá Knafahólum. Þar þóttumst vit sjá varga mjök

*forth by Knafabolar There thought-ourselves we-two to-see wolves very*

marga, ok sóttu þeir allir at mér, enn ek snera undan fram

*many and attacked they all at me but I turned away forth*

at Rangá. Þá þótti mér þeir sækja at öllum megin, enn ek

*to Ranga Then seemed to-me they attack at all sides but I*

vörðumst. Ek skaut alla þá er fremstir váru, þar til er

*defended-myself I shot all those who foremost were there until that*

þeir gengu svá at mér, at ek mátti eigi boganum við koma.  
*they went so at me that I could not the-bow to bring*  
 Tók ek þá sverðit ok vá ek með annarri hendi, enn lagði  
*Took I then the-sword and struck I with one hand but thrust*  
 með atgeirinum annarri hendi. Hlífði ek mér þá ekki —  
*with the-halberd with-(the)-other hand Shielded I myself then not*  
 ok þóttumst ek þá eigi vita, hvat mér hlífði. Drap ek þá  
*and thought-myself I then not to-know what me shielded Killed I then*  
 marga vargana ok þú með mér, Kolskeggr. Enn Hjört þótti  
*many the-wolves and you with me Kolskegg But Hjort seemed*  
 mér þeir hafa undir ok slíta á honum brjóstit ok hafði  
*to-me they have under and tear on him the-breast and had*  
 einn hjartat í munni sér. Enn ek þóttumst verða svá  
*one the-heart in mouth its But I thought-myself to-become so*  
 reiðr, at ek hjó varginn í sundr fyrir aftan bóguna, ok  
*angry that I hewed the-wolf in asunder before behind (the)-shoulders and*  
 eftir þat þóttu mér stökkva vargarnir. Nú er þat ráð mitt,  
*after that seemed to-me flee the-wolves Now is that counsel my*  
 Hjörtr frændi, at þú riðir vestr aftur í Tungu. “Eigi vil ek  
*Hjort kinsman that you ride west back to Tunga Not will I*  
 þat”, segir Hjörtr, “þótt ek vita vísan bana minn, þá vil ek  
*that says Hjort though I know certain death my then will I*  
 þér fylgja”. Síðan riðu þeir ok kvámu austr hjá Knafahólum.  
*you follow Then rode they and came east by Knafaholar*  
 Þá mælti Kolskeggr: “Sér þú, frændi, mörg spjót koma upp  
*Then spoke Kolskegg See you kinsman many spears come up*  
 hjá hólunum ok menn með vápnum?” “Ekki kemr mér þat  
*by the-knolls and men with weapons Not comes to-me that*  
 at óvörum”, segir Gunnarr, “at draumr minn sannist”. “Hvat  
*at unawares says Gunnar that dream my proves-true What*  
 skal nú til ráðs taka?” segir Kolskeggr, “ek get, at þú vilir  
*shall now to counsel take says Kolskegg I guess that you will*

eigi renna undan þeim". "Ekki skulu þeir at því eiga at  
*not run from them Not shall they to that have to*  
 spotta", segir Gunnarr, "enn ríða munu vér fram at Rangá  
*mock says Gunnar but ride will we forth to Ranga*  
 í nesit. Þar er vígi nakkvat". Ríða þeir nú fram  
*into the-headland There is a-stronghold something Ride they now forth*  
 í nesit ok bjoggust þar við. Kolr mælti, er þeir  
*into the-headland and made-ready there with-(it) Kol spoke when they*  
 riðu hjá fram: "Hvart skal nú renna, Gunnarr?" Kolskeggr  
*rode by forth Whether shall now run Gunnar Kolskegg*  
 mælti: "Seg þú svá fremi frá því, er sjá dagr er allr".  
*spoke Say you so further of that when this day is all*

## LXIII · THE BATTLE AT KNAFAHÓLAR

*Gunnarr shoots Sigurðr svínhöfði through the eye, kills Þorkell, and throws Egill into Rangá; Kolskeggr cuts off Kolr's leg and kills Haukr. The Norwegian Þórir kills Hjörtr, and Gunnarr cuts Þórir in two. Gunnarr kills Börkr and cuts off Óttarr's hand, then wounds Starkaðr and Þorgeirr as they flee. Fourteen men die, and Hjörtr, the fifteenth, is buried in a mound at Hlíðarendi.*

Nú eggjar Starkaðr sína menn. Snúa þeir þá fram í nesit  
*Now urges Starkad his men Turn they then forth into the-headland*  
 at þeim. Sigurðr svínhöfði fór fyrstr ok hafði törguskjöld  
*at them Sigurd Swine-head went first and had a-targe*  
 einbyrðan, enn sviðu í annarri hendi. Gunnarr sér hann  
*single-layered but a-boar-spear in one hand Gunnar sees him*  
 ok skýtr til hans af boganum. Hann brá upp við  
*and shoots at him from the-bow He swung up against-(it)*  
 skildinum, er hann sá örina hátt fljúga, ok kom örin í  
*the-shield when he saw the-arrow high fly and came the-arrow in*

gegnum skjöldinn ok í augat svá at út kom í hnakkann —  
*through the-shield and into the-eye so that out came in the-nape*  
 ok varð þat víg fyrst. Annarri ör skaut Gunnarr at  
*and became that (the)-slaying first (The)-second arrow shot Gunnar at*  
 Úlfrheðni, ráðamanni Starkaðar, ok kom sú á hann miðjan, ok  
*Ulfbedin steward of-Starkad and came that on him middle and*  
 fell hann fyrir fætr búanda einum, enn búandinn fell um  
*fell he before (the)-feet of-a-farmer one but the-farmer fell over*  
 hann þveran. Kolskeggr kastar til steini, ok kom í höfuð  
*him athwart Kolskegg throws at with-a-stone and came into (the)-head*  
 búandanum, ok varð þat hans bani. Þá mælti Starkaðr:  
*of-the-farmer and became that his death Then spoke Starkad*  
 “Ekki mun oss þetta duga, at hann komi boganum við —  
*Not will us this avail that he bring the-bow to-bear*  
 ok göngum at fram vel ok snarplega”. Síðan eggjaði hverr  
*and go-we at forth well and briskly Then urged each*  
 annan. Gunnarr varði sik með boganum, meðan hann mátti.  
*(the)-other Gunnar defended himself with the-bow while he could*  
 Síðan kastaði hann niðr boganum. Tók hann þá atgeirrinn  
*Then threw he down the-bow Took he then the-halberd*  
 ok sverðit ok vegr með báðum höndum. Er bardaginn  
*and the-sword and slays with both hands Is the-battle*  
 þá hinn harðasti. Gunnarr vegr þá drjúgan menn ok svá  
*then the hardest Gunnar slays then plenty men and so*

Kolskeggr. Þá mælti Þorgeirr Starkaðarson: “Ek hét at  
*Kolskegg Then spoke Thorgeir Starkad's-son I promised to*  
 færa Hildigunni höfuð þitt, Gunnarr”. Þá kvað Gunnarr vísu:  
*bring Hildigunn head your Gunnar Then spoke Gunnar a-verse*

Hykk, at þat muni þikkja

*Think-I that that will seem*

þvengláðs Njörun engu

*of-thong-land to-Njorun nothing*

dýnu, darra reynir

*of-down-feather of-spears tester*

driftar, máli skifta.

*of-snowdrift in-matter to-concern*

Móins jarðar gakk þú myrðir

*Of-Moin of-earth go you murderer*

meir fram í dyn geira,

*more forth into din of-spears*

leygs ef reið skal ráða

*of-flame if wagon shall decide*

Rínar höfði mínu.

*of-Rhine head my*

“Ekki mun henni þat þykkja neinu varða, hvárt þú efnir þat  
*Not will to-her that seem at-all matter whether you fulfill that*  
 eða eigi”, segir Gunnarr, “enn þó munt þú nær ganga hljóta,  
*or not says Gunnar but yet will you near go have-to*  
 ef þú skalt þat meðal handa hafa”. Þorgeirr mælti þá við  
*if you shall that between hands have Thorgeir spoke then with*  
 bræðr sína: “Hlaupu vér at honum fram allir senn. Hann  
*brothers his Run we at him forth all at-once He*  
 hefir engan skjöld, ok munu vér hafa ráð hans í hendi”.  
*has no shield and will we have (the)-life his in hand*

Þeir hljópu fram Börkr ok Þorkell ok urðu skjótari enn  
*They ran forth Bork and Thorkel and were quicker than*  
 Þorgeirr. Börkr höggr til Gunnars. Gunnarr laust við  
*Thorgeir Bork hews at Gunnar Gunnar struck against-(it)*  
 atgeirinum svá hart, at sverðit hraut úr hendi Berki. Sér  
*with-the-halberd so hard that the-sword flew out-of (the)-hand of-Bork Sees*  
 hann þá til annarrar handar Þorkel standa í höggfæri við  
*he then to (the)-other hand Thorkel stand in striking-range by*  
 sik. Gunnarr stóð nakkvat höllum fæti. Hann sveiflaði þá  
*himself Gunnar stood somewhat with-slanting foot He swung then*  
 til sverðinu, ok kom á hálsinn Þorkatli, ok fauk af höfuðit.  
*to with-the-sword and came on the-neck of-Thorkel and flew off the-head*  
 Kolr mælti Egilsson: “Láti mik fram at Kolskeggi. Ek hefi  
*Kol spoke Egil's-son Let me forth at Kolskegg I have*  
 þat jafnan mælt, at vit myndim mjök jafnfærir til vígs”.  
*that always said that we-two would-be very even-matched to fighting*  
 “Slíkt megu vit nú reyna”, segir Kolskeggr. Kolr leggur  
*Such may we-two now test says Kolskegg Kol thrusts*  
 til hans spjóti. Kolskeggr vá þá mann ok átti sem mest  
*at him with-a-spear Kolskegg slew then a-man and had as most*  
 at vinna, ok kom hann eigi fyrir sik skildinum, ok kom  
*to do and brought he not before himself the-shield and came*  
 lagit í lærit utanfótar, ok gekk í gegnum. Kolskeggr  
*the-thrust into the-thigh on-the-outside and went in through Kolskegg*  
 brást við fast ok óð at honum ok hjó með saxinu  
*swerved with-(it) hard and waded at him and hewed with the-short-sword*  
 á lærit ok undan fótinn ok mælti: “Hvart nam þik eða  
*on the-thigh and off the-leg and spoke Whether caught you or*  
 eigi?” “Þess galt ek nú”, segir Kolr, “er ek var berskjaldaðr”,  
*not That paid I now says Kol that I was without-shield*  
 ok stóð nakkvara stund á hinn fótinn ok leit á stúfinn.  
*and stood some while on the-other foot and looked at the-stump*



Kolskegg mælti: “Eigi þarft þú at lita á, jafnt er sem þér  
*Kolskegg spoke Not need you to look at even is as to-you*  
sýnist, af er fótrinn”. Kolr fell þá dauðr niðr. Enn er  
*seems off is the-leg Kol fell then dead down But when*  
þetta sér Egill faðir hans, hleypr hann at Gunnari ok höggur  
*this sees Egil father his leaps he at Gunnar and hews*  
til hans. Gunnarr leggur í móti atgeirinum, ok kom á Egil  
*at him Gunnar thrusts in against with-the-halberd and came on Egil*  
miðjan. Gunnarr vegur hann upp á atgeirinum ok kastar  
*middle Gunnar lifts him up on the-halberd and throws*  
honum út á Rangá. Þá mælti Starkaðr: “Alls vesall ert  
*him out into Ranga Then spoke Starkad Altogether wretched are*  
þú, Þórir austmaðr, er þú sitr hjá, enn nú er veginn  
*you Thorir (the)-Norwegian since you sit by but now is slain*  
Egill húsbúandi þinn ok mágr”. Þá spratt upp  
*Egil householder your and kinsman-by-marriage Then sprang up*  
austmaðrinn ok var reiðr mjök. Hjörtr hafði orðit tveggja  
*the-Norwegian and was angry very Hjort had become of-two*  
manna bani. Austmaðrinn hleypr at honum ok höggur framan  
*men slayer The-Norwegian leaps at him and hews in-front*  
á brjóstit ok þar á hol. Hjörtr fell þá þegar dauðr  
*on the-breast and there into (the)-cavity Hjort fell then at-once dead*  
niðr. Gunnarr sér þetta ok varpar sér skjótt til höggs  
*down Gunnar sees this and throws himself quickly to a-blow*  
við austmanninn ok sníðr hann í sundr í miðju. Litlu  
*against the-Norwegian and cuts him in asunder in (the)-middle A-little*  
síðar skýtr Gunnarr til Barkar atgeirinum, ok kom á hann  
*later shoots Gunnar at Bork with-the-halberd and came on him*  
miðjan ok í gegnum hann ok niðr í völinn. Þá höggur  
*middle and in through him and down into the-ground Then hews*  
Kolskegg höfuð af Hauki Egilssyni, enn Gunnarr höggur  
*Kolskegg (the)-head off Hauk Egil's-son but Gunnar hews*

hönd af Óttari í ölnbogabót. Þá mælti Starkaðr: “Flýjum  
*(the)-hand off Ottar at (the)-elbow-joint Then spoke Starkad Flee-we*  
 nú. Ekki er við menn um at eiga”. Gunnarr mælti: “Þat  
*now Not is with men about to deal Gunnar spoke That*  
 mun ykkur feðgum þykkja ilt til frásagnar, ef ekki skal  
*will to-you-two father-and-son seem ill for telling if not shall*  
 mega sjá á ykkur, at þit hafið í bardaga verit”. Síðan  
*be-able see on you-two that you-two have in battle been Then*  
 hljóp Gunnarr at þeim feðgum ok veitti þeim áverka.  
*leaped Gunnar at those father-and-son and dealt them wounds*  
 Eftir þat skildu þeir; ok höfðu þeir Gunnarr marga  
*After that parted they and had they Gunnar(-and-Kolskegg) many*  
 þá særða, er undan heldu. Á fundinum létust fjórtán  
*those wounded who away held At the-meeting lost-life fourteen*  
 menn, enn Hjörtr hinn fimtándi. Gunnarr reiddi Hjört heim  
*men and Hjort the fifteenth Gunnar carried Hjort home*  
 á skildi sínum, ok var hann þar heygðr. Margir menn  
*on shield his and was he there buried-in-a-mound Many men*  
 hörmuðu hann, því at hann var vinsæll. Starkaðr kom ok  
*mourned him because that he was well-liked Starkad came also*  
 heim, ok græddi Hildigunnr sár þeira Þorgeirs  
*home and healed Hildigunn (the)-wounds of-them Þorgeir(-and-him)*  
 ok mælti: “Yðr væri mikit gefanda til, at þér hefðið ekki  
*and spoke To-you were much to-be-given for that you had not*  
 ilt átt við Gunnar”. “Svá væri þat”, segir Starkaðr.  
*ill had with Gunnar So were that says Starkad*

*Egill's widow betroths her daughter Guðrún to the Norwegian Þorgrím. Gunnarr goes to Njáll for advice, and Njáll gives him two cases to bring: a seduction case against Þorgeirr, who had made Njáll's kinswoman Þorfinna pregnant, and a case against Starkaðr for cutting Njáll's timber. Gunnarr is to dig up the dead and declare them outlawed for their attack, and to take over a case from Tyrfingr against Önundr of Trollaskógr.*

Steinvör í Sandgili bað Þorgrím austmann vera fyrir  
 Steinvor in Sandgil asked Thorgrim (the)-Norwegian be before  
 fjárforráðum sínum ok fara ekki utan ok muna svá  
 property-management her and go not abroad and remember so  
 lát félaga síns ok frænda. Hann svaraði: “Þat spáði  
 (the)-death of-partner his and kinsman He answered That foretold  
 mér Þórir félagi minn, at ek munda falla fyrir Gunnari,  
 me Thorir partner my that I would fall before Gunnar  
 ef ek væra hér á landi; ok mun hann þat vitat hafa, er  
 if I were here in (the)-land and will be that known have since  
 hann vissi dauða sinn fyrir”. Hon mælti: “Ek mun gefa  
 he knew death his beforeband She spoke I will give  
 þér til Guðrúnu dóttur mína ok féit alt at helmingi  
 you to-(it) Gudrun daughter my and the-wealth all at half  
 við mik”. “Eigi vissa ek, at þú myndir þat svá miklu  
 with me Not knew I that you would that so dearly  
 kaupa”, segir hann. Síðan kaupa þau þessu, at hann skal  
 buy says he Then bargain they on-this that he shall  
 fá hennar; ok var þá boð þegar þat sumar. Gunnarr ríðr  
 get her and was then (the)-feast at-once that summer Gunnar rides  
 til Bergþórshváls ok með honum Kolskeggr. Njáll var úti  
 to Bergthorshval and with him Kolskegg Njal was outside  
 ok synir hans — ok gengu í móti Gunnari ok fögnuðu  
 and sons his and went in meeting Gunnar and welcomed

