OLD NORSE SERIES · VOLUME 37

The Christian Skalds

Geisli · Harmsól · Sólarljóð · Lilja

The Christian Skalds

Poems from Geisli to Lilja

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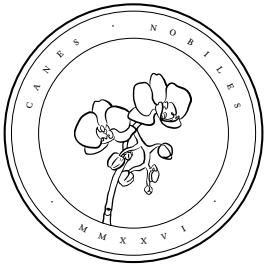
with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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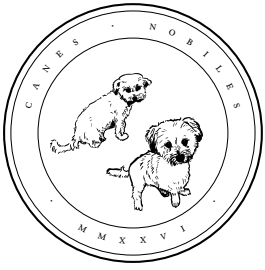

Volume 37 of the Canes Nobiles Old Norse interlinear texts

The Old Norse text follows Finnur Jónsson's Den norsk-islandske skjaldedigtning B: Rettet tekst (København, 1912–15)

Hugsvinnsmál set from the Heimskringla.no transcription of the edition

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

The spelling is Finnur Jónsson's normalization, with ǫ, œ, and ø beside æ and ö, and in the verse the older forms *vas* and *es* and the enclitic *'s*. The poems are undivided in the source, so their sections, and every English section title in the book, are this press's. A refrain the edition abbreviates is printed whole, and what it marks as lost is printed as ∗∗∗ or with its dots. An em dash stands under the expletive particle *of* or *um*, which has no English equivalent.

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EINARR SKÚLASON

Geisli

The Sunbeam

The poet asks the one God in three persons to teach him verse and prayer, and offers his poem to Óláfr, a beam of the sun of mercy. Christ, the sun born of the sea's star, brought light into the world's darkness, died willingly on the cross, rose on the third day, and ascended above the angels; from his gifts of the Spirit Christendom arose.

Eins má óð ok bœnir 1
Of-one may poem and prayers
(allsráðanda ens snjalla,
of-all-ruler the wise
mjǫk 's fróðr, sás getr góða)
much is learned he-who gets of-good-one
goðs þrenning mér kenna;
of-God trinity me teach
gǫfugt ljós boðar geisli
noble light announces beam
gunnǫflugr miskunnar
battle-strong of-mercy
(ágætan býðk ítrum
excellent offer-I to-glorious
Óláfi brag) sólar,
to-Óláfr poem of-sun

Þeirar's heims í heimi, 2
Of-that-which of-world in world
heims, myrkrum brá, þeima,
of-world to-darknesses ended these

ok ljós, meðan vas vísi
and light while was king
veðrs, kallaðisk, hallar;
of-weather was-called of-hall
sá lét bjartr frá bjartri
that-one let bright from bright
berask mannr (und skýranni
be-born man under cloud-house
frægr stóð af því) flœðar
famous stood from that of-flood
(fǫrnuðr) rǫðull stjǫrnu.
benefit sun of-star

3 Siðar heilags brá sólar,
Of-faith holy flashed of-sun
setrs vas þat fyr betra
of-seat was that for better
auðfinnǫndum ǎnnars
to-wealth-finders of-another
ómjós rǫðuls, ljósi;
not-narrow of-sun light
œztr þrifnuðr réð efnask
highest thriving did be-made
oss, þás líf á krossi
for-us when life on cross
jarðar allra fyrða
of-earth of-all of-men
ónauðigr tók dauða.
unforced took death

Upp rann, engla skepnu, 4
Up rose of-angels to-creation
(iðvandr) of dag þriðja
deed-careful on day third
(Kristr ræðr krapti hæstum),
Christ rules with-might highest
kunn, réttlætis sunna;
known of-righteousness sun
veitk, at mildr frá moldu
know-I that gentle from earth
meginfjǫlði reis hǫlða
great-multitude rose of-men
(iflaust má þat efla
doubtless may that strengthen
ossa vǫn) með hǫnum.
our hope with him

Sonr sté upp með ynði 5
Son climbed up with joy
auðar mildr frá hauðri,
of-wealth generous from earth
jǫfra baztr, til œztrar,
of-princes best to highest
allsráðanda, hallar;
of-all-ruler hall

lofaðr sitr englum øfri
praised sits than-angels higher
(ǫðlinga hnígr þingat
of-nobles bows thither
dǫglings hirð) á dýrðar
of-king retinue on of-glory
dagbóls konungr stóli.
of-day-dwelling king throne

6 Veitti dýrðar dróttinn
Gave of-glory lord
dáðvandr gjafar anda
deed-careful gifts of-spirit
(mǫl sanna þau) mǫnnum
words prove those to-men
máttigs (framir váttar);
of-mighty excellent witnesses
þaðan reis upp, sús einum,
thence rose up that-which to-one
alþýð, goði hlýðir,
all-people to-God obeys
(hæstr skjǫldungr býðr hǫlðum
highest king offers to-men
himins vistar til) kristni.
of-heaven dwelling to Christendom

All are bidden to honor Óláfr, God's beam, whose miracles shine. The poet calls on Eysteinn, Sigurðr, and Ingi and on Archbishop Jón to hear his praise, says no such king will be born again, and recalls that Sigvatr and Óttarr were Óláfr's chief poets.

Nú skulum gǫfgan geisla 7
Now shall-we noble beam
goðs hallar vér allir,
of-God of-hall we all
ítr þann's Óláfr heitir,
glorious whom Óláfr is-called
alstyrkan vel dyrka;
all-strong well worship
þjóð veit hann und heiða
people knows him under of-skies
hríðblǫsnum sal víða
storm-blown hall widely
(menn nemi mǫl, sem innik,
men may-take words as tell-I
mín) jartegnum skína.
my with-miracles shine

Heyr til afreksorða, 8
Hear to feat-words
Eysteinn konungr, beinna,
Eysteinn king straight
Sigurðr hygg at því, snøggum,
Sigurðr heed at that quickly

sóknsterkr, hvé ek fer verka,
battle-strong how I fare of-work
drengr berr óð fyr Inga —
warrior bears poem before Ingi
yðvarrar biðk styðja
of-your ask-I to-support
mærð, þat's miklu varðar,
praise that-which much matters
máttigt hǫfuð áttar.
mighty head of-family

9 Yfirmanni býðk (unnin
To-overseer offer-I made
upp 's mærð borin) lærðra,
up is praise borne of-learned
Jóan kǫllum svá, allrar
Jón call-we so of-all
alþýðu brag hlýða;
of-people poem to-hear
hefjum hróðr, en leyfa
raise-we praise and to-praise
hygg vin rǫðuls tyggja
think-I friend of-sun of-king
(stóls vex hæð, þars hvílir
of-throne grows height where rests
heilagr konungr) fagran.
holy king fair

Qld samir, Óláfs, gilda 10
Men befits of-Óláfr worthy
(orðgnóttar biðk dróttin)
of-word-abundance ask-I lord
oss at óðgørð þessi,
for-us at poem-making this
ítrgeðs lofi, kveðja;
of-noble-minded with-praise to-greet
fank aldri val vildra
found-I never choice of-better
(vallrjóðanda allra
of-field-reddener of-all
raun dugir) rétt í einu
trial avails right in one
ranni fremðar-manna.
house of-glory-men

Þreklynds skulu Þrœndir 11
Of-strength-minded shall Thronds
þegnprýðis brag hlýða
of-thane-ornament poem hear
(Krists lifir hann í hæstri
of-Christ lives he in highest
hǫll) ok Norðmenn allir;
hall and Northmen all

dýrð es ágæt orðin
glory is excellent become
eljunhress (í þessu)
zeal-brisk in this
þjóð- (né þengill fœðisk
people- nor prince is-born
þvílíkr) -konungs (ríki).
such -king's realm

12 Sigvatr frák at segði
Sigvatr heard-I that told
sóknbráðs jǫfurs dáðir;
of-attack-swift of-prince deeds
spurt hefr ǫld, at orti
learned has men that composed
Óttarr of gram dróttar;
Óttarr about prince of-host
þeir hafa þengils Mœra
they have of-prince of-More-men
(því 's sýst) frama lýstan,
therefore is done fame proclaimed
— helgum lýtk — es hétu
to-holy bow-I whom called
hǫfuðskǫld firar — jǫfri.
chief-poets men to-prince

Óláfr atoned to God for his sins and ruled fifteen winters. Before the battle he dreamed he climbed a fair ladder from earth to heaven, and God opened heaven to him; at Stiklarstaðir treacherous men felled him. The poet begins his refrain: Óláfr, God's knight, lightens men's sorrows and is granted all he asks.

Móðr vann margar dáðir 13
Brave did many deeds
munnrjóðr hugins kunnar
mouth-reddener of-raven known
(satt vas, at siklingr bœtti
true was that prince atoned
sín mein) goði einum;
his harms to-God alone
leyndi lofðungr Þrœnda
hid king of-Thronds
liðgegn snara þegna
troop-straight of-swift of-thanes
(fár gramr hefir fremri
few prince has more-outstanding
fœzk) hǫleitri gœzku.
been-born in-lofty goodness

14 Réð umb tolf, sás trúði,
Ruled over twelve he-who believed
tírbráðr, á goð, láði
glory-swift in God land
(þjóð muna) þengill (bíða)
people will-not prince await
þría vetr (konung betra),
three winters king better
áðr fullhugaðr felli
before full-minded fell
folkvaldr í dyn skjalda
host-ruler in din of-shields
(hann speni oss) fyr innan
he may-wean us for within
Ǫlvishaug (frá bǫlvi).
Ǫlvishaugr from evil

15 Fregit hefk satt, at segði
Asked have-I truly that told
snjallri ferð, áðr berðisk,
to-bold troop before fought
(drótt nýtr dǫglings máttar)
host enjoys of-king might
draum sinn konungr Rauma, —
dream his king of-Raumar

stiga sá standa fagran
ladder saw stand fair
styrjar fimr til himna
of-strife nimble to heavens
(rausn dugir hans at hrósa)
splendor avails his to praise
Hǫrða gramr af jǫrðu.
of-Hords prince from earth

Ok hagliga hugðisk 16
And fittingly thought-himself
hrøkkviseiðs ens døkkva
of-coiling-fish the dark
lyngs í lopt upp ganga
of-heather into air up go
látrs stríðandi síðan;
of-lair striver afterward
lét, sás landfolks gætir,
let he-who of-land-folk guards
líknframr himinríki
mercy-forward heaven-realm
umbgeypnandi opnask
encompasser open-itself
alls heims fyr gram snjǫllum.
of-all of-world before prince bold

17 Vakit frák víg á Stiklar-,
Woken heard-I battle at Stiklar-
víðlendr, -stǫðum síðan,
wide-landed -stead afterward
Innþrœndum lét undir
Inner-Thronds let under
almreyrs lituðr dreyra;
of-elm-reed dyer with-blood
heims þessa frák hvassan,
of-world this heard-I sharp
hvatir feldu gram skatnar,
bold felled prince men
(þeir drýgðu bǫl) brigðu
they wrought harm treacherous
branddríf numinn lífi.
sword-drift taken from-life

18 Fúss emk, þvít vann vísi
Eager am-I because did king
(vas hann mestr konungr) flestar,
was he greatest king most
(drótt nemi mærð) ef mættak,
host may-take praise if might-I
manndýrðir, stef vanda.
man-glories refrain to-make
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

19–24 · THE DARKENED SUN

When Óláfr fell the sun did not shine, as when the Lord died; a light burned over his body and God took his soul the same day. His men washed the body and laid him in the grave, and a blind man who rubbed his eyes with water mixed with the king's blood regained his sight.

Náðit bjartr, þás beiðir 19
Could-not bright when demander
baugskjaldar lauk aldri,
of-ring-shield ended life
(sýndi salvǫrðr grundar
showed hall-guardian of-earth
sín tǫ́kn) rǫðull skína;
his signs sun shine
fyrr vas hitt, es harra
earlier was that-other when of-lord
hauðrtjalda brá dauða
of-earth-tents turned to-death
happ- (nýtask mér) -mætu
luck- avail to-me -worthy
(máltól) skini sólar.
speech-tools with-shine of-sun

20 Gerðusk brátt, þars barðisk
Happened soon where fought
broddrjóðr við kyn þjóðar,
point-reddener against kin of-people
(gramr vanðit sá synðum
prince accustomed-not that-one to-sins
sik) jartegnir miklar;
himself miracles great
ljós brann líki vísa,
light burned body of-king
lǫgskíðs, yfir síðan,
of-sea-ski over afterward
þvít ǫnd með sér sendis
because spirit with himself of-sender
samdœgris goð framði.
same-day God advanced

21 Dýrð lætr dróttins Hǫrða,
Glory lets of-lord of-Hords
(dragisk mœrð þinig) hrœrða
may-be-drawn praise thither stirred
ítr (munat ǫðlingr betri)
glorious will-not prince better
alls grœðari (fœðask).
of-all healer be-born
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Drótt þó dýran sveita 22
Host washed precious blood
dǫglings ríks af líki
of-king mighty from body
(vǫn gleðr hug) með hreinu
hope gladdens mind with pure
(hǫs batnaðar) vatni;
of-high of-betterment water
satt 's at Sygna dróttin
true is that of-Sogn-men lord
særendr goði kæran
wound-dealers to-God dear
hrings (megu heyra drengir
of-ring may hear men
hans brǫgð) í grǫf lǫgðu.
his deeds into grave laid

23 Þar kom blindr (en byrjak
There came blind but begin-I
blíð verk) muni síðar
kind works will later
auðar njótr, es ýtar
of-wealth enjoyer when men
jǫfurs bein þvegit hǫfðu;
of-prince bones washed had
sjónbrautir strauk sínar,
sight-roads stroked his
seggjum kunns, í brunni
to-men known in well
ǫrr, þeim's Óláfs dreyra,
generous that-which of-Óláfr with-blood
orms landa, vas blandinn.
of-snake of-lands was mixed

24 Sjón fekk seggr af hreinu
Sight got man from pure
(sú dyrð munat fyrðum),
that glory will-not to-men
fǫrnuðr vas þat (fyrnask)
benefit was that be-forgotten
fjǫlgóðr, konungs blóði.
very-good of-king blood
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

25–30 · THE BODY RAISED

After twelve months and five nights the king's body was raised from the sand, and a man whose tongue had been cut out regained his speech. Óláfr came in a dream to his son Magnús before the battle on Hlýrskógsheiðr, where Magnús fed the ravens on the Wends.

Tolf mǫ́nuðr vas týnir 25
Twelve months was destroyer
tandrauðs huliðr sandi
of-flame-red hidden with-sand
fremðar lystr ok fasta
of-honor eager and full
fimm nætr vala strætis,
five nights of-falcons of-street
áðr an upp ór víðu
before than up out-of wide
ulfs nistanda kistu
of-wolf of-feeder chest
dýrr lét dróttinn harra
dear let lord of-lords
dáðmilds koma láði.
of-deed-gentle come earth

26 Mál fekk maðr, þars hvílir
Speech got man where rests
margfríðr jǫfurr, síðan,
much-handsome prince afterward
áðr sás orða hlýðu
before he-who of-words of-tongue
afskurðr farit hafði;
cutting-off suffered had
frægð ríðr fylkis Egða
fame rides of-king of-Agdir
folksterks af því verki;
host-strong from that work
jǫfurs snilli fremsk alla
of-prince eloquence advances all
ungs á danska tungu.
of-young in Danish tongue

27 Fǫður skulu fultings biðja
Father shall of-help ask
fremðar (þjóð) enn góða
of-honor people the good
(mœðir mart á láði)
wearies much on land
Magnúss hvatir bragnar.
of-Magnús bold men
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Gekk sínum bur søkkvir 28
Went to-his son destroyer
sólar straums í drauma
of-sun of-stream into dreams
(valdr lézk fylgja foldar
ruler said-of-himself to-follow of-land
framlundum gram mundu),
to-forward-minded prince would
áðr á Hlýrskógsheiði
before on Hlýrskógsheiðr
harðfengr jǫfurr barðisk
hard-gripping prince fought
(góðs elðis fekk gylðir
of-good of-feeding got wolf
gnótt) við heiðnar dróttir.
plenty against heathen hosts

29 Lét (jarplitaðs) ǫ́tu
Let brown-colored of-food
(arnar jóðs) enn góði
of-eagle of-offspring the good
(munn rauð malmþings kennir)
mouth reddened of-metal-assembly knower
Magnús hugin fagna;
Magnús raven rejoice
hrætt varð folk á flótta
afraid became folk in flight
(frǫ́n beit egg) at leggja,
keen bit edge to strike
sorg biðu víf (en vargar)
sorrow suffered wives but wolves
vinðversk (of hræ ginðu).
Wendish over corpses gaped

30 Raun 's at sigr gaf sínum
Proof is that victory gave to-his
snjallr lausnara spjalli
bold of-redeemer confidant
(hrósak verkum vísa
praise-I works of-king
vígdjarfs) frǫmum arfa.
of-war-bold to-excellent heir
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

31–36 · GUTTHORMR AND THE DANISH WOMAN

Gutthormr, Óláfr's kinsman, prayed to him, won a battle off Anglesey against a host three times larger, and set up a cross adorned with silver and gold. A Danish woman who baked bread on Óláfr's mass found her dough turned to stone, and his feast has been kept in Denmark since.

Reyndi Gutthormr grundar 31
Tried Gutthormr of-ground
(gat hann rétt) við þrǫm sléttan,
got he right against edge even
(áðr) hvat Óláfs téðu
before what of-Óláfr availed
alkœns við goð bœnir;
of-all-wise with God prayers
dag lét sinn með sigri
day let his with victory
sóknþýðr jǫfurr prýðask,
attack-kind prince be-adorned
þás í Ǫngulseyjar
when in of-Anglesey
undreyr bitu sundi.
wound-reeds bit sound

32 Víst hafði lið lestir
Surely had troop damager
linns þrimr hlutum minna
of-serpent by-three parts smaller
heiptar mildr at hjaldri
of-hate gentle at battle
(harðr fundr vas sá) grundar;
hard meeting was that of-ground
þó réð hann at hvǫru
yet ruled he at all-events
(hǫnum tjóði vel móður),
to-him availed well of-mother
hǫr feksk af því (hlýri)
high was-got from that brother
hagnaðr, ór styr gagni.
gain out-of strife with-victory

33 Qld hefr opt enn mildi
Men has often the gentle
unnar bliks frá miklum
of-wave of-gleam from great
(Krists mærik lim) leysta
of-Christ praise-I limb freed
litrauðs konungr nauðum.
of-bright-red king troubles
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows

hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Satt 's, at silfri skreytta 34
True is that with-silver adorned
seggjum holls ok golli
to-men gracious and with-gold
her lét Gutthormr gerva
here let Gutthormr make
grams (hróðr es þat) róðu;
of-prince praise is that rood
slíkt hafa menn at minnum
such have men as memorials
meir jartegna þeira,
more of-miracles their
mark stendr Krists í kirkju
token stands of-Christ in church
(konungs niðr gaf þat) miðri.
of-king kinsman gave that middle

Menn hafa sagt at svanni, 35
Men have said that woman
sunnr, Skǫnungum kunnir,
south among-Scanians known

oss, at Óláfs messu
us at of-Óláfr mass
almilds baka vildi;
of-all-gentle to-bake wished
en þás brúðr at brauði
but when bride for bread
brennheitu tók leita,
burning-hot began to-seek
þá varð grjón at grǫnu
then became dough to gray
grjóti danskrar snótar.
stone of-Danish of-woman

36 Mildings hefir haldin
Of-king has held
hǫtíð verit síðan
feast been since
(sannspurt es þat sunnan)
truly-learned is that from-south
snjalls of Danmǫrk alla.
of-bold over Denmark all
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows
hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

A noble woman had a young man's tongue cut out for a small offense, and he regained his speech at Óláfr's shrine; so did a man whose tongue the Wends had cut out. The world's judge gives his holy king the honor of heaven.

Gǫfug lét Hǫrn ór hǫfði 37
Noble let Hǫrn out-of head
hvítings of sǫk lítla
of-drinking-horn for offense small
auðar aumum beiði
of-wealth to-poor demander
ungs manns skera tungu;
of-young of-man cut tongue
þann sǫ́m vér, es vǫ́rum,
him saw we when were
válaust numinn máli
doubtless taken from-speech
hodda brjót, þars heitir
of-boards breaker where is-called
Hlíð, fǫ́m vikum síðar.
Hlíð few weeks later

Frétt hefk, at sá sótti 38
Heard have-I that that-one sought
síðan malma stríðir
afterward of-metals striver
heim, þann's hjǫlp gefr aumum,
home of-him-who help gives to-poor

harmskerðanda, ferðum;
of-sorrow-cutter to-troops
hér fekk hann (en byrja
here got he and to-begin
hǫtt kvæði skalk) bæði
high poem shall-I both
(snáka vangs of sløngvi
of-snake of-plain through flinger
slungins) mál ok tungu.
of-coiled speech and tongue

39 Dýrð es ágæt orðin
Glory is excellent become
ǫðlings ríks af slíku;
of-prince mighty from such
mærð ríðr mildings Hǫrða
praise rides of-king of-Hords
mest of heims byggð flesta.
most over of-world dwelling most
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows
hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Veitk, at Vinðr fyr skauti 40
Know-I that Wends before lap
(verðr bragr af því) skerði
becomes poem from that diminisher
gjalfrs Niðbranda grundar
of-surf of-Niðbrandar of-ground
(greiddr) sárliga meiddu,
paid sorely maimed
ok endr frá trú týndir
and once from faith fallen
tírar sterks ór kverkum
of-glory strong out-of throats
auðskýfanda óðar
of-wealth-shoveler of-poem
ǫr grimmliga skǫru.
oar grimly cut

Sótti skrín et skreytta 41
Sought shrine the adorned
skíðrennandi síðan
ski-runner afterward
(orð finnask mér) unnar
words are-found to-me of-wave
Óláfs dreka bóli;
of-Óláfr of-dragon dwelling
ok þeim, es vel vakði
and to-him who well woke
(veitk sǫnn) hugins teiti,
know-I true of-raven cheer

máls fekk hilmir heilsu
of-speech got prince healing
heilagr (á því deili).
holy in that portion

42 Hǫs lætr helgan ræsi
High lets holy king
heims dómari sóma,
of-world judge befit
fyllir framlyndr stillir
filler forward-minded ruler
ferð himneska, verðan.
troop heavenly worthy
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows
hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Óláfr's sword Hneitir, with which he cleft shields at Stiklarstaðir, was taken by a Swede when the king fell and found long after in the Greeks' host. A warrior who slept on the open field with the sword girded on found it at morning lying far from him.

Hneitir frák at héti, 43
Hneitir heard-I that was-called
hjaldrs at vápna galdri,
of-battle at of-weapons chant
ǫðlings hjǫrr, þess 's orra
of-prince sword of-that-one who of-heathcock
ilbleikum gaf steikar;
to-pale-foot gave of-steak
þeim klauf þengill Rauma
with-it cleft prince of-Raumar
þunnvaxin ský gunnar
thin-grown clouds of-battle
(rekin bitu stǫl) á Stiklar-
inlaid bit steels at Stiklar-
-stǫðum valbastar rǫði.
-stead of-slaughter-bast with-sun

Tók, þás fell enn frœkni 44
Took when fell the bold
fylkis kundr til grundar,
of-king offspring to ground
sverð, es sókn vas orðin,
sword when attack was become

sœnskr maðr af gram þrœnzkum;
Swedish man from prince Thrandish
sá vas hjǫrr ens hǫva
that was sword of-the high
hrings stríðanda síðan
of-ring striver afterward
golli merkðr í Girkja
with-gold marked among of-Greeks
gunndjarfs liði fundinn.
of-battle-bold host found

45 Nú fremr, þann's gaf gumnum,
Now advances him-who gave to-men
gǫfug dyrð jǫfur fyrða,
noble glory prince of-men
(slǫng Eindriði ungi)
flung Eindriði young
armglœðr (í brag rœðu).
arm-embers in poem of-speech
Greitt má gumnum létta
Readily may for-men lighten
goðs ríðari stríðum;
of-God knight sorrows
hraustr þiggr alt sem æstir
brave receives all as asks
Óláfr af gram sólar.
Óláfr from prince of-sun

Mér 's (en mærð skal stœra 46
To-me is but praise shall increase
mildings, þess's gaf hringa,
of-king of-him-who gave rings
styrjar snjalls) of stilli
of-strife bold about ruler
styrkjan vant at yrkja;
strong hard to compose
þvít tǫkn, þess's lið læknir,
because tokens of-him-who host heals
lofðungs vinar tungla
of-king of-friend of-moons
(ljós verðr raun of ræsi)
clear becomes proof about king
ranns ferr hvert á annat.
of-house goes each upon other

Gyrðisk hála herðum 47
Girded-himself very hardened
heldr síðarla á kveldi
rather late in evening
glaumkennandi gunnar
joy-knower of-battle
glaðr véttrimar naðri;
glad of-shield-rim with-serpent

drengr réð dýrr á vangi
man did dear on field
(dagr rofnaði) sofna
day broke-off to-sleep
ítrs landreka undir
of-glorious of-land-ruler under
ógnfimr berum himni.
terror-skilled bare sky

48 Misti maðr, es lýsti,
Missed man when lit
(morginn vas þá) borgar
morning was then of-fortress
styrks mundriða steindrar
of-strong of-hand-swinger stained
styrsnjallr roðins galla;
strife-bold reddened of-harm
þátti sinn á sléttri
perceived his on smooth
seimþiggjandi liggja
gold-receiver to-lie
grundu gylðis kindar
ground of-wolf of-kin
gómsparra sér fjarri.
gum-spar from-himself far

For three nights Óláfr worked such signs that the Greek emperor paid for the sword and set it over an altar. On the Pecheneg plains the Greeks fled, and Miklagarðr would have fallen had not a few Varangians pressed forward; they called on Óláfr, though sixty men stood against each of them.

Þríar grímur vann þeima 49
Three nights did these
þjóðnýtr Haralds bróðir
people-useful of-Haraldr brother
rauknstefnanda Reifnis
of-draft-beast-steerer of-Reifnir
ríkr bendingar slíkar,
mighty signs such
áðr þrekhvǫssum þessar
before to-strength-keen these
(þingdjarfs) firar ingva
of-assembly-bold men of-king
(bjǫrt eru bauga snyrtis
bright are of-rings of-adorner
brǫgð) jartegnir sǫgðu.
deeds miracles told

50 Mǫ́s frák jarðar eisu
Of-gull heard-I of-earth of-ember
allvald fyr hjǫr gjalda
all-ruler for sword pay
(sléttik óð) þann's átti
smooth-I poem which owned
Óláfr (bragar tólum);
Óláfr of-poetry with-tools
yfirskjǫldungr lét jǫfra
over-king let of-princes
oddhríðar þar síðan
of-point-storm there afterward
garðs of golli vǫrðu
of-yard over with-gold guarded
grand altári standa.
harm altar stand

51 Tǫ́kn gerir bjǫrt þau's birta
Tokens makes bright those-which reveal
brandél á Girklandi,
sword-storm in Greece
(mál finsk of þat mǫnnum)
speech is-found about that for-men
margþarfr Haralds arfi;
much-useful of-Haraldr heir

fregnk at alt (né ógnar
learn-I that all nor of-terror
innendr megu finna)
performers may find
dýrð Óláfs ríðr dála
glory of-Óláfr rides of-dales
dagræfr (konung hæfra).
day-roof king more-fitting

Háðisk hildr á víðum 52
Was-fought battle on wide
(hungr sløkði vel þungan
hunger quenched well heavy
gunnar mǫr í geira
of-battle gull in of-spears
gǫll) Peizínavǫllum,
din Pecheneg-plains
þar svát þjóð fyr hjǫrvi
there so-that people before sword
þúsundum laut; undan
by-thousands bowed away
(hríð óx Hamðis klæða
storm grew of-Hamðir of-clothes
hjalmskœð) Grikir flœðu.
helmet-harmed Greeks fled

53 Myndi mest und fjǫndum
Would most under fiends
Miklagarðr ok jarðir
Miklagarðr and lands
hryggs (dugðit lið) liggja
of-ridge availed-not troop to-lie
lagar eldbrota veldi,
of-sea of-fire-breaker realm
nema rǫnd í byr branda
unless shield in wind of-brands
(barðraukns) fáir harða
of-prow-ox few hard
(rǫðuls bliku vǫpn í veðri)
of-sun gleamed weapons in weather
Væringjar framm bæri.
Varangians forward bore

54 Hétu hart á ítran
Called hard on glorious
hraustir menn af trausti,
brave men from trust
(stríð svall ógn) þás óðusk,
strife swelled terror when advanced
Áláf, í gný stála,
Áláfr in din of-steels

þars of einn í ǫrva
where over one in of-arrows
(undbǫ́ru) flug vǫ́ru
wound-wave flight were
(roðin klofnuðu Reifnis
reddened were-cloven of-Reifnir
rǫnn) sex tigir manna.
houses six tens of-men

55–60 · THE MAIMED PRIEST

Four and a half hundred Varangians routed the heathens and the wolves found the slain. Envious men broke a priest's leg, put out his eyes, cut out his tongue, and left him maimed on the shore.

Vas, sem reyk (af ríki 55
Was as smoke from might
regn dreif stáls) í gegnum,
rain drove of-steel in through
hjalmnjǫrðungum, harðan,
to-helmet-gods hard
heiðingja lið, gingi;
of-heathens troop went
halft fimta vann heimtan
half fifth did recovered
hundrað, brimis sunda,
hundred of-surf of-sounds

nýztan tír, þat's nœra,
most-useful glory that-which to-nourish
Norðmanna, val þorði.
of-Northmen slain dared

56 Eyddu gumnar gladdir
Destroyed men gladdened
(gǫfugr þengill barg drengjum)
noble prince saved to-men
vagna borg, þars vargar
of-wagons fort where wolves
vápnsundruð hræ fundu;
weapon-sundered corpses found
nennir ǫll at inna
undertakes all to tell
øngr brimloga sløngvir
no surf-flame flinger
dǫglings verk, þess's dýrkar,
of-king works of-him-who honors
dáðsnjalls, verǫld alla.
of-deed-bold world all

57 Nú's oss, þau's vann vísi,
Now-is for-us those-which did king
verk fyr þjóð at merkja
works before people to mark
nauðr í nýjum óði,
need in new poem

næst (ríðrat þat smæstu);
next rides-not that smallest
krapt skulum goðs, en giptu,
power shall-we of-God and luck
geðstyrks lofi dyrka,
of-mind-strong with-praise worship
lér hjaldrfrǫmum hǫrar
grants to-battle-bold higher
heims læknir gram þeima.
of-world healer to-prince this

Angrfyldrar varð aldar 58
Of-grief-filled became of-men
(illr gerisk hugr af villu)
ill becomes mind from error
mildings þjónn fyr manna
of-king servant for of-men
(margfaldr) ǫfund kaldri;
manifold envy cold
lygi hefr bragna brugðit
lie has of-men turned
(brýtr stundum frið) nýtra
breaks sometimes peace of-useful
(herməar kraptr) til heipta
of-wrath power to hatreds
(hjaldrstríðr) skapi blíðu.
battle-striving mind mild

59 Lustu sundr á sandi
Struck asunder on sand
seggs marglitendr eggja
of-man much-coloring of-edges
(hǫrð grœr fjón af fyrða)
hard grows hatred from of-men
fót (aldrtrega rótum),
foot life-sorrow with-roots
ok prests, þeir's lǫg lestu
and of-priest they-who law broke
líknar krǫfð, ór hǫfði
of-mercy asked out-of head
(hætt mál vas þat) heila
dangerous matter was that of-brain
himintungl firar stungu.
heaven-stars men stabbed

60 Tunga vas með tangar
Tongue was with of-tongs
tírkunn numin munni
glory-known taken from-mouth
(vasa sem vænst) ok þrysvar
was-not as likeliest and thrice
(viðrlíf) skorin knífi;
life-sustenance cut knife

auðskiptir lá eptir
wealth-divider lay after
(ǫnd lætr maðr) á strǫndu
spirit loses man on shore
(margr of minni sorgir)
many over less sorrows
meinsamliga hamlaðr.
harmfully maimed

61–66 · THE PRIEST HEALED

Óláfr made the priest whole, foot, eyes, and tongue. He lives with God; his shrine is adorned at the archbishop's see, which the world's chief men brought here, and wood of the Cross is kept there, and each man who makes him his friend is blessed.

Leyfðr's sás lét ok stýfðrar 61
Praised-is he-who let also cut-off
lamiðs fótar, gramr, njóta
lamed foot prince enjoy
ítran þegn sem augna
glorious thane as eyes
út stunginna tungu;
out stabbed tongue

hǫnd Óláfs vann heilan
hand of-Óláfr made whole
hreins gǫrvallra meina
of-pure of-all of-hurts
(gǫr munu gjǫld, þeim's byrja)
ready will payments to-those-who begin
goðs þræl (ǫfugmæli).
of-God to-servant contrary-speech

62 Bíðr alls konar œðri
Awaits of-all kind higher
(øruggt mælik þat) sælu
surely say-I that bliss
dýrðar váttr með drótni
of-glory witness with lord
dyggr, an þjóð of hyggi,
faithful than people — think
þvít lausnara lýsir
because of-redeemer reveals
(liðs valdr) numinn aldri
of-host ruler taken from-life
vinr (firði sik synðum)
friend removed himself from-sins
slík verk á jarðríki.
such works on earth-realm

Heðan vas ungr frá angri 63
Hence was young from grief
(alls mest vini flesta
of-all most friends most
goð reynir svá sína)
God tries so his
siklingr numinn miklu;
prince taken great
nú lifir hraustr, af hæstri
now lives brave from highest
himna valds þars aldri,
of-heavens of-ruler where never
fárskerðandi fyrða,
harm-cutter of-men
friðar-sýn gleði týnisk.
peace-sight joy is-lost

Hverr 's svá horskr, at byrjar 64
Who is so wise that befits
hans vegs megi of segja
his of-honor may — tell
ljóss í lífi þessu
bright in life this
lofðungs gjafar tunga?,
of-king gifts tongue

þær es heims ok himna
those which of-world and of-heavens
heitfastr jǫfurr veitir
promise-fast prince grants
(skreytt 's of skatna dróttin
adorned is about of-men lord
skrín) dýrðar-vin sínum.
shrine glory-friend to-his

Heims hykk hingat kvǫ́mu
Of-world think-I hither brought
hǫfuðsmenn í stað þenna
chief-men into place this
(snarr tyggi bergr seggjum
swift king saves for-men
sólar) erkistóli;
of-sun archbishop's-see
hér 's af himna gervis
here is from of-heavens of-maker
heilagr viðr (sem biðjum,
holy wood as pray-we
yfirskjǫldungr bjarg aldar
over-king help of-men
oss) píningarkrossi.
for-us passion-cross

Qld nýtr Óláfs mildi 66
Men enjoy of-Óláfr mildness
(jǫfurs dýrð hǫfum skýrða)
of-prince glory have-we explained
þróttar hvass at þessum
of-strength keen at this
þreksnjǫll frama ǫllum;
strength-bold advancement all
lúti landsfolk ítrum
may-bow land-folk to-glorious
lim salkonungs himna;
limb of-hall-king of-heavens
sæll es hverr, es hollan
blessed is each who loyal
hann gervir sér, manna.
him makes for-himself of-men

The poet has told a few of many miracles and prays that Óláfr, the Redeemer's friend, release those who hear the poem. He wishes King Sigurðr were alive to reward it, and leaves Eysteinn to judge how he has loosed his verse.

