OLD NORSE SERIES · VOLUME 38

The Legendary Sagas

Fornaldarsögur Norðrlanda

The Legendary Sagas

An the Bow-Bender, Asmund the Champion-Killer, Norna-Gest, and Other Tales

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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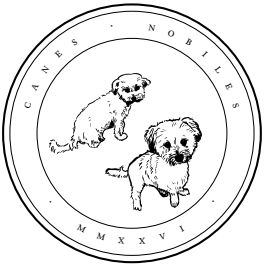

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The Old Norse text follows Valdimar Ásmundarson's
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Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

The spelling is Valdimar Ásmundarson's: ö for the hooked o, æ and œ kept apart and ø in a few words, -st in the middle voice, *enn* for the conjunction *en*, *hun* beside *hon*, and the occasional *og* and *að* he prints beside *ok* and *at*; the verses keep the enclitic -k and the negative -at. Parentheses and square brackets are the edition's own, three asterisks stand where he marks a lacuna with a row of dots, and an em dash stands under the expletive particle *of* or *um*, which has no English equivalent. The chapters are numbered as he numbers them, the Sögubrot's first, which he leaves unnumbered after the lacuna it opens on, as I; he sets a rubric under each, which is not printed, so every chapter title is this press's.

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Krákumál

The Lay of Kraka

RAGNARR'S DEATH-SONG

Ragnarr loðbrók, dying in the serpent-pit of King Ella, recounts his battles, each stanza opening on the same refrain, "We hewed with the sword." He tells how he won Þóra by killing the serpent in Gautland, and of fights in the Oresund, at the Dvina's mouth, in Ireland, Northumberland, the Hebrides, Flanders, and Anglesey. He holds that no man escapes the norns' decree, foresees his sons' vengeance on Ella, and dies laughing, bound for ale with the Æsir.

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hitt var ei fyrir löngu,
that was not before long
er á Gautlandi gengum
when in Gautland (we)-went
at grafvitnis morði;
to grave-wolf's slaying
þá fengu vér Þóru,
then got we Thora
þaðan hétu mik fyrðar,
thence called me men
þá er ek lyngál um lagðak,
then when I heather-eel — pierced-I
Loðbrók, at því vígi;
Lodbrok at that slaying
stakk ek á storðar lykkju
stuck I in earth's coil
stáli bjartra mála.
with-steel of-bright inlays

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
heldr var ek ungr, þá er skífðum
rather was I young then when (we)-dealt
austr í Eyrasundi
east in Oresund
undurn frekum vargi;
morning-meal to-greedy wolf
ok fótgulum fugli
and to-foot-yellow bird
fengu vér, þar er sungu
got we there where sang
við háseymda hjálma
against high-riveted helmets
hörð járn, mikils verðar;
hard irons of-great worth
allr var ægir sollinn,
all was sea swollen
óð Rán í valblóði.
waded Ran in slain-blood

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hátt bárum þá geira,
high bore-we then spears
er tvítugir töldumst,
when twenty-winters (we)-were-counted
ok tír ruðum víða;
and glory reddened-we widely

unnum átta jarla
overcame-we eight earls
austr fyrir Dínumynni,
east before Dvina's-mouth
gera fengum þá gnóga
to-wolf got-we then enough
gisting at því vígi;
lodging at that slaying
sveiti fell í sollinn
blood fell into swollen
sæ, týndi lið ævi.
sea lost (the)-host life

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
Héðins kvánar varð auðit,
Hedin's wife became granted
þá er vér Helsingja heimtum
then when we Helsings fetched
til heimsala Óðins;
to home-halls of-Odin
lögðum upp í Ífu,
laid-we up into Ifa
oddr náði þá bíta;
point got then to-bite

öll var unda gjálfri
all was wounds' with-surge
á sú roðin heitu;
river that reddened with-hot
grenjaði brandr við brynjur,
howled blade against mail-coats
bensildr klufu skildi.
wound-herrings clove shields

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hygg engan þá frýðu,
(I)-think none then taunted
áðr á Heflis hestum
before on Hefil's horses
Herruðr í styr felli;
Herraud in battle fell
klýfr ei Egils öndrum
cleaves not with-Egil's skis
annarr jarlinn frægri
other the-earl more-famous
lunda völl til lægis
puffins' field to harbor
á langskipum síðan;
on longships since
sá bar siklingr víða
that bore prince widely
snart fram í styr hjarta.
keen forward into battle heart

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
herr kastaði skjöldum,
army cast shields
þá er rægagarr rendi
then when strife-dog ran
ræstr at gumna brjóstum;
driven at men's breasts
beit í Skarpaskerjum
bit in Skarpa-skerries
skeribíldr at hjaldri;
cutting-blade at battle
roðinn var randar máni
reddened was rim's moon
áðr Rafn konungr felli;
before Rafn king fell
dreif ór hölda hausum
drifted from men's skulls
heitr á brynjur sveiti.
hot onto mail-coats blood

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hátt grenjuðu hrottar,
loud howled swords
áðr á Ullarakri
before at Ullarakr
Eysteinn konungr felli;
Eystein king fell

gengu gulli fáðar
went with-gold adorned
grundar vals at bröndum;
ground's falcon to swords
rækyndil smaug rauðar
corpse-torch crept red
rítr at hjálma móti;
shield at helmets' meeting
svíra vín ór sárum
neck's wine from wounds
sveif of hjarna kleifar.
swept over brain's cliffs

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hafa gátu þá hrafnar
have got then ravens
fyrir Einderis eyjum
before Indir's islands
ærna bráð at slíta;
ample prey to tear
fengum Fálu hestum
got-we for-Fala's horses
fullan verð at sinni;
full meal at once

ilt var eins at gæta
ill was one to watch
með uppruna sólar;
with (the)-rising of-sun
streng-völur sá ek stíga,
string-staves saw I rise
stakk málmr á skör hjálmi.
stuck metal on hair helmet

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
háðum rendr í dreyra,
plied-we rims in gore
þá er benþvarra bendum
then when wound-stirrer (we)-bent
fyrir Borgundarhólmi;
before Bornholm
hreggský slitu hringa,
storm-clouds tore of-rings
hratt álmr af sér málmi;
thrust elm-bow from itself metal
Vulnir fell at vígi,
Vulnir fell at slaying
varat einn konungr meiri;
was-not one king greater
val rak vítt of strandir,
slain drove widely over strands
vargr fagnaði tafni.
wolf welcomed prey

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi,
Hewed we with sword
Hildr var sýnt í vexti,
Hild was shown in growth
áðr Freyrr konungr felli
before Frey king fell
í Flæmingja veldi;
in Flemings' realm
náði blárr at bita
got blue to bite
blóði smeltr í gyltan
with-blood enameled into gilded
Högna kufl at hjaldri
Hogni's cowl at battle
harðr bengrefill forðum;
hard wound-digger of-old
mær grét morgin-skæru
maid wept morning-fray
mörg, þá er tafn fekst vörgum.
many then when prey was-got for-wolves

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hundruðum frá ek liggja
by-hundreds heard I lie
á Eynefis öndrum,
on Eynefir's skis
þar er Englanes heitir;
there where Englanes is-called

sigldu vér til snerru
sailed we to strife
sex dœgr, áðr lið felli;
six days before (the)-host fell
áttum odda messu
had-we points' mass
við uppruna sólar;
at (the)-rising of-sun
varð fyrir várum sverðum
had-to before our swords
Valþjófr í styr hníga.
Valthjof in battle sink

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi,
Hewed we with sword
hrundi dögg af sverðum
fell dew from swords
brýn í Barðafirði,
thick in Bardafjord
bleikan ná fyrir hauka;
pale corpse for hawks
umdi álmr, þá er oddar
hummed elm-bow then when points
allhratt slitu skyrtur,
very-swiftly tore shirts

at slíðrloga sennu
at sheath-flame's quarrel
Svölnis hamri þœfðar;
by-Svolnir's hammer fulled
rendi ormr til unda,
ran serpent to wounds
eitrhvass, drifinn sveita.
venom-sharp sprinkled with-blood

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
heldum Hlakkar tjöldum
held-we Hlokk's tents
hátt at Hildar leiki
high at Hild's play
fyrir Héðninga vági;
before (the)-Hjadnings' bay
sjá knáttu þá seggir,
see could then men
er sundruðu skjöldu,
who sundered shields
at hræsílna hjaldri
at corpse-herrings' battle
hjálm slitnaðan gotna;
helmet torn of-men
varat sem bjarta brúði
was-not as-if bright bride
í bing hjá sér leggja.
in bed beside oneself lay

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hörð kom hríð á skjöldu,
hard came storm on shields
nárr fell niðr til jarðar
corpse fell down to earth
á Norðimbralandi:
in Northumberland
varat um eina óttu
was-not about one dawn
öldum þörf at frýja
to-men need to taunt
Hildar leik, þar er hvassir
Hild's play there where keen
hjálmstofn bitu skjómar;
helm-stem bit blades
böðmána sá ek bresta,
battle-moons saw I burst
brá því fíra lífi.
ended that men's life

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
Herþjófi varð auðit
to-Herthjof became granted
í Suðreyjum sjálfum
in (the)-Hebrides themselves
sigrs á várum mönnum;
victory over our men

varð at randar regni
had-to at rim's rain
Rögnvaldr fyrri hníga,
Rognvald first sink
sá kom hæstr of hölda
that came highest over men
harmr at sverða gusti;
grief at swords' gust
hvast kastaði hristir
keenly cast shaker
hjálms strenglögar pálmi.
of-helmet string-liquid's palm

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hverr lá þverr of annan;
each lay across over other
glaðr varð gera bróðir
glad became wolf's brother
getu við sóknar læti;
of-feast at onslaught's din
lét ei örn né ylgi
let not eagle nor she-wolf
sá er Írlandi stýrði,
he who Ireland ruled
mót varð málms ok rítar,
meeting became of-metal and of-shield

Marsteinn konungr fasta;
Marstein king fast
varð í Veðrafirði
was in Waterford
valtafn gefit hrafni.
slain-prey given to-raven

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hundmarga sá ek falla
very-many saw I fall
morginstund fyrir meiði
morning-hour before tree
menn at odda sennu;
men at points' quarrel
syni mínum hneit snemma
to-son my struck early
slíðra þorn við hjarta,
sheaths' thorn at heart
Egill lét Agnar ræntan
Egil had Agnar robbed
óblauðan hal lífi;
un-timid man of-life
glumdi geir við Hamðis
clanged spear against Hamdir's
grán serk, bliku merki.
gray shirt gleamed banners

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
haldorða sá ek brytja
word-keeping saw I hack
ekki smátt fyrir úlfa
not small for wolves
Endils niða bröndum;
Endil's kinsmen with-swords
varat á Vika-skerði
was-not at Vika-skerry
sem vín konur bæri;
as-if wine women bore
roðinn var ægis asni
reddened was sea's ass
ófárr í dyn geira;
not-few in din of-spears
skorin var Sköglar kápa
cut was Skogul's cloak
at skjöldunga hjaldri.
at princes' battle

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
háðum suðr at morgni
held-we south at morning
leik fyrir Lindiseyri
play before Lindiseyr
við lofðunga þrenna;
against kings three

fárr átti því fagna,
few had that to-rejoice
fell margr í gin úlfi,
fell many into maw to-wolf
haukr sleit hold með vargi,
hawk tore flesh with wolf
at hann heill þaðan kœmi;
that he whole thence came
Íra blóð í ægi
Irish blood into sea
œrit fell um skœru.
abundantly fell during fray

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hárfagran sá ek hrökkva
fair-haired saw I give-way
meyjar dreng at morgni
maiden's warrior at morning
ok málvini ekkju;
and talk-friend of-widow
varat sem varmar laugar
was-not as-if warm baths
vínkers Njörun bæri
of-wine-cup Njorun bore
oss í Álasundi,
to-us in Alasund

áðr Örn konungr felli;
before Orn king fell
varat sem unga ekkju
was-not as-if young widow
í öndugi kyssa.
in high-seat kiss

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi,
Hewed we with sword
há sverð bitu skjöldu,
high swords bit shields
þar er gullroðinn glumdi
there where gold-reddened clanged
geirr við Hildar nœfri;
spear against Hild's bark
sjá mun í Öngulseyju
see (one)-will in Anglesey
of aldr mega síðan,
through age may afterward
hversu at lögðis leiki
how at sword's play
lofðungar fram gengu;
kings forward went
roðin var út fyrir eyri
reddened was out before (the)-spit
ár flugdreki sára.
early flying-dragon of-wounds

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hví sé drengr at feigri,
why be warrior the more-doomed
at hann í odda éli
that he in points' storm
öndurðr látinn verði?
in-front lost become
oft sýtir sá ævi,
often bewails he life
er aldregi nístir;
who never pierces
ilt kveða argan eggja
ill (they)-say coward urge
örum at sverða leiki;
eager at swords' play
hugblauðum kemr hvergi
to-faint-hearted comes nowhere
hjarta sitt at gagni.
heart his to use

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hitt tel ek jafnt at gangi
that count I just that go
at samtogi sverða
at contest of-swords
sveinn í móti sveini;
youth in against youth

hrökkvat þegn fyrir þegni,
gives-not-way thane before thane
þat var drengs aðal lengi;
that was warrior's nobility long
æ skal ástvinr meyja
ever shall love-friend of-maidens
einharðr í dyn sverða.
dauntless in din of-swords

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hitt sýnist mér raunar,
that seems to-me truly
at forlögum fylgjum,
that fates (we)-follow
fárr gengr of sköp norna;
few goes over decrees of-norns
eigi hugði ek Ellu
not thought I Ella
at aldrlagi mínu,
to life-end my
þá er ek blóðvali bræddak
then when I blood-hawk fed-I
ok borð á lög keyrðak;
and planks onto sea drove-I
vítt fengum þá vargi
widely got-we then for-wolf
verð í Skotlands fjörðum.
meal in Scotland's firths

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hitt hlœgir mik jafnan,
that gladdens me always
at Baldurs feðr bekki
that Baldr's father benches
búna veit ek at sumblum;
ready know I for feasts
drekkum bjór at bragði
drink-we beer at once
ór bjúgviðum hausa;
from curved-trees of-skulls
sýtir ei drengr við dauða
bewails not warrior at death
dýrs at Fjölnis húsum;
glorious at Fjolnir's houses
eigi kem ek með œðru
not come I with fear
orð til Viðris hallar.
words to Vidrir's hall

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hér vildu nú allir
here would now all
burir Áslaugar bröndum
sons of-Aslaug with-swords
bitrum Hildi vekja,
with-bitter Hild wake

ef vandlega vissi
if exactly (they)-knew
of viðfarar ossar,
about treatment our
hvé ófáir ormar
how not-few serpents
eitrfullir mik slíta;
venom-full me tear
móðernis fekk ek mínum
of-mother's-kin got I my
mögum, svát hjörtu duga.
sons so-that hearts avail

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
harðla líðr at arfi,
hard passes to inheritance
grimt stendr grand af naðri,
grimly stands harm from adder
Góinn byggir sal hjarta;
Goin inhabits hall of-heart
væntum hins, at Viðris
expect-we that that Vidrir's
vöndr í Ellu standi;
wand in Ella stand

sonum mínum man svella
to-sons my will swell
sinn föður ráðinn verða;
their father slain become
ei munu snarpir sveinar
not will keen youths
sitt kyrt vera láta.
theirs still be let

Hjuggu vér með hjörvi;
Hewed we with sword
hefir fimm tigum sinna
has five tens of-times
fólkorrostur framdar
host-battles fought
fleinþings boði ok eina;
dart-thing's herald and one
minst hugða ek manna,
least thought I of-men
at mér vera skyldi,
that to-me be should
ungr namk odd at rjóða,
young began-I point to redden
annarr konungr frægri;
other king more-famous
oss munu Æsir bjóða,
us will (the)-Aesir invite
erat sýtandi dauði.
is-not to-be-bewailed death

Fýsumst hins at hætta;
(I)-am-eager of-that to cease
heim bjóða mér dísir,
home invite me disir
sem frá Herjans höllu
whom from Herjan's hall
hefir Óðinn mér sendar;
has Odin to-me sent
glaðr skal ek öl með Ásum
glad shall I ale with (the)-Aesir
í öndvegi drekka;
in high-seat drink
lífs eru liðnar stundir,
of-life are passed hours
lægjandi skal ek deyja.
laughing shall I die

Þáttr af Ragnars sonum

The Tale of Ragnar's Sons

After King Hringr's death his son Ragnarr takes the kingdom. Earl Herrauðr's daughter Þóra borgarhjörtr keeps a serpent that grows until it encircles her bower, and her father vows her to whoever kills it. Ragnarr, in shaggy clothes treated with sand and tar, kills it and marries her; their sons are Eiríkr and Agnarr. After Þóra dies he marries Áslaug, Sigurðr's daughter, who bears four sons, Ívarr the Boneless, Björn Ironside, Hvítserkr, and Sigurðr Snake-in-Eye.

Eftir dauða Hrings konungs tók Ragnarr son hans
After (the)-death of-Hring king took Ragnar son his
konungdóm yfir Svíaveldi ok Dana; þá gengu margir
kingship over (the)-Swedes'-realm and of-(the)-Danes then went many
konungar á ríkin, ok lögðu undir. Enn því at hann
kings upon the-realms and laid under(-them) But because that he
var ungr maðr, ok sýndist þeim hann lítt fallinn til ráðgerðar
was young man and seemed to-them he little fitted for counsel
eða landstjórnar, þá var einn jarl í vestra Gautlandi, er
or land-rule then was one earl in western Gautland who
Herrauðr hét; hann var jarl Ragnars konungs; manna var
Herraud was-called he was earl of-Ragnar king of-men was
hann vitrastr ok hermaðr mikill. Hann átti eina dóttur, er
he wisest and warrior great He had one daughter who
Þóra borgarhjörtr var kölluð; hun var allra kvenna fríðust,
Thora Town-Hart was called she was of-all women fairest
þeira er konungr hafði spurt til. Jarlinn faðir hennar hafði
of-those whom (the)-king had heard of The-earl father her had
gefit henni einn yrmling í morgingjöf; hun fœddi hann
given her one little-serpent as morning-gift she fed it
fyrst í eski sínu; enn þessi ormr varð svá mikill um síðir,
first in casket her but this serpent grew so great at last
at hann lá í kringum skemmuna, ok beit í sporð sér;
that it lay in ring-around the-bower and bit in tail its

hann gerðist þá svá ólmr, at menn þorðu eigi at koma nær
it became then so savage that men dared not to come near
skemmunni nema þeir, er honum gáfu mat, eða þjónuðu
the-bower except those who to-it gave food or served
jarls dóttur; enn hann át uxa um dag; fólkit óttaðist
(the)-earl's daughter but it ate an-ox in day the-folk feared
mjök, ok vissu, at hann mundi mikinn skaða gera, svá mikill
much and knew that it would great harm do so great
ok ólmr, sem hann var þá orðinn. Jarl strengdi þá þess
and savage as it was then become (The)-earl swore then that
heit at bragarfulli, at hann skyldi þeim einum manni gifta
vow at (the)-chieftain's-cup that he should to-that one man marry
dóttur sína Þóru, er dræpi orminn, eða þyrði at ganga
daughter his Thora who should-kill the-serpent or should-dare to go
til tals við hana fyrir orminum. Ok er Ragnarr konungr
to talk with her for the-serpent And when Ragnar king
spyrr þessi tíðendi, þá ferr hann í vestra Gautland; ok er
hears these tidings then goes he into western Gautland and when
hann átti skamt til býjar jarlsins, þá fór hann í raggaðar
he had short to (the)-town of-the-earl then put he on shaggy
klæði, brækr ok kápu, ok ermar á ok höttr; þau klæði
clothes breeches and cloak and sleeves on and hood those clothes
vóru þæfð með sand ok tjöru, ok tók í hönd sér eitt mikit
were fulled with sand and tar and took in hand his one great
spjót, enn var gyrðr sverði, ok gekk svá einn frá sínum
spear but was girded with-sword and went so alone from his
mönnum ok til býjar jarlsins ok skemmu Þóru. Ok þegar
men and to (the)-town of-the-earl and bower of-Thora And as-soon-as
ormrinn sá, at þar var kominn ókunnr maðr, þá reistist
the-serpent saw that there was come unknown man then reared
hann upp, ok blés eitri móti honum; enn hann skaut móti
it up and blew venom against him but he thrust against

skildinum, ok gekk at honum djarflega ok lagði hann með
the-shield and went at it boldly and thrust it with
spjóti í hjartat; ok síðan brá hann sínu sverði, ok hjó
spear into the-heart and then drew he his sword and hewed
af orminum höfuðit; og fór þat svá, sem segir í sögu
from the-serpent the-head and went that so as says in (the)-saga
Ragnars konungs, at hann fekk síðan Þóru borgarhjört;
of-Ragnar king that he got afterward Thora Town-Hart
ok síðan lagðist hann í hernað, ok frelsti alt sitt ríki.
and then betook-himself he to raiding and freed all his realm
Hann átti með Þóru tvá syni; hét annarr Eiríkr, enn
He had with Thora two sons was-called one Eirik but
annarr Agnarr; ok er þeir vóru nokkurra vetra gamlir, þá
other Agnar and when they were some winters old then
tekr Þóra sótt ok andaðist. Síðan fekk Ragnarr Áslaugar,
takes Thora sickness and died Afterward got Ragnar Aslaug
er sumir kalla Randalín, dóttur Sigurðar Fáfnisbana ok
whom some call Randalin daughter of-Sigurd Fafnir's-Bane and
Brynhildar Buðladóttur. Þau áttu fjóra syni; Ívarr beinlausi
of-Brynhild Budli's-daughter They had four sons Ivar the-Boneless
var elztr, þá Björn járnsíða, þá Hvítserkr, þá Sigurðr; þat
was eldest then Bjorn Iron-Side then Hvitserk then Sigurd that
var mark í auga honum, at svá var sem ormr lægi um
was a-mark in eye his that so was as-if serpent lay about
sjáldrit, ok því var hann kallaðr Sigurðr ormr í auga.
the-pupil and therefore was he called Sigurd Snake in Eye

Ragnarr sets Eysteinn beli over Uppsala. Eiríkr and Agnarr come against Eysteinn; Agnarr falls, and Eiríkr, refusing ransom, chooses to be raised on spear-points, speaking verses as he dies. Áslaug's verses rouse her sons, who answer in turn, and she leads an army herself as Randalín; Eysteinn falls. Ragnarr, stung that his sons outdid him, sails to England in two great knorrs, which Áslaug warns against, and wrecks them on the coast.

Nú er synir Ragnars vóru vaxnir, þá herjuðu þeir víða
Now when sons of-Ragnar were grown then harried they widely
um lönd. Þeir brœðr Eiríkr ok Agnarr fóru í öðrum stað,
about lands They brothers Eirik and Agnar went in other place
enn í þriðja stað fóru þeir Ívarr ok þeir enir yngri brœðr
but in (the)-third place went they Ivar and they the younger brothers
hans með honum, ok gerði hann ráð fyrir þeim, þvíat hann
his with him and made he plans for them because he
var forvitri; þeir lögðu undir sik Selund ok Reiðgotaland,
was very-wise they laid under themselves Zealand and Reidgotaland
Eygotaland ok Eyland ok öll smálönd í hafinu. Settist
Eygotaland and Eyland and all small-lands in the-sea Settled
þá Ívarr með enum yngrum brœðrum sínum at Leiðru
then Ivar with the younger brothers his at Lejre
á Selundi, ok var þat þó móti vilja Ragnars konungs;
on Zealand and was that yet against (the)-will of-Ragnar king
fóru synir hans með hernaði allir, þvíat þeir vildu eigi
went sons his with raiding all because they would not
ófrægri vera, enn Ragnarr konungr faðir þeira. Þat líkaði
less-famous be than Ragnar king father their That pleased
Ragnari konungi illa, er synir hans heldu móti honum
Ragnar king ill when sons his held against him
ok tóku skattlönd hans móti hans vilja. Hann setti þann
and took tribute-lands his against his will He set that

konung yfir Upp-Svíaveldi, er Eysteinn beli hét, ok bað
king over Upper-Swedes'-realm who Eystein Beli was-called and bade
hann halda því ríki sér til handa, enn verja fyri
him hold that realm for-himself to hand but defend (it)-against
sonum sínum, ef þeir kallaði til. Þat var eitt sumar, er
sons his if they laid-claim to(-it) That was one summer when
Ragnarr konungr var farinn í Austrveg með her sinn, at
Ragnar king was gone into (the)-East-way with army his that
Eiríkr ok Agnarr, synir hans, kómu til Svíþjóðar, ok heldu
Eirik and Agnar sons his came to Sweden and held
skipum sínum upp í Löginn; gerðu þeir þá boð Eysteini
ships their up into the-Lake made they then message to-Eystein
konungi til Uppsala, at hann kœmi til þeira. Ok er þeir
king to Uppsala that he should-come to them And when they
fundust, sagði Eiríkr, at hann vildi at Eysteinn konungr
met said Eirik that he wished that Eystein king
heldi Svíaríki undir þá brœðr, ok kveðst þá fá
should-hold (the)-Swedes'-realm under them brothers and says-of-himself then get
vilja Borghildar dóttur hans, ok segir, at þá megu þeir
will Borghild daughter his and says that then may they
vel halda því ríki fyrir Ragnari konungi. Eysteinn kveðst
well hold that realm against Ragnar king Eystein says-of-himself
þetta vilja tjá innanlands höfðingjum, ok skildust þeir
this will lay-before inland chieftains and parted they
svá. Ok er Eysteinn konungr bar þetta mál upp, þá urðu
so And when Eystein king bore this matter up then became
allir landsmenn á þat sáttir, at verja landit fyri sonum
all land-men on that agreed to defend the-land against sons
Ragnars; ok dregst nú saman óvígr herr, ok ferr Eysteinn
of-Ragnar and draws now together unbeatable army and goes Eystein
konungr móti Ragnars sonum; ok er þeir finnast, verðr þar
king against Ragnar's sons and when they meet becomes there

mikil orrosta, ok verða nú synir Loðbrókar ofrliði
great battle and become now sons of-Lodbrok by-overwhelming-force
bornir, ok fellr svá lið þeira brœðra, at fátt eitt stóð upp;
borne and falls so force of-them brothers that few one stood up
þá fell ok Agnarr, enn Eiríkr varð handtekinn. Eysteinn
then fell also Agnar but Eirik was hand-taken Eystein
konungr bauð Eiríki grið, ok svá mikit fé af Uppsala
king offered to-Eirik truce and as much wealth from Uppsala's
veldi fyrir Agnar bróðr sinn, sem sjálfr vildi hann, ok þar
realm for Agnar brother his as himself wished he and there
með dóttur sína, þá er áðr hafði hann beðit. Eiríkr vildi
with daughter his her whom before had he asked-for Eirik wished
engar fébœtr ok eigi konungs dóttur, ok eigi kveðst
no wergilds and not (the)-king's daughter and not says-of-himself
hann vilja lifa eftir þann ósigr, er hann hafði fengit,
he will live after that defeat which he had gotten
enn þat kveðst hann þiggja vilja, at hann kjósi sér
but that says-of-himself he accept will that he choose for-himself
sjálfr dauðdaga. Ok af því, at Eysteinn konungr mátti enga
himself death-day And for that that Eystein king might no
sætt fá af Eiríki, þá játtar hann honum því. Eiríkr bað,
settlement get from Eirik then grants he him that Eirik bade
at þeir tœki undir hann spjótsoddum, ok hefi hann svá
that they should-take under him spear-points and lift him so
upp yfir allan valinn. Þá kvað Eiríkr:
up over all the-slain Then spoke Eirik

Vil ek eigi boð fyri bróðr,
Will I not payment for brother
né baugum mey kaupa,
nor with-rings maid buy

Eystein kveða orðinn
Eystein (they)-say become
Agnars bana, heyra;
Agnar's slayer hear
grætr eigi mik móðir,
weeps not (for)-me mother
mun ek efstr á val deyja,
will I uppermost on slain die
ok geirtré í gegnum
and spear-trees in through
gerr látið mik standa.
fully let-ye me stand

Ok áðr hann væri hafinn upp á spjótin, þá sá hann einn
And before he were lifted up on the-spears then saw he one
mann ríða mikit; þá kvað hann:
man ride hard then spoke he

Þau berið orð et efra,
Those bear-ye words the higher
eru austrfarar liðnar,
are east-journeys ended
at mær hafi mína
that maid have my
mjó, Áslaugu, bauga;
slender Aslaug rings
þá man mest af móði,
then will most from wrath

ef mik spyrja dauðan,
if me (they)-learn dead
mín stjúpmóðir mildum
my stepmother to-gentle
mögum sínum til segja.
sons her of tell

Var nú svá gert, at Eiríki var lyft upp á spjótsoddunum, ok
Was now so done that Eirik was lifted up on the-spear-points and
dó hann svá uppi yfir valnum. Ok er þessi tíðendi spyrjast
died he so aloft over the-slain And when these tidings are-heard
út á Selund til Áslaugar, þá ferr hun þegar á fund sona
out in Zealand to Aslaug then goes she at-once to (the)-meeting of-sons
sinna, ok segir þeim þessi tíðendi. Þeir Björn ok Hvítserkr
her and tells them these tidings They Bjorn and Hvitserk
léku tafl, enn Sigurðr stóð at framan. Þá kvað Áslaug:
played chess but Sigurd stood by in-front Then spoke Aslaug

Eigi mundi yðar,
Not would your
ef ér dœið fyrri
if you died first
eitt misseri eftir
one season after
óhefnt vera, brœðra;
unavenged be of-brothers
lítt ráðumst því leyna,
little (I)-mean that to-hide

er líf hafa knætti
who life have could
Eiríkr sitt ok Agnarr
Eirik his and Agnar
óbornir mér niðjar.
unborn to-me kinsmen

Þá svarar Sigurðr ormr í auga:
Then answers Sigurd Snake in Eye

Þat skal þriggja vikna,
That shall of-three weeks
ef þik tregar, móðir,
if thee grieves mother
leið eigu vér langa,
way have we long
leiðangr búinn verða;
levy ready become
skal Uppsölum eigi
shall at-Uppsala not
þóat ofafé bjóði,
though-that excess-wealth (he)-offer
ef oss duga eggjar
if to-us avail edges
Eysteinn beli ráða.
Eystein Beli rule

Þá kvað Björn járnsíða:
Then spoke Bjorn Iron-Side

Duga man hugr ok hjarta
Avail will mind and heart
í hauksnöru brjósti,
in hawk-keen breast
þótt minnr um þat mæli,
though less about that (one)-speaks
manni innan rifja;
to-man within ribs
eigi er oss í augum
not is to-us in eyes
ormr né fránir snákar,
serpent nor gleaming snakes
brœðr glöddu mik mínir,
brothers gladdened me my
man ek stjúpsonu þína.
remember I stepsons thy

Þá svarar Hvítserkr:
Then answers Hvitserk

Hyggjum at áðr heitim,
Think-we on before (we)-vow
at hefnt megi verða;
that avenged may become
látum ýmsu illu
let-us various ill
Agnars bana fagna;
Agnar's slayer welcome

hrindum húf á rannir,
push-we hull onto waves
höggum ís fyri barði,
hew-we ice before prow
sjám á hitt, hvé snekkjur
see-we to that how ships
snemst vér fáim búnar.
soonest we may-get ready

Þá kvað Ívarr beinlausi:
Then spoke Ivar the-Boneless

Hafið ofrhuga œrinn
Have-ye over-courage enough
ok áræði bæði,
and daring both
þess mundi þá þurfa,
of-that would then need
at þrá mikit fylgdi;
that longing great followed
bera man mik fyri bragna
carry will me before warriors
beinlausan fram verða,
boneless forward must
þó gat ek hönd til hefnda,
yet got I hand for vengeances
at ek hváriga nýta.
that I neither (may)-use

Eftir þat drógu Ragnars synir saman óvígan her, ok er
After that drew Ragnar's sons together unbeatable army and when
þeir vóru búnir, þá fóru þeir með skipaher til Svíþjóðar;
they were ready then went they with ship-army to Sweden
enn Áslaug drotning ferr með fimtán hundruðum riddara
but Aslaug queen goes with fifteen hundreds of-riders
landveg, ok var þat fólk allvel búit; sjálf bar hun herklæði,
by-land-way and was that folk very-well equipped herself bore she war-gear
ok var formaðr þess hers, ok kallaðist Randalín, ok mœtast
and was leader of-that army and called-herself Randalin and meet
þau í Svíþjóð, ok ræna ok brenna, hvar sem þau fara yfir.
they in Sweden and rob and burn where as they go over
Þetta spyrr Eysteinn konungr, ok samnar her í móti þeim,
This hears Eystein king and gathers army in against them
hverjum þeim manni, er vígr var í hans ríki; ok er
every that man who fit-for-fight was in his realm and when
þeir mœtast, verðr þar mikil orrosta, ok fá Loðbrókar synir
they meet becomes there great battle and get Lodbrok's sons
sigr, enn Eysteinn konungr fell; spyrst þetta, (ok) verðr
victory but Eystein king fell is-heard this and becomes
mjök frægt. Ragnarr konungr, þar sem hann var í hernaði,
very famous Ragnar king there where he was in raiding
spyrr þetta, ok líkar stórilla við sonu sína, at þeir létu
hears this and likes very-ill with sons his that they let
eigi hefndina bíða hans. Ok er hann kom heim í ríki
not the-vengeance wait-for him And when he came home into realm
sitt, þá segir hann Áslaugu, at hann skal gera eigi minna
his then says he to-Aslaug that he shall do not lesser
frægðarverk, enn synir hans höfðu þá gert: hefi ek nú flest
deed-of-fame than sons his had then done have I now well-nigh
alt þat ríki aftr unnit undir mik, er mínir forellrismenn
all that realm back won under me which my forefathers

hafa átt, utan England eigi, ok því hefi ek nú látit gera
have owned except England not and therefore have I now had make
knörru tvá í Líðum á Vestfold. Þvíat hans ríki stóð alt
knorrs two in Lidir in Vestfold Because his realm stood all
til Dofrafjalls ok Líðandisness. Áslaug svarar: Mörg langskip
to Dovrefell and Lindesnes Aslaug answers Many longships
máttu þér hafa gera látit með verði þessa knarra; vitu þér
could you have make had with (the)-price of-these knorrs know you
ok, at stórskipum er ekki gott at halda at Englandi sakir
also that with-great-ships is not good to hold to England because-of
straums og útgrynnis, ok er þetta ekki vitrlega ráðit. Enn
current and shoals and is this not wisely counseled But
alt at einu ferr Ragnarr konungr með þessum knörrum
all at one goes Ragnar king with these knorrs
vestr til Englands með fimm hundruð manna, ok brýtr bæði
west to England with five hundred of-men and wrecks both
skipin við England, enn sjálfr hann ok allr herr hans kom
the-ships on England but himself he and all army his came
heill á land; tekr hann nú at herja, hvar sem hann ferr.
whole on land takes he now to harry where as he goes

Ella overwhelms Ragnarr's army in England; iron will not bite Ragnarr's silk shirt, but he is taken and thrown into a serpent-pit, where the serpents strike once the shirt is stripped off. His sons' first attack fails, since Ívarr will not fight. Ívarr asks Ella for as much land as an ox-hide covers, cuts it into a thread, and founds York. He wins the chiefs over, his brothers come, and they carve the blood-eagle on Ella. They raid as far as Luna and divide the North; Sigurðr's grandson is Gormr.

Í þann tíma réð sá konungr fyri Norðhumbrulandi, er Ella
In that time ruled that king over Northumberland who Ella
hét; ok er hann spyrr, at herr er kominn í ríki
was-called and when he hears that an-army is come into realm
hans, þá samnar hann miklu liði, ok ferr móti honum með
his then gathers he great force and goes against it with
óvígan her, ok verðr þar orrusta mikil ok hörð. Ragnarr
unbeatable army and becomes there battle great and hard Ragnar
konungr var yzt í silkihjúp þeim, er Áslaug gaf honum
king was outermost in silk-jacket that which Aslaug gave him
at skilnaði; enn þvíat landherrinn var mikill, svá at ekki
at parting but because the-land-army was great so that not
mátti við haldast, þá fell nálega alt fólk hans, enn
might against(-it) hold then fell nearly all folk his but
hann gekk sjálfr vel fjórum sinnum í gegnum fylking Ellu
he went himself well four times in through (the)-array of-Ella
konungs, enn ekki járn festi á silkiskyrtu hans; varð hann
king but no iron fastened on silk-shirt his was he
um síðir handtekinn, ok settr í einn ormgarð, ok vildu
at last hand-taken and set in one serpent-pit and would
ormarnir ekki koma nær honum. Ella konungr sá, at hann
the-serpents not come near him Ella king saw that him
bitu eigi járn um daginn, er þeir börðust, ok nú vildu
bit not iron in the-day when they fought and now would

eigi ormarnir granda honum; þá lét hann fletta af honum
not the-serpents harm him then had he strip from him
klæði þat, er hann hafði yzt haft um daginn; ok
(the)-garment that which he had outermost had in the-day and
þegar hengu ormarnir á honum alla vega, ok lét hann
at-once hung the-serpents on him all ways and lost he
þar líf sitt með miklum hraustleik. Ok er synir Ragnars
there life his with great hardihood And when sons of-Ragnar
konungs spyrja þessi tíðendi, þá fara þeir vestr til Englands,
king hear these tidings then go they west to England
ok berjast við Ellu konung; ok af því, at Ívarr vildi eigi
and fight with Ella king and for that that Ivar would not
berjast ok ekki hans fólk, enn landherrinn var drjúgr, þá
fight and not his folk but the-land-army was overwhelming then
fengu þeir ósigr, ok fóru við svá búit heim til Danmarkar.
got they defeat and went with so done home to Denmark
Enn Ívarr var eftir í Englandi, ok fór á fund Ellu
But Ivar was behind in England and went to (the)-meeting of-Ella
konungs, ok beiddist af honum bóta fyri föður sinn. Ok
king and asked of him compensation for father his And
fyri því at Ella konungr sá, at Ívarr vildi eigi berjast með
for that that Ella king saw that Ivar would not fight with
brœðrum sínum í móti honum, þá þótti honum trúlegt
brothers his in against him then seemed to-him trustworthy
at gera sætt við hann. Ívarr bað konung gefa honum svá
to make settlement with him Ivar bade (the)-king give him so
mikit af landi í föðurgjöld, sem hann breiddi yfir ena mestu
much of land as father-payment as he spread over the greatest
öldungshúð, því at hann segir sér eigi vel munu
ox-hide because that he says (to)-himself not well will
frítt at fara heim fyri brœðrum sínum. Ellu þótti
(be)-peaceful to go home before brothers his To-Ella seemed

þetta eigi ótrúlegt, ok bundu þeir með þessu sætt sína.
this not untrustworthy and bound they with this settlement their
Tekr Ívarr nú húðina hráblauta, ok lætr þenja sem mest;
Takes Ivar now the-hide raw-soft and has (it)-stretch as most
ok síðan lætr hann rista húðina í enn mjóvasta streng,
and then has he cut the-hide into the narrowest string
ok klýfr síðan sér hvárt hárram ok holdrosu; síðan lætr
and splits then (it)-apart either hair-side and flesh-side then has
hann draga um einn sléttan völl, ok marka þar um utan
he (it)-draw about one smooth field and marks there about outside
grundvöll; hann reisir þar á sterka borgarveggi, og er sú
a-foundation he raises there on strong town-walls and is that
borg nú kölluð Jórvík. Hann vingaðist við alt landsfólk, ok
town now called York He made-friends with all land-folk and
mest við höfðingja, ok svá kom, at allir höfðingjar hétu
most with chieftains and so came that all chieftains promised
honum trúnaði ok brœðrum hans. Síðan sendir hann boð
him faith and brothers his Afterward sends he message
til brœðra sinna, ok segir, at þá er meiri ván at þeir
to brothers his and says that then is more hope that they
megi hefna föður síns, ef þeir koma með her til Englands.
may avenge father their if they come with army to England
Ok er þeir spyrja þat, bjóða þeir her út, ok halda til
And when they learn that call they army out and hold to
Englands. Ok er Ívarr verðr þess varr, ferr hann þegar
England And when Ivar becomes of-that aware goes he at-once
á fund Ellu konungs, ok segir, at hann vill eigi leyna
to (the)-meeting of-Ella king and says that he will not hide
hann slíkum tíðendum, enn segir, at hann má eigi berjast
him such tidings but says that he may not fight
móti brœðrum sínum, enn þó vill hann fara á fund
against brothers his but yet will he go to (the)-meeting

þeira, ok leita um sættir; konungr þiggr þetta. Kemr Ívarr
of-them and seek about settlements (the)-king accepts this Comes Ivar
á fund brœðra sinna, ok eggjar þá at hefna föður síns,
to (the)-meeting of-brothers his and urges them that avenge father their
ok ferr síðan aftr til Ellu konungs, ok segir, at þeir eru
and goes then back to Ella king and says that they are
svá ólmir ok óðir, at þeir vilja fyrir hvetvetna fram berjast.
so savage and mad that they will before everything forward fight
Konungi sýnist þetta enn mesti trúleikr, er Ívarr gerði; ferr
To-(the)-king seems this the greatest faithfulness which Ivar did goes
hann nú móti þeim brœðrum með sinn her. Ok er þeir
he now against them brothers with his army And when they
koma saman, þá snérust margir höfðingjar frá konunginum
come together then turned many chieftains from the-king
ok til Ívars; varð konungr þá borinn ofrliði, svá at
and to Ivar was (the)-king then borne by-overwhelming-force so that
mikill þorri liðs hans fell, enn sjálfr varð hann handtekinn.
great bulk of-force his fell but himself was he hand-taken
Ívarr ok þeir brœðr mintust nú, hversu faðir þeira var
Ivar and they brothers remembered now how father their was
píndr; létu þeir nú rísta örn á baki Ellu, ok skera
tortured had they now carve an-eagle on (the)-back of-Ella and cut

síðan rifin öll frá hrygginum með sverði, svá at þar vóru
then (the)-ribs all from the-spine with sword so that there were
lungun út dregin. Svá segir Sighvatr skáld í Knúts drápu:
the-lungs out drawn So says Sighvat (the)-poet in Knut's drapa

Ok Ellu bak
And Ella's back
at lét hinn er sat
at had he who sat
Ívarr ara
Ivar with-eagle
Jórvík skorit.
York carved

Eftir þessa orrostu gerðist Ívarr konungr yfir þeim hluta
After this battle became Ivar king over that part
Englands, sem hans frændr höfðu fyrri átt; hann átti þá tvá
of-England which his kinsmen had earlier owned he had then two
brœðr frilluborna; enn annarr hét Yngvarr, enn annarr
brothers concubine-born but one was-called Yngvar but (the)-other
Hústó; þeir pínuðu Játmund konung enn helga eftir boði
Husto they tortured Edmund king the holy after (the)-bidding
Ívars, ok lagði hann síðan undir sik hans ríki. Loðbrókar
of-Ivar and laid he then under himself his realm Lodbrok's
synir fóru um mörg lönd með hernaði: England ok Valland
sons went about many lands with raiding England and Valland
ok Frakkland, ok út um Lúmbarði: enn svá er sagt, at þar
and France and out about Lombardy but so is said that there
hafi þeir framast komit, er þeir unnu þá borg, er Lúna
have they farthest come when they won that town which Luna
heitir; ok um eina stund ætluðu þeir at fara til Rómaborgar
is-called and for one while intended they to go to Rome

ok vinna hana, og hefir þeira hernaðr frægstr verit um
and win it and has their raiding most-famous been throughout
öll norðrlönd af danskri tungu. Ok er þeir koma aftr í
all (the)-Northlands of Danish tongue And when they come back into
Danmörk í ríki sitt, þá skifta þeir löndum með sér: tók
Denmark into realm their then divide they lands among themselves took
Björn járnsíða Uppsala ríki ok alla Svíþjóð, ok þat, er þar
Bjorn Iron-Side Uppsala's realm and all Sweden and that which there
til heyrir; enn Sigurðr ormr í auga hafði Selund ok Skáni
to belongs but Sigurd Snake in Eye had Zealand and Scania
ok Halland, ok alla Víkina ok Agðir til Líðandisness, ok
and Halland and all the-Vik and Agdir to Lindesnes and
mikinn þorra af Upplöndum, enn Hvítserkr hafði Reiðgotaland
great bulk of Upplands but Hvitserk had Reidgotaland
ok Vindland. Sigurðr ormr í auga (átti) Blæju, dóttur Ellu
and Wendland Sigurd Snake in Eye had Blaeja daughter of-Ella
konungs; þeira son var Knútr, er kallaðr var Hörða-Knútr,
king their son was Knut who called was Horda-Knut
er ríki tók eftir föður sinn í Selund, Skáni ok Hallandi,
who realm took after father his in Zealand Scania and Halland
en Víkin hvarf þá undan honum; hann átti þann son,
but the-Vik turned then away-from him he had that son
er Gormr hét; hann var heitinn eftir fóstra hans, syni
who Gorm was-called he was named after foster-father his son
Knúts fundna; hann helt alt land af sonum Ragnars, meðan
of-Knut the-Found he held all land from sons of-Ragnar while
þeir vóru í hernaði. Gormr Knútsson var allra manna mestr
they were in raiding Gorm Knutsson was of-all men greatest
ok sterkastr, ok enn mesti atgervimaðr um alla hluti, enn
and strongest and the greatest man-of-accomplishment in all things but
ekki var hann svá vitr, sem verit höfðu enir fyrri frændr hans.
not was he so wise as been had the earlier kinsmen his

Gormr, grandson of Sigurðr Snake-in-Eye, marries Þyri Danmarkarbót and wins Jutland and much of Wendland. Ívarr the Boneless dies childless in England, where Aðalmundr and then Aðalbrigt rule. Gormr's sons Knútr and Haraldr bring a Danish army to England and win at Scarborough and York, but Knútr is shot while swimming between the ships. Gormr dies of grief the next day, and Haraldr, the first of his kin to be baptized, succeeds.

Gormr tók konungdóm eftir föður sinn; hann fekk Þyri, er
Gorm took kingship after father his he got Thyri who
kölluð var Danmarkarbót, dóttur Klakk-Haralds, er konungr
called was Denmark's-Mending daughter of-Klakk-Harald who king
var í Jútlandi; enn er Haraldr var andaðr, þá tók Gormr
was in Jutland but when Harald was dead then took Gorm
þat ríki alt undir sik. Gormr konungr fór með her yfir
that realm all under himself Gorm king went with army over
alt Jútland, ok eyddi öllum neskonungum alt suðr til Slés,
all Jutland and destroyed all headland-kings all south to Schlei
ok svá vann hann mikit af Vindlandi, ok margar orrostur
and so won he much of Wendland and many battles
átti hann við Saxa, ok gerðist hann enn ríkasti konungr;
had he with Saxons and became he the mightiest king
hann átti tvá syni; hét enn ellri Knútr, enn Haraldr enn
he had two sons was-called the elder Knut but Harald the
yngri. Knútr var allra þeira manna fegrstr, er menn hafa
younger Knut was of-all those men fairest whom men have
sét; konungr unni (honum) um fram hvern mann, ok þar
seen (the)-king loved him over beyond every man and there
með öll alþýða; hann var kallaðr Danaást. Haraldr
with all (the)-common-people he was called Danes'-Love Harald
líktist í móðurætt sína, ok unni móðir hans honum eigi
took-after into mother's-kin his and loved mother his him not

minna enn Knúti. Ívarr enn beinlausi var lengi konungr í
less than Knut Ivar the Boneless was long king in
Englandi; hann átti ekki barn, þvíat hann var svá skapaðr,
England he had no child because he was so made
at honum fylgdi engi girnd né ást, enn eigi skorti hann
that him followed no desire nor love but not lacked he
spekt eða grimd, ok varð hann ellidauðr á Englandi, ok var
wisdom or cruelty and became he old-age-dead in England and was
þar heygðr. Þá vóru allir Loðbrókar synir dauðir. Eftir Ívar
there mounded Then were all Lodbrok's sons dead After Ivar
tók konungdóm í Englandi Aðalmundr; hann var bróðurson
took kingship in England Adalmund he was brother's-son
Játmundar ens helga, ok kristnaði hann víða England; hann
of-Edmund the holy and christened he widely England he
tók skatta af Norðhumrulandi, þvíat þat var heiðit. Eftir
took tributes from Northumberland because it was heathen After
hann tók konungdóm son hans, er Aðalbrigt hét; hann
him took kingship son his who Adalbright was-called he
var góðr konungr ok varð gamall. Ofarlega á hans dögum
was good king and became old Late in his days
kom Danaherr til Englands, ok vóru formenn hersins
came (the)-Danes'-army to England and were leaders of-the-army
Knútr ok Haraldr, synir Gorms konungs; þeir lögðu undir
Knut and Harald sons of-Gorm king they laid under
sik mikit ríki í Norðhumrulandi, þat er Ívarr hafði
themselves great realm in Northumberland that which Ivar had
átt. Aðalbrigt konungr fór móti þeim, ok börðust þeir fyrir
owned Adalbright king went against them and fought they to
norðan Kliflönd, ok fell þar margt af Dönum; ok nokkuru
(the)-north-of Cleveland and fell there many of Danes and somewhat
síðar gengu Danir upp við Skarðaborg, ok börðust þar, ok
later went Danes up by Scarborough and fought there and

fengu sigr; síðan fóru þeir suðr til Jórvíkr, ok gekk þar
got victory then went they south to York and went there
undir þá alt fólk, ok ugðu þeir þá ekki at sér. Ok einn
under them all folk and feared they then nothing for themselves And one
dag, er heitt veðr var, fóru menn á sund; ok svá sem
day when hot weather was went men to swim and so as
konungssynir vóru á sundi millum skipanna, hlupu menn
(the)-king's-sons were in swimming between the-ships ran men
af landi ofan, ok skutu á þá; var þá Knútr lostinn öru
from land down and shot at them was then Knut struck with-arrow
til bana, ok tóku þeir líkit, ok fluttu út á skip. Ok er
to death and took they the-body and carried (it)-out onto ship And when
landsmenn spyrja þetta, samnast þeir saman, svá at síðan
land-men hear this gather they together so that afterward
fá Danir engar uppgöngur sakir samnaðar landsmanna, ok
get Danes no landings because-of (the)-gathering of-land-men and
fara síðan heim aftr til Danmarkar. Gormr konungr var þá
go then home back to Denmark Gorm king was then
á Jútlandi; ok er hann spurði þessi tíðendi, þá hné hann
in Jutland and when he heard these tidings then sank he
aftr, ok sprakk af harmi annan dag eftir at jamlengd;
back and burst from grief (the)-next day after at same-hour
þá tók konungdóm eftir hann yfir Danaveldi Haraldr,
then took kingship after him over (the)-Danes'-realm Harald
son hans; hann tók fyrstr trú ok skírn sinna ættmanna.
son his he took first faith and baptism of-his kinsmen

Sigurðr Snake-in-Eye falls in battle with the emperor Örnúlfr, and Áslaug speaks a verse when Helgi the Keen brings her the news. Helgi marries Sigurðr's daughter Áslaug; their son Sigurðr hjörtr, strongest of men, kills a berserk at twelve and rules Hringaríki. Háki Haðaberserkr kills him and carries off his children Ragnhildr and Guðormr. Hálfdan the Black's men snatch them away, Háki kills himself on his sword, and Hálfdan marries Ragnhildr, mother of Haraldr Fairhair.