þeim vel. Síðan gengu þeir á tal. Gunnarr mælti: "Hingat  
*them well Then went they to talk Gunnar spoke Hitber*  
 em ek kominn at sækja at þér traust ok heilræði". Njáll  
*am I come to seek from you support and good-counsel Njal*  
 sagði, at þat var skylt. Gunnarr mælti: "Ek hefi ratat í  
*said that that was due Gunnar spoke I have run into*  
 vandræði mikil ok drepit marga menn — ok vil ek vita,  
*difficulties great and killed many men and will I know*  
 hversu þú vill vera láta". "Þat munu margir mæla", segir  
*how you wish be to-let That will many say says*  
 Njáll, "at þú hafir mjök verit til neyddr. Enn nú skalt  
*Njal that you have much been to forced But now shall*  
 þú gefa mér tóm til ráðagerðar". Njáll gekk í braut einn  
*you give me leisure for planning Njal went off away alone*  
 saman ok hugsaði ráðit ok kom aftr ok mælti: "Nú hefi  
*together and thought-out the-plan and came back and spoke Now have*  
 ek nakkvat hugsat málit, ok lízt mér sem þetta muni  
*I somewhat thought-out the-case and seems to-me as this will*  
 nakkvat með harðfengi ok kappi verða at gera. Þorgeirr hefir  
*something with hardihood and zeal must to do Thorgeir has*  
 barnat Þorfinnu frændkonu mína, ok mun ek selja þér í  
*got-with-child Thorfinna kinswoman my and will I hand you into*  
 hendr legorðssökina. Aðra skóggangssök sel ek þér á  
*bands the-seduction-suit (The)-other outlawry-suit band I you against*  
 hendr Starkaði, er hann hefir höggvit í skógi mínum á  
*bands Starkad that he has cut in wood my on*  
 Þríhyrningshálsu. Ok skalt þú sækja þær sakar báðar. Þú  
*Thrihyrningsbalsar And shall you prosecute those charges both You*  
 skalt fara þangat sem þér börðuist ok grafa upp hina dauðu,  
*shall go thither where you fought and dig up the dead*  
 ok nemna vátta at benjum ok óhelga þá alla hina dauðu  
*and name witnesses to wounds and outlaw them all the dead*

fyrir þat er þeir fóru með þann hug til fundar við þik at  
*for that that they went with that intent to a-meeting with you to*  
 veita þér ákvámur ok bráðan bana ok bræðrum þínum. Enn  
*give you wounds and sudden death and to-brothers your But*  
 ef þetta er prófat á þingi, ok því sé við lostit, at  
*if this is tried at (the)-assembly and to-that be against struck that*  
 þú hafir áðr lostit Þorgeir ok megir fyrir því hvártki sækja  
*you have before struck Thorgeir and may for that neither prosecute*  
 þína sök né annarra, þá mun ek svara því máli ok segja,  
*your charge nor of-others then will I answer that case and say*  
 at ek helgaða þik á Þingskálapi, svá at þú skyldir bæði  
*that I sanctified you at Þingskalar-assembly so that you should both*  
 mega sækja þitt mál ok annarra; ok mun þá verða svarat  
*be-able prosecute your case and of-others and will then be answered*  
 máli því. Þú skalt ok finna Tyrfing í Berjanesi, ok skal  
*case that You shall also meet Tyrfing in Berjanes and shall*  
 hann selja þér sök á hendr Önundi í Trollaskógi, er  
*he hand you a-charge against hands Onund in Trollaskog who*  
 mál á eftir Egil bróður sinn". Reið þá Gunnarr heim  
*(the)-case has after Egil brother his Rode then Gunnar home*  
 fyrst. Enn nökkurum nóttum síðar riðu þeir Njálssynir ok  
*first But some nights later rode they (the)-Njalssons and*  
 Gunnarr þangat til sem líkin váru ok grófu þá upp  
*Gunnar thither to where the-bodies were and dug them up*  
 alla, sem jarðaðir váru. Stefndi Gunnarr þeim þá öllum  
*all who buried were Summoned Gunnar them then all*  
 til óhelgi fyrir atför ok fjörrað ok reið heim eftir þat.  
*to outlawry for attack and plot-on-life and rode home after that*

*Valgarðr grái returns to Iceland and tells Þorgeirr that Njáll is behind Gunnarr's cases. For a large payment Valgarðr and Mörrð agree to help, and Mörrð marries Þorkatla, daughter of Gizurr hvíti. Þorgeirr and Önundur of Trollaskógr prepare their killing cases. On Njáll's advice Gunnarr names Kolr as Hjörtr's slayer and summons neighbors, and both sides gather large followings for the Alþing.*

Þetta haust hit sama kom út Valgarðr hinn grái ok fór heim  
*This autumn the same came out Valgard the Gray and went home*  
 til Hofs. Þorgeirr fór at finna þá Valgarð ok Mörrð ok sagði,  
*to Hof Þorgeir went to meet them Valgard and Mord and said*  
 hver fírn váru, er Gunnarr skyldi hafa óhelgat þá alla,  
*what outrages were that Gunnar should have outlawed them all*  
 er hann hafði vegit. Valgarðr kvað þat vera mundu ráð  
*whom he had slain Valgard said that to-be would (the)-counsel*  
 Njáls, ok þó eigi öll upp komin, þau sem hann myndi ráða  
*of-Njal and yet not all up come those which he would counsel*  
 honum. Þorgeirr bað þá feðga liðveizlu ok atgöngu.  
*him Þorgeir asked those father-and-son support and aid*  
 Enn þeir fóru lengi undan ok mæltu til fé mikit  
*But they went long from-under-(it) and asked for money great*  
 at lyktum. Var þat í ráðagerðum, at Mörrð skyldi biðja  
*at last Was that in plans that Mord should ask-for*  
 Þorkötlu dóttur Gizurar hvíta, ok skyldi Þorgeirr þegar  
*Þorkatla daughter of-Gizur (the)-White and should Þorgeir at-once*  
 ríða vestr um ár með þeim Valgarði ok Merði. Annan  
*ride west over rivers with them Valgard and Mord (The)-second*  
 dag eftir riðu þeir tólf saman ok kvámu til Mosfells, ok var  
*day after rode they twelve together and came to Mosfell and was*  
 þeim þar vel fagnat — váru þar um nóttina. Vekja þeir þá  
*them there well welcomed were there through the-night Raise they then*

til við Gizur um bónorðit. Lýkr svá með þeim, at ráðin  
*to with Gizur about the-suit Ends so between them that the-match*  
 skyldu takast, ok skyldi boð vera á hálf mánaðar fresti  
*should be-made and should (the)-feast be at half month's delay*  
 at Mosfelli. Ríða þeir heim. Síðan fjölmenna þeir feðgar  
*at Mosfell Ride they home Then gather-many they father-and-son*  
 mjök til boðsins — var þar ok mart fyrir boðsmanna, —  
*much to the-feast was there also many before of-guests*  
 ok fór þat vel fram. Fór Þorkatla heim með Merði ok var  
*and went that well forth Went Thorkatla home with Mord and was*  
 fyrir búi, enn Valgarðr fór utan um sumarit. Mördr  
*over (the)-household but Valgard went abroad in the-summer Mord*  
 eggjar Þorgeir á um málatilbúnað við Gunnar. Þorgeirr  
*urges Thorgeir on about case-preparation against Gunnar Thorgeir*  
 fór at finna Önund í Trollaskógi — biðr hann nú at búa  
*went to meet Onund in Trollaskog asks him now to prepare*  
 til vígsmálit Egils bróður síns ok sona hans, — “enn ek  
*to the-slaying-case of-Egil brother his and of-sons his but I*  
 mun búa til vígsmál bræðra minna ok áverkamál mitt  
*will prepare to (the)-slaying-case of-brothers my and wound-case my*  
 ok föður míns”. Önundr kvaðst þess albuinn. Fara þeir  
*and of-father my Onund said-of-himself for-that all-ready Go they*  
 þá ok lýsa vígunum ok kveðja níu vættvangsbúa. Þessi  
*then and declare the-slayings and summon nine neighbors-of-the-scene This*  
 málatilbúnaðr spurðist til Hlíðarenda. Ríðr Gunnarr þá at  
*case-preparation was-learned to Hlidarendi Rides Gunnar then to*  
 finna Njal ok segir honum ok spurði, hvat hann vildi þá láta  
*meet Njal and tells him and asked what he wished then to-let*  
 at gera. “Nú skalt þú”, segir Njáll, “stefna vættvangsbúum  
*to do Now shall you says Njal summon neighbors-of-the-scene*  
 ok nábúum saman ok nemna váttu fyrir búum ok kjósa  
*and neighbors together and name witnesses before neighbors and choose*

Kol til veganda at vígi Hjartar bróður þíns — því  
*Kol to slayer at (the)-slaying of-Hjort brother your because*  
 at þat er rétt. Síðan skalt þú lýsa viginu á hendr  
*that that is right Then shall you declare the-slaying against hands*  
 Kol, þó at hann sé dauðr. Þá skalt þú nemna þér  
*Kol though that he be dead Then shall you name for-yourself*  
 vátta ok kveðja búa alþingisreiðar at bera um þat, hvárt  
*witnesses and summon neighbors Althing-riding to bear about that whether*  
 þeir væri í atvist ok atsókn þá er Hjörtr var veginn. Nú  
*they were in presence and attack then when Hjort was slain Now*  
 skalt þú ok stefna Þorgeiri um legorðssökina ok svá Önundi  
*shall you also summon Thorgeir about the-seduction-suit and so Onund*  
 í Trollaskógi um sökina Tyrfings". Gunnarr fór með öllu  
*in Trollaskog about the-charge of-Tyrfing Gunnar went with all*  
 sem Njáll kendi ráð til. Þetta þótti mönnum undarleg  
*as Njal taught counsel to This seemed to-men strange*  
 málatalibúnaðr. Fara nú þessi mál til þings. Gunnarr  
*case-preparation Go now these cases to (the)-assembly Gunnar*  
 reið til þings ok Njáll ok synir hans ok Sigfússynir.  
*rode to (the)-assembly and Njal and sons his and (the)-Sigfussons*  
 Gunnarr hafði sendan mann mágum sínum, at þeir  
*Gunnar had sent a-man to-kinsmen-by-marriage his that they*  
 skyldi ríða til þings ok fjölmenna mjök, ok kvað sér  
*should ride to (the)-assembly and gather-many much and said to-himself*  
 þetta mundu vera mjök harðdrægt. Þeir fjölmentu mjök  
*this would be very hard-pressing They came-in-numbers much*  
 vestan. Mördur reið til þings ok Rúnólfur úr Dal ok  
*from-the-west Mord rode to (the)-assembly and Runolf from Dal and*  
 þeir undan Þríhyrningi ok Önundur ór Trollaskógi.  
*those from-under Thrihyrning and Onund out-of Trollaskog*



*Gunnarr's opponents join Gizurr and Geirr, and Gunnarr's in-laws from the west support him. Mördur contests Gunnarr's standing to sue, but Njáll answers each point. Hjalti Skeggjason, who has taken no part in the suits, proposes arbitration and promises never to oppose Gunnarr. The wounds of Þorgeirr and Starkaðr are set against the seduction and the timber-cutting, Egill's killing against Tyrfingr's case, and Hjörtr's against Kolr's and the Norwegian's. Njáll gives Gunnarr the money the men of Sandgil owed him, and Gunnarr gains great honor.*

Enn er þessir menn kvámu til þings, ganga þeir í  
*But when these men came to (the)-assembly go they into*  
 lið með Gizuri hvíta ok Geir goða. Gunnarr ok  
*company with Gizur (the)-White and Geir (the)-Priest Gunnar and*  
 Sigfússsynir ok Njálssynir gengu allir í einum flokki ok fóru  
*(the)-Sigfussons and (the)-Njalssons went all in one band and went*  
 svá snúðigt, at menn urðu at gæta sín, ef fyrir váru, at  
*so swiftly that men had to watch themselves if before were that*  
 eigi felli. Ok var ekki jafntíðrætt um alt þingit sem  
*not fell And was not equally-much-talked about all the-assembly as*  
 um málaferli þessi hin miklu. Gunnarr gekk til móts við  
*about lawsuits these the great Gunnar went to meeting with*  
 mága sína, ok fögnuðu þeir Óláfr honum vel.  
*kinsmen-by-marriage his and welcomed they Olaf(-and-his) him well*  
 Þeir spurðu Gunnar um fundinn. Enn hann segir þeim frá  
*They asked Gunnar about the-fight But he tells them of-(it)*  
 gerla ok bar öllum vel söguna, ok sagði þeim, hvat hann  
*clearly and bore to-all well the-story and told them what he*  
 hafði síðan at gert. Óláfr mælti: “Mikils er vert, hversu  
*had since to done Olaf spoke Much is worth how*  
 Njáll stendr þér fast um alla ráðagerð. Gunnarr kvaðst  
*Njal stands for-you fast in all planning Gunnar said-of-himself*

aldri þat mundu launat geta, enn beiddi þá liðveizlu ok  
*never that would repay be-able but asked them support and*  
 atgöngu. Þeir kváðu þat skylt vera. Fara nú málin hvártveggja  
*aid They said that due to-be Go now the-cases both*  
 í dóm. Flytja nú hvárir sitt mál fram. Mördör spurði, hví  
*into court Bring now each-side their case forth Mord asked why*  
 sá maðr skyldi hafa mál fram, er áðr hafði unnit sér  
*that man should have case forth who before had earned himself*  
 til óhelgi við Þorgeir, svá sem Gunnarr var. Njáll svaraði:  
*to outlawry against Thorgeir so as Gunnar was Njal answered*  
 “Vart þú á Þingskálapingi um haustit?” “Var ek víst”, segir  
*Were you at Thingskalar-assembly in the-autumn Was I surely says*  
 Mördör. “Heyrðir þú”, segir Njáll, “at Gunnarr bauð honum  
*Mord Heard you says Njal that Gunnar offered him*  
 alsætti?” “Heyrða ek víst”, segir Mördör. “Þá friðhelgaða ek  
*full-settlement Heard I surely says Mord Then sanctified I*  
 Gunnar”, segir Njáll, “til allra löglegra mála”. “Rétt er þetta”,  
*Gunnar says Njal for all lawful cases Right is this*  
 segir Mördör, “enn hví sætti þat, at Gunnarr lýsti vígi  
*says Mord but why meant that that Gunnar declared (the)-slaying*  
 Hjartar á hendr Kol, þar sem austmaðrinn vá hann?”  
*of-Hjort against hands Kol where that the-Norwegian slew him*  
 “Rétt var þat”, segir Njáll, “þar sem hann kaus hann til  
*Right was that says Njal where that he chose him to*  
 veganda fyrir váttum”. “Rétt mun þetta víst”, segir Mördör,  
*slayer before witnesses Right will this surely says Mord*  
 “enn fyrir hvat stefndi Gunnarr þeim öllum til óhelgi, er  
*but for what summoned Gunnar them all to outlawry who*  
 fallit höfðu?” “Eigi þarft þú þessa at spyrja”, segir Njáll,  
*fallen had Not need you this to ask says Njal*  
 “þar sem þeir fóru allir til áverka ok manndrápa”. “Eigi  
*where that they went all to wounding and manslaughters Not*

kom þat fram við Gunnar”, segir Mörðr. “Bræðr Gunnars  
*came that forth against Gunnar says Mord Brothers of-Gunnar*  
 váru þeir Hjörtr ok Kolskeggr”, segir Njáll, “ok hafði annarr  
*were they Hjort and Kolskegg says Njal and had one*  
 bana, enn annarr sár á sér”. “Lög hafð þér at mæla”,  
*death but (the)-other wound on himself Law have you to speak*  
 segir Mörðr, “þó at hart sé undir at búa”. Þá gekk fram  
*says Mord though that hard be under to bear Then went forth*  
 Hjalti Skeggjason ór Þjorsárdal ok mælti: “Ekki hefi ek  
*Hjalti Skeggi's-son out-of Thjorsardal and spoke Not have I*  
 hlutazt til málaferla yðvarra; enn nú vil ek vita, hvat þú  
*meddled in lausuits your but now will I know what you*  
 vill, Gunnarr, fyrir mín orð gera ok vináttu”. “Hvers beiðist  
*will Gunnar for my words do and friendship What ask*  
 þú?”, segir Gunnarr. “Þess”, segir Hjalti, “at þú leggir málin  
*you says Gunnar That says Hjalti that you lay the-cases*  
 öll til jafnaðardóms ok dæmi góðir menn”. Gunnarr mælti:  
*all to equity-judgment and judge good men Gunnar spoke*  
 “Þá skalt þú aldri vera í móti mér, við hverja sem ek  
*Then shall you never be in against me with whomever as I*  
 á um”. “Því vil ek heita þér”, segir Hjalti. Eftir þat  
*have-to-do with That will I promise you says Hjalti After that*  
 átti hann hlut at við mótstöðumenn Gunnars ok kom því  
*had he share in with opponents of-Gunnar and brought that*  
 við, at þeir sættust allir. Ok eftir þat veittu hvárir öðrum  
*about that they settled all And after that gave each-side to-(the)-other*  
 trygðir. Enn fyrir áverka Þorgeirs kom legorðssökin, enn  
*pledges-of-peace But for wounding of-Thorgeir came the-seduction-suit but*  
 skógarhöggit fyrir áverka Starkaðar. Bræðr Þorgeirs váru  
*the-wood-cutting for wounding of-Starkad Brothers of-Thorgeir were*  
 bættir hálfum bótum, enn hálfar fellu niðr fyrir tilför  
*compensated with-half compensations but half fell down for attack*

við Gunnar. Enn jafnt skyldi vera víg Egils ok sökin  
*against Gunnar But even should be (the)-slaying of-Egil and the-charge*  
 Tyrfrings. Fyrir víg Hjartar skyldi koma víg Kols  
*of-Tyrfring For (the)-slaying of-Hjort should come (the)-slaying of-Kol*  
 ok austmannsins. Þá váru aðrir bættir hálfum bótum.  
*and of-the-Norwegian Then were others compensated with-half compensations*  
 Njáll var í gerð þessi ok Ásgrímr Elliða-Grímsson ok Hjalti  
*Njal was in award this and Asgrim Ellida-Grim's-son and Hjalti*  
 Skeggjason. Njáll átti fé mikit undir Starkaði ok þeim í  
*Skeggi's-son Njal had money much under Starkad and them in*  
 Sandgili, ok gaf hann þat alt Gunnari til bóta þessa.  
*Sandgil and gave he that all to-Gunnar for compensations these*  
 Svá átti Gunnarr marga vini á þingi, at hann bætti þá  
*So had Gunnar many friends at (the)-assembly that he paid then*  
 þegar upp vigin — enn gaf gjafar mörgum höfðingjum  
*at-once up the-slayings and gave gifts to-many chieftains*  
 þeim er honum höfðu lið veitt, ok hafði hann af  
*those who him had support given and had he from-it*  
 hina mestu sæmd af málinu. Ok urðu allir á þat sáttir,  
*the greatest honor from the-case And became all on that agreed*  
 at engi væri hans jafningi í Sunnlendingafjórðungi. Reið  
*that none were his equal in (the)-Southlanders'-quarter Rode*  
 Gunnarr heim af þingi ok sitr nú um kyrt. Enn þó  
*Gunnar home from (the)-assembly and sits now in quiet But yet*  
 öfunduðu mótstöðumenn hans mjök hans sæmd.  
*envied opponents his much his honor*