67 Talðak fátt ór fjǫlða
Told-I few out-of multitude
friðgegns af jartegnum
of-peace-straight from miracles
(ber koma orð frá órum)
clear come words from our
Óláfs (bragar stóli);
of-Óláfr of-poetry seat
bóls taki seggr hverr, 's sólar
of-dwelling may-take man each who of-sun
siklings, þess's goð miklar
of-prince of-him-who God great
hilmis, ǫst ens hæsta
of-king love of-the highest
heiðbjartrar, lof reiðir.
of-sky-bright praise renders

Svát lausnara leysi 68
So-that of-redeemer release
langvinr frá kvǫl strangri
long-friend from torment severe
nýta þjóð ok nauðum
useful people and troubles
nafnkuðr við trú jafnan,
name-known in faith ever
víga skýs þars vísa
of-battles of-cloud where of-king
veljendr glaðir telja
choosers glad recount
ǫflugs Krists af ǫstum
of-mighty of-Christ from loves
alnennins brag þenna.
of-all-willing poem this

Óláfs hǫfum jǫfra 69
Of-Óláfr have-we of-princes
orðhags kyni sagðar
of-word-skilled to-kin told
(fylgði hugr) ens helga
followed mind of-the holy
happsdáðir (því ráði);
luck-deeds that counsel
laun fǫm holl, ef hreinum
reward get-we gracious if to-pure
hræsíks þrimu líkar,
of-corpse-fish of-din pleases

gǫfugs óðar létt, gœði,
of-noble of-poem light goods
goðs blessun, lof, þessa.
of-God blessing praise of-this

70 Bragr myndi nú brǫndum
Poem would now with-brands
baugness vesa þessi
of-ring-headland be this
(mank rausnarskap ræsis)
remember-I magnificence of-king
raundýrliga launaðr,
truly-dearly rewarded
ef lofða gramr lifði
if of-men prince lived
leikmildr, Sigurðr, Hildar
play-gentle Sigurðr of-Hildr
(þess lýsik veg vísa
of-him proclaim-I honor of-king
vellum grimms) enn ellri.
to-gold grim the elder

71 Bœn hefk, þengill, þína
Prayer have-I prince thy
þrekrammr, stoðat framla;
strength-mighty supported boldly

iflaust hǫfum jǫfri
doubtless have-we to-prince
unnit mærð, sem kunnum;
made praise as can-we
ágætr, segið, ítran,
excellent say-ye glorious
Eysteinn, hvé brag leystak.
Eysteinn how poem loosed-I
Hǫs elskið veg vísa
Of-high love-ye honor of-king
vagnræfrs — en ek þagna.
of-wagon-roof but I fall-silent

Plácítúsdrápa

The Lay of Placidus

After a lost opening, Christ tells Placidus that he will be tried as Job was, and bids him bring his family into the faith. His wife had been shown the same in a dream, and with their two sons they are baptized, Placidus taking the name Eustachius, his wife Theopista, and the boys Agapitus and Theopistus.

*** gengit; 1
(lacuna) gone
fjǫrnis valdr kvað foldar
of-helmet ruler said of-land
frægr: nú mun þér lægjask;
famous now will to-thee be-humbled
mjúks skalt mannraun slíka
of-soft shalt-thou man-trial such
morðlinns boði finna
of-slaughter-snake offerer find
(vest í frægri freistni
be-thou in famous temptation
framr) sem Jób enn gamli.
forward as Job the old

Lundr reis gjalfrs frá grundu 2
Tree rose of-surf from ground
goðs orðum vel skorðaðr
of-God with-words well propped
elds; vas áðr til foldar
of-fire was before to earth
ormstalls boði fallinn;
of-serpent-seat offerer fallen

logstýfir bað leyfa
flame-stopper bade allow
ljóss engla sér þengil
of-bright of-angels himself prince
Vánar vífi sínu
of-Ván to-wife his
vegs þessi rǫk segja.
of-honor these tidings tell

3 Beiðir, segðu ok brúði,
Demander say-thou also to-bride
byrskríns, sonum þínum,
of-wind-shrine to-sons thy
ǫll vilk yðr, kvað stillir,
all wish-I you said ruler
ormstalls, í trú kalla,
of-serpent-seat into faith call
hyrsløngvir kom hingat
fire-flinger come hither
hvalranns of dag annan.
of-whale-house on day second
þá munk yðr, þats ófir
then will-I to-you that-which beyond
yfir (þegjum nú) segja.
over keep-silent-we now tell

Heim kom hodda geymir; 4
Home came of-hoards keeper
hagat vel því, es sagði,
arranged well that which told
viggþollr of vann dyggva
steed-fir — did faithful
Vinnils, konu sinni;
of-Vinnill to-wife his
seims kvað sér í draumi,
of-gold said to-herself in dream
svǫr veitti þau bǫrvi,
answers gave those to-tree
menreið mána slóðar
necklace-bearer of-moon of-track
mjúklynd konung syndan.
soft-minded king shown

Ok bæði hjú blíðan 5
And both couple kind
byskups fund (at mundum
of-bishop meeting at hands
þeim hykk þrifnuð kómu)
to-them think-I thriving came
þá nótt (með veg) sóttu,
that night with honor sought
ok tveir með þeim þeira,
and two with them their

þýðr gaf lærdóms prýðir
kind gave of-learning adorner
hǫldum hilmis foldar
to-men of-king of-land
hirðnǫfn synir skírðusk.
court-names sons were-baptized

6 Snjallr gat ǫrr frá illu
Bold got generous from evil
Evstakíús vaknat;
Evstakíús woken
kvǫn réð þegns at þjóna
wife did of-thane to serve
Þéópista vel Kristi;
Péópista well Christ
ungr nam atferð drengja
young took conduct of-men
Ágapítús fága;
Ágapítús to-cultivate
þýðr né þengils lýða
kind nor of-prince of-people
Þéópistús trú misti.
Péópistús faith lost

Next day Christ, in the likeness of a hart, again appears on the crag and warns him of trials to come and promises him comfort and glory. Eustachius tells his wife, and the refrain praises the life he chose; soon his herds and household begin to die.

Ok annan dag unnar 7
And second day of-wave
elg-Þróttr í stað sótti,
elk-Þróttr to place sought
fyrr þanns flærðar þverri
earlier where of-falsehood diminisher
framlyndum goð syndisk;
to-forward-minded God appeared
sannhugguðr leit seggja
true-comforted saw of-men
snildar framr á hamri
of-eloquence forward on crag
hauks í hjartar líki
of-hawk in of-hart likeness
hirðvandan gram standa.
court-careful prince stand

8 Unnit engla kennir
Granted-not of-angels knower
aldyggr við bǫl styggum
all-faithful against harm averse
lýteigs lengi at fága
of-pollack-ground long to cultivate
logbeiði sið heiðinn,
to-flame-demander custom heathen
þás sinnar trú svinnan
when his faith wise
sjaldspurðum atburði
by-seldom-heard by-event
fleinrjóð fylkir lýða
dart-reddener king of-people
flærðvarr gǫtu lærði.
falsehood-wary path taught

9 Hrætskat vǫrðr þótt verðir
Fear-not guardian though becomest-thou
(ves traustr ok ger hraustla)
be firm and do bravely
fremðar lystr í freistni
of-honor eager in temptation
fránskíðs af mér Vánar;
of-gleaming-ski from me of-Ván
þinn mun huggun hreinni,
thy will comfort purer
hers skins, trega minka,
of-host of-shine sorrow lessen

enn skalt, ǫ́rr, til þinnar
yet shalt-thou generous to thy
ástskýrðr koma dýrðar.
love-cleansed come glory

Braut hvarf hjǫrtr frá hreyti 10
Away vanished hart from scatterer
(heim fór at þat) seima,
home went after that of-gold
Krist bað frægr við freistni
Christ asked famous against temptation
fultings (boði hringa);
of-help offerer of-rings
sagði drengr, þaus dugðu,
told man those-which availed
(dolglinns) konu sinni
of-strife-snake to-wife his
(rǫskr gat hug við háska)
brisk got courage against danger
heit goðs sonar (beitir).
promises of-God of-son user

Fúss emk fremðar lýsi 11
Eager am-I of-honor to-proclaimer
fritt, ef þat mák hitta,
fair if that may-I hit

(Kristr fremr hodda hristi)
Christ advances of-hoards shaker
hugblíðum stef smíða;
to-mind-mild refrain to-craft
hlaut sás œztr es ýta,
got he-who highest is of-men
íðn Plácítús fríða,
work of-Plácítús fair
Evstakíús ævi
Evstakíús life
albazta sér valði.
all-best for-himself chose

12 Brátt kom framm, þats flýti
Soon came forth that-which to-speeder
friðbragða goð sagði,
of-peace-deeds God said
næst varð meiðr í mestri
next became tree in greatest
mannraun drasils hranna;
man-trial of-steed of-waves
hjǫrð tók hodda skerðis
herd began of-hoards of-diminisher
hyggjusnjalls at falla,
of-thought-bold to fall
fúrlestir stózk freistni
fire-spoiler withstood temptation
fleygarðs, en hjú deyja.
of-dart-fence and household die

Thieves break into his house and carry off his wealth, and the couple resolve to humble themselves before God. They leave Rome with their sons and seek passage by sea; the shipmaster, taken with the wife, keeps her, and Eustachius goes ashore unwillingly without her.

Hús brutu heiptar fúsir 13
House broke of-hatred eager
(hófsk freistni svá) þjófar,
began-itself temptation so thieves
út bǫ́ru þeir aura,
out bore they wealth
ǫldurmanns, ór ranni;
of-alderman out-of house
ǫll réð flærðar fellir
all did of-falsehood feller
fétjón, þaus beið, ljóna
wealth-losses those-which suffered of-men
(snauðr varð ǫ́rr at auði
poor became generous in wealth
unnblakks) goði þakka.
of-wave-steed to-God to-thank

Hvat hafim Sjǫfn at sitja 14
What have-we Sjǫfn to sit
seims, mælti þat, heima?
of-gold spoke that at-home

elda njótr við ítra
of-fires enjoyer to glorious
ulfvíns konu sína;
of-wolf-wine wife his
eigum oss at lægja,
ought-we ourselves to humble
einn ∗∗∗ goð beinir,
one (lacuna) God helps
(reyndr 's sás stríð ma standask
proven is he-who strife may withstand
stór) búnaði órum.
great with-estate our

15 Réð ór Rúmsborg víðri
Did out-of Rome wide
rausnar valdr at halda
of-magnificence ruler to hold
hǫppum reifðr, þás hafði
with-lucks gladdened when had
hringþollr skaða fingit;
ring-fir harm got
fóru á brott með beiti
went off away with user
byrstóðs synir fróðum
of-wind-stud sons wise
til... stranda tírar
to shores of-glory
tveir ok móðir þeira.
two and mother their

Sik bað stríða stǫðvir 16
Himself bade of-strifes stopper
stirðs, es at kom firði,
of-stiff when to came fjord
hyrlund heiðni kendan
fire-tree by-heathendom known
herleiks of sæ ferja;
of-war-play over sea ferry
veittit fremðar flýti
gave-not of-honor to-speeder
flugstyggum aldyggva
to-flight-averse all-faithful
fetrjóðr fenris jóða
foot-reddener of-wolf of-offspring
farning enn bǫlgjarni,
passage the harm-eager

Þás auðskiptis eptir 17
When of-wealth-divider after
almilds konu dvalði
of-all-mild wife kept
(væn leizk hodd-Gefn hǫnum)
fair seemed hoard-Gefn to-him
hjǫrlundr á skæ sunda;
sword-tree on steed of-sounds
hreins varð heggr við sína
of-pure became bird-cherry from his
hraustr, þás gekk af flausti,
brave when went from ship

auðar eiginbrúði
of-wealth own-bride
óviljandi at skiljask.
unwilling to part

18 Dýrðhittir bað dróttin
Glory-finder asked lord
dagbœjar sér tœja;
of-day-farm himself to-help
hæst gat hrjóðr við freistni
highest got clearer against temptation
hugborð móins storðar.
mind-plank of-serpent of-land
Hlaut sás œztr es ýta,
Got he-who highest is of-men
íðn Plácítús fríða,
work of-Plácítús fair
Evstakíús ævi
Evstakíús life
albazta sér valði.
all-best for-himself chose

God keeps the wife pure in the heathen's house. At a broad river Eustachius carries one son over, and as he turns for the other a lion takes the one boy and a wolf the other; herdsmen and plowmen rescue both, and they are raised in one village without knowing each other, while the shipmaster dies and the wife lives in a garden.

Fljóð varð heim með heiðnum 19
Woman had home with heathen
hlunndýrs fara runni;
of-roller-beast to-go tree
kona bað sér við synðum
wife asked herself against sins
saurlífis goð hlífa;
of-lechery God shield
blíðr dugði svá brúði
kind helped so to-bride
brátt, at saurgask máttit,
soon that be-defiled could-not
himna valdr, af hildar
of-heavens ruler from of-battle
hauknistis samvistu.
of-hawk-feeder cohabitation

20 Sýnir gekk með sína
Shower went with his
seggja trausts af flausti
of-men of-trust from ship
(þá vas þrekmanns ævi
then was of-strength-man life
þung) tvá sonu unga;
heavy two sons young
seimtýnir kom, sveina,
gold-destroyer came of-boys
sól-meiðr, at ǫ́ breiðri,
sun-tree to river broad
borðs né báða þorði
of-board nor both dared
bera senn yfir nenninn.
carry at-once over willing

21 Sinn bar of ǫ́, þás annan,
His bore over river when other
ástvitjuðr, lét sitja,
love-visited let sit
hraustr erfingja, hristir
brave heir shaker
Hlakkar skins á bakka,
of-Hlǫkk of-shine on bank
ok þás annan sœkja
and when other fetch
auðgildir son vildi,
wealth-payer son wished

stóð umb ok sásk síðan
stood about and looked afterward
sviðr þegn at ǫ́ miðri.
wise thane at river middle

Dýr leit fróns et frána 22
Beast saw of-earth the gleaming
fleinrjóðr koma at sveini
dart-reddener come to boy
(hryggr varð við þat harða
sorrowful became at that hard
hann), en vargr tók annan,
he and wolf took other
ok baugfergir bjarga
and ring-ferrier save
brátt hvǫ́rungi mátti,
soon neither could
dýr þás dyggva hlýra
beasts when faithful brothers
drógu braut til skógar.
dragged away to wood

Hlaut sveinn hjarðar gætis 23
Got boy of-herd of-keeper
(hugskœðr léó flœði),
mind-harmful lion fled
akrmenn gripu annan,
field-men seized other

ǽzta bjǫrg, frá vǫrgum;
highest help from wolves
fjǫrnæms fœddu bǫrvar
of-life-taking fed trees
fleins í þorpi einu
of-dart in village one
brœðr, glyggs hvatendr, báða,
brothers of-storm urgers both
blóðiss, né til vissusk.
of-blood-ice nor to knew-of-each-other

24 Lifði halr, sás hafði
Lived man who had
hrannelds tekit svanna,
of-wave-fire taken woman
blótum gnœgðr, frá brigði
with-sacrifices abundant from fickle
blíðum, fá vetr síðan;
kind few winters afterward
hús átti sér hættin
house owned herself endangered
hǫrstrengs at þat lengi
of-flax-string at that long
Jǫrð í aldingarði
Jǫrð in orchard
ógntvist ok helt kristni.
terror-sad and held Christianity

Eustachius, having lost wife and sons, speaks to God of trials beyond Job's and prays for mercy; then he goes from the wood to a village, where he works many winters as a hired man, gives his wages to the poor, and keeps his faith hidden.

Qrr hefr engla stýris 25
Generous has of-angels of-steerer
ástlaun af gram raunar
love-reward from prince of-trial
hraustr, sás hér stózk freistni
brave he-who here withstood temptation
heimsiklings vel mikla.
of-world-prince well great
Hlaut sás œztr es ýta,
Got he-who highest is of-men
íðn Plácítús fríða,
work of-Plácítús fair
Evstakíús ævi
Evstakíús life
albazta sér valði.
all-best for-himself chose

Ok þás heiptar hnekkir 26
And when of-hatred checker
harmtvistr sona misti,
grief-sad sons lost

dýrðar vǫ́ttr (við dróttin
of-glory witness with lord
dælt gerði sér) mælti:
familiar made himself spoke
éls halt við mik máli,
of-storm hold-thou with me speech
mín 's freistat nú, þínu
me is tried now by-thine
frægr valderir foldar,
famous chooser of-land
framar an Jóbs ens gamla.
further than of-Job the old

27 Hyrgeymi frák heima
Fire-keeper heard-I at-home
(hans vitjuðu) sitja,
his visited to-sit
kvǫ́n vas hǫlðs með hǫ́num,
wife was of-man with him
haukborðs (vinir) forðum;
of-hawk-plank friends formerly
ek em í útlegð stokkinn
I am into exile driven
afkarr vinum fjarri,
strange from-friends far
kvǫ́n 's braut frá mér, mína
wife is away from me my
mein dýr gripu sveina.
harmful beasts seized boys

Gjalta goð, þótt mæltak, 28
Repay-not-thou God though spoke-I
(gagls leiðar) mér reiði,
of-gosling of-way to-me anger
(ítrs stillis þarfk allrar
of-glorious of-ruler need-I all
eirar) þurptum fleira;
of-mercy for-needs more
sett fyr munn, alls minnumk,
set before mouth since remember-I
minn, vingjafa þinna,
my of-friend-gifts thy
veit oss várkunn dróttinn,
grant us pity lord
varðhald konungr aldar.
guard king of-men

Morðsólar veik máli 29
Of-murder-sun turned from-speech
meiðir; sinnar leiðar
tree his of-way
gekk ramms hǫtuðr rekka
went of-strong hater of-men
rógs í þorp ór skógi;
of-strife into village out-of wood

menfergir vas margan
necklace-ferrier was many
móðhress í bœ þessum
mood-brisk in town this
vetr, ok vann til mætrar
winters and worked for worthy
vargnistir sér bjargar.
wolf-feeder himself help

30 Ok til aumra rekka
And to poor men
atvinnu gaf Þvinnils
livelihood gave of-Þvinnill
vigg-Baldr víðrar foldar
steed-Baldr of-wide of-land
verkkaup, þats sér merkði;
wage that-which himself marked
fast helt lundr, ok leynði,
fast held tree and hid
linnvengis trú sinni
of-snake-bed faith his
hlunndýrs heiðna runna,
of-roller-beast of-heathen of-trees
hǫttnæfr við goð sǫttum.
very-clever with God reconciled

God comforts him and renews his promises. War comes on Trajan, who remembers Placidus's skill and sends men to search for him; two of his old soldiers find him at last without knowing him, and he knows them.

Unz hvardyggvan hugga 31
Until everywhere-faithful to-comfort
happmildr konungr vildi
luck-mild king wished
láðhofs lypti-Móða
of-land-temple lifting-Móði
leggjar farms í harmi;
of-limb of-load in grief
þá við huggun hǫva
then with comfort high
herstefni réð efna,
host-stem did perform
siðbjóðr snotra lýða,
custom-offerer of-wise of-people
sín heit friðar veitir.
his promises of-peace granter

Lýtr engla lið ítrum 32
Bows of-angels host to-glorious
angrhrjóðanda ok þjóðir;
to-grief-clearer and peoples

einn es ǫllu hreinni
one is than-all purer
alt gótt sás skóp dróttinn.
all good he-who created lord

33 Gǫr vas guðr, en verjask
Ready was war and defend-himself
gramr þurpti her samna
prince needed host to-gather
trautt áðr tíginn mátti
hardly before noble could
Træjánús vel ráni;
Træjánús well from-plunder
bauð landreki lýðum
bade land-ruler to-people
liði ríðara fríðu
troop of-knights fair
snildar framr at samna
of-eloquence forward to gather
sverðhríðar til víða.
sword-storm to widely

34 Mintisk gramr, þás gumna
Remembered prince when of-men
gunndjarfra vas þarfi,
of-battle-bold was need

Yggjar leik hvé auka
of-Yggr play how increase
endr Plácítús kendi;
once Plácítús knew
vellmeiðis bað víða
of-gold-tree bade widely
vígteitr konungr leita;
battle-glad king search
gnótt hét góðs, þeims mætti,
plenty promised of-good to-him-who might
gramr, svinnan hal finna.
prince wise man find

Brœðr riðu Byrfils skíða
Brothers rode of-Byrfill of-skis
beitis tveir at leita
of-user two to seek
ár, þeirs ítrum vǫru
early who to-glorious were
endr Plácító á hendi;
once to-Plácítús at hand
fundu Gylfa grundar
found of-Gylfi of-ground
glaðríðanda umb síðir
glad-rider about at-last
unnar fúrs né ærir
of-wave of-fire nor messengers
afrendan bǫr kendu.
mighty tree knew

36 Værr tók vegs ens fyrra
Calm began of-honor of-the former
viggfinnandi at minnask
steed-finder to remember
sunds, þás sína kendi
of-sound when his knew
snarlundaðr húskarla;
swift-minded house-carls
sér leitaði særir
for-himself sought wounder
seims huggunar beima
of-gold of-comfort of-men
brátt í bœn af drótni
soon in prayer from lord
bilstyggr, þás tók hryggvask.
fault-shy when began to-grieve

37–42 · PLACIDUS FOUND

Christ's voice tells him his reward is near. He serves the two soldiers as their host before they know him; then they bring the glad news, and he rides with them to the emperor.

37 Kvaddi krapti prýddan
Greeted with-power adorned
Krists rǫdd ara nisti:
of-Christ voice of-eagles feeder

dýrð hittir þik dróttins
glory finds thee of-lord
dygg, skala þú nú hryggvask;
faithful shalt-not thou now grieve
tíð kømr sóknar seiða
time comes of-attack of-fish
sendir þér at hendi
sender to-thee at hand
enn, sús yðr mun finna
yet that-which you will find
auð ok veg fyr nauðir.
wealth and honor for troubles

Bliktýnir vann beina 38
Gleam-destroyer did help
(bauglestanda) gestum
of-ring-damager to-guests
sunds (tóksk harmr af hǫndum
of-sound took-itself grief from hands
hǫr), þeims komnir vǫru;
high to-those-who come were
útbeiti frák Áta
out-user heard-I of-Áti
undrask brœðr, þás fundu,
wonder brothers when found
skíðs, á skrautvals beiði
of-ski on of-ornate-falcon demander
skokks áhyggju þokka
of-boat of-care countenance

39 Friðbeiðir gefr fríðan
Peace-demander gives fair
fǫgnuð með sér brǫgnum
joy with himself to-men
hǫppum glæstr, þeim hraustla
with-lucks adorned to-those bravely
hǫrð mein bera á jǫrðu.
hard harms bear on earth
Lýtr engla lið ítrum
Bows of-angels host to-glorious
angrhrjóðanda ok þjóðir;
to-grief-clearer and peoples
einn es ǫllu hreinni
one is than-all purer
alt gótt sás skóp dróttinn.
all good he-who created lord

40 Hugðu brœðr at beiði
Thought brothers at demander
brandéls meginvandla,
of-sword-storm main-carefully
þóttusk mildi mætan
thought-themselves mildness worthy
menn Plácítús kenna,
men Plácítús know
unz hyr-Þróttar hittu
until of-fire-Þróttr found
hjaldrserks ***
of-battle-shirt (lacuna)

∗∗∗ hǫfðu
(lacuna) had
hoddsendi rétt kendan.
hoard-sender rightly known

Bǫ́ru orð, ok urðu, 41
Bore words and became
oddregns hvatendr, fegnir,
of-point-rain urgers glad
heiðins grams af hljóði,
of-heathen of-prince from message
hjǫrva lund es fundu,
of-swords tree when found
hodda Baldr til hildar
of-hoards Baldr to battle
hugfyldr koma skyldi
mind-filled come should
alla tígn ok eignask,
all dignity and possess
endr þás lét af hendi.
again which let from hand

Brátt rézk í fǫr flýtir 42
Soon went into journey speeder
flœðar elds með brœðrum;
of-flood of-fire with brothers

maðr kunni þá manni
man could then to-man
megintíðendi at segja;
main-tidings to tell
sóttu fund, es frétti,
sought meeting when learned
fákríðanda víðis,
of-steed-rider of-sea
lofða sveit, at lifði
of-men company that lived
lengr Plácítús, drengir.
longer Plácítús men

43–48 · THE VICTORY

Trajan restores him to honor and command. Among the young men gathered for the army are his own two sons; not knowing them, struck by their noble bearing, he takes them into his company. He leads the host, wins the war, and lays waste the enemy's lands.

43 Fúss gerði veg vísi,
Eager made honor king
varð gramr feginn harða
became prince glad very
heim es happs kom geymir,
home when of-luck came keeper
hringlestanda mestan;
of-ring-damager greatest

setti þengill Þróttar
set prince of-Þróttr
þingblíðan hǫfðingja
assembly-mild chieftain
ǫflugs lýðs, ok auði,
of-mighty of-people and with-wealth
ulfs fœði, tók gœða.
of-wolf feeder began enrich

Enn bað ungra manna 44
Yet bade of-young of-men
ítr gramr fira samna
glorious prince of-men gather
fljótt, ef fámeðr þœttisk,
quickly if few-handed seemed
ferð, Plácítús verða;
troop of-Plácítús be
saman kómu þá seima
together came then of-gold
sendis heim (né kendi
of-sender home nor knew
hyrjar lunda) at hǫndum
of-fire of-trees at hands
(haukláðs) synir báðir.
of-hawk-land sons both

45 Þá réð brims á brœðrum
Then did of-surf on brothers
blakkrennandi kenna,
steed-runner know
* * * skreytendr rœddu
(lacuna) adorners spoke
skokks, stórmennis þokka;
of-boat of-great-man countenance
þings lét þessa drengi
of-assembly let these men
þráhvetjandi setja
eager-urger set
sóknar fráns í sína
of-attack gleaming into his
sveit, þás œzt vas teiti.
company where highest was cheer

46 Dýrr es himna harri,
Dear is of-heavens lord
hann eignask veg sannan;
he possesses honor true
aldrgǫfgu ræðr aldar
life-noble rules of-men
aflsteldr meginveldi.
strength-stealer main-power
Lýtr engla lið ítrum
Bows of-angels host to-glorious
angrhrjóðanda ok þjóðir;
to-grief-clearer and peoples

einn es ǫllu hreinni
one is than-all purer
alt gótt sás skóp dróttinn.
all good he-who created lord

Herr manna fór hranna 47
Host of-men went of-waves
byrbrjóts liði at móti,
of-wind-breaker troop at against
samr vas ok sókn at fremja
ready was also attack to perform
sik Plácítús, miklu;
himself Plácítús much
ógn stóð angrs af hegni,
terror stood of-grief from punisher
ulfs gœðendr þá flœðu;
of-wolf feeders then fled
þegn hlaut goðs fyr gagni
thane got of-God before victory
(guðr háðisk vel) ráða.
war was-fought well to-rule

48 Herferðar rak harðan
Of-war-journey drove hard
hyr-Þróttr í styr flótta
fire-Þróttr in strife flight
odda þings, ok eyddi
of-points of-assembly and wasted
eirlaust heruð þeira,
mercilessly districts their
áðr fyr rán, þats réðu
before for plunder that-which did
randlinns stafar vinna,
of-shield-snake staves perform
gjald, sem goðs þegn vildi,
payment as of-God thane wished
gjalfrhests metendr festu.
of-surf-horse valuers fixed

49–54 · THE MOTHER'S GARDEN

The army rests in the village where the wife lives, and her two sons are lodged in her garden, unknown to her. The elder tells the younger of the lion and the wolf, and they know each other as brothers; the mother knows her sons, and all rejoice.

49 Hyrgildir fekk hvílðar
Fire-payer got of-rest
hrafnvíns liði sínu,
of-raven-wine for-troop his

garpr bauð Þrós í þorpi
warrior bade of-Þrór in village
þingveljǫndum dveljask;
to-assembly-choosers stay
setti of eins hvers ýtis
set around of-one each of-launcher
apaldrs garð brimis kapla,
of-apple-tree fence of-surf of-colts
*** lýðar,
(lacuna) of-people
lungs, umbhverfis stungit.
of-ship around stuck

Hús átti sér hættin
House owned herself endangered
hress í garði þessum,
brisk in yard this
sek þvengjar... þungra,
guilty of-thong of-heavy
Þéópista, sér vistar,
Þéópista herself of-dwelling
síz jarðar fjǫr [firðisk?],
since of-earth life was-removed
fránbaugs, sás tók hána,
of-gleaming-ring he-who took her
undins látrs, frá ítrum
of-wound of-lair from glorious
endr Plácító, sendir.
again Plácítús sender

51 Ok inn í sal sinnar
And in into hall of-their
siðfróðastir móður,
custom-wisest of-mother
brœðr hlutu œzta blíðu,
brothers got highest kindness
brynþings viðir gingu;
of-mail-assembly trees went
en ítr foldar elda
but glorious of-land of-fires
Endils sonu kendit
of-Endill sons knew-not
hirðigǫ́tt, þótt hitti
court-heedful though met
*** móður.
(lacuna) mother

52 Unz tírrœkir tœki
Until glory-tenders took
tveir brœðr of þat rœða
two brothers about that to-speak
orð, hvat œski-Nirðir
word what wish-Njǫrðrs
ynðis framast of mynði;
of-joy most-forward — would

Þollr gat... enn ellri
fir got the elder
∗∗∗ fyr bróður
(lacuna) before brother
lýst ok langa freistni
told and long temptation
∗∗∗ hlífar.
(lacuna) of-shield

Frá því 's friðgin, nýja, 53
From that is peace-gentle new
fjogur endr, síz trú kendu,
four once since faith knew
ráði ór Rúmsborg víðri
with-counsel out-of Rome wide
raunmœðila flœðu,
trial-wearily fled
ok bjartglóða beiðir
and bright-ember demander
bragðvíss gripinn sagðisk
deed-wise seized said-himself
frár af frœknu dýri
swift from bold beast
flóðs, en vargr tók bróður.
of-flood but wolf took brother

54 Kendusk, ǫ́rr þás endi
Recognized-each-other generous when ended
unnfress sǫgu þessa,
of-wave-bear saga this
mildir brœðr, en móðir
mild brothers and mother
meinstygg sonu dyggva;
harm-shy sons faithful
spanði ítr til ynðis
drew glorious to joy
Eir goð..., þeira
Eir God their
þvít hrygg saga huggun
because sad saga comfort
hoddskerðǫndum gerði.
to-hoard-diminishers made

55–59 · REUNION AND THE LAST TRIAL

The wife asks the captain for passage home and recognizes him as her husband, and all four are united. They return to Rome in triumph, but the new emperor Hadrian bids Placidus sacrifice to the idols for the victory; the poem breaks off as the trial begins.

55 Ok fjǫlkostig fýstisk
And much-endowed desired
fóstrlanda til stranda
of-fosterlands to shores
hauka klifs, þás hafði,
of-hawks of-cliff when had

byrgrund, sonu fundna;
wind-ground sons found
fljótt það fylgju veita
quickly bade escort grant
fenglóðar sér tróða
of-booty-ember herself pole
liðs hǫfðingja leyfðan
of-troop chieftain praised
Langbarða til jarðar.
of-Lombards to land

Kendusk hjú, þás handa 56
Recognized-each-other couple when of-hands
* * *
(lacuna)
atburð, elda, Nirði
event of-fires to-Njǫrðr
ormvangs, hvé kom þangat;
of-serpent-plain how came thither
beiði-Þrór við báða
demander-Þrór with both
buri kannaðisk, sanna,
sons acknowledged true
armlinns, œsku sinnar
of-arm-snake of-youth his
. ld ...rþ * * * þo.
(fragment) (fragment) (lacuna) (fragment)

57 Gerðu grœnnar jarðar
Made of-green of-earth
gǫ... fundizk, hǫfðu,
(fragment) met had
eklaust ítrum þakkir
without-lack to-glorious thanks
ǫll ∗∗∗ gram snjǫllum,
all (lacuna) to-prince bold
áðr til Rúms frá rómu
before to Rome from battle
rekka sveit með teitri
of-men company with glad
sigrgladdr snilli prýddri
victory-gladdened eloquence adorned
sóknstœrandi fœri.
attack-increaser went

58 Né víghressa vissi
Nor battle-brisk knew
vel ∗∗∗
well (lacuna)
tírmildr tyggja þeira
glory-mild of-king their
Træjánús ∗∗∗
Træjánús (lacuna)

óþǫrfu bað erfa
harm bade inherit
ítr ∗∗∗ verka
glorious (lacuna) of-works
andrán Adríánús
breath-robbery Adríánús
ǫrva móts ∗∗∗
of-arrows of-meeting (lacuna)

Inn bað með sér svinnan 59
In bade with himself wise
snarfengr í hof þengill
swift-grasping into temple prince
(ítr hnekkir stóð úti
glorious checker stood outside
angrs) Plácítúm ganga;
of-grief Plácítús go
blót, kvað gramr enn grimmi,
sacrifice said prince the grim
gagni í sókn ok fagna;
for-victory in attack and rejoice
kvǫn hittir þú þína
wife findest thou thy

GAMLI KANÓKI

Harmsól

The Sun of Sorrow

Gamli asks God, who made all things, to open the gate of his poem, for no man can find words worthy of Christ; he prays for the Holy Spirit to cleanse his mind and for mercy despite unworthy speech. Christ bids all confess their sins and promises mercy, and men must make ready for the terror of the Last Judgment.

Hár stillir, lúk heilli, 1
High ruler open with-luck
hreggtjalda, mér, aldir,
of-storm-tents for-me men
upp, þú 's allar skaptir,
up thou who all createdst
óðborgar hlið góðu,
of-poem-fort gate good
mjúk svát mætti auka
soft so-that might increase
mǫl gnýviðum stála
words to-din-trees of-steels
miska bót af mætu
of-misdeeds remedy from worthy
mín fultingi þínu.
my help thy

Engr má elda sløngvir 2
No may of-fires flinger
(allvist es þat) Mistar
all-certain is that of-Mist
maklig orð til mærðar,
fitting words for praise

minn dróttinn, þér finna,
my lord for-thee find
þars, élhallar, ǫllu
where of-storm-hall than-all
est, skýrr konungr, dýrri,
art-thou bright king dearer
rómu linns þvís runnar
of-battle of-snake than-that-which trees
rammglyggs megi of hyggja.
of-strong-storm may — think

3 Send þú yðvarn anda,
Send thou your spirit
einskepjandi, hreinan
sole-creator pure
mér, þanns mitt of fœri
to-me which my — bring
munar grand heðan, landa;
of-mind harm hence of-lands
alls megu ekki þollar
because may nothing firs
án fremja þess hǫnum
without perform of-that him
súða viggs, es seggjum
of-planks of-steed which to-men
siða-bót af því hljótisk.
custom-betterment from that is-gotten

Mér vil ek ok eirar 4
For-me wish I and of-mercy
(oss byrjar þat) hnossa,
us befits that of-treasures
himins stillandi, hollrar,
of-heaven ruler of-gracious
hæstr, miskunnar æsta,
highest of-mercy to-ask
þótt óverðum orðum,
though with-unworthy words
ítr fylkir, mik lítir
glorious king me lookest-thou-on
víst fyr vás ok lǫstu,
surely for hardship and vices
veðrhallar, þik kveðja.
of-weather-hall thee to-greet

Þú býðr ǫll með iðran, 5
Thou bidst all with repentance
einn Kristr, viðum Mistar
one Christ to-trees of-Mist
linns fyr lærðum mǫnnum
of-snake before learned men
lýti sín at tína;
faults their to recount
ok, hábrautar, heitið,
and of-high-road promised

hreggvǫrðr, þegar seggjum
storm-guardian at-once to-men
sannri líkn ok sýknu,
true mercy and acquittal
snjallr, fyr vás ok galla.
bold for hardship and faults

6 Oss verðr ey, nema þessum
For-us becomes ever unless these
aldr várn boðum haldim,
life our commandments hold-we
menn búisk mǫrgu sinni,
men should-prepare-themselves many times
meiri ógn, við þeiri,
greater terror against that
hver þvít hætt ráð bǫrva
each because dangerous counsel of-trees
hljóms á øfsta dómi
of-din at last judgment
upp fyr allri skepnu
up before all creation
ósǫgð koma lǫgðis.
unspoken come of-sword

From youth the poet turned his neck against God and followed his own will, bearing no fruit of good works. He sinned in word and deed, judged others while forgetting his own faults, and received Christ's body and blood with a foul breast; now he sees how ill his state stands for salvation.

