

OLD NORSE SERIES • VOLUME 16

THE POETIC EDDA

Sæmundar-Edda

The Poetic Edda

Part Two: Sigurd, Brynhild, Gudrun, and Atli

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

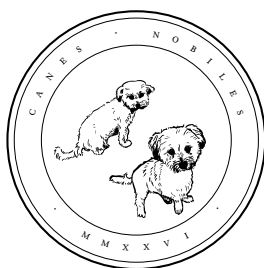


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Volume 16 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Finnur Jónsson's
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Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
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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 and the letters A and B he sets before the stanzas
of Reginsmál. The poems are undivided in the source, so their sections,
and every English section title in the book, are this press's. Verse
the edition marks as lost, and the two names the prose of Frá dauða
Sinfjötla lacks, are printed * * *, and a word it marks as corrupt carries †.

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Völsungakviða en forna

The Second Lay of Helgi Hundingsbani



King Sigmundr Völsungsson has Borghildr of Brálundr, and they name their son Helgi after Helgi Hjörvarðsson; Hagall fosters him. Hundingr, a mighty king after whom Hundland is named, has many warrior sons, and there is feud between his house and Sigmundr's, the Völsungar and Ylfingar, each killing the other's kinsmen. Helgi goes secretly to spy at Hundingr's court, where Hundingr's son Hemingr is at home, and as he leaves he meets a herd-boy.

Frá Völsungum. Sigmundr konungr Völsungsson átti
About (the)-Völsungar Sigmundr (the)-king Völsungr's-son had
 Borghildi af Brálundi. Þau hétu son sinn Helga ok eptir
Borghildr from Brálundr They named son their Helgi and after
 Helga Hjörvarðssyni. Helga fóstraði Hagall. Hundingr hét
Helgi Hjörvarðsson Helgi fostered Hagall Hundingr was-called
 ríkr konungr; við hann er Hundland kent. Hann var
a-mighty king after him is Hundland named He was
 hermaðr mikill ok átti marga sonu, þá er í hernaði váru.
a-warrior great and had many sons those who in warfare were
 Ófriðr ok dylgjur váru á milli þeira Hundings konungs ok
Unpeace and feuds were in between them Hundingr (the)-king and
 Sigmundar konungs; drápu hvárir annarra frændr. Sigmundr
Sigmundr (the)-king killed each (the)-other's kinsmen Sigmundr
 konungr ok hans ættmenn hétu Völsungar ok Ylfingar.
(the)-king and his kinsmen were-called Völsungar and Ylfingar
 Helgi fór ok njósnaði til hirðar Hundings konungs á
Helgi went and spied at (the)-court of-Hundingr (the)-king in
 laun. Hemingr son Hundings konungs var heima. En
secret Hemingr (the)-son of-Hundingr (the)-king was at-home And
 er Helgi fór í brott, þá hitti hann hjarðarsvein ok kvað:
when Helgi went in away then met he a-herd-boy and said

Helgi bids the herd-boy tell Heimingr that Helgi remembers whom they slew in mail: they had a gray wolf in the house when Hundingr thought it was Hamall, Hagall's son. Hundingr sends men to Hagall's to seek Helgi, who escapes only by dressing as a bondwoman and grinding at the quern. Blindr the evil-wise says the slave-girl's eyes are too keen for churl's kin, and the stones split under her. Hagall answers that it is no wonder the frame rumbles when a king's daughter turns the quern.

1 Seg þú Heimingi,

Say thou Heimingr

at Helgi man,

that Helgi remembers

hvern í brynju

whom in mail-coat

bragnar feldu;

(the)-men felled

ér ulf gráan

ye a-wolf gray

inni höfðuð,

inside had

þars Hamal hugði

where Hamall thought

Hundigr konungr.

Hundigr (the)-king

Hamall hét son Hagals. Hundigr konungr sendi menn

Hamall was-called (the)-son of-Hagall Hundigr (the)-king sent men

til Hagals at leita Helga, en Helgi mátti eigi forðask annan

to Hagall to seek Helgi and Helgi could not escape (by)-other

veg, en tók klæði ambáttar ok gekk at mala. Þeir

way but took (the)-clothes of-a-bondwoman and went to grind They

leituðu ok fundu eigi Helga. Þá kvað Blindr enn bölvísi:

searched and found not Helgi Then said Blindr the evil-wise

Hvöss eru augu

Keen are (the)-eyes

í Hagals þýju;

in Hagall's slave-girl

esa þat karls ætt

is-not that of-a-churl kin

es á kvernum stendr,

who at (the)-querns stands

steinar rifna,

(the)-stones split

stokkr lúðr fyrir.

bursts (the)-frame before

3 Nú hefr hörð dæmi

Now has hard doom

hildingr þegit,

(the)-prince received

es vísi skal

when (the)-prince shall

valbygg mala;

slaughter-barley grind

heldr es sœmri

rather is more-seemly

hendi þeiri

(for)-hand that

meðalkaffi

a-sword-bilt

an möndultré.

than a-quern-handle

Hagall svaraði ok kvað:

Hagall answered and said

4 Þat 's lítil vá,

That is little wonder

þótt lúðr þrumi,

though (the)-frame rumbles

es mæR konungs

when a-maid of-(the)-king

möndul hrocir.

(the)-quern-handle turns

Hagall adds that she rode the clouds and fought like a viking before Helgi took her captive, and that she is sister of Sigarr and Högni. Helgi escapes to a warship, kills King Hundigr, and is called Hundingsbani. He lies with his host in Brunavágar, raiding the shore and eating raw meat. Sigrún, Högni's daughter, a valkyrie and Sváfa reborn, rides to the ships and asks who they are and where they are bound; Helgi answers that Hamall's ships wait there for a fair wind to sail east.

Hón skævaði

She strode

skýjum ofri

(the)-clouds above

ok vega þorði

and fight dared

sem víkingar,

like vikings

áðr hana Helgi

before her Helgi

höptu gerði.

captive made

5

Systir 's þeira

Sister is their

Sigars ok Höгна,

of-Sigarr and of-Högni

6

því hefr ötul augu

therefore has fierce eyes

Ylfinga man.

(the)-Ylfings' maid

Undan komsk Helgi ok fór á herskip. Hann feldi Hunding

Away got Helgi and went on a-warship He felled Hundingr

konung, ok var síðan kallaðr Helgi hundingsbani. Hann

(the)-king and was afterward called Helgi hundingsbani He

lá með her sinn í Brunavágum ok hafði þar strandhögg,

lay with host his in Brunavágar and made there a-shore-raid

ok átu þar hrátt. Högni hét konungr; hans dóttir var

and ate there raw Högni was-called a-king his daughter was

Sigrún; hon var valkyrja ok reið lopt ok lög. Hon var

Sigrún she was a- Valkyrie and rode air and sea She was

Sváfa endrborin. Sigrún reið at skipum Helga ok kvað:

Sváfa reborn Sigrún rode to (the)-ships of-Helgi and said

7 Hverir láta fljóta

Who let float

fløy við bakka,

ships by (the)-bank

hvar hermégir

where warriors

heima eiguð,

at-home (ye)-have

hvers bíðið ér

what await ye

í Brunavágum,

in Brunavágar

hvert lystir yðr

whither desires you

leið at kanna?

(the)-way to explore

H. KV. Hamall lætr fljóta

Hamall lets float

fley við bakka,

ships by (the)-bank

eigum heima

(we)-have at-home

í Hléseyju,

in Hlésey

bíðum byrjar

(we)-await a-fair-wind

í Brunavágum,

in Brunavágar

austr lystir oss

east desires us

leið at kanna.

(the)-way to explore

Sigrún asks where the prince has waked battle, and why he eats raw meat in bloody mail. Helgi says that west of the sea he took bears in Bragalundr and sated the kin of eagles with spear-points, and that is why the meat was little roasted. Sigrún says he speaks of slaughter: King Hundingr fell before Helgi, when they avenged their kinsmen. Helgi asks how she knew it was they who avenged their kinsmen, since many warriors' sons are keen and hostile to his kin.

9 S. KV. Hvar hefr þú hilmir

Where hast thou prince

hildi vakða

battle waked

eða gögl alin

or geese fed

Gunnar systra?

Gunnr's sisters

hví 's brynja þín

why is mail-coat thy

blóði stokkin?

with-blood spattered

hví skal und hjalmum

why shall under helmets

kjöt hrátt eta?

meat raw (one)-eat

H. KV. Þat vann næst nýs

That did lately anew

10

niðr Ylfinga

(the)-kinsman of-(the)-Ylfings

fyr vestan ver,

to (the)-west of-(the)-sea

ef þik vita lystir,

if thee to-know desires

es ek björnu tók

when I bears took

í Bragalundi

in Bragalundr

ok ætt ara

and (the)-kin of-eagles

oddum saddak.

with-points sated-I

Nú 's sagt mærl

Now is told maid

11

hvaðan sakar gerðusk,

whence (the)-strife arose

hví vas á legi mér

why was at sea by-me

lítt steikt etit.

little roasted eaten

12 S. KV. Víg lýsir þú,

Slaughter proclaimest thou

varð fyr Helga

bad before Helgi

Hundíngur konungur

Hundíngur (the)-king

hníga at velli,

to-sink to (the)-field

bar sókn saman,

bore battle together

es seva hefnduð,

when kinsmen (ye)-avenged

ok busti blóð

and spurted blood

á brimis eggjar.

on (the)-sword's edges

13 H. KV. Hvat vissir þú,

How knewest thou

at þeir séim,

that those (we)-were

snót svinnhuguð,

lady wise-minded

es seva hefndum?

who kinsmen (we)-avenged

margir ro hvassir

many are keen

hildings synir

(the)-warrior's sons

ok ámunir

and hostile

ossum niðjum.

to-our kinsmen

14–15 • SIGRÚN KNOWS HELGI

Sigrún says she was not far off the morning before, at the prince's end, and that Sigmundur's son is sly to tell of battle in slaughter-runes; she has seen him on longships before, and though he hides himself, Högni's maid knows Helgi. Granmarr of Svarinshaugr has sons Höðbroddr, Guðmundr, and Starkaðr, and Höðbroddr has been betrothed to Sigrún. She rides with valkyries to seek Helgi, who has just killed Hundingr's sons at Logafjöll and sits battle-weary under Arasteinn, kisses him, and tells him her errand.

S. KV. Vaskak fjarri

Was-I-not far

folks oddviti

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

gær á morgun

yesterday in (the)-morning

grams aldrlokum,

(the)-prince's (at)-(the)-life-end

þó telk slægjan

yet count-I sly

Sigmundar bur,

Sigmundur's son

14

es í valrúnum

who in slaughter-runes

vígspjöll segir.

battle-tidings tells

15 Leitk þik of sinn

Saw-I thee — once

fyr á langskipum,

before on long-ships

þás þú byggðir

when thou dweltest-on

blóðga stafna

bloody prouws

ok úrsvalar

and ice-cold

unnir léku,

waves played

nú vill dyljask

now will hide-himself

döglingr fyr mér.

(the)-king from me

(en Högna mæR

but Högni's maid

Helga kennir).

Helgi recognizes

Granmarr hét ríkr konungr, er bjó at Svarinshaugi.

Granmarr was-called a-mighty king who dwelt at Svarinshaugr

Hann átti marga sonu; einn hét Höðbroddr, annarr

He had many sons one was-called Höðbroddr (the)-second

Guðmundr, þriði Starkaðr. Höðbroddr var í konungastefnu.

Guðmundr (the)-third Starkaðr Höðbroddr was in a-kings'-meeting

Hann fastnaði sér Sigrúnu Högnadóttur. En er hon

He betrothed to-himself Sigrún Högni's-daughter But when she

spyrR þat, þá reið hon með valkyrjur um lopt ok um

learns that then rode she with valkyries through (the)-air and over

lög at leita Helga. Helgi var þá at Logafjöllum ok

(the)-sea to seek Helgi Helgi was then at Logafjöll and

hafði barizk við Hundings sonu. Þar feldi hann þá Álf

had fought with Hundings's sons There felled he then Álf

ok Eyjólf, Hjörvarð ok Hervarð, ok var hann allvígmóðr

and Eyjólf Hrjörvarð and Hervarð and was he all-battle-weary

ok sat undir Arasteini. Þar hitti Sigrún hann ok rann

and sat under Arasteinn There met Sigrún him and ran

á háls hánum ok kysti hann ok sagði hánum erindi

to (the)-neck of-him and kissed him and told him errand

sitt, svá sem segir í Völsungakviðu enni fornu:

her so as (it)-says in (the)-Völsungakviða the old

Sigrún seeks the glad king, takes his hand, and kisses him under his helmet, and his mind turns to her. She says she loved Sigmundr's son before she ever saw him. She was betrothed to Höðbroddr before the host but wanted another prince, and she fears her kinsmen's wrath for breaking her father's wish. She does not hide her heart: she says she will have Helgi's favor. Helgi bids her not heed Högni's wrath or her kin's ill will: she shall live with him.

16 Sótti Sigrún

Sought Sigrún

sikling glaðan,

(the)-king glad

heim nam Helga

home took Helgi's

hönd at sækja,

(the)-hand to seek

kysti ok kvaddi

kissed and greeted

konung und hjalmi,

(the)-king under helmet

þá varð hilmi

then turned (the)-prince's

hugr á vífi.

mind to (the)-woman

Fyrr lézk unna

Before said-she (she)-loved

af öllum hug

with all heart

syni Sigmundar

(the)-son of-Sigmundr

an sét hafði.

than seen (she)-had

17

S. SV. Vask Höðbroddi

Was-I to-Höðbroddr

í her föstnuð,

in (the)-host betrothed

en jöfur annan

but a-prince other

eiga vildak;

have wished-I

þó séumk fylkir

yet fear-I king

frænda reiði,

(my)-kinsmen's wrath

hefk míns föður

have-I my father's

munráð brotit.

dear-wish broken

18

19 Nama Högna mæR

Began-not Högni's maid

of hug mæla;

from (her)-heart to-speak

hafa kvazk Helga

have said-she Helgi's

hylli skyldu.

favor should

20 H. KV. Hirð eigi þú

Heed not thou

Högna reiði

Högni's wrath

né illan hug

nor (the)-ill mind

ættar þinnar;

of-kin thy

þú skalt mæR ung

thou shalt maid young

at mér lifa;

with me live

ætt átt en góða,

kin hast-(thou) the good

es eigi séumk.

which not fear-I

Helgi gathers a great fleet for Frekasteinn and meets a storm at sea, until nine valkyries ride through the air, the men know Sigrún, and the storm abates. Guðmundr sees the fleet from a crag, as told before. Granmarr's sons gather many kings, Högni and his sons Bragi and Dagr among them. In a great battle all Granmarr's sons and their chieftains fall except Dagr, who is given truce and swears oaths to the Völsungar. Sigrún finds Höðbroddr dying and tells him he will not sink into her arms: the troll-wife's gray steeds feed on Granmarr's sons.

Helgi samnaði þá miklum skipaher ok fór til Frekasteins,
Helgi gathered then a-great ship-host and went to Frekasteinn
 ok fengu í hafi ofviðri mannhætt. Þá kómu leiptr yfir
and got at sea a-storm man-perilous Then came lightnings over
 þá, ok stóðu geislar í skipin. Þeir sá í loptinu, at
them and stood rays into the-ships They saw in the-air that
 valkyrjur níu riðu, ok kendu þeir Sigrúnu. Þá lægði
valkyries nine rode and recognized they Sigrún Then abated
 storminn, ok kómu þeir heilir til lands. Granmarssynir sátu
the-storm and came they whole to land Granmarr's-sons sat
 á bjargi nökkuru, er skipin sigldu at landi. Guðmundr
on a-crag certain when the-ships sailed to land Guðmundr
 hljóp á hest ok reið á njósn á bergit við höfnina.
leaped on a-horse and rode on a-scouting onto the-rock by the-harbor
 Þá hlóðu Völsungar seglum. Þá kvað Guðmundr, svá
Then lowered (the)-Völsungar (the)-sails Then said Guðmundr so
 sem fyrr er ritat í Helgakviðu: Hverr er fylkir, sá
as before is written in (the)-Helgakviða Who is king that
 er flota stýrir ok feiknalið færir at landi. Sinfjötli
who (the)-fleet steers and a-monstrous-host brings to land Sinfjötli

Sigmundarson svaraði ok er þat enn ritat. Guðmundr reið

Sigmundr's-son answered and is that also written Guðmundr rode

heim með hersögu. Þá sömnuðu Granmarssynir her. Kómu

home with war-tidings Then gathered Granmarr's-sons a-host Came

þar margir konungar. Þar var Högni faðir Sigrúnar, ok

there many kings There was Högni (the)-father of-Sigrún and

synir hans Bragi ok Dagr. Þar var orrosta mikil ok fellu

sons his Bragi and Dagr There was a-battle great and fell

allir Granmarssynir ok allir þeira höfðingjar, nema Dagr

all Granmarr's-sons and all their chieftains except Dagr

Högnason fekk grið ok vann eiða Völsungum. Sigrún gekk

Högni's-son got truce and swore oaths (to)-(the)-Völsungar Sigrún went

í valinn ok hitti Höðbrodd at kominn dauða; hon kvað:

into the-slain and met Höðbroddr at come death she said

21 Muna þér Sigrún

Will-not (for)-thee Sigrún

frá Sevafjöllum,

from Sevafjöll

Höðbroddr konungr,

Höðbroddr (the)-king

hníga at armi

sink into (thy)-arm

liðin es ævi,

gone is (thy)-life

opt náir hrævi

often gets corpses

gránstóð gríðar,

(the)-gray-stud of-(the)-troll-wife

Granmars sona.

Granmarr's sons

22-25 • SIGRÚN'S GRIEF

Sigrún finds Helgi and is glad. He tells her that not all is granted her: that morning at Frekasteinn Bragi and Högni fell by his hand, Starkaðr at Styrkleifar and Hrollaugr's sons at Hlébjörg, and most of her kinsmen lie dead, since she was fated to be the cause of strife among mighty men. Sigrún weeps, and Helgi comforts her: she has been a Hildir to them, and kings cannot overcome fate. She would choose the dead alive, and yet would hide in his embrace.

Þá hitti hon Helga ok varð allfegin; hann kvað:

Then met she Helgi and became very-glad He said

Esat þér at öllu

Is-not (to)-thee in all

alvitr gefit,

all-wise-one given

þó kveðk nökkvi

yet say-I somewhat

nornir valda;

(the)-norms caused

22

fellu í morgun

fell in (the)-morning

at Frekasteini

at Frekasteinn

Bragi ok Högni,

Bragi and Högni

varðk bani þeira.

became-I (the)-slayer their

23 En at Styrkleifum

And at Styrkleifar

Starkaðr konungr,

Starkaðr (the)-king

en at Hlébjörgum

and at Hlébjörg

Hrollaugs synir;

Hrollaugr's sons

þann sák gylfa

that saw-I prince

grimmúðgastan,

most-grim-minded

es barðisk bolr,

who fought (the)-trunk

vas á brott höfuð.

was off away (the)-head

Liggja at jörðu

Lie on (the)-earth

allra flestir

of-all most

niðjar þínir,

kinsmen thy

at náum orðnir,

to corpses become

vantat vígi,

wonnest-(thou)-not (the)-battle

vas þér þat skapat,

was (for)-thee that shaped

at þú at rógi

that thou for strife

ríkmenni vast.

(to)-mighty-men wast

Þá grét Sigrún; hann kvað

Then wept Sigrún he said

Huggask Sigrún,

Comfort-thyself Sigrún

Hildir hefr oss verit;

Hildir hast-(thou) to-us been

vinnat skjöldungar sköpum.

overcome-not kings fates

S. KV. Lífna myndak kjósa

Alive would-I choose

es liðnir ro,

who dead are

knættak þér þó í faðmi felask.

could-I thy yet in (the)-embrace hide

26–29 • SINFJÖTLI AND GUÐMUNDR

Guðmundr Granmarsson asks who the king is who steers the ships under a golden banner. Sinfjötli answers that Höðbroddr may know Helgi here, unwilling to flee, who has thrust the Fjörsungar's inheritance under himself. Guðmundr says they must meet at Frekasteinn to settle their quarrels, since it is time for Höðbroddr to take vengeance. Sinfjötli says Guðmundr will sooner herd goats and climb cliffs with a hazel club, which suits him better than the sword's judgments.

Þetta kvað Guðmundr Granmarsson:

This said Guðmundr Granmarr's-son

26 Hverr es skjöldungr,

Who is (the)-king

sás skipum stýrir,

who (the)-ships steers

lætr gunnfana

lets (the)-battle-banner

gollinn fyr stafni;

golden before (the)-prow

þykkjat mér frið

seems-not to-me peace

í fararbroddi,

in (the)-van

verpr vígroða

casts (the)-battle-glow

of víkinga.

about (the)-vikings

SFJ. KV. Hér má Höðbroddr

Here may Höðbroddr

Helga kenna

Helgi recognize

flótta traudan

(from)-flight unwilling

í flota miðjum;

in (the)-fleet's middle

hann hefr óðli

he has (the)-ancestral-land

ættar þinnar,

of-kin thy

arf Fjörsunga,

(the)-inheritance of-(the)-Fjörsungar

und sik þrungit.

under himself thrust

28 G. KV. Því fyrr skulum

Therefore sooner shall-(we)

at Frekasteini,

at Frekasteinn

ósáttir saman

unreconciled together

of sakar dœma;

— *(our)-quarrels judge*

mál 's Höðbroddi

time is (for)-Höðbroddr

hefnd at vinna,

vengeance to work

ef lægra hlut

if (the)-lower lot

lengi bárum.

long (we)-bore

29 SFJ. KV. Fyrr munt Goðmundr

Sooner wilt-thou Goðmundr

geitr of halda

goats — keep

ok bergskorar

and mountain-clefts

brattar klífa,

steep climb

hafa þér í hendi

have (for)-thee in hand

heslikylfu,

a-bazel-club

þat 's þér blíðara

that is (for)-thee pleasanter

an brimis dómar.

than (the)-sword's judgments

30–33 • HELGI'S DEATH

Helgi tells Sinfjötli it is more seemly to fight than to trade useless words, and that Granmarr's sons have shown their courage. Helgi marries Sigrún and they have sons, but he does not live to be old: Dagr Högnason sacrifices to Óðinn for his father's vengeance, borrows Óðinn's spear, and runs Helgi through at Fjöturlundr. Dagr rides to Sevaðfjöll and tells his sister that the best king in the world has fallen. Sigrún says that all the oaths he swore to Helgi by Leiptr's water and the ice-cold stone shall bite him.

HELGI KV. Þér 's Sinfjötli

30

(For)-thee is Sinfjötli

sæmra miklu

more-seemly much

gunni at heyja

battle to wage

ok glaða örnu,

and gladden eagles

an sé ónýtum

than is with-useless

orðum at deila,

words to wrangle

þótt hildingar

though warriors

heiptir deili.

batreds (may)-share

31 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 merkt hafa

they shown have

á Móinsheimum,

at Móinsheimar

at hug hafa

that courage (they)-have

hjörum at bregða.

swords to draw

(eru hildingar

are (the)-warriors

hølti snjallir).

exceedingly bold

Helgi fekk Sigrúnar ok áttu þau sonu. Var Helgi eigi

Helgi got Sigrún and had they sons Was Helgi not

gamall. Dagr Högnason blótaði Óðin til föðurhefnda.

old Dagr Högni's-son sacrificed-to Óðinn for father-vengeance

Óðinn léði Dag geirs síns. Dagr fann Helga mág

Óðinn lent Dagr spear his Dagr found Helgi kinsman-by-marriage

sinn, þar sem heitir at Fjöturlundi. Hann lagði í

his there where (it)-is-called at Fjöturlundr He thrust in

gögnum Helga með geirnum. Þar fell Helgi, en Dagr
through Helgi with the-spear There fell Helgi and Dagr
 reið til Sevaðjalla ok sagði Sigrúnu tíðendi:
rode to Sevaðjöll and told Sigrún (the)-tidings

Trauðr emk systir

Loath am-I sister

trega þér at segja,

sorrow to-thee to tell

ek hef nauðigr

I have unwilling

nípti grœtta,

(my)-kinswoman made-weep

fell í morgun

fell in (the)-morning

und Fjöturlundi

under Fjöturlundr

buðlungr sás vas

(the)-king who was

baztr í heimi.

best in (the)-world

(ok hildingum

and (on)-warriors

á halsi stóð).

on (the)-neck stood

33 s. kv. Þik skyli allir

Thee shall all

eiðar bíta,

oaths bite

þeir es Helga

those which (to)-Helgi

hafðir unna

(thou)-hadst sworn

at enu ljósa

by the bright

Leiptrar vatni

of-Leiptr water

ok at úrsvölum

and by (the)-ice-cold

unnar steini.

of-(the)-wave stone

34–38 · Sigrún's CURSE

Sigrún curses Dagr: may no ship he sails glide, no horse he rides run though he flees his foes, and no sword he draws bite except about his own head. Helgi would be avenged if Dagr were a wolf in the woods, bereft of wealth and joy, finding food only on corpses. Dagr answers that she is mad to curse her brother, since Óðinn alone caused the bale by bearing strife-runes among kinsmen. He offers her red rings, Vandilsvé and Vígdalir, and half the realm in payment for her harm.

34 Skríðiat þat skip,

Glide-not that ship

es skríði und þér,

which glides under thee

þótt óskabyrr

though a-wished-for-wind

eptir leggisk,

after lie

rinniat sá marr,

run-not that steed

es rinni und þér,

which runs under thee

þótt fiandr þína

though foes thy

forðask eigir.

flee (thou)-must

Bitia þér þat sverð,

Bite-not (for)-thee that sword

es bregðir þú,

which drawest thou

nema sjalfum þér

except thyself thee

syngvi of höfði.

sing about (the)-head

35

Þá væri þér hefnt

Then were (for)-thee avenged

Helga dauða,

Helgi's death

36

ef værir vargr

if (thou)-wert a-wolf

á viðum úti

in (the)-woods outside

auðs andvani

of-wealth bereft

ok alls gamans,

and of-all joy

hefðira mat,

hadst-(thou)-not food

nema á hræum spryngir.

unless on corpses (thou)-burst

37 D. KV. Ær est systir

Mad art-thou sister

ok ørvita,

and out-of-(thy)-wits

es bræðr þínum

when (on)-brother thy

biðr forskapa;

(thou)-prayest curses

einn veldr Óðinn

alone causes Óðinn

öllu bölvi,

all (the)-bale

því með sifjungum

because among kinsmen

sakrúnar bar.

strife-runes (he)-bore

Þér býðr bróðir

To-thee offers (thy)-brother

bauga rauða,

rings red

öll Vandilsvé

all Vandilsvé

ok Vígðala;

and Vígðalir

haf halfan heim

have half (the)-world

harms at gjöldum,

of-harm as payment

brúðr baugvarið,

bride ring-adorned

ok burir þínir.

and sons thy

Sigrún says she will never sit happy at Sevaðföll, early or late, unless light flashes over the prince's host and Víðblær runs there under him. Helgi made his foes afraid as goats run in terror from a wolf. He towered over warriors like a noble ash over the thorn, or a dew-drenched deer calf that goes above all beasts with its horns glowing against the sky.

39 S. KV. **Sitka svá sæl**

Sit-I-not so happy

at Sevaðföllum

at Sevaðföll

ár né of nætr

early nor by night

at unak lífi,

that enjoy-I life

nema at liði loðungs

unless at (the)-host of-(the)-prince

ljóma bregði,

a-radiance flash

rinni und vísa

run under (the)-leader

Víðblær þiníg.

Víðblær thither

(gollbitli vanr,

gold-bit used-to

knegak grami fagna.)

can-I (the)-prince welcome

Svá hafði Helgi

So had Helgi

hrædda görva

afraid made

fíandr sína alla

foes his all

ok frændr þeira,

and kinsmen their

sem fyr ulfi

as before a-wolf

óðar rynni

madly run

geitr af fjalli

goats from (the)-mountain

geiskafullar.

filled-with-terror

40

Svá bar Helgi

So towered Helgi

af hildingum

above warriors

sem ítrskapaðr

as (the)-nobly-shaped

askr af þyrni

ash above (the)-thorn

eða sá dýrkalfr,

or that deer-calf

döggu slunginn,

with-dew drenched

41

es efri ferr

which higher goes

öllum dýrum.

(than)-all beasts

(ok horn glóa

and (the)-horns glow

við himin sjalfan).

against heaven itself

42-44 · THE DEAD RIDE HOME

A mound is made for Helgi. In Valhöll Óðinn offers him rule over all with himself, and Helgi bids Hundingr fetch foot-baths for every man, kindle fire, bind bounds, tend horses, and feed swine before he sleeps. Sigrún's bondwoman passes the mound at evening and sees Helgi ride to it with many men. She asks whether it is a delusion or the doom of the gods that dead men ride; Helgi answers that it is neither, but that the warriors have been given leave to go home.

Haugr var görr eptir Helga; en er hann kom til Valhallar,

A-mound was made for Helgi but when he came to Valhöll

þá bauð Óðinn hánúm öllu at ráða með sér. Helgi kvað:

then offered Óðinn him all to rule with himself Helgi said

Þú skalt Hundingr

Thou shalt Hundingr

hverjum manni

(for)-every man

fótlaug geta

a-foot-bath get

ok funa kynda,

and fire kindle

hunda binda,

bounds bind

hesta gæta,

horses tend

gefa svínum soð,

give (to)-(the)-swine swill

áðr sofa gangir.

before to-sleep (thou)-go

Ambátt Sigrúnar gekk um aptan hjá haugi Helga

A-bondwoman of-Sigrún went in (the)-evening by (the)-mound of-Helgi

ok sá, at Helgi reið til haugsins með marga menn.

and saw that Helgi rode to the-mound with many men

Ambátt kvað:

(The)-bondwoman said

Eru þat svik ein,

Are that delusions only

es séa þykkjumk,

which see seem-I

eða ragnarök?

or (the)-doom-of-the-gods

ríða menn dauðir,

ride men dead

es jóa yðra

when horses your

oddum keyrið,

with-spurs (ye)-drive

eða es hildingum

or is (to)-warriors

heimför gefin?

home-going given

44 H. KV. Esa þat svik ein,

Is-not that delusions only

es séa þykkisk,

which see (thou)-seemest

né aldar rof,

nor (the)-world's end

þótt oss lítir,

though us (thou)-seest

þótt jóa óra

though horses our

oddum keyrim,

with-spurs (we)-drive

nema es hildingum

but is (to)-warriors

heimför gefin.

home-going given

The bondwoman tells Sigrún to go out if she would find Helgi: the mound is open, Helgi has come, his wounds bleed, and he bids her stanch them. Sigrún goes into the mound and says she is as glad of their meeting as Óðinn's hawks when they know of warm flesh or see the dawn. She would kiss the lifeless king before he casts off his bloody mail; his hair is thick with rime, and he is drenched with the dew of the slain.

Heim gekk ambátt ok segir Sigrúnu:

Home went (the)-bondwoman and tells Sigrún

Út gakk Sigrún

Out go Sigrún

frá Sevaðföllum,

from Sevaðföll

ef þik folks jaðar

if thee of-(the)-host (the)-edge

finna lystir;

to-find desires

(upp 's haugr lokinn,

up is (the)-mound opened

kominn es Helgi)

come is Helgi

dolgspar dreyra,

(the)-battle-tracks bleed

döglingr bað þik,

(the)-king bade thee

45

at sárdropa

that (the)-wound-drops

svefja skyldir.

soothe (thou)-shouldst

Sigrún gekk í hauginn til Helga ok kvað:

Sigrún went into the-mound to Helgi and said

46 Nú emk svá fegin

Now am-I as glad

fundi okrum

(at)-meeting our

sem átfrekir

as food-greedy

Óðins haukar,

Óðinn's hawks

es vals vitu

when of-slaughter (they)-know

varmar bráðir

warm flesh

eða dögglitir

or dew-glistening

dagsbrún séa.

(the)-dawn see

Fyrr vilk kyssa

Before will-I kiss

konung ólífðan

(the)-king lifeless

an blóðugri

than bloody

brynju kastir,

mail-coat (thou)-cast-off

hár 's þitt Helgi

(the)-hair is thy Helgi

hélu þrungit,

with-rime thick

allr es vísi

all is (the)-prince

valdögg slegin.

with-slaughter-dew struck

48-52 • SIGRÚN'S TEARS

Sigrún asks how she can make amends for his ice-cold hands. Helgi says she alone causes him to be drenched with corpse-dew: every tear she weeps before she sleeps falls bloody on his breast. They shall drink precious drafts though they have lost joy and lands, and no one shall sing laments though he sees wounds on Helgi's breast, now that a prince's lady is shut in the mound with the dead. Sigrún makes a bed in the mound.

Hendr úrsvalar

Hands ice-cold

Högna mági,

Högni's (of)-(the)-kinsman-by-marriage

hvé skalk þér buðlungr

how shall-I (for)-thee king

þess bót of vinna.

for-that amends — make

49 H. KV. Ein veldr þú Sigrún

Alone causest thou Sigrún

frá Sevaðföllum,

from Sevaðföll

es Helgi es

that Helgi is

hræðögg sleginn.

with-corpse-dew struck

50 Grætr gollvarið

(thou)-weepst gold-adorned

grimmum tárur

with-grim tears

sólbjört, suðræn,

sun-bright southern-one

áðr sofa gangir,

before to-sleep (thou)-go

hvert fellr blóðugt

each falls bloody

á brjóst grami,

on (the)-breast of-(the)-prince

úrsvalt, innfjalgt,

ice-cold deep-piercing

ekka þrungit.

with-grief heavy

Vel skulum drekka

Well shall-(we) drink

dýrar veigar,

precious drafts

þótt mist hafim

though lost (we)-have

munar ok landa;

joy and lands

skal engi maðr

shall no man

angr ljóð kveða,

grief-songs sing

þótt mér á brjósti

though on-me on (the)-breast

benjar líti.

wounds (be)-sees

Nú eru brúðir

Now are brides

byrgðar í haugi,

shut in (the)-mound

51

52

lofða dísir

men's ladies

hjá liðnum oss.

by dead us

Sigrún bjó sæting í hauginum.

Sigrún made a-bed in the-mound

53-55 • THE NIGHT IN THE MOUND

Sigrún has made Helgi a bed free of grief and would sleep in his arms as she would with the living prince. Helgi says nothing is past belief at Sevafjöll now that Högni's white daughter sleeps in a dead man's arms in the mound, and she alive. It is time for him to ride the reddened roads west of the bridge of the sky before Salgófnir wakes the victory-folk.

53 Hér hefk þér Helgi

Here have-I (for)-thee Helgi

hvílu görva

a-bed made

angrlausá mjök,

griefless much

Ylfinga niðr;

Ylfings' kinsman

vilk þér í faðmi

wish-I (for)-thee in (the)-embrace

fylkir sofna

king to-sleep

sem lofðungi

as with-(the)-prince

lifnum myndak.

living would-I

H. KV. Nú kveðk einskis

54

Now say-I nothing

ørvænt vesa

unexpected to-be

síð né snimma

late nor early

at Sevaðjöllum,

at Sevaðjöll

es þú á armi

when thou in (the)-arm

ólifðum sefr,

lifeless (thou)-sleepst

hvít í haugi

white in (the)-mound

Högná dóttir.

Högni's daughter

(ok est kvik

and art alive

en konungborna).

the king-born

Mál 's mér at ríða

55

Time is (for)-me to ride

roðnar brautir,

reddened roads

láta fölván jó

let (the)-pale steed

flugstíg troða,

(the)-flight-path tread

skalk fyr vestan

shall-I to (the)-west

vindhjalms brúar,

(the)-wind-helmet's bridge

áðr Salgófnir

before Salgófnir

sigbjóð vekir.

(the)-victory-folk wake

56-57 · SIGRÚN WAITS IN VAIN

Helgi and his men ride away, and the women go home. The next evening Sigrún sets her bondwoman to watch at the mound, and at sunset says that Sigmundr's son would have come by now if he meant to come from Óðinn's halls: her hopes wane when eagles sit on the ash boughs and all folk go to sleep. The bondwoman warns her not to go alone to the houses of the dead, for dead foes grow stronger by night than by day.

Þeir Helgi riðu leið sína, en þær fóru heim til bæjar.

They Helgi rode way their and they went home to (the)-farm

Annan aptan lét Sigrún ambátt halda vörð á hauginum;

(The)-next evening let Sigrún (the)-bondwoman hold watch at the-mound

en at dagsetri, er Sigrún kom til haugsins, hon kvað:

but at sunset when Sigrún came to the-mound she said

56 Kominn væri nú,

Come would-be now

ef koma hygði,

if come (he)-intended

Sigmundar burr

Sigmundr's son

frá sölum Óðins,

from (the)-halls of-Óðinn

kveðk grams þinig

say-I of-(the)-prince thitber

grænask vánir,

wane (the)-hopes

es á asklimum

when on ash-boughs

ernir sitja.

eagles sit

(ok drífr drótt öll

and drifts (the)-host all

draumþinga til).

dream-meetings to

A. KV. Verðat svá ær,

Be-not so mad

at ein farir,

that alone (thou)-go

dís skjöldunga,

lady of-kings

draughúsa til,

draug-houses to

verða öflugari

become stronger

allir á nóttum

all at nights

dauðir dolgar

dead foes

an of daga ljósa.

than by days bright

HELGI AND SIGRÚN REBORN

Sigrún dies young of grief and sorrow. It was believed in olden times that people were reborn, though that is now called an old wives' tale. Helgi and Sigrún are said to have been reborn: he as Helgi Haddingjaskati, and she as Kára Hálfðanardóttir, as the Kárukjóð tell, and she was a valkyrie.

Sigrún varð skammlíf af harmi ok trega. Þat var trúá

Sigrún became short-lived from grief and sorrow That was a-belief

í forneskju, at menn væri endrbornir, en þat er nú

in olden-times that men were reborn but that is now

kölluð kerlingavilla. Helgi ok Sigrún er kallat at væri

called old-wives'-error Helgi and Sigrún is said that (they)-were

endrborin; hét hann þá Helgi Haddingjaskati, en hon

reborn was-called he then Helgi Haddingjaskati and she

Kára Hálfðanardóttir, svá sem kveðit er í Kárukjóðum, ok

Kára Hálfðan's-daughter so as told is in (the)-Kárukjóð and

var hon valkyrja.

was she a-valkyrie

Frá dauða Sinfjötla

The Death of Sinfjotli



THE DEATH OF SINFJÖTLI

Sigmundr Völsungsson, king in Frankland, has three sons, Sinfjötli, Helgi, and Hámundr. Sinfjötli and the brother of Borghildr, Sigmundr's wife, woo the same woman, and Sinfjötli kills him. Sigmundr pays Borghildr atonement, but at the funeral feast she brings Sinfjötli poisoned drink. Twice he sees the drink is cloudy and Sigmundr drinks it, since poison cannot harm him; the third time Sigmundr tells his son to strain it through his mustache, and Sinfjötli drinks and dies. Sigmundr carries him to a fjord, where a man in a little boat takes the body and vanishes. Sigmundr weds Hjördis; he falls to Hundings's sons, she weds Álf, son of Hjálprekr, and there their son Sigurðr, foremost of all men, grows up.

Sigmundr Völsungsson var konungur á Frakklandi. Sinfjötli
 Sigmundr Völsungr's-son was king in Frankland Sinfjötli
 var elztr hans sona, annarr Helgi, þriði Hámundr.
 was eldest (of)-his sons (the)-second Helgi (the)-third Hámundr
 Borghildr kona Sigmundar átti bróður, er hét *** En
 Borghildr (the)-wife of-Sigmundr had a-brother who was-called (lacuna) And
 Sinfjötli, stjúpson hennar, ok *** báðu einnar konu báðir,
 Sinfjötli stepson her and (lacuna) wooed one woman both
 ok fyrir þá sök drap Sinfjötli hann. En er hann kom
 and for that reason killed Sinfjötli him And when he came
 heim, þá bað Borghildr hann fara á brott, en Sigmundr
 home then bade Borghildr him go off away but Sigmundr
 bauð henni fébætr, ok þat varð hon at þiggja. En at
 offered her money-atonement and that had she to accept And at
 erfinu bar Borghildr öl. Hon tók eitr mikit, horn fult,
 the-funeral-feast bore Borghildr ale She took poison a-great horn full
 ok bar Sinfjötla. En er hann sá í hornit, skilði
 and bore-(it) (to)-Sinfjötli And when he looked into the-horn perceived
 hann, at eitr var í, ok mælti til Sigmundar: »gjörótt er
 he that poison was in-(it) and spoke to Sigmundr cloudy is

drykkkrinn ái«. Sigmundr tók hornit ok drakk af. Svá er
the-drink old-man Sigmundr took the-horn and drank off So is
 sagt at Sigmundr var harðgörr, at hvárki mátti hánun
said that Sigmundr was hardy so-that neither could him
 eittr granda útan né innan, en allir synir hans stóðusk
poison harm outside nor inside but all sons his withstood
 eittr á hörund útan. Borghildr bar annat horn Sinfjötla ok
poison on (the)-skin outside Borghildr bore a-second horn (to)-Sinfjötli and
 bað drekka, ok fór alt sem fyrr. Ok enn et þriðja sinn
bade-(him) drink and went all as before And still the third time
 bar hon hánun hornit ok þó ámælisorð með, ef hann
bore she him the-horn and yet reproach-words with-(it) if he
 drykki eigi af. Hann mælti enn sem fyrr við Sigmund.
drank not off He spoke still as before to Sigmundr
 Hann sagði: »látu grön sía þá, sonr«. Sinfjötli drakk
He said let-thou (the)-mustache strain it son Sinfjötli drank
 ok varð þegar dauðr. Sigmundr bar hann langar leiðir í
and became at-once dead Sigmundr bore him long ways in
 fangi sér ok kom at firði einum mjóvum ok löngum,
(the)-embrace his and came to fjord a-certain narrow and long
 ok var þar skip eitt lítit ok maðr einn á. Hann bauð
and was there a-ship one little and a-man one on-(it) He offered
 Sigmundi far of fjörðinn. En er Sigmundr bar líkit
Sigmundr passage over the-fjord But when Sigmundr bore the-corpse
 út á skipit, þá var bátinn hlaðinn. Karlinn mælti, at
out onto the-ship then was the-boat laden The-old-man said that
 Sigmundr skyldi fara fyrir innan fjörðinn. Karl hratt
Sigmundr should go round inside the-fjord (The)-old-man pushed
 út skipinu ok hvarf þegar. Sigmundr konungr dvalðisk lengi
out the-ship and vanished at-once Sigmundr (the)-king stayed long

í Danmörk í ríki Borghildar, síðan er hann fekk
in Denmark in (the)-realm of-Borghildr after that he married
 hennar. Fór Sigmundr þá suður í Frakkland til þess ríkis,
her Went Sigmundr then south into Frankland to that realm
 er hann átti þar. Þá fekk hann Hjördísar, dóttur Eylima
which he had there Then married he Hjördís daughter of-Eylimi
 konungs. Þeira son var Sigurðr. Sigmundr konungur fell í
(the)-king Their son was Sigurðr Sigmundr (the)-king fell in
 orrostu fyrir Hundingssonum, en Hjördís giptisk þá Álf,
battle against Hundingr's-sons and Hjördís married then Álf
 syni Hjalpreks konungs. Óx Sigurðr þar upp í barnæsku.
(the)-son of-Hjalprekr (the)-king Grew Sigurðr there up in childhood
 Sigmundr ok allir synir hans váru langt um fram alla
Sigmundr and all sons his were far over beyond all
 menn aðra um afl ok vöxt ok hug ok alla atgørvi.
men other in strength and stature and courage and all accomplishment
 Sigurðr var þó allra framast, ok hann kalla allir menn í
Sigurðr was yet of-all foremost and him call all men in
 fornfræðum um alla menn fram ok göfgastan herkonunga.
ancient-lore over all men beyond and noblest of-war-kings

Gríppá

The Prophecy of Grípir

SIGURÐR RIDES TO GRÍPIR

Grípir, son of Eylimi and brother of Hjördis, rules lands and is the wisest of men and foresighted. Sigurðr rides alone to Grípir's hall and meets a man outside it, who names himself Geitir, and asks him a question.

