

OLD NORSE SERIES • VOLUME 15

THE POETIC EDDA

Sæmundar-Edda

The Poetic Edda

Part One: The Gods, Völund, and Helgi

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

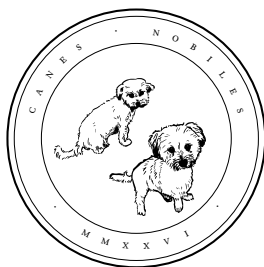


CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

Copyright © 2026 Christopher Hench
All rights reserved

Published by Canes Nobiles

The source text is in the public domain



Volume 15 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Finnur Jónsson's
Sæmundar-Edda. Eddukvæði (Reykjavík, 1905)

Set from page scans of the 1905 printing

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

The spelling is Finnur Jónsson's normalization, with æ and ø beside æ and ö,
and in the verse the older forms *vas* and *es* and the enclitic *ʒ*.

The speaker named beside a stanza is the editor's, as are the rubrics over
the prose. The poems are undivided in the source, so their sections, and every
English section title in the book, are this press's. A line the edition
marks as lost is printed * * *, and a word it marks as corrupt carries †.

CONTENTS

VAFÐRÚÐNISMÁL

1–4 · Frigg’s Counsel	15
5–10 · Gangráðr in the Giant’s Hall	17
11–18 · The Giant Tests the Guest	20
19–23 · The Wager of Heads	24
24–27 · Day, Night, and the Seasons	27
28–31 · The Eldest of the Giants	29
32–35 · The Giant’s Children, and the First Memory	31
36–39 · The Wind and Njörðr	34
40–43 · The Einherjar and the Nine Worlds	36
44–47 · After the Fimbulwinter	39
48–51 · After Surtr’s Fire	41
52–55 · The Last Question	43

GRÍMNISMÁL

The Sons of King Hraðungr	49
Frigg’s Wager	50
1–3 · Grímnir Between the Fires	52
4–10 · The Halls of the Gods	54
11–17 · The Halls of the Gods Continued	58

GRÍMNISMÁL

(continued)

18–23 · The Life of Valhöll	62
24–26 · Bilskirnir and the Beasts on Valhöll	65
27–30 · The Rivers	67
31–36 · Yggdrasill	70
37–41 · The Valkyries, the Sun, and Ymir	73
42–45 · The Best of All Things	76
46–50 · The Names of Óðinn	79
51–54 · Óðinn Revealed	82
The Death of Geirrøðr	85

SKÍRNISMÁL

1–2 · Freyr in Hliðskjálf	89
3–7 · Freyr's Longing	91
8–10 · Horse and Sword	94
11–13 · The Herdsman on the Mound	96
14–18 · Gerðr Lets Him In	98
19–22 · Apples and a Ring	100
23–25 · The Threat of the Sword	102
26–30 · The Curse Begins	104
31–36 · The Runes of Desire	107
37–39 · Gerðr Yields	111
40–42 · Three Nights	113

HÁRBARDSLJÓÐ

1–5 · Þórr at the Sound	117
6–10 · Hárbardr Names Himself	119
11–15 · Hrungrnir	122

HÁRBARDSLJÓÐ

(continued)

16–19 · Hárbardr's Women, Þórr's Giants	124
20–23 · Love-Wives and Giant-Brides	127
24–27 · Óðinn's Jarls and Þórr's Thralls	129
28–32 · The Sons of Svárangr, the Linen-White Maid	131
33–38 · The Berserks' Brides	133
39–43 · The Old Men in the Mounds	135
44–48 · Sif's Lover	137
49–52 · The Delay	138
53–59 · The Long Way Round	140

HYMISKVIÐA

1–4 · A Cauldron for Ægir's Feast	145
5–10 · To Hymir's Hall	148
11–16 · The Giant's Welcome	152
17–19 · The Bait	156
20–24 · Þórr Fishes for the Serpent	159
25–29 · The Unbreakable Cup	162
30–33 · The Giant's Skull	166
34–39 · The Cauldron Won	169

LOKASENNA

1–5 · Loki at Ægir's Door	175
6–10 · Loki Asks for a Seat	179
11–15 · Bragi	182
16–20 · Iðunn and Gefjun	185
21–26 · Óðinn and Frigg	188

LOKASENNA

(continued)

27–32 · Frigg and Freyja	191
33–36 · Njörðr	194
37–42 · Týr and Freyr	197
43–47 · Byggvir and Heimdallr	200
48–52 · Heimdallr and Skaði	203
53–56 · Sif and Beyla	206
57–61 · Þórr Comes Home	208
62–65 · Loki Leaves the Hall	211
The Binding of Loki	213

ÞRYMSKVIÐA

1–4 · The Hammer Is Gone	217
5–8 · Þrymr's Price	219
9–11 · Freyja Is Asked	222
12–13 · Freyja's Refusal	224
14–18 · Heimdallr's Counsel	226
19–20 · The Bride and Her Maid	229
21–23 · Þrymr Waits	230
24–28 · The Bride's Appetite	232
29–33 · The Hammer Comes Home	235

ALVÍSSMÁL

1–4 · The Dwarf Comes for His Bride	243
5–8 · The Match Put to a Test	245
9–14 · Earth, Heaven, and Moon	247
15–20 · Sun, Clouds, and Wind	250

ALVÍSSMÁL

(continued)

21–26 · Calm, Sea, and Fire	254
27–32 · Wood, Night, and Seed	257
33–35 · Caught by the Day	260

BALDRS DRAUMAR

1–3 · Óðinn Rides to Hel	265
4–7 · The Seeress Raised	267
8–11 · Höðr and Váli	270
12–14 · The Seeress Knows Him	273

HYNDLULJÓÐ

1–5 · Freyja Wakes Hyndla	279
6–10 · Óttarr's Wager	283
11–15 · The Fire and the Reckoning	286
16–20 · Hlédís and Halfdanr	289
21–25 · Dagr, Ketill, and the Sons of Arngrímr	293
26–30 · Berserks and Völsungs	296
31–35 · The Memory-Ale	300

RÍGSÞULA

1–6 · Rígr at the House of Ái and Edda	307
7–13 · Þræll and Þír	311
14–20 · Rígr at the House of Afi and Amma	316
21–26 · Karl and Snør	320
27–33 · Rígr at the House of Faðir and Móðir	324
34–40 · Jarl	329

RÍGSPULA

(continued)

41–46 · Konr the Young	334
47–50 · The Crow's Counsel	337

GRÓTTASÖNGR

1–4 · Fenja and Menja at the Mill	343
5–8 · The Grinding of Peace	346
9–12 · The Giant Maidens	348
13–16 · War in Sweden	351
17–20 · Fire in the East	353
21–24 · The Quern Breaks	356

GRÓGALDR OK FJÖLSVINNSMÁL

GRÓGALDR

1–5 · Svipdagr Wakes His Mother	361
6–10 · The First Five Spells	364
11–16 · The Last Four Spells	367

FJÖLSVINNSMÁL

1–6 · Fjölsviðr at the Gate	370
7–12 · Menglöö and Her Gate	374
13–18 · The Hounds	377
19–24 · Mímameiðr and the Cock	380
25–30 · Lævateinn	383
31–36 · The Hall and the Healing Rock	386
37–42 · The Maidens at Menglöö's Knees	390

GRÓGALDR OK FJÖLSVINNSMÁL

(continued)

FJÖLSVINNSMÁL

(continued)

43–46 · Svipdagr Reveals Himself	393
47–50 · The Lovers Meet	395

VÖLUSPÁ EN SKAMMA

1–5 · The Gods and the Giants	401
6–9 · The One Born of Nine Mothers	404
10–14 · The End of the Powers	407

VÖLUNDARKVIÐA

Völundr and the Swan Maidens	413
1–5 · The Swan Maidens Depart	415
6–10 · Niðuðr's Men Take a Ring	418
11–15 · Völundr Bound	421
16–17 · The Queen's Counsel	425
18–21 · Völundr on Sævarstaðr	427
22–26 · The Princes' Skulls	430
27–31 · Völundr Takes Flight	433
32–36 · Völundr's Oaths	436
37–41 · Böðvildr's Confession	440

VÖLSUNGAKVIÐA

1–4 · The Norns at Helgi's Birth	445
5–10 · The Raven's Tidings	448
11–15 · Hundingr's Sons	452
16–20 · Sigrún Comes to Helgi	455
21–25 · Helgi Gathers a Fleet	458

VÖLSUNGAKVIÐA

(continued)

26–30 · The Storm at Sea	461
31–35 · Goðmundr Hails the Fleet	465
36–40 · Sinfjötli and Goðmundr	468
41–45 · The Quarrel Goes On	471
46–50 · Helgi Ends the Quarrel	474
51–55 · Höðbroddr Summons His Host	478
56–60 · The Battle at Frekasteinn	481

HELGA KVIÐA HJÖRVARÐSSONAR

Hjörvarðr's Wives	487
1–4 · The Bird's Bargain	488
5 · The Winning of Sigrlinn	491
6–9 · Sváfa Names Helgi	494
10–11 · Helgi Rebukes His Father	496
Hrímgerðr	498

HRÍMGERÐARMÁL

1–5 · Hrímgerðr at the Fjord	499
6–10 · Atli and Hrímgerðr	502
11–15 · Hrímgerðr Asks for Helgi	505
16–19 · Hrímgerðr Turns to Stone	508

HELGA KVIÐA HJÖRVARÐSSONAR

Heðinn's Vow	510
12–16 · Heðinn Confesses	512
17–19 · Helgi's Death Wound	515
20–24 · Helgi's Farewell	517
25 · Heðinn's Vow of Vengeance	521

Vafþrúðnismál

The Lay of Vafþrúðnir

Óðinn tells Frigg that he longs to visit Vafþrúðnir and match ancient lore with the all-wise giant. Frigg would rather keep him at home, since she knows no giant as strong as Vafþrúðnir. Óðinn answers that he has traveled far and tested the powers often, and wants to see how the giant's hall is kept. Frigg sends him off with her blessing, wishing that his wit may serve him when he speaks with the giant.

ÓÐINN KVAD: Ráð mér nú Frigg

1

Counsel me now Frigg

alls mik fara tíðir

since me to-go (it)-longs

at vitja Vafþrúðnis;

to visit Vafþrúðnir

forvitni mikla

curiosity great

kveðk mér á fornum stöfum

say-I for-myself about ancient staves

við þann enn alsvinna jötun.

with that the all-wise giant

FRIGG KVAD: Heima letja

2

At-home to-hold-back

mundak Herjaföðr

would-I Herjaföðr

í görðum goða;

in (the)-courts of-gods

engi jötun

no giant

hugðak jafnramman

thought-I equally-strong

sem Vafþrúðni vesa.

as Vafþrúðnir to-be

3 Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin;

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hitt vilk vita,

that will-I know

hvé Vafþrúðnis

how of-Vafþrúðnir

salakynni sé.

hall-abode may-be

4 FR. KV. Heill þú farir,

Hale thou mayest-fare

heill þú aptr komir,

bale thou back mayest-come

heill á sinnum sér;

bale on (the)-journeys be-thou

æði þér dugi,

wit thee may-avail

hvars skalt, Aldaföðr,

where-that shalt-thou Aldaföðr

orðum mæla jötun.

with-words speak-with (the)-giant

5-10 • GANGRÁÐR IN THE GIANT'S HALL

Óðinn goes to test the giant's word-wisdom and enters the hall of Hymr's father. He greets Vafþrúðnir and asks whether he is wise or all-wise. The giant demands to know who bandies words with him, and warns that he will not leave unless he proves the wiser. Óðinn calls himself Gangráðr, thirsty from the road. Vafþrúðnir bids him take a seat so they can test who knows more, but Óðinn replies that a poor man before a rich one should say what is needful or keep silent.

För þá Óðinn

Went then Óðinn

at freista orðspeki

to test (the)-word-wisdom

þess ens alsvinna jötuns;

of-that the all-wise giant

at höllu hann kom,

at (the)-hall he came

ok átti Hýms faðir;

and owned of-Hymr (the)-father

inn gekk Yggr þegar.

in went Yggr at-once

5

- 6 Ó. KV. Heill nú, Vafþrúðnir,
Hale now Vafþrúðnir
 nú emk í höll kominn
now am-I into (the)-hall come
 á þik sjalfan séa;
on thee thyself to-look
 hitt vilk fyrst vita,
that will-I first know
 ef fróðr sér
whether wise thou-be
 eða alsviðr jötunn.
or all-wise giant

- 7 V. KV. Hvat 's þat manna,
What is that of-men
 es í mínum sal
who in my hall
 verpumk orði á?
casts-at-me with-word —
 út þú né kómst
out thou not comest
 órum höllum frá,
our balls from
 nema þú enn snotrari sér.
unless thou the wiser be

Ó. KV. Gangráðr heitik,

Gangráðr am-called-I

nú emk af göngu kominn,

now am-I from walking come

þyrstr til þinna sala;

thirsty to thy balls

laðar þurfi

of-welcome in-need

hefk lengi farit

have-I long traveled

ok þinna andfanga, jötunn.

and of-thy reception giant

8

V. KV. Hví þú þá, Gangráðr,

Why thou then Gangráðr

mælisk af golfi fyrir?

speakest from (the)-floor forth

far þú í sess í sal;

go thou into (the)-seat in (the)-hall

þá skal freista,

then shall (one)-test

hvárr fleira viti

which-of-two more may-know

gestr eða enn gamli þulr.

(the)-guest or the old sage

9

- 10 Ó. KV. Óauðigr maðr,
A-poor man
 es til auðigs kómr,
who to a-rich-one comes
 mæli þarft eða þegi;
let-him-speak (the)-needful or be-silent
 ofrmælgi mikil
over-talkativeness great
 hygg at illa geti
think-I that ill may-get
 hveims við kaldrifjaðan kómr.
for-whomever with a-cold-ribbed-one comes

11-18 • THE GIANT TESTS THE GUEST

Vafþrúðnir tests the guest on the floor with four questions. Gangráðr names Skinfaxi, whose mane shines as he draws the day over mankind, and Hrimfaxi, who draws the night and lets fall from his bit the foam that comes as dew in the dales. The river between the giants and the gods is Ífingr, which never freezes, and the plain where Surtr and the gods will meet in battle is Vígríðr, a hundred leagues every way.

- 11 V. KV. Seg mér, Gangráðr,
Say to-me Gangráðr
 alls á golfi vill
since on (the)-floor wilt-thou
 þins of freista frama,
of-thy — try prowess
 hvé hestr heitir,
how (the)-horse is-called

sás hverjan dregr

that-which each draws

dag of dróttmögu.

day over (the)-host-kin

Ó. KV. Skinfaxi heitir,

Skinfaxi is-called

es enn skíra dregr

who the bright draws

dag of dróttmögu;

day over (the)-host-kin

hesta baztr

of-horses best

þykkir með Hreiðgotum;

seems-he among (the)-Hreiðgoths

ey lýsir mön af mari.

ever shines (the)-mane from (the)-steed

12

V. KV. Seg þat, Gangráðr,

Say that Gangráðr

alls á golfi vill

since on (the)-floor wilt-thou

þíns of freista frama,

of-thy — try prowess

hvé jór heitir,

how (the)-steed is-called

13

sás austan dregr
that-which from-the-east draws
 nótt of nýt regin.
night over (the)-beneficent powers

- 14 Ó. KV. Hrímfaxi heitir,
Hrímfaxi is-called
 es hverja dregr
who each draws
 nótt of nýt regin;
night over (the)-beneficent powers
 méldropa fellir
bit-drops lets-fall-he
 morgin hverjan;
morning every
 þaðan kómr dökk of dala.
thence comes dew over dales

- 15 V. KV. Seg þat, Gangráðr,
Say that Gangráðr
 alls á golfi vill
since on (the)-floor wilt-thou
 þins of freista frama,
of-thy — try prowess
 hvé á heitir,
how (the)-river is-called

sús deilir með jötna sonum

that-which divides between of-giants (the)-sons

grund ok með goðum.

(the)-ground and between gods

Ó. KV. Ífing heitir á,

Ífingr is-called (the)-river

es deilir með jötna sonum

which divides between of-giants (the)-sons

grund ok með goðum;

(the)-ground and between gods

opin rinna

open to-run

hón skal of aldrdaga;

it shall through days-of-life

verðrat íss á á.

becomes-not ice on (the)-river

16

V. KV. Seg þat, Gangráðr,

Say that Gangráðr

alls á golfi vill

since on (the)-floor wilt-thou

þíns of freista frama,

of-thy — try prowess

hvé völlr heitir,

how (the)-plain is-called

17

sás finnask vígi at

that-which meet in-battle at

Surtr ok en svásu goð.

Surtr and the sweet gods

18 Ó. KV. Vígriðr heitir völlr,

Vígriðr is-called (the)-plain

es finnask vígi at

which meet in-battle at

Surtr ok en svásu goð;

Surtr and the sweet gods

hundrað rasta

a-hundred of-leagues

hann 's á hverjan veg;

it is in every direction

sá 's þeim völlr vitaðr.

that is to-them (the)-plain appointed

19–23 · THE WAGER OF HEADS

Satisfied that his guest is wise, Vafþrúðnir invites him onto the bench, and the two wager their heads on their wisdom. Now Óðinn asks and the giant answers. The earth was shaped from Ymir's flesh, the rocks from his bones, the heaven from his skull, and the sea from his blood. Mundilfari fathered Máni and Sól, who both must turn through the heaven daily to count the years for men.

19 V. KV. Fróðr est nú gestr,

Wise art-thou now guest

far á bekk jötuns,

go onto (the)-bench of-(the)-giant

mælumk í sessi saman;

let-us-talk in (the)-seat together

höfði veðja

with-(our)-heads to-wager

vit skulum höllu í

we-two shall (the)-hall in

gestr of geðspeki.

guest over wisdom

Ó. KV. Seg þat et eina,

Say that the one

ef þitt æði dugir

if thy wit avails

ok þú Vafprúðnir vitir,

and thou Vafprúðnir knowest

hvaðan jörð of kom

whence (the)-earth — came

eða upphiminn

or (the)-heaven-above

fyrst, enn fróði jötunn.

first the wise giant

20

V. KV. Ór Ymis holdi

Out-of of-Ymir flesh

vas jörð of sköpuð,

was (the)-earth — shaped

en ór beinum björg,

and out-of (the)-bones (the)-rocks

21

himinn ór hausi

heaven out-of (the)-skull

ens hrímkalda jötuns,

of-the rime-cold giant

en ór sveita sær.

and out-of (the)-blood (the)-sea

22 Ó. KV. Seg þat annat,

Say that (the)-second

ef þitt æði dugir

if thy wit avails

ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir

and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest

hvaðan máni of kom,

whence (the)-moon — came

svát ferr menn yfir,

so-that goes men over

eða sól et sama.

or (the)-sun the same

23 V. KV. Mundilfari heitir,

Mundilfari is-called

hann 's Mána faðir

he is of-Máni (the)-father

ok svá Sólar et sama;

and so of-Sól the same

himin hverfa

(the)-heaven to-turn

þau skulu hverjan dag

they shall every day

öldum at ártali.

for-men for reckoning-of-years

24–27 · DAY, NIGHT, AND THE SEASONS

Asked where day and night came from, Vafprúðnir names Dellingr as the father of Dagr, and says Nótt was born of Nörr; the gods made the new and waning moons to count the years for men. Asked about winter and warm summer, he names Vindsvalr as the father of Vetr, and Svásuðr of Sumarr.

Ó. KV. Seg þat þriðja,

Say that (the)-third

24

alls þik svinnan kveða

since thee wise (men)-call

ok þú Vafprúðnir vitir,

and thou Vafprúðnir knowest

hvaðan dagr of kom,

whence day — came

sás ferr drótt yfir,

which goes (the)-host over

eða nótt með niðum.

or night with (the)-moon-phases

- 25 V. KV. Delligr heitir,
Delligr is-called
 hann 's Dags faðir,
he is of-Dagr (the)-father
 en Nótt vas Nörvi borin;
but Nótt was of-Nörr born
 ný ok nið
new-moons and waning-moons
 skópu nýt regin
made (the)-beneficent powers
 öldum at ártali.
for-men for reckoning-of-years

- 26 Ó. KV. Seg þat fjórða,
Say that (the)-fourth
 alls þik fróðan kveða,
since thee wise (men)-call
 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir
and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest
 hvaðan vetr of kom
whence winter — came
 eða varmt sumar
or warm summer
 fyrst með fróð regin.
first among (the)-wise powers

V. KV. Vindsvafr heitir,

Vindsvafr is-called

hann 's Vetrar faðir,

he is of-Vetr (the)-father

en Svásuðr Sumars.

and Svásuðr of-Sumarr

(lacuna)

27

28–31 • THE ELDEST OF THE GIANTS

Óðinn asks who was eldest of the Æsir or Ymir's kin. Vafþrúðnir answers that countless winters before the earth was shaped Bergelmir was born, whose father was Þrúðgelmir and grandfather Aurgelmir. Asked where Aurgelmir came from, he says poison drops spurted out of the Élivágar and grew until a giant came of them; all the giants' kindreds come from there, and that is why they are ever so fierce.

Ó. KV. Seg þat fimta,

Say that (the)-fifth

alls þik fróðan kveða

since thee wise (men)-call

ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,

and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest

hverr ása elztr

who of-(the)-æsir eldest

eða Ymis niðja

or of-Ymir of-(the)-kinsmen

yrði í árdaga.

became in early-days

28

29 V. KV. Ørófi vetra

Countless of-winters

áðr væri jörð sköpuð,

before was (the)-earth shaped

þá vas Bergelmir borinn,

then was Bergelmir born

Þrúðgelmir

Þrúðgelmir

vas þess faðir,

was his father

en Aurgelmir afi.

and Aurgelmir grandfather

30 Ó. KV. Seg þat sétta,

Say that (the)-sixth

alls þik svinnan kveða

since thee wise (men)-call

ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,

and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest

hvaðan Aurgelmir kom

whence Aurgelmir came

með jötna sonum

among of-giants (the)-sons

fyrst, enn fróði jötunn.

first the wise giant

V. KV. Ór Élivágun

31

Out-of (the)-Élivágar

stukku eitrdropar,

spurted poison-drops

svá óx unz ór varð jötunn;

so grew-it till out-of-(them) became a-giant

þar órar ættir

there our kindreds

kómu allar saman;

came all together

því 's þat æ alt til atalt.

therefore is that ever all too terrible

32-35 · THE GIANT'S CHILDREN, AND THE FIRST MEMORY

Asked how the bold giant got children without a giantess, Vafþrúðnir says that a girl and a boy grew together under the rime-giant's arm, and that one of his feet begot on the other a six-headed son. Asked what he remembers first, he answers that countless winters before the earth was shaped Bergelmir was born, and his first memory is of that wise giant being laid on a coffer.

Ó. KV. Seg þat sjaunda,

32

Say that (the)-seventh

alls þik svinnan kveða

since thee wise (men)-call

ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir:

and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest

hvé sá börn gat

how that-one children got

enn baldni jötunn,

the bold giant

es hann hafðit gýgjar gaman.

when he had-not of-a-giantess (the)-pleasure

33 V. KV. Und hendi vaxa

Under (the)-arm to-grow

kóðu hrímpursi.

said-they for-(the)-rime-giant

mey ok mög saman;

a-girl and a-boy together

fótr við fæti:

foot with foot

gat ens fróða jötuns

begot of-the wise giant

sexhöfðaðan son.

a-six-headed son

34 Ó. KV. Seg þat átta,

Say that (the)-eighth

alls þik fróðan kveða

since thee wise (men)-call

ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,

and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest

hvat fyrst of mant
what first — rememberest-thou
 eða fremst of veizt,
or furthest — knowest-thou
 þú est alsviðr jötunn.
thou art all-wise giant

V. KV. Ørófi vetra

35

Countless of-winters

áðr væri jörð of sköpuð,
before was (the)-earth — shaped
 þá vas Bergelmir borinn
then was Bergelmir born
 þat fyrst of mank,
that first — remember-I
 es enn fróði jötunn
when the wise giant
 á vas lúðr of lagiðr.
on was (the)-coffer — laid

The wind, Vafþrúðnir says, comes from the wings of Hræsvelgr, a giant in an eagle's shape who sits at heaven's end. Asked about Njörðr, who rules over countless temples and altars though he was not born among the Æsir, he answers that the wise powers made him in Vanaheimr and gave him as a hostage to the gods, and at the end of the age he will come home among the wise Vanir.

- 36 Ó. KV. Seg þat níunda,
 Say that (the)-ninth
 alls þik svinnan kveða.
 since thee wise (men)-call
 ok þú Vafþrúðnir vitir,
 and thou Vafþrúðnir knowest
 hvaðan vindr of kómr
 whence (the)-wind — comes
 svát ferr vág yfir,
 so-that (it)-goes (the)-wave over
 æ menn hann sjalfan of séa.
 never men it itself — see

- 37 V. KV. Hræsvelgr heitir,
 Hræsvelgr is-called
 es sitr á himins enda
 who sits at of-heaven (the)-end
 jötunn í arnar ham;
 a-giant in of-an-eagle shape

af hans vængjum

from his wings

kveða vind koma

say-they (the)-wind comes

alla menn yfir.

all men over

Ó. KV. Seg þat tíunda,

Say that (the)-tenth

alls þú tíva rök

since thou of-(the)-gods (the)-fates

öll Vafþrúðnir vitir,

all Vafþrúðnir knowest

hvaðan Njörðr of kom

whence Njörðr — came

með niðjum ása

among (the)-kin of-(the)-æsir

(hofum ok hörgum

over-temples and altars

hann ræðr hundmörgum)

he rules hundred-many

ok varðat hann ásum alinn.

and was-not he among-(the)-æsir born

39 V. KV. Í Vanaheimi

In Vanabeimr

skópu hann vís regin

made him (the)-wise powers

ok seldu at gíslingu goðum,

and gave-(him) as hostage to-(the)-gods

í aldar rök

at of-(the)-age (the)-doom

hann mun aptr koma

he will back come

heim með vísun vönum.

home among (the)-wise vanir

40-43 • THE EINHERJAR AND THE NINE WORLDS

Óðinn asks where men hew each other every day, choose the slain, ride from battle, and then sit together reconciled. Vafþrúðnir answers that these are the Einherjar in Óðinn's homesteads. Asked why he knows the secrets of giants and gods so truly, he says he has come to every world, nine worlds down to Niflhel, where men die out of Hel.

40 Ó. KV. Seg þat ellipta,

Say that (the)-eleventh

hvar ýtar túnum í

where men (the)-homesteads in

höggvask hverjan' dag;

hew-each-other every day

val þeir kjósa
(the)-slain they choose
 ok ríða vígi frá,
and ride (the)-battle from
 sitja meir of sáttir saman.
sit further — reconciled together

V. KV. Allir einherjar
All (the)-einherjar

41

Óðins túnum í
of-Óðinn (the)-homesteads in
 höggvask hverjan dag,
hew-each-other every day
 val þeir kjósa
(the)-slain they choose
 ok ríða vígi frá,
and ride (the)-battle from
 sitja meir of sáttir saman.
sit further — reconciled together

Ó. KV. Seg þat tolpata,
Say that (the)-twelfth

42

hví þú tíva rök
why thou of-(the)-gods (the)-fates
 öll Vafþrúðnir vitir,
all Vafþrúðnir knowest

frá jötna rúnum

about of-giants (the)-secrets

ok allra goða

and of-all gods

þú et sannasta segir.

thou the truest sayest

(enn alsvinni jötunn).

the all-wise giant

43 v. kv. Frá jötna rúnum

About of-giants (the)-secrets

ok allra goða

and of-all gods

ek kann segja satt,

I can tell (the)-truth

(þvíat hvern hefk

because each have-I

heim of komit)

world — come-to

níu komk heima

nine came-I worlds

fyr niflhel neðan;

to niflhel beneath

hinig deyja (ór helju) halir.

hither die out-of hel men

Óðinn, who has traveled far, asks who of men will live when the great Fimbulvetr passes. Vafþrúðnir names Líf and Lífþrasir, who will hide in Hoddmímir's wood and live on the morning dew, and from them the ages will be nourished. Asked how a sun will come into heaven when the wolf has devoured this one, he says the elf-disc will bear a daughter before the wolf takes her, and the maid will ride her mother's paths when the gods die.

Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

44

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hvat lifir manna,

who will-live of-men

þás enn mæra líðr

when the famous passes

fimbulvetr með firum?

fimbulvetr among men

V. KV. Líf ok Lífþrasir,

45

Líf and Lífþrasir

en þau leynask munu

and they hide-themselves will

í holti Hoddmímis;

in (the)-wood of-Hoddmímir

morgindöggvar

morning-dews

þau sér at mat hafa;

they for-themselves as food have

þaðan af aldir alask.

thence from (the)-ages are-nourished

46 Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hvaðan kóm söl

whence comes (the)-sun

á enn slétta himin,

onto the smooth heaven

es þessa hefr fenrir farit?

when this has (the)-wolf devoured

47 V. KV. Eina dóttur

One daughter

berr alfröðull,

bears (the)-elf-disc

áðr hana fenrir fari;

before her (the)-wolf devours

sú skal ríða,

she shall ride

þás regin deyja,

when (the)-powers die

móður brautir mætr.

of-(her)-mother (the)-paths (the)-maid

48–51 • AFTER SURTR'S FIRE

Óðinn asks about the wise maidens who go over the sea. Vafþrúðnir answers that three troops of Mögþrasir's maidens fall over the villages, the only guardian spirits in the world, though they were reared among giants. Asked who will hold the gods' possessions when Surtr's flame is quenched, he names Viðarr and Váli in the gods' sanctuaries, and Móði and Magni, who shall have Mjöllnir when the battle ends.

Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

Much I traveled

48

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hverjar ro meýjar,

which are (the)-maidens

es líða mar yfir,

who glide (the)-sea over

fróðgeðjaðar fara.

wise-minded (they)-go

49 V. KV. Þríar þjóðir

Three troops

falla þorp yfir

fall (the)-villages over

meyja Mögþrasis;

of-maidens of-Mögþrasir

hamingjur einar

guardian-spirits only

þærs í heimi eru,

who in (the)-world are

þó þær með jötnum alask.

though they among giants are-nourished

50 Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hverir ráða æsir

which rule (the)-æsir

eignum goða,

(the)-possessions of-(the)-gods

þás sloknar Surta logi?

when is-quenched of-Surtr (the)-flame

V. KV. Viðarr ok Váli

51

Viðarr and Váli

byggva vé goða,

dwelt-in (the)-sanctuaries of-(the)-gods

þás sloknar Surta logi;

when is-quenched of-Surtr (the)-flame

Móði ok Magni

Móði and Magni

skulu Mjöllni hafa

shall Mjöllnir have

Vingnis at vígþroti.

of-Vingnir at (the)-battle's-end

52-55 • THE LAST QUESTION

Asked what will become of Óðinn at the end of life, Vafþrúðnir says the wolf will swallow him and Viðarr will avenge him, cleaving the wolf's cold jaws. Óðinn's last question is what he himself said into his son's ear before the son mounted the pyre. No man knows that, the giant answers: he has spoken with a doomed mouth, for he has contended with Óðinn, ever the wisest.

Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

52

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hvat verðr Óðni

what becomes of-Óðinn

at aldragi

at life's-end

þás rjúfask regin?

when are-torn-apart (the)-powers

53 V. KV. Ulfr gleypa

(The)-wolf to-swallow

mun Aldaföðr,

will Aldaföðr

þess mun Viðarr vrek;

that will Viðarr avenge

kalda kjapta

(the)-cold jaws

hann klyfja mun

he cleave will

vitnis vígi at.

of-(the)-wolf in-(the)-fight at

54 Ó. KV. Fjölð ek fór,

Much I traveled

fjölð freistaðak,

much tried-I

fjölð of reyndak regin,

much — tested-I (the)-powers

hvat mælti Óðinn,

what said Óðinn

áðr á bál stigi,
before onto (the)-pyre (he)-mounted
 sjalfr í eyra syni?
himself into (the)-ear of-(his)-son

V. KV. Ey manni veit,
No man knows

hvat þú í árdaga
what thou in early-days
 sagðir í eyra syni;
saidest into (the)-ear of-(thy)-son

feigum munni
with-doomed mouth
 mæltak mína forna stafi
spoke-I my ancient staves
 ok of ragnarök.
and about ragnarök

(Nú við Óðin
Now with Óðinn
 deildak mína orðspeki;
contended-I my word-wisdom
 þú est æ vísastr vera).
thou art ever wisest of-beings

55

Grímnismál

The Lay of Grímnir

THE SONS OF KING HRAUÐUNGR

King Hrauðungr's sons Agnarr, ten, and Geirrøðr, eight, row out to fish and are driven out to sea, wrecked in the dark, and taken in for the winter by a cottager. The old woman fosters Agnarr and the old man Geirrøðr, whom he takes aside with private counsel before sending them home in spring. At their father's landing Geirrøðr leaps ashore, pushes the boat back out with a curse on his brother, and finds his father dead. He is taken as king and becomes a man of renown.

Frá sonum Hrauðungs konungs. Hrauðungr konungr átti tvá
About (the)-sons of-Hrauðungr (the)-king Hrauðungr (the)-king had two
 sonu; hét annarr Agnarr, en annarr Geirrøðr. Agnarr var
sons was-called one Agnarr and (the)-other Geirrøðr Agnarr was
 tíu vetra, en Geirrøðr átta vetra. Þeir reru tveir á báti með
ten winters and Geirrøðr eight winters They rowed (the)-two in a-boat with
 dorgar sínar at smáfiski. Vindr rak þá í haf út. Í
fishing-lines their for small-fish (The)-wind drove them into (the)-sea out In
 náttmyrkri brutu þeir við land ok gengu upp, fundu
(the)-night-darkness broke-(their-boat) they against land and went up found
 kotbónda einn. Þar vátu þeir um vetrinn. Kerling
cottager a-certain There were they through the-winter (The)-old-woman
 fóstraði Agnar, en karl Geirrøð ok kendi hánun ráð.
fostered Agnarr and (the)-old-man Geirrøðr and taught him counsel
 At vári fekk karl þeim skip. En er þau kerling
In spring got (the)-old-man them a-ship And when they (and-the)-old-woman
 leiddu þá til strandar, þá mælti karl einmæli við
led them to (the)-shore then spoke (the)-old-man in-private with
 Geirrøð. Þeir fengu byr ok kómu til stöðva föður
Geirrøðr They got a-fair-wind and came to (the)-landing-place of-father
 síns. Geirrøðr var fram í skipi. Hann hljóp upp á land en
their Geirrøðr was forward in (the)-ship He leaped up onto land and

hratt út skipinu ok mælti: »farðu nú, þar er smyl hafi
pushed out the-ship and spoke go-thou now there where (the)-trolls may-have
 þik.« Skipit rak í haf út. En Geirrøðr gekk upp til bæjar.
thee The-ship drove into (the)-sea out But Geirrøðr went up to (the)-farm
 Hánun var þar vel fagnat, en faðir hans var þá andaðr.
Him was there well welcomed but father his was then dead
 Var þá Geirrøðr til konungs tekinn ok varð maðr ágætr.
Was then Geirrøðr to king taken and became a-man excellent

FRIGG'S WAGER

From Hliðskjálf Óðinn taunts Frigg that her fosterling Agnarr begets children with a giantess in a cave while his own Geirrøðr is king. Frigg calls Geirrøðr a food-niggard who tortures his guests, and they wager on it. She sends Fulla to warn the king against a sorcerer whom no dog will attack. Geirrøðr seizes a man in a blue cloak who calls himself Grímnir and sets him between two fires for eight nights, until the king's young son Agnarr brings him a full horn, and the fire sings the cloak off.

Óðinn ok Frigg sátu í Hliðskjálfu ok sá um heima
Óðinn and Frigg sat in Hliðskjálf and saw over (the)-worlds
 alla. Óðinn mælti: »sér þú Agnar fóstra þinn, hvar hann
all Óðinn spoke seest thou Agnarr foster-son thy where he
 elr börn við gýgi í hellinum, en Geirrøðr fóstri minn
begets children with a-giantess in the-cave but Geirrøðr foster-son my
 er konungr ok sitr nú at landi?«. Frigg segir: »hann er
is king and sits now in (the)-land Frigg says he is
 matníðingr sá, at hann kvelr gesti sína, ef hánun þykkja
a-food-niggard such that he tortures guests his if to-him seem
 of margir koma«. Óðinn segir, at þat er hin mesta lygi.
too many to-come Óðinn says that that is the greatest lie

Pau veðja um þetta mál. Frigg sendi eskimey sína Fullu til
They wager about this matter Frigg sent handmaid her Fulla to
 Geirrøðar. Hon bað konung varask, at eigi fyrgerði hánun
Geirrøðr She bade (the)-king beware that not should-bewitch him
 fjölkunnigr maðr, sá er þar var kominn í land, ok
a-magic-skilled man that-one who there was come into (the)-land and
 sagði þat mark á, at engi hundr var svá ólmr, at á hann
said that sign on(-him) that no dog was so fierce that on him
 mundi hlaupa. En þat var hinn mesti hégómi, at Geirrøðr
would leap But that was the greatest falsehood that Geirrøðr
 konungr væri eigi matgóðr, ok þó lætr hann handtaka þann
(the)-king were not food-generous and yet has he seize that
 mann, er eigi vildu hundar á ráða. Sá var: í feldi blám
man whom not would dogs on attack He was in a-cloak blue
 ok nefndisk Grímnir ok sagði ekki fleira frá sér, þótt
and called-himself Grímnir and said nothing more of himself though
 hann væri at spurðr. Konungr lét hann pína til sagna ok
he were — asked (The)-king had him torture into speech and
 setja milli elda tveggja, ok sat hann þar átta nætr. Geirrøðr
set between fires two and sat he there eight nights Geirrøðr
 konungr átti þá son tíu vetra gamlan, ok hét Agnarr
(the)-king had then a-son ten winters old and was-called Agnarr
 eptir bróður hans. Agnarr gekk at Grímni ok gaf hánun
after (the)-brother his Agnarr went to Grímnir and gave him
 horn fult at drekka ok sagði, at faðir hans gerði illa, er
a-born full to drink and said that father his did ill when
 hann pindi þenna mann saklausan. Grímnir drakk af. Þá var
he tortured this man guiltless Grímnir drank off Then was
 eldrinn svá kominn, at feldrinn brann af Grímni. Hann kvað:
the-fire so come that the-cloak burned off Grímnir He said

Grímnir bids the fire draw back, for it sings his fur and burns the cloak before him. For eight nights he has sat between the fires, and no one has offered him food except Agnarr, Geirrøðr's son, who alone shall rule the land of the Goths. He blesses the boy in Veratýr's name: for one drink Agnarr will never get a better reward.

1 Heitr est hripuðr

Hot art-thou fire

ok heldr til mikill,

and rather too great

göngumk firr funi;

go-from-me farther flame

loði sviðnar,

(the)-fur is-singed

þótt á lopt berak;

though on high I-bear-(it)

brinnumk feldr fyrir.

burns-for-me (the)-cloak before-(me)

2 Átta nætr satk

Eight nights sat-I

milli elda hér,

between fires here

svát mér manngi

so-that me any-man

mat né bauð,

food not offered

nema einn Agnarr,

except alone Agnarr

es einn skal ráða,

who alone shall rule

Geirrøðar sonr,

of-Geirrøðr (the)-son

Gotna landi.

of-(the)-Goths (the)-land

Heill skalt, Agnarr,

Hale shalt-thou Agnarr

alls heilan biðr

since hale bids

þik Veratýr vesa;

thee Veratýr to-be

eins drykkjar

for-one drink

þú skalt aldri

thou shalt never

betri gjöld geta.

better reward get

The land near the Æsir and elves is holy, and Þórr shall live in Þrúðheimr until the powers are torn apart. Grímnir names the gods' dwellings: Ýdalir, where Ullr has made his halls; Alfheimr, given to Freyr as a tooth-gift; the silver-thatched Valaskjalf; Sökkvabekkr, where Óðinn and Sága drink from golden vessels; and Gláðsheimr, where golden Valhöll stands wide. Valhöll is easy to know, rafted with shafts, thatched with shields, its benches strewn with mail-coats, a wolf hanging west of the door and an eagle over it.

- 4 Land 's heilagt,
 (The)-land is holy
 es liggja sék
 which lie see-I
 ásum ok alfum nær;
 to-(the)-æsir and elves near
 (en í Þrúðheimi
 but in Þrúðheimr
 skal Þórr vesa
 shall Þórr be
 unz of rjúfask regin).
 till — are-torn-apart (the)-powers

- 5 Ýdalir heita,
 Ýdalir (it-is)-called
 þars Ullr of hefr
 where Ullr — has
 sér of görva sali;
 for-himself — made halls

Alfheim Frey

Alfheimr to-Freyr

gáfu í árdaga

gave in early-days

tívar at tannféi.

(the)-gods as tooth-gift

Bœr 's enn þriði,

A-farm is the third

es blíð regin

where (the)-kindly powers

silfri þökðu sali;

with-silver thatched (the)-halls

Valaskjalf heitir,

Valaskjalf (it-is)-called

es véltil sér

which wrought for-himself

áss í árdaga.

(the)-god in early-days

6

Sökkvabekkr heitir (enn fjórði).

Sökkvabekkr is-called the fourth

en þar svalar knegu

and there cool can

unnir glymja yfir;

waves resound over

7

þar Óðinn ok Sága

there Óðinn and Sága

drekka of alla daga

drink through all days

glöð ór gollnum kerum.

glad out-of golden vessels

8 Glæsheimr heitir (enn fimti)

Glæsheimr is-called the fifth

þars en gollbjarta

where the gold-bright

Valhöll víð of þrumir;

Valhöll wide — stands

en þar Hroptr

and there Hroptr

kýss hverjan dag

chooses every day

vápndauða vera.

weapon-dead men

9 Mjök 's auðkent

Very is easily-known

þeims til Óðins koma

for-those-who to Óðinn come

salkynni at séa,

(the)-hall-abode to see

sköptum 's rann rept,

with-shafts is (the)-house raftered

skjöldum 's salr þakiðr,

with-shields is (the)-ball thatched

brynjum of bekki stráat.

with-mail-coats over (the)-benches strewn

Mjök 's auðkent

Véry is easily-known

þeims til Óðins koma

for-those-who to Óðinn come

salkynni at séa,

(the)-hall-abode to see

vargr hangir

a-wolf hangs

fyr vestan dyrr

to (the)-west-of (the)-door

ok drúpir örn yfir.

and droops an-eagle above

Prymheimr, where the giant Þjazi dwelt, is now Skaði's; Breiðablik is Baldr's, where fewest evil staves lie; in Himinbjörg Heimdallr drinks the good mead. In Folkvangr Freyja chooses half of the slain each day and Óðinn owns the other half. Glitnir, propped with gold and thatched with silver, is Forseti's, where he settles every suit. In Nóatún Njörðr rules his high-timbered altar, and Víðarr's land grows thick with brushwood, tall grass, and wood, where the son declares he will leap boldly from horseback to avenge his father.

11 **Prymheimr heitir (enn sétti),**

Prymheimr is-called the sixth

es Þjazi bjó,

where Þjazi dwelt

sá enn ámatki jötunn;

that the mighty giant

en nú Skaði byggvir,

but now Skaði inhabits

skír brúðr goða,

(the)-bright bride of-(the)-gods

fornar toptir föður.

