OLD NORSE SERIES · VOLUME 17

The Poetic Edda

Sæmundar-Edda

The Poetic Edda

Part Two: Sigurd, Brynhild, Gudrun, and Atli

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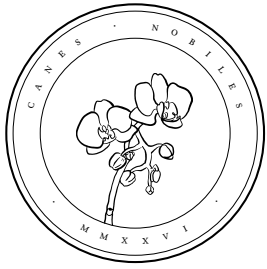
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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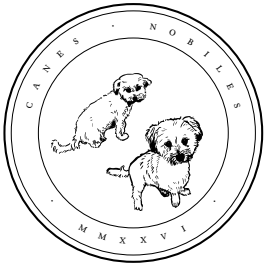

Volume 17 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Finnur Jónsson's
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Artwork by Esther Steves

The spelling is Finnur Jónsson's normalization, with œ and ø beside æ and ö, and in the verse the older forms *vas* and *es* and the enclitic *'s*. The speaker named beside a stanza is the editor's, as are the rubrics over the prose and the letters A and B he sets before the stanzas of Reginsmál. The poems are undivided in the source, so their sections, and every English section title in the book, are this press's. Verse the edition marks as lost, and the two names the prose of Frá dauða Sinfjötla lacks, are printed ∗∗∗, and a word it marks as corrupt carries †. An em dash stands under the expletive particle *of* or *um*, which has no English equivalent.

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Völsungakviða en forna

The Second Lay of Helgi Hundingsbani

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

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

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

1 Seg þú Heimingi,
Say thou Heimingr
at Helgi man,
that Helgi remembers
hvern í brynju
whom in mail-coat
bragnar feldu;
(the)-men felled
ér ulf gráan
ye a-wolf gray
inni höfðuð,
inside had

þars Hamal hugði
where Hamall thought
Hundingr konungr.
Hundingr (the)-king

Hamall hét son Hagals. Hundingr konungr sendi menn
Hamall was-called (the)-son of-Hagall Hundingr (the)-king sent men
til Hagals at leita Helga, en Helgi mátti eigi forðask annan
to Hagall to seek Helgi and Helgi could not escape (by)-other
veg, en tók klæði ambáttar ok gekk at mala. Þeir
way but took (the)-clothes of-a-bondwoman and went to grind They
leituðu ok fundu eigi Helga. Þá kvað Blindr enn bölvísi:
searched and found not Helgi Then said Blindr the evil-wise

Hvöss eru augu 2
Keen are (the)-eyes
í Hagals þýju;
in Hagall's slave-girl
esa þat karls ætt
is-not that of-a-churl kin
es á kvernum stendr,
who at (the)-querns stands
steinar rifna,
(the)-stones split
støkkr lúðr fyrir.
bursts (the)-frame before

3 Nú hefr hörð dœmi
Now has hard doom
hildingr þegit,
(the)-prince received
es vísi skal
when (the)-prince shall
valbygg mala;
slaughter-barley grind
heldr es sœmri
rather is more-seemly
hendi þeiri
(for)-hand that
meðalkafli
a-sword-hilt
an möndultré.
than a-quern-handle
Hagall svaraði ok kvað:
Hagall answered and said

4 Þat 's lítil vá,
That is little wonder
þótt lúðr þrumi,
though (the)-frame rumbles
es mær konungs
when a-maid of-(the)-king
möndul hrœrir.
(the)-quern-handle turns

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

Hón skævaði 5
She strode
skýjum øfri
(the)-clouds above
ok vega þorði
and fight dared
sem víkingar,
like vikings
áðr hana Helgi
before her Helgi
höptu gerði.
captive made

Systir 's þeira 6
Sister is their
Sigars ok Högna,
of-Sigarr and of-Högni

því hefr ötul augu
therefore has fierce eyes
Ylfinga man.
(the)-Ylfings' maid

Undan komsk Helgi ok fór á herskip. Hann feldi Hunding
Away got Helgi and went on a-warship He felled Hundingr
konung, ok var síðan kallaðr Helgi hundingsbani. Hann
(the)-king and was afterward called Helgi hundingsbani He
lá með her sinn í Brunavágum ok hafði þar strandhögg,
lay with host his in Brunavágar and made there a-shore-raid
ok átu þar hrátt. Högni hét konungr; hans dóttir var
and ate there raw Högni was-called a-king his daughter was
Sigrún; hon var valkyrja ok reið lopt ok lög. Hon var
Sigrún she was a-valkyrie and rode air and sea She was
Sváfa endrborin. Sigrún reið at skipum Helga ok kvað:
Sváfa reborn Sigrún rode to (the)-ships of-Helgi and said

7 Hverir láta fljóta
Who let float
fley við bakka,
ships by (the)-bank
hvar hermegir
where warriors
heima eiguð,
at-home (ye)-have

hvers bíðið ér
what await ye
í Brunavágum,
in Brunavágar
hvert lystir yðr
whither desires you
leið at kanna?
(the)-way to explore

H. KV. Hamall lætr fljóta 8
Hamall lets float
fley við bakka,
ships by (the)-bank
eigum heima
(we)-have at-home
í Hléseyju,
in Hlésey
bíðum byrjar
(we)-await a-fair-wind
í Brunavágum,
in Brunavágar
austr lystir oss
east desires us
leið at kanna.
(the)-way to explore

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

9 S. KV. Hvar hefr þú hilmir
Where hast thou prince
hildi vakða
battle waked
eða gögl alin
or geese fed
Gunnar systra?
Gunnr's sisters
hví 's brynja þín
why is mail-coat thy
blóði stokkin?
with-blood spattered
hví skal und hjalmum
why shall under helmets
kjöt hrátt eta?
meat raw (one)-eat

H. KV. Þat vann næst nýs 10
That did lately anew
niðr Ylfinga
(the)-kinsman of-(the)-Ylfings
fyr vestan ver,
to (the)-west of-(the)-sea
ef þik vita lystir,
if thee to-know desires
es ek björnu tók
when I bears took
í Bragalundi
in Bragalundr
ok ætt ara
and (the)-kin of-eagles
oddum saddak.
with-points sated-I

Nú 's sagt mær 11
Now is told maid
hvaðan sakar gerðusk,
whence (the)-strife arose
hví vas á legi mér
why was at sea by-me
lítt steikt etit.
little roasted eaten

12 S. KV. Víg lýsir þú,
Slaughter proclaimest thou
varð fyr Helga
had before Helgi
Hundingr konungr
Hundingr (the)-king
hníga at velli,
to-sink to (the)-field
bar sókn saman,
bore battle together
es seva hefnduð,
when kinsmen (ye)-avenged
ok busti blóð
and spurted blood
á brimis eggjar.
on (the)-sword's edges

13 H. KV. Hvat vissir þú,
How knewest thou
at þeir séim,
that those (we)-were
snót svinnhuguð,
lady wise-minded
es seva hefndum?
who kinsmen (we)-avenged

margir ro hvassir
many are keen
hildings synir
(the)-warrior's sons
ok ámunir
and hostile
ossum niðjum.
to-our kinsmen

14–15 · SIGRÚN KNOWS HELGI

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

S. KV. Vaskak fjarri 14
Was-I-not far
folks oddviti
of-(the)-host (the)-point-leader
gær á morgun
yesterday in (the)-morning
grams aldrlokum,
(the)-prince's (at)-(the)-life-end
þó telk slœgjan
yet count-I sly
Sigmundar bur,
Sigmundr's son

es í valrúnum
who in slaughter-runes
vígspjöll segir.
battle-tidings tells

Leitk þik of sinn
Saw-I thee — once
fyrr á langskipum,
before on long-ships
þás þú byggðir
when thou dweltest-on
blóðga stafna
bloody prows
ok úrsvalar
and ice-cold
unnir léku,
waves played
nú vill dyljask
now will hide-himself
döglingr fyr mér.
(the)-king from me

(en Högna mær
but Högni's maid
Helga kennir).
Helgi recognizes

Granmarr hét ríkr konungr, er bjó at Svarinshaugi.
Granmarr was-called a-mighty king who dwelt at Svarinshaugr
Hann átti marga sonu; einn hét Höðbroddr, annarr
He had many sons one was-called Höðbroddr (the)-second
Guðmundr, þriði Starkaðr. Höðbroddr var í konungastefnu.
Guðmundr (the)-third Starkaðr Höðbroddr was in a-kings'-meeting
Hann fastnaði sér Sigrúnu Högnadóttur. En er hon
He betrothed to-himself Sigrún Högni's-daughter But when she
spyrr þat, þá reið hon með valkyrjur um lopt ok um
learns that then rode she with valkyries through (the)-air and over
lög at leita Helga. Helgi var þá at Logafjöllum ok
(the)-sea to seek Helgi Helgi was then at Logafjöll and
hafði barizk við Hundings sonu. Þar feldi hann þá Álf
had fought with Hundingr's sons There felled he then Álfr
ok Eyjólf, Hjörvarð ok Hervarð, ok var hann allvígmóðr
and Eyjólfr Hjörvarðr and Hervarðr and was he all-battle-weary
ok sat undir Arasteini. Þar hitti Sigrún hann ok rann
and sat under Arasteinn There met Sigrún him and ran
á háls hánum ok kysti hann ok sagði hánum erindi
to (the)-neck of-him and kissed him and told him errand
sitt, svá sem segir í Völsungakviðu enni fornu:
her so as (it)-says in (the)-Völsungakviða the old

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

16 Sótti Sigrún
Sought Sigrún
sikling glaðan,
(the)-king glad
heim nam Helga
home took Helgi's
hönd at sœkja,
(the)-hand to seek
kysti ok kvaddi
kissed and greeted
konung und hjalmi,
(the)-king under helmet
þá varð hilmi
then turned (the)-prince's
hugr á vífi.
mind to (the)-woman

Fyrr lézk unna 17
Before said-she (she)-loved
af öllum hug
with all heart
syni Sigmundar
(the)-son of-Sigmundr
an sét hafði.
than seen (she)-had

s. sv. Vask Höðbroddi 18
Was-I to-Höðbroddr
í her föstnuð,
in (the)-host betrothed
en jöfur annan
but a-prince other
eiga vildak;
have wished-I
þó séumk fylkir
yet fear-I king
frænda reiði,
(my)-kinsmen's wrath
hefk míns föður
have-I my father's
munráð brotit.
dear-wish broken

19 Nama Högna mær
Began-not Högni's maid
of hug mæla;
from (her)-heart to-speak
hafa kvazk Helga
have said-she Helgi's
hylli skyldu.
favor should

20 H. KV. Hirð eigi þú
Heed not thou
Högna reiði
Högni's wrath
né illan hug
nor (the)-ill mind
ættar þinnar;
of-kin thy
þú skalt mær ung
thou shalt maid young
at mér lifa;
with me live
ætt átt en góða,
kin hast-(thou) the good
es eigi séumk.
which not fear-I

21 · HÖÐBRODDR'S DEATH

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

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

Sigmundarson svaraði ok er þat enn ritat. Guðmundr reið
Sigmundr's-son answered and is that also written Guðmundr rode
heim með hersögu. Þá sömnuðu Granmarssynir her. Kómu
home with war-tidings Then gathered Granmarr's-sons a-host Came
þar margir konungar. Þar var Högni faðir Sigrúnar, ok
there many kings There was Högni (the)-father of-Sigrún and
synir hans Bragi ok Dagr. Þar var orrosta mikil ok fellu
sons his Bragi and Dagr There was a-battle great and fell
allir Granmarssynir ok allir þeira höfðingjar, nema Dagr
all Granmarr's-sons and all their chieftains except Dagr
Högnason fekk grið ok vann eiða Völsungum. Sigrún gekk
Högni's-son got truce and swore oaths (to)-(the)-Völsungar Sigrún went
í valinn ok hitti Höðbrodd at kominn dauða; hon kvað:
into the-slain and met Höðbroddr at come death she said

21 Muna þér Sigrún
Will-not (for)-thee Sigrún
frá Sevafjöllum,
from Sevafjöll
Höðbroddr konungr,
Höðbroddr (the)-king
hníga at armi
sink into (thy)-arm
liðin es ævi,
gone is (thy)-life

opt náir hrævi
often gets corpses
gránstóð gríðar,
(the)-gray-stud of-(the)-troll-wife
Granmars sona.
Granmarr's sons

22–25 · SIGRÚN'S GRIEF

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

Þá hitti hon Helga ok varð allfegin; hann kvað:
Then met she Helgi and became very-glad He said

Esat þér at öllu 22
Is-not (to)-thee in all
alvitr gefit,
all-wise-one given
þó kveðk nökkvi
yet say-I somewhat
nornir valda;
(the)-norns caused

fellu í morgun
fell in (the)-morning
at Frekasteini
at Frekasteinn
Bragi ok Högni,
Bragi and Högni
varðk bani þeira.
became-I (the)-slayer their

23 En at Styrkleifum
And at Styrkleifar
Starkaðr konungr,
Starkaðr (the)-king
en at Hlébjörgum
and at Hlébjörg
Hrollaugs synir;
Hrollaugr's sons
þann sák gylfa
that saw-I prince
grimmúðgastan,
most-grim-minded
es barðisk bolr,
who fought (the)-trunk
vas á brott höfuð.
was off away (the)-head

Liggja at jörðu 24
Lie on (the)-earth
allra flestir
of-all most
niðjar þínir,
kinsmen thy
at náum orðnir,
to corpses become
vantat vígi,
wonnest-(thou)-not (the)-battle
vas þér þat skapat,
was (for)-thee that shaped
at þú at rógi
that thou for strife
ríkmenni vast.
(to)-mighty-men wast
Þá grét Sigrún; hann kvað
Then wept Sigrún he said

Huggask Sigrún, 25
Comfort-thyself Sigrún
Hildr hefr oss verit;
Hildr hast-(thou) to-us been
vinnat skjöldungar sköpum.
overcome-not kings fates

s. kv. Lifna myndak kjósa
Alive would-I choose
es liðnir ro,
who dead are
knættak þér þó í faðmi felask.
could-I thy yet in (the)-embrace hide

26–29 · SINFJÖTLI AND GOÐMUNDR

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

Þetta kvað Guðmundr Granmarsson:
This said Guðmundr Granmarr's-son

26 Hverr es skjöldungr,
Who is (the)-king
sás skipum stýrir,
who (the)-ships steers
lætr gunnfana
lets (the)-battle-banner
gollinn fyr stafni;
golden before (the)-prow

þykkjat mér frið
seems-not to-me peace
í fararbroddi,
in (the)-van
verpr vígroða
casts (the)-battle-glow
of víkinga.
about (the)-vikings

SFJ. KV. Hér má Höðbroddr 27
Here may Höðbroddr
Helga kenna
Helgi recognize
flótta trauðan
(from)-flight unwilling
í flota miðjum;
in (the)-fleet's middle
hann hefr óðli
he has (the)-ancestral-land
ættar þinnar,
of-kin thy
arf Fjörsunga,
(the)-inheritance of-(the)-Fjörsungar
und sik þrungit.
under himself thrust

28 G. KV. Því fyrr skulum
Therefore sooner shall-(we)
at Frekasteini,
at Frekasteinn
ósáttir saman
unreconciled together
of sakar dœma;
— (our)-quarrels judge
mál 's Höðbroddi
time is (for)-Höðbroddr
hefnd at vinna,
vengeance to work
ef lægra hlut
if (the)-lower lot
lengi bárum.
long (we)-bore

29 SFJ. KV. Fyrr munt Goðmundr
Sooner wilt-thou Goðmundr
geitr of halda
goats — keep
ok bergskorar
and mountain-clefts
brattar klífa,
steep climb
hafa þér í hendi
have (for)-thee in hand
heslikylfu,
a-hazel-club

þat 's þér blíðara
that is (for)-thee pleasanter
an brimis dómar.
than (the)-sword's judgments

30–33 · HELGI'S DEATH

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

HELGI KV. Þér 's Sinfjötli 30
(For)-thee is Sinfjötli
sœmra miklu
more-seemly much
gunni at heyja
battle to wage
ok glaða örnu,
and gladden eagles
an sé ónýtum
than is with-useless
orðum at deila,
words to wrangle
þótt hildingar
though warriors
heiptir deili.
hatreds (may)-share

31 Þykkjat mér góðir
Seem-not to-me good
Granmars synir,
Granmarr's sons
þó dugir siklingum
yet befits kings
satt at mæla;
truth to speak
þeir merkt hafa
they shown have
á Móinsheimum,
at Móinsheimar
at hug hafa
that courage (they)-have
hjörum at bregða.
swords to draw
(eru hildingar
are (the)-warriors
hølzti snjallir).
exceedingly bold

Helgi fekk Sigrúnar ok áttu þau sonu. Var Helgi eigi
Helgi got Sigrún and had they sons Was Helgi not
gamall. Dagr Högnason blótaði Óðin til föðurhefnda.
old Dagr Högni's-son sacrificed-to Óðinn for father-vengeance
Óðinn léði Dag geirs síns. Dagr fann Helga mág
Óðinn lent Dagr spear his Dagr found Helgi kinsman-by-marriage
sinn, þar sem heitir at Fjöturlundi. Hann lagði í
his there where (it)-is-called at Fjöturlundr He thrust in

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

Trauðr emk systir 32
Loath am-I sister
trega þér at segja,
sorrow to-thee to tell
ek hef nauðigr
I have unwilling
nipti grœtta,
(my)-kinswoman made-weep
fell í morgun
fell in (the)-morning
und Fjöturlundi
under Fjöturlundr
buðlungr sás vas
(the)-king who was
baztr í heimi.
best in (the)-world
(ok hildingum
and (on)-warriors
á halsi stóð).
on (the)-neck stood

33 s. kv. Þik skyli allir
Thee shall all
eiðar bíta,
oaths bite
þeir es Helga
those which (to)-Helgi
hafðir unna
(thou)-hadst sworn
at enu ljósa
by the bright
Leiptrar vatni
of-Leiptr water
ok at úrsvölum
and by (the)-ice-cold
unnar steini.
of-(the)-wave stone

34–38 · SIGRÚN'S CURSE

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

34 Skríðiat þat skip,
Glide-not that ship
es skríði und þér,
which glides under thee

þótt óskabyrr
though a-wished-for-wind
eptir leggisk,
after lie
rinniat sá marr,
run-not that steed
es rinni und þér,
which runs under thee
þótt fíandr þína
though foes thy
forðask eigir.
flee (thou)-must

Bítia þér þat sverð, 35
Bite-not (for)-thee that sword
es bregðir þú,
which drawest thou
nema sjalfum þér
except thyself thee
syngvi of höfði.
sing about (the)-head

Þá væri þér hefnt 36
Then were (for)-thee avenged
Helga dauða,
Helgi's death

ef værir vargr
if (thou)-wert a-wolf
á viðum úti
in (the)-woods outside
auðs andvani
of-wealth bereft
ok alls gamans,
and of-all joy
hefðira mat,
hadst-(thou)-not food
nema á hræum spryngir.
unless on corpses (thou)-burst

37 D. KV. Œr est systir
Mad art-thou sister
ok ørvita,
and out-of-(thy)-wits
es brœðr þínum
when (on)-brother thy
biðr forskapa;
(thou)-prayest curses
einn veldr Óðinn
alone causes Óðinn
öllu bölvi,
all (the)-bale
þvít með sifjungum
because among kinsmen
sakrúnar bar.
strife-runes (he)-bore

Þér býðr bróðir 38
To-thee offers (thy)-brother
bauga rauða,
rings red
öll Vandilsvé
all Vandilsvé
ok Vígdala;
and Vígdalir
haf halfan heim
have half (the)-world
harms at gjöldum,
of-harm as payment
brúðr baugvarið,
bride ring-adorned
ok burir þínir.
and sons thy

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

39 s. kv. Sitka svá sæl
Sit-I-not so happy
at Sevafjöllum
at Sevafjöll
ár né of nætr
early nor by night
at unak lífi,
that enjoy-I life
nema at liði lofðungs
unless at (the)-host of-(the)-prince
ljóma bregði,
a-radiance flash
rinni und vísa
run under (the)-leader
Vígblær þinig.
Vígblær thither
(gollbitli vanr,
gold-bit used-to
knegak grami fagna.)
can-I (the)-prince welcome

Svá hafði Helgi 40
So had Helgi
hrædda görva
afraid made
fíandr sína alla
foes his all
ok frændr þeira,
and kinsmen their
sem fyr ulfi
as before a-wolf
óðar rynni
madly run
geitr af fjalli
goats from (the)-mountain
geiskafullar.
filled-with-terror

Svá bar Helgi 41
So towered Helgi
af hildingum
above warriors
sem ítrskapaðr
as (the)-nobly-shaped
askr af þyrni
ash above (the)-thorn
eða sá dýrkalfr,
or that deer-calf
döggu slunginn,
with-dew drenched

es efri ferr
which higher goes
öllum dýrum.
(than)-all beasts
(ok horn glóa
and (the)-horns glow
við himin sjalfan).
against heaven itself

42–44 · THE DEAD RIDE HOME

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

Haugr var görr eptir Helga; en er hann kom til Valhallar,
A-mound was made for Helgi but when he came to Valhöll
þá bauð Óðinn hánum öllu at ráða með sér. Helgi kvað:
then offered Óðinn him all to rule with himself Helgi said

Þú skalt Hundingr 42
Thou shalt Hundingr
hverjum manni
(for)-every man
fótlaug geta
a-foot-bath get
ok funa kynda,
and fire kindle
hunda binda,
hounds bind
hesta gæta,
horses tend
gefa svínum soð,
give (to)-(the)-swine swill
áðr sofa gangir.
before to-sleep (thou)-go

Ambátt Sigrúnar gekk um aptan hjá haugi Helga
A-bondwoman of-Sigrún went in (the)-evening by (the)-mound of-Helgi
ok sá, at Helgi reið til haugsins með marga menn.
and saw that Helgi rode to the-mound with many men
Ambátt kvað:
(The)-bondwoman said

Eru þat svik ein, 43
Are that delusions only
es séa þykkjumk,
which see seem-I

eða ragnarök?
or (the)-doom-of-the-gods
ríða menn dauðir,
ride men dead
es jóa yðra
when horses your
oddum keyrið,
with-spurs (ye)-drive
eða es hildingum
or is (to)-warriors
heimför gefin?
home-going given

44 H. KV. Esa þat svik ein,
Is-not that delusions only
es séa þykkisk,
which see (thou)-seemest
né aldar rof,
nor (the)-world's end
þótt oss lítir,
though us (thou)-seest
þótt jóa óra
though horses our
oddum keyrim,
with-spurs (we)-drive
nema es hildingum
but is (to)-warriors
heimför gefin.
home-going given

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

Heim gekk ambátt ok segir Sigrúnu:
Home went (the)-bondwoman and tells Sigrún

Út gakk Sigrún 45
Out go Sigrún
frá Sevafjöllum,
from Sevafjöll
ef þik folks jaðar
if thee of-(the)-host (the)-edge
finna lystir;
to-find desires
(upp 's haugr lokinn,
up is (the)-mound opened
kominn es Helgi)
come is Helgi
dolgspor dreyra,
(the)-battle-tracks bleed
döglingr bað þik,
(the)-king bade thee

at sárdropa
that (the)-wound-drops
svefja skyldir.
soothe (thou)-shouldst

Sigrún gekk í hauginn til Helga ok kvað:
Sigrún went into the-mound to Helgi and said

46 Nú emk svá fegin
Now am-I as glad
fundi okrum
(at)-meeting our
sem átfrekir
as food-greedy
Óðins haukar,
Óðinn's hawks
es vals vitu
when of-slaughter (they)-know
varmar bráðir
warm flesh
eða dögglitir
or dew-glistening
dagsbrún séa.
(the)-dawn see

Fyrr vilk kyssa 47
Before will-I kiss
konung ólifðan
(the)-king lifeless
an blóðugri
than bloody
brynju kastir,
mail-coat (thou)-cast-off
hár 's þitt Helgi
(the)-hair is thy Helgi
hélu þrungit,
with-rime thick
allr es vísi
all is (the)-prince
valdögg slegin.
with-slaughter-dew struck

48–52 · SIGRÚN'S TEARS

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

Hendr úrsvalar 48
Hands ice-cold
Högna mági,
Högni's (of)-(the)-kinsman-by-marriage

hvé skalk þér buðlungr
how shall-I (for)-thee king
þess bót of vinna.
for-that amends — make

49 H. KV. Ein veldr þú Sigrún
Alone causest thou Sigrún
frá Sevafjöllum,
from Sevafjöll
es Helgi es
that Helgi is
hrædögg sleginn.
with-corpse-dew struck

50 Grætr gollvarið
(thou)-weepest gold-adorned
grimmum tárum
with-grim tears
sólbjört, suðrœn,
sun-bright southern-one
áðr sofa gangir,
before to-sleep (thou)-go
hvert fellr blóðugt
each falls bloody
á brjóst grami,
on (the)-breast of-(the)-prince

úrsvalt, innfjalgt,
ice-cold deep-piercing
ekka þrungit.
with-grief heavy

Vel skulum drekka 51
Well shall-(we) drink
dýrar veigar,
precious drafts
þótt mist hafim
though lost (we)-have
munar ok landa;
joy and lands
skal engi maðr
shall no man
angrljóð kveða,
grief-songs sing
þótt mér á brjósti
though on-me on (the)-breast
benjar líti.
wounds (he)-sees

Nú eru brúðir 52
Now are brides
byrgðar í haugi,
shut in (the)-mound

lofða dísir
men's ladies
hjá liðnum oss.
by dead us
Sigrún bjó sæing í hauginum.
Sigrún made a-bed in the-mound

53–55 · THE NIGHT IN THE MOUND

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

53 Hér hefk þér Helgi
Here have-I (for)-thee Helgi
hvílu görva
a-bed made
angrlausa mjök,
griefless much
Ylfinga niðr;
Ylfings' kinsman
vilk þér í faðmi
wish-I (for)-thee in (the)-embrace
fylkir sofna
king to-sleep
sem lofðungi
as with-(the)-prince
lifnum myndak.
living would-I

H. KV. Nú kveðk einskis 54
Now say-I nothing
ørvænt vesa
unexpected to-be
síð né snimma
late nor early
at Sevafjöllum,
at Sevafjöll
es þú á armi
when thou in (the)-arm
ólifðum sefr,
lifeless (thou)-sleepest
hvít í haugi
white in (the)-mound
Högna dóttir.
Högni's daughter
(ok est kvik
and art alive
en konungborna).
the king-born

Mál 's mér at ríða 55
Time is (for)-me to ride
roðnar brautir,
reddened roads
láta fölvan jó
let (the)-pale steed
flugstíg troða,
(the)-flight-path tread

skalk fyr vestan
shall-I to (the)-west
vindhjalms brúar,
(the)-wind-helmet's bridge
áðr Salgófnir
before Salgófnir
sigþjóð veki.
(the)-victory-folk wake

56–57 · SIGRÚN WAITS IN VAIN

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

Þeir Helgi riðu leið sína, en þær fóru heim til bœjar.
They Helgi rode way their and they went home to (the)-farm
Annan aptan lét Sigrún ambátt halda vörð á hauginum;
(The)-next evening let Sigrún (the)-bondwoman hold watch at the-mound
en at dagsetri, er Sigrún kom til haugsins, hon kvað:
but at sunset when Sigrún came to the-mound she said

56 Kominn væri nú,
Come would-be now
ef koma hygði,
if come (he)-intended

Sigmundar burr
Sigmundr's son
frá sölum Óðins,
from (the)-halls of-Óðinn
kveðk grams þinig
say-I of-(the)-prince thither
grænask ván̈ir,
wane (the)-hopes
es á asklimum
when on ash-boughs
ernir sitja.
eagles sit
(ok drífr drótt öll
and drifts (the)-host all
draumþinga til).
dream-meetings to

A. KV. Verðat svá œr, 57
Be-not so mad
at ein farir,
that alone (thou)-go
dís skjöldunga,
lady of-kings
draughúsa til,
draug-houses to

verða öflgari
become stronger
allir á nóttum
all at nights
dauðir dolgar
dead foes
an of daga ljósa.
than by days bright

HELGI AND SIGRÚN REBORN

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

Sigrún varð skammlíf af harmi ok trega. Þat var trúa
Sigrún became short-lived from grief and sorrow That was a-belief
í forneskju, at menn væri endrbornir, en þat er nú
in olden-times that men were reborn but that is now
kölluð kerlingavilla. Helgi ok Sigrún er kallat at væri
called old-wives'-error Helgi and Sigrún is said that (they)-were
endrborin; hét hann þá Helgi Haddingjaskati, en hon
reborn was-called he then Helgi Haddingjaskati and she
Kára Hálfdanardóttir, svá sem kveðit er í Káruljóðum, ok
Kára Hálfdan's-daughter so as told is in (the)-Káruljóð and
var hon valkyrja.
was she a-valkyrie

Frá dauða Sinfjötla

The Death of Sinfjotli

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

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

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

út skipinu ok hvarf þegar. Sigmundr konungr dvalðisk lengi
out the-ship and vanished at-once Sigmundr (the)-king stayed long
í Danmörk í ríki Borghildar, síðan er hann fekk
in Denmark in (the)-realm of-Borghildr after that he married
hennar. Fór Sigmundr þá suðr í Frakkland til þess ríkis,
her Went Sigmundr then south into Frankland to that realm
er hann átti þar. Þá fekk hann Hjördísar, dóttur Eylima
which he had there Then married he Hjördís daughter of-Eylimi
konungs. Þeira son var Sigurðr. Sigmundr konungr fell í
(the)-king Their son was Sigurðr Sigmundr (the)-king fell in
orrostu fyrir Hundingssonum, en Hjördís giptisk þá Álfi,
battle against Hundingr's-sons and Hjördís married then Álfr
syni Hjálpreks konungs. Óx Sigurðr þar upp í barnœsku.
(the)-son of-Hjálprekr (the)-king Grew Sigurðr there up in childhood
Sigmundr ok allir synir hans váru langt um fram alla
Sigmundr and all sons his were far over beyond all
menn aðra um afl ok vöxt ok hug ok alla atgørvi.
men other in strength and stature and courage and all accomplishment
Sigurðr var þó allra framastr, ok hann kalla allir menn í
Sigurðr was yet of-all foremost and him call all men in
fornfrœðum um alla menn fram ok göfgastan herkonunga.
ancient-lore over all men beyond and noblest of-war-kings