Sigurðr ormr í auga ok Björn járnsíða ok Hvítserkr höfðu
Sigurd Snake in Eye and Bjorn Iron-Side and Hvitserk had
herjat víða um Frakkland; þá snéri Björn heim til ríkis síns.
harried widely about France then turned Bjorn home to realm his
Eftir þat barðist Örnúlfr keisari við þá brœðr, ok fell þá af
After that fought Arnulf emperor with them brothers and fell then of
Dönum ok Norðmönnum hundrað þúshundraða; þar fell þá
Danes and Norwegians hundred thousands there fell then
Sigurðr ormr í auga, ok Guðröðr hét annarr konungr,
Sigurd Snake in Eye and Gudrod was-called another king
er þar fell; hann var son Óláfs Hringssonar, Ingjaldssonar,
who there fell he was son of-Olaf Hringsson Ingjaldsson
Ingasonar, Hringssonar, er Hringaríki er við kent; hann var
Ingason Hringsson who Hringariki is after named he was
son Dags, ok Þóru drengjamóður; þau áttu níu syni, ok er
son of-Dag and Thora Warriors'-Mother they had nine sons and is
af þeim komin Döglinga ætt. Helgi hvassi hét, bróðir
from them come (the)-Doglings' kin Helgi the-Keen was-called (the)-brother
Guðröðar; hann hafði brott ór orrostunni merki Sigurðar
of-Gudrod he had away from the-battle (the)-banner of-Sigurd
orms í auga, ok sverð hans ok skjöld; hann fór heim
Snake in Eye and sword his and shield he went home

til Danmarkar með sínu liði, ok fann þar Áslaugu, móður
to Denmark with his force and found there Aslaug mother
Sigurðar, ok sagði henni tíðendin. Þá kvað Áslaug vísu:
of-Sigurd and told her the-tidings Then spoke Aslaug a-verse

Sitja veiði vitjar
Sit (the)-quarry visits
vals á borgar hálsum,
of-hawk on (the)-castle's ridges
böl er þat, hefir um hafnat
bane is that has — forsaken
hrafn Sigurðar nafni;
raven of-Sigurd namesake
blási nýti njótar
blow keen enjoyers
nás í spán at hánum,
of-corpse in shavings at him
ofsnemma lét Óðinn
too-early let Odin
álf valmeyjar deyja.
elf of-slain-maiden die

Enn af því, at Hörða-Knútr var ungr, þá var Helgi þar
But for that that Horda-Knut was young then was Helgi there
með Áslaugu lengi til landvarnar. Sigurðr ok Blæja áttu
with Aslaug long for land-defense Sigurd and Blaeja had
dóttur; hun var tvíbura við Hörða-Knút; Áslaug gaf henni
a-daughter she was twin with Horda-Knut Aslaug gave her
nafn sitt, ok fœddi hana upp síðan ok fóstraði; hana fekk
name her and fed her up afterward and fostered her got
síðan Helgi hvassi; þeira son var Sigurðr hjörtr; hann
afterward Helgi the-Keen their son was Sigurd Hart he

var allra þeira manna fríðastr ok mestr ok sterkastr, er
was of-all those men fairest and greatest and strongest whom
menn höfðu sét. Þeir vóru jafngamlir Gormr Knútsson ok
men had seen They were equally-old Gorm Knutsson and
Sigurðr hjörtr. Enn er Sigurðr var tólf vetra, þá drap
Sigurd Hart But when Sigurd was twelve winters then killed
hann berserk þann í einvígi, er Hildibrandr hét, ok
he berserk that in single-combat who Hildibrand was-called and
þá tólf saman; eftir þat gifti Klakk-Haraldr honum dóttur
then twelve together after that married Klakk-Harald to-him daughter
sína, er Ingibjörg hét; þau áttu tvau börn: Guðorm ok
his who Ingibjorg was-called they had two children Guthorm and
Ragnhildi. Þá spurði Sigurðr, at Fróði konungr, föðurbróðir
Ragnhild Then heard Sigurd that Frodi king father's-brother
hans, var dauðr; fór hann þá norðr til Noregs, ok gerðist
his was dead went he then north to Norway and became
konungr yfir Hringaríki, ættleifð sinni; frá honum er löng
king over Hringariki inheritance his of him is long
saga, þvíat hann vann margskyns þrekvirki. Enn þat er
saga because he did many-kinds-of feats-of-strength But that is
at segja frá lífláti hans, at hann reið út á eyðimerkr
to say of (the)-death of-him that he rode out into wastelands
at veiða dýr, sem vandi hans var til, ok kom þar móti
to hunt beasts as wont his was to and came there against
honum Háki Haðaberserkr með þrjá tigu manna alvápnaðra,
him Haki Hadaland-Berserk with three tens of-men full-armed
ok barðist við hann; þar fell Sigurðr; ok hafði drepit áðr
and fought with him there fell Sigurd and had killed before
tólf menn, enn Háki konungr hafði látit hönd sína hœgri,
twelve men but Haki king had lost hand his right
ok hafði þó þrjú sár önnur. Eftir þat reið Háki konungr
and had yet three wounds other After that rode Haki king

með sínum mönnum á Hringaríki til Steins, sem bú
with his men to Hringariki to Stein where (the)-farm
Sigurðar var, ok tók brott Ragnhildi, dóttur hans, ok son
of-Sigurd was and took away Ragnhild daughter his and son
hans Guðorm ok mikit góðs annat, ok flutti heim með
his Guthorm and much of-goods other and carried (them)-home with
sér á Haðaland; ok litlu síðar lét hann efna til veizlu
him to Hadaland and little later had he prepare for feast
mikillar, ok ætlaði at gera brullaup sitt, enn þat dvaldist,
great and intended to make wedding his but that was-delayed
þvíat sár hans höfðust illa. Ragnhildr var þá fimtán vetra
because wounds his healed ill Ragnhild was then fifteen winters
gömul, enn Guðormr fjórtán vetra. Leið svá haustit ok
old but Guthorm fourteen winters Passed so the-autumn and
vetrinn fram um jól, at Háki lá í sárum. Þá var Hálfdan
the-winter forth about Yule that Haki lay in wounds Then was Halfdan
konungr svarti á Heiðmörk at búum sínum; hann sendi
king the-Black in Heidmork at farms his he sent
Hárek gand, ok með honum hundrað manna, ok fóru þeir
Harek Wand and with him hundred men and went they
yfir um ís á Mjörs á Haðaland á einni nótt ok kómu
over across ice on Mjosa into Hadaland in one night and came
í dagan á bœ Háka konungs, ok tóku allar dyr á
at dawn to (the)-farm of-Haki king and took all doors on
þeim skála, er hirðmenn sváfu í; ok síðan gengu þeir til
that hall which retainers slept in and then went they to
svefnskemmu Háka konungs, ok tóku Ragnhildi ok Guðorm,
(the)-sleeping-bower of-Haki king and took Ragnhild and Guthorm
bróður hennar, ok alt þat fé, er þar var, ok hafa brott
brother her and all that wealth which there was and have (it)-off
með sér þaðan, ok brendu skálann, ok þar inni í alla
with them thence and burned the-hall and there inside in all

hirðmenn, ok fara síðan brott. Enn Háki konungr stóð upp
retainers and go then away But Haki king stood up
ok klæddi sik, ok gekk eftir þeim um hríð; ok er hann
and clothed himself and went after them for while and when he
kom at vatns ísinum, þá snöri hann niðr hjöltunum á
came to (the)-water's ice then turned he down the-hilt on
sverðinu, ok lagðist á blóðrefilinn, ok fekk þar bana, ok
the-sword and threw-himself on the-blood-groove and got there death and
er þar heygðr á vatns bakkanum. Hálfdan konungr sá,
is there mounded on (the)-water's bank Halfdan king saw
at þeir óku yfir ísinn með vagn tjaldaðan, ok þóttist
that they drove over the-ice with wagon covered and thought-himself
vita, at þeira erindi mundi orðit hafa slíkt sem hann vildi;
know that their errand would become have such as he wished
lét hann þá senda boð um alla bygð, ok bauð til
had he then send message about all (the)-settlement and bade to
öllu stórmenni á Heiðmörk, ok gerði þann dag mikla veizlu;
all great-men in Heidmork and made that day great feast
gerði hann þá brullaup til Ragnhildar, ok vóru þau saman
made he then wedding to Ragnhild and were they together
síðan marga daga. Þeira son var Haraldr konungr enn
afterward many days Their son was Harald king the
hárfagri, er fyrstr varð einvaldskonungr yfir öllum Noregi.
Fair-Haired who first became sole-king over all Norway

Norna-Gests þáttr

The Tale of Norna-Gest

A stranger who calls himself Gestr comes to King Óláfr Tryggvason in Þrándheimr and is given lodging. In the night the king, awake at his prayers, sees an elf pass through the locked room and stop at Gestr's bed, remarking on the strong lock before an empty house. Gestr is prime-signed but unbaptized. He plays the harp and tells tales, says he left Denmark before Otto forced it to Christianity, and wins men's liking.

Svá er sagt, at á einum tíma, þá er Óláfr konungr
So is said that at one time then when Olaf king
(Tryggvason) sat í Þrándheimi, bar svá til, at einn maðr
Tryggvason sat in Trondheim befell so to that one man
kom til hans at áliðnum degi, ok kvaddi hann sœmilega.
came to him at late-passed day and greeted him becomingly
Konungr tók honum vel ok spurði, hverr hann væri; enn
(The)-king took him well and asked who he were but
hann sagðist Gestr heita. Konungr svarar: Gestr muntu
he said-of-himself Gest be-called (The)-king answers Guest wilt-thou
hér vera, hversu sem þú heitir. Gestr segir: Satt segi ek
here be however as thou art-called Gest says Truly say I
þér til nafns míns, herra, enn gjarna vilda ek at yðr
to-thee of name my lord but gladly would I that from-you
gisting þiggja, ef kostr væri. Konungr sagði honum þat
lodging accept if choice were (The)-king said to-him that
til reiðu vera. Enn með því at áliðinn var dagrinn, vildi
to readiness be But with that that late-passed was the-day would
konungr ekki tala við gestinn, þvíat hann gekk þá skjótt
(the)-king not talk with the-guest because he went then quickly
til aftansöngs ok síðan til borðs, ok þá til náða. Ok á
to evensong and then to table and then to rest And in
þeiri sömu nótt vakti Óláfr konungr í sæng sinni, ok las
that same night woke Olaf king in bed his and read

bœnir sínar, enn aðrir menn sváfu í því herbergi. Þá þótti
prayers his but other men slept in that room Then seemed
konungi einn álfr eða andi nokkur koma inn í húsit, ok
to-(the)-king one elf or spirit some come in into the-house and
þá at luktum dyrum öllum; hann kom fyri rekkju hvers
then at locked doors all he came before (the)-bed of-each
manns, er þar svaf, ok at lyktum kom hann til sængr
man who there slept and at last came he to (the)-bed
eins manns, er þar var utarlega. Þá mælti álfrinn, ok nam
of-one man who there was farthest-out Then spoke the-elf and took
staðar: Furðu sterkr lás er hér fyrir tómu húsi, ok er
stand Wondrously strong lock is here before empty house and is
konungr eigi jafnvíss um slíkt, sem aðrir láta, at hann
(the)-king not as-wise about such as others make-out that he
sé allra manna spakastr, er hann sefr nú svá fast; eftir
be of-all men wisest when he sleeps now so fast after
þat hverfr sá í burt at luktum dyrum. Enn snemma um
that turns he off away at locked doors But early in
morgininn eftir sendi konungr skósvein sinn at verða víss,
the-morning after sent (the)-king page his to become aware
hverr þá sæng hefði bygt um nóttina, ok prófaðist svá, at
who that bed had occupied in the-night and was-proved so that
þar hafði legit gestrinn. Konungr lét kalla hann fyri sik,
there had lain the-guest (The)-king had call him before himself
ok spurði, hverr hann væri; enn hann svarar: Þórðr hét
and asked who he were but he answers Thord was-called
faðir minn, ok var kallaðr þingbítr, danskr at kyni; hann bjó
father my and was called Thing-Biter Danish by kin he dwelt
á þeim bœ í Danmörk, er Grœningr heitir. Þriflegr maðr
at that farm in Denmark which Groening is-called Thriving man
ertu, segir konungr. Gestr sjá var djarfr í orðum, ok meiri
art-thou says (the)-king Gest this was bold in words and greater

enn flestir menn aðrir, sterklegr ok nokkut hniginn á efra
than most men other strong-looking and somewhat sunk into higher
aldr; hann biðr konung at dveljast þá lengr hjá hirðinni.
age he asks (the)-king that to-stay then longer with the-court
Konungr spurði, ef hann væri skírðr. Gestr lézt vera
(The)-king asked if he were baptized Gest professed (to)-be
prímsignðr, enn eigi skírðr. Konungr sagði honum heimilt,
prime-signed but not baptized (The)-king said to-him permitted
at vera með hirðinni; enn skamma stund muntu með oss
to be with the-court but short while wilt-thou with us
vera óskírðr. Enn því hafði álfrinn svá til orðs tekit um
be unbaptized But therefore had the-elf so to words taken about
lásinn, at Gestr signdi sik um kveldit, sem aðrir menn,
the-lock that Gest signed himself in the-evening as other men
enn var þó reyndar heiðinn. Konungr mælti: Ertu nokkurr
but was yet in-truth heathen (The)-king spoke Art-thou any
íþróttamaðr? Hann kvaðst leika hörpu eðr segja sögur,
man-of-accomplishments He said-of-himself play harp or tell tales
svá at gaman þœtti at. Konungr segir: Illa gerir Sveinn
so that sport seemed to(-it) (The)-king says Ill does Svein
konungr þat, at hann lætr óskírða menn fara ór ríki sínu
king that that he lets unbaptized men go from realm his
landa á meðal. Gestr segir: Ekki er þat Dana konungi
of-lands in between Gest says Not is that to-(the)-Danes' king
at kenna, þvíat miklu fyrr fór ek burt ór Danmörk, enn
to charge because much earlier went I away from Denmark than
Otta keisari lét brenna Danavirki ok kúgaði Harald konung
Otto emperor had burn Danevirke and forced Harald king
Gomsson ok Hákon blótjarl at taka við kristni. Margra
Gormsson and Hakon Sacrifice-Earl to take to Christianity Many
hluta spurði konungr Gest, enn hann leysti flest vel ok
things asked (the)-king Gest but he solved most well and

vitrlega. Svá segja menn, at Gestr þessi kœmi á þriðja ári
wisely So say men that Gest this came in (the)-third year
ríkis Óláfs konungs; á því ári kómu ok til hans tveir
of-(the)-reign of-Olaf king in that year came also to him two
menn, er Grímar hétu, ok vóru sendir af Goðmundi af
men who Grimar were-called and were sent from Godmund of
Glasisvöllum; þeir fœrðu konungi horn tvau, er Goðmundr
Glasisvellir they brought to-(the)-king horns two which Godmund
gaf honum; þau kölluðu þeir ok Gríma; þeir höfðu ok
gave him those called they also Grimar they had also
fleiri eyrendi til konungs, sem síðar mun sagt verða. Nú er
more errands to (the)-king as later will told be Now is
at segja, at Gestr dvaldist með konungi; er honum skipat
to say that Gest stayed with (the)-king was to-him placed
utar frá gestum; hann var siðsamr maðr ok vel látinn;
farther-out from guests he was well-mannered man and well liked
var hann ok þokkasamr af flestum mönnum, ok virðist vel.
was he and well-favored by most men and was-esteemed well

II · THE RING HNITUÐR

Úlfr the Red gives King Óláfr the gold ring Hnituðr, once King Hálfr's. Passed round the hall, it is praised by all except Gestr, who barely glances at it. The king's men wager four marks of silver against his knife and belt that he has never seen gold as good, and the king is to judge. That evening Gestr plays the harp, and last of all he plays the old Guðrúnarbrögð, which no one had heard before.

Litlu fyri jól kom Úlfr enn rauði heim ok sveit manna með
Little before Yule came Ulf the Red home and band of-men with
honum; hann hafði verit um sumarit í konungs eyrendum,
him he had been in the-summer on (the)-king's errands

þvíat hann var settr til landsgæzlu um haustit í Víkinni
because he was set to land-guarding in the-autumn in the-Vik
við áhlaupum Dana; var hann jafnan vanr at vera með
against onslaughts of-Danes was he always wont to be with
Óláfi konungi um hávetr. Úlfr hafði átt at færa konungi
Olaf king in high-winter Ulf had had to bring to-(the)-king
marga góða gripi, er hann hafði aflat um sumarit, ok
many good treasures which he had gotten in the-summer and
einn gullhring hafði hann aflat, er Hnituðr hét; hann
one gold-ring had he gotten which Hnitud was-called it
var hnitaðr saman í sjau stöðum, ok var með sínum lit
was knitted together in seven places and was with its-own color
hverr hlutrinn; miklu var hann gullbetri enn aðrir hringar.
each the-piece much was it gold-better than other rings
Þann hring hafði gefit Úlfi bóndi einn, er Loðmundr
That ring had given to-Ulf farmer one who Lodmund
hét, enn þenna hring hafði átt áðr Hálfr konungr, er
was-called but this ring had owned before Half king whom
Hálfsrekkar eru frá komnir ok við kendir, er þeir höfðu
Half's-Champions are from come and after named which they had
kúgat fé af Hálfdani konungi í Ylfing; enn Loðmundr
forced wealth from Halfdan king in Ylfing but Lodmund
beiddi Úlf í móti, at hann mundi halda bœnum fyrir
asked Ulf in return that he would hold the-farm for
honum með fulltingi Ólafs konungs; Úlfr játaði því. Heldr
him with (the)-help of-Olaf king Ulf granted that Holds
konungr nú ríkulega jól sín, ok sitr í Þrándheimi. Enn
(the)-king now richly Yule his and sits in Trondheim But
enn átta dag jóla gefr Úlfr enn rauði hringinn Hnituð
the eighth day of-Yule gives Ulf the Red the-ring Hnitud
Óláfi konungi. Konungr þakkar honum gjöfina, ok alla sína
to-Olaf king (The)-king thanks him (for)-the-gift and all his

trúlynda þjónustu, er hann hafði jafnan veitt honum. Ferr
faithful service which he had always given him Goes
þessi hringrinn víða um herbergit, þar er menn drukku
this the-ring widely about the-room there where men drank
inni, þvíat þá vóru enn eigi hallir smíðaðar í þann tíma
inside because then were yet not halls built in that time
í Noregi; sýnir nú hverr öðrum, ok þykkjast menn eigi
in Norway shows now each to-other and think men not
sét hafa jafngott gull, sem í hringnum var; ok at lyktum
seen have equally-good gold as in the-ring was and at last
kemr hann á gestabekk, ok svá fyri Gest enn nýkomna;
comes it to (the)-guest-bench and so before Gest the newly-come
hann lítr á, ok selr aftr hringinn yfir þvera höndina
he looks at(-it) and hands back the-ring over across the-hand
þá, er hann hélt áðr á horninu; finst honum fátt um,
that which he held before on the-horn finds to-him little about(-it)
ok talar ekki til þessa gripar, enn hefir gamanrœður sem
and talks not of this treasure but has jesting-talk as
áðr við sína félaga. Enn herbergis sveinn skenkti utar á
before with his fellows But (the)-room's page poured farther-out on
gestabekkinn. Hann spyrr: Lízt yðr vel á hringinn? Allvel,
the-guest-bench He asks Looks to-you well on the-ring Very-well
sögðu þeir, utan Gesti enum nýkomna, honum finst ekki
said they except Gest the newly-come to-him finds nothing
til, ok hyggjum vér, at hann kunni ekki til at sjá, er
to(-it) and think we that he knows nothing to(-it) to see since
hann ansar engu til um slíka hluti. Herbergis sveinninn
he answers nothing to about such things (The)-room's page
gengr innar fyrir konung, ok segir honum þessi en sömu
goes farther-in before (the)-king and tells him these the same
orð gestanna, ok þessi enn nýkomni gestr, hversu at hann
words of-the-guests and this the newly-come guest how that he

ansaði lítt til þessa gripar, er honum var sýnd slík gersemi.
answered little to this treasure which to-him was shown such treasure
Konungr kvað Gest enn nýkomna fleira vita mundu enn
(The)-king said Gest the newly-come more know would than
þeir ætluðu: ok skal hann koma til mín á morgin, ok segja
they thought and shall he come to me on morrow and tell
mér nokkura sögu. Nú talast þeir við gestirnir utar á
me some tale Now talk they together the-guests farther-out on
bekkinn; þeir spyrja enn nýkomna gest, hvar hann hefir sét
the-bench they ask the newly-come guest where he has seen
jafngott gull eðr hring, eða betra. Gestr segir: Með því,
equally-good gold or ring or better Gest says With that
at yðr þykkir ek svá fátt til tala, þá hefir ek víst sét
that to-you seems I so little to talk then have I surely seen
þat gull, at engum mun er verra, nema betra sýnist. Nú
that gold that by-no difference is worse except better seems Now
hlæja konungsmenn mjök, ok segja at þar horfi til gamans
laugh (the)-king's-men much and say that there turn to sport
mikils: ok muntu vilja veðja við oss, at þú hafir sét
great and wilt-thou wish wager with us that thou have seen
jafngott gull, sem þetta, svá at þú megir þat sanna; skulu
equally-good gold as this so that thou may that prove shall
vér við setja fjórar merkr gagnsilfrs, enn þú knif þinn
we against(-it) set four marks of-current-silver but thou knife thy
ok belti, ok skal konungr um segja, hvárir sannara hafa.
and belt and shall (the)-king about(-it) say which truer have
Gestr svarar þá: Eigi skal hvárttveggja gera, at vera í kalsi
Gest answers then Not shall both do to be in mockery
með yðr, enda halda eigi ummæli þau, sem þér bjóðið, ok
with you and hold not terms those as you offer and
skal víst veðja hér um, ok svá mikit við leggja, sem
shall surely wager here about and as much against(-it) lay as

þér hafið um mælt, enn konungr skal um segja, hvárir
you have about spoken but (the)-king shall about(-it) say which
sannara hafa; hætta þeir þá sínu tali. Tekr Gestr þá hörpu
truer have cease they then their talk Takes Gest then harp
sína, ok slær vel ok lengi um kveldit, svá at öllum þykkir
his and strikes well and long in the-evening so that to-all seems
unat í á at heyra, ok slær þó Gunnarsslag bezt; ok at
delight in on to hear and strikes yet Gunnar's-Tune best and at
lyktum slær hann Guðrúnarbrögð en fornu, þau höfðu menn
last strikes he Gudrun's-Wiles the old those had men
eigi fyrr heyrt; ok eftir þat sváfu menn af um nóttina.
not before heard and after that slept men off through the-night

III · GESTR WINS THE WAGER

Gestr holds the men to their wager. He takes from his purse a piece of a saddle-buckle, and the king judges it better gold than Hnituðr. Gestr refuses the stake, warning them not to bet with strangers, and the king presses him to tell where he got the gold. Gestr says the tale will seem unbelievable, and that once he tells it the king will want another.

Konungr stendr snemma upp um morguninn, ok hlýddi
(The)-king stands early up in the-morning and heard
tíðum; ok er þeim var lokit, gengr konungr til borðs
hours and when they were finished goes (the)-king to table
með hirð sinni; ok er hann er kominn í hásæti, gengr
with court his and when he is come into high-seat goes
gestasveitin innar fyri konung, ok Gestr með þeim, ok
(the)-guests'-band farther-in before (the)-king and Gest with them and
segja honum sín ummæli öll ok veðjan þá, sem þeir höfðu
tell him their terms all and wagering that which they had

haft áðr. Konungr segir: Lítit er mér um veðjan yðra, þó
had before (The)-king says Little is to-me about wagering your though
at þér leggið peninga yðra við Gest; get ek þess til,
that you lay money your against Gest guess I that to
at yðr hafi drykkr í höfuð fengit, ok þykki mér ráð,
that to-you have drink into head gotten and seems to-me counsel
at þér hafit at engu, allra helzt ef Gesti þykkir svá betr.
that you hold(-it) at nothing all-the most if to-Gest seems so better
Gestr segir: Þat vil ek, at haldist öll ummæli vor. Konungr
Gest says That wish I that hold all terms our (The)-king
mælti: Svá lízt mér á þik, Gestr, at mínir menn muni hafa
spoke So seems to-me on thee Gest that my men will have
mælt sik í þaular um þetta mál meir enn þú, enn
talked themselves into straits about this matter more than thou but
þó mun þat nú skjótt reynt verða. Eftir þat gengu þeir í
yet will that now quickly tested become After that went they off
burt ok fóru at drekka; ok er drykkjuborð vóru upp tekin,
away and went to drink and when drinking-tables were up taken
lætr konungr kalla Gest, ok talar svá til hans: Nú verðr
has (the)-king call Gest and talks so to him Now becomes
þú skyldr til, at bera fram gull nokkut, ef þú hefir til,
thou bound to to bear forth gold some if thou hast to(-it)
svá at ek megi segja um veðjan yðra. Þat munu þér vilja,
so that I may say about wagering your That will you wish
herra, segir Gestr; hann þreifar þá til sjóðs eins, er hann
lord says Gest he gropes then to purse one which he
hafði við sik, ok tók þar upp eitt knýti, ok leysir til, ok
had with him and took there up one knot and loosens (it)-up and
fær í hendr konungi. Konungr sér, at þetta er brotit af
gives into hands to-(the)-king (The)-king sees that this is broken from
söðulhringju, ok sér, at þetta er allgott gull: hann biðr þá
saddle-buckle and sees that this is very-good gold he bids then

taka hringinn Hnituð, ok svá var gert; berr konungr saman
take the-ring Hnitud and so was done bears (the)-king together
gullit ok hringinn ok mælti: Víst lízt mér þetta betra
the-gold and the-ring and spoke Surely seems to-me this better
gull, er Gestr hefir fram borit, ok svá mun lítast fleirum
gold which Gest has forth borne and so will seem to-more
mönnum, þótt sjái: sönnuðu þetta þá margir menn með
men though (they)-see proved this then many men with
konungi; síðan sagði hann Gesti veðféit, þóttust gestirnir
(the)-king then said he to-Gest the-stake thought-themselves the-guests
þá ósvinnir vorðnir um þetta mál. Gestr mælti þá: Takið
then unwise become about this matter Gest spoke then Take-ye
fé yðvart sjálfir, þvíat ek þarf eigi at hafa, enn veðit ekki
wealth your yourselves because I need not to have but wager not
oftar við ókunna menn, þvíat eigi viti þér, hvar þér hittið
oftener with unknown men because not know you where you meet
þann fyrir, at bæði hefir fleira heyrt ok sét enn þér;
that-one before that both has more heard and seen than you
enn þakka vil ek yðr, herra, órskurðinn. Konungr mælti þá:
but thank will I you lord (for)-the-ruling (The)-king spoke then
Nú vil ek at þú segir, hvaðan þú fekst gull þetta, er
Now wish I that thou say whence thou gottest gold this which
þú ferr með. Gestr svarar: Trauðr em ek til þess, þvíat
thou goest with Gest answers Loath am I to that because
þat mun flestum þykkja ótrúlegt, er ek segi þar til. Þó
that will to-most seem unbelievable which I say there to Yet
viljum vér heyra, segir konungr, með því at þú hefir oss
will we hear says (the)-king with that that thou hast us
heitit sögu þinni. Gestr svarar: Ef ek segi yðr, hversu farit
promised tale thy Gest answers If I tell you how gone

er um gullit, þá get ek, at þér vilið heyra aðra sögu hér
is about the-gold then guess I that you will hear other tale here
með. Vera má þat, segir konungr, at rétt getir þú þessa.
with Be may that says (the)-king that right guess thou this

IV · GESTR SERVES SIGURÐR

Gestr says he went south to Frankland to see King Hálfrekr, at whose court Sigurðr Sigmundarson was growing up, the greatest of Sigmundr's sons. Reginn, a dwarf in stature, wise, grim, and skilled in magic, taught Sigurðr and loved him. Gestr became one of Sigurðr's serving-men, and all loved Sigurðr for his gentleness and generosity.

Þá mun ek segja frá því, er ek fór suðr í Frakkland; vilda
Then will I tell of that when I went south into France would
ek forvitnast um konungs siðu, ok mikit ágæti, er fór frá
I learn about king's customs and great renown which went from
Sigurði Sigmundarsyni um vænleik hans ok þroska. Varð þá
Sigurd Sigmundarson about fairness his and growth Became then
ekki til tíðenda, fyrr enn ek kom til Frakklands, ok til móts
nothing to tidings before than I came to France and to meeting
við Hálfrek konung; hann hafði mikla hirð um sik. Þar
with Halfrek king he had great court about himself There
var þá Sigurðr Sigmundarson, Völsungssonar, ok Hjördísar
was then Sigurd Sigmundarson of-Volsungsson and of-Hjordis
Eylimadóttur. Sigmundr fell í orrostu fyrir Hundings sonum,
Eylimi's-daughter Sigmund fell in battle before Hunding's sons
enn Hjördís giftist Hálfi, syni Hálfreks konungs. Vex
but Hjordis was-married to-Half son of-Halfrek king Grows
Sigurðr þar upp í barnœsku, ok allir synir Sigmundar
Sigurd there up in childhood and all sons of-Sigmund

konungs; vóru þeir um fram alla menn um afl ok vöxt,
king were they over beyond all men in strength and growth
Sinfjötli ok Helgi, er drap Hunding konung, ok því var
Sinfjotli and Helgi who killed Hunding king and therefore was
hann Hundingsbani kallaðr; þriði hét Hámundr; Sigurðr
he Hunding's-Bane called (the)-third was-called Hamund Sigurd
var þó allra þeira brœðra framastr; er mönnum þat ok kunnigt,
was yet of-all those brothers foremost is to-men that also known
at Sigurðr hefir verit allra göfgastr herkonunga, ok bezt at
that Sigurd has been of-all noblest of-war-kings and best at
sér í fornum siðum. Þá var ok kominn til Hálfreks konungs
himself in old customs Then was also come to Halfrek king
Reginn, son Hreiðmars; hann var hverjum manni hagari ok
Regin son of-Hreidmar he was than-every man handier and
dvergr á vöxt, vitr maðr, grimmr ok fjölkunnigr. Reginn
dwarf in growth wise man grim and much-knowing-in-magic Regin
kendi Sigurði margt ok elskaði hann mjök. Hann segir þá frá
taught Sigurd much and loved him much He tells then of
forellri sínu, ok svá atburðum undarlegum: ok er ek hafða
ancestry his and so happenings strange and when I had
skamma stund þar verit, gerðumst ek þjónustumaðr Sigurðar,
short while there been became I serving-man of-Sigurd
ok margir menn aðrir þjóna honum. Allir elskuðu hann mjök,
and many men other serve him All loved him much
þvíat hann var bæði blíðr ok lítillátr ok ör af fé við oss.
because he was both gentle and humble and free with wealth toward us

Reginn welcomes Sigurðr in verse and forges him the sword Gramr, which cuts a tuft of wool drifting down the Rhine and cleaves Reginn's anvil. Reginn urges him to kill Fáfnir, but Sigurðr answers in a verse that his father must first be avenged on Hundingr's sons. Hálfrekr gives him men and ships; Gestr goes with them, and here he is first called Norna-Gestr.

Þat var einn dag, at vér Sigurðr kómum til húsa Regins,
That was one day that we Sigurd came to (the)-houses of-Regin
ok var Sigurði vel fagnat. Þá kvað Reginn vísu þessa:
and was Sigurd well welcomed Then spoke Regin verse this

Kominn er hingat
Come is hither
konr Sigmundar,
kinsman of-Sigmund
seggr enn snarráði,
man the swift-counseled
til sala várra;
to halls our
móð hefir mein,
courage has harm
enn maðr gamall,
than man old
ok er mér fangs ván
and is to-me of-catch hope
at frekum úlfi.
from greedy wolf

Ok enn kvað hann:
And again spoke he

Ek man fœða
I will rear
fólkdjarfan gram;
host-bold king
nú er Yngva konr
now is Yngvi's kinsman
með oss kominn;
with us come
sjá man ræsir
this will prince
ríkstr und sólu,
mightiest under sun
frægr um lönd öll
famous through lands all
af lofi sínu.
from praise his

Sigurðr var þá jafnan með Reginn, ok hann sagði honum
Sigurd was then always with Regin and he told him
margt af Fáfni, er hann lá á Gnitaheiði í orms líki, ok at
much of Fafnir that he lay on Gnitaheid in serpent's likeness and that
hann var undarlega mikill vexti. Reginn gerði Sigurði sverð
he was wondrously great in-growth Regin made for-Sigurd sword
þat, er Gramr hét; þat var svá snarpeggjat, at hann
that which Gram was-called it was so keen-edged that he
brá því í ána Rín, ok lét reka ofan at ullarlagð fyrir
drew it into the-river Rhine and let drift down at a-wool-tuft before
strauminum, ok tók í sundr lagðinn sem vatnit; síðan klauf
the-stream and took in asunder the-tuft as the-water then clove

Sigurðr steðja Regins með sverðinu. Eftir þat eggjaði Reginn
Sigurd (the)-anvil of-Regin with the-sword After that urged Regin
Sigurð, at drepa Fáfni bróður sinn. Sigurðr kvað þá vísu:
Sigurd to kill Fafnir brother his Sigurd spoke then a-verse

Hátt munu hlæja
Loud will laugh
Hundings synir,
Hunding's sons
þeir er Eylima
they who Eylimi
aldrs vörnuðu,
of-life denied
ef meir tiggja
if more (the)-prince
munar at sœkja
desires to seek
hringa rauða
rings red
enn hefnd föður.
than vengeance of-father

Eftir þetta býr Sigurðr ferð sína, ok ætlar at herja á
After this prepares Sigurd journey his and intends to harry on
Hundings sonu, ok fekk Hálfrekr honum margt lið ok
Hunding's sons and gave Halfrek him much force and
nokkur herskip. Í þeirri ferð var með Sigurði Hámundr
some warships In that journey was with Sigurd Hamund
bróðir hans ok Reginn; ek var ok þar, ok kölluðu þeir mik
brother his and Regin I was also there and called they me
þá Norna-Gest. Var Hálfreki konungi kunnleiki á mér, þá
then Norna-Gest Was to-Halfrek king acquaintance with me then

er hann var í Danmörku með Sigmundi Völsungssyni. Þá
when he was in Denmark with Sigmund Volsungsson Then
átti Sigmundr Borghildi ok skildu þau svá, at Borghildr drap
had Sigmund Borghild and parted they so that Borghild killed
Sinfjötla son Sigmundar með eitri. Síðan fekk Sigmundr
Sinfjotli son of-Sigmund with poison Afterward got Sigmund
suðr í Frakklandi Hjördísar dóttur Eylima, er Hundings
south in France Hjordis daughter of-Eylimi whom Hunding's
synir drápu, ok átti Sigurðr bæði at hefna föður síns ok
sons killed and had Sigurd both to avenge father his and
móðurföður. Helgi Sigmundarson, er Hundingsbani var kallaðr,
mother's-father Helgi Sigmundarson who Hunding's-Bane was called
var bróðir Sigurðar, er síðan var kallaðr Fáfnisbani. Helgi,
was brother of-Sigurd who afterward was called Fafnir's-Bane Helgi
bróðir Sigurðar, hafði drepit Hunding konung ok sonu hans
brother of-Sigurd had killed Hunding king and sons his
þrjá, Eyjólf, Herruð ok Hjörvarð; Lyngvi komst undan ok
three Eyjolf Herrud and Hjorvard Lyngvi got away and
tveir brœðr hans, Álfr ok Hemingr; vóru þeir enir frægustu
two brothers his Alf and Heming were they the most-famous
menn um alla atgervi, ok var Lyngvi fyrir þeim brœðrum;
men in all accomplishment and was Lyngvi before them brothers
þeir vóru mjök fjölkunnigir; þeir höfðu kúgat marga
they were very much-knowing-in-magic they had forced many
smákonunga ok marga kappa drepit, ok margar borgir brent,
small-kings and many champions killed and many towns burned
ok gerðu et mesta hervirki í Spánlandi ok Frakklandi, enn
and did the greatest war-havoc in Spain and France but
þá var eigi keisararíki komit norðr hingat yfir fjallit.
then was not (the)-emperor's-realm come north hither over the-mountain

Hundings synir höfðu tekit undir sik þat ríki, er átt
Hunding's sons had taken under themselves that realm which owned
hafði Sigurðr í Frakklandi, ok vóru þeir þar mjök fjölmennir.
had Sigurd in France and were they there very numerous

VI · HNIKARR AND THE BATTLE WITH HUNDINGR'S SONS

A witch-storm, which many blame on Hundingr's sons, drives the ships toward land, where a man in a green cloak hails them from a crag. Taken aboard as Hnikarr, he calms the wind and tells Sigurðr in verse the good omens for battle. Sigurðr defeats Hundingr's sons and takes Lyngvi captive; the cloaked man, held to be Óðinn, is gone by morning. Reginn carves the blood-eagle on Lyngvi, and Sigurðr later kills Fáfnir and Reginn.

Nú er at segja frá því, er Sigurðr bjóst til bardaga móti
Now is to tell of that when Sigurd got-ready for battle against
Hundings sonum; hann hafði fengit mikit lið ok vel vápnat.
Hunding's sons he had gotten great force and well weaponed
Reginn hafði mjök ráðagerð fyrir liðinu; hann hafði sverð
Regin had much counsel-giving for the-force he had sword
þat, er Riðill hét, er hann hafði smíðat; Sigurðr bað
that which Ridil was-called which he had forged Sigurd bade
Reginn ljá sér sverðit; hann gerði svá ok bað hann drepa
Regin lend him the-sword he did so and bade him kill
Fáfni, þá er hann kœmi aftr ór þeiri ferð; Sigurðr
Fafnir then when he should-come back from that journey Sigurd
hét honum því. Síðan sigldu vér suðr með landi; þá fengu
promised him that Then sailed we south along land then got
vér gerningaveðr stór, ok kendu þat margir Hundingssonum;
we witchcraft-storm great and laid that many on-Hunding's-sons
síðan sigldu vér nokkuru landhallara. Þá sám vér mann einn
then sailed we somewhat closer-to-land Then saw we man one

á bjargsnös nokkurri, er gekk fram af sjóvarhömrum; hann
on crag-point some who went forth from sea-cliffs he
var í heklu grœnni ok blám brókum, ok knepta skó á fótum
was in cloak green and blue breeches and laced shoes on feet
uppháva, ok spjót í hendi; þessi maðr ljóðar á oss, ok kvað:
high and spear in hand this man hails to us and spoke

Hverir ríða hér
Who ride here
Ræfils hestum
Raefil's horses
hávar unnir
high waves
haf glymjanda?
sea roaring
eru segl yðr
are sails your
sjóvi stokkin,
with-sea sprinkled
munat vápnaðir
will-not weaponed-ones
vind um standask.
wind — withstand

Reginn kvað í móti:
Regin spoke in against

Hér 'ru vér Sigurðr
Here are we Sigurd
á sjó komnir,
on sea come
er oss byrr gefinn
is to-us wind given
við bana sjálfan;
against death itself
fellr brattr breki
falls steep breaker
bröndum hæri,
than-prows higher
hlunnvigg hrapa;
roller-steeds plunge
hverr spyrr at því?
who asks about that

Heklumaðr kvað:
(The)-cloak-man spoke

Hnikar hétu mik
Hnikar called me
þá er hugin gladdak
then when hugin gladdened-I
Völsungr ungi,
Volsung young
ok vegit hafðak,
and fought had-I

nú máttu kalla
now mayest-thou call
karl af bergi
churl from (the)-rock
Feng eða Fjölni,
Feng or Fjolnir
far vil ek þiggja.
passage will I accept

Þá viku vér at landi; þá lægði skjótt veðrit, ok bað Sigurðr karl ganga út á skip; hann gerði svá; þá fell þegar veðrit, ok gerði enn bezta byr. Karl settist niðr fyrir fœtr Sigurði, ok var mjök makráðr; hann spurði, ef Sigurðr vildi nokkut ráð at honum þiggja. Sigurðr kveðst vilja; sagði þat, at hann mundi vera mönnum ráðdrjúgr, ef hann vildi gagn gera. Sigurðr kvað til heklumannsins:

Then turned we to land then fell quickly the-weather and bade Sigurd (the)-churl go out onto ship he did so then fell at-once the-weather and made the best wind (The)-churl sat down before (the)-feet of-Sigurd and was very easy-going he asked if Sigurd would any counsel from him accept Sigurd says-of-himself wish said that that he would be to-men counsel-rich if he would gain make Sigurd spoke to the-cloak-man

Segðu mér þat, Hnikarr,
Say-thou to-me that Hnikar
als þú hvártveggja veizt
since thou both knowest
goða heill ok guma:
of-gods omen and of-men

hver bezt eru,
which best are
ef berjast skal,
if fight (one)-shall
heill at sverða svipan?
omens at swords' swing

Hnikarr kvað:
Hnikar spoke

Mörg eru góð,
Many are good
ef gumar vissi,
if men knew
heill at sverða svipan;
omens at swords' swing
dyggva fylgju
trusty following
hygg ek ens dökkva vera
think I of-the dark be
af hrottameiði hrafns.
for sword-tree of-raven

Þat er annat,
That is (the)-second
ef þú ert út um kominn
if thou art out — come
ok til brottferðar búinn;
and for departure ready

tvá þú lítr
two thou seest
á tái standa
on path stand
hróðrfúsa hali.
fame-eager men

Þat er et þriðja,
That is the third
ef þú þjóta heyrir
if thou howl hearest
úlf und asklimum,
wolf under ash-boughs
heilla auðit
of-luck granted
verðr þér af hjálmstöfum,
becomes to-thee from helm-staves
ef þú sér þá fyrri fara.
if thou seest them earlier go

Engi skal gumna
No shall of-men
í gögn vega
in against fight
síð skínandi
late shining
systur Mána;
sister of-Mani

Þeir sigr hafa,
they victory have
er sjá kunnu
who see can
hjörleiks hvatir
of-sword-play keen
eða hamalt fylkja.
or wedge-wise draw-up

Þat er fár mikit,
That is harm great
ef þú fœti drepr,
if thou with-foot strikest
þá er at vígi veðr:
then when to fight (thou)-wadest
tálar dísir standa
false disir stand
þér á tvær hliðar,
for-thee on two sides
ok vilja þik sáran sjá.
and will thee wounded see

Kembðr ok þveginn
Combed and washed
skal kœnna hverr
shall of-wise each
ok at morgni mettr,
and at morning fed

þvíat óvíst er,
because unknown is
hvar at aftni kemr;
where at evening (he)-comes
ilt er fyr heill at hrapa.
ill is before luck to rush

Ok eftir þat sigldu vér suðr fyrir Hollsetuland, ok svá fyrir
And after that sailed we south past Holstein and so to
austan Frísland, ok þar at landi. Þegar fregna Hundings
(the)-east-of Frisland and there to land At-once hear Hunding's
synir um ferð vára, ok samna liði, ok verða brátt fjölmennari
sons of journey our and gather force and become soon more-numerous
enn vér. Tókst þar harðr bardagi. Var Lyngvi þeira framastr
than we Was-joined there hard battle Was Lyngvi of-them foremost
í allri framgöngu; sóttu þó allir fast fram. Sigurðr sœkir
in all forward-going pressed yet all hard forward Sigurd presses
í móti svá hart, at alt hrökk fyrir honum, þvíat sverðit
in against so hard that all gave-way before him because the-sword
Gramr varð þeim skeinusamr, enn Sigurði þarf eigi hugar
Gram became to-them wound-dealing but Sigurd needs not of-courage
at frýja. Ok er þeir Lyngvi fundust, skiftust þeir mörgum
to taunt And when they Lyngvi met exchanged they many
höggum við, ok berjast alldjarflega; verðr þá hvíld
blows with(-each-other) and fight very-boldly becomes then rest
á bardaganum, þvíat menn horfðu á þeira einvígi; þat
in the-battle because men looked on their single-combat it
var langa hríð, at hvárgi þeira kom sári á annan, svá
was long while that neither of-them brought wound on other so
vóru þeir vígfimir. Síðan sœkja brœðr Lyngva fast fram, ok
were they fight-skilled Then press brothers of-Lyngvi hard forward and

drepa margan mann, enn sumir flýja. Þá snýr Hámundr
kill many man but some flee Then turns Hamund
bróðir Sigurðar í móti þeim, ok ek með honum; verðr þá
brother of-Sigurd in against them and I with him becomes then
enn nokkur móttaka; enn svá lýkr með þeim Sigurði ok
yet some resistance but so ends with them Sigurd and
Lyngva, at Sigurðr gerði hann handtekinn, ok var hann
Lyngvi that Sigurd made him hand-taken and was he
settr í járn. Enn er Sigurðr kom til vár, þá verða skjót
set in irons But when Sigurd came to us then become quick
umskifti; falla þá Hundings synir ok alt lið þeira, enda
changes fall then Hunding's sons and all force their and-also
myrkvir þá af nótt. Ok þá er lýsti um morgininn, var
darkens then from night And then when dawned in the-morning was
heklumaðrinn horfinn, ok sást eigi síðan; hyggja menn,
the-cloak-man vanished and was-seen not afterward think men
at þat hafi Óðinn verit reyndar; var þá um þat talat,
that that have Odin been in-truth was then about that talked
hvern dauða Lyngvi skyldi hafa. Reginn lagði þat til ráðs,
which death Lyngvi should have Regin laid that to counsel
at rísta skyldi blóðörn á baki honum; tók Reginn þá við
that carve (one)-should blood-eagle on back his took Regin then to
sverði sínu af mér, ok reist með því bak Lyngva, svá
sword his from me and carved with it (the)-back of-Lyngvi so

at hann skar rifin frá hryggnum, ok dró þar út lungun;
that he cut the-ribs from the-spine and drew there out the-lungs
svá dó Lyngvi með mikilli hreysti. Þá kvað Reginn:
so died Lyngvi with great hardihood Then spoke Regin

Nú er blóðugr örn
Now is bloody eagle
bitrum hjörvi
with-bitter sword
bana Sigmundar
of-(the)-slayer of-Sigmund
á baki ristinn;
on back carved
fár var fremri,
few was more-forward
sá er fold ryði,
he who earth reddened
hilmis arfi
of-prince heir
ok hugin gladdi.
and hugin gladdened

Þar var allmikit herfang; tóku liðsmenn Sigurðar þat alt,
There was very-great plunder took force-men of-Sigurd it all
þvíat hann vildi ekki af hafa; var þat mikit fé í klæðum
because he would nothing off(-it) have was that great wealth in clothes
ok vápnum. Síðan drap Sigurðr þá Fáfni ok Reginn, þvíat
and weapons Then killed Sigurd then Fafnir and Regin because
hann vildi svíkja Sigurð; tók Sigurðr þá gull Fáfnis, ok reið
he would betray Sigurd took Sigurd then gold of-Fafnir and rode
á brott með; var hann síðan kallaðr Fáfnisbani. Eftir þat
off away with(-it) was he afterward called Fafnir's-Bane After that

reið hann upp á Hindarheiði, ok fann þar Brynhildi, ok
rode he up onto Hindarheid and found there Brynhild and
fóru svá þeira skifti, sem segir í sögu Sigurðar Fáfnisbana.
went so their dealings as says in (the)-saga of-Sigurd Fafnir's-Bane

VII · STARKAÐR'S TEETH

Sigurðr, now married to Guðrún, joins the Gjúkungar against Gandálfr's sons, whom Sigurðr hringr has sent against them. In the battle Starkaðr Stórverksson, more like a giant than a man, kills men and horses, but Sigurðr strikes him in the mouth with Gramr's hilt and knocks out two of his teeth. Gestr keeps one tooth, which now hangs in a bell-rope in Denmark and weighs seven ounces.