Ungr vǫnðumk ek, yngvi, 7
Young accustomed-myself I prince
ofderfila at hverfa
over-boldly to turn
(lítt gáðak þá), þjóðar,
little heeded-I then of-people
(þín) ept vilja mínum;
thee after will my
enn snørak jafnan mínum,
yet turned-I ever my
ilt ráð þás mik vilti,
ill counsel when me led-astray
dýrð hittandi dróttinn
glory finding lord
dáðrakkr, við þér hnakka.
deed-bold against thee neck

Ofljǫskvan hǫfum œsku 8
Over-slack have-we youth
aldr várn spanit sjaldan,
life our drawn seldom

barkat blóm af verkum
bore-not-I bloom from works
bráðgǫrt, frá ódǫðum,
quickly-made from misdeeds
ítr, þás opt á móti
glorious when often on against
ófríð risu blíðum,
un-peace rose kind
mærð-vinnandi manna,
praise-winner of-men
mín verk boðum þínum.
my works commands thy

9 Gerðak opt í orðum,
Did-I often in words
eljunsterkr, sem verkum,
zeal-strong as in-works
hreggs bjartloga, ok hyggju,
of-storm of-bright-flame and in-thought
hróts, í gǫgn þér, dróttinn,
of-roof in against thee lord
þræll hefr þinn í allan
servant has thy into all
þann, lífgjafi manna,
that life-giver of-men
ófs grǫndugrar andar
of-excess of-harmful of-soul
ástsnauðr hratat dauða.
love-poor fallen death

Þinn hefr þunglig unnit 10
Thy has heavy done
(þat fœrir mjǫk) sœri
that brings much wounds
synðugr þjónn (frá svinnu)
sinful servant from wisdom
sóltjalds konungr (aldir);
of-sun-tent king men
mæltak mart þats spilti,
spoke-I much which spoiled
mætr vissir þat gætir
worthy knewest-thou that keeper
ranns, í rausan minni,
of-house in talk my
rǫðuls, fyr mér ok ǫðrum.
of-sun before me and others

Ókynni gatk, annan, 11
Unkindness got-I other
optsinnis þar vinna,
often there to-do
vigrar, ljóss, es vissak
of-spear of-light which knew-I
veðr-Þróttr, á mik, dróttinn,
weather-Þróttr on me lord
lítt bark ǫnn ok ótta
little bore-I care and fear
undgjalfrs, fyr mér sjǫlfum,
of-wound-surf for me self

grálinns geymirunna
of-gray-snake of-keeper-trees
glaðr þás dœmðak aðra.
glad when judged-I others

12 Bergðak brjósti saurgu,
Tasted-I with-breast foul
byrjar hlunns, sem munni,
of-wind of-roller as with-mouth
hreins, ok holdi þínu,
of-pure and flesh thy
huggóðr jǫfurr, blóði;
mind-good prince blood
þó sék, þengill skýja
yet see-I prince of-clouds
þrifskjótr, meginljótir
thrift-swift main-ugly
hagir sýnask mér mínir
conditions seem to-me my
margir, þar til bjargar.
many there for help

He showed men his few good deeds and hid his faults, feared men's anger more than God's, and often promised penance and turned back. He is wrapped in misdeeds, and asks who could fail to love the God who showed his love by taking flesh.

Létk í ljós fyr Gautum 13
Let-I into light before Gauts
láðs nǫkkurar dáðir
of-land some deeds
laxa fróns, en leyndak
of-salmon of-land but hid-I
lǫskum þǫ́tt sem máttak,
faults though as could-I
seggja kind at sýndisk
of-men kin that seemed
(setrs) þokka mun betri
of-seat of-mind much better
(vísi hár) an værak
ruler high than were-I
(vel kunnum því, sunnu).
well can-we that of-sun

Hendak hverjar stundir, 14
Seized-I every hours
Hlakkar borðs es þorðak,
of-Hlǫkk of-board when dared-I
miska-ráð, fyr meiðum,
misdeed-counsel before trees

minn lífgjafi, at vinna;
my life-giver to do
miðr óttuðumk yðra
less feared-I your
ósjaldan, gramr tjalda
not-seldom prince of-tents
(því vasa hagslept) hyrjar
therefore was-not well-escaped of-fire
heiðs, an gumna reiði.
of-sky than of-men anger

15 Hétk opt fyr lið láta
Promised-I often before troop to-let
lasta verk til fasta
of-vices works to fasts
þér, en þekkjask dýrar,
to-thee and please dear
þeyláðs konungr, dáðir;
of-thaw-land king deeds
enn snørumk ey til minna
yet turn-I ever to my
aptr, landreki krapta,
back land-ruler of-strength
esa vanði sá, synða,
is-not habit that sins
sjaldreyndr kyni aldar.
seldom-tried to-kin of-men

Hefr, at hvern of rifjak, 16
Has that each — recount-I
harri minn, til fjarri,
lord my too far
grandi firðr, þanns gerðak
from-harm removed which did-I
geig, es sék þik eigi,
harm since see-I thee not
elsku kuðr, alls yðvarr
of-love known since your
ǫðlingr, hef ek, rǫðla,
prince have I of-suns
aumligr þræll í ǫllum
wretched servant in all
afgerðum mik vafðan.
misdeeds me wrapped

Hverr es greppr, sás gerra, 17
Who is man he-who does-not
grunnúðigr, þér unna
shallow-minded thee love
(slíkr hǫfum synðar auki
such have-we of-sin increase
sótt) heimstǫðu dróttinn;
sought of-world-stead lord
þú biðr ǫld, en aðrir,
thou askest men and others
almáttigr goð, sátta,
almighty God of-reconciliations

ýta ferð at yrði
of-men troop that became
aldýr, sǫkum valda.
all-dear strifes cause

18 Ítr, lýstir þú ástar,
Glorious showedst thou of-love
élserkjar gramr, merki
of-storm-shirt prince tokens
láðs til lyptimeiða
of-land to lifting-trees
linns í hérvist þinni;
of-snake in sojourn thy
goð, rétt goðdóm yðvarn
God right godhead your
(glatask mein af því) hreinan
is-lost harm from that pure
(hǫlða liðs) at hylja,
of-men of-troop to hide
hár, manndómi vǫrum.
high with-manhood our

Christ was born of a maiden, bore weakness and was beaten, bound, and nailed to the cross for our sins; the refrain praises God, maker of earth and heaven. One thief mocked him; the other asked to be remembered and was promised paradise.

Þú vast, mæztr, frá meyju 19
Thou wast most-worthy from maiden
(mikil dyrð es þat fyrðum),
great glory is that to-men
hauðrs, í heim með lýðum
of-earth into world among peoples
hildingr, borinn mildri;
prince born mild
sæll bart óstyrkð alla,
blessed borest-thou weakness all
ágætr, ok meinlæti,
excellent and mortification
skrýðir skýja slóðar
adorner of-clouds of-track
skríns, á líkam þínum.
of-shrine on body thy

20 Skjǫldungi erum skyldir
To-king are-we bound
skýja tjalds ok aldar
of-clouds of-tent and of-men
greitt sem gǫfgast mætti
readily as most-nobly might
grandlausum stef vanda.
to-harmless refrain to-make
Ern skóp hauðr ok hlýrni
Vigorous created earth and heaven
heims valdr sem kyn beima,
of-world ruler as kin of-men
ǫrr es ok ǫllu dýrri
generous is and than-all dearer
élsetrs konungr betri.
of-storm-seat king better

21 Endr vart barðr ok bundinn,
Once wast-thou beaten and bound
buðlungr, meginþungar,
prince main-heavy
hlýrnis elds, af hǫlðum,
of-heaven of-fire by men
hár, fyr sekðir várar;
high for guilts our
enn lézt, ǫldu runna
yet lettest-thou of-wave trees
angrstríðir, þik síðan,
grief-striver thee afterward

viggs, meðal vándra seggja,
of-steed among wicked men
vegligr, á tré negla.
splendid on tree nail

Þjófr annarr tók þannig, 22
Thief other began thus
þrifvaldr gǫfugr, aldar
thrift-ruler noble of-men
(sǫl vas hans ofs ok ælig
soul was his of-excess and pitiful
ósæl) við gram mæla:
unblessed with prince to-speak
nú sýn afl, ens eina
now show might of-the one
alls þú goðs sonr kallask,
since thou of-God son art-called
ok með ǫflgu ríki,
and with mighty power
oss, stíg niðr af krossi.
us step down from cross

Yðr nam annarr kveðja 23
You began other to-greet
illvirki svá, stillir
evil-doer so ruler
hás, þás hræddisk píslir,
of-high when feared torments

hríðar nausts, með trausti:
of-storm of-boathouse with trust
minnsk þú, mildingr sunnu,
remember thou king of-sun
mín, kvað bauga tínir,
me said of-rings gatherer
þitt (ák hag til hættan
thy have-I state too staked
heldr) es kømr í veldi.
rather when comest-thou into power

24 Hlaut af yðr sem aðrir
Got from you as others
auðbrjótr meginskjóta,
wealth-breaker main-swift
láðs, þeirs lǫstum eyða,
of-land who vices destroy
líkn skepjandi ríkis;
mercy creator of-realm
sókndeili hét sælu
to-attack-dealer promised bliss
sannvíss paradísar
truly-wise of-paradise
(gæf reyndusk þau þjóti
good proved those to-rusher
þín heit) friðar veitir.
thy promises of-peace granter

God grants release to those who repent. No one could stand unweeping by Christ's torment, borne alone for all; he rose on the third day, gladdened his friends, and ascended in the flesh while the wise watched, and angels and men praise him.

Hollostu gefr hæsta 25
Loyalty gives highest
hring-Þróttr með sér dróttinn
ring-Þróttr with himself lord
saðr, þeims, sinna, iðrask,
true to-those-who their repent
synða lausn ok ynði.
of-sins release and joy
Ern skóp hauðr ok hlýrni
Vigorous created earth and heaven
heims valdr sem kyn beima,
of-world ruler as kin of-men
ǫrr es ok ǫllu dýrri
generous is and than-all dearer
élsetrs konungr betri.
of-storm-seat king better

Hverr myndi svá hendir 26
Who would so catcher
harðgeðr loga fjarðar,
hard-minded of-flame of-fjord
éla ranns, ef ynni,
of-storms of-house if loved

ítr gervir, þér, rítar,
glorious maker thee of-shield
at, þreknenninn, þinni
that strength-willing thy
þollr, sættandi, mætti
fir reconciler might
ógrátandi, ýta,
unweeping of-men
ormlands hjá kvǫl standa.
of-serpent-land beside torment stand

27 Sæll, tókt einn fyr allar
Blessed tookest-thou alone for all
óverðr guma ferðir,
undeserving of-men troops
sannstýrandi, sáran,
true-steerer sore
sólhauðrs, á þik dauða,
of-sun-earth on thee death
ok (liðfasta) leystir
and host-fast releasedst-thou
(lífs unnir þú runnum)
of-life grantedst thou to-trees
hǫlða ferð ór harðri
of-men troop out-of hard
harms gnótt, fira dróttinn.
of-harm plenty of-men lord

Hilmir, reis, ens hæsta 28
Prince rose of-the highest
hríðtjalds, ór grǫf síðan,
of-storm-tent out-of grave afterward
flýtileygs, á frægjum,
of-swift-flame on famous
friðsamr, degi þriðja,
peaceable day third
ok ráðvísa, ræsir
and counsel-wise king
regnhallar, vant fegna,
of-rain-hall didst-thou gladden
áðr þás yðvarr dauði,
before whom your death
aldyggr, fira, hryggði.
all-faithful of-men grieved

Leitt í lopt upp, dróttinn, 29
Wentest-thou into air up lord
(litu gǫrla þat vitrir)
saw clearly that wise
himins, fylgjandi helgu
of-heaven followers holy
holdi skrýddr, af foldu;
with-flesh clad from earth
áðr trúir ǫld ok síðan
before believe men and since
aldýran þik stýra,
all-dear thee steer

skríngeypnandi, skepnu,
shrine-encompasser creation
skýstalls, sælu allri.
of-cloud-stall bliss all

30 Ítr lofar engla sveitar
Glorious praises of-angels of-company
allr herr salar fjalla
all host of-hall of-mountains
víst með vegsemð hæstri
surely with honor highest
vǫrð ok menn á jǫrðu.
guard and men on earth
Ern skóp hauðr ok hlýrni
Vigorous created earth and heaven
heims valdr sem kyn beima,
of-world ruler as kin of-men
ǫrr es ok ǫllu dýrri
generous is and than-all dearer
élsetrs konungr betri.
of-storm-seat king better

Christ will come again to judge; fire rages and the dead wake in dread, and even the angels tremble. His wounds and cross will be shown to sinners; men must turn from sin while they may, and no words praise Christ enough. The second refrain praises the king of heaven, and at last he divides the throng into two companies and leads his children to joy.

Enn munǫðru sinni 31
Yet will second time
ǫðlingr koma hingat
prince come hither
mána tjalds enn mildi,
of-moon of-tent the mild
meðr til dóms at kveðja;
men to judgment to summon
geisar eldr ok œsisk
rages fire and rises
ǫlna fold; ór moldu
of-fishes land out-of earth
ferð vaknar þá fyrða
troop wakes then of-men
flest við ugg enn mesta.
most with dread the greatest

32 Engr mun alls á þingi
None will of-all at assembly
ísheims vesa þvísa
of-ice-world be that
jóskreytandi ítrum
steed-adorner glorious
óttalauss fyr drótni,
fearless before lord
éla vangs þvít englar
of-storms of-plain because angels
jǫfurs skjalfa þá sjalfir,
of-prince tremble then themselves
(ógn tekr mǫ́ttug magnask),
terror begins mighty grow
mæts, við ugg ok hrælzlu.
of-worthy with dread and fear

33 Hǫrð munat hógligt verða
Hard will-not easy be
hjalmstýranda ens dýra
of-helmet-steerer of-the dear
sunnu synðgum mǫnnum
of-sun for-sinful men
sekðar-orð at forðask,
guilt-word to avoid

systkin mín, þvít sýnask
siblings my because appear
sǫr ok kross fyr ossu
wounds and cross before our
dróttins várs með dreyra
of-lord our with blood
dyggs augliti hryggu.
of-faithful face sad

Vér getk fátt at fœrim 34
We think-I little that bring-we
framm í orða glammi
forth in of-words din
at dáðgeymis dómi
at of-deed-keeper judgment
dýrðar gjarns of varnir,
of-glory eager about defenses
endr ef eigi vendum
again if not turn-we
aldar kyns fyr synðir
of-men of-kin for sins
(heldr reynisk þat hǫlðum
rather proves that to-men
hætt) við gram til sættar.
dangerous with prince to settlement

35 Orð megu vǫnduð verða
Words may careful become
vist aldrigi Kristi
surely never for-Christ
(goð 's an gǫrvalt œðri
God is than all higher
gœzku fyldr) sem skyldi.
with-goodness filled as should
Sterk lofar drótt ok dýrkar
Strong praises host and worships
dagstalls konung snjallan,
of-day-stall king bold
himins es fylkir fremri
of-heaven is king more-outstanding
fróðr hvívetna góðu.
wise than-everything good

36 Dóms-orði lýkr dýrðar
With-judgment-word closes of-glory
dróttar valdr á aldir,
of-host ruler on men
þars greinisk lið ljóna
where is-divided troop of-men
loks í tvenna flokka;
at-last into two companies

spǫnð lætr ǫll til ynðis
enticed lets all to joy
óttlaust af því móti
fearless from that meeting
sunnu hvéls ok sælu
of-sun of-wheel and bliss
sín bǫrn konungr fjǫrnis.
his children king of-helmet

37–42 · HEAVEN AND HELL

The blessed see Christ in his glory, a joy we should never let out of mind. Those who would not obey suffer endless torments, stench, fire, and frost beyond telling; all should fear God, be reconciled in time, and keep his commandments while young.

Gumar líta þá gæti 37
Men see then keeper
(gengr alt við kør drengjum)
goes all at choice for-men
heilags Krists í hæstum
of-holy of-Christ in highest
himinljóma goðdómi;
heaven-gleam godhead

oss skyldi sú aldri
us should that never
unaðs-gnótt fira dróttins
joy-plenty of-men of-lord
(þar 's ǫrsløngvi engum
there is to-arrow-flinger to-none
angrsamt) ór hug ganga.
grievous out-of mind go

38 Þjóð á hart, sús hlýða
People has hard that-which obey
hildings boðum vildit
of-king to-commands would-not
lofða kyns meðan lifði,
of-men of-kin while lived
lýtum kend fyr hendi;
with-faults known before hand
sú rasar aum í aumar
that rushes wretched into wretched
æ vísligar píslir;
ever certain torments
ey grœtir þar ýta
ever makes-weep there men
uggr, en vætki huggar.
dread but nothing comforts

Fnyk þola flærðar auknir 39
Stench endure of-falsehood increased
fleygjendr þrimu leygjar,
flingers of-din of-flame
þar liggr elds á ǫldum
there lies of-fire on waves
ímu frost með bríma;
of-battle frost with fire
mǫrg 's ǫnnur þar manna
many is other there of-men
meiri ógn ok fleira
greater terror and more
angr, an ór megi tunga,
grief than our may tongue
óvegs, frá því segja.
of-dishonor from that tell

Mjǫk gengr mǫttr ok ríki 40
Much goes might and power
mæts varðanda jarðar
of-worthy of-guardian of-earth
(lýð dugir helzt at hræðask
to-people avails most to fear
hann) of alt vit manna.
him over all wit of-men
Sterk lofar drótt ok dýrkar
Strong praises host and worships
dagstalls konung snjallan,
of-day-stall king bold

himins es fylkir fremri
of-heaven is king more-outstanding
fróðr hvívetna góðu.
wise than-everything good

41 Kosti hverr við harra
Should-strive each with lord
(hætt 's ella mjǫk) sættask
dangerous is else much be-reconciled
byrjar láðs (hvat bíðum)
of-wind of-land what await-we
blakkvaldr þrumu tjalda;
steed-ruler of-thunder of-tents
opt verðr ægis leiptra
often becomes of-sea of-lightnings
ein stund viðum grundar
one hour to-trees of-ground
(trauðr erum ǫll at eyða
reluctant are-we all to destroy
andar mein) at seinum.
of-soul harms at late

42 Ungr skyldi þat ǫldu
Young should that of-wave
eyktemjandi fremja,
time-tamer perform

gífrs es gǫmlum hœfir
of-troll-woman which to-old befits
gunntjalds boða at halda;
of-battle-tent commandments to hold
trauð verðr hǫnd, en hlýða
reluctant becomes hand but obey
hrynvengis má engum
of-falling-bed may to-none
Gaut nema gǫr verk bœti
Gautr unless done works amend
grundar mens, af venju.
of-ground of-necklace from habit

43–48 · THE EXAMPLE OF DAVID

Long life is promised to no one, and God has hidden the day of death, so every man should cleanse himself. The poet promises examples of mercy: God's friends who sinned gravely amended quickly, and King David, after taking another man's wife and causing her husband's death, hastened to repent.

Ræfrs esat lǫngu lífi 43
Of-roof is-not long life
lungbeitǫndum heitit,
to-ship-drivers promised
(ryms finna þat runnar
of-roar find that trees
randelds) af gram landa;
of-shield-fire from prince of-lands

því 's hringskúrar hverjum
therefore is of-ring-shower to-each
hag sinn með trú fagri
state his with faith fair
yngra þoll ok ellra
younger fir and elder
einsætt at vel hreinsi.
plain that well cleanse

44 Leygs hefr dánar-dœgri
Of-flame has death-day
dáðreyndr jǫfurr leynða
deed-tried prince hidden
svana flugreinar sínu
of-swans of-flight-land his
sviptendr jǫru skriptar,
casters of-battle of-penance
þvít frónspennir finna
because land-grasper find
fagrtjalda vill aldri
of-fair-tents will never
dœlar seiðs við dauða
of-valley of-fish against death
dúnmeiða vanbúna.
down-trees unprepared

Háborgar, fæsk hvergi 45
Of-high-fort is-got nowhere
hald þats bresti aldri,
hold that-which fails never
hreggs nema, horskum seggjum,
of-storm unless to-wise men
heitfastr jǫfurr veitir.
promise-fast prince grants
Sterk lofar drótt ok dýrkar
Strong praises host and worships
dagstalls konung snjallan,
of-day-stall king bold
himins es fylkir fremri
of-heaven is king more-outstanding
fróðr hvívetna góðu.
wise than-everything good

Enn lætk sagðan svinnum 46
Yet let-I told to-wise
sárklungrs viðum, þungan
of-wound-bramble to-trees heavy
hǫtt, þats hvern dag ættim
manner that-which each day ought-we
hræðask, framm í kvæði;
fear forth in poem

þjóð mun sýna síðan
people will show afterward
slœmr miskunnar dœmi
end-part of-mercy examples
(ek skylda þó aldri
I should yet never
ugglauss) þaus mik hugga.
dread-less those-which me comfort

47 Lítk optliga ýta
See-I often of-men
óglíkan mik fíkjum
unlike me greatly
(aukumk sǫr í slíku
increase-for-me wounds in such
sótt) ástvinum dróttins;
sickness to-love-friends of-lord
þeir bundusk vel vándra
they bound-themselves well of-wicked
verka ógnar sterkir
of-works of-terror strong
brigða skjótt ok bœttu
change quickly and amended
bógsvells metendr ella.
of-arm-ice valuers else

Frétt hafa dyggvar dróttir, 48
Learned have faithful hosts
Dávið konungr síðan
David king afterward
snilli vanðr ept synðir
eloquence accustomed after sins
siðabót at tók skjóta;
custom-betterment to began hasten
blíðr nam þengill þýðask
kind began prince to-incline
(þat 's bann) konu annars,
that is ban wife of-another
en réð, svát bar brǫðum,
and did so-that bore soon
búandmann af því svanna.
husband from that woman

49–54 · PETER AND MARY MAGDALENE

David was forgiven and given more than before. Peter, who denied Christ for fear of a maid, washed away his sin with tears, and God let him fail so that he would pity sinners; Mary washed Christ's feet with her tears and was released from her misdeeds. These signs strengthen the poet's prayer for his soul.

Drengr réð brátt at beiða 49
Man did soon to ask
buðlung ept hag þungan
prince after state heavy
hǫppum reifðr, sem hœfði,
with-lucks gladdened as befitted

himinríkis sér líkna;
of-heaven-realm for-himself mercies
fekk an fyrr af harra
got than before from lord
fríðr landreki síðan
handsome land-ruler afterward
(hann réttisk svá) sunnu
he was-righted so of-sun
sætrs vingjafar mætri.
of-pasture friend-gifts worthier

50 Nítti einn við ótta
Denied one from fear
ítr postoli rítar
glorious apostle of-shield
fróns musteris festi
of-land of-temple fastener
forðum þýjar orða;
formerly of-maid of-words
en þegars iðran sanna
but as-soon-as repentance true
aldrprýðir fekk lýða,
life-adorner got of-people
Pétr vann glœp með gráti
Peter did crime with weeping
grandlauss þvegit vandla.
harmless washed carefully

Því lét seggja sveitar 51
Therefore let of-men of-company
sinn postola finna
his apostle find
(raun lýsir þat) ræsir
proof shows that king
ríkr óstyrkðir slíkar,
mighty weaknesses such
at bæri mun meiri
that bore much more
malmrunnum várkunnir,
to-metal-trees pities
menn þótt misgǫrt ynni,
men though misdone did
margfríðr skǫrungr síðan.
much-handsome leader afterward

Hlaut María mætum 52
Got Mary worthy
miskunn af gram sunnu,
mercy from prince of-sun
víns þás virða reynis
of-wine when of-men of-tester
Vǫ́r þó fœtr með tǫ́rum;
Vǫ́r washed feet with tears

snjallr vann snót frá ǫllum
bold did woman from all
senn misgerðum hennar
at-once misdeeds her
gumna vǫrðr, es gerðu
of-men guardian which did
goði treystisk Bil, leysta.
in-God trusted Bil released

53 Slík styrkja mik merki,
Such strengthen me tokens
minn goð, undra þinna,
my God of-wonders thy
þótt atferðin yrði
though the-conduct became
ór herfilig, stórum,
our wretched greatly
leiptra hróts at láta
of-lightnings of-roof to let
láðvaldr myni aldri,
land-ruler will never
glaðr ef glœpa iðrumk,
glad if of-crimes repent-I
glóða, mik fyr róða.
of-embers me over board

Sǫlu veittak, sættir, 54
To-soul gave-I reconciler
(sárr es minn hugr) þinni
sore is my mind thy
bana hættligar benjar,
death dangerous wounds
bragna kyns, fyr synðir,
of-men of-kin for sins
nú beiðum þik, þjóðar
now ask-we thee of-people
þrekfœðandi, grœða
strength-feeder heal
andar sǫr, þaus óru
of-soul wounds those-which our
ósvífr glata lífi.
unruly destroy life

55–60 · MERCY RATHER THAN JUSTICE

The world is fickle and darkens men's ways. The poet asks to be judged by mercy rather than justice, for sinners have no other shelter, and turns to Mary, the temple of the highest, praying that she never fail him.

Brigðr es heimr, sás hugðak, 55
Fickle is world which thought-I
hann døkkvir sið manna,
it darkens custom of-men

opt verðr lýðr á láði
often becomes people on land
lastauðigr, vinfastan;
vice-rich friend-fast
eykr, sás eigi rœkir
increases he-who not heeds
orð þín, friðar tínir,
words thy of-peace gatherer
hjǫrva þollr, en hylli
of-swords fir and favor
hans leitar, sér vansa.
his seeks himself shame

56 Tregr emk ljót at láta
Reluctant am-I ugly to let
lasta-verk til fasta,
vice-works to fasts
mér hagar opt fyr augum,
for-me happens often before eyes
æligs móðs fyr róða;
of-miserable of-mood over board
þess ák mér at meiri,
of-that have-I to-me the more
margríkr jǫfurr, líknar,
much-mighty prince of-mercy
fleygs, ok, foldar œgis,
of-flying and of-land of-terror
friðar sjalfan þik biðja.
of-peace self thee to-ask

Heldr dœmðu mik, hǫlða 57
Rather judge-thou me of-men
happvinnandi, þinni
luck-winner thy
meir af miskunn dýrri,
more from mercy dear
mætastr, an réttlæti;
worthiest than justice
lít ok virð, sem vættik,
look and value as hope-I
valdr blásinna tjalda
ruler of-blown of-tents
hreggs, at hjǫlp of þiggi,
of-storm that help — receive
hár, óstyrkðir várar.
high weaknesses our

Hvar megum oss, enn ǫrvi 58
Where may-we for-ourselves yet generous
ýta kyns, fyr synðar
of-men of-kin for of-sin
sárar sekðir órar,
sore guilts our
sættir, skjóls of vætta,
reconciler of-shelter — expect
nema lastauknum líkna,
unless to-vice-increased be-merciful

logskríns, vilir þínum
of-flame-shrine wishest-thou to-thy
sjalfr, þeims synðir skelfa,
self whom sins shake
sæll gervandi, þræli.
blessed maker to-servant

59 Hlut meguð hvern til gotna,
Part may-ye each to men
happkunnig, miskunnar
luck-known of-mercy
ramligs bús af ræsi
of-mighty of-dwelling from king
rǫðuls, María, ǫðlask;
of-sun Mary gain
vest ávalt at trausti,
be-thou always for trust
vegstýris, mér dýru,
of-honor-steerer to-me dear
mild, at missak aldri,
mild that miss-I never
móðir, yðvars góða.
mother of-your of-good

Vættik oss með ótta, 60
Hope-I for-us with fear
alskirt himins birti
all-pure of-heaven brightness
hǫfuðmusteri ens hæsta
head-temple of-the highest
hildings, af þér mildi,
of-king from thee mildness
hauðrs, þvít hugga fríðir
of-earth because comfort fair
hug mínn siðir þínir,
mind my customs thy
grams kastali enn glæsti
of-prince castle the shining
glyggs, en várt líf hryggvir.
of-storm but our life grieves

61–65 · THE POEM NAMED

Mary will and can give men all good; the poet asks the saints for their intercession, and prays never to be parted from God. The poem is called Harmsól, and he asks each hearer to pray for him and God to gather all the baptized into lasting joy.

Verðrat, blíðr, fyr borði 61
Becomes-not kind before board
brjótr, hǫfðingi snóta,
breaker chieftain of-women

(mjǫk treystumk því) Mistar
much trust-I that of-Mist
myrkleygs, sás þik dyrkar,
of-dark-flame he-who thee worships
þvít vegskjótust veita.
because honor-swiftest to-grant
veðrs landreka strandar,
of-weather of-land-ruler of-shore
vilt, svinn, ok mátt mǫnnum,
wilt-thou wise and canst-thou to-men
móðir, alt et góða.
mother all the good

62 Hvern biðk hald ok árnan
Each ask-I support and intercession
helgan mann ens sanna
holy man of-the true
(trús) við tírar ræsi
of-faith with of-glory king
(trausts leitak) mér veita,
of-trust seek-I me grant
svát óbœttan ættim
so-that unamended had-we
engi kost, þás drengja
no choice when of-men
jǫfurr vill andar krefja
prince will of-soul demand
ástnenninn hal þenna.
love-willing man this

Êr látið þau, ýta, 63
Ye let-ye those of-men
atferðar lok verða,
of-conduct end become
miskunnandi, minnar,
merciful of-mine
margríkr, at þér líki,
much-mighty that thee pleases
svát frá yðr í ítru
so-that from you in glorious
(oss kjósum þat) ljósi,
for-us choose-we that light
veglyndr veðra grundar
honor-minded of-weathers of-ground
valdr, skiljumk ek aldri.
ruler part-I I never

Létum hróðr, þanns heitir 64
Let-we praise which is-called
Harmsól, fetilhjóla
Harmsól of-strap-wheel
fyr hugprúða hríðar
before mind-proud of-storm
herðendr borinn verða;
hardeners borne be
mér biði hverr, es heyrir,
for-me may-ask each who hears
heimspenni, brag þenna,
world-grasper poem this

œski-Þrór ok eirar
wish-Þrór and of-mercy
unnrǫðla miskunnar.
of-wave-suns of-mercy

65 Án lát engan þína,
Without let no thy
angrlestandi, mesta
grief-damager greatest
mann (deilir þat máli)
man decides that with-speech
miskunn, jǫfurr sunnu;
mercy prince of-sun
vǫrðr, laða skatna skírða,
guardian invite men baptized
skýtjalds, saman alla,
of-cloud-tent together all
ítr, þars aldri þrjóti
glorious where never fails
unaðs gnótt ok frið, dróttinn.
of-joy plenty and peace lord

Leiðarvísan

The Way-Guide

The poet prays to the Trinity for words to praise God and asks for silence while he tells of the Lord's day. In Jerusalem a letter written in gold was sent down from heaven to help the townspeople.

Þinn óð semk ok innik 1
Thy poem compose-I and tell-I
allskjótt, salar fjalla,
all-quickly of-hall of-mountains
harðla brátt til hróðrar,
very quickly to praise
harri, munn ok varrar;
lord mouth and lips
mér gefi dǫglingr dýra
to-me may-give king dear
dœmi stóls ok sólar,
examples of-throne and of-sun
enn svát ek mega sannan,
yet so-that I may true
orðgnótt, lofa dróttin.
word-plenty praise lord

Fyrr kveðk frægjan harra 2
First greet-I famous lord
fagrgims, þanns ræðr himni,
of-fair-gem who rules heaven

hás, at hróðri þessum
of-high at praise this
hreggranns, an kyn seggja;
of-storm-house than kin of-men
æstik aflamestan
ask-I most-mighty
orðgnóttar mér dróttin;
of-word-plenty for-me lord
hrœrð skulu mín til mærðar
moved shall my to praise
málgǫgn, en lið þagni.
speech-tools and troop may-be-silent

3 Fǫður biðk ok son síðan
Father ask-I and son afterward
slétt óðar-lag rétta;
smooth poem-measure to-straighten
minn styrki vel verka
my may-strengthen well of-work
vandan heilagr andi;
careful holy spirit
ór munu aldar stýri
our will of-men to-steerer
óþægilig frægjum
unpleasing famous
orð, nema mér til mærðar
words unless me to praise
málsgnótt fái dróttinn.
speech-plenty give lord

Víst emk fúss at freista 4
Surely am-I eager to try
(fæk ljósum brag hrósat)
get-I bright poem praised
láðs fyr lyptimeiðum
of-land before lifting-trees
linns orðspeki minnar;
of-snake word-wisdom my
því hefr hreggþjalma hilmir
therefore has of-storm-helmet prince
hreinlyndr gefit eina
pure-minded given alone
oss, til óðar þessa,
us for poem this
orðgnótt, at skalk njóta.
word-plenty that shall-I enjoy

Hljóð gefi hirðimeiðar 5
Silence may-give court-trees
hrælinns at brag svinnir,
of-corpse-snake at poem wise
gegn vilk þjóð at þagni
straight wish-I people that be-silent
þá stund es kveðk, sunda;
that while when recite-I of-sounds
vilk, meðan varrar teljak
wish-I while lips count-I
viggskrýðendr mér hlýði,
steed-adorners me hear

frá dáðmǫ́ttugs dróttins
from of-deed-mighty of-lord
degi nǫkkur rǫk segja.
day some tidings tell

6 Tekk til orðs þars urðu
Take-I to word where happened
alfregnar jartegnir
all-famed miracles
(tǫ́kn eru sýnd í slíku
tokens are shown in such
sǫnn) Jórsalamǫnnum;
true to-Jerusalem-men
sendi salvǫrðr grundar
sent hall-guardian of-ground
snilli fimr af himni
eloquence nimble from heaven
borgar-lýð til bjargar
town-people for help
bréf gollstǫfum sollit.
letter with-gold-letters swollen

The letter fell on Sunday and was read. It warned that those who work on the Lord's day, or do not pay their tithes, will suffer harm and death, and promised plenty, glory, and peace to those who keep it holy; none can repay the gifts of God.

Varð bréf, þats goð gerði 7
Became letter which God made
geðsnjallr ok lét falla
mind-bold and let fall
(vǫn 's á gipt) á grœna
hope is on luck on green
grund, sunnudag fundit;
ground Sunday found
bók réðu þá blíðir
book read then kind
byrskíðs viðir síðan
of-wind-ski trees afterward
(verðr sás vensk á dýrðir
becomes he-who accustoms on glories
vitr) gollstǫfum ritna.
wise with-gold-letters written

Sagði bréf, hver brygði 8
Told letter how turned
bitr fár guma ári,
bitter harm of-men to-plenty

blakks skreytǫndum brautar
of-steed to-adorners of-road
borðs frá dróttins orðum;
of-board from of-lord words
hljóta víst, kvað veitir
get surely said granter
vegfróðr hluta góðra,
honor-wise of-parts good
menn, þeirs minn dag vinna,
men who my day work
mest angr af því flestir.
most grief from that most

9 Hætt kveðr heilagr dróttinn
Dangerous says holy lord
hyrskerðǫndum verða
to-fire-diminishers become
arms, þeims eigi þyrma
of-arm who not spare
alfríðs sonar tíðum;
of-all-fair of-son hours
því ro flugraddar fœddir
therefore are of-flight-voice fed
fleins með ýmsum meinum
of-dart with various harms
(bæði bǫrn ok móðir)
both children and mother
(bág) lundar (ferr stundum).
strife of-tree goes sometimes

Munk, kvað vǫrðr, í virða, 10
Will-I said guardian into of-men
vallræfrs, liðu alla
of-field-roof joints all
(stríð þéa drótt til dauða
strife oppress host to death
drjúghvast) trega kasta;
very-sharply grief cast
ef vegrunnar vinna
if honor-trees work
varrelgs daga helga
of-lip-elk days holy
elds eða eigi gjalda
of-fire or not pay
allþétt tíund rétta.
all-close tithe right

Fárskerðir býðr fyrðum 11
Harm-diminisher bids to-men
friðar kunnan dag sunnu,
of-peace known day of-sun
ýtum hollr, of allan
to-men gracious over all
aldr dýrliga at halda;
life gloriously to keep

gefa kvezk mætr í móti
give says-of-himself worthy in return
méinbrjóðandi þjóðum
harm-breaker to-peoples
ár með ǫllum tíri
plenty with all glory
einart ok frið hreinan.
always and peace pure

12 Án megu engir (launa
Without may none repay
otrs) þeirs skírn hafa hlotna,
of-otter who baptism have got
(gótt 's meiðum þrif þýðask)
good is for-trees thrift to-incline
þat kaup hafa skatnar;
that bargain have men
orð munu eigi verða
words will not become
ór brend, þaus goð kendi;
out-of burnt those-which God taught
mjǫk 's sárvita sœkir
much is of-wound-signal seeker
sanns duldr, ef hyggr annat.
of-truth hidden if thinks other

The poet sets out his refrain: angels and men bow to the one king of the sun's seat. On a Sunday God created the angels and appointed the day for rest; on that day Christ set peace between heaven and earth, Noah's ark came to land, and the sea parted for Moses and drowned Pharaoh.