Grípisspá

The Prophecy of Gripir

SIGURÐR RIDES TO GRÍPIR

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

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

1–5 · GEITIR AT THE DOOR

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

Hverr byggir hér 1
Who dwells here
borgir þessar?
strongholds these

hvat þjóðkonung
what (the)-great-king
þegnar nefna?
(the)-thanes name
G. KV. Grípir heitir
Grípir (he)-is-called
gumna stjóri
of-men (the)-ruler
sás fastri ræðr
who (the)-firm rules
foldu ok þegnum.
land and thanes

2 S. KV. Es horskr konungr
Is (the)-wise king
heima í landi,
at-home in (the)-land
mun sá gramr við mik
will that prince with me
ganga at mæla?
come to speak
máls es þarfi
(of)-speech is in-need
maðr ókunnigr,
a-man unknown
vilk fljótliga
wish-I swiftly
finna Grípi.
(to)-find Grípir

G. KV. Þess mun glaðr konungr 3
Of-that will (the)-glad king
Geiti spyrja,
Geitir ask
hverr sá maðr sé
who that man is
es máls kveðr Grípi.
who (to)-speech calls Grípir
S. KV. Sigurðr ek heiti
Sigurðr I am-called
borinn Sigmundi,
born to-Sigmundr
en Hjördís es
and Hjördís is
hilmis móðir.
(the)-prince's mother

Þá gekk Geitir 4
Then went Geitir
Grípi at segja:
(to)-Grípir to tell
Hér 's maðr úti
Here is a-man outside
ókuðr kominn;
unknown come
hann 's ítarligr
he is splendid
at áliti,
in appearance

sá vill, fylkir,
he wishes king
fund þinn hafa.
meeting thy (to)-have

Gengr ór skála
Goes out-of (the)-hall
skatna dróttinn
of-men (the)-lord
ok heilsar vel
and greets well
hilmi komnum:
(the)-prince come
»þigg hér Sigurðr,
take here Sigurðr
væri sœmra fyrr,
(it)-were more-seemly before
en Geitir tak
and Geitir take
við Grana sjalfum.«
charge-of Grani himself

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

Mæla námu 6
To-speak (they)-began
ok mart hjala
and much talk
þás ráðspakir
when counsel-wise
rekkar fundusk.
men met
Seg mér, ef veizt,
Say to-me if (thou)-knowest
móðurbróðir,
mother's-brother
hvé mun Sigurði
how will (for)-Sigurðr
snúna ævi.
turn life

7 GR. KV. Þú munt maðr vesa
Thou wilt a-man be
mæztr und sólu
greatest under (the)-sun
ok hæstr borinn
and highest born
hverjum jöfri,
(of)-every prince
gjöfull af golli,
generous with gold
en gløggr flugar,
but sparing of-flight
ítr áliti
noble in-appearance
ok í orðum spakr.
and in words wise

8 Seg gegn konungr
Say good king
görr an spyrjak
more than ask-I
snotr Sigurði,
wise (to)-Sigurðr
ef sjá þykkisk,
if see (thou)-thinkest
hvat mun fyrst gerask
what will first happen
til farnaðar,
toward fortune

þás ór garði emk
when out-of (the)-court am-I
genginn þínum?
gone thy

GR. KV. Fyrst munt fylkir 9
First wilt-thou king
föður of hefna,
(thy)-father — avenge
ok Eylima
and (for)-Eylimi
alls harms reka,
all harm requite
þú munt harða
thou wilt (the)-hard
Hundings sonu
Hundingr's sons
snjalla fella,
bold fell
munt sigr hafa.
wilt-(thou) victory have

Seg ítr konungr, 10
Say noble king
ættingi, mér
kinsman (to)-me
heldr horskliga,
rather wisely

es vit hugat mælum;
since we-two thoughtfully speak
sér þú Sigurðar
seest thou Sigurðr's
snör brögð fyrir,
swift deeds before-(thee)
þaus hæst fara
which highest go
und himinskautum?
under heaven's-corners

11–15 · FÁFNIR AND THE SLEEPING MAID

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

11 GR. KV. Munt einn vega
Wilt-(thou) alone slay
orm enn frána,
(the)-serpent the gleaming
þanns gráðugr liggr
which greedy lies
á Gnitaheiði,
on Gnitaheiðr

þú munt báðum
thou wilt both
at bana verða
to death become
Regin ok Fáfni;
Reginn and Fáfnir
rétt segir Grípir.
rightly says Grípir

Auðr mun ærinn, 12
Wealth will (be)-ample
ef eflik svá
if achieve-I so
víg með virðum,
slaying among men
sem víst segir;
as surely (thou)-sayest
leið athuga
(the)-way consider
ok lengra seg,
and further say
hvat mun enn vesa
what will yet be
ævi minnar?
of-life my

13 GR. KV. Þú munt finna
Thou wilt find
Fáfnis bœli
Fáfnir's lair
ok upp taka
and up take
auð enn fagra,
(the)-wealth the fair
golli hlœða
with-gold load
á Grana bógu;
on Grani's shoulders
ríðr þú til Gjúka
ridest thou to Gjúki
gramr vígrisinn.
a-prince battle-strong

14 Enn skalt hilmi
Still shalt-(thou) (to)-(the)-prince
í hugazrœðu,
in thoughtful-speech
framlyndr jöfurr,
far-minded prince
fleira segja;
more say
gestr emk Gjúka
guest am-I of-Gjúki
ok ek geng þaðan,
and I go thence

hvat mun enn vesa
what will yet be
ævi minnar?
of-life my

GR. KV. Sefr á fjalli 15
Sleeps on a-mountain
fylkis dóttir
a-king's daughter
björt í brynju
bright in mail-coat
ept bana Helga;
after (the)-death of-Helgi
þú munt höggva
thou wilt hew
hvössu sverði,
with-keen sword
brynju rísta
(the)-mail-coat cut
með bana Fáfnis.
with (the)-slayer of-Fáfnir

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

16 Brotin es brynja,
Broken is (the)-mail-coat
brúðr mæla tekr,
(the)-bride to-speak begins
es vaknaði
when awoke
víf ór svefni,
(the)-woman out-of sleep
hvat mun snót at heldr
what will (the)-lady the rather
við Sigurð mæla
with Sigurðr speak
þats at farnaði
that-which to fortune
fylki verði?
(for)-(the)-king becomes

17 GR. KV. Hón mun ríkjum þér
She will (to)-mighty thee
rúnar kenna,
runes teach

allar þærs aldir
all those-which men
eignask vildu,
to-possess wished
ok á manns tungu
and in a-man's tongue
mæla hverja,
to-speak each
líf með lækning,
life with healing
lif heill konungr.
live hale king

Nú 's því lokit, 18
Now is that ended
numin eru frœði
learned are (the)-lore
ok em braut þaðan
and am away thence
búinn at ríða,
ready to ride
leið athuga
(the)-way consider
ok lengra seg,
and further say
hvat mun meir vesa
what will more be
minnar ævi?
of-my life

19 GR. KV. Þú munt hitta
Thou wilt visit
Heimis byggðir
Heimir's dwellings
ok glaðr vesa
and glad be
gestr þjóðkonungs;
(the)-guest of-(the)-great-king
farit es Sigurðr
gone is Sigurðr
þats fyrir vissak,
what beforehand knew-I
skala fremr an svá
shalt-(thou)-not further than so
fregna Grípi.
ask Grípir

20 Nú fær mér ekka
Now brings me grief
orð þaz mæltir,
(the)-word which (thou)-spokest
þvít þú fram of sér
because thou ahead — seest
fylkir lengra,
king farther
veizt ofmikit
(thou)-knowest too-much
angr Sigurði;
sorrow (for)-Sigurðr

því þú Grípir þat
therefore thou Grípir that
gerra segja.
(thou)-darest-not tell

21–25 · GRÍPIR'S RELUCTANCE

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

GR. KV. Lá mér of œsku 21
Lay (to)-me of (the)-youth
ævi þinnar
of-life thy
ljósast fyrir
brightest before-(me)
líta eptir,
to-look after
rétt emka ek
rightly am-not I
ráðspakr taliðr
counsel-wise counted
né in heldr framvíss,
nor the rather foreseeing
farit þats vissak.
gone-is what knew-I

22 Mann veitk engi
Man know-I no
fyr mold ofan,
over (the)-earth above
þanns fleira sé
who more sees
framm an þú Grípir;
ahead than thou Grípir
skalattu leyna,
shalt-thou-not hide
þótt ljót séi,
though ugly (it)-be
eða mein gerisk
or harm happen
á mínum hag.
in my lot

23 GR. KV. Esa með löstum
Is-not with vices
lögð ævi þér,
laid life (for)-thee
lát enn ítri þat
let the noble that
öðlingr nemask;
prince learn
þvít uppi mun
because high will
meðan öld lifir,
while (the)-world lives

naddéls boði,
point-storm's summoner
nafn þitt vesa.
name thy be

Verst hyggjum því, 24
Worst think-(I) that
verðr at skiljask
comes to part
Sigurðr við fylki
Sigurðr from (the)-king
at sógöru;
at such-done
leið vísa þú,
(the)-way show thou
lagt 's alt fyrir,
laid is all before-(thee)
mærr mér ef vilt
famous (to)-me if (thou)-wilt
móðurbróðir.
mother's-brother

GR. KV. Nú skal Sigurði 25
Now shall (to)-Sigurðr
segja görva,
tell fully

alls þengill mik
since (the)-prince me
til þess neyðir;
to that forces
munt víst vita
wilt-(thou) surely know
at vætki lýg;
that nothing (I)-lie
dœgr eitt es þér
day one is (for)-thee
dauði ætlaðr.
death intended

26–30 · BRYNHILDR

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

26 Vilkat reiði
Want-I-not (the)-wrath
ríks þjóðkonungs,
of-(the)-mighty great-king
góð ráð at heldr
good counsels the rather
Grípis þiggja;
Grípir's receive
nú vill víst vita,
now will-(I) surely know

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

GR. KV. Fljóð 's at Heimis 27
A-woman is at Heimir's
fagrt álitum,
fair in-looks
hana Brynhildi
her Brynhildr
bragnar nefna,
men name
dóttir Buðla,
(the)-daughter of-Buðli
en dýrr konungr
and (the)-dear king
harðugðigt man
a-hard-minded maid
Heimir fœðir.
Heimir fosters

28 Hvat 's mik at því,
What is (to)-me in it
þótt mær séi
though a-maid (she)-be
fögr áliti
fair in-looks
fœdd at Heimis?
fostered at Heimir's
þat skalt Grípir
that shalt-(thou) Grípir
görva segja,
fully tell
þvít þú öll of sér
because thou all — seest
ørlög fyrir.
fates before-(thee)

29 GR. KV. Hón firrir þik
She robs thee
flestu gamni,
(of)-most joy
fögr áliti,
fair in-looks
fóstra Heimis,
(the)-foster-daughter of-Heimir
svefn þú né sefr
sleep thou nor sleepest
né of sakar dœmir,
nor — cases judge

gára þú manna
heedest-not thou (for)-men
nema mey séir.
unless (the)-maid (thou)-see

Hvat mun til líkna
What will for comfort
lagt Sigurði?
laid (for)-Sigurðr
seg Grípir þat,
say Grípir that
ef sjá þykkisk;
if see (thou)-thinkest
munk mey náa
will-I (the)-maid win
mundi kaupa,
with-bride-price buy
þá ena fögru
that the fair
fylkis dóttur?
king's daughter

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

31 GR. KV.

It munuð alla
You-two will all

eiða vinna
oaths swear

fullfastliga,
very-firmly

fá munuð halda;
few will-(ye) keep

verit hefr þú Gjúka
been hast thou Gjúki's

gestr eina nótt,
guest one night

mantattu horska
rememberest-thou-not (the)-wise

Heimis fóstru.
Heimir's foster-daughter

Hvárt 's þá Grípir, 32
Whether is then Grípir
get þess fyr mér,
guess that for me
sér þú geðleysi
seest thou fickleness
í grams skapi,
in (the)-prince's mind
es skalk við mey þá
when shall-I with (the)-maid that
málum slíta,
(the)-troth break
es alls hugar
whom with-all heart
unna þóttumk.
to-love seemed-I

GR. KV. Þú verðr siklingr 33
Thou becomest prince
fyr svikum annars,
through (the)-treachery of-another
munt Grímhildar
wilt-(thou) Grímhildr's
gjalda ráða,
pay-for (the)-counsels

mun bjóða þér
will offer thee
bjarthaddat man
(the)-bright-haired maid
dóttur sína,
daughter her
dregr hón vél at gram.
draws she guile on (the)-prince

34 Munk við þá Gunnar
Will-I with them Gunnarr
gerva hleyti
make kinship
ok Goðrúnu
and Guðrún
ganga at eiga?
go to wed
fullkvæni þá
fully-married then
fylkir væri,
(the)-king would-be
ef meintregar
if harm-sorrows
mér angrað it.
me grieved-not

GR. KV. Þik mun Grímhildr 35
Thee will Grímhildr
görva véla,
wholly beguile
mun hón Brynhildar
will she Brynhildr
biðja fýsa
(to)-woo urge
Gunnari til handa,
Gunnarr to hand
Gotna drótni,
(the)-Goths' lord
heitr þú fljótla för
promisest thou swiftly (the)-journey
fylkis móður.
(to)-(the)-prince's mother

36–40 · THE EXCHANGE OF SHAPES

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

Mein eru fyr höndum, 36
Harms are before hands
mák líta þat;
may-I see that

ratar görliga
goes-astray wholly
ráð Sigurðar,
counsel Sigurðr's
ef skalk mærrar
if shall-I (the)-famed
meyjar biðja
maid woo
öðrum til handa,
(for)-another to hand
es unnak vel.
whom loved-I well

37 GR. KV. Ér munuð allir
Ye will all
eiða vinna
oaths swear
Gunnarr ok Högni,
Gunnarr and Högni
en þú gramr þriði,
and thou prince (the)-third
þá litum víxlið,
then shapes (ye)-exchange
es á leið eruð,
when on (the)-way (ye)-are
Gunnarr ok þú;
Gunnarr and thou
Grípir lýgrat.
Grípir lies-not

Hví gegnir þat, 38
Why means that
hví skulum skipta
why shall-(we) exchange
litum ok látum,
shapes and manners
es á leið erum?
when on (the)-way (we)-are
þar mun fláræði
there will falsehood
fylgja annat
follow other
atalt með öllu,
terrible in all
enn seg Grípir.
still say Grípir

GR. KV. Lit hefr þú Gunnars 39
(The)-shape hast thou of-Gunnarr
ok læti hans,
and manners his
mælsku þína
eloquence thy
ok meginhyggjur;
and great-thoughts

munt þú fastna þér
wilt thou betroth (to)-thyself
framlundaða
(the)-high-minded
fóstru Heimis,
foster-daughter of-Heimir
hyggsk vætr fyr því.
thinks-(she) nothing of it

Verst hyggjum því,
Worst think-(I) that
vándr munk heitinn
wicked will-I (be)-called
Sigurðr með seggjum
Sigurðr among men
at sógöru,
at such-done
vildak eigi
would-I not
vélum beita
guile use
jöfra brúði,
(on)-(the)-princes' bride
es œzta veitk.
whom highest know-I

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

GR. KV. 41

Þú munt hvíla,
Thou wilt rest

hers oddviti,
of-(the)-host (the)-point-leader

mærr hjá meyju
famed beside (the)-maid

sem þín móðir sé;
as thy mother (she)-were

því mun uppi,
therefore will high

meðan öld lifir,
while (the)-world lives

þjóðar þengill,
of-(the)-people (the)-prince

þitt nafn vesa.
thy name be

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

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

hefr hvárr fyr því
has each for that
hyggju sína.
mind his

Hvé mun at ynði 44
How will to joy
eptir verða
afterward become
mægð með mönnum,
kinship among men
mér seg Grípir;
to-me say Grípir
mun Gunnari
will for-Gunnarr
til gamans ráðit
to delight settled
síðan verða
afterward become
eða sjalfum mér?
or (for)-self me

GR. KV. Minnir þik eiða, 45
Reminds thee (the)-oaths
mátt þegja þó,
mayest-(thou) keep-silent though

ant þú Goðrúnu
lovest thou Guðrún
góðra ráða,
(in)-good marriage
en Brynhildr þykkisk
but Brynhildr thinks-herself
brúðr vargefin,
a-bride ill-married
snót fiðr vélar
(the)-lady finds guile
sér at hefndum.
(for)-herself as revenge

46–50 · BRYNHILDR'S REVENGE

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

46 Hvat mun at bótum
What will as amends
brúðr sú taka,
bride that take
es vélar vér
since guile we
vífi gerðum?
(on)-(the)-woman worked

hefr snót af mér
has (the)-lady from me
svarna eiða
sworn oaths
enga efnda,
none fulfilled
en unað lítit.
and joy little

GR. KV. Mun hón Gunnari 47
Will she (to)-Gunnarr
görva segja,
fully tell
at eigi vel
that not well
eiðum þyrmðir,
(the)-oaths (thou)-keptest
þás ítr konungr
when (the)-noble king
af öllum hug,
with all heart
Gjúka arfi,
Gjúki's heir
á gram trúði.
in (the)-prince trusted

48 Hvat 's þá Grípir,
What is then Grípir
get þess fyr mér,
guess that for me
munk saðr vesa
will-I guilty be
at sögu þeiri,
of tale that
eða lýgr á mik
or lies about me
lofsæl kona
(the)-praise-blessed woman
ok á sjalfa sik?
and about self herself
seg Grípir þat.
say Grípir that

49 GR. KV. Mun fyr reiði
Will from wrath
rík brúðr við þik
(the)-mighty bride toward thee
né af oftrega
nor from overgrief
allvel skipa,
very-well deal
viðr þú góðri
workest thou (on)-(the)-good-one
grand aldrigi,
harm never

þó ér víf konungs
though ye (the)-woman of-(the)-king
vélum beittuð.
with-guile used

Mun horskr konungr
Will (the)-wise king
at hvötun hennar
at (the)-urging her
Guthormr ok Högni
Guthormr and Högni
ganga síðan?
go afterward
munu synir Gjúka
will (the)-sons of-Gjúki
á sifjugum mér
on (the)-kinsman me
eggjar rjóða?
edges redden
enn seg Grípir.
still say Grípir

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

51 GR. KV. Þá 's Goðrúnu
Then is (for)-Guðrún
grimt of hjarta,
grim — heart
es brœðr hennar
when brothers her
þér til bana ráða,
(for)-thee to death plot
ok at engu verðr
and to nothing becomes
ynði síðan
joy afterward
vitru vífi;
(to)-(the)-wise woman
veldr því Grímhildr.
causes it Grímhildr

52 Því skal hugga þik,
That shall comfort thee
hers oddviti,
of-(the)-host (the)-point-leader

sú mun gipt lagið
that will luck (be)-laid
á grams ævi:
on (the)-prince's life
munat mætri maðr
will-not a-more-excellent man
á mold koma
on earth come
und sólar sjöt,
under (the)-sun's seat
an þú Sigurðr þykkir.
than thou Sigurðr seemest

S. KV. Skiljumk heilir, 53
Let-us-part hale
munat sköpum vinna,
will-(one)-not fates overcome
nú hefr þú Grípir vel
now hast thou Grípir well
gört sem beiddak;
done as asked-I

fljótt myndir þú
swiftly wouldst thou
fríðri segja
fairer tell
mína ævi,
my life
ef mættir þat.
if (thou)-couldst that

Reginsmál

The Lay of Regin

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

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

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

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

A. Hvat 's fiska, 1
What is of-fishes
es rinnr flóði í,
that runs (the)-flood in
kannat við víti varask?
can-not against harm guard-itself
höfuð þitt
head thy
leys þú helju ór,
ransom thou hel out-of
finn mér lindar loga.
find me (the)-water's flame

Andvari heitik, 2
Andvari am-called-I
Óinn hét minn faðir,
Óinn was-called my father
margan hefk fors of farit,
many have-I a-waterfall — traveled

aumlig norn
a-wretched norn
skóp oss í árdaga,
shaped us in early-days
at skyldak í vatni vaða.
that should-I in water wade

3 L. KV. Seg þat Andvari,
Say that Andvari
ef eiga vill
if to-have (thou)-wilt
líf í lýða sölum,
life in (the)-halls of-men
hver gjöld
what payment
fáa gumna synir,
get (the)-sons of-men
ef ljúgask orðum á?
if (they)-lie-to-each-other with-words on

4 A. KV. Ofrgjöld
Over-payment
fáa gumna synir,
get (the)-sons of-men
þeirs Vaðgelmi vaða,
who Vaðgelmir wade
ósaðra orða,
(for)-untrue words

hverr 's á annan lýgr,
whoever that against another lies
oflengi leiða limar.
too-long lead (the)-branches

5–7 · THE CURSE ON THE RING

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

Loki sá alt gull þat er Andvari átti. En er hann hafði
Loki saw all (the)-gold that which Andvari owned But when he had
framreitt gullit, þá hafði hann eptir einn hring, ok tók Loki
handed-over the-gold then had he back one ring and took Loki
þann af hánum. Dvergrinn gekk inn í steininn ok mælti:
that from him The-dwarf went in into the-stone and said

B. Þat skal goll, 5
That shall gold
es Gustr átti,
which Gustr owned

brœðrum tveim
(to)-brothers two
at bana verða
to death become
ok öðlingum
and (to)-princes
átta at rógi;
eight for strife
mun míns féar
will of-my wealth
mangi njóta.
no-one enjoy

Æsir reiddu Hreiðmari féit ok tráðu upp otrbelginn
(The)-æsir paid Hreiðmarr the-money and stuffed up the-otter-skin
ok reistu á fœtr. Þá skyldu æsirnir hlaða upp gullinu
and raised-(it) on (its)-feet Then should the-æsir heap up the-gold
ok hylja. En er þat var gört, gekk Hreiðmarr fram
and cover-(it) But when that was done went Hreiðmarr forward
ok sá eitt granahár ok bað hylja. Þá dró Óðinn fram
and saw one whisker and bade cover-(it) Then drew Óðinn forth
hringinn Andvaranaut ok hulði hárit. Loki kvað:
the-ring Andvaranautr and covered the-hair Loki said

A. Goll 's þér reitt 6
Gold is (to)-thee paid
en þú gjöld of hefr
and thou payment — hast
mikil míns höfuðs,
great for-my head
syni þínum
(for)-son thy
verðra sæla sköpuð;
becomes-not happiness shaped
þat verðr ykkarr beggja bani.
that becomes of-you-two both (the)-bane

HR. KV. Gjafar þú gaft, 7
Gifts thou gavest
gaftat ástgjafar,
gavest-not love-gifts
gaftat af heilum hug;
gavest-not from whole heart
fjörvi yðru
of-life your
skylduð firðir vesa,
should-(ye) deprived be
ef vissak þat fár fyrir.
if knew-I that peril before

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

8 L. KV. Enn es verra,
Still is worse
þat vita þykkjumk,
that to-know seem-I
niðja stríð of nept;
(the)-kinsmen's strife — scant
jöfra óborna
(of)-princes unborn
hygg þá enn vesa,
think-I them still to-be
es þat es til hatrs hugat.
who that which for hatred intended

9 H. KV. Rauðu golli
(The)-red gold
hygg mik ráða munu,
think-I me to-rule will
svá lengi sem ek lifi;
so long as I live

hót þín
threats thy
hræðumk ekki lyf,
fear-I not a-whit
ok haldið heim heðan.
and hold-ye home hence

Fáfnir ok Reginn kröfðu Hreiðmar niðgjalda eptir Otr bróður
Fáfnir and Reginn demanded (of)-Hreiðmarr kin-payment for Otr brother
sinn. Hann kvað nei við. En Fáfnir lagði sverði Hreiðmar
their He said no to-(it) And Fáfnir thrust (with)-a-sword Hreiðmarr
föður sinn sofanda. Hreiðmarr kallaði á dœtr sínar:
father his sleeping Hreiðmarr called on daughters his

Lyngheiðr ok Lofnheiðr, 10
Lyngheiðr and Lofnheiðr
vitið mínu lífi farit,
know-ye my life gone
mart 's þats þörf þéar.
much is that-which need forces
LH. KV. Fá mun systir,
Little will a-sister
þótt föður missi,
though a-father (she)-lose
hefna hlýra harms.
avenge (the)-brother's grief

11 B. HR. KV. Al þó dóttur,
Bear yet a-daughter
dís ulfhuguð,
lady wolf-minded
ef getrat son
if (thou)-gettest-not a-son
við siklingi,
with a-prince
fá mey manni
give (the)-maid (to)-a-man
í meginþarfar;
in great-need
þá mun þeirar sonr
then will her son
þíns harms reka.
thy grief avenge

12–14 · REGINN FOSTERS SIGURÐR

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

Þá dó Hreiðmarr, en Fáfnir tók gullit alt. Þá beiddisk
Then died Hreiðmarr and Fáfnir took the-gold all Then asked
Reginn at hafa föðurarf sinn, en Fáfnir galt þar nei
Reginn to have father's-inheritance his but Fáfnir answered there no

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

A. Bróður kveðja 12
A-brother ask
skalt blíðliga
shalt-(thou) gently
arfs ok œðra hugar,
(for)-inheritance and better mind
esa þat hœft,
is-not that fitting
at hjörvi skylir
that with-(the)-sword (thou)-shouldst
kveðja Fáfni féar.
ask Fáfnir (for)-wealth

Þessa hluti sagði Reginn Sigurði. Einn dag er hann kom
These things told Reginn (to)-Sigurðr One day when he came
til húsa Regins, var hánum vel fagnat. Reginn kvað:
to (the)-house of-Reginn was (to)-him well welcomed Reginn said

B. Kominn es hingat 13
Come is hither
konr Sigmundar,
(the)-kinsman of-Sigmundr

seggr enn snarráði,
(the)-man the swift-minded
til sala várra,
to halls our
móð hefr meira
courage has-(he) more
an maðr gamall
than a-man old
ok es mér fangs ván
and is (for)-me of-struggle expectation
at frekum ulfi.
from (the)-greedy wolf

14 Ek mun fœða
I will foster
folkdjarfan gram;
(the)-battle-bold prince
nú 's Yngva konr
now is Yngvi's kinsman
með oss kominn;
with us come
sjá mun ræsir
this will ruler
ríkstr und sólu;
mightiest under (the)-sun
þrymr of öll lönd
(the)-fame over all lands
ørlögsímu.
(of)-(his)-fate-thread

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

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

Hátt munu hlæja 15
Loud will laugh
Hundings synir,
Hundingr's sons

þeirs Eylima
who (to)-Eylimi
aldrs synjuðu,
life denied
et meir tyggja
if more (the)-prince
munar at sœkja
(for)-delight to seek
hringa rauða
rings red
an hefnd föður.
than (the)-vengeance of-(his)-father

16–18 · HNIKARR ON THE CRAG

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

Hjálprekr konungr fekk Sigurði skipalið til föðurhefnda.
Hjálprekr (the)-king gave Sigurðr a-ship-host for father-vengeance
Þeir fengu storm mikinn ok beittu fyrir bergsnös nökkura.
They got a-storm great and tacked before a-crag-point certain
Maðr einn stóð á berginu ok kvað:
A-man one stood on the-crag and said

Hverir ríða þar 16
Who ride there
Rævils hestum
Rævill's (on)-horses
hávar unnir,
high waves
haf glymjanda?
(the)-sea resounding
seglvigg eru
(the)-sail-steeds are
sveita stokkin,
with-sweat drenched
munat vágmarar
will-not (the)-wave-mares
vind of standask.
(the)-wind — withstand

R. KV. Hér erum vér Sigurðr 17
Here are we Sigurðr
á sætréum,
on sea-trees
es oss byrr gefinn
is (to)-us a-fair-wind given
við bana sjalfan,
with death itself

fellr brattr breki
falls a-steep breaker
bröndum hæri
than-(the)-prows higher
hlunnvigg hrapa,
(the)-roller-steeds plunge
hverr spyrr at því?
who asks about it

18 HN. KV. Hnikar hétu mik,
Hnikarr called-(they) me
þás hugin gladdi
when (the)-raven gladdened
Völsungr ungi
Völsungr young
ok vegit hafði;
and slain had
nú mátt kalla
now mayest-(thou) call
karl af bergi
(the)-old-man from (the)-crag
Fengi eða Fjölni;
Fengr or Fjölnir
far vilk þiggja.
passage wish-I to-take

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

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

A. S. KV. Seg mér Hnikarr, 19
Say to-me Hnikarr
alls hvártveggja veizt
since both (thou)-knowest
goða heill ok guma:
(the)-gods' omens and men's
hver bözt eru,
which best are
ef berjask skal,
if fight (one)-shall
heill at sverða svipun.
omens at (the)-swords' swing

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

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

Þat es et þriðja, 22
That is the third
ef þjóta heyrir
if howl (thou)-hearest
ulf und asklimum;
a-wolf under ash-boughs
heilla auðit
(of)-luck granted
verðr þér af hjalmstöfum,
becomes (to)-thee from helm-staves
ef sér þá fyrri fara.
if (thou)-seest them first go

23–25 · HNIKARR'S COUNSEL

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

B. Engr skal gumna 23
No-one shall of-men
í gögn vega
in against fight
síð skínandi
late shining
systur mána,
(the)-sister of-(the)-moon
þeir sigr hafa,
they victory have

es séa kunnu,
who see can
hjörleiks hvatir,
of-sword-play keen
eða hamalt fylkja.
or (in)-wedge (to)-draw-up

24 A. Þat 's fár mikit,
That is peril great
ef fœti drepr,
if (with)-foot (thou)-stumblest
þars at vígi veðr,
where to battle (thou)-wadest
tálar dísir,
treacherous dísir
standa þér á tvær hliðar
stand (for)-thee on two sides
ok vilja þik sáran séa.
and wish thee wounded (to)-see

