OLD NORSE SERIES · VOLUME 15

Tales of the Icelanders

Íslendinga þættir

Tales of the Icelanders

Part Two: Twenty Short Tales

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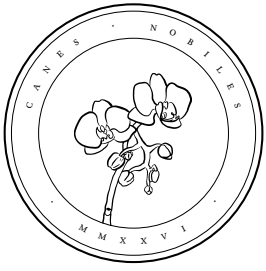
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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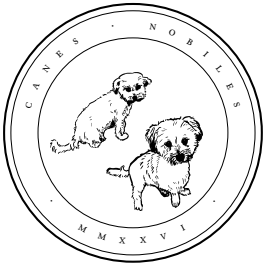

Volume 15 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Þorleifur Jónsson's
Fjörutíu Íslendinga-þættir (Reykjavík, 1904)

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

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 *Þór* with the accent, as *Þórðr*. Speech stands between his marks „ and “, and square brackets and parentheses are his own. His chapter numbers are kept and the tales he prints undivided stand unnumbered; he prints no rubrics, so every English chapter title in the book is this press's.

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The Tale of Thorleif the Earl's Poet

I · THE EARL'S DISGRACE

The tale will tell how Earl Hákon of Hlaðir was put to shame late in his rule by arts, spells, and sorcery, and deservedly, for his wickedness and his enmity to God had brought many men heavy burdens and lasting harm. The teller adds that when a man's hour of punishment comes he cannot escape it, for the devil first deceives those he holds in his power and at their life's end drowns them in endless torment.

Nú skal segja þann ævintýr, er gerðist á ofanverðum
Now shall tell that adventure which happened in (the)-latter
dögum Hákonar Hlaða-jarls, hverjum kynstrum, göldrum ok
days of-Hakon Hladir-earl with-what arts spells and
gerningum hann varð forsmáðr, ok mjök at verðugu, því
sorceries he became disgraced and very at deserving because
at hans mannillska ok guðníðingsskapr varð mörgum manni
that his wickedness and God-dishonoring became for-many a-man
til mikils þunga ok óbœtanlegs skaða andar ok líkama, varð
to great burden and irreparable harm of-soul and body became
honum þat, sem margan tímir, at þá er hegningartíminn
for-him that which for-many happens that then when the-punishment-time
er kominn, er eigi hœgt undan at komast, því at þat
is come is not easy away to get because that that
er óvinarins náttúra at þann manninn, sem hann þykkist
is the-enemy's nature that that the-man whom he thinks-himself
fullkomit vald á eiga, ok öngva ván á til Guðs, blekkir
full power over to-have and no hope has to God deceives
hann fyrst ok blygðar með krókóttum kyndugskap sinna
he first and shames with crooked cunning of-his
bölvaðra slœgða í framleiðslu hans ljótu lífdaga. Enn at
cursed sly-tricks in (the)-course his ugly life-days But at

þrotnum hans stundligum lífs-tíma, verðr hann drekktr í
ended his temporal life-time becomes he drowned in
dökkri diflizu dáligra kvala með eymd ok ánauð útan enda.
dark dungeon of-wretched torments with misery and bondage without end

II · ÞÓRLEIFR LEAVES ICELAND

Ásgeirr rauðfeldr of Brekka in Svarfaðardalr has three sons; the youngest, Þórleifr, is a fine poet, fostered by his uncle Miðfjarðar-Skeggi, who is thought to have taught him ancient lore. Þórleifr kills Klaufi and is outlawed from the valley. Put on a ship by Ljótólfr goði but driven back, he spends a winter hidden and learns more lore from his father. With Skeggi's and Ljótólfr's help he buys a ship, gets from his parents what he needs for the journey, and leaves Brekka for good.

Þá bjó Ásgeirr rauðfeldr á Brekku í Svarfaðardal; hann var
Then dwelt Asgeir Red-cloak at Brekka in Svarfadardal he was
ríkr maðr ok stórættaðr. Þórhildr hét kona hans, hon
powerful man and of-great-family Thorhild was-called wife his she
var vitr kona ok vinsæl ok skörungr mikill. Þau áttu þrjá
was wise woman and well-liked and strong-woman great They had three
sonu, ok váru allir efniligir. Ólafr hét son þeira hinn
sons and were all promising Olaf was-called son their the
elzti, ok var kallaðr völubrjótr. Annarr Helgi hinn frœkni,
eldest and was called Stone-breaker (The)-second Helgi the Bold
ok koma þeir báðir meirr við aðrar sögur enn þessa. Þorleifr
and come they both more into other sagas than this Thorleif
hét hinn yngsti son þeira. Hann var snemma gildr ok
was-called the youngest son their He was early stout and
gerviligr, ok hinn mesti atgervismaðr um íþróttir. Hann
promising and the greatest accomplished-man in skills He
var skáld gott; hann var á fóstri með Miðfjarðar-Skeggja,
was poet good he was in fostering with Midfjord-Skeggi

móðurbróður sínum, at Reykjum í Miðfirði, þar til er
mother's-brother his at Reykir in Midfjord there until when
hann var átján vetra gamall. Skeggi unni mikit Þórleifi, ok
he was eighteen winters old Skeggi loved much Thorleif and
lagði við hann ástfóstr. Þat töluðu menn, at Skeggi myndi
laid on him fosterer's-love That said men that Skeggi would
fleira kenna Þórleifi í fræðum fornligum, enn aðrir menn
more teach to-Thorleif in lore ancient than other men
myndi vita. Þá fór Þórleifr heim til föður síns. Hann
would know Then went Thorleif home to father his He
vá Klaufa Böggvi með fulltingi Ólafs bróður síns. Enn til
slew Klaufi Boggvi's-son with help of-Olaf brother his But for
eftirmáls eftir Klaufa var Karl hinn rauði, ok gekk svá fast
after-prosecution for Klaufi was Karl the Red and went so hard
at, at Þórleifr varð útlægr, ok gerr í brott ór Svarfaðardal.
at-it that Thorleif became outlawed and made off away out-of Svarfadardal
Ljótólfr goði hafði fylgt Ingvildi fögrkinn systur Þórleifs;
Ljotolf (the)-Priest had followed Ingvild Fair-cheek sister of-Thorleif
hann kom Þórleifi í skip á Gáseyri. Þórleifr varð aftrreka.
he got Thorleif onto ship at Gaseyri Thorleif was driven-back
Hann var um vetrinn á laun ýmist með Ljótólfi goða
He was through the-winter in secret by-turns with Ljotolf (the)-Priest
eðr Ásgeiri föður sínum. Nam hann þá at föður sínum
or Asgeir father his Learned he then from father his
margá fornfræði, því at hann var sagðr margkunnandi. Var
much ancient-lore because that he was said much-knowing Was
þá Þórleifr nítján vetra. Karl leitaði fast eftir um Þórleif, ok
then Thorleif nineteen winters Karl searched hard after about Thorleif and
urðu þar um vetrinn margir atburðir, þeir er frásagnar
became there through the-winter many events those which of-telling
eru verðir, sem segir í Svarfdœla sögu. Um várit eftir fór
are worthy as (it)-says in Svarfdaela saga In the-spring after went

Þórleifr vestr til Skeggja fóstra síns ok frænda, ok biðr
Thorleif west to Skeggi foster-father his and kinsman and asks
hann ásjá ok umráða með sér um þessi mál. Ok með
him protection and counsel with himself about these cases And with
styrk ok ráðum Miðfjarðar-Skeggja ok Ljótólfs goða ferr
strength and counsels of-Midfjord-Skeggi and of-Ljotolf (the)-Priest goes
Þórleifr ok kaupir sér skip at kaupmönnum, er uppi
Thorleif and buys for-himself a-ship from merchants which up
stóð í Blönduósi, ok ræðr háseta til, ok fór síðan heim á
stood in Blonduos and hires crewmen for-it and went then home to
Brekku, ok hitti föður sinn ok móður, ok beiddist af þeim
Brekka and met father his and mother and asked from them
fararefna, ok fekk svá mikinn fjárhlut, sem honum þótti
journey-means and got so great sum as to-him seemed
sér þurfa; ok at várdögum lét hann varning sinn til skips
for-himself to-need and in spring-days had he wares his to ship
binda, ok fór í brott af Brekku alfari, ok bað vel fyrir
bind and went off away from Brekka for-good and bade well for
föður sínum ok móður ok Miðfjarðar-Skeggja fóstra sínum.
father his and mother and Midfjord-Skeggi foster-father his

III · THE EARL BURNS ÞÓRLEIFR'S SHIP

Þórleifr sails to the Vík, where Earl Hákon asks for news of Iceland and is answered offhandedly. When the earl claims first right to buy his goods, Þórleifr refuses, saying other buyers suit him better, and trades in the town. Hearing of it, Hákon that day binds the crew, plunders and burns the ship, and hangs Þórleifr's companions between the booths. Þórleifr returns in the evening, learns what has happened, and speaks a verse threatening to repay the earl.

Nú lætr Þórleifr í haf, ok byrjar honum vel, ok kemr skipi
Now puts Thorleif to sea and blows-fair to-him well and brings ship
sínu í Vík austr. Hákon Hlaða-jarl var þá í Víkinni.
his into (the)-Vik east Hakon Hladir-earl was then in the-Vik
Þórleifr gekk á land, ok lét ryðja skip sitt. Hann hitti
Thorleif went onto land and had clear ship his He met
jarlinn ok kvaddi hann. Jarl tók honum vel, ok spurði
the-earl and greeted him (The)-earl took him well and asked
hann at nafni, ætt ok kynferði, enn Þórleifr sagði honum.
him of name family and kindred but Thorleif told him
Jarl spurði ok margra tíðinda af Íslandi, enn Þórleifr sagði
(The)-earl asked also of-many tidings from Iceland but Thorleif told
honum of léttlega. Þá sagði jarl: „Svá er orðit Þórleifr, at
him too lightly Then said (the)-earl So is become Thorleif that
vér viljum hafa sölur af þér ok hásetum þínum“. Þórleifr
we will have sales from you and crewmen your Thorleif
svarar: „Vér höfum lítinn varninginn, herra, enn oss eru þó
answers We have little the-wares lord but to-us are yet
aðrir kaupunautar hentugri, ok munu þér láta oss sjálfráða
other trading-partners more-convenient and will you let us self-ruling
vera, at selja þeim góz várt ok penninga, sem oss líkar“.
to-be to sell to-them goods our and money as to-us pleases
Jarli þótti hann þykkliga svara, ok mislíkaði orð hans
To-(the)-earl seemed he stiffly to-answer and displeased words his
mjök, ok skildu við svá búit. Þórleifr fór nú til manna sinna,
much and parted with so done Thorleif went now to men his
ok svaf af um nóttina, ok um morgininn ríss hann upp ok
and slept off through the-night and in the-morning rises he up and
ferr í kaupstaðinn, ok fréttist fyrir um góða kaupunauta,
goes into the-market-town and inquires for about good trading-partners
ok kaupslagar við þá um daginn. Ok er jarl spurði þat,
and trades with them during the-day And when (the)-earl learned that

fór hann með fjölmenni til skips Þórleifs, ok lét taka þar
went he with a-host to (the)-ship of-Thorleif and had seize there
menn alla ok binda; síðan rændi hann þar fjárhlut öllum,
men all and bind then plundered he there property all
ok kastaði á sinni eign, enn lét brenna skipit at köldum
and threw into his possession but had burn the-ship to cold
kolum. Ok eftir þetta lét hann skjóta ásum milli búðanna,
coals And after this had he shove beams between the-booths
ok lét þar hengja við alla förunauta Þórleifs. Síðan fór
and had there hang on-them all companions of-Thorleif Then went
jarl í brott ok hans menn, ok tók at sér varning þann,
(the)-earl off away and his men and took to himself wares those
er Þórleifr hafði átt, ok skifti upp með sínum mönnum.
which Thorleif had owned and divided up with his men
Enn um kveldit, er Þórleifr kom heim, ok ætlaði at vitja
But in the-evening when Thorleif came home and intended to visit
manna sinna, sem hann gerði, sá hann vegsummerki, hversu
men his as he did saw he traces how
við hans félaga hafði farit verit, ok þóttist vita, at
with his companions had dealt been and thought-himself to-know that
Hákon jarl mundi þessu vánda verki valdit hafa, ok
Hakon (the)-earl would this wicked work caused have and

spyrr nú eftir þessum tíðindum glöggliga. Ok er hann
asks now after these tidings clearly And when he
hafði þessi tíðindi sannliga spurt, þá kvað hann vísu:
had these tidings truly learned then spoke he a-verse

Hrollir hugr minn illa,
Shudders mind my ill
hefir drengr skaða fengit
has (the)-fellow harm gotten
sér á sléttri eyri,
for-himself on level spit
svarri, báts ok knarrar.
proud-lady of-boat and of-merchant-ship
enn þeim's upp réð brinna
but to-him-who up did burn
aldu-fil fur skaldi
wave-elephant for (the)-poet
hverr veit nema kol knarrar
who knows unless coals of-merchant-ship
kald fýsi mik gjalda.
cold may-urge me to-repay

IV · THE BEGGAR AT HLAÐIR

Þórleifr winters with King Sveinn in Denmark, recites a drápa about him, and is richly rewarded. Gloomy, he asks leave to take Hákon a poem, and Sveinn grants it if he returns. Disguised as an old beggar with a goat's beard and a hidden bag, Þórleifr comes to Hlaðir at Yule, quarrels with the other beggars, calls himself Níðungr Gjallandason, and is fed at the earl's table, seeming to eat enormously.

Svá er sagt, at eftir þenna atburð kom Þórleifr sér í skip
So is said that after this event got Thorleif himself into ship
með kaupmönnum, ok sigldu suðr til Danmerkr, ok fór hann
with merchants and sailed south to Denmark and went he
á fund Sveins konungs, ok var með honum um vetrinn.
to meeting of-Svein (the)-king and was with him through the-winter
Enn er hann hafði þar eigi lengi verit, var þat einn dag, at
But when he had there not long been was that one day that
Þórleifr gekk fyrir konung, ok beiddi hann hlýða kvæði því,
Thorleif went before (the)-king and asked him listen to-poem that
er hann hafði ort um hann. Konungr spurði, hvort hann
which he had composed about him (The)-king asked whether he
væri skáld. Þórleifr svarar: „Þat er eftir því, sem þér vilit
were a-poet Thorleif answers That is according to-that which you will
dœmt hafa, herra, er þér heyrit“. Konungr bað hann þá fram
judged have lord when you hear (The)-king bade him then forth
flytja. Þórleifr kvað þá fertuga drápu, ok er þetta stef í:
deliver Thorleif recited then forty-stanza drapa and is this refrain in-it

Oft með ærna giftu
Often with ample luck
öðlings himins-röðla
of-(the)-prince of-heaven's-suns
Jóta-gramr hinn ítri
(the)-Jutes'-king the glorious
Englandi rauð branda.
in-England reddened brands

Konungr lofaði mjök kvæðit, ok allir þeir er heyrðu, ok
(The)-king praised much the-poem and all they who heard and
sögðu bæði vel kveðit ok sköruliga fram flutt. Konungr
said both well composed and boldly forth delivered (The)-king

gaf Þórleifi at kvæðislaunum hring þann, er stóð mörk,
gave Thorleif as poem-reward a-ring that which stood a-mark
ok þat sverð, er til kom hálf mörk gulls, ok bað hann
and that sword which to came half mark of-gold and bade him
lengi með sér vera. Þórleifr gekk til sætis, ok þakkaði vel
long with himself be Thorleif went to seat and thanked well
konungi, ok leið svá fram nökkura hríð, ok ekki lengi, áðr
(the)-king and passed so forward some while and not long before
enn Þórleifr ógladdist svá mjök, at hann gáði varla undir
than Thorleif became-gloomy so much that he cared hardly under
drykkjuborð at ganga eðr samsætis við sína bekkjunauta.
drinking-table to go or to-company with his bench-mates
Finnr konungr þetta bráðliga, ok lætr kalla Þórleif fyrir
Finds (the)-king this quickly and has call Thorleif before
sik, ok mælti: „Hvat veldr ógleði þinni, Þórleifr, er þú
himself and spoke What causes gloom your Thorleif since you
gáir varla at halda háttum við oss“? Þórleifr svarar: „Þat
care hardly to keep manners with us Thorleif answers That
munu þér heyrt hafa, herra, at sá er skyldr at leysa annars
will you heard have lord that he is bound to solve another's
vandræði, er at spyrr“. „Segðú fyrst“, segir konungr.
trouble who about-it asks Say-you first says (the)-king
Þórleifr svarar: „Ek hefi kveðit vísur nökkurar í vetr, er
Thorleif answers I have composed verses some in winter which
ek kalla Konu-vísur, er ek hefi ort um Hákon jarl,
I call Woman-verses which I have composed about Hakon (the)-earl
því at jarl er kona kendr í skáldskap. Nú ógleðr þat
because that (the)-earl is a-woman called in poetry Now saddens that
mik, herra, ef ek fæ eigi órlof af yðr at fara til Noregs,
me lord if I get not leave from you to go to Norway
ok færa jarli kvæðit“. „Þú skalt at vísu fá órlof“, segir
and bring to-(the)-earl the-poem You shall for sure get leave says

konungr, „ok skaltú þó heita oss áðr, at koma aftr til vár
(the)-king and shall-you yet promise us before to come back to us
þat fljótasta, sem þú getr, því at vér viljum þín ekki
the quickest that you can because that we will you not
missa sakir íþrótta þinna“. Þórleifr hét því, ok fekk
lose for-sake-of skills your Thorleif promised that and got
sér nú farning ok fór norðr í Noreg, ok linnir eigi
for-himself now passage and went north to Norway and stops not
fyrr, enn hann kemr í Þrándheim. Þá sat Hákon jarl at
before than he comes to Trondheim Then sat Hakon (the)-earl at
Hlöðum. Þórleifr býr sér nú stafkarls-gervi, ok bindr
Hladir Thorleif prepares for-himself now beggar's-guise and binds
sér geitarskegg ok tók sér eina stóra hít, ok lét
on-himself a-goat-beard and took for-himself one big bag and had
koma undir stafkarls gervina, ok bjó svá um, at öllum
come under beggar's guise and arranged so about-it that to-all
skyldi sýnast, sem hann æti þann kost, er hann kastaði í
should seem as-if he ate that food which he threw into
hítina, því at gíman hennar var uppi við munn honum
the-bag because that opening its was up at mouth to-him
undir geitarskegginu; síðan tekr hann hækjur tvær, ok var
under the-goat-beard then takes he crutches two and was
broddr niðr ór hvárri. Ferr nú þar til er hann kemr á
a-spike down from each Goes now there until when he comes to
Hlaðir; þat var atfangs-kveld jóla, í þann tíma, er jarl
Hladir that was eve-of-preparation of-Yule at that time when (the)-earl
var kominn í sæti ok margt stórmenni, er jarl hafði
was come into seat and many great-men whom (the)-earl had
at sér boðit til jólaveizlunnar. Karl gengr greiðliga
to himself invited to the-Yule-feast (The)-old-man goes readily
inn í höllina; enn er hann kemr inn, stumrar hann
in into the-hall but when he comes in stumbles he

geysi-mjök, ok fellr fast á hœkurnar, ok snýr til annarra
exceedingly-much and falls hard on the-crutches and turns to other
stafkarla, ok sezt niðr útarliga í höllinni. Hann var nökkut
beggars and sits down far-out in the-hall He was somewhat
bæginn við stafkarla, ok heldr harðleikinn, enn þeir þoldu
troublesome toward beggars and rather rough but they endured
illa, er hann lét ganga á þeim stafina; brukku þeir undan,
ill when he let go on them the-staffs recoiled they away
ok varð að þessu hark ok háreysti, svá at heyrði um
and became from this noise and uproar so that heard through
alla höllina. Enn er jarl verðr þessa varr, spyrr hann
all the-hall But when (the)-earl becomes of-this aware asks he
hvat valdi óhljóði þessu. Honum er sagt, at stafkarl einn
what caused uproar this To-him is said that beggar one
sé sá þar kominn, at svá sé illr ok úrigr, at ekki
be that there come who so be ill and surly that nothing
láti ógert. Jarl bað kalla hann fyrir sik, ok svá var
he-leaves undone (The)-earl bade call him before himself and so was
gert. Enn er karl kom fyrir jarl, hafði hann mjök
done But when (the)-old-man came before (the)-earl had he very
stutt um kvaðningar. Jarl spurði hann at nafni, ætt ok
short about greetings (The)-earl asked him of name family and
óðali. Óvant er nafn mitt herra, at ek heita Níðungr
homestead Unusual is name my lord that I am-called Nidung
Gjallandason, ok kynjaðr ór Syrgisdölum af Svíþjóð hinni
Gjallandi's-son and born out-of Syrgisdalir from Sweden the
köldu; em ek kallaðr Níðungr hinn nákvæmi. Hefi ek víða
cold am I called Nidung the Exact Have I widely
farit, ok marga höfðingja heimsótt; gerumst ek nú gamall
traveled and many chieftains visited become I now old
mjök, svá at trautt má ek aldr minn segja sakir elli
very so that hardly may I age my tell for-sake-of old-age

ok óminnis. Hefi ek mikla spurn af höfðingsskap yðrum
and forgetfulness Have I great report of chieftainship your
ok harðfengi, vizku ok vinsældum, lagasetning ok lítillæti,
and hardihood wisdom and popularity law-making and humility
örleik ok allri atgervi“. „Hví ertú svá harðúðigr, ok illr
generosity and all accomplishment Why are-you so harsh and ill
viðskiftis, frá því sem aðrir stafkarlar“? Hann svarar: „Hvat
in-dealing from that which other beggars He answers What
er óvænt um þann, sem alls gengr andvana, nema víls
is unexpected about that-one who of-all goes lacking except of-hardship
ok vesaldar, ok ekki hefir þat er þarf, ok lengi [hefir]
and wretchedness and not has that which he-needs and long has
legit úti á mörkum ok skógum, þó at sá verði œfr við
lain out in woods and forests though that he become furious with
ellina ok allt saman, enn vanr áðr sœmd ok sællífi
the-old-age and all together but accustomed before to-honor and good-living
af hinum dýrustu höfðingjum, enn vera nú hataðr af
from the noblest chieftains but to-be now hated by
hverjum þorpara lítilsverðum“. Jarl mælti: „Ertú nökkurr
every villain worthless (The)-earl spoke Are-you any
íþróttamaðr, karl, er þú segist þó með höfðingjum
skilled-man old-man since you say-of-yourself yet with chieftains
verit hafa“? Karl svarar: þat megi vera, at nökkut hafi
been have (The)-old-man answers that may be that something have
til þess haft verit, „þá er ek var á ungum aldri. Kemr at
to that had been then when I was in young age Comes to
því sem mælt er, at hverjum karli kemr at örverpi; er þat
that as said is that to-each old-man comes to last-born is that
ok talat, at seigt er svöngum at skruma; mun ek ok ekki
also said that tough is for-the-hungry to boast will I also not
við yðr skruma, herra, nema þér látit gefa mér at eta, því
with you boast lord unless you let give me to eat because

at svá dregr at mér af elli, svengd ok þorsta, at víst eigi
that so draws on me from old-age hunger and thirst that surely not
fæ ek staðit uppi lengr; er slíkt harðla óhöfðingligt, at spyrja
can I stand up longer is such very unchieftainly to question
ókunna menn í hvern heim, enn hugsa eigi, hvat mönnum
unknown men in every world but think not what to-men
hentar, því at allir eru með því eðli skapaðir, at bæði
suits because that all are with that nature created that both
þurfu át ok drykkju“. Jarl skipaði, at honum skyldi
need food and drink (The)-earl ordered that him should-one
gefa kost sœmiliga, sem honum þarfaði. Var ok svá gert.
give food honorably as to-him was-needful Was also so done
Enn er karl kom undir borð, tekr hann greiðliga
But when (the)-old-man came under (the)-table takes he readily
til matar, ok ryðr diska þá alla, er næstir honum váru,
to food and clears dishes those all which nearest him were
ok hann náði til, svá at þjónustumenn urðu at sœkja kost
and he reached to so that servants had to fetch food
í annan tíma. Tók nú karl öngu ófrekligar til matar
in a-second time Took now (the)-old-man no less-greedily to food
enn fyrr; sýndist öllum sem hann æti, enn hann kastaði
than before seemed to-all as-if he ate but he threw
reyndar í hítina, þá er fyrr var getit. Hlógu menn nú
indeed into the-bag that which before was mentioned Laughed men now
fast at karli þessum. Þjónustumenn töluðu, at bæði væri,
hard at old-man this Servants said that both were
at hann væri mikill ok miðdigr, enda gæti hann mikit
that he were big and thick-bellied moreover could he much
etit. Karl gaf sér ekki at því, ok gerði sem áðr.
eat (The)-old-man gave himself not to that and did as before

Níðungr asks to recite a poem about the earl. It begins as praise of Hákon and his son Eiríkr, but the earl is soon seized by an itching so violent that his men must scrape him with combs and knotted cloth. Told to improve it, Níðungr recites the Fog-verses and darkness falls in the hall; when he returns to the Slander and reaches its last third, iron weapons move of themselves and kill many men, the earl faints, and the beggar vanishes. Hákon loses his beard and half his hair, knows the beggar was Þórleifr, and lies sick all winter and much of the summer.

Enn er ofan váru drykkjuborð, gekk Níðungr karl fyrir
But when down were (the)-drinking-tables went Nidung (the)-old-man before
jarl ok mælti: „Hafi þér nú þökk fyrir herra, enn þó eigu
(the)-earl and spoke Have you now thanks for-it lord but yet have
þér illa þjónustumenn, er allt gera verr enn þér segit fyrir.
you ill servants who all do worse than you say for
Enn nú vilda ek, at þér sýndit mér lítillæti, herra, ok
But now would-wish I that you showed me humility lord and
hlýddit kvæði því, er ek hefi ort um yðr". Jarl mælti:
listened to-poem that which I have composed about you (The)-earl spoke
„Hefir þú nökkut fyrr kvæði ort um höfðingja?" „Satt
Have you any before poem composed about chieftains True
er þat, herra", kvað hann. Jarl mælti: „Búit þar komi at
is that lord said he (The)-earl spoke Ready there comes to
gömlum orðskvið, at þat er oft gott, er gamlir kveða, ok
old saying that that is often good which old-men recite and
flyttú fram kvæðit karl, enn vér munum til hlýða". Þá
deliver-you forth the-poem old-man but we will to-it listen Then
hefr karl upp kvæðit, ok kveðr framan til miðs,
raises (the)-old-man up the-poem and recites from-the-front to (the)-middle
ok þykkir jarli lof í hverri vísu, ok finnr, at þar er
and seems to-(the)-earl praise in every stanza and finds that there is

getit ok í framaverka Eiríks sonar hans. Enn er á leið
mentioned also in deeds-of-valor of-Eirik son his But when on passed
kvæðit, þá bregðr jarli nökkut undarliga við, at óværi ok
the-poem then strikes (the)-earl somewhat strangely at-it that vermin and
kláði hleypr svá mikill um allan búkinn á honum, ok einna
itch runs so great over all the-trunk on him and of-all
mest um þjóin, at hann mátti hvergi kyrr þola, ok svá
most about the-buttocks that he could nowhere still bear and so
mikil býsn fylgdi þessum óværa, at hann lét hrifa sér með
great wonders followed this vermin that he had scrape himself with
kömbum þar sem þeim kom at; enn þar sem þeim kom eigi
combs there where to-them came at-it but there where to-them came not
at, lét hann taka strigadúk ok ríða á þrjá knúta, ok draga tvá
at-it had he take sackcloth and twist on three knots and drag two
menn á milli þjóanna á sér. Nú tók jarli illa at geðjast
men on between the-buttocks on him Now began to-(the)-earl ill to please
kvæðit, ok mælti: „Kann þinn heljarkarl ekki betr at kveða,
the-poem and spoke Can your hell-churl not better to compose
því at mér þykkir þetta eigi síðr heita mega níð enn lof,
because that to-me seems this not less be-called may slander than praise
ok lát þú um batna, ella tekr þú gjöld fyrir“. Karl
and make you about improve else take you payment for-it (The)-old-man
hét góðu um, ok hóf þá upp vísur, ok heita Þoku-vísur
promised good about-it and raised then up verses and are-called Fog-verses
ok standa í miðju Jarls-níði, ok er þetta upphaf at:
and stand in middle of-(the)-Earl's-slander and is this beginning to-it

Þoku lýstr upp it eystra,
Fog strikes up the eastern
él festisk it vestra,
storm fastens-itself the western

mökkr mun náms af nekkvi
murk will of-plunder from something
naðrbings kominn hingat.
of-(the)-adder-bed come hither

Enn er hann hafði úti Þoku-vísur, þá var myrkt í höllinni, og
But when he had out (the)-Fog-verses then was dark in the-hall and
er myrkt er orðit í höllinni, tekr hann aftr til Jarls-níðs.
when dark is become in the-hall takes he again to (the)-Earl's-slander
Ok er hann kvað hinn efsta ok síðasta þriðjung, þá var
And when he recited the uppermost and last third then was
hvert járn á gangi, þat er í var höllinni, án manna
every iron in motion that which in was the-hall without men's
völdum, ok var þat margra manna bani. Jarl féll þá í
doing and was that of-many men (the)-death (The)-earl fell then into
óvit, enn karl hvarf þá í brott at lukðum dyrum ok
swoon but (the)-old-man vanished then off away at closed doors and
óloknum lásum; enn eftir afliðit kvæðit, minkaði myrkrit, ok
unopened locks but after ended the-poem lessened the-darkness and
gerði bjart í höllinni. Jarl raknaði við, ok fann, at honum
made bright in the-hall (The)-earl came-round at-it and found that to-him
hafði nær gengit níðit; sá þá ok vegsummerki, at af var
had near gone the-slander saw then also traces that off was
rotnat skegg allt af jarli ok hárit öðrum megin reikar,
rotted beard all off (the)-earl and the-hair on-one side of-(the)-parting
ok kom aldri upp síðan. Nú lætr jarl ræsta höllina, ok eru
and came never up afterward Now has (the)-earl clean the-hall and are
hinir dauðu út bornir. Þykkist hann nú vita, at þetta mun
the dead out carried Thinks-himself he now to-know that this will
Þórleifr verit hafa, enn karl engi annarr, ok mun launat
Thorleif been have but (the)-old-man none other and will repaid

þykkjast hafa honum mannalát ok fjártjón. Liggr jarl nú
think-himself to-have him men's-death and money-loss Lies (the)-earl now
í þessum meinlætum allan þenna vetr ok mikit af sumrinu.
in these afflictions all this winter and much of the-summer

VI · ÞÓRLEIFR THE EARL'S POET

Þórleifr returns to King Sveinn with the provisions he took at Hlaðir and tells what happened. The king names him Þórleifr jarlsskáld and speaks a verse praising the slander. In spring Sveinn gives him a ship and crew, and Þórleifr sails home to Iceland, marries Auðr, daughter of a wealthy farmer at Skógar, and buys land at Höfðabrekka in Mýrdalr, where he lives afterward.

Þat er af Þórleifi at segja at hann snýst til ferðar suðr
That is of Thorleif to tell that he turns-himself to journey south
til Danmerkr, ok hefir þat til leiðarnests sér, sem hann
to Denmark and has that for journey-provisions for-himself which he
ginti af þeim í höllinni. Enn hversu lengi sem hann hefir
cheated from them in the-hall But however long as he has
á leið verit, þá létti hann eigi sinni ferð, fyrr enn hann
on way been then stopped he not his journey before than he
kom á fund Sveins konungs, ok tók hann við honum fegins
came to meeting of-Svein (the)-king and took he with him with-glad
hendi, ok spurði hann at ferðum sínum, enn Þórleifr sagði
hand and asked him about travels his but Thorleif told

allt sem farit hafði. Konungr segir: „Nú mun ek lengja nafn
all as gone had (The)-king says Now will I lengthen name
þitt, ok kalla þik Þórleif jarlsskáld“. Þá kvað konungr vísu:
your and call you Thorleif Earl's-Poet Then spoke (the)-king a-verse

Grendi Þórleifr Þrœnda
Diminished Thorleif of-(the)-Thronds
Þengils hróðr fur drengjum;
of-(the)-prince fame before men
hafa ólítit ýtar
have not-little men
jarls níð borit víða.
of-(the)-earl slander borne widely
Njörðr réð víga virðum
Njord did of-battles for-men
vellstœri brag tœra,
gold-increaser poem destroy
brot lands ok galt gæti
(the)-breach of-land and paid (the)-keeper
gráliga leóna báru.
grimly of-(the)-lions of-(the)-wave

Þórleifr sagði konungi, at hann fýstist út til Íslands, ok
Thorleif told (the)-king that he longed out to Iceland and
beiddi konung órlofs at fara þegar at vári; enn konungr sagði
asked (the)-king leave to go at-once in spring but (the)-king said
svá vera skyldu, — „Vil ek gefa þér skip í nafnfesti með
so be should Will I give you a-ship in name-fastening with
mönnum ok reiða, ok þvílíkri áhöfn, sem þér þarfast“. Nú
men and rigging and such crew as to-you is-most-needful Now
er Þórleifr þar um vetrinn í góðu yfirlæti. Enn at várdögum
is Thorleif there through the-winter in good favor But in spring-days

býr hann skip sitt, ok lét á haf, ok byrjaði vel, ok kom
prepares he ship his and put to sea and blew-fair well and brought
skipi sínu við Ísland í á þá, er Þjórsá heitir. Þat
ship his to Iceland into (the)-river that which Thjorsa is-called That
segja menn, at Þórleifr kvæntist um haustit, ok fengi þeirar
say men that Thorleif married in the-autumn and got that
konu, er Auðr hét, ok væri Þórðardóttir, er bjó í Skógum
woman who Aud was-called and were Thord's-daughter who dwelt at Skogar
undir Eyjafjöllum, gilds bónda ok stórauðigs, kominn af
under Eyjafjoll of-a-worthy farmer and very-wealthy descended from
ætt Þrasa hins gamla. Auðr var kvenskörungr mikill.
(the)-family of-Thrasi the Old Aud was woman-of-mettle great
Þórleifr sat um vetrinn í Skógum. Enn um várit eftir
Thorleif sat through the-winter at Skogar But in the-spring after
keypti hann land at Höfðabrekku í Mýdal, ok bjó þar síðan.
bought he land at Hofdabrekka in Myrdal and dwelt there afterward

VII · THE WOODEN MAN

Hákon recovers, though some say he is never the same, and sacrifices to Þórgerðr Hörgabrúðr and Irpa for revenge. With their witchcraft he makes a man of driftwood with a slain man's heart, names it Þórgarðr, and sends it to Iceland with a halberd from the sisters' temple. At the Alþingi Þórgarðr runs Þórleifr through and sinks into the ground under his blow. Þórleifr speaks a verse and dies, and his brothers give him an honorable funeral and a mound north of the Law Court.

Enn nú er þar til að taka, er Hákon jarl er, at honum
But now is there to to take where Hakon (the)-earl is that him
batnaði hins mesta meinlætis; enn þat segja sumir menn, at
improved of-the greatest affliction but that say some men that
hann yrði aldri samr maðr ok áðr, ok vildi jarl nú gjarna
he became never same man as before and would (the)-earl now gladly

hefna Þórleifi þessarrar smánar, ef hann gæti. Heitir nú á
avenge on-Thorleif this shame if he could Calls now on
fulltrúa sína: Þórgerði Hörgabrúði ok Irpu systur hennar, at
trusty-friends his Thorgerd Horgabrud and Irpa sister her to
reka þann galdr út til Íslands at Þórleifi ynni at fullu, ok
drive that spell out to Iceland that on-Thorleif (it)-worked at full and
færir þeim miklar fórnir, ok gekk til fréttar. Enn er hann
brings them great sacrifices and went to divination But when he
fekk þá frétt, er honum líkaði, lét hann taka einn rekabút,
got that answer which him pleased had he take one driftwood-log
ok gera ór trémann, ok með fjölkyngi ok atkvæðum
and make out-of-it a-tree-man and with sorcery and incantations
jarls, enn trollskap ok fítons-anda þeira systra, lét hann
of-(the)-earl but troll-craft and python-spirit of-those sisters had he
drepa einn mann, ok taka ór hjartat, ok láta í þenna
kill one man and take out-of-him the-heart and put into this
trémann, ok færðu síðan í föt, ok gáfu nafn ok kölluðu
tree-man and dressed then in clothes and gave name and called
Þórgarð, ok mögnuðu hann með svá miklum fjándans krafti,
Thorgard and empowered him with so great the-fiend's power
at hann gekk ok mælti við menn. Kómu honum síðan í
that he walked and spoke with men Got him then into
skip, ok sendu hann út til Íslands þess eyrendis, at drepa
ship and sent him out to Iceland on-that errand to kill
Þórleif jarlsskáld. Gyrði Hákon hann atgeir þeim, er
Thorleif Earl's-Poet Girded Hakon him with-halberd that which
hann hafði tekit ór hofi þeira systra, ok Hörgi hafði
he had taken out-of (the)-temple of-those sisters and Horgi had
átt. Þórgarðr kom út til Íslands í þann tíma, er menn
owned Thorgard came out to Iceland at that time when men
váru á Alþingi. Þórleifr jarlsskáld var á þingi. Þat var
were at (the)-Althing Thorleif Earl's-Poet was at (the)-assembly That was

einn dag, er Þórleifr gekk frá búð sinni, er hann sá, at
one day when Thorleif went from booth his when he saw that
maðr gekk vestan yfir Öxará. Sá var mikill vexti ok
a-man went from-the-west over Oxara That-one was big of-growth and
illsligr í bragði. Þórleifr spyrr þenna mann at heiti. Hann
evil-looking in face Thorleif asks this man of name He
nefndist Þórgarðr ok kastaði þegar kaldyrðum at Þórleifi.
named-himself Thorgard and threw at-once cold-words at Thorleif
Enn er Þórleifr heyrði þat, ætlaði hann at bregða sverðinu
But when Thorleif heard that intended he to draw the-sword
konungsnaut, er hann var gyrðr með, enn í þessu bili
king's-gift which he was girded with but at that moment
lagði Þórgarðr atgeirnum á Þórleifi miðjum, ok í gegn um
thrust Thorgard with-the-halberd at Thorleif middle and in against through
hann. Enn er hann fekk lagit, hjó hann til Þórgarðs;
him But when he got the-thrust struck he at Thorgard
enn hann steyptist í jörðina niðr, svá at í iljarnar var
but he plunged into the-earth down so that into the-soles was
at sjá. Þórleifr snaraði at sér kyrtilinn, ok kvað vísu:
to see Thorleif drew about himself the-tunic and spoke a-verse

Hvarf inn hildar-djarfi,
Vanished the battle-bold
hvat varð af Þórgarði?
what became of Thorgard
villumaðr á velli
error-man on (the)-field
vígdjarfr refilstíga.
war-bold of-tricky-paths

Farit hefir Gautr at grjóti
Gone has Gaut to stone
gunnelda inn fjölkunni,
of-battle-fires the much-knowing
sjálfr mun hann í helju
himself will he in hell
hvílask stund ok mílu.
rest-himself a-while and a-mile

Þá gekk Þórleifr heim til búðar sinnar, ok sagði mönnum
Then went Thorleif home to booth his and told men
þenna atburð; ok þótti öllum mikils um vert um þenna atburð.
this event and seemed to-all much about worth about this event
Síðan varpar Þórleifr frá sér kyrtlinum, ok fellu þá út iðrin.
Then casts Thorleif from himself the-tunic and fell then out the-entrails
Ok lét Þórleifr þar líf sitt við góðan orðstír, ok þótti mönnum
And lost Thorleif there life his with good renown and seemed to-men
þat allmikill skaði. Þóttust nú allir vita, at Þórgarðr
that very-great loss Thought-themselves now all to-know that Thorgard
þessi hafði engi verit annarr, enn galdr ok fjölkyngi Hákonar
this had none been other than spell and sorcery of-Hakon
jarls. Síðan var Þórleifr heygðr. Haugr hans stendr norðr af
(the)-earl Then was Thorleif mounded Mound his stands north of
Lögréttu, ok sést hann enn. Brœðr hans váru á þingi,
(the)-Law-Court and is-seen it still Brothers his were at (the)-assembly
er þetta var tíðenda, ok gerðu útferð Þórleifs sœmiliga, ok
when this was of-tidings and made funeral of-Thorleif honorably and
erfðu hann at fornum sið; enn Ásgeirr faðir þeira var
held-the-wake-of him by old custom but Asgeir father their was

þá litlu andaðr. Síðan fóru menn heim af þingi, ok
then lately dead Then went men home from (the)-assembly and
fréttust þessi tíðendi nú víða um Ísland, ok þóttu mikils verð.
were-heard these tidings now widely about Iceland and seemed great worth

VIII · THE POET IN THE MOUND

Þórkell, a wealthy farmer at Þingvellir, has a shepherd, Hallbjörn hali, who often sleeps on Þórleifr's mound and tries to compose a praise-poem about him, but gets no further than "Here lies a poet." One night Þórleifr comes out of the mound in a dream, pulls his tongue, and recites a stanza. Hallbjörn wakes knowing the verse and becomes a great poet. The summer after Þórleifr's death his brothers go abroad for vengeance; they cannot yet kill Hákon, but burn many of his temples.

Sá maðr bjó á Þingvelli, er Þórkell hét. Hann var auðigr
That man dwelt at Thingvellir who Thorkel was-called He was wealthy
maðr at ganganda fé, ok hafði jafnan hœgt í búi; engi
man in going livestock and had always ease in household no
var hann virðingamaðr. Sauðamaðr hans hét Hallbjörn, ok
was he man-of-rank Shepherd his was-called Hallbjorn and
var kallaðr hali. Hann vandist oftliga til at koma á
was called Tail He accustomed-himself often to to come onto
haug Þórleifs, ok svaf þar um nætr, ok helt þar nálægt fé
(the)-mound of-Thorleif and slept there at nights and kept there near flock
sínu. Kemr honum þat jafnan í hug, at hann vildi geta
his Comes to-him that always in mind that he would be-able-to
ort lofkvæði nökkut um haugbúann, ok talar þat jafnan,
compose praise-poem some about the-mound-dweller and speaks that always
er hann liggr á hauginum: enn sakir þess, at hann var
when he lies on the-mound but for-sake-of that that he was
ekki skáld, ok hann hafði þeirar listar eigi fengit, fekk hann
not a-poet and he had that art not gotten could he

ekki kveðit, ok komst aldri lengra áfram fyrir honum um
not compose and got never further forward for him about
skáldskapinn, enn hann byrjaði svá: „Hér liggr skáld“; enn
the-poetry than he began so Here lies a-poet but
meira gat hann ekki kveðit. Þat var eina nátt sem oftar, at
more could he not compose That was one night as oftener that
hann liggr á hauginum, ok hefir hina sömu iðn fyrir stafni
he lies on the-mound and has the same task before (the)-prow
ef hann gæti aukit nökkut lof um haugbúann. Síðan sofnar
if he could increase some praise about the-mound-dweller Then falls-asleep
hann; ok eftir þat sér hann, at opnast haugrinn, ok gengr
he and after that sees he that opens the-mound and walks
þar út maðr, mikill vexti, ok vel búinn. Hann gekk upp á
there out a-man big of-growth and well dressed He walked up onto
hauginn at Hallbirni, ok mælti: „Þar liggr þú Hallbjörn, ok
the-mound to Hallbjorn and spoke There lie you Hallbjorn and
vildir þú fást í því, sem þér er ekki lánat, at yrkja lof um
would you strive in that which to-you is not lent to compose praise about
mik; ok er þat annathvárt, at þér verðr lagit í þessi íþrótt,
me and is that one-of-two that to-you becomes allotted in this art
ok muntú þat af mér fá, meira enn vel flestum mönnum
and will-you that from me get more than well most men
öðrum, ok er þat vænna, (at) svá verði, ella þarftú ekki í
other and is that more-promising that so happen else need-you not in
þessu at brjótast lengr. Skal ek nú kveða fyrir þér vísu, ok
this to struggle longer Shall I now recite before you a-verse and
ef þú getr numit vísuna, ok kant hana, þá er þú vaknar,
if you can learn the-verse and know it then when you wake
þá munt þú verða þjóðskáld, ok yrkja lof um marga
then will you become great-poet and compose praise about many

höfðingja; ok mun þér í þessi íþrótt mikit lagit verða“.
chieftains and will to-you in this art much allotted become
Síðan togar hann á honum tunguna, ok kvað vísu þessa:
Then pulls he at him the-tongue and spoke verse this

Hér liggr skáld þats skálda
Here lies a-poet who poets
skörungr vas mestr at flestu;
(the)-paragon was greatest in most
naddveiti frák nýtan
(the)-spear-giver heard-I able
níð Hákoni smíða.
slander for-Hakon to-forge
Áðr gat engr né síðan
Before could none nor since
annarra svá manna,
of-other so men
frægt hefir orðit þat firðum,
famous has become that to-men
férán lokit hánum.
(the)-property-robbery paid to-him

„Nú skaltú svá hefja skáldskapinn, at þú skalt yrkja lofkvæði
Now shall-you so begin the-poetry that you shall compose praise-poem
um mik, þá er þú vaknar, ok vanda sem mest, bæði hátt ok
about me then when you wake and take-care as most both meter and
orðfœri ok einna mest kenningar“. Síðan hverfr hann aftr í
diction and of-all most kennings Then turns he back into
hauginn, ok lykst hann aftr; enn Hallbjörn vaknar. ok þykkist
the-mound and closes it again but Hallbjorn wakes and thinks-himself
sjá á herðar honum. Síðan kunni hann vísuna, og fór síðan til
to-see on shoulders him Then knew he the-verse and went then to

bygða heim með fé sitt eftir tíma, ok sagði þenna atburð.
(the)-settlements home with flock his after a-time and told this event
Orti Hallbjörn síðan lofkvæði um haugbúann, ok varð hit
Composed Hallbjorn afterward praise-poem about the-mound-dweller and became the
mesta skáld, ok fór útan fljótliga, ok kvað kvæði um marga
greatest poet and went abroad quickly and recited poems about many
höfðingja, ok fekk af þeim miklar virðingar ok góðar gjafir,
chieftains and got from them great honors and good gifts
ok græddi af því stórfé, ok gengr af honum mikil saga,
and gained from that great-wealth and goes of him great saga
bæði hér á landi ok útlendis, þó at hon sé hér eigi ritut.
both here in (the)-land and abroad though that it be here not written
Enn frá bræðrum Þórleifs er þat at segja, at næsta sumar
But of (the)-brothers of-Thorleif is that to tell that (the)-next summer
eftir hans andlát, fóru þeir útan Ólafr völubrjótr ok Helgi
after his death went they abroad Olaf Stone-breaker and Helgi
hinn frækni, ok ætluðu til hefnda eftir bróður sinn. Enn þeim
the Bold and intended to vengeance for brother their But to-them
varð eigi lagit þá enn at standa yfir höfuðsvörðum Hákonar
became not allotted then yet to stand over (the)-scalp of-Hakon
jarls, því at hann hafði þá enn eigi öllu illu því fram farit,
(the)-earl because that he had then yet not all evil that forward done
sem honum varð lagit sér til skammar ok skaða. Enn
which to-him became allotted for-himself to shame and harm But
þó brendu þeir mörg hof fyrir jarlinum, ok gerðu honum
yet burned they many temples for the-earl and did him
margan fjárskaða í ránum ok hervirki, er þeir veittu honum,
much money-loss in robberies and war-damage which they gave him
ok margri annarri óspekt. Ok lýkr hér frá Þórleifi at segja.
and much other disturbance And ends here of Thorleif to tell

Hrómundar þáttr halta

The Tale of Hromund the Lame

Eyvindr sörkvir, a settler of Blöndudalr, has a son, Hrómundr, by a bondwoman. Hrómundr kills Ingimundr's son Högni in a fight at Deildarhjalli, is outlawed from the district, and is lamed by a wound in the foot. He settles at Fagrabrekka in Hrútafjörðr, builds a strong fortification around his farm, and has two sons, Þórbjörn þyna and Hallsteinn; Þórbjörn's son Þórleifr is called Hrómundr's foster-son. Nearby at Melar lives Þórir with his daughter Helga.

Eyvindr sörkvir hét maðr, er út kom með Ingimundi
Eyvind Sorkvir was-called a-man who out came with Ingimund
gamla. Hann nam Blöndudal vestr frá Skagafirði, ok vildi
(the)-Old He took Blondudal west from Skagafjord and would
eigi lifa eftir Ingimund, ok réð sér sjálfum bana. Hann
not live after Ingimund and contrived for-himself self death He
átti son við ambátt sinni í elli, er Hrómundr hét;
had a-son with bondwoman his in old-age who Hromund was-called
hann átti Auðbjörgu dóttur Más Jörundarsonar háls; hon
he married Audbjorg daughter of-Mar Jorund's-son Neck she
var ok ambáttar dóttir. Hrómundr var löngum með Mávi
was also a-bondwoman's daughter Hromund was long with Mar
á Másstöðum, er hann barðist við sonu Ingimundar um
at Masstadir when he fought with (the)-sons of-Ingimund at
Deildarhjalla. Þar vá Hrómundr Högna, son Ingimundar,
Deildarhjalli There slew Hromund Hogni son of-Ingimund
ok var fyrir þat heraðssekr milli Jökulsár í Skagafirði ok
and was for that district-outlawed between Jokulsa in Skagafjord and
Hrútafjarðarár. Hrómundr varð sárr á fœti, ok var jafnan
Hrutafjardara Hromund became wounded on (the)-foot and was always
haltr síðan; af því var hann kallaðr Hrómundr halti.
lame afterward from that was he called Hromund (the)-Lame
Hann keypti Fagrabrekku-land fyrir vestan Hrútafjarðará, ok
He bought Fagrabrekka-land to-the west of-Hrutafjardara and

bjó þar um hríð; hann gerði virki mikit um bœ sinn,
dwelt there for a-while he made fortification great around farm his
ok var hinn vænsti maðr, ok mikill fyrir sér. Son hans
and was the most-promising man and great for himself Son his
hét Þórbjörn þyna, ok var Auðbjörg móðir hans. Hann
was-called Thorbjorn Thyna and was Audbjorg mother his He
átti Guðrúnu, dóttur Þórkels á Kerseyri, er nam sunnan
married Gudrun daughter of-Thorkel at Kerseyri who took south
Hrútafjarðarháls. Þeira son var Þórleifr, er Hrómundarfóstri
of-Hrutafjardarhals Their son was Thorleif who Hromund's-fosterling
var kallaðr. Hallsteinn hét son Hrómundar. Allir váru
was called Hallstein was-called a-son of-Hromund All were
þeir frændr miklir menn ok sterkir. Son Þórkels á
they kinsmen great men and strong (The)-son of-Thorkel at
Kerseyri hét Þórir, bróðir Guðrúnar konu Þórleifs. Hann
Kerseyri was-called Thorir brother of-Gudrun wife of-Thorleif He
bjó at Melum hit næsta. Helga hét dóttir hans, ok
dwelt at Melar the next Helga was-called daughter his and
var fríð kona sjónum ok skörungr mikill.
was fair woman to-sight and a-strong-woman great

II · THE NORWEGIANS AT MELAR

A ship arrives at Borðeyri under Sleitu-Helgi and his brother Jörundr, rough men rumored to be vikings, whom hardly anyone will lodge. Helgi presses Þórir of Melar to take them in, and Þórir agrees only after they swear oaths to do no wrong and to feed themselves. Helgi courts Þórir's daughter Helga, and when Þórir objects, Helgi asks for her lawfully. Seeing no better course, Þórir marries her to him.

Þat bar til tíðinda eitt sumar, at skip kom af hafi í
That came to tidings one summer that a-ship came from sea into
Hrútafirði á Borðeyri. Sleitu-Helgi hét stýrimaðr, enn
Hrutafjord at Bordeyri Sleitu-Helgi was-called (the)-skipper but
Jörundr bróðir hans; þeir váru tólf menn á skipi. Þeir váru
Jorund brother his they were twelve men on ship They were
ósvífir menn ok illorðir, ok áttu menn lítt kaup við þá,
overbearing men and foul-spoken and had men little trade with them
ok fóru heldr útanheraðs til kaupa til annarra skipa. Fréttu
and went rather outside-the-district to trade to other ships Learned
menn, at þeir váru víkingar ok ránsmenn, enn höfðu ekki
men that they were vikings and robbers but had nothing
nema ránsfé. Ok er á leið sumarit, kómu menn ekki til
except plunder And when on passed the-summer came men not to
þeira. Þá mælti Helgi: „Þess vil ek nú fýsa, at þér sét eigi
them Then spoke Helgi This will I now urge that you be not
illfengir, ok hafit hit betra skaplyndi hér við sveitarmenn,
harsh and have the better temper here toward district-men
ok takit yðr vistir með bóndum, því at mér lízt
and take for-yourselves lodgings with farmers because that to-me seems
fólk þetta muni torsveigt verða, ok kunna illa ágang; hefi
folk this will hard-to-bend be and bear ill aggression have
ek spurt, at menn eru hér sterkir ok afætur miklar“. Ok
I heard that men are here strong and eaters great And
er hálfr mánuðr leið, váru þrír menn vistaðir. Þá mælti
when half month passed were three men lodged Then spoke
Helgi: „Eigi eru menn hér fúsir at taka við oss, ok er þat
Helgi Not are men here eager to take with us and is that
vorkunn; ok látum enn sveigjast til við þá“. Ok svá gerðu
excusable and let-we still bend-ourselves to with them And so did
þeir. Enn svá hafði lag á lagst, at eigi tóku menn við
they But so had (the)-lie on lain that not took men with

þeim. Eitthvert sinn reið Þórir frá Melum til skips, ok
them Some time rode Thorir from Melar to (the)-ship and
hitti Helga. Helgi tók allglaðliga við honum, ok spurði,
met Helgi Helgi took very-gladly with him and asked
hverju hann vildi kaupa? Þórir kvað sér nauðsyn á vera
with-what he would trade Thorir said for-himself need on to-be
at kaupa við, „því at hús mín liggja við velli“. Helgi
to buy timber because that houses my lie on (the)-ground Helgi
kveðst mundu gera honum kost á því, at kaupa við svá
says-of-himself would make him offer on that to buy timber so
mikinn sem hann þyrfti, „ok tak við oss öllum til vetrvistar“.
much as he needed and take with us all for winter-lodging
Hann kveðst eigi til þess færr, „enn vöru skortir mik eigi
He says-of-himself not to that able but wares lack me not
fyrir at gefa; eru þér ok ekki vinsælir menn taldir“. Hann
for to give are you also not popular men counted He
taldist undan at taka við þeim. Helgi mælti: „Allmjök
excused-himself off to take with them Helgi spoke Very-much
sýna menn sik hér í styggleik við oss, ok er þat þó
show men themselves here in surliness toward us and is that yet
líkast, at þú setir eigi undan, bóndi, öllum auvisla við
likeliest that you set not off farmer all slight toward
oss, ef þú tekr eigi við oss“. Þórir kvað þat valda, er þeir
us if you take not with us Thorir said that to-cause which they
höfðu fávingat. Helgi svarar, at hann skyldi fyrir kostum
had made-few-friends Helgi answers that he should for terms
ráða, ef hann tæki við þeim: „ella er ósýnt, hvárt þú ferr
decide if he took with them else is uncertain whether you go
tvívegis“. Ok er svá var komit, mælti Þórir bóndi: „Nú
twice And when so was come spoke Thorir (the)-farmer Now
er þú skorar svá mjök á mik um þetta, þá skaltú eiða
as you press so much on me about this then shall-you oaths

vinna at várum landslögum fyrir yðr alla, at þér sknlut
swear by our land-laws for you all that you shall
engan ójafnað gera í vetr neinum manni eðr þær sakir, at
no injustice do in winter to-any man or those offenses which
lögmætar eru, hvorki við mik né aðra, — eigi við hjón
lawful are neither against me nor others not against household
mín né nábúa; mun ek veita yðr hús, enn þér skulut sjálfir
my nor neighbors will I grant you houses but you shall yourselves
fœða yðr“. Helgi mælti: „Þú skalt ráða, bóndi“. Síðan fóru
feed yourselves Helgi spoke You shall decide farmer Then went
þeir þangat. ok mötuðust einir í húsi ok sváfu þar. Ekki
they thither and ate alone in a-house and slept there Not
var þetta mjök þokkat af sveitarmönnum fyrir Þóri, ok þótti
was this much liked by district-men for Thorir and seemed
honum þetta ofráð vera. Ok er þeir höfðu þar verit
to-him this ill-advised to-be And when they had there been
um hríð, þá bar oft saman fundum þeira stýrimanns ok
for a-while then came often together meetings their of-(the)-skipper and
bónda-dóttur, ok reittist á umtal ok kossa ok kneikingar
of-(the)-farmer's-daughter and turned to talk and kisses and fondlings
með alvöru ok blíðu, ok fylgdi framkvæmd byrgisskapar.
with earnest and tenderness and followed accomplishment of-intimacy
Þórir mælti: „Þat vilda ek, Helgi, at þú efndir heit þín
Thorir spoke That would-wish I Helgi that you kept promises your
við mik, ok gerðir mér öngva skömm né óvirðing; ok lát
toward me and did me no shame nor dishonor and leave
af tali við Helgu dóttur mína, ok halt eiða þína við mik“.
off talk with Helga daughter my and hold oaths your toward me
Helgi kveðst ætla, at eigi mundi skjótt hrinda mega ást
Helgi says-of-himself think that not would quickly thrust be-able love
þeira Helgu; „ok er þér engi óvirðing í, bóndi, ef ek
of-them Helga(-and-him) and is to-you no dishonor in-it farmer if I

bið konunnar með réttum landslögum, þeim sem hér ganga,
ask-for the-woman with right land-laws those which here go
ok með slíku fé, sem þér líkar“. Enn er bónda
and with such wealth as to-you pleases But when to-(the)-farmer
þótti ósýnt til bóta, enn menn ósvífir, þá réð hann
seemed uncertain to improvement but men overbearing then decided he
þat af, at hann gifti Helgu dóttur sína Sleitu-Helga; ok
that from-it that he married Helga daughter his to-Sleitu-Helgi and
er gert brúðhlaup þeira snemma vetrar. Ok þaðan af váru
is made wedding their early in-winter And thence from were
þeir eigi stórillir við menn, ef ekki var til gert við þá.
they not very-ill toward men if not was to done toward them

III · THE STOLEN HORSES

Five of Hrómundr's fat stud-horses vanish, and he suspects the Norwegians, who are said to have more meat on their tables than their trading would account for. Promised Miðfjarðar-Skeggi's support, Hrómundr and his sons ride to Melar and accuse them. Helgi takes offense and threatens enmity; Hrómundr replies that it is viking practice to plunder but a thief's to hide it. Þórir will say nothing either way, so Hrómundr has the Norwegians summoned, and they say they will avenge it.

Þat bar til um vetrinn, at Hrómundi hurfu stóðhross
That came to-pass in the-winter that from-Hromund vanished stud-horses
fimm saman, ok váru þau öll stórmjök feit. Um þat váru
five together and were they all very fat About that were
margar getur, hvat af hrossunum mundi hafa orðit. Synir
many guesses what of the-horses would have become (The)-sons
Hrómundar kváðust ætla, at menn mundi etit hafu,
of-Hromund said-of-themselves think that men would eaten have
er hvergi spurðist til, enn hrossin vön spök at vera.
since nowhere was-heard of-them but the-horses accustomed quiet to be

Hrómundr sagði: „Þat er mér sagt um Austmenn þessa, at
Hromund said That is to-me said about Easterners these that
þeir hafi stœrri slátr á borðum, enn aðrir menn viti vánir
they have bigger meat on tables than other men know expectations
til kaupa þeira; er ok illt orð á þeim um hvatvetna. Nú
of trade their is also ill report on them about everything Now
eru tveir kostir til, at láta öngva umrœðu á koma, ok mun
are two choices to to let no talk on come and will
þá ekki illt af hljótast, — eðr hætta á hvat eftir kemr
then not ill from-it result or risk on what after comes
ok ganga at sínu“. Þeir kváðu þat víst betra, ok þat eitt til
and go at one's-own They said that surely better and that alone to
liggja, at leita eftir. Hrómundr fann þá Miðfjarðar-Skeggja,
lie to search after-it Hromund met then Midfjord-Skeggi
er þá bjó á Skeggjastöðum í Miðfirði, ok höfðingi var yfir
who then dwelt at Skeggjastadir in Midfjord and chieftain was over
þeim sveitum, ok réðst um við hann, hversu með skyldi
those districts and consulted about with him how with-it should-one
fara. Skeggi svarar: „Svá spyrst mér til, at Austmenn þessir
proceed Skeggi answers So is-reported to-me of that Easterners these
sé harðir í horn at taka, ok vil ek heita yðr minni forsjá,
be hard in horn to take and will I promise you my oversight
hvat sem í gerist“. Síðan fór hann, ok fóru þeir feðgar,
whatever that in happens Then went he and went they father-and-sons
Hrómundr ok synir hans, litlu eftir þetta til Mela, ok váru
Hromund and sons his a-little after this to Melar and were
saman tíu. Austmenn váru sumir úti, enn sumir gengu
together ten (The)-Easterners were some outside but some went
út í því, er þeir riðu at. Þeir höfðu litlar kvaðningar
out at that when they rode up They had little greetings
hvárirtveggja. „Þá mælti Hrómundr: „Svá er háttat, Helgi“,
both-sides Then spoke Hromund So is arranged Helgi

sagði hann, „at mér hafa hross horfit, ok er þat áhugi minn,
said he that from-me have horses vanished and is that suspicion my
at hér sé niðr komin“. (Helgi svarar:) „Ekki hafa menn
that here they-be down come Helgi answers Not have men
slíkt við oss mælt fyrri, ok skal hér fjandskapr í móti koma
such to us spoken before and shall here enmity in against come
svá mikill sem vér megum mestan yðr gjalda“. Hrómundr
as great as we can greatest to-you repay Hromund
mælti: „Þat er víkinga-háttr, at afla fjár með ránum eðr
spoke That is vikings'-way to get wealth with robberies or
svörfum, enn þat er þjófa-háttr, at leyna eftir“. Hrómundr
plunderings but that is thieves'-way to conceal afterward Hromund
leitaði við Þóri, hvat satt væri, eðr hvat hann vissi af. Þórir
inquired with Thorir what true were or what he knew of-it Thorir
lézt hvárki, vita þá sanna né ósanna at þessu. Hrómundr
professed neither to-know them true nor untrue in this Hromund
kvað honum lítilmannliga fara. Síðan biðr Hrómundr menn
said to-him unmanfully to-go Then bids Hromund men
sína stefna þeim, ok var ráðinn maðr til at stefna hverjum
his summon them and was appointed a-man to to summon each
þeira. Síðan fóru stefnur fram, ok váru Austmenn málóðir
of-them Then went summonses forward and were (the)-Easterners speech-mad
ok hlaupóðir, ok kváðust þessa hefna skyldu. Öngir urðu
and leap-mad and said-of-themselves this avenge should No were
áverkar með mönnum á þeim fundi. Skilja þeir við svá búit.
wounds among men at that meeting Part they with so done

Hrómundr strengthens his household and repairs his fortification. The case goes to the Alþingi through Skeggi, and all the Norwegians are outlawed for horse theft. As they leave Melar for their ship they pass Fagrabrekka, where Helgi taunts Hrómundr that his fortification will not help him and that he would gladly see him and his sons bloody. Hrómundr answers that some of the Norwegians will have red to blow from their noses first.

Hrómundr ok hans menn riðu nú heim. Ok er þeir
Hromund and his men rode now home And when they
höfðu litla hríð heima verit, talaði Hrómundr: „Vér skulum
had little while at-home been spoke Hromund We shall
auka þrim mönnum, ok láta bœta virki várt, er mjök
add three men and have repair fortification our which much
er hrörnat, ok látum sem þeir muni efna þat, er þeir
is decayed and act-we as-if they will carry-out that which they
hétu eigi góðu, ok þann fjandskap allan, er þeir hétu,
promised not good and that enmity all which they promised
munu þeir eigi láta undan ganga“. Síðan sendu þeir málin
will they not let away go Then sent they the-cases
öll til Miðfjarðar-Skeggja í Miðfjörð, ok fóru mál þessi til
all to Midfjord-Skeggi in Midfjord and went cases these to
alþingis, ok urðu Austmennirnir allir sekir um hrossa-stuld.
(the)-Althing and became the-Easterners all outlawed for horse-theft
Enn Hrómundr ok synir hans sátu heima um þingit;
But Hromund and sons his sat at-home during the-assembly
enn Austmenn bjuggust í burt frá Melum, ok mæltu vel
but (the)-Easterners made-ready off away from Melar and spoke well
til Þóris. Þeir ætluðu at búa skip sitt, ok lá leið þeira um
to Thorir They intended to fit-out ship their and lay way their by
Fagrabrekku, ok váru þeir Hrómundr úti feðgar. Helgi
Fagrabrekka and were they Hromund outside father-and-sons Helgi

mælti: „Þat skyldi verða, at yðr stœði gott ekki af virki
spoke That should happen that to-you stood good not from fortification
þessu, ok þá skyldi yðr sízt lið at því verða, er yðr lægi
this and then should to-you least help at that become when to-you lay
mest við, ok vel mætta ek sjá þik blóðgan, Hrómundr,
most at-stake and well might I see you bloody Hromund
ok sonu þína". Hrómundr mælti: „Ekki grunum vér illvilja
and sons your Hromund spoke Not suspect we ill-will
yðarn; enn þat ætlum vér, at nökkurir eigi rauðu at snýta,
your but that think we that some have red to blow-nose
áðr vér sém at velli lagðir". Nú skildu þeir at sinni.
before we be to (the)-field laid Now parted they for (the)-time

V · HRÓMUNDR'S LAST FIGHT

A raven shrieks at dawn and Hrómundr speaks two verses of foreboding. The house-carls leave the gate open, and the twelve Norwegians enter the fortification. Hrómundr, his two sons, and his fosterling Þórleifr defend it; six Norwegians fall, and Hrómundr and Þórleifr go down. Helgi spears Þórbjörn, who pulls the spear out and throws it back into Helgi's brother Jörundr. Helgi carries Jörundr off, and Hallsteinn cuts off Helgi's hand. The survivors drown at sea; Þórleifr recovers, and Hallsteinn later dies on the Long Serpent.

Þat bar at einn morgin, at hrafn settist á ljóra,
That came about one morning that a-raven settled on (the)-roof-window
ok skrœkti hátt. Hrómundr var á rekkju sinni ok vakti,
and shrieked loudly Hromund was in bed his and was-awake
ok kvað vísu:
and spoke a-verse

Úti heyrik svan sveita
Outside hear-I (the)-swan of-blood
sára-þorns, es morgnar,
of-(the)-wound-thorn when dawns
bráð vekr borgin-móða,
meat wakes (the)-sated-weary
bláfjallaðan gjalla.
blue-feathered to-shriek
Svá gól fyrr, þá er feigir
So crowed before then when doomed
fólknárungar váru,
battle-kinsmen were
gunnar haukr, es gaukar
of-battle hawk when cuckoos
Gauts bragða spá sagðu.
of-Gaut of-feats prophecy said

Ok enn kvað hann:
And again spoke he

Hlakkar, hagli stokkinn,
of-Hlokk with-hail sprinkled
hræs es kemr af sævi,
of-carrion who comes from (the)-sea

móðr krefr morgin-bráðar
weary demands morning-meat
már valkastar báru.
gull of-(the)-slain-heap of-(the)-wave
Svá gól endr þá's unda
So crowed formerly when of-wounds
eiðs at fornum meiði
of-isthmus at ancient tree
hræva gaukr es haukar
of-corpses cuckoo when hawks
hildinga mjöð vildu.
of-warriors mead wished

Ok nökkuru síðar risu upp húskarlar bónda, ok gáðu eigi
And somewhat later rose up house-carls of-(the)-farmer and heeded not
at láta aftr virkisdyrnar eftir sér. Ok þann sama morgin
to shut back the-fortification-doors after themselves And that same morning
komu Austmenn, ok váru saman tólf; þeir kvámu litlu síðar
came (the)-Easterners and were together twelve they came a-little later
enn húskarlar váru farnir frá virkinu. Þá mælti Helgi: „Nú
than (the)-house-carls were gone from the-fortification Then spoke Helgi Now
verðr vel; göngum nú í virkit ok minnumst háðuligra
turns-out well go-we now into the-fortification and remember-we mocking
orða ok svá gerða, ok vil ek at virkit verði þeim at
words and so deeds and wish I that the-fortification become to-them for
gagni alls öngu, ef ek má ráða". Þórbjörn þyna vaknaði við
help of-all none if I may decide Thorbjorn Thyna woke at
mælgi þeira, ok hljóp upp þegar ok til hurðar þeirar, er var
talk their and leaped up at-once and to door that which was
fyrir skálanum, ok sá út um glugg einn, er á var skorinn
before the-hall and saw out through window one which on was cut

hurðinni at fornum sið, ok kendi Austmennina, at þeir
the-door by old custom and recognized the-Easterners that they
váru komnir í virkit, ok gekk inn aftr. Ok þá mælti
were come into the-fortification and went in back And then spoke
Hrómundr: „Hvat er tíðinda, frændi“? Þorbjörn svaraði: „Þat
Hromund What is of-tidings kinsman Thorbjorn answered That
hygg ek, at Austmenn sé komnir í virkit með ófriði,
think I that (the)-Easterners be come into the-fortification with hostility
ok ætli at hefna orða þeira, er vér höfum talat við þá; enn
and intend to avenge words those which we have spoken to them but
þat veit ek eigi, hversu at þeir hafa í virkit komizt“.
that know I not how that they have into the-fortification got
Hrómundr spratt upp ok mælti: „Upp vér þá, ok rekum
Hromund sprang up and spoke Up we then and drive-we
vanmenni þessi af hendi, ok kaupum á oss gott orð, ok
wretches these from hand and buy-we on ourselves good report and
dugum drengiliga“. Hann eggjaði þá sonu sína ok svá Þórleif
bestir-we manfully He urged then sons his and also Thorleif
fóstra sinn, ok var hann fimtán vetra gamall, bæði mikill ok
fosterling his and was he fifteen winters old both big and
röskligr at sjá. Hann bjóst ok til útgöngu, enn konur
brisk to see He made-ready also for going-out but (the)-women

sögðu hann ofungan, ok kváðu hann mundu feigan, enn
said him too-young and said him would-be doomed but
Hrómund ofgamlan vörn at veita. Hrómundr kvað þá vísu:
Hromund too-old defense to give Hromund spoke then a-verse

Vas-at mér í dag dauði,
Was-not for-me in day death
draugr flatvallar bauga'
trunk of-(the)-flat-field of-rings
búumk við ilmar jálmi,
prepare-I against of-Ilm din
áðr né gær of ráðinn.
before nor yesterday — decided
Rœkik lítt, þót leiki
Care-I little though plays
litvandr Héðins fitjar,
color-careful of-Hedin of-(the)-web
áðr vas oss af markaðr
before was for-us — marked-out
aldr, við rauða skjaldu.
life at red shields

Síðan tóku þeir frændr vápn sín allir fjórir: Hrómundr
Then took they kinsmen weapons their all four Hromund
halti ok Þórleifr, Þórbjörn þyna ok Hallsteinn, ok gengu
(the)-Lame and Thorleif Thorbjorn Thyna and Hallstein and went
út þær dyr, er á váru enda hússins, ok fóru fyrir ofan
out those doors which on were (the)-end of-the-house and went before above
þvertré, enn læstu hinar dyrnar, er á váru hliðvegginum.
(the)-cross-beam but locked the-other doors which on were the-side-wall
Austmenn hlupu upp í vegginn, ok skutu at þeim mjök
(The)-Easterners leaped up onto the-wall and shot at them very

harðfengiliga; því at Helgi var manna bezt vígr, mikill ok
hardily because that Helgi was of-men best fighter great and
sterkr ok vaskligr. Var hann nú œfr mjök, ok allir váru
strong and valiant Was he now furious very and all were
þeir illir viðreignar ok harðir; kváðu þá Hrómund minni
they bad to-deal-with and hard said then Hromund less
skyldu eiga til at reka, ok þeir skyldi þá muna þjófsnafnit.
should have to to drive and they should then remember the-thief's-name
Hrómundr kvað þá nógt mundu til vinna, ef þeir sœkti
Hromund said then enough would to-it do if they attacked
í virkit. Vörðust þeir þá eigi síðr með hlífum ok
into the-fortification Defended-themselves they then not less with shields and
trjám enn vápnum, enn Austmenn börðu grjóti ok skotum,
timbers than weapons but (the)-Easterners pelted with-stones and with-missiles
ok sóttu at hit harðasta, enn hinir vörðust allvel,
and attacked at-it the hardest but the-others defended-themselves very-well
ok váru eigi fleiri fyrir enn fjórir. Þeir sendu ok ofan stórt
and were not more before than four They sent also down big
grjót, ok þótt Hrómundr væri aldraðr, gekk hann vel fram
stones and though Hromund were aged went he well forth
ok var stórhöggr; ok með fulltingi sona sinna ok Þórleifs
and was mighty-striking and with help of-sons his and of-Thorleif
fóstra síns fellu sex Austmenn, ok í þeirri hríð fell ok
fosterling his fell six Easterners and in that onset fell also
Hrómundr ok Þórleifr fóstri hans. Austmenn þeir er eftir
Hromund and Thorleif fosterling his (The)-Easterners those who after
lifðu, hrukku ór virkinu allir; enn Þórbjörn þyna hljóp
lived recoiled out-of the-fortification all but Thorbjorn Thyna leaped
eftir þeim, ok elti ór virkinu alla þá, er eftir lifðu.
after them and chased out-of the-fortification all those who after lived
Enn er Þórbjörn vildi aftr lúka hurðina, þá skaut Helgi
But when Thorbjorn would back close the-door then shot Helgi

spjóti til hans, ok kom á hann miðjan. Hann tók sjálfr
a-spear at him and came into him middle He took himself
spjótit ór sárinu ok sendi aftr til Austmanna, ok kom á
the-spear out-of the-wound and sent back to (the)-Easterners and came into
Jörund miðjan, bróður Helga. Helgi þreif hann upp, þegar
Jorund middle brother of-Helgi Helgi snatched him up as-soon-as
hann fell til jarðar, ok kastaði á bak sér, ok hljóp ór
he fell to earth and threw on back his and leaped out-of
virkinu, ok með honum allir félagar hans, þeir fimm,
the-fortification and with him all companions his those five
er eftir lifðu. Hallsteinn hljóp eftir þeim, enn þeir undan,
who after lived Hallstein leaped after them but they away
þar til er þeir kómu at lœk einum, þeim er út er frá
there until when they came to brook one that which out is from
Fagrabrekku. Þar vildi Helgi yfir hlaupa með Jörund bróður
Fagrabrekka There would Helgi over leap with Jorund brother
sinn; enn hávir bakkar váru at tveim megin, ok varð honum
his but high banks were on two sides and became to-him
aflfátt, ok skriðnaði Jörundr aftr af herðum honum,
strength-short and slipped Jorund back from shoulders to-him
ok var þá dauðr. Helgi snaraðist þá við, ok í því kom
and was then dead Helgi turned-himself then about and at that came
Hallsteinn at honum, ok hjó af honum höndina. ok þá
Hallstein at him and hewed off him the-hand and then
heldu Austmenn undan, enn Hallsteinn starfaði at Jörundi
held (the)-Easterners away but Hallstein busied-himself with Jorund
ok fann at hann var dauðr, ok því bar þá undan ok
and found that he was dead and therefore (it)-bore them away and
sá Hallsteinn þat, ok snöri þá aftr. Varð hann þess víss,
saw Hallstein that and turned then back Became he of-that aware
at faðir hans var dauðr ok Þorbjörn þyna; Þórleifr var eigi
that father his was dead and Thorbjorn Thyna Thorleif was not

órendr; hann bar hann inn. Konur spurðu, hversu farizt
breathless he bore him in (The)-women asked how gone
hefði. Hann sagði sem var. Þeir Helgi létu út hinn sama
had He said as was They Helgi put out the same
dag, ok týndust allir fyrir Skriðnesenni. Þórleifr var græddr,
day and perished all off Skridnesenni Thorleif was healed
ok bjó at Fagrabrekku, ok þótti góðr bóndi. Enn Hallsteinn
and dwelt at Fagrabrekka and seemed good farmer But Hallstein
fór útan, ok kom á fund Ólafs Tryggvasonar. Konungr
went abroad and came to meeting of-Olaf Tryggvi's-son (The)-king
boðaði honum trú, ok var það auðsótt. Gerðist Hallsteinn
preached to-him faith and was that easily-won Became Hallstein
þá konungsmaðr, ok var með honum síðan, ok var hinn
then king's-man and was with him afterward and was the
frœknasti drengr, ok öruggr í framgöngu, ok vel virðr
boldest fellow and steadfast in advance and well esteemed
af Ólafi konungi. Ok svá er sagt, at hann hafi fallit á
by Olaf (the)-king And so is said that he have fallen on
Orminum langa, ok sýnt þar áðr hreystilega vörn, ok aflat
the-Serpent Long and shown there before valiant defense and gained
sér svá góðan orðstír, ok lýkr hér frá honum at segja.
for-himself so good renown and ends here from him to tell

Þórsteins þáttr Tjaldstœðings

The Tale of Thorstein Tent-Pitcher

Ásgrímr, son of the chieftain Úlfr in Telemark, orders his newborn son exposed as he sets out on a viking voyage. As the thrall is about to dig the grave, the child speaks a verse asking to be given to his mother, and Ásgrímr lets him live and names him Þórsteinn. King Haraldr Fairhair demands tax from Ásgrímr through the king's kinsman Þórormr. Ásgrímr refuses it, sends gifts instead, which the king returns, and the farmers back him.

Úlfr hét maðr, er bjó á Þelamörk; hann var hersir;
Ulf was-called a-man who dwelt in Telemark he was a-chieftain
hann bjó á Fíflavöllum í Tindsdal. Son hans hét
he dwelt at Fiflavellir in Tindsdal Son his was-called
Ásgrímr; hann átti Þórkötlu, er köllut var bringa. Ásgrímr
Asgrim he married Thorkatla who called was Breast Asgrim
tók við föðurleifð sinni ok var hinn mesti mannsómamaðr.
took with father's-inheritance his and was the greatest man-of-honor
Enn er Ásgrímr fór í víking þá var kona hans vanheil,
But when Asgrim went on viking then was wife his ailing
ok vildi Ásgrímr láta út bera barnit. Hon varð léttari
and would Asgrim have out carry the-child She became lighter
um kveldit, er hann skyldi fara um morgininn. Ásgrímr
in the-evening when he should go in the-morning Asgrim
kvaddi til þræl sinn, at grafa sveininn. Hann svarar: „Mun
summoned for-it thrall his to bury the-boy He answers Will

eigi ráð, at búa gröfina?“ Ásgrímr kvað þat vel mega.
not advisable to prepare the-grave Asgrim said that well may
Enn sveinn lá á gólfinu. Þá heyra þeir at sveinninn kvað:
But (the)-boy lay on the-floor Then hear they that the-boy spoke

Látit mög til móður;
Let-you (the)-boy to (the)-mother
mér er kalt á gólfi;
to-me is cold on (the)-floor
hvar mun sveinninn sœmri
where will the-boy more-fitting
enn at síns föður örnum?
than at his father's hearth
Þarf eigi járn at eggja
Needs not iron to whet
né jarðar-men skerða;
nor earth-necklace to-cut
léttit ljótu verki;
stop-you ugly work
lifa vil ek enn með mönnum.
live will I yet with men

Þá mælti Ásgrímr: „Víst skaltú lifa, frændi, ok munt verða
Then spoke Asgrim Surely shall-you live kinsman and will become
hinn mesti merkismaðr af þessum fyrirburð“. Síðan lét
the greatest man-of-mark from this portent Then had
Ásgrímr hann vatni ausa, ok var kallaðr Þórsteinn. Þá
Asgrim him with-water sprinkle and was called Thorstein Then
var Haraldr hinn hárfagri konungr yfir Noregi ok hafði mjök
was Harald the Fair-haired king over Norway and had much
lagt allt land undir sik at sköttum. Hann heimti til
laid all (the)-land under himself for taxes He summoned to

sin þann mann er Þórormr hét, ok var konungs-frændi
himself that man who Thorорm was-called and was king's-kinsman
ok bjó í Þrumu. Konungr mælti: „Ek veit, at eigi hafa
and dwelt in Thruma (The)-king spoke I know that not have
skattar goldizt af Þelamönnum. Nú vil ek at þú heimtir
taxes been-paid by Tele-men Now wish I that you demand
af Ásgrími, syni Úlfs hersis, því at engum gef ck upp
from Asgrim son of-Ulf (the)-chieftain because that to-no-one give I up
mína skuld. Enn þat hefi ek sannfregit, at þeir feðgar
my due But that have I truly-heard that they father-and-son
hafa mikinn áhuga haft, síðan er ek fekk Noreg með svá
have great concern had since when I got Norway with so
miklu starfi, þá vil ek hann hafa með öllum skyldum".
great toil then will I it have with all dues
Þórormr kveðst mundu fara erinda konungs: „Enn lítt
Thorорm says-of-himself would go on-errand of-(the)-king But little
segir mér hugr um, at þeir muni svara". Konungr mælti:
says to-me mind about-it that they will answer (The)-king spoke
„Þá skal vita, hvárir ríkari eru; enn mæl til alls
Then shall-one know which more-powerful are but speak to all
vel í fyrstu". Ferr hann nú ok hittir Ásgrím, berr upp
well at first Goes he now and meets Asgrim bears up
konungs-erindi, ok krefr þar þvílíks fjár sem annarsstaðar:
(the)-king's-errand and demands there such money as elsewhere
„Nú gerit yðr eigi endemi, at halda réttu fyrir
Now make-you for-yourselves not outrage to keep right from
konungi". Ásgrímr svarar: „Þat hygg ek at mínir frændr
(the)-king Asgrim answers That think I that my kinsmen
siti á þessum eignum skattlausum. Enn þótt konungr sjá
sit on these estates tax-free But though king this
ágirnist meira enn menn viti dœmi til, þá vil ek þó frjáls
covet more than men know examples of then will I yet free

vera ok engan skatt gjalda.“ Þórormr kveðst ætla, at
be and no tax pay Thorорm says-of-himself think that
hann mundi óvitrliga fyrir búast: „Ok hefir þeim mönnum
he would unwisely for make-ready And has to-those men
eigi veitt, at deila kappi við konung, sem ekki hafa verit
not availed to dispute strength with (the)-king who not have been
órikari menn enn þú ert“. Ferr Þórormr á konungs-fund,
less-powerful men than you are Goes Thorорm to (the)-king's-meeting
ok segir honum svá búit. Konungr mælti: „Skjótt munu
and tells him so done (The)-king spoke Quickly will
vér gera skiftin þá. Vér munum eignast land hans ok
we make the-dealings then We will get-possession-of land his and
lausafé, enn ætla honum lengd af jörðu“. Ok kvaddi til
movable-goods but assign him a-length of earth And summoned for-it
Þórorm ármann einn, at gera til hans. Enn er Þórormr var
Thorорm steward one to make to him But when Thorорm was
í brottu frá Ásgrími, átti Ásgrímr þing við bœndr ok
in away from Asgrim had Asgrim an-assembly with farmers and
mælti: „Þat er meiri ván, at konungr sjá taki þungliga
spoke That is greater likelihood that king this takes heavily
váru máli. Nú vil ek senda honum gjafir, enn eigi skatt,
our case Now will I send him gifts but not tax
ok gera ek þat fyrstr minna manna“. Síðan valdi hann til
and do I that first of-my men Then chose he for-it
sendimenn, ok færa konungi gjafir: Þat var hestr gauzkr,
messengers and bring to-(the)-king gifts That was a-horse Gautish
ok þar með mikit silfr. Komu sendimenn fyrir konung, ok
and there with much silver Came (the)-messengers before (the)-king and
mæltu: „Ásgrímr hersir sendir yðr góða kveðju ok ríki
spoke Asgrim (the)-chieftain sends you good greeting and realm
yðru, enn hann hefir spurt orðsending yðra um skatt. Enn
your but he has learned message your about tax But

hann vill eigi hann gjalda heldr hefir hann sent yðr margar
he will not it pay rather has he sent you many
vingjafir“. Konungr mælti: „Berit aftr gjafir hans allar. Ek
friend-gifts (The)-king spoke Bear-you back gifts his all I
skal konungr í þessu landi, ok setja lög ok rétt, enn eigi
shall king in this land and set law and right but not
hann“. Nú verða sendimenn aftr at fara við svá búit. Ok á
he Now must (the)-messengers back to go with so done And at
þessi stundu kom Þórormr; ok lét Ásgrímr þings kveðja.
this time came Thorорm and had Asgrim an-assembly summon
Þá stóð Ásgrímr upp ok mælti: „Vita munu þér ákall
Then stood Asgrim up and spoke Know will you (the)-claim
við oss af Haraldi konungi. Hygg ek nú hér vera komna
upon us from Harald (the)-king Think I now here to-be come
vel flesta bœndr af Þelamörk, þá er ráðamenn eru. Nú
well most farmers of Telemark those who men-of-counsel are Now
vil ek, at vér verðim samdóma fyrir konungs-mönnum,
wish I that we become of-one-judgment before king's-men
at eigi brjóti þetta á mér einum. Er þat mest ván, at
that not break this on me alone Is that most likelihood that
konungr leggi fjandskap á þann, er fyrir beitist. Nú vil
(the)-king lays enmity on that-one who before puts-himself Now will
ek vita svör af yðr“. Bœndr létust hann hafa fengit
I know answers from you (The)-farmers professed him to-have gotten
formælanda fyrir sik: „Enn ekki er oss um skatt at
a-spokesman for themselves But not is to-us about-it tax to
gjalda“. „Þá veli þér yðr þann“, sagði Þórormr, „sem
pay Then choose you for-yourselves that said Thorорm which
verst gegnir. Hafa margir þeir borit lægra hlut fyrir Haraldi
worst serves Have many those borne lower lot before Harald
konungi, er svá mundi sýnast, sem hvergi mundu hafa
(the)-king who so would seem as-if nowhere would have

minni hamingju, ok hafa þó lágt fyrir honum farit“. Ásgrímr
less luck and have yet low before him fared Asgrim
svarar: „Á þat vil ek sáttr vera, sem aðrir bœndr vilja“.
answers On that will I agreed be which other farmers wish

II · ÞÓRSTEINN TENT-PITCHER

At the assembly Þórormr's thrall kills Ásgrímr on the king's orders. Þórsteinn returns from viking, burns Þórormr in his house in revenge, and sails to Iceland, where Flosi Þórbjarnarson welcomes him and helps him settle at Skarð. When a ship with a sick crew comes to Rangárós and no one will help them, Þórsteinn takes them in and, when his wife objects, lodges them in a tent near the farm, which gives him his nickname. The last of them to die hides his silver.