Grípir hét sonr Eylima, bróðir Hjörðisar; hann réð
Grípir was-called (the)-son of-Eylimi (the)-brother of-Hjördis he ruled
löndum ok var allra manna vitrastr ok framviss. Sigurðr
lands and was of-all men wisest and foreseeing Sigurðr
reið einn saman ok kom til hallar Grípis. Sigurðr var
rode alone by-himself and came to (the)-hall of-Grípir Sigurðr was
auðkendr; hitti mann at máli úti fyrir höllinni, sá
easily-recognized (He)-met a-man in speech outside before the-hall he
nefndisk Geitir. Þá kvaddi Sigurðr hann máls ok spyrr:
named-himself Geitir Then addressed Sigurðr him (with)-speech and asks

1-5 • GEITIR AT THE DOOR

Sigurðr asks who lives in these strongholds, and Geitir answers that it is Grípir, ruler of men. Sigurðr asks whether the wise king will come to speak with a stranger. Geitir says the king will ask who he is, and he names himself Sigurðr, son of Sigmundr and Hjördis. Geitir tells Grípir that a splendid stranger waits outside. Grípir comes out, welcomes the prince, and bids Geitir take charge of Grani.

Hverr byggir hér

Who dwells here

borgir þessar?

strongholds these

1

hvat þjóðkonung

what (the)-great-king

þegnar nefna?

(the)-thanes name

G. KV. Grípir heitir

Grípir (be)-is-called

gumna stjóri

of-men (the)-ruler

sás fastri ræðr

who (the)-firm rules

foldu ok þegnum.

land and thanes

2 S. KV. Es horskr konungr

Is (the)-wise king

heima í landi,

at-home in (the)-land

mun sá gramr við mik

will that prince with me

ganga at mæla?

come to speak

máls es þarfi

(of)-speech is in-need

maðr ókunnigr,

a-man unknown

vilk fljótliga

wish-I swiftly

finna Grípi.

(to)-find Grípir

G. KV. Þess mun glaðr konungr

Of-that will (the)-glad king

3

Geiti spyrja,

Geitir ask

hverr sá maðr sé

who that man is

es máls kveðr Grípi.

who (to)-speech calls Grípir

S. KV. Sigurðr ek heiti

Sigurðr I am-called

borinn Sigmundi,

born to-Sigmundr

en Hjördís es

and Hjördís is

hilmis móðir.

(the)-prince's mother

Þá gekk Geitir

Then went Geitir

Grípi at segja:

(to)-Grípir to tell

Hér 's maðr úti

Here is a-man outside

ókuðr kominn;

unknown come

hann 's ítarligr

he is splendid

at álitu,

in appearance

4

sá vill, fylkir,

he wishes king

fund þinn hafa.

meeting thy (to)-have

5 Gengr ór skála

Goes out-of (the)-hall

skatna dróttinn

of-men (the)-lord

ok heilsar vel

and greets well

hilmi komnum:

(the)-prince come

»þigg hér Sigurðr,

take here Sigurðr

væri sœmra fyrr,

(it)-were more-seemly before

en Geitir tak

and Geitir take

við Grana sjalfum.«

charge-of Grani himself

They talk long. Sigurðr asks his mother's brother how his life will turn. Grípir says he will be the greatest man under the sun, highest born, generous with gold, noble to look on, and wise in words. Sigurðr asks what will happen first when he leaves; Grípir says he will avenge his father and Eylimi and fell Hundingr's bold sons. Sigurðr asks what further deeds he sees.

Mæla námu

To-speak (they)-began

ok mart hjala

and much talk

þás ráðspakir

when counsel-wise

rekkar fundusk.

men met

Seg mér, ef veizt,

Say to-me if (thou)-knowest

móðurbróðir,

mother's-brother

hvé mun Sigurði

how will (for)-Sigurðr

snúna ævi.

turn life

7 GR. KV. Þú munt maðr vesa

Thou wilt a-man be

mæztr und sólu

greatest under (the)-sun

ok hæstr borinn

and highest born

hverjum jöfri,

(of)-every prince

gjöfull af golli,

generous with gold

en glöggr flugar,

but sparing of-flight

ítr áliti

noble in-appearance

ok í orðum spakr.

and in words wise

8 Seg gegn konungr

Say good king

görr an spyrjak

more than ask-I

snotr Sigurði,

wise (to)-Sigurðr

ef sjá þykkisk,

if see (thou)-thinkest

hvat mun fyrst gerask

what will first happen

til farnaðar,

toward fortune

þás ór garði emk

when out-of (the)-court am-I

genginn þínum?

gone thy

GR. KV. Fyrst munt fylkir

First wilt-thou king

föður of hefna,

(thy)-father — avenge

ok Eylima

and (for)-Eylimi

alls harms reka,

all harm requite

þú munt harða

thou wilt (the)-hard

Hundings sonu

Hundingr's sons

snjalla fella,

bold fell

munt sigr hafa.

wilt-(thou) victory have

Seg ítr konungr,

Say noble king

ættingi, mér

kinsman (to)-me

heldr horskliga,

rather wisely

es vit hugat mælum;

since we-two thoughtfully speak

sér þú Sigurðar

seest thou Sigurð's

snör brögð fyrir,

swift deeds before-(thee)

þaus hæst fara

which highest go

und himinskautum?

under heaven's-corners

11-15 • FÁFNIR AND THE SLEEPING MAID

Grípir says Sigurðr will slay alone the gleaming serpent on Gnitabeiðr and be the death of Reginn and Fáfnir. He will find Fáfnir's lair, load the gold on Grani, and ride to Gjúki. When Sigurðr asks for more, Grípir tells of a king's daughter asleep in mail on a mountain after Helgi's death, whose mail Sigurðr will cut with his sword.

11 GR. KV. Munt einn vega

Wilt-(thou) alone slay

orm enn frána,

(the)-serpent the gleaming

þanns gráðugr liggr

which greedy lies

á Gnitabeiði,

on Gnitabeiðr

þú munt báðum

thou wilt both

at bana verða

to death become

Regin ok Fáfnir;

Reginn and Fáfnir

rétt segir Grípir.

rightly says Grípir

Auðr mun ærinn,

Wealth will (be)-ample

ef efflik svá

if achieve-I so

víg með virðum,

slaying among men

sem víst segir;

as surely (thou)-sayest

leið athuga

(the)-way consider

ok lengra seg,

and further say

hvat mun enn vesa

what will yet be

ævi minnar?

of-life my

13 GR. KV. Þú munt finna

Thou wilt find

Fáfnis bæli

Fáfnir's lair

ok upp taka

and up take

auð enn fagra,

(the)-wealth the fair

golli hlœða

with-gold load

á Grana bógu;

on Grani's shoulders

ríðr þú til Gjúka

ridest thou to Gjúki

gramr vígrísinn.

a-prince battle-strong

14 Enn skalt hilmi

Still shalt-(thou) (to)-(the)-prince

í hugazrœðu,

in thoughtful-speech

framlyndr jöfurr,

far-minded prince

fleira segja;

more say

gestr emk Gjúka

guest am-I of-Gjúki

ok ek geng þaðan,

and I go thence

hvat mun enn vesa

what will yet be

ævi minnar?

of-life my

GR. KV. Sefr á fjalli

Sleeps on a-mountain

fylkis dóttir

a-king's daughter

björt í brynju

bright in mail-coat

ept bana Helga;

after (the)-death of-Helgi

þú munt höggva

thou wilt hew

hvössu sverði,

with-keen sword

brynju rísta

(the)-mail-coat cut

með bana Fáfnis.

with (the)-slayer of-Fáfnir

Sigurðr asks what the woman will say when she wakes. Grípir says she will teach him runes of every kind, to speak in every tongue, and healing. Sigurðr asks what comes next; Grípir says he will visit Heimir's dwellings as a guest, and that is all he knew beforehand: Sigurðr should ask no further. Sigurðr says this brings him grief, since Grípir sees further and dares not tell him the sorrow ahead.

16 Brotin es brynja,

Broken is (the)-mail-coat

brúðr mæla tekr,

(the)-bride to-speak begins

es vaknaði

when awoke

víf ór svefni,

(the)-woman out-of sleep

hvat mun snót at heldr

what will (the)-lady the rather

við Sigurð mæla

with Sigurðr speak

þats at farnaði

that-which to fortune

fylki verði?

(for)-(the)-king becomes

17 GR. KV. Hón mun ríkjum þér

She will (to)-mighty thee

rúnar kenna,

runes teach

allar þærs aldir

all those-which men

eignask vildu,

to-possess wisbed

ok á manns tungu

and in a-man's tongue

mæla hverja,

to-speak each

líf með lækning,

life with healing

líf heill konungr.

live hale king

Nú 's því lokit,

Now is that ended

numin eru frœði

learned are (the)-lore

ok em braut þaðan

and am away thence

búinn at ríða,

ready to ride

leið athuga

(the)-way consider

ok lengra seg,

and further say

hvat mun meir vesa

what will more be

minnar ævi?

of-my life

19 GR. KV. Þú munt hitta

Thou wilt visit

Heimis byggðir

Heimir's dwellings

ok glaðr vesa

and glad be

gestr þjóðkonungs;

(the)-guest of-(the)-great-king

farit es Sigurðr

gone is Sigurðr

þats fyrir vissak,

what beforehand knew-I

skala fremr an svá

shalt-(thou)-not further than so

fregna Grípi.

ask Grípir

20 Nú fær mér ekka

Now brings me grief

orð þaz mæltir,

(the)-word which (thou)-spokest

þvít þú fram of sér

because thou ahead — seest

fylkir lengra,

king farther

veizt ofmikit

(thou)-knowest too-much

angr Sigurði;

sorrow (for)-Sigurðr

því þú Grípir þat

therefore thou Grípir that

gerra segja.

(thou)-darest-not tell

21–25 • GRÍPIR'S RELUCTANCE

Grípir says Sigurðr's youth lay clearest before him, and he is not so wise or foreseeing as that. Sigurðr says no man on earth sees further and he must not hide it, though it be ugly. Grípir says his life is not laid with vices, and his name will live while the world lives. Sigurðr says it would be worst to part like this and asks to be shown the way; Grípir, forced, will tell him all: a day is set for his death.

GR. KV. Lá mér of æsku

21

Lay (to)-me of (the)-youth

ævi þinnar

of-life thy

ljósast fyrir

brightest before-(me)

líta eptir,

to-look after

rétt emka ek

rightly am-not I

ráðspakr taliðr

counsel-wise counted

né in heldr framvís,

nor the rather foreseeing

farit þats vissak.

gone-is what knew-I

22 Mann veitk engi

Man know-I no

fyr mold ofan,

over (the)-earth above

þanns fleira sé

who more sees

framm an þú Grípir;

abead than thou Grípir

skalattu leyna,

shalt-thou-not hide

þótt ljót séi,

though ugly (it)-be

eða mein gerisk

or harm happen

á mínum hag.

in my lot

23 GR. KV. Esa með löstum

Is-not with vices

lögð ævi þér,

laid life (for)-thee

lát enn ítri þat

let the noble that

öðlingr nemask;

prince learn

þvít uppi mun

because high will

meðan öld lifir,

while (the)-world lives

naddéls boði,

point-storm's summoner

nafn þitt vesa.

name thy be

Verst hyggjum því,

Worst think-(I) that

verðr at skiljask

comes to part

Sigurðr við fylki

Sigurðr from (the)-king

at sógöru;

at such-done

leið vísa þú,

(the)-way show thou

lagt 's alt fyrir,

laid is all before-(thee)

mærr mér ef vilt

famous (to)-me if (thou)-wilt

móðurbróðir.

mother's-brother

GR. KV. Nú skal Sigurði

Now shall (to)-Sigurðr

segja görva,

tell fully

alls þengill mik

since (the)-prince me

til þess neyðir;

to that forces

munt víst vita

wilt-(thou) surely know

at vætki lýg;

that nothing (I)-lie

dœgr eitt es þér

day one is (for)-thee

dauði ætlaðr.

death intended

26-30 • BRYNHILDR

Sigurðr says he wants the king's good counsel, not his wrath, and asks to know what lies before him. Grípir tells him of a fair maid at Heimir's, Brynhildr, Buðli's daughter, whom Heimir fosters; she will rob him of most joy and of sleep until he sees her. Sigurðr asks what comfort there is, and whether he will win the king's daughter with a bride-price.

26 Vilkat reiði

Want-I-not (the)-wrath

ríks þjóðkonungs,

of-(the)-mighty great-king

góð ráð at heldr

good counsels the rather

Grípis þiggja;

Grípir's receive

nú vill víst vita,

now will-(I) surely know

þótt vilkit sé,
though unwelcome (it)-be
 hvat á sýnt Sigurðr
what has clear Sigurðr
 sér fyr höndum.
(for)-himself before hands

GR. KV. Fljóð 's at Heimis
A-woman is at Heimir's

27

fagrt álitum,
fair in-looks
 hana Brynhildi
her Brynhildr
 bragnar nefna,
men name
 dóttir Buðla,
(the)-daughter of-Buðli
 en dýrr konungr
and (the)-dear king
 harðugðigt man
a-bard-minded maid
 Heimir fœðir.
Heimir fosters

28 Hvat 's mik at því,

What is (to)-me in it

þótt mæðr séi

though a-maid (she)-be

fögr álit

fair in-looks

fædd at Heimis?

fostered at Heimir's

þat skalt Grípir

that shalt-(thou) Grípir

görva segja,

fully tell

því þú öll of sér

because thou all — seest

ørlög fyrir.

fates before-(thee)

29 GR. KV. Hón firrir þik

She robs thee

flestu gamni,

(of)-most joy

fögr álit,

fair in-looks

fóstra Heimis,

(the)-foster-daughter of-Heimir

svefn þú né sefr

sleep thou nor sleepest

né of sakar dæmir,

nor — cases judge

gára þú manna

beedest-not thou (for)-men

nema mey séir.

unless (the)-maid (thou)-see

Hvat mun til líkna

What will for comfort

lagt Sigurði?

laid (for)-Sigurðr

seg Grípir þat,

say Grípir that

ef sjá þykkisk;

if see (thou)-thinkest

munk mey náa

will-I (the)-maid win

mundi kaupa,

with-bride-price buy

þá ena fögru

that the fair

fylkis dóttur?

king's daughter

Grípir says he and Brynhildr will swear full oaths and keep few, and after one night as Gjúki's guest Sigurðr will forget Heimir's foster-daughter. Sigurðr asks whether he will prove fickle; Grípir says he will fall by another's treachery and pay for Grimbildr's counsels, for she will offer him her bright-haired daughter. Sigurðr asks whether he will marry Guðrún and become Gunnarr's kinsman; Grípir says Grimbildr will beguile him into wooing Brynhildr for Gunnarr, and he will promise the journey.

31 GR. KV. It munuð alla

You-two will all

eiða vinna

oaths swear

fullfastliga,

very-firmly

fá munuð halda;

few will-(ye) keep

verit hefr þú Gjúka

been hast thou Gjúki's

gestr eina nótt,

guest one night

mantattu horska

rememberest-thou-not (the)-wise

Heimis fóstru.

Heimir's foster-daughter

Hvárt 's þá Grípir,

Whether is then Grípir

get þess fyr mér,

guess that for me

sér þú geðleysi

seest thou fickleness

í grams skapi,

in (the)-prince's mind

es skalk við mey þá

when shall-I with (the)-maid that

málum slíta,

(the)-troth break

es alls hugar

whom with-all heart

unna þóttumk.

to-love seemed-I

GR. KV. Þú verður siklingr

Thou becomest prince

fyr svikum annars,

through (the)-treachery of-another

munt Grímhildar

wilt-(thou) Grímhildr's

gjalda ráða,

pay-for (the)-counsels

mun bjóða þér

will offer thee

bjarthaddat man

(the)-bright-haired maid

dóttur sína,

daughter her

dregr hón vél at gram.

draws she guile on (the)-prince

34 Munk við þá Gunnar

Will-I with them Gunnarr

gerva hleyti

make kinship

ok Goðrúnu

and Guðrún

ganga at eiga?

go to wed

fullkvæni þá

fully-married then

fylkir væri,

(the)-king would-be

ef meintregar

if harm-sorrows

mér angraðit.

me grieved-not

GR. KV. Þik mun Grímhildr

35

Thee will Grimbildr

görva véla,

wholly beguile

mun hón Brynhildar

will she Brynhildr

biðja fýsa

(to)-woo urge

Gunnari til handa,

Gunnarr to hand

Gotna drótni,

(the)-Goths' lord

heitr þú fljótle för

promisest thou swiftly (the)-journey

fylkis móður.

(to)-(the)-prince's mother

36-40 · THE EXCHANGE OF SHAPES

Sigurðr sees harm ahead if he must woo the maid he loves for another. Grípir says that Gunnarr, Högni, and Sigurðr will swear oaths, and he and Gunnarr will exchange shapes on the way. Asked why, Grípir says Sigurðr will have Gunnarr's shape and manners but his own eloquence, and will betroth himself to Heimir's high-minded foster-daughter, who suspects nothing. Sigurðr says he will be called wicked for it, and he would not use guile on the princes' best bride.

Mein eru fyr höndum,

36

Harms are before hands

mák líta þat;

may-I see that

ratar görliga

goes-astray wholly

ráð Sigurðar,

Sigurðr's counsel

ef skalk mærrar

if shall-I (the)-famed

meyjar biðja

maid woo

öðrum til handa,

(for)-another to band

es unnak vel.

whom loved-I well

37 GR. KV. Ér munuð allir

Ye will all

eiða vinna

oaths swear

Gunnarr ok Högni,

Gunnarr and Högni

en þú gramr þriði,

and thou prince (the)-third

þá litum víxlið,

then shapes (ye)-exchange

es á leið eruð,

when on (the)-way (ye)-are

Gunnarr ok þú;

Gunnarr and thou

Grípir lýgrat.

Grípir lies-not

Hví gegnir þat,

Why means that

hví skulum skipta

why shall-(we) exchange

litum ok látum,

shapes and manners

es á leið erum?

when on (the)-way (we)-are

þar mun fláræði

there will falsehood

fylgja annat

follow other

atalt með öllu,

terrible in all

enn seg Grípir.

still say Grípir

GR. KV. Lit hefr þú Gunnars

(The)-shape hast thou of-Gunnarr

ok læti hans,

and manners his

mælsku þína

eloquence thy

ok meginhyggjur;

and great-thoughts

munt þú fastna þér

wilt thou betroth (to)-thyself

framlundaða

(the)-high-minded

fóstru Heimis,

foster-daughter of-Heimir

hyggsk vætr fyr því.

thinks-(she) nothing of it

40 Verst hyggjum því,

Worst think-(I) that

vánder munk heitinn

wicked will-I (be)-called

Sigurðr með seggjum

Sigurðr among men

at sógöru,

at such-done

vildak eigi

would-I not

vélum beita

guile use

jöfra brúði,

(on)-(the)-princes' bride

es æzta veitk.

whom highest know-I

Grípir says Sigurðr will rest beside the maid as if she were his mother, and his name will live for it. Sigurðr asks whether Gunnarr will have a good wife after she has slept three nights beside him. Grípir says both weddings will be drunk in Gjúki's halls, and they will change shapes again when they come home. Sigurðr asks how the kinship will turn out. Grípir says he will remember the oaths but must keep silent and will love Guðrún, while Brynhildr, thinking herself ill-married, seeks revenge.

GR. KV. Þú munt hvíla,

Thou wilt rest

hers oddviti,

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

mærr hjá meyju

famed beside (the)-maid

sem þín móðir sé;

as thy mother (she)-were

því mun uppi,

therefore will high

meðan öld lifir,

while (the)-world lives

þjóðar þengill,

of-(the)-people (the)-prince

þitt nafn vesa.

thy name be

41

- 42 Mun góða kván
Will a-good wife
 Gunnarr eiga,
Gunnarr have
 mærr með mönnum,
famed among men
 mér seg Grípir,
to-me say Grípir
 þótt hafi þrjár nætr
though has three nights
 þegns brúðr hjá mér
(the)-thane's bride beside me
 snarlynd sofit?
bold-minded slept
 slíks erut dæmi.
of-such are-not examples

- 43 GR. KV. Saman munu brullup
Together will (the)-weddings
 bæði drukkin
both (be)-drunk
 Sigurðar ok Gunnars
Sigurðr's and Gunnarr's
 í söllum Gjúka;
in (the)-halls of-Gjúki
 þá hömum víxlið,
then shapes (ye)-exchange
 es it heim komið;
when you-two home come

hefr hvárr fyr því

has each for that

hyggju sína.

mind his

Hvé mun at ynði

How will to joy

eptir verða

afterward become

mægð með mönnum,

kinship among men

mér seg Grípir;

to-me say Grípir

mun Gunnari

will for-Gunnarr

til gamans ráðit

to delight settled

síðan verða

afterward become

eða sjalfum mér?

or (for)-self me

44

GR. KV. Minnir þik eiða,

Reminds thee (the)-oaths

mátt þegja þó,

mayest-(thou) keep-silent though

45

ant þú Goðrúnu

lovest thou Goðrún

góðra ráða,

(in)-good marriage

en Brynhildr þykkisk

but Brynhildr thinks-herself

brúðr vargefin,

a-bride ill-married

snót fiðr vélar

(the)-lady finds guile

sér at hefndum.

(for)-herself as revenge

46–50 • BRYNHILDR'S REVENGE

Sigurðr asks what amends Brynhildr will take for their guile. Grípir says she will tell Gunnarr that Sigurðr did not keep his oaths when the noble king trusted him. Sigurðr asks whether he will be guilty or she will lie. Grípir says that from wrath and grief she will not deal well with him, though he never did her harm; Sigurðr asks whether at her urging Gunnarr, Guthormr, and Högni will redden their blades on him.

46 Hvat mun at bótum

What will as amends

brúðr sú taka,

bride that take

es vélar vér

since guile we

vífi gerðum?

(on)-(the)-woman worked

hefr snót af mér

has (the)-lady from me

svarna eiða

sworn oaths

enga efnda,

none fulfilled

en unað lítit.

and joy little

GR. KV. Mun hón Gunnari

Will she (to)-Gunnarr

görva segja,

fully tell

at eigi vel

that not well

eiðum þyrmðir,

(the)-oaths (thou)-keptest

þás ítr konungr

when (the)-noble king

af öllum hug,

with all heart

Gjúka arfi,

Gjúki's heir

á gram trúði.

in (the)-prince trusted

48 Hvat 's þá Grípir,

What is then Grípir

get þess fyr mér,

guess that for me

munk saðr vesa

will-I guilty be

at sögu þeiri,

of tale that

eða lýgr á mik

or lies about me

lofsæl kona

(the)-praise-blessed woman

ok á sjalfa sik?

and about self herself

seg Grípir þat.

say Grípir that

49 GR. KV. Mun fyr reiði

Will from wrath

rík brúðr við þik

(the)-mighty bride toward thee

né af oftrega

nor from overgrief

allvel skipa,

very-well deal

viðr þú góðri

workest thou (on)-(the)-good-one

grand aldri,

harm never

þó ér víf konungs

though ye (the)-woman of-(the)-king

vélum beittuð.

with-guile used

Mun horskr konungr

Will (the)-wise king

at hvötun hennar

at (the)-urging her

Guthormr ok Högni

Guthormr and Högni

ganga síðan?

go afterward

munu synir Gjúka

will (the)-sons of-Gjúki

á sífjugum mér

on (the)-kinsman me

eggjar rjóða?

edges redder

enn seg Grípir.

still say Grípir

50

Grípir says Guðrún's heart will be grim when her brothers plot Sigurðr's death, and she will have no joy afterward; Grímbildr causes it. He comforts Sigurðr: no more excellent man will come on earth under the sun. Sigurðr bids him farewell, since fate cannot be overcome: Grípir has done as he asked, and would have told him a fairer life if he could.

51 GR. KV. Þá 's Goðrúnu

Then is (for)-Guðrún

grimt of hjarta,

grim — heart

es bræðr hennar

when brothers her

þér til bana ráða,

(for)-thee to death plot

ok at engu verðr

and to nothing becomes

ynði síðan

joy afterward

vitru vífi;

(to)-(the)-wise woman

veldr því Grímbildr.

causes it Grímbildr

52 Því skal hugga þik,

That shall comfort thee

hers oddviti,

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

sú mun gipt lagið

that will luck (be)-laid

á grams ævi:

on (the)-prince's life

munat mætri maðr

will-not a-more-excellent man

á mold koma

on earth come

und sólar sjöt,

under (the)-sun's seat

an þú Sigurðr þykkir.

than thou Sigurðr seemest

S. KV. Skiljumk heilir,

Let-us-part hale

munat sköpum vinna,

will-(one)-not fates overcome

nú hefr þú Grípir vel

now hast thou Grípir well

gört sem beiddak;

done as asked-I

fljótt myndir þú

swiftly wouldst thou

fríðri segja

fairer tell

mína ævi,

my life

ef mættir þat.

if (thou)-couldst that

Reginsmál

The Lay of Regin



Sigurðr chooses Grani from Hjálprekr's stud. Reginn, Hreiðmarr's son, a dwarf in stature, skillful, wise, grim, and skilled in magic, fosters and teaches Sigurðr, and tells him how Óðinn, Hænir, and Loki came to Andvarafors, where the dwarf Andvari lived as a pike. Reginn's brother Otr, in otter's shape, sat eating a salmon on the bank when Loki killed him with a stone. The æsir flayed him and showed their catch at Hreiðmarr's, where Hreiðmarr and his sons seized them and set their ransom: to fill and cover the otter's skin with red gold. Loki borrowed Rán's net and cast it before the pike.

Sigurðr gekk til stóðs Hjálpreks ok kaus sér af
Sigurðr went to (the)-stud of-Hjálprekr and chose (for)-himself from-(it)
 hest einn, er Grani var kallaðr síðan. Þá var kominn
a-horse one which Grani was called afterward Then was come
 Reginn til Hjálpreks, sonr Hreiðmars. Hann var hverjum
Reginn to Hjálprekr (the)-son of-Hreiðmarr He was (than)-every
 manni hagari ok dvergr of vöxt. Hann var vitr, grimmr
man more-skillful and a-dwarf in stature He was wise grim
 ok fjölkunnigr. Reginn veitti Sigurði fóstr ok kenslu ok
and much-skilled-in-magic Reginn gave Sigurðr fostering and teaching and
 elskaði hann mjök. Hann sagði Sigurði frá forellri sínu ok
loved him much He told Sigurðr about ancestry his and
 þeim atburðum, at Óðinn ok Hænir ok Loki höfðu komit
those happenings that Óðinn and Hænir and Loki had come
 til Andvarafors. Í þeim forsi var fjöldi fiska. Einn dvergr
to Andvarafors In that waterfall was a-multitude of-fish One dwarf
 hét Andvari. Hann var löngum í forsinum í geddu líki
was-called Andvari He was long in the-waterfall in a-pike's likeness
 ok fekk sér þar matar. Otr hét bróðir várr, kvað
and got (for)-himself there food Otr was-called brother our said

Reginn, er opt fór í forsinn í otrs líki. Hann hafði
Reginn who often went into the-waterfall in an-otter's likeness He had
 tekit einn lax ok sat á árbakkanum ok át blundandi. Loki
taken one salmon and sat on the-river-bank and ate blinking Loki
 laust hann með steini til bana. Þóttusk æsir mjök
struck him with a-stone to death Thought-themselves (the)-æsir much
 hepnir verit hafa ok flógu belg af otrinum. Þat sama kveld
lucky been have and flayed (the)-skin off the-otter That same evening
 sóttu þeir gisting til Hreiðmars ok sýndu veiði sína. Þá
sought they lodging with Hreiðmarr and showed catch their Then
 tóku vér þá höndum ok lögðum þeim fjörlausn at fylla
took we them (with)-hands and laid-on them a-life-ransom to fill
 otrbelginn með gulli ok hylja utan ok með rauðu gulli. Þá
the-otter-skin with gold and cover outside and with red gold Then
 sendu þeir Loka at afla gullsins. Hann kom til Ránar ok
sent they Loki to get the-gold He came to Rán and
 fekk net hennar ok fór þá til Andvarafora ok kastaði netinu
got net her and went then to Andvarafors and cast the-net
 fyrir gedduna, en hon hljóp í netit. Þá mælti Loki:
before the-pike and it leaped into the-net Then said Loki

Loki asks what fish runs in the flood and cannot guard itself from harm, and bids it ransom its head from hel with gold. The fish says he is Andvari, son of Óinn, shaped by a wretched norn in early days to wade in water. Loki asks what payment the sons of men get for lying to one another; Andvari answers that those who lie wade Vaðgelmir and pay heavily for it.

A. Hvat 's fiska,

1

What is of-fishes

es rinnr flóði í,

that runs (the)-flood in

kannat við víti varask?

can-not against harm guard-itself

höfuð þitt

head thy

leys þú helju ór,

ransom thou hel out-of

finn mér lindar loga.

find me (the)-water's flame

Andvari heitik,

2

Andvari am-called-I

Óinn hét minn faðir,

Óinn was-called my father

margan hefk fors of farit,

many have-I a-waterfall — traveled

aumlig norn

a-wretched norn

skóp oss í árdaga,

shaped us in early-days

at skyldak í vatni vaða.

that should-I in water wade

3 L. KV. Seg þat Andvari,

Say that Andvari

ef eiga vill

if to-have (thou)-wilt

líf í lýða sölum,

life in (the)-balls of-men

hver gjöld

what payment

fáa gumna synir,

get (the)-sons of-men

ef ljúgask orðum á?

if (they)-lie-to-each-other with-words on

4 A. KV. Ofrgjöld

Over-payment

fáa gumna synir,

get (the)-sons of-men

þeirs Vaðgelmi vaða,

who Vaðgelmir wade

ósaðra orða,

(for)-untrue words

hverr 's á annan lýgr,

whoever that against another lies

oflengi leiða limar.

too-long lead (the)-branches

5-7 • THE CURSE ON THE RING

Andvari gives up all his gold but keeps back one ring, which Loki takes from him. Going into the stone, the dwarf says the gold that Gustr owned will be the death of two brothers and cause strife among eight princes. The æsir stuff the otter-skin, set it on its feet, and heap the gold over it, but Hreiðmarr sees one whisker, and Óðinn covers it with the ring Andvaranautr. Loki says the gold will be the bane of Hreiðmarr and his son. Hreiðmarr answers that they gave without love, and he would have taken their lives had he known the peril.

Loki sá alt gull þat er Andvari átti. En er hann hafði

Loki saw all (the)-gold that which Andvari owned But when he had

framreitt gullit, þá hafði hann eptir einn hring, ok tók Loki

banded-over the-gold then had he back one ring and took Loki

þann af hánnum. Dvergrinn gekk inn í steininn ok mælti:

that from him The-dwarf went in into the-stone and said

B. Þat skal goll,

That shall gold

es Gustr átti,

which Gustr owned

bræðrum tveim

(to)-brothers two

at bana verða

to death become

ok öðlingum

and (to)-princes

átta at rógi;

eight for strife

mun míns féar

will of-my wealth

mangi njóta.

no-one enjoy

Æsir reiddu Hreiðmari féit ok tráðu upp otrbelginn

(The)-æsir paid Hreiðmarr the-money and stuffed up the-otter-skin

ok reistu á fœtr. Þá skyldu æsir nir hlaða upp gullinu

and raised-(it) on (its)-feet Then should the-æsir heap up the-gold

ok hylja. En er þat var gört, gekk Hreiðmarr fram

and cover-(it) But when that was done went Hreiðmarr forward

ok sá eitt granahár ok bað hylja. Þá dró Óðinn fram

and saw one whisker and bade cover-(it) Then drew Óðinn forth

hringinn Andvaranaut ok hulði hárit. Loki kvað:

the-ring Andvaranautr and covered the-hair Loki said

A. Goll 's þér reitt

6

Gold is (to)-thee paid
 en þú gjöld of hefr
and thou payment — hast
 mikil míns höfuðs,

great for-my head

syni þínum

(for)-son thy

verðra sæla sköpuð;

becomes-not happiness shaped

þat verðr ykkarr beggja bani.

that becomes of-you-two both (the)-bane

HR. KV. Gjafar þú gaft,

7

Gifts thou gavest

gaftat ástgjafar,

gavest-not love-gifts

gaftat af heilum hug;

gavest-not from whole heart

fjörvi yðru

of-life your

skylduð firðir vesa,

should-(ye) deprived be

ef vissak þat fár fyrir.

if knew-I that peril before

Loki says worse still is the strife of princes yet unborn. Hreiðmarr says he will rule the red gold as long as he lives and fears no threats. Fáfnir and Reginn demand their share of the price of Otr, and when Hreiðmarr refuses, Fáfnir stabs him in his sleep. Hreiðmarr calls on his daughters Lyngheiðr and Lofnheiðr; Lyngheiðr says a sister can hardly avenge a father on her brother, and Hreiðmarr bids her bear a daughter, if she has no son, whose son will avenge him.

8 L. KV. Enn es verra,

Still is worse

þat vita þykkjumk,

that to-know seem-I

niðja stríð of nept;

(the)-kinsmen's strife — scant

jöfra óborna

(of)-princes unborn

hygg þá enn vesa,

think-I them still to-be

es þat es til hatrs hugat.

who that which for hatred intended

9 H. KV. Rauðu golli

(The)-red gold

hygg mik ráða munu,

think-I me to-rule will

svá lengi sem ek lifi;

so long as I live

hót þín

threats thy

hræðumk ekki lyf,

fear-I not a-while

ok haldið heim heðan.

and hold-ye home hence

Fáfnir ok Reginn kröfðu Hreiðmar niðgjalda eptir Otr bróður

Fáfnir and Reginn demanded (of)-Hreiðmarr kin-payment for Otr brother

sinn. Hann kvað nei við. En Fáfnir lagði sverði Hreiðmar

their He said no to-(it) And Fáfnir thrust (with)-a-sword Hreiðmarr

föður sinn sofanda. Hreiðmarr kallaði á dótr sínar:

father his sleeping Hreiðmarr called on daughters his

Lyngheiðr ok Lofnheiðr,

Lyngheiðr and Lofnheiðr

vitið mínu lífi farit,

know-ye my life gone

mart 's þats þörf þear.

much is that-which need forces

LH. KV. Fá mun systir,

Little will a-sister

þótt föður missi,

though a-father (she)-lose

hefna hlýra harms.

avenge (the)-brother's grief

11 B. HR. KV. Al þó dóttur,

Bear yet a-daughter

dís ulfhuguð,

lady wolf-minded

ef getrat son

if (thou)-gettest-not a-son

við siklingi,

with a-prince

fá mey manni

give (the)-maid (to)-a-man

í meginþarfar;

in great-need

þá mun þeirar sonr

then will her son

þins harms reka.

thy grief avenge

12-14 • REGINN FOSTERS SIGURÐR

Hreiðmarr dies, and Fáfnir takes all the gold. Reginn asks for his inheritance and is refused. Lyngheiðr tells him to ask his brother gently, since it is not fitting to demand the wealth with a sword. Reginn tells Sigurðr all this. When Sigurðr comes to his house, Reginn welcomes Sigmundr's swift-minded son, bolder than an old man, and says he will foster the battle-bold prince, who will be mightiest under the sun.

Þá dó Hreiðmarr, en Fáfnir tók gullit alt. Þá beiddisk

Then died Hreiðmarr and Fáfnir took the-gold all Then asked

Reginn at hafa föðurarf sinn, en Fáfnir galt þar nei

Reginn to have father's-inheritance his but Fáfnir answered there no

við. Þá leitaði Reginn ráða við Lyngheiði systur sína,
to-(it) Then sought Reginn counsel with Lyngheiðr sister his
 hvernig hann skyldi heimta föðurarf sinn. Hon kvað:
how he should claim father's-inheritance his She said

A. Bróður kveðja

12

A-brother ask

skalt blíðliga

shalt-(thou) gently

arfs ok æðra hugar,

(for)-inheritance and better mind

esa þat hæft,

is-not that fitting

at hjörvi skyllir

that with-(the)-sword (thou)-shouldst

kveðja Fáfnir féar.

ask Fáfnir (for)-wealth

Þessa hluti sagði Reginn Sigurði. Einn dag er hann kom

These things told Reginn (to)-Sigurðr One day when he came

til húsa Regins, var hán um vel fagnat. Reginn kvað:

to (the)-house of-Reginn was (to)-him well welcomed Reginn said

B. Kominn es hingat

13

Come is hither

konr Sigmundar,

(the)-kinsman of-Sigmundr

seggr enn snarráði,

(the)-man the swift-minded

til sala várra,

to halls our

móð hefr meira

courage has-(he) more

an maðr gamall

than a-man old

ok es mér fangs ván

and is (for)-me of-struggle expectation

at frekum ulfi.

from (the)-greedy wolf

14 Ek mun fœða

I will foster

folkdjarfan gram;

(the)-battle-bold prince

nú 's Yngva konr

now is Yngvi's kinsman

með oss kominn;

with us come

sjá mun ræsir

this will ruler

ríkstr und sólu;

mightiest under (the)-sun

þrymr of öll lönd

(the)-fame over all lands

ørlögsímu.

(of)-(his)-fate-thread

Sigurðr stays with Reginn, who tells him that Fáfnir lies on Gnitabeiðr in serpent's shape, with the helm of terror that all living things fear. Reginn makes Sigurðr the sword Gramr, so sharp that it cuts through a tuft of wool drifting down the Rhine and splits Reginn's anvil. Reginn urges Sigurðr to kill Fáfnir, but Sigurðr says Hundings's sons, who took Eylimi's life, would laugh aloud if he sought red rings before his father's vengeance.

Sigurðr var þá jafnan með Regin ok sagði hann Sigurði,
Sigurðr was then always with Reginn and told he Sigurðr
 at Fáfnir lá á Gnitabeiði ok var í orms líki. Hann
that Fáfnir lay on Gnitabeiðr and was in a-serpent's likeness He
 átti ægishjál, er öll kvikvendi hræddusk við. Reginn
had a-helm-of-terror which all living-things feared of Reginn
 gerði Sigurði sverð, er Gramr hét. Þat var svá hvast,
made (for)-Sigurðr a-sword which Gramr was-called It was so sharp
 at hann brá því ofan í Rín ok lét reka ullarlagð
that he thrust it down into (the)-Rhine and let drift a-tuft-of-wool
 fyrir straumi ok tók í sundr lagðinn sem vatnit. Því
before (the)-current and (it)-cut in two the-tuft as the-water With-that
 sverði klauf Sigurðr í sundr steðja Regins. Eptir þat
sword clove Sigurðr in two (the)-anvil of-Reginn After that
 eggjaði Reginn Sigurð at vega Fáfni. Hann sagði:
urged Reginn Sigurðr to slay Fáfnir He said

Hátt munu hlæja

Loud will laugh

Hundings synir,

Hundings's sons

þeirs Eylima

who (to)-Eylimi

aldrs synjuðu,

life denied

et meir tyggja

if more (the)-prince

munar at sækja

(for)-delight to seek

hringa rauða

rings red

an hefnd föður.

than (the)-vengeance of-(his)-father

16-18 • HNIKARR ON THE CRAG

Hjálprekr gives Sigurðr a fleet for his father's vengeance. A great storm drives them toward a crag, where a man asks who rides the sea's horses over the roaring waves. Reginn answers that it is Sigurðr and his men on their sea-trees, with a wind that blows them toward death. The man calls himself Hnikarr, the old man on the crag, or Fengr or Fjölnir, and asks for passage.

Hjálprekr konungr fekk Sigurði skipalið til föðurhefnda.

Hjálprekr (the)-king gave Sigurðr a-ship-host for father-vengeance

Þeir fengu storm mikinn ok beittu fyrir bergsnös nökkura.

They got a-storm great and tacked before a-crag-point certain

Maðr einn stóð á berginu ok kvað:

A-man one stood on the-crag and said

Hverir ríða þar

Who ride there

Rævils hestum

Rævill's (on)-horses

hávar unnir,

high waves

haf glymjanda?

(the)-sea resounding

seglvigg eru

(the)-sail-steeds are

sveita stokkin,

with-sweat drenched

munat vágmarar

will-not (the)-wave-mares

vind of standask.

(the)-wind — withstand

16

R. KV. Hér erum vér Sigurðr

Here are we Sigurðr

á sætréum,

on sea-trees

es oss byrr gefinn

is (to)-us a-fair-wind given

við bana sjalfan,

with death itself

17

fellr brattr breki

falls a-steep breaker

bröndum hæri

than-(the)-prows higher

hlunnvigg hrapa,

(the)-roller-steeds plunge

hverr spyrr at því?

who asks about it

18 HN. KV. Hnikar hétu mik,

Hnikarr called-(they) me

þás hugin gladdi

when (the)-raven gladdened

Völsungr ungi

Völsungr young

ok vegit hafði;

and slain had

nú mátt kalla

now mayest-(thou) call

karl af bergi

(the)-old-man from (the)-crag

Fengi eða Fjölni;

Fengr or Fjölnir

far vilk þiggja.

passage wish-I to-take

They turn to land, the old man comes aboard, and the storm abates. Sigurðr asks Hnikarr, who knows the omens of gods and men, which are best for one who must fight. Hnikarr answers that a dark raven following is good, that it is good to see two glory-eager men standing on the path as one sets out, and that if one hears a wolf howl under ash boughs, luck comes from the warriors one sees first.

Þeir viku at landi ok gekk karl á skip ok lægði þá
They turned to land and went (the)-old-man on ship and abated then
 veðrit.

the-weather

A. S. KV. Seg mér Hnikarr,

19

Say to-me Hnikarr

alls hvártveggja veizt

since both (thou)-knowest

goða heill ok guma:

(the)-gods' omens and men's

hver bözt eru,

which best are

ef berjask skal,

if fight (one)-shall

heill at sverða svipun.

omens at (the)-swords' swing

- 20 HN. KV. Mörg eru góð,
Many are good
 ef gumar vissi,
if men knew
 heill at sverða svipun;
omens at (the)-swords' swing
 dyggva fylgju
a-trusty following
 hygg ens dökkva vesa
think-I of-the dark to-be
 hrottameiði hrafns.
(for)-(the)-sword-tree raven

- 21 Þat 's annat,
That is (the)-second
 ef est út of kominn,
if (thou)-art out — come
 ok est á braut búinn,
and (thou)-art on (the)-way ready
 tvá þú lítr
two thou seest
 á tái standa
on (the)-path stand
 hróðrfúsa hali.
glory-eager men

Þat es et þriðja,

That is the third

ef þjóta heyrir

if howl (thou)-bearest

ulf und asklimum;

a-wolf under ash-boughs

heilla auðit

(of)-luck granted

verðr þér af hjalmstöfum,

becomes (to)-thee from helm-staves

ef sér þá fyrri fara.

if (thou)-seest them first go

23–25 · HNIKARR'S COUNSEL

No man should fight facing the late-shining sister of the moon; victory goes to those who can draw up a wedge. It is a great peril to stumble on the way to battle, for treacherous disir stand on both sides wishing to see one wounded. Every wise man should be combed and washed and fed in the morning, since no one knows where he will be at evening.