25 Kembðr ok þveginn
Combed and washed
skal kœnna hverr
shall of-(the)-wise every-one
ok at morni mettr,
and at morning fed
þvít ósýnt es,
because unforeseen is

hvar at apni kemr;
where at evening (he)-comes
ilt 's fyr heill at hrapa.
ill is before fortune to rush

26 · LYNGVI FALLS AND FÁFNIR DIES

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

Sigurðr átti orrostu mikla við Lyngva Hundingsson ok
Sigurðr had a-battle great with Lyngvi Hundingr's-son and
bræðr hans. Þar fell Lyngvi ok þeir þrír bræðr. Eptir
brothers his There fell Lyngvi and those three brothers After
orrostu kvað Reginn:
(the)-battle said Reginn

B. Nú 's blóðugr örn 26
Now is (the)-bloody eagle
bitrum hjörvi
with-a-bitter sword
bana Sigmundar
(on)-(the)-slayer of-Sigmundr
á baki ristinn,
on (the)-back carved

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

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

Fáfnismál

The Lay of Fafnir

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

Sveinn ok sveinn, 1
Lad and lad
hverjum est sveinn of borinn,
to-whom art-(thou) lad — born
hverra 'st manna mögr?
of-what art-(thou) men (the)-son
es á Fáfni rautt
who on Fáfnir reddened
þinn enn frána mæki;
thy the gleaming blade
stöndumk til hjarta hjörr.
stands-for-me to (the)-heart (the)-sword

Sigurðr duldi nafns síns fyrir því, at þat var trúa þeira
Sigurðr hid name his for that that that was a-belief their
í forneskju, at orð feigs manns mætti mikit, ef
in olden-times that (the)-word of-a-doomed man had-power much if
hann bölvaði óvin sínum með nafni. Hann kvað:
he cursed enemy his by name He said

2 Göfugt dýr heitik,
Noble beast am-called-I
en gengit hefk
and gone have-I
enn móðurlausi mögr,
the motherless son
föður ákka
father have-I-not
sem fira synir;
as (the)-sons of-men
æ geng ek einn saman.
ever go I one alone

3 F. KV. Veizt ef föður né áttat
Knowest-(thou) if a-father not (thou)-hadst-not
sem fira synir
as (the)-sons of-men
* * *
(lacuna)
hverju vast undri alinn?
by-what wast-(thou) wonder begotten

4 Ætterni mitt
Lineage my
kveðk þér ókunnigt vesa
say-I (to)-thee unknown to-be
ok mik sjalfan et sama;
and me myself the same

Sigurðr heitik,
Sigurðr am-called-I
Sigmundr hét minn faðir,
Sigmundr was-called my father
es hefk þik vápnum vegit.
who have-I thee with-weapons slain

5–9 · CAPTIVE OR FREE

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

F. KV. Hverr þik hvatti, 5
Who thee urged
hví hvetjask lézt
why urge-thyself lettest-(thou)
mínu fjörvi at fara?
my life to destroy
enn fráneygi sveinn,
the bright-eyed lad
áttir föður bitran;
hadst-(thou) a-father bitter
esa börnum skjótt á skeið.
is-not (for)-children swift to (the)-course

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

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

Því bregðr mér, Fáfnir, 8
That tauntest-(thou) me Fáfnir
at til fjarri séak
that too far am-I
mínum feðrmunum,
from-my father's-possessions
emka haptr,
am-I-not captive
þótt værak hernumi,
though were-I war-taken
þú fant, at lauss lifik.
thou foundest that free live-I

F. KV. Heiptyrði ein 9
Hate-words only
telr þú þér í hvívetna,
countest thou (to)-thyself in everything
en þér satt eitt segik:
but (to)-thee (the)-truth one say-I
et gjalla goll
the ringing gold
ok et glóðrauða fé,
and the glow-red wealth
þér verða þeir baugar at bana.
(for)-thee become those rings to (the)-bane

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

10 Féi ráða
Wealth rule
skal fyrða hverr
shall of-men every-one
æ til ens eina dags;
ever till the one day
þvít einu sinni
because one time
skal alda hverr
shall of-men every-one
fara til heljar heðan.
go to hel hence

11 F. KV. Norna dóm
(The)-norns' judgment
munt fyr nesjum hafa
wilt-(thou) off headlands have
ok ørlög ósvinns apa,
and (the)-fate of-a-witless fool

í vátni druknar
in water (he)-drowns
ef í vindi rœr,
if in wind (he)-rows
alt es feigs forað.
all is (for)-(the)-doomed a-peril

Seg mér Fáfnir, 12
Say to-me Fáfnir
alls þik fróðan kveða
since thee wise (they)-call
ok vel mart vita:
and well much to-know
hverjar ro nornir,
which are (the)-norns
es nauðgönglar ro
who (the)-need-helpers are
ok kjósa mœðr frá mögum.
and choose mothers from sons

F. KV. Sundrbornar mjök 13
Of-different-birth much
segja nornir vesa,
(they)-say (the)-norns to-be
eigut þær ætt saman,
have-not they kin together
sumar ro áskungar,
some are of-æsir-kin

sumar alfkungar,
some of-elf-kin
sumar dœtr Dvalins.
some daughters of-Dvalinn

14 Seg mér þat Fáfnir,
Say to-me that Fáfnir
alls þik fróðan kveða
since thee wise (they)-call
ok vel mart vita:
and well much to-know
hvé holmr heitir,
how (the)-island is-called
es blanda hjörlegi
where mingle sword-liquid
Surtr ok æsir saman.
Surtr and (the)-æsir together

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

F. KV. Óskópnir heitir, 15
Óskópnir (it)-is-called
en þar öll skulu
and there all shall
geirum leika goð,
with-spears play (the)-gods
Bifröst brotnar,
Bifröst breaks
es á brú fara,
when on (the)-bridge (they)-go
ok svima í móðu marir.
and swim in (the)-river (the)-mares

F. KV. Œgishjalm 16
(The)-helm-of-terror
bark of alda sonum,
bore-I over (the)-sons of-men
meðan of menjum lák;
while over treasures lay-I

einn rammari
alone mightier
hugðumk öllum vesa,
thought-I (than)-all to-be
fanka svá marga mögu.
found-I-not so many men

17 Œgishjalmr
(The)-helm-of-terror
bergr einungi
protects not-at-all
hvars skulu vreiðir vega,
where shall (the)-angry fight
þá þat finnr,
then that (one)-finds
es með fleirum kemr;
who among more comes
at engi 's einna hvatastr.
that no-one is of-all boldest

18 F. KV. Eitri fnæstak,
Poison snorted-I
es á arfi lák
when on (the)-inheritance lay-I
miklum míns föður.
great of-my father
* * *
(lacuna)

Enn fráni ormr, 19
The gleaming serpent
gerðir fræs mikla
madest-(thou) hiss great
ok galzt harðan hug,
and showed hard mind
heipt at meiri
hatred the more
verðr hölða sonum,
becomes (for)-men's sons
at þann hjalm hafi.
that that helm (one)-has

20–22 · FÁFNIR'S WARNING

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

F. KV. Ræðk þér nú Sigurðr, 20
Counsel-I thee now Sigurðr
en þú ráð nemir,
and thou (the)-counsel take
ok ríð heim heðan;
and ride home hence

et gjalla goll
the ringing gold
ok et glóðrauða fé,
and the glow-red wealth
þér verða þeir baugar at bana.
(for)-thee become those rings to (the)-bane

21 Ráð 's þér ráðit,
Counsel is (for)-thee counseled
en ek ríða mun
but I ride will
til golls, es í lyngvi liggr,
to (the)-gold which in (the)-heather lies
en þú, Fáfnir,
and thou Fáfnir
ligg í fjörbrotum,
lie in death-throes
þars þik hel hafi.
where thee hel (may)-have

22 F. KV. Reginn mik réð,
Reginn me betrayed
hann þik ráða mun,
he thee betray will
hann mun okr verða báðum at bana,
he will (for)-us-two become both to (the)-bane

fjör sitt láta
life his lose
hygg at Fáfnir myni,
think-I that Fáfnir must
þitt varð nú meira megin.
thy became now more might

23–26 · REGINN RETURNS

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

Reginn var á brott horfinn, meðan Sigurðr vá Fáfni, ok
Reginn was off away turned while Sigurðr slew Fáfnir and
kom þá aptr, er Sigurðr strauk blóð af sverðinu.
came then back when Sigurðr wiped (the)-blood from the-sword
Reginn kvað:
Reginn said

Heill nú Sigurðr, 23
Hale now Sigurðr
nú hefr þú sigr vegit
now hast thou victory won
ok Fáfni of farit,
and Fáfnir — destroyed

manna þeira,
(of)-men those
es mold troða,
who (the)-earth tread
þik kveðk óblauðastan alinn.
thee say-I most-unafraid born

24 Þat 's óvíst at vita,
That is uncertain to know
þás komum allir saman,
when come-(we) all together
(sigtíva synir)
(the)-victory-gods' sons
hverr óblauðastr es alinn,
who most-unafraid is born
margr es hvatr
many-(a-one) is bold
sás hjör né rýðr
who (the)-sword not reddens
annars brjóstum í.
another's breast in

25 R. KV. Glaðr est nú Sigurðr
Glad art-thou now Sigurðr
ok gagni feginn,
and (of)-(the)-gain fain
es þerrir Gram á grasi;
when (thou)-driest Gramr on (the)-grass

bróður minn
brother my
hefr þú benjaðan
hast thou wounded
ok veldk þó sjalfr sumu.
and caused-I yet myself some

Þú því rétt, 26
Thou that causedst
es ríða skyldak
that ride should-I
hélug fjöll hinig;
(the)-rimy mountains hither
féi ok fjörvi
(of)-wealth and life
réði sá enn fráni ormr,
would-have-ruled that the gleaming serpent
nema þú frýðir mér hvats hugar.
unless thou tauntedst me (of)-keen courage

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

Þá gekk Reginn at Fáfni ok skar hjarta ór hánum
Then went Reginn to Fáfnir and cut (the)-heart out-of him
með sverði, er Riðill heitir, ok þá drakk hann blóð ór
with a-sword which Riðill is-called and then drank he blood out-of
undinni eptir.
the-wound afterward

27 s. kv. Fjarri gekt,
Far wentest-(thou)
meðan á Fáfni rauðk
while on Fáfnir reddened-I
minn enn hvassa hjör;
my the keen sword
afli mínu
with-strength my
attak við orms megin,
strove-I against (the)-serpent's might
meðan í lyngvi látt.
while in (the)-heather (thou)-layest

R. KV. Lengi liggja 28
Long lie
létir lyngvi í
wouldst-(thou)-let (the)-heather in
þann enn aldna jötun,
that the old giant
ef sverðs né nytir,
if (the)-sword not (thou)-usedst
þess 's sjalfr gerðak,
that which myself made-I
ok þíns ens hvassa hjörs.
and thy the keen sword

S. KV. Hugr 's betri 29
Courage is better
an sé hjörs megin,
than is (the)-sword's might
hvars skulu vreiðir vega;
where shall (the)-angry fight
hvatan mann
a-bold man
sék harðliga vega
see-I hard fight
með slævu sverði sigr.
with a-blunt sword victory

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

31–34 · THE NUTHATCHES

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

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

glöðum 's betra
(for)-(the)-glad is better
an sé glúpnanda,
than is (for)-(the)-drooping
hvat sem at hendi kemr.
whatever that to hand comes

Sigurðr tók Fáfnis hjarta ok steikði á teini. Er hann
Sigurðr took Fáfnir's heart and roasted-(it) on a-spit When he
hugði at fullsteikt væri ok freyddi sveitinn ór hjartanu,
thought that fully-roasted (it)-was and frothed the-blood out-of the-heart
þá tók hann á fingri sínum ok skynjaði, hvárt fullsteikt
then touched he with finger his and tested whether fully-roasted
væri. Hann brann ok brá fingrinum í munn
(it)-was He burned-(himself) and put the-finger into (the)-mouth
sér. En er hjartblóð Fáfnis kom á tungu hánum,
his And when (the)-heart-blood of-Fáfnir came on (the)-tongue of-him
ok skilði hann fugls rödd. Hann heyrði, at igður
then understood he (the)-bird's voice He heard that nuthatches
klökuðu á hrísinu. Igðan kvað:
twittered in the-brushwood (The)-nuthatch said

Þar sitr Sigurðr 32
There sits Sigurðr
sveita stokkinn,
with-blood spattered

Fáfnis hjarta
Fáfnir's heart
við funa steikir;
at (the)-fire roasts
spakr þœtti mér
wise would-seem to-me
spillir bauga,
(the)-spiller of-rings
ef fjörsega
if (the)-life-muscle
fránan æti.
gleaming (he)-ate

33 II. IG. KV. Þar liggr Reginn,
There lies Reginn
ræðr umb við sik,
counsels about with himself
vill tæla mög
wishes to-betray (the)-youth
þanns trúir hánum,
who trusts him
berr af reiði
bears from wrath
röng orð saman,
wrong words together
vill bölvasmiðr
wishes (the)-bale-smith
bróður hefna.
(his)-brother to-avenge

A. IG. KV. Höfði skemra 34
By-a-head shorter
láti enn hára þul
let the hoary sage
fara til heljar heðan,
go to hel hence
öllu golli
all (the)-gold
þá kná hann einn ráða,
then can he alone rule
fjölð því 's und Fáfni lá.
(the)-heap that which under Fáfnir lay

35–39 · SIGURÐR RESOLVES

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

III. IG. KV. Horskr þœtti mér, 35
Wise would-seem to-me
ef hafa kynni
if have (be)-could
ástráð mikit
loving-counsel great
yðvar systra,
of-you sisters

hygði of sik
(he)-thought about himself
ok hugin gleddi;
and (the)-raven gladdened
þar 's mér ulfs ván,
there is (for)-me a-wolf's expectation
es eyru sék.
where (the)-ears see-I

36 I. IG. KV. Esat svá horskr
Is-not so wise
hildimeiðr
(the)-battle-tree
sem hers jaðar
as of-(the)-host (the)-edge
hyggja myndak,
think would-I
ef bróður lætr
if (the)-brother (he)-lets
á brot komask,
off away get
en öðrum hefr
but (to)-(the)-other has
aldrs of synjat.
life — denied

B. IG. KV. Mjök 's ósviðr, 37
Much is witless
ef enn sparir
if still (he)-spares
fjanda enn folkskáa,
(the)-foe the host-harming
þars Reginn liggr,
where Reginn lies
es hann ráðinn hefr,
who him betrayed has
kannat við slíku séa.
can-not against such see

A. IG. KV. Höfði skemra 38
By-a-head shorter
láti enn hrímkalda jötun
let the rime-cold giant
ok af baugum búa,
and of rings deprive
þá féar þess,
then of-wealth that
es Fáfnir réð,
which Fáfnir ruled
mun hann einvaldi vesa.
will he sole-ruler be

39 s. kv. Verðat svá rík sköp,
Shall-not-be so mighty fates
at Reginn skyli
that Reginn shall
mitt banorð bera;
my death-word bear
báðir brœðr
both brothers
skulu bráðliga
shall swiftly
fara til heljar heðan.
go to hel hence

40–43 · THE MAID ON HINDARFJALL

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

Sigurðr hjó höfuð af Regin ok þá át hann Fáfnis
Sigurðr hewed (the)-head off Reginn and then ate he Fáfnir's
hjarta ok drakk blóð þeira beggja Regins ok Fáfnis.
heart and drank (the)-blood of-them both of-Reginn and of-Fáfnir
Þá heyrði Sigurðr, hvar igður mæltu:
Then heard Sigurðr where nuthatches spoke

Bitt þú Sigurðr 40
Bind thou Sigurðr
bauga rauða,
rings red
esa konungligt
is-not kingly
kvíða mörgu;
to-fear much
mey veitk eina
a-maid know-I one
miklu fegrsta,
much fairest
golli gœdda,
with-gold endowed
ef geta mættir.
if get (thou)-couldst

Liggja til Gjúka 41
Lie to Gjúki
grœnar brautir
green roads
fram vísa sköp
forward show fates
folklíðöndum,
(to)-(the)-host-farers
þar hefr dýrr konungr
there has a-dear king
dóttur alna;
a-daughter reared

þá munt þú Sigurðr
her wilt thou Sigurðr
mundi kaupa.
with-bride-price buy

42 Salr 's á háu
A-hall is on high
Hindarfjalli,
Hindarfjall
allr es útan
all is outside
eldi sveipinn,
with-fire wrapped
þann hafa horskir
that have wise
halir of görvan
men — made
ór ódøkkum
out-of undark
ógnar ljóma.
terror's radiance

Veitk á fjalli 43
Know-I on (the)-mountain
folkvitr sofa
a-battle-wise-one sleep
ok leikr yfir
and plays over-(her)
lindar váði;
(the)-linden's bane
Yggr stakk þorni,
Yggr pricked (with)-a-thorn
aðra feldi
other (she)-felled
hör-gefn hali,
(the)-flax-goddess men
an hafa vildi.
than have (he)-wished

44–45 · SIGRDRÍFA WAKES

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

Knátt mögr séa 44
Can (the)-youth see
mey und hjalmi,
(the)-maid under helmet

þás frá vígi
who from battle
Vingskorni reið;
on-Vingskornir rode
máat Sigrdrífar
may-not Sigrdrífa's
svefni bregða
sleep break
skjöldunga niðr
of-kings (the)-kinsman
fyr sköpum norna.
against (the)-fates of-(the)-norns

Sigurðr reið eptir slóð Fáfnis til bœlis hans ok fann þat
Sigurðr rode along (the)-track of-Fáfnir to lair his and found it
opit, ok hurðir af járni ok gætti; af járni váru ok allir
open and doors of iron and door-frames of iron were and all
timbrstokkar í húsinu, en grafit í jörð niðr. Þar
timber-beams in the-house and (it-was)-dug in (the)-earth down There
fann Sigurðr stórmikit gull ok fyldi þar tvær kistur.
found Sigurðr a-very-great-(hoard-of) gold and filled there two chests
Þar tók hann œgishjálm ok gullbrynju ok sverðit
There took he (the)-helm-of-terror and a-gold-mail-coat and the-sword
Hrotta ok marga dýrgripi ok klyfjaði þar með Grana,
Hrotti and many treasures and loaded there-(it) on Grani
en hestrinn vildi eigi fram ganga, fyrr en Sigurðr steig á
but the-horse would not forward go before that Sigurðr stepped on
bak hánum. Sigurðr reið upp á Hindarfjall ok stefndi
(the)-back of-him Sigurðr rode up onto Hindarfjall and headed

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

Hvat beit brynju? 45
What bit (the)-mail-coat
hví brák svefni?
why broke-I (from)-sleep
hverr feldi af mér
who felled from me
fölvar nauðir?
(the)-pale bonds

S. KV. Sigmundar burr —
Sigmundr's son
sleit fyr skömmu
tore before short-(while)
hrafn hræs undir —
(the)-raven (the)-corpse's wounds
hjörr Sigurðar.
(the)-sword of-Sigurðr

Sigurðr settisk niðr ok spurði hana nafns. Hon tók þá
Sigurðr sat-himself down and asked her (her)-name She took then
horn fult mjaðar ok gaf hánum minnisveig.
a-horn full of-mead and gave him a-memory-draft

Sigrdrífumál

The Lay of Sigrdrifa

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

Heill dagr, 1
Hale day
heilir dags synir,
hale day's sons
heil nótt ok nipt;
hale night and kinswoman
óreiðum augum
with-unwrathful eyes
lítið okr þinig
look-ye (on)-us-two hither
ok gefið sitjöndum sigr.
and give-ye (to)-(the)-sitting victory

Heilir æsir, 2
Hale æsir
heilar ásynjur,
hale ásynjur
heil sjá en fjölnýta fold,
hale this the much-useful earth

mál ok manvit
speech and man-wit
gefið okr mærum tveim
give-ye us-two famous two
ok læknishendr, meðan lifum.
and healing-hands while (we)-live

3 Lengi svafk,
Long slept-I
lengi sofnuð vask,
long asleep was-I
löng eru lýða læ,
long are of-men (the)-woes
Óðinn því veldr,
Óðinn it causes
es eigi máttak
that not could-I
bregða blundstöfum.
break (the)-sleep-staves

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

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

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

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

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

sumar á véttrimum,
some on (the)-blade-guards
sumar á valböstum,
some on (the)-blade-plates
ok nefna tysvar Týr.
and name twice Týr

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

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

Ölrúnar skalt kunna, 6
Ale-runes shalt-(thou) know
ef vilt annars kvæn
if (thou)-wilt (that)-another's wife
vélit þik í tryggð, ef trúir;
betray-not thee in trust if (thou)-trustest
á horni skal rísta
on (the)-horn shall-(one) carve
ok á handarbaki
and on (the)-back-of-the-hand
ok merkja á nagli Nauð.
and mark on (the)-nail Nauð

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

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

Brimrúnar skalt kunna, 9
Surf-runes shalt-(thou) know
ef vilt borgit hafa
if (thou)-wilt safe have
á sundi seglmörum,
on (the)-sound (the)-sail-steeds
á stafni skal rísta
on (the)-prow shall-(one) carve
ok á stjórnarblaði
and on (the)-rudder-blade
ok leggja eld í ár.
and lay fire into (the)-oar
(esa svá brattr breki,
is-not so steep a-breaker
né svá bláar unnir,
nor so blue (the)-waves
þó kemsk þú heill af hafi).
yet comest thou whole from (the)-sea

Limrúnar skalt kunna, 10
Limb-runes shalt-(thou) know
ef vilt læknir vesa
if (thou)-wilt a-physician be
ok kunna sár at séa,
and know-how wounds to see

á berki skal rísta
on (the)-bark shall-(one) carve
ok á baðmi viðar,
and on (the)-trunk of-(the)-tree
þeims lúta austr limar.
of-that-whose bend east (the)-limbs

11–15 · SPEECH RUNES AND MIND RUNES

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

11 Málrúnar skalt kunna,
Speech-runes shalt-(thou) know
ef vilt at mangi þér
if (thou)-wilt that no-one (to)-thee
heiptum gjaldi harm,
with-hatreds repay harm
(þær of vindr,
them — winds
þær of vefr,
them — weaves
þær of setr allar saman,
them — sets all together
á því þingi,
at that assembly

es þjóðir skulu
where peoples shall
í fulla dóma fara).
into full judgments go

Hugrúnar skalt kunna, 12
Mind-runes shalt-(thou) know
ef vilt hverjum vesa
if (thou)-wilt (than)-every be
geðsvinnari guma,
more-wise-minded man
þær of réð,
them — read
þær of reist,
them — carved
þær of hugði Hroptr.
them — devised Hroptr
(af þeim legi,
from that liquid
es lekit hafði
which leaked had
ór hausi Heiðdraupnis
out-of (the)-skull of-Heiðdraupnir
ok ór horni Hoddrofnis).
and out-of (the)-horn of-Hoddrofnir

13 Á bjargi stóð
On (the)-crag (he)-stood
með Brimis eggjar,
with Brimir's edges
hafði sér á höfði hjalm,
had on-himself on (the)-head a-helm
þá Míms höfuð
then Mímr's head
mælti et fyrsta orð
spoke the first word
ok sagði sanna stafi.
and said true staves

14 Á skildi kvað ristnar
On (the)-shield said-(he) carved
þeims stendr fyr skínanda goði,
which stands before (the)-shining god
á eyra Árvakrs
on (the)-ear of-Árvakr
ok á Alsvinns hófi,
and on Alsvinnr's hoof
á hvéli es snýsk
on (the)-wheel which turns
und reið Hrungnis bana,
under (the)-chariot Hrungnir's slayer
á Sleipnis tönnum
on Sleipnir's teeth
ok á sleða fjötrum.
and on (the)-sled's bonds

Á bjarnar hrammi 15
On (the)-bear's paw
ok á Braga tungu,
and on Bragi's tongue
á ulfs klóum
on (the)-wolf's claws
ok á arnar nefi,
and on (the)-eagle's beak
á blóðgum vængjum
on bloody wings
ok á brúar sporði,
and on (the)-bridge's end
á lausnar lófa
on release's palm
ok á líknar spori.
and on mercy's track

16–20 · THE CHOICE

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

Á gleri ok á golli 16
On glass and on gold
ok á gumna heillum,
and on men's amulets

í víni ok virtri
in wine and in-wort
ok vilisessi,
and (the)-wish-seat
á Gungnis oddi
on Gungnir's point
ok á Grana brjósti,
and on Grani's breast
á nornar nagli
on (the)-norn's nail
ok á nefi uglu.
and on (the)-beak of-(the)-owl

17 Allar váru af skafnar,
All were off shaved
þærs váru á ristnar,
which were on carved
ok hverfðar við enn helga mjöð,
and stirred into the holy mead
ok sendar á víða vega;
and sent on wide ways
þær ro með ásum,
they are with (the)-æsir
þær ro með alfum,
they are with (the)-elves
sumar með vísum vönum,
some with (the)-wise vanir
sumar hafa menskir menn.
some have human men

Þat eru bókrúnar, 18
Those are beech-runes
þat eru bjargrúnar
those are help-runes
ok allar ölrúnar
and all ale-runes
ok mætar meginrúnar,
and precious might-runes
hveims kná óviltar
for-whomever can unconfused
ok óspiltar
and unspoiled
sér at heillum hafa,
(for)-himself as amulets have
njóttu ef namt,
enjoy-(them) if (thou)-learnedst
unz rjúfask regin.
until are-rent (the)-powers

Nú skalt kjósa, 19
Now shalt-(thou) choose
alls þér 's kostr of boðinn,
since (to)-thee is a-choice — offered
hvassa vápna hlynr,
of-keen weapons (the)-maple

sögn eða þögn
speech or silence
haf þér sjalfr í hug;
have (for)-thyself self in mind
öll eru mein of metin.
all are harms — measured

20 s. kv. Munkak flœja,
Will-I-not flee
þótt mik feigan vitir,
though me doomed (thou)-knowest
emkak með bleyði borinn,
am-I-not with cowardice born
ástráð þín
loving-counsels thy
vilk öll hafa,
wish-I all (to)-have
svá lengi sem ek lifi.
so long as I live

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

SDR. KV. Þat ræðk þér et fyrsta, 21
That counsel-I thee the first
at þú við frændr þína
that thou toward kinsmen thy
vammalaust verir,
blameless be
síðr þú hefnir,
less thou avenge
þótt þeir sakar geri;
though they wrongs do
þat kveða dauðum duga.
that say-(they) (to)-(the)-dead helps

Þat ræðk þér annat, 22
That counsel-I thee (the)-second
at eið né sverir,
that an-oath not (thou)-swear
nema þann 's saðr sé,
except that which true is

grimmar límar
grim bonds
ganga at tryggðrofi;
go to troth-breaking
armr es vára vargr.
wretched is of-(the)-oaths wolf

23 Þat ræðk þér þriðja,
That counsel-I thee (the)-third
at þú þingi á
that thou (the)-assembly at
deilit við heimska hali;
dispute-not with foolish men
ósviðr maðr
an-unwise man
lætr opt kveðin
lets often spoken
verri orð an viti.
worse words than (he)-knows

24 Alt es vant,
All is amiss
ef við þegir,
if to-(it) (thou)-keepest-silent
þá þykkir þú með bleyði borinn,
then seemest thou with cowardice born
(eða sönnu sagðr,
or truly accused

hættr es heimis kviðr,
dangerous is (the)-home's verdict
nema sér góðan geti);
unless (for)-himself good (one)-gets
annars dags
(on)-(the)-second day
lát hans öndu farit,
let his breath gone
ok launa svá lýðum lygi.
and repay so (to)-men (the)-lie

Þat ræðk þér fjórða, 25
That counsel-I thee (the)-fourth
ef býr fordæða
if dwells a-witch
vammafull á vegi,
full-of-evil by (the)-way
ganga es betra
to-go is better
an gista sé,
than (to)-lodge is
þótt þik nótt of nemi.
though thee night — overtake

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

26 Fornjósnar augu
Foresighted eyes
þurfu fira synir,
need (the)-sons of-men
hvars skulu vreiðir vega,
where shall (the)-angry fight
opt bölvísar konur
often bale-wise women
sitja brautu nær,
sit (the)-road near
þærs deyfa sverð ok seva.
who blunt swords and minds

27 Þat ræðk þér fimta,
That counsel-I thee (the)-fifth
þótt fagrar séir
though fair (thou)-see
brúðir bekkjum á,
brides benches on

sifjar silfrs
(the)-kinships of-silver
láta þínum svefni ráða;
let-not thy sleep rule
teygjat þér at kossi konur.
entice-not (to)-thee to kissing women

Þat ræðk þér sétta, 28
That counsel-I thee (the)-sixth
þótt með seggjum fari
though among men go
öldrmál til öfug,
ale-talk too wrong
drukna deila
drunk dispute
skalat við dolgviðu,
shalt-(thou)-not with war-trees
margan stelr viti vín.
many steals of-wit (the)-wine

Sennur ok öl 29
Quarrels and ale
hefr seggjum verit
have (to)-men been
mörgum at móðtrega,
(to)-many as heart-grief
sumum at bana,
(to)-some as death

sumum at bölstöfum,
(to)-some as bale-staves
fjölð 's þats fira tregr.
many is that-which men grieves

Þat ræðk þér sjaunda,
That counsel-I thee (the)-seventh
ef sakar deilir
if quarrels (thou)-dealest
við hugfulla hali,
with courage-full men
berjask es betra
to-fight is better
an brinna sé
than burn is
inni auðstöfum.
inside (for)-(the)-wealth-staves

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

Þat ræðk þér átta, 31
That counsel-I thee (the)-eighth
at skalt við illu séa
that (thou)-shalt against evil guard
ok firrask flærðarstafi,
and shun falsehood-staves
mey þú teygjat
a-maid thou entice-not
né manns konu,
nor a-man's wife
né eggja ofgamans.
nor urge (to)-excess-of-pleasure

Þat ræðk þér níunda, 32
That counsel-I thee (the)-ninth
at náum bjargir,
that (to)-corpses (thou)-give-help
hvars á foldu finnr,
wherever on (the)-earth (thou)-findest

hvárz eru sóttdauðir
whether (they)-are sickness-dead
eða eru sædauðir
or are sea-dead
eða eru vápndauðir verar.
or are weapon-dead men