En þingit var sett við skóg nökkurn. Enn er þingit
But the-assembly was set by forest some But when the-assembly
raufst, þá mælti Þórormr við þræl sinn: „Gakk þú til
broke-up then spoke Thorорm to thrall his Go you to-it
ok drep Ásgrím, ok leita þegar í skóginn“. Hann gerir
and kill Asgrim and seek at-once into the-forest He does
svá: leitar fram í milli mannanna ok hjó hann þegar
so seeks forward in between the-men and struck him at-once
banahögg. Ok svá hafði konungr ráð til sett. Enn bœndr
death-blow And so had (the)-king counsel to set But (the)-farmers
drápu þegar þrælinn. Enn Þórormr komst þó nauðuluga í
killed at-once the-thrall But Thorорm got yet narrowly into
skóginn undan, ok svá til skips. Ferr nú á konungsfund, ok
the-forest away and so to ship Goes now to king's-meeting and
segir honum sem komit var. Konungr mælti: „Trautt mun
tells him as come was (The)-king spoke Hardly will
fást hugfullari þræll, ok því fekk ek hann til, at ek
be-gotten more-courageous thrall and therefore got I him to-it that I

vissa, at sá mundi feigr, er hann vægi; enn sárt vilda
knew that he would doomed whom he slew but sorely would-wish
ek leika alla þá, er mér brjótast í móti“. Þórsteinn
I to-play all those who me break-themselves in against Thorstein
Ásgrímsson var í hernaði, ok var manna gerviligastr, mikill
Asgrim's-son was in harrying and was of-men most-promising big
ok sterkr. Enn er hann kom heim ór víkingu, komu
and strong But when he came home out-of viking came
menn á fund hans, ok segja honum liflát föður hans.
men to meeting his and tell him death of-father his
Þórsteinn svarar: „Bitu hann enn ráðin Haralds konungs,
Thorstein answers Bit him yet the-plans of-Harald (the)-king
enn brátt mun eftir verða ætt vára, ef Haraldr konungr skal
but soon will left become family our if Harald (the)-king shall
einn fyrir sjá. Síðan varði hann föðurleifð sinni í silfr
alone for look-out Then turned he father's-inheritance his into silver
ok lausafé, ok kveðst ætla, at hann mundi eigi keppa
and movable-goods and says-of-himself think that he would not contend
við Harald konung. Enn þá var för mikil til Íslands ór
with Harald (the)-king But then was going great to Iceland out-of
Noregi eftir þau stórvirki, er menn ráku harma sinna. Nú
Norway after those great-deeds when men avenged griefs their Now
bjóst Þórsteinn til Íslands, ok með honum Þórgeirr bróðir
made-ready Thorstein to Iceland and with him Thorgeir brother
hans, tíu vetra gamall, ok Þórunn föðursystir þeira, fóstra
his ten winters old and Thorunn father's-sister their foster-mother
Þórgeirs. Enn er búit var skip til hafs, þá mælti
of-Thorgeir But when ready was (the)-ship for sea then spoke
Þórsteinn við félaga sína: „Þat mundi faðir minn ætla, þá
Thorstein to companions his That would father my intend then
er hann lét mik eigi út bera, at ek munda nökkut minnast
when he had me not out carry that I would somewhat remember

at hefna hans, ef hann yrði eigi sóttdauður. Nú þó at eigi
to avenge him if he became not sickness-dead Now though that not
komi þar niðr sem vera skyldi, þá er þó eigi ámælis-vert, ef
comes there down where be should then is yet not blame-worthy if
jafnmenni kemr fyrir. Nú vil ek fara í Þrumu til Þórorms“.
equal-man comes instead Now will I go to Thruma to Thororm
Ok svá gerir hann: koma þar á náttarþeli, ok tóku hús
And so does he come there in night-time and took (the)-house
á þeim. Þá mælti Þórsteinn: „Nú skulu menn þat vita,
on them Then spoke Thorstein Now shall men that know
at ek ætla hér til föðurhefnda, ok vilda ek hafa þar til
that I intend here for father-vengeance and would-wish I have there to
yðvart liðsinni“. Enn þeir sögðust honum veita skyldu,
your help But they said-of-themselves him give should
slíkt er þeir mætti. Síðan slá þeir eldi í bœinn; ok þar
such as they could Then strike they fire into the-farm and there
brann inni Þórormr, ok sveit hans öll. Enn um morgininn
burned in Thororm and band his all But in the-morning
höggva þeir upp búit, ok bera til skips; láta í haf eftir
hew they up the-livestock and carry to ship put to sea after
þat. Og lézt Þórsteinn nú fúsari í haf at láta, enn þá,
that And professed Thorstein now more-eager to sea to put than then
at honum væri því brugðit á Íslandi, at hann hefði
that to-him were with-that reproached in Iceland that he had
eigi hefnt föður síns. Þeir láta nú í haf, ok koma skipi
not avenged father his They put now to sea and bring ship
sínu í Rangárós. Enn sá maðr var fyrir sveit, er Flosi
their into Rangaros But that man was over (the)-district who Flosi
hét, ok var Þórbjarnarson; hann var landnámsmaðr. Ríða
was-called and was Thorbjorn's-son he was settler Ride
menn til skips. Kom þar Flosi, ok kannaðist hann þegar
men to (the)-ship Came there Flosi and recognized he at-once

við Þórstein, ok spurði hann, hvat hann hafi til rekit, at
with Thorstein and asked him what him has to driven to
fara út hingat. Þórsteinn mælti: „Ek hefi farit, (sem) sumir
go out hither Thorstein spoke I have gone like some
aðrir, heldr skyndiliga af Noregi með vandkvæði, ok nú í
others rather suddenly from Norway with difficulty and now in
sökum við Harald konung. Nú vilda ek hér staðfestast ok
charges with Harald (the)-king Now would-wish I here to-settle and
vera frjáls“. Hann kvað slíkt þá menn henda, sem ekki vilja
be free He said such those men befall who not will
láta yfir drifast: „Enn vér skulum þér vel fagna“. Hann nam
let over be-driven But we shall you well welcome He took
land, at ráði Flosa, fyrir ofan Víkingalæk, ok út til móts
land by counsel of-Flosi before above Vikingalaek and out to meeting
við Svínhaga; bjó í Skarði hinu eystra. Hann átti Þuríði,
with Svinhagi dwelt at Skard the eastern He married Thurid
dóttur Gunnars, Sigmundarsonar, Sighvatssonar hins rauða,
daughter of-Gunnar Sigmund's-son Sighvat's-son the Red
er fell við Sandhóla. Sighvatr hinn rauði átti Rannveigu,
who fell at Sandholar Sighvat the Red married Rannveig
dóttur Eyvindar lamba, Berðlu-Kárasonar, systur Finns, föður
daughter of-Eyvind Lamb Berdlu-Kari's-son sister of-Finn father
Eyvindar skáldaspillis. Sonr Þórsteins ok Þuríðar var
of-Eyvind Poet-spoiler (The)-son of-Thorstein and Thurid was
Gunnarr. Þórsteinn var drengr góðr, ok sér gnógr um alla
Gunnar Thorstein was fellow good and to-himself sufficient in all
hluti. Þat er sagt, at skip kom í Rangár-ós, þat er fylgdi
things That is said that a-ship came into Rangaros that which followed
ósvipr mikill ok sjúkleiki; ok sá menn við, at koma til
stench great and sickness and guarded men against to come to
þeira, at eigi fengi menn illindi af þeim, ok fór svá um
them that not got men harm from them and went so for

hríð. Enn er Þórsteinn frá þetta, kvað hann mönnum
a-while But when Thorstein learned this said he to-men
eigi sama, at þeir fœrist af bjargleysi. Fór þá Þórsteinn
not befitting that they perished from helplessness Went then Thorstein
á fund þeira, ok spyrr, með hverju móti væri sótt þeira.
to meeting their and asks with what manner were sickness their
Enn þeir sögðust vorðnir fyrir gerningum: „Enn nú vill
But they said-of-themselves become before sorceries But now will
engi á sjá með oss“. Þórsteinn mælti: „Mun eigi þat vænst,
no-one on look with us Thorstein spoke Will not that best
at þér farit með oss“. Enn er þeir koma heim, kvað
that you go with us But when they come home said
Þuríðr eigi meðal endemi í vera, hvat hann tók til, ok
Thurid not middling outrage in-it to-be what he took to and
vildi flýja bœinn. Enn Þórsteinn kvað eigi þat skyldu, ok
would flee the-farm But Thorstein said not that should and
bjó eitt tjald skamt frá bœnum. Því var (hann) kallaðr
made one tent short from the-farm Therefore was he called
Þórsteinn Tjaldstœðingr. Nú gerðist hallæri mikit yfir þeim,
Thorstein Tent-Pitcher Now arose famine great over them
svá at engi mátti hjá þeim vera, nema Þórsteinn einn. Ok
so that no-one could by them be except Thorstein alone And
ekki var athœfi þeira fríðlegt, því at sá þeira, sem lengst
not was conduct their seemly because that he of-them who longest
lifði, fal silfr mikit, ok vildi at engi nyti. Þórsteinn
lived hid silver much and would that none enjoyed-it Thorstein
átti síðar Þuríði Sigfúsdóttur. Þeira son var Skeggi, faðir
married later Thurid Sigfus's-daughter Their son was Skeggi father
Gunnars, föður Skeggja, föður Lofts, föður Guðlaugs smiðs.
of-Gunnar father of-Skeggi father of-Loft father of-Gudlaug (the)-smith

Þórvalds þáttr víðförla

The Tale of Thorvald the Far-Traveled

Koðrán of Giljá in Vatnsdalr favors his son Ormr and neglects Þórvaldr. Þórdís the prophetess predicts that Þórvaldr will surpass his kin and chooses for him only silver Koðrán inherited honestly. Þórvaldr goes abroad and serves Sveinn Forkbeard, who values him above all his men for his wisdom, courage, and generosity. When Sveinn and Þórvaldr are captured in Britain, a duke whose sons Þórvaldr once ransomed sets him free, and at Þórvaldr's refusal to leave alone frees Sveinn too, who later praises him before two kings.

Maðr er nefndr Eilífr örn; við hann er kent eitt hit hæsta
A-man is named Eilif Eagle after him is named one the highest
fjall á Reykjaströnd í Skagafirði. Eilífr örn var son
mountain on Reykjastrond in Skagafjord Eilif Eagle was son
Atla, Skíðasonar hins gamla, Bárðarsonar í Ál. Eilífr örn
of-Atli Skidi's-son the Old Bard's-son in Al Eilif Eagle
átti Þórlaugu, dóttur Sæmundar hins suðreyska, er nam
married Thorlaug daughter of-Saemund the Hebridean who took
Sæmundarhlíð. Þau áttu þrjá sonu: hét einn Sölmundr,
Saemundarhlid They had three sons was-called one Solmund
faðir Guðmundar, föður Víga-Barða ok bræðra hans. Annarr
father of-Gudmund father of-Slaying-Bardi and brothers his (The)-second
var Atli hinn rammi; hann átti Herdísi, dóttur Þórðar
was Atli the Strong he married Herdis daughter of-Thord
frá Höfða; þeira dóttir var Þórlaug, er átti Guðmundr
from Hofdi their daughter was Thorlaug whom married Gudmund
hinn ríki á Möðruvöllum. Þriði son Eilífs arnar hét
the Powerful at Modruvellir (The)-third son of-Eilif Eagle was-called
Koðrán, er bjó at Giljá í Vatnsdal; hann var auðigr maðr;
Kodran who dwelt at Gilja in Vatnsdal he was wealthy man
kona hans hét Járngerðr; son þeira hét Ormr, en
wife his was-called Jarngerd son their was-called Orm and

annarr Þórvaldr. Koðrán unni mikit Ormi syni sínum, enn
(the)-other Thorvald Kodran loved much Orm son his but
Þórvaldi lítit eðr ekki. Var honum haldit til vinnu, þegar
Thorvald little or not Was him held to work as-soon-as
hann mátti sér nökkut; hann var klæddr lítt, ok gerr
he could himself anything he was clothed little and made
í hvívetna hornungr bróðr síns. Hann þjónaði í húsi
in everything (the)-castaway of-brother his He served in (the)-house
föður síns, þat er hann var til skipaðr, með öllum
of-father his that which he was to appointed with all
góðvilja. Þann tíma bjó Þórdís spákona út á Skagaströnd,
goodwill At-that time dwelt Thordis (the)-Prophetess out on Skagastrond
þar sem síðan heitir at Spákonufelli. Á einu sumri þá
there where since is-called at Spakonufell In one summer accepted
hon heimboð at Koðráni at Giljá, því at hann var vin
she invitation-home at Kodran's at Gilja because that he was friend
hennar. En er Þórdís var at veizlunni, ok hon sá, hverr
her But when Thordis was at the-feast and she saw what
munr var gerr þeira bræðra, þá mælti hon til Koðráns:
difference was made of-them brothers then spoke she to Kodran
„Þat legg ek til ráðs með þér, at þú sýnir meira manndóm
That lay I to counsel with you that you show more manliness
héðan af Þórvaldi syni þínum, enn þú hefir gert hér til,
hence from to-Thorvald son your than you have done here to
því at ek sé þat með sannindum, at fyrir margra hluta
because that I see that with truths that for of-many things'
sakir mun hann verða ágætari enn allir aðrir þínir frændr.
sake will he become more-excellent than all other your kinsmen
Enn ef þú hefir á honum litla elsku at sinni, þá fá þú
But if you have on him little love for (the)-time then give you
honum kaupeyri, ok lát hann lausan, ef nökkurr verðr til
him trading-goods and let him loose if anyone becomes to-it

at sjá til með honum, meðan hann er ungr.“ Koðrán sá,
to see to with him while he is young Kodran saw
at hon talaði slíkt af góðvilja, ok sagðist víst mundu
that she spoke such from goodwill and said-of-himself surely would
fá honum nökkut silfr. Lét hann þá fram einn sjóð,
give him some silver Brought he then forth one purse
ok sýndi henni. Þórdís leit á silfrit ok mælti: „Ekki skal
and showed her Thordis looked at the-silver and spoke Not shall
hann hafa þetta fé, því at þetta fé hefir þú tekit með
he have this money because that this money have you taken with
afli ok ofríki af mönnum í sakeyri.“ Hann bar þá fram
force and violence from men in fines He brought then forth
annan sjóðinn, ok bað hana þar á at líta. Hou gerði svá,
(the)-second purse and bade her there on to look She did so
ok mælti síðan: „Ekki tek ek þetta fé fyrir hans hönd“.
and spoke afterward Not take I this money for his hand
Koðrán spurði: „Hvat finnr þú (at) þessu silfri?“ Þórdís
Kodran asked What find you in this silver Thordis
svarar: „Þessa penninga hefir þú saman dregit fyrir ágirndar
answers These coins have you together drawn for greed's
sakir í landskyldum ok fjárleigum meirum enn réttligt er;
sake in land-rents and money-loans greater than right is
fyrir því heyrir slíkt fé þeim manni eigi til meðferðar,
for that belongs such money to-that man not for handling
er bæði mun verða réttlátr ok mildr.“ Síðan sýndi Koðrán
who both will become just and generous Then showed Kodran
henni digran fésjóð, ok var fullr af silfri. Vá Þórdís
her a-thick money-purse and was full of silver Weighed Thordis
þar af þrjár merkr til handa Þórvaldi, enn fekk Koðráni
there of three marks to hand to-Thorvald but gave to-Kodran
aftr þat er meira var. Þá mælti Koðrán: „Fyrir hví vildir
back that which more was Then spoke Kodran For why would

þú taka heldr af þessum penningum fyrir hönd sonar míns,
you take rather of these coins for hand of-son my
enn af hinum, sem ek færða þér fyrr“. Hon svarar: „Því
than of the-others which I brought you before She answers Because
at þú hefir at þessum vel komizt, er þú hefir tekit í
that you have to these well come which you have taken in
arf eftir föður þinn.“ Eftir þat fór Þórdís brott frá
inheritance after father your After that went Thordis off from
veizlunni, með sœmiligum gjöfum ok vináttu Koðráns. Hafði
the-feast with honorable gifts and friendship of-Kodran Had
hon Þórvald heim með sér til Spákonufells, var hann með
she Thorvald home with herself to Spakonufell was he with
henni um hríð vel haldinn at klæðum ok öðrum hlutum,
her for a-while well kept in clothes and other things
þeim er hann þurfti, ok þroskaðist mikit. Enn er hann
those which he needed and grew much But when he
var vel frumvaxti, fór hann útan at ráði Þórdísar. Létti
was well full-grown went he abroad by counsel of-Thordis Stopped
hann ekki fyrr enn hann kom fram í Danmörku. Þar fann
he not before than he came forward in Denmark There found
hann Svein, er kallaðr var tjúguskegg. Sveinn var lítillar
he Svein who called was Forkbeard Svein was of-little
ættar í móðurkyn, en hann sagðist vera sonr Haraldar
family in mother's-kin but he said-of-himself to-be son of-Harald
Gormssonar Danakonungs. Sveinn varð ekki ílendr í þann
Gorm's-son king-of-the-Danes Svein became not settled at that
tíma í Danmörk, því at Haraldr konungr vildi ekki ganga
time in Denmark because that Harald (the)-king would not go
við faðerni hans. Lá hann þá löngum í hernaði, ok var
with paternity his Lay he then long in harrying and was
kallaðr konungr af liðsmönnum, sem víkinga siðr var. Enn
called king by troop-men as vikings' custom was But

er Þórvaldr kom á fund Sveins, tók hann vel við honum,
when Thorvald came to meeting of-Svein took he well with him
ok gerðist Þórvaldr hans maðr, ok var með honum nökkur
and became Thorvald his man and was with him some
sumur í hernaði fyrir vestan haf. Þórvaldr hafði eigi lengi
summers in harrying to-the west-of (the)-sea Thorvald had not long
verit með Sveini konungi, áðr konungr virði hann umfram
been with Svein (the)-king before (the)-king valued him beyond
aðra menn ok alla sína vini, því at Þórvaldr var mikill
other men and all his friends because that Thorvald was great
ráðagerðarmaðr, öllum auðsær at dygð ok skynsemd, styrkr
counsel-man to-all plain in virtue and good-sense strong
at afli ok hugaðr vel, vígkœnn ok snarpr í orrustum,
in might and courageous well war-skilled and keen in battles
mildr ok örlyndr af penningum ok reyndr at fullkomnum
generous and liberal with money and proven in perfect
trúleik ok lítillætis þjónustu, hugþekkr ok ástúðigr öllum
faithfulness and of-humility service pleasing and affectionate to-all
liðsmönnum, ok eigi ómakliga, því at þá enn heiðinn
troop-men and not undeservedly because that then still heathen
sýndi hann réttlæti umfram hátt annarra heiðinna manna,
showed he justice beyond (the)-way of-other heathen men
svá at hlutskifti þat allt, er hann fekk í hernaði, veitti
so that share that all which he got in harrying gave
hann þurfandum ok til útlausnar herteknum mönnum, ok
he to-the-needy and for ransom to-captured men and
hjálpaði mörgum, þeim er meinstaddir váru. Enn ef honum
helped many those who in-distress were But if to-him
hlotnuðust herteknir menn, sendi hann þá aftr til feðra
fell captured men sent he them back to fathers
sinna ok frænda, svá sem hina, er hann hafði með
their and kinsmen so as the-others whom he had with

penningum út leyst. Nú því at hann var frœknari í
money out ransomed Now because that he was bolder in
orrustum enn aðrir liðsmenn, þá gerðu þeir lögtekit, at
battles than other troop-men then made they law-adopted that
hann skyldi hafa kostgrip at hverri tekju; enn hann neytti
he should have choice-treasure at every taking but he used
svá þeirar frumtignar, at hann köri ríkra manna sonu, eðr
so that first-honor that he chose powerful men's sons or
þá hluti aðra, er þeim var mest eftirsjá at, er látit höfðu,
those things other which to-them was most regret at who lost had
enn hans félögum þœtti minst fyrir at gefa upp, ok sendi
but his to-companions seemed least for to give up and sent
síðan þeim, er átt höfðu; þar fyrir elskuðu hann jafnvel
afterward to-them who owned had there for loved him even
þeir, er fyrir ránum urðu af Sveins mönnum, ok víðfrægðu
they who before robberies became from Svein's men and widely-spread
lof hans góðleika; þaðan af frelsti hann auðveldliga sína
praise his goodness thence from freed he easily his
menn, þó at gripnir yrði af sínum óvinum, ok eigi síðr
men though that seized became by their enemies and not less
enn um sjálfan Svein konung. Svá bar til, at einn tíma
than about himself Svein (the)-king So came to-pass that one time
er Sveinn herjaði á Bretland, ok í fyrstu vann hann
when Svein harried in Britain and at first won he
sigr ok fekk mikit herfang; enn er hann sótti langt á
victory and got great booty but when he pressed far onto
land upp frá skipunum, þá kom á móti honum svá mikit
land up from the-ships then came on against him so great
riddara-lið, at hann hafði enga viðtöku; var Sveinn konungr
knight-troop that he had no resistance was Svein (the)-king
þar fanginn, bundinn ok kastat inn, ok með honum Þórvaldr
there captured bound and thrown in and with him Thorvald

Koðránsson ok margir aðrir göfgir menn ok mikilsvirðir. Á
Kodran's-son and many other noble men and much-esteemed On
næsta degi kom einn ríkr hertogi til myrkvastofu með
(the)-next day came one powerful duke to (the)-dark-room with
miklu liði, at taka Þórvald út af dýflizu, því at litlu áðr
great troop to take Thorvald out of (the)-dungeon because that a-little before
hafði hann hertekna sonu þessa sama hertoga leyst, ok sent
had he captured sons of-this same duke ransomed and sent
heim frjálsa til föður síns. Hertoginn bað Þórvald út ganga,
home free to father their The-duke bade Thorvald out go
ok fara frjálsan á brott. Þórvaldr sór um, at hann skyldi
and go free off away Thorvald swore about-it that he should
fyrir engan mun þaðan lífs fara, nema Sveinn konungr væri
for no means thence alive go unless Svein (the)-king were
út leystr ok frelstr með öllum sínum mönnum. Hertoginn
out ransomed and freed with all his men The-duke
gerði þetta þegar fyrir hans skyld, sem Sveinn konungr
did this at-once for his sake as Svein (the)-king
váttaði síðan, þá er hann sat at einni ágætri veizlu með
witnessed afterward then when he sat at one splendid feast with
tveim konungum öðrum. Ok er sendingar komu inn, mælti
two kings other And when dishes came in spoke
einn dróttseti, sagði, at eigi mundi verða einn skutill svá
one steward said that not would be one platter so
vegliga skipaðr sem þá, er þrír svá voldugir konungar
splendidly furnished as then when three so mighty kings
snæddu af einum diski. Þá svarar Sveinn konungr brosandi:
ate from one dish Then answers Svein (the)-king smiling
„Finna man ek þann útlendan bóndason, at einn hefir með
Find will I that foreign farmer's-son that alone has with
sér, ef rétt virðing er á höfð, í engan stað minna göfugleik
himself if right valuation is on had in no place less nobility

ok sómasemd enn vér allir þrír konungar“. Nú varð af
and honor than we all three kings Now became from
þessu gleði mikil í höllinni, ok spurðu hlœjandi allir, hvar
this mirth great in the-hall and asked laughing all where
eðr hvílíkr þessi maðr væri, er hann segir svá mikla frægð
or what-kind this man were who he tells so great fame
af. Hann svarar: „Þessi maðr, er ek tala hér til, er svá
of He answers This man whom I speak here to is so
vitr sem spökum konungi hœfði at vera, styrkr ok hugdjarfr
wise as for-a-wise king befitted to be strong and bold
sem hinn öruggasti berserkr, svá siðugr ok góðháttaðr
as the most-steadfast berserk so well-mannered and of-good-ways
sem hinn siðugasti spekingr.“ Sagði hann síðan af Þórvaldi
as the most-mannered sage Told he then of Thorvald
þenna atburð, sem nú var ritaðr, er hann frelsti konunginn
this event as now was written when he freed the-king
fyrir sína vinsæld ok fyrir marga ágæta hluti ok lofsamliga.
for his popularity and for many excellent things and praiseworthy

II · KOÐRÁN'S SPIRIT

Þórvaldr is baptized by the Saxon bishop Friðrekr and brings him to Iceland. At Giljá, Koðrán is drawn by the ceremonies but trusts a spirit living in a stone. They agree that if the bishop can drive it out, Koðrán will convert. On three days the bishop pours holy water over the stone; each night the spirit appears to Koðrán more wretched, first lamenting its burned children, at last driven out and reproaching him. Koðrán renounces it and is baptized with his household, all but Ormr.

Þessu næst sem Þórvaldr hafði farit víða um lönd, tók
This next when Thorvald had traveled widely about lands took
hann trú rétta ok var skírðr af saxlenzkum biskupi, þeim
he faith right and was baptized by Saxon bishop that

er Friðrekr hét ok eftir þat bað hann Friðrek biskup
who Fridrek was-called and after that bade he Fridrek (the)-bishop
með öllu kostgæfi, at hann mundi fara til Íslands með
with all diligence that he would go to Iceland with
honum, at prédika Guðs erindi, ok leita at snúa til Guðs
him to preach God's errand and seek to turn to God
föður hans ok móður ok öðrum náfrændum hans. Biskup
father his and mother and other near-kinsmen his (The)-bishop
játtaði því gjarna, ok fór til Íslands síðan, ok greiddist
granted that gladly and went to Iceland afterward and sped
vel þeira ferð. Koðrán tók vel við syni sínum. Váru þeir
well their journey Kodran took well with son his Were they
Þórvaldr ok biskup hinn fyrsta vetr at Giljá með Koðráni
Thorvald and (the)-bishop the first winter at Gilja with Kodran
við þrettánda mann. Tók Þórvaldr þegar at boða Guðs
with thirteenth man Began Thorvald at-once to preach God's
erindi frændum sínum ok þeim öllum, er hann komu at
errand to-kinsmen his and to-those all who him came to
finna, því at biskupi var ókunnig tunga landsmanna,
meet because that to-(the)-bishop was unknown (the)-tongue of-the-land's-men
ok snörust nökkurir menn til réttrar trúar fyrir orð
and turned some men to right faith through words
Þórvalds á þeim vetri. Enn nú skal fyrst segja, hversu hann
of-Thorvald in that winter But now shall first tell how he
leiddi til sanns átrúnaðar föður sinn ok hans heimamenn.
led to true belief father his and his household-men
Á nökkurri hátíð, þá er Friðrekr biskup með sínum
At some feast then when Fridrek (the)-bishop with his
klerkum framdi tíðagerð ok guðligt embætti, var Koðrán
clerics performed service and divine office was Kodran
nær staddr, meirr sakir forvitni enn hann ætlaði sér
near present more for-sake of-curiosity than he intended for-himself

at samþykkja at sinni þeira siðferði. Enn er hann
to agree for (the)-time their with-way-of-life But when he
heyrði klukkna-hljóð ok fagran klerkasöng, ok kendi sætan
heard bell-sound and fair clerics'-singing and sensed sweet
reykelsis-ilm, enn sá biskup vegligum skrúða skrýddan,
incense-smell but saw (the)-bishop in-splendid vestment arrayed
ok alla þá, er honum þjónuðu, klædda hvítum klæðum
and all those who him served clothed in-white clothes
með björtu yfirbragði, ok þar með birti mikla um
with bright countenance and there with brightness great throughout
allt húsit af fögru vaxkertaljósi, ok aðra þá hluti, sem
all the-house from fair wax-candle-light and other those things which
til heyrðu því hátíðarhaldi, þá þóknuðust honum allir
to belonged that feast-keeping then pleased him all
þessir hlutir heldr vel. Enn á þeim sama degi kom hann
these things rather well But on that same day came he
at Þórvaldi syni sínum ok mælti: „Nú hefi ek sét ok
to Thorvald son his and spoke Now have I seen and
nökkut hugleitt, hversu alvörusamliga þjónustu þér veitit
somewhat considered how earnest service you give
Guði yðrum, enn þó, eftir því sem mér skilst, eru
God your but yet according-to that which to-me understood-is are
mjök sundrleitir siðir várir, því at mér sýnist at Guð
very different customs our because that to-me seems that God
yðarr mun gleðjast af ljósi því, er várir guðir hræðast.
your will rejoice in light that which our gods fear
Enn ef svá er, sem ek ætla, þá er þessi maðr, sem þú
But if so is as I think then is this man whom you
kallar biskup yðvarn, spámaðr þinn, því at ek veit at
call bishop your prophet your because that I know that
þú nemr at honum alla þá hluti, er þú boðar oss
you learn from him all those things which you preach us

af Guðs þíns hálfu. Enn ek á mér annan spámann,
on God's your behalf But I have for-myself another prophet
er mér veitir mikla nytsemd; hann segir mér fyrir marga
who to-me gives great usefulness he tells me before many
óorðna hluti, hann varðveitir kvikfé mitt, ok minnir mik
unhappened things he guards livestock my and reminds me
á, hvat ek skal fram fara, eðr hvat ek skal varast, ok fyrir
of what I shall forward go or what I shall beware-of and for
því á ek mikit traust undir honum, ok hefi ek hann
that have I great trust in him and have I him
dýrkat langa æfi, enn misþokkast þú honum mjök ok svá
worshiped long life but displease you him much and also
spámaðr þinn, ok siðferði ykkart, ok af letr hann mik,
prophet your and way-of-life your-two and from deters he me
at veita ykkr nökkura viðsœming, ok einna mest at taka
to grant you-two any honor and of-all most to take
ykkarn sið.“ Þórvaldr mælti: „Hvar byggir spámaðr þinn“.
your-two faith Thorvald spoke Where dwells prophet your
Koðrán svarar: „Hér býr hann skamt frá bœ mínum í
Kodran answers Here dwells he short from farm my in
einum miklum steini ok vegligum“. Þórvaldr spyrr, hversu
one great stone and splendid Thorvald asks how
lengi hann hefði þar búit. Koðrán segir hann þar bygt
long he had there dwelt Kodran says him there dwelt
hafa langa æfi. „Þá mun ek“, segir Þórvaldr, „setja hér
to-have long life Then will I says Thorvald set here
til máldaga með okkr, faðir, þú kallar þinn spámann mjök
to compact between us-two father you call your prophet very
styrkan, ok segir þik á honum hafa mikit traust, enn
strong and say yourself on him to-have great trust but
biskup, er þú kallar minn spámann, er auðgætiligr ok
(the)-bishop whom you call my prophet is easy-to-handle and

ekki aflmikill, enn ef hann má fyrir kraft himna-Guðs,
not of-great-strength but if he can through power of-heaven's-God
þess er vér trúum á, reka brottu spámann þinn af
that whom we believe in drive away prophet your from
svá styrku herbergi, þá er rétt at þú fyrirlátir hann, ok
so strong dwelling then is right that you forsake him and
snúist til þess hins styrkasta Guðs, skapara þíns, sem
turn-yourself to that the strongest God creator your who
er at sönnu Guð, ok engi styrkleikr má sigra; hann byggir
is in truth God and no strength can conquer he dwells
í eilífu ljósi, þangat er hann leiðir alla á sik trúandi,
in eternal light thither where he leads all on himself believing
ok sér trúliga þjónandi, at þeir lifi þar með honum í
and him faithfully serving that they live there with him in
óumrœðiligri sælu útan enda. Ok ef þú vill snúast til
unspeakable bliss without end And if you will turn-yourself to
hins háleita himna-konungs, þá mátt þú skjótt skilja, at
the sublime heaven's-king then may you soon understand that
þessi, er þik af letr at trúa á hann, er þinn fullkominn
this-one who you from deters to believe in him is your perfect
svikari, ok hann girnist at draga þik með sér frá eilífu
deceiver and he desires to draw you with himself from eternal
ljósi til óendiligra myrkra; enn ef þér sýnist sem hann
light to unending darkness but if to-you seems as-if he
gera þér nökkura góða hluti, þá gerir hann þat allt til þess,
do you some good things then does he that all for that
at hann megi því auðveldligar þik fá svikit, ef þú trúir
that he may the more-easily you get deceived if you believe
hann þér góðan ok nauðsynligan.“ Koðrán svarar: „Auðséð
him to-you good and necessary Kodran answers Easily-seen
er mér þat, at sundrleit er skilning ykkur biskups ok
is to-me that that different is understanding of-you-two (the)-bishop and

hans, ok eigi síðr skil ek þat, at með kappi miklu
his and not less understand I that that with zeal great
fylgja hvárir sínu máli. Ok alla þá hluti, sem þit segit
follow each-of-two his case And all those things which you-two say
af honum, slíkt hit sama flytr hann af ykkr. Enn hvat þarf
of him such the same brings he of you-two But what needs
hér at tala margt um: þessi máldagi sem þú hefir á sett,
here to talk much about-it this compact which you have on set
mun prófa sannindi.“ Þórvaldr varð glaðr við rœðu föður
will test (the)-truths Thorvald became glad at (the)-speech of-father
síns, ok sagði biskupi allan þenna málavöxt ok samtal
his and told to-(the)-bishop all this lie-of-the-case and talk
þeira. Á næsta degi eftir vígði biskup vatn, fór síðan
their On (the)-next day after consecrated (the)-bishop water went then
með bœnum ok sálmasöng, ok dreifði vatninu umhverfis
with prayers and psalm-singing and sprinkled the-water around
steininn, ok svá steypti hann því yfir ofan, at allr varð
the-stone and so poured he it over from-above that all became
vátr steinninn. Um nóttina eftir kom spámaðr Koðráns at
wet the-stone In the-night after came (the)-prophet of-Kodran to
honum í svefni, ok með daprligri ásjónu ok skjálftafullr,
him in sleep and with gloomy face and trembling-full
sem af hræðslu, ok mælti til Koðráns: „Illa hefir þú gert,
as-if from fear and spoke to Kodran Ill have you done
at þú bautt hingat mönnum þeim, er á svikum sitja við
that you invited hither men those who on deceits sit toward
þik, svá at þeir leita at reka mik brottu af bústað mínum,
you so that they seek to drive me off from dwelling my
því at þeir steyptu vellanda vatni yfir mitt herbergi, svá
because that they poured boiling water over my dwelling so
at börn mín þola eigi litla kvöl af þeim brennandi
that children my suffer not little torment from those burning

dropum, er inn renna um þekjuna; enn þó at slíkt
drops which in run through the-roof but though that such
skaði eigi sjálfan mik mjök, þá er allt at einu þungt at
harm not self me much then is all at one heavy to
heyra þyt smábarna, er þau œpa af bruna.“ Enn
hear (the)-wailing of-little-children when they shriek from burning But
at morgni komanda sagði Koðrán syni sínum eftir spyrjanda
at morning coming told Kodran to-son his upon asking
alla þessa hluti. Þórvaldr gladdist við ok eggjaði biskup,
all these things Thorvald rejoiced at-it and urged (the)-bishop
at hann skyldi halda fram uppteknu efni. Biskup fór
that he should keep forward undertaken matter (The)-bishop went
til steinsins með sína menn, ok gerði allt sem fyrra
to the-stone with his men and did all as (the)-former
dag, ok bað almáttkan Guð kostgæfliga, at hann ræki
day and prayed almighty God diligently that he would-drive
fjándann á brottu ok leiddi manninn til hjálpar. Á næstu
the-fiend off away and lead the-man to salvation In (the)-next
nótt eftir sýndist sá hinn flærðarfulli spámaðr Koðráni mjök
night after appeared that the deceit-full prophet to-Kodran very
gagnstaðligr því sem fyrr var hann vanr at birtast honum
contrary to-that as before was he wont to appear to-him
með björtu ok blíðligu yfirliti ok ágætliga búinn; enn nú
with bright and gentle countenance and splendidly dressed but now
var hann í svörtum ok herfiligum skinnstakki, dökkr ok
was he in black and wretched skin-cloak dark and
illiligr í ásjónu, ok mælti svá til bónda með sorgfullri
evil-looking in face and spoke so to (the)-farmer with sorrowful
ok skjálfandi raust: „Þessir menn stunda fast á at ræna
and trembling voice These men strive hard on-it to rob
okkr báða okkrum gœðum ok nytsemdum, er þeir vilja
us-two both of-our goods and usefulness when they will

elta mik á brottu af minni eiginligri erfð, en svifta
chase me off away from my own inheritance and deprive
þik várri elskuligri umhyggju ok framsýniligum forspám; nú
you of-our loving care and far-seeing foretellings now
ger þú svá mannliga, at þú rek þá brottu, svá at vit
do you so manfully that you drive them away so that we-two
þarfnimst eigi alla góða hluti fyrir þeira ódygð, því at
lack not all good things for their faithlessness because that
aldri skal ek flýja, en þó er þungt at þola lengr allar þeira
never shall I flee but yet is heavy to bear longer all their
illgerðir ok óhœgindi“. Alla þessa hluti ok marga aðra, er
ill-deeds and discomforts All these things and many others which
sá fjándi hafði talit fyrir Koðráni, sagði hann syni sínum
that fiend had recounted before Kodran told he to-son his
um morgininn. Biskup fór til steinsins hinn þriðja dag,
in the-morning (The)-bishop went to the-stone the third day
með því móti sem fyrr. Enn sá hinn illgjarni andi sýndist
with that manner as before But that the evil spirit appeared
bónda um nóttina eftir hit þriðja sinn með hryggiligu
to-(the)-farmer in the-night after the third time with sorrowful
yfirbragði, ok bar upp fyrir hann þess háttar kvein með
countenance and bore up before him such kind lament with
snöktandi röddu, ok segir svá: „Þessi vándr svikari, biskup
sobbing voice and says so This wicked deceiver bishop
kristinna manna, hefir af sett mik allri minni eign,
of-Christian men has from set me all my property
herbergi mínu hefir hann spillt, steypt yfir mik vellanda
dwelling my has he spoiled poured over me boiling
vatni, vætt klæði mín, rifit ok ónýtt með öllu, enn mér ok
water wetted clothes my torn and ruined with all but to-me and
mínu hyski hefir hann veitt bótlansan bruna, ok hér með
my household has he given incurable burning and here with

rekit mik nauðgan langt í brott í auðn ok útlegð. Nú
driven me forced far off away into wilderness and exile Now
hljótum vit at skilja bæði samvistu ok vinfengi, ok gerist
must we-two to part both living-together and friendship and comes
þetta allt af einu saman þínu dygðarleysi. Hugsa þú nú,
this all from one together your faithlessness Think you now
hverr þitt góz man héðan af varðveita svá dyggiliga, sem
who your goods will hence from guard so faithfully as
ek hefi áðr varðveitt. Þú kallast maðr réttlátr ok trúlyndr,
I have before guarded You call-yourself man just and faithful
enn þú hefir ömbunat mér illu gott.“ Þá svarar Koðrán:
but you have repaid me with-ill good Then answers Kodran
„Ek hefi þik dýrkat svá sem nytsamligan ok styrkan Guð,
I have you worshiped so as useful and strong God
meðan ek var óvitandi hins sanna, enn nú, með því at
while I was ignorant of-the truth but now with that that
ek hefi reynt þik flærðarfullan ok mjök ómeginn, þá er
I have proven you deceit-full and very powerless then is
mér nú rétt ok útan allan glœp at fyrirláta þik, enn flýja
to-me now right and without all crime to forsake you but flee
undir skjól þess guðdóms, er miklu er betri ok styrkari
under shelter of-that godhead which much is better and stronger
en þú.“ — Við þetta skildu þeir með stygð enn engum
than you With this parted they with ill-will but no
blíðskap. Því næst var skírðr Koðrán bóndi, ok kona hans
friendliness That next was baptized Kodran (the)-farmer and wife his
Járngerðr, ok aðrir heimamenn, útan Ormr son hans vildi
Jarngerd and other household-men but Orm son his would
eigi skírast láta þat sinn.
not be-baptized let that time

Þórvaldr and the bishop live at Lækjamót and preach widely. At Þórvaldr's wedding feast at Haukagil, two berserk brothers, both named Haukr, challenge the bishop to walk through fire. The bishop blesses the fire, and the berserks, wading in, trip, fall headlong, and are burned to death; they are buried up the ravine, named Haukagil after them. The bishop walks unharmed through the flames, and many are converted. The bride's father, Ólafr, later builds a church at his farm with timber from Þórvaldr.

Um várit eftir fóru þeir biskup ok Þórvaldr vestr til
In the-spring after went they (the)-bishop and Thorvald west to
Víðidals með lið sitt, ok settu bú saman at Lækjamóti
Vididal with troop their and set household together at Laekjamot
ok bjoggu þar þrjá vetr, ok fóru á þeim árum víða um
and dwelt there three winters and went in those years widely about
Ísland at prédika Guðs orð. Á hinum fyrstum misserum,
Iceland to preach God's word In the first seasons
er þeir váru at Lækjamóti, bað Þórvaldr til handa sér
when they were at Laekjamot asked Thorvald to hand for-himself
konu þeirar, er Vígdís hét, dóttir Ólafs, er bjó at
a-woman that who Vigdis was-called daughter of-Olaf who dwelt at
Haukagili í Vatnsdal. Enn er þeir biskup ok Þórvaldr
Haukagil in Vatnsdal But when they (the)-bishop and Thorvald
komu til veizlunnar, var þar fyrir fjöldi boðsmanna heiðinna.
came to the-feast was there present multitude of-guests heathen
Þar var mikill skáli, sem þá var víða siðr til, ok fell einn
There was great hall as then was widely custom to and fell one
lítill lækr um þveran skálann ok búit um vel. Enn
little brook about across the-hall and arranged about-it well But
þeir hvárugir vildu öðrum samneyta, kristnir menn ok
they neither would with-(the)-other share-company Christian men and

heiðnir. Þá var þat ráð tekit, at tjaldat var um þveran
heathen Then was that counsel taken that hung-with-tents was about across
skálann í milli þeira, þar sem lækrinn var; skyldi biskup
the-hall in between them there where the-brook was should (the)-bishop
vera fram í skálann með kristna menn, enn heiðingjar fyrir
be forward in the-hall with Christian men but heathens before
innan tjaldit. At því sama brúðlaupi váru með öðrum
within the-tent-hanging At that same wedding were with other
heiðnum mönnum tveir brœðr, hinir römmustu berserkir ok
heathen men two brothers the strongest berserks and
mjök fjölkunnigir; hét hvárrtveggja Haukr, enn því at
very skilled-in-magic was-called each-of-two Hauk but because that
þeir stóðu öllu afli einna mest í móti réttri trú, ok
they stood with-all strength of-all most in against right faith and
kostgæfðu at eyða kristiligu siðlæti, þá buðu þeir biskupi, ef
strove to destroy Christian morality then offered they (the)-bishop if
hann hefði þoran til eðr nökkut traust á Guði sínum, at
he had courage to-it or any trust in God his that
hann skyldi reyna við þá íþróttir, þær sem þeir váru vanir
he should try with them feats those which they were wont
at fremja, at vaða loganda eld með berum fótum, eðr láta
to perform to wade burning fire with bare feet or let
fallast á vápn svá, at þá skaðaði ekki. Enn biskup,
fall-themselves onto weapons so that them harmed not But (the)-bishop
treystandi á Guðs miskunn, neitaði eigi; váru þá gjörvir
trusting in God's mercy refused not were then made
eldar stórir eftir endilöngum skálanum, sem í þann tíma
fires great along (the)-length-of the-hall as at that time
var títt, at drekka öl við eld. Biskup skrýddist öllum
was customary to drink ale by fire (The)-bishop arrayed-himself in-all
biskups-skrúða, ok vígði vatn; gekk þá at eldinum svá
bishop's-vestments and consecrated water went then to the-fire so

búinn, hafði mitr á höfði ok bagal í hendi; hann vígði
dressed had miter on head and crozier in hand he consecrated
eldinn ok dreifði vatninu yfir. Því næst gengu inn þessir
the-fire and sprinkled the-water over-it That next went in these
tveir berserkir, grimmliga grenjandi, bitu í skjaldar-rendr,
two berserks fiercely howling bit into shield-rims
ok höfðu ber sverð í höndum, ætluðu nú at vaða eldinn;
and had bare swords in hands intended now to wade the-fire
en þá bar skjótara at fram enn þeir ætluðu, ok drápu
but then bore swifter to forward than they intended and struck
fótum í eldstokkana, svá at þeir fellu báðir áfram, enn
with-feet into the-fire-logs so that they fell both forward but
eldinn lagði at þeim, ok brendi þá á lítilli stundu með svá
the-fire laid at them and burned them in little time with so
mikilli ákefð, at þeir váru þaðan dauðir dregnir. Þeir váru
great fury that they were thence dead dragged They were
færðir upp með gilinu ok grafnir þar; því heitir þat
brought up along the-ravine and buried there therefore is-called that
síðan Haukagil. Friðrekr biskup gerði fyrir sér krossmark,
since Haukagil Fridrek (the)-bishop made before himself a-cross-sign
ok gekk á eldinn miðjan ok svá fram eftir endilöngum
and walked onto the-fire middle and so forward along (the)-length-of
skálanum, enn logann lagði tvá vega frá hönum, sem
the-hall but the-flame laid two ways from him as-if
vindr blési, ok því síðr kendi hann meinsamligs hita af
wind blew and so-much less felt he harmful heat from
eldinum, at eigi með nökkuru móti sviðnuðu hinar minstu
the-fire that not with any manner were-singed the smallest
trefr á skrúða hans. Snörust þá margir til Guðs, er sá
threads on vestment his Turned then many to God who saw
þetta hit háleita stórtákn. Þenna atburð segir Gunnlaugr
this the sublime great-sign This event says Gunnlaug

munkr, at hann heyrði sannorðan mann, Glúm Þórgilsson,
(the)-monk that he heard a-truthful man Glum Thorgils's-son
en Glúmr hafði numit at þeim manni, er hét Arnórr,
but Glum had learned from that man who was-called Arnor
ok var Arndísarson. Ólafr at Haukagili gerði síðan kirkju
and was Arndis's-son Olaf at Haukagil made afterward a-church
á bœ sínum, enn Þórvaldr fekk honum viðinn til.
at farm his but Thorvald got him the-timber for-it

IV · RESISTANCE AND A CHURCH SPARED

At Hvammr, Friðgerðr sacrifices while Þórvaldr preaches and her son Skeggi mocks him, and Þórvaldr speaks a verse against her. In the north several leading men are baptized, among them Þórvarðr of Áss, who builds a church. Klaufi and then Þórvarðr's own brother Arngeirr try to burn it: the first turns back when it seems full of fire, the second is driven off when one arrow lands by his head and a second pins his clothes to the floor. The church, built sixteen years before Christianity became law, stood unharmed.

Þeir biskup ok Þórvaldr lögðu á alla stund með hinu mesta
They (the)-bishop and Thorvald laid on all time with the greatest
kostgæfi, at leiða sem flesta menn Guði til handa, eigi at eins
diligence to lead as most men to-God to hand not at only
þar í nœstum sveitum, heldr fóru þeir víða um Ísland at boða
there in nearest districts rather went they widely about Iceland to preach
orð Guðs. Þeir komu vestr í Hvamm í Breiðafjarðardölum um
word of-God They came west to Hvamm in Breidafjardardalir at
alþingi; þar bjó Þórarinn nef, son Þórðar gellis; hann átti
Althing-time there dwelt Thorarin Nose son of-Thord Yeller he married
Friðgerði dóttur Höfða-Þórðar. Þórarinn bóndi var eigi heima,
Fridgerd daughter of-Hofda-Thord Thorarin (the)-farmer was not at-home

enn Friðgerðr húsfreyja tók vel við þeim í fyrstu. Þórvaldr
but Fridgerd (the)-housewife took well with them at first Thorvald
taldi þar trú fyrir mönnum, enn Friðgerðr blótaði meðan
preached there faith before men but Fridgerd sacrificed meanwhile
inni, ok heyrði hvárt þeira annars orð. Friðgerðr svaraði orðum
inside and heard each of-them other's words Fridgerd answered words
Þórvalds fá, ok þó illa, enn Skeggi, son þeira Þórarins, hafði
of-Thorvald few and yet ill but Skeggi son of-them Thorarin's had
í spotti orð Þórvalds. Þar um orti Þórvaldr vísu þessa:
in mockery words of-Thorvald There about composed Thorvald verse this

Fórk með dóm inn dýra,
Went-I with doom the precious
drengr hlýddi mér engi,
fellow listened to-me none
gátum hrings frá hreyti
got-we of-ring from (the)-flinger
hlautteins goða sveini;
of-(the)-blood-twig of-(the)-priest for-(the)-lad
enn með enga svinnu
but with no wisdom
aldin rýgr við skaldi,
old giantess at (the)-poet
þá greypi Guð gyðju,
then may-cast God (the)-priestess
gall of heiðnum stalli.
yelled over heathen altar

Ekki er þess getit, at nökkurir menn í Vestfirðinga-fjórðungi
Not is of-that told that any men in (the)-West-Fjords'-Quarter
kristnaðist af þeira orðum. En norðr í sveitum, er þeir
were-christened by their words But north in districts where they

fóru þar yfir, tóku rétta trú nökkurir göfgir menn: Önundr
went there over took right faith some noble men Onund
í Reykjadal, sonr Þórgils Grénjaðarsonar, ok Hlenni at
in Reykjadal son of-Thorgils Grenjad's-son and Hlenni at
Saurbœ í Eyjafirði, ok Þórvarðr í Ási við Hjaltadal. —
Saurbaer in Eyjafjord and Thorvard at As by Hjaltadal
Bróðir Þórvarðs hét Arngeirr ok annarr Þórðr. —
(The)-brother of-Thorvard was-called Arngeir and (the)-other Thord
Hann var sonr Spak-Böðvars Öndóttssonar landnámsmanns,
He was son of-Spak-Bodvar Ondott's-son (the)-settler
er bjó í Viðvík. Þessir ok enn fleiri menn urðu fullkomliga
who dwelt at Vidvik These and yet more men became fully
kristnir í Norðlendinga-fjórðungi; enn þeir váru margir, þó
Christian in (the)-North-Quarter but they were many though
at þeir léti eigi skírast at sinni, ok trúðu Kristi ok
that they let not baptize-themselves for (the)-time and believed in-Christ and
fyrirlétu skurðgoðablót ok allan heiðinn sið, ok vildu eigi
forsook idol-sacrifice and all heathen custom and would not
gjalda hoftolla. Fyrir þat reiddust heiðingjar Friðreki biskupi,
pay temple-tolls For that grew-angry heathens at-Fridrek (the)-bishop
ok lögðu fjándskap á alla þá, er honum samþyktu. Þórvarðr
and laid enmity on all those who him agreed-with Thorvard
Spak-Böðvarsson lét gera kirkju á bœ sínum í Ási, ok hafði
Spak-Bodvar's-son had make a-church at farm his at As and had
með sér prest, er biskup fekk honum, at syngja sér
with himself a-priest whom (the)-bishop got him to sing for-him
tíðir ok veita honum guðliga þjónostu. Við þat varð mjök
hours and give him divine service At that became very
reiðr Klaufi, son Þórvalds Refssonar frá Barði í Fljótum.
angry Klaufi son of-Thorvald Ref's-son from Bard in Fljot
Klaufi var mikils háttar maðr; hann fór til fundar við
Klaufi was of-great standing man he went to a-meeting with

brœðr Þórvarðs, Arngeir ok Þórð, þess erindis, at hann
(the)-brothers of-Thorvard Arngeir and Thord on-that errand that he
bauð þeim kost á, hvárt þeir vildi heldr drepa prestinn eðr
offered them choice on whether they would rather kill the-priest or
brenna kirkjuna. Arngeirr svarar: „Let ek þik þess, ok svá
burn the-church Arngeir answers Dissuade I you from-that and also
hvern annan minn vin, at drepa prestinn, því at Þórvarðr
each other my friend to kill the-priest because that Thorvard
bróðir minn hefir fyrrum grimmilega hefnt smæri meingerða,
brother my has formerly grimly avenged lesser injuries
enn ek get at honum þykki þessi; enn hins vil ek eggja,
than I guess that to-him seems this but the-other will I urge
at þú brennir kirkjuna“. Ekki vildi Þórðr samþykkja þeim
that you burn the-church Not would Thord agree with-them
at þessu ráði. Litlu síðar fór Klaufi til um nótt, við
in this counsel A-little later went Klaufi to-it in (the)-night with
tíunda mann, at brenna kirkjuna. Enn er þeir nálguðust
tenth man to burn the-church But when they approached
ok gengu í kirkjugarðinn, kendu þeir ákafligan hita ok sá
and went into the-churchyard felt they fierce heat and saw
mikla gneista-flaug út í glugga kirkjunnar; fóru þeir brottu
great spark-flying out in (the)-windows of-the-church went they away
við þat, at þeim þótti kirkjan full af eldi. Annan tíma fór
at that that to-them seemed the-church full of fire (The)-second time went
Arngeirr til við marga menn ok ætlaði at brenna þessa sömu
Arngeir to-it with many men and intended to burn this same
kirkju; enn er þeir höfðu brotit upp hurðina, ætlaði hann
church but when they had broken up the-door intended he
at tendra eld á gólfinu við þurran fjallrapa; enn því
to kindle fire on the-floor with dry mountain-brushwood but because
at eigi logaði svá skjótt sem hann vildi, þá lagðist hann
that not blazed so quickly as he would then laid-himself he

inn yfir þrepskjöldinn, ok ætlaði at blása at, er glóðin
in over the-threshold and intended to blow at-it when the-embers
var nóg, enn eigi vildi festa í viðinum. Þá kom ör ok
was enough but not would catch in the-wood Then came an-arrow and
stóð föst í kirkjugólfinu rétt við höfuð honum; ok þegar
stood fast in the-church-floor right by head to-him and at-once
kom önnur; sú nisti klæði hans við gólfit, svá at örin
came a-second that-one pinned clothes his to the-floor so that the-arrow
flaug í millum síðu hans ok skyrtunnar, er hann var i.
flew in between side his and the-shirt which he was in
Hann hljóp þá upp hart ok mælti: „Svá flaug þessi örin
He leaped then up hard and spoke So flew this the-arrow
nær síðu minni, at ek em ráðinn í at bíða eigi hér hinnar
near side my that I am resolved on to wait not here for-the
þriðju“. Nú hlífði Guð svá húsi sínu. Fór Arngeirr á brottu
third Now shielded God so house his Went Arngeir off away
með sína menn, ok leituðu heiðingjar eigi oftar at brenna þá
with his men and sought heathens not oftener to burn that
kirkju. Þessi kirkja var ger sextán árum fyrr enn kristni
church This church was made sixteen years earlier than Christianity
var lögtekin á Íslandi, enn hon stóð svá, at ekki var at gert.
was law-taken in Iceland but it stood so that not was to done

At the Alþingi Þórvaldr preaches openly, but Héðinn of Svalbarð answers with blasphemy and turns the people against him, and the heathens pay poets to compose slander, including a verse that the bishop has borne nine children, all fathered by Þórvaldr. Þórvaldr kills two of the poets. The bishop rebukes him: a Christian should endure insults for God's sake, and he could well bear Þórvaldr's children if he had any.

Hit næsta sumar á alþingi taldi Þórvaldr Koðránsson
The next summer at (the)-Althing preached Thorvald Kodran's-son
trú eftir bœn biskups opinberliga fyrir öllum lýð.
faith at (the)-prayer of-(the)-bishop openly before all people
Enn er hann hafði fram borit með mikilli snild
But when he had forward brought with great eloquence
mörg ok sönn stórmerki almáttigs Guðs, þá svarar fyrstr
many and true great-signs of-almighty God then answers first
kynstórr maðr ok göfugr, þó at heiðinn væri ok grimmr:
a-high-born man and noble though that heathen were and fierce
Héðinn frá Svalbarði af Eyjafjarðarströnd, sonr Þórbjarnar
Hedin from Svalbard of Eyjafjardarstrond son of-Thorbjorn
Skagasonar, Skoftasonar. Héðinn átti Ragneiði, stjúpdóttur
Skagi's-son Skofti's-son Hedin married Ragneid step-daughter
ok bróðurdóttur Eyjólfs Valgerðarsonar. Héðinn mælti margt
and brother's-daughter of-Eyjolf Valgerd's-son Hedin spoke much
illt við Þórvald ok guðlastaði mjök í móti heilagri trú.
ill to Thorvald and blasphemed much in against holy faith
Ok svá gat hann með sinni illgirnd um talit fyrir fólkinu,
And so could he with his malice about talked before the-people
at engi maðr lagði trúnað á þat, er Þórvaldr hafði sagt,
that no man laid belief in that which Thorvald had said
heldr tók þaðan af svá mjök at vasa illviljafull ofsókn ok
rather took thence from so much to grow ill-will-full persecution and

hatr heiðingja við þá biskup ok Þórvald, at þeir gáfu
hatred of-heathens toward them (the)-bishop and Thorvald that they gave
skáldum fé til at yrkja níð um þá. Þar er þetta í:
poets money to to compose slander about them There is this in-it

> Hefir börn borit þeira' er allra
> *Has children borne of-them who of-all*
> biskup níu Þórvaldr faðir.
> *(the)-bishop nine Thorvald father*

Fyrir þat drap Þórvaldr tvá, er ort höfðu kvæðit; enn
For that killed Thorvald two who composed had the-poem but
biskup þoldi allar meingerðir með hinni mestu hógværi. Enn
(the)-bishop endured all injuries with the greatest meekness But
er Þórvaldr hafði drepit skáldin, fór hann til biskups, at
when Thorvald had killed the-poets went he to (the)-bishop to
segja honum, hvat hann hafði gert. Biskup sat inni ok sá
tell him what he had done (The)-bishop sat inside and looked
á bók; ok áðr Þórvaldr gekk inn, komu tveir blóðdropar á
on a-book and before Thorvald went in came two blood-drops onto
bókina fyrir biskup; skildi biskup þegar, at þar var nökkur
the-book before (the)-bishop understood (the)-bishop at-once that there was some
fyrirbending. Enn er Þórvaldr kom inn til hans, mælti
portent But when Thorvald came in to him spoke
biskup: „Annathvárt hefir þú framit manndráp, ella hefir
(the)-bishop Either have you done manslaughter or have
þú þat í hug þér". Þórvaldr segir þá, hvat hann hafði gert.
you that in mind to-you Thorvald tells then what he had done
Biskup mælti: „Hví fórt þú svá með?" Þórvaldr svarar: „Ek
(The)-bishop spoke Why went you so with-it Thorvald answers I
þolda eigi, er þeir kölluðu okkr raga". Biskup mælti: „Þat
endured not when they called us-two unmanly (The)-bishop spoke That

var lítil þolraun, þó at þeir lýgi þat, at þú ættir börn,
was little test-of-endurance though that they lied that that you had children
enn þú hefir gert orð þeira á verra veg, því at vel mætta
but you have made words their in worse way because that well might
ek bera börn þín, ef þú ættir nökkur. Eigi skyldi kristinn
I bear children your if you had any Not should a-Christian
maðr sjálfr leita at hefna sín, þó at hann væri hatrliga
man himself seek to avenge himself though that he were hatefully
smáðr, heldr þola fyrir Guðs sakir brigzli ok meingerðir".
insulted rather bear for God's sake taunts and injuries

VI · INGIMUNDR'S BAPTISM

The two continue preaching and stay at Eilífsfell with Þórvaldr's uncle Atli, who is baptized with his household and many others. A five-year-old boy, Ingimundr, son of Hafr of Goðdalir, persuades a shepherd to take him secretly over the mountain to see the bishop and asks to be baptized. Atli warns that the boy's kinsmen will be angry, but the bishop says such a request cannot be refused and baptizes him.

Nú þó at þeir þyldi mörg vandræði af vándum mönnum,
Now though that they endured many troubles from wicked men
þá léttu þeir eigi því heldr af at fara um sveitir ok boða
then ceased they not that rather from to go about districts and preach
Guðs erindi. Þeir komu út í Laxárdal ok dvöldust um hríð
God's errand They came out into Laxardal and stayed for a-while
undir Eilífsfelli hjá Atla hinum ramma, föðurbróður Þórvalds.
under Eilifsfell with Atli the Strong father's-brother of-Thorvald
Var Atli þá skírðr með heimamenn sína, ok margir aðrir
Was Atli then baptized with household-men his and many other
menn, er þeir komu til, því at heilags anda miskunn
men whom they came to because that (the)-holy spirit's mercy

nálgaðist af orðum þeira. Þá flaug fræði af biskupi, með
approached from words their Then flew lore from (the)-bishop with
Guðs gjöf í eyru einum smásveini fimm vetra gömlum,
God's gift into (the)-ears of-one little-boy five winters old
er hét Ingimundr, sonr Hafrs í Goðdali; hann var at
who was-called Ingimund son of-Hafr in Goddalir he was in
fóstri á Reykjaströnd. Ingimundr kom at máli einn dag við
fostering at Reykjastrond Ingimund came to talk one day with
smalamann fóstra síns, ok bað hann fylgja sér leyniliga
(the)-shepherd of-foster-father his and bade him go-with himself secretly
til Eilífsfjalls, at sjá biskupinn. Þetta veitti sauðamaðrinn
to Eilifsfell to see the-bishop This granted the-shepherd
honum. Þeir fóru yfir Kjartansgjá ok vestr yfir fjallit
him They went over Kjartansgja and west over the-mountain
til Laxárdals. Enn þegar er þeir komu til bœjar Atla at
to Laxardal But as-soon as they came to (the)-farm of-Atli at
Eilífsfelli, þá tók sveinninn at biðja at hann væri skírðr.
Eilifsfell then began the-boy to ask that he were baptized
Atli tók í hönd sveininum ok leiddi hann fyrir biskup, svá
Atli took in hand the-boy and led him before (the)-bishop so
segjandi: „Sveinn þessi er son göfugs manns, ok þó heiðins,
saying Boy this is son of-a-noble man and yet heathen
enn sveinninn beiðir skírnar útan ráð ok vitorð föður
but the-boy asks baptism without counsel and knowledge of-father
síns ok fóstra; nú sjá fyrir, hvat at er geranda, því at
his and of-foster-father now see for what that is to-be-done because that
vís ván er, at hvárumtveggja þeira man mjök mislíka,
certain expectation is that to-each-of-two of-them will much displease
ef hann er skírðr“. Biskup svarar hlœjandi: „Sannliga“,
if he is baptized (The)-bishop answers laughing Truly
segir hann, „er ungum smásveini eigi neitanda svá heilagt
says he is to-a-young little-boy not to-be-refused so holy

embætti, allra helzt er hann hefir heilsamligra skilning
office all most when he has more-wholesome understanding
á sínu ráði, enn frændr hans rosknir“. Siðan skírði biskup
of his counsel than kinsmen his grown Then baptized (the)-bishop
Ingimund, ok kendi honum áðr hann fór í brott, hvat
Ingimund and taught him before he went off away what
bonum var einna skyldast at varðveita meðr kristninni.
to-him was of-all most-binding to keep with Christianity

VII · MÁNI THE CHRISTIAN

The bishop baptizes a man named Máni, called the Christian, who lives at Holt and builds a church there, serving God with prayer and alms. In a time of famine he finds salmon in a pool below a waterfall, since named Mánafors, and gives the fishing to his church. Living almost as a hermit, he makes hay on a small patch by the churchyard for a single cow rather than mix with the heathens who hate him.

Svá er sagt, at Friðrekr biskup hafi skírt þann mann,
So is said that Fridrek (the)-bishop have baptized that man
er hét Máni, ok fyrir því, at hann helt helga trú með
who was-called Mani and for that that he held holy faith with
mörgum manndygðum ok góðlifnaði, var hann kallaðr Máni
many man-virtues and good-living was he called Mani
hinn kristni; hann bjó í Holti á Kólgumýrum; hann gerði
the Christian he dwelt at Holt on Kolgumyrar he made
þar kirkju. Í þeiri kirkju þjónaði hann Guði bæði nætr
there a-church In that church served he God both nights
ok daga með helgum bœnum ok ölmusugerðum, er hann
and days with holy prayers and alms-deeds which he
veitti margháttaðar fátœkum mönnum. Hann átti veiðistöð
gave manifold to-poor men He owned fishing-place

í á þeiri, er þaðan er skamt í brottu, þar sem enn
in (the)-river that which thence is short off away there where still
í dag heitir af hans nafni Mánafors, því at á nökkurum
in day is-called from his name Manafors because that at some
tíma, þá er hallæri var mikit ok sultr, hafði hann ekki
time then when famine was great and hunger had he nothing
til at fœða hungraða; þá fór hann til árinnar ok hafði þar
for to feed (the)-hungry then went he to the-river and had there
nóga laxveiði í hylnum undir forsinum. Þessa laxveiði gaf
enough salmon-catch in the-pool under the-waterfall This salmon-catch gave
hann undir kirkjuna í Holti, ok segir Gunnlaugr munkr, at
he to the-church at Holt and says Gunnlaug (the)-monk that
sú veiðr hafi þar jafnan síðan til legit. Hjá þeiri kirkju sér
that catch has there always since to-it lain By that church is-seen
enn merki, at hann hefir bygt svá sem einsetumaðr, því
still a-sign that he has dwelt so as hermit because
at svá sem hann var fjarlægr flestum mönnum þann tíma í
that so as he was distant from-most men at-that time in
hugskotinu, svá vildi hann ok at líkamligri samvistu firrast
the-mind so would he also in bodily living-together shun
alþýðu-þys, því at við kirkjugarðinn sér, at verit hefir
common-folk's-bustle because that by the-churchyard is-seen that been has
garðhverfa nökkur, er segir at hann hafi unnit á heyverk á
hay-patch some which says that he has worked at hay-making in
sumrum til þess at fóðra við eina kú, þá er hann fœddist
summers for that to fodder with one cow that which he was-fed
við, því at hann vildi afla sér atvinnu með erfiði
with because that he would get for-himself livelihood with toil
eiginligra handa, heldr enn samneyta heiðingjum, þeim er
of-own hands rather than share-company with-heathens those who
hann hötuðu, ok heitir þar síðan (Mánatóftir eðr) Mánagerði.
him hated and is-called there since Manatoftir or Managerdi

Heathens drive the bishop and Þórvaldr from the spring assembly at Hegranes with stones and shouting. Some 240 heathens later ride to burn them at Lækjamót, but birds frighten their horses, which throw and injure many of them. After a fourth winter the two go to Norway, where Þórvaldr has his thrall kill Héðinn of Svalbarð. The bishop parts from him for his killings, returns to Saxony, and dies in holiness.

Enn (er) at segja fátt af mörgum meingerðum ok ofsóknum,
But is to tell few of many injuries and persecutions
er heiðnir menn veittu Friðreki biskupi ok Þórvaldi fyrir
which heathen men gave to-Fridrek (the)-bishop and Thorvald for
boðan réttrar trúar: Þá bar svá til, er þeir vildu
(the)-preaching of-right faith Then came so to-pass when they would
ríða til várþings í Hegranes; enn er þeir nálguðust
ride to (the)-spring-assembly at Hegranes but when they approached
þingstaðinn, þá hljóp upp allr múgr heiðinna manna ok
the-assembly-place then leaped up all (the)-crowd of-heathen men and
runnu í móti þeim með miklu ópi; sumir börðu grjóti,
ran in against them with great shouting some pelted with-stones
sumir skóku at þeim vápn ok skjöldu með harki ok háreysti,
some shook at them weapons and shields with noise and clamor
báðu goðin steypa sínum óvinum, ok var engi ván, at
bade the-gods cast-down their enemies and was no expectation that
þeir mætti koma á þingit. Þá mælti biskup: „Nú kemr
they might come to the-assembly Then spoke (the)-bishop Now comes
þat fram, er móður mína dreymdi forðum daga, at hon
that forth which mother my dreamed in-former days that she
þóttist finna vargshár í höfði mér, því at nú eru vér
thought-herself to-find wolf's-hair in head to-me because that now are we
görvir rækir, ok reknir sem skœðir vargar með hræðiligu
made outcasts and driven like harmful wolves with dreadful

ópi ok styrjöld“. Eftir þat fóru þeir biskup heim
shouting and tumult After that went they (the)-bishop(-and-Thorvald) home
til Lœkjamóts ok dvöldust þar um sumarit. Á því sama
to Laekjamot and stayed there through the-summer In that same
sumri, eftir alþingi, sömnuðu nökkurir heiðnir höfðingjar
summer after (the)-Althing gathered some heathen chieftains
liði, svá at þeir höfðu tvö hundruð manna tólfræð; þeir
troop so that they had two hundred men counted-by-twelves they
ætluðu til Lœkjamóts, at brenna biskup inni ok allt lið
intended to Laekjamot to burn (the)-bishop inside and all troop
hans. Enn er þeir áttu skamt til bœjar at Lœkjamóti, þá
his But when they had short to (the)-farm at Laekjamot then
stigu þeir af hestum sínum ok ætluðu at æja, sem þeir
stepped they from horses their and intended to rest as they
gerðu; enn í því er þeir váru á bak komnir, flugu hjá
did but at that when they were on back come flew by
þeim fuglar margir váveifliga; við þat fœldust hestar þeira ok
them birds many suddenly at that shied horses their and
urðu svá óðir, at þeir fellu allir ofan, er á bak váru komnir,
became so mad that they fell all down who on back were come
ok meiddust; sumir fellu á grjót ok bruta fœtr sínar eðr
and were-hurt some fell onto stones and broke feet their or
hendr, eðr fengu önnur mein; sumir fellu á vápn sín
hands or got other hurts some fell onto weapons their
ok fengu þar stór sár af; hestarnir hljópu á suma ok
and got there great wounds from-it the-horses leaped on some and
meiddu. Þeim varð minst til vandræða, er hestarnir hljópu
hurt-them To-them became least of trouble whom the-horses ran
frá, ok urðu þeir at ganga langa leið til síns heima; hurfu
from and had they to walk long way to their home turned
þeir við þetta aftr. Skýldi svá allsvaldanda Guðs miskunn
they at this back Shielded so almighty God's mercy

sínum mönnum, at því síðr fengu þeir biskup
his men that so-much less got they (the)-bishop(-and-Thorvald)
þessu sinni nökkut mein af illvilja ok umsát heiðingja,
this time any harm from (the)-ill-will and ambush of-heathens
at þeir urðu með engu móti varir við þessa atför ok
that they became with no manner aware of this attack and
ráðagerð. Bjuggu þeir Þórhallr þann hinn fjórða vetr at
plotting Dwelt they Thorhall that the fourth winter at
Lækjamóti. Enn á næsta sumri eftir fóru þeir útan, fyrst
Laekjamot But in (the)-next summer after went they abroad first
til Noregs, ok lágu um hríð á höfn nökkurri. Þá kom
to Norway and lay for a-while in harbor some Then came
útan af Íslandi, ok lagði til þeirar sömu hafnar, sá maðr,
out from Iceland and laid-up to that same harbor that man
er fyrr var nefndr, Héðinn á Svalbarði. Héðinn gekk upp
who before was named Hedin at Svalbard Hedin went up
á land ok í skóg, at höggva sér húsavið. Þórvaldr
onto land and into (the)-forest to hew for-himself house-timber Thorvald
varð þess varr; hann kallaði með sér þræl sinn; þeir
became of-that aware he called with himself thrall his they
fóru í skóginn, þar sem Héðinn var; lét Þórvaldr þrælinn
went into the-forest there where Hedin was had Thorvald the-thrall
drepa Héðin. Enn er Þórvaldr kom til skips, sagði hann
kill Hedin But when Thorvald came to (the)-ship told he
þetta verk biskupi. Biskup segir: „Fyrir þetta víg skulu
this deed to-(the)-bishop (The)-bishop says For this slaying shall
vit skilja, því at þú vilt seint láta af manndrápum“.
we-two part because that you will slowly leave off manslaughters
Eftir þat fór Friðrekr biskup til Saxlands, ok endi þar
After that went Fridrek (the)-bishop to Saxony and ended there

líf sitt með háleitligum heilagleik, takandi eilífa ömbun af
life his with sublime holiness taking eternal reward from
allsvaldanda Guði fyrir sinn góðvilja ok stundligt starf.
almighty God for his goodwill and temporal labor

IX · ÞÓRVALDR IN THE EAST

Þórvaldr never returns to Iceland, fearing he could not bear his countrymen's hostility patiently. He travels to Jerusalem and through the Greek empire to Constantinople, where the emperor honors him, and is sent to Russia as a leader over its kings. Beside a cathedral dedicated to John the Baptist he founds a monastery, named after him and standing beneath a cliff called Dröfn, and there he dies and is buried.

Þórvaldr lifði síðan mörg ár. Enn með því at hann var
Thorvald lived afterward many years But with that that he was
maðr mikill af sjálfum sér, sterkr ok hugaðr vel, enn í alla
man great of self himself strong and courageous well but in all
staði geyminn Guðs boðorða með fullkominni ástarathygli,
places keeping God's commandments with perfect love's-attention
þá hugsaði hann þat, ef hann fœri enn aftr til sinnar
then thought he that if he went again back to his
fóstrjarðar, at eigi væri víst, hvárt hann þyldi svá í alla staði,
foster-land that not were certain whether he endured so in all places
sem vera ætti fyrir Guðs ást, mótgang ok meingerðir sinna
as be ought for God's love opposition and injuries of-his
samlanda. Fyrir því tók hann þat ráð, at vitja eigi oftar út
countrymen For that took he that counsel to visit not oftener out
til Íslands. Gerði hann þá ferð sína út í heim, ok allt til
to Iceland Made he then journey his out into (the)-world and all to
Jórsala, at kanna helga staði. Hann fór um allt Grikkjaríki
Jerusalem to explore holy places He went through all (the)-Greek-realm

ok kom til Miklagarðs. Tók sjálfr stólkonungrinn við honum
and came to Mikligard Took himself the-emperor with him
með mikilli virðing ok veitti honum margar vingjafir ágætar,
with great honor and gave him many friend-gifts excellent
því at svá var Guðs miskunn honum nákvæm, ok flaug
because that so was God's mercy to-him close and flew
hans frægð fyrir alþýðu, hvar sem hann kom, at hann
his fame before common-folk wherever that he came that he
var virðr ok vegsamaðr svá af minnum mönnum sem
was esteemed and glorified so by lesser men as
meirum, sem einn stólpi ok upphaldsmaðr réttrar trúar, ok
greater as a pillar and upholder of-right faith and
svá sœmdr sem dýrðarfullr játari várs herra Jesú Krists af
so honored as glorious confessor of-our lord Jesus Christ by
sjálfum Miklagarðskeisara ok öllum hans höfðingjum, ok eigi
himself (the)-Mikligard-emperor and all his chieftains and not
síðr af öllum biskupum ok ábótum um allt Grikkland ok
less by all bishops and abbots through all Greece and
Sýrland; allra mest var hann tignaðr um Austrveg, þangat
Syria of-all most was he honored in (the)-East-way thither
sendr af keisaranum svá sem foringi eðr valdsmaðr skipaðr
sent by the-emperor so as leader or ruler appointed
yfir alla konunga á Rúzlandi ok í öllu Garðaríki. Þórvaldr
over all kings in Russia and in all Gardariki Thorvald
Koðránsson reisti þar af grundvelli eitt ágætt munklíf hjá
Kodran's-son raised there from foundation one excellent monastery by
þeiri höfuðkirkju, er helgut er Jóhanne baptista, ok lagði
that cathedral which hallowed is to-John (the)-Baptist and laid
þar til nógar eignir. Hét þar æ síðan af hans nafni
there to enough estates Was-called there ever since from his name

Þórvalds-klaustr. Í því munklífi endi hann líf sitt ok er þar
Thorvald's-cloister In that monastery ended he life his and is there
grafinn. Þat klaustr stendr undir hábjargi, er heitir Dröfn.
buried That cloister stands under high-cliff which is-called Drofn

X · THE DATE OF THE MISSION

The bishop and Þórvaldr came to Iceland 981 years after Christ's incarnation and 107 years after the settlement of Iceland began. Three winters later Þórvarðr Spak-Böðvarsson built his church at Áss.

Þá er Friðrekr biskup ok Þórvaldr komu til Íslands, váru
Then when Fridrek (the)-bishop and Thorvald came to Iceland were
liðin frá holdgan várs herra Jesú Krists níu hundruð ára
passed from (the)-incarnation of-our lord Jesus Christ nine hundred years
ok eitt ár hins níunda tigar, enn eitt hundrað tirætt
and one year of-the ninth decade but one hundred counted-by-tens
ok sjö vetr frá upphafi Íslands bygðar. Þrim vetrum
and seven winters from (the)-beginning of-Iceland's settlement Three winters
síðar gerði Þórvarðr Spak-Böðvarsson kirkju í Ási.
later made Thorvard Spak-Bodvar's-son a-church at As

Þiðranda þáttr ok Þórhalls

The Tale of Thidrandi and Thorhall

Þórhallr, a Norwegian living at Hörgsland in the days of Earl Hákon, is wise and foresighted and called the Seer, and he is a close friend of Síðu-Hallr of Hof. Hallr's eldest son Þiðrandi is the most promising of men, humble and kind to all, and his father loves him best. One summer Hallr invites Þórhallr home, and Þórhallr stays at Hof through the summer at Hallr's wish until the autumn feast.