Síðan fær Sigurðr Guðrúnar Gjúkadóttur; var hann þá um
Afterward gets Sigurd Gudrun Gjuki's-daughter was he then for
hríð með Gjúkungum mágum sínum. Ek var með
while with (the)-Gjukungs kinsmen-by-marriage his I was with
Sigurði norðr í Danmörku; ek var ok með Sigurði, er
Sigurd north in Denmark I was also with Sigurd when
Sigurðr hringr sendi Gandálfs sonu, mága sína, til
Sigurd Hring sent Gandalf's sons kinsmen-by-marriage his to
móts við Gjúkunga, Gunnar ok Högna, ok beiddist, at
meeting with (the)-Gjukungs Gunnar and Hogni and demanded that
þeir mundi lúka honum skatt, eðr þola her ella, enn þeir
they would pay him tribute or suffer army else but they
vildu verja land sitt. Þá hasla Gandálfs synir Gjúkungum
would defend land their Then hazel Gandalf's sons for-(the)-Gjukungs
völl við landmæri, ok fara aftr síðan. Enn Gjúkungar
field at (the)-land-border and go back then But (the)-Gjukungs
biðja Sigurð Fáfnisbana fara til bardagans með sér; hann
ask Sigurd Fafnir's-Bane go to the-battle with them he

sagði svá vera skyldu; ek var þá enn með Sigurði; sigldu
said so be should I was then still with Sigurd sailed
vér þá enn norðr fyrir Hollsetuland, ok lendum þar, sem
we then again north past Holstein and land there where
Járnamóða heitir; enn skamt frá höfninni vóru settar upp
Jarnamoda is-called but short from the-harbor were set up
heslistengr, þar sem orrostan skyldi vera. Sjám vér þá mörg
hazel-poles there where the-battle should be See we then many
skip norðan sigla; vóru Gandálfs synir fyrir þeim; sœkja
ships from-the-north sail were Gandalf's sons before them press
þá hvárirtveggju fast fram. Sigurðr hringr var eigi þar, þvíat
then both-sides hard forward Sigurd Hring was not there because
hann varð at verja land sitt Svíþjóð, þvíat Kúrir ok Kvænir
he had to defend land his Sweden because Kurs and Kvens
herjuðu þangat; Sigurðr var þá gamall mjök. Síðan lýstr
harried thither Sigurd was then old very Then clashes
þar saman liðinu, ok verðr þar mikil orrosta ok mannskæð.
there together the-force and becomes there great battle and man-deadly
Gandálfs synir ganga fast fram, þvíat þeir vóru bæði meiri ok
Gandalf's sons go hard forward because they were both greater and
sterkari enn aðrir menn. Í þeira liði sást einn maðr mikill
stronger than other men In their force was-seen one man great
ok sterkr, drap þessi maðr menn ok hesta, svá at ekki
and strong killed this man men and horses so that nothing
stóð við, þvíat hann var líkari jötnum enn mönnum.
stood against(-him) because he was liker to-giants than to-men
Gunnarr bað Sigurð sœkja í móti þeim mannskelmi, þvíat
Gunnar bade Sigurd go in against that man-scourge because
hann kvað svá eigi duga mundu. Nú bjóst Sigurðr í móti
he said so not avail would Now got-ready Sigurd in against
þeim mikla manni, ok nokkurir menn með honum, ok
that great man and some men with him and

vóru þó þess flestir ófúsir; finnum vér þá skjótt enn mikla
were yet of-that most unwilling find we then quickly the great
mann, ok frétti Sigurðr hann at nafni, ok hvaðan hann
man and asked Sigurd him of name and whence he
væri. Hann kveðst Starkaðr heita Stórverksson, norðan
were He says-of-himself Starkad be-called Storverk's-son from-the-north
af Fenhring ór Noregi. Sigurðr kveðst hans heyrt hafa
from Fenhring out-of Norway Sigurd says-of-himself of-him heard have
getit, ok oftar at illu: eru slíkir menn eigi sparandi til
spoken and oftener for ill are such men not sparing to
ófagnaðarins. Starkaðr mælti: Hverr er þessi maðr, er mik
the-mischief Starkad spoke Who is this man who me
lýtir svá í orðum? Sigurðr sagði til sín. Starkaðr mælti:
disparages so in words Sigurd said of himself Starkad spoke
Ertu kallaðr Fáfnisbani? Svá er, segir Sigurðr. Starkaðr
Art-thou called Fafnir's-Bane So is says Sigurd Starkad
vill þá undan leita; enn Sigurðr snýr eftir, ok færir á
will then away seek but Sigurd turns after and brings into
loft sverðit Gram, ok lamdi hann með hjöltunum á
(the)-air the-sword Gram and struck him with the-hilt on
jaxlgarðinn, svá at hrutu ór honum tveir jaxlarnir; var
the-molar-row so that flew from him two the-molars was
þat meiðsla högg. Sigurðr bað þá mannhundinn í brott
that maiming blow Sigurd bade then the-man-dog off away
dragast þaðan. Starkaðr snarast þá í burt þaðan; enn ek
drag-himself thence Starkad hurries then off away thence but I
tók annan jaxlinn ok hafða ek með mér; er sá nú
took one the-molar and had I with me which that-one now
hafðr í klukkustreng í Danmörk, ok vegr sjau aura; þykkir
had in bell-rope in Denmark and weighs seven ounces seems
mönnum forvitni á at sjá hann. Þegar er Starkaðr lagði
to-men curiosity in to see it As-soon as Starkad laid

á flótta, flýðu Gandálfs synir; tóku vér þar mikit herfang;
to flight fled Gandalf's sons took we there great plunder
fór Sigurðr heim í ríki sitt, ok setjast þar um hríð.
went Sigurd home into realm his and settle there for while

VIII · THE BUCKLE AND GRANI'S TAIL

Gestr tells how Grani burst his girth in a puddle and the buckle fell, and Sigurðr gave him the piece of gold the king had just seen. He also kept a lock of Grani's tail, which he shows, seven ells long. King Óláfr delights in his tales but cannot believe his age, and asks for another story to prove it.

Litlu síðar heyrðu vér getit niðingsvígs Starkaðar, er
Little later heard we spoken of-(the)-dastard's-killing of-Starkad when
hann hafði drepit Ála konung í laugu. Var þat einn dag, at
he had killed Ali king in bath Was it one day that
Sigurðr Fáfnisbani reið til einhverrar stefnu, þá reið hann
Sigurd Fafnir's-Bane rode to some meeting then rode he
í eina veisu, enn hestrinn Grani hljóp upp svá hart, at
into one puddle but the-horse Grani leapt up so hard that
í sundr gekk brjóstgjörðin, ok fell niðr hringjan; enn er
in asunder went the-breast-girth and fell down the-buckle but when
ek sá, hvar hun glóaði í leirinum, tók ek upp, ok færða
I saw where it gleamed in the-mud took I (it)-up and brought
Sigurði, enn hann gaf mér; hafi þér nú fyrir litlu sét
(it)-to-Sigurd but he gave (it)-to-me have you now before little seen
þetta sama gull. Þá stökk Sigurðr af baki, enn ek strauk
this same gold Then leapt Sigurd from back but I stroked
hest hans, ok þó ek leir af honum, ok tók ek einn lepp
horse his and washed I mud off him and took I one tuft
ór tagli hans, til sýnis vaxtar hans; sýndi Gestr þá leppinn,
from tail his to show of-growth its showed Gest then the-tuft

ok var hann sjau álna hár. Óláfr konungr mælti: Gaman
and was it seven ells long Olaf king spoke Delight
þykki mér at sögum þínum. Lofuðu nú allir frásagnir hans
seems to-me in tales thy Praised now all narratives his
ok frækleik. Vildi konungr, at hann segði miklu fleira um
and boldness Wished (the)-king that he should-say much more about
atburði frænda sinna. Segir Gestr þeim marga gamansamlega
happenings of-kinsmen his Tells Gest them many delightful
hluti alt til aftans; fóru menn at sofa; enn um morguninn
things all till evening went men to sleep but in the-morning
eftir lét konungr kalla á Gest, ok vill enn fleira tala við
after had (the)-king call for Gest and will yet more talk with
Gest. Konungr mælti: Eigi fæ ek skilit til fuls um aldr
Gest (The)-king spoke Not can I understand to full about age
þinn, hver líkendi þat megu vera, at þú værir við staddr
thy what likelihood that may be that thou were by present
þessi tíðendi; verðr þú at segja sögu aðra, svá at vér verðim
these tidings must thou to tell tale other so that we become
sannfróðir um slíka hluti. Gestr svarar: Vita þóttumst ek þat
truly-informed about such things Gest answers Know thought-myself I that
fyrir, at þér mundið heyra vilja aðra sögu mína, ef ek segða
before that you would hear will other tale my if I told
um gullit, hversu farit væri. Konungr mælti: Segja skaltu víst.
about the-gold how gone were (The)-king spoke Tell shalt-thou surely

Gestr tells of Sigurðr's death, as the different tellings have it, and of Brynhildr's burning beside him. On her way to the pyre a giantess blocks her path, and they trade verses: the giantess reproaches her, and Brynhildr tells her story, her vow, her sleep in Skatalundr, Sigurðr's ride through the fire, and the deceit of Gjúki's heirs. The giantess flees shrieking into the rock. Gestr then tells how a traveler's iron shoes turned Loðbrók's sons back from Rome.

Þá er nú at segja, segir Gestr, at ek fór norðr til
Then is now to tell says Gest that I went north to
Danmerkr, ok settumst ek þar at föðurleifð minni, þvíat
Denmark and settled I there on father's-inheritance my because
hann andaðist skjótt; ok litlu síðar frétta ek dauða Sigurðar
he died quickly and little later heard I (the)-death of-Sigurd
ok svá Gjúkunga, ok þótti mér þat mikil tíðendi. Konungr
and so of-(the)-Gjukungs and seemed to-me that great tidings (The)-king
mælti: Hvat varð Sigurði at bana? Gestr segir: Sú er flestra
spoke What became to-Sigurd as death Gest says That is of-most
manna sögn, at Guðormr Gjúkason legði hann með
men (the)-report that Guthorm Gjuki's-son thrust him with
sverði í gegnum sofanda í sæing Guðrúnar; enn þýðerskir
sword in through sleeping in (the)-bed of-Gudrun but German
menn segja Sigurð drepinn hafa verit úti á skógi; enn í
men say Sigurd killed have been out in wood but in
Guðrúnarkviðu segir svá, at Sigurðr ok Gjúka synir hefði
Gudrun's-Lay says so that Sigurd and Gjuki's sons had
riðit til þings nokkurs, ok þá dræpi þeir hann; enn þat er
ridden to assembly some and then killed they him but that is
alsagt, at þeir vágu at honum liggjanda ok óvörum, ok
all-told that they fought against him lying and unwary and
sviku hann í trygðum. Einn hirðmaðrinn spurði: Hversu fór
betrayed him in truce One the-retainer asked How went

Brynhildr þá með? Gestr segir: Þá drap Brynhildr sjau þræla
Brynhild then with(-it) Gest says Then killed Brynhild seven thralls
sína ok fimm ambáttir, enn lagði sik sverði í gegnum,
her and five bondwomen but thrust herself with-sword in through
ok bað sik aka með þessa menn til báls, ok brenna sik
and bade herself drive with these men to (the)-pyre and burn herself
hjá Sigurði; ok svá var gert, at henni var gert annat bál,
beside Sigurd and so was done that for-her was made one pyre
enn Sigurði annat, ok var hann fyrr brendr enn Brynhildr.
but for-Sigurd another and was he first burned than Brynhild
Henni var ekit í reið einni, ok var tjaldat um guðvef
For-her was driven in wagon one and was hung about with-precious-cloth
ok purpura, ok glóaði alt við gull, ok svá var hun brend.
and purple and gleamed all with gold and so was she burned
Þá spurðu menn Gest, hvárt Brynhildr hefði nokkut kveðit
Then asked men Gest whether Brynhild had anything spoken
dauð; hann kvað þat satt vera; þeir báðu hann kveða, ef
dead he said that true be they bade him recite if
hann kynni. Þá mælti Gestr: Þá er Brynhildi var ekit til
he knew Then spoke Gest Then when Brynhild was driven to
brennunnar á helveg, ok var farit með hana nær hömrum
the-burning on Hel-way and was gone with her near crags
nokkurum; þar bjó ein gýgr; hun var úti fyrir hellis dyrum,
some there dwelt one giantess she was out before (the)-cave's doors
ok var í skinnkyrtli ok svört yfirlits; hun hefir í hendi sér
and was in skin-tunic and black of-face she has in hand her
skógarvönd langan ok mælti: Þessu vil ek beina til brennu
forest-wand long and spoke This will I furnish for burning
þinnar, Brynhildr, segir gýgr, ok væri betr, at þú værir
thy Brynhild says giantess and were better that thou were
lifandi brend fyrir ódáðir þínar þær, at þú lézt drepa Sigurð
living burned for misdeeds thy those that thou hadst kill Sigurd

Fáfnisbana, svá ágætan mann, ok oft var ek honum sinnuð,
Fafnir's-Bane so excellent man and often was I to-him helpful
ok fyrir þat skal ek ljóða á þik með hefndarorðum þeim, at
and for that shall I chant at thee with vengeance-words those that
öllum sér þú at leiðari, er slíkt heyra frá þér sagt. Eftir þat
to-all seemest thou the loathlier who such hear from thee told After that
ljóðast þær á, Brynhildr ok gýgr. Gýgr kvað:
chant they on(-each-other) Brynhild and (the)-giantess (The)-giantess spoke

Skalattu í gögnum
Shalt-not-thou in through
ganga eiga
go have
grjóti studda
with-stone propped
garða mína;
courts my
betr semdi þér
better befitted thee
borða at rekja,
embroidery to unwind
heldr enn at vitja
rather than to visit
vers annarrar.
husband of-other

Hvat skaltu vitja
Why shalt-thou visit
af Vallandi,
from Valland
hverflynt höfuð,
fickle head
húsa minna?
houses my
þú hefir vörgum,
thou hast to-wolves
ef þik vita lystir,
if thee to-know lusts
meini blandat
with-harm mingled
manns blóð gefit.
man's blood given

Þá kvað Brynhildr:
Then spoke Brynhild

Bregðu eigi mér,
Upbraid-thou not me
brúðr ór steini,
bride from stone
þótt værak fyrr
though was-I before
í víkingu:
in viking-raiding

ek mun okkur
I will of-us-two
œðri þykkja
higher seem
hvars öðli menn
wherever by-nature men
okkart kunnu.
ours know

Gýgr kvað:
(The)-giantess spoke

Þú ert, Brynhildr
Thou art Brynhild
Buðladóttir,
Budli's-daughter
heilli verstu
with-luck worst
í heim borin;
into world born
þú hefir Gjúka
thou hast Gjuki's
um glatat börnum
— destroyed children
ok búi þeira
and home their
brugðit góðu.
overturned good

Brynhildr kvað:

Brynhild spoke

Ek man segja þér
I will tell thee
sanna rœðu,
true speech
vélgjarnt höfuð,
guile-eager head
ef þik vita lystir:
if thee to-know lusts
hvé gerðu mik
how made me
Gjúka arfar
Gjuki's heirs
ástalausa
loveless
ok eiðrofa.
and oath-breaking

Lét hami vára
Had shapes our
hugfullr konungr
courage-full king
átta systra
of-eight sisters
undir eik borit;
under oak borne
var ek vetra tólf,
was I winters twelve

ef þik vita lystir
if thee to-know lusts
þá er ek ungum gram
then when I to-young king
eiða svarðak.
oaths swore-I

Ek lét gamlan
I had old
á Goðþjóðu
among (the)-Goths'-people
Hjálmgunnar næst
Hjalmgunnar next
heljar ganga;
to-Hel go
gaf ek ungum sigr
gave I to-young victory
Auðu bróður,
Auda's brother
þar var mér Óðinn
there was to-me Odin
ofgreypr fyrir.
over-wrathful for(-it)

Lauk hann mik skjöldum
Enclosed he me with-shields
í Skatalundi
in Skatalund
rauðum ok hvítum
red and white
reyndar svæfða;
truly put-to-sleep
þann bað hann slíta
that-one bade he break
svefni mínum,
sleep my
er hvergi lands
who nowhere of-land
hræðask kynni.
fear could

Lét hann um sal minn
Had he about hall my
sunnanverðan
southward
hávan brenna
high burn
hrottgarm viðar;
sword-bound of-wood

þar bað hann einn þegn
there bade he one thane
yfir um ríða,
over across ride
þanns mér færði gull
that-one-who to-me brought gold
þaz und Fáfni lá.
that-which under Fafnir lay

Reið góðr Grana
Rode good Grani
gullmiðlandi,
gold-sharer
þars fóstri minn
where foster-father my
fletjum stýrði;
halls ruled
einn þótti hann þar
alone seemed he there
öllum betri
than-all better
víkingr Dana
viking of-Danes
í verðungu.
in (the)-troop

Sváfum vit ok undum
Slept we-two and lived-content
í sæing einni,
in bed one
sem hann bróðir minn
as-if he brother my
of borinn væri;
— born were
hvártki knátti
neither could
hönd yfir annat
hand over other
átta nóttum
for-eight nights
okkart leggja.
of-us-two lay

Því brá mér Guðrún
That upbraided me Gudrun
Gjúkadóttir,
Gjuki's-daughter
at ek Sigurði
that I with-Sigurd
svæfak á armi;
slept in arm
þá varð ek þess vís,
then became I of-that aware

er ek vildigak
which I wished-not
at þau véltu mik
that they tricked me
í verfangi.
in husband-taking

Munu við ofstríð
Will in strife
als til lengi
all too long
konur ok karlar
women and men
kvikvir um fœðask;
alive — be-born
vit skulum okkrum
we-two shall our-two
aldri slíta
lives end
Sigurðr saman.
Sigurd together
Sökztu nú, rög gýgr.
Sink-thou now craven giantess

Þá œpti gýgr ógurlegri röddu, ok hliðar inn í
Then whooped (the)-giantess with-fearful voice and glided in into
bjargit. Þá sögðu hirðmenn, at þetta væri gaman: ok segðu
the-rock Then said retainers that this were sport and tell-thou
enn fleira. Konungr mælti: Eigi er nauðsyn at segja fleira af
yet more (The)-king spoke Not is need to tell more of

slíkum hlutum. Konungr spyrr: Vartu nokkut með Loðbrókar
such things (The)-king asks Wast-thou anything with Lodbrok's
sonum? Gestr svarar: Skamma stund var ek með þeim; ok
sons Gest answers Short while was I with them and
kom til þeira, þá er þeir herjuðu suðr at Mundíafjalli ok
came to them then when they harried south to Mundia-Fell and
brutu Vífilsborg; þá var alt við þá hrætt, þvíat þeir höfðu
broke Vifilsborg then was all of them afraid because they had
sigr, hvar sem þeir fóru, ok þá ætluðu þeir at fara til
victory where as they went and then intended they to go to
Rómaborgar. Þat var einn dag, at maðr nokkurr kom fyrir
Rome That was one day that man some came before
Björn járnsíðu, ok heilsaði honum; konungr tekr honum
Bjorn Iron-Side and greeted him (the)-king takes him
vel, ok spyrr, hvaðan hann væri at kominn. Hann sagðist
well and asks whence he were — come He said-of-himself
kominn sunnan frá Rómaborg. Konungr spurði: Hvé langt
come from-the-south from Rome (The)-king asked How far
er þangat? Hann svaraði: Hér máttu sjá, konungr, skó, er
is thither He answered Here mayest-thou see king shoes which
ek hefir á fótum; tók hann þá járnskó af fótum sér, ok
I have on feet took he then iron-shoes from feet his and
vóru allþykkir ofan, enn mjök sundr neðan: svá er löng leið
were very-thick above but much asunder below so is long way
heðan til Rómaborgar, sem þér meguð nú sjá á skóm mínum,
hence to Rome as you may now see on shoes my
hversu hart at þeir hafa þolat. Konungr mælti: Furðu löng
how hard that they have suffered (The)-king spoke Wondrously long
leið er þetta að fara, ok mun ek aftr snúa, ok herja eigi á
way is this to go and will I back turn and harry not on
Rómaríki; ok svá gera þeir, at þeir fara eigi lengra, ok þótti
Rome's-realm and so do they that they go not farther and seemed

hernum þetta undarlegt, at snúa svá skjótt sínu skapi við
to-the-army this strange to turn so quickly their mind at
eins manns orð, er þeir höfðu áðr alt ráð fyrir gert. Fóru
one man's word when they had before all plans for made Went
Loðbrókar synir við þetta aftr, ok heim norðr, ok herjuðu eigi
Lodbrok's sons with this back and home north and harried not
lengra suðr. Konungr segir: Auðsýnt var þat, at helgir menn
farther south (The)-king says Evident was that that holy men
í Róma vildu eigi yfirgang þangat, ok man sá andi af guði
in Rome wished not overrunning thither and will that spirit from God
sendr verit hafa, at snúa svá skjótt þeira fyrirætlan, at gera
sent been have to turn so quickly their intent to do
ekki spellvirki enum helgasta stað Jesú Kristi í Rómaborg.
no despoiling to-the holiest place of-Jesus Christ in Rome

X · GESTR AMONG THE KINGS

King Óláfr asks with which kings Gestr was happiest. Gestr names Sigurðr and the Gjúkungar for joy, Loðbrók's sons for freedom, Eiríkr at Uppsala for bliss, and Haraldr Fairhair for strict court-customs. He was prime-signed at King Hlöðvér's court in Saxland, where Christianity was well kept. At last he offers to tell why he is called Norna-Gestr.

Enn spyrr konungr Gest: Hvar hefir þú þess komit til
Again asks (the)-king Gest Where hast thou that come to
konunga, er þér hefir bezt þótt? Gestr svarar: Mest gleði
kings which to-thee has best seemed Gest answers Most joy
þótti mér með Sigurði ok Gjúkungum; enn þeir Loðbrókar
seemed to-me with Sigurd and (the)-Gjukungs but they Lodbrok's
synir vóru menn sjálfráðastir at lifa, sem menn vildu; enn með
sons were men most-free-in-will to live as men wished but with

Eireki at Uppsölum var sæla mest; enn Haraldr enn hárfagri
Eirik at Uppsala was bliss most but Harald the Fair-Haired
var vandastr að hirðsiðum allra fyrrnefndra konunga. Ek var
was strictest in court-customs of-all aforenamed kings I was
ok með Hlöðvé konungi á Saxlandi, ok þar var ek prímsigndr,
also with Hlodve king in Saxland and there was I prime-signed
þvíat ek mátti eigi þar vera ellegar, þvíat þar var kristni vel
because I might not there be otherwise because there was Christianity well
haldin, ok þar þótti mér at öllu bezt. Konungr mælti: Mörg
kept and there seemed to-me in all best (The)-king spoke Many
tíðendi muntu segja kunna, ef vér viljum spyrja. Konungr
tidings wilt-thou tell can if we will ask (The)-king
fréttir nú margs Gest; enn Gestr segir þat alt greinilega
asks now of-much Gest but Gest tells that all distinctly
ok um síðir talar hann svá: Nú má ek segja yðr, þvíat ek
and at last talks he so Now may I tell you why I
em Norna-Gestr kallaðr. Konungr sagðist þat heyra vilja.
am Norna-Gest called (The)-king said-of-himself that hear will

XI · THE NORNS' CANDLE

When Gestr was in his cradle, prophetesses came to his father's house. Two foretold great fortune, but the youngest, pushed from her seat in the crowd, decreed that he should live no longer than the candle burning beside him. The eldest put it out and gave it to his mother to keep. Gestr has carried it ever since. He has come to King Óláfr hoping for good fortune and accepts baptism at his counsel.

Þat var, þá er ek var uppfœddr með föður mínum í þeim
That was then when I was brought-up with father my in that
stað, er Grœningr heitir; faðir minn var ríkr at peningum,
place which Groening is-called father my was rich in money

ok hélt ríkulega herbergi sín. Þar fóru þá um landit
and kept richly rooms his There went then through the-land
völvur, er kallaðar vóru spákonur, ok spáðu mönnum aldr,
sibyls who called were prophetesses and foretold to-men life
því buðu menn þeim ok gerðu þeim veizlur, ok gáfu þeim
therefore invited men them and made them feasts and gave them
gjafir at skilnaði. Faðir minn gerði ok svá, ok kómu þær
gifts at parting Father my did also so and came they
til hans með sveit manna, ok skyldu þær spá mér örlaga;
to him with band of-men and should they foretell for-me fates
lá ek þá í vöggu, enn þær skyldu tala um mitt mál; þá
lay I then in cradle but they should talk about my matter then
brunnu yfir mér tvau kertisljós. Þær mæltu þá til mín, ok
burned over me two candle-lights They spoke then to me and
sögðu mikinn auðnumann verða mundu ok meira, enn aðra
said great man-of-fortune become would and greater than other
mína frændr eðr forellra, eðr höfðingja syni þar í landi, ok
my kinsmen or forefathers or chieftains' sons there in land and
sögðu alt svá fara skyldu um mitt ráð. En yngsta nornin
said all so go should about my lot But youngest the-norn
þóttist oflítils metin hjá hinum tveimr, er þær spurðu
thought-herself too-little esteemed beside the two when they asked
hana eigi eftir slíkum spám, er svá vóru mikils verðar; var
her not after such prophecies which so were of-much worth was
þar ok mikil ribbalda sveit, er henni hratt úr sæti sínu,
there also great ruffians' band which her thrust from seat her
ok fell hun til jarðar. Af þessu varð hun ákaflega stygg;
and fell she to earth From this became she exceedingly angry
kallar hun þá hátt ok reiðulega, ok bað hinar hætta svá
calls she then loud and angrily and bade the-others cease so
góðum ummælum um mik: þvíat ek skapa honum þat, at
good words about me because I shape for-him that that

hann skal eigi lifa lengr, enn kerti þat brennr, er upp er
he shall not live longer than candle that burns which up is
tendrat hjá sveininum. Eftir þetta tók en ellri völvan kertit,
lit beside the-boy After this took the elder sibyl the-candle
ok slökti, ok biðr móður mína varðveita, ok kveykja
and quenched(-it) and bids mother my keep(-it) and light(-it)
eigi fyrr, enn at síðasta degi lífs míns. Eftir þetta fóru
not before than at last day of-life my After this went
spákonur í burt, ok gaf faðir minn þeim góðar gjafir at
(the)-prophetesses off away and gave father my them good gifts at
skilnaði. Þá er ek var roskinn maðr, fær móðir mín mér
parting Then when I was grown man gives mother my me
kerti þetta til varðveizlu; hefi ek þetta nú með mér. Konungr
candle this for keeping have I this now with me (The)-king
mælti: Hví fórtu nú hingat til vár? Gestr svarar: Þessu
spoke Why camest-thou now hither to us Gest answers This
sveif mér í skap; ætlaða ek mik af þér nokkura auðnu
swept to-me into mind thought I myself from thee some fortune
hljóta mundu, þvíat þér hafið fyrir mér verit mjök lofaðir af
get would because you have before me been much praised by
góðum mönnum ok vitrum. Konungr segir: Viltu nú taka
good men and wise (The)-king says Wilt-thou now take
helga skírn? Gestr svarar: Þat vil ek gera at yðru ráði; var
holy baptism Gest answers That will I do at your counsel was
nú svá gert, ok tók konungr hann í kærleika við sik, ok
now so done and took (the)-king him into affection with himself and
gerði hann hirðmann sinn. Gestr varð trúmaðr mikill, ok
made him retainer his Gest became believer great and
fylgdi vel konungs siðum; var hann ok vinsæll af mönnum.
followed well (the)-king's customs was he also well-liked by men

The king asks how long Gestr would wish to live. Gestr takes the candle from his harp-case and the king has it lit. He says he is three hundred years old, and asks for the last anointing. When the candle burns out, Gestr dies, and all think his death remarkable and his tales confirmed.

Þat var einn dag, at konungr spyrr Gest: Hversu lengi
That was one day that (the)-king asks Gest How long
vildir þú nú lifa, ef þú réðir? Gestr svarar: Skamma
wouldst thou now live if thou ruled Gest answers Short
stund heðan af, ef guð vildi svá. Konungr mælti: Hvat
while hence off if God wished so (The)-king spoke What
mun nú líða, ef þú tekr kerti þitt? Gestr tók kerti
will now pass if thou takest candle thy Gest took candle
sitt ór hörpustokki sínum. Konungr bað þá kveykja; svá
his from harp-case his (The)-king bade then light(-it) so
var gert; ok er kertit var tendrat, brann þat skjótt.
was done and when the-candle was lit burned it quickly
Konungr spurði Gest: Hversu gamall maðr ertu? Nú hefir
(The)-king asked Gest How old man art-thou Now have
ek þrjúhundruð vetra (segir Gestr). Gamall ertu, sagði
I three-hundred winters says Gest Old art-thou said
konungr. Gestr lagðist þá niðr; hann bað þá ólea sik;
(the)-king Gest laid-himself then down he bade then anoint himself
þat lét konungr gera; ok er þat var gert, var lítit óbrunnit
that had (the)-king done and when that was done was little unburned
af kertinu. Þat fundu menn, at þá leið at Gesti; var
of the-candle That found men that then drew-near to Gest was
þat ok jafnskjótt, at kertit var brunnit, ok Gestr andast,
that also equally-soon that the-candle was burned and Gest dies

ok þótti öllum merkilegt hans andlát; þótti konungi ok
and seemed to-all remarkable his death seemed to-(the)-king also
mikit mark at sögum hans, ok þótti sannast um lífdaga
great mark to tales his and seemed proved-truest about life-days
hans, sem hann sagði. Ok lýkr þar frá Norna-Gesti at
his as he said And ends there of Norna-Gest to
segja.
tell

Sörla þáttr

The Tale of Sorli

East of the Tanais lies Asíaland, with its chief town Ásgarðr, where Óðinn is king. Freyja, his mistress, comes upon four dwarves, Álfrigg, Dvalinn, Berlingr, and Grérr, forging a gold necklace. They will take no gold or silver for it, only a night with each of them. She agrees, and after four nights they give her the necklace, which she keeps quietly in her bower.

Fyrir austan Vanakvísl í Asía var kallat Asíaland eðr
To (the)-east-of Tanais in Asia was called Asialand or
Asíaheimr, enn þat fólk var kallat Æsir, er þar bygðu,
Asiaheim but that folk was called (the)-Aesir who there dwelt
enn höfuðborgina kölluðu þeir Ásgarð. Óðinn var þar nefndr
but the-chief-town called they Asgard Odin was there named
konungr yfir; þar var blótstaðr mikill. Njörð ok Frey setti
king over(-it) there was sacrifice-place great Njord and Frey set
Óðinn blótgoða; dóttir Njarðar hét Freyja; hun fylgdi
Odin (as)-temple-priests daughter of-Njord was-called Freyja she followed
Óðni ok var friðla hans. Menn þeir vóru í Asía, er einn
Odin and was mistress his Men those were in Asia of-whom one
hét Álfrigg, annarr Dvalinn, þriði Berlingr, fjórði
was-called Alfrigg (the)-second Dvalin (the)-third Berling (the)-fourth
Grérr; þeir áttu heima skamt frá höll konungs; þeir vóru
Grer they had home short from (the)-hall of-(the)-king they were
menn svo hagir, at þeir lögðu á alt gerva hönd. Þess
men so handy that they laid on all-things skilled hand Of-that
háttar menn, sem þeir vóru, kölluðu menn dverga; þeir
kind men as they were called men dwarves they
bygðu einn stein: þeir blönduðust þá meir við mannfólk enn
dwelt-in one stone they mingled then more with man-folk than
nú. Óðinn unni mikit Freyju, enda var hun allra kvenna
now Odin loved much Freyja and-also was she of-all women

fegrst í þann tíma; hun átti sér eina skemmu, hun var
fairest in that time she had for-herself one bower it was
bæði fögr og sterk, svá at þat segja menn, at ef hurðin
both fair and strong so that that say men that if the-door
var aftr ok læst, at engi maðr mætti koma í skemmuna
was shut and locked that no man might come into the-bower
án vilja Freyju. Þat var einn dag, er Freyju varð
without (the)-will of-Freyja That was one day when Freyja happened
gengit til steinsins; hann var þá opinn. Dvergarnir vóru at
to-go to the-stone it was then open The-dwarves were at
smíða eitt gullmen; þat var þá mjök fullgert. Freyju leizt vel
forging one gold-necklace it was then nearly finished To-Freyja seemed well
á menit; dvergunum leizt ok vel á Freyju; hun falaði
on the-necklace to-the-dwarves seemed also well on Freyja she bargained-for
menit at dvergunum, bauð í móti gull ok silfr ok aðra
the-necklace from the-dwarves offered in against gold and silver and other
góða gripi. Þeir kváðust ekki féþurfi; sagðist hverr
good treasures They said-of-themselves not wealth-needy said-of-himself each
vilja sjálfr sinn part selja í meninu, ok ekki annat fyrir
will himself his part sell in the-necklace and nothing else for(-it)
vilja hafa, enn hun lægi sína nótt hjá hverjum þeira; ok
will have than she should-lie her night with each of-them and
hvárt sem hun lét at þessu komast betr eða ver, þá keyptu
whether as she let to this come better or worse then bought
þau þessu. Ok at liðnum fjórum náttum ok enduðum öllum
they this And at passed four nights and fulfilled all
skildaga, afhenda þeir Freyju menit; fór hun heim í
terms hand-over they to-Freyja the-necklace went she home into
skemmu sína, ok lét kyrrt yfir sér, sem ekki hefði í orðit.
bower her and let quiet over herself as-if nothing had — happened

II · LOKI STEALS THE NECKLACE

Loki, son of Farbauti and Laufey, is Óðinn's servant and tells him everything, including how Freyja bought the necklace. Óðinn orders him to fetch it. Loki enters her locked bower as a fly, becomes a flea and bites her cheek so that she turns over, and slips the necklace off. When Freyja demands it back, Óðinn's price is that she set two kings, each served by twenty kings, to fight forever, the fallen rising again, until a Christian man kills them. She agrees and takes the necklace back.

Maðr hét Farbauti, hann var karl einn, ok átti sér
A-man was-called Farbauti he was churl one and had for-himself
kerlingu þá, er Laufey er nefnd; hun var bæði mjó ok
crone that who Laufey is named she was both slender and
auðþrifleg, því var (hun) Nál kölluð. Þau áttu sér
lean therefore was she Needle called They had for-themselves
einn son barna, sá var Loki nefndr; hann var ekki
one son of-children that-one was Loki named he was not
mikill vöxtum, orðskár var hann snemma, ok skjótlegr í
great in-growth word-sharp was he early and quick in
bragði; hann hafði fram yfir aðra menn vizku þá, er slægð
manner he had forth over other men wit that which cunning
heitir. Hann var mjök kyndugr þegar á unga aldri, því
is-called He was very tricky already in young age therefore
var hann kallaðr Loki læviss; hann réðst til Óðins í
was he called Loki Guile-Wise he took-himself to Odin in
Ásgarð, ok gerðist hans maðr. Óðinn mælti hvatvetna eftir
Asgard and became his man Odin spoke everything after
honum, hvat sem hann tók til, enda lagði hann oft stórar
him what as he took to and-also laid he often great
þrautir fyrir hann, ok leysti hann þær allar vánu betr
trials before him and solved he them all than-hope better
af höndum; hann varð ok nálega als víss, þess er við
off hands he became also nearly of-all aware that which to

bar; sagði hann ok alt Óðni, þat er hann vissi. Þat er
happened told he also all to-Odin that which he knew That is
ok sagt, at Loki varð víss, er Freyja hafði fengit menit,
also said that Loki became aware that Freyja had gotten the-necklace
ok svá hvat hun hefði í móti gefit; sagði hann þetta
and so what she had in against given told he this
Óðni. Enn er Óðinn varð þess víss, sagði hann, at Loki
to-Odin But when Odin became of-that aware said he that Loki
skyldi ná meninu, ok fá sér. Loki kvað þat óvænlegt:
should get the-necklace and give (it)-to-him Loki said that unpromising
sakir þess, at engi maðr má í skemmuna komast fyrir
because-of that that no man may into the-bower come for
utan vilja Freyju. Óðinn sagði, at hann skyldi fara verða,
outside (the)-will of-Freyja Odin said that he should go have-to
ok eigi aftr koma, fyrr enn hann hefði náð meninu. Loki
and not back come before than he had got the-necklace Loki
snöri þá í brottu œpandi; flestir urðu við þat kátir, er
turned then off away howling most became at that glad when
Loka gekk lítt til. Hann gengr til skemmu Freyju, ok
to-Loki went little well He goes to (the)-bower of-Freyja and
var hun læst; hann leitaði við inn at komast, ok gat eigi.
was it locked he sought at in to come and could not
Kuldaveðr var úti mikit, ok tók honum fast at kólna;
Cold-weather was outside great and began him hard to chill
hann varð þá at einni flugu; hann flökti þá um alla
he became then into one fly he flitted then about all
lása, ok með öllum fellum, ok gat hvergi loft fundit,
locks and along all joints and could nowhere air-hole find
svá at hann mætti inn komast; uppi alt hjá bustinni ok
so that he might in come up all beside the-roof-ridge and
þó eigi meiri boru fann hann, enn sem stinga mætti í
yet not greater hole found he than as stick might in

nál; þá boru bograr hann inn. Enn er hann kom inn,
needle that hole creeps he in But when he came in
var hann flenneygr mjök, ok hugði at, ef nokkurir vekti;
was he staring-eyed much and looked to if any woke
enn hann gat þat sét, at alt svaf í skemmunni; hann
but he could that see that all slept in the-bower he
ferr þá innar at sænginni Freyju, ok skynjar þá, at hun
goes then farther-in to the-bed of-Freyja and perceives then that she
hefir menit á hálsi sér, ok at nistin horfðu niðr á.
has the-necklace on neck her and that the-clasp turned down on
Loki verðr þá at einni fló; hann sezt á kinn Freyju, ok
Loki becomes then into one flea he sits on (the)-cheek of-Freyja and
höggr svá, at Freyja vaknar, ok snörist við, ok sofnar aftr.
stings so that Freyja wakes and turned about and sleeps again
Þá dregr Loki af sér flóar haminn; lokkar þá af henni
Then draws Loki off himself flea's the-shape slips then from her
menit, lýkr þá upp skemmunni, ok ferr í burt, ok
the-necklace unlocks then up the-bower and goes off away and
færir Óðni. Freyja vaknar um morgininn, ok sér, at opnar
brings(-it) to-Odin Freyja wakes in the-morning and sees that open
eru dyrnar enn ekki brotit, enn menit var í brottu et
are the-doors but nothing broken but the-necklace was off away the
góða; hun þykkist vita, hver brögð í munu vera, gengr
good she thinks-herself know what tricks in will be goes
inn í höllina, þegar hun er klædd, fyrir Óðinn konung,
in into the-hall as-soon-as she is dressed before Odin king
ok talar um, at hann hafi illa látit gera, at stela frá
and talks about that he have ill had done to steal from
henni góðgrip hennar, ok biðr hann fá sér aftr góðgrip
her treasure her and bids him give her back treasure
sinn. Óðinn segir, at hun skal þat aldri fá, svá at eins
her Odin says that she shall that never get so that only

hefir hun að því komizt: nema þú orkir því, at þeir
has she to that come unless thou bring-about that that those
konungar tveir, at tuttugu konungar þjóna hvárum, verði
kings two whom twenty kings serve each become
missáttir, ok berist með þeim álögum ok atkvæðum, at
at-odds and fight with those spells and decrees that
þeir skulu jafnskjótt upp standa ok berjast, sem þeir áðr
they shall equally-soon up stand and fight as they before
falla, utan nokkurr maðr kristinn verði svá röskr, ok honum
fall unless some man christian be so brave and him
fylgi svá mikil gifta síns lánardrottins, at hann þori at
follow so great luck of-his liege-lord that he dare to
ganga í bardaga þeira, ok vega með vápnum þessa menn;
go into battle their and slay with weapons these men
þá et fyrsta skal þeira þraut lyktast, hverjum höfðingja sem
then the first shall their trial end to-whatever chieftain as
þat verðr lagit, at leysa þá svá ór ánauð ok erfiði sinna
that becomes laid to free them so from bondage and toil of-their
fárlegra framferða. Freyja játtaði því, ok tók við meninu.
baleful doings Freyja assented to-that and took back the-necklace

III · SÖRLI THE STRONG

King Erlingr rules the Upplands of Norway. His sons Sörli the Strong and Erlendr go raiding young and fight the viking Sindri in the Elfarsker, where Sindri and Erlendr both fall. Sörli then raids in the Baltic and does more great deeds than can be written.

Í þann tíma, er liðnir vóru frá falli Friðfróða fjórir vetr
In that time when passed were from (the)-fall of-Peace-Frodi four winters
ok tuttugu, réð sá konungr Upplöndum í Noregi, at Erlingr
and twenty ruled that king Upplands in Norway who Erling

hét. Hann átti sér drottningu ok tvá sonu; hét Sörli
was-called He had for-himself queen and two sons was-called Sorli
sterki enn ellri, enn Erlendr enn yngri; þeir vóru efnilegir
the-Strong the elder but Erlend the younger they were promising
menn; Sörli var þeira sterkari; þeir lögðu í hernað,
men Sorli was of-them stronger they betook-themselves into raiding
þegar þeir höfðu aldr til. Þeir börðust við Sindra víking
as-soon-as they had age for(-it) They fought with Sindri viking
Sveigisson, Hákasonar sækonungs í Elfarskerjum, ok fell þar
Sveigisson Hakason sea-king in Elf-Skerries and fell there
Sindri víkingr ok alt lið hans; í þeiri orrostu fell ok Erlendr
Sindri viking and all force his in that battle fell also Erlend
Erlingsson. Eftir þat helt Sörli í et Eystra salt, ok herjaði
Erlingsson After that held Sorli into the Eastern Sea and harried
þar, ok vann svá mörg stórvirki, at seint er öll at skrifa.
there and did so many great-deeds that late is all to write

IV · SÖRLI AND HÖGNI

Sörli covets King Hálfdan's matchless dragon-ship in the harbor of Roskilde, ignores his marshal Sævarr's warning, and kills Hálfdan in battle. Hálfdan's son Högni comes home and refuses Sörli's offers of settlement. They fight, and Sörli falls before Högni from weariness and wounds; Högni has him healed and they swear sworn-brotherhood. Sörli later falls in the Baltic, and Högni wins twenty kings as tributaries.

Hálfdan hefir konungr heitit; hann réð fyrir Danmörk; hann
Halfdan has a-king been-called he ruled over Denmark he
sat í stað (þeim), er Hróiskelda heitir; hann átti Hveðnu
sat in place that which Roskilde is-called he had Hvedna
ena ellri; þeira synir vóru þeir Högni ok Hákon; þeir vóru
the elder their sons were they Hogni and Hakon they were

afburðarmenn á vöxt ok afl, ok atgervi; þeir lögðu
outstanding-men in growth and strength and accomplishment they betook-themselves
í hernað, þegar þeir vóru þroskaðir. Nú er þar til at taka,
into raiding as-soon-as they were grown Now is there to to take-up
at Sörli er, at á einu hausti heldr hann til Danmerkr.
that Sorli is that in one autumn holds he to Denmark
Hálfdan konungr hafði þá ætlat í konungastefnu; hann var
Halfdan king had then intended into kings'-meeting he was
þá mjök hniginn í efra aldr, er sjá saga gerðist; hann átti
then much sunk into higher age when this saga happened he had
dreka svá góðan, at eigi fannst annarr slíkr á norðrlöndum,
dragon-ship so good that not was-found other such in (the)-Northlands
sakir sterkleika ok als hagleiks; hann flaut um strengi á
because-of strength and all workmanship it floated by cables in
höfninni, enn Hálfdan konungr var á landi, ok hafði látit
the-harbor but Halfdan king was on land and had had
heita fararmunngát sitt. Enn er Sörli sá drekann, rann
brewed departure-ale his But when Sorli saw the-dragon-ship ran
í hjarta hans eigingirnd mikil, svá at hann vildi drekann
into heart his greed great so that he would the-dragon-ship
eiga fyrir hvern mun ok einn, enda er þat ok flestra manna
own by any means and alone and-also is that also of-most men
sögn, at eigi hafi betri gripr verit í skipi, enn í þessu, at
(the)-report that not have better treasure been in ship than in this at
fráteknum drekanum Elliða ok Gnoð, ok Orminum langa, á
excepted the-dragon-ship Ellidi and Gnod and the-Serpent the-Long in
norðrlöndum. Hann talaði þá við menn sína, at þeir skyldu
(the)-Northlands He talked then with men his that they should
búast til bardaga: þvíat vér skulum drepa Hálfdan konung
get-ready for battle because we shall kill Halfdan king
enn eignast drekann. Máli hans svarar sá maðr, er Sævar
but get the-dragon-ship Speech his answers that man who Saevar

hét; hann var stafnbúi hans ok stallari. Þat er eigi ráð,
was-called he was prow-man his and marshal That is not counsel
herra, segir hann, þvíat Hálfdan er höfðingi mikill ok frægr
lord says he because Halfdan is chieftain great and famous
maðr; hann á ok sonu þá tvá, er ráðnir eru til hefnda,
man he has also sons those two who resolved are for vengeances
þvíat þeir eru nú einir hverir frægastir menn. Þó at þeir
because they are now alone some most-famous men Though that they
sé goðunum fremri, sagði Sörli, þá skal ek einnveg berjast
be than-the-gods more-forward said Sorli then shall I one-way fight
ok áðr. Búast þeir nú til bardaga. Kemr nú njósn Hálfdani
as before Get-ready they now for battle Comes now spying to-Halfdan
konungi; bregðr hann við, ok ferr til skipa ok menn hans
king starts he up and goes to ships and men his
allir; búast þegar til bardaga; lögðu þat sumir menn til
all get-ready at-once for battle laid that some men to
með Hálfdani, at honum væri óráð í að berjast, ok hann
with Halfdan that to-him were ill-advised in to fight and he
skyldi flýja sakir liðsmunar. Konungr sagði, at fyrr skyldi
should flee because-of difference-of-force (The)-king said that sooner should
hverr falla um annan þveran enn hann skyldi flýja. Búast
each fall across other athwart than he should flee Get-ready
nú hvárirtveggju til orrostu, ok slær nú í enn harðasta
now both-sides for battle and strikes now into the hardest
bardaga ok lýkr með því, at Hálfdan konungr fellr ok alt
battle and ends with that that Halfdan king falls and all
lið hans; síðan tók Sörli drekann, ok alt þat, er á honum
force his then took Sorli the-dragon-ship and all that which on it
var fémætt. Síðan spurði Sörli, at Högni var kominn ór
was valuable Afterward heard Sorli that Hogni was come from
hernaði ok lá við Óðinsey; þangat heldr Sörli skipum sínum;
raiding and lay by Odinsey thither holds Sorli ships his

ok þegar þeir finnast, sagði (hann) honum fall Hálfdanar
and as-soon-as they meet told he him (the)-fall of-Halfdan
föður síns, ok býðr honum sættir ok sjálfdœmi, ok þar
father his and offers him settlements and self-judgment and there
með fóstbrœðralag; enn Högni neitaði því öllu. Síðan börðust
with sworn-brotherhood but Hogni refused that all Then fought
þeir, sem segir í Sörla stikka; gekk Hákon allvel fram, ok
they as says in Sorli's song went Hakon very-well forward and
drap Sævar, merkismann Sörla ok stafnbúa; eftir þat drap
killed Saevar standard-man of-Sorli and prow-man after that killed
Sörli Hákon, enn Högni drap Erling konung, föður Sörla.
Sorli Hakon but Hogni killed Erling king father of-Sorli
Síðan börðust þeir Högni ok Sörli, ok fell Sörli fyrir Högna
Then fought they Hogni and Sorli and fell Sorli before Hogni
af mœði ok sárum, ok lét Högni síðan grœða hann, ok
from weariness and wounds and had Hogni afterward heal him and
svörðust þeir í fóstbrœðralag, ok heldu þat vel meðan þeir
swore they into sworn-brotherhood and held it well while they
lifðu báðir; enn Sörli lifði þeira skemr, ok fell í Austrvegi
lived both but Sorli lived of-them shorter and fell in (the)-East-way
fyrir víkingum, sem segir í Sörla stikka, ok hér segir:
before vikings as says in Sorli's song and here says

Fell enn forsnjalli
Fell the very-valiant
fyrst inn víglysti
first the battle-eager
ýgr í Austrvegi
fierce in (the)-East-way
allr á helpalla,
all on Hel's-benches

dauðr um dalreyðar
dead about dale-trout's
dáðkunnr miskunnar,
deed-famed mercy
beit at brandmóti
bit at brand-meeting
brynstingr víkingum.
byrnie-stinger to-vikings

Enn sem Högni frétti fall Sörla, herjaði hann í Austrveg á
But as Hogni learned (the)-fall of-Sorli harried he into (the)-East-way in
sama sumri, ok hafði alstaðar sigr, ok varð þar konungr yfir,
same summer and had everywhere victory and became there king over(-it)
ok segja menn svá, at tuttugu konungar urðu skattgildir undir
and say men so that twenty kings became tributary under
Högna konung, ok heldu af honum ríki. Högni varð svá frægr
Hogni king and held from him realm Hogni became so famous
af sínum stórvirkjum ok hernaði, at hans nafn var jafn vel
from his great-deeds and raiding that his name was equally well
kunnigt norðr við Finnabú sem út í París, ok alt þar í milli.
known north by Finnabu as out in Paris and all there in between

V · HÉÐINN AND GÖNDUL

King Hjarrandi of Serkland has a son, Héðinn, who makes twenty kings his tributaries. In a forest clearing he meets a tall, fair woman, Göndul, who tells him of Högni in Denmark, his equal in every way. Héðinn sets out the next spring and reaches Denmark.

Hjarrandi hefir konungr heitit; hann réð fyrir Serklandi; hann
Hjarrandi has a-king been-called he ruled over Serkland he
átti sér drotningu ok einn son, þann er Héðinn er nefndr;
had for-himself queen and one son that who Hedin is named
hann var snemma afreksmaðr at afli, vexti ok atgervi.
he was early man-of-prowess in strength growth and accomplishment
Hann lagði í hernað á œskualdri, ok gerðist sækonungr,
He betook-himself into raiding in youth and became sea-king
ok herjaði víða um Spanía ok Grœcía, ok öll nálæg ríki,
and harried widely about Spain and Greece and all neighboring realms
svá at hann skattgildi undir sik tuttugu konunga, svá at
so that he made-tributary under himself twenty kings so that
allir heldu af honum land ok lén. Héðinn sat á vetrum
all held from him land and fief Hedin sat in winters
heima í Serklandi. Þat er sagt einhvern tíma, at Héðinn fór
home in Serkland That is said some time that Hedin went
á skóg með hirð sinni; hann varð staddr í rjóðri einn sinna
into wood with court his he became placed in clearing alone of-his
manna; hann sá konu sitja á stóli í rjóðrinu mikla vexti
men he saw a-woman sit on chair in the-clearing great in-growth
ok fríða sjónum; hun kvaddi Héðin kurteislega; hann spurði
and fair to-look-on she greeted Hedin courteously he asked
hana at nafni; enn hun nefndist Göndul. Síðan talast þau
her of name but she named-herself Gondul Then talk they

við; spyrr hun hann af stórvirkjum sínum: enn hann sagði
together asks she him of great-deeds his but he told
henni alt af létta ok spurði hana, hvárt hun vissi nokkurn
her all off lightly and asked her whether she knew any
konung sér jafnan at hreysti ok harðræði, frægðum ok
king to-himself equal in hardihood and daring fame and
framkvæmum. Hun kveðst þann vita, er ekki skyrti við
achievements She says-of-herself that-one know who not fell-short of
hann, ok eigi þjónuðu síðr tuttugu konungar enn honum, ok
him and not served less twenty kings than him and
kvað hann Högna heita, ok sitja norðr í Danmörk. Þat veit
said him Hogni be-called and sit north in Denmark That know
ek sagði Héðinn, at þat skulum vit reyna, hvárr okkarr
I said Hedin that that shall we-two test which of-us-two
fremri er. Mál mun þér, segir Göndul, til manna
more-forward is Time will (it-be)-for-thee says Gondul to men
þinna; þeir munu leita þín; síðan skilja þau; ferr hann til
thy they will seek thee Then part they goes he to
manna sinna, enn hun sat þar eftir. Þegar at vordögum
men his but she sat there behind As-soon-as at spring-days
býr Héðinn ferð sína, hefir einn dreka ok á þrjú
prepares Hedin journey his has one dragon-ship and on(-it) three
hundruð manna; hann heldr norðr í heima; hann siglir þat
hundred men he holds north into (the)-world he sails that
sumar ok þann vetr; at várdögum kom hann í Danmörk.
summer and that winter at spring-days came he into Denmark

Högni welcomes Héðinn to a feast. They test each other at swimming, shooting, tilting, and every skill, and are so equal that none can tell which is better. They swear sworn-brotherhood and agree to share all they own. Högni is married to Hervör, and his daughter Hildr is the fairest and wisest of women.