*Þorgeirr Otkelsson is strong, loyal, guileless, and easily persuaded. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson asks his kinsman Mördur for a plan against Gunnarr and promises to reward him. Mördur says that Kolskeggr's claim to Móeiðarhváll and Gunnarr's taking of Þorgeirr Otkelsson's field can both be called breaches of the settlement. Njáll has foretold that Gunnarr will die if he kills twice in one family, so Þorgeirr is to draw his namesake, whose father Gunnarr already killed, into an attack, stay back himself, and flee.*

Nú er at segja frá Þorgeiri Otkelssyni. Hann gerðist  
*Now is to tell of Þorgeir Otkel's-son He became*  
 mannaðr vel, mikill ok sterkr, trúlyndr ok óslægr ok nakkvat  
*accomplished well big and strong loyal and guileless and somewhat*  
 talhlýðinn. Hann var vinsæll af hinum bestum mönnum ok  
*easily-persuaded He was well-liked by the best men and*  
 ástsæll af frændum sínum. Einu hverju sinni hefir Þorgeirr  
*beloved by kinsmen his On-one some time has Þorgeir*  
 Starkaðarson farit að finna Mörd frænda sinn. “Ílla uni  
*Starkad's-son gone to meet Mord kinsman his Ill am-content*  
 ek við”, segir hann, “málalok þau sem orðit hafa með oss  
*I with says he case-conclusions those which happened have between us*  
 Gunnari. Enn ek hefi keypt at þér liðveizlu, meðan vit  
*Gunnar(-and-us) But I have bought from you support while we-two*  
 værim uppi báðir. Vil ek nú, at þú hugsir nakkvara ráðagerð  
*were alive both Will I now that you think-out some plan*  
 þá er Gunnari megi mein at vera, ok leggst nú djúpt.  
*that which to-Gunnar may harm to be and lay-yourself now deep*  
 Mæli ek því svá bert, at ek veit, at þú ert hinn mesti  
*Speak I therefore so plainly that I know that you are the greatest*  
 óvinr Gunnars ok svá hann þinn. Skal ek miklu auka sæmd  
*enemy of-Gunnar and so be yours Shall I much increase honor*

þína, ef þú sér vel fyrir". "Sýnist þat jafnan", segir Mördör,  
*your if you see well for-(it) Seems that always says Mord*  
 "at ek em fégjarn, enda mun svá enn. Ok er vant fyrir  
*that I am money-greedy and-indeed will so still And is hard for*  
 at sjá, at þú sér eigi griðniðingr eða trygðarofsmaðr, enn þú  
*to see that you be not a-truce-breaker or pledge-breaker but you*  
 komir þó þínu máli fram. Enn þat er mér sagt, at Kolskeggr  
*bring yet your case forth But that is to-me told that Kolskegg*  
 ætli mál fram at hafa ok rifta fjórðunginn í Móeiðarhváli,  
*intends a-case forth to have and reclaim the-quarter in Moeidarhvol*  
 er föður þínum var goldinn í sonarbætr. Hefir hann mál  
*which to-father your was paid in son-compensation Has he case*  
 þetta tekit af móður sinni; ok er þetta ráð Gunnars,  
*this taken from mother his and is this (the)-counsel of-Gunnar*  
 at gjalda lausa fé, enn láta eigi landit. Skal þess at biðð,  
*to pay movable money but lose not the-land Shall this to wait*  
 er þetta gengr fram, ok kalla hann þá rjúfa sætt á yðr.  
*when this goes forth and call him then break settlement on you*  
 Hann hefir ok tekit sáðland af Þorgeiri Otkelssyni ok rofit  
*He has also taken a-sown-field from Thorgeir Otkel's-son and broken*  
 svá sætt á honum. Skalt þú fara at finna Þorgeir Otkelsson  
*so settlement on him Shall you go to meet Thorgeir Otkel's-son*  
 ok koma honum í málit með þér ok fara at Gunnari.  
*and bring him into the-case with you and go at Gunnar*  
 Enn þó at í bresti nakkvat um þetta ok fáið þér hann  
*But though that in fail something about this and get you him*  
 eigi veiddan, þá skuluð þér þó fara at honum oftar. Mun  
*not caught then shall you yet go at him more-often Will*  
 ek segja þér, at Njáll hefir spát Gunnari ok sagt fyrir  
*I tell you that Njal has prophesied to-Gunnar and told beforehand*  
 um æfi hans — ef hann vægi í hinn sama knérunn oftar  
*about life his if he slew in the same stock more-often*

enn um sinn, at þat mundi honum bráðast til bana. Bæri  
*than about once that that would to-him quickest to death Brought*  
 þat saman, at hann ryfi sætt þá, er ger væri um þat  
*that together that he broke settlement that which made were about that*  
 mál. Skalt þú því Þorgeiri koma í málit, at Gunnarr  
*case Shall you therefore Thorgeir bring into the-case that Gunnar*  
 hefir vegit föður hans áðr, ok er þit eruð á einum fundi  
*has slain father his before and when you-two are at one meeting*  
 báðir, þá skalt þú hlífa þér. Enn hann mun ganga fram  
*both then shall you shield yourself But he will go forth*  
 vel, ok mun Gunnarr vega hann. Hefir hann þá vegit tysvar  
*well and will Gunnar slay him Has he then slain twice*  
 í hinn sama knérunn. Enn þú skalt flýja af fundinum.  
*in the same stock But you shall flee from the-meeting*  
 Enn ef honum vill þetta til dauða draga, þá mun hann  
*But if to-him will this to death draw then will he*  
 rjúfa sættina. Er þar til at sitja”. Eftir þetta fer Þorgeirr  
*break the-settlement Is there to to sit After this goes Thorgeir*  
 heim ok segir föður sínum af launungu. Réðu þeir þat með  
*home and tells father his in secret Agreed they that between*  
 sér, at með þessa ráðagerð skyldi þeir af hljóði fara.  
*themselves that with this plan should they in quiet go*

LXVIII · THE NAMESAKES PLAN AN ATTACK

*Þorgeirr Starkaðarson wins his namesake's friendship with a gold-inlaid spear. At the Þingskálar assembly Kolskeggr claims Móeiðarhváll, Gunnarr offers goods or other land at a lawful valuation, and Þorgeirr names witnesses to a breach of the settlement. Kolskeggr warns Gunnarr against the two Þorgeirrs. When Gunnarr announces a week of haymaking in the islands, Þorgeirr Starkaðarson talks his namesake past his fear of being called a truce-breaker, and they agree to attack Gunnarr, twelve men each, while he is alone.*

Nökkuru síðar fór Þorgeirr Starkaðarson í Kirkjubæ at finna  
*Somewhat later went Thorgeir Starkað's-son to Kirkjubaer to meet*  
 namna sinn, ok gengu þeir á eintal ok töluðu dag allan  
*namesake his and went they to private-talk and talked day all*  
 hljótt. Enn at lyktum gaf Þorgeirr Starkaðarson namna  
*quietly But at last gave Thorgeir Starkað's-son to-namesake*  
 sínum spjót gullrekit ok reið heim síðan. Gerðu þeir með  
*his a-spear gold-inlaid and rode home then Made they between*  
 sér hina kærstu vináttu. Á Þingskálapingi um haustit  
*themselves the dearest friendship At Þingskalar-assembly in the-autumn*  
 sótti Kolskeggr til lands at Móeiðarhváli, enn Gunnarr nefndi  
*claimed Kolskegg for land at Moeidarbvöl but Gunnar named*  
 sér vátta ok bauð þeim undan Þríhyrningi lausafé  
*for-himself witnesses and offered them from-under Thrihyrning movable-wealth*  
 eða land annat at löglegri virðingu. Þorgeirr nemndi sér  
*or land other at lawful valuation Thorgeir named for-himself*  
 vátta, at Gunnarr ryfi sætt á þeim feðgum. Eftir þat  
*witnesses that Gunnar broke settlement on them father-and-son After that*  
 var lokit þinginu. Liðu nú þau missari. Finnast þeir namnar  
*was ended the-assembly Passed now those seasons Meet they namesakes*  
 jafnan, ok eru með þeim hinir mestu dáleikar. Kolskeggr  
*often and are between them the greatest intimacies Kolskegg*  
 mælti til Gunnars: “Sagt er mér, at mikil sé vinátta þeira  
*spoke to Gunnar Told is to-me that great be friendship of-them*  
 Þorgeirs Otkelssonar og Þorgeirs Starkaðarsonar; ok er þat  
*of-Thorgeir Otkel's-son and of-Thorgeir Starkað's-son and is that*  
 margra manna mál, at þeir muni vera ótrúlegir, ok  
*of-many men (the)-talk that they will be untrustworthy and*  
 vilda ek, at þú værir varr um þik”. “Koma mun til  
*would-wish I that you were wary about yourself Come will to*  
 mín feigðin”, segir Gunnarr, “hvar sem ek em staddr, ef  
*me (the)-doom says Gunnar wherever that I am placed if*



mér verðr þess auðit". Skildu þeir þá talit. Gunnarr sagði  
*to-me becomes it fated Broke-off they then the-talk Gunnar told*  
 fyrir um haustit, at þar skyldi vinna viku heima, enn  
*beforehand in the-autumn that there should work a-week at-home but*  
 aðra niðri í eyjum ok hætta þá heyverkum. Sagði  
*(the)-other down-below in (the)-islands and finish then haymaking Told*  
 hann svá fyrir, at alt skyldi fara manna af bænum,  
*he so beforehand that all should go of-men from the-farm*  
 nema hann ok konur. Þorgeirr undan Þríhyrningi ferr at  
*except he and women Thorgeir from-under Thrihyrning goes to*  
 finna namna sinn. Enn þegar er þeir fundust, töluðu þeir at  
*meet namesake his But as-soon as they met talked they as*  
 vanda sínum. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson mælti: "Ek vilda, at  
*custom their Thorgeir Starkad's-son spoke I would-wish that*  
 vit herðim okkr ok færim at Gunnari". "Svá at einu hafa  
*we-two hardened ourselves and went at Gunnar So at one have*  
 fundir orðit við Gunnar", sagði Þorgeirr Otkelsson, "at  
*meetings turned-out with Gunnar said Thorgeir Otkel's-son that*  
 fáir hafa af því sigrazt; enda þykki mér ilt at heita  
*few have from that won-victory and-indeed seems to-me ill to be-called*  
 griðníðingr". "Þeir hafa rofit sættina, enn vit eigi", segir  
*truce-breaker They have broken the-settlement but we-two not says*  
 Þorgeirr Starkaðarson, "tók Gunnarr af þér sáðland þitt,  
*Thorgeir Starkad's-son Took Gunnar from you sown-field your*  
 enn Móeiðarhval af okkr feðgum". Nú semja þeir þat með  
*and Moeidarhvol from us father-and-son Now agree they that between*  
 sér at fara at Gunnari. Segir þá Þorgeirr Starkaðarson,  
*themselves to go at Gunnar Tells then Thorgeir Starkad's-son*  
 at Gunnar myndi at fára náttu fresti einn heima vera —  
*that Gunnar would at few nights' delay alone at-home be*

“skalt þú koma við hinn tólfta mann til móts við mik,  
*shall you come with the twelfth man to meeting with me*  
 enn ek mun hafa jafnmarga”. Síðan reið Þorgeirr heim.  
*but I will have equally-many Then rode Thorgeir home*

## LXIX · NJÁLL FRIGHTENS OFF THE ATTACKERS

*The two Þorgeirrs and twenty-two men fall asleep in a wood above Hlíðarendi. Njáll, sleepless at Þórólfsfell, sees fierce fetches of Gunnarr's enemies, and his shepherd finds the sleepers. Njáll sends word to Gunnarr, then tells the sleepers that Gunnarr is gathering men, and they flee to Þríhyrningr. Njáll tells Gunnarr to keep his men together while he seeks a settlement: the plotters will pay no less than the price of killing either namesake, and Njáll will keep the money until Gunnarr needs it.*

Þá er þeir húskarlar ok Kolskegg höfðu verit þrjár nætr  
*Then when those house-carls and Kolskegg had been three nights*  
 í eyjum, þá hefir Þorgeirr Starkaðarson njósn af þessu  
*in (the)-islands then has Thorgeir Starkad's-son word of this*  
 ok gerir orð namna sínum, at hann skyldi koma til  
*and sends word to-namesake his that he should come to*  
 móts við hann á Þríhyrningshálsa. Síðan bjóst Þorgeirr  
*meeting with him on Thrihyrningshalsar Then made-ready Thorgeir*  
 undan Þríhyrningi við hinn tólfta mann. Hann ríðr upp  
*from-under Thrihyrning with the twelfth man He rides up*  
 á hálsinn ok bíðr þar namna síns. Gunnarr er nú einn  
*onto the-ridge and waits there for-namesake his Gunnar is now alone*  
 heima á bænum. Ríða þeir namnar í skóga nakkvara (fyrir  
*at-home on the-farm Ride they namesakes into woods some before*  
 ofan Hlíðarenda). Þar kom at þeim svefnhöfði, ok máttu  
*above Hlidarendi There came over them drowsiness and could*  
 þeir ekki annat enn sofa. Festu þeir skjöldu sína í limar,  
*they nothing other than sleep Fastened they shields their in branches*

enn bundu hesta sína ok settu hjá sér vápnin. Njáll  
*but tied horses their and set by themselves the-weapons Njal*  
 var þessa nótt í Þórólfsfelli ok mátti ekki sofa, ok gekk  
*was this night in Thorolfsfell and could not sleep and went*  
 ýmist út eða inn. Þórhildr spurði Njál, hví hann mætti  
*by-turns out or in Thorbild asked Njal why he could*  
 ekki sofa. “Mart berr nú fyrir augu mér”, sagði hann,  
*not sleep Much bears now before eyes my said he*  
 “ek sé margar fylgjur grimmlegar óvina Gunnars ok er  
*I see many fetches fierce of-enemies of-Gunnar and is*  
 nakkvat undarlega: þær láta ólmlega ok fara þó ráðlauslega”.  
*something strange they act furiously and go yet without-purpose*  
 Litlu síðar reið maðr at durum ok steig af baki ok gekk  
*A-little later rode a-man to (the)-door and stepped off back and went*  
 inn, ok var þat sauðamaðr þeira Þórhildar. Hon mælti:  
*in and was that shepherd their Thorbild(-and-Njal) She spoke*  
 “Hvart fant þú sauðina?” “Fann ek þat, er meira myndi  
*Whether found you the-sheep Found I that which more would*  
 varða”, segir hann. “Hvat var þat?” segir Njáll. “Ek fann  
*matter says he What was that says Njal I found*  
 fjóra ok tuttugu menn”, segir hann, “í skóginum uppi. Þeir  
*four and twenty men says he in the-wood up They*  
 höfðu bundit hesta sína, enn sváfu sjálfir. Þeir höfðu fest  
*had tied horses their but slept themselves They had fastened*  
 skjöldu sína í limar”. Enn svá hafði hann gerla at hugat,  
*shields their in branches But so had he clearly at looked*  
 at hann sagði frá allra þeira vápnabúnaði ok klæðum. Njáll  
*that he told of of-all their weapon-gear and clothes Njal*  
 vissi þá gerla, hverr hverrgi hafði verit, ok mælti til hans:  
*knew then clearly who each had been and spoke to him*  
 “Gott hjóna ert þú — ef slík væri mörg, ok skalt þú  
*Good of-servants are you if such were many and shall you*

jafnan þessa njóta. Enn þó vil ek nú senda þik". Hann  
*always this benefit But yet will I now send you He*  
 játti at fara. "Þú skalt fara", segir Njáll, "til Hlíðarenda  
*agreed to go You shall go says Njal to Hlidarendi*  
 og segja Gunnari, at hann fari til Grjótár ok sendi þaðan  
*and tell Gunnar that he go to Grjota and send thence*  
 eftir mönnum. Enn ek mun fara til móts við þá, er í  
*after men But I will go to meeting with them who in*  
 skóginum eru ok fæla þá í braut. Hefir þetta af því vel  
*the-wood are and scare them off away Has this from that well*  
 í móti borizt, at þeir munu engis afla í þessi, enn láta  
*in against turned that they will nothing gain in this but lose*  
 mikit". Sauðamaðr fór ok sagði Gunnari sem gerst frá öllu.  
*much (The)-shepherd went and told Gunnar as fullest of all*  
 Reið þá Gunnarr til Grjótár ok stefndi at sér mönnum.  
*Rode then Gunnar to Grjota and summoned to himself men*  
 Nú er at segja frá Njáli, at hann ríðr til fundar við þá  
*Now is to tell of Njal that he rides to a-meeting with those*  
 namna: "Óvarlega liggð þér", segir hann, "eða til hvers skal  
*namesakes Unwarily lie you says he or for what shall*  
 för sjá ger hafa verit? ok er Gunnarr engi klektunarmaðr.  
*journey this made have been and is Gunnar no trifler*  
 Enn ef satt skal um tala, þá eru þetta hin mestu fjörrað.  
*But if true shall about speak then are these the greatest plots-on-life*  
 Skuluð þér þat ok vita, at Gunnarr er í liðsamnaði; ok  
*Shall you that also know that Gunnar is in force-gathering and*  
 mun hann hér brátt koma ok drepa yðr, nema þér ríðit  
*will he here soon come and kill you unless you ride*  
 undan ok heim". Þeir brugðust við skjótt — ok varð  
*away and home They started with-(it) quickly and became*  
 þeim mjök um felmt — ok tóku vörn sín ok stigu á  
*to-them much about fright and took weapons their and stepped onto*

hesta sína ok hleyptu heim undir Þríhyrning. Njáll fór til  
*horses their and galloped home under Thrihyrning Njal went to*  
 móts við Gunnar ok bað hann ekki eyða fjölmenni — “enn  
*meeting with Gunnar and bade him not disperse (the)-crowd but*  
 ek mun fara í meðal ok leita um sættir. Munu þeir nú  
*I will go in between and seek about settlements Will they now*  
 vera hóflega hræddir. Enn fyrir þessi fjörráð skal eigi koma  
*be moderately frightened But for these plots-on-life shall not come*  
 minna, er við alla þá er um at eiga, enn eigi skal meira  
*less since with all those whom about to deal but not shall more*  
 koma fyrir víg annars hvárs þeira namna, þó at þat  
*come for (the)-slaying of-one of-either of-them namesakes though that that*  
 kunni við at bera. Skal ek varðveita þetta fé ok svá fyrir  
*may with to bear Shall I keep this money and so for*  
 sjá, at þá sé þér innan handar, er þú þarft til at taka”.  
*see that then be to-you within hand when you need to to take*

