

OLD NORSE SERIES • VOLUME 14

TALES OF THE ICELANDERS



# Íslendinga þættir

*Tales of the Icelanders*

*Sixteen Short Tales*

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

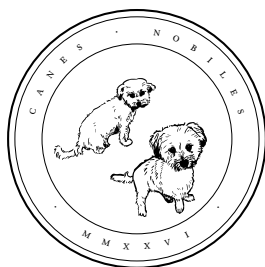


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Volume 14 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Þorleifur Jónsson's *Fjörutíu Íslendinga-þættir* (Reykjavík, 1904), with *Bolla þátrr* from Valdimar Ásmundarson's *Laxdæla saga* (Reykjavík, 1895)

Set from page scans of the 1904 and 1895  
printings, with the editions' own corrections

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench  
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The spelling is Þorleifur Jónsson's: ö for the hooked o, æ and œ kept apart, the middle voice in *-st*, *enn* for the conjunction *en*, and names in *Ðór* with the accent, as *Ðórðr*; *Bolla þátrr* is Valdimar Ásmundarson's, who prints æ for both front vowels. The verses mostly keep the older *vas*. Square brackets and parentheses are the editors' own. Þorleifur's chapter numbers are kept and the tales he prints undivided stand unnumbered; Valdimar's 79–88 for *Bolla þátrr* are 1–10; neither prints rubrics, so every English chapter title in the book is this press's.

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# Ögmundar þáttr dytts ok Gunnars helmings

*The Tale of Ogmund Bash and Gunnar Half*

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*Ögmundr, a kinsman of Víga-Glúmr, sails to Norway on a ship Glúmr buys him. Against the Norwegians' advice he sails on by night and runs down a ship of Earl Hákon's fleet belonging to Hallvarðr, the earl's friend. Vígfúss, Glúmr's son, tries to broker a settlement, but Hallvarðr boards the merchant ship and fells Ögmundr with the hammer of his axe. Ögmundr recovers, is mocked everywhere as Ögmundr dyttr, refuses Vígfúss's call to vengeance, and sails home.*

Í þenna tíma váru margir göfgir menn á Íslandi, þeir at í  
*In this time were many noble men in Iceland they who in*  
frændsemis-tölu váru við Ólaf konung [Tryggvason]. Af þeim  
*kinship-reckoning were with Olaf king Tryggvi's-son Of them*  
var Víga-Glúmr, son Eyjólf's hrúgu ok Ástríðar Vígfúsdóttur  
*was Slaying-Glum son of-Eyjolf Heap and of-Astrid Vigfus's-daughter*  
hersis, sem fyrr er sagt. Helga hét systir Víga-Glúms;  
*of-(the)-lord as before is said Helga was-called (the)-sister of-Slaying-Glum*  
hon var gift Steingrími í Siglúvík. Þórvaldr hét son  
*she was married to-Steingrim in Siglúvik Thorvald was-called (the)-son*  
þeira ok var kallaðr tasaldi. Sá maðr hafði vaxit upp  
*of-them and was called Tasaldi That man had grown up*  
með Víga-Glúmi, er hét Ögmundr; hann var Hrafnsson.  
*with Slaying-Glum who was-called Ogmund he was Hrafn's-son*  
Hrafn var auðigr maðr ok bjó vestr í Skagafirði. Hann  
*Hrafn was a-wealthy man and dwelt west in Skagafjord He*  
hafði verit þræll Glúms ok Ástríðar móður hans, ok  
*had been (the)-thrall of-Glum and of-Astrid mother his and*  
hafði Glúmr gefit honum frelsi, ok var Hrafn hans leysingi.  
*had Glum given him freedom and was Hrafn his freedman*  
Móðir Ögmundar var Goðdala-ættar ok er hon eigi  
*(The)-mother of-Ogmund was of-(the)-Godadale-kin and is she not*  
nefnd; hon var skyld Víga-Glúmi at frændsemi. Ögmundr var  
*named she was related to-Slaying-Glum in kinship Ogmund was*

fríðr maðr sýnum, mikill ok gerviligr; hann hafði gott  
*a-handsome man in-looks big and accomplished he had good*  
 yfirlæti af Glúmi frænda sínum. Glúmr var þá hniginn  
*favor from Glum kinsman his Glum was then sunk*  
 á hinn efra aldr ok bjó at Þverbrekku í Öxnadal, er  
*into the upper age and dwelt at Thverbrekka in Oxnadal when*  
 Ögmundr frændi hans var roskinn. Vígfúss, sonr Glúms, var  
*Ogmund kinsman his was grown Vigfus son of-Glum was*  
 þá í Noregi með Hákon jarli. Þat var á einu sumri, at  
*then in Norway with Hakon (the)-earl It was in one summer that*  
 Ögmundr sagði Glúmi, at hann fýstist útanferðar: “Vilda  
*Ogmund told Glum that he desired a-journey-abroad Would-wish*  
 ek”, sagði hann, “kaupa mér skip at Gásu; vil ek þar til  
*I said he to-buy myself a-ship at Gasir will I there to*  
 kosta fé föður míns, er nógt er til, enn hafa af  
*spend (the)-wealth of-father my which enough is of but have from*  
 þér ásjá ok orðafullting at þessu”. Glúmr svarar: “Margir  
*you protection and word-support in this Glum answers Many*  
 fara þeir útan, at ekki eru mannvænligri at sjá enn þú; nú  
*go they abroad who not are more-promising to see than you now*  
 þótti mér miklu skifta, at þú fengir heldr af förinni  
*would-seem to-me much to-matter that you got rather from the-journey*  
 sömd ok mannvirðing enn mikit fé, ef eigi er hvárstveggja  
*honor and esteem than much wealth if not is of-both*  
 kostur”. Keypti Glúmr honum skip at norrœnum mönnum,  
*(the)-choice Bought Glum for-him a-ship from Norwegian men*  
 ok bjó Ögmundr ferð sína við mikinn fjárlut, er  
*and made-ready Ogmund journey his with great wealth-share which*  
 faðir hans fékk honum. Skyldi Ögmundr vera forráðandi  
*father his gave him Should Ogmund be master*  
 skips þess ok manna; váru þar á fáir menn aðrir enn  
*of-ship that and of-men were there on few men others than*

íslenzkir, þeir er ekki höfðu fyrr farit útan. Þeir létu í  
*Icelandic they who not had before gone abroad They put to*  
 haf heldr síð sumars; gaf þeim vel byri; fengu þeir stór  
*sea rather late of-summer gave(-it) them well winds got they great*  
 veðr ok hagstæð. Enn er þá bar ór hafi, sá þeir  
*weathers and favorable But when them bore out-of (the)-sea saw they*  
 land at áliðnum degi ok var blásandi byrr at landi; mæltu  
*land at late-passed day and was blowing wind to land spoke*  
 þá norrœnir menn, þeir er leið sögðu, at varligrá  
*then Norwegian men they who (the)-way said that more-prudent*  
 væri at lægja seglit ok leggja skipit í rétt um nóttina,  
*were to lower the-sail and lay the-ship in lying-to over the-night*  
 enn sigla til lands at ljósum degi. Ögmundur svarar: “Ekki  
*than sail to land at bright day Ogmund answers Not*  
 skulu vér ónýta byr svá góðan; er eigi víst at slíkr  
*shall we waste a-wind so good (it)-is not certain that such*  
 byrr sé á morgin, enn tungls-ljós mikit í nótt”. Gerðu  
*wind be in (the)-morning but moon-light much in (the)-night Did*  
 þeir sem hann mælti, at þeir sigldu. Enn er þeir áttu  
*they as he said that they sailed But when they had*  
 skamt til lands, lágu fyrir þeim langskip mörg í tengslum  
*short to land lay before them longships many in fastenings*  
 í eyja-sundi nökkuru, ok sá þeir eigi fyrr skipin enn þeir  
*in island-sound some and saw they not sooner the-ships than they*  
 sigldu eitt í kaf, ok svá inn at meginlandi til hafnar.  
*sailed one into (the)-deep and so in to (the)-mainland to harbor*  
 Sögðu þá sumir menn, þeir er á kaupskipinu höfðu verit,  
*Said then some men they who on the-merchant-ship had been*  
 at þeir hefði siglt óvitrliga. Enn Ögmundur svarar, at hverir  
*that they had sailed unwisely But Ogmund answers that each*  
 yrði sín at geyma. Enn fyrir langskipum þeim átti at ráða  
*must himself to guard But over longships those had to rule*

Hákon jarl; enn þat skip, er þeir höfðu í kaf siglt,  
*Hakon (the)-earl but that ship which they had into (the)-deep sailed*  
 hafði átt sá maðr, er Hallvarðr hét; hann var ríkr  
*had owned that man who Hallvard was-called he was a-powerful*  
 maðr ok hinn mesti vin jarls; hafði þar týnst fé allt,  
*man and the greatest friend of-(the)-earl had there been-lost wealth all*  
 þat er á var skipinu, enn mönnum var borgit. Jarlinum  
*that which on was the-ship but (the)-men was saved To-the-earl*  
 var sagt þegar um morgininn, hver svívirðing ok skaði þeim  
*was told at-once in the-morning what disgrace and harm to-them*  
 var ger. Jarl varð reiðr mjök við þessi tíðindi ok mælti  
*was done (The)-earl became angry much at these tidings and spoke*  
 svá: “Þessir menn munu vera snápar ok ekki komit fyrr  
*so These men will be louts and not come before*  
 í önnur lönd. Nú gef ek þér, Hallvarðr, órlof til at refsa  
*into other lands Now give I you Hallvard leave to to punish*  
 þeim ok hefna þinnar svívirðingar, því at þeir einir munu  
*them and avenge your disgrace because that they alone will*  
 þessir menn vera, at þér mun ekki ofrefli í við at  
*these men be that for-you will not overmatch in against to*  
 eiga; skortir þik hvárki hreysti né harðfengi at gera þeim  
*deal lacks you neither valor nor hardihood to do to-them*  
 slíka skömm eðr meiri, hverir sem þeir eru”. Þá svarar  
*such shame or greater whoever as they are Then answers*  
 Vigfúss Víga-Glúmsson: “Þér munut, herra, vilja taka sætt  
*Vigfus Slaying-Glum's-son You will lord wish to-take settlement*  
 af mönnum þessum, ok haldi þeir lífi sínu, ef þeir vilja  
*from men these and keep they life their if they will*  
 leggja sitt mál á yðarn dóm. Nú mun ek fara at vita,  
*lay their case on your judgment Now will I go to know*  
 hvat manna þeir sé ok leita um sættir, ef þess er kostur”.  
*what of-men they be and seek about settlement if of-that is (the)-choice*



Jarl svarar: “Gera máttu þat; enn frekr get ek at þeim  
*(The)-earl answers Do may-you that but greedy guess I that to-them*  
 þykki lokarr minn til fégjalda um slík stórmál”. Vigfúss  
*will-seem plane my to money-payments over such great-matters Vigfus*  
 fór til kaupskipsins ok kendi þar Ögmund frænda sinn  
*went to the-merchant-ship and recognized there Ogmund kinsman his*  
 ok fagnaði honum vel ok spurði tíðinda af Íslandi ok at  
*and welcomed him well and asked tidings from Iceland and after*  
 föður sínum; enn Ögmundr sagði slíkt er hann spurði. Síðan  
*father his but Ogmund told such as he asked Then*  
 mælti Vigfúss: “Yðart mál horfir til mikilla vandræða af  
*spoke Vigfus Your case turns toward great troubles from*  
 tilfellum þessum, er orðit hefir af yðarri hingatkvámu”.  
*happenings these which happened has from your coming-hither*  
 Sagði Vigfúss þeim þá, hvat at var orðit, ok svá þat, at  
*Told Vigfus them then what that was happened and so that that*  
 Hákon jarl hafði seinliga tekit á sættargerð við þá; “nú  
*Hakon (the)-earl had slowly taken on settlement with them now*  
 er þat erindi mitt hingat til þín, frændi, at biðja þik at  
*is that errand my hither to you kinsman to ask you that*  
 þú leggir á dóm jarls; enn ek skal flytja þitt mál  
*you lay on (the)-judgment of-(the)-earl but I shall plead your case*  
 sem ek kann, ok mun þá með nökkuru móti vel fram  
*as I can and will then in some manner well forth*  
 fara”. Ögmundr svarar: “Þat eitt frétti ek af jarli þessum,  
*go Ogmund answers That one heard I of earl this*  
 at ekki legg ek allt mitt ráð á hans dóm, ok einna  
*that not lay I all my counsel on his judgment and of-all*  
 sízt, ef hann heitr illu, því at þat mun hann efna;  
*least if he promises ill because that it will be fulfill*  
 enn eigi fyrir tek ek at boeta þetta tilfelli, ef hann mælir  
*but not out rule I to amend this happening if he speaks*

lítilliga til". Vigfúss mælti: "Á þat mættir þú líta, hvat þér  
*modestly thereto Vigfus spoke On that might you look what you*  
 hæfir, því at þú átt við þann um, at þér er ekki  
*befits because that you have with that(-man) about that for-you is not*  
 berandi hans reiði ok neita hans dómi". Vigfúss fór út til  
*bearable his anger and refuse his judgment Vigfus went out to*  
 skips jarls, ok sagði honum, at þessir menn váru hans  
*(the)-ship of-(the)-earl and told him that these men were his*  
 fóstbræðr ok sumir frændr; "vilja þeir ok sitt mál leggja á  
*foster-brothers and some kinsmen will they also their case lay on*  
 yðart vald". Þá segir einn maðr jarls: "Rangt segir þú,  
*your power Then says one man of-(the)-earl Wrongly say you*  
 Vigfúss, þínum herra; þeir bjóða engi nýt boð fyrir sik".  
*Vigfus to-your lord they offer no useful offers for themselves*  
 Hallvarðr mælti: "Þat er sannast, at mér er hæfiligt at  
*Hallvard spoke That is truest that to-me is fitting to*  
 hefna mín sjálf, ok þurfa þar ekki annarra manna við".  
*avenge myself myself and need there not of-other men for*  
 Jarl bað hann svá gera. Vigfúss mælti: "Þess manns  
*(The)-earl bade him so do Vigfus spoke Of-that man*  
 skal ek banamaðr verða, ef ek má ráða, er drepr Ögmund  
*shall I (the)-slayer become if I may rule who kills Ogmund*  
 frænda minn". Hallvarðr mælti: "Þó at þér sét ofrhugar  
*kinsman my Hallvard spoke Though that you be daredevils*  
 miklir, Íslendingar, þá er þess ván hér í landi, at  
*great Icelanders then is of-that expectation here in (the)-land that*  
 menn vili eigi þola skömm bótlaust heldr af yðr  
*men will not bear shame without-compensation rather from you*  
 frændum Víga-Glúms, enn öðrum mönnum, þeir er nökkurs  
*kinsmen of-Slaying-Glum than other men they who of-something*  
 þykkjast verðir". Röri Hallvarðr þá til kaupskipsins, enn  
*think-themselves worthy Rowed Hallvard then to the-merchant-ship but*

Hákon jarl lét hafa styrk varðhöld á Vigfúsi. Hallvarðr

*Hakon (the)-earl had have strong guard on Vigfus Hallvard*

kom at kaupskipinu ok spurði, hvern þar væri formaðr.

*came to the-merchant-ship and asked who there were (the)-captain*

Ögmundr sagði til sín. Þá mælti Hallvarðr: “Vér félagar

*Ogmund told of himself Then spoke Hallvard We fellows*

eigum við yðr stórsakir, ok erum nú til þess hér komnir, at

*have with you great-charges and are now for that here come to*

vita, ef þér vilit bjóða fyrir yðr nökkurar sæmiligar bætr”.

*know if you will offer for yourselves some honorable amends*

Ögmundr svarar: “Eigi mun yðr bóta synjat, ef eigi er

*Ogmund answers Not will to-you of-amends refused if not is*

frekliga til mælt”. Hallvarðr mælti: “Þeir menn eigu hér í

*greedily thereto spoken Hallvard spoke Those men have here in*

hlut, at eigi vilja smáhluti þiggja fyrir stórar svívirðingar”.

*share who not will small-things accept for great disgraces*

Ögmundr mælti: “Þá vilju vér varna bóta, ef mjök stórliga

*Ogmund spoke Then will we refuse amends if very grandly*

er látit”. “Ek ætla þat ok líkast”, segir Hallvarðr, “at biðja

*is behaved I think that also likeliest says Hallvard to ask*

yðr ekki þess, er þér ættit at bjóða”. Hljóp hann þá

*you not of-that which you ought to offer Leaped he then*

upp á kaupskipit, ok laust Ögmund mikit öxarhamars

*up onto the-merchant-ship and struck Ogmund a-great axe-hammer's*

högg, svá at hann fell þegar í óvit. Fór Hallvarðr við

*blow so that he fell at-once into senselessness Went Hallvard with*

þat á fund jarls ok sagði honum. Enn jarl kvað

*that on meeting of-(the)-earl and told him But (the)-earl said*

miklu minna at gert enn makligt væri. Hallvarðr svarar:

*much less about done than deserved were Hallvard answers*

“Höfðingi þeira var mest sakbitinn, ok sýndist mér því

*(The)-chief of-them was most guilty and seemed to-me therefore*

at gera eigi meira at í þessu sinni, enn ljósta hann í  
*to do not more about in this time than strike him into*  
 svima. Var þat makligt, at láta svívirðing koma svívirðing  
*dizziness Was that fitting to let disgrace come disgrace*  
 mót. Enn þat er fyrir hendi at auka enn hefnd síðar,  
*against But that is at hand to increase still vengeance later*  
 ef sýnist". Enn þegar Vígfúss vissi þetta, þá eirði hann  
*if (it)-seems-good But as-soon-as Vigfus knew this then liked he*  
 stórilla, ok vildi vinna á Hallvarði eðr drepa hann, ef hann  
*very-ill and would work on Hallvard or kill him if he*  
 kœmist í fœri; en jarl lét geyma hans, svá at honum  
*could-get in reach but (the)-earl had (men)-guard him so that to-him*  
 urðu engi fœri á því. Ögmundr vitkaðist, ok hafði þó  
*became no chances at that Ogmund came-to-his-senses and had though*  
 fengit mikla ákomu, ok lá lengi vetrar, enn varð þó  
*gotten a-great blow and lay long of-(the)-winter but became though*  
 heill um síðir, ok varð af þessu efni mjök gabbaðr, svá  
*whole at last and became from this matter much mocked so*  
 at hvar sem hann kom, var hann kallaðr Ögmundr dytttr.  
*that where as he came was he called Ogmund Bash*  
 Enn hann lét sem hann vissi eigi, hvat hvergi talaði.  
*But he behaved as-if he knew not what anyone said*  
 Vígfúss kom oft til hans ok bað hann hefna sín. "Vil ek  
*Vigfus came often to him and bade him avenge himself Will I*  
 þar til", segir hann, "veita þér mitt liðsinni, at þú rekir  
*there to says he give you my support that you avenge*  
 þinnar svívirðingar". Ögmundr svarar: "Þetta mál veit eigi  
*your disgrace Ogmund answers This case turns not*  
 svá við, frændi, sýnist mér, at ek sé eigi meirr vanvirðr  
*so thus kinsman seems to-me that I be not more dishonored*  
 í þessu máli enn Hallvarðr; ok er varla ván, at minna  
*in this case than Hallvard and is hardly expectation that less*

mundi við koma, svá harðliga sem vér höfðum vára sök  
*would against come so hard as we had our case*  
 til búit í fyrstu. Er þat óráð at hefna þessa, svá sem  
*thereto prepared at first Is that ill-counsel to avenge this so as*  
 Hallvarðr er mikill vin Hákonar jarls, enn þú kominn  
*Hallvard is great friend of-Hakon (the)-earl but you come*  
 hér á vald hans; á ek annat at gjalda Glúmi föður  
*here into power his have I other to repay to-Glum father*  
 þínum, enn hafa þik í þeiri hættu, at þér sé vís ván  
*your than have you in such danger that for-you be sure expectation*  
 meiðsla eðr bana af mínu tilstilli". Vigfúss svarar: "Fyrir  
*of-maiming or of-death from my doing Vigfus answers For*  
 þat kann ek þér öngva þökk, ok eigi mun faðir minn  
*that can I you no thanks and not will father my*  
 kunna, at þú látir sem þú skulir sjá fyrir mínum kosti,  
*can that you behave as-if you should see for my lot*  
 þar um, er ek vil eigi sjálfr; ætla ek þér heldr ganga  
*there about which I will not myself think I to-you rather go*  
 til þess hugleysi enn varhygð, ok er illt at fylgja þeim  
*to that cowardice than caution and is ill to follow that*  
 manni, er héra hjarta hefir í brjósti; er þat ok líkast, at  
*man who a-hare's heart has in (the)-breast is that also likeliest that*  
 þér bregði meirr í þræla-ættina enn Þveræinga". Skildu  
*you take more into the-thrall-kin than of-(the)-Thveraeings Parted*  
 þeir við þat, at Vigfúss var hinn reiðasti. Leið af vetrinn.  
*they with that that Vigfus was the angriest Passed off the-winter*  
 Ok um várit bjó Ögmundr skip sitt ok fór út til  
*And in the-spring made-ready Ogmund ship his and went out to*  
 Íslands um sumarit, ok hafði aflat mikils fjár í ferð  
*Iceland in the-summer and had gained much wealth in journey*  
 þessi. Kom hann skipi sínu í Eyjafjörð.  
*this Came he ship his into Eyjafjord*

## II · GLÚMR TURNS ÖGMUNDR AWAY

*Glúmr has heard of Ögmundr's disgrace and welcomes him coldly, though Ögmundr busies himself in the district's lawsuits. At last Glúmr tells Ögmundr he has no thanks for his work: he would gladly never see a man who will bear a coward's name for not daring to take vengeance. Ögmundr pleads that Vigfúss's life was at risk, but Glúmr says both of them dead would have been better: either Ögmundr will prove his manhood later or his unfree kin will show in him. He sends him home to his father.*

Glúmr frétti skjótt skipkomuna; var honum ok þegar sagt,  
*Glum heard quickly the-ship-arrival was to-him also at-once told*  
hverja svivirðing Ögmundr hafði fengit í ferð þessi. Enn  
*what disgrace Ogmund had gotten in journey this But*  
er Ögmundr hafði gert ráð fyrir skipi sínu ok fé, þá  
*when Ogmund had made arrangement for ship his and wealth then*  
fór hann til Þverbrekku, ok dvaldist með Glúmi um hríð.  
*went he to Thverbrekka and stayed with Glum for a-while*  
Var Glúmr við hann fálátr, ok fanst þat á, at engi þokki  
*Was Glum toward him reserved and was-found that in that no liking*  
var Glúmi í hans þarkomu. Ögmundr var hinn kátasti, ok  
*was to-Glum in his arrival-there Ogmund was the merriest and*  
barst á mikit. Hann fór til allra mannfunda, er þar  
*carried-himself on much He went to all gatherings which there*  
váru í sveit, ok var heldr hlutsamr um mál manna; ok  
*were in (the)-district and was rather meddlesome about cases of-men and*  
ef nökkura menn greindi á, þá þótti engi maðr skjótligri til  
*if some men (it)-divided on then seemed no man quicker to*  
stórræða en Ögmundr. Hann var ok tiltakasamr um allt, þat  
*great-deeds than Ogmund He was also forward about all that*  
er Glúmr þurfti við um bús-tilskipan eðr atflutningar,  
*which Glum needed for about household-arrangement or provisioning*

ok lét yfir sér hit vænligasta. Enn þat var lengi at Glúmr  
*and made over himself the most-promising But that was long that Glum*  
vildi ekki við hann mæla. Ok einn dag mælti Glúmr við hann:  
*would not with him speak And one day spoke Glum to him*  
“Vita skaltú þat, Ögmundr, at ek kann öngva þökk starfa  
*Know shall-you that Ogmund that I can no thanks of-labor*  
þíns, ok undarligt þykki mér, hví þú ert svá framgjarn eðr  
*your and strange seems to-me why you are so pushing or*  
íhlutanar-mikill um mál manna, þar sem engi dáð fylgir þér,  
*meddling-much about cases of-men there where no deed follows you*  
ok er herfilig þín hin fyrsta ferð, svá at ek vilda gjarna  
*and is wretched your the first journey so that I would-wish gladly*  
aldri sjá þik, er þú vilt verða sjálfum þér at skömm ok  
*never to-see you since you will become to-self yourself to shame and*  
brigsli ok öllum frændum þínum, ok bera æfinligt klækisnafn,  
*reproach and to-all kinsmen your and bear a-lifelong villain's-name*  
at þora eigi at hefna sín”. Ögmundr svarar: “Á þat máttú  
*for to-dare not to avenge yourself Ogmund answers On that may-you*  
líta, frændi, hvat mér gekk til, er hefndin fórst fyrir, því  
*look kinsman what me went to when the-vengeance fell through because*  
at mér þótti mikit í hættu, er Vigfúss var, sonr þinn”. “Þar  
*that to-me seemed much in danger when Vigfus was son your There*  
máttir þú”, segir Glúmr, “ekki fyrir sjá, er hann vildi eigi sjálfr;  
*might you says Glum not for see if he would not himself*  
þótti mér þat til vinnanda, at þit værit báðir dauðir, ok  
*would-seem to-me that to worth-winning that you-two were both dead and*  
hefðir þú sýnt af þér hugprýði um hefndina. Nú er þat annat  
*had you shown of yourself courage about the-vengeance Now is that one*  
hvárt, at þú ert frá því þróttigr ok þolinn sem flestir menn  
*of-two that you are from that sturdy and enduring as most men*  
aðrir, ok muntú þá sýna af þér karlmensku, þó at síðar  
*others and will-you then show of yourself manliness though that later*

sé; því at í annan stað værir þú ekki svá bleyðimannligr  
*be because that in another place were you not so cowardly*  
 í bragði; ella ertú með öllu ónýtr, ok verður þat þá ríkara  
*in look else are-you with all worthless and becomes that then stronger*  
 sem verr gegnir, at oft verður ódrjúg til drengskaparins  
*which worse goes that often proves unprofitable to the-manhood*  
 hin ófrjálsa ættin, ok ekki vil ek þik lengr hafa með mér”.  
*the unfree kin and not will I you longer have with me*  
 Fór Ögmundur þá til föður síns ok var með honum síðan.  
*Went Ogmund then to father his and was with him afterward*

### III · THE CLOAK AND THE COWL

*After two winters Ögmundur sails to Trondheim and rows up the river at dawn in a splendid two-colored cloak. A townsman in a scarlet cowl asks if he is Ögmundur dyttir and names himself Gunnarr belmingr, fond of parti-colored clothes. He tells Ögmundur that Hákon is dead, Ólafr Tryggvason king, and Hallvarðr, now called báls from his wound, in the town. Ögmundur gives him the cloak, takes his cowl, and orders his men to wait at the wharf with oars ready.*

Þá er Ögmundur hafði verit tvo vetr á Íslandi, þá bjó  
*Then when Ogmund had been two winters in Iceland then made-ready*  
 hann skip sitt um sumarit, ok fekk menn til, ok sigldu  
*he ship his in the-summer and got men thereto and sailed*  
 til Noregs. Kom hann af hafi norðr við Þrándheim, ok  
*to Norway Came he off (the)-sea north by Trondheim and*  
 helt inn á fjörðinn. Hann lagði skipi sínu síð dags undir  
*held in onto the-fjord He laid ship his late of-day under*  
 Niðarhólm. Þá mælti Ögmundur: “Nú skal skjóta báti fram;  
*Nidarholm Then spoke Ogmund Now shall shoot a-boat forth*  
 vil ek róa inn í ána ok vita tíðindi af landinu”. Ögmundur  
*will I row in into the-river and know tidings of the-land Ogmund*



tók yfir sik feld hálfskiftan ok hlöðum búinn um  
*took over himself a-cloak half-divided and with-braids trimmed about*  
 handveginn; var þat ágætr gripr. Gekk Ögmundr á lítinn  
*the-hand-way was that a-splendid treasure Went Ogmundr onto a-little*  
 bát við þriðja mann: þat var um morgininn snimma; röru  
*boat with third man that was in the-morning early rowed*  
 þeir inn at bryggjunum. Þá gekk maðr ofan ór bænum;  
*they in to the-wharves Then went a-man down out-of the-town*  
 sá var í heklú; hon var ger af skarlati, ok saumut  
*that-one was in a-cowl it was made of scarlet and sewn*  
 öll brögðum. Heklumaðrinn gekk ofan á bryggjurnar, ok  
*all with-patterns The-cowl-man went down onto the-wharves and*  
 spurði, hvern fyrir bátinum réði. Ögmundr sagði til sín.  
*asked who over the-boat ruled Ogmundr told of himself*  
 Bøejarmaðrinn mælti: “Ertú Ögmundr dyttir?” “Kalla svá sumir  
*The-townsmen spoke Are-you Ogmundr Bash Call so some*  
 menn”, segir hann; “eðr hvat heitir þú?” Hann svarar: “Ek  
*men says he or what are-called you He answers I*  
 heiti Gunnarr helmingr; enn því er ek svá kallaðr, at  
*am-called Gunnarr Half but therefore am I so called that*  
 mér þykkir gaman at hafa hálfrit klæði”. Ögmundr mælti:  
*to-me seems sport to have two-colored clothes Ogmundr spoke*  
 “Hvat er tíðinda hér í landi?” Gunnarr svarar: “Þau þykkja  
*What is of-tidings here in (the)-land Gunnarr answers Those seem*  
 nú stærst tíðindi, at Hákon jarl er dauðr, enn kominn  
*now greatest tidings that Hakon (the)-earl is dead but come*  
 til ríkis ágætr konungr, Ólafr Tryggvason”. Ögmundr  
*to (the)-realm a-splendid king Olaf Tryggvi's-son Ogmundr*  
 mælti: “Hvat veiztú til, hvar sá maðr muni vera, er  
*spoke What know-you thereto where that man may be who*  
 Hallvarðr heitir, þrænskr maðr, ættstórr ok auðigr?” Gunnarr  
*Hallvard is-called a-Trondish man high-born and wealthy Gunnarr*

svarar: “Þat er eigi undarligt, þó at þú fréttir at honum.

*answers That is not strange though that you ask after him*

Hann er nú kallaðr Hallvarðr háls, því at hann var í

*He is now called Hallvard Neck because that he was in*

Jómsvíkinga-bardaga í fyrra vetr með Hákonu jarli, ok fekk

*(the)-Jomsvikings'-battle in last winter with Hakon (the)-earl and got*

þar sár mikit á hálsinn fyrir aftan eyrat, ok berr hann

*there a-wound great on the-neck on behind the-ear and bears he*

siðan halt höfuðit; enn nú er hann hér í bænum með Ólafi

*since askew the-head but now is he here in the-town with Olaf*

konungi, ok hefir hann fengit af honum góðar virðingar;

*(the)-king and has he gotten from him good honors*

enn feld hefir þú góðan, Ögmundr, ok vel litan, er tvískift

*but a-cloak have you good Ogmund and well colored which two-divided*

er, ok vilda ek, at þú seldir mér feldinn”. “Eigi vil ek

*is and would-wish I that you sold me the-cloak Not will I*

selja feldinn”, segir Ögmundr, “enn ef þér lízt vel á, þá

*sell the-cloak says Ogmund but if to-you seems well on(-it) then*

vil ek gefa þér”. “Ok gef manna heilastr”, segði Gunnarr,

*will I give you And give of-men most-prosperous said Gunnar*

“ok vilda ek geta launat þér þessa gjöf; enn heklun þessa

*and would-wish I to-be-able repaid you this gift but cowl this*

skaltú fyrst hafa; má vera, at hon verði þér at gagni”.

*shall-you first have may be that it be to-you to use*

Gekk Gunnarr þá upp í bæinn, ok var í feldinum; enn

*Went Gunnar then up into the-town and was in the-cloak but*

Ögmundr fór í hekluna. Hann mælti þá til sinna manna:

*Ogmund went into the-cowl He spoke then to his men*

“Nú skulu þit festa bátinn við bryggjuna at skutstafninum,

*Now shall you-two fasten the-boat to the-wharf at the-stern-post*

svá at eigi svífi frá, meðan ek geng upp; enn þit  
*so that not may-drift away while I go up but you-two*  
 skulut sitja í rúmumum, ok hafa búnar árar til róðrar”.  
*shall sit in the-benches and have ready oars for rowing*

## IV · ÖGMUNDR KILLS HALLVARÐR

*Wearing Gunnarr's cowl, Ögmundur finds Hallvarðr washing with other men and calls him outside, and the men indoors take the caller for Gunnarr. Ögmundur kills Hallvarðr with one blow, sinks the cowl in the river with a stone, and sails straight back to Iceland, still mocked for not daring ashore. He tells Glúmr the vengeance is done, late as it came, and Glúmr says he always thought him likely to prove a useful man.*

Síðan gekk Ögmundur upp í garðinn, ok varð lítit við  
*Afterward went Ogmund up into the-yard and became little of*  
 menn varr. Hann sá opnar dyrr á einu herbergi, ok stóðu  
*men aware He saw open doors on one room and stood*  
 þar nokkurir menn við handlaugar, ok var einn mestr ok  
*there some men at hand-washings and was one biggest and*  
 fríðastr sýnum, ok bar halt höfuðit, ok kendi Ögmundur,  
*fairest in-looks and bore askew the-head and recognized Ogmund*  
 at frásögn Gunnars, at þar mundi vera Hallvarðr. Gekk  
*from (the)-account of-Gunnar that there would be Hallvard Went*  
 Ögmundur at durunum, ok þóttust allir þeir, er inni váru,  
*Ogmund to the-doors and thought all they who inside were*  
 þar kenna Gunnar helming í heklu sinni. Hann var heldr  
*there to-recognize Gunnar Half in cowl his He was rather*  
 lágtalaðr. Bað hann Hallvarð ganga út til sín um litla muni;  
*low-spoken Bade he Hallvard go out to himself about little matters*  
 “því at ek á skylt ok skjótt erindi við þik”, segir hann.  
*because that I have bound and quick errand with you says he*

Snóri Ögmundr þá annan veg frá durunum, ok brá sverði,  
*Turned Ogmund then another way from the-doors and drew (the)-sword*  
 er hann hafði í hendi. Gunnarr helmingr var þar öllum  
*which he had in hand Gunnar Half was there to-all*  
 mönnum málkunnigr; ok gekk Hallvarðr út einn saman.  
*men known-to-talk-with and went Hallvard out one alone*  
 Enn Ögmundr hjó hann þegar banahögg, er hann kom at  
*But Ogmund struck him at-once a-death-blow when he came to*  
 honum. Hljóp Ögmundr þá ofan til bátsins; kastaði hann þá  
*him Leaped Ogmund then down to the-boat threw he then*  
 af sér heklunni, ok lét koma stein í höttinn, ok fleygði  
*off himself the-cowl and had come a-stone into the-hood and flung*  
 út á ána, ok sökk hon til grunna. Ögmundr gekk á  
*out onto the-river and sank it to (the)-bottom Ogmund went onto*  
 bátinn, ok bað þá róa út eftir ánni. Enn er þeir komu til  
*the-boat and bade them row out along the-river But when they came to*  
 kaupskipsins, mælti Ögmundr til sinna manna: "Hér er ófriðr  
*the-merchant-ship spoke Ogmund to his men Here is unpeace*  
 mikill í landi. Enn nú kastar vindi innan eftir firðinum;  
*great in (the)-land But now (it)-throws wind from-inside along the-ford*  
 munu vér vinda segl vart, ok sigla út aftr til Íslands". Þeir  
*will we wind sail our and sail out back to Iceland They*  
 kölluðu hann enn sem fyrr heldr hræddan, er hann þorði eigi  
*called him still as before rather frightened when he dared not*  
 at koma á land, þó at þarlenzkir menn ættist ilt við.  
*to come onto land though that native men had ill against(-him)*  
 Þeir gerðu svá sem hann mælti fyrir; komu aftr til Íslands  
*They did so as he spoke for came back to Iceland*  
 ok tóku Eyjafjörð. Fór Ögmundr á fund Víga-Glúms, ok  
*and took Eyjafjord Went Ogmund to (the)-meeting of-Slaying-Glum and*  
 sagði honum sína ferð; kvað þá hefndina komna fram, þó  
*told him his journey said then the-vengeance come forth though*

at frestin væri löng. Glúmr lét þá vel yfir; kallaði þat ok  
*that the-delay were long Glum made then well over(-it) called that also*  
 verit hafa sitt hugboð, at hann mundi verða nýtr maðr um  
*been have his foreboding that he would become a-useful man at*  
 síðir. Var Ögmundr þá með Glúmi um vetrinn í góðu yfirlæti.  
*last Was Ogmund then with Glum over the-winter in good favor*

## V · GUNNARR FLEES TO FREYR

*Men suspect Gunnarr helmingr of the killing; the king says he is the last man he would suspect, but orders him sought and hanged if he is guilty. His brother Sigurðr, a royal retainer, finds him, but Gunnarr will not say what he knows and flees to Sweden. There Freyr's image is so empowered that a fiend speaks from it, and a young woman serves as Freyr's wife. She takes Gunnarr in, though Freyr looks on him with no friendly eye, and Gunnarr says he would rather have her help than Freyr's.*

Nú er þar til at taka at þá er mönnum Hallvarðs  
*Now is there to to take-up that then when to-the-men of-Hallvard*  
 þótti seinka innkoman hans, gengu þeir út, ok fundu hann  
*seemed to-delay the-coming-in his went they out and found him*  
 liggja dauðan í blóði sínu. Váru þá sögð þessi tíðindi  
*lie dead in blood his Were then told these tidings*  
 Ólafi konungi, ok þat með, at menn hugðu, at Gunnarr  
*to-Olaf (the)-king and that with that men thought that Gunnar*  
 helmingr hefði drepit hann. Konungr sagði: "Hann munda  
*Half had killed him (The)-king said Him would*  
 ek sízt til kjósa; enn þó skal nú þegar í stað leita at  
*I least thereto choose but yet shall now at-once in place search for*  
 honum, ok festa upp, ef hann er þessa valdr". Gunnarr  
*him and hang up if he is of-this (the)-cause Gunnar*

átti sér bróður, er hét Sigurðr. Hann var auðigr, ok  
*had himself a-brother who was-called Sigurd He was wealthy and*  
 hirðmaðr Ólafs konungs, ok hans kær vinr. Var Sigurðr  
*a-retainer of-Olaf (the)-king and his dear friend Was Sigurd*  
 þar í bænum. Enn þegar hann varð þess varr, at bróður  
*there in the-town But as-soon-as he became of-that aware that to-brother*  
 hans var ætlaðr dauði, þá leitar hann at honum ok finnr  
*his was intended death then searches he for him and finds*  
 hann; spurði Sigurðr, ef hann væri sannr vígs þess, er  
*him asked Sigurd if he were guilty of-slaying that which*  
 honum var eignat. Gunnarr kvað þat fjarri fara. Sigurðr  
*to-him was ascribed Gunnar said that far go Sigurd*  
 mælti: “Þat hafa menn þó fyrir satt, ok seg þú mér, hvat  
*spoke That have men yet for true and tell you me what*  
 þú veizt til um atburð þenna?” Gunnarr svarar: “Þat segi  
*you know thereto about event this Gunnar answers That tell*  
 ek at sinni hvárki þér né öðrum”. Sigurðr mælti: “Forða  
*I at (this)-time neither you nor others Sigurd spoke Save*  
 þér þá”. Gunnarr gerði svá, ok komst hann í skóg, ok  
*yourself then Gunnar did so and got he into (the)-wood and*  
 varð eigi fundinn. Fór hann síðan austr um fjall ok um  
*was not found Went he afterward east over (the)-fell and through*  
 Upplönd, allt huldu höfði; létti hann eigi sinni ferð, fyrr  
*(the)-Uplands all with-bidden head stopped he not his journey before*  
 enn hann kom fram austr í Svíþjóð. Þar váru blót stór  
*than he came forth east in Sweden There were sacrifices great*  
 í þann tíma, ok hafði Freyr verit þar mest blótaðr lengi,  
*in that time and had Frey been there most worshiped long*  
 ok svá mjök var magnat líkneski Freys, at fjandinn talaði  
*and so much was empowered (the)-image of-Frey that the-fiend talked*  
 við menn ór skurðgoðinu, ok Frey var fengin kona til  
*with men out-of the-carved-god and for-Frey was gotten a-woman for*

þjónustu, ung ok frið; var þat átrúnaðr landsmanna, at  
*service young and fair was that (the)-belief of-the-landsmen that*  
 Freyr væri lifandi, sem sýndist í sumu lagi, ok ætluðu,  
*Frey were living as seemed in some wise and thought*  
 at hann mundi þurfa at eiga hjúskaparfar við konu sína;  
*that he would need to have marriage-intercourse with wife his*  
 skyldi hon ok mest ráða með Frey fyrir hofstaðnum ok öllu  
*should she also most rule with Frey over the-temple-stead and all*  
 því, er þar lá til goðahússins. Gunnarr helmingr kom þar  
*that which there lay to the-god-house Gunnar Half came there*  
 fram um síðir, ok bað konu Freys hjálpa sér, ok beiddi,  
*forth at last and bade (the)-wife of-Frey help him and asked*  
 at hon mundi láta hann þar vera. Hon leit við honum; ok  
*that she would let him there be She looked at him and*  
 spurði, hvern hann væri. Hann kvaðst vera brautingi einn  
*asked who he were He said-of-himself to-be a-wayfarer one*  
 lítillsháttar ok útlendr. Hon mælti: “Eigi muntú í alla staði  
*of-little-account and foreign She spoke Not will-you in all places*  
 vera gæfumaðr, því at Freyr lítr ekki vinar-augum til þín.  
*be a-lucky-man because that Frey looks not with-friend's-eyes to you*  
 Nú hvíl þik hér fyrst þrjár nætr ok vitum þá, hversu  
*Now rest yourself here first three nights and let-us-know then how*  
 Frey þökkast til þín.” Gunnarr mælti: “Miklu þykkir mér  
*to-Frey pleases to you Gunnar spoke Much seems to-me*  
 betra, að þiggja þína hjálp ok hollustu enn Freys”. Gunnarr  
*better to accept your help and loyalty than Frey's Gunnar*  
 var glaðr ok skemtanar-maðr mikill. Ok er hann hafði þar  
*was cheerful and a-merriment-man great And when he had there*  
 verit þrjár nætr, spurði Gunnarr konu Freys, hversu þá  
*been three nights asked Gunnar (the)-wife of-Frey how then*  
 skyldi vera um þarvist hans. “Eigi veit ek þat gerla”, segir  
*should be about stay-there his Not know I that clearly says*

hon; “þú ert maðr félauss, ok kann þó vera, at þú sér góðra  
*she you are a-man penniless and may yet be that you be of-good*  
 manna, ok væri mér um þat meira, at veita þér nökkura  
*men and were to-me about that more to give you some*  
 ásjá; enn Frey er lítit um þik, ok uggi ek, at hans reiði  
*protection but to-Frey is little about you and fear I that his anger*  
 liggi á. Nú ver þú hér hálfan mánuð, ok sjám þá, hvat  
*lie on(-you) Now be you here a-half month and let-us-see then what*  
 í gerist”. Gunnarr mælti: “Svá skiftir hér til, sem ek munda  
*in happens Gunnar spoke So turns here to as I would*  
 kjósa, at Freyr hatar mik, enn þú hjálpar mér, því at ek  
*choose that Frey hates me but you help me because that I*  
 vil eigi með Frey vera, ok ætla hann eigi meðalfjanda vera”.  
*wish not with Frey be and think him not a-middling-fiend to-be*

VI · GUNNARR WRESTLES FREYR

*Gunnarr travels with Freyr and his wife to the winter feasts. In a snowstorm the others scatter, and Freyr rises to fight him. Gunnarr vows to return to the faith if he wins; the fiend flees the image, and Gunnarr breaks it and takes Freyr's place. The Swedes marvel that their god eats, drinks, and takes gold instead of sacrifice, and that his wife is with child. King Ólafr guesses the truth and sends Sigurðr; Gunnarr and the woman escape to Norway, where the king pardons Gunnarr and has the woman baptized.*

Gunnarr þokknaðist mönnum því betr, sem hann hafði þar  
*Gunnar pleased men the better as he had there*  
 lengr verit, fyrir skemtan sína ok annan vaskleik. Kom hann  
*longer been for merriment his and other prowess Came he*  
 enn at máli við konu Freys, ok spurði um sinn hag. Hon  
*again to talk with (the)-wife of-Frey and asked about his state She*



svaraði: “Vel líkar mönnum til þín, ok þykki mér ráð,  
*answered Well like men toward you and seems to-me counsel*  
 at þú sér hér í vetr, ok farir á veizlur með okkr Frey,  
*that you be here in winter and go to feasts with us-two Frey*  
 þá er hann skal gera mönnum árbót; enn þó er honum  
*then when he shall make for-men a-year's-boon but yet is to-him*  
 illa við þik”. Gunnarr þakkaði henni vel. Líður nú at þeiri  
*ill toward you Gunnar thanked her well Passes now to that*  
 stundu, er þau búast heiman, ok skyldu þau Freyr ok  
*time when they make-ready from-home and should they Frey and*  
 kona hans sitja í vagni, enn þjónustumenn þeira skyldu  
*wife his sit in a-wagon but servants their should*  
 ganga fyrir. Þau áttu langt at fara yfir fjallgarð mikinn.  
*walk before They had far to go over a-mountain-ridge great*  
 Þá gerði at þeim hrið mikla. Gerðist þá færðin þung;  
*Then made(-it) at them a-storm great Became then the-going heavy*  
 enn Gunnarr var til ætlaðr at fylgja vagninum ok leiða  
*but Gunnar was thereto appointed to follow the-wagon and lead*  
 eykinn, ok kom þá svá um síðir, at allt fólkit dreif  
*the-yoke-beast and came then so at last that all the-folk scattered*  
 frá þeim, svá at Gunnarr einn varð eftir, ok þau Freyr  
*from them so that Gunnar alone was behind and they Frey*  
 ok kona hans í vagninum. Tók Gunnarr þá at mœðast  
*and wife his in the-wagon Began Gunnar then to tire*  
 fast, er hann gekk ok leiddi eikinn. Ok er svá hafði  
*hard when he walked and led the-yoke-beast And when so had*  
 farit um stund, þá gefr hann upp fyrirgönguna ok sezt í  
*gone for a-while then gives he up the-leading-in-front and sits into*  
 vagninn, ok lætr eykinn ráða ferðinni. Litlu síðar mælti  
*the-wagon and lets the-yoke-beast rule the-journey A-little later spoke*  
 hon til Gunnars: “Dugi þú enn, ok leið hestinn, ella mun  
*she to Gunnar Bestir you still and lead the-horse else will*

Freyr upp standa at þér". Hann gerir enn svá um hríð.  
*Frey up stand against you He does still so for a-while*  
 Enn er hann mœddist enn mjök, mælti hann: "Til mun  
*But when he tired still much spoke he To will*  
 ek nú hætta, at taka á móti Frey, ef hann ræðr á mik".  
*I now venture to take on against Frey if he sets on me*  
 Freyr reis þá ór vagninum, ok takast þeir fangbrögðum,  
*Frey rose then out-of the-wagon and take they to-wrestling*  
 ok verðr Gunnarr mjök aflvani. Hann sér þá, at honum  
*and becomes Gunnar much strength-short He sees then that to-him*  
 mun eigi svá búit duga; hugsar hann þá með sér, ef  
*will not so done avail thinks he then with himself if*  
 hann getr yfir komit þenna fjanda, ok verði honum auðit,  
*he can over come this fiend and be to-him granted*  
 at koma aftr til Noregs, at hann skal hverfa aftr til réttrar  
*to come back to Norway that he shall turn back to right*  
 trúar, ok sættast við Ólaf konung, ef hann vill við honum  
*faith and be-reconciled with Olaf (the)-king if he will with him*  
 taka. Ok þegar eftir þessa hugsan, tekr Freyr at hrata fyrir  
*take And at-once after this thought takes Frey to totter before*  
 honum, ok því næst fellr hann. Hleypr þá ór líkneskinu  
*him and that next falls he Leaps then out-of the-image*  
 sá fjandi, er þar hafði í leynst, ok var þá tréstockr  
*that fiend who there had in bidden and was then a-wooden-block*  
 einn tómrr eftir. Síðan braut hann þat allt í sundr; gekk  
*one empty behind Afterward broke he that all in pieces went*  
 svá at vagninum, ok gerði konunni tvá kosti, at hann  
*so to the-wagon and made for-the-woman two choices that he*  
 mundi hlaupa frá henni ok leita fyrir sér, ella skal hon  
*would run from her and seek for himself else shall she*  
 segja, at hann sé Freyr, þá er þau koma til bygða.  
*say that he be Frey then when they come to (the)-settlements*

Hon kveðst þat gjarna heldr vilja segja. Ferr Gunnarr  
*She says-of-herself that gladly rather to-wish to-say Goes Gunnar*  
 þá í búning skurðgoðsins. Enn veðr tók at birta.  
*then into (the)-attire of-the-carved-god But (the)-weather began to brighten*  
 Koma þau um síðir til veizlu þeirar, er þeim var búin.  
*Come they at last to feast that which for-them was prepared*  
 Var þar fyrir margt þeira manna, er þeim skyldu fylgt  
*Was there before many of-those men who them should followed*  
 hafa. Þótti fólkinu nú mikils um vert, hversu Freyr sýndi  
*have Seemed to-the-folk now much about worth how Frey showed*  
 mátt sinn, er hann skyldi komast til bygða með konu  
*might his when he should get to (the)-settlements with wife*  
 sína í slíku veðri, þar sem allir menn höfðu hlaupit frá  
*his in such weather there where all men had run from*  
 þeim, ok þat með, at hann mátti nú ganga með öðrum  
*them and that with that he might now walk with other*  
 mönnum, ok át ok drakk sem aðrir menn. Fóru þau at  
*men and ate and drank as other men Went they to*  
 veizlum um vetrinn. Var Freyr jafnan fátalaðr við aðra  
*feasts through the-winter Was Frey always sparing-of-speech with other*  
 menn, nema konu sína. Enn svá kom, at eigi vill hann  
*men except wife his But so came that not will he*  
 láta svæfa kvikindi fyrir sér sem fyrr, ok engi blót vill  
*let kill living-thing for himself as before and no sacrifices will*  
 hann þiggja, ok engar fórnir eðr offr, útan gull ok silfr,  
*he accept and no offerings or oblations except gold and silver*  
 klæði góð eðr aðrar gersemar. Enn er stundir liðu fram,  
*clothes good or other treasures But when times passed forth*  
 þykkjast menn finna, at kona Freys ferr eigi einsaman ok  
*think men to-find that (the)-wife of-Frey goes not alone and*  
 er með barni. Þat verðr mönnum allágætt, ok þykkir nú  
*is with child That becomes to-men very-splendid and seems now*

mörgum allvænt um Frey guð sinn; var ok veðrátta blíð  
*to-many very-promising about Frey god their was also weather mild*  
 ok allir hlutir svá árvænir, at engi maðr mundi slíkt.  
*and all things so fruitful that no man would-remember such*  
 Spyrjast þessi tíðindi víða um lönd, hversu blótguð  
*Are-learned these tidings widely through lands how (the)-sacrifice-god*  
 Svía var máttigr; kemr þetta ok fyrir Ólaf konung  
*of-the-Swedes was mighty comes this also before Olaf (the)-king*  
 Tryggvason, ok grunar hann um hverju gegna muni. Ok  
*Tryggvi's-son and suspects he about what mean may And*  
 einn dag um várit kallar Ólafr konungr til tals við sik  
*one day in the-spring calls Olaf (the)-king to talk with himself*  
 Sigurð, bróður Gunnars helmings. Konungr spurði, ef hann  
*Sigurd brother of-Gunnar Half (The)-king asked if he*  
 frétti nökkut til Gunnars bróður síns. Sigurðr kveðst  
*heard anything about Gunnar brother his Sigurd says-of-himself*  
 ekki til hans fréttu. Konungr mælti: “Þat hefir hugr  
*nothing about him to-hear (The)-king spoke That has mind*  
 minn, at þessi blótguð Svía, er nú ganga mestar  
*my that this sacrifice-god of-the-Swedes which now go greatest*  
 sögur frá ok þeir kalla Frey, at þat muni vera reyndar  
*tales from and they call Frey that it will be in-truth*  
 Gunnarr bróðir þinn, því at þau blót verða römmust,  
*Gunnar brother your because that those sacrifices become strongest*  
 ef lifandi menn eru blótaðir. Nú vil ek senda þik austr  
*if living men are sacrificed Now will I send you east*  
 þangat eftir honum, því at þat er hörmuligt at vita, ef  
*thither after him because that it is grievous to know if*  
 kristins manns sála skal svá herfiliga fyrirfarast; vil ek gefa  
*a-Christian man's soul shall so wretchedly perish will I give*  
 honum upp reiði mína, ef hann vill auðveldliga koma á  
*him up anger my if he will readily come to*

minn fund, því at ek veit nú, at Ögmundur dyttir hefir  
*my meeting because that I know now that Ogmund Bash has*  
 drepit Hallvarð, enn eigi Gunnarr". Sigurðr brá við skjótt,  
*killed Hallvard but not Gunnar Sigurd moved at quickly*  
 ok fór þar til er hann fann Frey þenna, ok kendi þar  
*and went there until when he found Frey this and recognized there*  
 Gunnar bróður sinn. Bar hann honum orð ok erindi  
*Gunnar brother his Bore he him (the)-words and errand*  
 Ólafs konungs. Gunnarr svarar: "Fúss væra ek at fara ok  
*of-Olaf (the)-king Gunnar answers Eager would-be I to go and*  
 at sættast við Ólaf konung. Enn ef Svíar verða varir  
*to be-reconciled with Olaf (the)-king But if (the)-Swedes become aware*  
 við, hvat um er, þá munu þeir vilja taka mik af lífi".  
*of what about is then will they wish to-take me from life*  
 Sigurðr mælti: "Vér skulum leyniliga leita héðan á braut,  
*Sigurd spoke We shall secretly seek hence off away*  
 ok hafa á því traust, sem vera mun, at meira meggi gæfa  
*and have in that trust as be will that more may (the)-luck*  
 ok góðvili Ólafs konungs með Guðs miskunn, enn illvili  
*and goodwill of-Olaf (the)-king with God's mercy than ill-will*  
 ok eftirleitan Svía". Gunnarr býr sik nú ok konu  
*and pursuit of-(the)-Swedes Gunnar readies himself now and wife*  
 sína, ok höfðu með sér lausafé, slíkt er þau máttu með  
*his and had with them movable-goods such as they could with*  
 komast; réðu síðan til ferðar leyniliga um nótt. Enn  
*get made afterward for (the)-journey secretly in (the)-night But*  
 er Svíar verða þessa varir, þá þykkjast þeir sjá allt,  
*when (the)-Swedes become of-this aware then think they to-see all*  
 hversu farit mun hafa, ok sendu þegar menn eftir þeim.  
*how gone will have and sent at-once men after them*  
 Enn er þeir váru skamt á leið komnir, þá villtust  
*But when they were short on (the)-way come then lost*

þeir vegar, ok fundu eigi. Fóru Svíar við þat afr. Enn  
*they (the)-way and found not Went (the)-Swedes with that back But*  
 þau Sigurðr léttu eigi fyrri sinni ferð, enn þau  
*they Sigurd(-and-the-others) stopped not sooner their journey than they*  
 fundu Ólaf konung. Tók hann Gunnar afr í sætt  
*found Olaf (the)-king Took he Gunnar back into reconciliation*  
 við sik, enn lét skira konu hans. Ok heldu þau síðan  
*with himself but had baptized wife his And held they afterward*  
 rétta trú.  
*right faith*

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# Svaða þáttir ok Arnórs kerlingarnefs

*The Tale of Svadi and Arnor Hag's-Nose*







*The tale opens with a reflection: God's mercy lets no good deed go unrewarded and calls to himself those who did not yet know him. The events that follow foreshadow the coming of Christianity to Iceland, and they show God supporting good works and bringing the wicked to fall into the snares they set for others.*

Mikil ok margföld er miskunn allsvaldanda Guðs í öllum  
 Great and manifold is (the)-mercy of-all-ruling God in all  
 hlutum, ok háleitir hans dómar, er hann lætr engan góðgerning  
 things and exalted his judgments as he lets no good-deed  
 fyrir farast, heldr kallar hann með elskuligri mildi þá, sem  
 for perish rather calls he with loving gentleness those who  
 eigi kunnu hann áðr til at nema, skynja ok skilja, dýrka  
 not could him before thereto to learn perceive and understand worship  
 ok elska sinn lausnara, sem várr herra Jesús Krístr lifandi  
 and love their redeemer as our lord Jesus Christ living  
 Guðs son hefir sýnt í mörgum atburðum, þó at vér munim  
 God's son has shown in many events though that we may  
 fá tína, svá sem í fyrirboðun miskunnar tilkvámu ok  
 few enumerate so as in (the)-foreshadowing mercy's coming and  
 fullkomins kristindóms á Íslandi; sýnir ok sjálfr Guð í þeim  
 of-perfect Christendom in Iceland shows also himself God in those  
 frásögnum, er eftir fara, at hann styðr ok styrkir hvert gott  
 accounts which after follow that he supports and strengthens every good  
 verk þeim til gagns, er gera, enn hann ónýtir ok eyðir  
 work to-them for benefit who do(-it) but he brings-to-naught and destroys  
 illsku ok grimd vándra manna, svá at oftliga fyrirfara  
 (the)-wickedness and cruelty of-wicked men so that often destroy  
 þeir sjálfum sér í þeim snörum, er þeir hugðu öðrum.  
 they self themselves in those snares which they intended for-others

*Soon after Bishop Friðrekr and Þórvaldr Koðránsson leave Iceland, a famine kills many. Svaði, a cruel and powerful man of Skagafjörðr, sets a crowd of paupers to dig a great pit near the road for pay. That evening he shuts them in a small house and tells them they will be killed in the morning and buried in the pit they dug, and they weep all night.*

Nökkuru eftir útanferð Friðreks biskups ok Þórvalds  
*Somewhat after (the)-going-abroad of-Friðrek (the)-bishop and of-Thorvald*  
 Koðránssonar gerðist á Íslandi svá mikit hallæri, at fjöldi  
*Koðran's-son arose in Iceland so great a-famine that a-multitude*  
 manna dó af sulti. Þá bjó í Skagafirði nökkurr mikils háttar  
*of-men died of hunger Then dwelt in Skagafjord a-certain of-great account*  
 maðr, ok mjök grimmr, er nefndr er Svaði, þar sem síðan  
*man and very cruel who named is Svaði there where since*  
 heitir á Svaðastöðum. Þat var einn morgin, at hann kallaði  
*is-called at Svadastadir It was one morning that he called*  
 saman marga fátœka menn. Hann bauð þeim at gera eina  
*together many poor men He bade them to make one*  
 mikla gröf ok djúpa skamt frá almanna-veg; enn þeir hinir  
*great pit and deep a-short-way from the-common-road but they the*  
 fátœku urðu fegnir, ef þeir mætti af ömbun erfiðis síns  
*poor became glad if they might from (the)-reward of-labor their*  
 með nökkuru móti slökkva sinn sára hungri; ok um kveldit,  
*in some way quench their sore hunger and in the-evening*  
 er þeir höfðu lokit grafargerðinni, leiddi Svaði þá alla í  
*when they had ended the-pit-making led Svaði then all into*  
 eitt litit hús. Síðan byrgði hann húsit, ok mælti til þeira  
*one little house Afterward shut he the-house and spoke to those*  
 manna, er inni váru: “Gleðist þér ok fagnit, því at skjótt  
*men who inside were Rejoice you and be-glad because that quickly*

skal endir á verða yðarri eynd; þér skulit hér búa í nótt,  
*shall end on become to-your misery you shall here stay in (the)-night*  
 enn á morgin skal yðr drepa ok jarða hér í þessi  
*but in (the)-morning (one)-shall you kill and bury here in this*  
 miklu gröf, sem þér hafit sjálfir gert". Enn er þeir heyrðu  
*great pit which you have yourselves made But when they heard*  
 þenna grimmiliga dóm, er þeim var dauði ætlaðr fyrir sitt  
*this cruel judgment that for-them was death intended for their*  
 erfiði, tóku þeir at æpa með sárligri sorg um alla nóttina.  
*labor began they to cry-out with grievous sorrow through all the-night*

### III • ÞÓRVARÐR FREES THE PAUPERS

*Þórvarðr the Christian, passing early in the morning, hears them weeping and offers to free them if they will believe in his God; they agree, and he unbars the door and sends them to his farm at Ás. Svaði rides after the fugitives, falls from his horse at the pit, and dies. He is buried in it as a heathen with his dog and horse, and Þórvarðr has his priest baptize the paupers and feeds them through the famine.*

Þar bar svá til, at Þórvarðr hinn kristni, son Spak-Böðvars,  
*There happened so to that Thorvard the Christian son of-Spak-Bodvar*  
 fór þá sömu nótt upp um herað at erindum sínum.  
*went then (the)-same night up through (the)-district on errands his*  
 Enn leið hans lá allsnemma um morgininn hjá því sama  
*But way his lay very-early in the-morning by that same*  
 húsi, er hinir fátöku menn váru inni. Ok er hann heyrði  
*house which the poor men were inside And when he heard*  
 þeira grátliga þyt, spurði hann, hvat þeim væri at angri.  
*their pitiful wailing asked he what them were for grief*  
 Enn er hann varð hins sanna viss af þeim, mælti hann  
*But when he became of-the truth aware from them spoke he*

til þeira: “Vér skulum eiga kaup saman, ef þér vilit sem  
*to them We shall have a-bargain together if you will as*  
 ek: ef þér vilit trúa á sannan Guð, þann er ek trúi á,  
*I if you will believe in true God the-one whom I believe in*  
 ok gera þat, sem ek segi fyrir, þá mun ek frelsa yðr héðan;  
*and do that which I say before then will I free you hence*  
 komit síðan til mín í Ás, ok mun ek fæða yðr alla”. Þeir  
*come afterward to me in As and will I feed you all They*  
 sögðust það gjarna vilja. Tók Þórvarðr þá slagbranda  
*said-of-themselves that gladly to-wish Took Thorvard then (the)-slide-bars*  
 frá durum; enn þeir fóru þegar fagnandi með miklum  
*from (the)-doors but they went at-once rejoicing with great*  
 skunda til bús hans ofan í Ás. Enn er Svaði varð  
*haste to (the)-farm his down to As But when Svadi became*  
 þess varr, varð hann harðla reiðr, brá við skjótt, vápnaði  
*of-that aware became he very angry moved at quickly armed*  
 sig ok sína menn, riðu síðan með öllum skunda eftir  
*himself and his men rode afterward with all haste after*  
 flóttamönnum; vildi hann þá taka ok drepa; enn í annan  
*the-fugitives would he then take and kill but in another*  
 stað hugsaði hann at gjalda grimmu sína svívirðing, er  
*place thought he to repay with-cruelty his disgrace which*  
 hann þóttist beðit hafa af þeim, er þá hafði leysta.  
*he thought-himself suffered have from him who them had freed*  
 Enn hans illska ok vándskapr fell honum sjálfum í höfuð,  
*But his wickedness and villainy fell to-him himself on (the)-head*  
 því at jafnskjótt sem hann reið hvatt fram hjá gröfinni,  
*because that as-soon as he rode quickly forth by the-pit*  
 fell hann af baki, ok var þegar dauðr, er hann kom  
*fell he off (the)-horse and was at-once dead when he came*  
 á jörð. Ok í þeirri sömu gröf, er hann hafði fyrir  
*onto (the)-earth And in that same pit which he had beforehand*

búið saklausum mönnum, var hann sekr heiðingi, sjálfr  
*prepared for-guiltless men was he a-guilty beathen himself*  
 grafinn af sínum fylgdarmönnum, ok þar með honum hundr  
*buried by his followers and there with him (the)-dog*  
 hans ok hestr at fornum sið. Enn Þórvarðr í Ási lét  
*his and (the)-horse after old custom But Thorvard in As had*  
 prest þann, er hann hafði með sér, skíra hina fátöku  
*(the)-priest that whom he had with him baptize the poor*  
 menn, er hann hafði leyst undan dauða, ok kenna þeim  
*men whom he had freed from death and teach them*  
 heilög fræði, fœddi þá alla þar at sín, meðan hallærit helzt.  
*holy lore fed then all there at his while the-famine lasted*

#### IV · THE KIN OF ÞÓRVARÐR

*Most men say Þórvarðr Spak-Böðvarsson was baptized by Bishop Friðrekr, though the monk Gunnlaugr reports that some think he was baptized in England and brought timber from there for the church he had built on his farm. The section traces his mother Arnfríðr's descent through Sléttu-Björn and Gróa to a Swedish lord, a king at Uppsala, and King Burizlafr of Garðar.*

Þat segja flestir menn, at Þórvarðr Spak-Böðvarsson hafi skírðr  
*That say most men that Thorvard Spak-Bodvar's-son has baptized*  
 verit af Friðreki biskupi. Enn Gunnlaugr munkr getr þess, at  
*been by Fridrek (the)-bishop But Gunnlaug (the)-monk mentions that that*  
 sumir menn ætli hann skírðan hafa verit í Englandi, ok þaðan  
*some men think him baptized to-have been in England and thence*  
 hafa flutt við til kirkju þeirar, er hann lét gera á bœ  
*to-have brought timber to (the)-church that which he had made on farm*  
 sínum. Móðir Þórvarðs Spak-Böðvarssonar hét Arnfríðr,  
*his (The)-mother of-Thorvard Spak-Bodvar's-son was-called Arnfrid*

dóttir Sléttu-Bjarnar Hróarssonar; móðir Sléttu-Bjarnar hét  
*daughter of-Sléttu-Bjorn Hroar's-son (the)-mother of-Sléttu-Bjorn was-called*  
 Gróa Herfinnsdóttir, Þórgilssonar, Gormssonar ágæts hersis  
*Groa Herfinn's-daughter Thorgils's-son Gorm's-son a-renowned lord*  
 ór Svíþjóð. Móðir Þórgils Gormssonar var Þóra, dóttir  
*out-of Sweden (The)-mother of-Thorgils Gorm's-son was Thora daughter*  
 Eiríks konungs at Uppsölum. Móðir Herfinns Þórgilssonar  
*of-Eirik (the)-king at Uppsala (The)-mother of-Herfinn Thorgils's-son*  
 var Elin dóttir Burizlafs konungs ór Görðum austan.  
*was Elin daughter of-Burizlaf (the)-king out-of Gardar from-the-east*  
 Móðir Elínar var Ingigerðr, systir Dagstygg Rísa-konungs.  
*(The)-mother of-Elin was Ingigerd sister of-Dagstygg Giant-king*

V · ARNÓRR UNDOES THE FAMINE JUDGMENT

*An assembly rules that in the famine old and disabled people may be abandoned. Arnórr kerlingarnef consents, but his mother Þuríðr rebukes him for sharing in such murder. He gathers the outcast old people, calls a new assembly, and orders every farmer to keep his kin, to kill all but two horses for food and the dogs so their feed goes to people, and to send any kin he cannot feed to Arnórr at Miklabæ. He ends by saying that if the God who made the sun shows mercy, they will believe in him.*

Á þeim sama tíma, sem nú var áðr frá sagt, var þat  
*At that same time as now was before from told was that*  
 dæmt á samkvámu af heraðsmönnum, at fyrir sakir sultar  
*judged at an-assembly by the-district-men that for sake of-hunger*  
 ok svá mikils hallæris var leyft, at gefa upp gamalmenni  
*and so great famine was permitted to give up old-people*  
 ok veita enga björg; svá þeim, er lama váru eðr at nökkuru  
*and give no help so to-those who lame were or in some-way*  
 vanheilir, ok eigi skyldi herbergja þá. Enn þá gnúði á  
*unsound and not should lodge them But then roared on*

hin snarpasta hríð með gnístandi frostum. Þá var mestr  
*the sharpest storm with gnashing frosts Then was greatest*  
 höfðingi út um sveitina Arnórr kerlingarnef, er bjó á  
*chieftain out through the-district Arnor Hag's-Nose who dwelt at*  
 Miklabæ í Óslandshlíð. Enn er Arnórr kom heim af  
*Miklabaer in Oslandsblid But when Arnor came home from*  
 samkvámu þessi, þá gekk fyrir hann móðir hans Þuríðr,  
*assembly this then went before him mother his Thurid*  
 dóttir Refs frá Barði, ok ásakaði hann harla mjök, er  
*daughter of-Ref from Bard and reproached him very much that*  
 hann skyldi samþykkr hafa orðit svá grimmum dómi.  
*he should consenting have become to-so cruel a-judgment*  
 Tjáði hon fyrir honum með mikilli skynsemd ok mörgum  
*Set-forth she before him with great wisdom and many*  
 sannligum orðum, hversu óheyrilig ok afskaplig ómennska  
*true words how unheard-of and monstrous inhumanity*  
 þat var, at maðr skyldi selja í svá grimman dauða  
*that was that a-man should give-over into so cruel death*  
 föður sinn ok móður eðr aðra náfrændr. “Nú vit þat  
*father his and mother or other near-kin Now know that*  
 víst”, segir hon, “þó at þú gerir eigi sjálf slíka hluti,  
*surely says she though that you do not yourself such things*  
 þá ertú allt at einu með engu móti hlutlauss eðr sýkn  
*then are-you all at one in no way without-share or guiltless*  
 af þess glæpafallu manndrápi, þar sem þú ert höfðingi ok  
*of that crime-full manslaughter there where you are chieftain and*  
 formaðr annarra, ef þú leyfir þínum undirmönnum at úthýsa  
*leader of-others if you allow your underlings to turn-out*  
 í hríðum feðginum eðr frændum nánum, ok jafnvel  
*in storms fathers-and-mothers or kinsmen near and even*  
 þó at þú leyfir eigi, ef þú stendr eigi með öllu afli  
*though that you allow(-it) not if you stand not with all strength*