(the)-ancient house-sites of-(her)-father

12 **Breiðablik eru (en sjaundu),**

Breiðablik are the seventh

en þar Baldr hefir

and there Baldr has

sér of görva sali,

for-himself — made balls

á því landi

in that land

es liggja veitk

where lie know-I

fæsta feiknstafi

fewest evil-staves

Himinbjörg eru (en áttu),

Himinbjörg are the eighth

en Heimdall þar

and Heimdallr there

kveða valda véum,

say-they rules (the)-sanctuaries

þar vörðr goða

there (the)-warder of-(the)-gods

drekkr í væru ranni

drinks in (the)-pleasant house

glaðr enn góða mjöð.

glad the good mead

Folkvangr es (enn níundi),

Folkvangr is the ninth

en þar Freyja ræðr

and there Freyja rules

sessu kostum í sal;

of-seats (the)-choices in (the)-hall

13

14

halfan val

half (the)-slain

hón kýss hverjan dag,

she chooses every day

en halfan Óðinn á.

and half Óðinn owns

- 15 Glitnir es (enn tíundi),

Glitnir is the tenth

hann 's golli studdr

it is with-gold propped

ok silfri þakðr et sama,

and with-silver thatched the same

en þar Forseti

and there Forseti

byggvir flestan dag

dwells most-of (the)-day

ok svæfir allar sakar.

and lulls all suits

- 16 Nóatún eru (en elliptu),

Nóatún are the eleventh

en þar Njörðr hefir

and there Njörðr has

sér of görva sali;

for-himself — made halls

manna þengill

of-men (the)-prince

enn meins vani

the of-harm lacking

hátimbruðum hörgi ræðr.

(the)-high-timbered altar rules

Hrísi vex

With-brushwood grows

ok háu grasi

and high grass

Viðars land viði,

of-Viðarr (the)-land with-wood

en þar mögr of læzk

and there (the)-son — declares-himself

af mars baki

from of-(the)-horse (the)-back

frœkn at hefna föður.

bold to avenge (his)-father

Andhrímnir boils the boar Sæbrímnir in the cauldron Eldbrímnir, though few know what the Einherjar feed on. Óðinn feeds his wolves Geri and Freki and lives on wine alone. His ravens Huginn and Muninn fly over the earth every day, and he fears for Huginn, but more for Muninn. The river Þund roars, too swift for the host of the slain to wade. The holy gate Valgrind stands before the doors, and Valhöll has five hundred and forty doors, through each of which eight hundred Einherjar go out to fight the wolf.

18 Andhrímnir

Andhrímnir

lætr í Eldhrímní

lets in Eldbrímnir

Sæhrímní soðinn,

Sæbrímnir (be)-boiled

fleska balt,

of-pork (the)-best

en þat fáir vitu

but that few know

við hvat Einherjar alask.

on what (the)-Einherjar feed

19 Gera ok Freka

Geri and Freki

seðr gunntamiðr

sates (the)-war-accustomed

hróðigr Herjaföðr,

glorious Herjaföðr

en við vín eitt

but on wine alone

vápnögöfugr

weapon-noble

Óðinn æ lifir.

Óðinn ever lives

Huginn ok Muninn

Huginn and Muninn

fljúga hverjan dag

fly every day

jörmungrund yfir;

(the)-vast-earth over

óumk of Hugin,

fear-I for Huginn

at aptr né komit;

that back not be-comes

þó séumk meir of Munin.

yet am-I-anxious more for Muninn

Þýtr Þund,

Roars Þund

unir Þjóðvitnis

glad-is of-Þjóðvitnir

fiskr flóði í;

(the)-fish (the)-flood in

20

21

áarstraumr

(the)-river-current

þykkir ofmikill

seems too-great

valglaumi at vaða.

for-(the)-slain-host to wade

22 Valgrind heitir,

Valgrind (it-is)-called

es stendr velli á

which stands on-(the)-plain on

heilög fyr helgum durum;

holy before (the)-holy doors

forn 's sú grind,

old is that gate

en þat fáir vitu,

but that few know

hvé hon 's í lás of lokin.

how it is into lock — closed

23 Fimm hundruð dura

Five hundred doors

ok umb fjórum tögum,

and over four tens

svá hygg á Valhöllu vesa;

so think-I on Valhöll to-be

átta hundruð (Einherja)

eight hundred Einherjar

ganga ór einum durum,

go out-of one door

þás fara við vitni at vega:

when (they)-go with (the)-wolf to fight

24–26 • BILSKIRNIR AND THE BEASTS ON VALHÖLL

Bilskirnir, the hall of Grímnir's son, has five hundred and forty floors, the greatest roofed house he knows. On Valhöll's roof the goat Heiðrún bites the limbs of Læraðr and fills a vat with bright mead that never runs short. The hart Eikþyrnir grazes the same tree, and from his horns drops fall into Hvergelmir, from which all the waters take their way.

Fimm hundruð golfa

Five hundred floors

ok umb fjórum tögum

and over four tens

svá hygg Bilskirni með bugum;

so think-I Bilskirnir with (its)-bends

ranna þeira,

of-houses those

es rept vitak,

which roofed know-I

míns veitk mest magari.

of-my know-I (the)-greatest son's

24

- 25 **Heiðrún heitir (geit),**
Heiðrún is-called (the)-goat
es stendr höllu á
who stands on-(the)-hall on
ok bítr af Læraðs limum;
and bites from of-Læraðr (the)-limbs
skapker fylla
(the)-vat to-fill
hon skal ens skíra mjaðar,
she shall with-the bright mead
knáat sú veig vanask.
can-not that drink run-short

- 26 **Eikþyrnir heitir (hjörtr),**
Eikþyrnir is-called (the)-bart
es stendr höllu á
who stands on-(the)-hall on
ok bítr af Læraðs limum,
and bites from of-Læraðr (the)-limbs
en af hans hornum
and from his horns
drýpr í Hvergelmi,
drips into Hvergelmir
þaðan eigu vötn öll vega.
thence have waters all (their)-ways

Grímnir names the rivers that flow about the gods' board, run near to men, and fall down to Hel, nearly forty of them, from Síð and Víð to Gjöll and Leipt. Through Körmt and Örmt and the two Kerlaugar Þórr must wade every day when he goes to judge at the ash of Yggdrasill, since the Æsir's bridge burns all with flame and the holy waters boil.

Síð ok Víð,

Síð and Víð

Sækin ok Eikin,

Sækin and Eikin

Svöl ok Gunnþró,

Svöl and Gunnþró

Fjörm ok Fimbulþul,

Fjörm and Fimbulþul

(Rín ok Rennandi)

Rín and Rennandi

Gipul ok Göpul,

Gipul and Göpul

Gömul ok Geirvimul,

Gömul and Geirvimul

þær hverfa of hodd goða.

they turn about (the)-board of-(the)-gods

Þyn ok Vin,

Þyn and Vin

Þöll ok Höll,

Þöll and Höll

27

28

Gráð ok Gunnþorin,

Gráð and Gunnþorin

Viná heitir enn,

Viná is-called one

önnur Vegsvinn,

(the)-second Vegsvinn

þriðja Þjóðnuma. —

(the)-third Þjóðnuma

29 Nyt ok Nöt,

Nyt and Nöt

Nönn ok Hrönn,

Nönn and Hrönn

Slíð ok Hrið,

Slíð and Hrið

Sylgr ok Ylgr,

Sylgr and Ylgr

Við ok Ván,

Við and Ván

Vönd ok Strönd,

Vönd and Strönd

Gjöll ok Leiptr,

Gjöll and Leiptr

falla gumnum nær

fall to-men near

(en falla til Heljar heðan). —

and fall to Hel hence

Körmt ok Örmr

Körmt and Örmr

ok Kerlaugar tvær,

and Kerlaugar two

þær skal Þórr vaða

those shall Þórr wade

dag hverjan,

day every

es hann døma ferr

when he to-judge goes

at aski Yggdrasils.

at (the)-ash of-Yggdrasil

(þvíat ásbrú

because (the)-æsir-bridge

brinnr öll loga,

burns all with-flame

heilög vötn hlóa). —

holy waters boil

The Æsir ride their steeds, Glǫðr, Gyllir, and the rest, each day to judgment at the ash of Yggdrasil. The ash has three roots: Hel lives under one, the rime-giants under the second, and men under the third. The squirrel Ratatoskr runs up and down it carrying the eagle's words to Niðhöggr below; four harts gnaw its shoots, and more serpents than any fool imagines lie beneath it tearing at its twigs. The ash suffers more than men know, bitten above, rotting at the side, and gnawed from beneath.

31 Glǫðr ok Gyllir,

Glǫðr and Gyllir

Glær ok Skeiðbrimir,

Glær and Skeiðbrimir

Silfrintoppr ok Sinir,

Silfrintoppr and Sinir

Gísl ok Falhófnir,

Gísl and Falhófnir

Gulltoppr ok Léttfeti,

Gulltoppr and Léttfeti

þeim ríða æsir jóum.

those ride (the)-æsir steeds

(dag hvern,

day each

es þeir dœma fara

when they to-judge go

at aski Yggdrasils). —

at (the)-ash of-Yggdrasil

Þríar rœtr

32

Three roots

standa á þríá vega

stand in three ways

undan aski Yggdrasils;

from-under (the)-ash of-Yggdrasill

Hel býr und einni,

Hel dwells under one

annarri hrímpursar,

under-(the)-second (the)-rime-giants

þriðju menskir menn. —

under-(the)-third human men

Ratatoskr heitir (íkorni),

33

Ratatoskr is-called (the)-squirrel

es rinna skal

who run shall

at aski Yggdrasils,

at (the)-ash of-Yggdrasill

arnar orð

of-(the)-eagle (the)-words

hann skal ofan bera

he shall from-above bear

ok segja Niðhöggvi niðr. —

and tell to-Niðhöggvi down

34 Hirtir eru ok fjórir,

Harts are also four

þeirs af hæfingar

which from (the)-shoots

gaghalsir gnaga;

with-necks-bent-back gnaw

Dáinn ok Dvalinn,

Dáinn and Dvalinn

Duneyrr ok Duraþrór. —

Duneyrr and Duraþrór

35 Ormar fleiri

Serpents more

liggja und aski Yggdrasils,

lie under (the)-ash of-Yggdrasil

an þat of hyggi hverr (ósviðra apa),

than that — may-think each of-unwise fools

(Góinn ok Móinn

Góinn and Móinn

eru Grafvitnis synir

are of-Grafvitnir (the)-sons

Grábakr ok Grafvölluðr)

Grábakr and Grafvölluðr

Ofnir ok Sváfnir

Ofnir and Sváfnir

hygg at æ skyli

think-I that ever shall

meiðs kvistu máa. —

of-(the)-tree (the)-twigs tear

Askr Yggdrasils

(The)-ash of-Yggdrasill

drýgir erfiði

suffers hardship

meira an menn viti,

more than men may-know

hjörtr bítr ofan,

(the)-hart bites from-above

en á hliðu fúnar,

and on (the)-side (it)-rots

skerðir Niðhöggr neðan. —

cuts Niðhöggr from-beneath

37–41 · THE VALKYRIES, THE SUN, AND YMIR

Grímnir names the valkyries who bear ale to the Einberjar. The horses Árvakr and Alsviðr draw the sun, with Ísarnkol hidden under their shoulders, and the shield Svalinn stands before the sun, without which mountains and sea would burn. The wolf Skoll follows the sun to the woods, and Hati, Hróðvitnir's son, runs before heaven's bright bride. The earth was shaped from Ymir's flesh, the sea from his blood, rocks from his bones, trees from his hair, and heaven from his skull.

Hrist ok Mist

Hrist and Mist

vilk at mér horn beri,

will-I that me (the)-horn (they)-bear

Skeggjöld ok Skögul,

Skeggjöld and Skögul

(Hildir ok Þrúðr,

Hildir and Þrúðr

Hlökk ok Herfjötur,

Hlökk and Herfjötur

Göll ok Geirönu)

Göll and Geirönu

Randgríðr ok Ráðgríðr

Randgríðr and Ráðgríðr

ok Reginleif,

and Reginleif

þær bera Einherjum öl.

they bear to-(the)-Einherjar ale

38 Árvakr ok Alsviðr

Árvakr and Alsviðr

skulu upp heðan

shall up hence

svangir sól draga,

lean (the)-sun draw

en und þeira bógum

and under their shoulders

fálu blíð regin

bid (the)-kindly powers

æsir Ísarnkol.

(the)-æsir Ísarnkol

39 Svalinn heitir,

Svalinn (it-is)-called

hann stendr sólu fyrir,

it stands (the)-sun before

skjöldr skínanda goði;

a-shield for-(the)-shining god

björg ok brim

rocks and surf

veitk at brinna skulu,

know-I that burn shall

ef hann fellr í frá.

if it falls away from

Skoll heitir ulfr,

Skoll is-called (the)-wolf

es fylgir enu skírleita

who follows the bright-faced

goði til varna viðar,

god to (the)-protecting wood

en annarr Hati,

and (the)-other Hati

hann 's Hróðvitnis sonr,

he is of-Hróðvitnir (the)-son

sá skal fyr heiða brúði himins. —

that-one shall before (the)-bright bride of-heaven

40

Ór Ymis holdi

Out-of of-Ymir flesh

vas jörð of sköpuð,

was (the)-earth — shaped

en ór sveita sær,

and out-of (the)-blood (the)-sea

41

björg ór beinum,

rocks out-of (the)-bones

baðmr ór hári,

(the)-tree out-of (the)-hair

en ór hausi himinn.

and out-of (the)-skull heaven

42-45 · THE BEST OF ALL THINGS

From Ymir's brows the gods made Miðgarðr, and from his brain the storm-clouds. Whoever first reaches into the fire will have the favor of Ullr and all the gods, and the worlds will open when the cauldrons are lifted off. The sons of Ívaldi built Skíðblaðnir, best of ships, for Freyr. Grímnir then names the foremost of each kind: Yggdrasill of trees, Óðinn of the Æsir, Sleipnir of steeds, Bilröst of bridges, Bragi of poets, Hábrók of hawks, and Garmr of hounds.

42 En ór hans bráum

And out-of his brows

gerðu blíð regin

made (the)-kindly powers

Miðgarð manna sonum,

Miðgarðr of-men for-(the)-sons

en ór hans heila

and out-of his brain

váru þau en harðmóðgu

were they the hard-minded

ský öll of sköpuð. —

clouds all — shaped

Ullar hylli

Of-Ullr (the)-favor

hefr ok allra goða

has and of-all gods

hverr 's tekr fyrstr á funa,

each who takes first to (the)-fire

opnir heimar

open worlds

verða of ása sonum,

become over of-(the)-æsir (the)-sons

þás hefja af hvera.

when (they)-lift off (the)-cauldrons

Ívalda synir

Of-Ívaldi (the)-sons

gengu í árdaga

went in early-days

Skíðblaðni at skapa,

Skíðblaðnir to shape

skipa balt

of-ships (the)-best

skírum Frey,

for-(the)-bright Freyr

nýtum Njarðar bur. —

(the)-useful of-Njörðr son

- 45 Askr Yggdrasils,
 (*The*)-*ash* *of-Yggdrasill*
 hann 's æztr viðā,
 it *is* *foremost* *of-trees*
 en Skíðblaðnir skipa,
 and *Skíðblaðnir* *of-ships*
 Óðinn, ása,
 Óðinn *of-(the)-æsir*
 en jóa Sleipnir,
 and *of-steeds* *Sleipnir*
 Bilröst brúa.
 Bilröst *of-bridges*
 (en Bragi skalda,
 and *Bragi* *of-poets*
 Hábrók hauka,
 Hábrók *of-hawks*
 en hunda Garmr).
 and *of-bounds* *Garmr*

Grímnir has shown his face to the gods, and help will now come to all the Æsir who sit at Ægir's drinking. He has never been known by one name since he went among the peoples, and he lists them: Grímr and Gangleri, Herjan, Hjalmbéri, Þriði, Bölverkr, Fjölnir, Alföðr, Valföðr, and many more. He was Grímnir at Geirröðr's, Jalkr at Ásmundr's, Kjalarr when he drew the sledge, and Sviðurr and Sviðrir at Sökkmímir's, when he became sole slayer of Miðvitnir's son.

Svipum hefk nú ypt

46

(My)-looks have-I now raised

fyr sigtíva sonum,

before of-(the)-victory-gods (the)-sons

við þat skal vilbjörg vaka,

by that shall (the)-wished-help awake

öllum ásum

for-all (the)-æsir

þat skal inn koma

that shall in come

Ægis bekki á.

of-Ægir (the)-benches on

(Ægis drekku at).

of-Ægir (the)-drinking at

Hétumk Grímr,

47

Was-called-I Grímr

hétumk Gangleri,

was-called-I Gangleri

Herjan ok Hjalmbéri,

Herjan and Hjalmbéri

Þekkr ok Þriði,

Þekkr and Þriði

Þundr ok Uðr,

Þundr and Uðr

Herblindi ok Háarr.

Herblindi and Háarr

48 Saðr ok Svipall

Saðr and Svipall

ok Sanngettall,

and Sanngettall

Herteitr ok Hnikarr,

Herteitr and Hnikarr

(Bileygr, Báleygr,

Bileygr Báleygr

Bölverkr, Fjölnir,

Bölverkr Fjölnir

Grímr ok Grímnir,

Grímr and Grímnir

Glapsviðr ok Fjölsviðr,

Glapsviðr and Fjölsviðr

Síðhötttr, Síðskeggr,

Síðhötttr Síðskeggr

Sigföðr, Hnikuðr,

Sigföðr Hnikuðr

Alföðr, Valföðr,

Alföðr Valföðr

Atríðr ok Farmatýr)

Atríðr and Farmatýr

einu nafni

by-one name

hétumk aldri,

was-called-I never

síz með folkum fórk.

since among (the)-peoples went-I

Grímni mik hétu

Grímnir me called-(they)

at Geirrøðar,

at Geirrøðr's

en Jalk at Ásmundar,

and Jalkr at Ásmundr's

en þá Kjalar,

and then Kjalar

es kjalka drók,

when (the)-sledge drew-I

Þrór þingum at.

Þrór at assemblies

(Óski ok Ómi,

Óski and Ómi

Jafnhár ok Biflindi,

Jafnhár and Biflindi

Göndlir ok Hárbarðr með goðum).

Göndlir and Hárbarðr among (the)-gods

50 Sviðurr ok Sviðrir

Sviðurr and Sviðrir

hétk at Sökkmímis,

was-called-I at Sökkmímir's

ok dulðak enn aldna jötun,

and hid-I-(it-from) the old giant

þás Miðvitnis

when of-Miðvitnir

vask ens mæra burar

was-I of-the famous son

orðinn einbani.

become (the)-sole-slayer

51-54 • ÓÐINN REVEALED

Geirrøðr is drunk, Grímnir tells him, bereft of Óðinn's favor and of all the Einherjar. He has told the king much, but the king remembers little; his friends have deceived him, and Grímnir sees his own friend's sword drenched in blood. Yggr will now have the sword-slain, the dísir are hostile, and the king's life is spent. Let him now see Óðinn and come near if he can. He was once Yggr and Þundr and bore many names among the gods, and all have come to be in him alone.

51 Ölr est Geirrøðr,

Drunk art-thou Geirrøðr

hefr þú of drukkit

hast thou — drunk-(too-much)

* * *

(lacuna)

miklu est hnugginn,

much art-thou bereft

es þú est mínu gengi,
when thou art of-my following
 allra Einherja ok Óðins.
of-all (the)-Einherjar and of-Óðinn

Fjölð þér sagðak,
Much to-thee told-I
 en þú fátt of mant,
but thou little — rememberest
 of þik véla vinir;
— thee deceive (thy)-friends
 mæki liggja
(the)-sword lie
 sék míns vinar
see-I of-my friend
 allan í dreyra drifinn.
all in blood drenched

52

Eggmóðan val
(The)-sword-wearied slain
 nú mun Yggr hafa,
now will Yggr have
 þitt veitk líf of liðit;
thy know-I life — gone
 úfar ro ðisir,
hostile are (the)-ðisir

53

nú knátt Óðinn séa;

now canst Óðinn see

nálgask mik ef þú megir.

approach me if thou canst

54 Óðinn nú heitik,

Óðinn now am-called-I

Yggr áðan hétik,

Yggr before was-called-I

hétumk Þundr fyr þat,

was-called-I Þundr before that

(Vakr ok Skilfingr,

Vakr and Skilfingr

Váfuðr ok Hroptatýr

Váfuðr and Hroptatýr

Gautr ok Jalkr með goðum)

Gautr and Jalkr among (the)-gods

Ofnir ok Sváfnir

Ofnir and Sváfnir

hygg at orðnir sé

think-I that become are

allir at einum mér.

all in one me

THE DEATH OF GEIRRØÐR

Geirrøðr sits with his sword half drawn across his knee. When he hears that it is Óðinn who has come, he rises to take him from the fire, but the sword slips from his hand hilt downward. The king stumbles, falls forward onto it, and is run through and killed. Óðinn vanishes, and Agnarr is king there for a long time afterward.

Geirrøðr konungr sat ok hafði sverð um kné sér ok
Geirrøðr (the)-king sat and had a-sword over (the)-knee his and
brugðit til miðs. En er hann heyrði, at Óðinn var
drawn to (the)-middle And when he heard that Óðinn was
þar kominn, þá stóð hann upp ok vildi taka Óðin frá
there come then stood he up and would take Óðinn from
eldinum. Sverðit slapp ór hendi hánum ok vissu hjöltin
the-fire The-sword slipped out-of (the)-hand him and turned the-bilts
niðr. Konungr drap fæti ok steypðisk áfram, en sverðit
down (The)-king struck (his)-foot and plunged forward and the-sword
stóð í gögnum hann ok fekk hann bana. Óðinn hvarf
stood in through him and got he death Óðinn vanished
þá, en Agnarr var þar konungr lengi síðan.
then but Agnarr was there king long afterward

Skírnismál

The Lay of Skirnir



Freyr sits one day in Hliðskjálf and sees into Jötunheimar, where a fair maiden walks from her father's hall to her bower, and he falls into a great heartsickness. Njörðr bids Freyr's servant Skírnir go and speak with him, and Skaði asks him to find out with whom their son is so angry. Skírnir expects harsh words from him if he goes.

Freyr, sonr Njarðar, hafði einn dag sezk í Hliðskjálf ok
Freyr (the)-son of-Njörðr had one day seated-himself in Hliðskjálf and
 sá um heima alla; hann sá í Jötunheima ok sá þar mey
saw over (the)-worlds all he saw into Jötunheimar and saw there a-maiden
 fagra, þá er hon gekk frá skála föður síns til skemmu;
fair when — she went from (the)-hall of-father her to (the)-bower
 þar af fekk hann hugsóttir miklar. Skírnir hét skósveinn
there from got he heart-sicknesses great Skírnir was-called (the)-shoe-lad
 Freys. Njörðr bað hann kveðja Frey máls. Þá mælti Skaði:
of-Freyr Njörðr bade him ask Freyr to-speak Then spoke Skaði

Rís nú Skírnir

Rise now Skírnir

ok ráð at beiða

and set-about to ask

okkarn mála mög,

our-two of-speech son

1

ok þess at fregna

and that to inquire

hveim enn fróði sé

with-whom the wise is

ofreiði afi.

wrathful kinsman

2 SK. KV. Illra orða

Of-ill words

es mér ón at ykrum syni,

is to-me expectation from your-two son

ef ek geng at mæla við mög,

if I go to speak with (the)-son

ok þess at fregna,

and that to inquire

hveim enn fróði sé

with-whom the wise is

ofreiði afi.

wrathful kinsman

Skírnir asks his lord why he sits alone in the long halls day after day. Freyr answers that the sun shines every day but never to his liking. Skírnir reminds him that they were young together and can trust each other. Freyr then tells how he saw a maiden walking in Gymir's courts, whose arms lit up all the air and sea; he loves her more than any man ever loved a maid, but none of the Æsir or elves will allow them to be together.

Seg þat Freyr,

3

Say that Freyr

folkvaldi goða,

war-leader of-(the)-gods

ok ek vilja vita,

and I wish to-know

hví þú einn sitr

why thou alone sittest

endlanga sali

(the)-long halls

minn dróttinn of daga.

my lord through days

FR. KV. Hví of segjak þér,

4

Why — should-I-say to-tee

seggr enn ungi,

man the young

mikinn móðtrega,

great heart-grief

alfröðull

(the)-elf-disc

lýsir of alla daga

shines through all days

ok þeygi at mínum munum.

and not-at-all to my desire

5 SK. KV. Muni þína

Longings thy

hykka svá mikla vesa,

think-I-not so great to-be

at mér seggr né segir;

that to-me man not tellest-thou

ungir saman

young together

várum í árdaga,

were-we in early-days

vel mættim tveir trúask.

well might-we two trust-each-other

6 FR. KV. Í Gymis gördum

In of-Gymir (the)-courts

ek ganga sá

I walking saw

mér tíða mey;

to-me dear a-maiden

armar lýstu,

(her)-arms shone

en af þaðan

and from thence

alt lopt ok lögr.

all (the)-air and sea

Mær es mér tíðari

(The)-maid is to-me dearer

an manna hveim

than of-men to-any

ungum í árdaga;

young in early-days

ása ok alfa

of-(the)-æsir and elves

þat vill engi maðr,

that wills no man

at vit samt séim.

that we-two together may-be

(lacuna)

Skírnir asks for a horse to carry him through the dark and the flickering flame, and the sword that fights of itself against the giants. Freyr gives them both. Skírnir tells the horse that it is dark outside and time for them to go over the wet fells among the giants: either both of them will come through, or the mighty giant will take them both.

- 8 SK. KV. Mar gef mér þá,
A-horse give me then
 es mik of myrkvan beri
which me over (the)-dark may-bear
 vísan vafrloga,
(the)-sure flickering-flame
 ok þat sverð,
and that sword
 es sjalft vegisk
which of-itself fights
 við jötna ætt.
against of-giants (the)-kin

- 9 FR. KV. Mar þér gefk,
A-horse thee give-I
 es þik of myrkvan berr
which thee over (the)-dark bears
 vísan vafrloga,
(the)-sure flickering-flame
 ok þat sverð,
and that sword

es sjalft mun vegask,

which of-itself will fight

ef sá 's horskr es hefr.

if he is wise who has-(it)

SKÍRNIR MÆLTI VIÐ HESTINN: Myrkt es úti,

Dark is-it outside

10

mál kveðk okr fara

time say-I for-us-two to-go

úrig fjöll yfir

wet fells over

(þursa þjóð yfir);

of-þursar (the)-folk over

báðir komumk

both-of-us come-(through)

eða okr báða tekr

or us-two both takes

sá enn ámatki jötunn.

that the mighty giant

Skírnir rides to Gymisgarðar, where fierce dogs are tied before the gate of Gerðr's enclosure, and greets a herdsman sitting on a mound. He asks how he can get past Gymir's bounds to speak with the young maid. The herdsman asks whether he is doomed or already dead, for he will never have speech with Gymir's daughter. Skírnir answers that it is better to be ready than to whimper, since his life and its length were settled on a single day.

Skírnir reið í Jötunheima til Gymisgarða; þar váru
Skírnir rode into Jötunheimar to Gymisgarðar there were
 hundar ólmir ok bundnir fyrir skíðgarðshliði þess, er
dogs fierce and bound before (the)-fence-gate of-that which
 um sal Gerðar var. Hann reið at þar, er féhirðir
around (the)-hall of-Gerðr was He rode to (the)-place where a-herdsman
 sat á haugi, ok kvaddi hann:
sat on a-mound and greeted him

- 11 Seg þat hirðir,
Say that herdsman
 es á haugi sitr
who on (the)-mound sittest
 ok varðar alla vega,
and guardest all ways
 hvé ek at andspilli
how I to speech
 komumk ens unga mans
may-come of-the young maid
 fyr greyjum Gymis.
past (the)-bounds of-Gymir

HIRDIR KV. Hvárt est feigr,

12

Whether art-thou doomed

eða est framm genginn

or art-thou forth gone

(lacuna)

andspillis vanr

of-speech lacking

þú skalt æ vesa

thou shalt ever be

góðrar meyjar Gymis.

of-(the)-good maid of-Gymir

SK. KV. Kostir ro betri

13

Choices are better

an at klökkva sé

than to whimper is

hveim es fúss es fara,

for-whomever who ready is to-go

einu dægri

on-one day

mér vas aldr of skapaðr

to-me was life — shaped

ok alt líf of lagit.

and all (my)-life — laid-down

Gerðr hears a din that shakes the earth and Gymir's courts. Her serving-woman tells her a man has dismounted outside and is grazing his horse. Gerðr has him brought in to drink the famous mead, though she fears it may be her brother's slayer, and asks whether he is of the elves, the Æsir, or the Vanir, to have crossed the fire alone. Skirnir answers that he is none of these, yet he came alone through the fire to see her hall.

14 G. KV. Hvat 's hlym hlymja

What is (the)-din of-dins

es nú heyrik til

which now hear-I to

ossum rönnum í?

our houses in

jörð bifask,

(the)-earth shakes

en allir fyrir

and all before-(it)

skjalfa garðar Gymis.

tremble (the)-courts of-Gymir

15 AMBÁTT KVAÐ: Maðr 's hér úti,

A-man is here outside

stiginn af mars baki,

dismounted from of-(the)-horse (the)-back

jó lætr til jarðar taka.

(the)-steed lets-he to earth graze

(lacuna)

G. KV. Inn bið hann

16

In bid him

ganga í okkarn sal

to-come into our-two hall

ok drekka enn mæra mjöð,

and drink the famous mead

þó ek hitt óumk,

though I that fear

at hér úti sé

that here outside be

minn bróðurbani.

my brother's-slayer

Hvat 's þat alfa

What is that of-elves

né ása sona,

or of-(the)-æsir sons

né víssa vana?

or of-(the)-wise vanir

hví einn of komt

why alone — camest-thou

eikinn fúr yfir

(the)-raging fire over

ór salkynni at séa.

our hall-abode to see

17

18 SK. KV. **Emkat alfa***Am-I-not of-elves***né ása sona***or of-(the)-æsir sons***né víssa vana,***or of-(the)-wise vanir***þó einn of komk***yet alone — came-I***eikinn fúr yfir***(the)-raging fire over***yður salkynni at séa.***your hall-abode to see*

19–22 • APPLES AND A RING

Skírnir offers Gerðr eleven golden apples to buy her peace, if she will call Freyr the least loathed man alive. She refuses: she and Freyr will never live together while they live. He then offers the ring that was burned with Óðinn's young son, from which eight as heavy drip every ninth night. Gerðr refuses that too, for she lacks no gold in Gymir's courts, where she shares her father's wealth.

19 **Epli ellifu***Apples eleven***hér hefk algollin,***here have-I all-golden***þau munk þér Gerðr gefa,***those will-I thee Gerðr give***frið at kaupa,***peace to buy*

at þér Frey kveðir

that thee Freyr thou-callest

Ó-leiðastan lifa.

least-loathed living

G. KV. Epli ellifu

Apples eleven

ek þigg aldri

I accept never

at mannskis munum,

at any-man's desires

né vit Freyr,

nor we-two Freyr

meðan okkart fjör lifir,

while our-two life lives

byggum bæði saman.

shall-dwell both together

20

SK. KV. Baug þér þá gefk,

A-ring thee then give-I

þanns brendr of vas

which burned — was

með ungum Óðins syni,

with (the)-young of-Óðinn son

átta ro jafnhöfgir,

eight are equally-heavy

21

es af drjúpa

which from-(it) drip

ena níundu hverja nótt.

the ninth every night

22 G. KV. Baug þikkak,

A-ring accept-I-not

þótt brendr séi,

though burned it-be

með ungum Óðins syni;

with (the)-young of-Óðinn son

esa mér golls vant

is-not to-me of-gold lack

í görðum Gymis

in (the)-courts of-Gymir

at deila fé föður.

to share (the)-wealth of-(my)-father

23–25 · THE THREAT OF THE SWORD

Skírnir shows her his slender inlaid sword and threatens to hew her head from her neck unless she agrees. Gerðr says she will never suffer force at any man's will, but she foresees that if Skírnir and Gymir meet, they will fight unflinchingly. Skírnir answers that her old father will fall before these edges and is doomed.

23 SK. KV. Sér þú mæki, mæ,

Seest thou (the)-sword maiden

mjóvan, málfaan,

slender inlaid

es hefk í hendi hér,

which have-I in hand here

höfuð höggva

(the)-head to-beu

munk þér halsi af,

will-I thee (the)-neck off

nema mér sætt segir.

unless to-me (the)-settlement thou-sayest

G. KV. Ánauð þola

Constraint to-suffer

vilk aldri

will-I never

at mannskis munum,

at any-man's desires

þó hins getk,

yet this guess-I

ef it Gymir finnizk

if you-two Gymir meet

vígs ótrauðir at vegizk.

of-fight unflinching that you-fight

24

SK. KV. Sér þú mæki, mæ,

Seest thou (the)-sword maiden

mjóvan, málfaan,

slender inlaid

es hefk í hendi hér,

which have-I in hand here

25

fyr þessum eggjum

before these edges

hnígr enn aldni jötunn,

sinks the old giant

verðr þinn feigr faðir.

becomes thy doomed father

26-30 · THE CURSE BEGINS

Skírnir threatens to strike her with a taming wand and tame her to his will. She shall sit early on the eagle's mound, facing toward Hel, and food shall be more loathsome to her than the serpent is to men. She shall be a sight to stare at, better known than the gods' warder. Madness, howling, and torment shall grow on her, fiends shall afflict her all day in the giants' courts, and she shall creep without choice to the hall of the rime-giants and have weeping in place of joy.

26 Tamsvendi þik drepk,

With-a-taming-wand thee strike-I

en þik temja munk,

and thee tame will-I

mær, at mínum munum,

maiden to my desires

þar skalt ganga,

there shalt-thou go

es þik gumna synir

where thee of-men (the)-sons

síðan æva séi.

afterward never may-see

Ara þúfu á
of-(the)-eagle (the)-mound on

skalt ár sitja,
shalt-thou early sit

horfa heimi ór
look (the)-world out-of

(snugga heljar til),
to-peer hel toward

matr sé þér meir leiðr
food be to-thee more loathsome

an manna hveim
than of-men to-any

enn fráni ormr með firum.
the gleaming serpent among men

At undrsjónum,
As a-wonder-sight

verðir, es út kómr,
mayest-thou-become when out thou-comest

á þik Hrímnir hari
at thee Hrímnir may-stare

(á þik hotvetna stari),
at thee everything may-gaze

viðkunnari verðir
more-widely-known mayest-thou-become

an vörðr með goðum,
than (the)-warder among (the)-gods

gapi þú grindum frá.
gape thou (the)-gates from

- 29 Tópi ok ópi,
Madness and howling
 tjösull ok óþoli,
torment and impatience
 vaxi þér tár með trega;
may-grow for-thee tears with grief
 sezk þú niðr
sit thou down
 en ek mun segja þér
and I will tell thee
 sváran súsbreka.
heavy flood-of-sorrow
 (ok tvinnan trega).
and a-twofold grief

- 30 Tramar gneypa
Fiends afflict
 þik skulu gerstan dag
thee shall (the)-whole day
 jötna gördum í,
of-giants (the)-courts in
 til hrímpursa hallar
to of-(the)-rime-giants (the)-hall
 þú skalt hverjan dag
thou shalt every day
 kranga kostalaus.
creep choiceless
 (kranga kostavön;
creep choice-lacking

grát at gamni

weeping for joy

skalt í gögn hafa

shalt-thou in exchange have

ok leiða með tárurum trega).

and lead with tears grief

31–36 • THE RUNES OF DESIRE

She shall live with a three-headed giant or be without a husband, wasting away like a thistle crushed in the late harvest. Skírnir went to the wood to get a magic wand, and got one. Óðinn, Ásabragr, and Freyr are wroth with her. Skírnir calls the giants, the rime-giants, and the Æsir to hear how he bans her from men's joy; Hrimgrímnir shall have her below the corpse-gates, where she will drink goats' piss. He has cut a þurs-rune and three staves, lewdness, madness, and restlessness, which he can cut off again if need be.

Með þursi þríhöfðuðum

With a-þurs three-headed

þú skalt æ nara

thou shalt ever linger

eða verlaus vesa,

or husbandless be

(þitt geð grípi;

thy mind may-seize

þik morn morni)

thee longing may-waste

ves þú sem þistill,

be thou like (the)-thistle

31

sás þrunginn vas

that-which crushed was

í ofanverða önn.

in (the)-late harvest

32 Til holts ek gekk

To (the)-wood I went

ok til hrás viðar

and to (the)-green tree

gambantein at geta

a-magic-wand to get

* * *

(lacuna)

gambantein ek gat.

a-magic-wand I got

33 Reiðr 's þér Óðinn,

Wroth is with-thee Óðinn

reiðr 's þér Ásabragr,

wroth is with-thee Ásabragr

þik skal Freyr fíask,

thee shall Freyr hate

en firinilla mæð,

the most-wicked maid

en fengit hefr

and gotten hast-thou

gambanreiði goða.

(the)-magic-wrath of-(the)-gods

Heyri jötnar,

Let-hear (the)-giants

heyri hrímþursar,

let-bear (the)-rime-giants

synir Suttunga,

(the)-sons of-Suttungr

sjalfir áslíðar,

themselves (the)-æsir-host

hvé fyrir býðk,

how against-(her) forbid-I

hvé fyrir bannak

how against-(her) ban-I

manna glaum mani,

of-men (the)-joy to-(the)-maid

manna nyt mani.

of-men (the)-use to-(the)-maid

Hrímgrímnir heitir,

Hrímgrímnir is-called

es þik hafa skal

who thee have shall

fyr nágrindr neðan,

beyond (the)-corpse-gates below

þar þér vílmegir

there thee wretches

á viðarrótum

at (the)-tree-roots

geitahland gefi.

goats'-piss may-give

(æðri drykkju

nobler drink

fá þú aldrigi,

get thou never

mær, af þínum munum,

maid by thy desires

mær, at mínum munum).

maid at my desires

36 Þurs ristk þér

A-þurs cut-I for-thee

ok þrjá stafi,

and three staves

ergi ok æði ok óþola,

lewdness and madness and restlessness

svá ek þat af ríst

so I it off cut

sem ek þat á reist,

as I it on cut

ef gervask þarfar þess.

if be-made need of-that

Gerðr gives in and offers him the rime-cup full of old mead, though she never meant to love one of the Vanir. Skírnir wants to know all of his errand before he rides home: when will she meet Njörðr's son? She names Barri, a still grove they both know, where after nine nights she will grant Freyr her love.

G. KV. Heill ves heldr, sveinn,

37

Hale be rather lad

ok tak við hrímkálki

and take — (the)-rime-cup

fullum forns mjaðar,

full of-old mead

þó hafðak ætlat,

though had-I intended

at myndak aldrigi

that would-I never

unna vaningja vel.

love a-vanir-son well

SK. KV. Ørendi mín

38

Errand my

vilk öll vita,

will-I all know

áðr ríðak heim heðan,

before ride-I home hence

nær á þingi

when at (the)-meeting

munt enum þroskamikla

wilt-thou with-the great-grown

nenna Njarðar syni.

consent-to of-Njörðr (the)-son

39 G. KV. Barri heitir,

Barri (it-is)-called

es bæði vitum,

which both we-know

lundr lognfara,

(the)-grove of-calm-going

en ept nætr níu

and after nights nine

þar mun Njarðar syni

there will to-Njörðr's son

Gerðr unna gamans.

Gerðr grant joy

Skírnir rides home, and Freyr, standing outside, asks him before he unsaddles or takes another step what he has achieved in Jötunheimar. Skírnir repeats Gerðr's answer: in the grove Barri, after nine nights, she will grant Njörðr's son her love. Freyr cries that one night is long, and two longer, and asks how he will bear three; a month has often seemed shorter to him than half this wait.

Þá reið Skírnir heim. Freyr stóð úti ok kvaddi hann

Then rode Skírnir home Freyr stood outside and greeted him

ok spurði tíðenda:

and asked of-tidings

Seg mér, Skírnir,

40

Say to-me Skírnir

áðr verpir söðli af mari

before thou-throwest (the)-saddle from (the)-horse

ok stígir feti framar,

and steppes a-foot further

hvat þú árnaðir

what thou achievedst

í Jötunheima

in Jötunheimar

þíns eða míns munar.

of-thy or of-my desire

- 41 SK. KV. Barri heitir,
Barri (it-is)-called
 es vit báðir vitum,
which we-two both know
 lundr lognfara,
(the)-grove of-calm-going
 en ept nætr níu,
and after nights nine
 þar mun Njarðar syni
there will to-Njörðr's son
 Gerðr unna gamans.
Gerðr grant joy

- 42 FR. KV. Löng es nótt,
Long is a-night
 langar ro tvær,
long are two
 hvé of þreyjak þríar;
how — shall-I-endure three
 opt mér mánaðr
often to-me a-month
 minni þótti
less seemed
 an sjá half hýnótt.
than this half bridal-night
-

Hárbarðsljóð

The Song of Harbard

Coming from the east, Þórr reaches a sound with a ferryman on the other side, and calls out asking who stands beyond the water. The ferryman calls back asking who the churl is who shouts across the bay. Þórr asks to be ferried over, offering a breakfast from the basket on his back; he ate herring and oats before leaving home. The ferryman mocks the breakfast and says his mother is surely dead; Þórr takes that as the worst news a man can hear.

Þórr fór ór Austrvegi ok kom at sundi einu; Öðrum

Þórr went out-of (the)-East-way and came to a-sound one On-(the)-other

megin sundsins var ferjukarlinn með skipit. Þórr kallaði:

side of-the-sound was the-ferryman with the-boat Þórr called

Hverr es sveinn sveina,

1

Who is (the)-lad of-lads

es stendr fyr sund handan?

who stands beyond (the)-sound yonder

H. KV. Hverr es karl karla,

2

Who is (the)-churl of-churls

es kallar of váginn?

who calls over the-bay

Þ. KV. Fer þú mik of sundit,

3

Ferry thou me over the-sound

fæðik þik á morgun;

feed-I thee in (the)-morning

meis hefk á baki,

a-basket have-I on (my)-back

verðra matr in betri;

becomes-not food the better

át ek í hvíld,

ate I at rest

áðr heiman fórk,

before from-home went-I

síldr ok hafra,

berrings and oats

saðr emk enn þess.

sated am-I still of-that

4 H. KV. Arligum verkum hrósar (þú verðinum),

Early-morning deeds praisest thou the-breakfast

veiztat fyrir görla;

knowest-not-thou ahead fully

döpr eru þín heimkynni,

gloomy are thy homestead

dauð hygg at þín móðir sé.

dead think-I that thy mother be

5 Þ. KV. Þat segir þú nú,

That sayest thou now

es hverjum þykkir mest at vita.

which to-each seems greatest to know

(at mín móðir dauð sé).

that my mother dead be

The ferryman jeers that Þórr, barelegged and in a tramp's gear, hardly looks like a man of three good farms. Þórr asks whose boat it is. The ferryman says it belongs to Hildolfr of Ráðseyjarsund, who told him to ferry no robbers or horse-thieves, only good men he knows, and asks Þórr's name. Þórr names himself, son of Óðinn, brother of Meili and father of Magni, and asks the ferryman's. He is Hárbardr, who seldom hides his name.

H. KV. Þeygi es sem þú

6

Not-at-all is-it as-if thou

þríu bú góð eigir;

three farms good might-own

berbeinn þú stendr

barelegged thou standest

ok hefr brautingja gørv.

and hast a-tramp's gear

(Þatki at þú hafir brækr þínar).

not-even that thou mayest-have breeches thy

Þ. KV. Stýr hingat eikju,

7

Steer hither (the)-boat

ek mun þér stöð kenna,

I will thee (the)-landing-place show

eða hvern á skip,

or who owns (the)-boat

es þú heldr við land?

which thou holdest by (the)-land

8 H. KV. Hildolfr sá heitir,

Hildolfr he is-called

es mik halda bað,

who me hold bade

rekkir enn ráðsvinni,

a-warrior the counsel-wise

es býr í Ráðseyjarsundi,

who dwells in Ráðseyjarsund

baðat hann hlennimenn flytja

bade-not he robbers to-ferry

eða hrossapjófa

or horse-thieves

(góða eina

good-men only

ok þás görva kunnak)

and those-whom well knew-I

seg þú til nafns þíns,

say thou to name thy

ef þú vill of sund fara.

if thou wilt over (the)-sound go

9 Þ. KV. Segja munk til nafns míns,

Tell will-I to name my

þótt sekr séak,

though outlawed I-be

ok til alls øðlis —

and to all (my)-kindred

ek em Óðins sonr

I am of-Óðinn (the)-son

(Meila bróðir,

of-Meili (the)-brother

en Magna faðir)

and of-Magni (the)-father

þrúðvaldr goða,

(the)-mighty-ruler of-(the)-gods

við Þór knáttu hér dæma;

with Þórr canst-thou here speak

hins vilk nú spyrja,

this will-I now ask

hvat heitir þú?

what art-called thou

H. KV. Hárbarðr heitik,

Hárbarðr am-called-I

hylk of nafn sjaldan.

hide-I — (my)-name seldom

Þórr asks why he would hide his name unless he had feuds, and Hárbarðr says he would guard his life against such as Þórr. Þórr says it would be ugly work to wade over and wet his gear, but he would pay the swaddled brat back for his mockery. Hárbarðr will stand and wait, and says Þórr has met no harder man since Hrungnir died. Þórr recalls how he felled the stone-headed giant Hrungnir, and asks what Hárbarðr was doing meanwhile.