B. Engr skal gumna

No-one shall of-men

í gögn vega

in against fight

síð skínandi

late shining

systur mána,

(the)-sister of-(the)-moon

þeir sigr hafa,

they victory have

es séa kunnu,

who see can

hjørleiks hvatir,

of-sword-play keen

eða hamalt fylkja.

or (in)-wedge (to)-draw-up

24 A. Þat 's fár mikit,

That is peril great

ef fœti drepr,

if (with)-foot (thou)-stumblest

þars at vígi veðr,

where to battle (thou)-wakest

tálar dísir,

treacherous disir

standa þér á tvær hliðar

stand (for)-thee on two sides

ok vilja þik sáran séa.

and wish thee wounded (to)-see

25 Kembðr ok þveginn

Combed and washed

skal kœnna hverr

shall of-(the)-wise every-one

ok at morni mettr,

and at morning fed

þvít ósýnt es,

because unforeseen is

hvar at apni kemr;

where at evening (he)-comes

ilt 's fyr heill at hrapa.

ill is before fortune to rush

26 • LYGVI FALLS AND FÁFNIR DIES

Sigurðr fights a great battle with Lyngvi Hundingsson and his brothers, and Lyngvi and his three brothers fall. Reginn says a bloody eagle has been carved on the back of Sigmundr's slayer. Sigurðr goes home, and Reginn urges him to kill Fáfnir. On Gnitabeiðr they find Fáfnir's track to the water; Sigurðr digs a pit in the path and gets in, and when Fáfnir crawls over it blowing poison, he thrusts his sword into Fáfnir's heart. Sigurðr leaps from the pit, and the two see each other.

Sigurðr átti orrostu mikla við Lyngva Hundingsson ok

Sigurðr had a-battle great with Lyngvi Hundingr's-son and

bræðr hans. Þar fell Lyngvi ok þeir þrír bræðr. Eptir

brothers his There fell Lyngvi and those three brothers After

orrostu kvað Reginn:

(the)-battle said Reginn

B. Nú 's blóðugr örn

Now is (the)-bloody eagle

bitrum hjörvi

with-a-bitter sword

bana Sigmundar

(on)-(the)-slayer of-Sigmundr

á baki ristinn,

on (the)-back carved

engr vas fremri,
no-one was more-outstanding
 sás fold ryði,
who (the)-earth reddened
 hilmis arfi,
(the)-prince's heir
 ok hugin gleddi.
and (the)-raven gladdened

Heim fór Sigurðr til Hjálpreks. Þá eggjaði Reginn Sigurð
Home went Sigurðr to Hjálprekr Then urged Reginn Sigurðr
 til at vega Fáfnir. Sigurðr ok Reginn fóru upp á Gnitabeiði
for to slay Fáfnir Sigurðr and Reginn went up onto Gnitabeiðr
 ok hittu þar slöð Fáfnis, þá er hann skeið til vaz.
and found there (the)-track of-Fáfnir then when he glided to (the)-water
 Þar gerði Sigurðr gröf mikla á veginum ok gekk Sigurðr
There made Sigurðr a-pit great in the-path and went Sigurðr
 þar í. En er Fáfnir skreið af gullinu, blés hann eitri,
there into-(it) And when Fáfnir crawled from the-gold blew he poison
 ok hraut þat fyrir ofan höfuð Sigurði. En er Fáfnir skreið
and spurted it over above (the)-head of-Sigurðr And when Fáfnir crawled
 yfir gröfna, þá lagði Sigurðr hann með sverði til hjarta.
over the-pit then thrust Sigurðr him with (the)-sword to (the)-heart
 Fáfnir hristi sik ok barði höfði ok sporði. Sigurðr
Fáfnir shook himself and beat (with)-head and tail Sigurðr
 hljóp ór gröfnni ok sá þá hvárr annan. Fáfnir kvað:
leaped out-of the-pit and saw then each (the)-other Fáfnir said

Fáfnismál

The Lay of Fafnir

Fáfnir asks the lad whose son he is, whose gleaming blade has reddened on Fáfnir. Sigurðr hides his name, since it was believed in olden times that a dying man's words had power if he cursed his enemy by name. He says he is called Noble Beast, a motherless son with no father. Fáfnir asks by what wonder he was begotten, and Sigurðr names himself: Sigurðr, son of Sigmundr, who has slain Fáfnir with weapons.

Sveinn ok sveinn,

Lad and lad

hverjum est sveinn of borinn,

to-whom art-(thou) lad — born

hverra 'st manna mögr?

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

es á Fáfni rautt

who on Fáfnir reddened

þinn enn frána mæki;

thy the gleaming blade

stöndumk til hjarta hjörr.

stands-for-me to (the)-heart (the)-sword

Sigurðr dulði nafns síns fyrir því, at þat var trúa þeira

Sigurðr hid name his for that that that was a-belief their

í forneskju, at orð feigs manns mætti mikit, ef

in olden-times that (the)-word of-a-doomed man had-power much if

hann bölvæði óvin sínum með nafni. Hann kvað:

he cursed enemy his by name He said

2 Göfugt dýr heitik,

Noble beast am-called-I

en gengit hefk

and gone have-I

enn móðurlausi mögr,

the motherless son

föður ákka

father have-I-not

sem fira synir;

as (the)-sons of-men

æ geng ek einn saman.

ever go I one alone

3 F. KV. Veizt ef föður né áttat

Knowest-(thou) if a-father not (thou)-hadst-not

sem fira synir

as (the)-sons of-men

(lacuna)

hverju vast undri alinn?

by-what wast-(thou) wonder begotten

4 Ætterni mitt

Lineage my

kveðk þér ókunnigt vesa

say-I (to)-thee unknown to-be

ok mik sjalfan et sama;

and me myself the same

Sigurðr heitik,

Sigurðr am-called-I

Sigmundr hét minn faðir,

Sigmundr was-called my father

es hefk þik vápnum vegit.

who have-I thee with-weapons slain

5-9 • CAPTIVE OR FREE

Fáfnir asks who urged the bright-eyed lad against his life. Sigurðr answers that his courage, his hands, and his sword urged him. Fáfnir says Sigurðr is now a captive, and the bound always tremble. Sigurðr answers that though taken in war he is no captive, and Fáfnir has found him living free. Fáfnir warns him that the ringing gold and glowing wealth will be his death.

F. KV. Hverr þik hvatti,

Who thee urged

hví hvetjask lézt

why urge-thyself lettest-(thou)

mínu fjörvi at fara?

my life to destroy

enn fráneygi sveinn,

the bright-eyed lad

áttir föður bitran;

hadst-(thou) a-father bitter

esa börnum skjótt á skeið.

is-not (for)-children swift to (the)-course

- 6 Hugr mik hvatti,
Courage me urged
 hendr mér fulltýðu
hands me helped
 ok minn enn hvassi hjörr;
and my the keen sword
 fár es hvatr,
few are keen
 es hrøðask tekr,
who to-fear begins
 ef í barnæsku es blauðr.
if in childhood (one)-is cowardly

- 7 F. KV. Veitk, ef vaxa næðir
Know-I if to-grow (thou)-couldst
 fyr vina brjósti,
before friends' breast
 sæi maðr þik vreiðan vega:
would-see a-man thee angry fight
 nú est hapttr
now art-(thou) captive
 ok hernuminn;
and war-taken
 æ kveða bandingja bifask.
ever say-(they) (the)-bound tremble

Því bregðr mér, Fáfnir,

That tauntest-(thou) me Fáfnir

at til fjarri séak

that too far am-I

mínum feðrmunum,

from-my father's-possessions

emka hapttr,

am-I-not captive

þótt værak hernumi,

though were-I war-taken

þú fant, at lauss lifik.

thou foundest that free live-I

8

F. KV. Heiptyrði ein

Hate-words only

telr þú þér í hvívetna,

countest thou (to)-thyself in everything

en þér satt eitt segik:

but (to)-thee (the)-truth one say-I

et gjalla goll

the ringing gold

ok et glóðrauða fé,

and the glow-red wealth

þér verða þeir baugar at bana.

(for)-thee become those rings to (the)-bane

9

Sigurðr says every man must rule his wealth until the one day, since all go to hel. Fáfnir says the norns' judgment will be his off the headlands, like a witless fool who drowns rowing in the wind. Sigurðr asks which norns help mothers in childbirth; Fáfnir says the norns are of different birth, some of the æsir, some of the elves, and some Dvalinn's daughters. Sigurðr asks the name of the island where Surtr and the æsir will mingle blood.

10 Féi ráða

Wealth rule

skal fyrða hvern

shall of-men every-one

æ til ens eina dags;

ever till the one day

þvítt einu sinni

because one time

skal alda hvern

shall of-men every-one

fara til heljar heðan.

go to hel hence

11 F. KV. Norna dóm

(The)-norns' judgment

munt fyr nesjum hafa

wilt-(thou) off headlands have

ok ørlög ósvinnns apa,

and (the)-fate of-a-witless fool

í vátni druknar

in water (be)-drowns

ef í vindi rœr,

if in wind (be)-rows

alt es feigs forað.

all is (for)-(the)-doomed a-peril

Seg mér Fáfnir,

Say to-me Fáfnir

alls þik fróðan kveða

since thee wise (they)-call

ok vel mart vita:

and well much to-know

hverjar ro nornir,

which are (the)-norns

es nauðgönglar ro

who (the)-need-belpers are

ok kjósa mæðr frá mögum.

and choose mothers from sons

F. KV. Sundrbornar mjök

Of-different-birth much

segja nornir vesa,

(they)-say (the)-norns to-be

eigut þær ætt saman,

have-not they kin together

sumar ro áskungar,

some are of-æsir-kin

12

13

sumar alfkungar,

some of-elf-kin

sumar døctr Dvalins.

some daughters of-Dvalinn

14 Seg mér þat Fáfnir,

Say to-me that Fáfnir

alls þik fróðan kveða

since thee wise (they)-call

ok vel mart vita:

and well much to-know

hvé holmr heitir,

how (the)-island is-called

es blanda hjörlegi

where mingle sword-liquid

Surtr ok æsir saman.

Surtr and (the)-æsir together

Fáfnir says it is Óskópnir, where the gods will play with spears and Bifröst will break. He bore the helm of terror over men while he lay on the treasure and thought himself mightier than all. Sigurðr says the helm protects no one where men fight in anger, since among many no one is boldest. Fáfnir says he snorted poison as he lay on his father's inheritance; Sigurðr says the serpent's hiss was great, and hatred grows for the one who has the helm.

F. KV. Óskópnir heitir,

15

Óskópnir (it)-is-called

en þar öll skulu

and there all shall

geirum leika goð,

with-spears play (the)-gods

Bifröst brotnar,

Bifröst breaks

es á brú fara,

when on (the)-bridge (they)-go

ok svima í móðu marir.

and swim in (the)-river (the)-mares

F. KV. Ægishjalm

16

(The)-helm-of-terror

bark of alda sonum,

bore-I over (the)-sons of-men

meðan of menjum lák;

while over treasures lay-I

einn rammari

alone mightier

hugðumk öllum vesa,

thought-I (than)-all to-be

fanka svá marga mögu.

found-I-not so many men

17 **Ægishjalnr**

(The)-helm-of-terror

bergr einungi

protects not-at-all

hvars skulu vreiðir vega,

where shall (the)-angry fight

þá þat finnr,

then that (one)-finds

es með fleirum kemr;

who among more comes

at engi 's einna hvatastr.

that no-one is of-all boldest

18 F. KV. **Eitri fnæstak,**

Poison snorted-I

es á arfi lák

when on (the)-inheritance lay-I

miklum míns föður.

great of-my father

(lacuna)

Enn fráni ormr,

The gleaming serpent

gerðir fræs mikla

madest-(thou) hiss great

ok galzt harðan hug,

and showed hard mind

heipt at meiri

hatred the more

verðr hölða sonum,

becomes (for)-men's sons

at þann hjalm hafi.

that that helm (one)-has

20–22 • FÁFNIR'S WARNING

Fáfnir counsels Sigurðr to ride home, since the gold will be his death. Sigurðr says he will ride to the gold in the heather, and Fáfnir can lie in his death-throes where he may have him. Fáfnir says that Reginn betrayed him and will betray Sigurðr; and will be the death of them both; he must lose his life, since Sigurðr's might was greater.

F. KV. Ræðk þér nú Sigurðr,

Counsel-I thee now Sigurðr

en þú ráð nemir,

and thou (the)-counsel take

ok ríð heim heðan;

and ride home hence

et gjalla goll

the ringing gold

ok et glóðrauða fé,

and the glow-red wealth

þér verða þeir baugar at bana.

(for)-thee become those rings to (the)-bane

21 Ráð 's þér ráðit,

Counsel is (for)-thee counseled

en ek ríða mun

but I ride will

til golls, es í lyngvi liggr,

to (the)-gold which in (the)-heather lies

en þú, Fáfnir,

and thou Fáfnir

ligg í fjörbrotum,

lie in death-throes

þars þik hel hafi.

where thee hel (may)-have

22 F. KV. Reginn mik réð,

Reginn me betrayed

hann þik ráða mun,

he thee betray will

hann mun okr verða báðum at bana,

he will (for)-us-two become both to (the)-bane

fjör sitt láta

life his lose

hygg at Fáfnir myni,

think-I that Fáfnir must

þitt varð nú meira megin.

thy became now more might

23–26 · REGINN RETURNS

Reginn has turned away while Sigurðr kills Fáfnir, and comes back as Sigurðr wipes the blood from his sword. Reginn hails him as the most fearless man born. Sigurðr answers that no one knows who is most fearless, and that many are bold who never redden a sword in another's breast. Reginn says Sigurðr is glad, drying Gramr on the grass after killing Reginn's brother, though Reginn himself caused some of it. Sigurðr answers that Reginn made him ride over the rimy mountains, and the serpent would have kept its wealth and life had Reginn not taunted him.

Reginn var á brott horfinn, meðan Sigurðr vá Fáfni, ok

Reginn was off away turned while Sigurðr slew Fáfnir and

kom þá aptr, er Sigurðr strauk blóð af sverðinu.

came then back when Sigurðr wiped (the)-blood from the-sword

Reginn kvað:

Reginn said

Heill nú Sigurðr,

Hail now Sigurðr

nú hefr þú sigr vegit

now hast thou victory won

ok Fáfni of farit,

and Fáfnir — destroyed

manna þeira,

(of)-men those

es mold troða,

who (the)-earth tread

þik kveðk óblauðastan alinn.

thee say-I most-unafraid born

24 Þat 's óvíst at vita,

That is uncertain to know

þás komum allir saman,

when come-(we) all together

(sigtíva synir)

(the)-victory-gods' sons

hverr óblauðastr es alinn,

who most-unafraid is born

margr es hvatr

many-(a-one) is bold

sás hjör né rýðr

who (the)-sword not reddens

annars brjóstum í.

another's breast in

25 R. KV. Glaðr est nú Sigurðr

Glad art-thou now Sigurðr

ok gagni feginn,

and (of)-(the)-gain fain

es þerrir Gram á grasi;

when (thou)-driest Gramr on (the)-grass

bróður minn

brother my

hefr þú benjaðan

hast thou wounded

ok veldk þó sjalfr sumu.

and caused-I yet myself some

Þú því rétt,

Thou that causedst

es ríða skyldak

that ride should-I

hélug fjöll hinig;

(the)-rimy mountains hither

féi ok fjörvi

(of)-wealth and life

réði sá enn fráni ormr,

would-have-ruled that the gleaming serpent

nema þú frýðir mér hvats hugar.

unless thou tauntedst me (of)-keen courage

Reginn cuts out Fáfnir's heart with the sword Riðill and drinks the blood from the wound. Sigurðr says Reginn kept far off while he fought the serpent. Reginn says the old giant would still lie in the heather without the sword he made. Sigurðr says that courage is better than a sword's might. Reginn bids him roast Fáfnir's heart while he sleeps, since he wants to eat it after his drink of blood.

Þá gekk Reginn at Fáfni ok skar hjarta ór hánum

Then went Reginn to Fáfnir and cut (the)-heart out-of him

með sverði, er Riðill heitir, ok þá drakk hann blóð ór

with a-sword which Riðill is-called and then drank he blood out-of

undinni eptir.

the-wound afterward

27 S. KV. Fjarri gekk,

Far wentest-(thou)

meðan á Fáfni rauðk

while on Fáfnir reddened-I

minn enn hvassa hjör;

my the keen sword

aflí mínu

with-strength my

attak við orms megin,

strove-I against (the)-serpent's might

meðan í lyngvi látt.

while in (the)-heather (thou)-layest

R. KV. Lengi liggja

28

Long lie

létir lyngvi í

wouldst-(thou)-let (the)-beather in

þann enn aldna jötun,

that the old giant

ef sverðs né nytir,

if (the)-sword not (thou)-usedst

þess 's sjalfr gerðak,

that which myself made-I

ok þíns ens hvassa hjörs.

and thy the keen sword

S. KV. Hugr 's betri

29

Courage is better

an sé hjörs megin,

than is (the)-sword's might

hvars skulu vreiðir vega;

where shall (the)-angry fight

hvatan mann

a-bold man

sék harðliga vega

see-I hard fight

með slævu sverði sigr.

with a-blunt sword victory

- 30 R. KV. **Sit nú Sigurðr,**
Sit now Sigurðr
en ek mun sofa ganga
and I will to-sleep go
ok halt Fáfnir hjarta við funa,
and bold Fáfnir's heart to (the)-fire
eisköld vilk
ember-cold wish-I
of etin láta
— eaten have
ept þenna dreyra drykk.
after this blood drink

31-34 • THE NUTHATCHES

Sigurðr says it is better to be bold than timid in battle. He roasts Fáfnir's heart on a spit, burns his finger testing it, and puts the finger in his mouth, and with Fáfnir's heart-blood on his tongue he understands the birds. Nuthatches in the brushwood say he would be wise to eat the heart himself; that Reginn lies plotting to betray the youth who trusts him and avenge his brother; and that Sigurðr should cut off the hoary sage's head and rule the gold alone.

- 31 **Hvötum 's betra**
(For)-(the)-bold is better
an sé óhvötum
than is (for)-(the)-unbold
í hildileik hafask,
in battle-play to-bear-oneself

glöðum 's betra

(for)-(the)-glad is better

an sé glúpanda,

than is (for)-(the)-drooping

hvat sem at hendi kemr.

whatever that to hand comes

Sigurðr tók Fáfnis hjarta ok steikði á teini. Er hann

Sigurðr took Fáfnir's heart and roasted-(it) on a-spit When he

hugði at fullsteikt væri ok freyddi sveitinn ór hjartanu,

thought that fully-roasted (it)-was and frothed the-blood out-of the-heart

þá tók hann á fingri sínum ok skynjaði, hvárt fullsteikt

then touched he with finger his and tested whether fully-roasted

væri. Hann brann ok brá fingrinum í munn

(it)-was He burned-(himself) and put the-finger into (the)-mouth

sér. En er hjartblóð Fáfnis kom á tungu hánun,

his And when (the)-heart-blood of-Fáfnir came on (the)-tongue of-him

ok skilði hann fugls rödd. Hann heyrði, at igður

then understood he (the)-bird's voice He heard that nuthatches

klökuðu á hrísinu. Igðan kvað:

twittered in the-brushwood (The)-nuthatch said

Þar sitr Sigurðr

There sits Sigurðr

sveita stökkinn,

with-blood spattered

Fáfnis hjarta

Fáfnir's heart

við funa steikir;

at (the)-fire roasts

spakr þætti mér

wise would-seem to-me

spillir bauga,

(the)-spiller of-rings

ef fjörsega

if (the)-life-muscle

fránan æti.

gleaming (be)-ate

33 II. IG. KV. Þar liggr Reginn,

There lies Reginn

ræðr umb við sik,

counsels about with himself

vill tæla mög

wishes to-betray (the)-youth

þanns trúir hánun,

who trusts him

berr af reiði

bears from wrath

röng orð saman,

wrong words together

vill bölvasmíðr

wishes (the)-bale-smith

bróður hefna.

(his)-brother to-avenge

A. IG. KV. Höfði skemra

34

By-a-head shorter

láti enn hára þul

let the hoary sage

fara til heljar heðan,

go to hel hence

öllu golli

all (the)-gold

þá kná hann einn ráða,

then can he alone rule

fjöld því 's und Fáfnir lá.

(the)-heap that which under Fáfnir lay

35–39 • SIGURÐR RESOLVES

The birds say Sigurðr would be wise to take their loving counsel, think of himself, and gladden the raven; he is not as wise as a leader if he lets one brother go after killing the other, and he is a fool to spare the foe who has betrayed him. Let him cut off the rime-cold giant's head and be sole ruler of Fáfnir's wealth. Sigurðr says that fate shall not be so strong that Reginn brings his death: both brothers shall go to hel.

III. IG. KV. Horskr þœtti mér,

35

Wise would-seem to-me

ef hafa kynni

if have (he)-could

ástráð mikit

loving-counsel great

yðvar systra,

of-you sisters

hygði of sik

(he)-thought about himself

ok hugin gleddi;

and (the)-raven gladdened

þar 's mér ulfs ván,

there is (for)-me a-wolf's expectation

es eyru sék.

where (the)-ears see-I

36 I. IG. KV. Esat svá horskr

Is-not so wise

hildimeißr

(the)-battle-tree

sem hers jaðar

as of-(the)-host (the)-edge

hyggja myndak,

think would-I

ef bróður lætr

if (the)-brother (he)-lets

á brot komask,

off away get

en öðrum hefr

but (to)-(the)-other has

aldrs of synjat.

life — denied

B. 1G. KV. Mjök 's ósviðr,

37

Much is witless

ef enn sparir

if still (he)-spares

fjanda enn folkskáa,

(the)-foe the host-harming

þars Reginn liggr,

where Reginn lies

es hann ráðinn hefr,

who him betrayed has

kannat við slíku séa.

can-not against such see

A. 1G. KV. Höfði skemra

38

By-a-head shorter

láti enn hrímkalda jötun

let the rime-cold giant

ok af baugum búa,

and of rings deprive

þá féar þess,

then of-wealth that

es Fáfnir réð,

which Fáfnir ruled

mun hann einvaldi vesa.

will he sole-ruler be

39 s. kv. Verðat svá rík sköp,

Shall-not-be so mighty fates

at Reginn skyli

that Reginn shall

mitt banorð bera;

my death-word bear

báðir bræðr

both brothers

skulu bráðliga

shall swiftly

fara til heljar heðan.

go to hel hence

40–43 · THE MAID ON HINDARFJALL

Sigurðr cuts off Reginn's head, eats Fáfnir's heart, and drinks the blood of both brothers. The birds tell him to bind up the red rings: there is a maid fairest of all, adorned with gold, whom he might win. Green roads lead to Gjúki, whose daughter he may buy with a bride-price. On high Hindarfjall stands a hall wrapped in fire, where a battle-wise woman sleeps; Yggpricked her with a thorn because she felled other men than he wished.

Sigurðr hjó höfuð af Regin ok þá át hann Fáfnis

Sigurðr bewed (the)-head off Reginn and then ate he Fáfnir's

hjarta ok drakk blóð þeira beggja Regins ok Fáfnis.

heart and drank (the)-blood of-them both of-Reginn and of-Fáfnir

Þá heyrði Sigurðr, hvar igður mæltu:

Then heard Sigurðr where nuthatches spoke

Bitt þú Sigurðr

Bind thou Sigurðr

bauga rauða,

rings red

esa konungligt

is-not kingly

kvíða mörgu;

to-fear much

mey veitk eina

a-maid know-I one

miklu fegrsta,

much fairest

golli gædda,

with-gold endowed

ef geta mættir.

if get (thou)-couldst

Liggja til Gjúka

Lie to Gjúki

grænar brautir

green roads

fram vísa sköp

forward show fates

folklíðöndum,

(to)-(the)-host-farers

þar hefr dýrr konungr

there has a-dear king

dóttur alna;

a-daughter reared

þá munt þú Sigurðr

her wilt thou Sigurðr

mundi kaupa.

with-bride-price buy

42 Salr 's á háu

A-ball is on high

Hindarfjalli,

Hindarfjall

allr es útan

all is outside

eldi sveipinn,

with-fire wrapped

þann hafa horskir

that have wise

halir of görvan

men — made

ór ódökkum

out-of undark

ógnar ljóma.

terror's radiance

Veitk á fjalli

Know-I on (the)-mountain

folkvitr sofa

a-battle-wise-one sleep

ok leikr yfir

and plays over-(her)

lindar váði;

(the)-linden's bane

Yggr stakk þorni,

Yggr pricked (with)-a-thorn

aðra feldi

other (she)-felled

hör-gefn hali,

(the)-flax-goddess men

an hafa vildi.

than have (he)-wished

44–45 • SIGRDRÍFA WAKES

The birds say the kinsman of kings may not break Sigrdrífa's sleep against the norms' decree. Sigurðr follows Fáfnir's track to his lair; takes the gold, the helm of terror; a gold mail-coat, and the sword Hrotti, and loads Grani. He rides to Hindarfjall, sees a light like fire, and finds a shield-wall with a sleeping warrior inside. Removing the helmet, he sees it is a woman, and cuts her tight mail with Gramr. She wakes and asks who has cut her bonds; he names himself Sigmundr's son. She gives him a horn of mead.

Knátt mögr séa

Can (the)-youth see

mey und hjalmi,

(the)-maid under helmet

þás frá vígi

who from battle

Vingskorni reið;

on-Vingskornir rode

máat Sigrdrífar

may-not Sigrdrífa's

svefni bregða

sleep break

skjöldunga niðr

of-kings (the)-kinsman

fyr sköpum norna.

against (the)-fates of-(the)-norns

Sigurðr reið eptir slóð Fáfnis til bælis hans ok fann þat

Sigurðr rode along (the)-track of-Fáfnir to lair his and found it

opit, ok hurðir af járni ok gætti; af járni váru ok allir

open and doors of iron and door-frames of iron were and all

timbrstokkar í húsinu, en grafit í jörð niðr. Þar

timber-beams in the-house and (it-was)-dug in (the)-earth down There

fann Sigurðr stórmikit gull ok fylði þar tvær kistur.

found Sigurðr a-very-great-(hoard-of) gold and filled there two chests

Þar tók hann ægishjálms ok gullbrynju ok sverðit

There took he (the)-helmet-of-terror and a-gold-mail-coat and the-sword

Hrotta ok marga dýrgripa ok klyfjaði þar með Grana,

Hrotti and many treasures and loaded there-(it) on Grani

en hestrinn vildi eigi fram ganga, fyrr en Sigurðr steig á

but the-horse would not forward go before that Sigurðr stepped on

bak hánnum. Sigurðr reið upp á Hindarfjall ok stefndi

(the)-back of-him Sigurðr rode up onto Hindarfjall and headed

suðr til Frakklands. Á fjallinu sá hann ljós mikit, svá
south toward Frankland On the-mountain saw he a-light great as
 sem eldr brynni, ok ljómaði af til himins. En er hann
as-if fire burned and (it)-shone from-(it) to heaven And when he
 kom at, þá stóð þar skjaldborg ok upp ór merki.
came to-(it) then stood there a-shield-wall and up out-of-(it) a-banner
 Sigurðr gekk í skjaldborgina ok sá, at þar lá maðr ok
Sigurðr went into the-shield-wall and saw that there lay a-man and
 svaf með öllum hervápnum. Hann tók fyrst hjálminn af
slept with all war-weapons He took first the-helmet off
 höfði hánnum. Þá sá hann at þat var kona. Brynjan
(the)-head of-him Then saw he that it was a-woman The-mail-coat
 var föst, sem hon væri holdgróin. Þá reist hann með
was fast as-if it were grown-into-the-flesh Then cut he with
 Gram frá höfuðsmátt brynjuna í gögnum niðr ok svá út
Gramr from (the)-head-opening the-mail-coat in through down and so out
 í gögnum báðar ermar. Þá tók hann brynju af henni,
in through both sleeves Then took he (the)-mail-coat off her
 en hon vaknaði ok settisk hon upp ok sá Sigurð ok mælti:
and she woke and sat-herself she up and saw Sigurðr and spoke

Hvat beit brynju?

What bit (the)-mail-coat

hví brák svefni?

why broke-I (from)-sleep

hverr feldi af mér

who filled from me

fölvar nauðir?

(the)-pale bonds

S. KV. Sigmundar burr —

Sigmundr's son

sleit fyr skömmu

tore before short-(while)

hrafn hræs undir —

(the)-raven (the)-corpse's wounds

hjörð Sigurðar.

(the)-sword of-Sigurðr

Sigurðr settisk niðr ok spurði hana nafns. Hon tók þá

Sigurðr sat-himself down and asked her (her)-name She took then

horn fult mjaðar ok gaf hánnum minnisveig.

a-born full of-mead and gave him a-memory-draft

Sigrdrífumál

The Lay of Sigrdrifa



Sigrdrífa hails the day and the sons of day, the night and the kinswoman, and bids them look on the two of them with kindly eyes and give them victory. She hails the æsir, the ásynjur, and the bountiful earth, and asks for speech, wisdom, and healing hands while they live. She has slept long; Óðinn caused it, so that she could not break the staves of sleep.

Heill dagr,

Hale day

1

heilir dags synir,

bale day's sons

heil nótt ok nipt;

bale night and kinswoman

óreiðum augum

with-unwrathful eyes

lítið ok þiníg

look-ye (on)-us-two hither

ok gefið sitjöndum sigr.

and give-ye (to)-(the)-sitting victory

Heilir æsir,

Hale æsir

2

heilar ásynjur,

bale ásynjur

heil sjá en fjölnýta fold,

bale this the much-useful earth

mál ok manvit

speech and man-wit

gefið okk mærum tveim

give-ye us-two famous two

ok læknishendr, meðan lifum.

and healing-bands while (we)-live

3 Lengi svafk,

Long slept-I

lengi sofnuð vask,

long asleep was-I

löng eru lýða læ,

long are of-men (the)-woes

Óðinn því veldr,

Óðinn it causes

es eigi máttak

that not could-I

bregða blundstöfum.

break (the)-sleep-staves

Sigrdrífa is a valkyrie. Two kings fought, the old warrior Hjálmgunnarr, to whom Óðinn had promised victory, and Agnarr, Auða's brother, whom no one would help. She felled Hjálmgunnarr, and in revenge Óðinn pricked her with a sleep-thorn, saying she would never again win victory and must marry; she vowed to marry no man who knew fear. Sigurðr asks her to teach him wisdom. She brings him beer mingled with might and full of spells, and teaches him victory runes, carved on the sword's hilt, guard, and plates with Týr's name twice.

Hon nefndisk Sigrdrífa ok var valkyrja. Hon sagði, at
She named-herself Sigrdrífa and was a- Valkyrie She said that
 tveir konungar börðusk. Hét annarr Hjálmgunnarr; hann
two kings fought Was-called one Hjálmgunnarr he
 var þá gamall ok enn mesti hermaðr ok hafði Óðinn
was then old and the greatest warrior and had Óðinn
 hánum sigri heitit; en »annarr hét Agnarr Auðu bróðir
(to)-him victory promised but (the)-other was-called Agnarr Auða's brother
 er vætr engi vildi týja.« Sigrdrífa feldi Hjálmgunnar
whom not-a-whit no-one would help Sigrdrífa felled Hjálmgunnarr
 í orrostunni, en Óðinn stakk hana svefnþorni í hefnd
in the-battle and Óðinn pricked her (with)-a-sleep-thorn in revenge
 þess ok kvað hana aldri skyldu síðan sigr vega í orrostu
for-that and said she never should afterward victory win in battle
 ok kvað hana giptask skyldu —»en ek sagðak hánun, at ek
and said she marry should but I said-I (to)-him that I
 strengðak heit þar í mót at giptask engum þeim manni, er
made-I a-vow there in return to marry no that man who

hræðask kynni.« Hann svarar ok biðr hana kenna sér speki,
fear could He answers and asks her (to)-teach him wisdom
 ef hon vissi tíðendi ór öllum heimum. Sigrdrífa kvað:
if she knew tidings out-of all worlds Sigrdrífa said

- 4 Bjór færir þér,
Beer bring-I thee
 brynþings apaldr,
(the)-mail-thing's apple-tree
 magni blandinn
with-might mingled
 ok megingintíri,
and great-glory
 fullr 's hann ljóða
full is it of-songs
 ok líknstafa,
and of-healing-staves
 góðra galdra
of-good charms
 ok gamanrúna.
and of-joy-runes

- 5 Sigrúnar skalt kunna,
Victory-runes shalt-(thou) know
 ef vilt sigr hafa,
if (thou)-wilt victory have
 ok rísta á hjalti hjörs,
and carve on (the)-hilt of-(the)-sword

sumar á véttrimum,
some on (the)-blade-guards

sumar á valböstum,
some on (the)-blade-plates

ok nefna tysvar Tý.
and name twice Týr

6–10 · RUNES FOR ALE, BIRTH, SEA, AND HEALING

Ale runes, carved on the horn, the back of the hand, and the nail, guard against betrayal by another's wife; sign the cup and put a leek in it, and the mead will never be poisoned. Help runes, carved on the palms and clasped about the limbs while one asks the dísir for help, deliver a child. Surf runes on the prow, the rudder, and the oar bring the ship safe through the steepest breakers. Limb runes, carved on the bark of a tree whose boughs bend east, make a healer.

Ölrúnar skalt kunna,
Ale-runes shalt-(thou) know

ef vilt annars kvæn
if (thou)-wilt (that)-another's wife

vélit þik í tryggð, ef trúir;
betray-not thee in trust if (thou)-trustest

á horni skal rísta
on (the)-horn shall-(one) carve

ok á handarbaki
and on (the)-back-of-the-hand

ok merkja á nagli Nauð.
and mark on (the)-nail Nauð

- 7 Full skal signa
(The)-cup shall-(one) sign
 ok við fári séa
and against peril guard
 ok verpa lauki í lög;
and throw leek into (the)-liquor
 þá þat veitk,
then that know-I
 at þér verðr aldri
that (for)-thee becomes never
 meini blandinn mjöðr.
with-harm mingled (the)-mead

- 8 Bjargrúnar skalt kunna,
Help-runes shalt-(thou) know
 ef bjarga vilt
if help (thou)-wilt
 ok leysa kind frá konum,
and loose (the)-child from women
 á lófum skal rísta
on (the)-palms shall-(one) carve
 ok of liðu spenna
and round (the)-limbs clasp
 ok biðja þá dísir duga.
and ask then (the)-dísir (to)-help

Brimrúnar skalt kunna,

Surf-runes shalt-(thou) know

ef vilt borgit hafa

if (thou)-wilt safe have

á sundi seglmörum,

on (the)-sound (the)-sail-steeds

á stafni skal rísta

on (the)-prow shall-(one) carve

ok á stjórnarblaði

and on (the)-rudder-blade

ok leggja eld í ár.

and lay fire into (the)-oar

(esa svá brattr breki,

is-not so steep a-breaker

né svá bláar unnir,

nor so blue (the)-waves

þó kemsk þú heill af hafi).

yet comest thou whole from (the)-sea

Limrúnar skalt kunna,

Limb-runes shalt-(thou) know

ef vilt læknir vesa

if (thou)-wilt a-physician be

ok kunna sár at séa,

and know-how wounds to see

á berki skal rísta

on (the)-bark shall-(one) carve

ok á baðmi viðar,

and on (the)-trunk of-(the)-tree

þeims lúta austr limar.

of-that-whose bend east (the)-limbs

11–15 • SPEECH RUNES AND MIND RUNES

Speech runes, woven and set together at the assembly, keep men from repaying harm with hatred. Mind runes make a man wiser than any other: Hropttr read, carved, and devised them from the liquid that leaked from Heiðdraupnir's skull and Hoddrofnir's horn, and Mímr's head spoke the first true words. They were carved on the shield before the shining god, on the ears and hooves of the sun's horses, on Sleipnir's teeth, the bear's paw, Bragi's tongue, the wolf's claws, the eagle's beak, and many more.

11 Málrúnar skalt kunna,

Speech-runes shalt-(thou) know

ef vilt at mangi þér

if (thou)-wilt that no-one (to)-thee

heiptum gjaldi harm,

with-hatreds repay harm

(þær of vindr,

them — winds

þær of vefr,

them — weaves

þær of setr allar saman,

them — sets all together

á því þingi,

at that assembly

es þjóðir skulu

where peoples shall

í fulla dóma fara).

into full judgments go

Hugrúnar skalt kunna,

Mind-runes shalt-(thou) know

ef vilt hverjum vesa

if (thou)-wilt (than)-every be

geðsvinnari guma,

more-wise-minded man

þær of réð,

them — read

þær of reist,

them — carved

þær of hugði Hroptr.

them — devised Hroptr

(af þeim legi,

from that liquid

es lekit hafði

which leaked had

ór hausi Heiðdraupnis

out-of (the)-skull of-Heiðdraupnir

ok ór horni Hoddrofnis).

and out-of (the)-horn of-Hoddrofnir

- 13 **Á bjargi stóð**
On (the)-crag (he)-stood
með Brimis eggjar,
with Brimir's edges
hafði sér á höfði hjalm,
had on-himself on (the)-head a-helm
þá Míms höfuð
then Mímr's head
mælti et fyrsta orð
spoke the first word
ok sagði sanna stafi.
and said true staves
- 14 **Á skildi kvað ristnar**
On (the)-shield said-(he) carved
þeims stendr fyr skínanda goði,
which stands before (the)-shining god
á eyra Árvakrs
on (the)-ear of-Árvakr
ok á Alsvinnns hófi,
and on Alsvinnr's hoof
á hvéli es snýsk
on (the)-wheel which turns
und reið Hrungnis bana,
under (the)-chariot Hrungnir's slayer
á Sleipnis tönnum
on Sleipnir's teeth
ok á sleða fjötrum.
and on (the)-sled's bonds

Á bjarnar hrammi

On (the)-bear's paw

ok á Braga tungu,

and on Bragi's tongue

á ulfs klóum

on (the)-wolf's claws

ok á arnar nefi,

and on (the)-eagle's beak

á blóðgum vængjum

on bloody wings

ok á brúar sporði,

and on (the)-bridge's end

á lausnar lófa

on release's palm

ok á líknar spori.

and on mercy's track

15

16–20 • THE CHOICE

Runes were carved on glass and gold, on amulets, in wine, on Gungnir's point, on Grani's breast, and on the owl's beak; all were shaved off, stirred into the holy mead, and sent on wide ways, some to the æsir, some to the elves and the wise vanir, and some to men. They are beech runes, help runes, ale runes, and might runes, for anyone who keeps them unspoiled until the powers are rent. She bids Sigurðr choose speech or silence; he answers that he will not flee though doomed, and wants all her counsel.

Á gleri ok á golli

On glass and on gold

ok á gumna heillum,

and on men's amulets

16

í víni ok virtri

in wine and in-wort

ok vilisessi,

and (the)-wish-seat

á Gungnis oddi

on Gungnir's point

ok á Grana brjósti,

and on Grani's breast

á nornar nagli

on (the)-norn's nail

ok á nefi uglu.

and on (the)-beak of-(the)-owl

17 Allar váru af skafnar,

All were off shaved

þærs váru á ristnar,

which were on carved

ok hverfðar við enn helga mjöð,

and stirred into the holy mead

ok sendar á víða vega;

and sent on wide ways

þær ro með ásum,

they are with (the)-æsir

þær ro með alfum,

they are with (the)-elves

sumar með vísum vönum,

some with (the)-wise vanir

sumar hafa menskir menn.

some have human men

Þat eru bókrúnar,

Those are beech-runes

þat eru bjargrúnar

those are help-runes

ok allar ölrúnar

and all ale-runes

ok mætar meginrúnar,

and precious might-runes

hveims kná óviltar

for-whomever can unconfused

ok óspiltar

and unspoiled

sér at heillum hafa,

(for)-himself as amulets have

njóttu ef namt,

enjoy-(them) if (thou)-learnedst

unz rjúfask regin.

until are-rent (the)-powers

Nú skalt kjósa,

Now shalt-(thou) choose

alls þér 's kostur of boðinn,

since (to)-thee is a-choice — offered

hvassa vápna hlynr,

of-keen weapons (the)-maple

sögn eða þögn

speech or silence

haf þér sjalfr í hug;

have (for)-thyself self in mind

öll eru mein of metin.

all are harms — measured

20 S. KV. Munkak floeja,

Will-I-not flee

þótt mik feigan vitir,

though me doomed (thou)-knowest

emkak með bleyði borinn,

am-I-not with cowardice born

ástráð þín

loving-counsels thy

vilk öll hafa,

wish-I all (to)-have

svá lengi sem ek lifi.

so long as I live

First, be blameless toward kinsmen and slow to avenge their wrongs, which helps the dead. Second, swear no oath unless it is true, for grim bonds follow a broken troth. Third, do not quarrel with fools at the assembly; yet silence makes one seem a coward, so kill the liar the next day. Fourth, if an evil witch dwells by the road, go on rather than lodge with her, though night overtakes you.

SDR. KV. Þat ræðk þér et fyrsta,

21

That counsel-I thee the first

at þú við frændr þína

that thou toward kinsmen thy

vammalaust verir,

blameless be

síðr þú hefnir,

less thou avenge

þótt þeir sakar geri;

though they wrongs do

þat kveða dauðum duga.

that say-(they) (to)-(the)-dead helps

Þat ræðk þér annat,

22

That counsel-I thee (the)-second

at eið né sverir,

that an-oath not (thou)-swear

nema þann 's saðr sé,

except that which true is

grimmar límar

grim bonds

ganga at tryggðrofi;

go to troth-breaking

armr es vára vargr.

wretched is of-(the)-oaths wolf

23 Þat ræðk þér þriðja,

That counsel-I thee (the)-third

at þú þingi á

that thou (the)-assembly at

deilit við heimska hali;

dispute-not with foolish men

ósviðr maðr

an-unwise man

lætr oft kveðin

lets often spoken

verri orð an viti.

worse words than (he)-knows

24 Alt es vant,

All is amiss

ef við þegir,

if to-(it) (thou)-keepst-silent

þá þykkir þú með bleyði borinn,

then seemest thou with cowardice born

(eða sönnu sagðr,

or truly accused

hætttr es heimis kviðr,

dangerous is (the)-home's verdict

nema sér góðan geti);

unless (for)-himself good (one)-gets

annars dags

(on)-(the)-second day

lát hans öndu farit,

let his breath gone

ok launa svá lýðum lygi.

and repay so (to)-men (the)-lie

Þat ræðk þér fjórða,

That counsel-I thee (the)-fourth

ef býr fordæða

if dwells a-witch

vammafull á vegi,

full-of-evil by (the)-way

ganga es betra

to-go is better

an gista sé,

than (to)-lodge is

þótt þik nótt of nemi.

though thee night — overtake

Men who fight need foresighted eyes, since baleful women sit near the road blunting swords and minds. Fifth, do not let fair women on the benches rule your sleep or lure you to kisses. Sixth, do not quarrel over ale with drunken warriors, for wine steals many men's wits, and quarrels and ale have brought many to grief and death. Seventh, if you quarrel with bold men, it is better to fight than to be burned inside your house.

26 Fornjósnar augu

Foresighted eyes

þurfu fira synir,

need (the)-sons of-men

hvars skulu vreiðir vega,

where shall (the)-angry fight

opt bölvísar konur

often bale-wise women

sitja brautu nær,

sit (the)-road near

þærs deyfa sverð ok seva.

who blunt swords and minds

27 Þat ræðk þér fimta,

That counsel-I thee (the)-fifth

þótt fagar séir

though fair (thou)-see

brúðir bekkjum á,

brides benches on

síffjar silfrs

(the)-kinships of-silver

láta þínum svefni ráða;

let-not thy sleep rule

teygjat þér at kossi konur.

entice-not (to)-thee to kissing women

Þat ræðk þér setta,

That counsel-I thee (the)-sixth

þótt með seggjum fari

though among men go

ölðrmál til öfug,

ale-talk too wrong

drukna deila

drunk dispute

skalat við dolgviðu,

shalt-(thou)-not with war-trees

margan steln viti vín.

many steals of-wit (the)-wine

Sennur ok öl

Quarrels and ale

hefr seggjum verit

have (to)-men been

mörgum at móðtrega,

(to)-many as heart-grief

sumum at bana,

(to)-some as death

28

29

sumum at bölstöfum,

(to)-some as bale-staves

fjöld 's þats fira tregr.

many is that-which men grieves

30 Þat ræðk þér sjaunda,

That counsel-I thee (the)-seventh

ef sakar deilir

if quarrels (thou)-dealest

við hugfulla hali,

with courage-full men

berjask es betra

to-fight is better

an brinna sé

than burn is

inni auðstöfum.

inside (for)-(the)-wealth-staves

Eighth, guard against evil and deceit, and entice no maiden or married woman. Ninth, tend the dead wherever you find them, dead of sickness, sea, or weapons: bathe them, wash and comb and dry them before the coffin, and bid them sleep well. Tenth, never trust a wolf's offspring whose brother or father you have killed, for a wolf lies in a young son though he be gladdened with gold. A prince needs wit and weapons to be foremost. Eleventh, guard against evil from friends; she foresees no long life for him, since strong strife has arisen.