Högni konungr sat þá heima; ok er hann spyrr, at ágætr
Hogni king sat then home and when he hears that excellent
konungr er þar við land kominn, býðr hann honum heim
king is there by land come invites he him home
til ágætrar veizlu; Héðinn þektist þat. Ok er þeir sátu
to excellent feast Hedin accepted that And when they sat
við drykk, spurði Högni, hvert eyrendi Héðinn hefði, er
at drink asked Hogni what errand Hedin had when
hann fýstist svá langt norðr í heima. Héðinn sagði þat
he desired so far north into (the)-world Hedin said that
sitt eyrendi, at þeir reyndi með sér hug og hreysti,
his errand that they should-test with themselves courage and hardihood
íþróttir og alla atgervi. Högni lézt þess búinn. Ok
accomplishments and all accomplishment Hogni professed of-that ready And
annan dag árla fóru þeir á sund ok í skotbakka; þeir
(the)-next day early went they to swim and to shooting-butts they
frömdu ok burtreið ok vápnfimi; ok allar íþróttir, ok váru
performed also tilting and weapon-skill and all accomplishments and were
svá jafnir á alla atgervi, at engi þóttist mega í milli
so equal in all accomplishment that none thought-himself be-able in between
sjá, hvárr fremri væri. Eftir þetta gert sverjast þeir í
see which more-forward were After this done swear they into
fóstbrœðralag, ok skyldu alt eiga at helmingi. Héðinn var ungr
sworn-brotherhood and should all own by half Hedin was young

ok ókvæntr, enn Högni var nokkuru ellri; hann átti Hervöru
and unmarried but Hogni was somewhat older he had Hervor
Hjörvarðsdóttur, Heiðrekssonar úlfhams. Högni átti dóttur,
Hjorvard's-daughter Heidreksson Wolf-Skin Hogni had a-daughter
er Hildr hét; hun var allra kvenna vænst ok vitrust;
who Hild was-called she was of-all women fairest and wisest
hann unni mikit dóttur sinni; ekki átti hann barna fleira.
he loved much daughter his not had he of-children more

VII · THE ABDUCTION OF HILDR

While Högni is raiding, Héðinn again meets Göndul in the forest. She gives him a drink that makes him forget his oath, and urges him to carry off Hildr and kill the queen under his ship's prow. Hildr begs him not to, foreseeing that he and her father will kill each other, but he does it. Göndul gives him a second drink and, as he sleeps, binds him and Högni under Óðinn's decree. He wakes remembering all, and sails away with Hildr.

Þat er sagt, at nokkuru síðar fœri Högni í hernað, enn
That is said that somewhat later went Hogni into raiding but
Héðinn sat eftir, ok skyldi geyma ríkis. Þat var einn
Hedin sat behind and should keep (the)-realm That was one
dag, at Héðinn fór á skóg at skemta sér; þá var blítt
day that Hedin went into wood to amuse himself then was mild
veðr; honum varð enn vikit í brott frá mönnum
weather to-him happened again (to-be)-turned off away from men
sínum; hann kom í eitt rjóðr; þar sá hann sitja konu
his he came into one clearing there saw he sit a-woman
á stóli þá sömu, er hann sá fyrr á Serklandi, ok leizt
on chair that same whom he saw before in Serkland and seemed
honum, sem hun væri nú alt fegri enn fyrr. Hun kastaði
to-him as-if she were now all fairer than before She cast

enn orðum fyrr á hann, ok gerði sik blíða í máli; hun
again words first at him and made herself gentle in speech she
helt á einu horni, ok var lok yfir; konungi rann hugr til
held on one horn and was lid over(-it) to-(the)-king ran mind to
hennar. Hun bauð honum at drekka, enn konungr þyrstr,
her She bade him to drink but (the)-king thirsty
þvíat honum var varmt orðit; tekr við ok drekkr; enn er
because to-him was warm become takes (it)-up and drinks but when
hann hafði drukkit, brá honum mjök undarlega við, þvíat
he had drunk changed him much strangely about because
hann mundi engan hlut þann, sem áðr hafði yfir gengit;
he remembered no thing that which before had over passed
hann settist þá niðr, ok töluðust þau við. Hun spurði,
he sat then down and talked they together She asked
hvárt honum hefði nokkut svá reynzt, sem hun hafði sagt
whether to-him had anything so proved as she had told
honum fyrr, um íþróttir Högna ok harðræði. Héðinn
him before about accomplishments of-Hogni and daring Hedin
sagði þat satt vera: þvíat hann skorti ekki við mik neina
said that true be because he lacked nothing beside me any
atgervi, er vit reyndum, og því höfum vit kallazt
accomplishment when we-two tested and therefore have we-two been-called
jafnir. Ekki eru þit þó jafnir, segir hun. Hvat finnr þú
equal Not are you-two yet equal says she What findest thou
til þess? segir hann. Þat finn ek til, segir hun, at Högni
for that says he That find I for(-it) says she that Hogni
á sér drotningu af stórum ættum, enn þú átt þér
has for-himself queen of great kin but thou hast for-thyself
enga konu. Hann svarar: Högni giftir mér þegar Hildi,
no wife He answers Hogni marries to-me at-once Hild
dóttur sína, er ek vil biðja, ok er ek þá ekki verr kvæntr
daughter his if I will ask and am I then not worse married

enn hann. Minkast þá metnaðr þinn, segir hun, ef þú biðr
than he Lessens then esteem thy says she if thou askest
Högna mægða; hitt væri heldr til, ef þik skyrti hvárki
Hogni for-in-law-ship that were rather to(-do) if thee lacked neither
hug né hreysti, sem þú lætr at sé, at nema Hildi
courage nor hardihood as thou makest-out that is to take Hild
í burtu, enn drepa drotningu með því móti, at taka hana,
off away but kill (the)-queen in that manner to take her
ok leggja hana niðr fyrir barðit á drekanum, ok lát hann
and lay her down before the-prow on the-dragon-ship and let it
sníða hana í sundr, þá er hann er fram settr. Svá var
cut her in asunder then when it is forth launched So was
Héðinn fanginn í ilsku ok óminni af öli því, er hann
Hedin caught in malice and forgetfulness from ale that which he
hafði drukkit, at honum sýndist ekki annat ráð enn þetta,
had drunk that to-him seemed no other counsel than this
ok ekki mundi hann til, at þeir Högni væri fóstbrœðr.
and not remembered he to(-it) that they Hogni were sworn-brothers
Síðan skildu þau, ok fór Héðinn til manna sinna; þetta
Then parted they and went Hedin to men his this
var at áliðnu sumri. Héðinn skipar þá mönnum sínum
was at late-passed summer Hedin orders then men his
at búa til drekann, þvíat (hann) kveðst heim vilja til
to make ready the-dragon-ship because he says-of-himself home wish to
Serklands. Síðan gekk hann til skemmu, ok tók sinni hendi
Serkland Then went he to (the)-bower and took with-his hand
hvára drotningu ok Hildi, ok gengr út með þær. Menn tóku
each (the)-queen and Hild and goes out with them Men took
klæði ok gripi Hildar. Þeir einir váru menn í ríkinu, at
clothes and treasures of-Hild Those only were men in the-realm who
ekki þorðu at gera, sakir Héðins ok manna hans,
not dared to do (anything)-because-of Hedin and men his

þvíat hann var mjök ófrýnlegr. Hildr spurði Héðinn, hvat er
because he was very grim-looking Hild asked Hedin what that
hann ætlaði; enn hann sagði henni; hun bað hann eigi svá
he intended but he told her she bade him not so
gera: þvíat faðir minn mun gifta mik þér, ef þú vilt biðja
do because father my will marry me to-thee if thou wilt ask
mín. Ei vil ek þat gera, segir Héðinn, at biðja þín. Ok
(for)-me Not will I that do says Hedin to ask (for)-thee And
þó at þat sé, segir hun, at þú vilir ekki annat, enn
though that that be says she that thou wish nothing other than
flytja mik í burt, þá munu þit faðir minn þó sættast,
carry me off away then will you-two father my yet be-reconciled
enn ef þú gerir svá illa ok ómannlega, at þú vinnir bana
but if thou doest so ill and unmanly that thou work death
móður minni, þá munu þit faðir minn aldri sættast, ok
to-mother my then will you-two father my never be-reconciled and
þesslega hafa mér draumar gengit, sem þit munið berjast,
such-like have to-me dreams gone as-if you-two will fight
ok drepast niðr, ok þó muni þar annat þyngra á koma,
and kill-each-other down and yet will there other heavier upon come
ok mun mér þat mikill harmr, ef ek skal horfa upp á föður
and will to-me that great grief if I shall look up on father
minn, at hann skuli standa undir meingerðum ok miklum
my that he shall stand under harms and great
álögum, enn mér er þó engi gleði í, at sjá þik í illendum
spells but to-me is yet no joy in to see thee in hardships
ok erfiðsmunum. Héðinn kveðst aldri hirða, hvat er bak
and toils Hedin says-of-himself never care what that after
kœmi, ok sagðist gera mundu sem áðr. Eigi máttu nú
came and said-of-himself do would as before Not mayest-thou now
at gera, segir Hildr, þvíat þér er eigi sjálfrátt um. Síðan
to do says Hild because to-thee is not self-willed about(-it) Then

gekk Héðinn til strandar; var þá settr fram drekinn;
went Hedin to (the)-strand was then launched forth the-dragon-ship
skaut hann þá drotningu niðr fyri barðit; lét hun þar líf
thrust he then (the)-queen down before the-prow lost she there life
sitt; enn Héðinn gengr út á drekann. Ok er hann er
her but Hedin goes out onto the-dragon-ship And when he is
albúinn, fýsir hann at ganga á land einn sinna manna,
all-ready desires he to go on land alone of-his men
ok í þann sama skóg, sem fyrr hafði hann gengit; ok
and into that same wood which before had he gone and
er hann kom fram í rjóðrit, sá hann þar Göndul sitja
when he came forth into the-clearing saw he there Gondul sit
á stóli; þau kvöddust kunnlega. Héðinn sagði henni frá
on chair they greeted-each-other familiarly Hedin told her of
framferðum sínum; hun lét vel yfir. Hun hafði þar hornit
doings his she made well over(-it) She had there the-born
þat, er hun fór fyrr með, ok bauð honum at drekka af.
that which she went before with and bade him to drink from(-it)
Hann tók við ok drakk; enn er hann hafði drukkit, seig
He took (it)-up and drank but when he had drunk sank
at honum svefn, ok hallaði hann sér í kné henni. Enn
on him sleep and leaned he himself onto (the)-knee of-her But
er hann var sofnaðr, fór hun undan höfði honum ok
when he was fallen-asleep went she from-under head his and
mælti: Nú vígi ek þik undir öll þau atkvæði ok skildaga,
spoke Now consecrate I thee under all those decrees and terms
sem Óðinn fyrir mælti ok ykkr Högna báða, ok alt lið
which Odin before spoke and you-two Hogni both and all force
ykkart. Síðan vaknaði Héðinn, ok sá svipinn af Göndul, ok
your-two Then woke Hedin and saw the-glimpse of Gondul and
sýndist honum þá svört ok mikil; mundi nú alt, ok þótti
seemed to-him then black and great remembered now all and seemed

mikit slys sitt; hugsar nú, at fara nokkut langt í burt, svá
great mishap his thinks now to go somewhat far off away so
at hann mætti eigi daglega heyra brigzli sinna vándra
that he might not daily hear (the)-reproaches of-his wicked
framferða; ferr nú til skips, lætr skjótt ór landfestum,
doings goes now to ship lets (it)-quickly from shore-ropes
stendr byrr af landi, ok siglir svá í brott með Hildi.
stands wind from land and sails so off away with Hild

VIII · THE ENDLESS BATTLE

Högni pursues Héðinn to the island of Hoy. Héðinn offers to give up Hildr, the ship, and all he has and go into exile, but Högni refuses any settlement after the queen's death. They fight, and the fallen rise again each time. The battle goes on, with Hildr watching from a grove, for a hundred and forty-three years, until the reign of Óláfr Tryggvason.

Nú kemr Högni heim; verðr nú víss ens sanna, at Héðinn
Now comes Hogni home becomes now aware of-the truth that Hedin
hefir siglt í brott með Hildi ok drekann Hálfdanarnaut,
has sailed off away with Hild and the-dragon-ship Halfdan's-Gift
enn drotning lá dauð eftir. Högni varð við þetta mjök
but (the)-queen lay dead behind Hogni became at this very
reiðr, ok bað menn við bregða þegar, ok sigla eftir Héðni;
angry and bade men about start at-once and sail after Hedin
gera þeir nú ok svá, ok fá enn bezta byr; koma æ þar
do they now and so and get the best wind come ever there
at kveldi á þær hafnir, sem Héðinn hafði burt siglt áðr
at evening to those harbors which Hedin had away sailed before
um morgininn. Þat var einn dag, er Högni helt til hafnar,
in the-morning That was one day when Hogni held to harbor

at þá vóru segl Héðins at sjá við hafi; þá halda þeir
that then were (the)-sails of-Hedin to see at sea then hold they
Högni þegar eftir. Þat er sannlega sagt, at þá fekk
Hogni at-once after(-them) That is truly said that then got
Héðinn andviðri í móti sér, enn Högna helzt enn sami
Hedin head-wind in against him but for-Hogni held still same
byrr. Héðinn leggr þá upp at eyju þeiri, er Há heitir, ok
wind Hedin lays then up to island that which Hoy is-called and
leggr þar í lægi. Bráðlega kemr Högni eftir; ok er þeir
lays there in harbor Speedily comes Hogni after and when they
finnast, kveðr Héðinn hann blíðlega. Þat er þér at segja,
meet greets Hedin him gently That is to-thee to tell
fóstbróðir, segir Héðinn, at mik hefir hent svá mikit slys,
foster-brother says Hedin that me has befallen so great mishap
at þat má engi bœta, nema þú: ek hefir hertekit dóttur
that that may none amend except thou I have war-taken daughter
þína ok dreka, enn veitt líflát drotningu þinni, ok þó
thy and dragon-ship but given death to-queen thy and yet
eigi af eiginlegri ilsku minni, heldr af vándum spám ok
not from own malice my rather from wicked prophecies and
illum álögum; vil ek nú, at þú skerir einn ok skapir okkar
evil spells wish I now that thou cut alone and shape us-two
í milli; þat vil ek ok bjóða þér, at leggja bæði af Hildi
in between that will I also offer thee to lay both off Hild
ok drekann, menn alla ok fé, enn fara svá langt út í
and the-dragon-ship men all and wealth but go so far out into
heima, at koma aldri til norðrlanda, né þér í augsýn
(the)-world to come never to (the)-Northlands nor to-thee into eyesight
meðan ek lifi. Högni svarar: Ek hefði gift þér Hildi, ef
while I live Hogni answers I had married to-thee Hild if
þú hefðir hennar beðit; nú þó ok, at þú hefðir hertekit
thou had her asked-for now yet also that thou had war-taken

Hildi, þá mætti við þó sættast fyrir þat; enn nú, er
Hild then might we-two yet be-reconciled for that but now when
þú hefir gert svá mikit óverkan, at þú hefir niðst á
thou hast done so great misdeed that thou hast dealt-basely on
drotningu ok drepit hana, er engi ván á, at ek vili sáttum
(the)-queen and killed her is no hope in that I will reconciliation
taka; skulu vér ok reyna þegar í stað, hvárir stœrst kunna
take shall we also test at-once in place which mightiest can
at höggva. Héðinn svarar: Hitt er ráð, ef þú vilt ekki
to hew Hedin answers That is counsel if thou wishest nothing
annat enn berjast, at vit reynim tveir með okkr, þvíat
other than fight that we-two test two with us-two because
hér áttu við engan mann sakir nema við mik; dugir
here hast-thou against no man cases except against me avails
þat eigi, at ómaklegir menn gjaldi glæpa minna ok illgerða.
that not that undeserving men pay of-crimes my and evil-doings
Fylgdarmenn þeira svöruðu allir sem eins munni, at þeir
Followers their answered all as with-one mouth that they
skyldu fyrr falla hverr á fœtr öðrum, heldr enn þeir næði
should sooner fall each on feet of-other rather than they got
höggum við at skiftast. Enn er Héðinn sá, at Högni vildi
blows with to exchange But when Hedin saw that Hogni wished
ekki annat enn berjast, þá bað hann sína menn á land
nothing other than fight then bade he his men onto land
ganga: skal ek eigi lengr bila við Högna, né biðjast undan
go shall I not longer waver against Hogni nor beg-myself off
bardaga, ok dugi nú hverr eftir drengmensku. Ganga þeir
battle and avail now each after manhood Go they
nú á land ok berjast; er Högni allœfr, enn Héðinn bæði
now onto land and fight is Hogni all-furious but Hedin both
vápnfimr ok stórhöggr. Þat er með sannendum sagt, at
weapon-skilled and great-striking That is with truths said that

svá mikil atkvæði ok ilska fylgdi þessum álögum, at þóat
so great decrees and malice followed these spells that though
þeir klyfist í herðar niðr, þá stóðu þeir upp sem áðr ok
they were-cloven to shoulders down then stood they up as before and
börðust. Hildr sat í einum lundi, ok sá upp á þenna leik.
fought Hild sat in one grove and saw up on this play
Þessi armœða ok ánauð gekk alla stund, frá því, er þeir
This misery and bondage went all while from that when they
tóku til at berjast, ok framan til þess, er Óláfr Tryggvason
took to to fight and forward till that when Olaf Tryggvason
varð konungr at Noregi. Segja menn, at þat væri fjórtán
became king in Norway Say men that that were fourteen
tigir ára ok þrjú ár, áðr enn þessum ágæta manni,
tens of-years and three years before than to-this excellent man
Óláfi konungi, yrði þat lagit, at hans hirðmaðr leysti þá
Olaf king became that laid that his retainer freed them
frá þessu aumlega áfelli ok skaðlegum skapraunum.
from this wretched doom and harmful torments

IX · ÍVARR ENDS THE SPELL

In the first year of King Óláfr's reign his fleet lies off Hoy, where watchmen vanish every night. Ívarr ljómi keeps watch and meets Héðinn, who asks a Christian man to end their torment. Ívarr kills Högni from behind, as Héðinn advised, and then all the others, Héðinn last. The next day nothing is left on the field but the blood on Ívarr's sword, and no watchman vanishes there again.

Á fyrsta ári ríkis Óláfs konungs er sagt, at hann kœmi
In first year of-(the)-reign of-Olaf king is said that he came
við eyna Há, ok legði þar í lægi eitt kveld. Sá var þar
by the-island Hoy and lay there in harbor one evening That was there

vani við fyrr sagða ey, at þar hurfu hverja nátt varðmenn,
custom at before said island that there vanished every night watchmen
svá at engi vissi, hvat af varð. Ívarr ljómi átti vörð
so that none knew what of(-them) became Ivar Gleam had watch
að halda þessa nátt. Enn er allir menn vóru sofnaðir á
to hold that night But when all men were fallen-asleep on
skipum, tók Ívarr sverðit, er átt hafði Járnskjöldr, enn
ships took Ivar the-sword which owned had Iron-Shield but
Þorsteinn son hans hafði gefit honum, ok öll herklæði sín,
Thorstein son his had given him and all war-gear his
ok gekk upp á eyna; enn er hann er upp kominn á
and went up onto the-island but when he is up come onto
eyna, sá hann mann ganga í mót sér; sá var mikill
the-island saw he a-man go in against him that-one was great
vexti ok allr blóðigr, með miklum áhyggju svip. Ívarr spurði
in-growth and all bloody with great of-care look Ivar asked
þenna mann at nafni. Hann kveðst Héðinn heita, ok vera
this man of name He says-of-himself Hedin be-called and be
Hjarrandason, kynjaðr utan ór Serklandi: er þér þat satt at
Hjarrandi's-son born out from Serkland is to-thee that truth to
segja, at þóat hér hafi horfit vökumenn, at þat er mér at
tell that though here have vanished wake-men that that is to-me to
kenna ok okkr Högna Hálfdanarsyni, þvíat vit erum orðnir
charge and us-two Hogni Halfdan's-son because we-two are become
fyrir svá miklum atkvæðum ok ánauðum ok okkrir menn,
under so great decrees and bondages and our-two men
at vér berjumst bæði nætr ok daga, ok hefir þessu gengit
that we fight both nights and days and has this gone
marga mannsaldra, enn Hildr Högnadóttir sitr ok sér upp
many men's-ages but Hild Hogni's-daughter sits and looks up
á, enn Óðinn hefir þetta lagit á oss, ok ekki annat til
on(-it) but Odin has this laid on us and nothing other for

undanlausnar, enn nokkurr kristinn maðr berist við oss, þá
release than some christian man fight with us then
skal sá eigi upp standa, er hann drepr, ok þá er hverr
shall that-one not up stand whom he kills and then is each
sá leystr frá sinni ánauð. Nú vilda ek biðja þik, at þú
that-one freed from his bondage Now would I ask thee that thou
færir til bardaga með oss, þvíat ek veit, at þú ert vel
should-go to battle with us because I know that thou art well
kristinn, svá ok at konungr sá, er þú þjónar, er mikillar
christian so also that king that whom thou servest is of-great
hamingju; segir mér ok svá hugr um, at vér munim af
fortune says to-me also so mind about(-it) that we will from
honum ok hans mönnum nokkut gott hljóta. Ívarr játtar
him and his men something good get Ivar grants
at fara með honum. Héðinn varð glaðr við þat, ok mælti:
to go with him Hedin became glad at that and spoke
Þess skaltu varast ok ganga eigi framan at Högna, ok þess
Of-that shalt-thou beware and go not in-front at Hogni and of-that
annars, at drepa mik eigi fyrr enn Högna, sakar þess, at
other to kill me not before than Hogni because-of that that
þat er einkis mensks manns, at ganga framan at Högna,
that is of-no human man to go in-front at Hogni
eðr drepa hann, ef ek er áðr dauðr, þvíat hann hefir
or kill him if I am before dead because he has
ægishjálm í augum, ok hlífir engu vætta, ok því er þat
helm-of-terror in eyes and shields nothing at-all and therefore is that
eina til, at ek gangi at honum framan, ok berjumst
the-one (way)-to(-it) that I go at him in-front and fight
ek við hann, enn þú gangir at baki honum, ok veitir
I with him but thou go to (the)-back of-him and give
honum banatilræði, þvíat þér man lítit fyri verða, at
him death-blow because to-thee will little before(-thee) be to

bana mér, þó at ek lifi vár allra lengst. Síðan ganga þeir
slay me though that I live of-us all longest Then go they
til bardaga, ok sér Ívarr, at þetta er alt satt, sem Héðinn
to battle and sees Ivar that this is all true which Hedin
hafði sagt honum; gengr hann at baki Högna, ok höggr
had told him goes he to (the)-back of-Hogni and hews
í höfuð honum, ok klýfr hann í herðar niðr; fellr Högni
into head his and cleaves him to shoulders down falls Hogni
þá dauðr, ok stóð aldri upp síðan. Síðan drap hann þar
then dead and stood never up since Then killed he there
þá menn alla, er at bardaganum vóru, enn síðast Héðinn,
then men all who at the-battle were but last Hedin
ok varð honum lítit fyrir því. Síðan gekk hann til skipa,
and became to-him little for that Then went he to ships
ok var þá lýst af degi; hann fór til konungs, ok sagði
and was then dawned of day he went to (the)-king and told
honum. Konungr lét vel yfir verki hans, ok sagði honum
him (The)-king made well over work his and said him
giftulega tekizt hafa. Eftir um daginn gengu þeir á land,
luckily succeeded have Later in the-day went they onto land
ok þar til, sem bardaginn hafði verit, ok sá þar engan
and there to where the-battle had been and saw there no
stað þeira tíðenda, er þar höfðu vorðit, enn blóð sást á
trace of-those tidings which there had happened but blood was-seen on
sverði Ívars til merkja, ok aldri hurfu þar varðhaldsmenn
(the)-sword of-Ivar as token and never vanished there watch-holding-men
síðan. Konungr fór heim eftir þetta í ríki sitt.
since (The)-king went home after this into realm his

Sögubrot af fornkonungum

A Fragment on the Ancient Kings

The fragment opens in a lacuna. King Ívarr víðfaðmi tells his daughter Unnr, also called Auðr, that she shall never have King Helgi, the more so as she wants him, and tells Helgi her answers were proud. Helgi's brother Hrærekr then sends Helgi to woo her for him. Unnr says her father will choose for her anyway, and Ívarr gives her to Hrærekr. They marry in Zealand, and their son Haraldr is born with gold-colored front teeth and grows fast.

∗∗∗ neita. Konungr svarar: Sé ek, at þetta mál þarf at
(lacuna) refuse (The)-king answers See I that this matter needs that
lítt sé á loft borit, at menn biði þín, þvíat þat var siðr
little be into air borne that men ask-for thee because that was custom
fyrri konunga dœttra, láta koma þrjá biðla eða fleiri, enn
of-former kings' daughters let come three wooers or more but
taka eigi enn fyrsta, ok eru konungar fleiri vel mentir, enn
take not the first and are kings more well bred than
Helgi. Auðr svarar: Því skiftir litlu, hvárt þú spyrr mik at
Helgi Aud answers That matters little whether thou askest me about
þessu eða eigi, þvíat ek veit, at áðr muntu fastráðit hafa,
this or not because I know that before wilt-thou settled have
at öðru víss mun fara enn at mínum vilja, ok eigi líklegt,
that other wise will go than to my will and not likely
at þú mundir mér svá góðs gjaforðs unna, ok annat muntu
that thou wouldst me so good match grant and other wilt-thou
mér ætla. Konungr stóð upp ok svarar: Rétt getr þú
for-me intend (The)-king stood up and answers Right guessest thou
þrá; Aldri skaltu fá Helga konung, ok því síðr sem þú
(thy)-longing Never shalt-thou get Helgi king and that less as thou
girnist meir; hittir nú Helga konung, ok segir honum, at
desirest more meets now Helgi king and tells him that
hann hafi rœtt þetta mál fyrir dóttur sinni, ok kveðst
he have talked this matter before daughter his and says-of-himself

þat hugatsamlega gert hafa; lézt því ómerkilegar virðast
that eagerly done have professed that less-worthy seem
hennar svör, sem þau rœddust lengr við; kvað engan
her answers as they talked longer together said no
konungsson þann, er henni þœtti sér fullkosta; miklu
king's-son that who to-her seemed to-herself full-match much
er ofsi hennar meiri; enn þó lézt hann enn tala mundu
is pride her greater but yet professed he still talk would
málit fyrir hans hönd: enn at svá búnu tjár ekki. Helgi
the-matter for his hand but at so done avails nothing Helgi
ferr heim, ok spyrr þetta Hrœrekr bróðir hans; ok með því
goes home and hears this Hroerek brother his and with that
at hann sat heima í ríkinu, eggja vinir Hrœreks hann at
that he sat at-home in the-realm urge friends of-Hroerek him to
kvænast; honum felst þat vel í skap, ok rœddu, at hann
marry to-him falls that well into mind and said that he
mundi biðja dóttur Ívars konungs, er þá var ágætastr
would ask-for (the)-daughter of-Ivar king who then was most-excellent
konungr; hann lét eigi vænt, at hann mundi þann kost fá,
king he made not likely that he would that match get
er bróðir hans fekk eigi, er miklu var framar í hvern
which brother his got not who much was more-forward in every
stað; þeir kváðu hann eigi mundu fá hávan kost, ef hann
place they said him not would get high match if he
bæði eigi, enn sögðu honum enga svívirðing, þótt honum
asked not but said to-him no disgrace though to-him
væri synjat konunnar. Þá berr hann upp fyrir bróður sinn
were refused the-woman Then bears he up before brother his
málit, ok spyrr hann ráða um; enn hann kvað vera
the-matter and asks him counsel about(-it) but he said be
mikit happaráð, ef hann fengi, kveðst ok eigi vita, hverr
great lucky-match if he got(-her) says-of-himself also not know who

fengi, enn kvað vænt til gæfu, þeim er hlyti. Nú
would-get(-her) but said likely to luck for-him who got(-her) Now
biðr Hrœrekr, at Helgi muni fara at biðja honum konu;
asks Hroerek that Helgi will go to woo for-him wife
enn hann lézt fara munu; enn meiri ván at ekki muni
but he professed go would but more hope that nothing will
tjóa sem fyrr. Helgi ferr til Svíþjóðar á fund Ívars
avail as before Helgi goes to Sweden to (the)-meeting of-Ivar
konungs, ok er honum þar vel fagnat sem fyrr; hann hafði
king and is to-him there well welcomed as before he had
þar skamma stund verit, áðr hann berr upp málit, ok
there short while been before he bears up the-matter and
biðr Unnar nú fyrir hönd bróður síns. Konungr svarar
asks-for Unn now for (the)-hand of-brother his (The)-king answers
þunglega, ok lét þess óvitrlega leitat, kvað þess enga ván:
heavily and made of-that unwisely sought said of-that no hope
ok þat undra ek, at þú ferr með því máli, ef henni sýndist
and that wonder I that thou goest with that matter if to-her seemed
eigi með yðr at ganga, eða hví mun hun þann vilja, er
not with you to go or why will she that-one wish who
miklu er óframar. Helgi lét hann í engan stað minna
much is less-forward Helgi made him in no place less
verðan enn sik, enn fyrir þá sök eigi jafnfrægan, at hann
worth than himself but for that cause not equally-famous that he
var heima jamnan í ríkinu, ok því frá honum minni
was at-home always in the-realm and therefore of him fewer
sögur, ok biðr hann þetta mál bera fyrir Unni. Konungr
tales and asks him this matter bear before Unn (The)-king
lézt þess ófúss, ok kveðst vætta af henni illra svara
professed of-that unwilling and says-of-himself expect from her ill answers
sem fyrr. Annan dag eftir kallar hann til sín dóttur
as before (The)-next day after calls he to himself daughter

sína, ok heimtir hana á einmæli, ok segir þar kominn
his and takes her into private-talk and says there come
Helga konung, ok biðr hennar til handa bróður sínum; ok
Helgi king and asks-for her for hand to-brother his and
vill hann vita svör af yðr þessa máls. Hun svarar, kvað
will he know answers from you of-this matter She answers said
nú eigi vera skyldu sem fyrr, at hun gerði svá óveglega
now not be should as before that she made so dishonorable
för Helga, at hun tœki svá vel þessu máli, at hun væri
journey of-Helgi that she took so well this matter that she were
Hrœreki gift. Konungr svarar: Ómerkileg virðast mér þín
to-Hroerek married (The)-king answers Unworthy seem to-me thy
svör, ok eigi veit ek, hvar þú ætlar til um gjaforðit, er
answers and not know I where thou intendest to about the-match since
þú synjast hverjum konungi, er þín biðr, ætla ek at þú
thou refusest every king who thee asks-for think I that thou
verðir oss skjótt ofstýri, ef þú vilt ekki hafa vár ráð.
become for-us quickly unruly-one if thou wilt not have our counsel
Hun svarar: Því mun engu skifta enn sem fyrr, at tala
She answers That will nothing matter still as before to talk
við mik um málit, at þú munt áðr fastráðit hafa, hvert
with me about the-matter that thou wilt before settled have which
gjaforð ek skal hafa, ok mun því engu máli skifta, hvárt
match I shall have and will that in-no way matter whether
ek em Hrœreki gefin, eða öðrum manni, at ilt eitt gjaforð
I am to-Hroerek given or to-other man that ill alone match
mun ek hljóta þér undan hendi. Konungrinn gengr á
will I get from-thee under hand The-king goes off
brott, ok hittust þeir Helgi. Hann spyrr, hvert örendi hans
away and met they Helgi He asks what errand his
má þangat vera. Konungr svarar, at mikit hefir honum í
may thither be (The)-king answers that much has to-him in

brugðizt: ferr þat orð á, dóttir mín sé kvenna vitrust,
failed goes that word about daughter my be of-women wisest
enn ef hun væri et mesta fól, mundi hun eigi annan veg
but if she were the greatest fool would she not other way
um þetta kjósa, at neita þér þvílíkum konungi, enn mér
about this choose to refuse thee such king but to-me
virðist miklu heldr Hrœreki; þykki mér þat ok vænast, at
seems much rather Hroerek seems to-me that also likeliest that
hun hafi þat, er hun beiðist; ok luku þeir svá þessu máli,
she have that which she asks and ended they so this matter
at hann heitr Hrœreki dóttur sinni, ok var hun nú búin
that he promises to-Hroerek daughter his and was she now ready
til ferðar með Helga; fara þau nú sína leið, ok er þau
for journey with Helgi go they now their way and when they
kómu ór Svíaveldi, tala þau þetta mál sín í milli
came out-of (the)-Swedes'-realm talk they this matter themselves in between
hvé farit hefði, ok hvat Ívarr konungr hefir rœtt fyrir hváru
how gone had and what Ivar king has said for each
þeira; koma nú heim í ríkit á Selund; verðr Hrœrekr
of-them come now home into the-realm in Zealand becomes Hroerek
varr við, lætr senda í móti þeim reiðskjóta ok mikit lið,
aware of(-it) has send in against them riding-horses and great force
lætr búa veizlu, ok at þeiri veizlu fær hann Unnar. Helgi
has prepare feast and at that feast gets he Unn Helgi
dvelst heima á Selund þann vetr; ok at sumri fór hann í
stays at-home in Zealand that winter and in summer went he into
hernað, sem vandi hans var til. Hrœrekr átti son við konu
raiding as wont his was to Hroerek had a-son with wife
sinni, ok hét Haraldr; þat mark var á honum: at-tennr
his and was-called Harald that mark was on him tusk-teeth
í öndverðu höfði, ok vóru miklar ok gulls litr á; hann
in front head and were great and gold's color on(-them) he

var mikill ok fríðr sýnum; ok er hann var þrévetr,
was great and handsome in-looks and when he was three-winters-old
var hann svá mikill, sem tíu vetra gamlir sveinar.
was he so great as ten winters old boys

II · HRŒREKR AND HELGI

Ívarr víðfaðmi lands with his army at Zealand. His daughter Auðr, wife of Hrœrekr, has her husband sleep in a new bed and reads his dream of a hart, a leopard, a dragon, and a bear as warning against her father. Ívarr tells Hrœrekr that Auðr's son is his brother Helgi's, and Hrœrekr kills Helgi at the tilting. Ívarr then kills Hrœrekr and takes his kingdom. Auðr flees with her son Haraldr to Garðaríki and marries King Raðbarðr.

Þat var eitt sumar, at Ívarr konungr kom með her sinn
That was one summer that Ivar king came with army his
austan af Svíþjóð til Reiðgotalands; hann lagði öllu liðinu
from-the-east from Sweden to Reidgotaland he laid all the-force
við Selund; hann gerði orð Hrœreki, mági sínum,
by Zealand he sent word to-Hroerek kinsman-by-marriage his
at hann kœmi til hans. Konungr segir Unni konu sinni.
that he should-come to him (The)-king tells Unn wife his
Hun spyrr, hvárt hann ætlaði at fara á fund mágs
She asks whether he intended to go to (the)-meeting of-kinsman
síns at bjóða honum til veizlu upp á land. Ok um kveldit,
his to invite him to feast up onto land And in the-evening
er Hrœrekr konungr gekk at sofa, hafði Auðr búa látit
when Hroerek king went to sleep had Aud prepare had
nýja rekkju, ok þar með öll klæðin í, ok var sett á mitt
new bed and there with all the-clothes in(-it) and was set in middle
gólf, ok bað hun konung þar í sofa, ok hugsa, hvat hann
floor and bade she (the)-king there in sleep and think-on what he

dreymdi: ok seg mér at morgni, enn hun fekk sér aðra
dreamed and tell me in morning but she got for-herself other
sæing. Ok um morgininn kemr þar Auðr, ok spyrr eftir
bed And in the-morning comes there Aud and asks after
draumum hans. Mik dreymdi, segir hann, at ek væra staddr
dreams his Me dreamed says he that I were placed
nær skógi nokkurum, ok hjá völlr sléttr og fagr, ok þar
near wood some and beside field smooth and fair and there
sá ek einn hjört standa á vellinum; þá rann ór skóginum
saw I one hart stand on the-field then ran from the-wood
einn hlébarðr, ok þótti mér fax hans sem gull, ok hjörtrinn
one leopard and seemed to-me mane its like gold and the-hart
stakk hornunum undir bóg dýrinu, enn þat fell dautt
thrust with-the-horns under (the)-shoulder of-the-beast but it fell dead
niðr; þar næst sá ek, hvar flaug flugdreki mikill, ok kom
down there next saw I where flew flying-dragon great and came
þar, sem hjörtrinn var, ok greip þegar í klœr sér, ok
there where the-hart was and gripped at-once into claws its and
sleit allan í sundr; þá sá ek bjarndýr eitt, ok fylgdi húnn
tore all in asunder then saw I bear one and followed cub
ungr, ok vildi drekinn taka hann, enn beran varði, ok
young and would the-dragon take it but the-she-bear defended(-it) and
vaknaða ek þá. Hun mælti: Þetta er mikill draumr, ok varast
woke I then She spoke This is great dream and beware
þú Ívar konung föður minn, at hann véli þik, er þú
thou Ivar king father my that he trick thee when thou
hittir hann, þvíat þar hefir þú sét konunga fylgur, ok munu
meetest him because there hast thou seen kings' fetches and will
þeir eigast við orrostur, ok væri betr, at eigi ættir
they have with(-each-other) battles and were better that not wert
þú þann hjörtinn, er þér sýndist, enn til þess þœtti mér
thou that hart which to-thee seemed but to that seemed to-me

þú líklegastr. Þann sama dag fór hann með marga menn
thou likeliest That same day went he with many men
á fund Ívars konungs, ok gekk á konungs skipit, ok
to (the)-meeting of-Ivar king and went onto (the)-king's ship and
fyrir lyftingina, ok heilsaði Ívari konungi, enn hann svaraði
before the-poop and greeted Ivar king but he answered
engu, ok lét sem hann sæi hann eigi. Þá segir Hrœrekr,
nothing and made as-if he saw him not Then says Hroerek
at hann hefir látit búa veizlu í móti honum, ok vildi
that he has had prepared feast in against him and would
honum til sín bjóða. Konungr svaraði: kvaðst hafa illa
him to himself invite (The)-king answered said-of-himself have ill
gift dóttur sína, ok kvað eigi vera undr fyrir þá sök,
married daughter his and said not be wonder for that cause
þótt hun hefði illa við hann búit. Hann svarar: kveðst
though she had ill with him dealt He answers says-of-himself
vel við una, kveðst ok ætla, at hun yndi eigi
well with(-it) be-content says-of-himself also think that she be-content not
illa við sitt gjaforð. Þá svarar konungr reiðulega, segir, at
ill with her marriage Then answers (the)-king angrily says that
hann vissi ógerla, hversu þau bjuggu við hann Helgi ok
he knew not-clearly how they dealt with him Helgi and
Auðr, kvað þat í hvers manns munni, at Haraldr væri
Aud said that in every man's mouth that Harald were
son Helga konungs, ok hans mynd væri á þeim sveini, ok
son of-Helgi king and his likeness were on that boy and
lézt til þess kominn, at láta hann vita þessi svik, ok
professed for that come to let him know this treachery and
kveðst honum sýnast, at eigi ætti þeir hana báðir;
says-of-himself to-him seem that not should-have they her both
ok heldr vil ek, at þú gefir hana bróður þínum, enn
and rather wish I that thou give her to-brother thy than

þannig fari lengr fram, at þú þorir eigi at hefna. Hrœrekr
thus go longer forward that thou darest not to avenge Hroerek
lézt þat ekki heyrt hafa, enn fyrir hvatvetna fram vill
professed that not heard have but before everything forward will
hann eigi láta konu sína, ok bað Ívar konung ráð til
he not give-up wife his and bade Ivar king counsel to
leggja; enn hann kveðst ekki kunna öðru víss til leggja,
lay but he says-of-himself not can other wise to lay
enn hann dræpi Helga; lét ok aldri fyrr mundu verða
than he should-kill Helgi said also never sooner would be
með þeim vel; eða hinn ella, at hann léti konuna fyrir
between them well or the-other else that he gave-up the-wife to
Helga; kvað óhœft svá búit. Hrœrekr kvaðst aldri mundu
Helgi said unfitting so done Hroerek said-of-himself never would
konuna láta, ok heldr hefna; riðr á brott við sína menn;
the-wife give-up and rather avenge rides off away with his men
enn konungr fór suðr til Reiðgotalands. Um haustit, er
but (the)-king went south to Reidgotaland In the-autumn when
Helgi kom heim, var Hrœrekr svá ókátr, at engi maðr
Helgi came home was Hroerek so cheerless that no man
fekk orð af honum; enn Auðr lét búa veizlu ríkulega í
got word from him but Aud had prepare feast richly in
móti honum, ok at þeiri veizlu vóru margs konar leikar, ok
against him and at that feast were of-many kinds games and
þótti Helga mikit mein, er bróðir hans var svá ókátr, ok
seemed to-Helgi great harm that brother his was so cheerless and
bað hann fara í leik með sér; enn hann kveðst ekki
bade him go into game with himself but he says-of-himself not
leika mundu at svá búnu; hann bað hann vera kátan; ok
play would at so done he bade him be cheerful and
tökum hesta okkra, ok ríðum í turniment, sem vit erum
take-we horses our-two and ride-we in tournament as we-two are

vanir. Hrœrekr spratt upp, gekk til sinna manna þegjandi,
wont Hroerek sprang up went to his men silent
tekr vápn sín, hjálm ok brynju, ok sverð ok spjót, ríðr út;
takes weapons his helmet and mail-coat and sword and spear rides out
aðrir menn riðu með burtstengr. Helgi bróðir hans kemr
other men rode with tilting-poles Helgi brother his comes
móti honum með burtstöng. Hrœrekr leggr undir hönd
against him with tilting-pole Hroerek thrusts under arm
honum með spjóti ok í gegnum hann, ok fell hann dauðr
his with spear and in through him and fell he dead
af hestinum. Nú riðu til allir þeir, sem hjá vóru, ok
from the-horse Now rode to(-him) all those who by were and
spurðu, hví hann hefir þetta et illa verk gert; hann lét
asked why he has this the evil deed done he made
ærnar sakir til; kveðst at sönnu spurt hafa, at hann
ample causes for(-it) says-of-himself for truth heard have that he
hefir glapið konu hans; allir duldu þess, ok kváðu vera
has seduced wife his all denied that and said be
mikla lygi. Ok er Auðr spyrr þetta, lézt hun vita, at þat
great lie And when Aud hears this professed she know that that
vóru ráð föður hennar: ok er enn eigi alt fram komit,
were (the)-plans of-father her and is yet not all forth come
þat er hann hyggr; kvað þat mundu sýnast brátt; hun
that which he thinks said that would show quickly she
tók son sinn Harald, ok reið brott við marga menn; enn
took son her Harald and rode away with many men but
Hrœrekr fór at veizlum, sem vandi var til. Ok litlu síðar
Hroerek went to feasts as wont was to And little later
kom sunnan Ívarr konungr; ok er Hrœrekr spyrr þat,
came from-the-south Ivar king and when Hroerek hears that
reið hann á fund hans. Ok er Ívarr konungr spyrr, at
rode he to (the)-meeting of-him And when Ivar king hears that

Helgi var drepinn, segir hann þetta vera níðingsverk mikit,
Helgi was killed says he this be dastard's-deed great
ok biðr vápnast lið sitt skjótt, ok hefna vinar síns Helga,
and bids arm force his quickly and avenge friend his Helgi
ok spyrr, at Hrœrekr ætlar á fund hans, ok býr
and hears that Hroerek intends (to-come)-to meeting his and prepares
lið sitt til atgöngu; fara á land upp, ok í skóg þann,
force his for attack go on land up and into wood that
er var á leið þeiri, er ván var, at Hrœrekr mundi ofan
which was on way that where hope was that Hroerek would down
ríða, ok hann kom ofan til sjóvar; ok gekk Ívarr konungr
ride and he came down to (the)-sea and went Ivar king
sjálfr á land með því liði, er eftir var hjá skipum, ok
himself on land with that force which behind was by ships and
lét setja upp merki sitt ok gekk í móti Hrœreki. Ok er
had set up banner his and went in against Hroerek And when
heyrðu lúðr Ívars konungs, er í skóginum vóru, runnu
heard (the)-trumpet of-Ivar king who in the-wood were ran
þeir ór skóginum eftir þeim Hrœreki ok hans liði; ok er
they from the-wood after them Hroerek and his force and when
þeir fundust, börðust þeir; fell þar Hrœrekr ok alt lið hans.
they met fought they fell there Hroerek and all force his
Ok þá beiddist Ívarr konungr, at þat ríki væri honum
And then demanded Ivar king that that realm were to-him
gefit til forráða, ok allir þeir, sem næstir vóru, gengu undir
given for rule and all those who nearest were went under
hann. Litlu síðar kom af landi ofan Auðr en djúpauðga,
him Little later came from land down Aud the Deep-Wealthy
dóttir hans, með her allan þann, sem hun fekk. Ok með
daughter his with army all that which she got And with
því, at Ívarr konungr hafði ekki svá mikinn her, at hann
that that Ivar king had not so great army that he

mætti berjast við landsherinn at sinni, þá fór hann brott
might fight with the-land-army at once then went he away
ok til Svíþjóðar. Þann sama vetr samnar Auðr til sín öllu
and to Sweden That same winter gathers Aud to herself all
gulli ok dýrgripum, er hún mátti fá í því ríki, er átt
gold and costly-treasures which she might get in that realm which owned
hafði Hrœrekr konungr, og sendi til Eygotalands; ok þegar
had Hroerek king and sent to Eygotaland and as-soon-as
várar, býr hun ferð sína, ok hefir með sér Harald son
in-spring prepares she journey her and has with her Harald son
sinn, ok margt stórmenni fór með henni ór landi, ok
her and many great-men went with her from land and
hefir með sér alt þat fé, sem hun mátti með komast; fór
has with her all that wealth which she might with get went
fyrst til Eygotalands, ok síðan austr í Garðaríki. Þar réð
first to Eygotaland and then east into Gardariki There ruled
fyrir sá konungr, er Raðbarðr hét; hann tók vel við
over(-it) that king who Radbard was-called he took well to
henni ok liði hennar, ok bauð henni með sér at vera ok
her and force her and bade her with him to be and
öllu liði hennar, ok hafa gott yfirlæti í sínu landi; þetta
all force her and have good cheer in his land this
þiggr hun. Ívarr konungr lagði undir sik ríki þat alt,
accepts she Ivar king laid under himself realm that all
er átt höfðu þeir brœðr. Enn Raðbarðr konungr biðr
which owned had they brothers But Radbard king asks-for
Auðar, ok með því, at hun var landflótta af Selundi með
Aud and with that that she was land-fleeing from Zealand with
son sinn, þykkir henni þurfa nokkurt traust, þat er syni
son her seems to-her need some support that which to-son
hennar væri til hjálpar, er hann yxi upp; ok með því,
her were for help when he grew up and with that

at Raðbarðr var ríkr konungr, þá var hun gift honum
that Radbard was mighty king then was she married to-him
með ráði Haralds, enn at var ekki spurðr Ívarr konungr.
with counsel of-Harald but that was not asked Ivar king

III · ÍVARR AND HÖRÐR

Ívarr, enraged that Raðbarðr married Auðr without his leave, leads a vast fleet against him. He dreams of a dragon and a storm, and his foster-father Hörðr, standing on a crag, likens the kings to the Æsir and Ívarr to the Miðgarðsormr. Ívarr leaps overboard in fury and neither man is seen again; the levy breaks up. Raðbarðr sets young Haraldr over the southern army, and he wins Zealand, Scania, Sweden, and Jutland.