Stef skal hátt (né hætta 13
Refrain shall loud nor cease
hygg ek enn tǫlu dyggva)
think I yet speech faithful
fljótt, ef finna mættak
quickly if find might-I
fríð orð, goði smíðat.
fair words for-God fashioned
Lúta englar ítrum
Bow angels to-glorious
óttlaust ok lið drótni;
fearlessly and host to-lord
einn es siklingr sunnu
one is prince of-sun
setrs hvívetna betri.
of-seat than-everything better

Yfirþengill skóp engla 14
Over-prince created angels
einn sunnudag hreina;
alone Sunday pure

sǫnn hefr siklingr unnit
true has prince done
slík verk himinríkis;
such works of-heaven-realm
ok heimstýrir hári
and world-steerer high
heppinn, þás skóp, skepnu
lucky when created creation
þann setti dag, dróttinn,
that set day lord
dýrðar mildr til hvílðar.
of-glory mild for rest

15 Kristr setti frið fastan
Christ set peace fast
fimr meðal láðs ok himna
nimble between land and heavens
(nauð es þegnum þýðask
need is for-thanes to-incline
þann veg) goðs ok manna;
that way of-God and of-men
ok dáðskreyttan dróttinn
and deed-adorned lord
dags hallar frið lagði
of-day of-hall peace laid
(þat vas sunnudag) sinnar
that was Sunday his
snjallr meðal skepnu allrar.
bold among creation all

Reiddi rǫngum studdan 16
Carried with-ribs supported
ramn þjóðtraðar Glamma
raven of-main-road of-Glammi
flóð, áðr foldu næði
flood before to-earth reached
fjǫlkœnn Nói grœnni;
very-wise Noah green
en þás ǫrk á landi
and when ark on land
ólesta vel festi,
unflawed well fastened
þjóð af þram-Val prúðum
people from edge-Valr proud
(þat vas dróttins dag) sótti.
that was of-lord day sought

Hás ræðr heimi þessum 17
Of-high rules world this
hreggranns jǫfurr (seggi
of-storm-house prince to-man
goð lætr gótt líf ǫðlask
God lets good life gain
gœzku-fimr) sem himnum.
goodness-nimble as heavens
Lúta englar ítrum
Bow angels to-glorious
óttlaust ok lið drótni;
fearlessly and host to-lord

einn es siklingr sunnu
one is prince of-sun
setrs hvívetna betri.
of-seat than-everything better

18 Fylgði lýðr af láði
Followed people from land
laga-vísum Móísi,
law-wise Moses
sundr sprakk vágr fyr vendi,
asunder burst sea before wand
vas þat sunnudag unnit;
was that Sunday done
þusti hafs með hreysti
rushed of-sea with prowess
heiðit folk á leiðir;
heathen folk on ways
brátt vann lǫgr enn ljóti
soon did sea the ugly
líftjón Faraóni.
life-loss to-Pharaoh

Moses received the Ten Commandments after his fast; water ran from the rock and manna rained from heaven. The angel came to Mary, Christ was born before dawn on the Lord's day, and John baptized him in the Jordan while the Holy Spirit descended.

Tunglbryggju gaf tyggi 19
Of-moon-bridge gave king
tíu orð laga forðum
ten words of-law formerly
(fríðr af fǫstu mœðisk)
handsome from fast is-wearied
fjǫlvíss (goðs vinr) Móises;
much-wise of-God friend Moses
ok þrekprúðum þjóðar
and to-strength-proud of-people
þann veg yfirmanni
that honor to-overseer
várr dróttinn lét veittan
our lord let granted
viðkunnan dag sunnu.
widely-known day of-sun

Sinn skreytti dag dróttinn 20
His adorned day lord
dáðsterkr frama-verkum,
deed-strong with-glory-works

rekkum 's rann til drykkjar
for-men which ran to drink
reint vatn fram ór steini;
pure water forth out-of stone
ráðmeginn lét rigna
counsel-mighty let rain
risnu-fimr af himni
munificence-nimble from heaven
mat, þeims manna heitir,
food which manna is-called
margri þjóð til bjargar.
to-many people for help

21 Einn es sælstr of sinni
One is most-blessed over time
(samir lýðum trú þýðask)
befits to-people faith to-incline
heims stýrandi hári
of-world steerer high
hallar skepnu allri.
of-hall creation all
Lúta englar ítrum
Bow angels to-glorious
óttlaust ok lið drótni;
fearlessly and host to-lord
einn es siklingr sunnu
one is prince of-sun
setrs hvívetna betri.
of-seat than-everything better

Engill kom við unga 22
Angel came with young
allheppinn mey spjalla
all-lucky maiden to-speak
burð ok buðlungs dýrðar
birth and of-king of-glory
bauð hann frǫmum svanna;
offered he to-excellent woman
brims tók bjǫrk en fremsta
of-surf took birch the foremost
brands við helgum anda;
of-brand from holy spirit
sú hefk frétt at dag dróttins
that have-I learned that day of-lord
dyrð framm komin yrði.
glory forth come was

Dag mærri lét dýrðar 23
Day more-famous let of-glory
dróttins tíð fyr óttu
of-lord time before dawn
mæztr frá meyju beztri
most-worthy from maiden best
mildingr berask hingat,
king be-born hither

Því 's rétt at dag dróttins
therefore is right that day of-lord
dáðsnjalls hǫfuð kallim
of-deed-bold head call-we
(gerðisk fǫgnuðr fyrðum
became joy to-men
fríðr) annarra tíða.
fair of-other of-times

24 Lét Jóannem ítran
Let John glorious
einn, dýrðar-mann hreinan,
one glory-man pure
ár í Jórðǫn stýrir
early in Jordan steerer
alls tírar sik skíra;
of-all of-glory himself baptize
dáðstéttar kom drótni
of-deed-stair came to-lord
dags ok krismu lagði
of-day and chrism laid
líknar-fúss í lesni
mercy-eager in reading
lands enn helgi andi.
of-land the holy spirit

A second refrain praises God, maker of earth and heaven and helper of all. On the Lord's day Christ turned water into wine and fed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes, with twelve baskets left over; and he rode into Jerusalem while the people strewed clothes and palms.

Enn vilda ek annat 25
Yet would-wish I another
alfríðustum smíða
to-all-fairest fashion
hátt í hróðri sléttum
loud in praise smooth
himins gotna stef drotni.
of-heaven of-men refrain to-lord
Gramr skóp hauðr ok himna
Prince created earth and heavens
hreggranns sem kyn seggja;
of-storm-house as kin of-men
einn 's salkonungr sólar
one is hall-king of-sun
snjallr hjalpari allra.
bold helper of-all

26 Sýndi sólar landa
Showed of-sun of-lands
siklingr með trú mikla
prince with faith great
horskum lýð á hauðri
to-wise people on earth
hreinn skjótar jarteinir;
pure swift miracles
frítt gerði dag dróttins
fair made day of-lord
dáðfimr jǫfurr himna
deed-nimble prince of-heavens
vín ór vatni einu;
wine out-of water alone
varð þjóð fegin harðla.
became people glad very

27 Sín veitti dag dróttins
His granted day of-lord
dýr tǫkn himins stýrir,
dear tokens of-heaven steerer
lýð þás lítlu brauði
people when with-little bread
lofkvaddan goð saddi;
praise-greeted God sated

rǫskr vann fljótt af fiskum
brisk did quickly from fishes
friðkennandi tvennum
peace-teacher two
fjǫlða lýðs ok fríðum
multitude of-people and fair
fimm hleifum vel reifan.
five loaves well gladdened

Hátt gengr dýrð, sús dróttinn 28
High goes glory that-which lord
dáðgladdan her saddi
deed-gladdened host sated
(opt es kuðr at krapti
often is known by power
Kristr) á lítlum vistum;
Christ on little provisions
tolf segja elda elfar
twelve say of-fires of-river
Ull vandlaupar fullir
Ullr baskets full
(matr vansk mǫnnum snotrum)
food sufficed for-men wise
mikill fengr at af gengi.
great gain that from went

29 Ótraulla má ǫllu
Unfailingly may all
aldýrr faðir stýra;
all-dear father steer
sterkr es engr svát orki
strong is none so-that could
aptrat dróttins krapti.
hold-back of-lord power
Gramr skóp hauðr ok himna
Prince created earth and heavens
hreggranns sem kyn seggja;
of-storm-house as kin of-men
einn 's salkonungr sólar
one is hall-king of-sun
snjallr hjalpari allra.
bold helper of-all

30 Dag reið sinn með sigri
Day rode his with victory
siklingr blíðr til víðrar
prince kind to wide
sólbryggju (hratt seggja
of-sun-bridge pushed of-men
sorg) Jórsalaborgar;
sorrow Jerusalem-town

ok fyr ǫðling ríkjan
and before prince mighty
óhræðinn litklæði
unafraid colored-clothes
þar vann lýðr á láði
there did people on land
lopthjalms borit palma.
of-air-helmet borne palms

31–36 · THE RESURRECTION AND PENTECOST

On his day Christ rose from death, his spirit having bound the fiend and freed men from darkness; his apostles, locked in a house, received the Holy Spirit. The poet begins his closing part: Christ will come again on that day to judge, and the Lord's day is the chief of all feasts.

Dag reis sinn með sigri 31
Day rose his with victory
snjallastr faðir allra
boldest father of-all
(sjóli huggaði seggi
prince comforted men
sólar hauðrs) af dauða;
of-sun of-earth from death

áðr batt flærðar-fróðan
before bound falsehood-wise
fjanda heilagr andi
fiend holy spirit
fast ok fyrða leysti
fast and men released
fremðar-styrkr ór myrkrum.
glory-strong out-of darknesses

32 Vǫ́ru ǫðlings ærir
Were of-prince messengers
alkunnan dag sunnu
all-known day of-sun
heiðar bœs í húsi
of-heath of-farm in house
hreins luktaðir einu;
of-pure locked one
þá gaf skjǫldungr skýja
then gave king of-clouds
skríns postolum sínum
of-shrine to-apostles his
(ítr firri goð gotna
glorious may-remove God of-men
grandi) helgan anda.
from-harm holy spirit

Gefr, sás ǫllum 's øfri, 33
Gives he-who than-all is higher
ǫðlingr salar rǫðla
prince of-hall of-suns
(goð magnar þrif þegna)
God strengthens thrift of-thanes
þjóðum alt et góða.
to-peoples all the good
Gramr skóp hauðr ok himna
Prince created earth and heavens
hreggranns sem kyn seggja;
of-storm-house as kin of-men
einn 's salkonungr sólar
one is hall-king of-sun
snjallr hjalpari allra.
bold helper of-all

Slœm skalk upp af aumu 34
End-section shall-I up from wretched
(eru stęf liðin) hefja,
are refrains passed to-raise
mætr ef mér vill láta
worthy if me will let
málfinni goð vinnask;
speech-finding God be-won
styrk á valt til verka
strengthen on always to works
vegs gnóttar mik dróttinn;
of-honor of-plenty me lord

verðk at engu orði
become-I at no word
einhlítr, nema goð beini.
self-sufficient unless God help

35 Þat 's rétt, at dag dróttins
That is right that day of-lord
dǫglingr myni hingat
king will hither
lopts ok lýðum skipta
of-air and for-people divide
ljósgims koma af himnum;
of-light-gem come from heavens
oss skyldi sú aldri
us should that never
ógnar-tíð en stríða
terror-time the harsh
(drótt biði sikling sátta
host should-ask prince of-reconciliations
sólvangs) ór hug ganga.
of-sun-plain out-of mind go

Dag metr sinn at sǫnnu 36
Day values his at true
snjallastr konungr allra
boldest king of-all
eljunkuðr of aðrar
zeal-known over other
alfríðar hátíðir;
all-fair feasts
dýrka dýrligs verka
to-honor of-glorious of-works
dáðsterks hǫfuðmerki
of-deed-strong head-tokens
(rétt segjum) dag dróttins
rightly say-we day of-lord
drjúgmǫrg himintǫrgu.
very-many of-heaven-shield

Men should love God with all their heart, for Christ gives lasting peace; the poet prays to stand at the Lord's right hand on the day of judgment, to be kept from the fire, and to be granted mercy greater than he can ask.

37 Menn skulu œztum unna
Men shall highest love
angrs hrjóðanda þjóðar
of-grief to-clearer of-people
(mér berr máls á stýri
for-me befits of-speech on steerer
mart) af ǫllu hjarta;
much from all heart
siðminnigr fær sannan
custom-mindful gets true
seima Þróttr af drótni
of-gold Þróttr from lord
(Kristr gefr fyrðum) fasta
Christ gives to-men fast
(friðar vǫn) es ann hǫnum.
of-peace hope who loves him

38 Verðim vér, ok fyrða
May-be we and of-men
vili svá faðir skilja,
may-will so father part

hilmis frægs til hœgri
of-prince famous to right
handar allra landa,
hand of-all of-lands
ok heim dýrstr frá dómi
and home dearest from judgment
dagskeiðs jǫfurr leiði
of-day-course prince may-lead
oss frá ótta hvǫssum
us from dread sharp
ǫll til himna hallar.
all to of-heavens hall

Vér skulum víst með tǫ́rum, 39
We shall surely with tears
verðr mein, ef því seinum,
becomes harm if that delay-we
(kostum flærð at forðask)
try-we falsehood to avoid
friðar helgan goð biðja,
of-peace holy God to-ask
at þás ǫflugr eflir
that when mighty strengthener
alls sóma lýkr dómi,
of-all of-honor closes judgment
fara næðim vér fríða
go reach we fair
fljótt í dýrð með drótni.
quickly into glory with lord

40 Kostum allir ǽsta
Try-we all to-ask
oss at helgum krossi
for-us at holy cross
kœnir menn, sem kunnum,
wise men as can-we
Krist eilífrar vistar;
Christ of-eternal of-dwelling
staðr es ǫllum œðri
place is than-all higher
(óttalaus) með drótni
fearless with lord
(þjóð lifir glǫð, sús gœði
people lives glad who goods
getr) munligri ok betri.
gets more-delightful and better

41 Haldi oss frá eldi
May-hold us from fire
eilífr skapa deilir,
eternal of-fates dealer
(Kristr ∗∗∗), ok myrkrum
Christ (lacuna) and darknesses
(menn), es heim líðr þenna,
men when world passes this

svát ǫll í frið fullan
so-that all into peace full
farim heim, es skilr beima
go-we home when parts of-men
alls stýrandi, órum
of-all steerer our
óttalaus með drótni.
fearless with lord

Yfirstillir firr ǫllu 42
Over-ruler remove from-all
ítr túns himins rítar
glorious of-yard of-heaven of-shield
(harmsfullum ræðk halli
grief-full rule-I stone
hugstrandar) mik grandi;
of-mind-shore me from-harm
mér fái miklu hæri
for-me may-get much higher
miskunn jǫfurr sunnu
mercy prince of-sun
(Kristr gefr fyrðum fastan
Christ gives to-men fast
frið) an ek kunna biðja
peace than I could ask

The priest Rúnolfr helped lay its foundation; the poet names it Leiðarvísan and asks that Christians be led home to heaven.

43 Réð með oss, at óði
Did with us at poem
(es fróðr, sás vensk góðu),
is wise he-who accustoms to-good
greitt, hvé grundvǫll settak,
readily how foundation set-I
gǫfugr prestr at hlut mestum;
noble priest at part greatest
orð mun allra verða
word will of-all become
auðsætt, bragar þætti,
plain of-poem strand
ramligt hús þars reistum,
mighty house where raised-we
Rúnolfr, hvé fekk snúnat.
Rúnolfr how got turned

44 Mœðask mér á óði,
Grows-weary to-me on poem
mest þarf hóf at flestu,
most needs measure at most

(brands hefr ǫ́rr til enda)
of-brand has messenger to end
orðvǫ́pn (kveðit drǫ́pu);
word-weapon recited drapa
skulu eldviðir ǫldu
shall fire-trees of-wave
alljósan brag kalla
all-bright poem call
(þjóð hafi þekð á kvæði
people may-have liking on poem
þvísa) Leiðarvísan.
that Leiðarvísan

Nú skal drótt á lok líta, 45
Now shall host on end look
lopthjalms dǫgum optar
of-air-helmet on-days oftener
dýrkim dǫglings verka
may-honor-we of-king works
dáðhress, bragar þessa;
deed-brisk of-poem this

heim laði dýrr frá dómi
home may-invite dear from judgment
dags hallar gramr allan
of-day of-hall prince all
(þjóð hjali kersk of kvæði)
people may-chat jestingly about poem
kristinn lýð til vistar.
Christian people to dwelling

Sólarljóð

The Song of the Sun

A grim robber who guarded a road and let no one pass alive gave food and drink to a weary guest, who rose and murdered him in his sleep. The robber called on God as he died, and angels took his soul to live with God, while the murderer must answer for his sins; no man rules his own wealth or health.

Fé ok fjǫrvi 1
Wealth and life
rænti fyrða kind
robbed of-men kin
sá enn grimmi greppr;
that the grim fellow
of þann veg,
over that way
es hann varðaði,
which he guarded
náði engi kvikr komask.
managed no living get-through

Einn hann át 2
Alone he ate
„opt harðla“,
often very
aldri bauð manni til matar;
never invited man to meal

áðr an móðr
before than weary
ok meginlítill
and main-little
gestr af gǫtu kom.
guest from road came

3 Drykks of þurfi
Of-drink in need
lézk enn dæsti maðr
said-of-himself the exhausted man
ok vanmettr vesa;
and hungry to-be
hræddu hjarta
with-frightened heart
hann lézk trúa
he said-of-himself to-trust
þeims áðr hafði vályndr vesit.
to-him-who before had ill-natured been

4 Mat ok drykk
Food and drink
veitti þeims móðr of vas
gave to-him-who weary — was
alt af heilum hug;
all from whole mind
goðs hann gáði,
of-God he heeded

góðu honum beindi,
good him served
þvít hann hugðit váligan vesa.
because he thought-not dangerous to-be

Upp hann stóð, 5
Up he stood
ilt hann hugði;
ill he thought
eigi vas þarfsamliga þegit;
not was gratefully received
synð hans svall,
sin his swelled
sofanda myrði
sleeping murdered
fróðan, fjǫlvaran.
wise much-wary

Himna goð 6
Of-heavens God
bað hann hjalpa sér,
asked he help himself
þás hann vaknaði veginn,
when he woke slain

en sá gat
but that-one got
við synðum taka,
for sins answer
es hann hafði saklausan svikit.
who him had guiltless betrayed

7 Helgir englar
Holy angels
kómu ór himnum ofan
came out-of heavens down
ok tóku sǫ́l hans til sín;
and took soul his to themselves
í hreinu lífi
in pure life
hon lifa skal
it live shall
æ með almǫ́tkum goði.
ever with almighty God

8 Auði né heilsu
Wealth nor health
ræðr engi maðr,
rules no man
þótt honum gangi greitt;
though to-him go readily
margan þat sœkir,
many that seeks

es minst of varir;
which least — expects
engi ræðr sættum sjalfr.
no-one rules settlements himself

9–16 · LUST AND PRIDE

Unnarr and Sævaldi, who thought their luck would never fail, ended naked and fled like wolves to the wood. Sváfaðr and Skartheðinn fell out over one woman and killed each other on the holm. No man should be proud, as Ráðný and Véboði were, who now sit turning their wounds to the fires.

Ekki þeir hugðu 9
Not they thought
Unnarr ok Sævaldi,
Unnarr and Sævaldi
at þeim myndi heill hrapa;
that to-them would luck fall
nøkðir urðu
naked became
ok næmir hvervetna
and bereft everywhere
ok runnu sem vargar til viðar.
and ran as wolves to wood

Munaðar ríki 10
Of-lust power
hefr margan tregat,
has many grieved

opt verðr kvalræði af konum;
often becomes torment from women
meingar urðu,
harmful became
þótt enn mátki goð
though the mighty God
skapaði skírliga.
created purely

11 Sáttir þeir urðu
Reconciled they became
Sváfaðr ok Skartheðinn,
Sváfaðr and Skartheðinn
hvárgi mátti annars án vesa,
neither could other without be
fyrr an þeir œddusk
before than they went-mad
fyr einni konu;
for one woman
hon vas þeim til lýta lagin.
she was for-them to ruin destined

12 Hvárskis gǫðu
Neither heeded
fyr þá hvítu mey
for that white maiden
leiks né ljóssa daga;
of-play nor of-bright days

engan hlut
no thing
mǫ́ttu annan muna
could other remember
an þat ljósa lík.
than that bright body

Daprar þeim urðu 13
Dreary for-them became
enar dimmu nætr,
the dark nights
engan mǫ́ttu sœtan sofa;
no could sweet sleep
en af þeim harmi
but from that grief
rann heipt saman
ran hatred together
millum virkða vina.
between dear friends

Fádœmi verða 14
Strange-deeds become
í flestum stǫðum
in most places
goldin grimliga;
paid grimly

á holm gengu
to holm went
fyr et horska víf
for the wise woman
ok fengu báðir bana.
and got both death

15 Ofmetnuð drýgja
Pride commit
skyldi engi maðr,
should no man
þat hefk sannliga sét,
that have-I truly seen
þvít þeir hverfa,
because they turn
es honum fylgja,
who it follow
flestir goði frá.
most God from

16 Ník þau urðu
Mighty they became
Ráðný ok Véboði
Ráðný and Véboði
ok hugðusk gótt eitt gera;
and thought-themselves good alone to-do

nú þau sitja
now they sit
ok sǫ́rum snúa
and with-wounds turn
ymsum elda til.
various fires to

17–24 · SǪRLI BETRAYED

Those who live for pleasure will walk between frost and fire. Never trust an enemy's fair words: Sǫrli, who had slain Vígolfr's brother, put himself in Vígolfr's power for a promise of gold; they drank as friends, then slew him in Rýgjardalr and threw his body in a well. God took Sǫrli's soul into his joy.

Á sik trúðu 17
On themselves trusted
ok ein þóttusk
and alone thought-themselves
allri þjóð yfir,
all people over
en þó leizk
but yet seemed
þeira hagr
their state
annan veg almǫ́tkum goði.
other way to-almighty God

18 Munuðlífi
Lust-life
drýgðu á marga vega
committed in many ways
ok hǫfðu goll fyr gaman;
and had gold for pleasure
nú 's þeim goldit,
now is to-them paid
es ganga skulu
who go shall
meðal frosts ok funa.
between frost and fire

19 Óvinum þínum
To-enemies thy
trú aldrigi,
trust never
þótt fagrt mæli fyrir;
though fair speak before
góðu heit,
good promise
gótt es annars
good is of-another
víti hafa at varnaði.
punishment have as warning

Svá honum gafsk 20
So to-him turned-out
Sǫrla enum góðráða,
to-Sǫrli the good-counseled
þás lagði á vald Vígolfs;
when laid in power of-Vígolfr
tryggliga trúði,
faithfully trusted
en hinn at tǫlum varð,
but that-one at deceits became
sínum bróður-bana.
his brother-slayer

Grið þeim seldi 21
Truce to-them gave
af góðum hug,
from good mind
en þeir hétu golli í gegn;
and they promised gold in return
sáttir létusk,
reconciled pretended
meðan saman drukku,
while together drank
en þó kómu flærðir framm.
but yet came falsehoods forth

22 En þá eptir
But then after
á ǫðrum degi,
on second day
es hǫfðu í Rýgjardal riðit,
when had into Rýgjardalr ridden
sverðum meiddu,
with-swords maimed
þanns saklauss vas,
him-who guiltless was
ok létu hans fjǫrvi farit.
and let his life gone

23 Lík hans drógu
Body his dragged
á leynigǫtu
on secret-path
ok brytjuðu í brunn niðr;
and hacked into well down
dylja vildu,
hide wished
en dróttinn sá
but lord saw
heilagr himnum af.
holy heavens from

Sǫ́l hans bað 24
Soul his bade
enn sanni goð
the true God
í sinn fǫgnuð fara;
into his joy go
sǫkudolgar
guilty-enemies
hygg ek síðla myni
think I late will
kallaðir frá kvǫlum.
called from torments

25–32 · THE COUNSELS

The father counsels his son: pray to the dísir, the Lord's advocates, and to God; soothe with good what was done in anger; ask for what is lacking, for few think of the silent man's need. Sins make men leave the world in sorrow, and the fickle-minded are like wolves. These are seven counsels, to be remembered and never lost.

Dísir bið þér, 25
Dísir ask for-thee
dróttins mǫ́lur,
of-lord advocates
vesa hollar í hugum;
be gracious in minds

viku eptir
week after
mun þér vilja þíns
will to-thee of-will thy
at óskum ganga alt.
at wishes go all

26 Reiði-verk,
Anger-works
þaus unnit hefr,
those-which done hast
bœt eigi illu yfir;
amend not evil over
grœttan gœla
grieved soothe
skalt með góðum hlutum;
shalt-thou with good things
þat kveða sǫlu sama.
that say-they for-soul fitting

27 Á goð skal heita
On God shall call
til góðra hluta,
for good things
þanns hefr skatna skapat;
who has men created

mjǫk fyrir verðr
much behind becomes
manna hverr,
of-men each
es sinn finnrat fǫður.
who his finds-not father

Ásta dugir 28
To-ask avails
einkum vandliga
especially carefully
þess 's þykkir vant vesa;
of-that which seems lacking to-be
alls á mis verðr,
of-all on miss becomes
sás einskis biðr;
he-who of-nothing asks
fár hyggr þegjanda þǫrf.
few think of-silent-one need

Síðla ek køm, 29
Late I came
snimma kallaðr,
early called
til dómsvalds dura;
to of-judge door
þangat ætlumk,
thither intend-I

því mér heitit vas;
because to-me promised was
sá hefr krǫs, es krefr.
that-one has dainty who demands

30 Synðir því valda,
Sins that cause
es við sorg fǫrum
that with sorrow fare-we
ægisheimi ór;
terror-world out-of
engi óttask,
no-one fears
nema ilt geri;
unless ill does
gótt es vammalausum vesa.
good is blameless to-be

31 Ulfum glíkir
To-wolves like
þykkja allir þeir,
seem all they
es eiga hverfan hug;
who have fickle mind

svá mun gefask
so will turn-out
þeims ganga skal
to-him-who go shall
þær enar glœddu gǫtur.
those the glowing paths

Vinsamlig rǫ́ð 32
Friendly counsels
ok viti bundin
and with-wit bound
kennik þér sjau saman;
teach-I thee seven together
gǫrla þau mun
fully them remember
ok glata aldri;
and lose never
ǫllu eru þau nýt at nema.
all are they useful to learn

Wealth and pride deceive men. The father thought himself happy in the world God made, but death ruled him; the ropes of Hel were bound about him and her maidens bade him home each evening. He saw the sun, the true day-star, sink, and heard Hel's gate roar.

33 Frá því 's at segja,
From that is to tell
hvé sæll ek vas
how blessed I was
ynðisheimi í,
joy-world in
ok hinu ǫðru,
and the other
hvé ýta synir
how of-men sons
verða nauðgir at nǫum.
become forced to corpses

34 Vil ok dul
Desire and pride
tælir virða sonu,
deceives of-men sons
þás fíkjask á fé;
who are-eager on wealth

ljósir aurar
bright monies
verða at lǫngum trega;
become to long grief
margan hefr auðr apat.
many has wealth fooled

Glaðr at mǫrgu 35
Glad at much
þóttak gumnum vesa,
seemed-I to-men to-be
þvít vissak fátt fyrir;
because knew-I little before
dvalarheim
delay-world
hefr dróttinn skapat
has lord created
munafullan mjǫk.
delight-full much

Lútr ek sat, 36
Bowed I sat
lengi hǫlluðumk,
long leaned-I
mjǫk vask þá lystr at lifa;
much was-I then eager to live
en sá réð,
but that-one ruled

es ríkri vas;
who mightier was
frammi eru feigs gǫtur.
forward are of-doomed paths

37 Heljar reip
Of-Hel ropes
kómu harðliga
came hard
sveigð at síðum mér,
bent at sides to-me
slíta vildak,
break wished-I
en þau seig vǫ́ru;
but they tough were
létt es lauss at fara.
light is loose to go

38 Einn ek vissa,
Alone I knew
hvé alla vega
how all ways
sullu sútir mér;
swelled sorrows for-me

Heljar meyjar
of-Hel maidens
mér hrolla buðu
me shudder bade
á hverju kveldi heim.
on each evening home

Sól ek sá, 39
Sun I saw
sanna dagstjǫrnu,
true day-star
drúpa dynheimum í,
droop din-worlds in
en Heljar grind
but of-Hel gate
heyrðak annan veg
heard-I other way
þjóta þungliga.
roar heavily

Sól ek sá, 40
Sun I saw
setta dreyrstǫfum,
set with-blood-staves
mjǫk vask þá ór heimi hallr;
much was-I then out-of world leaning

mǫ́ttug leizk
mighty seemed
á marga vega
in many ways
frá því 's fyrri vas.
from that which before was

41–48 · THE SUN AT DEATH

He saw the sun as if he saw God himself and bowed to her for the last time; she shone so that he knew nothing, his tongue turned to wood, and he went cold from torments. The star of hope flew from his breast; the night he lay stiff on the straw was the longest, for man is the same as earth.

41 Sól ek sá,
Sun I saw
svá þótti mér,
so seemed to-me
sem sæjak gǫfgan goð;
as saw-I noble God
henni ek laut
to-her I bowed
hinzta sinni
last time
alda-heimi í.
men-world in

Sól ek sá, 42
Sun I saw
svá hon geislaði,
so she shone
at þóttumk vætki vita;
that thought-myself nothing to-know
en Gilfar straumar
but of-Gilfr streams
grenjuðu annan veg
roared other way
blandnir mjǫk við blóð.
mixed much with blood

Sól ek sá 43
Sun I saw
sjónum skjalfǫndum
with-eyes trembling
hrælufullr ok hnipinn,
dread-full and drooping
hjarta mitt
heart my
vas harðla mjǫk
was very much
runnit sundr í sega.
run asunder into shreds

44 Sól ek sá
Sun I saw
sjaldan hyggvari;
seldom more-thoughtful
mjǫk vask þá ór heimi hallr;
much was-I then out-of world leaning
tunga mín
tongue my
vas til trés metin
was to wood reckoned
ok kólnat at fyr utan.
and cooled at from outside

45 Sól ek sá
Sun I saw
síðan aldri
since never
ept þann dapra dag;
after that dark day
fjalla-vǫtn
mountain-waters
lukðusk fyr mér saman,
closed before me together
en ek hvarf kaldr frá kvǫlum.
but I turned cold from torments

Vánar-stjarna fló, 46
Hope-star flew
þás fœddr of vask,
when born — was-I
brott frá brjósti mér;
away from breast my
hátt hon fló,
high she flew
hvergi settisk,
nowhere settled
svát mætti hvílð hafa
so-that might rest have

Qllum lengri 47
Than-all longer
vas sú en eina nǫtt,
was that the one night
es lák stirðr á strǫum;
when lay-I stiff on straws
þat merkir þat,
that signifies that
es mælti goð,
which spoke God
at maðr es moldu samr.
that man is to-earth same

48 Virði þat ok viti
May-weigh that and may-know
enn virki goð,
the creator God
sás skóp hauðr ok himin,
who created earth and heaven
hvé munarlausir
how unhappy
margir of fara,
many — fare
þótt við skylda skili.
though from kin part

49–56 · THE WAY OF THE DEAD

Each man reaps his own works, and a bed strewn with sand was meant for the father; the flesh's hunger often deceives men. He sat nine days on the Norns' seat and rode through the seven worlds seeking the easiest way. He saw the souls of the dead flying like midges, a dragon of hope falling, the sun's hart, and seven sons of kinsmen drinking pure mead.

49 Sinna verka
His works
nýtr seggja hverr;
enjoys of-men each
sæll 's sás gótt gerir;
blessed is he-who good does

auði frá
wealth from
mér ætluð vas
me intended was
sandi orpin sæing.
with-sand thrown bed

Hǫrundar hungr 50
Of-flesh hunger
tælir hǫlða opt,
deceives men often
hann hefr margr til mikinn;
it has many too great
lauga vatn
of-baths water
mér leiðast vas
for-me most-loathsome was
eitt allra hluta.
one of-all things

Á norna stóli 51
On of-norns seat
satk níu daga,
sat-I nine days
þaðan vask á hest hafinn,
thence was-I onto horse lifted

gýgjar sólir
of-giantess suns
skinu grimmliga
shone grimly
ór skýdrúpnis skýum.
out-of of-cloud-dripper clouds

52 Utan ok innan
Outside and inside
þóttumk alla fara
thought-myself all to-fare
sigrheima sjau;
victory-worlds seven
upp ok niðr
up and down
leitaðak œðra vegar,
sought-I of-higher of-way
hvar mér væri greiðastar gǫtur.
where for-me were easiest paths

53 Frá því 's at segja
From that is to tell
hvat fyrst of sák,
what first — saw-I
þás vask í kvǫlheima kominn;
when was-I into torment-worlds come
sviðnir foglar,
singed birds

es sálir vǫ́ru,
which souls were
flugu svá margir sem mý.
flew so many as midges

[Vestan sák 54
From-west saw-I
fljúga vánardreka
fly hope-dragon
ok fell á glævalds gǫtu;
and fell on of-glass-ruler path
vængi skók,
wings shook
svá víða þótti mér
so widely seemed to-me
springa hauðr ok himinn.
burst earth and heaven

Sólar hjǫrt 55
Of-sun hart
leitk sunnan fara,
saw-I from-south go
hann teymðu tveir saman;
him led two together

fœtr hans
feet his
stóðu foldu á,
stood earth on
en tóku horn til himins.
and touched horns to heaven

56 Norðan sák
From-north saw-I
ríða niðja sonu
ride of-kinsmen sons
ok vǫ́ru sjau saman;
and were seven together
hornum fullum
with-horns full
drukku þeir enn hreina mjǫ́ð
drank they the pure mead
ór brunni baug-regins.]
out-of well of-ring-god

He saw women grinding earth for their men, men maimed on glowing paths, the envious marked with bloody runes, cheats carrying lead to Fégjarn's fort, and robbers pierced by poison-dragons.