Þórhallr hét maðr norrœnn; hann kom út til Íslands
Thorhall was-called a-man Norwegian he came out to Iceland
á dögum Hákonar jarls Sigurðarsonar. Hann tók land í
in (the)-days of-Hakon (the)-earl Sigurd's-son He took land in
Sýrlœkjarósi, ok bjó á Hörgslandi. Þórhallr var fróðr maðr
Syrlaekjaros and dwelt at Horgsland Thorhall was learned man
ok mjök framsýnn, ok var kallaðr Þórhallr spámaðr. Þórhallr
and very foresighted and was called Thorhall (the)-Seer Thorhall
spámaðr bjó þá á Hörgslandi, er Síðu-Hallr bjó at Hofi í
(the)-Seer dwelt then at Horgsland when Sida-Hall dwelt at Hof in
Álftafirði, ok var með þeim hin mesta vinátta. Gisti Hallr á
Alftafjord and was between them the greatest friendship Lodged Hall at
Hörgslandi hvert sumar, er hann reið til þings. Þórhallr fór
Horgsland each summer when he rode to (the)-assembly Thorhall went
ok oft til heimboða austr þangat, ok var þar löngum. Sonr
also often to home-invitations east thither and was there long (The)-son
Halls hinn elzti hét Þiðrandi; hann var manna vænstr ok
of-Hall the eldest was-called Thidrandi he was of-men most-handsome and
efniligastr; unni Hallr honum mest allra sona sinna. Þiðrandi
most-promising loved Hall him most of-all sons his Thidrandi
fór landa í milli, þegar hann hafði aldr til. Hann var hinn
went of-lands in between as-soon-as he had age for-it He was the
vinsælasti, hvar sem hann kom, því at hann var hinn mesti
best-liked wherever that he came because that he was the greatest

atgervismaðr, lítillátr ok blíðr við hvert barn. Þat var eitt
accomplished-man humble and gentle toward every child That was one
sumar, at Hallr bauð Þórhalli vin sínum austr þangat, þá
summer that Hall invited Thorhall friend his east thither then
er hann reið af þingi. Þórhallr fór austr nökkuru síðar
when he rode from (the)-assembly Thorhall went east somewhat later
enn Hallr, ok tók Hallr við honum sem jafnan með hin mesta
than Hall and took Hall with him as always with the greatest
blíðskap. Dvaldist Þórhallr þar um sumarit, ok sagði Hallr,
friendliness Stayed Thorhall there through the-summer and said Hall
at hann skyldi eigi fyrri fara heim enn lokit væri haustboði.
that he should not sooner go home than ended were (the)-autumn-feast

II · A WARNING ABOUT THE FEAST

Þiðrandi comes home from abroad at eighteen and everyone praises him except Þórhallr, who says Þiðrandi may not be enjoyed for long. As autumn comes Þórhallr grows gloomy and says a seer will be killed at the coming feast. Hallr jokes that he has an old ox called Seer that will be slaughtered, but Þórhallr foresees stranger things he will not yet reveal, and says calling off the feast would not help, since what is fated will happen.

Þat sumar kom Þiðrandi út í Berufirði. Þá var hann átján
That summer came Thidrandi out in Berufjord Then was he eighteen
vetra. Fór hann heim til föður síns. Dáðust menn þá enn
winters Went he home to father his Admired men then still
mjök at honum sem oft áðr, ok lofuðu atgervi hans;
much at him as often before and praised accomplishment his
enn Þórhallr spámaðr þagði jafnan, þá er menn lofuðu
but Thorhall (the)-Seer was-silent always then when men praised
hann mest. Þá spurði Hallr, hví þat sætti, „er þú leggr svá
him most Then asked Hall why that meant that you lay so

fátt til um hagi sonar míns Þiðranda? því at mér
little to about circumstances of-son my Thidrandi because that to-me
þykkir þat merkilegt, er þú mælir, Þórhallr“, segir hann.
seems that notable which you speak Thorhall says he
Þórhallr svaraði: „Eigi gengr mér þat til þess, at mér
Thorhall answered Not goes to-me that for that that to-me
mislíki nökkurr hlutr við hann eðr þik, eðr ek sjái síðr enn
displeases any thing about him or you or I see less than
aðrir menn, at hann er hinn merkilegasti maðr, heldr berr
other men that he is the most-notable man rather bears
hitt til, at margir verða til at lofa hann, ok hefir hánn
that to-it that many become to-it to praise him and has he
marga hluti til þess, þó at hann virði sik lítils sjálfr.
many things for that though that he value himself little himself
Kann þat vera, at hans njóti eigi lengi, ok mun þér þá
Can that be that him enjoy-one not long and will to-you then
œrin eftirsjá at um son þinn svá vel mannaðan, þó at
ample regret at about son your so well bred though that
eigi lofi allir menn fyrir þér hans atgervi“. Enn er á
not praise all men before you his accomplishment But when on
leið sumarit tók Þórhallr mjök at ógleðjast. Hallr spurði,
passed the-summer began Thorhall much to be-gloomy Hall asked
hví þat sætti. Þórhallr svarar: „Illt hygg ek til haustboðs
why that meant Thorhall answers Ill think I of autumn-feast
þessa, er hér skal vera, því at mér býðr þat fyrir, at
this which here shall be because that to-me bodes that before that
spámaðr mun vera drepinn at þessi veizlu“. „Þar kann ek
a-seer will be killed at this feast There can I
at gera grein á“, segir bóndi; „ek á uxa einn, tiu
to make explanation on-it says (the)-farmer I own an-ox one ten
vetra gamlan, þann er ek kalla spámann, því at hann
winters old that which I call Seer because that it

er spakari enn flest naut önnur. Enn hann skal drepa at
is wiser than most cattle other But it shall-one slaughter at
haustboðinu, ok þarf þik þetta eigi at ógleðja, því at ek
the-autumn-feast and needs you this not to sadden because that I
ætla, at þessi mín veizla sem aðrar skuli þér ok öðrum
think that this my feast as others shall to-you and other
vinum mínum verða til sœmdar“. Þórhallr svarar: „Ek fann
friends my become for honor Thorhall answers I found
þetta ok eigi af því til, at ek væra hræddr um mitt líf,
this and not from that to that I were afraid about my life
ok boðar mér fyrir meiri tíðindi ok undarligri, þau er ek
and bodes to-me before greater tidings and stranger those which I
mun at sinni eigi upp kveða“. Hallr mælti: „Þá er ok ekki
will for (the)-time not up speak Hall spoke Then is also nothing
fyrir at bregða boði því“. Þórhallr svarar: „Ekki mun tjóa
for to break-off feast that Thorhall answers Not will avail
at gera þat, því at þat mun fram ganga sem ætlat er“.
to do that because that that will forward go as intended is

III · THE WOMEN AT THE DOOR

At the feast Þórhallr warns that no one must go out that night, whatever signs appear. Þiðrandi gives his bed to guests and lies down in the outermost seat. Late at night there is knocking, three times, and Þiðrandi goes out thinking guests have come. He sees nine women in black ride from the north with drawn swords and nine in white ride from the south; the black women reach him first, and he defends himself manfully. Long after, Þórhallr wakes, calls to Þiðrandi, gets no answer, and says it is too late.

Veizlan var nú búin at vetrnóttum. Kom þar fátt boðsmanna,
The-feast was now ready at winter-nights Came there few guests
því at veðr var hvasst ok viðgerðar-mikit. Enn er menn
because that weather was harsh and storm-great But when men
settust til borðs um kveldit, þá mælti Þórhallr: „Biðja
sat to table in the-evening then spoke Thorhall Ask
vilda ek, at menn hefði ráð mín um þat, at engi maðr
would-wish I that men had counsels my about that that no man
komi hér út á þessi nótt, því at mikil mein munu hér á
come here out in this night because that great harms will here on
liggja, ef af þessu er brugðit, og hverigir hlutir, sem verða
lie if from this is swerved and whatever things which happen
í bendingum, gefi menn eigi gaum at, því at illu mun
in signs give men not heed to-it because that ill will
furða, ef nökkurr anzar til“. Hallr bað menn halda orð
befall if anyone answers to-it Hall bade men keep (the)-words
Þórhalls; „því at þau rjúfast ekki“, segir hann, „ok er um
of-Thorhall because that they are-broken not says he and is about
heilt bezt at búa“. Þiðrandi gekk um beina; var hann í því
whole best to prepare Thidrandi went about serving was he in that
sem öðru mjúkr ok lítillátr. Enn er menn gengu at sofa,
as other gentle and humble But when men went to sleep
þá skipaði Þiðrandi gestum í sæng sína; enn hann sló
then assigned Thidrandi to-guests into bed his but he flung
sér niðr í sæti yztr við þili. Enn er flestir menn
himself down in seat outermost by (the)-paneling But when most men
váru sofnaðir, þá var kvatt dyra, ok lét engi maðr sem
were fallen-asleep then was knocked at-(the)-door and acted no man as-if
vissi. Fór svá þrisvar. Þá spratt Þiðrandi upp, ok mælti:
knew Went so thrice Then sprang Thidrandi up and spoke
„Þetta er skömm mikil, er menn láta hér allir sem sofi,
This is shame great that men act here all as-if sleep

ok munu boðsmenn komnir“. Hann tók sverð í hönd sér,
and will guests come He took sword into hand his
ok gekk út; hann sá engan mann. Honum kom þá þat í
and went out he saw no man To-him came then that into
hug, at nökkurir boðsmenn myndi hafa riðit fyrr heim til
mind that some guests would have ridden before home to
bœjar, ok riðit síðan aftr í móti þeim, er seinna riðu.
(the)-farm and ridden afterward back in against them who later rode
Hann gekk þá undir viðköstinn, ok heyrði, at riðit var
He went then under the-woodpile and heard that ridden was
norðan á völlinn. Hann sá, at þat varu konur níu, ok
from-the-north onto the-field He saw that that were women nine and
allar í svörtum klæðum, ok höfðu brugðin sverð í höndum.
all in black clothes and had drawn swords in hands
Hann heyrði ok at riðit var sunnan á völlinn, þar váru
He heard also that ridden was from-the-south onto the-field there were
ok níu konur, allar í ljósum klæðum ok á hvítum hestum.
also nine women all in light clothes and on white horses
Þá vildi Þiðrandi snúa inn, ok segja mönnum sýnina; enn
Then would Thidrandi turn in and tell men the-vision but
þá bar at konurnar fyrr, hinar svartklæddu; ok sóttu at
then came to the-women sooner the black-clad and attacked at
honum; enn hann varðist drengiliga Enn langri stundu
him but he defended-himself manfully But a-long while
síðar vaknaði Þórhallr, ok spurði, hvárt Þiðrandi vekti, ok
later woke Thorhall and asked whether Thidrandi were-awake and
var honum eigi svarat. Þórhallr kvað þá mundu of seinat.
was to-him not answered Thorhall said then would too late

Þiðrandi is found badly wounded, tells what he saw, and dies at dawn. Þórhallr says he does not know, but guesses that the women were the family's guardian spirits: the old ones, foreseeing the coming change of faith, took Þiðrandi as their tribute before the family turned from them, while the better spirits of the new faith could not yet help him. He predicts that Hallr's family will benefit from the new faith.

Var þá út gengit; var á tunglskin ok frostviðri. Þeir fundu
Was then out gone was on moonlight and frosty-weather They found
Þiðranda liggja særðau, ok var hann borinn inn. Ok er menn
Thidrandi lying wounded and was he carried in And when men
höfðu orð við hann, sagði hann þetta allt, sem fyrir hann
had words with him told he this all as before him
hafði borit. Hann andaðist þann sama morgun í lýsing, ok
had borne He died that same morning in (the)-daybreak and
var lagðr í haug at heiðnum sið. Síðan var haldit fréttum
was laid in a-mound by heathen custom Then was held inquiries
um mannaferðir, ok vissu menn ekki vánir óvina Þiðranda.
about men's-travels and knew men no expectations of-enemies of-Thidrandi
Hallr spurði Þórhall, hverju gegna myndi um þenna undarliga
Hall asked Thorhall what mean would about this strange
atburð. Þórhallr svarar: „Þat veit ek eigi; enn geta má ek til,
event Thorhall answers That know I not but guess may I to-it
at þetta hafi engar konur verit aðrar enn fylgjur yðrar frænda.
that these have no women been other than fetches your of-kinsmen
Get ek, at hér eftir komi siðaskifti, ok mun því næst koma
Guess I that here after come change-of-faith and will that next come
siðr betri hingat til lands. Ætla ek þær dísir yðrar, er fylgt
faith better hither to (the)-land Think I those disir your who followed
hafa þessum átrúnaði, munn hafa vitat fyrir siðaskifti,
have this belief will have known before (the)-change-of-faith

ok þat, at þér munit verða þeim afhendir frændr. Nú munu
and that that you will become to-them forsaking kinsmen Now will
þær eigi hafa því unat, at hafa engan skatt af yðr áðr, ok
they not have that endured to have no tribute from you before and
munu þær því hann haft hafa í sinn hlut; enn hinar
will they therefore him had have into their share but the
betri dísir mundu hafa viljat hjálpa honum, ok komust eigi
better disir would have wished to-help him and got not
við at svá búnu. Nú munut þér frændr þeira njóta, er þann
to-it at so done Now will you kinsmen them enjoy who that
hinn ókunna sið munut hafa, er þær boða fyrir ok fylgja".
the unknown faith will have which they foretell before and follow

V · THE COMING OF THE FAITH

The event foretold the time of grace when God chose to free the people of Iceland, through his messengers, from the devil's long thraldom. Such happenings also show how unwillingly the enemy of mankind gave up the people he had held captive by their idols, venting his fury on those still in his power as he felt his defeat approaching.

Nú boðaði þessi atburðr fyrir, sem Þórhallr sagði, ok
Now foretold this event before as Thorhall said and
margir hlutir þvílíkir, þann fagnaðartíma, sem eftir kom, at
many things such that joyful-time which after came that
allsvaldandi Guði virðist at líta miskunnar-augum á þann lýð,
to-almighty God seemed-good to look with-mercy-eyes on that people
er Ísland byggði, ok leysa þar fólk fyrir sína erindreka af
who Iceland inhabited and free there folk through his messengers from
löngum fjandans þrældómi, ok leiða síðan til samlags eilífrar
long the-fiend's thraldom and lead afterward to fellowship of-eternal

erfðar sinna œskilegra sona, sem hann hefir fyrir heitit, alla
inheritance of-his desirable sons as he has before promised all
þá, er honum vilja trúlega þjóna með staðfesti góðra verka; svá
those who him will faithfully serve with steadfastness of-good works so
ok eigi síðr sýndi óvinr alls mannkyns opinberliga í slíkum
also not less showed (the)-enemy of-all mankind openly in such
hlutum ok mörgum öðrum, þeim er í frásagnir eru færðir,
things and many others those which into tales are brought
hversu nauðigr hann lét laust sitt ránfengi ok þann lýð, er
how unwilling he let loose his plunder and that people whom
hann hafði áðr allan tíma haldit hertekinn í villuböndum sinna
he had before all time held captive in error-bonds of-his
bölvuðu skurðgoða, þá er hann hvessti með slíkum áhlaupum
cursed idols then when he whetted with such onslaughts
sína grimdarfulla reiði á þeim, sem hann hafði vald yfir, sem
his cruel anger on them whom he had power over as
hann vissi nálgast sína skömm ok makligan skaða síns herfangs.
he knew to-approach his shame and deserved loss of-his booty

VI · ÞÓRHALLR SMILES

Grieving for Þiðrandi, Hallr moves from Hof to Þváttá. While Þórhallr is staying there, he lies awake one morning and smiles. Hallr asks why, and Þórhallr says that many a hill is opening and every creature, great and small, is packing up and moving out. Soon afterward come the events the tale goes on to tell.

Enn Halli þótti svá mikit lát Þiðranda sonar síns, at
But to-Hall seemed so great (the)-death of-Thidrandi son his that
hann undi eigi lengr at búa at Hofi; færði hann þá byggð
he liked not longer to dwell at Hof moved he then dwelling
sína til Þváttár. Þat var einn tíma at Þváttá, þá er Þórhallr
his to Thvatta That was one time at Thvatta then when Thorhall

spámaðr var þar at heimboði með Halli, (at) Hallr lá
(the)-Seer was there at home-invitation with Hall that Hall lay
í hvílugólfi ok Þórhallr í annarri rekkju; enn gluggr var
in (the)-bed-closet and Thorhall in another bed but a-window was
á hvílugólfinu. Ok einn morgin, er þeir vöktu báðir, þá
on the-bed-closet And one morning when they were-awake both then
brosti Þórhallr. Hallr mælti: „Hví brosir þú nú“? Þórhallr
smiled Thorhall Hall spoke Why smile you now Thorhall
svarar: „At því brosi ek, at margr hóll opnast, ok hvert
answers At that smile I that many hill opens and every
kvikindi býr sinn bagga, bæði smá ok stór, ok gera fardaga“.
creature packs its bundle both small and great and make flitting-days
Ok litlu síðar urðu þau tíðindi, sem nú skal frá segja:
And a-little later happened those tidings which now shall of tell

Þórhalls þáttr Knapps

The Tale of Thorhall Knob

Þórhallr knappr of Knappsstaðir, a heathen afflicted with leprosy, dreams that a shining rider in royal dress tells him to build a house for the one true God, measures its foundation with his spear, and promises that if he worships that God, whom he will hear preached at the Alþingi, he will be healed. Þórhallr has the nearby temple pulled down and builds the church from its timber. Men think God himself appeared to him in the likeness of Óláfr Tryggvason, whose messengers soon preached the faith.

Maðr er nefndr Þórhallr ok kallaðr knappr; hann bjó á
A-man is named Thorhall and called Knob he dwelt at
Knappsstöðum í Fljótum. Þórhallr var göfugrar ættar. Höfðu
Knappsstadir in Fljot Thorhall was of-noble family Had
hans foreldrar þar búit fyrir honum. Þórhallr var maðr
his parents there dwelt before him Thorhall was man
siðlátr ok þó heiðinn, sem þá var flest fólk í sveitum
well-mannered and yet heathen as then was most folk in districts
þeim. Hann var mjök tekinn ok þyngdr af líkþrá. Þórhallr
those He was much taken and weighed-down by leprosy Thorhall
blótaði skurðgoð at sið frænda sinna; var eitt hof ríkt
sacrificed-to idols by custom of-kinsmen his was one temple mighty
eigi langt frá bœ Þórhalls; höfðu Fljótverjar þar allir
not far from (the)-farm of-Thorhall had Fljot-men there all
blót eitt sinn á hverju ári. Á einni nótt, er Þórhallr svaf
sacrifice one time in each year In one night when Thorhall slept
í rekkju sinni, dreymdi hann, at hann þóttist vera úti
in bed his dreamed he that he thought-himself to-be out
staddr; hann sá ríða mann bjartan at bœ sínum á hvítum
placed he saw ride a-man bright to farm his on white
hesti, skrýddan konungligum búnaði, ok hafði gullrekit spjót
horse arrayed with-kingly attire and had gold-inlaid spear

í hendi. Enn er Þórhallr sá þenna mann nálgast bœinn,
in hand But when Thorhall saw this man approach the-farm
þá sló á hann ótta, ok vildi hann snúa inn í húsin. Enn
then struck on him fear and would he turn in into the-houses But
riddarinn varð skjótari ok hljóp af baki, ok gekk fyrir dyrnar
the-rider was quicker and leaped off back and went before the-doors
svá segjandi: „Eigi skaltú óttast, því at þér mun ekki
so saying Not shall-you fear because that to-you will no
mein verða at mér né minni hérkvámu, heldr muntú öðlast
harm happen from me nor my coming-here rather will-you obtain
af minni návist heilsu ok gleði, ef þú vill hlýðnast mínum
from my presence health and gladness if you will obey my
ráðum. Harmar þú þína vanheilsu? Enn eigi þarf ek þess að
counsels Grieve you your ill-health But not need I of-that to
spyrja, því at ek veit at þú harmar. Far nú ok fylg mér,
ask because that I know that you grieve Go now and follow me
ok skal ek sýna þér öruggt heilsuráð“. Kvámumaðrinn leiddi
and shall I show you sure health-counsel The-comer led
hann einhvers staðar út af túngarðinum, er gerr var um
him to-some place out off the-home-field-wall which made was around
bœinn, ok mælti til hans: „Í þessum stað skaltú láta smíða
the-farm and spoke to him In this place shall-you have build
hús, einum ok sönnum Guði til sœmdar, eftir því móti,
a-house to-one and true God for honor after that manner
sem ek mun sýna þér; enn þessi Guð mun þér kunnigr
which I will show you but this God will to-you known
gerr á þessu sama ári á alþingi, því at fyrir víst ríðr
made in this same year at (the)-Althing because that for certain ride
þú til þings í sumar. Nú ef þú dýrkar með hreinu
you to (the)-assembly in summer Now if you worship with pure
hjarta þann Guð, er þér mun þar boðaðr vera, þá munt
heart that God who to-you will there preached be then will

þú verða heill, ok með heilsu líkamans muntú gleðjast í
you become whole and with health of-the-body will-you rejoice in
friði ok farsæld þessa heims, enn í ókominni veröldu njóta
peace and prosperity of-this world but in (the)-uncome world enjoy
eilífrar sœmdar ok sælu“. Síðan mældi hann grundvöll
eternal honor and bliss Then measured he (the)-foundation
húsgerðarinnar fyrir Þórhalli með aurfalnum á spjóti sínu,
of-the-house-building for Thorhall with the-iron-socket on spear his
ok sagði svá til hans: „Með þessi skipan skaltú húsit
and said so to him With this arrangement shall-you the-house
gera, ok hafa til við þann, er áðr er í hofi því, er
make and have to-it timber that which before is in temple that which
hér er skammt frá bœ þínum, ok sveitarmenn þínir eru
here is short from farm your and district-men your are
vanir at sœkja til, ok halda þar blótveizlu á hverju ári; þat
wont to resort to and hold there sacrifice-feast in each year that
hof skaltú láta ofan taka þegar í dag, er þú ríss upp;
temple shall-you have down take at-once in day when you rise up
enn þá falsguða, er þér hafit tignat hér til, skaltú aldri
but those false-gods whom you have honored here to shall-you never
dýrka héðan af. Nú ef þú trúir orðum mínum, ok þú
worship hence from Now if you believe words my and you
geymir útan allan efa at gera þá hluti, sem ek hefi boðit,
keep without all doubt to do those things which I have bidden
þá mun þér skjótt batna, ok muntú styrkjast dag frá
then will to-you soon improve and will-you grow-strong day from
degi“. Því næst hvarf draummaðrinn frá honum. Enn er
day That next vanished the-dream-man from him But when
Þórhallr vaknaði, trúði hann sýninni. Bauð hann þá öllum
Thorhall woke believed he the-vision Bade he then all
sínum verkmönnum þegar, er dagaði, at fara til skyndiliga,
his workmen as-soon as it-dawned to go to-it hastily

ok brjóta ofan hofit, enn færa allan viðinn heim til sín.
and break down the-temple but bring all the-timber home to himself
Enn þó at þeir mögluðu í móti ok töluðu með sér,
But though that they grumbled in against-it and said among themselves
at slíkt væri óráð, þá þorðu þeir allt at einu eigi at mæla
that such were ill-counsel then dared they all at one not to speak
í móti hans boðskap, ok gerðu fyllilega þat, er hann hafði
in against his command and did fully that which he had
fyrir sagt. Tók Þórhallr þaðan af at smíða húsit á allan
before said Took Thorhall thence from to build the-house in all
þann hátt ok mikilleika, sem honum hafði sýnt verit í
that manner and size as to-him had shown been in
svefninum. Enn þó at fræðimenn hafi eigi full vísindi til,
the-sleep But though that learned-men have not full knowledge to-it
hverr Þórhalli þessum hefir vitrast, þykkir mönnum líklegt,
who to-Thorhall this has been-revealed seems to-men likely
at sjálfr Guð hafi sýnt með merkilegri mynd Ólafs konungs
that himself God have shown with notable likeness of-Olaf (the)-king
Tryggvasonar, þess er bráðliga boðaði honum ok mörgum
Tryggvi's-son him who soon preached to-him and many
öðrum hjálp ok heilsu fyrir sjálfs síns sendimenn með
others salvation and health through self's his messengers with
göfigligu Guðs erindi. Þat ok annat draga menn til líkinda
noble God's errand That and other draw men to likelihood
um þessa vitran, at Þórhalli sýndist virðuligr maðr með
about this vision that to-Thorhall appeared a-worthy man with
konungligum skrúða, ok litlu síðar heyrði hann konungligt
kingly vestment and a-little later heard he kingly
erindi, með hverju sendimenn sjálfs Ólafs konungs boðuðu
errand with which (the)-messengers of-himself Olaf (the)-king preached
berliga allri alþýðu röksemdar-fulla ok rétta trú.
openly to-all common-folk reason-full and right faith

Þórhildr, a sorceress on the next farm, has all her livestock shut in, saying that the angry gods are fleeing the ruined temple to Siglunes and will spare nothing in their path; only a pack-horse left outside is found dead. Þórhallr recovers steadily, rides to the Alþingi, accepts the faith, and is wholly healed at his baptism. He serves God for the rest of his life in his church, the first in Fljót.

Þenna sama tíma bjó þaðan skammt í burtu á næsta
This same time dwelt thence short off away at (the)-next
bœ kona sú, er hét Þórhildr. Hon var mikil fyrir
farm a-woman that who was-called Thorhild She was great for
sér ok mjök fjölkunnig. Á þeiri sömu nótt, er fyrr
herself and very skilled-in-magic On that same night when before
sagða vitran bar fyrir Þórhall, vakti Þórhildr upp sína
said vision came before Thorhall woke Thorhild up her
menn þegar í lýsing, ok sagði svá: „Þér skulut fara
men at-once in (the)-daybreak and said so You shall go
sem skjótast, ok reka saman ok heim ór högum allt
as quickest and drive together and home out-of pastures all
kvikfé várt, bæði naut ok sauði ok hross, byrgja síðan í
livestock our both cattle and sheep and horses shut-in then in
húsum eðr réttum, því at þat mun ekki líf hafa, er
houses or folds because that that will not life have which
hér er úti í högum várum í dag, því at Þórhallr nábúi
here is out in pastures our in day because that Thorhall neighbor
minn á Knappsstöðum er orðinn œrr ok vitlauss, svá at
my at Knappsstadir is become mad and witless so that
hann sendi til menn sína, at brjóta ofan þat virðuliga
he sent to-it men his to break down that worthy
hof, er þar stendr; ok þar fyrir verða þau hin virðuligu
temple which there stands and there for must those the worthy

goð, er þar hafa lengi dýrkut verit, at flýja nauðig ok
gods who there have long worshiped been to flee forced and
í grimmum hug, ok ætla sér hœlis at leita ok
in fierce mind and intend for-themselves shelter to seek and
bústaðar allt norðr á Siglunes. Nú vil ek, at minn fénaðr
dwelling all north at Siglunes Now wish I that my livestock
verði eigi á vegum þeira, því at þau eru svá reið ok
be not on (the)-ways of-them because that they are so angry and
í beiskum hug, at þau munu engu eira, því er fyrir
in bitter mind that they will nothing spare that which before
þeim verðr“. Nú var svá gert sem hon mælti fyrir, at
them comes Now was so done as she spoke before that
öll hennar kvikindi váru heim rekin, ok var byrgt, útan
all her creatures were home driven and was shut-in except
einn kapalhestr hafði eftir staðit í haganum, ok fannst
one pack-horse had behind stood in the-pasture and was-found
hann síðan dauðr. Enn Þórhalli á Knappsstöðum gekk
it afterward dead But for-Thorhall at Knappsstadir went
allt eftir því, sem honum hafði vitrat verit: batnaði síns
all according-to that which to-him had revealed been improved of-his
sjúkleiks dag frá degi ok hans máttr vóx. Reið Þórhallr
sickness day from day and his strength grew Rode Thorhall
til þings um sumarit, ok fann þar til þá menn, er
to (the)-assembly in the-summer and found there to-it those men who
fram fluttu kristilegan boðskap, sem brátt mun sagt verða
forward brought (the)-Christian message as soon will told be
tók; Þórhallr þar trú rétta, ok varð þá hit fyrsta heill
took Thorhall there faith right and became then the first whole
fullkomliga at líkam, er hann var skírðr. Eftir þat fór
fully in body when he was baptized After that went
hann fagnandi til búss síns, ok dýrkaði alla daga lífs
he rejoicing to household his and worshiped all days of-life

síns með hreinni þjónustu allsvaldanda Guð í þeiri kirkju,
his with pure service almighty God in that church
er hann hafði honum helgat, ok fyrst var ger í Fljótum,
which he had to-him hallowed and first was made in Fljot
í nafni föður ok sonar ok anda heilags; þeim er
in (the)-name of-(the)-Father and Son and Spirit Holy to-him is
vegr ok dýrð eilífliga, einum Guði í þrenningu, um allar
honor and glory eternally one God in trinity through all
veraldir. Amen.
worlds Amen

Stefnis þáttr Þórgilssonar

The Tale of Stefnir Thorgilsson

Stefnir, a descendant of Ketill flatnefr born at Kjalarnes, goes abroad young, is baptized in Denmark, travels widely with Þórvaldr Koðránsson, and finally becomes a man of Óláfr Tryggvason, coming with him from the west to Norway.

Stefnir er maðr nefndr; hann var sonr Þórgils Eilífssonar,
Stefnir is a-man named he was son of-Thorgils Eilif's-son
Helgasonar bjólu, Ketilssonar flatnefs, Bjarnarsonar bunu.
Helgi's-son Bjola Ketil's-son Flatnose Bjorn's-son Buna
Stefnir var fœddr á Kjalarnesi, ok óx þar upp meðan hann
Stefnir was born at Kjalarnes and grew there up while he
var barn. Stefnir fór útan, þá er hann var á ungum
was a-child Stefnir went abroad then when he was in young
aldri, ok tók trú í Danmörk, ok varð göfugr maðr. Stefnir
age and took faith in Denmark and became noble man Stefnir
kom til móts við Þórvald Koðránsson, ok fór með honum
came to meeting with Thorvald Kodran's-son and went with him
víða um heim, at kanna helga staði ok ríkra manna
widely about (the)-world to explore holy places and powerful men's
siðu. Um síðir hvarf Stefnir aftr í Norðrlönd; fann hann
customs At last turned Stefnir back into (the)-Northlands found he
þá Ólaf Tryggvason fyrir vestan haf ok gerðist hans
then Olaf Tryggvi's-son to-the west of-(the)-sea and became his
maðr. Fór hann vestan með Ólafi konungi til Noregs.
man Went he from-the-west with Olaf (the)-king to Norway

King Óláfr often talks with Stefnir about foreign lands and asks whether he would go to Iceland to preach to his kinsmen. Stefnir doubts it, given how Þórvaldr was received. The king explains that he means to convert all the lands that trade with Norway, since Christians should not trade with heathens as with brothers, and that Stefnir, an Icelander well rooted in the faith, is the best man for it. Stefnir agrees, though he expects little success.

Stefnir hinn íslenzki var með Ólafi konungi, sem áðr er
Stefnir the Icelandic was with Olaf (the)-king as before is
getit. Konungr átti oftliga tal við hann, því at Stefnir
mentioned (The)-king had often talk with him because that Stefnir
var maðr vitr, ok hafði farit víða. Frétti konungr hann
was man wise and had traveled widely Asked (the)-king him
mjök at framferði ok siðum ríkra höfðingja í öðrum
much about conduct and customs of-powerful chieftains in other
löndum; svá um ferðir þeira Þórvalds Koðránssonar. Stefnir
lands also about travels their of-Thorvald Kodran's-son Stefnir
sagði konungi slíkt er hann spurði. Konungr frétti Stefni, ef
told (the)-king such as he asked (The)-king asked Stefnir if
honum væri hugr á at vitja frænda sinna á Íslandi, ok boða
to-him were mind on to visit kinsmen his in Iceland and preach
þeim helga trú. Stefnir svarar: „Svá var þar tekit af flestum
them holy faith Stefnir answers So was there taken by most
mönnum við Þórvaldi, þá er hann fór þess erendis með
men toward Thorvald then when he went on-that errand with
Friðreki biskupi, at mik langar ekki til þess, — ok var hann
Fridrek (the)-bishop that me longs not to that and was he
í alla staði betr til fœrr enn ek at flytja þenna boðskap".
in all places better to able than I to bring this message
Konungr mælti: „Með því at ek hefi svá upp hafit at flytja
(The)-king spoke With that that I have so up begun to bring

kristniboð hér í Noregi, at ek hefir fullkomliga statt upp
Christian-preaching here in Norway that I have fully set up
á hjarta mitt, at létta eigi fyrr þessu starfi, enn allt landsfólk
on heart my to cease not before this labor than all land-folk
er hér rétt trúat, þá skal ek eigi síðr ástunda með öllu
is here rightly believing then shall I not less strive with all
kostgæfi, at leiða Guði til handa þann lýð, er Ísland byggir
diligence to lead to-God to hand that people who Iceland inhabits
eðr önnur Norðrlönd, þau er hingat liggja undir várt ríki
or other Northlands those which hither lie under our realm
til kaupferða ok atflutninga þeira gœða, sem vér megum
for trading-voyages and imports of-those goods which we may
eigi missa; enn þau lönd megu hálfu síðr þarnast þeira
not lack but those lands may by-half less do-without those
hluta sumra, er héðan flytjast. Enn þat er eigi heyriligt,
things some which hence are-carried But that is not proper
at kristnir menn saurgi sína trú svá, at þeir eigi kaup við
that Christian men defile their faith so that they have trade with
heiðingja ok annat vinskapar samneyti sem við sína brœðr. Nú
heathens and other friendship's fellowship as with their brothers Now
hefi ek helzt hugsat, at senda þik til Íslands ok boða Guðs
have I most thought to send you to Iceland and preach God's
nafn, ok vita hversu við láti. Sé ek eigi hér með oss annan
name and know how to-it they-act See I not here with us another
mann líkara til þessa erindis, því at þú ert þeim samlendr
man likelier for this errand because that you are to-them countryman
ok ættaðr vel, algerr í heilagri trú ok siðferði“. Stefnir svarar:
and descended well perfect in holy faith and conduct Stefnir answers
„Gjarna vil ek fara yðra sendiför, hvárt sem þér vilit til
Gladly will I go your mission whether that you wish to
Íslands eðr í annan stað; enn uggr er mér á, at til lítils
Iceland or into another place but fear is to-me on-it that to little

komi mín ferð, því at Íslendingar, frændr mínir, eru harðir
come my journey because that Icelanders kinsmen my are hard
viðreignar, ok vilja seint láta af því, sem þeir taka upp".
to-deal-with and will slowly leave off that which they take up

III · STEFNIR OUTLAWED

Stefnir lands at Gufárós and preaches, but is badly received, by his kinsmen worst of all. Finding no converts, he begins breaking temples and burning idols until the heathens stop him. A law is passed that kinsmen must prosecute those who blaspheme the gods, and the sons of Ósvífr, his relatives, have him outlawed. He predicts their misfortune. In spring a flood carries his ship out to sea, and the heathens make a verse about the gods' anger. Soon after, the ship drifts back to land almost unharmed, and Stefnir sails abroad in it.

Því næst bjóst Stefnir til Íslands-ferðar; lét síðan í haf
That next made-ready Stefnir for Iceland-journey put then to sea
með nökkurum lærðum mönnum ok öðru föruneyti, er
with some learned men and other company which
Ólafr konungr fekk honum. Greiddist þeira ferð vel: þeir
Olaf (the)-king gave him Sped their journey well they
höfðu útivist bæði skamma ok hægja. Stefnir kom skipi
had time-at-sea both short and easy Stefnir brought ship
sínu í Gufárós nökkuru fyrir Alþingi. Tók hann þegar
his into Gufaros somewhat before (the)-Althing Began he at-once
opinberliga at boða Guðs erindi. Enn er menn vissu, at
openly to preach God's errand But when men knew that
hann var kristinn, ok með hverju erindi hann fór, þá tóku
he was Christian and with what errand he went then took
þeir við honum illa ok ómannliga, enn þó frændr hans
they with him ill and inhumanly but yet kinsmen his

allra-verst. Hann fór djarfliga yfir við tíundà mann bæði vestr
worst-of-all He went boldly over with tenth man both west
ok suðr. Ok er hann sá, at engir vildu til skipast hans
and south And when he saw that none would to be-moved his
fortölum í þeim heröðum, því (at) allt fólk var heiðit
by-persuasions in those districts because that all folk was heathen
fyrir sunnan land ok um Vestfirðinga-fjórðung, þá reiddist
on south (the)-land and about (the)-West-Fjords'-Quarter then grew-angry
Stefnir ok tók at brjóta hof ok hörga ok brenna skurðgoð
Stefnir and took to break temples and shrines and burn idols
með styrk sinna förunauta. Samnaðust þá saman heiðingjar,
with strength his of-companions Gathered then together heathens
ok létu þá eigi ná at brjóta hof sín eðr meiða goðin.
and let them not manage to break temples their or damage the-gods
Á því sama sumri var þat í lög tekit á Alþingi: at
In that same summer was that into law taken at (the)-Althing that
hvern þann mann skyldi gera sekjan ok útlægan, er
each that man should-one make guilty and outlawed who
lastaði goðin eðr gerði þeim nökkura meingerð eðr óscemd;
reviled the-gods or did them any injury or dishonor
skyldu þær sakar sœkja frændr þeira, er fyrir sökum váru
should those charges prosecute kinsmen of-those who for charges were
hafðir, þrímenningar ok fjórmenningar ok þar í milli,
had third-cousins and fourth-cousins and there in between
því at heiðnir menn kallaðu kristnina frændaskömm. Fyrir
because that heathen men called Christianity kin-shame For
því stefndu Stefni frændr hans, synir Ósvífrs Helgasonar,
that summoned Stefnir kinsmen his sons of-Osvif Helgi's-son
Óttarssonar, Bjarnarsonar, Ketilssonar flatnefs. Þeir hétu
Ottar's-son Bjorn's-son Ketil's-son Flatnose They were-called
svá: Þórólfr ok Áskell, Torráðr ok Vandráðr, enn Óspakr
so Thorolf and Askel Torradr and Vandradr but Ospak

bróðir þeira vildi eigi sœkja hann. Stefnir svaraði þeim svá,
brother their would not prosecute him Stefnir answered them so
er þeir höfðu sekðan hann: „Þessi sekt, er þér hafit mik
when they had outlawed him This outlawry which you have me
fyrir dœmdan, mun mik ekki skaða; enn héðan munu eigi
to judged will me not harm but hence will not
líða margir vetr, áðr yðr mun fyrir þessa sök at hendi
pass many winters before to-you will for this cause to hand
koma mikil ógifta ok hamingjuleysi“. Skip Stefnis stóð
come great ill-luck and misfortune (The)-ship of-Stefnir stood
uppi um vetrinn í Gufárósi, enn um várit, er snjófa
up through the-winter in Gufaros but in the-spring when snows
leysti af fjöllum, þá tók út skipit allt saman árvöxtr
thawed off (the)-mountains then took out the-ship all together (the)-river-flood
ok stormr veðrs; rak skipit til hafs. Þótti heiðingjum þá
and storm of-weather drove the-ship to sea Seemed to-heathens then
auðsýnt, at goðin váru reið Stefni, ok þau mundu valda
plain that the-gods were angry with-Stefnir and they would cause
þessum atburð. Þar um kváðu þeir vísu þessa:
this event There about spoke they verse this

Nú hefir stafnvalinn Stefnis,
Now has (the)-prow-steed of-Stefnir
straumr ferr um hol knerri,
(the)-current goes over hollow ship
felliveðr af fjalli
(the)-felling-gale from (the)-mountain
fjallrœnt brotit allan;
mountain-blown broken all
heldr getu vér at valdi,
rather guess we that caused

vesa munu band í landi,
be will (the)-gods in (the)-land
geisar á með ísi,
rages (the)-river with ice
Áss ríkr gný slíkum.
As mighty din such

Litlu síðar kom skip Stefnis at landi, ok var lítt lest
A-little later came (the)-ship of-Stefnir to land and was little damaged
eðr ekki, ok fór Stefnir á því útan.
or not and went Stefnir on it abroad

IV · BACK TO THE KING

Stefnir returns to King Óláfr, who welcomes him warmly. He tells the king how harshly his message was received in Iceland, and says that it will be hard to bring Christianity there.

Þat sumar kom útan af Íslandi Stefnir Þórgilsson, er
That summer came out from Iceland Stefnir Thorgils's-son whom
konungr hafði sent út þangat hit fyrra sumarit, sem áðr er
(the)-king had sent out thither the former summer as before is
getit. Tók konungr við honum með hinum mesta blíðskap.
mentioned Took (the)-king with him with the greatest friendliness
Var Stefnir með hirð konungsins, ok segir honum allt
Was Stefnir with (the)-court of-the-king and tells him all
hit sanna um ferðir sínar, ok hversu þungliga hans máli
the truth about travels his and how heavily his case

var tekit á Íslandi; sagðist þat ætla, at seigt mundi
was taken in Iceland said-of-himself that to-think that tough would
veita at koma kristni á Íslandi.
prove to bring Christianity in Iceland

V · STEFNIR'S DEATH

Stefnir is with the ships that sailed away from King Óláfr in Wendland, and after the king's fall he cannot bear to stay in Norway and goes to Rome. Coming back from the south into Denmark, he meets Earl Sigvaldi and speaks a verse without naming him, about a man with a hooked nose who betrayed King Sveinn and led Óláfr Tryggvason into a trap. The earl recognizes himself in the verse and has Stefnir killed for it.

Stefnir Þórgilsson hafði verit með Ólafi konungi Tryggvasyni,
Stefnir Thorgils's-son had been with Olaf (the)-king Tryggvi's-son
síðan konungr hafði sent hann til Íslands, sem fyrr er
since (the)-king had sent him to Iceland as before is
ritat. Var Stefnir með því liði Ólafs konungs, sem siglt
written Was Stefnir with that troop of-Olaf (the)-king which sailed
hafði frá honum á Vindlandi. Enn er þau tíðindi kómu
had from him in Wendland But when those tidings came
norðr í Noreg, at Ólafr konungr var ráðinn frá ríki,
north into Norway that Olaf (the)-king was removed from (the)-realm
þá fekk Stefni þat harm mikinn sem öðrum ástvinum
then gave to-Stefnir that grief great as to-other dear-friends
konungs; angraði sú saga alla þá menn, er lengst höfðu
of-(the)-king grieved that story all those men who longest had
verit með Ólafi konungi í mestum kærleikum. Stefnir undi
been with Olaf (the)-king in greatest affection Stefnir liked
eigi í Noregi eftir Ólaf konung. Réð hann sik þá til
not in Norway after Olaf (the)-king Resolved he himself then to

suðrferðar, ok gekk til Róms. Enn er hann kom sunnan,
south-journey and went to Rome But when he came from-the-south
í Danmörk, kom hann einn dag þar er fyrir var Sigvaldi
into Denmark came he one day there where present was Sigvaldi
jarl. Ok er Stefnir sá jarl, þá kvað hann þetta:
(the)-earl And when Stefnir saw (the)-earl then spoke he this

Munk-at ek nefna,
Shall-not I name
nær mun ek stefna:
near will I aim
niðrbjúgt es nef
down-bent is (the)-nose
á níðingi —
on (the)-villain
þann's Svein konung
him-who Svein (the)-king
sveik ór landi
betrayed out-of (the)-land
ok Tryggva-son
and Tryggvi's-son
á tálar drô.
into deceits drew

Þetta var sagt jarlinum; þóttist hann kenna sitt mark
This was told to-the-earl thought-himself he to-recognize his mark
á vísu þessi, ok lét þegar taka Stefni ok drepa. Var þessi
on verse this and had at-once seize Stefnir and kill Was this
ein dauðasök Stefnis.
alone death-cause of-Stefnir

Þórvalds þáttr tasalda

The Tale of Thorvald Tasaldi

Þórvaldr tasaldi, Víga-Glúmr's nephew, comes to Norway and is baptized at King Óláfr's request. At court he sits between Sigurðr, who befriends him, and Helgi, who envies him and slanders him to the king until Óláfr grows cool. Þórvaldr asks the reason, and the king tells him of Bárðr digri, a strange, rich man in the Uplands who refuses the faith and from whom twenty-four of the king's men have not returned. Þórvaldr offers to go, taking only Sigurðr. The king sends them to a farmer, Björn, who lives near Bárðr, and that night Þórvaldr dreams that Óláfr tells him he will find a cloth with a letter bearing God's names, to wrap about his body before he goes to Bárðr.

Á þessu sama sumri, sem nú var frá sagt, kom til Noregs
In this same summer as now was of told came to Norway
útan af Íslandi Þórvaldr tasaldi, systurson Víga-Glúms.
out from Iceland Thorvald Tasaldi sister's-son of-Slaying-Glum
Hann var fríðr maðr sýnum, mikill ok sterkr ok örr
He was handsome man in-looks big and strong and generous
af penningum. Þórvaldr kom af hafi útan at Þrándheimi;
with money Thorvald came from sea out to Trondheim
lagði hann inn til Niðaróss. Ólafr konungr var þar fyrir í
laid he in to Nidaros Olaf (the)-king was there present in
bœnum, nýkominn sunnan ór landi, ok þegar konungr
the-town newly-come from-the-south out-of (the)-land and as-soon (the)-king
vissi, at þar váru komnir kaupmenn heiðnir útan af
knew that there were come merchants heathen out from
Íslandi, þá boðaði hann Þórvaldi á sinn fund, ok bað hann
Iceland then summoned he Thorvald to his meeting and bade him
láta skírast ok taka við kristni. Þórvaldr játaði at vinna
let baptize-himself and take with Christianity Thorvald agreed to do
þat til vinganar konungs, at taka við kristni. Konungr
that for friendship of-(the)-king to take with Christianity (The)-king

segir, at hann skyldi því alvarligri fá hans vináttu
says that he should so-much more-earnestly get his friendship
sem hann léti auðveldligar at hans orðum ok boðskap.
as he yielded more-readily to his words and message
Var Þórvaldr þá skírðr ok hans förunautar. Þórvaldr var
Was Thorvald then baptized and his companions Thorvald was
með Óláfi konungi um vetrinn í góðu yfirlæti. Sigurðr
with Olaf (the)-king through the-winter in good favor Sigurd
hét hirðmaðr konungs, enn annarr Helgi; báðir váru þeir
was-called a-retainer of-(the)-king but (the)-other Helgi both were they
gildir menn fyrir sér ok kærir konungi, enn þó mjök
worthy men for themselves and dear to-(the)-king but yet very
óskaplíkir. Sigurðr var vinsæll af alþýðu, enn Helgi óþýðr
unlike-in-temper Sigurd was well-liked by common-folk but Helgi unpleasant
ok undirförull. Þórvaldi tasalda var skipat at sitja milli
and sly To-Thorvald Tasaldi was assigned to sit between
þeira um vetrinn. Helgi öfundaði Þórvald ok afþokkaði allt
them through the-winter Helgi envied Thorvald and disparaged all
fyrir honum, enn Sigurðr var vel til hans, ok flýði Helgi
for him but Sigurd was well to him and fled Helgi
þaðan af bekkiuum, ok vildi eigi sitja hjá þeim Þórvaldi.
thence from the-bench and would not sit by them Thorvald
Tók hann þá at rœgja Þórvald sem mest við konung, ok
Began he then to slander Thorvald as most to (the)-king and
allt þar til er konungr bað hann hætta. „Þarftú hvártki“,
all there until when (the)-king bade him stop Need-you neither
segir konungr, „at rœgja Þórvald við mik né aðra menn, þá
says (the)-king to slander Thorvald to me nor other men those
er með mér eru, því at ek vil sjálfr reyna menn mína“.
who with me are because that I will myself test men my
Helgi leitaði þá, ef Sigurðr vildi ýfast við Þórvald ok
Helgi tried then if Sigurd would grow-hostile toward Thorvald and

rœgði hann fyrir honum. Sigurðr mælti: „Eigi mun ek
slandered him before him Sigurd spoke Not will I
óþokkast við Þórvald fyrir þín orð, því at hann er
take-dislike toward Thorvald for your words because that he is
dugandi drengr, enn þú ert hit mesta illmenni“. Nú með
able fellow but you are the greatest wretch Now with
því at Helgi létti enn eigi af at rœgja Þórvald, heldr
that that Helgi ceased yet not from to slander Thorvald rather
var hann kostgæfr á rógit, þá kom svá um síðir, at
was he diligent in the-slander then came so at last that
konungr gerðist fár við Þórvald. Eitt sinn mælti Helgi til
(the)-king became cool toward Thorvald One time spoke Helgi to
Þórvalds: „Spyrr þú konunginn eftir, hví hann er svá fálátr“.
Thorvald Ask you the-king about why he is so reserved
Þórvaldr svarar: „Ekki geri ek fyrir orð þín eðr eggjan,
Thorvald answers Not do I for words your or urging
ok svá vænti ek, at konungr trúi eigi rógi þínu, þó
and so expect I that (the)-king believe not slander your though
at honum mislíki nökkut til mín“. Helgi mælti: „Digrliga
that to-him displeases something about me Helgi spoke Stoutly
lætr mörlandi enn“. Nökkuru síðar mælti Þórvaldr einn
acts (the)-suet-lander still Somewhat later spoke Thorvald one
dag, er hann kom fyrir konung: „Herra, dirfð er mér í
day when he came before (the)-king Lord daring is to-me in
at frétta eftir ógleði yðarri; ef sótt veldr, þá er ván at
to ask about gloom your if sickness causes then is expectation that
skjótt bœtist; enn ef veldr annarr áhugi eðr nökkur önnur
quickly it-be-mended but if causes other concern or some other
tilfelli af manna völdum, þá má enn vera at létti með
occurrences by men's doings then may yet be that it-lighten with
yðarri gift ok hamingju“. Konungr svarar: „Eigi er ek sjúkr“.
your luck and fortune (The)-king answers Not am I sick

Þórvaldr mælti: „Þá er þegar nær ok af hinn harðasti. Eru
Thorvald spoke Then is at-once near and off the hardest Are
menn þá sakbitnir við yðr?“ Konungr segir, at svá var:
men then guilty toward you (The)-king says that so was
„Enn þú ert skyldr til, Þórvaldr, at leysa þetta vandkvæði,
But you are bound to Thorvald to solve this difficulty
er þú hefir fyrstr eftir leitat“. Þórvaldr svarar: „Allir yðrir
which you have first after asked Thorvald answers All your
menn eru skyldir til at gera þat, er þér bjóðit, enn vita
men are bound to to do that which you bid but know
verð ek, hvar til þetta heyrir, þó at ek sé vanfœrr til at
must I where to this belongs though that I be ill-able to to
leysa“. Konungr mælti: „Bárðr heitir maðr, kallaðr digri,
solve (The)-king spoke Bard is-called a-man called (the)-Stout
upplenzkr at ætt, auðigr at penningum; dóttur eina á
from-the-Uplands by family wealthy in money daughter one has
hann barna, er Þóra heitir. Bárðr er hniginn á efra
he of-children who Thora is-called Bard is declined into later
aldr; hann býr á Upplöndum, þar sem heitir í Úlfsdölum;
age he dwells in (the)-Uplands there where is-called in Ulfsdalir
hann á mikinn bœ ok vegligan. Þóra dóttir hans er með
he has great farm and splendid Thora daughter his is with
honum, enn ekki verða menn þar við mannfjölda varir. Nú
him but not become men there of crowd-of-men aware Now
líkar mér þat lítt, at Bárðr vill eigi við trú taka ok eigi
pleases me that little that Bard will not with faith take and not
koma á minn fund; ek hefi sent til hans tvisvar tólf menn,
come to my meeting I have sent to him twice twelve men
ok hafa öngvir aftr komit“. Þórvaldr mælti: „Er Bárðr þessi
and have none back come Thorvald spoke Is Bard this
blótmaðr mikill?“ Konungr mælti: „Ekki vita menn til þess,
sacrificer great (The)-king spoke Not know men of that

því at ekki er hof á bœ hans, ok þykkir mönnum
because that not is temple at farm his and seem to-men
Bárðr mjök kynligr, ok óvísir eru mönnum hættir hans ok
Bard very strange and uncertain are to-men manners his and
framferði“. Þórvaldr mælti: „Gjarna vilda ek gleðja yðr,
conduct Thorvald spoke Gladly would-wish I gladden you
herra. Nú mun ek fara at hitta Bárð, ef þér vilit, hvat
lord Now will I go to meet Bard if you wish whatever
sem fleira gerist at“. Konungr kveðst þat vilja. Helgi
that more happens at-it (The)-king says-of-himself that to-wish Helgi
varð við þetta glaðr, því at hann vænti, at Þórvaldr
became at this glad because that he expected that Thorvald
mundi eigi aftr koma heldr enn aðrir þeir, er þessa ferð
would not back come rather than others those who this journey
höfðu farit. Síðan bjóst Þórvaldr, ok bað konungr hann
had gone Then made-ready Thorvald and bade (the)-king him
hafa með sér svá marga menn sem hann vildi. Þórvaldr
have with himself as many men as he would Thorvald
segir: „Sigurð sessunaut minn hefi ek reynt at dyggum
says Sigurd bench-mate my have I proven for faithful
manni ok góðum; hann vil ek at fari með mér, enn ekki
man and good him wish I that go with me but not
fleiri manna, því at gifta yður ok hamingja, herra, má
more men because that luck your and fortune lord avails
oss meira en nökkurir menn“. Konungr svarar: „Víst skal
us more than any men (The)-king answers Surely shall
ek minn góðvilja til leggja með ykkr; enn ek vil senda
I my goodwill to lay with you-two but I will send
ykkr til bónda þess, er Björn heitir; hann býr skamt
you-two to (the)-farmer that who Bjorn is-called he dwells short
frá Bárði; hann þykkir mér vænstr til at kunna ykkr
from Bard he seems to-me likeliest to to know you-two

nökkut af at segja háttum Bárðar ok vísa ykkr þangat
something of to tell (the)-manners of-Bard and show you-two thither
leið“. Síðan fóru þeir ok kómu til Bjarnar ok tók hann
(the)-way Then went they and came to Bjorn and took he
vel við þeim, þegar hann vissi at þeir váru sendimenn
well with them as-soon-as he knew that they were messengers
Ólafs konungs. Spurðu þeir hann at hýbýlum ok háttum
of-Olaf (the)-king Asked they him about household and manners
Bárðar. Björn kvað með undrum hans hag fram flytjast:
of-Bard Bjorn said with marvels his condition forward to-go
„Því at þar verðr ekki vart við menn, þá er þangat er
Because that there becomes not aware of men then when thither is
komit, enn þó fara þar fram allar sýslur vel ok skipuliga“.
come but yet go there forward all tasks well and orderly
Um nóttina, er þeir váru sofnaðir, þá dreymdi Þórvald,
In the-night when they were fallen-asleep then dreamed Thorvald
at honum þótti Ólafr konungr koma at sér ok mæla:
that to-him seemed Olaf (the)-king come to himself and speak
„Þú munt finna at höfði þér dúk einn, er þú vaknar, ok
You will find at head your a-cloth one when you wake and
þar er knýtt í bréf eitt, er á er ritat nöfn Guðs;
there is knotted in a-letter one which on is written (the)-names of-God
þat bréf skaltú láta koma á morgin fyrir brjóst þér ok
that letter shall-you let come in (the)-morning before breast your and
vefja dúknum at útan ok um búk þér sem hann tekr;
wrap the-cloth on outside and about body your as it reaches
þá mun þér duga at ganga djarfliga at Bárði“.
then will to-you avail to go boldly at Bard

Þórvaldr, wearing the cloth with God's names, and Sigurðr find Bárðr and his daughter Þóra in his hall. Þórvaldr wrestles Bárðr and, with God's help, throws him, while Sigurðr and Þóra wrestle to a draw; sixty men from under the hall then seize Þórvaldr. Bárðr hosts them overnight and sends them off, but they turn back to finish the errand. Bárðr, impressed by the power he felt, reveals that the king's twenty-four men are alive and well, goes with them to the king, is baptized, and becomes the king's man. Sigurðr marries Þóra, Helgi is dismissed, Bárðr dies soon after in his baptismal whites, and Þórvaldr returns to Iceland with honor.

Þórvaldr vaknaði ok fann dúkinn, ok bjó svá um sem
Thorvald woke and found the-cloth and arranged so about-it as
honum var kent. Um morgininn leiddi Björn bóndi þá ór
to-him was taught In the-morning led Bjorn (the)-farmer them out-of
garði ok vísaði þeim leið til bœjar Bárðar. Var þar at fara
yard and showed them (the)-way to (the)-farm of-Bard Was there to go
yfir skóg nökkurn. Enn er þeir komu fram ór skóginum,
over forest some But when they came forth out-of the-forest
sá þeir bœ mikinn, ok var skíðgarðr hár um; gengu þeir
saw they a-farm great and was a-paling high around went they
til bœjarins. Grindarhlið var opit á garðinum ok svá dyrr
to the-farm (The)-gate was open in the-paling and also (the)-doors
á húsunum. Þeir sá ekki manna úti. Þeir gengu í anddyrit
on the-houses They saw no men outside They went into the-entrance
ok lituðust um. Váru þar hús stór ok þili nýskafin. Skáli
and looked about Were there houses great and paneling newly-scraped A-hall
var á aðra hönd, tjaldaðr allr ok búinn vel. Bárðr
was on (the)-other hand hung-with-tapestry all and arrayed well Bard
sat í öndvegi; hann var sköllóttr, í skarlatsklæðum, ok helt
sat in (the)-high-seat he was bald in scarlet-clothes and held
á hjartskinns-glófum; enn kona mikil ok væn sat við
on hart's-skin-gloves but a-woman big and handsome sat at

borða; ekki sá þeir þar fleira manna. Bárðr mælti: „Hvat
embroidery not saw they there more men Bard spoke What
er komit í anddyrit?“ Þeir nefndu sik ok sögðust
is come into the-entrance They named themselves and said-of-themselves
vera konungs-menn. Bárðr mælti: „Hvert erindi hafi þit
to-be king's-men Bard spoke What errand have you-two
hingat tveir einir saman?“ Þórvaldr svarar: „Lið okkart er
hither two alone together Thorvald answers Troop our-two's is
svá margt fyrir durum, at þik mun mega fœra nauðigan
so many before doors that you will be-able bring unwilling
á fund Ólafs konungs, ef þú vill eigi fara lostigr“. Bárðr
to meeting of-Olaf (the)-king if you will not go willing Bard
snaraði þá glófana sundr milli handa sér ok kvað þetta við:
twisted then the-gloves apart between hands his and spoke this to-it

Hugða'k hitt at'k hefða
Thought-I that that-I had
harðhendr verit stundum,
hard-handed been at-times
at'k skálpgrana skotzkum
that-I sheath-bearded Scottish
skylda'k einn of halda.
should-I alone — hold

Þórvaldr mælti: „Reynum nú þá ok tökumst til“. Réð
Thorvald spoke Try-we now then and grapple-we to-it Went
Þórvaldr þá á Bárð ok sviftust þeir fast; þá var dagr mjök
Thorvald then at Bard and wrestled they hard then was day much
á liðinn. Þeir áttust við um stund ok varð Þórvaldr
on passed They dealt with-each-other for a-while and became Thorvald
mjök aflvana; bað hann þá Guð hljóðliga veita sér
very strength-lacking prayed he then God silently give himself

styrk í móti honum; enn Bárðr gekk þá at sem fastast;
strength in against him but Bard went then at-it as hardest
ok er brjóstin þeira mœttust, þá var því líkt sem maðr
and when the-breasts their met then was that like as-if a-man
gengi at honum ok kipti fótum undan Bárði, svá at hann
went at him and pulled feet from-under Bard so that he
fell at þrepskildinum. Váru þeir Þórvaldr þá báðir svá móðir,
fell at the-threshold Were they Thorvald then both so tired
at þeir máttu ekki at hafast. Þá mælti Bárðr: „Dugi þú
that they could not to do Then spoke Bard Help you
nú, Þóra“. Hon svarar: „Ekki má ek þér duga, faðir, því
now Thora She answers Not can I you help father because
at vit Sigurðr sviftumst, ok er hér allvel á komit, því
that we-two Sigurd wrestle and is here very-well on come because
at vit erum jafnsterk“. Bárðr mælti: „Þá verðr til þess
that we-two are equally-strong Bard spoke Then must to that
at taka, er ek hefi eigi fyrr þurft, at biðja mér liðs
to take which I have not before needed to ask for-myself help
í móti einum: gangi nú fram þeir, sem undir skálanum
in against one go now forward they who under the-hall
byggja, ok veiti mér“. Hlupu þar þá fram sex tigir manna,
dwell and help me Ran there then forward six tens of-men
ok váru þeir Þórvaldr þá handteknir. Bárðr mælti: „Vel
and were they Thorvald then hand-taken Bard spoke Well
hafa undirskálans búar veitt mér, Þóra, ok svá man enn,
have the-under-hall's dwellers helped me Thora and so will still
ef ek þarf nökkurs við, ok því þykki mér ráð, at
if I need anything with-it and therefore seems to-me advisable that
þeir Sigurðr sé eigi í böndum; enn þó vil ek eigi at þú
they Sigurd be not in bonds but yet will I not that you
rennir þér oftar á mik, tröllit þitt, þó at þú heitir
run yourself oftener at me the-troll your though that you are-called

Þórvaldr, því at eigi skortir þik dirfð né áræði; enn þó
Thorvald because that not lack you daring nor boldness but yet
má vera, at þú skulir maðr heita, ok muntú vera heldr
may be that you shall a-man be-called and will-you be rather
fjölkunnigr, því at ekki varð mér aflsskortr við þik fyrri
skilled-in-magic because that not became to-me strength-lack against you sooner
enn ek hygg, at þú hafir ragnat at mér svá rammar vættir,
than I think that you have conjured at me so strong beings
at ek varð at falla fyrir, því at þat varð aldri fyrr, at
that I had to fall before because that that happened never before that
ek fella fyrir einum. Enn hér verði þit at vera í nótt,
I fell before one But here must you-two to be in night
þó at þit sé hræddir, hversu við ykkr mun búit". Var
though that you-two be afraid how for you-two will prepared Was
þeim þá sett borð, ok búit vel; skorti þar þá hvárki vist
for-them then set table and arrayed well lacked there then neither food
né drykk góðan. Enn er þeir váru mettir, mælti Bárðr:
nor drink good But when they were sated spoke Bard
„Ekki tel ek mat eftir ykkr; enn vel djarfliga þykki mér
Not grudge I food to you-two but well boldly seems to-me
þit snæða, þó at þit værit með öllu óhræddir menn
you-two eat though that you-two were with all unafraid men
ok með vinum komnir". Var þeim síðan fylgt til sængr,
and with friends come Was to-them afterward escorted to bed
ok þótti þeim Þórvaldi ok Sigurði þar vel um búit ok
and seemed to-them Thorvald and Sigurd there well about arranged and
sváfu vel þá nótt. Ok um morgininn, er þeir váru braut
slept well that night And in the-morning when they were away
búnir, bað Bárðr menn sína at fylgja þeim af garði. Enn
ready bade Bard men his to escort them from (the)-yard But
er þeir váru út komnir, litaðist Þórvaldr um ok sá öngva
when they were out come looked Thorvald about and saw no

menn hjá þeim. Hann mælti þá: „Þat vildi Bárðr nú at
men by them He spoke then That would Bard now that
vit færim brott ok ættimst vit ekki fleira við, enn
we-two went away and dealt we-two not more with-each-other but
þat skal nú þó ekki vera; finna skulu vit hann enn áðr“.
that shall now yet not be meet shall we-two him still before
Gengu þeir þá inn. Bárðr mælti: „Þit erut allundarligir
Went they then in Bard spoke You-two are very-strange
menn, gangit út, enn farit eigi burt, eðr hví kunni þit
men go-you out but go not away or why could you-two
ekki at hræðast sem aðrir menn? Eðr er ykkr allant
not to fear as other men Or is to-you-two very-eager
til at deyja?“ Þórvaldr svarar: „Því hurfu vit aftr, at ek
to to die Thorvald answers For-that turned we-two back that I
vilda eigi drepa niðr góðræði mínu enn sœmd þinni; eru
would-wish not strike down good-plan my but honor your are
vit víst eigi svá hræddir, at vit þorim eigi at flytja til
we-two surely not so afraid that we-two dare not to bring to
fullnaðar konungserindi. Nú vil ek þess beiða, at þú ríðir
completion (the)-king's-errand Now will I this ask that you ride
sjálfviljandi með mér á konungs fund“. Bárðr mælti: „Hví
self-willing with me to (the)-king's meeting Bard spoke Why
spyrr þú ekki þess fyrst, hvern átrúnað ek hefi?“ „Því, at
ask you not of-this first what belief I have Because that
mér er þar engi forvitni á“, segir Þórvaldr. Bárðr mælti:
to-me is there no curiosity on-it says Thorvald Bard spoke
„Þat vil ek þér þá kunnigt gera, at ek trúi ekki á
That will I to-you then known make that I believe not in
skurðgoð eðr fjándr. Ek hefi farit land af landi, ok mœtt
idols or fiends I have traveled land from land and met
bæði risum ok blámönnum, ok fyrir komu þeir mér ekki,
both giants and blackamoors and before came they me not

ok fyrir því hefi ek trúat á mátt minn ok megin; enn nú
and for that have I believed in might my and strength but now
er mér orðinn váljúgr í fyrsta sinni at þeim átrúnaði, ok
is to-me become false for (the)-first time in that belief and
sé ek þat, at ekki hefðir þú sigrat mik, ef þú nytir engis
see I that that not had you overcome me if you enjoyed nothing
at nema sjálfs þíns. Eðr hvat var fyrir brjósti þér, þá er
to except self your Or what was before breast your then when
bringspelir okkrir komu saman? Þat er mér grunr á, at sá
breastbones our-two's came together That is to-me suspicion on that he
muni mikit mega, er sá afspringr er af kominn". Þórvaldr
will much avail who that offspring is from come Thorvald
svarar: „Rétt getr þú, at sá er máttigr, því at þat váru
answers Rightly guess you that he is mighty because that those were
nöfn Guðs, þess er vér kristnir menn trúum á". Bárðr
(the)-names of-God that whom we Christian men believe in Bard
mælti: „Ek kann eigi þat at hugsa, at sá muni eigi öllu
spoke I can not that to think that he will not all
mega orka, ef hann kemr sjálfr til, er mér vann nú
be-able accomplish if he comes himself to-it who me overcame now
at fullu, er nöfn hans váru; ok fyrir því mun ek fara
at full where names his were and for that will I go
með þér á konungs fund, at ek skil, at gott mun
with you to (the)-king's meeting that I understand that good will
á þann Guð at trúa, er svá er máttigr, ef á nökkurn
on that God to believe who so is mighty if on any
skal trúa. Enn því lét ek gera undirskálann ok setta ek
shall-one believe But for-that had I make the-under-hall and set I
þar mína menn, at ef fjölmenni væri dregit at mér, ætlaða
there my men that if a-host were drawn at me intended
ek til þeira at taka ok njóta liðsmunar; enn ef til mín
I to them to take and enjoy troop-advantage but if to me

kœmi tveir eðr þrír, þá gaf ek mér ekki um, því at
came two or three then gave I myself not about-it because that
ek þóttumst ekki uppnæmr fyrir þeim. Hér eru ok menn
I thought-myself not alarmed before them Here are also men
Ólafs konungs, fjórir ok tuttugu, er hann hefir sent til
of-Olaf (the)-king four and twenty whom he has sent to
mín; eru þeir hér allir vel haldnir, enn eigi drepnir, sem
me are they here all well kept but not killed as
konungr mundi hyggja“. Síðan bjóst Bárðr ok fór með
(the)-king would think Then made-ready Bard and went with
Þórvaldi með alla sína menn á konungs fund. Enn er þeir
Thorvald with all his men to (the)-king's meeting But when they
komu nær bœnum í Niðarósi, þá mælti Bárðr: „Far þú
came near the-town at Nidaros then spoke Bard Go you
nú, Þórvaldr, til konungs, ok seg honum, at vér viljum hér
now Thorvald to (the)-king and tell him that we will here
skírðir vera, sem nú eru vér komnir, því at vér viljum
baptized be as now are we come because that we will
eigi at fjölmenni hlæi, at vér séim afklæddir svá gamlir“.
not that (the)-crowd laugh that we be stripped so old
Þórvaldr fór til konungs ok segir honum allt um sínar
Thorvald went to (the)-king and tells him all about his
ferðir ok hvar þá var komit. Ólafr konungr varð við þetta
travels and where then was come Olaf (the)-king became at this
glaðr, ok fór þegar með kennimönnum til fundar við Bárð.
glad and went at-once with clerics to a-meeting with Bard
Bárðr fagnaði vel konungi ok mælti: „Máttigr er Guð þinn,
Bard greeted well (the)-king and spoke Mighty is God your
konungr, ok hefi ek nú þat reynt, ok því vil ek á hann
king and have I now that proven and therefore will I in him
trúa ok láta skírast“. Konungr svarar: „Vel talar þú Bárðr,
believe and let baptize-myself (The)-king answers Well speak you Bard

eftir þinni skilningu, enn þat er satt at kveðit, at sá
according-to your understanding but that is true to said that that
Guð er máttigr, er mér stýrir ok öllum hlutum, sýniligum
God is mighty who me rules and all things visible
ok ósýniligum, ok kallar til sín með ýmissum háttum alla
and invisible and calls to himself by various ways all
þá menn, er hans þjónustu eru makligir“. Var Bárðr þá
those men who his service are worthy Was Bard then
skírðr ok allir hans menn. Þá mælti Bárðr: „Seg þú mér,
baptized and all his men Then spoke Bard Tell you me
konungr, hvárt ek er nú góðr“. Konungr kvað svá vera.
king whether I am now good (The)-king said so to-be
Bárðr mælti: „Ek hefi þótzt mér mjök einhlítr hér
Bard spoke I have thought-myself to-me very self-sufficient here
til ok þjónat ekki konungum eðr öðrum höfðingjum. Enn
to and served not kings or other chieftains But
nú vil ek gerast þér handgenginn, konungr, ok þjóna yðr
now will I become to-you a-liegeman king and serve you
meðan ek lifi. Þykki mér þat vænst, at þá týna ek eigi
while I live Seems to-me that likeliest that then lose I not
þeim góðleik, er nú hefi ek fengit. Enn ek vil at þú
that goodness which now have I gotten But I wish that you
sjáir ráð fyrir Þóru dóttur minni ok öllu hennar fé ok
see counsel for Thora daughter my and all her property and
giftir hana Þórvaldi, þessum íslenzka manni, því at vit
marry her to-Thorvald this Icelandic man because that we-two
eigum honum gott at launa“. Þórvaldr svarar: „Eigi má
owe him good to repay Thorvald answers Not may
svá vera, því at ek er áðr kvæntr á Íslandi“. Konungr
so be because that I am already married in Iceland (The)-king
mælti: „Þá skaltú gefa þessa konu Sigurði vin þínum; þar
spoke Then shall-you give this woman to-Sigurd friend your there

er vel á komit með þeim, er þau eru jafnsterk“. Þórvaldr
is well on come with them since they are equally-strong Thorvald
svarar: „Þat vil ek gjarna gera. Enn þess vil ek biðja
answers That will I gladly do But this will I ask
yðr, herra, at þér segit Helga ór yðarri þjónustu, ok er
you lord that you dismiss Helgi out-of your service and is
þó oflítill munr gerr þeira Sigurðar; enn ek mun þó
yet too-little difference made between-them Sigurd but I will yet
fyrir yðra skyld ekki gera á hluta Helga, ef þér veitit
for your sake not do on (the)-share of-Helgi if you grant
mér þetta“. Konungr sagði, at svá skyldi vera. Síðan fekk
me this (The)-king said that so should be Then got
Sigurðr Þóru, ok settist í bú á Upplöndum, þat er
Sigurd Thora and settled into household in (the)-Uplands that which
átt hafði Bárðr digri. Bárðr tók sótt litlu síðar en
owned had Bard (the)-Stout Bard took sickness a-little later than
hann var skírðr ok andaðist í hvíta-váðum. Enn Þórvaldr
he was baptized and died in white-robes But Thorvald
fór til Íslands með mikilli sœmd af Ólafi konungi, ok
went to Iceland with great honor from Olaf (the)-king and
þótti vera mikilmenni ok hinn vaskasti.
seemed to-be great-man and the bravest

Þórsteins þáttr uxafóts

The Tale of Thorstein Ox-Foot

Þórðr skeggi settles in Lón and sells his land to Úlfljótr, who frames in Norway the laws all Iceland follows once the Althing is set up. Those heathen laws allow no figureheads on ships coming to land, keep a ring for oaths on every chief temple's altar, divide the land into quarters of three assemblies with three chief temples to each, and levy a temple toll like today's church tithe. Böðvarr the White raises the temple at Hof, and Þórir the Tall settles Krossavík.

Þórðr skeggi hét maðr. Hann nam lönd öll í Lóni
Thord Beard was-called a-man He took lands all in Lon
fyrir norðan Jökulsá, millum ok Lónsheiðar, ok bjó í
to-the north of-Jokulsa between and Lonsheidi and dwelt at
Bœ tíu vetr. Enn er hann frá til öndvegis-súlna sinna
Baer ten winters But when he learned of high-seat-pillars his
í Leiruvági fyrir neðan heiði, þá seldi hann lönd sín
in Leiruvag down below (the)-heath then sold he lands his
Úlfljóti lög(sögu)manni, er þar kom út í Lóni. Úlfljótr var
to-Ulfljot (the)-law-speaker who there came out in Lon Ulfljot was
son Þóru dóttur Ketils Hörðakára, Áslákssonar bifrukára,
son of-Thora daughter of-Ketil Horda-Kari Aslak's-son Beaver-Kari
Unarssonar, Arnar-(sonar) hyrnu. Enn er Úlfljótr var nær
Unar's-son Orn's-son Horn But when Ulfljot was near
sextugr at aldri, þá fór hann til Noregs ok var þar þrjá
sixty in age then went he to Norway and was there three
vetr. Þá settu þeir Þórleifr spaki, móðurbróðir hans lög
winters Then set they Thorleif (the)-Wise mother's-brother his laws
þau, er síðan váru köllut Úlfljótslög. Enn er hann
those which afterward were called Ulfljot's-law But when he
kom út, þá var alþingi sett, ok höfðu allir menn ein
came out then was (the)-Althing set and had all men one
lög síðan hér á landi. Þat var upphaf hinna heiðnu
law afterward here in (the)-land That was (the)-beginning of-the heathen

laga: at menn skyldi eigi hafa höfuðskip í haf; enn ef
laws that men should not have figure-headed-ships at sea but if
menn hefði, þá skyldi þeir af taka höfuð áðr þeir kœmi
men had then should they off take (the)-heads before they came
í landsýn, ok sigla eigi at landi með gapandi höfðum
into land-sight and sail not to land with gaping heads
né gínandi trjónu, svá at landvættir fœldist við. Baugr
nor yawning snouts so that (the)-land-spirits took-fright at-it A-ring
tvíeyringr eðr meiri skyldi liggja í hverju höfuðhofi á
of-two-ounces or more should lie in each chief-temple on
stalli; þann baug skyldi hverr goði hafa á hendi sér til
(the)-altar that ring should each priest have on arm his at
lögþinga þeira allra, er hann skyldi sjálfr heyja, ok rjóða
law-assemblies those all which he should himself hold and redden
hann þar í roðru blótnauts þess, er hann blótaði
it there in (the)-blood of-(the)-sacrifice-bull that which he sacrificed
þar sjálfr. Hverr sá maðr, er þar þurfti lögskil af hendi
there himself Each that man who there needed law-business from hand
at leysa at dómi, skyldi áðr eið vinna at þeim baugi,
to discharge at court should before oath swear on that ring
ok nefna sér vátta tvá eðr fleiri: „Ykkr nefnik í þat
and name for-himself witnesses two or more You-two name-I in that
vætti“, skyldi hann segja, „at ek vinn eið at baugi, lögeið;
witness should he say that I swear oath on (the)-ring law-oath
hjálpi mér svá nú Freyr ok Njörðr, ok hinn almáttki Áss,
help me so now Frey and Njord and the almighty As
sem ek mun svá sök þessa sœkja eðr verja, eðr vitni bera
as I will so case this prosecute or defend or witness bear
eðr kviðu, eðr dóma dœma, sem ek veit réttast ok sannast
or verdicts or judgments judge as I know rightest and truest
ok helzt at lögum, ok öll lögmæt skil af hendi leysa,
and most by laws and all lawful business from hand discharge

þau er undir mik koma, meðan ek er á þessu þingi“. Þá
those which under me come while I am at this assembly Then
var landinu skift í fjórðunga, ok skyldu vera þrjú þing
was the-land divided into quarters and should be three assemblies
í fjórðungi hverjum, enn þrjú höfuðhof í þingsókn hverri.
in quarter each but three chief-temples in assembly-district each
Þar váru menn vandaðir til at varðveita hofin at hyggindi
There were men chosen to to keep the-temples for good-sense
ok réttlæti. Þeir skyldu dómnefnur eiga á þingum ok
and justice They should nominations-of-judges have at assemblies and
stýra sakferli; því váru þeir goðar kallaðir. Hverr skyldi ok
steer lawsuits therefore were they priests called Each should also
gjalda toll til hofs, svá sem nú er kirkjutíund. Böðvarr
pay toll to (the)-temple so as now is church-tithe Bodvar
hinn hvíti af Vors ór Noregi bygði fyrstr at Hofi, ok
the White from Voss out-of Norway settled first at Hof and
reisti þar hof, ok gerðist hofgoði. Hann var faðir Þórsteins,
raised there a-temple and became temple-priest He was father of-Thorstein
föður Halls á Síðu. Þórir hinn háfi nam land í Krossavík
father of-Hall at Sida Thorir the Tall took land in Krossavik
fyrir norðan Reyðarfjörð. Þaðan eru Krossvíkingar komnir.
to-the north of-Reydarfjord Thence are Krossavik-men come

II · KROSSAVÍK AND KRUMMSHOLT

Þórkell Geitisson of Krossavík, an overbearing and tough man, has a sister, Oddný, who is the most beautiful and skillful of women but has been unable to speak from birth. His thrall Freysteinn is called the Fair. Nearby at Krummsholt live Krummr, a man of little wealth, and his much older wife Þórgunna, who is wise and very learned in lore. They have no children.

Þórkell hét maðr, er bjó í Krossavík. Hann var Geitisson.
Thorkel was-called a-man who dwelt in Krossavik He was Geitir's-son
Hann var hit mesta afarmenni ok harðfengr ok kallaðr
He was the greatest overbearing-man and hardy and called
ofrhugi. Hann var þá ókvæntr, er þessi saga gerðist. Systir
Overbold He was then unmarried when this saga happened Sister
hans óx upp með honum, er Oddný hét; allra kvenna
his grew up with him who Oddny was-called of-all women
vænst, hverri konu hagari; þó var mikill mállaki á
most-beautiful than-every woman more-skillful yet was great speech-lack in
ráði hennar; hon hafði ekki mál, ok var með því alin. Þau
condition her she had not speech and was with that born They
unnust mikit systkin. Þórkell átti þræl einn útlendan
loved-each-other much brother-and-sister Thorkel owned thrall one foreign
at öllu kyni, er Freysteinn hét. Hann var hvárki ljótr né
in all kin who Freystein was-called He was neither ugly nor
illr viðeignar sem aðrir þrælar, heldr var hann gæfr ok góðr
bad to-deal-with as other thralls rather was he gentle and good
viðrskiftis, ok náliga hverjum manni vænni; því var hann
in-dealing and nearly than-every man handsomer therefore was he
kallaðr Freysteinn hinn fagri. Krummr hét maðr; hann bjó
called Freystein the Fair Krum was-called a-man he dwelt
í Krummsholti; sá bœr er nú eyddr. Hann var Vémundarson,
at Krummsholt that farm is now deserted He was Vemund's-son
Ásbjarnarsonar, Krummssonar hins gamla. Krummr hinn
Asbjorn's-son Krum's-son the Old Krum the
gamli fór af Vors búferli til Íslands. Hann nam land
Old went from Voss moving-household to Iceland He took land
á Háfranesi inn til Þernuness ok allt hit ytra, bæði Skrúð
at Hafranes in to Thernunes and all the outer both Skrud
ok aðrar úteyjar ok inn öðru megin at Þernunesi.
and other out-islands and in on-(the)-other side to Thernunes

Krummr hinn yngri átti þá konu, er Þórgunna hét
Krum the Younger had then a-wife who Thorgunna was-called
ok var Þórsteinsdóttir, Vetrliðasonar, Ásbjarnarsonar, göfugs
and was Thorstein's-daughter Vetrlidi's-son Asbjorn's-son noble
manns af Beitsstöðum, Ólafssonar langháls, Bjarnarsonar
man from Beitsstadir Olaf's-son Long-neck Bjorn's-son
reyðarsíðu. Þórgunna var vitr kona, ok meðallagi vinsæl, mjök
Trout-side Thorgunna was wise woman and middling well-liked very
margkunnandi, ekki frið, enn forn í skapi, heldr harðlynd
much-knowing not fair but old-fashioned in mind rather hard-tempered
ok þó órskiftamaðr. Krummr var óríkr maðr. Miseldri mikit
and yet non-meddler Krum was un-powerful man Age-difference great
var með þeim hjónum; var Þórgunna þá roskin kona, er
was between those spouses was Thorgunna then elderly woman when
þetta æfintýr gerðist. Þau áttu ekki barn, svá at sögur gangi af.
this adventure happened They had not a-child so that sagas go of

III · ÍVARR AND ODDNÝ

Ívarr ljómi, a proud and handsome Norwegian, winters at Krossavík, and Þórkell has Oddný serve him, against her written protest. She becomes pregnant and writes in runes that the child is Ívarr's. Þórkell asks Ívarr to marry her, but Ívarr scorns the mute sister, says the child is a thrall's, and wounds Þórkell in the leg. Þórkell's return blow cuts off the leg of Ívarr's horse; Ívarr escapes to his ship and sails home to Hordaland, leaving Þórkell with the shame.