Ok er Ívarr konungr spyrr þessi tíðendi, at Auðr var
And when Ivar king hears these tidings that Aud was
gift, þykkir honum Raðbarðr konungr firna djarfr, er
married seems to-him Radbard king monstrously bold when
hann fekk hennar án hans leyfi, samnar her miklum
he got her without his leave gathers army great
um öll sín ríki, Svíþjóð ok Danmörk, ok samnar svá
through all his realms Sweden and Denmark and gathers so
miklum her, at engi kunni telja, hvé mörg skip hann hafði;
great army that none could count how many ships he had
hann stefnir her þeim í Austrríki á hendr Raðbarði
he steers army that into (the)-East-realm on hands Radbard
konungi; kveðst eyða skulu ok brenna alt hans ríki.
king says-of-himself lay-waste shall and burn all his realm
Ívarr konungr var þá gamall mjök; ok er hann kom
Ivar king was then old very and when he came
liðinu austr í Karjálabotna, ok ætla upp at ganga
with-the-force east into Karelia-Bays and intend up to go

af skipum með herinum, þar tók til ríki Raðbarðar
from ships with the-army there took to (the)-realm of-Radbard
konungs. Þat var eina nótt, er konungr svaf á dreka
king That was one night when (the)-king slept on dragon-ship
sínum í lyftingu, at honum þótti sem dreki mikill flygi
his in (the)-poop that to-him seemed as-if dragon great flew
utan af hafinu, ok þótti litr hans sem gull eitt, ok sindra
out from the-sea and seemed color its as gold alone and sparks
af honum upp á himininn, sem síur flygi ór afli, ok
from it up onto the-sky as-if sparks flew from forge and
lýsir á öll lönd en næstu af honum; ok þar eftir fljúga
shines on all lands the nearest of it and there after fly
allir fuglar þeir, sem honum þóttu vera á norðrlöndum;
all birds those which to-him seemed be in (the)-Northlands
ok þá sá hann í annan stað, at dregr upp ský mikit
and then saw he in other place that draws up cloud great
af landnorðri, ok sér, at þar fylgir svá mikit regn ok
from (the)-north-east and sees that there follows so great rain and
hvassviðri, at honum þótti, sem allir skógar ok alt land
gale that to-him seemed as-if all woods and all land
flyti í vatni því, sem ofan rigndi; þar fylgdu reiðar ok
floated in water that which down rained there followed thunders and
eldingar. Ok er sá enn mikli dreki fló af sænum á
lightnings And when that the great dragon flew from the-sea onto
landit, þá kom móti honum regnit ok illviðrit, ok svá
the-land then came against it the-rain and the-storm and so
mikit myrkr, at því næst sá hann eigi drekann né fuglana,
great darkness that that next saw he not the-dragon nor the-birds
enn heyrði þó gný mikinn af reiðunum ok af illviðrinu,
but heard yet din great from the-thunders and from the-storm
ok gekk alt svá suðr ok vestr um landit, ok svá víða
and went all so south and west about the-land and so widely

sem hans ríki var; ok þá þóttist hann sjá þar til,
as his realm was and then thought-himself he see there to
sem skipin vóru, at öll voru orðin at hvölum einum, ok
where the-ships were that all were become into whales one-and-all and
renna út í haf, ok síðan vaknar hann; ok hann lét kalla
run out into sea and then wakes he and he had call
til sín Hörð fóstra sinn, ok segir honum drauminn, ok
to himself Hord foster-father his and tells him the-dream and
bað hann ráða. Hörðr kveðst vera svá gamlaðr, at hann
bade him interpret Hord says-of-himself be so aged that he
kvaðst ekki kunna at skynja drauma; hann stóð í bjargi
said-of-himself not can to discern dreams he stood on crag
fyrir ofan bryggjusporð; enn konungr lá í lyftingu ok
over above (the)-pier-head but (the)-king lay in (the)-poop and
sprettir langskarir, er þeir ræddust við. Konunginum var
rolls-back awnings when they talked together To-the-king was
óskaplétt, ok mælti: Gakk á skip, Hörðr, ok ráð draum
out-of-temper and spoke Go onto ship Hord and interpret dream
minn. Hörðr segist eigi munu út ganga; ok þarf eigi
my Hord says-of-himself not will out go and needs not
at ráða draum þinn; sjálfr máttu vita, hvat hann er, ok
to interpret dream thy thyself mayest-thou know what it is and
meiri ván, at skamt líði heðan, áðr skipast munu ríki
more hope that short pass hence before changed will (the)-realms
í Svíþjóð ok Danmörk, ok er nú kominn á þik helgráðr,
in Sweden and Denmark and is now come on thee hell-greed
er þú hygst öll ríki munu undir þik leggja, enn þú veizt
when thou thinkest all realms will under thee lay but thou knowest
eigi, at hitt mun fram koma, at þú munt vera dauðr, enn
not that that will forth come that thou wilt be dead but
óvinir þínir munu fá ríkit. Konungr mælti: Gakk hingat,
enemies thy will get the-realm (The)-king spoke Go hither

ok seg illspár þínar. Hörðr mælti: Hér mun ek standa,
and say ill-prophecies thy Hord spoke Here will I stand
ok heðan segja. Konungr mælti: Hverr var Hálfdan snjalli
and hence say (The)-king spoke Who was Halfdan the-Valiant
með Ásum? Hörðr svarar: Hann var Baldr með Ásum, er
among (the)-Aesir Hord answers He was Baldr among (the)-Aesir whom
öll regin grétu, ok þér ólíkr. Vel segir þú, kvað konungr;
all powers wept and to-thee unlike Well sayest thou said (the)-king
gakk hingat, ok seg tíðendi. Hörðr svarar: Hér mun ek
go hither and say tidings Hord answers Here will I
standa ok heðan segja. Konungr spyrr: Hver var Hrœrekr
stand and hence say (The)-king asks Who was Hroerek
með Ásum? (Hörðr svarar:) Hann var Hœnir, er hræddastr
among (the)-Aesir Hord answers He was Hoenir who most-timid
var Ása, ok þó þér illr. Hverr var Helgi enn hvassi
was of-(the)-Aesir and yet to-thee evil Who was Helgi the Keen
með Ásum? segir konungr. Hörðr svarar: hann var Hermóðr,
among (the)-Aesir says (the)-king Hord answers he was Hermod
er bazt var hugaðr, ok þér óþarfr. Konungr mælti: Hverr
who best was minded and to-thee harmful (The)-king spoke Who
var Guðröðr með Ásum? Hörðr svarar: Heimdallr var hann,
was Gudrod among (the)-Aesir Hord answers Heimdall was he
er heimskastr var allra Ása, ok þó þér illr. Konungr
who most-foolish was of-all (the)-Aesir and yet to-thee evil (The)-king
mælti: Hverr em ek með Ásum? Hörðr svarar: Muntu
spoke Who am I among (the)-Aesir Hord answers Wilt-thou
vera ormr sá, sem verstr er til, er heitir Miðgarðsormr.
be serpent that which worst is to which is-called Midgard-Serpent
Konungr svarar, reiðr mjök: Ef þú segir mér feigð mína,
(The)-king answers angry very If thou tellest me doom my
þá segi ek þér, at þú munt eigi lengr lifa, þvíat ek
then tell I thee that thou wilt not longer live because I

kenni þik, hvar þú stendr, þrúðna þursinn. Þá far þú
know thee where thou standest mighty the-ogre Then go thou
nú nær Miðgarðsorminum, ok reynum með okkr. Þá hljóp
now near to-the-Midgard-Serpent and test-we with us-two Then leapt
konungr ór lyftinginni, ok var hann svá reiðr, at hann
(the)-king from the-poop and was he so angry that he
hljóp út um skarirnar. Enn Hörðr steyptist ór bjarginu
leapt out over the-awning-frames But Hord plunged from the-crag
ok á sænn út, ok þeir menn, er vörð heldu á konungs
and onto the-sea out and those men who watch held on (the)-king's
skipinu sá þat síðast til konungs ok Harðar, at hvárgi
ship saw that last of (the)-king and of-Hord that neither
kom upp síðan. Ok eftir þessi tíðendi er blásit liðinu til
came up since And after these tidings is blown to-the-force for
landgöngu, ok eiga þing. Þessi tíðendi spyrjast nú um
landing and hold assembly These tidings are-heard now through
allan herinn, at konungr er dauðr; ok þá er ráðs leitat,
all the-army that (the)-king is dead and then is counsel sought
hvé með þessum mikla her skal fara. Þat sýndist þeim,
how with this great army (one)-shall go That seemed to-them
þar sem Ívarr konungr var dauðr, enn áttu engar sakir við
there since Ivar king was dead but had no cases with
Raðbarð konung, at hverr fœri heim sem skjótast at
Radbard king that each should-go home as quickest with
góðum byr; þat var ráðs tekit, rofinn leiðangrinn; siglir
good wind that was counsel taken broken the-levy sails
hverr til síns lands. Ok er þetta spyrr Raðbarðr konungr,
each to his land And when this hears Radbard king
setr hann Harald stjúpson sinn yfir sunnan herinn; ferr
sets he Harald stepson his over southern army goes
þá Haraldr með liðinu á Selund, ok var hann þar til
then Harald with the-force to Zealand and was he there to

konungs tekinn; því næst fór hann á Skáni til þess ríkis,
king taken that next went he to Scania to that realm
er átt höfðu móðurfrændr hans, ok var þar tekit við
which owned had mother's-kinsmen his and was there taken to
honum vel, ok efldist þaðan mjök at liði. Þá fór hann
him well and grew-strong thence much in force Then went he
upp á Svíþjóð, ok leggr undir sik alt Svíaveldi ok
up onto Sweden and lays under himself all (the)-Swedes'-realm and
Jótland, er átt hafði Ívarr móðurfaðir hans; hóf þá upp
Jutland which owned had Ivar mother's-father his raised then up
marga fylkiskonunga, er áðr vóru teknir af ríki fyrir Ívari
many shire-kings who before were taken from realm by Ivar
konungi. Haraldr konungr hefir starfsamt ríki öndverða daga
king Harald king has toilsome reign early days
sína, fyrir þá sök, at hann er ungr maðr; þótti mönnum
his for that cause that he is young man seemed to-men
sem dælla mundi at leita eftir föðurleifðum sínum, er áðr
as-if easier would to seek after father's-inheritances their who before
vóru teknir af ríki fyrir Ívari konungi eða Ingjaldi konungi.
were taken from realm by Ivar king or Ingjald king

IV · HARALDR WAR-TOOTH

Haraldr becomes king at fifteen, with a spell sung over him so that iron will not bite him; he never carries a shield in battle. He fights so many battles that he is called Haraldr hilditönn, wins every realm Ívarr had held and more, and sets kings and earls under him.

Haraldr var þá fimtán vetra, er hann var til ríkis tekinn;
Harald was then fifteen winters when he was to realm taken
ok með því at vinir hans vissu, at hann mundi eiga mjök
and with that that friends his knew that he would have very

herskátt at verja ríkit, er hann var ungr at aldri, þá var
warlike to defend the-realm since he was young in age then was
þat ráð gert, at aflat var at seið miklum, ok var seitt
that counsel made that got was at magic great and was spelled
at Haraldi konungi, at hann skyldi eigi bíta járn, ok svá
on Harald king that him should not bite iron and so
var síðan, at hann hafði aldregi hlíf í orrostu, ok festi
was afterward that he had never shield in battle and fastened
þó eigi vápn á honum. Hann gerðist brátt hermaðr mikill,
yet not weapon on him He became quickly warrior great
ok átti svá margar orrostur, at engi maðr var sá í ætt
and had so many battles that no man was that in kin
hans, at þvílíkan herskap hafi haft með ríki sem hann, ok
his who such warfare have had with reign as he and
því var hann kallaðr Haraldr hilditönn. Hann eignaðist
therefore was he called Harald War-Tooth He gained
með orrostum ok hernaði öll þau ríki, er átt hafði Ívarr
with battles and raiding all those realms which owned had Ivar
konungr, ok því meira, at engi konungr var sá í Danmörk
king and that more that no king was that in Denmark
eða Svíþjóð, at eigi gyldi honum skatt, ok allir gerðust hans
or Sweden that not paid him tribute and all became his
menn. Hann lagði undir sik þann hlut Englands, er átt
men He laid under himself that part of-England which owned
(hafði) Hálfdan snjalli ok síðan Ívarr konungr. Hann setti
had Halfdan the-Valiant and afterward Ivar king He set
konunga ok jarla, ok lét sér skatta gjalda; hann setti
kings and earls and had to-himself tributes pay he set
Hjörmund konung, son Hervarðar ylfings yfir Eystra-Gautland,
Hjormund king son of-Hervard Ylfing over Eastern-Gautland
er átt hafði faðir hans ok Granmarr konungr.
which owned had father his and Granmar king

King Hildibrandr of Reiðgotaland, dying, counsels his son Hildir to marry his sister Hildr off far away and to give her no land or men of her own. Hildir is made king at the assembly and holds the funeral feast. Hildr comes before him with fair words. The rest of the chapter is lost in a lacuna.

Ok í þann tíma, er Haraldr konungr hilditönn settist í
And in that time when Harald king War-Tooth settled in
ríkin, Svíþjóð ok Danmörk, var sá konungr í Reiðgotalandi,
the-realms Sweden and Denmark was that king in Reidgotaland
er hét Hildibrandr, ok var ríkr konungr (ok) hermaðr
who was-called Hildibrand and was mighty king and warrior
mikill; ok er hann tók at eldast, settist hann at löndum;
great and when he took to age settled he at lands
hann átti tvau börn; son hans hét Hildir, enn Hildr
he had two children son his was-called Hildir but Hild
dóttir; hun var allra meyja fríðust, ok skapstór mjök. Ok er
daughter she was of-all maidens fairest and proud-minded very And when
konungr var mjök gamall, tók hann banasótt; ok er sóttin
(the)-king was very old took he death-sickness and when the-sickness
tók at honum at líða, heimtir hann son sinn til sín, ok
took to him to pass summons he son his to himself and
réð honum mörg heilræði, ok segir, at þat var et fyrsta,
counseled him many good-counsels and says that that was the first
at hann gifti systur sína langt í brott; ok þat með, at
that he married sister his far off away and that with(-it) that
hann miðlaði henni engan hlut af jörðum í landi sínu; ok
he shared-with her no part of lands in land his and
þat et þriðja, at hann fengi (henni) enga þjónunarmenn, at
that the third that he give her no serving-men that

hun mætti með valdi halda sik ok menn sína; mun nú skilja
she might with power hold herself and men her will now part
várar samvistur; halt ok sömum vinum, sem ek hefi haft, er
our living-together hold also same friends as I have had since
þú ert ungr maðr, ok þarft forsjá at skipa ríkit. Konungr
thou art young man and needest foresight to order the-realm (The)-king
andaðist; enn landsmenn stefna fjölmennt þing at landslögum;
died but land-men summon crowded assembly by land-laws
ok (á) þinginu setja þeir Hildi konungs son í hásæti, ok gefa
and at the-assembly set they Hildir (the)-king's son in high-seat and give
honum konungs nafn; sverja þeir honum hlíðni, enn hann
him king's name swear they him obedience but he
þeim landslög. Ok eftir þat gerir hann veizlu mikla, ok erfi
them land-laws And after that makes he feast great and funeral-ale
eftir föður sinn, ok fagnaðaröl vinum sínum, gefr nafnbœtr
after father his and welcome-ale to-friends his gives rank-gifts
öllum vinum sínum ok ríkismönnum, sem fyrr höfðu haft með
to-all friends his and men-of-the-realm as before had had with
gamla konungi. Ok er skipat var ríkit með þessum hætti,
old king And when ordered was the-realm in this manner
gengr Hildr konungsdóttir fyrir bróður sinn, lýtr honum,
goes Hild king's-daughter before brother her bows to-him
ok kveðr hann blíðum orðum ok fögrum, talar ok ***
and greets him with-gentle words and fair talks and (lacuna)

After the lacuna the text resumes with a visit to King Haraldr, who as he ages sets his kinsman Hringr over his army and then makes him king at Uppsala over Sweden and Western Gautland. Hringr marries Álfhildr, daughter of King Álfr of Álfheimar, and they have a son, Ragnarr. Haraldr's sons are Hrærekr slöngvandbaugi and Þrándr the Old.

∗∗∗ má í hernað. Ok á einu hausti sótti hann á
(lacuna) may into raiding And in one autumn sought he to
fund Haralds konungs, föðurbróður síns, ok fekk þar
(the)-meeting of-Harald king father's-brother his and got there
góðar viðtökur, ok var þar um hríð í góðu yfirlæti. Ok fyrir
good welcome and was there for while in good cheer And for
því, at Haraldr konungr tók mjök at eldast, setti hann Hring
that that Harald king took much to age set he Hring
frænda sinn yfir her sinn, at hegna lönd sín, ok dvaldist
kinsman his over army his to guard lands his and stayed
Hringr með Haraldi langar stundir. Ok er elli tók mjök
Hring with Harald long times And when old-age took much
at síga á hendr konungi, þá setti hann Hring frænda sinn
to sink on hands to-(the)-king then set he Hring kinsman his
konung yfir Uppsölum, ok gaf honum til forráða Svíþjóð alla
king over Uppsala and gave him for rule Sweden all
ok Gautland vestra, enn hann sjálfr hefir yfirsókn um alla
and Gautland western but he himself has oversight over all
Danmörk ok Eystra-Gautland. Hringr konungr fekk Álfhildar,
Denmark and Eastern-Gautland Hring king got Alfhild
dóttur Álfs konungs, er land átti milli elfa tveggja, Gautelfar
daughter of-Alf king who land had between rivers two Gaut-River
ok Raumelfar; þat vóru ok þá kallaðir Álfheimar; þat vóru
and Raum-River that were also then called Alfheimar that were

marklönd mikil. Hringr átti einn son við konu sinni; sá
forest-lands great Hring had one son with wife his that-one
hét Ragnarr. Haraldr konungr átti tvá sonu við konu sinni,
was-called Ragnar Harald king had two sons with wife his
var annarr Hrœrekr slöngvandbaugi, enn annarr Þrándr gamli.
was one Hroerek Ring-Slinger but (the)-other Thrand the-Old

VII · THE GATHERING AT BRÁVELLIR

At a hundred and fifty, Haraldr is bedridden, and some of his men try to smother him in his bath. He asks instead for a kingly death in battle and sends to Hringr to gather an army against him. Hringr musters Sweden, Western Gautland, and Norway, and Haraldr all of Denmark, with men from the east and from Saxland. The armies meet at Brávellir and draw up for battle.

Ok er Haraldr konungr hilditönn var orðinn svá gamall,
And when Harald king War-Tooth was become so old
at hann hafði hálft annat hundrað vetra, þá lá hann í
that he had half second hundred winters then lay he in
rekkju, ok mátti eigi ganga, ok var þat víða um ríki hans,
bed and might not go and was that widely about realm his
er á gengu víkingar með hernað; ok þá þótti vinum
that on went vikings with raiding and then seemed to-friends
hans illa fara ríkin, er eyðast tók landsstjórnin, þótti ok
his ill go the-realms when waste took the-land-rule seemed also
mörgum hann fullgamall, ok nokkurir ríkismenn gerðu ráð,
to-many he full-old and some men-of-the-realm made plan
er konungr tók kerlaug, at þeir lögðu yfir ofan viðu ok
when (the)-king took tub-bath that they laid over above timbers and
báru á grjót, ok vildu kœfa hann í lauginni. Ok er hann
bore on stones and would smother him in the-bath And when he

vissi, at þeir vildu tapa honum, bað hann þá láta sik í
knew that they would destroy him bade he then let himself off
brott ór lauginni: veit ek, at yðr þykkir ek of gamall;
away out-of the-bath know I that to-you seem I too old
þat er ok satt, enn vel mætta ek verða skapdauði; eigi vil
that is also true but well might I become fate-dead not wish
ek þenna dauðann, at deyja í lauginni, vil ek deyja miklu
I this the-death to die in the-bath will I die much
konunglegar; þá kómu til vinir hans ok tóku hann í
more-kingly then came to(-him) friends his and took him off
brott. Ok litlu síðar gerði hann menn upp á Svíþjóð til
away And little later sent he men up into Sweden to
Hrings konungs, frænda síns, með þeim orðsendingum, at
Hring king kinsman his with those messages that
hann skyldi samna her um alt þat ríki, sem hann varðveitti,
he should gather army over all that realm which he kept
ok koma í móti honum at landamæri ok berjast við hann,
and come in against him at land-border and fight with him
ok lét segja honum allan atburð, er til hafði komit, at
and had tell him all happening which to had come that
Dönum þótti hann til gamall. Ok eftir þetta samnar Hringr
to-(the)-Danes seemed he too old And after this gathers Hring
konungr liði um alt Svíaveldi ok Vestra-Gautland,
king force through all (the)-Swedes'-realm and Western-Gautland
ok mikit lið hafði hann af Noregi; ok er svá sagt, at
and great force had he from Norway and is so said that
þá er Svíar ok Norðmenn fóru út með leiðangrinn um
then when Swedes and Norwegians went out with the-levy by
Stokksund, at þá var hálfr þriði tugr hundraða skipa.
Stockholm-Sound that then was half third ten hundreds of-ships
Enn Hringr konungr reið með hirð sína ok Vestr-Gautum
But Hring king rode with court his and West-Gauts

et efra um Eyrarsund, ok sótti svá vestr landveg til
the upper(-way) about Oresund and pressed so west by-land-way to
skógarins Kolmerkr, er skilr Svíþjóð ok Eystra-Gautland.
the-wood Kolmark which divides Sweden and Eastern-Gautland
Ok þá er Hringr konungr kom af skóginum vestr þar,
And then when Hring king came from the-wood west there
sem heitir Brávík, þá kom þar í mót skipaherr hans,
where is-called Bravik then came there in against(-him) ship-army his
ok setti Hringr konungr þar herbúðir sínar á Brávelli undir
and set Hring king there war-booths his on Bravellir under
skóginum, milli ok víkrinnar. Haraldr konungr dregr nú
the-wood between and the-bay Harald king draws now
saman her um alt Danaveldi, ok mikill herr kom ór
together army through all (the)-Danes'-realm and great army came from
Austrríki ok alt ór Kœnagarði, ok af Saxlandi. Ok þá
(the)-East-realm and all from Konugard and from Saxland And then
er herr hans var saman kominn á Selund, þar sem Kœgja
when army his was together come in Zealand there where Koge
heitir, ok yfir til Skáneyrar af Landeyri, máttu menn
is-called and over to Skanor from Landeyr might men
ganga þar yfir at skipum einum, ok allr sær þótti þakiðr
go there over on ships alone and all sea seemed covered
af skipaher hans. Þá sendir hann þann mann, er Herleifr
by ship-army his Then sends he that man who Herleif
hét, ok með þeim Saxa her, á fund Hrings konungs,
was-called and with him Saxons' army to (the)-meeting of-Hring king
ok láta hasla honum völl, ok taka þeim orrustustað, ok
and let hazel him field and take for-them battle-place and
segja í sundr griðum ok friði. Haraldr konungr fór með
declare in asunder truces and peace Harald king went with

herinn á sjau dögum, áðr hann kom austr í Brávík; ok
the-army in seven days before he came east into Bravik and
þá bjuggust hvárirtveggju til orrostu ok fylktu liði sínu.
then got-ready both-sides for battle and drew-up force their

VIII · THE HOSTS AT BRÁVELLIR

The saga lists the champions on both sides. Haraldr's army, drawn up by Bruni, includes the shield-maidens Visma, Heiðr, and Vébjörg, Ubbi the Frisian, and many others. Hringr has drawn up his army in a wedge, which Haraldr says only Óðinn could have taught him, and he gives Óðinn all the slain. Hringr's host includes Starkaðr the Old, Rögnvaldr hái, many Norwegians, and the archers of Telemark.

Svá er sagt, at í her Haralds konungs var höfðingi
So is said that in (the)-army of-Harald king was chieftain
sá, er Bruni hét; hann var allra þeira manna vitrastr,
that who Bruni was-called he was of-all those men wisest
er með honum vóru; hann lét Bruna fylkja liðinu ok skipa
who with him were he had Bruni draw-up the-force and place
höfðingjum undir merki; stóð merki Haralds konungs
chieftains under banners stood (the)-banner of-Harald king
í miðri fylkingu, ok var um hans merki hirð hans.
in middle array and was about his banner court his
Þessir kappar vóru með Haraldi konungi: Sveinn, Sámr,
These champions were with Harald king Svein Sam
Gnepi enn gamli, Garðr, Brandr, Blœngr, Teitr, Tyrfingr,
Gnepi the Old Gard Brand Bloeng Teit Tyrfing
Hjalti; þeir vóru skáld Haralds konungs ok kappar. Þeir
Hjalti they were poets of-Harald king and champions They
vóru heiman ór hirð Haralds konungs: Hjörtr, Borgarr,
were from-home from (the)-court of-Harald king Hjort Borgar

Beli, Barri, Beigaðr, Tóki. Þar var skjaldmærin Visma, ok
Beli Barri Beigad Toki There was the-shield-maiden Visma and
önnr Heiðr, ok hefir hvártveggi komit með mikinn her
(the)-other Heid and has each come with great army
til Haralds konungs. Visma bar merki hans; með henni
to Harald king Visma bore banner his with her
vóru þessir kappar: Kari ok Milva. Vébjörg hét enn
were these champions Kari and Milva Vebjorg was-called yet
skjaldmær, er kom til Haralds konungs með mikinn her
shield-maiden who came to Harald king with great army
sunnan af Gotlandi, ok fylgdu henni margir kappar;
from-the-south from Gotland and followed her many champions
af þeim öllum var mestr ok ágætastr Ubbi enn fríski,
of them all was greatest and most-excellent Ubbi the Frisian
Bratr írski, Ormr enski, Búi Brámuson, Ari eineygi,
Brat (the)-Irish Orm (the)-English Bui Bramason Ari One-Eyed
Geirálfr. Vismu skjaldmeyju fylgdi mikill Vinda herr; vóru
Geiralf Visma shield-maiden followed great Wends' army were
þeir auðkendir; þeir höfðu löng sverð ok buklara, enn þeir
they easily-known they had long swords and bucklers but they
höfðu ekki langa skjöldu sem aðrir menn. Ok í annan
had not long shields as other men And in (the)-second
fylkingar arm Haralds konungs var Heiðr skjaldmær með
array's wing of-Harald king was Heid shield-maiden with
sínu merki, ok hefir hun með sér hundrað kappa; þeir
her banner and has she with her hundred champions they
vóru berserkir hennar: Grímr, Geirr, Hólmsteinn, Eysöðull,
were berserks her Grim Geir Holmstein Eysodul
Héðinn mjóvi, Dagr lífski, Haraldr Óláfsson; þeir vóru
Hedin the-Slender Dag (the)-Livonian Harald Olafsson they were
margir höfðingjar með Heiði í arminn. Í annan fylkingar
many chieftains with Heid in the-wing In (the)-other array's

arm var sá höfðingi, er hét Haki höggvinkinni, ok
wing was that chieftain who was-called Haki Cut-Cheek and
vóru fyrir honum merki borin; margir vóru konungar ok
were before him banners borne many were kings and
kappar með honum; þar vóru þeir Alfarr ok Alfarinn,
champions with him there were they Alfar and Alfarin
synir Gandálfs konungs, er þá höfðu áðr verit hirðmenn
sons of-Gandalf king who then had before been retainers
ok heimilismenn Haralds konungs. Haraldr konungr var í
and household-men of-Harald king Harald king was in
vagni, þvíat hann var eigi vápnfœrr, svá at hann mætti í
wagon because he was not weapon-able so that he might into
orrostu ganga. Konungr sendir Bruna ok Heiði at skynja,
battle go (The)-king sends Bruni and Heid to discern
hversu Hringr hefði fylkt liði sínu, ok hvárt hann væri
how Hring had drawn-up force his and whether he were
búinn til orrostu. Bruni segir: Svá lízt mér, sem Hringr
ready for battle Bruni says So seems to-me as-if Hring
muni búinn at berjast ok hans lið; hann hefir undarlega
will ready to fight and his force he has strangely
fylkt; hann hefir svínfylkt her sínum, ok mun eigi gott
drawn-up he has swine-arrayed army his and will not good
at berjast við hann. Þá segir Haraldr konungr: Hverr mun
to fight with him Then says Harald king Who will
Hringi hafa kent hamalt at fylkja; ek hugða engan kunna,
Hring have taught wedge-wise to draw-up I thought none know
nema mik ok Óðinn, eða mun Óðinn vilja skjóplast í
except me and Odin or will Odin will to-fail in
sigrgjöfinni við mik; þat hefir aldrí fyrr verit, ok enn
the-victory-giving with me that has never before been and still
bið ek hann, at hann geri eigi þat; enn með því, at
ask I him that he do not that but with that that

hann vili nú eigi veita mér sigr, þá láti hann mik falla
he will now not give me victory then let he me fall
í orrostu með her minn allan, ef hann vill eigi, at
in battle with army my all if he wishes not that
Danir hafi sigr sem fyrr; ok allan þann val, sem fellr á
(the)-Danes have victory as before and all that slain which falls on
þeima velli, gef ek Óðni. Svá var, sem Bruni hafði (sagt),
this field give I to-Odin So was as Bruni had said
at Hringr hafði svínfylkt öllu liði sínu; þá þótti þó svá
that Hring had swine-arrayed all force his then seemed yet so
þykk fylkingin yfir at sjá, at hrani var í brjósti, enn hun
thick the-array over to see that snout was in breast but it
var þó svá löng, at armrinn tók at á þeiri, er Vará
was yet so long that the-wing reached to river that which Vara
hét, enn annarr ofan til Brávíkr. Hringr konungr hafði
was-called but (the)-other down to Bravik Hring king had
með sér til orrustu marga konunga ok kappa; þar var enn
with him to battle many kings and champions there was the
œðsti maðr með honum konungr sá, er hét Ali enn
highest man with him king that who was-called Ali the
frœkni, er mikinn fjölda hers hafði ok marga aðra ágæta
Bold who great multitude of-army had and many other excellent
konunga ok kappa; með honum var sá kappi, er ágætastr
kings and champions with him was that champion who most-excellent
hefir verið í fornsögum: Störkuðr enn gamli Stórverksson,
has been in old-tales Starkad the Old Storverk's-son
er upp hafði fœðst í Noregi á Hörðalandi í eyjunni
who up had been-raised in Norway in Hordaland in the-island
Fenring, ok farit hafði víða um lönd, ok verit með mörgum
Fenring and gone had widely about lands and been with many
konungum. Margir kappar aðrir vóru komnir ór Noregi til
kings Many champions other were come from Norway to

þessarrar orrostu: Þrándr þrænzki, Þórir mœrski, Helgi enn
this battle Thrand (the)-Trondish Thorir (of)-More Helgi the
hvíti, Bjarni, Hafr, Fiðr firzki, Sigurðr, Erlingr snákr af
White Bjarni Haf Fid (of)-Fjord Sigurd Erling Snake of
Jaðri, Sögu-Eiríkr, Hólmsteinn hvíti, Einarr egðski, Hrútr
Jadar Saga-Eirik Holmstein (the)-White Einar (of)-Agdir Hrut
vafi, Oddr víðförli, Einarr þrjúgr, Ívarr skagi. Þessir
Vafi Odd the-Far-Traveled Einar Thrjug Ivar Skagi These
vóru kappar miklir Hrings konungs: Áki, Eyvindr, Egill
were champions great of-Hring king Aki Eyvind Egil
skjálgi, Hildir, Gautr, Guði tollus, Steinn af Væni, Styrr
Squint Hildir Gaut Gudi Tollus Stein of Vaeni Styr
enn sterki. Þessir höfðu enn eina sveit: Hrani Hildarson,
the Strong These had yet one band Hrani Hild's-son
Sveinn uppskeri, Hlaumboði ok Sóknarsóti, Hrokkell hœkja,
Svein Reaper Hlaumbodi and Soknarsoti Hrokkel Crouch
Hrólfr kvensami. Þeir vóru enn: Dagr enn digri, Gerðarr
Hrolf Woman-Lover They were yet Dag the Stout Gerdar
glaði, Dúkr vindverski, Glúmr vermski vestan af
(the)-Glad Duk (the)-Wendish Glum (of)-Varmland from-the-west from
Elfinni, Saxi flettir, Sali gauzki. Þessir vóru ofan af
the-River Saxi Flayer Sali (the)-Gaut These were down from
Svíaveldi: Nori, Haki, Karl kekkja, Krókarr af Akri,
(the)-Swedes'-realm Nori Haki Karl Kekkja Krokar of Akr
Gunnfastr, Glismakr goði. Þessir vóru ofan af Sigtúnum:
Gunnfast Glismak (the)-Priest These were down from Sigtuna
Sigmundr kaupangskappi, Tolufrosti, Aðils ofláti frá
Sigmund Market-Champion Tolufrosti Adils (the)-Arrogant from
Uppsölum; hann gekk fyrir framan merki ok skjöldu, ok
Uppsala he went before in-front banners and shields and
var eigi í fylkingu: Sigvaldi, er komit hafði til Hrings
was not in array Sigvaldi who come had to Hring

konungs ellefu skipum: Tryggvi ok Tvívífill höfðu komit
king with-eleven ships Tryggvi and Tvivifil had come
tólf skipum: Læsir hafði skeið, ok alla skipaða með
with-twelve ships Laesir had warship and all manned with
köppum: Eiríkr helsingr hafði dreka mikinn, vel skipaðan
champions Eirik Helsing had dragon-ship great well manned
hermönnum. Menn vóru ok komnir til Hrings konungs af
with-warriors Men were also come to Hring king from
Þelamörk, er kappar vóru, ok höfðu minst yfirlát, þvíat þeir
Telemark who champions were and had least esteem because they
þóttu vera dragmálir ok tómlátir; þessir vóru þaðan: Þorkell
seemed be drawling and sluggish these were thence Thorkel
þrái, Þórleifr goti, Haddr harði, Grettir rangi,
(the)-Stubborn Thorleif Goti Hadd (the)-Hard Grettir (the)-Crooked
Hróaldr tá. Sá maðr var enn kominn til Hrings konungs,
Hroald Toe That man was yet come to Hring king
er hét Rögnvaldr hái, eða Raðbarðr hnefi, allra kappa
who was-called Rognvald (the)-Tall or Radbard Fist of-all champions
mestr; hann var fremstr í rananum, ok næst honum vóru
greatest he was foremost in the-snout and next him were
þeir Tryggvi ok Læsir, út frá Álreks synir ok Yngvi; þá
they Tryggvi and Laesir out from Alrek's sons and Yngvi then
vóru Þilirnir, er allir vildu sízt hafa, ok hugðu litla
were the-Telemarkers whom all would least have and thought little
liðsemd mundu at vera; þeir vóru bogmenn miklir.
help would in be they were bowmen great

Ubbi the Frisian breaks Hringr's snout-array, wounds Starkaðr, and falls to the Telemark archers. Vébjörg falls to Þorkell þrái, and Starkaðr cuts off the hand of Visma, who bears Haraldr's banner, and kills many champions though grievously wounded. Haraldr, unable to walk, fights from his wagon with two swords until Bruni kills him with a club. Hringr ends the battle, buries Haraldr in a mound with his wagon, horse, and saddle, and has all the great men throw rings and weapons into it.

Ok er þessi herr var allr búinn til orrostu, létu hvárirtveggja
And when this army was all ready for battle had both-sides
blása lúðrum, ok (œptu) því næst heróp. Þá gengu saman
blow trumpets and whooped that next war-cry Then went together
fylkingar, ok var sú orrosta svá snörp ok mikil sem segir
(the)-arrays and was that battle so sharp and great as says
í öllum fornum sögum, at engi orrosta á norðrlöndum hafi
in all old tales that no battle in (the)-Northlands have
háit verit með jammiklu ok jamgóðu mannvali til orrostu
fought been with equally-great and equally-good picked-men for battle
at telja. Ok er litla hríð hafði orrostan staðit, sótti sá
to count And when little while had the-battle stood pressed that
kappi fram í her Haralds konungs, er hét Ubbi
champion forward in (the)-army of-Harald king who was-called Ubbi
fríski, ok réð hann þar at, sem var raninn á fylking
(the)-Frisian and made he there at where was the-snout on (the)-array
Hrings konungs, ok átti et fyrsta víg við Rögnvald raðbarð,
of-Hring king and had the first fight with Rognvald Radbard
ok var þeira skifti allharðlegt, ok ógurleg högg mátti þar
and was their dealing very-hard and fearful blows might there
sjá í herinum, er þessir ofrhugar gengust at; veitti
see in the-army when these over-bold-ones went-together at gave

hvárr öðrum mörg högg ok stór; enn svá var Ubbi mikill
each other many blows and great but so was Ubbi great
kappi, at eigi léttir hann fyrr, enn með því skildist þeira
champion that not ceases he before than with that parted their
einvígi, at Rögnvaldr fell fyrir Ubba; ok því næst hljóp
single-combat that Rognvald fell before Ubbi and that next leapt
hann at Tryggva ok særði hann banasári. Ok er þat
he at Tryggvi and wounded him with-death-wound And when that
sjá Alrekssynir, hvé ógurlega hann ferr í herinum, ráðast
see Alrek's-sons how fearfully he goes in the-army set
þeir í móti honum, ok berjast við hann; enn svá var hann
they in against him and fight with him but so was he
harðgerr ok mikill kappi, at báða þá drepr hann; ok
hardy and great champion that both them kills he and
eftir þat drepr hann Yngva; ok þá fór hann svá geystr í
after that kills he Yngvi and then went he so furious in
herinum, at hvatvetna stökk fyrir, ok feldi hann alla þá,
the-army that everything sprang before(-him) and felled he all those
sem fremstir stóðu í rananum, nema þá, sem viku í móti
who foremost stood in the-snout except those who turned in against
öðrum köppum. Ok er þetta sér Hringr konungr, eggjaði
other champions And when this sees Hring king urged
hann herinn, at eigi sætti einn maðr yfir alla, þvílíkir
he the-army that not should-press one man over all such
yfirgangsmenn, sem með honum vóru, eða hvar er kappinn
overbearing-men as with him were or where is the-champion
Störkuðr, er enn hér til bar ávalt hærra skjöld? vinn oss
Starkad who ever here to bore always higher shield win for-us
sigr. Hann svaraði: Höfum vér œrit at vinna, herra, segir
victory He answered Have we enough to do lord says
hann, enn við skulum vér leita, at vinna slíkan sigr, sem
he but with shall we seek to win such victory as

vér megum, enn þar er sá maðr, er Ubbi er, at maðr
we may but there where that man who Ubbi is that man
má koma í fulla raun. Enn við konungs áeggjan hleypr
may come into full trial But at (the)-king's egging leaps
hann fram í herinn á mót Ubba, ok verðr þar orrosta
he forth into the-army in against Ubbi and becomes there battle
mikil millum þeira, sett með stórum höggum ok miklu
great between them set with great blows and great
afli, er hvárrtveggi var ofrhugi, ok gekk svá um hríð,
strength since each was over-bold-one and went so for while
ok veitti Starkaðr honum eitt mikit sár, ok þar í móti
and gave Starkad him one great wound and there in against
fekk Störkuðr sex sár, ok öll stór, ok þóttist varla
got Starkad six wounds and all great and thought-himself scarcely
komit hafa í slíka raun af einum manni; ok með því
come have into such trial from one man and with that
at fylkingar vóru svá styrkjar, reiddi (þá) ýmsa vega, ok
that (the)-arrays were so strong swung them various ways and
sleit fyrir því þetta einvígi. Síðan vegr Ubbi þann kappa,
broke for that this single-combat Then slays Ubbi that champion
er Agnarr hét, ok ruddi æ jafnan fyrir sér stiginn,
who Agnar was-called and cleared ever always before himself the-path
ok höggr á tvær hendr; hefir báðar hendr blóðgar til axlar;
and hews on two hands has both hands bloody to shoulder
ok þá sótti hann at þeim Þilunum. Ok þá er þeir sá
and then pressed he at those Telemarkers And then when they saw
hann, mæltu þeir: Nú þurfu vér eigi annarstaðar í herinum
him spoke they Now need we not elsewhere in the-army
at leita fram, ok látum þenna mann sœkja örvar um stund,
to seek forward and let-us this man seek arrows for while
ok fyrr *** sigrinn, ok svá lítit sem öllum þykkir til
and before (lacuna) the-victory and so little as to-all seems to

vár koma, gerum nú því meira um oss, ok sýnum oss
us come make-we now that more about ourselves and show-we ourselves
vaska menn. Þeir taka (at) skjóta á hann, er ágætastir
valiant men They take to shoot at him who most-excellent
vóru af þeim Þilunum, Haraldr harði ok Hróaldr tá, ok
were of those Telemarkers Harald (the)-Hard and Hroald Toe and
vóru svá ágætir menn at skotum, at þeir skutu at honum
were so excellent men at shots that they shot at him
tvennum tylftum örva ok í brjóst honum, ok eigi var
two dozens of-arrows and into breast his and not was
honum lítit til fjörs; þessir menn veittu honum bana; ok
to-him little for life these men gave him death and
áðr hafði hann drepit sex kappa, enn um fram veitt stór
before had he killed six champions but over beyond given great
sár ellefu köppum, enn drepit sextán menn af Svíum ok
wounds to-eleven champions but killed sixteen men of Swedes and
Gautum, er framarla stóðu (í) fylkingu. Ok á þeiri stundu
Gauts who far-forward stood in array And in that while
sótti Vébjörg skjaldmær mjök á hendr Svíum ok Gautum;
pressed Vebjorg shield-maiden much on hands of-Swedes and Gauts
hun sótti fram at þeim kappa, er hét Sóknarsóti; ok
she pressed forward at that champion who was-called Soknarsoti and
svá hefir hun vant sik með hjálmi ok brynju ok sverði,
so has she accustomed herself with helmet and mail-coat and sword
at hun var framarla í riddaraskap, sem Störkuðr enn gamli
that she was far-forward in knighthood as Starkad the Old
segir; hun fær stór högg kappanum, ok sœkir lengi; ok eitt
says she gives great blows to-the-champion and presses long and one
högg höggr hun á kinnina, ok sneið sundr kjálkann ok
blow hews she on the-cheek and cut asunder the-jaw and
af hökuna; hann drap í munn sér skegginu, ok beit á,
off the-chin he stuck into mouth his the-beard and bit on(-it)

ok helt svá upp at sér hökunni; ok hun vinnr mörg stór
and held so up to himself the-chin and she works many great
verk í herinum. Litlu síðar mœtir henni Þorkell þrái,
deeds in the-army Little later meets her Thorkel (the)-Stubborn
kappi Hrings konungs, ok eigust þau við harða
champion of-Hring king and have they with(-each-other) hard
sókn; ok áðr enn létti, drap hann hana með mörgum
onset and before than (it)-ceased killed he her with many
sárum ok mikilli hugprýði. Nú verða þar mörg stór tíðendi
wounds and great stout-heartedness Now become there many great tidings
á skammri stundu, ok ganga ýmsar fylkingar betr; misti þar
in short while and go various arrays better lost there
margr maðr heimkvámu, eða fekk örkuml, af hvárutveggja
many man home-coming or got maiming of both
liði. Nú sœkir Störkuðr á hendr Dönum; hann ræðst
force Now presses Starkad on hands of-(the)-Danes he sets
í móti þeim kappa, er Húnn hét, ok eigast þeir
in against that champion who Hun was-called and have they
við orrostu, ok líkr svá, at Störkuðr drepr hann,
with(-each-other) battle and ends so that Starkad kills him
ok litlu síðar þann, er hans vill hefna, er Ella hét; ok
and little later that-one who him will avenge who Ella was-called and
þá sótti hann at þeim, er Borgarr hét, ok áttu hart víg
then pressed he at that-one who Borgar was-called and had hard fight
saman ok lýkr svá, at hann drap þann. Störkuðr hleypr
together and ends so that he killed that-one Starkad leaps
nú um fylkingar með brugðit sverð, ok höggr hvern (at)
now about (the)-arrays with drawn sword and hews one at
öðrum; ok því næst hjó hann þann, er Hjörtr hét; ok
other and that next hewed he that-one who Hjort was-called and
þá mœtti honum Visma skjaldmær, er bar merki Haralds
then met him Visma shield-maiden who bore banner of-Harald

konungs. Störkuðr sœkir at henni fast. Hun mælti þá til
king Starkad presses at her hard She spoke then to
Störkuðar: Nú er kominn á þik helfíkr, ok muntu nú deyja
Starkad Now is come on thee death-greed and wilt-thou now die
skulu, þursinn. Hann svaraði: Fyrr muntu þó halla merkinu
shall the-ogre He answered Sooner wilt-thou yet lower the-banner
Haralds konungs, ok hjó af henni vinstri hönd; ok þá
of-Harald king and hewed off her left hand and then
gerðist sá maðr í móti honum, at hefna hennar er hét
went that man in against him to avenge her who was-called
Brái Sækálfs faðir, ok leggr Störkuðr hann í gegnum með
Brai Saekalf's father and thrusts Starkad him in through with
sverði; ok víða í herinum mátti nú sjá stóra valköstu á
sword and widely in the-army might now see great slain-heaps in
valfalli. Nokkuru síðar kom í móti Störkuði Gnepja, mikill
slaughter Somewhat later came in against Starkad Gnepja great
kappi, ok áttust við harða sókn, ok veitti Störkuðr
champion and had with(-each-other) hard onset and gave Starkad
honum banasár; ok því næst drap hann þann kappa, er
him death-wound and that next killed he that champion who
Haki hét, ok þá fekk hann þar mörg stór sár í þeiri
Haki was-called and then got he there many great wounds in that
svipan; hann var höggvinn á hálsinn við herðarnar, svá at
swing he was hewn on the-neck by the-shoulders so that
sá inn í holit, ok framan á brjóstinu hafði hann
(one)-saw in into the-hollow and in-front on the-breast had he
mikit sár, svá at lungun fellu út, ok látit hafði hann
great wound so that the-lungs fell out and lost had he
einn fingr á hœgri hendi. Ok er Haraldr konungr sá svá
one finger on right hand And when Harald king saw so
mikit mannfall af hirð sinni ok köppum, þá reis hann upp
great slaughter of court his and champions then rose he up

á knéin, ok tók tvau söx, ok keyrði fram fast hestinn,
on the-knees and took two short-swords and drove forward hard the-horse
er fyrir vagninum var, ok lagði hvárutveggja saxinu
which before the-wagon was and thrust with-each short-sword
báðum höndum, ok veitti mörgum manni bana með sínum
with-both hands and gave many man death with his
höndum, þóat hann mætti eigi ganga né á hesti sitja.
hands though he might not go nor on horse sit
Gekk nú orrostan svá um hríð, at konungrinn vann mörg
Went now the-battle so for while that the-king did many
stórvirki. Ok ofarla þessa bardaga var konungrinn Haraldr
great-deeds And late-in this battle was the-king Harald
hilditönn sleginn kylfu í höfuðit, svá at haussinn rifnaði
War-Tooth struck with-club on the-head so that the-skull split
í sundr, ok var þat hans banasár, ok drap Bruni hann. Ok
in asunder and was that his death-wound and killed Bruni him And
þá sá Hringr konungr vagn Haralds konungs auðan, ok
then saw Hring king (the)-wagon of-Harald king empty and
þóttist vita, að konungrinn mundi vera fallinn; lét hann
thought-himself know that the-king would be fallen had he
blása, ok kallaði, at herinn stöðvaðist. Ok er Danir
blow and called that the-army should-halt And when (the)-Danes
urðu þessa varir, þá staðnaði orrostan, ok bauð Hringr
became of-this aware then stopped the-battle and offered Hring
konungr grið öllum her Haralds konungs, ok þat þágu
king truce to-all (the)-army of-Harald king and that accepted
allir. Ok annan dag eftir at morgni lætr Hringr konungr
all And (the)-next day after in morning has Hring king
kanna valinn, ok leita at líki Haralds konungs, frænda
search the-slain and seek for (the)-body of-Harald king kinsman
síns, ok var mikill herr valsins fallinn yfir, þar sem líkit
his and was great army of-the-slain fallen over(-it) there where the-body

lá; var þá orðinn miðr dagr, er líkit fannst ok valrinn
lay was then become mid day when the-body was-found and the-slain
var rofinn, ok lét Hringr konungr þá taka lík Haralds
was broken and had Hring king then take (the)-body of-Harald
konungs frænda síns, ok þvá af blóð, ok búa um
king kinsman his and wash off blood and prepare (it)-about
veglega eftir fornri siðvenju; lét leggja líkit í þann vagn,
worthily after old custom had lay the-body in that wagon
er Haraldr konungr hafði til orrostu; ok eftir þat lét hann
which Harald king had in battle and after that had he
kasta mikinn haug, ok lét þá líki hans aka í þeim vagni,
cast-up great mound and had then body his drive in that wagon
á þeim hesti, er Haraldr konungr hafði til orrostu, ok lét
with that horse which Harald king had in battle and had
svá aka í hauginn; ok síðan var sá hestr drepinn. Ok þá
so drive into the-mound and then was that horse killed And then
lét Hringr konungr taka þann söðul, er hann sjálfr hafði
had Hring king take that saddle which he himself had
riðit í, ok gaf þann Haraldi konungi, frænda sínum, ok bað
ridden in and gave that to-Harald king kinsman his and bade
hann gera hvárt er hann vildi, ríða til Valhallar eða aka;
him do whether which he would ride to Valhalla or drive
ok þá lét hann gera þar mikla veizlu, ok veita útferð
and then had he make there great feast and give (the)-funeral
Haralds konungs frænda síns. Ok áðr enn haugrinn væri aftr
of-Harald king kinsman his And before than the-mound were shut
lokinn, þá biðr Hringr konungr til ganga alt stórmenni ok
closed then bids Hring king to go all great-men and
alla kappa, er við vóru staddir, at kasta í hauginn stórum
all champions who by were present to cast into the-mound great

hringum ok góðum vápnum, til sœmdar Haraldi konungi
rings and good weapons for honor to-Harald king
hilditönn; ok eftir þat var aftr byrgðr haugrinn vandlega.
War-Tooth and after that was shut closed the-mound carefully

X · SIGURÐR HRINGR AND THE ÁLFAR

Sigurðr Hringr rules Sweden and Denmark after Haraldr. His son Ragnarr grows up at court, in looks like his mother's kin, the Álfar, descended from Álfr the Old, after whom the Gaut-River and the Raum-River are named, and in stature like his father's. As Hringr ages, his realm shrinks, and Aðalbrikt takes Northumberland. Gandálfr's sons ask Hringr to help them against King Eysteinn of Vestfold, and the text breaks off at the sacrifices at Skíringssalr.