## LXX · SÁMR THE DOG

*At the Althing Njáll arbitrates, and each attacker pays a hundred of silver, the two Þorgeirrs two hundreds each; Njáll keeps the money for Gunnarr. The namesakes blame Mörðr, whose lie about the land has cost them. Gunnarr visits Óláfr pái at Hjarðarholt, who gives him a gold ring, a cloak that belonged to King Myrkjartan of Ireland, and Sámr, a huge Irish dog with a man's wit that will bark at any enemy.*

Gunnarr þakkaði Njáli tillögur sínar. Njáll reið undir  
*Gunnar thanked Njal counsels his Njal rode under*  
 Þríhyrning ok sagði þeim nömnum, at Gunnarr myndi  
*Thrihyrning and told those namesakes that Gunnar would*  
 ekki eyða flokkinum fyrr enn ór sliti með þeim. Þeir  
*not disperse the-band before than out broke between them They*

buðu boð fyrir sik ok váru óttafullir ok báðu Njál fara  
*offered offers for themselves and were fearful and asked Njal go*  
 með sáttarboðum. Njáll kvaðst með því einu fara mundu,  
*with settlement-offers Njal said-of-himself with that alone to-go would*  
 er eigi fylgdi svik. Þeir báðu hann vera í gerðinni  
*which not followed treachery They asked him be in the-award*  
 ok kváðust þat halda mundu, er hann gerði. Njáll  
*and said-of-themselves that to-keep would which he awarded Njal*  
 kvaðst eigi gera mundu nema á þingi, ok væri við  
*said-of-himself not to-award would except at (the)-assembly and were by*  
 hinir beztu menn. Þeir játtu því. Gekk þá Njáll í meðal  
*the best men They agreed to-that Went then Njal in between*  
 svá at hvárir handsöluðu öðrum grið ok sætt. Skyldi  
*so that each-side hand-pledged to-(the)-other truce and settlement Should*  
 Njáll gera um ok nemna til þá er hann vildi. Litlu  
*Njal award about-(it) and name to those whom he wisbed A-little*  
 síðar fundu þeir namnar Mörd Valgarðsson. Mörd taldi  
*later met they namesakes Mord Valgard's-son Mord blamed*  
 á þá mjök, er þeir höfðu lagit mál undir Njál, þar  
*on them much when they had laid (the)-case under Njal where*  
 sem hann var vinr Gunnars mikill — kvað þeim þat illa  
*that he was friend of-Gunnar great said to-them that ill*  
 duga mundu. Ríða menn nú til alþingis at vanda. Eru nú  
*to-avail would Ride men now to (the)-Althing as custom Are now*  
 hváirtveggju á þingi. Njáll kvaddi sér hljóðs ok spýrr  
*both-sides at (the)-assembly Njal asked for-himself bearing and asks*  
 alla höfðingja ok hina beztu menn, er þar váru komnir,  
*all chieftains and the best men who there were come*  
 hvert mál þeim þætti Gunnarr eiga á þeim nömnum fyrir  
*what case to-them seemed Gunnar have against those namesakes for*  
 fjörráðin. Þeir svöruðu, at þeim þótti slíkr maðr mikinn  
*the-plots-on-life They answered that to-them seemed such a-man great*

rétt á sér eiga. Njáll spurði, hvárt hann ætti á öllum  
*right on himself have Njal asked whether he had on all*  
 þeim, eða ætti fyrirmenn einir at svara málinu. Þeir sögðu  
*them or had leaders alone to answer the-case They said*  
 mest á fyrirmönnum enn þó á öllum mikit. “Þat munu  
*most on leaders but yet on all much That will*  
 margir mæla”, kvað Mörðr, “at eigi hafi um sakleysi verit,  
*many say said Mord that not have about innocence been*  
 þar sem Gunnarr rauf sætt við þá namna”. “Eigi er þat  
*where that Gunnar broke settlement with those namesakes Not is that*  
 sættarrof”, segir Njáll, “at hverr hafi lög við annan; því  
*settlement-breach says Njal that each have law with (the)-other because*  
 at með lögum skal land vårt byggja, enn eigi með ólögum  
*that with laws shall land our be-settled but not with lawlessness*  
 eyða”. Sagði Njáll mönnum þá, at Gunnarr hafði boðið  
*be-destroyed Told Njal men then that Gunnar had offered*  
 land fyrir — Móciðarhval — eða annat fé. Þóttust  
*land for Moeidarhvol or other money Thought-themselves*  
 þeir þá namnar falsaðir af Merði ok töldu á hann mjök  
*they then namesakes deceived by Mord and blamed on him much*  
 ok kváðust af honum hljóta þetta fégjald. Njáll nemndi  
*and said-of-themselves from him to-receive this fine Njal named*  
 tólf manna dóm á þessu máli. Galt þá hundrað silfrs hverr  
*twelve men's court on this case Paid then a-hundred of-silver each*  
 er til hafði farit, enn tvau hundruð hvárr þeira namna.  
*who to had gone but two hundreds each of-them namesakes*  
 Tók Njáll við þessu fé ok varðveitti. Enn hvárir veittu  
*Took Njal with this money and kept-(it) But each-side gave*  
 öðrum trygðir ok grið, ok mælti Njáll fyrir. Reið Gunnarr  
*to-(the)-other pledges and truce and spoke Njal before Rode Gunnar*  
 þá af þingi vestr til Dala í Hjarðarholt. Tók Óláfr  
*then from (the)-assembly west to Dalir to Hjarðarbolt Took Olaf*

pá vel við honum. Sat hann þar hálfan mánað. Gunnarr  
*Peacock well with him Sat he there half month Gunnar*  
 reið víða um Dala, ok tóku allir við honum fegins hendi.  
*rode widely about Dalir and took all with him with-glad hand*  
 Enn at skilnaði mælti Óláfr til Gunnars: “Ek vil gefa þér  
*But at parting spoke Olaf to Gunnar I will give you*  
 þrjá gripi: gullhring ok skikkju, er átt hefir Myrkjartan  
*three treasures a-gold-ring and a-cloak which owned has Myrkjartan*  
 Írakonung, ok hund, er mér var gefinn á Írlandi. Hann  
*Irisb-king and a-dog which to-me was given in Ireland He*  
 er mikill, ok eigi verri til fylgdar enn röskr maðr. Þat  
*is big and not worse for following than a-valiant man That*  
 fylgir ok, at hann hefir manns vit. Hann mun ok geyja at  
*follows also that he has man's wit He will also bark at*  
 hverjum manni þeim er hann veit at óvinr þinn er, enn  
*every man that whom he knows that enemy your is but*  
 aldri at vinum þínum; því at hann sér á hverjum manni,  
*never at friends your because that he sees on every man*  
 hvárt til þín er vel eða illa. Hann mun ok líf á leggja at  
*whether to you is well or ill He will also life on lay to*  
 vera þér trúr. Þessi hundr heitir Sámr”. Síðan mælti hann  
*be to-you loyal This dog is-called Sam Then spoke he*  
 við hundinn: “Nú skalt þú Gunnari fylgja ok vera honum  
*with the-dog Now shall you Gunnar follow and be to-him*  
 slíkr sem þú mátt”. Hundrinn gekk þegar at Gunnari ok  
*such as you can The-dog went at-once to Gunnar and*  
 lagðist niðr fyrir fætr honum. Óláfr bað Gunnar vera varan  
*lay-down down before feet of-him Olaf bade Gunnar be wary*  
 um sik ok kvað hann marga eiga öfundarmenn — “þar  
*about himself and said him many to-have enviers there*  
 er þú þykkir nú ágætast maðr um alt land”. Gunnarr  
*where you seem now most-excellent man about all (the)-land Gunnar*



þakkaði honum gjafar ok heilræði ok ríðr heim síðan. Sitr  
 thanked him gifts and good-counsels and rides home then Sits  
 Gunnarr nú heima nakkvara hríð, ok er kyrt.  
 Gunnarr now at-home some while and is quiet

## LXXI • THE AMBUSH BY RANGÁ IS SET

*The namesakes are dissatisfied, and Mördör proposes that Þorgeirr Otkelsson seduce Gunnarr's kinswoman Ormbildr to stir up ill will, and warns them never to attack Gunnarr at home while the dog lives. Þorgeirr keeps visiting Ormbildr through the summer and winter, and Gunnarr takes it badly. The next summer Þorgeirr Starkaðarson and Mördör meet often and plan to attack Gunnarr when he rides down to the islands. When Mördör learns he has gone, twenty-four men lie in wait by Rangá, and Gunnarr rides back with Kolskeggr.*

Litlu síðar finnast þeir namnar ok Mördör. Verða þeir eigi  
 A-little later meet they namesakes and Mord Become they not  
 á sáttir. Þóttust þeir láta fé mikit fyrir Merði, enn  
 on agreed Thought-themselves they to-lose money much for Mord but  
 hafa ekki í móti, ok báðu hann setja aðra ráðagerð þá er  
 have nothing in return and asked him set-up other plan that which  
 Gunnari væri til meins. Mördör kvað svá vera skyldu — “er þat  
 to-Gunnar were to harm Mord said so to-be should is that  
 nú ráð mitt, at Þorgeirr Otkelsson fífi Ormhildi frændkonu  
 now counsel my that Þorgeir Otkel's-son seduce Ormbild kinswoman  
 Gunnars; enn Gunnarr mun af því láta vaxa óþokka við  
 of-Gunnar but Gunnarr will from that let grow ill-will toward  
 þik. Skal ek þá ljósta upp þeim kvitt, at Gunnarr muni eigi  
 you Shall I then strike up that rumor that Gunnar will not  
 hafa svá búit við þik. Skuluð þit þá nökkuru síðar hafa  
 have so put-up with you Shall you-two then somewhat later have

atför við Gunnar. En þó skuluð þit Gunnarr eigi heim  
*an-attack on Gunnar But yet shall you-two Gunnar not home*  
 sækja; því at þat má sér engi ætla, meðan hundrinn  
*attack because that that may for-himself none intend while the-dog*  
 lifir". Sömdu þeir nú þessa ráðagerð með sér, at sjá skyldi  
*lives Agreed they now this plan between themselves that that should*  
 fram koma. Nú liðr sumarit. Þorgeirr venr kvámur sínar  
*forth come Now passes the-summer Thorgeir makes-a-habit comings his*  
 til Ormhildar. Gunnari þótti þat illa, ok gerðist óþokki mikill  
*to Ormbild To-Gunnar seemed that ill and arose ill-will great*  
 með þeim. Fór svá fram um vetrinn. Nú kemr sumar, ok  
*between them Went so forth through the-winter Now comes summer and*  
 verða þá enn oftlega fundir þeira á laun. Þeir finnast jafnan  
*become then again often meetings their in secret They meet often*  
 Þorgeirr undan Þríhyrningi ok Mördör, ok ráða atför við  
*Thorgeir from-under Thrihyrning and Mord and plan an-attack on*  
 Gunnar þá er hann riði ofan í eyjar at sjá verk  
*Gunnar then when he rode down to (the)-islands to see (the)-work*  
 húskarla sinna. Eitt sinn varð Mördör varr við, er Gunnar  
*of-house-carls his One time became Mord aware of when Gunnar*  
 reið ofan í eyjar, ok sendi mann undir Þríhyrning at segja  
*rode down to (the)-islands and sent a-man under Thrihyrning to tell*  
 Þorgeiri, at þá myndi vænast til at leita at fara at Gunnari.  
*Thorgeir that then would likeliest to to try to go at Gunnar*  
 Þeir brugðu við skjótt ok fara ofan þaðan við hinn tólfta  
*They started with-(it) quickly and go down thence with the twelfth*  
 mann. Enn er þeir kvámu í Kirkjubæ, þá váru þar fyrir  
*man But when they came to Kirkjubaer then were there before*  
 aðrir tólf. Þeir ræða um, hvar þeir skuli sitja fyrir Gunnari;  
*another twelve They talk about where they shall sit before Gunnar*  
 ok kom þat ásamt, at þeir skyldi fara ofan til Rangár ok  
*and came that agreed that they should go down to Ranga and*

sitja þar fyrir honum. Enn er Gunnarr reið neðan ór  
*sit there before him But when Gunnar rode up out-of*  
 eyjum, reið Kolskeggr með honum. Gunnarr hafði boga sinn  
*(the)-islands rode Kolskegg with him Gunnar had bow his*  
 ok örvar ok atgeirinn. Kolskeggr hafði saxit ok alvæpni.  
*and arrows and the-halberd Kolskegg had the-short-sword and full-armor*

LXXII · GUNNARR KILLS ÞORGEIRR OTKELSSON

*Riding back, Gunnarr sees blood fall on his halberd, which he says is called wound-rain abroad and which Ölvir in Hising said always comes before great battles. At the ford he shoots many attackers, runs Ömundr fagri through, and Kolskeggr throws Ögmundr flóki into Rangá. Þorgeirr Otkelsson spears Gunnarr's hand, and Gunnarr drives the halberd through him and hurls him into the ford, since called Þorgeirsvað. The rest flee. Hallgerðr praises the deed, but Rannveig foresees worse.*

Sá atburður varð, er þeir Gunnarr riðu neðan at  
*That event happened when they Gunnar(-and-Kolskegg) rode up to*  
 Rangá, at blóð fell á atgeirinn. Kolskeggr spurði, hví þat  
*Ranga that blood fell on the-halberd Kolskegg asked why that*  
 myndi sæta. Gunnarr svaraði, ef slíkir atburðir yrði, at þat  
*would mean Gunnar answered if such events happened that that*  
 væri kallat í öðrum löndum benrögn — “ok sagði svá Ölvér  
*were called in other lands wound-rain and said so Ölvir*  
 búandi í Hising, at þat væri jafnan fyrir stórfundum”.  
*(the)-farmer in Hising that that were always before great-battles*  
 Síðan riðu þeir til þess er þeir sá mennina við ána —  
*Then rode they to that when they saw the-men by the-river*  
 sjá, at þeir sitja, enn hafa bundit hestana. Gunnarr mælti:  
*see that they sit but have tied the-horses Gunnar spoke*  
 “Fyrirsát er nú”. “Lengi hafa þeir ótrúlegir verit”, segir  
*Ambush is now Long have they untrustworthy been says*

Kolskeggr, “eða hvat skal nú til ráða taka?” “Hleypra skulu  
*Kolskegg or what shall now to counsel take Gallop shall*  
 vit upp hjá þeim”, segir Gunnarr, “til vaðsins ok búast  
*we-two up by them says Gunnar to the-ford and make-ready*  
 þar við”. Hinir sjá þat ok snúa þegar at þeim. Gunnarr  
*there with-(it) The-others see that and turn at-once toward them Gunnar*  
 bendir upp bogann ok tekr örvarnar ok steypir niðr fyrir  
*bends up the-bow and takes the-arrows and pours down before*  
 sik ok skýtr þegar er þeir kvámu í skotfæri. Særði  
*himself and shoots at-once when they came into bowsbot Wounded*  
 Gunnar við þat mjök marga menn enn drap suma. Þá  
*Gunnar with that very many men and killed some Then*  
 mælti Þorgeirr Otkelsson: “Þetta dugir oss ekki, göngum at  
*spoke Thorgeir Otkel's-son This avails us nothing go-we at*  
 sem harðast”. Þeir gerðu svá. Fyrstr gekk Önundur hinn fagri  
*as hardest They did so First went Onund the Fair*  
 frændi Þorgeirs. Gunnarr skaut atgeirinum til hans, ok kom  
*kinsman of-Thorgeir Gunnar shot the-halberd at him and came*  
 á skjöldinn, ok klofnaði hann í tvá hluti. Enn atgeirrinn  
*on the-shield and split it into two parts But the-halberd*  
 hljóp í gegnum Önund. Ögmundur flóki hljóp at baki  
*ran in through Onund Ogmund Floki leaped at back*  
 Gunnari. Kolskeggr sá þat ok hjó undan Ögmundi báða  
*of-Gunnar Kolskegg saw that and hewed from-under Ogmund both*  
 fætr ok hratt honum út á Rangá, ok druknaði hann þegar.  
*feet and pushed him out into Ranga and drowned he at-once*  
 Gerðist nú bardagi mikill ok harðr, ok hjó Gunnarr annarri  
*Became now a-battle great and hard and hewed Gunnar with-one*  
 hendi, enn lagði annari. Kolskeggr vá ok drjúgan menn,  
*hand but thrust with-(the)-other Kolskegg slew also plenty men*  
 en særði marga. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson mælti til namna síns:  
*and wounded many Thorgeir Starkad's-son spoke to namesake his*