í mót slíkum ódádum". Arnórr skildi góðfýst móður  
*in against such misdeeds Arnor understood (the)-good-will of-mother*  
 sinnar, ok tók vel hennar ásakan. Gerðist hann þá mjök  
*his and took well her reproach Became he then very*  
 áhyggjufullr, hvat hann skyldi at hafa; tók hann þá þat  
*anxious what he should to do took he then that*  
 ráð, at hann sendi sína heimamenn á næstu bæi, at  
*counsel that he sent his household-men to (the)-nearest farms to*  
 samna saman öllu gamalmenni ok því, er út var rekit, ok  
*gather together all old-people and those who out were driven and*  
 flytja til sín, ok lét þá næra með allri líkn. Annan dag  
*bring to himself and had them nourished with all mercy (The)-next day*  
 stefndi hann saman fjölda bónda; ok er Arnórr kom til  
*summoned he together a-multitude of-farmers and when Arnor came to*  
 fundarins, mælti hann svá til þeira: "Þat er yðr kunnigt,  
*the-meeting spoke he so to them That is to-you known*  
 at vér áttum fyrir skömmu almenniliga samkvámu; enn ek  
*that we had for short-while a-general assembly but I*  
 hefir síðan hugsat af sameiginligri várri nauðsyn, ok brotit  
*have since thought about common our need and broken*  
 saman við þá ómannligu ráðagerð, er vér urðum allir  
*together with that inhuman plan which we became all*  
 samþykkir, ok gáfum leyfi til at veita líftjón gamalmenni  
*agreeing-to and gave leave for to give loss-of-life to-old-people*  
 ok þeim öllum, er eigi megu vinna sér til bjargar með  
*and to-those all who not may work themselves to sustenance in*  
 því móti at varna þeim líflígrar atvinnu, ok birtir sannri  
*that manner to deny them living livelihood and enlightened by-true*  
 skynsemd iðrumst ek mjök svá illskufullrar ok ódæmilígrar  
*reason repent I much of-so evil-full and unheeded-of*  
 gerðar. Nú þar um hugsandi hefir ek fundit þat ráð, sem  
*a-deed Now there on thinking have I found that counsel which*



vér skulum allir hafa ok halda, þat er: at sýna manndóm  
*we shall all have and hold that is to show humanity*  
 ok miskunn við mennina, svá at hverr hjálpi sínum  
*and mercy toward the-people so that each help his*  
 frændum, svá sem framast hefir föng á, einkanliga föður  
*kinsmen so as furthest has means for especially father*  
 ok móður, ok þar út í frá, þeir er betr mega, fyrir sulti  
*and mother and there out on from those who better may against hunger*  
 ok lífsháska, ok aðra sína náfrændr. Skulu vér þar til leggja  
*and life-peril and other his near-kin Shall we there to lay*  
 allan várn kost ok kvikindi at veita mönnunum lífs-björg,  
*all our means and livestock to give to-the-people life-support*  
 ok drepa til hjálpar várum frændum fararskjóta vára, heldr  
*and kill for help of-our kinsmen mounts our rather*  
 enn láta þá farast af sulti, svá at engi bóndi skal eftir  
*than let them perish of hunger so that no farmer shall remaining*  
 hafa á bœ sínum meirr enn tvau hross, svá eigi sá mikli  
*have on farm his more than two horses so not that great*  
 óvandi, er hér hefir fram farit, at menn fœða fjölda  
*bad-custom which here has forth gone that men feed a-multitude*  
 hunda, svá at margir menn mætti lifa við þann mat, er  
*of-dogs so that many men might live on that food which*  
 þeim er gefinn. Nú skal drepa hundana, svá at fáir eðr  
*to-them is given Now shall kill the-dogs so that few or*  
 engir skulu eftir lifa, ok hafa þá fœðu til lífs-næringar,  
*none shall remaining live and have then the-food for life-nourishment*  
 sem áðr er vant at gefa hundunum. Nú er þat skjótast  
*which before is wont to give to-the-dogs Now is that quickest*  
 af at segja, at með öngu móti leyfum vér, at nökkurr  
*of to say that in no way permit we that any*  
 yðarr gefi upp sinn föður ok móður, sá er með einhverju  
*of-you give up his father and mother he who in some*

móti má þeim hjálpir veita; enn sá, er eigi hefir efni  
*way may to-them helps give but he who not has means*  
 til at veita lífsnæring sínum feðginum eða náfrændum,  
*for to give life-nourishment to-his father-and-mother or near-kin*  
 fylgi hann þeim til mín í Miklabæ, ok skal ek þá fœða.  
*let-follow he them to me in Miklabær and shall I them feed*  
 Enn hinn, er má ok vill eigi við hjálpa sínum nánustu  
*But the-other who may and will not with help his nearest*  
 frændum, þeim skal ek grimmu gjalda með hinum mestum  
*kinsmen him shall I with-cruelty repay with the greatest*  
 afarkostum. Nú þá, mínir kærustu vinir ok samfélagar heldr  
*hard-terms Now then my dearest friends and fellows rather*  
 enn undirmenn, fremjum í alla staði manndóm ok miskunn  
*than underlings let-us-practice in all places humanity and mercy*  
 við vára náfrænder, ok gefum ekki færi til óvinum várum  
*toward our near-kin and give not opening to enemies our*  
 því oss at brígsla, at vér hafim með ofmikilli fávizku  
*with-that us to reproach that we have with over-great folly*  
 gert ómakliga við vára náunga. Nú, ef sá er sannr Guð,  
*done unfittingly toward our kinsfolk Now if he is true God*  
 er sólina hefir skapat, til þess at birta ok verma veröldina,  
*who the-sun has created for that to brighten and warm the-world*  
 ok ef honum líkar vel mildi ok réttlæti, sem vér höfum  
*and if to-him likes well mildness and righteousness as we have*  
 heyrt sagt, þá sýni hann oss miskunn sína, svá at vér  
*heard said then show he us mercy his so that we*  
 megim prófa með sannindum, at hann er skapari manna,  
*may prove with truth that he is (the)-creator of-men*  
 ok at hann megi stjórna ok stýra allri veröldu, ok þaðan  
*and that he may govern and steer all the-world and thence*

af skulum vér á hann trúa, ok engan Guð dýrka útan  
*from shall we in him believe and no God worship except*  
hann einn, sannan ok sælan í sínu veldi”.  
*him alone true and blessed in his power*

## VI · THE THAW

*The assembly agrees to all Arnórr has said. That night the bitter frost gives way to a warm south wind and a thaw, and the grass soon grows for the livestock. Arnórr's people rejoice and accept Christianity when it is preached to them shortly afterward. The tale ends with Arnórr's descent, back to Ragnarr loðbrók.*

Enn er allir þeir, er þar váru saman komnir, játuðu sér  
*But when all they who there were together come declared themselves*  
þetta allt vel viljat, er hann hafði tjáð ok talat, þá  
*this all well willed which he had set-forth and spoken then*  
slitu þeir með því þinginu. Þá var hinn snarpasti kuldi ok  
*broke-up they with that the-assembly Then was the sharpest cold and*  
frost, sem langan tíma hafði áður verit, ok hinir grimmustu  
*frost as a-long time had before been and the grimmest*  
norðanvindar; enn svelli ok hinu harðasta hjarni var steyp  
*north-winds but with-ice and the hardest frozen-snow was cast*  
yfir alla jörð, svá at hvergi stóð upp. Enn á næstu nótt  
*over all (the)-earth so that nowhere stood up But in (the)-next night*  
eftir þann fund, skiftist svá skjótt um með guðligri forsjá  
*after that meeting changed so quickly about with divine providence*  
ýmisleikr loftsin, at um morgininn eftir var á brautu allr  
*(the)-variableness of-the-air that in the-morning after was off away all*  
grimmleikr frostins, enn kominn í staðinn hlær sunnanvindr  
*(the)-grimness of-the-frost but come in the-place a-warm south-wind*  
ok hinn bezi þeyr. Gerði þaðan af hægja veðráttu ok blíðar  
*and the best thaw (It)-made thence from mild weather and gentle*

sólbráðir; skaut upp jörðu dag frá degi, svá at á skömmu  
*sun-thaws shot up earth day from day so that in short*  
 bragði fekk allr fénaðr gnógt gras af jörðu til viðrlifnaðar.  
*time got all livestock plenty-of grass from (the)-earth for sustenance*  
 Glöddust þá allir með miklum fagnaði, er þeir höfðu hlýtt  
*Rejoiced then all with great joy when they had heeded*  
 því miskunnar ráði, er Arnórr hafði til lagt með þeim,  
*that mercy's counsel which Arnor had thereto laid with them*  
 ok tóku þegar í mót svá gnógligum velgerning guðligar  
*and took at-once in against so abundant a-benefaction of-divine*  
 gjafar, ok fyrir því gengu allir þingmenn Arnórs kerlingarnefs,  
*gift and for that went all (the)-thingmen of-Arnor Hag's-Nose*  
 karlar ok konur fljótt ok feginsamliga með sínum höfðingja  
*men and women quickly and gladly with their chieftain*  
 undir helga siðsemi sannrar trúar, er þeim var litlu síðar  
*under (the)-holy morality of-true faith which to-them was a-little later*  
 boðut, því at á fárra vetra fresti var kristni lögtekin  
*preached because that in a-few winters' space was Christianity law-taken*  
 um allt Ísland. Arnórr kerlingarnef var son Bjarnar  
*through all Iceland Arnor Hag's-Nose was (the)-son of-Bjorn*  
 Þórðarsonar frá Höfða. Móðir Bjarnar hét Þórgerðr  
*Thord's-son from Hofði (The)-mother of-Bjorn was-called Thorgerd*  
 dóttir Þóris hímu ok Friðgerðar, dóttur Kjarvals Íra-konungs.  
*daughter of-Thorir Hima and of-Fridgerd daughter of-Kjarval King-of-the-Irish*  
 Höfða-Þórðr var son Bjarnar byrðusmjörs, Hróaldssonar  
*Hofða-Thord was son of-Bjorn Burden-Butter Hroald's-son*  
 hryggs, Bjarnarsonar járnsíðu, Ragnarssonar loðbrókar.  
*Spine Bjorn's-son Ironside Ragnar's-son Hairy-breeches*

# Orms þáttur Stórolfssonar

*The Tale of Orm Storolfsson*





*Hængr, who fled Norway after quarreling with King Haraldr over the killing of Hildiríðr's sons, settles land between Þjórská and Markarfljóti. His son Stórolfr, the strongest of men and said to be a shape-changer, has a son, Ormr, strong and skilled at seven but idle and at odds with his father. Taunted as sluggish while loading hay, Ormr throws up the whole load, horse and cart together, and knocks his father off the stack, breaking three of his ribs.*

Hængr hét maðr son Ketils Naumdæla-jarls, enn móðir  
*Haeng was-called a-man son of-Ketil Naumdale-earl but (the)-mother*  
 Ketils jarls hét Hrafnhildr, dóttir Ketils hængs ór  
*of-Ketil (the)-earl was-called Hrafnhild daughter of-Ketil Haeng out-of*  
 Hrafnistu. Hængr var göfugr maðr. Hann varð í missætti  
*Hrafnista Haeng was a-noble man He became in discord*  
 við Harald konung Dofrafóstra af drápi Hildiríðar-sona, ok  
*with Harald (the)-king Dofri's-fosterling over (the)-killing of-Hildirid's-sons and*  
 því stökk hann ór landi. Hængr sigldi vestr í haf at  
*therefore fled he out-of (the)-land Haeng sailed west into (the)-sea to*  
 leita Íslands. Þeir urðu við land varir, ok váru fyrir sunnan  
*seek Iceland They became of land aware and were on south*  
 at komnir; sigldu upp í áros einn mikinn, ok lögðu  
*to come sailed up into a-river-mouth one great and laid*  
 við hit eystra land; sú á heitir nú Þjórská. Þeir könnuðu  
*by the eastern land that river is-called now Thjorsa They explored*  
 víða landit. Hængr var hinn fyrsta vetr fyrir utan Rangá;  
*widely the-land Haeng was the first winter on outside Ranga*  
 enn um várit nam hann land milli Þjórská ok Markarfljóts  
*but in the-spring took he land between Thjorsa and Markarfljot*  
 alt í milli fjalls ok fjöru, ok bjó at Hofi við Rangá hina  
*all in between fell and shore and dwelt at Hof by Ranga the*  
 eystri. Ingunn hét kona hans; hon fæddi son um várit,  
*eastern Ingunn was-called wife his she bore a-son in the-spring*

er Hrafn hét. Hængr gaf land skipverjum sínum, enn seldi  
*who Hrafn was-called Haeng gave land to-shipmates his but sold*  
 sumum, ok eru þeir landnámamenn kallaðir. Herjólfur hét  
*to-some and are they settlers called Herjolf was-called*  
 annarr son Hængs; hans son var Sumarliði; Helgi hét  
*(the)-second son of-Haeng his son was Sumarlidi Helgi was-called*  
 hinn þriði; Vestarr hét hinn fjórði. Hrafn Hængsson var  
*the third Vestar was-called the fourth Hrafn Haeng's-son was*  
 fyrstr lögsögumaðr á Íslandi; hann bjó at Hofi eftir föður  
*(the)-first lawspeaker in Iceland he dwelt at Hof after father*  
 sinn. Þórlaug var dóttir hans, er átti Jörundr goði. Hinn  
*his Thorlaug was daughter his whom had Jorund (the)-Priest The*  
 fimta son átti Hængr, er Stórólfr hét; hann er kallaðr  
*fifth son had Haeng who Storolf was-called he is called*  
 mestr sona hans, enn Hrafn göfgastr. Stórólfr átti Þórörnu,  
*greatest of-sons his but Hrafn noblest Storolf had Thororna*  
 systur Þorbjarnar skólms, þess er faðir var Þórálfr. Stórólfr  
*sister of-Thorbjorn Skolm that-one who father was of-Thoralf Storolf*  
 bjó at Hvoli, er síðan var kallaðr Stórólfsrhvöll. Stórólfr var  
*dwelt at Hvoll which since was called Storolfshvöll Storolf was*  
 allra manna sterkastr ok þat var allra manna mál, at hann  
*of-all men strongest and that was of-all men (the)-talk that he*  
 væri eigi einhamr; hann var fróðr maðr ok margviss; var  
*were not of-one-shape he was a-knowledgeable man and much-knowing was*  
 hann af því kallaðr fjölkunnigr. Hann átti son við Þórörnu  
*he for that called magic-wise He had a-son with Thororna*  
 konu sinni, er Ormr er nefndr; hann var snemmendis bæði  
*wife his who Orm is named he was early both*  
 mikill ok sterkr, ok vel at íþróttum búinn, því at þá  
*big and strong and well in accomplishments furnished because that then*  
 er hann var sjö vetra samvægðir hann hinum sterkustum  
*when he was seven winters matched he the strongest*



mönnum um afl ok allar íþróttir. Ekki hafði hann  
*men in strength and all accomplishments Not had he*  
 ástríki mikit af föður sínum, enda var hann honum ódæll,  
*fondness much from father his and was he to-him unruly*  
 ok vildi ekki vinna; enn móðir hans unni honum mikit.  
*and would not work but mother his loved him much*  
 Ekki lagðist Ormr í eldaskála. Óx hann nú upp þann veg  
*Not lay Orm in (the)-fire-hall Grew he now up that way*  
 til hann var tólf vetra gamall. Stórólfr var iðjumaðr mikill  
*until he was twelve winters old Storolf was a-worker great*  
 ok verks ígjarn. Þat var einn dag um sumarit, at Stórólfr  
*and of-work eager It was one day in the-summer that Storolf*  
 lét fœra hey saman, ok gengu fernir eykir. Stórólfr hlóð  
*had bring hay together and went four yoke-beasts Storolf loaded*  
 heyi, enn handfátt varð upp at bera; enn honum þótti heldr  
*hay but short-handed was up to carry but to-him seemed rather*  
 regnligt gerast; kallaði hann þá á Orm son sinn, ok bað  
*rainy to-become called he then on Orm son his and bade*  
 hann til hjálpa ok leggja upp heyit; Ormr gerði ok svá.  
*him to help and lay up the-hay Orm did also so*  
 Enn er í tók at draga skúrirnar, gerðist Stórólfr mikilvirkr  
*But when in began to draw the-showers became Storolf hard-working*  
 á heyinu, ok eggjaði Orm fast, at hann skyldi duga  
*on the-hay and urged Orm hard that he should bestir-himself*  
 ok neyta aflsins, ok sagði hann bæði slyttinn ok linaflaðan,  
*and use the-strength and called him both sluggish and weak-strengthed*  
 ok meirr gefinn vöxtr enn afli eðr harka. Ormr reiddist  
*and more given growth than strength or hardness Orm grew-angry*  
 nú, ok bar upp fúlguna alla á lítilli stundu, ok í því kom  
*now and bore up the-beap all in little while and in that came*  
 at eykrinn; greip Ormr þá upp hlassit ok hestinn með  
*to the-yoke-beast grabbed Orm then up the-load and the-horse with*

öllum akfœrunum, ok kastaði upp á heyit, ok svá snart,  
*all the-cart-gear and threw up onto the-bay and so sharply*  
 at Stórólfr karl fell út af heyinu ok ofan í geilina.  
*that Storolf (the)-old-man fell out off the-bay and down into the-bay-lane*  
 Varð þat svá þungt fall, at brotnaði í honum þrjú rifin.  
*Was that so heavy a-fall that broke in him three ribs*  
 Stórólfr mælti þá: “Illt er at eggja ofstopamennina, ok er  
*Storolf spoke then Ill is to urge the-overbearing-men and is*  
 þat auðsét, at þú munt ófyrirleitinn verða”. Mikil afraun  
*that easy-seen that you will reckless become A-great strength-trial*  
 þótti þetta öllum mönnum, af jafnungum manni sýnd.  
*seemed this to-all men by so-young a-man shown*

## II • ORMR MOWS

*Sent to mow, Ormr breaks the scythe and snath his father gives him and forges his own from two quarters of iron, fitted to a beam. He mows all day, so that the maids cannot rake the swaths, and levels every tussock. His father tells him to stop before he spoils more; the meadows he mowed at Stórólfsbvolll are still smooth, and the strips between the windrows are called task-strips.*

Þat er enn sagt einnhvern dag, at Stórólfr kom at máli við  
*That is also said some day that Storolf came to talk with*  
 Orm son sinn, ok bað hann fara á engjar at slá; “Því  
*Orm son his and bade him go onto (the)-meadows to mow because*  
 at húskörlum gengr lítt í sumar”. “Hvar er ljár sá,  
*that for-the-house-men goes little in (the)-summer Where is (the)-scythe that*  
 er ek skal slá með”? sagði Ormr. Stórólfr fekk honum þá  
*which I shall mow with said Orm Storolf got him then*  
 orf ok nýjan ljá, ok var hvárttveggja mjök stórkostligt.  
*a-snath and a-new scythe and was both very massive*

Ormr vatt ljáinn í sundr milli handa sér, en steig í  
*Orm twisted the-scythe in pieces between hands his and stepped in*  
 sundr orfit, ok kvað sér hvárki skyldu. Snýr Ormr  
*two the-snath and said for-himself neither would(-do) Turns Orm*  
 þá í brottu, ok fær sér tvá fjórðunga járn, ok ferr til  
*then off away and gets himself two quarters of-iron and goes to*  
 smiðju, ok gerir sér ljá. Síðan tók hann sér einn ás  
*(the)-smithy and makes himself a-scythe Afterward took he himself one beam*  
 ór viðar-bulungi, ok gerði sér mátuliga hátt, ok færði  
*out-of a-timber-log and made himself fittingly high and put*  
 í tvá hœla stóra, ok lét þar í koma ljáinn þann nýja, ok  
*in two handles great and had there in come the-scythe the new and*  
 vafði síðan með járn; gekk síðan ofan á engjar.  
*wound(-it) afterward with iron went afterward down onto (the)-meadows*  
 Þar var svá háttat landslagi, at þar var þýft mjök, enn  
*There was so arranged the-lay-of-the-land that there was tussocky much but*  
 bæði loðit ok gragott. Ormr tók til at slá, ok slær þann  
*both shaggy and grass-good Orm took to to mow and mows that*  
 dag allan til kvelds. Stórólfr sendi griðkonur sínar at raka  
*day all until evening Storolf sent maidservants his to rake*  
 ljána eftir Ormi. Enn er þær kvámu á engjarnar, sá þær  
*the-swaths after Orm But when they came onto the-meadows saw they*  
 at Ormr hafði haft múga-slátt; tóku þær þá til ok ætluðu  
*that Orm had had windrow-mowing took they then to and meant*  
 at hvirfla heyit; enn þat gekk þeim eigi svá greitt sem þær  
*to toss the-bay but that went for-them not so readily as they*  
 ætluðu, því at þær gátu öngan múga hroert, hvárki með  
*meant because that they could no windrow stir neither with*  
 hrífu né höndum; fóru heim síðan ok sögðu bónda. Fór  
*rake nor hands went home afterward and told (the)-farmer Went*  
 hann þá, ok reið á engjar um kveldit. Sá hann þá at  
*he then and rode onto (the)-meadows in the-evening Saw he then that*

Ormr hafði slegit af þúfur allar, ok fœrt þær saman í  
*Orm had mowed off (the)-tussocks all and brought them together into*  
múga. Hann bað hann þá upp gefa, ok ónýta eigi meira.  
*windrows He bade him then up give and spoil not more*  
Ormr gerði þá ok svá, ok var þá ljár hans máðr upp í  
*Orm did then also so and was then scythe his worn up into*  
smiðreim. Þá hafði Ormr slegit átta stakka völl, ok þær einar  
*(the)-tang Then had Orm mowed eight stacks' field and those alone*  
engjar eru sléttar á Stórólshvoli, ok er kallaðr ákvæðis-teigr  
*meadows are smooth at Storolfshvoll and is called (the)-task-strip*  
milli hverra múga; sér þess alls merki enn í dag.  
*between each windrow sees of-that all (the)-marks still in day*

### III · DÚFÞAKR'S HAYSTACK

*Stórólfr's neighbor Dúfþakr, a troll-like man, is his enemy, and some say he later caused his death. In a hard winter Dúfþakr refuses to sell hay but lets Ormr take a load. Told to take from the smaller stack, Ormr carries off the larger on his back with ropes (some say the smaller too), and Dúfþakr's demand for payment is refused. Stórólfr now values his son more, while the ill will with Dúfþakr grows.*

Dúfþakr er maðr nefndr; hann bjó á þeim bæ, er heitir  
*Duftbak is a-man named he dwelt at that farm which is-called*  
í Holti, ok er síðan kallat í Dúfþaksholti. Dúfþakr var  
*at Holt and is since called at Duftbaksholt Duftbak was*  
mikill ok mjök tryldr, svá at hann var eigi einhamr. Þeir  
*big and very troll-like so that he was not of-one-shape They*  
Stórólfr eldu löngum grátt silfr, enn stundum váru  
*Storolf(-and-Duftbak) forged long gray silver but at-times were*  
með þeim blíðskapir; enn þó átti með þeim illan enda at  
*between them friendships but yet had between them an-ill end at*

síðustu, því at þat segja sumir menn at Dúfbakr yrði  
*last because that that say some men that Dufthak became*  
 Stórólfi at bana. Nú líðr áfram, þar til Ormr var átján  
*to-Storolf to death Now passes forward there until Orm was eighteen*  
 vetra gamall; þá kom vetr mikill, svá at gerði jarðbönn,  
*winters old then came a-winter great so that made(-it) ground-frost*  
 enn Stórólfr hafði fénaðar margt; tók þá at draga fast at  
*but Storolf had livestock much began then to draw hard at*  
 heyjum hans, er á leið, svá at hann þóttist sjá fyrir,  
*hay his as on went so that he thought-himself to-see before*  
 at hann mundi fella fénað sinn, ef öngra bragða væri í  
*that he would lose livestock his if no shifts were in*  
 leitat, því at hey kunni hvergi at fá í byggðinni, útan  
*sought because that hay could nowhere to get in the-settlement except*  
 Dúfbakr hafði hey með afgöngum, ok vildi við öngan af  
*Dufthak had hay with surplus and would with none of(-it)*  
 standa. Þá var heldr fátt með þeim Stórólfi. Stórólfr  
*part Then was rather cool between them Storolf(-and-Dufthak) Storolf*  
 sendi þá Orm son sinn til móts við Dúfbak, at fá af  
*sent then Orm son his to meet with Dufthak to get from*  
 honum nökkut af heyi, því at þá gerðist tímum mjök  
*him some of hay because that then became of-times much*  
 fram komit, enn fénaðr dreginn mjök. Ormr fór þá til  
*forth come but (the)-livestock drawn much Orm went then to*  
 móts við Dúfbak, ok falaði af honum hey; enn hann  
*meet with Dufthak and bargained from him hay but he*  
 kvaðst ekki til sölu hafa. Enn er Ormr herti fast at,  
*said-of-himself not for sale to-have But when Orm pressed hard at*  
 þá sagði Dúfbakr, at hann skyldi hafa byrði sína, ef hann  
*then said Dufthak that he should have load his if he*  
 vildi. “Ok má ykkir þó at gagni koma, ef svá mikit leggri  
*would And may for-you-two yet to use come if so much lays*

hverr til í byggðinni". Ormr svarar: "Þetta er lítit tillát,  
*each to in the-settlement Orm answers This is little concession*  
 enn þó skal ek hafa, eður hvar skal ek af taka"? "Út  
*but yet shall I have(-it) or where shall I from take Out*  
 í garði", segir Dúfbakr, "standa tveir heykleggjar, annarr  
*in (the)-yard says Dufthak stand two haystacks one*  
 fjögurra faðma enn annarr tveggja, ok vel tveggja faðma  
*of-four fathoms but (the)-other of-two and fully of-two fathoms*  
 þykkt ok því nærri hátt, ok þykkir ván at sígit muni; þar  
*thick and that near high and seems likely that settled may-be there*  
 skaltú hafa af hinu minna". "Ek mun fara heim fyrst",  
*shall-you have from the smaller I will go home first*  
 segir Ormr, "ok sækja mér bendi". Ok svá gerði hann;  
*says Orm and fetch myself a-rope And so did he*  
 sagði nú föður sínum. "Þetta er göngumannliga til látit",  
*told now father his This is beggarly to granted*  
 segir Stórólfr, "enda skal hann hér ekki verð fyrir hafa;  
*says Storolf and shall he here not worth for have*  
 ok þykkir mér þó ráð, at ek sækja heldr byrðina, því  
*and seems to-me yet counsel that I fetch rather the-load because*  
 at ek mun heldr borit fá enn þú". "Eigi skal þat vera",  
*that I will rather carried get than you Not shall that be*  
 sagði Ormr, "því at svá mikit var gefit sem ek bæra".  
*said Orm because that so much was given as I might-carry*  
 "Hertú þik þá, mannskræfan", segir Stórólfr. Snýr Ormr  
*Brace-you yourself then coward says Storolf Turns Orm*  
 þá í brottu ok til gerfibúrs, ok tekr reip á tíu hesta,  
*then off away and to (the)-gear-store and takes ropes for ten horses*  
 ok leysir af hagldir; kastar þá saman bæði at lengd ok  
*and loosens off (the)-toggles throws then together both in length and*  
 digrð, svá at hann gerir ór eitt; gengr síðan yfir  
*thickness so that he makes out-off(-them) one goes afterward over*

í Holt ok at heygarðinum, ok brýtr á hlið; gengr inn  
*to Holt and to the-hay-yard and breaks on (the)-side goes in*  
 í garðinn, ok at hinum meira heykleggjanum, ok ryðr af  
*into the-yard and to the bigger haystack and clears off*  
 ofan torfi, ok því sem verst var orðit. Síðan styðr hann  
*above turf and that which worst was become Afterward braces he*  
 á höndum, ok losar til heyit niðri við jörðina; dregr  
*on hands and loosens thereto the-hay beneath by the-earth draws*  
 síðan undir reipin, ok bregðr í hagldirnar, ok vendir um  
*afterward under the-ropes and throws into the-toggles and turns about*  
 heyinu. Færst hann þá undir í fatla, ok vegr upp á  
*the-hay Puts-himself he then under into (the)-sling and heaves up onto*  
 herðar sér. Enn þat segja sumir menn, at hann hafi haft  
*shoulders his But that say some men that he have had*  
 hinn minna kleggja í fyrir. Gekk hann með þetta heim til  
*the smaller stack in for(-it) Went he with this home to*  
 Stórólfsþvols; var bóndi úti ok sá; fanst honum mikit  
*Storolfsþvoll was (the)-farmer outside and saw was-found to-him much*  
 um, ok lét ásannast, at hann mundi eigi sjálfr svá miklu  
*about and let be-proved that he would not himself so much*  
 orkat hafa. Var þá inn borit í hlöðu, ok var hon þá  
*accomplished have Was then in carried into (the)-barn and was it then*  
 full. Dugði þetta hey svá vel fénaði Stórólfs bónda,  
*full Sufficed this hay so well for-the-livestock of-Storolf (the)-farmer*  
 at hann feldi ekki um vart. Var síðan betr í frændsemi  
*that he lost none in the-spring Was afterward better in kinship*  
 þeira feðga þaðan af enn áðr, því at Stórólfr sá,  
*of-them father-and-son thence from than before because that Storolf saw*  
 hvert afbragð Ormr var annarra manna. Enn er Dúfþakr  
*what a-paragon Orm was of-other men But when Dufþak*  
 karl kom út um daginn, ok sá vegsummerki, at í  
*(the)-old-man came out during the-day and saw (the)-traces that in*

burtu váru hey hans bæði, enn þat eina eftir, er vettugi  
*away were haystacks his both but that one left which nothing*  
 var nýtt, ok þó eigi vel at unnit; sá hann ok, hvar Ormr  
*was worth and yet not well at worked saw he also where Orm*  
 gekk ór garði, ok bar heykleggjana báða; þótti honum  
*went out-of (the)-yard and bore the-haystacks both seemed to-him*  
 mikil furða í, hversu stóra byrði Ormr gat borit. Enn um  
*great wonder in how great a-load Orm could carry But in*  
 várit fór Dúfbak til Hvols, ok heimti heyverð at Stórólfi,  
*the-spring went Duftbak to Hvoll and claimed hay-price from Storolf*  
 ok fekk ekki. Þótti honum ekki minna vert enn sex kúgilda.  
*and got nothing Seemed to-him not less worth than six cow-values*  
 Leiddi af þessu langan óþokka með þeim Stórólfi  
*Led from this long ill-will between them Storolf(-and-Duftbak)*  
 ok mikinn fjandskap, sem síðar mun sagt verða.  
*and great enmity as later will told be*

IV · STRENGTH TRIALS AT THE ASSEMBLY

*At twenty Ormr rides to the Althing. Þórálfr Skólmsson straightens four iron shoes and Ormr bends them all at once. Melkólfr lifts a sand-filled bath kettle with one hand, Þórálfr with two fingers, and Ormr with his little finger, which he hides; men think the flesh is torn to the bone. Men say he is the strongest man in Iceland who was not a shape-changer.*

Enn er Ormr var tvítugr at aldri reið hann til alþingis  
*But when Orm was twenty at age rode he to (the)-Althing*  
 sem oftár; þá var þingit fjölmennt. Þórálfr Skólmsson var  
*as often then was the-assembly thronged Thoralf Skolm's-son was*  
 kominn á þingit norðan frá Myrká ór Hörgárdal,  
*come to the-assembly from-the-north from Myrka out-of Horgardal*



frændi Orms. Með honum var sá maðr, er Melkólfr hét;  
*a-kinsman of-Orm With him was that man who Melkolf was-called*  
hann hafði sex karla afl. Þeir váru allir í búð með  
*he had six men's strength They were all in (the)-booth with*  
Jörundi goða, mági Orms. Jörundi goða váru  
*Jorund (the)-Priest kinsman-by-marriage of-Orm To-Jorund (the)-Priest were*  
gefnir aurskór einir; þeir váru svá stórir ok járnmiklir, at  
*given mud-shoes one-pair they were so big and iron-heavy that*  
þeir stóðu hálft pund saumlausir. Þeir fóru um búðina til  
*they weighed half a-pound nail-less They went through the-booth for*  
sýnis. Enn er skórnir komu til Þórálfs, tók hann skóna  
*show But when the-shoes came to Thoralf took he the-shoes*  
fjóra ok lét saman ok held á nökkura stund; rétti  
*four and laid(-them) together and held on some while banded*  
síðan at Ormi, ok váru þá allir réttir sem kerti. Ormr  
*afterward to Orm and were then all straight as candles Orm*  
tók við, ok beygði í einu alla skóna fjóra, sem áðr höfðu  
*took with and bent in one all the-shoes four as before had*  
verit, ok þótti þetta mikil aflraun hvárttveggja. Enn um  
*been and seemed this a-great strength-trial both But in*  
daginn, er þeir gengu út, stóð hituketill hjá heituhúsinu,  
*the-day when they went out stood a-bath-kettle by the-bath-house*  
sá er tók tvær tunnur. Hann fyldu þeir upp af sandi.  
*that-one which took two barrels It filled they up with sand*  
Eftir þat gekk at Melkólfr, ok fleytti honum með annarri  
*After that went to Melkolf and raised it with one*  
hendi. Þórálfr gekk þá at, ok lyfti honum upp með tveimr  
*hand Thoralf went then to and lifted it up with two*  
fingrum. Síðast gekk at Ormr, ok krækti undir hödduna  
*fingers Last went to Orm and hooked under the-handle*  
hinum minsta fingri, ok fleytti honum jafnhátt ökla, ok  
*the smallest finger and raised it as-high-as (the)-ankle and*

brá hendinni undir kápuna. Þórálfr mælti: “Sýn mér nú  
*drew the-hand under the-cape Thoralf spoke Show me now*  
 fingrinn”. “Eigi vil ek þat”, segir Ormr. “Kost áttu ek at  
*the-finger Not will I that says Orm Choice had I to*  
 meiða mik, ef ek vilda”, segir Þórálfr, “ok vilda ek eigi”.  
*hurt myself if I would-wish says Thoralf and would-wish I not*  
 Mönnum þótti sem í sundr hefði gengit hold ok sinar  
*To-men seemed as-if in pieces had gone flesh and sinews*  
 niðr at beini. Síðan riðu menn heim af þingi, ok sat  
*down to (the)-bone Afterward rode men home from (the)-assembly and sat*  
 Ormr um kyrrt. Mikils þótti mönnum vert um aflraunir  
*Orm about quiet Much seemed to-men worth about (the)-strength-trials*  
 Orms, þær sem hann hafði gert, ok gerði síðan því meiri,  
*of-Orm those which he had done and did afterward the greater*  
 sem hann var þá ellri, ok því er þat allra manna mál,  
*as he was then older and therefore is that of-all men (the)-talk*  
 vina hans ok óvina, at hann hafi sterkast maðr verit á  
*of-friends his and of-enemies that he have (the)-strongest man been in*  
 öllu Íslandi bæði at fornu ok nýju, sá er einhamr hefir verit.  
*all Iceland both in old and new he who of-one-shape has been*

V • THE SEERESS'S PROPHECY

*In Denmark Virfill's son Ásbjörn prúði grows up handsome and courtly. A seeress visiting the farm foretells that he will travel widely and die old unless he goes to Norðmæri in Norway, and she speaks a verse telling him he will meet his death there. Ásbjörn travels abroad and stays often with his mother's kin in Norway.*

Virfill hét maðr; hann átti at ráða fyrir einu þorpi í  
*Virfil was-called a-man he had to rule over one village in*  
 Danmörk, þar er á Vendilskaga heitir. Þeir váru bræðr ok  
*Denmark there where at Vendilskagi is-called They were brothers and*

Véseti í Borgundarhólmi. Virfill var kvángaðr maðr, ok átti  
*Veseti in Bornholm Virfil was a-married man and had*  
 einn son við konu sinni, er Ásbjörn er nefndr. Hann var  
*one son with wife his who Asbjorn is named He was*  
 snemma mikill ok vænn, ok vel at íþróttum búinn; hann  
*early big and handsome and well in accomplishments furnished he*  
 var hverjum manni kurteisari; af því var hann kallaðr Ásbjörn  
*was than-every man more-courtly for that was he called Asbjorn*  
 þrúði. Þat var þá tízka í þær mundir, at konur þær  
*(the)-Proud It was then (the)-fashion in those times that women those*  
 fóru yfir land, er völrur vóru kallaðar, ok sögðu mönnum  
*went through (the)-land who seeresses were called and told men*  
 fyrir örlög sín, árferð ok aðra hluti, þá er menn vildu  
*beforehand fates their (the)-seasons and other things those which men would*  
 vísir verða. Þessi sveit kom til Virfils bónda; var völnni  
*aware become This company came to Virfil (the)-farmer was the-seeress*  
 þar vel fagnat, því at þar var veizla hin bezta. Enn er  
*there well welcomed because that there was a-feast the best But when*  
 menn vóru komnir í sæti um kveldit, var völvann frétt  
*men were come into seats in the-evening was the-seeress asked*  
 at forspám sínum; enn hon sagði, at Virfill mundi þar til  
*for prophecies her but she said that Virfil would there until*  
 elli búa, ok þykkja nýtr bóndi. “Enn þeim unga manni,  
*old-age dwell and seem a-useful farmer But to-that young man*  
 er þar sitr hjá þér, bóndi, er gott at heyra sín forlög, því  
*who there sits by you farmer is good to hear his fates because*  
 at hann mun fara víða, ok þykkja þar mestr maðr, sem  
*that he will go widely and seem there greatest man where*  
 þá er hann helzt, ok vinna margt til framaverka, ok verða  
*then is he most and work many for deeds-of-renown and become*  
 ellidauðr, ef hann kemr eigi á Norðmæri í Noregi, eðr norðr  
*old-age-dead if he comes not to Nordmore in Norway or north*

þaðan í þat land". "Þat ætla ek", sagði Ásbjörn, "at ek sé  
*thence into that land That think I said Asbjorn that I be*  
 eigi feigari þar en hér". "Muntú eigi ráða því, hvat er  
*not more-doomed there than here Will-you not rule that what which*  
 þú ætlar", segir völván, ok varð henni þá ljóð af munni:  
*you intend says the-seeress and came to-her then a-song from mouth*

Þó at þú látir  
*Though that you let*  
 yfir lögu breiða  
*over sea broad*  
 byrhest renna,  
*wind-horse run*  
 ok berist víða,  
*and be-borne widely*  
 nær mun leggja  
*near will lie*  
 at norðr á Mœri  
*that north in More*  
 þú bana hljótir.  
*you death get*  
 Bezt mun at þegja.  
*Best will to be-silent*

Síðan var völván þar svá lengi sem ætlat var, ok leyst í  
*Afterward was the-seeress there so long as intended was and sent off*  
 burt með góðum gjöfum. Ásbjörn óx nú upp; enn þegar at  
*away with good gifts Asbjorn grew now up but as-soon as*  
 aldr fœrðist yfir hann, þá hafði hann sik í förum til ýmissa  
*age passed over him then had he himself in journeys to various*  
 landa, ok kynndi sér svá siðu annarra manna, ok var  
*lands and acquainted himself so (the)-customs of-other men and was*

mikils metinn af öllum höfðingjum. Móðir hans var ættuð  
*much esteemed by all chieftains (The)-mother his was descended*  
 norðan ór Noregi af Hörðalandi ok Norðmæri, komin af  
*from-the-north out-of Norway from Hordaland and Nordmore come of*  
 ætt Bifru-Kára. Sat Ásbjörn þar löngum hjá móðurfrændum  
*(the)-kin of-Bifru-Kari Sat Asbjorn there long by mother's-kinsmen*  
 sínum, mikils metinn sakir íþróttanna sinna ok atgervi.  
*his much esteemed for-sake of-accomplishments his and prowess*

## VI · ORMR AND ÁSBJÖRN

*At thirty Ormr sails abroad and meets Ásbjörn, and they swear foster-brotherhood. Ásbjörn wants to visit kinsmen in Mæri and learns of two islands called Sauðey, one ruled by the giant Brúsi and his cat-shaped mother. Ormr dissuades him, and they raid together and win Gautland. Ásbjörn mocks the seeress in a verse. In spring they leave Gautland and winter in Norway with Özurr, and the spring after they part; Ormr returns to Iceland, where his father has died in a quarrel with Dúfþakr.*

Nú er þar til at taka, er fyrr var frá horfit, at Ormr  
*Now is there to to take-up where before was from turned that Orm*  
 Stórolfsson sat á Íslandi. Ok er hann var kominn á  
*Storolf's-son sat in Iceland And when he was come to*  
 þrítugs aldr, tók hann sér far með þeim manni, er  
*thirtieth age took he himself passage with that man who*  
 Özurr hörzki hét, er skip átti uppi standanda í Þjorsá,  
*Ozur Hordish was-called who a-ship had up standing in Thjorsa*  
 ok fór útan með honum. Özurr átti garð á Hörðalandi, ok  
*and went abroad with him Ozur had a-farm in Hordaland and*  
 sat Ormr hjá honum um vetr. Þá var Ásbjörn þrúði á  
*sat Orm by him over winter Then was Asbjorn (the)-Proud in*  
 Hörðalandi, ok bar oft saman fundi þeira Orms, ok  
*Hordaland and bore often together meetings of-them Orm(-and-Asbjorn) and*

fell vel á með þeim, ok gerðist þar skjótt vinátta. Reyndu  
*fell well on between them and arose there quickly friendship Tried*  
 þeir margar íþróttir, ok váru á allar jafnir, þær sem eigi  
*they many accomplishments and were in all equal those which not*  
 reyndi afl með; enn miklu var Ormr sterkari. Svá kom,  
*tested strength with but much was Orm stronger So came*  
 at þeir sórust í fóstbræðralag at fornum sið, at  
*that they swore-themselves into foster-brotherhood after old custom that*  
 hvárr skyldi annars hefna, sá er lengr lifði, ef hinn yrði  
*each should (the)-other avenge he who longer lived if the-other became*  
 vápndauðr. Enn um várit talaði Ásbjörn við Orm, at  
*weapon-dead But in the-spring spoke Asbjorn with Orm that*  
 hann vildi fara norðr á Mœri, at hitta Eyvind snák ok  
*he would go north to More to meet Eyvind Snake and*  
 Bergþór bestil frændr sína. “Er mér ok forvitni á”, segir  
*Bergthor Bestil kinsmen his Is to-me also curiosity on(-it) says*  
 hann, “at vita, hvárt þegar dettr lif ór mér, er ek kem  
*he to know whether at-once falls life out-of me when I come*  
 þar, sem sagði völvan arma”. Ormr lézt þeirar farar búinn:  
*there as said the-seeress wretched Orm professed of-that journey ready*  
 “Enn eigi þykki mér þú þar mega um keppa, því at  
*But not seems to-me you there can about contend because that*  
 gnógu margt vita þess háttar menn, sem hon er”. Síðan  
*enough much know of-that kind men as she is Afterward*  
 fóru þeir á tveim skipum norðr á Mœri, ok tók Eyvindr  
*went they on two ships north to More and took Eyvind*  
 ok Bergþórr allvel við Ásbirni frænda sínum, því at þeir  
*and Bergthor very-well with Asbjorn kinsman their because that they*  
 váru systkina synir. Þetta var á ofanverðum dögum Hákonar  
*were of-siblings sons This was in latter days of-Hakon*  
 Hlaðájarls. Þar spurði Ásbjörn, at eyjar tvær lágu norðr  
*Hladir-earl There learned Asbjorn that islands two lay north*

fyrir landi, ok hét hvártveggja Sauðey; ok réð fyrir  
*off (the)-land and was-called each Sauðey and ruled over*  
 inni ytri eyinni jötunn, sá er Brúsi hét. Hann var  
*the outer island a-giant that-one who Brusi was-called He was*  
 mikit tröll ok mannæta, ok ætluðu menn, at hann mundi  
*a-great troll and man-eater and thought men that he would*  
 aldri af mennskum mönnum unninn verða, hversu margir  
*never by human men overcome be how many*  
 sem væri: enn móðir hans var þó verri viðreignar; enn  
*as were but mother his was yet worse to-deal-with but*  
 þat var kolsvört ketta, ok svá mikil, sem þau blótnaut at  
*that was a-coal-black cat and so big as those sacrifice-bulls that*  
 stöerst verða. Engi gæði höfðu menn af landi ór hvárigri  
*biggest become No benefits had men of land out-of either*  
 eyinni fyrir þessum meinvættum. Gerðist Ásbjörn fúss at fara  
*island for these evil-beings Became Asbjorn eager to go*  
 til eyjanna, enn Ormr af latti, ok kvað fátt verra  
*to the-islands but Orm off(-it) dissuaded and said few-things worse*  
 enn við fjáendr slíka at eiga; ok því varð ekki af ferðinni.  
*than with fiends such to deal and so became nothing of the-journey*  
 Heldu þeir um sumarit suðr í Danmörk, ok sátu hjá Virfli  
*Held they in the-summer south to Denmark and sat by Virfil*  
 um vetrinn. Enn at vetri liðnum ok vári komnu, heldu  
*over the-winter But at winter passed and spring come held*  
 þeir í hernað með fimm skip, ok fóru víða um eyjar ok  
*they into raiding with five ships and went widely through islands and*  
 útsker, ok höfðu sigr ok gagn, hvar er þeir komu. Urðu  
*skerries and had victory and gain wherever that they came Became*  
 þá eigi aðrir menn frægri í víkingu heldr enn þeir. Enn  
*then not other men more-famous in viking-raids rather than they But*  
 um sumarit, er á leið, lögðu þeir til Gautlands ok herjuðu  
*in the-summer when on passed laid they to Gautland and raided*

þar. Þá réð þar fyrir sá jarl, er Herrauðr hét. Þar  
*there Then ruled there over that earl who Herraud was-called There*  
 áttu þeir marga bardaga, ok fengu vald yfir landinu, ok sátu  
*had they many battles and got power over the-land and sat*  
 þar vetr hinn þriðja. Þar váru drykkjur stórar um vetrinn  
*there winter the third There were drinkings great over the-winter*  
 ok gleði mikil. Þat var einn dag um vetrinn, er þeir  
*and joy great It was one day in the-winter when they*  
 Ásbjörn sátu ok drukku, þá kvað Ásbjörn vísu þessa:  
*Asbjorn(-and-Orm) sat and drank then spoke Asbjorn verse this*

Sagði mér á seiði,  
*Told me at (the)-spell-rite*  
 söng um þat löngum,  
*sang about that long*  
 at ek feigum fœti  
*that I with-doomed foot*  
 fœri norðr á Mœri,  
*would-go north to More*  
 vætki vissi völvu,  
*nothing knew (the)-seeress*  
 vera mun'k enn með mönnum  
*be will-I still with men*  
 glaðr í Gautaveldi,  
*glad in Gautland's-realm*  
 grennir mjök spár hennar.  
*thins much prophecies her*

Um várit fóru þeir Ormr ok Ásbjörn, ok undu þar eigi  
*In the-spring went they Orm and Asbjorn and were-content there not*  
 lengr, ok fóru um sumarit norðr í Danmörk, ok svá til  
*longer and went in the-summer north to Denmark and so to*



Noregs, ok váru þar vetr hinn fjórða með Özuri hörzka. Enn  
*Norway and were there winter the fourth with Ozur Hordish But*  
 um varit töluðust þeir við fóstbræðr; vildi Ásbjörn  
*in the-spring talked they together (the)-foster-brothers wished Asbjorn*  
 í hernað, enn Ormr út til Íslands, ok því skildu þeir,  
*into raiding but Orm out to Iceland and therefore parted they*  
 ok þó með kærleikum ok vináttu. Fór Ormr til Íslands  
*and yet with affection and friendship Went Orm to Iceland*  
 með Özuri hörzka; urðu vel reiðfara, komu skipi sínu í  
*with Ozur Hordish became well journey-fortunate came ship his into*  
 Leiruvág fyrir neðan heiði. Þá frétti Ormr þau tíðindi,  
*Leiruvag on below (the)-heath Then heard Orm those tidings*  
 at Stórolfr karl, faðir hans, hefði dáið í viðskiftum  
*that Storolf (the)-old-man father his had died in dealings*  
 þeira Dúfþaks. Var hann fám mönnum harmdauði.  
*of-them Dufthak(-and-Storolf) Was he to-few men grief-dead*  
 Fór Ormr þá heim til Stórolfshvols, ok setti þar bú  
*Went Orm then home to Storolfshvoll and set there household*  
 saman, ok bjó þar lengi, eftir þat er hann hafði hefnt  
*together and dwelt there long after that when he had avenged*  
 Stórolfs föður síns, eftir því sem segir í Íslendinga-skrá.  
*Storolf father his after that as says in (the)-Icelanders'-book*

## VII · ÁSBJÖRN'S DEATH

*Ásbjörn sails to Sauðey with twenty-four men. The black cat kills twenty of them at the tent, and Brúsi seizes Ásbjörn in his cave, winds his guts around an iron pillar and makes him walk. Ásbjörn dies reciting verses, a death song listing his feats and comrades and saying Ormr would avenge him.*

Litlu síðar enn Ormr ok Ásbjörn höfðu skilit, fýstist Ásbjörn  
*A-little later than Orm and Asbjorn had parted desired Asbjorn*  
 norðr í Sauðeyjar. Fór hann við fjóra menn ok tuttugu  
*north to (the)-Sauðeyjar Went he with four men and twenty*  
 á skipi, — heldr norðr fyrir Mæri, ok leggjr seint dags at  
*on a-ship holds north past More and lays late of-day at*  
 Sauðey hinna ytri, — ganga á land ok reisa tjald; eru þar  
*Sauðey the outer go onto land and raise a-tent are there*  
 um nóttina, ok verða við ekki varir. Um morgininn árla ríss  
*over the-night and become of nothing aware In the-morning early rises*  
 Ásbjörn upp, klæðir sik ok tekr vápn sín, ok gengr upp  
*Asbjorn up clothes himself and takes weapons his and goes up*  
 á land; enn biðr menn sína biða sín. Enn er nökkut  
*onto land but bids men his to-await him But when somewhat*  
 svá var liðit frá því, er Ásbjörn hafði í brott gengit, verða  
*so was passed from that when Asbjorn had off away gone become*  
 þeir við þat varir, at ketta ógrlig var komin í tjalds-dyrnar.  
*they of that aware that a-cat terrible was come into (the)-tent-door*  
 Hon var kolsvört at lit ok heldr grimmlig, því at eldar  
*She was coal-black in color and rather grim because that fires*  
 þóttu brenna ór nösnum hennar ok munni; eigi var hon ok  
*seemed to-burn out-of nostrils her and mouth not was she also*  
 vel eyg. Þeim brá mjök við þessa sýn, ok urðu óttafullir.  
*well eyed To-them started much at this sight and became fearful*  
 Ketta hleypr þá innar at þeim, ok grípr hvern af öðrum;  
*(The)-cat leaps then further-in at them and grabs each after other*  
 ok svá er sagt, at suma gleypti hon, enn suma rífi hon til  
*and so is said that some swallowed she but some tore she to*  
 dauðs með klóm ok tönnum. Tuttugu menn drap hon þar  
*death with claws and teeth Twenty men killed she there*  
 á litilli stundu, enn þrír komust af ok undan ok á skip,  
*in little while but three got off and away and onto (the)-ship*

ok heldu þegar undan landi. Enn Ásbjörn gengr þar til,  
*and held at-once away-from land But Asbjorn goes there until*  
 er hann kemr at hellinum Brúsa, ok snarast þegar inn í  
*when he comes to the-cave of-Brusi and dashes at-once in in(-it)*  
 Honum var nökkut dimmt fyrir augum, enn skuggamikit  
*To-him was somewhat dark before (the)-eyes but shadowy*  
 var í hellinum. Hann verðr eigi fyrr varr við enn hann er  
*was in the-cave He becomes not sooner aware of than he is*  
 þrífinn á loft, ok færðr niðr svá hart, at Ásbirni þótti  
*seized into (the)-air and brought down so hard that to-Asbjorn seemed*  
 furða í. Verðr hann þess þá varr, at þar er kominn  
*wonder in(-it) Becomes he of-that then aware that there is come*  
 Brúsi jötunn, ok sýndist heldr mikilligr. Brúsi mælti þá:  
*Brusi (the)-giant and seemed rather huge Brusi spoke then*  
 “Þó lagðir þú mikit kapp á at sækja hingat; skaltú nú ok  
*Yet laid you great zeal on to come hither shall-you now also*  
 erindi hafa, því at þú skalt hér lifit láta með svá miklum  
*errand have because that you shall here the-life lose with so great*  
 harmkvælum, at þat skal aðra letja, at sækja mik heim  
*torments that that shall others dissuade to visit me home*  
 með ófriði”. Fletti hann þá Ásbjörn klæðum, því at svá  
*with unpeace Stripped he then Asbjorn of-clothes because that so*  
 var þeira mikill aflamunr, at jötunninn varð einn at ráða  
*was of-them great strength-difference that the-giant became alone to rule*  
 þeira í milli. Bálk mikinn sá Ásbjörn standa um þveran  
*of-them in between A-partition great saw Asbjorn stand about across*  
 hellinn, ok stórt gat á miðjum bálknum; járnúla stór  
*the-cave and a-big hole in middle the-partition an-iron-pillar great*  
 stóð nökkut svá fyrir framan bálkinn. “Nú skal prófa þat”,  
*stood somewhat so in front-of the-partition Now shall test that*  
 segir Brúsi, “hvárt þú ert nökkut harðari enn aðrir menn”.  
*says Brusi whether you are somewhat harder than other men*

“Lítit mun þat at reyna”, segir Ásbjörn, “enn ógæfusamliga

*Little will that to try says Asbjorn but unluckily*

hefir mér tekizt, at ek skylda engri vörn fyrir mik koma,

*has for-me turned-out that I should no defense for myself bring*

ok er þat líkast, at feigð kalli at mér”. Ok kvað vísu þessa:

*and is that likeliest that doom calls at me And spoke verse this*

Sinni má engi

*To-his-own may no-one*

íþrótt treysta,

*skill trust*

aldri er hann svá sterkr

*never is he so strong*

né stórr í huga;

*nor great in mind*

svá bregzt hverjum

*so fails each*

á bana-dægri

*on death-day*

hjarta ok megin

*heart and might*

sem heill bilar.

*as luck breaks*

Síðan opnaði Brúsi kvið á Ásbirni ok náði þarma-enda

*Afterward opened Brusi (the)-belly on Asbjorn and reached gut-end*

hans, ok knýtti um járnsúluna, ok leiddi Ásbjörn þar í

*his and knotted about the-iron-pillar and led Asbjorn there in*

bring um; enn Ásbjörn gekk einart, ok röktust svá á enda  
*ring about but Asbjörn walked steadily and unwound so to (the)-end*  
 allir hans þarmar. Ásbjörn kvað þá vísur þessar jafnframmi:  
*all his guts Asbjörn spoke then verses these at-the-same-time*

Segisk þat minni móður:

*Be-it-said that my mother*  
 mun hon eigi syni kemba  
*will she not (her)-son comb*  
 svarðar-láð á sumri,  
*sword's-land in summer*  
 svanhvít í Danmörku.

*swan-white in Denmark*  
 Hatði'k henni heitit,  
*Had-I her promised*  
 at'k heim koma munda.

*that-I home come would*  
 Nú mun segg á síðu  
*Now will man's on side*  
 sverðs-egg dregin verða.  
*sword's-edge drawn be*

Annat vas þá's inni

*Other was when inside*

ölkátir vèr sátum.

*ale-merry we sat*

ok á fley-skipi fórum

*and on flying-ship went*

fjörð af Hörðalandi;

*fjord from Hordaland*

drukkum mjöð ok mæltum

*drank mead and spoke*

margt orð saman forðum.

*many a-word together formerly*

Nú em'k einn í öngar

*Now am-I alone into narrow*

jötna þröngvar genginn.

*of-giants straits gone*

Annat vas þá's inni

*Other was when inside*

allstórir saman fórum;

*very-great together went*

stóð þar upp í stafni

*stood there up in (the)-prow*

Stórólfs-burr inn frækni,

*Storolf's-son the bold*

þá's langskipum lagði

*when longships laid*

lundr at Eyrarsundi.

*(the)-tree at Oresund*

Nú em'k tældr í tryggðum,

*Now am-I betrayed in truce*

tröllabyggðir kanna.

*troll-dwellings to-explore*

Annat vas þá ek inni

*Other was when I inside*

Ormr at hildar-stormi

*Orm to battle-storm*

gekk ok gráðgum blakki

*went and to-greedy steed*

geitis sýlg at veita.

*of-Geitir drink to give*

Rekk at rómu dökkri

*Man at battle dark*

raunmargan gaf vargi,

*right-many gave to-the-wolf*

seggr ok sárt nam höggva

*man and sorely took to-strike*

svinnr at Ífu-minni.

*wise at Ifa-mouth*

Annat vas þat ek inni

*Other was that I inside*

ek veitta ferð sveittri

*I gave host sweating*

högg með hvassri tuggu

*blows with sharp chewer*

Herjans suðr í skerjum

*of-Herjan south in (the)-skerries*

Elfar, oft nam kólfi

*of-Elf often took arrow*

Ormr hagliga forma,

*Orm skillfully to-shape*

mest þá's miðjungs traustir

*most when of-giant trusty*

mágar eftir lágu.

*kinsmen behind lay*

Annat vas þá ek inni

*Other was when I inside*

allir saman várum,

*all together were*

Gautr ok Geiri,

*Gaut and Geiri*

Glúmr ok Starri,

*Glum and Starri*

Sámr ok Semingr,

*Sam and Seming*

synir Oddvarar,

*sons of-Oddvor*

Haukr ok Hama

*Hauk and Hama*

Hrókr ok Tóki.

*Hrok and Toki*



Annat vas þá ek inni

*Other was when I inside*

oft á sæ fórum:

*often on sea went*

Hrani ok Högni,

*Hrani and Hogni*

Hjálmr ok Stefnir,

*Hjalm and Stefnir*

Grani ok Gunnarr,

*Grani and Gunnar*

Grímr ok Sörkvir,

*Grim and Sorkvir*

Tumi ok Tjörfi,

*Tumi and Tjorfi*

Teitr ok Geitir.

*Teit and Geitir*

Annat vas þá ek inni

*Other was when I inside*

alllitt vér spörðumk;

*very-little we spared-ourselves*

at samtogi sverða

*at drawing of-swords*

sjaldan ek latta,

*seldom I hindered*

at brynjálmar brýndir

*that mail-elms whetted*

beiti hvassliga seggi:

*bite keenly men*

þó vas Ormr at ímun

*yet was Orm in battle*

æ oddviti þeira.

*ever leader of-them*

Mundi Ormr

*Would Orm*

ófrýnn verða,

*grim become*

ef hann á kvöl þessa

*if he on torment this*

kynni at líta,

*could to look*

ok grimmliga

*and grimly*

gjalda þursi

*repay (the)-ogre*

várar viðfarar

*our dealing*

víst, ef hann næði.

*surely if he might*

Síðan lét Ásbjörn líf sitt með mikilli hreysti ok drengskap.