Styrkárr hét maðr Indriðason, Hreiðarssonar. Þeir váru
Styrkar was-called a-man Indridi's-son Hreidar's-son They were
brœðr Hreiðarr og Ásbjörn, faðir Járn-Skeggja af Yrjum, enn
brothers Hreidar and Asbjorn father of-Iron-Skeggi from Yrjar but
systir þeira var Ólöf, er átti Klyppr hersir, er drap
sister their was Olof whom married Klypp (the)-chieftain who killed

Sigurð konung slefu. Þeira bróðir var Erlingr, ríkr hersir
Sigurd (the)-king Slobber Their brother was Erling a-mighty chieftain
af Hörðalandi. Erlingr átti þann son, (er) Ívarr hét, allra
from Hordaland Erling had that son who Ivar was-called of-all
manna vænstr, þeira (er) uppi váru á Hörðalandi; því
men most-handsome of-those who up were in Hordaland therefore
var hann kallaðr Ívarr ljómi. Hann var hverjum manni betr
was he called Ivar Gleam He was than-every man better
at íþróttum búinn, — ofmetnaðar-maðr svá mikill, at nálega
in skills furnished arrogant-man so great that nearly
máttu öngir menn mæla né gera til jafns við hann. Hann
could no men speak nor do to equal with him He
var ókvæntr langa tíma, ok því, at honum þótti sér
was unmarried long time and because that to-him seemed for-himself
nær hvergi fullkosta. Hann sat löngum hjá Styrkári frænda
near nowhere fully-good-enough He sat long with Styrkar kinsman
sínum á Gimsum í Þrándheimi. Þessi Styrkárr var faðir
his at Gimsar in Trondheim This Styrkar was father
Einars Þambaskelfis. Segja þat ok sumir menn, at þeir hafi
of-Einar Thambarskelfir Say that also some men that they have
bræðr (verit) Indriði faðir Styrkárs, ok Ásbjörn faðir Indriða
brothers been Indridi father of-Styrkar and Asbjorn father of-Indridi
ilbreiðs. Ástúðigt var lengi með þeim frændum Styrkári
Broad-sole Affectionate was long between those kinsmen Styrkar
ok Ívari. Ívarr hafðist löngum við í kaupferðum, bæði til
and Ivar Ivar kept-himself long at in trading-voyages both to
Englands ok Danmerkr. Eitt sumar fór hann til Íslands
England and Denmark One summer went he to Iceland
kaupferð. Hann kom skipi sínu í Gautavík á Austfjörðum.
trading-voyage He brought ship his into Gautavik in (the)-East-Fjords
Þórkell Geitisson reið til skips, ok bauð stýrimanni heim
Thorkel Geitir's-son rode to (the)-ship and invited (the)-skipper home

til sín við svá marga menn sem hann vildi með sér haft
to himself with as many men as he would with himself had
hafa. Ívarr þakkaði bónda, ok kveðst þat þiggja mundu.
have Ivar thanked (the)-farmer and says-of-himself that accept would
Ívarr fór heim í Krossavík við fimta mann, ok sat þar um
Ivar went home to Krossavik with fifth man and sat there through
vetrinn. Ívarr (var) gleðimaðr mikill ok örr af fé. Þat
the-winter Ivar was merry-man great and generous with money That
var einn dag, at Þórkell gekk til tals við Oddnýju systur
was one day that Thorkel went to talk with Oddny sister
sína, ok sagði henni, at stýrimaðrinn var heim kominn.
his and said to-her that the-skipper was home come
„Vilda ek, frændi“, segir hann, „at þú þjónaðir honum í
Would-wish I kinswoman says he that you served him in
vetr, því at hér eru flestir aðrir menn í starfi“. Oddný
winter because that here are most other men in work Oddny
reist rúnar á kefli, því at hon mátti eigi mæla, enn
cut runes on a-stick because that she could not speak but
Þórkell tók við ok leit á keflit; sagði svá: „Ekki er mér
Thorkel took with-it and looked at the-stick it-said so Not is to-me
um at leggja mik til þjónustu við stýrimann, því at
about-it to lay myself to service for (the)-skipper because that
mér segir svá hugr um, ef ek geri þat at þjóna Ívari, at
to-me says so mind about-it if I do that to serve Ivar that
þar muni mikit vánt af standa“. Þórkell reiddist fast, er
there will great trouble from stand Thorkel grew-angry hard when
Oddný taldist undan. Enn er hon sá þat, stóð hon upp
Oddny excused-herself off But when she saw that stood she up
ok gekk inn, ok tók til þjónustu Ívar, ok helt því um
and went in and took to service Ivar and held to-that through
vetrinn. Enn er á leið, sá menn at Oddný mundi fara
the-winter But when on passed saw men that Oddny would go

eigi kona einsaman. Ok er Þórkell fann þat, spurði hann
not a-woman alone And when Thorkel found that asked he
Oddnýju, hversu háttat væri um hagi hennar, eðr hvárt
Oddny how arranged were about circumstances her or whether
hon væri með barni, eðr hverr þat ætti með henni. Oddný
she were with child or who that had with her Oddny
reist þá enn rúnar ok sögðu þær svá: „Eigi hefir Ívarr
cut then again runes and said they so Not has Ivar
betr launat þér vetrvistina enn svá, at barn þat, er
better repaid you the-winter-lodging than so that (the)-child that which
ek geng með, á hann við mér“. Setti þá grát mikinn at
I go with has he with me Set then weeping great on
Oddnýju, enn Þórkell gekk í burt. Líðr út vetrinn; ok er
Oddny but Thorkel went off away Passes out the-winter and when
várar lætr Ívarr búa skip sitt í Gautavík. Ok er þat
spring-comes has Ivar prepare ship his in Gautavik And when that
var búit, býst Ívarr brott ór Krossavík ok hans menn.
was ready makes-ready Ivar away out-of Krossavik and his men
Þórkell ríðr í veg með Ívari, ok er þeir höfðu riðit
Thorkel rides on (the)-way with Ivar and when they had ridden
nökkura stund, veik hann til við stýrimann: „Hvert ráð
some while turned he to with (the)-skipper What counsel
gerir þú, Ívarr, fyrir barni því, er þú átt við Oddnýju
make you Ivar for child that which you have with Oddny
systur minni, eðr viltú gera vel ok ganga at eiga hana,
sister my or will-you do well and go to marry her
enn ek mun gœða hana svá penningum, at þú sér sœmdr
but I will endow her so with-money that you be honored
af“. Ívarr brást við reiðr mjök ok svaraði: „Til ills eyrendis
by-it Ivar started at-it angry very and answered To ill errand
hefða ek þá farit til Íslands, ef ek skylda eiga systur þína
had I then gone to Iceland if I should marry sister your

mállausa; hefir mér kostr verit œðri kvenna ok kynstœrri
speechless has to-me choice been of-nobler women and more-highborn
heima á Hörðalandi eðr þó víðara í Noregi. Enn þú þarft
at-home in Hordaland or yet wider in Norway But you need
eigi at kenna mér barn systur þinnar, þó at hon eigi
not to ascribe to-me (the)-child of-sister your though that she has
við þrælum þínum. Hefir þú talat við mik mikla svívirðing“.
with thralls your Have you spoken to me great insult
Þórkell svarar: „Vilir þú eigi ganga við barni Oddnýjar, ok
Thorkel answers Will you not go with (the)-child of-Oddny and
smá bæði mik ok hana í orðum, skaltú sjálfan þik fyrir
slight both me and her in words shall-you self you for
finna. Hefi ek eigi þolat mönnum fyrrmeir þvílíka smán“.
find Have I not endured from-men formerly such shame
Ívarr hjó þá til Þórkels; þat högg kom á fótinn ok varð
Ivar struck then at Thorkel that blow came on the-leg and became
mikit sár. Þórkell brá þá sverði ok hjó til Ívars; enn
great wound Thorkel drew then sword and struck at Ivar but
hann reið undan, enn höggit kom á hestfótinn, svá at af
he rode away but the-blow came on the-horse's-leg so that off
tók. Stökk Ívar þá af baki ok rann eftir félögum sínum,
it-took Leaped Ivar then off back and ran after companions his
enn Þórkell reið heim í Krossavík. Annan dag eftir safnar
but Thorkel rode home to Krossavik (The)-second day after gathers
Þórkell mönnum, ok reið í Gautavík með þrjátigu manna.
Thorkel men and rode to Gautavik with thirty men
Enn er hann kom þar, hafði Ívarr kipt bryggjum, enn
But when he came there had Ivar pulled-in gangways but
vindr stóð af landi ok sigldu svá til hafs, ok linti eigi fyrr
wind stood off land and sailed so to sea and stopped not before
enn hann kom til Noregs, ok fór svá heim á Hörðaland
than he came to Norway and went so home to Hordaland

ok settist um kyrt. Þórkell reið heim í Krossavík ok
and settled-himself in quiet Thorkel rode home to Krossavik and
undi lítt við sinn hag, því at hann hafði eigi meiri
liked little with his lot because that he had not greater
smán fengit enn þessa alla saman.
shame gotten than this all together

IV · THE CHILD EXPOSED

Oddný bears an unusually large son, and Þórkell orders the child exposed. Þórkell's father Geitir protests that the boy will become great, but Þórkell will not listen. The thrall Freysteinn reluctantly takes the child to the woods, wraps him in a cloth, puts a slice of bacon in his mouth, shelters him under some tree roots, and tells his master he has done as ordered.

At miðju sumri eða litlu síðar fœddi Oddný barn. Þat var
At mid summer or a-little later bore Oddny a-child That was
sveinbarn svá mikit, at menn þóttust ekki barn meira
a-boy-child so big that men thought-themselves no child bigger
nýfœtt sét hafa. Þórkatli var sagt, at systir hans var léttari
newborn seen to-have To-Thorkel was told that sister his was lighter
orðin at því barni, er ætti við henni Ívarr ljómi. Enn
become of that child which had with her Ivar Gleam But
er Þórkell heyrði þat, varð hann œsilega reiðr ok sagði
when Thorkel heard that became he furiously angry and said
at út skyldi bera. Enn þat var þá lög í þann tíma,
that out should-one bear-it But that was then law at that time
at út skyldi bera óríkra manna börn, ef vildi, ok
that out should-one bear un-powerful men's children if one-wished and
þótti þó eigi vel gert. Þórkell lét kalla Freystein þræl, ok
seemed yet not well done Thorkel had call Freystein (the)-thrall and

bað hann tortíma sveininum. Enn hann taldist undan,
bade him destroy the-boy But he excused-himself off
þar til er Þórkell sagði á reiði sína. Þá var Geitir faðir
there until when Thorkel said on anger his Then was Geitir father
Þórkels vistum með Þórkatli syni sínum; hann talaði um, at
of-Thorkel in-lodging with Thorkel son his he spoke about that
sveininn skyldi eigi út bera; sagði sér svá hugr um
the-boy should-one not out bear said to-himself so mind about-it
segja, að sá sveinn mundi ekki lítill fyrir sér verða, ef
to-tell that that boy would not little for himself become if
hann næði lífi at halda. Þórkell var svá œfr, at hann vildi
he got life to keep Thorkel was so furious that he would
ekki á þat heyra, ok kvað ekki annat skyldu enn piltrinn
not on that hear and said not other should than the-lad
væri út borinn. Nú gekk Freysteinn, þó at nauðigr fœri,
were out borne Now went Freystein yet though forced he-went
til Oddnýjar ok tók upp sveininn ok gekk út með ok
to Oddny and took up the-boy and went out with-him and
til skógar. Hann vafði piltinn í einnm dúk, ok lagði
to (the)-forest He wrapped the-lad in one cloth and laid
flikkis-sneið í munninn; hann gerði skjól undir viðarrótum
bacon-slice in the-mouth he made shelter under tree-roots
ok lét þar koma í barnit, ok bjó vel um ok gekk svá
and had there come in the-child and arranged well about-it and went so
frá; fór heim síðan ok sagði bónda, at hann hefði fyrir
from-it went home afterward and told (the)-farmer that he had for
sét barninu. Bóndi lét vel yfir, ok var nú kyrt um hríð.
seen to-the-child (The)-farmer let well over-it and was now quiet for a-while

Krummr finds the child, guesses who he is, and raises him secretly as his own son Þórsteinn; Þórgunna teaches him much lore. At seven Þórsteinn is as strong as grown men. At Krossavík he trips in the hall and old Geitir laughs, saying he saw a polar bear cub running before the boy, a sign of high birth. Geitir tells Þórkell he believes the boy is Oddný's son by Ívarr; Krummr, Þórgunna, and Freysteinn confirm it, and Þórkell takes Þórsteinn into his household.

Bráðliga eftir þetta er þat at segja, at Krummr bóndi
Soon after this is that to tell that Krum (the)-farmer
fór í skóg sinn at sœkja við; hann heyrði barnsgrát ok
went into forest his to fetch timber he heard child-crying and
fór þangat til, ok fann sveinbarn bæði mikit ok vænligt;
went thither to and found a-boy-child both big and promising
þar lá hjá flesksneið, er hann þóttist vita at fallit
there lay by bacon-slice which he thought-himself to-know that fallen
mundi hafa ór munni barnsins ok því mundi þat œpt
would have out-of (the)-mouth of-the-child and therefore would it shrieked
hafa. Spurt hafði Krummr, at barn hafði verit út borit í
have Learned had Krum that a-child had been out borne in
Krossavík ok hversu Þórkell hefði hart um mælt; þóttist
Krossavik and how Thorkel had hard about spoken thought-himself
vita, at þetta sama mundi vera. Enn með því at þeir
to-know that this same would be But with that that they
Þórkell váru miklir vinir, ok hins annars, at hann sá, at þat
Thorkel were great friends and of-the other that he saw that that
var bæði glœpska ok skaði, at þar dœi svá mannlegt barn
was both crime and loss that there died so manly child
ok líkligt til stórra afdrifa, þá tók hann þat upp ok hafði
and likely to great outcomes then took he it up and had
heim með sér ok gerði ekki orð á. Þat var á fjórða
home with himself and made not word on-it That was in (the)-fourth

dœgri, er barnit fanst, frá því er þat var út borit.
day when the-child was-found from that when it was out borne
Krummr gaf nafn piltinum ok kallaði Þórstein, ok kallaði
Krum gave name to-the-lad and called Thorstein and called
sinn son vera. Um þetta urðu þau Þórgunna samráða. Vex
his son to-be About this became they Thorgunna agreed Grows
Þórsteinn nú þar upp, ok leggr Þórgunna við hann ástfóstr,
Thorstein now there up and lays Thorgunna on him foster-love
ok kennir honum margt í frœðum. Þórsteinn gerðist bæði
and teaches him much in lore Thorstein became both
mikill ok sterkr ok viðleitinn um allar íþróttir. Hann var
big and strong and striving in all skills He was
svá sterkr, at þá er hann var sjau vetra gamall, sambauð
so strong that then when he was seven winters old matched
hann at afli rosknum mönnum, þótt fœrir væri. Þat var
he in strength grown men though able were That was
einn dag sem oftar, at Þórsteinn kom til Krossavíkr; hann
one day as oftener that Thorstein came to Krossavik he
gekk til stofu. Þá sat Geitir faðir bónda á palli ok
went to (the)-hall Then sat Geitir father of-(the)-farmer on (the)-dais and
þuldi í feld sinn. Enn er piltrinn kom í stofuna, þá
muttered into cloak his But when the-lad came into the-hall then
fór hann mjök geystr sem börnum er títt; fellr hann á
went he very wildly as with-children is customary falls he on
stofugólfinu. Ok (er) Geitir sér þetta, skellir hann upp ok
the-hall-floor And when Geitir sees this bursts-out he up and
hlær. Enn er Oddný sér piltinn, setr at henni grát mikinn.
laughs But when Oddny sees the-lad sets on her weeping great
Piltrinn gengr innar at Geiti ok mælti: „Hvárt þótti þér
The-lad goes further-in to Geitir and spoke Whether seemed to-you
þetta allbrosligt, er ek fell áðan?“ Geitir svarar: „Þat er satt
this very-laughable when I fell just-now Geitir answers That is true

því at ek sá þat, er þú sátt eigi“. „Hvat var þat?“ sagði
because that I saw that which you saw not What was that said
Þórsteinn. „Þat má ek segja þér“, [sagði Geitir]; „þá er þú
Thorstein That may I tell you said Geitir then when you
komt í stofuna, fylgði þér einn hvítabjarnar-húnn ok rann
came into the-hall followed you one polar-bear-cub and ran
fyrir innar á gólfit; enn er hann sá mik, nam hann
before further-in onto the-floor but when it saw me took it
staðar, enn þú fórt heldr geystr ok felt þú um húninn; þat
stop but you went rather wildly and fell you over the-cub that
er ætlan mín, at þú sér eigi sonr Krumms né Þórgunnar,
is thought my that you be not son of-Krum nor of-Thorgunna
heldr mantú stœrri ættar“. Piltrinn settist niðr hjá Geiti ok
rather will-you of-greater family The-lad sat down by Geitir and
skrumuðu þeir. Enn er kveldaði, sagðist Þórsteinn heim
joked they But when it-grew-evening said-of-himself Thorstein home
skyldu. Geitir bað hann koma þar oft, „því at mér þykkir
should Geitir bade him come there often because that to-me seems
sem þú munir eiga hér kynni“. Enn er piltrinn var út
as-if you will have here kin But when the-lad was out
genginn, kom Oddný þar ok fœrði Þórsteini klæði nýskorin;
gone came Oddny there and brought Thorstein clothes newly-cut
fór hann síðan heim. Vandi hann nú kvámur sínar til
went he afterward home Made-a-habit he now comings his to
Krossavíkr. Þórkell gaf sér fátt at piltinum, enn þótti hann
Krossavik Thorkel gave himself little to the-lad but seemed he
þó frágerðamaðr at vexti ok afli. Geitir sagði Þórkatli syni
yet outstanding-man in growth and strength Geitir told Thorkel son
sínum, at þat væri hans ætlan, at þessi Þórsteinn væri
his that that were his thought that this Thorstein were
son Oddnýjar ok Ívars ljóma, ok mundi verða mikill maðr
son of-Oddny and of-Ivar Gleam and would become great man

fyrir sér. Þórkell kveðst eigi kunna at synja, „skulu
for himself Thorkel says-of-himself not can to deny shall
vér hér fá sannar fréttir af“. Ok um morgininn sendir
we here get true news of-it And in the-morning sends
Þórkell eftir Krumm ok Þórgunnu ok Þórsteini; ok er
Thorkel for Krum and Thorgunna and Thorstein and when
þau kvámu, spurði Þórkell glöggliga at, hversu Þórsteinn
they came asked Thorkel closely about how Thorstein
væri til kominn. Enn þau hjón sögðu allt, hversu til komit
were to come But those spouses told all how to come
var; sagði Freysteinn ok sína sögu ok bar allt saman. Þótti
was told Freystein also his story and bore all together Seemed
Þórkatli nú vel um gengit, ok kunni Freysteini þakk(ir)
to-Thorkel now well about gone and knew Freystein thanks
fyrir. Vaknar Þórsteinn nú við ætt sína, ok fór hann nú
for-it Awakens Thorstein now to family his and went he now
vistafari til Krossavíkr ok gerir Þórkell við hann raunvel.
lodging-goer to Krossavik and does Thorkel toward him very-well

VI · THE MOUND-DWELLERS

At ten, Þórsteinn spends a night by a great mound with Freysteinn keeping watch. He dreams that the mound-dweller Brynjarr invites him in, where Brynjarr's brother Oddr takes tribute from them nightly. Þórsteinn cuts off Oddr's hand with his axe and, with Brynjarr's help, kills Oddr and his men. Brynjarr gives him a purse of silver and the gold that restores speech, and asks that a son of his be baptized with Brynjarr's name. Þórsteinn wakes with both, promises Freysteinn his freedom and twelve marks of silver, and his mother speaks once the gold is under her tongue.

Þat er sagt eitt haust, er menn skyldu á fjall
That is said one autumn when men should onto (the)-mountain
ganga, beiddi Þórkell Þórstein frænda sinn fara með þeim.
go asked Thorkel Thorstein kinsman his go with them
Hann játaði því; hann var tíu vetra gamall þá. Freysteinn
He agreed to-that he was ten winters old then Freystein
kveðr hann til ferðar með sér. Þeir fara sem þeim
calls him to (the)-journey with himself They go as to-them
liggja leiðir, — finna margt fjár. Ok er þeir fara heim
lie ways find much sheep And when they go home
á leið, koma þeir í einn dal djúpan; eru þá tveir
on (the)-way come they into one dale deep are then two
saman, Þórsteinn ok Freysteinn. Þá kveldaði mjök. Þeir
together Thorstein and Freystein Then it-grew-evening much They
sá þar einn haug stóran. „Hér ætla ek í nátt at vera“,
saw there one mound great Here intend I in night to be
segir Þórsteinn, „ok skaltu vaka í nátt, Freysteinn, ok
says Thorstein and shall-you keep-watch in night Freystein and
vekja mik eigi, hversu sem ek læt í svefni, því at þar
wake me not however that I act in sleep because that there
þykki mér á liggja“. Freysteinn játaði því. Síðan sofnaði
seems to-me on-it lie Freystein agreed to-that Then fell-asleep
Þórsteinn; ok er á leið náttina, lét hann illa í svefni,
Thorstein and when on passed the-night acted he ill in sleep
því at hann brauzt um á hnakki ok hæli; því gekk
because that he struggled about on neck and heel that went
allt til dags. Freysteinn efaðist í, hvárt hann skyldi vekja
all to day Freystein doubted on-it whether he should wake
Þórstein eðr eigi; miklu váru hans læti erviðlegri. Enn er
Thorstein or not much were his antics more-strenuous But when
lýsti af degi, vaknaði Þórsteinn, ok var þá sveittr mjök
lightened from day woke Thorstein and was then sweaty very

ok mælti: „Dyggiliga hefir þú enn vakat, Freysteinn; hefir
and spoke Faithfully have you still kept-watch Freystein have
þú nú gert þá tvá hluti, at hvárrtveggja væri launa verðr:
you now done those two things that each-of-two were of-reward worthy
í fyrstan tíma er þú fórt með mik ok nú. Skal ek nú
in (the)-first time when you went with me and now Shall I now
því launa þér, at ek skal fá fyrir þik frelsi af Þórkatli
for-that repay you that I shall get for you freedom from Thorkel
frænda mínum, ok hér eru tólf merkr silfrs, at ek vil
kinsman my and here are twelve marks of-silver which I will
gefa þér. Enn nú vil ek segja þér dráum minn. Mér þótti
give you But now will I tell you dream my To-me seemed
haugr sjá opnast, ok gekk þar út ór maðr rauðklæddr;
mound this open and walked there out of-it a-man red-clad
hann var mikill maðr vexti, ok ekki aðalliga illiligr“. Hann
he was big man in-growth and not chiefly evil-looking He
gekk at Þórsteini ok heilsaði upp á hann. Þórsteinn tók
walked to Thorstein and greeted up on him Thorstein took
honum vel ok spurði hann at nafni eðr hvar hann ætti
him well and asked him of name or where he had
heima. Hann lézt Brynjarr heita ok eiga heima í haugi
home He professed Brynjar to-be-called and have home in mound
þeim, „er þú sér standa hér í dalnum. Enn veit ek, hvat
that which you see stand here in the-dale But know I what
þú heitir ok svá hvers kyns þú ert, ok svá þat, at þú
you are-called and also of-what kin you are and also that that you
mant mikill maðr verða fyrir þér, eðr viltú fara með mér
will great man become for yourself or will-you go with me
ok sjá hýbýli mín?“ Þórsteinn játaði því ok stóð upp ok
and see dwellings my Thorstein agreed to-that and stood up and
tók öxi sína, er Þórkell hafði gefit honum; ganga inn
took axe his which Thorkel had given him go in

í hauginn, Enn er Þórsteinn kom þar, sýndist honum
into the-mound But when Thorstein came there seemed to-him
þar vel fyrirbúit. Hann sá þar til hœgri handar sitja ellifu
there well prepared He saw there to (the)-right hand sit eleven
menn á bekk. Þeir váru allir rauðklæddir ok heldr fáligir.
men on (the)-bench They were all red-clad and rather glum
Öðrumegin í hauginum sá hann sitja tólf menn. Þeir
On-the-other-side in the-mound saw he sit twelve men They
váru allir bláklæddir. Sá var [einn] þeira mestr ok illiligr.
were all blue-clad That was one of-them biggest and evil-looking
Brynjarr laut at Þórsteini ok mælti: „Sá er bróðir
Brynjar bent toward Thorstein and spoke That-one is brother
minn, hinn mikli maðr, ok erum vit þó ekki skaplíkir;
my the big man and are we-two yet not alike-in-temper
hann heitir Oddr ok vill flestum illt; hann veitir mér
he is-called Odd and wishes to-most ill he gives me
þungar búsifjar; enn hann er því öllu sterkari enn ek,
heavy neighborliness but he is by-that all stronger than I
sem hann er meiri vöxtum; enn ek hefi orðit at játta því
as he is greater in-growth but I have had to agree to-that
ok mínir menn, at fá honum hverja nátt mörk gulls eðr
and my men to give him every night a-mark of-gold or
tvær merkr silfrs, eðr einhvern grip jafnan þessu. Hefir
two marks of-silver or some treasure equal to-this Has
nú svá fram farit hinn næsta mánuð ok gerumst vér nú
now so forward gone the next month and become we now
farnir at lausafé. Oddr hefir at varðveita gull þat, er
gone of movable-goods Odd has to keep gold that which
sú náttúra fylgir, at hverr maðr, sem málláus er ok leggr
that nature follows that whatever man who speechless is and lays
þat undir tunguræetr sér, þá tekr þegar mál sitt, ok af
it under tongue-roots his then takes at-once speech his and from

því gulli má móðir þín mál fá; enn Oddr geymir þat svá
that gold may mother your speech get but Odd keeps it so
ríkt, at þat gengr aldri af honum hvárki nótt né dag“. Nú
strictly that it goes never off him neither night nor day Now
sezt Brynjarr niðr hjá sínum kumpánum, enn Þórsteinn sitr
sits Brynjar down by his companions but Thorstein sits
þeira yztr. Enn er þeir hafa setit um hríð, stóð Brynjarr
of-them outermost But when they have sat for a-while stood Brynjar
upp ok gekk yfir at Oddi bróður sínum, ok afhendi honum
up and went over to Odd brother his and handed him
einn hring digran. Oddr tók við þegjandi, enn Brynjarr
one ring thick Odd took with-it silent but Brynjar
gekk aftr til sætis síns. Svá stóð upp hverr at öðrum, ok
went back to seat his So stood up each after (the)-other and
færðu Oddi allir nökkurn grip, enn hann gaf engum þökk
brought to-Odd all some treasure but he gave to-none thanks
í móti. Enn er þeir höfðu þetta allir (gert), þá mælti
in return But when they had this all done then spoke
Brynjarr: „Þat mun þér ráð, Þórsteinn, at gera sem aðrir
Brynjar That will to-you advisable Thorstein to do as others
ok færa Oddi nökkurt gjald; eigi mun annat duga með því
and bring Odd some payment not will other avail with that
at þú sitr á várn bekk“. Oddr var ýgldr mjök, ok sat upp
that you sit on our bench Odd was scowling very and sat up
mjök gneypr ok heldr ófrýniligr. Þórsteinn stóð þá upp
very drooping and rather ugly-looking Thorstein stood then up
ok helt á öxi sinni. Hann gekk yfir at Oddi ok mælti:
and held on axe his He walked over to Odd and spoke
„Ekki er ek plaggamargr til, Oddr, at lúka þér gjald þetta;
Not am I rich-in-garments to-it Odd to pay you payment this
muntú ok ekki mikilþægr at við mik, því at ek er
will-you also not very-exacting at toward me because that I am

óríkr“. Oddr anzaði ok heldr stutt: „Ekki er mér um
un-powerful Odd answered and rather short Not is to-me about
kvámu þína hingat, enn muntú eigi frammi láta þat er
coming your hither but will-you not forward let that which
þér líkar?“ „Ek hefi ekki til nema öxi mína, ef þú vilt
to-you pleases I have not to-it except axe my if you will
hana taka“, [segir Þórsteinn]. Oddr rétti höndina í móti,
it take says Thorstein Odd reached the-hand in toward-it
enn Þórsteinn höggr til hans; kemr þat í höndina ofan
but Thorstein strikes at him comes that into the-hand above
ölnboga ok tekr af. Oddr sprettr þá upp ok allir þeir, er
elbow and takes off Odd springs then up and all they who
(í) hauginum váru; vápn þeira hengu uppi yfir þeim; grípa
in the-mound were weapons their hung up over them grab
þeir þau; slœr nú með þeim í bardaga. Þat sér Þórsteinn,
they them strikes now between them into battle That sees Thorstein
at nú er ekki fjarri um með þeim, Þórsteini ok Oddi, er
that now is not far-off about between them Thorstein and Odd since
Oddr var einhendr. Allir lítast honum hinir bláklæddu menn
Odd was one-handed All seem to-him the blue-clad men
harðfengari; þat sér hann ok, þó at þeir höggist af
hardier that sees he also though that they strike-each-other off
hendr eðr fœtr eðr særist öðrum stórsárum, þá eru þeir
hands or feet or are-wounded with-other great-wounds then are they
á annarri stundu heilir. Enn þat er Þórsteinn hjó, þá var
in another moment whole But that which Thorstein struck then was
þat eftir eðli. Eigi linti Þórsteinn fyrr, ok þeir Brynjarr
that according-to nature Not stopped Thorstein before and they Brynjar
allir saman, enn Oddr var drepinn ok þeir allir kumpánar.
all together than Odd was killed and they all companions
Þórsteinn var þá mjök móðr, enn ekki sárr, því at
Thorstein was then very tired but not wounded because that

Brynjarr ok hans félagar höfðu hlíft Þórsteini við höggum
Brynjar and his companions had shielded Thorstein from blows
öllum. Brynjarr tók nú gullit af Oddi dauðum ok fekk
all Brynjar took now the-gold from Odd dead and gave
Þórsteini, ok bað hann færa móður sinni. Hann gaf honum
Thorstein and bade him bring to-mother his He gave him
tólf merkr silfrs í sjóði ok mælti: „Mikit frelsi hefir þú
twelve marks of-silver in a-purse and spoke Great freedom have you
unnit mér, Þórsteinn, því at nú ræð ek hér haugi ok
won me Thorstein because that now rule I here mound and
eignum; mun þetta upphaf þinna þrekvirkja, er þú munt
possessions will this (the)-beginning of-your mighty-deeds which you will
vinna útanlendis. Þú munt ok taka siðaskifti, ok er sá siðr
do abroad You will also take change-of-faith and is that faith
miklu betri, þeir sem hann mega hljóta, enn hinum er
much better for-those who it may get but to-the-others is
erfiðara um, sem eigi eru til þess skapaðir ok slíkir eru
more-difficult about-it who not are to that created and such are
sem ek, því at vit brœðr várum jarðbúar. Nú þœtti
as I because that we-two brothers were earth-dwellers Now would-seem
mér miklu máli skifta, at þú kœmir nafni mínu undir
to-me much matter to-matter that you brought name my under
skírn, ef þér yrði þat auðit at eiga son“. „Síðan leiddi
baptism if to-you became that granted to have a-son Then led
hann mik út ór hauginum, ok áðr vit skildum mælti
he me out out-of the-mound and before we-two parted spoke
hann: „Ef mín orð mega nökkut, þá snúist þér þín
he If my words may anything then turn-themselves to-you your
verk öll til heiðrs ok hamingju“. Eftir þat snøri Brynjarr
works all to honor and luck After that turned Brynjar
inn í hauginn, enn ek vaknaða; ok þat til marks um, at
in into the-mound but I woke and that as token about-it that

hér er nú bæði hjá mér sjóðrinn ok gullit“. Síðan fóru þeir
here is now both by me the-purse and the-gold Then went they
ok ráku heim fénað þann, er þeir höfðu fundit ok heimtu
and drove home livestock that which they had found and recovered
menn vel. Sagði Þórsteinn þenna atburð allan, ok færði
men well Told Thorstein this event all and brought
móður sinni gullit, ok tók hon þegar mál sitt, er þat
to-mother his the-gold and took she at-once speech her when it
kom undir tungurœtr henni. Stendr þessi haugr í Jökulsdal,
came under tongue-roots her Stands this mound in Jokulsdal
ok er kallaðr Brynjarshaugr, ok sér enn í dag merki.
and is called Brynjarshaug and is-seen still in day (the)-mark

VII · FREYSTEINN THE FAIR

Through Þórsteinn's words Freysteinn is freed, since Þórkell knows that he comes of noble Norwegian kin, sold as a slave after a viking burned his father. Some say that Þórsteinn gave his mother Oddný to Freysteinn in marriage. Freysteinn the Fair lives at Sandvík on Barðsnes and is called a settler, and the men of Sandvík, Viðfjörðr, and Hellisfjörðr descend from him.

Freysteinn fekk frelsi brátt af orðum Þórsteins, ok gerði
Freystein got freedom soon through words of-Thorstein and did
Þórkell þat vel ok liðuglega, því at honum var vel í
Thorkel that well and willingly because that to-him was well in
geði til Freysteins, því at hann vissi, at hann vár
mind toward Freystein because that he knew that he was
góðrar ættar ok göfgra manna fram í kyn. Grímkell faðir
of-good family and noble men forward in kin Grimkel father
Freysteins bjó á Vors ok átti Ólofu Brunnólfsdóttur,
of-Freystein dwelt at Voss and married Olof Brunnolf's-daughter

Þórgeirssonar, Vestarssonar. Enn Sokki víkingr brendi inni
Thorgeir's-son Vestar's-son But Sokki (the)-viking burned inside
Grímkel föður hans, enn tók piltinn ok seldi mansali; hafði
Grimkel father his but took the-lad and sold into-slavery had
Geitir hann út hingat. Þat segja sumir menn, at Þórsteinn
Geitir him out hither That say some men that Thorstein
gifti Freysteini Oddnýju móður sína. Freysteinn hinn
gave-in-marriage to-Freystein Oddny mother his Freystein the
fagri bjó í Sandvík á Barðsnesi, ok átti Viðfjörð ok
Fair dwelt at Sandvik on Bardsnes and owned Vidfjord and
Hellisfjörð, ok var kallaðr landnámsmaðr. Frá honum eru
Hellisfjord and was called settler From him are
komnir Sandvíkingar ok Viðfirðingar ok Hellisfirðingar.
come Sandvik-men and Vidfjord-men and Hellisfjord-men

VIII · ÍVARR DENIES HIS SON

At twelve Þórsteinn sails to Norway with his mother's ring as a token for his father and winters with Styrkárr of Gimsar. At Ívarr ljómi's Yule feast he asks Ívarr to acknowledge him, but Ívarr insults him and his mother. Þórsteinn says that next time Ívarr will acknowledge him or die. Styrkárr refuses to kill him for Ívarr, and Þórsteinn takes a liking to Styrkárr's sister Herdís. After two winters he goes home, and three winters later he returns to Styrkárr, who welcomes him.

Ásbjörn kastanrassi átti skip uppi standanda í Gautavík.
Asbjorn Chestnut-arse had a-ship up standing in Gautavik
Þar tók Þórsteinn sér fari með honum; þá var hann
There took Thorstein for-himself passage with him then was he
tólf vetra gamall. Þórkell fekk honum fararefni, svá at
twelve winters old Thorkel got him journey-means so that
honum nægði; ok áðr Þórsteinn reið til skips, töluðust
to-him sufficed and before Thorstein rode to (the)-ship talked

þau við ok móðir hans. Hon mælti: „Nú muntú, frændi,
they together and mother his She spoke Now will-you kinsman
finna föður þinn Ívar ljóma, ok ef hann gengr seint við
meet father your Ivar Gleam and if he goes slowly with
faðerni þínu, þá er hér einn hringr, er þú skalt færa
paternity your then is here one ring which you shall bring
honum, ok seg honum, at þenna hring gaf hann mér í
him and tell him that this ring gave he me at
fyrsta sinni, ok má hann þá eigi dyljast við“. Síðan skildu
(the)-first time and may he then not deny with-it Then parted
þau mœðgin, ok reið Þórsteinn til skips, ok fór útan
they mother-and-son and rode Thorstein to (the)-ship and went abroad
um sumarit. Komu þeir norðarlega við Noreg um haustit.
in the-summer Came they far-north to Norway in the-autumn
Fór Þórsteinn vistfari til Styrkárs á Gimsar ok var þar
Went Thorstein lodging-goer to Styrkar at Gimsar and was there
um vetrinn. Fell vel á með þeim Styrkári, því at
through the-winter Fell well on-it between them Styrkar because that
hann sá at Þórsteinn var hinn mesti atgervismaðr, því
he saw that Thorstein was the greatest accomplished-man because
at hann jafnvægði þá hinum sterkustu mönnum í öllum
that he equaled then the strongest men in all
leikum. Um vetrinn nökkuru fyrir jól komu þar sendimenn
games In the-winter somewhat before Yule came there messengers
Ívars ljóma, þess eyrendis, at Ívarr hafði boðit honum
of-Ivar Gleam on-that errand that Ivar had invited him
Styrkári til jólaveizlu. Sá hét Björn, er fyrir þeim var.
Styrkar to Yule-feast That-one was-called Bjorn who before them was
Styrkárr hét ferðinni ok fór með þrjátigu manna; þar var
Styrkar promised the-journey and went with thirty men there was
Þórsteinn í ferð. Þeir koma til veizlunnar; var Styrkári
Thorstein in (the)-journey They come to the-feast was to-Styrkar

þar vel fagnat; sat hann hit næsta Ívari um veizluna.
there well welcomed sat he the next to-Ivar during the-feast
Fór veizlan vel fram, ok affaradag veizlunnar, áðr menn
Went the-feast well forward and (the)-departure-day of-the-feast before men
skyldu burt fara, gekk Þórsteinn fyrir Ívar ok mælti: „Þat
should away go went Thorstein before Ivar and spoke That
er eyrendi mitt við þik, Ívarr, at vita hvárt þú vilt nökkut
is errand my with you Ivar to know whether you will at-all
ganga við faðerni at mér“. Ívarr svarar: „Hvert er nafn
go with paternity of me Ivar answers What is name
þitt eðr hvaðan ertú at kominn?“ „Þórsteinn er nafn mitt;
your or whence are-you to come Thorstein is name my
Oddný heitir móðir mín ok er Geitisdóttir út á Íslandi, ok
Oddny is-called mother my and is Geitir's-daughter out in Iceland and
hér er hringr, er hon bað mik færa þér til jartegna, ok
here is a-ring which she bade me bring you for tokens and
kvað at þú mundir kenna, at þú hafðir gefit henni“. Ívarr
said that you would know that you had given her Ivar
roðnaði fast ok mælti: „Þú munt eiga allt verra faðerni; eru
reddened hard and spoke You will have all worse paternity are
nógir þrælar út á Íslandi, til þess at móðir þín kenni þik.
enough thralls out in Iceland for that that mother your ascribe you
Er þat ok mála sannast, at mér þœtti eiga at leiða
Is that also of-matters truest that to-me would-seem to-have to discourage
drengjum ok herjans sonum þat, at hverr pútuson kallaði
to-fellows and of-(the)-devil sons that that every whore's-son called
mik föður at sér“. Þórsteinn reiddist þá ákafliga mjök ok
me father to himself Thorstein grew-angry then exceedingly much and
stillti þó vel orðum ok sagði: „Illa hefir þú svarat ok
controlled yet well words and said Ill have you answered and
ódrengilega, enn svá kem ek annat sinn, at þú gengr við
unmanfully but so come I a-second time that you go with

mér, elligar er þat bani þinn“. Þórsteinn snýr þá í brottu.
me or-else is that death your Thorstein turns then off away
Ívarr talaði til Styrkárs: „Þat vilda ek, frændi, at þú
Ivar spoke to Styrkar That would-wish I kinsman that you
banaðir fóli þessu, því at mér þykkir enskis ills örvænt
killed fool this because that to-me seems of-no ill unlikely
fyrir hann“. „Eigi vil ek þat“, segir Styrkárr, „því at ek
for him Not will I that says Styrkar because that I
ætla hann hafa réttara at mæla enn þú, því at ek hygg,
think him have more-right to speak than you because that I think
at hann sé kynstórra manna“. Skildu þeir Ívarr ok Styrkárr
that he be of-high-born men Parted they Ivar and Styrkar
þá í styttingi. Fór Styrkárr heim á Gimsar ok Þórsteinn
then in coolness Went Styrkar home to Gimsar and Thorstein
með honum. Styrkárr átti sér systur, er Herdís hét,
with him Styrkar had for-himself a-sister who Herdis was-called
kvenna vænst; góðr þokki var á með þeim Þórsteini.
of-women most-beautiful good liking was on-it between them Thorstein
Þar var hann tvá vetr. Þá fór Þórsteinn út til Íslands
There was he two winters Then went Thorstein out to Iceland
ok heim til Krossavíkr, ok hafði mikit framizt í útanferð
and home to Krossavik and had much advanced in journey-abroad
sinni. Ok er hann hafði verit þrjá vetr á Íslandi, fór hann
his And when he had been three winters in Iceland went he
útan með Kolbirni sneypi til Noregs. Fór hann þá enn
abroad with Kolbjorn Sneypir to Norway Went he then again
til Styrkárs á Gimsar, ok tók hann við honum feginshendi.
to Styrkar at Gimsar and took he with him with-glad-hand

That summer Earl Hákon dies and Óláfr Tryggvason, who preaches the true faith, succeeds him. Told that ogresses in Heiðarskógr have closed all the roads, he asks for volunteers, and Brynjólfr, a landed man, sets out with sixty men. At a great hall they see three troll-women and a huge man with two lads, and in the fight Brynjólfr and all his company fall but four, who bring the king the news.

Glöggliga er þat sagt, at þetta sumar yrði höfðingjaskifti
Clearly is that said that this summer happened chieftains'-change
í Noregi: felli frá Hákon blótjarl; enn í staðinn kom
in Norway fell away Hakon sacrifice-earl but into the-place came
Óláfr Tryggvason. Hann boðaði öllum mönnum rétta trú.
Olaf Tryggvi's-son He preached to-all men right faith
Þat kom fyrir Óláf konung, at flögð lægi á Heiðarskóg,
That came before Olaf (the)-king that ogresses lay in Heidarskog
svá at þar tœki af vegu alla. Konungr skýtr á húsþingi,
so that there (it)-took away roads all (The)-king calls to house-assembly
ok spyrr, hverir fara vilja at frelsa Heiðarskóg. Maðr stóð
and asks who go will to free Heidarskog A-man stood
upp mikill ok vörpuligr, er Brynjólfr hét, lendr maðr
up big and stately who Brynjolf was-called landed man
í Þrándheimi, ok mælti: „Ek vil fara, herra, ef þér vilit".
in Trondheim and spoke I will go lord if you wish
Konungi kvaðst þat vel líka. Bjóst Brynjólfr þá við
To-(the)-king said-of-himself that well please Made-ready Brynjolf then with
sextigu manna. Þórkell hét (maðr). Þangat ríða þeir
sixty men Thorkel was-called a-man Thither ride they
Brynjólfr til gistingar. Tók Þórkell við þeim vel; váru þeir
Brynjolf for lodging Took Thorkel with them well were they
þar um nóttina; enn um morguninn fylgdi hann þeim á
there through the-night but in the-morning escorted he them on

veg, ok kvað þat skaða mikinn, er konungr skyldi eigi
(the)-way and said that loss great that (the)-king should not
slíkra manna lengi njóta mega. Síðan riðu þeir veg sinn ok
such men long enjoy may Then rode they way their and
allt þar til, er þeir sá standa skála mikinn. Þaðan sá þeir
all there until when they saw stand a-hall great Thence saw they
hlaupa þrjár tröllkonur, tvær ungligar ok ein stœrst. Hon
run three troll-women two young and one biggest She
var loðin öll útan sem grábjörn. Þær höfðu allar sverð í
was shaggy all outside like gray-bear They had all swords in
höndum. Þeir sá ok ganga mikinn mann, ef mann skyldi
hands They saw also walk a-big man if man should-one
kalla, ok tvá pilta með honum. Hann hafði brugðit sverð í
call and two lads with him He had drawn sword in
hendi; þat var svá bjart, at sindra þótti af. Öll váru tröllin
hand it was so bright that sparkle seemed from-it All were the-trolls
illilig at sjá. Þar slœr þegar í bardaga; varð hinn mikli
evil-looking to see There strikes at-once into battle became the big
maðr mjök stórhöggr, ok svá hin loðna skessa. Lýkr með
man very mighty-striking and so the shaggy ogress Ends with
því, at þar fellr Brynjólfr ok allt hans föruneyti, nema fjórir
that that there falls Brynjolf and all his company except four
menn komust á skóg, ok fóru síðan á fund konungs,
men got into (the)-forest and went afterward to meeting of-(the)-king
ok sögðu honum þessi tíðindi, ok spurðist þetta víða.
and told him these tidings and was-heard this widely

Styrkárr and Þórsteinn go to Heiðarskógr on skis. Fetching water, Þórsteinn chases a troll-girl to a great hall, where he kills a sleeping ogress through the one bare spot under her arm. He overhears the troll Járnskjöldr saying he fears only Þórsteinn Oddnýjarson. In the fighting that follows he kills Járnskjöldr's daughter Skjaldís and cuts off Járnskjöldr's arm and leg with the sword Skjaldvararnautr, then his head.

Þat er at segja, at Styrkárr talaði við Þórstein ok spurði,
That is to tell that Styrkar spoke with Thorstein and asked
hvárt hann vildi fara með honum á Heiðarskóg. Þórsteinn
whether he would go with him to Heidarskog Thorstein
lézt búinn þeirar ferðar. Bjuggust þeir einn morgin
professed-himself ready for-that journey Made-ready they one morning
snemma, ok fóru á skíðum upp á fjall, ok lintu eigi
early and went on skis up onto (the)-mountain and stopped not
fyrr enn þeir kvámu at kveldi dags til eins sæluhúss, ok
before than they came at evening of-day to one shelter-hut and
ætla þar at vera um nóttina. Skiftu þeir þá verkum: skyldi
intend there to be through the-night Divided they then tasks should
Þórsteinn vatn sœkja, enn Styrkárr eld kveikja. Þórsteinn
Thorstein water fetch but Styrkar fire kindle Thorstein
gengr þá út ok tók upp spjót, er Styrkárr hafði gefit
goes then out and took up a-spear which Styrkar had given
honum, ok vatnsfötur í aðra hönd. Ok er hann kemr
him and water-buckets in (the)-other hand And when he comes
mjök til vatnsins, sá hann stúlku ganga með vatnsfötur;
nearly to the-water saw he a-girl walk with water-buckets
hon var ekki foraðshá, enn ógnar-digr. Ok er hon sér
she was not monstrous-tall but terribly-thick And when she sees
Þórstein, kastar hon niðr fötunum ok bregðr við hart, ok
Thorstein throws she down the-buckets and starts at-it hard and

hleypr aftr á veg. Þórsteinn lætr ok eftir sínar vatnsfötur
runs back on (the)-way Thorstein lets also behind his water-buckets
ok hleypr eftir; enn er stúlkan sér þat, rykkir hon hart
and runs after but when the-girl sees that jerks she hard
undan. Hleypr þá hvárt sem getr, ok dregr þá hvárki
away Runs then each as can and draws then neither
sundr né saman með þeim. Gengr þessu þar til er
apart nor together between them Goes this there until when
Þórsteinn sér skála standa mjök stóran ok rammgervan;
Thorstein sees a-hall stand very great and strong-built
þar hleypr þessi stúlka inn í ok skellir aftr hurðu. Enn
there runs this girl in into and slams back (the)-door But
er Þórsteinn sér þat, skýtr hann eftir henni spjótinu ok
when Thorstein sees that shoots he after her with-the-spear and
kemr í skálahurðina ok flýgr í gegnum hurðina. Þórsteinn
comes into the-hall-door and flies in through the-door Thorstein
gengr þá at skálanum ok inn í, — finnr spjót sitt á
goes then to the-hall and in into finds spear his on
gólfinu, enn ekki sér hann til stúlku sinnar. Honum verðr
the-floor but not sees he of girl his To-him becomes
gengit innan um skálann ok þar til, er hann kemr at
gone within about the-hall and there until when he comes to
einni lokrekkju; þar brann ljós á kertistiku. Þórsteinn sér
one closed-bed there burned a-light on a-candlestick Thorstein sees
at kona liggr í sænginni, ef konu skyldi kalla; hon var
that a-woman lies in the-bed if woman should-one call she was
bæði há ok digr ok at öllu trollslig. Hon var stórskorin
both tall and thick and in all troll-like She was big-featured
mjök í andliti, enn álits bæði svört ok blá; hon lá í
very in face but of-complexion both black and blue she lay in
einum silkiserk; hann var því líkastr sem hann væri þveginn
one silk-shirt it was that likest as-if it were washed

í mannablóði. Flagðit var þá í svefni ok hraut ógrliga
in men's-blood The-ogress was then in sleep and snored terribly
hátt; skjöldr ok sverð hekk uppi yfir henni. Þórsteinn steig
loud a-shield and sword hung up over her Thorstein stepped
upp á rekkjustokkinn, ok tók ofan sverðit ok brá. Hann
up onto the-bed-edge and took down the-sword and drew He
fletti þá klæðum af flagðinu; sá hann þá at hon var öll
stripped then clothes off the-ogress saw he then that she was all
alloðin, nema einn díli undir hinni vinstri hendi sá hann
very-shaggy except one spot under the left arm saw he
at snöggr var. Þat þóttist hann vita, at annathvárt
that bare was That thought-himself he to-know that either
mundi hana þar járn bíta eðr hvergi annarsstaðar. Hann
would her there iron bite or nowhere elsewhere He
leggr sverðinu á þessum sama flekk ok fellr á hjöltin;
thrusts with-the-sword at this same spot and falls on the-hilts
sverðit bítr svá, at oddrinn stóð í dýnunni. Kerling vaknaði
the-sword bites so that the-point stood in the-mattress (The)-hag woke
þá, ok eigi við góðan draum, ok fálmaði höndunum ok
then and not with good dream and groped with-the-hands and
spratt upp. Þórsteinn hefir allan einn rykkinn, at hann
sprang up Thorstein has all one the-jerk that he
slökkvir ljósit ok stökkr upp yfir flagðit í sængina. Enn
quenches the-light and leaps up over the-ogress into the-bed But
hon hleypr fram á gólfit ok ætlar at vegandinn muni til
she runs forth onto the-floor and thinks that the-slayer will to
dyranna leitat hafa; enn er hon kemr þar, sœvist hon á
the-doors sought have but when she comes there is-slain she on
sverðinu ok deyr. Þórsteinn gengr þá at henni, ok kippir
the-sword and dies Thorstein goes then to her and pulls
burt brandinum ok hefir með sér. Hann gengr þá þar
away the-blade and has with himself He goes then there

til, er hann kemr at hurðu; hon var greypt í stokk ok
until when he comes to a-door it was fitted into a-frame and
hnigin eigi allt í klofa. Hann sá mikinn mann á palli
sunk not all into (the)-cleft He saw a-big man on (the)-dais
sitja ok mjök stórskorinn ok hengu yfir honum öll herklæði;
sit and very big-featured and hung over him all war-gear
á aðra hönd honum sat mikil skessa ok illilig ok
on (the)-other hand to-him sat a-great ogress and evil-looking and
ekki allellilig; piltar tveir léku á gólfinu; þeim var sprottit
not very-old lads two played on the-floor to-them was sprouted
hár ór kolli. Skessan tók til orða: „Hvárt syfjar þik,
hair out-of (the)-crown The-ogress took to words Whether makes-sleepy you
Járnskjöldr faðir?“ „Eigi er, Skjaldís dóttir; liggja á mér
Iron-Shield father Not is Skjaldis daughter lie on me
hugir stórra manna“. Hann nefndi þá piltana, annan Hák
minds of-great men He named then the-lads (the)-one Hak
enn annan Haka, ok bað þá fram ganga til Skjaldvarar
but (the)-other Haki and bade them forth go to Skjaldvor
móður sinnar, ok vita, hvárt hon vekti eðr sváfi. Skjaldís
mother their and know whether she were-awake or slept Skjaldis
svaraði: „Óráðligt er, faðir, at senda ungmenni í myrkri,
answered Ill-advised is father to send youngsters into darkness
því at ek vil segja þér, at ek sá í kveld hlaupa tvá
because that I will tell you that I saw in evening run two
menn ofan af fjalli. Þeir eru svá fóthvatir, at ek hygg
men down from (the)-mountain They are so swift-footed that I think
at þat sé fátt af várum mönnum, at þeim standist“. „Eigi
that that be few of our men that them withstand Not
þykki mér á því liggja“, segir Járnskjöldr, „því at þá
seems to-me on that lie says Iron-Shield because that those
eina menn sendir konungr hingat, at ek óttumst þá ekki;
only men sends (the)-king hither that I fear them not

því at þat er einn maðr, at ek hræðumst; enn sá
because that that is one man whom I fear but that-one
heitir Þórsteinn, ok er Oddnýjarson útan af Íslandi. Enn
is-called Thorstein and is Oddny's-son out from Iceland But
svá er sem mér hangi blað fyrir auga um öll mín forlög,
so is as-if to-me hangs a-leaf before eye about all my fates
hvat sem því veldr". „Ólíklegt er, faðir", segir hon, „at sá
whatever that that causes Unlikely is father says she that that
Þórsteinn komi nökkurn tíma á Heiðarskóg". Piltarnir gengu
Thorstein come any time to Heidarskog The-lads went
nú fram, enn Þórsteinn veik sér frá. Þeir hlaupa fram ok
now forth but Thorstein turned himself away They run forth and
út. Enn er nökkur stund var liðin, tók Skjaldís til orða:
out But when some while was passed took Skjaldis to words
„Fram fýsir mik at ganga". Nú hleypr hon fram á hurðina
Forth urges me to go Now runs she forth to the-door
hart ok heimsliga. Þórsteinn snýr þá undan; enn er hon
hard and foolishly Thorstein turns then away but when she
kemr at útidyrum, þá fellr hon um móður sína dauða.
comes to (the)-outer-doors then falls she over mother her dead
Henni verðr þá kalt ok kynligt við. Hon hleypr þá út
To-her becomes then cold and strange at-it She runs then out
ór skálanum. Í því kemr Þórsteinn at, ok höggr af henni
out-of the-hall At that comes Thorstein up and strikes off her
höndina með sverðinu Skjaldvararnaut. Hon vill þá inn aftr
the-arm with the-sword Skjaldvor's-gift She will then in back
í skálinn, enn Þórsteinn verr henni dyrnar; hon hafði
into the-hall but Thorstein bars her the-doors she had
skálm í hendi; þau sœkjast um hríð, enn svá lýkr
a-short-sword in hand they attack-each-other for a-while but so ends
með þeim, at Skjaldís fellr dauð. Í því kom Járnskjöldr út;
between them that Skjaldis falls dead At that came Iron-Shield out

hann hafði brugðit sverðit í hendi, bæði bjart ok bitrligt,
he had drawn the-sword in hand both bright and biting
svá at Þórsteinn þóttist ekki slíkt sét hafa. Hann höggr
so that Thorstein thought-himself not such seen to-have He strikes
þegar til Þórsteins. Hann veik sér við höggit ok varð
at-once at Thorstein He turned himself from the-blow and became
þó sár á læri; sverðit rendi niðr í völlinn allt upp
yet wounded on (the)-thigh the-sword ran down into the-ground all up
að hjöltum; laut Járnskjöldr þá við; enn Þórsteinn reiddi
to (the)-hilts stooped Iron-Shield then at-it but Thorstein raised
upp sverðit Skjaldvararnaut bæði hart ok títt, ok höggr til
up the-sword Skjaldvor's-gift both hard and quick and strikes at
Járnskjaldar; þat högg kom á öxlina, tók af höndina ok
Iron-Shield that blow came on the-shoulder took off the-arm and
fótinn; fell Járnskjöldr við. Þórsteinn lætr þá skamt stórra
the-leg fell Iron-Shield over Thorstein lets then short of-great
höggva í milli, ok höggr þá af honum höfuðit.
blows in between and strikes then off him the-head

XI · SKJALDVÖR

Re-entering the hall, Þórsteinn is seized by the old troll Skjaldvör, who tries to bite through his throat. He vows to accept the faith Óláfr preaches if he survives, and a brilliant beam shines into her eyes, draining her strength and making her vomit over him. People think he was never again wholly free of a second shape, either from her vomit or from having been exposed. The two lie locked between life and death.

Eftir þat gengr Þórsteinn inn í skálann; enn er hann
After that goes Thorstein in into the-hall but when he
gengr inn, varð hann eigi fyrri varr við; enn hann var
goes in became he not sooner aware of-it than he was

gripinn upp ok fœrðr niðr. Þórsteinn finnr þá, at þar var
gripped up and brought down Thorstein finds then that there was
komin Skjaldvör kerling, ok var þá sýnu verri viðreignar
come Skjaldvor (the)-hag and was then plainly worse to-deal-with
enn fyrr. Hon greyfist þá niðr at Þórsteini ok ætlar at bíta
than before She stoops then down at Thorstein and intends to bite
sundr í honum barkann. Þórsteini kemr þá í hug, at sá
asunder in him the-windpipe To-Thorstein comes then into mind that he
mun mikill vera, er skapat hefir himin ok jörð; hafði hann
will great be who created has heaven and earth had he
ok heyrt margar sögur ok merkilegar frá Óláfi konungi ok
also heard many stories and notable of Olaf (the)-king and
þeiri trú, er hann boðaði. Heitr nú af hreinu hjarta ok
that faith which he preached Vows now with pure heart and
heilum huga, at taka við þeiri trú ok þjóna Óláfi meðan
whole mind to take with that faith and serve Olaf while
hann lifði, ef hann kœmist heill ok lífs í brott, af allri
he lived if he got whole and alive off away from all
kunnáttu. Ok er hon ætlaði tönnum at víkja at barka
witchcraft And when she intended with-teeth to turn to (the)-windpipe
Þorsteins, enn hann hafði staðfest heitit, kemr geisli inn
of-Thorstein but he had confirmed the-vow comes a-ray in
í skálann ógrliga bjartr, ok stendr þvert framan í augun
into the-hall terribly bright and stands straight forward into the-eyes
kerlingar. Við þá sýn varð henni svá illt, at dró ór henni
of-the-hag At that sight became to-her so ill that drew out-of her
mátt ok magn allt; hon tók þá at geispa niðörkliga. Hleypr
might and strength all she took then to yawn horribly Runs
þá ór henni spýja ok ofan í andlit Þórsteini, svá at
then out-of her vomit and down into (the)-face to-Thorstein so that
náliga helt honum við bana af illsku ok óþef þeim, er
nearly held him at death from foulness and stench that which

af stóð. Þykkir mönnum ok eigi órvænt, at í brjóst
from-it stood Seems to-men also not unlikely that into (the)-breast
Þorsteini muni af komit hafa nökkurr partr, sakir þess at
to-Thorstein will from-it come have some part for-sake of-that that
mönnum þykkir sem hann hafi eigi síðan dyggiliga einhamr
to-men seems as-if he have not since truly one-shaped
verit, hvárt er því veldr meirr spýja Skjaldvarar eðr
been whichever that that causes more (the)-vomit of-Skjaldvor or
þat, at hann var út borinn. Liggr nú hvárttveggja þeira í
that that he was out borne Lies now each-of-two of-them in
milli heims ok heljar, svá at þá mátti hvártki upp standa.
between world and hell so that then could neither up stand

XII · STYRKÁRR COMES TO HELP

Two troll lads attack Styrkárr in the hut, and he kills both with a log. Fearing for Þórsteinn, he also vows to accept the faith if he finds him alive, and finds him pinned under Skjaldvör. He drags her off, and together they break her neck. They burn all the trolls on a pyre, search the hall, find nothing of value, and go home to Gimsar, and their deeds become widely known.

Hitt er at segja, at Styrkárr er nú í sæluhúsinu ok
That-other is to tell that Styrkar is now in the-shelter-hut and
þykkir Þórsteini dveljast; kastar hann sér þá upp í setit;
seems to-Thorstein to-delay throws he himself then up into the-seat
ok er hann (hefir) legit nökkura stund, hlaupa þar inn
and when he has lain some while run there in
piltar tveir, mjök illsvipligir, ok hafði sitt sax hvárr í
lads two very evil-faced and had his short-sword each in
hendi; sœkja þegar at Styrkári; enn hann grípr þá stokkinn
hand attack at-once at Styrkar but he grabs then the-log

frá setinu ok lemr þá með, þar til er hann drepr þá
from the-seat and beats them with-it there until when he kills them
báða. Síðan gengr hann út ór skálanum; grunar þá hvat
both Then goes he out out-of the-hall suspects then what
Þórstein mun dvelja. Gengr nú þar til er hann kemr
Thorstein will delay Goes now there until when he comes
at skálanum; sér nú vegsummerki, at þar liggja tvau flögð
to the-hall sees now traces that there lie two ogresses
drepin, enn Þórstein sér hann hvergi; þykkir nú uggligt,
killed but Thorstein sees he nowhere seems now fearful
at hann muni í nökkurum nauðum staddr vera; heitir
that he will in some straits placed be vows
nú á skapara himins ok jarðar at taka við þeiri trú, sem
now to (the)-creator of-heaven and earth to take with that faith which
Óláfr konungr boðar, ef hann fyndi á þeiri nátt Þórstein
Olaf (the)-king preaches if he found in that night Thorstein
félaga sinn lífs ok heilan. Gengr síðan inn í skálann, ok
companion his alive and whole Goes then in into the-hall and
kemr þar at, sem þau Skjaldvör ok Þorsteinn liggja; spyrr
comes there at where they Skjaldvor and Thorstein lie asks
þá, hvárt Þórsteinn megi nökkut mæla; enn hann segir þat
then whether Thorstein may anything speak but he says that
eigi trauða; biðr hann hjálpa þá til. Styrkárr tekr þá til
not unwillingly bids he help then to-it Styrkar takes then at
Skjaldvarar ok dregr hana af ofan. Þórsteinn stendr upp
Skjaldvor and drags her off down Thorstein stands up
brátt, ok er stirðnaðr mjök af öllu saman umfangi því, er
soon and is stiffened very from all together wrestling that which
hann hafði átt við flögðin ok faðmlögum Skjaldvarar. Brjóta
he had had with the-ogresses and embraces of-Skjaldvor Break
þeir þá Skjaldvöru kerlingu á háls, ok gekk þeim þat hit
they then Skjaldvor (the)-hag on neck and went for-them that the

tregligsta, því at hon var harðla hálsdigr. Segir Þórsteinn
most-slowly because that she was very thick-necked Tells Thorstein
nú Styrkári allt frá ferðum sínum. Styrkárr anzaði: „Mikill
now to-Styrkar all of travels his Styrkar answered Great
afreksmaðr ertú, svá at þat er líkast, at þessa þinna
champion are-you so that that is likeliest that these your
afreksverka sé getit meðan Norðrlönd eru bygð“. Taka
mighty-deeds be mentioned while (the)-Northlands are inhabited Take
þeir nú ok draga saman öll flögðin, ok kynda at bál
they now and drag together all the-ogresses and kindle at-it a-pyre
ok brenna upp at köldum kolum. Síðan kanna þeir skálann,
and burn up to cold coals Then search they the-hall
ok finna þar ekki fémætt. Fara í burt síðan ok heim
and find there nothing of-value Go off away then and home
á Gimsar. Spyrjast nú þessi tíðindi ok þykkja mikil vera.
to Gimsar Are-heard now these tidings and seem great to-be

XIII · ÍVARR ACKNOWLEDGES HIS SON

At a feast in Hörðaland, Þórsteinn confronts Ívarr ljómi, holding the blood-groove of his sword to Ívarr's chest, and demands to be acknowledged. Ívarr answers that he is honored to have him as a son. They tell King Óláfr all that happened at Heiðarskógr, and he praises God for the miracle. Þórsteinn and Styrkárr are baptized, Styrkárr goes home to Gimsar keeping his grants, and Þórsteinn and his father join the king's household.

Óláfr konungr sat á veizlu á Hörðalandi. Þangat fara þeir
Olaf (the)-king sat at feast in Hordaland Thither go they
Styrkárr ok Þórsteinn ok ganga fyrir konung ok kveðja hann.
Styrkar and Thorstein and go before (the)-king and greet him
Þar var Ívarr ljómi þá með konungi í svá mikilli virðingu,
There was Ivar Gleam then with (the)-king in so great honor

at tveir menn sátu þá upp í milli þeira konungs. Þórsteinn
that two men sat then up in between them (the)-king Thorstein
snýr þá fyrir Ívar með brugðit sverðit Skjaldvararnaut, ok
turns then before Ivar with drawn the-sword Skjaldvor's-gift and
stakk blóðreflinum fyrir brjóst honum ok mælti: „Ger þú
thrust the-blood-groove before breast to-him and spoke Do you
annathvárt, at ek þrýsti ótæpt blóðreflinum, ella gakk þú
either that I press unsparingly the-blood-groove or go you
við faðerni at mér“. Ívarr svarar: „Mér þykkir sœmd í at
with paternity of me Ivar answers To-me seems honor in that
eiga þik at syni; áttú ok svá góða móður, at ek veit, at
to-have you for son have-you also so good mother that I know that
hon mundi þat eigi sagt hafa, nema satt væri; vil ek at vísu
she would that not said have unless true were will I for sure
við þér ganga“. Konungr telr þá trú fyrir þeim sem öllum
with you go (The)-king preaches then faith before them as to-all
öðrum, er á hans fund kvámu. Þeir létu þat auðsótt af
others who to his meeting came They let that easily-won on
sinni hendi. Segja þá konungi glöggliga allan atburð sinnar
their part Tell then (the)-king clearly all (the)-event of-their
þarkvámu ok frá þeim tíðindum, er gerðust á Heiðarskógi.
coming-there and of those tidings which happened in Heidarskog
Konungr geldr þá margfalt lof Guði fyrir þær jartegnir,
(The)-king pays then manifold praise to-God for those miracles
er hann veitti syndugum mönnum hér í heimi. Váru þeir
which he gave to-sinful men here in (the)-world Were they
síðan skírðir báðir; fór Styrkárr heim á Gimsar, ok helt
afterward baptized both went Styrkar home to Gimsar and held
öllum þeim veizlum, er hann hafði fyrr haft; enn Þórsteinn
all those grants which he had before had but Thorstein

gerðist maðr Óláfs konungs ok fylgdi honum til dauðadags
became man of-Olaf (the)-king and followed him till death-day
ok Ívarr faðir hans, ok þóttu vera hinir vöskustu menn.
and Ivar father his and seemed to-be the bravest men

XIV · THE SACRIFICIAL BULL

Hárekr of Reina, a landed man suspected of secret heathen worship, envies Þórsteinn and tells the king that Þórsteinn claims to equal the king in all skills. Þórsteinn denies it and names the bull Hárekr secretly sacrifices to, and the king asks to see it. Þórsteinn runs into the herd, and as the bull turns away he seizes its hind leg and tears it off with the haunch, and the bull drops dead. The king names him Þórsteinn uxafótr, gives him a ring, seizes Hárekr's farm, and drives him out of Norway.

Hárekr hét maðr; hann bjó í Reinu í Þrándheimi,
Harek was-called a-man he dwelt at Reina in Trondheim
lendr maðr ok ekki mjök vinsæll. Hann hafði tekit við
landed man and not very well-liked He had taken with
kristni, enn þó var konungi sagt, at eftir mundi nökkut
Christianity but yet was to-(the)-king said that left would something
af fyrnsku í fari hans; því tók konungr þar veizlu,
of antiquity in conduct his therefore took (the)-king there a-feast
ok vildi reyna, hvat satt var í; þar var veizla fögr. Hárekr
and would test what true was in-it there was feast fair Harek
var öfundsamr ok illgjarn; honum lék öfund á virðingu
was envious and malicious to-him played envy on (the)-honor
Þórsteins. Þat var einn dag, at Hárekr talaði við Þórstein
of-Thorstein That was one day that Harek spoke with Thorstein
ok spurði hann af sínum afreksverkum; enn Þórsteinn sagði
and asked him of his mighty-deeds but Thorstein told
slíkt er hann spurði. „Ætlar þú nökkurn mann sterkara í
such as he asked Think you any man stronger in

Noregi enn þik?“ segir Hárekr. „Eigi veit ek þat svá víst“,
Norway than you says Harek Not know I that so surely
segir Þórsteinn. „Hvárr ykkar konungs ætlar þú at sterkari
says Thorstein Which of-you-two (the)-king think you that stronger
sé?“ segir Hárekr. „Allt mun mik meira annat skorta við
is says Harek All will me more other lack against
konung enn afl“, segir Þórsteinn, „ok mun ek þó eigi
(the)-king than strength says Thorstein and will I yet not
komast til jafns við hann um þat“. Þeir skilja nú tal sitt.
get to equal with him about that They part now talk their
Ok umdaginn eftir sagði Hárekr konungi, at Þórsteinn
And in-the-day after said Harek to-(the)-king that Thorstein
hefði jafnast til við hann um allar íþróttir. Konungr
had equaled-himself to with him in all skills (The)-king
gaf sér fátt um þat. Nökkuru síðar talaði konungr um,
gave himself little about that Somewhat later spoke (the)-king about
at þeim væri þat ráð, er til hefði jafnast við hann,
that to-them were that advisable who to had equaled-himself with him
at reyna þá íþróttir sínar, „eða er þat satt, Þórsteinn, at
to test then skills their or is that true Thorstein that
þú hefir þat talat, at þú værir jafn mér at íþróttum eðr
you have that spoken that you were equal to-me in skills or
framar?“ „Eigi hefi ek svá talat, herra“, segir Þórsteinn, „eðr
beyond Not have I so spoken lord says Thorstein or
hverr sagði yðr þat?“ „Hárekr“, sagði konungr. „Hví sagði
who told you that Harek said (the)-king Why told
hann yðr síðr af blótnauti því, er hann blótar á laun,
he you less of sacrifice-bull that which he sacrifices-to in secret
því at þat mun þó sannara. Enn þat sagða ek, herra, at
because that that will yet truer But that said I lord that
mik mundi allt meira skorta við yðr enn afl, ok munda
me would all more lack against you than strength and would

ek þó eigi komast til jafns við yðr um þat“. „Er nökkut
I yet not get to equal with you about that Is anything
þat satt, Hárekr?“ sagði konungr. „Lítit mun þar til hœft,
that true Harek said (the)-king Little will there to grounded
herra“, sagði Hárekr. „Lát oss sjá naut þat, er þú hefir svá
lord said Harek Let us see bull that which you have so
mikil mæti á“, segir konungr. „Þat skal í yðru valdi, herra“,
great value on says (the)-king That shall in your power lord
segir Hárekr, „ok skulu vér þá fara fram á skóginn“.
says Harek and shall we then go forth into the-forest
Þeir gerðu svá; ok er þeir koma þar, sjá þeir nautaflokk
They did so and when they come there see they cattle-herd
mikinn; þar var með uxi ógrliga stór ok illiligr, svá at
great there was with-it an-ox terribly big and evil-looking so that
konungr þóttist slíkan ósénan hafa; hann öskraði ógrliga
(the)-king thought-himself such unseen to-have it bellowed terribly
ok lét mjök illiliga. Hárekr mælti: „Hér er nú nautit,
and acted very evilly Harek spoke Here is now the-bull
herra, ok hefi ek því mætr á uxa þessum, at hann er
lord and have I for-that value on ox this that it is
mjök elskr at mér“. „Sé ek víst“, sagði konungr, „ok lízt
very fond of me See I surely said (the)-king and seems
mér illa á; eðr hvat er nú, Þórsteinn, viltú reyna afl
to-me ill on-it or what is now Thorstein will-you test strength
þitt ok taka naut þetta, því at mér þykkir sem eigi muni
your and take bull this because that to-me seems as-if not will
gagn í, at hann lifi lengr“. Þórsteinn hleypr þá fram í
good in that it live longer Thorstein runs then forth into
nautaflokkinn, ok þar at, sem uxinn var. Nautit snýr undan,
the-cattle-herd and there to where the-ox was The-bull turns away
enn Þórsteinn gripr í fótinn hinn eftra, ok svá hart,
but Thorstein grabs into the-leg the hind and so hard

at bæði rifnaði húð ok hold, svá at fótrinn gekk af með
that both tore hide and flesh so that the-leg went off with
öllu þjóinu, ok helt á eftir, ok gekk svá fyrir konung;
all the-haunch and held on-it after and went so before (the)-king
enn blótnautit datt niðr dautt. Enn svá hafði nautit við
but the-sacrifice-bull fell down dead But so had the-bull against
spyrnt rammliga, at þat var sokkit hinum fyrrum fótum
braced strongly that it was sunk with-the fore legs
niðr í jörðina upp at knjám. Konungr mælti þá: „Sterkr
down into the-earth up to knees (The)-king spoke then Strong
maðr ertú, Þórsteinn, ok ekki mun þér aflfátt verða, ef
man are-you Thorstein and not will to-you strength-short become if
þú átt við menska menn um. Mun ek nú auka nafn þitt
you deal with human men about Will I now increase name your
ok kalla þik Þórstein uxafót, ok hér er einn hringr, at ek
and call you Thorstein Ox-Foot and here is one ring which I
vil gefa þér at nafnfesti“. Þórsteinn tók við hringnum, ok
will give you as name-fastening Thorstein took with the-ring and
þakkaði konungi, því at þat var góðr gripr. Konungr fór
thanked (the)-king because that it was good treasure (The)-king went
nú heim á bœinn ok kastaði sinni eigu þar á alt, enn
now home to the-farm and threw his ownership there on all but
rak Hárek ór landi fyrir óhlýðni sína ok blótskap.
drove Harek out-of (the)-land for disobedience his and sacrifice-worship

Ogresses again haunt Heiðarskógr, and Þórsteinn and Styrkárr return. Thirteen trolls meet them, among them Skjaldgerðr, the troll-girl Þórsteinn once chased, now grown and married to Skelkingr, whom she has charged to kill them. Þórsteinn cuts her in two above the hips, and Styrkárr kills Skelkingr. They kill the other eleven and carry off treasure. Þórsteinn marries Herdís, has a son Brynjarr, and dies on the Long Serpent.

Innan lítils tíma spurðist enn af Heiðarskógi, at þar
Within little time was-heard again of Heidarskog that there
lágu flögð á, svá at menn máttu þar eigi fram komast.
lay ogresses on-it so that men could there not forth get
Styrkárr sendi þá orð Þórsteini, at þeir skyldi enn fara á
Styrkar sent then word to-Thorstein that they should again go to
Heiðarskóg. Þórsteinn brá við skjótt ok fór með konungs
Heidarskog Thorstein started at-it quickly and went with (the)-king's
lofi ok hitti Styrkár. Fara nú tveir samt ok koma í
leave and met Styrkar Go now two together and come into
þat sæluhús, sem þeir váru fyrr, ok váru þar um nóttina.
that shelter-hut where they were before and were there through the-night
Um daginn eftir, er þeir váru úti staddir, sá þeir þrettán
In the-day after when they were out placed saw they thirteen
menn á skóginum, ok var eitt kona í. Þeir snúa þangat
men in the-forest and was one a-woman in-it They turn thither
til. Þórsteinn kennir þar stúlku sína, ok hafði heldr vaxit,
to Thorstein recognizes there girl his and had rather grown
því at hon var nú hit mesta flagð. Hon kastaði orðum
because that she was now the greatest ogress She threw words
á Þórstein ok mælti: „Þar ertú kominn, Þórsteinn uxafótr,
at Thorstein and spoke There are-you come Thorstein Ox-Foot
ok komtu hér svá næst, at ek mátta minni til reka: drapt
and came-you here so next that I could memory to drive killed-you

föður minn, móður ok systur, enn Styrkárr bræðr mína tvá;
father my mother and sister but Styrkar brothers my two
enn þú eltir mik, varð ek hrædd mjök, sem eigi var ólíkligt
but you chased me became I afraid very as not was unlikely
um níu vetra gamla meystúlku; enn nú er ek tólf vetra.
about nine winters old maid-girl but now am I twelve winters
Ek fór í jarðhús eitt, er vit skildum. Enn meðan þit
I went into earth-house one when we-two parted But while you-two
börðust þit faðir minn, týnda ek saman alla góðgripi þá,
fought you-two father my gathered I together all treasures those
er i skálanum váru, niðr í jarðhúsit undir sæng móður
which in the-hall were down into the-earth-house under (the)-bed of-mother
minnar. Nökkuru síðar giftumst ek þessum manni Skelkingi,
my Somewhat later married I this man Skelking
ok skilda ek þat til við hann, at hann skyldi drepa
and stipulated I that to with him that he should kill
hvárntveggja ykkarn Styrkárs. Nú er hann hér kominn ok
each-of-two of-you-two Styrkar Now is he here come and
bræðr hans ellifu, ok muntú nú þurfa at sýna karlmannliga
brothers his eleven and will-you now need to show manly
vörn, ef duga skal“. Slœr nú síðan í bardaga með þeim.
defense if avail shall Strikes now then into battle between them
Sœkir Skjaldgerðr þar at, er Þórsteinn var fyrir svá hart, at
Attacks Skjaldgerd there at where Thorstein was before so hard that
Þórsteinn þykkist varla í meiri raun komit hafa. Enn svá
Thorstein thinks-himself hardly into greater trial come to-have But so
lýkr þó með þeim, at Þórsteinn kemr á Skjaldgerði höggi
ends yet between them that Thorstein brings on Skjaldgerd a-blow
fyrir ofan mjaðmirnar með sverðinu Skjaldvararnaut, ok tekr
before above the-hips with the-sword Skjaldvor's-gift and takes
í sundr í miðju. Þá hafði Styrkárr drepit Skelking. Vinna
in sunder in (the)-middle Then had Styrkar killed Skelking Work

þeir nú skjótt um við hina ellifu ok drepa þá alla. Síðan
they now quickly about with the-others eleven and kill them all Then
fara þeir í skálann, brjóta upp jarðhúsit ok bera þaðan í
go they into the-hall break up the-earth-house and carry thence off
brott marga góðgripi. Fóru síðan heim á Gimsar ok skiftu
away many treasures Went afterward home to Gimsar and divided
fé með sér síðan. Bað Þórsteinn þá Herdísar systur
wealth between themselves afterward Asked Thorstein then for-Herdis sister
Styrkárs ok fekk hennar. Segja menn ok, at þau ætti son,
of-Styrkar and got her Say men also that they had a-son
er Brynjarr hét. Fór Þórsteinn nú til Óláfs konungs ok
who Brynjar was-called Went Thorstein now to Olaf (the)-king and
var með honum síðan, ok fell á Orminum langa.
was with him afterward and fell on the-Serpent Long

Egils þáttr Síðu-Hallssonar

The Tale of Egil Hallsson of Sida

Egill, son of Síðu-Hallr, sails to Norway with Tófi, son of Valgautr, a heathen earl in Gautland. King Óláfr the Stout welcomes them, and Egill's wife and young daughter Þórgerðr, later mother of Bishop Jón the Holy, join them at court. The king sails to Limfjord for a peace meeting with Knútr, finds himself betrayed, and raids Denmark in revenge, keeping the captives in tents by the ships.

Á einu sumri er sagt, at Egill sonr Halls af Síðu fór útan
In one summer is said that Egil son of-Hall of Sida went abroad
af Íslandi til Noregs með þeim manni, er Tófi hét, ok
from Iceland to Norway with that man who Tofi was-called and
var Valgautsson; Tófi var gauzkr maðr ok göfigr at kyni. Svá
was Valgaut's-son Tofi was Gautish man and noble of kin So
er sagt, at Valgautr faðir hans var jarl á Gautlandi. Þeir
is said that Valgaut father his was earl in Gautland They
Tófi feðgar vóru óskaplíkir, því at jarl var blótmaðr
Tofi father-and-son were unlike-in-temper because that (the)-earl was sacrificer
mikill; enn Tófi lagðist í víking þegar á unga aldri. Tók
great but Tofi took-himself to viking at-once in young age Took
hann þá skírn ok rétta trú. Tófi var á vist með Agli
he then baptism and right faith Tofi was on lodging with Egil
um vetrinn á Íslandi, áðr Egill fór útan með honum.
through the-winter in Iceland before Egil went abroad with him
Þeir urðu vel reiðfara um hafit, ok komu við Noreg. Var
They were well quick-travelers over the-sea and came to Norway Was
þá Ólafr digri konungr í Noregi. Þat segja sumir menn,
then Olaf (the)-Stout king in Norway That say some men
at Þórlaug kona Egils fœri með honum ok Þórgerðr dóttir
that Thorlaug wife of-Egil went with him and Thorgerd daughter
þeira, átta vetra gömul. Ok er þeir Tófi ok Egill finna
their eight winters old And when they Tofi and Egil meet

Ólaf konung, býðr konungr Tófa til sín, ok þeim Agli
Olaf (the)-king invites (the)-king Tofi to himself and them Egil
báðum. Þeir þekkjast þat vel og fara til hirðarinnar; virðir
both They accept that well and go to the-court esteems
konungr þá mikils, ok þykkir Egill merkiligr maðr, sem
(the)-king them much and seems Egil notable man as
ván var at, fyrir ættar sakir. Skemmu leigðu þeir handa
expectation was to-it for of-family sake A-bower rented they for
þeim mœðgum, þá er þeir fóru til hirðvistarinnar
them mother-and-daughter then when they went to the-court-lodging
ok bjuggu þær þar um hríð. Þat er sagt, at þá er
and dwelt they there for a-while That is said that then when
þeir höfðu verið þar nökkura hríð með hirðinni, at þeir
they had been there some while with the-court that they
ógleðjast mjök. Konungr finnr þat brátt ok spyrr, hvat til
become-unhappy much (The)-king finds that soon and asks what to-it
kæmi? Egill svarar: „Mér þœtti þat meiri sómi, herra, at
came Egil answers To-me would-seem that greater honor lord that
hér væri með hirðinni kona mín ok dóttir; enn fyrir vanda
here were with the-court wife my and daughter but for difficulty's
sakir kunnum vér eigi þess at biðja“. „Þat viljum vér þó
sake can we not for-that to ask That will we yet
gjarna gera“, segir konungr, „ef yðr líkar svá betr“. Nú
gladly do says (the)-king if to-you pleases so better Now
fara þær þangat til hirðarinnar; ok er konungr sér meyna
go they thither to the-court and when (the)-king sees the-maid
Þórgerði dóttur Egils, þá mælti konungr ok kvaðst þess
Thorgerd daughter of-Egil then spoke (the)-king and said-of-himself that
vænta, at sú mær mundi eigí gæfulaus, ok svá bar raun
expect that that maid would not luckless and so bore proof
á, því at hon var móðir Jóns biskups hins helga. Nú eru
on because that she was mother of-Jon bishop the holy Now are

þau með hirðinni um vetrinn, ok er várar, spyrja þeir
they with the-court through the-winter and when spring-comes ask they
Tófi, ef konungr lofar þeim at hafa kaupferð um sumarit.
Tofi if (the)-king allows them to have trading-voyage in the-summer
Enn hann lézt eigi lofa mundi sumarlangt: „Fyrir því, at
But he professed not allow would summer-long For that that
mér eru send orð af Knúti konungi, at vér skulim eiga
to-me are sent words from Knut (the)-king that we shall have
sáttarfund í Danmörk um þetta sumar í Limafirði,
reconciliation-meeting in Denmark during this summer in Limfjord
ok ætla ek at koma til stefnunnar“. Nú býst konungr
and intend I to come to the-meeting Now makes-ready (the)-king
til þessarrar ferðar, ok hefir hann níu skip ok góða skipan,
for this journey and has he nine ships and good crew
ok fara þeir með honum Egill ok Tófi. Er nú eigi getit
and go they with him Egil and Tofi Is now not told
um ferð konungs, fyrr en hann kemr í Limafjörð. Ok
about journey of-(the)-king before than he comes into Limfjord And
er þeir eru þar komnir, þá er Knútr konungr eigi þar, ok
when they are there come then is Knut (the)-king not there and
er hann vestr á Englandi. Verðr Ólafr konungr þess varr,
is he west in England Becomes Olaf (the)-king of-that aware
at Knútr er í svikum, ok hyggr at sœkja fund þenna með
that Knut is in treacheries and thinks to attend meeting this with
fjölmenni. Segir Ólafr konungr nú mönnum sínum, hverjar
a-host Says Olaf (the)-king now to-men his what
fréttir hann hafði um ráðagerð Knúts konungs, „ok vil ek“,
news he had about plans of-Knut (the)-king and will I
segir hann, „at vér bíðim hans eigi hér; þykkir mér hann
says he that we wait-for him not here seems to-me he
nú hafa af brugðit fyrir þessum sáttarfundi, ok munum
now to-have from swerved for this reconciliation-meeting and will

vér freista at gera hér upprásir ok herja á landit Knúts,
we try to make here raids-ashore and harry on the-land of-Knut
ok gjalda honum svá svikin ok ginning þessa“. Gengu nú
and repay him so the-treachery and deceit this Went now
af skipum sínum, ok gera uppgöngu á landit, ok verðr
from ships their and make a-landing on the-land and becomes
fólkit hrætt mjök, ok afla þeir mikils fjárhlutar. Konungr
the-folk frightened much and get they great wealth (The)-king
mælti svá fyrir, at þeir skyldu taka fimtán vetra menn
spoke so for that they should take fifteen winters' men
ok þaðan af eldri, ok leiða ofan til skipa; ok nú fá þeir
and thence from older and lead down to (the)-ships and now get they
mikit fé ok marga menn tekna. Landslýðrinn flýði undan,
much wealth and many men taken The-land-folk fled away
enn þeir ráku flóttann, ok þar kom, at konungr bauð
but they pursued the-flight and there came that (the)-king bade
at stöðva skyldi liðit ok hverfa aftr: „Því at ek sé nú
that halt should-one the-troop and turn back Because that I see now
bragð þeira, at þeir munu þegar við hrökkva, er þeir fá
trick their that they will at-once against recoil when they get
afla nökkurn til, en flýja undan þangat til, ok teygja oss
force some to but flee away thither to and lure us
frá skipum várum“. Nú snúa þeir til skipanna, ok er allir
from ships our Now turn they to the-ships and when all
váru á skip komnir, þá biðr konungr þá brott leggja;
were onto ship come then bids (the)-king them away lay
búast þeir nú ok liggja búnir; síðan hafa þeir tjöld
make-ready they now and lie ready afterward have they tents
nökkur á landi, ok váru þar varðveittir í hinir herteknu
some on land and were there kept in the captured
menn, ok var þangat at heyra grát mikinn ok kveinan.
men and was thither to hear weeping great and wailing

Unable to bear the captives' weeping, Egill releases them all, and the king is furious. As the fleet sails, a man the crews ignored throws gloves from the cliffs onto the leading ship, and a sickness strikes the crews. Egill falls deathly ill but makes no sound. He sends Tófi twice to the king, both times in vain, and finally Finnr Árnason persuades the king to visit him.