33 Laug skal gera
A-bath shall-(one) make
þeims liðnir ro
(for)-those-who dead are
þváa hendr ok höfuð,
wash hands and head
kemba ok þerra,
comb and dry
áðr í kistu fari,
before into (the)-coffin (they)-go
ok biðja sælan sofa.
and bid-(him) happy sleep

34 Þat ræðk þér tíunda,
That counsel-I thee (the)-tenth
at trúir aldrigi
that (thou)-trust never
várum vargdropa,
(the)-oaths of-a-wolf's-offspring
(hvárz est bróðurbani,
whether (thou)-art (his)-brother's-slayer

eða hafir feldan föður),
or have felled (his)-father
opt es ulfr
often is a-wolf
í ungum syni,
in a-young son
þótt hann sé golli gladdr.
though he be with-gold gladdened

Sakar ok heiptir
Quarrels and hatreds
hyggjat svefngar vesa
think-not sleepy to-be
né harm in heldr;
nor harm the rather
vits ok vápna
wit and weapons
vant 's jöfri at fáa,
hard is (for)-(the)-prince to get
þeims skal fremstr með firum.
(for)-him-who shall (be)-foremost among men

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

Sigurðarkviða en meiri

The Greater Lay of Sigurd

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

Eldr nam at œsask, 1
Fire began to rage
en jörð at skjalfa
and (the)-earth to shake
ok hár logi
and high flame
við himin gnæfa,
against heaven to-tower
fár treystisk þar
few trusted-themselves there
fylkis rekka
(the)-king's warriors
eld at ríða
(the)-fire to ride
né yfir stíga.
nor over step

2 Sigurðr Grana
Sigurðr Grani
sverði keyrði
with-(the)-sword drove
eldr sloknaði
(the)-fire went-out
fyr öðlingi,
before (the)-prince
logi allr lægðisk
(the)-flame all sank
fyr lofgjörnum,
before (the)-praise-eager-one
bliku reiði,
(the)-gleaming harness
es Reginn átti.
which Reginn owned

3 Sigurðr vá at ormi,
Sigurðr slew at (the)-serpent
en þat síðan mun
and that afterward will
engum fyrnask,
(to)-none be-forgotten
meðan öld lifir,
while (the)-world lives

en hlýri þinn
but brother thy
hvárki þorði
neither dared
eld at ríða
(the)-fire to ride
né yfir stíga.
nor over step

Út gekk Sigurðr 4
Out went Sigurðr
andspjalli frá,
(the)-talk from
hollvinr lofða,
(the)-trusty-friend of-men
ok hnipnaði,
and drooped
svát ganga nam
so-that to-go began
gunnarfúsum
(for)-(the)-battle-eager-one
sundr of síður
apart about (the)-sides
serkr járnofinn.
(the)-shirt iron-woven

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

5 H. KV. [Hvat hefr Sigurðr
What has Sigurðr
til] saka unnit,
of offenses done
es frœknan vill
that (the)-bold-one (thou)-wilt
fjörvi næma?
(of)-life deprive

6 G. KV. Mér hefr Sigurðr
To-me has Sigurðr
selda eiða,
given oaths
eiða selda,
oaths given
alla logna,
all lied

þá vélti hann mik
then deceived he me
es vesa skyldi
when be (he)-should
allra eiða
of-all oaths
einn fulltrúi.
alone full-trustee

H. KV. Þik hefr Brynhildr 7
Thee has Brynhildr
böl at gørva
bale to work
heiptar hvattan
to-hatred urged
harm at vinna;
harm to do
fyrman hón Goðrúnu
grudges she Goðrún
góðra ráða,
a-good marriage
en síðan þér
and afterward thee
sín at njóta.
herself to enjoy

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

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

munu vígskáum
will (the)-slaughter-harmers
of viða eiðar.
— crush (the)-oaths

10–13 · GOÐRÚN ASKS FOR SIGURÐR

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

Úti stóð Goðrún 10
Outside stood Goðrún
Gjúkadóttir,
Gjúki's-daughter
ok hón þat orða
and she this of-words
alls fyrst of kvað:
of-all first — said
hvar 's nú Sigurðr,
where is now Sigurðr
seggja dróttinn,
of-men (the)-lord
es frændr mínir
since kinsmen my
fyrri ríða.
in-front ride

11 Einn því Högni
Alone to-that Högni
andsvör veitti:
answers gave
sundr höfum Sigurð
apart have-(we) Sigurðr
sverði höggvinn,
with-(the)-sword hewn
gnapir æ grár jór
droops ever (the)-gray steed
of grami dauðum.
over (the)-prince dead

12 Þá kvað þat Brynhildr
Then said that Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir:
Buðli's daughter
»vel skuluð njóta
well shall-ye enjoy
vápna ok landa,
weapons and lands
einn myndi Sigurðr
alone would Sigurðr
öllu ráða,
all rule
ef hann lengr lítlu
if he longer a-little
lífi heldi.
life held

Væria þat sœmt 13
Were-not that seemly
at sá réði
that he ruled
Gjúka arfi
Gjúki's inheritance
ok Gota mengi,
and (the)-Goths' host
es hann fimm sonu
when he five sons
at folkræði,
for folk-rule
gunnar fúsa,
for-battle eager
getna hafði.«
begotten had

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

14 Hló þá Brynhildr,
Laughed then Brynhildr
bœr allr dunði,
(the)-dwelling all resounded
einu sinni
one time
af öllum hug:
from all heart
lengi skuluð njóta
long shall-ye enjoy
landa ok þegna,
lands and thanes
es frœknan gram
since (the)-bold prince
falla létuð.
fall (ye)-let

Þá kvað þat Goðrún 15
Then said that Goðrún
Gjúka dóttir:
Gjúki's daughter
mjök mælir þú
much speakest thou
miklar firnar;
great monstrous-things
gramir hafi Gunnar
fiends take Gunnarr
götvað Sigurðar,
(the)-destroyer of-Sigurðr
heiptgjarns hugar
of-(the)-hate-eager mind
hefnt skal verða.
avenged shall be

Fram vas kvelda, 16
On was (the)-evening
fjölð vas drukkit,
much was drunk
þá vas hvívetna
then was of-every-kind
vilmál talið,
pleasant-talk told
sofnuðu allir
slept all
es í sæing kómu;
when into bed (they)-came

einn lengr Gunnarr
alone longer Gunnarr
öllum vakði.
(than)-all waked

17 Fót nam at hrœra,
(His)-foot began to move
fjölð nam at spjalla,
much began to talk
hitt herglötuðr
that (the)-host-destroyer
hyggja téði,
to-ponder began
hvat þeir í börvi
what they in (the)-wood
báðir sögðu
both said
hrafn ey ok örn,
(the)-raven ever and (the)-eagle
es heim riðu.
when home (they)-rode

18 Vaknaði Brynhildr
Woke Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir,
Buðli's daughter
dís skjöldunga,
(the)-lady of-kings

fyr dag lítlu:
before day a-little
hvetið mik eða letið mik,
urge-ye me or hinder-ye me
harmr es unninn,
(the)-harm is done
sorg at segja
sorrow to tell
eða svá láta.
or so let-(it)-be

19–24 · BRYNHILDR'S DREAM

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

Þögðu allir 19
Were-silent all
við því orði,
at that word
fár kunni þeim
few understood those
fljóða látum,
(the)-women's manners

es hón grátandi
when she weeping
gerðisk at segja,
began to tell
þats hlæjandi
what laughing
hölða beiddi:
(the)-men (she)-had-asked

»Hugðak mér Gunnarr
Thought-I (for)-myself Gunnarr
grimt í svefni,
grimly in sleep
svalt alt í sal,
chill all in (the)-hall
ættak sæing kalda,
had-I a-bed cold
en þú gramr riðir
and thou prince rodest
glaums andvani,
of-joy bereft
fjötri fatlaðr,
with-a-fetter hobbled
í fjanda lið.
into (the)-foes' host

Svá mun öll yður 21
So will all your
ætt Niflunga
kin of-(the)-Niflungar
afli gengin;
(from)-might gone
eruð eiðrofa.
are-ye oath-breakers

Mantat Gunnarr 22
Rememberest-not Gunnarr
til görva þat,
to fully that
es blóði í spor
when with-blood in (the)-footprints
báðir renduð,
both (ye)-made-run
nú hefr hánum þat alt
now hast-(thou) him that all
illu launat,
with-ill repaid
es fremstan þik
that foremost thee
finna vildi.
find (he)-wished

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

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

en eitrdropum
and with-poison-drops
innan fáðar.«
inside stained

THE DEATH OF SIGURÐR

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

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

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

Goðrúnarkviða

The First Lay of Gudrun

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

Ár vas þats Goðrún 1
Early was-(it) that Goðrún
gerðisk at deyja,
made-ready to die
es hón sat sorgfull
when she sat sorrowful
of Sigurði,
over Sigurðr
gerðit hjúfra
(she)-did-not sob
né höndum sláa,
nor with-hands strike
né kveina umb
nor wail about
sem konur aðrar.
as women other

Gengu jarlar 2
Went earls
alsnotrir fram,
all-wise forward

þeirs harðs hugar
who (from)-hard mind
hána löttu;
her dissuaded
þeygi Goðrún
yet-not Goðrún
gráta mátti,
weep could
svá vas hón móðug,
so was she grief-stricken
mundi springa.
(she)-would burst

3 Sátu ítrar
Sat noble
jarla brúðir,
earls' brides
golli búnar,
with-gold adorned
fyr Goðrúnu;
before Goðrún
hver sagði þeira
each told of-them
sinn oftrega,
her-own over-grief
þanns bitrastan
that bitterest
of beðit hafði.
— *endured had*

Þá kvað Gjaflaug 4
Then said Gjaflaug
Gjúka systir:
Gjúki's sister
mik veitk á moldu
me know-I on earth
munarlausasta;
most-joyless
hefk fimm vera
have-I five husbands'
forspell beðit,
loss endured
(tveggja dœtra,
of-two daughters
þriggja systra)
of-three sisters
átta brœðra,
of-eight brothers
þó ein lifik.
yet alone live-I

Þeygi Goðrún 5
Yet-not Goðrún
gráta mátti,
weep could

svá vas hón móðug
so was she grief-stricken
at mög dauðan
for (the)-youth dead
ok harðhuguð
and hard-minded
of hrør fylkis.
over (the)-corpse of-(the)-king

6–11 · HERBORG'S SORROWS

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

6 Þá kvað þat Herborg,
Then said that Herborg
Húnalands drótning:
Húnaland's queen
hefk harðara
have-I harder
harm at segja,
harm to tell
mínir sjau synir
my seven sons
sunnan lands,
south of-(the)-land

verr enn átti
(the)-husband the eighth
í val fellu.
in (the)-slaughter fell

Faðir ok móðir, 7
Father and mother
fjórir brœðr,
four brothers
þau á vági
them on (the)-wave
vindr of lék,
(the)-wind — played
barði bára
beat (the)-billow
við borðþili.
against (the)-ship's-planking

Sjalf skyldak göfga, 8
Self should-I adorn
sjalf skyldak götva,
self should-I bury
sjalf skyldak hrør
self should-I (the)-corpses
höndla þeira;
handle their

Þat alt of beiðk
that all — endured-I
ein misseri,
(in)-one half-year
svát mér mangi
so-that me no-one
munar leitaði.
(for)-comfort sought

9 Þá hlautk hapta
Then had-I captive
ok hernuma
and war-taken
sams misseris
(the)-same half-year
síðan verða,
after to-become
skyldak skreyta
should-I dress
ok skúa binda,
and shoes bind
hersis kván
(the)-chieftain's wife
hverjan morgin.
every morning

Hón ægði mér 10
She threatened me
af afbrýði,
from jealousy
ok hörðum mik
and with-hard me
höggum keyrði;
blows drove
fank húsguma
found-I a-house-lord
hvergi in betra,
nowhere the better
en húsfreyju
but a-housewife
hvergi verri.
nowhere worse

Þeygi Goðrún 11
Yet-not Goðrún
gráta mátti,
weep could
svá vas hón móðug
so was she grief-stricken
at mög dauðan
for (the)-youth dead
ok harðhuguð
and hard-minded
of hrør fylkis.
over (the)-corpse of-(the)-king

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

12 Þá kvað þat Gollrönd
Then said that Gollrönd
Gjúka dóttir:
Gjúki's daughter
»fá kant fóstra,
little canst-(thou) foster-mother
þótt fróð séir,
though wise (thou)-be
ungu vífi
(to)-(the)-young woman
andspjöll bera;«
answers bring
varaði hón at hylja
warned she against covering
of hrør fylkis.
— (the)-corpse of-(the)-king

Svipti blæju 13
(She)-snatched (the)-sheet
af Sigurði
off Sigurðr
ok vatt vengi
and turned (the)-pillow
fyr vífs knéum:
before (the)-woman's knees
»lít á ljúfan,
look at (the)-beloved
legg munn við grön,
lay mouth against lip
sem halsaðir
as-if (thou)-embracedst
heilan stilli.«
(the)-hale lord

Á leit Goðrún 14
At looked Goðrún
einu sinni,
one time
sá döglings skör
saw (the)-king's hair
dreyra runna,
with-blood run
fránar sjónir
(the)-gleaming eyes
fylkis liðnar,
of-(the)-king dead

hugborg jöfurs
(the)-mind-stronghold of-(the)-prince
hjörvi skorna.
with-(the)-sword cut

15 Þá hné Goðrún
Then sank Goðrún
höll við bolstri,
leaning against (the)-bolster
haddr losnaði,
(the)-hair loosened
hlýr roðnaði,
(the)-cheek reddened
en regns dropi
and of-rain a-drop
rann niðr of kné.
ran down over (the)-knee

16 Þá grét Goðrún
Then wept Goðrún
Gjúka dóttir,
Gjúki's daughter
svát tár flugu
so-that tears flew
tresk í gögnum,
tresses in through

ok gullu við
and screamed at-(it)
gæss í túni,
geese in (the)-yard
mærir foglar,
(the)-famous birds
es mær átti.
which (the)-maid owned

(Þá kvað þat Gollrönd 17
Then said that Gollrönd
Gjúka dóttir)
Gjúki's daughter
Ykkar vissak
Your-two knew-I
ástir mestar
loves (the)-greatest
manna allra
of-men all
fyr mold ofan;
over earth above
unðir hvárki
(thou)-wast-content neither
úti né inni,
outside nor inside
systir mín nema
sister my except
hjá Sigurði.
beside Sigurðr

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

18 G. KV. Svá vas minn Sigurðr
So was my Sigurðr
hjá sonum Gjúka
beside (the)-sons of-Gjúki
sem væri geirlaukr
as-if (he)-were a-spear-leek
ór grasi vaxinn,
out-of (the)-grass grown
eða væri bjartr steinn
or were a-bright stone
á band dreginn
on a-string drawn
jarknasteinn
a-precious-stone
of öðlingum.
above princes

Ek þótta ok 19
I seemed also
þjóðans rekkum
(to)-(the)-prince's warriors
hverri hæri
than-every higher
Herjans dísi,
Herjann's dís
nú emk svá lítil
now am-I so little
sem lauf séi
as (the)-leaf is
opt í ölstrum
often in willows
at jöfur dauðan.
for (the)-prince dead

Saknak í sessi 20
Miss-I in (the)-seat
ok í sæingu
and in (the)-bed
míns málvinar,
my speech-friend
valda megir Gjúka,
cause (the)-sons of-Gjúki

valda megir Gjúka
cause (the)-sons of-Gjúki
mínu bölvi
my bale
ok systr sinnar
and of-sister their
sárum gráti.
sore weeping

21 Svá ér lýðum
So ye (for)-people
land of eyðið,
(the)-land — lay-waste
sem ér rufuð
as ye broke
eiða svarða;
oaths sworn
muna þú Gunnarr
shalt-not thou Gunnarr
golls of njóta;
(the)-gold — enjoy
þeir munu baugar
those will rings
þér at bana verða.
(for)-thee to (the)-bane become
(es þú Sigurði
since thou (to)-Sigurðr
svarðir eiða).
sworest oaths

Opt vas í túni 22
Often was in (the)-yard
teiti meiri,
joy greater
þás minn Sigurðr
when my Sigurðr
söðlaði Grana
saddled Grani
ok þeir Brynhildar
and they Brynhildr
biðja fóru,
to-woo went
armrar véttar,
of-(the)-wretched creature
illu heilli.
with-ill luck

23–27 · BRYNHILDR'S FURY

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

Þá kvað þat Brynhildr 23
Then said that Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir:
Buðli's daughter

vön sé sú véttr
lacking be that creature
vers ok barna,
(of)-husband and children
es þér Goðrún
who thee Goðrún
gráts of beiddi
(to)-weeping — urged
ok þér í morgun
and thee in-(the) morning
málrúnar gaf.
speech-runes gave

24 Þá kvað þat Gollrönd
Then said that Gollrönd
Gjúka dóttir:
Gjúki's daughter
þegi þú þjóðleið
be-silent thou hateful-one
þeira orða,
(of)-those words
urðr öðlinga
(the)-fate of-princes
hefr þú æ verit,
hast thou ever been
rekr þik alda hver
drives thee wave every
illrar skepnu.
of-evil shape

(sorg sára
(the)-sorrow sore
sjau konunga
of-seven kings
ok vinspell
and (the)-friend-loss
vífa mest).
of-women greatest

Þá kvað þat Brynhildr
Then said that Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir:
Buðli's daughter
veldr einn Atli
causes alone Atli
öllu bölvi
all (the)-bale
of borinn Buðla
— born (of)-Buðli
bróðir minn.
brother my

26 Þás vit í höll
When we-two in (the)-hall
húnskrar þjóðar
of-(the)-Hunnish people
eld á jöfri
(the)-fire on (the)-prince
ormbeðs litum,
of-(the)-serpent-bed saw
þess hefk gangs
for-that have-I going
goldit síðan;
paid since
þeirar sýnar
(for)-that sight
ek sáumk ey.
I rued ever

27 Stóð hón und stoð,
Stood she by (the)-pillar
strengði efli;
gathered strength
brann Brynhildi
burned from-Brynhildr
Buðla dóttur
Buðli's daughter
eldr ór augum,
fire out-of (the)-eyes
eitri fnœsti,
poison (she)-snorted

es sár of leit
when (the)-wounds — (she)-looked
á Sigurði.
on Sigurðr

GOÐRÚN IN DENMARK

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

Guðrún gekk þaðan á braut til skógar á eyðimerkr
Guðrún went thence off away to (the)-forest into wastelands
ok fór alt til Danmarkar ok var þar með
and went all-the-way to Denmark and was there with
Þóru Hákonardóttur sjau misseri. Brynhildr vildi eigi
Þóra Hákon's-daughter seven half-years Brynhildr wished not
lifa eptir Sigurð; hon lét drepa þræla sína átta
live after Sigurðr she let kill thralls her eight
ok fimm ambóttir; þá lagði hon sik sverði
and five bondwomen then thrust she herself with-a-sword
til bana, svá sem segir í Sigurðarkviðu enni
to death so as (it)-says in (the)-Sigurðarkviða the
skömmu.
short

Sigurðarkviða en skamma

The Short Lay of Sigurd

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

Ár vas þats Sigurðr 1
Early was-(it) that Sigurðr
sótti Gjúka,
visited Gjúki
völsungr ungi,
(the)-Völsungr young
es vegit hafði,
when slain (he)-had
tók við tryggðum
took with pledges
tveggja brœðra,
of-two brothers
seldusk eiða
gave-each-other oaths
eljunfrœknir.
(the)-valiant-ones

2 Mey buðu hánum
A-maid offered-(they) him
ok meiðma fjölð,
and of-treasures abundance
Goðrúnu unga
Goðrún young
Gjúka dóttur;
Gjúki's daughter
drukku ok dœmðu
drank and talked
dœgr mart saman
days many together
Sigurðr ungi
Sigurðr young
ok synir Gjúka.
and (the)-sons of-Gjúki

3 Unz Brynhildar
Until Brynhildr
biðja fóru,
to-woo (they)-went
svát þeim Sigurðr
so-that with-them Sigurðr
í sinni reið,
in (the)-company rode
völsungr ungi,
(the)-Völsungr young
ok vega kunni;
and fight could

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

Seggr enn suðrœni 4
(The)-man the southern
lagði sverð nøkvit,
laid a-sword naked
mæki málfáan,
a-blade inlaid
á meðal þeira,
in between them
né hann konu
nor he (the)-woman
kyssa gerði,
kiss did
né húnskr konungr
nor (the)-Hunnish king
hefjask at armi.
lift to (his)-arm
(mey frumunga
(the)-maid very-young
fal hann megi Gjúka).
entrusted he (to)-(the)-son of-Gjúki

5 Hón sér at lífi
She in-herself in life
löst né vissi
fault not knew
ok at aldrlagi
and at life's-end
ekki grand,
no harm
vamm þats væri
blemish that were
eða vesa hygði;
or be (one)-thought
gengu á milli
went in between
grimmar urðir.
grim fates

6–10 · BRYNHILDR'S YEARNING

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

6 Ein sat hón úti
Alone sat she outside
aptan dags,
(in)-(the)-evening of-day

nam hón svá ört
began she so openly
umb at mælask:
— to speak
»hafa skalk Sigurð,
have shall-I Sigurðr
eða svelti þó,
or die though
mög frumungan
(the)-youth very-young
mér á armi.
(for)-me in (the)-arm

Orð mæltak nú, 7
(The)-word spoke-I now
iðrumk eptir þess;
repent-I afterward of-it
kván 's hans Goðrún
(the)-wife is his Goðrún
en Gunnars ek;
but Gunnarr's I
ljótar nornir
loathsome norns
skópu oss langa þrá.«
shaped (for)-us long yearning

8 Opt gengr hón innan
Often goes she from-inside
ills of fyld
with-ill — filled
ísa ok jökla
(on)-ice and glaciers
aptan hverjan,
evening every
es þau Goðrún,
when they Goðrún
ganga á beð
go to bed
ok hana Sigurðr
and her Sigurðr
sveipr í ripti.
wraps in (the)-sheet
(konungr enn húnski
(the)-king the Hunnish
kván frjá sína).
wife to-caress his

9 »Vön geng ek vilja
Lacking go I (of)-joy
ok vers beggja,
and (of)-husband both
verðk mik gœla
must-I myself gladden
af grimmum hug«.
with grim mind

Nam af þeim heiptum
Began from those hatreds
hvetjask at vígi:
urge-herself to slaughter
»þú skalt Gunnarr
thou shalt Gunnarr
görst of láta
wholly — lose
mínu landi
my land
ok mér sjalfri,
and me myself
munka una aldri
will-I-not be-content ever
með öðlingi.
with (the)-prince

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

11 Munk aptr fara
Will-I back go
þars áðan vask,
where before was-I
með nábornum
with near-born
niðjum mínum,
kinsmen my
þar munk sitja
there will-I sit
ok sofa lífi,
and sleep (my)-life-away
nema þú Sigurð
unless thou Sigurðr
svelta látir.
die let
(ok jöfur öðrum
and (than)-(the)-prince other
œðri verðir).
higher become

Látum son fara 12
Let-us (the)-son go
feðr í sinni,
(with)-(the)-father in company
skalat ulf ala
shall-not a-wolf rear
ungan lengi;
young long
hveim verðr hölða
to-whom becomes of-men
hönd léttari
(the)-hand lighter
síðan til sátta
afterward toward atonement
at sonr lifit.«
that (the)-son lives

Hryggr varð Gunnarr 13
Sad was Gunnarr
ok hnipnaði,
and drooped
sveip sínum hug
wrapped-(in) his mind
sat of allan dag,
sat — all day
hann vissi þat
he knew that
vilgi görla,
not-at-all fully

hvat hánum væri
what (for)-him were
vinna sœmst.
to-do most-seemly
(eða hánum væri
or (for)-him were
vinna bezt,
to-do best
alls sik völsung
since himself (of)-(the)-Völsungr
vissi firðan
(he)-knew deprived
ok at Sigurð
and after Sigurðr
söknuð mikinn).
loss great

14 (Ýmist hann hugði
Alternately he pondered
jafnlanga stund)
an-equally-long while
Þat vas eigi
That was not
hánum afar títt,
(to)-him very common
at frá konungdóm
that from kingship
kvánir gengi;
wives went

nam sér Högna
began (for)-himself Högni
heita at rúnum;
call to secret-talk
þar átti hann
there had he
alls fulltrúa.
of-all (the)-most-trusted

»Ein 's mér Brynhildr
One is to-me Brynhildr
öllum betri
(than)-all better
of borin Buðla,
— born of-Buðli
hón 's bragr kvinna;
she is (the)-best of-women
fyrr skalk mínu
sooner shall-I my
fjörvi láta
life lose
an þeirar meyjar
than that maid's
meiðmum týna.
treasures lose

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

16 Vildu okr fylki
Wilt-thou (for)-us-two (the)-king
til féar véla?
for wealth to-cheat
gótt 's at ráða
good is to rule
Rínar malmi
(the)-Rhine's metal
ok unandi
and content
auði stýra
(the)-riches to-steer
ok sitjandi
and sitting
sælu njóta.«
happiness to-enjoy

Einu því Högni 17
One to-that Högni
andsvör veitti:
answers gave
»samir eigi okr
befits not us-two
slíkt at vinna,
such to do
sverði rofna
with-(the)-sword broken
svarna eiða,
sworn oaths
eiða svarna,
oaths sworn
unnar tryggðir.
given pledges

Vituma á moldu 18
Know-we-not on earth
menn in sælli,
men the happier
meðan fjórir vér
while four we
folki ráðum
(the)-people rule
ok sá enn húnski
and that the Hunnish
her-Baldr lifir,
host-Baldr lives

né in mætri
nor the more-excellent
mægð á foldu.
kinship on earth
(ef vér fimm sonu
if we five sons
fœðum lengi
rear long
áttum góða
(of)-kin good
œxla knættim).
increase could

19 Ek veit görla
I know fully
hvaðan vegir standa,
whence (the)-ways stand
eru Brynhildar
are Brynhildr's
brek ofmikil«.
demands too-great

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

G. KV. Vit skulum Gotþorm 20
We-two shall Gotþormr
gørva at vígi,
make for slaughter
yngra bróður
(the)-younger brother
ófróðara;
less-wise
hann vas fyr útan
he was before outside
eiða svarna,
oaths sworn
eiða svarna,
oaths sworn
unnar tryggðir.
given pledges

21 Dælt vas at eggja
Easy was-(it) to egg-on
óbilgjarnan
(the)-unrelenting-one
* * *
(lacuna)
stóð til hjarta
stood to (the)-heart
hjörr Sigurði.
(the)-sword in-Sigurðr

22 Réð til hefnda
Turned to vengeance
hergjarn í sal
(the)-war-eager-one in (the)-hall
ok eptir varp
and after-(him) threw
óbilgjörnum,
(at)-(the)-unrelenting-one
fló til Gotþorms
flew toward Gotþormr
Gramr ramliga,
Gramr mightily
kynbirt éarn,
(the)-bright-of-kin iron
ór konungs hendi.
out-of (the)-king's hand

Hné hans ofdolgr 23
Sank his foe
til hluta tveggja,
into parts two
hendr ok höfuð
hands and head
hné á annan veg,
sank to (the)-other side
en fótahlutr
and (the)-foot-part
fell aptr í stað.
fell back in place

Sofnuð vas Goðrún 24
Asleep was Goðrún
í sæingu
in bed
sorgalaus
sorrowless
hjá Sigurði,
beside Sigurðr
en hón vaknaði
but she woke
vilja firð,
of-joy bereft
es hón Freys vinar
when she Freyr's friend's
flaut í dreyra.
floated in blood

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

25 Svá sló hón sváran
So struck she hard
sínar hendr,
her hands
at rammhugaðr
that (the)-strong-minded-one
reis upp við beð:
rose up against (the)-bed
»gráta þú Goðrún
weep-not thou Goðrún
svá grimmliga,
so grimly
brúðr frumunga,
bride very-young
þér bræðr lifa.
(for)-thee brothers live

Ák til ungan 26
Have-I too young
erfinytja,
an-heir
kannat firrask
can-(he)-not escape
ór fjandgarði,
out-of (the)-foes'-house
þeir sér hafa
they (for)-themselves have
svárt ok dátt,
darkly and craftily
en nær numit
and near taken
nýlig ráð.
new counsels

Ríðra þeim síðan 27
Rides-not (to)-them afterward
þótt sjau alir
though seven (thou)-bear
systursonr
a-sister's-son
slíkr at þingi;
such to (the)-assembly
ek veit görla,
I know fully
hví gegnir nú,
why (it)-means now

ein veldr Brynhildr
alone causes Brynhildr
öllu bölvi.
all (the)-bale

28 Mér unni mær
Me loved (the)-maid
fyr mann hverjan,
before man every
en við Gunnar
but toward Gunnarr
grand ekki vank;
harm none did-I
þyrmðak sifjum,
spared-I kinship
svörnum eiðum,
sworn oaths
síðr værak heitinn
less were-I called
hans kvánar vinr.«
his wife's friend

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

Kona varp öndu 29
(The)-woman cast-out (her)-breath
en konungr fjörvi,
and (the)-king (his)-life
svá sló hón sváran
so struck she hard
sínar hendr,
her hands
at kváðu við
that rang at-(it)
kálkar í vrá
cups in (the)-corner
ok gullu við
and screamed at-(it)
gæss í túni.
geese in (the)-yard

30 Hló þá Brynhildr
Laughed then Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir
Buðli's daughter
einu sinni
one time
af öllum hug,
from all heart
es hón til hvílu
when she to (her)-bed
heyra knátti
hear could
gjallan grát
(the)-shrill weeping
Gjúka dóttur.
Gjúki's daughter's

31 (Hitt kvað þá Gunnarr,
That said then Gunnarr
gramr haukstalda.)
(the)-prince of-hawk-bearers
Hlæra þú af því,
Laughest-not thou from that
heiptgjörn kona,
hate-eager woman
á golfi glöð,
on (the)-floor glad
at þér góðs viti;
that to-thee good (it)-bodes

hví hafnar þú
why forsakest thou
enum hvíta lit,
the white hue
feikna fœðir;
monster's breeder
hygg at feig séir.
think-I that doomed (thou)-be