“Alllitt sér þat á, at þú eigir föður þíns at hefna á  
*Very-little sees-(one) that on-(you) that you have father your to avenge on*  
 Gunnari”. Þorgeirr Otkelsson svarar: “Víst er eigi vel fram  
*Gunnar Thorgeir Otkel's-son answers Surely is not well forth*  
 gengit, enn þó hefir þú eigi gengit mér í spor — enda  
*gone but yet have you not gone me in tracks and-indeed*  
 skal ek eigi þola þín frýjuorð”, hleypr at Gunnari af  
*shall I not endure your goading-words leaps at Gunnar with*  
 mikilli reiði ok lagði spjótit í gegnum skjöldinn ok svá í  
*great anger and thrust the-spear in through the-shield and so in*  
 gegnum hönd Gunnari. Gunnarr snaraði svá hart skjöldinn,  
*through (the)-band of-Gunnar Gunnar twisted so hard the-shield*  
 at spjótit brotnaði í falnum. Gunnarr sér annan mann  
*that the-spear broke in the-socket Gunnar sees another man*  
 kominn í höggfæri við sik ok höggir þann banahöggvi.  
*come into striking-range by himself and hews that-one with-a-death-blow*  
 Eftir þat þrífir hann atgeirinn tveim höndum. Þá var  
*After that seizes he the-halberd with-two hands Then was*  
 Þorgeirr Otkelsson kominn nær honum með brugðnu sverði  
*Thorgeir Otkel's-son come near him with drawn sword*  
 ok reiddi hart. Gunnarr snýst at honum skjótt af mikilli  
*and swung hard Gunnar turns to him quickly with great*  
 reiði ok rekr í gegnum hann atgeirinn ok bregðr honum  
*anger and drives in through him the-halberd and swings him*  
 á loft ok keyrir hann út á Rangá, ok rekr hann ofan  
*into (the)-air and hurls him out into Ranga and drives him down*  
 á vaðit ok festi þar á steini einum; ok heitir þar síðan  
*onto the-ford and fastened there on stone one and is-called there since*  
 Þorgeirsvað. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson mælti: “Flýjum vér nú,  
*Thorgeirsvad Thorgeir Starkad's-son spoke Flee we now*  
 ekki mun oss sigrs verða auðit at svá búnu”. Sneru þeir  
*not will to-us victory be granted at so done Turned they*

þá allir í frá. “Sækju vit nú eftir þeim”, segir Kolskeggr,  
*then all in away Pursue we-two now after them says Kolskegg*  
 “ok tak þú bogann ok örvarnar, ok munt þú komast í  
*and take you the-bow and the-arrows and will you come into*  
 skotfæri við Þorgeir Starkaðarson”. Gunnarr kvað þá vísu:  
*bows-shot with Þorgeir Starkað's-son Gunnarr spoke then a-verse*

Munu eldbeiðir eyðask  
*Will fire-askers be-spent*  
 ár fésjóðar várir,  
*early money-purses our*  
 geig þó at gervim eigi  
*harm though that make-we not*  
 geirleiks stöfum fleirum,  
*of-spear-play to-staves more*  
 enn ef ek skal runna  
*but if I shall of-bushes*  
 unnviggs þá er hér liggja  
*of-wave-steed those who here lie*  
 — mín nem þú mál ok greinir  
*my learn you speech and sayer*  
 mætr — gørvalla bæta.  
*worthy altogether compensate*

Gunnarr svaraði: “Eyðast munu fésjóðarnir um þat er  
*Gunnarr answered Be-spent will the-money-purses about that when*  
 þessir eru bættir, er hér liggja nú dauðir”. “Ekki mun þér  
*these are compensated who here lie now dead Not will to-you*

féfatt verða”, sagði Kolskeggr, “enn Þorgeirr mun eigi  
*short-of-money become said Kolskegg but Þorgeirr will not*  
 fyrr af láta, enn hann ræðr þér bana”. Þá kvað Gunnarr visu:  
*sooner off let than he plans you death Then spoke Gunnar a-verse*

Ullr munu Ekkils vallar  
*Ull will of-Ekkil of-field*  
 andrs nakkvarir standa  
*of-ski some stand*  
 jafnir unda stefni  
*equal of-wounds to-the-summoner*  
 á Rínar veg mínum,  
*on of-Rhine way my*  
 áðr gnýjarðar girðis  
*before of-din-earth of-girdle*  
 græðendr munim hræðask  
*healers will-we fear*  
 geisla, gljúfra fösla  
*of-sunbeam of-ravine hasp*  
 gætir fagra sætis.  
*guardian of-fair seat*

“Standa munu nakkvarir hans makar á götu minni áðr enn  
*Stand will some his equals on path my before than*  
 ek hræðumst þá”, segir Gunnarr. Síðan ríða þeir heim ok  
*I fear them says Gunnar Then ride they home and*  
 segja tíðendin. Hallgerðr fagnaði þessum tíðendum ok lofaði  
*tell the-tidings Hallgerd welcomed these tidings and praised*  
 mjök verkit. Rannveig mælti: “Vera má, at gott sé verkit; enn  
*much the-deed Rannveig spoke Be may that good be the-deed but*  
 verra verðr mér við, enn ek ætla, at gott muni af leiða”.  
*worse becomes to-me at-(it) than I think that good will from-(it) lead*

*Gizurr and Geirr declare the killings. Njáll warns Gunnarr that he has now killed twice in the same family and will lose his life if he does not keep the settlement. Gunnarr says he means to keep it but will need Njáll's support at the Althing, and Njáll promises him loyalty until his dying day. At the Althing Gizurr declares a case of full outlawry at the Law Rock against Gunnarr for the killing of Þorgeirr Otkelsson. When the courts go out he presents his oath, charge, and evidence, and calls the neighbors to the panel.*

Þessi tíðendi spyrjast víða, ok var Þorgeirr mörgum mönnum  
*These tidings are-learned widely and was Þorgeirr to-many men*  
 harmdauði. Þeir Gizurr hvíti ok Geirr goði riðu til  
*mourned They Gizur (the)-White and Geir (the)-Priest rode to*  
 ok lýstu vígunum ok kvöddu búa til þings — riðu  
*and declared the-slayings and summoned neighbors to (the)-assembly rode*  
 þá vestr aft. Þeir Njáll ok Gunnarr fundust ok töluðu um  
*then west back They Njal and Gunnar met and talked about*  
 bardagann. Þá mælti Njáll til Gunnars: “Ver þú nú varr  
*the-battle Then spoke Njal to Gunnar Be you now wary*  
 um þik. Nú hefir þú vegit tysvar í hinn sama knérunn.  
*about yourself Now have you slain twice in the same stock*  
 Hygg nú svá fyrir hag þínum, at þar liggir við líf  
*Consider now so for condition your that there lies at-stake life*  
 þitt, ef þú heldr eigi þá sætt, sem ger er”. “Hvergi ætla  
*your if you hold not that settlement which made is Nowhere intend*  
 ek mér af at bregða”, segir Gunnarr, “enn þó mun ek  
*I myself from to swerve says Gunnar but yet will I*  
 þurfa liðsinni yðvart á þingi”. Njáll svaraði: “Halda mun  
*need support your at (the)-assembly Njal answered Hold will*  
 ek við þik mínum trúnaði til dauðadags”. Ríðr Gunnarr þá  
*I with you my loyalty to death-day Rides Gunnar then*



heim. Líðr nú til þings, ok fjölmenna hváirtveggju mjök.  
*home Passes now to (the)-assembly and gather-many both-sides much*

Er um þetta allfjölraett á þingi, hversu þessi mál myndi  
*Is about this much-talked at (the)-assembly how these cases would*

lúkast. Þeir Gizurr hvíti ok Geirr goði töluðu með  
*end They Gizur (the)-White and Geir (the)-Priest talked between*

sér, hvárr þeira lýsa skyldi vígsökinni Þorgeirs. Enn þar  
*themselves which of-them declare should the-slaying-suit of-Thorgeir But there*

kom, at Gizurr tók undir sik málit ok lýsti sök  
*came-(it) that Gizur took under himself the-case and declared (the)-charge*

at Lögbergi, ok kvað svá at orði, at — “ek lýsi lögmætu  
*at (the)-Law-Rock and spoke so to word that I declare a-lawful*

frumhlaupi á hönd Gunnari Hámundarsyni um þat, er  
*assault against hand Gunnar Hamund's-son for that that*

hann hljóp lögmætu frumhlaupi til Þorgeirs Otkelssonar  
*he ran with-lawful assault at Thorgeir Otkel's-son*

ok særði hann holundarsári því er at ben gerðist, enn  
*and wounded him with-a-body-wound that which to wound became but*

Þorgeirr fekk bana af. Tel ek hann eiga at verða um  
*Thorgeir got death from-(it) Count I him ought to become for*

sök þá sekjan skógarmann, óælan, óferjanda, óráðanda  
*charge that outlawed a-forest-man not-to-be-fed not-to-be-ferried not-to-be-helped*

öllum bjargráðum. Tel ek sekt fé hans alt, hálf mér, enn  
*with-all means-of-aid Count I forfeit wealth his all half to-me but*

hálf fjórðungsmönnum þeim er sektarfé eigu at taka eftir  
*half to-quarter-men those who fine-money have to take after*

hann at lögum. Lýsi ek til fjórðungsdóms þess er sökin  
*him by law Declare I to quarter-court that which the-charge*

á í at koma at lögum, lýsi ek löglýsing, lýsi ek í  
*has in to come by law declare I a-lawful-declaration declare I in*

heyrandi hljóði at Lögbergi, lýsi ek nú til sóknar í sumar  
*bearing sound at (the)-Law-Rock declare I now for prosecution in summer*

ok til sektar fullrar á hönd Gunnari Hámundarsyni". Í  
*and for outlawry full against hand Gunnar Hamund's-son In*  
 annat sinn nemndi Gizurr sér vátta ok lýsti sök á  
*a-second time named Gizur for-himself witnesses and declared a-charge against*  
 hönd Gunnari Hámundarsyni um þat er hann særði Þorgeir  
*hand Gunnar Hamund's-son for that that he wounded Þorgeir*  
 Otkelsson holundarsári því er at þen gerðist, enn Þorgeirr  
*Otkel's-son with-a-body-wound that which to wound became but Þorgeir*  
 fekk bana af á þeim vættvangi, er Gunnarr hljóp til  
*got death from-(it) on that place-of-action where Gunnar ran at*  
 Þorgeirs lögmætu frumhlaupi áðr. Síðan lýsti hann þessi  
*Þorgeir with-lawful assault before Then declared he this*  
 lýsing sem hinni fyrri. Þá spurði hann at þingfesti ok  
*declaration as the former Then asked he about assembly-attachment and*  
 at heimilisfangi — eftir þat gengu menn frá Lögbergi; —  
*about legal-domicile after that went men from (the)-Law-Rock*  
 ok mæltu allir, at honum mæltist vel. Gunnarr var vel stiltr  
*and said all that to-him spoke-(it) well Gunnar was well composed*  
 ok lagði fátt til. Líðr nú þingit þar til er dómar fara út.  
*and laid little to Passes now the-assembly there until that courts go out*  
 Gunnarr stóð norðan at Rangæingadómi ok hans menn —  
*Gunnar stood north of (the)-Rangarvellir-court and his men*  
 enn Gizurr hinn hvíti stóð sunnan at ok hans menn ok  
*but Gizur the White stood south of-(it) and his men and*  
 nemndi sér vátta ok bauð Gunnari at hlýða til eiðspjalls  
*named for-himself witnesses and bade Gunnar to listen to oath-taking*  
 síns ok til framsögu sakar sinnar ok til sóknargagna þeira  
*his and to statement of-charge his and to evidence of-those*  
 allra, sem hann hugði fram at færa. Eftir þat vann hann  
*all which he intended forth to bring After that swore he*  
 eið. Þá sagði hann fram sök sína svá skapaða í dóm,  
*an-oath Then stated he forth charge his so shaped into court*

sem hann lýsti. Þá lét hann bera lýsingarvætti. Þá  
*as he declared-(it) Then had he bear declaration-testimony Then*  
 bauð hann búum í setu ok til ruðningar um kviðinn.  
*bade he neighbors into seats and to challenging about the-panel*

LXXIV · THE TERMS OF EXILE

*Njáll clears four neighbors from the panel and asks the remaining five whether the namesakes had come to kill Gunnarr, and all say they had. Many chieftains press for a settlement, and twelve men arbitrate: Gunnarr and Kolskeggr are to go abroad for three years, and if Gunnarr does not leave, the dead men's kin may kill him. Njáll returns Gunnarr's money, grown to exactly the sum Gunnarr owes, and urges him to keep the settlement, promising honor and a long life if he does and death if he does not.*

Þá mælti Njáll: “Nú mun eigi sitjanda hlut mega í  
*Then spoke Njal Now will not sitting lot be-able in*  
 eiga. Göngum nú þar til er búarnir sitja”. Þeir gengu  
*have Go-we now there until that the-neighbors sit They went*  
 þangat til ok ruddu fjóra búa ór kviðinum, enn  
*thither to and challenged-off four neighbors out-of the-panel but*  
 kvöddu hina fimm bjargkviðar, er eftir váru, um málit  
*summoned the-other five of-(the)-defense-panel who left were about the-case*  
 Gunnars — hvárt þeir Þorgeirr Starkaðarson eða Þorgeirr  
*of-Gunnar whether they Thorgeir Starkad's-son or Thorgeir*  
 Otkelsson hefði farit með þann hug til fundar at vinna  
*Otkel's-son had gone with that intent to a-meeting to work*  
 á Gunnari, ef þeir mætti. Enn allir báru þat skjótt, at  
*on Gunnar if they might But all bore that quickly that*  
 þat hefði verit. Kallaði Njáll þetta lögvörn fyrir málit  
*that had been Called Njal this a-lawful-defense for the-case*

ok kvaðst mundu fram bera vörnina, nema þeir legði  
*and said-of-himself would forth bring the-defense unless they laid*  
 til sætta. Váru í þessu þá margir höfðingjar at biðja  
*to settlements Were in this then many chieftains to ask*  
 sættanna; ok fekst þat af, at tólf menn skyldi gera  
*the-settlements and was-gotten that from-it that twelve men should award*  
 um málit. Ganga hváirtveggju þá til ok handsala þessa  
*about the-case Go both-sides then to and hand-pledge this*  
 sætt. Eftir þat var gert um málit ok á kveðit um  
*settlement After that was awarded about the-case and on appointed about*  
 fégjöld — ok skyldi alt greitt þegar þar á þingi.  
*money-payments and should all paid at-once there at (the)-assembly*  
 Enn Gunnarr skyldi fara utan ok Kolskeggr ok vera í  
*But Gunnar should go abroad and Kolskegg and be off*  
 brautu þrjá vetr. Enn ef Gunnarr færi eigi utan, ok mætti  
*away three winters But if Gunnar went not abroad and might*  
 hann komast, þá skyldi hann dræpr fyrir frændum hins  
*be get then should be killable for kinsmen of-the*  
 vegna. Gunnarr lét ekki á sik finna, at honum þætti eigi  
*slain Gunnar let not on himself find that to-him seemed not*  
 góð sættin. Gunnarr spurði Njál at fé því, er hann  
*good the-settlement Gunnar asked Njal about money that which be*  
 hafði fengið honum til varðveizlu. Njáll hafði ávaxtat féit  
*had given him for keeping Njal had made-grow the-money*  
 ok greiddi þá fram alt, ok stóðst þat á endum ok þat er  
*and paid then forth all and matched that at ends and that which*  
 Gunnarr átti at gjalda fyrir sik. Ríða menn nú heim. Þeir  
*Gunnar had to pay for himself Ride men now home They*  
 Njáll ok Gunnarr riðu báðir samt af þingi. Þá mælti  
*Njal and Gunnar rode both together from (the)-assembly Then spoke*  
 Njáll til Gunnars: “Geym nú svá til, félagi, at þú halt  
*Njal to Gunnar Heed now so to partner that you keep*

sætt þessa ok mun, hvat vit höfum við mælt, og svá  
*settlement this and remember what we-two have with spoken and so*  
sem þér varð hin fyrri utanferð mikil til sæmdar, þá mun  
*as to-you became the former voyage great to honor then will*  
þér verða sjá miklu meir til sæmdar. Munt þú koma út  
*to-you become this much more to honor Will you come out*  
með mannvirðingu mikilli ok verða maðr gamall, ok mun  
*with esteem great and become a-man old and will*  
engi maðr hér þá á sporði þér standa. Enn ef þú ferr eigi  
*no man here then on heel your stand But if you go not*  
utan ok rýfr sætt þína, þá munt þú drepinn vera hér á  
*abroad and break settlement your then will you slain be here in*  
landi — ok er þat ilt at vita þeim er vinir þínir eru”.  
*(the)-land and is that ill to know for-them who friends your are*  
Gunnarr kvaðst ekki ætla að rjúfa sættir. Gunnarr ríðr  
*Gunnar said-of-himself not to-intend to break settlements Gunnar rides*  
heim ok segir sættina. Rannveig móðir hans kvað þat vel,  
*home and tells the-settlement Rannveig mother his said that well*  
at hann færi utan ok ætti þeir við annan at deila fyrst.  
*that he went abroad and had they with another to contend at-first*