- 11 Þ. KV. Hvat skalt of nafn hylja,

Why shalt-thou — (thy)-name hide

nema sakar eigir?

unless suits thou-have

- 12 H. KV. En þótt sakar eigak,

But though suits I-have

þá mun ek forða

then will I guard

fjörvi mínu fyr slíkum (sem þú ert),

life my from such (as thou art)

nema feigr séak.

unless doomed I-be

- 13 Þ. KV. Harm ljótan (mér þykkir í því) at vaða

Harm ugly to-me seems-it in that to wade

(of vág til þín)

over (the)-bay to thee

ok væta minn ögur;

and wet my tackle

skyldak launa (kögursveini þínum) kanginyrði,
should-I repay to-(the)-swaddling-boy thy mocking-words
 ef kæmumk of sundit.
if I-came over the-sound

H. KV. Hér munk standa

14

Here will-I stand
 ok þín heðan bíða,
and thee hence await
 fanta þú mann enn harðara
foundst-not thou a-man the harder
 at Hrungni dauðan.
since Hrungnir (was)-dead

Þ. KV. Hins viltu nú geta,

15

That wilt-thou now mention
 es vit Hrungnir deildum,
when we-two Hrungnir fought
 sá enn stóruðgi jötunn,
that the great-hearted giant
 es ór steini vas höfuð;
whose out-of stone was (the)-head
 þó létk hann falla
yet made-I him fall
 ok fyrir hníga.
and before-(me) sink

Hvat vant þú þá

What didst thou then

Hárbarðr meðan?

Hárbarðr meanwhile

16-19 · HÁRBARÐR'S WOMEN, ÞÓRR'S GIANTS

Hárbarðr spent five winters with Fjölvarr on the island Algræn, fighting and winning maidens. Asked how their women treated them, he boasts of seven sisters who wound ropes of sand and dug the dale, and whose hearts and pleasure he had. Þórr answers that he killed the giant Þjazi and threw his eyes up into the bright heaven, the greatest tokens of his works, which all men see.

16 H. KV. Vask með Fjölvvari

Was-I with Fjölvarr

fimm vetr alla

five winters all

í ey þeiri,

in (the)-island that

es Algræn heitir;

which Algræn is-called

vega vér þar knáttum

fight we there could

ok val fella,

and (the)-slain fell

margs at freista,

much to try

mans at kosta.

(the)-maid to win

Þ. KV. Hversu snúnuðu yðr konur yðrar?

17

How treated you women your

H. KV. Sparkar áttum konur,

18

Lively had-we women

ef oss at spökum yrði;

if to-us for gentle they-would-be

horskar áttum konur,

wise had-we women

ef oss hollar væri;

if to-us loyal they-were

þær ór sandi

they out-of sand

síma undu,

ropes wound

ok ór dali djúpum

and out-of (the)-dale deep

grund of grófu;

ground — dug

varðk þeim einn öllum

became-I to-them alone all

øfri at ráðum;

higher in counsels

hvíldak hjá þeim systurum sjau,

rested-I with those sisters seven

ok hafðak geð þeira alt ok gaman.

and had-I (the)-heart their all and pleasure

Hvat vantu þá meðan Þórr?

What didst-thou then meanwhile Þórr

- 19 Þ. KV. Ek drap Þjaza,
I killed Þjazi
 enn þrúðmóðga jötun
the mighty-minded giant
 upp varpk augum
up threw-I (the)-eyes
 Alvalda sonar
Alvaldi's of-(the)-son
 á þann enn heiða himin,
into that the bright heaven
 þau eru merki mest
they are (the)-tokens greatest
 minna verka,
of-my works
 þaus allir menn síðan of sé.
which all men since — see
 Hvat vant þú þá
What didst thou then
 Hárbarðr meðan?
Hárbarðr meanwhile

Hárbarðr boasts of love-wiles with night-riders, luring them from their husbands, and of how the giant Hlébarðr gave him a magic wand, only to be lured out of his wits. Þórr says he repaid good gifts with ill will, and Hárbarðr answers that each looks to himself. Þórr was in the east battering baleful giant-brides; if they all lived, there would be no men left in Miðgarðr.

H. KV. Miklar manvélar

20

Great love-wiles

hafðak við myrkriður,

had-I with night-riders

þás ek vélta þær frá verum;

when I lured them from (their)-husbands

harðan jötun

a-bard giant

hugðak Hlébarð vesa;

thought-I Hlébarðr to-be

gat hann mér gambantein,

got he me a-magic-wand

en ek vélta hann ór viti.

but I lured him out-of (his)-wits

Þ. KV. Illum huga launaðir þú þá góðar gjafar.

21

With-ill mind repaidst thou then good gifts

22 H. KV. Þat hefr eik, es af annarri skefr,

That has (the)-oak which from another scrapes

of sik es hverr í slíku.

for himself is each in such

Hvat vantu meðan Þórr?

What didst-thou meanwhile Þórr

23 Þ. KV. Ek vas austr

I was east

ok jötna barðak

and giants battered-I

brúðir bölvísar,

brides baleful

es til bjargs gengu;

who to (the)-mountain went

mikil myndi ætt jötna,

great would-be (the)-race of-giants

ef allir lifði

if all lived

(vætr myndi manna

nothing would-be of-men

und Miðgarði).

under Miðgarðr

Hvat vant þú þá

What didst thou then

Hárbarðr meðan?

Hárbarðr meanwhile

Hárbarðr was in Valland stirring up war, inciting princes and never reconciling them; Óðinn gets the jarls who fall in battle, and Þórr gets the thrall-kin. Þórr says Hárbarðr would share out the Æsir's host unequally if he had the power. Hárbarðr taunts him that Þórr has strength but no heart, and once crammed himself into a glove for fear, not daring to sneeze or fart lest Fjalarr hear. Þórr would strike him to Hel if he could reach across.

H. KV. Vask á Vallandi

24

Was-I in Valland

ok vígum fylgðak,

and wars followed-I

attak jöfrum,

incited-I princes

en aldri sættak;

but never reconciled-I

(Óðinn á jarla,

Óðinn owns (the)-jarls

þás í val falla,

who in (the)-slain fall

en Þórr á þrælakyn).

but Þórr owns (the)-thrall-kin

Þ. KV. Ójafnt skipta

25

Unequally apportion

myndir með ásum liði,

wouldst-thou among (the)-æsir (the)-host

ef ættir vilgi mikils vald.

if thou-hadst very great power

26 H. KV. Þórr á afl ærit,

Þórr has strength enough

en ekki hjarta;

but no heart

af hræzlu ok hugbleyði

from fear and cowardice

þér vas í hanzka troðit

for-thee was into a-glove crammed

(ok þóttiska þú þá Þórr vesa);

and seemedst-not thou then Þórr to-be

hvárki þú þorðir

neither thou daredst

fyr hræzlu þinni

for fear thy

hnjósa né físa,

sneeze nor fart

svát Fjalarr heyrði.

so-that Fjalarr heard

27 Þ. KV. Hárbarðr enn ragi,

Hárbarðr the craven

ek mynda þik í hel drepa,

I would thee into hel strike

ef mættak seilask of sund.

if might-I reach over (the)-sound

Hárbarðr asks why he would reach over when they have no quarrel. Þórr tells how Svárangr's sons attacked him with stones by a river in the east and ended by asking him for peace. Hárbarðr was in the east too, meeting in secret with a linen-white maid, gold-bright, who delighted in his game. Þórr says he had good love-dealings there, and Hárbarðr says he could have used Þórr's help to hold the maid.

H. KV. Hvát skyldir of sund seilask,

28

Why shouldst-thou over (the)-sound reach

es sakar ro alls engar.

when suits are at-all none

Hvát vantu meðan Þórr?

What didst-thou meanwhile Þórr

Þ. KV. Ek vas austr

29

I was east

ok á varðak,

and (the)-river guarded-I

þás mik sóttu

when me attacked

þeir Svárangs synir,

those of-Svárangr sons

grjóti mik börðu,

with-stones me battered

gagni urðu þó lítt fegnir.

of-victory were yet little glad

(þó urðu þeir mik fyrri

yet were they me first

friðar at biðja).

for-peace to ask

Hvat vant þú þá

What didst thou then

Hárbarðr meðan?

Hárbarðr meanwhile

30 H. KV. Ek vas austr

I was east

ok við Einherju dœmðak,

and with Einherja spoke-I

lék ek við ena línhvítu

played I with the linen-white

ok launþing háðak;

and secret-meeting held-I

gladdak ena gollbjörtu,

gladdened-I the gold-bright

gamni mæðr unði.

in-(the)-game (the)-maid delighted

31 Þ. KV. Góð átt þú þér mankynni þar þá.

Good hadst thou for-thyself love-dealings there then

- H. KV. Liðs þíns væra ek þá þurfi Þórr, at 32
Of-help thy would-be I then in-need Þórr that
 ek helda þeiri enni línhvítu mey.
I should-have-held that the linen-white maid

33–38 • THE BERSERKS' BRIDES

Þórr would have helped, if he could have got across, and Hárbarðr would trust him if he did not break the truce. Þórr says he is no heel-biter like an old hide shoe in spring. He battered the berserks' brides in Hlésey, who had done the worst and beguiled everyone. Hárbarðr calls it a shame to fight women, and Þórr answers that they were she-wolves rather than women: they shook his propped-up ship, threatened him with iron clubs, and chased Þjalfi.

- Þ. KV. Ek munda þér þá þat veita, ef ek 33
I would thee then that grant if I
 viðr of kæmumk.
across — could-come

- H. KV. Ek munda þér þá trúa 34
I would thee then trust
 nema mik í tryggð véltir.
unless me in (the)-truce thou-betrayest

- Þ. KV. Emkat ek sá hælbitr 35
Am-I-not I that heel-biter
 sem húðskór forn á vár.
as a-hide-shoe old in spring

36 H. KV. Hvat vantu meðan Þórr?
What didst-thou meanwhile Þórr

37 Þ. KV. Brúðir berserkja
Brides of-berserks

barðak í Hléseyju,
battered-I in Hlésey
 þær höfðu verst unnit,
they had worst wrought
 vélta þjóð alla;
beguiled (the)-folk all

38 H. KV. Klæki vantu þá Þórr,
Shame didst-thou then Þórr

es á konum barðir.
when on women thou-battered

Þ. KV. Vargynjur váru,
She-wolves were-they

en varla konur;
and scarcely women
 skeldu skip mitt,
they-shook ship my
 es skorðat hafðak,
which propped had-I
 ægðu mér járnlorði
threatened me with-iron-clubs
 en eltu Þjalfa.
and chased Þjalfi

Hvat vant þú þá

What didst thou then

Hárbarðr meðan?

Hárbarðr meanwhile

39–43 • THE OLD MEN IN THE MOUNDS

Hárbarðr was in the host that came to raise the war-banner and redden the spear. Þórr says he came to offer them hostility, and Hárbarðr offers to make it good with a ring's worth, as arbiters grant. Þórr asks where he got such scornful words, and Hárbarðr says he learned them from the old men who live in the mounds of home.

H. KV. Ek vask í her,

39

I was in (the)-host

es hingat gerðisk

which hither made-its-way

(lacuna)

gnæfa gunnfana,

to-raise (the)-war-banner

geir at rjóða.

(the)-spear to redden

Þ. KV. Þess vilt þú nú geta,

40

That wilt thou now mention

es þú fórt oss óljúfan at bjóða.

when thou wentest us unwelcome to offer

41 H. KV. Bœta skal þér þat þá

Make-good shall-I thee that then

baugi munda,

with-a-ring of-hands

* * *

(lacuna)

sem jafnendr unnu,

as arbiters granted

þeirs okr vilja sætta.

who us-two wish to-reconcile

42 Þ. KV. Hvar namtu þessi en hnœfiligu orð,

Where tookest-thou these the scornful words

es heyðak aldri in hnœfiligri?

than heard-I never the more-scornful

43 H. KV. Namk at mönnum þeim enum aldrœnum,

Took-I from men those the ancient

es búa í heimis haugum.

who dwell in of-home mounds

Pórr says Hárbarðr gives the cairns a fine name in calling them home-mounds, and warns that his word-cunning will cost him: he would howl louder than a wolf at a blow from the hammer. Hárbarðr retorts that Sif has a lover at home, and that would be the fitter place for Pórr's feats. Pórr says he is speaking whatever will hurt him most, and calls him a liar.

Þ. KV. Þó gefr þú gótt nafn dysjum, es þú, 44
Yet givest thou a-good name to-cairns when thou
 kallar þær heimishauga.
callest them home-mounds

H. KV. Svá dœmik of slíkt far. 45
So judge-I about such a-matter

Þ. KV. Orðkringi þín 46
Word-cunning thy
 mun þér illa koma,
will thee ill come
 ef ræðk á vág at vaða,
if dare-I on (the)-bay to wade
 ulfi hæra,
than-a-wolf louder
 hygg at æpa mynir,
think-I that howl thou-wouldst
 ef þú hlýtr af hamri högg.
if thou gettest from (the)-hammer a-blow

47 H. KV. Sif á hó heima,

Sif has a-lover at-home

hans munt fund vilja,

his wilt-thou meeting wish

þann munt þrek drýgja,

that wilt-thou a-feat perform

þat 's þér skyldara.

that is to-thee more-fitting

48 Þ. KV. Mælir þú at munns ráði,

Speakest thou by (thy)-mouth's counsel

svát mér skyldi verst þykkja,

so-that me should worst seem

halr enn hugblauði,

man the faint-hearted

hygg ek at þú ljúgir.

think I that thou liest

49-52 • THE DELAY

Hárbarðr says Þórr is slow on his journey and would be far along by now if he had changed his colors. Þórr says Hárbarðr has delayed him. Hárbarðr says he never thought a herdsman could hinder Ása-Þórr. Þórr bids him row the boat over, stop the taunting, and meet Magni's father.

49 H. KV. Satt hygg mik segja,

Truth think-I me to-say

seinn est at för þinni,

slow art-thou on journey thy

langt myndir nú kominn,

far wouldst-thou now be-come

ef þú litum færir.

if thou (thy)-colors changedst

Þ. KV. Hárbarðr enn ragi,

Hárbarðr the craven

heldr hefr þú nú mik dvalðan.

rather hast thou now me delayed

50

H. KV. Ásaþórs

of-Ása-Þórr

hugðak aldri mundu

thought-I never would

glepja féhirði farar.

binder a-herdsman (the)-journey

51

Þ. KV. Ráð munk þér nú ráða,

Counsel will-I thee now counsel

ró hingat báti,

row hither with-(the)-boat

hættum hætingi,

let-us-cease (the)-taunting

hitt þú föður Magna.

meet thou (the)-father of-Magni

52

Hárbarðr refuses the passage but gives Þórr the way: to the stump, then the stone, then left to Verland, where his mother Fjörgyn will show him the road to Óðinn's lands; he will reach it with toil by sunrise. Þórr promises to repay the refusal when they meet again, and Hárbarðr sends him off to the fiends.

53 H. KV. Far þú firr sundi,
Go thou farther-from (the)-sound

þér skal fars synja.
thee shall passage be-refused

54 Þ. KV. Vísa þú mér leið,
Show thou me (the)-way

alls vill mik eigi of vág ferja.
since wilt me not over (the)-bay ferry

55 H. KV. Lítit 's at synja,
Little is-it to refuse

langt 's at fara,
long is-it to go

stunds es til stoks,
a-while is-it to (the)-stump

til steins önnur,
to (the)-stone another

halt svá til vinstra vegs,
hold so to (the)-left way

unz Verland hittir;
till Verland thou-reachest

þar mun Fjörgyn

there will Fjörgyn

hitta Þór son sinn.

meet Þórr son her

(ok mun hon kenna hánun áttunga brautir til Óðins landa).

and will she teach him (the)-kinsmen's roads to of-Óðinn (the)-lands

Þ. KV. Munk taka þangat í dag?

56

Shall-I reach thither in day

H. KV. Taka við víl ok erfiði, at uppvesandi

57

Reach with toil and labor at up-being

sólu ek get þána.

sun I guess thaw-time

58 Þ. KV. Skamt mun nú mál okkat,

Short will now talk our-two

alls mér skoetingu einni svarar;

since me with-mockery alone thou-answerest

launa munk þér farsynjun,

repay will-I thee (the)-refusal-of-passage

ef finnumk í sinn annat.

if we-meet in time another

59 H. KV. Far þú nú þars þik hafi allan gramir.

Go thou now where thee may-have all (the)-fiends

Hymiskviða

The Lay of Hymir

Long ago the gods had taken their game and were eager to feast. They shook the divining twigs, read the lot, and found that Ægir had a store of cauldrons. The mountain-dweller sat before them glad as a child until Þórr looked him defiantly in the eye and told him to give the Æsir feasts often. Thinking of revenge, the giant bade Sif's husband bring him a cauldron big enough to brew ale for them all. The gods could find none, until Týr gave Hlórriði a loyal counsel.

Ár valtívar

Of-old (the)-slaughter-gods

veiðar námu,

(the)-hunt took

ok sumblsamir

and feast-eager-(they-were)

áðr saðir yrði,

before sated they-became

hristu teina

(they)-shook twigs

ok á hlaut sáu,

and at (the)-lot looked

fundu at Ægis

found at Ægir's

örkost hvera.

a-choice of-cauldrons

1

2 Sat bergbúi

Sat (the)-mountain-dweller

barnteitr fyrir

child-glad before-(them)

mjök glíkr megi

much like to-a-son

miskorblinda;

of-(the)-mash-blender

leit í augu

looked into (the)-eyes

Yggs barn í þrá,

of-Yggr (the)-child in defiance

»þú skalt ásum

thou shalt for-(the)-æsir

opt sumbl gera«.

often a-feast make

3 Önn fekk jötni

Trouble got for-(the)-giant

orðbægnum halr,

(the)-word-stubborn man

hugði at hefndum

thought on revenges

hann næst við goð;

he next against (the)-gods

bað Sifjar ver

bade of-Sif (the)-husband

sér fœra hver,

him bring a-cauldron

»þanns öllum öl

in-which for-all ale

yðr of heitak«

you — brew-I

Né þat máttu

Nor that could

mærir tívar

(the)-famous gods

ok ginnregín

and (the)-boly-powers

of geta hvergi,

— *get anywhere*

unz af tryggðum

till from faithfulness

Týr Hlórriða

Týr to-Hlórriði

ástráð mikit

love-counsel great

einum sagði.

alone told

Týr tells him that east of the Elivágar, at heaven's end, lives the fierce Hymir, his grandfather, who owns a roomy cauldron a league deep, which they may get by guile. They travel hard all day from Ásgarðr to Egill, the keeper of the goats, and then to Hymir's hall. There the boy finds his loathsome grandmother with nine hundred heads, while his mother, all golden and white-browed, brings them beer. She hides the two under the cauldrons, since her father is often stingy and ill-disposed to guests. Hymir comes home late from hunting with his cheek-forest frozen.

5 »Býr fyr austan

Dwells to (the)-east-of

Elivága

(the)-Elivágar

hundvíss Hymir

bound-wise Hymir

at himins enda;

at of-heaven (the)-end

á minn afi

owns my grandfather

móðugr ketil,

(the)-fierce a-kettle

rúmbrugðinn hver,

a-roomy cauldron

rastar djúpan«.

of-a-league deep

„Veizt ef þiggjum

Knowest-thou if we-may-get

þann lögvelli?“

that liquid-boiler

„Ef vinr vélar

If friend by-wiles

vit gørvum til“.

we-two work to-(it)

6

Fóru drjúgum

Went-they hard

dag þann framan

day that forward

Ásgarði frá,

Ásgarðr from

unz til Egils kómu,

till to Egill (they)-came

hirði hafra

(the)-keeper of-goats

horngöfgasta;

(the)-horn-noblest

hurfu at höllu,

turned to (the)-hall

es Hymir átti.

which Hymir owned

7

- 8 Mögr fann ömmu
(The)-son found (his)-grandmother
 mjök leiða sér,
very loathsome to-himself
 hafði höfða
had-she heads
 hundruð níu,
hundreds nine
 en önnur gekk
but (the)-other went
 algollin framm
all-golden forth
 brúnhvít bera
brow-white to-bear
 bjórveig syni.
(the)-beer-drink to-(her)-son

- 9 »Áttniðr jötna,
Kinsman of-giants
 ek viljak ykr
I will-I you-two
 hugfulla tvá
high-hearted two
 und hvera setja;
under (the)-cauldrons set

es minn faðir

since my father

mörgu sinni

many a-time

gløggr við gesti,

stingy to guests

görr ills hugar«.

ready-for ill intent

En váskapaðr

But (the)-misshapen

varð síðbúinn

became late-returning

harðráðr Hymir

(the)-hard-ruling Hymir

heim af veiðum,

home from hunting

gekk inn í sal,

went in into (the)-hall

glumðu jöklar,

resounded (the)-icicles

vas karls, es kom,

was of-(the)-churl when (he)-came

kinnskógr frørin.

(the)-cheek-forest frozen

Týr's mother greets Hymir: the son has come home from a long journey, with Véurr, the friend of men, behind him, sheltering by a pillar under the gable. At the giant's glance the pillar bursts and the beam breaks in two, and eight cauldrons fall, only one of them whole. The giant watches his adversary, and his heart misgives him to see the giantess's bane on his floor. Three bulls are slaughtered and cooked, and before he sleeps Sif's husband eats two of Hymir's oxen by himself. Hymir says that tomorrow evening the three of them must live on what they hunt.

11 »Ves heill Hymir

Be hale Hymir

í hugum góðum,

in good spirits

nú 's sonr kominn

now is (the)-son come

til sala þinna,

to halls thy

(sás vit vættum

be-whom we-two expected

af vegi löngum)

from a-way long

fylgir hánum

follows him

hróðrs andskoti,

of-fame (the)-adversary

vinr verliða;

(the)-friend of-(the)-host-of-men

Véurr heitir sá.

Véurr is-called he

Sé þú hvar sitja

See thou where (they)-sit

und salar gaffi,

under of-(the)-hall (the)-gable

svá forða sér,

so they-shield themselves

stendr súl fyrir«.

stands a-pillar before

Sundr stökk súla

Asunder sprang (the)-pillar

fyr sjón jötuns,

at (the)-look of-(the)-giant

en afr í tvau

and before in two

áss brotnaði.

(the)-beam broke

Stukku átta,

Sprang eight

en einn af þeim

and one of them

hverr harðsleginn

a-cauldron bard-forged

heill af þolli;

whole from (the)-beam

framm gengu þeir,

forth went they

en forn jötunn

and (the)-old giant

sjónum leiddi

with-(his)-eyes followed

sinn andskota.

his adversary

14 Sagðit hánun

Said-not to-him

hugr vel þás sá

(the)-heart well when (he)-saw

gýgjar græti

of-(the)-giantess (the)-bane

á golf kominn,

onto (the)-floor come

þar váru þjórar

there were bulls

þrír of teknir,

three — taken

bað senn jötunn

bade at-once (the)-giant

sjóða ganga.

to-seethe go

Hvern létu þeir

Each let they

höfði skemra

by-a-head shorter

ok á seyði

and to (the)-cooking-pit

síðan báru,

afterward bore

át Sifjar verr,

ate of-Sif (the)-husband

áðr sofa gengi,

before to-sleep (he)-went

einn með öllu

alone with all

øxn tvá Hymis.

oxen two of-Hymir

15

Þótti hárum

Seemed to-(the)-hoary

Hrungnis spjalla

of-Hrungnir (the)-friend

verðr Hlórriða

(the)-meal of-Hlórriði

vel fullmikill,

very full-great

16

»munum at aptni

we-shall at evening

öðrum verða

another have-to

við veiðimat

on hunting-food

vér þrír lifa«.

we three live

17–19 • THE BAIT

Véurr offers to row out on the bay if the giant will give him bait, and Hymir tells him to go to the herd and look for bait himself, expecting that it will come easily from an ox. The lad goes to the wood where an all-black ox stands and breaks off its head between the horns. Hymir tells him that his works seem far worse than if he had sat still.

17 Véurr kvazk vilja

Véurr said-of-himself to-wish

á vág róa,

on (the)-bay to-row

ef ballr jötunn

if (the)-bold giant

beitur gæfi.

baits would-give

»Hverf þú til hjarðar,

Turn thou to (the)-herd

ef hugtrúir,

if heart-trusting

brjótr berg-Dana,

breaker of-rock-Danes

beitur sækja.

baits to-seek

Þess væntir mik,

That expect I

at þér myni

that thee would

ögn af oxa

(the)-bait from an-ox

auðfeng vesa«.

easy-gotten be

Sveinn sýsliga

(The)-lad quickly

sveif til skógar,

went to (the)-wood

þars oxi stóð

where an-ox stood

alsvartr fyrir.

all-black before-him

19 Braut af þjóri

Broke from (the)-bull

þurs ráðbani

of-(the)-þurs (the)-slayer

hátún ofan

(the)-high-home down

horna tveggja.

of-horns two

»Verk þykkja þín

Works seem thy

verri miklu

worse by-much

kjóla valdi,

of-ships to-(the)-ruler

an kyrr sitir«.

than-if still thou-sat

Þórr bids the giant row farther out, but Hymir has little wish to row farther. Hymir draws up two whales at once on his hook, while back in the stern Vǫurr makes his line ready with guile. He baits his hook with the ox's head, and the serpent the gods hate, the girdle beneath all lands, gapes at it. Þórr boldly draws the poison-gleaming serpent up to the gunwale and strikes its head with the hammer. The monsters roar, the rocks ring, the ancient earth shudders, and the fish sinks back into the sea.

Bað hlunngota

Bade (the)-roller-horse

hafra dróttinn

of-goats (the)-lord

áttrunn apa

(the)-offspring of-apes

útar fœra,

farther-out to-move

en sá jötunn

but that giant

sína talði

his said

lítla fýsi

little desire

lengra at róa.

farther to row

20

21 Dró mærr Hymir

Drew (the)-famous Hymir

móðugr hvala,

(the)-fierce whales

einn á öngli

alone on (the)-hook

upp senn eða tvá,

up at-once or two

en aptr í skut

but back in (the)-stern

Óðni sífaðr

to-Óðinn akin

Véurr við vélar

Véurr with wiles

vað gerði sér.

a-line made for-himself

22 Egnði á öngul,

Baited on (the)-hook

sás öldum bergr,

he-who men saves

orms einbani

of-(the)-serpent (the)-sole-slayer

oxa höfði;

of-(the)-ox with-(the)-head

gein við öngli,

gaped at (the)-hook

sús goð fía,

she-whom (the)-gods hate

umbgjörð neðan

(the)-girdle beneath

allra landa.

of-all lands

Dró djarfliga

Drew boldly

dáðrakkr Þóarr

(the)-deed-brave Þóarr

orm eitrfáan

(the)-serpent poison-gleaming

upp at borði;

up to (the)-gunwale

hamri kníði

with-(the)-hammer struck

háfall skarar

(the)-high-mountain of-(the)-hair

ofljótt ofan

over-savagely from-above

ulfs hnitbróður.

of-(the)-wolf of-(the)-joined-brother

Hraungakln hlumðu

(The)-lava-monsters roared

en hólkn þutu,

and (the)-rocks rang

fór en forna

went the ancient

fold öll saman;

earth all together

søkðisk síðan

sank afterward

sá fiskr í mar.

that fish into (the)-sea

(lacuna)

25-29 • THE UNBREAKABLE CUP

The giant rows back in silence, unhappy. At last he asks Þórr to share the work, carrying the whales home or making fast the boat. Hlórriði lifts the boat, bilge-water, oars, bailer, and all, and carries the giant's boat up to the farm. Still the giant contends with him, saying a man is not strong merely for rowing unless he can break the cup. Hlórriði hurls it through the stone pillars, but it is brought back to Hymir whole.

25 ***

(lacuna)

óteitr jötunn,

unglad (the)-giant

es aptr røru,

when back (they)-rowed

svát ár Hymir

so-that at-first Hymir

ekki mælti,

nothing spoke

veifði rœði

plied (the)-oar

veðrs annars til.

wind another to

(lacuna)

»Mundu of vinna

Wilt-thou — do

verk halft við mik,

(the)-work half with me

at heim hvala

that home (the)-whales

haf til bæjar

thou-carry to (the)-farm

eða flotbrúsa

or (the)-floating-goat

festir okkarn.

thou-fasten our-two

Gekk Hlórriði,

Went Hlórriði

greip á stafni,

gripped on (the)-prow

vatt með austri

lifted with (the)-bilge-water

upp lögfaki,

up (the)-sea-steed

26

27

einn með árum

alone with (the)-oars

ok með austskotu,

and with (the)-bailer

bar til bæjar

bore to (the)-farm

brimsvín jötuns.

(the)-surf-swine of-(the)-giant

(ok holtriða

and of-(the)-wooded-ridges

hver í gegnum).

cauldron in through

28 Ok enn jötunn

And still (the)-giant

of afrendi,

about (his)-strength

þrágirni vanr,

obstinacy accustomed-to

við Þóar senti,

with Þóarr contended

kvaðat mann ramman,

said-not (the)-man strong

þótt róa kynni,

though row he-could

kröpturligan,

mightily

nema kálk bryti.

unless (the)-cup he-broke

En Hlórriði,

But Hlórriði

es at höndum kom,

when into hands (it)-came

brátt lét bresta

quickly let burst

brattstein gleri,

(the)-steep-stone with-(the)-glass

sló sitjandi

struck sitting

súlur í gögnum;

(the)-pillars in through

báru þó heilan

bore-(it) yet whole

fyr Hymi síðan.

before Hymir afterward

The fair mistress tells Þórr the secret: strike the cup against Hymir's skull, which is harder than any cup. Þórr rises to his knee with all the Æsir's might and throws; the giant's head is unharmed, but the wine-cup splits. Hymir laments that his treasure is gone and says he can never again say that his ale is hot. The last trial is whether they can carry the cauldron out of his court. Týr twice tries to stir it, but it will not move.

30 Unz þat en fríða

Until that the fair

fríðla kendi

mistress taught

ástráð mikit,

love-counsel great

eitt es vissi,

one which (she)-knew

»drep við haus Hymis,

strike against (the)-skull of-Hymir

hann 's harðari,

it is harder

kostmóðs jötuns,

of-(the)-food-weary giant

kálki hverjum«.

than-cup any

31 Harðr reis á kné

Hard rose on (his)-knee

hafra dróttinn,

of-goats (the)-lord

fœrðisk allra

put-on-himself all

í ásmegin;

in (the)-æsir-might

heill vas karli

whole was for-(the)-churl

hjalmostofn ofan,

(the)-helm-stump above

en vínferill

but (the)-wine-bearer

valr rífnaði.

round was-split

»Mörg veitk mæti

Many know-I treasures

mér gengin frá,

me gone from

es kálki sék

when (the)-cup see-I

ór knéum hrundit,

out-of (my)-knees thrust

— karl orð of kvað —

(the)-churl a-word — spoke

knákat segja

can-I-not say

aptr ævagi:

again ever

þú est öldr of heitt.

thou art ale — beated

33 Þat 's til kostar,

That is to (the)-trial

ef koma mættið

if bring ye-might

út ýr óru

out out-of our

ölkjól hofi«.

(the)-ale-ship court

Týr leitaði

Týr tried

tysvar hrœra;

twice to-stir-(it)

stóð at hváru

stood at each-(try)

hverr kyrr fyrir.

(the)-cauldron still before-(him)

Móði's father grips the rim, his feet going through the floor of the hall, and heaves the cauldron onto his head, its rings clattering at his heels. Before long he looks back and sees a many-headed host coming from the east with Hymir out of the rock-heaps. He sets down the cauldron, swings Mjöllnir, and kills them all. One of his goats lies half dead, lame in the leg, which the guileful Loki caused, and the lava-dweller paid Þórr both his children for it. The mighty god comes to the gods' assembly with Hymir's cauldron, and the gods will drink ale at Ægir's.

Faðir Móða

(The)-father of-Móði

fekk á þremi

took on (the)-rim

ok í gögnum sté

and in through stepped

golf niðr í sal;

(the)-floor down in (the)-hall

hót sér á höfuð upp

heaved himself on (the)-head up

hver Sifjar verr,

(the)-cauldron of-Sif (the)-husband

en á hælum

and on (his)-heels

hringar skullu.

(the)-rings clattered

- 35 **Fórut lengi,**
Went-they-not long
- áðr líta nam**
before look began
- aptr Óðins sonr**
back of-Óðinn (the)-son
- einu sinni;**
one time
- sá hann ór hreysum**
saw he out-of (the)-rock-heaps
- með Hymi austan**
with Hymir from-the-east
- folkdrótt fara**
a-war-host come
- fjölhöfðaða.**
many-beaded

- 36 **Hóf sér af herðum**
Heaved himself from (his)-shoulders
- hver standanda,**
(the)-cauldron standing
- veifði Mjölni**
swung Mjölnir
- morðgjörnum framm,**
murder-eager forward
- ok hraunhvala**
and (the)-lava-whales
- hann alla drap.**
he all killed

Fórut lengi,

Went-they-not long

áðr liggja nam

before lie began

hafr Hlórriða

(the)-goat of-Hlórriði

halfdauðr fyrir,

half-dead before-(him)

vas skær skökuls

was (the)-steed of-(the)-pole

skakkr á beini,

lame in (the)-leg

en því enn lævísi

and that the guileful

Loki of olli.

Loki — caused

37

En ér heyrð hafið,

But ye heard have

hverr kann of þat

whoever can about that

goðmálugra

of-(the)-god-lore-wise

görr at skilja,

more-fully to tell

hver af hraunbúa

what from (the)-lava-dweller

hann laun of fekk,

he (as)-payment — got

38

es bæði galt

who both paid

börn sín fyrir.

children his for-(it)

39 Þróttöflugr kom

Power-mighty came

á þing goða

to (the)-assembly of-(the)-gods

ok hafði hver,

and had (the)-cauldron

þanns Hymir átti;

which Hymir owned

en véar hverjan

and (the)-gods every

vel skulu drekka

well shall drink

öldr at Ægis

ale at Ægir's

þeitt hörmeitit.

one flax-cutting

Lokasenna

The Flyting of Loki

Ægir, also called Gymir, brews ale for the Æsir in the great kettle. Óðinn and Frigg come; so do Sif; Bragi and Iðunn; one-handed Týr; Njörðr and Skaði; Freyr and Freyja; Viðarr; Loki; and Freyr's servants, Byggvir and Beyla. Þórr is away in the east. The ale serves itself and bright gold gives the light. When the guests praise Ægir's servants, Loki kills Fimafengr and is chased into the woods. Returning, he asks Eldir what the gods are talking about inside. Eldir warns that they will wipe any slander off on him, but Loki means to go in and mix harm into their mead.

Frá Ægi ok goðum. Ægir, er öðru nafni hét Gymir,
About Ægir and (the)-gods Ægir who by-another name was-called Gymir
 hann hafði búið ásum öl, þá er hann hafði fengit ketil
he had brewed for-(the)-æsir ale when — he had gotten (the)-kettle
 enn mikla, sem nú er sagt. Til þeirar veizlu kom Óðinn ok
the great as now is told To that feast came Óðinn and
 Frigg kona hans. Þórr kom eigi, þvíat hann var í austrvegi.
Frigg wife his Þórr came not because he was in (the)-east-way
 Sif var þar, kona Þórs, Bragi ok Iðunn kona hans. Týr var
Sif was there (the)-wife of-Þórr Bragi and Iðunn wife his Týr was
 þar; hann var einhendr — Fenrisúlfr sleit hönd af honum,
there he was one-handed Fenrisúlfr tore (the)-hand off him
 þá er hann var bundinn. Þar var Njörðr ok kona hans
when — he was bound There was Njörðr and wife his
 Skaði, Freyr ok Freyja, Viðarr son Óðins; Loki var þar, ok
Skaði Freyr and Freyja Viðarr (the)-son of-Óðinn Loki was there and
 þjónustumenn Freys, Byggvir ok Beyla. Mart var þar ása
(the)-servants of-Freyr Byggvir and Beyla Many were there of-(the)-æsir
 ok álfa. Ægir átti tvá þjónustumenn — Fimafengr ok Eldir.
and of-elves Ægir had two servants Fimafengr and Eldir

Þar var lýsigull haft fyrir elds ljós. Sjálft barsk þar öl.

There was light-gold had for fire's light Of-itself bore-itself there (the)-ale

Þar var griðastaðr mikill. Menn lofuðu mjök, hversu góðir

There was a-sanctuary great Men praised much how good

þjónustumenn Ægis váru. Loki mátti eigi heyra þat ok drap

(the)-servants of-Ægir were Loki could not bear that and killed

hann Fimafeng. Þá skóku æsir skjöldu sína ok æpðu at

he Fimafengr Then shook (the)-æsir shields their and shouted at

Loka ok eltu hann braut til skógar, en þeir fóru at drekka.

Loki and chased him away to (the)-wood and they went to drink

Loki hvarf aptr ok hitti úti Eldi. Loki kvaddi hann.

Loki turned back and met outside Eldir Loki greeted him

1 Seg þat Eldir

Say that Eldir

svát einugi

so-that not-a-single

feti gangir framarr,

foot thou-go further

hvat hér inni

what here inside

hafa at ölmálum

have as ale-talk

sigtíva synir.

of-(the)-victory-gods (the)-sons

E. KV. Of vápn sín dœma

2

About weapons their deliberate

ok of vígrisni

and about war-prowess

sigtíva synir;

of-(the)-victory-gods (the)-sons

ása ok alfa,

of-(the)-æsir and elves

es hér inni eru,

who here inside are

manni 's þér í orði vinr.

no-man is to-thee in word a-friend

Inn skal ganga

3

In shall-(I) go

Ægis hallir í

of-Ægir (the)-halls into

á þat sumbl at séa,

on that feast to look

jöll ok áfu

quarrel and strife

fœrik ása sonum

bring-I of-(the)-æsir to-(the)-sons

ok blendk þeim svá meini mjöð.

and mix-I for-them so with-harm (the)-mead

4 E. KV. Veizt, ef inn gengr

Knowest-thou if in thou-goest

Ægis hallir í

of-Ægir (the)-halls into

á þat sumbl at séa,

on that feast to look

hrópi ok rógi

abuse and slander

ef eyss á holl regin,

if thou-pourest on (the)-kind powers

á þér munu þerra þat.

on thee will-(they) wipe it

5 Veizt þat Eldir,

Knowest-thou that Eldir

ef einir skulum

if alone we-shall

sáryrðum sakask,

with-wounding-words contend

auðigr verða

rich become

munk í andsvörum,

will-I in answers

ef þú mælir til mart.

if thou speakest too much

Loki enters and the hall falls silent. He has come thirsty from a long road and asks the Æsir for a drink of mead, or else to be given a seat or sent away. Bragi says the Æsir will never give him a place at the feast. Loki reminds Óðinn that in early days they blended their blood and Óðinn swore never to drink ale unless it was brought to them both. Óðinn bids Víðarr make room for the wolf's father, lest Loki speak words of blame in Ægir's hall.

Síðan gekk Loki inn í höllina; en er þeir sá, er fyrir
Then went Loki in into the-hall and when they saw who before
 váru, hverr inn var kominn, þögnuðu þeir allir.
were who in was come fell-silent they all

Þyrstr ek kom

Thirsty I came

þessar hallar til

this hall to

Loptr of langan veg,

Loptr over a-long way

ásu at biðja,

(the)-æsir to ask

at mér einn gefi

that me one might-give

mæran drykk mjaðar.

a-famous drink of-mead

- 7 Hví þegið ér
Why are-silent ye
 svá þrungen goð,
so stubborn gods
 at mæla né meguð;
that speak not ye-can
 sessa ok staði
seat and place
 velið mér sumbli at,
choose me feast at
 eða heitið mik heðan.
or bid me hence

- 8 BR. KV. Sessa ok staði
Seat and place
 velja þér sumbli at
to-choose thee feast at
 æsir aldrigi;
(the)-æsir never-(will)
 æsir vitu
(the)-æsir know
 hveim þeir alda skulu
for-whom they of-men shall
 gambansumbl of geta.
a-magic-feast — to-grant

Mant þat Óðinn,

9

Rememberest-thou that Óðinn

es vit í árdaga

when we-two in early-days

blendum blóði saman?

blended blood together

ölvi bergja

ale to-taste

lézk eigi mundu,

saidst-thou-of-thyself not would

nema ok væri báðum borit.

unless to-us-two were both brought

ÓÐ. KV. Rís þá Víðarr

10

Rise then Víðarr

ok lát ulfs föður

and let of-(the)-wolf (the)-father

sitja sumbli at,

sit (the)-feast at

síðr oss Loki

lest us Loki

kveði lastastöfum

may-speak-to with-staves-of-blame

Ægis höllu í.

of-Ægir (the)-hall in

Viðarr pours for Loki, who greets all the gods and goddesses except Bragi on the benches. Bragi offers a horse, a sword, and a ring to buy his peace. Loki answers that Bragi will always lack both horse and sword, since he is the most wary of battle among them all. Bragi says that if he were outside the hall he would carry Loki's head in his hand, and Loki mocks him as a bench-ornament, brave only in his seat.

Þá stóð Viðarr upp ok skenkti Loka, en áðr hann

Then stood Viðarr up and poured for-Loki but before he

drykki, kvaddi hann ásuna:

drank greeted he the-æsir

11 Heilir æsir,

Hale æsir

heilar ásynjur

bale ásynjur

ok öll ginnheilög goð,

and all most-holy gods

nema sá einn áss

except that one god

es innar sitr

who farther-in sits

Bragi bekkjum á.

Bragi (the)-benches on

BR. KV. Mar ok mæki

12

A-horse and a-sword

gefk þér míns féar

give-I thee of-my wealth

ok bœtir þér svá (baugi) Bragi,

and makes-amends thee so with-a-ring Bragi

síðr þú ásum

lest thou to-(the)-æsir

öfund of gjaldir,

hatred — repay

gremjat goð at þér.

anger-not (the)-gods at thee

Jós ok mækis,

Of-horse and of-sword

munt æ vesa

wilt-thou ever be

beggja vanr Bragi,

of-both lacking Bragi

ása ok alfa,

of-(the)-æsir and elves

es hér inni eru,

who here inside are

þú est við víg varastr.

thou art toward battle most-wary

(ok skjarrastr við skot).

and most-shy toward shot

13

- 14 BR. KV. Veitk, ef fyr útan værak,

Know-I if on outside were-I

sem fyr innan emk,

as on inside am-I

Hlés höll of kominn,

of-Hlé (the)-hall — come

höfuð þitt

(the)-head thy

bærak í hendi mér;

would-I-bear in hand my

lykak þér þat fyr lygi.

would-pay-I thee that for (the)-lie

- 15 Snjallr est í sessi,

Bold art-thou in (the)-seat

skalattu svá gera,

shalt-thou-not so do

Bragi bekkskrautuðr;

Bragi bench-ornament

vega þú gakk,

fight thou go

ef vreiðr séir;

if wroth thou-be

hyggsk vætr hvatr fyrir.

takes-thought-of nothing (the)-brave before-(him)

Iðunn begs Bragi not to trade words of blame with Loki in Ægir's hall. Loki calls her the most man-mad of women, who laid her washed arms about her brother's slayer. Iðunn says she will not speak ill of Loki, but wants to quiet Bragi before they fight. Gefjun asks why the two should contend. Loki taunts her with the white lad who gave her a necklace and over whom she laid her thigh.