Þú værir þess 32
Thou wert of-that
verðust kvinna
worthiest of-women
at fyr augum þér
that before eyes thy
Atla hjøggim,
Atli (we)-hewed
brœðr þínum
(on)-brother thy
sæir blóðugt sár,
(thou)-sawest a-bloody wound
undir dreyrgar
wounds gory
knættir yfir binda.
couldst over bind

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

33 BR. KV. Frýra þér engi,
Taunts-not thee anyone
hefr þú fullvegit;
hast thou fully-fought
lítt sésk Atli
little fears Atli
óvu þína;
hostility thy
hann mun ykkar láta
he will (than)-you-two let
önd síðari
(his)-breath later
ok æ bera
and ever bear
afl et meira.
might the more

Segja munk þér Gunnarr, 34
Tell will-I thee Gunnarr
sjalfr veizt görla,
thyself knowest fully
hvé ér snimma
how ye early
til saka réðuð;
to wrongs set-out
varðka til öngð
was-I-not to straits
né ofþrungin
nor over-pressed
fullgœdd féi
fully-endowed with-wealth
á fleti bróður.
on (the)-floor of-(my)-brother

Né vildak þat, 35
Nor wished-I that
at mik verr ætti,
that me a-husband had
áðr Gjúkungar
before (the)-Gjúkungar
at garði riðu,
to (the)-court rode
þrír á hestum
three on horses
þjóðkonungar,
great-kings

en þeira för
but their journey
þörfgi væri.
needful-not were

36 Ok mér Atli þat
And (to)-me Atli that
einni sagði,
alone said
at hvárki lézk
that neither said-he
höfn of deila,
share — divide
goll né jarðir,
gold nor lands
nema gefask létak,
unless marry let-I
ok engi hlut
and no portion
auðins féar.
of-(the)-granted wealth

Þás mér jóðungri 37
When (to)-me very-young
eiga seldi
a-possession (he)-gave
ok mér jóðungri
and (to)-me very-young
aura talði.
treasures counted

38–42 · THE ONE SHE LOVED

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

Þá vas á hvörfun 38
Then was in wavering
hugr minn of þat,
mind my about that

hvárt skyldak ver eiga
whether should-I a-husband have
eða val fella
or (the)-slain fell
(böll í brynju
fierce in mail-coat
of bróður sök);
for (my)-brother's sake
þat myndi þá
that would then
þjóðkunt vesa
far-known be
mörgum manni
(to)-many a-man
at munar stríði.
for heart's grief

39 Létum síga
Let-(we) sink
sáttmál okkur;
settlement our-two
lék mér meir í mun
played (for)-me more in mind
meiðmar þiggja,
treasures to-receive
bauga rauða
rings red
burar Sigmundar;
of-(the)-son of-Sigmundr

né annars manns
nor another man's
aura vildak.
treasures wished-I

Þeim hétumk þá
Him promised-I-myself then
þjóðkonungi,
(the)-great-king
es með golli sat
who with gold sat
á Grana bógum,
on Grani's shoulders
vasat hann í augu
was-not he in (the)-eyes
yðr of glíkr
you — like
né á engi hlut
nor in any part
at álitum.
in appearance
(þó þykkizk ér
yet think-yourselves ye
þjóðkonungar).
great-kings

40

41 Unnak einum
Loved-I one
né ýmissum,
nor various
bjóat of hverfan
bore-not — fickle
hug men-Skögul;
mind (the)-necklace-Skögul
alt mun þat Atli
all will that Atli
eptir finna,
afterward find
es mína spyrr
when my (he)-learns
morðför görva.
death-journey made

42 At þvígi skal
To that-not shall
þunngeð kona
a-thin-minded woman
annarrar ver
another's husband
aldri leiða;
ever lead
þat mun at hefndum
that will as vengeance
harma minna.
of-harms my

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

Upp reis Gunnarr 43
Up rose Gunnarr
gramr verðungar,
(the)-prince of-(the)-retinue
ok of hals konu
and about (the)-neck of-(his)-wife
hendr of lagði,
hands — laid
gengu allir
went all
ok ýmissir
and each-in-turn
af heilum hug
from whole heart
hána at letja.
her to dissuade

44 Hratt af halsi
(She)-thrust from (her)-neck
hveim þar sér,
each-one there from-herself
léta sik letja
let-not herself (be)-hindered
langrar göngu.
from-(the)-long going

45 (Nam sér Högna
Began (for)-himself Högni
hvetja at rúnum)
urge to secret-talk
»Seggi vilk alla
(the)-men wish-I all
í sal ganga,
into (the)-hall (to)-go
(þína með mínum
thine with mine
nú 's þörf mikil)
now is need great
vita ef meini
to-know if (they)-hinder
morðför konu,
(the)-death-journey of-(the)-woman
unz af méli
until from (the)-bit
enn mein komi,
still harm come

þá látum því
then let-us that
þarfar ráða.«
(the)-need rule

(Einu því Högni 46
One to-that Högni
andsvör veitti)
answers gave
Letja hána
Hinder-not her
langrar göngu,
from-(the)-long going
þars aptrborin
where reborn
aldri verði;
never (may-she)-be
hón kröng of komsk
she crooked — came
fyr kné móður
before (the)-knees of-(her)-mother
(hón 's æ borin
she is ever born
óvilja til)
unwillingness toward
mörgum manni
(for)-many a-man
at móðtrega.
to heart-grief

47 Hvarf sér óhróðigr
Turned (for)-himself joyless
andspilli frá,
(the)-talk from
þars mörk menja
where (the)-forest of-necklaces
meiðmum deildi;
treasures dealt
leit hón of alla
looked she over all
eigu sína,
possessions her
soltnar þýjar
slain slave-girls
ok salkonur.
and hall-women

48 Gollbrynju smó,
A-gold-mail-coat (she)-put-on
vasa gott í hug,
was-not good in mind
áðr sik miðlaði
before herself (she)-pierced
mækis eggjum;
with-(the)-blade's edges

hné við bolstri
sank against (the)-bolster
hón á annan veg
she to (the)-other side
ok hjörunduð
and sword-wounded
hugði at ráðum.
pondered on counsels

49–53 · BRYNHILDR'S GIFTS

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

BR. KV. Nú skulu ganga 49
Now shall come
þærs goll vili
those-who gold wish
ok minni því
and (the)-lesser for-that
at mér þiggja;
from me receive
ek gef hverri
I give each
of hroðit sigli,
— adorned necklace

bók ok blæju,
embroidery and coverlet
bjartar váðir.
bright garments

50 Þögðu allar
Were-silent all
við því ráði,
at that counsel
ok allar senn
and all at-once
andsvör veittu:
answers gave
»ærnar ro soltnar,
enough are slain
munum enn lifa,
(we)-will still live
verða salkonur
be hall-women
sœmð at vinna«.
honor to win

51 Unz af hyggjandi
Until from thinking
hörskrýdd kona,
(the)-linen-clad woman
ung at aldri,
young in age

orð viðr of kvað:
word in-reply — said
vilkat trauðan
wish-I-not (one)-unwilling
né torbœnan
nor hard-to-entreat
of óra sök
for our sake
aldri týna.
ever (to)-lose-(life)

Þó mun á beinum 52
Yet will on bones
brinna yðrum
burn your
færi eyrir,
little wealth
þás fram komið;
when forth (ye)-come
neit menju góð
not necklaces good
mín at vitja.
me to visit

53 Sezk niðr Gunnarr,
Sit-thyself down Gunnarr
munk segja þér
will-I tell thee
lífs ørvæna
of-life despairing
ljósa brúði,
(the)-bright bride
muna yðvart far
will-not your ship
alt í sundi,
all in (the)-sound
þótt ek hafa
though I have
öndu látit.
(my)-breath lost

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

Sátt munuð Goðrún 54
Reconciled will-ye Goðrún
snemr an hyggir;
sooner than (thou)-thinkest
hefr kunn kona
has (the)-wise woman
við konungi
with (the)-king
daprar minjar
sad keepsakes
at dauðan ver.
for (her)-dead husband

* * * 55
(lacuna)
Þar 's mær borin,
There is a-maid born
móðir fœðir,
(the)-mother rears

sú mun hvítari
she will whiter
an enn heiði dagr
than the bright day
Svanhildr vesa
Svanhildr be
sólar geisla.
(than)-(the)-sun's ray

56 Gefa munt Guðrúnu
Give wilt-(thou) Guðrún
góðra nøkkurum
of-good (to)-some-one
(skeyti skæða
(the)-shafts of-harm
skatna mengi);
of-men (the)-host
munat at vilja
will-not to (her)-will
versæl gefin;
happily-married (be)-given
hána mun Atli
her will Atli
eiga ganga
have (to)-marry
of borinn Buðla,
— born of-Buðli
bróðir minn.
brother my

Margs ák minnask, 57
Much have-I to-remember
hvé við mik fóru,
how toward me (they)-went
þás mik sára
when me sorely
svikna höfðuð;
betrayed (ye)-had
vaðin at vilja
bereft of joy
vask meðan lifðak.
was-I while lived-I

Munt Oddrúnu 58
Wilt-(thou) Oddrún
eiga vilja,
have wish
en þik Atli mun
but thee Atli will
eigi láta;
not let
it munuð lúta
you-two will bow
á laun saman,
in secret together
hón mun þér unna
she will thee love
sem ek skyldak.
as I should-I

(ef okr góð of sköp
if (for)-us-two good — fates
gerði verða).
(had)-made be

59–63 · THE FATES OF ATLI AND GOÐRÚN

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

59 Þik mun Atli
Thee will Atli
illu beita,
(with)-ill treat
munt í öngan
wilt-(thou) into (the)-narrow
ormgarð lagiðr.
serpent-yard (be)-laid

60 Þat mun ok verða
That will also happen
þvígit lengra,
not-at-all longer

at Atli mun
that Atli will
öndu týna,
(his)-breath lose
(sælu sinni,
happiness his
ok sofa lífi),
and sleep (his)-life-away
þvít hánum Goðrún
because him Goðrún
grýmir á beð
smites in bed
snörpum eggjum
with-sharp edges
af sárum hug.
from sore mind

Sœmri væri Goðrún 61
More-seemly were Goðrún
systir ykkur
sister of-you-two
frumver sínum
first-husband her
at fylgja dauðum;
to follow dead
ef henni gæfi
if (to)-her gave
góðra hverr ráð,
good anyone counsel

eða ætti hón hug
or had she a-mind
ossum glíkan.
(to)-ours like

62 Ört mælik nú,
Swiftly speak-I now
en hón eigi mun
but she not will
of óra sök
for our sake
aldri týna;
ever (her-life)-lose
hána munu hefja
her will lift
hávar bárur
high billows
til Jónakrs
to Jónakr's
óðaltorfu.
ancestral-soil

63 [Ala mun sér jóð
Bear will (for)-herself offspring
erfivörðu]
heirs
erfivörðu,
heirs

Jónakrs sonu,
Jónakr's sons
mun hón Svanhildi
will she Svanhildr
senda af landi
send from (the)-land
sína mey
her maid
ok Sigurðar.
and Sigurðr's

64–67 · BRYNHILDR'S LAST REQUEST

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

Hána munu bíta 64
Her will bite
Bikka ráð,
Bikki's counsels
þvít Jörmunrekkr
because Jörmunrekkr
óþarft lifir;
harmfully lives

Þá 's öll farin
then is all gone
ætt Sigurðar;
(the)-kin of-Sigurðr
eru Goðrúnar
are Goðrún's
grœti at fleiri.
weepings the more

65 Biðja munk þik
Ask will-I thee
bœnar einnar,
a-request one
sú mun í heimi
that will in (the)-world
hinzt bœn vesa;
(the)-last request be
lát svá breiða
let so broad
borg á velli,
a-stronghold on (the)-field
at und oss öllum
that under us all
jafnrúmt séi.
equally-roomy (it)-be
(þeim es sultu
(for)-those who died
með Sigurði).
with Sigurðr

Tjaldi of þá borg 66
Hang — that stronghold
tjöldum ok skjöldum
with-hangings and shields
valaript vel fáið
(with)-foreign-cloth well dyed
ok vala mengi;
and (with)-foreigners' host
brenni mér enn húnska
burn (for)-me the Hunnish-one
á hlið aðra.
on side other

Brenni enum húnska 67
Burn (for)-the Hunnish-one
á hlið aðra
on side other
mína þjóna,
my servants
menjum göfga,
with-necklaces noble
tvá at höfðum
two at (the)-heads
ok tveir haukar;
and two hawks
þá 's öllu skipt
then is all shared
til jafnaðar.
to equality

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

68 Liggi okkar
Let-lie of-us-two
enn í milli
still in between
(malmr hringvariðr)
(the)-metal ring-adorned
egghvast éarn,
(the)-edge-keen iron
sem endr lagit,
as before laid
þás vit bæði
when we-two both
einn beð stigum
one bed mounted
ok hétum þá
and were-called then
hjóna nafni.
(of)-a-married-couple (by)-(the)-name

Hrynja hánum 69
Clang (on)-him
á hæl þeygi
on (the)-heel not
hlunnblik hallar
(the)-gleaming-doors of-(the)-hall
hringa litkuð,
with-rings colored
ef hánum fylgir
if him follows
ferð mín heðan;
retinue my hence
þeygi mun ór för
not will our journey
aumlig vesa.
wretched be

Þvít hánum fylgja 70
Because him follow
fimm ambóttir,
five bondwomen
átta þjónar,
eight servants
eðlum góðir,
(in)-birth good
fóstrman mitt
foster-maid my
ok faðerni,
and patrimony

þats Buðli gaf
which Buðli gave
barni sínu.
(to)-child his

71 Mart sagðak þér,
Much told-I thee
myndak fleira,
would-I more
ef mér meir mjötuðr
if (to)-me more (the)-Measurer
málrúm gæfi;
speech-room gave
ómun þverr,
(the)-voice fails
undir svella,
(the)-wounds swell
satt eitt sagðak,
truth only told-I
svá munk láta.
so will-I die

Helreið Brynhildar

Brynhild's Ride to Hel

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

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

Skalt í gögnum 1
Shalt-(thou) in through
ganga eigi
go not
grjóti studda
with-stones propped
garða mína,
enclosures my

betr semði þér
better befitted thee
borða at rekja
embroidery to unravel
heldr an vitja
rather than to-visit
vers annarrar.
(the)-husband of-another

2 Hvat skalt vitja
Why shalt-(thou) visit
af Vallandi,
from Valland
hvarfúst höfuð,
fickle head
húsa minna?
houses my
þú hefr vörgum,
thou hast (to)-wolves
ef þik vita lystir,
if thee to-know desires
meini blandin,
with-harm mingled
manns blóð gefit.
man's blood given

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

BR. KV. Bregð eigi mér, 3
Taunt not me
brúðr ór steini,
bride out-of (the)-stone
þótt værak fyrr
though were-I before
í víkingu,
in viking-raiding
ek mun okkur
I will (of)-us-two
œðri þykkja,
nobler seem
hvars eðli menn
wherever birth men
okkart kunnu.
our know

4 G. KV. Þú vast Brynhildr
Thou wast Brynhildr
Buðla dóttir
Buðli's daughter
heilli verstu
(with)-luck worst
í heim borin,
into (the)-world born
þú hefr Gjúka
thou hast Gjúki's
of glatat börnum
— destroyed children
ok búi þeira
and dwelling their
brugðit góðu.
overturned good

5 BR. KV. Ek mun segja þér
I will tell thee
svinn ór reiðu
wise-one out-of (the)-chariot
vitlaussi mjök,
(thou)-witless much
ef þik vita lystir,
if thee to-know desires

hvé gerðu mik
how made me
Gjúka arfar
Gjúki's heirs
ástalausa
loveless
ok eiðrofa.
and oath-breaking

6–10 · ÓÐINN'S ANGER

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

Hétu mik allir 6
Called me all
í Hlymdölum
in Hlymdalir
Hildi und hjalmi,
Hildr under helmet
hverr es kunni.
each-one who knew

7 Annarr hét Agnarr,
(The)-other was-called Agnarr
Auðu bróðir,
Auða's brother
es véttr engi
whom creature none
vildi týja.
would help

8 Lét hami vára
Let (the)-shapes our
hugfullr konungr
(the)-bold-minded king
átta systra
of-eight sisters
und eik borit;
under an-oak borne
vask vetra tolf,
was-I winters twelve
ef þik vita lystir,
if thee to-know desires
es ungum gram
when (to)-(the)-young prince
eiða seldak.
oaths gave-I

Þá létk gamlan 9
Then let-I (the)-old
á Goðþjóðu
on Goðþjóð
Hjalmgunnar næst
Hjálmgunnarr next
heljar ganga;
to-hel go
gafk ungum sigr
gave-I (the)-young victory
Auðu bróður;
Auða's brother
þar varð mér Óðinn
there became (with)-me Óðinn
ofreiðr of þat.
very-angry about that

Lauk mik skjöldum 10
Locked-(he) me with-shields
í Skatalundi
in Skatalundr
rauðum ok hvítum,
red and white
randir snurtusk;
(the)-rims touched
þann bað slíta
him bade-(he) break
svefni mínum,
sleep my

es hvergi lands
who nowhere of-(the)-land
hræðask kynni.
fear could

11–15 · BRYNHILDR GOES DOWN WITH SIGURÐR

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

11 Lét of sal minn
Let round hall my
sunnanverðan
southward
hávan brinna
high burn
hrotgarm viðar;
(the)-ravager of-wood
þar bað einn þegn
there bade-(he) one thane
yfir at ríða,
over to ride

þanns mér færði goll
who (to)-me brought (the)-gold
þats und Fáfni lá.
which under Fáfnir lay

Reið góðr Grana 12
Rode (the)-good-one (on)-Grani
gollmiðlandi,
(the)-gold-dealer
þars fóstri minn
where fosterer my
fletjum stýrði,
(the)-halls ruled
einn þótti hann þar
alone seemed he there
öllum betri
(than)-all better
víkingr Dana
(the)-viking of-(the)-Danes
í verðungu.
in (the)-retinue

Sváfum ok unðum 13
(We)-slept and were-content
í sæing einni,
in bed one

sem minn bróðir
as my brother
of borinn væri;
— born were
hvárki knátti
neither could
hönd of annat
(the)-hand over (the)-other
átta nóttum
(for)-eight nights
okkart leggja.
of-us-two lay

14 Því brá mér Goðrún
For-that taunted me Goðrún
Gjúka dóttir,
Gjúki's daughter
at Sigurði
that Sigurðr
svæfak á armi,
slept-I in (the)-arm
þar varðk þess vís,
there became-I of-that aware
es vildigak,
which wished-I-not
at þau véltu mik
that they deceived me
í verfangi.
in (the)-husband-taking

Munu við ofstríð
Will against over-strife
alls til lengi
all too long
konur ok karlar
women and men
kvikvir fœðask,
living be-born
vit skulum okrum
we-two shall our
aldri slíta
lives end
Sigurðr saman;
Sigurðr together
søksk gýgjar kyn.
sink-thou giantess's kin

Goðrúnarkviða en forna

The Second Lay of Gudrun

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

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

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

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

Mær vask meyja, 1
Maid was-I of-maids
móðir mik fœddi,
(my)-mother me reared
björt í búri,
bright in (the)-bower
unnak brœðrum vel,
loved-I (my)-brothers well
unz mik Gjúki
until me Gjúki
golli reifði,
with-gold adorned
golli reifði,
with-gold adorned
gaf Sigurði.
gave (to)-Sigurðr

2 Svá vas Sigurðr
So was Sigurðr
of sonum Gjúka
above (the)-sons of-Gjúki
sem væri grœnn laukr
as-if (he)-were a-green leek
ór grasi vaxinn,
out-of (the)-grass grown
eða hjörtr hábeinn
or a-hart high-legged
of hösum dýrum
above gray beasts
eða goll glóðrautt
or gold glow-red
af gráu silfri.
beside gray silver

3 Unz mér fyrmunðu
Until me begrudged
mínir brœðr,
my brothers
at ættak ver
that had-I a-husband
öllum fremra,
(than)-all more-excellent
sofa né máttut
sleep nor could-(they)-not
né of sakar dœma,
nor — suits judge

áðr þeir Sigurð
before they Sigurðr
svelta létu.
die let

Grani rann af þingi, 4
Grani ran from (the)-assembly
gnýr vas at heyra,
a-din was to hear
en þá Sigurðr
but then Sigurðr
sjalfr eigi kom;
himself not came
öll váru söðuldýr
all were (the)-saddle-beasts
sveita stokkin,
with-sweat spattered
of vanið vási,
— wont to-toil
und vegöndum.
under (the)-slayers

Gekk ek grátandi 5
Went I weeping
við Grana rœða,
with Grani to-speak

úrughlýra
wet-cheeked

jó frák spjalla,
(the)-steed asked-I (to)-tell

hnipnaði Grani,
drooped Grani

drap í gras höfði,
struck into (the)-grass (with)-head

jór þat vissi,
(the)-steed that knew

eigendr né lifðut.
(its)-owners not lived-not

6–10 · HÖGNI'S TIDINGS

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

6 Lengi hvarfaðak,
Long wavered-I

lengi hugir deildusk,
long (the)-minds were-divided

áðr of frægak
before — learned-I

folkvörð at gram.
(the)-host-warden of (the)-prince

Hnipnaði Gunnarr, 7
Drooped Gunnarr
Högni mér sagði
Högni me told
frá Sigurðar
about Sigurðr's
sárum dauða:
sore death
»liggr of höggvinn
lies — hewn
fyr handan ver
on (the)-other-side of-(the)-sea
Gothorms bani
Gotþormr's slayer
of gefinn ulfum.
— given (to)-wolves

Lít þar Sigurð 8
Look there (for)-Sigurðr
á suðrvegi;
on (the)-south-way
þar heyrir þú
there hearest thou
hrafna gjalla,
ravens screech
örnu gjalla
eagles screech
ærni fegna,
(for)-food glad

varga þjóta
wolves howl
of veri þínum.«
over husband thy

9 Hví mér Högni
Why me Högni
harma slíka
harms such
viljalaussi
joyless
vill of segja?
wilt — tell
þitt skyli hjarta
thy should heart
hrafnar slíta
ravens tear
víð lönd yfir,
wide lands over
an vitir manna.
rather-than (thou)-knowest men

10 Svaraði Högni
Answered Högni
sinni einu,
time one
trauðr góðs hugar,
unwilling of-good mind

af trega stórum:
from sorrow great
»þess átt Goðrún
of-that hast-(thou) Goðrún
grœti at fleiri,
weepings the more
at hjarta mitt
that heart my
hrafnar slíti.«
ravens tear

11–14 · GOÐRÚN WITH ÞÓRA

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

Hvarfk ein þaðan 11
Turned-I alone thence
andspilli frá
(the)-talk from
á við lesa
into (the)-wood to-gather
varga leifar;
(the)-wolves' leavings

gerðigat hjúfra
did-I-not sob
né höndum sláa
nor with-hands strike
né kveina umb
nor wail about
sem konur aðrar.
as women other
(þás sat soltin
when (I)-sat (as-one)-dying
of Sigurði).
over Sigurðr

12 Nótt þótti mér
(The)-night seemed to-me
niðmyrk vesa,
pitch-dark to-be
es sárla satk
when sorely sat-I
of Sigurði,
over Sigurðr
ulfar þóttumk
wolves seemed-to-me
öllu betra
(than)-all better
ef léti mik
if (they)-let me
lífi týna.
life lose

(eða brendi mik
or burned me
sem birkinn við).
like birchen wood

Fórk af fjalli 13
Went-I from (the)-mountain
fimm dœgr talið,
five days counted
unz höll Alfs
until (the)-hall of-Álfr
háva þekðak.
high knew-I

Satk með Þóru 14
Sat-I with Þóra
sjau misseri
seven half-years
dœtr Hákonar
(the)-daughter of-Hákon
í Danmörku,
in Denmark

hón mér at gamni
she for-me as solace
gollbókaði
embroidered-in-gold
sali suðrœna
halls southern
ok svani danska.
and swans Danish

15–18 · GRÍMHILDR SEEKS HER DAUGHTER

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

15 Höfðum á skriptum
(We)-had in pictures
þats skatar léku,
what (the)-warriors played
ok á hannyrðum
and in handiwork
hilmis þegna,
(the)-prince's thanes
randir rauðar,
shields red
rekka búna,
warriors adorned

hjördrótt, hjalmdrótt,
sword-host helmet-host
hilmis fylgju.
(the)-prince's following

Skip Sigmundar 16
(The)-ships of-Sigmundr
skriðu frá landi,
glided from land
gyldar grímur,
gilded (the)-figureheads
grafnir stafnar,
carved (the)-prows
byrðum á borða
(we)-embroidered on (the)-cloth
þats börðusk þeir
that fought they
Sigarr ok Siggeirr
Sigarr and Siggeirr
suðr á Fjóni.
south on Fjón

Þá frá Grímhildr, 17
Then learned Grímhildr
gotnesk kona,
(the)-Gothic woman

hvar værak komin
where were-I come
hyggju þrungin;
(in)-mind weighed-down
hón brá borða
she threw-aside (the)-cloth
ok buri heimti
and (her)-sons summoned
þrágjarnliga
eagerly
þess at spyrja.
of-that to ask

18 Hverr vildi son
Who would (for)-(the)-son
systur bœta
(to)-(the)-sister make-amends
eða ver veginn
or (for)-(the)-husband slain
vildi gjalda;
would pay
görr lézk Gunnarr
ready said-himself Gunnarr
goll at bjóða,
gold to offer
sakar at bœta,
(the)-wrongs to amend
ok et sama Högni.
and the same Högni

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

Hón frétti at því, 19
She asked about it
hverr fara vildi,
who go would
vigg at söðla,
(the)-steed to saddle
vagn at beita.
(the)-wagon to yoke
(hesti ríða,
(the)-horse to-ride
hauki fleygja,
(the)-hawk to-fly
örum at skjóta
arrows to shoot
af ýboga).
from (the)-yew-bow

Valdarr Dönum 20
Valdarr of-(the)-Danes
með Jarizleifi,
with Jarizleifr

Eymóðr þriði
Eymóðr (the)-third
með Jarizkári.
with Jarizkárr

21 Inn gengu þá
In went then
jöfrum glíkir
(to)-princes like
langbarðs liðar,
Langobard men
höfðu loða rauða,
had cloaks red
stuttar brynjur,
short mail-coats
steypða hjalma,
steep helmets
skalmum gyrðir,
with-short-swords girded
höfðu skarar jarpar.
had hair brown

22 Hverr vildi mér
Each would me
hnossir velja,
treasures choose

hnossir velja
treasures choose
ok hugat mæla,
and kindly speak
ef mætti mér
if (he)-might me
margra súta
of-many sorrows
tryggðir vinna,
(the)-trust win
né trúa gerðak.
nor trust did-I

23–26 · THE DRAFT OF FORGETTING

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

Færði mér Grímhildr 23
Brought me Grímhildr
full at drekka
a-cup to drink
svalt ok sárligt,
cool and bitter

né sakar munðak;
nor (the)-wrongs remembered-I
þat vas of aukit
that was — increased
jarðar magni,
with-earth's might
svalköldum sæ
with-cool-cold sea
ok sonar dreyra.
and (the)-son's blood

24 Váru í horni
Were in (the)-horn
hvers kyns stafir
of-every kind staves
ristnir ok roðnir,
carved and reddened
ráða né máttak;
read nor could-I
lyngfiskr lagar,
(the)-heather-fish of-(the)-sea
lands Haddingja
of-(the)-land of-(the)-Haddingjar
ax óskorit,
an-ear unreaped
innleið dyra.
(the)-inward-way of-beasts

Váru þeim bjóri 25
Were in-that beer
böl mörg saman,
bales many together
urt alls viðar
herbs of-every wood
ok akarn brunnin,
and acorns burnt
umbdögg arins,
(the)-soot of-(the)-hearth
iðrar blótnar,
entrails sacrificed
svíns lifr soðin;
(the)-swine's liver boiled
því hón sakar deyfði.
because it wrongs dulled

En þá gleymðak, 26
And then forgot-I
es getit hafðak,
what said had-I
alls jöfurs böls,
all (the)-prince's bale
bjórveig í sal;
(the)-beer-draft in (the)-hall
kómu konungar
came kings
fyr kné þrennir,
before (the)-knees three

áðr hón sjalfa mik
before she herself me
sótti at máli.
sought to talk

27–30 · GRÍMHILDR'S OFFER

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

27 »Gefk þér Goðrún
Give-I thee Goðrún
goll at þiggja,
gold to receive
fjölð alls féar,
abundance of-all wealth
at þinn föður dauðan,
for thy father dead
hringa rauða,
rings red
Hlöðvés sali,
Hlöðvér's halls
ársal allan
(the)-bed-hangings all
at jöfur fallinn.
for (the)-prince fallen

Húnskar meyjar, 28
Hunnish maids
þærs hlaða spjöldum
who weave with-tablets
ok gera goll fagrt,
and make gold fair
svát þér gaman þykki;
so-that to-thee delight (it)-seems
ein skalt ráða
alone shalt-(thou) rule
auði Buðla,
(the)-wealth of-Buðli
golli göfguð,
with-gold honored
ok gefin Atla«.
and given (to)-Atli

Vilk eigi ek 29
Will not I
með veri ganga,
with a-husband go
né Brynhildar
nor Brynhildr's
bróður eiga;
brother have

samir eigi mér
befits not me
við son Buðla
with (the)-son of-Buðli
ætt at auka
kin to increase
né una lífi.
nor enjoy life

»Hirða hölðum
Heed-not (to)-men
heiptir gjalda,
hatreds (to)-repay
þvít vér höfum
because we have
valdit fyrri;
caused-(it) before
svá skalt láta
so shalt-(thou) behave
sem lifi báðir
as-if lived both
Sigurðr ok Sigmundr,
Sigurðr and Sigmundr
ef sonu fœðir.«
if sons (thou)-bearest