*Afterward let Asbjörn life his with great valor and manhood*

*The survivors carry the news south. Ormr sails to Sauðey with nearly as many men as Ásbjörn had, and in his sleep Menglöð, Brúsi's half-sister, appears to him. She tells him how Ásbjörn died, recites his verses, and gives him gloves whose wearer never lacks strength, asking for the island if he overcomes Brúsi. On waking Ormr has the gloves and remembers the verses.*

Þat er at segja, at þeir þrír menn, er undan komust,  
*That is to say that those three men who away got*  
 sóttu knálíga róðr, ok létu eigi fyrr enn þeir komu at  
*sought vigorously (the)-rowing and stopped not sooner than they came to*  
 landi; sögðu þau tíðindi, er gerst höfðu í þeira förum;  
*land told those tidings which happened had in their journeys*  
 kváðust ætla Ásbjörn dauðan, enn kunnu ekki frá at  
*said-of-themselves to-think Asbjorn dead but could not off(-it) to*  
 segja, hversu at hafði borit um hans líflát. Komu þeir  
*tell how that had borne about his death Got they*  
 sér í skip með kaupmönnum, ok fluttust svá suðr  
*themselves onto a-ship with merchants and were-carried so south*  
 til Danmerkr. Spurðust nú þessi tíðindi víða, ok þóttu  
*to Denmark Were-learned now these tidings widely and seemed*  
 mikil. Þá var orðit höfðingja-skifti í Noregi. Hákon jarl  
*great Then was become a-chieftain-change in Norway Hakon (the)-earl*  
 dauðr, enn Ólafr Tryggvason í land kominn, ok bauð  
*dead but Olaf Tryggvi's-son into (the)-land come and offered*  
 öllum rétta trú. Ormr Stórolfsson spurði út til Íslands um  
*to-all right faith Orm Storolf's-son learned out to Iceland about*  
 farar ok líflát Ásbjarnar, er mönnum þótti sem vera  
*(the)-journey and death of-Asbjorn as to-men seemed as be*  
 mundi. Þótti honum þat allmikill skaði ok undi eigi (á)  
*would Seemed to-him that a-very-great loss and throve not in*

Íslandi, ok tók sér fari í Reyðarfirði, ok fór þar útan.  
*Iceland and took himself passage in Reyðarfjörð and went there abroad*  
 Þeir komu norðarlíga við Noreg, ok sat hann um vetrinn  
*They came northerly by Norway and sat he over the-winter*  
 í Þrándheimi. Þá hafði Ólafr ráðit þrjá vetr Noregi. Um  
*in Trondheim Then had Olaf ruled three winters Norway In*  
 várit bjóst Ormr at fara til Sauðeyja. Þeir váru því  
*the-spring made-ready Orm to go to (the)-Sauðeyjar They were that*  
 nær margir á skipi, sem þeir Ásbjörn höfðu verit.  
*near as-many on ship as they Asbjörn(-and-bis-men) had been*  
 Þeir lögðu at minni Sauðey síð um kveldit ok tjölduðu  
*They laid at (the)-smaller Sauðey late in the-evening and pitched-tents*  
 á landi, ok lágu þar um nóttina. Þat segja menn, at Ormr  
*on land and lay there over the-night That say men that Orm*  
 væri þrimsignr í Danmörku, enn hafi kristnast á Íslandi.  
*were prime-signed in Denmark but have been-christened in Iceland*  
 Enn er Ormr var sofnaðr, sá hann at kona gekk inn  
*But when Orm was fallen-asleep saw he that a-woman went in*  
 í tjaldit, mikil ok errilig, vel búin ok væn at yfirlitum.  
*into the-tent big and stately well dressed and fair in looks*  
 Hon gekk innar at þar er Ormr lá, ok nam þar staðar.  
*She went further-in to there where Orm lay and took there stand*  
 Ormr þóttist heilsa henni, ok spyrja hana at nafni; enn  
*Orm thought-himself to-greet her and to-ask her after name but*  
 hon kveðst Menglöd heita, dóttir Ófótans norðan  
*she says-of-herself Menglöd to-be-called daughter of-Ofotan from-the-north*  
 ór Ófótansfirði. Enn við erum systkin ok Brúsi at föður,  
*out-of Ofotansfjörð But we are siblings and Brusi by father*  
 enn ek átta mennska móður, enn móðir hans er sú hin  
*but I had a-human mother but mother his is that the*  
 kolsvarta ketta, er þar er í hellinum hjá honum. Enn  
*coal-black cat which there is in the-cave with him But*

þó at vit sém skyld, þá eru vit þó ekki lyndislík;  
*though that we-two be related then are we-two yet not alike-in-temper*  
 ræðr hann fyrir eygni ytri, ok er hon sýnu betri; veitir  
*rules he over the-island outer and is it far better gives*  
 hann mér þungar búsifjar, svá at ek hygg at ek munu  
*be me heavy neighborliness so that I think that I will*  
 í brottu stökkva; veit ek ok, hvert erindi þitt er: Þú ætlar  
*off away flee know I also what errand yours is You intend*  
 at hefna Ásbjarnar fóstbróður þíns, ok er þat várkunn, því  
*to avenge Asbjorn foster-brother your and is that excusable because*  
 at þú átt eftir hraustan mann at mæla; mun þér ok  
*that you have after a-valiant man to speak will to-you also*  
 forvitni á at vita, hversu honum var í hel komit; enn  
*curiosity on(-it) to know how to-him was into hel come but*  
 þar munu ekki margir kunna frá at segja, útan Brúsi ok  
*there will not many can off(-it) to tell except Brusi and*  
 ek". Hóf hon þá upp alla sögu, ok sagði frá lífláti  
*I Began she then up all (the)-story and told of (the)-death*  
 Ásbjarnar, ok svá kvað hon allar þær vísur, er hann  
*of-Asbjorn and so spoke she all those verses which he*  
 hafði kveðit. "Enn eigi þykkjumst ek þar sjá fyrir mun  
*had spoken But not think-myself I there to-see before difference*  
 um, hvárt meira má tröllskapr Brúsa ok móður hans eðr  
*about whether more may (the)-trollishness of-Brusi and of-mother his or*  
 hamingja þín, enn öngvan mann óttast hann útan þik einn,  
*luck your but no man fears he except you alone*  
 ok viðrbúnað hefir hann veittan, ef þú kynnir at koma;  
*and preparation has he made if you could to come*  
 hann hefir fært þat bjarg í hellisdyrnar, at ekki má í  
*he has brought that rock into the-cave-door that nothing may into*  
 hellinn komast, meðan þat stendr þar; enn þó at þú sér  
*the-cave get while it stands there but though that you be*

sterkr, þá hefir þú hvárki afl við Brúsa, né bjarginu í  
*strong then have you neither strength against Brusi nor the-rock off*  
 brott at koma. Nú eru hér glófar, at ek vil gefa þér, ok  
*away to bring Now are here gloves which I will give you and*  
 fylgir sú náttúra, at þeim verður aldrei aflafátt, sem þá  
*follows that nature that to-them becomes never strength-short who them*  
 hefir á höndum. Yrði þat svá, at þú ynnir Brúsa,  
*has on hands Should-come-about that so that you overcame Brusi*  
 þá vilda ek at þú gæfir Sauðey í vald mér; enn ek  
*then would-wish I that you gave Sauðey into power my but I*  
 mun heldr vera þér í sinni, því at mér er þú vel í  
*will rather be to-you in company because that to-me are you well in*  
 þokka, þó at vit megim eigi njótast sakir trúar  
*liking though that we-two may not enjoy-each-other for-sake of-faith*  
 þinnar". Síðan hvarf konan, enn Ormr vaknaði, ok váru  
*your Afterward vanished the-woman but Orm awoke and were*  
 þar glófarnir; enn hann mundi allar vísurnar. Stóð Ormr  
*there the-gloves but he remembered all the-verses Stood Orm*  
 þá upp, ok vakti menn sína, ok helt út til eyjarinnar, gekk  
*then up and woke men his and held out to the-island went*  
 á land ok bað menn sína bíða á skipi til annars dags  
*onto land and bade men his to-await on (the)-ship until (the)-next day*  
 í þær mundir; enn halda á burt, ef hann kæmi þá eigi.  
*at that time but hold on away if he came then not*

IX · ORMR KILLS BRÚSI

*Wearing the gloves, Ormr moves the rock from the cave mouth. The cat catches his arrows in her jaws and claws his chest; Ormr prays to God and Saint Peter and breaks her back. He tears off Brúsi's beard and chin, breaks his back over the partition, cuts a blood eagle on him, and burns both bodies. He gives the island and most of its treasure to Menglöd.*

Nú gengr Ormr þar til er hann kemr at hellinum. Sér  
*Now goes Orm there until when he comes to the-cave Sees*  
 hann nú bjargit þat stóra, ok leizt ómáttuligt nökkurum  
*he now the-rock the great and seemed impossible for-any*  
 manni þat í brott at fœra; þó dregr hann á sik glófana  
*man it off away to bring yet draws he onto himself the-gloves*  
 Menglaðar-nauta, tekr síðan á bjarginu, ok færir þat burt  
*Menglad's-gift takes afterward on the-rock and brings it away*  
 ór dyrunum, ok þykkist Ormr þá affraun mesta sýnt  
*out-of the-doorway and thinks-himself Orm then a-strength-trial greatest shown*  
 hafa. Hann gekk þá inn í hellinn, ok lagði málajárn í  
*to-have He went then in into the-cave and laid a-wedge in*  
 dyrnar. Enn er hann var inn kominn, sá hann hvar kettan  
*the-doorway But when he was in come saw he where the-cat*  
 hljóp með gapanda ginit. Ormr hafði boga ok örvarmæli;  
*leaped with gaping the-maw Orm had a-bow and arrow-quiver*  
 lagði hann þá ör á streng, ok skaut at kettunni  
*laid he then an-arrow on (the)-string and shot at the-cat*  
 þremr örum; enn hon hendi allar með hváftunum, ok beit  
*three arrows but she caught all with the-jaws and bit*  
 í sundr; hefir hon sik þá at Ormi, ok rekr klœrnar  
*in two has she herself then at Orm and drives the-claws*  
 framan í fangit, svá at Ormr kiknar við; enn klœrnar  
*in-front into the-chest so that Orm buckles at(-it) but the-claws*  
 gengu í gegnum klæðin, svá at í beini stóð. Hon ætlar  
*went in through the-clothes so that in (the)-bone stood She intends*  
 þá at bíta í andlit Ormi; finnr hann þá, at honum mun  
*then to bite in (the)-face of-Orm finds he then that to-him will*  
 eigi veita; heitir þá á sjálfan Guð ok hinn heilaga Petrum  
*not avail calls then on himself God and the holy Peter*  
 postula, at ganga til Róms, ef hann ynni kettuna ok  
*(the)-apostle to walk to Rome if he overcame the-cat and*

Brúsa son hennar. Síðan fann Ormr, at minkaðist afl  
*Brusi son her Afterward found Orm that lessened (the)-strength*  
kettunnar. Tekr hann á annarri hendi um kverkar henni,  
*of-the-cat Takes he with one hand about (the)-throat her*  
enn annarri um hrygg, ok gengr hana á bak, ok brýtr  
*but with-the-other about (the)-back and bends her onto back and breaks*  
sundr í henni hrygginn ok gengr svá af henni dauðri.  
*asunder in her the-backbone and goes so from her dead*  
Ormr sá þá, hvar bálkr stórr var um þveran hellinn.  
*Orm saw then where a-partition great was about across the-cave*  
Hann gengr þá innar at; enn er hann kemr þar, sér  
*He goes then further-in to but when he comes there sees*  
hann at fleinn mikill kemr útar í gegnum bálkinn; hann  
*he that a-spear great comes outward in through the-partition it*  
var bæði digr ok langr. Ormr grípr þá í móti fleininum,  
*was both thick and long Orm grabs then in against the-spear*  
ok leggir af út. Brúsi kippir þá at sér fleininum, ok var  
*and pushes off out Brusi jerks then to himself the-spear and was*  
hann fast, svá at hvergi gekk. Þat undraðist Brúsi, ok  
*it fast so that nowhere went That wondered Brusi and*  
gæðist upp fyrir bálkinn; enn er Ormr sér þat, þrífr  
*peeped up over the-partition but when Orm sees that seizes*  
hann í skeggit á Brúsa báðum höndum; enn Brúsi bregzt  
*he into the-beard on Brusi with-both hands but Brusi jerks*  
við í öðrum stað; sviftast þeir þá fast um bálkinn. Ormr  
*at in other place wrench they then hard about the-partition Orm*  
hafði vafit skegginu um hönd sér, ok rykkir til svá fast,  
*had wound the-beard about hand his and pulls thereto so hard*  
at hann rífr af Brúsa allan skeggstaðinn, hókuna, kjaftana  
*that he tears off Brusi all the-beard-place the-chin the-jaws*  
báða, vangatyllurnar upp allt at eyrum; gekk hér með holdit  
*both the-cheek-flesh up all to (the)-ears went here with the-flesh*



niðr at beini. Brúsi lét þá síga brýnnar, ok grettist heldr  
down to (the)-bone Brusi let then sink the-brows and grimaced rather  
greppliga. Ormr stökkur þá innar yfir bálkinn; grípast þeir  
hideously Orm leaps then further-in over the-partition grapple they  
þá til ok glíma lengi; mæddi Brúsa þá fast blóðrás;  
then to and wrestle long wearied Brusi then hard (the)-blood-flow  
tekr hann þá heldr at gangast fyrir; gefr Ormr þá  
takes he then rather to give-way before(-him) gives Orm then  
á, ok rekr Brúsa at bálkinum ok brýtr hann þar um  
on(-it) and drives Brusi to the-partition and breaks him there over  
á bak aftr. “Snemma sagði mér þat hugr”, sagði Brúsi,  
on back backward Early told me that (the)-mind said Brusi  
“at ek munda af þér nökkut erfitt fá, þegar ek heyrða  
that I would from you somewhat hard get when I heard  
þín getit, enda er þat nú fram komit. Muntú nú vinna  
you mentioned and is that now forth come Will-you now work  
skjótt um, ok höggva höfuð af mér. Enn þat var satt,  
quickly about and bew (the)-head off me But that was true  
at mjök pínða ek Ásbjörn prúða, þá er ek rakta ór  
that much tortured I Asbjorn (the)-Proud then when I unwound out-of  
honum alla þarmana, ok gaf hann sik ekki við fyrr enn  
him all the-guts and gave he himself not in before than  
hann dó”. “Illa gerðir þú þat”, segir Ormr, “at pína hann  
he died Ill did you that says Orm to torture him  
svá mjök, jafnröskvan mann; skaltú ok hafa þess nökkurar  
so much so-valiant a-man shall-you also have of-that some  
menjar”. Hann brá þá saxi, ok reist blóðörn á baki  
tokens He drew then (the)-sax and cut a-blood-eagle on (the)-back  
honum, ok skar öll rifin frá hryggnum, ok dró þar út  
of-him and cut all the-ribs from the-backbone and drew there out  
lungun. Lét Brúsi svá líf sitt með litlum drengskap. Síðan  
the-lungs Lost Brusi so life his with little manhood Afterward

bar Ormr eld at, ok brenndi upp til ösku bæði Brúsa  
*bore Orm fire to(-them) and burned up to ashes both Brusi*  
 ok kettuna. Ok er hann hafði þetta starfat, fór hann  
*and the-cat And when he had this worked went he*  
 burt ór hellinum með kistur tvær fullar af gulli ok  
*away out-of the-cave with chests two full of gold and*  
 silfri; enn þat sem meira var fémætt, gaf hann í vald  
*silver but that which more was valuable gave he into (the)-power*  
 Menglaðar, ok svá eyna. Skildu þau með mikilli vináttu.  
*of-Menglod and so the-island Parted they with great friendship*  
 Kom Ormr til manna sinna í nefndan tíma; heldu síðan  
*Came Orm to men his at (the)-named time held afterward*  
 til meginlands. Sat Ormr í Þrándheimi vetr annan.  
*to (the)-mainland Sat Orm in Trondheim winter another*

X • ORMR AND EARL EIRÍKR

*After a pilgrimage to Rome Ormr bears of the battle of Svoldr and joins Earl Eiríkr at Hlaðir. Ormr says the Long Serpent would have been harder to take if he had been aboard. The earl tests him: armed only with a beam, Ormr sinks seven of fifteen galleys and keeps sixty men at bay. The earl admits the ship would never have been won with him aboard and makes him a retainer.*

At sumri bjóst Ormr til Rómferðar, ok tókst sú  
*In summer made-ready Orm for (the)-Rome-journey and turned-out that*  
 ferð vel. Kom sunnan til Danmerkr um haustit eftir  
*journey well Came from-the-south to Denmark in the-autumn after*  
 Svoldar-orrustu, ok spurði þar þau tíðindi, er þar höfðu  
*Svold-battle and learned there those tidings which there had*  
 orðit. Fór hann þá til Noregs á fund Eiríks jarls ok  
*happened Went he then to Norway to (the)-meeting of-Eirík (the)-earl and*

hitti hann á Hlöðum; gekk fyrir jarl ok kvaddi hann.

*met him at Hladir went before (the)-earl and greeted him*

Jarl tók honum vel, ok spurði hann at nafni. Hann

*(The)-earl took him well and asked him after name He*

lézt Ormr heita. Jarl mælti: “Ertú Ormr sterki”?

*professed Orm to-be-called (The)-earl spoke Are-you Orm (the)-Strong*

“Kalla meg þér svá, herra, ef þér vilit; enn þat er erindi

*Call may you so lord if you will but that is errand*

mitt, at ek vilda vera gestr yðarr í vetr”. Jarl kvað

*my that I would-wish be guest your in winter (The)-earl said*

honum þat til reiðu, ok skipaði honum á hinn æðra bekk

*for-him that at readiness and placed him on the higher bench*

útarliga. Ormr var faskiftinn um vetrinn ok óhlutdeilinn.

*far-out Orm was reserved through the-winter and unmeddling*

Þat var einn tíma, at talat var til Svoldrar-orrustu, ok

*It was one time that talked was about Svold-battle and*

hversu kappar Ólafs konungs höfðu drengiliga vörn sýnt,

*how (the)-champions of-Olaf (the)-king had valiant defense shown*

ok hversu seint at Ormrinn hafði unninn orðit, eðr hversu

*and how late that the-Serpent had overcome become or how*

harða atsókn Eiríkr jarl hafði veitt, at hann fekk unnit

*hard an-attack Eirik (the)-earl had given that he got overcome*

þat skip, er engi ætlaði, at á þýðum sjó mundi unnit

*that ship which none thought that on calm sea would overcome*

verða. Ormr svarar: “Seinna mundi Ormrinn langi unninn

*be Orm answers Later would the-Serpent Long overcome*

hafa orðit, ef ek hefða þar verit með öðrum köppum

*have become if I had there been with other champions*

konungs”. Nú var sagt jarli, at Ormr hefði mikit um

*of-(the)-king Now was told to-(the)-earl that Orm had much about*

talat, at Ormrinn langi mundi eigi unninn orðit hafa, ef

*talked that the-Serpent Long would not overcome become have if*

hann hefði þar verit. Jarl lætr þá kalla Orm fyrir sik,  
*he had there been (The)-earl has then call Orm before himself*  
 ok spyrr, hvárt hann hefði þat talat, at Ormrinn mundi  
*and asks whether he had that said that the-Serpent would*  
 eigi unninn hafa orðit, ef hann hefði þar verit. “Eigi er  
*not overcome have become if he had there been Not is*  
 þat, herra, hitt sagða ek, at seinna mundi unninn hafa  
*that lord that-other said I that later would overcome have*  
 orðit Ormrinn, ef ek hefða þar verit”. Jarl svarar: “Lítinn  
*become the-Serpent if I had there been (The)-earl answers Little*  
 mun mundi þat segja um einn mann, svá mörgum ok  
*difference would that say about one man so many and*  
 miklum köppum sem þar var saman skipat, enn þó skal  
*great champions as there was together placed but yet shall*  
 gera tilraun nökkura: þú skalt vera einn á skipi, ok skulu  
*do a-trial some you shall be alone on a-ship and shall*  
 sækja at þér fimtán skeiðr, ok er þat þó lítit af þeim skipa  
*attack at you fifteen galleys and is that yet little of that ships’*  
 fjölda, er var við Svoldr”. “Þér munut ráða, herra”, sagði  
*multitude which was at Svold You will rule lord said*  
 Ormr, “enn ekki mun ek fyrr gefast, enn ek er yfirkominn”.  
*Orm but not will I sooner give-up than I am overcome*  
 Ormr gekk þá út, ok tók einn berlingsás digran, þrettán  
*Orm went then out and took one plank-beam thick thirteen*  
 álna langan. Síðan fór hann á skip ok lét frá landi.  
*ells long Afterward went he onto (the)-ship and put from land*  
 Síðan váru menn til fengnir á fimtán skeiðum, ok sóttu  
*Afterward were men thereto gotten on fifteen galleys and attacked*  
 at Ormi; enn svá er sagt, at á lítilli stundu hafði Ormr  
*at Orm but so is said that in little while had Orm*  
 slegit í kaf sjö skeiðr, lamit ok brotit. Þá kallaði  
*struck into (the)-deep seven galleys battered and broken Then called*

jarl, ok það þá hætta þessum leik; var ok svá gert. Varð  
 (the)-earl and bade them stop this game was also so done Was  
 þá borgit flestum öllum mönnum. Síðan það jarl sex  
 then saved most all men Afterward bade (the)-earl six  
 tigu manna sækja at Ormi úti á víðum velli; ok svá var  
 tens of-men attack at Orm out on wide field and so was  
 gert. Ormr hafði ekki vápna, nema ásin, ok veifaði honum  
 done Orm had no weapons except the-beam and waved it  
 um sik sem hreytispeldi, svá at engi þorði nærri at  
 about himself as a-flail so that none dared near to  
 koma, því at þeir sá vísan bana, hverr sem fyrir yrði.  
 come because that they saw certain death whoever as before(-it) came  
 Bað jarl þá hætta þessum leik ok svá var gert. Jarl  
 Bade (the)-earl then stop this game and so was done (The)-earl  
 mælti: “Eigi ætla ek, at þat væri oftalat, Ormr, þótt seinna  
 spoke Not think I that that were over-said Orm though later  
 ynnist Ormrinn langi, ef þú hefðir á verit, því at  
 were-overcome the-Serpent Long if you had on(-it) been because that  
 hann mundi aldri unninn hafa orðit, ef þú hefðir þar til  
 it would never overcome have become if you had there for  
 varnar verit”. Síðan gerðist Ormr hirðmaðr Eiríks jarls, ok  
 defense been Afterward became Orm a-retainer of-Eirik (the)-earl and  
 var með honum í miklum kærleikum sakir atgerfi sinnar.  
 was with him in great affection for-sake of-prowess his

## XI • ORMR'S LAST FEATS

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*Visiting Einarr þambarskelfir, Ormr draws Einarr's bow to the point and leaves the arrow nocked, and Einarr says no coward did it. At the Long Serpent's mast, which sixty men can lift, Ormr carries it three feet alone. He returns to Iceland, lives at Stórólfsbvol, and dies old, keeping his faith.*

Þat var einn tíma, at Ormr fór á kynni, þar sem hann hafði  
*It was one time that Orm went on a-visit there where he had*  
 fyrr verit í Þrándheimi; hann kom um leið á Gimsar,  
*before been in Trondheim he came on (the)-way to Gimsar*  
 ok var Einarr heima. Þat var í þann tíma, sem Einarr var  
*and was Einar at-home It was in that time when Einar was*  
 at kirkju, bogi hans var úti fyrir kirkju-dyrum. Ormr gekk  
*at church bow his was outside before (the)-church-door Orm went*  
 at ok tók upp, ok lagði ör á streng, ok dró fyrir  
*to and took(-it) up and laid an-arrow on (the)-string and drew to*  
 odd, ok lét svo örina standa í boganum, ok lagði  
*(the)-point and let so the-arrow stand in the-bow and laid(-it)*  
 síðan niðr aftir ok gekk í brottu. Enn er Einarr kom út,  
*afterward down again and went off away But when Einar came out*  
 sá hann hversu bogi hans var til háttaðr, ok undraðist  
*saw he how bow his was thereto arranged and wondered*  
 mjök, ok spurði, hvern með boga hans mundi farit hafa.  
*much and asked who with bow his would dealt have*  
 Enn þess varð hann lengi ekki viss, fyrr enn Ormr sjálf  
*But of-that became he long not aware before than Orm himself*  
 sagði honum. Einarr kveðst þat ok vita, at þat mundi  
*told him Einar says-of-himself that also to-know that that would*  
 ekki skræfa verit hafa, er boga hans hafði fyrir odd  
*not a-coward been have who bow his had to (the)-point*  
 dregit. Eiríkr jarl fór at veizlum austr um Víkina. Þá  
*drawn Eirik (the)-earl went to feasts east through the-Vik Then*  
 var Ormr með jarli. Enn er þeir komu þar, sem Ormrinn  
*was Orm with (the)-earl But when they came there where the-Serpent*  
 langi hafði verit upp höggvinn, lá þar siglutréit. Jarl bað  
*Long had been up hewn lay there the-mast (The)-earl bade*  
 menn prófa, hversu margir þyrfti undir at ganga, áðr axlat  
*men test how many needed under to go before shouldered*

yrði; skipaði hann Ormi undir mitt tréit. Sex tígir manna  
*were placed he Orm under middle the-mast Six tens of-men*  
 tóku tréit. Síðan bað jarl sinn mann tínast undan  
*took the-mast Afterward bade (the)-earl one man drop-away from*  
 hvárum enda, ok svá var gert, þar til at Ormr stóð einn  
*each end and so was done there until that Orm stood alone*  
 undir trénu. Þá gekk hann með þat þrjú fet, ok lagði niðr  
*under the-mast Then went he with it three feet and laid(-it) down*  
 síðan. Segja menn, at Ormr muni varla samr orðit síðan  
*afterward Say men that Orm may hardly (the)-same become since*  
 ok áðr. Var hann með jarli nökkura vetr. Fór síðan út  
*and before Was he with (the)-earl some winters Went afterward out*  
 til Íslands, ok settist í bú at Stórólfsbvoli, ok þótti  
*to Iceland and settled-himself in household at Storolfshvoll and seemed*  
 æ hinn mesti maðr, ok varð ellidauðr, ok held vel trú sína.  
*ever the greatest man and became old-age-dead and held well faith his*

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Ölkofra þáttur

*The Tale of Ale-Hood*

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*Þórhallr of Bláskógar is small, ugly, and well-to-do, and makes his living brewing ale to sell at assemblies, which makes him known to the great men. Because he always wears a hood at assemblies and has no famous name of his own, the assembly men nickname him Ölkofri, Ale-Hood.*

Þórhallr hét maðr. Hann bjó í Bláskógum á  
*Thorhall was-called a-man He dwelt in Blaskogar at*  
 Þórhallsstöðum. Hann var vel fjáreigandi ok heldr við aldr,  
*Thorhallsstadir He was well wealthy and rather in years*  
 er saga þessi gerðist. Lítill var hann ok ljótr. Engi var  
*when story this happened Little was he and ugly No was*  
 hann íþróttamaðr; enn þó var hann hagr við járn ok  
*he man-of-accomplishments but yet was he handy with iron and*  
 tré. Hann hafði þá iðju, at gera öl á þingum, til fjár  
*wood He had that occupation to make ale at assemblies for wealth*  
 sér. Enn af þeirri iðn varð hann brátt málkunnigr öllu  
*for-himself But from that trade became he soon talk-known to-all*  
 stórmenni, því at þeir keyptu mest munngát. Var þá sem  
*great-men because that they bought most ale Was then as*  
 oft kann verða, at mungátin eru misjafnt vinsæl, ok svá  
*often may be that the-ales are unequally popular and so*  
 þeir, er seldu. Engi var Þórhallr veifiskati kallaðr ok heldr  
*those who sold No was Thorhall spendthrift called and rather*  
 sjúkr. Honum váru augu þung oftliga. Var þat siðr hans,  
*sickly To-him were (the)-eyes heavy often Was that custom his*  
 at hafa kofra á höfði, ok jafnan á þingum. Enn af því at  
*to have a-hood on head and always at assemblies But from that that*

hann var maðr ekki nafnfrægr, þá gáfu þingmenn honum  
*he was a-man not name-famous then gave (the)-assembly-men him*  
 þat nafn, er við hann festist, at þeir kölluðu hann Ölkofra.  
*that name which to him stuck that they called him Ale-Hood*

II · THE WOOD BURNS

*Ölkofri burns charcoal in his wood and falls asleep, and the fire spreads to neighboring woods, including Goðaskógr, owned by six chieftains: Snorri goði, Guðmundr ríki, Skafti the lawspeaker, Þórkell Geitisson, Eyjólfur Þórðarson, and Þórkell trefill. They agree to act together, with Skafti to prepare the case.*

Þat varð til tíðinda eitt haust, at Ölkofri fór í skóg  
*That became for tidings one autumn that Ale-Hood went into wood*  
 þann, er hann átti, ok ætlaði at brenna kol, sem hann  
*that which he owned and meant to burn charcoal as he*  
 gerði. Skógr sá var upp frá Hrafnabjörgum ok austr fyrir  
*did (The)-wood that was up from Hrafnabjorg and east past*  
 Lönguhlíð. Hann dvaldist þar nökkura daga ok gerði til  
*Langablíð He stayed there some days and made for*  
 kola ok brendi síðan viðinn, ok vakti um nóttina yfir  
*charcoal and burned afterward the-wood and watched through the-night over*  
 gröfunum. Enn er á leið nóttina, þá sofnaði hann. Enn  
*the-pits But when on passed the-night then fell-asleep he But*  
 eldr kom upp í gröfunum ok hljóp í limit hjá, ok  
*fire came up in the-pits and leaped into the-branches by and*  
 logaði þat brátt; því næst hljóp eldr í skóginn; tók þá at  
*blazed that quickly that next leaped fire into the-wood began then to*  
 brenna. Þá gerðist á vindr hvass. Nú vaknaði Ölkofri, ok  
*burn Then arose on(-it) a-wind sharp Now woke Ale-Hood and*  
 varð því feginn, at hann gæti sér forðat. Eldrinn hljóp  
*was of-that glad that he could himself save The-fire leaped*

í skóginn; brann þá skógr fyrst allr, er Ölkofri átti;  
*into the-wood burned then (the)-wood first all which Ale-Hood owned*  
 enn síðan hljóp eldr í þá skóga, er þar váru næstir, ok  
*but afterward leaped fire into those woods which there were nearest and*  
 brunnu skógar víða um hraunit. Er þar nú kallat á Sviðingi.  
*burned woods widely over the-lava Is there now called at Sviding*  
 Þar brann skógr sá, er kallaðr var Goðaskógr. Hann  
*There burned (the)-wood that which called was Godaskog It*  
 áttu sex goðar. Einn var Snorri goði, annarr Guðmundr  
*owned six chieftains One was Snorri (the)-Priest (the)-second Gudmund*  
 Eyjólfsson, þriði Skafti lög(sögu)maðr, fjórði Þórkell  
*Eyjoalf's-son (the)-third Skafti law(speaker) (the)-fourth Thorkel*  
 Geitisson, fimti Eyjólf son Þórðar gellis, sétti Þórkell  
*Geitir's-son (the)-fifth Eyjolf son of-Thord Yeller (the)-sixth Thorkel*  
 trefill Rauða-Bjarnarson. Þeir höfðu keypt skóga þessa, til  
*Scarf Red-Bjorn's-son They had bought woods these for*  
 þess at hafa til nytja sér á þingi. Eftir kolbrennu  
*that to have for use to-themselves at (the)-assembly After charcoal-burning*  
 þessa reið Ölkofri heim. Tiðindi þessi spurðust víða um  
*this rode Ale-Hood home (The)-tidings these were-learned widely through*  
 heruð, ok komu fyrst til Skafta þeira manna, er fyrir  
*(the)-districts and came first to Skafti of-those men who under*  
 sköðum höfðu orðit. Um haustit sendi hann orð norðr til  
*losses had come In the-autumn sent he word north to*  
 Eyjafjarðar með þeim mönnum, er ferð áttu milli heraða,  
*Eyja fjord with those men who journey had between districts*  
 ok lét segja Guðmundi skógabrennuna, ok þat með, at þat  
*and had tell Gudmund the-wood-burning and that with that that*  
 mál væri févænligt. Slík sendiboð fóru ok vestr í heruð  
*case were money-promising Such messages went also west into (the)-districts*  
 til þeira manna, er skóga höfðu átt. Fóru þá sendiboð um  
*to those men who woods had owned Went then messages through*

vetrinn eftir milli þeira allra, ok þat með, at goðar þessir  
*the-winter after between them all and that with that chieftains these*  
sex skyldu hittast á þingi ok vera allir at einu ráði.  
*six should meet at (the)-assembly and be all of one counsel*  
Enn Skafti skyldi mál til búa, því at hann sat næst.  
*But Skafti should (the)-case thereto prepare because that he sat nearest*

### III · ÖLKOFRI FINDS NO SUPPORT

*Skafti summons Ölkofri for outlawry, and Ölkofri blusters that his friends will stop him. At the assembly the chieftains agree to press the case or demand self-judgment, and Ölkofri's ale customers refuse to help him against such powerful men. His pride gone, he goes from booth to booth, and even Þórsteinn Síðu-Hallsson turns him away.*

Enn er vár kom, þá reið Skafti til með marga  
*But when spring came then rode Skafti thereto with many*  
menn ok stefndi Ölkofra um skógabrennuna, ok lét varða  
*men and summoned Ale-Hood for the-wood-burning and had (it)-carry*  
skóggangssök. Ölkofri var málóði ok heldr stórorðr; lét þess  
*(the)-outlawry-charge Ale-Hood was talk-mad and rather big-worded made of-that*  
ván, ef vinir hans kæmi til þings, at Skafti mundi  
*expectation if friends his came to (the)-assembly that Skafti would*  
eigi jafnstórliga láta. Skafti svarar fá ok reið á brott. Um  
*not so-grandly behave Skafti answers little and rode off away In*  
sumarit eftir komu þeir goðar sex til þings, er skógana  
*the-summer after came those chieftains six to (the)-assembly who the-woods*  
höfðu átt, ok var þat ráðit, at mál skyldi frammi hafa,  
*had owned and was that resolved that (the)-case should forward have*  
enn gera fé allmikit; ella hafa sjálfðæmi. Ölkofri kom til  
*but make (the)-fine very-great else have self-judgment Ale-Hood came to*

þings, ok átti munngát at selja. Kom þá til fundar við  
*(the)-assembly and had ale to sell Came then to a-meeting with*  
vini sína, þá sem vanir váru at kaupa öl at honum. Hann  
*friends his those who wont were to buy ale from him He*  
bað þá liðs, ok bauð þeim öl at selja. Enn þeir svöruðu  
*asked them for-support and offered them ale to sell But they answered*  
allir á einn veg, at þau ein kaup hefði þeir við átt, *all in one way that those alone dealings had they with had*  
at þeim var ekki vilnat í, — sögðu at þeir mundu eigi  
*which to-them was nothing expected in said that they would not*  
þeim birni beitast, at deila um mál hans við ofreflismenn  
*that bear bait to contend about case his with overpowering-men*  
slíka; ok vildi engi maðr heita honum liði, ok engi vildi  
*such and would no man promise him support and none would*  
eiga kaup við hann. Þótti honum þá heldr vandast málit.  
*have dealings with him Seemed to-him then rather to-grow-hard the-case*  
Gekk hann þá milli búða, ok fekk þó engi annsvör, þó  
*Went he then between booths and got yet no answers though*  
at hann bæði menn liðs; var þá lokit stórleika hans ok  
*that he asked men for-support was then ended (the)-greatness his and*  
drambi. Þat var um dag einn, at Ölkofri kom til búðar  
*arrogance It was on day one that Ale-Hood came to (the)-booth*  
Þórsteins Síðu-Hallssonar, ok gekk fyrir hann ok bað sér  
*of-Thorstein Sidu-Hall's-son and went before him and asked for-himself*  
liðs. Þórsteinn veitti honum slík annsvör sem aðrir.  
*support Thorstein gave him such answers as others*

*Þórsteinn's young kinsman Broddi Bjarnason says it is small glory for great men to outlaw such a creature and asks Þórsteinn to help him. Broddi has Ölkofri fetched in, weeping, and Ölkofri praises Broddi's looks at length. Þórsteinn tells Broddi to help him if he is so eager, and Broddi talks with Ölkofri in private, and they go up onto the fields, where the men have just come from the Law Court.*

Maðr er nefndr Broddi Bjarnason, mágr Þórsteins.  
*A-man is named Broddi Bjarni's-son kinsman-by-marriage of-Thorstein*  
 Hann sat hit næsta honum. Broddi var þá á tvítugs aldri.  
*He sat the next to-him Broddi was then in twentieth year*  
 Ölkofri gekk út með búðinni, þá er Þórsteinn hafði synjat  
*Ale-Hood went out along the-booth then when Thorstein had refused*  
 honum liðs. Broddi mælti þá: “Svá lízt mér, mágr,  
*him support Broddi spoke then So seems to-me kinsman-by-marriage*  
 sem þessi maðr sé ekki vel til skógarmanns feldr, ok er þat  
*as-if this man be not well to forest-man suited and is that*  
 lítillræði at sekja hann, þeim er miklir þykkjast menn  
*small-achievement to outlaw him for-those who great think-themselves men*  
 fyrir sér. Nú er þér drengskapr, mágr, at veita  
*for themselves Now is for-you manliness kinsman-by-marriage to give*  
 þeim lið, er þins liðs þarfnast”. Þórsteinn svarar: “Veittú  
*him support who your support needs Thorstein answers Give-you*  
 honum lið, ef þú ert allfúss til, enn veita mun ek þér  
*him support if you are very-eager thereto but give will I you*  
 gengi til þess sem annars”. Broddi mælti þá við mann einn,  
*following to that as to-another Broddi spoke then to man one*  
 at ganga skyldi eftir Ölkofra; sá gerði svá, — gekk út, ok  
*that go should after Ale-Hood he did so went out and*  
 þar hjá búðarveggnum hitti hann Ölkofra. Stóð hann þar ok  
*there by the-booth-wall found he Ale-Hood Stood he there and*



grét aumliga. Þessi maður bað hann ganga inn í búðina ok  
*wept piteously This man bade him go in into the-booth and*  
taka af sér ópit, “ok eigi skaltú snökta, er þú kemr  
*take off himself the-bowling and not shall-you sob when you come*  
til Þórsteins”. Ölkofri varð grátfeginn ok gerði svá. Enn  
*to Thorstein Ale-Hood became glad-to-tears and did so But*  
er þeir komu fyrir Þórstein, þá tók Broddi til orða: “Svá  
*when they came before Thorstein then took Broddi to words So*  
þykkir mér sem Þórsteinn vili þér lið veita, ok þykkir  
*seems to-me as-if Thorstein will you support give and seems*  
honum þetta klengisök vera; máttir þú eigi gæta skóga þeira,  
*to-him this a-petty-case to-be could you not guard woods those*  
er þú áttir”. Ölkofri mælti: “Hverr er sjá hinn sæli maður,  
*which you owned Ale-Hood spoke Who is that the blessed man*  
er nú mælir við mik?” “Broddi heiti ek”, segir hann. Þá  
*who now speaks with me Broddi am-called I says he Then*  
mælti Ölkofri: “Hvárt er hér Broddi Bjarnason?” “Svá er”,  
*spoke Ale-Hood Whether is here Broddi Bjarni's-son So is(-it)*  
segir Broddi. “Bæði er”, kvað Ölkofri, “at þú ert göfugligri at  
*says Broddi Both is said Ale-Hood that you are nobler to*  
sjá enn aðrir menn, enda áttu til þess varit”. Fór hann þar  
*see than other men and have-you to that spent Went he there*  
mörgum orðum um, ok gerist þá hraustr í máli. “Hitt er  
*many words about and becomes then bold in speech That-other is*  
nú til”, kvað Þórsteinn, “ef þú ert allfúss til, Broddi, at  
*now to said Thorstein if you are very-eager thereto Broddi to*  
veita honum nökkut lið, er þó lofar hann þik svá mjök”.  
*give him some support since yet praises he you so much*  
Broddi stóð þá upp ok margt manna með honum. Gekk  
*Broddi stood then up and many men with him Went*  
hann út ór búðinni. Hafði Broddi þá Ölkofra á einmæli  
*he out out-of the-booth Had Broddi then Ale-Hood in private-talk*

ok ræddi við hann. Síðan ganga þeir upp á völlum; var  
*and talked with him Afterward go they up onto the-fields was*  
 þar fyrir margt manna. Höfðu þeir þá verit í lögréttu.  
*there before many men Had they then been in (the)-Law-Court*

V · ÖLKOFRI BEGS GUÐMUNDR AND SKAFTI

*Ölkofri throws himself at the feet of Guðmundr and Skafti, calls himself a fool for refusing Skafti's award, and says he is lucky if they will judge his case. Guðmundr thinks it better to let him choose arbitrators, and Skafti agrees that he and Guðmundr will settle it.*

Enn er aðrir menn höfðu í brott gengit, þá sátu þeir  
*But when other men had off away gone then sat they*  
 eftir Guðmundr ok Skafti, ok ræddu um lög. Broddi ok  
*behind Guðmundr and Skafti and talked about law Broddi and*  
 förunautar hans reikuðu um völlum, enn Ölkofri gekk í  
*companions his strolled about the-fields but Ale-Hood went into*  
 lögréttuna. Hann fell til jarðar allr, ok kraup til fóta  
*the-Law-Court He fell to (the)-earth all and crept to (the)-feet*  
 þeim ok mælti: "Sæll er ek orðinn, er ek hefi ykkur  
*to-them and spoke Blessed am I become when I have you-two*  
 fundit, hina dýrugu menn ok höfðingja mína, eðr munu  
*found the glorious men and chieftains my or will*  
 þit nokkut vilja mér hjálpa, hinir góðu menn, þótt ek sé  
*you-two somewhat wish me to-help the good men though I be*  
 ómakligr; því at ek verð nú allr fyrir borði, nema þit  
*unworthy because that I become now all over board unless you-two*  
 dugit mér". Seint er at telja öll orð Ölkofra, þau er  
*help me Slow is to count all (the)-words of-Ale-Hood those which*  
 hann mælti, ok lét hann sem aumligast á allan hátt.  
*he spoke and behaved he as most-wretchedly in every way*

Þá mælti Guðmundr til Skafta: “Allvesalliga lætr þessi  
*Then spoke Gudmund to Skafti Very-wretchedly behaves this*  
 maðr”. Skafti svarar: “Hvar er nú, Ölkofri, stórlæti þitt?  
*man Skafti answers Where is now Ale-Hood arrogance your*  
 Ólíkligt þótti mér í vár, þá er vér fórum stefnuför,  
*Unlikely seemed to-me in (the)-spring then when we went summons-journey*  
 at sá mundi þinn hinn bezti kostur, at leggja málit undir  
*that that would your the best choice to lay the-case under*  
 mik; eðr hversu drjúgir verða þeir þér nú í liðveizlunni,  
*me or how effective become they for-you now in the-support*  
 höfðingjarnir, er þú höettir mér í vár?” Ölkofri svarar:  
*the-chieftains whom you threatened me in (the)-spring Ale-Hood answers*  
 “Ærr var ek þá, ok þó verr, er ek vilda þat eigi, at þú  
*Mad was I then and yet worse when I would-wish that not that you*  
 dæmdir um mitt mál, enda gettú eigi höfðingja, því  
*judged about my case and mention-you not chieftains because*  
 at þeir eru órhjarta allir, þegar þeir sjá ykkur at koma.  
*that they are heartless all when they see you-two to come*  
 Sæll væra ek þá, ef ek næða því, at koma undir ykkur  
*Blessed would-be I then if I got that to bring under you-two*  
 mínu máli. Eigi á ek nökkura ván þess, enn várkunn er  
*my case Not have I any hope of-that but excusable is*  
 þér, Skafti minn, at þú hafir mér svá reiðst, at nú sé  
*for-you Skafti my that you have with-me so been-angered that now be*  
 þess engi kostur. Var ek þá fól ok afglapi, er ek neitaða  
*of-that no choice Was I then a-fool and blockhead when I refused*  
 gerð þinni. Enn ek þori eigi at sjá þá grimmu  
*(the)-arbitration your But I dare not to see those grim*  
 menn, er þegar munu drepa mik, ef þit hjálpit mér eigi  
*men who at-once will kill me if you-two help me not*  
 við”. Hann mælti oft hit sama; sagði ok at hann  
*against(-them) He spoke often the same said also that he*

þóttist sáll, ef þeir skyldi dæma hans mál. “Þykki mér  
*thought-himself blessed if they should judge his case Seems to-me*  
 þar mitt fé bezst komit, er þit haft”. Guðmundr mælti  
*there my wealth best come which you-two have Gudmund spoke*  
 til Skafta: “Ekki ætla ek þenna vel til sektar fallinn, eðr  
*to Skafti Not think I this-man well to outlawry fitted or*  
 mun eigi hitt heldr ráð, at vér gerim hann feginn, ok  
*will not that-other rather counsel that we make him glad and*  
 látim hann kjósa menn til gerðar þessar. Þó veit ek eigi,  
*let him choose men for arbitration this Yet know I not*  
 hversu hinum líkar, er eigu þetta mál við hann”. “Nú þá,  
*how the-others likes who own this case against him Now then*  
 hinir góðu menn”, segir Ölkofri, “veitit mér þá nökkurn  
*the good men says Ale-Hood give me then some*  
 dugnað eftir”. Skafti mælti: “Undir mér er lykt máls  
*help further Skafti spoke Under me is (the)-conclusion of-case*  
 þessa, því at ek fer með sökina. Munum vér til þess  
*this because that I go with the-charge Will we to that*  
 hætta, Ölkofri, at vit Guðmundr gerim um ok lúkim  
*venture Ale-Hood that we-two Gudmund arbitrate about(-it) and conclude*  
 málinu. Get ek, at þér muni þat duga við fullting okkart”.  
*the-case Guess I that to-you will that avail with support our*

VI · ÖLKOFRI CHOOSES HIS JUDGES

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Ölkofri has the handshake witnessed by Broddi's company, and Skafti pledges that money, not outlawry, will be paid. Ölkofri then says the agreement lets him choose any two men, and Broddi's men confirm it. Skafti asks where this wave came from and notes Ölkofri's raised tail; Ölkofri names Þórsteinn and Broddi, and Skafti says the case is still in good hands, since its grounds are strong.

Þá stóð Ölkofri upp, ok takast þeir síðan í hendr.

*Then stood Ale-Hood up and take they afterward in hands*

Nefndi Ölkofri þegar vátta, hvern at öðrum, ok er

*Named Ale-Hood at-once witnesses each after other and when*

váttnefna kom upp, þá drifu menn at. Nefndi

*(the)-naming-of-witnesses came up then flocked men to(-it) Named*

Ölkofri fyrst Brodda ok föruneysi hans. Skafti mælti:

*Ale-Hood first Broddi and company his Skafti spoke*

“Sökunautr várr biðr okkr Guðmund til gerðar um mál

*(The)-defendant our asks us-two Gudmund for arbitration about case*

þetta, enn þó at vit hafim þat staðfest með oss, er

*this but though that we-two have that confirmed between us who*

skaða höfum fengit, at sjálfðæmi skyldi fyrir koma, þá

*damage have gotten that self-judgment should for come then*

viljum vit Guðmundr þat nú veita honum, at vit gerim

*will we-two Gudmund that now grant him that we-two arbitrate*

heldr um enn aðrir, ef Þórhallr vill þat kjörit hafa. Skulu

*rather about(-it) than others if Thorhall will that chosen have Shall*

þér þess nefndir vátтар, at fyrir mál þetta skal fé gera

*you of-this named witnesses that for case this shall money arbitrate*

enn eigi mannsektir. Ek handsala niðrfall at sökum þeim,

*but not outlawries I hand-pledge dropping of charges those*

er ek stefnda í vár”. Síðan slitu þeir handlaginu. Þá

*which I summoned in (the)-spring Afterward broke they the-hand-clasp Then*

mælti Skafti við Guðmund: “Því mun eigi vel, at vit

*spoke Skafti with Gudmund Why will not well that we-two*

lúkim þessu af?” “Vel má þat”, segir Guðmundr. Ölkofri

*conclude this off Well may that says Gudmund Ale-Hood*

mælti: “Ekki skulu þit hrapa því svá, því at ek er ekki

*spoke Not shall you-two hurry it so because that I am not*

ráðinn í, at kjósa ykkur, heldr enn aðra menn”. Guðmundr

*resolved on to choose you-two rather than other men Gudmund*

mælti: "Svá var skilt, at vér skyldim gera, nema þú kjörir  
*spoke So was stipulated that we should arbitrate unless you chose*  
heldr þá aðra, er þetta mál eigu með okkr". Ölkofri mælti:  
*rather those others who this case own with us-two Ale-Hood spoke*  
"Því neitaða ek alla tíma, at þeir skyldi gera; enn svá  
*That refused I all times that they should arbitrate but so*  
var skilit í handlaginu, at ek skylda kjósa tvá menn til,  
*was stipulated in the-hand-clasp that I should choose two men for(-it)*  
þá er ek vilda". Þá var leitat um handsals-vætti. Enn  
*those whom I would-wish Then was sought about hand-pledge-witness But*  
þingmenn Guðmundar ok Skafta deildust allmjök at, hversu  
*assembly-men of-Gudmund and of-Skafti differed very-much about how*  
skilit var; enn Broddi ok förunautar hans skáru skýrt  
*stipulated was but Broddi and companions his cut clearly*  
ór, at svá hefði skilit verit sem Ölkofri sagði, at hann  
*out(-of-it) that so had stipulated been as Ale-Hood said that he*  
skyldi kjósa menn til gerðar. Þá mælti Skafti: "Hvaðan  
*should choose men for arbitration Then spoke Skafti Whence*  
rann sjá alda undir? Ok sé ek, at þú heldr nökkuru  
*ran that wave under(-us) And see I that you hold somewhat*  
rakkara halanum, enn fyrir stundu áðan. Eðr hverja menn  
*more-upright the-tail than for a-while before Or what men*  
muntú kjósa til gerðar?" Ölkofri mælti: "Ekki skal lengi at  
*will-you choose for arbitration Ale-Hood spoke Not shall long about*  
því hyggja. Ek kys Þórstein Hallsson ok Brodda Bjarnason  
*that ponder I choose Thorstein Hall's-son and Broddi Bjarni's-son*  
mág hans, ok ætla ek, at þá sé málit betr komit,  
*kinsman-by-marriage his and think I that then be the-case better come*  
enn þit gerit um". Skafti sagði, at hann ætlaði, at  
*than you-two arbitrate about(-it) Skafti said that he thought that*  
þat mál væri vel komit, þótt þeir gerði um, "því at  
*that case were well come though they arbitrated about(-it) because that*

málaefni vár eru brýn ok góð; enn þeir eru svá vitrir, at  
*case-grounds our are pressing and good but they are so wise that*  
 þeir munu sjá kunna, hversu þungs þú ert af verðr". Ölkofri  
*they will see can how heavy you are of worth Ale-Hood*  
 gekk þá í lið Brodda, ok fóru menn heim til búða.  
*went then into (the)-following of-Broddi and went men home to booths*

## VII · SIX ELLS OF HOMESPUN

*Þórsteinn and Broddi rule at Lögberg that the wood burned by accident and award each chieftain six ells of homespun, which Broddi throws to them as a coward's tax. When they protest, Broddi mocks each in turn: Skafti for the gap his kinsman Ormr tore in him over a love poem, Þórkell trefill for being mounted by a stallion, Eyyjólfur for turning into a mare from fright, Snorri for not avenging his father, and Þórkell Geitisson for the wound Broddi's father gave him.*

Eftir um daginn skyldi upp segja sætt. Báru þeir  
*Later in the-day should up announce (the)-settlement Bore they*  
 þá ráð sín saman Þórsteinn ok Broddi. Vildi Þórsteinn  
*then counsels their together Thorstein and Broddi Would Thorstein*  
 meira gera; enn Broddi kvað þat skýrst, at gera svá sem  
*more award but Broddi said that clearest to do so as*  
 hann vildi, ok segja þá sjálfr sátt upp. Broddi bað  
*he would and announce then himself (the)-settlement up Broddi bade*  
 hann kjósa, hvárt er hann vildi: segja sjálfr sátt  
*him choose which that he would-wish announce himself (the)-settlement*  
 upp, eðr sitja fyrir svörum, ef nökkurir menn yrði til,  
*up or sit for answers if any men came to*  
 at leita á gerðina. Þórsteinn lézt heldr vilja segja  
*to set on the-award Thorstein professed rather to-wish to-announce*  
 sátt upp, enn skifta hnœfilyrðum við þá goðana.  
*(the)-settlement up than exchange taunts with those the-chieftains*

Síðan sagði Þórsteinn, at Ölkofri skyldi eigi lengi þurfa  
*Afterward said Thorstein that Ale-Hood should not long need*  
 síns hluta at bíða; kvað þá skyldu gjaldast féit allt at  
*his share to wait said then should be-paid the-money all at*  
 Lögbergi. Síðan gengu þeir til Lögbergs. Enn er lokit  
*Law-Rock Afterward went they to Law-Rock But when ended*  
 var þar lögskil at mæla, þá spurði Þórsteinn Hallsson,  
*was there (the)-law-matters to speak then asked Thorstein Hall's-son*  
 hvárt goðar þeir væri at Lögbergi, er mál áttu at kæra  
*whether chieftains those were at Law-Rock who case had to bring*  
 við Ölkofra. “Mér er svá sagt, at vit Broddi skylim  
*against Ale-Hood To-me is so said that we-two Broddi should*  
 gera um mál þat. Munum vit nú upp lúka gerðinni,  
*arbitrate about case that Will we-two now up conclude the-award*  
 ef þér vilit til hlýða”. Þeir sögðust góðs at vænta,  
*if you will thereto listen They said-of-themselves good to expect*  
 er þeir mundu ráttlátir í gerðinni. Þá mælti Þórsteinn:  
*since they would righteous in the-award Then spoke Thorstein*  
 “Svá lízt okkr á, sem lítils sé fyrir vert um skóga  
*So seems to-us-two on(-it) as-if little be for worth about woods*  
 yðra félaga; váru þeir félitlir ok fjarlægir yðr til gagns.  
*your fellows were they poor-in-money and far-away to-you for use*  
 Var eigingirni í mikil þeira manna, er góðs áttu kost,  
*Was self-seeking in much of-those men who good had choice*  
 ok kalla þat með eign sinni annarri. Enn hann mátti eigi  
*and call that with property their other But he could not*  
 ábyrgjast yðvarn skóg, er hann brendi sinn skóg, ok eru  
*answer-for your wood when he burned his wood and are*  
 slíkt váðaverk. Enn fyrir því, at þat er í gerð lagt, þá  
*such accident-deeds But for that that it is in arbitration laid then*  
 skal gera nökkut fyrir. Þér sex menn hafit átt skógana.  
*shall award something for(-it) You six men have owned the-woods*



Nú viljum vit gera sex álnir hverjum yðrum, ok skal  
*Now will we-two award six ells to-each of-you and shall*  
 þat gjaldast hér þegar”. Broddi hafði við búizt, ok  
*that be-paid here at-once Broddi had against(-it) prepared-himself and*  
 stíkat vaðmál í sundr, ok kastar hann sérhverjum stúf  
*measured (the)-homespun in pieces and throws he to-each-one a-stub*  
 til þeira ok mælti: “Slíkt kalla ek arga skatt”. Skafti  
*to them and spoke Such call I a-cowardly tax Skafti*  
 svarar: “Auðsætt er þat, Broddi, at þú ert fúss til at eiga  
*answers Easy-seen is that Broddi that you are eager thereto to have*  
 illt við oss. Hefir þú mjök stungizt til þessa máls, ok  
*ill with us Have you much thrust-yourself into this case and*  
 ferr þú litt þverr á fœti at fjandskap við oss; kann vera  
*go you little crosswise on foot at enmity with us may be*  
 at oss falli önnur mál léttra”. Broddi svarar: “Þurfa muntú  
*that to-us fall other cases lighter Broddi answers Need will-you*  
 þess Skafti, at taka meira á öðrum sakferlum, ef skerða  
*of-that Skafti to take more on other lawsuits if trim*  
 skal í þat skarð, er Ormr frændi þinn reytti af þér,  
*shall into that gap which Orm kinsman your plucked off you*  
 fyrir mansöngsdrápu, er þú ortir um konu hans. Var þat  
*for (the)-love-poem which you composed about wife his Was that*  
 illa gert, enda var þat illa goldit”. Þá mælti Þórkell trefill:  
*ill done and was that ill paid Then spoke Thorkel Scarf*  
 “Allmjök missýnist slíkum manni sem Broddi er; hann vill  
*Very-much mis-sees such a-man as Broddi is he will*  
 hafa vináttu Ölkofra, eðr nökkurar mútugjafir, ok kaup  
*have (the)-friendship of-Ale-Hood or some bribes and buy*  
 svá, at gera sér at óvinum slíka menn, sem hann hefir í  
*so to make himself for enemies such men as he has in*  
 fangi”. Broddi svarar: “Ekki er þat missýni, at halda einurð  
*grip Broddi answers Not is that mis-seeing to hold frankness*

sinni, þótt mannamunr sé með yðr Ölkofra; enn hitt var  
*one's though difference-of-men be between you Ale-Hood but that-other was*  
 glámsýni í vár, er þú reitt til várþings, at þú  
*a-false-seeing in (the)-spring when you rode to (the)-spring-assembly that you*  
 varaðist eigi þat, er Steingrímur hafði stóðhest selfeitan,  
*guarded-against not that that Steingrim had a-stud-horse sbieling-fat*  
 ok lagðist hann upp at baki þér; enn merin sú, er  
*and lay it up on (the)-back of-you but the-mare that which*  
 þú reitt var mögr, ok fell hún undir þér ok hefi ek eigi  
*you rode was lean and fell she under you and have I not*  
 spurt til sanns, hverjum þá slöðraði; enn hitt sá menn,  
*learned for truth on-which then it-trampled but that-other saw men*  
 at þú vart lengi fastr, því at hestrinn lagði fœtrna fram  
*that you were long stuck because that the-horse laid the-forefeet forward*  
 yfir kápuna", Eyjólfr Þórðarson mælti: "Þat er satt at segja,  
*over the-cape Eyjolf Thord's-son spoke That is true to say*  
 at sjá maðr hefir allmjök dregit bust ór nefi oss,  
*that this man has very-much drawn (the)-bristle out-of (the)-nose of-us*  
 enda mælir rán ok regin við oss á svá gert ofan".  
*and speaks robbery and ruin against us on so done top*  
 Broddi svarar: "Eigi hefi ek dregit bust ór nefi yðr.  
*Broddi answers Not have I drawn (the)-bristle out-of (the)-nose of-you*  
 Þá var dregin bust ór nefi þér, er þú fórt norðr  
*Then was drawn (the)-bristle out-of (the)-nose of-you when you went north*  
 til Skagafjarðar ok stalt öxnum frá Þórkeli Eirekssyni; enn  
*to Skagafford and stole oxen from Thorkel Eirek's-son but*  
 Goðdala-Starri reið eftir þér, ok sátu þá eftirförina, er þér  
*Godadale-Starri rode after you and saw-you then the-pursuit when you*  
 várut komnir í Vatnsdal. Varðtú þá svá hræddr, at þú  
*were come into Vatnsdal Became-you then so frightened that you*  
 brátt þér í merarlíki, ok váru slíkt firn mikil; enn  
*shifted yourself into mare's-shape and were such monstrosities great but*

þeir Starri ráku aftir öxnina, ok var þat satt, at hér  
*they Starri(-and-his-men) drove back the-oxen and was that true that here*  
 dró bust ór nefi þér”. Þá mælti Snorri goði: “Allt  
*drew (the)-bristle out-of (the)-nose of-you Then spoke Snorri (the)-Priest All*  
 er oss annat tiltækilegt, enn deila hér illyrðum við Brodda;  
*is for-us other more-fitting than to-bandy here abuse with Broddi*  
 enn þat er líkast, at vér gerim oss minnisamt um  
*but that is likeliest that we make ourselves mindful about*  
 fjandskap þenna, er Broddi lýsir við oss, ef vér komumst  
*enmity this which Broddi declares against us if we get*  
 í fœri”. Broddi svarar: “Um snýr þú þá sœmdunum,  
*into reach Broddi answers About turn you then the-honors*  
 Snorri, ef þú leggr allan hug á at hefna mér, enn þú  
*Snorri if you lay all mind on to avenge on-me but you*  
 hefnir eigi föður þíns”. Þá mælti Þórkell Geitisson: “Þetta  
*avenge not father your Then spoke Thorkel Geitir's-son This*  
 er líkast, at þú hafir þat helzt af nafni því, er þú  
*is likeliest that you have that most from (the)-name that which you*  
 ert eftir heitinn, at hann vildi hvers manns hlut óhöefan  
*are after named that he would-wish every man's share unfitting*  
 af sér verða láta, ok þat annat at menn þoli eigi, ok  
*from himself become to-let and that other that men bear(-it) not and*  
 liggir þú drepinn, er stundir líða”. Broddi svarar: “Engi  
*lie you killed when times pass Broddi answers No*  
 vegr er okkr í, frændi, at yppa hér fyrir alþýðu  
*way is for-us-two in kinsman to raise here before (the)-common-people*  
 ógæfu frænda várra; enn ekki skal þat dylja, er margir  
*(the)-misfortune of-kinsmen our but not shall that hide which many*  
 vitu, at Brodd-Helgi var veginn. Var mér ok þat sagt, at  
*know that Brodd-Helgi was slain Was to-me also that told that*  
 faðir þinn tœki ofarlíga til þeira launanna; enn hitt ætla  
*father your took high-up to those rewards but that-other think*

ek, ef þú leitar at, at þú munir fingrum kenna þat, er  
*I if you seek on(-it) that you will with-fingers feel that which*  
 faðir minn markaði þik í Böövarsdal". Eftir þat skildust  
*father my marked you in Bodvarsdal After that parted*  
 þeir, ok gengu heim til búða Er nú Ölkofri ór sögunni.  
*they and went home to booths Is now Ale-Hood out-of the-story*

VIII · BRODDI AND ÞÓRKELL

*Broddi apologizes to his kinsman Þórkell Geitisson for his words and gives him a sword. Guðmundr tells Broddi to ride home through Ljósavatnsskarð, and Broddi says he will, with a final insult. Þórkell rides with him, Einarr Eyjólfsson escorts them in force, and they reach home without trouble. The two kinsmen stay friends for life, and the tale ends.*

Annan dag eftir gekk Broddi til búðar Þórkels Geitissonar  
*The-second day after went Broddi to (the)-booth of-Thorkel Geitir's-son*  
 ok inn í búðina, ok kastaði orðum á Þórkel. Hann svarar  
*and in into the-booth and threw words on Thorkel He answers*  
 fá, ok var hinn reiðasti. Broddi mælti: "Því er ek hér  
*little and was the angriest Broddi spoke Therefore am I here*  
 kominn, frændi, at ek sá missmíði á því, er ek talaða  
*come kinsman that I saw a-missbaping in that which I talked*  
 við þik. Vil ek þess biðja, at þú virðir mér þat til bernsku  
*with you Will I of-that ask that you reckon to-me that to childishness*  
 ok óvizku, en látum eigi frændsemi okkra at verri. Er hér  
*and unwisdom and let not kinsbip our-two the worse Is here*  
 sverð búið, er ek vil gefa þér; vil ek, at þat fylgi, at  
*a-sword ready which I will give you wish I that that follow that*  
 þú farir at heimboði til mín í sumar, ok skal því lýsa,  
*you go to a-home-feast to me in (the)-summer and shall that proclaim*

at eigi skulu betri gripir í minni eigu, enn þeir, er þú  
*that not shall better treasures in my possession than those which you*  
 skalt þiggja”. Þórkell tók þessu þakksamliga; sagði, at hann  
*shall accept Thorkel took this thankfully said that he*  
 var þess fúss, at þeir gerði góða sína frændsemi. Gekk  
*was of-that eager that they made good their kinship Went*  
 þá Broddi heim. Þat var aftaninn fyrir þinglausnir, at  
*then Broddi home It was the-evening before (the)-assembly-breaking that*  
 Broddi gekk vestr yfir á; enn við brúarsporðinn hittust  
*Broddi went west over (the)-river but at the-bridge-end met*  
 þeir Guðmundr, ok varð ekki at kveðjum. Ok er þeir  
*they Gudmund(-and-he) and became nothing of greetings And when they*  
 skildust, þá veik Guðmundr aftur ok mælti: “Hverja leið  
*parted then turned Gudmund back and spoke Which way*  
 skaltú ríða af þingi, Broddi?” Hann sneri aftur ok mælti:  
*shall-you ride from (the)-assembly Broddi He turned back and spoke*  
 “Ef þér er forvitni á því, þá mun ek ríða um Kjöl  
*If to-you is curiosity on that then will I ride over Kjöl*  
 til Skagafjarðar; þá til Eyjafjarðar, þaðan Ljósavatnsskarð,  
*to Skagafford then to Eyjafjord thence Ljosavatnsskard*  
 ok svá til Mývatns, ok síðan Möðrudalsheiði”. Guðmundr  
*and so to Myvatn and afterward Modrudalsbeath Gudmund*  
 mælti: “Efn orð þín, ok ríð Ljósavatnsskarð”. Broddi svarar:  
*spoke Keep words your and ride Ljosavatnsskard Broddi answers*  
 “Efna skal þat; eðr ætlar þú, Guðmundr, at verja mér  
*Keep shall that or intend you Gudmund to guard against-me*  
 skarðit? Allmjök eru þér þá mislagðar hendr, ef þú varðar  
*the-pass Very-much are to-you then misplaced hands if you guard*  
 mér Ljósavatnsskarð, svá at ek mega þar eigi fara með  
*against-me Ljosavatnsskard so that I may there not go with*  
 förunautum mínum, enn þú varðar þat eigi, hit litla skarðit,  
*companions my but you guard that not the little the-pass*

sem er milli þjóa þér, svá at ámænilaust sé". Skildist  
*which is between (the)-buttocks of-you so that blameless be Parted*  
 þeir við svá búit ok spurðust þessi orð um allt þingit.  
*they with so done and were-learned these words through all the-assembly*  
 Enn er Þórkell Geitisson varð þess viss, þá gekk hann til  
*But when Thorkel Geitir's-son became of-this aware then went he to*  
 fundar við Brodda, ok bað at hann skyldi ríða Sandleið,  
*a-meeting with Broddi and asked that he should ride Sandleid*  
 eðr ella hit eystra. Broddi svarar: "Ek mun ríða þá leið,  
*or else the eastern(-way) Broddi answers I will ride that way*  
 er ek hefi sagt Guðmundi, því at hann mun virða mér  
*which I have told Gudmund because that he will reckon to-me*  
 til hugleysis, ef ek fer eigi svá". Þórkell mælti: "Vit munum  
*for cowardice if I go not so Thorkel spoke We-two will*  
 þá ríða báðir saman, frændi, ok flokk okkarr lítill". Broddi  
*then ride both together kinsman and (the)-band our-two little Broddi*  
 sagði, at honum þætti sæmd í föruneyti hans, ok lézt  
*said that to-him would-seem honor in company his and professed*  
 þat gjarna vilja. Síðan ríða þeir Þórkell ok Broddi báðir  
*that gladly to-wish Afterward ride they Thorkel and Broddi both*  
 saman með flokka sína norðr Öxnadalsheiði. Váru þeir í einni  
*together with troops their north Oxnadalsbeath Were they in one*  
 ferð ok Einar Eyjólfsson, mágr Þórkels. Riðu þeir  
*journey and Einar Eyjolf's-son kinsman-by-marriage of-Thorkel Rode they*  
 Broddi ok Þórkell til Þverár, með Einari, ok váru þar um  
*Broddi and Thorkel to Thvera with Einar and were there over*  
 nótt. Síðan reið Einar á leið með þeim með fjölmenni  
*(the)-night Afterward rode Einar on (the)-way with them with a-throng*  
 mikit, ok skildust eigi fyrr enn við Skjálfafljóti. Enn þeir  
*great and parted not sooner than at Skjalfandafloet But they*  
 Þórkell ok Broddi létu eigi sinni ferð, fyrr enn þeir komu  
*Thorkel and Broddi stopped not their journey sooner than they came*

austr í Vápnafjörð til búa sinna. Þat sumar fór Þórkell  
*east into Vopnafford to farms their That summer went Thorkel*  
 at heimboði til Brodda frænda síns, ok þá þar allgóðar  
*to a-home-feast to Broddi kinsman his and received there very-good*  
 gjafir. Höfðu þeir þá hina beztu frændsemi með vináttu,  
*gifts Had they then the best kinship with friendship*  
 ok helzt þat meðan þeir lifðu. Ok lýkr þar sögu Ölkofra.  
*and lasted that while they lived And ends there (the)-story of-Ale-Hood*

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# Steins þáttir Skaftasonar

*The Tale of Stein Skaftason*

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## I · THE ICELANDERS AT KING ÓLAFR'S COURT

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*At King Ólafr's bidding, Steinn Skaftason, Þóroddr Snorrason, Gellir Þórkelsson, and Egill Síðu-Hallsson come from Iceland. They are well received and spend the winter with the king.*

Þetta sumar komu af Íslandi at orðsendingu Ólafs konungs  
*This summer came from Iceland at (the)-bidding of-Olaf (the)-king*  
Steinn Skaftason lögsögumanns, Þóroddr son Snorra goða,  
*Stein Skafti's-son of-(the)-lawspeaker Thorodd son of-Snorri (the)-Priest*  
Gellir son Þórkels Eyjólfssonar, Egill son Síðu-Halls, bróðir  
*Gellir son of-Thorkel Eyjolf's-son Egil son of-Sidu-Hall brother*  
Þórsteins. Guðmundr Eyjólfsson hafði andast áðr um vetrinn.  
*of-Thorstein Gudmund Eyjolf's-son had died before in the-winter*  
Þeir hinir íslenzku menn fóru, þegar þeir máttu við komast, á  
*They the Icelandic men went as-soon-as they could thereto get to*  
fund Ólafs konungs. Enn er þeir hittu konung, fengu þeir  
*(the)-meeting of-Olaf (the)-king But when they met (the)-king got they*  
þar góðar viðtökur, ok váru allir með honum um vetrinn eftir.  
*there good receptions and were all with him through the-winter after*

## II · THE KING HOLDS THE ICELANDERS

---

*The king rules that Gellir may go home with his demands, but the other Icelanders must stay until he knows how the demands are received, and those eager to leave call it treachery. In Iceland Gellir asks the people to accept the king's laws and pay a tax of a penny a head, with friendship if they agree and hard terms if they refuse. After long debate the Icelanders refuse, and Gellir sails back to the king.*

Ólafur konungur heimti til tals við sig þá menn, sem komnir  
*Olaf (the)-king summoned to talk with himself those men who come*  
 váru af Íslandi, ok fyrr váru stefndir: Þórodd Snorrason,  
*were from Iceland and before were summoned Thorodd Snorri's-son*  
 Gelli Þórkelsson, Stein Skaftason, Egil Hallsson. Þá tók  
*Gellir Thorkel's-son Stein Skafti's-son Egil Hall's-son Then took*  
 konungur til máls: “Þér hafið jafnan haft þat mál upp við  
*(the)-king to speech You have always had that matter up with*  
 mik í sumar, at þér vildit fara út til Íslands; enn ek  
*me in (the)-summer that you would-wish to-go out to Iceland but I*  
 hefi þar um veitt engan órskurð. Nú vil ek segja yðr, hveru  
*have there about given no ruling Now will I tell you which*  
 veg ek ætla til: þér, Gellir, ætla ek at fara til Íslands, ef  
*way I intend thereto for-you Gellir intend I to go to Iceland if*  
 þú vill þangat bera erindi mín; enn aðrir íslenzkir menn þá  
*you will thither bear errands my but other Icelandic men then*  
 munu ekki fara til Íslands, fyrr enn ek veit, hvern veg þeim  
*will not go to Iceland sooner than I know which way those*  
 málum er tekit, er þú ferr með, Gellir”. Enn er konungur  
*matters is received which you go with Gellir But when (the)-king*  
 hafði þetta upp borit, þótti þeim er fúsir váru ferðarinnar,  
*had this up brought seemed to-those who eager were for-the-journey*  
 enn bannat út at fara, höfð við sik hin mestu svik,  
*but forbidden out to go had with themselves the greatest treachery*  
 ok þótti ill seta sín ok ófrelsi. Nú fór Gellir til Íslands  
*and seemed ill stay their and unfreedom Now went Gellir to Iceland*  
 um sumarit, ok hafði með sér orðsendingar Ólafs konungs,  
*in the-summer and had with him (the)-messages of-Olaf (the)-king*  
 at hann beiddi þess Íslendinga, at þeir skyldi taka við  
*that he asked of-that (the)-Icelanders that they should take with*  
 þeim lögum, sem hann hafði sett mönnum í Noregi, enn  
*those laws which he had set for-men in Norway but*

veita honum af landinu þegngildi ok nefgildi, penning fyrir  
*grant him from the-land thane-money and nose-money a-penny for*  
 hvert nef, þann er tíu væri fyrir alin vaðmáls. Þat fylgdi  
*each nose that which ten were for an-ell of-homespun That followed*  
 ok því, at hann hét mönnum hér í mót vináttu sinni  
*also that that he promised to-men here in return friendship his*  
 fullkominni, ef menn vildu honum þessu játa, enn elligar  
*perfect if men would him this assent but otherwise*  
 afar-kostum, þegar hann mætti við komast. Yfir þessu tali  
*hard-terms as-soon-as he might thereto get Over this talk*  
 sátu menn lengi, ok réðu um lengi sín í milli, ok  
*sat men long and deliberated about(-it) long themselves in between and*  
 kom þat ásamt með þeim at lyktum at allra samþykkt, at  
*came that agreed among them at last by of-all consent that*  
 þeir neituðu þeim lögum, ok svá skattgjöfum ok öllum þeim  
*they refused those laws and so tax-payments and all those*  
 álögum, er konungur beiddi. Ok fór Gellir utan þat sumar,  
*impositions which (the)-king asked And went Gellir abroad that summer*  
 ok á fund Ólafs konungs, ok hitti hann þat haust í  
*and to (the)-meeting of-Olaf (the)-king and met him that autumn in*  
 Vík austr, þá er hann var kominn ofan af Gautlandi.  
*(the)-Vik east then when he was come down from Gautland*

## III • STEINN KILLS THE STEWARD

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*Steinn and Þóroddr resent being held and speak against the king. Asked to recite his own poem about the king, Steinn says he has none, and leaves. He slips away at night to Orkadale, and when the royal steward Þorgeirr hesitates to give him a horse and sled, Steinn kills him. Driving through the night and posing as the king's men, he and his footboy reach Gizki, where Ragnhildr, daughter of Erlingr Skjálgsson and wife of Þórberg Arnason, welcomes him.*