Sigurðr Hringr var konungr yfir Svíþjóð ok Danmörk eftir
Sigurd Hring was king over Sweden and Denmark after
Harald konung hilditönn; ok þá óx upp son hans Ragnarr
Harald king War-Tooth and then grew up son his Ragnar
í hirð föður síns; hann var allra þeira manna mestr ok
in (the)-court of-father his he was of-all those men greatest and
fríðastr, er menn hefði sét, ok var hann líkr móður sinni
fairest whom men had seen and was he like mother his
ásýndar, ok í hennar ætt at sjá, þvíat þat er kunnigt í öllum
in-looks and into her kin to see because that is known in all
fornum frásögum um þat fólk, er Álfar hétu, (at þat) var
old narratives about that folk which Elves were-called that it was
miklu fríðara enn önnur mannkind á norðrlöndum; þvíat alt
much fairer than other mankind in (the)-Northlands because all
forellri Álfhildar móður hans, ok allr ættbálkr, (var) kominn
ancestry of-Alfhild mother his and all kin-line was come
frá Álfi gamla; þat vóru þá kallaðar Álfa ættir; af honum
from Alf (the)-Old they were then called Elves' kins from him

tóku nöfn þær tvær meginár, er elfr heitir hvártveggi síðan;
took names those two great-rivers which river is-called each since
önnur skildi ríki hans af Gautlandi, var sú fyrir því kölluð
(the)-one divided realm his from Gautland was that-one for that called
Gautelfr; enn önnur fell at því landi, er nú heitir Raumaríki,
Gaut-River but (the)-other fell to that land which now is-called Raumariki
ok heitir sú Raumelfr. Ragnarr var líkr feðr sínum,
and is-called that-one Raum-River Ragnar was like father his
ok föðurfrændum á vöxt, sem verit hafði Haraldr konungr
and father's-kinsmen in growth as been had Harald king
hilditönn, eða Ívarr víðfaðmi. Ok er Hringr konungr tók at
War-Tooth or Ivar Wide-Grasp And when Hring king took to
eldast ok þungfœrast, tók at minkast ríki hans, ok tók mest
age and grow-heavy took to lessen realm his and took most
af því, er first honum var. Sá konungr er nefndr Aðalbrikt,
of that which farthest from-him was That king is named Adalbright
er kominn var af ætt Ellu konungs, þess er drepit hafði
who come was of (the)-kin of-Ella king that who killed had
Hálfdan ylfingr, ok lagði undir sik þann hluta Englands,
Halfdan Ylfing and laid under himself that part of-England
er Norðimbraland heitir; þann hlut átti Hringr konungr, ok
which Northumberland is-called that part owned Hring king and
áðr Haraldr konungr; Aðalbrikt konungr réð því ríki langar
before Harald king Adalbright king ruled that realm long
stundir; synir hans hétu Áma ok Ella, er konungar vóru
times sons his were-called Ama and Ella who kings were
í Norðimbralandi eftir föður sinn. Þá er Sigurðr hringr
in Northumberland after father their Then when Sigurd Hring
var gamall, var þat á einu hausti, er hann hafði riðit um
was old was that in one autumn when he had ridden about
ríki sitt, Gautland vestra, at dœma mönnum landslög, at
realm his Gautland western to judge for-men land-laws that

þá kómu í móti honum Gandálfs synir, mágar hans,
then came in against him Gandalf's sons kinsmen-by-marriage his
ok báðu, at hann mundi veita þeim lið at ríða á hendr
and asked that he would give them force to ride on hands
þeim konungi, er Eysteinn hét, er því ríki réð, er þá
that king who Eystein was-called who that realm ruled which then
hétu Vestmarar, enn nú heitir Vestfold. Þá vóru höfð
were-called Vestmarar but now is-called Vestfold Then were held
blót í Skíringssal, er til var sótt um alla Víkina ***
sacrifices in Skiringssal which to was sought from all the-Vik (lacuna)

Hálfs saga ok Hálfsrekka

The Saga of Half and His Champions

King Alrekr of Hörðaland is married to Signý, but his man Kollr praises Geirhildr Drífsdóttir. Óðinn, as Höttr, helps Geirhildr on condition that she call on him in all things. Alrekr cannot keep both wives and will keep whichever brews the better ale. Signý calls on Freyja, Geirhildr on Höttr, who spits into her vat for yeast. Her ale wins, and Alrekr foretells in verse that her son will hang, sold to Óðinn. Their son is Víkarr.

Alrekr hét konungr, er bjó á Alreksstöðum; hann réð
Alrek was-called a-king who dwelt at Alreksstadir he ruled
fyrir Hörðalandi; hann átti Signýju, dóttur konungs af Vörs.
over Hordaland he had Signy daughter of-(the)-king of Voss
Kollr hét hirðmaðr hans, ok fylgdi hann konungi norðr
Koll was-called retainer his and followed he (the)-king north
í Sogn ok sagði konungi allmikit frá vænleik Geirhildar
into Sogn and told (the)-king very-much of (the)-fairness of-Geirhild
Drífsdóttur, því at hann hafði sét hana við mungátsgerð,
Drif's-daughter because that he had seen her at ale-making
ok kvezt honum unna þess ráðs. Til fundar við Geirhildi
and says-of-himself him grant that match To meeting with Geirhild
kom Höttr, er Óðinn var reyndar, þá er hon var at
came Hott who Odin was in-truth then when she was at
léreftum; hann keypti því við hana, at Alrekr konungr skyldi
linens he bargained that with her that Alrek king should
eiga hana, enn hon skyldi á hann heita til alls; konungr sá
have her but she should on him call for all (the)-king saw
hana, er hann fór heim, ok gerði brúðlaup til hennar hit
her when he went home and made wedding to her the
sama haust. Konungr launaði Koll vel trúleik sinn ok gaf
same autumn (The)-king rewarded Koll well (for)-faithfulness his and gave
honum jarlsdóm ok atsetu í Kollsey fyrir sunnan Harðsæ,
him earldom and seat in Kollsey to (the)-south-of Hardsae

ok er þat fjölbygt herað. Alrekr konungr mátti eigi eiga þær
and is that thickly-settled district Alrek king might not have them
báðar fyrir ósamþykki þeira ok kvezt þá þeira eiga
both for discord their and says-of-himself that-one of-them have
skyldu, er betra öl gerði mót honum, er hann kœmi
should who better ale made against him when he should-come
heim ór leiðangri. Þær keptust um ölgerðina. Signý hét á
home from levy They vied about the-ale-making Signy called on
Freyju, enn Geirhildr á Hött; hann lagði fyrir dregg hráka
Freyja but Geirhild on Hott he laid for yeast spittle
sinn ok kvezt vilja fyrir tilkvámu sína þat, er var milli
his and says-of-himself wish for coming his that which was between
kersins ok hennar. Enn þat reyndist gott öl; þá kvað Alrekr:
the-vat and her But that proved good ale then spoke Alrek

„Geirhildr, getta!
Geirhild girl
gott er öl þetta,
good is ale this
ef því andmarkar
if it blemishes
øngvir fylgja;
none follow
ek sé hanga
I see hang
á hávum gálga
on high gallows
son þinn, kona!
son thy woman
seldan Óðni“.
sold to-Odin

Á þeim misserum var fœddr Víkarr, son Alreks ok Geirhildar.
In those seasons was born Víkar son of-Alrek and of-Geirhild

II · ÖGVALDR'S MOUND

King Ögvaldr of Rogaland, at whose hunt his son Jösurr is born, falls fighting the viking Hæklingr and is buried in a mound on Ögvaldsnes. Long afterward the settler Finnr the Wealthy, lying off the headland bound for Iceland, hears a verse spoken in the mound.

Ögvaldr Rogalands konungr bjó á Roga á Jösurheiði; hon
Ogvald Rogaland's king dwelt at Roga on Josurheid it
er í milli Rogalands ok Þelamerkr; þat kalla menn nú
is in between Rogaland and Telemark that call men now
Viði. Hann fór á dýraveiði; honum fylgdi hirð hans, ok
Vidi He went on beast-hunting him followed court his and
þar fœddi drotning svein þann, er Jösurr hét; þann
there bore (the)-queen boy that who Josur was-called that-one
fóstraði Gunnvaldr Storðar jarl. Hæklingr víkingr kom með
fostered Gunnvald Stord's earl Haekling viking came with
her sinn á hendr Ögvaldi konungi; í þeirri orrostu fell
army his on hands Ogvald king in that battle fell
Ögvaldr konungr, ok var hann heygðr á Ögvaldsnesi. Finnr
Ogvald king and was he mounded on Ogvaldsnes Finn
enn auðgi af Akranesi, landnámamaðr, lá við Ögvaldsnes
the Wealthy of Akranes settler lay by Ogvaldsnes

ok búinn til Íslands ok spurði, hversu fyrir löngu Ögvaldr
and ready to Iceland and asked how before long Ogvald
konungr fell; hann heyrði vísu þessa kveðna í hauginn:
king fell he heard verse this spoken in the-mound

„Þat var fyr löngu,
That was before long
er í leið höldar
when on way men
heldr hundmargir
rather very-many
Hæklings fóru,
of-Haekling went
sigldu um salta
sailed over salt
slóð birtinga;
track of-trout
þá varð ek þessa
then became I of-this
þorps ráðandi“.
village ruler

Earl Gunnvaldr and Kollr both seek the same woman, and Gunnvaldr wins her. Kollr sets fire to his house, and Gunnvaldr is killed as he comes out. Jösurr, Gunnvaldr's foster-son, avenges him; Kollr flees, and King Alrekr, coming to meet him with few men, falls with him. Jösurr takes Kollr's realm before Víkarr can arrive.

Gunnvaldr jarl ok Kollr báðu einnar konu báðir, ok fekk
Gunnvald earl and Koll asked-for one woman both and got(-her)
Gunnvaldr. Eftir þat kom Kollr með lið mikit í Storð á laun,
Gunnvald After that came Koll with force great to Stord in secret
ok lögðu eld í hús Gunnvalds Roga; Gunnvaldr gekk út
and laid fire in (the)-house of-Gunnvald Roga Gunnvald went out
ok var drepinn. Þá hafði Jösurr verit konungr nokkura stund;
and was killed Then had Josur been king some while
síðan fór hann með lið mikit at hefna fóstra síns; ok er
then went he with force great to avenge foster-father his and when
Kollr sá sigling hans, þá hljóp hann á herskip sín, ok sigldi
Koll saw sailing his then leapt he onto warships his and sailed
norðr um Harðsæ í Grafdalsvág. Þá kom Alrekr konungr til
north over Hardsae into Grafdalsvag Then came Alrek king to
móts við Koll fámennr, því at hann vissi eigi ófriðar ván.
meeting with Koll with-few-men because that he knew not of-war hope
Þá börðust þeir Jösurr konungr, ok fellu þeir Alrekr konungr
Then fought they Josur king and fell they Alrek king
ok Kollr ok mestr hlutr liðs þeira. Víkarr son Alreks kom eigi
and Koll and most part of-force their Vikar son of-Alrek came not
fyrr með liðsafnað enn Jösurr konungr var brott farinn. Í þeiri
sooner with force-gathering than Josur king was away gone In that
ferð lagði Jösurr undir sik ríki þat alt, er átt hafði Kollr.
journey laid Josur under himself realm that all which owned had Koll

Many winters later Víkarr kills Jösurr, and all the farmers of the district fall with him, so that it is called Kvennaherað, the Women's District. Jösurr's son Hjörr fights Víkarr long and they are reconciled. Víkarr's son is Vatnarr, whose sons Snjallr and Hjallr lie in Brœðrahaugr.

Mörgum vetrum síðar kom Víkarr konungr fjölmennr á
Many winters later came Vikar king with-many-men on
hendr Jösur, þá er hann var í því ríki, er Kollr hafði
hands Josur then when he was in that realm which Koll had
átt, ok áttu þeir orrostu; ok þá fell Jösurr konungr fyrir
owned and had they battle and then fell Josur king before(-him)
ok allir bœndr þess heraðs; því heitir þat Kvennaherað,
and all farmers of-that district therefore is-called it Women's-District
at þar bygðu ekkjur einar eftir. Síðan eignaðist Víkarr ríki
that there dwelt widows alone behind Afterward got Vikar realm
þat alt, er átt hafði Kollr. Fyrir þat fór Hjörr Jösursson
that all which owned had Koll For that went Hjor Josursson
móti Víkari til orrostu, ok áttu þeir langa hríð sín í
against Vikar to battle and had they long while them in
millum, ok höfðu ýmsir betr, ok sættust um síðir. Sonr
between and had various better and were-reconciled at last (The)-son
Víkars var Vatnarr, er heygðr var í Vatnarshaugi; hans
of-Vikar was Vatnar who mounded was in Vatnar's-Mound his
synir vóru þeir Snjallr ok Hjallr, er liggja í Brœðrahaugi.
sons were they Snjall and Hjall who lie in Brothers'-Mound

King Hjörleifr the Woman-Lover, married to Æsa the Fair, sails to Bjarmaland and on the way marries Hildr the Slender, daughter of Högni of Njarðey. In Bjarmaland his men break a mound and take great wealth. On the return he shoots a heated spear at an ogre by a spring and taunts it in verse; it answers from its crag, and he puts the spear in its eye. Æsa is displeased at the king and his company.

Hjörr konungr Jösursson var ríkr konungr ok varð
Hjor king Josursson was mighty king and became
sóttdauðr ok var heygðr á Rogalandi; hans son var Hjörleifr
sickness-dead and was mounded in Rogaland his son was Hjorleif
Hörðalands konungr; hann réð ok fyrir Rogalandi ok var
Hordaland's king he ruled also over Rogaland and was
allríkr konungr; hann var kallaðr Hjörleifr hinn kvensami;
very-mighty king he was called Hjorleif the Woman-Lover
hann átti Æsu hina ljósu, dóttur Eysteins jarls af Valdresi.
he had Aesa the Fair daughter of-Eystein earl of Valdres
Hjörleifi brustu lausafé fyrir örleika; hann lét gera skip
To-Hjorleif failed movable-wealth for open-handedness he had build ship
af virktum ok fór til Bjarmalands. Högni hinn auðgi bjó
with care and went to Bjarmaland Hogni the Wealthy dwelt
í Njarðey fyrir Naumudalsmynni; hann tók vel við Hjörleifi
in Njardey before Namdal's-mouth he took well to Hjorleif
konungi, ok var hann þar þrjár nætr ok gekk at eiga Hildi
king and was he there three nights and went to marry Hild
hina mjóvu, dóttur Högna, áðr hann fór brott, ok fór hon
the Slender daughter of-Hogni before he went away and went she
með honum til Bjarmalands ok Sölvi bróðir hennar. Enn er
with him to Bjarmaland and Solvi brother her But when
Hjörleifr konungr kom í Vínuminni, skifti hann liði sínu í
Hjorleif king came into Vina's-Mouth divided he force his into

þrjá þriðjunga. Á skipi hans váru níu tigir manna; þriðjungr
three thirds On ship his were nine tens of-men a-third
liðs helt upp bardaga með honum við landsmenn, annarr
of-force held up battle with him against land-men (the)-second
þriðjungr liðs varðveitti skip með stýrimanni, enn þriði
third of-force kept (the)-ship with (the)-steersman but (the)-third
þriðjungr braut haug með stafnbúa, ok fengu þeir mikit
third broke a-mound with (the)-prow-man and got they great
fé. Á sunnanverðri Finnmörk í Gjarðeyjargeima lá Hjörleifr
wealth In southern Finnmark in Gjardeyjargeim lay Hjorleif
konungr um nótt, ok höfðu sveinar eld á landi, ok fóru
king through night and had boys fire on land and went
tveir menn at sœkja vatn til lœkjar, er fell af bjargi fram;
two men to fetch water to (the)-brook which fell from crag forth
þar sá þeir brunnmiga ok sögðu Hjörleifi konungi; síðan heitir
there saw they well-pisser and told to-Hjorleif king then heats
konungr broddspjót í eldi ok skaut til hans; konungr kvað:
(the)-king spike-spear in fire and shot at him (the)-king spoke

„Gakkðu frá brunni,
Go-thou from (the)-well
glettskattu við mik,
mock-thou-not at me
þræll herfilegr!
thrall wretched
þíns innis til;
thy dwelling to

man ek senda þér
will I send thee
sveiðanda spjót,
swinging spear
þat er gyrja man
that which gore will
granir þínar“.
whiskers thy

Þá tóku þeir vatn; enn þursinn skauzt inn í bjargit. Þá
Then took they water but the-ogre darted in into the-crag Then
er þau sátu við eld, þá kvað þurs af bjargi annat ljóð:
when they sat by fire then spoke (the)-ogre from (the)-crag another song

„Veita gørla
Knows-not fully
víf þitt, konungr!
wife thy king
hvat hnekkja man
what thwart will
hennar sælu;
her bliss
vér verðum þér
we become to-thee
* * *,
(lacuna)
Hildr! Hjörleifi
Hild to-Hjorleif
haltu nær loga“.
hold-thou near fire

Þá skaut Hjörleifr hinu sama spjóti í auga því trölli.
Then shot Hjorleif the same spear into (the)-eye of-that troll
Síðan sigldi Hjörleifr suðr til Njarðeyjar. Högni bauð Sölva ok
Then sailed Hjorleif south to Njardey Hogni offered Solvi and
Hildi at vera þar eftir, enn konungr vildi þat eigi. Síðan fóru
Hild to be there behind but (the)-king wished that not Then went
ambáttar tvær með Hildi, enn tuttugu karlar með Sölva. Æsa
bondwomen two with Hild but twenty men with Solvi Aesa
varð ófegin konungi ok hans föruneyti, enn allir aðrir fegnir.
became ungladdened at-(the)-king and his following but all others glad

VI · HRINGJA'S COFFIN

Hjörleifr wins Hringja, daughter of King Hreiðarr of Zealand. At sea a mountain shaped like a man foretells in verse her death and Heri's fall. She dies; her coffin, cast overboard, drifts back near her father, and Heri tells him Hjörleifr must have murdered her.

Hjörleifr konungr fór með skipi sínu til Konungahellu, því sem
Hjorleif king went with ship his to Konungahella as as
hann helt til Bjarmalands; þeir Hreiðarr, Sjólands konungr, settu
he held to Bjarmaland they Hreidar Zealand's king set
búðir sínar hit næsta þar. Heri, son Hreiðars konungs, gerði
booths their the next there Heri son of-Hreidar king made
sér kært við Hjörleif konung; á þeim fundi eggjaði hann föður
himself dear with Hjorleif king at that meeting urged he father
sinn at bjóða heim Hjörleifi konungi. Hreiðarr konungr sagði,
his to invite home Hjorleif king Hreidar king said
at þat mundi at øngri gæfu verða, enn lagði þó leyfi til ok
that that would to no good-luck become but laid yet leave to(-it) and
fjármuni; þeir höfðu samflot til Danmerkr. At því boði sá
money they had sailing-company to Denmark At that feast saw

Hjörleifr konungr Hringju, dóttur Hreiðars konungs [ok bað
Hjorleif king Hringja daughter of-Hreidar king and asked-for
hennar]; Heri fýsti þess ráðs, ok fylgdi henni skipshöfn manna
her Heri urged that match and followed her ship's-crew of-men
ok farmr allr. Í Jótlandshafi lá Hjörleifr konungr í lognrétt;
and lading all In (the)-Jutland-sea lay Hjorleif king in calm
ok er hann fór í sólar upprás, sá hann í norðr koma upp
and when he went at sun's rising saw he in north come up
ór sjónum mikit fjall, ok jafnt vaxit sem mann. Þat kvað:
from the-sea great mountain and evenly grown as man That spoke

„Ek sé Hringju
I see Hringja
haug um orpinn,
mound — cast-up
enn Hera hníga
but Heri sink
hvátinn spjóti;
struck with-spear
sék Hjörleifi
see-I for-Hjorleif
haftbönd snúin,
fetter-bands twisted
enn Hreiðari
but for-Hreidar
höggvinn gálga“.
hewn gallows

Þá gengu ekki skipin; þá bað konungr taka til ára.
Then went not the-ships then bade (the)-king take to oars
Þá kendi Hringja sér sóttar; þeir lögðu upp árar. Hon
Then felt Hringja herself sickness they laid up oars She

andaðist at jafnlengd þess, er hon hafði sótt tekit, ok
died at same-hour that when she had sickness taken and
varð skotit kistu hennar fyrir borð, enn hon fór svá skjótt
was shoved coffin her over board but it went so quickly
suðr aftr, sem róit væri sexærðu skipi. Heri fann kistuna
south back as-if rowed were six-oared ship Heri found the-coffin
rekna skamt frá naustum föður síns ok sagði honum til,
drifted short from boat-houses of-father his and told him of(-it)
ok kvað Hjörleif konung mundu hafa myrt hana.
and said Hjorleif king would have murdered her

VII · THE MERMAN

Two fishermen bring Hjörleifr a merman, who will not speak until he laughs when the king strikes a dog. Carried back to the sea, he warns in verse of a Danish fleet coming for vengeance and of Hildr's war, and answers that cold water for the eyes, meat for the teeth, and linen for the body are best for a man. The king gives the fishermen land.

Þetta haust røru feðgar tveir á fiski ok drógu marmennil,
That autumn rowed father-and-son two to fishing and drew-up merman
ok hét annarr Handir, enn annarr Hrindir; þeir færðu
and was-called one Handir but (the)-other Hrindir they brought
hann Hjörleifi. Konungr fekk hann í hendr hirðkonu
him to-Hjorleif (The)-king gave him into hands of-court-woman
einni ok bað hana gera vel við hann; engi maðr fekk orð
one and bade her do well with him no man got word
af honum. Kertisveinar glímdu ok sløkktu ljósin. Í því
from him Candle-boys wrestled and quenched the-lights In that
bili sló Hildr horni á skikkju Æsu; konungr sló hana
moment struck Hild with-horn on (the)-cloak of-Aesa (the)-king struck her

með hendi sinni; enn Hildr sagði hundinn valda, er lá
with hand his but Hild said the-hound caused(-it) which lay
á gólfinu; þá laust konungr hundinn; þá hló marmennill;
on the-floor then struck (the)-king the-hound then laughed (the)-merman
konungr spurði, hví hann hló; hann svarar: „Því at þér
(the)-king asked why he laughed he answers Because that to-thee
varð heimslega, því at þau munu þér líf gefa“. Konungr
happened foolishly because that they will thee life give (The)-king
spurði hann fleira; hann svarar øngu; síðan lézt konungr
asked him more he answers nothing then professed (the)-king
mundu flytja hann til sjóvar, ok bað hann segja sér þat,
would carry him to sea and bade him tell him that
er hann þyrfti at vita; hann kvað, er hann fór til sjóvar:
which he needed to know he spoke when he went to sea

„Ek sé lýsa
I see shine
langt suðr í haf,
far south into sea
vill danskr konungr
will Danish king
dóttur hefna;
daughter avenge
hann hefir úti
he has out
ótal skipa,
countless of-ships

býðr hann Hjörleifi
offers he to-Hjorleif
hólmstefnu til;
holm-meeting to
varastu vitr, ef þú vilt,
beware-thou wise if thou wishest
vil ek aftr í sjó“.
wish I back into sea

Enn er þeir røru þangat með hann sem þeir höfðu hann
But when they rowed thither with him where they had him
upp dregit, þá kvað hann:
up drawn then spoke he

„Sögu kann ek segja
Tale can I tell
sonum Háleygja
to-sons of-Haleygs
vilgi góða,
not-at-all good
ef ér vilið heyra:
if you will hear
hér ferr sunnan
here goes from-the-south
*Svarðar dóttir,
Svard's daughter
um drifin dreyra,
— sprinkled with-gore
frá Danmörku.
from Denmark

Hefir sér á höfði
Has for-herself on head
hjálm upp spentan,
helmet up clasped
herkuml harðlegt
war-token hard
*Heðins af letta;
Hedin's off ceasing
skamt man sveinum
short will for-boys
— sé þaz er —
be that-which is
Hildar at bíða
Hild to await
hér á ferli.
here on way

Bresta man baugröst,
Burst will ring-road
brá mær augum
moved maid eyes
um heruð hingat
over districts hither
Högna til þegna;
of-Hogni to thanes

hafa skal hverr drengr
have shall each warrior
hjörnjóts mörg spjót,
sword-user's many spears
áðr komi mikil fram
before come great forth
málmahríð síðan.
metal-storm afterward

Þó munu, þar er sák
Yet will there where saw-I
þá för illa,
that journey ill
hafa allir alkeypt
have all dearly-bought
ár, þá er kømr vár".
year then when comes spring

Þá lét Hjörleifr konungr hann utanborðs. Þá tók einn
Then put Hjorleif king him overboard Then took one
maðr í hönd honum ok spurði: „Hvat er manni bezt?“
man into hand his and asked What is for-man best
Marmennill svarar:
(The)-merman answers

„Kalt vatn augum,
Cold water for-eyes
enn kvett tönnum,
but meat for-teeth
léreft líki,
linen for-body
lát mik aftr í sjó!
let me back into sea
dregr mik engi
draws me none
í degi síðan
in day afterward
maðr upp í skip
man up into ship
af mararbotnum“.
from sea-bottoms

Konungr gaf þeim Handi ok Hrindi land at búa á, ok þar
(The)-king gave them Handir and Hrindir land to dwell on and there
með þræl ok ambátt.
with thrall and bondwoman

Hreiðarr rings Hjörleifr's farm, where Hjörleifr's spear kills Heri, then burns it and sails off with plunder. Hjörleifr comes secretly to Hreiðarr's hall, is betrayed by Æsa, and is hung between fires by his own shoe-thongs, but Hildr cuts him loose. He kills Hreiðarr, who had heard a verse of warning, and hangs him on the gallows meant for himself. Æsa is sentenced to drowning in a bog, but Hjörleifr sends her home with her dowry.

Síðan lét Hjörleifr konungr fara ørvarboð, ok samnaði liði
Then had Hjorleif king go war-arrow and gathered force
at sér. Um nótt kom Hreiðarr konungr með her sinn ok
to himself In night came Hreidar king with army his and
sló hring um bœ Hjörleifs konungs. Þá hina sömu
struck ring about (the)-farm of-Hjorleif king Then that same
nótt gó hundr hans Flóki, er aldri gó, nema hann vissi
night bayed hound his Floki who never bayed unless he knew
konungi ótta vánir. Hjörleifr konungr hleypti á manngarðinn
for-(the)-king fear expected Hjorleif king charged at the-man-wall
ok skaut aftr spjóti til liðsins; þá heyrði hann kallat fall
and shot back spear to the-force then heard he called (the)-fall
Hera. Konungr sá ór skógi bœjarbruna sinn ok brottsigling
of-Heri (The)-king saw from wood farm-burning his and sailing-off
Hreiðars konungs með herfangi miklu. Þetta sama haust
of-Hreidar king with plunder great This same autumn
kom Hjörleifr konungr einskipa um nótt á bœ Hreiðars
came Hjorleif king with-one-ship in night to (the)-farm of-Hreidar
konungs, ok gekk einn til svefnhúss, enn allar konur váru
king and went alone to sleeping-house but all women were
ór rekkju brottu nema Æsa ein. Konungr bað hana koma
from bed away except Aesa alone (The)-king bade her come
sér við Hreiðarr konung; hon læsti hann í váðkeri sínu
him against Hreidar king she locked him in clothes-chest her

ok sagði síðan Hreiðari konungi ok kvað Hjörleif þar
and told then to-Hreidar king and said Hjorleif there
vera. Hjörleifr konungr var upp festr í konungs höll með
be Hjorleif king was up hung in (the)-king's hall with
skóþvengjum sínum sjálfs, millum elda tveggja at ráði
shoe-thongs his own between fires two at (the)-counsel
Æsu; enn hirðin sat við drykkju. Á meðan vakti Hildr,
of-Aesa but the-court sat at drink On while woke Hild
ok jós mungáti í eldana; hon leysti hann svá, at hon
and poured ale into the-fires she loosed him so that she
hjó með sverði skóþvengina. Hreiðarr konungr sat sofandi í
cut with sword the-shoe-thongs Hreidar king sat sleeping in
hásætinu, enn Æsa sat í knjám honum. Hjörleifr konungr
the-high-seat but Aesa sat on knees his Hjorleif king
lagði í brjóst honum, ok gekk síðan til skips eftir liði
thrust into breast his and went then to ship after force
sínu, ok lét binda hirð Hreiðars konungs, ok gaf grið;
his and had bind (the)-court of-Hreidar king and gave truce
enn Hreiðarr konung lét hann hengja dauðan á gálga þann,
but Hreidar king had he hang dead on gallows that

er hann hafði honum ætlat. Þann inn sama aftan, er
which he had for-him intended That the same evening when
Hjörleifr konungr kom, heyrði Hreiðarr konungr kveðit:
Hjorleif king came heard Hreidar king spoken

„Minnistu, Hreiðarr,
Rememberest-thou Hreidar
hverr Hera feldi?
who Heri felled
— vá vakðist þar —
woe was-woken there
fyr vestrdurum;
before west-doors
enn man hann sinna
still will he his-men
til sala þinna,
to halls thy
byrsæll koma,
wind-lucky come
bíð þú enn, konungr!“
wait thou still king

Hjörleifr konungr lagði undir sik ríki þat alt, er átt hafði
Hjorleif king laid under himself realm that all which owned had
Hreiðarr konungr, ok setti þar Sölva Högnason, ok gaf honum
Hreidar king and set there Solvi Hognason and gave him
jarlsdóm; enn Hjörleifr konungr fór til Noregs ok hafði með
earldom but Hjorleif king went to Norway and had with
sér Hildi ok Æsu ok kvaddi þings. Þat dœmdi landsfólkit,
him Hild and Aesa and summoned assembly That judged the-land-folk
at Æsu væri drekt í mýri; enn Hjörleifr konungr sendi
that Aesa were drowned in bog but Hjorleif king sent

hana upp á land með heimanfylgju sína. Sonr Hjörleifs
her up onto land with dowry her (The)-son of-Hjorleif
ok Æsu var Óblauðr, faðir Ótryggs, föður Högna hins hvíta,
and of-Aesa was Oblaud father of-Otrygg father of-Hogni the White
föður Úlfs hins skjálga, er Reyknesingar eru frá komnir.
father of-Ulf the Squint whom (the)-Reyknesings are from come

IX · HJÖRÓLFR'S RAID

Hjörleifr falls in viking-raiding, and King Ásmundr marries Hildr and fosters her sons, Hjörólfr and Hálfr. At thirteen Hjörólfr goes raiding with every ship and man he can find, armed with poles and clubs, and is routed by vikings, so that clumsy gear is called Hjörólfr's gear.

Hjörleifr konungr ok Hildr hin mjóva áttu tvá sonu; hét
Hjorleif king and Hild the Slender had two sons was-called
hinn ellri Hjörólfr, enn hinn yngri Hálfr. Hjörleifr konungr
the elder Hjorolf but the younger Half Hjorleif king
fell í víkingu. Ásmundr hét konungr; hann fekk Hildar
fell in viking-raiding Asmund was-called a-king he got Hild
hinnar mjóvu ok fóstraði sonu Hjörleifs konungs. Þá er
the Slender and fostered (the)-sons of-Hjorleif king Then when
Hjörólfr var þrettán vetra, þá bjóst hann at fara í hernað;
Hjorolf was thirteen winters then got-ready he to go into raiding
hann hafði hvert skip, er hann fekk, smá ok stór, ný ok
he had every ship which he got small and big new and
forn, ok hvern mann er hann fekk, frjálsan ok nauðgan.
old and every man whom he got free and forced
Þeir höfðu mart til vápna: stengr ok stafi, klumbur ok króka;
They had much for weapons poles and staves clubs and crooks
fyrir þá sök er þat kallat síðan Hjörólfsfœri, er ófimlegt er.
for that cause is that called since Hjorolf's-gear which unhandy is

Enn er hann kom til orrostu við víkinga, þá treystist hann
But when he came to battle with vikings then trusted he
liðsfjölda ok lagði til orrostu; hann hafði lið ókœnt ok
in-number-of-force and set to battle he had force unskilled and
vápnlaust, ok fell mart lið hans, enn sumt flýði, ok kom
weaponless and fell much force his but some fled and came
við þat aftr at hausti, ok varð hann lítill maðr fyrir sér.
with that back in autumn and became he little man for himself

X · HÁLFR AND HIS CHAMPIONS

At twelve Hálfr goes raiding in one fine ship, choosing only men who can lift a great stone and never flinch. Among them are Steinn, called Innsteinn after he asks to pitch a tent, and his brother, the younger Steinn, called Útsteinn. Their laws forbid long swords, tents on ships, taking women and children, and binding wounds before the next day. For eighteen summers they raid and always win.

Eftir um várit var Hálfr tólf vetra gamall, ok var engi
After in the-spring was Half twelve winters old and was no
maðr jafnmikill eða jafnsterkr sem hann; þá bjóst hann at
man equally-great or equally-strong as he then got-ready he to
fara í hernað, ok hafði hann eitt skip nýtt ok vel búit.
go into raiding and had he one ship new and well equipped
Á Hörðalandi var jarl sá, er Álfr hinn gamli hét; hann
In Hordaland was earl that who Alf the Old was-called he
átti Gunnlöðu, dóttur Hrómundar berserks, systur Hámundar
had Gunnlod daughter of-Hromund berserk sister of-Hamund
hersis hins frœkna; synir þeirra váru tveir, ok hét
chieftain the Bold sons their were two and was-called
hvártveggi Steinn. Hinn ellri var þá átján vetra gamall; hann
each Stein The elder was then eighteen winters old he

var þá ráðgjafi Hálfs konungs; enginn skyldi fara yngri enn
was then counselor of-Half king none should go younger than
hann eða bernskari. Steinn mikill stóð í garðinum; engi
he or more-childish Stone great stood in the-yard none
skyldi fara, sá sem eigi fengi hafit steininn af jörðu;
should go that-one who not could lift the-stone from earth
engi skyldi sá fara, at eigi væri hreystimaðr, svá at
none should that-one go who not were man-of-hardihood so that
aldri kvíddi, eða mælti æðru, eða brygði grönum fyrir sára
never flinched or spoke fear or twitched lips for wounds'
sakir. Steinn hinn yngri Gunnlaðarson var eigi færr fyrir
sake Stein the younger Gunnlod's-son was not able for
aldrs sakir, því at hann var tólf vetra gamall. Hámundr
age's sake because that he was twelve winters old Hamund
hersir átti tvá sonu, ok hét annarr Hrókr hinn svarti,
chieftain had two sons and was-called one Hrok the Black
enn annarr Hrókr hinn hvíti; þeir váru valdir til ferðar
but (the)-other Hrok the White they were chosen for journey
þessarar. Áslákr hét ríkr bóndi; hans synir váru þeir
this Aslak was-called mighty farmer his sons were they
Egill ok Erlingr; þeir váru ágætir menn. Vémundr hét
Egil and Erling they were excellent men Vemund was-called
merkismaðr Hálfs konungs; fjórir menn fylgdu honum ór
standard-man of-Half king four men followed him from
Hörðalandi. Þá var leitat um ellifu fylki; fengust þar
Hordaland Then was searched through eleven shires were-gotten there
tólf menn. Þar váru brœðr tveir Haukr ok Valr, Styrr
twelve men There were brothers two Hauk and Val Styr
hinn sterki, Dagr hinn prúði, Börkr ok Brynjólfr, Bölverkr
the Strong Dag the Proud Bork and Brynjolf Bolverk
ok Haki, Hringr ok Hálfdan, Stari ok Steingrimr, Stúfr ok
and Haki Hring and Halfdan Stari and Steingrim Stuf and

Gauti Bárðr ok Björn. Þeir váru tuttugu ok þrír er þeir
Gauti Bard and Bjorn They were twenty and three when they
ýttu. Hit fyrsta kveld, er þeir lögðu til hafnar, þá var
put-out The first evening when they laid to harbor then was
regn mikit; þá bað Steinn tjalda. Konungr svarar: „Viltu
rain great then bade Stein pitch-tents (The)-king answers Wilt-thou
enn húsa sem heima?“ Síðan kölluðu þeir hann Innstein.
still house as at-home Afterward called they him Innstein
Enn um daginn eftir røru þeir fyrir andnes eitt í hvössu
But in the-day after rowed they past headland one in sharp
veðri; maðr stóð á nesinu, ok bað fars; konungr bað hann
weather a-man stood on the-ness and asked passage (the)-king bade him
standa á stýristöngu til kvelds; hann kvað þat vel mælt
stand on tiller-pole till evening he said that well spoken
ok kvað sér þá þykkja skipat nær konunginum; svá var
and said to-him then seem placed near the-king so was
gert; þessi maðr var Steinn Gunnlaðarson hinn yngri; hann
done this man was Stein Gunnlod's-son the younger he
var síðan kallaðr Útsteinn. Mart var gert til varnaðar þeira
was afterward called Utstein Much was made for warning their
lögum fyrir kapps sakir; þat var eitt, at engi þeira skyldi
laws for zeal's sake that was one that none of-them should
hafa lengra sverð enn alnar, svá skyldi nær ganga; þeir létu
have longer sword than ell so should near go they had
gera söx til þess, at þá skyldi höggin stœrri; engi
make short-swords for that that then should the-blows greater none
þeira hafði minna afl enn tólf meðalmenn; aldri hertóku
of-them had less strength than twelve average-men never war-took
þeir konur né börn; engi skyldi sár binda fyrr enn at
they women nor children none should wound bind before than at
jafnlengd annars dags; við øngum var þeim tekit, er
same-hour of-(the)-next day to no-one was by-them taken who

minni var at afli eða hreysti enn nú var sagt. Þeir herjuðu
less was in strength or hardihood than now was said They harried
víða um lönd ok höfðu jafnan sigr. Hálfr konungr var
widely about lands and had always victory Half king was
átján sumr í hernaði. Þat var siðr þeira, at liggja jafnan
eighteen summers in raiding That was custom their to lie always
fyrir andnesjum; þat var annarr siðr þeira, at tjalda aldri
off headlands that was (the)-second custom their to pitch-tents never
á skipum ok aldri hálsa segl fyrir ofviðri. Þeir váru kallaðir
on ships and never reef sail for gale They were called
Hálfsrekkar, ok hafði hann aldri fleiri á skipi enn sex tigi.
Half's-Champions and had he never more on ship than six tens

XI · INNSTEINN'S WARNINGS

Returning in a storm, Hálfr's champions offer to go overboard for one another. King Ásmundr swears oaths to Hálfr and invites him to a feast with half his men. In alternating verses Innsteinn warns of treachery and tells three dreams of fire and drowning, Útsteinn sides with the king, and Hálfr trusts Ásmundr and dismisses the dreams.

Hálfr konungr fór til ríkis síns ór hernaði; þeir fengu
Half king went to realm his from raiding they got
storm mikinn í hafi; skip þeira varð ekki ausit; þá var þat
storm great at sea ship their became not baled then was that
ráðs tekit at hluta menn fyrir borð, enn þess þurfti eigi,
counsel taken to cast-lots men over board but of-that needed not
því at hverr bauð sínum félaga fyrir borð at fara; enn
because that each offered his fellow over board to go but
er þeir stigu fyrir borð, þá mæltu þeir: „Strálaust er fyrir
when they stepped over board then spoke they Strawless is before

stokkum“. Enn er Hálfr konungr kom til Hörðalands, þá
benches But when Half king came to Hordaland then
fór Ásmundr konungr á fund hans ok gerðist hans maðr
went Asmund king to (the)-meeting of-him and became his man
ok sór honum eiða ok bauð honum til veizlu ok hálfu liði
and swore him oaths and invited him to feast and half force
hans. Enn annan morgin, er konungr bjóst ok sagði, at
his But (the)-next morning when (the)-king got-ready and said that
helmingr liðs skyldi eftir verða á skipum, kvað Innsteinn:
half of-force should behind be on ships spoke Innstein

„Upp mundum vér
Up would we
allir ganga
all go
skatna beztir
of-men best
af skipum várum,
from ships our
láta brenna
let burn
bragninga sveit
of-princes band
ok Ásmundar lið
and Asmund's force
aldri týna“.
life lose

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Vér skulum hálfir
We shall half
herjar þessa
of-army this
sáttir sœkja
reconciled seek
frá sjó neðan;
from sea below
Ásmundr hefir
Asmund has
oss um boðna
to-us — offered
hringa rauða,
rings red
þá er hafa viljum“.
those which have (we)-will

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Sérattu allan
Seest-not-thou all
Ásmundar hug,
Asmund's mind
hefir fylkir sá
has prince that
flærð í brjósti;
falsehood in breast

mundir þú, þengill!
wouldst thou prince
ef vér því réðim,
if we that decided
mági þínum
kinsman-by-marriage thy
mjök lítt trúa“.
very little trust

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Ásmundr hefir
Asmund has
oss um unnit
to-us — sworn
margar trygðir,
many pledges
sem menn vitu;
as men know
manat góðr konungr
will-not good king
ganga á sáttir,
go against reconciled
né gramr annan
nor king other
í griðum væla“.
in truces betray

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Þér er orðinn
To-thee is become
Óðinn til gramr,
Odin too wrathful
er þú Ásmundi
when thou Asmund
allvel trúir;
very-well trustest
hann man alla
he will all
oss um væla,
us — betray
nema þú víti
unless thou warning
viðsjár fáir“.
of-wariness get

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Æ lystir þik
Ever lusts thee
æðru at mæla,
fear to speak
manat sá konungr
will-not that king
sáttir rjúfa;
reconciled break

gull eigum þar
gold have-we there
ok gørsimar,
and treasures
hringa rauða,
rings red
frá hans búm“.
from his dwellings

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Hálfr! dreymdi mik,
Half dreamed me
— hygðu at slíku! —
think-thou on such
at logi léki
that fire played
um liði váru;
about force our
ilt væri þar
ill were there
ór at leysask;
out to get-loose
hvat kveðr þú, þengill!
what callest thou prince
þann draum vita?“
that dream mean

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Gefa man ek hverjum
Give will I to-each
hjálm [gullroðinn]
helmet gold-reddened
frœknra drengja,
of-bold warriors
er fylgja mér;
who follow me
þat man at líta,
that will to look
sem logi brenni
as-if fire burned
skjöldungs liði
on-(the)-king's force
of skarar fjöllum“.
over hair's fells

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Enn dreymdi mik
Again dreamed me
öðru sinni:
other time
hugðak á öxlum
thought-I on shoulders
elda brenna;
fires burn

gruna tek ek nökkut,
suspect take I somewhat
at þat gott ne viti;
that that good not mean
hvat kveðr þú, þengill!
what callest thou prince
þann draum vita?“
that dream mean

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Hrynja um herðar
Clatter about shoulders
þeim, er hamalt fylkja,
of-them who wedge-wise draw-up
grams verðungu
(the)-prince's to-troop
gyldar brynjur;
gilded mail-coats
þat man á öxlum
that will on shoulders
öðlings vinum
noble's friends
ljóst at líta
bright to look
sem logi brenni.
as-if fire burned

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Þat dreymdi mik
That dreamed me
þriðja sinni,
third time
at vér í kaf niðr
that we into deep down
komnir værim;
come were
eiga man allstórt
have will very-great
um at væla;
about to struggle
hvat kveðr þú, þengill!
what callest thou prince
þann draum vita?“
that dream mean

Konungr kvað:
(The)-king spoke

„Fullangt er sjá
Full-long is this
fiflskapr taliðr,
folly told
vera kveð ek ekki
be call I nothing
undir slíku;
under such

segðu øngva,
tell-thou none
svá at heyri,
so that (one)-hears
drauma þína
dreams thy
í degi síðan!“
in day afterward

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Hlýði Hrókar,
Hear Hroks
hersis konir,
chieftain's sons
orðum mínum,
words my
Útsteinn þriði:
Utstein (the)-third
göngum allir
go-we all
upp frá ströndu,
up from strand
kunnum ekki
abide-we not
konungs málum“.
(the)-king's speeches

Útsteinn kvað:
Utstein spoke

„Konung látum vér
King let we
keppinn ráða
eager rule
fyrir fólki
before folk
um farir várar;
about journeys our
hættum bróðir!
risk-we brother
svá hánum líki,
as him pleases
fjörvi okkru
life our-two's
með frömum vísi“.
with bold prince

Innsteinn kvað:
Innstein spoke

„Hlýtt hefir fylkir
Obeyed has prince
í förum úti
on journeys out
mínum ráðum
my counsels
mörgu sinni;
many time

nú kveð ek øngu,
now call I nothing
er ek mæli,
which I speak
hlýða vilja,
obey (he)-will
síz hingat kómum“.
since hither (we)-came

XII · THE BURNING

At Ásmundr's feast the drink is so strong that Hálfr's champions sleep fast, and Ásmundr sets the hall on fire. The champions wake one by one with verses, Hálfr last, and they break out through the walls.

Hálfr konungr gekk upp til bœjar Ásmundar konungs
Half king went up to (the)-farm of-Asmund king
með helming liðs síns; þar var fyrir fjölmenni
with half of-force his there was before(-them) crowd
mikit; veizla var kappsamleg, ok drykkr svá sterkr, at
great feast was lavish and drink so strong that
Hálfsrekkar sofnuðu fast. Ásmundr konungr ok hirðin
Half's-Champions fell-asleep fast Asmund king and the-court
lögðu eld í höllina. Enn sá er fyrst vaknaði
laid fire into the-hall But that-one who first woke

af Hálfsrekkum, sá höllina nær fulla af reyk. Hann
of Half's-Champions saw the-hall nearly full of smoke He
kvað:
spoke

„Rýkr um hauka
Reeks about hawks
í höll konungs".
in hall of-(the)-king

Síðan lagðist hann niðr ok svaf. Þá vaknaði annarr ok
Then laid-himself he down and slept Then woke (the)-second and
sá at höllin logaði ok kvað:
saw that the-hall blazed and spoke

„Ván er at drjúpi
Likely is that drip
vax af söxum".
wax from short-swords

Sá lagðist niðr. Þá vaknaði Innsteinn; hann kvað:
That-one laid-himself down Then woke Innstein he spoke

„Mál er gulli
Time is gold
ok gørsimum
and treasures
hjálmum skifta
helmets share
með Hálfsrekkum.
with Half's-Champions

Hins fýsumk nú,
Of-that am-eager-I now
at Hálfr vaki;
that Half wake
erat af eklu
are-not from lack
eldar kyndir;
fires kindled
áttu, menbrjótr!
hast-thou necklace-breaker
mági þínum
to-kinsman-by-marriage thy
grimmlunduðum
grim-minded
gjafir at launa“.
gifts to repay

Ok þá vaknaði Hálfr konungr, hann stóð upp ok vakti
And then woke Half king he stood up and woke
liðit ok bað þá vápnast:
the-force and bade them arm

„Hrindum heilir
Push-we hale
hallar bjóri!
hall's gable
nú taka súlur
now take pillars
í sundr þoka;
in asunder to-shift

æ man uppi,
ever will aloft
meðan öld lifir,
while mankind lives
Hálfsrekka för
Half's-Champions' journey
til hertoga.
to (the)-war-leader

Hart skulum ganga
Hard shall-we go
ok hliða ekki við,
and swerve not aside
verðr vísis lið
must (the)-prince's force
at vega með söxum;
to fight with short-swords
þeir skulu sjálfir
they shall themselves
á sér bera
on them bear
blóðgar benjar
bloody wounds
áðr braki létti.
before crash ceased

Snúizk snarlega,
Turn-ye briskly
snyrtidrengir!
smart-lads
út ór eldi
out from fire
með auðbrota;
with wealth-breaker
engi er ýta
none is of-men
sá er æ lifir;
that-one who ever lives
manat baugbroti
will-not ring-breaker
við bana kvíða“.
of death be-afraid

Þeir hlupu þá á veggina, svá at af gengu nafarnar af
They leapt then at the-walls so that off went the-nails from
timbrstokkunum.
the-timber-logs

Hálfr and his champions come out of the fire, but Hálfr falls before overwhelming numbers. Innsteinn speaks verses over him, and when the men from the ships join the fight, Innsteinn falls too, saying men will tell that Hálfr died laughing.

Svá er sagt, at Hálfr konungr ok Hálfsrekkar kœmizt út
So is said that Half king and Half's-Champions came out
ór eldinum ok Hálfr konungr felli fyrir ofrefli liðs
from the-fire and Half king fell before overwhelming of-force
ok sveit hans. Innsteinn kvað er konungr var fallinn:
and band his Innstein spoke when (the)-king was fallen

„Hér sák alla
Here saw-I all
einum fylgja
one follow
jafnrösklega
equally-bravely
öðlings syni;
of-noble son
hittumk heilir,
meet-we hale
þá heðan líðum;
then hence (we)-pass
erat léttara
is-not lighter
líf enn dauði".
life than death

Þá kómu Hálfsrekkar til orrostu, þeir sem við skip höfðu
Then came Half's-Champions to battle those who by ships had
verit. Þar fell mikill hlutr Hálfsrekka. Orrostan helzt alt
been There fell great part of-Half's-Champions The-battle held all
til nætr áðr Innsteinn fell. Innsteinn kvað:
till night before Innstein fell Innstein spoke

„Hrókr er fallinn
Hrok is fallen
með hertoga,
with (the)-war-leader
frækn at fótum
bold at (the)-feet
fólks oddvita;
host's leader
eigum Óðni
have-we to-Odin
ilt at gjalda,
ill to repay
er hann slíkan konung
when he such king
sigri rænti.
of-victory robbed

Ek hefi úti
I have out
átján sumur
eighteen summers
fylgt fullhuga
followed (the)-full-hearted
flein at rjóða;
dart to redden
skalk eigi annan
shall-I not other
eiga drottin
have lord
gunnar gjarnan,
of-war gladly
né gamall verða.
nor old become

Hér man Innsteinn
Here will Innstein
til jarðar hníga,
to earth sink
horskr at höfði
wise at (the)-head
hers oddvita;
army's leader

þat munu seggir
that will men
at sögum gøra,
into tales make
at Hálfr konungr
that Half king
hlæjandi dó“.
laughing died

XIV · THE SURVIVORS

Gunnlöð searches the battlefield for her sons and finds Innsteinn dead and Útsteinn mortally wounded, with Bárðr and Björn. She heals them in secret and sends them away: Bárðr and Björn to King Sölvi, Útsteinn to his kinsman King Eysteinn in Denmark. Hrókr the Black, badly wounded, is bandaged at Skógkarl's, healed in Sogn, and goes east to King Haki in Scania.

Gunnlöð fór til valsins um nóttina at leita sona sinna; hon
Gunnlod went to the-slain in the-night to seek sons her she
fann Innstein dauðan, enn Útstein særðan til ólífis ok Bárð
found Innstein dead but Utstein wounded to unlife and Bard
ok Björn. Hon ók þeim til bœjar, ok grœddi þá á laun
and Bjorn She drove them to (the)-farm and healed them in secret
ok sendi þá síðan suðr til Svíþjóðar; fóru þeir Björn ok
and sent them then south to Sweden went they Bjorn and
Bárðr á fund Sölva konungs, móðurbróður Hálfs konungs,
Bard to (the)-meeting of-Solvi king mother's-brother of-Half king
enn Útsteinn fór til Danmerkr til Eysteins konungs, frœnda
but Utstein went to Denmark to Eystein king kinsman

síns. Hrókr hinn svarti hafði mörg sár ok stór; hann
his Hrok the Black had many wounds and great he
gekk um nóttina frá orrostu ok kom til kotbónda eins, er
went in the-night from battle and came to cottager one who
Skógkarl hét; þar var hann ok váru bundin sár hans;
Skogkarl was-called there was he and were bound wounds his
karl flutti hann norðr í Sogn til Geirmundar hersis,
(the)-churl carried him north into Sogn to Geirmund chieftain
föðurbróður síns; þar var hann grœddr á laun ok fór um
father's-brother his there was he healed in secret and went in
haustit til Upplanda ok austr til Gautlands; hann kom til
the-autumn to Upplands and east to Gautland he came to
Haka konungs á Skáney ok var með honum um vetrinn.
Haki king in Scania and was with him through the-winter

XV · ÚTSTEINN AND ÚLFR'S SONS

At King Eysteinn's court in Denmark, Útsteinn trades verses with Úlfr the Red, who boasts of his eight sons. Útsteinn kills all eight, then answers Eysteinn in verse that he would fight all his men alike.