Þat ræðk þér átta,

That counsel-I thee (the)-eighth

at skalt við illu séa

that (thou)-shalt against evil guard

ok firrask flærðarstafi,

and shun falsehood-staves

mey þú teygjat

a-maid thou entice-not

né manns konu,

nor a-man's wife

né eggja ofgamans.

nor urge (to)-excess-of-pleasure

31

Þat ræðk þér níunda,

That counsel-I thee (the)-ninth

at náum bjargir,

that (to)-corpses (thou)-give-help

hvars á foldu finnr,

wherever on (the)-earth (thou)-findest

32

hvárz eru sótt dauðir

whether (they)-are sickness-dead

eða eru sædauðir

or are sea-dead

eða eru vápndauðir verar.

or are weapon-dead men

33 Laug skal gera

A-bath shall-(one) make

þeims liðnir ro

(for)-those-who dead are

þvára hendr ok höfuð,

wash hands and head

kemba ok þerra,

comb and dry

áðr í kistu fari,

before into (the)-coffin (they)-go

ok biðja sælan sofa.

and bid-(him) happy sleep

34 Þat ræðk þér tíunda,

That counsel-I thee (the)-tenth

at trúir aldrigi

that (thou)-trust never

várum vargdropa,

(the)-oaths of-a-wolf's-offspring

(hvárz est bróðurbani,

whether (thou)-art (his)-brother's-slayer

eða hafir feldan föður),

or have felled (his)-father

opt es ulfr

often is a-wolf

í ungum syni,

in a-young son

þótt hann sé golli gladdr.

though he be with-gold gladdened

Sakar ok heiptir

Quarrels and hatreds

hyggjat svefngar vesa

think-not sleepy to-be

né harm in heldr;

nor harm the rather

vits ok vápna

wit and weapons

vant 's jöfri at fáa,

hard is (for)-(the)-prince to get

þeims skal fremstr með firum.

(for)-him-who shall (be)-foremost among men

- 36 Þat ræðk þér ellipta,
That counsel-I thee (the)-eleventh
 at við illu séir
that against evil (thou)-guard
 hvern veg at vinum,
every way to friends
 langt líf
long life
 þykkjumka lofðungs vita;
think-I-not (the)-prince's to-know
 römm eru róg of risin.
strong are strifes — risen
-

Sigurðarkviða en meiri

The Greater Lay of Sigurd

Fire surges, the earth shakes, and flame towers against heaven; few of the king's warriors dare ride through it. Sigurðr drives Grani on with his sword, and the fire goes out before him in the gleaming harness that was Reginn's. Sigurðr slew the serpent, and that will not be forgotten while the world lives, but Gunnarr never dared ride the fire. Sigurðr goes out from the talk, drooping, and his iron-woven shirt bursts apart at the sides.

Eldr nam at òesask,

Fire began to rage

en jörð at skjalfa

and (the)-earth to shake

ok hár logi

and high flame

við himin gnæfa,

against heaven to-tower

fár treystisk þar

few trusted-themselves there

fylkis rekka

(the)-king's warriors

eld at ríða

(the)-fire to ride

né yfir stíga.

nor over step

1

2 Sigurðr Grana

Sigurðr Grani

sverði keyrði

with-(the)-sword drove

eldr sloknaði

(the)-fire went-out

fyr öðlingi,

before (the)-prince

logi allr lægðisk

(the)-flame all sank

fyr lofgjörnum,

before (the)-praise-eager-one

bliku reiði,

(the)-gleaming harness

es Reginn átti.

which Reginn owned

3 Sigurðr vá at ormi,

Sigurðr slew at (the)-serpent

en þat síðan mun

and that afterward will

engum fyrnask,

(to)-none be-forgotten

meðan öld lifir,

while (the)-world lives

en hlýri þinn

but brother thy

hvárki þorði

neither dared

eld at ríða

(the)-fire to ride

né yfir stíga.

nor over step

Út gekk Sigurðr

Out went Sigurðr

andspjalli frá,

(the)-talk from

hollvinr lofða,

(the)-trusty-friend of-men

ok hnipnaði,

and drooped

svát ganga nam

so-that to-go began

gunnarfúsum

(for)-(the)-battle-eager-one

sundr of síður

apart about (the)-sides

serkr járnofinn.

(the)-shirt iron-woven

Högni asks what offense Sigurðr has done that Gunnarr means to take his life. Gunnarr answers that Sigurðr swore him oaths and lied in all of them, betraying him when he should have been most true. Högni says Brynildr has urged him to the harm because she grudges Goðrún her good marriage and grudges Gunnarr the enjoyment of herself. They roast a wolf, cut up a serpent, and feed the meat to Gotþormr before they could lay hands on the wise man. Sigurðr is slain south of the Rhine, and a raven calls from a tree that Atli will redden edges on the brothers and the oaths will crush the slayers.

5 H. KV. [Hvat hefr Sigurðr

What has Sigurðr

til] saka unnit,

of offenses done

es fræknan vill

that (the)-bold-one (thou)-wilt

fjörvi næma?

(of)-life deprive

6 G. KV. Mér hefr Sigurðr

To-me has Sigurðr

selda eiða,

given oaths

eiða selda,

oaths given

alla logna,

all lied

þá vélti hann mik

then deceived he me

es vesa skyldi

when be (he)-should

allra eiða

of-all oaths

einn fulltrúi.

alone full-trustee

H. KV. Þik hefr Brynhildr

Thee has Brynhildr

böl at gørva

bale to work

heiptar hvattan

to-hatred urged

harm at vinna;

harm to do

fyrman hón Goðrúnu

grudges she Goðrún

góðra ráða,

a-good marriage

en síðan þér

and afterward thee

sín at njóta.

herself to enjoy

- 8 Sumir ulf sviðu,
Some wolf roasted
 sumir orm sniðu,
some serpent cut
 sumir Gotþormi
some (to)-Gotþormr
 af gera deildu,
of (the)-wolf-meat gave
 áðr þeir mætti
before they could
 meins of lystir
of-harm — desirous
 á horskum hal
on (the)-wise man
 hendr of leggja.
hands — lay

- 9 Soltinn varð Sigurðr
Slain was Sigurðr
 sunnan Rínar;
south of-(the)-Rhine
 hrafn at meiði
a-raven on a-tree
 hátt kallaði:
loud called
 ykr mun Atli
(on)-you-two will Atli
 eggjar rjóða,
edges reddened

munu vígskáum

will (the)-slaughter-harmers

of við eiðar.

— crush (the)-oaths

10–13 • GOÐRÚN ASKS FOR SIGURÐR

Goðrún stands outside and asks where Sigurðr is, since her kinsmen ride in front. Högni answers that they have hewn Sigurðr apart with the sword, and the gray horse droops over the dead prince. Brynhildr tells them to enjoy weapons and lands, since Sigurðr alone would have ruled all had he lived a little longer; it was not fitting that he rule Gjúki's inheritance and the host of the Goths when Gjúki had fathered five sons eager for battle.

Úti stóð Goðrún

Outside stood Goðrún

Gjúkadóttir,

Gjúki's-daughter

ok hón þat orða

and she this of-words

alls fyrst of kvað:

of-all first — said

hvar 's nú Sigurðr,

where is now Sigurðr

segga dróttinn,

of-men (the)-lord

es frændr mínir

since kinsmen my

fyrri ríða.

in-front ride

10

11 Einn því Högni

Alone to-that Högni

andsvör veitti:

answers gave

sundr höfum Sigurð

apart have-(we) Sigurðr

sverði höggvinn,

with-(the)-sword hewn

gnapir æ grár jór

droops ever (the)-gray steed

of grami dauðum.

over (the)-prince dead

12 Þá kvað þat Brynhildr

Then said that Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir:

Buðli's daughter

»vel skuluð njóta

well shall-ye enjoy

vápna ok landa,

weapons and lands

einn myndi Sigurðr

alone would Sigurðr

öllu ráða,

all rule

ef hann lengr lítlu

if he longer a-little

lífi heldi.

life held

Væria þat sæmt

Were-not that seemly

at sá réði

that he ruled

Gjúka arfi

Gjúki's inheritance

ok Gota mengi,

and (the)-Goths' host

es hann fimm sonu

when he five sons

at folkræði,

for folk-rule

gunnar fúsa,

for-battle eager

getna hafði.«

begotten had

Brynhildr laughs once from her whole heart, so that the dwelling rings, and says they will long enjoy lands and thanes now that they have let the bold prince fall. Goðrún tells Brynhildr she speaks great monstrous things, and may fiends take Gunnarr, Sigurðr's destroyer, whose hate will be avenged. At evening much is drunk and all sleep, but Gunnarr lies awake longest, stirring and pondering what the raven and the eagle said in the wood as they rode home. Brynhildr wakes a little before day and says that whether they urge her or hinder her, the harm is done.

14 Hló þá Brynhildr,

Laughed then Brynhildr

boer allr dunði,

(the)-dwelling all resounded

einu sinni

one time

af öllum hug:

from all heart

lengi skuluð njóta

long shall-ye enjoy

landa ok þegna,

lands and thanes

es frœknan gram

since (the)-bold prince

falla létuð.

fall (ye)-let

Þá kvað þat Goðrún

Then said that Goðrún

Gjúka dóttir:

Gjúki's daughter

mjök mælir þú

much speakest thou

miklar firnar;

great monstrous-things

gramir hafi Gunnar

fiends take Gunnarr

götvað Sigurðar,

(the)-destroyer of-Sigurðr

heiptgjarns hugar

of-(the)-hate-eager mind

hefnt skal verða.

avenged shall be

Fram vas kvelda,

On was (the)-evening

fjölð vas drukkit,

much was drunk

þá vas hvívetna

then was of-every-kind

vilmál talið,

pleasant-talk told

sofnuðu allir

slept all

es í sæing kómu;

when into bed (they)-came

einn lengr Gunnarr

alone longer Gunnarr

öllum vakði.

(than)-all waked

17 Fót nam at hroera,

(His)-foot began to move

fjölð nam at spjalla,

much began to talk

hitt herglötuðr

that (the)-host-destroyer

hyggja téði,

to-ponder began

hvat þeir í bōrvi

what they in (the)-wood

báðir sögðu

both said

hrafn ey ok örn,

(the)-raven ever and (the)-eagle

es heim riðu.

when home (they)-rode

18 Vaknaði Brynhildr

Woke Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir,

Buðli's daughter

dís skjöldunga,

(the)-lady of-kings

fyr dag lítlu:

before day a-little

hvetið mik eða letið mik,

urge-ye me or hinder-ye me

harmr es unninn,

(the)-harm is done

sorg at segja

sorrow to tell

eða svá láta.

or so let-(it)-be

19–24 · BRYNHILDR'S DREAM

All fall silent, and few understand why she weeps as she tells what she had laughing asked of the men. She tells Gunnarr she dreamed the hall was chill and her bed cold, and that he rode fettered into the host of his foes, and so the whole kin of the Niflungar will lose its might for breaking oaths. She asks whether he remembers how he and Sigurðr both let blood run into the footprints, and says he has repaid with ill the man who wished him foremost. When Sigurðr rode to woo her he kept his oaths to the young king: he laid between them a sword wound with gold, its edges forged in fire and stained within with drops of poison.

Þögnu allir

Were-silent all

við því orði,

at that word

fár kunni þeim

few understood those

fljóða látum,

(the)-women's manners

es hón grátandi

when she weeping

gerðisk at segja,

began to tell

þats hlæjandi

what laughing

höldā beiddi:

(the)-men (she)-had-asked

20 »Hugðak mér Gunnarr

Thought-I (for)-myself Gunnarr

grimt í svefni,

grimly in sleep

svalt alt í sal,

chill all in (the)-hall

ættak sæing kalda,

bad-I a-bed cold

en þú gramr riðir

and thou prince rodest

glaums andvani,

of-joy bereft

fjötri fatlaðr,

with-a-fetter hobbled

í fjanda lið.

into (the)-foes' host

Svá mun öll yður

So will all your

ætt Niflunga

kin of-(the)-Niflungar

afli gengin;

(from)-might gone

eruð eiðrofa.

are-ye oath-breakers

21

Mantat Gunnarr

Rememberest-not Gunnarr

til görva þat,

to fully that

es blóði í spor

when with-blood in (the)-footprints

báðir renduð,

both (ye)-made-run

nú hefr hánun þat alt

now hast-(thou) him that all

illu launat,

with-ill repaid

es fremstan þik

that foremost thee

finna vildi.

find (he)-wished

22

- 23 Þá reyndi þat,
Then proved that
 es riðit hafði
when ridden (he)-bad
 móðigr á vit
bold to visit
 mín at biðja,
me to woo
 hvé herglötuðr
how (the)-host-destroyer
 hafði fyrri
bad before
 eiðum haldit
oaths kept
 við enn unga gram.
with the young prince

- 24 Benvönd of lét,
A-wound-wand — let
 brugðinn golli,
worked with-gold
 margdýrr konungr
(the)-very-precious king
 á meðal okkar;
in between us-two
 eldi váru eggjar
with-fire were (the)-edges
 útan görvar,
outside wrought

en eitrdropum

and with-poison-drops

innan fáðar.«

inside stained

THE DEATH OF SIGURÐR

This poem tells Sigurðr's death as if he were killed outside, though some say he was killed asleep in his bed, German men say in the forest, and Goðrúnarkviða en forna says he and the sons of Gjúki had ridden to the assembly. All agree they betrayed his trust and attacked him lying unready. Goðrún sat over the dead Sigurðr and did not weep like other women, though she was ready to burst with grief, and it was not easy to comfort her. Men say she had eaten of Fáfnir's heart and so understood the speech of birds.

Frá dauða Sigurðar. Hér er sagt í þessi kviðu frá
About (the)-death of-Sigurðr Here is told in this poem about
 dauða Sigurðar ok víkr hér svá til, sem þeir dræpi
(the)-death of-Sigurðr and turns here so toward as-if they killed
 hann úti, en sumir segja svá, at þeir dræpi hann
him outside but some say so that they killed him
 inni í rekkju sinni sofanda. En þýðverskir menn segja
inside in bed his sleeping But German men say
 svá, at þeir dræpi hann úti í skógi, ok svá segir
so that they killed him outside in (the)-forest and so says
 í Guðrúnarkviðu enni fornu, at Sigurðr ok Gjúkasynir
in (the)-Guðrúnarkviða the old that Sigurðr and Gjúki's-sons
 hefði til þings riðit, þá er hann var drepinn, en
had to (the)-assembly ridden then when he was killed but
 þat segja allir einnig, at þeir sviku hann í tryggð ok
that say all alike that they betrayed him in trust and

vágu at hánnum liggjanda ok óbúnum. Guðrún sat yfir
attacked at him lying and unready Guðrún sat over
 Sigurði dauðum. Hon grét eigi sem aðrar konur, en hon
Sigurðr dead She wept not as other women but she
 var búin til at springa af harmi. Til gengu bæði konur
was ready thereto to burst from grief To went both women
 ok karlar at hugga hana, en þat var eigi auðvelt. Þat er
and men to comfort her but that was not easy It is
 sögn manna, at Guðrún hefði etit af Fáfnis hjarta, ok
(the)-report of-men that Guðrún had eaten of Fáfnir's heart and
 hon skilði því fugls rödd. Þetta er enn kveðit um
she understood therefore (the)-bird's speech This is also told about
 Guðrúnu.

Guðrún

Goðrúnarkviða

The First Lay of Gudrun

Goðrún is ready to die as she sits sorrowing over Sigurðr, but she does not sob, beat her hands, or wail like other women. Wise earls come to soften her hard mind, and still she cannot weep, so full is her grief. The earls' wives, adorned with gold, sit before her and each tells her bitterest sorrow. Gjaflaug, Gjúki's sister, says she is the most joyless woman on earth, having lost five husbands, two daughters, three sisters, and eight brothers, and she lives on alone. Still Goðrún cannot weep.

Ár vas þats Goðrún

1

Early was-(it) that Goðrún

gerðisk at deyja,

made-ready to die

es hón sat sorgfull

when she sat sorrowful

of Sigurði,

over Sigurðr

gerðit hjúfra

(she)-did-not sob

né höndum sláa,

nor with-hands strike

né kveina umb

nor wail about

sem konur aðrar.

as women other

Gengu jarlar

2

Went earls

alsnotrir fram,

all-wise forward

þeirs harðs hugar

who (from)-hard mind

hána löttu;

her dissuaded

þeygi Goðrún

yet-not Goðrún

gráta mátti,

weep could

svá vas hón móðug,

so was she grief-stricken

mundi springa.

(she)-would burst

3 Sátu ítrar

Sat noble

jarla brúðir,

earls' brides

golli búnar,

with-gold adorned

fyr Goðrúnu;

before Goðrún

hver sagði þeira

each told of-them

sinn oftrega,

her-own over-grief

þanns bitrasta

that bitterest

of beðit hafði.

— *endured bad*

Þá kvað Gjaflaug

Then said Gjaflaug

Gjúka systir:

Gjúki's sister

mik veitk á moldu

me know-I on earth

munarlausasta;

most-joyless

hefk fimm vera

have-I five husbands'

forspell beðit,

loss endured

(tveggja dætra,

of-two daughters

þriggja systra)

of-three sisters

átta bræðra,

of-eight brothers

þó ein lifik.

yet alone live-I

Þeygi Goðrún

Yet-not Goðrún

gráta mátti,

weep could

svá vas hón móðug

so was she grief-stricken

at mög dauðan

for (the)-youth dead

ok harðhuguð

and bard-minded

of hrør fylkis.

over (the)-corpse of-(the)-king

6-11 · HERBORG'S SORROWS

Herborg, queen of Húmland, has a harder grief to tell. Her seven sons fell in the south with her husband, and the wind drowned her father, her mother, and four brothers on the sea. In one half-year she had to adorn, bury, and handle all their bodies herself, and no one came to comfort her. Then she was taken captive in war and had to dress the chieftain's wife and bind her shoes every morning, while the wife threatened and beat her from jealousy; she never found a better master or a worse mistress. Still Goðrún cannot weep.

6 Þá kvað þat Herborg,

Then said that Herborg

Húmlands drótning:

Húmland's queen

hefk harðara

have-I harder

harm at segja,

harm to tell

mínir sjau synir

my seven sons

sunnan lands,

south of-(the)-land

verr enn átti

(the)-husband the eighth

í val fellu.

in (the)-slaughter fell

Faðir ok móðir,

Father and mother

fjórir bræðr,

four brothers

þau á vági

them on (the)-wave

vindr of lék,

(the)-wind — played

barði bára

beat (the)-bellow

við borðþili.

against (the)-ship's-planking

Sjalf skyldak göfga,

Self should-I adorn

sjalf skyldak götva,

self should-I bury

sjalf skyldak hrør

self should-I (the)-corpses

höndla þeira;

handle their

7

8

þat alt of beiðk

that all — endured-I

ein misseri,

(in)-one half-year

svát mér mangi

so-that me no-one

munar leitaði.

(for)-comfort sought

9 Þá hlautk hapta

Then had-I captive

ok hernuma

and war-taken

sams misseris

(the)-same half-year

siðan verða,

after to-become

skyldak skreyta

should-I dress

ok skúa binda,

and shoes bind

hersis kván

(the)-chieftain's wife

hverjan morgin.

every morning

Hón ægði mér

She threatened me

af afbrýði,

from jealousy

ok hörðum mik

and with-hard me

höggum keyrði;

blows drove

fank húsguma

found-I a-house-lord

hvergi in betra,

nowhere the better

en húsfreyju

but a-housewife

hvergi verri.

nowhere worse

10

Þeygi Goðrún

Yet-not Goðrún

gráta mátti,

weep could

svá vas hón móðug

so was she grief-stricken

at mög dauðan

for (the)-youth dead

ok harðhuguð

and hard-minded

of hrør fylkis.

over (the)-corpse of-(the)-king

11

Gollrönd, Gjúki's daughter, tells her foster-mother that for all her wisdom she cannot answer a young wife, and warns against keeping the king covered. She pulls the sheet off Sigurðr and bids Goðrún look at her beloved and kiss him as if he were alive. Goðrún looks once and sees his hair running with blood, his gleaming eyes dead, and his breast cut by the sword. She sinks against the bolster, her hair loosens, a drop like rain runs down over her knee, and she weeps so that tears fly through her hair and the geese in the yard scream. Gollrönd says their love was the greatest of all on earth.

12 Þá kvað þat Gollrönd

Then said that Gollrönd

Gjúka dóttir:

Gjúki's daughter

»fá kant fóstura,

little canst-(thou) foster-mother

þótt fróð séir,

though wise (thou)-be

ungu vífi

(to)-(the)-young woman

andspjöll bera;«

answers bring

varaði hón at hylja

warned she against covering

of hrør fylkis.

— *(the)-corpse of-(the)-king*

Svipti blæju

(She)-snatched (the)-sheet

af Sigurði

off Sigurðr

ok vatt vengi

and turned (the)-pillow

fyr vífs knéum:

before (the)-woman's knees

»lit á ljúfan,

look at (the)-beloved

legg munn við grön,

lay mouth against lip

sem halsaðir

as-if (thou)-embracedst

heilan stilli.«

(the)-bale lord

13

Á leit Goðrún

At looked Goðrún

einu sinni,

one time

sá döglinga skör

saw (the)-king's hair

dreyra runna,

with-blood run

fránar sjónir

(the)-gleaming eyes

fylkis liðnar,

of-(the)-king dead

14

hugborg jöfurs
(the)-mind-stronghold of-(the)-prince

hjörvi skorna.
with-(the)-sword cut

15 Þá hné Goðrún

Then sank Goðrún

höll við bolstri,
leaning against (the)-bolster

haddr losnaði,
(the)-hair loosened

hlýr roðnaði,
(the)-cheek reddened

en regns dropi
and of-rain a-drop

rann niðr of kné.
ran down over (the)-knee

16 Þá grét Goðrún

Then wept Goðrún

Gjúka dóttir,
Gjúki's daughter

svát tár flugu
so-that tears flew

tresk í gögnum,
tresses in through

ok gullu við

and screamed at-(it)

gæss í túni,

geese in (the)-yard

mærir foglar,

(the)-famous birds

es mæR átti.

which (the)-maid owned

(Þá kvað þat Gollrönd

Then said that Gollrönd

Gjúka dóttir)

Gjúki's daughter

Ykkar vissak

Your-two knew-I

ástir mestar

loves (the)-greatest

manna allra

of-men all

fyr mold ofan;

over earth above

unðir hvárki

(thou)-wast-content neither

úti né inni,

outside nor inside

systir mín nema

sister my except

hjá Sigurði.

beside Sigurðr

Goðrún says Sigurðr stood beside the sons of Gjúki like a leek grown out of the grass, a bright stone on a string, a gem above princes. She seemed higher to his warriors than any of Herjann's dísir, and now she is as small as a willow leaf. She misses her companion at table and in bed, and blames Gjúki's sons for her bale. She wishes the brothers may lay waste their people's land as they broke their sworn oaths; Gunnarr will not enjoy the gold, and the rings will be his bane. There was greater joy in the yard when Sigurðr saddled Grani and they rode to woo Brynildr, to their ill luck.

18 G. KV. Svá vas minn Sigurðr

So was my Sigurðr

hjá sonum Gjúka

beside (the)-sons of-Gjúki

sem væri geirlaukr

as-if (he)-were a-spear-leek

ór grasi vaxinn,

out-of (the)-grass grown

eða væri bjartr steinn

or were a-bright stone

á band dreginn

on a-string drawn

jarknasteinn

a-precious-stone

of öðlingum.

above princes

Ek þótta ok

I seemed also

þjóðans rekkum

(to)-(the)-prince's warriors

hverri hæri

than-every higher

Herjans dísi,

Herjann's dis

nú emk svá lítil

now am-I so little

sem lauf séi

as (the)-leaf is

opt í ölstrum

often in willows

at jöfur dauðan.

for (the)-prince dead

19

Saknak í sessi

Miss-I in (the)-seat

ok í sæingu

and in (the)-bed

míns málvinar,

my speech-friend

valda megir Gjúka,

cause (the)-sons of-Gjúki

20

valda megir Gjúka

cause (the)-sons of-Gjúki

mínu bölví

my bale

ok systir sinnar

and of-sister their

sárum gráti.

sore weeping

21 Svá ér lýðum

So ye (for)-people

land of eyðið,

(the)-land — lay-waste

sem ér rufuð

as ye broke

eiða svarða;

oaths sworn

muna þú Gunnarr

shalt-not thou Gunnarr

golls of njóta;

(the)-gold — enjoy

þeir munu baugar

those will rings

þér at bana verða.

(for)-thee to (the)-bane become

(es þú Sigurði

since thou (to)-Sigurðr

svarðir eiða).

sworest oaths

Opt vas í túni

Often was in (the)-yard

teiti meiri,

joy greater

þás minn Sigurðr

when my Sigurðr

söðlaði Grana

saddled Grani

ok þeir Brynhildar

and they Brynhildr

biðja fóru,

to-woo went

armrar véttar,

of-(the)-wretched creature

illu heilli.

with-ill luck

22

23–27 • BRYNHILDR'S FURY

Brynhildr curses whoever urged Goðrún to weep: may she lack husband and children. Gollrönd bids her be silent, the doom of princes and the sorrow of seven kings. Brynhildr says her brother Atli alone caused the bale, since in the Hunnish hall they saw the gold on the prince, and she has rued that sight ever since. She stands by the pillar, fire burning from her eyes, and snorts poison when she looks on Sigurðr's wounds.

Þá kvað þat Brynhildr

Then said that Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir:

Buðli's daughter

23

vörn sé sú vétrtr

lacking be that creature

vers ok barna,

(of)-husband and children

es þér Goðrún

who thee Goðrún

gráts of beiddi

(to)-weeping — urged

ok þér í morgun

and thee in-(the) morning

málrúnar gaf.

speech-runes gave

24 Þá kvað þat Gollrönd

Then said that Gollrönd

Gjúka dóttir:

Gjúki's daughter

þegi þú þjóðleið

be-silent thou hateful-one

þeira orða,

(of)-those words

urðr öðlinga

(the)-fate of-princes

hefr þú æ verit,

hast thou ever been

rekr þik alda hver

drives thee wave every

illrar skepnu.

of-evil shape

(sorg sára

(the)-sorrow sore

sjau konunga

of-seven kings

ok vinspell

and (the)-friend-loss

vífa mest).

of-women greatest

Þá kvað þat Brynhildr

Then said that Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir:

Buðli's daughter

veldr einn Atli

causes alone Atli

öllu bölv

all (the)-bale

of borinn Buðla

— born (of)-Buðli

bróðir minn.

brother my

26 Þás vit í höll

When we-two in (the)-hall

húnskrar þjóðar

of-(the)-Hunnish people

eld á jöfri

(the)-fire on (the)-prince

ormbeðs litum,

of-(the)-serpent-bed saw

þess hefk gangs

for-that have-I going

goldit síðan;

paid since

þeirar sýnar

(for)-that sight

ek sáumk ey.

I rued ever

27 Stóð hón und stoð,

Stood she by (the)-pillar

strengði efi;

gathered strength

brann Brynhildi

burned from-Brynhildr

Buðla dóttur

Buðli's daughter

eldr ór augum,

fire out-of (the)-eyes

eitri fnæsti,

poison (she)-snorted

es sár of leit

when (the)-wounds — (she)-looked

á Sigurði.

on Sigurðr

GOÐRÚN IN DENMARK

Goðrún goes away into the forest and the wastelands, all the way to Denmark, and stays seven half-years with Þóra Hákonardóttir. Brynhildr will not live after Sigurðr: she has eight of her thralls and five bondwomen killed, and then runs herself through with a sword, as the Short Lay of Sigurðr tells.

Guðrún gekk þaðan á braut til skógar á eyðimerkr

Guðrún went thence off away to (the)-forest into wastelands

ok fór alt til Danmarkar ok var þar með

and went all-the-way to Denmark and was there with

Þóru Hákonardóttur sjau misseri. Brynhildr vildi eigi

Þóra Hákon's-daughter seven half-years Brynhildr wished not

lifa eptir Sigurð; hon lét drepa þræla sína átta

live after Sigurðr she let kill thralls her eight

ok fimm ambóttir; þá lagði hon sik sverði

and five bondwomen then thrust she herself with-a-sword

til bana, svá sem segir í Sigurðarkviðu enni

to death so as (it)-says in (the)-Sigurðarkviða the

skömmu.

short

Sigurðarkviða en skamma

The Short Lay of Sigurd

Long ago the young Völsungr Sigurðr came to Gjúki when he had done his slaying, took pledges from the two brothers, and swore oaths with them. They offered him the young Goðrún, Gjúki's daughter, with treasure in abundance, and he drank and talked with Gjúki's sons for many days. Then they rode to woo Brynhildr, and Sigurðr went with them; he would have had her himself, had he been able. The man from the south laid a naked inlaid sword between them, neither kissed the maid nor took her in his arms, and handed her over to Gjúki's son. She knew no fault in her life, but grim fates came between.

Ár vas þats Sigurðr

1

Early was-(it) that Sigurðr

sótti Gjúka,

visited Gjúki

völsungr ungi,

(the)-Völsungr young

es vegit hafði,

when slain (he)-had

tók við tryggðum

took with pledges

tveggja bræðra,

of-two brothers

seldusk eiða

gave-each-other oaths

eljunfrœknir.

(the)-valiant-ones

2 Mey buðu hánun

A-maid offered-(they) him

ok meiðma fjöld,

and of-treasures abundance

Goðrúnu unga

Goðrún young

Gjúka dóttur;

Gjúki's daughter

drukku ok dæmðu

drank and talked

dægr mart saman

days many together

Sigurðr ungi

Sigurðr young

ok synir Gjúka.

and (the)-sons of-Gjúki

3 Unz Brynhildar

Until Brynhildr

biðja fóru,

to-woo (they)-went

svát þeim Sigurðr

so-that with-them Sigurðr

í sinni reið,

in (the)-company rode

völsungr ungi,

(the)-Völsungr young

ok vega kunni;

and fight could

hann of átti,
he — would-have-had-(her)
 ef eiga knætti.
if have (he)-could

Seggr enn suðrœni
(The)-man the southern
 lagði sverð nøkvit,
laid a-sword naked
 mæki málfáan,
a-blade inlaid
 á meðal þeira,
in between them
 né hann konu
nor he (the)-woman
 kyssa gerði,
kiss did
 né húnskr konungr
nor (the)-Hunnish king
 hefjask at armi.
lift to (his)-arm
 (mey frumunga
(the)-maid very-young
 fal hann megi Gjúka).
entrusted he (to)-(the)-son of-Gjúki

5 Hón sér at lífi

She in-herself in life

löst né vissi

fault not knew

ok at aldragi

and at life's-end

ekki grand,

no harm

vamm þats væri

blemish that were

eða vesa hygði;

or be (one)-thought

gengu á milli

went in between

grimmar urðir.

grim fates

6–10 · BRYNHILDR'S YEARNING

Brynhildr sits alone outside at evening and says openly that she will have Sigurðr in her arms or die. She repents the word at once: Goðrún is his wife and she is Gunnarr's, and loathsome norms have shaped a long yearning for them. Often she walks out full of ill over ice and glaciers when Goðrún and Sigurðr go to bed and he wraps her in the sheet. She goes without joy or husband and must comfort herself with a grim mind. From these hatreds she urges slaughter, telling Gunnarr he will lose her land and herself, since she will never be content with him.

6 Ein sat hón úti

Alone sat she outside

aptan dags,

(in)-(the)-evening of-day

nam hón svá ört

began she so openly

umb at mællask:

— *to speak*

»hafa skalk Sigurð,

have shall-I Sigurðr

eða sveltí þó,

or die though

mög frumungan

(the)-youth very-young

mér á armi.

(for)-me in (the)-arm

Orð mæltak nú,

(The)-word spoke-I now

iðrumk eptir þess;

repent-I afterward of-it

kván 's hans Goðrún

(the)-wife is his Goðrún

en Gunnars ek;

but Gunnarr's I

ljótar nornir

loathsome norms

skópu oss langa þrá.«

shaped (for)-us long yearning

8 Opt gengr hón innan

Often goes she from-inside

ills of fylð

with-ill — filled

ísa ok jökla

(on)-ice and glaciers

aptan hverjan,

evening every

es þau Goðrún,

when they Goðrún

ganga á beð

go to bed

ok hana Sigurðr

and her Sigurðr

sveipr í rípti.

wraps in (the)-sheet

(konungr enn húnski

(the)-king the Hunnish

kván frjá sína).

wife to-caress his

9 »Vön geng ek vilja

Lacking go I (of)-joy

ok vers beggja,

and (of)-husband both

verðk mik gæla

must-I myself gladden

af grimmum hug«.

with grim mind

Nam af þeim heiptum

Began from those hatreds

hvetjask at vígi:

urge-herself to slaughter

»þú skalt Gunnarr

thou shalt Gunnarr

görst of láta

wholly — lose

mínu landi

my land

ok mér sjalfri,

and me myself

munka una aldri

will-I-not be-content ever

með öðlingi.

with (the)-prince

Brynhildr says she will go back to her kinsmen and sleep her life away unless Gunnarr lets Sigurðr die and rises above the other prince. The son should go with the father, since a wolf cub is not to be reared, and a living son makes men slower to take atonement. Gunnarr sits downcast all day, not knowing what is most fitting or best, for he knows what he would lose in the Völsungr. He ponders long, since it was rare for a wife to leave a kingship, then calls Högni, his most trusted, to secret talk: Brynhildr is better to him than all, and he would sooner lose his life than her treasures.

11 Munk aptr fara

Will-I back go

þars áðan vask,

where before was-I

með nábornum

with near-born

niðjum mínum,

kinsmen my

þar munk sitja

there will-I sit

ok sofa lífi,

and sleep (my)-life-away

nema þú Sigurð

unless thou Sigurðr

svelta látir.

die let

(ok jöfur öðrum

and (than)-(the)-prince other

æðri verðir).

higher become

Látum son fara

Let-us (the)-son go

feðr í sinni,

(with)-(the)-father in company

skalat ulf ala

shall-not a-wolf rear

ungan lengi;

young long

hveim verðr hölðað

to-whom becomes of-men

hönd léttari

(the)-hand lighter

síðan til sáttar

afterward toward atonement

at sonr lifit.«

that (the)-son lives

12

Hryggr varð Gunnarr

Sad was Gunnarr

ok hnipnaði,

and drooped

sveip sínum hug

wrapped-(in) his mind

sat of allan dag,

sat — all day

hann vissi þat

he knew that

vilgi görla,

not-at-all fully

13

hvat hánnum væri

what (for)-him were

vinna sœmst.

to-do most-seemly

(eða hánnum væri

or (for)-him were

vinna bezt,

to-do best

alls sik völsung

since himself (of)-(the)-Völsungr

vissi firðan

(he)-knew deprived

ok at Sigurð

and after Sigurðr

söknuð mikinn).

loss great

14 (Ýmist hann hugði

Alternately he pondered

jafnlanga stund)

an-equally-long while

Þat vas eigi

That was not

hánnum afar títt,

(to)-him very common

at frá konungdóm

that from kingship

kvánir gengi;

wives went

nam sér Högna

began (for)-himself Högni

heita at rúnum;

call to secret-talk

þar átti hann

there had he

alls fulltrúa.

of-all (the)-most-trusted

»Ein 's mér Brynhildr

One is to-me Brynhildr

öllum betri

(than)-all better

of borin Buðla,

— born of-Buðli

hón 's bragr kvinna;

she is (the)-best of-women

fyr skalk mínu

sooner shall-I my

fjörvi láta

life lose

an þeirar meyar

than that maid's

meiðmum týna.

treasures lose

Gunnarr asks Högni whether he will join him in betraying the king for wealth, since it is good to rule the Rhine's gold and sit enjoying it. Högni answers that it does not befit them to break sworn oaths and pledges with the sword. No men on earth are happier while the four of them rule the people and the Hunnish war-leader lives, and no kinship on earth is nobler; if they rear five sons long, they could increase a good line. He knows where the trouble comes from: Brynhildr's demands are too great.

16 Vildu okr fylki

Wilt-thou (for)-us-two (the)-king

til féar véla?

for wealth to-cheat

gótt 's at ráða

good is to rule

Rínar malmi

(the)-Rhine's metal

ok unandi

and content

auði stýra

(the)-riches to-steer

ok sitjandi

and sitting

sælu njóta.«

happiness to-enjoy

Einu því Högni

One to-that Högni

andsvör veitti:

answers gave

»samir eigi ok

befits not us-two

slíkt at vinna,

such to do

sverði rofna

with-(the)-sword broken

svarna eiða,

sworn oaths

eiða svarna,

oaths sworn

unnar tryggðir.

given pledges

17

Vituma á moldu

Know-we-not on earth

menn in sælli,

men the happier

meðan fjórir vér

while four we

folki ráðum

(the)-people rule

ok sá enn húnski

and that the Hunnish

her-Baldr lifir,

bost-Baldr lives

18

né in mætri

nor the more-excellent

mæggð á foldu.

kinship on earth

(ef vér fimm sonu

if we five sons

fæðum lengi

rear long

áttum góða

(of)-kin good

œxla knættim).

increase could

19 Ek veit görla

I know fully

hvaðan vegir standa,

whence (the)-ways stand

eru Brynhildar

are Brynhildr's

brek ofmikil«.

demands too-great

Gunnarr says they will make Gotpormr, the younger and less wise brother, do the slaying, since he stood outside the oaths. The fierce youth is easily egged on, and the sword stands in Sigurðr's heart. Sigurðr, war-eager, turns to vengeance in the hall and hurls Gramr after his slayer; the bright iron flies from the king's hand and cuts Gotpormr in two, his hands and head falling one way and his legs the other. Goðrún had been sleeping untroubled beside Sigurðr, and she wakes bereft of joy, floating in the blood of Freyr's friend.

G. KV. **Vit skulum Gotporm**

20

We-two shall Gotpormr

gørva at vígi,

make for slaughter

yngra bróður

(the)-younger brother

ófróðara;

less-wise

hann vas fyr utan

he was before outside

eiða svara,

oaths sworn

eiða svara,

oaths sworn

unnar tryggðir.

given pledges

21 Dælt vas at eggja

Easy was-(it) to egg-on

óbilgjarnan

(the)-unrelenting-one

* * *

(lacuna)

stóð til hjarta

stood to (the)-heart

hjörri Sigurði.

(the)-sword in-Sigurðr

22 Réð til hefnda

Turned to vengeance

hergjarn í sal

(the)-war-eager-one in (the)-hall

ok eptir varp

and after-(him) threw

óbilgjörnum,

(at)-(the)-unrelenting-one

fló til Gotþorms

flew toward Gotþormr

Gramr ramliga,

Gramr mightily

kynbirt éarn,

(the)-bright-of-kin iron

ór konungs hendi.

out-of (the)-king's hand

Hné hans ofdolgr

Sank his foe

til hluta tveggja,

into parts two

hendr ok höfuð

bands and head

hné á annan veg,

sank to (the)-other side

en fótahlutr

and (the)-foot-part

fell aptr í stað.

fell back in place

23

Sofnuð vas Goðrún

Asleep was Goðrún

í sæingu

in bed

sorgalaus

sorrowless

hjá Sigurði,

beside Sigurðr

en hón vaknaði

but she woke

vilja firð,

of-joy bereft

es hón Freys vinar

when she Freyr's friend's

flaut í dreyra.

floated in blood

24

Goðrún strikes her hands together so hard that the strong-minded man raises himself against the bed and tells her not to weep so grimly, since her brothers live. His heir is too young to escape from the house of his foes, who have darkly laid new plans, and no such sister's son will ride to the assembly for them though she bear seven. He knows the cause: Brynhildr alone brought all this bale. She loved him before every man, but he did no harm to Gunnarr, kept the kinship and the oaths, and would not be called Gunnarr's wife's lover.

25 Svá sló hón sváran

So struck she hard

sínar hendr,

her hands

at rammhugaðr

that (the)-strong-minded-one

reis upp við beð:

rose up against (the)-bed

»gráta þú Goðrún

weep-not thou Goðrún

svá grimmliga,

so grimly

brúðr frumunga,

bride very-young

þér bræðr lifa.

(for)-thee brothers live

Ák til ungan

Have-I too young

erfínytja,

an-beir

kannat firrask

can-(he)-not escape

ór fjandgarði,

out-of (the)-foes'-house

þeir sér hafa

they (for)-themselves have

svárt ok datt,

darkly and craftily

en nær numit

and near taken

nýlig ráð.

new counsels

26

Ríðra þeim síðan

Rides-not (to)-them afterward

þótt sjau alir

though seven (thou)-bear

systursonr

a-sister's-son

slíkr at þingi;

such to (the)-assembly

ek veit görla,

I know fully

hví gegnir nú,

why (it)-means now

27

ein veldr Brynhildr

alone causes Brynhildr

öllu bölv.

all (the)-bale

28 MÉR unni mæR

Me loved (the)-maid

fyr mann hverjan,

before man every

en við Gunnar

but toward Gunnarr

grand ekki vank;

harm none did-I

þyrmðak sífum,

spared-I kinslip

svörnum eiðum,

sworn oaths

síðr værak heitinn

less were-I called

hans kvánar vinr.«

his wife's friend

The woman breathes out and the king breathes his last; she strikes her hands so the cups ring in the corner and the geese scream in the yard. Brynhildr laughs once from her whole heart when she hears Goðrún's shrill weeping from her bed. Gunnarr tells her, hate-eager woman, that she does not laugh on the floor because it bodes her good, and asks why her white color leaves her. He thinks she is doomed, and says she deserves to see her brother Atli hewn before her eyes and bind his bloody wounds herself.

Kona varp öndu

(The)-woman cast-out (her)-breath

en konungr fjörvi,

and (the)-king (his)-life

svá sló hón sváran

so struck she hard

sínar hendr,

her bands

at kváðu við

that rang at-(it)

kálfkar í vrá

cups in (the)-corner

ok gullu við

and screamed at-(it)

gæss í túni.

geese in (the)-yard

30 Hló þá Brynhildr

Laughed then Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir

Buðli's daughter

einu sinni

one time

af öllum hug,

from all heart

es hón til hvílu

when she to (her)-bed

heyra knátti

bear could

gjallan grát

(the)-sbrill weeping

Gjúka dóttur.

Gjúki's daughter's

31 (Hitt kvað þá Gunnarr,

That said then Gunnarr

gramr haukstalda.)

(the)-prince of-hawk-bearers

Hlæra þú af því,

Laughest-not thou from that

heiptgjörn kona,

hate-eager woman

á golfi glöð,

on (the)-floor glad

at þér góðs viti;

that to-thee good (it)-bodes

hví hafnar þú

why forsakest thou

enum hvíta lit,

the white hue

feikna fœðir;

monster's breeder

hygg at feig séir.

think-I that doomed (thou)-be

Þú værir þess

Thou wert of-that

verðust kvinna

worthiest of-women

at fyr augum þér

that before eyes thy

Atla hjøggim,

Atli (we)-bewed

bræðr þínum

(on)-brother thy

sæir blóðugt sár,

(thou)-sawest a-bloody wound

undir dreyrgar

wounds gory

knættir yfir binda.

couldst over bind

Brynhildr says no one taunts him and he has fought enough; Atli cares little for his hostility, will outlive them both, and will keep the greater might. She reminds Gunnarr how early they set out on wrongs. She was neither in want nor oppressed, richly endowed on her brother's floor, and did not wish for a husband before the Gjúkungar rode to the court, three great kings on horseback, on a journey that was never needed. Atli told her he would share no gold or lands with her unless she let herself be married, nor any of the wealth he had given her as a girl.