Þóroddr Snorrason ok Steinn Skaftason undu illa sínum  
*Thorodd Snorri's-son and Stein Skafti's-son liked ill their*  
 hlut, er þeir fóru eigi sjálfráða, hvert er þeir vildu.  
*lot when they went not self-ruling whither that they would*  
 Steinn var manna fríðastr sýnum, ok bezt at sér gerr  
*Stein was of-men fairest in-looks and best of himself made*  
 um allar íþróttir; hann var ok skáld gott, skartsmaðr  
*in all accomplishments he was also a-poet good a-dandy*  
 mikill ok metnaðarfullr. Skafti faðir hans hafði ort  
*great and ambitious Skafti father his had composed*  
 drápu um Ólaf konung, ok hafði kennt Steini; var svá  
*a-drapa about Olaf (the)-king and had taught(-it) to-Stein was so*  
 ætlat, at hann skyldi færa konunginum kvæðit. Steinn  
*intended that he should bring to-the-king the-poem Stein*  
 mátti eigi orða bindast, at ámæla konunginum bæði  
*could not from-words restrain-himself to reproach the-king both*  
 með sundrlausum orðum ok samföstum. Báðir váru þeir  
*with unbound words and fastened Both were they*  
 Þóroddr óvarmæltir; þeir sögðu, at konungr vildi  
*Thorodd(-and-Stein) unguarded-of-speech they said that (the)-king would*  
 verr hafa enn þeir, er sonu sína eðr frændr höfðu sent  
*worse have than those who sons their or kinsmen had sent*  
 honum til trúnaðar, ok sögðu slíkt hin mestu svik, er  
*bim for trust and called such the greatest treachery when*  
 konungr lagði þá í ófrelsi, ok lét þá eigi skyldu vera  
*(the)-king laid them into unfreedom and let them not should be*  
 sjálfráða ferða sinna. Konungr reiddist þessu mjök. Þat  
*self-ruling of-journeys their (The)-king grew-angry at-this much It*  
 var einnhvern dag, at Steinn gekk fyrir konung, ok spyrr  
*was some day that Stein went before (the)-king and asks*  
 hann, ef hann vildi hlýða drápu þeirri, er Skafti faðir  
*him if he would listen to-the-drapa that which Skafti father*

hans hafði ort um hann. Konungur svarar: “Hitt mun  
*his had composed about him (The)-king answers That-other will*  
 fyrst ráð Steinn, at þú kveðir þat, er þú hefir ort  
*first counsel Stein that you recite that which you have composed*  
 um konung þinn”. Steinn segir, at þat var ekki, er hann  
*about king your Stein says that that was nothing which he*  
 hafir ort: “Því at ek em ekki konungs-skáld, enn þó  
*have composed Because that I am not king's-poet but though*  
 at ek kynna at yrkja, þá mundi yðr þat þykkja, sem  
*that I could to compose then would to-you that seem as*  
 annat um mik, heldr lítit vegligt”. Gekk þá Steinn í  
*other about me rather little worthy Went then Stein off*  
 brott, ok þóttist vita, hvar til horfði ok talaði ekki  
*away and thought-himself to-know whither to(-it) turned and talked not*  
 fleira við konung. Þorgeirr hét ármaðr Ólafs konungs, ok  
*more with (the)-king Thorgeir was-called a-steward of-Olaf (the)-king and*  
 réð fyrir búi hans í Orkadal. Hann var þá þar, ok heyrði  
*ruled over farm his in Orkadal He was then there and heard*  
 orð þeira konungs ok Steins; fór hann heim síðan.  
*(the)-words of-them (the)-king and Stein went he home afterward*  
 Þat var á einhverri nótt, at Steinn hljópst í braut ór  
*It was in some night that Stein slipped off away out-of*  
 bænum, ok skósveinn hans með honum. Fóru þeir fyrst  
*the-town and footboy his with him Went they first*  
 upp á Gaularás, ok svá út síðan, til þess er þeir komu  
*up onto Gaularas and so out afterward until that when they came*  
 í Orkadal. Ok at kveldi komu þeir til konungsbúss þess,  
*into Orkadal And at evening came they to the-king's-farm that*  
 er Þorgeirr réð fyrir. Bauð Þorgeirr Steini þar at vera um  
*which Thorgeir ruled over Offered Thorgeir to-Stein there to be over*  
 nóttina, ok spyr, hverju gegni um farar hans. Steinn  
*the-night and asks what (it)-meant about journeys his Stein*

bað hann fá sér hest ok sleða með; sá hann at þar var  
*bade him get himself a-horse and a-sled with(-it) saw he that there was*  
 heim ekit korni með. Þorgeirr svarar: "Eigi veit ek, hvern  
*home driven corn with(-it) Thorgeir answers Not know I which*  
 veg af standst um farar þínar, hvárt þú ferr nökkut at  
*way off stands about journeys your whether you go somewhat with*  
 konungs leyfi; þótti mér ekki mjúkt fara með ykkur hinn  
*king's leave seemed to-me not softly to-go with you-two the*  
 fyrra dag". Steinn svarar: "Þótt ek sé at engu sjálfráði fyrir  
*former day Stein answers Though I be in nothing self-ruling before*  
 konungi, þá skal ek þó eigi svá fyrir þrælum hans". Hann  
*(the)-king then shall I yet not so before thralls his He*  
 brá þá sverði ok drap ármanninn; síðan tók hann hestinn,  
*drew then (the)-sword and killed the-steward afterward took he the-horse*  
 ok bað svein sinn á bak hlaupa, enn Steinn settist á  
*and bade boy his onto back leap but Stein sat-himself on*  
 sleðann; fóru þeir þá leið sína, ok óku um náttina alla,  
*the-sled went they then way their and drove through the-night all*  
 þar til er þeir komu um morgininn á Mæri í Súrnadal.  
*there until that they came in the-morning to More in Surnadal*  
 Síðan fá þeir sér flutning yfir fjörðu, ok fóru sem  
*Afterward get they themselves passage over fjords and went as*  
 ákafast; ok sögðu þeir ekki víg þetta, þar sem þeir fóru,  
*most-eagerly and told they not slaying this there where they went*  
 enn kölluðust vera konungs-menn, ok fengu af því góðan  
*but called-themselves to-be king's-men and got from that good*  
 forbeina, hvar sem þeir komu. Þeir komu at kveldi eins  
*help wherever that they came They came at evening of-one*  
 dags í Gizka, til búss Þórbergs Árnasonar. Hann var eigi  
*day to Gizki to (the)-farm of-Thorberg Arni's-son He was not*  
 heima, enn kona hans var heima. Hon hét Ragnhildr,  
*at-home but wife his was at-home She was-called Ragnbild*



ok var dóttir Erlings Skjalgssonar. Fekk Steinn þar allgóðar  
*and was daughter of-Erling Skjalg's-son Got Stein there very-good*  
 viðtökur, því at þar váru kunnleikar miklir með þeim.  
*receptions because that there were acquaintances great between them*

## IV · RAGNHILDR'S PROMISE

*Years before, Steinn had persuaded a reluctant priest to baptize Ragnhildr's newborn daughter and stood godfather, and she promised him her friendship. Now she keeps him until her husband Þórbergr returns. Þórbergr says Steinn is an outlaw and wants him gone, but Ragnhildr and their son Eysteinn say they will leave with Steinn. Þórbergr keeps him through the winter, and when the king summons him to come before mid-Lent he is resolved to go, though most of his friends advise giving Steinn up.*

Sá atburður hafði orðit áðr, — þá er Steinn hafði farit  
*That event had happened before then when Stein had gone*  
 til Noregs fyrr; átti hann þá sjálf skipit, ok var hann  
*to Norway earlier owned he then himself the-ship and was he*  
 formaðr á skipinu, — at hann kom af hafi utan at  
*master on the-ship that he came off (the)-sea abroad at*  
 Gizka, ok lágu þeir þar út við eyna. Þá lá Ragnhildr á  
*Gizki and lay they there out by the-island Then lay Ragnbild in*  
 sængr-rekkju, ok skyldi verða léttari, ok kom allhart niðr.  
*childbed and should become lighter and came very-hard down*  
 Enn prestur var engi á eyjunni, ok engi allnærr. Var þá  
*But priest was none on the-island and none very-near Was then*  
 komit til kaupskipsins, ok spurt, hvárt nökkurr var prestur á  
*come to the-merchant-ship and asked whether any was priest on*  
 skipinu. Þar var einn prestur á skipi, sá er Brandr hét,  
*the-ship There was one priest on (the)-ship he who Brand was-called*

vestfirzkr, ungr ok lærðr heldr litt. Sendimenn báðu prest  
*a-West-Fjorder young and learned rather little (The)-messengers bade (the)-priest*  
 fara til húss með sér, at finna húsfreyju. Presti þótti  
*go to (the)-house with them to find (the)-housewife To-the-priest seemed*  
 sem þat mundi vandi mikill, enn vissi fákunnandi sína, ok  
*as-if that would difficulty great but knew ignorance his and*  
 vildi eigi fara. Þá lagði Steinn orð sín til við prest, ok  
*would not go Then laid Stein words his thereto with (the)-priest and*  
 bað hann fara. Prestr svarar þá: “Fara mun ek, ef þú ferr  
*bade him go (The)-priest answers then Go will I if you go*  
 með mér, því at mér þykkir mikit traust at þér til umráða,  
*with me because that to-me seems great support in you for guidance*  
 hvers sem við þarf”. Steinn segir, at hann vill þat gjarna  
*whatever as for is-needed Stein says that he will that gladly*  
 til leggja, ef hann vill þá fara heldr enn áðr. Síðan fara  
*thereto lay if he will then go rather than before Afterward go*  
 þeir til bæjar, ok þar til, er Ragnhildr var. Litlu síðar  
*they to (the)-farm and there to where Ragnhild was A-little later*  
 fæddi hon barn; þat var meybarn, ok var allómáttuligt. Þá  
*bore she a-child it was a-girl-child and was very-weak Then*  
 skírði prestr barnit, enn Steinn helt meyjunni undir skírn,  
*baptized (the)-priest the-child but Stein held the-girl under baptism*  
 ok hét sú mœr Þóra. Steinn gaf meyjunni fingurgull,  
*and was-called that maid Thora Stein gave the-girl a-finger-ring*  
 er hann hafði á hendi sér. Ragnhildr hét Steini vináttu  
*which he had on hand his Ragnhild promised to-Stein friendship*  
 sinni fullkominni, ok bað á sinn fund koma, ef hann  
*her perfect and bade to her meeting come if he*  
 þóttist hennar þurfa. Steinn segir, at hann mundi eigi  
*thought-himself her to-need Stein says that he would not*  
 fleirum meyjum undir skírn halda, ok skildust þau at  
*more girls under baptism hold and parted they with*

svá búnu. Enn nú er þar komit, er Steinn heimtíri þessi  
*so done But now is there come that Stein claims these*  
 vinmæli at Ragnhildi, ok segir, hvat hann hefir hent,  
*friendly-words from Ragnbild and tells what him has befallen*  
 ok svá þat, at hann mun orðinn fyrir konungs reiði. Hon  
*and so that that he will become for (the)-king's anger She*  
 segir, at máttir skal at megni um liðveizluna við hann:  
*says that might shall with main about the-support with him*  
 það hann þar bíða Þórbergs bónda. Hon skipaði honum hjá  
*bade him there await Thorberg husband She placed him by*  
 Eysteini orra syni sínum; hann var þá tólf vetra. Steinn  
*Eystein Moorcock son her he was then twelve winters Stein*  
 gaf gjafar þeim Eysteini ok Ragnhildi. Þórbergur hafði spurt  
*gave gifts to-them Eystein and Ragnbild Thorberg had learned*  
 allt um ferðir Steins, áðr hann kom heim, ok var hann  
*all about journeys of-Stein before he came home and was he*  
 heldr ófrýnn. Ragnhildur gekk til máls við hann, ok segir  
*rather grim Ragnbild went to talk with him and tells*  
 honum allt um hag Steins, hversu farit var, ok það hon  
*him all about (the)-state of-Stein how gone was and bade she*  
 hann taka við Steini, ok sjá á mál hans. Þórbergur svarar:  
*him take with Stein and look on case his Thorberg answers*  
 “Ek hefi spurt allt um ferðir Steins, ok konungur hefir átt  
*I have learned all about journeys of-Stein and (the)-king has had*  
 örvar-þing eftir Þorgeir ármann sinn, ok er Steinn útlægr  
*an-arrow-assembly after Thorgeir steward his and is Stein outlawed*  
 gerr fyrir endilangan Noreg, dræpr ok tiltækr, hvar sem  
*made through full-length Norway killable and to-be-seized wherever that*  
 hann verður staðinn, svá ok þat, at konungur er hinn reiðasti;  
*he becomes caught so also that that (the)-king is the angriest*  
 ok kann ek mér meiri svinnu enn takast á hendr einn  
*and can I myself more wisdom than to-take upon hands one*

útlendan mann, ok hafa þar fyrir konungs reiði, ok lát þú  
*foreign man and have there for (the)-king's anger and let you*  
 Stein fara í brott sem skjótast". Ragnhildr svarar, at þau  
*Stein go off away as quickest Ragnbild answers that they*  
 Steinn skyldu bæði í braut fara, eðr vera þar bæði ella.  
*Stein(-and-she) should both off away go or be there both else*  
 Þórbergir bað hana fara, hvert er hon vill. "Vænti ek þess",  
*Thorberg bade her go whither that she wish Expect I of-that*  
 segir hann, "þó at þú farir, at þú komir skjótt aftur, því  
*says he though that you go that you come quickly back because*  
 at hér í Gizka munu vera mest þín metorð". Þá gekk  
*that here in Gizki will be most your esteem Then went*  
 fram Eysteinn son þeira; hann mælti svá, at hann mundi  
*forward Eystein son their he spoke so that he would*  
 eigi eftir vera, ef móðir hans færi á braut. Þórbergir sagði  
*not behind be if mother his went off away Thorberg said*  
 þau lýsa miklu þrályndi í þessu ok ákaflyndi. "Ok er þat  
*they showed great stubbornness in this and impetuosity And is that*  
 vænst", segir hann, "at þit ráðit þessu, er ykkir þykkir  
*likeliest says he that you-two decide this which to-you seems*  
 þó allmiklu máli varða; enn of mjök er þér ættgengt,  
*yet very-great case to-matter but too much is to-you inherited*  
 Ragnhildr", segir hann, "ok yðr frændlingum, at virða lítils  
*Ragnbild says he and to-you kinsfolk to value little*  
 orð Ólafs konungs". Ragnhildr svarar: "Ef þér vex  
*(the)-words of-Olaf (the)-king Ragnbild answers If to-you grows*  
 allmjök í augu, at halda Stein, þá farðu með honum á  
*very-much in (the)-eyes to keep Stein then go-you with him to*  
 fund Erlings föður míns, eðr fá honum þat föruneysi, er  
*(the)-meeting of-Erling father my or get him that company that*  
 hann komist þangat í friði; þá vænti ek, at hann taki við  
*he get thither in peace then expect I that he take with*

honum skjótt fyrir mín orð”. Þórbergir segir, at hann mun  
*him quickly for my words Thorberg says that he will*  
 ekki Stein þangat senda, ok mun Erlingi þó ærit margt til  
*not Stein thither send and will to-Erling yet enough much to*  
 bera, “at konungi er misþokkát, þó at þat leiði eigi af  
*bear that to-(the)-king is displeasing though that that lead not from*  
 mér til”. Var Steinn nú þar um vetrinn. Enn eftir jól komu  
*me thereto Was Stein now there over the-winter But after Yule came*  
 til Þórbergs sendimenn Ólafs konungs með þeim erindum,  
*to Thorberg (the)-messengers of-Olaf (the)-king with those errands*  
 at Þórbergir skal koma á fund hans fyrir miðja föstu,  
*that Thorberg shall come to (the)-meeting his before (the)-middle of-Lent*  
 ok var lagt ríkt við þá orðsending. Þórbergir bar þetta  
*and was laid strongly on that message Thorberg bore this*  
 fyrir vini sína, ok leitaði ráða við þá, hvárt á þat skyldi  
*before friends his and sought counsel with them whether on that should*  
 hætta, at fara til móts við konung at svá fögnu máli. Enn  
*venture to go to meeting with (the)-king at so gone matter But*  
 flestir löttu hann þess, ok kölluðu þá ráðligra, at láta  
*most dissuaded him of-that and called then more-advisable to let*  
 Stein fyrri af höndum enn fara á fund konungs. Enn  
*Stein sooner off hands than go to (the)-meeting of-(the)-king But*  
 Þórbergir var fúsari at leggja þessa ferð eigi undir höfuð.  
*Thorberg was more-eager to lay this journey not under head*

*Þórbergr's brother Finnur mocks him for being ruled by his wife, Árni reproaches him, and Kálfr and Erlingr's sons bring ships. Finnur and Árni go to the king, and Finnur offers money and land-rights for Þórbergr and life for Steinur; the king suspects the Jaðarr men, but Finnur says they will go to King Knútr if refused. The king grants settlement if they swear to follow him, and Þórbergr, Finnur, and Árni take the oaths, while Kálfr refuses. Steinur goes free, sails to England, and joins Knútr.*

Nökkuru síðar fór Þórbergr til fundar við Finn bróður sinn,  
*Somewhat later went Thorberg to a-meeting with Finn brother his*  
 ok bar þetta mál fyrir hann, ok bað hann til ferðar með  
*and bore this case before him and bade him to (the)-journey with*  
 sér. Finnur svarar: “Illt þykkir mér ofkvæni slíkt, at þora  
*himself Finn answers Ill seems to-me over-uiving such to dare*  
 eigi fyrir konu sinni, at halda einurð sinni við lánardrottinn  
*not before wife his to keep frankness his with liege-lord*  
 sinn”. “Kost muntú eiga”, segir Þórbergr, “at fara eigi, nema  
*his Choice will-you have says Thorberg to go not unless*  
 þú vilir; enn þó ætla ek at þú letist meirr fyrir hræðslu  
*you will but yet think I that you hold-back more for fear's*  
 sakir enn hollustu við konung”. Skildust þeir bræðr reiðir.  
*sake than loyalty to (the)-king Parted they brothers angry*  
 Fór Þórbergr síðan til fundar við Árna bróður sinn, ok  
*Went Thorberg afterward to a-meeting with Árni brother his and*  
 bað hann fara með sér til móts við konung, ok segir  
*bade him go with himself to meeting with (the)-king and tells*  
 honum, hversu háttat var. Árni svarar: “Undarligt þykkir  
*him how arranged was(-it) Árni answers Strange seems*  
 mér um svá vitran mann sem þú ert ok fyrirleitinn, er  
*to-me about so wise a-man as you are and circumspect that*  
 þú skalt hafa rasat í svá mikla óhamingju, at þú skalt  
*you should have stumbled into so great misfortune that you should*

hafa orðit fyrir konungs reiði, þar sem enga bar nauðsyn  
*have come under (the)-king's anger there where no bore need*  
 til; þat væri nokkur várkunn, at þú heldir frændr þína  
*thereto that were some excuse that you held kinsmen your*  
 eðr fóstbræðr, enn þetta er alls engi, at hafa tekizt á  
*or foster-brothers but this is at-all none to have taken on*  
 hendr íslenzkan mann, ok halda útlaga konungs, ok hafa  
*hands an-Icelandic man and keep (the)-outlaw of-(the)-king and have*  
 nú þar fyrir í veði fé sitt ok fjör ok allra frænda  
*now there for in pledge wealth your and life and of-all kinsmen*  
 þinna, þeira er þínu máli vilja fylgja, ok svá vina þinna".  
*your those who your case will follow and so of-friends your*  
 Þórbergr svarar: "Svá er sem mælt er, at einn er aukvisi  
*Thorberg answers So is as said is that one is a-weakling*  
 ættar hvernna; sú er mér auðsænst óhamingja föður míns,  
*of-kin every that is to-me most-plainly-seen (the)-misfortune of-father my*  
 hversu honum glapnaði sona eignin, er hann átti þann  
*how to-him went-awry of-sons the-getting when he begot that-one*  
 síðast, er engin líkindi hefir várrar ættar, ok dáðlauss er  
*last who no likeness has of-our kin and deedless is*  
 með öllu; mundi þat ok sannast, ef mér þætti eigi skömm  
*with all would that also truest if to-me seemed not shame*  
 við móður mína mælt, at ek munda þik aldri kalla várn  
*with mother my spoken that I would you never call our*  
 bróður". Snöri Þórbergr þá heimleiðis ok heldr ókátr. Síðan  
*brother Turned Thorberg then homeward and rather unhappy Afterward*  
 sendi hann menn norðr til Þrándheims á fund Kálfs  
*sent he men north to Trondheim to (the)-meeting of-Kalf*  
 bróður síns, ok bað hann koma til Agðaness í móti sér.  
*brother his and bade him come to Agdaness in against himself*  
 Ok er sendimenn komu ok hittu Kálf, þá hét hann  
*And when (the)-messengers came and met Kalf then promised he*

þegar ferðinni, ok hafði engi orð fyrir. Ragnhildr sendi  
*at-once the-journey and had no words for(-it) Ragnbild sent*  
 menn austr á Jaðar til Erlings föður síns, ok bað hann  
*men east to Jadar to Erling father her and bade him*  
 senda sér menn. Þaðan fóru synir Erlings: Sigurðr ok  
*send herself men Thence went (the)-sons of-Erling Sigurd and*  
 Þórir, ok hafði hvárr þeira tvítugsessu vel skipaða; fóru nú  
*Thorir and had each of-them a-twenty-bencher well manned went now*  
 síðan leið sína, til þess er þeir komu í Gizka. Heldu  
*afterward way their until that when they came into Gizki Held*  
 þeir Þórberg þaðan norðr með landi. Þá lá þar  
*they Thorberg(-and-bis-men) thence north along (the)-land Then lay there*  
 fyrir þeim Finnur ok Árni með tvær tvítugsessur. Síðan fóru  
*before them Finn and Arni with two twenty-benchers Afterward went*  
 þeir með því liði öllu norðr til Þrándheims, ok var Steinn  
*they with that force all north to Trondheim and was Stein*  
 þar í för með þeim. Ok er þeir komu til Agðaness,  
*there in (the)-journey with them And when they came to Agdanes*  
 þá var þar fyrir Kálfr Árnason og hafði tvítugsessu vel  
*then was there before Kalf Arni's-son and had a-twenty-bencher well*  
 skipaða. Síðan fóru þeir með liði sínu öllu til Niðarhólms,  
*manned Afterward went they with force their all to Nidarholm*  
 ok lágu þar um nóttina. Enn um morgininn áttu þeir tal  
*and lay there over the-night But in the-morning had they talk*  
 sín í milli ok ráðagerðir; vildi Kálfr ok synir Erlings  
*themselves in between and plannings would Kalf and (the)-sons of-Erling*  
 at þeir færi þá öllu liðinu inn til bæjarins ok léti þá  
*that they went then with-all the-force in to the-town and let then*  
 skeika at sköpuðu; enn Þórberg vildi þat eigi; lézt vilja  
*slide at (what-is)-shaped but Thorberg would that not professed to-wish*  
 fyrst fara at með vægð; ok láta bjóða konungi sæmilig  
*first to-go at(-it) with mildness and let offer to-(the)-king honorable*



boð; samþykktist Finnur því, ok svá Árni; var þat nú ráðs  
*offers agreed Finn to-that and so Arni was that now of-counsel*  
 tekit. Fóru þeir Finnur ok Árni á konungs fund, fáir saman.  
*taken Went they Finn and Arni to (the)-king's meeting few together*  
 Konungur hafði þá spurt um fjölmenni þat, er þeir höfðu,  
*(The)-king had then learned about throng that which they had*  
 ok var hann heldr styggr í ræðunni. Finnur bauð fyrir  
*and was he rather stiff in the-talk Finn offered for*  
 Þórberg ok Stein boð þau, at konungur skyldi gera fé svá  
*Thorberg and Stein offers those that (the)-king should award money so*  
 mikit, sem hann vildi sjálf, enn Þórbergur hafa lands-vist ok  
*much as he would himself but Thorberg have land-stay and*  
 veizlur slíkar, sem hann hafði áðr, enn Steinn lífsgrið ok  
*grants such as he had before but Stein life-quarter and*  
 lima. Konungur svarar: "Svá lízt mér, sem þessi för muni  
*of-limbs (The)-king answers So seems to-me as-if this journey will*  
 svá heiman búin, at þér munut nú þykkjast hafa ráð  
*so from-home prepared that you will now think-yourselves to-have power*  
 við mér eðr heldr meirr; enn þess mundi mik þó sízt vara  
*over me or rather more but of-that would me yet least expect*  
 af yðr bræðrum, at þér mundit fara með her í móti  
*from you brothers that you would go with a-host in against*  
 mér, enda kenni ek ráð þessi, at þeir Jaðar-byggvarnir  
*me and know I counsels these that they (the)-Jadar-dwellers*  
 munu hér upphafsmenn at vera. Enn ekki þarf mér fé at  
*will here instigators to be But not needs to-me money to*  
 bjóða". Þá svarar Finnur: "Ekki höfu vér bræðr fyrir þá sök  
*offer Then answers Finn Not have we brothers for that reason*  
 lið saman dregit, at vér munum yðr, herra, bjóða nökkurn  
*a-force together drawn that we will you lord offer any*  
 ófrið; má ok þetta ok ekki kenna Jaðar-byggjum, því at  
*unpeace may also this also not blame on-Jadar-dwellers because that*

vér báðum þá liðs, heldr berr hitt til um fjölmenni  
*we asked them for-support rather bears that-other thereto about throng*  
 vart, at vér vildum yðr bjóða fyrst vára þjónusta; enn ef  
*our that we would you offer first our service but if*  
 þat stoðar ekki, ok vilit þér því neita, ok ætlit Þórbergi  
*that avails not and will you that refuse and intend for-Thorberg*  
 nökkura afar-kosti at bjóða, þá munu vér nú fara með  
*some hard-terms to offer then will we now go with*  
 lið þat, sem vér höfum saman dregit, á fund Knúts  
*force that which we have together drawn to (the)-meeting of-Knut*  
 konungs hins ríka, ok vita, hvárt hann vili oss af höndum  
*(the)-king the mighty and know whether he will us from hands*  
 vísa; enn til hins gerumst vér ekki, at bjóða yðr né einn  
*turn but to the-other make-ourselves we not to offer you nor one*  
 ófrið". Konungr leit við honum, ok mælti: "Ef þér bræðr  
*unpeace (The)-king looked at him and spoke If you brothers*  
 vilit sverja mér þat, at fylgja mér útanlands ok innanlands,  
*will swear me that to follow me abroad and at-home*  
 ok skiljast eigi við mik, nema mitt sé lof eðr leyfi; eigi  
*and part not from me unless my be permission or leave not*  
 skulut þér leyna mik, ef þér vitit mér svikræði veitt, þá  
*shall you hide from-me if you know to-me treachery offered then*  
 vil ek taka sættir af yðr". Síðan fór Finnur til liðs síns,  
*will I take settlements from you Afterward went Finn to force his*  
 ok sagði, hverja kosti konungr hafði þeim gerva. Bera þeir  
*and told what terms (the)-king had to-them made Bear they*  
 síðan saman ráð sín; sagði Þórberg, at hann vill þenna  
*afterward together counsels their said Thorberg that he will this*  
 kost fyrir sína hönd: "Em ek ófúss at flýja af eignum  
*choice for his hand Am I unwilling to flee from possessions*  
 mínum, ok sækja til útlendra höfðingja; ætla ek mér þat  
*my and seek to foreign chieftains think I for-myself that*

til sœmdar verða munu, at fylgja Ólafi konungi, ok at verða  
*to honor become will to follow Olaf (the)-king and to be*  
 þar, sem hann er”. Þá svarar Kálfr: “Enga mun ek eiða  
*there where he is Then answers Kalf No will I oaths*  
 vinna Ólafi konungi; enn vera þá eina hríð hér í landi,  
*swear to-Olaf (the)-king but be then one while here in (the)-land*  
 er ek held veizlum mínum ok metorðum, ok konungr vill  
*while I hold grants my and honors and (the)-king will*  
 vera vin minn, ok er þat minn vili, at svá gerim vér  
*be friend my and is that my will that so do we*  
 allir”. Finnir svarar: “Til þess em ek ráðinn, at láta konung  
*all Finn answers To that am I resolved to let (the)-king*  
 einn ráða skildögum okkar í milli”. Árni Árnason mælti:  
*alone rule terms of-us in between Arni Arni's-son spoke*  
 “Til þess em ek ráðinn, at fylgja þér, Þórberg bróðir, þó  
*To that am I resolved to follow you Thorberg brother though*  
 at þú vilir berjast í móti Ólafi konungi, þá mun ek eigi  
*that you will fight in against Olaf (the)-king then will I not*  
 nú við þik skiljast, allra-helzt er nú tekr þú svá gott ráð  
*now from you part most-of-all when now take you so good counsel*  
 upp, ok mun ek fylgja ykkir Finni, bróður mínum, ok taka  
*up and will I follow you-two Finn brother my and take*  
 þann kost upp, sem þit sjáit ykkir til handa”. Gengu  
*that choice up which you-two see for-yourselfs to hands Went*  
 þeir bræðr þrír í eitt skip: Þórberg, Finnir ok Árni, ok  
*they brothers three into one ship Thorberg Finn and Arni and*  
 röru inn til bæjarins, ok gengu síðan á konungs fund.  
*rowed in to the-town and went afterward to (the)-king's meeting*  
 Fór þá fram þetta sáttmál, at þeir bræðr svörðu konungi  
*Went then forward this settlement that they brothers swore to-(the)-king*  
 eiða. Þá leitaði Þórberg Steini sætta við konung; enn  
*oaths Then sought Thorberg for-Stein settlements with (the)-king but*

konungr sagði, at Steinn skyldi í friði fyrir honum fara,  
*(the)-king said that Stein should in peace for him go*  
 hvert er hann vildi: “Enn ekki mun hann með mér vera”,  
*whither that he would But not will he with me be*  
 segir konungr síðan, “ok mun hann þat ekki lasta”. Þá  
*says (the)-king afterward and will he that not blame Then*  
 fór Þórberg út til liðs síns. Fór Kálfr þaðan út á Eggju  
*went Thorberg out to force his Went Kalf thence out to Eggja*  
 til bús síns, enn Finn fór til konungs, enn Þórberg ok  
*to farm his but Finn went to (the)-king but Thorberg and*  
 Árni ok annat lið þeira fór heim. Steinn fór suður með  
*Arni and other force their went home Stein went south with*  
 sonum Erlings. Ok um vórit snimma fór Steinn vestr til  
*(the)-sons of-Erling And in the-spring early went Stein west to*  
 Englands, ok gekk síðan til handa Knúti konungi hinum  
*England and went afterward to hands to-Knut (the)-king the*  
 ríka, ok var með honum í góðu yfirlæti.  
*mighty and was with him in good favor*

# VI • STEINN'S END

*Steinn, called prúði, grows so extravagant at Knútr's court, even shoeing his horse with gold, that the king thinks Steinn is vying with him in finery, and Steinn leaves. He is wrecked off Jutland and comes ashore alone, richly dressed and exhausted. A washerwoman beats him to death with her beetle for his money, as men say or suppose, and so his arrogance and disobedience to King Ólafr repaid him.*

Steinn var með Knúti konungi um hríð ok var afburða-maðr  
*Stein was with Knut (the)-king for a-while and was an-outstanding-man*  
 mikill at vápnum ok klæðum, ok var hann þá kallaðr Steinn  
*great in weapons and clothes and was he then called Stein*

hinn þrúði. Svá hafa sagt fornir fræðimenn, at Steinn gerði  
*the Proud So have said old learned-men that Stein made*  
 svá mikit offors, at hann skipaði hest sinn með gull, ok  
*so great arrogance that he fitted horse his with gold and*  
 bjó hófinn fyrir ofan. Knúti konungi þótti hann keppast um  
*dressed the-hoof over above To-Knut (the)-king seemed he to-vie in*  
 skrautgirni við sik, ok því fór Steinn í braut frá honum.  
*love-of-finery with him and therefore went Stein off away from him*  
 Steinn var í förum síðan. Enn þau urðu æfilok hans, at  
*Stein was in voyages afterward But those became (the)-end-of-life his that*  
 hann braut skip sitt við Jótlands-síðu, ok komst einn á land.  
*he broke ship his on Jutland's-side and got alone to land*  
 Hann var þá enn skrautliga búinn, ok hafði mikit fé á sér,  
*He was then still splendidly dressed and had much wealth on him*  
 ok var dasaðr mjök. Kona nökkur fann hann, er fór með klæði  
*and was exhausted much A-woman certain found him who went with clothes*  
 til þvátar. Hon hafði vífl í hendi. Hann var máttlítill ok lá  
*to washing She had a-beetle in hand He was powerless and lay*  
 í brúki. Hon sá, at hann hafði mikit fé á sér. Síðan fór  
*in (the)-seaweed She saw that he had much wealth on him Afterward went*  
 hon til, ok barði hann í hel með víflinni, ok myrti hann  
*she to-(him) and beat him to death with the-beetle and murdered him*  
 til fjár, at því er menn segja eðr hyggja um. Gafst  
*for wealth by that which men say or think about(-it) (It)-turned-out*  
 honum svá af ofmetnaði ok óhlýðni við Ólaf konung.  
*for-him so from arrogance and disobedience to Olaf (the)-king*



# Þórodds þáttur Snorrasonar

*The Tale of Thorodd Snorrason*







*Held in Norway against his will, Þóroddr Snorrason volunteers for the king's embassy to claim tax in Jamtaland, though earlier envoys were killed. He and eleven men are received by the lawman Þórarrr, who calls an assembly. It resolves to keep them until the Swedish king's sheriff arrives and to pretend they are waiting for the tax.*

Þóroddr Snorrason hafði dvalizt með Ólafi konungi (helga),  
 Thorodd Snorri's-son had stayed with Olaf (the)-king (the)-Saint  
 þá er Gellir Þórkelsson fekk leyfi af konungi at fara  
 then when Gellir Thorkel's-son got leave from (the)-king to go  
 til Íslands, sem fyrr var ritat; ok var hann þá með Ólafi  
 to Iceland as before was written and was he then with Olaf  
 konungi, ok undi stórilla ófrelsi því, er hann skyldi eigi  
 (the)-king and liked very-ill (the)-unfreedom that that he should not  
 fara í frelsi, hvert er hann vildi. Öndverðan þann vetr, er  
 go in freedom whither that he would Early that winter when  
 Ólafr konungr sat inn í Niðarósi, lýsti hann því jafnan, at  
 Olaf (the)-king sat in in Nidaros declared he that always that  
 hann vildi senda menn til Jamtaland, at heimta skatt. Enn  
 he would send men to Jamtaland to claim tax But  
 til þeirar ferðar váru menn ekki fúsir, því at af lífi váru  
 for that journey were men not eager because that from life were  
 teknir sendimenn Ólafs konungs, þeir er hann hafði fyrr  
 taken (the)-messengers of-Olaf (the)-king those whom he had before  
 senda, Þrándr hvíti ok þeir tólf saman, svá sem enn var  
 sent Thrand (the)-White and they twelve together so as also was  
 fyrr ritat, ok höfðu Jamtar síðan haldizt í hlýðni við  
 before written and had (the)-Jamts since held-themselves in obedience to  
 Svía-konung. Þóroddr Snorrason bauðst til þessarrar ferðar,  
 (the)-Swedes'-king Thorodd Snorri's-son offered-himself for this journey

því at hann hirði ekki um hvat yfir leið, ef hann færi  
*because that he cared not about what over passed if he went*  
 sjálfráða. Það þektist konungur, ok fóru þeir Þóroddr  
*self-ruling That accepted (the)-king and went they Thorodd(-and-his-men)*  
 síðan tólf saman, ok kómu fram austr á Jamtalandi, ok sóttu  
*afterward twelve together and came forth east in Jamtaland and sought*  
 heim þann mann, er Þórar hét; hann var þar lögmaðr ok  
*home that man who Thorar was-called he was there lawman and*  
 mestr metorðamaðr, því at hann var settr þar stjórnarmaðr  
*greatest man-of-honor because that he was set there governor*  
 yfir þeim. Þeir fengu þar góðar viðtökur. Enn er þeir höfðu  
*over them They got there good receptions But when they had*  
 þar litla hríð dvalizt þá báru þeir upp erindi sín við Þórar.  
*there little while stayed then bore they up errands their with Thorar*  
 Hann segir, at fyrir þeim svörum réðu engum mun siðr aðrir  
*He says that for those answers ruled in-no degree less other*  
 landsmenn ok höfðingjar enn hann, ok kveðst mundu  
*landsmen and chieftains than he and says-of-himself would*  
 þings kveðja til slíkra mála. Var svá gert, at þingboð  
*an-assembly call for such matters Was so done that (the)-assembly-token*  
 var upp skorit, ok stefnt þing fjölment. Fór Þórar til  
*was up cut and summoned an-assembly thronged Went Thorar to*  
 þings; enn sendimenn dvöldu at hans meðan. Þórar bar  
*(the)-assembly but (the)-messengers stayed at his while Thorar bore*  
 þetta mál fyrir alþýðu; enn þat var af ráðit, at þeim  
*this case before (the)-common-people but that was of resolved that them*  
 skyldi halda þar, til þess er sýslumaðr Sviakonungs kœmi  
*should keep there until that when (the)-sheriff of-(the)-Swedes'-king came*  
 austan; skyldu þeir þá stafa fyrir þeim, slíkt er hann vildi,  
*from-the-east should they then deal-out for them such as he would*  
 með ráði landsmanna, enn gera hitt yfirbragð á fyrir  
*with (the)-counsel of-landsmen but make that-other pretense on before*

þeim, at þeir væri fyrir því dvaldir, at þeir skyldi skattsins  
*them that they were for that detained that they should the-tax*  
 bíða, til þess at hann væri saman dreginn til handa þeim,  
*await until that that it were together drawn to hands theirs*  
 ok skyldi skipa þeim á vistir, tvá eðr þrjá saman.  
*and should place them in lodgings two or three together*

## II · THE YULE DRINKING

*Þóroddr and a companion stay with Þórarrr, who keeps Yule together with his kinsman by marriage from the next village. In the drinking a farmer's son boasts that the Swedish king's men will soon repay Norway's killings with the twelve envoys' lives. Warned, Þóroddr and his companion arm themselves and flee to the forest that night.*

Þóroddr var við annan mann at Þórars. Þar var jólaveizla  
*Thorodd was with a-second man at Thorar's There was a-Yule-feast*  
 mikil ok samburðar-öl; margir váru þar bæendr ór þorpinu,  
*great and joint-ale many were there farmers out-of the-village*  
 ok drukku þeir allir saman um jólin: Þaðan var eigi  
*and drank they all together over the-Yule Thence was not*  
 langt annat þorp; þar bjó mágr Þórars, ríkr ok  
*far another village there dwelt a-kinsman-by-marriage of-Thorar powerful and*  
 auðigr. Þeir mágar drukku saman jólin, enn Þóroddr  
*wealthy They kinsmen-by-marriage drank together the-Yule but Thorodd*  
 ok bóndason, ok var kappdrykkja ok síðan fór í  
*and (the)-farmer's-son and was a-drinking-bout and afterward went into*  
 kappmæli ok mannfafnað um Norðmenn ok Svía, ok því  
*a-boasting-match and man-comparing about Norwegians and Swedes and that*  
 næst þrættu þeir um Noregs-konung ok Svía-konung, ok svá  
*next quarreled they about (the)-king-of-Norway and (the)-Swedes'-king and so*

um þá, er fyrr höfðu verit, ok um skifti konunga, ok  
*about those who before had been and about (the)-dealings of-kings and*  
 svá um rán þau, er fyrr höfðu verit, ok þá váru. “Ef  
*so about robberies those which before had been and then were If*  
 konungar várir”, segir bóndason, “hafa fleiri menn látit fyrir  
*kings our says (the)-farmer’s-son have more men lost to*  
 Norðmönnum, þá munu menn Svía-konungs þessu jafna,  
*Norwegians then will (the)-men of-(the)-Swedes’-king this even*  
 ef þeir koma austan eftir jólin, með tólf manna fjörvi,  
*if they come from-the-east after the-Yule with of-twelve men lives*  
 ok viti þér ógerla veslir menn, til hvers þér erut dvaldir”.  
*and know you unclearly wretched men for what you are detained*  
 Þóroddr hugsar nú sitt mál; enn margir drógu at glott,  
*Thorodd ponders now his case but many drew to grins*  
 ok fengu þeim mörg hnæfilyrði, ok svá konungi þeira, ok  
*and gave them many taunts and so king their and*  
 mælti þá ölit með þeim, ok fór þat þá óleynt, er áðr  
*spoke then the-ale with them and went that then unbidden which before*  
 var leynt með þeim Jamtum, ok þá Þórodd hafði áðr ekki  
*was hidden with those Jams and which Thorodd had before not*  
 grunat um. Eftir um daginn tóku þeir Þóroddr ok förunautr  
*suspected about Later in the-day took they Thorodd and companion*  
 hans klæði sín ok vápn sín, ok lögðu til handargagns  
*his clothes their and weapons their and laid to hand-use*  
 sér, ef þeir vildi skjótt til taka. Um nóttina, er  
*for-themselves if they would quickly thereto take In the-night when*  
 menn váru sofnaðir, hljópu þeir í brott til skógar.  
*men were fallen-asleep leaped they off away to (the)-wood*

*Tracked by hounds, the two are thrown into a pit in a storehouse. Þórarr's thralls, left to guard them, get drunk and give Þóroddr a candle, leaving the doors open. The prisoners cut their straps into cords, climb out using a counterweight, bind reindeer hooves backward under their feet, set a barn on fire, and escape in the dark.*

Um morgininn, er menn urðu varir við brauthlaup þeira,  
*In the-morning when men became aware of (the)-running-away their*  
 fóru menn eftir þeim með sporhunda, ok fundu þá í  
*went men after them with tracking-hounds and found them in*  
 skóginum, þar sem þeir höfðu fölgizt. Þeir færðu þá heim  
*the-wood there where they had hidden They brought them home*  
 í eina skemmu með sér; þar var gröf ein í skemmunni.  
*into one storehouse with them there was a-pit one in the-storehouse*  
 Var þeim Þóroddi þar kastat í niðr, ok var  
*Was to-them Thorodd(-and-his-companion) there cast in down and was*  
 þar hurð læst fyrir, þar höfðu þeir lítinn mat, enn engi  
*there (the)-door locked before(-it) there had they little food but no*  
 klæði, nema þau ein, er þeir stóðu í. Ok er þeir komu  
*clothes except those alone which they stood in And when they came*  
 í gröfina settust þeir niðr á hálmi. Þá fór Þórarr, ok  
*into the-pit sat they down on straw Then went Thorar and*  
 allir frelsingjar hans, til mágs síns, ok skyldu þeir  
*all freedmen his to kinsman-by-marriage his and should they*  
 þar drekka þá, þat sem eftir var jólanna. Þrælar Þórars  
*there drink then that which remaining was of-the-Yule (The)-thralls of-Thorar*  
 skyldu gæta grafarinnar meðan; þeim þrælum var ætlaðr  
*should guard the-pit meanwhile to-those thralls was intended*  
 drykkir nógr; enn þeir stilltu lítt drykkinn, þegar þeir  
*drink enough but they restrained little the-drinking as-soon-as they*

skyldu sjálfir fyrir sjá, ok gerðu sik þegar ölöða hit  
*should themselves for(-it) provide and made themselves at-once ale-mad the*  
 fyrsta kveld, er bóndi var heiman farinn. Enn er þeir  
*first evening when (the)-farmer was from-home gone But when they*  
 þóttust vera fulldrukknir þrælarnir, þá mæltu þeir sín  
*thought-themselves to-be fully-drunk the-thralls then spoke they themselves*  
 í milli, er mat skyldi færa grafarmönnum, at þá skyldi  
*in between who food should bring to-the-pit-men that them should*  
 eigi skorta; þeir gerðu ok svá. Þóroddr kvað þeim kvæði;  
*not lack they did also so Thorodd spoke for-them poems*  
 enn þeir sögðu hann vera mundu virðingamann mikinn, ok  
*but they said him to-be would a-man-of-honor great and*  
 gáfu honum kerti mikit niðr í gröfina, ok ljós á kertinu.  
*gave him a-candle great down into the-pit and light on the-candle*  
 Þá kómu út þeir þrælarnir, er áðr höfðu inni verit, ok  
*Then came out those thralls who before had inside been and*  
 kölluðu ákafliga, at hinir skyldi þá inn fara; enn hinir  
*called eagerly that the-others should then in go but the-others*  
 hváirtveggja váru þá svá ölóðir, at þeir hvárigir luku aftir  
*both were then so ale-mad that they neither closed back*  
 skemmuna né gröfina. Þá ristu þeir Þóroddr  
*the-storehouse nor the-pit Then cut they Thorodd(-and-his-companion)*  
 í sundr fetla sína í strengi, ok knýttu saman, undu  
*in pieces straps their into strips and knotted(-them) together wound*  
 síðan frá öðrum endanum í hnoða, ok köstuðu upp í  
*afterward from one the-end into a-ball and cast up into*  
 skemmuglugginn ok á gólf, þar til er þat vafðist um  
*the-storehouse-window and onto the-floor there until that it wound-itself about*  
 arkarfót einn. Þeir leituðu þá til upp at fara; lyfti Þóroddr  
*a-chest-foot one They sought then for up to go lifted Thorodd*  
 upp förunaut sínum, til þess er hann stóð á öxlum honum;  
*up companion his to that when he stood on shoulders his*

síðan las hann sik upp í skemmuna. Þá skorti þar  
*afterward climbed he himself up into the-storehouse Then lacked there*  
 eigi reip, ok lét hann þau síga í móti Þóroddi; ok er  
*not ropes and let he them sink in against Thorodd and when*  
 hann skyldi Þórodd upp draga, þá fekk hann ekki at gert.  
*he should Thorodd up draw then got he nothing about done*  
 Þá mælti Þóroddr, at hann skyldi kasta reipinu yfir bita  
*Then spoke Thorodd that he should cast the-rope over (the)-beam*  
 þann, er í var skemmunni, enn gera lykkju á endanum,  
*that which in was the-storehouse but make a-loop on the-end*  
 ok bera þar í viðu ok grjót svá at þat væri meirr enn  
*and bear there into wood and stones so that it were more than*  
 jafnvægi hans; hann gerði svá; fóru þá sígin niðr  
*(the)-counterweight his he did so went then (the)-weights down*  
 í gröfina, enn Þóroddr upp. Þá tóku þeir sér klæði í  
*into the-pit but Thorodd up Then took they themselves clothes in*  
 skemmunni, sem þeir þurftu; þar váru nökkurar hreinstökur,  
*the-storehouse as they needed there were some reindeer-hides*  
 ok skáru þeir af fitjarnar, ok bundu undir sik öfgar.  
*and cut they off the-shanks and bound under themselves backwards*  
 Enn áðr þeir fóru brott, lögðu þeir eld í kornhlöðu eina  
*But before they went off laid they fire into a-corn-barn one*  
 mikla; hljópu síðan í braut í niðamyrkri. Hlaðan brann öll  
*great leaped afterward off away in pitch-darkness The-barn burned all*  
 ok margt annarra húsa í þorpinu. Þeir Þóroddr  
*and many of-other houses in the-village They Thorodd(-and-his-companion)*  
 fóru um alla nóttina, enn fálust at degi.  
*went through all the-night but hid-themselves at day*

*The reversed hooves mislead the hounds. The fugitives come to a hut where Þórir and his wife take them in. At night a huge, richly dressed man enters and rebukes the couple for taking in guests, and his sister asks him to help them. Þóróddr learns he is Arnljótr gellini, a robber and highwayman.*

Um morgininn var þeira saknat; var þá farit þegar með  
*In the-morning was of-them missed was then gone at-once with*  
 sporhunda, at leita þeira alla vega frá bænum, enn hundarnir  
*tracking-hounds to seek them all ways from the-village but the-hounds*  
 röktu sporin aftr til bæjarins, því at þeir kendu af  
*traced the-tracks back to the-village because that they smelled of*  
 hreinstökunum; ok röktu þegar sporin, sem klaufirnar höfðu  
*the-reindeer-hides and traced at-once the-tracks as the-hooves had*  
 vitat á hreinsfötjunum, ok varð ekki leitat þeira. Þeir  
*pointed on the-reindeer-shanks and became not searched for-them They*  
 Þóróddr fóru lengi um eyðimörkina; ok eitt  
*Thorodd(-and-his-companion) went long through the-wilderness and one*  
 kveld kómu þeir at einum litlum bæ, ok gengu þeir þar inn.  
*evening came they to one little farm and went they there in*  
 Þar sat inni karlmaðr ok kona við eld; nefndist hann  
*There sat inside a-man and a-woman by (the)-fire named-himself he*  
 Þórir. “Enn þetta er kona mín”, (segir hann) “er hér sitr  
*Thorir But this is wife my says he who here sits*  
 við eldinn”. Hann kvað þau eiga húsakotin; bauð hann þeim  
*by the-fire He said they owned the-but offered he them*  
 þar at vera um nóttina; þat þágu þeir. Hann segir þeim  
*there to be over the-night that accepted they He tells them*  
 þat, at hann var því þar kominn, at hann hafði flýit  
*that that he was for-that there come that he had fled*



ór bygðum fyrir víga sakir. Þeim Þóroddi  
*out-of (the)-settlements for slayings' sake To-them Thorodd(-and-his-companion)*  
 var þar unninn hinn bezti beini, ok mötuðust þau þar öll  
*was there given the best hospitality and ate they there all*  
 við eldinn. Síðan var búið um þá Þórodd þar  
*by the-fire Afterward was prepared for them Thorodd(-and-his-companion) there*  
 í sætinu, ok bjuggust þeir til svefnis; þá var enn log á  
*on the-bench and made-ready they for sleep then was still flame on*  
 eldinum. Þóroddi varð ekki mjök svefnisamt, ok vakti hann  
*the-fire To-Thorodd became not much sleepy and watched he*  
 um hríð; enn förunautr hans sofnaði þegar. Þá sá Þóroddr,  
*for a-while but companion his fell-asleep at-once Then saw Thorodd*  
 at þar gekk fram einn ungr maðr svá mikill, at þann  
*that there went forth one young man so big that such*  
 þóttist hann engan sét hafa jafnmikinn. Sjá maðr var  
*thought-himself he none seen to-have as-big This man was*  
 í skarlats-kyrtli rauðum, öllum hlaðbúnum í fald niðr;  
*in a-scarlet-tunic red all lace-trimmed into (the)-hem down*  
 öll váru hans klæði við gull búin; svá var hann ok hinn  
*all were his clothes with gold adorned so was he also the*  
 vænligasti sýnum sjálfr. Þóroddr heyrði, at hann ávítaði  
*most-handsome in-looks himself Thorodd heard that he rebuked*  
 þau um þat, er þau tóku við gestum, þar er þau höfðu  
*them about that that they took with guests there where they had*  
 sér varla matbjörg. Húsfreyja svarar: “Ver þú eigi  
*for-themselves scarcely food (The)-housewife answers Be you not*  
 reiðr, bróðir; sjaldan hefir þetta at borit; veit þú þeim heldr  
*angry brother seldom has this to borne give you them rather*  
 nökkura hjálp eðr gagnsmuni, því at þú ert betr til föerr  
*some help or benefit because that you are better thereto able*  
 enn vit”. Þóroddr heyrði þat, at þau nefndu hann Arnljót  
*than we-two Thorodd heard that that they named him Arnljot*

gellina, ok svá þat, at húsfreyja var systir hans. Þóroddr  
*Gellini and so that that (the)-housewife was sister his Thorodd*  
 hafði ok heyrt getit Arnljóts gellina fyrrum, ok svá þat  
*had also heard mentioned Arnljot Gellini formerly and so that*  
 með, at Arnljótr var hinn mesti ránsmaðr ok spellvirki ok  
*with that Arnljot was the greatest robber and evildoer and*  
 stigamaðr; lá úti á skógum ok drap menn til fjár sér.  
*highwayman lay out in forests and killed men for wealth for-himself*

V · THE TROLL-WOMAN

*Arnljótr leads them on skis at great speed to a mountain hut and warns them to throw no scraps away. Twelve merchants arrive and do; a troll-woman comes in and devours them until Arnljótr spears her, and she flees with the spear. Arnljótr sends the travelers on with a silver dish for King Ólaf, whom he would most like to serve. The king regrets that such a man should live so ill.*

Nú sváfu þeir Þóroddr af nóttina, því at þeir  
*Now slept they Thorodd(-and-bis-companion) off the-night because that they*  
 váru mjök mæddir af göngu. Enn er lifa mundi þriðjungr  
*were much wearied from walking But when remain would a-third*  
 nætr, þá kom þar Arnljótr gellini; bað hann þá upp  
*of-(the)-night then came there Arnljot Gellini bade he them up*  
 standa ok búast ferðar sinnar. Þeir Þóroddr  
*stand and make-ready journey their They Thorodd(-and-bis-companion)*  
 spruttu á fœtr, ok klæddust; var fenginn dagverðr sinn.  
*sprang to feet and dressed-themselves was gotten breakfast their*  
 Síðan fekk Þórir þeim skíð hvárumtveggja. Arnljótr réðst  
*Afterward got Thorir them skis to-both Arnljot set-out*  
 ok til ferðar með þeim; steig hann ok á skíð, ok  
*also for (the)-journey with them stepped he also onto skis and*

váru þau bæði löng ok breið. Enn þegar Arnljótr laust  
*were they both long and broad But as-soon-as Arnljot struck*  
 við skíða-geislanum, þá var hann þegar hvar fjarri þeim.  
*with the-ski-staff then was he at-once somewhere far-from them*  
 Þá beið hann ok sagði at þeir mundu hvergi komast at  
*Then waited he and said that they would nowhere get at*  
 svá búnu; bað hann þá stíga á skíðin með sér; þeir  
*so done bade he them step onto the-skis with himself they*  
 gerðu svá. Stóð Þóroddr nærri honum, ok held sér tveim  
*did so Stood Thorodd near him and held himself with-two*  
 höndum undir belti Arnljóts; enn förunautr Þórodds held  
*hands under (the)-belt of-Arnljot but (the)-companion of-Thorodd held*  
 undir belti honum. Skreið Arnljótr svá hart, sem hann  
*under (the)-belt to-him Slid Arnljot so hard as-if he*  
 væri lauss. Þeir kómu til sælu-húss nökkurs, svá at þriðjungur  
*were loose They came to shelter-house a-certain so that a-third*  
 var af nótt. Drápu þeir sér upp eld ok bjuggust til  
*was off (the)-night Struck they for-themselves up fire and made-ready for*  
 matar, ok er þeir mötuðust mælti Arnljótr, bað þá engu  
*food and when they ate spoke Arnljot bade them nothing*  
 niðr kasta af matnum, hvárki mola né beinum. Arnljótr  
*down cast of the-food neither crumbs nor bones Arnljot*  
 tók ór serk sér einn silfrdisk, ok mataðist hann þar  
*took out-of shirt his one silver-dish and ate he there*  
 af. Enn er þeir Arnljótr höfðu matast, hirðir  
*from But when they Arnljot(-and-his-companions) had eaten gathers*  
 Arnljótr leifar þeira. Síðan bjuggust þeir til rekkna. Í  
*Arnljot (the)-leavings their Afterward made-ready they for beds In*  
 annan enda hússins var loft uppi á þvertrjám; fóru þeir  
*other end of-the-house was a-loft up on cross-beams went they*  
 Arnljótr þar upp á loftit, ok lögðust þar til  
*Arnljot(-and-his-companions) there up onto the-loft and lay-down there for*

svefn. Arnljótr hafði í hendi höggspjót mikit; var falrinn  
*sleep Arnljot had in hand a-bewing-spear great was the-socket*  
 allr gullrekinn, enn skaftit var eigi hæra enn taka mátti  
*all gold-inlaid but the-shaft was not higher than take could*  
 hendi til fals; hann var gyrðr sverði gullbúnu; þeir  
*with-(the)-hand to (the)-socket he was girded with-a-sword gold-adorned they*  
 höfðu vápn sín ok klæði á loftinu hjá sér. Arnljótr bað  
*had weapons their and clothes on the-loft by them Arnljot bade*  
 þá vera hljóðsama; hann lá fremstr á loftinu. Litlu síðar  
*them be quiet he lay foremost on the-loft A-little later*  
 enn þeir höfðu um búizt komu þar til hússins menn  
*than they had about prepared-themselves came there to the-house men*  
 tólf saman; váru þat kaupmenn, ok ætluðu til Jamtlands  
*twelve together were those merchants and intended to Jamtaland*  
 með varning sinn. Enn er þeir kómu í húsit gerðu þeir  
*with wares their But when they came into the-house made they*  
 um sik glaum mikinn, ok váru kátir; gerðu þeir fyrir  
*about themselves merriment great and were cheerful made they before*  
 sér elda stóra. Ok er þeir mötuðust, þá köstaðu þeir  
*themselves fires great And when they ate then threw they*  
 niðr molunum ok beinum öllum út ór húsinu. Síðan  
*down the-crumbs and bones all out out-of the-house Afterward*  
 bjuggust þeir til svefn, ok lögðust niðr í sætinu upp frá  
*made-ready they for sleep and lay down on the-bench up from*  
 eldinum. Enn er þeir höfðu litla hríð sofit, þá kom þar  
*the-fire But when they had little while slept then came there*  
 inn tröllkona ein mikil; ok er hon kom inn, sópaðist hon  
*in a-troll-woman one great and when she came in swept she*  
 um fast, ok tók þat allt, er henni þótti ætt, ok sló því  
*about hard and took that all which to-her seemed edible and struck that*  
 öllu í munn sér. Síðan greip hon mann þann, er næstr  
*all into mouth her Afterward grabbed she (the)-man that who nearest*

henni var, reif hann allan í sundr, ok kastaði börmunum  
*her was tore him all in pieces and threw the-pieces*  
 á eldinn. Þá vögnuðu aðrir ok eigi við góðan draum,  
*onto the-fire Then woke (the)-others and not at good dream*  
 ok hljópu upp; enn hon færði til heljar hvern at öðrum,  
*and leaped up but she brought to hel each after other*  
 þar til er einn var eftir; hljóp sá inn undir loftit; síðan  
*there until that one was left ran he in under the-loft afterward*  
 kallar hann til bjargar sér, ef nökkut væri þess á loftinu,  
*calls he for help for-himself if anything were of-that on the-loft*  
 at duga honum mætti; seildist Arnljótr ofan ór loftinu  
*to help him might reached Arnljot down out-of the-loft*  
 eftir honum, ok kipti honum upp í loftit hjá sér. Þá  
*after him and snatched him up into the-loft by himself Then*  
 slóst hon at fram eldinum, ok tók at éta þá menn, er  
*turned she to forward the-fire and began to eat those men who*  
 henni þóttu steiktir vera. Þá stóð Arnljótr upp, ok hefr  
*to-her seemed roasted to-be Then stood Arnljot up and heaves*  
 upp spjótit, ok setr milli herða henni, er hon laut  
*up the-spear and sets(-it) between (the)-shoulders to-her when she bent*  
 at eldinum, svá hart, at út kom oddrinn um bringuna.  
*at the-fire so hard that out came the-point through the-breast*  
 Hon brást hart við, ok kvað hon hátt ok illiliga, ok hljóp  
*She started hard at(-it) and cried she loud and hideously and ran*  
 út. Arnljóti varð laust spjótit, ok hafði hon þat með sér.  
*out To-Arnljot became loose the-spear and had she it with her*  
 Arnljótr ruddi út hræjum manna, þeim er hon hafði  
*Arnljot cleared out (the)-carcasses of-men those which she had*  
 leift; setti hann síðan hurð fyrir skálann ok gætti, því  
*left set he afterward a-door before the-hall and guarded(-it) because*  
 at hon hafði þat allt frá brotit, er hon hljóp út. Sváfu  
*that she had that all off broken when she ran out Slept*

þeir þar um nóttina, þat sem eftir var; enn er lýsti,  
*they there through the-night that which remaining was but when (it)-dawned*  
 stóðu þeir upp, ok átu fyrst dagverð sinn. Ok er þeir  
*stood they up and ate first breakfast their And when they*  
 höfðu matast, mælti Arnljótr: “Nú munu vér hér skiljast.  
*had eaten spoke Arnljot Now will we here part*  
 Skulu þér nú fara at slóð þessi, er þeir fóru hingat í  
*Shall you now go along track this which they went hither on*  
 gær, kaupmennirnir; enn ek mun leita spjóts míns. Mun  
*yesterday the-merchants but I will seek spear my Will*  
 ek hafa at verkkaupi þat, er mér þykkir féneytt af fé,  
*I have for work-wage that which to-me seems of-worth of (the)-wealth*  
 er þessir fóru með, kaupmennirnir. Skaltú, Þoroddr, bera  
*which these went with the-merchants Shall-you Thorodd bear*  
 Ólafi konungi kveðju mína, ok seg honum þat, at hann  
*to-Olaf (the)-king greeting my and tell him that that he*  
 er svá allra konunga á Norðrlöndum, at ek vilda helst  
*is so of-all kings in (the)-Northlands that I would-wish most*  
 þjóna ok sem bráðast finna, ok meiri ván þykkir mér,  
*to-serve and as soonest to-meet and more expectation seems to-me*  
 at nökkut sinn finna ek hann, enn kveðja mín mun honum  
*that some time meet I him but greeting my will to-him*  
 lítilsverð þykkja”. Síðan tók hann silfrdiskinn, ok strauk  
*of-little-worth seem Afterward took he the-silver-dish and stroked*  
 hann vandliga með dúkinum, ok mælti: “Fær þú konungi  
*it carefully with the-cloth and spoke Bring you to-(the)-king*  
 disk þenna ok seg honum, at þetta er kveðja mín, ok  
*dish this and tell him that this is greeting my and*  
 bið hann hafa lítillæti til at taka með, ok fyrir hans  
*bid him have condescension thereto to take with(-it) and for his*  
 sakir hefi ek veitt ykkur þenna forbeina ok liðsinni”. Síðan  
*sake have I given you-two this help and support Afterward*

bjuggust hváirtveggja til ferðar, ok skildu þar við svá búit.

*made-ready both for (the)-journey and parted there with so done*

Fór Þóroddr þá leið sína ok þeir förunautar; fór sá með

*Went Thorodd then way his and they companions went he with*

þeim, er undan hafði komizt af þeim kaupmönnum. Fór

*them who away had got of those merchants Went*

Þóroddr til þess er hann fann Ólaf konung í Kaupangi,

*Thorodd until that when he found Olaf (the)-king in Kaupang*

ok segir konungi af ferðum sínum allt sem farit hafði; sagði,

*and tells (the)-king of journeys his all as gone had said*

at Arnljótr heilsaði honum, ok færði honum silfrdiskinn.

*that Arnljot greeted him and brought him the-silver-dish*

Konungur segir at þat var illa, er Arnljótr hafði eigi þá

*(The)-king says that that was ill that Arnljot had not then*

þegar farit á hans fund með þeim Þóroddi. “Ok

*at-once gone to his meeting with them Thorodd(-and-his-companion) And*

er þat mikill skaði”, segir konungur, “er svá illt skal leggjast

*is that great loss says (the)-king that so ill shall lie-down*

fyrir vaskan ok góðan dreng, ok svá merkilegan mann, sem

*for a-valiant and good fellow and so remarkable a-man as*

hann er”. Þóroddr var nú síðan með Ólafi konungi þat

*he is Thorodd was now afterward with Olaf (the)-king that*

sem eftir var vetrar, ok fekk þá leyfi af honum, at fara

*which remaining was of-winter and got then leave from him to go*

til Íslands um sumarit eftir, ok skildu þá með vináttu.