Svá er sagt, at Egill Hallsson rœðir við Tófa félaga sinn:
So is said that Egil Hall's-son talks with Tofi companion his
„Þetta eru ill læti ok hörmulig, er menn þessir hafa,
These are ill sounds and pitiful which men these have
ok mun ek fara ok leysa þá". „Ger eigi þat, vinr", segir
and will I go and free them Do not that friend says
Tófi, „því at konungr leggr þar fyrir reiði sína á þik,
Tofi because that (the)-king lays there for anger his on you
ok vilda ek, at þú yrðir eigi fyrir henni". „Eigi má ek
and would-wish I that you became not before it Not may I
heldr þetta bera", segir Egill, „því (at) miklu er fólk þetta
rather this bear says Egil because that much is folk this
aumara, ok má ek eigi heyra læti þeira lengr". Sprettr
more-wretched and may I not hear sounds their longer Springs
upp síðan, ferr til tjaldsins ok leysir bandingjàna alla ok
up then goes to the-tent and frees the-captives all and
lætr þá svá burt hlaupa, ok eru þeir senn ór augsýn.
lets them so off run and are they at-once out-of eyesight
Nú er sagt, at menninir eru á brott, ok svá, hverr þá
Now is said that the-men are off away and also who them
hafði leysta. Konungr varð mjög reiðr við þetta, ok segir
had freed (The)-king became very angry at this and says
at hann skuli þar fyrir hafa víti nökkut ok sína reiði.
that he shall there for have punishment some and his anger

Er nú þó kyrrt um nóttina. Um morguninn eftir, er
Is now yet quiet through the-night In the-morning after when
þeir eru albúnir ok látnir ór laginu, þá kemr þar maðr
they are all-ready and let-go out-of the-berth then comes there a-man
hlaupandi af landi ofan, kallar út á skipin ok segir sik
running from land down calls out to the-ships and says himself
eiga nauðsynja erindi at finna konung; enn þeir gáfu engan
to-have needful errand to meet (the)-king but they gave no
gaum at kalli hans. Tóku þeir þá at sigla með björgum
heed to calling his Began they then to sail along cliffs
nökkurum, ok bar eitt skipit fram undan. Enn er þeim
some and bore one the-ship forward away But when to-that
manni, er kallat hafði, þótti þeir daufheyrðir við, þá hleypr
man who called had seemed they deaf-eared to-it then runs
hann fram eftir björgunum ok kastar ofan á skipit, þat
he forward along the-cliffs and throws down onto the-ship that
er fyrst fór, glófum; sýndist þeim sem dust ryki ór
which first went gloves seemed to-them as-if dust smoked out-of
glófunum, ok síðan hleypr hann á brott. Enn þat fylgir
the-gloves and then runs he off away But that follows
sendingu þessarri, at sótt kemr svá mikil á skipin, at
sending this that sickness comes so great onto the-ships that
menn gátu varla borit óœpandi, ok fengu margir bana
men could hardly bear-it without-shrieking and got many death
af. Nú tók Egill ok sóttina, ok svá harða sem þeir,
from-it Now took Egil also the-sickness and so hard as they
er harðasta fengu, þess at eigi gekk önd ór honum.
who hardest got of-that that not went breath out-of him
Enn hann barst á svo prýðilega, at eigi kom stynr ór
But he bore-himself on so splendidly that not came groan out-of
hálsi honum. Egill mælti við Tófa, at hann skyldi segja
throat to-him Egil spoke with Tofi that he should tell

konungi, at hann vildi gjarna finna hann. Tófi gerir svá,
(the)-king that he would gladly meet him Tofi does so
at hann fór á fund konungs, ok segir honum sóttarfar
that he went to meeting of-(the)-king and tells him sickness
Egils ok orðsending, enn konungr svarar honum engu orði.
of-Egil and message but (the)-king answers him with-no word
Tófi segir nauðsyn á, at þeir finnist. Konungr var svá reiðr,
Tofi says need on that they meet (The)-king was so angry
at með engu móti vill hann fara á fund Egils, ok segir
that by no means will he go to meeting of-Egil and tells
Tófi Agli svá búit. Egill biðr Tófa at fara í annat sinn ok
Tofi to-Egil so done Egil bids Tofi to go in second time and
flytja mál sitt við konung. Tófi gerir svá, ok segir konungi,
carry case his with (the)-king Tofi does so and tells (the)-king
at maðrinn er at fram kominn, „ok vill nú iðrast mjök
that the-man is to forth come and will now repent much
þess, er hann hefir gert, ok leggja allt á yðart vald, ok
of-that which he has done and lay all into your power and
ger svá vel, herra, at þú fyrirlít eigi manninn svá mjök,
do so well lord that you despise not the-man so much
ok miskunna honum“. Konungr leit við Tófa reiðuliga, ok
and show-mercy to-him (The)-king looked at Tofi angrily and
bað hann burt ganga. Tófi segir nú Agli, hvar komit er,
bade him off go Tofi tells now to-Egil where come is
ok þykkir Agli nú mikit með öllu saman: fengit reiði
and seems to-Egil now much with all together gotten (the)-anger
konungs, enn orðit fyrir ákomu mikilli, svá (at) hann
of-(the)-king but become before affliction great so that he
þykkist eigi vita, hvern enda eiga mundi. Egill biðr enn
thinks-himself not to-know what end to-have would Egil bids still
Tófa ganga fyrir konung, ok biðja sér eirðar; „ok hitt
Tofi go before (the)-king and ask for-himself mercy and meet

Finn Árnason um leið“, segir hann, „ok bið hann ganga
Finn Arni's-son on (the)-way says he and ask him go
fyrir konung með þér, ok biðja mér eirðar við hann, at
before (the)-king with you and ask for-me mercy with him that
hann fyrirlíti mik eigi, svá sem á horfist“. Nú hittir Tófi
he despise me not so as on looks Now meets Tofi
Finn, ok segir honum allan málavöxtinn; gengr hann þegar
Finn and tells him all the-case-growth goes he at-once
á konungsfund ok Tófi með honum. Síðan mælti Finnr:
to king's-meeting and Tofi with him Then spoke Finn
„Herra“, segir hann, „ger nú fyrir yðra tign ok æru, at
Lord says he do now for your dignity and honor that
þér hjálpit manninum, er nú liggr nær sem dauðr, ok sé,
you help the-man who now lies near as-if dead and see
hve mikill drengr hann er ok hreystimaðr, því (at) þat
how great fellow he is and brave-man because that that
fær engi maðr skilit, at stynr komi ór hálsi honum; hygg
can no man perceive that groan come out-of throat to-him consider
at, herra, hvat tign yðarri byrjar, ok fyrir várn vinskap, þá
to-it lord what dignity your befits and for our friendship then
gakk til hans ok lát hann njóta gœzku yðarrar“. Konungr
go to him and let him enjoy goodness your (The)-king
svarar: „Hitt hugða ek“, segir hann, „at engi skyldi minna
answers That thought I says he that none should of-lesser
manna dirfast at brjóta mín boð; enn fyrir þín orð,
men dare to break my commands but for your words
Finnr, þá má ek ganga á fund Egils, ok víst vilda ek
Finn then may I go to meeting of-Egil and surely would-wish I
þess Guð biðja, at hann léði honum líf til þess, at ek
of-that God ask that he lent him life to that that I

mætta gjalda honum víti nökkut fyrir þat, er hann
might pay him punishment some for that which he
gerði“. „Já, herra“, segir Finnr, „þat er á yðru valdi“.
did Yes lord says Finn that is in your power

III · THE KING'S HAND

The king lays his hand on Egill's breast and Egill recovers. It is said that Knútr had paid a Finnish sorcerer to send the sickness. Back in Norway, the king says Egill and Tófi will regain his favor only if they bring Tófi's father, Earl Valgautr, to him. Tófi warns that his father is a determined heathen, but they agree to try.

Nú ferr konungr á fund Egils, ok sér, at hann er mjök
Now goes (the)-king to meeting of-Egil and sees that he is very
máttfarinn. Var þat allra manna mál, at eigi hefði þeir sét
strength-spent Was that of-all men (the)-talk that not had they seen
hraustara mann. Enn er Egill sér, at konungr er kominn
braver man But when Egil sees that (the)-king is come
á skipit, fagnar hann honum vel. Konungr tók eigi kveðju
onto the-ship greets he him well (The)-king took not greeting
hans. Þá mælti Egill: „Þess vilda ek biðja yðr, herra,
his Then spoke Egil This would-wish I ask you lord
at þér tækit hönd yðarri á brjóst mér, ok vænti ek þar
that you laid hand your on breast to-me and expect I there
af miskunnar mér til handa, þó at ek hafa eigi verðleika
of mercy for-me to hand though that I have not merit
þar til“. Þat þótti mönnum á finnast, at konungi þótti
there to That seemed to-men on to-be-found that to-(the)-king seemed
mikit um vert. Brá konungr þá dúki fyrir augu sér, ok
much about-it worth Drew (the)-king then a-cloth before eyes his and
leggr síðan hönd sína fyrir brjóst Agli, ok mælti svá: „Þat
lays then hand his on breast to-Egil and spoke so That

má um mæla, at þú ert ærit hraustr“. Svá er frá sagt, at
may of-it say that you are enough brave So is from told that
við átök konungs linar þegar sóttinni; gekk konungr þá
at (the)-touch of-(the)-king eases at-once the-sickness went (the)-king then
á brott, enn Agli batnar stund frá stundu, ok þar kemr,
off away but to-Egil improves hour from hour and there comes
at hann verðr alheill. Þat er sögn sumra manna, at
that he becomes all-healed That is (the)-account of-some men that
Knútr konungr hafi keypt af einum finnskum manni mjök
Knut (the)-king had bought of one Finnish man very
fjölkunnigum, at hann skyldi fara til Limafjarðar á fund
much-knowing-of-magic that he should go to Limfjord to meeting
Ólafs konungs, ok gera svá af kunnleik sínum, at konungr
of-Olaf (the)-king and do so by knowledge his that (the)-king
ok lið hans fengi sótt svá illa, at þeir biði af aldrtila,
and troop his got sickness so bad that they suffered from-it death
ef nökkut dveldist för þeira, svá at hann mætti ná þeim,
if somewhat delayed journey their so that he might reach them
ok hafi sá þess háttar maðr verit, er glófunum kastaði.
and has that-one such kind man been who the-gloves threw
Nú er eigi getit um ferð Ólafs konungs, fyrr enn hann
Now is not told about journey of-Olaf (the)-king before than he
kom heim í land. Biðja þeir þá, Egill ok Tófi, sér
came home into land Ask they then Egil and Tofi for-themselves
vægðar við konung, ok bjóða nú konungi fébœtr sem
leniency with (the)-king and offer now to-(the)-king money-compensation as
honum líkar. Konungr segist eigi fé hafa vilja, ok segir
to-him pleases (The)-king says-himself not money to-have to-wish and names
eina lausnina á þessu máli. „Hver er sú? herra“, segja þeir.
one the-release in this case Which is that lord say they
„Aldrigi komit þit í mitt vinfengi“, segir konungr, „nema
Never come you-two into my friendship says (the)-king except

at því einu, at af ykkrum brögðum ok kœnleik verði þit
at that alone that by your-two tricks and cunning become you-two
svá ríkir, at Valgautr faðir þinn, Tófi, komi á várn fund.
so powerful that Valgaut father your Tofi come to our meeting
Nú ef svá verðr, þá skulu þit lausir undan þessum sökum“.
Now if so happens then shall you-two loose from these charges
Tófi svarar: „Þat er skjótast um at rœða, at fyrir hvatvetna
Tofi answers That is quickest about to talk that before everything
fram vildum vit eigi hafa yðra reiði; enn þó veit ek þat
forth would we-two not have your anger but yet know I that
fyrir víst, at þessu verðr eigi á leið komit, nema vit
for certain that this becomes not on way come unless we-two
njótim yðarrar hamingju, því at fyrir þessa sök em ek eigi
enjoy your luck because that for this cause am I not
heima með föður mínum, at hann setr allt sitt megin ok
at-home with father my that he sets all his strength and
mátt í móti kristnum dómi, ok vill fyrir engan mun þann
might in against Christian faith and will for no means that
sið taka; enn þó skulu vit freista þessa með yðarri tilsjá“.
custom take but yet shall we-two try this with your care

IV · VALGAUTR REFUSES

Tófi and Egill go to Gautland. Valgautr welcomes his son, but when Tófi explains the king's demand and praises Óláfr, the earl swears he will never abandon his faith or visit the king he likes least of all men, and he has them thrown into a dungeon.

Nú búa þeir Tófi ok Egill ferð sína til Gautlands, ok
Now prepare they Tofi and Egil journey their to Gautland and
fara síðan unz þeir koma til Valgauts jarls. Ganga þeir inn
go then until they come to Valgaut (the)-earl Go they in

ok gengr Tófi fyrir, ok kveðja hann. Jarl fagnar vel syni
and goes Tofi before and greet him (The)-earl welcomes well son
sínum ok hans förunautum, ok býðr honum með sér at
his and his companions and invites him with himself to
vera. „Vildim vér“, segir hann, „at þér flæmdist eigi frá oss,
be Would-wish we says he that you strayed not from us
værit heldr með oss, ok stýrðit ríki þessu, því (at) þetta
were-you rather with us and ruled-you realm this because that this
er yður eign eftir minn dag“. „Þetta er vel boðit“, segir
is your property after my day This is well offered says
Tófi, „ok sœmiliga, sem ván er af yðr, enn þó mun nú
Tofi and honorably as expected is from you but yet will now
eigi svá búit vera mega at sinni, því (at) hér liggr líf
not so done be able for (the)-time because that here lies life
várt við, at þér takit við oss blíðlega ok látit sveigjast
our on-it that you take with us kindly and let bend-yourselves
eftir várum vilja, því at Ólafr konungr hefir þat á lagit
toward our will because that Olaf (the)-king has that on laid
við oss ok sent oss hingat þess erindis, at þér skyldit með
upon us and sent us hither on-that errand that you should with
oss koma á hans fund; enn ef vér gætim þessu eigi á leið
us come to his meeting but if we got this not on way
komit, þá var þat á lagit við oss, at vær skyldim tína allri
come then was that on laid upon us that we should lose all
hans vináttu ok þar með lífinu, ok er þat sannast at segja,
his friendship and there with the-life and is that truest to say
at Ólafr konungr er hinn mesti ágætismaðr, ok ólíkr öðrum
that Olaf (the)-king is the greatest excellent-man and unlike other
mönnum. Þat fylgir því ok, at engi maðr má þat öðrum
men That follows that also that no man may that to-another
greina, hversu mikit skilr siðu þá, er konungr hefir ok
explain how much divides customs those which (the)-king has and

þeir allir, er hans orðum hlýða, ok þann er þú hefir ok
they all who his words obey and that which you have and
aðrir heiðnir menn. Ger nú svá vel fyrir þinn manndóm ok
other heathen men Do now so well for your manhood and
vára frændsemi, ok fylg því at um þetta mál, sem várr er
our kinship and follow that that about this case which our is
vili til“. Þá spratt jarlinn upp, ok segir með mikilli reiði,
will to Then sprang the-earl up and says with great anger
ok sór um, at hann kvað aldrigi slíkt við sik innt hafa
and swore about-it that he said never such to himself told have
verit, at hann skyldi fyrirláta sinn sið, þann er hann hafði
been that he should forsake his custom that which he had
lengi haft ok hans ættmenn: „Eða at ek muna koma á fund
long had and his kinsmen Or that I would come to meeting
þess konungs, sem mér er allra manna óskapfeldastr, þeira
of-that king who to-me is of-all men most-disagreeable of-those
er ek hefi spurn af, ok þú hefir í mörgu sundr sagt várri
that I have report of and you have in much asunder said our
frændsemi. Standit nú upp mínir menn, ok takit hann ok alla
kinship Stand-you now up my men and take him and all
hans förunauta, ok setit þá í myrkvastofu“. Var þá jarl
his companions and set them into dark-room Was then (the)-earl
svá reiðr, at stórum bar af. Var nú svá gert, sem hann mælti
so angry that greatly bore off Was now so done as he spoke
fyrir, at þeir váru inni byrgðir í myrkvastofu um nóttina.
for that they were in shut in dark-room through the-night

Valgautr's men plead for his son. The earl questions Egill, who speaks so eloquently that all are amazed. Moved, Valgautr agrees to go with them to King Óláfr with few men, provided Tófi and Egill are freed of the king's charges, but insists that he will sooner see his realm burn than accept the new faith.

Annan dag eftir er þat sagt, at menn ganga með
(The)-second day after is that said that men go with
höfðingjum sínum og vinum jarls, ok biðja at hann
chieftains their and friends of-(the)-earl and ask that he
vægi syni sínum, því at honum sómi þat eitt at vægja
spare son his because that to-him befits that alone to spare
honum: „ok er þat vegr yðarr ok tign", segja þeir; „takit
him and is that honor your and dignity say they take-you
nú upp nökkut gott ráð ok sœmiligt, sem þér erut líklegir
now up some good counsel and honorable as you are likely
til, þegar er þér hugsit málit ok reiði yður sefast". Jarl
to as-soon as you think-over the-case and anger your calms (The)-earl
svarar ok spurði, hverr sá væri mikli maðr, er næstr gekk
answers and asked who that were great man who next went
Tófa: „Kallit hann hingat til máls við mik", segir hann;
to-Tofi Call-you him hither to speech with me says he
ok nú er svá gert. Egill gekk fyrir jarl. Þá spyrr jarl
and now is so done Egil went before (the)-earl Then asks (the)-earl
hverr hann væri. Enn Egill segir honum deili á sér. Þá
who he were But Egil tells him account of himself Then
mælti jarl: „Hvat kanntú at segja mér af konungi þessum,
spoke (the)-earl What can-you to tell me of king this
honum Ólafi, eðr hvernig barst at, er þér fengut reiði
him Olaf or how happened-it on when you got (the)-anger

konungs“? Egill segir honum nú allar ástœður um
of-(the)-king Egil tells him now all (the)-circumstances about
þetta mál, ok sagði þar síðan langt erindi ok snjallt með
this case and spoke there then long speech and eloquent with
svá mikilli kurteisi, at stórum bar af, ok allir undruðust
so great courtesy that greatly bore off and all marveled-at
málsnild hans. Síðan segir hann jarli, hver ágætismaðr
eloquence his Then tells he to-(the)-earl what excellent-man
Tófi var ok hversu gott slíkan son væri at eiga, ok biðr
Tofi was and how good such son were to have and bids
hann gera honum sœmd ok virðing fyrir stórmennsku hans
him do him honor and esteem for magnanimity his
ok frændsemi. Jarl sagði þá, at Tófi skyldi þangat koma,
and kinship (The)-earl said then that Tofi should thither come
ok svá var gert. Þá mælti Valgautr jarl, er Tófi var
and so was done Then spoke Valgaut (the)-earl when Tofi was
þangat kominn: „Svá virðist mér“, segir hann, „sem yðr
thither come So seems to-me says he as to-you
þykki at sýnu ganga, at konungr yðarr hafi ráð mitt í
seems to plainly go that king your have fate my in
hendi sér, ef ek kem eigi á hans fund. Nú fyrir þá sök,
hand his if I come not to his meeting Now for that cause
at þér hafit á honum ást mikla ok vilit hans vilja gera i
that you have on him love great and will his will do in
hvívetna, er þér megit, enn hafit honum eiða svarit ok líf
everything which you can but have him oaths sworn and life
yðart við lagit, þá væntir mik þess, enn þótt yðr þykki
your on-it laid then (it)-expects me this still though to-you seem
þat ólíkligt, at konungr yðarr neyði mik til einkis hlutar.
that unlikely that king your force me to no thing
Enn þó (at) ek koma á hans fund, em ek í fullu trausti
But though that I come to his meeting am I in full trust

um þat, at kraftar ok máttr goða vorra heilagra skýla
about that that powers and might of-gods our holy will-shelter
oss, svá at ek verða eigi nauðungar-maðr konungs þessa.
us so that I become not compelled-man of-king this
Enn fyrir snild þessa manns, hans Egils, ok fyrir þat
But for eloquence of-this man his Egil and for that
annat, at ek sé reyndar, sem rœða gengr af, at mér byrjar
other that I see indeed as speech goes of that to-me befits
eigi at gera Tófa liftjón, þá er nú svá komit fyrir mér,
not to cause to-Tofi life-loss then is now so come for me
at ek mun fara með yðr, ef þér vilit, ok þó með engum
that I will go with you if you will and yet with no
liðsfjölda, ef þér kallizt frjálsir ok sýknir, þá er konungr
troop-multitude if you are-called free and guiltless then when (the)-king
sér mik ok ek kem á hans fund. Enn eigi berumst ek
sees me and I come to his meeting But not bear-myself I
þat fyrir at heldr, at taka trúna, þá er hann boðar, ok
that for that rather to take the-faith that which he preaches and
fyrr skulu brenna þorp ok kastalar í mínu ríki, ok margr
sooner shall burn villages and castles in my realm and many
góðr drengr látinn, enn ek játa mik undir slíka óhœfu“.
good fellow lost than I yield myself under such outrage

VI · VALGAUTR'S BAPTISM

In Norway Óláfr declares Egill and Tófi free of the charge, but Valgautr refuses the faith, and Óláfr lets him go in peace, saying God wants no forced servants. In the forests on the way home the earl falls ill, sends for the king, is baptized, and, sensing his end, asks that a church be built on that spot. It is done. Tófi succeeds him, and Egill, Óláfr's friend for life, soon returns to Iceland.

Eftir þetta býst jarl til ferðar með þeim Agli ok
After this makes-ready (the)-earl for journey with them Egil and
Tófa, ok fara síðan, unz þeir koma til Noregs á fund Ólafs
Tofi and go then until they come to Norway to meeting of-Olaf
konungs, ok kallast þeir nú, Egill ok Tófi, lausir vera
(the)-king and call-themselves they now Egil and Tofi loose to-be
þessa máls ok undan reiði konungs: Konungr kvað at vísu
of-this case and from anger of-(the)-king (The)-king said for sure
svá vera. Nú hafa þeir góðar viðtökr, ok um morgininn
so to-be Now have they good receptions and in the-morning
eftir, þá leitar konungr til við jarl, ef hann vildi taka við
after then seeks (the)-king to with (the)-earl if he would take with
trúnni, ok telr um fyrir honum með mörgum orðum ok
the-faith and talks about-it before him with many words and
merkiligum. Valgautr jarl svarar: „Aldrigi mun þat verða
notable Valgaut (the)-earl answers Never will that be
míns ráðs, at ek taka þessa trú“, ok kvað eigi mundu þurfa
my counsel that I take this faith and said not would need
slíks við sik at leita. Konungr mælti: „Svá mun mönnum
such with himself to seek (The)-king spoke So will to-men
sýnast, at ek hafa bæði vald ok ríki til þess, at neyða þik
seem that I have both power and might to that to force you
nú til trúarinnar, ef ek vil; enn þat vil ek eigi gera, því
now to the-faith if I will but that will I not do because
(at) þat verðr einkum þægast í Guðs augliti, at mönnum
that that becomes especially most-acceptable in God's sight that men
sé eigi nauðgat til at gerast hans þjónar, ok vill Guð eigi,
be not forced to to become his servants and wishes God not
at neinir sé til neyddir hans þjónustu, enn verðr feginn
that any be to forced his service but becomes glad
hverjum þeim, er af frjálsræði ok góðum vilja vill til hans
of-each that-one who of free-will and good will will to him

snúast“. Nú lætr konungr jarl á brott fara í friði. Ok er
turn Now lets (the)-king (the)-earl off away go in peace And when
þeir jarl ok hans förunautar eru komnir í einhvern skóg,
they (the)-earl and his companions are come into some forest
ok váru eigi langt farnir frá því, er konungr skildi við þá,
and were not far gone from that when (the)-king parted with them
ok dvelr hann eigi ferð sína; enn svá liggr leið þeira til,
and delays he not journey his but so lies way their to
at skógar miklir váru á vegi, er þeir skyldu ferðast. Þá
that forests great were on (the)-way which they should travel Then
tekr Valgautr sótt mikla ok harða, ok þegar sendir hann
takes Valgaut sickness great and hard and at-once sends he
menn sína aftr til Ólafs konungs, ok vildi hitta konunginn.
men his back to Olaf (the)-king and would meet the-king
Nú fara þeir ok sögðu konnngi, at jarl vill finna hann,
Now go they and told (the)-king that (the)-earl will meet him
ok þegar í stað fór konungr með þeim. Segist jarlinn
and at-once in place went (the)-king with them Says-himself the-earl
þá vilja taka trúna, enn konungr tók því með þökkum,
then to-wish take the-faith but (the)-king took that with thanks
er hans hugr hafði svá vel skipazt. Síðan fekk konungr til
that his mind had so well changed Then got (the)-king to-it
kennimann, ok var jarli veitt skirn. Ok er því embætti
a-cleric and was to-(the)-earl given baptism And when that office
var lokit, þá mælti jarl: „Nú vil ek at ek sé eigi héðan á
was ended then spoke (the)-earl Now wish I that I be not hence off
brott fœrðr, því (at) mér segir svá hugr um, at ek mun
away carried because that to-me says so mind about-it that I will
eigi marga daga lifa héðan af. Ok ef svá verðr, þá vil ek
not many days live hence from And if so happens then will I
þess beiða, at hér sé kirkja ger til sálubótar mér í þessum
this ask that here be a-church made for soul-healing to-me in this

stað, sem ek hefi nú skírn tekit, ok sé hér svá mikit fé
place where I have now baptism taken and be here so much wealth
til lagit, at sú kirkja megi við haldast fyrir þess sökum“.
to laid that that church may by be-maintained for that sake
Svá er sagt, at jarl varð hér um nærgætr, ok er svá
So is said that (the)-earl was here about near-guessing and is so
gert allt hér um, sem hann eftir beiddist, at kirkjan var í
done all here about as he after asked that the-church was in
sama stað ger, ok lagin gnótt fjár til, sem sóma þótti.
(the)-same place made and laid plenty of-wealth to-it as to-befit seemed
Enn eftir lát Valgauts jarls tók ríkit eftir hann
But after (the)-death of-Valgaut (the)-earl took the-realm after him
Tófi sonr hans, ok var haldinn hinn mesti ágætismaðr. Enn
Tofi son his and was held the greatest excellent-man But
Egill var jafnan vin Ólafs konungs þaðan í frá, svá lengi
Egil was always friend of-Olaf (the)-king thence on from so long
(sem) þeir lifðu báðir. Ok fór hann svá skömmu síðar út
as they lived both And went he so shortly later out
til Íslands, ok þótti vera hinn bezti drengr. Ok lýkr þar af
to Iceland and seemed to-be the best fellow And ends there of
at segja frá þeim Agli Síðu-Hallssyni ok Tófa Valgautssyni.
to tell from them Egil Sida-Hall's-son and Tofi Valgaut's-son

Hrafns þáttr Hrútfirðings

The Tale of Hrafn of Hrutafjord

Þórgrímr of Staðr in Hrútafjörðr is rich, sly, and unscrupulous. His neighbor Sighvatr, short of money, sells him a meadow against his wife Guðrún's advice. Þórgrímr soon claims grazing on all Sighvatr's land, and when Sighvatr drives his cattle out of his hay, Þórgrímr kills him with a spear. Guðrún buries him quietly, tells their four-year-old son Hrafn that his father died suddenly, and rejects Þórgrímr's offer of compensation and protection.

Þórgrímr hét maðr. Hann bjó at Stað í Hrútafirði;
Thorgrim was-called a-man He dwelt at Stad in Hrutafjord
hann var féríkr, enn lítill búþegn. Þórgerðr hét kona
he was wealthy but little husbandman Thorgerd was-called wife
hans. Synir þeira váru Kálfr ok Grímr, mannaðir at hófi,
his Sons their were Kalf and Grim well-bred in moderation
ágangssamir ok ótrúir í skapi, sem faðir þeira. Maðr hét
aggressive and faithless in mind like father their A-man was-called
Sighvatr; hann bjó á Melum í Hrútafirði. Guðrún hét
Sighvat he dwelt at Melar in Hrutafjord Gudrun was-called
kona hans, skýr ok skörulynd. Hrafn hét son þeira, ungr
wife his clever and high-minded Hrafn was-called son their young
at aldri, vænn ok mikill vexti. Sighvatr hafði fé sitt mjök
in age handsome and big of-growth Sighvat had wealth his much
í kostnaði; hann átti land gott, enn eyddust lausafé.
in expense he owned land good but wasted-away movable-goods
Á einu sumri sagði hann konu sinni, at selja myndi verða
In one summer said he to-wife his that sell would have-to
land þeira til skulda ok búfjár. Hon svarar: „Þar liggr fyrir
land their for debts and livestock She answers There lies before
annat ráð: sel heldr gullhring minn til skulda, enn eigi
another counsel sell rather gold-ring my for debts than not
landit". Sighvatr svarar: „Þá mun verða at finna Þórgrím;
the-land Sighvat answers Then will must to meet Thorgrim

hann skortir eigi kvikfé“. Hon svarar: „Letja vil ek þik, at
he lacks not livestock She answers Dissuade will I you to
eiga kaup við Þórgrím; hann er slœgr ok óheill“. Sighvatr
have trade with Thorgrim he is sly and ill-meaning Sighvat
fór allt at einu til fundar við Þórgrím, ok mælti: „Þat
went all at one to a-meeting with Thorgrim and spoke That
er mitt erindi, at kaupa at þér kvikfé nökkur“. Þórgrímr
is my errand to buy from you livestock some Thorgrim
svarar: „Þat er vel fallit“. Sighvatr mælti: „Gullhringr þessi
answers That is well suited Sighvat spoke Gold-ring this
er til verðs látinn“. Þórgrímr svarar: „Þat er ódrengilegt
is for price let-go Thorgrim answers That is unmanly
bragð, at selja gripi konu sinnar. Sel mér heldr engi þat,
trick to sell treasures of-wife his Sell me rather meadow that
er þú kallar Grœnateig. Ek þarf bæði hey ok útbeit, enn
which you call Groenateig I need both hay and out-grazing but
þú hefir þó meir enn nógar engjar eftir“. Sighvatr svarar:
you have yet more than enough meadows left Sighvat answers
„Selja mun ek þér teiginn, enn engra vil ek annarra manna
Sell will I you the-strip but of-no will I other men's
beit í land mitt“. „Sé þessu nú keypt“, segir Þórgrímr.
grazing in land my Be this now bargained says Thorgrim
Sighvatr kom heim, ok sagði húsfreyju kaupit. Hon svarar:
Sighvat came home and told (the)-housewife the-bargain She answers
„Ókeypt mundi þessu, ef ek hefða ráðit; brátt mun hann
Unbargained would this-be if I had ruled soon will he
beita upp land várt, þegar hann þykkist nökkura ítölu
graze up land our as-soon-as he thinks-himself some share
eiga“. Annan dag var þangat rekit kvikfé, þat er Sighvatr
to-have (The)-second day was thither driven livestock that which Sighvat
hafði keypt. Enn er á leið sumarit, mælti Þórgrímr: „Nú
had bought But when on passed the-summer spoke Thorgrim Now

höfum vér heldr aukit engjar várar. En ek heyri þat af
have we rather increased meadows our But I hear that from
konum, at málnytu verði hagfátt ok dugi lítt. Nú skal
women that milk-yield become short and help little Now shall
reka búfé várt í land Sighvats til beitar. Mér hefi ek
drive livestock our into (the)-land of-Sighvat for grazing For-me have I
nú helgat þat land“. Var nú svá gert. Enn er Guðrún sá
now claimed that land Was now so done But when Gudrun saw
þat, mælti hon: „Eigi fór fjarri getu minni; mér var lítit
that spoke she Not went far-from guess my to-me was little
um kaup þetta; hefir ok illa gefizt, því at Þórgrímr fær
about bargain this has also ill turned-out because that Thorgrim gets
nú til þræla sína, at beita upp engjum várum ok heyjum“.
now to-it thralls his to graze up meadows our and hay
Sighvatr svarar: „Oftreynt er þat, at Þórgrímr launar illu
Sighvat answers Often-tested is that that Thorgrim repays with-ill
gott“. Einn dag gekk Sighvatr til ok keyrði naut Þórgríms
good One day went Sighvat to-it and drove cattle of-Thorgrim
ór heyi sínu ok sæti. Þórgrímr kom þá at ok mælti:
out-of hay his and haycock Thorgrim came then up and spoke
„Djarfr gerist þræls-jafninginn nú“. Hann lagði með spjóti í
Bold becomes the-thrall's-equal now He thrust with spear in
gegnum Sighvat, svá at hann fekk þegar bana. Þórgrímr fór
through Sighvat so that he got at-once death Thorgrim went
þegar heim. Guðrún varð skjótt vör við þessi tíðindi, ok
at-once home Gudrun became quickly aware of these tidings and
lét veita gröft bónda sínum, ok fór með hljóðliga. Hrafn
had give a-burial for-husband her and went with-it quietly Hrafn
son þeira var þá fjögurra vetra. Hann nefndi oft föður sinn,
son their was then of-four winters He named often father his
ok spurði hvar hann væri. Móðir hans sagði at hann var
and asked where he were Mother his said that he was

dauðr, ok hefði orðit bráðdauðr. Litlu síðar kom Þórgrímr
dead and had become suddenly-dead A-little later came Thorgrim
til fundar við Guðrúnu, ok mælti: „Þér mun ek þykkja
to a-meeting with Gudrun and spoke To-you will I seem
hafa gert þér nökkut skjótræði. Nú vil ek bœta manninn
to-have done to-you some rash-deed Now will I compensate the-man
ok gjalda mik í mót; ok ef þú vill mína umsjá þekkjast,
and pay myself in return and if you will my oversight accept
þá mun þik fátt skorta“. „Hon svarar: „Þat er líkast, at
then will you little lack She answers That is likeliest that
sér búi hvárt okkart; er ek ekki svá manngjörn, at ek
for-oneself dwell each of-us-two is I not so man-eager that I
vilja taka til mín bónda-bana minn, þótt þú værir kvánlauss“.
would take to me husband-slayer my though you were wifeless

II · HRAFN KILLS KÁLFR

At fifteen, Hrafn plays games with Þórgrímr's son Kálfr, who taunts him that Þórgrímr killed his father. Three years later Kálfr taunts him again, and Hrafn kills him. Guðrún hides him in an underground room and faces down Þórgrímr's search. Outlawed at the Alþingi, Hrafn is refused passage by Einarr, a Norwegian ship-owner, but his brother Sigurðr takes him aboard just as Þórgrímr arrives, and they reach Trondheim.

Hrafn vóx þar upp með móður sinni. Hann var mikill ok
Hrafn grew there up with mother his He was big and
sterkr, blíðr ok vinsæll við alþýðu ok gleðimaðr mikill.
strong gentle and well-liked by common-folk and merry-man great
Hann fór oft til leika til Staðar. Þórgrímr var vel við
He went often to games to Stad Thorgrim was well toward
hann; enn Hrafn þekktist þat vel. Þeir Kálfr son Þórgríms
him but Hrafn accepted that well They Kalf son of-Thorgrim

ok Hrafn lékust jafnan við. Þá var Hrafn fimtán vetra;
and Hrafn played always together Then was Hrafn fifteen winters
Kálfr var nökkut ellri ok óstyrkari; fekk hann þungt af
Kalf was somewhat older and weaker got he heavy from
Hrafni, því at hann var kappgjarn í leikinum. Einn
Hrafn because that he was keen-to-win in the-game One
dag, er þeir höfðu við leikizt, mælti Kálfr: „Illa kanntú,
day when they had together played spoke Kalf Badly can-you
Hrafn, at stilla afli þínu, ok mun þú hafa farir föður
Hrafn to temper strength your and will you have (the)-fate of-father
þíns“. Hrafn svarar: „Margtítt er þat at menn deyi, ok svá
your Hrafn answers Very-common is that that men die and so
mun mér fara“. Kálfr mælti: „Leyndr er þú, hvat honum
will to-me go Kalf spoke Hidden are you what to-him
varð at bana: hann var drepinn, ok gerði þat faðir minn, ok
became for death he was killed and did that father my and
ek mun drepa þik“. Hrafn snöri þá brott, ok svaraði engu.
I will kill you Hrafn turned then away and answered nothing
Hann kom heim um kveldit ókátr. Móðir hans spurði,
He came home in the-evening unhappy Mother his asked
hverju þat sætti? Hann svarar: „Þú sagðir mér, at faðir
what that meant He answers You told me that father
minn hefði orðit bráðdauðr; enn Kálfr brá mér því í
my had become suddenly-dead but Kalf taunted me with-that in
dag, at hann hefði verit drepinn; enn mér þykkir undarligt,
day that he had been killed but to-me seems strange
er þú leyndir mik því“. Hon svarar: „Þat gekk mér til, son
that you hid me that She answers That went me to son
minn, at mér þóttir þú ungr, enn ríkir menn til móts.
my that to-me seemed you young but powerful men to meet
Enn nú varðar eigi, þótt sá seyðir rjúki, er þeir hafa
But now matters not though that cooking-pit smoke which they have

hreift“. Hrafn mælti: „Hvar er búit um föður minn?“ Hon
stirred Hrafn spoke Where is prepared about father my She
kvað þar nú vallgróit yfir. Hrafn mælti: „Koma skal ek þó
said there now field-grown over Hrafn spoke Come shall I yet
þar til, ok mun ek nú vera glaðr, er ek veit hit sanna,
there to and will I now be glad since I know the truth
ok væri mikit undir, at hann ætti harðan son“. Fór hann
and were much at-stake that he had hard son Went he
nú til leika sem áðr, ok fann engi maðr á honum ógleði.
now to games as before and found no man on him gloom
Liðu nú stundir fram, þar til er hann var átján vetra.
Passed now times forward there until when he was eighteen winters
Þá var þat einn dag, er Hrafn var kominn í klæði sin
Then was that one day when Hrafn was come into clothes his
eftir leik, at Kálfr mælti: „Betra þykkir Hrafni at herða
after (the)-game that Kalf spoke Better seems to-Hrafn to harden
knúa at knetti, enn hefna föður síns“. Hrafn svarar: „Nú
knuckles at (the)-ball than avenge father his Hrafn answers Now
skal brátt“. Snaraðist hann þá ímót Kálfi, ok hjó hann
shall soon Turned he then against Kalf and struck him
banahögg. Þórgrímr mælti: „Þetta fór sem ván var; enn
death-blow Thorgrim spoke This went as expected was but
þó hœfir oss eigi at láta kyrrt“. Hrafn kom heim, ok sagði
yet befits us not to let quiet Hrafn came home and told
móður sinni vígit. Hon sagði þetta mundu vera dýrgilt.
mother his the-slaying She said this would be dear-paid
„Mun ok nú“, sagði hon, „láta soninn sem fyrr bóndann.
Will also now said she lose the-son as before the-husband
Far nú brott, því at ek má þér enga hjálp veita“. Gekk
Go now away because that I can you no help give Went
hon þá út með honum, ok bað hann fara með sér í
she then out with him and bade him go with her into

útibúr, er stóð í túninu. Þar var jarðhús mikit ok vel
an-outhouse which stood in the-home-field There was earth-house great and well
um búit. Gekk hann í jarðhúsit, ok skorti hann ekki
about prepared Went he into the-earth-house and lacked he not
þat, er hann þurfti. Um morgininn eftir kom Þórgrímr þar
that which he needed In the-morning after came Thorgrim there
við tólfta mann. Enn Guðrún hafði safnat at sér mönnum
with twelfth man But Gudrun had gathered to herself men
um nóttina af næstum bœjum, ok hafði hon mannfleira
during the-night from nearest farms and had she more-men
fyrir enn Þórgrímr. Þórgrímr mælti: „Þat er erindi várt,
before than Thorgrim Thorgrim spoke That is errand our
at leita eftir Hrafni syni þínum, ok sel þú hann fram“.
to search for Hrafn son your and hand you him forth
Guðrún svarar: „Þat er várkunn, at þú leitir eftir sonar-bana
Gudrun answers That is excusable that you search for son-slayer
þínum, enn eigi er hann hér. Var eigi þess ván, at ek
your but not is he here Was not of-that expectation that I
munda hafa afla eðr dirfð til at halda hann hér í næsta
would have strength or daring to to keep him here in next
húsi þér“. Hann svarar: „Ván þykki mér, at þú segir ekki
house to-you He answers Likely seems to-me that you say not
í hávaða, þótt hann sé hér, ok viljum vér rannsaka bœ
in clamor though he be here and will we search farm
þinn“. „Hon svarar: „Ekki var ek hér til með þjófum talin,
your She answers Not was I here to with thieves counted
ok muntú eigi rannsaka, meðan þú hefir færri menn til enn
and will-you not search while you have fewer men to than
ek hefi fyrir“. Lét hon þá drífa út mannfólk sitt. Þórgrímr
I have before Had she then hurry out household-folk her Thorgrim
mælti: „Eigi er þú ráðlaus“. Reið hann brott við svá búit.
spoke Not are you counsel-less Rode he away with so done

Á næsta sumri gerði Þórgrímr Hrafn sekan skógarmann
In (the)-next summer made Thorgrim Hrafn outlawed forest-man
á alþingi. Kaupskip var búit í Hrútafirði til hafs, er
at (the)-Althing A-merchant-ship was ready in Hrutafjord for sea when
þetta gerðist, ok áttu norrœnir menn. Hét annarr Einarr,
this happened and owned Norwegian men Was-called one Einar
naumdœlskr maðr; annarr hét Bjarni. Einarr var auðigr
Naumdale man (the)-other was-called Bjarni Einar was wealthy
at fé ok drengr góðr ok kærr vinr Magnúsar konungs
in money and fellow good and dear friend of-Magnus (the)-king
góða. Bróðir Einars hét Sigurðr, er á skipi var með
(the)-Good (The)-brother of-Einar was-called Sigurd who on ship was with
honum. Sigurðr var á ungum aldri ok hinn mannvænligsti.
him Sigurd was in young age and the most-promising
Þórgrimr reið til skips, þegar hann kom af þingi.
Thorgrim rode to (the)-ship as-soon-as he came from (the)-assembly
Þá váru kaupmenn mjök albúnir. Hann mælti til þeira:
Then were (the)-merchants much all-ready He spoke to them
„Ek vil yðr kunnigt gera, at ek á einn skógarmann,
I will to-you known make that I have one forest-man
er heitir Hrafn, ok vil ek vara yðr við, at þér flytið
who is-called Hrafn and will I warn you against that you carry
hann eigi um Íslandshaf, þótt hann sé yðr boðinn“. Þeim
him not over (the)-Iceland-sea though he be to-you offered To-them
kvaðst þykkja sér vandalaust, at vísa af höndum
said-of-themselves seem to-them no-difficulty to refuse from hands
öllum illmennum. Litlu síðar komu þau mœðgin til skips,
all evil-men A-little later came they mother-and-son to (the)-ship
ok kölluðu á land Einar stýrimann. Ok er þau hittust,
and called to land Einar (the)-skipper And when they met
mælti Guðrún: „Hér fer ek með son minn, er hitt hefir í
spoke Gudrun Here go I with son my who met has into

vankvæði, ok munu sumir menn kalla honum drengs-bót í
difficulty and will some men call to-him manhood-credit in
sínu tiltœki; enn ek verð þó nú vanafla til at halda hann
his deed but I am yet now short-of-strength to-it to keep him
fyrir Þórgrími, því at hann er sekr orðinn. Vilda ek,
against Thorgrim because that he is outlawed become Would-wish I
at þér flyttið hann útan. Vænti ek, at þér virðit meira í
that you carried him abroad Expect I that you value more in
þessu máli frændr hans göfga í Noregi ok málaefni, heldr
this case kinsmen his noble in Norway and merits-of-the-case rather
enn ofrkapp ok ósœmd Þórgríms, er hann drap saklausan
than overbearing and dishonor of-Thorgrim when he killed guiltless
bónda minn, föður Hrafns, ok lagði ógildan“. Einarr
husband my father of-Hrafn and laid-him uncompensated Einar
mælti: „Lítt er þessi maðr leyfðr fyrir oss, ok er mér ekki
spoke Little is this man praised to us and is to-me not
um at flytja seka menn“. Þá mælti Sigurðr bróðir hans:
about-it to carry outlawed men Then spoke Sigurd brother his
„Hví sýnist þér þat ráð, at vísa honum af hendi? Hyggr
Why seems to-you that counsel to refuse him from hand Think
þú ekki at hversu vænligr maðrinn er, eðr hversu drengiliga
you not on how promising the-man is or how manfully
hann hefir rekit harma sinna? Nú ferr þú til mín, Hrafn,
he has avenged griefs his Now go you to me Hrafn
þótt þat sé minna traust enn með bróður mínum, ok gakk
though that be less protection than with brother my and go
þegar út á skip, því at vér erum albúnir, enn veðr
at-once out onto ship because that we are all-ready but weather
byrvænligt. Eðr hverja áttu frændr í Noregi?“ Hrafn
fair-wind-promising Or what have-you kinsmen in Norway Hrafn
svarar: „Þat segir móðir mín, at Sighvatr skáld sé bróðir
answers That says mother my that Sighvat (the)-Poet be brother

hennar“. Sigurðr mælti: „Njóta skal þú hans frá mér“. Hratt
her Sigurd spoke Enjoy shall you him from me Pushed
hann þegar út bryggjunni, drógu síðan upp akkeri, ok sveif
he at-once out the-gangway drew then up anchor and swung
þá skipit frá landi. Í því bili kom Þórgrímr af landi
then the-ship from land At that moment came Thorgrim from land
ofan, ok kallaði á kaupmenn, svá segjandi: „Þat hygg ek,
down and called to (the)-merchants so saying That think I
at þér hafit mér nú lausmálir orðit“. Sigurðr mælti: „Sýn
that you have to-me now loose-tongued become Sigurd spoke Show
þú þik nú, Hrafn; hœfiliga er Þórgrímr nú nær“. Hrafn
you yourself now Hrafn fittingly is Thorgrim now near Hrafn
hljóp upp á búlkann ok mælti: „Þá væri hann hœfiliga
leaped up onto the-cargo and spoke Then were he fittingly
nær, ef öx mín tœki til hans“. Bjarni bað þá flytja Hrafn
near if axe my reached to him Bjarni bade then carry Hrafn
til lands. Sigurðr mælti: „Þat mynda ek vilja, ef hann væri
to land Sigurd spoke That would I wish if he were
fenginn nauðigr í vald Þórgríms, at nökkut gengi
gotten forced into (the)-power of-Thorgrim that somewhat went
stopult at því, ok sýnist mér meiri nauðsyn at vinda segl“,
unsteady with that and seems to-me greater need to hoist sail
ok var svá gert. Þeim byrjar vel, ok tóku Þrándheim.
and was so done To-them blows-fair well and reached Trondheim

Einarr leaves Hrafn with Ketill, the king's steward in the town. Ketill at first likes him, but turns against him and slanders him, and finally sells him to merchants as a thrall. When the merchants seize him, Hrafn fights them off and kills Ketill. He tells Ketill's widow and daughter what he has done, and they give him clothes and food and warn him to fear the king's anger. He flees into the forests.

Ketill hét maðr ok kallaðr rípr, er þar hafði bœjarsýslu
Ketil was-called a-man and called Ripr who there had town-stewardship
af hendi konungs. Signý hét kona hans, enn Helga
on behalf of-(the)-king Signy was-called wife his but Helga
dóttir. Hon var væn ok vel at sér. Enn er kaupmenn
daughter She was handsome and well at herself But when (the)-merchants
drifu frá skipi hverr til síns heima, þá mælti Einarr til
dispersed from (the)-ship each to his home then spoke Einar to
Hrafns: „Þat mun til liggja, at gera vel til þín, þótt ek
Hrafn That will to-it lie to do well to you though I
hafa ekki verit svá bráðskeyttr sem Sigurðr. Vill þú at ek
have not been so rash-acting as Sigurd Wish you that I
taka þér hér vist í bœnum, enn ek skal gefa fé fyrir
take for-you here lodging in the-town but I shall give money for
þik? Þykkir mér þetta nú auðveldara fyrst enn þú farir með
you Seems to-me this now easier first than you go with
mér“. Hrafn svaraði: „Ek vil vera auðráðr þinni forsjá, ef
me Hrafn answered I will be easy-to-rule by-your oversight if
þú vill mér vel, ætla ek á engan mann at leita fyrri, enn
you will me well intend I on no man to attack sooner than
gjalda grimmiliga mótgerðir ok vansœmd“. Eftir þetta hittu
repay grimly offenses and dishonor After this met
þeir Ketil, ok mælti Einarr: „Þenna mann fæ ek þér í
they Ketil and spoke Einar This man give I you into

hendr, ok ger vel til hans; enn þú kom til mín, Hrafn, þá
hands and do well to him but you come to me Hrafn then
er þér líkar ok tími er til“. Hrafn var með Katli; hann
when to-you pleases and time is for-it Hrafn was with Ketil he
var hljóðr ok fáskiftinn, enn þó kátr við menn þá, er orða
was silent and reserved but yet cheerful with men those who words
ortu á hann; löngum talaði hann við Helgu, dóttur Ketils;
made to him long talked he with Helga daughter of-Ketil
lét hann sér þat vel líka um hríð, því at Hrafn fór
let he for-himself that well please for a-while because that Hrafn went
með sér vel. Nú leið eigi langt áðr Ketill snöri sínu skapi
with himself well Now passed not long before Ketil turned his mind
eftir sinni ódygð ok eiginligri hugarlund. Hann tjáði
according-to his faithlessness and own disposition He complained
þá fyrir konu sinni ok dóttur, at Hrafn væri óskaphœgr,
then before wife his and daughter that Hrafn were ill-tempered
enn nennti ekki at starfa, ok væri við þær of fjölrœðinn.
but cared not to work and were with them too talkative
Þær svöruðu báðar, at þat væri hœfiliga ok meinalaust:
They answered both that that were fitting and harmless
„Eru hans hættir þvílíkir nú“, sögðu þær „sem þá er þér
Are his manners such now said they as then when to-you
gazt vel at honum; kann hann vel at vera með góðum
pleased well with him can he well to be with good
mönnum“. Ketill kvað þær heillaðar; lagði hann fæð á
men Ketil said them bewitched laid he dislike on
Hrafn, ok orti um hann heldr hæðiliga“. Hrafn lét sem
Hrafn and composed about him rather mockingly Hrafn acted as-if
vissi hann þat eigi. Þar váru komnir kaupmenn til bœjarins
knew he that not There were come merchants to the-town
vestan um haf, ok váru þá mjök brott búnir. Einn dag
from-the-west over (the)-sea and were then much away ready One day

kom Ketill til þeira, ok kvaðst hafa þræl einn at selja
came Ketil to them and said-of-himself to-have a-thrall one to sell
þeim. Þeir létu sér þat vel gegna. Hann mælti: „Ekki
them They let to-themselves that well suit He spoke Not
skal ek pretta yðr í þessu kaupi: hann er bæði lýginn, ok
shall I cheat you in this bargain he is both lying and
at mörgu öðru annmarkafullr, ok þurfu þér í fyrstu at taka
in many other fault-full and need you at first to take
hann fast ok láta kenna harðinda“. Mörgu keyptu þeir öðru.
him fast and let feel hardship Many bought they other
Gekk Ketill þá heim í garð sinn, ok mælti til Hrafns:
Went Ketil then home into yard his and spoke to Hrafn
„Vill þú ganga til skips með mér, ok skemmta þér?“.
Will you go to (the)-ship with me and amuse yourself
Hrafn svarar: „Fúss er ek at fylgja þér, ef þú er í góðum
Hrafn answers Eager am I to follow you if you are in good
hug til mín“. Enn þegar er kaupmenn sá Hrafn, runnu
mind toward me But as-soon as (the)-merchants saw Hrafn ran
þeir móti honum ok gripu til hans. Hrafn hafði hendr
they against him and grabbed at him Hrafn had hands
fyrir sér ok spurði, hvat sjá leikr skyldi. Þeir sögðu hann
before himself and asked what this game should-be They said him
varan mundu við verða. Hann varð þeim harðr fyrir ok
aware would of-it become He became to-them hard against and
sópaði þeim af sér. Þeir sögðu þenna þræl ofkátan. Hrafn
swept them off himself They said this thrall too-merry Hrafn
svarar: „Er nú svá þá; þetta er mér þrælsverkit skapfeldast
answers Is now so then this is to-me the-thrall's-work most-congenial
at glíma, ok hefi ek þó eigi fyrr jafnmikit at unnit.“ Tók
to wrestle and have I yet not before as-much at done Took
hann þá einn þeira, ok varðist með, þar til er sá
he then one of-them and defended-himself with-him there until when that-one

vissi ekki til sín. Ketill snöri þá upp í bœinn. Hrafn
knew not of himself Ketil turned then up into the-town Hrafn
hljóp upp eftir honum, ok veitti honum banasár. Enn er
leaped up after him and gave him death-wound But when
kaupmenn sjá þetta, bjuggust þeir brott sem hvatast, því
(the)-merchants see this made-ready they away as quickest because
at þeir hræddust, at þeim mundi kennt vígit. Hrafn
that they feared that to-them would be-charged the-slaying Hrafn
lýsti víginu sér á hendr. Gekk hann eftir þat upp í
declared the-slaying for-himself on hands Went he after that up into
garðinn, er Ketill hafði átt, ok fann þær mœðgur,
the-yard which Ketil had owned and found them mother-and-daughter
ok sagði nú þat at gert, at þeim mundi lítit um samvistir
and said now that to done that to-them would little about living-together
við hann. Þær sögðu illa hafa til borit, enn létu þó slíkt
with him They said ill to-have to borne but declared yet such
helzt várkunnar-verk. Fengu þær honum bæði klæði ok vist
most excusable-deed Gave they him both clothes and food
ok báðu hann meirr forðast konungs-reiði enn sína. Síðan
and bade him more avoid king's-anger than theirs Then
gekk hann á merkr ok skóga huldu höfði.
went he to woods and forests with-hidden head

King Magnús the Good is angry at the killing of his steward. In the forest a man in a shaggy cloak asks his protection without naming himself, and the king sends him with tokens to winter with Kolr in Pauskadalr. Too late Magnús realizes it was Hrafn. Hrafn leaves in Easter week, before the king arrives, and Magnús puts a price on his head, forbids anyone to plead for him, and sails south to war against Sveinn Úlfsson.

Magnús konungr kom litlu síðar til bœjarins, ok spurði
Magnus (the)-king came a-little later to the-town and learned
þessi tíðindi. Hann varð reiðr við ok mælti: „Slíkt eru firn
these tidings He became angry at-it and spoke Such are outrages
mikil, at Íslendingar skulu til þess fara higat í land, at
great that Icelanders shall for that go hither into (the)-land to
drepa umboðsmenn vára ok sýslumenn, ok skal þann mann
kill agents our and sheriffs and shall that man
gera útlægan, sem verkit hefir unnit“. Einarr Naumdœll var
make outlawed who the-deed has done Einar Naumdale-man was
þá með konungi, ok mælti: „Búa má maðr, herra, svá illa
then with (the)-king and spoke Prepare may a-man lord so badly
sína sök til, at hann hafi fyrirgert sér“. Litlu síðar var þat,
his case to-it that he has forfeited himself A-little later was that
at konungr fór á veiðar einn dag með haukum ok hundum,
that (the)-king went to hunting one day with hawks and hounds
ok dreifðust menn frá honum, svá at hann varð einn saman
and scattered men from him so that he became alone together
staddr; þá kom at honum ór skóginum maðr mikill í
placed then came to him out-of the-forest a-man big in
loðkápu, ok bað hann ásjá(r). Konungr mælti: „Hverr vandi
shaggy-cloak and asked him protection (The)-king spoke What obligation
er mér við þik?“ Hann svarar: „Engi annarr enn frændr
is to-me toward you He answers None other than kinsmen

mínir eru vinir þínir, ok enn drengskapr þinn, at þú synjar
my are friends your and also nobility your that you refuse
engum manni ásjá(r), er þik biðr“. Konungr mælti: „Kolr
no man protection who you asks (The)-king spoke Kol
heitir maðr, er býr suðr í Þauskadal; þagat skal þik senda
is-called a-man who dwells south in Thauskadal thither shall-I you send
til vistar. Eðr hverr er þú“? Hann svarar: „Spellvirki hefi ek
for lodging Or who are you He answers Mischief-maker have I
verit, enn ek vil nú af því láta; á ek sökótt við fólkit,
been but I will now from that cease have I many-lawsuits with the-folk
ok beiði ek því ásjá(r). Nú ef þér vilit mik þagat senda
and ask I therefore protection Now if you will me thither send
til Kols, þá fáit mér skírar jartegnir, at hann taki við mér,
to Kol then give me clear tokens that he take with me
ok mun ek þar vera í vetr“. Konungr mælti: „Ger svá,
and will I there be in winter (The)-king spoke Do so
ok mun ek þar koma viku eftir páska“. Tók konungr þá
and will I there come a-week after Easter Took (the)-king then
fingrgull af hendi sér, ok dró á spjótsoddinn, ok rétti
a-finger-gold from hand his and drew onto the-spear-point and reached
svá at honum, því at hann gekk ekki nærri. Konungr
so to him because that he went not near (The)-king
mælti til (hans): „Hvat hyggr þú at hann Hrafn, útlaginn,
spoke to him What think you that he Hrafn the-outlaw
geri af sér?“ Hann svarar: „Hann mun sœkja á fund Einars
make of himself He answers He will seek to meeting of-Einar
hins naumdœlska, vinar þíns, ok hafi þér þá þegar vald
the Naumdale-man friend your and have you then at-once power
á honum“. Tók hann þá gullit af spjótsoddinum, ok
over him Took he then the-gold from the-spear-point and
hvarf jafnskjótt í skóginn. Þá mælti konungr: „Lék hann
vanished at-once into the-forest Then spoke (the)-king Played he

mik nú Hrafn, ok gabbaði“. Hrafn kom til Kols, ok sýndi
me now Hrafn and mocked Hrafn came to Kol and showed
honum jartegnir konungs til viðtöku. Kolr mælti: „Þetta mál
him tokens of-(the)-king for reception Kol spoke This case
ferr undarliga, þú hefir sannar jartegnir konungs, enn hefir
goes strangely you have true tokens of-(the)-king but have
áðr óvingast við hann“. Hrafn var þar um vetrinn, ok
before become-unfriendly with him Hrafn was there through the-winter and
líkaði hverjum manni vel við hann; enn eigi vildi hann þar
pleased each man well with him but not would he there
bíða konungs, ok fór brottu laugardag í páskaviku. Enn
await (the)-king and went away (on)-Saturday in Easter-week But
er konungr kom þar, mælti hann til Kols: „Hvar er Hrafn
when (the)-king came there spoke he to Kol Where is Hrafn
Guðrúnarson? Hann verð ek at finna?“ Kolr svarar: „Brottu
Gudrun's-son Him must I to meet Kol answers Away
er hann nú, herra“. Konungr mælti: „Þat er illa; enn viti
is he now lord (The)-king spoke That is ill but know
þat allir menn, at hann er nú útlægr ok friðlauss. Þykkir
that all men that he is now outlawed and peaceless Seems
mér meira verð svívirðing mín, er hann hefir gabbat mik,
to-me greater worth disgrace my which he has mocked me
enn vígit, ok því legg ek nú þrjár merkr silfrs til
than the-slaying and therefore lay I now three marks of-silver on
höfuðs honum. Skal nú ok engum manni tjá, at biðja
head his Shall now also for-no man avail to ask
honum líknar eðr lífsgriða“. Helt konungr þá miklum her
him mercy or life-truce Held (the)-king then great army
suðr með landi, ok ætlaði til Danmerkr, því at í þenna
south along (the)-land and intended to Denmark because that at this
tíma var hit mesta stríð með þeim Sveini Úlfssyni.
time was the greatest war between them Svein(-and-Magnus) Ulf's-son

Hrafn finds the fleet and asks his uncle, the poet Sighvatr, for help. Both Einarrs refuse to shield him against the king. Determined to go aboard rather than bring the king's anger on his friends, Hrafn goes with Sighvatr, who prays to the holy Óláfr. King Magnús wakes to a fair wind, sails to Denmark, and wins a great battle, in which Hrafn fights bravely before him and some men see Saint Óláfr in the king's host.

Þá er hálfr mánuðr var af sumri, kom Hrafn ór
Then when half month was of summer came Hrafn out-of
mörkum fram til sjóvar einhvers staðar. Hann sá þar flota
woods forth to (the)-sea at-some place He saw there fleet
mikinn. Hann snöri þar at sem sveinar bjuggu mat á landi.
great He turned there to where lads prepared food on land
Hann gekk heldr óframliga, ok spurði: „Hverr á þenna
He went rather timidly and asked Who owns this
mikla skipaflota?“ Þeir svöruðu: „Þú munt vera ófróðr maðr
great ship-fleet They answered You must be ignorant man
ok heimskr; Magnús konungr liggr hér, því at honum
and foolish Magnus (the)-king lies here because that to-him
gefr eigi byr at sigla til Danmerkr“. Hrafn spurði: „Hvat
gives not fair-wind to sail to Denmark Hrafn asked What
er hér virðingamanna með konungi?“ Þeir sögðu, at þar
is here of-men-of-rank with (the)-king They said that there
var fyrir Einarr hinn naumdœlski, vinr konungs, ok Einarr
was present Einar the Naumdale-man friend of-(the)-king and Einar
Þambarskelfir með þrettán skipum; enn Sighvatr skáld er
Thambarskelfir with thirteen ships but Sighvat (the)-Poet is
á konungs skipi. Hrafn mælti: „Segit þér Sighvati, at
on (the)-king's ship Hrafn spoke Tell you to-Sighvat that
maðr á skylt erindi við hann á landi“. Þeir gerðu svá.
a-man has urgent errand with him on land They did so

Hrafn beið við skóginn meðan. Sighvatr kom á fund hans
Hrafn waited by the-forest while Sighvat came to meeting his
ok mælti: „Hverr er þessi hinn mikli maðr?“ „Sjá heitir
and spoke Who is this the great man This-one is-called
Hrafn“, segir hann. Sighvatr mælti: „Forða þér; eigi mun
Hrafn says he Sighvat spoke Save yourself not will
ek taka fé til höfuðs þér, ok eigi vil ek segja til þín,
I take money for head your and not will I tell of you
þótt ek hafa fundit þik“. Hrafn svarar: „Eigi er þat svá
though I have found you Hrafn answers Not is that so
einsætt; þú ert kallaðr maðr fégjarn, enn mér er lítit lífs
clear you are called man money-greedy but to-me is little of-life
at missa, ok verðr margr maðr meirr at vinna til minna
to lose and must many a-man more to work for less
fjár, enn þótt þú segir til mín, ok þótt öx konungs
money but though you tell of me and though (the)-axe of-(the)-king
sé langskeft, þá mun hon þó eigi taka í skóginn til
be long-shafted then will it yet not reach into the-forest to
mín. Enn ef þú vill mér gagn gera, þá samir þér þat
me But if you will me help do then befits you that
ok allvel, því at þú ert móðurbróðir minn“. Hann svarar:
and very-well because that you are mother's-brother my He answers
„Við kennumst ek ætt ok frændsemi þína, enn eigi hefi
With acknowledge-myself I family and kinship your but not have
ek traust til at veita þér lið. Nú bíð þú mín hér við
I support to to give you help Now wait you for-me here by
skóginn“. Hrafn svarar: „Ek vil ganga með þér á skipit
the-forest Hrafn answers I will go with you onto the-ship
út; þykki mér betra at vera þar drepinn hjá þér, ok eigi
out seems to-me better to be there killed beside you and not
mun þú minna leggja til við mik“. Sighvatr svarar: „Þú ert
will you less lay to with me Sighvat answers You are

vandræðamaðr; eigi hœfir, at ek selja þik svá undir öxi,
trouble-man not befits that I sell you so under axe
því (at) þetta mætti okkr eigi endast, þótt ek hefða hér
because that this might us-two not last though I had here
til allra manna lið ok bœnafullting. Ger nú sem ek beiði:
to of-all men help and prayers'-support Do now as I ask
bíð mín hér, meðan ek hitti vini mína". Hrafn svarar:
wait for-me here while I meet friends my Hrafn answers
„Gera skal svá sem þú beiðir litla stund; þó mun ek skjótt
Do shall-I so as you ask little while yet will I soon
koma eftir þér, því at eigi skal bæði bíða þungan banann,
come after you because that not shall both await heavy the-death
ok hyggja lengi til". Sighvatr hitti Einar hinn naumdœlska
and think long on-it Sighvat met Einar the Naumdale-man
ok mælti: „Nú er svá, félagi, at í vankvæði er slungit:
and spoke Now is so comrade that into difficulty is twisted
hér er nú kominn Hrafn, ok vill ekki annat enn ganga
here is now come Hrafn and will nothing else than go
á vald óvina sinna. Eðr hvat skal ek þar eiga, er
into (the)-power of-enemies his Or what shall I there have where
þú ert?" Hann svarar: „Ógiftumaðr er hann, enn skyldir
you are He answers Luckless-man is he but bound
erum vér at forða honum við bana, eun berjast eigi fyrir
are we to save him from death but fight not for
hann móti konungi við lítinn afla. Mun konungr síðan
him against (the)-king with little strength Will (the)-king afterward
aldrei várt lið þiggja, ef vér göngum nú í móti honum".
never our help accept if we go now in against him
Því næst gekk Sighvatr fyrir Einar Þambarskelfi, ok mælti:
That next went Sighvat before Einar Thambarskelfir and spoke
„Skal ek nökkut traust eiga, þar er þú ert, Einarr?" Hann
Shall I any support have there where you are Einar He

svarar: „Hvers þarftú við?“ Sighvatr mælti: „Hér er kominn
answers Of-what need-you with-it Sighvat spoke Here is come
Hrafn frændi minn“. Einarr mælti: „Eigi er ek þess búinn,
Hrafn kinsman my Einar spoke Not am I for-that ready
at berjast við konung fyrir hann. Þat var einn tíma, er
to fight with (the)-king for him That was one time when
ek helt þann mann, er konungr hafði reiði á, ok var
I held that man whom (the)-king had anger on and was
við sjálft, at ek mynda eigi í þrift komast. Nú höfum
at itself that I would not into thriving get Now have
vit Indriði hér tólf skip til forráða, ok ætlum til bardaga
we-two Indridi here twelve ships for command and intend for battle
við Dani með konungi. Nú vísa þú manninum á brott,
with (the)-Danes with (the)-king Now direct you the-man off away
at hann forðist, ok lát hann eigi komast á vár skip, at
that he flee and let him not get onto our ships that
hann sé þar drepinn, því at ek kann kapp Magnúsar
he be there killed because that I know (the)-zeal of-Magnus
konungs, at heldr mun hann missa várs liðs, enn taka af
(the)-king that rather will he lose our troop than take from
oss afarkosti“. Enn meðan þeir áttu þetta við at talast, gekk
us hard-terms But while they had this with to talk-over went
Einarr hinn naumdœlski á land til fundar við Hrafn, ok
Einar the Naumdale-man onto land to a-meeting with Hrafn and
mælti: „Ger svá vel, félagi, snú eigi öllu fólki í vanda;
spoke Do so well comrade turn not all folk into difficulty
far heldr brott at mínu ráði; ek vil senda þik norðr til
go rather away by my counsel I will send you north to
Hítar til búss míns; þar mun þú hólpinn um hríð“. Hrafn
Hit to farm my there will you saved for a-while Hrafn
svarar: „Finna vil ek Sighvat áðr“. Gekk Einarr brott, enn
answers Meet will I Sighvat first Went Einar away but

Sighvatr kom þar litlu síðar. Hrafn mælti: „Hversu gefst
Sighvat came there a-little later Hrafn spoke How turns-out
nú höfðingja traustit“? Hann svarar: „Ekki mjök, ok
now of-(the)-chieftains the-support He answers Not much and
er þú eigi gæfudrjúgr, eðr hvat mun þú nú ráða taka?“
are you not luck-abundant or what will you now counsel take
Hrafn svarar: „Slíkt sem ek hefi áðr sagt: ganga út á
Hrafn answers Such as I have before said to-go out onto
konungsskipit með þér“. Sighvatr mælti: „Hví vill þú svá
the-king's-ship with you Sighvat spoke Why will you so
hrapa til dauðans?“ Hrafn svarar: „Því at mér þykkir betra
rush to the-death Hrafn answers Because that to-me seems better
at deyja, enn fella konungs reiði á yðr alla, er varir hafit
to die than bring (the)-king's anger on you all who aware have
orðit við mik, sem vís ván er, þegar hann spyrr, at
become of me as certain expectation is when he learns that
þér hafit mér undan skotit“. Sighvatr svarar: „Drengiliga er
you have me away shot Sighvat answers Manfully is
slíkt talat; er ok enn eftir fulltrúinn minn, ok skal nú þagat
such spoken is and yet left trusty-friend my and shall now thither
leita traustsins, sem enn hefir aldrei bilat; enn þat er hinn
seek the-support which yet has never failed but that is the
heilagi Ólafr konungr“. Lagðist hann þá til bœnar, ok hét
holy Olaf (the)-king Laid-himself he then to prayer and called
á Ólaf konung. Eftir þat gengu þeir út á konungsskipit.
on Olaf (the)-king After that went they out onto the-king's-ship
Magnús konungr hafði sofuat í lyftingunni, ok vaknaði
Magnus (the)-king had fallen-asleep in the-poop and woke
í því, er þeir Sighvatr váru komnir í fyrirrúmit. Hann
at that when they Sighvat were come into the-fore-room He
spratt upp bart, ok kallaði: „Upp allir várir menn, byrr er
sprang up quickly and called Up all our men fair-wind is

kominn, enn viss sigrinn, er vér komum til Danmerkr“.
come but certain the-victory when we come to Denmark
Bjó þá hverr sitt skip, ok sigldu þegar þeir váru búnir.
Prepared then each his ship and sailed as-soon-as they were ready
Enn er þeir komu til Danmerkr, gekk allt fólk á land
But when they came to Denmark went all folk onto land
af skipum; var þar fyrir mikill Danaherr, ok tókst hin
from ships was there present great Danish-army and began the
mesta orrosta. Magnús konungr var í framanverðri fylking,
greatest battle Magnus (the)-king was in (the)-front array
enn Hrafn Guðrúnarson gekk fram fyrir konung, ok barðist
but Hrafn Gudrun's-son went forward before (the)-king and fought
allfrœknliga; enn enginn maðr mælti orð við hann. Í þeim
very-boldly but no man spoke word with him In that
bardaga sá nökkurir menn hinn heilaga Ólaf konung með
battle saw some men the holy Olaf (the)-king with
liði Magnúsar konungs, ok fekk hann þann dag fagran sigr.
troop of-Magnus (the)-king and got he that day fair victory

VI · THE KING'S DREAM

After the battle Magnús asks Einarr why he brought an outlaw from Iceland and Hrafn why he killed Ketill, and hears both Hrafn's memorial verses on Ketill and a poem about the king. He then says that his father Óláfr appeared to him in a dream, rebuking him for hounding the kinsman of Óláfr's poet, so he forgives Hrafn and offers him Ketill's daughter Helga. Hrafn returns to Iceland, has his outlawry lifted, sails abroad again with his mother, marries Helga, and serves Magnús for the rest of the king's life.

Þeir komu aftr til skipa um kveldit, ok þökkuðu Guði
They came back to (the)-ships in the-evening and thanked God
sigr sinn. Enn er þeir váru á skip komnir, mælti
for-victory their But when they were onto ship come spoke
konungr: „Hvar er hann nú Hrafn; gangi hann nú fram, ok
(the)-king Where is he now Hrafn go he now forward and
leynist eigi lengr“. Einarr ok Sighvatr mæltu til konungs:
hide-himself not longer Einar and Sighvat spoke to (the)-king
„Gefit manninum frið, herra, svá frækn sem hann er“.
Give-you the-man peace lord so bold as he is
Konungr svarár: „Engu heit ek um þat, enn sjá vil ek
(The)-king answers Nothing promise I about that but see will I
hann“. Þá gekk Einarr hinn naumdœlski til Hrafns ok mælti:
him Then went Einar the Naumdale-man to Hrafn and spoke
„Nú skal þú ganga fyrir konung, ok ger þik við hann
Now shall you go before (the)-king and make yourself toward him
mjúkorðan, ok þó djarfmæltan; seg honum satt ok greiniliga
soft-spoken and yet bold-speaking tell him truly and clearly
þat, sem hann spyrr þik“. Hrafn gekk fyrir konung, ok
that which he asks you Hrafn went before (the)-king and
kvaddi hann. Konungr mælti: „Hví fluttir þú, Einarr, sekan
greeted him (The)-king spoke Why carried you Einar outlawed
mann af Íslandi“? Hann svarar: „Herra, því at hann var
man from Iceland He answers Lord because that he was
um þat sekr gerr, er hann hefndi föður síns, er drepinn
for that outlawed made when he avenged father his who killed
var meirr enn saklauss“. Konungr mælti: „Hví draptú Ketil,
was more than guiltless (The)-king spoke Why killed-you Ketil
Hrafn?“ Hann svarar: „Því, herra, at hann níddi mik í
Hrafn He answers Because lord that he slandered me in
kveðskap, enn síðan seldi hann mik í þrældóm; ok þá
verse but afterward sold he me into thraldom and then

er ek hafða drepit hann, kvað ek um hann erfiflokk
when I had killed him composed I about him a-memorial-flokk
lítt vandaðan“. „Lát heyra hann“, sagði konungr. „Þat skal
little crafted Let hear it said (the)-king That shall
svá sem þér vilit“, sagði Hrafn, „enn hlýða verði þér þá ok
so as you will said Hrafn but listen must you then also
öðru kvæðinu“. Konungr mælti: „Hvert er þat kvæði?“
to-(the)-other poem (The)-king spoke Which is that poem
„Þat er ort um yðr, herra“, sagði Hrafn. „Kveð þú þá“,
That is composed about you lord said Hrafn Recite you then
sagði konungr. Hann gerði svá; ok er lokit var báðum,
said (the)-king He did so and when ended was both
mælti konungr: „Misjöfn kvæði; hví kvattú um mik svá
spoke (the)-king Unequal poems why composed-you about me so
gott kvæði, enn ek vilda bana þér?“ „Því at þú vart
good poem when I would-wish kill you Because that you were
góðs kvæðis verðr“, segir Hrafn. Konungr mælti: „Hví komtú
good poem worthy says Hrafn (The)-king spoke Why came-you
til mín í skóginum?“ Hrafn svarar: „Því at ek vænti
to me in the-forest Hrafn answers Because that I expected
þaðan gæfunnar, sem nú gafst, er þér várut, enn áðr
thence the-luck which now has-been-given that you were yet before
mjök þröngt kostinum, er mér var engi dugnaðarmaðr hér
very narrow in-the-terms since to-me was no capable-man here
í ókunnu landi, enn hitti í þung tilfelli, at drepa ríkan
in unknown land but fell into heavy mischance to kill a-powerful
mann, þótt mér þœtti eigi fyrir sakleysi“. Konungr mælti:
man though to-me seemed not for guiltlessness (The)-king spoke
„Nú er ransakað allt þitt mál. Enn nú skal segja þat er
Now is searched all your case But now shall tell that which
til mín heyrir: Þá er ek var sofnaðr á skipinu, kom
to me belongs Then when I was fallen-asleep on the-ship came

at mér Ólafr konungr faðir minn, ok mælti styggt: Þar
to me Olaf (the)-king father my and spoke harshly There
liggr þú, Magnús konungr, ok gefr meira gaum at drepa
lie you Magnus (the)-king and give more heed to kill
frænda skálds míns fyrir litla sök, enn at fá fagran sigr
(the)-kinsman of-poet my for little cause than to get fair victory
á Dönum, óvinum þínum, því at byrr er á kominn.
over (the)-Danes enemies your because that fair-wind is on come
Taktú við öllum þeim vel, sem nú eru á skipinu, ella mun
Take-you with all those well who now are on the-ship else will
liggja á þér víti þessa heims, svá at þér mun eigi
lie on you (the)-punishment of-this world so that to-you will not
duga. Ok þegar ek vaknaða, sá ek þá báða í fyrirrúminu,
avail And when I woke saw I them both in the-fore-room
Sighvat ok Hrafn, enn miklu var ek hræddari orðinn við
Sighvat and Hrafn but much was I more-afraid become at
heitunar-orð föður míns, enn ek geymda þá drápsins
(the)-threatening-words of-father my than I cared then of-the-slaying
Ketils, eðr annarra saka Hrafns. Nú skal þú, Hrafn, vera
of-Ketil or other charges of-Hrafn Now shall you Hrafn be
hér með oss vel kominn; svá vill faðir minn; ok til yfirbóta
here with us well come so wishes father my and for amends
við þik er ck hefi þér ónáðir gert, skal ek gifta þér
to you since I have you troubles done shall I marry to-you
Helgu Ketilsdóttur með miklu fé“. Hrafn svarar: „Þetta vil
Helga Ketil's-daughter with great wealth Hrafn answers This will
ek með þökkum þiggja. Enn út vil ek í sumar til Íslands,
I with thanks accept But out will I in summer to Iceland
ok frelsa mik undan sekt ok sökum, enn sœkja síðan
and free myself from outlawry and charges but seek afterward
yðarn fund sem skjótast, ok fara tvívegis í sumar, ef svá
your meeting as quickest and go twice in summer if so

vill takast“. Konungr bað hann svá gera. Þá sagði Sighvatr
will succeed (The)-king bade him so do Then told Sighvat
skáld konungi’ at hann hafði heitið á Ólaf konung til
(the)-Poet (the)-king that he had called on Olaf (the)-king for
fulltings Hrafni, þá er hann hafði ekki traust af félögum
help to-Hrafn then when he had no support from companions
sínum. Konungr mælti: „Mikils virðir faðir minn vingan
his (The)-king spoke Much values father my friendship
þína, er hann veitir þér slíkt ok annat þat, er þú biðr
your when he grants you such and other that which you ask
hann, svá nú, sem þá er hann lifði hér í heimi“. Hrafn
him so now as then when he lived here in (the)-world Hrafn
fór út um sumarit, ok kom til Íslands um alþingi. Var
went out in the-summer and came to Iceland at (the)-Althing Was
þá þegar fœrð fram sýkna hans. Síðan fór hann útan ok
then at-once brought forward acquittal his Then went he abroad and
móðir hans. Gekk Hrafn at eiga Helgu Ketilsdóttur, ok gaf
mother his Went Hrafn to marry Helga Ketil's-daughter and gave
konungr þeim miklar eignir. Hrafn var jafnan síðan með
(the)-king them great estates Hrafn was always afterward with
Magnúsi konungi, meðan konungr lifði. Þótti Hrafn röskr
Magnus (the)-king while (the)-king lived Seemed Hrafn brisk
maðr í öllum raunum. Ok lýkr þar nú frá honum at segja.
man in all trials And ends there now from him to tell

Þórarins þáttr Nefjólfssonar

The Tale of Thorarin Nefjolfsson

Þórarinn Nefjólfsson, an ugly Icelandic trader with huge hands and feet, sleeps in King Óláfr the Saint's chamber. Seeing one of his feet, the king bets that no uglier foot is to be found in the town. Þórarinn shows his other foot, missing its big toe, but the king wins, since the first has five monstrous toes. As his boon, Óláfr has Þórarinn take the blinded King Hrærekr to Greenland; Þórarinn asks in turn to join the court, is made a retainer, and takes charge of Hrærekr.