33 BR. KV. Frýra þér engi,

Taunts-not thee anyone

hefr þú fullvegít;

bast thou fully-fought

lítt sésk Atli

little fears Atli

óvu þína;

hostility thy

hann mun ykkar láta

he will (than)-you-two let

önd síðari

(his)-breath later

ok æ bera

and ever bear

afl et meira.

might the more

Segja munk þér Gunnarr,

Tell will-I thee Gunnarr

sjalfr veizt görla,

thyself knowest fully

hvé ér snimma

how ye early

til saka réðuð;

to wrongs set-out

varðka til öngð

was-I-not to straits

né ofprungin

nor over-pressed

fullgædd fæi

fully-endowed with-wealth

á fleti bróður.

on (the)-floor of-(my)-brother

Né vildak þat,

Nor wished-I that

at mik verr ætti,

that me a-husband had

áðr Gjúkungar

before (the)-Gjúkungar

at garði riðu,

to (the)-court rode

þrír á hestum

three on horses

þjóðkonungar,

great-kings

en þeira för

but their journey

þörfgi væri.

needful-not were

36 Ok mér Atli þat

And (to)-me Atli that

einni sagði,

alone said

at hvárki lézk

that neither said-he

höfn of deila,

share — divide

goll né jarðir,

gold nor lands

nema gefask létak,

unless marry let-I

ok engi hlut

and no portion

auðins féar.

of-(tbe)-granted wealth

Þás mér jóðungri

When (to)-me very-young

eiga seldi

a-possession (he)-gave

ok mér jóðungri

and (to)-me very-young

aura talði.

treasures counted

37

38-42 • THE ONE SHE LOVED

Her mind wavered whether to take a husband or to fell men in mail for her brother's sake, which would grieve many. She and Atli came to terms, and she chose to take rings from the son of Sigmundr and wanted no other man's treasure. She promised herself to the great king who sat with the gold on Grani's shoulders, whom none of them resembled in eyes or looks, though they think themselves great kings. She loved one man and was not fickle, as Atli will find when he learns of her death. No thin-minded woman shall ever lead another's husband, and that will be her vengeance.

Þá vas á hvörfun

Then was in wavering

hugr minn of þat,

mind my about that

38

hvárt skyldak ver eiga

whether should-I a-husband have

eða val fella

or (the)-slain fell

(böll í brynju

bold in mail-coat

of bróður sök);

for (my)-brother's sake

þat myndi þá

that would then

þjóðkunt vesa

far-known be

mörgum manni

(to)-many a-man

at munar stríði.

for heart's grief

39 Létum síga

Let-(we) sink

sáttmál okkur;

settlement our-two

lék mér meir í mun

played (for)-me more in mind

meiðmar þiggja,

treasures to-receive

bauga rauða

rings red

burar Sigmundar;

of-(the)-son of-Sigmundr

né annars manns

nor another man's

aura vildak.

treasures wished-I

Þeim hétumk þá

Him promised-I-myself then

þjóðkonungi,

(the)-great-king

es með golli sat

who with gold sat

á Grana bógum,

on Grani's shoulders

vasat hann í augu

was-not he in (the)-eyes

yðr of glíkr

you — like

né á engi hlut

nor in any part

at álitum.

in appearance

(þó þykkizk ér

yet think-yourselves ye

þjóðkonungar).

great-kings

40

41 Unnak einum

Loved-I one

né ýmissum,

nor various

bjóat of hverfan

bore-not — fickle

hug men-Skögul;

mind (the)-necklace-Skögul

alt mun þat Atli

all will that Atli

eptir finna,

afterward find

es mína spyrr

when (be)-learns my

morðför görva.

death-journey made

42 At þvígi skal

To that-not shall

þunngæð kona

a-thin-minded woman

annarrar ver

another's husband

aldri leiða;

ever lead

þat mun at hefndum

that will as vengeance

harma minna.

of-harms my

Gunnarr rises and puts his hands about his wife's neck, and all in turn try to dissuade her, but she thrusts each from her neck and will not be held from the long journey. Gunnarr calls Högni to secret talk and asks for all their men in the hall, to see whether harm can be kept from her. Högni answers that no one should hinder her from the long journey, and may she never be born again: she came crooked from her mother's knees, born for many men's grief. A joyless man turns from the talk to where the lady deals out treasures; she looks over her possessions and her slain slave-girls, puts on a gold mail-coat, and pierces herself with the sword.

Upp reis Gunnarr

Up rose Gunnarr

gramr verðungar,

(the)-prince of-(the)-retinue

ok of hals konu

and about (the)-neck of-(his)-wife

hendr of lagði,

bands — laid

gengu allir

went all

ok ýmissir

and each-in-turn

af heilum hug

from whole heart

hána at letja.

her to dissuade

43

44 Hratt af halsi
(Sbe)-thrust from (her)-neck

hveim þar sér,
each-one there from-herself

léta sik letja
let-not herself (be)-hindered

langrar göngu.
from-(the)-long going

45 (Nam sér Högna
Began (for)-himself Högni

hvetja at rúnum)
urge to secret-talk

»Seggi vilk alla
(the)-men wish-I all

í sal ganga,
into (the)-hall (to)-go

(þína með mínum
thine with mine

nú 's þörf mikil)
now is need great

vita ef meini
to-know if (they)-hinder

morðför konu,
(the)-death-journey of-(the)-woman

unz af méli
until from (the)-bit

enn mein komi,
still harm come

þá látum því

then let-us that

þarfar ráða.«

(the)-need rule

(Einu því Högni

One to-that Högni

andsvör veitti)

answers gave

Letja hána

Hinder-not her

langrar göngu,

from-(the)-long going

þars aptrborin

where reborn

aldri verði;

never (may-she)-be

hón kröng of komsk

she crooked — came

fyr kné móður

before (the)-knees of-(her)-mother

(hón 's æ borin

she is ever born

óvilja til)

unwillingness toward

mörgum manni

(for)-many a-man

at móðtrega.

to heart-grief

47 Hvarf sér óhróðigr

Turned (for)-himself joyless

andspilli frá,

(the)-talk from

þars mörk menja

where (the)-forest of-necklaces

meiðmum deildi;

treasures dealt

leit hón of alla

looked she over all

eigu sína,

possessions her

soltnar þýjar

slain slave-girls

ok salkonur.

and ball-women

48 Gollbrynju smó,

A-gold-mail-coat (she)-put-on

vasa gott í hug,

was-not good in mind

áðr sik miðlaði

before herself (she)-pierced

mækis eggjum;

with-(the)-blade's edges

hné við bolstri

sank against (the)-bolster

hón á annan veg

she to (the)-other side

ok hjörunduð

and sword-wounded

hugði at ráðum.

pondered on counsels

49–53 • BRYNHILDR'S GIFTS

Brynhildr bids those who want gold come and take it from her, offering each an adorned necklace, embroidery, a coverlet, and bright garments. All are silent, then answer together that enough are slain; they will live on as hall-women and win honor. The young woman in linen says she wants no one to lose life unwillingly for her sake, but little wealth will burn on their bones when they come to her. She bids Gunnarr sit, and tells him, despairing of life, that his ship will not stay whole in the sound when she has lost her breath.

BR. KV. Nú skulu ganga

Now shall come

49

þærs goll vili

those-who gold wish

ok minni því

and (the)-lesser for-that

at mér þiggja;

from me receive

ek gef hverri

I give each

of hroðit sigli,

— adorned necklace

bók ok blæju,

embroidery and coverlet

bjartar váðir.

bright garments

50 Þögðu allar

Were-silent all

við því ráði,

at that counsel

ok allar senn

and all at-once

andsvör veittu:

answers gave

»œrnar ro soltnar,

enough are slain

munum enn lifa,

(we)-will still live

verða salkonur

be ball-women

scemð at vinna«.

honor to win

51 Unz af hyggjandi

Until from thinking

hörskrýdd kona,

(the)-linen-clad woman

ung at aldri,

young in age

orð viðr of kvað:

word in-reply — said

vilkat trauðan

wish-I-not (one)-unwilling

né torbænan

nor hard-to-entreat

of óra sök

for our sake

aldri týna.

ever (to)-lose-(life)

Þó mun á beinum

Yet will on bones

brinna yðrum

burn your

færi eyrir,

little wealth

þás fram komið;

when forth (ye)-come

neit menju góð

not necklaces good

mín at vitja.

me to visit

53 Sezk niðr Gunnarr,

Sit-thyself down Gunnarr

munk segja þér

will-I tell thee

lífs ørvæna

of-life despairing

ljósa brúði,

(the)-bright bride

muna yðvart far

will-not your ship

alt í sundi,

all in (the)-sound

þótt ek hafa

though I have

öndu látit.

(my)-breath lost

Brynhildr foretells that Gunnarr and Goðrún will be reconciled sooner than he thinks, that the wise woman keeps with the king sad keepsakes of her dead husband, and, after lines that are lost, that a maid is born, Svanhildr, whom her mother rears, brighter than the day and the sun's ray. Gunnarr will give Goðrún to a man, to the harm of many: Atli, Brynhildr's brother, will marry her against her will. Brynhildr has much to remember of how they betrayed her, and she had no joy while she lived. Gunnarr will want Oddrún, but Atli will not allow it, and the two will meet in secret; Oddrún will love him as Brynhildr should have, had good fates been shaped for them.

Sátt munuð Goðrún

54

Reconciled will-ye Goðrún

snemr an hyggir;

sooner than (thou)-thinkest

hefr kunn kona

has (the)-wise woman

við konungi

with (the)-king

daprar minjar

sad keepsakes

at dauðan ver.

for (her)-dead husband

* * *

55

(lacuna)

Þar 's mæR borin,

There is a-maid born

móðir fœðir,

(the)-mother rears

sú mun hvítari

she will whiter

an enn heiði dagr

than the bright day

Svanhildr vesa

Svanhildr be

sólar geisla.

(than)-(the)-sun's ray

56 Gefa munt Guðrúnu

Give wilt-(thou) Guðrún

góðra nøkkurum

of-good (to)-some-one

(skeyti skæða

(the)-shafts of-harm

skatna mengi);

of-men (the)-host

munat at vilja

will-not to (her)-will

versæl gefin;

happily-married (be)-given

hána mun Atli

her will Atli

eiga ganga

have (to)-marry

of borinn Buðla,

— *born of-Buðli*

bróðir minn.

brother my

Margs ák minnask,

Much have-I to-remember

hvé við mik fóru,

how toward me (they)-went

þás mik sára

when me sorely

svikna höfðuð;

betrayed (ye)-had

vaðin at vilja

bereft of joy

vask meðan lifðak.

was-I while lived-I

57

Munt Oddrúnu

Wilt-(thou) Oddrún

eiga vilja,

have wish

en þik Atli mun

but thee Atli will

eigi láta;

not let

it munuð lúta

you-two will bow

á laun saman,

in secret together

hón mun þér unna

she will thee love

sem ek skyldak.

as I should-I

58

(ef okr góð of sköp

if (for)-us-two good — fates

gerði verða).

(bad)-made be

59–63 • THE FATES OF ATLI AND GOÐRÚN

Atli will treat Gunnarr ill and have him laid in the narrow serpent-yard, and soon afterward Atli will lose his life when Goðrún strikes him in bed with sharp edges. It would be more fitting for Goðrún, sister of Gunnarr and Högni, to follow her first husband in death, if anyone counseled her well or she had a mind like Brynhildr's, but she will never lose her life for Brynhildr's sake. High billows will carry her to Jónakr's land, where she will bear him sons, and she will send Svanhildr, her daughter by Sigurðr, away from the land.

59 Þik mun Atli

Thee will Atli

illu beita,

(with)-ill treat

munt í öngan

wilt-(thou) into (the)-narrow

ormgarð lagiðr.

serpent-yard (be)-laid

60 Þat mun ok verða

That will also happen

þvígit lengra,

not-at-all longer

at Atli mun

that Atli will

öndu týna,

(his)-breath lose

(sælu sinni,

happiness his

ok sofa lífi),

and sleep (his)-life-away

því hánur Goðrún

because him Goðrún

grýmir á beð

smiles in bed

snörpum eggjum

with-sharp edges

af sárum hug.

from sore mind

Sæmri væri Goðrún

More-seemly were Goðrún

systir ykkur

sister of-you-two

frumver sínum

first-husband her

at fylgja dauðum;

to follow dead

ef henni gæfi

if (to)-her gave

góðra hverr ráð,

good anyone counsel

eða ætti hón hug

or had she a-mind

ossum glíkan.

(to)-ours like

62 Ört mælik nú,

Swiftly speak-I now

en hón eigi mun

but she not will

of óra sök

for our sake

aldri týna;

ever (her-life)-lose

hána munu hefja

her will lift

hávar báurur

high billows

til Jónakrs

to Jónakr's

óðaltorfu.

ancestral-soil

63 [Ala mun sér jóð

Bear will (for)-herself offspring

erfivörðu]

heirs

erfivörðu,

heirs

Jónakrs sonu,

Jónakr's sons

mun hón Svanhildi

will she Svanhildr

senda af landi

send from (the)-land

sína mey

her maid

ok Sigurðar.

and Sigurðr's

64–67 • BRYNHILDR'S LAST REQUEST

Bikki's counsels will bring down Svanhildr, since Jörmunrekkr lives to do harm, and then Sigurðr's whole kin will be gone and Goðrún's weeping the greater. Brynhildr asks one last thing of Gunnarr: a pyre on the field broad enough for all who died with Sigurðr, hung with hangings and shields, dyed cloth, and a host of foreigners. The Hunnish one, Sigurðr, is to burn at her side, with her servants in fine necklaces, two at their heads and two hawks, so that all is shared equally.

Hána munu bíta

Her will bite

Bikka ráð,

Bikki's counsels

þvítt Jörmunrekkr

because Jörmunrekkr

óþarft lifir;

harmfully lives

þá 's öll farin

then is all gone

ætt Sigurðar;

(the)-kin of-Sigurðr

eru Goðrúnar

are Goðrún's

grœti at fleiri.

weepings the more

65 Biðja munk þik

Ask will-I thee

bœnar einnar,

a-request one

sú mun í heimi

that will in (the)-world

hinzt bœn vesa;

(the)-last request be

lát svá breiða

let so broad

borg á velli,

a-stronghold on (the)-field

at und oss öllum

that under us all

jafnrúmt séi.

equally-roomy (it)-be

(þeim es sultu

(for)-those who died

með Sigurði).

with Sigurðr

Tjaldi of þá borg

Hang — that stronghold

tjöldum ok skjöldum

with-bangings and shields

valarípt vel fáið

(with)-foreign-cloth well dyed

ok vala mengi;

and (with)-foreigners' host

brenni mér enn húnska

burn (for)-me the Hunnish-one

á hlið aðra.

on side other

66

Brenni enum húnska

Burn (for)-the Hunnish-one

á hlið aðra

on side other

mína þjóna,

my servants

menjum göfga,

with-necklaces noble

tvá at höfðum

two at (the)-beads

ok tveir haukar;

and two hawks

þá 's öllu skipt

then is all shared

til jafnaðar.

to equality

67

Let the ring-adorned, keen-edged sword lie between her and Sigurðr again as it did when the two of them shared one bed and were called husband and wife. Then the hall's gleaming doors will not clang on his heel, since her retinue follows him: five bondwomen, eight servants of good birth, her foster-maid, and the portion Buðli gave his child. She would say more if the Measurer gave her room, but her voice fails and her wounds swell. She has told only the truth, and so she will die.

68 Liggi okkar

Let-lie of-us-two

enn í milli

still in between

(malmr hringvariðr)

(the)-metal ring-adorned

egghvast éarn,

(the)-edge-keen iron

sem endr lagit,

as before laid

þás vit bæði

when we-two both

einn beð stigum

one bed mounted

ok hétum þá

and were-called then

hjóna nafni.

(of)-a-married-couple (by)-(the)-name

Hrynja hánnum

Clang (on)-him

á hæl þeygi

on (the)-heel not

hlunnblik hallar

(the)-gleaming-doors of-(the)-hall

hringa litkuð,

with-rings colored

ef hánnum fylgir

if him follows

ferð mín heðan;

retinue my hence

þeygi mun ór för

not will our journey

aumlig vesa.

wretched be

Því hánnum fylgja

Because him follow

fimm ambóttir,

five bondwomen

átta þjónar,

eight servants

eðlum góðir,

(in)-birth good

fóstrman mitt

foster-maid my

ok faðerni,

and patrimony

þats Buðli gaf

which Buðli gave

barni sínu.

(to)-child his

71 Mart sagðak þér,

Much told-I thee

myndak fleira,

would-I more

ef mér meir mjötuðr

if (to)-me more (the)-Measurer

málrúm gæfi;

speech-room gave

ómun þverr,

(the)-voice fails

undir svella,

(the)-wounds swell

satt eitt sagðak,

truth only told-I

svá munk láta.

so will-I die

Helreið Brynhildar

Brynbild's Ride to Hel

After Brynhildr's death two pyres are made; Sigurðr's burns first, and Brynhildr is burned on the other in a chariot hung with costly cloth. She drives the chariot along the road to Hel and passes a farm where a giantess lives. The giantess forbids her to pass through her stone-built enclosures: it would suit her better to unravel embroidery than to seek another woman's husband. She asks why this fickle head from Valland visits her houses, and says Brynhildr has given men's blood to the wolves.

Eptir dauða Brynhildar váru gör bál tvau, annat Sigurði
After (the)-death of-Brynhildr were made pyres two one (for)-Sigurðr
 ok brann þat fyrr, en Brynhildr var á öðru brend ok
and burned it first but Brynhildr was on (the)-other burned and
 var hon í reið þeiri, er guðvefjum var tjölduð. Svá
was she in a-chariot that which with-costly-cloth was hung So
 er sagt, at Brynhildr ok með reiðinni á helveg ok
is told that Brynhildr drove with the-chariot on (the)-hel-way and
 fór um tún, þar er gýgr nökkur bjó. Gýgrin kvað:
went past a-farm there where giantess a-certain dwelt The-giantess said

Skalt í gögnum

Shalt-(thou) in through

ganga eigi

go not

grjóti studda

with-stones propped

garða mína,

enclosures my

betr semði þér

better befitted thee

borða at rekja

embroidery to unravel

heldr an vitja

rather than to-visit

vers annarrar.

(the)-husband of-another

2 Hvat skalt vitja

Why shalt-(thou) visit

af Vallandi,

from Valland

hvarfúst höfuð,

fickle head

húsa minna?

houses my

þú hefr vörgum,

thou hast (to)-wolves

ef þik vita lystir,

if thee to-know desires

meini blandin,

with-harm mingled

manns blóð gefit.

man's blood given

Brynhildr tells the bride of the stone not to taunt her for having gone raiding as a viking, since wherever men know their birth she will seem the nobler. The giantess says Brynhildr was born with the worst luck in the world, destroyed Gjúki's children, and overturned their dwelling. Brynhildr says she will tell the witless giantess how Gjúki's heirs made her loveless and an oath-breaker.

BR. KV. Bregð eigi mér,

Taunt not me

brúðr ór steini,

bride out-of (the)-stone

þótt værak fyrr

though were-I before

í víkingu,

in viking-raiding

ek mun okkur

I will (of)-us-two

æðri þykkja,

nobler seem

hvars eðli menn

wherever birth men

okkart kunnu.

our know

3

4 G. KV. Þú vast Brynhildr

Thou wast Brynhildr

Buðla dóttir

Buðli's daughter

heilli verstu

(with)-luck worst

í heim borin,

into (the)-world born

þú hefr Gjúka

thou hast Gjúki's

of glatat börnum

— destroyed children

ok búi þeira

and dwelling their

brugðit góðu.

overturned good

5 BR. KV. Ek mun segja þér

I will tell thee

svinn ór reiðu

wise-one out-of (the)-chariot

vitlaussi mjök,

(thou)-witless much

ef þik vita lystir,

if thee to-know desires

hvé gerðu mik

how made me

Gjúka arfar

Gjúki's heirs

ástalaus

loveless

ok eiðrofa.

and oath-breaking

6-10 • ÓÐINN'S ANGER

Everyone in Hlymdalir called her Hildr under the helmet. A bold king had the shapes of the eight sisters, hers among them, carried under an oak; she was twelve winters old when she gave oaths to the young prince. She sent old Hjálmgunnarr to Hel among the Goths and gave the victory to young Agnarr, Auða's brother, whom no one else would help, and Óðinn grew very angry. He shut her in Skatalundr under red and white shields, rim to rim, and bade that her sleep be broken only by one who knew no fear anywhere in the land.

Hétu mik allir

Called me all

í Hlymdölum

in Hlymdalir

Hildi und hjalmi,

Hildr under helmet

hverr es kunni.

each-one who knew

6

7 Annarr hét Agnarr,

(The)-other was-called Agnarr

Auðu bróðir,

Auða's brother

es véttr engi

whom creature none

vildi týja.

would help

8 Lét hami vára

Let (the)-shapes our

hugfullr konungr

(the)-bold-minded king

átta systra

of-eight sisters

und eik borit;

under an-oak borne

vask vetra tolf,

was-I winters twelve

ef þik vita lystir,

if thee to-know desires

es ungum gram

when (to)-(the)-young prince

eiða seldak.

oaths gave-I

Þá létk gamlan

Then let-I (the)-old

á Goðþjóðu

on Godþjóð

Hjalmgunnar næst

Hjalmgunnarr next

heljar ganga;

to-bel go

gafk ungum sigr

gave-I (the)-young victory

Auðu bróður;

Auða's brother

þar varð mér Óðinn

there became (with)-me Óðinn

ofreiðr of þat.

very-angry about that

Lauk mik skjöldum

Locked-(he) me with-shields

í Skatalundi

in Skatalundr

rauðum ok hvítum,

red and white

randir snurtusk;

(the)-rims touched

þann bað slíta

him bade-(he) break

svefni mínum,

sleep my

es hvergi lands

who nowhere of-(the)-land

hræðask kynni.

fear could

11-15 · BRYNHILDR GOES DOWN WITH SIGURDR

Óðinn let the fire, ravager of wood, burn high round her hall, and bade onethane ride over it, the one who brought her the gold that lay under Fáfnir. The good gold-giver rode on Grani to where her foster-father ruled, and he seemed better than all, the viking of the Danes. They slept content in one bed as though he were her brother, and for eight nights neither laid a hand on the other. Goðrún taunted her with having slept in Sigurðr's arms, and so she learned they had deceived her in her marriage. Men and women will be born to strife all too long, but she and Sigurðr will end their lives together; she bids the giantess's kin sink.

11 Lét of sal minn

Let round hall my

sunnanverðan

southward

háván brinna

high burn

hrotgarm viðar;

(the)-ravager of-wood

þar bað einn þegn

there bade-(he) onethane

yfir at ríða,

over to ride

þanns mér færði goll

who (to)-me brought (the)-gold

þats und Fáfnir lá.

which under Fáfnir lay

Reið góðr Grana

Rode (the)-good-one (on)-Grani

gollmiðlandi,

(the)-gold-dealer

þars fóstir minn

where fosterer my

fletjum stýrði,

(the)-balls ruled

einn þótti hann þar

alone seemed he there

öllum betri

(than)-all better

víkingr Dana

(the)-viking of-(the)-Danes

í verðungu.

in (the)-retinue

Sváfum ok unðum

(We)-slept and were-content

í sæng einni,

in bed one

12

13

sem minn bróðir

as my brother

of borinn væri;

— *born were*

hvárki knátti

neither could

hönd of annat

(the)-hand over (the)-other

átta nóttum

(for)-eight nights

okkart leggja.

of-us-two lay

14 Því brá mér Goðrún

For-that taunted me Goðrún

Gjúka dóttir,

Gjúki's daughter

at Sigurði

that Sigurðr

svæfak á armi,

slept-I in (the)-arm

þar varðk þess vís,

there became-I of-that aware

es vildigak,

which wished-I-not

at þau véltu mik

that they deceived me

í verfangi.

in (the)-husband-taking

Munu við ofstrið

Will against over-strife

alls til lengi

all too long

konur ok karlar

women and men

kvikvir fœðask,

living be-born

vit skulum okrum

we-two shall our

aldri slíta

lives end

Sigurðr saman;

Sigurðr together

søksk gýgjar kyn.

sink-thou giantess's kin

Goðrúnarkviða en forna

The Second Lay of Gudrun

Gunnarr and Högni take all the gold of Fáfnir's inheritance. Atli blames the Gjúkungar for Brynhildr's death, and as settlement they marry Goðrún to him, giving her a draft of forgetting first. Atli invites Gunnarr and Högni home; Goðrún knows the guile and sends word in runes not to come, with the ring Andvaranautr tied with a wolf's hair. When the Gjúkungar come, Högni's heart is cut out and Gunnarr is set in a serpent-yard, where he lulls the serpents with his harp until an adder stings him. King Þjóðrekr, who has lost nearly all his men with Atli, laments with Goðrún, and she tells him her griefs.

Dráp Niflunga. Gunnarr ok Högni tóku þá gullit
(The)-Slaying of-(the)-Niflungar Gunnarr and Högni took then the-gold
alt, Fáfnis arf. Ófriðr var þá milli Gjúkunga ok Atla.
all Fáfnir's inheritance Strife was then between (the)-Gjúkungar and Atli
Kendi hann Gjúkungum völd um andlát Brynhildar.
Blamed he (on)-(the)-Gjúkungar (the)-cause for (the)-death of-Brynhildr
Þat var til sætta, at þeir skyldu gipta hánum Guðrúnu, ok
That was for settlement that they should marry (to)-him Guðrún and
gáfu henni óminnisveig at drekka, áðr hon játti at giptask
gave her a-draft-of-forgetting to drink before she agreed to marry
Atla. Synir Atla váru þeir Erpr ok Eitill, en Svanhildr
Atli (The)-sons of-Atli were they Erpr and Eitill but Svanhildr
var Sigurðar dóttir ok Guðrúnar. Atli konungr bauð heim
was Sigurðr's daughter and Guðrún's Atli (the)-king invited home
Gunnari ok Högna ok sendi Vinga eða Knéfrøð. Guðrún vissi
Gunnarr and Högni and sent Vingi or Knéfrøðr Guðrún knew
vélar ok sendi með rúnum orð, at þeir skyldu eigi koma,
(the)-guile and sent with runes word that they should not come
ok til jartegna sendi hon Högna hringinn Andvaranaut ok
and as token sent she (to)-Högni the-ring Andvaranautr and

knýtti í vargshár. Gunnarr hafði beðit Oddrúnar, systur
tied in a-wolf's-hair Gunnarr had wooed Oddrún (the)-sister
 Atla, ok gat eigi. Þá fekk hann Glaumvarar, en Högni
of-Atli and got-(her) not Then married he Glaumvör and Högni
 átti Kostberu. Þeira synir váru þeir Sólarr ok Snævarr ok
had Kostbera Their sons were they Sólarr and Snævarr and
 Gjúki. En er Gjúkungar kómu til Atla, þá bað Guðrún
Gjúki And when (the)-Gjúkungar came to Atli then bade Guðrún
 sonu sína, at þeir bæði Gjúkungum lífs, en þeir vildu
sons her that they asked (for)-(the)-Gjúkungar life but they would
 eigi. Hjarta var skorit ór Högna, en Gunnarr settir í
not (The)-heart was cut out-of Högni and Gunnarr set in
 ormgarð. Hann sló hörpu ok svæfði ormana, en naðra
a-serpent-yard He struck (the)-harp and lulled the-serpents but an-adder
 stakk hann til lifrar. Þjóðrekr konungr var með Atla ok
stung him to (the)-liver Þjóðrekr (the)-king was with Atli and
 hafði þar látit flesta alla menn sína. Þjóðrekr ok Guðrún
had there lost most all men his Þjóðrekr and Guðrún
 kærðu harma sín á milli. Hon sagði hánum ok kvað:
lamented griefs themselves in between She told him and said

Goðrún was a maid among maids, reared bright in the bower, and loved her brothers well until Gjúki adorned her with gold and gave her to Sigurðr. He stood above the sons of Gjúki like a green leek out of the grass, a high-legged hart above gray beasts, or glowing gold beside gray silver. Her brothers begrudged her a husband foremost of all and could neither sleep nor judge suits until they had let Sigurðr die. Grani ran home from the assembly, but Sigurðr did not come. Weeping, she went to ask the horse, and Grani bowed his head into the grass, knowing his owner was dead.

Mær vask meyja,

Maid was-I of-maids

móðir mik fæddi,

(my)-mother me reared

björt í búri,

bright in (the)-bower

unnak bræðrum vel,

loved-I (my)-brothers well

unz mik Gjúki

until me Gjúki

golli reifði,

with-gold adorned

golli reifði,

with-gold adorned

gaf Sigurði.

gave (to)-Sigurðr

1

2 Svá vas Sigurðr

So was Sigurðr

of sonum Gjúka

above (the)-sons of-Gjúki

sem væri grœnn laukr

as-if (he)-were a-green leek

ór grasi vaxinn,

out-of (the)-grass grown

eða hjörtr hábeinn

or a-bart high-legged

of hösum dýrum

above gray beasts

eða goll glóðrautt

or gold glow-red

af gráu silfri.

beside gray silver

3 Unz mér fyrmundu

Until me begrudged

mínir bræðr,

my brothers

at ættak ver

that had-I a-husband

öllum fremra,

(than)-all more-excellent

sofa né máttut

sleep nor could-(they)-not

né of sakar dœma,

nor — suits judge

áðr þeir Sigurð

before they Sigurðr

svelta létu.

die let

Grani rann af þingi,

Grani ran from (the)-assembly

gnýr vas at heyra,

a-din was to hear

en þá Sigurðr

but then Sigurðr

sjalfr eigi kom;

himself not came

öll váru söðuldýr

all were (the)-saddle-beasts

sveita stokkin,

with-sweat spattered

of vanið vási,

— wont to-toil

und vegöndum.

under (the)-slayers

Gekk ek grátandi

Went I weeping

við Grana rœða,

with Grani to-speak

úrughlýra

wet-cheeked

jó frák spjalla,

(the)-steed asked-I (to)-tell

hnipnaði Grani,

drooped Grani

drap í gras höfði,

struck into (the)-grass (with)-head

jór þat vissi,

(the)-steed that knew

eigendr né lifðut.

(its)-owners not lived-not

6-10 · HÖGNI'S TIDINGS

She wavered long before she learned the truth. Gunnarr drooped, and Högni told her of Sigurðr's cruel death: Gotþormr's slayer lies hewn across the water, given to the wolves. She could look for him on the south roads, where ravens and eagles screech glad of food and wolves howl over her husband. She asks why he tells such harms to a joyless woman, and wishes ravens might tear his heart. Högni answers grimly that she will weep the more when ravens do tear his heart.

6 Lengi hvarfaðak,

Long wavered-I

lengi hugir deildusk,

long (the)-minds were-divided

áðr of frægak

before — learned-I

folkvörð at gram.

(the)-host-warden of (the)-prince

Hnipnaði Gunnarr,

Drooped Gunnarr

Högni mér sagði

Högni me told

frá Sigurðar

about Sigurðr's

sárum dauða:

sore death

»liggr of höggvinn

lies — hewn

fyr handan ver

on (the)-other-side of-(the)-sea

Gothorms bani

Gotþormr's slayer

of gefinn ulfum.

— given (to)-wolves

7

Lít þar Sigurð

Look there (for)-Sigurðr

á suðrvegi;

on (the)-south-way

þar heyrir þú

there hearest thou

hrafna gjalla,

ravens screech

örnu gjalla

eagles screech

æzli fegna,

(for)-food glad

8

varga þjóta

wolves howl

of veri þínum.«

over husband thy

9 Hví mér Högni

Why me Högni

harma slíka

harms such

viljalaussi

joyless

vill of segja?

wilt — tell

þitt skyli hjarta

thy should heart

hrafnar slíta

ravens tear

víð lönd yfir,

wide lands over

an vitir manna.

rather-than (thou)-knowest men

10 Svaraði Högni

Answered Högni

sinni einu,

time one

trauðr góðs hugar,

unwilling of-good mind

af trega stórum:

from sorrow great

»þess átt Goðrún

of-that hast-(thou) Goðrún

grœti at fleiri,

weepings the more

at hjarta mitt

that heart my

hrafnar slíti.«

ravens tear

11-14 · GOÐRÚN WITH ÞÓRA

Goðrún turned from the talk alone to gather the wolves' leavings in the wood. She did not sob, beat her hands, or wail as she sat by Sigurðr, and the night seemed pitch-dark to her; she thought wolves better than anything if they would take her life, or a fire burn her like birchwood. She went from the mountain for five days to Alfr's high hall, and sat seven half-years in Denmark with Þóra, Hákon's daughter, who embroidered southern halls and Danish swans in gold to comfort her.

Hvarfk ein þaðan

Turned-I alone thence

andspilli frá

(the)-talk from

á við lesa

into (the)-wood to-gather

varga leifar;

(the)-wolves' leavings

11

gerðigat hjúfra

did-I-not sob

né höndum sláa

nor with-hands strike

né kveina umb

nor wail about

sem konur aðrar.

as women other

(þás sat soltin

when (I)-sat (as-one)-dying

of Sigurði).

over Sigurðr

12 Nótt þótti mér

(The)-night seemed to-me

niðmyrk vesa,

pitch-dark to-be

es sárla satk

when sorely sat-I

of Sigurði,

over Sigurðr

ulfar þóttumk

wolves seemed-to-me

öllu betra

(than)-all better

ef léti mik

if (they)-let me

lífi týna.

life lose

(eða brendi mik

or burned me

sem birkinn við).

like birchen wood

Fórk af fjalli

Went-I from (the)-mountain

fimm dægr talið,

five days counted

unz höll Alfs

until (the)-hall of-Álfr

háva þekðak.

high knew-I

13

Satk með Þóru

Sat-I with Þóra

sjau misseri

seven half-years

ðætr Hákonar

(the)-daughter of-Hákon

í Danmörku,

in Denmark

14

hón mér at gamni

she for-me as solace

gollbókaði

embroidered-in-gold

sali suðrœna

halls southern

ok svani danska.

and swans Danish

15–18 · GRÍMHILDR SEEKS HER DAUGHTER

In their weaving they pictured the warriors' games and the prince's thanes, red shields, and helmeted hosts; Sigmundr's ships gliding from land with gilded figureheads and carved prows; and the fight of Sigarr and Siggeirr south on Fjón. Grímhildr, the Gothic woman, learned where Goðrún was, threw aside her cloth, and eagerly asked her sons who would make amends to their sister for her son and her slain husband. Gunnarr declared himself ready to offer gold for the wrongs, and so did Högni.

15 Höfðum á skriptum

(We)-had in pictures

þats skatar léku,

what (the)-warriors played

ok á hannyrðum

and in handiwork

hilmis þegna,

(the)-prince's thanes

randir rauðar,

shields red

rekka búna,

warriors adorned

hjörðrótt, hjalmdrótt,

sword-host helmet-host

hilmis fylgju.

(the)-prince's following

Skip Sigmundar

(The)-ships of-Sigmundr

skriðu frá landi,

glided from land

gyldar grímur,

gilded (the)-figureheads

grafnir stafnar,

carved (the)-prows

byrðum á borða

(we)-embroidered on (the)-cloth

þats börðusk þeir

that fought they

Sigarr ok Siggeirr

Sigarr and Siggeirr

suðr á Fjóni.

south on Fjón

16

Þá frá Grímhildr,

Then learned Grímhildr

gotnesk kona,

(the)-Gothic woman

17

hvar værak komin

where were-I come

hyggju þrungrin;

(in)-mind weighed-down

hón brá borða

she threw-aside (the)-cloth

ok buri heimti

and (her)-sons summoned

þrágjarnliga

eagerly

þess at spyrja.

of-that to ask

18 Hverr vildi son

Who would (for)-(the)-son

systur bæta

(to)-(the)-sister make-amends

eða ver veginn

or (for)-(the)-husband slain

vildi gjalda;

would pay

görr lézk Gunnarr

ready said-himself Gunnarr

goll at bjóða,

gold to offer

sakar at bæta,

(the)-wrongs to amend

ok et sama Högni.

and the same Högni

Grímbildr asked who would go, to saddle the steed and yoke the wagon, ride, fly the hawk, and shoot from the yew-bow. Valdarr of the Danes with Jarizleifr, Eymóðr the third, and Jarizkárr went in like princes, Langobard men in red cloaks, short mail-coats, and steep helmets, girded with short swords and brown-haired. Each would choose treasures for her and speak kindly, hoping to win her trust after her many sorrows, but she did not trust them.

Hón frétti at því,

She asked about it

hverr fara vildi,

who go would

vigg at söðla,

(the)-steed to saddle

vagn at beita.

(the)-wagon to yoke

(hesti ríða,

(the)-horse to-ride

hauki fleygja,

(the)-hawk to-fly

örum at skjóta

arrows to shoot

af ýboga).

from (the)-yew-bow

19

Valdarr Dönum

Valdarr of-(the)-Danes

með Jarizleifi,

with Jarizleifr

20

Eymóðr þriði

Eymóðr (the)-third

með Jarizkári.

with Jarizkár

21 Inn gengu þá

In went then

jöfrum glíkir

(to)-princes like

langbarðs liðar,

Langobard men

höfðu loða rauða,

had cloaks red

stuttar brynjur,

short mail-coats

steypða hjalma,

steep helmets

skalmum gyrðir,

with-short-swords girded

höfðu skarar jarpar.

had hair brown

22 Hverr vildi mér

Each would me

hnossir velja,

treasures choose

hnossir velja

treasures choose

ok hugat mæla,

and kindly speak

ef mætti mér

if (he)-might me

margra súta

of-many sorrows

tryggðir vinna,

(the)-trust win

né trúa gerðak.

nor trust did-I

23–26 • THE DRAFT OF FORGETTING

Grímbildr brought her a cup to drink, cool and bitter, so that she no longer remembered her wrongs; it was mixed with the earth's might, the ice-cold sea, and a son's blood. Staves of every kind were carved and reddened on the horn, and she could not read them: the heather-fish of the sea, an unreaped ear of the land of the Haddingjar, the entrails of beasts. Many evils were in that beer, herbs of every wood, burnt acorns, the soot of the hearth, sacrificed entrails, and boiled swine's liver. Then she forgot the prince's bale, and three kings came before her knees before Grímbildr herself spoke.

Færði mér Grímbildr

Brought me Grímbildr

full at drekka

a-cup to drink

svalt ok sárlegt,

cool and bitter

né sakar munðak;

nor (the)-wrongs remembered-I

þat vas of aukit

that was — increased

jarðar magni,

with-earth's might

svalköldum sæ

with-cool-cold sea

ok sonar dreyra.

and (the)-son's blood

24 Váru í horni

Were in (the)-horn

hvers kyns stafir

of-every kind staves

ristnir ok roðnir,

carved and reddened

ráða né máttak;

read nor could-I

lyngfiskr lagar,

(the)-beather-fish of-(the)-sea

lands Haddingja

of-(the)-land of-(the)-Haddingjar

ax óskorit,

an-ear unreaped

innleið dyra.

(the)-inward-way of-beasts

Váru þeim bjóri

Were in-that beer

böl mörg saman,

bales many together

urt alls viðar

herbs of-every wood

ok akarn brunnin,

and acorns burnt

umbdögg arins,

(the)-soot of-(the)-hearth

iðrar blótnar,

entrails sacrificed

svíns lifr soðin;

(the)-swine's liver boiled

því hón sakar deyfði.

because it wrongs dulled

25

En þá gleymðak,

And then forgot-I

es getit hafðak,

what said had-I

alls jöfurs böls,

all (the)-prince's bale

bjórveig í sal;

(the)-beer-draft in (the)-hall

kómu konungar

came kings

fyr kné þrennir,

before (the)-knees three

26

áðr hón sjalfa mik

before she herself me

sótti at máli.

sought to talk

27–30 • GRÍMHILDR'S OFFER

Grimbilda offers her gold and wealth in abundance for her dead father, red rings, Hlöðvér's halls, and all the hangings for the fallen prince, with Hunnish maids who weave with tablets, and she shall rule Buðli's wealth alone, honored with gold and given to Atli. Goðrún refuses to go to a husband or to have Brynhildr's brother; it does not befit her to increase her kin with Buðli's son or enjoy her life. Grimbilda tells her not to repay men's hatreds, since the family caused them first, and to live as if Sigurðr and Sigmundr were alive if she bears sons.

27 »Gefk þér Goðrún

Give-I thee Goðrún

goll at þiggja,

gold to receive

fjöld alls féar,

abundance of-all wealth

at þinn föður dauðan,

for thy father dead

hringa rauða,

rings red

Hlöðvés sali,

Hlöðvér's halls

ársal allan

(the)-bed-hangings all

at jöfur fallinn.

for (the)-prince fallen

Húnskar meýjar,

Hunnish maids

þærs hlaða spjöldum

who weave with-tablets

ok gera goll fagrt,

and make gold fair

svát þér gaman þykki;

so-that to-thee delight (it)-seems

ein skalt ráða

alone shalt-(thou) rule

auði Buðla,

(the)-wealth of-Buði

golli göfðuð,

with-gold honored

ok gefin Atla«.

and given (to)-Atli

28

Vilk eigi ek

Will not I

með veri ganga,

with a-husband go

né Brynhildar

nor Brynbildr's

bróður eiga;

brother have

29

samir eigi mér

befits not me

við son Buðla

with (the)-son of-Buðli

ætt at auka

kin to increase

né una lífi.

nor enjoy life

30 »Hirða höldum

Heed-not (to)-men

heiptir gjalda,

hatreds (to)-repay

því vér höfum

because we have

valdit fyrri;

caused-(it) before

svá skalt láta

so shalt-(thou) behave

sem lífi báðir

as-if lived both

Sigurðr ok Sigmundr,

Sigurðr and Sigmundr

ef sonu fœðir.«

if sons (thou)-bearest

Goðrún says she can hope for no joy with a warrior since the corpse-greedy raven drank Sigurðr's heart-blood. Grímbildr answers that she has found the highest-born and foremost of all kings, and Goðrún shall have him until age takes her, or be husbandless unless she will have him. Goðrún begs her not to press that baleful kin on her, since Atli will attack Gunnarr and tear the heart out of Högni. Grímbildr, weeping, caught at the word, for she foresaw bale for her sons and great harm for her kinsmen.

Mákak, Grímbildr,

Can-I-not Grímbildr

glaumi bella,

(to)-joy attain

né vígrisnum

nor (for)-(the)-battle-strong-one

vánir telja,

hopes count

síz Sigurðar

since Sigurðr's

sárla drukku

sorely drank

hrægífr huginn

(the)-corpse-greedy raven

hjartblóð saman.

heart-blood together

- 32 »Þann hefk allra
Him have-I of-all
 ættgöfgastan
most-high-born
 fylki fundit
king found
 ok framast nøkkvi;
and foremost somewhat
 hann skalt eiga,
him shalt-(thou) have
 unz aldr þik viðr,
until age thee takes
 verlaus vesa,
husbandless (to)-be
 nema vilir þenna.«
unless (thou)-wilt this-one

- 33 Hirða bjóða
Care-not to-offer
 bölvafullar
bale-full
 þrágjarnliga
eagerly
 þær kindir mér;
those kin (to)-me

hann mun Gunnar

he will Gunnarr

grandi beita

(with)-barm assail

ok ór Högna

and out-of Högni

hjarta slíta.

(the)-heart tear

Grátandi Grímhildr

Weeping Grimbildr

greip við orði,

caught at (the)-word

es burum sínum

when (for)-sons her

bölva vætti

(of)-bales (she)-expected

ok mögum sínum

and (for)-kinsmen her

meina stórra.

barms great

Grimbilda offers her lands and a following of people, and Vinbjörg and Valbjörg to have for life. Goðrún says she will choose Atli from among the kings and take him from her kinsmen unwillingly: he will be no joy to her, and her brothers' bale no shelter to her sons; she will not rest until she has robbed the bold warrior of his life. At once every warrior was on horseback and the foreign women were lifted into wagons. They rode seven days over cold land, beat the waves seven more, and for the third seven went on dry land.