*to Iceland in the-summer after and parted then with friendship*





# Bolla þáttur

*The Tale of Bolli Bollason*

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*Þórólfr stærimaðr, a violent man whose savage bull harms his neighbors, hears from Þórðr of Marbæli that Þórðr has killed it. He takes his revenge by spearing Þórðr's young son Óláfr, a kinsman of Bolli Bollason. Arnórr kerlingarnef refuses him help, and so do the Hjaltasons, but that evening outside Hof Þorvaldr overhears him talking to himself and bids him dismount.*

Í þann tíma er Bolli Bollason bjó í Tungu ok nú var  
*In that time when Bolli Bolli's-son dwelt in Tunga and now was*  
 áðr frá sagt, þá bjó norðr í Skagafirði á Miklabæ Arnórr  
*before of told then dwelt north in Skagafjord at Miklabæ Arnor*  
 kerlingarnef, son Bjarnar Þórðarsonar frá Höfða. Þórðr  
*Hag's-Nose son of-Bjorn Thord's-son from Hofdi Thord*  
 hét maðr, er bjó á Marbæli. Guðrún hét kona hans;  
*was-called a-man who dwelt at Marbaeli Gudrun was-called wife his*  
 þau váru vel at sér ok höfðu gnótt fjár; son þeira  
*they were well of themselves and had plenty of-wealth son their*  
 hét Óláfr ok var hann ungr at aldri ok allra manna  
*was-called Olaf and was he young in age and of-all men*  
 efnilegastr. Guðrún kona Þórðar var náskyld Bolla Bollasyni;  
*most-promising Gudrun wife of-Thord was closely-related to-Bolli Bolli's-son*  
 var hon systrungr hans; Óláfr son þeira Þórðar var  
*was she cousin his Olaf son of-them Thord(-and-Gudrun) was*  
 heitinn eftir Óláfi pá í Hjarðarholti. Þórðr ok Þorvaldr  
*named after Olaf Peacock in Hjarðarbolt Thord and Thorvald*  
 Hjaltasynir bjuggu at Hofi í Hjaltadal; þeir váru höfðingjar  
*Hjaltri's-sons dwelt at Hof in Hjaltadal they were chieftains*  
 miklir. Maðr hét Þórólfr, ok var kallaðr stærimaðr; hann  
*great A-man was-called Thorolf and was called Swagger he*  
 bjó í Þúfum; hann var óvinveitr í skapi ok æðimaðr  
*dwelt at Thufur he was unfriendly in mind and a-raging-man*

mikill; hann átti griðung grán ólman. Þórðr af Marbæli  
*great he owned a-bull gray savage Thord of Marbaeli*  
 var í förum með Arnóri. Þórólfr stærimaðr átti frændkonu  
*was in journeys with Arnor Thorolf Swagger had a-kinswoman*  
 Arnórs, enn hann var þingmaðr Hjaltasona; hann átti ilt  
*of-Arnor but he was (the)-thingman of-(the)-Hjalti's-sons he had ill*  
 við búa sína ok lagði þat í vanda sinn; kom þat mest til  
*with neighbors his and laid that into habit his came that most to*  
 þeira Marbælinga; graðungr hans gerði mönnum mart mein,  
*those Marbaeli-folk bull his did to-men much harm*  
 þá er hann kom ór afréttum; meiddi hann fé  
*then when he came out-of (the)-mountain-pastures maimed he livestock*  
 manna, enn gekk eigi undan grjóti; hann braut ok andvirki  
*of-men but went not away-from stones he broke also hayricks*  
 ok gerði mart ilt. Þórðr af Marbæli hitti Þórólfr at máli, ok  
*and did much ill Thord of Marbaeli met Thorolf to talk and*  
 bað hann varðveita graðung sinn, — “viljum vér eigi þola  
*bade him guard bull his will we not bear*  
 honum ofríki”. Þórólfr lézt eigi mundi sitja at fé sínu;  
*him tyranny Thorolf professed not would sit over livestock his*  
 ferr Þórðr heim við svá búit. Eigi miklu síðar getr Þórðr at  
*goes Thord home with so done Not much later gets Thord to*  
 líta, hvar graðunginn hefir brotit niðr torfstakka hans. Þórðr  
*look where the-bull has broken down turf-stacks his Thord*  
 hleypr þá til ok hefir spjót í hendi, ok er boli sér  
*runs then thereto and has a-spear in hand and when (the)-bull sees*  
 þat, veðr hann jörð, svá at upp tekr um klaufir. Þórðr  
*that paws he (the)-earth so that up takes over (the)-hooves Thord*  
 leggr til hans, svá at hann fellr dauðr á jörð. Þórðr  
*thrusts at him so that he falls dead onto (the)-earth Thord*  
 hitti Þórólfr, ok sagði honum at boli var dauðr. “Þetta  
*met Thorolf and told him that (the)-bull was dead This*

var lítit frægðarverk”, svarar Þórólfr, “enn gera munda ek  
*was little a-deed-of-fame answers Thorolf but do would I*  
 þat vilja, er þér þætti eigi bettr”. Þórólfr var málóði ok  
*that wish which to-you would-seem not better Thorolf was talk-mad and*  
 heitaðist í hverju orði. Þórðr átti heimanferð fyrir höndum.  
*threatened in every word Thord had a-going-from-home before hands*  
 Óláfr son hans var þá sjau vetra eða átta; hann fór af  
*Olaf son his was then seven winters or eight he went from*  
 bænum með leik sínum ok gerði sér hús, sem börnum er  
*the-farm with play his and made himself houses as for-children is*  
 títt, enn Þórólfr kom þar at honum; hann lagði sveininn  
*customary but Thorolf came there to him he thrust the-boy*  
 í gegnum með spjóti; síðan fór hann heim ok sagði konu  
*in through with a-spear afterward went he home and told wife*  
 sinni. Hon sagði: “Þetta er ilt verk ok ómannlegt; mun  
*his She said This is an-ill deed and unmanly will*  
 þér þetta illu reifa”. Enn er hon tók á honum þungt,  
*to-you this with-ill reward But when she took on him heavily*  
 þá fór hann í brott þaðan ok létti eigi fyrr enn hann  
*then went he off away thence and stopped not sooner than he*  
 kom á Miklabæ til Arnórs; fréttust þeir tíðenda. Þórólfr  
*came to Miklabaer to Arnor asked-each-other they tidings Thorolf*  
 sagði honum víg Óláfs — “sé ek þar nú til trausts  
*told him (the)-slaying of-Olaf see I there now for support*  
 sem þér eruð sakir mágsemdar”. “Eigi ferr þú sjándi eftir  
*where you are for-sake of-kinship-by-marriage Not go you seeing after*  
 um þenna hlut”, sagði Arnórr, “at ek muna virða meira  
*in this matter said Arnor that I would value more*  
 mágsemd við þik enn virðing mína ok sæmd, ok ásjá  
*kinship-by-marriage with you than honor my and repute and protection*  
 áttu hér engrar ván af mér”. Fór Þórólfr upp eftir  
*have-you here no expectation from me Went Thorolf up along*

Hjaltadal til Hof, ok fann þá Hjaltasonu ok sagði þeim,  
*Hjaltadal to Hof and found then (the)-Hjalti's-sons and told them*  
 hvar komit var hans máli, — “ok sé ek hér nú til ásjá  
*where come was his case and see I here now for protection*  
 sem þit eruð”. Þórðr segir: “Slíkt eru níðingsverk, ok  
*where you-two are Thord says Such are villain's-deeds and*  
 mun ek enga ásjá veita þér um þetta efni”. Þorvaldr varð  
*will I no protection give you about this matter Thorvald became*  
 um fár; fær Þórólfr ekki af þeim at sinni; reið hann  
*about(-it) cool gets Thorolf nothing from them at (this)-time rode he*  
 í brott ok upp eftir Hjaltadal til Reykja; fór þar í laug;  
*off away and up along Hjaltadal to Reykir went there into (the)-bath*  
 enn um kveldit reið hann ofan aftir ok undir virkit at  
*but in the-evening rode he down again and under the-stronghold at*  
 Hofi, ok ræddist við einn saman, svá sem annarr maðr væri  
*Hof and talked by one alone so as-if another man were*  
 fyrir ok kveddi hann ok frétti, hvern þar væri kominn.  
*before(-him) and greeted him and asked who there were come*  
 “Ek heiti Þórólfr”, kvað hann. “Hvert vartu farinn? eða  
*I am-called Thorolf said he Whither were-you gone or*  
 hvat er þér á höndum?” spyrr launmaðrinn. Þórólfr sagði  
*what is to-you on hands asks the-bidden-man Thorolf told*  
 tilfelli þessi öll, eftir því sem váru, — “bað ek Hjaltasonu  
*happenings these all after that as (they)-were asked I the-Hjalti's-sons*  
 ásjá”, segir hann, “sakir nauðsynja minna”. Þessi svarar,  
*(for)-protection says he for-sake of-needs my This-one answers*  
 er fyrir skyldi vera: “Gengit er nú þaðan, er þeir gerðu  
*who before should be Gone is now thence when they made*  
 erfit, þat et fjölmenna, er tólf hundruð manna sátu  
*funeral-feast that the thronged which twelve hundreds of-men sat*  
 at, ok ganga slíkir höfðingjar mjök saman, er nú vilja eigi  
*at and shrink such chieftains much together who now will not*

veita einum manni nökkura ásjá". Þorvaldr var úti staddr  
*give to-one man any protection Thorvald was out standing*  
 ok heyrði talit; hann gengr þangat til ok tók í tauma  
*and heard the-talk he goes thither to and took in (the)-reins*  
 hestsins, ok bað hann af baki stíga, — "enn þó er eigi  
*of-the-horse and bade him off (the)-horse step but yet is not*  
 virðingarvænlegt við þik at eiga fyrir sakir fólsku þinnar".  
*honor-promising with you to deal for sake of-folly your*

II · STARRI TAKES ÞÓRÓLFR IN

*Guðrún, the boy's mother, asks Bolli to take up the case, and he agrees. At a meeting Þorvaldr Hjaltason arranges for his friend Starri of Guðdalir to hide Þórólfr for three marks of silver, signaling with his shield.*

Nú er at segja frá Þórði, er hann kom heim ok frá  
*Now is to tell of Thord that he came home and learned*  
 víg sonar síns ok harmaði þat mjök. Guðrún kona hans  
*(the)-slaying of-son his and grieved that much Gudrun wife his*  
 mælti: "Þat er þér ráð at lýsa vígi sveinsins á hönd  
*spoke That is for-you counsel to declare (the)-slaying of-the-boy on hand*  
 Þórólfi, enn ek mun ríða suðr til Tungu ok finna Bolla  
*to-Thorolf but I will ride south to Tunga and meet Bolli*  
 frænda minn, ok vita, hvern styrk hann vill veita okkr til  
*kinsman my and know what strength he will give us-two for*  
 eftirmáls". Þau gerðu svá, ok er Guðrún kom í Tungu, fær  
*prosecution They did so and when Gudrun came into Tunga gets*  
 hon þar viðtökur góðar. Hon segir Bolla víg Óláfs sonar  
*she there receptions good She tells Bolli (the)-slaying of-Olaf son*  
 síns ok beiddi, at hann tæki við eftirmálinu. Hann svaraði:  
*her and asked that he took with the-prosecution He answered*

“Eigi þykki mér þetta svá hæglegt at seilast til sæmdar í  
*Not seems to-me this so easy to reach for honor into*  
 hendr þeim Norðlendingum; fréttist mér ok svá til, sem  
*(the)-hands of-those Northerners is-reported to-me also so thereto as-if*  
 maðrinn muni þar niðr kominn, at ekki muni hægt eftir at  
*the-man may there down come that not may easy after to*  
 leita”. Bolli tók þó við málinu um síðir ok fór Guðrún norðr  
*seek Bolli took yet with the-case at last and went Gudrun north*  
 ok kom heim; hon sagði Þórði bónda sínum, svá sem nú var  
*and came home she told Thord husband her so as now was*  
 komit, ok líðr nú svá fram um hrið. Eftir jól um vetrinn var  
*come and passes now so forth for a-while After Yule in the-winter was*  
 lagðr fundr í Skagafirði at Þverá, ok stefndi Þorvaldr þangat  
*laid a-meeting in Skagafjord at Thvera and summoned Thorvald thither*  
 Guðdala-Starra; hann var vinr þeira bræðra. Þorvaldr fór til  
*Guddalir-Starri he was friend of-those brothers Thorvald went to*  
 þingsins við sína menn, ok er þeir kómu fyrir Urðskriðuhóla,  
*the-assembly with his men and when they came before Urðskridubolar*  
 þá hljóp ór hlíðinni ofan at þeim maðr; var þar Þórólfr;  
*then ran out-of the-slope down to them a-man was there Thorolf*  
 réðst hann í ferð með þeim Þorvaldi, ok er  
*joined he into (the)-journey with them Thorvald(-and-his-men) and when*  
 þeir áttu skamt til Þverár, þá mælti Þorvaldr við Þórólfr:  
*they had short to Thvera then spoke Thorvald to Thorolf*  
 “Nú skaltu hafa með þér þrjár merkr silfrs, ok sitja hér upp  
*Now shall-you have with you three marks of-silver and sit here up*  
 frá bænum at Þverá; haf þat at marki, at ek mun snúa  
*from the-farm at Thvera have that for a-sign that I will turn*  
 skildi mínum ok at þér holinu, ef þér er fritt, ok máttu  
*shield my and toward you the-hollow if to-you is safe and may-you*  
 þá fram ganga; skjöldrinn er hvítr innan”. Ok er Þorvaldr  
*then forth go the-shield is white inside And when Thorvald*



kom til þingsins, hittust þeir Starri ok tóku tal saman.  
*came to the-assembly met they Starri(-and-he) and took talk together*  
 Þorvaldr mælti: “Svá er mál með vexti, at ek vil þess  
*Thorvald spoke So is (the)-case with growth that I will of-that*  
 beiða, at þú takir við Þórólfi stærimanni til varðveislu ok  
*ask that you take with Thorolf Swagger for keeping and*  
 trausts; mun ek fá þér þrjár merkr silfrs ok vináttu mína”.  
*protection will I give you three marks of-silver and friendship my*  
 “Þar er sá maðr”, segir Starri, “er mér þykkir ekki vinsæll,  
*There is that man says Starri who to-me seems not well-liked*  
 ok óvíst, at honum fylgi hamingja; enn sakir okkars  
*and uncertain that him follow luck but for-sake of-our-two*  
 vinskapar, þá vil ek við honum taka”. “Þá gerir þú vel”, segir  
*friendship then will I with him take Then do you well says*  
 Þorvaldr; sneri hann þá skildinum ok frá sér hvolfinu,  
*Thorvald turned he then the-shield and from himself the-borrow*  
 ok er Þórólfr sér þat, gengr hann fram, ok tók Starri við  
*and when Thorolf sees that goes he forth and took Starri with*  
 honum. Starri átti jarðhús í Guðdölum, því at jafnan  
*him Starri had an-earth-house in Guddalir because that always*  
 váru með honum skógarmenn; átti hann ok nökkut sökótt.  
*were with him forest-men had he also somewhat many-suits*

### III · THE HEGRANES ASSEMBLY

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*Bolli rides north with thirty men, and Arnórr joins him. At the Hegrane assembly Þorvaldr and Starri try to stop the case by force, but Arnórr intervenes with his men. Bolli outlaws Þórólfr and goes home.*

Bolli Bollason býr til vígsmálit Óláfs; hann býst heiman  
*Bolli Bolli's-son readies up the-slaying-case of-Olaf he makes-ready from-home*  
 ok ferr norðr til Skagafjarðar með þrjá tigi manna; hann  
*and goes north to Skagafjord with three tens of-men he*  
 kemr á Miklabæ, ok er honum þar vel fagnat; segir hann,  
*comes to Miklabaer and is to-him there well welcomed tells he*  
 hversu af stóð um ferðir hans, — “ætla ek at hafa fram  
*how off(-it) stood about journeys his intend I to have forward*  
 vígsmálit nú á Hegranessþingi á hendr Þórólfi stærimanni;  
*the-slaying-case now at Hegranes-assembly on hand to-Thorolf Swagger*  
 vilda ek, at þú værir mér um þetta mál liðsinnaðr”.  
*would-wish I that you were to-me about this case supporting*  
 Arnórr segir: “Ekki þykki mér þú Bolli, vænt stefna út,  
*Arnor says Not seems to-me you Bolli promisingly to-steer out*  
 er þú sækir norðr hingat við slíka ójafnaðarmenn, sem  
*when you seek north hither against such unjust-men as*  
 hér er at eiga; munu þeir þetta mál meir verja með kappi  
*here is to deal will they this case more defend with contention*  
 enn réttindum; enn ærin nauðsyn þykkir mér þér á vera;  
*than rights but ample need seems to-me to-you on(-it) to-be*  
 munu vér ok freista at þetta mál gangi fram”. Arnórr dregr  
*will we also try that this case go forward Arnor draws*  
 at sér fjölmenni mikit; ríða þeir Bolli til þingsins.  
*to himself a-throng great ride they Bolli(-and-Arnor) to the-assembly*  
 Þeir bræðr fjölmenna mjök til Hegranessþings; þeir hafa frétt  
*Those brothers throng much to Hegranes-assembly they have heard*  
 um ferðir Bolla; ætla þeir at verja málit; ok er menn  
*about journeys of-Bolli intend they to defend the-case and when men*  
 koma til þingsins hefir Bolli fram sakir á hendr Þórólfi;  
*come to the-assembly has Bolli forward charges on hand to-Thorolf*  
 ok er til varnar var boðit, gengu þeir til Þorvaldr ok  
*and when for defense was called went they thereto Thorvald and*

Starri við sveit sína, ok hugðu at eyða málinu fyrir Bolli  
*Starri with company their and meant to destroy the-case for Bolli*  
 með styrk ok ofríki. Enn er þetta sér Arnórr, gengr hann  
*with strength and tyranny But when this sees Arnor goes he*  
 í milli með sína sveit ok mælti: “Þat er mönnum einsætt,  
*in between with his company and spoke That is to-men clear*  
 at færa hér eigi svá marga góða menn í vandræði sem á  
*to bring here not so many good men into trouble as on*  
 horfist, at menn skyli eigi ná lögum um mál sín, er ok  
*looks that men should not reach law about cases their is also*  
 ófallit at fylgja Þórólfi um þetta mál; muntu Þorvaldr ok  
*unfitting to follow Thorolf about this case will-you Thorvald also*  
 óliðdrjúgr verða, ef reyna skal”. Þeir Þorvaldr ok Starri  
*of-little-avail be if tested shall(-it-be) They Thorvald and Starri*  
 sáu nú, at málit mundi fram ganga, því at þeir höfðu  
*saw now that the-case would forward go because that they had*  
 ekki liðsafla við þeim Arnóri, ok létu þeir frá.  
*not force-strength against them Arnor(-and-Bolli) and stopped they from(-it)*  
 Bolli sekti Þórólf stærimann þar á Hegranessþingi um  
*Bolli outlawed Thorolf Swagger there at Hegranes-assembly for*  
 víg Óláfs frænda síns, ok fór við þat heim. Skildust  
*(the)-slaying of-Olaf kinsman his and went with that home Parted*  
 þeir Arnórr með kærleikum. Sat Bolli í búi sínu.  
*they Arnor(-and-Bolli) with affection Sat Bolli in household his*

IV • BOLLI KILLS ÞÓRÓLFUR

*Starri places Þórólfr on a ship in Hrútafjörðr. Bolli rides there alone, armed, and runs him through with the sword Fótbitr at the booth door. He warns the merchants off, and men think it a bold deed to ride alone among his enemies.*

Þorgrímur hét maður; hann átti skip uppi standanda í  
*Thorgrim was-called a-man he had a-ship up standing in*  
 Hrútafirði; þangat reið Starri ok Þórólfr við honum. Starri  
*Hrutafjord thither rode Starri and Thorolf with him Starri*  
 mælti við stýrimann: "Hér er maður at ek vil at þú takir  
*spoke with (the)-skipper Here is a-man whom I wish that you take*  
 við ok flytir út, ok hér eru þrjár merkr silfrs, er þú skalt  
*with and carry out and here are three marks of-silver which you shall*  
 hafa ok þar með vináttu mína". Þorgrímur mælti: "Á þessu  
*have and there with friendship my Thorgrim spoke In this*  
 þykki mér nokkur vandi, hversu af hendi verður leyst; enn  
*seems to-me some difficulty how from hand becomes loosed but*  
 við áskorun þína mun ek við honum taka; enn þó þykki  
*at challenge your will I with him take but yet seems*  
 mér þessi maður vera ekki giftuvænlegr". Þórólfr réðst nú í  
*to-me this man to-be not luck-promising Thorolf joined now into*  
 sveit með kaupmönnum; enn Starri ríðr heim við svá  
*(the)-company with (the)-merchants but Starri rides home with so*  
 búit. Nú er at segja frá Bolla; hann hugsar um efni  
*done Now is to tell of Bolli he ponders about (the)-matter*  
 þeira Þórólfs, ok þykkir eigi verða mjök með öllu  
*of-them Thorolf(-and-himself) and seems not to-become much with all*  
 fylgt, ef Þórólfr skal sleppa; frétti hann nú, at hann er  
*followed-through if Thorolf shall slip-away learned he now that he is*  
 til skips ráðinn. Bolli býst heiman; setr hann hjálm á  
*to (the)-ship engaged Bolli makes-ready from-home sets he a-helmet on*  
 höfuð sér, skjöld á hlið, spjót hafði hann í hendi, enn gyrðr  
*head his a-shield at side a-spear had he in hand but girded*  
 sverðinu Fótbit; hann ríðr norðr til Hrútafjarðar, ok kom  
*with-the-sword Leg-biter he rides north to Hrutafjord and came*  
 í þat mund er kaupmenn váru albúnir. Var þá ok vindr  
*at that time when (the)-merchants were all-ready Was then also wind*

á kominn. Ok er Bolli reið at búðardurunum, gekk Þórólfr  
*on come And when Bolli rode to the-booth-doors went Thorolf*  
 út í því ok hafði húðfat í fangi sér. Bolli bregðr Fótbit,  
*out at that and had a-hide-sack in arms his Bolli draws Leg-biter*  
 ok leggir í gegnum hann. Fellr Þórólfr á bak aftr í  
*and thrusts in through him Falls Thorolf on back backward into*  
 búðina inn, enn Bolli hleypr á hest sinn. Kaupmenn hljópu  
*the-booth in but Bolli leaps onto horse his (The)-merchants leaped*  
 saman ok at honum. Bolli mælti: “Hitt er yðr ráðlegast,  
*together and at him Bolli spoke That-other is for-you most-advisable*  
 at láta nú vera kyrt, því at yðr mun ofstýri verða at  
*to let now be quiet because that for-you will overmuch become to*  
 leggja mik við velli; enn vera má, at ek kvista einnhvern  
*lay me by (the)-field but be may that I lop some-one*  
 yðvarn eða alla tvá, áðr ek em feldr”. Þorgrímr segir: “Ek  
*of-you or all two before I am felled Thorgrim says I*  
 hygg, at þetta sé satt”. Létu þeir vera kyrt, enn Bolli reið  
*think that this be true Let they be quiet but Bolli rode*  
 heim, ok hefir sótt mikinn frama í þessi ferð; fær hann  
*home and has won great glory in this journey gets he*  
 af þessu virðing mikla, ok þótti mönnum farit skörulega.  
*from this honor great and seemed to-men gone boldly*  
 Hefir sektan manninn í öðrum fjórðungi, enn síðan riðit  
*Has outlawed the-man in another quarter but afterward ridden*  
 einn saman í hendr óvinum sínum ok drepit hann þar.  
*one alone into (the)-bands of-enemies his and killed him there*

*At the Althing Guðmundr ríki invites Bolli north, and others follow. After Yule Bolli rides north in a party of eighteen, including the twelve merchants who wintered with him. Arnórr receives him and warns that the Hjaltasons feel slighted, then rides with him toward Heljardalsheiði.*

Um sumarit á alþingi fundust þeir Bolli ok Guðmundr  
*In the-summer at (the)-Althing met they Bolli and Gudmund*  
 enn ríki ok töluðu mart. Þá mælti Guðmundr: “Því vil  
*the Powerful and talked much Then spoke Gudmund That will*  
 ek lýsa, Bolli, at ek vil við slíka menn vingast, sem þér  
*I declare Bolli that I will with such men make-friends as you*  
 eruð; ek vil bjóða þér norðr til mín til hálfsmánaðar vezlu,  
*are I will invite you north to me to a-half-month's feast*  
 ok þykki mér betr, at þú komir”. Bolli svarar, at vísu  
*and seems to-me better that you come Bolli answers that certainly*  
 vill hann þiggja sæmdir at slíkum manni, ok hét hann  
*will he accept honors from such a-man and promised he*  
 ferðinni. Þá urðu ok fleiri menn til at veita honum þessi  
*the-journey Then became also more men thereto to give him these*  
 vinganarmál. Arnórr kerlingarnef bauð Bolla ok til vezlu at  
*friendly-overtures Arnor Hag's-Nose invited Bolli also to a-feast at*  
 Miklabæ. Maðr hét Þorsteinn; hann bjó at Hálsi; hann  
*Miklabær A-man was-called Thorstein he dwelt at Hals he*  
 var sonr Hellu-Narfá; hann bauð Bolla til sín, er hann  
*was son of-Hellu-Narfi he invited Bolli to himself when he*  
 færi norðan, ok Þórðr af Marbæli bauð Bolla. Fóru menn  
*went from-the-north and Thord of Marbaeli invited Bolli Went men*  
 af þinginu ok reið Bolli heim. Þetta sumar kom skip í  
*from the-assembly and rode Bolli home This summer came a-ship into*

Dögurðarnes ok settist þar upp. Bolli tók til vistar í Tungu  
*Dogurdarnes and was-beached there up Bolli took to lodging in Tunga*  
 tólf kaupmenn; váru þeir þar um vetrinn, ok veitti Bolli  
*twelve merchants were they there through the-winter and entertained Bolli*  
 þeim allstórmannlega. Sátu þeir um kyrt fram yfir Jól; enn  
*them very-magnificently Sat they about quiet forth over Yule but*  
 eftir jól ætlar Bolli at vitja heimboðanna norðr, ok lætr hann  
*after Yule intends Bolli to visit the-home-feasts north and has he*  
 þá járna hesta ok býr ferð sína; váru þeir átján í reið;  
*then shoe horses and prepares journey his were they eighteen in (the)-ride*  
 váru kaupmenn allir vápnaðir. Bolli reið í blári kápu, ok hafði  
*were (the)-merchants all armed Bolli rode in a-blue cape and had*  
 í hendi spjótit konungsnaut et góða. Þeir ríða nú norðr, ok  
*in hand the-spear King's-gift the good They ride now north and*  
 koma á Marbæli til Þórðar; var þar allvel við þeim tekit;  
*come to Marbaeli to Thord was there very-well with them received*  
 sátu þrjár nætr í miklum fagnaði. Þaðan riðu þeir á Miklabæ  
*sat three nights in great joy Thence rode they to Miklabær*  
 til Arnórs ok tók hann ágætlega vel við þeim. Var þar vezla  
*to Arnor and took he excellently well with them Was there a-feast*  
 en bezta. Þá mælti Arnórr: "Vel hefir þú gert, Bolli, er þú  
*the best Then spoke Arnor Well have you done Bolli when you*  
 hefir mik heimsótt; þykki mér þú hafa lýst í því við mik  
*have me visited seems to-me you to-have shown in that toward me*  
 mikinn félagsskap; skulu eigi eftir betri gjafir með mér, enn  
*great fellowship shall not behind better gifts with me than*  
 þú skalt þiggja mega; mín vinátta skal þér ok heimol vera;  
*you shall accept may my friendship shall to-you also freely-given be*  
 enn nökkurr grunr er mér á, at þér sé eigi allir menn  
*but some suspicion is to-me on(-it) that to-you be not all men*  
 vinholir í þessu heraði, þykkjast sviftir vera sæmdum; kemr  
*friendly in this district think-themselves bereft to-be of-honors comes*

þat mest til þeira Hjaltasona; mun ek nú ráðast til ferðar  
*that most to those Hjalti's-sons will I now set-out for (the)-journey*  
 með þér norðr á Heljardalsheiði, þá er þér farið heðan”.  
*with you north onto Heljardalsbeath then when you go hence*  
 Bolli svarar: “Þakka vil ek yðr, Arnórr bóndi, alla sæmd, er  
*Bolli answers Thank will I you Arnor farmer all honor which*  
 þér gerið til mín nú ok fyrrum; þykki mér ok þat bæta  
*you do to me now and formerly seems to-me also that to-improve*  
 várn flokk, at þér ríðit með oss; enn alt hugðum vér at  
*our band that you ride with us but all thought we to*  
 fara með spekt um þessi heruð, enn ef aðrir leita á oss,  
*go with peacefulness through these districts but if others set on us*  
 þá má vera, at vér leikim þá enn nökkut í mót”. Síðan  
*then may be that we play then still somewhat in against Afterward*  
 ræðst Arnórr til ferðar með þeim, ok ríða nú veg sinn.  
*sets-out Arnor for (the)-journey with them and ride now way their*

VI • HELGI OF SKEID

*The Hjaltasons lie in wait but turn back at the sight of Arnórr with Bolli. At Skeið the hot-tempered farmer Helgi finds Bolli's horses at his hay, demands the spear King's-gift as compensation, and, when Bolli refuses it, summons him for theft and vagrancy. Bolli counter-summons him and sends a knife and belt to Helgi's wife, who had spoken well of them. Bolli then goes on to Þorsteinn of Háls.*

Nú er at segja frá Þorvaldi, at hann tekur til orða við  
*Now is to tell of Thorvald that he takes to words with*  
 Þórð bróður sinn: “Vita muntu, at Bolli ferr heðra at  
*Thord brother his Know will-you that Bolli goes hence to*  
 heimboðum; eru þeir nú at Arnórs átján saman ok ætla  
*home-feasts are they now at Arnor's eighteen together and intend*



norðr Heljardalsheiði”. “Veit ek þat”, svarar Þórðr. Þorvaldr

*north Heljardalsheath Know I that answers Thord Thorvald*

mælti: “Ekki er mér þó um þat, at Bolli hlaupi hér svá

*spoke Not is to-me yet about that that Bolli run here so*

um horn oss, at vér finnim hann eigi; því at ek veit

*about (the)-horn of-us that we find him not because that I know*

eigi hverr minni sæmd hefir meir niðr drepit enn hann”.

*not who my honor has more down beaten than he*

Þórðr mælti: “Mjök ertu íhlutunarsamr ok meir enn ek

*Thord spoke Much are-you meddlesome and more than I*

vilda, ok ófarin mundi þessi, ef ek réða; þykki

*would-wish and untraveled would this(-journey-be) if I ruled seems*

mér óvíst, at Bolli sé ráðlauss fyrir þér”. “Eigi mun ek

*to-me uncertain that Bolli be counsel-less before you Not will I*

letjast láta”, svarar Þorvaldr, “enn þú munt ráða ferð

*be-dissuaded let answers Thorvald but you will rule journey*

þinni”. Þórðr mælti: “Eigi mun ek eftir sitja, ef þú ferr,

*your Thord spoke Not will I behind sit if you go*

bróðir, enn þér munu vér eigna alla virðing, þá er vér

*brother but to-you will we ascribe all honor that which we*

hljótum í þessi ferð, ok svá, ef öðruvís berr til”. Þorvaldr

*win in this journey and so if otherwise bears to Thorvald*

safnar at sér mönnum, ok verða þeir átján saman, ok

*gathers to himself men and become they eighteen together and*

ríða á leið fyrir þá Bolla ok ætla at sitja fyrir

*ride on (the)-way before them Bolli(-and-his-men) and intend to sit before*

þeim. Þeir Arnórr ok Bolli ríða nú með sína menn, ok er

*them They Arnor and Bolli ride now with their men and when*

skamt var í milli þeira ok Hjaltasona, þá mælti Bolli

*short was in between of-them and of-(the)-Hjalti's-sons then spoke Bolli*

til Arnórs: “Mun eigi þat nú ráð, at þér hverfit aftr?

*to Arnor Will not that now counsel that you turn back*

hafi þér þó fylgt oss et drengiligsta; munu þeir Hjaltasynir  
*have you yet followed us the most-manfully will they Hjalti's-sons*  
 ekki sæta fláráðum við mik". Arnórr mælti: "Eigi mun ek  
*not practice treacheries against me Arnor spoke Not will I*  
 enn aftr hverfa; því at svá er sem annarr segi mér, at  
*yet back turn because that so is as-if another say to-me that*  
 Þorvaldr muni til þess ætla at hafa fund þinn, eða hvat sé  
*Thorvald may to that intend to have meeting yours or what see*  
 ek þar upp koma? blikar þar eigi skildir við? ok munu  
*I there up come gleam there not shields with(-them) and will*  
 þar vera Hjaltasynir; enn þó mætti nú svá um búast, at  
*there be (the)-Hjalti's-sons but yet might now so about be-prepared that*  
 þessi þeira ferð yrði þeim til engrar virðingar, enn megi  
*this their journey became to-them for no honor but may*  
 metast fjörráð við þik". Nú sjá þeir Þorvaldr bræðr,  
*be-reckoned life-plotting against you Now see they Thorvald(-and-his) brothers*  
 at þeir Bolli eru hvergi liðfæri enn þeir, ok  
*that they Bolli(-and-Arnor) are nowise weaker-in-force than they and*  
 þykkjast sjá, ef þeir sýna nökkura óhæfu af sér, at  
*think-themselves to-see if they show any outrage of themselves that*  
 þeira kostur mundi mikít versna, sýnist þeim þat ráðlegast  
*their lot would much worsen seems to-them that most-advisable*  
 at snúa aftr, alls þeir máttu ekki sínum vilja fram koma.  
*to turn back since they could not their will forth bring*  
 Þá mælti Þórðr: "Nú fór sem mik varði, at þessi ferð  
*Then spoke Thord Now went(-it) as me expected that this journey*  
 mundi verða hæðileg, ok þætti mér enn betra heima  
*would become laughable and would-seem to-me still better at-home*  
 setit; höfum sýnt oss í fjandskap við menn, enn komið  
*sat have shown ourselves in enmity toward men but come*  
 engu á leið". Þeir Bolli ríða leið sína; fylgir Arnórr  
*nothing on way They Bolli(-and-his-men) ride way their follows Arnor*

þeim upp á heiðina, ok skildi hann eigi fyrr við þá, enn  
*them up onto the-beath and parted he not sooner with them than*  
 hallaði af norðr; þá hvarf hann aftir, enn þeir riðu ofan eftir  
*sloped off north then turned he back but they rode down along*  
 Svarfaðardal ok koma á bæ þann, er á Skeiði hét;  
*Svarfadaral and come to (the)-farm that which at Skeid was-called*  
 þar bjó sá maðr, er Helgi hét; hann var ættsmár ok  
*there dwelt that man who Helgi was-called he was low-born and*  
 illa í skapi, auðigr at fé; hann átti þá konu, er Sigríðr  
*ill in mind wealthy in property he had that wife who Sigrid*  
 hét; hon var frændkona Þorsteins Hellu-Narfasonar; hon  
*was-called she was a-kinswoman of-Thorstein Hellu-Narfi's-son she*  
 var þeira skörungur meiri. Þeir Bolli litu heygard  
*was of-them the-leader greater They Bolli(-and-his-men) looked-at a-bay-yard*  
 hjá sér, stigu þeir þar af baki ok kasta þeir fyrir hesta  
*by them stepped they there off horseback and throw they before horses*  
 sína ok verja til heldr litlu, enn þó helt Bolli þeim aftir  
*their and spend thereto rather little but yet held Bolli them back*  
 at heygjöfinni — “veit ek eigi”, segir hann, “hvert skaplyndi  
*at the-bay-giving know I not says he what temper*  
 bóndi hefir”. Þeir gáfu heyvöndul, ok létu hestana grípa  
*(the)-farmer has They gave a-bay-wisp and let the-horses snatch*  
 í. Á bænum heima gekk út maðr ok þegar inn aftir  
*at(-it) On the-farm at-home went out a-man and at-once in again*  
 ok mælti: “Menn eru við heygard þinn, bóndi, ok reyna  
*and spoke Men are by bay-yard your farmer and try*  
 desjarnar”. Sigríðr húsfreyja svarar: “Þeir einir munu þeir  
*the-bayricks Sigrid (the)-housewife answers They alone will those*  
 menn vera, at þat mun ráð at spara eigi hey við”  
*men be that that will counsel to spare not bay toward(-them)*  
 Helgi hljóp upp í óðafári ok kvað aldri hana skyldu  
*Helgi leaped up in raging-frenzy and said never her should*

þessi ráða, at hann léti stela heyjum sínum. Hann hleypr  
*this rule that he let steal hay his He runs*  
 þegar sem hann sé vitlauss ok kemr þar at sem þeir  
*at-once as-if he be witless and comes there to where they*  
 áðu. Bolli stóð upp er hann leit ferðina mannsins, ok  
*halted Bolli stood up when he saw the-going of-the-man and*  
 studdist við spjótir konungsnaut, ok þegar Helgi kom at  
*leaned on the-spear King's-gift and as-soon-as Helgi came to*  
 honum, mælti hann: “Hverir eru þessir þjófarnir, er mér  
*him spoke he Who are these the-thieves who me*  
 bjóða ofríki, ok stela mik eign minni, ok rífa í sundr  
*offer tyranny and steal me property my and tear in pieces*  
 hey mitt fyrir faraskjóta sína?” Bolli segir nafn sitt. Helgi  
*hay my for mounts their Bolli tells name his Helgi*  
 svarar: “Þat er ólíðlegt nafn ok muntu vera óréttviss”. “Vera  
*answers That is an-unlikely name and will-you be unjust Be*  
 má, at svá sé”, segir Bolli, “enn hinu skaltu mæta,  
*may that so be says Bolli but with-that-other shall-you meet*  
 er réttvísi er í”. Bolli keyrði þá hestana frá heyinu ok  
*which justice is in Bolli drove then the-horses from the-hay and*  
 bað þá eigi æja lengr. Helgi mælti: “Ek kalla yðr hafa  
*bade them not graze longer Helgi spoke I call you to-have*  
 stólit mik þessu, sem þér hafið haft, ok gert á hendr yðr  
*stolen me this which you have had and made on hands your*  
 skóggangssök”. “Þú munt vilja, bóndi”, sagði Bolli, “at vér  
*forest-outlawry-charge You will wish farmer said Bolli that we*  
 komim fyrir oss fébótum við þik, ok hafir þú eigi  
*bring before ourselves money-compensation with you and have you not*  
 sakir á oss; mun ek gjalda tvenn verð fyrir hey þitt”. “Þat  
*charges on us will I pay twofold price for hay your That*  
 ferr heldr fjarri”, svarar hann, “mun ek framar á hyggja  
*goes rather far answers he will I further on think*

um þat, er vér skiljum”. Bolli mælti: “Eru nökkurir hlutir  
*about that when we part Bolli spoke Are some things*  
 þeir, bóndi, er þú vilir hafa í sætt af oss?” “Þat  
*those farmer which you would have in settlement from us That*  
 þykki mér vera mega, svarar Helgi, at ek vili spjót þat et  
*seems to-me be may answers Helgi that I wish spear that the*  
 gullrekna, er þú hefir í hendi”. “Eigi veit ek”, sagði Bolli,  
*gold-inlaid which you have in hand Not know I said Bolli*  
 “hvárt ek nenni þat til at láta; hefi ek annat nökkut  
*whether I bring-myself that thereto to let(-go) have I other somewhat*  
 heldr fyrir því ætlat; máttu þat ok varla tala, at beiðast  
*rather for that intended may-you that also hardly speak to ask*  
 vápns ór hendi mér. Tak heldr annat fé svá mikit, at  
*weapon out-of hand my Take rather other wealth so much that*  
 þú þykkist vel haldinn af”. “Fjarri ferr þat”, svarar Helgi,  
*you think-yourself well held by(-it) Far goes that answers Helgi*  
 “er þat ok best at þér svarið slíku fyrir, sem þér hafið  
*is that also best that you answer such for as you have*  
 til gert”. Síðan hóf Helgi upp stefnu ok stefndi Bolla  
*to done Afterward raised Helgi up a-summons and summoned Bolli*  
 um þjófnað, ok lét varða skóggang. Bolli stóð ok heyrði  
*for theft and bad (it)-carry forest-outlawry Bolli stood and listened*  
 til ok brosti við lítinn þann. Enn er Helgi hafði lokit  
*thereto and smiled at(-it) little that But when Helgi had ended*  
 stefnunni, mælti hann: “Nær fórtu heiman?” Bolli sagði  
*the-summons spoke he When went-you from-home Bolli told*  
 honum. Þá mælti bóndi: “Þá tel ek þik hafa á öðrum  
*him Then spoke (the)-farmer Then count I you to-have on others*  
 alizt meir enn hálfan mánuð”. Helgi hefr þá upp aðra  
*fed more than a-half month Helgi raises then up another*  
 stefnu ok stefnir Bolla um verðgang; ok er því var lokit  
*summons and summons Bolli for vagrancy and when that was ended*

þá mælti Bolli: “Þú hefir mikit við, Helgi, ok mun  
*then spoke Bolli You have much in-hand Helgi and will*  
 betr fallit at leika nökkut í móti við þik”. Þá hefr Bolli  
*better befitt to play something in against with you Then raises Bolli*  
 upp stefnu ok stefndi Helga um illmæli við sik, ok  
*up a-summons and summoned Helgi for slander against himself and*  
 annari stefnu um brekráð til fjár síns. Þeir mæltu  
*(in)-another summons for cheating-plots for property his They spoke*  
 förunautar hans at drepa skyldi skelmi þann. Bolli kvað  
*companions his that kill should wretch that Bolli said*  
 þat eigi skyldu. Bolli lét varða skóggang. Hann mælti eftir  
*that not should(-be) Bolli had (it)-carry forest-outlawry He spoke after*  
 stefnuna: “Þér skuluð færa heim húsfreyju Helga kníf ok  
*the-summons You shall bring home to-(the)-housewife of-Helgi a-knife and*  
 belti, er ek sendi henni, því at mér er sagt at hon  
*belt which I send her because that to-me is said that she*  
 hafi gott eina lagt til várra haga”. Bolli ríðr nú í brott,  
*have good alone laid to our case Bolli rides now off away*  
 enn Helgi er þar eftir. Þeir Bolli koma til Þorsteins  
*but Helgi is there behind They Bolli(-and-his-men) come to Thorstein*  
 á Háls ok fá þar góðar viðtökur, er þar búin veizla fríð.  
*at Hals and get there good receptions is there prepared a-feast fine*

VII • ÞORSTEINN'S OFFERS REFUSED

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*Helgi's wife Sigríðr tells her kinsman Þorsteinn of Háls what has happened and asks him to settle it. Þorsteinn asks Bolli to drop the case for his friendship's sake, then offers him the best horse in the district with its herd of twelve, then self-judgment, but Bolli refuses. Þorsteinn says he will not abandon Helgi, and they part coldly.*

Nú er at segja frá Helga, at hann kemr heim á Skeið,  
*Now is to tell of Helgi that he comes home to Skeid*  
 ok segir húsfreyju sinni, hvat þeir Bolli höfðu við ázt.  
*and tells housewife his what they Bolli(-and-he) had with dealt*  
 “Þykkjumst ek eigi vita”, segir hann, “hvat mér verður til  
*Think-myself I not to-know says he what to-me becomes for*  
 ráðs at eiga við slíkan mann, sem Bolli er, enn ek em  
*counsel to deal with such a-man as Bolli is but I am*  
 málamaðr engi; á ek ok ekki marga, þá er mér muni  
*a-man-of-lawsuits none have I also not many those who me will*  
 at málum veita”. Sigríðr húsfreyja svarar: “Þú ert orðinn  
*in cases help Sigrid (the)-housewife answers You are become*  
 mannfóli mikill; hefir átt við ena göfgustu menn ok gert  
*a-fool great have had with the noblest men and made*  
 þik at undri; mun þér ok fara, sem maklegt er, at þú  
*yourself to a-laughingstock will to-you also go as fitting is that you*  
 munt hér fyrir uppgefa allt fé þitt ok sjálfan þik”. Helgi  
*will here for give-up all wealth your and self yourself Helgi*  
 heyrði á orð hennar ok þóttu ill vera, enn grunaði þó,  
*heard on words her and seemed(-they) ill to-be but suspected yet*  
 at satt mundi vera, því at honum var svá farit, at hann  
*that true would be because that to-him was so gone that he*  
 var vesalmenni, ok þó skapillr ok heimskr; sá hann sik  
*was a-wretch and yet ill-tempered and foolish saw he himself*  
 engi færi hafa til leiðréttu, enn mælt sik í ófæru;  
*no chance to-have for redress but spoken himself into impassable-ground*  
 barst hann heldr illa af fyrir þetta allt jafnsaman. Sigríðr  
*carried-himself he rather ill off for this all together Sigrid*  
 lét taka sér hest ok reið at finna Þorstein frænda sinn  
*had take herself a-horse and rode to meet Thorstein kinsman her*  
 Narfason, ok voru þeir Bolli þá komnir; hon heimti  
*Narfi's-son and were they Bolli(-and-his-men) then come she drew*

Þorstein á mál ok sagði honum, í hvert efni komit var.

*Thorstein to talk and told him into what matter come was(-it)*

“Þó hefir slíkt illa til tekizt”, svarar Þorsteinn. Hon sagði

*Yet has such ill thereto turned-out answers Thorstein She told*

ok, hversu vel Bolli hafði boðit, eða hversu heimsklega

*also how well Bolli had offered or how foolishly*

Helga fór; það hon Þorstein eiga í allan hlut, at þetta

*Helgi behaved bade she Thorstein have in all share that this*

mál greiddist. Eftir þat fór hon heim. Enn Þorsteinn kom

*case were-straightened After that went she home But Thorstein came*

at máli við Bolla: “Hvat er um, vinr”, segir hann, “hvárt

*to talk with Bolli What is about(-it) friend says he whether*

hefir Helgi af Skeiði sýnt fólsku mikla við þik? vil ek biðja,

*has Helgi of Skeid shown folly great toward you will I ask*

at þér leggið niðr fyrir mín orð ok virðið þat engis, því

*that you lay(-it) down for my words and reckon that as-nothing because*

at ómæt eru þar aflaglaða orð”. Bolli svarar: “Þat er víst, at

*that worthless are there a-fool's words Bolli answers That is certain that*

þetta er engis vert; mun ek mér ok ekki um þetta gefa”.

*this is of-nothing worth will I myself also not about this care*

“Þá vil ek”, sagði Þorsteinn, “at þér gefið honum upp þetta

*Then will I said Thorstein that you give him up this*

fyrir mína skyld ok hafið þar fyrir mína vináttu”. “Ekki

*for my sake and have there for my friendship Not*

mun þetta til neins váða horfa”, sagði Bolli, “lét ek mér

*will this to any danger turn said Bolli let I for-me*

fátt um finnast, ok bíðr þat várdaga”. Þorsteinn mælti:

*little about be-found and waits that (the)-spring-days Thorstein spoke*

“Þat mun ek sýna, at mér þykkir máli skifta, at þetta

*That will I show that to-me seems case to-matter that this*

gangi eftir mínum vilja; ek vil gefa þér hest, þann er beztr

*go after my will I will give you horse that which best*



er hér í sveitum, ok eru tólf saman hrossin". Bolli svarar:  
*is here in (the)-districts and are twelve together the-horses Bolli answers*  
 "Slíkt er allvel boðit, enn eigi þarftu at leggja hér svá  
*Such is very-well offered but not need-you to lay here so*  
 mikla stund á; ek gaf mér lítit um slíkt; mun ok lítit  
*much trouble on(-it) I gave myself little about such will also little*  
 af verða þá er í dóm kemr". "Þat er sannast", sagði  
*of(-it) become then when into judgment comes That is truest said*  
 Þorsteinn, "at ek vil selja þér sjálfðæmi fyrir málit". Bolli  
*Thorstein that I will hand you self-judgment for the-case Bolli*  
 svarar: "Þat ætla ek sannast, at ekki þurfi um at leitast,  
*answers That think I truest that not need about to seek*  
 því at ek vil ekki sættast á þetta mál". "Þá kýstu þat  
*because that I will not be-reconciled on this case Then choose-you that*  
 er öllum oss gegnir verst", sagði Þorsteinn, "þótt Helgi sé  
*which for-all of-us suits worst said Thorstein though Helgi be*  
 lítillsverðr, þá er hann þó í venzlum bundinn við oss; þá  
*of-little-worth then is he yet in affinity bound with us then*  
 munu vér hann eigi upp gefa undir vápn yður, síðan þú  
*will we him not up give under weapons your since you*  
 vill engis mín orð virða. Enn at þeim atkvæðum at Helgi  
*will nothing my words value But of those words that Helgi*  
 hafði í stefnu við þik, lízt mér þat engi sámdarauki,  
*had in (the)-summons against you seems to-me that no honor-increase*  
 þó at þat sé á þing borit". Skildu þeir Þorsteinn  
*though that that be to (the)-assembly borne Parted they Thorstein*  
 ok Bolli heldr fálega; ríðr hann í brott, ok hans félagar,  
*and Bolli rather coolly rides he off away and his fellows*  
 ok er ekki getit, at hann sé með gjöfum í brott leystur.  
*and is not mentioned that he be with gifts off away sent*

*Guðmundr ríki feasts Bolli and advises him not to ride back through Svarfaðardalr, but Bolli insists on his route. He gives Guðmundr the spear King's-gift and a gold ring, and receives splendid gifts in return. At Krossar the bald farmer Óttarr entertains Bolli and gives him rings.*

Bolli ok hans förunautar kómu á Möðruvöllu til Guðmundar  
*Bolli and his companions came to Modruvellir to Guðmund*  
 ens ríka; hann gengr í móti þeim með allri blíðu ok var  
*the Powerful he goes in against them with all kindness and was*  
 enn glaðasti. Þar sátu þeir hálfan mánuð í góðum fagnaði.  
*the gladdest There sat they a-half month in good cheer*  
 Þá mælti Guðmundr til Bolla: “Hvat er til haft um þat,  
*Then spoke Guðmund to Bolli What is thereto had about that*  
 hefir sundrþykki orðit með yðr Þorsteini?” Bolli kvað  
*has discord become between you Thorstein(-and-you) Bolli said*  
 lítit til haft um þat, ok tók annat mál. Guðmundr mælti:  
*little thereto had about that and took other talk Guðmund spoke*  
 “Hverja leið ætlar þú aftr at ríða?” “Ena sömu”, svarar Bolli  
*Which way intend you back to ride The same answers Bolli*  
 Guðmundr mælti: “Letja vil ek yðr þess, því at mér er  
*Guðmund spoke Dissuade will I you of-that because that to-me is*  
 svá sagt, at þit Þorsteinn hafið skilit fálega, ver heldr  
*so said that you-two Thorstein have parted coolly be rather*  
 hér með mér ok ríð suðr í vár, ok látum þá þessi  
*here with me and ride south in (the)-spring and let then these*  
 mál ganga til vegar”. Bolli lézt eigi mundu bregða ferðinni  
*cases go to (the)-way Bolli professed not would change the-journey*  
 fyrir hót þeira, — “enn þat hugða ek, þá er Helgi fólit  
*for threats their but that thought I then when Helgi the-fool*

lét sem heimsklegast ok mælti hvert óorðan at öðru við  
*behaved as most-foolishly and spoke each ill-word after other with*  
 oss ok vildi hafa spjótit konungsnaut ór hendi mér fyrir  
*us and would have the-spear King's-gift out-of hand my for*  
 einn heyvöndul, at ek skylda freista, at hann fengi ömbun  
*one hay-wisp that I should try that he got (the)-reward*  
 orða sinna; hefi ek ok annat ætlat fyrir spjótinu, at ek  
*of-words his have I also other intended for the-spear that I*  
 munda heldr gefa þér ok þar með gullhringinn, þann er  
*would rather give you and there with the-gold-ring that which*  
 stólkonungrinn gaf mér; hygg ek nú, at gripirnir sé betr  
*the-emperor gave me think I now that the-treasures be better*  
 niðr komnir, enn þá at Helgi hefði þá. Guðmundr þakkaði  
*down come than then that Helgi had them Gudmund thanked*  
 honum gjafir þessar ok mælti: "Hér munu smærri gjafir  
*him gifts these and spoke Here will smaller gifts*  
 í móti koma, enn verðugt er". Guðmundr gaf Bolla skjöld  
*in against come than worthy is Gudmund gave Bolli a-shield*  
 gulllagðan ok gullhring ok skikkju; var í henni et dýrsta  
*gold-laid and a-gold-ring and a-cloak was in it the costliest*  
 klæði, ok búin öll, þar er bæta þótti; allir váru gripirnir  
*cloth and trimmed all there where improve seemed all were the-treasures*  
 mjök ágætir. Þá mælti Guðmundr: "Illa þykki mér þú gera,  
*very splendid Then spoke Gudmund Ill seems to-me you to-do*  
 Bolli, er þú vill ríða um Svarfaðardal". Bolli segir þat ekki  
*Bolli when you will ride through Svarfadardal Bolli says that no*  
 skaða munu. Ríðu þeir í brott ok skilja þeir Guðmundr  
*harm will Rode they off away and part they Gudmund(-and-Bolli)*  
 við enum mestum kærleikum. Þeir Bolli ríða nú veg  
*with the greatest affection They Bolli(-and-bis-men) ride now way*  
 sinn út um Galmarströnd. Um kveldit kómu þeir á þann  
*their out through Galmarstrond In the-evening came they to that*

bæ, er at Krossum heitir. Þar bjó sá maðr, er Óttarr  
*farm which at Krossar is-called There dwelt that man who Ottarr*  
 hét. Hann stóð úti; hann var sköllóttir ok í skinnstakki.  
*was-called He stood outside he was bald and in a-skin-jacket*  
 Óttarr kvaddi þá vel, ok bauð þeim þar at vera. Þat þiggja  
*Ottarr greeted them well and invited them there to be That accept*  
 þeir. Var þar góðr beini ok bóndi enn kátasti; váru þeir  
*they Was there good hospitality and (the)-farmer the merriest were they*  
 þar um nóttina. Um morgininn, er þeir Bolli  
*there through the-night In the-morning when they Bolli(-and-his-men)*  
 váru ferðar búnir, þá mælti Óttarr: “Vel hefir þú gert,  
*were for-the-journey ready then spoke Ottarr Well have you done*  
 Bolli, er þú hefir sótt heim bæ minn; vil ek ok sýna þér  
*Bolli when you have visited home farm my will I also show you*  
 lítit tillæti, gefa þér gullhring ok kunna þökk at þú þiggir;  
*little courtesy give you a-gold-ring and know thanks that you accept*  
 hér er ok fingurgull, er fylgja skal”. Bolli þiggir gjafirnar ok  
*here is also a-finger-ring which follow shall Bolli accepts the-gifts and*  
 þakkar bónda. Óttarr var á hesti sínum því næst, ok reið  
*thanks (the)-farmer Ottarr was on horse his that next and rode*  
 fyrir þeim leiðina, því at fallit hafði snjór lítill um nóttina.  
*before them the-way because that fallen had snow little in the-night*  
 Þeir ríða nú veg sinn út til Svarfaðardals, ok er þeir hafa  
*They ride now way their out to Svarfardardal and when they have*  
 eigi lengi riðit, snerist hann við Óttarr, ok mælti til Bolla:  
*not long ridden turned he about Ottarr and spoke to Bolli*  
 “Þat mun ek sýna, at ek vilda, at þú værir vin minn;  
*That will I show that I would-wish that you were friend my*  
 er hér annarr gullhringr, er ek vil þér gefa; væra ek yðr  
*is here another gold-ring which I will you give would-be I to-you*  
 velviljaðr í því, er ek mætta; munu þér ok þess þurfa”.  
*well-wishing in that which I might will you also of-that need*

Bolli kvað bónda fara stórmannlega til sín, — “enn  
*Bolli said (the)-farmer to-deal magnificently toward himself but*  
 þó vil ek þiggja hringinn”. “Þá gerir þú vel”, segir bóndi.  
*yet will I accept the-ring Then do you well says (the)-farmer*

IX · THE FIGHT AT HESTANES

*Þorsteinn waits at the river with thirty men. Bolli spears Helgi on the ice, and in the fight Bolli wounds Þorsteinn and three of his men fall. Óttarr fetches the chieftain Ljótr of Vellir, who stops the fighting, and both sides agree to his arbitration.*

Nú er at segja frá Þorsteini af Hálsi. Þegar honum þykkir  
*Now is to tell of Thorstein of Hals As-soon-as to-him seems*  
 ván, at Bolli muni norðan ríða, þá safnar hann mönnum  
*expected that Bolli may from-the-north ride then gathers he men*  
 ok ætlar at sitja fyrir Bolla, ok vill nú, at verði umskifti  
*and intends to sit before Bolli and wish now that become a-change*  
 um mál þeira Helga. Þeir Þorsteinn hafa þrjá  
*about (the)-case of-them Helgi(-and-Bolli) They Thorstein(-and-his-men) have three*  
 tigi manna, ok ríða fram til Svarfaðardalsár ok setjast  
*tens of-men and ride forth to Svarfadardal-river and set-themselves*  
 þar. Ljótr hét maðr, er bjó á Völlum í Svarfaðardal.  
*there Ljot was-called a-man who dwelt at Vellir in Svarfadardal*  
 Hann var höfðingi mikill ok vinsæll ok málamaðr mikill;  
*He was a-chieftain great and well-liked and a-man-of-lawsuits great*  
 þat var búningr hans hversdaglega, at hann hafði svartan  
*that was (the)-dress his everyday that he had a-black*  
 kyrtil ok refði í hendi, enn ef hann bjóst til víga, þá  
*tunic and a-staff in hand but if he made-ready for slayings then*  
 hafði hann blán kyrtil ok öxi snaghyrnda; var hann þá  
*had he a-blue tunic and an-axe hook-borned was he then*

heldr ófrýnlegr. Þeir Bolli                      ríða út eftir Svarfaðardal;  
*rather grim-looking They Bolli(-and-bis-men) ride out along Svarfadardal*  
 fylgir Óttarr þeim út um bæinn at Hálsi ok at ánni út.  
*follows Ottar them out past the-farm at Hals and to the-river out*  
 Þar sat fyrir þeim Þorsteinn við sína menn, ok þegar er  
*There sat before them Thorstein with his men and as-soon as*  
 Óttarr sér fyrirsátina, bregðr hann við ok keyrir hest sinn  
*Ottar sees the-ambush turns he at(-it) and drives horse his*  
 þvers í brott. Þeir Bolli                      ríða at                      djarflega, ok  
*across off away They Bolli(-and-bis-men) ride at(-them) boldly and*  
 er þeir Þorsteinn                      sjá þat ok hans menn, spretta  
*when they Thorstein(-and-bis-men) see that and his men spring*  
 þeir upp; þeir váru sínum megin ár                      hvárir, enn áin  
*they up they were on-their side of(-the)-river each but the-river*  
 var leyst með löndum, enn íss flaut á miðri; hleypa þeir  
*was thawed along (the)-banks but ice floated in (the)-middle leap they*  
 Þorsteinn                      út á ísinn. Helgi af Skeiði var ok þar, ok  
*Thorstein(-and-bis-men) out onto the-ice Helgi of Skeid was also there and*  
 eggjar þá fast, ok kvað nú vel, at þeir Bolli                      reyndi,  
*urges them hard and said now well that they Bolli(-and-bis-men) tried*  
 hvárt honum væri kapp sitt ok metnaðr einhlítt, eða hvárt  
*whether to-him were zeal his and pride sufficient or whether*  
 nökkurir menn norðr þar mundu þora at halda til móts við  
*any men north there would dare to hold to meeting with*  
 hann, — “þarf nú ok eigi at spara at drepa þá alla; mun  
*him needs now also not to spare to kill them all will*  
 þat ok leiða öðrum”, sagði Helgi, “at veita oss ágang”.  
*that also discourage others said Helgi to give us harassment*  
 Bolli heyrir orð                      Helga, ok sér, hvar hann er kominn út  
*Bolli hears (the)-words of-Helgi and sees where he is come out*  
 á ísinn. Bolli skýtr at honum spjóti, ok kemr á hann  
*onto the-ice Bolli shoots at him (the)-spear and comes on him*

miðjan; fellr hann á bak aftir í ána, enn spjótit flýgr  
*(the)-middle falls he on back backward into the-river but the-spear flies*  
 í bakkann öðrum megin, svá at fast var, ok hekk  
*into the-bank on-the-other side so that fast (it)-was and hung*  
 Helgi þar á niðr í ána. Eftir þat tókst þar bardagi  
*Helgi there on(-it) down into the-river After that began there a-battle*  
 enn skarpasti; Bolli gengr at svá fast, at þeir hrökkva  
*the sharpest Bolli goes at(-it) so hard that they fall-back*  
 undan, er nær váru; þá sótti fram Þorsteinn í móti Bolla,  
*away who near were then pressed forward Thorstein in against Bolli*  
 ok þegar þeir fundust, höggur Bolli til Þorsteins á öxlina,  
*and as-soon-as they met hews Bolli at Thorstein on the-shoulder*  
 ok varð þat mikit sár; annat sár fekk Þorsteinn á fæti;  
*and became that a-great wound a-second wound got Thorstein on (the)-leg*  
 sóknin var en harðasta. Bolli varð ok sárr nökkut ok  
*the-fight was the hardest Bolli became also wounded somewhat and*  
 þó ekki mjök. Nú er at segja frá Óttari. Hann ríðr upp á  
*yet not much Now is to tell of Ottar He rides up to*  
 Völlu til Ljots, ok þegar þeir finnast, mælti Óttarr: “Eigi  
*Vellir to Ljot and as-soon-as they meet spoke Ottar Not*  
 er nú setuefni, Ljótr”, sagði hann, “ok fylg þú nú  
*is now a-matter-for-sitting Ljot said he and follow you now*  
 virðing þinni, er þér liggr laus fyrir”. “Hvat er nú  
*honor your which to-you lies free before(-you) What is now*  
 helzt í því, Óttarr”? “Ek hygg, at þeir berist hér niðri  
*most in that Ottar I think that they fight here down*  
 við ána Þorsteinn af Hálsi ok Bolli, ok er þat en mesta  
*by the-river Thorstein of Hals and Bolli and is that the greatest*  
 hamingja at skirra vandræðum þeira”. Ljótr mælti: “Oft  
*luck to avert troubles their Ljot spoke Often*  
 sýnir þú af þér mikinn drengskap”. Ljótr brá við skjótt  
*show you of yourself great manliness Ljot moved at(-it) quickly*

ok við nökkura menn, ok þeir Óttarr báðir, ok er þeir  
*and with some men and they Ottar(-and-he) both and when they*  
kómu til árinna, berjast þeir Bolli sem óðast.  
*came to the-river fight they Bolli(-and-Thorstein) as most-furiously*  
Váru þá fallnir þrír menn af Þorsteini. Þeir Ljótr  
*Were then fallen three men of Thorstein(s) They Ljot(-and-his-men)*  
ganga fram í meðal þeira snarlega, svá at þeir máttu nær  
*go forward in between them briskly so that they could nearly*  
ekki at hafast. Þá mælti Ljótr: “Þér skuluð skilja þegar í  
*nothing to do Then spoke Ljot You shall part at-once in*  
stað”, segir hann, “ok er þó nú ærit at orðit; vil ek einn  
*place says he and is yet now enough about happened will I alone*  
gera milli yðvar um þessi mál, enn ef því neita aðrir  
*arbitrate between you about these cases but if that refuse other*  
hvárir, þá skulu vér veita þeim atgöngu”. Enn með því at  
*either then shall we give them attack But with that that*  
Ljótr gekk at svá fast, þá hættu þeir at berjast; ok því  
*Ljot went at(-it) so hard then stopped they to fight and to-that*  
játtu hváirtveggju, at Ljótr skyldi gera um þetta þeira  
*assented both that Ljot should arbitrate about this of-them*  
í milli. Skildust þeir við svá búit. Fór Þorsteinn heim, enn  
*in between Parted they with so done Went Thorstein home but*  
Ljótr býðr þeim Bolla heim með sér, ok þat þiggr  
*Ljot invites them Bolli(-and-bis-men) home with himself and that accepts*  
hann. Fóru þeir Bolli á Völlu til Ljóts. Þar heitir  
*he Went they Bolli(-and-bis-men) to Vellir to Ljot There is-called*  
í Hestanesi, sem þeir höfðu barizt. Óttarr bóndi skildist  
*at Hestanes where they had fought Ottar (the)-farmer parted*  
eigi fyrri við þá Bolla, enn þeir kómu heim með  
*not sooner from them Bolli(-and-bis-men) than they came home with*  
Ljóti. Gaf Bolli honum stórmannlegar gjafir at skilnaði ok  
*Ljot Gave Bolli him magnificent gifts at parting and*



þakkaði honum vel sitt liðsinni; hét Bolli Óttari sinni  
*thanked him well his support promised Bolli to-Ottar his*  
 vináttu. Fór hann heim til Krossa ok sat í búi sínu.  
*friendship Went he home to Krossar and sat in household his*

X · LJÓTR'S AWARD

*Ljótr rules that Helgi fell without right to compensation, that the two leaders' wounds cancel out, that Bolli pays for the three dead, and that Þorsteinn pays fifteen hundreds for the ambush. Bolli takes Sigríðr with him, stops with Arnórr, and returns home to great renown, and he finds Sigríðr a good husband.*

Eftir bardagann í Hestanesi fór Bolli heim með Ljót á  
*After the-battle at Hestanes went Bolli home with Ljot to*  
 Völlu við alla sína menn, enn Ljótr bindr sár þeira, ok  
*Vellir with all his men but Ljot binds (the)-wounds of-them and*  
 greru þau skjótt, því at gaumr var at gefinn. Enn er þeir  
*healed they quickly because that heed was to given But when they*  
 váru heilir sára sinna, þá stefndi Ljótr þing fjölment;  
*were healed of-wounds their then summoned Ljot an-assembly thronged*  
 riðu þeir Bolli á þingit; þar kom ok Þorsteinn af  
*rode they Bolli(-and-his-men) to the-assembly there came also Thorstein of*  
 Hálsi við sína menn. Ok er þingit var sett, mælti Ljótr:  
*Hals with his men And when the-assembly was set spoke Ljot*  
 “Nú skal ekki fresta uppsögn um gerð þá, er ek  
*Now shall not delay (the)-announcement about (the)-award that which I*  
 hefi samit milli þeira Þorsteins af Hálsi ok Bolla. Hefi ek  
*have composed between them Thorstein of Hals and Bolli Have I*  
 þat upphaf at gerðinni, at Helgi skal hafa fallit óheilagr  
*that beginning of the-award that Helgi shall have fallen unprotected*  
 fyrir illyrði sín ok tiltekju við Bolla; sárum þeira  
*for abusive-words his and doings toward Bolli (the)-wounds of-them*

Þorsteins ok Bolla jafna ek saman; enn þá þrjá menn, er  
*Thorstein(s) and Bolli(s) even I together but those three men who*  
 fellu af Þorsteini, skal Bolli bæta, enn fyrir fjórráð við  
*fell of Thorstein(s) shall Bolli compensate but for life-plotting against*  
 Bolla ok fyrirsát skal Þorsteinn greiða honum fimtán hundruð  
*Bolli and ambush shall Thorstein pay him fifteen hundreds*  
 þriggja alna aura. Skulu þeir at þessu alsáttir". Eftir  
*of-three ells' ounces Shall they at this fully-reconciled(-be) After*  
 þetta var slitið þinginu. Segir Bolli Ljoti, at hann mun  
*this was broken-up the-assembly Tells Bolli to-Ljot that he will*  
 ríða heimleiðis ok þakkar honum vel alla sína liðveizlu, ok  
*ride homeward and thanks him well all his support and*  
 skiftust þeir fögnum gjöfum við ok skildu við góðan  
*exchanged they fine gifts with(-each-other) and parted with good*  
 vinskapa. Bolli tók upp bú Sigríðar á Skeiði, því at  
*friendship Bolli took up (the)-household of-Sigríð at Skeid because that*  
 hon vildi fara vestr með honum; ríða þau veg sinn, þar til  
*she would go west with him ride they way their there until*  
 er þau koma á Miklabæ til Arnórs. Tók hann harðla vel  
*that they come to Miklabæ to Arnor Took he very well*  
 við þeim; dvöldust þar um hríð, ok sagði Bolli Arnóri alt  
*with them stayed(-they) there for a-while and told Bolli to-Arnor all*  
 um skifti þeira Svarfdæla, hversu farit hafði. Arnórr mælti:  
*about dealings of-them (the)-Svarfdalers how gone had Arnor spoke*  
 "Mikla heill hefir þú til borit um ferð þessa við slíkan  
*Great luck have you thereto borne in journey this against such*  
 mann sem þú áttir, þar er Þorsteinn var; er þat sannast  
*a-man as you had there where Thorstein was is that truest*  
 um at tala, at fáir eða engir höfðingjar munu sótt hafa  
*about to say that few or no chieftains will won have*  
 meira frama ór öðrum heruðum norðr hingat enn þú,  
*more renown out-of other districts north hither than you*

þeir sem jafnmarga öfundarmenn áttu hér fyrir". Bolli ríðr  
*those who as-many envious-men had here before Bolli rides*  
nú í brott af Miklabæ við sína menn ok heim suðr; tala  
*now off away from Miklabæ with his men and home south talk*  
þeir Arnórr til vináttu með sér af nýju at skilnaði;  
*they Arnor(-and-Bolli) of friendship between themselves of new at parting*  
enn er Bolli kom heim í Tungu, varð Þórdís húsfreyja  
*but when Bolli came home into Tunga became Thordis housewife*  
hans honum fegin; hafði hon frétt áðr nökkut af orrostum  
*his of-him glad had she heard before something of battles*  
þeira Norðlendinga, ok þótti mikit í hættu, at honum  
*of-them (the)-Northerners and seemed much in danger that for-him*  
tækist vel til; sitr Bolli nú í búi sínu með mikilli  
*turned-out well thereto sits Bolli now in household his with great*  
virðingu. Þessi ferð Bolla var ger at nýjum sögum um  
*honor This journey of-Bolli was made into new tales through*  
allar sveitir, ok töluðu allir einn veg um, at slík þótti  
*all districts and talked all one way about(-it) that such seemed*  
varla farin hafa verit nálega, óx virðing hans af slíku  
*hardly made to-have been nearly grew honor his from such*  
ok mörgu öðru. Bolli fekk Sigríði gjafirð göfugt ok lauk  
*and much other Bolli got for-Sigrid a-match noble and dealt*  
vel við hana, ok höfum vér eigi heyrt þessa sögu lengri.  
*well with her and have we not heard this story longer*



Hreiðars þáttir heimska

*The Tale of Hreidar the Fool*

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*Þórðr, a small, handsome man and a retainer of King Magnús góði, has a big, ugly brother, Hreiðarr, thought half-witted but strong and swift. Hreiðarr insists on sailing with him and tells everyone. At Trondheim he hears a horn, learns it calls to an assembly where the king will be, and races there ahead of his brother. At the assembly the crowd jostles and mocks him, and he laughs.*

Þórðr hét maðr íslenzkr, Þórgrímsson, Hreiðarssonar,  
 Thord was-called a-man Icelandic Thorgrim's-son of-Hreidar's-son  
 þess er Glúmr vá. Þórðr var lítill maðr vexti, ok  
 that-one whom Glum slew Thord was a-little man in-stature and  
 vænn at yfirliti. Hann átti bróður, er Hreiðarr hét;  
 handsome in looks He had a-brother who Hreidar was-called  
 hann var mikill vexti enn ljótr á yfirlit, ok þótti varla  
 he was big in-stature but ugly in looks and seemed hardly  
 sjálfráði fyrir vits sakir; hann var styrkr at afli, manna  
 self-ruling for wits' sake he was strong in strength of-men  
 fóthvatastr ok hógværr í skapi; var hann jafnan heima. Enn  
 most-swift-footed and gentle in mind was he always at-home But  
 Þórðr bróðir hans var mjök í förum: hann var hirðmaðr  
 Thord brother his was much in voyages he was a-retainer  
 Magnúsar konungs góða, ok virðr af honum vel. Á einu  
 of-Magnus (the)-king (the)-Good and valued by him well In one  
 sumri, þá er Þórðr bjó skip sitt at Gásum í Eyjafirði,  
 summer then when Thord made-ready ship his at Gasir in Eyjafjord  
 kom þar Hreiðarr bróðir hans. Enn er Þórðr sá Hreiðar,  
 came there Hreidar brother his But when Thord saw Hreidar  
 spurði hann, hví hann væri þar kominn. Hann svarar: "Eigi  
 asked he why he were there come He answers Not  
 væra ek hér kominn, nema mér þætti nauðsynligt erindit".  
 would-be I here come unless to-me seemed necessary the-errand

“Hvert er þat þá”? segir Þórðr. “Ek vil fara utan með þér”,  
*What is that then says Thord I will go abroad with you*  
 segir Hreiðarr. Þórðr mælti: “Eigi þykki mér þér sú ferð  
*says Hreidar Thord spoke Not seems to-me for-you that journey*  
 fallin; vil ek heldr þat til leggja við þik, at þú hafir  
*fitting wish I rather that thereto lay with you that you have*  
 einn föðurarf okkarn, ok er þat meirr enn hálfu  
*alone (the)-father's-inheritance our-two and is that more than by-half*  
 meira fé enn ek hefi í förum”. Hreiðarr svarar: “Þá er  
*more wealth than I have in voyages Hreidar answers Then is*  
 alllítit vit mitt, ef ek tek þenna fjárskakka, til þess at  
*very-little wit my if I take this wealth-imbalance for that to*  
 gefa mik sjálfan svá upp, at láta þína forsjá, ok mun þá  
*give me self so up to lose your guardianship and will then*  
 hverr maðr draga af mér okkart fé, er ek kann engi  
*each man draw from me our-two wealth since I know no*  
 forræði, þau sem nýt eru, enn þó óvíst, at ek þola þat  
*management those which useful are but yet uncertain that I bear that*  
 vel, ef menn sitja um at lokka af mér fé mitt eðr taka  
*well if men sit about to lure from me wealth my or take*  
 með valdi; ok er þér þá eigi betra hlut í at eiga, ef ek  
*with force and is to-you then not better share in to have if I*  
 ber á mönnum, eðr gerik aðra óvísu fyrir slíkar sakir; enn  
*strike on men or do-I other rashness for such sakes but*  
 síðan sé ek barðr eða meiddr fyrir mínar tilgerðir. Er þat  
*afterward be I beaten or maimed for my doings Is that*  
 ok sannast, at þér mun torsótt at halda mér eftir, ef ek  
*also truest that for-you will hard-work to hold me behind if I*  
 vil fara”. “Vera kann þat”, sagði Þórðr; “enn ekki vil ek  
*will go Be may that said Thord but not wish I*  
 at þú getir um ferð þína fyrir öðrum mönnum, þótt ek  
*that you mention about journey your before other men though I*



lata þetta eftir þér". Því játtaði Hreiðarr. Enn þegar er  
*grant this to you To-that assented Hreidar But as-soon as*  
hann firði Þórð augum, sagði hann hverjum, er heyra  
*he removed Thord from-(his)-eyes told he to-each who hear*  
vildi, at hann ætlaði at fara útan með bróður sínum; lögðu  
*would that he intended to go abroad with brother his laid*  
þat margir menn Þórði til ámælis, ef hann flytti útan  
*that many men to-Thord for reproach if he took abroad*  
afglapa þenna. Sigldu þeir í haf, þegar þeir váru búnir;  
*fool this Sailed they into (the)-sea as-soon-as they were ready*  
urðu þeir vel reiðfara ok tóku Þrándheim. Þetta var  
*became they well journey-fortunate and reached Trondheim This was*  
þat sama haust, er konungar komu austan, Magnús ok  
*that same autumn when (the)-kings came from-the-east Magnus and*  
Haraldr. Ok litlu síðar enn konungar komu til bæjarins,  
*Harald And a-little later than (the)-kings came to the-town*  
var þat einn morgin snimma, at Hreiðarr var á fótum  
*was that one morning early that Hreidar was on feet*  
fyrir enn aðrir vaknaði. Hann mælti: "Vaki þú, bróðir: fátt  
*sooner than others woke He spoke Wake you brother little*  
veit sá, er sefr, enn ek veit tíðindi; ek heyrða fyrir litlu  
*knows he who sleeps but I know tidings I heard for little*  
læti mjök kynlig". "Hverju var líkt"? sagði Þórðr. "Sem  
*sounds very strange To-what was(-it) like said Thord As-if*  
kykvendi léti", sagði Hreiðarr, "ok þaut við mjök, enn  
*a-living-thing made-sound said Hreidar and roared at(-it) much but*  
aldrei veit ek, hvat látum var". "Lát eigi svá undarliga",  
*never know I what of-sounds (it)-was Behave not so strangely*  
sagði Þórðr; "þat mun hafa verit hornblástr". "Hvat skal þat  
*said Thord that will have been horn-blowing What shall that*  
tákna"? sagði Hreiðarr. Þórðr svarar: "Blásit er oftast til  
*signify said Hreidar Thord answers Blown is most-often to*

móts eðr skipsdráttar". "Hvat táknar mótit"? segir Hreiðarr.