Maðr er nefndr Þórarinn Nefjólfsson; hann var íslenzkr maðr
A-man is named Thorarin Nefjolf's-son he was Icelandic man
ok ættaðr fyrir norðan land; ekki var hann ættstórr
and descended to-the north of-(the)-land not was he of-great-family
maðr. Hann var allra manna vitrastr ok orðdjarfastr við
man He was of-all men wisest and boldest-spoken toward
tigna menn. Hann var farmaðr mikill, ok var löngum á
noble men He was trader great and was long in
Íslandi annan vetr, enn annan í Noregi. Þórarinn var manna
Iceland (the)-one winter but (the)-other in Norway Thorarin was of-men
ljótastr, ok var þat þó mest fyrir, hversu illa hann var
ugliest and was that yet most to-the-fore how badly he was
limaðr: hann hafði hendr miklar ok ljótar, enn fœtr hafði
limbed he had hands big and ugly but feet had
hann miklu ferligri. Þórarinn var þá staddr í Túnsbergi,
he much more-monstrous Thorarin was then present at Tunsberg
er þessi tíðindi gerðust, er nú hefir verit frá sagt um
when these tidings happened which now has been of told for
hríð. Hann var þá málkunnigr Ólafi konungi. Þórarinn
a-while He was then on-speaking-terms with-Olaf (the)-king Thorarin
bjó þá kaupskip sitt, ok ætlaði til Íslands um sumarit.
prepared then merchant-ship his and intended to Iceland in the-summer
Ólafr konungr hafði hann í boði sínu nökkura daga, ok
Olaf (the)-king had him in invitation his some days and

talaði við hann margt, Svaf Þórarinn í konungsherbergi. Þá
spoke with him much Slept Thorarin in (the)-king's-chamber Then
var þat einn morgin snemma, at konungr vakti, enn aðrir
was that one morning early that (the)-king was-awake but other
menn sváfu í herberginu. Þá var sól lítt farin, ok var
men slept in the-chamber Then was (the)-sun little gone and was
ljóst mjök inni. Konungr sá at Þórarinn svaf, ok hafði rétt
light very inside (The)-king saw that Thorarin slept and had stretched
annan fótinn undan klæðunum; konungr sá á fótinn um
(the)-one foot from-under the-clothes (the)-king looked at the-foot for
hríð; síðan vöknuðu menn í herberginu. Konungr mælti:
a-while then woke men in the-chamber (The)-king spoke
„Þórarinn", segir hann, „vakat hefi ek um hríð ok hefir ek
Thorarin says he awake have I for a-while and have I
um hug leitt þá sýn, er mér hefir fyrir augu borit, ok
about mind turned that sight which to-me has before eyes borne and
mér þykkir mikils um vert, enn þat er mannsfótr sá, er
to-me seems much about-it worth but that is a-man's-foot that which
ek hefir engan slíkan sét; ok þat hygg ek, at enginn muni
I have no such seen and that think I that none will
hér í kaupstaðnum finnast ljótari fótr". Ok bað nú aðra
here in the-market-town be-found uglier foot And bade now other
menn at hyggja, hvárt nökkut sýndist svá; enn allir sönnuðu,
men to consider whether anything seemed so but all confirmed
er sá, at svá var sem konungr sagði. Þórarinn svarar, ok sá
who saw that so was as (the)-king said Thorarin answers and saw
hvar til konungr mælti: „Fátt er svá, herra, einhverra hluta,
where to (the)-king spoke Few is so lord of-some things
at órvænt sé at finnist annat þvílíkt, ok þat er líkast,
that unlooked-for be that be-found another such and that is likeliest
at hér sé enn svá". Konnngr mælti: „Heldr vil ek hinu at
that here be still so (The)-king spoke Rather will I the-other to

fylgja, at eigi muni jafnljótr fótr finnast, ok svá þó at
follow that not will an-equally-ugly foot be-found and so though that
ek skylda veðja um“. Þá mælti Þórarinn: „Búinn em ek at
I should wager about-it Then spoke Thorarin Ready am I to
veðja um við yðr, herra, at ek skal finna í kaupstaðnum
wager about-it with you lord that I shall find in the-market-town
ljótari fót“. Konungr svarar: „Þá skal svá vera; ok skal sá
uglier foot (The)-king answers Then shall so be and shall he
okkarr kjósa bœn at öðrum, er sannara hefir“. „Svá skal
of-us-two choose a-boon from (the)-other who truer has So shall
vera“, segir Þórarinn. Hann brá þá öðrum fœtinum undan
be says Thorarin He drew then (the)-other foot from-under
klæðunum, ok var sá engum mun fegri; enn þar var
the-clothes and was that by-no difference fairer but there was
af hin mesta táin. Þá mælti Þórarinn: „Sé hér nú, herra,
off the greatest the-toe Then spoke Thorarin See here now lord
annan fót, ok er sá því ljótari, at hér er af ein táin,
(the)-other foot and is that by-that uglier that here is off one the-toe
ok á ek nú veðféit“. Konungr svarar: „Er hinn því öllu
and have I now the-stake (The)-king answers Is the-other by-that all
ljótari, at þar eru fimm tær ferligar á þeim, enn hér eru
uglier that there are five toes monstrous on it but here are
fjórar einar, ok á ek víst at kjósa bœn at þér“. „Þat er
four only and have I surely to choose a-boon from you That is
þó mælt, herra“, segir Þórarinn, „at þat sé jafnan ljótara,
yet said lord says Thorarin that that be always uglier
er eigi er með þeim hætti, sem Kristr hefir skapat fyrir
which not is in that manner as Christ has created at
öndverðu. Enn hér mun sannast hit fornkveðna, at dýrt
(the)-beginning But here will prove-true the old-saying that dear
er drottins orð; eðr hverja bœn vilit þér at mér kjósa eðr
is (the)-lord's word or what boon wish you of me choose or

þiggja“? Konungr svarar: „Þá at þú flytir Hrærek konung út
receive (The)-king answers That that you carry Hraerek (the)-king out
til Grœnlands, ok fœrir hann Leifi í Brattahlíð“. Þórarinn
to Greenland and bring him to-Leif at Brattahlid Thorarin
svarar: „Ekki hefir ek siglt til Grœnlands“. Konungr svarar:
answers Not have I sailed to Greenland (The)-king answers
„Þá er þér mál at sigla til Grœnlands, slíkr siglingamaðr
Then is to-you time to sail to Greenland such seafarer
sem þú ert, ef þú hefir þar eigi fyrr komit“. „Heyra mun
as you are if you have there not before come Hear will
ek yðr láta herra“, segir Þórarinn, „hvers ek munda yðr
I you let lord says Thorarin what I would you
biðja, ef mér bærist veðféit“. „Já“, segir konungr, „þat er
ask if to-me fell the-stake Yes says (the)-king that is
víst til“. „Ek vil biðja yðr hirðvistar“, segir Þórarinn, „ok
surely to-it I will ask you court-membership says Thorarin and
ef þér veitit mér þetta, þá verð ek miklu skyldari, at
if you grant me this then become I much more-bound to
leggjast þessa ferð eigi undir höfuð, eðr þat annat, er
lay this journey not under head or that other which
þér vilit krafit hafa“. Konungr játti honum þessu. Gerðist
you will demanded have (The)-king granted him this Became
Þórarinn þá hirðmaðr Ólafs konungs. Játti Þórarinn þá at
Thorarin then a-retainer of-Olaf (the)-king Agreed Thorarin then to
taka við Hrærek; ok bjó síðan skip sitt; ok er hann
take with Hraerek and prepared afterward ship his and when he
var albúinn, þá tók hann við Hrærek konungi.
was all-ready then took he with Hraerek (the)-king

Óláfr tells Þórarinn that if he reaches Iceland instead, Hrærekr is to be given to Guðmundr Eyjólfsson, Skafti the lawspeaker, or another chieftain, and that if he is driven to some nearer land, he must make sure Hrærekr never returns to Norway. The ship reaches Breiðafjörðr. Hrærekr lodges a winter with Þórgils Arason, a winter with Guðmundr at Möðruvellir, and three winters at the small farm of Kálfskinn, where he is happiest. He dies there, the only king buried in Iceland.

Enn áðr þeir Ólafr konungr skildu, þá mælti Þórarinn:
But before they Olaf (the)-king parted then spoke Thorarin
„Nú berr svá til, herra konungr, sem oft verðr, at vér
Now happens so to lord king as often happens that we
komum eigi fram Grœnlands-ferðum, berr oss til Íslands eðr
come not forward Greenland-journeys bears us to Iceland or
annarra landa, hversu skal ek skiljast við Hrærek konung,
other lands how shall I part with Hraerek (the)-king
svá at yðr líki“? Konungr svarar: „Kemr þú til Íslands,
so that to-you it-pleases (The)-king answers Come you to Iceland
þá skaltú selja hann í hendr Guðmundi Eyjólfssyni eðr
then shall-you hand him into hands of-Gudmund Eyjolf's-son or
Skafta lögsögumanni eðr öðrum höfðingjum þeim, er við
Skafti (the)-law-speaker or other chieftains those who with
honum vilja taka fyrir mína vináttu, ok haf þar til jartegnir
him will take for my friendship and have there to tokens
mínar, hvar sem þik kann at at bera. Enn ef þik berr at
my wherever that you may to to bear But if you bears to
öðrum löndum, þeim er hér eru nálægri, þá haga þú svá
other lands those which here are nearer then manage you so
til, at þú vitir víst, at Hrærekr komi aldri aftr í Noreg;
to-it that you know surely that Hraerek come never back to Norway
enn ger þat því at eins, at engi sé önnur föng á“.
but do that for-that at only that no be other means on-it

Enn er byri gaf, helt hann útleiði fyrir útan eyjar allar
But when fair-wind gave held he out-course beyond outside islands all
norðr til Líðandisness; síðan stefndi hann út á aðalhaf;
north to Lidandisnes then steered he out onto (the)-main-sea
honum byrjaði ekki vel. Hann varaðist þat mest, at koma
to-him blew-fair not well He guarded that most to come
hvergi við Noreg. Hann sigldi fyrir sunnan Ísland, ok hafði
nowhere at Norway He sailed before south of-Iceland and had
vita af landi; ok svá vestr um landit í Grœnlands-haf.
knowledge of land and so west around the-land into (the)-Greenland-sea
Fekk hann þá réttu stóra ok válk mikit. Enn er á
Got he then drifts great and tossing much But when on
leið haustit, tók hann Ísland í Breiðafirði. Þórgils Arason
passed the-autumn reached he Iceland in Breidafjord Thorgils Ari's-son
kom til þeira fyrstr virðinga-manna. Þórarinn sagði honum
came to them first of-men-of-rank Thorarin told him
orð ok vináttumál Ólafs konungs, ok jartegnir þær, er
words and friendship-talk of-Olaf (the)-king and tokens those which
fylgdu viðtöku Hræreks konungs. Þórgils varð við vel ok
went-with (the)-reception of-Hraerek (the)-king Thorgils became at-it well and
tók þegar við Hræreki konungi, ok var hann með Þórgilsi
took at-once with Hraerek (the)-king and was he with Thorgils
Arasyni um vetrinn á Reykjahólum. Hrærekr undi þar
Ari's-son through the-winter at Reykjaholar Hraerek liked there
eigi lengr enn þann vetr, ok beiddi hann Þórgils, at hann
not longer than that winter and asked he Thorgils that he
skyldi láta fylgja honum til Guðmundar á Möðruvöllum.
should have escort him to Gudmund at Modruvellir
Þórgils gerði svá. Gnðmundr tók við honum fyrir sakir
Thorgils did so Gudmund took with him for (the)-sake
konungs orðsendingar, ok var hann með honum annan
of-(the)-king's message and was he with him (the)-second

vetr. Þá undi hann þar eigi lengr. Fekk Guðmundr honum
winter Then liked he there not longer Got Gudmund him
þá vist á litlum bœ, er hét á Kálfskinni; ok var þar
then lodging at little farm which was-called at Kalfskinn and was there
fátt hjóna. Þar var Hrærekr þrjá vetr, ok sagði hann svá,
few of-household There was Hraerek three winters and said he so
at síðan hann lét af konungdómi, at honum hefði þar bezt
that since he let off kingship that to-him had there best
þótt á Kálfskinni, því at hann var þar af öllum mest
seemed at Kalfskinn because that he was there by all most
metinn. Þá tók Hrærekr konungr sótt, þá er hann leiddi
valued Then took Hraerek (the)-king sickness that which him led
til bana. Svá er sagt, at hann einn konunga hvili á Íslandi.
to death So is said that he alone of-kings rests in Iceland

III · EYVINDR ÚRARHORN

That summer Hjalti Skeggjason also goes to Iceland, and Eyvindr úrarhorn goes raiding in the west. In Ireland he joins King Konofögr, who defeats Earl Einarr of Orkney at Úlfreksfjörðr. Einarr escapes with a single ship, having lost nearly all his men and plunder, and he blames the Norwegians who fought with the Irish king, Eyvindr and his band.

Þórarinn Nefjólfsson hafðist síðan lengi í kaupferðum;
Thorarin Nefjolf's-son kept-himself afterward long in trading-voyages
enn stundum var hann með Ólafi konungi. Þat sumar er
but at-times was he with Olaf (the)-king That summer when
Þórarinn Nefjólfsson fór til Íslands með Hrærek konung, þá
Thorarin Nefjolf's-son went to Iceland with Hraerek (the)-king then
fór Hjalti Skeggjason ok til Íslands, ok leiddi Ólafr konungr
went Hjalti Skeggi's-son also to Iceland and led Olaf (the)-king

hann með vingjöfum í braut, er þeir skildust. Þat sumar
him with friend-gifts off away when they parted That summer
fór Eyvindr úrarhorn í vestrvíking. Hann kom um haustit
went Eyvind Aurochs-horn on west-viking He came in the-autumn
til Írlands, ok gekk til handa Konofögr Írakonungi. Þeir
to Ireland and went to hand of-Konofogr (the)-Irish-king They
hittust um haustit á Úlfreksfirði, Íra-konungr ok Einarr
met in the-autumn in Ulfreksfjord (the)-Irish-king and Einar
jarl ór Orkneyjum, ok varð þar orrusta mikil; hafði
(the)-earl from Orkney and became there battle great had
Konofögr Írakonungr lið miklu meira, ok fekk hann sigr.
Konofogr (the)-Irish-king troop much greater and got he victory
Einarr jarl flýði undan einskipa, ok kom um haustit
Einar (the)-earl fled away with-one-ship and came in the-autumn
heim í Orkneyjar, ok hafði þar látit flest allt lið sitt
home to Orkney and had there lost most all troop his
ok herfang allt, þat er þeir höfðu fengit um sumarit,
and booty all that which they had gotten during the-summer
ok undi jarl stórilla við sína ferð, ok kenndi þat mest
and liked (the)-earl very-ill with his journey and blamed that most
Norðmönnum þeim, er verit höfðu með Konofögr Íra-konungi
on-Norwegians those who been had with Konofogr (the)-Irish-king
í orrustu. Enn þat var Eyvindr úrarhorn ok hans sveitungar.
in battle But that was Eyvind Aurochs-horn and his comrades

Skjálgr Erlingsson asks Þórarinn to see that his kinsman Ásbjörn, imprisoned by King Óláfr, is not killed before Sunday, because he trusts Þórarinn's wisdom and boldness. Skjálgr then rows south through the night to his father Erlingr at Sóli, arriving at first light, and leaps at the door so hard that it breaks from its nails. He tells Erlingr how Ásbjörn killed Sel-Þórir and quarreled with the king, urging him to help his kinsman.

Þá mælti Skjálgr við Þórarin Nefjólfsson: „Ef þú vilt hafa
Then spoke Skjalg to Thorarin Nefolf's-son If you will have
mína vináttu, þá legg þú á allan hug, at Ásbjörn frændi
my friendship then lay you on all mind that Asbjorn kinsman
minn sé eigi drepinn fyrir sunnudag". „Ekki em ek þess
my be not killed before Sunday Not am I of-that
ráðandi", segir Þórarinn. „Því býð ek þér þó þetta mál",
ruling says Thorarin Therefore offer I you yet this case
segir Skjálgr, „heldr en öðrum mönnum, at mér þykkir
says Skjalg rather than other men that to-me seem
þú líkastr til, fyrir vitru sakir ok dirfðar, at koma þessu
you likeliest to-it for wisdom's sake and daring to bring this
fram". Skjálgr fór síðan í brott ok hans menn, ok tóku
forward Skjalg went afterward off away and his men and took
róðrar-skútu, er hann átti, ok róa suðr með landi, sem
rowing-boat which he owned and row south along (the)-land as
af mátti taka, ok koma í nætrelding á Jaðar; gengu síðan
from-it might take and come in night-glimmer to Jadar went then
þegar upp til bœjarina á Sóla, ok til lofts þess, er Erlingr
at-once up to the-farm at Soli and to loft that which Erling
svaf í. Skjálgr hljóp á hurðina svá hart, at þegar brotnaði
slept in Skjalg leaped at the-door so hard that at-once it-broke
af nöglunum. Erlingr vaknaði við ok þeir aðrir, er inni váru.
off the-nails Erling woke at-it and they others who inside were

Hann varð skjótastr á fœtr, og greip skjöld sinn ok sverð, ok
He was quickest on feet and grabbed shield his and sword and
hljóp til duranna, ok spyrr, hverir svá ákafliga fari um nætr.
leaped to the-doors and asks who so violently go at nights
Skjálgr segir til sín, ok bað upp láta hurðina. Erlingr svarar:
Skjalg says of himself and bade up let the-door Erling answers
„Þat er ok líkast, ef allferliga ferr; eðr fara menn eftir yðr,
That is also likeliest if all-monstrously goes or go men after you
svá at þér sé hætt“? Var þá upp látin hurðin. Þá mælti
so that to-you be danger Was then up let the-door Then spoke
Skjálgr: „Þat væntir ek, þó at þér þykki ek ákafliga fara,
Skjalg That expect I yet that to-you seem I violently to-go
at Ásbirni frænda þínum þykki þat eigi, þar er hann sitr
that to-Asbjorn kinsman your seem that not there where he sits
norðr á Ögvaldsnesi í fjötrum, ok er þat mannligra at duga
north at Ogvaldsnes in fetters and is that manlier to help
honum, enn at veita mér átölur“. Síðan eigast þeir feðgar
him than to give me rebukes Then have they father-and-son
orð við: segir Skjálgr föður sínum allan atburð um víg
words with tells Skjalg to-father his all (the)-event about (the)-slaying
Sel-Þóris, ok svá frá orðtaki þeira Ólafs konungs.
of-Sel-Thorir and also of (the)-exchange-of-words of-them Olaf (the)-king

Furious, King Óláfr orders the killer Ásbjörn put to death at once. Þórarinn objects that killing a man at night is murder, so Ásbjörn is fettered overnight. After mass the next day the king asks whether the sun is high enough to hang him; Þórarinn recalls the bishop's words of last Friday, that Christ suffered for our sakes and blessed is he who follows him rather than those who condemned him, and adds that tomorrow, a working day, is near. The king postpones the killing, making Þórarinn answer for Ásbjörn with his life.

Ólafr konungr settist, þá er braut var rutt ok um búit
Olaf (the)-king sat-himself then when away was cleared and about arranged
í annat sinn í stofunni, ok var allreiðr. Hann spyrr, hvat
in a-second time in the-hall and was very-angry He asks what
leið um vegandann; honum var sagt, at hann var úti í
passed about the-slayer to-him was said that he was out in
svölunum í gæzlu hafðr. Konungr mælti: „Hví er hann eigi
the-gallery in custody kept (The)-king spoke Why is he not
drepinn"? Þá svarar Þórarinn Nefjólfsson: „Herra", segir hann,
killed Then answers Thorarin Nefjolf's-son Lord says he
„kallit þér þat eigi morðverk, at drepa menn um nætr"?
call you that not murder-work to kill men at nights
Konungr mælti: „Þá seti hann í fjötra, ok drepi hann á
(The)-king spoke Then set him in fetters and kill him in
morgin". Síðan var Ásbjörn fjötraðr, ok byrgðr einn í húsi
(the)-morning Then was Asbjorn fettered and shut alone in a-house
um nóttina. Enn eftir um daginn hlýddi konungr tíðum.
through the-night But after in the-day heard (the)-king hours
Síðan gekk hann á stefnu, ok sat þar framan til hámessu.
Then went he to a-meeting and sat there onward to high-mass
Ok er hann gekk frá messunni, mælti hann til Þórarins:
And when he went from the-mass spoke he to Thorarin

„Mun nú vera sólin svá há, at Ásbjörn vin yðarr mun
Will now be the-sun so high that Asbjorn friend your will
hanga mega fyrir þat“? Þórarinn svarar ok laut konungi: „Þat
hang may for that Thorarin answers and bowed to-(the)-king That
sagði biskup fyrra frjádag, herra, at sá konungr, er þá var
said (the)-bishop last Friday lord that that king who then was
píndr fyrir várar sakir, at hann þoldi skapraunina; ok er sá
tortured for our sakes that he endured the-provocation and is he
sæll, er eftir honum má líkja, heldr enn hinum, er ollu
blessed who after him may liken-himself rather than the-others who caused
manndrápinu, eðr þeim, er þá dœmdu manninn til dauða.
the-manslaughter or those who then condemned the-man to death
Nú er eigi svá langt til morgins, ok er þá sýkn dagr hjá
Now is not so long to (the)-morning and is then guiltless day beside
því sem nú er“. Konungr leit við honum, ok mælti: „Ráða
that which now is (The)-king looked at him and spoke Rule
muntú þessu, Þórarinn, at hann skal eigi í dag drepa.
will-you this Thorarin that he shall not in day kill
Skaltú nú varðveita hann, ok vit þat til sanns at hér liggr
Shall-you now keep him and know that for truth that here lies
við líf þitt, ef hann kemst á brott með nökkuru móti“.
on-it life your if he gets off away by any means

Þórarinn removes Ásbjörn's fetters and keeps him company. On Saturday the king sits long at assemblies, and Þórarinn bribes the priest to ring in the holy day the moment the royal table is cleared. When the king orders the execution, the bell is ringing, and Þórarinn claims the holy day's truce for Ásbjörn. On Sunday the bishop hears his confession, and Þórarinn gives up his charge; fettered again under the king's guard, Ásbjörn stands outside the church at high mass.

Þá gekk Þórarinn leið sína, þar til er hann fann Ásbjörn
Then went Thorarin way his there until when he found Asbjorn
í járnum. Lét Þórarinn þá af honum fjötrin, ok fylgdi
in irons Had Thorarin then off him the-fetter and escorted
honum í eina litla stofu, ok lét fá honum þar mat ok
him into one little room and had given him there food and
drykk, ok segir honum, hvat konungr hafði á lagt við
drink and tells him what (the)-king had on laid against
hann, ef hann kemst í brott. Ásbjörn svarar, bað Þórarinn
him if he gets off away Asbjorn answers bade Thorarin
þat ekki óttast, ok lézt ekki til brauthlaups ætla mundu.
that not fear and professed not to running-away intend would
Sat Þórarinn þar lengi um daginn hjá honum, ok svá svaf
Sat Thorarin there long through the-day by him and also slept
hann þar um nóttina eftir. Laugardaginn stóð konungr
he there through the-night after On-Saturday stood (the)-king
upp ok hlýddi morgintíðum; síðan gekk hann á stefnur, ok
up and heard matins then went he to meetings and
var þar fjölmennt komit af bóndum, ok áttu margt at kæra;
was there thronged come of farmers and had much to complain
sat konungr þar lengi dags yfir málum, ok var síð gengit
sat (the)-king there long of-day over cases and was late gone
til hámessu. Eftir þat gekk konungr til borðs, ok er hann
to high-mass After that went (the)-king to table and when he

hafði matast, drakk hann um hríð, svá at borðin váru uppi.
had eaten drank he for a-while so that the-tables were up
Þórarinn gekk þá til presta þess, er þar var heima-prestr
Thorarin went then to (the)-priest that who there was house-priest
ok kirkju varðveitti, ok gaf honum tvá aura silfrs til þess,
and church kept and gave him two ounces of-silver for that
at hann hringdi til helgar jafnskjótt sem konungs-borð
that he rang for (the)-holy-day as-soon as (the)-king's-table
væri ofan. Enn er konungr hafði drukkit um hríð, þá
were down But when (the)-king had drunk for a-while then
váru borðin upp tekin. Þá mælti konungr, sagði at þá
were the-tables up taken Then spoke (the)-king said that then
væri ráð, at þrælar færi með vegandann ok dræpi hann.
were advisable that thralls went with the-slayer and killed him
Í því bili var hringt til helgar. Þá gekk Þórarinn
At that moment was rung for (the)-holy-day Then went Thorarin
fyrir konung ok mælti: „Grið mun sjá maðr hafa skulu um
before (the)-king and spoke Truce will this man have must over
helgina, herra, þótt hann hafi illa til gert". Konungr svarar:
the-holy-day lord though he have ill to done (The)-king answers
„Gæt þú hans þá, Þórarinn, svá at hann komist eigi á
Guard you him then Thorarin so that he get not off
braut, ok ertú jafnan hvatabuss mikill". Þá gekk konungr
away and are-you always busybody great Then went (the)-king
til nónu; enn Þórarinn sat enn um daginn hjá Ásbirni.
to nones but Thorarin sat still through the-day by Asbjorn
Sunnudags-morguninn gekk Sigurðr biskup til Ásbjarnar,
Sunday-morning went Sigurd (the)-bishop to Asbjorn
ok skriftaði honum, ok lofaði honum um daginn at hlíða
and shrove him and allowed him in the-day to hear
hámessu. Þórarinn gekk þá til konungs, ok bað at hann
high-mass Thorarin went then to (the)-king and asked that he

skyldi fá mann til at varðveita vegandann: „Vil ek nú skiljast
should get a-man to to guard the-slayer Will I now part
við“, sagði hann, „ok vera ór allri ábyrgð um hans
with said he and be out-of all responsibility about his
mál“. Konungr bað hann hafa þökk fyrir þat. Fekk konungr
case (The)-king bade him have thanks for that Got (the)-king
þá mann til at gæta hans. Var hann enn settr í fjötur.
then a-man to to guard him Was he again set in fetter
Enn er til hámessu var gengit, þá var Ásbjörn leiddr til
But when to high-mass was gone then was Asbjorn led to
kirkju, ok stóð hann úti fyrir kirkju, ok þeim er hann
church and stood he outside before (the)-church and those who him
varðveittu. Konungr ok alþýða stóðu at hámessu. — — —
guarded (The)-king and common-folk stood at high-mass

VII · ÞÓRARINN AT THE ALÞINGI

King Óláfr sends Þórarinn to Iceland, where he arrives at the Alþingi and delivers the king's greeting, offering friendship if the Icelanders become his subjects. He then asks on the king's behalf for the island of Grímsey as a gift from the Northerners. Guðmundr ríki, to whom the king had sent word, favors friendship with Óláfr but says the island is common property and must be discussed.

Ólafr konungr sendi þat sumar Þórarin Nefjólfsson til
Olaf (the)-king sent that summer Thorarin Nefolf's-son to
Íslands með erindum sínum, ok helt hann skipi sínu út
Iceland with errands his and held he ship his out
ór Þrándheimi, er Ólafr konungr fór suðr á Mœri.
out-of Trondheim when Olaf (the)-king went south to More
Sigldi Þórarinn þá á haf út, ok fekk svá mikit hraðbyri,
Sailed Thorarin then onto sea out and got so great swift-wind

at hann sigldi á átta dœgrum til þess er hann tók
that he sailed in eight half-days until that when he reached
Eyrar á Íslandi. Ok fór þegar til alþingis, ok kom þar
Eyrar in Iceland And went at-once to (the)-Althing and came there
at Lögbergi, ok gekk þegar til Lögbergs. Enn er menn
to Law-Rock and went at-once to Law-Rock But when men
höfðu mælt lögskilum, þá tók Þórarinn til máls: „Ek
had spoken law-business then took Thorarin to speech I
skildumst fyrir fjórum nóttum við Ólaf konung Haraldsson;
parted before four nights with Olaf (the)-king Harald's-son
sendi hann kveðju hingat til lands öllum höfðingjum ok
sent he greeting hither to (the)-land to-all chieftains and
landsstjórnar-mönnum, ok þar með allri alþýðu. karla ok
land-governing-men and there with all common-folk of-men and
kvenna, ungum ok gömlum, sælum ok veslum, guðs ok
women young and old fortunate and wretched God's and
sína, ok hann vill vera yðarr drottinn, ef þér vilit vera hans
his and he will be your lord if you will be his
þegnar, enn hvárir annarra vinir til allra góðra hluta". Menn
subjects but each of-other friends to all good things Men
svöruðu vel máli hans, ok sögðust vilja vera vinir hans,
answered well speech his and said-of-themselves to-wish to-be friends his
ef hann væri þeira vinr. Þá tók Þórarinn til máls: „Þat
if he were their friend Then took Thorarin to speech That
fylgir kveðju-sending konungs, at hann vill beiðast í vingjöf
follows (the)-greeting-sending of-(the)-king that he will ask in friend-gift
af Norðlendingum, at þeir gefi honum útsker, er
from Northerners that they give him an-outlying-skerry which
liggr fyrir Eyjafirði, ok menn kalla Grímsey. Vill hann þar
lies off Eyjafjord and men call Grimsey Will he there
í móti varðveita yðr þau gœði af sínu landi, er menn
in return keep for-you those goods from his land which men

kunnu honum orð til at senda. Enn hann sendi til þess orð
can to-him word to to send But he sent for that word
Guðmundi ríka at flytja þetta mál, því at konungr
to-Gudmund the-Powerful to carry this case because that (the)-king
hefir þat spurt, at Guðmundr ræðr mestu fyrir norðan
has that learned that Gudmund rules most to-the north
land. Guðmundr svarar: „Fúss er ek til vináttu við Ólaf
of-(the)-land Gudmund answers Eager am I for friendship with Olaf
konung, ok ætla ek mér þat miklu meirr til gagns enn
(the)-king and think I for-me that much more for profit than
útsker þat, er hann beiðist til. Enn þó hefir konungr
outlying-skerry that which he asks for But yet has (the)-king
þat eigi rétt spurt, at ek eiga meiri ráð á eyjunni enn
that not rightly learned that I have more rule over the-island than
aðrir, því at þat er nú at almenningi gert. Nú munu vér
others because that it is now into commons made Now will we
eiga fund ok stefnu vár í milli, ok þeir menn, er mest
have meeting and appointment our in between and those men who most
hafa gagn af eynni“. Ganga menn síðan heim til búða.
have profit from the-island Go men then home to booths

VIII · EINARR'S SPEECH

At the Northerners' meeting, Guðmundr's brother Einarr Eyjólfsson argues that submitting to the king would bind the Icelanders and their descendants to taxes forever, and that however good this king is, later kings will differ. Gifts may be sent, but Grímsey could feed an army and become a base for foreign warships. The people unanimously refuse the request, and Þórarinn sees his errand has failed.

Eftir þat áttu Norðlendingar stefnulag sín í milli, ok
After that had Northerners meeting their in between and
tala þetta með sér; lagði þá hverr til, er sýndist; var
talk this among themselves laid then each to-it as seemed was
Guðmundr mjök flytjandi þessa máls, ok snöru þar margir
Gudmund much forwarding this case and turned there many
eftir. Þá spyrja menn, hví Einarr legði ekki til, bróðir
after-him Then ask men why Einar laid not to brother
hans. „Þykkir oss“, segja þeir, „hann kunna glöggst at sjá“.
his Seems to-us say they him can clearest to see
Þá svarar Einarr: „Því em ek fárœðinn um þetta mál, at
Then answers Einar For-that am I few-worded about this case that
enginn maðr hefir mik at kvaddan. Enn ef ek skal segja
no man has me to summoned But if I shall tell
mína ætlan, þá gangit til ok hyggit at, landsmenn, at
my thought then go-you to-it and consider that land-men to
ganga undir skattgjafar Ólafs konungs ok allar álögur, slíkar
go under tax-payments of-Olaf (the)-king and all impositions such
sem menn hafa í Noregi, ok muuu menn þat ófrelsi eigi
as men have in Norway and will men that unfreedom not
at eins gera oss til handa, heldr ok sonum várum ok þeira
at only make for-us to hand rather also for-sons our and their
sonum, ok allri ætt várri síðan, ok öllum þeim, er þetta
sons and all family our afterward and to-all those who this
land byggja, ok mun sú ánauð aldri hverfa af landi þessu
land inhabit and will that bondage never turn from land this
síðan. Enn þótt konungr þessi sé góðr maðr, sem ek trúi
afterward But though king this be good man as I believe
vel, at svá sé, því at þeir segja bezt frá honum, sem
well that so be because that they speak best of him to-whom
hann er kunnastr, þá mun hann þó eigi verða ellri enn
he is best-known then will he yet not become older than

gamall; þá mun þat fara héðan af sem hér til, þá er
old then will that go hence from as here until then when
konunga-skifti verðr, at þeir eru sumir góðir, enn sumir illir.
kings'-change happens that they are some good but some ill
Nú ef landsmenn vilja halda frelsi sínu, því er haft hafa,
Now if land-men will hold freedom their that which had have
síðan land þetta byggðist, þá mun sá til vera, at ljá engis
since land this was-settled then will that to-it be to lend no
fangstaðar á sér, hvárki um landa-eignir hér á Íslandi,
foothold on themselves neither about land-possessions here in Iceland
né um þat, at gjalda héðan ákveðnar skuldir, þær er til
nor about that to pay hence fixed dues those which to
lýðskyldu megi metast. Enn hitt kalla ek vel fallit, at
subjects'-duty may be-reckoned But that-other call I well suited that
menn sendi konungi vingjafar þær, er þeir vilja gert hafa,
men send (the)-king friend-gifts those which they wish done to-have
hauka eðr hesta, tjöld eðr segl, eðr aðra þá hluti, er
hawks or horses tents or sails or other those things which
sendingar eru í. Enn um Grímsey er þat at tala, ef þaðan
sendings are in But about Grimsey is that to say if thence
er enginn hlutr fluttr til matfanga, sá er þar er, þá má
is no thing carried to food-supplies that which there is then may
þar vel fœða her manus, ok slíkt nökkut get ek konung
there well feed an-army of-men and such something guess I (the)-king
hugsa hér. Nú ef þar er útlendr herr, ok fari þeir þaðan
to-think here Now if there is a-foreign army and go they thence
með langskipum, þá ætla ek mörgum kotkörlunum munu
with longships then think I to-many the-cottagers will
þykkja œrit þykkt fyrir durunum, þar sem þeir róa at húsi".
seem ample thick before the-doors there where they row to house
Ok þegar Einarr hafði þetta mælt ok innt allan þenna
And as-soon-as Einar had this spoken and set-forth all this

útveg, þá var öll alþýða með einu samþykki snúin, at
way-out then was all common-folk with one agreement turned that
þetta skyldi aldri fást. Sá Þórarinn erindis-lok sín hér um.
this should never be-got Saw Thorarin errand's-end his here about

IX · THE KING'S INVITATION

Þórarinn then invites Guðmundr, Snorri goði, Þórkell Eyjólfsson, Skafti the lawspeaker, and Þórsteinn Hallsson to visit the king. Snorri and Skafti advise against all the leaders leaving at once, since the message seems to bear out Einarr's warning that the king intends to oppress the Icelanders; Guðmundr and Þórkell urge the journey. They agree that each will send a representative instead. Þórarinn returns to Norway and tells the king that the chieftains or their representatives will come.

Þórarinn Nefjólfsson gekk til Lögbergis annan dag, ok
Thorarin Nefjolf's-son went to Law-Rock (the)-second day and
mælti enn konungs erindi, ok hóf svá mál sitt: „Ólafr
spoke still (the)-king's errand and began so speech his Olaf
konungr sendi orð vinum sínum higat til lands; nefndi
(the)-king sent word to-friends his hither to (the)-land named
hann til þess Guðmund Eyjólfsson, Snorra goða, Þórkel
he for that Gudmund Eyjolf's-son Snorri (the)-Priest Thorkel
Eyjólfsson, Skafta lögsögumann, Þórstein Hallsson. Hann
Eyjolf's-son Skafti (the)-law-speaker Thorstein Hall's-son He
sendi yðr til þess orð, at þér skyldit fara á hans fund,
sent you for that word that you should go to his meeting
ok sækja þangat vináttuboð; mælti hann, at þér skyldit
and seek thither friendship-offer spoke he that you should
eigi þessa ferð undir höfuð leggjast, ef yðr þœtti nökkut
not this journey under head lay if to-you seemed anything

undir hans vináttu“. Þeir svöruðu svá þessu erindi, at þeir
under his friendship They answered so this errand that they
þökkuðu konungi; enn sögðust þá mundu segja Þórarni
thanked (the)-king but said-of-themselves then would tell Thorarin
um ferðir sínar, er þeir hefði ráðit fyrir vinum sínum,
about journeys their when they had counseled before friends their
hverju hér skal um svara. Enn þeir höfðingjarnir tóku tal
what here shall about answer But they the-chieftains took talk
sín í milli, þá sagði hverr sem sýndist um ferðir sínar.
themselves in between then said each as seemed about journeys their
Snorri goði ok Skafti löttu þess, at leggja á hættu
Snorri (the)-Priest and Skafti dissuaded of-that to lay into risk
við Norðmenn, at allir senn fœri af landi til Noregs,
with Norwegians that all at-once went from (the)-land to Norway
þeir er mest réðu fyrir landi, — sögðu þeir, at þessarri
they who most ruled over (the)-land said they that by-this
orðsendingu þœtti þeim heldr grunir á dregnir um þat, er
message seemed to-them rather suspicions on drawn about that which
Einarr hafði um getit, at konungr mundi ætla til pyndinga
Einar had about mentioned that (the)-king would intend to oppressions
nökkurra við Íslendinga, ef hann mætti ráða. Guðmundr
some toward Icelanders if he might rule Gudmund
ok Þórkell Eyjólfsson fýstu mjök at skipast við orðsending
and Thorkel Eyjolf's-son urged much to comply with (the)-message
konungs, ok töldu þat sœmdarför mikla verða mundu; enn
of-(the)-king and counted that honor-journey great become would but
er þeir knýðu þetta með sér, hvern upp skyldi taka, þá
when they pressed this among themselves who up should take then
staðfestist þat með þeim, at þeir sjálfir mundu eigi fara,
was-confirmed that among them that they themselves would not go
enn hverr þeira skyldi gera mann af sinni hendi, þann er
but each of-them should make a-man from his hand that-one whom

þeim þótti bezt til fallinn, ok skildust á því þingi við svá
to-them seemed best to suited and parted at that assembly with so
búit, ok urðu engar útanferðir á því sumri. Enn Þórarinn
done and became no journeys-abroad in that summer But Thorarin
fór tvívegis á því sumri, ok kom um haustit á fund
went twice in that summer and came in the-autumn to meeting
Ólafs konungs, ok segir honum sitt erindi, slíkt er orðit
of-Olaf (the)-king and tells him his errand such as become
var, ok svá þat, at höfðingjar mundu koma af Íslandi,
was and also that that chieftains would come from Iceland
svá sem hann hafði orð til sent, eðr varnaðarmenn þeira.
so as he had word to sent or representatives their

X · ICELANDERS AT COURT

The following summer Steinn Skaftason, Þóroddr Snorrason, Gellir Þórkelsson, and Egill Síðu-Hallsson come to King Óláfr at his request, Guðmundr Eyjólfsson having died that winter. The king receives them well and they stay with him through the next winter.

Þetta sumar komu af Íslandi at orðsendingu Ólafs konungs,
That summer came from Iceland at (the)-message of-Olaf (the)-king
Steinn Skaftason lögsögumanns, Þóroddr son Snorra goða,
Stein Skafti's-son of-(the)-law-speaker 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-Sida-Hall brother
Þórsteins. Guðmundr Eyjólfsson hafði andast áðr um vetrinn.
of-Thorstein Gudmund Eyjolf's-son had died before during the-winter
Þeir hinir íslenzku menn fóru, þegar þeir máttu við komast,
They the Icelandic men went as-soon-as they could at-it get

á fund Ólafs konungs. Enn er þeir hittu konung, fengu þeir
to meeting of-Olaf (the)-king But when they met (the)-king got they
þar góðar viðtökur, ok váru allir með honum vetrinn eftir.
there good receptions and were all with him (the)-winter after

XI · ÞÓRARINN'S HOSPITALITY

Þórarinn, who wintered with Knútr the Great, became a friend of Þórsteinn Ragnhildarson, and they agreed to lodge together if they ever lived in the same land. When Þórsteinn comes to Iceland, Guðmundr and Einarr invite him, but he waits for Þórarinn, a poor man on Tjörnes. Þórarinn takes in his crew of eighteen, slaughtering all his livestock so that they lack nothing that winter.

Þórarinn Nefjólfsson hafði verit með Knúti konungi hinum
Thorarin Nefjolf's-son had been with Knut (the)-king the
ríka um vetr ok sá maðr, er Þórsteinn hét, ok var
Mighty through a-winter and that man who Thorstein was-called and was
Ragnhildarson. Þeir gerðust vinir ok mæltu til vináttu, ok
Ragnhild's-son They became friends and spoke to friendship and
sögðu svá, ef þeir væri samlendir, at þeir skyldi einn stað
said so if they were of-one-land that they should one place
byggja. Nökkuru síðar kom Þórsteinn skipi sínu í Eyjafjörð,
inhabit Somewhat later brought Thorstein ship his into Eyjafjord
ok bauð Guðmundr hinn ríki honum til Möðruvalla.
and invited Gudmund the Powerful him to Modruvellir
Þórsteinn segir, hvat þeir Þórarinn höfðu við mælst.
Thorstein says what they Thorarin had between-them spoken
Þá bauð Einarr bróðir Guðmundar honum til Þverár með
Then invited Einar brother of-Gudmund him to Thvera with
hinn fjórða mann. Hann svarar hinu sama. Margir mæltu, at
the fourth man He answers the same Many said that

hann fœri í geitarhús ullar at biðja um vistar-tekjuna, því
he went to goat-house for-wool to ask about the-lodging-taking because
at Þórarinn var sjaldan árbýll, ok bjó við útsker norðr
that Thorarin was seldom prosperous and dwelt by an-outlying-skerry north
á Tjörnesi. Enn þegar Þórarinn spurði útkvámu Þórsteins,
on Tjornes But when Thorarin learned arrival of-Thorstein
þá rak hann fjölda hesta til Eyjafjarðar. Þórarinn var
then drove he multitude of-horses to Eyjafjord Thorarin was
allvinsæll. Hann bauð Þórsteini til sín með alla skipshöfn
very-well-liked He invited Thorstein to himself with all ship's-crew
sína; þeir váru átján menn saman. Fór Þórsteinn heim með
his they were eighteen men together Went Thorstein home with
Þórarni. Þá lét Þórarinn höggva upp alt kvikt fé sitt, ok
Thorarin Then had Thorarin slaughter up all living livestock his and
skorti vætta um vetrinn með forsjá konu Þórarins.
lacked nothing through the-winter with (the)-management of-(the)-wife of-Thorarin

XII · ÞÓRSTEINN AT COURT

In spring Þórsteinn replaces Þórarinn's livestock and gives him half his ship, and they sail to Norway, where King Óláfr takes them both into his court. Two courtiers, Helgi and Þórir, have to move down for them and resent it. A man named Bjarni, come from a shipwreck off Hálogaland, claims to be Þórarinn's nephew, and the king lets him join the court on Þórarinn's responsibility. Bjarni sits near Helgi, and Þórarinn warns him to stir up no gossip at court.

Um várit spurði Þórsteinn verkstjóra Þórarins, hvat kostat
In the-spring asked Thorstein (the)-foreman of-Thorarin what cost
hafði Þórarinn, er hann hafði haldit menn svá marga, er
had Thorarin when he had kept men so many as
þar hafði verit um vetrinn. Hann kveðst ætla, at miklu
there had been through the-winter He says-of-himself think that much

hefði kostat, ok lofaði risnu Þórarins. Þórsteinn keypti
had cost and praised (the)-hospitality of-Thorarin Thorstein bought
síðan jafnmikit kvikfé, sem drepit hafði verit, ok gaf
afterward as-much livestock as slaughtered had been and gave
Þórarni; húsfreyju gaf hann húsbúninginn; skipit hálft
to-Thorarin to-(the)-housewife gave he the-household-furnishings the-ship half
gaf hann Þórarni, ok bað hann at fara með sér. Þórarinn
gave he to-Thorarin and bade him to go with himself Thorarin
þakkaði honum gjafirnar. Þeir fóru útan um sumarit. Ólafr
thanked him for-the-gifts They went abroad in the-summer Olaf
konungr bauð Þórarni til vistar með sér, þegar þeir hittust.
(the)-king invited Thorarin to lodging with himself as-soon-as they met
Þórarinn kveðst þat þiggja mundu, ok beiddi Þórstein til
Thorarin says-of-himself that accept would and asked Thorstein to
vistar með sér. Konungr kvað þá Knút hinn ríka
lodging with himself (The)-king said them Knut(-and-himself) the Mighty
eigi hafa senzt menn á meðan, enn kvað Þórstein
not have sent-each-other men on meanwhile but said Thorstein
sagðan góðan dreng. „Ok mun þat vel ráðit“, segir konungr,
reported good fellow And will that well counseled says (the)-king
„ef Þórsteinn þjónar oss svá sem Knúti konungi“, ok bað
if Thorstein serves us so as Knut (the)-king and bade
Þórarin ráða. Enn er Þórarinn segir hirðvistar boð við þá
Thorarin decide But when Thorarin tells court-lodging offer to them
báða, svarar Þórsteinn: „Þér mun boðin hafa verit; enn þú
both answers Thorstein To-you will offered have been but you
munt beðit hafa til handa mér; oss er betra at hafa boðna
will asked have for hand me to-us is better to have offered
vist með Ólafi konungi, enn beiðast með öðrum konungum“.
lodging with Olaf (the)-king than ask with other kings
Síðan vísaði konungr þeim til sætis. Helgi ok Þórir hétu
Then directed (the)-king them to seat Helgi and Thorir were-called

þeir menn, er næstir sátu út frá þeim Þórarni, ok urðu þeir
those men who nearest sat out from them Thorarin and had they
at þoka undan, ok þótti þeim sér óvirðing ger í þessu.
to shift away and seemed to-them to-themselves dishonor done in this
Hinn fyrsta aftan var Þórarinn út kallaðr. Bjarni nefndist
The first evening was Thorarin out called Bjarni named-himself
sá maðr, er kallaði hann út, ok kveðst vera systurson
that man who called him out and says-of-himself to-be sister's-son
Þórarins, ok kominn af skipbroti norðr við Hálogaland, ok
of-Thorarin and come from shipwreck north by Halogaland and
bað Þórarin ásjár. Þórarinn bauð at taka hann í vist
asked Thorarin protection Thorarin offered to take him into lodging
at bónda nökkurs; vera þótti Bjarna frændsemi til, þó at
with farmer some to-be seemed to-Bjarni kinship to-it though that
þeir væri báðir á einni vist. Þórarinn kveðst eigi deili
they were both in one lodging Thorarin says-of-himself not account
á honum vita, hvárt hann væri hans frændi eðr eigi. Bjarni
of him to-know whether he were his kinsman or not Bjarni
gekk þegar á hœla honum ok fyrir konung; Þórarinn sagði
went at-once on heels to-him and before (the)-king Thorarin told
konunginum um þenna mann. Konungr kvað hann hans
the-king about this man (The)-king said him his
frænda vera mundu. „Enn ábyrgstú at óþrjózkr sé“, (segir
kinsman to-be would But answer-you that not-stubborn be-be says
konungr) „ok ráð sjálfr hirðvist hans“. Konungr bað hann
(the)-king and decide yourself court-lodging his (The)-king bade him
sitja á annan bekk, ok var honum vel skipat. Bjarni settist
sit on (the)-other bench and was to-him well placed Bjarni sat
niðr útar frá Þórsteini nær á herðar Helga. Þórarinn
down further-out from Thorstein near on (the)-shoulders of-Helgi Thorarin

kvað honum mundu vanda verða hirðvistina við þrjózku hans,
said to-him would difficult become the-court-lodging with stubbornness his
ok bað hann eigi neina kvittu kveikja í hirð konungs.
and bade him not any gossip kindle in (the)-court of-(the)-king

XIII · THE RING AND THE ORDEAL

Bjarni overhears Helgi and Þórir plotting to accuse Þórarinn and Þórsteinn of treason, citing a ring from Knútr that Þórarinn wears on his left hand. The king finds the ring, believes them, and imprisons the three. The bishop asks for an ordeal; Bjarni carries the iron, and the king judges him burned. Þórsteinn, seeing Bjarni's hand, says that telling his story first would delay their hanging too long, and the king answers that this shall be the delay.

Þórsteinn var fámáligr ok fylgisamr konungi, ok svá Bjarni.
Thorstein was taciturn and devoted to-(the)-king and also Bjarni
Ok er á leið vetrinn, hafði Bjarni sofnat eitt kveld, svá
And when on passed the-winter had Bjarni fallen-asleep one evening so
at allir menn váru brott ór höllinni þá er hann vaknaði,
that all men were away out-of the-hall then when he woke
ok til aftansöngs farit, er hann sprettr upp, ok gekk út eftir
and to vespers gone when he springs up and walked out along
strætinu, ok var myrkt orðit, ok sá þá Helga ok Þóri í
the-street and was dark become and saw then Helgi and Thorir in
skemmu einni með sveit sína, ok var þar ljós. Helgi kveðst
bower one with band their and was there light Helgi says-of-himself
þeim ill tíðindi kunna at segja, at konungr þeira var svikinn,
to-them ill tidings can to tell that king their was betrayed
ok Knútr konungr hefði ráðit svik við hann; ok sendi
and Knut (the)-king had plotted treachery against him and sent
hann því Þórstein til Íslands, at gefa Þórarni stórgjafir, at
he therefore Thorstein to Iceland to give Thorarin great-gifts that

hann skyldi véla konunginn; enn Þórsteinn skyldi vinna á
he should beguile the-king but Thorstein should work on
honum; ok Þórarinn hefði þegit gullhring at Knúti til þess.
him and Thorarin had accepted a-gold-ring from Knut for that
„Ok þann hefir hann á vinstri hendi“, (segir hann,) „ok berr
And that has he on left hand says he and wears
leyniliga; enn þann berr hann opinberliga á hœgri hendi, er
secretly but that wears he openly on right hand which
Ólafr konungr hefir gefit honum, vá at allir sjá“. Bjarni gekk
Olaf (the)-king has given him so that all see Bjarni went
til aftansöngs, ok gat hann ekki um þetta. Þeir Helgi
to vespers and mentioned he not about this They Helgi
tóku ekki til matar um kveldit. Konungrinn spurði, hvárt þeir
took not to food in the-evening The-king asked whether they
væri sjúkir. Helgi kvað þeim verra enn sótt, ok kveðst
were sick Helgi said to-them worse than sickness and says-of-himself
eigi segja mundu fyrr eun annan dag á málstefnu; ok
not tell would before than (the)-second day at meeting and
þá sögðu þeir þetta allt konungi. Hann kveðst eigi trúa
then told they this all to-(the)-king He says-of-himself not believe
mundu, fyrr enn hann reyndi um hringinn Knúts-naut. Ólafr
would before than he tested about the-ring Knut's-gift Olaf
konungr gekk til handlauga, ok tók um ermi Þórarni, ok
(the)-king went to hand-washing and took about (the)-sleeve of-Thorarin and
þá fann hann gullhringinn undir skyrtuermi hans, sem Helgi
then found he the-gold-ring under shirt-sleeve his as Helgi
hafði sagt, ok trúði hann þá svikum við sik, ok spurði
had said and believed he then treachery against himself and asked
þá með reiði, hvaðan sá hringr væri at kominn. Þórarinn
then with anger whence that ring were to come Thorarin
sagði, at Knútr hefði átt ok gefit honum, sem var. „Hví
said that Knut had owned and given him as was Why

berr þú hann svá leyniliga“, sagði konungr, „eðr á annan veg
wear you it so secretly said (the)-king or in another way
en þann, sem ek gaf þér“? Þórarinn svarar: „Því berr ek
than that which I gave you Thorarin answers For-that wear I
hann leyniliga, herra, ok á vinstri hendi, at gjafa-munrinn
it secretly lord and on left hand that (the)-gift-difference
er fjarri; enn þann gullhring berr ek á hœgri hendi, er
is far but that gold-ring wear I on right hand which
mér gaf hinn merkiligasti konungr, sá (er) vér þjónum
me gave the most-notable king he whom we serve
nú“. Ekki vildi konnngr á hlýða nú, hvat Þórarinn sagði,
now Not would (the)-king on-it listen now what Thorarin said
ok lét taka þá alla: Þórarin ok Þórstein ok Bjarna, ok
and had seize them all Thorarin and Thorstein and Bjarni and
setja í myrkvastofu, ok kallaði þá drottinssvika. Mörgum
set into dark-room and called them lord-traitors To-many
mönnum þótti þetta ill tíðindi. Biskup fór at skrifta þeim,
men seemed this ill tidings (The)-bishop went to shrive them
ok sagði konungi, at engi váru svik af þeira hendi,
and told (the)-king that no were treacheries from their hand
ok beiddi konung, at skírsla væri ger um þetta mál, ok
and asked (the)-king that ordeal were made about this case and
bæri guð vitni um þetta, hverr er satt segði. Þat fekkst,
bore God witness about this who that truth said That was-got
at biskup gerði skírslu. Bjarni bar járn hraustliga ok
that (the)-bishop made ordeal Bjarni bore (the)-iron bravely and
karlmannliga; bóla var á hendi Bjarna, þá er skirla
manfully a-blister was on (the)-hand of-Bjarni then when (the)-ordeal
var sén; kallaði konungr hann brunninn, enn biskup veitti
was seen called (the)-king him burned but (the)-bishop gave
engin atkvæði. Konungr bað Þórarinn sjá; enn hann svarar:
no verdict (The)-king bade Thorarin see but he answers

„Þó at þér kallit Bjarna eigi skíran, þá gjöldum vér aldri
Though that you call Bjarni not cleared then pay we never
þess, er þér berit á oss hér um“. Konungr bað Þórstein
of-that which you bear on us here about (The)-king bade Thorstein
sjá. Þórsteinn mælti í því er hann sá höndina: „Þar er ok
see Thorstein spoke at that when he saw the-hand There is also
svána“. Konungr inti til: „Hví kvattú svá at“? Þórsteinn
so (The)-king asked about-it Why said-you so that Thorstein
kvað þeim mundu oflengi frestast uppfesting þeira, ef hann
said to-them would too-long be-delayed hanging their if he
segði áðr söguna. Konungr kvað þessa vera skyldu dvölina.
told before the-story (The)-king said this to-be should the-delay

XIV · ÞÓRSTEINN'S HAND

Þórsteinn tells how, converting his heathen mother in Sweden, he carried unhallowed iron, and a man in a dream told him the hand would heal fairer than whole, bidding him wear a glove and show it only when his life depended on it. He bares a gold-like mark on his palm. The king relents, Bjarni reveals the plot, and Helgi and Þórir confess; left to judge them, Þórarinn spares their lives but exiles and fines them. He serves Óláfr until he falls with him.

Þórsteinn hóf svá þetta mál: „Rigarðr hét faðir minn,
Thorstein began so this speech Rigard was-called father my
enn Ragnhildr móðir; þau váru göfug at kyni. Faðir minn
but Ragnhild mother they were noble in kin Father my
andaðist, þá er ek var barn; móðir mín giftist þeim manni,
died then when I was a-child mother my married that man
er hét Þrándr. Björn ok Þrándr hétu synir þeira, ok
who was-called Thrand Bjorn and Thrand were-called sons their and
var lítit miseldi á millum okkar brœðra. Björn andaðist
was little age-difference in between us brothers Bjorn died

brátt, ok fór Ragnhildr heim til Svíþjóðar; enn Þrándr réð
soon and went Ragnhild home to Sweden but Thrand ruled
fyrir föðurleifð sinni. Ek var í förum, ok fór ek í
over father's-inheritance his I was in journeys and went I into
Austrveg ok allt til Jórsala, ok tók ek þar skírn, ok kom
(the)-East-way and all to Jerusalem and took I there baptism and came
ek norðr hingat til Svíþjóðar. Þá vilda ek kenna móður
I north hither to Sweden Then would-wish I teach mother
minni rétta trú, ok hon vildi þat eigi, ok þóttist týnt
my right faith and she would that not and thought-herself lost
hafa syni sínum, er ek hafða trú tekit. Þau urðu málalok,
to-have son her since I had faith taken They became case-ends
at vit sættumst at því, at þat skyldi eftir öðru líkja
that we-two were-reconciled on that that that should after (the)-other liken
eða víkja, er goðin ætti rammari. Síðan voru goð hennar
or yield who the-gods had stronger Then were gods her
sett í hverfing úti ok vel búin, ok kastat járni glóanda
set in a-ring outside and well arrayed and thrown iron glowing
á kné því, er máttkast var, ok tók þegar at loga
onto (the)-knee of-that-one which mightiest was and took at-once to blaze
hvert at öðru, ok brunnu at köldum kolum. Síðan var
each at (the)-other and burned to cold coals Then was
heitt þat sama járn ok gert glóanda, ok bar ek níu fet,
heated that same iron and made glowing and bore I nine feet
eftir dœmum kristinna manna, óvígt járn, svá at öngvir
after examples of-Christian men unhallowed iron so that no
klerkar váru hjá; ok var höndin leyst eftir þrjár nætr; enn
clerics were by and was the-hand loosed after three nights but
á hinni þriðju nótt dreymdi mik, at bjartleitr maðr kœmi
in the third night dreamed me that a-bright-faced man came
til mín, ok ávítaði mik um dirfð mína, enn kvað mik njóta
to me and rebuked me about daring my but said me enjoy

skyldu góðvilja míns, er ek kennda móður minni rétta trú,
should goodwill my since I taught mother my right faith
ok kvað fegri mundu hönd mín enn heila, þá er til væri
and said fairer would hand my than whole then when to-it were
leyst, „ok mun þú hafa síðan glófa á hendinni ok hrósa
loosed and will you have afterward glove on the-hand and boast
eigi dýrð minni“, ok kvað mik skyldu gjalda hér í heimi,
not glory my and said me should pay here in (the)-world
svá at ek munda rœgðr við konung, ok bað mik þá sýna
so that I would slandered to (the)-king and bade me then show
höndina, ef líf mitt lægi við. Ok er höndin var leyst, var
the-hand if life my lay on-it And when the-hand was loosed was
sem gullpeningr lægi í lófanum, þar sem járnit hafði legit,
as-if gold-coin lay in the-palm there where the-iron had lain
ok rauðr þráðr um útan, ok var þar hærra holdit enn
and red thread about outside and was there higher the-flesh than
annarsstaðar. Móðir mín tók kristni ok vinir okkrir af
elsewhere Mother my took Christianity and friends our-two from
þessi jartegn; ek hefi ok eigi sýnda mína hönd“. Síðan dró
this miracle I have also not shown my hand Then drew
Þórsteinn af sér glófann, ok sýndi á sér höndina, ok
Thorstein off himself the-glove and showed on himself the-hand and
kveðst ætla, at svá nökkuru mundi Bjarni hafa at goldit
says-of-himself think that so somewhat would Bjarni have at paid
fyrir fávizku sína í skýrslunni, sem hann mundi, ef hann
for ignorance his in the-ordeal as he would if he
fengi eigi þessa jartegn. Konungr sefaðist þá, ok leitaði
got not this miracle (The)-king calmed then and searched
at við Bjarna, ok þeir biskup; hvers hann mundi at hafa
at-it with Bjarni and they (the)-bishop for-what he would at have
goldit. Þá sagði Bjarni, hver svik at hann hafði heyrt ok
paid Then told Bjarni what treachery that he had heard and

leynt, ok kvað Þórarinn þat hafa boðit sér, at reifa öngvan
hidden and said Thorarin that have bidden him to set-forth no
hlut eðr kvittu í konungs höll. Þá váru þeir Helgi teknir
thing or gossip in (the)-king's hall Then were they Helgi seized
ok fjötraðir ok neyddir til sagna. Gengu þeir þá við um
and fettered and forced to statements Went they then with about
rógit. Konungr vildi, at Þórarinn réði hegningu þeira,
the-slander (The)-king would that Thorarin decided punishment their
ok væri þeir drepnir. Enn Þórarinn gerði þá úr Noregi
and were they killed But Thorarin made them out-of Norway
ok tók af þeim fé allmjök svá; ok kallaði Þórarinn þetta
and took from them wealth very-much so and called Thorarin this
konungs-gæfu, er hit sanna var vitat um þetta mál. Þórarinn
king's-luck when the truth was known about this case Thorarin
var með Ólafi konungi alla stund síðan, ok fell með honum.
was with Olaf (the)-king all time afterward and fell with him

Jökuls þáttr Bárðarsonar

The Tale of Jokul Bardarson

Earl Hákon Eiríksson pursues King Óláfr the Saint into Valdalr and takes the king's ships, and Jökull, an Icelander from Vatnsdalr, is given the Bison to steer. He speaks a verse foreboding a storm for himself as steersman of Óláfr's ship, though the king was robbed of victory that summer. Much later Jökull falls into Óláfr's hands and is led out to be beheaded. The blow takes him in the head as he rises; seeing it mortal, the king calls a halt, and Jökull sits up and speaks a verse on the smarting wound before he dies.

Hákon jarl (Eríksson) hafði þá haldit liði sínu ór
Hakon (the)-earl Eirik's-son had then held troop his out-of
Þrándheimi ok farit á mót Ólafi konungi (helga) suðr á
Trondheim and gone on against Olaf (the)-king (the)-Saint south to
Mæri. Enn er konungr helt inn í fjörðinn, þá sótti
More But when (the)-king held in into the-fjord then pursued
jarl eftir honum. Kom þá til móts við jarl Kálfr
(the)-earl after him Came then to meeting with (the)-earl Kalf
Árnason ok fleiri menn, þeir er skildust við Ólaf konung;
Arni's-son and more men those who parted with Olaf (the)-king
var Kálfi þar vel fagnat. Síðan helt jarl inn þangat at,
was to-Kalf there well welcomed Then held (the)-earl in thither to
sem konungr hafði uppsett skip sín í Róðrarfjörð í Valdal.
where (the)-king had drawn-up ships his in Rodrarfjord in Valdal
Tók jarl þar skip þau, er konungr átti, ok lét fram setja
Took (the)-earl there ships those which (the)-king owned and had forth set
skipin ok búa; váru þar menn skipaðir til skipstjórnar. Sá
the-ships and fit-out were there men assigned to ship-command That
maðr var með jarli er Jökull hét, íslenzkr maðr, son
man was with (the)-earl who Jokul was-called Icelandic man son

Bárðar Jökulssonar ór Vatnsdal. Jökull hlaut at stýra Vísund,
of-Bard Jokul's-son out-of Vatnsdal Jokul got to steer Bison
er Ólafr konungr hafði átt. Jökull orti þá vísu þessa:
which Olaf (the)-king had owned Jokul composed then verse this

Hlaut'k frá Sult, enn sæta
Got-I from Sult but to-suffer
síð fregn at ek kvíða,
late tidings that I dread
ván erumk hreggs at hreini
expectation is-to-me of-storm to (the)-reindeer
hlýrvangs, skipi stýra,
of-(the)-bow-plain (the)-ship to-steer
því's óstrætis átti
which of-(the)-out-of-way-path owned
Óleifr vala kleifar;
Olaf of-(the)-hawks of-(the)-cliff
gramr vas sjálfr á sumri
(the)-king was himself in summer
sigri rœntr hinn digri.
of-victory robbed the Stout

Þar er hér skjótast af at segja, er síðar varð miklu, at
That is here quickest of to say which later happened much that
Jökull varð fyrir liði Ólafs konungs, ok varð hann handtekinn,
Jokul fell before troop of-Olaf (the)-king and was he hand-taken
ok lét konungr hann til höggs leiða. Var vöndr snúinn í hár
and had (the)-king him to blow lead Was a-stick twisted in hair
honum, ok helt á maðr. Settist Jökull niðr á bakka nökkurn.
to-him and held on a-man Sat Jokul down on bank some
Þá réð maðr til at höggva hann. Enn er hann heyrði
Then set-about a-man to to strike him But when he heard

hvininn, réttist hann upp, ok kom höggit í höfuð honum,
the-whistle straightened he up and came the-blow in head to-him
ok varð mikit sárit; sá konungr at þat var banasár; það
and was great the-wound saw (the)-king that that was death-wound bade
hann þá hætta. Jökull sat þá upp, ok orti vísu þessa:
he then stop Jokul sat then up and composed verse this

Svíða sár af mœði
Smart (the)-wounds from toil
setit hef'k oft við betra
sat have-I often with better
und es á oss sú's sprændi
wound is on us which spurted
ótrauð legi rauðum;
unhesitating with-liquid red
býss mér blóð ór hausi
gushes for-me blood out-of skull
ben, té'k við þrek venjask,
wound learn-I with endurance to-be-used
verpr hjálmgöfigr hilmir
casts (the)-helmet-noble prince
heiðsær á mik reiði.
heath-sea on me anger

Ok þá dó Jökull þegar.
And then died Jokul at-once

Þórgríms þáttr Hallasonar ok Bjarna Gullbrár-skálds

The Tale of Thorgrim Hallason and Bjarni Gold-Brow's Poet

Þórgrímr Hallason of Brúnastaðir, a former retainer of Óláfr the Saint, buys half a ship from Norwegians, the other half belonging to the brothers Bjarni and Þórðr, and sails with his son Illugi and two followers, Galti and Kolgrímr. The winter before, a blizzard had killed his grown son, and he had been found half-dead. The brothers mock him on the voyage, and he pretends not to notice. In Trondheim they all winter with Kálfr Árnason, who seats Þórgrímr opposite himself and the brothers beside him.

Þórgrímr hét maðr ok var Hallason; hann var íslenzkr
Thorgrim was-called a-man and was Halli's-son he was Icelandic
maðr. Þórgrímr var ríkr at penningum ok vinsæll; hann bjó
man Thorgrim was rich in money and well-liked he dwelt
á Brúnastöðum í Fljótum. Hann hafði verit hirðmaðr Ólafs
at Brunastadir in Fljot He had been a-retainer of-Olaf
konungs hins helga, ok þegit af honum góðar gjafir. Á
(the)-king the Saint and received from him good gifts In
einu sumri keypti hann skip (hálft) at norrœnum mönnum,
one summer bought he a-ship half from Norwegian men
enn hálft áttu brœðr tveir, synir Hallbjarnar (skefils) ór
but half owned brothers two sons of-Hallbjorn Skefil out-of
Laxárdal; hét annarr Bjarni, enn annarr Þórðr. Bjóst
Laxardal was-called (the)-one Bjarni but (the)-other Thord Made-ready
Þórgrímr þá til útanferðar, ok með honum son hans, er
Thorgrim then for journey-abroad and with him son his who
hét Illugi, og tveir fylgdarmenn Þórgríms; hét annarr
was-called Illugi and two followers of-Thorgrim was-called (the)-one
Galti, mikill maðr ok styrkr, — annarr Kolgrímr, lítill ok
Galti big man and strong (the)-other Kolgrim small and
fráligr. Svá hafði til borit áðr um vetrinn á ymbrudögum
swift So had to borne before during the-winter in ember-days

fyrir jól, at Þórgrímr fór með konu sína ok börn at
before Yule that Thorgrim went with wife his and children on
erindum sínum. Þá gerði at þeim hríð svá mikla, at
errands his Then made at them a-blizzard so great that
hríðin drap til dauðs son hans frumvaxta, er Ásbjörn
the-blizzard killed to death son his full-grown who Asbjorn
hét. Enn Þórgrímr kostgæfði svá mjök at hjálpa föruneyti
was-called But Thorgrim strove so much to help company
sínu, at hann fannst úti dauðvána ok óviti. Var hann
his that he was-found outside near-dead and senseless Was he
fluttr til bœjar, ok nærðr við heita mjólk. Nú er þar komit,
carried to (the)-farm and nourished with warm milk Now is there come
at þeir bjuggu skip sitt um sumarit, sem fyrr er sagt,
that they prepared ship their in the-summer as before is said
ok létu í haf, er þeir váru búnir. Þeir Bjarni ok Þórðr
and put to sea when they were ready They Bjarni and Thord
flimtuðu Þórgrím, ok váru illa til hans, enn hann lét sem
lampooned Thorgrim and were ill to him but he acted as-if
hann vissi ekki. Þeim gaf vel byri, ok komu norðr við
he knew not To-them gave well fair-winds and came north at
Þrándheim. Magnús konungr góði hafði ríki í Noregi, enn
Trondheim Magnus (the)-king (the)-Good had rule in Norway but
þó var hann þá suðr í Danmörku. Kálfr Árnason hafði þá
yet was he then south in Denmark Kalf Arni's-son had then
mest völd í Þrándheimi. Var hann í bœnum ok bauð hann
most power in Trondheim Was he in the-town and invited he
Íslendingum til sín. Váru þeir með honum um vetrinn,
Icelanders to himself Were they with him through the-winter
Bjarni ok Þórðr, ok Þórgrímr með sína félaga. Kálfr skipaði
Bjarni and Thord and Thorgrim with his companions Kalf placed
Þórgrími gagnvart sér, enn þeim brœðrum hit næsta sér.
Thorgrim opposite himself but those brothers the next to-himself

The brothers flatter Kálfr and slander Þórgrímr, and Bjarni recites a poem praising Kálfr's part at Stiklastaðir. Þórgrímr calls it a crime, Bjarni mocks his feigned sickness and fast-day milk, and Þórgrímr kills him. Kálfr has him outlawed at an assembly, and Þórðr kills him. Galti dares not avenge him, but Kolgrímr seizes his axe and wounds Þórðr fatally. Kolgrímr is fettered, and Þórðr dies when King Magnús returns.

Þórgrímr var hljóðr um vetrinn, ok jafnan með áhyggju
Thorgrim was silent through the-winter and always with anxious
yfirbragði; minntist hann oft hinnar fyrri æfi ok vináttu
countenance remembered he often the former life and friendship
Ólafs konungs hins helga. Enn þeir brœðr váru hávaða-miklir
of-Olaf (the)-king the Saint But they brothers were noise-great
ok orðmargir of margt. Þeir lofuðu Kálf mjök, enn váru
and many-worded too much They praised Kalf much but were
illa við Þórgrím, ok rœgðu hann mjök. Þeir töluðu einn
ill toward Thorgrim and slandered him much They spoke one
tíma við Kálf, ok sögðu svá: „Hefir þú nökkut fundit þat,
time with Kalf and said so Have you anything found that
Kálfr, at Þórgrímr er yðr engi alúðar-maðr, ok er öll
Kalf that Thorgrim is to-you no devoted-man and is all
hans alvara til Ólafs konungs, enn vér munum heldr
his earnest toward Olaf (the)-king but we will rather
þiggja vetrvistina eftir því sem þú veitir?“ Kálfr svaraði:
accept the-winter-lodging according to-that as you grant Kalf answered
„Fundit hefi ek þat, at Þórgrímr er engi vinr várr“. Bjarni
Found have I that that Thorgrim is no friend our Bjarni
mælti: „Kvæði hefi ek ort um yðr, ok vilda ek fá hljóð
spoke A-poem have I composed about you and would-wish I get silence
til at flytja“. „Hlýða skal kvæði þínu, skáld“, sagði Kálfr,
for-it to deliver Listen shall-one to-poem your poet said Kalf

„því at ván er, at vel sé ort“. Bjarni fœrði kvæðit fyrir
because that expected is that well be composed Bjarni delivered the-poem before
fjölmenni, ok var mjök getit bardagans á Stiklastöðum,
(the)-crowd and was much mentioned the-battle at Stiklastadir
ok hrósat þeim tíðindum, er þar gerðust, til lofs Kálfi.
and praised those tidings which there happened to (the)-praise for-Kalf
Enn er lokit var kvæðinu, mælti Þórgrímr: „Undarligt er
But when ended was the-poem spoke Thorgrim Strange is
þat, Kálfr, svá vitr maðr sem þú ert, er þér þykkir sœmd
that Kalf so wise man as you are that to-you seems honor
í slíku, at menn kveði um glœpi þína ok níðings-verk,
in such that men compose about crimes your and villain's-work
er þér gengut í mót Ólafi konungi“. Bjarni mælti: „Þegi
which you went in against Olaf (the)-king Bjarni spoke Be-silent
þú, skemmdar-maðrinn; þú slótt á þik skrópa-sótt, til þess
you the-shame-man you struck on yourself sham-sickness for that
at hellt var í þik mjólk á ymbrudögum út á Íslandi“.
that poured was into you milk in ember-days out in Iceland
Þórgrímr gekk út ór stofunni, þar til sem hann var vanr
Thorgrim went out out-of the-hall there to where be was wont
at sofa. Hann mælti: „Mikit er slíkt at heyra: lastanarorð
to sleep He spoke Much is such to hear abuse-words
til Ólafs konungs en skemmdar-orð við mik. Nú gakk
to Olaf (the)-king and shame-words toward me Now go
inn, Illugi, ok drep Bjarna“. Sveininn svaraði: „Eigi berr ek
in Illugi and kill Bjarni The-lad answered Not bear I
traust til þess, þann veg sem vér erum við komnir“. Þórgrímr
trust to that that way as we are with come Thorgrim
snaraði þá inn í stofuna, ok hjó Bjarna banahögg. Þórðr
turned then in into the-hall and struck Bjarni death-blow Thord
bróðir hans hljóp til vápna, ok stóðu menn þá í milli
brother his leaped to weapons and stood men then in between

þeira. Kálfr mælti: „Þetta er illt verk, ok hvárki hlíft í
them Kalf spoke This is ill deed and neither spared in
sœmd várri né vetrgestinum; enn þó skal þetta mál fara allt
honor our nor the-winter-guest but yet shall this case go all
at lögum“. Lét hann þá þings kveðja, ok bað alla menn
by laws Had he then an-assembly summon and bade all men
vápnlausa til þings koma, Galti hinn sterki, fylgdarmaðr
weaponless to (the)-assembly come Galti the Strong follower
Þórgríms, greip upp bolöxi, ok lét koma í milli klæða
of-Thorgrim grabbed up a-wood-axe and had come in between clothes
sér, er hann gekk til þingsins. Enn er þing var sett,
his when he went to the-assembly But when (the)-assembly was set
þá var sleginn mannhringr um Þórgrím. Kálfr mælti: „Hvat
then was struck a-ring-of-men about Thorgrim Kalf spoke What
býðr þú fyrir þik, Þórgrímr?“ Hann segir: „Ek býð allt mitt
offer you for yourself Thorgrim He says I offer all my
mál á konungsdóm“. Kálfr svaraði: „Fjarri er nú konungr
case to king's-judgment Kalf answered Far is now (the)-king
at dœma þetta mál“. „Veit ek“, sagði Þórgrímr, „at þú vildir
to judge this case Know I said Thorgrim that you would
dœma, enn ek játta því eigi, ok sé ek gerla þinn áhuga,
judge but I agree to-that not and see I clearly your intent
at þú kannt mik mest vinganar við Ólaf konung“. „Þat er
that you blame me most for-friendship with Olaf (the)-king That is
eigi satt“, segir Kálfr, „enn þó mun nú málit dœmt verða,
not true says Kalf but yet will now the-case judged be
nema Þórðr játti öðru“. Þórðr kveðst engum boðum
unless Thord agreed to-other Thord says-of-himself to-no offers
hans játta mundu. Kálfr mælti: „Dœmi hann þá sekan ok
his agree would Kalf spoke Judge him then guilty and
útlægan“. Ok var svá gert, at ráði umboðsmanns konungs,
outlawed And was so done by counsel of-(the)-agent of-(the)-king

fyrir dráp Bjarna. Þórgrímr mælti: „Nú fór svá sem mik
for (the)-slaying of-Bjarni Thorgrim spoke Now went so as me
varði, ok þykkist þú nú, Kálfr, hafa fyrir sét, at eigi skal
foreboded and think-yourself you now Kalf to-have for seen that not shall
til bóta mega komast eftir mik; enn þat er þó vant at sjá,
to amends be-able to-come after me but that is yet difficult to see
ef veitendr koma til“. Þórðr hljóp þá at, ok veitti honum
if helpers come to-it Thord leaped then at and gave him
bana. Þá mælti Kolgrímr hinn litli, fylgdarmaðr Þórgríms:
death Then spoke Kolgrim the Little follower of-Thorgrim
„Hefn þú hans, Galti, þú hefir öxina“. Hann kvaðst eigi
Avenge you him Galti you have the-axe He said-of-himself not
þora. „Mæl þú manna armastr“, sagði Kolgrímr, „ok er þú
to-dare Speak you of-men most-wretched said Kolgrim and are you
eigi meðalskræfa, svá mikill ok sterkr, er þú hefir engan
not middling-coward so big and strong as you have no
hug í brjósti, ok fá mér öxina“. „Þat þori ek eigi“, sagði
courage in breast and give me the-axe That dare I not said
hann. „Þá skaltú ok eigi þora á at halda“, segir Kolgrímr,
he Then shall-you also not dare on to hold says Kolgrim
ok kippti af honum öxinni, ok hjó til Þórðar mikit högg
and pulled from him the-axe and struck at Thord great blow
á hrygginn, ok var þat sár banvænt. Kolgrímr var þá
on the-back and was that wound deadly Kolgrim was then
handtekinn, ok lét Kálfr varðveita hann í járnum, enn
hand-taken and had Kalf kept him in irons but
vildi eigi láta drepa hann, fyrr enn vitat væri, hvárt Þórðr
would not have kill him before than known were whether Thord
rétti við. Enn þat var mjök jafnfram, at Magnús
straightened up But that was much at-the-same-time that Magnus

konungr kom sunnan ór Danmörk norðr til Þrándheims,
(the)-king came from-the-south out-of Denmark north to Trondheim
ok Þórðr dó af sári því, er Kolgrímr veitti honum.
and Thord died of wound that which Kolgrim gave him

III · KOLGRÍMR'S POEM

Kolgrímr, in fetters, asks King Magnús for protection for a poem on Óláfr the Saint, and recites it; it touches on Þórgrímr's death. Magnús frees him, rebukes Kálfr, makes the brothers' wealth pay for Þórgrímr as for a guiltless man, and gives Kolgrímr half the ship with Illugi. After a pilgrimage south Kolgrímr sails Illugi home, where Illugi settles at Brúnastaðir and sells him his share.

Kálfr hafði búit veizlu konungi. Magnús konungr hafði
Kalf had prepared a-feast for-(the)-king Magnus (the)-king had
frétt nökkura af vígum þessum, áðr hann kom til veizlunnar.
news some of slayings these before he came to the-feast
Kolgrímr sat í fjötri í forstofunni, er konungr gekk inn.
Kolgrim sat in fetter in the-entry when (the)-king went in
Hann mælti til konungs: „Dirfð mun yðr þykkja, herra,
He spoke to (the)-king Daring will to-you seem lord
er bandinginn biðr yðr ásjár; enn ek tel þat helzt til,
when the-captive asks you protection but I count that most to-it
at ek hefi ort kvæði um Ólaf konung hinn helga,
that I have composed a-poem about Olaf (the)-king the Saint
föður yðvarn". Konungr nam staðar ok svaraði: „Var þú
father your (The)-king took stop and answered Were you
með Þórgrími Hallasyni?" „Já, herra", sagði hann. „Hefndir
with Thorgrim Halli's-son Yes lord said he Avenged
þú hans"? sagði konungr. „(Við) leitaða ek", sagði Kolgrímr,
you him said (the)-king At-it tried I said Kolgrim

„ok þótti mér verða hefndin alls til lítil eftir slíkan mann,
and seemed to-me become the-vengeance all too little after such man
enda stóðum vér eigi jafnt at vígi, ok þeir sem til móts
moreover stood we not equally at fighting and they who to meeting
váru“. „Vera má svá“, sagði konungr, „ok rými á honum
were Be may so said (the)-king and loosen on him
fjötrunum, svá at hann megi ganga inn í stofu“. Enn er
the-fetters so that he may go in into (the)-hall But when
hann var inn kominn, bað konungr hann flytja kvæðit. Hann
he was in come bade (the)-king him deliver the-poem He
gerði svá, ok bar fram skörulíga. Enn er á leið kvæðit,
did so and bore forth boldly But when on passed the-poem
var nökkut á vikit, hvat til dró um líflát Þórgríms, ok
was somewhat on touched what to drew about (the)-death of-Thorgrim and
þau mál öll saman; ok váru þessi orð í einni vísu:
those cases all together and were these words in one stanza

Herstillis þarf'k hylli;
Of-(the)-war-ruler need-I favor
hálf eru völd und Kálfi.
half are powers under Kalf

Þá mælti konungr: „Ekki er nú meirr enn svá, skáld“. Enn
Then spoke (the)-king Not is now more than so poet But
er lokit var kvæðinu, mælti konungr: „Þau munu fyrst
when ended was the-poem spoke (the)-king These will first
kvæðislaun mín við þik, Kolgrímr, at þú skalt vera lauss, ok
poem-rewards my to you Kolgrim that you shall be loose and
er þat þó satt, Kálfr, at eigi vill þú oss frændum hollr vera;
is that yet true Kalf that not will you to-us kinsmen loyal be
enn þótt þú létir dœma Þórgrím útlægan ok sekan, þá skal
but though you had judged Thorgrim outlawed and guilty then shall

hann nú svá bœta, sem hann hafi sýkn drepinn verit; skal
he now so compensate as-if he have guiltless killed been shall
Illugi taka þat fé af þeim penningum, sem þeir hafa átt,
Illugi take that money from those coins which they have owned
Bjarni ok Þórðr, ok skal ek dœma þessi mannagjöld. Enn
Bjarni and Thord and shall I judge these man-payments But
þú, Kolgrímr, skalt hafa umsjá á fé Illuga með honum,
you Kolgrim shall have oversight over wealth of-Illugi with him
þar til er hann kemr til Íslands. Enn ek vil gefa þér fyrir
there until when he comes to Iceland But I will give you for
þinn röskleik hálft skipit við Illuga“. Kolgrímr svaraði: „Nú
your valor half the-ship with Illugi Kolgrim answered Now
hafi þér, herra, sem jafnan, sýnt stórmennsku yðra. Enn þat
have you lord as always shown magnanimity your But that
verðr segja sem á liggr, at ek hefi heitit suðrgöngu, ok skal
must tell as on lies that I have vowed south-journey and shall
hana at vísu af hendi inna“. Kolgrímr gekk suðr, enn Illugi
it for sure off hand perform Kolgrim went south but Illugi
beið í Noregi með umsjá konungs. Enn Kolgrímr kom aftr,
waited in Norway with oversight of-(the)-king But Kolgrim came back
bjó hann skip þeira til Íslands. Létu þeir í haf, er þeir
prepared he ship their to Iceland Put they to sea when they
váru búnir. Þeir komu skipi í Kolbeinsár-ós. Settist Illugi í
were ready They brought ship into Kolbeinsaros Settled Illugi into
bú á Brúnastöðum, enn seldi sinn hlut Kolgrími í skipi.
household at Brunastadir but sold his share to-Kolgrim in (the)-ship
Fór hann landa í milli, ok þótti hinn bezti kaupdrengr.
Went he of-lands in between and seemed the best trading-fellow

Odds þáttr Ófeigssonar

The Tale of Odd Ofeigsson

Oddr Ófeigsson winters in Finnmark, where trade with the Finns needs royal leave, and warns his men. Off Þjótta, Einarr fluga, the king's steward over Finnmark, boards to search the ship. Oddr's men hide the Finn goods, and one delays Einarr by slowly untying bale after bale, the third holding only rags, until the rising wind forces him off. Oddr hopes they now miss King Haraldr.