35 »Lönd gefk enn þér,

Lands give-I still thee

lýða sinni,

of-people a-following

Vinbjörg, Valbjörg,

Vinbjörg Valbjörg

ef vill þiggja;

if (thou)-wilt receive

eig of aldr þat

have for life that

ok uni dóttir.«

and enjoy daughter

Þann munk kjósa

Him shall-I choose

af konungum

from (the)-kings

ok þó af niðjum

and yet from (my)-kinsmen

nauðig hafa;

unwilling have

verðr eigi mér

becomes not (for)-me

verr at yndi,

(the)-husband to joy

né böl bræðra

nor (the)-bale of-(my)-brothers

at bura skjóli.

to (my)-sons' shelter

36

Munkak létta,

Will-I-not cease

áðr lífs hvatan

before (of)-life (the)-bold-one

eggleiks hvötuð

of-edge-play (the)-urger

aldri næmik.

ever deprive-I

37

38 Senn vas á hesti

At-once was on horse

hverr drengr litinn,

every warrior seen

en víf valnesk

and (the)-women foreign

í vagn hafin;

into (the)-wagon lifted

vér sjau daga

we seven days

svalt land riðum,

a-cold land rode

en aðra sjau

and other seven

unnir kníðum.

(the)-waves beat

(en ena þriðju sjau

and the third seven

þurt land stigum).

dry land stepped

The gatekeepers of the high stronghold opened the gate before they rode into the court. Atli woke her, and she seemed to herself full of ill mind at the death of her kinsmen: the norns had woken him with a prophecy of woe, for he dreamed that Goðrún, Gjúki's daughter, ran him through with a poisoned sword. She answers that dreaming of iron means fire, and a woman's wrath means pride and pleasure; she will cauterize him against harm and heal him, though he is loathsome to her.

Þar hliðverðir

39

There (the)-gate-wardens

hárar borgar

of-(the)-high stronghold

grind upp luku,

(the)-gate up opened

áðr í garð riðum.

before into (the)-court (we)-rode

Vakði mik Atli,

40

Waked me Atli

en vesa þóttumk

and to-be seemed-I

full ills hugar

full of-ill mind

at frændr dauða.

for (my)-kinsmen's death

- 41 »Svá mik nýla
So me lately
 nornir vekja
norns wake
 vísinnis spá;
(of)-woe's-company prophecy
 vildigat réðisk;
wished-I-not (it)-read
 hugðak þik Goðrún
thought-I thee Goðrún
 Gjúka dóttir
Gjúki's daughter
 læblöndnum hjör
with-guile-mingled sword
 leggja mik gögnum.«
thrust me through

- 42 Þat 's fyr eldi,
That is for fire
 es éarn dreyma,
when iron (one)-dreams
 fyr dul ok vil
for pride and pleasure
 drósar reiði;
a-woman's wrath
 munk þik við bölv
will-I thee against bale
 brenna ganga,
to-burn go

líkna ok lækna,

soothe and heal

þótt mér leiðr séir.

though (to)-me loathsome (thou)-be

43–47 • THE DREAMS READ

Atli dreamed that shoots he wished to let grow were torn up by the roots, reddened in blood, and brought to the benches for him to chew; that hawks flew hungry from his hand to the house of bale, and he ate their hearts with honey; and that whelps broke loose from his hand yelping, and he had to eat their flesh as carrion. Goðrún says men will deliberate over a sacrifice and take the heads of white beasts, and in a few nights, a little before day, the household will eat them. Goðrún lay awake after that, stubborn in bed, and she remembers it well.

»Hugðak hér í túni

Thought-I here in (the)-yard

teina fallna,

twigs fallen

þás vilda ek

which wished I

vaxna láta,

grown to-let

rifnir með rótum,

torn with roots

roðnir í blóði,

reddened in blood

bornir á bekki,

borne onto benches

beðit mik at tyggva.

bidden me to chew

43

44 Hugðak mér af hendi

Thought-I (for)-me from (my)-hand

hauka fljúga

hawks fly

bráðalaus

foodless

bölranna til;

bale-houses to

hjörtu hugðak þeira

(the)-hearts thought-I their

við hunang tuggin,

with honey chewed

sorgmóðs seva,

(of)-sorrow-minded mind

sollin blóði.

swollen with-blood

45 Hugðak mér af hendi

Thought-I (for)-me from (my)-hand

hvelpa losna,

whelps break-loose

glaums andvana,

of-joy bereft

gylli báðir,

yelped both

hold hugðak þeira

(the)-flesh thought-I their

at hræum orðit,

to carrion become

nauðigr nái

unwilling corpses

nýta skyldak.«

eat should-I

Þar munu seggir

There will men

of sæing dæma

about sacrifice judge

ok hvítinga

and (of)-white-ones

höfði næma;

(the)-head deprive

þeir munu feigir

they will doomed

fára náttu

(in)-few nights

fyr dag lítlu,

before day a-little

drótt of bergja.

(the)-host — taste

47 Lágak síðan,
Lay-I afterward
 né sofa vildak
nor sleep wished-I
 þrágjörn í kör,
stubborn in bed
 þat mank görva.
that remember-I fully

Goðrúnarkviða (III)

The Third Lay of Gudrun

Herkja, Atli's bondwoman and once his mistress, tells him she has seen Þjóðrekr and Goðrún together, and Atli is downcast. Goðrún asks why Buðli's son never laughs. Atli answers that Herkja told him in the hall that Goðrún and Þjóðrekr slept under one roof and wrapped themselves in linen. Goðrún offers to swear by the white holy stone that there was nothing between them that husband or man might not do: she embraced the unblemished prince once, and their secret talk was of grief. Þjóðrekr came with thirty men and none of them lives; she has been bereft of her brothers, of the mailed men, and of all her closest kin.

Herkja hét ambótt Atla; hon hafði verit frilla
Herkja was-called a-bondwoman of-Atli she had been (the)-mistress
 hans; hon sagði Atla, at hon hefði sét Þjóðrek ok Guðrúnu
his she told Atli that she had seen Þjóðrekr and Guðrún
 bæði saman. Atli var þá allókátr. Þá kvað Guðrún:
both together Atli was then very-unhappy Then said Guðrún

Hvat 's þér Atli
What is (with)-thee Atli
 æ Buðla sonr?
ever Buðli's son
 es þér hryggt í hug,
is (to)-thee grieved in mind
 hví hlær þú æva?
why laughest thou never
 hitt myndi æðra
that would better
 jörlum þykkja,
(to)-earls seem

1

at við menn mæltir

that with men (thou)-spokest

ok mik sæir.

and me sawest

2 A. KV. Tregr mik Goðrún

Grieves me Goðrún

Gjúka dóttir

Gjúki's daughter

þats mér í höllu

that-which (to)-me in (the)-hall

Herkja sagði,

Herkja told

at it Þjóðrekr

that you-two Þjóðrekr

und þaki svæfið

under (the)-roof slept

ok léttliga

and lightly

líni verðizk.

in-linen wrapped-yourselves

G. KV. Þér munk alls þess

3

Thee will-I of-all that

eiða vinna

oaths swear

at enum hvíta

by the white

helga steini,

holy stone

at við Þjóðrek,

that with Þjóðrekr

þatki áttak,

nothing had-I

es vörð né verr

which husband nor man

vinna knættit.

do could-not

Nema ek halsaða

4

Except I embraced

herja stilli,

of-hosts (the)-lord

jöfur óneisinn,

(the)-prince unblemished

einu sinni,

one time

aðrar váru

other were

okrar spekjur,

our-two converse

es hörmug tvau

when grieving two

hnigum at rúnnum.

(we)-bowed to secret-talk

5 Hér kom Þjóðrekr

Here came Þjóðrekr

með þrjá tǫgu,

with three tens

lifa þeir né einir

live they not one

þriggja tega manna;

of-three tens (of)-men

hnöggð mik at bræðrum

bereft me of brothers

ok at brynjuðum,

and of mailed-ones

hnöggð mik at öllum

bereft me of all

haufuðniðjum.

head-kinsmen

Goðrún bids Atli send for Saxi, prince of the Southmen, who can hallow the boiling cauldron, and seven hundred men come into the hall before she reaches in. Gunnarr does not come now, she cannot call Högni, and she will never see her dear brothers again; Högni would have avenged such harm with the sword, so she must clear herself. She reaches to the bottom with her bright palm, brings up precious stones, and bids the men see that she is guiltless. Atli's heart laughs when he sees her hands whole. Now Herkja must go to the cauldron; her hands are scalded, and they lead her into a foul bog, and so Goðrún's griefs are appeased.

Sentu at Saxa,

Send-thou for Saxi

Sunnmanna gram,

of-(the)-Southmen (the)-prince

hann kann helga

he can hallow

hver vellanda. —

(the)-cauldron boiling

Sjau hundruð manna

Seven hundred men

í sal gengu,

into (the)-hall went

áðr kvæn konungs

before (the)-wife of-(the)-king

í ketil tœki. —

into (the)-kettle reached

7 Kemra nú Gunnarr,

Comes-not now Gunnarr

kalligak Högna,

call-I-not Högni

sékka síðan

see-I-not afterward

svása bræðr,

sweet brothers

sverði myndi Högni

with-(the)-sword would Högni

slíks harms reka,

such harm avenge

nú verðk sjalf fyr mik

now must-I self for myself

synja lýta.

deny (the)-blemishes

8 Brá hón til botns

Reached she to (the)-bottom

björtum lófa,

(with)-bright palm

ok hón upp of tók

and she up — took

jarknasteina —

precious-stones

»sé nú seggir,

see now men

sykn emk orðin

guiltless am-I become

heilagliga,

holily

hvé sá hverr velli.«

however this cauldron boils

Hló þá Atla

Laughed then Atli's

hugr í brjósti,

heart in (the)-breast

es heilar sá

when whole (he)-saw

hendr Goðrúnar —

(the)-hands of-Godrún

»nú skal Herkja

now shall Herkja

til hvers ganga,

to (the)-cauldron go

sús Goðrúnu

she-who Godrún

grandi vændi.«

(of)-harm accused

Sáat maðr armligt,

Saw-not a-man piteous

hverr 's sáat þat,

whoever that saw-not that

9

10

hvé þar á Herkju

how there on Herkja

hendr sviðnuðu;

(the)-hands scalded

leiddu þá mey

led-(they) then (the)-maid

í mýri fúla;

into a-bog foul

svafði Goðrún

soothed Goðrún

sína harma.

her harms

Oddrúnargrátr

Oddrun's Lament

King Heiðrekr's daughter Borgný had a lover, Vilmundr, and she could not bear her children until Oddrún came, Atli's sister, who had been the beloved of Gunnarr, Gjúki's son. A maid came to Mornaland, and no one on earth could help Heiðrekr's daughter. Oddrún heard of the maid's great pains, took the bridled mare from the stall, saddled the black one, and rode the smooth road to a high hall. She pulled the saddle off the hungry steed, went in along the hall, and asked what was most talked of in Hínaland. A bondwoman answers that Borgný lies there borne down by pains, and bids Oddrún see whether she can help.

Frá Borgnýju ok Oddrúnu. Heiðrekr hét konungr;
About Borgný and Oddrún Heiðrekr was-called a-king
 dóttir hans hét Borgný. Vilmundr hét sá, er
(the)-daughter his was-called Borgný Vilmundr was-called he who
 var friðill hennar. Hon mátti eigi fœða börn, áðr til
was (the)-lover her She could not bear children before thereto
 kom Oddrún Atlasystir; hon hafði verit unnusta Gunnars
came Oddrún Atli's-sister she had been (the)-beloved of-Gunnarr
 Gjúkasonar; um þessa sögu er hér kveðit.
Gjúki's-son about this story is here told

Heyrðak segja

Heard-I tell

í sögum fornum,

in tales old

hvé mæðr of kom

how a-maid — came

til Mornalands;

to Mornaland

engi mátti

no-one could

fyr jörð ofan

over earth above

Heiðreks dóttur

(for)-Heiðrekr's daughter

hjalpir vinna.

help work

2 Þat frá Oddrún

That learned Oddrún

Atla systir,

Atli's sister

at mæð hafði

that (the)-maid had

miklar sóttir;

great pains

brá hún af stalli

took she from (the)-stall

stjórnbitluðum

(the)-bridle-bitted-one

ok á svartan

and on (the)-black-one

söðul of lagði.

a-saddle — laid

Lét mar fara

Let (the)-mare go

moldveg sléttan,

(the)-earth-way smooth

unz at hári kom

until to a-high (she)-came

höll standandi;

hall standing

(ok hón inn of gekk

and she in — went

endlangan sal)

lengthwise hall

svipti hón söðli

snatched she (the)-saddle

af svöngum jó

off (the)-hungry steed

ok hón þat orða

and she this of-words

alls fyrst of kvað.

of-all first — said

Hvat 's frægst á fold

What is most-famous on earth

(lacuna)

eða hvat 's hlest

or what is most-beard-of

Húnalandi?

in-Húnaland

AMBÓTT: Hér liggr Borgný

Here lies Borgný

of borin verkjum,

— *borne-down by-pains*

vina þín Oddrún,

friend thy Oddrún

vitt ef hjalpir.

see-thou if (thou)-helpest

5-8 · THE BIRTH

Oddrún asks who has brought this shame on the woman. The bondwoman answers that it is Vilmundr, friend of hawk-bearers, who kept the maid under his warm cloak for five whole winters, bidden from her father. Oddrún went to sit at the maid's knees and chanted strong and bitter charms over Borgný, and a girl and a boy were born, the gentle children of Högni's slayer. Then the maid, sick near to death, spoke: may Frigg, Freyja, and more gods help Oddrún, as she has driven the peril from her.

5 Hverr hefr vífi

Who has (on)-(the)-woman

vams of leitat?

shame — brought

Hví eru Borgnýjar

Why are Borgný's

bráðar sóttir?

sudden pains

AMBÓTT: Vilmundr heitir,

Vilmundr (he)-is-called

vinr haukstalda,

(the)-friend of-hawk-bearers

hann varði mey

he covered (the)-maid

varmri blæju.

(with)-warm cloak

(fimm vetr alla

five winters all

svát sinn föður leyndi).

so-that her father (she)-hid

Þær hykk mæltu

They think-I spoke

þvígit fleira,

not-at-all more

gekk mild fyr kné

went (the)-kind-one before (the)-knees

meyju at sitja;

(of)-(the)-maid to sit

ríkt gól Oddrún,

mightily chanted Oddrún

ramt gól Oddrún,

strongly chanted Oddrún

bitra galdra

bitter charms

at Borgnýju.

over Borgný

7 Knátti mæR ok mögr

Could a-maid and a-boy

moldveg sporna

(the)-earth-way tread

börn þau en blíðu

children those the gentle

við bana Högna;

by (the)-slayer of-Högni

þat nam at mæla

that began to speak

mæR fjörsjúka,

(the)-maid life-sick

svát ekki kvað

so-that nothing said

orð et fyrra:

word the former

8 Svá hjalpi þér

So help thee

hollar véttir,

gracious beings

Frigg ok Freyja

Frigg and Freyja

ok fleiri goð,

and more gods

sem feldir mér

as (thou)-drovest (for)-me

fár af höndum.

peril from (my)-hands

Oddrún says she did not kneel to help Borgný because Borgný had ever deserved it, but because she had promised, when the princes divided the inheritance, to help in everything. Borgný answers that Oddrún is out of her wits to speak so harshly to her, when they had gone together through the world like the daughters of two brothers. Oddrún remembers what Borgný said one evening when Oddrún made Gunnarr's bed: that no maid would ever have such a lot but Oddrún alone. Then the sorrowing woman sat down to tell her tale.

OD. KV. Hnékat af því

9

Kneel-I-not for that

til hjalpar þér,

to help thee

at værir þess

that (thou)-wert of-it

verð aldri;

worthy never

hétk ok efndak,

promised-I and fulfilled-I

es hinig mæltak,

what hither said-I

at hvívetna

that in-everything

hjalpa skyldak.

help should-I

(þás öðlingar

when (the)-princes

arfi skiptu).

(the)-inheritance divided

10 B. KV. **Ær est Oddrún**

Mad art-thou Oddrún

ok ørvita,

and out-of-(thy)-wits

es mér af fári

when me from hostility

flest orð of kvatt,

most words — saidst-thou

en ek fylgðak þér

but I followed-I thee

á fjörgynju,

on (the)-earth

sem vit bræðrum tveim

as we-two (to)-brothers two

bornar værim.

born were

11 O. KV. **Mank enn hvat þú**

Remember-I still what thou

mæltir of aptan,

saidst in (the)-evening

þás Gunnari

when (for)-Gunnarr

gerðak rekkju,

made-I (the)-bed

slíks dæmi kvaðat

such example saidst-not

síðan mundu

afterward would

meyju verða

(for)-a-maid be

nema mér einni.

except (for)-me alone

Þá nam at setjask

Then began to seat-herself

sorgmóð kona

(the)-sorrow-minded woman

at telja böll

to recount (her)-bale

af trega stórum.

from sorrow great

Oddrún was raised in the princes' hall, the joy of many men, and enjoyed her life and her father's wealth for five winters while he lived. The weary king's last word before he died was that she should be endowed with red gold and given south to the son of Grimbildr, and that Brynbildr should take the helmet and become a valkyrie; no nobler maid would be born in the world unless fate spoiled it. Brynbildr sat in her bower at her embroidery, with people and lands about her, and earth and heaven shook when Fáfnir's slayer saw her stronghold.

13 Vask upp alin

Was-I up raised

í jöfra sal,

in (the)-princes' hall

flestr fagnaði,

most rejoiced

at fira ráði;

by of-men (the)-counsel

unðak aldri

enjoyed-I life

ok eign föður

and (the)-property of-(my)-father

fimm vetr eina,

five winters only

svát minn faðir lifði.

while my father lived

Þat nam at mæla

That began to speak

mál et øfsta

(the)-word the last

sjá móðr konungr,

this weary king

áðr sylti hann,

before died he

mik bað gæða

me bade-(he) endow

golli rauðu

with-gold red

ok suðr gefa

and south give

syni Grímhildar.

(to)-(the)-son of-Grímbildr

14

En Brynhildi

But Brynhildr

bað hjalm geta,

bade-(he) (the)-helmet get

hána kvað valmey

her said-(he) a-slaughter-maid

verða skyldu;

become should

15

kvaða ena æðri

said-(he)-not the nobler

alna mundu

born would

mey í heimi,

maid in (the)-world

nema mjötuðr spilti.

unless fate spoiled-(it)

16 Brynhildr í búi

Brynhildr in (the)-bower

borða rakði,

embroidery worked

hafði lýði

(she)-bad people

ok lönd of sik,

and lands about her

jörð dúsaði

(the)-earth shook

ok upphiminn,

and (the)-heaven-above

þás bani Fáfnis

when (the)-slayer of-Fáfnir

borg of þatti.

(the)-stronghold — saw

Then there was fighting with foreign swords, and the stronghold Brynhildr owned was broken, and it was not long before she knew all the guile. She took hard vengeance for it, which we all have felt, Oddrún says, and it will be told among men in every land how she let herself die with Sigurðr. But Oddrún came to love Gunnarr, the dealer of rings, as Brynhildr should have. They offered Atli, her brother, red rings and no small payment, fifteen farms and the load of Grani, but Atli would take no bride-price from the son of Gjúki.

Pá vas víg vegit

Then was battle fought

völsku sverði

with-foreign sword

ok borg brotin,

and (the)-stronghold broken

sús Brynhildr átti,

which Brynhildr owned

vasa langt af því

was-not long from that

heldr válitit,

rather a-little-while

unz þær vélar

until those guiles

vissi allar.

(she)-knew all

17

18 Þess lét hón harðar

For-that let she hard

hefndir verða,

vengeances be

svát öll höfum

so-that all (we)-have

œrnar raunir;

ample trials

þat mun á hölða

that will among men

hvert land fara,

every land go

es hón lét sveltask

when she let herself-die

at Sigurði.

with Sigurðr

19 En Gunnari

But Gunnarr

gatk at unna,

came-I to love

bauga deili,

of-rings (the)-dealer

sem Brynhildr skyldi;

as Brynhildr should

buðu þeir Atla

offered they Atli

bauga rauða

rings red

ok bræðr mínum

and (to)-brother my

bætr ósmáar.

payments not-small

Bauð enn við mér

Offered still for me

bú fimtían,

farms fifteen

hliðfarm Grana,

(the)-side-load of-Grani

ef hafa vildi;

if (he)-have would

en Atli kvazk

but Atli said-he

eigi vilja

not wish

mund aldrigi

(the)-bride-price never

at megi Gjúka.

from (the)-son of-Gjúki

They could not master their love, and she laid her head against the ring-breaker; her kinsmen said many things about them. Atli said she would not counsel shame or do wrong; but, she says, no one should deny such things for another where love is at work. Atli sent his men through the dark wood to test her, and they came where they should not, as the lovers spread one cover. The two offered the thanes red rings to say nothing to Atli, but the men hurried home and told him at once.

21 Þeygi vit máttum

Not-at-all we-two could

við munum vinna

against love prevail

nema ek helt höfði

except I held (my)-head

við hringbrota;

against (the)-ring-breaker

mæltu margir

said many

mínir niðjar,

my kinsmen

kóðusk ok hafa

said-(they) us-two to-have

orðit bæði.

been both-(together)

En mik Atli kvað

But me Atli said

eigi mundu

not would

lýti ráða

shame counsel

né löst gera,

nor fault do

en slíks skyli

but such should

synja aldri

deny never

maðr fyr annan,

a-man for another

þars munúð deilir.

where love deals

22

Sendi Atli

Sent Atli

áru sína

messengers his

of myrkvan við

through (the)-dark wood

mín at freista,

me to test

ok þeir kómu,

and they came

þars koma né skyldut,

where come not (they)-should-not

23

þás breiddum vit

when spread we-two

blæju eina.

cover one

24 Buðum vit þegnum

Offered we-two (the)-thanes

bauga rauða,

rings red

at eigi til

that not to

Atla segði,

(to)-Atli tell

en þeir hvatliga

but they swiftly

heim skunduðu

home hastened

ok óliga

and at-once

Atla sögðu.

(to)-Atli told

They hid it wholly from Goðrún, who had twice the cause to know it. A clatter of gold-hoofed horses was heard as Gjúki's beirs rode into the court; they cut the heart out of Högni and laid the other in the serpent-yard. Oddrún had gone once more to Geirmundr to prepare a feast. The wise king struck the harp, thinking she would come to help him, and she heard from Hlésey how the strings spoke of his strain. She bade her bondwomen make ready, wanting to save the king's life.

En Goðrúnu

25

But (from)-Goðrún

görla leyndu

fully (they)-hid-(it)

þvíś heldr vita

which rather know

halfu skyldi.

by-half (she)-should

Hlymr vas at heyra

26

A-clatter was to hear

hófgollinna,

of-(the)-gold-hoofed-ones

þás í garð riðu

when into (the)-court rode

Gjúka arfar,

Gjúki's beirs

þeir ór Högna

they out-of Högni

hjarta skáru,

(the)-heart cut

en í ormgarð
and into (the)-serpent-yard
 annan lögðu.
(the)-other laid

- 27 Vask enn farin
Was-I still gone
 einu sinni
one time
 til Geirmundar
to Geirmundr
 gerva drykkju;
(to)-prepare drink
 nam horskr konungr
began (the)-wise king
 hörpu sveigja,
(the)-harp to-sway
 hann hugði mik
he thought me
 til hjalpar sér.
to help him
 (kynríkr konungr
(the)-mighty-in-kin king
 of koma mundu).
— come would

Namk at heyra

Began-I to hear

ór Hléseyju,

out-of Hlésey

hvé þar af stríðum

bow there from strains

strengir mæltu;

(the)-strings spoke

baðk ambáttir

bade-I (the)-bondwomen

búnar verða,

ready be

vildak fylkis

wished-I (the)-king's

þjörvi bjarga.

life save

28

29–32 • ODDRÚN'S LAMENT

They sailed the ship over the sound until she saw all Atli's courts. Then Atli's wretched mother came striding out, may she rot, and dug into Gunnarr's heart, so that Oddrún could not save the famous king. She often wonders why she can keep her life after him, when she loved the fearless dealer of swords as herself. Borgný sat and listened while she told her many ill fates, hers and theirs. Every man lives by his desires, and now Oddrún's weeping is ended.

Létum fljóta

(We)-let float

far sund yfir,

(the)-ship (the)-sound over

29

unz alla sák

until all saw-I

Atla garða.

Atli's courts

30 Þá kom en arma

Then came the wretched

út skævandi

out striding

móðir Atla,

(the)-mother of-Atli

hón morna skyli,

she rot should

ok Gunnari

and (in)-Gunnarr

gróf til hjarta,

dug to (the)-heart

svát máttigak

so-that could-I-not

mærum bjarga.

(the)-famous-one save

31 Opt undrumk þat,

Often wonder-I (at)-that

hví eptir mák,

why after-(him) may-I

linnvengis Bil,

(the)-serpent-bed's Bil

lífi halda,

life hold

es ógnhvötum

when (the)-terror-bold

unna þóttumk

love seemed-I

sverða deili

of-swords (the)-dealer

sem sjalfri mér.

as self me

Satt ok hlýddir

Satest-thou and listenedst

meðan sagðak þér

while told-I thee

mörg ill of sköp

many ill — fates

mín ok þeira;

mine and theirs

maðr hverr lifir

man every lives

at munum sínum;

by desires his

nú 's of genginn

now is — ended

grátr Oddrúnar.

(the)-weeping of-Oddrún

Atlakviða

The Lay of Atli

Goðrún, Gjúki's daughter, avenged her brothers, as is well known: she killed Atli's sons first, then Atli, and burned the hall and all the household, and this poem was made about it. Atli sent a rider, Knéfrøðr, to Gunnarr's hall, where the men drank wine and feared the Huns' wrath. Knéfrøðr, the southern man, called out in a cold voice from the high bench that Atli had sent him through the unknown Myrkviðr to ask them to come to his benches. They could choose shields, ash-spears, gold-reddened helmets, a host of Huns, silver-gilt saddle-cloths, and bit-champing steeds.

Dauði Atla. Guðrún Gjúkadóttir hefndi bræðra sinna,
(The)-Death of-Atli Guðrún Gjúki's-daughter avenged brothers her
 svá sem frægt er orðit. Hon drap fyrst sonu Atla, en
so as famous is become She killed first (the)-sons of-Atli and
 eptir drap hon Atla ok brendi höllina ok hirðina alla;
afterward killed she Atli and burned the-hall and the-household all
 um þetta er sjá kviða ort.
about this is this poem made

Atli árr sendi

Atli early sent

segg til Gunnars

a-man to Gunnarr

kunnan at ríða,

known to ride

Knéfrøðr vas heitinn;

Knéfrøðr was called

1

at görðum kom Gjúka

to (the)-courts came of-Gjúki

ok at Gunnars höllu,

and to Gunnarr's hall

bekkjum aringreypum

benches bearth-encircling

ok at bjóri svásum.

and to beer sweet

2 Drukku dróttmegir,

Drank (the)-host-men

en dyljendr þögðu,

but (the)-concealers were-silent

vín í valhöllu,

wine in (the)-foreign-hall

vreiði sáusk Húna;

(the)-wrath feared of-(the)-Huns

kallaði Knéfrøðr

called Knéfrøðr

kaldri röddu,

(with)-cold voice

seggr enn suðræni,

(the)-man the southern

sat á bekk háum.

sat on (the)-bench high

Atli mik sendi

Atli me sent

ríða ørendi

(to)-ride (on)-an-errand

mari enum mēlgreypa,

(on)-(the)-mare the bit-champing

myrkvið ókunnan

(through)-Myrkviðr unknown

at biðja yðr Gunnarr,

to ask you Gunnarr

at á bekk kœmið

that to (the)-bench (ye)-come

með hjalmum aringreypum,

with helmets hearth-encircling

at sækja heim Atla.

to visit at-home Atli

Skjöldu kneguð velja

Shields can-ye choose

ok skafna aska,

and planed ash-spears

hjalma gollroðna

helmets gold-reddened

ok Húna mengi,

and of-Huns a-host

silfrgylt söðulklæði,

silver-gilt saddle-cloths

serki valrauða,

shirts slaughter-red

dafar darraðar,

(the)-spears of-(the)-dart

drösla mélgreypa.

steeds bit-champing

5-7 · GUNNARR'S WEALTH

Atli, Knéfrøðr says, would also give them the plain of wide Gnitabeiðr, resounding spears, gilded prows, great treasures, the steeds of Danpr, and the famous wood that men call Myrkviðr. Gunnarr turned his head and asked Högni what counsel he had, since they heard such things: he knew of no gold on Gnitabeiðr that they did not have as much of. They have seven halls full of swords with golden hilts, the best steed, the keenest blade, bows fit for the bench, mail-coats of gold, and the whitest helmet and shield from Kíarr's hall, and one of his own is better than all the Huns'.

5 Völl lézk ok mundu gefa

(The)-plain said-he also would give

viðrar Gnitabeiðar

of-(the)-wide Gnitabeiðr

með geiri gjallanda

with (the)-spear resounding

ok gyltum stöfnum,

and gilded prows

stórar meiðmar

great treasures

ok staði Danpar,

and (the)-steeds of-Danpr

hrís þat et mæra,
wood that the famous
 es meðr Myrkvið kalla.
which men Myrkvið call

Höfði vatt Gunnarr,
(His)-head turned Gunnarr

ok Högna til sagði:
and Högni to said

»hvat ræðr okr seggr enn æri
what counselest (to)-us-two man the younger

alls vit slíkt heyrum?
since we-two such hear

goll vissak ekki
gold knew-I not

á Gnitahiði
on Gnitahiðr

þats vit ættima
which we-two bad-not

annat jafnmikit.
other as-great

Sjau eigum salhús,
Seven have-we hall-houses

sverða full eru;
of-swords full are

(hverju eru þeira

of-each are of-them

hjölt ór golli).

(the)-hilts out-of gold

minn veitk mar baztan,

my know-I steed best

mæki hvassastan,

blade keenest

(boga bekkscæma

bows bench-befitting

en brynjur ór golli),

and mail-coats out-of gold

hjalm ok skjöld hvítastan

helmet and shield whitest

kominn ór höll Kíars,

come out-of (the)-hall of-Kíarr

einn es minn betri

one is mine better

an sé allra Húna.

than be of-all (the)-Huns

Högni asks what Goðrún means by sending them a ring wrapped in a wolf's clothing: he thinks it a warning, for he found a wolf's hair twisted in the red ring, and their way will be wolfish. No kinsman urged them, nor any neighbor, counselor, or man of power. Gunnarr spoke as a king should, great-hearted in the mead-hall, and bade Fjörnir rise and pass the men's gold cups over the floor. Old gray wolves will rule the Niflungar's inheritance and black bears bite if Gunnarr does not come back.

H. KV. Hvat hygg brúði bendu,

8

What thinkest-(thou) (the)-bride (to)-signal

þás okr baug sendi

when (to)-us-two a-ring (she)-sent

varinn ulfs váðum;

wrapped (in)-a-wolf's clothing

hygg at vörnuð byði;

think-I that warning (she)-offered

hár fank heiðingja

a-hair found-I of-(the)-beath-dweller

riðit í hring rauðum,

twisted in (the)-ring red

ylfskr es vegr okkarr

wolfish is way our-two

at ríða ørendi.

to ride (on)-(the)-errand

9 Niðjargi hvöttu

Kinsmen-not urged

né náungr annarr,

nor neighbor other

rýnendr né ráðendr,

counselors nor advisers

né þeirs ríkir váru.

nor those-who mighty were

10 Kvaddi þá Gunnarr

Spoke then Gunnarr

sem konungr skyldi,

as a-king should

mærr í mjöðranni,

famous in (the)-mead-house

af móði stórum:

from mood great

»rís þú nú Fjörnir,

rise thou now Fjörnir

lát á flet vaða

let over (the)-floor wade

greppa gollskálir

of-men gold-cups

með gumna höndum.

with (the)-men's hands

Ulfar munu ráða

Wolves will rule

arfi Niflunga

(the)-inheritance of-(the)-Niflungar

gamlir gránvarðir,

old gray-garbed

ef Gunnars missir,

if Gunnarr (they)-lose

birnir blakkfjallir

bears black-furred

bíta þreftönnnum,

bite with-quarrel-teeth

gamna greystóði,

gladden (the)-stud-of-bitches

ef Gunnarr né kemrat.«

if Gunnarr not comes-not

The weeping people led the battle-bold prince and Högni out of the court, and Högni's young heir wished them a safe journey. The bold men let their bit-champing mares gallop over the mountains through the unknown Myrkviðr, and all Húnmörk shook as they drove over the green plains. They saw Atli's land, Bikki's men on the high stronghold, and a hall ringed with benches and shields, where Atli drank wine while watchmen waited for Gunnarr. Their sister met them as they came into the hall and told Gunnarr he was betrayed; he should have come in mail to Atli's home and let Atli himself go into the serpent-yard, which now lies in store for the two of them.

12 Leiddu landrögni

Led (the)-land-ruler

lýðar óneisir

people unblemished

grátendr gunnhvata

weeping (the)-battle-bold-one

ór garði ok Högna.

out-of (the)-court and Högni

Þá kvað enn æri

Then said the younger

erfivörðr Högna:

heir of-Högni

heilir farið ok horskir,

bale go-ye and wise

hvars ykr hugr teygir.

wherever you-two (the)-mind draws

Fetum létu fræknir
With-strides let (the)-bold-ones
 of fjöll at þyrja
over (the)-mountains to dash
 mari mélgreypa
(the)-mares bit-champing
 myrkvið ókunnan,
(through)-Myrkviðr unknown
 hristisk öll Húnmörk,
shook-itself all Húnmörk
 þars harðmóðgir fóru,
where (the)-hard-minded went
 ráku vandstyggva
drove (the)-goad-shy-ones
 völlu algrœna.
(over)-plains all-green

- 14 Land sáu Atla
(The)-land saw-(they) of-Atli
- ok liðskjalfar djúpa
and (the)-watchtowers deep
- (Bikka greppar standa
Bikki's men standing
- á borg enni háu)
on (the)-stronghold the high
- sal of suðrþjóðum
(the)-hall above (the)-southern-peoples
- sleginn sessmeiðum
set-round with-seat-beams
- (bundnum röndum,
with-bound rims
- bleikum skjöldum)
pale shields
- dafar darraðar,
spears of-darts
- en þar drakk Atli
and there drank Atli
- vín í valhöllu,
wine in (the)-foreign-hall
- verðir sátu úti.
watchmen sat outside
- (at varða þeim Gunnari,
to guard-against that Gunnarr
- ef hans vitja kœmi,
if him visit (he)-came

með geiri gjallanda

with (the)-spear resounding

at vekja gram hildi).

to wake (the)-prince (to)-battle

Systir fann þeira

(The)-sister found of-them

snemst at í sal kómu

soonest as into (the)-hall (they)-came

bræðr hennar báðir,

brothers her both

bjóri vas lítt drukkin;

(with)-beer was little drunk

»ráðinn est Gunnarr;

betrayed art-thou Gunnarr

hvat munt ríkr vinna

what wilt-(thou) mighty do

við Húna harmbrögðum?

against (the)-Huns' harm-tricks

höll gakk ór snimma.

(the)-hall go out-of early

- 16 Betr hefðir bróðir,
Better hadst-(thou) brother
 at í brynju fœrir
that in mail-coat (thou)-wentest
 sem hjalmum aringreypum
as with-helmets heartb-encircling
 at séa heim Atla;
to see (the)-home of-Atli
 sætir í söðlum
sattest in saddles
 sólheiða daga
sun-bright days
 (nár nauðfölvu
corpses need-pale
 létir nornir gráta,
lettest (the)-norns weep
 Húna skjaldmeyjar
(the)-Huns' shield-maids
 hervi kannu),
(the)-plow try
 en Atla sjalfan
and Atli himself
 létir í ormgarð koma;
lettest into (the)-serpent-yard come
 (nú 's sá ormgarðr
now is that serpent-yard
 ykr of folginn).
(for)-you-two — hidden

Gunnarr answers that it is too late to gather the Niflungar or seek a following from over the misty mountains of the Rhine. They seized Gunnarr, the friend of the Burgundians, and bound him fast in fetters. Högni hewed down seven with his keen sword and thrust the eighth into the hot fire, as a bold man defends himself against foes. Part of a stanza is lost. They asked Gunnarr, prince of the Goths, whether he would buy his life with gold.

G. KV. Seinat es nú systir

17

Too-late is now sister

at samna Niflungum;

to gather (the)-Niflungar

langt es at leita

long is to seek

lýða sinnis til

of-people a-following to

of rosmufjöll Rínar,

over (the)-misty-mountains of-(the)-Rhine

rekka óneissa.

of-warriors unblemished

Fengu þeir Gunnar

18

Caught they Gunnarr

ok í fjötur settu

and in fetter set

vin Borgunda

(the)-friend of-(the)-Burgundians

ok bundu fastla.

and bound (him)-fast

19 Sǵau hjó Högni

Seven bewed Högni

sverði hvössu

with-sword keen

en enum áttu

but the eighth

hratt í eld heitan;

thrust into fire hot

(svá skal frœkn

so shall (the)-bold

fjándum verjask

(from)-foes defend-himself

Högni varði hendr).

Högni defended (bis)-hands

20 * * * Gunnars;

(lacuna) Gunnarr's

frágu frœknan

asked-(they) (the)-bold-one

ef fjör vildi

if life (be)-would

gotna þjóðann

of-(the)-Goths (the)-prince

golli kaupa.

with-gold buy

Gunnarr demands that Högni's heart lie in his own hand, bloody and cut from the hero's breast with a keen knife. They cut the heart out of Hjalli instead and brought it bloody on a platter to Gunnarr. Gunnarr said that this was the heart of Hjalli the coward, unlike the heart of Högni the bold: it trembled on the platter, and twice as much when it lay in Hjalli's breast. Högni laughed when they cut to his heart, and least of all thought to whimper; they laid his heart bloody on a platter and brought it to Gunnarr.

G. KV. Hjarta skal mér Högna

21

(The)-heart shall (for)-me of-Högni

í hendi liggja

in (the)-hand lie

blóðugt ór brjósti

bloody out-of (the)-breast

skorit baldriða,

cut (from)-(the)-hero

saxi slíðrbeittu

with-a-knife sheath-keen

(syni þjóðans) * * *.

(from)-(the)-son of-(the)-king (lacuna)

22 Skáru þeir hjarta

Cut they (the)-heart

Hjalla ór brjósti

of-Hjalli out-of (the)-breast

blóðugt á bjóð lögðu

bloody on a-platter laid

ok báru fyrir Gunnar.

and bore-(it) before Gunnarr

23 (Þá kvað þat Gunnarr,

Then said that Gunnarr

gumna dróttinn):

of-men (the)-lord

Hér hefki hjarta

Here have-I (the)-heart

Hjalla ens blauða

of-Hjalli the cowardly

óglíkt hjarta

unlike (the)-heart

Högna ens frækna,

of-Högni the bold

es mjök bifask,

which much trembles

es á bjóði liggr;

which on (the)-platter lies

bifðisk halfu meir,

trembled by-half more

es í brjósti lá.

when in (the)-breast (it)-lay

Hló þá Högni,

Laughed then Högni

es til hjarta skáru

when to (the)-heart (they)-cut

kvikvan kumbla meið,

(the)-living (of)-wounds (the)-tree

klökkva síz hugði;

to-whimper least thought

blóðugt á bjóð lögðu

bloody on (the)-platter laid

ok báru fyr Gunnar.

and bore-(it) before Gunnarr

25–29 • THE RHINE'S GOLD

Gunnarr said this was the heart of Högni the bold, unlike Hjalli's: it trembles little on the platter, and trembled less when it lay in his breast. Atli will be as far from the treasure as from his sight, since the Niflungar's hoard is hidden under Gunnarr alone now Högni is dead. While two of them lived he always had doubt, and now he has none. The Rhine will rule the strife-metal, the Niflungar's inheritance; the gold will gleam in the rolling water rather than shine on the hands of the Huns' children. Atli bids them drive the wheeled wagons, for the captive is bound.

(Mærr kvað þat Gunnarr

Famous said that Gunnarr

geirniflungr:)

(the)-spear-Niflung

Hér hefk hjarta

Here have-I (the)-heart

Högna ens frækna

of-Högni the bold

óglíkt hjarta

unlike (the)-heart

Hjalla ens blauða;

of-Hjalli the cowardly

es lítt bifask,

which little trembles

es á bjóði liggr;

which on (the)-platter lies

bifðisk svági mjök,

trembled not-so much

þás í brjósti lá.

when in (the)-breast (it)-lay

26 Svá skalt Atli

So shalt-(thou) Atli

augum fjarri

(from)-eyes far

sem munt

as wilt-(thou)

menjum verða;

(from)-treasures be

es und einum mér

since under one me

öll of folgin

all — bidden

hodd Niflunga,

(the)-board of-(the)-Niflungar

lifira nú Högni.

lives-not now Högni

Ey vas mér týja,

Ever was (to)-me doubt

meðan tveir lifðum,

while two (we)-lived

nú es mér engi,

now is (to)-me none

es einn lifik.

since alone live-I

27

Rín skal ráða

(The)-Rhine shall rule

rógmalmi skatna,

(the)-strife-metal of-men

svinn áskunna,

(the)-swift (the)-god-descended

arfi Niflunga,

inberitance of-(the)-Niflungar

28

í veltanda vatni

in (the)-rolling water

lýsask valbaugar,

gleam (the)-slaughter-rings

heldr an á höndum goll

rather than on hands gold

skíni Húna börnum.

(should)-shine (for)-(the)-Huns' children

29 Ýkvið hvelvögnum,

Drive-ye (the)-wheel-wagons

haptr es nú í böndum.

(the)-captive is now in bonds

30–34 • GUNNARR IN THE SERPENT-YARD

Mighty Atli, their kinsman by marriage, rode off, set about with strife-thorns, and Goðrún, holding back her tears, went into the hall. She curses Atli to fare as he kept the oaths he swore Gunnarr, by the southern sun, Sigtýr's rock, the steed of the rest-bed, and Ullr's ring. They laid the living prince in the yard crawling with serpents, and Gunnarr alone struck the harp in his wrath, and the strings rang, as a bold ring-giver guards gold against men. Atli turned his horse home from the murder, and Goðrún went out to meet him with a gilded cup, bidding him receive gladly from her, in his hall, the young ones gone into the dark.