Vindr þagði, 57
Wind was-silent
vǫtn stǫðvaði,
waters stopped
þá heyrðak grimligan gný;
then heard-I grim din
sínum mǫnnum
for-their men
svipvísar konur
face-wise women
mólu mold til matar.
ground earth for food

Dreyrga steina 58
Bloody stones
enar døkku konur
the dark women
drógu daprliga;
dragged gloomily

blóðug hjǫrtu
bloody hearts
hengu þeim fyr brjóst utan
hung to-them before breast outside
mœdd við miklum trega.
wearied with great grief

59 Margan mann
Many man
sák meiddan fara
saw-I maimed go
á þeim glœddu gǫtum;
on those glowing paths
andlit þeira
faces their
sýndusk mér ǫll vesa
seemed to-me all to-be
rýgjar blóði roðin.
of-giantess with-blood reddened

60 Marga menn
Many men
sák moldar gengna,
saw-I to-earth gone
þás mǫ́ttut þjónostu ná;
who could-not ministry obtain

heiðnar stjǫrnur
heathen stars
stóðu of hǫfði þeim
stood over head to-them
fáðar feiknstǫfum.
painted with-monster-staves

Menn sák þá, 61
Men saw-I then
es mjǫk ólu
who much nursed
ǫfund af annars hagi;
envy from of-another state
blóðgar rúnir
bloody runes
vǫ́ru á brjósti þeim
were on breast to-them
merkðar meinliga.
marked painfully

Menn sák þá 62
Men saw-I then
marga ófegna;
many unglad
þeir vǫ́ru villir vega;
they were astray of-ways
þat kaupir sá,
that buys that-one

es þessa heims
who of-this world
apask at óheillum.
is-fooled to misfortunes

63 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es mǫrgum hlutum
who in-many things
viltu of annars eign;
cheated about of-another property
flokkum fóru
in-bands went
til Fégjarns borgar
to of-Fégjarn fort
ok hǫfðu byrðar af blýi.
and had burdens of lead

64 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es margan hǫfðu
who many had
fé ok fjǫrvi rænt;
wealth and life robbed

brjóst í gǫgnum
breast in through
rendu brǫgnum þeim
ran to-men those
ǫflgir eitrdrekar.
mighty poison-dragons

65–72 · PUNISHMENTS AND REWARDS

Those who broke the holy days had their hands nailed on hot stones; the proud wore clothes of fire, and liars had their eyes torn out by Hel's ravens. Those who had given much by God's laws had pure candles burning above them; those who helped the poor had angels read them holy books, those who fasted were honored by angels, and those who fed their mothers lay on beds of heaven's rays.

Menn sák þá, 65
Men saw-I then
es minst vildu
who least wished
halda helga daga;
hold holy days
hendr þeira
hands their
vǫ́ru á heitum steinum
were on hot stones
negldar nauðliga.
nailed cruelly

66 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es af mikillæti
who from pride
virðusk vǫ́num framar;
reckoned-themselves than-expected higher
klæði þeira
clothes their
vǫ́ru kynliga
were strangely
eldi umb slegin.
with-fire about struck

67 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es mart hǫfðu
who much had
orð á annan logit;
word on another lied
Heljar hrafnar
of-Hel ravens
ór hǫfði þeim
out-of head to-them
harðliga sjónir slitu.
hard sight tore

Allar ógnir 68
All terrors
fær þú eigi vitat,
canst thou not know
þærs helgengnir hafa;
which death-gone have
sœtar synðir
sweet sins
verða at sǫrum bótum;
become to sore penances
æ koma mein ept munuð.
ever come harms after pleasure

Menn sák þá, 69
Men saw-I then
es mart hǫfðu
who much had
gefit at goðs lǫgum;
given at of-God laws
hreinir kyndlar
pure candles
vǫru of hǫfði þeim
were over head to-them
brendir bjartliga.
burned brightly

70 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es af miklum hug
who from great mind
veittu fátœkum frama;
gave to-poor help
helgar bœkr
holy books
ok himna skript
and of-heavens writing
lǫ́su þeim englar yfir.
read to-them angels over

71 Menn sák þá,
Men saw-I then
es mjǫk hǫfðu,
who much had
hungri farit hǫrund;
with-hunger worn flesh
englar goðs
angels of-God
lutu ǫllum þeim;
bowed to-all those
þat es et œzta unað.
that is the highest joy

Menn sák þá, 72
Men saw-I then
es móður hǫfðu
who to-mother had
látit mat í munn;
put food into mouth
hvílur þeira
beds their
vǫ́ru á himingeislum
were on heaven-rays
hafðar hagliga.
made fittingly

73–82 · THE FAREWELL

Holy maidens washed the souls of the penitent, and the innocent slain rode in chariots to God. The father prays to the Trinity, sets out his riddling stanzas, and names the poem Sólarljóð, to be recited before the living; father and son part, to meet again on the day of joy.

Helgar meyjar 73
Holy maidens
hǫfðu hreinliga
had purely
sǫ́l af synðum þvegit
soul from sins washed
manna þeira,
of-men those

es á mǫrgum degi
who on many day
pínðu sjalfa sik.
tormented self themselves

74 Hávar reiðir
High chariots
sák með himnum fara,
saw-I with heavens go
þær eigu gǫtur til goðs;
they have paths to God
menn þeim stýra,
men them steer
es myrðir eru
who murdered are
alls fyr engar sakar.
all for no causes

75 Enn mátki faðir,
The mighty father
enn mæzti sonr,
the most-worthy son
heilagr andi himins,
holy spirit of-heaven
þik biðk skilja,
thee ask-I to-part

es skapat hefr,
who created hast
oss alla eymðum frá.
us all miseries from

[Bjúgvǫr ok Listvǫr 76
Bjúgvǫr and Listvǫr
sitja í Herðis durum
sit in of-Herðir doors
organs stóli á;
of-organ seat on
járna dreyri
of-irons blood
fellr ór nǫsum þeim;
falls out-of noses to-them
sá vekr fjón með firum.
that wakes hatred among men

Óðins kvǫn 77
Of-Óðinn wife
rœr á jarðar skipi
rows on of-earth ship
móðug á munað;
eager for pleasure

seglum hennar
with-sails her
verðr síð hlaðit
becomes late lowered
þeims á þráreipum þruma.
which on longing-ropes hang

78 Arfi fǫður
Inheritance of-father
einn ek ráðit hef
alone I read have
ok þeir Sólkǫtlu-synir;
and they Sólkatla-sons
hjartarhorn
hart's-horn
þats ór haugi bar
which out-of mound bore
enn vitri Vígdvalinn.
the wise Vígdvalinn

79 Hér eru rúnir,
Here are runes
þærs ristit hafa
which carved have
Njarðar dœtr níu;
of-Njǫrðr daughters nine

Bǫðveig en elzta
Bǫðveig the eldest
ok Kreppvǫr en yngsta
and Kreppvǫr the youngest
ok þeira systr sjau.
and their sisters seven

Hverju bǫlvi 80
What evil
þeir belt hafa
they done have
Sváfr ok Sváfrlogi;
Sváfr and Sváfrlogi
blóð þeir vǫkðu
blood they roused
ok benjar sugu
and wounds sucked
illum ey vana.]
with-evil ever custom

Kvæði þetta, 81
Poem this
es þér kent hefi,
which thee taught have
skalt fyr kvikum kveða,
shalt-thou before living recite
Sólarljóð,
Sólarljóð

es sýnask munu
which seem will
minst at mǫrgu login.
least at much lied

82 Hér vit skiljumk
Here we-two part
ok hittask munum
and meet will
á feginsdegi fira;
on joy-day of-men
dróttinn minn
lord my
gefi dauðum ró,
may-give to-dead rest
en hinum líkn, es lifa.
and to-those mercy who live

Líknarbraut

The Way of Grace

The poet asks Christ to open the house of his poem and give him words, though he has kept his tongue too seldom from sin. He prays that God's grace will shine on him, light the dark places of his mind, and sow heavenly seed there, so that the poem may bear fruit for the soul.

Einn, lúkt upp sem ek bœni 1
One open-thou up as I pray
óðrann ok gef sanna
poem-house and give true
mér, þú er alls átt œrit,
to-me thou who of-all hast enough
orðgnótt, himins dróttinn;
word-plenty of-heaven lord
þinn vilk kross sem kunnum,
thy wish-I cross as can-we
Kristr styrki mik, dyrka,
Christ may-strengthen me to-worship
ǫrr, sás ýta firrir
generous he-who men removes
allri nauð ok dauða.
from-all need and death

Víst mák hræddr ens hæsta, 2
Surely may-I afraid of-the highest
heiðtjalds gǫfugr, beiða,
of-sky-tent noble ask

mér at munnshǫfn dýra
me that mouth-haven dear
mærðteitr jǫfurr veiti;
praise-glad prince grant
ǫ́r þvít ek má stórum
early because I may greatly
ungr hógsettrar tungu
young of-gently-set tongue
frá afgerðum orða
from misdeeds of-words
ofsjaldan vel halda.
too-seldom well hold

3 Hneig, er veitir vægðir
Incline thou-who grantest pardons
vígrunni miskunnar,
to-battle-tree of-mercy
hreina hugðum bænum
pure to-heartfelt prayers
heyrn þína guð mínum;
hearing thy God to-my
allr týnumk ek ella,
all am-lost I else
ítr sem þú mátt líta
glorious as thou mayst see
guð, nema gæzku saðrar
God unless of-goodness true
gipt þín of mér skíni.
grace thy over me shine

Þrifgæðir, lát, þjóðar, 4
Thrift-giver let of-people
þíns anda mér skína
of-thy spirit to-me shine
ástar-ljós, sem ek æsti,
love-light as I ask
albjart í sal hjarta,
all-bright in hall of-heart
þats misverka myrkrum
that-which of-misdeeds darknesses
munar hrindi sem blindi
of-mind push as blinds
míns ór mælsku túni
of-my out-of of-eloquence yard
móðs vandliga hrjóði.
of-mood carefully clear

Dreifðu, láðs ok lofða 5
Scatter-thou of-land and of-men
lífstýrir, mér dýru,
life-steerer for-me dear
leyfðar kendr, í lyndis
of-praise known into of-mind
láð himnesku sáði,
land with-heavenly seed
ár svát ávǫxt færak,
early so-that fruit bring-I
alls kannandi, sannan,
of-all knower true

elsku kuðr, af yðru
of-love known from your
óþornuðu korni.
unwithered grain

6 Þann er af mínum munni
That which from my mouth
margr til andar bjargar
many to of-soul of-help
sér megi randa rýrir
for-himself may of-shields diminisher
rǫðuls framkvæmdan ǫðlask;
of-sun accomplishment gain
sv *** látattu sveitir,
(fragment) (lacuna) let-not-thou companies
siðskjótr, af því hljóta,
custom-swift from that get
gumna kind at grandi,
of-men kin to harm
guð minn, laga þinna.
God my of-laws thy

All Christ's words are brighter than gold and gems. The poet asks his brothers and sisters to help him with their prayers, and begins his praise glad and sorrowful at once. Every man should strive with his whole love toward the Redeemer, who was born of the noblest maiden and took suffering on himself for our sins.

Hauðrs, veit helgar ræður, 7
Of-earth grant holy speeches
hildingr, ok kenningar,
prince and teachings
mána hvéls, ór mínu
of-moon of-wheel from my
mannvandr hugar ranni;
man-careful of-mind house
ǫll eru orð þín gulli,
all are words thy than-gold
alhreinn, ok gimsteinum,
all-pure and than-gemstones
vísi sæll, ok vellum,
prince blessed and than-gold
vegs, bjartari ok fegri.
of-honor brighter and fairer

Beiðandi kveðk bæði 8
Asking bid-I both
bræðr ok systr at kvæði,
brothers and sisters at poem

ǫll veiti þér ítran
all may-grant you glorious
yðarn tænað mér bæna,
your service to-me of-prayers
vizku skýrðr at virðisk
with-wisdom adorned that deigns
veðrskríns jǫfurr mínum
of-storm-shrine prince to-my
nýtr, er nauðsyn heitir,
useful who need calls
nálægr vera mǫlum.
near to-be speeches

9 Hróðr stofna ek heiðar
Praise found I of-heath
hjálmspennanda þenna
of-helmet-clasper this
blíðr ok hryggr ok bæði
glad and sad and both
bjartr ok dapr í hjarta;
bright and gloomy in heart
ok mun ǫrum þykkja
and will to-messengers seem
eggmóts, of hvárttveggja,
of-edge-meeting about both
vísum ljóss, ef vissi,
to-wise of-light if knew
vera sǫk til þess nǫkkur.
to-be cause for that some

Því berk angr, at engu 10
Therefore bear-I grief at nothing
árs launum vér sárar
of-year repay we grievous
skírs, sem skyldugt væri,
of-bright as owed were
skilfingi píningar;
to-prince torments
þó gleðr enn sem aðra
yet gladdens still as others
oss, sús hlauzk af krossi
us which was-allotted from cross
lýð ok lofðungs dauða,
to-people and of-ruler death
líkn dýr, himinríkis.
grace dear of-heaven-kingdom

Kosti alls af ǫstum 11
Should-strive with-all from loves
(einsætt er þat) hreinum,
clear is that pure
magn stýri því, meira
might should-steer to-that more
maðr hverr, svika þverris,
man each of-deceits diminisher
þvít margfalda mildi,
because manifold mildness

minn lausnari, þína
my redeemer thy
hverja stund at hǫndum
every hour at hands
hlífrunnum lætr svífa.
to-shield-trees lets glide

12 Sá baztr frá mey mæztri
He best from maiden most-excellent
mildingr berask vildi
prince to-be-born wished
heiða tjalds ok holdi
of-skies of-tent and with-flesh
hjálpprýddan sik skrýddi,
help-adorned himself clothed
en nauð á sik síðan
but need on himself afterward
sjálfráði tók dáða
self-ruling took of-deeds
víst fyr vára lǫstu
surely for our vices
vísi sjálfr með píslum.
prince himself with torments

The refrain begins: Christ's cross-mark wins strength for men. Cruel men tortured God; he bore blows, spittle, mockery, and bonds, and was nailed to the tree while the hammers rang. Hanging on the cross he won us all, and his mother stood weeping at the death of her son.

Vildak vitra hǫlda 13
Wished-I of-wise men
vegs gæti, meinlætum,
of-honor of-guardian sufferings
hátt, þeims hǫrðum mætti,
high to-him-who hard endured
hvargóðum stef bjóða.
to-all-good refrain offer
Krists vinnr krapt ens hæsta
of-Christ wins might of-the highest
krossmark viðum hnossa;
cross-mark for-trees of-treasures
alls bezt lofar æztan
of-all best praises highest
ǫll dyrð konung fyrða.
all glory king of-men

14 Veittu menn sem mǫ́ttu
Gave men as could
marga lund á grundu
many way on earth
grimmúðgastir gumnar
fiercest-minded men
guði sælum harmkvæli;
to-God blessed torment
lét fyr ljóna sveitum
let for of-men hosts
limu sína guð pína
limbs his God torture
framar en flestir gumnar
more than most men
fjǫldyggr megi hyggja.
much-faithful may think

15 Þolði hálshǫgg hǫlda
Suffered neck-blows of-men
hildingr með spýtingum;
prince with spittings
vǫrðr hlaut fróns af fyrðum
guardian got of-land from men
flest skaup ok kinnhesta;
most mockery and cheek-blows
hann bar hneyxl af mǫnnum
he bore scorn from men
hverja lund ok stundir,
every way and hours

pindr var hann berr ok bundinn
tormented was he bare and bound
barðr, viðfarar harðar.
beaten with-treatment hard

Nísti ferð í frosti 16
Pierced host in frost
fárlund við tré sáran,
evil-minded on tree sore
vasa hann verðugr písla,
was-not he worthy of-torments
várn græðara jǫrnum;
our healer with-irons
glymr varð hár af hǫmrum
din became loud from hammers
heyrðr, þás nagla keyrðu
heard when nails drove
hjálms gnýviðir hilmi
of-helmet din-trees into-prince
hófs í ristr ok lófa.
of-moderation in instep and palm

Árstillir vann alla 17
Year-ruler won all
oss, þás hekk á krossi,
us when hung on cross
eitt er of þat, dróttinn,
one is about that lord

almæli, fullsæla;
common-speech full-blessed
Krists vinnr krapt ens hæsta
of-Christ wins might of-the highest
krossmark viðum hnossa
cross-mark for-trees of-treasures
alls bezt lofar æztan
of-all best praises highest
ǫll dyrð konung fyrða.
all glory king of-men

18 Guðs vara mær ok móðir
Of-God was-not maiden and mother
mána hauðrs við dauða
of-moon of-earth at death
hýr með hjarta sǫru
glad with heart sore
hildings ok píningar;
of-prince and torment
víst bar víf et hæsta
surely bore woman the highest
vátar kiðr af gráti,
wet cheeks from weeping
sonr þás sárr af benjum
son when sore from wounds
siðnenninn dó hennar.
custom-zealous died her

Who would not weep at such torments? A spear wounded him in the side under his right hand, and water and blood ran from the wound. Christ, guiltless, died for all men, harrowed hell, rose from the dead, and forty days later ascended; whoever would seek him must believe him true man and true God.

Hvat megi heldr of græta 19
What may rather — grieve
hvern mann, er þat kannar,
each man who that learns
rǫðla býs en ræsis
of-suns of-dwelling than of-ruler
ríks píningar slíkar,
mighty torments such
er dýrr á sik sáran
that dear on himself sore
siklingr ept kvǫl mikla
prince after torment great
hreinn til hjálpar mǫnnum
pure for help to-men
hauðrfjǫrnis tók dauða.
of-earth-helmet took death

20 En und hægri hendi
But under right hand
hyggju-blíðr á síðu
mind-gentle on side
hlaut af hvǫssu spjóti
received from sharp spear
hǫfugt sár konungr jǫfra;
heavy wound king of-princes
árveitis rann ýta
of-year-giver ran of-men
eirsams ór ben þeiri,
of-merciful from wound that
hugum skyldu þat hǫldar
in-minds should that men
heyra, vatn ok dreyri.
hear water and blood

21 Lýsti miskunn mesta
Showed mercy greatest
mildr, þás saklauss vildi
mild when guiltless wished
einn fyr ǫllum mǫnnum,
alone for all men
eyhjálms konungr, deyja.
of-island-helmet king to-die

Krists vinnr krapt ens hæsta
of-Christ wins might of-the highest
krossmark viðum hnossa
cross-mark for-trees of-treasures
alls bezt lofar æztan
of-all best praises highest
ǫll dyrð konung fyrða.
all glory king of-men

Kvaliðr sté, ǫllum æðri, 22
Tormented stepped than-all higher
ítr gramr til helvítis
glorious prince to hell
dægra láðs ept dauða
of-days of-land after death
djǫfla rann at kanna;
of-devils house to explore
leysti sinn at sǫnnu
freed his in truth
sólhallar gramr allan
of-sun-hall prince all
lýð fyr lífstré þjóðar
people for life-tree of-nation
líknar-styrkr frá myrkrum.
grace-strong from darknesses

23 Lík fór kennir keykva
Body went knower of-living
krapts með ǫnd til graptar
of-strength with spirit to grave
sitt ok sæll reis dróttinn
his and blessed rose lord
sólar hauðrs af dauða;
of-sun of-earth from death
urðu allir fyrðar
became all men
angrhegnanda fegnir,
of-grief-punisher glad
áðr þás elsku fæðis
before when of-love of-feeder
aldyggs bani hryggði.
of-all-good slayer grieved

24 Lands sté gramr af grundu
Of-land stepped prince from earth
glyggs blíðr dǫgum síðar,
of-wind gentle days later
eyksk af ǫllu slíku
increases from all such
ór hjǫlp, tugum fjórum;
our help tens four
fróns skal sikling, sínu,
of-earth shall prince his
sveit, hin's Krists vill leita,
host that-which of-Christ will seek

tjalds, í tígnar-veldi,
of-tent in dignity-power
trúa mann ok guð sannan.
believe man and God true

25–30 · THE JUDGMENT

Christ holds all creation together. At the last judgment the cross will be shown to all nations with its blood, nails, whips, and spear, and every man will hasten to that assembly in fear. The faithful are led home to glory and the wicked sent to the fiends to burn; the poet kneels before the cross, that the bonds of his sins may be loosed.

Geypnir skjǫldungr skepnu 25
Holds prince of-creation
skríns styrkliga sína,
of-shrine strongly his
ern er hilmir, hlýrna,
vigorous is ruler of-heavens
heiðstalls, saman alla.
of-sky-pedestal together all
Krists vinnr krapt ens hæsta
of-Christ wins might of-the highest
krossmark viðum hnossa
cross-mark for-trees of-treasures
alls bezt lofar æztan
of-all best praises highest
ǫll dyrð konung fyrða.
all glory king of-men

26 Enn mun kross dýrð kynnask,
Still will of-cross glory be-known
kømr ótti þá, dróttins
comes fear then of-lord
fyr hnigstǫfum hjǫrva
before bowing-staves of-swords
hljóms at øfsta dómi;
of-din at highest judgment
meiðr skal hverr ór hauðri
tree shall each from earth
hringmóts til alþingis
of-ring-meeting to all-assembly
fremðar-ráðs á fæðis
of-honor-counsel at of-feeder
fund hvatliga skunda.
meeting quickly hasten

27 Kross mun á þingi þessu
Cross will at assembly this
þjóðum sýndr með blóði,
to-nations shown with blood
uggs fyllask þá allir
with-dread are-filled then all
aumir menn, ok saumi;
wretched men and with-nail
líta seggja sveitir,
see of-men hosts

svipur ok spjót á móti
whips and spear on against
sér ok sjá með dreyra
themselves and see with blood
sjálfs Krists viðir Mistar.
own of-Christ trees of-Mist

Heim laðar hvern frá dómi 28
Home invites each from judgment
himins fyrða til dyrðar
of-heaven of-men to glory
(gipt þrýtrat þá) gætir
grace fails-not then guardian
glyggranns með sér dyggra,
of-wind-house with himself of-faithful
en veglausum vísar
but to-honorless shows
vǫndum lýð til fjánda
wicked people to fiends
birtiranns at brenna
of-brightness-house to burn
byrjar valdr of aldir.
of-fair-wind ruler for ages

29 Hljóta ey með ítrum
Get ever with glorious
alfegnastir þegnar
all-gladdest thanes
sólar vǫrð í sælu
of-sun guardian in bliss
slóðar alt et góða.
of-track all the good
Krists vinnr krapt ens hæsta
of-Christ wins might of-the highest
krossmark viðum hnossa
cross-mark for-trees of-treasures
alls bezt lofar æztan
of-all best praises highest
ǫll dyrð konung fyrða.
all glory king of-men

30 Krýpk til kross, en glæpa
Kneel-I to cross and of-crimes
knosuð bǫnd af því losna,
crushed bonds from that loosen
ótta fullr með ǫllu,
of-fear full with all
innan brjósts, frá þjósti;
within breast from fury

dýrt kveðk hræddu hjarta
dear call-I with-frightened heart
huggóðs drifit blóði
of-mind-good drenched with-blood
grams píslar-tré geisla
of-prince torment-tree of-ray
grundar skepnu bundinn.
of-ground with-creation bound

31–36 · THE CROSS PRAISED

The poet hails the cross as the key that unlocked the hall of life, the sign of peace made holy by Christ's blood, a ship carrying the King's thralls safely to harbor, a ladder to heaven, a bridge to love, steep but walkable, and the scales on which the world's price was weighed.

Heill vert kross, er kallask, 31
Hail be-thou cross who art-called
Krists mark, himins vistar
of-Christ sign of-heaven of-dwelling
lýðs af læknis dauða
of-people from of-physician death
lykill mannkyni syknu,
key to-mankind sinless
ǫrr þvít upp lauk harri
generous because up unlocked lord
élskrins fyr þik sínum,
of-storm-shrine for thee to-his

áðr þás læst var lýðum
before when locked was to-people
lífs hǫll vinum ǫllum.
of-life hall to-friends all

32 Heims, bart hvǫssum saumi,
Of-world borest-thou with-sharp nail
hjálpsterkt friðar merki,
help-strong of-peace sign
lýðr at lausn of næði,
people that release — got
limu Krists við þik nista;
limbs of-Christ to thee to-pierce
mátt af dreyra dróttins
mayst-thou from blood of-lord
dags reitar því heita
of-day of-plot therefore be-called
blíðs ok bitrum dauða
of-gentle and bitter death
blómi helgra dóma.
flower of-holy relics

Skeið ert fróns und friðum 33
Ship art-thou of-earth under peaces
farsæl konungs þrælum
prosperous of-king to-thralls
fljót ok farmi ítrum
swift and with-cargo glorious
fóstrlands á vit strandar;
of-foster-land to visit of-shore
þú snýr bǫls hjá bǫ́rum,
thou turnest of-evil beside waves
boðar kastat þér lasta,
breakers cast-not to-thee of-vices
lýðs und líknar auði
of-people under of-grace wealth
lífs hafnar til stafni.
of-life of-haven to prow

Stigi nefnisk þú, stafna 34
Ladder art-called thou of-prows
stóðríðǫndum smíði
to-stud-riders work
traust, af tvennrar ástar
firm from of-twofold love
(tókk minni þess) kinnum;
took-I memory of-that with-cheeks

framm komr hverr á himna
forward comes each to heavens
hræskóðs ok fær góða
of-carrion-harmer and gets good
stétt, þás stig þín hittir,
step when steps thy finds
styrjar lundr af grundu.
of-battle tree from earth

35 Bezt ert brú til ástar
Best art-thou bridge to love
brýn, þótt torgeng sýnisk
steep though hard-to-walk seems
gumna kind, af grundu
of-men kin from earth
guðs þrælum fullsælum;
of-God to-thralls to-full-blessed
færir ganga þik fyrðar
able walk thee men
fimir í lið til himna,
nimble in help to heavens
hallask af þér er illrar
lean from thee who of-evil
óvenju til spenjask.
of-bad-habit to be-lured

Heims lézt verð ok virða 36
Of-world lettest-thou price and of-men
vegit, gimsteinum fegra
weighed than-gemstones fairer
himna ljós, í hvǫssum
of-heavens light in sharp
háleitt friðar, skǫlum;
sublime of-peace scales
vǫg erat víst né frægri,
weight is-not surely nor more-famous
vétt sýnir þú rétta
balance showest thou right
ófs, til ýta gæfu,
of-measure to of-men fortune
alls, setrs vera betri.
of-all of-seat to-be better

37–42 · THE ALTAR AND THE VICTORY

The cross was the altar on which the Lamb of God was offered. It is hateful to the devils, who take flight before its might; it frees the captive, protects body and soul, and heals the mind's blindness. No tongue can count its signs, and on it Christ stretches out his arms to men.

Sæfðu lamb guðs lofðar 37
Slew lamb of-God men
ljóst, hafa þess í brjóstum,
clearly have that in breasts

ok ert enn í slíku
and art-thou still in such
altári, lǫg sára,
altar liquid of-wounds
þvít lautviðir létu
because hollow-trees let
lastbundnir helgasta
vice-bound holiest
linns, þás lausn gaf mǫnnum,
of-serpent when release gave to-men
lífs forn á þik borna.
of-life offering on thee borne

38 Snjalls ert orðinn ǫllum
Of-bold art-thou become to-all
ofrníðingum síðan
over-villains since
djǫflum leiðr ept dauða
to-devils hateful after death
dýrr kross himinstýris;
dear cross of-heaven-steerer
leggr andskota undan
takes of-adversaries away
ætt fyr gǫfgum mætti
kin before noble might
opt ok yðrum krapti
often and your power
óttagjǫrn á flótta.
fear-eager on flight

Krúx, lemið angr en æxlið 39
Cross strike-ye grief and increase-ye
alt gótt liði dróttins,
all good to-host of-lord
sýndr ert seggja kindum
shown art-thou of-men to-kins
sigrtrúr í gný vigra;
victory-true in din of-spears
opt ert éls í hǫptum
often art-thou of-storm in fetters
ítr lausn viðum rítar,
glorious release to-trees of-shield
guma forðar þú gǫrla
men protectest thou completely
grandi holds ok andar.
from-harm of-flesh and of-spirit

Veit mér líkn, er læknar 40
Grant me grace who healest
ljóna kind frá blindi
of-men kin from blindness
hyggju túns ok hreinsar,
of-mind of-yard and cleansest
heims prýði, kyn lýða;
of-world adornment kin of-people

ert fyr hvers manns hjarta
art-thou for of-each man heart
hreins við ǫllum meinum
of-pure against all harms
hæstr ok harðri freistni
highest and hard temptation
hlífiskjǫldr í lífi.
shield-of-shelter in life

41 Engr fær tǫld með tungu
No-one can counted with tongue
tǫ́kn þín, er nú skína,
tokens thy which now shine
hjálpar hneigistólpi
of-help bowing-pillar
heims alls, of kyn beima;
of-world all over kin of-men
æxtr ferr valt til vaxtar
increased goes always to growth
vegr þinn, er berr fegri,
honor thy which bears fairer
hreinn, en hugðu vinnim,
pure than with-minds win-we
hverja dýrð, of skýrða.
each glory — declared

Sett hefr sína dróttar 42
Set has his of-host
sigrstoð konungr roðna
victory-pillar king reddened
blikmeiðǫndum blóði
to-gleam-harmers with-blood
bauga láðs fyr augu;
of-rings of-land before eyes
sjá má hverr í heimi
see may each in world
hnossa brjótr, á krossi
of-treasures breaker on cross
dyggr hvé sinn faðm seggjum
faithful how his embrace to-men
sólstéttar gramr réttir.
of-sun-pavement prince stretches

43–48 · CHRIST SPEAKS FROM THE CROSS

Christ seems to say from the cross: see my wounds, borne guiltless for your sins; turn from cruel harm, and I will embrace whoever repents. The poet bids his brothers and sisters remember these words with tears, owns himself ill suited to the poem, and prays that Christ will hear him and grant mercy.

Þá er sem þengill skýja 43
Then is as-if prince of-clouds
þreksnjallr kveði alla
strength-bold says to-all
oss með orðum þessum,
us with words these

ágætr fyr meinlæti:
excellent for suffering
mín hefk sǫ́r at sýna
my have-I wounds to show
seggjum góð með blóði,
to-men good with blood
maðr sjái hverr á hauðri
man may-see each on earth
hingat til píninga.
hither to torments

44 Ér meguð undir stórar
Ye may wounds great
yðars græðis sjá blæða,
of-your healer see bleed
þær eru sýnt, þó sárar,
they are clearly though sore
saklausum mér vakðar,
to-guiltless me awakened
mín því at mildi raunar
my because that mildness indeed
mest ok yðrir lestir
most and your vices
veldr því, at verða skyldi,
causes that that become should
víst, lýðs fyrir píslum.
surely of-people for torments

Mín snúsk þjóð ok þjóna 45
My turn-itself people and serve
(þat 's rǫ́ðuligt) dǫ́ðum
that is advisable with-deeds
glæpum vǫn frá greypu
with-crimes accustomed from cruel
grandi mér til handa;
harm me toward hands
því býðk faðm, at feðmik
therefore offer-I embrace that embrace-I
fúss ok glaðr með saðri
eager and glad with true
ǫ́st, hvern er iðrask lasta
love each who repents of-vices
unninna, miskunnar.
done of-mercy

Minnumk á, hvat unni 46
Remember-we on what loved
ǫðlingr í píningu
prince in torment
árs, þás orð slík heyrum,
of-year when words such hear-we
oss, deyjandi á krossi;
us dying on cross
leiðum hǫrð á hauðri
lead-we hard on earth
hjarta várs með tǫ́rum,
of-heart our with tears

systkin mín, fyr sjónir
brothers-and-sisters my before eyes
siðgætis meinlæti.
of-custom-keeper suffering

47 Réðum krapt í kvæði
Undertook-we power in poem
kross þíns fyr þjóð inna
of-cross thy before people to-tell
árs, þótt, eflir, værak
of-year though strengthener were-I
alllítt til þess fallinn;
very-little to that suited
sízt emk samr of baztan
least am-I fit about best
sýnt, ǫngrumk því lǫngum,
clearly grieve-I therefore long
fyr lundfasta lǫstu
for mind-fast vices
líknfæðir þik ræða.
grace-feeder thee to-speak-of

48 Bæn heyr, bragningr, mína,
Prayer hear prince my
bila munat þú vilja
fail wilt-not thou to-wish
veita vægð at móti,
grant mercy in return

veðrskríns, lofi þínu;
of-storm-shrine for-praise thy
sjálfr eggjar þú seggja
self urgest thou of-men
sveit á þik at heita,
host on thee to call
þat viðr, gumna gætir,
that grants of-men guardian
gerbænan mik, hverja.
ready-in-prayer me each

49–52 · THE CLOSE

The poet asks a reward for his poem, with interest, though he fears he has already received more than he can repay, and prays that his praise may win what matters most. He names the poem Líknarbraut, asks that it do all people good, and prays that the sign of the cross may shine over Christian people, so that they may win eternal joy.

Vildak af þér, aldar 49
Wished-I from thee of-men
angrstríðandi, síðan
grief-fighter afterward
enn fyr óðgǫrð mína
still for poem-making my
eiga gjǫld með leigum;
have reward with interest
áðr hefk ǫnnur gæði,
before have-I other goods

eirsamr, hlotit meiri
merciful gotten greater
þín, en ek þér fá launat,
thy than I thee can repay
þat óttumk ek, dróttinn.
that fear-I I lord

Æstik ǫllu trausti
Ask-I with-all trust
ítr þik, er gǫrst kant líta
glorious thee who most-fully canst see
með réttvísi, ræsir
with righteousness ruler
regnsals, hvat mér gegnir;
of-rain-hall what me avails
lát mik laun fyr þetta
let me reward for this
lof þitt konungr hitta
praise thy king meet
víst, þaus varðar mestu,
surely that-which matters most
veðra tjalds, of aldir.
of-storms of-tent for ages

Framm bark foldar humra 51
Forth bore-I of-land of-lobsters
(fæk heitis svá leitat)
get-I of-name so sought
leiðar (ljósu kvæði)
of-way bright poem
Líknarbraut fyr gauta;
Líknarbraut before men
sæll, lát oss ok allri,
blessed let us and all
angrskerðandi, verða
grief-diminisher become
þjóð, sem þurft ór beiðir,
people as need our asks
þenna hróðr at góðu.
this praise to good

Mæztr, lát merki krúzis, 52
Most-excellent let sign of-cross
mínn lausnari, skína
my redeemer shine
ǫrr í atferð várri
generous in conduct our
alla stund á grundu,
all time on earth
svát eilífrar, jǫfra,
so-that of-eternal of-princes
óttlaust með þér, dróttinn,
fearless with thee lord

eignisk æztan fǫgnuð
gets highest joy
unaðs vistar lið kristit.
of-delight of-dwelling host christened

Hugsvinnsmál

The Sayings of the Wise-Minded

Let men hear the counsels a heathen father taught his son. He bids him remember them all: be thankful before God, love father and mother, follow the good, fear his teacher, greet those he meets, never match strength with a stronger man, speak gently, keep his wealth, and teach his own sons.

Heyri seggir, 1
May-hear men
er vilja sið nema
who wish custom to-learn
ok góð verk gera,
and good works to-do
horsklig ráð,
wise counsels
er heiðinn maðr
which heathen man
kendi sínum syni.
taught to-his son

Ástsamlig ráð 2
Loving counsels
kennik þér, minn einkason,
teach-I thee my only-son
mun þú þau eptir ǫll;
remember thou them after all
gálauss þú verðr,
careless thou becomest

ef gleyma vilt
if forget wilt
því er þarf horskr at hafa.
that which needs wise-man to have

3 Þarflátr ok þakklátr
Needful-mannered and thankful
skalt fyr þínum guði
shalt-thou before thy God
ok vammalauss vera;
and blameless be
fǫður ok móður
father and mother
unn þú fróðhugaðr,
love thou wise-minded
ræk þína alla ætt.
care-for thy all kin

4 Ef þér góðan grip
If thee good gift
gefa hollir vinir,
give loyal friends
eig þú þann ok un;
own thou it and be-content
góðu þú fylg,
good thou follow

en gakk illu frá,
but go evil from
hvergi fyr ráð rasa.
nowhere before counsel rush

Hreinlífr vert, 5
Pure-living be-thou
hræzk þinn lærifǫður,
fear thy teacher
halt þú heiðsæi.
hold thou honor
* * *
(lacuna)

Bragna hvern, 6
Of-men each
er á brautu finnr,
whom on road findest
kveð þú kunnliga;
greet thou knowingly
ófróðr þykkir
unwise seems
sá er einskis spyrr,
he who of-nothing asks
ef finnr at máli mann.
if finds at speech man

7 Afli deila
With-strength strive
skalt aldrigi
shalt-thou never
þer við meiri mann;
thee with greater man
athuga ǫflgan
caution mighty
skalt við alt hafa;
shalt-thou with all have
ræk þín hús ok hjú.
care-for thy house and household

8 Blíðmæltr skalt
Gentle-spoken shalt-thou
við bragna lið,
with of-men host
hirð þitt fengit fé;
keep thy gotten wealth
minni ok manvit
memory and wit
nem á marga vega,
learn in many ways
ok kenn þat síðan sonum.
and teach it afterward to-sons

Shun hatred and mockery, repay gift with gift, and attend the law-courts. Drink warily; love your wife; defend your land; learn books and runes; avoid evil women; be calm in anger and truthful; do not mock strangers or beggars; keep your own laws, repay good with good, and covet nothing of another's.