ID. KV. Biðk þik Bragi

16

Bid-I thee Bragi

†barna síðar duga

of-children (the)-kinship avail

ok allra óskmaga,

and of-all (the)-adopted-sons

at þú Loka

that thou Loki

kveðira lastastöfum

speak-not-to with-staves-of-blame

Ægis höllu í.

of-Ægir (the)-hall in

Þegi þú Iðunn,

17

Be-silent thou Iðunn

þik kveðk allra kvinna

thee call-I of-all women

vergjarnasta vesa,

most-man-mad to-be

síz arma þína

since arms thy

lagðir ítrþvegna

thou-laidst brightly-washed

of þinn bróður-bana.

about thy brother's-slayer

18 ... Loka

... Loki

kveðka lastastöfum

speak-I-not with-staves-of-blame

Ægis höllu í;

of-Ægir (the)-hall in

Braga kyrrik

Bragi quiet-I

bjóri reifan;

with-beer merry

vilkat at vreiðir vegizk.

will-I-not that wroth ye-fight

19 GEFJ. KV. Hví it æsir tveir

Why you-two æsir two

skuluð inni hér

shall inside here

sáryrðum sakask?

with-wounding-words contend

Loptki þat veit,

Loptir-not that knows

at leikinn es

that beguiled he-is

ok hann fjörg öll fía.

and him (the)-powers all hate

Þegi þú Gefjun,

Be-silent thou Gefjun

þess munk nú geta,

this will-I now mention

es þik glapði at geði

who thee led-astay in mind

sveinn enn hvíti,

(the)-lad the white

es þér sigli gaf

who thee a-necklace gave

ok þú lagðir lær yfir.

and thou laidst (thy)-thigh over

20

Óðinn warns Loki not to anger Gefjun, who knows the world's fates as well as he. Loki taunts Óðinn with giving victory to the slack. Óðinn answers that Loki spent eight winters under the earth as a milkmaid and bore children there. Loki retorts that Óðinn practiced sorcery on Sámsey, beating the drum like a seeress and going about in a wizard's likeness, the nature of an unmanly one. Frigg tells them to keep their old deeds from men, and Loki accuses her of taking Óðinn's brothers Vei and Vili into her bosom.

21 ÓÐ. KV. **Þerr** est **Loki**

Mad art-thou Loki

ok **ørviti,**

and out-of-thy-wits

es **fær** **þér** **Gefjun** at **gremi;**

when thou-bringest on-thyself Gefjun to wrath

aldar **ørlög**

of-(the)-world (the)-fates

hygg at **öll** of **viti**

think-I that all — (she)-knows

jafngörla **sem** **ek.**

equally-fully as I

22 **Þegi** **þú** **Óðinn,**

Be-silent thou Óðinn

þú **kunnir** **aldrigi**

thou couldst never

deila **víg** **með** **verum,**

deal battle among men

opt þú gaft þeim,
often thou gavest them
 es gefa skyldira,
whom give shouldst-not
 enum slævurum sigr.
to-the slacker victory

ÓÐ. KV. Veizt, ef gafk þeim,
Knowest-thou if I-gave them

23

es gefa né skyldak,
whom give not I-should
 enum slævurum sigr,
to-the slacker victory

átta vetr
eight winters

vast þú fyr jörð neðan
wast thou under (the)-earth beneath

kýr mólkandi ok kona.
a-cow milking and a-woman

(ok hefr þú þar börn borit
and hast thou there children borne

ok hugðak þat args aðal).
and thought-I that of-an-unmanly-one (the)-nature

En þik síða
But thee to-practice-sorcery

24

kóðu Sámseyju í,
said-(they) Sámsey on

ok drapt á vétt sem vödur,
and didst-beat on (the)-drum like seeresses

vitka líki
in-a-wizard's likeness

fórt verþjóð yfir,
wentest-thou (the)-world-of-men over

ok hugðak þat args aðal.
and thought-I that of-an-unmanly-one (the)-nature

25 FR. KV. Ørlögum ykrum
(The)-fates of-you-two

skylið aldri
should-ye never

segja seggjum frá,
tell to-men of

hvat it æsir tveir
what you-two æsir two

drýgðuð í árdaga;
wrought in early-days

firrisk æ forn rökfirar.
shun ever old matters-men

26 Þegi þú Frigg,
Be-silent thou Frigg

þú 'st Fjörgyns mæd
thou art of-Fjörgynn (the)-daughter

ok hefr æ vergjörn verit,
and hast ever man-mad been

es þá Véa ok Vilja

when then Vei and Vili

lézt þér Viðris kvæn

lettest-thou thee of-Viðrir wife

báða í baðm of tekit.

both into (thy)-bosom — taken

27–32 • FRIGG AND FREYJA

Frigg says that if she had a son like Baldr in the hall, Loki would not leave alive. Loki boasts that he caused Baldr never to ride home to the halls again. Freyja says Frigg knows all fates though she does not speak them. Loki accuses Freyja of having taken every one of the Æsir and elves as her lover. Freyja warns him the gods are angry and he will go home sorrowful. Loki calls her a witch whom the gods caught with her brother.

FR. KV. Veizt, ef inni ættak

27

Knowest-thou if inside I-bad

Ægis höllum í

of-Ægir (the)-balls in

Baldri glíkan bur,

to-Baldr like a-son

út þú né kæmir

out thou not wouldst-come

frá ása sonum

from of-(the)-æsir sons

ok væri þá at þér vreiðum vegit.

and would-be then at thee wroth (they)-fought

- 28 Enn vill þú Frigg,
Still wilt thou Frigg
 at fleiri teljak
that more I-tell
 mína meinstafi,
my evil-staves
 ek því ræð,
I bring-about that
 es ríða sérat
that ride seest-thou-not
 síðan Baldr at söllum.
afterward Baldr to (the)-halls

- 29 FR. KV. Ærr est Loki,
Mad art-thou Loki
 es yðra telr
who your reckonest
 ljóta leiðstafi,
ugly loathsome-staves
 ørlög Frigg
(the)-fates Frigg
 hygg at öll viti,
think-I that all knows
 þótt hon sjalfgi segi.
though she herself-not may-say

Þegi þú Freyja,

Be-silent thou Freyja

þik kank fullgörva,

thee know-I fully

esa þér vamma vant,

is-not in-thee of-faults lack

ása ok alfa,

of-(the)-æsir and elves

es hér inni eru,

who here inside are

hverr hefr þinn hór verit.

each has thy lover been

FR. KV. Flá es þér tunga,

False is thy tongue

hygg at þér fremr myni

think-I that thee rather would

ó-gótt of gala,

un-good — bewitch

reiðir ro þér æsir

angry are at-thee (the)-æsir

ok ásynjur,

and ásynjur

hryggr munt heim fara.

sorrowful wilt-thou home go

- 32 Þegi þú Freyja,
Be-silent thou Freyja
 þú est fordæða
thou art a-witch
 ok meini blandin mjök,
and with-harm mingled much
 síz þik at bræðr þínum
since thee against brother thy
 stóðu blíð regin
caught (the)-kindly powers
 ok myndir þá Freyja frata.
and wouldst then Freyja fart

33–36 • NJÖRÐR

Njörðr says it is no harm for a woman to take a lover, but a wonder that an unmanly god who has borne children has come in. Loki taunts Njörðr with being sent as a hostage from the east, where Hymir's daughters used him as a trough to piss in. Njörðr takes comfort that as a hostage he fathered a son no one hates, the Æsir's protector. Loki tells him to stop, since Njörðr got that son with his own sister.

- 33 NJ. KV. Þat 's válitit,
That is little-harm
 þótt sér varðir fái
though for-herself a-woman she-gets
 vers hóss eða hvárs.
of-a-husband lover or of-another

hitt 's undr es áss ragr
this is a-wonder that a-god unmanly

es hér inn of kominn
is here in — come

ok hefr sá börn of borit.
and has he children — borne

Þegi þú Njörðr,
Be-silent thou Njörðr

þú vast austan
thou wast from-the-east

gísl of sendr at goðum,
(as)-hostage — sent to (the)-gods

Hymis meyjar
of-Hymir (the)-maids

höfðu þik at hlandtrogi
had thee as a-piss-trough

ok þér í munn migu.
and thee into (the)-mouth pissed

NJ. KV. Sú erumk líkn,
That is-to-me a-comfort

es vask langt heðan
since was-I far hence

gísl of sendr at goðum,
(as)-hostage — sent to (the)-gods

þá mög gatk,
then a-son begot-I

34

35

þanns manngi fíar,

whom no-man hates

ok þykkir sá ása jaðarr.

and seems he of-(the)-æsir (the)-protector

36 Hætt nú Njörðr,

Stop now Njörðr

haf á hófi þik,

have in measure thyself

munka því leyna lengr,

will-I-not that hide longer

við systur þinni

with sister thy

gæzt slíkan mög

gottest-thou such a-son

ok esa þó vǫnu verr.

and is-he-not yet than-expected worse

Týr praises Freyr as the best of the gods, who makes no woman weep and looses everyone from fetters. Loki reminds Týr that Fenrir tore off his right hand. Týr answers that the wolf fares no better, bound until Ragnarøk. Loki says Týr's wife had a son by him, for which Týr got no compensation. Freyr warns that Loki will be bound like the wolf if he does not keep quiet. Loki taunts Freyr with buying Gymir's daughter with gold and selling his sword, so that he will not know how to fight when Múspell's sons ride over Myrkviðr.

TÝR KV. Freyr es baztr

37

Freyr is best

allra ballriða

of-all bold-riders

ása gördum í,

of-(the)-æsir (the)-courts in

mey né grætir

a-maid not he-makes-weep

né manns konu

nor of-a-man (the)-wife

ok leysir ór höptum hvern.

and looses out-of fetters each

Þegi þú Týr,

Be-silent thou Týr

þú kunnir aldrigi

thou couldst never

bera tilt með tveim,

bear a-good-word between two

38

hönd ena hægri,

(the)-hand the right

munka hinnar geta,

will-I-not that-other mention

þér sleit Fenrir frá.

from-thee tore Fenrir off

39 TÝR KV. Handar emk vanr,

Of-a-hand am-I lacking

en þú hróðrsvitnis,

but thou of-bróðrsvitnir

böl es beggja þrá;

bale is of-both (the)-longing

ulfgi hefr ok betr

(the)-wolf-not has also better

es í böndum skal

who in bonds shall

bíða ragnarøks.

await ragnarøk

40 Þegi þú Týr,

Be-silent thou Týr

þat varð þinni konu,

that befell thy wife

at hón átti mög við mér,

that she had a-son with me

öln né penning

an-ell nor a-penny

hafðir aldri

hadst-thou never

þess vanréttis, vesall.

of-that wrong wretch

FR. KV. Ulf sék liggja

(The)-wolf see-I lie

41

árósi fyrir

(the)-river-mouth before

unz of rjúfask regin,

until — are-torn-apart (the)-powers

því munt næst

to-that wilt-thou next

nema þú nú þegir

unless thou now art-silent

bundinn, bölvasmiðr.

bound evil-smith

Golli keypta

With-gold bought

lézt Gymis dóttur

lettest-thou of-Gymir (the)-daughter

ok seldir þitt svá sverð,

and soldest thy so sword

42

en es Múspells synir

but when of-Múspell (the)-sons

ríða Myrkvið yfir,

ride Myrkviðr over

veizta þá, vesall, hvé vegr.

knowest-thou-not then wretch how thou-fightest

43-47 • BYGGVIR AND HEIMDALLR

Byggvir says that if he had Freyr's birth he would grind the evil crow smaller than marrow. Loki asks what this little thing is, snapping at Freyr's ears and chattering under the querns. Byggvir names himself and says he is proud that all the gods drink ale together. Loki says Byggvir could never share food among men, and hid in the straw when men fought. Heimdallr tells Loki he is drunk and out of his wits.

43 B. KV. Veizt, ef øðli ættak

Knowest-thou if (the)-birth I-had

sem Ingunar-Freyr

as Ingunar-Freyr

ok svá sælligt setr,

and so blessed a-seat

mergi smæra

than-marrow smaller

møldak meinkráku

would-grind-I (the)-evil-crow

ok lemða alla í liðu.

and would-crush-I all in (the)-limbs

Hvat 's þat litla

What is that little-one

es löggra sék

which wagging see-I

ok snapvíst snapir,

and snappishly snaps

at eyrum Freys

at (the)-ears of-Freyr

munt æ vesa

wilt-thou ever be

ok und kvernum klaka.

and under (the)-querns chatter

44

B. KV. Byggvir heitik,

Byggvir am-called-I

en mik bráðan kveða

and me quick call

goð öll ok gumar,

gods all and men

því emk hér hróðugr,

therefore am-I here proud

at drekka Hropts megir

that drink of-Hroptr (the)-kinsmen

allir öl saman.

all ale together

45

- 46 Þegi þú Byggvir,
Be-silent thou Byggvir
 þú kunnir aldri
thou couldst never
 deila með mönnum mat,
share among men food
 ok þik í flets strái
and thee in of-(the)-bench (the)-straw
 finna né máttu,
find not could-(they)
 þás vágu verar.
when fought men

- 47 H. KV. Ölr est Loki,
Drunk art-thou Loki
 svát est ørviti,
so-that art-thou out-of-thy-wits
 hví né lezkat Loki,
why not stoppest-thou-not Loki
 ofdrykkja
over-drinking
 veldr alda hveim,
causes of-men each-one
 es sína mælgí né manat.
that his talk not remembers-not

Loki says Heimdallr's fate was set long ago: to stand as the gods' warder with a wet back. Heimdallr warns that the gods will bind Loki on a sword with his rime-cold son's guts. Loki answers that he was first and last at the killing of Þjazi. Skaði promises that cold counsel shall come to him from her sanctuaries and plains. Loki reminds her she was friendlier when she invited him to her bed.

Þegi þú Heimdallr,

Be-silent thou Heimdallr

þér vas í árdaga

for-thee was in early-days

et ljóta líf of lagit;

the ugly life — laid-down

öргу baki

with-a-wet back

þú munt æ vesa

thou shalt ever be

ok vaka vörðr goða.

and wake (as)-warder of-(the)-gods

48

H. KV. Létt 's þér Loki,

Light is-it for-thee Loki

munattu lengi svá

wilt-thou-not long so

leika lausum hala,

play with-loose tail

49

þvíat þik á hjörvi

because thee on a-sword

skulu ens hrímkalda magar

shall of-the rime-cold son

görnum binda goð.

with-(the)-guts bind (the)-gods

50 Veizt, ef mik á hjörvi

Knowest-thou if me on a-sword

skulu ens hrímkalda magar

shall of-the rime-cold son

görnum binda goð,

with-(the)-guts bind (the)-gods

fyrstr ok øfstr

first and last

vask at fjörlagi,

was-I at (the)-life-taking

þars vér á Þjaza þrifum.

where we on Þjazi seized

51 SK. KV. Veizt, ef fyrstr ok øfstr

Knowest-thou if first and last

vast þú at fjörlagi,

wast thou at (the)-life-taking

þás ér á Þjaza þrifuð,

when ye on Þjazi seized

frá mínum véum

from my sanctuaries

ok vöngum skulu

and plains shall

þér æ köld ráð koma.

to-thee ever cold counsels come

Léttari í málum

Lighter in words

vast við Laufeyjar son,

wast-thou to of-Laufey (the)-son

þás lézt mér á beð þinn boðit,

when lettest me into bed thy (be)-bidden

getit verður oss slíks,

mentioned shall-be by-us of-such

ef görva skulum,

if fully we-shall

telja vömm enn ór.

count faults further our

Sif pours mead for Loki in a rime-cup and asks him to spare her alone among the Æsir. Loki says she would be the one faithful wife if it were so, but he knows of a lover who took her from Hlórriði: Loki himself. Beyla says the mountains shake, so Hlórriði must be on his way home to silence the slanderer. Loki calls her Byggvir's wife, full of harm and a befouled dairy-maid.

Þá gekk Sif framm ok byrði Loka í hrímkálki mjöð

Then went Sif forward and poured for-Loki in a-rime-cup mead

ok mælti:

and spoke

53 Heill vestu Loki,

Hale be-thou Loki

ok tak við hrímkálki

and take — (the)-rime-cup

fullum forns mjaðar,

full of-old mead

heldr hana eina

rather her alone

látir með ása sonum

let-thou among of-(the)-æsir sons

vammalausa vesa.

faultless be

HANN TÓK VIÐ HORNI OK DRAKK AF. Ein þú værir,
One thou wouldst-be

54

ef svá værir,

if so thou-wert

vör ok gröm at veri,

wary and fierce toward (thy)-husband

einn ek veit,

one I know

svát vita þykkjumk,

so-that know I-think

hór ok af Hlórriða

a-lover also of Hlórriði

(ok var þat sá enn lævisi Loki).

and was that that-one the guileful Loki

BEYLA KV. Fjöll öll skjalfa

55

(The)-mountains all tremble

hygg á för vesa

think-I on a-journey to-be

heim Hlórriða,

home Hlórriði

hann ræðr ró,

he brings-to rest

þeims rægir hér

him-who slanders here

goð öll ok guma.

gods all and men

- 56 Þegi þú Beyla,
Be-silent thou Beyla
 þú 'st Byggvis kvæn
thou art of-Byggvir (the)-wife
 ok meini blandin mjök,
and with-harm mingled much
 ó-kynjan meira
a-monstrosity greater
 koma með ása sonum,
comes-not among of-(the)-æsir sons
 öll est deigja dritin.
all art-thou a-dairy-maid befouled

57-61 • ÞÓRR COMES HOME

Þórr enters and threatens to silence Loki with Mjöllnir. Loki asks why he boasts, when he will not dare fight the wolf that swallows Sigföðr. Þórr threatens to throw him into the east-ways where no one will see him again. Loki tells him never to speak of his eastern journeys, since he cowered in the thumb of a glove. Þórr threatens to break every bone in his body with Hrungrnir's bane.

- 57 ÞÁ KOM ÞÓRR AT OK KVÆÐ: Þegi þú rög vættr,
Be-silent thou unmanly creature
 þér skal minn þrúðhamarr
thee shall my mighty-hammer
 Mjöllnir mál fyrnema,
Mjöllnir (the)-speech cut-off

herðaklett

(the)-shoulder-rock

drepk þér halsi af,

strike-I thee (the)-neck from

verðr þá þínu fjörvi of farit.

becomes then thy life — ended

Jarðar burr

Of-Jörð (the)-son

es hér nú inn kominn,

is here now in come

hví þrasir þú svá Þórr?

why boastest thou so Þórr

en þá þorir þú ekki,

but then darest thou not

es þú skalt við ulf vega

when thou shalt with (the)-wolf fight

ok svelgr hann allan Sigföðr.

and swallows he all Sigföðr

Þ. KV. Þegi þú rög vættr,

Be-silent thou unmanly creature

þér skal minn þrúðhamarr

thee shall my mighty-hammer

Mjölnir mál fyrnema,

Mjölnir (the)-speech cut-off

58

59

upp þér verpk

up thee throw-I

ok á austrvegá,

and onto (the)-east-ways

síðan þik manngi sér.

afterward thee no-man sees

60 Austrförum þínum

(the)-east-journeys thy

skalt aldri

shalt-thou never

segja seggjum frá,

tell to-men of

síz í hanzka (þumlungi)

since in of-a-glove (the)-thumb

hnúkðir einheri,

crouchedst-thou (the)-champion

ok þóttiska þá Þórr vesa.

and seemedst-not then Þórr to-be

61 Þ. KV. Þegi þú rög vættr,

Be-silent thou unmanly creature

þér skal minn þrúðhamarr

thee shall my mighty-hammer

Mjöllnir mál fyrnema,

Mjöllnir (the)-speech cut-off

hendi enni hægri

with-hand the right

drepk þik Hrungnis bana,

strike-I thee of-Hrungnir with-(the)-bane

svát þér brotnar beina hvat.

so-that thee breaks of-bones each

62-65 · LOKI LEAVES THE HALL

Loki says he means to live long despite the hammer, and mocks Þórr for starving because he could not untie Skrímir's straps. Þórr threatens to send him to Hel beneath the corpse-gates. Loki says he has spoken his mind before all the Æsir but will go out before Þórr alone, since he knows that Þórr will strike. His parting words are to Ægir: he will never make another feast, and his possessions shall burn in flames.

Lifa ætlak

Live intend-I

mér langan aldr,

for-myself a-long life

þótt hætir hamri mér,

though thou-threatenest with-(the)-hammer me

skarpar álar

sharp straps

þóttu þér Skrímis vesa,

seemed to-thee of-Skrímir to-be

ok máttira nesti náa.

and couldst-not (the)-provisions reach

(ok svalzt þú þá hungri heill).

and starvest thou then with-hunger whole

63 Þ. KV. Þegi þú rög vættr,

Be-silent thou unmanly creature

þér skal minn þrúðhamarr

thee shall my mighty-hammer

Mjöllnir mál fyrnema,

Mjöllnir (the)-speech cut-off

Hrungis bani

of-Hrungnir (the)-bane

mun þér í hel koma

will thee into hel bring

fyr nágrindr neðan.

under (the)-corpse-gates beneath

64 Kvaðk fyr ásum,

Said-I before (the)-æsir

kvaðk fyr ása sonum,

said-I before of-(the)-æsir (the)-sons

þaz mik hvatti hugr,

what me urged (my)-mind

en fyr þér einum

but before thee alone

munk út ganga,

will-I out go

þvíat ek veit at þú vegr.

because I know that thou fightest

Öl gerðir Ægir,
Ale madest-thou Ægir
 en þú aldri munt
but thou never wilt
 síðan sumbl of gera,
afterward a-feast — make
 eiga þín öll,
possessions thy all
 es hér inni es,
which here inside is
 (leiki yfir logi)
may-play over-(them) flame
 brenni þér á baki.
may-burn thee on (the)-back

THE BINDING OF LOKI

Loki hides in Fránangrsfors in the likeness of a salmon, and there the Æsir catch him. He is bound with the guts of his son Váli, and his son Narfi is turned into a wolf. Skaði fastens a poison-snake above his face, and Sigyn, his wife, holds a basin under the dripping venom. When the basin is full she carries it out, and meanwhile the poison drips on Loki, who writhes so hard that all the earth shakes. Those are now called earthquakes.

Frá Loka. En eptir þetta falsk Loki í Fránangrsfors í
About Loki And after this hid-himself Loki in Fránangrsfors in
 lax líki. Þar tóku æsir hann. Hann var bundinn með
of-a-salmon likeness There caught (the)-æsir him He was bound with
 þörmum sonar síns Vála, en Narfi sonr hans varð at vargi.
(the)-guts of-son his Váli but Narfi son his became into a-wolf

Skaði tók eitrom ok festi upp yfir annlit Loka; draup þar
Skaði took a-poison-snake and fastened up over (the)-face of-Loki dripped there
 ór eitr. Sigyn kona Loka sat þar ok held munnlaug undir
out-of-(it) poison Sigyn (the)-wife of-Loki sat there and held a-basin under
 eitrit. En er munnlaugin var full, bar hon út eitrit, en
the-poison And when the-basin was full carried she out the-poison but
 meðan draup eitrit á Loka. Þá kipðisk hann svá hart við,
meanwhile dripped the-poison on Loki Then jerked he so hard at-(it)
 at þaðan af skalf jörð öll. Þat eru nú kallaðir landskjálptar.
that thence from shook (the)-earth all That are now called earthquakes

Þrymskviða

The Lay of Thrym

Vingþórr wakes in a rage to find his hammer missing; his beard shakes, his hair tosses, and he gropes about for it. He tells Loki what no one on earth or in heaven knows: the god has been robbed of his hammer. They go to Freyja's courts, and Þórr asks her to lend him her feather-cloak so he may look for it. Freyja would give it even if it were made of gold, and hand it over were it silver.

Vreiðr vas þá Vingþórr,

Wroth was then Vingþórr

es vaknaði

when he-awoke

ok síns hamars

and his hammer

of saknaði,

— missed

skegg nam at hrista,

(his)-beard began to shake

skör nam at dýja,

(his)-hair began to toss

réd Jarðar burr

set-about of-Jörð (the)-son

umb at þreifask.

around to grope

Ok hann þat orða

And he these words

alls fyrst of kvað:

all first — spoke

1

2

heyr nú Loki,

hear now Loki

hvat nú mælik,

what now speak-I

es engi veit

which no-one knows

jarðar hvergi

on-earth anywhere

né upphimins:

nor of-heaven-above

áss es stolinn hamri.

(the)-god is robbed of-(his)-hammer

3 Gingu fagra

Went-they (the)-fair

Freyju túna,

of-Freyja to-courts

ok hann þat orða

and he these words

alls fyrst of kvað:

all first — spoke

munt mér Freyja

wilt-thou me Freyja

fjaðrhams léa,

(thy)-feather-cloak lend

ef minn hamar

if my hammer

mættak hitta.

I-might find

FR. KV. Þó mundak gefa þér,

Yet would-I give thee

þótt ór golli væri,

though out-of gold it-were

ok þó selja,

and yet hand-over

at ór silfri væri.

though out-of silver it-were

4

5-8 • ÞRYMR'S PRICE

Loki flies off in the whirring feather-cloak out of the Æsir's courts and into the worlds of the giants. There Þrymr, lord of the þursar, sits on a mound twisting gold collars for his hounds and trimming his horses' manes. He asks how things stand with the Æsir and the elves, and Loki asks whether he has hidden Hlórriði's hammer. Þrymr has buried it eight leagues under the earth, and no one will get it back unless they bring him Freyja as his wife. Loki flies home and meets Þórr in the middle of the courts.

Fló þá Loki,

Flew then Loki

fjaðrhamr dunði,

(the)-feather-cloak whirred

unz fyr útan kom

till on outside came-be

ása garða,

of-(the)-æsir (the)-courts

(ok fyr innan kom

and on inside came-be

jötna heima);

of-giants (the)-worlds

5

Þrymr sat á haugi,

Þrymr sat on a-mound

þursa dróttinn,

of-þursar (the)-lord

greyjum sínum

for-hounds his

gollbönd snøri,

gold-bands twisted

(ok mörum sínum

and for-horses his

mön jafnaði).

(the)-mane trimmed

6 ÞR. KV. Hvat 's með ásum?

How is-it among (the)-æsir

hvat 's með alfum?

how is-it among (the)-elves

Hví 'st einn kominn

Why art-thou alone come

í Jötunheima?

into Jötunheimar

LÖ. KV. Ilt 's með ásum,

Ill is-it among (the)-æsir

ilt 's með alfum;

ill is-it among (the)-elves

hefr þú Hlórriða

hast thou of-Hlórriði

hamar of folginn?

(the)-hammer — bidden

ÞR. KV. Ek hef Hlórriða

7

I have of-Hlórriði

hamar of folginn

(the)-hammer — hidden

átta röstum

eight leagues

fyr jörð neðan,

under (the)-earth beneath

hann engi maðr

it no man

aptr of heimtir,

back — takes

nema fœri mér

unless (one)-bring me

Freyju at kvæn.

Freyja as wife

Fló þá Loki,

8

Flew then Loki

þjaðrhamr dunði,

(the)-feather-cloak whirred

unz fyr útan kom

till on outside came-be

jötna heima

of-giants (the)-worlds

(ok fyr innan kom

and on inside came-be

ása garða);

of-(the)-æsir (the)-courts

mœtti hann Þór

met he Þórr

miðra garða,

in-(the)-middle-of (the)-courts

ok hann þat orða

and he these words

alls fyrst of kvað:

all first — spoke

9-11 • FREYJA IS ASKED

Þórr bids Loki tell his tidings while still in the air, since a man sitting forgets his tale and a man lying down tells lies. Loki says that Prymr has the hammer and will return it only for Freyja as his wife. They go to find Freyja, and Þórr tells her to put on the bridal linen, for the two of them will drive to Jötunheimar.

9 Hefr þú erendi:

Hast thou an-errand

sem erfiði?

as (thy)-toil

seg þú á lopti

say thou in (the)-air

löng tíðendi;

long tidings

opt sitjanda

often of-(one)-sitting

sögur of fallask

(the)-tales — fail

ok liggjandi

and (one)-lying

lygi of bellir.

lies — utters

L.O. KV. Hefk erfiði

Have-I toil

ok erendi;

and errand

Þrymr hefr þinn hamar

Þrymr has thy hammer

þursa dróttinn;

of-þursar (the)-lord

hann engi maðr

it no man

aptr of heimtir,

back — takes

nema hánunm fœri

unless to-him (one)-bring

Freyju at kvæn.

Freyja as wife

- 11 Ganga fagra
Go-they (the)-fair
 Freyju at hitta,
Freyja to find
 ok hann þat orða
and he these words
 alls fyrst of kvað:
all first — spoke
 bitt þik Freyja
bind thyself Freyja
 brúðar líni,
with-bridal linen
 vit skulum aka tvau
we-two shall drive two
 í Jötunheima.
into Jötunheimar

12-13 · FREYJA'S REFUSAL

Freyja is so angry that she snorts, the whole hall of the Æsir shakes beneath her, and the great necklace of the Brísingar bursts. She would be known as the most man-mad of women if she drove with him to Jötunheimar. At once all the gods and goddesses gather in council to decide how Hlórriði's hammer may be fetched back.

- 12 Vreið varð þá Freyja
Wroth became then Freyja
 ok fnasaði,
and snorted

allr ása salr

all of-(the)-æsir (the)-hall

undir bifðisk,

beneath shook

(stökk þat et mikla

burst that the great

men Brísinga):

necklace of-(the)-Brísingar

mik veizt verða

me knowest-thou to-become

vergjarnasta,

(the)-most-man-mad

ef ek ek með þér

if I drive with thee

í Jötunheima.

into Jötunheimar

Senn váru æsir

At-once were (the)-æsir

allir á þingi

all at (the)-assembly

ok ásynjur

and (the)-ásynjur

allar á máli

all at speech

ok of þat réðu

and about that took-counsel

ríkir tívar,

(the)-mighty gods

hvé Hlórriða

how of-Hlórriði

hamar of sætti.

(the)-hammer — might-fetch

14–18 • HEIMDALLR'S COUNSEL

Heimdallr, whitest of the Æsir, who sees ahead like the Vanir, proposes to dress Þórr in the bridal linen with the necklace of the Brisingar, keys jangling at his waist, women's clothes to his knees, broad stones on his breast, and his head neatly dressed. Þórr says the Æsir will call him unmanly if he lets himself be dressed as a bride. Loki tells him to be quiet: the giants will soon live in Ásgarðr unless he gets his hammer back. So they dress Þórr in the bridal linen and the great necklace.

14 Þá kvað þat Heimdallr,

Then said that Heimdallr

hvítastr ása,

whitest of-(the)-æsir

vissi vel framm

knew-he well forth

sem vanir aðrir:

as (the)-vanir others

bindum Þór þá

let-us-bind Þórr then

brúðar líni,

with-bridal linen

hafi hann et mikla

let-have he the great

men Brisinga.

necklace of-(the)-Brisingar

Látum und hánum

Let-us-let under him

hrynja lukla

jangle keys

ok kvenváðir

and women's-weeds

of kné falla,

over (the)-knee fall

en á brjósti

and on (the)-breast

breiða steina

broad stones

ok hagliga

and cunningly

of höfuð typpum.

about (the)-head let-us-top-(him)

Þá kvað þat Þórr,

Then said that Þórr

þrúðugr áss:

(the)-mighty god

mik munu æsir

me will (the)-æsir

argan kalla,

unmanly call

ef bindask lætk

if bind-(myself) let-I

brúðar líni.

with-bridal linen

- 17 Þá kvað þat Loki

Then said that Loki

Laufeyjar sonr:

of-Laufey (the)-son

þegi þú Þórr

be-silent thou Þórr

þeira orða;

of-those words

þegar munu jötnar

at-once will (the)-giants

Ásgarð búa,

Ásgarðr inhabit

nema þinn hamar

unless thy hammer

þér of heimtir.

for-thyself — fetchest-back

- 18 Bundu Þór þá

Bound-they Þórr then

brúðar líni

with-bridal linen

ok enu mikla

and with-the great

meni Brísinga.

necklace of-(the)-Brisingar

They hang the keys at his waist, let women's clothes fall over his knees, set broad stones on his breast, and dress his head neatly. Loki offers to go along as the bride's handmaid, so that the two women can drive together to Jötunheimar.

Létu und hánun

19

Let-they under him

hrynja lukla

jangle keys

ok kvenváðir

and women's-weeds

of kné falla,

over (the)-knee fall

en á brjósti

and on (the)-breast

breiða steina,

broad stones

ok hagliga

and cunningly

of höfuð typðu.

about (the)-head topped-(him)

Þá kvað þat Loki

20

Then said that Loki

Laufeyjar sonr:

of-Laufey (the)-son

mun ek ok með þér

will I also with thee

ambótt vesa,

a-handmaid be

vit skulum aka tvær

we-two shall drive two-women

í Jötunheima.

into Jötunheimar

21–23 • ÞRYMR WAITS

The goats are driven home and hurried into the shafts. The rocks break and the earth burns with flame as Óðinn's son drives to Jötunheimar. Þrymr orders the giants to strew the benches, for Freyja, Njörðr's daughter from Nóatún, is being brought to him. He has golden-horned cows, all-black oxen, and many treasures and jewels, and only Freyja seems lacking.

21 Senn váru hafrar

At-once were (the)-goats

heim of reknir,

home — driven

skyndir at sköklum,

hurried to (the)-shafts

skyldu vel rinna;

should well run

björg brotnuðu,

(the)-rocks broke

brann jörð loga,

burned (the)-earth with-flame

ók Óðins sonr
drove of-Óðinn (the)-son

í Jötunheima.
into Jötunheimar

Þá kvað þat Þrymr,
Then said that Þrymr

þursa dróttinn:
of-þursar (the)-lord

standið upp jötnar
stand up giants

ok stráið bekki,
and strew (the)-benches

nú fœra mér
now (they)-bring me

Freyju at kvæn
Freyja as wife

Njarðar dóttur
of-Njörðr (the)-daughter

ór Nóatún.
out-of Nóatún

22

Ganga at garði
Go at (the)-yard

gollhrynðar kýr,
golden-borned cows

23

øxn alsvartir

oxen all-black

jötni at gamni,

for-(the)-giant for pleasure

fjölð ák meiðma,

much own-I of-treasures

fjölð ák menja,

much own-I of-jewels

einnar mér Freyju

alone to-me Freyja

ávant þykkir.

lacking seems

24–28 · THE BRIDE'S APPETITE

They arrive early in the evening and ale is brought to the giants. The bride eats a whole ox, eight salmon, and all the dainties meant for the women, and drinks three measures of mead. Þrymr has never seen a bride bite so broadly or drink so much. The shrewd handmaid explains that Freyja ate nothing for eight nights, so eager was she for Jötunheimar. Þrymr stoops under the veil to kiss her but springs back the length of the hall: why are Freyja's eyes so fearsome, burning like fire?

24 Vas þar at kveldi

Was there at evening

of komit snimma

— *come early*

ok fyr jötna

and before (the)-giants

öl framm borit;

ale forth borne

(lacuna)

Einn át oxa,

Alone ate-be an-ox

átta laxa,

eight salmon

krásir allar

dainties all

þærs konur skyldu,

which women should-(have)

drakk Sifjar verr

drank of-Sif (the)-husband

sáld þrjú mjaðar.

measures three of-mead

25

Þá kvað þat Prymr,

Then said that Prymr

þursa dróttinn:

of-þursar (the)-lord

hvar sáttu brúðir

where sawest-thou brides

bíta hvassara?

bite sharper

26

Sáka brúðir

Saw-I-not brides

bíta breiðara,

bite broader

né in meira mjöð

nor the more mead

mey of drekka.

a-maid — drink

27 Sat en alsnotra

Sat the all-wise

ambótt fyrir,

handmaid before-(him)

es orð of fann

who a-word — found

við jötuns máli:

in-answer-to of-(the)-giant (the)-speech

át vætr Freyja

ate nothing Freyja

átta nóttum,

for-eight nights

svá vas hón óðfús

so was she mad-eager

í Jötunheima.

into Jötunheimar

Laut und línu,

Stooped-he under (the)-linen

lysti at kyssa,

lusted to kiss

en hann útan stökk

but he out sprang

endlangan sal:

(the)-length-of (the)-hall

hví eru öndótt

why are fearsome

augu Freyju?

(the)-eyes of-Freyja

þykki mér ór augum

seems to-me out-of (the)-eyes

eldr of brinna.

fire — burn

29–33 • THE HAMMER COMES HOME

The handmaid answers that Freyja did not sleep for eight nights, so eager was she for Jötunheimar. The giant's wretched sister comes in to ask for the bride-fee, the red rings from her hands. Prymr calls for the hammer to hallow the bride, to be laid in her lap. Hlórriði's heart laughs when he knows his hammer, and he strikes Prymr first, then all the giant's kin, and the old sister gets a blow of the hammer in place of her rings. So Óðinn's son got his hammer back.

Sat en alsnotra

Sat the all-wise

ambótt fyrir,

handmaid before-(him)

es orð of fann

who a-word — found

við jötuns máli:

in-answer-to of-(the)-giant (the)-speech

svaf vatr Freyja

slept nothing Freyja

átta nóttum,

for-eight nights

svá vas hón óðfús

so was she mad-eager

í Jötunheima.

into Jötunheimar

30 Inn kom en arma

In came the wretched

jötna systir,

of-giants sister

hin 's brúðféar

she who of-bride-fee

biðja þorði:

to-ask dared

lát þér af höndum

let thee from (thy)-hands

hringa rauða,

rings red

ef öðlask vill

if gain thou-wilt

ástir mínar.

love my

(ástir mínar,

love my

alla hylli).

all favor

Þá kvað þat Þrymr,

Then said that Þrymr

þursa dróttinn:

of-þursar (the)-lord

berið inn hamar

bear in (the)-hammer

brúði at vígja,

(the)-bride to hallow

leggið Mjöllni

lay Mjöllnir

í meyjár kné,

on of-(the)-maid (the)-knee

vígið okr saman

hallow us-two together

Várar hendi.

by-Vár's hand

31

Hló Hlórriða

Laugbed of-Hlórriði

hugr í brjósti,

(the)-heart in (the)-breast

32

es harðhugaðr

when (the)-hard-minded

hamar of þekði;

(the)-hammer — knew

Þrym drap fyrstan

Þrymr struck-he first

þursa dróttin,

of-þursar (the)-lord

ok ætt jötuns

and (the)-kin of-(the)-giant

alla lamði.

all lamed

33 Drap hann ena öldnu

Struck he the old

jötna systur,

of-giants sister

hin 's brúðféar

she who of-bride-fee

of beðit hafði;

— *asked had*

hón skell of hlaut

she a-slap — got

fyr skillinga,

for shillings

en högg hamars

and a-blow of-(the)-hammer

fyr hringa fjöld.

for of-rings (the)-many

(Svá kom Óðins sonr

So came of-Óðinn (the)-son

endr at hamri).

back to (the)-hammer

Alvíssmál

The Lay of Alvis

Alviss is in a hurry: the benches must be spread and the bride taken home at once. Þórr asks who this man is, pale about the nose as if he had lain with a corpse, and says he looks like a þurs and was not born for a bride. Alviss names himself, a dweller under the earth with a home beneath a stone, come to claim a promise no one should break. Þórr will break it: he has most authority over the bride as her father, and was not at home when she was promised.

A. KV. **Bekki breiða,**

1

(The)-benches to-spread

nú skal brúðr með mér

now shall (the)-bride with me

heim í sinni snúask,

home at once turn

hratat of mægi

basty over (the)-match

mun hverjum þykkja,

will to-each seem

heima skal hvíld nema.

at-home shall rest (one)-take

D. KV. **Hvat 's þat fira?**

2

What is that of-men

hví 'st svá fölr of nasar?

why art-thou so pale about (the)-nose

vast í nótt með ná?

wast-thou in (the)-night with a-corpse

þursa líki

of-þursar (the)-likeness

þykki mér á þér vesa,

seems to-me on thee to-be

estat til brúðar borinn.

art-thou-not for a-bride born

3 A. KV. Alvíss heitik,

Alvíss am-called-I

býk fyr jörð neðan,

dwelt-I under (the)-earth beneath

ák und steini stað,

own-I under a-stone a-place

vagna vers

of-(the)-wagons of-(the)-man

emk á vit kominn,

am-I on a-visit come

bregði engi föstu heiti fira.

let-break no-one (the)-fast promise of-men

4 Ek mun bregða,

I will break-(it)

þvíat brúðar ák

because over-(the)-bride have-I

flest of ráð sem faðir,

most — authority as father

vaska heima,

was-I-not at-home

þás þér heitit vas,

when to-thee promised it-was

at sá einn er gjöfir með goðum.

that that-one alone is (the)-giver among (the)-gods

5-8 • THE MATCH PUT TO A TEST

Alviss asks who this is, claiming to decide the fair maid's match; few will know him. Þórr names himself Vingþórr, son of Siðgrani, and says that Alviss shall not have the young maid against his will. Alviss seeks Þórr's consent: better to have the snow-white maid than lack her. Þórr agrees on one condition: that the dwarf can tell him all that he wishes to know about every world.

A. KV. Hvat 's rekka,

5

What is of-warriors

es í ráðum telsk,

who in counsels reckons-himself

fljóðs ens fagrglóa,

of-(the)-maid the fair-glowing

fjarrafleina,

(the)-far-arrows

— þik munu fáir kunna, —

thee will few know

hverr hefr þik baugum borit?

who has thee with-rings borne

Vingþórr heitik,

6

Vingþórr am-called-I

hefk víða ratat,

have-I widely roamed

sonr emk Sídgrana;

son am-I of-Sídgrani

at ósátt minni

at non-consent my

skalt et unga man

shalt-thou the young maid

hafa ok gjaforð geta.

have and (the)-match get

7 A. KV. Sáttir þínar

Consent thy

vilk snimma hafa

will-I soon have

ok þat gjaforð geta,

and that match get

eiga viljak,

own would-I

heldr an án vesa,

rather than without to-be

þat et mjallhvíta man.

that the snow-white maid

8 Meyjar ástum

Of-(the)-maid (the)-love

muna þér verða

will-not to-thee be

vísi gestr of varit,

wise guest — refused

ef ór heimi kant

if out-of (the)-world thou-canst

hverjum at segja,

each to tell

alt þat 's viljak vita.

all that which would-I know

9-14 • EARTH, HEAVEN, AND MOON

Þórr asks what the earth is called in every world, and Alvíss answers with its name among men, the elves, the Vanir, the giants, and the powers: jörð among men, fold among the elves, ways among the Vanir, evergreen among the giants. So too with heaven, himinn among men, the wind-weaver and the fair roof among others, and with the moon, máni among men, the turning wheel in Hel, the hastener among giants, the year-counter among elves.

Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sú jörð heitir,

how that earth is-called

es liggr fyr alda sonum

which lies before of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

- 10 A. KV. Jörð heitir með mönnum,

Jörð it-is-called among men

en með alfum fold,

but among elves fold

kalla vega vanir,

call-(it) ways (the)-vanir

ígroen jötnar,

ever-green (the)-giants

alfar gróandi,

(the)-elves growing

kalla aur uppregin.

call-(it) clay (the)-high-powers

- 11 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sá himinn heitir

how that heaven is-called

†erakendi,

(corrupt)

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

A. KV. Himinn heitir með mönnum,

12

Himinn it-is-called among men

en hlýrnir með goðum,

but hlýrnir among (the)-gods

kalla vindófni vanir,

call-(it) wind-weaver (the)-vanir

uppheim jötnar,

over-world (the)-giants

alfar fagaræfr,

(the)-elves fair-roof

dvergar drjúpansal.