30 Atli enn ríki

Atli the mighty

reið glaumi mönum,

rode (with)-din (with)-manes

sleginn rógþornum,

set-about with-strife-thorns

sifjungr þeira ***

kinsman their (lacuna)

Goðrún ***

Goðrún (lacuna)

varnaði við tárur,

refrained from tears

vaðin í þyshöllu.

waded into (the)-tumult-hall

»Svá gangi þér Atli

So go-(it) (with)-thee Atli

sem við Gunnar áttir

as with Gunnarr (thou)-hadst

eiða opt svarða

oaths often sworn

ok ár of nefnda

and early — named

at sól enni suðrhöllu

by (the)-sun the south-bending

ok at Sigtýs bergi,

and by Sigtýr's rock

hölkvi hvílbeðjar

(the)-steed of-(the)-rest-bed

ok at hringi Ullar.

and by (the)-ring of-Ullr

(ok meir þaðan

and more thence

menvörð bituls

(the)-necklace-guardian of-(the)-bit

dolgrögni dró

(the)-strife-ruler drew

til dauðs skokr).

to death (the)-steed

32 Lifanda gram

(The)-living prince

lagði í garð,

laid into (the)-yard

þanns skriðinn vas,

which crawled-over was

skatna mengi,

(of)-men (the)-host

innan ormum,

within with-serpents

en einn Gunnarr

but alone Gunnarr

heiptmóðr hörpu

wrath-minded (the)-harp

hendi kníði;

(with)-hand struck

(glumðu strengir,

resounded (the)-strings

svá golli skal

so gold shall

frœkn hringdrifi

a-bold ring-scatterer

við fira halda).

against men keep

Atli lét rinna

Atli let run

lands síns á vit

(of)-land his to visit

jó eyrskáan

(the)-steed gravel-shoeing

aptr frá morði;

back from (the)-murder

dynr vas í garði,

din was in (the)-yard

dröslum of þrungit,

with-horses — thronged

vápn söngur virða,

(the)-weapon-song of-men

váru af heiði komnir.

were from (the)-heath come

- 34 Út gekk þá Goðrún
Out went then Goðrún
 Atla í gögn
Atli to meeting
 með gyltum kálki
with a-gilded cup
 at reifa gjöld Rögnis:
to reward (the)-payment of-Rögnir
 »þiggja knátt þengill
receive canst-(thou) prince
 í þinni höllu
in thy hall
 glaðr at Goðrúnu
glad from Goðrún
 at gnadda nifffarna.«
for (the)-young-ones dark-gone

35–39 • GOÐRÚN'S REVENGE

Atli's cups rang heavy with wine as the long-bearded Huns gathered in the hall. The terrible lady strode in to bear the princes their drink and choose them dainties, and she told Atli his shame. The dealer of swords has chewed his own sons' hearts with honey and eaten them as slaughter-meat at the feast. He will never again call Erpr and Eitill to his knees, or see them in the middle of the seat shafting spears, clipping manes, or driving mares. A din rose on the benches and the Huns' children wept, all but Goðrún, who never wept for her brothers or her young sons.

- 35 Umðu ölskálir
Rang (the)-ale-cups
 Atla vínhöfgar,
of-Atli wine-heavy

þás í höll saman

when in (the)-hall together

Húnar of tölðusk,

(the)-Huns — counted-themselves

gumar gransíðir

men long-bearded

gengu inn hvatir.

went in bold

Skævaði en skírleita

Strode the bright-faced

(lacuna)

veigar þeim at bera,

drinks (to)-them to bear

afkár dís jöfrum

(the)-terrible lady (to)-(the)-princes

ok ölkrásir valði

and ale-dainties chose

nauðug neffölum,

unwilling (for)-(the)-pale-nosed

en níð sagði Atla.

and insult told (to)-Atli

Sona hefr þinna,

Of-(the)-sons hast-(thou) thy

sverða deilir,

of-swords (the)-dealer

36

37

hjörtu hrædreyrug

hearts corpse-bloody

við hunang of tuggin,

with honey — chewed

melta knátt móðugr,

digest canst-(thou) proud-one

manna valbráðir

(of)-men (the)-slaughter-meat

eta at ölkrásu

eat at ale-feasts

ok ór öndugi at senda.

and out-of (the)-high-seat to send

38 Kallara síðan

Callest-not afterward

til knéa þinna

to knees thy

Erp né Eitil

Erpr nor Eitill

ölreifa tváa;

ale-merry two

séra þú síðan

seest-not thou afterward

í seti miðju

in (the)-seat's middle

golls miðlendr

of-gold (the)-dealers

geira skepta.

spears shafting

(manar meita

manes clipping

né mara keyra).

nor mares driving

Ymr varð á bekkjum,

Din came on (the)-benches

afkár söngr virða,

terrible song of-men

gnýr und goðvefjum,

noise under (the)-costly-hangings

grétu börn Húna,

wept (the)-children of-(the)-Huns

nema ein Goðrún,

except alone Goðrún

es æva grét

who never wept

bræðr sína berharða

(for)-brothers her bear-hardy

ok buri svása.

and sons dear

(unga ófróða,

young unwise

þás við Atla gat).

which with Atli (she)-got

Goðrún, gosling-bright, sowed gold, gladdening the house-carls with red rings, and let the bright metal flow, never sparing the temples. Atli had drunk himself senseless, unarmed and unwary of her. She gave the bed blood to drink with the point, loosed the dogs, and woke the house-carls with a hot brand, as payment for her brothers. She gave to the fire all who were inside, the old timbers fell, the Buðlungar's dwelling burned, and the shield-maids with it. No bride in mail will avenge brothers so again; she brought death to three kings before she died. Atlamál tells it more clearly.

40 Golli søri Goðrún,

(With)-gold sowed Goðrún

en gaglbjarta,

the gosling-bright

hringum rauðum

(with)-rings red

reifði húskarla;

(she)-gladdened (the)-house-carls

sköp lét hón vaxa,

fates let she grow

en skíran malm vaða,

and bright metal wade

æva fljóð ekki

never (the)-woman at-all

gáði fjarghúsa.

heeded (the)-temples

Óvarr hafði Atli

Unwary had Atli

óðan sik drukkit,

senseless himself drunk

vápn hafði ekki,

weapon had-(he) not

varnaðit við Goðrúnu;

(he)-guarded-not against Goðrún

opt vas leikr betri,

often was (the)-play better

þás þau lint skyldu

when they gently should

optar umb faðmask,

oftener around embrace

fyr öðlingum.

before princes

Hón beði broddi

She (the)-bed with-a-point

gaf blóð at drekka

gave blood to drink

hendi helfússi

with-band bel-eager

ok hvelpa leysti,

and (the)-whelps loosed

hratt fyr hallar dyrr,

thrust before (the)-hall's door

ok húskarla vakði

and (the)-house-carls woke

brandi brúðr heitum;

(with)-brand (the)-bride hot

þau lét bræðra gjöld.

those let (as)-brothers' payment

43 Eldi gaf alla,

(To)-fire gave-(she) all

þás inni váru

who inside were

ok frá morði Gunnars

and from (the)-murder of-Gunnarr

kómu ór myrkviði,

came out-of Myrkviðr

forn timbr fellu,

old timbers fell

fjarghús of ruku,

(the)-temples — smoked

bær brann Buðlunga,

(the)-dwelling burned of-(the)-Buðlungar

brunnu ok skjaldmeyjar.

burned also (the)-shield-maids

(inni aldrstamar

inside life-checked

hnigu í eld heitan).

sank into fire hot

Fullrætt 's of þetta,

Fully-told is of this

ferr engi svá síðan

goes no-one so afterward

brúðr í brynju

bride in mail-coat

bræðra at hefna;

brothers to avenge

hón hefr þriggja

she has of-three

þjóðkonunga

great-kings

banorð borit

(the)-death-word borne

björt áðr sylti.

bright before (she)-died

Enn segir glöggra í Atlamálum enum grœnlenskum.

Yet tells more-clearly in (the)-Atlamál the Greenlandic

Atlamál en grœnlenzku

The Greenlandic Lay of Atli

Men have heard of the strife of old, when warriors met in a council that helped few; they held secret talk, and it went grimly for them and for the sons of Gjúki, who were betrayed. Atli planned ill, felled his own great prop, and sent in haste for his kinsmen by marriage. His wise wife heard what they said in secret and wanted to help them, but they were to sail over the sea and she could not go. She carved runes, and Víngi twisted them before he handed them on. Atli's messengers crossed the fjord of Limi to where the bold men lived, who grew ale-merry, kindled fires, suspected no guile, and hung the gifts sent them on a pillar.

Frétt hefr öld óvu,

Heard has (the)-folk (the)-strife

þás endr of gerðu

that of-old — made

seggir samkundu,

men a-meeting

sú vas nýt fæstum,

that was useful to-fewest

æxtu einmæli,

increased secret-talk

yggð vas þeim síðan

grim was (for)-them afterward

ok et sama sonum Gjúka,

and the same (for)-(the)-sons of-Gjúki

es váru sannráðnir.

who were truly-betrayed

1

- 2 Sköp váru skjöldunga,
Fates were (the)-princes'
 skyldu þeir feigir,
should they (be)-doomed
 illa rézk Atla,
ill counseled Atli
 átti þó hyggju,
had-he yet wisdom
 feldi stoð stóra,
felled-he a-prop great
 stríddi sér harðla,
harmed himself greatly
 af bragði boð sendi
in haste a-summons sent
 at kvæmi brátt mágar.
that should-come soon (his)-kinsmen-by-marriage

- 3 Horsk vas húsfreyja,
Wise was (the)-housewife
 hugði at manviti,
pondered with man-wit
 lag heyrði orða
(the)-drift heard-she of-(the)-words
 hvat á laun mæltu;
what in secret (they)-spoke
 þá vas vant vitri,
then was (it)-hard for-(the)-wise-one
 vildi þeim hjalpa,
wished-she them to-help

skyldu of sæ sigla,

should-they over (the)-sea sail

en sjalf né komskat.

but herself not could-come-not

Rúnar nam at rísta,

Runes began-she to carve

rengði þær Vingi,

twisted them Vingi

fárs vas flýtandi,

of-harm was (he)-a-hastener

áðr hann fram seldi;

before he forth gave-(them)

fóru þá síðan

went then afterward

sendimenn Atla

(the)-messengers of-Atli

fjörð Lima yfir,

(the)-fjord of-Limi over

þars fræknir bjoggu.

where (the)-bold dwelt

Ölværir urðu

Ale-merry became-they

ok elda kyndu;

and fires kindled

hugðu vætr véla,

thought-they naught (of)-guile

es váru komnir;

when (they)-were come

tóku þeir fórnir,

took they (the)-gifts

es þeim fríðr sendi,

which (to)-them (the)-fair-one sent

hengðu á súlu,

hung-(them) on a-pillar

hugðut þat varða.

thought-not that (to)-matter

6-10 • KOSTBERA READS THE RUNES

Kostbera, Högni's wife, came and greeted them, and Glaumvör, Gunnarr's wife, was glad too and attended to the guests' needs. They invited Högni to come, and the treachery would have been plain had they taken heed; Gunnarr promised the journey if Högni would, and Högni did not refuse. Mead went round and many horns, until the servants made the beds. Kostbera was skilled in runes and read the staves by the bright fire, holding her tongue, for they were so garbled they were hard to read. She and Högni went to bed, and the noble woman dreamed and told the prince when she woke.

6 Kom þá Kostbera,

Came then Kostbera

kvæn vas hón Högna,

wife was she Högni's

kona kapps gálig,

a-woman exceedingly glad

ok kvaddi þá báða,

and greeted them both

glöð vas ok Glaumvör,

glad was also Glaumvör

es Gunnarr átti,

whom Gunnarr had

fellskat saðr sviðri,

failed-not (the)-true wise-one

sýsti of þörf gesta.

attended about (the)-need of-(the)-guests

Buðu heim Högna,

Bade-(they) home Högni

ef þá heldr færi,

whether they rather would-fare

sýn vas svipvísí,

plain was (the)-treachery

ef þeir sín gæði;

if they (for)-themselves took-beed

hét þá för Gunnarr,

promised then (the)-journey Gunnarr

ef Högni vildi,

if Högni would

Högni því níttit,

Högni it refused-not

es hinn of réði.

when the-other — decided

- 8 Báru mjöð mærar,
Bore mead (the)-famous-women
 margs vas alls-beini,
of-much was all-service
 fór þar fjölð horna,
went there a-multitude of-horns
 unz þótti fulldrukkit,
until (it)-seemed drunk-full
 hjú gerðu hvílu
(the)-servants made (the)-bed
 sem þeim hægst þótti.
as (to)-them easiest seemed

- 9 Kend vas Kostbera,
Skilled was Kostbera
 kunni skil rúna,
knew-(she) (the)-sense of-runes
 inti orð stafa
read-out (the)-words of-(the)-staves
 at eldi ljósum;
by (the)-fire bright
 gæta varð hón tungu
guard had she (her)-tongue
 í góma báða,
in (the)-gums both
 váru svá viltar,
(they)-were so garbled
 at vas vant at ráða.
that was hard to read

Sæing fóru síðan

(To)-bed went afterward

sína þau Högni;

their (she)-and Högni

dreymsi dróttlata,

dreamed (the)-noble-lady

dulði þess vætqi;

bid-(she) of-that naught

sagði horsk hilmí,

told (the)-wise-one (the)-prince

þegars hón réð vakna.

as-soon-as she did wake

10

11-15 • KOSTBERA'S WARNING

Kostbera tells Högni that few are fully skilled in runes, and he should go another time: she has read the runes his sister carved, and the bright woman has not invited them this time. She wonders what befell the wise woman to carve them wrongly, for they seemed to say that death awaits both brothers if they come. Högni answers that all women are suspicious, and he will not look for trouble unless there is something to repay; the king will gladden them with gold, and he fears no terror. Kostbera says they will walk stumbling and find no kind welcome: she dreamed his coverlet was burning and flame leapt through the house.

KB. KV. Heiman gerisk Högni,

From-home make-(thou)-ready Högni

hygg þú at ráðum,

heed thou to counsels

fár es fullrýninn,

few-a-man is fully-rune-wise

11

far þú í sinn annat,

fare thou in time another

réd ek þær rúnar,

read I those runes

es reist þín systir,

which carved thy sister

björt hefr þér eigi

(the)-bright-one has thee not

boðit í sinn þetta.

bidden in time this

12 Eitt ek mest undrumk,

One-thing I most wonder-at

mákat enn hyggja,

may-I-not yet conceive

hvat þá varð vitri,

what then befell (the)-wise-one

es skyldi vilt rísta;

that (she)-should wrongly carve

svá vas á vísat

so was thereon shown

sem undir væri

as-if beneath were

bani ykkarr beggja,

(the)-bane of-you-two both

ef bráðla kœmið.

if soon (you-two)-came

(vant es stafs vífi
lacking is a-stave (to)-(the)-woman
 eða valda aðrir).
or cause-(it) others

HÖ. KV. Allar ro illúðgar,

All are ill-minded

ákka þar kynni,

have-I-not thereof knowledge

vilka þess leita,

will-I-not of-it seek

nema launa eigim,

unless repay (we)-must

okkr mun gramr golli

(to)-us-two will (the)-prince (with)-gold

reifa glóðrauðu;

give-joy ember-red

óumk ek aldrigi,

dread-I I never

þótt vér ógn fregnim.

though we terror hear-of

KB. KV. Stopalt munuð ganga,

Stumbling will-ye walk

ef it stundið þangat,

if you-two hasten thither

13

14

ykr mun ástkynni
(to)-you-two will kindly-welcome

eigi í sinn þetta;
not in time this

dreymði mik Högni,
dreamed me Högni

dyljumk þat eigi;
bide-I that not

ganga mun ykr andæris,
go will (for)-you-two against-the-wind

eða ella hræðumk.
or else fear-I

15 Blæju hugðak þína
(The)-coverlet thought-I thy

brinna í eldi,
burn in (the)-fire

hryti hár logi
leapt a-high flame

hús mín í gögnum.
(the)-house mine in through

HÖ. KV. Liggja hér linklæði,
Lie here linen-clothes

þaus ér lítt rækið;
which ye little heed

þau munu brátt brinna,
they will soon burn

þars þú blæju sátt.
where thou (the)-coverlet sawest

Kostbera dreamed a bear came in, broke up the planks, and shook its paws so that they were afraid, holding many of them in its mouth; and that an eagle flew the length of the hall and sprinkled them all with blood, and it seemed from its threats the eagle was Atli's shape. Högni says there will be storms, and a white bear means a squall from the east; an eagle means they will slaughter oxen, and Atli's mind is sound whatever she dreams. So their talk ended. Glaumvör, waking, knew there was harm in dreams, and a line is lost of what she told Gunnarr.

KB. KV. Björn hugðak inn kominn,

A-bear thought-I in come

bryti upp stokka,

broke-(it) up (the)-planks

hristi svá hramma,

shook-(it) so (its)-paws

at vér hrædd yrðim,

that we afraid became

munni oss mörg hefði,

(in)-(its)-mouth us many had-(it)

svát vér mættim ekki,

so-that we could naught

þar vas ok þrömmun

there was also tramping

þeygi svá lítil.

not-at-all so little

16

- 17 HÖ. KV. Veðr mun þar vaxa,
A-storm will there wax
 verða ótt snimma,
become fierce early
 hvítabjörn hugðir,
a-white-bear thoughtest-(thou)
 þar mun hregg austan.
there will-(be) a-squall from-the-east
- 18 KB. KV. Örn hugðak inn fljúga
An-eagle thought-I in fly
 at endlöngu húsi,
along (the)-whole house
 þat mun oss drjúgt deilask,
that will (to)-us sorely be-dealt
 dreifði oss öll blóði;
sprinkled-(it) us all (with)-blood
 hugðak af heitum
thought-I from (the)-threats
 at væri hamr Atla.
that (it)-were (the)-shape of-Atli
- 19 HÖ. KV. Slátrum sýsliga,
Slaughter-(we) promptly
 séum þá roðru,
see-(we) then (the)-gore
 opt 's þat fyr øxnum,
often is that for oxen

es örnu dreymir;

when (of)-eagles (one)-dreams

heill es hugr Atla,

hale is (the)-mind of-Atli

hvatki 's þik dreymir. —

whatever that thee dreams

Lokit því létu,

Ended it let-(they)

líðr hver ræða.

passes every speech

Vöknuðu vel borin,

Woke-(they) well born

vas þar sams dæmi,

was there of-(the)-same (the)-case

gættisk þess Glaumvör,

was-aware of-that Glaumvör

at væri grand svefna

that (there)-were harm (in)-sleeps

*** við Gunnar

(lacuna) with Gunnarr

at fáa tvær leiðir.

to take two ways

Glaumvör dreamed a gallows was made ready for Gunnarr and serpents ate him, and she buried him alive, and she asks him to read what it means. A stanza is lost. She dreamed a bloody sword drawn out of his shirt, an ill dream to tell a husband, and a spear standing through his middle with wolves howling at both ends; Gunnarr says dogs will run, and hounds bay before spears fly. She dreamed a river ran the length of the hall, roaring and rushing over the benches, and broke the feet of both brothers; the water would not yield, and it must mean something.

21 GL. KV. Görvan hugðak þér galga,

Made-ready thought-I (for)-thee a-gallows

gengir at hanga,

wentest-(thou) to hang

æti þik ormar

ate thee serpents

yrðak þik kvikvan;

buried-I thee alive

gerðisk rök ragna,

befell (the)-doom of-(the)-powers

ráð hvat þat væri.

read what that were

22 * * *

(lacuna)

Blóðgan hugðak mæki

23

Bloody thought-I a-sword

borinn ór serk þínum;

drawn out-of (the)-shirt thine

ilt es svefn slíkan

ill is a-dream such

segja nauðmanni.

to-tell (to)-a-husband

Geir hugðak standa

24

A-spear thought-I to-stand

í gögnum þik miðjan,

in through thee (the)-middle

emjuðu ulfar

howled wolves

á endum báðum.

at ends both

G. KV. Rakkar þar rinna,

Hounds there run

ráðask mjök geyja;

set-about greatly to-bark

opt verðr glaumr hunda

often is (the)-baying of-hounds

fyr geira flaugin.

before of-spears (the)-flight

25 GL. KV. Á hugðak inn rinna

A-river thought-I in run

at endlöngu húsi,

along (the)-whole house

þyti af þjósti,

roared-(it) with fury

þeystisk of bekki,

rushed over (the)-benches

bryti fœtr ykra

broke-(it) (the)-feet of-you-two

bræðra hér tveggja,

(of)-brothers here two

gerðit vatn vægja;

did-not (the)-water yield

vesa mun þat fyr nøkkvi.

be will that for something

A stanza is lost. Glaumvör dreamed dead women came in the night, scarcely clad, wanting to choose Gunnarr and bidding him quickly to their benches; she says his guardian spirits have lost their power. Gunnarr answers that it is too late to speak, since the journey is decided; they will not shun it, though it seems very likely their lives will be short.

G. KV. * * *

26

(lacuna)

GL. KV. Konur hugðak dauðar

27

Women thought-I dead

koma í nótt hingat,

come in (the)-night hither

væri vart búnar,

were-(they) scarcely clad

vildi þik kjósa,

would-(they) thee choose

byði þér bráðliga

bade-(they) thee quickly

til bekkja sinna;

to benches their

ek kveð aflima

I say powerless

orðnar þér dísir.

become thy dísir

28 G. KV. Seinat 's at segja,

Too-late is to speak

svá es nú ráðit;

so is now decided

forðumka för þó,

shun-we-not (the)-journey yet

alls þó 's fara ætlat;

since yet is to-fare intended

mart 's mjök glíklígt,

much is very likely

at mynim skammæir.

that (we)-may-be short-lived

29–33 • THE DEPARTURE

At daybreak all were eager to rise, though the women held them back. Five went together, with twice as many housecarls, among them Snævarr and Sólarrr, Högni's sons, and Orkningr, Kostbera's brother. The fair women went with them until the fjord parted them, still trying to hold them back. Glaumvör told Vingi she did not know whether he would repay their welcome as they wished, for a guest's coming is a crime if anything goes wrong. Vingi swore that giants and the gallows might take him if he lied to them. Bera, glad at heart, wished them a happy voyage and victory.

29 Litu es lýsti,

Looked-(they) when (it)-dawned

létusk þeir fúsir

declared-themselves they eager

allir upp rísa,

all up to-rise

önnur þau löttu,

(the)-others they held-back

fóru fimm saman,

fared five together

fleiri til váru

more besides were

halfu húskarlar,

by-half housecarls

hugat vas því illa.

thought-out was it ill

Snævarr ok Sólarr,

Snævarr and Sólarr

synir váru Högna,

sons were Högni's

Orkning þann hétu,

Orkningr him called-(they)

es þeim enn fylgði,

who them also followed

(blíðr vas börr skjaldar

blithe was (the)-tree of-(the)-shield

bróðir hans kvánar)

(the)-brother his wife's

fóru fagrbúnar,

fared (the)-fair-clad

unz þau fjörðr skilði,

until them (the)-fjord parted

löttu ofvalt ljósar;

held-back constantly (the)-bright-ones

létuat heldr segjask.

let-not rather (themselves)-be-told

31 Glaumvör kvað at orði,

Glaumvör said in words

es Gunnarr átti,

whom Gunnarr had

mælti við Vinga,

spoke to Vingi

sem henni vert þótti:

as (to)-her fitting seemed

veitka hvárt verð launið

know-I-not whether worthily (ye)-repay

at vilja ossum;

according-to wish ours

glæpr 's gests kváma,

a-crime is a-guest's coming

ef í gerisk nakkvat.

if in-(it) happens anything

32 Sór þá eið Vingi,

Swore then an-oath Vingi

sér réð lítt eira:

himself did little spare

»eigi hann jötnar,

have him (the)-giants

ef at yðr lygi,

if to you (he)-lied

galgi görvallan,

(the)-gallows entire

ef á grið hygðí.«

if against (the)-truce (he)-plotted

Bera kvað at orði,

Bera said in words

blíð í hug sínum:

blithe in mind her

siglið ér sælir

sail ye happy

ok sigr of árneð;

and victory — win

fari sem fyr mælik;

fare-(it) as forth speak-I

fæst eigi því níta.

fewest not that deny

Högni answers kindly, bidding the wise women take comfort whatever happens; many say so, though it often goes otherwise, and few can choose how they are led from home. They looked at one another before they parted, and then the fates divided their ways. They began to row so hard that they tore away half the keel, the oar-loops snapped and the tholes broke, and they left the ship unmoored when they went ashore. A little further on they saw Buðli's dwelling, and the gates creaked loudly when Högni knocked.

34 Högni svaraði,

Högni answered

hugði gótt nánúm:

meant-(be) good (to)-(his)-near-ones

huggizk it horskar,

comfort-yourselfs you-two wise-ones

hvégi 's þat gervisk,

however that it befalls

mæla þat margir,

say that many

missir þó stórum,

misses yet greatly

mörgum ræðr litlu,

(for)-many decides little

hvé verðr leiddr heiman.

how (be)-is led from-home

Sáusk til síðan,

35

Looked-at-each-other thereto afterward

áðr í sundr hyrfi,

before in sunder (they)-turned

þá hygg sköp skiptu,

then think-I (the)-fates shifted

skilðusk vegir þeira.

parted (the)-ways their

Róa námu ríki,

36

To-row began (the)-mighty

rifu kjöl halfan,

ripped-(they) (the)-keel half

beystu bakföllum,

struck-(they) (with)-back-bendings

brugðusk heldr reiðir,

strained-themselves rather angry

hömlur slitnuðu,

(the)-oar-loops snapped

háir brotnuðu,

(the)-tboles broke

gerðut far festa,

made-not-(they) (the)-ship fast

áðr þeir frá hyrfi.

before they from turned

- 37 Lítlu ok lengra,
(By)-little also further
 lok munk þess segja,
(the)-end will-I of-that tell
 bæ sáú standa,
(the)-dwelling saw-(they) stand
 es Buðli átti;
which Buðli had
 hátt hrikðu grindir
loud creaked (the)-gates
 es Högni kníði.
when Högni knocked

38–41 • VINGI SLAIN

Vingi spoke words that were better unsaid: they should keep away from the house, where treachery waits, for he will have them burned and cut down at once; he invited them fairly, but falsehood lay beneath, and they may wait there while he hews them a gallows. Högni, unwilling to yield and wary of nothing, tells him not to try to frighten them, for he will only lengthen his own ill. They thrust Vingi down and struck him into Hel with their axes while he gasped. Atli and his men gathered in mail-coats with a fence between them and cast angry words, saying they had long meant to take the brothers' lives.

- 38 Orð kvað þá Vingi,
Word said then Vingi
 þat es án væri:
that which without were-better
 farið firr húsi,
fare-ye farther (from)-(the)-house

flátt es til sækja,

treacherous is to approach

brátt hefk ykr brenda,

quickly have-I you-two burned

bragðs skuluð höggvir,

at-once shall-ye (be)-hewn

(fagrt baðk ykr kómu,

fair bade-I you-two coming

flátt vas þó undir)

false was yet beneath

ella heðan bíðið

or-else hence wait

meðan ek hogg yðr galga.

while I hew (for)-you a-gallows

Orð kvað hitt Högni,

Word said that Högni

hugði lítt vægja,

meant-(he) little (to)-yield

varr at véttugi,

wary of nothing

es varð at reyna:

which befell to prove

hirða oss hræða,

care-not us (to)-frighten

haf þat fram sjaldan,

bring that forth seldom

ef þú eykr orði,

if thou addest a-word

ilt munt þér lengja.

ill wilt-(thou) (for)-thyself lengthen

40 Hrundu þeir Vinga

Thrust they Vingi

ok í hel drápu,

and into hel struck

øxar at lögðu,

axes at laid

meðan í önd hixti.

while in (bis)-breath (be)-gasped

41 Flykðusk þeir Atli

Flocked they Atli

ok fóru í brynjur,

and went into mail-coats

gengu svá görvir,

went so ready

at vas garðr milli;

that was a-fence between

urpusk á orðum

cast-at-each-other in words

allir senn reiðir:

all at-once angry

»fýrr várum fullráða

Before were-we fully-resolved

at firra yðr lífi.«

to deprive you (of)-life

42–45 • GOÐRÚN GREETES HER BROTHERS

Högni answers that it looks ill for them if they had planned it long and are still unready, while the brothers have already felled one of their host. The men grew furious, drew their bowstrings, and shot sharply, sheltering behind shields. Word came in of what the men were doing before the hall, and Goðrún, fierce when she heard the lament, flung away her necklaces so that the rings burst apart. She went out, flung the doors wide, and without fear welcomed the newcomers; it was the last greeting she gave the Hníflungar, and she said much more.

»Á sér þat illa,

On-(you) sees-(one) that ill

ef höfðuð áðr ráðit,

if (ye)-had before resolved

en eruð óbúnir

and (ye)-are unready

ok höfum einn feldan,

and (we)-have one felled

lamðan til heljar,

beaten to bel

liðs vas sá yðvars.«

of-(the)-host was he yours

42

- 43 Óðir þá urðu,
Furious then became-(they)
 es þat orð heyrðu,
when that word (they)-heard
 forðuðu fingrum
made-ready (their)-fingers
 ok fengu í snæri;
and caught at (the)-bowstring
 skutu skarpliga
shot sharply
 ok skjöldum hlífðusk.
and (with)-shields sheltered-themselves

- 44 Inn kom andspilli,
In came (the)-report
 hvat úti drýgðu
what outside did
 halir fyr höllu,
(the)-men before (the)-hall
 heyrðu þræl segja;
heard-(they) a-thrall say
 ötul vas þá Goðrún,
fierce was then Goðrún
 es ekki heyrði,
when (the)-grief heard-(she)
 hlaðin halsmenjum,
laden (with)-necklaces
 hreytti görvöllum.
flung-(she)-away all

(slongði svá silfri,
slung so (the)-silver
 at í sundr hrutu baugar).
that in sunder flew (the)-rings

Út gekk hón síðan,
Out went she then
 ypðit lítt hurðum,
opened-not little (the)-doors
 fóra fælt þeygi
fared-not-(she) fearfully not-at-all
 ok fagnaði komnum,
and welcomed (the)-come
 hvarf til Hniflunga,
turned to (the)-Hniflungar
 sú vas hinzt kveðja,
that was (the)-last greeting
 fylgði saðr slíku,
followed truth such
 sagði mun fleira.
said-(she) much more

45

Goðrún says she sought every means to keep them at home, but no one can withstand fate. She spoke wisely of reconciliation, but all refused. Seeing how sorely they fared, she threw off her cloak, took up a naked sword, and defended her kinsmen's lives, and she was not gentle where she laid her hands. Gjúki's daughter felled two warriors and struck Atli's brother so that he had to be carried away, cutting off his foot; another she sent to Hel, and her hands did not shake. The fight the children of Gjúki made there surpassed all others.

- 46 »Leitaðak í líkna,
Sought-I into remedies
 at letja ykr heiman,
to dissuade you-two from-home
 sköpum viðr mangi,
(the)-fates withstands no-man
 ok skuluð þó komnir.«
and should-(ye) yet (be)-come
 Mælti af manviti,
Spoke-(she) with understanding
 ef mundu sættask;
whether (they)-would be-reconciled
 ekki at réðusk,
naught to consented
 allir ní kóðu.
all no said

Sá þá sælborin,

Saw then (the)-blessed-born

at þeir sárt léku;

that they sorely played

hugði á harðræði

thought-(she) on a-hard-deed

ok hrauzk ór skikkju,

and flung-herself out-of (her)-cloak

nøkðan tók mæki

naked took-(she) a-sword

ok niðja fjör varði,

and (her)-kinsmen's life defended

hæg vasat hjaldri,

gentle was-not (in)-battle

hvars hón hendr festi.

where she (her)-hands fixed

Dóttir lét Gjúka

(The)-daughter made of-Gjúki

drengi tváa hníga,

warriors two fall

bróður hjó Atla,

(the)-brother hewed-(she) of-Atli

bera varð þann síðan;

(be)-carried had that-one afterward

(skapði svá skæru,

shaped-(she) so (the)-fray

skeldi fót undan)

clove (the)-foot from-under

annan réð höggva,

another did-(she) hew

svát sá upp reisat,

so-that he up rose-not

í helju þann hafði,

into hel him had-(she)

þeygi hendr skulfu.

not-at-all (her)-hands shook

49 Þjörku þar gerðu,

A-fray there made-(they)

þeiri vas við brugðit,

that was at marveled

þat brá of alt annat,

that surpassed over all other

es unnu börn Gjúka;

which wrought (the)-children of-Gjúki

svá kóðu Hniflunga,

so said-(they) (the)-Hniflungar

meðan sjalfir lifðu,

while (them)-selves lived

skapa sókn sverðum,

make attack (with)-swords

slítask af brynjur.

tear off mail-coats

(höggva svá hjalma

hew so helmets

sem þeim hugr dygði).

as (to)-them (the)-heart availed

50–53 • ATLI'S LOSSES

They fought from dawn until midday had passed, and the field flowed with blood; eighteen fell before Bera's two boys and her brother got the upper hand. Atli, though angry, began to speak: it is grim to look around, and it is their doing. There were thirty warlike thanes and eleven are left; there were five brothers when Buðli died, and Hel has half, two lying hewn. He got a great marriage-kinship, a baleful wife, and has had little peace since she came into his hands: she has robbed him of kinsmen and wealth and they have sent his sister to Hel.

Morgin mest vāgu,

(The)-morning most fought-(they)

unz miðjan dag líddi,

until mid day passed

(óttu alla

(the)-dawn all

ok öndurðan dag)

and (the)-early day

fyrr vas fullveggit,

before was fully-fought

flóði völr blóði,

flowed (the)-field (with)-blood

átján áðr fellu,

eighteen before fell

øfri þeir urðu,

higher they became

50

Beru tveim sveinum

Bera's two boys

ok bróður hennar.

and (the)-brother hers

51 Röskr tók at ræða,

(The)-brisk-one began to speak

þótt hann reiðr væri:

though he angry were

ilt es umb lítask,

ill is around to-look

yðr es þat kenna,

(to)-you is that (to)-be-ascribed

várum þrír tigur,

(we)-were three tens

þegnar vígligr,

thanes warlike

eptir lifum ellifu,

remaining live-(we) eleven

ór es þar brunnit.

out is there burned

52 Bræðr vér fimm várum,

Brothers we five were

es Buðla mistum,

when Buðli (we)-lost

hefr nú hel hálfa,

has now hel half

en höggðir tveir liggja.

and hewn two lie

Mægð gat ek mikla,

A-marriage-kinship got I great

mákak því leyna,

may-I-not that hide

konu váliga,

a-woman baleful

knáka þess njóta;

can-I-not of-it (have)-joy

hljótt áttum sjaldan

peace had-we seldom

síz komt í hendr ossar,

since camest-(thou) into hands ours

(firðan mik frændum

bereft me (of)-kinsmen

féi opt svikinn)

(of)-wealth often cheated

senduð systir helju,

sent-ye (my)-sister (to)-hel

slíks ek mest kennumk.

(of)-such I most am-aware

Goðrún answers that Atli did so before: he took her mother and murdered her for treasure and starved a wise cousin in a cave. It makes her laugh to hear him count his grief, and she thanks the gods it goes ill for him. Atli urges his men to increase her grief and make her weep: they are to take Högni and cut out his heart, and hang Gunnarr on the gallows and give him to the serpents. Högni says Atli may do as he pleases; he will wait gladly and prove brave, having known hardship before, and Atli may rule now they are wounded.

54 G. KV. Getr þú þess Atli,

Speakest thou of-that Atli

gerðir svá fyrri,

didst-(thou) so before

móður tókt mína

(the)-mother tookest-(thou) mine

ok myrðir til hnossa,

and murderedst for treasures

svinna systrungu

(the)-wise cousin

sveltir í helli,

starvedst-(thou) in a-cave

hlægligt mér þat þykkir,

laughable (to)-me that seems

es þinn harm tínr.

that thy grief (thou)-recountest

(goðum ek þat þakka,

(the)-gods I (for)-that thank

es þér gengsk illa).

that (for)-thee (it)-goes ill

A. KV. Eggjak yðr, jarlar,

Urge-I you earls

auka harm stóran

(to)-increase grief great

vífs ens vegliga,

(of)-(the)-woman the proud

viljak þat líta,

will-I that see

kostið svá keppa

strive-ye so (to)-contend

at klökkvi Goðrún,

that may-weep Goðrún

séa þat mættak,

see that might-I

at hón sér né yndit.

that she (in)-herself not rejoiced-not

55

Takið ér Högna

Take ye Högni

ok hyldið með knífi,

and flay with a-knife

skerið ór hjarta,

cut out (the)-heart

skuluð þess görvir,

shall-ye (for)-that (be)-ready

Gunnar grimmúðgan

Gunnarr grim-minded

á galga festið,

on (the)-gallows fasten

56

bellið því bragði,

venture that deed

bjóðið til ornum.

offer to (the)-serpents

57 H. KV. Ger sem til lystir,

Do as thereto (thee)-pleases

glæðr munk þess bíða,

glad will-I (for)-that wait

röskr munk þér reynask,

brave will-I (to)-thee prove

reynt hefkr fyrr brattan,

tried have-I before (the)-steep

höfðuð ér hnekking,

bad ye a-check

meðan heilir várum,

while whole (we)-were

nú erum svá sárir,

now (we)-are so wounded

at mátt sjalfr valda.

that mayest-(thou) thyself rule

Beiti, Atli's steward, proposes that they take Hjalli and spare Högni, since the lazy cook is fated to die and will always be called a sluggard. The cauldron-keeper was afraid and crept into every corner, whimpering that he would pay for their fight and die away from his swine and his good life. They seized Buðli's cook and drew the knife, and he howled before he felt the point, saying he would gladly dung the yards and do the lowliest work if he could live. Högni pleaded for the thrall, saying he would rather play the game himself than listen to that shrieking.

Beiti þat mælti,

Beiti that spoke

bryti vas hann Atla:

steward was he Atli's

tökum vér Hjalla,

take we Hjalli

en Högna forðum,

and Högni spare

höggum halfyrkjan,

bew-(we) (the)-half-worker

hann es skapdauði,

he is fated-to-die

lifra svá lengi,

lives-(he)-not so long

löskr mun æ heitinn.

sluggard will-(he) ever (be)-called

- 59 Hráddr vas hvergætir,
Afraid was (the)-cauldron-keeper
 helta in lengr rúmi,
kept-(he)-not the longer (his)-place
 kunni kløkkir verða,
knew-(he) whimpering become
 kleif í rá hverja,
crept into corner every
 vesall lézk vígs þeira,
wretched called-himself (at)-(the)-fight their
 es skyldi váss gjalda,
that (he)-should (for)-hardship pay
 ok sinn dag dapran
and his day sad
 at deyja frá svínum.
to die from (the)-swine
 (allri örkostu,
all abundance
 es hann áðr hafði).
which he before had

- 60 Tóku brás Buðla
Took-(they) (the)-cook Buðli's
 ok brugðu til knífi,
and drew toward (the)-knife
 æpði illþræli
howled (the)-ill-thrall
 áðr odds of kendi,
before of-(the)-point — (he)-felt

tóm lézk at eiga

time said-himself to have

teðja vel garða,

dung well (the)-yards

vinna et vergasta,

do the lowliest

ef hann við rétti.

if he back recovered

(feginn lézk þó Hjalli

glad called-himself yet Hjalli

at hann fjör þægi).

that he life got

Gættisk þess Högni,

Heeded that Högni

gerva svá færi,

do so fewer

at árna ánauðgum,

to plead (for)-(the)-bondman

at undan gengi:

that off (he)-went

»fyr kveðk mér minna

rather say-I (to)-me less

at fremja leik þenna,

to perform game this

hví mynim hér vilja

why should-we here wish

heyra á þá skræktun?»

bear on that shrieking

They seized the good man, and the warriors had no choice left to delay the deed. Högni laughed so that all heard it, and bore the torment well. Gunnarr took a harp and struck it with his toes, and he played so that women wept and men who heard it best lamented, until the rafters burst. The noble men died early in the day, and they kept up their prowess to the last. Atli, proud, stepped over them both, told his wise wife her grief, and taunted her: it is morning, and she has lost her loved ones, partly by her own doing.

62 Þrifu þjóðgóðan,

Seized-(they) (the)-folk-good-one

þá vas kostr engi

then was choice none

rekkum rakklátum

(for)-warriors bold

ráð enn lengr dvelja;

(the)-deed yet longer (to)-delay

hló þá Högni,

laughed then Högni

heyrdū dagmegir,

heard (the)-sons-of-day

keppa svá kunni,

bold-out so could-(be)

kvöl hann vel þolði.

torment he well bore

Hörpu tók Gunnarr,

A-harp took Gunnarr

hræðði ilkvistum,

stirred-(it) (with)-sole-twigs

sláa hann svá kunni,

strike he so could

at snótir grétu,

that women wept

klukku þeir karlar,

wept those men

es kunnu görst heyra,

who could clearest hear

ríkri ráð sagði,

(to)-(the)-mighty-one counsel told-(be)

raptar sundr brustu.

(the)-rafters asunder burst

Dóu þá dýrir,

Died then (the)-noble

dags vas heldr snemma,

(of)-day was-(it) rather early

létu á lesti

let-(they) at (the)-last

lifa íþróttir.

live (their)-prowess

- 65 Stórr þóttisk Atli,
Great thought-himself Atli
 sté of þá báða,
stepped over them both
 horskri harm sagði
(to)-(the)-wise-one grief told-(he)
 ok réð heldr at bregða:
and did rather to taunt
 »morginn 's nú Goðrún,
morning is now Goðrún
 mist hefr þér hollra,
lost hast-(thou) (for)-thee (the)-loyal
 sums est sjalfskapa,
(of)-some art-(thou) self-causing
 at hafi svá gengit.«
that (it)-has so gone

Goðrún says Atli is glad to proclaim the slaying, but he will regret it; she will leave him an inheritance of ill that will never end unless she dies too. Atli offers her another plan: he will console her with a bondmaid, treasures, and snow-white silver, as she wishes. Goðrún says there is no hope of that: she broke reconciliations once for smaller wrongs and was hard to please, and she bore everything while Högni lived. She and Högni were reared in one house and grew up together, endowed by Grimbildr with gold and necklaces, and Atli can never make good her brothers' slaying.

G. KV. Feginn est Atli,

Glad art-(thou) Atli

ferr þú víg lýsa,

farest thou slaying (to)-proclaim

á munu þér iðrar,

on will (to)-thee regrets

ef þú alt reynir;

if thou all provest

sú mun erfð eptir,

that will inheritance after

ek kann þér segja,

I can (to)-thee say

ills gengsk þér aldri

(of)-ill ends (for)-thee never

nema ek ok deyja.

unless I also die

- 67 A. KV. Kanka slíks synja,
Can-I-not such deny
 sék til ráð annat
see-I thereto counsel other
 halfu hógligra,
by-half fitter
 höfnum opt góðu,
reject-(we) often (the)-good
 mani munk þik hugga,
(with)-a-bondmaid will-I thee console
 mætum ágætum,
(with)-treasures excellent
 silfri snæhvítu,
(with)-silver snow-white
 sem þú sjalf vilir.
as thou (thy)-self wouldst

- 68 G. KV. Ón es þess engi,
Hope is of-that none
 ek vil því níta;
I will that refuse
 sleit ek þá sáttir,
broke I then (the)-reconciliations
 es váru sakar minni;
when were (the)-quarrels smaller
 afkár áðr þóttak,
hard-to-please before seemed-I
 á mun nú gæða,
on will now (be)-added

hræfðak of hotvetna

bore-I in everything

meðan Högni lifði.

while Högni lived

Alin vit upp várum

Reared we-two up were

í einu húsi,

in one house

lékum leik margan

played-(we) game many

ok í lundi óxum,

and in (the)-grove grew

gæddi ok Grímhildr

endowed us-two Grimbildr

golli ok halsmenjum;

(with)-gold and necklaces

bana munt mér bræðra

(the)-slaying wilt-(thou) (to)-me of-(my)-brothers

bæta aldri.

make-good never

(né vinna þess ekki

nor do of-that aught

at mér vel þykki).

that (to)-me well (it)-seems

Men's tyranny crushes women's lot: the fist goes to the knee, the tree sinks when its root is cut, and now Atli may rule all alone. The prince was credulous to trust her; Goðrún spoke against her mind and made herself cheerful, playing with two shields. She prepared ale-feasts to honor her brothers, and Atli did the same for his men, and there was great uproar at the gathering. Stern and great-minded, she wanted to take over-vengeance on her husband: she lured her little sons to the block, and they quailed but did not weep, and went into their mother's arms to ask what she meant.