## LXXV • GUNNARR TURNS BACK

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*Dráinn and Njáll's sons Grímr and Helgi also go abroad. Riding to the ship, Gunnarr's horse stumbles, and he looks back at Hlíðarendi, says the slope has never seemed so fair, and will not go. Kolskeggr keeps the settlement and sails alone, never to see Iceland again. Gunnarr is outlawed, and Gizurr gathers forty men who pledge by handsbake to kill him, though Hjalti refuses. Gunnarr declines Njáll's offer of his sons as guards, asks him to look after Högni, and rides to every assembly as if he were not an outlaw.*

Þráinn Sigfússon sagði þat konu sinni, at hann ætlaði at  
*Thrain Sigfus's-son told that wife his that he intended to*  
 fara utan þat sumar. Hon kvað þat vel vera. Tók hann  
*go abroad that summer She said that well to-be Took he*  
 sér þá fari með Högna hinum hvíta. Gunnarr tók  
*for-himself then passage with Hogni the White Gunnar took*  
 sér fari með Arnfinni hinum víkverska ok Kolskeggr  
*for-himself passage with Arnfinn the Vik-man and Kolskegg*  
 bróðir hans. Þeir Grímr ok Helgi Njálssynir báðu föður  
*brother his They Grim and Helgi Njalssons asked father*  
 sinn, at hann leyfði þeim at fara utan. Njáll mælti: "Erfið  
*their that he allowed them to go abroad Njal spoke Difficult*  
 mun ykkur verða utanferð sjá, svá at tvísýnt mun ykkur  
*will to-you-two be voyage this so that doubtful will to-you-two*  
 verða þykkja, hvárt þit haldið lífinu — enn þó munuð  
*be seem whether you-two keep the-life but yet will*  
 þit fá sæmd í sumu ok mannvirðing — enn eigi örvænt,  
*you-two get honor in some and esteem but not hopeless*  
 at af leiði vandræði, er þit komið út". Þeir báðu  
*that from-(it) lead troubles when you-two come out They asked*  
 jafnan at fara. Ok þat varð, at hann bað þá fara, ef þeir  
*always to go And that happened that he bade them go if they*  
 vildi. Réðu þeir sér þá far með Bárði svarta ok  
*wished Took they for-themselves then passage with Bard (the)-Black and*  
 Óláfi syni Ketils ór Eldu. Ok er nú mikil umræða á,  
*Olaf son of-Ketil out-of Elda And is now great talk on-(it)*  
 at mjök leysist á braut hinir betri menn ór sveitinni.  
*that much depart off away the better men out-of the-district*  
 Þeir váru þá frumvaxta synir Gunnars Högni og Grani.  
*They were then grown-up sons of-Gunnar Hogni and Grani*  
 Þeir váru menn óskapglíkir: hafði Grani mikit af skaplyndi  
*They were men unlike-in-temper had Grani much of disposition*

móður sinnar, enn Högni var vel at sér. Gunnarr lætr  
*of-mother his but Hogni was well at himself Gunnar has*  
 flytja vöru þeira bræðra til skips. Ok þá er öll föng  
*carry (the)-wares of-those brothers to (the)-ship And then when all gear*  
 Gunnars váru til skips komin ok skip var mjök búit,  
*of-Gunnar was to (the)-ship come and (the)-ship was much ready*  
 þá ríðr Gunnarr til Bergþórshváls ok á aðra bæi at finna  
*then rides Gunnar to Bergthorshval and to other farms to meet*  
 menn ok þakkaði liðveizlu öllum þeim er honum höfðu  
*men and thanked for-support all those who him had*  
 lið veitt. Annan dag eftir býr hann snimmendis  
*support given (The)-second day after makes-ready he early*  
 ferð sína til skips ok sagði þá öllu liði, at hann  
*journey his to (the)-ship and told then all household that he*  
 myndi ríða í braut alfari. Ok þótti mönnum þat mikit —  
*would ride off away for-good And seemed to-men that much*  
 enn væntu þó tilkvámu hans síðar. Gunnarr hverfr til allra  
*but expected yet (the)-return his later Gunnar turns to all*  
 heimamanna sinna, er hann var búinn, og gengu menn út  
*household-men his when he was ready and went men out*  
 með honum allir. Hann stingr niðr atgeirinum ok stiklar  
*with him all He sticks down the-halberd and vaults*  
 í söðulinn, ok ríða þeir Kolskeggr í braut. Þeir ríða  
*into the-saddle and ride they Kolskegg(-and-be) off away They ride*  
 fram at Markarfljóti (ok ofan með því). Þá drap hestr  
*forth to Markarfljot and down along it Then stumbled (the)-horse*  
 Gunnars fæti, ok stökk hann af baki. Honum varð  
*of-Gunnar with-(its)-foot and leaped he off back To-him became*  
 litit upp til hlíðarinnar ok bæjarins at Hlíðarenda. Þá  
*a-look up to the-slope and the-farm at Hlidarendi Then*  
 mælti hann: “Fögr er hlíðin, svá at mér hefir hon aldri  
*spoke he Fair is the-slope so that to-me has it never*

jafnfögr sýnzt — bleikir akrar, enn slegin tún —, ok mun  
*equally-fair seemed pale fields but mown homefields and will*  
 ek riða heim aftir ok fara hvergi". "Ger þú eigi þann óvina  
*I ride home back and go nowhere Do you not that of-enemies*  
 fagnað", segir Kolskeggr, "at þú rjúfir sætt þína; því at  
*joy says Kolskegg that you break settlement your because that*  
 þér myndi engi maðr þat ætla. Ok munt þú þat ætla mega,  
*to-you would no man that expect And will you that expect be-able*  
 at svá mun alt fara, sem Njáll hefir sagt". "Hvergi mun  
*that so will all go as Njal has said Nowhere will*  
 ek fara", segir Gunnarr, "ok svá vilda ek at þú gerðir".  
*I go says Gunnar and so would-wish I that you did*  
 "Eigi skal þat", segir Kolskeggr, "hvártki skal ek á þessu  
*Not shall that says Kolskegg neither shall I on this*  
 niðast ok á engu öðru, því er mér er til trúat; ok mun  
*act-basely and on nothing other that which to-me is to trusted and will*  
 sjá einn hlutr svá vera, at skilja mun með okkr. Enn seg  
*this one thing so be that part will between us-two But tell*  
 þat móður minni ok frændum mínum, at ek ætla ekki at  
*that to-mother my and kinsmen my that I intend not to*  
 sjá Ísland; því at ek mun spyrja þik látinn, frændi, ok  
*see Iceland because that I will learn you dead kinsman and*  
 heldr mik þá ekki til útferðar". Skilr þá með þeim. Ríðr  
*holds me then nothing to going-back Parts then between them Rides*  
 Gunnarr heim til Hlíðarenda, enn Kolskeggr ríðr til skips  
*Gunnar home to Hlidarendi but Kolskegg rides to (the)-ship*  
 ok ferr utan. Hallgerðr varð fegin Gunnari, er hann kom  
*and goes abroad Hallgerd became glad at-Gunnar when he came*  
 heim, enn móðir hans lagði fátt til. Gunnarr sitr nú heima  
*home but mother his laid little to Gunnar sits now at-home*  
 þetta haust ok vetrinn ok hafði ekki mart manna um sik.  
*this autumn and the-winter and had not many men about himself*



Líðr nú vetr ór garði. Óláfr pái sendi Gunnari mann ok  
*Passes now winter out-of yard Olaf Peacock sent Gunnar a-man and*  
 bað hann fara vestr þangat ok Hallgerði, enn fá bú í  
*bade him go west thither and Hallgerd but give (the)-farm into*  
 hendr móður sinni ok Högna syni sínum. Gunnari þótti þat  
*hands of-mother his and Hogni son his To-Gunnar seemed that*  
 fýsilegt fyrst ok játaði því; enn þá er at kom, þá vildi  
*attractive at-first and agreed to-that but then when to came then would*  
 hann eigi. Enn á þingi um sumarit lýsa þeir Gizurr  
*he not But at (the)-assembly in the-summer declare they Gizur(-and-bis)*  
 sekt Gunnars at Lögbergi. Enn áðr þinglausnir váru,  
*(the)-outlawry of-Gunnar at (the)-Law-Rock But before assembly-close were*  
 stefndi Gizurr öllum óvinum Gunnars í Almannagjá: Starkaði  
*summoned Gizur all enemies of-Gunnar to Almannagja Starkad*  
 undan Þríhyrningi ok Þorgeiri syni hans, Merði ok Valgarði  
*from-under Thrihyrning and Thorgeir son his Mord and Valgard*  
 hinum grá, Geir goða ok Hjalta Skeggjasyni, Þorbrandi  
*the Gray Geir (the)-Priest and Hjalti Skeggi's-son Thorbrand*  
 ok Ásbrandi Þorleikssonum, Eilífi ok Önundi syni hans,  
*and Asbrand Thorleik's-sons Eilif and Onund son bis*  
 Önundi ór Trollaskógi, Þorgrími austmanni ór Sandgili.  
*Onund out-of Trollaskog Thorgrim (the)-Norwegian out-of Sandgil*  
 Gizurr mælti: “Ek vil bjóða yðr, at vér farim at Gunnari  
*Gizur spoke I will offer you that we go at Gunnar*  
 í sumar ok drepim hann”. Hjalti mælti: “Því hét ek  
*in summer and kill him Hjalti spoke That promised I*  
 Gunnari hér á þingi, þá er hann gerði mest fyrir mín  
*Gunnar here at (the)-assembly then when he did most for my*  
 orð, at ek skylda aldri vera í atföllum við hann; ok skal  
*words that I should never be in attacks against him and shall*  
 svá vera”. Síðan gekk Hjalti í braut. Enn þeir réðu atför  
*so be Then went Hjalti off away But they planned attack*

við Gunnar, er eftir váru, ok höfðu handtak at ok  
*against Gunnar who left were and had handshake on-(it) and*  
 lögðu við sekt, ef nakkvarr gengi ór. Mördör skyldi halda  
*laid at-(it) a-fine if anyone went out Mord should keep*  
 njósnum til, nær best gæfi færi á Gunnari — ok váru þeir  
*watches for when best gave chance on Gunnar and were they*  
 fjórir tígir manna í þessu sambandi. Þótti þeim sér nú  
*four tens of-men in this alliance Seemed to-them themselves now*  
 lítit mundu fyrir verða at veiða Gunnar, er í brautu var  
*little would before be to hunt Gunnar since off away was*  
 Kolskeggr ok Þráinn ok margir aðrir vinir Gunnars. Riðu  
*Kolskegg and Thrain and many other friends of-Gunnar Rode*  
 menn heim af þingi. Njáll fór at finna Gunnar ok  
*men home from (the)-assembly Njal went to meet Gunnar and*  
 sagði honum sekt hans ok ráðna atför við hann. “Vel  
*told him outlawry his and planned attack against him Well*  
 þykki mér þér fara” sagði Gunnarr, “er þú gerir mik varan  
*seems to-me you do said Gunnar when you make me warned*  
 við”. “Nú vil ek”, segir Njáll, “at Skarphedinn fari til þín  
*of-(it) Now will I says Njal that Skarphedin go to you*  
 ok Höskuldr sonr minn, ok munu þeir leggja sitt líf við  
*and Hoskuld son my and will they lay their life with*  
 þitt líf”. “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Gunnarr, “at synir þínir  
*your life Not will I that says Gunnar that sons your*  
 sé drepnir fyrir mínar sakar, ok átt þú annat at mér”.  
*be killed for my sakes and have you other from me*  
 “Fyrir ekki mun þat koma” sagði Njáll, “þangat mun snúit  
*For nothing will that come said Njal thither will turned*  
 vandræðum, þá er þú ert látinn, sem synir mínir eru”.  
*troubles then when you are dead as sons my are*  
 “Eigi er þat óglílegt”, segir Gunnarr, “enn eigi vilda  
*Not is that unlikely says Gunnar but not would-wish*

ek at þat hlytist af mér til. Enn þess vil ek biðja þik  
*I that that resulted from me to But this will I ask you*  
 ok yðr feðga, at þér sjáið á með Högna syni mínum.  
*and you father-and-sons that you see on with Hogni son my*  
 Enn ek tala þar ekki til, er Grani er; því at hann  
*But I speak there nothing to where Grani is because that he*  
 gerir mart ekki at mínu skapi". Njáll hét því ok reið  
*does much not after my mind Njal promised that and rode*  
 heim. Þat er sagt, at Gunnarr reið til allra mannfunda ok  
*home That is said that Gunnar rode to all gatherings and*  
 lögþinga, ok þorðu aldri óvinir hans á hann at ráða. Fór  
*law-assemblies and dared never enemies his on him to attack Went*  
 svá fram nakkvara hríð, at hann fór sem ósekr maðr.  
*so forth some while that he went as not-outlawed a-man*

LXXVI · THE DEATH OF SÁMR

*In autumn Mörðr sends word that Gunnarr is alone at home while his men are in the islands. Gizurr, Geirr, and their men ride to Hlíðarendi. Knowing they cannot surprise Gunnarr while the dog lives, they force the neighboring farmer Þorkell to lure Sámr away into the lanes. The dog recognizes the ambush and leaps at Þorkell, tearing open his groin. Önundr of Trollaskógr splits Sámr's skull, and the dog dies howling.*

Um haustit sendi Mörðr Valgarðsson orð, at Gunnarr myndi  
*In the-autumn sent Mord Valgard's-son word that Gunnar would*  
 vera einn heima enn lið alt myndi vera niðri í eyjum  
*be alone at-home but company all would be down-below in (the)-islands*  
 at lúka heyverkum. Riðu þeir Gizurr hvíti og Geirr  
*to finish haymaking Rode they Gizur (the)-White and Geir*  
 goði austr yfir ár, þegar þeir spurðu þat, og austr yfir  
*(the)-Priest east over rivers as-soon-as they learned that and east over*

sanda til Hofs. Þá sendu þeir orð Starkaði undir Þríhyrningi,  
*sands to Hof Then sent they word to-Starkad under Thrihyrning*  
 ok fundust þeir þar allir, er at Gunnari skyldu fara, ok  
*and met they there all who at Gunnar should go and*  
 réðu, hversu þeir skyldi með fara. Mörðr sagði, að þeir  
*planned how they should with go Mord said that they*  
 myndi eigi koma á óvart Gunnari, nema þeir tæki búanda  
*would not come on unawares Gunnar unless they took (the)-farmer*  
 af næsta bæ, er Þorkell hét, ok léti hann fara nauðgan  
*from (the)-next farm who Thorkel was-called and had him go forced*  
 með sér at taka hundinn Sám — ok færi hann einn heim á  
*with them to take the-dog Sam and went he alone home to*  
 bæinn. Fóru þeir síðan austr til Hlíðarenda, enn sendu menn  
*the-farm Went they then east to Hlidarendi but sent men*  
 að fara eftir Þorkatli. Þeir tóku hann höndum ok gerðu  
*to go after Thorkel They took him with-hands and made*  
 honum tvá kosti: at þeir myndi drepa hann — ella skyldi  
*him two choices that they would kill him or should*  
 hann taka hundinn. Enn hann keyri heldr at leysa líf sitt ok  
*he take the-dog But he chose rather to save life his and*  
 fór með þeim. Traðir váru fyrir ofan garðinn at Hlíðarenda,  
*went with them Lanes were before above the-yard at Hlidarendi*  
 ok námu þeir þar staðar með flokkinn. Þorkell búandi gekk  
*and stopped they there still with the-band Thorkel (the)-farmer went*  
 heim á bæinn — ok lá rakkinn á húsum uppi, ok teygir  
*home to the-farm and lay the-bound on houses up and lures*  
 hann rakkann á braut í traðirnar með sér. Í því sér  
*he the-bound off away into the-lanes with himself In that sees*  
 hundrinn, at þar eru menn fyrir, ok hleypr á hann Þorkel  
*the-dog that there are men before and leaps at him Thorkel*  
 upp ok grípr nárann ok rífr þar á hol. Önuendr ór  
*up and grips the-groin and tears there into (the)-cavity Onund out-of*

Trollaskógi hjó með öxi í höfuð hundinum svá at alt  
*Trollaskog      hewed with an-axe into (the)-head of-the-dog      so that all*  
 kom í heilann. Hundrinn kvað við hátt, svá at þat þótti  
*came into the-brain The-dog      howled at-(it) loudly so that that seemed*  
 þeim með ódæmum miklum vera, ok fell hann dauðr niðr.  
*to-them with wonders great      to-be and fell he dead down*