*a-meeting or ship-hauling What signifies the-meeting says Hreidar*

"Þar eru dæmd vandamál", segir Þórðr, "ok slíkt talat sem

*There are judged difficult-cases says Thord and such talked as*

konungr þykkist þurfa at upp sé borit fyrir alþýðu".

*(the)-king thinks-himself to-need that up be borne before (the)-common-people*

"Hvart mun konungr á mótinu"? segir Hreiðarr. "Þess þykki

*Whether will (the)-king at the-meeting says Hreidar That seems*

mér ván", segir Þórðr. "Þagat verð ek þá at fara", segir

*to-me expected says Thord Thither must I then to go says*

Hreiðarr, "því at þar vilda ek koma, at ek sæi sem

*Hreidar because that there would-wish I come that I saw as*

flesta menn á einum stað". "Þá skýtr í tvau horn með

*most men in one place Then shoots(-it) into two horns with*

okkr", segir Þórðr; "mér þætti því betr sem þú kæmir

*us-two says Thord to-me would-seem the better as you came*

þar síðr, er fjölmennt væri, ok mun ek hvergi fara".

*there less where thronged were(-it) and will I nowhere go*

"Ekki tjár slíkt at mæla", segir Hreiðarr, "fara skulu vit

*Not avails such to speak says Hreidar go shall we-two*

báðir; ekki mun þér betra at ek fara einnsaman; er þér

*both not will to-you better that I go alone is for-you*

ok mál, at finna Magnús konung vin þinn, er þú hefir

*also time to meet Magnus (the)-king friend your since you have*

enn ekki hitt hann, síðan hann kom til bæjarins, ok ekki

*yet not met him since he came to the-town and not*

fær þú mik lattan þessarrar farar". Hljóp Hreiðarr þegar

*get you me dissuaded of-this journey Leaped Hreidar at-once*

í brott. Þórðr sá nú, at hann mun fara verða; gekk hann

*off away Thord saw now that he will go must went be*

seint, enn hinn hljóp hart undan, ok var mjök langt milli

*slowly but the-other ran hard away and was very far between*

þeira. Enn er Hreiðarr sá, at Þórðr fór seint eftir, mælti  
*them But when Hreidar saw that Thord went slowly after spoke*  
 hann: “Þat er þó satt, at illt er litlum at vera, þá  
*he That is yet true that ill is for-little-ones to be then*  
 er aflit nær ekki, enn þó mætti vera hvatleikinn, ok  
*when the-strength reaches not but yet might be the-quickness and*  
 harla litit ætla ek þik hlotit hafa af þessu hvárutveggja,  
*very little think I you allotted to-have of this both*  
 ok væri þér betri vænleikr minni, enn knáleikr meiri ok  
*and were to-you better beauty less but vigor more and*  
 fráleikr, ok mættir þú heldr fara með öðrum mönnum”.  
*swiftness and might you rather go with other men*  
 Þórðr svarar: “Eigi veit ek mér verr í hald koma óknáleik  
*Thord answers Not know I for-me worse in stead to-come unvigor*  
 minn enn þér afl þitt”. “Handkrækjumst vit nú,  
*my than to-you strength your Let-us-hook-hands we-two now*  
 bróðir”, segir Hreiðarr. Svá gerðu þeir, ok var eigi lengi,  
*brother says Hreidar So did they and was not long*  
 áðr Þórði dofnaði höndin, ok lét hann laust. Hreiðarr  
*before for-Thord grew-numb the-hand and let he loose Hreidar*  
 fór þá undan, þar til er hann kom á hæð eina;  
*went then away there until when he came onto a-height one*  
 þar sá hann mannfjölda fyrir sér; nam hann þá staðar ok  
*there saw he a-crowd-of-men before him took he then stand and*  
 var allstarsýnn á þá menn, er þar váru á mótinu. Kom  
*was very-staring at those men who there were at the-meeting Came*  
 þá Þórðr eftir ok mælti: “Göngum nú siðliga, bróðir, ok  
*then Thord after and spoke Let-us-go now decorously brother and*  
 förum báðir samt”. Hreiðarr gerði svá. Enn er þeir kómu  
*let-us-go both together Hreidar did so But when they came*  
 á þingit, kenndu margir menn Þórð, ok fögnuðu honum  
*to the-assembly recognized many men Thord and welcomed him*

vel. Gekk Þórðr þegar á fund Magnúsar konungs, því  
*well Went Thord at-once to (the)-meeting of-Magnus (the)-king because*  
 at hann hafði þá ekki fundit konung, síðan hann kom  
*that he had then not met (the)-king since he came*  
 til bæjarins. Þórðr kvaddi vel Magnús konung, ok tók  
*to the-town Thord greeted well Magnus (the)-king and took*  
 konungr honum blíðliga. Þegar skildi með þeim bræðrum,  
*(the)-king him kindly At-once parted between them brothers*  
 er þeir komu á þingit. Þótti mönnum Hreiðarr heldr  
*when they came to the-assembly Seemed to-men Hreidar rather*  
 mikill vexti ok ósinniligr. Varð hann mjök skauttogaðr ok  
*big in-stature and odd Became he much cloak-plucked and*  
 færðr í reikuð. Hann var margorðr ok hló mjök mót  
*brought into staggering He was many-worded and laughed much at*  
 áfangi manna; enn þeim þótti eigi því minni skemtan  
*(the)-crowding of-men but to-them seemed not the less entertainment*  
 at eiga við hann ok varð nú ógreið ferð hans.  
*to deal with him and became now hard (the)-going his*

## II · HREIÐARR SEES THE KING

*Þórðr describes his brother to King Magnús, who asks to see him. Hreiðarr has the king stand, take off his cloak, and let himself be walked around, and says the only fault he finds is that one eye sits a little higher than the other. The king calls him the ugliest man ever born and foretells that he will learn to be angry that winter. He grants the brothers winter lodging at court, and Hreiðarr, now dressed in good homespun, outlasts the mocking courtiers until they leave him alone.*

Magnús konungr frétti Þórð tíðinda af Íslandi, ok síðan  
*Magnus (the)-king asked Thord (for)-tidings from Iceland and afterward*  
 spurði hann, hvat þeira manna væri í för með honum,  
*asked he what of-those men were in (the)-company with him*

er hann vildi hafa til hirðvistar með sér. “Bróðir minn  
*whom he would have for court-stay with himself Brother my*  
 er í för með mér”, segir Þórðr. “Sá maðr mun vel  
*is in (the)-company with me says Thord That man will well*  
 vera, ef þér er líkr”, sagði konungr. Þórðr mælti: “Ekki er  
*be if to-you is like said (the)-king Thord spoke Not is*  
 hann mér líkr”. Konungr svarar: “Þó má hann vel vera; eðr  
*be to-me like (The)-king answers Yet may he well be or*  
 hvat er ólíkast með ykkur”? Þórðr mælti: “Hann er mikill  
*what is most-unlike between you-two Thord spoke He is a-big*  
 maðr vexti, ljótr ok heldr seinheppiligr, sterkr at afli ok  
*man in-stature ugly and rather clumsy strong in strength and*  
 lundhœgr”. Konungr mælti: “Þó má honum vera vel farit  
*easy-tempered (The)-king spoke Yet may with-him be well fared*  
 at mörgu”. Þórðr svarar: “Ekki var hann kallaðr vizkumaðr  
*in much Thord answers Not was he called a-man-of-wisdom*  
 á unga aldri”. “At því fer ek meirr”, sagði konungr, “sem  
*in young age By that go I more said (the)-king which*  
 nú er; eðr hvárt má hann sjálfr annast sik”? “Ekki hvasst  
*now is or whether may he himself look-after himself Not sharply*  
 umhyggjulaust”, segir Þórðr. “Hví fluttir þú hann útan”?  
*without-care says Thord Why brought you him abroad*  
 segir konungr. “Herra”, sagði Þórðr, “hann á fé allt  
*says (the)-king Lord said Thord he owns wealth all*  
 hálfvitt við mik, enn hefir engar nytjar af, ok engi afskifti  
*half with me but has no uses off(-it) and no concern*  
 hefir hann sér veitt um penninga: látit mik með fara  
*has he himself given about money let me with(-it) deal*  
 sem ek vilda. Nú þótti mér ósannligt at veita honum eigi  
*as I would-wish Now seemed to-me unfair to grant him not*  
 þenna hinn eina hlut, sem hann beiddist, at fara með mér,  
*this the one thing which he asked to go with me*

þar sem hann lét mik einn ráða öllu okkru gózi. Þótti mér  
*there where he let me alone rule all our-two goods Seemed to-me*  
 ok líkligt at hann myndi, sem margir aðrir, af yðr gæfu  
*also likely that he would as many others from you luck*  
 hljóta, ef hann kæmi á yðarn fund". "Sjá vil ek hann",  
*receive if he came to your meeting See will I him*  
 sagði konungr. "Svá skal vera", sagði Þórðr, "ok því fór  
*said (the)-king So shall be said Thord and therefore went*  
 hann hingat til þingsins með mér; enn þó er hann nú brott  
*he hither to the-assembly with me but yet is he now away*  
 hrjáðr nökkut". Konungr sendi þá eftir honum. Enn er  
*harassed somewhat (The)-king sent then after him But when*  
 Hreiðarr heyrði sagt, at konungr vildi finna hann, þá bar  
*Hreidar heard said that (the)-king would meet him then bore*  
 hann sik upp mjök ok sást lítt fyrir, ok gekk nær  
*he himself up much and saw-himself little before(-him) and went near*  
 á hvat sem fyrir varð. Hann var á þann hátt búinn,  
*on whatever as before(-him) came He was in that manner dressed*  
 at hann var í leistabrókum ok hafði feld grán yfir sér.  
*that he was in footed-breeches and had a-cloak gray over himself*  
 Enn er hann kom fyrir konung, fell hann á kné fyrir  
*But when he came before (the)-king fell he on knee before*  
 hann ok kvaddi hann vel. Konungr svaraði honum hlœjandi  
*him and greeted him well (The)-king answered him laughing*  
 ok mælti: "Ef þú átt við mik erindi, þá mæl þú skjótt  
*and spoke If you have with me an-errand then speak you quickly*  
 þat er þér líkar, aðrir menn eigu enn nauðsyn at tala  
*that which to-you likes other men have also need to talk*  
 við mik". Hreiðarr svarar: "Mitt erindi þykki mér skyldast;  
*with me Hreidar answers My errand seems to-me most-pressing*  
 enn þat er, at ek vilda sjá þik, konungr". "Þykki  
*but that is that I would-wish to-see you king Seems*

þér nú vel þá”, sagði konungr, “er þú sér mik”? “Vel  
*to-you now well then said (the)-king when you see me Well*  
 víst”, segir Hreiðarr; “enn eigi þykkjumst ek enn til gerla  
*certainly says Hreidar but not think-myself I yet too clearly*  
 sjá þik”. “Hvern veg skulum vit þá til haga”, segir  
*to-see you Which way shall we-two then thereto arrange says*  
 konungr; “vildir þú at ek stœða upp”? “Þat vilda ek”,  
*(the)-king would-wish you that I stood up That would-wish I*  
 segir Hreiðarr. Konungr stóð upp ok mælti: “Nú mun þú  
*says Hreidar (The)-king stood up and spoke Now will you*  
 þykkjast gerla mega sjá mik”. “Eigi enn til gerla”, sagði  
*think-yourself clearly to-be-able to-see me Not yet too clearly said*  
 Hreiðarr, “ok er þó nú nær hófi”. “Viltú nú”, segir konungr,  
*Hreidar and is yet now near measure Will-you now says (the)-king*  
 “at ek leggja af mér skikkjuna”? “Þat vil ek víst”, segir  
*that I lay off me the-cloak That wish I certainly says*  
 hann. Konungr mælti: “Vit skulum innast þó til nökkut  
*he (The)-king spoke We-two shall speak yet thereto somewhat*  
 áðr um þat mál: þér erut hugkvæmir ok höfðingjadjarfir  
*before about that matter you are sharp-witted and chief-daring*  
 margir Íslendingar, ok veit ek eigi, nema þú virðir mér  
*many Icelanders and know I not unless you reckon to-me*  
 þetta til ginningar, enn ek vil þat undan skilja”. Hreiðarr  
*this for mockery but I will that from except Hreidar*  
 svarar: “Engum manni hæfir þat, herra, at ginna þik eðr  
*answers To-no man befits that lord to mock you or*  
 ljúga at þér”. Konungr lagði þá af sér skikkjuna ok mælti:  
*lie to you (The)-king laid then off himself the-cloak and spoke*  
 “Hygg þú nú at svá vandliga sem þik fýsir”. “Svá skal  
*Look you now at(-me) so carefully as you desire So shall*  
 vera”, segir hann. Hann gekk þá í hring hjá konungi, ok  
*be says he He went then in a-ring by (the)-king and*

mælti fyrir munni sér oft hit sama: "Allvel, allvel", segir  
*spoke before mouth his often the same Very-well very-well says*  
hann. Konungr mælti: "Hefir þú nú sét mik sem þú vill"?  
*he (The)-king spoke Have you now seen me as you wish*  
"At vísu", segir Hreiðarr. Konungr spurði: "Hversu lízt þér  
*For sure says Hreidar (The)-king asked How seems to-you*  
nú á mik"? Hreiðarr svarar: "Ekki hefir Þórðr, bróðir minn,  
*now on me Hreidar answers Not has Thord brother my*  
ofsögur frá þér sagt um þat sem vel er". Konungr mælti:  
*over-stories of you told about that which well is (The)-king spoke*  
"Nökkut muntú at finna um þat, sem nú sér þú, þat  
*Something will-you to find about that which now see you that*  
er eigi sé í alþýðu viti eðr sjónhendi"? Hreiðarr  
*which not be in (the)-common-people's knowing or sight Hreidar*  
svarar: "Ekki vil ek; ok þat er sannast, at ek má ekki  
*answers Not wish I and that is truest that I may nothing*  
at finna; því at þannig myndi hverr sik kjósa skapaðan  
*to find because that so would each himself choose shaped*  
sem þú ert, þótt sjálfir mætti ráða". "Mikinn tek þú af",  
*as you are though himself might decide Much take you off(-it)*  
segir konungr. "Háttung er flestum öðrum at oflofaðir sé,  
*says (the)-king A-disgrace is for-most others that over-praised be*  
ef lofsamliga er við mælt, ef þú átt þetta eigi at sönnu",  
*if praisingly is about spoken if you deserve this not in truth*  
segir Hreiðarr, "sem mér lízt ok ek hefi nú talat". Konungr  
*says Hreidar as to-me seems and I have now spoken (The)-king*  
mælti: "Finn at nökkut, þótt smátt sé". Hreiðarr svarar:  
*spoke Find at(-me) something though small be(-it) Hreidar answers*  
"Þat þá helzt, herra, vil ek til finna, at auga yðart annat  
*That then most lord will I thereto find that eye your one*  
er litlum mun ofar enn annat". "Þat hefir einn maðr fyrr  
*is by-little degree higher than (the)-other That has one man before*



fundit”, segir konungr, “enn sá maðr er Haraldr konungr,  
*found says (the)-king but that man is Harald (the)-king*  
frændi minn. Nú skal jafnmæli með okkr”, segir konungr,  
*kinsman my Now shall (be)-equal-speech between us-two says (the)-king*  
“vil ek nú sjá þik; stattu nú ok legg af þér yfirhöfnina”.  
*will I now see you stand-you now and lay off you the-overcoat*  
Hreiðarr fleygði þegar af sér feldinum; var maðrinn, sem  
*Hreidar flung at-once off himself the-cloak was the-man as*  
áðr er sagt, ljótr ok limaðr mjök; hafði hann hendr  
*before is said ugly and large-limbed much had he hands*  
miklar ok mjök saugar, því at latliga váru þvegnar,  
*great and very dirty because that lazily were(-they) washed*  
enn klæði eigi hrein. Konungr hugði at honum vandliga.  
*but clothes not clean (The)-king looked at him carefully*  
Þá mælti Hreiðarr: “Herra”, segir hann, “hvat þykkist þú  
*Then spoke Hreidar Lord says he what think-yourself you*  
nú mega at mér finna”? Konungr svarar: “Þat ætla ek, at  
*now to-be-able at me to-find (The)-king answers That think I that*  
eigi fœðist upp ljótari maðr enn þú ert”. “Slíkt verðr mælt”,  
*not is-bred up an-uglier man than you are Such becomes said*  
segir Hreiðarr, “eðr er nökkut þat, sem til fríðinda sé um  
*says Hreidar or is something that which for beauties be about*  
mik, eftir því sem þú leggur ætlan á”? Konungr mælti: “Þat  
*me after that which you lay attention on (The)-king spoke That*  
sagði Þórðr, bróðir þinn, at þú værir lundhœgr maðr”.  
*said Thord brother your that you were an-easy-tempered man*  
“Þat er ok satt”, segir Hreiðarr, “ok þykkir mér þat illt, er  
*That is also true says Hreidar and seems to-me that ill that*  
svá er”. “Þú munt þó reiðast kunna”, segir konungr. “Mæl  
*so is You will yet grow-angry be-able says (the)-king Speak*  
heill, herra”, segir Hreiðarr, “eðr hversu langt mun til þess”?  
*whole lord says Hreidar or how long will to that*

“Þat veit ek eigi víst”, segir konungr; “helzt ætla ek at  
*That know I not certainly says (the)-king most think I that*  
 þat muni á þessum vetri at berast”. “Seg heill sögu”, segir  
*that will in this winter to happen Tell whole saying says*  
 Hreiðarr. Konungr mælti: “Er þú nökkut hagr?” Hreiðarr  
*Hreidar (The)-king spoke Are you somewhat bandy Hreidar*  
 svarar: “Þat má ek eigi vita, því at ek hefi aldrei reynt”.  
*answers That may I not know because that I have never tried*  
 “Þat þœtti mér þó eigi ólíkligt”, segir konungr. “Seg  
*That would-seem to-me yet not unlikely says (the)-king Tell*  
 heill sögu!” segir Hreiðar, “því at svá mun jafnt vera sem  
*whole saying says Hreidar because that so will alike be as*  
 þú segir; enn vetrvistar þœttumst ek þurfa”. Konungr  
*you say but winter-lodging would-think-myself I to-need (The)-king*  
 svarar: Heimilt skal Þórði bróðir þínum, at vera með mér  
*answers Welcome shall to-Thord brother your to be with me*  
 við annan mann eðr þriðja, ef hann vill; enn betr þykkir  
*with a-second man or third if he will but better seems*  
 mér þér hent at vera þar, sem heldr er mannfátt”. “Svá  
*to-me for-you fitting to be there where rather is few-men So*  
 má þat kalla í sumu lagi”, segir Hreiðarr, “enn eigi mun  
*may that call in some wise says Hreidar but not will*  
 svá fátt manna, at eigi komi þat upp sem mælt verðr, allra  
*so few of-men that not come that up which said becomes of-all*  
 helzt, ef athlægis er vert; enn ek er maðr ekki orðvarr,  
*most if of-ridicule is worth but I am a-man not word-guarded*  
 ok berr mér jafnan margt á góma. Kann vera, at þeir  
*and bears to-me always much on (the)-gums May be that those*  
 menn, sem hjá mér eru, þótt eigi sé margir, reiði orð  
*men who by me are though not be many carry words*  
 mín óvitrlig fyrir alþýðu, ok spotti mik ok drepí út  
*my unwise before (the)-common-people and mock me and spread out*

ferliga, þat er ek mæli eðr gerik til gamans. Nú sýnist  
*monstrously that which I speak or do-I for fun Now seems*  
mér hitt eigi heimskligra, at vera heldr hjá þeim, er  
*to-me that-other not more-foolish to be rather by him who*  
um mik hyggr, sem er Þórðr bróðir minn, þótt þar sé  
*about me thinks as is Thord brother my though there be*  
fölmenni, heldr enn þar, þótt menn sé fáir, ok engi til  
*a-throng rather than there though men be few and none for*  
umbóta". Konungr mælti: "Ráð þú þá, ok fari þit báðir  
*betterment (The)-king spoke Decide you then and go you-two both*  
bræðr til hirðar minnar, ef ykkir líkar þat betr". Þegar  
*brothers to court my if to-you-two likes that better At-once*  
hljóp Hreiðarr brott, er hann heyrði þessi orð konungs,  
*ran Hreidar away when he heard these words of-(the)-king*  
ok sagði hverjum manni, er á vildi hlýða, at hans för  
*and told each man who on would listen that his journey*  
hefði allgóð orðit á konungs fund, ok einkanliga sagði hann  
*had very-good become to (the)-king's meeting and especially told he*  
Þórði bróður sínum, at konungr hafði leyft honum at  
*to-Thord brother his that (the)-king had permitted him to*  
vera með hirðinni um vetrinn. Þórðr mælti: "Þá skal nú  
*be with the-court over the-winter Thord spoke Then (we)-shall now*  
búa þik sæmiliga at vápnum ok klæðum, því at okkr  
*dress you fittingly in weapons and clothes because that for-us-two*  
skortir ekki til, ok skipast margr vel við góðan búning;  
*lacks nothing thereto and changes many-a-one well with good dress*  
er ok hverjum manni vandara, at búa sik í konungs  
*is also for-every man more-exacting to dress himself in (the)-king's*  
herbergi enn annarsstaðar, at hann verði eigi hleginn af  
*lodging than elsewhere that he be not laughed-at by*  
hirðmönnum". Hreiðarr svarar: "Eigi ferr þú sjáandi eftir, ef  
*courtiers Hreidar answers Not go you seeing after if*

þú ætlar, at ek láta skruðklæði koma á minn bók". Þórðr  
*you intend that I let finery come on my body Thord*  
 mælti: "Skerum til klæða þér vaðmál duganda". "Nær er  
*spoke Let-us-cut for clothes for-you homespun sturdy Near is*  
 þat", segir Hreiðarr. Tók hann þá, at ráði Þórðar, góð  
*that says Hreidar Took he then by counsel of-Thord good*  
 vaðmáls-klæði, ok dubbaði sik vel. Sýndist hann þegar  
*homespun-clothes and dubbed himself well Seemed he at-once*  
 allt öðruvís enn áðr, — þó ljótr ok karlmannligr. Enn  
*all otherwise than before though ugly and manly But*  
 þó í fyrstu er þeir bræðr komu til hirðarinnar, sýndist  
*yet at first when they brothers came to the-court seemed*  
 konungsmönnum óvizku-mót á Hreiðari ok varð hann fyrir  
*to-the-king's-men a-folly-look on Hreidar and became he for*  
 miklu spotti ok áfangi af þeim, ok leituðu sér marga  
*great mockery and jostling from them and sought for-themselves many*  
 vega við hann, bæði í hæðiligum orðum ok öðrum atvikum,  
*ways with him both in scoffing words and other doings*  
 enn hann galt þeim allt slíkt í móti. Enn er þeir fundu,  
*but he repaid them all such in against But when they found*  
 at hann tók jafnan hlœjandi við gabbi þeira, ok sigraði  
*that he took always laughing with mockery their and overcame*  
 þá alla bæði í þolinmæði, margmælgí ok einkanliga í  
*them all both in patience talkativeness and especially in*  
 afraunum, þá létu þeir af áleitni við hann.  
*strength-trials then left they off pestering with him*

*A killing between their retainers brings Magnús and his co-king Haraldr to a meeting. Hreiðarr begs to go, and the king, though he fears Haraldr's men, lets him when he sees he cannot hold him back. Hreiðarr rides his horse to exhaustion, and when the men set their own horses beside him to test his speed, he wears out every one.*

Enn er þeir bræðr höfðu eigi lengi verit við hirð  
*But when they brothers had not long been with (the)-court*  
 Magnúsar konungs, þá bar svá til, at hirðmaðr Magnúsar  
*of-Magnus (the)-king then happened so to that a-retainer of-Magnus*  
 konungs hafði vegit hirðmann Haralds konungs; þaðan  
*(the)-king had slain a-retainer of-Harald (the)-king thence*  
 af urðu sjálfir konungar missáttir. Var þá lagðr til  
*from became themselves (the)-kings at-odds Was then laid thereto*  
 sættarfundr, at konungarnir sjálfir skyldu finnast ok skipa  
*a-settlement-meeting that the-kings themselves should meet and arrange*  
 málinu. Enn er Hreiðarr heyrði sagt, at Magnús konungr  
*the-case But when Hreidar heard said that Magnus (the)-king*  
 skyldi fara til móts við Harald konung, þá gekk hann þegar  
*should go to meeting with Harald (the)-king then went he at-once*  
 fyrir konung, ok mælti: “Nú er sá einn hlutr, er ek  
*before (the)-king and spoke Now is that one thing which I*  
 vil biðja þik, konungr”. “Hverr er sá”? segir konungr. “Þat”,  
*will ask you king What is that says (the)-king That*  
 kvað Hreiðarr, “at fara til sáttarfundarins. Ek hefi ekki verið  
*said Hreidar to go to the-settlement-meeting I have not been*  
 víðförull, síðan ek kom til yðar; enn mér er mikil forvitni  
*far-traveled since I came to you but to-me is great curiosity*  
 á, at sjá tvá konunga í einum stað”. Konungr svarar:  
*on(-it) to see two kings in one place (The)-king answers*

“Satt er þat, at þú ert ekki svá víðförull; enn þó mun ek  
*True is that that you are not so far-traveled but yet will I*  
 þér þessa för eigi leyfa, því at þér er ekki fellt, at  
*to-you this journey not permit because that for-you is not fit to*  
 ganga í greipr mönnum Haralds konungs, því (at) vera  
*go into (the)-grips of-(the)-men of-Harald (the)-king because that be*  
 má at þér verði at því ólið eðr öðrum; þeir eru mjök  
*may that to-you become from that harm or others they are much*  
 áleitnir, ok sumir eigi góðgjarnir; er ek hræddr um, ef  
*aggressive and some not well-meaning am I afraid about(-it) if*  
 þú fær harðleikit af þeim, at þá sæki þik reiðin, er þú  
*you get rough-play from them that then seize you the-anger when you*  
 kennir til, enn mér þætti gott ef við bæríst, at hon  
*feel(-it) thereto but to-me would-seem good if with bore(-it) that it*  
 koemi eigi til þín”. Hreiðarr mælti: “Nú talaðir þú gott orð,  
*came not to you Hreidar spoke Now spoke you a-good word*  
 konungr; þá skal at visu fara, ef ek veit þess vánir,  
*king then (I)-shall for sure go if I know of-that expectations*  
 at ek reiðumst”. Konungr svarar: “Mun þú fara, þótt ek  
*that I get-angry (The)-king answers Will you go though I*  
 banna þér”? “Eigi at síðr”, segir hann. Konungr mælti:  
*forbid you Not for (the)-less says he (The)-king spoke*  
 “Ætlar þú at þér muni jafnt við mik at eiga, sem við  
*Think you that for-you will equally with me to deal as with*  
 Þórð bróður þinn, því at þar hefir þú jafnan þitt mál”?  
*Thord brother your because that there have you always your way*  
 Hreiðarr svaraði: “Því öllu betra mun mér við yðr at eiga,  
*Hreidar answered By-that all better will for-me with you to deal*  
 sem þér erut vitrari enn hann”. Konungr þóttist nú sjá,  
*as you are wiser than he (The)-king thought-himself now to-see*  
 at ekki mundi tjá at letja hann, ok þótti ekki örvænt,  
*that not would avail to dissuade him and seemed not unlikely*

at hann slægi sér í föruneysi með öðrum mönnum, ef  
*that he joined himself into (the)-company with other men if*  
 hann bannaði honum at fara með sér, ok sýndist þá enn  
*he forbade him to go with himself and seemed then yet*  
 óhægra at veita honum umsjá, ef hann þyrfti nökkurs  
*more-awkward to give him oversight if he needed anything*  
 við; ok fyrir því leyfði konungr honum at fara. Hreiðarr  
*for(-it) and for that permitted (the)-king him to go Hreidar*  
 varð því feginn; var honum þá feginn hestr til reiðar,  
*became of-that glad was to-him then provided a-horse for riding*  
 enn með því at hann var þungr á baki ok óvanr reiðum,  
*but with that that he was heavy on (the)-back and unused to-riding*  
 þá kunni hann eigi betra hóf, at ætla hestinum enn hann  
*then could he not better measure to allot for-the-horse than he*  
 hleypti svá fyrir, at hestrinn var þegar þrotinn, er þeir  
*galloped so forward that the-horse was at-once exhausted when they*  
 váru skammt á leið komnir. Enn er konungr varð þess  
*were short on (the)-way come But when (the)-king became of-this*  
 varr, þá mælti hann: “Nú berr vel til: fylgi Hreiðari nú  
*aware then spoke he Now bears well thereto let-follow Hreidar now*  
 aftr til bæjarins, ok fari hann hvergi”. Hreiðarr svarar: “Eigi  
*back to the-town and let-go he nowhere Hreidar answers Not*  
 heftir þetta ferð mína, þótt hestrinn sé þrotinn; kemr mér  
*hinders this journey my though the-horse be exhausted comes to-me*  
 til lítils mikill fráleikr, ef ek get eigi fylgt yðr”. Fóru þá  
*for little great swiftness if I can not follow you Went then*  
 margir menn til ok lögðu fram hjá honum hesta sína,  
*many men thereto and laid forth by him horses their*  
 ok vildu reyna fráleik hans, er hann talaði sjálfr svá  
*and would try (the)-swiftness his which he talked himself so*

kappsamliga um. Enn svá lauk, at hann mœddi hvern hest,  
*zealously about But so ended that he wearied each horse*  
 er frammi var lagðr, ok sátu margir fyrir af sínum hestum.  
*which forth was laid and sat many for(-it) of their horses*

IV · HREIÐARR LEARNS ANGER

*At the meeting Haraldr's men drag Hreiðarr into the woods and torment him, then say he will never see their king. Angered at last, he dashes one of them to death, and the others flee to Haraldr. Magnús, knowing his kinsman's cunning, sends Hreiðarr to the Uplands to his landed man Eyvindr.*

Enn er þeir komu þar, sem konungar skyldu finnast, mælti  
*But when they came there where (the)-kings should meet spoke*  
 Magnús konungr til Hreiðars: “Ver þú mér nú fylgjusamr,  
*Magnus (the)-king to Hreiðarr Be you to-me now attendant*  
 ok gakk jafnan hit næsta mér, því at mér segir ekki létt  
*and go always the next to-me because that to-me says not light*  
 hugr um, hversu ferr, ef menn Haralds konungs ná  
*(the)-mind about how (it)-goes if (the)-men of-Harald (the)-king reach*  
 þér”. Hreiðarr lét svá vera skyldu sem konungr mælti. “Ok  
*you Hreiðarr let so be should as (the)-king spoke And*  
 þykki mér því betr” segir hann, “sem ek er yðr nærri”.  
*seems to-me the better says he as I am to-you nearer*  
 Því næst fundust konungar, ok töluðu sín mál tveir samt.  
*That next met (the)-kings and talked their cases two together*  
 Menn Haralds konungs höfðu áðr heyrt sagt frá Hreiðari  
*(The)-men of-Harald (the)-king had before heard told of Hreiðarr*  
 ok fávizku hans; þótti þeim um hit vænsta, er þeir  
*and folly his seemed to-them about(-it) the most-promising when they*  
 sá hann þar kominn. Enn þegar þeir konungar tóku tal  
*saw him there come But as-soon-as they kings took talk*



sitt, þá gekk Hreiðarr í flokk Haralds manna, ok heimta  
*their then went Hreidar into (the)-band Harald's men and draw*  
 þeir hann með sér til skógar, er skammt var þaðan. Þeir  
*they him with them to (the)-wood which short was thence They*  
 skauttoguðu hann mjök, enn hrundu honum stundum; enn  
*cloak-plucked him much but pushed him at-times but*  
 þar lék á ýmsu sem hann var: stundum fauk hann fyrir  
*there played on various as he was at-times blew he before*  
 þeim sem hálmvisk, stundum var hann fastr fyrir sem  
*them as a-straw-wisp at-times was he firm before(-them) as*  
 vegg, ok hrutu þeir frá honum. Enn svá dróst leikrinn  
*a-wall and bounced they from him But so dragged-out the-game*  
 um síðir, at þeir gerðu honum heldr harðleikit, ok létu  
*at last that they made him rather rough-play and let*  
 ganga á honum öxarsköft og sverðskálpa; námu naddar  
*go on him axe-shafts and sword-scabards caught (the)-studs*  
 af umgjörðum í höfði honum, svá at hann skeindist  
*from (the)-sheath-mountings in (the)-head of-him so that he was-scratched*  
 af. Hann hló við, ok lét sem honum þætti þetta  
*from(-it) He laughed at(-it) and behaved as-if to-him seemed this*  
 hit mesta gaman. Ok er svá hafði fram farit um hríð, tók  
*the greatest fun And when so had forth gone for a-while took*  
 leikrinn ekki at batna af þeira hendi. Þá mælti Hreiðarr:  
*the-game not to improve from their hand Then spoke Hreidar*  
 “Nú höfu vér átt gaman ok góðan leik um stund, ok er  
*Now have we had fun and good sport for a-while and is*  
 nú mál at hætta, því at mér tekur at leiðast þessi rjá.  
*now time to stop because that for-me takes to be-tiresome this fooling*  
 Föllum nú til konungs yðars, ok vil ek sjá hann”. “Þat skal  
*Let-us-go now to king your and will I see him That shall*  
 verða aldri”, sögðu þeir, “svá fjandligr maðr sem þú ert, at  
*be never said they so fiendish a-man as you are that*

þú sjáir konung várn, heldr skulu vér færa þinn óvin til  
*you see king our rather shall we bring your enemy to*  
 heljar". Honum fannst þá fátt um, — þóttist sjá  
*bel To-him found-itself then little about(-it) thought-himself to-see*  
 at þeir ætluðu þessu fram at fara, sem þeir sögðu; var nú  
*that they intended this forth to go as they said was now*  
 svá komit, at honum rann í skap, ok reiddist hann. Greip  
*so come that to-him ran in temper and grew-angry he Grabbed*  
 þá höndum þann þeira, er mest sótti at honum ok verst  
*then with-bands that-one of-them who most pressed at him and worst*  
 lék við hann; varp hann þeim á loft, ok færði niðr  
*played with him threw he him into (the)-air and brought(-him) down*  
 at höfðinu svá hart, at heilinn lá þegar úti, ok var dauðr.  
*on the-head so hard that the-brain lay at-once out and was dead*  
 Enn þeir urðu hræddir, sem eftir váru, ok þótti hann varla  
*But they became frightened who behind were and seemed he hardly*  
 mennskr maðr at afli; stukku þeir allir á brott, ok fóru til  
*a-human man in strength ran they all off away and went to*  
 Haralds konungs, ok sögðu at drepinn var hirðmaðr hans.  
*Harald (the)-king and told that killed was retainer his*  
 Hann svarar: "Drepit þá þann, er þat gerði". "Hann er  
*He answers Kill then him who that did He is*  
 eigi í hendi", sögðu þeir; "hann er nú brottu". Þat er frá  
*not in hand said they he is now away That is of*  
 Hreiðari at segja, at hann fór þegar þeir skildu, á fund  
*Hreidar to tell that he went as-soon-as they parted to (the)-meeting*  
 Magnúsar konungs, ok sagði honum sitt efni. Konungr mælti:  
*of-Magnus (the)-king and told him his matter (The)-king spoke*  
 "Hvart veit þú nú, hvernig er at reiðast". "Já", segir hann,  
*Whether know you now how is to be-angry Yes says he*  
 "nú veit ek þat". Konungr mælti: "Hvart þótti þér nú svá  
*now know I that (The)-king spoke Whether seemed to-you now so*

gott at reiðast, sem ek fann at þér var mikil forvitni á”?  
*good to be-angry as I found that for-you was great curiosity on(-it)*  
 Hreiðarr svarar: “Illt þótti mér, ok þess var ek fúsastr, at  
*Hreidar answers Ill seemed(-it) to-me and of-that was I most-eager to*  
 drepa þá alla”. “Þat kom mér beint í hug”, sagði konungr,  
*kill them all That came to-me straight into mind said (the)-king*  
 “at þú mundir illa reiðast; enn þó er nú svá komit, at  
*that you would ill be-angry but yet is now so come that*  
 ek treystumst eigi til at þín verði gætt, ef þú ert með  
*I trust-myself not thereto that of-you be guarded if you are with*  
 hirðinni, þá er vér finnumst, því at Haraldr frændi  
*the-court then when we meet because that Harald kinsman(-my)*  
 er brögðóttur, ok er vant at sjá við ráðum hans. Nú vil ek  
*is tricky and is difficult to see against counsels his Now will I*  
 fá þér föruneyti, ok senda þik á Upplönd til lends manns  
*get you company and send you to (the)-Uplands to landed man*  
 míns, þess er Eyvindr heitir, at hann haldi þik fyrir  
*my that-one who Eyvind is-called that he keep you from*  
 Haraldri konungi. Kom þá til mín, er ek sendi þér orð”.  
*Harald (the)-king Come then to me when I send you word*

## V · THE SILVER SOW

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*The kings settle the first killing but not the case of the retainer Hreiðarr killed. With silver from Eyvindr, Hreiðarr forges a treasure. Haraldr arrives with sixty men, and Hreiðarr gives him a gilded silver pig, which the court admires until Haraldr sees it is a sow, a mockery of him. Haraldr orders him killed, but Eyvindr's men protect him. Magnús says Haraldr has avenged lesser insults very grimly, and that no fool acts as Hreiðarr does.*

Hreiðarr fór nú þar til er hann kom til Eyvindar, ok  
*Hreidar went now there until when he came to Eyvind and*  
 tók hann við honum eftir orðsending Magnúsar konungs.  
*took he with him according-to (the)-message of-Magnus (the)-king*  
 Konungar urðu vel ásáttir um hit fyrra vígit, ok var þat  
*(The)-kings became well agreed about the former the-slaying and was that*  
 sett ok samit; enn um mál Hreiðars kom ekki ásamt  
*settled and composed but about (the)-case of-Hreidar came nothing agreed*  
 með þeim; beiddi Haraldr konungr bóta fyrir hirðmann  
*between them asked Harald (the)-king compensation for retainer*  
 sinn, enn Magnús konungr sagði, at hans menn hefði  
*his but Magnus (the)-king said that his men had*  
 valdit upphöfum ok sökum öllum; lét því síðr þann  
*caused (the)-beginnings and charges all declared therefore less that-one*  
 boetanda, er veginn var, at hann kallaði þá alla hafa  
*to-be-compensated who slain was that he called them all to-have*  
 fyrirgert sér, er í móti höfðu verit Hreiðari, þótt hann  
*forfeited themselves who in against had been to-Hreidar though he*  
 hefði alla þá drepit. Skildu þeir at sinni við þat, at  
*had all them killed Parted they for (this)-time with that that*  
 Magnús konungr neitaði þverliga bóta fyrir manninn.  
*Magnus (the)-king refused flatly compensation for the-man*  
 Eigi liðu langar stundir, áðr Haraldr konungr varð viss,  
*Not passed long times before Harald (the)-king became aware*  
 hvar hann var niðr kominn. Gerði hann síðan ferð sína  
*where he was down come Made he afterward journey his*  
 ok kom á Upplönd til Eyvindar með sextigu manna. Þat  
*and came to (the)-Uplands to Eyvind with sixty men It*  
 var snemma um morgin, því at hann ætlaði at koma á  
*was early in (the)-morning because that he intended to come on*  
 óvart; enn þat varð ekki svá, því at Eyvindr þóttist  
*unawares but that became not so because that Eyvind thought-himself*

vita, at Haraldr konungr mundi leita eftir manninum;  
*to-know that Harald (the)-king would seek after the-man*  
 var hann á engri stundu varbúinn við hans kvámu; kom  
*was he at no time unprepared against his coming came*  
 honum þegar njósn um ferðir konungs, er hann var  
*to-him at-once spying about (the)-journeys of-(the)-king when he was*  
 norðan kominn; hafði hann stefnt at sér mönnum í  
*from-the-north come had he summoned to himself men in*  
 skóga, þá er nær váru böenum; skyldi hann gera þeim  
*woods those which near were to-the-farm should he make them*  
 mark til, ef hann þyrfti manna við. Þat er sagt einn  
*a-sign thereto if he needed men for(-it) That is told one*  
 dag, nökkuru áðr Haraldr konungr kom þar, at Hreiðarr  
*day somewhat before Harald (the)-king came there that Hreidar*  
 bæði Eyvind fá sér silfr nökkut ok gull. Eyvindr spurði,  
*asked Eyvind get for-himself silver some and gold Eyvind asked*  
 ef hann væri hagr? Hreiðarr svarar: “Þat sagði mér Magnús  
*if he were handy Hreidar answers That told me Magnus*  
 konungr, at ek mynda vera hagr, enn ekki má ek annat  
*(the)-king that I would be handy but not may I other*  
 til vita, því at ek hefi aldrei við leitat, enn ek  
*thereto know because that I have never at(-it) tried but I*  
 trúi því, sem hann sagði, því at hann myndi vita”.  
*believe that which he said because that he would know*  
 Eyvindr mælti: “Þú ert mjök undarligr maðr; nú mun ek  
*Eyvind spoke You are a-very strange man now will I*  
 fá þér smíðarefni; enn þú fá mér aftir silfrit, ef smíðin  
*give you smithing-material but you give me back the-silver if the-smithing*  
 ónýttist, enn ella njót sjálf”. Hreiðarr var nú byrgðr í  
*comes-to-naught but else enjoy(-it) yourself Hreidar was now shut in*  
 einu húsi, ok var hann þar at smíðinni, enn áðr enn algert  
*one house and was he there at the-smithing but before than all-done*

yrði þat, er hann vildi smíða, kom þar Haraldr konungr,  
*became that which he would smith came there Harald (the)-king*  
 sem áðr var sagt. Eyvindr tók blíðliga við konungi, ok  
*as before was told Eyvind took kindly with (the)-king and*  
 gerði honum góða veizlu. Ok er þeir sátu við drykk, mælti  
*made him a-good feast And when they sat at drink spoke*  
 Haraldr konungr til Eyvindar: “Er nökkurr sá maðr hér,  
*Harald (the)-king to Eyvind Is any that man here*  
 er Hreiðarr heitir? Mun þú hafa vináttu (vára), ef þú selr  
*who Hreidar is-called Will you have friendship our if you hand*  
 oss þann mann fram nauðungarlaust”. “Eigi er hann nú  
*us that man forth without-compulsion Not is he now*  
 hér”, sagði Eyvindr. “Ek sér þat”, segir konungr, “at hann  
*here said Eyvind I see that says (the)-king that he*  
 er eigi hér í stofunni; veit ek ok eigi síðr, at hann er í  
*is not here in the-room know I also not less that he is in*  
 þínum herbergjum ok í þínu valdi, ok þarftú eigi þess at  
*your lodgings and in your power and need-you not that to*  
 dylja”. — “Enn þótt svá sé”, segir Eyvindr, “þá geri ek ekki  
*bide But though so be says Eyvind then make I not*  
 þann mun ykkarn Magnúsar konungs, at ek selja þér  
*that difference of-you-two Magnus (the)-king(-and-you) that I hand you*  
 fram þann mann undir öxi, er hann bauð mér at veita  
*forth that man under (the)-axe whom he bade me to give*  
 hald ok traust”. Gekk Eyvindr þá út ór stofunni. Enn  
*keeping and protection Went Eyvind then out out-of the-room But*  
 er hann kom at því húsi, er Hreiðarr var byrgðr í, þá  
*when he came to that house which Hreidar was shut in then*  
 brauzt hann á hurðina, ok kallaði, at hann vildi á brott  
*burst he at the-door and called that he would off away*  
 þaðan. “Þegi þú”, segir Eyvindr; “Haraldr konungr er hér  
*thence Be-silent you says Eyvind Harald (the)-king is here*

kominn, ok vill drepa þik”. Hreiðarr brauzt út eigi at síðr,  
*come and will kill you Hreidar burst out not for less*  
 ok lézt hitta vilja konung. Eyvindr sá, at hann myndi  
*and professed meet to-wish (the)-king Eyvind saw that he would*  
 brjóta upp hurðina, ef hann væri eigi út látinn. Gekk hann  
*break up the-door if he were not out let Went he*  
 þá til ok lauk upp ok mælti: “Gramir munu taka þik,  
*then to(-it) and opened up and spoke Fiends will take you*  
 er þú hrapar svá til banans, at þér má ekki við hjálpa”.  
*when you rush so to the-death that you may nothing against help*  
 Hreiðarr gekk inn í stofuna fyrir Harald konung, ok  
*Hreidar went in into the-room before Harald (the)-king and*  
 kvaddi hann ok mælti síðan: “Herra”, segir hann, “takit af  
*greeted him and spoke afterward Lord says he take off*  
 mér reiði yðra, því at ek er þér felldr fyrir margs sakir,  
*me anger your because that I am to-you suited for many sakes*  
 ef þú vill snúa þinni vináttu til mín. Mun ek þá gera þat,  
*if you will turn your friendship to me Will I then do that*  
 er þú vill mik til senda, þótt mannhætta þykki í vera.  
*which you will me for send though peril-of-men seem in to-be*  
 Nú er hér einn gripur, er ek vil þér gefa”. Ok setti hann  
*Now is here a treasure which I will you give And set he*  
 á borðit fyrir konung; þat var svín, gert af silfri ok gyllt.  
*on the-table before (the)-king that was a-swine made of silver and gilt*  
 Þá mælti konungur, er hann leit á svínit: “Þú ert hagr  
*Then spoke (the)-king when he looked at the-swine You are a-handy*  
 maðr, svá at trautt hefi ek sét jafnvel smíðat með því  
*man so that scarcely have I seen equally-well smithed with that*  
 móti sem er”. Fór þá svínit um stofuna, ok sýndi maðr  
*manner as is(-this) Went then the-swine around the-room and showed man*  
 manni, ok tala allir eitt um, at eigi þóttust hafa  
*to-man and talk all one-thing about(-it) that not thought-themselves to-have*

sét þess kyns smíði fegra. Þá mælti konungur: “Taka mun  
*seen of-that kind smithing fairer Then spoke (the)-king Take will*  
 ek sættir af þér, Hreiðarr; þykki mér gott at senda þik  
*I settlements from you Hreidar seems to-me good to send you*  
 til stórvirkja. Þú ert maðr styrkr ok ófælinn, at því er ek  
*to great-deeds You are a-man strong and unafraid at that which I*  
 hygg”. Nú kom svínit öðru sinni aftir fyrir konung; tók  
*think Now came the-swine (the)-second time back before (the)-king took*  
 hann þá upp ok hugði at smíðinni enn vandligar. Sá hann  
*he then up and looked at the-smithing still more-carefully Saw he*  
 þá, at þat var gyltr ok spenar á; sá hann, at þetta  
*then that it was a-sow and teats on(-it) saw he that this*  
 var gert til háðs við hann; fleygði hann þegar á brott  
*was made for mockery against him flung he at-once off away*  
 svíninu, ok mælti: “Hafi þik allan tröll, ok standi menn  
*the-swine and spoke Have you all trolls and stand men*  
 upp ok drepi hann”. Hreiðarr greip svínit ok mælti: “Hvat  
*up and kill him Hreidar grabbed the-swine and spoke What*  
 þá annat enn ek hafa sjálf grip minn, ef þú vill engu  
*then other than I have myself treasure my if you will nothing*  
 launa, konungur, nema illu”. Kvað hann þegar úti annat  
*reward king except with-ill Spoke he at-once outside another*  
 orð, ok fór brott af bænum. Haraldr konungur ok hans  
*word and went away from the-farm Harald (the)-king and his*  
 menn hlupu út eftir honum, ok ætluðu at drepa hann. Enn  
*men ran out after him and meant to kill him But*  
 er þeir komu út, var þar fyrir Eyvindr með fjölmenni,  
*when they came out was there before(-them) Eyvind with a-throng*  
 svá at þeir máttu ekki halda eftir Hreiðari. Skildu þeir  
*so that they might not hold after Hreidar Parted they*  
 Haraldr konungur ok Eyvindr svá, at konungi líkaði illa,  
*Harald (the)-king and Eyvind so that to-(the)-king liked ill*



enn Hreiðarr létti sinni ferð eigi fyrr enn hann kom á  
*but Hreidar stopped his journey not sooner than he came to*  
fund Magnúsar konungs. Ok er þeir fundust, frétti  
*(the)-meeting of-Magnus (the)-king And when they met asked*  
konungr, hversu farit hafði með þeim Haraldi konungi.  
*(the)-king how gone had with them Harald (the)-king(-and-him)*  
Enn Hreiðarr sagði til allt hit sanna, ok sýndi konungi  
*But Hreidar told thereto all the true and showed (the)-king*  
svínit. Konungr mælti: “Harðla hagliga er þetta smíðat, ok  
*the-swine (The)-king spoke Very skillfully is this smithed and*  
hefnt hefir Haraldr konungr frændi várr mjök grimmliga  
*avenged has Harald (the)-king kinsman our very grimly*  
minni háðungar, enn í þessu er öllu saman, ok eigi er  
*less disgrace but in this is all together and not are*  
þú alláræðislitill, ok þó með öllu hugkœmr, ok aldri ætla  
*you very-lacking-in-daring and yet with all sharp-witted and never think*  
ek, at fífl muni svá fara, hversu heimskliga sem þú lætr”.  
*I that a-fool will so act how foolishly as you behave*

## VI • THE ISLET

*Hreiðarr recites a poem on Magnús, awkward at first and better as it goes, and the king says it is like Hreiðarr's own life. As a reward he offers an islet off Norway, then buys it back for silver so Hreiðarr need not stay within Haraldr's reach. Hreiðarr settles in Svarfaðardalr, grows brisker with age, and founds a large family.*

Hreiðarr var nú með Magnúsi konungi um stund, ok  
*Hreidar was now with Magnus (the)-king for a-while and*  
einnhvern dag kom hann at máli við konung ok sagði svá:  
*some day came he to talk with (the)-king and said so*  
“Þat vilda ek, konungr, at þú veittir mér þat, er ek  
*That would-wish I king that you granted me that which I*

mun biðja þik". "Hvat er þat", segir konungr. "Þat herra",  
*will ask you What is that says (the)-king That lord*  
 segir Hreiðarr, "vilda ek at þér veittit mér, at hlýða  
*says Hreidar would-wish I that you granted me to hear*  
 kvæði því, er ek hefi ort um yðr". "Þat vil ek veita  
*(the)-poem that which I have composed about you That will I grant*  
 þér", segir konungr. Hreiðarr flutti kvæðit, ok var þat nökkut  
*you says (the)-king Hreidar recited the-poem and was it somewhat*  
 stirt ok einrænligt öndvert, enn því betr sem meirr leið  
*stiff and odd at-the-beginning but the better as more passed*  
 upp á. Ok er lokit var mælti konungr: "Þetta kvæði sýnist  
*up on And when ended was spoke (the)-king This poem seems*  
 mér undarligt, ok þó gott áðr lýkr; er þat mjök með  
*to-me strange and yet good before (it)-ends is it much in*  
 þeim hætti, sem æfi þín mun vera; hon hefir fyrst verit  
*that manner as life your will be it has first been*  
 með kynlegu móti, ok einrænligu; en hon mun snúast til  
*in strange manner and odd but it will turn to*  
 betrunar sem upp liðr á. Hér eftir skal ek velja kvæðislaunin:  
*improvement as up passes on Here after shall I choose the-poem's-reward*  
 hólmr einn liggr hér fyrir Noregi, sá er ek vil þér gefa;  
*an-islet one lies here off Norway that which I will you give*  
 hann er vel grasi vaxinn ok gott land, þótt eigi sé  
*it is well with-grass grown and good land though not be(-it)*  
 mikit". Hreiðarr mælti: "Þetta er vel gefit, sem ván var  
*large Hreidar spoke This is well given as expected was*  
 af yðr; þar skal ek samtengja með Noreg ok Ísland". "Eigi  
*from you there shall I join-together with Norway and Iceland Not*  
 veit ek, hversu þat ferr", segir konungr, "hitt veit ek, at  
*know I how that goes says (the)-king that-other know I that*  
 margir menn munu búnir, at kaupa at þér hólminn, ok  
*many men will (be)-ready to buy from you the-islet and*

gefa þér annat fé fyrir. Nú ætla ek þat bezst, at ek leysa  
*give you other wealth for(-it) Now think I that best that I redeem*  
 til mín hólminn, at hann verði þér eigi at gripdeildum,  
*to me the-islet that it become to-you not for grabbing*  
 ok þeim sem kaupa vilja, allra helst fyrir þá skyld, at þér  
*and to-those who buy will of-all most for that reason that for-you*  
 er ekki vel vært hér í landi fyrir Haraldi konungi, því  
*is not well safe here in (the)-land for Harald (the)-king because*  
 at auðsær er þinn kostur, ef hann má ráða, ef þú dvelst  
*that plain is your choice if he may rule if you stay*  
 hér langvistum". Gaf Magnús konungur þá Hreiðari silfr fyrir  
*here for-long-stays Gave Magnus (the)-king then to-Hreidar silver for*  
 hólminn, ok fór hann at ráði konungs út til Íslands, ok  
*the-islet and went he by counsel of-(the)-king out to Iceland and*  
 bjó í Svarfaðardal, þar er síðan heitir at Hreiðarsstöðum.  
*dwelt in Svarfadardal there where since is-called at Hreidarsstadir*  
 Fór um hans æfi sem Magnús konungur gat, at hann þótti  
*Went about his life as Magnus (the)-king guessed that he seemed*  
 því röskvari, sem meirr leið á æfi hans; enn hann hafði  
*the brisker as more passed on life his but he had*  
 gert sér at mestum hluta þau kynjalæti, er hann sýndist  
*made for-himself for greatest part those odd-manners that he seemed*  
 hálfþífl. Bjó hann á Hreiðarsstöðum til elli, ok er margt  
*half-fool Dwelt he at Hreidarsstadir until old-age and is many*  
 manna frá honum komit. Lýkr þar nú frá Hreiðari at segja.  
*men from him come Ends there now of Hreidar to tell*



# Halldórs þátrr Snorrasonar

*The Tale of Halldor Snorrason*





*Halldórr Snorrason, long with King Haraldr, asks him to pardon the Icelander Eilífr and is refused. He goes with Eilífr to Einarr Þambarskelfir, who takes them in. Halldórr often tells Einarr's wife Bergljót of his adventures abroad with Haraldr.*

Halldórr son Snorra goða af Íslandi var með Haraldi  
*Halldor son of-Snorri (the)-Priest from Iceland was with Harald*  
 konungi Sigurðarsyni, meðan hann var útanlands, ok lengi  
*(the)-king Sigurd's-son while he was abroad and long*  
 síðan er hann fekk ríki í Noregi ok vel virðr af  
*afterward when he got (the)-realm in Norway and well valued by*  
 honum. Þat bar at eitt sinn, at Íslenzkr maðr, sá er  
*him It bore at(-it) one time that an-Icelandic man he who*  
 Eilífr hét, varð fyrir reiði Haralds konungs; enn hann  
*Eilif was-called came under (the)-anger of-Harald (the)-king but he*  
 bað Halldór flytja mál sitt við konung, ok Halldórr gerði svá.  
*bade Halldor plead case his with (the)-king and Halldor did so*  
 Halldórr var stíðmáll ok harðorðr, enn mjök fátalaðr; enn  
*Halldor was stiff-spoken and harsh-worded but very sparing-of-speech but*  
 þó beiddi hann konung at gefa upp málit, at Eilífr skyldi fá  
*yet asked he (the)-king to give up the-case that Eilif should get*  
 landsvist af honum, enn konungr neitti því þverliga. Halldórr  
*land-stay from him but (the)-king refused that flatly Halldor*  
 var þykkjumikill, sem aðrir Íslendingar, ok þótti illa, er  
*was proud-minded as other Icelanders and seemed(-it) ill when*  
 hann fekk eigi þat, er hann beiddi. Hann fór síðan burt  
*he got not that which he asked He went afterward away*  
 frá Haraldi ok Eilífr með honum; þeir komu á Gimsar til  
*from Harald and Eilif with him they came to Gimsar to*  
 Einars Þambarskelfis, ok beiddi Halldórr at hann mundi taka  
*Einarr Paunch-shaker and asked Halldor that he would take*

við þeim, ok veita honum ásjá. Einarr sagðist mundu við  
*with them and give him protection Einar said-of-himself would with*  
 honum taka með því móti, at Halldórr vildi ok þar vera með  
*him take in that manner that Halldor would also there be with*  
 honum. Halldórr mælti: “Hvar vísar þú mér til sætis”? Einarr  
*him Halldor spoke Where show you me to a-seat Einar*  
 bað hann sitja í öndvegi gegnt sér, ok tóku sessunautar  
*bade him sit in (the)-high-seat opposite himself and took bench-mates*  
 vel við honum. Einarr átti þá konu, er Bergljót hét; hon  
*well with him Einar had that wife who Bergljot was-called she*  
 var dóttir Hákonar jarls hins illa, Sigurðarsonar Hlaða-jarls.  
*was daughter of-Hakon (the)-earl the Evil Sigurd's-son Hladir-earl*  
 Halldórr gekk jafnan til Bergljótar, ok sagði henni mörg æfintýr,  
*Halldor went always to Bergljot and told her many adventures*  
 þau sem útanlands höfðu gerst í ferðum þeira Haralds  
*those which abroad had happened in journeys of-them Harald*  
 konungs, ok gengu menn oft til þeirar frásagnar.  
*(the)-king(-and-himself) and went men often to that telling*

## II • HALLDÓRR KILLS KALI

*Einarr's young kinsman Kali, a spiteful goldsmith, makes insulting verses about Halldórr and, before Bergljót, mocks him as a man who once lay in a Greek dungeon. Halldórr kills him on the spot. Bergljót has the doors guarded and advises him to go straight to Einarr, bring him his head, and ask for peace.*

Maðr hét Kali; hann var ungr at aldri ok nökkut-skyldr  
*A-man was-called Kali he was young in age and somewhat-related*  
 Einari; illgjarn var hann ok nökkut öfundsjúkr, háðsamr ok  
*to-Einar malicious was he and somewhat envious mocking and*  
 hávaða-mikill; hann var þá skósveinn Einars, ok hafði lengi  
*noisy he was then (the)-footboy of-Einar and had long*



þjónat honum. Kali var hagr vel á gull ok silfr; því  
*served him Kali was handy well at gold and silver therefore*  
 var hann kallaðr Gyllingar-Kali. Marga menn rægði hann  
*was he called Gilder-Kali Many men slandered he*  
 við Einar, ok var sundrgerðar-maðr mikill í orðum, bæði  
*to Einar and was an-ostentatious-man great in words both*  
 sundrlausum ok samföstum. Hann hafði mjök í háði við  
*unbound and bound He had much in mockery with*  
 Halldór, ok bað aðra menn yrkja nið um hann, en  
*Halldor and bade other men compose a-lampoon about him but*  
 engi varð til þess; því fekkst Kali ok í at flimta hann.  
*none became to that therefore took-to Kali also in to lampoon him*  
 Halldórr varð þess varr; ok einhvern dag gekk hann til  
*Halldor became of-that aware and some day went he to*  
 skemmu Bergljótar; ok er hann kemr at dyrunum, heyrir  
*(the)-bower of-Bergljot and when he comes to the-doors hears*  
 hann inni há-mælgí mikla; var þar inni Kali ok margir  
*he inside loud-talk great was there inside Kali and many*  
 menn aðrir. Þeir bera þá fram fyrir húsfreyju hróp  
*men others They bear then forth before (the)-housewife (the)-slander*  
 þat, er Kali hafði kveðit um Halldór. Bergljót bað þá  
*that which Kali had composed about Halldor Bergljot bade them*  
 þegja, ok sagði svá: “Þat er illa gert, at fást upp á ókunna  
*be-silent and said so That is ill done to set up on unknown*  
 menn með hrópyrðum ok háðsemi, ok munu yðr tröll toga  
*men with abusive-words and mockery and will you trolls pull*  
 tungu ór höfði; hefir Halldórr meirr verit reyndr at  
*(the)-tongue out-of (the)-head has Halldor more been tested in*  
 fröckleik enn flestir menn aðrir í Noregi”. Kali mælti: “Ekki  
*valor than most men others in Norway Kali spoke Not*  
 er ek hræddr við hann mörlanda, þó at hann hafi mikil  
*am I afraid of him (the)-suet-lander though that he have great*

metorð af þér, því at vær höfum spurt, at hann var  
*esteem from you because that we have heard that he was*  
 settur í dyflissu út á Grikklandi, ok lá þar á ormshala  
*set in a-dungeon out in Greece and lay there on a-serpent's-tail*  
 athafnarlauss ok ekki megandi". Halldórr þoldi eigi þessi  
*deedless and not able Halldor bore not these*  
 atyrði; hljóp hann inn í herbergit at Kala, ok hjó hann  
*insults leaped he in into the-room at Kali and struck him*  
 banahögg. Ok er Bergljót sá þat, bað hon geyma dyranna,  
*a-death-blow And when Bergljot saw that bade she guard the-doors*  
 svá at engi kæmist fyrr út en henni líkaði. Þá mælti  
*so that none got sooner out than to-her pleased Then spoke*  
 Halldórr: "Biðja vil ek, húsfreyja, at þú sjáir eitthvert gott  
*Halldor Ask will I housewife that you see some good*  
 ráð fyrir mér, þó at ek hafa nú eigi til þess unnit". Hon  
*counsel for me though that I have now not for that worked She*  
 svarar: "Ek á marga frændr þá mér náskylda, þá sem  
*answers I have many kinsmen those to-me closely-related those who*  
 lendir menn eru; ok veit ek vísliga, at til hvers þeira, er  
*landed men are and know I surely that to whichever of-them whom*  
 ek sendi þik, at sá tekur við þér fyrir mínar sakir". Halldórr  
*I send you that he takes with you for my sakes Halldor*  
 mælti: "Hugsa þú svá fyrir, at með engum manni vil ek  
*spoke Think you so before that with no man will I*  
 á laun vera haldinn sem illræðis-maðr". Bergljót segir: "Þeir  
*in secret be kept as an-evil-doer Bergljot says They*  
 munu þó fáir menn í Noregi, utan sjálf Haraldr konungur,  
*will yet few men in Norway except himself Harald (the)-king*  
 at dugi at halda þik fyrir Einari, ef hann vill eftir þér leita,  
*that avail to keep you from Einar if he will after you seek*  
 því at hann mun viss verða, hvar þú kemr niðr. Er ok  
*because that he will aware become where you come down Is also*

til ráð annat”, segir hon, “ok er þat þó eigi hættulaust”.

*thereto counsel another says she and is that yet not without-danger*

Halldórr mælti: “Hvert er þat?” Hon svarar: “Þat, at þú

*Halldor spoke What is that She answers That that you*

gangir þegar inn í stofu, sakir þess, at nú eru tvau víti

*go at-once in into (the)-ball for-sake of-that that now are two fines*

á hendi þér: annat vígsvítit, enn annat borðvíti, því at

*on hand to-you one the-slaying-fine but (the)-other a-table-fine because that*

þú komt eigi til borða með öðrum mönnum, því at nú

*you came not to table with other men because that now*

sitja menn yfir borðum. Máttú nú ganga inn fyrir Einar,

*sit men over tables May-you now go in before Einar*

ok segja honum tíðindin; ok ef þú færir honum höfuð þitt,

*and tell him the-tidings and if you bring him head your*

ok friðast svá við hann. Enn ef hann vill þér eigi grið

*and make-peace so with him But if he will you not quarter*

gefa með því, þá mun eigi hægt at forða þér fyrir honum”.

*give with that then will not easy to save you from him*

### III • EINARR HEARS THE CASE

*Halldórr offers Einarr his head. Einarr says Kali was dear to him, but that it is wise to heed the counsel of his foster-son King Magnús and let his anger cool. He takes Halldórr's sword, gives him no promise of peace, and then calls an assembly and begins a story from the Long Serpent.*

Síðan gekk Halldórr inn fyrir Einar ok mælti: “Eigi hefi

*Afterward went Halldor in before Einar and spoke Not have*

ek oft verið víttir fyrir borðs tilgöngu; hefir nú ok svá

*I often been fined for table's coming has now also so*

til borit, at ek hefi eigi verit sýslulauss”. Einarr svarar:

*to borne that I have not been without-business Einar answers*

“Segir þú mér víg Kala, frænda míns?” Halldórr svarar:

*Tell you me (the)-slaying of-Kali kinsman my Halldor answers*

“Þeirar sakar er ek sannr, ok því vil ek færa þér höfuð

*Of-that charge am I guilty and therefore will I bring you head*

mitt, ok ger þú af slíkt er þér líkar”. (Einarr mælti):

*my and do you with(-it) such as to-you pleases Einar spoke*

“Víg þetta, er þik hefir hent, þykki mér meirr enn þú

*Slaying this which you has befallen seems to-me greater than you*

munt ætla; Kali var minn skyldr frændi, ok hefir hjá mér

*will think Kali was my related kinsman and has by me*

þroska tekit, ok þjónat mér frá blautu barni, ok því

*growth taken and served me from soft child and therefore*

hefi ek lagt við hann mikla elsku, því at Indriði son

*have I laid on him great love because that Indridi son*

minn mundi sá einn annarr drepinn vera, at mér mundi

*my would that one other killed be that to-me would*

meira at þykkja”. Halldórr svarar: “Þat manntjón væri ólíkt”.