(the)-dwarfs dripping-hall

Seg mér þat Alviss,

13

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé máni heitir,

how (the)-moon is-called

sás menn séa,

which men see

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

14 A. KV. Máni heitir með mönnum,

Máni it-is-called among men

en mylinn með goðum,

but mylinn among (the)-gods

kalla hverfanda hvél helju í,

call-(it) (the)-turning wheel hel in

skyndi jötnar,

(the)-hastener (the)-giants

en skin dvergar

but gleam (the)-dwarfs

kalla alfar ártala.

call-(it) (the)-elves year-counter

15-20 · SUN, CLOUDS, AND WIND

The sun is sól among men and sunna among the gods, Dvalinn's plaything to the dwarfs, the everglow to the giants, and the fair wheel to the elves. The clouds are ský among men, shower-hope among the gods, and the helm of hiding in Hel. The wind is vindr among men, the waverer among the gods, the neighbor, the whooper, the din-farer, and the squaller in Hel.

15 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sú sól heitir,

how that sun is-called

es séa alda synir,

which see of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

A. KV. Sól heitir með mönnum,

Sól it-is-called among men

en sunna með goðum,

but sunna among (the)-gods

kalla dvergar leika Dvalins,

call-(it) (the)-dwarfs plaything of-Dvalinn

eygló jötnar,

ever-glow (the)-giants

alfar fagrahvél,

(the)-elves fair-wheel

alskír ása synir.

all-bright of-(the)-æsir (the)-sons

16

Seg mér þat Alviss,

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé þau ský heita,

how those clouds are-called

17

es skúrum blandask,

which with-showers mingle

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

18 A. KV. Ský heitir með mönnum,

Ský they-are-called among men

en skúrván með goðum,

but shower-hope among (the)-gods

kalla vindflot vanir,

call-(them) wind-float (the)-vanir

úrván jötnar,

drizzle-hope (the)-giants

alfar veðrmegin,

(the)-elves weather-might

kalla í helju hjalm huliðs.

call-(them) in hel helm of-hiding

19 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sá vindr heitir,

how that wind is-called

es víðast ferr,

which widest goes

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

A. KV. Vindr heitir með mönnum,

Vindr it-is-called among men

en váfuðr með goðum,

but waverer among (the)-gods

kalla gneggjuð ginnregin,

call-(it) neighbor (the)-mighty-powers

œpi jötnar,

whooper (the)-giants

alfar dynfara,

(the)-elves din-farer

kalla í helju hviðuð.

call-(it) in hel squaller

Pórr asks about the calm, the sea, and the fire. The calm is logn among men and lull among the gods, wind-end to the Vanir and day-rest to the dwarfs. The sea is sær among men, the still-lying among the gods, eel-home to the giants, and the deep sea to the dwarfs. Fire is eldr among men and funi among the Æsir, greedy to the giants, burner to the dwarfs, and hasty in Hel.

21 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé þat logn heitir,

how that calm is-called

es liggja skal,

which lie shall

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

22 A. KV. Logn heitir með mönnum,

Logn it-is-called among men

en lægi með goðum,

but lull among (the)-gods

kalla vindslof vanir,

call-(it) wind-end (the)-vanir

ofhlý jötnar,

over-warm (the)-giants

alfar dagseva,

(the)-elves day-quiet

kalla dvergar dagsveru.

call-(it) (the)-dwarfs day-rest

Seg mér þat Alviss,

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sá marr heitir,

how that sea is-called

es menn róa,

which men row

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

23

A. KV. Sær heitir með mönnum,

Sær it-is-called among men

en sílægja með goðum,

but still-lying among (the)-gods

kalla vág vanir,

call-(it) wave (the)-vanir

álheim jötnar,

eel-home (the)-giants

24

alfar lagastaf,

(the)-elves water-staff

kalla dvergar djúpan mar.

call-(it) (the)-dwarfs deep sea

25 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fra

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sá eldr heitir,

how that fire is-called

es brinnr fyr alda sonum,

which burns before of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

26 A. KV. Eldr heitir með mönnum,

Eldr it-is-called among men

en með ásum funi,

but among (the)-æsir funi

kalla vág vanir,

call-(it) wave (the)-vanir

frekan jötnar,

greedy (the)-giants

en forbrenni dvergar,

but burner (the)-dwarfs

kalla í helju hröðuð.

call-(it) in hel hasty

27–32 • WOOD, NIGHT, AND SEED

The wood is viðr among men and field-mane among the gods, slope-weed, fuel to the giants, and fair-limbed to the elves. Night, named after Nörr, is nótt among men and njól among the gods, unlight to the giants, sleep-joy to the elves, and dream-norn to the dwarfs. The seed men sow is bygg among men and barr among the gods, growth to the Vanir, food to the giants, and drooping in Hel.

Seg mér þat Alviss,

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé viðr heitir,

how (the)-wood is-called

es vex fyr alda sonum,

which grows before of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

27

A. KV. Viðr heitir með mönnum,

Viðr it-is-called among men

en vallarfax með goðum,

but field-mane among (the)-gods

28

kalla hlíðþang halir,

call-(it) slope-weed men

eldi jötnar,

fuel (the)-giants

alfar fagrlima,

(the)-elves fair-limbed

kalla vönd vanir.

call-(it) wand (the)-vanir

29 Seg mér þat Alvíss,

Say to-me that Alvíss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé sú nótt heitir,

how that night is-called

en Nörvi kenda,

which by-Nörr is-named

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

30 A. KV. Nótt heitir með mönnum,

Nótt it-is-called among men

en njól með goðum,

but njól among (the)-gods

kalla grímu ginnregin,

call-(it) mask (the)-mighty-powers

óljós jötnar,

unlight (the)-giants

alfar svefngaman,

(the)-elves sleep-joy

kalla dvergar draumnjörun.

call-(it) (the)-dwarfs dream-norn

Seg mér þat Alviss,

Say to-me that Alviss

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé þat sáð heitir,

how that seed is-called

es sáa alda synir,

which sow of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

31

A. KV. Bygg heitir með mönnum,

Bygg it-is-called among men

en barr með goðum,

but barr among (the)-gods

kalla vöxt vanir,

call-(it) growth (the)-vanir

æti jötnar,

food (the)-giants

32

alfar lagastaf,

(the)-elves water-staff

kalla í helju hnippinn.

call-(it) in hel drooping

33–35 • CAUGHT BY THE DAY

Last, Alviś names ale: öl among men, bjórr among the Æsir, drink to the Vanir, clear liquid to the giants, mead in Hel, and feast to Suttungr's sons. Þórr says he has never seen so much ancient lore in one breast, but he has beguiled the dwarf with great wiles: the day has overtaken him, and the sun now shines into the hall.

33 Seg mér þat Alviś,

Say to-me that Alviś

öll of rök fira

all — (the)-fates of-men

vörumk dvergr at vitir,

I-expect dwarf that thou-knowest

hvé þat öl heitir,

how that ale is-called

es drekka alda synir,

which drink of-men (the)-sons

heimi hverjum í?

world each in

34 A. KV. Öl heitir með mönnum,

Öl it-is-called among men

en með ásum bjórr,

but among (the)-æsir bjórr

kalla veig vanir,

call-(it) drink (the)-vanir

hreinalög jötnar,

clear-liquid (the)-giants

en í helju mjöð,

but in bel mead

kalla sumbl Suttungs synir.

call-(it) feast of-Suttungr (the)-sons

Í einu brjósti

In one breast

sák aldri

saw-I never

fleiri forna stafi,

more ancient staves

miklum tálum

with-great wiles

kveðk tæðan þik,

say-I beguiled thee

uppi 'st dvergr of dagaðr.

up art-thou dwarf — overtaken-by-day

(nú skínn sól í sali).

now shines (the)-sun into (the)-hall

Baldrs draumar

Baldr's Dreams

The Æsir and Ásynjur meet in council to ask why Baldr has had baleful dreams. Óðinn rises, saddles Sleipnir, and rides down to Niflhel. He meets a whelp coming out of Hel with blood on its breast, which bays long at the father of spells. Óðinn rides on, the earth-way resounding, until he comes to Hel's high house.

Senn váru æsir

At-once were (the)-æsir

allir á þingi

all at (the)-assembly

ok ásynjur

and (the)-ásynjur

allar á máli,

all at speech

ok of þat réðu

and about that took-counsel

ríkir tívar,

(the)-mighty gods

hví væri Baldri

why were for-Baldr

ballir draumar.

baleful dreams

1

Upp reis Óðinn,

Up rose Óðinn

alda gautr,

of-men (the)-gautr

2

ok hann á Sleipni

and he on Sleipnir

söðul of lagði,

(the)-saddle — laid

reið niðr þaðan

rode down thence

niflheljar til;

niflhel to

mætti hvelpi,

met a-whelp

þeims ór helju kom.

that-which out-of hel came

3 Sá vas blóðugr

That-one was bloody

of brjóst framan,

about (the)-breast in-front

ok at galdrs föður

and at of-spell (the)-father

gól oflengi,

bayed very-long

framm reið Óðinn,

forth rode Óðinn

foldvegr dundði,

(the)-earth-way resounded

hann kom at háu

he came to (the)-high

Heljar ranni.

of-Hel house

Óðinn rides to the east of the door, where he knows the seeress's grave, and chants a spell to wake the dead until she rises unwillingly and speaks. She asks who has put her to such a hard journey, snowed on, rain-beaten, and dew-drenched, long dead. He calls himself Vegtamr, son of Valtamr, and asks for whom the benches in Hel are strewn with rings and the floors with gold. Mead stands brewed for Baldr under a shield, she says, and the Æsir are without hope. She has spoken unwillingly and will now be silent.

Pá reið Óðinn

Then rode Óðinn

fyr austan dyrr,

to (the)-east-of (the)-door

þars hann völu

where he of-(the)-seeress

vissi leiði;

knew (the)-grave

nam vittugri

began for-(the)-wise-one

valgaldr kveða,

a-slain-spell to-chant

unz nauðug reis,

till unwilling (she)-rose

nás orð of kvað:

of-(the)-corpse (the)-words — spoke

4

5 Hvat 's manna þat

What is of-men that

mér ókunnra,

to-me unknown

es mér hefr aukit

who for-me has increased

erfitt sinni;

a-hard journey

vask snivin snævi,

was-I snowed-on with-snow

ok slegin regni

and beaten with-rain

ok drifin döggu,

and drenched with-dew

dauð vask lengi.

dead was-I long

6 Ó. KV. Vegtamr heitik,

Vegtamr am-called-I

emk Valtams sonr,

am-I of-Valtamr (the)-son

seg mér ór helju,

say to-me out-of hel

ek ór heimi mun,

I out-of (the)-world will

hveim eru bekkir

for-whom are (the)-benches

baugum sánir?

with-rings strewn

flet fagrliga

(the)-floors fairly

flóið eru golli.

flooded are with-gold

Hér stendr Baldri

Here stands for-Baldr

of brugginn mjöðr,

— *brewed mead*

skírar veigar,

bright drinks

liggr skjöldr yfir,

lies a-shield over

en ásmegir

but (the)-æsir-sons

í ofvæni;

in hopelessness

nauðug sagðak,

unwilling told-I

nú munk þegja.

now will-I be-silent

Óðinn presses her: who will be Baldr's bane and rob Óðinn's son of life? Höðr will carry the fame-tree there and kill him, she answers. And who will take vengeance on Höðr and bring Baldr's slayer to the pyre? Rindr will bear Váli in the western halls, who will fight when one night old, and will neither wash his hands nor comb his hair until he carries Baldr's adversary to the pyre. Each time she says that she spoke unwillingly and will now be silent.

8 Ó. KV. Þegjat völvu,

Be-not-silent seeress

þik vilk fregna,

thee will-I question

unz 's alkunna,

till is all-known

vilk enn vita,

will-I still know

hverr mun Baldri

who will for-Baldr

at bana verða,

to (the)-bane be

ok Óðins son

and of-Óðinn (the)-son

aldri ræna?

of-life rob

9 Höðr berr hávan

Höðr bears (the)-tall

hróðrbaðm þinig,

fame-tree thither

hann mun Baldri

he will for-Baldr

at bana verða,

to (the)-bane be

ok Óðins son

and of-Óðinn (the)-son

aldri ræna;

of-life rob

nauðug sagðak,

unwilling told-I

nú munk þegja.

now will-I be-silent

Ó. KV. Þegjat vólva,

Be-not-silent seeress

þik vilk fregna,

thee will-I question

unz 's alkunna,

till is all-known

vilk enn vita,

will-I still know

hverr mun heipt Heði

who will hatred on-Höðr

hefnt of vinna,

avenged — make

eða Baldrs bana

or of-Baldr (the)-bane

á bál vega?

onto (the)-pyre lift

11 Rindr berr Vála

Rindr bears Váli

í vestrsölum,

in (the)-west-halls

(sá mun Óðins sonr

that-one will of-Óðinn (the)-son

einnættir vega),

one-night-old fight

hönd of þværat

(his)-hand — washes-not

né höfuð kembir,

nor (his)-head combs

áðr á bál of berr

before onto (the)-pyre — he-bears

Baldrs andskota;

of-Baldr (the)-adversary

nauðug sagðak,

unwilling told-I

nú munk þegja.

now will-I be-silent

Óðinn asks who the maidens are who weep at will and throw their neck-cloths toward heaven. The seeress then knows him: he is not Végtamr but Óðinn, the ancient Gautr. He answers that she is no seeress or wise woman but the mother of three þursar. She sends him home: no one will visit her again until Loki slips loose from his bonds and the destroyers come at the doom of the powers.

Ó. KV. Þegjat vólva,

Be-not-silent seeress

þik vilk fregna,

thee will-I question

unz 's alkunna,

till is all-known

vilk enn vita,

will-I still know

hverjar ro meyjar,

which are (the)-maidens

es at muni gráta

who at will weep

ok á himin verpa

and toward heaven throw

halsaskautum?

(the)-neck-kerchiefs

12

Estat Végtamr,

Art-thou-not Végtamr

sem ek hugða,

as I thought

13

heldr est Óðinn,

rather art-thou Óðinn

aldinn gautr.

(the)-ancient gautr

Ó. KV. Estat völva

Art-thou-not seeress

né vís kona,

nor a-wise woman

heldr est þriggja

rather art-thou of-three

þursa móðir.

þursar (the)-mother

14 Heim rið Óðinn

Home ride Óðinn

ok hróðigr ves,

and proud be

svá komir manna

so may-come of-men

meirr aptr á vit,

more back on visit

es lauss Loki

when loose Loki

líðr ór böndum

glides out-of (bis)-bonds

ok ragna rök

and of-(the)-powers (the)-doom

rjúfendr koma.

(the)-destroyers come

Hyndluljóð

The Song of Hyndla

Freyja wakes Hyndla, her friend, who lives in a cave, and bids her ride with her to Valhöll to ask Óðinn's favor. He gives gold, a helm and mail-coat to Hermóðr, and a sword to Sigmundr; victory to some, riches to others, eloquence, wit, fair winds, poetry, and manliness. Freyja will sacrifice to Þórr to keep him friendly to Hyndla, though he is seldom so to giants' brides. She bids Hyndla take a wolf from the stall to run beside her boar. Hyndla calls Freyja false, since she has her man, young Óttarr, Innsteinn's son, with her on the road of the slain.

FR. KV. Vaki mæR meYja,

1

Wake maid of-maids

vaki mín vina,

wake my friend

Hyndla systir,

Hyndla sister

es í helli býr;

who in a-cave dwells

nú 's røkr røkra,

now is (the)-dusk of-dusks

ríða vit skulum

ride we-two shall

til Valhallar

to Valhöll

ok til vés heilags.

and to (the)-sanctuary holy

2 Biðjum Herjaföðr

Let-us-ask Herjaföðr

í hugum sitja,

in (good)-mind to-sit

hann geldr ok gefr

he pays and gives

goll verðungu,

gold to-(his)-following

gaf hann Hermóði

gave he to-Hermóðr

hjalm ok brynju,

helm and mail-coat

en Sigmundi

and to-Sigmundr

sverð at þiggja.

a-sword to receive

3 Gefr hann sigr sumum,

Gives he victory to-some

en sumum aura,

and to-some riches

mælsku mörgum

eloquence to-many

ok manvit firum,

and man-wit to-men

byri gefr brögnum,

fair-winds gives-he to-warriors

en brag skáldum,

and poetry to-poets

gefr hann mannsemi

gives he manliness

mörgum rekki.

to-many a-warrior

Þór munk blóta,

Þórr will-I sacrifice-to

þess munk biðja,

this will-I ask

at hann æ við þik

that he ever toward thee

einart láti;

steadfast may-act

(þó 's hánum ótítt

yet is-it to-him unusual

við jötuns brúðir);

with of-(the)-giant (the)-brides

nú tak ulf þinn

now take wolf thy

einn af stalli,

one from (the)-stall

lát hann rinna

let him run

með runa mínum.

with boar my

(seinn es göltr minn

slow is boar my

goðveg troða,

(the)-god-way to-tread

vilkat mar minn

will-I-not steed my

mætan hlœða).

good to-weary

5 H. KV. Flá est Freyja,

False art-thou Freyja

es freistar mín,

who triest me

vísar þú augum

pointest thou (thy)-eyes

á oss þannig,

at us thus

es hafir ver þinn.

when hast husband thy

í valsinni

on (the)-slain-road

Óttar unga

Óttarr (the)-young

Innsteins bur.

of-Innsteinn (the)-son

Freyja says Hyndla is dreaming: her boar is Gold-bristle, Hildisvíni, made by the dwarfs Dáinn and Nabbi. They shall ride and speak of the kindreds of princes descended from the gods. Óttarr the young and Angantýr have wagered foreign gold, and Freyja is bound to help the young prince win his father's inheritance. Óttarr made her an altar of heaped stones, now turned to glass, which he reddened with fresh ox-blood, for he always trusted in the goddesses.

FR. KV. Dulið est Hyndla,

6

Dazed art-thou Hyndla

draums ætlak þér,

dreaming think-I thee

es kveðr ver minn

when (thou)-sayest husband my

í valsinni;

on (the)-slain-road

(lacuna)

Þars göltr glóar

7

Where (the)-boar glows

Gollinbursti,

Gold-bristle

Hildisvíni,

Hildisvíni

es mér hagir gerðu,

whom for-me skilled made

dvergar tveir

dwarfs two

Dáinn ok Nabbi.

Dáinn and Nabbi

8 Senn í söðlum

At-once in saddles

sitja vit skulum

sit we-two shall

ok of jöfra

and about of-princes

ættir dœma,

(the)-kindreds judge

gumna þeira,

of-men those

es frá goðum kómu.

who from (the)-gods came

9 Þeir hafa veðjat

They have wagered

Vala málmi

of-(the)-foreigners metal

Óttarr ungi

Óttarr (the)-young

ok Angantýr;

and Angantýr

skylt 's at veita,

bound is-it to help

svát skati enn ungi

so-that (the)-prince the young

föðurleifð hafi

(his)-father's-inheritance may-have

ept frændr sína.

after kinsmen his

Hörg mér gerði

A-high-altar for-me made-be

of hlaðinn steinum;

— *heaped with-stones*

nú 's grjót þat

now is stone that

at gleri orðit;

to glass become

rauð hann í nýju

reddened he in fresh

nauta blóði;

of-oxen blood

æ trúði Óttarr

ever trusted Óttarr

á ásynjur.

in (the)-ásynjur

Hyndla wants to sleep and taunts Freyja with running out at night to Óðr like Heiðrún with the he-goats. Freyja threatens to kindle fire around the troll-woman. Hyndla sees the fire burn and must pay for her life. Freyja asks her to count the ancient kinsmen, Skjöldungar, Skilfingar, Ylfingar, freeholders, and bersar. Hyndla begins with Óttarr: he was born to Innsteinn, son of Alfr the old, son of Ulfr, son of Sæfari, son of Svanr the red.

11 HY. KV. Snú braut heðan,

Turn away hence

sofa lystir mik,

to-sleep lusts me

fær fátt af mér

gettest-thou little from me

fríðra kosta;

of-fair choices

hleypr þú Óðs vina

leapest thou of-Óðr friend

úti á nóttum,

out at nights

sem með höfrum

as with he-goats

Heiðrún fari.

Heiðrún may-go

12 Rant at Óði

Rannest-thou to Óðr

ey þreyjandi,

ever longing

skutusk þér fleiri

shot-themselves thee more

und fyrirskyrtnu,

under (thy)-apron

hleypr þú Óðs vina

leapest thou of-Óðr friend

úti á nóttum,

out at nights

[sem með höfrum

as with he-goats

Heiðrún fari].

Heiðrún may-go

FR. KV. Ek slæ eldi

I strike with-fire

of íviðju,

about (the)-troll-woman

svát eigi kòmsk

so-that not comest-thou

óbrend heðan.

unburned hence

HY. KV. Hyr sék brinna,

Fire see-I burn

en hauðr loga,

and (the)-earth flame

verða flestir

must most

fjörlausn þola.

life-ransom suffer

14 FR. KV. Nú lát forna
Now let (the)-ancient

niðja talða
kinsmen (be)-counted

ok upp bornar
and up born

ættir manna
(the)-kindreds of-men

(hvat 's Skjöldunga,
what is of-(the)-Skjöldungar

hvat 's Skilfinga,
what is of-(the)-Skilfingar

hvat 's Ylfinga)
what is of-(the)-Ylfingar

hvat 's höldborit,
what is freeholder-born

hvat 's hersborit
what is hersir-born

mest mannaval
(the)-most man-choice

und Miðgarði?
under Miðgarðr

15 HY. KV. Þú est Óttarr
Thou art Óttarr

borinn Innsteini,
born to-Innsteinn

en Innsteinn vas

and Innsteinn was

Alfi enum gamla,

to-Alfr the old

Alfr vas Ulfi,

Alfr was to-Ulfr

Ulfr Sæfara,

Ulfr to-Sæfari

en Sæfari

and Sæfari

Svan enum rauða.

to-Svanr the red

16–20 · HLÉDÍS AND HALFDANR

Óttarr's father's mother was Hlédís the priestess, daughter of Fróði and Friund. Auði was once the mightiest of men, and Halfdanr the elder the highest of the Skjöldungar, whose famous battles seemed to reach heaven's corners. Allied with Eymundr, he slew Sigtryggr and married Almveig, and they had eighteen sons. From them come the Skjöldungar, Skilfingar, Öðlingar, and Ynglingar. Hildigunnr, child of Sváva and a sea-king, was her mother; all this, Hyndla tells foolish Óttarr, is his kin; does he wish to hear more?

Móður átti faðir þinn

A-mother had father thy

menjum göfga,

with-jewels noble

hygg at hėti

think-I that she-was-called

Hlédís gyðja,

Hlédís (the)-priestess

Fróði vas faðir þeirar,

Fróði was (the)-father of-her

en Friund móðir;

and Friund (the)-mother

öll þótti ætt sú

all seemed kin that

með yfirmönnum.

among (the)-overlords

17 Auði vas áðr

Auði was before

öflgastr manna,

(the)-mightiest of-men

Halfdanr fyrri

Halfdanr (the)-elder

hæstr Skjöldunga,

highest of-(the)-Skjöldungar

fræg váru folkvíg,

famous were (the)-battles

þaus framir gerðu,

which (the)-bold-ones made

hvarfa þóttu verk

to-turn seemed (his)-works

með himins skautum.

to of-heaven (the)-corners

Eflðisk við Eymund

18

Strengthened-himself with Eymundr

æztan manna,

highest of-men

en vá Sigtrygg

and slew Sigtryggr

með svölum eggjum,

with cool edges

eiga gekk Almveig,

to-have (he)-went Almveig

æzta kvinna,

highest of-women

ólu þau ok áttu

bred they and had

átján sonu.

eighteen sons

Þaðan eru Skjöldungar,

Thence are (the)-Skjöldungar

þaðan Skilfingar,

thence (the)-Skilfingar

þaðan Öðlingar,

thence (the)-Öðlingar

þaðan Ynglingar,

thence (the)-Ynglingar

þaðan höldborit,

thence freeholder-born

þaðan hersborit,

thence hersir-born

19

mest mannaval

(the)-most man-choice

und Miðgarði

under Miðgarðr

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski.

Óttarr (the)-foolish

20 Vas Hildigunnr

Vas Hildigunnr

hennar móðir,

her mother

Sváfu barn

of-Sváva (the)-child

ok sækonungs;

and of-a-sea-king

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski,

Óttarr (the)-foolish

(varðar at viti svá,

it-concerns to know so

viltu enn lengra?)

wilt-thou yet further

Dagr married Þóra, and from them came the highest champions, Fraðmarr, Gyrðr, the two Frekar, Ámr, Jösurmarr, and Alfr the old. Ketill, heir of Klyppr, was the mother's father of Óttarr's mother; Fróði came before Kári; Háalfi was born to Hildr. Nanna, daughter of Nökkvi, had a son who was Óttarr's father's in-law. Hyndla lists Ísolfr and Ásolfr, sons of Ölmóðr and Skúrbildr, and Hervarðr, Hjörvarðr, Hrani, Angantýr, and six more, with the two Haddingjar. All this is Óttarr's kin.

Dagr átti Þóru

21

Dagr had Þóra

drengjamóður,

mother-of-warriors

ólusk í ætt þar

were-born in (the)-kin there

æztir kappar,

(the)-highest champions

Fraðmarr ok Gyrðr

Fraðmarr and Gyrðr

ok Frekar báðir,

and (the)-Frekar both

Ámr ok Jösurmarr,

Ámr and Jösurmarr

Alfr enn gamli.

Alfr the old

(varðar at viti svá,

it-concerns to know so

viltu enn lengra?)

wilt-thou yet further

22 Ketill hét vinr þeira

Ketill was-called (the)-friend of-theirs

Klypps arfþegi,

of-Klyppr (the)-beir

vas hann móðurfaðir

was he (the)-mother's-father

móður þinnar;

of-mother thy

þar vas Fróði

there was Fróði

fyr an Kári,

before than Kári

en Hildi vas

but to-Híldr was

Háalfir of getinn.

Háalfir — begotten

23 Nanna vas næst þar

Nanna was next there

Nökkva dóttir,

of-Nökkvi (the)-daughter

vas mögr hennar

was son her

mágr þíns föður;

(the)-in-law of-thy father

fyrnd 's sú mægð,

old is that in-lawsbip

framm telk lengra;

forth count-I further

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski.

Óttarr (the)-foolish

Ísolfr ok Ásolfr

Ísolfr and Ásolfr

Ölmóðs synir

of-Ölmóðr (the)-sons

ok Skúrhildar

and of-Skúrbildr

Skekkils dóttur

of-Skekkill (the)-daughter

skalt til telja

shalt-thou to (them)-count

skatna margra;

of-princes many

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski.

Óttarr (the)-foolish

24

[Hervarðr, Hjörvarðr,

Hervarðr Hjörvarðr

Hrani, Angantýr],

Hrani Angantýr

Búi ok Brámi,

Búi and Brámi

25

Barri ok Reifnir,

Barri and Reifnir

Tindr ok Tyrfingr,

Tindr and Tyrfingr

tveir Haddingjar;

two Haddingjar

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski.

Óttarr (the)-foolish

26-30 · BERSERKS AND VÖLSUNGS

The sons of Arngrímr and Eyfura, born east on Bolmr, were berserks whose uproar spread like fire over land and sea. Hyndla knew Broddr and Hörvir of Hrólfr the old's court. Others, hallowed to the gods, were descended from Jörmunrekkr, in-law of Sigurðr who slew Fáfnir; Sigurðr was a prince descended from Völsungr, Hjördis from Hraudungr, and Eylimi from the Öðlingar. Gunnarr and Högni were Gjúki's heirs, and Goðrún their sister; Gottbormr was not Gjúki's kin but was brother to them both. All this is Óttarr's kin.

26 Þeir í Bolm austr

They in Bolmr east

bornir váru

born were

Arngríms synir

of-Arngrímr (the)-sons

ok Eyfuru,

and of-Eyfura

brökun vas berserkja,

(the)-uproar was of-berserks

bøl margs konar,
bale of-many kinds
 of lönd ok of lög
over lands and over seas
 sem logi fœri
as fire might-go
 (alt 's þat ætt þín,
all is that kin thy
 Óttarr heimski).
Óttarr (the)-foolish

Gunnarr balkr,
Gunnarr bulwark
 Grímr arðskafi,
Grímr plow-scraper
 járnskjöldr Þórir,
iron-shield Þórir
 Ulfr gínandi;
Ulfr gaping
 kunnak báða
knew-I both
 Brodd ok Hörvi;
Broddr and Hörvir
 váru þeir í hirð
were they in (the)-court
 Hrólfs ens gamla.
of-Hrólfr the old

27

28 Þeir váru gumnar

They were men

goðum signaðir,

to-(the)-gods hallowed

allir bornir

all born

Jörmunrekki,

to-Jörmunrekkr

Sigurðar mági,

of-Sigurðr (the)-in-law

hlýð sögu minni,

hearken-to tale my

folkum grimms

to-hosts grim

þess es Fáfnir vá.

of-him who Fáfnir slew

29 Sá vas vísi

That was a-prince

frá Völsungi,

from Völsungr

ok Hjördís

and Hjördís

frá Hraðungi,

from Hraðungr

en Eylimi

but Eylimi

frá Öðlingum;

from (the)-Öðlingar

alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski

Óttarr (the)-foolish

Gunnarr ok Högni,

Gunnarr and Högni

Gjúka arfar,

of-Gjúki (the)-heirs

ok et sama Goðrún,

and the same Goðrún

systir þeira;

sister their

eigi vas Gotthormr

not was Gotthormr

Gjúka ættar,

of-Gjúki of-(the)-kin

þó vas hann bróðir

yet was he (the)-brother

beggja þeira.

of-both of-them

(alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski).

Óttarr (the)-foolish

Haki was the best of Hveðna's sons, and Hjörvarðr was her father. Haraldr war-tooth was born to Hrærekr ring-slinger and Auðr the deep-minded, Ívarr's daughter, and Ráðbarðr was Randverr's father; all this is Óttarr's kin. Freyja will bring her guest the memory-ale so that he will remember every word on the third morning, when he and Angantýr trace their kindreds. Hyndla bids Freyja bear Óttarr beer much mixed with poison, with ill luck. Freyja says the giantess's curses will not avail, for Óttarr shall drink precious drafts, and she asks all the gods to help him.

31 Haki vas Hveðnu

Haki was of-Hveðna

hóts baztr sona,

by-far (the)-best of-sons

en Hveðnu vas

but of-Hveðna was

Hjörvarðr faðir.

Hjörvarðr (the)-father

32 Haraldr hilditönn

Haraldr war-tooth

borinn Hroereki

born to-Hrærekr

slongvanbauga,

ring-slinger

sonr vas hann Auðar,

son was he of-Auðr

Auðr djúpuðga

Auðr the-deep-minded

Ívars dóttir,

of-Ívarr (the)-daughter

en Ráðbarðr vas

but Ráðbarðr was

Randvers faðir.

of-Randverr (the)-father

(alt 's þat ætt þín,

all is that kin thy

Óttarr heimski).

Óttarr (the)-foolish

* * *

(lacuna)

FR. KV. Berk minnisöl

Bear-I memory-ale

mínum gesti,

to-my guest

svát öll muni

so-that all he-may-remember

orð at tína

words to recount

þessar ræðu

of-this talk

á þriðja morni,

on (the)-third morning

es þeir Angantýr

when they Angantýr

ættir rekja.

kindreds trace

34 HY. KV. Ber þú Óttari

Bear thou to-Óttarr

bjór at hendi,

beer to hand

eitrblandinn mjök,

poison-blended much

illu heilli.

with-ill luck

35 FR. KV. Orðheill þín skal

Word-luck thy shall

engu ráða,

nothing avail

þótt brúðr jötuns

though (the)-bride of-(the)-giant

bölvi heitir;

with-bale threatens

hann skal drekka

he shall drink

dýrar veigar;

precious drafts

biðk Óttari

pray-I for-Óttarr

öll goð duga.

all gods to-help

Rígsþula

The List of Rig



Men say in old tales that one of the Æsir, called Heimdallr, went along a seashore to a farm and named himself Rígr. Mighty and old, he walked the green ways and came to a house where an old couple, Ái and Edda, sat by the fire. He gave them counsel and sat between them on the bench. Edda set before him a heavy loaf full of husks and broth in a bowl. He lay between them in the bed for three nights and went on his way. Nine months later Edda bore a swarthy child, whom they named Þræll.

Svá segja menn í fornum sögum, at einnhverr af ásum,
 So say men in old tales that a-certain-one of (the)-æsir
 sá er Heimdallr hét, fór ferðar sinnar ok framm með
 he who Heimdallr was-called went journey his and forth along
 sjóvarströndu nökkurri, kom at einum húsabœ ok nefndiz
 sea-strand a-certain came to one house-farm and named-himself
 Rígr; eptir þeiri sögu er kvæði þetta.
 Rígr after that tale is poem this

Ár kóðu ganga
 Of-yore said-they to-walk
 grœnar brautir
 green ways
 öflgan ok aldinn
 mighty and old
 ás kunnigan,
 an-ás knowing

1

ramman ok röskvan

strong and brisk

Ríg stíganda;

Rígr striding

gekk meir at þat

went further at that

miðrar brautar.

along-mid (the)-way

2 Kom hann at húsi,

Came he to a-house

hurð vas á gætti,

(the)-door was on (the)-jamb

inn nam at ganga

in (he)-began to go

eldr vas á golfi;

fire was on (the)-floor

hjón sátu þar

a-couple sat there

hár af árne,

hoary at (the)-hearth

Ái ok Edda,

Ái and Edda

aldinfalda.

old-coifed

Rígr kunni þeim

Rígr could them

ráð at segja

counsel to say

meir settisk hann

further sat-himself he

miðra fletja,

(in)-mid (the)-benches

en á hlið hvára

and on side either

hjón salkynna.

(the)-couple of-(the)-house

3

Þá tók Edda

Then took Edda

økkvinn hleif,

a-lumpy loaf

þungan ok þykkvan,

heavy and thick

þrunginn sáðum,

crammed with-busks

bar hon meir at þat

bore she further at that

miðra skutla,

(in)-mid (the)-trenchers

soð vas í bolla,

broth was in a-bowl

setti á bjóð.

(she)-set on (the)-board

4

- 5 Rígr kunni þeim
Rígr could them
 ráð at segja,
counsel to say
 reis hann upp þaðan,
rose he up thence
 rézk at sofna;
made-ready to sleep
 meir lagðisk hann
further laid-himself he
 miðrar rekkju,
(in)-mid (the)-bed
 en á hlið hvára
and on side either
 hjón salkynna.
(the)-couple of-(the)-house

- 6 Þar vas hann at þat
There was he at that
 þrjár nætr saman,
three nights together
 (gekk meir at þat
went further at that
 miðrar brautar),
along-mid (the)-way
 liðu meir at þat
passed further at that
 mánuðr níu,
months nine

jóð ól Edda

a-child bore Edda

jósu vatni,

(they)-sprinkled with-water

hörundsvartan,

swarthy-skinned

hétu Þræl.

called Þræll

7-13 • ÞRÆLL AND ÞÍR

Þræll has wrinkled skin on his hands, crooked knuckles, thick fingers, an ugly face, a bent back, and long heels. He grows strong, binds bast, and carries home brushwood all day. A bandy-legged girl named Þír comes to the yard, with mud on her soles, sunburned arms, and a hooked nose. They talk and make their bed, and have many children with names like Fjósniir, Klúrr, Drumbr, and Digraldi, who build fences, dung the fields, tend swine and goats, and dig turf, and daughters with names like Drumba, Kumba, and Ambátt. From them come the kindreds of thralls.

Vas þar á höndum

Was there on (the)-hands

hrokkit skinn,

wrinkled skin

kropnir knúar

crooked knuckles

* * *

(lacuna)

fingr digrir,

fingers thick

fúlligt andlit,

foul face

lotr hryggr,

stooped back

langir hælár.

long heels

8 Hann nam at vaxa

He began to grow

ok vel dafna,

and well thrive

nam meir at þat

began further at that

megins of kosta,

of-strength — to-try

bast at binda,

bast to bind

byrðar gerva,

burdens to-make

bar hann heim at þat

bore he home at that

hrís gerstan dag.

brushwood (the)-livelong day

9 Þar kom at garði

There came to (the)-yard

gengilbeina,

a-bandy-legged-one

aurr vas á iljum,

mud was on (the)-soles

armr sólbrunninn,

arm sunburned

* * *

(lacuna)

niðrbjúgt vas nef,

down-bent was (the)-nose

nefndisk Þír.

named-herself Þír

Meir settisk hón

Further sat-herself she

miðra fletja,

(in)-mid (the)-benches

sat hjá henni

sat by her

sonr húss,

(the)-son of-(the)-house

ræddu ok rýndu,

talked and whispered

rekkju gerðu

a-bed made

Þræll ok Þír

Þræll and Þír

þrungin dægr.

crowded days

- 11 Börn ólu þau,
Children bore they
 bjoggu ok unðu;
dwelt and were-content
 hygg at héti
think-I that (they)-were-called
 Hreimr ok Fjósir,
Hreimr and Fjósir
 Klúrr ok Kleggi,
Klúrr and Kleggi
 Kefsir, Fúlur,
Kefsir Fúlur
 Drumbr, Digraldi,
Drumbr Digraldi
 Dröttr ok Hösvir.
Dröttr and Hösvir

- 12 Lútr ok Leggjaldi,
Lútr and Leggjaldi
 lögðu garða,
laid fences
 akra töddu,
fields dinged
 unnu at svínum,
worked at swine
 geita gættu,
goats tended
 grófu torf.
dug turf

Dætr váru þær

Daughters were they

Drumba ok Kumba,

Drumba and Kumba

Økkvinkalfa

Økkvinkalfa

ok Arinnefja,

and Arinnefja

Ysja ok Ambátt,

Ysja and Ambátt

Eikintjasna,

Eikintjasna

Tötrughypja

Tötrughypja

ok Trönubeina.

and Trönubeina

(þaðan eru komnar

thence are come

þræla ættir).

of-thralls (the)-kindreds

Rígr comes to a hall where a couple, Afi and Amma, sit at work. The man is whittling a beam for a loom, his beard trimmed and his hair cut over his brow; the woman spins, wearing a headdress, a smock, a kerchief, and brooches on her shoulders. Rígr gives them counsel and sits between them. Amma brings a boiled calf, the best of dainties. He lies between them for three nights and goes on, and nine months later Amma bears a son, whom they swaddle in linen and call Karl.

- 14 Gekk Rígr at þat
 Went Rígr at that
 réttar brautir,
 straight ways
 kom hann at höllu,
 came he to a-hall
 hurð vas á skiði,
 (the)-door was on a-slat
 inn nam at ganga,
 in (he)-began to go
 eldr vas á golfi,
 fire was on (the)-floor
 hjón sátu þar,
 a-couple sat there
 heldu á sýslu.
 kept at work

- 15 Maðr telgði þar
 (The)-man whittled there
 meið til rifjar,
 a-tree for a-loom-beam

vas skegg skapat,
was (the)-beard trimmed
 skör vas fyr enni,
(the)-hair was before (the)-brow
 skyrtu þröngva,
a-shirt close-fitting
 skokkr vas á golfi.
a-chest was on (the)-floor

Sat þar kona,
Sat there a-woman
 sveigði rokk,
swung (the)-distaff
 breiddi faðm,
spread (her)-arms
 bjó til váðar;
made-ready for cloth
 sveigr vas á höfði,
a-beaddress was on (the)-head
 smokkr vas á bringu,
a-smock was on (the)-breast
 dúkr vas á halsi,
a-kerchief was on (the)-neck
 dvergar á öxlum.
brooches on (the)-shoulders

- 17 **Afi ok Amma**
Afi and Amma
áttu hús;
owned (the)-house
Rígr kunni þeim
Rígr could them
ráð at segja,
counsel to say
[meir settisk hann
further sat-himself he
miðra fletja,
(in)-mid (the)-benches
en á hlið hvára
and on side either
hjón salkynna].
(the)-couple of-(the)-house

- 18 **[Þá tók Amma]**
Then took Amma
*** * ***
(lacuna)
vas kalfr soðinn
was a-calf boiled
krása baztr.
of-dainties (the)-best

[Rígr kunni þeim

Rígr could them

ráð at segja]

counsel to say

reis frá borði,

rose from (the)-table

réð at sofna,

set-about to sleep

meir lagðisk hann

further laid-himself be

miðrar rekkju,

(in)-mid (the)-bed

en á hlið hvára

and on side either

hjón salkynna.

(the)-couple of-(the)-house

Þar vas hann at þat

There was he at that

þrjár nætr saman;

three nights together

liðu meir at þat

passed further at that

mánuðr níu;

months nine

jóðól Amma,

a-child bore Amma

jósu vatni,

(they)-sprinkled with-water

kölluðu Karl,

called Karl

kona sveip ripti.

(the)-woman swaddled in-linen

21–26 · KARL AND SNØR

The child is red and ruddy, with flickering eyes. He grows up to tame oxen, make a plow, build houses and barns, make carts, and drive the plow. They bring home Snør, a woman with dangling keys and a goatskin kirtle, and marry her to Karl. Their sons are named Halr, Drengr, Höldr, Þegn, Smiðr, Bóandi, and so on, their daughters Snót, Brúðr, Svanni, Sprund, Víf, and others, and from them come the kindreds of free farmers. Rígr then walks on to a hall whose doors face south, with a ring on the door and a strewn floor.

21 * * *

(lacuna)

rauðan ok rjóðan,

red and ruddy

riðuðu augu.

flickered (the)-eyes

22 Hann nam at vaxa

He began to grow

ok vel dafna,

and well thrive

øxn nam at temja,

oxen (he)-began to tame

arðr at gerva,

a-plow to make

hús at timbra

houses to build

ok hlöður smíða,

and barns to-fashion

karta at gerva

carts to make

ok keyra plóg.

and drive (the)-plow

Heim óku þá

Home (they)-drove then

hanginluklu,

a-hanging-keyed-one

geitakyrtlu,

goatskin-kirtled

giptu Karli;

married to-Karl

Snør heitir sú,

Snør is-called she

settisk und ripti,

sat-herself under (the)-veil

breiddu blæjur

spread (the)-sheets

ok bú gerðu.

and household made

- 24 Börn ólu þau,
Children bore they
 bjoggu ok unðu,
dwelt and were-content
 hét Halr ok Drengr,
was-called Halr and Drengr
 Höldr, Þegn ok Smiðr,
Höldr Þegn and Smiðr
 Breiðr, Bóandi,
Breiðr Bóandi
 Bundinskeggi,
Bundinskeggi
 Búi ok Boddi,
Búi and Boddi
 Brattskeggr ok Seggr.
Brattskeggr and Seggr

- 25 Enn hétu svá
Yet were-called so
 öðrum nöfnum,
by-other names
 Snót, Brúðr, Svanni,
Snót Brúðr Svanni
 Svarri, Sprakki,
Svarri Sprakki
 Fljóð, Sprund ok Víf,
Fljóð Sprund and Víf
 Feima, Ristill;
Feima Ristill

þaðan eru komnar

thence are come

karla ættir.

of-churls (the)-kindreds

Gekk Rígr þaðan

Went Rígr thence

réttar brautir,

straight ways

kom hann at sal,

came he to a-hall

suðr horfðu dyrr,

south faced (the)-doors

vas hurð hnigin,

was (the)-door pushed-to

hringr vas í gætti,

a-ring was in (the)-jamb

gekk hann inn at þat,

went he in at that

golf vas stráat.

(the)-floor was strewn

Faðir and Móðir sit gazing at each other; he twists a bowstring, bends an elm bow, and shafts arrows, while she looks at her arms, smooths her linen, and wears a blue-dyed shift with long trains. Rígr sits between them. Móðir spreads a white linen cloth and serves thin wheaten loaves, silver dishes with pork and roasted birds, and wine in a jug and goblets, and they drink and talk as the day passes. He lies between them three nights, and nine months later Móðir bears a boy, wraps him in silk, and names him Jarl.