Hatri hafna, 9
Hatred shun
hlæ þú manngi,
laugh thou at-no-man
gjald þú gjǫf við gjǫf;
pay thou gift for gift
vakr þú vert
watchful thou be
ok ver nær staddr
and be near placed
lýða lǫgskilum.
of-people to-law-courts

Sjaldan sitja 10
Seldom sit
skalt sumblum at,
shalt-thou feasts at
drekk þú varliga vín;
drink thou warily wine

eiginkonu þinni
own-wife thy
skalt unna vel;
shalt-thou love well
hygg fyr hverri gjǫf.
think before each gift

11 Oddi ok eggju
With-point and with-edge
ver þína óðaljǫrð,
defend thy native-land
eigi þú auðtryggr ver;
not thou easy-trusting be
fyr orðum ok eiðum
before words and oaths
hygg ǫllum vel,
think to-all well
halt þín heit við fira.
hold-thou thy promises to men

12 Bækr ok rúnar
Books and runes
nem þú blíðliga;
learn thou gladly
ger við góðan vel;
do to good-man well

illra kvenna
of-evil women
firr þik ǫllu lagi;
keep thee from-all fellowship
ráð þú hverjum heilt.
counsel thou each sound

Ráðhollr ok réttdæmr 13
Counsel-loyal and right-judging
ok reiði stiltr,
and in-anger calm
mælat við ýta ilt;
speak-not to men evil
kostum safna,
virtues gather
kynn þik við góða menn,
acquaint thee with good men
vinnattu lǫst né lygi.
do-not-thou vice nor lie

Ókunna menn 14
Unknown men
né ǫlmusur
not alms-folk
skalt at hlátri hafa;
shalt-thou at laughter have
þolinmóðr ver,
patient be

bregðat af þeim lǫgum,
swerve-not from those laws
er þú settir sjálfr.
which thou settest thyself

15 Af afli þínu
From strength thy
vert óhræsinn,
be-thou unboastful
launa góðu gott;
repay to-good good
annars eign
of-another property
girnz aldregi;
covet never
unn þeim er elska þik.
love those who love thee

16–23 · WORDS AND WEALTH

Be sparing of speech at feasts and speak and do good. The best counsel is to worship the highest God with a pure heart. Do not oversleep, keep a truthful tongue, be at peace with yourself, and see how few men are free of faults. Give away wealth that brings harm, and let even the gentle man be quick to anger when need requires.

16 Fámálugr ver,
Few-spoken be
er með fyrðum kemr,
when with men comest-thou

ok at sumblum sitr;
and at feasts sittest-thou
annan fýsa
another urge
skalat illra hluta;
shalt-not-thou of-evil things
mæl þú gott ok ger.
speak thou good and do

Allra ráða 17
Of-all counsels
tel ek þat einna bezt
count I that of-all best
at gǫfga æztan guð;
to worship highest God
með hreinu hjarta
with pure heart
skalt þú á hann trúa
shalt thou on him believe
ok elska af ǫllum hug.
and love with all mind

Ofsvefni tæla 18
Oversleep beguile
lát þik aldrigi,
let thee never
kosta vakr at vera;
strive watchful to be

leti ok lasta
sloth and vices
verðr þeim er lengi sefr
becomes to-him who long sleeps
auðit iðuliga.
granted often

19 Ómálugr skal
Unspeaking shall
ok í orðum stiltr
and in words calm
sá er vill guðs ást geta;
he who will of-God love get
æðra krapt
higher power
fær maðr aldrigi
gets man never
en vera í tungu trúr.
than to-be in tongue true

20 Ýmisgjarn
Changeable
ver þú aldrigi,
be thou never
sáttr ver við sjálfan þik;
reconciled be with self thee

seggja engum
of-men to-none
verðr sá samhuga,
becomes he of-one-mind
er sundrþykkiz við sik.
who is-at-odds with himself

Ef at ýta lífi 21
If on of-men life
hyggr þú ǫllu saman
thinkest thou all together
ok sér þeira siðu,
and seest their customs
þat þú finnr,
that thou findest
er fira reynir,
when men testest
at fár er vamma varr.
that few is of-faults wary

Ef eyri átt, 22
If coin hast-thou
þann er þér ekki stoðar
that which thee nothing helps
eða hlýtr ógagn af,
or gettest-thou harm from
gef hann burt,
give it away

þótt þér góðr þykki;
though to-thee good seem
mart er fríðara en fé.
much is fairer than wealth

23 Blíðr þú ver,
Gentle thou be
en stundum bráðskapaðr,
but at-times quick-tempered
ef geraz þarfir þess;
if arise needs of-that
vel má þat verða
well may that happen
at skipti vitr geði,
that change wise-man mood
þótt hann lastvarr lifi.
though he vice-wary live

24–31 · PRUDENCE IN SPEECH

Do not heed a wife's complaints against the servants without testing them. Warn a dear friend against blame, avoid wrangling with the sharp-tongued, and do not let another's malice stand in the way of your thriving. Do not be the first to spread news, do not promise what is another's, do not let praise swell your pride, and tell others of the help you receive without boasting of your own.

24 Konu þinnar
Of-wife thy
hlýð eigi kveinstǫfum,
heed not complaints

þótt hún þræla saki,
though she thralls accuse
opt hún þann hatar,
often she him hates
er þér hollr geriz;
who to-thee loyal becomes
reyn hvat et sanna sé.
test what the truth be

Ef þú vin átt, 25
If thou friend hast
þann er þér vildr sé,
him who to-thee dear be
fýs hann gott at gera,
urge him good to do
orða þinna
of-words thy
þótt óþǫkk kunni,
though ill-thanks know
þó skalt hann við vammi vara.
yet shalt-thou him against blame warn

Hirð eigi at senna, 26
Care not to wrangle
þótt satt vitir,
though truth knowest-thou
við hvassorða hali;
with sharp-tongued man

málskálp mikit
chatter much
er mǫrgum gefit;
is to-many given
fár er at hyggju horskr.
few is in mind wise

27 Þann dugnað
That help
veit þínum vin,
grant thy friend
at eigi fylgi mein til mikit;
that not follow harm too great
annars ilsku
of-another wickedness
lát aldrigi
let never
standa þér fyr þrifum.
stand thee before thriving

28 Qll tíðendi,
All tidings
þau er upp koma,
those which up come
reif eigi fyrstr með firum,
spread not first among men

betra er at þegja
better is to be-silent
en þat at segja,
than that to say
er reyniz lýðum at lygi.
which proves to-people as lie

Qðrum heita 29
To-another promise
skalt eigi því,
shalt-thou not that
er und qðrum átt;
which under another hast
opt þik tælir
often thee beguiles
sá er þú trúat hefir,
he whom thou trusted hast
brigð eru bragna orð.
fickle are of-men words

Metnað þinn, 30
Pride thy
þótt þik menn lofi,
though thee men praise
lát eigi miklaz til mjǫk;
let not grow too much

hælins manns orði
of-boastful man to-word
þarf eigi hverju trúa;
need-one not each believe
sjálfr kenn sjálfan þik.
self know self thee

31 Allan dugnað,
All help
er þér annarr veitir,
which thee another grants
mun þú ok mǫrgum seg;
remember thou and to-many tell
vinum þínum
to-friends thy
þótt þú vel dugir,
though thou well availest
hirð eigi at hrósa því.
care not to boast-of that

The young should learn what the old will need. Do not eavesdrop; the guilty think everyone speaks of them. Wealth is ill to trust, and no man rules his life-span. Accept a poor friend's gift with thanks, do not grieve over poverty, and do not fear death, which none escapes; blame yourself, not God, when friends fail.

Ungr skal venjaz 32
Young shall be-accustomed
því er þarf aldraðr hafa,
to-that which needs aged-man have
varaz við lǫst meðan lifir;
beware of vice while lives
ávítalaust
blameless
mátt eigi elligar
mayst-thou not otherwise
dæma um seggja siðu.
judge about of-men customs

Einmæli manna 33
Private-talk of-men
ræk aldrigi,
care-for never
hirð þú aldri at hlera;
care thou never to eavesdrop

um sik ræða
about himself speak
ætlar seggja hvern,
thinks of-men each
er veit á sik sakir.
who knows on himself guilts

34 Við meinum varna
Against harms guard
á marga vega,
in many ways
þótt sér fullsterkr at fé,
though art-thou full-strong in wealth
opt verðr aumr
often becomes wretched
sá er fyr aurum ræðr;
he who over money rules
ilt er auð at trúa.
ill is wealth to trust

35 Af annars dauða
From of-another death
vænt aldrigi
expect-thou never
at þér gagn geriz;
that thee gain arises

aldrlagi sínu
life-span his
ræðr engi maðr;
rules no man
nær stendr hǫldum Hel.
near stands to-men Hel

Ef þér litla gjǫf 36
If thee little gift
gefr af léttum hug
gives from light mind
vinr sá er válaðr er,
friend he who poor is
þiggja skalt
accept shalt-thou
ok þakklátr vera;
and thankful be
ást fylgir aums gjǫfum.
love follows of-poor-man gifts

Øreigu þína 37
Poverty thy
lát þér aldri gera
let thee never make
harðan hugtrega;
hard heart-grief
hins þú minz,
of-that thou remember

er þik móðir bar,
when thee mother bore
svá at þér fylgdi eigi fé.
so that thee followed not wealth

38 Aldrlagi sínu
Life-span his
kvíði engi maðr
should-fear no man
né um þat ǫnn ali,
nor about that trouble should-nourish
dugir eigi dagr
avails not day
þeim er dauða forðaz;
to-him who death shuns
engi feigð um flýr.
no-one doom — flees

39 Vinir þínir
Friends thy
ef þér verr duga
if thee worse avail
en þú þykkisk verðr vera,
than thou thinkest worthy to-be

þess meins vǫld
of-that harm cause
kennat þínum guði,
blame-not thy God
saka þú sjálfan þik.
blame thou self thee

40–47 · GIFTS AND STRANGERS

Gather wealth as a good man should and spend none of it on useless things. Do not promise again a gift you mean to give; the chatterer's words are wind. Do not trust a deceiver's fair words, but meet them in kind. Teach your children skills that will feed them, do not covet another's goods, do not commit the faults you blame, ask nothing unjust, and trust no stranger above a proven friend.

Auðar afla 40
Wealth gather
skalt alla vega
shalt-thou all ways
sem drengmenni dugir,
as good-man befits
aura þína
money thy
skaltat til ónýts hafa,
shalt-not-thou to useless have
þótt þik vel auðgan vitir.
though thee well wealthy knowest-thou

41 Sinni optar
Time more-often
heit eigi seggjum gjǫf,
promise not to-men gift
er þú veita vilt,
which thou grant wilt
símálugs orð
of-ever-talker words
þykkja snotrum hal
seem to-wise man
vindi lík vera.
to-wind like to-be

42 Fláráðs orðum,
Of-false-counselor words
þótt fagrt mæli,
though fair speak
þarft eigi þeim at trúa,
needest-thou not them to trust
glyslig orð
showy words
lát í gegn koma;
let in return come
gjalt svá líku líkt.
repay-thou so with-like like

Ef þér erfingja 43
If thee heir
verðr eiga skapat
becomes to-have shaped
ok ert fáskrúðigr at fé;
and art-thou poor in wealth
jóðum þínum
to-children thy
kenn íþróttir,
teach skills
er þeim fæzlu fái.
which them food get

Fé þik eigi tæli, 44
Wealth thee not should-beguile
þótt þér fagrt sýniz,
though thee fair seem
né til síngirni snúi;
nor to greed should-turn
annars eign
of-another property
fýsiz illr at hafa;
wishes evil-man to have
snotr er sá er sínu unir.
wise is he who with-his is-content

45 Ljótlig vǫmm
Ugly faults
ef þú lasta vilt,
if thou blame wilt
drýg eigi sjálfr en sǫmu;
commit not thyself the same
annan lýta
another blame
samir eigi þér,
befits not thee
ef veizt þik syndgan sjálfr.
if knowest-thou thee sinful thyself

46 Einskis biðja
Of-nothing ask
skalt annan þess,
shalt-thou another of-that
er gengr af réttu rifi,
which goes from right bound
ósnotr maðr
unwise man
biðr þess iðuliga,
asks of-that often
er þarf hvergi at hafa.
which needs nowhere to have

Ókunnan mann 47
Unknown man
virð engu framar
value in-nothing more
en þinn vísan vin;
than thy proven friend
margr er illr,
many-a is evil
er læz aldyggr vera;
who pretends all-good to-be
brigð eru útlendra orð.
fickle are of-foreigners words

48–55 · CONCORD AND THRIFT

Life is uncertain, so be of use every day. Do not quarrel with your own people, for concord breeds love and quarrels breed stubbornness. Repay friends' gifts, yield to others even when you could prevail, and by kindness turn foes to friends. Do not rage at your servants, do not seek revenge for angry words, spend with thrift, and be generous to friends in need.

Hvern dag, 48
Each day
meðan þér heilsa gefz,
while thee health is-given
ver þér at nǫkkuru nýtr;
be thee in something useful

sótt ok dauði
sickness and death
kemr þá er síz varir,
comes then when least one-expects
brigt er lýða líf.
fickle is of-people life

49 Þræta eða þjarka
Quarrel or wrangle
skalt eigi við þína liða,
shalt-thou not with thy folk
heldr væginn vera,
rather yielding be
sanna elsku
true love
gerir samþykki,
makes concord
en þverúð af þrætu vex.
but stubbornness from quarrel grows

50 Gjafir launa
Gifts repay
skalt við góðan hug,
shalt-thou with good mind
þær er þér veita vinir,
those which thee grant friends

rækð ok elska
care and love
helz með rekka liði
is-held with of-men host
þeira er at þǫrfum dugaz.
of-those who at needs help

Fyr ǫðrum vægja 51
Before others yield
samir þér iðuliga,
befits thee often
þótt þú meira megir;
though thou more mayest
af gæzku þeiri
from kindness that
mátt þú gera þér
mayst thou make thee
vísa fjándr at vinum.
certain foes into friends

Þrælum þínum 52
With-thralls thy
reiðz eigi þungliga,
be-angry not heavily
svá at þeim grand gerir;
so that them harm doest-thou

sjálfum sér
to-self himself
aflar sýns skaða
gains clear harm
er sinn meiðir mann.
who his maims man

53 Heiptar-orða
Of-hate-words
gerz eigi hefnisamr,
be not revengeful
heldr skalt væginn vera;
rather shalt-thou yielding be
þolinmóðr skal vera
patient shall be
við þegna lið,
with of-thanes host
sá er vill hæverskan sið hafa.
he who will courteous custom have

54 Eigur þínar
Possessions thy
skalt eigi til ofneyzlu hafa,
shalt-thou not to overuse have
heldr neyt með hagspeki;
rather use with thrift

opt verðr válaðr
often becomes poor
er vinna né má
who work not can
ok hefir aurum amat.
and has money wasted

Qrr af þurftum
Generous from needs
ver við ýta lið,
be with of-men host
dugi þú vel vinum;
help thou well friends
sá mun þrífaz,
he will thrive
er þarfr geriz
who useful becomes
sér ok sínu liði.
to-himself and to-his host

The wise man learns from the books of the wise, where counsel stands for most things; no wisdom is higher than living free of vice. Help strangers, do not grieve over what God hides, never quarrel in anger, feed the poor, and be content with a little, as small ships last long in a small pool.

56 Alsnotr maðr,
All-wise man
er vill íþróttir nema
who will skills learn
ok vel mart vita,
and well much know
bækr hann nemi,
books he should-learn
er gerðu bragnar spakir,
which made men wise
þeirs kendu fróðleik firum.
those-who taught learning to-men

57 ***
(lacuna)
[þvít] á fornum bókum
because in old books
stendr til flests ráð.
stands for most counsel

Gæzku safna 58
Kindness gather
skyli gumna hverr,
should of-men each
sá er vill hyggindi hafa,
he who will wisdom have
æðri spekð
higher wisdom
getr maðr aldrigi
gets man never
en lastvarr at lifa.
than vice-wary to live

Ókunnum manni 59
To-unknown man
samir þér opt vel duga,
befits thee often well help
ef vilt vinsæll vera;
if wilt-thou friend-loved be
veldi betra
power better
þykkir vitrum hal
seems to-wise man
at eigi víða vini.
that have wide friends

60 Áhyggjur skalt bera
Cares shalt-thou bear
fyr engum hlut
for no thing
þeim er leynir guð guma;
that which hides God from-men
himneska hluti
heavenly things
megu eigi hǫldar vita
may not men know
þeir er í heimi hafaz.
those who in world dwell

61 Einskis hlutar
Of-no thing
óráðins skal þræta
undecided shall-one quarrel
reiðr við rekka lið;
angry with of-men host
þvíat reiðr maðr
because angry man
fylliz rangs hugar;
is-filled of-wrong mind
má hann eigi satt um sjá:
may he not truth — see

Fengins fjár 62
Of-gotten wealth
neyt framliga,
make-use boldly
vert þíns mildr matar;
be-thou of-thy generous of-food
aura njóta
money enjoy
lát auma fira,
let poor men
ef geraz þarfir þess.
if arise needs of-that

Litlu láni 63
In-little lot
fagni lýða hverr,
should-rejoice of-people each
hafi eigi metnað mikinn;
should-have not pride great
í litlum polli
in little pool
haldaz lengi skip,
hold long ships
þau er brýtr hregg í hafi.
those which wrecks storm on sea

Do not be the first to spread ill news, nor learn the ways of the faithless, whose frauds come out at last. Despise no one for being weak or ugly. Be peaceable even when stronger; the worsted often win in the end. Avoid envy and quarrels, leave your fortune to God, and do not revive settled feuds.

64 Ill tíðendi,
Ill tidings
þau er upp koma,
those which up come
ræð eigi fyrstr með firum,
tell not first among men
ver þagmælskr,
be discreet
ef allir þau lasta,
if all them blame
er einn geriz frumkveðill at.
which one becomes first-teller of

65 Ódyggra manna
Of-unfaithful men
skalt eigi atferð nema,
shalt-thou not conduct learn
þótt þeim verði flærð at fé;
though to-them become deceit for wealth

lǫstum leyna
vices hide
mega lengi þeir,
may long they
en upp koma um síðir svik.
but up come at last frauds

Engan fyrirlít, 66
No-one despise
þótt aflvani sé
though strengthless be
eða ljótr ok lágr skapaðr,
or ugly and low shaped
margr er hygginn,
many-a is wise
þótt sé herfiligr,
though be wretched-looking
maðr þótt lítit megi.
man though little may

Friðsamr við annan 67
Peaceable with another
skyldi fyrða hverr,
should of-men each
þótt hann meira megi;
though he more may
opt sá hefniz,
often he avenges-himself

er halloka verðr,
who worsted becomes
ok vegr um síðir sigr.
and wins at last victory

68 Ǫfund ok þrætur
Envy and quarrels
skal alda hverr
shall of-men each
forðaz sem mest hann megi,
avoid as most he may
ǫfundsamt hjarta
envious heart
mæða oftregar;
weary over-griefs
eigi þat satt of sér.
not that truth — sees

69 Til farsælu sinnar
To good-fortune his
þarf engi frétt at reka,
needs no-one inquiry to drive
né um þat ǫnn ala;
nor about that trouble nourish
guð veit gǫrst,
God knows fullest

hverjum hann giptu ann;
to-whom he luck grants
viti þat eigi fyrðar fyrir.
know that not men beforehand

Ef þik ríkir menn 70
If thee mighty men
dæma rangliga,
judge wrongly
ger þér eigi hryggt í hug;
make thee not grieved in mind
lengi njóta
long enjoy
munut þess lýða synir,
will-not that of-people sons
er þeir sælaz á svikum.
which they gain on frauds

Liðnar heiptir 71
Past hatreds
skalat lengi muna,
shall-one-not long remember
ver í tryggðum trúr;
be in pledges true
sakir at sækja,
suits to pursue

þærs sættar ro,
which reconciled are
þat kveða ódyggs aðal.
that call-they of-unfaithful nature

72–79 · SELF-KNOWLEDGE

Neither blame nor praise yourself. Do not boast of wisdom, since it is often good to hide it. Shun greed and lust, do not trust slanderers, and do not excuse a drunkard's crimes. Bring a private matter only to the discreet, as a sick man goes to a good physician; bear deserved harm patiently, and be ready for trouble even when all goes well.

72 Sjálfan sik
Self himself
skyldi seggja hverr
should of-men each
lasta eigi né lofa;
blame not nor praise
þeir þat gera,
they that do
er gegnir erut
who fitting are-not
ok vilja þó heimsskraut hafa.
and wish yet world-adornment have

73 Af hyggjandi sinni
From wisdom his
skyldit maðr hræsinn vera,
should-not man boastful be

nema geriz þarfir þess;
unless arise needs of-that
opt at haldi
often to use
hefir ýtum komit,
has to-men come
at leynaz spakr at speki.
to hide-oneself wise in wisdom

Fégirni rangri 74
From-greed wrong
skalt firra þik,
shalt-thou remove thee
ljót er líkams munúð;
ugly is of-body lust
orðstír hæra
fame higher
getr maðr aldrigi
gets man never
en við syndum sé.
than against sins beware

Sǫgvísum manni 75
To-tale-wise man
skalt sjaldan trúa
shalt-thou seldom trust
þeim er með rógi rennr;
him who with slander runs

málugra manna
of-talkative men
reynaz margar sǫgur
prove many tales
lýða kind at lygi.
of-people kin as lie

76 Ofdrukkinn maðr,
Over-drunk man
ef ilt gerir,
if ill does
er eigi várkunnar verðr,
is not of-pardon worthy
sjálfr því veldr,
himself that causes
er hann svá drekkr,
when he so drinks
at síns geðs eigi gáir.
that of-his mind not heeds

77 Mál þat hvert,
Matter that each
er eigi skulu margir vita,
which not shall many know
ber þú fyr ómálgum upp;
bring thou before silent-ones up
hygginn maðr,
wise man

sá er vill heilsu taka,
he who will health take
lætr ept góðum lækni gera.
lets for good physician do

Optlig mein 78
Frequent harm
skal eigi illa bera,
shall-one not ill bear
ef hann er vítis verðr;
if he is of-punishment worthy
sinna verka
of-his works
skal seggja hverr
shall of-men each
laun með leigum taka.
reward with interest take

Búinn við meinum 79
Ready against harms
skyldi bragna hverr,
should of-men each
þótt gangi at óskum alt;
though go to wishes all

sterklig stríð
strong strife
hygg ek standaz mega
think I withstand can
hvern er þeira búinn bíðr.
each which of-them ready awaits

80–86 · HOPE AND CHANGE

A wise man does not let misfortune grieve him and hopes for good even when condemned to death. The father once saw a long-haired man grow bald, and so the rich grow poor. Be watchful and discerning, eat and drink so as to keep your strength, do not blame what the people praise, do not consult lucky days, and do not trust dreams, which show the sleeper what he wished or feared awake.

80 Margvitr maðr,
Much-wise man
er fyr meinum verðr,
who before harms comes
láti eigi sinn hryggja hug,
should-let not his grieve mind
góðs at vænta
good to expect
skyldi gumna hverr,
should of-men each
þótt sé til dauða dæmdr.
though be to death judged

Hársíðan mann 81
Long-haired man
sák í hǫlda liði,
saw-I in of-men host
þó var honum skalli skapaðr,
yet was to-him baldness shaped
svá er sá maðr,
so is that man
er mart á fjár
who much owns of-wealth
ok verðr um síðir snauðr.
and becomes at last poor

Um at lítaz 82
About to look
þarf maðr alla vega
needs man all ways
ok við víti varaz,
and against punishment beware
gløggþekkinn
sharp-discerning
skyldi gumna hverr,
should of-men each
fróðr ok forsjáll vera.
learned and foresighted be

83 Áts ok drykkju
Of-eating and of-drinking
neyt aldri svá,
make-use never so
at þitt minkiz megin;
that thy is-lessened strength
til afls ok heilsu
to strength and health
þarft alt at hafa,
needest-thou all to have
lifat þú mart at munúð.
live-not thou much in lust

84 Alþýðuróm
Common-voice
lasta aldrigi,
blame never
þann er lýðir lofa;
that which people praise
engum hugnaz
to-none is-pleasing
sá er ǫllum vill
he who to-all will
gagnmálugr geraz.
contrary-spoken become

Dagráðs leita 85
Of-day-counsel seek
þarf eigi til dugnaðar
needs-one not to help
sá er vill heilindi hafa;
he who will health have
stundir eigi ráða
hours not rule
þótt komi stríð eða hel;
though come strife or death
allar eru tíðir trúar.
all are times true

Draumum sínum 86
Dreams his
skyli eigi dróttir trúa;
should not men trust
tæla þeir ýta opt;
beguile they men often
sofanda þykkir
to-sleeper seems
þat er sjálfr meðan vakir
that which himself while wakes
æskir sér eða óaz.
wishes for-himself or dreads

No greater honor exists on earth than teaching good to men. Do not seek quarrels; no one pleases all, so act so that the good will praise you. Hide your friends' faults if they amend, distrust flattering words, and do not be lazy. Bear heavy toil cheerfully, for all work done in love is light, and do not laugh at another's misfortune.

87 Gott skal kenna
Good shall teach
sá er vill grandvarr vera
he who will guileless be
ok kosta nýtt at nema;
and strive useful-things to learn
mǫrgum dugir
to-many avails
sá er af manviti
he who from wit
kennir gott gumum.
teaches good to-men

88 Manndýrð meiri
Man-glory greater
getr eigi fyr mold ofan
gets-one not upon earth above
en kenna gott gumum;
than teach good to-men

fádyggt líf
little-worthy life
mundu flestir hafa,
would most have
ef engi bætti yfir.
if none bettered over-it

Illa áleitni 89
Evil provocation
ræk þú aldrigi,
care-for thou never
ef þú lastvarr lifir;
if thou vice-wary livest
eigi er auðgætt,
not is easy-kept
svá at ǫllum líki;
so that to-all pleases
ger svá at góðir lofi.
act so that good-men praise

Lǫstum leyna 90
Vices hide
skalt sem lengst er mátt,
shalt-thou as longest that mayst-thou
er þú veizt eptir vinum,
which thou knowest of friends
til þess halt,
to that hold-thou

ok lát af hljóði fara,
and let in silence go
er bæta sínar sakir.
who amend their faults

91 Blíðum orðum
With-gentle words
þótt þik bragnar lofi,
though thee men praise
þarft eigi þeim at trúa;
needest-thou not them to trust
opt sá fagrt mælir,
often he fair speaks
er hefir flátt í hug;
who has falsehood in mind
gott er at sjá við svikum.
good is to look against frauds

92 Eigi skal sá latr
Not shall he lazy
er vill líf hafa,
who will life have
þat er drengmenni dugir;
that which good-man befits
því fleira fýsir,
the more desires

er fleira nemr,
who more learns
gott at vilja gumi.
good to will man

Hǫfugt erfiði 93
Heavy toil
ef þér at hǫndum kemr,
if thee at hands comes
ver þú glaðmæltr gumi,
be thou cheerful-spoken man
fagnandi maðr
rejoicing man
veit flest at vinna,
knows most to accomplish
ǫll eru lostverk létt.
all are love-works light

Eigi skalt hlæja, 94
Not shalt-thou laugh
ef vilt horskr vera
if wilt-thou wise be
at annars ófǫrum;
at of-another misfortunes
þeir opt hefnaz,
they often avenge-themselves

er hlegnir ro;
who laughed-at are
ok gjalda líku líkt.
and repay with-like like

95–102 · COUNSEL FROM ANY SOURCE

An aged man who gathers wealth should help his friends with it. Learn good counsel even from a bondwoman or a thrall, for the unfree man is often the wiser. The man who marries for money learns the bride-price was high. Learn from good examples, do not undertake more than you can do, do not keep silent over another's misdeeds, seek help when falsely accused, and learn merry songs from the poets.

95 Aldraðr maðr,
Aged man
er fyr auði ræðr,
who over wealth rules
ok dregr hann sekk saman,
and draws he sack together
vinum sínum
to-friends his
skal sá vel duga
shall he well help
ok vera góðr gjafa.
and be good of-gifts

96 Gott ráð nema
Good counsel learn
skyli gumna hverr,
should of-men each

þótt kenni þý eða þræll;
though teach bondwoman or thrall
ánauðgan mann
bound man
hygg ek opt vera
think I often to-be
frjálsum fróðara.
than-free-man wiser

Algegn maðr 97
Very-fit man
með aura fjǫld
with of-money multitude
vill sér kjósa konu;
will for-himself choose wife
þat þá reyniz,
that then proves
ef hann reyna skal
if he test shall
mundar-gjǫld mikil.
bride-price great

Góðra dæma 98
Of-good examples
leiti gumna hverr,
should-seek of-men each
er vill hyggindi hafa,
who will wisdom have

vánds manns víti
of-bad man punishment
lætr sér at varnaði
lets for-himself as warning
ok geriz góðum líkr.
and becomes to-good like

99 Upp at hefja
Up to raise
samir þér eigi vel
befits thee not well
meiri iðn en megir,
greater task than canst-thou
algǫrt verk
all-done work
dugir þá er unnit er,
avails then when done is
æ spyrr lýðr at lokum.
ever asks people at ends

100 Eigi skalt þegja,
Not shalt-thou be-silent
þótt sér þess beðinn,
though art-thou for-that asked
yfir annars ósiðum;
over of-another misdeeds
illr þykkir sá,
evil seems he

er með ǫðrum hefir
who with others has
ljótu ráði leynt.
ugly counsel hidden

Liðs skal biðja 101
Of-help shall-one ask
þá er ráða lǫgskilum
those who rule law-courts
sá er verðr lýtum loginn;
he who becomes with-shames lied-against
rǫngu verz,
against-wrong defends-himself
sá er réttu náir
he who right obtains
maðr sá er dómendr duga.
man he whom judges help

Gamansamlig ljóð 102
Merry songs
skalt af greppum nema
shalt-thou from poets learn
ok mǫrg fræði muna;
and many lore remember

ágætlig minni
excellent memorials
bera fyr ýta lið
bear before of-men host
skáld til skemtunar.
poets for entertainment

103–107 · SILENCE AND DEATH

Be sparing of speech at feasts, for the silent man is wise. Do not trust the slander of an angry woman, whose tears often ask for harm. Keep measure in spending, do not fear death, which is the end of evil, since to good men death and life alike avail, and love father and mother equally.

103 Fámálugr vera
Few-spoken be
skyli fyrða hverr,
should of-men each
er at samkundum sitr;
who at feasts sits
manvits vant
of-wit lack
verðr þeim er mart hjalar,
becomes to-him who much chatters
hljóðr er hygginn maðr.
silent is wise man

Reiðrar konu 104
Of-angry woman
skalt eigi rógi trúa
shalt-thou not slander trust
né at því gaum gefa;
nor to that heed give
kaldráð kona
cold-counseled woman
hygg ek kløkkvandi biði
think I weeping asks
opt óþarfra hluta.
often of-harmful things

Á aura neyzlu 105
On of-money use
skalt allri hafa
shalt-thou all have
hóf ok hagspeki;
measure and thrift
annars þurfi
of-another needing
verðr iðuliga,
becomes often
er hefir sínu fé farit.
who has his wealth lost

106 Bana sinn hræðaz
Death his fear
skal eigi bragna lið,
shall not of-men host
því at hann er endir ills;
because that he is end of-evil
góðum mǫnnum,
to-good men
þeim er grand varaz,
those who harm shun
dauði ok líf dugir.
death and life avail

107 Fǫður ok móður
Father and mother
unni fyrða hverr
should-love of-men each
jǫfnum ástar-hug;
with-equal love-mind
hvárkis þeira
of-neither of-them
ræki hylli svá,
should-cherish favor so
at týni annars ást.
that loses of-another love

Love nothing that the faithful hate, and be content with your lot. The greedy man feels poor amid plenty, and the careless man brings his own misfortune. Care for your body, since health is worth more than wealth. Do not resent your parents' rebukes, be generous to those in need, test what is suspicious, and avoid drunkenness and lechery.

Á engum hlut 108
On no thing
skal þér elska vera
shall thee love be
þeim er hugdyggvir hata;
that which mind-faithful hate
sínu láni
with-his lot
skyli seggja hverr
should of-men each
una, því er eignaz hefir.
be-content that which gotten has

Angrlauss maðr 109
Griefless man
telr sér einskis vant,
counts for-himself of-nothing lacking
ef sér atvinnu á;
if for-himself livelihood has
fégjarn sýtir,
wealth-greedy grieves

þótt fullsælu hafi,
though full-wealth have
ok þykkiz æ válaðr vera.
and thinks-himself ever poor to-be

110 Gálauss maðr,
Careless man
er eigi vill gott nema,
who not will good learn
kann eigi víti varaz;
can not punishment beware
ógæfu sinni
misfortune his
veldr einn saman;
causes alone together
engum er ilt skapat.
to-none is evil shaped

111 Líkam sinn
Body his
ræki lýða hverr;
should-care-for of-people each
heilsa er hverju framar;
health is than-each more

aura njóta
money enjoy
þykkiz engi maðr,
thinks-himself no man
nema heilsu hafi.
unless health has

Fǫður ok móður 112
Father and mother
reiðz eigi fróðhugaðr,
be-angry not wise-minded
er með ávitum aga;
who with rebukes discipline
reiðr er þér betri,
angry is thee better
er þik rækja vill,
who thee care-for will
en hrekkvíss í hugum.
than trick-wise in minds

Þat skalt gera, 113
That shalt-thou do
er þér gegnir vel
which thee befits well
ok við villu varaz;
and against error beware

mildr af þurftum
generous from needs
ver í mǫrgum hlutum;
be in many things
gott er dyggum at duga.
good is to-faithful to help

114 Fljóta raun
Swift trial
skalt við flest hafa,
shalt-thou with most have
þat er grunsamligt geriz;
that which suspicious becomes
leyndir lestir
hidden vices
þeir er lengi felaz,
those which long are-hidden
gera opt mǫrgum mein.
do often to-many harm

115 Ofdrykkju forðaz,
Overdrinking avoid
hún drýgir erfiði,
it works toil
svá skal ok við vífni varaz;
so shall-one also against lechery beware

líkams losti
of-body lust
tælir lýða hvern,
beguiles of-people each
er í sællífi sitr.
who in luxury sits

116–123 · WISDOM AND STRENGTH

The best man is both wise and strong. Ask a faithful friend's help with tasks you cannot finish alone. Sacrifices do not cleanse sin, even if a man slaughters his cattle. Choose friends for their character, not their wealth, rejoice at no one's misfortune, do not mock the old, who know what the young do not, and gather skills that will serve you if you lose all your wealth. In company the wise man listens, for words reveal minds.