70 Kostum drepr kvinna

(The)-lot crushes of-women

karla ofríki,

(of)-men (the)-tyranny

í kné gengr hnefi

into (the)-knee goes (the)-fist

ef kvistir þverra,

if (the)-twigs dwindle

tré tekr at hníga,

(the)-tree begins to sink

ef høggr tág undan;

if (one)-bews (the)-root away

nú mátt einn Atli

now mayest-(thou) alone Atli

öllu hér ráða.

all here govern

Gnótt vas grunnýðgi,

Abundance was (of)-credulity

es gramr því trúði,

when (the)-prince that trusted

sýn vas svipvísi,

plain was (the)-treachery

ef hann sín gæði;

if he (for)-himself took-beed

kröpp vas þá Goðrún,

crafty was then Goðrún

kunni of hug mæla,

could against (her)-mind speak

létt hón sér gerði,

cheerful she herself made

lék hón tveimr skjöldum.

played she (with)-two shields

Æxti öldrykkjur

Prepared-(she) ale-feasts

at erfa bræðr sína,

to honor brothers her

samr lézk ok Atli

likewise declared-himself also Atli

at sína gerva;

to his do

lokit því létu,

ended that let-(they)

lagat vas drykkju,

prepared was (the)-drinking

sú vas samkunda

that was a-gathering

við svörfun ofmikla.

with tumult over-great

73 Ströng vas stórhuguð,

Stern was (the)-great-minded

stríddi hón ætt Buðla,

harmed she (the)-kin of-Buðli

vildi ver sínum

wished-(she) (on)-husband her

vinna ofrhefndir;

work over-vengeance

lokkaði litla

lured-(she) (the)-little-ones

ok lagði við stokki,

and laid-(them) against (the)-block

glúpnuðu grimmir

quailed (the)-fierce-ones

ok grétu þeygi.

and wept not-at-all

(fóru í faðm móður,

went into (the)-embrace of-(their)-mother

fréttu hvat þá skyldi).

asked what then should-(be)

Goðrún tells them not to ask: she means to destroy them both, having long wanted to cure them of old age. They answer that she may sacrifice her children as she wishes, but her rest from wrath will be short. She cut both their throats. Atli asked where his boys had gone to play, since he saw them nowhere. Goðrún says she will go and tell him and not hide it: it will not gladden him, for he woke great woe when he slew her brothers. She has slept seldom since they fell, and she promised him hardship; now it is evening, and he will learn such things.

„Spyrið lítt eptir,

Ask little after

spilla ætlak báðum

destroy intend-I both

lyst várumk þess lengi

lust was-(to)-me of-that long

at lyfja ykr elli.“

to cure you-two (of)-age

„Blótt sem vill börnum,

Sacrifice as (thou)-wilt (thy)-children

bannar þat mangi,

forbids that no-one

skömm mun ró reiði,

short will-(be) (the)-rest (from)-wrath

ef reynir görva.“

if (thou)-provest fully

- 75 Brá þá barnœsku
Cut-short then (the)-childhood
 brœðra en kappsvinna,
of-(the)-brothers the very-resolute
 skiptit skapliga,
acted-not fittingly
 skar hón á hals báða;
cut she on (the)-necks both
 enn frétti Atli,
still asked Atli
 hvert farnir væri
whither gone were
 sveinar hans leika,
(the)-boys his (to)-play
 es hann sá þá hvergi.
since he saw them nowhere

- 76 G. KV. Yfir ráðumk ganga
Over resolve-I (to)-go
 Atla til segja;
Atli to tell
 dylja munk þik eigi
bide will-I (from)-thee not
 dóttir Grímhildar,
daughter Grímbildr's
 glaða munat þik Atli,
gladden will-not thee Atli
 ef görva reynir,
if fully (thou)-provest

vakðir vá mikla,
wakedst-(thou) woe great
 es vátt bræðr mína.
when slewest-(thou) brothers mine

Svaf ek mjök sjaldan

Slept I very seldom

síðans þeir fellu,

since-that they fell

hét ek þér hörðu,

vowed I (to)-thee hard-things

hefk þik nú mintan,

have-I thee now reminded

morgin mér sagðir,

(in)-(the)-morning (to)-me (thou)-saidst

mank enn þann görva,

remember-I yet that fully

nú es ok aptann,

now is also evening

átt slíkt at fréttu.

bast-(thou) such to learn

Goðrún tells Atli he has lost his sons as he least should: she made ale-cups of their skulls and mixed his drink with their blood. She took their hearts, roasted them on a spit, and gave them to him as calf's hearts, and he ate them all eagerly, trusting his teeth. Few ask for worse, and she does not boast of her part. Atli says she was grim to blend her children's blood in his drink and destroy her own kin, leaving him little respite from evil. Goðrún answers that she would still like to kill him: too little ill has befallen such a prince, who has done deeds of folly and harshness without example in this world, and now has added to them and made his own funeral feast.

- 78 **Maga hefr þinna**
Sons bast-(thou) thy
mist sem sízt skyldir,
lost as least (thou)-shouldst
hausu veizt þeira
(the)-skulls knowest-(thou) their
hafða at ölskálum,
had-I for ale-bowls
drýgðak þér svá drykkju,
brewed-I (for)-thee so (the)-drink
dreyra blettk þeira.
(the)-blood mixed-I their

- 79 **Tók ek þeira hjörtu**
Took I their hearts
ok á teini steikðak,
and on a-spit roasted-I
seldak þér síðan,
gave-I (to)-thee afterward

sagðak at kalfs væri;

said-I that a-calf's (they)-were

(einn þú því ollir,

alone thou that causedst

ekki rétt leifa,

naught didst-(thou) leave

töggst þú tíðliga

chewedst thou eagerly

trúðir vel jöxlum)

trustedst-(thou) well (thy)-molars

barna veizt þinna,

of-(the)-children knowest-(thou) thy

biðr sér fár verra,

asks (for)-himself few worse

hlut veld ek mínum,

(the)-part wield I mine

hælumk þó ekki.

boast-I yet not

A. KV. Grimm vast þú Goðrún,

Grim wast thou Goðrún

es gera svá máttir,

that do so couldst

barna þinna blóði

of-children thy (the)-blood

at blanda mér drykkju,

to blend (for)-me (the)-drink

snýtt hefr þú sífungum,

cut-off hast thou (thy)-kin

sem þú sízt skyldir,

as thou least shouldst

mér lætr þú ok sjalfum

(to)-me leavest thou also (my)-self

millum ills lítit.

between of-ills little

81 G. KV. Vili mér enn væri

Will (to)-me yet were

at vega þik sjalfan,

to slay thee (thy)-self

fátt es fullilla

little is full-ill

farit við gram slíkan,

dealt with a-prince such

drýgt þú fyrr hafðir

wrought thou before hadst

þats dæmi vissut

that example knew-(men)-not

heimsku, harðræðis

(of)-folly (of)-harsh-deeds

í heimi þessum.

in world this

(nú hefr þú enn aukit,

now hast thou yet added

þats áðan frágum,

what before (we)-beard

greipt glæp stóran,

gripped a-crime great

gört hefr þitt erfi).

made hast-(thou) thy funeral-feast

82-85 • ATLI SLAIN

Atli says she will be stoned and burned on the pyre, as she has always asked for. Goðrún bids him tell himself such sorrows in the morning; she wants a fairer death. They sat together, sending hatred and hard words to each other, neither content. Hate grew in Högni's son, who planned a great deed and told Goðrún he was grim toward Atli; she remembered how Högni had been treated and thought it luck if he took vengeance. Atli was slain soon after, by Högni's son, and Goðrún herself brought it about. Waking, he felt his wounds, said he needed no binding, and asked who had slain Buðli's son.

A. KV. Brend munt á báli

Burned wilt-(thou-be) on (the)-pyre

ok barið grjóti áðr,

and beaten (with)-stones before

þá hefr þú árat,

then hast thou earned

þats þú æ beiddisk.

what thou ever askedst-for

G. KV. Seg þú þér slíkar

Say thou (to)-thyself such

sorgir ár morgin,

sorrows early (in)-(the)-morning

fríðra vilk dauða,

a-fairer will-I death

fara í ljós annat.

fare into light another

83 Sátu samtýnis,

Sat-(they) in-one-place

sendusk fārugi,

sent-each-other hostility

hendusk heiptyrði,

caught-each-other hate-words

hvártki sér unði;

neither (with)-self was-content

heipt óx Hniflungi,

hate grew (in)-(the)-Hniflung

hugði á stórræði,

thought-(he) on a-great-deed

gat fyr Goðrúnu

told-(he) before Goðrún

at væri grimmr Atla.

that (he)-was grim (toward)-Atli

84 Kómu í hug henni

Came into mind (to)-her

Högnar viðfarar,

Högni's treatment

talði happ hánun,

reckoned-(she) luck (for)-him

ef hann hefnt ynni;

if he vengeance wrought

veginns var þá Atli,

slain was then Atli

var þess skamt biðað,

was of-that short (to)-wait

sonr vát hann Högn,

(the)-son slew him of-Högni

sjálf olli Goðrún.

herself caused-(it) Goðrún

Röskur tók at ræða,

(The)-brisk-one began to speak

rakðisk ór svefni,

roused-himself out-of sleep

kendi brátt benja,

knew soon (the)-wounds

bands kvað þörf enga:

(of)-binding said-(he) need none

»segið et sannasta,

say the truest

hverr vát son Buðla,

who slew (the)-son of-Buðli

emkak lítt leikinn,

am-I-not lightly handled

lífs telk ván enga.

(of)-life reckon-I hope none

Goðrún does not hide that she and Högni's son took his life. Atli says she has rushed to slaughter unfittingly, and it is ill to deceive a friend. He went from home to woo her, and she was praised as a widow; they brought her home with a great host, and there were cattle, wealth, and honor in plenty. He paid a great bride-price for the famous woman, thirty thralls, seven bondmaids, and more silver. Yet she made as if all that was nothing, undermined him, refused her share, and often left his mother weeping, and he found no whole heart in the household since.

86 G. KV. (Dylja munk þik eigi

Hide will-I (from)-thee not

dóttir Grímhildar)

daughter Grímbildr's

Látumk því valda,

Own-I that (to)-cause

es líðr þína ævi,

that ends thy life

en sumu sonr Högna,

and (in)-part (the)-son Högni's

es þik sár mœða.

that thee (the)-wounds weary

A. KV. Vaðit hefr at vígi

Waded hast-(thou) to slaying

þótt værit skapligt,

though (it)-was-not fitting

ilt es vin véla,

ill is a-friend (to)-deceive

þanns þér vel trúir.

who thee well trusts

(beiddr fór ek heiman

bidden went I from-home

at biðja þín, Goðrún).

to ask-for thee Goðrún

Leyfð vast þú ekkja

Famed wast thou (as)-widow

létu stórráða

called-(thee) high-minded

varða ván lygi,

was-not (the)-hope a-lie

es vér of reyndum;

which we — proved

fórt þú heim hingat,

camest thou home hither

fylgði oss herr manna,

followed us a-host of-men

alt vas ítarligt

all was splendid

of órar ferðir.

about our journeys

87

Margs vas alls-sómi

Of-much was all-honor

manna tíginna,

(of)-men noble

naut váru ærin,

cattle were ample

88

nutum af stórum,

used-(we) of-(them) greatly

(þar vas fjöld fíar,

there was a-multitude of-wealth

fengu til margir)

got thereof many

mund galt ek mærrí

a-bride-price paid I (to)-(the)-famous-one

meiðma fjöld þiggja,

(of)-treasures a-multitude (to)-receive

þræla þrjá tǫgu,

thralls three tens

þýjar sjau góðar.

bondmaids seven good

(sæmd vas at slíku,

honor was in such

silfr vas þó meira).

silver was yet more

89 Lézt þér alt þykkja

Madest-(thou) (to)-thee all seem

sem ekki væri,

as-if naught were

meðan lönd lágu,

while (the)-lands lay

es mér leifði Buðli,

which (to)-me left Buðli

gróft þú svá undir,

diggedst thou so under

gerðit hlut þiggja;

didst-not (thy)-share accept

sværu lézt þína

(thy)-mother-in-law madest-(thou) thy

sitja oft grátna.

sit often weeping

(fanka í hug heilum

found-I-not in heart whole

hjóna vætr síðan).

(of)-(the)-household naught since

90–94 • GOÐRÚN'S REPLY

Goðrún says Atli lies: she was seldom gentle, but he boasted greatly, and his brothers fought among themselves until half of his house went to Hel. She and her brothers were three siblings, unyielding, who followed Sigurðr from their land, each steering a ship; they killed a king in the east and chose his land, the chieftains submitted, and they made the outlaw whom they wished free and prosperous. Then the Hunnish one, the champion she had before, died, and it was hard for a young woman to be called a widow and to come into Atli's house. He never came from the assembly having settled a suit, but always yielded. A line is lost.

G. KV. Lýgr þú nú, Atli,

Liest thou now Atli

þótt þat lítt rekkjak;

though that little reckon-I

heldr vask hæg sjaldan,

rather was-I gentle seldom

hófsk þú þó stórum;

boastedst-thyself thou yet greatly

börðuzk ér bræðr ungir,

fought ye brothers young

báruzk róg milli,

bore-among-yourselves strife between

halft gekk til heljar

half went to hel

ór húsi þínu.

out-of house thine

(hroldi hotvetna

crumbled everything

þats til hags skyldi).

that to profit should-(be)

91 Þríu várum systkin,

Three were-(we) siblings

þóttum óvæginn,

seemed-(we) unyielding

fórum af landi,

fared-(we) from (the)-land

fylgðum Sigurði,

followed Sigurðr

skæva vér létum,

glide we made

skipi hvert stýrði,

a-ship each steered

örkuðum at auðnu

roamed-(we) by fortune

unz vér austr kómum.

until we east came

Konung drápum fyrstan,

(The)-king slew-(we) first

kurum land þaðra,

chose-(we) (the)-land there

hersar oss á hönd gengu,

(the)-lords us into hand went

hræzlu þat vissi,

(of)-fear that showed

vágum ór skógi

brought-(we) out-of (the)-forest

þanns vildum sýknan,

him-whom (we)-wished guiltless

settum þann sælan,

set-(we) him prosperous

es sér né áttit.

who (for)-himself not owned-not

92

Dauðr varð enn húnski,

Dead became the Hunnish-(king)

drap þá brátt kosti,

struck then quickly (my)-lot

strangt vas angr ungri

hard was (the)-grief (for)-(the)-young-one

ekkju nafn hljóta;

(of)-widow (the)-name (to)-get

kvöl þótti kvikri

torment seemed-(it) (to)-(the)-living-one

at koma í hús Atla,

to come into (the)-house of-Atli

93

átti áðr kappi,
had-(1) before a-champion
 illr vas sá missir.
ill was that loss

- 94 Komtat af þingi,
Camest-(thou)-not from (the)-assembly
 es vér þat frægim,
so-that we that heard
 at þú sök sættir
that thou a-suit settledst
 né slekðir aðra,
nor quelledst others
 vildir ofvalt vægja
wouldst-(thou) always yield
 en vætki halda,
and naught bold
 kyrt of því láta.
quiet about it let
 * * *
(lacuna)

Atli says she lies, and it will not make the lot of either better; he asks her, out of her goodness, to honor them both when he is carried out. Goðrún says she will buy a ship and a painted coffin, wax the shroud to wrap his body, and see to every need as if they had been loyal. Atli became a corpse, bringing grief to his kin, and the nobly born woman did all she had promised. Wise Goðrún tried to take her own life, but her days were delayed, and she died another time. Happy is anyone who can beget such children for great deeds as Gjuki did; their defiance will live on in every land.

A. KV. Lýgr þú nú Goðrún,

Liest thou now Goðrún

lítt mun við bætask

little will therewith be-bettered

hluti hvárigra,

(the)-lot of-neither

höfum öll skarðan;

have-(we) all impaired

ger þú nú Goðrún

do thou now Goðrún

af gæzku þinni

from goodness thine

okkr til ágætis,

(for)-us-two to honor

es mik út hefja.

when me out (they)-carry

96 G. KV. Knörr munk kaupa

A-ship will-I buy

ok kistu steinda,

and a-coffin painted

vexa vel blæju

wax well (the)-shroud

at verja þitt líki,

to wrap thy body

hyggja á þörf hverja

heed on need every

sem vit holl værim.

as-if we-two loyal were

97 Nár varð þá Atli,

A-corpse became then Atli

niðjum stríð æxti,

(for)-(his)-kinsmen grief (he)-increased

efndi ítrborin

performed (the)-nobly-born

alt þats réð heita;

all that (she)-did promise

fróð vildi Goðrún

wise would Goðrún

fara sér at spilla,

go herself to destroy

urðu dvöl dægra,

were delay of-days

dó hón í sinn annat.

died she in time another

Sæll es hverr síðan,

Happy is each afterward

es slíkt getr fœða

who such can beget

jóð at afreki

offspring for great-deeds

sems ól Gjúki;

as begot Gjúki

lifa mun þat eptir

live will that after

á landi hverju

in land every

þeira þrámæli,

their defiance

hvargis þjóð heyrir.

wherever (the)-people hears

Goðrúnarhvöt

Gudrun's Inciting

When Goðrún had killed Atli she went down to the sea and walked into it to destroy herself, but she could not sink, and the waves drove her over the fjord to the land of King Jónakr. He married her, and their sons were Sörli, Erpr, and Hamðir. Svanhildr, Sigurðr's daughter, grew up there and was married to Jörmunrekk the mighty. Bikki, who was with him, contrived that Randvér, the king's son, should take her, and then told the king; the king had Randvér hanged and Svanhildr trodden under horses' hooves. When Goðrún learned of it, she spoke to her sons.

Frá Goðrúnu. Guðrún gekk þá til sævar, er hon hafði
Of Goðrún Guðrún went then to (the)-sea when she had
 drepit Atla, gekk út á sæinn ok vildi fara sér. Hon
slain Atli went out into the-sea and wished (to)-destroy herself She
 mátti eigi sökkva. Rak hana yfir fjörðinn á land
could not sink Drove-(it) her over the-fjord to (the)-land
 Jónakrs konungs. Hann fekk hennar. Þeira synir váru þeir
of-Jónakr king He got her Their sons were they
 Sörli ok Erpr ok Hamðir. Þar fæddisk upp Svanhildr
Sörli and Erpr and Hamðir There was-brought up Svanhildr
 Sigurðardóttir. Hon var gipt Jörmunrekk enum ríkja. Með
Sigurðr's-daughter She was married (to)-Jörmunrekk the mighty With
 hánum var Bikki. Hann réð þat, at Randvér konungsson
him was Bikki He counseled that that Randvér (the)-king's-son
 skyldi taka hana. Þat sagði Bikki konungi. Konungr lét
should take her That told Bikki (to)-(the)-king (The)-king had
 hengja Randvé, en troða Svanhildi undir hrossa fótum.
hang Randvér and tread Svanhildr under (of)-horses feet
 En er þat spurði Guðrún, þá kvaddi hon sonu sína.
And when that learned Guðrún then addressed she sons her

The poet heard of a most dreadful quarrel, when hard-minded Goðrún urged her sons to fight with grim words. She asks why they sit and sleep away their lives, when Jörmunrekkr had their young sister trodden by white and black horses on the war-road. They have not become like Gunnarr, nor as minded as Högni was; they would seek to avenge her if they had the spirit of her brothers. Hamðir answers that she would hardly praise Högni's deed when they woke Sigurðr from sleep and her blue-white coverlets were red with her husband's blood. Her vengeance for her brothers was cruel when she murdered her sons; they could all have avenged their sister together.

1 Þá frák sennu

Then learned-I (of)-a-quarrel

slíðrfengligsta,

most-dreadful

trauð mál talið

sorrowful words spoken

af trega stórum,

from grief great

es harðhuguð

when (the)-hard-minded

hvatti at vígi

urged to fight

grimmum orðum

(with)-grim words

Goðrún sonu.

Goðrún (her)-sons

Hví sitið ér?

Why sit ye

hví sofið lífi?

why sleep-(ye)-away life

hví tregrat ykr

why irks-(it)-not you-two

teiti at mæla,

cheer to speak

es Jörmunrekkur

when Jörmunrekkur

yðra systur

your sister

unga at aldri

young in age

jóum of traddi.

(with)-horses — trod

(hvítum ok svörtum

white and black

á hervegi

on (the)-war-road

gráum gangtömum

gray gait-tamed

Gotna hrossum).

(of)-(the)-Goths (with)-horses

Urðua it glíkir

Became-not you-two like

þeim Gunnari,

that Gunnarr

né in heldr hugðir

nor the more minded

sem Högni vas;

as Högni was

hennar munduð

her would-(you-two)

hefna leita,

avenge seek

ef móð ættið

if spirit (you-two)-had

minna bræðra.

(of)-my brothers

(eða harðan hug

or hard mind

Húmkonunga).

(of)-(the)-Hun-kings

4 Þá kvað þat Hamðir

Then said that Hamðir

enn hugumstóri:

the great-hearted

Lítt myndir þú

Little wouldst thou

leyfa dáð Högna,

praise (the)-deed of-Högni

þás Sigurð vökðu

when Sigurðr (they)-woke

svefni ór,

sleep out-of

bækr váru þínar

(the)-coverlets were thine

enar bláhvítu

the blue-white

roðnar í vers dreyra

reddened in (the)-husband's blood

folgnar í valblóði.

covered in slaughter-blood

Urðu þér ballra

Were (for)-thee bold

bræðra hefndir

brothers' vengeance

slíðrar ok sárar,

cruel and sore

es sonu myrðir;

when (thy)-sons (thou)-murderedst

knættim allir

could-we all

Jörmunrekkir

(on)-Jörmunrekkir

samhyggjendr

of-one-mind

systur hefna.

(our)-sister avenge

One of the brothers calls for the Hun-kings' treasures to be brought out, since she has urged the two of them to the sword-assembly. Laughing, Goðrún went to the bower, chose the war-gear of kings from the chests, long mail-coats, and brought them to her sons, who leapt onto their horses. Hamðir says the fallen warrior will not come back to visit his mother, and she will drink the funeral ale for all of them, for Svanhildr and for her sons. Goðrún, Gjúki's daughter, went weeping to sit on the forecourt and tell her tales of grief in many ways.

6 Berioð hnossir fram

Bear (the)-treasures forth

Húmkonunga;

of-(the)-Hun-kings

hefr þú okr hvatta

hast thou us-two urged

at hjörþingi.

to (the)-sword-assembly

7 Hlæjandi Goðrún

Laughing Goðrún

hvarf til skemmu,

turned to (the)-bower

kumbl konunga

(the)-war-gear of-kings

ór kerum valði,

out-of chests chose

síðar brynjur,

long mail-coats

ok sonum færði;

and (to)-(her)-sons brought

hlóðusk móðgir

leapt (the)-spirited

á mara bógu.

on (of)-horses shoulders

(Þá kvað þat Hamðir

Then said that Hamðir

enn hugumstóri):

the great-hearted

Svá kems sk meir aptr

So comes more back

móður at vitja

(his)-mother to visit

geir-Njörðr hniginn

spear-Njörðr fallen

á Goðþjóðu,

among (the)-Goth-people

at þú erfi

that thou (the)-funeral-ale

at öll oss drekkir,

for all us drinkest

at Svanhildi

for Svanhildr

ok sonu þína.

and sons thine

9 Goðrún grátandi

Goðrún weeping

Gjúka dóttir

Gjúki's daughter

gekk tregliga

went sorrowfully

á tái sitja

on (the)-forecourt (to)-sit

ok at telja

and to tell

tárughlýra

tear-cheeked

móðug spjöll

grieving tales

á margan veg.

in many a-way

Goðrún knew three fires and three hearths, and was brought to the houses of three husbands; Sigurðr alone was better than all, and her brothers became his bane. She saw no heavier wounds, and a line is lost. They thought to harm her more when the nobles gave her to Atli. After lines that are lost, she called her keen cubs to secret talk and could win no amends for her harms until she had cut off the Hniflungar's heads. She went to the strand, angry with the norms, wanting to throw off their harsh protection, but the high billows lifted her and did not drown her, and she stepped ashore to live.

Þrjá vissak elda,

Three knew-I fires

þrjá vissak arna,

three knew-I hearths

vask þrimr verum

was-I (to)-three husbands

vegin at húsi;

borne to (the)-house

einn vas mér Sigurðr

alone was (to)-me Sigurðr

öllum betri,

(than)-all better

es bræðr mínir

whom brothers mine

at bana urðu.

to (his)-bane became

10

11 Svárra sára

(Of)-heavier wounds

sákat né kunnu

saw-I-not nor knew

* * *

(lacuna)

meir þóttusk þeir

more thought they

mér of stríða,

me — to-barm

es mik öðlingar

when me (the)-nobles

Atla gáfu.

(to)-Atli gave

12 * * *

(lacuna)

Húna hvassa

(the)-cubs keen

hétk mér at rúnum,

called-I (to)-me to secret-talk

máttigak bölvu

could-I-not (for)-barms

bætr of vinna,

amends — win

áðr hnófk höfuð

before cut-off-I (the)-heads

af Hniflungum.

from (the)-Hniflungar

Gekk ek til strandar,

Went I to (the)-strand

gröm vask nornum,

angry was-I (with)-(the)-norns

vildak hrinda

wished-I (to)-thrust-off

†strið grið þeira,

barsb protection their

hófu mik, né drekðu,

lifted me not drowned

hávar bárur,

high billows

því land of sték,

therefore land — stepped-I

at lifa skyldak.

that live should-I

Goðrún went to bed a third time with a great king, hoping for better, and bore sons, Jónakr's heirs. Bondmaids sat about Svanhildr, whom she loved best of her children, and she was in the hall like a beam of the sun. Goðrún endowed her with gold and fine weaves before giving her to the Goths. Hardest of her griefs is that they trod Svanhildr's white hair in the mud under horses' feet; sorest, that Sigurðr was slain in his bed; grimmest, that the serpents crept to Gunnarr's life; keenest, that they cut the heart from the fearless king alive. She remembers many harms, and the stanza breaks off.

14 Gekk ek á beð,

Went I to (the)-bed

hugðumk betra fyrir,

thought-I better beforeband

þriðja sinni

(the)-third time

þjóðkonungi;

(with)-(the)-people's-king

ól ek mér jóð,

bore I (for)-me offspring

erfivörðu,

heir-wardens

erfivörðu,

heir-wardens

Jónakrs sonu.

Jónakr's sons

En of Svanhildi

And about Svanhildr

sátu þýjar,

sat bondmaids

es minna barna

whom of-my children

bazt fullhugðak,

best loved-I-fully

svá vas Svanhildr

so was Svanhildr

í sal mínum

in hall mine

sem væri sæmleitr

as-if were seemly-bright

sólar geisli.

(of)-(the)-sun a-beam

15

Gœddak golli

Endowed-I (with)-gold

ok goðvefjum,

and fine-weaves

áðr ek gæfak

before I gave-I-(her)

Goðþjóðar til;

(the)-Goth-people to

16

þat 's mér harðast

that is (to)-me hardest

harma minna

of-griefs mine

of þann enn hvíta

about that the white

hadd Svanhildar.

hair Svanhildr's

(auri tröddu

(in)-mud trod-(they)

und jóa fótum).

under (of)-horses feet

17 En sá sárastr,

And that sorest

es Sigurð minn

when Sigurðr mine

sigri ræntan

(of)-victory robbed

í sæing vágu,

in (the)-bed (they)-slew

en sá grimmastr,

and that grimmest

es Gunnari

when (to)-Gunnarr

fránir ormar

gleaming serpents

til fjörs skriðu.

to (his)-life crept

En sá hvassastr,

And that keenest

es hjarta til

when (the)-heart to

konung óblauðan

(the)-king uncowardly

kvikvan skáru;

alive (they)-cut

fjölð mank bөлva

a-multitude remember-I of-harms

* * *

(lacuna)

18

19–22 • GOÐRÚN CALLS SIGURÐR

In the second part, Goðrún bids Sigurðr bridle his black horse and ride to her, since no daughter is left to give her treasures. She reminds him that he promised to come from Hel to her, and she from the world to him. She bids the earls build the oak pyre high, that the fire may burn her breast and thaw her sorrows. May the lot of earls be bettered and women's sorrow lessened, now this tale of grief is told.

Beit þú Sigurðr

Bridle thou Sigurðr

enn blakka mar,

the black horse

hest enn hraðfœra

(the)-steed the swift-going

lát hinig rinna;

let-(him) hither run

19

sitr eigi hér

sits not here

snør né dóttir,

daughter-in-law nor daughter

sús Goðrúnu

who (to)-Goðrún

gæfi hnossir.

might-give treasures

20 Minzk þú Sigurðr,

Remember thou Sigurðr

hvat mæltum vit,

what said we-two

þás vit á beð

when we-two on (the)-bed

bæði sátum,

both sat

at myndir mín

that wouldst-(thou) me

móðugr vitja

stricken visit

halr ór helju,

hero out-of hel

en ek ór heimi þín.

and I out-of (the)-world thee

Hlaðit ér jarlar

Build ye earls

eikiköstu,

(the)-oak-pile

látið þann und hilmi

let that under a-prince

hæstan verða,

biggest become

megi brenna brjóst

may burn (the)-breast

bölvafult eldr,

woe-full (the)-fire

þrungit of hjarta

pressed about (the)-heart

þiðni sorgir.

may-thaw sorrows

21

Jörlum öllum

(For)-earls all

óðal batni,

(the)-lot may-improve

22

snótum öllum

(for)-women all

sorg at minni,

sorrow the less

at þetta tregróf

that this grief-tale

of talit væri.

— *told were*

Hamðismál

The Lay of Hamdir

Sorrowful deeds sprang up on the forecourt at the elves' weeping, early in the morning, when every care kindles men's grief. It was not now or yesterday, but long ago, that Gjúki's daughter Goðrún urged her young sons to avenge Svanhildr. She tells them their sister was called Svanhildr, whom Jörmunrekkr had trodden by white and black horses on the war-road. They alone are left of the great kings, the last strands of her lineage.

Spruttu á tái

1

Sprang-up on (the)-forecourt

tregnar íðir,

sorrowful deeds

grœti alfa

(at)-(the)-weeping of-elves

en glýstömu,

the joy-quelled

ár of morgin

early in (the)-morning

manna bölv

of-men harms

sútir hverjar

cares every

sorg of kveykva.

sorrow — to-kindle

Vasa þat nú

2

Was-not that now

né í gær,

nor on yesterday

þat hefr langt

that has long

liðit síðan,

passed since

es hvatti Goðrún

when urged Goðrún

Gjúka borin

of-Gjúki born

sonu sína unga

sons her young

at hefna Svanhildar.

to avenge Svanhildr

3 Es fátt fornara,

Is little older

fremr vas þat halfu.

further was that by-half

(lacuna)

4 G. KV. Systir vas ykkur

Sister was of-you-two

Svanhildr of heitin,

Svanhildr — called

sús Jörmunrekkr

whom Jörmunrekkr

jóum of traddi

(with)-horses — trod

hvítum ok svörtum

white and black

á hervegi,

on (the)-war-road

gráum gangtömum

gray gait-tamed

Gotna hrossum.

(of)-(the)-Goths (with)-horses

Eptir es ykr þrungit

Left is you-two pressed

þjóðkonunga;

of-(the)-people-kings

lífð einir ér

live alone ye

þátta ættar minnar.

of-strands of-lineage mine

Goðrún has become as lonely as an aspen in the wood, as bare of kinsmen as a fir of branches and of joy as a tree of leaves on a warm day. Hamðir says she would hardly praise Högni's deed when they woke Sigurðr from sleep while she sat on the bed and the slayers laughed, her coverlets red with her husband's blood. She thought to harm Atli by the murder of Eitill and Erpr, which was worse for her. Sörli will not bandy words with his mother, but asks what she wants now, for she cannot speak for weeping.

6 Einstœð emk orðin

Alone am-I become

sem ösp í holti,

as an-aspen in (the)-wood

fallin at frændum

bereft of kinsmen

sem fura at kvisti,

as a-fir of branches

vaðin at vilja

stripped of joy

sem viðr at laufi,

as a-tree of leaves

þás en kvistskœða

when the branch-scatber

kemr of dag varman.

comes on a-day warm

Hitt kvað þá Hamðir

That said then Hamðir

enn hugumstóri:

the great-hearted

lítt myndir þá Goðrún

little wouldst-(thou) then Goðrún

leyfa dáð Högna,

praise (the)-deed of-Högni

es þeir Sigurð

when they Sigurðr

svefni ór vökðu,

sleep out-of woke

satz þú á beði,

satest thou on (the)-bed

en banar hlógu.

and (the)-slayers laughed

Bækr váru þínar

(The)-coverlets were thine

enar bláhvítu

the blue-white

roðnar valblóði,

reddened (with)-slaughter-blood

flutu í vers dreyra;

swam in (the)-husband's blood

svalt þá Sigurðr,

died then Sigurðr

satz þú of dauðum,

satest thou over (the)-dead

glýja né gáðir,

(of)-joys not heededst

Gunnarr þér svá vildi.

Gunnarr (for)-thee so willed

9 Atla þóttisk stríða

Atli thoughtest-(thou) (to)-harm

at Eitils morði

at Eitill's murder

ok at Erps aldragi,

and at Erpr's life-ending

þat vas þér enn verra,

that was (for)-thee yet worse

svá skyldi hverr öðrum

so should each (for)-(the)-other

verja til aldraga

wield to life's-end

sverði sárbeitu,

a-sword wound-biting

at sér né stríddit.

that (to)-self not did-harm-not

10 Hitt kvað þá Sörli,

That said then Sörli

svinna hafði hyggju:

shrewd had-(he) mind

villkat við móður

will-I-not with (my)-mother

málum of skipta,

words — exchange

orðs þykkir enn vant

(of)-a-word seems yet lacking

ykr hváru tveggja;

(to)-you-two each of-both

hvers biðr þú nú Goðrún,

what askest thou now Goðrún

es fyr gráti né færat?

that for weeping not canst-(thou)-not

11-15 · THE BROTHERS MEET ERPR

Sörli says she weeps for her brothers and sons, and she will weep for the two of them as well, doomed on their horses to die far away. They went out ready to rage, over dewy mountains on Hunnish horses, to avenge the murder. On the road they met the crafty Erpr and asked how the short brown one would help them. Their half-brother said he would help his kinsmen as one foot helps another. They asked what help one foot can give another, and Erpr said it is ill to show a coward the way; they said the bastard was very bold.

Bræðr grætr þú þína

(The)-brothers weepst thou thine

ok buri svása,

and sons dear

niðja náborna,

kinsmen near-born

leidda nær rógi;

led near strife

skalt þú ok Goðrún

shalt thou also Goðrún

okr gráta báða;

us-two weep both

sitjum feigir á mörum,

sit-(we) doomed on horses

þarri munum deyja.

far-off shall-(we) die

12 Gengu ór garði,

Went-(they) out-of (the)-court

görvir at eiskra;

ready to rage

liðu þá yfir ungir

passed then over (the)-young

úrig fjöll * * *

dewy mountains (lacuna)

mörum húnlenzkum

(on)-horses Hunnish

morðs at hefna.

(the)-murder to avenge

13 Fundu á stræti

Found-(they) on (the)-street

stórbrögðóttan

(the)-great-trickster

* * *

(lacuna)

„hvé mun jarpskamr
how will (the)-brown-short-one
 okr fultingja?“
us-two help

Svaraði enn sundrmœðri,

14

Answered the other-mothered

svá kvazk veita mundu

so said-(he) give would

fulting frændum

help (to)-kinsmen

sem fótr öðrum.

as a-foot (to)-another

„Hvat megi fótr

What may a-foot

fœti veita,

(to)-a-foot give

né holdgróin

nor flesh-grown

hönd annarri?“

hand (to)-another

Þá kvað þat Erpr

15

Then said that Erpr

einu sinni,

one time

mærr of lék

(the)-glorious-one — played

á mars baki:

on a-horse's back

„ilt 's blauðum hal

ill is (for)-a-cowardly man

brautir kenna“;

(the)-roads (to)-show

kóðu harðan mjök

said-(they) hard very

hornung vesa.

(the)-bastard (to)-be

16–21 · JÖRMUNREKKR'S HALL

They drew their swords from the sheath, to the troll-wife's delight, lessened their strength by a third, and made their young kinsman sink to the ground. They shook out their cloaks and fastened their swords, and went on the woeful paths, and found a sister's son wounded on a tree, the wind-cold wolf-tree west of the town. There was noise in the hall, the men ale-merry, until a man blew the horn. Earls told Jörmunrekkr that helmeted men had been seen, and bade him take counsel against mighty men whose sister he had trodden. Jörmunrekkr laughed, stroked his mustache, and grew warlike over his wine.

16 Drógu ór skiði

Drew-(they) out-of (the)-sheath

skiði-éarn,

sheath-iron

mækis eggjar

(the)-sword's edges

at mun flagði,

for (the)-delight (of)-(the)-troll-wife

þverðu þrótt sinn

lessened strength their

at þriðjungi,

by a-third

létu mög ungan

made-(they) (the)-kinsman young

til moldar hníga.

to (the)-earth sink

Skóku loða,

Shook-(they) (their)-cloaks

skalmir festu,

swords fastened

góðbornir smugu

(the)-well-born slipped

í goðvefi.

into god-webs

- 18 Fram lágu brautir,
Forth lay (the)-roads
 fundu vástígu
found-(they) woe-paths
 ok systurson
and (the)-sister's-son
 sáran á meiði,
wounded on a-tree
 vargré vindköld
wolf-tree wind-cold
 vestan bæjar,
west of-(the)-town
 trýtti æ trönu hvöt,
trembled ever (the)-crane's lure
 títt vasat bíða.
often was-not (to)-wait

- 19 Glaumr vas í höllu,
Noise was in (the)-hall
 halir öltreifir,
men ale-merry
 ok til gota ekki
and to (the)-horses not
 gerðu at heyra,
did to bear
 áðr halr hugfullr
until a-man courageous
 í horn of þaut.
into (the)-horn — blew

Segja fóru jarlar

(To)-tell went earls

Jörmunrekki,

(to)-Jörmunrekkr

at sénir váru

that seen were

seggir und hjalmum,

men under helmets

»rœðið ér of ráð,

discuss ye about counsel

ríkir eru komnir,

(the)-mighty are come

fyr mátkum hafið mönnum

against mighty have-(ye) men

mey jóum tradda.«

a-maid (with)-horses trodden

Hló þá Jörmunrekkr,

Laughed then Jörmunrekkr

hendi drap á kanpa,

(with)-hand struck on (his)-mustache

beiddisk at bröngu,

craved at (the)-fray

böðvaðisk at víni,

grew-warlike at (the)-wine

skók hann skör jarpa,

shook he (his)-locks brown

sá á skjöld hvítan,

looked on (the)-shield white

lét sér í hendi

had-(he) (for)-himself in hand

hvarfa ker gollit.

turn (the)-cup golden

22-25 • HAMÐIR AND SÖRLI IN THE HALL

Jörmunrekr says he would think himself happy to see Hamðir and Sörli in his hall, to bind them with bowstrings and hang the good sons of Gjúki's daughter on the gallows. Then Hróðrglöd, slender-fingered, spoke from the doorway: they boast of what cannot be done, since two men alone cannot bind or beat ten hundred Goths in the high stronghold. Strife arose in the hall, ale-bowls burst, and men lay in blood that ran from the Goths' breasts.

22 J. KV. Sæll ek þá þóttumk,

Happy I then would-think-myself

ef séa knættak

if see could-I

Hamði ok Sörli

Hamðir and Sörli

í höllu minni,

in hall mine

buri myndak binda

(the)-sons would-I bind

með boga strengjum,

with bow strings

góð börn Gjúka dóttur

(the)-good children Gjúki's daughter's

á galga festa.

on (the)-gallows fasten

Hitt kvað þá Hróðrglöð,

23

That said then Hróðrglöð

stóð of hléðum,

stood-(she) at (the)-doorway

mæfingr mælti

slender-fingered spoke-(she)

við mög þenna.

to son this

»Þvíat þat heita,

24

Because that (they)-vow

at hlýðigi myni;

that fits-not would

megut tveir menn einir

may-not two men alone

tíu hundruð Gotna

ten hundreds of-Goths

binda eða berja

bind or beat

í borg enni háu.«

in (the)-stronghold the high

Styrr varð í ranni,

25

Strife arose in (the)-hall

stukku ölskálir,

burst ale-bowls

í blóði bragnar lágu

in blood men lay

ór brjósti Gotna.

out-of (the)-breast of-(the)-Goths

26–28 • THE STONING

Hamðir says Jörmunrekkr wanted the brothers to come to his stronghold: now he sees his own feet and hands thrown into the hot fire. The god-descended king roared like a bear in his mail-coat and bade them stone the men, since neither spears nor iron would bite Jónakr's sons. Hamðir tells Sörli he did harm when he loosed that bag, from which baleful counsels have often come. Sörli answers that Hamðir has courage, if only he had understanding, and much is wanting in any man who lacks wit.

26 (Hitt kvað þá Hamðir

That said then Hamðir

enn hugumstóri:)

the great-hearted

Æstir Jörmunrekkr

Askedst-(thou) Jörmunrekkr

okkarrar kvámu,

(for)-our-two coming

bræðra sammœðra

(of)-brothers same-mothered

innan borgar þinnar;

within stronghold thine

fótum sér þú þínum,

feet seest thou thine

höndum sér þínum

hands seest-(thou) thine

Jörmunrekkir orpit

Jörmunrekkir thrown

í eld heitan.

into (the)-fire hot

Þá hraut við ræsir

Then roared at-(it) (the)-ruler

enn reginkungi,

the god-descended

ballr í brynju,

fierce in mail-coat

sem björn of hryti:

as a-bear — growled

»grýtið ér gumna,

stone ye (the)-men

alls geirar né bíta,

since spears not bite

eggjar né éarn,

edges nor iron

Jónakrs sonu.«

Jónakr's sons

(Hitt kvað þá Hamðir

That said then Hamðir

enn hugumstóri:)

the great-hearted

27

28

Böl vant þú bróðir,

Bale wroughtest thou brother

es þann belg leystir;

when that bag (thou)-loosedst

opt ór þeim belg

often out-of that bag

böll ráð kómu.

baleful counsels came

S. KV. Hug hefr þú Hamðir,

Courage hast thou Hamðir

ef hefðir hyggjandi,

if (thou)-hadst understanding

mikils es á mann hvern

of-much is on man each

vant es manvits es.

wanting who of-wit is

29–32 • THE DEATHS OF HAMÐIR AND SÖRLI

The head would be off now if Erpr lived, their battle-bold brother whom they slew on the road; the disir drove them to the slaying. Sörli does not think it their way to fight each other like wolves or the greedy bitches of the norms. They have fought well and stand on the slain Goths like eagles on a branch; they have won good fame, whether they die today or tomorrow, since no one outlives the norms' verdict. Sörli fell at the hall's gable and Hamðir at the back of the house. This poem is called the Old Hamðismál.

29 H. KV. Af væri nú höfuð,

Off were now (the)-head

ef Erpr of lifði,

if Erpr — lived

bróðir enn böðfrækni,

(our)-brother the battle-bold

es á braut vágum,

whom on (the)-way (we)-slew

hvárr enn víðfrækni,

each the far-famed

hvöttumk at dísir,

urged-me to-(it) (the)-disir

guma ens gunnhvata

(of)-(the)-man the battle-keen

gerðumk at vígi.

made-me to slaying

S. KV. Ekki hygg ek okr

Not think I us-two

30

vesa ulfa dæmi,

be (of)-wolves (the)-like

at mynir sjálfir of sakask

that should ourselves — strive

sem grey norna,

as (the)-bitches of-(the)-norms

þaus gráðug eru

which greedy are

í auðn of alin.

in (the)-wilderness — reared

- 31 Vel höfum vegit,
Well have-(we) fought
 stöndum á val Gotna
stand-(we) on (the)-slain of-(the)-Goths
 ofan eggmóðum
above edge-weary
 sem ernir á kvisti,
as eagles on a-branch
 góðs fengum tírar
good got-(we) fame
 þótt nú eða í gær deyjum,
though now or on (the)-morrow die-(we)
 kveld lifir ekki
an-evening lives not
 maðr ept kvið norna.
man after (the)-verdict of-(the)-norns

Þar fell Sörli

There fell Sörli

at salar gaffi,

at (the)-ball's gable

en Hamðir hné

and Hamðir sank

at húsbaki.

at (the)-house-back

Þetta eru kölluð Hamðismál en fornu.

These are called Hamðismál the old