Útsteinn var með Eysteini konungi. Úlfr hinn rauði hét
Utstein was with Eystein king Ulf the Red was-called
ráðgjafi Eysteins konungs; hann átti átta sonu, ok váru þeir allir
counselor of-Eystein king he had eight sons and were they all
hinir mestu kappar ok öfundsamir; þeir váru illa til Útsteins,
the greatest champions and envious they were ill to Utstein

ok sló með þeim í kappmæli við drykkju. Hitt var fyrr,
and struck between them into boasting at drink That was earlier
at Útsteinn sagði frá falli Hálfs konungs; hann kvað þá:
that Utstein told of (the)-fall of-Half king he spoke then

„Hitt hlœgir mik
That gladdens me
helzt í máli:
most in speech
manat Ásmundi
will-not to-Asmund
öll vá sofa;
all woe sleep
þrír eru fallnir
three are fallen
af því liði,
of that force
Eynefs synir,
Eynef's sons
enn einn lifir“.
but one lives

Útsteinn kvað, er Úlfr jafnaði sér við hann ok eggjaði
Utstein spoke when Ulf matched himself with him and urged
hann:
him

„Upp skulum rísa,
Up shall-we rise
út skulum ganga,
out shall-we go
ok rammlega
and mightily
randir knýja;
shield-rims clash
hygg ek und hjálmum
think I under helmets
hingat komnar
hither come
til Danmerkr
to Denmark
dísir várar“.
disir our

Úlfr kvað:
Ulf spoke

„Yðr munu dauðar
To-you will dead
dísir allar,
disir all
heill kveð ek horfna
luck call I gone
frá Hálfs rekkum;
from Half's champions
dreymdi mik í morgin,
dreamed me in morning
at megir várir
that sons our
øfri yrði,
higher became
hvars ér mœttizk".
wherever you met

Útsteinn kvað:
Utstein spoke

„Sigrs væntik mér
Victory expect-I for-me
sýnu betra,
clearly better
enn Úlfr vili
than Ulf will
œskja Steini;
wish for-Stein

yðrum man sonum
to-your will sons
at sverðtogi
at sword-drawing
hauss um höggvinn,
skull — hewn
enn háls roðinn“.
but neck reddened

Úlfr kvað:
Ulf spoke

„Munu þeir øfri verða
Will they higher be
Úlfs synir:
Ulf's sons
Oddr ok Örnólfr,
Odd and Ornolf
Áti hinn svarti,
Ati the Black
Börkr ok Brynjólfr,
Bork and Brynjolf
Búi, Harðskafi,
Bui Hardskafi
Rauðr hinn rammi,
Raud the Mighty
ef þú reynir til“.
if thou triest for(-it)

Útsteinn kvað:
Utstein spoke

„Mundit Steini
Would-not to-Stein
með Stara þykkja
with Stari seem
ógn at etja
terror to match
við Úlfs sonu,
with Ulf's sons
því at eigi var
because that not was
órum bróður
to-our brother
við dritmenni títt
against dung-man wont
dramb at setja.
arrogance to set

Þóttit Hrókum
Seemed-not to-(the)-Hroks
né Hálfdani,
nor to-Halfdan
raun at berjask
trial to fight
við ragmenni,
with cravens

þá er vér fjórir
then when we four
falla létum
fall let
átta jarla
eight earls
fyr Annisnesi.
before Annisnes

Fari Úlfs synir
Go Ulf's sons
út at berjask,
out to fight
átta drengir,
eight warriors
við eitt höfuð!
against one head
manat støkkva,
will-not spring-away
þó Steinn hafi
though Stein have
færa nøkkvi
fewer somewhat
í flokki lið.
in troop force

Hálfr, dreymdi mik,
Half dreamed me
hvatti, at ek berðumk,
urged that I fought
ok kvazk mér frækn konungr
and said-of-himself to-me bold king
fylgja skyldu;
follow should
— hefir mér gramr
has to-me (the)-king
verit góðr í draumi—,
been good in dream
hvars vér orrostu
wherever we battle
eiga skyldim“.
have should

Þá gengu þeir Úlfs synir ok Útsteinn út ok börðust. Hann
Then went they Ulf's sons and Utstein out and fought He
drap alla Úlfs sonu ok gekk síðan inn fyrir konung ok kvað:
killed all Ulf's sons and went then in before (the)-king and spoke

„Nú emk inn kominn
Now am-I in come
Úlfi at segja,
to-Ulf to tell
at hans synir
that his sons
höggnir liggja,
hewn lie

nú fari, Eysteinn!
now go Eystein
ef ér vilið,
if you will
fleiri at freista
more to try
við fleina við“.
with darts against

Eysteinn kvað:
Eystein spoke

„Sjálft man letja
Itself will hinder
slíks at freista,
such to try
Hálfs eru rekkar
Half's are champions
hverjum meiri,
than-each greater
þik veit ek manna
thee know I of-men
miklu fremstan,
much foremost
einn snjallastan,
alone most-valiant
er þú átta vátt“.
when thou eight slewest

Útsteinn kvað:
Utstein spoke

„Alla mundak
All would-I
Eysteins liða
Eystein's men
sverði beita
with-sword bite
at sömu hófi,
in same measure
ef ek mér þarfir
if I for-me needs
þess verks sæi,
of-that work saw
eða ilt með oss
or ill with us
áðr um væri.
before — were

Magni fýsi engi
With-might desire none
við mik at deila,
with me to contend
því at mér var ungum
because that to-me was young
aldr skapaðr;
life shaped

ek hefi hjarta
I have heart
hart í brjósti,
hard in breast
*síz mér í œsku
since to-me in youth
Óðinn framdi“.
Odin furthered

XVI · HRÓKR'S POEM

At King Haki's court Hrókr the Black sits unknown in a guest-seat. Princess Brynhildr overhears him recite a long poem on Hálfr's champions, their laws, their fall, and his wish for revenge. Haki seats him in honor, and Hrókr marries Brynhildr, kills King Sveinn the Victorious, and with his allies kills Ásmundr. Hálfr's son Hjörr rules Hörðaland.

Hrókr hinn svarti var með Haka konungi; dóttir Haka
Hrok the Black was with Haki king (the)-daughter of-Haki
konungs var Brynhildr. Sveinn hinn sigrsæli hét sá
king was Brynhild Svein the Victorious was-called that
konungr, er beðit hafði Brynhildar, enn Haki konungr
king who asked-for had Brynhild but Haki king
synjaði; Sveinn strengdi heit, að verða bani þess manns, er
refused Svein swore vow to become slayer of-that man who
ætti Brynhildi, ok svá föður hennar. Heðinn hét jarl
should-have Brynhild and also father her Hedin was-called earl
Haka konungs, enn Vífill son hans; hann bað Brynhildar,
of-Haki king but Vifil son his he asked-for Brynhild

ok var honum heitit, ef hann verði land fyrir Sveini. Hrókr
and was to-him promised if he defended land against Svein Hrok
hinn svarti var þar ekki kendr, ok var hann í engum
the Black was there not known and was he in no
metnaði ok sat í gestasæti. Þat var einn dag, at hirðin fór á
esteem and sat in guest-seat That was one day that the-court went to
dýraveiðar, enn konur á hnetskóg; Brynhildr konungsdóttir sá,
beast-hunting but women to nut-wood Brynhild king's-daughter saw
hvar maðr stórr stóð við eik eina; hon heyrði at hann kvað:
where man big stood by oak one she heard that he spoke

„Nú man segja
Now will tell
sonr Hámundar,
son of-Hamund
hvert øðli var
what nature was
okkart brœðra:
of-us-two brothers
minn var faðir
my was father
miklu fremri,
much more-forward
haukr gørr at hug,
hawk made in mind
enn Haki yðvarr.
than Haki your

Vildi engi
Would none
við Vífil jafnask,
with Vífil compare
þó at Hámundar
though that Hamund's
hjarðar gætti;
herd kept
sák øngvan þar
saw-I none there
svínahirði
swineherd
huglausara
more-cowardly
enn Heðins arfa.
than Hedin's heir

Mín var ævi
My was life
miklu œðri,
much higher
þá er vér Hálfi konungi
then when we Half king
horskum fylgdum;
wise followed

bárum allir
bore-we all
eitt ráð saman,
one counsel together
ok herjuðum
and harried
hvert land yfir.
every land over

Höfðum vér allir
Had we all
haukmanna lund,
hawk-men's temper
hvars fróðhugaðr
wherever (the)-wise-minded
frama kostaði;
renown sought
gengum vér í gøgnum
went we in through
með grá hjálma
with gray helmets
fullstór öll
full-great all
fólklönd níu.
host-lands nine

Hálf sá ek höggva
Half saw I hew
höndum báðum,
with-hands both
hafði eigi hilmir
had not (the)-prince
hlífskjöld fyr sér;
shield before himself
finnrat maðr,
finds-not man
þó fari víða,
though (he)-go widely
hæfra hjarta
fitter heart
ok hugprúðara.
and more-stout-minded

Mæla virðar,
Speak men
þeir er vitu eigi,
those who know not
at Hálfs frami
that Half's renown
heimsku sætti;
folly met

kann eigi sá
knows not that-one
konung háleygskan,
king Haleyg
er heimsku þrótt
who of-folly strength
hánum eignaði.
to-him ascribed

Baðat hann við dauða
Bade-not he of death
drengi kvíða,
warriors be-afraid
né æðruorð
nor fear-word
ekki mæla;
any speak
engi skyldi
none should
jöfri fylgja,
prince follow
nema forlögum
unless fates
fylkis heldi.
of-(the)-ruler held

Skyldi eigi stynja,
Should not groan
þó at stór hlyti
though that great got
sár í sóknum
wounds in onsets
siklings vinir,
(the)-prince's friends
né benjar sér
nor wounds on-themselves
binda láta,
bind let
fyrr enn annars dags
before than of-(the)-next day
jafnlengd kœmi.
same-hour came

Baðat hann í her
Bade-not he in army
höftu græta,
captives make-weep
né manns konu
nor man's wife
mein at vinna;
harm to work

mey bað hann hverja
maid bade he each
mundi kaupa,
with-bride-price buy
fögru gulli
with-fair gold
at föður ráði.
by father's counsel

Várut svá margir
Were-not so many
menn á skeiðum,
men on warships
at vér á flótta
that we in flight
fyrir heldim,
before(-them) held
þó at miklu lið
though that much force
minna hefðim,
less (we)-had
svá at ellifu
so that eleven
einum gegndi.
one answered

Höfðum vér allir
Had we all
hinn øfra hlut,
the higher lot
hvars Hildar [él]
wherever Hild's storm
hlífar knúði;
shields knocked
einn vissak
one knew-I
jafnsnjallan gram:
equally-valiant king
Sigurð konung
Sigurd king
at sölum Gjúka.
in halls of-Gjuki

Margir váru
Many were
menn á skeiðum
men on warships
góðir ok frœknir
good and bold
með gram sjálfum:
with king himself
Börkr ok Brynjólfr,
Bork and Brynjolf

Bölverkr ok Haki,
Bolverk and Haki
Egill ok Erlingr
Egil and Erling
Ásláks synir.
Aslak's sons

Mest váru mér
Most were to-me
manna hugðir
of-men dear
Hrókr, bróðir minn,
Hrok brother my
ok Hálfr konungr,
and Half king
Styrr hinn sterki
Styr the Strong
ok Steinar báðir,
and Steins both
snarráðir menn,
swift-counseled men
synir Gunnlaðar.
sons of-Gunnlod

Hringr ok Hálfdanr,
Hring and Halfdan
haukar báðir,
hawks both
réttir dómendr,
righteous judges
Dagr hinn prúði,
Dag the Proud
Stari ok Steingrímr,
Stari and Steingrim
Stúfr ok Gauti;
Stuf and Gauti
finnr þú aldri
findest thou never
fríðari drengi.
fairer warriors

Valr ok Haukr
Val and Hauk
í víkingu
in viking-raiding
báðir frœknir,
both bold
buðlungs vinir;
prince's friends

fáir mundu þeim
few would than-them
fylkis rekkum
(the)-ruler's champions
hæfri þykkja
fitter seem
ór Haka veldi.
out-of Haki's realm

Hvergi þóttak
Nowhere seemed-I
í því liði
in that force
*oft aukvisi
often weakling
ættar minnar;
of-kin my
mik kváðu þeir
me called they
mann snarpastan,
man sharpest
því at hverr öðrum
because that each from-other
hróðrs leitaði.
fame sought

Vé bar Vémundr,
Standard bore Vemund
er vega þorði,
who fight dared
Björn ok Bárðr,
Bjorn and Bard
fyr buðlungi;
before (the)-prince
fylkti sínu
drew-up his
sá framlegast
that most-forward
lofðungr liði,
king force
meðan lifa mátti.
while live (he)-might

Naut eigi svá
Enjoyed not so
aldrs sem skyldi.
life as (he)-should
frækn landreki
bold land-ruler
við frama dáðir;
with renown's deeds

tólf vetra nam
twelve winters began
tiggi at herja,
prince to harry
enn þá var þengill
but then was prince
þrítugr, er dó.
thirty when (he)-died

Slíkt kennir mér
Such teaches me
at sofa lítit
to sleep little
marga grímu
many night
ok mjök vaka,
and much wake
er bróðir minn
that brother my
brenna skyldi
burn should
kvikr í eldi
alive in fire
með konungs rekkum.
with (the)-king's champions

Sá hefir dagr um mik
That has day for me
daprastr komit
saddest come
miklu í heimi,
greatly in world
svá at menn vitu;
so that men know
una þykkjumk vér
be-content seem-we we
aldri síðan,
never since
at fylgja máttuma
that follow could-we-not
frændum hollum.
kinsmen loyal

Alls mundi mér
Altogether would to-me
angs léttara,
of-grief lighter
ef ek Hálfs konungs
if I Half king
hefna mættak
avenge might-I

svá at Ásmundi
so that on-Asmund
eggfránum hjör
with-edge-gleaming sword
*bana baugspjót
slayer ring-spear
brjóst raufaðak.
breast tore-I

Hefnt man verða
Avenged will be
Hálfs hins frækna,
Half the Bold
því at þeir göfgan gram
because that they noble king
í griðum væltu;
in truces betrayed
olli morði
caused murder
ok mannskaða
and man-loss
Ásmundr konungr
Asmund king
illu heilli.
with-ill luck

Þá man reyna
Then will test
ok raun gefa,
and proof give
ef við Svein komum
if with Svein (we)-come
saman í rómu,
together in fight
hvárir í vígi
which in battle
verða hæfri,
become fitter
Hámundar burr
Hamund's son
eða Haka þegnar.
or Haki's thanes

Segik svá kveðit
Say-I so spoken
snotru vífi,
to-wise woman
at ek Brynhildar
that I Brynhild
biðja mundak,
ask-for would-I
ef vita þættumk,
if know seemed-I

at vildi hon
that would she
Hróki unna
Hrok love
Hámundar bur.
Hamund's son

Ván væri mér
Hope were to-me
vitra manna,
of-wise men
snarpra seggja,
of-keen warriors
ef vér saman ættim;
if we together had
því at ek fannkat mey
because that I found-not maid
margsvinnari
more-wise
hvergi landa
nowhere of-lands
enn Haka dóttur.
than Haki's daughter

Fann ek aldri,
Found I never
þó hefik farit víða,
though have-I fared widely
hugþekkri mey
more-pleasing maid
enn Haka dóttur,
than Haki's daughter
hon er at öllu
she is in all
sem ek œskja man.
as I wish will

Hér þykkik nú
Here seem-I now
í Haka veldi
in Haki's realm
hornungr vera
outcast be
hverrar þjóðar;
of-every people
allir eigu
all have
innar at sitja
farther-in to sit
Haka gumar
Haki's men
enn Hálfsrekkar.
than Half's-Champions

Brynhildr, dóttir Haka konungs, sagði föður sínum þat,
Brynhild daughter of-Haki king told father her that
er hon hafði heyrt, ok kvað þar mundu kominn einn af
which she had heard and said there would come one of
Hálfsrekkum; enn er konungr vissi þat, þá leiddi hann Hrók
Half's-Champions but when (the)-king knew that then led he Hrok
til sætis í öndugi, ok var hann þá í hinum mesta kærleik
to seat in high-seat and was he then in the greatest affection
við konung. Hrókr hinn svarti fekk Brynhildar, dóttur Haka
with (the)-king Hrok the Black got Brynhild daughter of-Haki
konungs. Eftir um várit fór Hrókr með her í móti Sveini
king After in the-spring went Hrok with army in against Svein
hinum sigrsæla, ok áttu þeir orrostu; þar fell Sveinn, enn Hrókr
the Victorious and had they battle there fell Svein but Hrok
kom aftr með sigri til Haka konungs. Eftir um sumarit höfðu
came back with victory to Haki king After in the-summer had
þeir her úti Sölvi konungr ok Haki konungr ok Hrókr hinn
they army out Solvi king and Haki king and Hrok the
svarti, Eysteinn konungr ok Útsteinn með honum; þeir fóru
Black Eystein king and Utstein with him they went
til Noregs, áttu orrostu við Ásmund konung ok feldu hann.
to Norway had battle with Asmund king and felled him
Hjörr hét son Hálfs konungs, er þá var konungr yfir
Hjor was-called (the)-son of-Half king who then was king over
Hörðalandi. Hrókr ok Útsteinn váru lengi síðan í víkingu,
Hordaland Hrok and Utstein were long afterward in viking-raiding
ok váru hinir mestu ágætismenn. Dóttir Hróks hins svarta
and were the greatest men-of-renown (The)-daughter of-Hrok the Black
ok Brynhildar var Gunnlöð, móðir Hrómundar Gripssonar.
and of-Brynhild was Gunnlod mother of-Hromund Gripsson

King Hjörr's wife Hagný bears ugly twin sons and exchanges them for a bondwoman's handsome son, Leifr. When the twins are three, the poet Bragi sees them take Leifr's gold and reveals in a verse which boys are Hjörr's. Hjörr calls them Heljarskinn. From them come great families in Iceland, the Esphælingar and the descendants of Geirmundr.

Hjörr konungr Hálfsson átti Hagnýju, dóttur Haka konungs
Hjor king Halfsson had Hagny daughter of-Haki king
Hámundarsonar. Hjörr konungr fór í konungastefnu; enn
Hamundarson Hjor king went to kings'-meeting but
meðan fœddi Hagný tvá sonu, ok váru svartir ok furðu
meanwhile bore Hagny two sons and were-they black and wondrously
ljótir, ok hét annarr Hámundr, enn annarr Geirmundr.
ugly and was-called one Hamund but (the)-other Geirmund
Þá fœddi ambátt ok son, ok hét Leifr; hann var hinn
Then bore a-bondwoman also a-son and was-called Leif he was the
fríðasti; drotning keypti um sonu við ambátt ok fœrði
fairest (the)-queen bargained about sons with (the)-bondwoman and brought
þann konungi. Konungr fór enn annat sinn í leiðangr; þá
that-one to-(the)-king (The)-king went again a-second time into levy then
váru sveinarnir þrévetrir. Leifr gugnaði svá sem á aldr
were the-boys three-winters-old Leif dwindled so as into age
hans leið; enn Hámundr ok Geirmundr váru geysimiklir ok
his went but Hamund and Geirmund were enormous and
orðvísir. Bragi skáld kom þar at heimboði. Þat var einn dag
word-wise Bragi (the)-poet came there to home-feast That was one day
at karlar allir fóru á veiðiskóg, enn konur á hnetskóg, ok
that men all went to hunting-wood but women to nut-wood and
var ekki heima manna í höllinni, nema Bragi sat í öndugi,
was none at-home of-men in the-hall except Bragi sat in high-seat

enn drotning leyndist þar ok var hulin klæðum. Leifr sat í
but (the)-queen hid-herself there and was covered with-clothes Leif sat in
hásæti ok lék sér at gulli, enn Hámundr ok Geirmundr
high-seat and played himself with gold but Hamund and Geirmund
váru í hálminum niðr á gólfinu; þá fóru þeir til Leifs
were in the-straw down on the-floor then went they to Leif
ok skúfuðu honum ór sætinu, ok tóku þeir af honum
and shoved him from the-seat and took they from him
gullit alt; hann grét þá. Þá stóð Bragi upp ok gekk þar
the-gold all he wept then Then stood Bragi up and went there
til, er drotning lá, ok drap staf ofan á klæðin og kvað:
to where (the)-queen lay and struck staff down on the-clothes and spoke

„Tveir 'ro inni
Two are inside
trúik vel báðum,
trust-I well both
Hámundr ok Geirmundr
Hamund and Geirmund
Hjörvi bornir,
by-Hjor born
enn Leifr þriði
but Leif (the)-third
Loðhattarsonr;
Lodhatt's-son
fœðat þú þann, kona!
bred-not thou that-one woman
fáir munu verri".
few will (be)-worse

Síðan skifti Hagný aftr sveinunum við ambátt; enn
Afterward exchanged Hagny back the-boys with (the)-bondwoman but
er Hjörr konungr kom heim, þá bar hon sveinana til hans
when Hjor king came home then bore she the-boys to him
ok sagði, at þeir váru hans synir. Konungr svarar: „Ber
and said that they were his sons (The)-king answers Bear(-them)
í brott!“ sagði hann, „eigi sá ek slík heljarskinn“; þeir
off away said he not saw I such hell-skins they
váru báðir svá kallaðir síðan. Þeir váru miklir afreksmenn
were both so called afterward They were great men-of-prowess
at afli, ok mikil ætt er frá þeim komin á Íslandi. Þórir á
in strength and great kin is from them come in Iceland Thorir at
Espihóli var son Hámundar; þaðan eru komnir Esphælingar.
Espiholl was son of-Hamund thence are come (the)-Esphaelings
Geirmundr heljarskinn nam Meðalfellsströnd í Breiðafirði;
Geirmund Hell-Skin settled Medalfellsstrond in Breidafjord
Yri hét dóttir hans, ok er þaðan mikil ætt komin.
Yri was-called daughter his and is thence great kin come

Áns saga bogsveigis

The Saga of An the Bow-Bender

In Naumdœlafylki King Óláfr rules with his treacherous son Ingjaldr. Björn of Hrafnista has two sons: Þórir, a royal retainer who owns the sword Þegn, and Án, huge, unhandsome, and thought a fool. At twelve Án traps a dwarf named Litr outside his stone and makes him forge a great bow and five arrows that will hit whatever he aims at. He brings his mother a chair from the dwarf.

Í þann tíma, er fylkiskonungar vóru í Noregi, hófst þessi
In that time when shire-kings were in Norway began this
saga; þá réðu feðgar tveir fyrir einu fylki; hét Óláfr
saga then ruled father-and-son two over one shire was-called Olaf
hinn eldri, enn Ingjaldr hinn yngri; þó var Ingjaldr fulltíða
the elder but Ingjald the younger yet was Ingjald full-grown
er sjá saga gerðist. Ólíkt var þeim feðgum farit; Óláfr
when this saga happened Unlike was with-them father-and-son gone Olaf
konungr var vinsæll, enn Ingjaldr var undirhyggjumaðr hinn
king was well-liked but Ingjald was deceitful-man the
mesti. Björn ok Ketill hétu hirðmenn þeira; hann var
greatest Bjorn and Ketil were-called retainers their he was
kallaðr Björn hinn sterki; þeir vóru lyndislíkir ok Ingjaldr
called Bjorn the Strong they were like-tempered and Ingjald
konungr, uppivöðslu miklir ok tilleitnir. Dóttur átti Óláfr
king overbearing great and meddlesome a-daughter had Olaf
konungr, þá er Ása hét, kvenna fríðust ok vel at sér.
king that who Asa was-called of-women fairest and well at herself
Þeir feðgar réðu fyrir Naumdœlafylki. Óláfr konungr var
They father-and-son ruled over Naumdale-shire Olaf king was
þá gamall, er hér var komit sögunni. Hann hafði átt
then old when here was come in-the-saga He had had
tvær drotningar, ok var önduð hvórtveggi; hét sú Dís,
two queens and was dead each was-called that-one Dis

er hann átti síðar; hana hafði fyrr átt Önundr konungr
whom he had later her had earlier had Onund king
uppsjá af Firðafylki, ok átti við henni tvó sonu, ok hétu
Uppsja of Firdafylki and had with her two sons and were-called
Úlfr hvórtveggi; þeir réðu nú fyrir Firðafylki, ok þóttist
Ulf each they ruled now over Firdafylki and thought-himself
Ingjaldr eiga þat ríki hálft við bræðr sína í erfð eftir
Ingjald own that realm half with brothers his in inheritance after
móður sína. Átti hann við þá tvær orrostur, ok hafði
mother his Had he with them two battles and had
í hvórritveggju ósigr. Björn er bóndi nefndr; hann bjó í
in each defeat Bjorn is a-farmer named he dwelt in
Hrafnistu; hon liggr fyrir Naumudölum. Björn var í hinni
Hrafnista it lies off Naumudal Bjorn was in the
meirri bóndatölu norðr þar; kona hans hét Þorgerðr;
greater farmers'-number north there wife his was-called Thorgerd
hon var dóttir Böðmóðs Framarssonar ok Hrafnhildar Ketils
she was daughter of-Bodmod Framarsson and of-Hrafnhild of-Ketil
dóttur hængs. Þau Björn áttu þá dóttur, er Þórdís hét;
daughter of-Haeng They Bjorn had that daughter who Thordis was-called
hana átti Gautr á Hamri, gildr maðr fyrir sér; þau áttu
her had Gaut at Hamar substantial man for himself they had
þann son, at Grímr hét; hann var snemma bæði mikill
that son who Grim was-called he was early both great
ok sterkr; áttu þau Björn ok Þorgerðr fleiri börn; Þórir
and strong had they Bjorn and Thorgerd more children Thorir
hét son þeira hinn eldri, vænn maðr ok kurteis ok vel
was-called son their the elder handsome man and courteous and well
at sér um alla hluti; hann var hirðmaðr Óláfs konungs,
at himself in all things he was retainer of-Olaf king
ok hafði mikil metorð af honum, ok þat til marks um,
and had great honor from him and that to token of(-it)

at Óláfr konungr gaf Þóri sverð, þat er þeir frændr höfðu
that Olaf king gave Thorir sword that which they kinsmen had
langan tíma átt, ok mikit af haldit; þat hét Þegn; þat
long time owned and much of held it was-called Thegn it
var bæði langt ok breitt, ok beit allra sverða bezt; þat var
was both long and broad and bit of-all swords best it was
þrískafit. Löngum sat Þórir annan vetr með konungi, enn
thrice-polished Often sat Thorir one winter with (the)-king but
annan hjá feðr sínum. Hinn yngri son Bjarnar hét Án;
(the)-other with father his The younger son of-Bjorn was-called An
hann var snemma mikill vexti ok ekki vænn ok heldr
he was early great in-growth and not handsome and rather
seinlegr, enn um afl hans var mönnum ekki kunnigt,
slow but about strength his was to-men not known
því at hann reyndi þat aldri; heldr þótt hann heimslegr;
because that he tested it never rather seemed he foolish
lítit ástríki hafði hann af feðr sínum, enn móðir hans unni
little love had he from father his but mother his loved
honum mikit. Ekki þótti mönnum hann vera líkr um neitt
him much Not seemed to-men he be like in anything
enum fyrrum frændum sínum, sem var Ketill hængr ok aðrir
to-the earlier kinsmen his as was Ketil Haeng and other
Hrafnistu menn, nema á vöxt. Ekki lagðist Án í eldaskála,
Hrafnista men except in growth Not lay An in fire-hall
enn þó var hann afglapi kallaðr af sumum mönnum; við
but yet was he fool called by some men to
øngvar vandist hann íþróttir; leið svá fram, þar til at
no became-used he accomplishments passed so forward there till that
hann var níu vetra; hann var þá ekki minni enn Þórir
he was nine winters he was then not smaller than Thorir
bróðir hans; hann var harðla ósinnilegr; lítt var hann ok
brother his he was very unsociable little was he also

settr at klæðum, því at úti vóru bæði kné ok olbogar; enn
set in clothes because that out were both knees and elbows but
er hann var tólf vetra, hvarf hann á burtu þrjár nætr, svá
when he was twelve winters vanished he off away three nights so
at engi vissi, hvat af honum varð. Án gekk í eitt skógar
that none knew what of him became An went into one wood's
rjóðr; hann sá þar stein einn standa mikinn ok mann hjá
clearing he saw there stone one stand great and a-man by
einum lœk; hann hafði heyrt nefnda dverga, ok þat með,
one brook he had heard named dwarves and that with(-it)
at þeir væri hagari enn aðrir menn; Án komst þá á
that they were handier than other men An came-himself then in
millum steinsins ok dvergsins, ok vígir hann utan steins,
between the-stone and the-dwarf and hallows him outside (the)-stone
ok sagði hann aldri skulu sínu inni ná, nema hann smíðaði
and said him never shall his home reach unless he forged
honum boga svá stóran ok sterkan, sem við hans hœfi væri,
him bow so great and strong as to his measure were
ok þar með fimm örvar; þat skyldi þeim fylgja, at hann
and there with five arrows that should them follow that he
skyldi um sinn hœfa með hverri, þat er hann skyti til eftir
should for once hit with each that which he shot at after
sínum vilja; innan þriggja nátta skyldi þetta gert vera, ok
his will within three nights should this done be and
beið Án þar meðan. Svá gerði dvergrinn, sem fyrir var skilit,
waited An there meanwhile So did the-dwarf as before was agreed
ok með øngum álögum; enn dvergrinn hét Litr. Án gaf
and with no spells but the-dwarf was-called Lit An gave
honum skotsilfr nökkut, er móðir hans hafði gefit honum;
him small-silver some which mother his had given him
stól vænan gaf dvergrinn Án; síðan fór hann heim, ok bar
chair handsome gave the-dwarf to-An then went he home and bore

stólinn á baki sér; hlógu menn þá mjök at honum. Án gaf
the-chair on back his laughed men then much at him An gave
móður sinni stólinn, ok kveðst henni eiga bezt at launa.
mother his the-chair and says-of-himself to-her have best to repay

II · ÁN GOES TO COURT

At eighteen Án insists on going with Þórir to the king's court. Þórir ties him to an oak, and Án pulls the oak up by the roots and drags it after him. When Þórir threatens him with Þegn, Án lifts him in the air and shakes him like a child. On board ship he tells the merchants who he is, and is dressed in clothes that never sit well on him.

Þá er Án var átján vetra, var hann öllum mönnum stœrri
Then when An was eighteen winters was he than-all men bigger
norðr þar; hvórki hafði honum þá enn vaxit vit né kurteisi;
north there neither had to-him then yet grown wit nor courtesy
þann vetr hafði Þórir setit í Hrafnistu, ok hafði þá fengit
that winter had Thorir sat in Hrafnista and had then gotten
kenningar nafn af sverði sínu, ok var hann kallaðr Þórir
of-epithet name from sword his and was he called Thorir
þegn. Enn um vórit bjóst Þórir at fara á konungs fund.
Thegn But in the-spring got-ready Thorir to go to (the)-king's meeting
Án biðr at fara með honum; enn Þórir neitar því þverlega,
An asks to go with him but Thorir refuses that flatly
enn er hann fór út til skips, kom Án þar farandi. Þórir
but when he went out to ship came An there coming Thorir
spyrr, hvat hann vili þá. Án segist með honum fara
asks what he wants then An says-of-himself with him go
skulu, hvórt er hann leggi þar nökkut loforð til eða ekki.
shall whether that he lay there any leave to(-it) or not

Þórir segir hann hvergi fara skyldu, „kann þú ekki at vera
Thorir says him nowhere go should knowest thou not to be
hjá höfðingjum," segir hann, „at varla má við þína siðu
with chieftains says he that hardly may to thy manners
hœfa heima hér"; hann tók þá Án, ok batt hann við eina
fit at-home here he took then An and bound him to one
eik heldr sterklega; ekki brauzt Án við. Síðan fór hann ok
oak rather strongly not struggled An against Then went he and
eigi langt, áðr hann sá, at Án fór þar, ok dró eftir sér
not far before he saw that An went there and dragged after him
eikina; hafði hann kipt henni upp með rótum. Þórir mælti:
the-oak had he pulled it up with roots Thorir spoke
„Undramaðr ertu, frændi, at afli, enn eigi lízt mér þó
Wonder-man art-thou kinsman in strength but not seems to-me yet
ráð, at þú farir á konungs fund með þvílíka skapsmuni,
counsel that thou go to (the)-king's meeting with such temper
sem þú hefir". Þórir skar þá af honum böndin ok mælti:
as thou hast Thorir cut then off him the-bonds and spoke
„Lítils viltu virða mín orð"; hann brá þá sverðinu Þegn,
Little wilt-thou esteem my words he drew then the-sword Thegn
ok ógnaði honum með: „Þetta sverð mun kenna þér
and threatened him with(-it) This sword will teach thee
sannsýni, er þú hefir øngva áðr, ok mun þat þik ekki
fairness which thou hast none before and will it thee not
mikils meta ok stemma ferð fyrir þér". Án mælti: „Ekki
much value and stem journey for thee An spoke Not
muntu hræða mik sem sprotabörn; ok at þú vitir, hvers
wilt-thou frighten me as switch-children and that thou know what
ek á kosti við þik, þá skaltu nú sjá þat". Án þreif þá
I have of-choice against thee then shalt-thou now see that An seized then
til Þóris, ok brá honum á loft, ok hristi hann sem barn
at Thorir and swung him into air and shook him as child

ok mælti: „Sjá nú, hvat þú átt undir þér, ef okkr þykkir
and spoke See now what thou hast under thee if to-us-two seems
eigi einn veg“. Hann lét hann þá lausan, ok sá Þórir þá,
not one way He let him then loose and saw Thorir then
hvert efni í manninum var. Fóru þeir þá út á skip; enn
what stuff in the-man was Went they then out onto ship but
at því hugði Án, hvar hann skyldi þess koma sér, at
to that thought An where he should that bring himself that
öllum þœtti sér mest mein at. Kaupmenn spurðu hverr
to-all seemed to-them most harm in Merchants asked each
annan, hverr sjá maðr væri. Án mælti: „Því spyri þér mik
other who this man were An spoke Why ask you me
eigi at? ek kann at segja yðr; ek heiti Án, ok ættaðr
not that I can to tell you I am-called An and descended
ór Hrafnistu, bróðir Þóris þegns“; enn þeir kvóðust
from Hrafnista brother of-Thorir Thegn but they said-of-themselves
ekki trúa því; hann kvað þat satt, er hann sagði; þeir
not believe that he said that true which he said they
létu hann skyldu þar velkominn. Án var klæddr lítt.
made-out him should there welcome An was clad poorly
Þórir bað skera vöru til klæða honum, svá at hann væri
Thorir bade cut cloth for clothes for-him so that he were
eigi svá afleitinn, ok svá var gert; kom honum þat ekki
not so ill-looking and so was done came to-him that not
mjök at haldi, því at hann festi ófimlega á sik, ok
much to use because that he fastened (it)-clumsily on himself and
varð honum engi búningsbót at þessu. Vel vóru skipverjar
became to-him no dress-improvement from this Well were (the)-crew
til Áns; kunni hann ok eigi annat í móti at leggja.
to An knew he and not other in against to lay

King Óláfr has died and Ingjaldr rules alone. At the hall door Án's bow bends almost double against the doorposts without breaking, and he takes a seat far out. The retainers mock him, Ketill most of all. At Yule Án tells the king the noise was his bow, and Ingjaldr names him Án bogsveigir and gives him a ring, which Án drops in the dung and lets the court search for, though he has it on his hand.

Þeir Þórir kvómu við Naumdœla fylki, ok spurðu þar þau
They Thorir came by Naumdale shire and heard there those
tíðindi, at andaðr var Óláfr konungr, enn Ingjaldr var þá
tidings that dead was Olaf king but Ingjald was then
einn konungr yfir því ríki, er þeir höfðu báðir átt. Þórir
alone king over that realm which they had both owned Thorir
mælti þá: „Sá lézt þar, er maðr var fremri, ok munda
spoke then That-one died there who man was more-forward and would
ek eigi norðan hafa farit, ef ek hefði vitat þessi skifti".
I not from-the-north have come if I had known these changes
Þórir kemr nú at konungs bœnum. Án hafði með sér boga
Thorir comes now to (the)-king's farm An had with him bow
sinn, ok er þeir kvómu at höllinni, bendir Án upp bogann,
his and when they came to the-hall bends An up the-bow
er ákaflega var sterkr. Þórir spyrr, hvat þat skyldi.
which exceedingly was strong Thorir asks what that should(-mean)
Án kvað þat brátt mundu sýnast; hann lét koma strenginn
An said that soon would show he let come the-string
fyrir brjóst sér, enn bogann um herðarnar; skeyti hafði
before breast his but the-bow about the-shoulders arrows had
hann í hendi sér, ok er þeir kvómu at hallardyrunum,
he in hand his and when they came to the-hall-doors
gáfu dyraverðirnir rúm Þóri, enn um ferð Áns varð
gave the-door-wards room to-Thorir but about (the)-passage of-An became

skarkala mikit, því at hann breytti ekki búningi sínum;
clatter great because that he changed not dress his
síðan gekk hann at dyrunum fast, enn boginn skagði um
then went he to the-doors hard but the-bow jutted about
herðarnar, ok vanst ekki rúm til í dyrunum, ok varð
the-shoulders and sufficed not room for(-it) in the-doors and had
boginn annathvórt at brotna eða beygjast mjök, því at
the-bow either to break or bend much because that
dyrnar stóðust atgönguna; þá komst Án í höllina; bendist
the-doors withstood the-onset then came An into the-hall bends
boginn, enn brotnaði ekki. Án sezt utarlega niðr, enn Þórir
the-bow but broke not An sits far-out down but Thorir
gekk fyrir konung ok kvaddi hann. Konungr tók því vel,
went before (the)-king and greeted him (The)-king took that well
ok bað hann fara til öndvegis gegnt sér: „skulu þér hér
and bade him go to (the)-high-seat opposite himself shall you here
velkomnir með oss; eðr hverr var í för með þér, eða
welcome with us or who was in journey with thee or
hví skilr þessi maðr svo skjótt við þik?“ Þórir mælti: „Sá
why parts this man so quickly from thee Thorir spoke That
maðr er bróðir minn, ok hefir varla á sér alþýðu hátt“.
man is brother my and has hardly on him common-folk's manner
Konungr mælti: „Hann skal hér velkominn, ok siti hann hit
(The)-king spoke He shall here welcome and sit he the
næsta þér; gerum vér þat fyrir þínar sakir, ok heyrt höfum
next thee do we that for thy sake and heard have
vér getit Áns, ok er hann undra maðr í mörgum greinum“.
we spoken of-An and is he wonder man in many respects
Þórir hittir Án, ok segir honum konungs orð, „ok snú til
Thorir meets An and tells him (the)-king's words and turn to
þín sóma hlut, frændi“. Án svarar: „Ekki munu vér um rúm
thee honor's part kinsman An answers Not will we about seat

skifta, enda liggr mér meira til at þiggja vetrvist“. Þórir
change and-also lies to-me more at to accept winter-quarters Thorir
kveðst hyggja, at hon mundi til reiðu. Eigi at síðr
says-of-himself think that it would (be)-to readiness Not the less
gekk Þórir fyrir konung ok mælti: „Vetrvistar vil ek beiða
went Thorir before (the)-king and spoke Winter-quarters will I ask
fyrir Án frænda at hans vilja, þó sæti sé kyrt. Konungr
for An kinsman at his will though seat be still (The)-king
mælti: „Til reiðu er honum vetrvist, enn hvat er honum
spoke To readiness is for-him winter-quarters but what is for-him
annat sæti betra enn hjá þér?“ Þórir kvaðst øngvan hlut
other seat better than beside thee Thorir said-of-himself no part
mega í eiga við hann, „hœfir honum þetta ger fyrr at
may in have with him befits him this rather earlier to
vilja einn ráða, ok því var ek tregr til, at hann fœri
will alone rule and therefore was I reluctant to that he went
með mér, at ek vissa, at honum var kynlega varit“. Þórir
with me that I knew that with-him was strangely gone Thorir
sagði Án konungs orð; Án mælti: „Þá er nú vel vorðit, ok
told to-An (the)-king's words An spoke Then is now well become and
gaktu, bróðir, til rúms þíns“. Þórir gerði svá. Án var fálátr
go-thou brother to seat thy Thorir did so An was taciturn
ok ósiðblendinn; var hann lengstum í rúmi sínu, nema þá
and unsociable was he mostly in seat his except then
hann gekk erinda sinna. Hirðmenn hlógu at honum mjök,
he went (on)-errands his Retainers laughed at him much
ok var Ketill foringi at því; Án daufheyrðist við þat, ok
and was Ketil leader in that An was-deaf to that and
leið svá fram til jóla; þá lýsti konungr yfir því, at hann
passed so forward to Yule then declared (the)-king over that that he
mundi gefa jólagjafir, sem faðir hans hafði gert; kvaðst svá
would give Yule-gifts as father his had done said-of-himself so

vilja sína menn at sér hylla; ok affangakveld jóla vitjuðu
will his men to himself bind and (the)-eve of-Yule visited
menn gjafanna allir nema Án. Konungr spurði, því Án
men the-gifts all except An (The)-king asked why An
vitjaði eigi gjafanna; „skal hann ei gjafir þiggja sem aðrir?“
visited not the-gifts shall he not gifts accept as others
Þetta var sagt Án; örglaðist hann þá upp ok mælti: „Gott
This was told to-An roused-himself he then up and spoke Good
þykkir mér gull at þiggja“. Ekki var maðrinn sinnilegr, þar
seems to-me gold to accept Not was the-man well-mannered there
er hann skauzt fram fyrir konunginn; furðu var hann
where he darted forward before the-king wondrously was he
mikill at sjá. Konungr mælti: „Í hverju gall svá hátt, Án,
great to see (The)-king spoke In what rang so loud An
er þú gekst hér inn um dyr í fyrsta sinni?“ „Í boga
when thou wentest here in through doors in first time In bow
mínum“, sagði Án; „því at svá vóru litlar hallardyr yðar,
my said An because that so were small hall-doors your
konungr, at hann bendist allr saman, er ek hafða hann á
king that it bent all together when I had it on
herðunum, áðr ek komst inn, ok lét í hátt, er aftr hljóp“.
the-shoulders before I came in and let in sound when back (it)-leapt
„Þú skalt“, sagði konungr, „heita Án bogsveigir“. „Hvat gefr
Thou shalt said (the)-king be-called An Bow-Bender What givest
þú mér at nafnfesti?“ sagði Án. „Eignast hér gullhring í
thou me as name-fastening said An Get-thyself here gold-ring in
altsaman“, sagði konungr, „í nafnfesti ok jólagjöf, því
all-together said (the)-king as name-fastening and Yule-gift because
at ek heyrða, hvat þú mæltir áðan, enda muntu allsterkr
that I heard what thou spokest before and-also wilt-thou very-strong
maðr, svá stórr sem þú ert“. „Þat ætla ek“, kvað Án, „at ek
man so great as thou art That think I said An that I

sé allsterkr, enn ekki veit ek til“. Án tók við, ok þakkaði
be very-strong but not know I of(-it) An took (it)-up and thanked
ekki; hann lék sér at hringnum, ok setti á bringu
not he played himself with the-ring and set (it)-on breast
sér; hann tók gaupnunum til fyrir neðan, ok eitt sinn
his he took with-the-palms to(-it) from below and one time
skauzt hringrinn í brott; hann fór at leita í forstofuna,
darted the-ring off away he went to search in the-porch
enn er hann kom aftr, var hann því líkastr sem hann hefði
but when he came back was he that likest as-if he had
í saurnum laugazt; sessunautar hans spyrja, því hann væri
in the-dung bathed bench-mates his ask why he were
svá ferlegr; hann kvað varla at spyrjanda, enn síðr segjanda;
so monstrous he said hardly at to-be-asked but less to-be-said
„enn segja munda ek þér, ef þú leyndir“; hann kveðst
but tell would I thee if thou hid(-it) he says-of-himself
leyna mundu. Án sagði: „Hér mun sannast þat, er sagt
hide would An said Here will prove-true that which said
er: ‘afgjarnt verðr öfundar fé’; týnt er nú hringnum“.
is coveted becomes of-envy wealth lost is now the-ring
Sessunautr hans mælti: „Látum kyrt yfir því“. Án mælti:
Bench-mate his spoke Let-us quiet over that An spoke
„Svá skal vera, enn ekki er mér þetta ætlat, ok vil ek gefa
So shall be but not is to-me this meant and will I give
þeim, sem finnr“; þetta kom fyrir hirðina, ok sagði hverr
(it)-to-him who finds this came before the-court and told each
öðrum, enn Ketill hló at mjök, ok kvað farit hafa sem
other but Ketil laughed at(-it) much and said gone have as
vón var at, at gefa fóli því gull; hann fór þá ok leitar at
hope was to to give to-fool that gold he went then and searches for
hringnum með hirðinni; þeir þrengdust fast í forstofunni.
the-ring with the-court they pressed hard in the-porch

Án mælti þá: „Hverju sætir, at menn ganga hér á höndum
An spoke then What means-it that men go here on hands
ok starfa í sauri, enda heldr hér við sviftingar?“ Honum
and toil in dung and-also hold here with scufflings To-him
var sagt, at menn vildu bœta slys hans ok finna hringinn.
was said that men would amend mishap his and find the-ring
Án mælti: „Eigi em ek til minnugr; hér er nú hringrinn
An spoke Not am I too mindful here is now the-ring
á hendi mér, enn nú galt ek yðr einn tíma, er þér hafit
on hand my but now repaid I you one time when you have
mik oft dárat“. Hirðmenn kváðust mjök spottaðir; Án
me often mocked Retainers said-of-themselves much mocked An
kvað svá eiga at vera; síðan var hvíld á gabbit, enn þó
said so ought to be then was rest in the-jesting but yet
dró til hins sama, ok (var) Ketill mest at því.
drew to the same and was Ketil most at that

IV · ÁN AT INGJALDR'S COURT

Björn throws Án into the fire, and Án in turn hurls Björn into it. He refuses Pórir's offer of Pegn to kill two king's men, and foresees that Ingjaldr will be his brother's death. In the war against Ingjaldr's half-brothers Án secretly shoots both the Úlfar, and refuses the king's summons, fearing the gallows. When Ketill falsely calls himself Án, Án shames him, maims him, and sends him back to the king.