Afl ok eljan 116
Strength and endurance
ef eignaz hefir,
if gained hast-thou
nem þú hyggindi hugar;
learn thou wisdom of-mind
sá beztr virðiz,
he best is-valued
er bæði má
who both can
vitr ok sterkr vera.
wise and strong be

117 Upp tekna sýslu
Up taken business
ef þú eigi mátt
if thou not canst
orka einn saman,
accomplish alone together
tryggvan vin
faithful friend
bið þú ténaðar,
ask thou of-help
vel kveða dyggva duga.
well say-they faithful-men help

118 Blót né fórnir
Sacrifice nor offerings
þarf eigi til batnaðar
needs-one not for betterment
fyr ýta afgerðir;
for of-men misdeeds
heimskr er sá,
foolish is he
er ætlar sér sálubót,
who expects for-himself soul-cure
þótt hann sæfi smala.
though he slaughter cattle

Trúnaðarmanns leita 119
Of-trusty-man seek
ef þér tryggs vilir
if thee faithful wishest-thou
ok góðan vin geta,
and good friend get
at farsælu nógri
for wealth plentiful
kjósat þér fulltrúa
choose-not thee confidant
heldr at sǫnnum siðum.
rather for true customs

Almanna-lof 120
All-men's-praise
ef eignaz vilir
if gain wishest-thou
ok heita góðr með gumum,
and be-called good among men
ógiptu annars
misfortune of-another
fagna aldrigi,
rejoice-at never
ger þér at góðu gaman.
make thee of good sport

121 Eigi skal hlæja
Not shall laugh
sá er vill horskr vera
he who will wise be
at ǫldruðum afa;
at aged grandfather
opt ellibjúgr veit
often age-bent-man knows
þat er ungr eigi veit,
that which young-man not knows
ok kennir góð ráð gumum.
and teaches good counsels to-men

122 Íþróttum safna
Skills gather
skalt á alla vega
shalt-thou in all ways
sem drengmenni dugir,
as good-man befits
þær þér tjá,
they thee avail
þótt týnt hafir
though lost hast-thou
afli ok ǫllu fé.
strength and all wealth

Málum hlýðir, 123
To-speeches listens
er með mǫrgum kemr,
who with many comes
hǫlda hygginn maðr;
of-men wise man
því at af orðum
because that from words
kynnaz ýta hugir;
are-known of-men minds
þokka hylr sá er þegir.
thoughts hides he who is-silent

124–131 · FATE AND STEADINESS

Work well while you have health. No man should seek to know his fate. Teach and learn useful things, do not praise what you once blamed, and do not despair or presume on wealth. Take wise counsel into your breast, speak little of many things, since plans fail in an hour, and never be ashamed to ask and learn.

Íþróttir margar 124
Skills many
ef þú ǫðlaz hefir,
if thou gained hast
kosta þú vinna vel;
strive thou to-work well

erfiði drýgja
toil endure
þurfu alda synir,
need of-men sons
meðan heilsu hafa.
while health have

125 Ørlǫg sín
Fate his
skyli engi maðr
should no man
vita né um þat ǫnn ala,
know nor about that trouble nourish
hitt vita flestir,
that know most
at mun flærðvǫrum
that will to-deceit-wary
dauði ok líf duga.
death and life avail

126 Hyggindi þína
Wisdom thy
lát at haldi koma
let to use come
þér ok þínum vinum;
to-thee and to-thy friends

enga sýslu
no business
mátt þér æðri geta
mayst-thou thee higher get
en kenna nýtt ok nema.
than teach useful-things and learn

Illa láta 127
Ill show
skalt yfir engum hlut,
shalt-thou over no thing
þeim er þú hælt hefir,
that which thou praised hast
né þat leyfa,
nor that praise
er þú lastat hefir;
which thou blamed hast
ilt er veillyndum vera.
evil is fickle-minded to-be

Ver eigi svá aumr, 128
Be not so wretched
at eigi gáir,
that not heedest-thou
at vænta ens vildara,
to expect the better
né svá auðigr,
nor so wealthy

at þér ørvænt sé
that to-thee unlooked-for be
meins á marga vega.
harm in many ways

129 At hyggnum mǫnnum
From wise men
nem þú horsklig ráð
learn thou wise counsels
ok lát þér í brjósti búa;
and let thee in breast dwell
ørþrifráða
at-wits'-end
verðr sá aldrigi,
becomes he never
er girniz mart at muna.
who desires much to remember

130 Mikit mæla
Much speak
skalt eigi um margan hlut,
shalt-thou not about many-a thing
lasta fátt né lofa;
blame few nor praise

á einni stundu
in one hour
bregz þat er ætlat hafa
fails that which planned have
gott ok ilt gumar.
good and evil men

Fyr augum vaxa 131
Before eyes grow
lát þér aldrigi
let thee never
spyrja nýtt ok nema,
to-ask new-things and learn
hygginn maðr
wise man
lofar hǫlda þokka,
praises of-men thought
en lastar heimskan hal.
but blames foolish man

Drunkenness brings envy, quarrels, lust, sickness, and sins. Beware the sly, silent man, like deep still water, and turn back to land when the wind is against you. Do not strive with the faithful, bear loss patiently, and do not trust in youth to live long. God wants no slaughtered herds but the incense of right conduct, and the sinner must do penance as the sick man takes harsh cures.

132 Ill er ofdrykkja,
Ill is overdrinking
ferr hún eigi ein saman,
goes it not alone together
fylgir henni mart til meins,
follows it much to harm
ǫfund ok þrætur,
envy and quarrels
óstilt lostasemi,
unrestrained lust
sótt ok synda fjǫld.
sickness and of-sins multitude

133 Mikit vatn
Much water
gerir mǫrgum skaða,
does to-many harm
þótt falli eigi straumar strítt;
though fall not streams hard

svá er seggr
so is man
slægr ok langþǫgull,
sly and long-silent
þǫrf er við þeim at sjá.
need is against him to look

Fáviss maðr, 134
Unwise man
ef verðr á firði staddr,
if becomes on fjord placed
getr eigi beinan byr,
gets not straight wind
liðligra ráð
more-fitting counsel
er til lands at snúa
is to land to turn
en sigla foldu frá.
than sail land from

Um engvar sakir 135
For no causes
skalt aldri deila
shalt-thou never strive
við hugdyggva hali;
with mind-faithful men

gjǫld af guði
payments from God
hygg ek gumnar taki
think I men take
fyr reiði rangs hugar.
for anger of-wrong mind

136 Aura tjón
Of-money loss
skal eigi illa bera,
shall-one not ill bear
þótt verði skapaðr skaði;
though become shaped harm
hitt hann huggi,
that he should-comfort
er halda má;
which keep can
sæll er sá er sínu unir.
blessed is he who with-his is-content

137 Engi oftreystiz,
No-one should-trust-overmuch
þótt sé eigi gamall,
though be not old
at muni lengi lifa;
that will long live

skugga sinn
shadow his
mega eigi skatnar flýja
may not men flee
né heldr forðaz feigð.
nor either avoid doom

Hjarðir sæfa 138
Herds slaughter
þarf eigi til hylli guðs;
needs-one not for favor of-God
beit þín yxn fyr arðr;
yoke thy oxen before plow
reykelsis ilm,
of-incense fragrance
er kemr af réttum siðum,
which comes from right customs
vill hann fyr tafn taka.
will he for offering take

Meinlæti drýgi 139
Penance should-perform
sá er misgert hefir
he who wrong-done has
ok bæti syndir svá;
and should-amend sins so

sárar atgerðir
sore treatments
þarf enn sjúki maðr
needs the sick man
til sinnar heilsu at hafa.
for his health to have

140–148 · THE FATHER ENDS

Do not repay the ill-disposed with harm, for kindness often mends them. Work well, avoid needless anger, and be merciful to your servants, who share the same earthly nature as a king's son. Do not rejoice at the sudden death of the wicked. Whoever accepts these songs will thrive; the father bids his son keep them until the last day, and names the poem Hugsvinnsmál.

140 Bǫlgjǫrnum manni,
To-ill-disposed man
ef þér brugðiz hefir,
if thee failed has
skalt eigi grand gera;
shalt-thou not harm do
af annars gæzku
from of-another kindness
batnar iðuliga
improves often
sá er hefir óvinligr verit.
he who has unfriendly been

Vel skalt vinna, 141
Well shalt-thou work
ef átt í verkum hlut,
if hast-thou in works share
ok geraz hollr gumi;
and become loyal man
sýslu sinni
business his
gleymir slækinn maðr;
forgets slack man
ilt er verkþjófr at vera.
evil is work-thief to be

Óreiðinn 142
Unangry
skyldi ýta hverr
should of-men each
ok sjá sem gǫrst við grunum;
and look as fullest against suspicions
hugsjúkr maðr
mind-sick man
kvíðir hvervitna;
dreads everywhere
aldri honum dagr um dugir.
never to-him day — avails

143 Miskunsamr
Merciful
skalt við man vera,
shalt-thou with bondmaids be
ef átt þræla þér;
if hast-thou thralls thee
jarðligt eðli
earthly nature
minz at jafnt hefir
remember that equally has
þræll ok þjóðans mǫgr.
thrall and of-king son

144 Ódyggra manna
Of-unfaithful men
skalt aldrigi
shalt-thou never
fagna bráðum bana;
rejoice-at sudden death
hitt er sýnna,
that is more-evident
at muni sælir vera
that will blessed be
dyggvir menn þótt deyi.
faithful men though die

Þessi ljóð, 145
These songs
ef þekkjaz vill,
if accept wilt-thou
efla þik til þrifa;
strengthen thee to thriving
en sá halr,
but that man
er þeim hafna vill,
who them reject will
stríðir sjálfum sér.
strives-against self himself

Í ljóðum þessum 146
In songs these
megu lýðir nema
may people learn
þat er drengmenni dugir,
that which good-man befits
gæzku ok mildi,
kindness and mildness
en glæpa viðrsjá,
and of-crimes wariness
ráð ok rétta siðu.
counsel and right customs

147 Ástsamlig ráð
Loving counsels
mun þú einkason,
remember thou only-son
er ek hefi í kvæði kent;
which I have in poem taught
fræði þetta
lore this
lát fylgja þér
let follow thee
alt til ens efsta dags.
all to the last day

148 Hugsvinnsmál
Hugsvinnsmál
hefi ek fyr hǫldum kveðin;
have I before men recited
kenda ek rekkum ráð;
taught I to-men counsel
hyggins manns
of-wise man
lýstak hugar-speki;
showed-I mind-wisdom
hér er nú ljóðum lokit.
here is now with-songs ended

EYSTEINN ÁSGRÍMSSON

Lilja

The Lily

The poet praises the almighty God, one in three, who needs neither place nor time, and asks for his mercy and Mary's help, that his words may be bathed in gold. Earlier poets sang their kings' praise from heathen books; he owes more to the King of all, and his theme is the Lord's works, from Creation to Christ's blood. God made heaven and earth and the nine orders of angels, and the mightiest angel, not content with his place, sought a higher seat by force.

Almáttigr guð, allra stétta 1
Almighty God of-all ranks
yfirbjóðandi engla ok þjóða,
over-ruling of-angels and of-nations
ei þurfandi stað né stundir,
not needing place nor times
staði haldandi í kyrrleiks valdi,
places holding in of-stillness power
senn verandi úti ok inni
at-once being outside and inside
uppi ok niðri ok þar í miðju,
above and below and there in middle
lof sé þér um aldr ok æfi,
praise be to-thee for age and life
eining sǫnn í þrennum greinum.
unity true in threefold distinctions

2 Æskig þína miklu miskunn,
Wish-I thy great mercy
mér veitiz, ef ek eptir leita
to-me be-granted if I after seek
klǫkkum hug, þvíat inniz ekki
with-humble mind because is-found nothing
annat gott nema af þér til drottinn;
other good except from thee to lord
hreinsa brjóst ok leið með listum
cleanse breast and guide with arts
loflig orð í stuðla skorðum,
praiseworthy words in of-staves props
stefnlig gǫrð, at vísan verði
refrain-like work that the-verse become
vunnin yðr af þessum munni.
made for-you from this mouth

3 Beiði ek þik, mær ok móðir,
Ask I thee maiden and mother
mínum at fyr umsjá þína
my that for care thy
renni mál af raddar-tólum
run speech from voice-tools
réttferðugt í vísum sléttum;
righteous in verses smooth
skýr ok sæt af vǫrrum várum
clear and sweet from lips our
vorðin svá, at mætti, orðin,
become so that might the-words

laugaz ǫll í glóanda gulli,
bathe-themselves all in glowing gold
guði værig þau skyldr at færa.
to-God were-I them bound to bring

Fyrri menn, er fræðin kunnu 4
Former men who the-lore knew
forn ok klók af heiðnum bókum,
old and clever from heathen books
slungin mjúkt af sínum kóngum
twined softly of their kings
sungu lof með danskri tungu;
sang praise with Danish tongue
í þvílíku móður-máli
in such mother-tongue
meir skyldumz ek en nǫkkurr þeira
more am-bound I than any of-them
hrærðan dikt með ástar-orðum
stirred poem with love-words
allsvaldanda kóngi at gjalda.
to-almighty king to repay

Skǫpun ok fæðing, skírn ok prýði, 5
Creation and birth baptism and grace
skynsemi full, er betri er gulli,
reason full which better is than-gold
dreyrinn Krists af síðusári,
the-blood of-Christ from side-wound

synda líkn ok dagligt yndi,
of-sins mercy and daily delight
háleit ván á himnasælu,
sublime hope of heaven-bliss
hrygðin jarðar neztu bygðar
the-grief of-earth of-lowest dwelling
bjóða mér í frásǫgn færa
bid me in narrative bring
fǫgr stórmerkin drottins verka.
fair the-great-marvels of-lord of-works

6 Herra guð, sá hverjum er dýrri,
Lord God he than-each is dearer
himin ok jǫrð í fystu gjǫrði,
heaven and earth in first made
prýddi hann með þrysvar þrennum
adorned he with thrice three
(þat er rétt trúa mín) engla stéttum,
that is right belief my of-angels with-ranks
áðr var hann þó, jafn ok síðan,
before was he yet equal and after
ærinn sér en skepnan væri;
sufficient to-himself than the-creation were
gjǫrði hann heim ok teygði tíma
made he world and stretched times
tvá jafnaldra í sínu valdi.
two equal-aged in his power

Mektar-fullr, sá er af bar ǫllum 7
Might-full he who out bore than-all
í náttúru skærleik sínum,
in of-nature brightness his
skapaður góðr, ok skein í prýði,
created good and shone in grace
skapara næstr í vegsemd hæstri,
to-creator next in honor highest
eigi lét sér allvel nægja
not let himself very-well suffice
engill mekt, þá er hafði fengit,
angel might that which had gotten
meðr ofbeldi ǫðlaz vildi
with violence gain wished
æðra sess ok virðing bæði.
higher seat and honor both

8–14 · CREATION AND THE COMMANDMENT

The angel wished to be like God's only son and was cast down like lead into the depths, where his pride torments him in fire. In six days God made the world and its creatures, formed Adam from earth and breathed a soul into him, made Eve from Adam's side, and gave them paradise and one commandment: not to bite the apple, on pain of death.

8 Fýstiz hann með ofsa æstum
Desired he with pride raging
at viðr líkjaz yfrit ríkum
to with be-likened overly mighty
guðs eingetnum syni, ok síðan
of-God only-begotten son and then
sér nægjandi ǫngum vægja;
to-himself sufficing to-none yield
fúll metnaðrinn er með ǫllu
foul the-pride is with all
óvarliga, sem ritning prófar,
unwarily as scripture proves
ætlar sér við dýran drottin
plans for-himself against dear lord
deila megni, hversu er vegnar.
contend in-might how that fares

9 Svá er greinanda, á samri stundu
So is to-be-told at same hour
sem engillinn tók at spillaz,
as the-angel began to be-corrupted
sǫktiz hann með sínum grǫnnum
sank he with his neighbors
sem blývarða í djúpleik jarðar,
as lead-weight into depth of-earth
blindan þar sem fǫður sinn fjandann
blind there where father his the-fiend
feiknt ofbeldit kvelr í eldi;
monstrous the-violence torments in fire

fávíss er sá, er feðgin þessi
unwise is he who father-and-child these
faðma vill, en siðunum spilla.
embrace wishes and the-customs spoil

Dagarnir sex at vísu vuxu 10
The-days six for sure grew
veltiligir um sjávar-belti,
rolling about sea-belt
áðr en fengi alla prýði
before than got all grace
jǫrð ok lopt, er drottinn gjǫrði,
earth and sky which lord made
pressat vatn í himininn hvassa,
pressed water into the-heaven sharp
hjǫrn ok eld sem merkistjǫrnur,
frost and fire as signal-stars
hagl ok dýr sem fiska ok fugla,
hail and beasts as fishes and birds
fagran plóg ok aldinskóga.
fair plowland and fruit-woods

Breytti guð, ok brá til hætti, 11
Changed God and turned to form
blóð ok hold af vatni ok moldu,
blood and flesh from water and earth
léttan blástr af lopti hæsta,
light breath from sky highest

lífs heitleika af sólarreitum,
of-life warmth from sun-plots
ǫnd ok þar til síðan sendi,
soul and there to afterward sent
sú er skiljandi drottins vilja,
she who understanding of-lord will
leið kunnandi um líkams æðar,
way knowing through of-body veins
líf skínanda af helgum anda.
life shining from holy spirit

12 Svá er líðandi maðr af móður
So is issuing man from mother
moldu ok þó með skæru holdi,
earth and yet with bright flesh
Ádám nefndur, alls í heimi
Adam named of-all in world
átti ráð með frelsi ok náðum;
had rule with freedom and graces
hǫfginn rann svá hægr á þenna
the-heaviness ran so gentle over this
heims stýranda; fekk hann skýra
of-world steerer got he clear
anda-gipt, þá er síðan sýndi,
spirit-gift that which afterward showed
svá vorðinna spádóms-orða.
so come-to-pass of-prophecy-words

Út leiðandi af Ádáms síðu 13
Out leading from of-Adam side
Évu brátt, sem Móises váttar,
Eve quickly as Moses testifies
vist með æru, vald ok ástir
dwelling with honor power and loves
vísa gaf hann þeim paradísar,
certain gave he them of-paradise
þangat til er þau með englum,
thither to when they with angels
þat er blíðan mest, lifði síðan
that which the-joy most lived afterward
meðr afspringi alt þat er fengi
with offspring all that which got
ævinliga ok þakkir gæfi.
eternally and thanks gave

En at verðleikrinn vís á jǫrðu 14
But that the-merit certain on earth
vyrði sǫk til himna-dyrðar
become cause for heaven-glory
boðorðit eitt enn blíði drottinn
the-commandment one the gentle lord
býður þeim í skyldu at hlýða:
bids them in duty to obey
„epli er eitt, er ek banna at bíta
apple is one which I forbid to bite
báðum ykkr, en þit munuð ráða;
to-both you-two but you-two will decide

deyja skuluð, ef efnið eigi
die shall-ye if keep-ye not
einfalt boð með dyggleik hreinum".
simple bidding with faithfulness pure

15–21 · THE TEMPTATION

The angel, seething that men should win the dwelling he had lost, hid in a serpent and asked Eve why God forbade the sweetest fruit. He told her they would not die but become like God; she ate, and drew Adam after her, and God drove them out naked into torment and death. Sin spread through all their offspring, hell stood open for every man, and the world was dead and could not save itself; only the Lord himself could bring it back to life.

15 Þrútnar, svellr ok unir við illa
Swells rages and is-content with ill
engill, hann sá er hafði fengit,
angel he saw that had gotten
fyrða sveitin fædd á jǫrðu,
of-men the-host born on earth
fái þar vist, er sjálfr hann misti,
get there dwelling which self he lost
ok bruggandi dauðans dreggjar
and brewing of-the-death dregs
duldiz hann fyr augsýn manna;
hid-himself he before eyesight of-men
fjǫlkunnigr í einum innan
much-cunning in one within
ormi tók hann mál at forma.
serpent began he speech to form

Sem próvandi segir til Évu: 16
As testing says to Eve
„svara mér skjótt, en hví hefir dróttinn
answer me quickly but why has lord
sætast ykkur blóm at bíta
sweetest to-you-two blossom to bite
bannat, en lofat þó flest alt annat?“
forbidden but allowed yet most all other
Svá fór þat, at svaraði Éva
So went that that answered Eve
sem margbrugðinn fjandinn hugði:
as many-shifting the-fiend thought
„At eigi við lífs af leiðum
That not we-two of-life from paths
léttliga hrǫpum á dauðans stéttir“.
lightly fall onto of-the-death steps

Léttliga fann þar ljósa váttan 17
Lightly found there bright testimony
léttleika í svaranna reiki;
lightness in of-the-answers wandering
því treystiz hann framt at freista
therefore dared he boldly to tempt
flærðum settr ok talar með prettum:
with-falsehoods set and speaks with tricks
„eigi munuð it Ádám deyja
not will you-two Adam die
andlits-hvít, þóat eplit bitið,
face-white though the-apple bite

heldr munuð með heiðr ok valdi
rather will-ye with honor and power
hosk ok rík við guðdóm líkjaz“.
wise and mighty with godhead be-likened

18 Auðgint mjǫk því Éva trúði,
Easily-beguiled very therefore Eve believed
át hon blóm, en tapaði sóma,
ate she blossom but lost honor
og til með sér Ádám teygði,
and to with herself Adam drew
át hann þat, er hann vissi bannat,
ate he that which he knew forbidden
ugði hann, at Éva stygðiz,
feared he that Eve were-offended
ef neitaði hann bæn at veita;
if refused he prayer to grant
fjandinn gat svá í fystu blindat
the-fiend could so in first blind
feðgin vár með nógu dári.
father-and-mother our with enough folly

19 Refsar þeim at réttum dómi
Punishes them with right judgment
ríkr herra fyr ódygð slíka,
mighty lord for faithlessness such

rak þau braut af sæmdarsæti
drove them away from honor-seat
snauð ok nǫkt í písl ok dauða;
bereft and naked into torment and death
veltuz aum í veslum heimi
rolled wretched in miserable world
víða lands, þar er nær ǫll síðan
widely of-land there where nearly all afterward
lýða kind með sárum syndum
of-people kin with sore sins
sendiz framm af Ádáms lendum.
was-sent forth from of-Adam loins

Remman brast af rót í kvistu,
The-bitterness burst from root into branches
rann þá glæpr af hverjum til annars,
ran then crime from each to other
leið svá heimr um langan tíma
went so world through long time
lífs andvani, en fullr af grandi;
of-life lacking but full of harm
léttir hvárki ugg né ótta,
lightens neither dread nor fear
eitt er mest, er þó er á lesti;
one is greatest which yet is on vice
opit helvíti, búit með bǫlvi,
open hell ready with misery
bauð sik framm við hvers manns dauða.
offered itself forth at of-each man death

21 Heimr er dauðr, en hvat er til ráða?
World is dead but what is to counsel
Hvar getr þann, er sér megi bjarga?
Where gets-one him who himself may save
Hvergi, þvíat í synda saurgun
Nowhere because in of-sins filth
sannliga hverr at þyngir annan;
truly each that weighs-down other
eitt er til, þat er ek vil vátta
one is for-it that which I will witness
(á ek grátandi frammi at standa):
ought I weeping forward to stand
attú sjálfr enn dýri drottinn
that-thou thyself the dear lord
dugir nú ferð, svá lífguð verði.
availest now host so quickened become

22–28 · THE ANNUNCIATION

At the appointed time the mercy Adam refused was sent from God's hand. The poet's tongue is kindled to praise it, for he would lie bound in the fiend's bonds but for God's help. The Father sends an angel to Mary, the reddest rose, rooted in humility; the first refrain praises God. Gabriel comes like a sunbeam to the house where the maiden sits and greets her with the Ave.

22 Veitt er líf, þat er varð ok mátti,
Given is life that which became and could
veitt er líf, þat er Ádám neitti,
given is life that which Adam refused

sú miskunn á settum tíma
that mercy at appointed time
sendiz framm af guðdóms hendi,
was-sent forth from of-godhead hand
ljós í heim at lifanda kæmi,
light into world that living-one came
lifanda víst, þat er kvaldar andir
living surely that which tormented spirits
tæki á brott úr djǫfla díki —
took off away out-of of-devils pit
dýrð englanna slíku stýrði.
glory of-the-angels such steered

Tendraz ǫll ok talar með snilli 23
Is-kindled all and speaks with eloquence
tungan mín af herra sínum,
the-tongue my of lord its
um stórmerkin á hon at yrkja
about the-great-marvels has it to compose
yfirspennanda heima þrennra;
over-spanning worlds threefold
bjúg ok sár í bandi væri,
bent and sore in bond were
bandi rétt ens nezta fjanda,
bond right of-the lowest fiend
nema hjálpræði guðs et góða
unless salvation of-God the good
gefit á jǫrð mik leystan hefði.
given on earth me freed had

24 Nær ok firr með skygnleik skýrum
Near and far with sight clear
skipandi alt með syni ok anda
ordering all with son and spirit
fǫðrpersóna engli einum
father-person to-angel one
erindi býðr, en þessi hlýðir:
errand bids and this-one obeys
„fljúg ok seg þat Máríu meyju
fly and say that to-Mary maiden
mætri, þeiri er ek skal gæta,
excellent that-one whom I shall keep
minn einga-son holdi hennar
my only-son with-flesh her
hlýðinnar vill bjǫrtu skrýðaz“.
of-obedient will bright be-clothed

25 Móðir oss er María þessi,
Mother to-us is Mary this
mektar-blóm ok full af sóma,
might-flower and full of honor
glæsilig sem roðnust rósa
splendid as reddest rose
runnin upp við lifandi brunna,
sprung up at living springs
rót ilmandi lítillætis,
root fragrant of-humility
logandi ǫll með skírleiks anda,
burning all with of-purity spirit

guði unnandi ok góðum mǫnnum,
God loving and good men
guði líkjandi í dygðum slíkum.
God resembling in virtues such

Engi sé ek at jarðlig tunga, 26
No see I that earthly tongue
enn háleiti stjǫrnu-reitar
the sublime of-star-plot
drottinn, þér, sem verðugt væri,
lord to-thee as worthy were
vandat fái nú stef til handa.
crafted get now refrain to hand
Sé þér dýrð með sannri prýði,
Be to-thee glory with true grace
sunginn heiðr af ǫllum tungum
sung honor from all tongues
eilífliga með sigri ok sælu,
eternally with victory and bliss
sæmd ok vald þitt minkaz aldri.
honor and power thy lessen never

Leið, sigrandi páfugls prýði, 27
Glided triumphing of-peacock adornment
pentat innan firmamentum,
painted within firmament

Gábriél sem geisli sólar
Gabriel as ray of-sun
gleðiligur í lopt en neðri;
joyful in air the lower
sendiboði kom sjaufalds anda,
messenger came of-sevenfold spirit
svá er greinanda, at húsi einu,
so is to-be-told to house one
sannr meydómrinn sat þar inni,
true the-maidenhood sat there within
sjálft hreinlífit, gimsteinn vífa.
very the-purity gemstone of-women

28 Ok svá veik at meyju mjúkri:
And so turned to maiden gentle
„María, hlýð nú orðum várum,
Mary hear now words our
frægast víf, þér færig áve,
most-famous woman to-thee bring-I ave
full miskunnar sætum brunni,
full of-mercy from-sweet spring
samangaupnandi sína skepnu,
together-grasping his creation
sannr hǫfðinginn engla ok manna,
true the-chief of-angels and of-men
byggir þér fyr brjósti skæru,
dwells to-thee before breast bright
blessuð mær, þú ert sprundum hæri“.
blessed maiden thou art than-women higher

Mary hears and believes, and the archangel tells her that God will be born of her flesh by the Holy Spirit, without loss of her maidenhood. The skies are filled with light, and one person of the Trinity dwells in her womb. Nine months later the boy is born as a sunbeam passes through glass, the heavens sing praise to the King as the shepherds run, and the King lies in hard hay; at his circumcision his blood flows.

29

Heyrði ok trúði, en undraz orðin
Heard and believed but marveled-at the-words
jungfrú kyrr, því vissi hon fyrri
maiden still because knew she before
aldri kvaddan mann á moldu
never greeted man on earth
með þvílíkri tignarkveðju;
with such honor-greeting
fyrirbjóðandi henni at hræðaz,
forbidding her to fear
hǫfuðengillinn talaði lengra:
the-archangel spoke further
„guð himnanna framm mun fæðaz,
God of-the-heavens forth will be-born
frúin skínandi, af holdi þínu“.
the-lady shining from flesh thy

30

Fréttir nú með hverjum hætti
Asks now in what manner
henni bæri til fǫgnuð þenna,
to-her came to joy this

borgar-múrr svá at brysti hvergi
city-wall so that broke nowhere
bygð geymandi hreinleiks dygða;
dwelling guarding of-purity of-virtues
engill segir at ei muni syngaz
angel says that not will sin
jungfrú blíð, þó at sveininn smíði
maiden gentle though that the-boy fashion
haglig myndun heilags anda,
skillful forming of-holy spirit
hold ok bein af líkama hreinum.
flesh and bone from body pure

31 Loptin ǫll af ljósi fyllaz,
The-skies all with light are-filled
legir ok grund þau stóðu ok undraz,
seas and ground they stood and marveled
kúguð sjálf svá nærri nógu
subdued herself so near enough
náttúran sér ekki mátti;
the-nature herself nothing could
giptiz ǫndin guðdóms krapti
was-wedded the-soul of-godhead to-power
góðu ok huldiz Máríu blóði,
good and was-hidden of-Mary in-blood
glaðrar dvelz í jungfrú iðrum
of-glad dwells in of-maiden womb
ein persóna þrennrar greinar.
one person of-threefold distinction

Hjǫrtun játi, falli ok fljóti 32
The-hearts may-confess may-fall and may-flow
fagnaðar-laug af hvers manns augum,
joy-bath from of-each man eyes
æ þakkandi miskunn mikla,
ever thanking mercy great
minn drottinn, í holdgan þinni.
my lord in incarnation thy
Sé þér dýrð með sannri prýði,
Be to-thee glory with true grace
sunginn heiðr af ǫllum tungum
sung honor from all tongues
eilífliga með sigri ok sælu,
eternally with victory and bliss
sæmd ok vald þitt minkaz aldri.
honor and power thy lessen never

Fimm mánuðum ok fjórum síðar 33
Five months and four later
fæddiz sveinn af meyju hreinni,
was-born boy from maiden pure
skygnast sem þá er glerit í gegnum
clearest as then when the-glass in through
geisli brár fyr augum várum;
ray shone before eyes our
glóar þar sól, at glerinu heilu;
glows there sun with the-glass whole
gleðiligt jóð þat skein af móður,
joyful child that shone from mother

at innsigli hǫldnu hennar
with seal kept her
hreinferðugra meydóms greina.
of-pure-going of-maidenhood distinctions

34 Engi heyrðuz, engi vurðu
No were-heard no became
jǫfn tíðindi fyrr né síðar,
equal tidings before nor after
bæði senn því mey ok móður
both at-once that maiden and mother
mann ok guð bauð trúan at sanna;
man and God bade faith to prove
loptin sungu komnum kóngi
the-skies sang to-arrived king
kunnigt lof, þar er hirðar runnu,
known praise there where shepherds ran
himna dýrð er hneigð at jǫrðu,
of-heavens glory is bowed to earth
hér samtengduz menn ok englar.
here were-joined men and angels

35 Þó var ei svá ríkt at reifa
Yet was not so rich that swaddling-clothes
ríkust móðir ætti góða,
richest mother had good

Því var kóngrinn hǫrðu heyi
therefore was the-king in-hard hay
huldr, at mætti firraz kulda;
hidden that might be-kept-from cold
umsniðningar Jésú prýði
of-circumcision of-Jesus grace
átti dagr at fæðing váttar,
eighth day of birth witnesses
æsiz blóð um líkama ljósan,
stirs blood over body bright
lagaz minnilig tár af kinnum.
flow memorable tears from cheeks

36–42 · THE MAGI, THE BAPTISM, AND THE DEVIL PERPLEXED

The wise men come from the East with gifts, Jesus is presented in the temple, and at thirty he is baptized by John in the Jordan, where the Trinity is made known. The old fiend marvels at this child: the signs and his unknown father trouble him, and when he sees Jesus thirsty, pale from fasting, and weeping he resolves to aim his dart at him.

Á þrettánda dag til drottins 36
On thirteenth day to lord
dýrðar-menn, er ríkjum stýrðu
glory-men who kingdoms steered
austr í heim, með offri kvámu
east in world with offering came
ungan mann at heiðra þann veg;
young man to honor that way

umrennandi sex at sinnum
running-around six at times
sex daga grein ok fjórum einum
six of-days distinction and four only
offraz kaus fyr oss at vísu
be-offered chose for us for sure
Jésús sjálfr í musteris hválfi.
Jesus himself in of-temple vault

37 Vígðiz oss, þá er vatni dǫgðiz,
Was-consecrated for-us then when with-water was-bathed
valdr himnanna á þritugsaldri,
ruler of-the-heavens at thirty-age
Jórdánar við æðar hreinar;
of-Jordan at veins pure
Jón baptista drotni þjónar;
John baptist to-lord serves
þessi ástvinrinn Jésú Kristí
this the-dear-friend of-Jesus Christ
er nú váttr, at þann dag mátti
who now witness that that day might
samskínandi á grænni grundu
shining-together on green ground
guðs þrenning með lýðum kennaz.
of-God trinity by people be-known

Finn ek alt at manvit manna 38
Find I all that wit of-men
mæðiz, þegar at um skal ræða
is-wearied as-soon that about shall speak
máttinn þinn, enn mildi drottinn,
the-might thy the mild lord
meiri er hann en gǫrvalt annat.
greater is it than entire other
Sé þér dýrð með sannri prýði,
Be to-thee glory with true grace
sunginn heiðr af ǫllum tungum
sung honor from all tongues
eilífliga með sigri ok sælu,
eternally with victory and bliss
sæmd ok vald þitt minkaz aldri.
honor and power thy lessen never

Undraz tók enn forni fjandi 39
To-marvel began the old fiend
fæddan mann, er skilja var bannat,
born man whom understand was forbidden
ok þvílíkt sem andinn segði
and such as the-spirit said
orðin slík af tungu forðum:
the-words such from tongue formerly
„þykki mér sem nýjung nǫkkur
seems to-me as novelty some
nálgiz heim ok ættir beima,
draws-near to-world and of-men kins

eitthvat klókt mun drottinn dikta;
something cunning will lord compose
duldr em ek þess, þat ferr af huldu.
deceived am I of-that it goes from hiding

40 Jésúm tigna engla rásir
Jesus honor of-angels courses
uppi ok niðri af heimi þriðja,
above and below from world third
stjǫrnu-ljós ok færðar fórnir,
star-light and brought offerings
friðar samband á hverju landi;
of-peace bond in each land
slík afla mér sóttar-auka
such cause me sickness-increase
sǫnn stórmerkin veitt hjá mǫnnum;
true the-great-marvels granted among men
kvíðig at hans remming ráða
fear-I that his strength of-counsels
ríði mér at báðum síðum.
ride me at both sides

41 Fǫðurætt hans trúig fá munu hitta,
Father-kin his believe-I few will find
finz móðernit hér með þjóðum,
is-found the-motherhood here among peoples

Því er atferðin Jésú burðar
therefore is the-manner of-Jesus of-birth
undarlig, svá skil ek þat varla;
wondrous so understand I it hardly
ekki er mér á þessum þokki,
not is to-me in this liking
þann veg ferr þeim unga manni,
that way goes with-that young man
aldri var sá fyrr á foldu
never was he before on earth
fæddur maðr, er ek næsta hræddumz.
born man whom I most dreaded

Þystr er hann ok fǫlr af fǫstu, 42
Thirsty is he and pale from fast
firriz hlátr, en kann at gráta,
avoids laughter but can to weep
mæðiz hann ok er móður sinnar
wearies he and is of-mother his
mjólku fæddr, en reifum klæddiz;
with-milk fed and in-swaddling-clothes was-clothed
finn ek þó, at í slíku sannaz,
find I yet that in such is-proved
sjálf náttúran manndóm váttar,
self the-nature manhood witnesses
fýsir mik því framm at æsa
urges me therefore forth to stir
flein ódygðar honum at meini.
dart of-faithlessness to-him for harm

The fiend, recalling how he deceived Adam and Eve, plans to tempt Jesus too, but his shafts turn back into his own breast. Christ teaches, heals the blind, deaf, dumb, and lame, and raises the dead, and the fiend, seeing his people lessen, stirs up Judas, who sells God for silver to the Jews. They seize, bind, mock, and strip him, crown him with thorns, and nail him to the cross.