- 27 **Sátu hjón,**
 Sat (the)-couple
sáusk í augu,
 looked-at-each-other in (the)-eyes
Faðir ok Móðir
 Faðir and Móðir
fingrum léku;
 with-fingers played
sat húsgumi
 sat (the)-householder
ok snøri streng,
 and twisted a-string
alm of bendi,
 (the)-elm-bow — bent
örvar skepti.
 arrows shafted

En húskona

And (the)-housewife

hugði at örmum,

looked to (her)-arms

strauk of rípti,

stroked over (the)-linen

sterti ermar,

stiffened (the)-sleeves

keisti fald,

tilted (her)-beaddress

kinga vas á bringu,

a-brooch was on (the)-breast

síðar slœður,

long trains

serk bláfáan.

a-shift blue-dyed

Rígr kunni þeim

Rígr could them

ráð at segja;

counsel to say

meir settisk hann

further sat-himself he

miðra fletja,

(in)-mid (the)-benches

en á hlið hvára

and on side either

hjón salkynna.

(the)-couple of-(the)-house

30 Þá tók Móðir

Then took Móðir

merkðan dúk,

a-figured cloth

hvítan af hörvi,

white of flax

hulði bjóð,

covered (the)-board

hón tók at þat

she took at that

hleifa þunna,

loaves thin

hvíta af hveiti,

white of wheat

ok hulði dúk.

and covered (the)-cloth

31 Framm setti hón

Forth set she

fulla skutla,

full dishes

(silfri varða á bjóð)

with-silver mounted on (the)-board

fáin fleski

decked with-pork

ok fogla steikðá,

and birds roasted

vín vas í könnu,

wine was in a-jug

varðir kálkar,

mounted goblets

drukku ok dæmðu,

drank and talked

dagr vas á sinnum.

day was on (its)-way

Rígr kunni þeim

Rígr could them

ráð at segja;

counsel to say

reis Rígr at þat,

rose Rígr at that

rekkju gerði,

a-bed made

[meir lagðisk hann

further laid-himself he

miðrar rekkju,

(in)-mid (the)-bed

en á hlið hvára

and on side either

hjón salkynna].

(the)-couple of-(the)-house

- 33 Þar vas hann at þat
There was he at that
 þrjár nætr saman
three nights together
 (gekk hann meir at þat
went he further at that
 miðrar brautar).
along-mid (the)-way
 liðu meir at þat
passed further at that
 mánuðr níu;
months nine
 svein ól Móðir,
a-boy bore Móðir
 silki vafði,
with-silk wrapped
 jósu vatni,
(they)-sprinkled with-water
 Jarl létu heita.
Jarl (they)-let be-called

Jarl has blond hair, bright cheeks, and eyes as fierce as a young snake's. He grows up handling shield, bow, and spear, riding, hunting with hounds, drawing swords, and swimming. Rígr comes out of a thicket, teaches him runes, gives him his own name, calls him son, and bids him take possession of ancestral lands. Jarl rides through dark woods and over frosty fells to a hall, where he wakes war and wins lands. He rules eighteen estates and gives away treasures, horses, and rings. Messengers fetch Erna, the slender-fingered daughter of Hersir, whom he marries, and they live together and increase their kindred.

Bleikt vas hár,

Blond was (the)-hair

bjartir vangar,

bright (the)-cheeks

ötul váru augu

fierce were (the)-eyes

sem yrmlingi.

as a-young-snake's

34

Upp óx þar

Up grew there

Jarl á fletjum,

Jarl on (the)-benches

lind nam at skelfa,

(the)-shield (he)-began to shake

leggja strengi,

to-lay strings

(alm at beygja,

(the)-elm to bend

35

örvar skepta,

arrows to-shaft

flein at fleygja,

(the)-dart to hurl

frökkur dýja),

spears to-shake

hestum ríða,

horses to-ride

hundum verpa,

bounds to-loose

sverðum bregða,

swords to-draw

sund at fremja.

swimming to practice

36 Kom þar ór runni

Came there out-of (the)-thicket

Rígr gangandi,

Rígr walking

Rígr gangandi,

Rígr walking

rúnar kendi,

runes taught

sitt gaf heiti,

his-own gave name

son kvazk eiga;

a-son said-himself to-have

þann bað hann eignask

him bade he to-possess

óðalvöllu.

ancestral-fields

(óðalvöllu,

ancestral-fields

aldnar byggðir.)

ancient dwellings

Reið hann meir þaðan

Rode he further thence

myrkvan við,

(through)-dark wood

hélug fjöll,

frosty fells

unz at höllu kom,

until to a-hall (be)-came

(skapt nam at dýja,

(the)-shaft (be)-began to shake

skelfði lind,

shook (the)-shield

hesti hleypði

(the)-horse spurred

ok hjörvi brá)

and (the)-sword drew

víg nam at vekja,

war (be)-began to wake

völl nam at rjóða,

(the)-field (be)-began to redden

val nam at fella,

(the)-slain (he)-began to fell

vá til landa.

fought for lands

38 Réð einn at þat

Ruled (he)-alone at that

átján búum,

eighteen estates

auði nam skipta,

wealth (he)-began to-share

öllum veita

to-all to-give

meiðmar ok mösma,

treasures and trinkets

mara svangrifja;

steeds slender-ribbed

hringum hreytti,

rings (he)-scattered

hjó sundr baug.

bewed asunder (the)-arm-ring

39 Óku ærir

Drove messengers

úrgar brautir,

wet ways

kómu at höllu,

came to (the)-hall

þars Hersir bjó,

where Hersir dwelt

mey átti hann

a-maid had he

mjófingraða,

slender-fingered

hvíta ok horska,

white and wise

hét sú Erna.

was-called she Erna

Báðu hennar

(They)-asked-for her

ok heim óku,

and home drove

giptu Jarli,

married to-Jarl

gekk hón und líni,

went she under (the)-linen

saman bjoggu þau

together dwelt they

ok sér unðu,

and themselves delighted

ættir jóku

kindreds increased

ok aldrs nutu.

and of-life enjoyed

Jarl's sons are named Burr, Barn, Jóð, Aðal, Arfi, Mögr, Niðr, Niðjungr, Sonr, Sveinn, Kundr, and the youngest, Konr. They tame horses, bend shields, and shake ash-spears. Young Konr knows runes, the runes of eternity and of life, and more: how to save men, blunt edges, calm the sea, understand the speech of birds, quench fires, soothe minds, and allay the sorrows of eight men. He contests runes with Rígr Jarl and outdoes him, winning the right to be called Rígr. One day he rides through the woods shooting birds.

41 Burr vas enn elzti,

Burr was the eldest

en Barn annat,

and Barn (the)-second

Jóð ok Aðal,

Jóð and Aðal

Arfi, Mögr,

Arfi Mögr

Niðr ok Niðjungr,

Niðr and Niðjungr

námu leika,

began to-play

Sonr ok Sveinn,

Sonr and Sveinn

sund ok tafl.

swimming and board-game

Kundr hét enn,

Kundr was-called yet

Konr vas enn yngsti;

Konr was the youngest

upp óxu þar

up grew there

Jarli bornir,

to-Jarl born

hesta tömðu,

horses tamed

hlífar bendu,

shields bent

skeyti skófu,

shafts shaved

skelfðu aska.

shook ash-spears

En Konr ungr

But Konr young

kunni rúnar,

knew runes

ævinrúnar

eternity-runes

ok aldrúnar,

and life-runes

meir kunni hann

further knew he

mönnum bjarga,

men to-save

eggjar deýfa,

edges to-blunt

ægi lægja.

(the)-sea to-calm

44 Klök nam fogla,

(the)-speech (be)-learned of-birds

kyrra elda,

to-quench fires

sefa of svefja,

minds — to-soothe

sorgir lægja

sorrows to-allay

* * *

(lacuna)

átta manna.

of-eight men

45 Hann við Ríg jarl

He with Rígr (the)-earl

rúnar deildi,

(in)-runes strove

brögðum beitti

wiles plied

ok betr kunni,

and better knew

þá öðlaðisk

then (he)-gained

ok eiga gat

and to-have got

Rígr at heita,

Rígr to be-called

rúnar kunna.

runes to-know

Reið Konr ungr

Rode Konr young

kjörr ok skóga,

thicket and woods

kolfi fleygði,

a-bolt hurled

kyrði fogla.

stilled birds

46

47–50 • THE CROW'S COUNSEL

A crow on a branch asks Konr why he is shooting birds, when he should be riding horses, drawing the sword, and felling the host. Danr and Danpr own finer halls and a nobler patrimony than his, and know well how to ride the keel, try the edge, and tear wounds. The poem breaks off with a woman's bright brow, lighter breast, and a neck whiter than snow, and a couple who lived together and gave out rings.

Þá kvað þat kráka,

Then said that a-crow

sat kvisti ein:

sat (on)-a-twigg alone

47

»Hvat skalt Konr ungr

What shalt-thou Konr young

kyrra fogla?

to-still birds

heldr mætti þér

rather might-(it-befit) thee

hestum ríða,

horses to-ride

[hjörvi bregða]

(the)-sword to-draw

ok her fella.

and (the)-host to-fell

48 Á Danr ok Danpr

Own Danr and Danpr

dýrar hallir,

precious halls

œðra óðal

nobler patrimony

an ér hafið;

than ye have

þeir kunnu vel

they could well

kjóli at ríða,

(the)-keel to ride

egg at kenna,

(the)-edge to prove

undir rjúfa.

wounds to-tear

Brún bjartari,

Brow brighter

brjóst ljósara,

breast lighter

hals hvítari,

neck whiter

hreinni mjöllu.

purser than-snow

49

Bjoggu hjón,

Dwelt (the)-couple

bauga deildu.

rings dealt

50

Gróttasöngur

The Song of Grotti

Two foreseeing maidens, Fenja and Menja, have come to the house of King Fróði, son of Friðleifr, where they are held as thralls. They are led to the mill and made to turn the gray stone, and the king promises neither of them rest or joy until he has heard their song. They chant to the whirring quern, and he bids them go on grinding. They sing and swing the swift stone until most of Fróði's household falls asleep, and then Menja speaks.

Nú erum komnar

Now are-(we) come

til konungs húsa,

to (the)-king's houses

frammvísar tvær,

foreseeing two

Fenja ok Menja,

Fenja and Menja

þær ro at Fróða

they are with Fróði

Friðleifssonar

Friðleifr's-son

mátkar meyjar

mighty maidens

at mani hafðar.

as thralls held

1

2 Þær at lúðri

They to (the)-mill-box

leiddar váru

led were

ok grjóts gréa

and of-stone gray

gangs of beiddu;

(the)-going — bade

hét hvárigri

promised to-neither

hvíld né ynði,

rest nor joy

áðr hann heyrði

before he heard

hljóm ambátta.

(the)-sound of-(the)-bondmaids

3 Þær þyt þulu

They (the)-whir chanted

* * *

(lacuna)

þögnhorfinnar

of-(the)-silence-bereft-one

»leggjum lúðra,

let-us-set (the)-mill-boxes

léttum steinum«;

let-us-lighten (the)-stones

bað enn meyjar,
bade yet (the)-maidens
 at mala skyldi.
that grind (they)-should

Sungu ok slungu

Sang and slung

snúðgasteini,

(the)-swift-stone

svát Fróða man

so-that of-Fróði (the)-thralls

flest sofnaði;

most fell-asleep

þá kvað þat Menja,

then said that Menja

vas til meldrs komin.

(who)-was to (the)-grinding come

They grind wealth and happiness for Fróði, plenty of goods on the mill of gladness, that he may sit on wealth, sleep on down, and wake to his pleasure. In his land no one shall harm another or plan death, nor strike with a sharp sword even if he finds his brother's slayer bound. Fróði's only answer is that they may not sleep longer than the cuckoos over the hall, or longer than it takes to sing one song. Menja tells him he was not wise when he bought thralls: he chose them for strength and looks, but did not ask about their lineage.

5 »Auð mölum Fróða,

Wealth grind-we for-Fróði

möllum alsælan,

grind-we (him)-all-happy

möllum fjöld féar

grind-we a-plenty of-goods

á feginslúðri;

on (the)-gladness-box

siti hann á auði,

may-sit he on wealth

sofi hann á dúni,

may-sleep he on down

vaki hann at vilja;

may-wake he at will

þá es vel malit.

then is well ground

Hér skyli engi

Here should no-one

öðrum granda,

another harm

til böls búa

for bale make-ready

né til bana orka,

nor for death work

né höggva því

nor hew with-that

hvössu sverði,

sharp sword

þótt bana bróður

though (the)-slayer of-(his)-brother

bundinn finni.«

bound (he)-find

En hann kvað ekki

But he said not

orð et fyrra:

word the earlier

»sofið eigi meir

sleep-ye not more

an of sal gaukar,

than over (the)-ball cuckoos

eða lengr an svá

or longer than so

ljóð eitt kveðak.«

lay one say-I

8 Vasattu Fróði

Wast-thou-not Fróði

fullspakr of þik,

full-wise for thyself

málvinr manna,

(the)-speech-friend of-men

es man keyptir;

when thralls (thou)-boughtest

kaust þú at afli

chosest thou by strength

ok at álitum,

and by looks

en at ætterni

but about lineage

ekki spurðir.

not (thou)-askedst

9-12 · THE GIANT MAIDENS

Hard was Hrungnir and his father, but Þjazi was mightier still; Iði and Aurnir are the maidens' own kinsmen, and the two are born of mountain-giants. The quern would not have come out of the gray fell if they had not known it. For nine winters they were playmates reared beneath the earth, doing mighty works and moving the seat-rock from its place. They rolled boulders over the giants' yard so that the earth shook, and slung the heavy stone so that men could take it.

9 Harðr vas Hrungnir

Hard was Hrungnir

ok hans faðir,

and his father

þó vas Þjazi

yet was Þjazi

þeim öflugari,

than-them mightier

Iði ok Aurnir,

Iði and Aurnir

okrir niðjar,

our-two kinsmen

bræðr bergrisa,

brothers of-mountain-giants

þeim bornar erum.

to-them born are-(we)

Kœmia Grótti

Would-come-not Grótti

ór gréa fjalli,

out-of (the)-gray fell

né sá enn harði

nor that the hard

hallr ór jörðu,

stone out-of (the)-earth

né mœli svá

nor would-grind so

mær bergrisa,

(the)-maid of-mountain-giants

ef vissim vit

if knew we-two

vætr til hennar.

naught of her

- 11 **Vér vetr níu**
We winters nine
várum leikur
were playmates
öflgar alnar
mighty reared
fyr jörð neðan,
under earth beneath
stóðu meyjjar
stood (the)-maids
at meginverkum,
at mighty-works
færðum sjalfar
moved-(we) ourselves
setberg ór stað.
(the)-seat-rock from (its)-place

- 12 **Veltum grjóti**
Rolled-(we) boulders
of garð risa,
over (the)-yard of-giants
svát fold fyrir
so-that (the)-earth thereat
för skjalfandi;
went shaking
svá slongðum vit
so slung we-two
snúðgasteini,
(the)-swift-stone

höfgahalli,

(the)-heavy-rock

at halir tóku.

that men took

13–16 • WAR IN SWEDEN

Afterward they went to battle in Sweden, fighting bears, breaking shields, and going through the gray-shirted host. They overthrew one ruler and set up another, and helped Gottthormr, with no rest until Knúi fell. They were famous as champions, reddening their spears with blood. Now they have come to the king's house without mercy, held as thralls, with mud eating their soles and cold overhead, dragging the quern, and it is dreary at Fróði's.

En vit síðan

And we-two afterward

á Svíþjóðu

in Svíþjóð

frammvísar tvær

foreseeing two

í folk stigum,

into (the)-host stepped

beiddum björnu,

challenged bears

en brutum skjöldu,

and broke shields

gengum í gögnum

went in through

gráserkjat lið.

(the)-gray-shirted host

13

14 Steypðum stilli,

Overthrew-(we) a-ruler

studdum annan,

upheld another

veittum góðum

gave to-good

Gotthormi lið

Gotthormr help

vasa kyrseta,

(there)-was-no rest

áðr Knúi felli.

before Knúi fell

15 Framm heldum því

Forth held-(we) so

þau misseri,

those seasons

at vit at köppum

that we-two as champions

kendar várum,

known were

þar skorðum vit

there cut we-two

skörpum geirum

with-sharp spears

blóð ór benjum

blood from wounds

ok brand ruðum.

and (the)-blade reddened

Nú erum komnar

Now are-(we) come

til konungs húsa

to (the)-king's houses

miskunlausar

merciless

ok at mani hafðar;

and as thralls held

aurr etr iljar,

mud eats (the)-soles

en ofan kulði;

and above cold

drögum dolgs sjötul,

drag-(we) of-strife (the)-settler

daprt 's at Fróða.

dreary is with Fróði

17-20 · FIRE IN THE EAST

Menja wants to rest her hands: she has ground her share. But Fróði will not let them rest until he thinks the grinding is complete. They say their hands must take up hard shafts and bloody weapons, and call on Fróði to wake and hear their songs. Fire is burning east of the town, and war is waking; a host will come suddenly and burn the town before the king's eyes. He will not keep the throne of Hleiðr, the red rings, or the mighty stone. They grip the handle harder, not yet warm with the blood of the slain.

Hendr skulu hvílast,

Hands shall rest

hallr standa mun,

(the)-stone stand will

malit hefk fyr mik;

ground have-I for myself

mitt of létti;

my-share — lightened

nú muna höndum

now will-(he)-not to-(the)-hands

hvíld vel gefa,

rest well give

áðr fullmalit

before fully-ground

Fróða þykki.

to-Fróði (it)-seems

18 Hendr skulu höndla

Hands shall handle

harðar trjónur,

hard shafts

vápn valdreyrug,

weapons slaughter-bloody

vaki þú Fróði,

wake thou Fróði

vaki þú Fróði,

wake thou Fróði

ef vill hlýða

if (thou)-wilt listen

söngum okrum

to-songs our-two

ok sögum fornum.

and to-tales old

Eld sék brinna

Fire see-I burn

fyr austan borg,

to (the)-east-of (the)-town

vígspjöll vaka,

war-tidings wake

þat mun viti kallaðr,

that will a-beacon called

mun herr koma

will a-host come

hinig af bragði

hither on a-sudden

ok brenna bæ

and burn (the)-town

fyr buðlungi.

before (the)-king

Munat þú halda

Wilt-not thou hold

Hleiðrar stóli,

of-Hleiðr (the)-seat

rauðum hringum

(the)-red rings

né regingrjóti.

nor (the)-mighty-stone

Tökum á möndli

Grip-we on (the)-handle

mær skarpara,

maid more-sharply

eruma valmar

are-(we)-not warm

í valdreyra.

in slaughter-blood

21-24 • THE QUERN BREAKS

The giant's daughter grinds mightily, for she foresees the doom of many men. The iron-bound props leap from the quern. Yrsa's son will avenge Halfdan on Fróði, and he will be called both her son and her brother. The maidens grind with all their strength in giant rage, until the shafts shake, the quern flies down, and the heavy stone bursts in two. The giant's bride says that they have ground for Fróði and will stop, for the women have stood at the grinding long enough.

21 Mól míns föður

Ground of-my father

mær rammliga,

(the)-maid mightily

því hon feigð fíra

because she (the)-doom of-men

fjölmargra sá;

of-full-many saw

stukku stórar

sprang great

steðr frá lúðri

props from (the)-mill-box

járni varðar —

with-iron bound

mölum enn framar.

grind-we yet further

Mölum enn framar.

Grind-we yet further

Mun Yrsu sonr

Will of-Yrsa (the)-son

vígs Halfdanar

for-(the)-slaying of-Halfdan

hefna Fróða;

avenge on-Fróði

sá mun hennar

he will of-her

heitinn verða

called be

burr ok bróðir —

son and brother

vitum báðar þat.

know-(we) both that

Mólu meyjar

Ground (the)-maidens

megins kostuðu,

(their)-strength tried

óru ungar

were young

í jötunmóði,

in giant-rage

skulfu skaptré,

shook (the)-shaft-trees

skauzk lúðr ofan,

shot (the)-mill-box down

hraut enn höfgi

burst the heavy

hallr sundr í tvau.

stone asunder in two

24 En bergrisa

But of-(the)-mountain-giants

brúðr orð of kvað:

(the)-bride a-word — said

malit höfum Fróði,

ground have-(we) Fróði

senn munum hætta,

soon shall-(we) stop

hafa fullstaðit

have fully-stood

fljóð at meldri.

(the)-women at (the)-grinding

Grógaldur ok Fjölsvinnsmál

The Spell of Groa and the Lay of Fjölsvinn



GRÓGALDR

1-5 · SVIPDAGR WAKES HIS MOTHER

Svipdagr wakes his dead mother Gróa at the door of her grave, as she bade him. She asks what trouble brings her only son to call her from the dead. He says his father's wife, a guileful woman, has given him an evil task: to go where no one knows the way, to Menglōð. Gróa tells him the way is long and men's desires are long, but fate moves as it is shaped. He asks her for good spells, since he fears he will die on the way, being too young.

SVIPD. KV. Vaki þú Gróa,

1

Wake thou Gróa

vaki góð kona,

wake good woman

vekk þik dauðra dura,

wake-I thee of-(the)-dead at-(the)-doors

ef þat mant,

if that (thou)-rememberest

at þinn mög bæðir

that thy son (thou)-badest

til kumbldysjar koma.

to (the)-cairn come

GRÓA KV. Hvat 's nú ant

2

What is now pressing

mínum eingasyni,

to-my only-son

hverju 'st bölvi borinn?

with-what art-thou bale burdened

es móður kallar,

that (thy)-mother (thou)-callest

es til moldar es komin

who to (the)-mold is come

ok ór ljóðheimum liðin.

and out-of (the)-world-of-men passed

3 SV. KV. Ljótu leikborði

An-ugly game-board

skaut fyr mik lævis kona,

set before me a-guileful woman

sús faðmaði minn föður

she-who embraced my father

þar bað mik koma,

there bade me come

es kvæmtki veit,

where passable-not (one)-knows

móti menzlöðum.

toward (the)-necklace-glad

4 G. KV. Löng es för,

Long is (the)-journey

langir ro farvegir

long are (the)-ways

langir ro manna munir,

long are of-men (the)-desires

ef þat verðr,

if that happens

at þinn vilja biðr,

that thy will (thou)-awaitest

skeikar þá skuld at sköpum.

moves then fate by (the)-shapings

SV. KV. Galdra mér gal,

Spells to-me chant

þás góðir ro,

those-which good are

bjarg þú móðir megi,

help thou mother (thy)-son

á vegum allr

on (the)-ways all-gone

hykk at verða mynak,

think-I that be shall-I

þykkjumk til ungr afi.

seem-I too young a-man

Gróa chants her spells. The first, which Rani chanted to Rindr, is to throw off what he finds hateful and lead himself by his own will. The second is to keep fate's locks about him if he must wander unwilling. The third is to make the rivers Horn and Ruðr turn back to Hel and shrink before him. The fourth is to turn the minds of foes waiting on the gallows-road to peace. The fifth is a loosing-spell, to break the fetter from his limbs.

6 G. KV. Þann gelk þér fyrstan,

That-(one) chant-I thee first

es kveða fjölnýtan,

which (men)-call very-useful

þann gól Rindi Rani,

that chanted to-Rindr Rani

at of öxl skjótir,

that over shoulder (thou)-shootest

þvís þér atalt þykkir;

that-which to-thee hateful seems

sjalfr leið sjalfan þik.

thyself lead thine-own self

7 Þann gelk þér annan,

That-(one) chant-I thee second

ef árna skalt

if wander (thou)-must

viljalauss á vegum,

will-less on (the)-ways

urðar-lokur

fate's-locks

haldi þér öllum megum,

may-bold thee on-all sides

es þú á smán sér.

when thou upon shame lookest

Þann gelk þér þriðja,

That-(one) chant-I thee third

ef þér þjóðáar

if thee mighty-rivers

falla at fjörlotum,

fall to life-harm

Horn ok Ruðr

Horn and Ruðr

snúisk til heljar meðan,

turn-(they) to bel meanwhile

en þverri æ fyr þér.

and shrink ever before thee

Þann gelk þér fjórða,

That-(one) chant-I thee fourth

ef þik fjáendr standa

if (for)-thee foes stand

görvir á galgvegi,

ready on (the)-gallows-way

8

9

hugr þeim hverfi

(the)-mind to-them may-turn

til handa þér,

to (the)-hands of-thee

ok snúisk til sátta sevi.

and turn to settlement (their)-mind

10 Þann gelk þér fimta,

That-(one) chant-I thee fifth

ef þér fjötur verðr

if on-thee a-fetter is

borinn at boglimum,

borne on (the)-bending-limbs

leysigaldr lætk

loosing-spell let-I

þér fyr legg of kveðinn

for-thee over (the)-leg — spoken

ok stökk þá láss af limum.

and springs then (the)-lock from (the)-limbs

(en af fótum fjötur).

and from (the)-feet (the)-fetter

The sixth spell is to calm wind and water if he meets a storm at sea, and grant him a peaceful voyage. The seventh is to keep the frost of the high fells from his flesh. The eighth is to keep a dead Christian woman from harming him if night overtakes him on the misty road. The ninth is to give him words and wit when he speaks with the spear-noble giant. She tells him never to go where danger seems, and wishes no harm may block his desires; she chanted the spells standing on an earth-fast stone within the door. He should take his mother's words with him and keep them in his heart.

Þann gelk þér sétta,

11

That-(one) chant-I thee sixth

ef á sæ kemr

if on (the)-sea (thou)-comest

meira an menn viti,

greater than men know

logn ok lögr

calm and sea

gangi þér í lúðr saman,

may-go for-thee in a-mill-box together

ok léi þér æ friðrjúgrar farar.

and may-grant thee ever of-peaceful journey

Þann gelk þér sjaunda,

12

That-(one) chant-I thee seventh

ef þik sækja kemr

if thee to-seek comes

frost á fjalli háu,

frost on fell high

hræva kuldi

of-corpses (the)-cold

megit þínu holdi fara

may-not thy flesh destroy

ok haldisk æ lík at liðum.

and hold-together ever (the)-body at (the)-limbs

13 Þann gelk þér átta,

That-(one) chant-I thee eighth

ef þik úti nemr

if thee outside takes

nótt á niflvegi,

night on (the)-mist-way

at firr megi

that the-less may

þér til meins gera

to-thee to harm do

kristin dauð kona.

a-Christian dead woman

14 Þann gelk þér níunda

That-(one) chant-I thee ninth

ef við enn naddgöfga

if with the spear-noble

orðum skiptir jötun,

with-words exchangest (the)-giant

máls ok manvits

of-speech and of-man-wit

at mími svara

to (the)-wise-one answer

sé þér gnógs of gefit.

be to-thee enough — given

Far þú nú æva,

Fare thou now never

þars forað þykkir,

where danger seems

standit þér mein fyr munum,

may-stand-not thee harm before (thy)-desires

á jarðföstum steini

on an-earth-fast stone

stóðk innan dura,

stood-I within doors

meðan þér galdra gólk.

while thee spells chanted-I

Móður orð

Of-(thy)-mother (the)-words

ber þú mögr heðan

bear thou son hence

ok lát þér í brjósti búa,

and let for-thee in (the)-breast dwell

15

16

iðgnóga heill

plenteous luck

skalt of aldr hafa,

(thou)-shalt through life have

meðan þú mín orð of mant.

while thou my words — rememberest

FJÖLSVINNSMÁL

1-6 • FJÖLSVIÐR AT THE GATE

Outside the yard, Svipdagr sees the giants' dwelling rise. Its watchman asks what monster stands at the gate hovering about the flame, what he seeks, and bids him go back the wet way he came, since there is no shelter for him there. Svipdagr asks what monster stands at the gate refusing wayfarers welcome. The watchman is Fjölsviðr, wise but not free with his food, who will not let him in and tells him to be off on his way, wolf that he is. Svipdagr says few would turn back from such a sight: the yards glow around golden halls, and here he would like to live. Asked his name, he says he is Vindkaldr, son of Várkaldr, son of Fjölkaldr.

1 Útan garða

Outside (the)-yards

sá upp of koma

(he)-saw up — come

þursa þjóðar sjöt.

of-þursar of-(the)-people (the)-seat

(lacuna)

FJ. KV. Hvat 's þat flagða,

2

What is that of-monsters

er stendr fyr forgörðum

who stands before (the)-fore-yards

ok hvarfar of hættan loga?

and hovers about (the)-dangerous flame

(hvers þú leitar

what thou seekest

eða hvers á leitum est,

or for-what on searches art-(thou)

hvat vilt, vinlauss, vita?)

what wilt-(thou) friendless know

úrgar brautir

wet ways

árna aptr heðan,

travel back hence

áttat hér, verndar vanr, veru.

bast-not here of-protection lacking a-stay

SV. KV. Hvat 's flagða,

3

What is of-monsters

es stendr fyr forgarði

that stands before (the)-fore-yard

ok býðrat liðöndum löð?

and offers-not to-wayfarers welcome

sœmðarlauss

honorless

hefr þú seggr lifat,

bast thou man lived

†ok halt heim heðan.

and bold home hence

4 FJ. KV. Fjölsviðr heitik,

Fjölsviðr am-called-I

ák fróðan seva,

have-I a-wise mind

þeygi emk míns mildr matar;

not-at-all am-I of-my generous food

innan garða

within (the)-yards

þú kemr hér aldri,

thou comest here never

ok dríf nú vargr at vegi.

and drive now wolf on (thy)-way

5 Augna gamans

Of-(the)-eyes' delight

fýsir aptr fáa,

urges back few

hvars getr svást at séa;

where (one)-gets (the)-dear to see

garðar glóa

(the)-yards glow

þykkjumk of gollna sali;

seems-to-me around golden balls

hér mundak eðli una.

here would-I a-home enjoy

FJ. KV. Seg mér, hverjum

Say to-me to-whom

est sveinn of borinn?

art-(thou) lad — born

hverra est manna mögr?

of-what art-(thou) men (the)-son

SV. KV. Vindkaldr heitik,

Vindkaldr am-called-I

Varkaldr hét minn faðir,

Varkaldr was-called my father

þess vas Fjölkaldr faðir.

of-him was Fjölkaldr (the)-father

Svipdagr asks who rules the property and wealthy halls. Fjölsviðr says it is Menglöð, whose mother bore her to Svafrþorinn's son. The gate is called Prymgöll, made by three sons of Sólblindi, and it fetters any traveler who lifts it from its opening. The wall is called Gastrópnir; Fjölsviðr made it from Leirbrimir's limbs, and it will stand as long as the world lives.

7 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita,

and I wish to-know

hverr hér ræðr,

who here rules

ok ríki hefr,

and power has

eign ok auðsölum.

property and wealth-halls

8 FJ. KV. Menglöð heitir,

Menglöð is-called

en hana móðir of gat

and her (the)-mother — bore

við Svafrþorins syni,

with of-Svafrþorinn (the)-son

hón hér ræðr,

she here rules

ok ríki hefr,

and power has

eign ok auðsölum.

property and wealth-halls

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita;

and I wish to-know

hvé grind heitir,

how (the)-gate is-called

es með goðum sáut

which among gods saw-not

menn et meira forað.

men the greater peril

FJ. KV. Þrymgöll heitir,

Þrymgöll is-called

en hana þrír gerðu

and it three made

Sólblinda synir;

of-Sólblindi (the)-sons

fjöturr fastr

a-fetter fast

verðr við faranda hvern,

becomes for traveler each

es hana hefr frá hliði.

who it lifts from (the)-opening

11 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé garðr heitir,

how (the)-wall is-called

es með goðum sáut

which among gods saw-not

menn et meira forað.

men the greater peril

12 FJ. KV. Gastrópnir heitir

Gastrópnir is-called

en hann görvan hefk

and it made have-I

ór Leirbrimis limum;

out-of of-Leirbrimir (the)-limbs

svá hefk studdan,

so have-I (it)-propped

at hann standa mun,
that it stand will
 æ meðan öld lifir.
ever while (the)-world lives

13–18 • THE HOUNDS

The two fierce hounds are Gífr and Geri, who keep eleven watches until the gods are destroyed. No one can enter while they sleep, for they sleep in turns, one by night and the other by day, so that no one gets past. The only food that can distract them long enough for someone to run past is the two wing-roasts in the joints of Viðófnir.

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

13

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé garmar heita,

how (the)-bounds are-called

es gífrari hefk

that greedier have-I

enga fyrr í löndum litit.

none before in lands seen

FJ. KV. Gífr heitir,

14

Gífr is-called

en Geri annarr,

and Geri (the)-other

ef þú vilt þat vita;

if thou wilt that know

varðir ellifu

watches eleven

of varða þeir,

— *guard they*

unz of rjúfask regin.

until — are-destroyed (the)-powers

15 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt sé manna nökkut,

whether (there)-be of-men any

þats megi inn koma,

who may in come

meðan sókndjarfir sofa.

while (the)-onset-bold sleep

16 FJ. KV. Missvefni mikit

Alternate-sleep great

vas þeim mjök of lagit,

was to-them strictly — laid

síðans þeim vas varzla vituð,

since-that to-them was (the)-watch appointed

annarr of nætr sefr

one by nights sleeps

en annarr of daga,

and (the)-other by days

ok kemsk þá vætr, ef þá kom.

and comes-in then nothing if then (one)-came

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt sé matar nökkut,

whether (there)-be of-food any

þats menn hafi

that men may-have

ok hlaupi inn meðan eta.

and may-run in while (they)-eat

FJ. KV. Vængbráðir tvær

Wing-meats two

liggja í Viðófnis liðum,

lie in of-Viðófnir (the)-joints

ef þú vilt þat vita,

if thou wilt that know

þat eitt 's svá matar,

that one is such of-food

17

18

at þeim menn of gefi

that to-them men — may-give

ok hlaupi inn meðan eta.

and may-run in while (they)-eat

19–24 · MÍMAMEIÐR AND THE COCK

The tree whose branches spread over all lands is Mímameiðr, whose roots no one knows, and neither fire nor iron can fell it. Its fruit is carried to the fire for women in labor, so that what should come out comes out, such is its power among men. The golden cock sitting in the tree is Viðófnir, who stands shining on the branches of Mími's tree; Surtr oppresses Sinmara with one endless grief.

19 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé barmr heitir,

how (the)-tree is-called

es breiðask umb

which spreads around

lönd öll límar.

lands all (with-its)-boughs

20 FJ. KV. Mímameiðr heitir,

Mímameiðr is-called

es mangi veit,

whereof no-man knows

af hverjum rótum rinnr,

from which roots (it)-runs

við þat fellr,

by that (it)-falls

es fæstan varir,

which fewest expect

flærat hann eld né járn.

fells-not it fire nor iron

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvat af móði verðr

what of (the)-yield becomes

ens mæra viðar,

of-the glorious tree

es flærat eld né járn.

which fells-not fire nor iron

21

FJ. KV. Út af hans aldni

Out of its fruit

skal á eld bera

shall on (the)-fire (one)-bear

fyr kelisjúkar konur;

for birth-sick women

22

útar hverfa

outward turn

þess innar skyli,

that inward should

sá 's hann með mönnum mjötuðr.

such is it among men a-doom-measurer

23 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé hani heitir,

how (the)-cock is-called

es sitr í háum viði,

which sits in (the)-high tree

allr við goll glóar.

all with gold glows

24 FJ. KV. Viðófnir heitir,

Viðófnir is-called

en hann stendr veðrglasir

and it stands weather-bright

á meiðs kvistum Míma;

on of-(the)-tree (the)-twigs of-Mími

einum ekka

with-one sorrow

þryngr örófsaman

oppresses measurelessly

Surtr Sinmöru.

Surtr Sinmara

25–30 · LÆVATEINN

The only weapon that can bring Viðófnir down to Hel is Lævateinn, which Loptir made with runes beneath the gates of the dead. It lies in a chest of tough iron with Sinmara, held by nine strong locks. Whoever goes after it will come back only if he brings a treasure few own, the bright sickle from Viðófnir's joints, and gives it to Sinmara, who will then agree to lend her weapon for battle.

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt sé vápna nökkut,

whether (there)-be of-weapons any

þats knegi Viðófnir fyrir

that-which may Viðófnir before-(it)

hníga á heljar sjöt.

sink to of-hel (the)-seat

25

- 26 FJ. KV. Lævateinn heitir,
Lævateinn is-called
 es gerði Loptr rúnum
which made Loptr with-runes
 fyr nágrindr neðan,
before (the)-corpse-gates beneath
 í segjárnskeri
in (the)-tough-iron-chest
 liggr hjá Sinmöru,
lies by Sinmara
 ok halda njarðlásar níu.
and hold mighty-locks nine

- 27 Seg mér Fjölsviðr
Say to-me Fjölsviðr
 þats þik fregna munk
that-which thee ask will-I
 ok ek vilja vita:
and I wish to-know
 hvárt aptr kemr
whether back comes
 sás eptir ferr
he-who after (it)-goes
 ok vill þann tein taka.
and wishes that twig (to)-take

FJ. KV. Aptr mun koma

28

Back will come

sás eptir ferr

he-who after (it)-goes

ok vill þann tein taka,

and wishes that twig (to)-take

ef þat færir,

if that (he)-brings

es fáir eigu,

which few own

Eiri örglasis.

to-Eir of-gold

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

29

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt sé mæta nökkut,

whether (there)-be of-treasures any

þats menn hafi

that men may-have

ok verðr því en fólva gýgr fegin.

and becomes thereof the pale giantess glad

- 30 FJ. KV. **Ljósan léa**
(The)-bright sickle
skalt í lúðr bera,
(thou)-shalt in a-box bear
þanns liggr í Viðófnis völlum,
which lies in of-Viðófnir (the)-joints
Sinmöru at selja,
to-Sinmara to give
áðr söm telisk
before willing (she)-counts-herself
vápn til vígs at léa.
(the)-weapon for battle to lend

31-36 • THE HALL AND THE HEALING ROCK

The hall surrounded by a wavering flame is called Hýrr, and it will tremble long on the point of a rock, a rich house known to men only by report. It was built by Uni, Íri, Óri, Bári, Varr, Végdrasill, Dóri, Úri, Dellingr, Atvarðr, Liðskjalfr, and Loki. The rock where the famous bride sits is Lyffjaberg, which has long been a joy to the sick and wounded; any woman who climbs it will be healed, even of mortal sickness.

- 31 **Seg mér Fjölsviðr**
Say to-me Fjölsviðr
þats þik fregna munk
that-which thee ask will-I
ok ek vilja vita:
and I wish to-know
hvé salr heitir,
how (the)-ball is-called

es slunginn es

that encircled is

vísunum vafroga.

with-cunning wavering-flame

FJ. KV. Hýrr hann heitir,

Hýrr it is-called

en hann lengi mun

and it long will

á bjargs oddi bifask,

on of-(the)-rock (the)-point tremble

auðranns þess

of-(the)-rich-house that

munu of aldr hafa

will through life have

frétt eina firar.

tidings only men

32

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hverir þat gerðu,

who that made

33

es fyr garð of sák

which before (the)-yard — saw-I

innan ásmaga.

within of-æsir's-sons

34 FJ. KV. Uni ok Íri,

Uni and Íri

Óri ok Bári,

Óri and Bári

Varr ok Vegdrasill,

Varr and Vegdrasill

Dóri ok Úri,

Dóri and Úri

Dellingr, Atvarðr,

Dellingr Atvarðr

Líðskjalfr, Loki.

Líðskjalfr Loki

35 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé þjarg heitir,

how (the)-rock is-called

es sék brúði á

which see-I (the)-bride on

þjóðmæra þrúma.

people-famous sitting

FJ. KV. Lyfjaberg heitir,

Lyfjaberg is-called

en þat hefr lengi verit

and it has long been

sjúkum ok sárum gaman,

to-(the)-sick and wounded a-joy

heil verður hver,

bale becomes each

þótt hafi heljarsótt,

though (she)-have hel's-sickness

ef þat klífr kona.

if it climbs a-woman

The maidens who sit together at Menglööð's knees are Hlíf, Hlífþrasa, Þjóðvara, Björt, Bleik, Blíð, Friðr, Eir, and Aurboða. They help those who sacrifice to them at a holy altar, and no danger comes to men that they cannot rescue them from. No man may sleep in Menglööð's sweet arms except Svipdagr alone, to whom the sun-bright bride was promised as wife.

37 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvé meyjjar heita,

how (the)-maidens are-called

es fyr Menglaðar knéum

who before of-Menglööð (the)-knees

sitja sáttar saman.

sit in-harmony together

38 FJ. KV. Hlíf heitir ein,

Hlíf is-called one

önnur Hlífþrasa,

(the)-second Hlífþrasa

þriðja Þjóðvara,

(the)-third Þjóðvara

Björt ok Bleik,

Björt and Bleik

Blíð, Friðr

Blíð Friðr

Eir ok Aurboða.

Eir and Aurboða

Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt þær bjarga

whether they help

þeims blóta þær,

those-who sacrifice-to them

ef gerask þarfar þess.

if arise needs of-it

FJ. KV. Bjarga svinnar,

Help (the)-wise-ones

hvars blóta þær

wherever (men)-sacrifice-to them

á stallhelgum stað;

on an-altar-holy place

39

40

svá hátt forað

so high a-danger

kemrat hölda sonum,

comes-not of-men to-(the)-sons

hvern ór nauðum nema.

each out-of straits (they)-take

41 Seg mér Fjölsviðr

Say to-me Fjölsviðr

þats þik fregna munk

that-which thee ask will-I

ok ek vilja vita:

and I wish to-know

hvárt sé manna nökkut,

whether (there)-be of-men any

es knegi á Menglaðar

who may on of-Menglöð

svásum armi sofa.

(the)-sweet arm sleep

42 FJ. KV. Vætr 's þat manna,

None is that of-men

es knegi á Menglaðar

who may on of-Menglöð

svásum armi sofa,

(the)-sweet arm sleep

nema Svipdagr einn,

except Svipdagr alone

hánnum var en sólbjarta

to-him was the sun-bright

brúðr at kván of kveðin.

bride as wife — promised

43–46 • SVIPDAGR REVEALS HIMSELF

Svipdagr bids Fjölsviðr open the doors, for here he may see Svipdagr, and go to learn whether Menglöð will welcome him. Fjölsviðr calls to Menglöð that a man has come, the hounds are welcoming him, and the house has opened by itself, so it must be Svipdagr. Menglöð says ravens shall tear his eyes out on the gallows if he is lying. She asks where he came from, what his kin and name are, and what token he bears that he was promised to her.

Hritt á hurðir,

Thrust on (the)-doors

lát hlið mér rúm,

let (the)-gateway for-me wide

hér mátt Svipdag séa,

here mayest-(thou) Svipdagr see

en þó vita far,

but yet to-know go

ef vilja myni

whether wish will

Menglöð mitt gaman.

Menglöð my joy

43

44 FJ. KV. Heyr þú Menglöß,

Hear thou Menglöß

hér 's maðr kominn,

here is a-man come

gakk á gest séa,

go at (the)-guest look

hundar fagna,

(the)-bounds welcome

hús hefr upp lokizk,

(the)-house has up opened-itself

hygg at Svipdagr sé.

think-I that Svipdagr (it)-be

45 M. KV. Horskir hrafnar

Wise ravens

skulu þér á háum galga

shall thee on a-high gallows

slíta sjónir ór,

tear (the)-eyes out

ef þú þat lýgr,

if thou that liest

at hér sé langt kominn

that here be from-a-far come

mögr til minna sala.

(the)-son to my balls

Hvaðan fórt,

Whence camest-(thou)

hvaðan för gerðir,

whence (the)-journey madest-(thou)

hvé þik hétu hjú?

how thee called (thy)-household

at ætt ok nafni

by kin and name

skalk jartegn vita,

shall-I a-token know

ef vask þér kván of kveðin.

if was-I to-thee (as)-wife — promised

47–50 · THE LOVERS MEET

He is Svipdagr, son of Sólbjartr, driven along wind-cold ways by fate, which no man can gainsay. Menglöð welcomes him and kisses him: she has waited long for this, sitting on her lovely rock day after day. Now what she hoped for has happened, and he has come to her halls. They have both longed for each other, and now it is true that they will spend their lives together.