Á einhverju sumri kom útan af Íslandi Oddr, son Ófeigs
In some summer came out from Iceland Odd son of-Ofeig
Skíðasonar; þeim byrjaði lítt; bar þá norðr at Finnmörk,
Skidi's-son for-them blew-fair little bore them north to Finnmark
ok váru þar um vetrinn. Þá var Haraldr (harðráði)
and were there through the-winter Then was Harald Hard-ruler
konungr yfir Noregi. Þeir sigldu norðan um várit. Þá
king over Norway They sailed from-the-north in the-spring Then
mælti Oddr við skipverja sína: „Ferð þessi er með nökkurri
spoke Odd to shipmates his Journey this is with some
ábyrgð, því at engi maðr á kaup at eiga við Finna norðr
liability because that no man has trade to have with Finns north
hér, nema með konungsleyfi eðr sýslumanns. Hefir nú ok
here except with king's-leave or (the)-sheriff's Has now also
sá maðr sýslu ok yfirsókn á Mörkinni, ok ekki þykkir
that man stewardship and jurisdiction over the-Mark and not seems
væginn, Einarr fluga. Vil ek nú vita, hversu mikit þér hafit
yielding Einar Fly Will I now know how much you have
at gert at kaupa við Finna". Þeir duldu, at þeir hefði keypt
at done to trade with Finns They concealed that they had traded
við þá. Enn er þeir komu norðan at Þjóttu, þá röri
with them But when they came from-the-north to Thjotta then rowed
langskip undan eyjunni, ok stefndi til þeira; þar var Einarr
a-longship out-from the-island and steered to them there was Einar

fluga með fjölda manna. Þá mælti Oddr: „Búist nú við
Fly with multitude of-men Then spoke Odd Make-ready now for-it
ok varist, at eigi finnist Finnskattrinn með yðr; ok ef þat er
and guard that not be-found the-Finn-tribute with you and if that is
eigi alltrútt, sem mik grunar, at þér hafit keypt við Finna,
not all-true as me suspects that you have traded with Finns
þá látum nú koma þat fé í einn stað allt, ef rannsakat
then let-we now come that wealth into one place all if searched
verðr skipit“. Nú reyndust þeir sem Oddr gat; báru þá
becomes the-ship Now proved-themselves they as Odd guessed brought then
fram hverr þat, er keypt hafði, ok fálu síðan þannig
forward each that which traded had and hid afterward so
sem Oddi þótti ráðligast, ok höfðu lokit starfi því, áðr
as to-Odd seemed most-advisable and had finished task that before
Einarr kom at þeim. Þeir lögðu langskipit at knerrinum
Einar came at them They laid the-longship at the-merchant-ship
ok gengu upp á knörrinn. Oddr heilsaði Einari, því
and went up onto the-merchant-ship Odd greeted Einar because
at þeir váru málkunnir. Einarr mælti: „Kunnigr er þú,
that they were on-speaking-terms Einar spoke Known are you
Oddr, at því, sem vel samir; enn þér hafit verit í vetr
Odd to that which well befits but you have been in winter
með Finnum, ok má vera at menn þínir hafi eigi jafnvel
with Finns and may be that men your have not equally-well
við sét at kaupa við þá; enn oss er þat umboð í hendr
against seen to trade with them but to-us is that commission into hands
fengit af konungi, ok viljum vér rannsaka skip yðart“. Oddr
given by (the)-king and will we search ship your Odd
kvað þeim heimult skyldu, at líta yfir varning þeirra. Luku
said to-them permitted should to look over wares their Opened
menn þá upp kistum sínum. Gengu þeir Einarr um skipit,
men then up chests their Went they Einar about the-ship

ok fundu ekki af Finnskattinum. Veðr var blítt, ok
and found nothing of the-Finn-tribute (The)-weather was mild and
heldr byrlítit; enn þá tók vindr at vaxa heldr. Þá mælti
rather wind-little but then took (the)-wind to grow rather Then spoke
Einarr: „Heldr hafa þessir menn meirr sét við um kaupin,
Einar Rather have these men more seen against about the-trading
enn ek hugða, ætla ek nú, at vér megim ekki mjök rjúfa
than I thought think I now that we may not much break-open
búlkana; mun oss hitt ráð, at ganga í skip várt, því
the-cargo-bales will to-us that-other counsel to go into ship our because
veðr tekr at vaxa“. Þá mælti maðr, er sat á búlkanum:
weather begins to grow Then spoke a-man who sat on the-cargo
„Sjá skaltú áðr bagga þenna, er ek hefi, yfir hverju er
See shall-you before bale this which I have over what that
hann býr“. Tók hann til at leysa baggann, enn Einarr beið;
it holds Took he to to untie the-bale but Einar waited
þar var um ál löng, ok var seint at leysa. Einarr bað
there was about a-strap long and was slow to untie Einar bade
hann skjótt at vinna. Hann segir svá vera skyldu. Tók hann
him quickly to work He says so to-be should Took he
þar ór annan bagga meirr fjötraðan, ok var lengi, áðr
there out-of-it a-second bale more fettered and was long before
hann gat þann leyst. Þá mælti Einarr: „Seint gerir þú
he could that-one untie Then spoke Einar Slowly do you
þetta“. Ok þó beið hann enn, ef nökkut mætti þat finnast
this And yet waited he still if anything might that be-found
í bagga hans, er honum mætti sakir á gefa. Því næst
in bale his which to-him might charges on give That next
kom upp hinn þriði baggi; ok er hann gat þar til raufat,
came up the third bale and when he could there to open
var þar ekki í, nema tötrar ok þat er engu var nýtt.
was there nothing in except rags and that which for-nothing was useful

Þá mælti Einarr: „Allra manna armastr“, segir hann, „hefir
Then spoke Einar Of-all men most-wretched says he has
gabbat oss ok þó lengi dvalit, svá at eyin er nær vötnut“.
mocked us and yet long delayed so that the-island is near watered
Fór Einarr ok hans menn á skip sitt, ok lögðu frá, því
Went Einar and his men onto ship their and laid from because
at veðrit vóx í hverju. Skildu þeir svá, at Einarr átti
that the-weather grew in each Parted they so that Einar had
gildan andróðr, áðr þeir náðu Þjóttu. Þá mælti Oddr: „Nú
stout headwind before they reached Thjotta Then spoke Odd Now
höfu vér sett undan ágangi Einars flugu; þœtti mér
have we set from (the)-aggression of-Einar Fly would-seem to-me
oss nú máldeili á, at vér fyndim eigi Harald konung“.
for-us now a-case-settlement on that we found not Harald (the)-king

II · KING HARALDR'S SEARCH

Einarr warns King Haraldr harðráði, who intercepts Oddr's ship at Mjóla. The king accuses Oddr of trading with the Finns without leave. Oddr answers that he would gladly have landed farther south, but could at least decide not to trade without permission. The king insists on a search, and nothing is found.

Einarr sendi þegar orð Haraldi konungi, ok lét hann vita
Einar sent at-once word to-Harald (the)-king and let him know
um ferðir Odds. Enn er þeir Oddr kómu suðr til Mjólu,
about travels of-Odd But when they Odd came south to Mjola
lögðu þeir til hafnar, því at eigi var byrr at sigla suðr
laid they to harbor because that not was fair-wind to sail south
lengra. Enn þar undir eyjunni lá Haraldr konungr nökkurum
further But there under the-island lay Harald (the)-king with-some
skipum. Enn er þeir sá kaupskipit, mælti konungr til
ships But when they saw the-merchant-ship spoke (the)-king to

sinna manna: „Vera kann, at nú beri vel til; þetta mun vera
his men Be may that now bears well to this will be
skipit Odds Ófeigssonar; á ek við hann erindi; veit ek eigi
the-ship of-Odd Ofeig's-son have I with him errand know I not
at Einarr fluga hafi farit jafnflatt sem fyrir þeim Oddi“. Röri
that Einar Fly have gone as-flat as before them Odd Rowed
konungr þegar með marga menn til kaupskipsins, ok gengu
(the)-king at-once with many men to the-merchant-ship and went
upp. Oddr fagnaði konungi, enn hann svarar heldr reiðuliga:
up Odd welcomed (the)-king but he answers rather angrily
„Býr þú, Oddr, ómakliga við mik: ek hefi jafnan veitt þér
Deal you Odd undeservedly with me I have always given you
sœmd, enn þú hefir farit ok keypt við Finna at óleyfi
honor but you have gone and traded with Finns without leave
mínu“. Oddr svaraði: „Gjarna hefðim vér, herra, sunnar
my Odd answered Gladly had we lord farther-south
tekit land á hausti enn Finnmörk, ef svá hefði byrjat. Enn
taken land in autumn than Finnmark if so had blown-fair But
hinu mátta ek heldr ráða, at kaupa ekki við þá at
the-other might I rather rule to trade not with them without
óleyfi yðru“. Konungr mælti: „Þar get ek at vera muni
leave your (The)-king spoke There guess I that be will
sakir til, þótt þér værit allir uppfestir; ok þótt þú sjálfr sér
charges to-it though you were all hanged and though you yourself be
þess eigi valdr, þá lízt mér þannig at eins á menn þína,
of-that not cause then looks to-me so at only on men your
at þeir munu eigi sparat hafa, at kaupa ólofat, ok viljum
that they will not spared have to trade unpermitted and will
vér rannsaka yðr“. „Þat skal svá vera sem þér vilit, herra“,
we search you That shall so be as you will lord
segir Oddr. Var nú svá gert, ok fundu þeir (alls) ekki.
says Odd Was now so done and found they of-all nothing

Þórsteinn, a young kinsman of Þórir hundr and a friend of Oddr, advises him to hide the bag of Finn goods under the king's own high seat on the ship. The king searches again, sitting on the very bag, and finds nothing. Þórsteinn then advises moving the goods into the sail, and when the king asks why he stayed behind, says he was fixing his hose. The king is not pleased.

Þórsteinn hét maðr, ungr ok vænn, frændi Þóris hunds;
Thorstein was-called a-man young and handsome kinsman of-Thorir Hound
hann var vinr Odds, ok var þá með konungi. Hann dvaldist
he was friend of-Odd and was then with (the)-king He stayed
eftir á skipi Odds, þá er konungr gekk (brott). Þórsteinn
behind on ship of-Odd then when (the)-king went away Thorstein
brá Oddi á einmæli, ok spurði, hvárt þeir væri nökkurs af
drew Odd into private-talk and asked whether they were any of
valdir um þetta mál; sagði, at konungr var reiðr, ok hann
causers about this case said that (the)-king was angry and he
mundu mjök eftir leita". Oddr mælti: „Þat er sannast, vinr,
would much after search Odd spoke That is truest friend
at vér erum eigi skírir um; tóku þeir í fyrstu með sínu
that we are not clear of-it took they at first with their
einræði at kaupa við Finna; enn nú hefir ek þó síðan ráð
self-will to trade with Finns but now have I yet afterward counsel
til gefit, at leynast mætti". „Hvar er fé þat nú komit"?
to given that hide-itself might Where is wealth that now come
segir Þórsteinn. Oddr segir, at allt var í einu húðfati. „Hér
says Thorstein Odd says that all was in one skin-bag Here
mun konungr enn koma", (segir Þórsteinn), „ok láta rannsaka;
will (the)-king again come says Thorstein and have search
enn þat húðfat, sem Finnféit er í, skaltú taka ok leggja
but that skin-bag which the-Finn-wealth is in shall-you take and lay

undir konung, ok bú þar á hásætit ofan; get ek at
under (the)-king and arrange there on the-high-seat from-above guess I that
hann vari þess eigi, at undir honum sjálfum sé þat fé
he suspect of-that not that under him himself be that wealth
fólgit; enn þó er þat allt með nökkurri hættu, hversu til vill
hidden but yet is that all with some risk how to will
takast“. Fór Þórsteinn þá í brott; enn Oddr gerði svá, sem
turn-out Went Thorstein then off away but Odd did so as
hann hafði ráð til gefit. Kom konungr þar brátt, ok settist
he had counsel to given Came (the)-king there soon and sat-himself
í sæti þat, er honum var búit; enn menn hans leituðu
in seat that which for-him was prepared but men his searched
bæði í kistum, ok hvatvetna var upp brotit, þat er vænst
both in chests and everything was up broken that which likeliest
þótti til, ok fannst ekki þat, er þeir leituðu (at). Konungr
seemed to-it and was-found not that which they searched for (The)-king
mælti: „Eigi má ek þetta skilja, hversu ferr, því at ek
spoke Not may I this understand how goes because that I
þykkjumst víst vita, at nökkut Finnfé er hér í skipinu“.
think-myself surely to-know that some Finn-wealth is here in the-ship
Gekk konungr þá í brott ok menn hans; enn Þórsteinn
Went (the)-king then off away and men his but Thorstein
dvaldist eftir litla hríð, ok mælti við Odd: „Eigi mun þetta
stayed behind little while and spoke with Odd Not will this
ráð lengr hlýða, því at konungr mun seint af hyggja
counsel longer serve because that (the)-king will slowly off think
um leitina, ok sjá mun hann nú, næst er hann kemr,
about the-search and see will he now next when he comes
þetta bragð; látit nú koma féit í seglit, ok festit upp
this trick let-you now come the-wealth into the-sail and fasten-you up
um rána; allt mun nú vera rofit, bæði búlkinn ok annat“.
about the-yard all will now be broken both the-cargo and other

Svá gerðu þeir Oddr sem Þórsteinn mælti, enn hann gekk
So did they Odd as Thorstein spoke but he went
í brott; ok er hann kom til konungs, spurði konungr,
off away and when he came to (the)-king asked (the)-king
hví hann dveldist eftir. Þórsteinn svaraði: „Nauðsyn bar til,
why he stayed behind Thorstein answered Need bore to-it
herra, ek varð at gera at hosu minni“. Konungr varð fár við.
lord I had to make at hose my (The)-king became cool at-it

IV · THE THIRD SEARCH

The king searches the high seat and then the whole ship, and finds nothing. Þórsteinn advises Oddr to hide the goods ashore and sail as soon as the wind allows, warning that the king is stubborn. The king searches even the sail the next morning and finds nothing; when Oddr protests that every rag has been opened, the king answers that the mockery will be paid for, and is so angry that no one can speak with him.

Litlu síðar kom konungr á skip Odds, ok mælti: „Vera
A-little later came (the)-king onto ship of-Odd and spoke Be
kann at þér búit sæti mitt með Finnskattinum, ok skal
may that you arranged seat my with the-Finn-tribute and shall
þar nú fyrst leita, ok síðan hvervetna um skipit, ok
there now first search and afterward everywhere about the-ship and
því meira sem oss verðr fyrir, því harðara skulu þeir
so-much more as to-us becomes for-it the harder shall they
niðr koma“. Var þá leitat þar sem í hug kom, ok fannst
down come Was then searched there where into mind came and was-found
eigi. Gekk konungr á land, enn Þórsteinn gat enn eftir
not Went (the)-king onto land but Thorstein managed again behind
dvalizt, ok mælti við Odd: „Nú dugir yðr ekki annat enn
to-stay and spoke with Odd Now avails you not other than

flytja Finnskattinn af skipinu fram fyrir nesit, ok fela þar
carry the-Finn-tribute from the-ship forth before the-ness and hide there
á landi; því at hér mun konungr koma á morgin, ok
on land because that here will (the)-king come in (the)-morning and
mun þá þykkjast sjá þetta fylsni, enn ek mun nú ganga
will then think-himself to-see this hiding-place but I will now go
á land aðra leið enn konungr; mun hann þá síðr geyma
onto land (the)-other way than (the)-king will he then less heed
um, at ek hafa eftir dvalizt. Enn ek legg þat til ráðs
about-it that I have behind stayed But I lay that to counsel
með yðr, at þér leitit á haf út, þegar yðr þykki ván
with you that you seek onto sea out when to-you seems expectation
at gangi, ok flytit eigi Finnféit fyrr aftr á skipit enn
that it-goes and carry not the-Finn-wealth sooner back onto the-ship than
þér farit þegar; því at svá mun konungr yðr nær leggja,
you go at-once because that so will (the)-king you near press
at eigi rekizt þér undan, nema þér geymit til alla vega
that not drive-yourselves you away unless you watch to-it all ways
sem bezt; miklu er hann ráðigri ok þrárri á þat sem
as best much is he more-resolute and more-stubborn on that which
hann vill fram fara“. Oddr kvað Þórsteini mjök vandlaunat
he will forward go Odd said to-Thorstein very hard-to-repay
lið þat, er hann veitti þeim. Fór Þórsteinn brott, enn
help that which he gave them Went Thorstein away but
þeir Oddr fluttu féit á land um kveldit ok fálu. Enn
they Odd carried the-wealth onto land in the-evening and hid But
um myrgininn kom konungr, ok lét leita í seglinu sem
in the-morning came (the)-king and had search in the-sail as
annarsstaðar um skipit; grunaði konung jafnan eftir, hvar
elsewhere about the-ship suspected (the)-king always for where
þeir mundu fólgit hafa. Enn er þeir fundu enn ekki, þá
they would hidden have But when they found still nothing then

mælti Oddr: „Herra“, segir hann, „nú megi þér ekki gruna
spoke Odd Lord says he now may you not suspect
oss, því at hverr leppr er upp brotinn á skipi váru“.
us because that every rag is up broken on ship our
Konungr svarar: „Eigi mun sú raun á verða, ok hafa engir
(The)-king answers Not will that proof on-it be and have no
menn slíkt spott mér gert, hvénær sem þat verðr goldit“. Var
men such mockery to-me done whenever that that becomes paid Was
konungr svá reiðr, at þeir máttu ekki orðum við hann koma.
(the)-king so angry that they could not with-words with him come

V · ÞÓRSTEINN FALLS FROM FAVOR

Oddr's men reload the goods at night and sail before dawn. King Haraldr sees the sail and accuses Þórsteinn of betraying him to help his friends; Þórsteinn says he spared the king the shame of killing Oddr on suspicion. Later Oddr sends Þórsteinn horses through Þórsteinn's kinsman Hárekr, in thanks for their lives, and when Þórsteinn shows them to the king, the king nearly has him killed. Þórsteinn keeps his life and his leave to stay in the country, but he leaves the court and never regains the king's friendship.

Leið sá dagr; enn er náttaði, gerðist veðr byrvænligt.
Passed that day but when it-grew-night became weather fair-wind-promising
Fóru þeir Oddr ok fluttu Finnféit á skip, — bjuggust
Went they Odd and carried the-Finn-wealth onto ship made-ready
þá sem ákafast, ok höfðu um siglt áðr morgnaði. Konungr
then as most-eagerly and had about sailed before it-dawned (The)-king
vaknaði snimma, ok mælti til sinna manna: „Nú þykkjumst
woke early and spoke to his men Now think-myself
ek vita ok sjá allt ráð þeira Odds, ok munu
I to-know and see all plan of-them Odd(-and-his-men) and will

fleiri hafa hlut í átt enn þeir einir, ok þó vænti ek, at
more have share in had than they alone and yet expect I that
nú finnum vér á skipi þeira þat, sem vér höfum leitat
now find we on ship their that which we have searched
(at); enn eigi kunna ek at gefa þeim dauða-sök, meðan
for but not could I to give them death-charge while
mér var get til. Skulu vér nú fara ok leita“. Enn er
to-me was guess to-it Shall we now go and search But when
þeir komu undan tjöldum ok lituðust um, þá sá þeir
they came from-under tents and looked about then saw they
segl þeira Odds útarliga við eyjar. Þá mælti
sail of-them Odd(-and-his-men) far-out by (the)-islands Then spoke
konungr: „Þar mun nú skilja með oss Oddi at sinni;
(the)-king There will now part between us Odd for (the)-time
enn þú. Þórsteinn, kannt vel at fylgja þínum vinum, því
but you Thorstein can well to follow your friends because
at meira virðir þú nú Odd enn mik; má vera at þú
that more value you now Odd than me may be that you
segist í ætt þína um svikin“. Þórsteinn svarar: „Þat
say-yourself into family your about the-treachery Thorstein answers That
væri heldr trúleikr ok góðvili við yðr enn svik, at
were rather faithfulness and goodwill toward you than treachery to
firra yðr þeiri óhœfu, at drepa Odd, er verit hefir vinr
keep-from you that outrage to kill Odd who been has friend
yðarr, ok marga aðra dugandi menn, fyrir getsakir, er
your and many other able men for suspicions which
þó væri eigi réttligar dauða-sakir, at sannreyndar væri“.
yet were not rightful death-charges that truly-proven were
Þeir Oddr höfðu góða byri, komu til Íslands, ok fór
They Odd had good fair-winds came to Iceland and went
Oddr til bús síns. Sá maðr var þá í förum, er
Odd to household his That man was then in voyages who

Hárekr hét; hann var frændi Þórsteins. Hann kom út
Harek was-called he was kinsman of-Thorstein He came out
eitt sumar skipi sínu í Miðfjarðarós; þá var hallæri
one summer with-ship his into Midfjardaros then was famine
mikit á Íslandi. Oddr bauð Háreki til vetrvistar, ek veitti
great in Iceland Odd invited Harek to winter-lodging and gave
honum vel. Ok um sumarit sendi hann útan með honum,
him well And in the-summer sent he abroad with him
ok gaf Þórsteini, stóðhross góð; kallaði sem var Þórstein
and gave to-Thorstein stud-horses good said as was Thorstein
hafa gefit sér líf ok öllum sínum skipverjum. Hárekr
to-have given him life and all his shipmates Harek
kom til Noregs, ok hitti Þórstein frænda sinn; var hann
came to Norway and met Thorstein kinsman his was he
þá enn með konungi. Færði hann honum hrossin, ok
then still with (the)-king Brought he him the-horses and
kvað Odd hafa sent honum. Þórsteinn mælti: „Þetta er
said Odd have sent him Thorstein spoke This is
mér mest ólið, því at nú myndi elligar yfir hylmast
to-me most harm because that now would otherwise over be-hidden
mál Odds ok þat liðsinni, sem ek veitta þeim; enn
(the)-case of-Odd and that help which I gave them but
nú mun eigi leynast mega, ok er nökkut vant ór at
now will not be-hidden may and is somewhat difficult out-of to
ráða“. Þórsteinn sýndi þá konungi hrossin, ok sagði at
resolve Thorstein showed then (the)-king the-horses and said that
Oddr hefði sent honum at gjöf. Konungr svarar: „Ekki
Odd had sent him as gift (The)-king answers Not
var ek gjafa verðr frá Oddi; hefir hann þér sent hrossin,
was I of-gifts worthy from Odd has he you sent the-horses
en eigi mér. Skaltú ok hafa, ok þar líflátit með“. Ok bað
but not me Shall-you also have and there death with-it And bade

drepa hann; enn menn váru þess verks ekki fúsir, því
kill him but men were of-that deed not eager because
at Þórsteinn var hinn vinsælasti maðr. Kom þar svá við
that Thorstein was the best-liked man Came there so by
bœn manna, at hann helt lífi sínu ok landsvist. Fór
(the)-prayer of-men that he held life his and land-stay Went
hann brott frá hirðinni ok var síðan í engri konungs
he away from the-court and was afterward in no king's
vingan.
friendship

Sneglu-Halla þáttr

The Tale of Snegla-Halli

King Haraldr Sigurðarson, wise, resourceful, and a good poet, enjoys mockery and takes it well when in a good mood. His chief poet is Þjóðólfr, a courteous but envious Icelander of humble birth. Haraldr is fond of Icelanders: he gives a bell to Þingvellir and, in a great famine, sends four shiploads of meal and carries off many of the poor.

Þat er upphaf þessarrar frásagnar, at Haraldr konungr
That is (the)-beginning of-this tale that Harald (the)-king
Sigurðarson réð fyrir Noregi. Þat var í þann tíma, er
Sigurd's-son ruled over Norway That was at that time when
Magnús konungr frændi hans var andaðr. Svá er sagt, at
Magnus (the)-king kinsman his was dead So is said that
Haraldr konungr var allra manna vitrastr ok ráðigastr; varð
Harald (the)-king was of-all men wisest and most-resourceful became
þat ok flest at ráði, er hann lagði til. Hann var skáld gott.
that also most to counsel which he laid to-it He was poet good
Jafnan kastaði hann háðyrðum at þeim mönnum, er honum
Always threw he mocking-words at those men whom to-him
sýndist; þoldi hann ok allra manna bezt, þótt at honum
seemed endured he also of-all men best though that at-him
yrði kastat klámyrðum, þá er honum var gott í skapi.
were thrown lewd-words then when to-him was good in mind
Hann átti þá Þóru, dóttur Þórbergs Árnasonar. Honum þótti
He had then Thora daughter of-Thorberg Arni's-son To-him seemed
mikit gaman at skáldskap, ok hafði jafnan þá með sér er
great pleasure in poetry and had always them with himself who
kveða kunnu. Þjóðólfr hét maðr; hann var íslenzkr, ok
compose could Thjodolf was-called a-man he was Icelandic and
ættaðr ór Svarfaðardal, kurteiss maðr ok skáld mikit. Hann
descended from Svarfadardal courteous man and poet great He

var með Haraldi konungi í hinum mestu kærleikum. Hann
was with Harald (the)-king in the greatest affection Him
kallaði konungr höfuðskáld sitt, ok virði hann mest allra
called (the)-king chief-poet his and valued him most of-all
skálda. Hann var ættsmár, ok menntr vel, öfundsjúkr við
poets He was of-low-family and accomplished well envious toward
þá, er til komu. Haraldr konungr elskaði mjök Íslendinga;
those who to came Harald (the)-king loved much Icelanders
gaf hann til Íslands marga góða gripi, klukku góða til
gave he to Iceland many good treasures a-bell good to
Þingvalla; ok þá er hallæri þat hit mikla kom á Ísland,
Thingvellir and then when famine that the great came on Iceland
er ekki hefir slíkt komit annat, þá sendi hann út til Íslands
which not has such come other then sent he out to Iceland
fjóra knörru, hlaðna af mjöli, sinn í hvern fjórðung,
four merchant-ships laden with meal one into each quarter
ok lét flytja burt fátœka menn sem flesta af landinu.
and had carry away poor men as most from the-land

II · HALLI MEETS THE KING

Sneglu-Halli, a tall, long-necked, and sharp-tongued poet, sails to Norway with Bárðr, a retainer of the king. In Trondheimsfjord the king fires questions at them from his dragon-ship, and Halli answers them all. Asked crudely whether Agði had served them, Halli says Agði was waiting for nobler men and would serve the king that evening. The king calls him a braggart. Halli then declines Bárðr's offer of lodging, wishing to winter with the king.

Bárðr hét maðr, ok var hirðmaðr Haralds konungs. Hann
Bard was-called a-man and was a-retainer of-Harald (the)-king He
sigldi til Íslands, ok kom út at Gásum, ok vistaðist þar
sailed to Iceland and came out at Gasar and lodged there

um vetrinn. Sá maðr tók sér far með honum, er
through the-winter That man took for-himself passage with him who
Halli hét, ok var kallaðr Sneglu-Halli; hann var kallaðr
Halli was-called and was called Snegla-Halli he was called
skáld gott ok orðgreppr mikill. Halli var hár maðr ok
poet good and word-wit great Halli was tall man and
hálslangr, herðalítill ok handsíðr ok ljótlimaðr; hann var
long-necked small-shouldered and long-armed and ugly-limbed he was
ættaðr ór Fljótum. Þeir sigldu þegar (er þeir) váru búnir,
descended from Fljot They sailed as-soon as they were ready
ok höfðu langa útivist, tóku Noreg um haustit norðr við
and had long time-at-sea reached Norway in the-autumn north by
Þrándheim, við eyjar þær, er Hítrar heita, ok sigldu síðan
Trondheim at islands those which Hitrar are-called and sailed then
inn til Agðaness ok lágu þar um nótt. Enn um morgininn
in to Agdanes and lay there through night But in the-morning
eftir sigldu þeir inn eftir firðinum lítinn byr; enn er þeir
after sailed they in along the-fjord little fair-wind but when they
komu inn um Rein, sá þeir, at langskip þrjú röru innan
came in past Rein saw they that longships three rowed from-within
eftir firðinum. Dreki var hit þriðja skipit. Ok er skipin
along the-fjord A-dragon was the third the-ship And when the-ships
röru hjá kaupskipinu, þá gekk maðr fram ór lyftingunni á
rowed by the-merchant-ship then walked a-man forth out-of the-poop on
drekanum, í rauðum skarlats-klæðum, ok hafði gullhlað um
the-dragon in red scarlet-clothes and had gold-band about
enni, bæði mikill ok tiguligr. Þessi maðr tók til orða: „Hverr
forehead both big and lordly This man took to words Who
stýrir skipinu eðr hvar váru þér í vetr, hvaðan ýttu þér,
steers the-ship or where were you in winter whence pushed-off you
eðr hvar tóku þér fyrst land, eðr hvar lágu þér í nótt“?
or where took you first land or where lay you in night

Þeim varð næsta orðfátt kaupmönnum, er svá var margs
To-them became nearly word-short to-(the)-merchants when so was much
spurt senn. Halli svarar þá: „Vér várum í vetr á Íslandi, enn
asked at-once Halli answers then We were in winter in Iceland but
ýttum af Gásum, enn Bárðr heitir stýrimaðr, enn tókum
pushed-off from Gasar but Bard is-called (the)-skipper but took
land við Hítrar, enn lágum í nótt við Agðanes“. Þessi maðr
land at Hitrar but lay in night at Agdanes This man
spurði, er reyndar var Haraldr konungr Sigurðarson: „Sarð
asked who indeed was Harald (the)-king Sigurd's-son Screwed
hann yðr þá eigi hann Agði“? „Eigi enn þá“, sagði Halli.
he you then not he Agdi Not yet then said Halli
Konungrinn brosti at, ok mælti: „Er nökkurr til ráðs um,
The-king smiled at-it and spoke Is any to plan about-it
at hann muni enn síðar meir veita yðr þessa þjónustu“?
that he will yet later more give you this service
„Ekki“, sagði hann Halli, „ok bar þó einn hlutr mest til þess,
Not said he Halli and bore yet one thing most to that
er vér fengum enga skömm af honum“. „Hvat var þat“?
that we got no shame from him What was that
sagði konungr. Halli vissi gerla, við hvern hann talaði. „Þat,
said (the)-king Halli knew fully with whom he spoke That
herra“, sagði hann, „ef yðr forvitnar at vita, at hann Agði
lord said he if you are-curious to know that he Agdi
beið at þessu oss tignari manna, ok vænti yðar þangat
waited for this than-us nobler men and expected you thither
í kveld, ok mun hann þá gjalda af höndum þessa skuld
in evening and will he then pay off hands this debt
ótæpt“. „Þú munt vera orðhákr mikill“, segir konungr.
unsparingly You will be word-braggart great says (the)-king
Eigi er getit orða þeira fleiri at sinni. Sigldu þeir
Not are mentioned words their more for (the)-time Sailed they

kaupmennirnir inn til Kaupangs, ok skipuðu þar vöru upp,
the-merchants in to Kaupang and unloaded there wares up
ok leigðu sér hús í bœnum. Fám nóttum síðar kom
and rented for-themselves house in the-town Few nights later came
konungr inn aftr til bœjar, ok hafði hann farit til eyja út
(the)-king in back to (the)-town and had he gone to islands out
at skemta sér. Halli bað Bárð at fylgja sér til konungsins,
to amuse himself Halli bade Bard to escort himself to the-king
ok kveðst vilja biðja hann vetrvistar; enn Bárðr bauð
and says-of-himself to-wish ask him winter-lodging but Bard invited
honum með sér at vera. Halli bað hann hafa þökk fyrir,
him with himself to be Halli bade him have thanks for-it
enn kveðst með konunginum vilja vera, ef þess væri kostr.
but says-of-himself with the-king to-wish be if of-that were choice

III · ÞJÓÐÓLFR'S VERSES

Halli asks to join the court, and the king accepts him at Halli's own risk. The king eats fast and has the tables cleared by rapping his knife, leaving many hungry. Seeing a tanner and a smith fight, he has Þjóðólfr make them Sigurðr and Fáfnir, then Þórr and Geirrauðr, each kenned by his trade, and praises both verses. Halli, who was not there, grants he composes worse, and worst when he has not seen his subject; retold to the king as a boast, this earns a test.

Einn dag gekk Bárðr til konungs ok Halli með honum.
One day went Bard to (the)-king and Halli with him
Bárðr kvaddi konung. Konungr tók vel kveðju hans, ok
Bard greeted (the)-king (The)-king took well greeting his and
spurði margs af Íslandi, eðr hvárt hann hefði flutt útan
asked much of Iceland or whether he had carried abroad
nökkura íslenzka menn. Bárðr sagðist flutt hafa einn
any Icelandic men Bard said-of-himself carried to-have one

íslenzkan mann; „ok heitir hann Halli, ok er nú hér,
Icelandic man and is-called he Halli and is now here
herra, ok vill biðja yðr vetrvistar“. Halli gekk þá fyrir
lord and will ask you winter-lodging Halli went then before
konunginn ok kvaddi hann. Konungrinn tók honum vel,
the-king and greeted him The-king took him well
ok spurði, hvárt hann hefði svarat honum á firðinum, „er
and asked whether he had answered him on the-fjord when
vér fundumst“. „Sá er hinn sami“, segir Halli. Konungrinn
we met That is the same says Halli The-king
sagðist eigi spara mundu mat við hann, ok bað vera
said-of-himself not spare would food to him and bade (him)-be
at búi sínu nökkuru. Halli kveðst með hirðinni vilja
at farm his some Halli says-of-himself with the-court to-wish
vera, eðr leita sér annars ella. Konungrinn kvað svá fara
to-be or seek for-himself other else The-king said so to-go
jafnan, at „mér er um kennt, ef várr vinskapr ferr eigi
always that to-me is about blamed if our friendship goes not
vel af hendi, þó at mér þykki varla svá vera. Eru þér
well off hand though that to-me seems hardly so to-be Are you
einráðir Íslendingar ok ósiðblendnir. Nú ver, ef þú vill, ok
self-willed Icelanders and unsociable Now be if you will and
ábyrgst þik sjálfr, hvat sem í kann gerast“. Halli kvað
answer-for yourself yourself whatever that in may happen Halli said
svá vera skyldu, ok þakkaði konunginum. Var hann nú með
so to-be should and thanked the-king Was he now with
hirðinni, ok líkaði hverjum manni vel til hans. Sigurðr
the-court and pleased each man well with him Sigurd
hét sessunautr Halla, gamall hirð-maðr ok gæfr. Sá
was-called bench-mate of-Halli old retainer and gentle That
var siðr Haralds konungs, at eta einmælt; var fyrst borin
was custom of-Harald (the)-king to eat one-meal was first borne

vist fyrir konung, sem vánligt var, ok var hann þá jafnan
food before (the)-king as expected was and was he then always
mjök mettr, er vistin kom fyrir aðra. Enn þá er hann
very sated when the-food came before others But then when he
var mettr, klappaði hann með hnífskefti sínu á borðit, ok
was sated tapped he with knife-handle his on the-table and
skyldi þá þegar ryðja borðin, ok váru margir þá hvergi
should then at-once clear the-tables and were many then nowhere
nærri mettir. Þat bar til eitt sinn, er konungr gekk
near sated That came to-pass one time when (the)-king walked
úti um stræti ok fylgdin með honum, at þeir heyrðu í
outside along (the)-street and the-retinue with him that they heard in
eitt herbergi deild mikla. Þar váru at sútari ok járnsmiðr,
one lodging quarrel great There were at-it a-tanner and an-iron-smith
ok þar næst flugust þeir á. Konungrinn nam staðar ok sá
and there next fought they on The-king took stop and looked
á um stund. Síðan mælti hann: „Göngum burt, hér vil ek
on-it for a-while Then spoke he Go-we away here will I
engan hlut at eiga; enn þú, Þjóðólfr, yrk um þá vísu“.
no thing to have but you Thjodolf compose about them a-verse
„Herra“, segir hann, „eigi sómir þat, þar sem ek em kallaðr
Lord says he not befits that there where I am called
höfuðskáld yðart“. Konungr svarar: „Þetta er meiri vandi enn
chief-poet your (The)-king answers This is greater difficulty than
þú munt ætla; þú skalt gera af þeim alla menn aðra en þeir
you will think you shall make of them all men other than they

eru: lát annan vera Sigurð Fáfnis-bana, ok annan Fáfni, ok
are let (the)-one be Sigurd Fafnir's-bane and (the)-other Fafnir and
kenn þó hváru til sinnar iðnar". Þjóðólfr kvað þá vísu:
characterize yet each to his trade Thjodolf spoke then a-verse

Sigurðr eggjaði sleggju
Sigurd urged of-(the)-sledgehammer
snák váligrar brákar,
(the)-snake of-(the)-dangerous hide-scraping
enn skapdreki skinna
but (the)-shape-dragon of-skins
skreið of leista heiði,
crept over of-socks (the)-heath
menn sásk orm, áðr ynni
men feared (the)-serpent before won
ilvegs búinn kilju
of-(the)-sole-way (the)-ready of-(the)-rod
nautaleðrs á naðri
of-cowhide on (the)-adder
neflangr konungr tangar.
long-nosed king of-(the)-tongs

„Þetta er vel kveðit“, segir konungr, „ok kveð nú aðra,
This is well composed says (the)-king and compose now a-second
ok lát þá annan vera Þór, enn annan Geirrauð jötun, ok
and let then (the)-one be Thor but (the)-other Geirrod (the)-giant and
kenn þó hváran til sinnar iðnar. Þá kvað Þjóðólfr vísu:
characterize yet each to his trade Then spoke Thjodolf a-verse

Varp ór þrætu þorpi
Threw out-of quarrel's village
Þórr smiðbelgja stórra
Thor of-smith's-bellows big
hvatt eldingum höldnum
keenly with-lightnings held
hafra kjöts at jötni;
of-goats' meat at (the)-giant
hljóðgreipum tók húðar
with-sound-grips took of-(the)-hide
hrökkvi-skafls ór afli
of-(the)-recoiling-drift out-of (the)-forge
glaðr við galdra smiðju
glad at of-spells smithy
Geirrauðr síu þeiri.
Geirrod spark that

„Ekki ertú ámælisverðr um þat“, sagði konungr, „at þú ert
Not are-you blameworthy about that said (the)-king that you are
órleysingr til skáldskapar“. Ok lofuðu allir, at vel væri ort.
a-non-loosener to poetry And praised all that well were composed
Ekki var Halli við þetta. Ok um kveldit, er menn sátu við
Not was Halli at this And in the-evening when men sat at
drykk, kváðu þeir fyrir Halla, ok sögðu hann eigi mundu svá
drink spoke they before Halli and said him not would so

yrkja, þótt hann þœttist skáld mikit. Halli kveðst vita,
compose though he thought-himself poet great Halli says-of-himself to-know
at hann orti verr enn Þjóðólfr. „Enn þó mun mér firrst um
that he composed worse than Thjodolf But yet will to-me farthest about
fara, ef ek em eigi við staddr yrkis-efnin“, segir Halli. Þetta var
go if I am not by present the-poem-matters says Halli This was
þegar sagt konungi, ok snúit svá, at hann þœttist eigi minna
at-once told to-(the)-king and turned so that he thought-himself not lesser
skáld enn Þjóðólfr. Konungr kvað honum eigi at því verða
poet than Thjodolf (The)-king said to-him not on that become
mundu, „enn vera kann, at vér fáim þetta reynt af stundu“.
would but be may that we get this tested in a-while

IV · HALLI AND THE PORRIDGE

Halli wins a knife and belt with a verse on the dwarf Túta in Haraldr's mail coat. Left hungry when the king raps his knife, he grumbles in verse, offers to trade his weapons for bread, and is caught eating porridge in a kitchen. Þjóðólfr mocks him in verse. That evening Halli gets no meal but a trough of porridge, and the king, drawing his sword, orders him to eat until he bursts, but Halli refuses to burst and the king sheathes it.

Þat var einn dag, er menn sátu yfir borðum, at þar gekk
That was one day when men sat over tables that there went
inn í höllina dvergr einn, er Túta hét; hann var frískr
in into the-hall a-dwarf one who Tuta was-called he was Frisian
at ætt. Hann hafði lengi verit með Haraldi konungi. Hann
by family He had long been with Harald (the)-king He
var eigi hærri enn þrevett barn, enn allra manna digrastr
was not taller than a-three-year-old child but of-all men stoutest
ok herða mestr, höfuðit mikit ok elliligt, hryggrinn eigi
and of-shoulders broadest the-head big and old-looking the-back not

allskammr, enn sýlt í neðan, þar sem fœtrnir váru. Haraldr
very-short but stunted in below there where the-legs were Harald
konungr átti brynju, þá er hann kallaði Emmu; hann hafði
(the)-king owned mail-coat that which he called Emma he had
látit gera hana í Miklagarði. Hon var svá sið, at hon tók
had make it in Mikligard It was so long that it reached
niðr á skó Haraldi konungi, þá er hann stóð réttr;
down to (the)-shoes to-Harald (the)-king then when he stood upright
var hon öll tvöföld, ok svá styrk, at aldrigi festi járn á.
was it all double and so strong that never fastened iron on-it
Konungrinn hafði látit fœra dverginn í brynjuna ok setja
The-king had had put the-dwarf into the-mail-coat and set
hjálm á höfuð honum, ok gyrði hann sverði. Síðan gekk
helmet on head to-him and girded him with-sword Then walked
hann inn í höllina, sem fyrr var ritat, ok þótti maðrinn
he in into the-hall as before was written and seemed the-man
vera undrskapaðr. Konungrinn kvaddi sér hljóðs, ok mælti:
to-be wondrously-shaped The-king called for-himself silence and spoke
„Sá maðr, er kveðr um dverginn vísu, svá at mér þykki vel
That man who composes about the-dwarf a-verse so that to-me seems well
kveðin, þiggi af mér knif þenna ok belti“, — ok lagði fram
composed receive from me knife this and belt and laid forth
á borðit fyrir sik gripina: „Enn vitit þat fyrir víst, ef mér
on the-table before himself the-treasures But know-you that for certain if to-me
þykkir eigi vel kveðin, at hann skal hafa óþökk mína, ok missa
seems not well composed that he shall have disfavor my and lose

gripanna beggja“. Ok þegar er konungr hafði flutt erindi sitt,
the-treasures both And as-soon as (the)-king had delivered errand his
kveðr maðr vísu útar á bekkinn, ok var þat Sneglu-Halli:
recites a-man a-verse further-out on the-bench and was that Snegla-Halli

Færðr sýndisk mér frændi
Brought seemed to-me (the)-kinsman
Frísa kyns í brynju,
of-(the)-Frisians' kin into mail-coat
gengr fyr hirð í hringum
goes before (the)-court in rings
hjálmfaldinn kúrvaldi;
helmet-covered (the)-stunted-ruler
flœr-at eld í ári
flees-not fire in year
úthlaupi vanr Túta,
of-sallying wont Tuta
sé'k á síðu leika
see-I on side play
sverð rúghleifa skerði.
(the)-sword of-rye-loaves (the)-diminisher

Konungr bað fœra honum gripina: „Ok skaltú ná hér á
(The)-king bade bring him the-treasures And shall-you get here at
sannmæli, því at vísan er vel kveðin“. Þjóðólfi fannst fátt
truth-telling because that the-verse is well composed To-Thjodolf seemed little
um. — Þat var einn dag, er konungrinn var mettr, at
about-it That was one day when the-king was sated that
konungr klappaði knífi á borðit, ok bað ryðja. Þjónustumenn
(the)-king tapped with-knife on the-table and bade clear (The)-servants

gerðu svá. Þá var Halli hvergi nærri mettr. Tók hann þá
did so Then was Halli nowhere near sated Took he then
stykki eitt af diskinum, ok helt eftir, ok kvað þetta:
piece one from the-dish and held back and spoke this

Hirði ek eigi
Heed I not
hvat Haraldr klappar,
what Harald taps
læt ek gnauða grön,
let I grumble (the)-lip
geng ek fullr at sofa.
go I full to sleep

Um morgininn eftir, er konungr var kominn í sæti sitt
In the-morning after when (the)-king was come into seat his
ok hirðin, gekk Halli í höllina fyrir konunginn. Hann
and the-court walked Halli into the-hall before the-king He
hafði skjöld sinn ok sverð á baki sér. Hann kvað vísu:
had shield his and sword on back his He spoke a-verse

Selja mun'k við sufli
Sell will-I for relish
sverð mitt, konungr, verða,
sword my king must
ok, rymskyndir randa,
and (the)-din-hastener of-rims
rauðan skjöld við brauði;
red shield for bread
hungrar hilmis drengi,
(it)-hungers of-(the)-prince fellows

heldr gangu vér svangir;
rather go we hungry
mér dregr hrygg at hverju
to-me draws back to each
(Haraldr sveltir mik) belti.
Harald starves me belt

Engu svarar konungr, ok lét sem hann heyrði eigi; enn
Nothing answers (the)-king and acted as-if he heard not but
þat vissu allir menn, at honum mislíkaði. Litlu síðar var
that knew all men that to-him displeased A-little later was
þat, at konungrinn gekk úti ok fylgdin með honum;
that that the-king walked outside and the-retinue with him
þar var ok Halli í för. Hann snaraði fram hjá
there was also Halli in (the)-company He hurried forward past
konunginum. Konungrinn kvað þetta:
the-king The-king spoke this

„Hvert stillir þú Halli“?
Whither steer you Halli

Halli svarar:
Halli answers

„Hleyp'k fram at skyrkaupum“.
Run-I forth to skyr-buying
„Graut muntú gera láta“?
Porridge will-you make have

segir konungr.
says (the)-king

„Görr matr es þat, smjörvan“,
Made food is that buttered

segir Halli. Hleypr hann Halli þá upp í garðinn, ok
says Halli Runs he Halli then up into the-yard and
þangat sem var eldahús; þar hafði hann látit gera graut
thither where was (the)-fire-house there had he had make porridge
í stórum katli, — settist til ok át grautinn. Konungr sér,
in big kettle sat-himself to and ate the-porridge (The)-king sees
at Halli hverfr upp í garðinn. Hann kvaddi til Þjóðólf
that Halli turns up into the-yard He summoned for-it Thjodolf
ok tvá menn aðra, at leita Halla. Konungr veik ok upp í
and two men other to look-for Halli (The)-king turned also up into
garðinn. Þeir finna hann, þar sem hann át grautinn. Konungr
the-yard They find him there where he ate the-porridge (The)-king
kom þá at, ok sá, hvat hann hafðist at. Konungr var
came then up and saw what he busied-himself with (The)-king was
hinn reiðasti, ok spurði Halla hví hann fór af Íslandi til
the angriest and asked Halli why he went from Iceland to
höfðingja, til þess at gera af sér skömm ok gabb. „Látit
chieftains for that to make of himself shame and mockery Take-it
eigi svá, herra“, segir Halli; „jafnan sé ek yðr eigi drepa
not so lord says Halli always see I you not strike

kendi við góðum sendingum“. Halli stóð þá upp, ok kastaði
hand against good dishes Halli stood then up and threw
niðr katlinum, ok skall við haddan. Þjóðólfr kvað þá þetta:
down the-kettle and struck against (the)-handle Thjodolf spoke then this

Haddan skall, enn Halli
(The)-handle struck but Halli
hlaut offylli grautar,
got overfullness of-porridge
hornspánu kveð'k honum
horn-spoons say-I him
hlýða betr enn prýði.
suit better than finery

Konungrinn gekk þá burtu ok var allreiðr, ok um kveldit
The-king went then away and was very-angry and in the-evening
kom engi matr fyrir Halla, sem fyrir aðra menn. Ok er
came no food before Halli as before other men And when
menn höfðu snætt um stund, komu inn tveir menn, ok
men had eaten for a-while came in two men and
báru milli sín trog mikit, fullt grautar, ok með spán,
bore between themselves a-trough great full of-porridge and with-it a-spoon
ok settu fyrir Halla. Hann tók við ok át sem hann
and set before Halli He took with-it and ate as he
lysti, ok hætti síðan. Konungr bað Halla eta meira. Hann
lusted and stopped afterward (The)-king bade Halli eat more He
kveðst eigi mundu eta meira at sinni. Haraldr konungr
says-of-himself not would eat more for (the)-time Harald (the)-king
brá þá sverði, ok bað Halla eta grautinn, þar til er hann
drew then sword and bade Halli eat the-porridge there until when he
spryngi af. Halli kveðst eigi mundu sprengja sik á
burst from-it Halli says-of-himself not would burst himself on

grauti, enn sagði konung ná mundu lífi sínu, ef hann væri
porridge but said (the)-king get would life his if he were
á þat einhugi. Konungr sezt þá niðr ok slíðrar sverðit.
on that single-minded (The)-king sits then down and sheathes the-sword

V · THE ROAST PIG

The king sends Túta to Halli with a roast pig and a command, told only from the middle of the floor: Halli must have a verse made before Túta reaches him or lose his life. Halli rises and, reaching for the dish, at once speaks a verse thanking the king for the pig. The king gives up his anger, since the verse is well made so quickly.

Nökkuru síðar var þat einn dag, at konungr tók disk einn af
Somewhat later was that one day that (the)-king took dish one from
borði sínu, ok var á steiktr gríss, ok bað Túta dverg at
table his and was on-it roasted pig and bade Tuta (the)-dwarf to
færa Halla, „ok bið hann yrkja vísu, ef hann vill halda lífinu,
bring to-Halli and bid him compose a-verse if he will keep the-life
ok hafa kveðit, áðr þú kemr fyrir hann, ok seg honum eigi
and have composed before you come before him and tell him not
fyrr enn þú kemr á mitt gólf". „Eigi em ek þess fúss", segir
sooner than you come onto middle floor Not am I of-that eager says
Túta, „því at mér líkar vel við Halla". „Sé ek", segir konungr,
Tuta because that to-me pleases well with Halli See I says (the)-king
„at þér líkar vel vísan ok þykkir góð, sú er hann orti um
that to-you pleases well the-verse and seems good that which he composed about
þik, ok muntú gerla heyra kunna. Nú far burt í stað, ok ger
you and will-you fully hear be-able Now go away in place and do
sem ek býð". Túta tók við diskinum, ok gekk á mitt gólfið
as I bid Tuta took with the-dish and went onto middle the-floor
ok mælti: „Þú, Halli, yrk vísu at boði konungs, ok haf
and spoke You Halli compose a-verse at (the)-bidding of-(the)-king and have

ort, áðr ek kem fyrir þik, ef þú vill halda lífinu“. Halli
composed before I come before you if you will keep the-life Halli
stóð þá upp, ok rétti hendr í móti diskinum, ok kvað vísu:
stood then up and reached hands in toward the-dish and spoke a-verse

Grís þá greppr at ræsi
A-pig received (the)-poet from (the)-prince
gruntrauðustum dauðan,
most-unhesitating dead
Njörðr sér börg á borði
Njord sees a-barrow on (the)-board
bauglands fyr (sér) standa;
of-ring-land before himself stand
runa síður lit'k rauðar,
of-(the)-boar sides see-I red
ræð'k skjótt gera kvæði,
undertake-I quickly to-make a-poem
rana hefir seggr af svíni
snout has (the)-man from swine
(send heill, konungr) brenndan.
sent hail king burnt

Konungr mælti þá: „Nú skal gefa þér upp reiði mína, Halli,
(The)-king spoke then Now shall give you up anger my Halli
því at vísan er vel kveðin, svá skjótt sem til var tekit“.
because that the-verse is well composed so quickly as to-it was taken

Halli offers a drápa and claims never to have composed before, but Þjóðólfr names his Cow-verses. Halli retorts with Þjóðólfr's Garbage-trough verses, about carrying out ashes, and the king hears both and finds each slight. When Þjóðólfr says Halli has not avenged his father, Halli answers that his kin settled the case and that Þjóðólfr ate his own father's killer: his father was hanged by the halter of a calf that rolled off a wall, and the children ate the calf. Þjóðólfr draws his sword, men leap between them, the king forbids either to harm the other, and Halli recites his drápa.

Frá því er sagt einn dag, at Halli gekk fyrir konunginn,
Of that is told one day that Halli went before the-king
þá er hann var glaðr ok kátr. Þar var þá Þjóðólfr ok
then when he was glad and merry There was then Thjodolf and
margt annarra manna. Halli sagðist hafa ort drápu
many other men Halli said-of-himself to-have composed a-drapa
um konunginn, ok bað sér hljóðs. Konungrinn spurði,
about the-king and asked for-himself silence The-king asked
hvárt Halli hefði nökkut kvæði fyrri ort. Halli kveðst
whether Halli had any poem before composed Halli says-of-himself
eigi hafa fyrri ort. „Þat munu menn mæla", segir konungr,
not have before composed That will men say says (the)-king
„at þú takist mikit á hendr, slík skáld sem ort hafa
that you take-on much on hands such poets as composed have
um mik áðr, eftir nökkurum málefnum; eðr hvat sýnist
about me before according-to some matters or what seems
þér Þjóðólfr"? „Eigi kann ek, herra, at gefa yðr ráð", segir
to-you Thjodolf Not can I lord to give you counsel says
Þjóðólfr, „enn hitt mun hóti nær, at ek muna kunna
Thjodolf but that-other will somewhat nearer that I would know
at gefa Halla heilræði". „Hvert er þat"? sagði konungr. „Þat
to give to-Halli good-advice What is that said (the)-king That

fyrst, herra, at hann ljúgi ekki at yðr“. „Hvat lýgr hann
first lord that he lie not to you What lies he
nú“? segir konungr. „Þat lýgr hann, at hann sagðist ekki
now says (the)-king That lies he that he said-of-himself no
kvæði ort hafa“, sagði Þjóðólfr, „enn ek segi hann ort
poem composed to-have said Thjodolf but I say him composed
hafa“. „Hvert er kvæði þat“, segir konungr, „eðr um hvat er
to-have What is poem that says (the)-king or about what is
ort“? Þjóðólfr svarar: „Þat köllu vér Kollu-vísur, er hann
composed Thjodolf answers That call we Cow-verses which he
orti um kýr, er hann gætti út á Íslandi“. „Er þat satt,
composed about cows which he tended out in Iceland Is that true
Halli“? segir konungr. „Satt er þat“, segir Halli. „Hví sagðir
Halli says (the)-king True is that says Halli Why said
þú, at þú hefðir ekki kvæði ort“? sagði konungr. „Því“,
you that you had no poem composed said (the)-king For-that
sagði Halli, „at lítil kvæðis-mynd mundi á því þykkja, ef
said Halli that little poem-likeness would on that seem if
þetta skal heyra, ok lítt mun því verða á loft haldit“.
this shall-one hear and little will it become on high held
„Þat viljum vér fyrst heyra“, segir konungr. „Skemt mun
That will we first hear says (the)-king Entertained will-one
þá fleira“, segir Halli. „Hverju þá“? segir konungr. „Kveða
then more says Halli With-what then says (the)-king Recite
mun Þjóðólfr þá skulu Sorptrogs-vísur, er hann orti úti'
will Thjodolf then have-to Garbage-trough-verses which he composed out
á Íslandi“, segir Halli, „ok er þat vel, at Þjóðólfr leitaði
in Iceland says Halli and is that well that Thjodolf attacked
á mik eða af virði fyrir mér, því at upp eru svá í mér
on me or off value for me because that up are so in me
bitar ok jaxlar, at ek kann vel at svara honum jöfnum
biters and back-teeth that I can well to answer him with-equal

orðum“. Konungr brosti at, ok þótti gaman at etja þeim
words (The)-king smiled at-it and seemed fun to set them
saman. „Hvern veg er kvæði þat, eðr um hvat er ort“?
together Which way is poem that or about what is composed
segir konungr. Halli svarar: „Þat er ort um þat, er
says (the)-king Halli answers That is composed about that when
hann bar út ösku með öðrum systkinum sínum, ok þótti
he carried out ash with other siblings his and seemed
þá til einkis annars færr fyrir vitsmuna sakir, ok varð þó
then for nothing else able for wits' sake and had yet
um at sjá, at eigi væri eldr í, svá at mein yrði at, því
about to see that not were fire in so that harm became from because
at hann þurfti allt vit sitt í þann tíma“. Konungr spyrr
that he needed all wit his at that time (The)-king asks
ef þetta væri satt? „Satt er þat, herra“, segir Þjóðólfr. „Hví
if this were true True is that lord says Thjodolf Why
hafðir þú svá óvirðuligt verk“? segir konungr. „Því, herra“,
had you so unworthy work says (the)-king Because lord
segir Þjóðólfr, „at ek vilda flýta oss til leika, enn eigi
says Thjodolf that I would-wish to-hurry us to games but not
váru verk á mik lagin“. „Þat olli því“, segir Halli, „at þú
were works on me laid That caused that says Halli that you
þóttir eigi hafa verkmanns vit“. „Ekki skulu þit við
seemed not to-have workman's wit Not shall you-two together
talast“, segir konungr, „enn heyra vilju vér kvæðin bæði“. Ok
talk says (the)-king but hear will we the-poems both And
svá varð at vera. Kvað þá hvárr sitt kvæði; ok er lokit var
so had to be Recited then each his poem and when ended was
kvæðunum, mælti konungrinn: „Lítit er kvæðit hvárttveggja;
the-poems spoke the-king Little is the-poem each-of-two
enda munu lítil hafa verit yrkisefnin, ok þat þó enn
moreover will little have been the-poem-matters and that yet still

minna, er þú hefir ort, Þjóðólfr“. „Svá er ok, herra“,
less which you have composed Thjodolf So is also lord
segir Þjóðólfr, „ok er Halli orðhvass mjök. Enn skyldara
says Thjodolf and is Halli word-sharp very But more-fitting
þœtti mér honum, at hefna föður síns, enn at eiga sennur
would-seem to-me for-him to avenge father his than to have wranglings
við mik hér í Noregi“. „Er þat satt, Halli“? segir konungr.
with me here in Norway Is that true Halli says (the)-king
„Satt er þat, herra“, segir Halli. „Hví fórtu af Íslandi til
True is that lord says Halli Why went-you from Iceland to
höfðingja við þat, at þú hafðir eigi hefnt föður þíns“? segir
chieftains with that that you had not avenged father your says
konungr. „Því, herra“, „at ek var barn at aldri, þá er
(the)-king Because lord that I was a-child in age then when
faðir minn var veginn, ok tóku frændr (mínir) málit, ok
father my was slain and took kinsmen my the-case and
sættust á fyrir mína hönd. Enn þat þykkir illt nafn á
were-reconciled on-it for my hand But that seems ill name in
váru landi, at heita griðníðingr“. Konungrinn svarar: „Þat er
our land to be-called truce-breaker The-king answers That is
nauðsyn at ganga eigi á grið eðr sættir, ok er ór þessu
need to go not on truce or settlements and is out-of this
allvel leyst“. „Svá hugða ek, herra“, segir Halli, „enn vel má
very-well loosed So thought I lord says Halli but well may
Þjóðólfr tala stórmannliga um slíka hluti, því at öngvan
Thjodolf speak magnanimously about such things because that none
veit ek jafngreypiliga hefnt hafa föður síns sem hann“. „Víst
know I as-fiercely avenged to-have father his as he Surely
er Þjóðólfr líklegr til, at hafa þat hraustliga gert“, segir
is Thjodolf likely to to have that bravely done says
konungr; „eðr hvat er verkum gert um þat, at hann hafi
(the)-king or what is in-deeds done about that that he have

þat framar gert enn aðrir menn“? „Þat helzt, herra“, segir
that further done than other men That most lord says
Halli, „at hann át föðurbana sinn“. Nú œptu menn upp, ok
Halli that he ate father's-slayer his Now shouted men up and
þóttust aldrei slík undr heyrt hafa. Konungrinn brosti
thought-themselves never such wonders heard to-have The-king smiled
at, ok bað menn vera hljóða. „Ger þetta satt, er þú
at-it and bade men be quiet Make this true which you
sagðir, Halli“, segir konungr. Halli mælti: „Þat hygg ek, at
said Halli says (the)-king Halli spoke That think I that
Þórljótr héti faðir Þjóðólfs. Hann bjó í Svarfaðardal á
Thorljot was-called father of-Thjodolf He dwelt in Svarfadardal in
Íslandi, ok var hann fátœkr mjök, enn átti fjölda barna.
Iceland and was he poor very but had multitude of-children
Enn þat er siðr á Íslandi á haustum, at bœndr þinga til
But that is custom in Iceland in autumns that farmers assemble for
fátœkra manna, ok var þá engi fyrri til nefndr, enn Þórljótr,
poor men and was then none sooner to named than Thorljot
faðir Þjóðólfs; ok einn bóndi var svá stórlyndr, at hann
father of-Thjodolf and one farmer was so magnanimous that he
gaf honum sumargamlan kálf. Síðan sœkir hann kálfinn ok
gave him a-summer-old calf Then fetches he the-calf and
hafði í taumi, ok var lykkja á enda taumsins; ok er
had in halter and was a-loop on (the)-end of-the-halter and when
hann kom heim at túngarði sínum, hefr hann kálfinn upp
he came home to home-field-wall his lifts he the-calf up
á garðinn, ok var furðanliga hár garðrinn; þó var hærra
onto the-wall and was wondrously high the-wall yet was higher
fyrir innan, því at þar hafði verit grafit torf til garðsins.
before within because that there had been dug turf for the-wall
Síðan ferr hann inn yfir garðinn; enn kálfrinn veltr út af
Then goes he in over the-wall but the-calf rolls out off

garðinum. Enn lykkjan, er á var taums-endanum, brást
the-wall But the-loop which on was the-halter-end slipped
um háls honum Þórljóti, ok kenndi hann eigi niðr fótum;
about neck to-him Thorljot and felt he not down with-feet
hekk nú sínum megin hvárr, ok váru dauðir báðir, þegar er
hung now on-his side each and were dead both as-soon as
til var komit. Drógu börnin heim kálfinn, ok gerðu til
to-it was come Dragged the-children home the-calf and made into
matar, ok hygg ek, at Þjóðólfr hefði óskerðan sinn hlut af
food and think I that Thjodolf had undiminished his share of
honum". „Nærri hófi mundi þat", segir konungr. Þjóðólfr
it Near moderation would that says (the)-king Thjodolf
brá sverði, ok vildi höggva til Halla. Hljópu menn þá í
drew sword and would strike at Halli Leaped men then in
milli þeira. Konungr kvað hvárigum hlýða skyldu, at gera
between them (The)-king said to-neither be-allowed should to do
öðrum mein: „Leitaðir þú, Þjóðólfr, fyrr á Halla". Varð
to-(the)-other harm Attacked you Thjodolf first on Halli Had
nú svá at vera sem konungr vildi. Fœrði Halli drápuna, ok
now so to be as (the)-king would Delivered Halli the-drapa and
mæltist hon vel fyrir, ok launaði konungr honum góðum
was-spoken-of it well for and rewarded (the)-king him with-good
penningum. Leið nú á vetrinn ok var allt kyrrt.
money Passed now on the-winter and was all quiet

Halli bets Sigurðr his head against a gold ring that the violent Einarr fluga, who never pays compensation, will pay him. When Einarr boasts at Yule of killing an Icelander named Einarr, Halli claims him as his brother and demands compensation, twice in vain. The third time he tells the king a dream in which he is Þórleifr jarlsskáld and Einarr is Earl Hákon. On the king's advice Einarr pays him three marks, and Halli takes no more though the purse holds four. He refuses Sigurðr's ring and admits he had no such brother.

Einarr er maðr nefndr, ok var kallaðr fluga. Hann var
Einar is a-man named and was called Fly He was
son Háreksór Þjóttu. Hann var lendr maðr, ok hafði
son of-Harek from Thjotta He was landed man and had
sýslu á Hálogalandi ok Finnferð af konungi, ok var nú
stewardship in Halogaland and Finn-journey from (the)-king and was now
í kærleikum miklum við konung, enn þó eldi þar jafnan
in affection great with (the)-king but yet smoldered there always
ýmsu á. Einarr var óeyrðar-maðr mikill. Drap hann menn,
various on-it Einar was unruly-man great Killed he men
ef eigi gerðu allt, sem hann vildi, ok bætti öngan mann.
if not did all as he would and compensated no man
Einars var ván til hirðarinnar at jólunum. Þeim Halla og
Einar was expected to the-court at the-Yule To-them Halli and
Sigurði sessunaut hans varð talat til Einars. Sagði Sigurðr
Sigurd bench-mate his was talked to Einar Told Sigurd
Halla frá, at engi maðr þyrði at mæla í móti Einari eðr
Halli of-it that no man dared to speak in against Einar or
í aðra skál at leggja enn hann vildi sjálfr, ok hann
in (the)-other scale to lay than he would himself and he
bætti eigi fé fyrir víg eðr rán. Halli svarar: „Vændis
paid not money for slaying or robbery Halli answers Of-vileness

höfðingjar mundu slíkir kallaðir á váru landi“. „Mæl þú
chieftains would such called in our land Speak you
varliga, félagi“, segir Sigurðr, „því at hann er lítilþægr
carefully comrade says Sigurd because that he is little-tolerant
at orðum, ef honum eru í móti skapi“. „Þó at þér
toward words if to-him are in against mind Though that you
séit allir svá hræddir“, segir Halli, „at engi yðarr þori, at
be all so afraid says Halli that none of-you dare to
mæla eitt orð í móti honum, þá segi ek þér þat satt,
speak one word in against him then tell I you that truly
at ek skylda kæra, ef hann gerði mér rangt, ok þess get
that I should charge if he did me wrong and of-that guess
ek, at hann bœti mér“. „Hví þér enn öðrum“? segir
I that he compensate me Why you than others says
Sigurðr. „Þat mundi honum sýnna“, segir Halli. Þar til
Sigurd That would to-him likelier says Halli There until
þræta þeir hér um, at Halli býðr Sigurði at veðja. Leggr
dispute they here about that Halli offers Sigurd to wager Lays
Sigurðr hér við gullhring, er stóð hálfa mörk, enn Halli
Sigurd here on-it a-gold-ring which stood half mark but Halli
leggr við höfuð sitt. Einarr kemr at jólum, ok sitr hann
lays on-it head his Einar comes at Yule and sits he
á hœgri hönd konungi, ok menn hans út frá honum. Var
on right hand to-(the)-king and men his out from him Was
honum öll þjónusta veitt sem konungi sjálfum. Ok jóladag,
to-him all service given as to-(the)-king himself And (on)-Yule-day
er menn váru mettir, mælti konungrinn: „Nú viljum vér
when men were sated spoke the-king Now will we
hafa fleira til gamans, enn drekka. Skaltú nú, segja oss
have more for amusement than drink Shall-you now tell us
Einarr, hvat til tíðinda hefir orðit í förum yðrum“. Einarr
Einar what of tidings has happened in travels your Einar

svarar: „Ekki kann ek þat í frásagnir at fœra, herra, þó
answers Not can I that into tales to bring lord though
at vér knúskim bú-Finna eðr fiskimenn“. Konungr svarar:
that we crush farm-Finns or fishermen (The)-king answers
„Segit settliga, því at vér erum lítilþægir at, ok þykkir
Tell-you orderly because that we are little-demanding at-it and seems
oss gaman at því öllu, þó at yðr þykki lítilsvert, er
to-us fun in that all though that to-you seem little-worth who
jafnan standit í stríði“. „Þat er þá, herra, helzt at segja“,
always stand in strife That is then lord most to tell
segir Einarr, „at í fyrra sumar, er vér komum norðr á
says Einar that in former summer when we came north to
Mörkina, mœttum vér Íslands-fari einu, ok höfðu þeir orðit
the-Mark met we Iceland-ship one and had they become
þangat sæhafa, og setit þar um vetrinn. Bar ek á hendr
thither sea-driven and sat there through the-winter Bore I on hands
þeim, at þeir mundu kaup átt hafa við Finna, fyrir útan
to-them that they would trade had have with Finns for without
yðart lof eðr mitt; enn þeir duldu ok gengu eigi við; enn
your leave or mine but they concealed and went not with but
oss þóttu þeir ótrúligir, ok beidda ek þá rannsóknar; enn
to-us seemed they untrustworthy and asked I then search but
þeir synjuðu þverliga. Ek sagða þá, at þeir skyldi hafa þat,
they refused flatly I said then that they should have that
er þeim væri verra ok makligra, ok bað ek mína menn
which to-them were worse and more-fitting and bade I my men
vápnast ok leggja at þeim. Ek hafða fimm langskip, ok
arm-themselves and lay at them I had five longships and
lögðu vér at á bæði borð, ok léttum eigi fyrr enn hroðit
laid we at on both sides and ceased not before than cleared
var skipit. Ok einn íslenzkr maðr, er þeir kölluðu Einar,
was the-ship And one Icelandic man whom they called Einar

varðist svá vel, at hans maka fann ek aldrigi, ok víst
defended-himself so well that his match found I never and surely
var skaði at um þann mann, ok eigi hefðim vér unnit
was loss at about that man and not had we won
skipit, ef slíkir hefði allir verit innanborðs“. „Illa gerir þú
the-ship if such had all been inboard Ill do you
þat, Einarr“, segir konungr, „er þú drepr saklausa menn,
that Einar says (the)-king when you kill guiltless men
þó at eigi geri allt sem þér likar bezt“. „Mun ek
though that not do all as to-you pleases best Will I
eigi“, sagði Einarr, „sitja fyrir hættu þeiri; enn mæla þat
not said Einar sit for danger that but say that
sumir menn, herra, at þér gerit eigi allt sem guðréttligast;
some men lord that you do not all as most-godly
enn þeir reyndust illa, ok fundu vér mikinn finnskrepp í
but they proved ill and found we great Finn-bundle in
skipinu“. Halli heyrði, hvat þeir töluðu, ok kastaði knífinum
the-ship Halli heard what they spoke and threw the-knife
fram á borðit. ok hætti at eta. Sigurðr spurði, ef hann
forth onto the-table and stopped to eat Sigurd asked if he
væri sjúkr. Hann kvað þetta sótt verra: „Einarr fluga sagði
were sick He said this sickness worse Einar Fly told
lát Einars bróður míns, er hann kveðst fellt hafa
(the)-death of-Einar brother my whom he says-of-himself felled to-have
á kaupskipinu í fyrra sumár, ok má vera at nú gefi til,
on the-merchant-ship in former summer and may be that now gives to-it
at leíta eftir bótunum við hann Einar“. „Tala ekki um,
to seek after the-compensation with him Einar Talk not about-it
félagi“, segir Sigurðr; „sá mun vænstr“. „Nei“, segir Halli,
comrade says Sigurd that will most-promising No says Halli
„ekki mundi hann svá við mik gera, ef hann ætti eftir
not would he so toward me do if he had after

mik at mæla“. Hljóp hann þá fram yfir borðit, gekk innar
me to speak Leaped he then forth over the-table went further-in
fyrir hásætit ok mælti: „Tiðindi sögðu þér, Einarr bóndi,
before the-high-seat and spoke Tidings told you Einar farmer
þau er mik akta ærit mjök í drápi Einars bróður
those which me concern ample much in (the)-slaying of-Einar brother
míns, er þér sögðuzt feldan hafa á kaupskipinu í fyrra
my whom you said-yourself felled to-have on the-merchant-ship in former
sumar. Nú vil ek vita, hvárt þú vill nökkuru bœta mér
summer Now will I know whether you will somewhat compensate me
Einar bróður minn“. „Hefir þú eigi spurt, at ek bœti
Einar brother my Have you not heard that I compensate
engan mann“? segir Einarr. „Eigi er mér skylt at trúa því“,
no man says Einar Not is to-me bound to believe that
segir Halli, „at þér væri allt illa gefit, þó at ek heyrða
says Halli that to-you were all ill given though that I heard
þat sagt“. „Gakk burt maðr“, segir Einarr, „annarr mun
that said Go away man says Einar (the)-other will
verri“. Halli gekk at sitja. Sigurðr spyrr, hvé farit hefði.
worse Halli went to sit Sigurd asks how gone had
Halli svarar, ok kveðst hafa hótun fyrir fébœtr.
Halli answers and says-of-himself to-have threat for money-compensation
Sigurðr bað hann eigi oftar koma á þetta mál, ok sé
Sigurd bade him not oftener come onto this case and be
laus veðjanin. Halli kvað honum vel fara: „enn á skal
loose the-wager Halli said to-him well to-go but on shall-I
koma oftar“. Ok annan dag eftir gekk Halli fyrir Einar
come oftener And (the)-second day after went Halli before Einar
ok mælti: „Þat mál vil ek vekja, Einarr, ef þú vilt nökkuru
and spoke That case will I raise Einar if you will somewhat
bœta mér bróður minn“. Einarr svarar: „Þú ert seinþreyttr
compensate me brother my Einar answers You are slow-tiring

at, ok ef þú dregst eigi brott, þá muntú fara slíka
at-it and if you drag-yourself not away then will-you go such
för sem bróðir þinn eðr verri“. Konungrinn bað hann eigi
journey as brother your or worse The-king bade him not
svá svara: „Ok er þat frændunum ofraun, ok veit eigi,
so answer And is that to-the-kinsmen too-great-trial and knows-one not
hvers hugar hverjum lér. Enn þú, Halli, kom eigi oftar á
of-what mind to-each lends But you Halli come not oftener onto
þetta mál, því at stœrri bokkar verða at þola honum slíkt
this case because that bigger bucks must to bear from-him such
enn þú ert“. Halli svarar: „Svá mun vera verða“. Gekk hann
than you are Halli answers So will be must Went he
þá til rúms síns. Sigurðr fagnar honum vel, ok spurði, hvé
then to place his Sigurd welcomes him well and asked how
farit hefði. Halli kveðst hafa heitan fyrir fébœtr
gone had Halli says-of-himself to-have threat for money-compensation
af Einari. „Þótti mér þat í hug“, segir Sigurðr, „ok sé
from Einar Seemed to-me that in mind says Sigurd and be
laus veðjanin“. „Vel ferr þér“, segir Halli, „enn enn skal
loose the-wager Well goes to-you says Halli but yet shall
ek koma í þriðja sinn“. „Gefa vil ek þér nú til hringinn“,
I come in a-third time Give will I you now to-it the-ring
sagði Sigurðr, „at þú látir vera kyrrt, er þetta hefir þó
said Sigurd that you let be quiet since this has yet
nökkut af mér til hlotizt í fyrstu“. Halli svarar: „Sýnir þú
somewhat from me to resulted in first Halli answers Show you
í þessu, hverr maðr þú ert, ok eigi má þér um kenna,
in this what man you are and not may on-you about-it blame
hversu sem til vegar ferr; enn prófa skal enn um sinn“. Ok
however that to way goes but test shall-I still for a-time And
þegar um morgininn eftir, er konungr tók handlaugar ok
as-soon in the-morning after when (the)-king took hand-washing and

Einarr fluga, gekk Halli at honum, ok kvaddi konunginn.
Einar Fly went Halli to him and greeted the-king
Konungrinn spyrr, hvat er hann vildi. „Herra“, segir Halli,
The-king asks what that he would Lord says Halli
„ek vil segja yðr draum minn. Ek þóttumst vera allr maðr
I will tell you dream my I thought-myself to-be all man
annarr enn ek em“. „Hvat manni þóttist þú vera“? segir
other than I am What man thought-yourself you to-be says
konungr. „Ek þóttumst vera Þórleifr jarls skáld, enn hann
(the)-king I thought-myself be Thorleif Earl's Poet but he
Einarr fluga þótti mér vera Hákon jarl Sigurðarson, ok
Einar Fly seemed to-me to-be Hakon (the)-earl Sigurd's-son and
þóttumst ek hafa ort um hann nið, ok munda ek
thought-myself I to-have composed about him slander and remembered I
sumt níðit, er ek vaknaða“. Snöri Halli þá útar eftir
some the-slander when I woke Turned Halli then further-out along
höllinni, ok kvað nökkut fyrir munni sér, ok námu menn
the-hall and recited something before mouth his and caught men
eigi orða-skil. Konungr mælti: „Þetta var eigi draumr annarr
not word-distinction (The)-king spoke This was not dream other
enn hann dregr þessi dœmi saman; ok svá mun fara með
than he draws these examples together and so will go with
ykkr, sem fór með Hákoni Hlaðajarli ok Þórleifi skáldi, ok
you-two as went with Hakon Hladir-earl and Thorleif (the)-Poet and
þat sama gerir Halli: hann svífst einkis, ok megu vit
that same does Halli he shrinks-from nothing and may we-two
sjá, at bitit hefir níðit ríkari menn enn svá sem
see that bitten has the-slander more-powerful men than so as
þú ert, Einarr, sem var Hákon jarl, ok mun þat munat,
you are Einar as was Hakon (the)-earl and will that remembered
meðan Norðrlönd eru byggð, ok er verri einn kviðlingr,
while (the)-Northlands are inhabited and is worse one ditty

um dýran mann kveðinn, ef munaðr verðr eftir, enn lítil
about dear man composed if remembrance becomes after than little
fémúta; ok ger svá vel ok leys hann af með nökkuru“.
money-bribe and do so well and buy him off with something
„Þér skulut ráða, herra“, segir Einarr, „ok seg honum, at
You shall decide lord says Einar and tell him that
hann taki þrjár merkr silfrs af féhirði mínum, er ek fekk
he take three marks of-silver from treasurer my which I gave
honum síðast í sjóði“. Þetta var sagt Halla. Gekk hann
him last in purse This was told to-Halli Went he
at finna féhirðinn, ok sagði honum sitt erindi. Hann kvað
to meet the-treasurer and told him his errand He said
vera fjórar merkr silfrs í sjóðnum. Halli kveðst þrjár
to-be four marks of-silver in the-purse Halli says-of-himself three
hafa skyldu. Halli gekk þá fyrir Einar, ok sagði honum.
have should Halli went then before Einar and told him
„Hafa mundir þú þat, er í var sjóðnum“, segir Einarr.
Have would you that which in was the-purse says Einar
„Nei“, sagði Halli, „öðruvísi muntú ná lífi mínu, enn ek
No said Halli otherwise will-you get life my than I
verða þjófr at fé þínu, ok sá ek, at þú hafðir ætlat
become thief of wealth your and saw I that you had intended
mér þat“. Ok svá var, at Einarr hafði þat ætlat Halla,
me that And so was that Einar had that intended for-Halli
at hann mundi hafa, þat er í sjóðnum var, ok þótti
that he would have that which in the-purse was and seemed
honum þat nóg bana-sök. Gekk Halli nú til sætis síns, ok
to-him that enough death-charge Went Halli now to seat his and
sýndi Sigurði féit. Sigurðr tók hringinn, ok kvað Halla
showed Sigurd the-wealth Sigurd took the-ring and said Halli
hafa vel til unnit. Hann svarar: „Eigi eru vit þá jafnir
to-have well to won He answers Not are we-two then equal

þegnar, ok tak hring þinn, ok njót manna bezt. Enn þér
men and take ring your and enjoy of-men best But you
satt at segja, þá átta ek aldrigi skylt við þenna mann, er
truth to tell then had I never kinship with this man whom
Einarr hefir drepit, ok vilda ek vita, ef ek næða fénu
Einar has killed and would-wish I know if I got the-wealth
af honum“. „Engum manni ertú líkr at prettum“, segir
from him To-no man are-you like in tricks says
Sigurðr. Einarr fór brott eftir jólin norðr á Hálogaland.
Sigurd Einar went away after the-Yule north to Halogaland

VIII · SILENCE AT THE ASSEMBLY

In spring Halli takes leave of King Haraldr to go trading in Denmark, and the king warns him against Einarr fluga. In Jutland, Halli bets the steward Rauðr his head against a gold ring that he can make the noisy assembly fall silent. He jumps up and shouts that he has a grave complaint: he has lost his whetstone pouch and all its gear. Everyone falls silent in surprise, Halli claims the ring, and when the noise resumes he runs from Rauðr's anger all the way to England.

Um várit eftir bað Halli konung órlofs at fara til Danmerkr
In the-spring after asked Halli (the)-king leave to go to Denmark
í kaupferð. Konungr bað hann fara, sem hann vildi, „ok
on trading-voyage (The)-king bade him go as he would and
kom aftr skjótt, því at oss þykkir gaman at þér, ok far
come back soon because that to-us seems fun in you and go
varliga fyrir Einari flugu; hann mun hafa illan hug á þér,
carefully before Einar Fly he will have ill mind on you
ok sjaldan veit ek honum jafnsleppt tekizt hafa“. Halli tók
and seldom know I for-him so-loosely turned-out to-have Halli took
sér far með kaupmönnum suðr til Danmerkr, ok svá
for-himself passage with merchants south to Denmark and so

til Jótlands. Rauðr hét maðr, er þar hafði sýslu, ok
to Jutland Raud was-called a-man who there had stewardship and
réðst Halli þar til vistar. Þat bar til eitt sinn, er
engaged-himself Halli there for lodging That came to-pass one time when
hann skyldi hafa þing fjölmennt, ok er menn skyldu þar
he should have an-assembly crowded and when men should there
mæla lögskilum sínum, þá var svá mikit háreysti ok gap,
speak law-business their then was so great clamor and bawling
at engi maðr mátti þar málum sínum fram koma; ok fóru
that no man could there cases his forward come and went
menn við þat heim um kveldit. Þat var um kveldit, er
men at that home in the-evening That was in the-evening when
menn komu til drykkjar, at Rauðr mælti: „Þat væri ráðleitinn
men came to drink that Raud spoke That were resourceful
maðr, er ráð fyndi til, at fólk þetta allt þagnaði“. Halli
man who counsel found to-it that folk this all fell-silent Halli
svarar: „Þat fæ ek gert, þegar er ek vil, at hér skal hvert
answers That can I do as-soon as I wish that here shall every
mannsbarn þagna“. „Þat fær þú eigi gert landi“, segir
man's-child fall-silent That can you not do countryman says
Rauðr. Um morgininn komu menn til þings, ok var nú
Raud In the-morning came men to (the)-assembly and was now
slíkt óp ok gap sem hinn fyrra dag, ok varð engum
such shouting and bawling as the former day and was no
málum skilat. Fóru menn við þat heim. Þá mælti Rauðr:
cases discharged Went men at that home Then spoke Raud
„Viltú veðja um Halli, hvárt þú fær hljóðit á þinginu eðr
Will-you wager about-it Halli whether you get the-silence at the-assembly or
eigi“. Halli kveðst þess búinn. Rauðr svarar: „Legg við
not Halli says-of-himself for-that ready Raud answers Lay on-it
höfuð þitt, enn ek gullhring er stendr mörk“. „Þat skal
head your but I a-gold-ring which stands a-mark That shall

vera“, segir Halli. Um morgininn spurði Halli Rauð, ef hann
be says Halli In the-morning asked Halli Raud if he
vildi veðjanina halda. Hann kveðst halda vilja. Komu
would the-wager keep He says-of-himself keep to-wish Came
menn nú til þingsins, ok var nú slíkt óp eðr meira, enn
men now to the-assembly and was now such shouting or more than
hina fyrri dagana. Ok er menn varði sízt, hleypr Halli
the former days And when men expected least leaps Halli
upp, ok œpir sem mest mátti hann: „Hlýði allir menn;
up and shouts as most could he Listen all men
mér er mikils máls þörf; ek skal kæra um óðindælu
to-me there-is great matter's need I shall complain about whetstone-pouch
mína sjálfs; mér er horfin hein ok heinar-sufl, skreppa
my own to-me is vanished (the)-whetstone and whetstone-relish wallet
ok þar með allr skreppu-skrúði, sá er karlmanni er betra
and there with all wallet-gear that which for-a-man is better
at hafa, enn at missa“. Allir menn þögnuðu. Sumir hugðu,
to have than to lose All men fell-silent Some thought
at hann mundi œrr orðinn, enn sumir hugðu hann mundu
that he would mad become but some thought him would
tala konungs erindi nökkur. Ok er hljóð fekkst, settist
speak (the)-king's errands some And when silence was-got sat
Halli niðr ok tók við hringnum. Enn þegar menn sáu,
Halli down and took with the-ring But as-soon-as men saw
at þetta var ekki nema dáruskapr, þá var háreysti sem
that this was nothing except foolery then was clamor as
áðr, ok komst Halli á hlaupi undan, því at Rauðr vildi
before and got Halli at running away because that Raud would
hafa líf hans, ok þótti þetta verit hafa hin mesta ginning.
have life his and seemed this been to-have the greatest deceit
Létti hann eigi fyrr enn hann kom til Englands.
Stopped he not before than he came to England

In England Halli recites a nonsense poem to King Haraldr Guðinason, who rewards him with as much silver as clings to his hair. Halli tars his hair and gets a great deal. To find room on a crowded ship he recites a dream-verse of a drowned man among lobsters, which frightens the other passengers off. Back in Norway he recites to King Haraldr a short, deliberately bad poem on an earl.