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

Mákak, Grímhildr, 31
Can-I-not Grímhildr
glaumi bella,
(to)-joy attain
né vígrisnum
nor (for)-(the)-battle-strong-one
vánir telja,
hopes count
síz Sigurðar
since Sigurðr's
sárla drukku
sorely drank
hrægífr huginn
(the)-corpse-greedy raven
hjartblóð saman.
heart-blood together

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

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

hann mun Gunnar
he will Gunnarr
grandi beita
(with)-harm assail
ok ór Högna
and out-of Högni
hjarta slíta.
(the)-heart tear

Grátandi Grímhildr 34
Weeping Grímhildr
greip við orði,
caught at (the)-word
es burum sínum
when (for)-sons her
bölva vætti
(of)-bales (she)-expected
ok mögum sínum
and (for)-kinsmen her
meina stórra.
harms great

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

35 »Lönd gefk enn þér,
Lands give-I still thee
lýða sinni,
of-people a-following
Vinbjörg, Valbjörg,
Vinbjörg Valbjörg
ef vill þiggja;
if (thou)-wilt receive
eig of aldr þat
have for life that
ok uni dóttir.«
and enjoy daughter

Þann munk kjósa 36
Him shall-I choose
af konungum
from (the)-kings
ok þó af niðjum
and yet from (my)-kinsmen
nauðig hafa;
unwilling have
verðr eigi mér
becomes not (for)-me
verr at ynði,
(the)-husband to joy
né böl bræðra
nor (the)-bale of-(my)-brothers
at bura skjóli.
to (my)-sons' shelter

Munkak létta, 37
Will-I-not cease
áðr lífs hvatan
before (of)-life (the)-bold-one
eggleiks hvötuð
of-edge-play (the)-urger
aldri næmik.
ever deprive-I

38 Senn vas á hesti
At-once was on horse
hverr drengr litinn,
every warrior seen
en víf valnesk
and (the)-women foreign
í vagn hafin;
into (the)-wagon lifted
vér sjau daga
we seven days
svalt land riðum,
a-cold land rode
en aðra sjau
and other seven
unnir kníðum.
(the)-waves beat
(en ena þriðju sjau
and the third seven
þurt land stigum).
dry land stepped

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

Þar hliðverðir 39
There (the)-gate-wardens
hárar borgar
of-(the)-high stronghold
grind upp luku,
(the)-gate up opened
áðr í garð riðum.
before into (the)-court (we)-rode

Vakði mik Atli, 40
Waked me Atli
en vesa þóttumk
and to-be seemed-I
full ills hugar
full of-ill mind
at frændr dauða.
for (my)-kinsmen's death

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

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

líkna ok lækna,
soothe and heal
þótt mér leiðr séir.
though (to)-me loathsome (thou)-be

43–47 · THE DREAMS READ

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

»Hugðak hér í túni 43
Thought-I here in (the)-yard
teina fallna,
twigs fallen
þás vilda ek
which wished I
vaxna láta,
grown to-let
rifnir með rótum,
torn with roots
roðnir í blóði,
reddened in blood
bornir á bekki,
borne onto benches
beðit mik at tyggva.
bidden me to chew

44 Hugðak mér af hendi
Thought-I (for)-me from (my)-hand
hauka fljúga
hawks fly
bráðalausa
foodless
bölranna til;
bale-houses to
hjörtu hugðak þeira
(the)-hearts thought-I their
við hunang tuggin,
with honey chewed
sorgmóðs seva,
(of)-sorrow-minded mind
sollin blóði.
swollen with-blood

45 Hugðak mér af hendi
Thought-I (for)-me from (my)-hand
hvelpa losna,
whelps break-loose
glaums andvana,
of-joy bereft
gylli báðir,
yelped both
hold hugðak þeira
(the)-flesh thought-I their
at hræum orðit,
to carrion become

nauðigr nái
unwilling corpses
nýta skyldak.«
eat should-I

Þar munu seggir 46
There will men
of sœing dœma
about sacrifice judge
ok hvítinga
and (of)-white-ones
höfði næma;
(the)-head deprive
þeir munu feigir
they will doomed
fára nátta
(in)-few nights
fyr dag lítlu,
before day a-little
drótt of bergja.
(the)-host — taste

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

Goðrúnarkviða (III)

The Third Lay of Gudrun

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

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

Hvat 's þér Atli 1
What is (with)-thee Atli
æ Buðla sonr?
ever Buðli's son
es þér hryggt í hug,
is (to)-thee grieved in mind
hví hlær þú æva?
why laughest thou never
hitt myndi œðra
that would better
jörlum þykkja,
(to)-earls seem

at við menn mæltir
that with men (thou)-spokest
ok mik sæir.
and me sawest

2 A. KV. Tregr mik Goðrún
Grieves me Goðrún
Gjúka dóttir
Gjúki's daughter
þats mér í höllu
that-which (to)-me in (the)-hall
Herkja sagði,
Herkja told
at it Þjóðrekr
that you-two Þjóðrekr
und þaki svæfið
under (the)-roof slept
ok léttliga
and lightly
líni verðizk.
in-linen wrapped-yourselves

G. KV. Þér munk alls þess 3
Thee will-I of-all that
eiða vinna
oaths swear
at enum hvíta
by the white
helga steini,
holy stone
at við Þjóðrek,
that with Þjóðrekr
þatki áttak,
nothing had-I
es vörð né verr
which husband nor man
vinna knættit.
do could-not

Nema ek halsaða 4
Except I embraced
herja stilli,
of-hosts (the)-lord
jöfur óneisinn,
(the)-prince unblemished
einu sinni,
one time
aðrar váru
other were
okrar spekjur,
our-two converse

es hörmug tvau
when grieving two
hnigum at rúnum.
(we)-bowed to secret-talk

Hér kom Þjóðrekr
Here came Þjóðrekr
með þría tøgu,
with three tens
lifa þeir né einir
live they not one
þriggja tega manna;
of-three tens (of)-men
hnöggt mik at brœðrum
bereft me of brothers
ok at brynjuðum,
and of mailed-ones
hnöggt mik at öllum
bereft me of all
haufuðniðjum.
head-kinsmen

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

Sentu at Saxa, 6
Send-thou for Saxi
Sunnmanna gram,
of-(the)-Southmen (the)-prince
hann kann helga
he can hallow
hver vellanda. —
(the)-cauldron boiling
Sjau hundruð manna
Seven hundred men
í sal gengu,
into (the)-hall went
áðr kvæn konungs
before (the)-wife of-(the)-king
í ketil tœki. —
into (the)-kettle reached

7 Kemra nú Gunnarr,
Comes-not now Gunnarr
kalligak Högna,
call-I-not Högni
sékka síðan
see-I-not afterward
svása brœðr,
sweet brothers
sverði myndi Högni
with-(the)-sword would Högni
slíks harms reka,
such harm avenge
nú verðk sjalf fyr mik
now must-I self for myself
synja lýta.
deny (the)-blemishes

8 Brá hón til botns
Reached she to (the)-bottom
björtum lófa,
(with)-bright palm
ok hón upp of tók
and she up — took
jarknasteina —
precious-stones
»sé nú seggir,
see now men

sykn emk orðin
guiltless am-I become
heilagliga,
holily
hvé sá hverr velli.«
however this cauldron boils

Hló þá Atla 9
Laughed then Atli's
hugr í brjósti,
heart in (the)-breast
es heilar sá
when whole (he)-saw
hendr Goðrúnar —
(the)-hands of-Goðrún
»nú skal Herkja
now shall Herkja
til hvers ganga,
to (the)-cauldron go
sús Goðrúnu
she-who Goðrún
grandi vændi.«
(of)-harm accused

Sáat maðr armligt, 10
Saw-not a-man piteous
hverr 's sáat þat,
whoever that saw-not that

hvé þar á Herkju
how there on Herkja
hendr sviðnuðu;
(the)-hands scalded
leiddu þá mey
led-(they) then (the)-maid
í mýri fúla;
into a-bog foul
svaſði Goðrún
soothed Goðrún
sína harma.
her harms

Oddrúnargrátr

Oddrun's Lament

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

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

Heyrðak segja 1
Heard-I tell
í sögum fornum,
in tales old
hvé mær of kom
how a-maid — came
til Mornalands;
to Mornaland

engi mátti
no-one could
fyr jörð ofan
over earth above
Heiðreks dóttur
(for)-Heiðrekr's daughter
hjalpir vinna.
help work

2 Þat frá Oddrún
That learned Oddrún
Atla systir,
Atli's sister
at mær hafði
that (the)-maid had
miklar sóttir;
great pains
brá hón af stalli
took she from (the)-stall
stjórnbitluðum
(the)-bridle-bitted-one
ok á svartan
and on (the)-black-one
söðul of lagði.
a-saddle — laid

Lét mar fara 3
Let (the)-mare go
moldveg sléttan,
(the)-earth-way smooth
unz at hári kom
until to a-high (she)-came
höll standandi;
hall standing
(ok hón inn of gekk
and she in — went
endlangan sal)
lengthwise hall
svipti hón söðli
snatched she (the)-saddle
af svöngum jó
off (the)-hungry steed
ok hón þat orða
and she this of-words
alls fyrst of kvað.
of-all first — said

Hvat 's frægst á fold 4
What is most-famous on earth
* * *
(lacuna)
eða hvat 's hlest
or what is most-heard-of
Húnalandi?
in-Húnaland

AMBÓTT: Hér liggr Borgný
Here lies Borgný
of borin verkjum,
— borne-down by-pains
vina þín Oddrún,
friend thy Oddrún
vitt ef hjalpir.
see-thou if (thou)-helpest

5–8 · THE BIRTH

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

5 Hverr hefr vífi
Who has (on)-(the)-woman
vams of leitat?
shame — brought
Hví eru Borgnýjar
Why are Borgný's
bráðar sóttir?
sudden pains
AMBÓTT: Vilmundr heitir,
Vilmundr (he)-is-called
vinr haukstalda,
(the)-friend of-hawk-bearers

hann varði mey
he covered (the)-maid
varmri blæju.
(with)-warm cloak
(fimm vetr alla
five winters all
svát sinn föður leyndi).
so-that her father (she)-hid

Þær hykk mæltu 6
They think-I spoke
þvígit fleira,
not-at-all more
gekk mild fyr kné
went (the)-kind-one before (the)-knees
meyju at sitja;
(of)-(the)-maid to sit
ríkt gól Oddrún,
mightily chanted Oddrún
ramt gól Oddrún,
strongly chanted Oddrún
bitra galdra
bitter charms
at Borgnýju.
over Borgný

7 Knátti mær ok mögr
Could a-maid and a-boy
moldveg sporna
(the)-earth-way tread
börn þau en blíðu
children those the gentle
við bana Högna;
by (the)-slayer of-Högni
þat nam at mæla
that began to speak
mær fjörsjúka,
(the)-maid life-sick
svát ekki kvað
so-that nothing said
orð et fyrra:
word the former

8 Svá hjalpi þér
So help thee
hollar véttir,
gracious beings
Frigg ok Freyja
Frigg and Freyja
ok fleiri goð,
and more gods
sem feldir mér
as (thou)-drovest (for)-me
fár af höndum.
peril from (my)-hands

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

OD. KV. Hnékat af því 9
Knelt-I-not for that
til hjalpar þér,
to help thee
at værir þess
that (thou)-wert of-it
verð aldrigi;
worthy never
hétk ok efndak,
promised-I and fulfilled-I
es hinig mæltak,
what hither said-I
at hvívetna
that in-everything
hjalpa skyldak.
help should-I
(þás öðlingar
when (the)-princes
arfi skiptu).
(the)-inheritance divided

10 B. KV. Œr est Oddrún
Mad art-thou Oddrún
ok ørvita,
and out-of-(thy)-wits
es mér af fári
when me from hostility
flest orð of kvatt,
most words — saidst-thou
en ek fylgðak þér
but I followed-I thee
á fjörgynju,
on (the)-earth
sem vit brœðrum tveim
as we-two (to)-brothers two
bornar værim.
born were

11 O. KV. Mank enn hvat þú
Remember-I still what thou
mæltir of aptan,
saidst in (the)-evening
þás Gunnari
when (for)-Gunnarr
gerðak rekkju,
made-I (the)-bed

slíks dœmi kvaðat
such example saidst-not
síðan mundu
afterward would
meyju verða
(for)-a-maid be
nema mér einni.
except (for)-me alone

Þá nam at setjask 12
Then began to seat-herself
sorgmóð kona
(the)-sorrow-minded woman
at telja böl
to recount (her)-bale
af trega stórum.
from sorrow great

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

13 Vask upp alin
Was-I up raised
í jöfra sal,
in (the)-princes' hall
flestr fagnaði,
most rejoiced
at fira ráði;
by of-men (the)-counsel
unðak aldri
enjoyed-I life
ok eign föður
and (the)-property of-(my)-father
fimm vetr eina,
five winters only
svát minn faðir lifði.
while my father lived

Þat nam at mæla 14
That began to speak
mál et øfsta
(the)-word the last
sjá móðr konungr,
this weary king
áðr sylti hann,
before died he
mik bað gœða
me bade-(he) endow
golli rauðu
with-gold red
ok suðr gefa
and south give
syni Grímhildar.
(to)-(the)-son of-Grímhildr

En Brynhildi 15
But Brynhildr
bað hjalm geta,
bade-(he) (the)-helmet get
hána kvað valmey
her said-(he) a-slaughter-maid
verða skyldu;
become should

kvaða ena œðri
said-(he)-not the nobler
alna mundu
born would
mey í heimi,
maid in (the)-world
nema mjötuðr spilti.
unless fate spoiled-(it)

16 Brynhildr í búri
Brynhildr in (the)-bower
borða rakði,
embroidery worked
hafði lýði
(she)-had people
ok lönd of sik,
and lands about her
jörð dúsaði
(the)-earth shook
ok upphiminn,
and (the)-heaven-above
þás bani Fáfnis
when (the)-slayer of-Fáfnir
borg of þátti.
(the)-stronghold — saw

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

17

Þá vas víg vegit
Then was battle fought
völsku sverði
with-foreign sword
ok borg brotin,
and (the)-stronghold broken
sús Brynhildr átti,
which Brynhildr owned
vasa langt af því
was-not long from that
heldr válítit,
rather a-little-while
unz þær vélar
until those guiles
vissi allar.
(she)-knew all

18 Þess lét hón harðar
For-that let she hard
hefndir verða,
vengeances be
svát öll höfum
so-that all (we)-have
œrnar raunir;
ample trials
þat mun á hölða
that will among men
hvert land fara,
every land go
es hón lét sveltask
when she let herself-die
at Sigurði.
with Sigurðr

19 En Gunnari
But Gunnarr
gatk at unna,
came-I to love
bauga deili,
of-rings (the)-dealer
sem Brynhildr skyldi;
as Brynhildr should

buðu þeir Atla
offered they Atli
bauga rauða
rings red
ok brœðr mínum
and (to)-brother my
bœtr ósmáar.
payments not-small

Bauð enn við mér
Offered still for me
bú fimtían,
farms fifteen
hliðfarm Grana,
(the)-side-load of-Grani
ef hafa vildi;
if (he)-have would
en Atli kvazk
but Atli said-he
eigi vilja
not wish
mund aldrigi
(the)-bride-price never
at megi Gjúka.
from (the)-son of-Gjúki

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

21 Þeygi vit máttum
Not-at-all we-two could
við munum vinna
against love prevail
nema ek helt höfði
except I held (my)-head
við hringbrota;
against (the)-ring-breaker
mæltu margir
said many
mínir niðjar,
my kinsmen
kóðusk okr hafa
said-(they) us-two to-have
orðit bæði.
been both-(together)

En mik Atli kvað 22
But me Atli said
eigi mundu
not would
lýti ráða
shame counsel
né löst gera,
nor fault do
en slíks skyli
but such should
synja aldri
deny never
maðr fyr annan,
a-man for another
þars munúð deilir.
where love deals

Sendi Atli 23
Sent Atli
áru sína
messengers his
of myrkvan við
through (the)-dark wood
mín at freista,
me to test
ok þeir kómu,
and they came
þars koma né skyldut,
where come not (they)-should-not

þás breiddum vit
when spread we-two
blæju eina.
cover one

24 Buðum vit þegnum
Offered we-two (the)-thanes
bauga rauða,
rings red
at eigi til
that not to
Atla segði,
(to)-Atli tell
en þeir hvatliga
but they swiftly
heim skunduðu
home hastened
ok óliga
and at-once
Atla sögðu.
(to)-Atli told

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

25

En Goðrúnu
But (from)-Goðrún
görla leyndu
fully (they)-hid-(it)
þvís heldr vita
which rather know
halfu skyldi.
by-half (she)-should

26

Hlymr vas at heyra
A-clatter was to hear
hófgollinna,
of-(the)-gold-hoofed-ones
þás í garð riðu
when into (the)-court rode
Gjúka arfar,
Gjúki's heirs
þeir ór Högna
they out-of Högni
hjarta skáru,
(the)-heart cut

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

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

Namk at heyra 28
Began-I to hear
ór Hléseyju,
out-of Hlésey
hvé þar af stríðum
how there from strains
strengir mæltu;
(the)-strings spoke
baðk ambáttir
bade-I (the)-bondwomen
búnar verða,
ready be
vildak fylkis
wished-I (the)-king's
fjörvi bjarga.
life save

29–32 · ODDRÚN'S LAMENT

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

Létum fljóta 29
(We)-let float
far sund yfir,
(the)-ship (the)-sound over

unz alla sák
until all saw-I
Atla garða.
Atli's courts

30 Þá kom en arma
Then came the wretched
út skævandi
out striding
móðir Atla,
(the)-mother of-Atli
hón morna skyli,
she rot should
ok Gunnari
and (in)-Gunnarr
gróf til hjarta,
dug to (the)-heart
svát máttigak
so-that could-I-not
mærum bjarga.
(the)-famous-one save

31 Opt undrumk þat,
Often wonder-I (at)-that
hví eptir mák,
why after-(him) may-I
linnvengis Bil,
(the)-serpent-bed's Bil

lífi halda,
life hold
es ógnhvötum
when (the)-terror-bold
unna þóttumk
love seemed-I
sverða deili
of-swords (the)-dealer
sem sjalfri mér.
as self me

Satt ok hlýddir 32
Satest-thou and listenedst
meðan sagðak þér
while told-I thee
mörg ill of sköp
many ill — fates
mín ok þeira;
mine and theirs
maðr hverr lifir
man every lives
at munum sínum;
by desires his
nú 's of genginn
now is — ended
grátr Oddrúnar.
(the)-weeping of-Oddrún

Atlakviða

The Lay of Atli

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

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

Atli ár sendi 1
Atli early sent
segg til Gunnars
a-man to Gunnarr
kunnan at ríða,
known to ride
Knéfrøðr vas heitinn;
Knéfrøðr was called

at görðum kom Gjúka
to (the)-courts came of-Gjúki
ok at Gunnars höllu,
and to Gunnarr's hall
bekkjum aringreypum
benches hearth-encircling
ok at bjóri svásum.
and to beer sweet

2 Drukku dróttmegir,
Drank (the)-host-men
en dyljendr þögðu,
but (the)-concealers were-silent
vín í valhöllu,
wine in (the)-foreign-hall
vreiði sáusk Húna;
(the)-wrath feared of-(the)-Huns
kallaði Knéfrøðr
called Knéfrøðr
kaldri röddu,
(with)-cold voice
seggr enn suðrœni,
(the)-man the southern
sat á bekk háum.
sat on (the)-bench high

Atli mik sendi 3
Atli me sent
ríða ørendi
(to)-ride (on)-an-errand
mari enum mélgreypa,
(on)-(the)-mare the bit-champing
myrkvið ókunnan
(through)-Myrkviðr unknown
at biðja yðr Gunnarr,
to ask you Gunnarr
at á bekk kœmið
that to (the)-bench (ye)-come
með hjalmum aringreypum,
with helmets hearth-encircling
at sœkja heim Atla.
to visit at-home Atli

Skjöldu kneguð velja 4
Shields can-ye choose
ok skafna aska,
and planed ash-spears
hjalma gollroðna
helmets gold-reddened
ok Húna mengi,
and of-Huns a-host
silfrgylt söðulklæði,
silver-gilt saddle-cloths
serki valrauða,
shirts slaughter-red

dafar darraðar,
(the)-spears of-(the)-dart
drösla mélgreypa.
steeds bit-champing

5–7 · GUNNARR'S WEALTH

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

5 Völl lézk ok mundu gefa
(The)-plain said-he also would give
víðrar Gnitaheiðar
of-(the)-wide Gnitaheiðr
með geiri gjallanda
with (the)-spear resounding
ok gyltum stöfnum,
and gilded prows
stórar meiðmar
great treasures
ok staði Danpar,
and (the)-steads of-Danpr

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

Höfði vatt Gunnarr, 6
(His)-head turned Gunnarr
ok Högna til sagði:
and Högni to said
»hvat ræðr okr seggr enn œri
what counselest (to)-us-two man the younger
alls vit slíkt heyrum?
since we-two such hear
goll vissak ekki
gold knew-I not
á Gnitaheiði
on Gnitaheiðr
þats vit ættima
which we-two had-not
annat jafnmikit.
other as-great

Sjau eigum salhús, 7
Seven have-we hall-houses
sverða full eru;
of-swords full are

(hverju eru þeira
of-each are of-them
hjölt ór golli).
(the)-hilts out-of gold
minn veitk mar baztan,
my know-I steed best
mæki hvassastan,
blade keenest
(boga bekksœma
bows bench-befitting
en brynjur ór golli),
and mail-coats out-of gold
hjalm ok skjöld hvítastan
helmet and shield whitest
kominn ór höll Kíars,
come out-of (the)-hall of-Kíarr
einn es minn betri
one is mine better
an sé allra Húna.
than be of-all (the)-Huns

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

H. KV. Hvat hyggr brúði bendu, 8
What thinkest-(thou) (the)-bride (to)-signal
þás okr baug sendi
when (to)-us-two a-ring (she)-sent
varinn ulfs váðum;
wrapped (in)-a-wolf's clothing
hygg at vörnuð byði;
think-I that warning (she)-offered
hár fank heiðingja
a-hair found-I of-(the)-heath-dweller
riðit í hring rauðum,
twisted in (the)-ring red
ylfskr es vegr okkarr
wolfish is way our-two
at ríða ørendi.
to ride (on)-(the)-errand

9 Niðjargi hvöttu
Kinsmen-not urged
né náungr annarr,
nor neighbor other
rýnendr né ráðendr,
counselors nor advisers
né þeirs ríkir váru.
nor those-who mighty were

10 Kvaddi þá Gunnarr
Spoke then Gunnarr
sem konungr skyldi,
as a-king should
mærr í mjöðranni,
famous in (the)-mead-house
af móði stórum:
from mood great
»rís þú nú Fjörnir,
rise thou now Fjörnir
lát á flet vaða
let over (the)-floor wade
greppa gollskálir
of-men gold-cups
með gumna höndum.
with (the)-men's hands

Ulfar munu ráða 11
Wolves will rule
arfi Niflunga
(the)-inheritance of-(the)-Niflungar
gamlir gránvarðir,
old gray-garbed
ef Gunnars missir,
if Gunnarr (they)-lose
birnir blakkfjallir
bears black-furred
bíta þreftönnum,
bite with-quarrel-teeth
gamna greystóði,
gladden (the)-stud-of-bitches
ef Gunnarr né kemrat.«
if Gunnarr not comes-not

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

12 Leiddu landrögni
Led (the)-land-ruler
lýðar óneisir
people unblemished
grátendr gunnhvata
weeping (the)-battle-bold-one
ór garði ok Högna.
out-of (the)-court and Högni
Þá kvað enn œri
Then said the younger
erfivörðr Högna:
heir of-Högni
heilir farið ok horskir,
hale go-ye and wise
hvars ykr hugr teygir.
wherever you-two (the)-mind draws

Fetum létu frœknir 13
With-strides let (the)-bold-ones
of fjöll at þyrja
over (the)-mountains to dash
mari mélgreypa
(the)-mares bit-champing
myrkvið ókunnan,
(through)-Myrkviðr unknown
hristisk öll Húnmörk,
shook-itself all Húnmörk
þars harðmóðgir fóru,
where (the)-hard-minded went
ráku vandstyggva
drove (the)-goad-shy-ones
völlu algrœna.
(over)-plains all-green

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

með geiri gjallanda
with (the)-spear resounding
at vekja gram hildi).
to wake (the)-prince (to)-battle

Systir fann þeira
(The)-sister found of-them
snemst at í sal kómu
soonest as into (the)-hall (they)-came
brœðr hennar báðir,
brothers her both
bjóri vas lítt drukkin;
(with)-beer was little drunk
»ráðinn est Gunnarr;
betrayed art-thou Gunnarr
hvat munt ríkr vinna
what wilt-(thou) mighty do
við Húna harmbrögðum?
against (the)-Huns' harm-tricks
höll gakk ór snimma.
(the)-hall go out-of early

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

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

G. KV. Seinat es nú systir 17
Too-late is now sister
at samna Niflungum;
to gather (the)-Niflungar
langt es at leita
long is to seek
lýða sinnis til
of-people a-following to
of rosmufjöll Rínar,
over (the)-misty-mountains of-(the)-Rhine
rekka óneissa.
of-warriors unblemished

Fengu þeir Gunnar 18
Caught they Gunnarr
ok í fjötur settu
and in fetter set
vin Borgunda
(the)-friend of-(the)-Burgundians
ok bundu fastla.
and bound (him)-fast

19 Sjau hjó Högni
Seven hewed Högni
sverði hvössu
with-sword keen
en enum átta
but the eighth
hratt í eld heitan;
thrust into fire hot
(svá skal frœkn
so shall (the)-bold
fjándum verjask
(from)-foes defend-himself
Högni varði hendr).
Högni defended (his)-hands

20 *** Gunnars;
(lacuna) Gunnarr's
frágu frœknan
asked-(they) (the)-bold-one
ef fjör vildi
if life (he)-would
gotna þjóðann
of-(the)-Goths (the)-prince
golli kaupa.
with-gold buy

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

G. KV. 21

Hjarta skal mér Högna
(The)-heart shall (for)-me of-Högni

í hendi liggja
in (the)-hand lie

blóðugt ór brjósti
bloody out-of (the)-breast

skorit baldriða,
cut (from)-(the)-hero

saxi slíðrbeittu
with-a-knife sheath-keen

(syni þjóðans) ∗∗∗.
(from)-(the)-son of-(the)-king (lacuna)

22 Skáru þeir hjarta
Cut they (the)-heart
Hjalla ór brjósti
of-Hjalli out-of (the)-breast
blóðugt á bjóð lögðu
bloody on a-platter laid
ok báru fyr Gunnar.
and bore-(it) before Gunnarr

23 (Þá kvað þat Gunnarr,
Then said that Gunnarr
gumna dróttinn):
of-men (the)-lord
Hér hefk hjarta
Here have-I (the)-heart
Hjalla ens blauða
of-Hjalli the cowardly
óglíkt hjarta
unlike (the)-heart
Högna ens frœkna,
of-Högni the bold
es mjök bifask,
which much trembles
es á bjóði liggr;
which on (the)-platter lies
bifðisk halfu meir,
trembled by-half more
es í brjósti lá.
when in (the)-breast (it)-lay

Hló þá Högni, 24
Laughed then Högni
es til hjarta skáru
when to (the)-heart (they)-cut
kvikvan kumbla meið,
(the)-living (of)-wounds (the)-tree
kløkkva síz hugði;
to-whimper least thought
blóðugt á bjóð lögðu
bloody on (the)-platter laid
ok báru fyr Gunnar.
and bore-(it) before Gunnarr

25–29 · THE RHINE'S GOLD

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

(Mærr kvað þat Gunnarr 25
Famous said that Gunnarr
geirniflungr:)
(the)-spear-Niflung

Hér hefk hjarta
Here have-I (the)-heart
Högna ens frœkna
of-Högni the bold
óglíkt hjarta
unlike (the)-heart
Hjalla ens blauða;
of-Hjalli the cowardly
es lítt bifask,
which little trembles
es á bjóði liggr;
which on (the)-platter lies
bifðisk svági mjök,
trembled not-so much
þás í brjósti lá.
when in (the)-breast (it)-lay

26 Svá skalt Atli
So shalt-(thou) Atli
augum fjarri
(from)-eyes far
sem munt
as wilt-(thou)
menjum verða;
(from)-treasures be

es und einum mér
since under one me
öll of folgin
all — hidden
hodd Niflunga,
(the)-hoard of-(the)-Niflungar
lifira nú Högni.
lives-not now Högni

Ey vas mér týja, 27
Ever was (to)-me doubt
meðan tveir lifðum,
while two (we)-lived
nú es mér engi,
now is (to)-me none
es einn lifik.
since alone live-I

Rín skal ráða 28
(The)-Rhine shall rule
rógmalmi skatna,
(the)-strife-metal of-men
svinn áskunna,
(the)-swift (the)-god-descended
arfi Niflunga,
inheritance of-(the)-Niflungar

í veltanda vatni
in (the)-rolling water
lýsask valbaugar,
gleam (the)-slaughter-rings
heldr an á höndum goll
rather than on hands gold
skíni Húna börnum.
(should)-shine (for)-(the)-Huns' children

29 Ýkvið hvélvögnum,
Drive-ye (the)-wheel-wagons
haptr es nú í böndum.
(the)-captive is now in bonds

30–34 · GUNNARR IN THE SERPENT-YARD

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

30 Atli enn ríki
Atli the mighty
reið glaumi mönum,
rode (with)-din (with)-manes

sleginn rógþornum,
set-about with-strife-thorns
sifjungr þeira ∗∗∗
kinsman their (lacuna)
Goðrún ∗∗∗
Goðrún (lacuna)
varnaði við tárum,
refrained from tears
vaðin í þyshöllu.
waded into (the)-tumult-hall

»Svá gangi þér Atli 31
So go-(it) (with)-thee Atli
sem við Gunnar áttir
as with Gunnarr (thou)-hadst
eiða opt svarða
oaths often sworn
ok ár of nefnda
and early — named
at sól enni suðrhöllu
by (the)-sun the south-bending
ok at Sigtýs bergi,
and by Sigtýr's rock
hölkvi hvílbeðjar
(the)-steed of-(the)-rest-bed
ok at hringi Ullar.
and by (the)-ring of-Ullr