*more to seem Halldor answers That man-loss were unlike*

Einarr mælti: “Bræðr Kala munu þar sjá til sæmda, er

*Einar spoke (The)-brothers of-Kali will there see to honors where*

ek er, um eftirmál ok vígsbætr eftir hann; er þat ok

*I am about (the)-prosecution and slaying-fines after him is that also*

lítillmannligt, at ek láta mér svá þykkja, sem einn hundr

*small-minded that I let myself so seem as-if one dog*

hafi fyrir mér drepinn verit, þar sem Kali var; mun þat

*have for me killed been there where Kali was will that*

þá enn heldr leiðast öðrum, at vinna slík illvirki, ef þessa

*then still rather be-loathsome to-others to work such evil-deeds if this*

er hefnt eftir makligleikum. Enn þó mun hæfa, at hafa

*is avenged according-to deserts But yet will befit to have*

heilræði Magnúss konungs fóstra míns, ok gefa upp

*(the)-wholesome-counsel of-Magnus (the)-king foster-son my and give up*

reiðina fyrst í stað, því at oft þykkir þá annat sannara,  
*the-anger first in place because that often seems then other truer*  
 er hon liðr af, enn áðr hefir fram farit. Nú skaltú, Halldórr,  
*when it passes off than before has forth gone Now shall-you Halldor*  
 fyrst fá mér sverð þitt, því at ek vil þat hafa". Halldórr  
*first give me sword your because that I will it have Halldor*  
 svarar: "Hvat þarf ek at láta laus vápn mín?" "Því vil ek  
*answers Why need I to let loose weapons my Therefore will I*  
 hafa sverð þitt", segir Einarr, "at ek sé, ef nökkut er þrengt  
*have sword your says Einar that I see if somewhat is pressed*  
 þínum kosti, at þú munt verja hendr þínar, meðan þú  
*to-your lot that you will defend hands your while you*  
 mátt, ef þú hefir vápn at vega með, ok er þá eigi örvænt,  
*can if you have weapons to fight with and is then not unlikely*  
 at svá fari fleiri, sem Kali hefir áðr farit, ok mun ek þá  
*that so go more as Kali has before gone and will I then*  
 eigi betr við una, enn þat mun þó saman fara, ef þú  
*not better with(-it) be-content but that will yet together go if you*  
 ert sótttr, at þú munt hafa mann fyrir þik, nema þú hafir  
*are attacked that you will have a-man for you unless you have*  
 fleiri, enn þó mun ek yfir þik vinna at síðustu. Gakk nú  
*more but yet will I over you prevail at last Go now*  
 fyrst til borðs með mér, enn ek mun síðar upp segja víti  
*first to table with me but I will later up announce fines*  
 þín, enn engum friði heiti ek þér álangdar". Halldórr gerði  
*your but no peace promise I you for-long Halldor did*  
 svá, at hann át ok drakk með Einari, sem hann ætti ekki  
*so that he ate and drank with Einar as-if he had nothing*  
 um at vera, ok af hendi fekk hann sverðit. Tók Einarr við  
*about to be and from hand gave he the-sword Took Einar with*  
 því. Vinir Halldórs báðu hann brott fara, ef hann mætti.  
*it (The)-friends of-Halldor bade him away go if he might*

Halldórr svarar: “Ekki mun ek leynast frá Einari, þar sem  
*Halldor answers Not will I hide-myself from Einar there where*  
 ek hefi áður gengit á vald hans”. Ok er Halldórr var  
*I have before gone into power his And when Halldor was*  
 mettr, gekk hann fyrir Einar ok spurði, hvern hann vildi þá  
*fed went he before Einar and asked what he would then*  
 gera hans hlut. Einarr svarar: “Síðar muntú enn þat vita”.  
*do his share Einar answers Later will-you yet that know*  
 Halldórr gekk þá í brott, ok segir Bergljótu, hvar komit  
*Halldor went then off away and tells Bergljot where come*  
 var. Hon svarar: “Eigi vænti ek, at Einarr láti drepa þik;  
*(it)-was She answers Not expect I that Einar lets kill you*  
 enn ef hann vill níðast á þér, þá heiti ek þér því, at þá  
*but if he will act-basely on you then promise I you that that then*  
 skal enn meiri tíðindum gegna”. Ok þenna sama dag stefnir  
*shall still greater tidings amount-to And this same day summons*  
 Einarr fjölmennt þing. Hann stóð upp á þinginu ok talaði  
*Einar a-thronged assembly He stood up at the-assembly and spoke*  
 svá: “Ek vil nú skemmta yðr, ok segja frá því, er fyrir  
*so I will now entertain you and tell of that which for*  
 löngu var á Orminum langa með Ólafi konungi Tryggvasyni:  
*long was on the-Serpent Long with Olaf (the)-king Tryggvi's-son*

IV • EINARR'S STORY

*Einar tells how, taken prisoner after leaping from the Long Serpent, he and two companions were sold at a Jutland market to a masked man in a cowl, who freed them, foretold their lives, and asked as payment that Einar free any man in his power whose life he himself wanted. As he unmasked they knew him as King Ólaf Tryggvason. Einarr pardons Halldórr, compensates Kali's kin, and Halldórr later reconciles Eilífr and himself with Haraldr.*

“Þat bar svá til, at mér var skipat með Kolbeini stallara  
*That happened so to that to-me was assigned with Kolbein (the)-marshal*  
 ok Flesmu-Birni á Orminum; var ek þá átján vetra gamall,  
*and Flesmu-Bjorn on the-Serpent was I then eighteen winters old*  
 ok fyrir lög fram tekinn í kappatöluna, því at engi  
*and beyond law forth taken into the-champions'-count because that none*  
 skyldi á honum vera yngri enn tvítugr, ok eigi ellri enn  
*should on it be younger than twenty and not older than*  
 sextugr. Níu váru þeir menn, er brott komust af Orminum,  
*sixty Nine were those men who away got off the-Serpent*  
 enn frá oss þrim kumpánum vil ek nökkut segja, at vér  
*but of us three comrades will I something tell that we*  
 hlupum fyrir borð á Orminum, síðan konungr var horfinn  
*leaped over board off the-Serpent after (the)-king was vanished*  
 með ljósi því, er yfir skein, ok Danir, menn Sveins  
*with light that which over sbone and (the)-Danes (the)-men of-Svein*  
 konungs, tóku oss ok færðu konungi, enn hann flutti oss  
*(the)-king took us and brought(-us) to-(the)-king but he carried us*  
 til Jótlands, ok váru vér þar upp leiddir, ok settir á eina  
*to Jutland and were we there up led and set on one*  
 lág, ok þar fjötraðir. Enn sá, er oss varðveitti, vildi selja oss  
*log and there fettered But he who us guarded would sell us*  
 í þrældóm; hann hét oss afarkostum ok limaláti, ef vér  
*into thralldom he promised us hard-terms and loss-of-limbs if we*  
 vildim eigi þjást, ok í þeim skógi sátum vér þrjár nætr.  
*would not be-enslaved and in that wood sat we three nights*  
 Þessi maðr, er oss varðveitti, lét móts kveðja, ok þangat  
*This man who us guarded had a-meeting called and thither*  
 kom mikit fjölmenni, því at þar var settr markaðr til at  
*came a-great throng because that there was set a-market for to*  
 kaupa eðr selja þat, er fram var boðit; vér várum færðir  
*buy or sell that which forth was offered we were brought*

á þetta mót, ok settir niðr í einhverjum stað. Ok at þessu  
*to this meeting and set down in some place And at this*  
 móti sat einn maðr mikill, svá búinn sem munkr í blám  
*meeting sat one man big so dressed as a-monk in a-black*  
 kufli, ok hafði grímu fyrir andliti. Þessi maðr gekk at oss  
*cowl and had a-mask before (the)-face This man went to us*  
 kumpánum ok mælti til geymarans: “Viltú selja mér þann  
*comrades and spoke to the-keeper Will-you sell me that*  
 hinn gamla þrællinn”? Hann svarar: “Hvat skal þér afgangall  
*the old the-thrall He answers What shall for-you a-very-old*  
 þræll ok menningarlauss”? Grímumaðrinn svarar: “Hann mun  
*thrall and unmannered The-masked-man answers He will*  
 þá ódýrstr af þrælunum öllum”? “Já”, segir geymarinn várr;  
*then cheapest of the-thralls all Yes says the-keeper our*  
 “hann skal víst ódýrstr”. “Met hann þá”, segir grímumaðr.  
*he shall surely (be)-cheapest Value him then says (the)-masked-man*  
 Geymarinn mat hann fyrir tólf aura silfrs. Grímumaðr  
*The-keeper valued him at twelve ounces of-silver (The)-masked-man*  
 segir: “Dýrr þykki mér sá þrællinn, með því at ek sé  
*says Dear seems to-me that thrall with that that I see*  
 hann mjök gamlan ok forverks-lítinn; er ok eigi ólíkt, at  
*him very old and work-little is also not unlikely that*  
 hann lifi skamma stund. Mun ek gefa þér fyrir hann mörk  
*he live short while Will I give you for him a-mark*  
 silfrs, ef þú vill því kaupa”. “Þá gekk grímumaðr at mér”,  
*of-silver if you will that bargain Then went (the)-masked-man to me*  
 segir Einarr, “ok spurði, hverr mik hefði keyptan. “Ek hef  
*says Einar and asked who me had bought I have*  
 enn ekki seldan hann”, segir geymarinn, “enn þó má hann  
*yet not sold him says the-keeper but yet may be*  
 seljast”. “Hversu dýrr” segir grímumaðr, “skal hann vera”?  
*be-sold How dear says (the)-masked-man shall he be*



Geymarinn mælti: “Helzti dýrr mun hann þér þykkja; kaup  
*The-keeper spoke Far-too dear will he to-you seem buy*  
 hann fyrir þrjár merkr silfrs, ef þér líkar”. “Alldýrr mun  
*him for three marks of-silver if to-you pleases Very-dear will*  
 hann þá vera”, segir grínumaðr, “enn sjá þykkjumst ek, at  
*he then he says (the)-masked-man but see think-myself I that*  
 frændr hans ok vinir mundu gjarna kaupa hann þvílíku verði,  
*kinsmen his and friends would gladly buy him at-such price*  
 ef hann væri á sínu landi”. “Ek vissi þat”, segir geymarinn,  
*if he were in his land I knew that says the-keeper*  
 at þér myndit kaupa hann svá dýrt sem ek mat”. Síðan  
*that you would buy him so dear as I valued Afterward*  
 fór kufmaðr á brott, ok fór víða um torgit, ýmsa  
*went (the)-cowl-man off away and went widely about the-market various*  
 gripi falandi, ok með því at hann fekk öngu keypt, fór  
*goods bargaining and with that that he got nothing bought went*  
 hann aftr til vár svá segjandi: “Nú var ek á torgi, ok  
*he back to us so saying Now was I at (the)-market and*  
 því at mér var ekki kaupligt, vil ek kaupa þann þrælinn,  
*because that to-me was nothing buyable will I buy that thrall*  
 er ek hefi áðr falat, því at ek sé, at svá mikill  
*whom I have before bargained-for because that I see that so big*  
 maðr sem hann er ok sterkr, at hann má vinna ekki svá  
*a-man as he is and strong that he may work not so*  
 lítit, ef þessi vill duga; eru menn takmiklir, ef þeir vilja  
*little if this-one will bestir-himself are men strong-banded if they will*  
 mennast; sýnist mér því ráð at kaupa þá alla”. Geymari  
*be-men seems to-me therefore counsel to buy them all Keeper*  
 várr svarar: “Þú þarft þá mikils við um mansmenn, ef þú  
*our answers You need then much for about men-servants if you*  
 kaupir einn þrjá þræla”. “Þat skaltú þó vita”, segir kufmaðr,  
*buy alone three thralls That shall-you yet know says (the)-cowl-man*

“at ek hefi þó eigi haft færri húskarla”. Kolbeinn var metinn  
*that I have yet not had fewer housemen Kolbeinn was valued*  
 fyrir tvær merkr. “Dýrir eru þrælarnir”, segir kufmaðr, “ok  
*at two marks Dear are the-thralls says (the)-cowl-man and*  
 veit ek eigi gerla, hvat fram ferr um penninga mína, hvárt  
*know I not clearly what forth goes about money my whether*  
 þeir muni vinnast til verðs þeira”. Hann steypir þá silfrinu  
*they will be-worked to worth their He pours then the-silver*  
 ór miklum sjóð í kné geymarans ok mælti: “Haf þú  
*out-of a-great purse into (the)-knees of-the-keeper and spoke Have you*  
 nú þetta fyrir sölu þína, ok vænti ek, at eigi muni þetta  
*now this for sale your and expect I that not will this*  
 minna enn ek hefi játat”. Geymarinn játti því; ok síðan  
*less than I have agreed The-keeper assented to-that and afterward*  
 lætr kufmaðr leysa oss, ok þótti oss þá betrast várr  
*has (the)-cowl-man loose us and seemed to-us then improved our*  
 kost. Grímumaðrinn gekk þá burt í skóginn, ok bað oss  
*lot The-masked-man went then away into the-wood and bade us*  
 fylgja sér, ok er vér komum fram í eitt rjóðr, spurða  
*follow him and when we came forth into one clearing asked*  
 ek hann at nafni. Hann svarar: “Ekki varðar þik at vita  
*I him for name He answers Not concerns you to know*  
 nafn mitt; enn þat kann ek þér at segja, at ek hefi sét  
*name my but that can I you to tell that I have seen*  
 þik eittsinn fyrr ok alla yðr”. Ek vilda þó vita, hvers  
*you once before and all you I would-wish yet to-know whose*  
 þræll ek skylda þá vera: “Enn ef þú vill gefa oss frelsi,  
*thrall I should then be But if you will give us freedom*  
 þá vildim vér ok vita, hverjum vér ættim þat at launa”.  
*then would-wish we also to-know whom we ought that to repay*  
 “Eigi muntú þess viss verða þenna dag, hvat ek heiti”.  
*Not will-you of-that aware become this day what I am-called*

“Þá segir ek”, segir Einarr: “Verit mundi þat þó hafa, at  
*Then says I says Einar Been would that yet have that*  
 ek munda hafa ráðit við einn mann ok aðrir tveir með  
*I would have managed with one man and (the)-other two with*  
 mér, þó at Danir ætli þat eigi”. Kufmaðrinn svarar,  
*me though that (the)-Danes think that not The-cowl-man answers*  
 ok kippti upp lítt at hettinum: “Vera má at ek þjá  
*and pulled up little at the-hood Be may that I enslave*  
 yðr eigi, enda mun ek í öngu vera yðarr nauðungar-maðr,  
*you not and will I in nothing be your compulsion-man*  
 þó at þér sét þrír, enn ek einn. Nú liggr hér vegr, at  
*though that you be three but I one Now lies here a-way which*  
 ek mun vísa yðr til skips þess, er Norðmenn eiga, ok  
*I will show you to (the)-ship that which Norwegians own and*  
 munu þeir taka við yðr, ok flytja yðr til Noregs. Enn þú  
*will they take with you and carry you to Norway But you*  
 Björn”, segir hann, “skift fjárhlut þínum, ok gef hann svá  
*Bjorn says he divide wealth-share your and give it so*  
 sem þú sér sálu þinni hjálpvænligast, því at þú munt  
*as you see for-soul your most-helpful because that you will*  
 eigi lifa hálfum mánuði lengr, síðan þú kemr til bús þíns.  
*not live a-half month longer after you come to farm your*  
 Enn þú, Kolbeinn, munt koma heim á Upplönd, ok munt  
*But you Kolbein will come home to (the)-Uplands and will*  
 þykkja merkiligr maðr, hvar sem þú ert. Enn þú Einarr”,  
*seem a-remarkable man wherever that you are But you Einar*  
 segir hann, “munt verða yðarr mestr maðr ok elztr, ok vera  
*says he will become of-you greatest man and oldest and be*  
 um fram flesta menn í Noregi í mörgu lagi. Þú munt  
*beyond forth most men in Norway in many wise You will*  
 ok fá Bergljótar, dóttur Hákonar jarls, ok muntú búa á  
*also get Bergljot daughter of-Hakon (the)-earl and will-you dwell at*

Gimsum, ok halda virðingu þinni til dauðadags. Enn af  
*Gimsar and hold honor your until death-day But from*  
 þér einum mun ek laun hafa fyrir lífgjöfina ok frelsit,  
*you alone will I reward have for the-life-gift and the-freedom*  
 því at þér einum hygg ek at mest þykki vert, ef þú  
*because that to-you alone think I that most seem worth if you*  
 ert eigi þræll". Ek svaraða, at óhægra væri at launa,  
*are not a-thrall I answered that more-awkward were to repay*  
 ef ek vissað (eigi), hverjum at gjalda var, eðr hverju launa  
*if I knew not whom to pay was(-it) or with-what repay*  
 skyldi. Hann svarar: "Því skaltú launa: ef nökkurr maðr  
*should He answers Thus shall-you repay if any man*  
 gerir svá mjök í móti þér, at fyrir hvatvetna vilir þú hafa  
*does so much in against you that before everything will you have*  
 hans líf, ok hafir þú vald yfir honum, þá skaltú eigi minna  
*his life and have you power over him then shall-you not less*  
 frelsi gefa honum, enn ek gef nú þér, enn þat mun þér  
*freedom give him than I give now you but that will for-you*  
 doelt, því at fáir munu til verða, at gera í móti þér  
*easy because that few will thereto be to do in against you*  
 sakir ríkdóms þíns ok vinsælda". Ok at svo töluðu, lyfti  
*for-sake of-power your and popularity And at so spoken lifted*  
 kufmaðrinn grímu frá andliti sér ok mælti: "Hvat hyggi  
*the-cowl-man (the)-mask from face his and spoke What think*  
 þér, hverir hér ríða um skóginn ok munu ætla at grípa  
*you who here ride through the-wood and will intend to seize*  
 oss?" Enn vér litum allir til ok vildum sjá mennina; ok  
*us But we looked all thereto and would see the-men and*  
 er vér litum aftr, var grímumaðr horfinn, ok síðan sáum  
*when we looked back was (the)-masked-man vanished and afterward saw*  
 vér hann aldri. Enn þenna mann kendum vér allir fullgerla,  
*we him never But this man knew we all fully-clearly*

at þetta var Ólafr konungr Tryggvason, því at þegar  
*that this was Olaf (the)-king Tryggvi's-son because that already*  
 fyrra sinn, at hann lyfti kuflshettinum, kenda ek hann  
*(the)-first time that he lifted the-cowl-hood knew I him*  
 fyrir víst; enn síðan hann lyfti upp grímunni, ok sýndi  
*for certain but after he lifted up the-mask and showed*  
 oss sína ásjónu, kendu vér hann allir ok töluðum vár í  
*us his face knew we him all and talked ourselves in*  
 milli, at oss hefði mjök óvitrlega tiltekizt, er vér höfðum  
*between that for-us had very unwisely turned-out when we had*  
 eigi hendr á honum, enn þó tjáði oss þá ekki að sakast  
*not hands on him but yet availed for-us then not to complain*  
 um orðinn hlut. Síðan gengum vér þann stíg til sjóar,  
*about happened lot Afterward went we that path to (the)-sea*  
 sem hann vísaði oss, ok fundum þar Norðmanna skip,  
*which he showed us and found there Norwegians' ship*  
 ok fór allt eftir því, sem hann hafði fyrir sagt um vára  
*and went all after that as he had before said about our*  
 æfi. Nú er ek skyldr til", segir Einarr, "at gera þat, er  
*life Now am I bound thereto says Einar to do that which*  
 Ólafr konungr bað mik. Sýnist mér nú eigi annat líkara,  
*Olaf (the)-king bade me Seems to-me now not other likelier*  
 Halldórr, enn hann hafi fyrir þér beðit, því at þú ert  
*Halldor than he have for you asked because that you are*  
 nú á mínu valdi". Ok áðr Einarr hafði lokit sögu sinni,  
*now in my power And before Einar had ended story his*  
 var Bergljót komin á þingit, kona hans, með fjölda  
*was Bergljot come to the-assembly wife his with a-multitude*  
 manns, ok ætlaði hon, at þeir menn skyldi berjast við  
*of-men and intended she that those men should fight with*  
 hann, ok sækja Halldór, ef hann vildi honum eigi grið  
*him and attack Halldor if he would to-him not quarter*

gefa. Síðan bætti Einarr víg Kala frændum hans,  
*give Afterward compensated Einar (the)-slaying of-Kali to-kinsmen his*  
 enn helt vináttu við Halldór jafnan síðan. Enn Halldórr  
*but held friendship with Halldor always afterward But Halldor*  
 sendi Eilíf til Íslands, ok sætti hann áðr við Harald  
*sent Eilíf to Iceland and reconciled him before with Harald*  
 konung, ok svá kom hann sér í sætt við hann,  
*(the)-king and so brought he himself into reconciliation with him*  
 ok var Halldórr með konungi langa stund síðan. Enn sú  
*and was Halldor with (the)-king long while afterward But that*  
 hafði verit sök Eilífs, at hann hafði drepit hirðmann  
*had been (the)-charge of-Eilíf that he had killed a-retainer*  
 Haralds konungs, ok fyrir þat hafði hann reiði á honum.  
*of-Harald (the)-king and for that had he anger on him*

V • HALLDÓRR'S SHIP

*Halldórr, back in Norway with Haraldr, wants to go home, and the king gives him a ship, but no crew will sign on. The king bans all sailing, supposedly for war with Denmark, except for Halldórr's ship, so that men flock to it. The next day he lifts the ban, and Halldórr sails home, returns the next summer, and serves the king less closely.*

Halldórr Snorrason hafði verit út í Miklagarði með Haraldi,  
*Halldor Snorri's-son had been out in Mikligard with Harald*  
 sem áðr er sagt, ok kom í Noreg með honum austan  
*as before is said and came to Norway with him from-the-east*  
 ór Garðaríki. Hafði hann þá mikla sæmd ok virðing af  
*out-of Gardariki Had he then great honor and esteem from*  
 Haraldi konungi; var hann með konungi þenna vetr, er  
*Harald (the)-king was he with (the)-king that winter when*

hann sat í Kaupangi. Enn er á leið vetrinn ok vára  
*he sat in Kaupang But when on passed the-winter and spring*  
 tók, bjuggu menn kaupferðir sínar snimma; því at nálíga  
*began made-ready men trading-voyages their early because that nearly*  
 hafði enginn eðr lítill verit skipagangr af Noregi, fyrir  
*had none or little been ship-going from Norway for*  
 sakir ófriðar ok aga þess, sem verit hafði milli Noregs ok  
*sake of-unpeace and strife that which been had between Norway and*  
 Danmerkr. Enn er á leið várit, fann Haraldr konungr,  
*Denmark But when on passed the-spring found Harald (the)-king*  
 at Halldórr Snorrason ógladdist mjök. Konungr spurði einn  
*that Halldor Snorri's-son grew-gloomy much (The)-king asked one*  
 dag, hvat honum bjó í skapi. Halldórr svarar: “Út fýsir  
*day what him lay in mind Halldor answers Out longs*  
 mik til Íslands, herra”. Konungr mælti: “Margr mundi  
*me to Iceland lord (The)-king spoke Many-a-one would*  
 þó heimfúsari verit hafa, eðr hver eru farar-efnin, eðr  
*yet more-homesick been have or what are (the)-journey-means or*  
 hversu verst fénu?” Hann svarar: “Skjótt ætla ek at verja,  
*how is-spent the-wealth He answers Quickly think I to spend(-it)*  
 því at ekki er til nema ígangs-klæði mín”. “Lítt er  
*because that nothing is to(-it) except everyday-clothes my Little is*  
 þá launuð löng þjónusta ok margr háski, ok skal ek fá  
*then repaid long service and much danger and shall I get*  
 þér skip ok áhöfn; skal faðir þinn sjá mega, at þú hefir  
*you a-ship and crew shall father your see be-able that you have*  
 mér eigi til einkis þjónat”. Halldórr þakkaði konungi gjöfina.  
*me not for nothing served Halldor thanked (the)-king (the)-gift*  
 Fám dögum síðar fann Halldórr konung, ok spurði konung,  
*Few days later met Halldor (the)-king and asked (the)-king*  
 hversu mjök hann hefði ráðit sér skipverja. Hann svarar:  
*how much he had hired himself crewmen He answers*

“Allir kaupsvéinar hafa sér ráðit áðr skipan, enn ek fæ  
*All trading-men have themselves hired before berths but I get*  
 enga menn, ok því ætla ek, at eftir mun verða at vera  
*no men and therefore think I that behind will must to be*  
 skip þat, er þér gáfut mér”. Konungr mælti: “Eigi er  
*(the)-ship that which you gave me (The)-king spoke Not is*  
 þá vinveitt gjöfin, ok skulum vit enn bíða, (ok vita), hvat  
*then friendly the-gift and shall we-two still wait and know what*  
 ór ræðst um háseta”. Annan dag eftir var blásit til móts  
*out-of comes about crewmen (The)-second day after was blown to meeting*  
 í bænum, ok sagt, at konungr vill tala við bæjarmenn ok  
*in the-town and said that (the)-king will talk with townsmen and*  
 kaupmenn. Konungr kom seint til mótsins, ok sýndist með  
*merchants (The)-king came late to the-meeting and seemed with*  
 áhyggju-svip, þá er hann kom. Hann mælti: “Þat heyrum  
*a-worried-look then when he came He spoke That hear*  
 vér sagt, at ófriðr muni kominn í ríki vart austr í Vík;  
*we said that unpeace may come into realm our east in (the)-Vik*  
 ræðr Sveinn Danakonungr fyrir Danaher, ok vill oss vinna  
*rules Svein Danes'-king over (the)-Danish-host and will us work*  
 skaða, enn vér viljum með engu móti upp gefa land vart;  
*harm but we will in no manner up give land our*  
 fyrir því leggjum vér bann fyrir hvert skip, at ór landi  
*for that lay we a-ban on every ship that out-of land*  
 fari, fyrr enn ek hefi slíkt sem ek vil af hverju skipi, bæði  
*go sooner than I have such as I wish from each ship both*  
 af liði ok vistum, nema einn knörr, eigi mikill, er á  
*of men and provisions except one merchant-ship not great which owns*  
 Halldórr Snorrason, skal ganga til Íslands; enn þótt yðr  
*Halldor Snorri's-son shall go to Iceland but though to-you*  
 þykki þetta nokkut strangt, er áðr hafit búit ferðir yðrar,  
*seem this somewhat harsh who before have prepared journeys your*



þá berr oss nauðsyn til slíkra álaga; enn betra þætti oss,  
*then bears us need to such impositions but better would-seem to-us*  
 at um kyrrt væri at sitja, ok færi hverr sem vildi". Eftir  
*that about quiet were to sit and went each as would After*  
 þat sleit mótinu. Litlu síðar kom Halldórr á konungs-fund.  
*that broke-up the-meeting A-little later came Halldor to (the)-king's-meeting*  
 Konungr spurði, hvat þá liði um búnaðinn, hvárt hann  
*(The)-king asked what then passed about the-preparation whether he*  
 fengi nökkura háseta. Halldórr svarar: "Helzti marga hefi ek  
*got any crewmen Halldor answers Far-too many have I*  
 nú ráðit, því at miklu fleiri koma nú til mín ok beiða  
*now hired because that many more come now to me and ask*  
 fars, enn ek mega öllum veita, ok veita menn mér mikinn  
*passage than I may to-all grant and give men me great*  
 atgang, at drjúgum eru brotin hús til mín, svá at hvárki  
*onset in plenty are broken houses to me so that neither*  
 nótt né dag hefi ek ró fyrir ákalsi manna hér um". Konungr  
*night nor day have I rest for clamor of-men here about (The)-king*  
 mælti: "Haltú nú þessum hásetum, sem þú hefir tekit,  
*spoke Hold-you now these crewmen whom you have taken*  
 ok sjám enn hvat í gerist". Næsta dag eftir var blásit  
*and let-us-see still what in happens (The)-next day after was blown*  
 móts, ok sagt, at konungr vill enn tala við kaupmenn.  
*(to)-meeting and said that (the)-king will again talk with merchants*  
 Nú var eigi sein atkoma konungs til mótsins, því at  
*Now was not late (the)-coming of-(the)-king to the-meeting because that*  
 hann kom í fyrsta lagi; var hann þá blíðligr í yfirbragði.  
*he came in first place was he then friendly in look*  
 Hann stóð upp ok mælti: "Nú eru góð tíðindi at segja:  
*He stood up and spoke Now are good tidings to tell*  
 þat er ekki nema upplóst ok lygi, er þér heyðut sagt  
*that is nothing except false-rumor and lie which you heard said*

um ófriðinn fyrra dag; viljum vér nú leyfa hverju skipi  
*about the-unpeace (the)-former day will we now permit to-every ship*  
 ór landi at fara þangat, sem hverr vill sínu skipi halda;  
*out-of land to go thither where each will his ship hold*  
 komit aftr at hausti ok færir oss gersimar; enn þér skulut  
*come back in autumn and bring us treasures but you shall*  
 hafa af oss í móti gæði ok vingan". Allir kaupmenn,  
*have from us in against(-it) benefits and friendship All merchants*  
 er þar váru, urðu þessu fegnir, ok báðu hann tala konunga  
*who there were became of-this glad and bade him call (the)-kings'*  
 heilstan. Fór Halldórr til Íslands um sumarit, ok var þann  
*most-bail Went Halldor to Iceland in the-summer and was that*  
 vetr með föður sínum. Hann fór útan eftir um sumarit,  
*winter with father his He went abroad after in the-summer*  
 ok þá enn til hirðar Haralds konungs, ok er svá sagt,  
*and then again to (the)-court of-Harald (the)-king and is so said*  
 at Halldórr var því eigi jafnfyrginn konungi sem fyrr,  
*that Halldor was therefore not so-attendant on-(the)-king as before*  
 ok sat hann eftir um aftna, þá er konungur gekk at sofa.  
*and sat he behind in evenings then when (the)-king went to sleep*

#### VI · FINES AND PAY

*The king taunts Halldórr for shirking his drink beside the old retainer Þórir and for chasing women, and Bárðr defends him. At Yule the king tricks the court into drinking fines, and Halldórr drinks only when the king himself brings the horn. When the pay is handed out in debased silver, Halldórr throws his into the straw.*

Maðr hét Þórir Englands-fari, ok hafði verit hinn mesti  
*A-man was-called Thorir England-farer and had been the greatest*  
 kaupmaðr ok lengi í siglingum til ýmissa landa, ok fært  
*merchant and long in sailings to various lands and brought*

konungi gersimar. Þórir var hirðmaðr Haralds konungs, ok  
*to-(the)-king treasures Thorir was a-retainer of-Harald (the)-king and*  
 þá mjök gamall. Þórir kom at máli við konung ok mælti:  
*then very old Thorir came to talk with (the)-king and spoke*  
 “Ek er maðr gamall, sem þér vitit, ok mœðumst ek mjök;  
*I am a-man old as you know and tire I much*  
 þykkjumst ek nú eigi til fœrr, at fylgja hirðsiðum, minni  
*think-myself I now not thereto able to follow court-customs toasts*  
 at drekka, eðr um aðra hluti, þá sem til heyra; mun  
*to drink or about other things those which thereto belong will*  
 nú annars leita verða, þótt þetta sé best ok blíðast, at vera  
*now other seek must though this be best and pleasantest to be*  
 með yðr”. Konungr svarar: “Þar er okkr hægt til órráða,  
*with you (The)-king answers There is for-us-two easy to counsels*  
 vinr, ver með hirðinni, ok drekk ekki meira enn þú vill  
*friend be with the-court and drink not more than you wish*  
 í mínu leyfi”. Bárðr hét maðr upplenzkr, góðr drengr  
*in my leave Bard was-called a-man from-the-Uplands a-good fellow*  
 ok ekki gamall; hann var með Haraldi konungi í miklum  
*and not old he was with Harald (the)-king in great*  
 kærleikum; váru þeir sessunautar: Bárðr, Þórir ok Halldórr;  
*affection were they bench-mates Bard Thorir and Halldor*  
 ok eitt kveld, er konungr gekk þar fyrir, er þeir sátu  
*and one evening when (the)-king went there before where they sat*  
 ok drukku, í því bili gaf Halldórr upp hornit; þat var  
*and drank in that moment gave Halldor up the-horn that was*  
 dýrshorn mikit ok skyggt vel; sá gerla í gegnum, at  
*a-beast's-horn great and polished well saw(-one) clearly in through that*  
 hann hafði drukkit vel til hálfis við Þóri; enn honum gekk  
*he had drunk well to half with Thorir but to-him went*  
 seint af at drekka. Þá mælti konungr: “Seint er þó menn  
*slowly off to drink Then spoke (the)-king Slow is yet men*

at reyna, Halldórr”, segir hann, “er þú níðist á drykkju við  
*to test Halldor says he when you shirk at drinking with*  
 gamalmenni, ok hleypr at vændiskonum um síðkveldum, enn  
*an-old-man and runs to parlots in late-evenings but*  
 fylgir eigi konungi þínum”. Halldórr svarar engu; enn Bárðr  
*follows not king your Halldor answers nothing but Bard*  
 fann at honum mislíkaði umræða konungs. Fór Bárðr þegar  
*found that to-him displeased (the)-talk of-(the)-king Went Bard at-once*  
 um morgininn snemma á fund konungs. “Þó er þú nú  
*in the-morning early to (the)-meeting of-(the)-king Yet are you now*  
 árrisull, Bárðr”, segir konungr. “Er ek nú kominn”, kvað  
*early-rising Bard says (the)-king Am I now come said*  
 Bárðr, “at ávita yðr, herra; þér mæltut illa ok ómakliga í  
*Bard to rebuke you lord you spoke ill and unfittingly in*  
 gærkveld til Halldórs vinar yðars, er þér kenndut honum,  
*yester-evening to Halldor friend your when you charged him*  
 at hann drykki sleitiliga; því at þat var horn Þóris, ok  
*that he drank shirkingly because that that was (the)-horn of-Thorir and*  
 hafði hann unnit, ok ætlaði þá at bera til skapkers,  
*had he worked(-at-it) and intended then to bear(-it) to (the)-mixing-vat*  
 enn Halldórr tók við, ok drakk fyrir hann meirr enn til  
*but Halldor took with(-it) and drank for him more than to*  
 hálf. Þat er ok hin mesta lýgi, er þér sögðut, at hann  
*half That is also the greatest lie which you said that he*  
 fœri at léttlætis konum, enn kjósa myndi vinir hans, at  
*went to light women but choose would friends his that*  
 hann fylgdi yðr fastara”. Konungr segir, at þeir Halldórr  
*he followed you more-closely (The)-king says that they Halldor(-and-be)*  
 mundi þetta mál semja með sér, þá er þeir fyndist.  
*would this case settle between themselves then when they met*  
 Bárðr fór þá á fund Halldórs, ok sagði at konungr  
*Bard went then to (the)-meeting of-Halldor and said that (the)-king*

talaði góð orð til hans, — sagði einsætt, at hann gæfi  
*spoke good words toward him said clear that he should-give*  
 sér ekki um, þótt konungr kastaði slíkum orðum fram  
*himself not about(-it) though (the)-king threw such words forth*  
 með engri alvöru; átti Bárðr hinn bezta hlut at með  
*with no earnestness had Bard the best share in(-it) between*  
 þeim. Leið þá svá fram, at fæð var á með þeim  
*them Passed then so forth that coolness was on(-it) between them*  
 konungi ok Halldóri. Enn er kom at jólum, þá váru víti  
*(the)-king and Halldor But when came to Yule then were fines*  
 upp sögð, sem siðr var til. Ok einn morgin um jólin  
*up announced as custom was to(-it) And one morning during the-Yule*  
 var breytt hringingum; gáfu kertisveinar klokkurum fé til  
*was changed the-rings gave candle-boys to-bell-ringers money for*  
 at hringja miklu fyrr enn vant var; varð Halldórr vítr ok  
*to ring much sooner than wont was became Halldor fined and*  
 fjöldi annarra manna. Settust þeir í hálm um daginn,  
*a-multitude of-other men Sat they in straw during the-day*  
 ok skyldu drekka vítin. Halldórr sat í rúmi sínu; enn þeir  
*and should drink the-fines Halldor sat in seat his but they*  
 færdu honum eigi at síðr vítit; hann sagðist eigi drekka  
*brought him not the less the-fine he said-of-himself not to-drink*  
 mundu. Var þat sagt konungi. “Þetta mun eigi satt”, segir  
*would Was that told to-(the)-king This will not true says*  
 konungr, “ok mun hann við taka, ef ek færi honum”.  
*(the)-king and will be with(-it) take if I bring(-it) to-him*  
 Tók hann þá vítishornit, ok gekk at Halldóri með. Hann  
*Took he then the-fine-horn and went to Halldor with(-it) He*  
 stóð upp í móti konungi. Konungr bað hann drekka vítit.  
*stood up in against (the)-king (The)-king bade him drink the-fine*  
 Halldórr svarar: “Ek þykkjumst ekki vítr því heldr, þótt  
*Halldor answers I think-myself not fined the rather though*

þér setit brögð til, ok breytit hringingum, til þess eins  
*you set tricks thereto and change the-rings for that only*  
 at gera mönnum víti". Konungr mælti: "Þó mun þú nú  
*to make for-men fines (The)-king spoke Yet will you now*  
 drekka verða vítit eigi síðr enn aðrir menn". "Vera má  
*drink must the-fine not less than other men Be may*  
 þat", segir Halldórr, "at þú komir því á leið, konungr, at  
*that says Halldor that you bring that on way king that*  
 ek drekka víti þetta; enn eigi myndi Sigurðr sýrr nauðga  
*I drink fine this but not would Sigurd Sow force*  
 Snorra goða til slíkra hluta, ef hann vildi eigi". Tók hann  
*Snorri (the)-Priest to such things if he would not Took he*  
 þá við horninu ok drakk af; enn konungr reiddist mjök,  
*then with the-horn and drank off but (the)-king grew-angry much*  
 ok gekk til rúms síns. Enn er kom átti dagr jóla, þá  
*and went to seat his But when came (the)-eighth day of-Yule then*  
 var mönnum gefinn máli. Þat silfr var kallat Haralds-slátta;  
*was to-men given pay That silver was called Harald's-coinage*  
 þat var meiri hluti kopar, — þat bezta kosti at væri  
*it was greater part copper that best terms that were*  
 helmingr silfr. — Enn er Halldórr tók málann, hafði hann  
*half silver But when Halldor took the-pay had he(-it)*  
 í möttulskauti sínu, ok leit á, ok sýndist honum eigi  
*in cloak-corner his and looked on(-it) and seemed to-him not*  
 skirt mála-silfrit; laust undir neðan annarri hendinni, ok fór  
*pure the-pay-silver struck under below with-one the-hand and went*  
 silfrit í hálm niðr. Bárðr mælti: "Nú fór þú illa með;  
*the-silver into (the)-straw down Bard spoke Now dealt you ill with(-it)*  
 mun konungr þykkjast svívirðr, er ónýtt er mála-gjöf hans".  
*will (the)-king think-himself disbonored when worthless is pay-gift his*  
 Halldórr svarar: "Ekki má fara at slíku; litlu hættir nú til".  
*Halldor answers Not may go at such little risks now thereto*

*Halldórr at first will not make ready to sail with the king, until Bárðr talks him round. On the voyage south he warns the steersman, and the king's ship runs onto a skerry. Bárðr persuades the king to give Halldórr pure silver and then a ship of his own, taken from the landed man Sveinn of Lyrgja.*

Eftir jólin lét konungr búa skip sín, ok ætlaði suðr  
*After the-Yule had (the)-king make-ready ships his and intended south*  
 með landi. Enn er konungr var mjök búinn, þá bjóst  
*along (the)-land But when (the)-king was nearly ready then made-ready*  
 Halldórr ekki. Bárðr spurði, hví hann byggist eigi. “Því,  
*Halldor not Bard asked why he made-ready not Because*  
 at ek ætla hvergi at fara”, segir Halldórr; “ek sé þat,  
*that I intend nowhere to go says Halldor I see that*  
 at konungr þokkar ekki mitt mál”. “Hann mun þó vilja  
*that (the)-king favors not my case He will yet wish*  
 at vísu”, segir Bárðr, “at þú farir”. Gekk Bárðr þegar á  
*for sure says Bard that you go Went Bard at-once to*  
 konungs-fund ok segir honum, at Halldórr bjóst ekki:  
*(the)-king's-meeting and tells him that Halldor made-ready not*  
 “Máttú svá ætla”, segir hann, “at vanskipaðr mun þér verða  
*May-you so think says he that ill-manned will for-you be*  
 stafninn í stað hans”. “Seg honum svá, at ek ætla”, segir  
*the-prow in place his Tell him so that I intend says*  
 konungr, “at hann skyli mér fylgja, ok þat með, at fæð  
*(the)-king that he should me follow and that with that coolness*  
 sjá er ekki af alvöru, sem með okkr er um hríð”. Bárðr  
*this is not from earnest which between us-two is for a-while Bard*  
 hitti Halldór, ok segir at konungr vildi með engum kosti  
*met Halldor and says that (the)-king would on no terms*

lata hans þjónustu, ok með hans fortölum bjóst Halldórr  
*lose his service and with his persuasions made-ready Halldor*  
 ok fór með konungi. Einhverja nótt, er þeir sigldu, mælti  
*and went with (the)-king Some night when they sailed spoke*  
 Halldórr til þess manns, er stýrði konungs-skipinu: "lát  
*Halldor to that man who steered the-king's-ship let*  
 ýkva til". Konungr mælti til þess er stýrði: "Halt svá  
*huff thereto (The)-king spoke to him who steered Hold so*  
 fram". Halldórr mælti öðru sinni: "Lát ýkva". Konungr  
*forward Halldor spoke a-second time Let huff (The)-king*  
 bað hann svá fram halda. Halldórr mælti: "Beint stefni þér  
*bade him so forward bold Halldor spoke Straight steer you*  
 (á) skerit". Því næst renndi á skerit svá hart, at þegar  
*on the-skerry That next ran onto the-skerry so hard that at-once*  
 gekk undan skipinu undirhlutrinn, ok varð þá at flytja  
*went from the-ship the-under-part and must then to carry*  
 til lands með öðrum skipum, ok (váru) síðan reist tjöld,  
*to land with other ships and were afterward raised tents*  
 ok bætt at skipinu. Um morgininn eftir vaknaði Bárðr við  
*and mended at the-ship In the-morning after woke Bard at*  
 þat, at Halldórr batt húðfat sitt. "Hvat ætlast þú fyrir,  
*that that Halldor bound hide-sack his What intend you for(-yourself)*  
 fóstbróðir?", segir Bárðr. Halldórr svarar: "Ek ætla á  
*foster-brother says Bard Halldor answers I intend onto*  
 byrðing er hér liggr skammt frá oss; kann vera, at nú  
*a-merchant-ship which here lies short from us may be that now*  
 leggi sundr reyki vára, ef sinn veg fara hvárir; vil ek ekki,  
*lay apart smokes our if their way go each wish I not*  
 at konungr spilli oftár skipum sínum eðr öðrum gersimum  
*that (the)-king spoil oftener ships his or other treasures*  
 mér til svívirðingar, ok at mér beri þá verr enn áðr".  
*me for disgrace and that to-me befall then worse than before*



Bárðr mælti: “Bíð enn, lagsmaðr, meðan ek finn konung”.

*Bard spoke Wait yet comrade while I meet (the)-king*

Enn er konungr sá Bárð, mælti hann: “Snemma er þú á

*But when (the)-king saw Bard spoke he Early are you on*

fótum, Bárðr”. “Þess er enn þörf”, segir Bárðr, “Halldórr er

*feet Bard Of-that is yet need says Bard Halldor is*

í brottbúnaði, ok þykkir þú, sem satt er, óvingjarnliga

*in going-away-preparation and seems you as true is unfriendly*

til sín gert hafa, ok er nökkut svá vant at gæta til

*toward him done to-have and is somewhat so difficult to watch thereto*

með ykk; ætlar hann nú norðr til Þrándheims til skips

*between you-two intends he now north to Trondheim to ship*

síns, ok sigla út til Íslands með reiði; ferr þá ómakliga

*his and sail out to Iceland with anger goes then unfittingly*

ykkarr skilnaðr; er þat mín ætlun, at varla fáir þú annan

*your-two parting is that my thought that hardly get you another*

mann jafntraustan honum”. Konungr lét, at þeir mundu

*man as-trustly as-him (The)-king declared that they would*

enn sættast, ok kvað sér ekki mundu at þessu þykkja.

*still be-reconciled and said to-himself not would at this take-offense*

Bárðr fór þá ok sagði Halldóri vingjarnlig orð konungs.

*Bard went then and told Halldor (the)-friendly words of-(the)-king*

Halldórr segir: “Til hvers skal ek honum lengr þjóna; ek

*Halldor says To what shall I him longer serve I*

fæ eigi mála minn falslausan”. Bárðr mælti: “Get þess eigi;

*get not pay my without-falsehood Bard spoke Speak of-that not*

vel máttú þér líka láta þat, er lendra manna synir hafa

*well may-you yourself like let that which landed men's sons have*

ok þola, ok ekki fór þú með vægð at því næsta sinni:

*and bear and not went you with gentleness at that (the)-next time*

slótt niðr í hálm silfrinu ok ónýttir, ok mátt þú

*struck down into straw the-silver and made-worthless(-it) and may you*

víst vita, at konungi þykkir slíkt svívirðiliga til sín  
*surely know that to-(the)-king seems such disgracefully toward himself*  
 gert". Halldórr svarar: "Eigi má ek þat vita, at né eitt sinn  
*done Halldor answers Not may I that know that nor one time*  
 hafi jafnmjök logizt í um fylgdina mína sem málagjöfina  
*have equally-much been-lied in about following my as the-pay-gift*  
 konungs". "Satt mun þat vera", segir Bárðr, "bið mín enn,  
*of-(the)-king True will that be says Bard wait for-me yet*  
 ek vil hitta konung". Bárðr kom fyrir konung ok mælti:  
*I will meet (the)-king Bard came before (the)-king and spoke*  
 "Gerit sem ek bið, herra, fáit Halldóri mála sinn skíran,  
*Do as I bid lord give to-Halldor pay his pure*  
 því at verðr er hann at hafa". Konungr svarar: "Lízt þér  
*because that worthy is he to have(-it) (The)-king answers Seems to-you*  
 eigi nökkur djörfung í, at krefja Halldóri annars mála  
*not some boldness in(-it) to demand for-Halldor other pay*  
 enn taka lendra manna synir, við slíka svívirðing, sem hann  
*than take landed men's sons with such disgrace as he*  
 fór með málalum næstum?" Bárðr svarar: "Á hitt er  
*dealt with the-pay last Bard answers On that-other is*  
 að líta, herra, sem miklu er meira vert, drengskap hans ok  
*to look lord which much is more worth manliness his and*  
 svá langa ykkra vináttu, ok þar með þína stórmennsku; enn  
*so long your-two friendship and there with your magnanimity but*  
 þér er kunnigt skaplyndi Halldórs ok stríðlæti, ok er þat  
*to-you is known (the)-temper of-Halldor and stubbornness and is that*  
 þinn vegr, at gera honum sóma". Konungr mælti: "Vel ferr  
*your honor to do him honor (The)-king spoke Well goes*  
 þér, ok fá honum silfr". Var þá svá gert, ok færði Bárðr  
*for-you and give him silver Was then so done and brought Bard*  
 Halldóri tólf aura af brenndu silfri, ok mælti: "Sér þú  
*to-Halldor twelve ounces of burnt silver and spoke See you*

nú, at þú hefir slíkt er þú beiðist af konungi". Halldórr  
*now that you have such as you ask from (the)-king Halldor*  
 svarar: "Eigi skal ek þó oftara vera á konungs-skipinu. Nú  
*answers Not shall I yet oftener be on the-king's-ship Now*  
 ef hann vill hafa mitt föruneysi lengr, þá fái hann mér  
*if he will have my company longer then let-give he me*  
 skip til stjórnar ok eignar". Bárðr mælti: "Þat heyrir ekki,  
*a-ship for steering and owning Bard spoke That befits not*  
 at lendir menn láti skip sín fyrir þér, ok er þú of  
*that landed men give-up ships their for you and are you over*  
 framgjarn". Halldórr kveðst eigi mundu fylgja konungi,  
*pushing Halldor says-of-himself not would follow (the)-king*  
 nema þetta fengist. Bárðr fór ok segir konungi, hvers  
*unless this were-gotten Bard went and tells (the)-king what*  
 Halldórr beiðist: "Ok ef hásetar þess skips", segir hann,  
*Halldor asked And if (the)-crewmen of-that ship says he*  
 "eru jafntraustir sem stýrimaðrinn, þá er yör þat mikill  
*are as-trusty as the-steersman then is to-you that great*  
 styrkr". Konungur mælti: "Þótt þetta þykki stórliga mælt,  
*strength (The)-king spoke Though this seem grandly spoken*  
 þá skal eigi neita liði Halldórs". Sveinn ór Lyrgju  
*then shall not refuse to-(the)-following of-Halldor Svein out-of Lyrgja*  
 hét lendr maðr; konungur lét Svein kalla til sín, ok  
*was-called a-landed man (the)-king had Svein called to himself and*  
 mælti til hans: "Þú ert maðr stórættaðr, Sveinn, ok vitr;  
*spoke to him You are a-man of-great-kin Svein and wise*  
 vil ek at þú sér á skipi með mér, ok hafa þik við  
*wish I that you be on ship with me and have you for*  
 ráð mín". Hann svarar: "Meirr hefir þú aðra menn haft  
*counsels my He answers More have you other men had*  
 hér til við þínar ráðagerðir, er ek ok til þess lítt færri;  
*here to for your plannings am I also for that little fit*

eðr hverjum er þá skipit ætlat?” “Halldórr Snorrason skal  
*or to-whom is then the-ship intended Halldor Snorri's-son shall*  
 þat hafa”, segir konungr. Sveinn svarar: “Eigi kom mér  
*it have says (the)-king Svein answers Not came to-me*  
 þat í hug, at þú myndir íslenzkan mann láta taka af  
*that into mind that you would an-Icelandic man let take from*  
 mér skipstjórn”. Konungr mælti: “Hans ætt er ekki verri  
*me ship-command (The)-king spoke His kin is not worse*  
 á Íslandi, enn þín í Noregi; eru þeir ok margir, sem  
*in Iceland than yours in Norway are they also many who*  
 enn byggja landit, er mjök skammt eiga at telja ætt sína  
*still inhabit the-land who very short have to count kin their*  
 til ríkra manna ok ágættra í Noregi”. Varð nú svá at  
*to powerful men and splendid in Norway Became(-it) now so to*  
 vera sem konungr vildi, ok tók Halldórr við skipinu. Helt  
*be as (the)-king would and took Halldor with the-ship Held*  
 konungr austr til Ósló, ok tók þar veizlur.  
*(the)-king east to Oslo and took there feasts*

VIII • SVEINN TAKES THE SHIP

*Sveinn and his comrades seize Halldórr's ship and duck the boys set to guard it. The king upholds his gift, and Halldórr, with six ships of the king's men, chases Sveinn ashore and takes the ship back. That winter Sveinn submits the matter to the king, who buys the ship from Halldórr for him, paying all but half a mark of gold, which is left unpaid.*

Þat var einn dag, er konungr sat ok drakk, ok margt  
*It was one day when (the)-king sat and drank and many*  
 manna með honum; Halldórr var þar inni í stofunni; þar  
*men with him Halldor was there inside in the-hall there*

kómu þá inn sveinar hans, ok váru allir vátir; sögðu, at  
*came then in boys his and were all wet said that*  
 Sveinn ok hans sveitungar höfðu tekit skip Halldórs, er  
*Svein and his comrades had taken (the)-ship of-Halldor which*  
 þeir skyldu geymt hafa, enn keyrt þá á kaf. Halldórr  
*they should kept have but driven them into (the)-deep Halldor*  
 stóð þegar upp, ok gekk fyrir konung, ok spurði, hvárt hann  
*stood at-once up and went before (the)-king and asked whether he*  
 skyldi eiga skip þat, er hann hafði gefit honum, eðr skyldi  
*should own ship that which he had given him or should*  
 sú gjöf eigi haldast? Konungr segir at vísu haldast skyldu;  
*that gift not hold (The)-king says that surely hold (it)-should*  
 kvaddi þegar til hirðsveitir sínar at fylgja Halldóri, það þá  
*summoned at-once thereto court-troops his to follow Halldor bade them*  
 skipa sem best sex skip eftir þeim Sveini. Þeir gerðu  
*man as best six ships after them Svein(-and-bis-men) They did*  
 svá; fóru at leita þeira Sveins, ok fundu þá, lét Sveinn  
*so went to seek them Svein(-and-bis-men) and found them had Svein*  
 eltast at landi, ok hlupu upp í skóg; eun Halldórr  
*(himself)-chased to land and ran up into (the)-wood but Halldor*  
 tók aftr skipit ok fór til konungs með. Þeir fóru norðr til  
*took back the-ship and went to (the)-king with(-it) They went north to*  
 Þrándheims, er á leið sumarit, ok sat konungr í Kaupangi  
*Trondheim when on passed the-summer and sat (the)-king in Kaupang*  
 um vetrinn. Sveinn í Lyrgju sat þann vetr at búum sínum,  
*over the-winter Svein in Lyrgja sat that winter at farms his*  
 ok sendi orð Haraldi konungi, at hann vildi allt sitt mál  
*and sent word to-Harald (the)-king that he would all his case*  
 um skipit leggja á hans vald; vildi þó helst kaupa skipit at  
*about the-ship lay on his power would yet most buy the-ship from*  
 Halldóri, ef konungi líkaði það. Enn þegar at konungr sá,  
*Halldor if to-(the)-king pleased that But as-soon as (the)-king saw*

at Sveinn skaut öllu máli undir hans dóm, þá vildi hann  
*that Svein put all (the)-case under his judgment then would be*  
 svá til haga, at hvárumtveggja mætti líka; falaði konungr  
*so thereto arrange that to-both might please bargained (the)-king*  
 þá skipit at Halldóri ok keypti, galt hann þegar verðit  
*then (for)-the-ship from Halldor and bought(-it) paid he at-once the-price*  
 í gulli ok brenndu silfri, svá at eigi stóð meira eftir enn  
*in gold and burnt silver so that not stood more behind than*  
 hálf mörk gulls; heimti Halldórr þat lítt enda galzt þat eigi.  
*half a-mark of-gold claimed Halldor that little and was-paid that not*

IX · THE QUEEN'S RING

*Before sailing for Iceland, Halldórr goes armed at night to the royal bedchamber and demands the rest of his money. He takes the queen's ring in payment, and she urges the king to give it. Halldórr outsails the ships sent after him, and he and the king never meet again.*

Enn er vára tók, sagði Halldórr konungi, at hann vildi  
*But when spring began told Halldor to-(the)-king that he would*  
 út til Íslands um sumarit, ok lét sér vel koma, at þá  
*out to Iceland in the-summer and let himself well come that then*  
 gyldist þat, sem eftir stóð skipverðsins. Konungr fór  
*were-paid that which remaining stood of-the-ship-price (The)-king went*  
 heldr undan um gjaldit, ok fannst á, at honum þótti  
*rather off about the-payment and was-found on(-it) that to-him seemed*  
 hvergi betr, er Halldórr heimti; enn ekki bannaði konungr  
*nowhere better when Halldor claimed but not forbade (the)-king*  
 honum útferð. Halldórr bjó skip sitt um várit. Eitt  
*him (the)-going-out Halldor made-ready ship his in the-spring One*  
 kveld síð, þá er hann var alþúinn, lagði hann út ór  
*evening late then when he was all-ready laid he out out-of*

ánni; var þá byrr ákominn. Halldórr gekk á bátinn með  
*the-river was then wind come-on Halldor went onto the-boat with*  
 nökkura menn, ok röri inn at bryggjum; lagði hann at  
*some men and rowed in to (the)-wharves laid he at*  
 skutstafninn, ok lét þar halda einn mann, enn það aðra sitja  
*the-stern-post and had there hold one man but bade others sit*  
 við árar, ok bíða sín svá. Gekk hann einn upp í bæinn  
*at oars and await him so Went he alone up into the-town*  
 með alvæpni, ok at því herbergi, er konungr ok drottning  
*with full-armor and to that room which (the)-king and (the)-queen*  
 sváfu í, ok varð af skark nökkut, er hann gekk inn,  
*slept in and became of(-it) noise some when he went in*  
 svá at þau vöknudú við, ok spurði konungr, hverr þar  
*so that they woke at(-it) and asked (the)-king who there*  
 brýzt at þeim um nætr. “Hér er Halldórr”, segir hann;  
*breaks in-on them at night Here is Halldor says he*  
 “er ek nú búinn til brottferðar, ok byrr á kominn, ok  
*am I now ready for going-away and wind on come and*  
 er nú ráð at gjalda féit, þat sem eftir stendr”. “Ekki  
*is now counsel to pay the-money that which remaining stands Not*  
 má þat nú svá skjótt”, segir konungr, “bíð þú morgins,  
*may that now so quickly says (the)-king wait you (for)-(the)-morning*  
 ok munum vér þá greiða”. “Ek vil nú þegar hafa”, segir  
*and will we then settle(-it) I will now at-once have(-it) says*  
 Halldórr; “mun ek þessu sinni eigi erindislaust fara, því  
*Halldor will I this time not errandless go because*  
 at ek kann skaplyndi þitt, ok veit ek, at þér mun eigi  
*that I know temper your and know I that to-you will not*  
 vel líka þessi mín ferð ok fjárheimta, hversu sem þú lætr  
*well please this my journey and money-claiming however as you behave*  
 nú; mun ek lítt trúá þér héðan í frá; er þat ósýnt, at  
*now will I little trust you hence on from is that unclear that*

vit finnimst svá vilgis-oft, at mitt sé vænna; skal nú  
*we-two meet so very-often that mine be more-hopeful shall now*  
 neyta þess. Ek sé at drottning hefir hring á hendi því  
*use this I see that (the)-queen has a-ring on hand at-that*  
 hófi mikinn; fá mér hann". Konungur mælti: "Þá verðum  
*measure great give me it (The)-king spoke Then must*  
 vit at leita at skálum, ok vega hringinn". "Ekki þarf þess",  
*we-two to seek for scales and weigh the-ring Not needs that*  
 segir Halldórr, "tek ek hann fyrir skuld mína; mun þú ekki  
*says Halldor take I it for debt my will you not*  
 prettum við koma nú at sinni, ok lát til skjótt". Þá  
*tricks with come now at (this)-time and let(-it) thereto quickly Then*  
 mælti drottning: "Fá honum hringinn, sem hann beiðir; sér  
*spoke (the)-queen Give him the-ring as he asks see*  
 þú eigi, at hann stendr með víghug yfir þér uppi". Tók  
*you not that he stands with slaying-mind over you up Took*  
 hon þá hringinn ok fekk Halldóri. Hann tók við, ok  
*she then the-ring and gave(-it) to-Halldor He took with(-it) and*  
 þakkaði þeim báðum gjaldit, ok bað þau vel lifa. Gekk  
*thanked them both (for)-the-payment and bade them well live Went*  
 hann út skyndiliga ofan til bátsins; lustu menn hans þá  
*be out hastily down to the-boat struck men his then*  
 árum í sem harðast, ok röru út til skips síns, höfðu þegar  
*(the)-oars in as hardest and rowed out to ship his had at-once*  
 uppi akkeri ok drógu segl. Var þat mjök jafnsnimma,  
*up (the)-anchor and drew (the)-sail Was that very at-the-same-time*  
 at þeir höfðu um siglt, ok eigi skorti hornblástr at heyra  
*that they had about sailed and not lacked horn-blowing to hear*  
 í bæinn. Sá þeir þat síðast til, at þrjú langskip váru  
*in the-town Saw they that last to(-it) that three longships were*  
 á flot kominn, ok heldu eftir þeim. Byrr var á blásandi,  
*on float come and held after them Wind was on blowing*



ok gekk knörrinn brátt mikit. Enn er konungsmenn sá,  
*and went the-merchant-ship soon much But when (the)-king's-men saw*  
 at Halldórr dró undan, hurfu þeir aftr, enn Halldór bar  
*that Halldor drew away turned they back but Halldor bore*  
 í haf, ok skildi þar með þeim. Byrjaði honum vel til  
*into (the)-sea and parted there with them Winded to-him well to*  
 Íslands, ok fundust þeir Haraldr konungr ekki síðan.  
*Iceland and met they Harald (the)-king(-and-he) not afterward*

X · HALLDÓRR'S CHARACTER

*Haraldr says Halldórr was unmoved by danger or good news, and the saga calls him brief, blunt, and stubborn, which suited the king ill once he ruled. Halldórr settles at Hjarðarholt and refuses the king's later offer to return, saying he knows the king would hang him. He sends Haraldr the fox skins he asks for, remarking that the old cock is aging.*

Halldórr Snorrason var mikill maðr vexti ok friðr sýnum,  
*Halldor Snorri's-son was a-big man in-stature and handsome in-looks*  
 allra manna styrkastr ok vápndjarfastr. Þat vitni bar Haraldr  
*of-all men strongest and weapon-boldest That witness bore Harald*  
 konungr Halldóri, at hann hefði verit með honum allra  
*(the)-king to-Halldor that he had been with him of-all*  
 manna svá, at sízt brygðri við váveifliga hluti; hvárt sem  
*men so that least moved at sudden things whether as*  
 at höndum bar mannháska eðr fagnaðartíðindi, þá var hann  
*to hands bore peril-of-men or joyful-tidings then was he*  
 hvárki at glaðari né óglaðari; eigi neytti hann matar, eðr  
*neither the gladder nor ungladder not partook he of-food or*  
 drakk eðr svaf, meira né minna, enn vandi hans var til,  
*drank or slept more nor less than habit his was thereto*

hvárt sem mætti blíðu eðr stríðu. Halldórr var maðr fámæltr,  
*whether as might mildness or harshness Halldor was a-man few-worded*  
 stutturðr, bermæltr, stygglyndr ok ómjúkr, kappgjarn í öllum  
*short-spoken plain-spoken touchy and unyielding contentious in all*  
 hlutum við hvern sem hann átti um. Enn þat kom illa  
*things with whomever that he had about(-it) But that came ill*  
 við Harald konung, er hann hafði nóga aðra þjónustumenn;  
*with Harald (the)-king when he had enough other servants*  
 komu þeir því lítt lyndi saman, síðan Haraldr varð  
*came they therefore little in-temper together after Harald became*  
 konungur í Noregi. Enn er Halldórr kom til Íslands, gerði  
*king in Norway But when Halldor came to Iceland made*  
 hann bú í Hjarðarholti. Nökkurum vetrum síðar sendi  
*he household in Hjarðarholt Some winters later sent*  
 Haraldr konungur orð Halldóri Snorrasyni, at hann skyldi fara  
*Harald (the)-king word to-Halldor Snorri's-son that he should go*  
 útan, ok vera enn með honum, ok sagði, at eigi skyldi hans  
*abroad and be again with him and said that not should his*  
 virðing verit hafa meiri, ok engan mann skyldi hann hærra  
*honor been have greater and no man should be higher*  
 setja í Noregi ótíginn, ef hann vildi þetta boð þekkjast.  
*set in Norway untitled if he would this offer accept*  
 Halldórr svarar svá, er honum kómu þessi orð: "Ekki mun  
*Halldor answers so when to-him came these words Not will*  
 ek fara á fund Haralds konungs héðan af; mun nú hafa  
*I go to (the)-meeting of-Harald (the)-king hence from will now have*  
 hvárr okkarr þat, sem fengit hefir; mér er kunnigt skaplyndi  
*each of-us-two that which gotten has to-me is known temper*  
 hans; veit ek gerla, at hann myndi þat efna, sem hann  
*his know I clearly that he would that fulfill which he*  
 hét, at setja engan mann hærra í Noregi enn mik, ef  
*promised to set no man higher in Norway than me if*

ek koma á hans fund, því at hann mundi mik láta festa  
*I came to his meeting because that he would me let fasten*  
 á hinn hæsta gálga, ef hann mætti ráða. Enn er á leið  
*on the highest gallows if he might rule But when on passed*  
 mjök æfi Haralds konungs, þá er sagt, at hann sendi orð  
*much (the)-life of-Harald (the)-king then is said that he sent word*  
 Halldóri Snorrasyni, ok bað hann senda sér melrakka-belgi  
*to-Halldor Snorri's-son and bade him send (to)-himself arctic-fox-skins*  
 nökkura, at láta gera af yfir rekkju sína, því at  
*some to have made off-(them) over bed his because that*  
 konungr þóttist þá þurfa hlýss; ok er Halldóri kom  
*(the)-king thought-himself then to-need warmth and when to-Halldor came*  
 þessi orðsending, þá segist, at hann skyti við í fyrstu þessu  
*this message then is-said that he shot back at first with-this*  
 orði: “Eldist árgalinn nú”, segir hann, enn sendi honum  
*word Ages the-early-crower now says he but sent him*  
 þó belgi, sem hann beiddi. Enn ekki fór Halldórr útan, síðan  
*yet skins as he asked But not went Halldor abroad after*  
 þeir Haraldr konungr skildu í Þrándheimi, sem nú var  
*they Harald (the)-king(-and-he) parted in Trondheim as now was*  
 sagt. Bjó hann í Hjarðarholti til elli, ok varð maðr gamall.  
*said Dwelt he in Hjarðarbolt until old-age and became a-man old*



Stúfs þáttir blinda

*The Tale of Stuf the Blind*

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*In the Uplands King Haraldr meets the blind Iclander Stúfr, son of Þórðr köttr, whose wit amuses him. Stúfr entertains him late into the night with thirty flokkar and three times asks the king to promise a request before he names it: the king promises a letter to recover an inheritance and leave to compose a poem about him, but refuses to promise the third, a place in his court, which he later grants with his retainers' consent. Stúfr later composes Haraldr's memorial poem, Stúfsdrápa.*

Stúfr hét maðr; hann var son Þórðar kattar, er Snorri  
*Stuf was-called a-man he was son of-Thord Cat whom Snorri*  
 goði fósttraði. Þórðr köttr var son Þórðar Glúmssonar,  
*(the)-Priest fostered Thord Cat was son of-Thord Glum's-son*  
 Geirasonar; móðir Þórðar kattar var Guðrún Ósvífrsdóttir.  
*of-Geiri's-son (the)-mother of-Thord Cat was Gudrun Osvif's-daughter*  
 Stúfr Þórðarson var blindr, vitr maðr ok skáld gott. Stúfr  
*Stuf Thord's-son was blind a-wise man and a-poet good Stuf*  
 fór útan af Íslandi ok kom til Noregs á dögum Haralds  
*went abroad from Iceland and came to Norway in days of-Harald*  
 konungs Sigurðarsonar. Stúfr tók sér vist með einum  
*(the)-king Sigurd's-son Stuf took himself lodging with one*  
 góðum bónda á Upplöndum; bóndi var vel til hans. Þat  
*good farmer in (the)-Uplands (the)-farmer was well toward him It*  
 var einn dag, er menn váru úti staddir, at þeir sá ríða at  
*was one day when men were outside standing that they saw ride to*  
 bænum marga menn skrautliga búna. Bóndi mælti: "Ekki  
*the-farm many men splendidly dressed (The)-farmer spoke Not*  
 veit ek vánir hingat Haralds konungs; enn mér þykkir eigi  
*know I expectations hither of-Harald (the)-king but to-me seems not*  
 því ólíkast lið þetta, at hann muni vera". Ok er liðit  
*to-that most-unlike troop this that he may be And when the-troop*  
 nálgaðist bæinn, kendu þeir at þar var konungur. Bóndi  
*neared the-farm recognized they that there was (the)-king (The)-farmer*

fagnaði konungi, ok mælti síðan: “Beinleiki, herra, mun ekki  
*welcomed (the)-king and spoke afterward Hospitality lord will not*  
 verða yður veittr svá sæmiliga sem skyldi, því at menn  
*be to-you given so fittingly as should because that men*  
 vissu nú ekki vánir yðarrar hérkvámu”. Konungr svaraði:  
*knew now not expectations of-your coming-here (The)-king answered*  
 “Þat mun þér nú óvant gert; vér förum erinda várra um  
*That will for-you now easy made we go on-errands our about*  
 land; skulu menn mínir sjálfir geyma hesta sinna ok sjá  
*(the)-land shall men my themselves tend horses their and see*  
 fyrir reiðingi, enn ek mun ganga inn”. Konungr var hinn  
*to (the)-riding-gear but I will go in (The)-king was the*  
 glaðasti, ok fylgdi bóndi honum í stofu til sætis. Þá  
*gladdest and followed (the)-farmer him into (the)-hall to a-seat Then*  
 mælti konungr: “Gakk þú þangat, bóndi, sem þú vill, ok ger  
*spoke (the)-king Go you thither farmer where you wish and do*  
 allt í dælleikum við oss”. “Þess mun nú neyta verða”, segir  
*all in familiarity with us That will now use must says*  
 bóndi. Gekk hann í brott. Enn konungr leit á bekkina  
*(the)-farmer Went he off away But (the)-king looked on the-benches*  
 ok sá mikinn mann sitja útar á bekkinn, ok spurði, hvern  
*and saw a-big man sit far-out on the-bench and asked who*  
 sá væri? “Ek heiti Stúfr”, segir hann. Konungr mælti: “Þó  
*that were I am-called Stuf says he (The)-king spoke Still*  
 varð ónafnligt; eða hvers son ertú”? “Ek em Kattarson”, sagði  
*(it)-was odd-of-name or whose son are-you I am Cat's-son said*  
 hann. “Enn ferr allt at einu”, segir konungr; “eður hvar var sá  
*be Still goes all at one says (the)-king or where was that*  
 kötttrinn”? “Get þú til, konungr”, segir Stúfr, ok hló við.  
*the-cat Guess you thereto king says Stuf and laughed at(-it)*  
 “Hví hlóttu nú”? segir konungr. “Get þú til”, segir Stúfr.  
*Why laughed-you now says (the)-king Guess you thereto says Stuf*



Konungur mælti: “Vant þykki mér at geta í hug þér; enn  
*(The)-king spoke Hard seems to-me to guess into (the)-mind of-you but*  
 þat ætla ek helzt at þú myndir vilja spyrja, hvárt svínit faðir  
*that think I most that you would wish to-ask whether the-swine father*  
 minn var; enn því myndir þú hlæja, er þú þorðir þess ekki  
*my was but therefore would you laugh that you dared of-that not*  
 at spyrja”. “Rétt getr þú”, segir Stúfr. Konungur mælti: “Sittú  
*to ask Right guess you says Stuf (The)-king spoke Sit-you*  
 innar meirr á bekkinn ok tölumst við”. Hann gerði svá.  
*further-in more on the-bench and let-us-talk together He did so*  
 Fann konungur at hann var óheimskr maðr, ok þótti konungi  
*Found (the)-king that he was an-unfoolish man and seemed to-(the)-king*  
 gott at eiga ræður við hann. Kom þá bóndi í stofu, ok  
*good to have talks with him Came then (the)-farmer into (the)-hall and*  
 sagði, at konungur mundi daufligt eiga. “Þat er ekki”, segir  
*said that (the)-king would dully have(-it) That is not says*  
 konungur, “Því at þessi vetrgestr þinn skemtir mér vel, ok  
*(the)-king because that this winter-guest your entertains me well and*  
 hann skal sitja fyrir ádrykkju minni í kveld”. Ok svá var.  
*he shall sit for pledge-drinking my in (the)-evening And so was(-it)*  
 Konungur talaði marga við Stúf, ok veitti hann vitrlig andsvör.  
*(The)-king talked much with Stuf and gave he wise answers*  
 Ok er menn gengu at sofa, þá bað konungur Stúf vera í  
*And when men went to sleep then bade (the)-king Stuf be in*  
 því herbergi sem hann skyldi sofa, at skemta sér. Stúfr gerði  
*that room where he should sleep to entertain him Stuf did*  
 svá. Enn er konungur var í sæng kominn skemti Stúfr, ok  
*so But when (the)-king was into bed come entertained Stuf and*  
 kvað flokk einn. Ok er lokit var, bað konungur hann enn  
*spoke a-flokk one And when ended was(-it) bade (the)-king him again*  
 kveða. Konungur vakti lengi, enu Stúfr skemti. Ok um síðir  
*recite (The)-king woke long but Stuf entertained And at last*

mælti konungr: "Hversu mörg hefir þú nú kvæðin kveðit"?