43 Mér virðiz sem miklu hæra
To-me seems as-if much higher
mætr guði hann Ádám sæti,
worthy to-God he Adam sat
áðr ek sveik þau Évu bæði
before I betrayed them Eve both
ærusnauð í myrkr ok dauða;
honor-bereft into darkness and death
satt er, at fæstir sjá við prettum,
true is that fewest look against tricks
svá mun enn um Jésúm þenna,
so will still about Jesus this
því treystumz ek framt at freista,
therefore trust-myself I boldly to tempt
forðum hefi ek slægvitr orðit.“
formerly have I sly-witted become

44 Sonr Máríu, sonr enn dýri,
Son of-Mary son the dear
sonr menniligr guðs ok hennar,
son human of-God and of-her

kenn þú mér at forðaz fjandann
teach thou me to shun the-fiend
fjǫlkunnigan, en þér at unna.
much-cunning and thee to love
Sé þér dýrð með sannri prýði,
Be to-thee glory with true grace
sunginn heiðr af ǫllum tungum
sung honor from all tongues
eilífliga með sigri ok sælu,
eternally with victory and bliss
sæmd ok vald þitt minkaz aldri.
honor and power thy lessen never

Frétt hefig hitt, at freistar drottins 45
Heard have-I this that tempts lord
fǫstumóðs með ýmsum lǫstum
fast-weary with various vices
púkans slægð, at hvern mann hugðiz
of-the-devil cunning that each man thought
hvekkjum vanr í synd at blekkja;
with-tricks accustomed into sin to delude
vélakrings af vǫfðum strengjum
of-wile-ring from wound strings
vundin opt, ok sneruz á lopti,
wound often and turned in air
skeytin ǫll ens flærðar-fulla
the-shafts all of-the falsehood-full
fjanda brjóst í gegnum standa.
of-fiend breast in through stand

46 Þessu næst ens kæra Kristí
This next of-the dear Christ
kenning tók um bygð at renna,
teaching began through dwelling to run
líf-þjónandi lærisveina
life-serving disciples
leitar, finnr, ok þar með veitir
seeks finds and there with grants
blindum, hrjúfum, dumbum, daufum,
to-blind to-scabby to-dumb to-deaf
dauðum, krǫmdum, ærum, lǫmdum
to-dead to-crushed to-mad to-lame
augu, græðing, orð, at hlýða,
eyes healing words to hear
andir, heilsu, vizku, at standa.
spirits health wisdom to stand

47 Þetta sér hann fjandi, at fættiz
This sees he fiend that diminished
fólkit hans ok líz þat vansi,
the-folk his and seems that shame
dæmin góð at vaxa víða,
the-examples good to grow widely
verri brǫgð ok lýtin þverra;
worse tricks and the-faults lessen
púkinn kvaldur þeygi þoldi
the-devil tormented not-at-all endured
þenna leik, er harðan kennir,
this game which hard feels

Því flýtandi sínar sveitir
therefore hastening his hosts
synda-brjót at drepa sem skjótast.
sin-breaker to kill as quickest

Leiðan dreng at ljótum ráðum 48
Hateful fellow to ugly counsels
lokkar hann (sá er Jésú manna)
lures he he who of-Jesus of-men
yfirmorðinginn (innan hirðar,
the-over-murderer within household
Júdás nefndr, er óvænt stefndi);
Judas named who unlooked-for went
mildan guð við silfri seldi
mild God for silver sold
sveitum þeim, er Júðar heita,
to-hosts those who Jews are-called
fullum upp af grimdar galli,
full up of of-cruelty gall
grenjaði þjóstr í þeira brjósti.
roared fury in their breast

Fúsir hlupu ok fundu Jésúm, 49
Eager ran and found Jesus
fundinn hrǫktu, lǫmdu ok bundu,
found drove beat and bound
bundinn leiddu, hæðnir hæddu,
bound led scornful mocked

hæddan, rægðan slógu ok afklæddu
mocked slandered struck and stripped
fjandans bǫrnin þrǫngum þyrni
of-the-fiend the-children with-tight thorn
þessum spenna um blessat ennit,
this clasp around blessed the-forehead
þessir negla Krist á krossinn,
these nail Christ on the-cross
keyra járn, svá stokk út dreyri.
drive iron so sprang out blood

50–56 · THE PASSION AND MARY AT THE CROSS

The poet calls all men to cry to Jesus, the first refrain gives God glory, and a second refrain bids creation kneel before its Creator. Christ bows his neck to every blow and gives his spirit for our need while his followers flee. Mary, shaking with grief, draws near as his blood streams down the cross; one stanza links the angel's greeting, the birth, and his healing of men from the cross, and son and mother are wounded together for men's salvation.

50 Ættim vér á Jésúm drottin
Ought we on Jesus lord
efunarlaust með fullu trausti
doubtless with full trust
út af hjartans instum rótum
out from of-the-heart inmost roots
allir senn með gráti at kalla.
all at-once with weeping to call
Sé þér dýrð með sannri prýði,
Be to-thee glory with true grace

sunginn heiðr af ǫllum tungum
sung honor from all tongues
eilífliga með sigri ok sælu,
eternally with victory and bliss
sæmd ok vald þitt minkaz aldri.
honor and power thy lessen never

Yfirmeistarinn allra lista, 51
The-over-master of-all arts
Jésús góðr, er lífgar þjóðir,
Jesus good who quickens nations
kenn þú mér at stilla ok stýra,
teach thou me to calm and steer
steflig orð megi tungan efla.
refrain-like words may the-tongue strengthen
Ævinliga með lyktum lófum
Eternally with closed palms
lof ræðandi á kné sín bæði
praise speaking on knees its both
skepnan ǫll er skyld at falla,
the-creation all is bound to fall
skapari minn, fyr ásján þinni.
creator my before face thy

52 Æru æ minnilig eptirdæmi:
Of-honor ever memorable example
yfirbjóðandi himins ok landa
over-ruling of-heaven and of-lands
hneigði nú sinn háls ok vægði
bowed now his neck and yielded
hverjum þræl, er lysti at berja,
to-each thrall who wished to beat
fátalaðr með lítillæti,
few-spoken with humility
lágraustaðr með ásján fagra,
low-voiced with face fair
svá bjóðandi í sáran dauða
so offering into sore death
sína ǫnd fyr nauðsyn mína.
his spirit for need my

53 Hrækjandi þá hǫfuðin skóku
Spitting then the-heads shook
heiðingjar sem Júðar leiðir;
heathens as Jews loathsome
flestir allir flýðu Kristí
most all fled of-Christ
fylgdarmenn við storminn þenna;
followers at the-storm this
minnaz verðr ok má ek ei annat,
remember must and may I not other
móðir guðs í tárum flóði;
mother of-God in tears flowed

mætti verða, at minnar sóttar
might come-about that of-my sickness
minnaz vildi hon eitthvert sinni.
remember would she some time

Hǫfuðdrotningin harmi þrungin 54
The-chief-queen with-grief pressed
(hneigð ok lút hon skalf af sútum)
bowed and stooping she shook with sorrows
færðiz nær, þá er fell úr sárum
drew near then when fell from wounds
fossum blóðit niðr um krossinn;
in-torrents the-blood down over the-cross
þrútnar brjóst, en hjartat hristiz,
swells breast and the-heart shakes
hold er klǫkt, en ǫndin snǫkti,
flesh is softened and the-spirit sobbed
augun tóku at drukna drjúgum
the-eyes began to drown greatly
dǫpr ok móð í tára-flóði.
dim and weary in tear-flood

Rǫdd engilsins kvenmann kvaddi, 55
Voice of-the-angel woman greeted
kvadda af engi drottinn gladdi,
greeted by angel lord gladdened
gladdiz mær, þá er fǫðurinn fæddi,
was-gladdened maiden then when the-father bore

fæddan sveininn reifum klæddi,
born the-boy in-swaddling-clothes clothed
klæddan með sér lǫngum leiddi,
clothed with herself long led
leiddr af móður faðminn breiddi,
led by mother the-embrace spread
breiddr á krossinn gumna græddi,
spread on the-cross men healed
græddi hann oss, er helstríð mæddi.
healed he us whom death-strife wearied

56 Þó grét hon nú sárra sáta
Yet wept she now of-sore sittings
sverði nist í bringu ok herðar,
with-sword pierced in breast and shoulders
sitt einbernit, sjálfan drottin,
her the-only-child self lord
sá hon hanganda á nǫglum stangaz,
saw she hanging on nails pierced
armar sviddu af brýndum broddum,
arms smarted from sharpened points
brjóst var mætt; með þessum hætti
breast was wearied in this manner
særðiz bæði sonr ok móðir
were-wounded both son and mother
sannheilug fyr græðing manna.
truly-holy for healing of-men

The poet asks for redemption through Mary's tears. Christ is given gall and dies, and nature cries out and the heavens lose their light. The fiend, peering at the cross, swallows the bait on the hook; hell's iron gates tremble and the holy captives are freed. A run of questions and answers tells the tidings: the fiend is driven out and heaven is offered to all who praise the cross.

Fyr Máríu faðm enn dýra, 57
For of-Mary embrace the dear
fyr Máríu grát enn sára
for of-Mary weeping the sore
lát mik þinnar lausnar njóta,
let me thy redemption enjoy
lifandi guð með fǫður ok anda.
living God with father and spirit
Ævinliga með lyktum lófum
Eternally with closed palms
lof ræðandi á kné sín bæði
praise speaking on knees its both
skepnan ǫll er skyld at falla,
the-creation all is bound to fall
skapari minn, fyr ásján þinni.
creator my before face thy

Syni Máríu svartir færa 58
To-son of-Mary black bring
seggir blandat gall með dreggjum,
men mixed gall with dregs

fulla smán ok flestar pínur
full shame and most torments
fundu þeir, en heimrinn stundi;
found they and the-world groaned
fǫlnar skinn ok fellr at enni,
pales skin and falls to forehead
fættaz orð, en þverrar mætti,
lessen words and wanes might
ǫndin leið af Jésú píndum,
the-spirit passed from Jesus tormented
yfirvaldanda himins ok landa.
over-ruler of-heaven and of-lands

59 Ek segi rétt, at engi mætti
I say rightly that none might
ógrátandi vǫrrum láta,
unweeping with-lips leave
Jésú minn, ef letrit læsi
Jesus my if the-letter read
línhjartaðr af píslum þínum,
linen-hearted from torments thy
þvíat náttúran æpti af ótta
because the-nature cried-out from fear
ǫll skjálfandi, en himnar sjálfir
all trembling and heavens themselves
týndu ljósi, er berr vart bundinn,
lost light when bare wast-thou bound
bifaðiz hauðr í þínum dauða.
shook earth in thy death

En í andláti Jésú sæta 60
But in death of-Jesus sweet
oss er flutt, at gægz á krossinn
to-us is told that peeped at the-cross
fjandinn hafi ok frétt at syndum
the-fiend have and asked about sins
færaglǫggr, ef nǫkkur væri;
danger-sharp if any were
hlægir mik, at hér mun teygjaz
makes-laugh me that here will be-drawn
hans forvitni sér til vansa,
his curiosity to-himself to shame
eigi mun nú ormr enn bjúgi
not will now serpent the crooked
agn svelgjandi á króki fagna.
bait swallowing on hook rejoice

Qll helvítis járnhlið skjálfa, 61
All of-hell iron-gates tremble
undraz myrkr, at ljós er styrkra,
marvels darkness that light is stronger
hlaupa fjandr ok ætla undan,
run fiends and plan away
ódæmin þeir 'sǫgðu at kæmi,
the-portents they which-said that came
hræzlan flaug um heljar bygðir;
the-terror flew over of-hell dwellings
helga menn, er fjǫtrar spenna,
holy men whom fetters clasp

hlaut óvinrinn laust at láta,
had the-enemy loose to let
lamdr ok meiddr, er valdit beiddi.
beaten and maimed who the-power sought

62 Hvat er tíðinda? Hjálpaz lýðir.
What is of-tidings Are-saved peoples
Hví nú? Því lét Jésús pínaz.
Why now Because let Jesus himself-be-tortured
Hvat er tíðinda? Hraktr er fjandinn.
What is of-tidings Driven is the-fiend
Hverr vann sigrinn? Skapari manna.
Who won the-victory Creator of-men
Hvat er tíðinda? Helgir leiðaz.
What is of-tidings Holy-ones are-led
Hvert? Ágæt í tignarsæti.
Whither Glorious into honor-seat
Hvat er tíðinda? Himnar bjóðaz.
What is of-tidings Heavens are-offered
Hverjum? Oss, er prísum krossinn.
To-whom To-us who praise the-cross

63 Signat ljós enn sæti Jésú,
Signed light the sweet Jesus
sannr lífgari dauðra manna,
true quickener of-dead men
drag þú mik frá djǫfla bygðum,
draw thou me from of-devils dwellings

drottinn blíðr, ok halt mér síðan.
lord gentle and hold-thou me afterward
Ævinliga með lyktum lófum
Eternally with closed palms
lof ræðandi á kné sín bæði
praise speaking on knees its both
skepnan ǫll er skyld at falla,
the-creation all is bound to fall
skapari minn, fyr ásján þinni.
creator my before face thy

64–70 · RESURRECTION, ASCENSION, AND JUDGMENT

No words can tell Adam's joy when one child of his freed all whom his sin had bound. The poet taunts the fiend for his folly in seeking Christ's death, since the crooked brand of sin turned back into his own jaws. Christ rose on Sunday, ascended after forty days, sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples, and sits at God's right hand; he will come again to judge, when fire will burn the earth to its foundations.

Sé ek ei þann, at út megi inna, 64
See I not him that out may tell
orða-snild þóat próva vildi,
word-skill though prove would
alla gleði, er fekk at fullu
all joy which got in full
forn Ádám við Jésú kvámu;
old Adam at of-Jesus coming
sjálfr hann einn þvíat batt með bǫlvi
self he alone because bound with misery
bǫrn sín ǫll í dauðans pínu,
children his all in of-the-death torment

en nú leysti ǫll úr banni
but now freed all out-of ban
eitt hans barn ok miskunn veitti.
one his child and mercy granted

65 Hví stundaðir, enn forni fjandi
Why strovest-thou the old fiend
fremdar-snauðr, á Jésú dauða?
honor-bereft for of-Jesus death
eða þóttiz þú meiri at mætti,
or thoughtest thou greater in might
máttrinn hans at guðdóm váttar,
the-might his which godhead witnesses
eða hugðir þú líkams lygðir?
or thoughtest thou of-body lies
líkam tók hann meyjar ríkrar,
body took he of-maiden mighty
óverðugan hann flengdu fyrðar;
unworthy him flogged men
flekklausastr hann vann til ekki.
most-spotless he worked for nothing

66 Þú fyrdæmdir auma Évam,
Thou condemnedst wretched Eve
Éva mann fyr epli bannat,
Eve man for apple forbidden
maðr bannsettur allar ættir,
man accursed all kins

ættin Krist, er spjóti nisti,
the-kin Christ whom with-spear pierced
Kristur þik þó, er fant í fystu
Christ thee yet who foundest in first
fystan prett ok manndráps lystir;
first trick and of-manslaughter lusts
svá ódygðar-brandrinn bjúgi
so the-faithlessness-brand crooked
beygðiz aptr í þína kjapta.
bent back into thy jaws

Síðan reis með sigri af dauða 67
Then rose with victory from death
sunnudag ok gjǫrði kunnan
on-Sunday and made known
sinn ódauðleik mǫrgum manni
his immortality to-many man
mildin sjálf, þótt deyja vildi;
the-mildness itself though die would
tvennar gengu tvisvar sinnum
twofold went twice times
tíu dægranna rásir hægar,
ten of-the-days courses gentle
áðr en upp yfir himna-hæðir
before than up over heaven-heights
hóf hann blóð, þat er tók af móður.
raised he blood that which took from mother

68 Umrennandi sjau at sinnum
Running-around seven at times
sjau daga grein ok þar til einum
seven of-days distinction and there to one
hingat sendi hann helgan anda
hither sent he holy spirit
hreinferðugastan lærisveinum;
most-pure-going to-disciples
vegsamligr til handar hægri
honorable to hand right
hann er guðs með virðing sanna,
he is of-God with honor true
sinn bjóðandi faðm enn fríða
his offering embrace the fair
fyrða laðar til himna dyrðar.
men invites to of-heavens glory

69 Máríu son, fyr miskunn dýra
Of-Mary son for mercy dear
manns náttúru ok líkam sannan
of-man nature and body true
kenz þú við, at mín þú minniz,
acknowledge thou to that me thou rememberest
mínn drottinn, í ríki þínu.
my lord in kingdom thy

Ævinliga með lyktum lófum
Eternally with closed palms
lof ræðandi á kné sín bæði
praise speaking on knees its both
skepnan ǫll er skyld at falla,
the-creation all is bound to fall
skapari minn, fyr ásján þinni.
creator my before face thy

Enn mun koma í ǫðru sinni 70
Still will come at second time
alls-valdandi kóngr at gjalda
almighty king to repay
seggja ferðum sínar gǫrðir
of-men to-hosts their deeds
sóma-ǫrr á efsta dómi;
honor-generous at last judgment
svá geisar þá eldr ok eisa
so rages then fire and embers
jǫrð ok fjǫll, at í heimi ǫllum
earth and mountains that in world all
eigi finz þá upp úr skýjum
not is-found then up out-of clouds
óbrunnit ok niðr at grunni.
unburnt and down to ground

At the judgment Jesus will show his wounds, every word and thought will be examined, and neither oaths nor bribes will help. Men will be parted into two hosts, one raised to glory and one cast down into fire, stench, and frost, while the blessed keep an eternal feast. The poet, fearing judgment and death, confesses his own pride, envy, and anger.

71 Upp rísǫndum allra landa
Up to-rising of-all lands
íbyggjurum við dóm enn hryggva
to-inhabitants at judgment the grievous
Jésús mun þá sárin sýna
Jesus will then the-wounds show
súthrærandi ok píslarfæri;
sorrow-stirring and torment-tools
orð ok hugsan, allar gǫrðir
word and thought all deeds
eru kannaðar hvers sem annars,
are examined of-each as of-other
bjóðaz hvárki blót né eiðar,
are-offered neither sacrifice nor oaths
byrgjaz úti gjafir ok mútur.
are-shut out gifts and bribes

Engi finz á þessu þingi 72
No is-found at this assembly
þrætugjarn né klókrar varnar
quarrel-eager nor of-clever defense
orða-hreimr, er á drottins dómi
word-sound when at of-lord judgment
dreifaz menn í flokka tvenna;
are-scattered men into flocks two
aðra sveit með hæstum heiðri
one host with highest honor
hefr hann langt yfir speras efri,
raises he far over spheres upper
steypir þá með eymd ok ópi
casts then with misery and outcry
ǫðrum niðr í fjandann miðjan.
other down into the-fiend middle

Reknir brott í dauðans druknan 73
Driven away into of-the-death drowning
drepnir menn, er þar skulu brenna,
slain men who there shall burn
gnísta tennr í fýlu ok frosti,
gnash teeth in stench and frost
fjandr í kring um búka standa;
fiends in ring around bodies stand
brigzl ok hróp er at gǫrvum glæpum,
reproach and outcry is at done crimes
grimmlig sótt í myrkri ok ótta,
grim sickness in darkness and fear

engi er ván á ǫðru en pínu,
no is hope of other than torment
eilíf nauð, en kvikr er dauðinn.
eternal need and alive is the-death

74 Þessu í gegn mun finna fǫgnuð
This in against will find joy
fyrða hverr, er til sinnar dyrðar
of-men each whom to his glory
herrann bauð með hæstri prýði;
the-lord bade with highest grace
heimleiddir þvíat verða beimar
home-led because become men
ungir, glaðir, frjálsir, fríðir,
young glad free fair
færir, mátkir, vitrir, skærir;
able mighty wise bright
hátíð gild er um allar aldir
feast great is through all ages
alda þeim með virðing haldin.
of-ages for-them with honor held

75 Tárum rigni, en tungan þagni,
With-tears may-rain and the-tongue may-be-silent
taki af mál, en þurftug sálin
may-take off speech and needy the-soul
beriz um fast svá búkrinn hristiz,
may-struggle about hard so the-body shakes

bið ek óttandi: hjálp mér dróttinn.
ask I fearing help me lord
Ævinliga með lyktum lófum
Eternally with closed palms
lof ræðandi á kné sín bæði
praise speaking on knees its both
skepnan ǫll er skyld at falla,
the-creation all is bound to fall
skapari minn, fyr ásján þinni.
creator my before face thy

Tvá hræðumz ek: dóm ok dauða; 76
Two fear I judgment and death
deyr sá margr, er engi bjargar,
dies he many-a whom none saves
mitt eitt veit ek líf et ljóta
my one know I life the ugly
leiða mik í drottins reiði;
lead me into of-lord anger
í margfaldri synda saurgan
in manifold of-sins filth
svíður brjóst ok hefndum kvíðir
smarts breast and vengeances dreads
fyr afbrigði flestra dygða;
for transgression of-most virtues
fátt er þat, er siðuna váttar.
little is that which the-morals witnesses

77 Vindi fult hefir veslan anda
With-wind full has wretched spirit
várt ofbeldit lǫngum feldan,
our the-pride long felled
blár ok ljótr í ǫfundar-eitri
blue and ugly in envy-poison
jafnan hefi ek næsta kafnat;
always have I nearly choked
reiðigall með sárum sullum
anger-gall with sore boils
sviðrar mér um blásin iðrin,
smarts me through blown the-bowels
brygðin slítr af hjartarótum
the-change tears from heart-roots
harðan styrk í súta-myrkri.
hard strength in sorrows'-darkness

78–84 · CONFESSION AND PRAYER

Avarice and lust have frozen and blinded him, and he begs the Father to forgive his words, thoughts, and deeds. He asks Jesus for the gift of the Spirit, for the rod of mercy rather than abandonment, for pain and sickness before death, through Mary's prayer, so that the fiend's hook may tear him less, and for the last anointing and Christ's body and blood, for he dreads the fiends that will gather to tear him at death.

78 Festiz opt í fjúki lasta
Fastens often in storm of-vices
frost ágirni mér í brjosti.
frost of-avarice to-me in breast

græðgi-drep með glæpum auðgum
greed-plague with crimes rich
grefz hér inn með krókum stinnum;
digs-itself here in with hooks stiff
hræðiliga með blindri blíðu
dreadfully with blind sweetness
blekkiz hold í dauðans flekkun,
is-deluded flesh in of-the-death staining
hreldr af slíku ætti ek aldri
grieved by such ought I never
ugglauss vera, þótt miskunn huggi.
fearless be though mercy comfort

Fyrirlátið mér, faðir enn sæti, 79
Forgive-ye me father the sweet
fyrirlátið mer, ek vil gráta
forgive-ye me I will weep
orð ok hugsan, illar gǫrðir
word and thought evil deeds
auðmjúkliga ok firraz dauða;
humbly and be-kept-from death
því lýt ek nú þér at fótum
therefore bow I now to-thee at feet
þrǫngdr ok kvaldr af mæðing taldri,
pressed and tormented by weariness counted
klǫkkr ok hræddr ek þurfa þykkjumz
humble and afraid I to-need seem
þína vægð í nauðsyn mína.
thy mercy in need my

80 Svá fýsumz ek, sæti Jésú,
So yearn I sweet Jesus
synda líkn, at þeira myndir
of-sins mercy that their images
lítaz mér, sem liggi þrútit
seem to-me as-if lie swollen
linna eitr um hjartat innan;
of-serpent poison around the-heart within
send hingat mér sjaufalds anda
send hither to-me of-sevenfold spirit
sanna gipt, er leysi úr banni
true gift which free out-of ban
mína ǫnd, at mættag þjóna,
my spirit that might-I serve
Máríu blóm, fyr ykrum sóma.
of-Mary flower for your-two honor

81 Laust aldrigi lát mik, Kriste,
Loose never let me Christ
lasta-vinds í bylja-kasti,
of-vice-wind in storms-throw
typta mitt ok tem sem optast
chastise my and tame as oftenest
tendrat brjóst með líknarvendi,
kindled breast with grace-rod
svá at grátandi fúss at fótum,
so that weeping eager at feet

faðir skínandi, krjúpa ek þínum
father shining kneel I thy
hvert þat sinn, er ek kulda kenni
every that time which I cold feel
kostalauss af glæpa-frosti.
virtueless from crime-frost

Beiðig nú fyr Máríu móður 82
Ask-I now for of-Mary mother
mjúka bæn ok fagran tænað
gentle prayer and fair service
á treystandi, Jésú Kriste,
on trusting Jesus Christ
yðra vægð, er týndum nægðiz,
your mercy which to-lost sufficed
pín mik áðr en dettr á dauði,
torment me before than falls on death
dróttinn minn, í kvǫlum ok sóttum,
lord my in torments and sicknesses
að því minnur sé ek þá síðan
that the less be I then afterward
slitinn af fjandans króki bitrum.
torn by of-the-fiend hook bitter

Lífit sjálft, at luktri æfi 83
The-life itself at closed life
leys mitt bann fyr iðran sanna,
loose my ban for repentance true

óleó smurður veit at ek verða
with-oil anointed grant that I become
viðr-kennandi mildleik þenna;
acknowledging mildness this
hreinast gef þú hjarta mínu
purest give thou to-heart my
hold ok blóð, er tókt af móður,
flesh and blood which tookest from mother
listiligasta leiðar-nesti,
most-delightful journey-provision
leysiz ǫnd af holdsins bǫndum.
is-loosed spirit from of-the-flesh bonds

84 Hræðumz ek, at sárt muni svíða
Fear I that sorely will smart
samvizkunnar bygð af grunni,
of-the-conscience dwelling from ground
sundruð ǫll, þá er syndir kalla
sundered all then when sins call
sína eign á hjarta mínu,
their property in heart my
dǫkkvir munu þá fjandans flokkar
dark will then of-the-fiend flocks
færaz nær með ópi ok kæru,
draw near with outcry and accusation
búnir mik at brenna ok skeina,
ready me to burn and wound
bíta, kremja, rífa ok slíta.
bite crush tear and rend

He trusts that Christ, who bought his soul with heart's blood, will not yield it to the devils. He calls on Mary, queen of men and angels, to wrap him in her protection, to show her son her breasts while the son shows the Father his wounds, and to plead for Christian souls. He praises her as dove, gemstone, and queen of heaven, and in a stanza whose every line begins with her name begs her to heal his wounds.

Muntu þetta, enn dýri drottinn, 85
Wilt-thou this the dear lord
djǫfla sveitum nǫkkut veita
of-devils to-hosts at-all grant
mína ǫnd at meiða ok pína,
my spirit to maim and torture
Máríu barn, en hjálpar varna;
of-Mary child and help refuse
heitu ok rauðu hjartablóði
with-hot and red heart-blood
hana leystir ok því má ek treysta.
it freedst-thou and therefore may I trust
Jésú, þinni ást, er mǫnnum
Jesus to-thy love which to-men
ǫllum bauð til lífs frá dauða.
all offered to life from death

Heyr þú mik nú, himins ok jarðar 86
Hear thou me now of-heaven and of-earth
háleit bygðin allra dygða,
sublime the-dwelling of-all virtues

megindrotningin manna ok engla.
the-mighty-queen of-men and of-angels
móðir guðs ok blessun þjóða,
mother of-God and blessing of-nations
þá ek mæðumz í nógum nauðum,
when I am-wearied in plentiful needs
nálæg vert þú minni sálu,
near be thou to-my soul
vef þú ágætu verndar-skauti,
wrap thou in-excellent protection-lap
ván mín sǫnn, er hjálpar mǫnnum.
hope my true who helpest men

87 María, kreist þú mjólk úr brjóstum,
Mary press thou milk from breasts
mín drotning, fyr barni þínu,
my queen before child thy
dreyrug fǫðurnum sýn þú sárin,
bloody to-the-father show thou the-wounds
sonr Máríu, er naglar skáru;
son of-Mary which nails cut
ek vænumz, at ykrum þjóni
I hope that your-two servant
engi kvǫl megi drotna lengi,
no torment may lord-it long
miskunnar þá er mjúkust renna
of-mercy then when gentlest run
merkin slík um himnaríki.
the-tokens such through heaven-kingdom

Frammi stattu, er fæddir drottin, 88
Forward stand-thou who barest lord
fyr skínanda barni þínu,
before shining child thy
miskunn bið þú at mjúka finni
mercy ask thou that gentle find
maðrinn hverr, en glæpi þverri;
the-man each and crime lessen
ber þú framm af blíðum vǫrrum
bear thou forth from gentle lips
bænar-mál fyr kristnum sálum,
prayer-speech for Christian souls
María, Jésú móðir dýrust,
Mary of-Jesus mother dearest
mundu at eigi skiljumz ek undan.
remember-thou that not part-from I away

Þú ert hreinlífis dygðug dúfa, 89
Thou art of-chastity virtuous dove
dóttir guðs ok lækning sótta,
daughter of-God and healing of-sicknesses
giptu vegr ok geisli lopta,
of-grace honor and ray of-skies
gimsteinn brúða ok drotning himna,
gemstone of-brides and queen of-heavens
guðs herbergi ok gleyming sorga,
of-God lodging and forgetting of-sorrows
gleðinnar past ok eyðing lasta,
of-the-joy food and destruction of-vices

líknar æðr ok lífgan þjóða,
of-grace vein and quickening of-nations
loflig mær, þú ert englum hæri.
praiseworthy maiden thou art than-angels higher

90 Þú ert elskandi ein af sprundum
Thou art loving one of women
ágætust fyr lítillæti,
most-excellent for humility
um-bætandi bragna syndir,
bettering of-men sins
blessuð mær, þú ert drotni kærust;
blessed maiden thou art to-lord dearest
þú ert hitnandi heilags anda
thou art warming of-holy spirit
hǫll ok prýdd með dáðum ǫllum,
hall and adorned with deeds all
ei kennandi, kvítt af syndum,
not knowing free from sins
krapta þrǫng, en lǫstinn ǫngvan.
of-virtues throng but the-vice no

91 María, ert þú móðir skærust,
Mary art thou mother brightest
María, lifir þú sæmd í hári,
Mary livest thou honor on high
María, ert þú af miskunn kærust,
Mary art thou of mercy dearest

María. léttu synda-fári,
Mary lighten-thou sins-plague
María, lít þú mein þau er váru,
Mary see thou harms those which were
María, lít þú klǫkk á tárin,
Mary look thou tender on the-tears
María, græð þú mein en stóru,
Mary heal thou harms the great
María, dreif þú smyrsl í sárin.
Mary sprinkle thou ointment in the-wounds

92–100 · THE CLOSE

No man can praise Mary as she deserves: he would wander as in a labyrinth, and even if every creature were a tongue, all would wear out before telling her grace. The poet offers the work to Christ and Mary, asks pardon for its meter, says he chose clear words over the old poetic diction, and names the poem Lilja; he asks each hearer to say the Ave, that Mary may remember him in his torment. The last stanza repeats the first.

Tungu-sætr ef einnhverr ýta 92
Tongue-sweet if any-one of-men
orðum hygz í kvæði at skorða
with-words thinks in poem to set
mjúkan dikt at makligleikum,
gentle poem to deserts
mín drotning, af heiðri þínum,
my queen of honor thy

því er líkast, sem rasi eða reiki
that is likest as-if stumbles or wanders
ráðlauss seggr at ýmsum veggjum
counsel-less man at various walls
fældr ok byrgðr, ok feti þó hvergi
frightened and shut-in and steps yet nowhere
fúss í brott úr vǫlundarhúsi.
eager off away out-of labyrinth

93 Hrærð af list þóat hvers manns yrði
Moved by art though of-each man became
hold ok bein at tungum einum,
flesh and bone to tongues alone
vindur, leiptr ok grænar grundir,
wind lightning and green grounds
grǫs ilmandi, dupt ok sandar,
grasses fragrant dust and sands
hagl ok drif, sem fjaðrir, fuglar,
hail and drift as feathers birds
fiskar, dýr. sem holt ok mýrar,
fishes beasts as woods and marshes
hár ok korn, sem heiðar stjǫrnur,
hair and grain as bright stars
hreistr ok ull, sem dropar ok gneistar,
scale and wool as drops and sparks

viðr ok grjót, sem staðir ok stræti, 94
wood and stone as places and streets
strengir, himnar, lopt ok englar,
strings heavens air and angels
orma sveit ok akrar hvítir,
of-serpents host and fields white
jurtir, málmr ok laufgir pálmar —
herbs metal and leafy palms
augabragð þótt aldri þegði,
eye-blink though never were-silent
allar þær af fyrnsku væri
all they from age were
máðar, fyrr en Máríu prýði
worn-out before than of-Mary grace
mætti skýra fullum hætti.
might declare in-full manner

María vertu mér í hjarta, 95
Mary be-thou to-me in heart
mildin sjálf, þvíat gjarna vildag,
the-mildness itself because gladly would-I
blessuð þér, ef mættig meira,
blessed to-thee if might-I more
margfaldastan lofsǫng gjalda;
most-manifold praise-song pay

loflig orð í ljóða-gǫrðum
praiseworthy words in song-makings
listiligri móður Kristí
to-more-delightful mother of-Christ
ǫngum tjáir at auka lengra:
to-none avails to increase further
einn er drottinn Máríu hreinni.
one is lord than-Mary purer

96 Enn krossfesti, kraptr enn hæsti,
The crucified power the highest
Kristr, er fjórir broddar nistu,
Christ whom four points pierced
þér býð ek ok þinni móður
to-thee offer I and to-thy mother
þetta verk, er í einn stað settag;
this work which in one place set-I
þá látið mik þessa njóta
then let-ye me these enjoy
þrǫngskorðaðra kvæðis-orða,
of-tight-set poem-words
er þit sjáið mik ǫllu varða,
which you-two see me all to-matter
ǫndin mín at forðiz pínu.
the-spirit my that shun torment

Veri kátar nú virða sveitir; 97
May-be glad now of-men hosts
vættig þess, í kvæðis hætti
expect-I this in of-poem meter
várkynni, þóat verka þenna
indulgence though works these
vandag miðr, en þætti standa;
crafted-I less than seemed to-stand
varðar mest til allra orða,
matters most for all words
undirstaðan sé réttlig fundin,
the-foundation may-be rightly found
eigi glǫgg þóat eddu regla
not clear though of-edda rule
undan hljóti at víkja stundum.
away must to yield at-times

Sá, er óðinn skal vandan velja, 98
He who the-poem shall careful choose
velr svá mǫrg í kvæði at selja
chooses so many in poem to set
hulin fornyrðin, at trautt má telja,
hidden the-old-words that hardly may-one count
tel ek þenna svá skilning dvelja;
count I this so understanding to-delay
vel því at hér má skýr orð skilja,
well because that here may clear words understand
skili þjóðir minn ljósan vilja,
should-understand nations my bright will

tal óbreytiligt veitt af vilja,
number unchangeable given from will
vil ek at kvæðit heiti Lilja.
will I that the-poem be-called Lilja

99 Sannri ást ok sætu brjósti
With-true love and sweet breast
sinni rétt fyr hjálp ok minni
at-time right for help and memory
segi Máríu hverr, er heyrir,
should-say to-Mary each who hears
hennar vess, á diktan þessa;
her verse at poem this
verða kann at mærin minniz
come-about can that the-maiden remembers
mín, þá er ligg ek kvaldr í pínu,
me then when lie I tormented in torment
berr mik þar til ván, á vǫrrum
bears me there to hope on lips
víst ef léki á dóminús técum.
surely if played on lord with-thee

Almáttigr guð, allra stétta
Almighty God of-all ranks
yfirbjóðandi engla ok þjóða,
over-ruling of-angels and of-nations
ei þurfandi stað né stundir,
not needing place nor times
staði haldandi í kyrrleiks valdi,
places holding in of-stillness power
senn verandi úti ok inni
at-once being outside and inside
uppi ok niðri ok þar í miðju,
above and below and there in middle
lof sé þér um aldr ok æfi,
praise be to-thee for age and life
eining sǫnn í þrennum greinum.
unity true in threefold distinctions