SV. KV. Svipdagr heitik,

Svipdagr am-called-I

Sólbjartr hét minn faðir,

Sólbjartr was-called my father

þaðan rákumk vindkalda vega;

thence drove-me wind-cold ways

urðar orði

of-fate (the)-word

kveðr engi maðr,

gainsays no man

þótt sé við löst lagit.

though (it)-be for ill laid

48 M. KV. Vel þú nú kominn,

Well thou now come

hefk minn vilja beðit,

have-I my will awaited

fylgja skal kveðju koss;

follow shall (the)-greeting a-kiss

forkunnar sýn

(the)-surpassing sight

mun flestan glaða,

will most gladden

hvars hefr við annan ást.

where-(one) has with another love

49 Lengi satk

Long sat-I

ljúfu bergi á,

(the)-lovely rock on

beiðk þín dægr ok daga,

waited-I for-thee half-days and days

nú þat varð,

now that happened

es vætt of hefk,

which expected — have-I

at est kominn mögr til minna sala.

that art-(thou) come (the)-son to my halls

Þráar hafðar

Longings had

hefk til þíns gamans,

have-I for thy joy

en þú til míns munar;

and thou for my love

nú 's þat satt,

now is that true

es vit slíta skulum

that we-two wear-out shall

ævi ok aldr saman.

lifetime and age together

50

Völuspá en skamma

The Short Prophecy of the Seeress

The Æsir were eleven when Baldr fell on his death-mound, and Váli, deeming himself fit to avenge his brother, slew the slayer. Baldr's father was heir of Borr. Freyr married Gerðr, daughter of Gymir, of the giants' kin, and of Aurboða. Þjazi, a showy giant, was their kinsman, and Skaði was his daughter. The seeress says she has much to tell. Heiðr and Hrossþjófr were Hrímnir's kin; all seeresses come from Vittolfr; all wizards from Vilmeiðr, all spell-workers from Svarthöfði, and all giants from Ymir.

Váru ellifu

Were eleven

æsir talðir,

æsir counted

es Baldr of hné

when Baldr — sank

við banaþúfu;

at (the)-death-mound

þess lézk Váli

of-that declared-himself Váli

verðr at hefna,

worthy to avenge

síns hann bróður

of-bis-own be brother

sló handbana.

slew (the)-hand-slayer

1

2 Vas Baldrs faðir

Was of-Baldr (the)-father

Bors arfþegi,

of-Borr (the)-heir

Freyr átti Gerði,

Freyr had Gerðr

hón vas Gymis dóttir,

she was of-Gymir (the)-daughter

jötna ættar

of-giants of-(the)-kin

ok Aurboðu.

and of-Aurboða

3 Þó vas Þjazi

Yet was Þjazi

þeira frændi,

their kinsman

skrautgjarn jötunn,

a-show-loving giant

hans vas Skaði dóttir.

his was Skaði (the)-daughter

Mart segjum þér

Much tell-we thee

ok munum fleira;

and remember-we more

vörumk at viti svá,

behooves-(it)-us to know so

vilt enn lengra?

wilt-(thou) yet further

Heiðr ok Hrossþjófr

4

Heiðr and Hrossþjófr

Hrímnis kindar.

of-Hrímnis (the)-kin

Eru vödur allar

5

Are (the)-seeresses all

frá Vittolfi

from Vittolfi

vitkar allir

wizards all

frá Vilmeiði,

from Vilmeiðr

seiðberendr

spell-workers

frá Svarthöfða,

from Svarthöfði

jötnar allir

giants all

frá Ymi komnir.

from Ymir come

The seeress says she has much to tell. In the early days one was born, of great strength and of the gods' kin, a noble man borne by nine giant maidens at the edge of the earth: Gjalp, Greip, Eistla, Eyrgjafa, Ulfrún, Angeyja, Imdr, Atla, and Járnsaxa. He was nourished with the earth's might, with cold sea, and with the blood of sacrifice.

6 Mart segjum þér

Much tell-we thee

ok munum fleira;

and remember-we more

vörumk at viti svá,

behooves-(it)-us to know so

vilt enn lengra.

wilt-(thou) yet further

7 Varð einn borinn

Was one born

í árdaga

in days-of-yore

rammaukinn mjök

mighty-strengthened greatly

rögna kindar,

of-(the)-powers of-kin

níu báru þann

nine bore that

niðgöfgan mann

kin-noble man

jötna meyjar

of-giants maidens

við jarðar þröm.

at of-(the)-earth (the)-edge

Hann Gjalp of bar,

Him Gjalp — bore

hann Greip of bar,

him Greip — bore

bar hann Eistla

bore him Eistla

ok Eyrgjafa,

and Eyrgjafa

hann bar Ulfrún

him bore Ulfrún

ok Angeyja,

and Angeyja

Imdr ok Atla

Imdr and Atla

ok Járnsaxa.

and Járnsaxa

9 Sá vas aukinn

He was strengthened

jarðar magni,

of-earth with-might

svalköldum sæ

with-cool-cold sea

ok sonardreyra.

and with-atonement-blood

Mart segjum þér

Much tell-we thee

ok munum fleira;

and remember-we more

vörumk at viti svá,

behooves-(it)-us to know so

vilt enn lengra?

wilt-(thou) yet further

Loki begot the wolf with Angrboða and Sleipnir with Svaðilfari, and the most baleful hag came from Býleistr's brother. Loki ate a woman's half-burned heart, became pregnant, and from that every monster on earth descends. The sea rises in storms to heaven, the lands are overwhelmed, the air fails, snow and winds come, and the powers will perish. One was born greater than all, strengthened by the earth's might, a most great-minded ruler, kin to all. Another will come yet mightier, but the seeress dares not name him; few now see further than when Óðinn meets the wolf.

Ól ulf Loki

Begot (the)-wolf Loki

við Angrboðu,

with Angrboða

en Sleipni gat

and Sleipnir begot

við Svaðilfara;

with Svaðilfari

eitt þótti skass

one seemed hag

allra feiknast,

of-all most-baleful

þat vas bróður frá

that was of-(the)-brother from

Býleists komit.

of-Býleistr come

10

11 Loki átt hjarta,

Loki ate a-heart

lindi brendu

with-linden burned

fann halfsviðinn

found half-singed

hugstein konu;

(the)-mind-stone of-a-woman

varð Loptr kviðugr

became Loptr pregnant

af konu illri;

from a-woman evil

þaðan 's á foldu

thence is on earth

flagð hvert komit.

monster each come

12 Haf gengr hriðum

(The)-sea goes with-storms

við himin sjalfan,

against heaven itself

líðr lönd yfir,

glides lands over

en lopt bilar;

and (the)-air fails

þaðan koma snjóvar

thence come snows

ok snarir vindar;

and keen winds

þá 's í ráði,

then is in counsel

at regin of þrjóti.

that (the)-powers — perish

Varð einn borinn

Was one born

öllum meiri,

than-all greater

sá vas aukinn

he was strengthened

jarðar magni;

of-earth with-might

þann kveða stilli

him (they)-call a-ruler

stórúðgastan,

most-great-minded

sif sifjaðan

by-kin allied

sjötum görvöllum.

with-dwellings all

Þá kemr annarr

Then comes another

enn mátkari,

yet mightier

13

14

þó þorik eigi

yet dare-I not

þann at nefna;

him to name

fáir séa nú

few see now

framm of lengra,

forth — further

an Óðinn mun

than Óðinn will

ulfi mæta.

(the)-wolf meet

Völundarkviða

The Lay of Völund



King Níðuðr of Svíþjóð has two sons and a daughter, Böðvildr. Three brothers, sons of the king of the Finns, Slagfiðr, Egill, and Völundr, ski and hunt and build a house at Úlfdalir by the lake Úlfsjár. One morning they find three women spinning linen on the shore with their swan-shapes beside them: the valkyries Hlaðguðr and Hervör, daughters of King Hlöðvér, and Ölrún, Kjárr's daughter from Valland. The brothers marry them. After seven winters the women fly off to seek battles and never return; Egill and Slagfiðr ski off to find them, but Völundr, the most skillful of men, stays at Úlfdalir, where Níðuðr has him seized.

Frá Völundi. Níðuðr hét konungur í Svíþjóð. Hann átti
About Völundr Níðuðr was-called a-king in Svíþjóð He had
 tvá sonu ok eina dóttur; hon hét Böðvildr. Bræðr váru
two sons and one daughter she was-called Böðvildr Brothers were
 þrír, synir Finnakonungs. Hét einn Slagfiðr, annarr
three sons of-(the)-king-of-(the)-Finns Was-called one Slagfiðr (the)-second
 Egill, þriðji Völundr. Þeir skriðu ok veiddu dýr. Þeir kómu
Egill (the)-third Völundr They skied and hunted beasts They came
 í Úlfdali ok gerðu sér þar hús. Þar er vatn, er heitir
to Úlfdalir and made for-themselves there a-house There is a-lake which is-called
 Úlfsjár. Snemma of morgin fundu þeir á vazströndu konur
Úlfsjár Early in (the)-morning found they on (the)-lake-shore women
 þrjár ok spunnu lín. Þar váru hjá þeim álpтарhamir þeira.
three and (they)-spun linen There were by them swan-shapes their
 Þat váru valkyrjur. Þar váru tvær dætr Hlöðves konungs,
Those were valkyries There were two daughters of-Hlöðvér (the)-king
 Hlaðguðr svanhvít ok Hervör alvitr, en þriðja var Ölrún
Hlaðguðr swan-white and Hervör all-wise and (the)-third was Ölrún
 Kjársdóttir af Vallandi. Þeir höfðu þær heim til skála með
Kjárr's-daughter from Valland They took them home to (the)-hall with

sér. Fekk Egill Ölrúnar, en Slagfiðr Svanhvítrar, en Völundr
themselves Married Egill Ölrún and Slagfiðr Svanhvít and Völundr

Alvittr. Þau bjoggu sjau vetr. Þá flugu þær at vitja víga ok
Alvittr They dwelt seven winters Then flew they to seek battles and

kómu eigi aptr. Þá skreið Egill at leita Ölrúnar, en Slagfiðr
came not back Then skied Egill to seek Ölrún and Slagfiðr

leitaði Svanhvítrar, en Völundr sat í Úlföldum. Hann var
sought Svanhvít but Völundr sat in Úlfðalir He was

hagastr maðr, svá at menn viti í fornum sögum. Níðuðr
(the)-most-skilled man so that men know in old tales Níðuðr

konungr lét hann höndum taka, svá sem hér er um kveðit.
(the)-king had him with-hands seize so as here is about told

Frá Völundi ok Níðaði.

About Völundr and Níðuðr

Young, all-wise maidens fly from the south through Myrkviðr to fulfill their fate, and sit on the shore spinning precious linen. One takes Egill in her arms; the second is Svanhvít, who wears swan-feathers; the third clasps Völundr's white neck. They stay seven winters, in the eighth they long to go, and in the ninth need parts them, and they yearn for the dark wood. Völundr, Slagfiðr, and Egill come home from hunting over a long way, find the halls empty, and search in and out.

Meyjar flugu sunnan

Maidens flew from-the-south

Myrkvið í gögnum

Myrkviðr in through

alvitr ungar

all-wise young

ørlög drýgja;

fate to-fulfill

þær á sævarströnd

they on (the)-sea-strand

settusk at hvílask

sat-themselves to rest

drósir suðrænar,

ladies southern

dýrt lín spunnu.

precious linen spun

1

2 Ein nam þeira

One took of-them

Egil at verja

Egill to clasp

fögr mæð fira

fair maid of-men

faðmi ljósum.

with-arms bright

3 Önnur vas Svanhvít,

(The)-second was Svanhvít

svanþaðrar dró

swan-feathers wore

* * *

(lacuna)

en en þriðja

and the third

þeira systir

their sister

varði hvítan

clasped (the)-white

hals Völundar.

neck of-Völundr

4 Sátu síðan

Sat afterward

sjau vetr at þat,

seven winters after that

en enn átta

and the eighth

allan þráðu,

all longed

en enn níunda

and the ninth

nauðr of skilði,

need — parted

meyjar fýstusk

(the)-maidens yearned

á myrkvan við.

to (the)-dark wood

(Alvitr unga

Alvitr young

ørlög drýgja).

fate to-fulfill

Kom þar af veiði

Came there from hunting

veðreygr skyti

(the)-weather-eyed archer

Völundr liðandi

Völundr journeying

of langan veg,

over a-long way

Slagfiðr ok Egill,

Slagfiðr and Egill

sali fundu auða,

balls found empty

gengu út ok inn

went out and in

ok umb sáusk.

and around looked

6-10 • NÍÐUÐR'S MEN TAKE A RING

Egill skis east after Ölrún and Slagfiðr south after Svanhvít, but Völundr sits alone in Úlfdalir, setting gems in red gold and stringing rings on a bast cord, waiting for his bright wife to come back. Níðuðr, lord of the Níarar, learns that he is alone. His men ride by night in studded mail, their shields gleaming under the waning moon. They enter the hall and see seven hundred rings on the bast; they take them off and put them back, all but one. Völundr comes home from hunting.

6 Austr skreið Egill

East skied Egill

at Ölrúnu,

after Ölrún

en suðr Slagfiðr

and south Slagfiðr

at Svanhvítu,

after Svanhvít

en einn Völundr

but alone Völundr

sat í Úlfdölum.

sat in Úlfdalir

Hann sló goll rautt

He struck gold red

við gim fastan,

around gem firm

lukði hann alla

closed he all

lind baugum vel;

bast-cord with-rings well

svá beið hann

so waited he

sinnar ljóssar

his-own bright

kvánar, ef hánú

wife if to-him

of koma gerði.

— come should

7

Þat spyr Níðuðr,

That learns Níðuðr

Níara dróttinn,

of-(the)-Níarar lord

at einn Völundr

that alone Völundr

sat í Ulfdöllum;

sat in Ulfdalir

nóttum fóru seggir,

by-night went men

negldar váru brynjur,

studded were mail-coats

8

skildir bliku þeira

shields gleamed their

við enn skarða mána.

against the waning moon

9 Stigu ór söðlum

Stepped out-of saddles

at salar gaffi,

at (the)-hall's gable

gengu inn þaðan

went in thence

endlangan sal,

lengthwise hall

sáu þeir á bast

saw they on bast

bauga dregna,

rings strung

sjau hundruð allra,

seven hundred in-all

es sá seggr átti.

which that man owned

10 Ok af tóku

And off (they)-took

ok á létu

and on (they)-put

fyr einn útan,

except one out

es af létu;

which off (they)-let

kom þar af veiði

came there from hunting

veðreygr skyti

(the)-weather-eyed archer

Völundr líðandi

Völundr journeying

of langan veg.

over a-long way

11–15 · VÖLUNDR BOUND

Völundr roasts bear's flesh over a fire of dry brushwood, sits on the bearskin counting his rings, misses one, and thinks Alvit, Hlöðvér's daughter, has come back. He falls asleep and wakes with heavy bonds on his hands and a fetter on his feet, and asks who has bound him. Níðuðr asks where Völundr got their treasures in Úlfdalir, since there is no gold on Grani's road. Völundr answers that they had more treasures when their household was whole at home, Hlaðguðr, Hervör, and Ölrún.

Gekk brátt inni

Went quickly in

beru hold steikja,

(the)-sbe-bear's flesh to-roast

ár brann hrísi

soon burned with-brushwood

allþurru fúrr,

all-dry fire

(viðr enn vindþurri

wood the wind-dry

fyr Völundi),

before Völundr

sat á berfjalli,

sat on (the)-bearskin

bauga talði

rings counted

alfa ljóði,

of-elves prince

eins saknaði.

one (he)-missed

(hugði at hefði

thought that had

Hlöðves dóttir,

Hlöðvér's daughter

Alvitr unga,

Alvitr young

væri aptr komin).

were back come

12 Sat hann svá lengi,

Sat he so long

at sofnaði,

that (he)-fell-asleep

ok viljalauss

and joyless

of vaknaði;

— *woke*

vissi sér á höndum

knew himself on hands

höfgar nauðir,

heavy bonds

en á fótum

and on feet

þjötur of spentan.

fetter — clasped

Hverir ro jöfrar

Who are (the)-princes

þeirs á lögðu

who on laid

bestisíma

bast-rope

ok bundu mik?

and bound me

(Kallaði Níðuðr,

Called Níðuðr

Níara dróttinn):

of-(the)-Níarar lord

Hvar gatz Völundr,

Where gottest-thou Völundr

vísi alfa,

leader of-elves

óra aura,

our treasures

13

14

í Ulfðölum?

in Ulfðalir

Goll vas þar eigi

Gold was there not

á Grana leiðu,

on Grani's road

fjarri hugðak vart land

far thought-I our land

fjöllum Rínar.

from-(the)-mountains of-(the)-Rhine

15 V. KV. Mank at meiri

Remember-I that more

mæti áttum,

treasures (we)-had

es vér heil hjú

when we whole household

heima várum.

at-home were

(Hlaðguðr ok Hervör

Hlaðguðr and Hervör

borin vas Hlöðve,

born was to-Hlöðvér

kunn vas Ölrún

known was Ölrún

Kíars dóttir).

Kíarr's daughter

Níðuðr's cunning wife says the man from the wood is not friendly. Níðuðr gives Böðvildr the ring from the bast and wears Völundr's sword. The queen says Völundr's eyes gleam like a serpent's and his teeth are bared when he sees the sword and Böðvildr's ring; she bids them cut his sinews and set him on Sævarstaðr.

Úti stóð kunnig

Outside stood (the)-cunning

kván Níðaðar,

wife of-Níðuðr

hón inn of gekk

she in — went

endlangan sal,

lengthwise ball

stóð á golfi,

stood on (the)-floor

stilti röddu:

lowered (her)-voice

esa sá nú hýrr,

is-not he now friendly

es ór holti ferr.

who out-of (the)-wood comes

Níðuðr konungr gaf dóttur sinni Böðvildi gullhring

Níðuðr (the)-king gave (to)-daughter his Böðvildr gold-ring

þann, er hann tók af bastinu at Völundar, en hann

that which he took from the-bast at Völundr's and he

sjálf bar sverðit, er Völundr átti, en drótning kvað:

himself bore the-sword which Völundr owned and (the)-queen said

17 Ámun eru augu

Keen are (the)-eyes

ormi enum frána.

of-(the)-serpent the gleaming

tenn hánnum teygjask,

teeth to-him are-bared

es téð es sverð

when shown is (the)-sword

(ok hann Böðvildar

and he Böðvildr's

baug of þekkir),

ring — recognizes

sníðið hann sína

cut-ye him sinews

sinna magni,

of-their strength

setið hann síðan

set-ye him then

í Sævarstöð.

in Sævarstaðr

His hamstrings are cut and he is set on the island of Sævarstaðr; where he forges treasures for the king and no one but the king dares go to him. Völundr says he sees on Niðuðr's belt the sword he whetted and tempered, never to be brought back to his smithy, and Böðvildr wears his bride's red ring. He sits sleepless at his hammer, planning guile. Niðuðr's two young sons come to Sævarstaðr, demand the keys to his chest, and see gold and treasures in it.

Svá var gört, at skornar váru sínar í knésbótum ok settr
So was done that cut were (the)-sineus in (the)-knee-hollows and set
 í hólmm einn, er þar var fyrir landi, er hét Sævarstaðr.
in island one which there was before (the)-land which was-called Sævarstaðr
 Þar smíðaði hann konungi allskyns görsimar; engi maðr
There forged he for-(the)-king all-kinds-of treasures no man
 þorði at fara til hans, nema konungr einn. Völundr kvað:
dared to go to him except (the)-king alone Völundr said

Sék Niðaði

See-I on-Niðuðr

sverð á linda,

a-sword at (the)-belt

þats ek hvesta

that-which I whetted

sem hagast kunnak

as most-skillfully could-I

ok ek herðak

and I tempered-I

sem hægst þótti;

as fittest seemed

sá 's mér fránn mækir

that is to-me a-gleaming blade

æ fjarri borinn.

ever far borne

(sékka þann Völundi

see-I-not that (to)-Völundr

til smiðju borinn).

to (the)-smithy borne

19 Nú berr Böðvildr

Now bears Böðvildr

brúðar minnar,

of-bride my

biðka þess bót,

await-I-not for-that amends

bauga rauða.

rings red

20 Sat né svaf ofvalt

Sat nor slept ever

ok sló hamri;

and struck with-hammer

vél gerði heldr

guile made rather

hvatt Níðaði;

swiftly for-Níðuðr

drifu ungir tveir

hastened young two

á dýr séa

at beasts to-see

synir Niðaðar

sons of-Niðuðr

í Sævarstöð.

in Sævarstaðr

Kómu til kistu,

Came to (the)-chest

kröfðu lukla,

demanded keys

opin vas illúð,

open was ill-will

es í sáu,

when in (they)-looked

fjölð vas þar meina,

abundance was there of-barms

es mögum sýndisk

which to-(the)-boys seemed

at væri goll rautt

that were gold red

ok görsimar.

and treasures

Völundr tells the boys to come alone the next day for the gold and to tell no one. They come, and when they look into the chest he cuts off their heads and hides their feet under the mire. He wraps their skulls in silver for Niðuðr, sends gems made from their eyes to the queen, and makes breast-brooches of their teeth for Böðvildr. Böðvildr praises the ring she has broken and dares tell no one but him.

22 v. kv. **Komið einir tveir,**

Come-ye alone two

komið annars dags;

come-ye (the)-second day

ykr lætk þat goll

to-you-two let-I that gold

of gefit verða;

— given be

segiða meyjum

tell-ye-not (to)-maidens

né salþjóðum,

nor (to)-hall-folk

manni engum,

(to)-man no

at mik fyndið.

that me (ye)-visited

23 **Snimma kallaði**

Early called

seggr á annan,

man on (the)-other

bróðir á bróður:

brother on brother

göngum baug séa.

let-us-go (the)-ring to-see

Kómu til kistu,

Came to (the)-chest

kröfðu lukla,

demanded keys

opin vas illúð,

open was ill-will

es í litu.

when in (they)-looked

Sneið af höfuð

Cut-(he) off (the)-heads

húna þeira

of-cubs their

ok und fen fjöturs

and under (the)-mire of-(the)-fetter

fœtr of lagði,

(the)-feet — laid

en þær skálar,

but those skulls

es und skörum váru,

which under (the)-hair were

sveip útan silfri,

wrapped-(he) outside with-silver

seldi Níðaði.

gave to-Níðuðr

25 En ór augum

And out-of (the)-eyes

jarknasteina

precious-stones

sendi kunnigri

sent-(he) (to)-(the)-cunning

kván Níðaðar;

wife of-Níðuðr

en ór tönnum

and out-of (the)-teeth

tveggja þeira

of-two them

sló brjóstkringlur,

struck-(he) breast-brooches

sendi Böðvildi.

sent-(them) to-Böðvildr

26 Þá nam Böðvildr

Then began Böðvildr

baugi at hrósa

(the)-ring to praise

* * *

(lacuna)

es brotit hafði,

which broken had

»Þorigak segja,

dare-I-not tell

nema þér einum.«

except to-thee alone

Völundr promises to mend the ring so that it seems fairer to her father and mother. He gives her beer, and she falls asleep in her seat; now he has avenged all his wrongs but one. He rises laughing into the air, and Böðvildr leaves the island weeping for her lover and her father's wrath. Völundr settles on the hall-wall, and the queen asks whether Niðuðr is awake. He answers that he sleeps little since his sons' death, and wants to speak with Völundr.

V. KV. Ek bæti svá

27

I mend so

brest á golli,

(the)-crack in (the)-gold

at feðr þínum

that to-father thy

fegri þykkir,

fairer (it)-seems

ok mæðr þinni

and to-mother thy

miklu betri,

much better

ok sjalfri þér

and to-self thee

at sama hófi.

at (the)-same measure

Bar hann hana bjóri,

28

Brought he her with-beer

hann betr kunni,

he better knew-how

svát hón í sessi

so-that she in (the)-seat

of sofnaði.

— *fell-asleep*

»Nú hefð hefnt

Now have-I avenged

harma minna

griefs my

allra nema einna

all except one

íviðgjörnum.

on-(the)-malicious

29 Vel ek, kvað Völundr,

Well I said Völundr

verðak á fitjum,

would-be-I on (my)-webbed-feet

þeims mik Níðaðar

which me of-Níðuðr

námu rekkar«.

took (the)-warriors

Hlæjandi Völundr

Laughing Völundr

hófsk at lopti,

rose into (the)-air

grátandi Böðvildr

weeping Böðvildr

gekk ór eyju.

went out-of (the)-island

(tregði för friðils

grieved (the)-going of-(her)-lover

ok föður reiði).

and (her)-father's wrath

Úti stóð kunnig

Outside stood (the)-cunning

kván Níðaðar,

wife of-Níðuðr

ok hon inn of gekk

and she in — went

endlangan sal,

lengthwise ball

en hann á salgarð

but he on (the)-ball-wall

settisk at hvílask,

sat-himself to rest

»Vakir þú Níðuðr,

Wakest thou Níðuðr

Níara dróttinn?«

of-(the)-Níarar lord

30

N. KV. Vakik ofvalt

Wake-I ever

ok viljalauss,

and joyless

sofnak minst,

sleep-I least

31

síz sonu dauða,

since (my)-sons dead

kell mik í höfuð,

(it)-chills me in (the)-head

köld erumk ráð þín,

cold are-to-me counsels thy

vilnumk þess nú,

wish-I that now

at við Völund dœmak.

that with Völundr speak-I

32–36 · VÖLUNDR'S OATHS

Níðuðr asks what became of his sons. Völundr first makes him swear by ship's side, shield's rim, steed's shoulder, and blade's edge not to harm Völundr's wife or cause her death, though he have a wife they know, or a child within the hall. Then he tells him to go to the smithy, where the bellows are spattered with blood: he cut off the boys' heads, set their skulls in silver for Níðuðr, sent their eyes to the queen, and made brooches of their teeth for Böðvildr, who is now with child.

32 Seg mér þat Völundr,

Say to-me that Völundr

vísi alfa,

leader of-elves

af heilum hvat varð

of whole what became

húnum mínum?

cubs my

V. KV. Eiða skalt mér áðr

Oaths shalt-thou to-me first

alla vinna,

all swear

(at skips borði

by (the)-ship's side

ok at skjaldar rönd,

and by (the)-shield's rim

at mars bægi

by (the)-steed's shoulder

ok at mækis egg)

and by (the)-blade's edge

at þú kveljat

that thou torment-not

kván Völundar

(the)-wife of-Völundr

(né brúði minni

nor bride my

at bana verðir),

to death become

þótt kván eigim,

though a-wife (we)-have

þás ér kunnið,

whom ye know

eða jóð eigim

or offspring have

innan hallar.

within (the)-hall

- 34 Gakk til smiðju,
Go to (the)-smithy
 es gerðir þú,
which madest thou
 þar fiðr þú belgi
there findest thou bellows
 blóði stokna,
with-blood spattered
 sneiðk af höfuð
cut-I off (the)-heads
 húna þinna
of-cubs thy
 ok und fen fjöturs
and under (the)-mire of-(the)-fetter
 fœtr of lagðak.
(the)-feet — laid-I

- 35 En þær skálar,
But those skulls
 es und skörum váru,
which under (the)-hair were
 sveipk útan silfri,
wrapped-I outside with-silver
 seldak Niðaði,
gave-I to-Niðuðr
 en ór augum
and out-of (the)-eyes
 jarknasteina,
precious-stones

sendak kunnigri

sent-I (to)-(the)-cunning

kván Níðaðar.

wife of-Níðuðr

En ór tönnum

And out-of (the)-teeth

tveggja þeira.

of-two them

slók brjóstkringlur,

struck-I breast-brooches

sendak Böðvildi;

sent-I to-Böðvildr

nú gengr Böðvildr

now goes Böðvildr

barni aukin,

with-child increased

eingadóttir

only-daughter

ykkur beggja.

of-you-two both

Níðuðr says that no word could grieve him more, and that no man can take Völundr from his horse or shoot him down where he hovers by the clouds. Völundr rises laughing, and Níðuðr sits joyless. He sends his best thrall, Þakkráðr, for Böðvildr, and asks if it is true that she sat with Völundr on the island. She says it is true: they sat together one hour of woe, and she could not withstand him.

- 37 N. KV. Mæltira þú mál,
 Spokest-not thou a-speech
 es mik meir tregi,
 which me more grieves
 né þik viljak Völundr
 nor thee wish-I Völundr
 verr of níta;
 worse — punish
 esat svá maðr hár,
 is-not so a-man tall
 at þik af hesti taki,
 that thee from horse (could)-take
 né svá öflugr,
 nor so mighty
 at þik neðan skjóti.
 that thee from-below (could)-shoot
 (þars þú skollir
 where thou hoverest
 við ský uppi).
 by (the)-clouds up

Hlæjandi Völundr

38

Laughing Völundr

hófsk at lopti,

rose into (the)-air

en ókátr Níðuðr

but joyless Níðuðr

þá eptir sat.

then after sat

N. KV. Upp rís Þakkráðr,

39

Up rise Þakkráðr

þræll minn bazti,

thrall my best

bið Böðvildi,

bid Böðvildr

mey ena bráhvítu,

(the)-maid the bright-browed

gangi fagrvarið

(to)-go fair-clad

við föður ræða.

with (her)-father to-speak

Es satt Böðvildr,

40

Is (it)-true Böðvildr

þats sögðu mér,

that-which (they)-told me

sátuð it Völundr

sat you-two Völundr

saman í holmi?

together on (the)-island

41 B. KV. (Satt 's þat Níðuðr

True is that Níðuðr

es sagði þér).

which (he)-told thee

Sátum vit Völundr

Sat we-two Völundr

saman í holmi,

together on (the)-island

eina ögurstund,

one hour-of-woe

æva skyldi;

never should-(it-have-been)

ek vætr hánun

I nothing him

vinna kunnak,

withstand knew-how-I

ek vætr hánun

I nothing him

vinna máttak.

withstand could-I

Völsungakviða

The First Lay of Helgi Hundingsbani



In the early ages, when eagles screamed and holy waters fell from the heavens, Borghildr bore Helgi in Brálundr. At night the norns came and shaped his life, bidding him be the most famous of kings. They twisted the strands of fate, fastened the golden cords under the middle of the moon's ball, and hid the ends east and west, and Neri's kinswoman cast one fastening to the north and bade it hold forever.

Hér hefr upp kvæði frá Helga Hundingsbana ok þeira

Here starts up a-poem about Helgi Hundingsbani and of-them

Höðbrodds.

of-Höðbroddr

Ár vas alda

Early was (it)-in-ages

þats arar gullu,

when eagles screamed

hnigu heilug vötn

fell holy waters

af himinfjöllum,

from heaven-mountains

þá hafði Helga

then had Helgi

enn hugumstóra

the great-hearted

Borghildr borit

Borghildr borne

í Brálundi.

in Brálundr

- 2 Nótt varð í bæ,
Night came in (the)-dwelling
 nornir kómu,
norns came
 þærs öðlingi
they-who for-(the)-prince
 aldr of skópu,
life — shaped
 þann báðu fylki
him bade-(they) (the)-leader
 frægstan verða
most-famous become
 ok buðlunga
and of-kings
 baztan þykkja.
best seem

- 3 Snøru
Twisted
 ørlögbáttu,
fate-strands
 þás borgir braut
when (the)-strongholds broke
 í Brálundi;
in Brálundr

þær of greiddu

they — made-ready

gollin símu

golden cords

ok und mánasal

and under (the)-moon's-hall

miðjan festu.

(the)-middle fastened

Þær austr ok vestr

They east and west

enda fálu,

(the)-ends bid

þar átti lofðung

there owned (the)-prince

land á milli,

land in between

brá nipt Nera

cast (the)-kinswoman of-Neri

á norðrvega

to (the)-northern-ways

einni festi,

one fastening

ey það halda.

ever bade (it)-hold

One thing grieves the Ylfings' kinsman and the woman who bore him: a hungry raven on a high tree tells another that Sigmundr's son, a day old, stands in mail, sharp-eyed as warriors, a friend of wolves, and the ravens will be glad. The host thinks him a king and says good years have come. The leader himself comes from the battle-din to bring the young prince a leek, names Sinfjötli's brother Helgi, and gives him Hringstaðir, Sólfjöll, Snæfjöll, Sigarsvellir, Hringstöð, Hátún, Himinvangar, and a sword. Helgi grows, generous with gold, and at fifteen has Hundringr slain.

5 Eitt vas at angri

One-(thing) was for grief

Ylfinga nið

(to)-(the)-Ylfings' kinsman

ok þeiri meyju,

and (to)-that maiden

es munúð fœddi,

who (the)-darling bore

hrafn kvað at hrafni,

raven said to raven

sat á háum meiði

sat on high tree

andvanr átu:

wanting food

»ek veit nökkut.

I know something

Stendr í brynju

Stands in mail-coat

burr Sigmundar

(the)-son of-Sigmundr

dægrs eins gamall;

day's one old

nú 's dagr kominn,

now is day come

hvessir augu

sharpens (his)-eyes

sem hildingar,

like warriors

sá 's varga vinr

he is of-wolves a-friend

vit skulum teitir.«

we-two shall (be)-glad

Drótt þótti: sá

(To)-(the)-host seemed he

döglingr vesa,

a-king to-be

kóðu með gumnum

said-(they) among men

góð ár komin;

good years come

sjalfr gekk vísi
himself went (the)-leader

ór vígþrimu
out-of (the)-battle-din

ungum fœra
(to)-(the)-young to-bring

ítrlauk grami.
a-noble-leek (to)-(the)-prince

8 Gaf Helga nafn
Gave-(he) Helgi a-name

ok Hringstaði,
and Hringstaðir

Sólfjöll, Snæfjöll
Sólfjöll Snæfjöll

ok Sigarsvöllu,
and Sigarsvellir

Hringstöð, Hátún
Hringstöð Hátún

ok Himinvanga,
and Himinvangar

blóðorm búinn
a-blood-serpent adorned

bræðr Sinfjötla.
(to)-(the)-brother of-Sinfjötli

Þá nam at vaxa

Then began to grow

fyr vina brjósti

before friends' breasts

alms árr borinn

(the)-elm's offspring born

ynðis ljóma;

of-joy (the)-radiance

hann galt ok gaf

he paid and gave

goll verðungu,

gold to-(the)-retinue

sparðit hilmir

spared-not (the)-prince

hodd blóðrekin.

treasure blood-stained

9

Skamt lét vísi

Short let (the)-leader

vígs at bíða,

(the)-battle to wait

þás fimtán vas

when fifteen was

fylkir vetra,

(the)-king winters-old

ok harðan lét

and (the)-hard let

Hunding veginn,

Hundingr slain

10

þanns lengi réð

who long ruled

löndum ok þegnum.

lands and thanes

11–15 • HUNDINGR'S SONS

Hundingr's sons demand wealth and rings from Sigmundr's son as amends for great plunder and their father's death. The king pays nothing, saying they can expect a great storm of gray spears and Óðinn's wrath. The warriors meet at Logafjöll, where Helgi kills Álfir, Eyjólfir, Hjörvarðr, and Hávarðr, Hundingr's sons, and sits down under the eagle-stone. A light flashes from Logafjöll, and lightnings come from it.

11 Kvöddu síðan

Demanded afterward

Sigmundar bur

Sigmundr's son

auðs ok hringa

wealth and rings

Hundings synir,

Hundingr's sons

því þeir áttu

because they had

jöfri at gjalda

(the)-prince to repay

féarnám mikit

plunder great

ok föður dauða.

and (their)-father's death

Létat buðlungr

Let-not (the)-king

bótir uppi

amends up

né niðja in heldr

nor (the)-kinsmen the rather

nefgjöld fáa;

nephew-payments get

ván kvað hann mundu

expectation said he would-be

veðrs ens mikla

of-weather the great

grára geira

of-gray spears

ok gremi Óðins.

and of-(the)-wrath of-Óðinn

12

Fara hildingar

Go (the)-warriors

hjörstefnu til,

sword-meeting to

þeirars lögðu

which-they had-set

at Logafjöllum;

at Logafjöll

sleit fróðafrið

broke Fróði's-peace

fjanda á milli;

of-foes in between

13

fara Viðris grey

go Viðrir's bounds

valgjörn of ey.

slaughter-eager about (the)-island

14 Settisk vísi,

Sat-himself (the)-leader

þás vegit hafði

when slain (he)-had

Alf ok Eyjolf,

Álf and Eyjólf

und arasteini,

under (the)-eagle-stone

Hjörvarð ok Hávarð

Hjörvarð and Hávarð

Hundings sonu;

Hundingr's sons

farit hafði hann allri

destroyed had he all

ætt geirmímis.

(the)-kin of-(the)-spear-Mimir

15 Þá brá ljóma

Then flashed a-radiance

af Logafjöllum,

from Logafjöll

en af þeim ljóma

and from that radiance

leiptrir kómu.

lightnings came

(lacuna)

16–20 • SÍGRÚN COMES TO HELGI

Valkyries appear under helmets at Himinvangar, their mail spattered with blood and rays standing from their spears. Helgi asks the southern lady if she will go home with the warriors that night. Högni's daughter answers that she has other business than drinking with a ring-breaker: her father has promised her to Granmarr's son Höðbroddr, whom she calls as worthy a king as a cat's son, and he will come within a few nights unless Helgi challenges him or takes her from him.

Hávar und hjalmum

High under helmets

á himinvanga,

on Himinvangar

brynjur váru þeira

mail-coats were their

blóði stoknar,

with-blood spattered

en af geirum

and from (the)-spears

geislar stóðu.

rays stood

16

17 Frá árliga

Asked early

ór ulfiði

out-of (the)-wolf-lair

döglingr at því

(the)-king about it

dís suðrœna,

(of)-(the)-lady southern

ef vildi heim

if (she)-would home

með hildingum

with (the)-warriors

þá nótt fara;

that night go

þrymr vas alma.

din was of-bows

18 En af hesti

But from (her)-horse

Högna dóttir,

Högni's daughter

líddi randa rym,

stilled of-shields (the)-din

ræsi sagði:

(to)-(the)-prince said

»hygg at vér eigim

think-I that we have

aðrar sýslur

other business

an með baugbrota

than with a-ring-breaker

bjór at drekka.

beer to drink

Hefr minn faðir

Has my father

meyju sinni

maiden his

grimmum heitit

(to)-(the)-grim-one promised

Granmars syni,

(to)-Granmarr's son

en ek hef Helgi

but I have Helgi

Höðbrodd kveðinn,

Höðbroddr called

konung óneisan

a-king unblemished

sem kattar son.

as a-cat's son

20 Þó kemr fylkir

Yet comes (the)-king

fára náttu,

(in)-a-few nights

nema hánunm vísir

unless him (thou)-showest

valstefnu til

(the)-slaughter-meeting to

eða mey nemir

or (the)-maid take

frá mildingi.«

from (the)-prince

21–25 · HELGI GATHERS A FLEET

Helgi tells her not to fear: there will be battle before he is dead. He sends messengers over land and sea to summon a levy, bids the men board ships at Brandey, and waits until hundreds come from Heðinsey; ships adorned with gold slide out from Stafnsnes. He asks Hjörleifr if he has counted the men, and Hjörleifr answers that it would take long to count the long-headed ships sailing from Trönueyrr into Örvasund.

21 H. KV. Uggi eigi þú

Fear not thou

Ísungs bana

Ísungs's slayer

fyr mun dolga dynr,

before will (the)-foes' din

nema dauðr séak.

unless dead be-I

Sendi áru

Sent messengers

allvaldr þaðan

(the)-mighty-ruler thence

of láð ok of lög

over land and over sea

leiðar at biðja,

a-levy to ask

iðgnógan

abundant

ógnar ljóma

of-terror radiance

brögnum bjóða

(to)-men to-offer

ok burum þeira.

and (to)-sons their

H. KV. Biððið skjótliga

Bid-ye swiftly

til skipa ganga

to (the)-ships go

ok ór Brandeyju

and out-of Brandey

búna verða.

ready be

Þaðan beið þengill,

Thence waited (the)-prince

unz þinig kómu

until thither came

halir hundmargir

men by-hundreds

ór Heðinseyju.

out-of Heðinsey

24 Ok þar af stundu

And there after a-while

ór Stafnsnesi

out-of Stafnsnes

beit út skriðu,

ships out slid

ok búin golli;

and adorned with-gold

spurði Helgi

asked Helgi

Hjörleif at því:

Hjörleifr about it

»hefr þú kannaða

hast thou counted

koni óneisa?»

men unblemished

25 En ungr konungr

But (the)-young king

öðrum sagði,

(to)-(the)-other said

seint kvað at telja

slow said-(he) to count

af Trönueyri

from Trönueyrr

langhöfðuð skip

long-headed ships

und líðöndum,

under seafarers

þaus í Örvasund

which into Örvasund

útan fóru.

from-outside went

26–30 • THE STORM AT SEA

Hjörleifr counts twelve hundred trusty men and half as many again with the king at Hátún. The captain strikes the awnings so that the host wakes to the dawn, and they hoist the woven sails in Varinsfjörðr. Oars roar, iron clangs, and shield strikes shield as the vikings row far from land; when the keels meet the waves it sounds like cliffs breaking in the surf. Helgi bids the sails be set higher, though Ægir's daughter would overturn the ships.

(lacuna)

»tolf hundruð

twelve hundred

tryggra manna,

trusty men

þó 's Hátúnum

yet is at-Hátún

halfu fleira

by-half more

víglið konungs;

(the)-war-host of-(the)-king

ván erum rómu.

(in)-expectation are-we of-battle

27 Svá brá stýrir

So struck (the)-captain

stafntjöldum af,

prow-awnings off

at mildinga

that of-princes

mengi vakði

(the)-host woke

(ok döglingar

and (the)-kings

dagsbrún séa)

(the)-dawn to-see

ok siklingar

and (the)-rulers

snøru upp við tré

twisted up at (the)-mast

vefnistingum

(the)-woven-sails

á Varinsfirði.

in Varinsfjörðr

Varð ára ymr

Came of-oars a-roar

ok járna glymr,

and of-irons a-clang

brast rönd við rönd,

crashed shield against shield

røru víkingar;

rowed (the)-vikings

eisandi gekk

foaming went

und öðlingum

under (the)-princes

lofðungs floti

(the)-prince's fleet

löndum fjarri.

from-lands far

Svá vas at heyra,

So was-(it) to hear

es saman kómu

when together came

kolgu systir

of-Kólga (the)-sister

ok kilir langir

and keels long

(lacuna)

sem björg eða brim

as cliffs or surf

brotna myndi.

break would

30 Draga bað Helgi

Draw bade Helgi

há segl ofar,

high sails higher

varðat hrönnum

kept-not (to)-(the)-waves

höfn þingloga,

tryst (the)-sea-kin

þás ógurlig

when terrible

ægis dóttir

Ægir's daughter

stagstjórnmörum

(the)-stay-steered-steeds

steypa vildi.

overturn would

Sigrún saves them from above, and the king's ship wrenches free of Rán's band at Gnipalundr. In the evening the fair ships float in Unavágar, and Granmarr's sons scan the host from Svarinsbaugr. Goðmundr asks who leads the fleet to land. Sinffjötli hoists a red shield with a gold rim and answers that Goðmundr should say, when he feeds his swine and calls his bitches to the swill, that the Ylfings have come from the east, eager for battle.

En þeim sjalfum

But them selves

Sigrún ofan

Sigrún from-above

folkdjörf of barg

battle-bold — saved

ok fari þeira,

and (the)-ship their

snørisk ramliga

wrenched-itself mightily

Rán ór hendi

(from)-Rán out-of (the)-hand

gjalfrdýr konungs

(the)-sea-beast of-(the)-king

at Gnipalundi.

at Gnipalundr

31

32 Samt þar of aptan

Together there in-(the) evening

í Unavágum

in Unavágar

flaust fagrbúin

ships fair-adorned

fljóta knáttu,

float could

en þeir sjalfir

but they themselves

frá Svarinshaugi

from Svarinshaugr

með hermðar hug

with wrathful mind

her könnuðu.