*spoke (the)-king How many have you now the-poems recited*

Stúfr svaraði: "Þat ætlaða ek yðr at telja eftir". "Ek hefi ok

*Stuf answered That intended I you to count afterward I have also*

svá gert", segir konungr, "ok eru nú þrír tigur; eðr hví kveðr

*so done says (the)-king and are now three tens or why recite*

þú flokka eina? Kantú ok engar drápur"? Stúfr svaraði: "Eigi

*you flokks only Can-you also no drapas Stuf answered Not*

kann ek drápurar færri enn flokkana, ok eru þeir þó enn

*know I the-drapas fewer than the-flokks and are they yet still*

margir ókveðnir". Konungr mælti: "Þú munt vera at því mikill

*many unrecited (The)-king spoke You will be by that a-great*

frœðimaðr á kvæði; eðr hverjum skal þú skemta drápunum

*man-of-lore in poems or to-whom shall you entertain with-the-drapas*

þínum, er þú kveðr mér flokkana eina"? Þér sjálfum", segir

*your when you recite to-me the-flokks only To-you yourself says*

Stúfr. "Hvenær þá"? segir konungr. "Þá er vit finnumst

*Stuf When then says (the)-king Then when we-two meet*

næst", segir hann. "Hví þá heldr enn nú"? segir konungr.

*next says he Why then rather than now says (the)-king*

Stúfr mælti: "Því at ek vilda um skemtan ok allt annat,

*Stuf spoke Because that I would-wish about entertainment and all other*

þat er mér heyrir til, at yðr virðist því betr sem þér

*that which to-me belongs thereto that to-you seems the better as you*

kynnist lengr ok vitit gerr". "Sofa skulu vit nú fyrst",

*become-acquainted longer and know more-fully Sleep shall we-two now first*

segir konungr. Enn um morgininn, er þeir bjuggust brott,

*says (the)-king But in the-morning when they made-ready away*

þá mælti Stúfr til konungs: "Mun þú veita mér, konungr, þat

*then spoke Stuf to (the)-king Will you grant me king that*

er ek bið þik"? "Hvat er þat"? segir konungr. "Heit þú mér

*which I ask you What is that says (the)-king Promise you me*

áðr enn ek segi”, segir hann. “Ekki em ek því mjök vanr”,  
*before than I say says he Not am I to-that much used*  
 segir konungr, “enn fyrir skemtan þína munu vit til þess  
*says (the)-king but for entertainment your will we-two to that*  
 hætta”. Stúfr mælti: “Þannig stenz á um ferð mína, at ek  
*venture Stuf spoke So stands on about journey my that I*  
 skal heimta dánarfé nökkut í Vík austr, ok vilda ek at  
*shall claim inheritance some in (the)-Vik east and would-wish I that*  
 þér fengit mér bréf yðart ok innsigli, at ek næða fénu”. “Þat  
*you gave me letter your and seal that I got the-money That*  
 vil ek gera”, segir konungr. Þá mælti Stúfr: “Mun þú veita  
*will I do says (the)-king Then spoke Stuf Will you grant*  
 mér þat, er ek bið þik”? “Hvat er þat nú”? segir konungr.  
*me that which I ask you What is that now says (the)-king*  
 “Heit þú mér áðr enn ek segja”, (sagði Stúfr). Konungr  
*Promise you me before than I say said Stuf (The)-king*  
 mælti: “Undarligr maðr er þú, ok engi hefir fyrr þannig  
*spoke A-strange man are you and none has before so*  
 málum breytt við mik, enn þó skal enn til hætta”. Stúfr  
*cases handled with me but yet shall still thereto venture Stuf*  
 mælti: “Ek vilda yrkja kvæði um yðr”. Konungr mælti:  
*spoke I would-wish compose a-poem about you (The)-king spoke*  
 “Er þú nökkut frá skáldum kynjaðr”? Stúfr svaraði: “Verit  
*Are you somewhat from poets descended Stuf answered Been*  
 hafa skáld í ætt minni; Glúmr Geirason var föðurfaðir föður  
*have poets in kin my Glum Geiri's-son was father's-father of-father*  
 míns”. Konungr mælti: “Gott skáld er þú, ef þú yrkir ekki  
*my (The)-king spoke A-good poet are you if you compose not*  
 verr enn Glúmr”. “Ekki kveð ek verr enn hann”, segir Stúfr.  
*worse than Glum Not recite I worse than he says Stuf*  
 “Ekki er þat ólíklegt”, segir konungr, “at þú kunnir yrkja: er  
*Not is that unlikely says (the)-king that you can compose since*

þú svá kvæða-fróðr maðr, ok vil ek leyfa þér at yrkja um  
*you so poem-learned a-man and will I permit you to compose about*  
 mik". Stúfr mælti: "Mun þú veita mér þat er ek bið þik"?  
*me Stuf spoke Will you grant me that which I ask you*  
 "Hvers vill þú nú biðja", segir konungr. "Heit þú mér áðr  
*What will you now ask says (the)-king Promise you me before*  
 enn ek segi", segir Stúfr. "Þat skal nú ekki", segir konungr,  
*than I say says Stuf That shall now not says (the)-king*  
 "helzti lengi hefir þú svá farit, ok seg mér nú". Stúfr mælti:  
*far-too long have you so gone and tell me now Stuf spoke*  
 "Ek vilda gerast hirðmaðr þinn". Konungr mælti: "Nú  
*I would-wish become retainer your (The)-king spoke Now*  
 var vel, er ek hét þér ekki, því at ek verð þar við  
*was(-it) well that I promised you nothing because that I must there about*  
 at hafa ráð hirðmanna minna. Kom þú til mín norðr í  
*to have (the)-counsel of-retainers my Come you to me north in*  
 Niðarósi". Stúfr fór austr í Vík, ok greiddist honum vel  
*Nidaros Stuf went east into (the)-Vik and was-paid to-him well*  
 arfr sá, er hann heimti, sem orðsending ok jarðtegnir  
*inheritance that which he claimed as (the)-message and tokens*  
 konungs komu til. Sótti Stúfr síðan norðr til Kaupangs  
*of-(the)-king came thereto Went Stuf afterward north to Kaupang*  
 á konungs fund, ok tók konungr vel við honum, ok með  
*to (the)-king's meeting and took (the)-king well with him and with*  
 samþykki hirðmanna gerðist Stúfr handgenginn konungi, ok  
*(the)-consent of-(the)-retainers became Stuf a-liege-man to-(the)-king and*  
 var með honum nökkura hríð. Hann hefir ort erfidrápu  
*was with him some while He has composed a-memorial-drapa*  
 um Harald konung, er köllut er Stúfs-drápa eðr Stúfa.  
*about Harald (the)-king which called is Stuf's-drapa or Stufa*

Brands þáttir örva

*The Tale of Brand the Generous*

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*Þjóðólfr the poet praises Brandr Vermundarson's generosity to King Haraldr, who tests it. At the king's request, Brandr silently gives up his cloak, then his gold-inlaid axe. When asked for the tunic he is wearing, he cuts off one sleeve before handing it over. The king reads it as a rebuke to a man who only takes, and welcomes Brandr with honors and gifts.*

Nú er frá því sagt, at á einu sumri kom til Noregs útan  
*Now is of that told that in one summer came to Norway out*  
 af Íslandi Brandr sonr Vermundar í Vatnsfirði. Hann var  
*from Iceland Brand son of-Vermund in Vatnsfjord He was*  
 kallaðr Brandr hinn örvi; var honum þat sannnefni. Hann  
*called Brand the Generous was to-him that a-true-name He*  
 var maðr vinsælastr og örvastr. Brandr lagði skipi sínu inn  
*was a-man most-popular and most-generous Brand laid ship his in*  
 til Niðaróss. Þjóðólfr skáld var vinr Brands, ok hafði margt  
*to Nidaros Thjodolf (the)-poet was a-friend of-Brand and had much*  
 sagt Haraldí konungi frá Brandi, hve mikilmætis hann var  
*told to-Harald (the)-king of Brand how of-great-worth he was*  
 ok vel at sér; ok svá mælti hann Þjóðólfr, at honum þætti  
*and well of himself and so spoke he Thjodolf that to-him seemed*  
 eigi sýnt, at annarr maðr væri þar betr til konungs fallinn í  
*not clear that another man were there better to a-king fitted in*  
 Íslandi fyrir sakir örleika hans ok stórmensku. Hann hefir  
*Iceland for sake of-generosity his and magnanimity He has*  
 sagt konungi margt frá örleikum hans. Enn er Brandr var  
*told (the)-king much of generosities his But when Brand was*  
 kominn til bæjarins, sagði Þjóðólfr þat konungi ok ræddi  
*come to the-town told Thjodolf that to-(the)-king and talked*  
 þá enn margt um vinsældir hans á Íslandi ok örleik. Þá  
*then still much about popularity his in Iceland and generosity Then*

mælti konungr: “Þat skal nú skjótt reyna, hvárt hann er svá  
*spoke (the)-king That shall now quickly test whether he is so*  
 örr, sem þú segir: gakk til hans ok bið hann at gefa mér  
*generous as you say go to him and ask him to give me*  
 skikkju sína”. Þjóðólfr fór ok kom inn í skemmu eina,  
*cloak his Thjodolf went and came in into bower one*  
 þar er Brandr var fyrir. Hann stóð á gólfinu ok stikaði  
*there where Brand was before He stood on the-floor and measured*  
 léreft. Hann var í skarlatsskyrtli ok hafði skarlatsskikkju yfir  
*linen He was in a-scarlet-tunic and had a-scarlet-cloak over*  
 sér, ok hafði skikkjuböndin uppi á höfði sér, meðan hann  
*himself and had the-cloak-strings up on head his while he*  
 stikaði léreftit; hann hafði öxi gullrekna í handarkrikanum.  
*measured the-linen he had an-axe gold-inlaid in the-arpit*  
 Þjóðólfr mælti: “Konungr vill þiggja skikkjuna”. Brandr helt  
*Thjodolf spoke (The)-king will accept the-cloak Brand held*  
 fram athöfn sinni ok svaraði engu, enn lét falla skikkjuna  
*forward work his and answered nothing but let fall the-cloak*  
 aftr af herðum sér, ok tekr Þjóðólfr hana upp ok færir  
*back off shoulders his and takes Thjodolf it up and brings(-it)*  
 konungi; ok spurði konungr, hvernig færi með þeim. Hann  
*to-(the)-king and asked (the)-king how (it)-went with them He*  
 sagði, at Brandr hefði engi orð um; sagði síðan, hvat  
*said that Brand had no words about(-it) told afterward what*  
 hann hafðist at ok svá frá búningi hans. Konungr mælti:  
*he busied-himself at and so of dress his (The)-king spoke*  
 “Víst er sjá maðr skapstórr ok mun vera mikilsháttar, er  
*Surely is this man high-minded and will be of-great-account when*  
 honum þótti eigi þurfa orð um at hafa. Gakk enn ok  
*to-him seemed not needed words about(-it) to have Go again and*  
 seg, at ek vil þiggja at honum öxi þá hina gullreknu”.  
*say that I will accept from him axe that the gold-inlaid*



Þjóðólfr mælti: “Ekki er mér um, herra, at fara oftarr;  
*Thjodolf spoke Not is to-me about(-it) lord to go oftener*  
 veit ek eigi, hversu hann vill því taka, ef ek kref vápn  
*know I not how he will that take if I demand a-weapon*  
 úr hendi honum”. Konungr mælti: “Þú vaktir þetta mál,  
*out-of hand to-him (The)-king spoke You awakened this matter*  
 ok sagðir mikit af örleik hans bæði nú ok fyrr; skaltú af  
*and said much of generosity his both now and before shall-you from*  
 því fara; þykkir mér hann ekki örr, ef hann gefr mér eigi  
*that go seems to-me he not generous if he gives me not*  
 öxina”. Ferr nú Þjóðólfr til fundar við Brand ok segir, at  
*the-axe Goes now Thjodolf to a-meeting with Brand and says that*  
 konungr vill þiggja öxina. Hann rétti þegar frá sér öxina  
*(the)-king will accept the-axe He banded at-once from himself the-axe*  
 ok mælti ekki. Þjóðólfr færði konungi öxina ok sagði hversu  
*and spoke nothing Thjodolf brought to-(the)-king the-axe and told how*  
 farit hafði. Konungr mælti: “Meiri ván, at þessi maðr sé  
*gone had(-it) (The)-king spoke More likely that this man be*  
 örvari en flestir menn aðrir, ok heldr fénar nú of hríð.  
*more-generous than most men others and rather gathers(-it) now for a-while*  
 Far þú enn ok seg, at ek vil hafa kyrtilinn, er hann stendr  
*Go you again and say that I will have the-tunic which he stands*  
 í”, Þjóðólfr mælti: “Ekki samir þat, herra, at ek fara oftarr;  
*in Thjodolf spoke Not befits that lord that I go oftener*  
 kann vera, at hann virði sem ek vili spotta hann”. Konungr  
*may be that he reckon as-if I would mock him (The)-king*  
 mælti: “Þú skalt fara at vísu”. Ferr hann enn ok kemr  
*spoke You shall go for sure Goes he again and comes*  
 í loftit ok segir Brandi, at konungr vill þiggja kyrtilinn.  
*into the-loft and says to-Brand that (the)-king will accept the-tunic*  
 Brandr bregðr þá sýslunni og steypir af sér kyrtlinum,  
*Brand leaves then the-work and pulls off himself the-tunic*

ok mælti ekki. Hann sprettir af erminni annarri, ok kastar  
*and spoke nothing He rips off the-sleeve one and throws*  
braut síðan kyrtilinum, enn hefir eftir ermina aðra. Þjóðólfr  
*away afterward the-tunic but has behind the-sleeve other Thjodolf*  
tekr hann upp ok ferr á fund konungs, ok sýnir honum  
*takes it up and goes to (the)-meeting of-(the)-king and shows him*  
kyrtilinn. Konungr leit á ok mælti síðan: “Þessi maðr  
*the-tunic (The)-king looked at(-it) and spoke afterward This man*  
er bæði vitr ok stórlyndr; auðsætt er mér, hví hann hefir  
*is both wise and high-minded easy-seen is to-me why he has*  
erminni af sprett: honum þykkir sem ek eiga eina höndina,  
*the-sleeve off ripped to-him seems as-if I have one the-hand*  
ok þá þó, at þiggja ávallt enn gefa aldrigi. Ok fari nú  
*and that yet to receive always but give never And let-go(-one) now*  
eftir honum”. Ok var svá gert; ok fór Brandr til konungs,  
*after him And was so done and went Brand to (the)-king*  
ok fagnaði konungr honum vel, ok þá af honum góða  
*and welcomed (the)-king him well and received from him good*  
virðing ok fégjafar. Ok var þetta gert til raunar við hann.  
*honor and money-gifts And was this done for trial with him*

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Þórvarðs þáttir krákunefs

*The Tale of Thorvard Crow's-Nose*

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## ÞÓRVARÐR'S SAIL

---

*Þórvarðr krákunef offers King Haraldr a sail, and the king refuses, having been cheated by an Icelandic sail before. Eysteinn orri accepts it gladly. When Þórvarðr sails south, Eysteinn detains him at Gizki with feasts and gives him a tunic, a cloak, and a ring, saying he has now been rewarded as the king would have done. Seeing the sail later, the king exchanges sails with Eysteinn, though it proves too small for the royal ship.*

Maðr er nefndr Þórvarðr krákunef. Hann var íslenzkr maðr  
*A-man is named Thorvard Crow's-Nose He was an-Icelandic man*  
ok vestfirzkr at kyni, auðigr at fé ok drengr góðr.  
*and a-West-Fjorder by kin wealthy in property and a-fellow good*  
Hann fór landa á milli, ok var virðr vel, hvar sem  
*He went lands in between and was valued well wherever that*  
hann kom. Á einu sumri kom Þórvarðr útan af Íslandi  
*he came In one summer came Thorvard out from Iceland*  
norðr við Þrándheim, ok lagði skipi sínu í Niðarós. Þá  
*north by Trondheim and laid ship his into Nidaros Then*  
var Haraldr konungr (Sigurðarson) í bænum ok Eysteinn  
*was Harald (the)-king Sigurd's-son in the-town and Eystein*  
orri mágr hans, er þá hafði mestan gang með  
*Moorcock kinsman-by-marriage his who then had greatest standing with*  
konungi. Eysteinn var son Þórbergs Árnasonar, er allra  
*(the)-king Eystein was son of-Thorberg Arni's-son who of-all*  
manna var bezt mentr þeira, er þá fœddust upp í Noregi.  
*men was best bred of-those who then were-brought up in Norway*  
Þórvarðr leigði sér skemmu ok ruddi skip sitt. Síðan  
*Thorvard hired himself a-storehouse and cleared ship his Afterward*  
gekk hann á fund Haralds konungs, þar sem hann  
*went he to (the)-meeting of-Harald (the)-king there where he*  
sat ok drakk; kom hann svá at stofunni, at konungr var  
*sat and drank came he so to the-hall that (the)-king was*

úti. Ok er hann vill snúa inn aftir, mælti Þórvarðr: “Hér  
*outside And when he will turn in back spoke Thorvard Here*  
 er segl, er ek vil at þér þiggít”. Konungr var nökkut  
*is a-sail which I wish that you accept (The)-king was somewhat*  
 brúnvölvi ok svarar: “Þá ek segl af yðr Íslendingum  
*frowning and answers Received I a-sail from you Icelanders*  
 ok mundi búit við, at þat yrði mér at skaða; gekk  
*and would (be)-near to(-it) that it became to-me for harm went*  
 þat sundr í siglingu; er þat jafnan hit mesta fals, er  
*it asunder in sailing is that always the greatest fraud which*  
 þér farit með; nú haf þú sjálfr segl þitt, ok vil ek eigi  
*you deal with now have you yourself sail your and will I not*  
 þiggja.” Eysteinn orri mælti: “Gakk til, herra, ok sjá,  
*accept(-it) Eystein Moorcock spoke Go thereto lord and see*  
 ok kann vera at yðr lítist þá betr, ok er þá of skjótt  
*and may be that to-you seem then better and is then over quickly*  
 neitat; ok þess er meiri ván, at þér þiggít þá gripi,  
*refused and of-that is more likely that you accept those treasures*  
 at eigi sé scemiligr, mun hann yðr ok ætlat hafa, —  
*that not be more-honorable will he you also intended have*  
 sá einn maðr er hann.” Konungr svarar: “Ek hlýt nú at  
*such one man is he (The)-king answers I must now to*  
 ráða fyrir mér enn þú fyrir þér.” Gekk hann þá inn í  
*rule for myself but you for yourself Went he then in into*  
 stofuna, ok festi ekki orð á honum. Þá mælti Þórvarðr:  
*the-hall and fastened no word on him Then spoke Thorvard*  
 “Þökk kunnum vér, Eysteinn, at þér þiggít seglit, ef yðr  
*Thanks know we Eystein that you accept the-sail if to-you*  
 þykkir hæft, þá er þér sjáit, ok gakk með mér”. Eysteinn  
*seems fit then when you see(-it) and go with me Eystein*  
 gerir svá, ok þóttist eigi sét hafa meiri gersemi í  
*does so and thought-himself not seen to-have greater treasure in*

einu segli, ok þakkar vel gjöfina, ok biðr hann koma  
*one sail and thanks well (for)-the-gift and bids him come*  
 til bús síns um vetrinn, ok sjá hýbýli sín suðr á Mœri  
*to farm his in the-winter and see dwellings his south in More*  
 í Gizka. Er nú kyrt um vetrinn. Enn er vórar, tekr  
*at Gizki Is now quiet through the-winter But when springs takes*  
 Þórvarðr at búa skip sitt, ok heldr suðr með landi,  
*Thorvard to make-ready ship his and holds south along (the)-land*  
 þegar hann var búinn. Ok er þeir koma suðr fyrir  
*as-soon-as he was ready And when they come south past*  
 Sólskel, þá siglir Þórvarðr þar til hafs, ok bíða svá  
*Solskel then sails Thorvard there toward (the)-sea and wait so*  
 byrjar. Ok einn dag brunar skip fram hjá þeira skipi,  
*(for)-wind And one day rushes a-ship forth by their ship*  
 ok var alskipat af mönnum. Þar stóð upp í stafninum  
*and was fully-manned with men There stood up in the-prow*  
 maðr, vænn ok listuligr; sá var í skarlats-kirtli rauðum.  
*a-man handsome and elegant he was in a-scarlet-tunic red*  
 Sá spyr, ef Þórvarðr krákunef væri þar á skipi. Hann  
*He asks if Thorvard Crow's-Nose were there on ship He*  
 segir, at svá er, ok fagnar vel Eysteini. Eysteinn mælti:  
*says that so is(-it) and greets well Eystein Eystein spoke*  
 “Seinn vart þú at sækja mik heim, ok stíg nú á skip  
*Slow were you to visit me home and step now onto (the)-ship*  
 með oss með svá marga menn sem þú vill sjálf, því  
*with us with so many men as you wish yourself because*  
 at nú er eigi byrvænligt.” Þórvarðr gerir svá; fer nú með  
*that now is not wind-promising Thorvard does so goes now with*  
 nökkura menn, ok róa nú til eyjarinnar Gizka. Þar var  
*some men and row now to the-island Gizki There was*  
 fyrir búin veizla ágæt, ok er þar fagnaðr mikill; þar  
*before(-them) prepared a-feast splendid and is there joy great there*

váru hús stór ok góð; drukku þeir lengi um kveldit; fóru  
*were houses big and good drank they long in the-evening went*  
 síðan at sofa. Ok er á leið nóttina ok morgna tekr,  
*afterward to sleep And when on passed the-night and to-dawn begins*  
 vaknar Þórvarðr, ok sá at Eysteinn var á fótum. Eysteinn  
*wakes Thorvard and saw that Eystein was on feet Eystein*  
 mælti: “Ekki er byrligt, Þórvarðr; verit með oss í dag, ok  
*spoke Not is wind-fair Thorvard be with us in day and*  
 látit mik veðr sjá yðr til handa, ok skulu þér ekki at  
*let me weather see for-you to hand and shall you not the*  
 heldr sitja byri ór höndum”. Drukku þeir um daginn  
*rather sit wind out-of hands Drank they during the-day*  
 ok váru kátir. Þá mælti Eysteinn: “Fyrir þat, Þórvarðr,  
*and were merry Then spoke Eystein For that Thorvard*  
 er þú fórt með mér frá skipi þínu albúnu ok sóttir mitt  
*that you went with me from ship your all-ready and visited my*  
 heimili, sem ek beidda, þá þigg af mér kyrtil þenna.”  
*home as I asked then accept from me tunic this*  
 Kyrtillinn var skorinn af nýju skarlati ok allr hlaðbúinn.  
*The-tunic was cut of new scarlet and all lace-trimmed*  
 Þórvarðr þakkaði honum gjöfina. Eysteinn mælti: “Þetta  
*Thorvard thanked him (for)-the-gift Eystein spoke This*  
 skal vera kynnisgjöf, enn ekki segllaunin”. Sitja nú þar um  
*shall be a-visiting-gift but not the-sail-reward Sit now there during*  
 daginn í hinum bezta fagnaði. Ok annan morgin eftir  
*the-day in the best joy And (the)-second morning after*  
 mælti Eysteinn við Þórvarð: “Kyrrir skulu þér vera í dag,  
*spoke Eystein to Thorvard Quiet shall you be in day*  
 því at enn er eigi byrr”. Þórvarðr bað hann fyrir sjá.  
*because that still is not wind Thorvard bade him for(-it) provide*  
 Sátu þeir þar, ok er nú allt meira við haft enn hinn  
*Sat they there and is now all more with made than the*



fyrra daginn um drykk ok annan fagnað. Þá lét Eysteinn  
*former day about drink and other cheer Then had Eystein*  
 bera fram skikkju; þat váru algrá skinn ok vöndut sem  
*carry forth a-cloak that were all-gray skins and carefully-made as*  
 mest ok skarlats-möttull undir. Þá mælti Eysteinn: “Þessa  
*most and a-scarlet-mantle under(-it) Then spoke Eystein This*  
 skikkju skaltu þiggja, ok launa ek þér nú seglit, því at  
*cloak shall-you accept and repay I you now the-sail because that*  
 hon mun þykkja fyrir flestum skikkjum sem seglit, er þú  
*it will seem ahead-of most cloaks as the-sail which you*  
 gaft mér, berr af öðrum seglum”. Þorvarðr þakkaði honum  
*gave me bears from other sails Thorvard thanked him*  
 gjafirnar vel. Leið sá dagr ok nótt. Enn um morgininn  
*(for)-the-gifts well Passed that day and night But in the-morning*  
 snimma er Þorvarðr vakinn, ok er þar kominn Eysteinn,  
*early is Thorvard woken and is there come Eystein*  
 ok mælti: “Nú skal ekki dvelja fyrir yðr, því, at nú  
*and spoke Now shall not delay for you because that now*  
 er veðr byrvænligt”. Tóku nú snæðing, ok drukku, áðr  
*is weather wind-promising Took now breakfast and drank before*  
 þeir fóru. Þá mælti Eysteinn: “Eigi varð þér auðit, at  
*they went Then spoke Eystein Not became to-you granted that*  
 konungr þægi seglit at þér; enn þess get ek, ef hann  
*(the)-king accepted the-sail from you but of-that guess I if he*  
 hefði þegit, at hann mundi þann veg svá launat hafa  
*had accepted that he would that way so repaid have*  
 sem ek. Nú hefir þú ekki fyrir þat, er ótigninn maðr  
*as I Now have you nothing for that that an-untitled man*  
 veitti þér launin, enn eigi konungr, sem þú hafðir ætlat;  
*gave you the-rewards but not a-king as you had intended*  
 enn ek má ekki at því hafa, þótt ek sé ótignari; enn  
*but I may not to that have though I be more-untitled but*

fyrir þann virðingar-mun, skaltú þiggja hring þenna.” Dró  
*for that honor-difference shall-you accept ring this Drew*  
hann þá hringinn af hendi sér, ok gaf honum. Þórvarðr  
*he then the-ring off hand his and gave(-it) to-him Thorvard*  
þakkar honum margfaldliga þessa sæmd alla ok stórgjafir,  
*thanks him manifoldly this honor all and great-gifts*  
er hann hafði honum veitt. Síðan lét Eysteinn flytja  
*which he had him given Afterward had Eystein carry*  
þá til skips síns, ok gefr þeim vel byri til Íslands; ok  
*them to ship his and gives them well winds to Iceland and*  
var Þórvarðr krákunef hit mesta mikilmenni. Ok nú um  
*was Thorvard Crow's-Nose the greatest great-man And now in*  
sumarit, er þeir sigldu með landi fram, Haraldr konungr  
*the-summer when they sailed along land forth Harald (the)-king*  
ok Eysteinn orri, ok siglir Eysteinn næst konungi, ok  
*and Eystein Moorcock and sails Eystein next (the)-king and*  
þegar um fram. Þá mælti konungr: “Hvaðan kom þér segl  
*at-once past ahead Then spoke (the)-king Whence came to-you sail*  
þat hit góða, er þú hefir”? Eysteinn svarar: “Hér er nú  
*that the good which you have Eystein answers Here is now*  
þat seglit herra, er þér vildut eigi þiggja af Þórvarði.”  
*that the-sail lord which you would not accept from Thorvard*  
Konungr mælti: “Ek hefi aldri betra segl sét, ok hefi ek  
*(The)-king spoke I have never better sail seen and have I*  
þar neitat mikilli gersemi”. Eysteinn mælti: “Viltú flenza  
*there refused great treasure Eystein spoke Will-you exchange*  
milli seglanna, herra?” Konungr svarar ok brosti við: “Hví  
*between the-sails lord (The)-king answers and smiled at(-it) Why*  
eigi”, segir hann. Stóð konungr upp hjá siglunni. Eysteinn  
*not says he Stood (the)-king up by the-mast Eystein*  
mælti: “Ger þik ekki at undri, ok haf segl, hvárt er  
*spoke Make yourself not into wonder and have sail whichever that*

þú vill; ok nú vel, at þú vitir, hverju þú hefir neitat.”

*you wish and now well that you know what you have refused*

Konungr þakkaði honum, ok hafði jafnan þetta segl yfir

*(The)-king thanked him and had always this sail over*

skipi sínu; enn þat varð at konungsskipinu, at seglit

*ship his but that happened to the-king's-ship that the-sail*

stóðst eigi í kappsiglingu, því at þat (skipit) var meira

*stood not in racing because that it the-ship was greater*

enn þar til heyrði; enn þó þótti seglit hin mesta gersemi.

*than there to belonged but yet seemed the-sail the greatest treasure*



Þórsteins þáttur forvitna

*The Tale of Thorstein the Curious*

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*Þórsteinn, an Icelander at King Haraldr's court, looks into the king's purse and finds two knife handles of gold-colored wood. The angry king orders him to fetch two more like them. Guided by prayers to Saint Ólafir, a dream, and a hermit, he reaches a serpent's island of golden trees, cuts the handles, and escapes the serpent by praying again. The king sees his brother's help in it, and rewards him with a ship.*

Þórsteinn hét maðr íslenzkr, félítill. Hann kom á  
 Thorstein was-called a-man Icelandic poor-in-money He came to  
 fund Haralds konungs Sigurðarsonar, ok tók konungr við  
 (the)-meeting of-Harald (the)-king Sigurd's-son and took (the)-king with  
 honum. Þórsteinn var vaskligr maðr. Þat barst at eitt sinn,  
 him Thorstein was a-valiant man It happened that one time  
 er konungr var í laugu, at hann sat lengi laugina, en  
 when (the)-king was in (the)-bath that he sat long the-bath but  
 Þórsteinn gætti klæða hans, ok varð honum þat fyrir,  
 Thorstein guarded (the)-clothes his and came to-him that before(-him)  
 at hann tók í púss konungs, ok sá í honum tvau  
 that he took into (the)-pouch of-(the)-king and saw in it two  
 knífskefti, er honum þótti hafa gulllit á sér, enn honum  
 knife-hafts which to-him seemed to-have gold-color on them but to-him  
 sýndist sem tré vera í endann. Ok er konungr kom ór  
 seemed as-if wood to-be in the-end And when (the)-king came out-of  
 laugu ok sat hjá klæðum sínum, sá hann athæfi hans  
 (the)-bath and sat by clothes his saw he (the)-doings his  
 ok mælti: “Þessa þurftir þú ekki, at rauða hér til, ok þó  
 and spoke This needed you not to rummage here to and yet  
 sœmdi þér vel, at annarr maðr ætti, at láta vera kyrt; enn  
 befitted you well that another man owned to let be quiet but  
 nú er þér miklu skyldara: ek tók vel við þér, ok gerða ek  
 now is to-you much more-bound I took well with you and did I

vel til þín; enn nú er mest ván, at á liggi mjök mikit  
*well toward you but now is most likely that on lie very much*  
 þínu máli". Leið svá vetrinn, ok var konungr fár við hann.  
*to-your case Passed so the-winter and was (the)-king cool toward him*  
 Ok er sumar kom, mælti konungr: "Nú muntú, Íslendingr  
*And when summer came spoke (the)-king Now will-you Icelandic*  
 hafa nökkut fyrir forvitni þína: þú skalt færa mér önnur  
*have something for curiosity your you shall bring me other*  
 eins skefti, svá at ek mega skilja, at af einum við sé  
*alike hafis so that I may understand that of one wood be(-they)*  
 ger, ella dugir þér eigi". Þórsteinn mælti: "Hvert skal ek  
*made else avails(-it) you not Thorstein spoke Whither shall I*  
 sækja þau?" Konungr svarar: "Þú verðr sjálfr frá því at  
*fetch them (The)-king answers You must yourself from that to*  
 segja, hvat þér þykkir líklegast, hvar ek hafa mest um  
*say what to-you seems likeliest where I have most through*  
 lönd farit". Síðan gekk Þórsteinn undir skrín hins helga  
*lands gone Afterward went Thorstein under (the)-shrine of-the holy*  
 Ólafs konungs, ok bað hann fulltingis. Fór síðan ór  
*Olaf (the)-king and asked him support Went afterward out-of*  
 landi, ok gat frétt, hvar Haraldr konungr hafði herjat. Svá  
*(the)-land and got news where Harald (the)-king had raided So*  
 kom hann út í Miklagarð, ok hét á Ólaf konung enn at  
*came he out to Mikligard and called on Olaf (the)-king again of*  
 nýju. Þá dreymdi hann um nóttina, at maðr kom til hans  
*new Then dreamed he in the-night that a-man came to him*  
 ok mælti: "Þú ferr mjök villr vega, ok ræð ek þér að snúa  
*and spoke You go much astray of-ways and counsel I you to turn*  
 enn út í lönd". Síðan vaknaði hann ok gerði sem honum  
*still out into lands Afterward woke he and did as to-him*  
 var kent. Fór hann nú mœðiliga, ok dró mjök í vökum ok  
*was taught Went he now wearily and drew much in wakings and*



hungri. Hann fór um langa skóga, ok kom þar um síðir,  
*hunger He went through long forests and came there at last*  
 er steinn varð fyrir honum. Þar bjó fyrir einsetu-maðr,  
*where a-stone was before him There dwelt before(-it) a-hermit-man*  
 ok tók hann vel við honum, því at hann þurfti beina.  
*and took he well with him because that he needed hospitality*  
 Hann var þar um nótt, ok spurði einsetumaðrinn at  
*He was there over (the)-night and asked the-hermit after*  
 um ferðir hans, enn Þorsteinn sagði honum allt málit.  
*about journeys his but Thorstein told him all the-case*  
 Einsetu-maðrinn mælti: “Mikil þarfleysa var þat, er þú  
*The-hermit spoke Great needlessness was that which you*  
 gerðir, enda kom ok mikit fyrir; enn réttan farveg hefir  
*did and came also much for(-it) but right course have*  
 þú. Enn nú skaltú ganga tvá daga ok annan til miðdags;  
*you But now shall-you walk two days and another till midday*  
 þá muntú sjá hólma einn skógi vaxinn; enn skógrinn sá  
*then will-you see an-islet one with-wood grown but the-wood that*  
 er allr at sjá sem gull, ok er þar orma-bæli. Nú ef þú  
*is all to see as gold and is there a-serpent's-lair Now if you*  
 legst í hólminn, þá tak þar tvau skefti; enn öngvan hlut  
*swim into the-islet then take there two halves but no thing*  
 annan skaltú í brott hafa, ok muntú þó alls við þurfa,  
*other shall-you off away have and will-you yet all for(-it) need*  
 at komast á brott. Enn þat er þeira einna manna, er bezt  
*to get off away But that is of-those alone men who best*  
 eru syndir, at komast í hólminn”. Síðan fór Þorsteinn ok  
*are swimmers to get into the-islet Afterward went Thorstein and*  
 komst yfir sundit. Þá sá hann, at ormrinn hafði skriðit  
*got over the-sound Then saw he that the-serpent had crept*  
 til vatns. Þar skorti eigi gull, ok allr viðr var þar  
*to (the)-water There lacked not gold and all (the)-wood was there*

sem á gull sæi. Þar sá hann eitt tré, ok þótti sem  
*as-if on gold (one)-saw There saw he one tree and seemed as-if*  
 þar hefði verit skorað af einum sprotanum, ok réð þar  
*there had been cut from one the-twigg and set there*  
 til, sem tekit hafði verit af liminu á einum stað, ok þar  
*to where taken had been from the-branch in one place and there*  
 skoraði hann af sköftin; ok nú ætlaði hann at hafa meira.  
*cut he off the-bafts and now intended he to have more*  
 Þá heyrði hann gný til ormsins, ok fleygir hann sér út  
*Then heard he a-din of the-serpent and flings he himself out*  
 á vatnit, ok lagðist á sund. Enn er ormrinn kom aftur,  
*into the-water and lay to swimming But when the-serpent came back*  
 hvæsti hann illsliga, ok þóttist vita, at maðr hafði komit  
*bissed it fiercely and thought-itself to-know that a-man had come*  
 til bygða hans, ok reis á sporðinn. Hann saknaði þess,  
*to dwelling its and rose on the-tail It missed that*  
 er á brottu var, ok lagðist eftir Þórsteini, ok dró skjótt  
*which off away was and swam after Thorstein and drew quickly*  
 saman með þeim. Þá hét Þórsteinn enn at nýju á Ólaf  
*together between them Then called Thorstein again of new on Olaf*  
 konung helga, ok þá sá hann, at ormrinn lagðist í  
*(the)-king (the)-Saint and then saw he that the-serpent lay into*  
 hring, svá sem hann sæi ekki, ok fór síðan til eyjarinnar.  
*a-ring so as-if it saw not and went afterward to the-island*  
 Enn Íslendingrinn komst á land, ok sá nú öngvan mann.  
*But the-Icelander got to land and saw now no man*  
 Fór hann síðan um lönd, ok kom at lyktum til Noregs  
*Went he afterward through lands and came at last to Norway*  
 ok hitti Harald konung. Hann spurði vandliga at ferðum  
*and met Harald (the)-king He asked carefully about journeys*  
 hans. Enn hann segir honum alla sögu, ok sýndi honum  
*his But he tells him all (the)-story and showed him*

skeftin; ok bar Haraldr konungr saman við þau skefti, er  
*the-hafts and bore Harald (the)-king together with those hafts which*  
 hann hafði áðr, ok sá, at af því tré var. Þá mælti  
*he had before and saw that of that tree (they)-were* Then spoke  
 Haraldr konungr: “Mikla gæfu hefir þú borit til þessa,  
*Harald (the)-king Great luck have you borne to this*  
 ok hinn sami hefir til komit um þitt mál sem mitt.  
*and the same has to come about your case as mine*  
 Nú vil ek hafa, skefti þessi af þér, enn ek mun fá þér  
*Now will I have hafts these from you but I will get you*  
 kaupeyri, sem þú vilt; ok svá mun sá vilja, er á hefir  
*merchandise as you wish and so will he wish who on has*  
 sét með þér, ok hefir þat verit hinn helgi Ólafr konungr  
*looked with you and has that been the holy Olaf (the)-king*  
 bróðir minn”. Þórsteinn gerði sem konungr vildi. Síðan gaf  
*brother my Thorstein did as (the)-king would* Afterward gave  
 Haraldr konungr Þórsteini skip ok alla áhöfn. Þórsteinn fór  
*Harald (the)-king to-Thorstein a-ship and all crew Thorstein went*  
 fyrst til Íslands, enn þó fell hann með konungi á Englandi.  
*first to Iceland but yet fell he with (the)-king in England*

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Íslendings þáttir sögufróða

*The Tale of the Story-Wise Icelandic*

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## THE SAGA OF HARALDR'S JOURNEYS

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*A penniless young Iclander is kept at King Haraldr's court for his stories. At Yule he runs short and admits the one story left is the saga of the king's own journeys abroad. The king has him tell it over the twelve days of Yule and gives no sign whether he likes it. At the end he praises it and learns the Iclander heard it at the Althing from Halldórr Snorrason.*

Svá bar til á einu sumri, at einn íslenzkr maðr,  
So happened to in one summer that one Icelandic man  
ungr ok fráligr, enn þó félauss, kom til Haralds konungs  
young and quick but yet penniless came to Harald (the)-king  
(harðráða), ok bað hann ásja. Konungr spurði, ef hann  
Hard-ruler and asked him protection (The)-king asked if he  
kynni nokkura fræði. Hann lézt kunna nokkurar sögur.  
knew any lore He professed to-know some stories  
Konungr mælti: “Ek mun taka við þér, svá at þú skalt  
(The)-king spoke I will take with you so that you shall  
vera með hirð minni í vetr, ok skemmta ávallt, er menn  
be with court my in winter and entertain always when men  
vilja, hver sem þik biðr”. Ok svá gerði hann; aflaði hann  
will whoever as you asks And so did he gained he  
sér skjótt vinsælda af hirðinni, ok gáfu þeir honum  
himself quickly popularity from the-court and gave they him  
klæði, enn konungr sjálf gaf honum gott vörn í hönd  
clothes but (the)-king himself gave him a-good weapon into hand  
sér. Leið nú svá fram til jóla; þá ógladdist Íslendingr.  
his Passed now so forth to Yule then grew-gloomy (the)-Iclander  
Konungr fann þat, ok spurði, hvat til bæri ógleði hans.  
(The)-king found that and asked what thereto bore (the)-gloom his  
Hann kvað koma til mislyndi sína. “Ekki mun svá  
He said (it)-to-come from moodiness his Not will so

vera", segir konungr, "ok mun ek geta til; þat er ætlan  
*be says (the)-king and will I guess at(-it) that is thought*  
 mín, at nú muni uppi sögur þínar, því at þú hefir  
*my that now may (be)-up stories your because that you have*  
 jafnan skemmt, hverjum sem beitt hefir í vetr, ok löngum  
*always entertained each as asked has in winter and long*  
 bæði nætr ok daga. Nú mun þér illt þykkja, at þrjóti  
*both nights and days Now will to-you ill seem that run-out*  
 sögurnar at jólunum, enn þú mundir vilja segja eigi hinar  
*the-stories at the-Yule but you would wish tell not the*  
 sömu". "Rétt er svá sem þú getr", segir hann; "sú ein er  
*same Right is so as you guess says he that one is*  
 sagan eftir, er ek þori eigi hér at segja, því at þat  
*the-story left which I dare not here to tell because that that*  
 er útfararsaga yður". Konungr mælti: "Sú er ok svá  
*is (the)-journey-out-story yours (The)-king spoke That is also so*  
 sagan, at mér er mest forvitni á at heyra. Skaltú nú  
*the-story that to-me is most curiosity on(-it) to hear Shall-you now*  
 ekki skemmta fram til jólanna, er menn eru í starfi  
*not entertain further until the-Yule when men are in work*  
 miklu; enn jóladag hinn fyrsta skaltú upp hefja þessa sögu,  
*much but Yule-day the first shall-you up begin this story*  
 ok segja af spöl nökkurn. Þá eru drykkjur miklar, ok  
*and tell off a-stretch some Then are drinkings great and*  
 má þá sitja skömmum við, at hlýða skemmtaninni. Mun  
*may then sit short-while by to listen to-the-entertainment Will*  
 ek svá stilla til með þér, at jafndrjúg verði sagan ok  
*I so arrange thereto with you that equally-long become the-story and*  
 jólin, ok ekki mun þú á mér finna, meðan þú segir  
*the-Yule and not will you on me find while you tell*  
 söguna, hvárt mér þykkir vel eðr illa". Þetta fór svá, at  
*the-story whether to-me seems(-it) well or ill This went so that*



Íslendingr hóf upp söguna jóladaginn fyrsta, ok sagði eigi  
*(the)-Icelander began up the-story (the)-Yule-day first and told not*  
 lengi, áðr konungr bað hætta. Tóku menn þá umtal mikit  
*long before (the)-king bade stop Took men then talk much*  
 um skemmtanina; mæltu sumir, at þat væri Íslendingi  
*about the-entertainment spoke some that it were for-(the)-Icelander*  
 djörfung, at segja þessa sögu, eðr hversu konungi mundi  
*boldness to tell this story or how to-(the)-king would*  
 líka. Sumum þótti hann vel segja, enn sumum fannst  
*please To-some seemed he well to-tell but to-some was-found*  
 minna um. Konungr var vandr at, at vel væri til  
*less about(-it) (The)-king was exacting about that well were thereto*  
 hlýtt. Stóðst þat ok á með tilstilli konungs, at jólin  
*listened Held that also on(-it) with arranging of-(the)-king that the-Yule*  
 þraut ok lokit var sögunni. Ok hinn þrettánda dag (jóla)  
*ran-out and ended was the-story And the thirteenth day of-Yule*  
 mælti konungr: “Er þér eigi forvitni á, Íslendingr”, segir  
*spoke (the)-king Is to-you not curiosity on(-it) Icelander says*  
 hann, “hversu mér líkar sagan”? “Hræddr er ek þar um,  
*he how me pleases the-story Afraid am I there about*  
 herra”, segir hann. Konungr mælti: “Mér þykkir allvel sögð,  
*lord says he (The)-king spoke To-me seems very-well told*  
 ok hvergi vikit frá því, sem efni stóð til, eðr hverr kendi  
*and nowhere turned from that which matter stood to or who taught*  
 þér”? Hann svarar: “Þat var vandi minn úti þar á Íslandi,  
*you He answers That was custom my out there in Iceland*  
 at ek fór hvert sumar til þings, ok nam ek hvert  
*that I went every summer to (the)-assembly and learned I every*  
 sumar nökkut af sögunni, er Halldórr sagði Snorrason”.  
*summer some of the-story which Halldor told Snorri's-son*  
 “Þá er eigi undarligt”, segir konungr, “at þú kunnir vel,  
*Then is not strange says (the)-king that you know(-it) well*

er þú hefir af honum numit, ok heldr mun þessi saga  
*when you have from him learned and rather will this story*  
 þér at gagni verða. Skaltú með mér vel kominn hvern  
*to-you for use become Shall-you with me well come every*  
 tíma, er þú vill með mér vera". Var hann með konungi  
*time that you will with me be Was he with (the)-king*  
 um vetrinn. Enn um várit fekk konungr honum góðan  
*over the-winter But in the-spring gave (the)-king him good*  
 kaupeyri, ok varð hann síðan þrifnaðarmaðr.  
*merchandise and became he afterward a-tbriving-man*

---

Ívars þáttur Ingimundarsonar

*The Tale of Ivar Ingimundarson*

---



*The poet Ívarr Ingimundarson, dear to King Eysteinn, asks his brother Þórfinnr to carry his proposal to Oddný in Iceland, but Þórfinnr marries her himself. Ívarr grows melancholy, and the king offers to win Oddný for him, then any other woman, lands, and money for trading voyages. Ívarr refuses all, and Eysteinn instead lets him come every day to talk about her. The talk eases his grief, and he becomes cheerful again.*

Í þeima hlut má marka, er nú mun ek segja, hverr  
*In this thing may see which now will I tell what*  
 ágætismaðr Eysteinn konungr (Magnússon berfætta), var at  
*a-splendid-man Eystein (the)-king Magnus's-son Barelegs was in*  
 ráðspeki, eðr hve mjök hann var vinholtr ok hugkvæmr eftir  
*wise-counsel or how much he was friendly and sharp-witted after*  
 at leita við vini sína, hvat þeim væri at harmi, ef hann sá  
*to seek with friends his what to-them were for grief if he saw*  
 (þá) óglaða. Sá maðr var með honum, er hét Ívarr, ok  
*them unglad That man was with him who was-called Ivar and*  
 var Ingimundarson, íslenzkr at ætt ok stórættaðr at kyni,  
*was Ingimund's-son Icelandic in family and of-great-kin by descent*  
 vitr maðr ok skáld gott. Konungr virði hann mikils, ok  
*a-wise man and a-poet good (The)-king valued him much and*  
 var til hans ástsamliga, sem sýnast mun. Þórfinnr hét  
*was to him lovingly as seem will Thorfinn was-called*  
 bróðir Ívars; hann fór ok útan á fund Eysteins  
*(the)-brother of-Ivar he went also abroad to (the)-meeting of-Eystein*  
 konungs, ok naut hann þar frá mörgum mönnum bróður  
*(the)-king and enjoyed he there from many men brother*  
 síns. Enn Þórfinnr öfundaði þat, er mönnum þótti hann  
*his But Thorfinn envied that that to-men seemed he*  
 eigi jafnnemi bróður síns, enn þurfa hans at njóta, ok  
*not as-quick-to-learn as-brother his but need his to enjoy and*

undi hann því eigi með konungi, ok bjóst til Íslands.  
*liked he therefore not with (the)-king and made-ready to Iceland*  
 Enn áðr þeir bræðr skildu, mælti Ívarr til Þórfinns: “Nú  
*But before they brothers parted spoke Ivar to Thorfinn Now*  
 vil ek, bróðir, bjóða þau erindi út til Íslands: þú kennir  
*will I brother offer those errands out to Iceland you know*  
 konu þá, er heitir Oddný Jóans-dóttir; ber þú henni  
*(the)-woman that who is-called Oddny Jon's-daughter bear you her*  
 þau mín orð með kveðjusending, at hon giftist eigi öðrum  
*those my words with greeting-sending that she marry not another*  
 manni enn mér, því at hon er svá af konum, at mér  
*man than me because that she is so of women that to-me*  
 leikr helzt hugr á”. Síðan fór Þórfinnr út til Íslands, ok  
*plays most (the)-mind on Afterward went Thorfinn out to Iceland and*  
 varð vel reiðfari, ok rak ekki erindi bróður síns, heldr  
*became well journey-fortunate and drove not (the)-errand of-brother his rather*  
 tók þat ráð, at hann bað Oddnýjar sér til handa, ok  
*took that counsel that he asked Oddny for-himself to hand and*  
 var hon honum gift. Ok litlu síðar kom Ívarr út ok frá  
*was she to-him married And a-little later came Ivar out and learned*  
 þetta, ok þótti Þórfinnr illa hafa ór haft við sik, ok undi  
*this and seemed Thorfinn ill to-have out had with him and liked*  
 hann lítt við svá búit. Fór hann þá aftr til Noregs ok var  
*he little with so done Went he then back to Norway and was*  
 enn með Eysteini konungi í góðu yfirlæti sem fyrr. Hann  
*again with Eystein (the)-king in good favor as before He*  
 tók þá fáleika ok ógleði mikla. Enn er konungr fann þat,  
*took then coolness and gloom great But when (the)-king found that*  
 þá heimti hann Ívar á eintal við sik, ok spurði, hví  
*then called he Ivar to private-talk with himself and asked why*  
 hann væri svá ókátr, “enn fyrr, er þú vart með oss, var  
*he were so unmerry but before when you were with us was*

mikil skemmtan at ræðum þínum jafnan, ok eigi leita ek  
*great entertainment in talks your always and not seek I*  
 fyrir því eftir þessu, at eigi vita ek, at vér höfum ekki  
*for that after this that not know I that we have nothing*  
 af gert við þik; ertú ok svá vitr maðr, at eigi muntú  
*amiss done toward you are-you also so wise a-man that not will-you*  
 grun draga af því, er eigi er, ok seg mér, hvat er”.

*suspicion draw from that which not is and tell me what is(-it)*  
 Ívarr svaraði: “Þat sem er, herra, má ek ekki frá segja”.

*Ivar answered That which is lord may I not of tell*

Konungr mælti: “Ek mun þá geta til; eru nökkurir menn  
*(The)-king spoke I will then guess at(-it) are some men*  
 þeir hér, er þér getist eigi at”? “Eigi er þat, herra”, segir  
*those here who to-you please not at Not is that lord says*

Ívarr. Konungr mælti: “Þykkist þú af mér hafa minna  
*Ivar (The)-king spoke Think-yourself you from me to-have less*  
 sóma enn þú vildir”? Hann kvað eigi þat vera. Konungr

mælti: “Hefir þú sét nökkura þá hluti, er þér hefir  
*spoke Have you seen some those things which to-you have*

svá mikit um fundizt, hér í landinu, at þér þykki þat  
*so much about been-found here in the-land that to-you seem that*  
 illa”? Hann lét ekki þat vera. Konungr mælti: “Fýsir þik til

illa? Hann lét ekki þat vera. Konungr mælti: “Fýsir þik til  
*ill He let not that be (The)-king spoke Longs you to*  
 annarra höfðingja”? Hann segir þat fjarri fara. “Vandast oss

*other chieftains He says that far to-go Grows-hard for-us*  
 nú getan”, segir konungr; “viltú hafa forræði nökkur yfir  
*now the-guessing says (the)-king will-you have management some over*  
 eignum nökkurum”? Hann neitti því. “Eru nökkurar konur

*possessions some He refused that Are some women*  
 þær hér eðr á öðrum löndum, er þér sé eftirsjá at”? Hann  
*those here or in other lands who to-you be longing at He*

svaraði: "Svá er, herra". Konungr mælti: "Ver eigi þar um  
*answered So is(-it) lord (The)-king spoke Be not there about*  
 hugsjúkr. Ef sú kona er á Íslandi, þá far þú út, þegar er  
*sick-at-heart If that woman is in Iceland then go you out as-soon as*  
 vátar; mun ek fá þér bæði fé ok sæmdir, ok þar með  
*springs will I get you both wealth and honors and there with*  
 bréf mitt ok innsigli til þeira manna, er ráða eigu fyrir  
*letter my and seal to those men who to-decide have over*  
 kosti þeirar konu, ok veit ek eigi þeira manna vánir,  
*(the)-choices of-that woman and know I not of-those men expectations*  
 at eigi víkja eftir várum vinmælum eðr ógnar-ordum". Ívarr  
*that not yield after our friendly-words or threat-words Ivar*  
 svaraði: "Eigi má svá vera". Konungr mælti: "Engi veg má  
*answered Not may so be (The)-king spoke No way may*  
 þess vera", segir konungr; "Þat mun ek mæla framar, þó  
*that be says (the)-king that will I speak further though*  
 at annarr maðr eigi hana, þá mun ek þó ná, ef ek  
*that another man own her then will I yet reach(-her) if I*  
 vil, þér til handa". Ívarr svaraði: "Þungligar er farit málinu,  
*wish for you hand Ivar answered More-heavily is gone the-case*  
 herra; bróðir minn á nú konuna". Þá mælti konungr:  
*lord brother my owns now the-woman Then spoke (the)-king*  
 "Hverfum þar þá frá, sé ek þar gott ráð til; þegar  
*Let-us-turn there then from see I there good counsel for(-it) as-soon*  
 eftir jólin mun ek fara á veizlur, ok far þú með mér, ok  
*after the-Yule will I go to feasts and go you with me and*  
 muntú þar sjá margar kurteisar konur, ok ef eigi eru  
*will-you there see many courteous women and if not are(-they)*  
 konungbornar, þá mun ek fá þér einhverja". Ívarr svarar:  
*king-born then will I get you some-one Ivar answers*  
 "Herra, því þungligar er komit mínu máli, at jafnan, er  
*Lord that more-heavily is come to-my case that always when*



ek sé fagrar konur ok drengiligar, þá minnir mik þessarrar  
*I see fair women and noble then reminds me of-this*  
 konu, ok er æ því meiri minn harmr". Konungr mælti: "Þá  
*woman and is ever the greater my grief (The)-king spoke Then*  
 mun ek gefa þér forræði nökkur ok eigur, sem ek bauð  
*will I give you management some and properties as I offered*  
 þér fyrr, ok skemmtir þú þér við þat". Hann svarar: "Ekki  
*you before and amuse you yourself with that He answers Not*  
 uni ek því". Konungr mælti: "Þá fæ ek þér lausafé,  
*am-content I with-that (The)-king spoke Then get I you movable-wealth*  
 ok ferr þú kaupferðir þangat til landa sem þú vilt". Hann  
*and go you trading-voyages thither to lands as you wish He*  
 lézt eigi þat vilja. Þá mælti konungr: "Vandast mér nú  
*professed not that to-wish Then spoke (the)-king Grows-hard for-me now*  
 heldr, enn þó má eigi vita, hvat helzt hlýðir, ok hefi ek  
*rather but yet may not know what most avails and have I*  
 nú eftir leitast sem ek kann. Nú er einn hlutr eftir, ok er  
*now after sought as I can Now is one thing left and is*  
 sá alllítills verðr hjá þessum, er ek hefi boðit þér. Enn  
*that very-little worth beside these which I have offered you But*  
 þó má ek eigi vita, hvat helzt hlýðir; far þú nú á fund  
*yet may I not know what most avails go you now to (the)-meeting*  
 minn hvern dag, þá er borð eru uppi, ef ek sit eigi yfir  
*my every day then when tables are up if I sit not over*  
 nauðsynjamálum ok mun ek hjala við þik; skulum vit  
*necessary-cases and will I chat with you shall we-two*  
 ræða um konu þessa, alla vega sem þú vill, ok í hug  
*talk about woman this all ways as you wish and into mind*  
 má koma, ok mun ek gefa mér tóm til þessa, því at þat  
*may come and will I give myself leisure for this because that that*  
 verðr stundum, at mönnum verðr harms síns at léttara, ef  
*becomes at-times that to-men becomes grief their the lighter if*

um er rætt; ok þat skal ok þessu fylgja, at þú skalt  
*about(-it) is talked and that shall also this follow that you shall*  
 aldri gjaflaust af mínum fundi fara". Ívarr svaraði: "Þetta  
*never giftless from my meeting go Ivar answered This*  
 vil ek, herra, ok hafit mikla þökk fyrir yðra eftirleitan".  
*wish I lord and have great thanks for your seeking-out*  
 Ok nú gerðu þeir svá, at jafnan, er konungr sitr eigi yfir  
*And now did they so that always when (the)-king sits not over*  
 vandamálum, þá talar hann oft um þessa konu við Ívar,  
*difficult-cases then talks he often about this woman with Ivar*  
 ok þetta hlýddi bragðit; ok bættist nú Ívari harms síns  
*and this availed the-device and was-amended now for-Ivar grief his*  
 vánum bráðara, ok litlu síðar var hann glaðr ok kátr; ok  
*than-hopes sooner and a-little later was he glad and merry and*  
 kemr í samt lag, sem fyrr hafði verit, um skemmtan hans  
*comes into same state as before had been about entertainment his*  
 ok gleði. Var hann með Eysteini konungi ok undi vel.  
*and gladness Was he with Eystein (the)-king and liked(-it) well*

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Einars þáttur Skúlasonar

*The Tale of Einar Skulason*

---



*Einarr Skúlason composes Ólafsdrápa for King Eysteinn, and a miraculous fragrance fills Christ Church when it is recited. When Einarr, now the king's marshal, comes late to table from the nunnery at Bakki, the king demands a verse before he drinks, and Einarr recites one on the abbess who sent him away hungry.*

Einarr Skúlason var með þeim bræðrum Sigurði ok Eysteini,  
*Einar Skuli's-son was with those brothers Sigurd and Eystein*  
 ok var Eysteinn konungur mikill vin hans, ok Eysteinn  
*and was Eystein (the)-king great friend his and Eystein*  
 konungur bað hann til at yrkja Ólafsdrápu, ok hann  
*(the)-king bade him thereto to compose (the)-Olaf-drapa and he*  
 orti ok færði norðr í Þrándheimi í Kristskirkju  
*composed(-it) and brought(-it) north in Trondheim in Christ-church*  
 sjálfri, ok varð þat með miklum jartegnum ok kom dýrligr  
*itself and became that with great miracles and came a-glorious*  
 ilmr í kirkjuna ok þat segja menn, at þær áminningar  
*fragrance into the-church and that say men that those reminders*  
 urðu af konunginum sjálfum, at honum virðist vel kveðit.  
*came from the-king himself that to-him seemed well composed*  
 Eysteinn konungur virði Einar mikils, ok eitt sinn er þat sagt,  
*Eystein (the)-king valued Einar much and one time is that said*  
 at konungurinn Eysteinn var kominn í sæti, enn Einarr  
*that the-king Eystein was come into (his)-seat but Einar*  
 var eigi kominn. Eysteinn konungur hafði þá gert hann  
*was not come Eystein (the)-king had then made him*  
 stallara sinn; enn þetta var norðr í Þrándheimi. Hafði Einarr  
*marshal his but this was north in Trondheim Had Einar*  
 verit til nunnusetrs á Bakka. Þá mælti konungur: “Víttr  
*been at (the)-nunnery at Bakki Then spoke (the)-king Fined*

ertu nú, skáld, er þú kemr eigi undir borð, ok ert þó  
*are-you now poet when you come not to table and are yet*  
 konungs-skáld. Nú munu vit eigi sáttir, nema þú yrkir  
*king's-poet Now will we-two not reconciled(-be) unless you compose*  
 nú vísu, áðr ek drekka af kerinu". Þá kvað Einarr vísu:  
*now a-verse before I drink from the-vessel Then spoke Einar a-verse*

Oss lét abbadissa

*Us let (the)-abbess*

angri firð um svangan

*from-grief removed — hungry*

(dygg þoli víf in vígðu

*faithful suffer women the consecrated*

víti fyr þat) gyrða:

*punishment for that gird*

enn til áts með nunnum

*but to food with (the)-nuns*

ógnar rakks á Bakka

*of-battle bold at Bakki*

drós gladdit vin vísa,

*(the)-lady gladdened-not (the)-friend of-(the)-king*

varat stallarinn kallaðr.

*was-not the-marshal called*

Nú líkar konungi allvel.

*Now likes (the)-king very-well*

## II · JARLMAÐR

*King Sigurðr has the entertainer Jarlmaðr flogged for eating kid on a Friday. Einarr protests, and the king says the flogging lasts while Einarr composes. Einarr takes five strokes' time to make a verse on the fiddler's punishment.*

Þat er ok sagt, þá er Sigurðr konungr var staddr í  
*That is also said then when Sigurd (the)-king was staying in*  
 Björgyn, varð sá atbarðr, at í bænum váru leikarar, ok  
*Bergen happened that event that in the-town were players and*  
 hét annarr Jarlmaðr, ok hann Jarlmaðr tók kið eitt ok  
*was-called one Jarlmad and he Jarlmad took kid one and*  
 át frjádag, ok konungr vill þat refsa honum ok lét taka  
*ate(-it) (on-)Friday and (the)-king will that punish him and had take*  
 hann ok hýða; ok er Einarr kemr at, þá mælti hann:  
*him and flog(-him) and when Einar comes to(-it) then spoke he*  
 “Hart vili þér nú búa til Jarlmann, félaga várn”. Konungr  
*Hard will you now deal with Jarlmad fellow our (The)-king*  
 mælti: “Þú munt nú ráða; vísu skaltú yrkja, ok meðan þú  
*spoke You will now rule a-verse shall-you compose and while you*  
 yrkir, skal hann hýða”. Einarr mælti: “Þat mundi hann  
*compose shall he (be)-flogged Einar spoke That would be*  
 vilja, Jarlmaðr, at mér yrði eigi alltorfynt”. Enn fimm  
*wish Jarlmad that for-me became not very-hard-to-find But five*  
 höggustu þeir hann. Þá mælti Einarr: “Nú er vísan ort:  
*blows struck they him Then spoke Einar Now is the-verse composed*

Austr tók illa kristinn

*From-the-east took ill Christian*

Jarlmaðr frá búkarli

*Jarlmad from a-farm-churl*

— gráðr var kjöts á kauða —

*greed was of-meat on (the)-wretch*

kiðling hinn's slær fiðlu:

*a-kidling he-who strikes (the)-fiddle*

vöndr hrökk, vámr lá bundinn

(the)-rod snapped (the)-lout lay bound

vismall á skip þislar,

wailing on ship of-(the)-pole

söngleikara lengi

song-player long

limi barðan prima.

with-rod beaten at-prime

### III · RAGNHILDR'S SHIP

*As the noblewoman Ragnhildr sails from Bergen, the king asks for a verse before her ship passes Holm. Einarr sets a price: if the king and seven retainers cannot each remember a word of it, the king must pay in tubs of honey. The king remembers only the first line and the last.*

Þat barst at eitt sumar, at sú kona kom til Björgynjar, er  
*That happened that one summer that that woman came to Bergen who*  
 Ragnhildr hét, dýrlic kona. Hana átti Páll Skoftason. Hon  
*Ragnhild was-called a-glorious woman Her had Pal Skofti's-son She*  
 held einu langskipi, fór svá vegliga sem lendir menn, dvaldist  
*kept one longship went so splendidly as landed men stayed*  
 þar í bænum; ok er hon bjóst í brott, þá sá konungur  
*there in the-town and when she made-ready off away then saw (the)-king*  
 ferð hennar ok mælti: "Hvat er nú skálda með oss?"  
*journey her and spoke What is now of-poets with us*  
 segir konungur. Þar var Snorri Bárðarson; honum var ekki  
*says (the)-king There was Snorri Bard's-son to-him was not*  
 auðfynt, ok tók hann ekki svá skjótt til, sem konungur  
*easy-to-find(-words) and took he not so quickly to(-it) as (the)-king*



vildi. Þá mælti konungr: “Eigi mundi svá fara, ef Einarr  
*would Then spoke (the)-king Not would so go if Einar*  
 væri hér með oss”; hann var þá nökkut svá fráskili orðinn  
*were here with us he was then somewhat so estranged become*  
 konungi fyrir ógá, ok spyrr konungr, ef hann væri í  
*from-(the)-king for carelessness and asks (the)-king if he were in*  
 bænum, ok mælti at fara skyldi eftir honum. Ok er hann  
*the-town and spoke that go should after him And when he*  
 kom á bryggjurnar, mælti konungr: “Vel kominn, skáld, sé  
*came onto the-wharves spoke (the)-king Well come poet see*  
 nú, hversu vegliga ferð konu þessar er búin. Yrk nú  
*now how splendidly (the)-journey of-woman this is prepared Compose now*  
 vísu ok haf lokit áðr skipit gengr út fyrir Hólm”. Einarr  
*a-verse and have(-it) ended before the-ship goes out past Holm Einar*  
 svarar: “Eigi mun þat kauplaust”. Konungr spurði: “Hverju  
*answers Not will that (be)-without-payment (The)-king asked With-what*  
 skal kaupa”? Einarr svarar: “Þú skalt skyldr til, ok hirðmenn  
*shall buy(-it) Einar answers You shall bound thereto and retainers*  
 þínir sjau út í frá, at eitt orð muni hverr yðarr í vísunni,  
*your seven out on from that one word remember each of-you in the-verse*

ok ef þat brestr, gefit mér jafnmarga aska hunangs, sem þér  
*and if that fails give me as-many tubs of-honey as you*  
 munit eigi orðin". Konungr játti því. Þá kvað Einarr visu:  
*remember not the-words (The)-king assented to-that Then spoke Einar a-verse*

Hola báru rístr hlýrum

*Hollow wave cuts with-bows*

hreystisprund at sundi

*(the)-valor-lady on (the)-sound*

blæss elreki of ási

*blows (the)-storm-driver over (the)-mast*

Útsteins vefi þrútna:

*of-Útstein cloths swollen*

varla heldr und vildra,

*hardly holds under more-precious*

víkmarr á jarðríki

*bay-steed on earth*

breiðr við brimsgang súðum

*broad against surf-going with-planks*

barmr lyftingar farmi.

*(the)-rim of-(the)-raised-deck cargo*

Þá mælti konungr: "Þat ætla ek at ek muna: Hola báru

*Then spoke (the)-king That think I that I remember Hollow wave*

rístr hlýrum" — já, veit Guð! "barmr lyftingar farmi".

*cuts with-bows yes knows God (the)-rim of-(the)-raised-deck cargo*

Aldri mundu þeir þat er í milli var. Einarr var þá

*Never remembered they that which in between was Einar was then*

í konungssveit ok í öllu samlagi við konungsmenn.

*in (the)-king's-company and in all fellowship with (the)-king's-men*