Þá réð fyrir Englandi Haraldr Guðinason. Halli ferr þegar
Then ruled over England Harald Godwin's-son Halli goes at-once
á konungs fund, ok kveðst ort hafa um hann drápu,
to (the)-king's meeting and says-of-himself composed to-have about him a-drapa
ok bað sér hljóðs. Konungr lét gefa honum hljóð. Sezt
and asked for-himself silence (The)-king had give him silence Sits
nú Halli fyrir kné konungi, ok flutti fram kvæðit; ok er
now Halli before knee to-(the)-king and delivered forth the-poem and when
lokit var kvæðinu, spurði konungr skáld sitt, er var með
ended was the-poem asked (the)-king poet his who was with
honum, hvern veg at væri kvæðit. Hann kveðst ætla at
him what way that were the-poem He says-of-himself to-think that
gott væri. Konungr bauð Halla með sér at vera, enn Halli
good were (The)-king invited Halli with himself to be but Halli
kveðst búinn vera til Noregs áðr. Konungr kvað þá þann
says-of-himself ready to-be to Norway before (The)-king said then that
veg fara mundu af hendi um kvæðis-launin „við þik, sem
way go would from hand about the-poem-reward with you as
vér njótum kvæðisins, því at engi hróðr verðr oss at því
we enjoy the-poem because that no praise becomes to-us from that
kvæði, er engi kann. Sit nú niðr á gólfit, enn ek mun
poem which none knows Sit now down on the-floor but I will
láta hella silfri í höfuð þér, ok haf þat, er í hárinu
have pour silver onto head your and have that which in the-hair

loðir, ok þykkir mér þá hvárt horfa eftir öðru, er vér
clings and seems to-me then each look after (the)-other since we
skulum eigi ná at nema kvæðit“. Halli svarar: „Bæði mun
shall not get to learn the-poem Halli answers Both will
vera, at lítilla launa mun vert vera, enda munu ok þessi
be that of-little reward will worth be moreover will also these
launin lítil vera. Lofa munu þér, herra, at ek ganga út
the-rewards little be Allow will you lord that I go out
nauðsynja minna“. „Gakk sem þú vill“, segir konungr. Halli
for-needs mine Go as you will says (the)-king Halli
gekk þar til, er skipsmiðir váru, ok bar í höfuð sér
went there to where ship-carpenters were and bore onto head his
tjöru, ok skrýfði sem mest hárinu, ok gerði sem diskr væri;
tar and curled as most the-hair and made as-if dish were
gekk síðan inn, ok bað hella silfrinu yfir sik. Konungr
went then in and bade pour the-silver over himself (The)-king
kvað hann vera brögðóttan; ok var nú hellt yfir hann,
said him to-be tricky and was now poured over him
ok var þat mikit silfr, er hann fekk. Fór hann síðan
and was that much silver which he got Went he afterward
þangað, er skip þau váru, er til Noregs ætluðu, ok váru
thither where ships those were which to Norway intended and were
öll burtu nema eitt, ok var þar ráðinn fjöldi manna með
all away except one and was there hired multitude of-men with
miklum þunga; enn Halli hafði of fjár, ok vildi gjarna
great load but Halli had too-much of-money and would gladly
í burt, því at hann hafði ekki kvæði ort um konung
off away because that he had not poem composed about (the)-king
annat enn endileysu, ok mátti hann því eigi kenna þat.
other than nonsense and could he therefore not teach that
Stýrimaðr bað hann fá til ráð, at Suðrmenn gengi ór
(The)-skipper bade him find for-it counsel that (the)-Southerners went out-of

skipinu, ok kveðst þá vilja gjarna taka við honum. Enn
the-ship and says-of-himself then to-wish gladly to-take with him But
þá var komit at vetri. Halli var hjá þeim í herbergjum um
then was come to winter Halli was with them in lodgings for
hríð. Eina nótt lét Halli illa í svefni, ok var lengi áðr enn
a-while One night acted Halli ill in sleep and was long before than
þeir fengu vakit hann. Þeir spurðu, hvat hann hefði dreymt.
they could wake him They asked what he had dreamed
Halli kvað lokit því, at hann mundi biðja þá fars héðan
Halli said ended that that he would ask them passage hence
frá. „Mér þótti maðr koma at mér ógrligr, ok kvað þetta:
from To-me seemed a-man come to me terrible and spoke this

Hröng es, þar's hávan þöngul
A-crowd is where high seaweed
held ek siz'k fjörs selda'k
hold I since-I of-life sold-I
sýn es, at sit'k at Ránar,
plain is that sit-I at Ran's
sumir eru í búð með humrum;
some are in booth with lobsters
ljóst es lýsu at gista;
clear is with-(the)-cod to lodge
lönd á'k út við ströndu;
lands own-I out by (the)-shore
því sit'k bleikr í brúki,
therefore sit-I pale in (the)-seaweed-heap
blakkir mér þari um hnakka,
flaps to-me seaweed about (the)-nape
blakkir mér þari um hnakka.
flaps to-me seaweed about (the)-nape

Ok er Suðrmenn vissu draum þenna, réðust þeir ór skipinu,
And when (the)-Southerners knew dream this went they out-of the-ship
ok þótti víss bani sinn, ef þeir fœri þar á. Halli réðst
and seemed certain death their if they went there aboard Halli went
þegar á skip, ok sagði, at þetta var prettr hans enn engi
at-once onto ship and said that this was trick his but no
draumr. Ok tóku þeir út þegar, er þeir váru búnir, ok tóku
dream And took they out as-soon as they were ready and reached
Noreg um haustit; ok fór Halli þegar til Haralds konungs.
Norway in the-autumn and went Halli at-once to Harald (the)-king
Hann tók vel við Halla, ok spurði, hvárt hann hefði ort
He took well with Halli and asked whether he had composed
um aðra konunga. Halli kvað: „Þetta orta ek eina um jarl“:
about other kings Halli said This composed I one about an-earl

Þula verðr at drápu
A-thula becomes into a-drapa
með Dönum verri;
among Danes worse
föll eru fjórtán
falls are fourteen
ok föng tíu;
and catches ten
opit es ok öndvert,
open is and backward
öfigt stígandi.
contrary stepping
Svá skal yrkja
So shall compose
sá's illa kann.
he-who ill knows

Konungr brosti at, ok þótti honum jafnan gaman at Halla.
(The)-king smiled at-it and seemed to-him always fun in Halli

X · HALLI'S LAST JESTS

At the Gula assembly Halli boasts of the women there. He and Þjóðólfr trade insulting verses at sea, and Halli wins a gold-inlaid axe from the king with an indecent joke. Asked to speak ambiguously to Queen Þóra, he composes an obscene verse, and the king protects him. He mocks Þjóðólfr's gift horse in verse, and the king refuses it. Back in Iceland he dies at a bowl of porridge, and the king remarks that the wretch must have burst on porridge.

Haraldr konungr fór um várit til Gulaþings; ok um
Harald (the)-king went in the-spring to (the)-Gula-assembly and during
daginn spurði konungr Halla, hversu honum yrði til kvenna
the-day asked (the)-king Halli how to-him went for women
um þingit. Halli svarar:
at the-assembly Halli answers

Gott es Gulaþing þetta:
Good is Gula-assembly this
giljum vér hverjar es viljum.
seduce we whichever that we-wish

Konungr fór þaðan norðr til Þrándheims. Ok er
(The)-king went thence north to Trondheim And when
þeir sigldu fyrir Stað, áttu þeir Þjóðólfr ok Halli
they sailed past Stad had they Thjodolf and Halli
búðarvörð at halda, ok var Halli sæsjúkr mjök, ok
booth-watch to keep and was Halli seasick very and
lá undir báti, enn Þjóðólfr varð at þjóna einn.
lay under (the)-boat but Thjodolf had to serve alone

Ok er hann bar vistina, fell hann um fót
And when he bore the-food fell he over (the)-foot
Halla, er stóð út undan bátnum. Þjóðólfr kvað þá
of-Halli which stood out from-under the-boat Thjodolf spoke then
þetta:
this

Út stendr undan báti
Out stands from-under (the)-boat
ilfat. Muntú nú gilja?
sole-vessel Will-you now seduce

Halli svarar:
Halli answers

Þjón geri'k þann at sveini:
Servant make-I that-one into a-lad
Þjóðólf læt'k mat sjóða.
Thjodolf let-I food boil

Fór konungrinn nú leiðar sinnar, unz hann kom í Kaupang.
Went the-king now way his until he came to Kaupang
Þóra drottning var nú með honum, ok var hon lítt til
Thora (the)-queen was now with him and was she little to
Halla; enn konungr var vel til hans, ok þótti gaman at
Halli but (the)-king was well to him and seemed fun in
Halla jafnan. Þess er getit einn dag, at konungrinn gekk
Halli always It is mentioned one day that the-king walked
úti um stræti ok fylgdin með honum. Halli var þar í
out along (the)-street and the-retinue with him Halli was there in
för. Konungrinn hafði öxi í hendi, ok öll gullrekin,
(the)-company The-king had an-axe in hand and all gold-inlaid

enn silfrvafit skaftit ok silfrhólkr mikill á forskeftinu,
but silver-wound the-shaft and silver-ferrule great on the-fore-shaft
ok þar í ofan steinn góðr. Þat var ágætr gripr. Halli
and there in from-above a-stone good That was excellent treasure Halli
sá jafnan til öxarinnar. Konungr fann þat ok brátt, ok
looked always at the-axe (The)-king found that also soon and
spurði, hvárt Halla litist vel á öxina. Honum kveðst vel
asked whether to-Halli seemed well on the-axe To-him says-of-himself well
á lítast. „Hefir þú sét betri öxi“? (segir konungr). „Eigi
on to-look Have you seen better axe says (the)-king Not
ætla ek þat“, segir Halli. „Viltú láta serðast til öxarinnar“?
think I that says Halli Will-you let be-screwed for the-axe
segir konungr. „Eigi“, segir Halli; „enn várkunn þykki
says (the)-king Not says Halli but excusable seems
mér yðr, at þér vilit svá selja sem þér keyptut“. „Svá
to-me you that you will so sell as you bought So
skal vera, Halli“, segir konungr; „tak við, ok njót manna
shall be Halli says (the)-king take with-it and enjoy of-men
bezt: gefin var mér, enda skal svá selja“. Halli þakkaði
best given was to-me moreover shall-I so sell Halli thanked
konungi. Um kveldit, er menn komu til drykkjar talaði
(the)-king In the-evening when men came to drink spoke
drottning við konung, at þat væri undarligt ok eigi vel
(the)-queen with (the)-king that that were strange and not well
til skift, at gefa Halla þá gripi, „er varla er ótíginna
to divided to give Halli those treasures which hardly is of-unnoble
manna at eiga, fyrir klámyrði sín; enn þó fá sumir lítit
men to own for lewd-words his but yet get some little
fyrir góða þjónustu“. Konungr kveðst því ráða vilja,
for good service (The)-king says-of-himself that rule to-wish
hverjum hann gefi gripi sína: „Vil ek eigi snúa orðum
to-whom he give treasures his Will I not turn words

Halla til hins verra, þeim er tvíræð eru“. Konungr bað
of-Halli to the worse those which ambiguous are (The)-king bade
kalla Halla, ok svá var gert. Halli laut honum. Konungr
call Halli and so was done Halli bowed to-him (The)-king
bað Halla mæla nökkur tvíræðis-orð við Þóru drottningu:
bade Halli speak some ambiguous-words to Thora (the)-queen
„ok vit, hversu hon þolir“. Halli laut þá at Þóru ok
and know how she endures Halli bowed then to Thora and
kvað:
spoke

Þú ert makligust miklu,
You are most-fitting by-much
(munar stórum þat) Þóra,
matters greatly that Thora
flenna upp at enni
to-stretch up to (the)-forehead
allt leðr Haralds reðra.
all (the)-leather of-Harald cocks

„Takit hann ok drepit“, segir drottning; „vil ek eigi hafa
Take-you him and kill-you says (the)-queen will I not have
hrópyrði hans“. Konungr bað öngvan svá djarfan vera,
abuse-words his (The)-king bade none so bold be
at á Halla tœki hér fyrir: „Enn at því má gera,
that on Halli laid-hands here for-it But to that may make
ef þér þykkir önnur makligri til at liggja hjá mér
if to-you seems another more-fitting to to lie with me
ok vera drottning, ok kanntú varla at heyra lof þitt„.
and be queen and can-you hardly to hear praise your
Þjóðólfr skáld hafði farit til Íslands, meðan Halli var í
Thjodolf (the)-Poet had gone to Iceland while Halli was in

burtu frá konungi. Þjóðólfr hafði flutt útan frá Íslandi
away from (the)-king Thjodolf had brought abroad from Iceland
hest góðan, ok vildi gefa konungi, ok lét Þjóðólfr leiða
a-horse good and would give to-(the)-king and had Thjodolf lead
hestinn í konungsgarð, ok sýna konungi. Konungrinn
the-horse into (the)-king's-yard and show (the)-king The-king
gekk at sjá hestinn, ok var (hann) mikill ok feitr. Halli
went to see the-horse and was (it) big and fat Halli
var þar hjá, er hestrinn hafði úti sinina. Halli kvað
was there by when the-horse had out the-sinew Halli spoke
þá:
then

Sýr er ávallt,
A-sow is always
hestr Þjóðólfs reðr
(the)-horse of-Thjodolf cock
hefir saurigt allt
has dirty all
hann es dróttins serðr.
it is (the)-lord's screwed

„Tví, tví", segir konungr, „hann kemr aldrigi í mína
Fie fie says (the)-king it comes never into my
eign at þessu". Halli gerðist hirðmaðr konungs ok bað
possession after this Halli became a-retainer of-(the)-king and asked
sér orlofs til Íslands. Konungr bað hann fara varlega
for-himself leave to Iceland (The)-king bade him go carefully
fyrir Einari flugu. Halli fór til Íslands ok bjó þar. Eyddust
before Einar Fly Halli went to Iceland and dwelt there Were-spent
honum penningar, ok lagðist hann í útróðr; ok
to-him monies and took-himself he to fishing-from-boats and

eitt sinn fekk hann andróða svá mikinn, at þeir tóku
one time got he headwind so great that they reached
nauðliga land. Ok um kveldit var borinn fyrir Halla
barely land And in the-evening was borne before Halli
grautr; ok er hann hafði etit nökkut lítit, hnígr hann
porridge and when he had eaten somewhat little sinks he
aftr á bak, ok var þá dauðr. Haraldr spurði lát
back on back and was then dead Harald learned (the)-death
tveggja hirðmanna sinna af Íslandi: Bolla hins prúða ok
of-two retainers his from Iceland Bolli the Proud and
Sneglu-Halla. Hann svaraði svá til Bolla: „Fyrir dörrum
Snegla-Halli He answered so about Bolli Before spears
mun drengrinn hnigit hafa“. Enn til Halla segir hann svá:
will the-fellow sunk have But about Halli says he so
„Á grauti mundi greyit sprungit hafa“. Lýk ek þar sögu
On porridge would the-wretch burst have End I there (the)-saga
Sneglu-Halla.
of-Snegla-Halli

Gisls þáttr Illugasonar

The Tale of Gisl Illugason

In the days of King Magnús berfœttr, Gísl Illugason comes to Norway at seventeen, silent and gloomy. He tells his host Hákon that he has come to avenge his father, whom he saw killed in Iceland by Gjafvaldr, now a retainer of the king. Hákon calls it a hopeless plan but promises not to hinder him. Gísl disfigures his face with hot wax and lies in wait for Gjafvaldr in Niðaróss.

Á dögum Magnúsar konungs (berfœtts) kom útan af Íslandi
In (the)-days of-Magnus (the)-king Barelegs came out from Iceland
til Noregs sá maðr er Gisl hét; hann var son Illuga
to Norway that man who Gisl was-called he was son of-Illugi
Þorvaldssonar, Tindssonar; Tindr var bróðir Illuga svarta. Gisl
Thorvald's-son Tind's-son Tind was brother of-Illugi (the)-Black Gisl
var sjautján vetra gamall, þá er hann fór til Noregs; hann
was seventeen winters old then when he went to Norway he
lét lítit yfir sér ok var löngum hljóðr. Hann tók sér
let little over himself and was long silent He took for-himself
vist með ríkum manni, er hét Hákon á Forborða. Gisl
lodging with a-powerful man who was-called Hakon at Forbordi Gisl
lét fátt til sín taka um vetrinn, ok (var) aldri glaðr. Hákon
let little to himself take through the-winter and was never glad Hakon
mælti eitt sinn til Gisls: „Ek hefi hugleitt skaplyndi þitt, ok
spoke one time to Gisl I have considered disposition your and
sýnist mér þú jafnan með miklum áhyggjusvip, ok mun vera
seems to-me you always with great anxiety-look and must be
annathvárt, at þú býst við stórræðum nökkurum, ella eru
either that you make-ready for great-deeds some or are
þér stórir hlutir á höndum. Nú seg mér, hvat þér býr
to-you great matters on hands Now say to-me what to-you dwells
í skapi, ok þótt þú eigir um stórt at ræða, mun ek mega
in mind and though you have about great to speak will I be-able

leyna; enn ef þú vill eigi segja mér, enn farir svá héðan til
conceal but if you will not tell me but go so hence to
nökkurra stórvirkja, þá mun mér þat illa líka“. Gisl svarar:
some great-deeds then will to-me that ill please Gisl answers
„Þú getr rétt, ok skal ek segja þér satt af. Maðr heitir
You guess right and shall I tell you truly of-it A-man is-called
Gjafvaldr, ok er mér sagt, at nú sé hirðmaðr konungs.
Gjafvald and is to-me said that now he-be a-retainer of-(the)-king
Gjafvaldr var at drápi föður míns, ok veitti honum
Gjafvald was at (the)-slaying of-father my and gave him
banasár, svá at ek sá uppá út á Íslandi, með Þórmóði
death-wound so that I saw upon out in Iceland with Thormod
Kollasyni mági sínum. Nú er ek því kominn hér
Kolli's-son kinsman-by-marriage his Now am I for-that come here
til lands, at ek ætla at fá hefnt föður míns, eðr liggja
to (the)-land that I intend to get avenged father my or lie
hér drepinn“. „Sú er óvæn ætlan“, segir Hákon, „því
here killed That is an-unpromising intention says Hakon because
at Gjafvaldr er með Magnúsi konungi í miklum kærleikum,
that Gjafvald is with Magnus (the)-king in great favor
ok mun útlendum manni eigi hægt at ná honum; enn
and will for-a-foreign man not easy to reach him but
ekki skal ek gera þér til óliðs“. Magnús konungr sat þann
not shall I do you to unhelp Magnus (the)-king sat that
vetr í Niðarósi, ok Gjafvaldr með honum vel virðr. Gisl
winter in Nidaros and Gjafvald with him well esteemed Gisl
fór til bœjarins, ok gerði það bragð á með ráði Hákonar,
went to the-town and did that trick on-it with counsel of-Hakon
húsbónda síns, at hann lét steypa heitu vaxi í andlit sér,
master his that he let pour hot wax into face his

ok lét þar harðna á; var hann þá vanheiligr at sjá. Hann
and let there harden on-it was he then disfigured to see He
sat um Gjafvald, ok fengust honum eigi hœglig fœri á.
lay-in-wait for Gjafvald and got to-him not easy chances on

II · THE KILLING AND THE ICELANDERS

Gísl strikes down Gjafvaldr in the street and escapes across the river in a boat laden with firewood, owned by a small Icelander, Þórsteinn; he names himself as the killer, but is caught. He saves the boatman from blame by lifting him with one hand. Fettered, he is sentenced to death by the angry king, but the nones bell rings and the bishop claims the holy day's peace for him. The many Icelanders in the town, among them Teitr Gizurarson and Jón Ögmundarson, debate what to do.

Þat var einn þváttdag, at Gisl stóð við stræti nökkut
That was one Saturday that Gisl stood by street some
snimma dags, ok heyrði hann gný mikinn; hann sá, hvar
early in-(the)-day and heard he din great he saw where
Magnús konungr fór ok sveit mikil manna með honum;
Magnus (the)-king went and retinue great of-men with him
þar sá hann Gjafvald. Þá gekk kona út ór garði einum,
there saw he Gjafvald Then went a-woman out out-of yard one
ok hafði barn í faðmi; þar var Helga Þórmóðsdóttir, kona
and had a-child in arms there was Helga Thormod's-daughter wife
Gjafvalds; hon kallaði á hann, ok gekk hann til fundar við
of-Gjafvald she called on him and went he to a-meeting with
hana, enn konung ok sveitina bar undan fram. Síðan gekk
her but (the)-king and the-retinue bore away forward Then went
Gjafvaldr at strætinu við annan mann. Þá snöri Gisl í
Gjafvald to the-street with another man Then turned Gisl in
móti honum, ok hjó til hans; kom höggit á öxlina; hljóp
against him and struck at him came the-blow on the-shoulder dropped

höndin niðr, enn gekk eigi af. Gjafvaldr snörist við
the-arm down but went not off Gjafvald turned-himself toward
honum. Gisl hjó þá á aðra öxlina, ok fór þat sár nær
him Gisl struck then on (the)-other shoulder and went that wound near
því sem hit fyrra; fell þá Gjafvaldr. Gisl hljóp ofan á
to-that as the former fell then Gjafvald Gisl leaped down onto
bryggjurnar, þar sem flaut einn bátr hlaðinn skíðum; hét
the-wharves there where floated one boat laden with-firewood was-called
sá maðr Þórsteinn, íslenzkr, lítill vexti er átti bátinn.
that man Thorstein Icelandic small in-growth who owned the-boat
Gisl hljóp út á bátinn til Þórsteins, ok svörfuðust skíðin
Gisl leaped out onto the-boat to Thorstein and scraped-off the-firewood
útanborðs, enn hann röri yfir til Bakka; ok er þeir komu
overboard but he rowed over to Bakki and when they came
á ána miðja, stóð Gisl upp ok kallaði á bryggjurnar:
onto the-river middle stood Gisl up and called to the-wharves
„Sár þau“, segir hann, „er fengit hefir Gjafvaldr
(The)-wounds those says he which gotten has Gjafvald
hirðmaðr Magnúss konungs, ef at sárum gerist, enn víg, ef
a-retainer of-Magnus (the)-king if to wounds it-becomes but slaying if
at vígi gerist, lýsi ek mér á hendr: hét ek Vígfúss í
to slaying it-becomes declare I to-me on hands was-called I Vigfus in
morgin, enn í kveld vænti ek, at ek heita Ófeigr“, Síðan
(the)-morning but in evening expect I that I be-called Ofeig Then
lendu þeir upp frá Bakka ok hljóp Gisl þar á land. Þá
landed they up from Bakki and leaped Gisl there onto land Then
var blásit í bœnum, ok farit at leita mannsins bæði á
was blown in the-town and gone to search-for the-man both on
skipum ok landi. Hann fannst í hrísum nökkurum, ok var
ships and land He was-found in brushwood some and was
færðr til bœjarins. Konungsmenn kenndu Þorsteini, at hann
brought to the-town King's-men charged Thorstein that he

hefði flutt Gisl yfir ána, ok gáfu honum sök á; sögðu
had ferried Gisl over the-river and gave him charge on-it said
hann ok dauða verðan. Þá mælti Gisl: „Gefit honum ekki
him also death worthy Then spoke Gisl Give-you him not
sakir á því, er hann er einkis af valdr“. Gisl greip til
charges on that which he is of-nothing of cause Gisl grabbed at
Þórsteins, er hann gekk hjá honum; var hann svá lítill, at
Thorstein as he went by him was he so small that
hann tók varla undir hönd honum. Gisl varp honum á
he reached hardly under arm to-him Gisl threw him on
loft annarri hendi, ok mælti: „Sjáit nú hér til“, segir hann,
high with-one hand and spoke See-you now here to says he
„hvat mundi veslingr þessi varða mér bátinn, ef ek vilda
what would wretch this defend for-me the-boat if I would-wish
til sækja, er ek veifi honum sem barni; látit hann fara í
to-it to-attack when I wave him as a-child let-you him go in
friði, því at hann er saklauss“. Þeir gerðu svá ok sögðu
peace because that he is guiltless They did so and said
at Gisl talaði vel ok drengiliga. Gisl var settr í fjötur
that Gisl spoke well and manfully Gisl was set in fetter
þann er gera hafði látit Haraldr konungr Sigurðarson, ok
that which make had let Harald (the)-king Sigurd's-son and
engi maðr hafði ór komizt. Hann sat í jarðstofu einni,
no man had out-of got He sat in earth-room one
er kona nökkur átti völd á. Þá var fjölmenni mikit í
which a-woman some had control over Then was crowd great in
bœnum. Þar váru þrjú Íslands-för, réð fyrir einu skipi
the-town There were three Iceland-ships commanded over one ship
Teitr, son Gizurar biskups; þar var þá ok Jón prestr
Teit son of-Gizur (the)-bishop there was then also Jon (the)-priest
Ögmundarson, er síðar var biskup at Hólum, ok var eigi
Ogmund's-son who later was bishop at Holar and was not

færra íslenzkra manna í bœnum enn þrjú hundruð. Magnús
fewer of-Icelandic men in the-town than three hundred Magnus
konungr var ákafa-reiðr; sat hann á stefnu ok bœjarbiskupinn
(the)-king was very-angry sat he at meeting and the-town-bishop
með honum; ok þar var Jón prestr; hann var vinr biskups.
with him and there was Jon (the)-priest he was friend of-(the)-bishop
Konungr bað drepa manninn; í því kvað við nónklukka.
(The)-king bade kill the-man at that rang out (the)-nones-bell
Konungr mælti: „Er nú nón? ok sjái til sólar“! Svá var
(The)-king spoke Is now nones and look-they to (the)-sun So was
þá gert, ok var öndvert nónit. Þá mælti biskup: „Eiga
then done and was early the-nones Then spoke (the)-bishop Own
verðr maðrinn helgar-frið á sér, þótt hann hafi stórt til
must the-man holy-peace on himself though he have great to
gert“. Konungr mælti: „Þetta er prettr yðarr, ok hafi þér
done (The)-king spoke This is trick your and have you
ráðagerð í móti mér“. „Eigi er þat, herra“, segir biskup,
counsel in against me Not is that lord says (the)-bishop
„enn sjáit svá fyrir sem bezt samir“. Síðan söfnuðust saman
but see-you so for as best befits Then gathered together
íslenzkir menn; váru þar margir vinir ok frændr Gisls, ok
Icelandic men were there many friends and kinsmen of-Gisl and
rœddu um málit, hverja meðferð hafa skyldi. Sýndist þeim
talked about the-case which course to-have should Seemed to-them
í mikit vandkvæði komit, ok urðu eigi ásáttir.
into great difficulty come and became not agreed

Dying, Gjafvaldr asks the king to spare Gísl, who has boldly avenged his father, and is told there is no hope of it. He reminds Magnús of his long service and says the priests promise him salvation if he forgives his killer, so the king should not shut heaven to him by killing Gísl. The king answers only, "You do best," and leaves; Gjafvaldr dies soon after.

Nú kom drottinsdagr; var þá sent til konungs, ok sagt at
Now came Lord's-day was then sent to (the)-king and said that
Gjafvaldr vildi finna hann. Konungr kom á fund hans. Þá
Gjafvald would meet him (The)-king came to meeting his Then
mælti Gjafvaldr: „Nú vil ek skipa, herra, til fjáreigna minna,
spoke Gjafvald Now will I arrange lord about property my
því at eigi veit, hversu langt tóm til gefr; enn biðja vil
because that not knows-one how long time to gives but ask wish
ek, at þér gefit Gisli grið; því at sköruliga hefir hann
I that you give to-Gisl quarter because that boldly has he
hefnt síns föður". „Þess er engin ván", segir konungr.
avenged his father Of-that is no expectation says (the)-king
Gjafvaldr mælti: „Þat veizt þú, konungr, at mjök lengi hefir
Gjafvald spoke That know you king that very long have
ek þér fylgt, ok lagt stundum mitt líf fyrir þitt líf, ok verit
I you followed and laid at-times my life for your life and been
búinn til þess alls, sem þú hefir viljat fyrir mik leggja, hvárt
ready for that all which you have wished for me to-lay whether
sem var gott eðr illt; enn nú kann vera, at sjá sé hinn
that were good or ill but now may be that this be the
síðasti fundr okkarr; hefir ek nú talat við kennimenn, ok gert
last meeting of-us-two have I now talked with clerics and made
þeim í kunnleika ráð mitt, ok tekit þjónustu (af þeim),
to-them in knowledge conduct my and taken ministration from them

ok segja þeir mér svá, at ek muna verða hjálpar-maðr, ef
and say they to-me so that I shall become saved-man if
nú fyrirgef ek þat, er við mik er misgert. Nú vænti ek
now forgive I that which against me is misdone Now expect I
þess, herrá, at eigi munir þú byrgja svá fyrir mér himnaríki,
this lord that not will you close so before me heaven-kingdom
at sjá sé dauðamaðr“. „Bezta ferr þér“, segir konungr. Gekk
that this be death-man Best goes for-you says (the)-king Went
hann í brott; enn Gjafvaldr andaðist litlu síðar.
he off away but Gjafvald died a-little later

IV · THE ICELANDERS FREE GÍSL

Teitr proposes offering the case to the king's judgment, but if Gísl may not live, the Icelanders will die or have their way; they swear to follow him. At the horn he leads them from the bath straight to Gísl's prison. Gísl, unafraid, speaks a verse. They break in, Teitr cuts off his fetters, and they take him to the assembly. The king's man Sóni says the Icelanders mean to take the judgment from the king.

Snimma dags vikunnar áttu Íslendingar stefnu. Þá mælti
Early in-(the)-day of-the-week had Icelanders a-meeting Then spoke
Teitr: „Hér horfist eigi sköruliga á um várt mál, ef samlandi
Teit Here looks not boldly on about our case if countryman
várr ok fóstbróðir mikilsverðr er drepinn; enn allir megu vér
our and foster-brother much-valued is killed but all can we
þat sjá, hversu mikit vandkvæði er at bindast við mál þetta,
that see how great difficulty is to bind-oneself to case this
at sá veðsetr sik ok fé sitt. Nú legg ek þat til ráðs,
that he pledges himself and wealth his Now lay I that to counsel
at vér gefim í konungdóm; enn ef þess skal engi kostr,
that we give into king's-judgment but if of-that shall no choice

at maðrinn hafi líf, þá sém vér allir drepnir eðr hafim várt
that the-man have life then be we all killed or have our
mál ella; viljum vér þeim at fylgja, er formaðr gerist“. Þeir
case else will we him to follow who leader becomes They
kváðust allir hann vilja fyrir sér hafa, ok hans ráðum
said-of-themselves all him to-wish before themselves to-have and his counsels
at fylgja. Hann segir: „Svá megu þér ætla, at allir skulu þér
to follow He says So may you expect that all shall you
mér eiða sverja, at hvárki sparit þér yðr né fé yðart,
to-me oaths swear that neither spare you yourselves nor wealth your
til þess er ek vil fram fara um þetta mál“. Þetta gerðu
for that which I will forth go about this case This did
þeir. Eftir þat tóku þeir bað, ok í því var blásit; hljóp Teitr
they After that took they a-bath and at that was blown leaped Teit
þegar ór baðinu; var hann í skyrtu ok línbrókum, ok hafði
at-once out-of the-bath was he in shirt and linen-breeches and had
gullhlað um enni, enn yfir sér skarlats-skikkju hálfskifta,
gold-band about forehead but over himself scarlet-cloak half-divided
rauða ok brúna, ok undir gráskinn, ok snúit út skinnunum.
red and brown and under gray-fur and turned out the-skins
Þá váru þar saman komnir allir íslenzkir menn; enn þat er
Then were there together come all Icelandic men but that is
eigi allt í senn, er blásit er, ok menn koma til móts. Þá
not all at once when blown is and men come to meeting Then
mælti Teitr: „Snúum nú þegar at stofunni, þar sem Gisl er,
spoke Teit Turn-we now at-once to the-room there where Gisl is
ok verðum fyrri at bragði enn konungs-menn“. Þeir gengu
and be-we earlier to action than (the)-king's-men They went
snúðigt eftir strætinu, ok varð af gnýr mikill, enn konan
swiftly along the-street and came of-it din great but the-woman
hafði gert skjá fyrir stofuna. Hon hljóp af húsinu ok
had made a-screen before the-room She leaped from the-house and

sagði Gisli: „Mikil óhamingja er þat, er þú komt hér niðr,
said to-Gisl Great misfortune is that that you came here down
því at nú fara hér konungsmenn“. Gisl svarar: „Látum
because that now go here (the)-king's-men Gisl answers Let-we
okkr ekki þat angra, fóstra“. Hann kvað þá vísu þessa:
us not that grieve foster-mother He spoke then verse this

Kátr skal'k enn, þótt ætli
Merry shall-I still though intend
aldrán viðir skaldi
life-robbery (the)-trees for-(the)-poet
(járn taka oss at orna)
irons take us to warm
unda-teins (at beinum);
of-(the)-wound-twig at (the)-bones
hverr deyr seggr enn svarri
every dies man but proud-lady
snars es drengskapt bjarta
of-(the)-swift is valor bright
prúðr skal'k enn í óði
proud shall-I still in poetry
eitt sinn á þrek minnask.
one time on courage remember

Því næst hjuggu þeir upp hurðina, ok brast við hátt. Þá
That next hewed they up the-door and crashed at-it loud Then
at eins sá menn at Gisl kipptist við ok þó lítt. Teitr
at only saw men that Gisl started at-it and yet little Teit
hjó af honum fjöturinn, ok tók hann í sinn flokk; gengu
struck off him the-fetter and took him into his band went
svá til mótsins. Þá gekk öðrum meginn at mótinu Sóni
so to the-meeting Then went on-the-other side to the-meeting Soni

gesta-höfðingi, ok ætlaði þá eftir manninum. Hann mælti: „Eigi
guest-chief and intended then after the-man He spoke Not
váru þér nú tómlátir, Íslendingar; hygg ek nú, at þér ætlit
were you now slow Icelanders think I now that you intend
yðr dóminn um manninn, enn eigi konungi. Er þat ok
for-yourselves the-judgment about the-man but not to-(the)-king Is that also
vel, at þeir ræki minni til, hvat þeir hafa gert þenna morgin;
well that they keep memory of what they have done this morning
ok reiðst hefir Magnús konungr um minni mótgerðir,
and angered-himself has Magnus (the)-king about lesser offenses
enn drepinn sé hirðmaðr hans af þeim mörfjöndunum“.
than killed be a-retainer his by those fat-fiends

V · JÓN'S SPEECH

At the assembly Sigurðr ullstrengr demands punishment for Gjafvaldr's slaying. The king refuses Teitr leave to speak but lets Jón Ögmundarson speak, and Jón warns him of the fires awaiting unjust judges at the Last Judgment. Gísl tells how he twice let Gjafvaldr live, recites a poem about the king, and lays his head on the king's knee. The king spares him, gives him Gjafvaldr's seat, and sets sixteen marks of gold for the slaying. Jón later blesses the sick Sigurðr and becomes bishop at Hólar.

Enn er þing var sett, þá stóð upp Sigurðr ullstrengr
But when (the)-assembly was set then stood up Sigurd Wool-string
ok mælti: „Þat ætla ek, at flestir menn munu vita, at
and spoke That think I that most men will know that
veginn er lögunautr várr, Gjafvaldr; kom maðr af Íslandi
slain is comrade our Gjafvald came a-man from Iceland
útan, ok þóttist eiga sakir við hann, ok hafði þá
abroad and thought-himself to-have charges against him and had then
atferðina, at hann veitti honum þegar banasár, enn leitaði
the-procedure that he gave him at-once death-wound but sought

eigi eftir bótum, sem öðrum mönnum er títt; mun
not for compensation as to-other men is customary will
oss svá sýnast konungsmönnum, at lítit mun fyrirþikkja
to-us so seem to-king's-men that little will be-thought-of
at bleðja af hirð konungs, ef þessa skal hafa atförina,
to pluck from (the)-court of-(the)-king if this shall have the-procedure
at höggva niðr hirðina; má vera at þeir svá gangi allt
to cut down the-court may be that they so go all
at höfðinu, ok þyrmi eigi heldr konunginum enn öðrum
to the-head and spare not rather the-king than other
mönnum. Nú eru slíkt mikit endimi, ok stórrefsinga vert,
men Now are such great outrage and of-great-punishments worth
ok er eigi at bœttra, þótt þar sé tíu drepnir af íslenzkum
and is not the better though there be ten killed of Icelandic
mönnum, sem einn er af várum mönnum, ok hegna þeim
men as one is of our men and punish them
svá sína ofdirfð, ok taka menn ór konungs-valdi". Síðan
so for-their overboldness and take men out-of king's-power Then
þagnaði hann. Þá stóð upp Teitr biskupsson ok mælti:
fell-silent he Then stood up Teit bishop's-son and spoke
„Hvárt vill konungr leyfa mér at tala erindi". Konungr
Whether will (the)-king allow me to speak an-errand (The)-king
spurði mann, er stóð hjá honum: „Hverr er sjá maðr"?
asked a-man who stood by him Who is this man
segir hann. Hann svarar: „Herra, þat er Teitr biskupsson".
says he He answers Lord that is Teit bishop's-son
Konungr mælti til Teits: „Fyrir engan mun vil ek leyfa
(The)-king spoke to Teit For no means will I allow
þér at mæla því at öll þín orð, þau er þú mælir,
you to speak because that all your words those which you speak
munu mikit spilla, ok væri makligt, at ór þér væri skorin
will much spoil and were fitting that out-of you were cut

tungan“. Þá stóð upp Jón prestr Ögmundarson ok mælti:
the-tongue Then stood up Jon (the)-priest Ogmund's-son and spoke
„Vill konungr leyfa mér at mæla nökkur orð“. Konungr
Will (the)-king allow me to speak some words (The)-king
spurði: „Hverr mælir nú“? Maðrinn svarar: „Prestrinn sá
asked Who speaks now The-man answers The-priest that
hinn íslenzki, hann Jón“. Konungr mælti: „Leyfa vil ek þér
the Icelandic he Jon (The)-king spoke Allow will I you
at tala“. Þá hóf Jón prestr svá sitt mál: „Guði er þat at
to speak Then began Jon (the)-priest so his speech To-God is that to
þakka at löndin eru kristin orðin, Noregr ok Ísland, því
thank that the-lands are Christian become Norway and Iceland because
at áðr óðu saman menn ok fjandr, enn nú gengr fjandinn
that before waded together men and fiends but now goes the-fiend
eigi svá djarfliga í sýn við menn, fær hann nú menn
not so boldly into sight with men gets he now men
til at bera (fram) sín erindi, sem skammt er á at minnast,
to to bear forth his errands as short is on to remember
at fjandinn mælti fyrir munn þessum, er nú talaði; var
that the-fiend spoke through (the)-mouth of-this-one who now spoke was
fyrst veginn maðrinn einn, enn síðan fýsti hann, at drepa
first slain the-man one but afterward urged he that kill
skyldi tíu; ok þat hygg ek, at slíkir menn muni mest at
should-one ten and that think I that such men will most to
vinna í sinni illgirnd ok vándum fortölum, at eyða réttlæti
accomplish in their malice and wicked persuasions to destroy justice
ok miskunn ok öðrum góðum siðum höfðingjanna, enn
and mercy and other good customs of-the-chieftains but
hvetja þá ok hvessa til grimdar ok glœpa, ok gleðja svá
urge them and whet to cruelty and crimes and gladden so
fjandann í kristinna manna drápi. Enn jafnt eru vér, herra
the-fiend in of-Christian men slaying But equally are we lord

konungr, þínir þegnar, sem þeir, er hér eru innanlands;
king your subjects as those who here are within-the-land
skyldu þér at því hyggja, er settir erut hér í heiminum
should you on that reflect who set are here in the-world
höfðingjar ok dómendr yfir fólkinu, at þér berit merking
chieftains and judges over the-people that you bear (the)-likeness
þess dómandans, er koma mun at efsta dómi, at dœma
of-that judge who come will at (the)-last judgment to judge
alla veröldina. Nú mun yðr, herra, mikit við liggja, at
all the-world Now will to-you lord much on lie that
þér dœmit rétta dóma, enn eigi ranga; því at til hvers
you judge right judgments but not wrong because that to every
þings ok móts, kemr sjálfr almáttigr Guð ok hans helgir
assembly and meeting comes himself almighty God and his holy
menn; vitjar Guð góðra manna ok réttra dóma; svá kemr
men visits God good men and right judgments so comes
ok fjandinn ok hans árar, at vitja vándra manna verka
also the-fiend and his messengers to visit wicked men's works
ok rangra dóma; ok útan ef mun sá dómandi koma um
and wrong judgments and without doubt will that judge come at
síðir, er alla hluti mun rétt dœma. Hyggit at nú, herra
last who all things will rightly judge Reflect-you on-it now lord
konungr, hvárr eldrinn muni vera heitari og langærri, sá
king which the-fire will be hotter and longer-lasting that-one
lagðr er í eikistokkinn, er gerr er um ofninn, eðr
laid is into the-oak-trunk which made is around the-oven or
hinn, sem kveiktr er í þurru limi. Nú, ef þú, konungr,
the-other which kindled is in dry twigs Now if you king
dœmir ranga dóma, þá mun þér orpið í þann eldinn,
judge wrong judgments then will you be-thrown into that the-fire
er í eikistokkinn er lagðr; enn ef þú dœmir rétta dóma,
which into the-oak-trunk is laid but if you judge right judgments

eftir þínu viti, þá er þó ván, at þú skírir þik í
according-to your wit then is yet expectation that you cleanse yourself in
hreinsanar-eldi, þeim er af þurru limi er gerr“. Svá lauk
purgatory-fire that which of dry twigs is made So ended
Jón prestr sinni rœðu. Þá mælti konungr: „Stritt hefir
Jon (the)-priest his speech Then spoke (the)-king Stiffly have
þú talat, prestr“. Enn ekki fannst þat á, at hann reiddist
you spoken priest But not was-found that on-it that he grew-angry
mjök við. Þá stóð upp Gisl ok mælti: „Viltú leyfa mér,
much at-it Then stood up Gisl and spoke Will-you allow me
konungr, at tala lítit erindi“? Konungr spurði, hverr nú
king to speak a-little errand (The)-king asked who now
mælti. Houum var sagt. „Eigi vil ek banna“, segir konungr.
spoke To-him was said Not will I forbid says (the)-king
Gisl mælti: „Þá tek ek þar til máls, er faðir minn var
Gisl spoke Then take I there to speech where father my was
veginn; váru at því verki Gjafvaldr ok Þórmóðr; þá var
slain were at that work Gjafvald and Thormod then was
ek sex vetra gamall, enn Þórvaldr bróðir minn níu. Várum
I six winters old but Thorvald brother my nine Were
vit þar við staddir, er faðir minn var drepinn. Þá mælti
we-two there at-it present when father my was killed Then spoke
Gjafvaldr, at okkr bræðr skyldi báða drepa; enn eigi er
Gjafvald that us brothers should-one both kill but not is
karlmannligra frá at segja, herra, at þá var grátraust í
more-manly from to tell lord that then was weeping-voice in
kverkum mér“. Konungr mælti: „Drengiliga hefir þú þá
throat to-me (The)-king spoke Manfully have you that
grátraust á brott fœrt“. Gisl mælti: „Þat er satt at segja,
weeping-voice off away brought Gisl spoke That is true to say
herra, at ek hefi lengi í vár setit um Gjafvald, ok þó
lord that I have long in spring lain-in-wait for Gjafvald and yet

tvisvar, er mér gáfust helzt fœri á; virða ek til kirkjuna
twice when to-me were-given best chances on-it valued I to the-church
í annat sinn, er þetta verk fórst fyrir; enn í annat
at (the)-other time when this work went amiss but at (the)-other
sinn lét ek standa fyrir nónhringing, ok virði ek svá, at
time let I stand for (the)-nones-ringing and deem I so that
því gæfi nónhringingin mér nú líf. Enn kvæði hefir ek
for-that give the-nones-ringing me now life But a-poem have I
ort um yðr, ok vilda ek hljóð hafa“. Konungr mælti:
composed about you and would-wish I silence to-have (The)-king spoke
„Kveð þú, ef þú vill“. Hann flutti kvæðit sköruliga, enn
Recite you if you will He delivered the-poem boldly but
ekki var þar mikill skáldskapr í því kvæði. Síðan mælti
not was there great poetry in that poem Then spoke
Gisl til Teits: „Þér hafit sýnt við mik mikinn manndóm,
Gisl to Teit You have shown toward me great manliness
enn nú vil ek eigi leggja yðr í hættu lengr; vil ek ganga
but now will I not lay you into danger longer will I go
á vald Magnúss konungs, ok færa honum höfuð mitt“.
into (the)-power of-Magnus (the)-king and bring him head my
„Ger nú sem þú vilt“, segir Teitr. Tók Gisl þá af sér
Do now as you will says Teit Took Gisl then off himself
vápnin, gekk yfir mótfjalirnar ok lagði höfuð sitt í kné
the-weapons went over the-meeting-boards and laid head his in (the)-knee
konungi ok mælti: „Gerit nú slíkt af höfði mínu, sem yðr
to-(the)-king and spoke Do-you now such with head my as to-you
sýnist; kann ek þökk, ef þér vilit gefa mér, ok gera mik
seems know I thanks if you will give me and make me
at slíkum manni, sem yðr sýnist fallit“. Konungr svarar:
into such man as to-you seems fitting (The)-king answers
„Ráð sjálfr höfði þínu, enn gakk inn til borðs í rúm
Rule yourself head your but go in to (the)-table into (the)-seat

Gjafvalds, tak þar vist ok drykk, ok halt slíka þjónustu,
of-Gjafvald take there food and drink and hold such service
sem hann hefir haft áðr; geri ek þetta mest fyrir bœn
as he has had before do I this most for (the)-prayer
Gjafvalds vinar míns. Enn nú gangi átta íslenzkir menn
of-Gjafvald friend my But now go eight Icelandic men
til festu. Enn ek geri fyrir víg Gjafvalds sextán merkr
to surety But I make for (the)-slaying of-Gjafvald sixteen marks
gulls; skal gefast upp helmingr fyrir sakir; enn sína
of-gold shall be-given up half for (the)-charges but his
mörk gjaldi hverr yðarr festumanna“. Þeir þökkuðu konungi,
mark pay each of-you of-surety-men They thanked (the)-king
ok sættust at því. Þá mælti konungr til Jóns prests:
and were-reconciled on that Then spoke (the)-king to Jon (the)-priest
„Vel virðist mér þitt formæli; hefir þú af Guðs hálfu talat;
Well seems to-me your plea have you from God's side spoken
vilda ek gjarna vera undir þínum bœnum, því at þær
would-wish I gladly to-be under your prayers because that they
munu mikit mega við Guð, því at ek trúi at saman fari
will much avail with God because that I believe that together go
Guðs vili ok þinn“. Hann játti konungi bœn sína. Ok einn
God's will and yours He granted (the)-king prayer his And one
dag er Jón prestr gekk at stræti, mælti maðr til hans:
day when Jon (the)-priest walked on (the)-street spoke a-man to him
„Gakk inn í herbergit; Sigurðr ullstrengr vill finna þik“.
Go in into the-lodging Sigurd Wool-string will meet you
Hann gerði svá. Sigurðr mælti: „Eigi veit ek, prestr, nema
He did so Sigurd spoke Not know I priest unless
orðin þín hafi bitit mik, því at ek er sjúkr, ok vilda
the-words your have bitten me because that I am sick and would-wish
ek at þú syngir yfir mér“. Hann gerði svá ok signdi hann.
I that you sang over me He did so and blessed him

Þá mælti Sigurðr: „Mikit megu orð þín, bæði hörð ok
Then spoke Sigurd Much may words your both hard and
góð, því at nú er mér gott.“ Sigurðr gaf presti góðar
good because that now is to-me good Sigurd gave (the)-priest good
gjafir, ok skildust þeir vinir. Þessi Sigurðr lét fyrst setja
gifts and parted they friends This Sigurd had first set-up
munklífi í Niðarhólmi, ok gaf þar til stórar eignir. Eftir
a-monastery in Nidarholm and gave there to great properties After
þetta fóru þeir til Íslands, Jón prestr ok Teitr biskupsson.
this went they to Iceland Jon (the)-priest and Teit bishop's-son
Gerðist Teitr ágætr maðr, ok varð skammærr. Enn Jón
Became Teit excellent man and was short-lived But Jon
prestr varð biskup at Hólum, ok er nú sannheilagr.
(the)-priest became bishop at Holar and is now truly-holy

Þórarins þáttr Stuttfeldar

The Tale of Thorarin Short-Cloak

King Sigurðr Jórsalafari, drunk at vespers, mocks a man in a short cloak in a verse, and the Icelander answers with a verse asking for a better cloak. Set up by the courtier Árni fjöruskeifr, he insults Hákon Serksson as Fat-Paunch in a verse; the king denies sending the message and hands him to Hákon, who, suspecting a trick, has him mock Árni in a verse instead. Þórarinn then recites his Short-Cloak's drápa, and the king rewards him for his journey to Rome.

Svá barst at eitt sinn, at Sigurðr konungr (Jórsalafari)
So happened that one time that Sigurd (the)-king Jerusalem-farer
gekk frá skytningi til aftansöngs; váru menn drukknir
went from (the)-drinking-hall to vespers were men drunk
mjök ok kátir. Sat konungr ok hirðin úti fyrir kirkju,
very and merry Sat (the)-king and the-court outside before (the)-church
ok lásu aftansönginn, ok varð söngrinn eigi greiðligr. Þá
and read the-vespers and became the-singing not smooth Then
mælti Sigurðr konungr: „Hvat karla er þat, er ek sé
spoke Sigurd (the)-king What of-fellows is that whom I see
þar hjá kirkjunni í feldi nökkurum stuttum, Menn hans
there by the-church in cloak some short men his
kváðust eigi vita. Konungr mælti.
said-of-themselves not to-know (The)-king spoke

Villir haun vísdóm allan, —
Confuses he wisdom all
veldr því karl í feldi.
causes that (the)-fellow in (the)-cloak

Karl gekk fram ok mælti:
(The)-fellow went forth and spoke

Hykk, at hér megi þekkja
Think-I that here may know
heldr í stuttum feldi
rather in short cloak
oss, enn ek læt þessa
us but I let this
óprýði mér hlýða;
unsightliness me fit
værir mildr, ef mæra
were-you generous if honor
mik vildir þú skikkju,
me would you with-cloak
(hvat hafim heldr enn tötra?)
what have-we rather than rags
hildingr, muni vildri.
(the)-prince with-treasure more-precious

Konungr mælti: „Kom til mín á morgin, þar sem ek drekk".
(The)-king spoke Come to me in (the)-morning there where I drink
Um daginn eftir kom þessi Íslendingr, er síðan var kallaðr
In the-day after came this Icelander who afterward was called
Þórarinn stuttfeldr, til drykkjustofunnar, þar sem Sigurðr
Thorarin Short-Cloak to the-drinking-room there where Sigurd
konungr sat. Maðr stóð úti fyrir stofunni, ok hafði horn
(the)-king sat A-man stood outside before the-room and had a-horn
í hendi; sá sagði svá: „Þat mælti konungr, Íslendingr,
in hand that-one said so That spoke (the)-king Icelander
at þú skyldir yrkja vísu, áðr þú gengir inn, ef þú vildir
that you should compose a-verse before you went in if you would

þiggja nökkura vingjöf af honum. Enn þú skalt kveða um
receive some friend-gift from him But you shall compose about
þann mann, er Hákon heitir er ok Serksson, ok geta þess
that man who Hakon is-called is also Serk's-son and mention that
í vísunni, at hann er kallaðr mörstrútr“. Þessi maðr, er
in the-verse that he is called Fat-Paunch This man who
talaði við Íslending, var kallaðr Árni fjöruskeifr. Enn er þeir
spoke with (the)-Icelander was called Arni Beach-Crooked But when they
komu inn í stofuna, gekk Þórarinn fyrir konung ok kvað:
came in into the-room went Thorarin before (the)-king and spoke

Þú vændir mér, Þrœnda
You promised me of-(the)-Thronds
þengill, et'k stef fengja
prince not-I refrain refuse
frænda Serks, at fundi,
of-(the)-kinsman of-Serk at meeting
fólkrakkr, gefa nakkvat;
people-bold to-give something
lézk þú at Hákon heiti,
said you that Hakon is-called
hildingr hinn fémildi,
(the)-prince the money-generous
enn samir mér at minnask,
but befits me to remember
mörstrútr, á þat görva.
Fat-Paunch on that fully

Konungr mælti: „Þat sagða ek aldri, ok muntú vera spottaðr,
(The)-king spoke That said I never and will-you be mocked
ok er þat ráð, at Hákon skapi þér víti fyrir; far
and is that advisable that Hakon assign you punishment for-it go

þú í sveit hans“. Hákon mælti: „Velkominn skal Íslendingr
you into band his Hakon spoke Welcome shall (the)-Icelander
hér með oss, ok sé ek, hvaðan þetta er at komit“. Settist
here with us and see I whence this is to come Sat
Þórarinn niðr hjá Hákoni, ok váru menn kátir. Enn er
Thorarin down by Hakon and were men merry But when
á leið daginn, ok drykkr fekk á menn, þá mælti Hákon:
on passed the-day and drink got on men then spoke Hakon
„Þykkist þú nökkut eiga bótþarfa við mik, Íslendingr?
Think-yourself you somewhat to-have need-of-amends with me Icelander
Eðr þótti þér eigi heldr sett vélræði fyrir þik“? Þórarinn
Or seemed to-you not rather set trickery for you Thorarin
svarar: „Víst þykkjumst ek þér bœta eiga“. „Þá munu
answers Surely think-myself I to-you compensate to-have Then will
vit sáttir“, (segir Hákon,) „ef þú yrkir aðra vísu um Árna
we-two reconciled says Hakon if you compose a-second verse about Arni
fjöruskeif“. Þórarinn lézt þess albúinn. Gengu síðan
Beach-Crooked Thorarin professed-himself for-that all-ready Went then
um þvert gólf, þar fyrir sem Árni sat. Þórarinn kvað:
about across (the)-floor there before where Arni sat Thorarin spoke

Fullvíða hefir frœðum
Very-widely has with-lore
fjöruskeifr um her veifat
Beach-Crooked about (the)-army waved
lystr. ok leiri kastat,
eager and clay thrown
lastsamr, ara hins gamla;
fault-laden of-(the)-eagle the old
ok vanntú eina kráku,
and won-you one crow

orðvandr, á Serklandi
word-careful in Serkland
skeifr, bartú Högna húfu
crooked bore-you Hogni's cap
hræddr, varliga brædda.
afraid warily tarred

Árni hljóp upp ok brá sverði, ok vildi höggva til Þórarins.
Arni leaped up and drew sword and would strike at Thorarin
Hákon bað hann hætta, ok vera kyrran; kvað hann á þat
Hakon bade him stop and be quiet said he on that
mega minnast, at hann myndi bera lægra hlut, ef þeir
may remember that he would bear lower lot if they
ættist við. Þórarinn gekk þá fyrir konung, ok sagði, at
dealt with Thorarin went then before (the)-king and said that
hann hefði ort drápu um hann, ok bað hann hlýða, ok
he had composed a-drapa about him and bade him listen and
þat veitti konungr. Þat kvæði er kallat Stuttfeldar-drápa. Enn
that granted (the)-king That poem is called Short-Cloak's-drapa But
er lokit var kvæðinu, spurði konungr, hvat hann vildi ráða
when ended was the-poem asked (the)-king what he would decide
sinna. Hann kveðst hafa ætlat ferð sína til Róms. Þá
of-his He says-of-himself to-have intended journey his to Rome Then
fekk konungr honum fé mikit, ok bað hann vitja sín,
gave (the)-king him money much and bade him visit himself
er hann kœmi aftr, ok kvaðst þá mundu gera sóma
when he came back and said-of-himself then would make honor
hans. Enn hér er eigi greint, hvárt þeir fundust síðan.
his But here is not told whether they met afterward

Gull-Ásu-Þórðar þáttr

The Tale of Gold-Asa's Thord

Þórðr, a poor Icelandic poet, winters with Ása, a wealthy woman of great family related to Viðkunnr Jónsson. With her money he trades successfully and is called Gold-Ása's Þórðr. He composes a drápa on Viðkunnr and wins his friendship. When a servant of the powerful Ingimarr of Askr steals his awning and Þórðr binds the thief, Viðkunnr, Sigurðr Hranason, and King Eysteinn himself protect him. The thief is hanged; Ingimarr taunts the king, kills three king's men in the Vík, and settles in Denmark, and Þórðr marries Ása.

Um daga Eysteins konungs Magnússonar berbeins kom
In (the)-days of-Eystein (the)-king Magnus's-son Bare-leg came
útan af Íslandi sá maðr, er Þórðr hét, austfirzkr at
out from Iceland that man who Thord was-called East-Fjordish by
ætt ok félítill. Hann var gerviligr maðr ok föður-betringr,
family and poor He was a-promising man and better-than-father
ok helt sínum hluta fyrir jafnaðar-mönnum sínum; skáld
and held his share before equal-men his poet
var hann gott. Ok sem hann kom í bœinn, var fátt til
was he good And as he came into the-town was little of
forgiftar at taka. Hann kom um kveldit í garð konu
payment to take He came in the-evening into (the)-yard of-a-woman
þeirar, er Ása hét. Hon var ættstór ok auðig mjök;
that who Asa was-called She was of-great-family and wealthy very
hon var náskyld þeim Bjarkeyingum ok Viðkunni Jónssyni
she was closely-related to-those Bjarkey-men and to-Vidkunn Jon's-son
ok öðrum frændum þeira. Hon tók við Þórði um vetrinn.
and other kinsmen their She took with Thord through the-winter
Hann skemmti vel ok kunni gott umskifti á skapsmunum
He entertained well and knew good change in moods
Ásu. Vel rœttist um vist hans, ok var hann þar um
of-Asa Well turned-out about stay his and was he there through

vetrinn með kærleikum, ok í því meiri sóma, sem hann var
the-winter with affection and in that more honor as he was
lengr, ok mæltu þat margir menn, at með þeim væri hin
longer and said that many men that between them were the
nákvæmasta vinátta; sátu þau löngum saman á einmæli. Ása
closest friendship sat they long together in private-talk Asa
var eigi ung kona. Um várit sagði hon Þórði, at henni
was not a-young woman In the-spring said she to-Thord that to-her
hefði vel til hans líkat: „Ok mun ek fá þér fé nökkut til
had well to him pleased And will I get you money some to
Englands farar, ok eigum bæði saman, ef nökkut á grónar".
England's journey and own both together if anything on grows
Ok svá gerir hann. Tekst honum vel kaupferðin; kom heim
And so does he Succeeds to-him well the-trading-voyage came home
at hausti ok sat heima um vetrinn. Svá ferr nökkur sumur;
in autumn and sat at-home through the-winter So goes some summers
gengr mjök í vöxt efni þeira, ok gerist því meiri hans
goes much in growth means their and becomes so-much greater his
frami, sem hann var lengr með Ásu. Er hann nú kallaðr
advancement as he was longer with Asa Is he now called
Gull-Ásu-Þórðr. Frændum hennar þótti óvirðing í þessu, ok
Gold-Asa's-Thord To-kinsmen her seemed dishonor in this and
lögðu á hann óþokka mikinn, enn hann lætr sem hann
laid on him dislike great but he acts as-if he
heyri ekki. Þat var einn dag, at Ása kom að máli við
hear not That was one day that Asa came to talk with
Þórð ok mælti: „Hingat er ván Viðkunns, frænda míns;
Thord and spoke Hither is expected Vidkunn kinsman my
vil ek at þú leitir honum allrar virðingar í þjónustu þinni,
wish I that you seek for-him all honor in service your
ok þœtti mér ráð, at þú yrktir um hann drápu, ok
and would-seem to-me advisable that you composed about him a-drapa and

bœrir fram, áðr hann ferr í brott ok sœmdir hann mjök
brought forth before he goes off away and honored him much
í kvæðinu, því at höfðingjum flestum þykkir lofit gott,
in the-poem because that to-chieftains most seems the-praise good
enn vit munum þurfa at stilla til, ef honum skal allvel
but we-two will need to manage for-it if him shall very-well
líka, enn þér þó ekki minna á liggr nökkurum orðum;
please but to-you yet not less on lies some words
enn þú ert hólpinn, ef þú fær hans vináttu, við hvern
but you are saved if you get his friendship against whomever
sem þú etr kappi hér í Noregi“. Þórðr kvaðst mundu
that you contend in-rivalry here in Norway Thord said-of-himself would
til hætta; ok yrkir síðan kvæðit. Eftir þat kemr Viðkunnr
to-it venture and composes afterward the-poem After that comes Vidkunn
með mikla sveit manna, ok tekr sér skytning. Ok
with great retinue of-men and takes for-himself an-upper-room And
einn dag gekk Þórðr fyrir Viðkunn, kvaddi hann ok mælti:
one day went Thord before Vidkunn greeted him and spoke
„Kvæði lítit hefi ek at færa yðr, er ek hefi kveðit, ok vil
A-poem little have I to bring you which I have composed and wish
ek at þér hlýðit“. „Þat skal vera“, segir Viðkunnr, „ok hefir
I that you listen That shall be says Vidkunn and have
þú fyrst orðit til at kveða um mik. Mun þér nökkuru
you first become to to compose about me Will to-you somewhat
skifta, Þórðr, hvern veg mér virðist kvæðit, því (at) ekki
matter Thord which way to-me seems the-poem because that not

ann ek þér svá mikit, sem Ása frændkona mín“. Síðan hóf
love I you so much as Asa kinswoman my Then began
hann kvæðit, ok var þat fimmtug drápa, ok var þetta stefit:
he the-poem and was it fifty-stanza drapa and was this the-refrain

Hart reiðir Hildar birti
Hard swings of-Hild (the)-brightness
hjálmfaldinn í gný málma
helmet-covered in din of-metals
Jóns ættstuðill einatt
of-Jon (the)-family-pillar ever
allfróðr í styr þjóða.
very-wise in battle of-peoples

Ok sem úti var kvæðit, lögðu margir lofsorð til, enn
And as out was the-poem laid many praise-words to but
Viðkunnr þakkaði mest, ok skifti skjótt skaplyndi við Þórð,
Vidkunn thanked most and changed quickly disposition toward Thord
ok gaf honum gullhring, er stóð mörk. Þórðr lézt eigi
and gave him a-gold-ring which stood a-mark Thord professed not
fé þurfa, enn beiddist vináttu hans, ok því hét Viðkunnr,
money to-need but asked friendship his and that promised Vidkunn
ok var hann út leiddr með góðum gjöfum. Líða nú stundir,
and was he out led with good gifts Pass now times
ok eitt sumar, er Þórðr kom af Englandi, lagði hann
and one summer when Thord came from England laid he
upp í ána Nið; Eysteinn konungr var þá í bœnum ok
up into the-river Nid Eystein (the)-king was then in the-town and
margt stórmenni með honum: Sigurðr Hranason ok Viðkunnr
many great-men with him Sigurd Hrani's-son and Vidkunn
Jónsson ok Ingimarr af Aski, hinn ríkasti maðr ok hinn mesti
Jon's-son and Ingimar of Ask the mightiest man and the greatest

ofsamaðr. Hann hafði lagt í lægit, áðr enn Þórðr kom at.
overbearing-man He had laid into the-berth before than Thord came to
Menn rœddu um, at honum væri vænast, at leggja upp í
Men talked about that to-him were most-promising to lay up in
öðrum stað. Þórðr kvaðst ekki mundu til saka, ok lét þá
another place Thord said-of-himself not would to-it harm and let then
kyrrt. Ok er þeir rœddu um þetta ok ruddu skipit, finnr
quiet And when they talked about this and cleared the-ship finds
Þórðr ekki stafntjaldit. Hann gengr þá á skip Ingimars, ok
Thord not the-prow-awning He goes then onto (the)-ship of-Ingimar and
finnr þar svein einn, ok hafði sá sveipat undir sik tjaldinu.
finds there a-lad one and had that-one wrapped under himself the-awning
Þórðr tekr sveininn með tjaldinu, ok rekr heim í garð sinn,
Thord takes the-lad with the-awning and drives home into yard his
ok skipar upp síðan farmi sínum. Brátt kemr þessi saga
and unloads up afterward cargo his Soon comes this story
fyrir Ingimar, ok verðr hann reiðr mjök, ok gengr at garði
before Ingimar and becomes he angry very and goes to (the)-yard
Þórðar, ok biðr hann skjótt selja fram manninn. Þórðr segir
of-Thord and bids him quickly hand forth the-man Thord says
svá: „Þat mun varla hlýða at sleppa þjófnum, þó(at) hann
so That will hardly do to let-go the-thief though(-that) he
væri hans maðr“. Ingimarr mælti: „Eigi muntú, Gull-Ásu-Þórðr,
were his man Ingimar spoke Not will-you Gold-Asa's-Thord
lengi halda mínum mönnum, eðr gera þá at þjófum; má
long hold my men or make them into thieves may

ek þá ok varla lendr maðr heita, ef ek læt göngumann
I then also hardly landed man be-called if I let vagrant
þinn draga menn af mér“. Þá svarar Þórðr ok kvað:
your drag men from me Then answers Thord and spoke

Nú tekr ýgr at ægja
Now begins (the)-fierce-one to terrify
ofrkúginn mér drjúgum;
over-cowed me greatly
þinn hefir höldr of hlannat
your has (the)-man — stolen
hjaldrgegninn mik tjaldi;
(the)-battle-ready-one me with-awning
trautt man'k lausan láta,
hardly shall-I loose let
linnbóls gjafi! at sinni
of-(the)-serpent-bed (the)-giver for (the)-time
vísan þjóf, þótt váfi
known thief though threatens
ván þín of hlut mínum.
hope your about lot my

Ingimarr gengr þá í burt, ok er mjök reiðr. Ása bað Þórð
Ingimar goes then off away and is very angry Asa bade Thord
senda eftir Viðkunni, ok reyna vináttumálin ok kvæðis-launin:
send for Vidkunn and test the-friendship-talks and the-poem-reward
„Því at þungt er at etja, þar sem Ingimarr er“. Þórðr gerir
Because that heavy is to contend there where Ingimar is Thord does
nú svá, ok brást hann við hit bezta, ok kvað skyldu-ferð,
now so and responded he to the best and said a-duty-journey
ok kemr í loftit til Þórðar með mikla sveit manna. Eigi
and comes into the-loft to Thord with great retinue of-men Not

líðr langt, áðr enn þeir heyra gný mikinn, ok ferr þar
passes long before than they hear din great and goes there
Ingimarr, ok biðr Þórð lausan láta manninn, ella muni hann
Ingimar and bids Thord loose let the-man else would he
at sœkja. Viðkunnr mælti: „Þat er sannligast, at mál þetta
to attack Vidkunn spoke That is most-just that case this
komi í lögmannsdóm, ok hefir Þórðr þat at gert, er
come into lawman's-judgment and has Thord that to done which
hann átti, er hann batt þann, er stolit hafði; ella var hann
he ought when he bound him who stolen had else was he
sekr. Ingimarr mælti: „Stingit mér í, kvað reka, hon stóð
outlawed Ingimar spoke Stick-you me in said (the)-spade it stood
einsaman, ok Viðkunnr er kominn hér; þat er ok mátuligra,
alone and Vidkunn is come here that is also more-fitting
at vit eigim saman, heldr enn Þórðr mágr þinn, enda
that we-two have together rather than Thord in-law your moreover
muntú ætla at launa honum dræplinginn, er hann flimti
will-you intend to repay him the-little-ditty which he lampooned
um þik“; ok snýr þegar í brott. Þá mælti Viðkunnr: „Nú
about you and turns at-once off away Then spoke Vidkunn Now
skal senda til Sigurðar Hranasonar vinar míns, ok biðja hann
shall send to Sigurd Hrani's-son friend my and ask him
hér koma, ok ef hann hefir nökkut mótmæli, þá minnit
here come and if he has any objection then remind-you
hann á, hverr honum dugði bezt, þá er Finnar tóku bú
him of who him helped best then when (the)-Finns took farm
hans í Bjarkey“. Síðan fara þeir ok segja orðsending hans.
his in Bjarkey Then go they and tell message his
Hann lét vel á komit, þó at þeir Ingimarr reyndi með
He let well on come though that they Ingimar tried between
sér: „Því at þar þykkist hvárr öðrum meiri“. Þeir
themselves Because that there thinks-himself each than-the-other greater They

minntu hann þá ályktar Viðkunns. Sigurðr svarar: „Satt
reminded him then of-the-conclusion of-Vidkunn Sigurd answers True
var þat, at engi dugði mér svá vel sem hann, ok víst
was that that none helped me so well as he and surely
þykkir honum varða, at komit sé, ok stöndum upp“. Síðan
seems to-him to-matter that come is and stand-we up Then
gengu þeir til lofts Þórðar. Innan lítils tíma verða þeir við
went they to (the)-loft of-Thord Within little time become they of
mannsöfnuð varir um strætin, því at lið Ingimars hafði
gathering-of-men aware along the-streets because that troop of-Ingimar had
dreifzt víða um bœinn. Kom þá hinn mikli flokkr allr
scattered-itself widely about the-town Came then the great band all
til lofts Þórðar. Þá mælti Ingimarr: „Nú munu vér eftir
to (the)-loft of-Thord Then spoke Ingimar Now will we after
leita manninum, Viðkunnr, ef hann er eigi fram leiddr, ok
search the-man Vidkunn if he is not forth led and
er nú ekki betr enn fyrr“. Þá mælti Sigurðr: „Förum at
is now not better than before Then spoke Sigurd Go-we at
vægiliga, Ingimarr; þat er ofmikill óréttr, ef þú brýtr hús
gently Ingimar that is too-great wrong if you break house
á oss, ok rænir oss, ofan á þat eftir, konungsfanga; munu
on us and rob us on-top on that after king's-captive will
menn ætla at hafa rétt af þér, þó(at) þú sér kappi
men intend to have right from you though(-that) you be champion
mikill“. Ingimarr mælti: „Eigi er hana at borgnara, þótt
great Ingimar spoke Not is (the)-cock the safer though
hœna beri skjöld, ok kaupist nú þó mikit á, er þit
(the)-hen bear a-shield and buys-itself now yet much on when you-two
erut í móti mér einum, ok hvárrtveggja þó lendr maðr
are in against me alone and each-of-two yet landed man
ok hinn vaskasti, ok mun ek enn frá hverfa, enn koma
and the bravest and will I still from turn but come

skal ek í þriðja sinn“. Eftir þat sendir Sigurðr menn til
shall I for (the)-third time After that sends Sigurd men to
Eysteins konungs, ok biðr hann koma til með þeim: „Ok
Eystein (the)-king and bids him come to-it with them And
segit honum svá, at í síðasta lagi ætlaða ek at skilja við
say-you to-him so that in (the)-last time intended I to part with
föður hans vestr á Írlandi“. Þeir koma ok segja konungi
(the)-father his west in Ireland They come and tell to-(the)-king
orð Sigurðar, enn hann lét þeim afburðarmönnum
(the)-words of-Sigurd but he declared to-them outstanding-men
þat eigi ofrefli tveimr, at eiga við Ingimar. Þeir sögðu
that not over-match two to have with Ingimar They told
konungi þá öll orð Sigurðar. Konungr mælti þá: „Undir
to-(the)-king then all (the)-words of-Sigurd (The)-king spoke then Under
þykkir honum þá, at ek koma, enda skal svá vera“. Síðan
seems to-him then that I come moreover shall so be Then
fór konungr með mikit fjölmenni, ok hittir Sigurð. Litlu
went (the)-king with great host and meets Sigurd A-little
síðar kemr Ingimarr, ok hefir nú fjögur hundruð manna,
later comes Ingimar and has now four hundred men
ok gengr síðan at loftinu, ok lætr nú meiri ván, at
and goes then to the-loft and lets now greater expectation that
þeim muni saman lenda, ef þeir láta eigi lausan manninn“.
them would together land if they let not loose the-man
Konungr segir þá: „Eigi sómir þér, Ingimarr, at gera hér
(The)-king says then Not befits you Ingimar to do here
svá mikla styrjöld í bœnum, eðr draga at mönnum
so great strife in the-town or draw to-yourself men
stóra flokka ok reisa svá hernað í landinu, ok munum vér
large bands and raise so warfare in the-land and will we
eigi upp gefast at óreyndu“. Ingimarr svarar: „Úrt járn, kvað
not up give at untried Ingimar answers Bad iron said

kerling, ok átti kníf deigan; nú gerast mikil efnin, at
(the)-old-woman and had a-knife soft now become great the-matters that
konungr sjálfr er til kominn, at skakka með oss, ok mun
(the)-king himself is to come to part with us and will
ek nú verða frá at hverfa at sinni“. Ok svá varð. Síðan
I now have from to turn for (the)-time And so happened Then
lætr konungr kveðja þings. Var þá þangat leiddr þjófrinn,
lets (the)-king summon (the)-assembly Was then thither led the-thief
ok var tjaldit á baki honum. Síðan var hann dœmdr, ok
and was the-awning on back to-him Then was he condemned and
eftir þat upp festr út á eyri. Þá mælti konungr: „Hvat
after that up hanged out on (the)-spit Then spoke (the)-king What
ætlar þú nú, Ingimarr, at þjófrinn muni hafa“? „Þat vil
intend you now Ingimar that the-thief will have That will
ek ætla“, segir Ingimarr, „at þessi muni gott hafa maðrinn,
I think says Ingimar that this will good have the-man
er drepinn var fyrir litlar sakir“. „Nei“, segir konungr,
who killed was for little offenses No says (the)-king
„hann mun hafa helvíti“. Ingimarr mælti: „Mislagðar eru
he will have hell Ingimar spoke Misplaced are
þér hendr, konungr, er þú dregr fram hluta mörlandans,
to-you hands king when you draw forth (the)-share of-the-suet-lander
enn svívirðir sjálfs þín menn, enn hefir enga framkvæmd
but disgrace of-self your men but have no enterprise
né hug til at hefna föður þíns, er drepinn var á Írlandi,
nor courage to to avenge father your who killed was in Ireland
sem hundr á hræi nýbitnu, ok þat hygg ek, at hann hafi
as a-dog on carcass newly-bitten and that think I that he have
helvíti, er hann barðist til þess, er hann átti ekki í“.
hell when he fought for that which he had not in
Ok eftir þat snöri hann til skipa sinna, ok fór austr, ok
And after that turned he to ships his and went east and

drap þrjá konungsmenn í Víkinni. Síðan fór hann suðr til
killed three king's-men in the-Vik Then went he south to
Danmerkr, ok staðfestist þar. Enn þat er sagt af Þórði, at
Denmark and settled there But that is said of Thord that
hann átti síðan Ásu með ráði Viðkunns ok konungs,
he married afterward Asa with counsel of-Vidkunn and of-(the)-king
ok þótti vera hinn vaskasti maðr, ok var hann í Noregi
and seemed to-be the bravest man and was he in Norway
til deyjanda dags. Ok lýkr hér þætti Gull-Ásu-Þórðar.
to (the)-dying day And ends here (the)-tale of-Gold-Asa's-Thord

Mána þáttr Íslendings

The Tale of Mani the Icelander

Wind-bound at Unnardys with King Magnús Erlingsson, Máni the poet prays in a verse to the king of the sun's seat, God, for a fair wind to Bergen. Earlier, back from Rome as a ragged beggar, he had recited Halldórr skvaldri's Útfarardrápa about Sigurðr Jórsalafari. At the king's bidding he mocks, in two scornful verses, two jugglers whose dogs leap over poles, and the laughing court rings them and chants the verse until they flee the hall. Máni then joins the king's company to Bergen.

Þeir (Magnús konungr Erlingsson) lágu viku í Unnardys á
They Magnus (the)-king Erling's-son lay a-week in Unnardys at
Lista. Þar var þá með Magnúsi konungi Máni skáld, ok
Lista There was then with Magnus (the)-king Mani (the)-Poet and
kvað vísu:
spoke a-verse

Byr gefðú brátt hinn örvi
Fair-wind give-you soon the generous
Björgynjar til mörgum,
of-Bergen to to-many
þess biðjum vér, þjóðum
of-that pray we to-peoples
þungstóls konungr sólar.
of-(the)-heavy-seat king of-(the)-sun
Angrar oss þat's lengi
Grieves us that-which long
útnyrðingr heldr fyrðum,
(the)-north-wester holds men
vindr es til seinn at sundi
wind is too slow at (the)-sound
sunnrœnn, í dys Unnar.
southern in (the)-mound of-Unn

Konungr mælti: „Vel er kveðit, Tungli“. Enn skyrtur margar
(The)-king spoke Well is spoken Moon But shirts many
lágu í hrúgu, er þvegnar höfðu verit, ok mælti konungr, at
lay in a-heap which washed had been and spoke (the)-king that
hann skyldi hafa eina. Máni kom til hans austr at landsenda;
he should have one Mani came to him east at land's-end
var þá kominn frá Rómi, ok var stafkarl; gekk inn í
was then come from Rome and was a-beggar went in into
stofuna, þar er konungr var með sveit sinni, ok var hann þá
the-hall there where (the)-king was with retinue his and was he then
ekki féligr, Máni, kollóttr ok magr ok nær klæðlauss, ok þó
not presentable Mani crop-haired and lean and near clothes-less and yet
kunni hann konung vegliga at kveðja. Konungr spurði, hverr
knew he (the)-king splendidly to greet (The)-king asked who
hann væri? Hann kveðst heita Máni, ok vera íslenzkr,
he were He says-of-himself to-be-called Mani and to-be Icelandic
ok þá kominn frá Rómi sunnan. Konungr mælti: „Þú munt
and then come from Rome from-the-south (The)-king spoke You will
kunna frœða, Tungli; sezt niðr ok kveð“. Hann kvað síðan
know lore Moon sit-yourself down and recite He recited then
Útfarardrápuna, er Halldórr skvaldri orti um Sigurð konung
the-Journey-Drapa which Halldor Babbler composed about Sigurd (the)-king
Jórsalafara, móðurföður Magnúss konungs; ok fekk þetta kvæði
Jerusalem-farer mother's-father of-Magnus (the)-king and got this poem
góðan róm. Enn leikarar tveir váru í stofunni, er hlaupa létu
good praise But players two were in the-hall who leap let
smárakka yfir hávar stengr fyrir tignum mönnum, ok því
little-dogs over high poles before noble men and so-much
hærra sem menn váru tignari. Konungr mælti: „Finnr þú,
higher as (the)-men were nobler (The)-king spoke Find you

Tungli, at leikararnir sjá ekki vel til þín? Nú yrktú um þá
Moon that the-players see not well to you Now compose-you about them
vísu, ok má vera, at þér verði heldr gagn at“. Þá kvað Máni:
a-verse and may be that to-you become rather gain from-it Then spoke Mani

Slœgr ferr gaurr með gígju,
Sly goes (the)-rogue with fiddle
ginn er hér komit inni,
tricks is here come inside
meiðr hefir skjaldar skóða
(the)-tree has of-(the)-shield of-(the)-harmer
skrípalát, ok pípu.
clowning and pipe
Rekkr lætr rauða bikkju,
(The)-fellow lets red bitch
rekkit skvaldr, fyr aldir,
dogged babble before men
skulut hlýða því þjóðir
shall-not listen to-that peoples
þat er skaup, yfir staf hlaupa.
that is mockery over pole to-leap

Ok enn kvað hann:
And again spoke he

Gígjan syngr, þar's ganga,
The-fiddle sings where go
gripa menn til pípu,
grab men to pipe
fœra fólsku stóra
bring folly great
fram, leikarar bleikir.
forth players pale
Undr's, hvé augum vendir
Wonder-is how eyes turns
umb, sás's þýtr í trumbu
around he-who roars in drum
kníðan lít'k á kauða
squeezed see-I on (the)-rogue
kjaft ok blásna hvafta".
jaw and blown-up cheeks

Þá varð mikill hlátr, ok slógu hirðmenn hring um þessa
Then was much laughter and struck retainers a-ring around these
leikara, ok kváðu vísuna, ok æ þat oftast: „kjaft ok blásna
players and spoke the-verse and ever that oftenest jaw and blown-up
hvafta". Þeim leikurunum þótti nær sem þeir væri í eldi,
cheeks To-those players seemed near as-if they were in fire
ok komust út ór stofunni. Enn konungr tók Mána til
and got out out-of the-hall But (the)-king took Mani to
sín, ok var hann síðan í hans föruneyti til Björgynjar.
himself and was he afterward in his company to Bergen