## LXXVII · THE DEATH OF GUNNARR

*Gunnarr wakes to Sámrr's howl and says his own death is near. He spears the Norwegian Þorgrímr through the window and holds off the attack with arrows, and Gizurr twice refuses Mörðr's advice to burn him in, so they wind the roof off with ropes. When Þorbrandr cuts his bowstring, Gunnarr kills him, and Hallgerðr refuses him two locks of her hair for a new string, in revenge for the slap. He wounds eight more men before he is killed. Gizurr forbids plunder, and Hróaldr and Þorgeirr Starkaðarson each boast of wounding him.*

Gunnarr vaknaði í skálanum ok mælti: “Sárt ert þú leikinn,  
*Gunnarr      woke in the-hall and spoke      Sorely are you treated*  
 Sámrr fóstari — ok búð svá sé til ætlat, at skamt skyli  
*Sam      foster-son and ask so be to intended that short shall*  
 okkar í meðal”. Skáli Gunnars var gerr af viði einum  
*of-us-two in between (The)-hall of-Gunnarr was made of wood alone*  
 ok súðþakiðr utan — ok gluggar hjá brúnásunum ok snúin  
*and clinker-roofed outside and windows by the-ridge-beams and turned*  
 þar fyrir speld. Gunnarr svaf í lofti einu í skálanum  
*there before shutters Gunnarr slept in an-upper-room one in the-hall*  
 ok Hallgerðr og móðir hans. Enn er þeir kvámu at  
*and Hallgerd and mother his But when they came to*  
 bænum, vissu þeir eigi, hvárt Gunnarr myndi heima vera.  
*the-farm knew they not whether Gunnarr would at-home be*

Gizurr mælti, at nakkvarr skyldi fara heim á húsinn ok  
*Gizur spoke that someone should go home onto the-houses and*  
 vita hvat af kannaði. Enn þeir settust niðr á völinn  
*see what of discovered But they sat-themselves down on the-field*  
 meðan. Þorgrímr austmaðr gekk upp á skálann. Gunnarr  
*meanwhile Thorgrim (the)-Norwegian went up onto the-hall Gunnar*  
 sér, at rauðan kyrtill berr við glugginum, ok leggr út með  
*sees that a-red tunic moves by the-window and thrusts out with*  
 atgeirinum á hann miðjan. Þorgrími skruppu fætrnir ok  
*the-halberd at him middle To-Thorgrim slipped the-feet and*  
 varð lauss skjöldrinn, ok hrataði hann ofan af þekjunni.  
*became loose the-shield and tumbled he down from the-roof*  
 Gengr hann síðan at þeim Gizuri þar er þeir sátu  
*Goes he then to them Gizur(-and-his) there where they sat*  
 á vellinum. Gizurr leit við honum ok mælti: “Hvært er  
*on the-field Gizur looked at him and spoke Whether is*  
 Gunnarr heima?” “Vitið þér þat — enn hitt vissa ek,  
*Gunnar at-home Find-out you that but the-other knew I*  
 at atgeirr hans var heima” segir austmaðrinn. Fell hann  
*that halberd his was at-home says the-Norwegian Fell he*  
 þá niðr dauðr. Þeir sóttu þá heim at húsunum. Gunnarr  
*then down dead They attacked then home at the-houses Gunnar*  
 skaut út örum at þeim ok varðist vel, ok gátu þeir  
*shot out with-arrows at them and defended-himself well and could they*  
 ekki at gert. Þá hljópu sumir á húsinn upp ok ætluðu  
*nothing to do Then leaped some onto the-houses up and intended*  
 þaðan at at sækja. Gunnarr kom þangat at þeim örunum,  
*thence at to attack Gunnar came thither at them with-the-arrows*  
 og gátu þeir ekki at gert, ok fór svá fram um hrið. Þeir  
*and could they nothing to do and went so forth for a-while They*  
 tóku hvíld ok sóttu at í annat sinn. Gunnarr skaut enn út  
*took rest and attacked at in a-second time Gunnar shot again out*

örunum, ok gátu þeir enn ekki at gert ok hrukku frá í  
*with-the-arrows and could they again nothing to do and drew-back from in*  
annat sinn. Þá mælti Gizurr hvíti: “Sækjum at betr, ekki  
*a-second time Then spoke Gizur (the)-White Attack-we at better nothing*  
verðr af oss”. Gerðu þeir þá hrið hina þriðju ok váru við  
*becomes of us Made they then assault the third and were at-(it)*  
lengi. Eftir þat hrukku þeir frá. Gunnarr mælti: “Ör liggr  
*long After that drew-back they from Gunnar spoke An-arrow lies*  
þar úti á veggnum, ok er sú af þeira örum, ok skal ek  
*there outside on the-wall and is that of their arrows and shall I*  
þeiri skjóta til þeira, — ok er þeim þat skömm, ef þeir  
*with-that shoot at them and is to-them that shame if they*  
fá geig af vápnum sínum”. Móðir hans mælti: “Ger þú  
*get harm from weapons their Mother his spoke Do you*  
eigi þat, son minn, at þú vekir þá, er þeir hafa áðr frá  
*not that son my that you rouse them when they have before from*  
horfit”. Gunnarr þreif örina ok skaut til þeira, ok kom á  
*turned Gunnar seized the-arrow and shot at them and came on*  
Eilíf Önundarson, ok fékk hann af sár mikit. Hann  
*Eilíf Onund's-son and got he from-(it) a-wound great He*  
hafði staðið einn saman; ok vissu þeir eigi, at hann var  
*had stood alone together and knew they not that he was*  
særðr. “Hönd kom þar út”, segir Gizurr — “ok var á  
*wounded A-hand came there out says Gizur and was on-(it)*  
gullhringr — ok tók ör, er lá á veggnum; ok myndi  
*a-gold-ring and took an-arrow which lay on the-wall and would*  
eigi út leitast viðfanga, ef gnógt væri inni: ok skulu vér nú  
*not outside sought supplies if enough were inside and shall we now*  
sækja at”. Mörðr mælti: “Brennu vér hann inni”. “Þat skal  
*attack at Mord spoke Burn we him inside That shall*  
verða aldri”, segir Gizurr, “þó at ek vita, at líf mitt liggi  
*be never says Gizur though that I know that life my lie*

við. Er þér sjálfrátt at leggja til ráð þau er dugi, svá  
*at-stake Is to-you in-your-power to lay to counsels those which avail so*  
 slægr maðr sem þú ert kallaðr. Strengir lágu á vellinum ok  
*sly a-man as you are called Ropes lay on the-field and*  
 váru hafðir til at festa með hús jafnan. Mörðr mælti: “Töku  
*were used for to fasten with houses always Mord spoke Take*  
 vér strengina ok berum um ássendana, enn festum aðra  
*we the-ropes and bring around the-beam-ends but fasten (the)-other*  
 endana um steina ok snúum í vindása ok vindum af ræfrit  
*the-ends around stones and twist in windlasses and wind off the-roof*  
 af skálanum”. Þeir tóku strengina ok veittu þessa umbúð  
*from the-hall They took the-ropes and made this arrangement*  
 alla, ok fann Gunnarr eigi fyrr enn þeir höfðu undit alt  
*all and noticed Gunnar not before than they had wound all*  
 þakit af skálanum. Gunnarr skýtr þá af boganum svá at  
*the-roof off the-hall Gunnar shoots then with the-bow so that*  
 þeir komast aldri at honum. Þá mælti Mörðr í annat sinn,  
*they get never at him Then spoke Mord in a-second time*  
 at þeir myndi brenna Gunnar inni. Gizurr svarar: “Eigi veit  
*that they would burn Gunnar inside Gizur answers Not know*  
 ek, hvi þú vill þat mæla, er engi vill annarra, ok skal þat  
*I why you will that speak which none wishes of-others and shall that*  
 aldri verða”. Í þessu bili hleypr upp á vegginn Þorbrandr  
*never be In this moment leaps up onto the-wall Thorbrand*  
 Þorleiksson ok höggr í sundr bogastrenginn Gunnars.  
*Thorleik's-son and hews in asunder the-bowstring of-Gunnar*  
 Gunnarr þrífir atgeirinn báðum höndum ok snýst at honum  
*Gunnar seizes the-halberd with-both hands and turns toward him*  
 skjótt ok rekr í gegnum hann atgeirinn ok kastar honum  
*quickly and drives in through him the-halberd and throws him*  
 dauðum á völinn. Þá hljóp upp Ásbrandr bróðir hans.  
*dead onto the-field Then leaped up Asbrand brother his*



Gunnarr leggr til hans atgeirinum, ok kom hann skildi  
*Gunnar thrusts at him with-the-halberd and brought he (the)-shield*  
 fyrir sik. Atgeirrinn rendi í gegnum skjöldinn ok svá  
*before himself The-halberd ran in through the-shield and so*  
 meðal handleggjanna. Snaraði Gunnarr þá svá fast atgeirinn,  
*between the-forearms Twisted Gunnar then so hard the-halberd*  
 at skjöldrinn klofnaði, enn brotnuðu báðir handleggirnir —  
*that the-shield split but broke both the-forearms*  
 ok fell hann út af vegginum. Áðr hafði Gunnarr særða  
*and fell he out off the-wall Before had Gunnar wounded*  
 átta menn, enn vegit þá tvá. Þá fekk Gunnarr sár tvau;  
*eight men but slain those two Then got Gunnar wounds two*  
 ok sögðu þat allir menn, at hann brygði sér hvártki við  
*and said that all men that he flinched himself neither at*  
 sár né við bana. Hann mælti til Hallgerðar: “Fá mér leppa  
*wounds nor at death He spoke to Hallgerd Give me locks*  
 tvá ór hári þínu ok snúið þit móðir mín saman til  
*two out-of hair your and twist you-two mother my together to*  
 bogastrengs mér”. “Liggr þér nakkvat við?” segir hon. “Líf  
*bowstring for-me Lies to-you anything at-stake says she Life*  
 mitt liggr við”, segir hann, “því at þeir munu mik aldri  
*my lies at-stake says he because that they will me never*  
 fá sóttan, meðan ek kem boganum við”. “Þá skal ek nú”,  
*get attacked while I bring the-bow to-bear Then shall I now*

segir hon, “muna þér kinnhestinn; og hirði ek aldri, hvárt  
*says she remember you the-slap and care I never whether*  
 þú ver þik lengr eða skemr”. Gunnarr kvað þá vísu:  
*you defend yourself longer or shorter Gunnar spoke then a-verse*

Hverr hefr dreyrgra darra

*Who has of-bloody of-spears*

dómreynir til sóma

*judgment-tester to honor*

niðr drepr sveigar Sága

*down strikes of-beaddress Saga*

síns ágætis mínum.

*his fame to-my*

Öngr skal lítils lengi

*None shall of-little long*

liðs ráðandi biðja;

*of-help ruler ask*

fús verðr fagrmjöls dísi

*eager becomes of-fair-meal to-goddess*

Fenju hönd á venju.

*of-Fenja hand to custom*

“Hefir hverr til síns ágætis nakkvat”, segir Gunnarr, “ok

*Has each to his fame something says Gunnar and*

skal þik þessa eigi lengi biðja”. Rannveig mælti: “Illa ferr

*shall you this not long ask Rannveig spoke Ill goes*

þér, ok mun þín skömm lengi uppi”. Gunnarr varði sig

*to-you and will your shame long up Gunnar defended himself*

vel og fræknlega, ok særir nú aðra átta menn svá stórum

*well and valiantly and wounds now other eight men so with-great*

sárum, at mörgum lá við bana. Gunnarr ver sik þar

*wounds that to-many lay near death Gunnar defends himself there*

til er hann fell af mæði. Þeir særðu hann þá mörgum  
*until that he fell from exhaustion They wounded him then with-many*  
 stórum sárum. Enn þó komst hann ór höndum þeim ok  
*great wounds But yet got he out-of hands their and*  
 varði sik þá enn lengi. Enn þó kom þar, at þeir drápu  
*defended himself then yet long But yet came-(it) there that they killed*  
 hann. Um vörn hans orti Þorkell elfaraskáld í vísu þessi:  
*him About defense his composed Thorkel Elfara-poet in verse this*

Spurðu vér, hvé varðisk

*Learned we how defended-himself*

vígmóðr kjalar slóða

*battle-weary of-keel of-track*

glæðstýrandum geiri

*to-the-glad-steerers with-spear*

Gunnarr fyr Kjöl sunnan.

*Gunnar before Kjöl south*

Sókrýrir vann sára

*Attack-diminisher won of-wounds*

sextán Viðurs mána

*sixteen of-Vidur of-moon*

hriðar herðimeiða

*of-storm to-hardening-trees*

hauðrmens, enn tvá dauða.

*of-earth-necklace and two dead*

Enn svá segir Þormóður Ólafsson:

*And so says Thormod Olaf's-son*

Engr var sólar slongvir

*No was of-sun slinger*

sandheims á Íslandi

*of-sand-home in Iceland*

hróður er af heiðnum lýðum

*praise is of heathen peoples*

hægr Gunnari frægri.

*easy than-Gunnar more-famous*

Viður nam hjálma hríðar

*Tree took of-helmets of-storm*

hlifrunna tvá lífi;

*of-shield-bushes two from-life*

sár gaf stála stýrir

*wounds gave of-steels steerer*

stórum tólf ok fjórum.

*great twelve and four*

Gizurr mælti: “Mikinn öldung höfu vér nú at velli lagit,

*Gizur spoke Great champion have we now to ground laid*

ok hefir oss erfitt veitt — ok mun hans vörn uppi, meðan

*and has us hard given and will his defense up while*

landit er bygt”. Síðan gekk hann til fundar við Rannveigu ok

*the-land is settled Then went he to a-meeting with Rannveig and*

mælti: “Vill þú veita mönnum várum tveimr jörð, er dauðir

*spoke Will you grant men our two earth who dead*

eru — ok sé hér heygðir?” “At heldr tveimr”, segir hon,

*are and be here buried-in-mounds The rather two says she*

“at ek mynda veita yðr öllum”. “Varkunn er þér til þess,

*that I would grant you all Excusable is for-you to that*

er þú mælist”, segir hann, “því at þú hefir mikils mist”,  
*that you say says he because that you have much lost*  
 ok kvað á, at þar skyldi engu ræna og engu spilla —  
*and said on-(it) that there should nothing plunder and nothing spoil*  
 fóru á braut síðan. Þá mælti Þorgeirr Starkaðarson: “Eigi  
*went off away then Then spoke Thorgeir Starkad's-son Not*  
 megu vér vera heima í búum várum fyrir Sigfússonum,  
*may we be at-home in farms our for (the)-Sigfussons*  
 nema þú Gizurr hvíti — eða Geirr goði — sér  
*unless you Gizur (the)-White or Geir (the)-Priest be*  
 suðr hér nakkvara hríð”. “Þetta mun svá vera”, segir Gizurr,  
*south here some while This will so be says Gizur*  
 ok hlutuðu þeir, ok hlaut Geirr eftir at vera. Síðan fór  
*and drew-lots they and drew Geir behind to be Then went*  
 hann í Odda ok settist þar. Hann átti sér son, er  
*he to Oddi and settled-himself there He had himself a-son who*  
 Hróaldr hét. Hann var laungetinn, ok hét Bjartey  
*Hroald was-called He was born-out-of-wedlock and was-called Bjartey*  
 móðir hans ok var systir Þorvalds hins veila, er veginn  
*mother his and was sister of-Thorvald the Ailing who slain*  
 var við Hestlæk í Grímsnesi. Hann hrósaði því, at hann  
*was at Hestlaek in Grimsnes He boasted of-that that he*  
 hefði veitt Gunnari banasár. Hróaldr var í Odda með  
*had given Gunnar (the)-death-wound Hroald was at Oddi with*  
 föður sínum. Þorgeirr Starkaðarson hrósaði öðru sári  
*father his Thorgeir Starkad's-son boasted of-(the)-second wound*  
 at hann hefði Gunnari veitt. Gizurr sat heima at Mosfelli.  
*that he had Gunnar given Gizur sat at-home at Mosfell*  
 Vig Gunnars spurðist ok mæltist illa fyrir um allar  
*(The)-slaying of-Gunnar was-learned and was-spoken ill of in all*  
 sveitir, ok var hann mörgum mönnum mjök harmdauði.  
*districts and was he to-many men much mourned*

*Gunnarr is buried sitting upright in his mound, and Rannveig drives Hallgerðr from Hlíðarendi, where Gunnarr's son Högni takes over the farm. Njáll says the killing of an outlaw cannot be prosecuted, only avenged, and Rannveig keeps the halberd out of the mound for whoever will avenge him. A shepherd and a maid see Gunnarr merry in his mound, and Njáll sends Skarphéðinn to stay with Högni. One moonlit night the two see the mound open and hear Gunnarr recite a verse: he would rather die with his helmet on than yield. They resolve to take vengeance together.*

Njáll kunni illa láti      Gunnars ok svá Sigfússsynir. Þeir  
*Njal took ill (the)-death of-Gunnar and so (the)-Sigfussons They*  
 spurðu, hvárt Njáli þætti nakkvat eiga at lýsa vígsök  
*asked whether to-Njal seemed anything have to declare (the)-slaying-suit*  
 Gunnars ok búa mál til. Hann kvað þat ekki mega,  
*of-Gunnar and prepare (the)-case to-(it) He said that not possible*  
 er maðr var sekr orðinn, ok kvað heldr mundu verða  
*since (the)-man was outlawed become and said rather would come*  
 at veita þeim í því vegskarð at vega nakkvara í hefnd  
*to give them in that an-opening to slay some in vengeance*  
 eftir hann. Þeir urpu haug eftir Gunnar ok létu hann sitja  
*after him They raised a-mound over Gunnar and had him sit*  
 upp í hauginum. Rannveig vildi eigi, at atgeirrinn færi  
*up in the-mound Rannveig wished not that the-halberd went*  
 í hauginn, ok kvað þann einn skyldu á honum taka, er  
*into the-mound and said that-one alone should on it take who*  
 hefna vildi Gunnars. Tók því engi á atgeirinum. Hún var  
*to-avenge wished Gunnar Took therefore none on the-halberd She was*  
 svá hörð við Hallgerði, at henni helt við at hon myndi  
*so harsh toward Hallgerd that to-her came-near to that she would*  
 drepa hana, ok kvað hana valdit hafa vígi sonar síns.  
*kill her and said her caused to-have (the)-slaying of-son her*