(the)-host scanned

33 Frá góðborinn

Asked (the)-well-born

Goðmundr at því:

Goðmundr about it

»hverr 's landreki,

who is (the)-land-ruler

sás liði stýrir

who (the)-host steers

ok feiknalið

and a-monstrous-host

fœrir at landi?«

brings to land

Sinfjötli kvað

Sinfjötli said

— slöng upp við rá

slung up on (the)-yard

rauðum skildi,

a-red shield

rönd vas ór golli;

(the)-rim was of gold

þar vas sundvörðr,

there was a-sound-warden

sás svara kunni

who answer knew-how

ok við öðlinga

and with princes

orðum skipta:

words exchange

Seg þat í aptan,

Say that in-(the) evening

es svínum gefr

when (to)-(the)-swine (thou)-givest

ok tíkr yðrar

and bitches your

teygir at solli,

lure to (the)-swill

at sé Ylfingar

that are (the)-Ylfings

austan komnir,

from-the-east come

gunnar gjarnir

battle *eager*

at Gnipalundi.

at *Gnipalundr*

36–40 • SINPJÖTLI AND GOÐMUNDR

Sinfjötli says Höðbroddr will find Helgi, who has often sated eagles while Goðmundr kissed slave-girls at the querns. Goðmundr answers that Sinfjötli has eaten wolves' food, killed his brother, and crept into cairns sucking wounds. Sinfjötli calls Goðmundr a witch on Varinsey and a bag at All-father's over whom the einherjar would fight.

36 Þar mun Höðbroddr

There *will* *Höðbroddr*

Helga finna

Helgi *find*

flugtrauðan gram

flight-shy *prince*

í flota miðjum,

in (the)-fleet's *middle*

sás opt of hefr

who *often* — *has*

örnu sadda,

eagles *sated*

meðan á kvernum

while *at (the)-querns*

kystir þýjar.

(thou)-kissedst *slave-girls*

G. KV. Fátt mant fylkir

37

Little rememberest-thou king

fornra spjalla,

of-old sayings

es öðlingum

when princes

ósönnu bregðr;

(with)-untruths (thou)-tauntest

þú hefr etnar

thou hast eaten

ulfa krásir

wolves' dainties

ok bræðr þínum

and (to)-brother thy

at bana orðit.

to death become

(lacuna)

Opt sár sogin

Often wounds sucked

með svölum munni,

with cold mouth

hefr í hreysi

(thou)-hast into a-cairn

hvarleiðr skriðit.

everywhere-hated crept

38

39 SFJ. KV. Þú vast völva

Thou wast a-sibyl

í Varinseyju,

on Varinsey

skollvís kona,

a-fox-wise woman

bart skrök saman,

barest lies together

kvazk engi mann

saidst-(thou) no man

eiga vilja,

have would

segg brynjaðan,

man mailed

nema Sinfjötla.

except Sinfjötli

40 Þú vast, et skœða

Thou wast the harmful

skass, valkyrja

bag valkyrie

ötul, ámatlig

fierce loathsome

at Alföður;

at All-father's

mundu einherjar

would (the)-einherjar

allir berjask,

all fight

sveipvís kona,

a-shifty woman

of sakar þínar.

for sakes thy

41–45 • THE QUARREL GOES ON

Sinfjötli says the two of them bred nine wolves on Sága's ness, and he was their father. Goðmundr says Sinfjötli fathered no wolves, being gelded by giant maidens at Þórsnes; he was Siggeirr's stepson, lay out among wolves in the woods, and won fame by ripping open his brother's breast. Sinfjötli says Goðmundr was Grani's mare on Brávöllr, ridden hungry under the saddle, and a lawless lad milking Gullnir's goats, and Imðr's ragged daughter.

Níu áttum vit

Nine bad we-two

á nesi Ságu

on (the)-ness of-Ságu

ulfa alna,

wolves bred

vask einn faðir.

was-I alone father

41

G. KV. Faðir vasattu

Father wast-thou-not

fenrisulfa

of-fenris-wolves

öllum ellri,

(than)-all older

42

svát ek muna,

so-that I remember

síz þik geldu

since thee gelded

fyr Gnipalundi

before Gnipalundr

þursa meyjar

of-giants (the)-maids

á Þórsnesi.

on Þórsnes

43 Stjúpr vast Siggeirs,

Stepson wast-thou of-Siggeirr

látt und stoðum heima,

layest-(thou) under posts at-home

varghljóðum vanr

to-wolf-howls used

á viðum úti;

in woods outside

kómu þér ógögn

came to-thee ills

öll at hendi,

all to hand

þás bræðr þínum

when (to)-brother thy

brjóst raufaðir.

(the)-breast (thou)-rippedst

(gerðir þik frægjan

madest-(thou) thyself famed

af firinverkum).

by crimes

SFJ. KV. Þú vast brúðr Grana

Thou wast (the)-bride of-Grani

44

á Brávelli,

on Brávöllr

gollbitluð vast

gold-bitted wast-(thou)

gör til rásar,

ready for running

hafðak þér móðri

had-I on-thee tired

mart skeið riðit

many a-course ridden

svangri und söðli,

hungry under saddle

simul, forbergis.

bag down-(the)-cliff

Sveinn þóttir þú

A-lad seemedst thou

45

siðlauss vesa,

lawless to-be

þás þú Gullnis

when thou Gullnir's

geitr molkaðir,

goats milkedst

en í annat sinn

and at another time

Imðar dóttir

Imðr's daughter

tötrughypja;

a-tattered-wench

vill þú tölu lengri.

wilt thou a-tale longer

46–50 • HELGI ENDS THE QUARREL

Goðmundr would rather feed the ravens on Sinfjötli's corpse at Frekasteinn. Helgi says it would be more seemly to fight and gladden eagles than to trade useless words: Granmarr's sons are no good, but they have shown at Móinsheimar that they have courage. Granmarr's sons ride the horses Svipuðr and Svegjuðr to Sólheimar through dewy dales and grimly tell Höðbroddr at the gate of the coming, and he, helmed, asks why the Hniflungar look so wrathful.

46 G. KV. Fyrr vilda ek

Rather would I

at Frekasteini

at Frekasteinn

hrafna seðja

ravens sate

á hræum þínum,

on corpses thy

an tíkr yðrar

than bitches your

teygja at solli

lure to (the)-swill

eða gefa göltum;

or give (to)-boars

deili gröm við þik.

deal (the)-fiends with thee

H. KV. Væri ykr Sinfjötli

47

Were (for)-you-two Sinfjötli

sæmra miklu

more-seemly much

gunni at heyja

battle to wage

ok glaða örne,

and gladden eagles

an sé ónýtum

than is with-useless

orðum at bregðask,

words to wrangle

þótt hringbrotar

though ring-breakers

heiptir deili.

batreds (may)-share

48 Þykkjat mér góðir

Seem-not to-me good

Granmars synir,

Granmarr's sons

þó dugir siklingum.

yet befits kings

satt at mæla;

truth to speak

þeir hafa markat

they have shown

á Móinsheimum,

at Móinsheimar

at hug hafa

that courage (they)-have

hjörum at bregða.

swords to draw

49 Þeir af ríki

They from power

rinna létu

run let

Svipuð ok Svegjuð:

Svipuðr and Svegjuðr

Sólheima til

Sólheimar to

dala dögghotta

dales dewy

dökkvar hlíðir,

dark slopes

skalf Mistar mörr

shook Mist's mare

hvars megir fóru.

where (the)-men went

Mœttu tyggja

Met-(they) (the)-prince

í túnhliði,

at (the)-yard-gate

(sögðu stríðliga

told-(they) grimly

stilli kómu);

(to)-(the)-leader (of)-(the)-coming

úti stóð Höðbroddr

outside stood Höðbroddr

hjalmi faldinn,

with-helmet covered

hugði jóreið

thought-(of) (the)-riding

ættar sinnar;

of-kin his

»hví 's hermðar litr

why is wrath's bue

á Hniflungum?»

on (the)-Hniflungar

Goðmundr reports that swift keels have come to the sand with many shields and glad Ylfings: fifteen companies have come ashore, seven thousand more are out in Sogn, and gold-adorned ships lie before Gnipalundr, and Helgi will not delay the battle. Höðbroddr bids the horses run to Reginþing, Sparinsheiðr, and Myrkviðr, and no swordsman stay behind; he summons Högni, Hringr's sons, Atli, Yngvi, and Álfir the old, to give the Völsungar resistance.

51 G. KV. Snúask hér at sandi

Turn here to (the)-sand

snævgir kjólar,

swift keels

rakka hirtir

(the)-mast-ring's harts

ok ráar langar,

and yards long

skildir margir,

shields many

skafnar árar,

planed oars

göfugt lið gylfa,

noble host of-(the)-king

glaðir Ylfingar.

glad Ylfings

52 Ganga fimtán

Go fifteen

folk upp á land,

companies up on land

þó 's í Sogn út

yet is in Sogn out

sjau þúsundir,

seven thousand

liggja í grindum

lie in (the)-harbor

fyr Gnipalundi

before Gnipalundr

brimdýr blásvört

surf-beasts blue-black

ok búin golli.

and adorned with-gold

Þar 's miklu mest

There is much (the)-greatest

mengi þeira;

multitude their

muna nú Helgi

will-not now Helgi

hjörþing dvala.

(the)-sword-meeting delay

HBR. KV. Rinni rökn bitluð

Run (the)-steeds bitted

til Reginþinga,

to Reginþing

53

54

en Sporvitnir

and Sporvitnir

at Sparinsheiði,

to Sparinsheiðr

[Mélnir ok Mýlnir

Mélnir and Mýlnir

til Myrkviðar]

to Myrkviðr

látið engi mann

let no man

eptir sitja

behind sit

þeira 's benlogum

of-those who wound-flames

bregða kunni.

draw can

55 Bjóðið Högna

Summon-ye Högni

ok Hrings sonum,

and Hringr's sons

Atla ok Yngva,

Atli and Yngvi

Alf enum gamla,

Álfr the old

þeir ro gjarnir

they are eager

gunni at heyja,

battle to wage

látum Völsunga

let-us (the)-Völsungar

viðrnam fáa.

resistance give

56-60 • THE BATTLE AT FREKASTEINN

The pale points meet at Frekasteinn, and Helgi is ever first in the host, furious and unwilling to flee. Helmed women come down from heaven to shield the prince, and the wolves feed on the slain. Sigrún hails him: he shall enjoy men and life, having felled the flight-shy prince; red rings and the mighty maid befit him, and he shall have Högni's daughter, Hringstaðir, victory, and lands, now that the battle is over.

Svipr einn vas þat,

A-swoop one was it

es saman kómu

when together came

fölvir oddar

(the)-pale points

at Frekasteini;

at Frekasteinn

ey vas Helgi,

ever was Helgi

Hundings bani,

Hunding's slayer

fyrstr í folki,

first in (the)-host

þars firar börðusk.

where men fought

56

57 **Æstr á ímu,**

Furious in battle

alltrauðr flugar,

most-unwilling of-flight

sá hafði hilmir

he had (the)-prince

hart móðakarn.

a-bard heart

58 **Kómu ór himni**

Came out-of heaven

hjalmvitr ofan,

helmed-beings from-above

óx geira gnýr,

grew (the)-spears' din

þærs grami hlífðu;

they-who (the)-prince shielded

þá kvað þat Sigrún,

then said that Sigrún

sárvitr flugu,

wound-wise (they)-flew

át hálu skær

ate (the)-troll-wife's steed

af hugins barri:

from Huginn's barley

Heill skalt vísi

Hale shalt-(thou) leader

virða njóta,

men enjoy

áttstafr Yngva,

scion of-Yngvi

ok una lífi,

and enjoy life

es felt of hefr

since felled — (thou)-hast

enn flugartrauða

the flight-shy

jöfur þanns olli

prince who caused

ægis dauða.

(the)-terror's death

Ok þér buðlungr

And (to)-thee king

samir bæði vel

befit both well

rauðir baugar

red rings

ok en ríkja mæ;

and the mighty maid

heill skalt buðlungr

bale shalt-(thou) king

bæði njóta

both enjoy

Högná dóttur

Högni's daughter

ok Hringstaða.

and Hringstaðir

(sigrs ok landa.

victory and lands

þá 's sókn lokit).

then is (the)-strife ended

Helga kviða Hjörvarðssonar

The Lay of Helgi Hjorvardsson

HJÖRVARÐR'S WIVES

King Hjörvarðr has four wives, among them Álfhildr, mother of Heðinn; Særeidr, mother of Humlungr; and Sinrjóð, mother of Hymlingr. He has vowed to have the fairest woman he knows of, and hears that King Sváfñir's daughter Sigrlinn is fairest of all. His earl Iðmundr's son Atli goes to ask for her and stays a winter with Sváfñir, but the earl Fránmarr, Sigrlinn's fosterer and father of Álof, has her refused. One day Atli stands by a grove, and a bird in the boughs, which has heard his men praising Hjörvarðr's wives, chatters.

Frá Hjörvarði ok Sigrlinn. Hjörvarðr hét konungr. Hann
About Hjörvarðr and Sigrlinn Hjörvarðr was-called a-king He
átti fjórar konur. Ein hét Álfhildr; son þeira hét
had four wives One was-called Álfhildr (the)-son their was-called
Heðinn. Önnur hét Særeidr; þeira son hét Humlungr.
Heðinn (The)-second was-called Særeidr their son was-called Humlungr
En þriðja hét Sinrjóð; þeira son hét Hymlingr.
And (the)-third was-called Sinrjóð their son was-called Hymlingr
Hjörvarðr konungr hafði þess heit strengt, at eiga þá konu,
Hjörvarðr (the)-king had this vow made to have that woman
er hann vissi vænsta. Hann spurði, at Sváfñir konungr átti
who he knew fairest He learned that Sváfñir (the)-king had
dóttur allra fegrsta; sú hét Sigrlinn. Iðmundr hét
a-daughter of-all fairest she was-called Sigrlinn Iðmundr was-called
jarl hans; Atli var hans son, er fór at biðja Sigrlinnar til
an-earl his Atli was his son who went to ask-for Sigrlinn to
handa konungi. Hann dvalðiz vetrlangt með Sváfni konungi.
(the)-hand for-(the)-king He stayed winter-long with Sváfñir (the)-king
Fránmarr hét þar jarl, fóstri Sigrlinnar; dóttir hans
Fránmarr was-called there an-earl fosterer of-Sigrlinn (the)-daughter his

hét Álof. Jarlinn réð, at meýjar var synjat, ok fór
was-called Álof The-earl counseled that (the)-maiden was refused and went
 Atli heim. Atli jarls son stóð einn dag við lund nökkurn,
Atli home Atli (the)-earl's son stood one day by a-grove certain
 en fugl sat í límunum uppi yfir hánnum ok hafði heyrt til,
and a-bird sat in the-boughs up over him and had heard about
 at hans menn kölluðu vænstar konur þær, er Hjörvarðr
that his men called fairest women those which Hjörvarðr
 konungr átti. Fuglinn kvakaði, en Atli hlýddi, hvat hann sagði.
(the)-king had The-bird chattered and Atli listened-to what it said

1-4 · THE BIRD'S BARGAIN

The bird asks Atli if he has seen Sigrlinn, Sváfnir's daughter, fairest of maids, though Hjörvarðr's wives seem comely to men. Atli asks it to say more. The bird will speak if the king will sacrifice to it and it may choose what it wants from his court. Atli asks it not to choose Hjörvarðr, his sons, or his brides. The bird chooses a temple, many altars, and gold-horned cows, if Sigrlinn sleeps in the king's arms and follows him unforced.

1 HANN KVAD: Sátt þú Sigrlinn

Sawest thou Sigrlinn

Sváfnis dóttur,

Sváfnir's daughter

meý ena fegrstu

(the)-maid the fairest

í munar heimi?

in delight's home

þó hagligar

though comely

Hjörvarðs konur

Hjörvarðr's wives

gumnum þykkja

to-men seem

at Glasislundi.

at Glasislundr

ATLI KV. Mundu við Atla

Wilt-(thou) with Atli

Iðmundar son,

Iðmundr's son

fogl fróðhugaðr,

(the)-bird wise-minded

fleira mæla?

more speak

FUGL KV. Munk ef mik buðlungr

Will-I if me (the)-king

blóta vildi

worship would

ok kýsk þats vilk

and choose-I what want-I

ór konungs garði.

out-of (the)-king's court

3 A. KV. Kjósattu Hjörvarð

Choose-not Hjörvarðr

né hans sonu,

nor his sons

né enar fögru

nor the fair

fylkis brúðir,

(the)-prince's brides

eigi brúðir þær,

not brides those

es buðlungr á;

which (the)-king has

kaupum vel saman,

let-us-bargain well together

þat 's vina kynni.

that is friends' manner

4 F. KV. Hof munk kjósa,

A-temple will-I choose

hörða marga,

altars many

gollhýrnðar kýr

gold-borned cows

frá grams búi,

from (the)-prince's dwelling

ef honum Sigrlinn

if him Sigrlinn

sefr á armi

sleeps in arm

ok ónaðig

and unforced

jöfri fylgir.

(the)-prince follows

5 • THE WINNING OF SIGRLINN

Atli tells the king that his errand has failed and Sváfnir's daughter was refused. The king goes with him and sees Sváfaland burning. Atli, keeping watch across a river, finds a house guarded by a great bird asleep, kills the bird, and carries off Sigrlinn and Álof; the bird was Fránmarr in eagle shape. Hróðmarr, Sigrlinn's suitor, had killed Sváfnir and burned his land. Hjörvarðr marries Sigrlinn, and Atli Álof. Hjörvarðr and Sigrlinn's son grows great and handsome but silent and nameless, until as he sits on a mound nine valkyries ride by and the noblest speaks.

Þetta var áðr Atli færi, en er hann kom heim ok

This was before Atli went but when he came home and

konungr spurði hann tíðenda, hann kvað:

(the)-king asked him (for)-tidings he said

Höfum erfiði

(We)-have toil

ok ekki ørendi,

and no errand

mara þraut óra

(the)-mares wore-out our

á meginfjalli,

on (the)-great-mountain

urðum síðan

(we)-had afterward

Sæmorn vaða,

Sæmorn to-wade

þá vas oss synjat

then was (to)-us refused

Sváfnis dóttur.

Sváfnir's daughter

(hringum goðdrar,

with-rings endowed

es hafa vildum.)

whom have (we)-wished

Konungr bað, at þeir skyldu fara annat sinn; fór hann sjálf.

(The)-king bade that they should go a-second time went he himself

En er þeir kómu upp á fjall, ok sá á Sváfaland

And when they came up on (the)-mountain and saw over Sváfaland

lanzbruna ok jóreyki stóra. Reið konungr af fjallinu

land-burning and a-riding-dust great Rode (the)-king from the-mountain

fram í landit ok tók náttból við á eina. Atli helt

forward into the-land and took night-quarters by a-river one Atli kept

vörð ok fór yfir ána. Hann fann eitt hús. Fugl mikill sat á

watch and went over the-river He found one house A-bird great sat on

húsinu ok gætti, ok var sofnaðr. Atli skaut spjóti fuglinn

the-house and watched and was fallen-asleep Atli shot with-a-spear the-bird

til bana, en í húsinu fann hann Sigrlinn konungs dóttur
to death and in the-house found he Sigrlinn (the)-king's daughter
 ok Álofu jarls dóttur ok hafði þær báðar braut með sér.
and Álöf (the)-earl's daughter and had them both away with himself
 Fránmarr jarl hafði hamazk í arnar líki ok varit þær
Fránmarr (the)-earl had shifted-shape into an-eagle's likeness and guarded them
 fyrir hernum með fjölkyngi. Hróðmarr hét konungr, biðill
against the-host with sorcery Hróðmarr was-called a-king a-suitor
 Sigrlinnar. Hann drap Sváfakonung ok hafði rænt ok
of-Sigrlinn He killed (the)-king-of-the-Sváfur and had plundered and
 brent landit. Hjörvarðr konungr fekk Sigrlinnar en Atli Álofar.
burned the-land Hjörvarðr (the)-king got Sigrlinn and Atli Álöf
 Hjörvarðr ok Sigrlinn áttu son mikinn ok vænan. Hann var
Hjörvarðr and Sigrlinn had a-son great and handsome He was
 þögull; ekki nafn festisk við hann. Hann sat á haugi;
silent no name fastened-itself to him He sat on a-mound
 hann sá ríða valkyrjur níu ok var ein göfugligust. Hon kvað:
he saw ride valkyries nine and was one most-noble She said

The valkyrie tells Helgi that he will be late to rule rings or Røðulsvellir if he is always silent, however hard his mind. He asks what gift comes with the name she gives him, and will take none unless he has her. She tells him of swords lying in Sigarsholmr, four fewer than fifty, and one better than all: a ring in the hilt, courage in the middle, terror in the point, and a blood-stained serpent along the edge.

6 Síð munt Helgi

Late wilt-(thou) Helgi

hringum ráða,

rings rule

ríkr rógapaldr,

(the)-mighty battle-tree

né Røðulsvöllum,

nor Røðulsvellir

örn gól árla,

(the)-eagle screamed early

ef æ þegir,

if ever (thou)-art-silent

þótt harðan hug

though hard mind

hilmir gjaldir.

prince (thou)-show

7 H. KV. Hvat lætr fylgja

What lettest-(thou) follow

Helga nafni,

Helgi's name

brúðr bjartlituð,

(the)-bride bright-hued

alls bjóða ræðr,

since (to)-offer (thou)-chooseth

hygg fyr öllum

consider for all

atkvæðum vel,

utterances well

þigg ek eigi þat,

take I not that

nema þik hafak.

unless thee have-I

VALK. KV. Sverð veitk liggja

8

Swords know-I lie

í Sigarsholmi

in Sigarsholmr

fjórum færi

four fewer

an fimm tøgu,

than five tens

eitt es þeira

one is of-them

öllum betra

of-all better

vígnesta böl

mail-shirts' bane

ok varit golli.

and adorned with-gold

- 9 Hringr 's í hjalti,
A-ring is in (the)-birt
 hugr 's í miðju,
courage is in (the)-middle
 ógn 's í oddi
terror is in (the)-point
 þeims eiga getr,
for-him-who (to)-own gets
 liggr með eggju
lies along (the)-edge
 ormr dreyrfáiðr,
a-serpent blood-stained
 en á valböstu
and on (the)-guard
 verpr naðr hala.
casts (the)-adder (its)-tail

10-11 • HELGI REBUKES HIS FATHER

The valkyrie is Sváfa, King Eylimi's daughter; she rides air and sea, gave Helgi his name, and often shielded him in battle. Helgi tells his father that he is no well-counseled king, however famous: he let fire eat the dwellings of princes who had done him no harm, while Hróðmarr rules the rings their kinsmen owned, fears least for his life, and means to rule the dead line's inheritance.

Eylimi hét konungr. Dóttir hans var Sváfa. Hon
Eylimi was-called a-king (The)-daughter his was Sváfa She
 var valkyrja ok reið lopt ok lög. Hon gaf Helga nafn
was a-valkyrie and rode air and sea She gave Helgi name
 þetta ok hlífði hánnum opt síðan í orrostum. Helgi kvað:
this and shielded him often afterward in battles Helgi said

Estat Hjörvarðr

Art-not-thou Hjörvarðr

heilráðr konungr,

a-well-counseled king

folks oddviti,

of-(the)-host (the)-point-leader

þótt frægr séir;

though famed (thou)-be

lézt eld eta

lettest-(thou) fire eat

jöfra byggðir,

(the)-princes' dwellings

en þeir angr við þik

and they harm to thee

ekki gerðu.

not did

10

En Hróðmarr skal

But Hróðmarr shall

hringum ráða,

rings rule

þeim es áttu

those which had

órir niðjar,

our kinsmen

sá séskr fylkir

that-one fears (the)-king

fæst at lífi,

least for life

11

hyggsk aldaða

thinks-(he) (the)-extinct-kin's

arfi at ráða.

inheritance to rule

HRÍMGERÐR

Hjörvarðr promises Helgi a host if he will avenge his mother's father. Helgi fetches the sword Sváfa told him of, and with Atli kills Hróðmarr and does many deeds; he kills the giant Hati, who sat on a crag. Helgi and Atli lie at anchor in Hatafjörðr, and Atli keeps watch in the first part of the night. Then Hati's daughter Hrimgerðr speaks.

Hjörvarðr svaraði, at hann mundi fá lið Helga, ef hann

Hjörvarðr answered that he would get a-host (for)-Helgi if he

vill hefna móðurföður síns. Þá sótti Helgi sverðit, er Sváfa

will avenge mother's-father his Then sought Helgi the-sword which Sváfa

vísaði hánun til. Þá fór hann ok Atli ok feldu Hróðmar ok

directed him to Then went he and Atli and felled Hróðmarr and

unnu mörg þrekvirki. Hann drap Hata jötun, er hann sat

performed many mighty-deeds He killed Hati (the)-giant when he sat

á bergi nökkuru. Helgi ok Atli lágu skipum í Hatafirði. Atli

on a-crag certain Helgi and Atli lay (with)-ships in Hatafjörðr Atli

helt vörð enn fyrra hlut nætrinnar. Hrimgerðr Hatadóttir kvað:

held watch the first part of-the-night Hrimgerðr Hati's-daughter said

HRÍMGERÐARMÁL

1-5 • HRÍMGERÐR AT THE FJORD

Hríngerðr asks who the men are in Hatafjörðr, whose ships are hung with shields and who bear themselves so boldly. Atli says their king is Helgi, and that iron walls stand about his fleet, which no troll-wife can harm. She asks his name. He is Atli, fierce to ogresses, who has often stood on the wet prow and tormented night-riders, and he asks her name and wishes her nine leagues deeper with a fir growing from her bosom.

Hverir ro hölðar

1

Who are (the)-men

í Hatafirði,

in Hatafjörðr

skjöldum 's tjaldat á skipum?

with-shields is tented on (the)-ships

fræknliga látið,

boldly (ye)-bear-yourselves

fátt hygg yðr séask,

little think-I (ye)-yourselves fear

kennið mér nafn konungs.

teach me (the)-name of-(the)-king

A. KV. Helgi heitir,

2

Helgi (he)-is-called

en þú hvergi mátt

but thou nowhere mayest

vinna grand grami;

work harm (on)-(the)-prince

jarnborgir ro

iron-fortresses are

of öðlings flota;

about (the)-prince's fleet

knægut oss fálur fara.

can-not us troll-wives come-at

3 Hvé þik heitir,

How thee is-called

halr enn ámatki,

man the mighty

hvé þik kalla konir?

how thee call men

fylkir þér trúir,

(the)-king thee trusts

es þik í fögrum lætr

since thee in (the)-fair lets

beits stafni búa.

ship's prow dwell

4 A. KV. Atli heitik,

Atli am-called-I

atall skalk þér vesa,

fierce shall-I to-thee be

mjök emk gífrum gramastr;

much am-I (to)-ogresses most-hostile

úrgan stafn

(the)-wet prow

hefk opt búit

have-I often dwelt-in

ok kvalðar kveldriður.

and tormented night-riders

Hvé þú heitir,

How thou art-called

hála nágráðug?

bag corpse-greedy

nefn þinn fála föður;

name thy troll father

níu röstum

nine leagues

skyldir neðar vesa

shouldst-(thou) lower be

ok æxi þér á baðmi barr.

and grow (on)-thee in (the)-bosom a-fir

She is Hríngerðr, daughter of Hati, the mightiest giant, who carried off many brides until Helgi hewed him down. Atli says she lay in the fjord's mouth wanting to give the king's men to Rán. She says he dreams: it was her mother who lay before the ships, and she herself drowned Hlöðvarðr's sons. After a gap in the text the taunts turn on geldings and stallions, and Atli says she will be beaten and drop her tail if he steps ashore in earnest.

6 HR. KV. Hríngerðr heitik,

Hríngerðr am-called-I

Hati hét minn faðir,

Hati was-called my father

þann vissak ámatkastan jötun,

him knew-I (the)-mightiest giant

margar brúðir

many brides

hann lét frá búi teknar,

he let from (the)-dwelling taken

unz hann Helgi hjó.

until him Helgi hewed

7 A. KV. Þú vast hála

Thou wast bag

fyr hildings skipum

before (the)-prince's ships

ok látt í fjarðar mynni fyrir;

and lay in (the)-fjord's mouth before

ræsis rekka

(the)-king's warriors

vildir Rán gefa,

(thou)-wishedst (to)-Rán (to)-give

ef þér kæmit í þverst þvari.

if to-thee came-not in crosswise a-stake

HR. KV. Duliðr est nú Atli,

Deluded art-thou now Atli

draums kveðk þér vesa,

of-dreams say-I thee to-be

síga lætr brýnn fyr bráar;

sink lettest-thou brows over eyelashes

móðir mín

mother my

lá fyr mildings skipum;

lay before (the)-prince's ships

ek drekða Hlöðvarðs sonum í hafi.

I drowned Hlöðvarð's sons in (the)-sea

(lacuna)

A. KV. Gneggja myndir Atli,

Neigh wouldst-thou Atli

ef geldr né værir,

if gelded not (thou)-wert

brettir sinn Hríngerðr hala,

cocks her Hríngerðr tail

aptarla hjarta

behind (the)-heart

hygg at þitt Atli sé,

think-I that thine Atli is

þótt hafir reina rödd.

though (thou)-hast a-stallion's voice

10 A. KV. Reini munk þér þykkja,

A-stallion will-I to-thee seem

ef reyna knátt,

if test (thou)-canst

ok stígak land af legi,

and step-I (on)-land from (the)-sea

öll munt lemjask,

all wilt-(thou) be-beaten

ef mér es alhugat,

if to-me is (it)-in-earnest

ok sveigja þinn Hríngerðr hala.

and droop thy Hríngerðr tail

Hrímgerðr dares Atli to meet her in Varinn's bay, but he will not go ashore before the men wake. She calls on Helgi to make amends for Hati by letting her sleep one night beside him. Helgi says that Loðinn, the giant of Þolley, worst of the lava-dwellers, is the man for her. She says he would rather have the gold-adorned maid who watched the harbor the night before and made his fleet fast, so that Hrímgerðr cannot kill his men.

HR. KV. Atli gakk á land,

11

Atli go on land

ef afli treystisk,

if (in)-strength (thou)-trustest-thyself

ok hittumk í vík Varins,

and let-us-meet in (the)-bay of-Varinn

rífa rétti

of-ribs straightening

þú munt rekkir fáa,

thou wilt warrior get

ef mér í krummur kemr,

if to-me into (the)-clutches (thou)-comest

A. KV. Munkak ganga

12

Will-I-not go

áðr gumnar vakna,

before (the)-men wake

ok halda of vísa vörð;

and hold for (the)-prince watch

esa mér ørvænt,

is-not (to)-me unexpected

nær óru kemr

when our comes

skass upp und skipi.

(the)-bag up under (the)-ship

13 Vaki þú Helgi

Wake thou Helgi

ok bætt við Hrímgæði,

and make-amends with Hrímgæðr

es lézt höggvinn Hata,

since (thou)-lettest beun Hati

eina nótt

one night

kná hon hjá jöfri sofa,

can she by (the)-prince sleep

þá hefr hon bölvá bætr.

then has she (for)-(be)-harms amends

14 H. KV. Loðinn heitir,

Loðinn (be)-is-called

leið est mannkyni,

loathsome art-thou (to)-mankind

sá býr í Þolleyju þurs,

he dwells in Þolley (the)-giant

hundvíss jötunn,

a-bound-wise giant

hraunbúa verstr,

of-lava-dwellers (the)-worst

sá 's þér makligr maðr.

that is (for)-thee a-fitting man

HR. KV. Hina vildu heldr,

Her wouldst-thou rather

es réð hafnir skoða

who undertook (the)-harbors to-scan

fyrri nótt með frum;

(the)-former night with (the)-men

(marggollin mæ

(the)-much-golden maid

mér þótti afli bera,

to-me (she)-seemed in-strength (to)-surpass

hér sté hon land af legi

here stepped she (on)-land from (the)-sea

ok festi svá yðvarn flota),

and made-fast so your fleet

hon ein því veldr,

she alone (for)-that is-to-blame

es eigi mák

that not may-I

buðlungs mönnum bana.

(the)-king's men kill

Helgi asks whether one being alone saved his ships. Hríngerðr says there were three nines of maidens, one riding ahead, white under her helmet, and their horses shook dew into the deep dales and hail onto the high woods, bringing good years. Helgi bids her look east, since he has struck her with death-staves. Atli says day has come, and she stands, a laughable harbor-mark, in the likeness of stone.

16 H. KV. Heyr nú Hríngerðr,

Hear now Hríngerðr

ef bœtik harma þér,

if make-amends-I (for)-harms to-thee

seg þú görr grami,

say thou fully (to)-(the)-prince

vas sú ein vættr,

was that one being

es barg öðlings skipum,

which saved (the)-prince's ships

eða fóru fleiri saman?

or went more together

17 HR. KV. Þrennar níundir meyja,

Three nines of-maidens

þó reið ein fyrir

yet rode one before

hvít und hjalmi mær,

white under helmet (the)-maid

(marir hristusk,

(the)-mares shook-themselves

stóð af mönum þeira

stood from manes their

dögg í djúpa dali,

dew into deep dales

hagl í háva við,

bail into high woods

þaðan kemr með öldum á)

thence comes with men a-good-year

alt vas mér þat leitt es leitk.

all was to-me that loathsome which saw-I

H. KV. Austr lít Hríngerðr,

East look Hríngerðr

ef þik lostna hefr

if thee struck has

Helgi helstöfum,

Helgi (with)-death-staves

á landi ok á vatni

on land and on water

borgit 's lofðungs flota

saved is (the)-prince's fleet

ok síklings mönnum et sama.

and (the)-king's men the same

19 A. KV. *Dagr es nú Hríngerðr,*

Day is now Hríngerðr

en þik dvalða hefr

and thee delayed has

Atli til aldrлага,

Atli to life's-end

hafnarmark

a-harbor-mark

þykkir hlægligt vesa,

seems laughable to-be

þars í steins líki stendr.

where in stone's likeness (thou)-standest

HELGA KVIÐA HJÖRVARÐSSONAR

HEDINN'S VOW

Helgi woos Sváfa, Eylimi's daughter, and they exchange vows and love each other greatly, she at home, he at war. On Yule eve Hedin, Helgi's brother, meets a troll-woman riding a wolf with serpents for reins, and refuses her company; she says he will pay for it at the chieftain's toast. That evening, over the boar of vows, Hedin vows to have Sváfa, his brother's beloved. He repents so much that he goes south on wild paths and finds Helgi.

Helgi konungr var allmikill hermaðr. Hann kom til Eylima

Helgi (the)-king was a-very-great warrior He came to Eylimi

konungs ok bað Sváfu dóttur hans. Þau Helgi ok Sváfa

(the)-king and asked-for Sváfa daughter his They Helgi and Sváfa

veittusk várar ok unnusk furðu mikit. Sváfa var heima

gave-each-other vows and loved-each-other wondrously much Sváfa was at-home

með feðr sínum, en Helgi í hernaði. Var Sváfa valkyrja enn
with father her and Helgi in warfare Was Sváfa a- Valkyrie still
 sem fyrr. Heðinn var heima með föður sínum, Hjörvarði
as before Heðinn was at-home with father his Hjörvarðr
 konungi, í Noregi. Heðinn fór einn saman heim ór skógi
(the)-king in Norway Heðinn went alone together home out-of (the)-forest
 jólaaþtan ok fann trollkonu. Sú reið vargi ok hafði orma at
(on)-Yule-eve and found a-troll-woman She rode a-wolf and had serpents as
 taumum ok bauð fylgð sína Heðni. Nei, sagði hann. Hon
reins and offered company her to-Heðinn No said he She
 sagði: »Þess skaltu gjalda at bragarfulli«. Um kveldit óru
said for-that shalt-thou pay at (the)-chieftain's-toast In the-evening were
 heitstrengingar. Var fram leiddr sonargöltr. Lögðu menn
vow-makings Was forward led (the)-atonement-boar Laid men
 þar á hendr sínar ok strengðu menn þá heit at bragarfulli.
there on hands their and made men then vows at (the)-chieftain's-toast
 Heðinn strengði heit til Sváfu Eylimu dóttur, unnustu Helga
Heðinn made a-vow for Sváfa Eylim's daughter (the)-beloved of-Helgi
 bróður síns, ok iðraðisk svá mjök, at hann gekk á braut
brother his and repented-himself so much that he went on away
 villistígu suðr á lönd ok fann Helga bróður sinn. Helgi kvað:
wild-paths south into lands and found Helgi brother his Helgi said

Helgi welcomes Heðinn and asks what news he brings and why he comes alone. Heðinn says a great crime has come upon him: he has chosen Helgi's king-born bride at the chieftain's toast. Helgi tells him not to blame himself, for the ale-speech may come true for both: a prince has summoned Helgi to a sandbank in three nights, and he doubts he will return. Heðinn says Helgi called him worthy of good and great gifts, and he had better redden his sword than give peace to his foes.

12 Kom heill Heðinn,

Come hale Heðinn

hvat kant segja

what canst-(thou) tell

nýra spjalla

of-new tidings

ór Nóregi,

out-of Norway

hví 's þér stillir

why is thee prince

støkt ór landi

driven out-of (the)-land

ok est einn kominn

and art alone come

oss at finna?

us to find

13 HED. KV. [Erumka stillir

Am-I-not prince

støkt ór landi],

driven out-of (the)-land

mik hefr miklu glæpr

me has much a-crime

meiri sóttan,

greater visited

ek hef kørna

I have chosen

ena konungbornu

the king-born

brúði þína

bride thy

at bragarfulli.

at (the)-chieftain's-toast

H. KV. Sakask eigi þú,

Blame-thyself not thou

sönn munu verða

true will become

ölmál Heðinn

(the)-ale-speeches Heðinn

okkur beggja.

of-us-two both

(lacuna)

14

Mér hefr stillir

Me has a-prince

stefnt til eyrar,

summoned to a-sandbank

15

þriggja náttu

of-three nights

skylak þar koma;

shall-I there come

if es mér á því,

doubt is to-me about it

at aptr komak;

that back come-I

þá má at góðu

then may to good

gerask slíkt ef skal.

turn such if (it)-shall

16 HED. KV. Sagðir Helgi,

Saidst-thou Helgi

at Heðinn væri

that Heðinn were

góðs verðr frá þér

of-good worthy from thee

ok gjafa stórra;

and of-gifts great

þér es sœmra

(for)-thee is more-seemly

sverð at rjóða,

(the)-sword to redden

an frið gefa

than peace give

fjándum þínum.

(to)-foes thy

Helgi foresees his death: his fetches came to Heðinn in the woman who rode the wolf, and she knew Sigrínn's son would be slain at Sigarsvellir, where Álf, Hróðmarr's son, has marked out a field. In the battle Helgi gets his death wound. He sends Sigarr to ride after Eylími's only daughter and bid her come quickly if she wants to find him alive, and Sigarr tells Sváfa that Helgi wants to see her before he dies.

Þat kvað Helgi, þvíat hann grunaði um feigð sína
That said Helgi because he suspected about (the)-doom his
 ok þat at fylgjur hans höfðu vitjat Heðins, þá er
and that that (the)-fetches his had visited Heðinn then when
 hann sá konuna ríða varginum. Álf hét konungur,
he saw the-woman ride the-wolf Álf was-called a-king
 son Hróðmars, er Helga hafði völl haslaðan
(the)-son of-Hróðmarr who (for)-Helgi had a-field marked-with-bazel-poles
 á Sigarsvelli á þriggja náttu fresti. Þá kvað Helgi:
on Sigarsvöllr at three nights' respite Then said Helgi

Reið á vargi,
Rode on a-wolf
 es rökvið vas,
when darkened was
 fljóð eitt es Heðin
a-woman one who Heðinn
 fylgju beiddi;
(her)-following asked
 hón vissi þat,
she knew that

at veginn myndi

that slain would-be

Sigrinnar sonr

Sigrinn's son

á Sigarsvöllum.

on Sigarsvellir

Þar var orrosta mikil ok fekk þar Helgi banasár.

There was a-battle great and got there Helgi a-death-wound

18 Sendi Helgi

Sent Helgi

Sígar at ríða

Sigarr to ride

ept Eylima

after Eylimi's

eingadóttur;

only-daughter

»bið bráðliga

bid-(her) quickly

búna verða,

ready be

ef hon finna vill

if she find will

fylki kvikvan.«

(the)-king alive

SIG. KV. Mik hefr Helgi

19

Me has Helgi

hingat sendan

hither sent

við þik Sváfa

with thee Sváfa

sjalfa at mæla;

thyself to speak

þik kvazk hilmir

thee said (the)-prince

hitta vilja,

meet (be)-wished

áðr ítrborinn

before (the)-nobly-born

öndu týndi.

breath lost

20–24 • HELGI'S FAREWELL

Sváfa asks what has befallen Helgi and swears harm to the man who did it. Sigarr says that the best king under the sun fell that morning at Frekasteinn, and Alfr will rule the victory. Helgi greets Sváfa, telling her this is their last meeting: his wounds bleed, and the sword has come near his heart. He asks her not to weep and to make Heðinn's bed and love the young prince. She answers that she had vowed never to take an unknown prince in her arms after Helgi.

SV. KV. Hvat varð Helga

20

What befell Helgi

Hjörvarðs syni?

Hjörvarð's son

mér 's harðliga

(for)-me is hard

harma leitat,

grief sought

ef hann sær of lék

if him (the)-sea — played

eða sverð of beit,

or a-sword — bit

þeim skalk gumna

(on)-that shall-I of-men

grand of vinna.

harm — work

21 SIG. KV. Fell hér í morgin

Fell here in (the)-morning

at Frekasteini,

at Frekasteinn

buðlungr sás vas

(the)-king who was

baztr und sólu;

best under (the)-sun

Alfr mun sigri

Alfr will victory

öllum ráða,

all rule

þótt þetta sinn

though this time

þörfgi væri.

needful-not were

H. KV. Heil ves þú Sváfa,

22

Hale be thou Sváfa

hug skalt deila,

(thy)-heart shalt-(thou) divide

sjá mun í heimi

this will in (the)-world

hinztr fundr vesa;

(the)-last meeting be

téa buðlungi

(they)-show (the)-king

blæða undir,

bleeding wounds

mér hefr hjörr komit

me has (the)-sword come

hjarta et næsta.

(the)-heart the nearest

Biðk þik Sváfa,

23

Bid-I thee Sváfa

brúðr grátattu,

bride weep-not

ef vill mínu

if (thou)-wilt my

máli hlýða,

speech bear

at þú Heðni

that thou (for)-Heðinn

hvílu gervir

a-bed make

ok jöfur ungan

and (the)-prince young

ástum leiðir.

with-love lead

24 SV. KV. Mælt hafðak þat

Spoken had-I that

í munarheimi,

in delight's-home

þás mér Helgi

when me Helgi

hringa valði,

rings chose

myndigak lostig

would-I-not willingly

at liðinn fylki

after gone (the)-king

jöfur ókunnan

a-prince unknown

armi verja.

(in)-arm clasp

Heðinn asks Sváfa for a kiss, and says he will not come home to Rogheimr or Röðulsfjöll until he has avenged Hjörvarðr's son, the best king under the sun. It is said that Helgi and Sváfa were reborn.

HEÐ. KV. Kyss mik Sváfa,

25

Kiss me Sváfa

kemk eigi áðr

come-I not before

Rogheims á vit

Rogheimr to visit

né Röðulsfjalla,

nor Röðulsfjöll

áðr hefnt of hefk

before avenged — have-I

Hjörvarðssonar

Hjörvarðr's-son

þess 's buðlungr vas

him who a-king was

baztr und sólu.

best under (the)-sun

Helgi ok Sváfa er sagt at væri endrborin.

Helgi and Sváfa is said that (they)-were reborn