(ok meir þaðan
and more thence
menvörð bituls
(the)-necklace-guardian of-(the)-bit
dolgrögni dró
(the)-strife-ruler drew
til dauðs skokr).
to death (the)-steed

32 Lifanda gram
(The)-living prince
lagði í garð,
laid into (the)-yard
þanns skriðinn vas,
which crawled-over was
skatna mengi,
(of)-men (the)-host
innan ormum,
within with-serpents
en einn Gunnarr
but alone Gunnarr
heiptmóðr hörpu
wrath-minded (the)-harp
hendi kníði;
(with)-hand struck
(glumðu strengir,
resounded (the)-strings

svá golli skal
so gold shall
frœkn hringdrifi
a-bold ring-scatterer
við fira halda).
against men keep

Atli lét rinna 33
Atli let run
lands síns á vit
(of)-land his to visit
jó eyrskáan
(the)-steed gravel-shoeing
aptr frá morði;
back from (the)-murder
dynr vas í garði,
din was in (the)-yard
dröslum of þrungit,
with-horses — thronged
vápnsöngr virða,
(the)-weapon-song of-men
váru af heiði komnir.
were from (the)-heath come

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

35–39 · GOÐRÚN'S REVENGE

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

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

þás í höll saman
when in (the)-hall together
Húnar of tölðusk,
(the)-Huns — counted-themselves
gumar gransíðir
men long-bearded
gengu inn hvatir.
went in bold

Skævaði en skírleita 36
Strode the bright-faced
* * *
(lacuna)
veigar þeim at bera,
drinks (to)-them to bear
afkár dís jöfrum
(the)-terrible lady (to)-(the)-princes
ok ölkrásir valði
and ale-dainties chose
nauðug neffölum,
unwilling (for)-(the)-pale-nosed
en níð sagði Atla.
and insult told (to)-Atli

Sona hefr þinna, 37
Of-(the)-sons hast-(thou) thy
sverða deilir,
of-swords (the)-dealer

hjörtu hrædreyrug
hearts corpse-bloody
við hunang of tuggin,
with honey — chewed
melta knátt móðugr,
digest canst-(thou) proud-one
manna valbráðir
(of)-men (the)-slaughter-meat
eta at ölkrásum
eat at ale-feasts
ok ór öndugi at senda.
and out-of (the)-high-seat to send

38 Kallara síðan
Callest-not afterward
til knéa þinna
to knees thy
Erp né Eitil
Erpr nor Eitill
ölreifa tváa;
ale-merry two
séra þú síðan
seest-not thou afterward
í seti miðju
in (the)-seat's middle
golls miðlendr
of-gold (the)-dealers
geira skepta.
spears shafting

(manar meita
manes clipping
né mara keyra).
nor mares driving

Ymr varð á bekkjum, 39
Din came on (the)-benches
afkárr söngr virða,
terrible song of-men
gnýr und goðvefjum,
noise under (the)-costly-hangings
grétu börn Húna,
wept (the)-children of-(the)-Huns
nema ein Goðrún,
except alone Goðrún
es æva grét
who never wept
brœðr sína berharða
(for)-brothers her bear-hardy
ok buri svása.
and sons dear
(unga ófróða,
young unwise
þás við Atla gat).
which with Atli (she)-got

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

40 Golli søri Goðrún,
(With)-gold sowed Goðrún
en gaglbjarta,
the gosling-bright
hringum rauðum
(with)-rings red
reifði húskarla;
(she)-gladdened (the)-house-carls
sköp lét hón vaxa,
fates let she grow
en skíran malm vaða,
and bright metal wade
æva fljóð ekki
never (the)-woman at-all
gáði fjarghúsa.
heeded (the)-temples

Óvarr hafði Atli 41
Unwary had Atli
óðan sik drukkit,
senseless himself drunk
vápn hafði ekki,
weapon had-(he) not
varnaðit við Goðrúnu;
(he)-guarded-not against Goðrún
opt vas leikr betri,
often was (the)-play better
þás þau lint skyldu
when they gently should
optar umb faðmask,
oftener around embrace
fyr öðlingum.
before princes

Hón beði broddi 42
She (the)-bed with-a-point
gaf blóð at drekka
gave blood to drink
hendi helfússi
with-hand hel-eager
ok hvelpa leysti,
and (the)-whelps loosed
hratt fyr hallar dyrr,
thrust before (the)-hall's door

ok húskarla vakði
and (the)-house-carls woke
brandi brúðr heitum;
(with)-brand (the)-bride hot
þau lét brœðra gjöld.
those let (as)-brothers' payment

43 Eldi gaf alla,
(To)-fire gave-(she) all
þás inni váru
who inside were
ok frá morði Gunnars
and from (the)-murder of-Gunnarr
kómu ór myrkviði,
came out-of Myrkviðr
forn timbr fellu,
old timbers fell
fjarghús of ruku,
(the)-temples — smoked
bœr brann Buðlunga,
(the)-dwelling burned of-(the)-Buðlungar
brunnu ok skjaldmeyjar.
burned also (the)-shield-maids
(inni aldrstamar
inside life-checked
hnigu í eld heitan).
sank into fire hot

Fullrœtt 's of þetta, 44
Fully-told is of this
ferr engi svá síðan
goes no-one so afterward
brúðr í brynju
bride in mail-coat
brœðra at hefna;
brothers to avenge
hón hefr þriggja
she has of-three
þjóðkonunga
great-kings
banorð borit
(the)-death-word borne
björt áðr sylti.
bright before (she)-died

Enn segir gløggra í Atlamálum enum grœnlenzkum.
Yet tells more-clearly in (the)-Atlamál the Greenlandic

Atlamál en grœnlenzku

The Greenlandic Lay of Atli

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

Frétt hefr öld óvu, 1
Heard has (the)-folk (the)-strife
þás endr of gerðu
that of-old — made
seggir samkundu,
men a-meeting
sú vas nýt fæstum,
that was useful to-fewest
œxtu einmæli,
increased secret-talk
yggt vas þeim síðan
grim was (for)-them afterward
ok et sama sonum Gjúka,
and the same (for)-(the)-sons of-Gjúki
es váru sannráðnir.
who were truly-betrayed

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

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

skyldu of sæ sigla,
should-they over (the)-sea sail
en sjalf né komskat.
but herself not could-come-not

Rúnar nam at rísta, 4
Runes began-she to carve
rengði þær Vingi,
twisted them Vingi
fárs vas flýtandi,
of-harm was (he)-a-hastener
áðr hann fram seldi;
before he forth gave-(them)
fóru þá síðan
went then afterward
sendimenn Atla
(the)-messengers of-Atli
fjörð Lima yfir,
(the)-fjord of-Limi over
þars frœknir bjoggu.
where (the)-bold dwelt

Ölværir urðu 5
Ale-merry became-they
ok elda kyndu;
and fires kindled
hugðu vætr véla,
thought-they naught (of)-guile

es váru komnir;
when (they)-were come
tóku þeir fórnir,
took they (the)-gifts
es þeim fríðr sendi,
which (to)-them (the)-fair-one sent
hengðu á súlu,
hung-(them) on a-pillar
hugðut þat varða.
thought-not that (to)-matter

6–10 · KOSTBERA READS THE RUNES

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

6 Kom þá Kostbera,
Came then Kostbera
kvæn vas hón Högna,
wife was she Högni's
kona kapps gálig,
a-woman exceedingly glad
ok kvaddi þá báða,
and greeted them both

glöð vas ok Glaumvör,
glad was also Glaumvör
es Gunnarr átti,
whom Gunnarr had
fellskat saðr sviðri,
failed-not (the)-true wise-one
sýsti of þörf gesta.
attended about (the)-need of-(the)-guests

Buðu heim Högna, 7
Bade-(they) home Högni
ef þá heldr fœri,
whether they rather would-fare
sýn vas svipvísi,
plain was (the)-treachery
ef þeir sín gæði;
if they (for)-themselves took-heed
hét þá för Gunnarr,
promised then (the)-journey Gunnarr
ef Högni vildi,
if Högni would
Högni því níttit,
Högni it refused-not
es hinn of réði.
when the-other — decided

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

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

Sæing fóru síðan 10
(To)-bed went afterward
sína þau Högni;
their (she)-and Högni
dreymði dróttláta,
dreamed (the)-noble-lady
dulði þess vætki;
hid-(she) of-that naught
sagði horsk hilmi,
told (the)-wise-one (the)-prince
þegars hón réð vakna.
as-soon-as she did wake

11–15 · KOSTBERA'S WARNING

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

KB. KV. Heiman gerisk Högni, 11
From-home makest-(thou)-ready Högni
hygg þú at ráðum,
heed thou to counsels
fár es fullrýninn,
few-a-man is fully-rune-wise

far þú í sinn annat,
fare thou in time another
réð ek þær rúnar,
read I those runes
es reist þín systir,
which carved thy sister
björt hefr þér eigi
(the)-bright-one has thee not
boðit í sinn þetta.
bidden in time this

12 Eitt ek mest undrumk,
One-thing I most wonder-at
mákat enn hyggja,
may-I-not yet conceive
hvat þá varð vitri,
what then befell (the)-wise-one
es skyldi vilt rísta;
that (she)-should wrongly carve
svá vas á vísat
so was thereon shown
sem undir væri
as-if beneath were
bani ykkarr beggja,
(the)-bane of-you-two both
ef bráðla kœmið.
if soon (you-two)-came

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

HÖ. KV. Allar ro illúðgar, 13
All are ill-minded
ákka þar kynni,
have-I-not thereof knowledge
vilka þess leita,
will-I-not of-it seek
nema launa eigim,
unless repay (we)-must
okr mun gramr golli
(to)-us-two will (the)-prince (with)-gold
reifa glóðrauðu;
give-joy ember-red
óumk ek aldrigi,
dread-I I never
þótt vér ógn fregnim.
though we terror hear-of

KB. KV. Stopalt munuð ganga, 14
Stumbling will-ye walk
ef it stundið þangat,
if you-two hasten thither

ykr mun ástkynni
(to)-you-two will kindly-welcome
eigi í sinn þetta;
not in time this
dreymði mik Högni,
dreamed me Högni
dyljumk þat eigi;
hide-I that not
ganga mun ykr andæris,
go will (for)-you-two against-the-wind
eða ella hræðumk.
or else fear-I

15 Blæju hugðak þína
(The)-coverlet thought-I thy
brinna í eldi,
burn in (the)-fire
hryti hár logi
leapt a-high flame
hús mín í gögnum.
(the)-house mine in through
HÖ. KV. Liggja hér línklæði,
Lie here linen-clothes
þaus ér lítt rœkið;
which ye little heed
þau munu brátt brinna,
they will soon burn
þars þú blæju sátt.
where thou (the)-coverlet sawest

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

KB. KV. Björn hugðak inn kominn, 16
A-bear thought-I in come
bryti upp stokka,
broke-(it) up (the)-planks
hristi svá hramma,
shook-(it) so (its)-paws
at vér hrædd yrðim,
that we afraid became
munn oss mörg hefði,
(in)-(its)-mouth us many had-(it)
svát vér mættim ekki,
so-that we could naught
þar vas ok þrömmun
there was also tramping
þeygi svá lítil.
not-at-all so little

17 HÖ. KV. Veðr mun þar vaxa,
A-storm will there wax
verða ótt snimma,
become fierce early
hvítabjörn hugðir,
a-white-bear thoughtest-(thou)
þar mun hregg austan.
there will-(be) a-squall from-the-east

18 KB. KV. Örn hugðak inn fljúga
An-eagle thought-I in fly
at endlöngu húsi,
along (the)-whole house
þat mun oss drjúgt deilask,
that will (to)-us sorely be-dealt
dreifði oss öll blóði;
sprinkled-(it) us all (with)-blood
hugðak af heitum
thought-I from (the)-threats
at væri hamr Atla.
that (it)-were (the)-shape of-Atli

19 HÖ. KV. Slátrum sýsliga,
Slaughter-(we) promptly
séum þá roðru,
see-(we) then (the)-gore
opt 's þat fyr øxnum,
often is that for oxen

es örnu dreymir;
when (of)-eagles (one)-dreams
heill es hugr Atla,
hale is (the)-mind of-Atli
hvatki 's þik dreymir. —
whatever that thee dreams
Lokit því létu,
Ended it let-(they)
líðr hver rœða.
passes every speech

Vöknuðu vel borin, 20
Woke-(they) well born
vas þar sams dœmi,
was there of-(the)-same (the)-case
gættisk þess Glaumvör,
was-aware of-that Glaumvör
at væri grand svefna
that (there)-were harm (in)-sleeps
∗∗∗ við Gunnar
(lacuna) with Gunnarr
at fáa tvær leiðir.
to take two ways

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

21 GL. KV. Görvan hugðak þér galga,
Made-ready thought-I (for)-thee a-gallows
gengir at hanga,
wentest-(thou) to hang
æti þik ormar
ate thee serpents
yrðak þik kvikvan;
buried-I thee alive
gerðisk rök ragna,
befell (the)-doom of-(the)-powers
ráð hvat þat væri.
read what that were

22 ***
(lacuna)

Blóðgan hugðak mæki 23
Bloody thought-I a-sword
borinn ór serk þínum;
drawn out-of (the)-shirt thine
ilt es svefn slíkan
ill is a-dream such
segja nauðmanni.
to-tell (to)-a-husband

Geir hugðak standa 24
A-spear thought-I to-stand
í gögnum þik miðjan,
in through thee (the)-middle
emjuðu ulfar
howled wolves
á endum báðum.
at ends both
G. KV. Rakkar þar rinna,
Hounds there run
ráðask mjök geyja;
set-about greatly to-bark
opt verðr glaumr hunda
often is (the)-baying of-hounds
fyr geira flaugun.
before of-spears (the)-flight

25 GL. KV. Á hugðak inn rinna
A-river thought-I in run
at endlöngu húsi,
along (the)-whole house
þyti af þjósti,
roared-(it) with fury
þeystisk of bekki,
rushed over (the)-benches
bryti fœtr ykra
broke-(it) (the)-feet of-you-two
brœðra hér tveggja,
(of)-brothers here two
gerðit vatn vægja;
did-not (the)-water yield
vesa mun þat fyr nøkkvi.
be will that for something

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

G. KV. *** 26

(lacuna)

GL. KV. Konur hugðak dauðar 27

Women thought-I dead

koma í nótt hingat,

come in (the)-night hither

væri vart búnar,

were-(they) scarcely clad

vildi þik kjósa,

would-(they) thee choose

byði þér bráðliga

bade-(they) thee quickly

til bekkja sinna;

to benches their

ek kveð aflima

I say powerless

orðnar þér dísir.

become thy dísir

28 G. KV. Seinat 's at segja,
Too-late is to speak
svá es nú ráðit;
so is now decided
forðumka för þó,
shun-we-not (the)-journey yet
alls þó 's fara ætlat;
since yet is to-fare intended
mart 's mjök glíkligt,
much is very likely
at mynim skammæir.
that (we)-may-be short-lived

29–33 · THE DEPARTURE

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

29 Litu es lýsti,
Looked-(they) when (it)-dawned
létusk þeir fúsir
declared-themselves they eager
allir upp rísa,
all up to-rise

önnur þau löttu,
(the)-others they held-back
fóru fimm saman,
fared five together
fleiri til váru
more besides were
halfu húskarlar,
by-half housecarls
hugat vas því illa.
thought-out was it ill

Snævarr ok Sólarr,
Snævarr and Sólarr
synir váru Högna,
sons were Högni's
Orkning þann hétu,
Orkningr him called-(they)
es þeim enn fylgði,
who them also followed
(blíðr vas börr skjaldar
blithe was (the)-tree of-(the)-shield
bróðir hans kvánar)
(the)-brother his wife's
fóru fagrbúnar,
fared (the)-fair-clad
unz þau fjörðr skilði,
until them (the)-fjord parted

löttu ofvalt ljósar;
held-back constantly (the)-bright-ones
létuat heldr segjask.
let-not rather (themselves)-be-told

31 Glaumvör kvað at orði,
Glaumvör said in words
es Gunnarr átti,
whom Gunnarr had
mælti við Vinga,
spoke to Vingi
sem henni vert þótti:
as (to)-her fitting seemed
veitka hvárt verð launið
know-I-not whether worthily (ye)-repay
at vilja ossum;
according-to wish ours
glœpr 's gests kváma,
a-crime is a-guest's coming
ef í gerisk nakkvat.
if in-(it) happens anything

32 Sór þá eið Vingi,
Swore then an-oath Vingi
sér réð lítt eira:
himself did little spare
»eigi hann jötnar,
have him (the)-giants

ef at yðr lygi,
if to you (he)-lied
galgi görvallan,
(the)-gallows entire
ef á grið hygði.«
if against (the)-truce (he)-plotted

Bera kvað at orði, 33
Bera said in words
blíð í hug sínum:
blithe in mind her
siglið ér sælir
sail ye happy
ok sigr of árnið;
and victory — win
fari sem fyr mælik;
fare-(it) as forth speak-I
fæst eigi því níta.
fewest not that deny

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

34 Högni svaraði,
Högni answered
hugði gótt nánum:
meant-(he) good (to)-(his)-near-ones
huggizk it horskar,
comfort-yourselves you-two wise-ones
hvégi 's þat gervisk,
however that it befalls
mæla þat margir,
say that many
missir þó stórum,
misses yet greatly
mörgum ræðr lítlu,
(for)-many decides little
hvé verðr leiddr heiman.
how (he)-is led from-home

Sáusk til síðan, 35
Looked-at-each-other thereto afterward
áðr í sundr hyrfi,
before in sunder (they)-turned
þá hygg sköp skiptu,
then think-I (the)-fates shifted
skilðusk vegir þeira.
parted (the)-ways their

Róa námu ríki, 36
To-row began (the)-mighty
rifu kjöl halfan,
ripped-(they) (the)-keel half
beystu bakföllum,
struck-(they) (with)-back-bendings
brugðusk heldr reiðir,
strained-themselves rather angry
hömlur slitnuðu,
(the)-oar-loops snapped
háir brotnuðu,
(the)-tholes broke
gerðut far festa,
made-not-(they) (the)-ship fast
áðr þeir frá hyrfi.
before they from turned

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

38–41 · VINGI SLAIN

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

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

flátt es til sœkja,
treacherous is to approach
brátt hefk ykr brenda,
quickly have-I you-two burned
bragðs skuluð höggnir,
at-once shall-ye (be)-hewn
(fagrt baðk ykr kómu,
fair bade-I you-two coming
flátt vas þó undir)
false was yet beneath
ella heðan bíðið
or-else hence wait
meðan ek høgg yðr galga.
while I hew (for)-you a-gallows

Orð kvað hitt Högni, 39
Word said that Högni
hugði lítt vægja,
meant-(he) little (to)-yield
varr at véttugi,
wary of nothing
es varð at reyna:
which befell to prove
hirða oss hræða,
care-not us (to)-frighten
haf þat fram sjaldan,
bring that forth seldom

ef þú eykr orði,
if thou addest a-word
ilt munt þér lengja.
ill wilt-(thou) (for)-thyself lengthen

40 Hrundu þeir Vinga
Thrust they Vingi
ok í hel drápu,
and into hel struck
øxar at lögðu,
axes at laid
meðan í önd hixti.
while in (his)-breath (he)-gasped

41 Flykðusk þeir Atli
Flocked they Atli
ok fóru í brynjur,
and went into mail-coats
gengu svá görvir,
went so ready
at vas garðr milli;
that was a-fence between
urpusk á orðum
cast-at-each-other in words
allir senn reiðir:
all at-once angry

»fyrr várum fullráða
Before were-we fully-resolved
at firra yðr lífi.«
to deprive you (of)-life

42–45 · GOÐRÚN GREETS HER BROTHERS

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

»Á sér þat illa, 42
On-(you) sees-(one) that ill
ef höfðuð áðr ráðit,
if (ye)-had before resolved
en eruð óbúnir
and (ye)-are unready
ok höfum einn feldan,
and (we)-have one felled
lamðan til heljar,
beaten to hel
liðs vas sá yðvars.«
of-(the)-host was he yours

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

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

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

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

45

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

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

Sá þá sælborin, 47
Saw then (the)-blessed-born
at þeir sárt léku;
that they sorely played
hugði á harðræði
thought-(she) on a-hard-deed
ok hrauzk ór skikkju,
and flung-herself out-of (her)-cloak
nøkðan tók mæki
naked took-(she) a-sword
ok niðja fjör varði,
and (her)-kinsmen's life defended
hœg vasat hjaldri,
gentle was-not (in)-battle
hvars hón hendr festi.
where she (her)-hands fixed

Dóttir lét Gjúka 48
(The)-daughter made of-Gjúki
drengi tváa hníga,
warriors two fall
bróður hjó Atla,
(the)-brother hewed-(she) of-Atli
bera varð þann síðan;
(be)-carried had that-one afterward
(skapði svá skæru,
shaped-(she) so (the)-fray

skeldi fót undan)
clove (the)-foot from-under
annan réð höggva,
another did-(she) hew
svát sá upp reisat,
so-that he up rose-not
í helju þann hafði,
into hel him had-(she)
þeygi hendr skulfu.
not-at-all (her)-hands shook

49 Þjörku þar gerðu,
A-fray there made-(they)
þeiri vas við brugðit,
that was at marveled
þat brá of alt annat,
that surpassed over all other
es unnu börn Gjúka;
which wrought (the)-children of-Gjúki
svá kóðu Hniflunga,
so said-(they) (the)-Hniflungar
meðan sjalfir lifðu,
while (them)-selves lived
skapa sókn sverðum,
make attack (with)-swords
slítask af brynjur.
tear off mail-coats

(höggva svá hjalma
hew so helmets
sem þeim hugr dygði).
as (to)-them (the)-heart availed

50–53 · ATLI'S LOSSES

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

Morgin mest vágu, 50
(The)-morning most fought-(they)
unz miðjan dag líddi,
until mid day passed
(óttu alla
(the)-dawn all
ok öndurðan dag)
and (the)-early day
fyrr vas fullvegit,
before was fully-fought
flóði völlr blóði,
flowed (the)-field (with)-blood
átján áðr fellu,
eighteen before fell
øfri þeir urðu,
higher they became

Beru tveim sveinum
Bera's two boys
ok bróður hennar.
and (the)-brother hers

51 Röskr tók at rœða,
(The)-brisk-one began to speak
þótt hann reiðr væri:
though he angry were
ilt es umb lítask,
ill is around to-look
yðr es þat kenna,
(to)-you is that (to)-be-ascribed
várum þrír tigir,
(we)-were three tens
þegnar vígligir,
thanes warlike
eptir lifum ellifu,
remaining live-(we) eleven
ór es þar brunnit.
out is there burned

52 Brœðr vér fimm várum,
Brothers we five were
es Buðla mistum,
when Buðli (we)-lost

hefr nú hel halfa,
has now hel half
en höggnir tveir liggja.
and hewn two lie

Mægð gat ek mikla, 53
A-marriage-kinship got I great
mákak því leyna,
may-I-not that hide
konu váliga,
a-woman baleful
knáka þess njóta;
can-I-not of-it (have)-joy
hljótt áttum sjaldan
peace had-we seldom
síz komt í hendr ossar,
since camest-(thou) into hands ours
(firðan mik frændum
bereft me (of)-kinsmen
féi opt svikinn)
(of)-wealth often cheated
senduð systr helju,
sent-ye (my)-sister (to)-hel
slíks ek mest kennumk.
(of)-such I most am-aware

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

54 G. KV. Getr þú þess Atli,
Speakest thou of-that Atli
gerðir svá fyrri,
didst-(thou) so before
móður tókt mína
(the)-mother tookest-(thou) mine
ok myrðir til hnossa,
and murderedst for treasures
svinna systrungu
(the)-wise cousin
sveltir í helli,
starvedst-(thou) in a-cave
hlœgligt mér þat þykkir,
laughable (to)-me that seems
es þinn harm tínir.
that thy grief (thou)-recountest
(goðum ek þat þakka,
(the)-gods I (for)-that thank
es þér gengsk illa).
that (for)-thee (it)-goes ill

A. KV. Eggjak yðr, jarlar, 55
Urge-I you earls
auka harm stóran
(to)-increase grief great
vífs ens vegliga,
(of)-(the)-woman the proud
viljak þat líta,
will-I that see
kostið svá keppa
strive-ye so (to)-contend
at kløkkvi Goðrún,
that may-weep Goðrún
séa þat mættak,
see that might-I
at hón sér né ynðit.
that she (in)-herself not rejoiced-not

Takið ér Högna 56
Take ye Högni
ok hyldið með knífi,
and flay with a-knife
skerið ór hjarta,
cut out (the)-heart
skuluð þess görvir,
shall-ye (for)-that (be)-ready
Gunnar grimmúðgan
Gunnarr grim-minded
á galga festið,
on (the)-gallows fasten

bellið því bragði,
venture that deed
bjóðið til ormum.
offer to (the)-serpents

57 H. KV. Ger sem til lystir,
Do as thereto (thee)-pleases
glaðr munk þess bíða,
glad will-I (for)-that wait
röskr munk þér reynask,
brave will-I (to)-thee prove
reynt hefk fyrr brattan,
tried have-I before (the)-steep
höfðuð ér hnekking,
had ye a-check
meðan heilir várum,
while whole (we)-were
nú erum svá sárir,
now (we)-are so wounded
at mátt sjalfr valda.
that mayest-(thou) thyself rule

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

Beiti þat mælti, 58
Beiti that spoke
bryti vas hann Atla:
steward was he Atli's
tökum vér Hjalla,
take we Hjalli
en Högna forðum,
and Högni spare
höggum halfyrkjan,
hew-(we) (the)-half-worker
hann es skapdauði,
he is fated-to-die
lifira svá lengi,
lives-(he)-not so long
löskr mun æ heitinn.
sluggard will-(he) ever (be)-called

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

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

tóm lézk at eiga
time said-himself to have
teðja vel garða,
dung well (the)-yards
vinna et vergasta,
do the lowliest
ef hann við rétti.
if he back recovered
(feginn lézk þó Hjalli
glad called-himself yet Hjalli
at hann fjör þægi).
that he life got

Gættisk þess Högni, 61
Heeded that Högni
gerva svá færi,
do so fewer
at árna ánauðgum,
to plead (for)-(the)-bondman
at undan gengi:
that off (he)-went
»fyr kveðk mér minna
rather say-I (to)-me less
at fremja leik þenna,
to perform game this
hví mynim hér vilja
why should-we here wish
heyra á þá skræktun?«
hear on that shrieking

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

62 Þrifu þjóðgóðan,
Seized-(they) (the)-folk-good-one
þá vas kostr engi
then was choice none
rekkum rakklátum
(for)-warriors bold
ráð enn lengr dvelja;
(the)-deed yet longer (to)-delay
hló þá Högni,
laughed then Högni
heyrðu dagmegir,
heard (the)-sons-of-day
keppa svá kunni,
hold-out so could-(he)
kvöl hann vel þolði.
torment he well bore

Hörpu tók Gunnarr, 63
A-harp took Gunnarr
hrœrði ilkvistum,
stirred-(it) (with)-sole-twigs
sláa hann svá kunni,
strike he so could
at snótir grétu,
that women wept
klukku þeir karlar,
wept those men
es kunnu görst heyra,
who could clearest hear
ríkri ráð sagði,
(to)-(the)-mighty-one counsel told-(he)
raptar sundr brustu.
(the)-rafters asunder burst

Dóu þá dýrir, 64
Died then (the)-noble
dags vas heldr snemma,
(of)-day was-(it) rather early
létu á lesti
let-(they) at (the)-last
lifa íþróttir.
live (their)-prowess

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

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

G. KV. Feginn est Atli, 66
Glad art-(thou) Atli
ferr þú víg lýsa,
farest thou slaying (to)-proclaim
á munu þér iðrar,
on will (to)-thee regrets
ef þú alt reynir;
if thou all provest
sú mun erfð eptir,
that will inheritance after
ek kann þér segja,
I can (to)-thee say
ills gengsk þér aldri
(of)-ill ends (for)-thee never
nema ek ok deyja.
unless I also die

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

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

hrœfðak of hotvetna
bore-I in everything
meðan Högni lifði.
while Högni lived

Alin vit upp várum 69
Reared we-two up were
í einu húsi,
in one house
lékum leik margan
played-(we) game many
ok í lundi óxum,
and in (the)-grove grew
gœddi okr Grímhildr
endowed us-two Grímhildr
golli ok halsmenjum;
(with)-gold and necklaces
bana munt mér brœðra
(the)-slaying wilt-(thou) (to)-me of-(my)-brothers
bœta aldrigi.
make-good never
(né vinna þess ekki
nor do of-that aught
at mér vel þykki).
that (to)-me well (it)-seems

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

70 Kostum drepr kvinna
(The)-lot crushes of-women
karla ofríki,
(of)-men (the)-tyranny
í kné gengr hnefi
into (the)-knee goes (the)-fist
ef kvistir þverra,
if (the)-twigs dwindle
tré tekr at hníga,
(the)-tree begins to sink
ef høggr tág undan;
if (one)-hews (the)-root away
nú mátt einn Atli
now mayest-(thou) alone Atli
öllu hér ráða.
all here govern

Gnótt vas grunnýðgi, 71
Abundance was (of)-credulity
es gramr því trúði,
when (the)-prince that trusted
sýn vas svipvísi,
plain was (the)-treachery
ef hann sín gæði;
if he (for)-himself took-heed
kröpp vas þá Goðrún,
crafty was then Goðrún
kunni of hug mæla,
could against (her)-mind speak
létt hón sér gerði,
cheerful she herself made
lék hón tveimr skjöldum.
played she (with)-two shields