Stökk þá Hallgerðr til Grjótár ok Grani sonr hennar. Var  
*Fled then Hallgerd to Grjota and Grani son her Was*  
 þá gert féskifti með þeim: skyldi Högni taka land  
*then made a-property-division between them should Hogni take (the)-land*  
 at Hlíðarenda ok bú á, enn Grani skyldi hafa leigulönd.  
*at Hlidarendi and farm on-(it) but Grani should have rented-lands*  
 Sá atburðr varð at Hlíðarenda, at smalamaðr ok griðkona  
*That event happened at Hlidarendi that a-shepherd and a-maidservant*  
 ráku fé hjá haugi Gunnars. Þeim þótti Gunnarr vera  
*drove livestock by (the)-mound of-Gunnar To-them seemed Gunnar be*  
 kátr ok kveða í hauginum. Fóru þau heim ok sögðu  
*merry and recite in the-mound Went they home and told*  
 Rannveigu móður Gunnars atburðinn; enn hon bað þau fara  
*Rannveig mother of-Gunnar the-event but she bade them go*  
 til Bergþórshváls ok segja Njáli. Þau gerðu svá — enn hann  
*to Bergthorsbol and tell Njal They did so but he*  
 lét segja sér þrim sinnum. Eftir þat talaði hann lengi  
*had tell himself three times After that talked he long*  
 hljótt við Skarpheðin. Síðan tók Skarpheðinn öxi sína ok  
*quietly with Skarphedin Then took Skarphedin axe his and*  
 ferr með þeim til Hlíðarenda. Þau Högni ok Rannveig tóku  
*goes with them to Hlidarendi They Hogni and Rannveig took*  
 við honum allvel ok urðu honum fegin mjök. Rannveig bað,  
*with him very-well and became of-him glad very Rannveig asked*  
 at hann væri þar lengi. Hann hét því. Þeir Högni  
*that he were there long He promised that They Hogni(-and-he)*  
 gengu út ok inn jafnan. Högni var maðr vasklegr ok vel at  
*went out and in always Hogni was a-man valiant and well at*  
 sér gerr ok tortryggr, ok þorðu þau fyrir því eigi at segja  
*himself made and distrustful and dared they for that not to tell*  
 honum fyrirburðinn. Þeir Skarpheðinn ok Högni váru úti  
*him the-portent They Skarphedin and Hogni were outside*

eitt kveld ok váru fyrir sunnan haug      Gunnars. Tunglskin  
*one evening and were on south-of (the)-mound of-Gunnar Moonlight*  
 var hjart, enn stundum dró fyrir. Þeim sýndist haugrinn  
*was bright but sometimes drew before To-them seemed the-mound*  
 opinn ok hafði Gunnarr snúizt      í hauginum ok sá      í  
*open and had Gunnar turned-himself in the-mound and looked in*  
 móti tunglinu. Þeir þóttust      sjá fjögur ljós í hauginum  
*against the-moon They thought-themselves to-see four lights in the-mound*  
 brenna, ok bar hvergi skugga á. Þeir sá, at Gunnarr var  
*burn and bore nowhere shadow on They saw that Gunnar was*  
 kátleggr ok með gleðibragði miklu. Hann kvað vísu — ok  
*merry and with a-cheerful-face great He spoke a-verse and*  
 svá hátt, at þó mátti heyra gerla, þó at þeir væri firr:  
*so loudly that yet could hear clearly though that they were further*

Mælti dögla deilir

*Spoke of-day-swords divider*

dáðum rakkr, sá er háði

*in-deeds bold he who beld*

bjartr með beztu hjarta

*bright with best heart*

benrögn, faðir Högna:

*wound-rain father of-Hogni*



heldr kvaðsk hjalmi faldinn

*rather said-of-himself with-helmet hooded*

hjörpilju sjá vilja

*of-sword-plank this wish*

vættidraugr, enn vægja,

*expectation-tree than yield*

valfreyju stafr, deyja

*of-slain-lady staff to-die*

valfreyju stafr, deyja.

*of-slain-lady staff to-die*

Síðan laukst aftr haugrinn. “Myndir þú trúa”, segir

*Then closed-itself back the-mound Would you believe says*

Skarpheðinn, “ef aðrir segði þér?” “Trúa mynda ek”, segir

*Skarphedin if others told you Believe would I says*

Högni, “ef Njáll segði, því at þat er sagt, at hann ljúgi

*Hogni if Njal told because that it is said that he lies*

aldri”. “Mikit er um fyrirburði slíka”. segir Skarpheðinn, “er

*never Great is about portents such says Skarphedin when*

hann sjálfr vitraði okkr, at hann vildi heldr deyja enn vægja

*he himself revealed to-us-two that he would rather die than yield*

fyrir óvinum sínum, ok kendi okkr þau ráð”. “Engu mun ek

*before enemies his and taught us-two those counsels Nothing will I*

til leiðar koma”, segir Högni, “nema þú vilir mér at veita”. “Nú

*to path bring says Hogni unless you will me to help Now*

skal ek þat muna”, segir Skarpheðinn, “hversu Gunnari fór

*shall I that remember says Skarphedin how Gunnar went*

eftir víg Sigmundar frænda yðvars. Skal eg nú veita þér

*after (the)-slaying of-Sigmund kinsman your Shall I now help you*

slíkt er ek má. Hét faðir minn því Gunnari þar er þú ættir  
*such as I can Promised father my that to-Gunnar there where you had*  
 hlut at eða móðir hans". Gengu þeir síðan heim til Hlíðarenda.  
*share in or mother his Went they then home to Hlidarendi*

## LXXIX · SKARPHEDINN AND HÖGNI TAKE VENGEANCE

*Högni takes down the halberd, which sings, and Rannveig tells him to avenge his father. With two ravens flying beside them, Skarphedinn and Högni go to Oddi, where they kill Tjörvi and Hróaldr, Geirr goði's son, who had boasted of wounding Gunnarr. At Þríhyrningr they kill Starkaðr and Þorgeirr. At Hof Mördr begs for quarter and offers full settlement, and he gives Högni self-judgment.*

Skarphedinn mælti: "Nú skulu vit fara þegar í nótt; því  
*Skarphedin spoke Now shall we-two go at-once in night because*  
 at ef þeir spyrja, at ek em hér, þá munu þeir vera varari  
*that if they learn that I am here then will they be wavier*  
 um sik". "Þínum ráðum vil ek fram fara" segir Högni.  
*about themselves Your counsels will I forth follow says Hogni*  
 Eftir þat tóku þeir vörn sín, þá er allir menn váru í  
*After that took they weapons their then when all men were in*  
 rekkjum. Högni tek ofan atgeirinn, ok söng í honum hátt.  
*beds Hogni takes down the-halberd and sang in it loudly*  
 Rannveig spratt upp af æði mikilli ok mælti: "Hverr tek  
*Rannveig sprang up with fury great and spoke Who takes*  
 atgeirinn, þar er ek bannaði öllum með at fara?" "Ek ætla",  
*the-halberd there where I forbade all with to go I intend*  
 segir Högni, "at færa föður mínum — ok hafi hann til  
*says Hogni to bring-(it) to-father my and have he to*  
 Valhallar ok beri þar fram á vörnþingi". "Fyrri munt þú  
*Valhalla and bear there forth at weapon-assembly Sooner will you*

nú bera hann", segir hon, "ok hefna föður þíns; því at  
*now bear it says she and avenge father your because that*  
 atgeirrinn segir manns bana eins eða fleiri". Síðan gekk Högni  
*the-halberd tells a-man's death one or more Then went Hogni*  
 út ok sagði Skarpheðni orðræðu þeira ömmu hans. Síðan  
*out and told Skarpbedin (the)-words their grandmother his Then*  
 fara þeir til Odda. Hrafnar tveir flugu með þeim alla leið.  
*go they to Oddi Ravens two flew with them all (the)-way*  
 Þeir kvámu um nóttina í Odda. Þeir ráku fénað heim á  
*They came in the-night to Oddi They drove livestock home onto*  
 húsinn. Þá hljóp út Hróaldr ok Tjörvi ok ráku féit upp  
*the-houses Then ran out Hroald and Tjorvi and drove the-livestock up*  
 í geilarnar ok höfðu með sér vörn sín. Skarpheðinn  
*into the-lanes and had with themselves weapons their Skarpbedin*  
 spratt upp ok mælti: "Eigi þarft þú at hyggja at: jafnt er  
*sprang up and spoke Not need you to consider at even is*  
 sem þér sýnist — menn eru hér". Síðan höggv Skarpheðinn  
*as to-you seems men are here Then hews Skarpbedin*  
 Tjörva banahögg. Hróaldr hafði spjót í hendi. Högni hleypr  
*Tjorvi a-death-blow Hroald had a-spear in hand Hogni leaps*  
 at honum. Hróaldr leggir til Högna. Högni hjó í sundr  
*at him Hroald thrusts at Hogni Hogni bewed in asunder*  
 spjótskafit með atgeirinum, enn rekr atgeirrinn í gegnum  
*the-spear-shaft with the-halberd but drives the-halberd in through*  
 hann. Síðan gengu þeir frá þeim dauðum ok snúa þaðan upp  
*him Then went they from them dead and turn thence up*  
 undir Þríhyrning. Skarpheðinn hleypr á hús upp ok reytir  
*under Thrihyrning Skarpbedin leaps onto houses up and plucks*  
 gras; ok ætluðu þeir er inni váru, at fénað væri. Tóku þeir  
*grass and thought they who inside were that livestock were-(it) Took they*  
 feðgar Starkaðr ok Þorgeirr vörn sín ok klæði ok fóru út  
*father-and-son Starkad and Thorgeir weapons their and clothes and went out*

ok hljópu upp um garðinn. Enn er Starkaðr sér Skarpheðinn,  
*and ran up over the-wall But when Starkad sees Skarpbedin*  
 hræðist hann ok vildi aftur snúa. Skarpheðinn höggur hann við  
*grows-afraid he and wished back to-turn Skarpbedin hews him at*  
 garðinum. Þá kemr Högni í móti Þorgeiri ok veigr hann með  
*the-wall Then comes Hogni in against Thorgeir and slays him with*  
 atgeirinum. Þaðan fara þeir til Hofs, ok var Mördur á velli  
*the-halberd Thence go they to Hof and was Mord on (the)-field*  
 úti ok bað sér gríða ok bauð alsætti. Skarpheðinn  
*outside and asked for-himself quarter and offered full-settlement Skarpbedin*  
 sagði Merði víg þeira fjögurra. Skarpinn kvað þá vísu:  
*told Mord (the)-slaying of-those four Skarpbedin spoke then a-verse*

Vér höfum felda fjóra

*We have felled four*

fleinstýranda dýra,

*of-dart-steerer precious*

þeim skaltu beiðir beimum

*to-those shall-you asker to-men*

bylgju logs of fylgja.

*of-wave of-flame — follow*

Kúgum karl svá at ægi

*Cow-we old-man so that terrifies*

kaldráðum hlyn skjalda,

*cold-counseled maple of-shields*

aumr sel þú alla dóma

*wretched band you all judgments*

auðrunnr syni Gunnars.

*wealth-tree to-son of-Gunnar*

“Ok slíka för”, segir Skarpheðinn, “skalt þú fara — eða  
*And such journey says Skarphedin shall you go or*  
 selja Högni sjálfðæmi, ef hann vill taka”. Högni kvaðst  
*band Hogni self-judgment if he will take Hogni said-of-himself*  
 hitt hafa ætlat, at sættast ekki við föðurbana sína. Enn  
*the-other to-have intended to settle not with father's-slayers his But*  
 þó tók hann sjálfðæmi um síðir.  
*yet took he self-judgment at last*

LXXX · THE SETTLEMENT WITH MÖRÐR

*Njáll brings about a settlement between the avengers and Starkaðr's and Þorgeirr's kin. The attack on Gunnarr is taken into account though he was an outlaw, and Mörðr pays all the fines, the award against him being set to match the other exactly. At the Althing Geirr goði and Högni are also reconciled. Njáll arranges Högni's marriage to Alfeidr, daughter of Vetrliði the poet, and their descendants include Einarr Hjaltlendingr. Högni remains Njáll's friend.*

Njáll átti hlut at við þá, er eftirmál áttu eftir þá Starkað  
*Njal had share in with those who (the)-follow-up-case had after them Starkad*  
 ok Þorgeir, at þeir skyldi taka sættum. Ok var heraðsfundr  
*and Thorgeir that they should take settlements And was district-meeting*  
 til lagðr ok teknir menn til gerðar. Ok váru virðir í allir  
*to laid and taken men to (the)-award And were valued in all*  
 hlutir — tilför við Gunnar, þó at hann væri sekr.  
*things (the)-attack against Gunnar though that he were outlawed*  
 Enn slík fégjöld, sem ger váru — þá galt Mörðr  
*But such money-payments as made were then paid Mordr*  
 alt; því at þeir luku eigi fyrr upp gerð á hendr  
*all because that they declared not sooner up (the)-award against hands*  
 honum, enn gert var áðr um hitt málit, ok létu þeir þat  
*him than awarded was before about the-other case and let they that*

á endum standast. Váru þeir þá alsáttir. Enn á þingi  
*at ends match Were they then fully-reconciled But at (the)-assembly*  
 var umræða mikil um mál þeira Geirs goða ok Högna; ok  
*was talk great about case of-them Geir (the)-Priest and Hogni and*  
 kom þar, at þeir sættust — ok helzt sú sætt með þeim  
*came-(it) there that they settled and held that settlement between them*  
 síðan. Bjó Geirr goði í Hlíð til dauðadags, ok er hann  
*after Dwelt Geir (the)-Priest at Hlid to death-day and is he*  
 ór sögunni. Njáll bað konu til handa Högna — Álfeidar  
*out-of the-saga Njal asked-for a-wife to hands of-Hogni Alfeid*  
 dóttur Vetrliða skálds — ok var hon honum gefin. Þeira  
*daughter of-Vetrliði (the)-Poet and was she him given Their*  
 son var Ári, er sigldi til Hjaltlands ok kvángaðist þar. Frá  
*son was Ari who sailed to Shetland and married there From*  
 honum er kominn Einarr Hjaltlendingr hinn vaskasti maðr.  
*him is come Einar (the)-Shetlander the most-valiant man*  
 Högni helt vináttu sinni við Njál, ok er hann ór sögunni.  
*Hogni kept friendship his with Njal and is he out-of the-saga*

## LXXXI • KOLSKEGGR BECOMES GOD'S KNIGHT

*Kolskeggr winters in the Vík and then enters the service of King Sveinn tjúguskegg of Denmark. In a dream a shining man tells him he will be his knight and find him a wife, and a wise man interprets this to mean he will become God's knight. Kolskeggr is baptized in Denmark, spends a winter in Garðaríki, and goes on to Constantinople. There he marries, commands the Varangian Guard, and stays until his death.*

Nú er at segja frá Kolskeggi, at hann kemr til Noregs ok  
*Now is to tell of Kolskegg that he comes to Norway and*  
 er í Vík austr um vetrinn. Enn um sumarit eftir ferr  
*is in (the)-Vík east through the-winter But in the-summer after goes*

hann austr til Danmerkr ok felst á hendi Sveini konungi  
*he east to Denmark and enters-service at hand of-Svein king*  
 tjúguskegg ok hafði þar virðingar miklar. Eina hverja nótt  
*Fork-beard and had there honors great One some night*  
 dreymir bann, at maðr kom at honum. Sá var ljóss,  
*dreams him that a-man came to him That-one was bright*  
 ok þótti honum hann vekja sik. Hann mælti við hann:  
*and seemed to-him he wake him He spoke with him*  
 “Statt upp þú ok far með mér”. “Hvat vill þú mér?” segir  
*Stand up you and go with me What want you of-me says*  
 Kolskegg. Hann mælti: “Ek skal fá þér kvánfang, ok skalt  
*Kolskegg He spoke I shall get you a-marriage and shall*  
 þú vera riddari minn”. Hann þóttist játa því. Eftir  
*you be knight my He thought-himself to-agree to-that After*  
 þat vaknaði hann. Síðför hann til spekinga eins ok sagði  
*that woke he Then-went he to wise-man one and told*  
 honum drauminn. Enn hann réð svá, at hann myndi  
*him the-dream But he interpreted so that he would*  
 fara suðr í lönd ok verða guðs riddari. Kolskegg tók skírn  
*go south into lands and become God's knight Kolskegg took baptism*  
 í Danmörku, enn nam þar þó eigi yndi ok fór austr  
*in Denmark but took there yet not contentment and went east*  
 í Garðaríki ok var þar einn vetr. Þá fór hann þaðan út í  
*to Gardariki and was there one winter Then went he thence out to*  
 Miklagarð ok gekk þar á mála. Spurðist þat til hans, at  
*Miklagard and went there into pay Was-learned that about him that*  
 hann kvánaðist þar ok var höfðingi fyrir Væringjaliði  
*he married there and was chieftain over (the)-Varangian-guard*  
 ok var þar til dauðadags. Ok er hann úr sögu þessi.  
*and was there to death-day And is he out-of saga this*