Œxti öldrykkjur 72
Prepared-(she) ale-feasts
at erfa brœðr sína,
to honor brothers her
samr lézk ok Atli
likewise declared-himself also Atli
at sína gerva;
to his do
lokit því létu,
ended that let-(they)
lagat vas drykkju,
prepared was (the)-drinking

sú vas samkunda
that was a-gathering
við svörfun ofmikla.
with tumult over-great

73 Ströng vas stórhuguð,
Stern was (the)-great-minded
stríddi hón ætt Buðla,
harmed she (the)-kin of-Buðli
vildi ver sínum
wished-(she) (on)-husband her
vinna ofrhefndir;
work over-vengeance
lokkaði lítla
lured-(she) (the)-little-ones
ok lagði við stokki,
and laid-(them) against (the)-block
glúpnuðu grimmir
quailed (the)-fierce-ones
ok grétu þeygi.
and wept not-at-all
(fóru í faðm móður,
went into (the)-embrace of-(their)-mother
fréttu hvat þá skyldi).
asked what then should-(be)

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

„Spyrið lítt eptir, 74
Ask little after
spilla ætlak báðum
destroy intend-I both
lyst várumk þess lengi
lust was-(to)-me of-that long
at lyfja ykr elli.“
to cure you-two (of)-age
„Blótt sem vill börnum,
Sacrifice as (thou)-wilt (thy)-children
bannar þat mangi,
forbids that no-one
skömm mun ró reiði,
short will-(be) (the)-rest (from)-wrath
ef reynir görva.“
if (thou)-provest fully

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

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

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

Svaf ek mjök sjaldan 77
Slept I very seldom
síðans þeir fellu,
since-that they fell
hét ek þér hörðu,
vowed I (to)-thee hard-things
hefk þik nú mintan,
have-I thee now reminded
morgin mér sagðir,
(in)-(the)-morning (to)-me (thou)-saidst
mank enn þann görva,
remember-I yet that fully
nú es ok aptann,
now is also evening
átt slíkt at frétta.
hast-(thou) such to learn

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

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

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

sagðak at kalfs væri;
said-I that a-calf's (they)-were
(einn þú því ollir,
alone thou that causedst
ekki rétt leifa,
naught didst-(thou) leave
töggt þú tíðliga
chewedst thou eagerly
trúðir vel jöxlum)
trustedst-(thou) well (thy)-molars
barna veizt þinna,
of-(the)-children knowest-(thou) thy
biðr sér fár verra,
asks (for)-himself few worse
hlut veld ek mínum,
(the)-part wield I mine
hœlumk þó ekki.
boast-I yet not

A. KV. Grimm vast þú Goðrún, 80
Grim wast thou Goðrún
es gera svá máttir,
that do so couldst
barna þinna blóði
of-children thy (the)-blood
at blanda mér drykkju,
to blend (for)-me (the)-drink
snýtt hefr þú sifjungum,
cut-off hast thou (thy)-kin

sem þú sízt skyldir,
as thou least shouldst
mér lætr þú ok sjalfum
(to)-me leavest thou also (my)-self
millum ills lítit.
between of-ills little

81 G. KV. Vili mér enn væri
Will (to)-me yet were
at vega þik sjalfan,
to slay thee (thy)-self
fátt es fullilla
little is full-ill
farit við gram slíkan,
dealt with a-prince such
drýgt þú fyrr hafðir
wrought thou before hadst
þats dœmi vissut
that example knew-(men)-not
heimsku, harðræðis
(of)-folly (of)-harsh-deeds
í heimi þessum.
in world this
(nú hefr þú enn aukit,
now hast thou yet added
þats áðan frágum,
what before (we)-heard

greipt glœp stóran,
gripped a-crime great
gört hefr þitt erfi).
made hast-(thou) thy funeral-feast

82–85 · ATLI SLAIN

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

A. KV. Brend munt á báli 82
Burned wilt-(thou-be) on (the)-pyre
ok barið grjóti áðr,
and beaten (with)-stones before
þá hefr þú árnat,
then hast thou earned
þats þú æ beiddisk.
what thou ever askedst-for
G. KV. Seg þú þér slíkar
Say thou (to)-thyself such
sorgir ár morgin,
sorrows early (in)-(the)-morning

fríðra vilk dauða,
a-fairer will-I death
fara í ljós annat.
fare into light another

83 Sátu samtýnis,
Sat-(they) in-one-place
sendusk fárhugi,
sent-each-other hostility
hendusk heiptyrði,
caught-each-other hate-words
hvártki sér unði;
neither (with)-self was-content
heipt óx Hniflungi,
hate grew (in)-(the)-Hniflung
hugði á stórræði,
thought-(he) on a-great-deed
gat fyr Goðrúnu
told-(he) before Goðrún
at væri grimmr Atla.
that (he)-was grim (toward)-Atli

84 Kómu í hug henni
Came into mind (to)-her
Högna viðfarar,
Högni's treatment
talði happ hánum,
reckoned-(she) luck (for)-him

ef hann hefnt ynni;
if he vengeance wrought
veginn vas þá Atli,
slain was then Atli
vas þess skamt bíða,
was of-that short (to)-wait
sonr vá hann Högna,
(the)-son slew him of-Högni
sjalf olli Goðrún.
herself caused-(it) Goðrún

Röskr tók at rœða, 85
(The)-brisk-one began to speak
rakðisk ór svefni,
roused-himself out-of sleep
kendi brátt benja,
knew soon (the)-wounds
bands kvað þörf enga:
(of)-binding said-(he) need none
»segið et sannasta,
say the truest
hverr vá son Buðla,
who slew (the)-son of-Buðli
emkak lítt leikinn,
am-I-not lightly handled
lífs telk ván enga«.
(of)-life reckon-I hope none

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

86 G. KV. (Dylja munk þik eigi
Hide will-I (from)-thee not
dóttir Grímhildar)
daughter Grímhildr's
Látumk því valda,
Own-I that (to)-cause
es líðr þína ævi,
that ends thy life
en sumu sonr Högna,
and (in)-part (the)-son Högni's
es þik sár mœða.
that thee (the)-wounds weary
A. KV. Vaðit hefr at vígi
Waded hast-(thou) to slaying
þótt værit skapligt,
though (it)-was-not fitting
ilt es vin véla,
ill is a-friend (to)-deceive
þanns þér vel trúir.
who thee well trusts

(beiddr fór ek heiman
bidden went I from-home
at biðja þín, Goðrún).
to ask-for thee Goðrún

Leyfð vast þú ekkja 87
Famed wast thou (as)-widow
létu stórráða
called-(thee) high-minded
varða ván lygi,
was-not (the)-hope a-lie
es vér of reyndum;
which we — proved
fórt þú heim hingat,
camest thou home hither
fylgði oss herr manna,
followed us a-host of-men
alt vas ítarligt
all was splendid
of órar ferðir.
about our journeys

Margs vas alls-sómi 88
Of-much was all-honor
manna tíginna,
(of)-men noble
naut váru œrin,
cattle were ample

nutum af stórum,
used-(we) of-(them) greatly
(þar vas fjölð féar,
there was a-multitude of-wealth
fengu til margir)
got thereof many
mund galt ek mærri
a-bride-price paid I (to)-(the)-famous-one
meiðma fjölð þiggja,
(of)-treasures a-multitude (to)-receive
þræla þría tøgu,
thralls three tens
þýjar sjau góðar.
bondmaids seven good
(sœmd vas at slíku,
honor was in such
silfr vas þó meira).
silver was yet more

89 Lézt þér alt þykkja
Madest-(thou) (to)-thee all seem
sem ekki væri,
as-if naught were
meðan lönd lágu,
while (the)-lands lay
es mér leifði Buðli,
which (to)-me left Buðli
gróft þú svá undir,
diggedst thou so under

gerðit hlut þiggja;
didst-not (thy)-share accept
sværu lézt þína
(thy)-mother-in-law madest-(thou) thy
sitja opt grátna.
sit often weeping
(fanka í hug heilum
found-I-not in heart whole
hjóna vætr síðan).
(of)-(the)-household naught since

90–94 · GOÐRÚN'S REPLY

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

G. KV. Lýgr þú nú, Atli, 90
Liest thou now Atli
þótt þat lítt rekjak;
though that little reckon-I
heldr vask hœg sjaldan,
rather was-I gentle seldom
hófsk þú þó stórum;
boastedst-thyself thou yet greatly

börðuzk ér brœðr ungir,
fought ye brothers young
báruzk róg milli,
bore-among-yourselves strife between
halft gekk til heljar
half went to hel
ór húsi þínu.
out-of house thine
(hroldi hotvetna
crumbled everything
þats til hags skyldi).
that to profit should-(be)

91 Þríu várum systkin,
Three were-(we) siblings
þóttum óvægin,
seemed-(we) unyielding
fórum af landi,
fared-(we) from (the)-land
fylgðum Sigurði,
followed Sigurðr
skæva vér létum,
glide we made
skipi hvert stýrði,
a-ship each steered
örkuðum at auðnu
roamed-(we) by fortune
unz vér austr kómum.
until we east came

Konung drápum fyrstan, 92
(The)-king slew-(we) first
kurum land þaðra,
chose-(we) (the)-land there
hersar oss á hönd gengu,
(the)-lords us into hand went
hrælzlu þat vissi,
(of)-fear that showed
vágum ór skógi
brought-(we) out-of (the)-forest
þanns vildum sýknan,
him-whom (we)-wished guiltless
settum þann sælan,
set-(we) him prosperous
es sér né áttit.
who (for)-himself not owned-not

Dauðr varð enn húnski, 93
Dead became the Hunnish-(king)
drap þá brátt kosti,
struck then quickly (my)-lot
strangt vas angr ungri
hard was (the)-grief (for)-(the)-young-one
ekkju nafn hljóta;
(of)-widow (the)-name (to)-get
kvöl þótti kvikri
torment seemed-(it) (to)-(the)-living-one
at koma í hús Atla,
to come into (the)-house of-Atli

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

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

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

A. KV. Lýgr þú nú Goðrún, 95
Liest thou now Goðrún
lítt mun við bœtask
little will therewith be-bettered
hluti hvárigra,
(the)-lot of-neither
höfum öll skarðan;
have-(we) all impaired
ger þú nú Goðrún
do thou now Goðrún
af gœzku þinni
from goodness thine
okr til ágætis,
(for)-us-two to honor
es mik út hefja.
when me out (they)-carry

96 G. KV. Knörr munk kaupa
A-ship will-I buy
ok kistu steinda,
and a-coffin painted
vexa vel blæju
wax well (the)-shroud
at verja þitt líki,
to wrap thy body
hyggja á þörf hverja
heed on need every
sem vit holl værim.
as-if we-two loyal were

97 Nár varð þá Atli,
A-corpse became then Atli
niðjum stríð œxti,
(for)-(his)-kinsmen grief (he)-increased
efndi ítrborin
performed (the)-nobly-born
alt þats réð heita;
all that (she)-did promise
fróð vildi Goðrún
wise would Goðrún
fara sér at spilla,
go herself to destroy
urðu dvöl dœgra,
were delay of-days
dó hón í sinn annat.
died she in time another

Sæll es hverr síðan, 98
Happy is each afterward
es slíkt getr fœða
who such can beget
jóð at afreki
offspring for great-deeds
sems ól Gjúki;
as begot Gjúki
lifa mun þat eptir
live will that after
á landi hverju
in land every
þeira þrámæli,
their defiance
hvargis þjóð heyrir.
wherever (the)-people hears

Goðrúnarhvöt

Gudrun's Inciting

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

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

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

1 Þá frák sennu
Then learned-I (of)-a-quarrel
slíðrfengligsta,
most-dreadful
trauð mál talið
sorrowful words spoken
af trega stórum,
from grief great
es harðhuguð
when (the)-hard-minded
hvatti at vígi
urged to fight
grimmum orðum
(with)-grim words
Goðrún sonu.
Goðrún (her)-sons

Hví sitið ér? 2
Why sit ye
hví sofið lífi?
why sleep-(ye)-away life
hví tregrat ykr
why irks-(it)-not you-two
teiti at mæla,
cheer to speak
es Jörmunrekkr
when Jörmunrekkr
yðra systur
your sister
unga at aldri
young in age
jóum of traddi.
(with)-horses — trod
(hvítum ok svörtum
white and black
á hervegi
on (the)-war-road
gráum gangtömum
gray gait-tamed
Gotna hrossum).
(of)-(the)-Goths (with)-horses

Urðua it glíkir 3
Became-not you-two like
þeim Gunnari,
that Gunnarr

né in heldr hugðir
nor the more minded
sem Högni vas;
as Högni was
hennar munduð
her would-(you-two)
hefna leita,
avenge seek
ef móð ættið
if spirit (you-two)-had
minna brœðra.
(of)-my brothers
(eða harðan hug
or hard mind
Húnkonunga).
(of)-(the)-Hun-kings

4 Þá kvað þat Hamðir
Then said that Hamðir
enn hugumstóri:
the great-hearted
Lítt myndir þú
Little wouldst thou
leyfa dáð Högna,
praise (the)-deed of-Högni
þás Sigurð vökðu
when Sigurðr (they)-woke
svefni ór,
sleep out-of

bœkr váru þínar
(the)-coverlets were thine
enar bláhvítu
the blue-white
roðnar í vers dreyra
reddened in (the)-husband's blood
folgnar í valblóði.
covered in slaughter-blood

Urðu þér ballra
Were (for)-thee bold
brœðra hefndir
brothers' vengeances
slíðrar ok sárar,
cruel and sore
es sonu myrðir;
when (thy)-sons (thou)-murderedst
knættim allir
could-we all
Jörmunrekki
(on)-Jörmunrekkr
samhyggjendr
of-one-mind
systur hefna.
(our)-sister avenge

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

6 Berið hnossir fram
Bear (the)-treasures forth
Húnkonunga;
of-(the)-Hun-kings
hefr þú okr hvatta
hast thou us-two urged
at hjörþingi.
to (the)-sword-assembly

7 Hlæjandi Goðrún
Laughing Goðrún
hvarf til skemmu,
turned to (the)-bower
kumbl konunga
(the)-war-gear of-kings
ór kerum valði,
out-of chests chose
síðar brynjur,
long mail-coats

ok sonum fœrði;
and (to)-(her)-sons brought
hlóðusk móðgir
leapt (the)-spirited
á mara bógu.
on (of)-horses shoulders

(Þá kvað þat Hamðir 8
Then said that Hamðir
enn hugumstóri):
the great-hearted
Svá kemsk meir aptr
So comes more back
móður at vitja
(his)-mother to visit
geir-Njörðr hniginn
spear-Njörðr fallen
á Goðþjóðu,
among (the)-Goth-people
at þú erfi
that thou (the)-funeral-ale
at öll oss drekkir,
for all us drinkest
at Svanhildi
for Svanhildr
ok sonu þína.
and sons thine

9 Goðrún grátandi
Goðrún weeping
Gjúka dóttir
Gjúki's daughter
gekk tregliga
went sorrowfully
á tái sitja
on (the)-forecourt (to)-sit
ok at telja
and to tell
tárughlýra
tear-cheeked
móðug spjöll
grieving tales
á margan veg.
in many a-way

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

Þría vissak elda, 10
Three knew-I fires
þría vissak arna,
three knew-I hearths
vask þrimr verum
was-I (to)-three husbands
vegin at húsi;
borne to (the)-house
einn vas mér Sigurðr
alone was (to)-me Sigurðr
öllum betri,
(than)-all better
es brœðr mínir
whom brothers mine
at bana urðu.
to (his)-bane became

11 Svárra sára
(Of)-heavier wounds
sákat né kunnu
saw-I-not nor knew
* * *
(lacuna)
meir þóttusk þeir
more thought they
mér of stríða,
me — to-harm
es mik öðlingar
when me (the)-nobles
Atla gáfu.
(to)-Atli gave

12 * * *
(lacuna)
Húna hvassa
(the)-cubs keen
hétk mér at rúnum,
called-I (to)-me to secret-talk
máttigak bölva
could-I-not (for)-harms
bœtr of vinna,
amends — win
áðr hnófk höfuð
before cut-off-I (the)-heads
af Hniflungum.
from (the)-Hniflungar

Gekk ek til strandar, 13
Went I to (the)-strand
gröm vask nornum,
angry was-I (with)-(the)-norns
vildak hrinda
wished-I (to)-thrust-off
†stríð grið þeira,
harsh protection their
hófu mik, né drekðu,
lifted me not drowned
hávar bárur,
high billows
því land of sték,
therefore land — stepped-I
at lifa skyldak.
that live should-I

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

14 Gekk ek á beð,
Went I to (the)-bed
hugðumk betra fyrir,
thought-I better beforehand
þriðja sinni
(the)-third time
þjóðkonungi;
(with)-(the)-people's-king
ól ek mér jóð,
bore I (for)-me offspring
erfivörðu,
heir-wardens
erfivörðu,
heir-wardens
Jónakrs sonu.
Jónakr's sons

En of Svanhildi 15
And about Svanhildr
sátu þýjar,
sat bondmaids
es minna barna
whom of-my children
bazt fullhugðak,
best loved-I-fully
svá vas Svanhildr
so was Svanhildr
í sal mínum
in hall mine
sem væri sœmleitr
as-if were seemly-bright
sólar geisli.
(of)-(the)-sun a-beam

Gœddak golli 16
Endowed-I (with)-gold
ok goðvefjum,
and fine-weaves
áðr ek gæfak
before I gave-I-(her)
Goðþjóðar til;
(the)-Goth-people to

þat 's mér harðast
that is (to)-me hardest
harma minna
of-griefs mine
of þann enn hvíta
about that the white
hadd Svanhildar.
hair Svanhildr's
(auri tröddu
(in)-mud trod-(they)
und jóa fótum).
under (of)-horses feet

17 En sá sárastr,
And that sorest
es Sigurð minn
when Sigurðr mine
sigri ræntan
(of)-victory robbed
í sæing vágu,
in (the)-bed (they)-slew
en sá grimmastr,
and that grimmest
es Gunnari
when (to)-Gunnarr
fránir ormar
gleaming serpents
til fjörs skriðu.
to (his)-life crept

En sá hvassastr, 18
And that keenest
es hjarta til
when (the)-heart to
konung óblauðan
(the)-king uncowardly
kvikvan skáru;
alive (they)-cut
fjölð mank bölva
a-multitude remember-I of-harms
* * *
(lacuna)

19–22 · GOÐRÚN CALLS SIGURÐR

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

Beit þú Sigurðr 19
Bridle thou Sigurðr
enn blakka mar,
the black horse
hest enn hraðfœra
(the)-steed the swift-going
lát hinig rinna;
let-(him) hither run

sitr eigi hér
sits not here
snør né dóttir,
daughter-in-law nor daughter
sús Goðrúnu
who (to)-Goðrún
gæfi hnossir.
might-give treasures

Minzk þú Sigurðr,
Remember thou Sigurðr
hvat mæltum vit,
what said we-two
þás vit á beð
when we-two on (the)-bed
bæði sátum,
both sat
at myndir mín
that wouldst-(thou) me
móðugr vitja
stricken visit
halr ór helju,
hero out-of hel
en ek ór heimi þín.
and I out-of (the)-world thee

Hlaðit ér jarlar 21
Build ye earls
eikiköstu,
(the)-oak-pile
látið þann und hilmi
let that under a-prince
hæstan verða,
highest become
megi brenna brjóst
may burn (the)-breast
bölvafult eldr,
woe-full (the)-fire
þrungit of hjarta
pressed about (the)-heart
þiðni sorgir.
may-thaw sorrows

Jörlum öllum 22
(For)-earls all
óðal batni,
(the)-lot may-improve

snótum öllum
(for)-women all
sorg at minni,
sorrow the less
at þetta tregróf
that this grief-tale
of talit væri.
— *told were*

Hamðismál

The Lay of Hamdir

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

Spruttu á tái 1
Sprang-up on (the)-forecourt
tregnar íðir,
sorrowful deeds
grœti alfa
(at)-(the)-weeping of-elves
en glýstömu,
the joy-quelled
ár of morgin
early in (the)-morning
manna bölva
of-men harms
sútir hverjar
cares every
sorg of kveykva.
sorrow — to-kindle

Vasa þat nú 2
Was-not that now
né í gær,
nor on yesterday

Þat hefr langt
that has long
liðit síðan,
passed since
es hvatti Goðrún
when urged Goðrún
Gjúka borin
of-Gjúki born
sonu sína unga
sons her young
at hefna Svanhildar.
to avenge Svanhildr

3 Es fátt fornara,
Is little older
fremr vas þat halfu.
further was that by-half
* * *
(lacuna)

4 G. KV. Systir vas ykkur
Sister was of-you-two
Svanhildr of heitin,
Svanhildr — called

sús Jörmunrekkr
whom Jörmunrekkr
jóum of traddi
(with)-horses — trod
hvítum ok svörtum
white and black
á hervegi,
on (the)-war-road
gráum gangtömum
gray gait-tamed
Gotna hrossum.
(of)-(the)-Goths (with)-horses

Eptir es ykr þrungit
Left is you-two pressed
þjóðkonunga;
of-(the)-people-kings
lifið einir ér
live alone ye
þátta ættar minnar.
of-strands of-lineage mine

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

6 Einstœð emk orðin
Alone am-I become
sem ösp í holti,
as an-aspen in (the)-wood
fallin at frændum
bereft of kinsmen
sem fura at kvisti,
as a-fir of branches
vaðin at vilja
stripped of joy
sem viðr at laufi,
as a-tree of leaves
þás en kvistskœða
when the branch-scather
kemr of dag varman.
comes on a-day warm

Hitt kvað þá Hamðir 7
That said then Hamðir
enn hugumstóri:
the great-hearted
lítt myndir þá Goðrún
little wouldst-(thou) then Goðrún
leyfa dáð Högna,
praise (the)-deed of-Högni
es þeir Sigurð
when they Sigurðr
svefni ór vökðu,
sleep out-of woke
sazt þú á beði,
satest thou on (the)-bed
en banar hlógu.
and (the)-slayers laughed

Bœkr váru þínar 8
(The)-coverlets were thine
enar bláhvítu
the blue-white
roðnar valblóði,
reddened (with)-slaughter-blood
flutu í vers dreyra;
swam in (the)-husband's blood
svalt þá Sigurðr,
died then Sigurðr
sazt þú of dauðum,
satest thou over (the)-dead

glýja né gáðir,
(of)-joys not heededst
Gunnarr þér svá vildi.
Gunnarr (for)-thee so willed

9 Atla þóttisk stríða
Atli thoughtest-(thou) (to)-harm
at Eitils morði
at Eitill's murder
ok at Erps aldrlagi,
and at Erpr's life-ending
þat vas þér enn verra,
that was (for)-thee yet worse
svá skyldi hverr öðrum
so should each (for)-(the)-other
verja til aldrlaga
wield to life's-end
sverði sárbeitu,
a-sword wound-biting
at sér né stríddit.
that (to)-self not did-harm-not

10 Hitt kvað þá Sörli,
That said then Sörli
svinna hafði hyggju:
shrewd had-(he) mind

vilkat við móður
will-I-not with (my)-mother
málum of skipta,
words — exchange
orðs þykkir enn vant
(of)-a-word seems yet lacking
ykr hváru tveggja;
(to)-you-two each of-both
hvers biðr þú nú Goðrún,
what askest thou now Goðrún
es fyr gráti né færat?
that for weeping not canst-(thou)-not

11–15 · THE BROTHERS MEET ERPR

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

Brœðr grætr þú þína 11
(The)-brothers weepest thou thine
ok buri svása,
and sons dear
niðja náborna,
kinsmen near-born
leidda nær rógi;
led near strife

skalt þú ok Goðrún
shalt thou also Goðrún
okr gráta báða;
us-two weep both
sitjum feigir á mörum,
sit-(we) doomed on horses
fjarri munum deyja.
far-off shall-(we) die

12 Gengu ór garði,
Went-(they) out-of (the)-court
görvir at eiskra;
ready to rage
liðu þá yfir ungir
passed then over (the)-young
úrig fjöll ***
dewy mountains (lacuna)
mörum húnlenzkum
(on)-horses Hunnish
morðs at hefna.
(the)-murder to avenge

13 Fundu á stræti
Found-(they) on (the)-street
stórbrögðóttan
(the)-great-trickster
***
(lacuna)

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

Svaraði enn sundrmœðri, 14
Answered the other-mothered
svá kvazk veita mundu
so said-(he) give would
fulting frændum
help (to)-kinsmen
sem fótr öðrum.
as a-foot (to)-another
„Hvat megi fótr
What may a-foot
fœti veita,
(to)-a-foot give
né holdgróin
nor flesh-grown
hönd annarri?“
hand (to)-another

Þá kvað þat Erpr 15
Then said that Erpr
einu sinni,
one time

mærr of lék
(the)-glorious-one — played
á mars baki:
on a-horse's back
„ilt 's blauðum hal
ill is (for)-a-cowardly man
brautir kenna";
(the)-roads (to)-show
kóðu harðan mjök
said-(they) hard very
hornung vesa.
(the)-bastard (to)-be

16–21 · JÖRMUNREKKR'S HALL

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

16 Drógu ór skíði
Drew-(they) out-of (the)-sheath
skíði-éarn,
sheath-iron

mækis eggjar
(the)-sword's edges
at mun flagði,
for (the)-delight (of)-(the)-troll-wife
þverðu þrótt sinn
lessened strength their
at þriðjungi,
by a-third
létu mög ungan
made-(they) (the)-kinsman young
til moldar hníga.
to (the)-earth sink

Skóku loða, 17
Shook-(they) (their)-cloaks
skalmir festu,
swords fastened
góðbornir smugu
(the)-well-born slipped
í goðvefi.
into god-webs

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

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

Segja fóru jarlar 20
(To)-tell went earls
Jörmunrekki,
(to)-Jörmunrekkr
at sénir váru
that seen were
seggir und hjalmum,
men under helmets
»rœðið ér of ráð,
discuss ye about counsel
ríkir eru komnir,
(the)-mighty are come
fyr mátkum hafið mönnum
against mighty have-(ye) men
mey jóum tradda.«
a-maid (with)-horses trodden

Hló þá Jörmunrekkr, 21
Laughed then Jörmunrekkr
hendi drap á kanpa,
(with)-hand struck on (his)-mustache
beiddisk at bröngu,
craved at (the)-fray
böðvaðisk at víni,
grew-warlike at (the)-wine
skók hann skör jarpa,
shook he (his)-locks brown
sá á skjöld hvítan,
looked on (the)-shield white

lét sér í hendi
had-(he) (for)-himself in hand
hvarfa ker gollit.
turn (the)-cup golden

22–25 · HAMÐIR AND SÖRLI IN THE HALL

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

22 J. KV. Sæll ek þá þœttumk,
Happy I then would-think-myself
ef séa knættak
if see could-I
Hamði ok Sörla
Hamðir and Sörli
í höllu minni,
in hall mine
buri myndak binda
(the)-sons would-I bind
með boga strengjum,
with bow strings
góð börn Gjúka dóttur
(the)-good children Gjúki's daughter's
á galga festa.
on (the)-gallows fasten

Hitt kvað þá Hróðrglöð, 23
That said then Hróðrglöð
stóð of hléðum,
stood-(she) at (the)-doorway
mæfingr mælti
slender-fingered spoke-(she)
við mög þenna.
to son this

»Þvíat þat heita, 24
Because that (they)-vow
at hlýðigi myni;
that fits-not would
megut tveir menn einir
may-not two men alone
tíu hundruð Gotna
ten hundreds of-Goths
binda eða berja
bind or beat
í borg enni háu.«
in (the)-stronghold the high

Styrr varð í ranni, 25
Strife arose in (the)-hall
stukku ölskálir,
burst ale-bowls

í blóði bragnar lágu
in blood men lay
ór brjósti Gotna.
out-of (the)-breast of-(the)-Goths

26–28 · THE STONING

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

26 (Hitt kvað þá Hamðir
That said then Hamðir
enn hugumstóri:)
the great-hearted
Æstir Jörmunrekkr
Askedst-(thou) Jörmunrekkr
okkarrar kvámu,
(for)-our-two coming
bræðra sammæðra
(of)-brothers same-mothered
innan borgar þinnar;
within stronghold thine
fótum sér þú þínum,
feet seest thou thine

höndum sér þínum
hands seest-(thou) thine
Jörmunrekkr orpit
Jörmunrekkr thrown
í eld heitan.
into (the)-fire hot

Þá hraut við ræsir 27
Then roared at-(it) (the)-ruler
enn reginkungi,
the god-descended
ballr í brynju,
fierce in mail-coat
sem björn of hryti:
as a-bear — roared
»grýtið ér gumna,
stone ye (the)-men
alls geirar né bíta,
since spears not bite
eggjar né éarn,
edges nor iron
Jónakrs sonu.«
Jónakr's sons

(Hitt kvað þá Hamðir 28
That said then Hamðir
enn hugumstóri:)
the great-hearted

Böl vant þú bróðir,
Bale wroughtest thou brother
es þann belg leystir;
when that bag (thou)-loosedst
opt ór þeim belg
often out-of that bag
böll ráð kómu.
baleful counsels came
S. KV. Hug hefr þú Hamðir,
Courage hast thou Hamðir
ef hefðir hyggjandi,
if (thou)-hadst understanding
mikils es á mann hvern
of-much is on man each
vant es manvits es.
wanting who of-wit is

29–32 · THE DEATHS OF HAMÐIR AND SÖRLI

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

29 H. KV. Af væri nú höfuð,
Off were now (the)-head
ef Erpr of lifði,
if Erpr — lived

bróðir enn böðfrœkni,
(our)-brother the battle-bold
es á braut vágum,
whom on (the)-way (we)-slew
hvárr enn víðfrœkni,
each the far-famed
hvöttumk at dísir,
urged-me to-(it) (the)-dísir
guma ens gunnhvata
(of)-(the)-man the battle-keen
gerðumk at vígi.
made-me to slaying

S. KV. Ekki hygg ek okr 30
Not think I us-two
vesa ulfa dœmi,
be (of)-wolves (the)-like
at mynim sjalfir of sakask
that should ourselves — strive
sem grey norna,
as (the)-bitches of-(the)-norns
þaus gráðug eru
which greedy are
í auðn of alin.
in (the)-wilderness — reared

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

Þar fell Sörli 32
There fell Sörli
at salar gafli,
at (the)-hall's gable
en Hamðir hné
and Hamðir sank
at húsbaki.
at (the)-house-back

Þetta eru kölluð Hamðismál en fornu.
These are called Hamðismál the old