Einn dag var þat, at þeir brœðr vóru úti hjá höllinni;
One day was that that they brothers were out by the-hall
þá kómu hirðmenn út, ok mæltu: „Þú munt sterkr maðr
then came retainers out and spoke Thou wilt strong man
vera, Án“. Hann svarar: „Vera má at svá sé, enn ekki hefi
be An He answers Be may that so be but not have

ek reynt þat“. Þeir mæltu: „Viltu glíma við Björn?“ Hann
I tested that They spoke Wilt-thou wrestle with Bjorn He
svarar: „Þar skal yðr kost á gera; þér skuluð þjóna mér,
answers There shall to-you choice on(-it) make you shall serve me
ok gera eld stóran fyrir mér“. Þeir gera svá, ok buðu honum
and make fire great before me They do so and bade him
til at bakast. Hann kvað sér meiri þörf mundu, þá er
to to bake-himself He said for-himself greater need would then when
hann kemr frá fanginu; at mýkja sik. Síðan bjuggust þeir
he comes from the-wrestling to soften himself Then got-ready they
til glímu í höllinni. Án var þá kominn í loðkápu, er
for wrestling in the-hall An was then come into shaggy-cloak which
móðir hans hafði gefit honum; ekki hafði hann belti um
mother his had given him not had he belt about
sik, enn hon var svá síð, at hann dró hana eftir sér meir
himself but it was so long that he drew it after himself more
enn alnarlangt; tóku ermar fram af höndum honum. Björn
than ell-long reached sleeves forth off hands his Bjorn
hljóp þá at Án, enn hann stóð kyrr fyrir. Björn var
leapt then at An but he stood still before(-him) Bjorn was
allra manna sterkastr; hann greip Án upp, ok kastar honum
of-all men strongest he gripped An up and throws him
utar á bálit, svá hann kom at herðunum í eldinn
outward onto the-fire so he came with the-shoulders into the-fire
niðr, enn fœtrnir skullu utar á bálkinn; þá varð hlátr
down but the-feet struck outward on the-bench then became laughter
mikill. Án stóð seint upp; ekki sakar hann eldrinn sakir
great An stood slowly up not harms him the-fire for-the-sake-of
loðkápunnar. Konungr mælti þá: „Eigi þykkir mér þú, Án,
the-shaggy-cloak (The)-king spoke then Not seemest to-me thou An
jafnsterkr sem þú lézt“. Án mælti: „Sá þykki mér,
as-strong as thou professed An spoke That-one seems to-me

konungr, sterkari, er fyrri fellr“. Konungr hló þá. Án lét at
king stronger who first falls (The)-king laughed then An put on
sér belti, ok stytti sik upp, ok braut upp ermarnar. Þeir
himself belt and shortened himself up and turned up the-sleeves They
hlaupast þá at í annat sinn. Án dró þá Björn at
run then at(-each-other) in (the)-second time An drew then Bjorn to
sér ok veifir honum sem barni, ok slöngvar honum síðan
himself and swings him as child and slings him then
utar á eldinn, ok lét hann svá lausan. Hirðmenn hlupu
outward onto the-fire and let him so loose Retainers ran
til, ok kiptu honum af eldinum, ok var Björn brunninn
to and pulled him off the-fire and was Bjorn burned
mjök. Þeir kvóðu mann þenna ærit sterkan; þat fell Án
much They said man this abundantly strong that fell to-An
vel í skap at hann var sterkr kallaðr, ok kvað nú mega
well in mind that he was strong called and said now may
sjá, at hann vildi, at Björn bakaðist við eldinn, ok kvað
see that he wished that Bjorn baked-himself by the-fire and said
honum meiri þörf enn sér. Án kvað þá vísu:
to-him greater need than to-himself An spoke then a-verse

„Skeldi mér sem skyldi
Mocked me as (he)-should
skelkinn maðr við belki;
mocking man by bench
við mátta ek þá vættki
against might I then nothing
vinna, svei þeim æ manni;
do fie on-that ever man
varð í fang at fallast,
had in grip to fall

*feldum eldsmat nökkut;
fed-we fire-food somewhat
honum synjaðak heiðri;
him denied-I honor
*svei þeim sé æ manni“.
fie on-that be ever man

Nú leið á vetrinn, ok einn dag vóru þeir brœðr enn úti
Now passed on the-winter and one day were they brothers again out
staddir tveir saman. Þá mælti Þórir: „Unir þú eigi illa
placed two together Then spoke Thorir Bearest thou not ill
við hingatferð þína, þar sem þú hefir sótt hingat háð ok
with hither-journey thy there where thou hast got hither scorn and
spott?“ Án kveðst eigi illa við una: „hefik hér þegit
mockery An says-of-himself not ill with(-it) bear have-I here received
gull ok vetrvist góða, enn ek hirði eigi um spott þeira“.
gold and winter-quarters good but I care not about mockery their
Þórir sagði: „Ek mun raun til gera, hversu mér þykkir;
Thorir said I will trial to(-it) make how to-me seems
ek mun gefa þér sverðit Þegn, at þú drepir einhverja tvó
I will give thee the-sword Thegn that thou kill some two
konungsmenn, ok setjast sjálfr fyrir sökina“. Án mælti:
king's-men and set(-thyself) thyself for the-case An spoke
„Ek vil sjá sverðit, ok mun ek þat þiggja; enn ekki mun
I will see the-sword and will I it accept but not will
ek heita þeim launum“. Ok annan dag um drykkjumál
I promise for-them repayment And (the)-next day at drinking-time
reis Án upp ok snýst at þeim, sem honum sat næst, ok
rose An up and turns to him who him sat nearest and
horfir á hann, ok svá gerði hann við alla í höllinni; fyrir
looks at him and so did he with all in the-hall before

konungi stóð hann lengst; síðan gekk hann fyrir Þóri, ok
(the)-king stood he longest then went he before Thorir and
leggr sverðit á borð fyrir hann, ok kveðst ekki hafa
lays the-sword on table before him and says-of-himself not have
vilja; þar varð at hlátr mikill; enn Þóri þótti stórilla.
will there became at(-it) laughter great but to-Thorir seemed very-ill
Einn tíma fundust þeir bræðr tveir saman, ok spyrr Þórir:
One time met they brothers two together and asks Thorir
„Því fórtu svá óskapfellilega, bróðir, ok alt öðru vís enn
Why wentest-thou so oddly brother and all otherwise wise than
ek hugða“. Án sagði: „Ek hugða at, hver hefnd mér þótti
I thought An said I thought that what vengeance to-me seemed
í konungs mönnum, ok þótti mér engi; enn því horfða
in king's men and seemed to-me none but therefore looked
ek lengst á konung, at þar var helzt reik á ráðinu,
I longest at (the)-king that there was most wavering in the-plan
hvórt ek munda afráða“. Þórir mælti: „Of heimskr
whether I would make-an-end-of(-him) Thorir spoke Too foolish
ertu, því at konungr er þér velviljaðr“. Án sagði: „Ekki
art-thou because that (the)-king is to-thee well-disposed An said Not
þurfu vit um hann at ræða, því at ek hygg, at engi
need we-two about him to talk because that I think that no
mun verri maðr upp vaxa í Noregi enn konungr sjá“;
will worse man up grow in Norway than king this
skildu þeir þá tal sitt, ok leið at vóri. Þá lætr Ingjaldr
parted they then talk their and drew-on to spring Then has Ingjald
konungr þings kveðja; hann stóð upp á þinginu ok mælti:
king assembly summon he stood up at the-assembly and spoke
„Þat er mönnum kunnigt, at faðir minn er dauðr, ok ek
That is to-men known that father my is dead and I
á ríkit þetta, ok vil ek því lýsa, at ek vil þeim öllum
own the-realm this and will I that declare that I will them all

yfirbœtr veita, er ek hefi afgert við, ok gefa þeim ok
amends give whom I have wronged against and give them and
öllum yðr góð lög, enn til ferðar skylda ek yðr mína þegna,
all you good laws but to journey oblige I you my thanes
ok sœkja á fund brœðra minna, ok vér mættum semja
and seek to (the)-meeting of-brothers my and we might settle
friðsamlega vór ríki, ok mun ek fá mínum mönnum vistir
peaceably our realms and will I get for-my men provisions
ok mungát“. Hér verðr at góðr rómr. Þá mælti Án: „Vel
and ale Here becomes at(-it) good applause Then spoke An Well
mun þér þykkja konungr mæla, bróðir“. Þórir kvað þat
will to-thee seem (the)-king speak brother Thorir said that
upp á finnast. Án sagði: „Ek kann þér þat at segja, at nú
up on be-found An said I can thee that to tell that now
er hann þeim verst viljaðr, ok þykkist hann þann veginn
is he to-them worst disposed and thinks-himself he that way
mestu illu mega á leið koma við þá“. Þórir kvað hann ekki
most evil may on way bring with them Thorir said him not
afhugaðan við konung. Eftir þat búast þeir. Án spyrr Þóri
hostile to (the)-king After that get-ready they An asks Thorir
hvert hann vill, at hann fari með hirðinni, „ok yðr ok
whether he wishes that he go with the-court and you and
konungi; er ok lítit erindit, ef ek ferr svá búinn í burt, ok
(the)-king is also little the-errand if I go so prepared off away and
allósýnt, hversu mér tekst hér vistin meðan; em ek fúsari
all-unclear how for-me goes here the-stay meanwhile am I more-eager
at fara með yðr; þat mun lengst uppi ok gegna verst“.
to go with you that will longest aloft and serve worst
Þórir kveðst vilja at hann fœri, ok halda þeir norðr
Thorir says-of-himself wish that he go and hold they north

með konungi, ok liggja undir eyjum nökkurum. Þá mælti
with (the)-king and lie under islands some Then spoke
konungr, at skyldi reisa hafnarmerki. Þá kvað Án vísu:
(the)-king that (one)-should raise harbor-mark Then spoke An a-verse

„Vel þér, selja,
Well (be)-to-thee willow
stendr þú sjó nær
standest thou sea near
*laufguð harðla vel;
leafed very well
maðr skekr af þér
man shakes off thee
morgundöggvar,
morning-dews
enn ek at Þegni
but I for Thegn
þrey nátt sem dag“.
long night as day

Þórir mælti: „Eigi skaltu þess þurfa, því ek mun gefa þér
Thorir spoke Not shalt-thou of-that need because I will give thee
sverðit Þegn. Án segir: „Ekki þreyr ek at þeim þegni“. Ketill
the-sword Thegn An says Not long I for that thane Ketil
sagði þá: „Ek ætla, at þú þreyir at karlmanni nökkurum, ok
said then I think that thou longest for man some and
viltu serða hann“, ok gerðu at þessu gys mikit ok dárskap.
wilt-thou lie-with him and made of this jest great and mockery
„Eigi er svá“, sagði Án, „ekki þreyr ek at þeim Þegni,
Not is so said An not long I for that Thegn
ek þreyr at Þóri þegn, bróður mínum, því hann er svá
I long for Thorir Thegn brother my because he is so

grunnhygginn, at hann trúir konungi þessum, enn ek veit,
shallow-minded that he trusts king this but I know
at hann mun honum at bana verða“. Síðan koma þeir við
that he will him to death become Then come they by
Firðafylki; þá sagði Ingjaldr konungr: „Ek hygg, at vér séum
Firdafylki then said Ingjald king I think that we be
nú komnir í ríki brœðra minna, ok hefik þat spurt, at
now come into (the)-realm of-brothers my and have-I that heard that
(þeir) ekki vilja(sætt)st við oss, ok þykki mér vænst, at vér
they not will-be-reconciled with us and seems to-me likeliest that we
munum berjast ok frelsa oss svá af mótgangi þeira“. Margir
will fight and free ourselves so from opposition their Many
vildu þá heldr hafa heima setit enn þar komit. Enn er þeir
would then rather have at-home sat than there come But when they
brœðr spyrja þat, safna þeir liði í móti Ingjaldi konungi; enn
brothers hear that gather they force in against Ingjald king but
Ingjaldr konungr bað gefa mönnum at drekka, svá at þeir sé
Ingjald king bade give to-men to drink so that they be
framgjarnir. Þá kom at Án mikit uxahorn; hann kvað vísu:
forward-eager Then came to An great ox-horn he spoke a-verse

„Því betr mér þykkir,
That better to-me seems
ef þá skal valr falla,
if then shall slain fall
nær vér frálega fœrum
when we boldly bring
fót at geira móti;
foot to spears' meeting

drekkum alt af uxa
drink-we all from ox
enni geira hlenni,
brow spears' thief
verða mun snarpra sverða
become will of-sharp swords
svipun, ef ek skal ráða“.
sweeping if I shall rule

Konungr mælti: „Þetta er vel ort, ok er sá eigi
(The)-king spoke This is well made and is that-one not
berskjaldaðr, er þú gengr á aðra hönd“. Án mælti: „Ekki
shieldless whom thou goest on other hand An spoke Not
vænti ek, at þat verði því nýt í dag, þó at ek kunna
expect I that that become therefore useful in day though that I could
fylgd at veita“. Konungr kvaðst ekki vita, hvat þegni
following to give (The)-king said-of-himself not know what of-thane
hann væri. Án lét hvórutveggja þeira sýnast mundu; hann
he were An made both of-them show would he
lagðist niðr á skipi, þá aðrir gengu upp at berjast. Þórir
lay-himself down on ship then others went up to fight Thorir
mælti: „Allillr er þinn hlutr, hafa fyrst farit hingat ok liggja
spoke Very-ill is thy part to-have first gone hither and lie
nú á skipi, er liðs er þörf; ek ætlaða at hugr mundi
now on ship when of-force is need I thought that courage would
þik fríða“. Án kvað eigi hirða um orð hans. Konungr gekk
thee adorn An said not care about words his (The)-king went
upp ok kom landherinn á móti þeim; hittust þeir við skóg
up and came the-land-army on against them met they by wood
nokkurn ok börðust. Án stóð upp ok gekk til skógar ok
some and fought An stood up and went to wood and

á einn stofn; hann sá þaðan yfir liðit hvórttveggja ok
onto one stump he saw thence over the-force both and
tvau merki fram borin fyrir brœðrum Ingjalds konungs. Án
two banners forth borne before (the)-brothers of-Ingjald king An
mæltist við einnsaman: „Því mun eigi þat ráð, at veita
spoke-to-himself with alone Why will not that counsel to give
lið Ingjaldi konungi, ok þat þó at honum er mest óþörf
force to-Ingjald king and that though that to-him is most harm
at, ok hann girnist sjálfr; ek mun skjóta, ok er meiri ván
in and he desires himself I will shoot and is more hope
at ek hœfa, því at þat sagði sá, er mér gaf bogann
that I hit because that that said that-one who to-me gave the-bow
ok örvar þessar, at ek munda beinskeytr verða, enn þat var
and arrows these that I would straight-shooting become but that was
dvergrinn, sá er ek hitta fyrr í skóginum í Hrafnistu,
the-dwarf that whom I met before in the-wood in Hrafnista
enn menn ætluðu mik horfinn, at vit dvergrinn skiftumt
but men thought me vanished that we-two the-dwarf exchanged
þessu við, ok skal nú reyna smíðina, er hann
this with(-each-other) and shall now test the-smithwork when he
leysti sik ok sitt höfuð, enn áðr vígða ek hann utan
loosed himself and his head but before hallowed I him outside
steins; lét hann mik mundu skjóta þrjú frægðarskot,
stone made-out he me would shoot three fame-shots
ok eitt sinn með hverju skeyti“. Hann skaut ok stefndi á
and one time with each arrow He shot and aimed at
annan þeira Úlfanna, ok fló örin í gegn um hann ok
one of-them the-Ulfs and flew the-arrow in against through him and
í kjör at baki honum; fell þá þegar merkit. Án náði
into brushwood at back his fell then at-once the-banner An got
örinni, ok strauk til skipanna; ok er menn sáu þat, þá
the-arrow and stole to the-ships and when men saw that then

sögðu þeir konungi, at hann mundi snœrisspjóti lagðr eða
said they to-(the)-king that he would with-thong-spear thrust or
skotinn. Um kveldit kvómu menn til skipa; var þá alltíðrœtt
shot In the-evening came men to ships was then much-talked
um skotit. Án heyrði þat, ok kvað þá mega sœkjast, „ef
about the-shot An heard that and said then may press-on if
nú er hálfunnit“. Um morguninn eggjaði konungr menn til
now is half-won In the-morning urged (the)-king men to
uppgöngu ok kveðst vænta sigrs. Án var eftir, ok kvaddi
landing and says-of-himself expect victory An was behind and summoned
hann engi til uppgöngu. Honum kom í hug, at Ingjaldr
him none to landing To-him came into mind that Ingjald
konungr mundi þurfa liðs; hann skaut ör annari; kom
king would need force he shot arrow other came
sú fyrir brjóst Úlfi, ok var hann því óharðskeytari
that-one into (the)-breast of-Ulf and was he therefore less-hard-shooting
enn fyrr, at örin stóð þar föst; kendu menn skeytit, ok
than before that the-arrow stood there fast knew men the-arrow and
ætluðu þat sem var, at einn maðr mundi eiga bæði skeytin,
thought that as was that one man would own both the-arrows
þótt þat sæist eigi. Konungr mælti: „Fyrir löngu vissa ek,
though that were-seen not (The)-king spoke For long knew I
at Án mundi atgervismaðr vera“. Konungr sendi eftir
that An would man-of-accomplishment be (The)-king sent after
honum, ok segir at hann ætti ágæt laun fyrir at hafa.
him and says that he should-have excellent reward for to have
Sendimenn sáu, at Án var þá kominn á bát, ok eigi
(The)-messengers saw that An was then come onto boat and not
allnærri þeim; þeir sögðu honum konungs orð ok kveðju,
very-near them they told him (the)-king's words and greeting
at hann mundi virðingu mœta fyrir framgöngu sína. Án
that he would honor meet for forward-going his An

mælti: „Ek mun eigi fara á konungs fund, því at hann
spoke I will not go to (the)-king's meeting because that he
mun mér unna gálgans fyrir mitt starf“. Menn kvómu aftr
will me grant the-gallows for my work Men came back
ok sögðu konungi; hann segir: „Eigi var hann fjargætr, ok
and told (the)-king he says Not was he life-careful and
vilda ek at eigi gerði hann fleiri launvígin við göfga
wished I that not did he more the-secret-killings against noble
menn, ok ætlaða ek brœðrum mínum líf ok eiga ríki undir
men and intended I for-brothers my life and have realm under
þeim“. Þórir mælti: „Illa ferr þér; vildir þú heldr sjálfr
them Thorir spoke Ill goes for-thee wouldst thou rather thyself
gert hafa; ekki var þat um hríð, at eigi vildir þú þá
done have not was that for while that not wishedst thou then
feiga“. Konungr svarar: „Hefði hann upp gengit með
(them)-doomed (The)-king answers Had he up gone with
oss, væri hann verðr sœmdar, enn fyrir launvíg væri hann
us were he worthy of-honor but for secret-killing were he
verðr bana“. Þórir kveðst ætla at jöfn laun mundi hann
worthy of-death Thorir says-of-himself think that equal reward would he
honum fyrir hyggja. Ingjaldr tók eignir brœðra sinna
him for intend Ingjald took (the)-possessions of-brothers his
ok setti menn yfir fylkit; síðan var orpinn haugr eftir þá,
and set men over the-shire then was cast-up mound after them
er heitir Úlfahaugr. Konungr var á skipum ok búinn til
which is-called Ulfs'-Mound (The)-king was on ships and ready for
burtfarar. Ketill kveðst vilja hitta vin sinn, er skamt
departure Ketil says-of-himself will meet friend his who short
bjó þaðan í burt. Konungr svarar: „Lát eigi sein at þér,
dwelt thence off away (The)-king answers Let not slow at thee
því at vér siglum snart“. Ketill hafði skeyti Áns í hendi
because that we sail soon Ketil had arrow of-An in hand

sér; hann kom at bœ bónda eins skamt frá skipunum;
his he came to (the)-farm of-farmer one short from the-ships
ekki var honum sá kunnr. Bóndi heilsaði honum, ok
not was to-him that-one known (The)-farmer greeted him and
spurði at nafni; hann svarar: „Ek heiti Án bogsveigir, er
asked of name he answers I am-called An Bow-Bender whom
þú munt nú heyrt hafa getit af skotum mínum“. Bóndi
thou wilt now heard have spoken of shots my (The)-farmer
svarar: „Án mættum vér hafa verit þinna skota hér, því
answers Without might we have been thy shots here because
at höfðingjar vórir vóru vinhollir; enn ver með oss í
that chieftains our were friend-loyal but be with us in
nótt“; hann kvað þat mundu þekkjast. Ekki var þar fleira
night he said that would accept Not was there more
manna enn kona hans ok dóttir; hon hét Drífa. Nú er
of-men than wife his and daughter she was-called Drifa Now is
at segja frá Án, at hann rœr á einn leynivóg, ok kom
to tell of An that he rows into one hidden-cove and came
at þeim sama bœ, ok nam nú staðar ok hlýðir til tals
to that same farm and took now stand and listens to talk
manna. Gestrinn tók til orða: „Er sjá dóttir þín, bóndi?“
of-men The-guest took to words Is this daughter thy farmer
„Svá er satt“, sagði hann. „Ek ætla mér at byggja rekkju
So is true said he I intend for-myself to occupy bed
með henni í nótt, ok mun yðr eigi betr boðit“. Karli
with her in night and will to-you not better offered (The)-churl
kveðst ekki mikit um þat; Ketill kveðst hafa gert
says-of-himself not much about that Ketil says-of-himself have done
meiri stórvirki, enn ná rekkju hennar. Ok er Án heyrir
greater great-deeds than get bed her And when An hears
þetta, drap hann högg á dyr, ok gekk at dyrunum; þræll
this struck he blow on door and went to the-doors a-thrall

gekk til hurðar ok alt út mjök, áðr hann sá manninn;
went to (the)-door and all out much before he saw the-man
hann spyrr hinn at nafni; sá kveðst Án heita; þrællinn
he asks him of name that-one says-of-himself An be-called the-thrall
sagði: „Hér er mikit um ánagang; svá hét ok sá, er
said Here is much about An-going so was-called also he who
kominn er inni“. Án sagði svá vera mega, ok gekk inn
come is inside An said so be may and went in
ok settist gegnt Katli. Bóndi spyrr hann at nafni; þessi
and sat opposite Ketil (The)-farmer asks him of name this-one
nefndist Án. Bóndi sagði: „Hér er ánótt mjök, eðr
named-himself An (The)-farmer said Here is An-night much or
viltu með oss vera?“ Hann kveðst þat þiggja mundu;
wilt-thou with us be He says-of-himself that accept would
„enn hafa verð ek dvöl nökkura, áðr enn ek mötumst, eðr
but have must I delay some before than I eat or
hefir hann Án nefnzt Ketill“. Hann sagði: „Ek brá því
has he An named-himself Ketil He said I turned that
í gaman“. Án mælti: „Þetta hefir vel at móti borit um
into jest An spoke This has well to against borne about
fundi okkra; vórum vit í einni vist báðir, ok leitaðir þú
meeting our-two were we-two in one quarters both and soughtest thou
eftir nökkurum hlutum um atgervi mína, ok þóttist
after some things about accomplishment my and thought-thyself
þú ekki af því sjá, heldr hitt at ek væri skiftingr, enn
thou not of that see rather that that I were changeling but
ek em þó atgervismaðr, ok kann ek lækning at gera
I am yet man-of-accomplishment and can I healing to do
vel at kvensemi; ek heyrða áðan, at þú leitaðir eftir við
well for lechery I heard before that thou soughtest after with

dóttur bónda um hjáhvílur“. Hann tók nú (í) lyrg
(the)-daughter of-(the)-farmer about bed-sharing He took now into neck
honum, ok lét hann skurka út, ok kvað vísu:
his and let him tumble out and spoke a-verse

„Þat muntu finna,
That wilt-thou find
er þú flór mokar,
when thou floor shovelest
at þú eigi ert
that thou not art
Án bogsveigir;
An Bow-Bender
þú ert brauðsveigir,
thou art bread-bender
heldr enn bogsveigir,
rather than bow-bender
ostasveigir
cheese-bender
enn eigi álmsveigir“.
but not elm-bender

Hann batt hann ok rak af honum hárit, ok bar í tjöru
He bound him and shaved off him the-hair and smeared in tar
ok mælti, at svá skyldi hverr fljúga, sem fjaðraðr væri;
and said that so should each fly as feathered were
hann stakk ór honum annat augat, síðan geldi hann hann;
he stuck out-of him one eye then gelded he him
eftir þat leysti hann hann, ok fekk honum tvó stafi; „enn
after that loosed he him and gave him two staves but
ek mun taka við skeyti mínu“. Án mælti: „Þat kalla menn
I will take up arrow my An spoke That call men

konungs gersemi, ef nökkut er annars afbragð: enn þér er
king's treasure if anything is of-others outstanding but to-thee is
nú brugðit nökkut; ok því senda ek þik nú svá búinn
now changed somewhat and therefore send I thee now so arranged
Ingjaldi konungi, ok geld ek honum þik fyrir annan bróður
to-Ingjald king and pay I him thee for one brother
sinn, hvé nær sem fyrir annan er goldit“. Ketill leitar til
his how near as for one is paid Ketil seeks to
skipanna ok sagði konungi, ok báru honum vitni stafir hans,
the-ships and told (the)-king and bore him witness staves his
at hann var stirðr orðinn, enn sjón var sögu ríkari um
that he was stiff become but sight was than-tale mightier about
auga hans ok eystu, at á burt var hvórttveggja. „Afhendr
eye his and testicles that off away was each Out-of-hand
ertu mér“, sagði konungr, ok rak hann á burt frá sér.
art-thou to-me said (the)-king and drove him off away from himself

V · ÁN THE OUTLAW

Ingjaldr outlaws Án, who lives with a farmer and his daughter Drífa, whom he leaves pregnant with a ring for the child. In the forest he kills the highwayman Garan, breaking his back on his own stone. He settles with the wealthy widow Jórunn, marries her, prospers, and wins the people's loyalty. His nephew Grímr comes to live with him, and Þórir urges him to make peace with the king.

Nú er at segja frá Án, at hann mælti við bónda: „Þér
Now is to tell of An that he spoke with (the)-farmer You
tókuð vel við mér, ok skyldir þú eigi ilt af mér hljóta;
took well to me and shouldst thou not ill from me get
skulu vit eyða bæinn, ok fara í skóg, því at
shall we-two leave-empty the-farm and go into wood because that

konungsmenn munu brátt koma hér“, ok svá gerðu þeir.
king's-men will soon come here and so did they
Án var þessu nærgætr; því at konungr sendi menn þegar
An was in-this shrewd because that (the)-king sent men at-once
um nóttina, ok brendu þeir upp bœinn ok fóru aftr síðan.
in the-night and burned they up the-farm and went back then
Konungr mælti við sína menn: „Ef Án hefir undan komizt,
(The)-king spoke with his men If An has away come
þá legg ek þrjár merkr silfrs til höfuðs honum, ok geri
then lay I three marks of-silver on head his and make
ek hann útlægan um allan Noreg“. Þetta spyrst nú
I him outlawed throughout all Norway This is-heard now
víða. Konungr kom heim í sitt ríki. Án var með karli,
widely (The)-king came home into his realm An was with (the)-churl
ok húsar upp bœ hans um sumarit. Án var svá búinn
and builds up farm his in the-summer An was so dressed
hversdagslega, at hann var í hvítu pilzi; þat var svá sítt,
every-day that he was in white undercoat it was so long
at þat nam hæl; þá var hann í grám pilzungi; hann tók
that it reached heel then was he in gray under-jacket it reached
ofan á miðjan kálfann; þá var hann í rauðum kyrtli; hann
down to middle the-calf then was he in red tunic it
tók ofan á kné; yzt var hann í vóndum vöruvóðarstakki;
reached down to knee outermost was he in coarse homespun-smock
hann tók ofan á mitt lær; hann hafði hatt á höfði ok
it reached down to middle thigh he had hat on head and
viðarøxi í hendi. Maðrinn var furðu stórr ok karlmannlegr
wood-axe in hand The-man was wondrously big and manly
ok ekki dávænn. Þat var einn dag, at Án mœtti úti Drífu
and not very-handsome That was one day that An met out Drifa
karlsdóttur; þrjár konur gengu með henni; hon var kvenna
(the)-churl's-daughter three women went with her she was of-women

vænst ok vel búin; hon var í rauðum kyrtli ermalöngum ok
fairest and well dressed she was in red tunic long-sleeved and
ekki niðr víðum, síðum ok miðþröngum; hon hafði hlað um
not down wide long and middle-tight she had lace about
enni ok hærð kvenna bezt. Þær hlógu at honum mjök ok
forehead and haired of-women best They laughed at him much and
dáruðu klæðabúnað hans. Drífa mælti þá: „Hvaðan gektu
mocked clothing his Drifa spoke then Whence wentest-thou
at nú, ferfaldr?“ „Frá smíðum“, sagði Án. Í því kom bóndi
to now four-fold From smithy said An In that came (the)-farmer
at ok bað þær eigi skúlka hann. Án kvað þá vísu:
to(-them) and bade them not mock him An spoke then a-verse

„Meyjar spurðu,
Maidens asked
er mik fundu,
who me found
hvíthaddaðar:
white-haired
’hvaðan komtu, ferfaldr?’
whence camest-thou four-fold
Enn ek svaraða
But I answered
silkigunni
silk-Gunn
heldr hæðinni:
rather scornful
’hvaðan er logn úti?’
whence is calm outside

„Ekki þykkir mér“, sagði Án, „kyrtill þinn fara betr enn
Not seems to-me said An tunic thy go better than
stakkr minn, því at hann liggr neðan at bakstakki
smock my because that it lies down at back-smock
þínum“; síðan skildu þau at sinni. Enn er upp var húsaðr
thy then parted they at time But when up was built
bœrinn, talar bóndi til Áns um haustit, at honum væri
the-farm talks (the)-farmer to An in the-autumn that to-him were
heimilt þar at vera um vetrinn, „ok hefir þú vel til þess
permitted there to be through the-winter and hast thou well for that
unnit“. Án kvaðst þat þiggja mundu. Honum leizt vel
earned An said-of-himself that accept would To-him seemed well
á karlsdóttur, þó at hon hefði kalzat hans klæðasniðit,
on (the)-churl's-daughter though that she had mocked his clothes-cut
ok var hann sér um þat vórkunnlátr. Enn um vórit
and was he himself about that forgiving But in the-spring
lýsti hann yfir því, at hann mundi á burtu ok annat
declared he over that that he would off away and other
fyrir sik leggja; „enn ef svá er, sem mér er grunr á, at
before himself lay but if so is as to-me is suspicion on that
dóttir þín sé með barni, þá eru þar fáir blóramenn, ok
daughter thy be with child then are there few blame-men and
vil ek ganga við faðerni; ok ef þat er sveinn, þá sendið
will I go to fatherhood and if that is boy then send-ye
til mín, þá er þér spyrið nökkura mína staðfestu, ok
to me then when you hear some my abode and
fylgi hringr þessi til jartegna; enn sjá þú sjálfr fyrir, ef
follow ring this as token but see thou thyself for(-it) if
mær er“. Ok síðan ferr hann á burt, ok austr á skóg;
maid is And then goes he off away and east into wood
þar liggr úti stigamaðr, er Garan heitir; ok um daginn
there lies out highwayman who Garan is-called and in the-day

er Án gengr um skógargötuna, sá hann at maðr gekk
when An goes along (the)-forest-path saw he that a-man went
í svig við hann; sá hafði svartan skjöld ok hjálm á
in curve against him that-one had black shield and helmet on
höfði, enn boga í hendi, örvamæli á bak; hann sá hinn
head but bow in hand arrow-quiver on back he saw the
nýkomna ok skaut þegar í skjöld hans broddör, ok varð
newly-come and shot at-once into shield his spike-arrow and was
í gegn um skjöldinn; Án gerði hœfing eftir ok skaut í
in against through the-shield An made aim after and shot in
gegn um skjöldinn, ok kom í aflvöðvann á honum, svá
against through the-shield and came into the-arm-muscle on him so
at hann varð sárr. Stigamaðr mælti honum þótti þessi
that he became wounded (The)-highwayman spoke to-him seemed this-one
þörfum harðskeytari, ok lagði vópn sín ok hitti þenna
than-needful harder-shooting and laid weapons his and met this
mann, ok spurði hann at nafni; hann kveðst Án heita.
man and asked him of name he says-of-himself An be-called
Garan segist heyrt hafa nafn hans, „ok ertu víðfrægr“.
Garan says-of-himself heard have name his and art-thou far-famed
Án sagði: „Heyrt hefi ek ok þín getit, ok jafnan at illu“.
An said Heard have I also of-thee spoken and always for ill
Garan sagði: „Fyrir góðu muntu verða af mér; vil ek bjóða
Garan said For good wilt-thou become from me will I invite
þér til mín, ok eigum félag saman, ok munu vit miklu
thee to me and have-we fellowship together and will we-two much
áleiðis koma“. Án mælti: „Œrit mun um þat, ef vit viljum
forward come An spoke Enough will about that if we-two will
illa gera“. Þeir kvómu til skála, er stóð í skóginum, ok
ill do They came to a-hut which stood in the-wood and
var þar hnigin hurð á gátt; þeir gengu inn, ok skorti þar
was there leaned door on gap they went in and lacked there

eigi fé, vópn eða hlífar. Án sá þar steina tvó, annan
not wealth weapons or armor An saw there stones two one
hærra enn annan. Án spyrr, hvat þeir skyldi. Garan sagði:
higher than (the)-other An asks what they should(-be) Garan said
„Þar hefi ek reynt hryggafl nökkura manna, er mik hafa
There have I tested back-strength of-some men who me have
heimsótt“. Án sagði: „Illmannlega bjóttu við þína gesti,
visited An said Wickedly dealest-thou with thy guests
eða hvórr mundi þér hœfilegri steinninn at láta á hallast“;
or which would to-thee fitter the-stone to let on lean
hann kveðst ekki á því ætlun haft hafa, enn lét sér
he says-of-himself not on that intent had have but made to-himself
þó hinn hærra betr fallinn vera fyrir hæðar sakir. Þá er
yet the higher better suited be for height's sake Then is
liðit á dag mjök; Garan sagði: „Nú skulum vit matbúa;
passed on day much Garan said Now shall we-two prepare-food
eðr hvórt viltu heldr taka vatn eða gera eld“. Án kvað
or whether wilt-thou rather take water or make fire An said
þat sjálft á leggjast, at hann gerði eldinn, því at hann
that itself on lay that he made the-fire because that he
kveðst því vanr verkinu; ok er hann var lagztr niðr,
says-of-himself to-that used the-work and when he was laid down
þá kastaði hann sverðinu á bak sér, at hann hafði at
then threw he the-sword on back his that he had for
vópni; hann heyrði hvin upp yfir sér, hjó stigamaðrinn
weapon he heard whistling up over himself hewed the-highwayman
til hans ok kom á sverðit, ok þat hlífði honum; þá hljóp
at him and came on the-sword and it shielded him then leapt
hann upp ok mælti: „Eigi ertu nú trúr, ok vildir þú
he up and spoke Not art-thou now true and wouldst thou
nú skjótt skifta félaginu, ok hafða ek þó lítit til saka;
now quickly change the-fellowship and had I yet little to offense

má vera, at nú gistir þú bóndasteininn há í kveld“. Þar
may be that now lodgest thou the-farmer's-stone high in evening There
var hörð sókn, ok vildi hvórr firra sik steininum. Þá
was hard onset and would each keep himself (from)-the-stone Then
bar Garan at steininum. Án sté á rist honum, enn rak
bore Garan to the-stone An stepped on instep his but drove
hendrnar á bringu honum, ok bendi hann um steininn;
the-hands onto breast his and bent him over the-stone
gekk þá í sundr hryggrinn í honum. Án gekk af honum
went then in asunder the-spine in him An went from him
dauðum; hann hjó af honum höfuðit, ok dró hann út,
dead he hewed off him the-head and drew him out
ok stakk nefinu í klof honum, at hann gengi eigi dauðr.
and stuck the-nose into crotch his that he go not dead
Leið af nóttin. Án var þar um sumarit, ok gerði engum
Passed off the-night An was there through the-summer and did to-no
manni mein, ok lét ekki sjá sik; enn er haustaði, læsti
man harm and let not see himself but when autumn-came locked
hann aftr skálanum ok fór í burt, ok vildi aðra vetrvist
he shut the-hut and went off away and would other winter-quarters
hafa; hann kom aftan dags til ekkju einnar auðigrar, er
have he came (at)-evening of-day to widow one wealthy who
Jórunn hét; hann var þar um nóttina ok duldist. Enn
Jorunn was-called he was there through the-night and hid-himself But
er húsfreyja kom í skála, spurði hon gestinn at nafni;
when (the)-housewife came into hall asked she the-guest of name
hann sagði slíkt, er honum sýndist; hon gekk frá ok snøri
he said such as to-him seemed she went off and turned
aftr ok mælti: „Því fórtu hingat? þat er mitt hugboð,
back and spoke Why camest-thou hither that is my foreboding
at þú munt vera Án bogsveigir“. Hann lét þat satt. „Hví
that thou wilt be An Bow-Bender He made that true Why

fórtu hingat?“ segir hon; „þér er þetta ekki traust fyrir
camest-thou hither says she to-thee is this no safety against
konungi“. Án kveðst ætla, at eigi mundi meira við
(the)-king An says-of-himself think that not would more against
þurfa; „mun ek til hætta at vera ef þér gefit leyfi til“.
need will I to(-it) venture to be if you give leave to(-it)
Hon mælti: „Ekki mun ek spara mat við þik“. Þar var
She spoke Not will I spare food to thee There was
hann um hríð, ok var tiltakasamr, ok sá um bú hennar,
he for while and was enterprising and saw to farm her
ok var þat með miklu ráði. Án mælti: „Hér vilda ek vera í
and was that with great counsel An spoke Here would I be in
vetr með yðr, ok gerast eigi setumaðr með öllu; hon kvað
winter with you and become not idler with all she said
honum eigi þar hent, „er konungr er í eftirsjá um þik; vér
to-him not there suitable since (the)-king is in watch about thee we
megum þér lítit“; hann lézt ætla, at Ingjaldr konungr
may to-thee little he professed think that Ingjald king
mundi honum ekki grand gera. „Eigi mun ek mat spara við
would to-him no harm do Not will I food spare to
þik“, enn lét hann sjálfan mundu gæta sín. Hann gerðist
thee but made him himself would guard himself He became
umsýslumaðr hinn mesti; síðan tekst tal með þeim; hann
manager the greatest then begins talk between them he
segir, at honum lýstr því í skap, at mæla til ráðahags við
says that to-him strikes that into mind to speak for match with
hana; hon kvað þat mundu gert at frænda ráði, ok mjök
her she said that would (be)-done by kinsmen's counsel and much
nær hennar hugþokka, enn enginn latti ok tókust ráðin.
near her liking but none dissuaded and were-made the-plans
Án var hinn mesti umgangsmaðr ok stórhagr. Hann átti
An was the greatest bustling-man and very-handy He had

naust í skógi skamt frá bœnum, ok smíðaði þar skip;
boat-house in wood short from the-farm and built there ship
jók brátt mikinn framdrátt fjár ok virðingar; hann
increased quickly great furtherance of-wealth and honor he
átti fjögur bú stór, ok með honum var þrír tigir vígra
had four farms great and with him were three tens of-fighting
manna á hverju búi. Fylkismenn þeir, er þar vóru, höfðu
men on each farm Shire-men those who there were had
hann sér at forstjóra; hann var vinsæll ok stórlyndr.
him for-themselves as leader he was well-liked and great-minded
Ingjaldr konungr spyrr þetta ok leitar eftir honum. Þórir
Ingjald king hears this and seeks after him Thorir
bróðir hans fór oft austr þangat með sættarboðum, ok var
brother his went often east thither with settlement-offers and was
ástúðigt með þeim brœðrum; þá var andaðr Björn faðir
loving between them brothers then was dead Bjorn father
þeira í Hrafnistu, ok varðveitti búit Gautr mágr
their in Hrafnista and kept the-farm Gaut kinsman-by-marriage
þeira ok Þórdís systir þeira. Grímr son þeira var mikill,
their and Thordis sister their Grim son their was great
vænn ok sterkr, ok kvað øngvan af sínum frændum sér
handsome and strong and said none of his kinsmen to-him
jafn skapfeldan sem Án; hann fór á fund hans. Án
equally pleasing as An he went to (the)-meeting of-him An
tók vel við honum, ok dvaldist hann þar lengi; hann var
took well to him and stayed he there long he was
vinsæll. Þórir bað oft Án, at hann skyldi vægja til við
well-liked Thorir asked often An that he should yield to toward
konung, „ok stoðar þér ekki, bróðir, af því at ek sé gerla
(the)-king and avails thee nothing brother from that that I see clearly
hans skaplyndi grimt til þín“. „Auðna mun ráða með
his temper grim toward thee Fortune will rule between

okkr konungi“, sagði Án; „enn þú trúir honum til vel; vilda
us-two (the)-king said An but thou trustest him too well wished
ek heldr at þú varðveittir bú okkur“; enn þat varð ekki.
I rather that thou kept farm our-two but that became not

VI · ÞÓRIR'S DEATH

Ingjaldr sends Ívarr to bring him Án's head; Án breaks his legs and sends him back crippled. Twelve men sent next are caught by Jórunn's watchfulness and hanged. Ingjaldr then kills Þórir with Þegn, leaving it in the wound, and sends his body to Án by ship. Án, warned in a dream, kills all the king's men and buries Þórir in a mound with them on either side.

Maðr hét Ívarr, upplenzkr at ætt ok ættgöfugr; hann
A-man was-called Ivar Upland by kin and kin-noble he
kom til hirðar Ingjalds konungs, ok tók hann vel við
came to (the)-court of-Ingjald king and took he well to
honum; ekki var hann þar þá at Án var með konungi.
him not was he there then when An was with (the)-king
Ívarr var gervilegr maðr; hann lagði hug mikinn á Ásu
Ivar was well-made man he laid mind great on Asa
ok hafði tilmæli við hana um ráðahag. Konungr tók því
and had wooing with her about match (The)-king took that
seinlega; þau töluðu þetta mál með sér. Konungr mælti:
slowly they talked this matter between themselves (The)-king spoke
„Mjök leitar þú eftir þessu, ok mun ek gera á kost;
Much seekest thou after this and will I make on(-it) terms
þú skalt fara á fund Áns, ok færa mér höfuð hans;
thou shalt go to (the)-meeting of-An and bring me head his
enn er þú kemr aftr, áttu þessa ráða vón, er þú
but when thou comest back hast-thou this match hope which thou

beiðist, því þá muntu kallaðr mikilmenni ok maklegr
askest therefore then wilt-thou called great-man and worthy
konungs mágr“. Ívarr kvað eigi auðsóttlegt, „eðr gefr
king's kinsman-by-marriage Ivar said not easily-got or givest
þú, konungssystir, jáyrði til þessa máls?“ Hon svarar: „Ek
thou king's-sister yes-word to this matter She answers I
ætla vera á valdi bróður míns, ef þú kemr þessu erindi
intend be in power of-brother my if thou comest this errand
fram“. Við þetta fór hann austr í land ok á fund
forth With this went he east into land and to (the)-meeting
Áns, ok skorar á hann til vetrvistar. Án spyrr, hverr hann
of-An and calls on him for winter-quarters An asks who he
væri, ok kveðst varla vita kunna, með hverjum hug hverr
were and says-of-himself hardly know can with what mind each
væri, enn lézt óvanr at synja matar: „ek beiðumst ok
were but professed unused to refuse food I ask and
ekki forgiftar, fyrr enn ek veit, hversu þegit er, eðr veitt
not payment before than I know how accepted is or given
er“. Ívarr var honum fylgisamr til smíða ok annars. Þat
is Ivar was to-him helpful at smithwork and other That
var eitt kveld, at þeir gengu heim, at Ívar kom í hug,
was one evening that they went home that to-Ivar came into mind
hvat hann átti at annast; hann hljóp þá at Án, ok hjó til
what he had to attend-to he leapt then at An and hewed at
hans; Án gekk skjótara, enn Ívarr hugði, ok var stórfetaðri,
him An went quicker than Ivar thought and was longer-striding
ok hjó hann í jörðina ok alt í viðarrœtr. Án fann
and hewed he into the-earth and all into tree-roots An found
nú atgöngu hans ok snýr aftr, ok sagði, at honum þótti
now attack his and turns back and said that to-him seemed
eigi vel í hald koma vistar launin. Án batt hann með
not well into stead come (the)-stay's repayment An bound him with

bogastreng ok rak hann heim fyrir sér; hann setti Ívar í
bowstring and drove him home before himself he set Ivar in
fjötur um nóttina; enn er menn vissu þetta, báðu þeir
fetter through the-night but when men knew this asked they
drepa hann, ok segja hann til þess gert hafa. Án kvað eigi
kill him and say him to that done have An said not
þat skyldu: „Mun þat þá mælt, at ek gerumst fjandmaðr
that should Will that then said that I become enemy
konungs, ef menn vita eigi sanna sögu; vilik þing láta
of-(the)-king if men know not true tale will-I assembly let
stefna fjölment, ok konungsmaðr (geri) sögu sína, ok geri
summon crowded and king's-man make tale his and make
fyrir öllum bert þetta vandræði“, ok svá var gert. Kom Án
before all bare this trouble and so was done Came An
á þingit ok leiðir Ívar eftir sér. Án mælti: „Seg nú fram
to the-assembly and leads Ivar after himself An spoke Say now forth
alt erindi þitt“. Ívarr gerði svá; þá mæltu allir, at hann
all errand thy Ivar did so then spoke all that he
hafi sér dauða ráðit. Án mælti: „Nei“, sagði hann, „þat
have to-himself death counseled An spoke No said he that
skal eigi vera; ek veit hvers hann á heim at vitja, sem
shall not be I know what he has home to visit as
þér heyrðuð“; hann lét brjóta fótleggi hans alt til knés, ok
you heard he had break leg-bones his all to knee and
lét síðan grœða ok snúa fótunum öðru vís enn áðr; horfðu
had then heal and turn the-feet other wise than before turned
þá tær á bak aftr. Án mælti: „Stattu nú fyrir mér“, ok
then toes on back behind An spoke Stand-thou now before me and
svá gerir hann. Án mælti: „Nú ertu konungs gersemi, er
so does he An spoke Now art-thou king's treasure since
þú ert frá því sem aðrir menn“; síðan snýr hann andliti
thou art from that as other men then turns he face

hans nökkut, ok mælti: „Nú ertu til hvórstveggja enda
his somewhat and spoke Now art-thou for each end
afbragð annara manna, vænn at yfirliti, enda eigi fœttr
excellence of-other men handsome in looks and-also not footed
sem aðrir menn; hittu nú Ingjald konung; geld ek þik
as other men meet now Ingjald king pay I thee
fyrir annan bróðurinn, enda á hann nú hingat einkis at
for one the-brother and-also has he now hither nothing to
vitja“. Ívarr hitti konung ok sagði eigi sína slétta; konungr
visit Ivar met (the)-king and told not his smooth (The)-king
mælti: „Þat hefik vitat, at menn hafa drepit niðr menn,
spoke That have-I known that men have killed down men
hverr fyrir öðrum; hitt veit ek varla, at slíkar meiðslar
each for other that know I hardly that such maimings
hafi gervar verit, ok kalla þat konungs gersemar, ok þykki
have done been and call that king's treasures and seems
mér engi gersemi í þér, ok far til eigna þinna“. Konungs
to-me no treasure in thee and go to possessions thy (The)-king's
systir mælti: „Viltu nú eigi unna honum ráðahagsins við
sister spoke Wilt-thou now not grant him the-match with
mik?“ Konungr kvað þat eigi sama; lét Ívarr sér ofr
me (The)-king said that not befitting made-out Ivar to-himself too
framarla treyst hafa, at hann mundi þessu á leið koma,
far-forward trusted have that he would this to way bring
„ok vóru því engi fjartök í höfð við þik“. Þórir var þá
and were therefore no restraints in had with thee Thorir was then
eigi löngum heima. Eftir þetta sendi konungr tólf menn
not long at-home After this sent (the)-king twelve men
til höfuðs Áni, ok mælti svá: „Ek vil senda yðr með þeim
on head of-An and spoke so I will send you in that
hætti á fund Áns, at þér beiðið hann vetrvistar, enn
manner to (the)-meeting of-An that you ask him winter-quarters but

hann er stórlyndr ok mun spyrja, því þér farið svá margir
he is great-minded and will ask why you go so many
saman; enn þér skuluð segja, at þér eigið fé allir saman,
together but you shall say that you own wealth all together
ok þér trúið øngum til at skifta með yðr nema honum;
and you trust none to to divide among you except him
ok ef hann tekr við yðr, dragið undir yðr aðra jafnmarga
and if he takes to you draw under you other as-many
af mönnum hans með fégjöfum, ok kalla ek þá sjálfrátt,
of men his with money-gifts and call I that self-ruled
at þér látið hann eigi rekast undan“. Síðan fóru þeir á
that you let him not drive away Then went they to
fund Áns, ok fóru svá orð með þeim, sem konungr
(the)-meeting of-An and went so words between them as (the)-king
gat til; hann tók þó við þeim, ok vóru þeir þar fram
guessed to he took yet to them and were they there forward
um jólin. Eitt kveld mælti Jórunn við Án: „Hvat gestum
through the-Yule One evening spoke Jorunn with An What guests
hyggr þú þetta vera, er þik hafa heimsótt?“ Hann sagði:
thinkest thou these be who thee have visited He said
„Þat hygg ek, at þeir séu góðir menn, ok til þess ætlum
That think I that they be good men and to that intend
vér“. Hon kveðst eigi þat ætla, at þeir muni dyggvir
we She says-of-herself not that think that they will trusty
menn heita mega, ok gruna ek þat, hvórt þeir hafa unnit
men be-called may and suspect I that whether they have done
illvirki, eðr ætla þeir til; því at hvert sinn er þú
ill-deeds or intend they to(-it) because that each time when thou
gengr frá rúmi þínu, þá sjá þeir eftir þér ok bregða lit
goest from seat thy then look they after thee and change color
við“. Hann kveðst eigi þat ætla. „Enn ber ek meiri önn
at(-it) He says-of-himself not that think But bear I more care

fyrir þér, enn ek ætlaða“, sagði hon; „ek vil þú gangir frá
for thee than I thought said she I wish thou go from
húsi á morgin; (ok ef þeir) gera øngan grun á sér,
house on morrow and if they make no suspicion on themselves
þá mun þetta ekki vera; seg, at þú skalt heim í kveld,
then will this nothing be say that thou shalt home in evening
ok at þú vilir einn fara; ok ef þeir gera nökkurn grun
and that thou will alone go and if they make any suspicion
á sér, þá má vita, hverir þeir eru“. Án kvað svo vera
on themselves then may know who they are An said so be
skulu. Um morguninn gekk Án frá húsi, ok er vetrgestir
shall In the-morning went An from house and when winter-guests
sáu þat, hyggja þeir þá fœri á Án, ok fóru heiman í
saw that think they then chance on An and went from-home in
tveim stöðum, sex í hvórum stað, enn sex vóru heima
two places six in each place but six were at-home
af njósnarmönnum, ok sex af húskörlum, er fé tóku til
of spies and six of house-carls who wealth took on
höfuðs Áni; vóru sex af hvórum í fyrirsátrinu; þeir settust
head of-An were six of each in the-ambush they sat
hjá götu Áns. Jórunn hittir Grím ok sagði, at henni
by (the)-path of-An Jorunn meets Grim and said that to-her
þótti grunsamleg för þeira, „ok far þú á njósn“; hann
seemed suspicious journey their and go thou on spying he
kvaðst þess búinn, ok fór í skóg með marga menn,
said-of-himself of-that ready and went into wood with many men
svá at hinir vissu eigi, enn sáu þeir hvergi. Leið nú á
so that the-others knew not but saw they nowhere Passed now on
kveldit, ok sýndist þeim mest nauðsyn at fara heim ok
the-evening and seemed to-them most need to go home and
gæta tímans, at eigi yrði í ráðit um atförina; þeir kvómu
watch the-time that not became in counsel about the-attack they came

heim; Án var þá kominn í öndvegi, ok ekki frýnn;
home An was then come into high-seat and not friendly
Grímr var þá ok heim kominn. Án mælti: „Þat mun nú
Grim was then also home come An spoke That will now
hœfa vetrgestum vórum, at segja erindi sín, ok hvern þeir
befit winter-guests our to tell errand their and what they
ætluðu mér dauðann í dag; ek veit nú ráð yður, ok fyrir
intended for-me death in day I know now plan your and for
löngu vissa ek svik yður við mik; enn eigi hefik dygt
long knew I treachery your toward me but not have-I tested
hjónaval“. Þeir urðu við at ganga. Án mælti: „Eigi mun ek
household-choice They had about to admit An spoke Not will I
drepa hjón (mín) ok fari þau á burt; enn konungsmenn
kill household my and go they off away but king's-men
gef ek í vald Grími frænda mínum, ok hafi hann af
give I into power of-Grim kinsman my and have he from
þeim gaman í dag“. Grímr kvað slíkt vel mælt; hann fór
them sport in day Grim said such well spoken he went
til skógar með þá ok spyrti þá saman alla á einn gálga.
to wood with them and strung them together all on one gallows
Þetta spyrr Ingjaldr konungr ok líkar mjök illa. Þórir var
This hears Ingjald king and pleases very ill Thorir was
þá kominn til hirðarinnar; hann var hljóðr ok þótti mjök
then come to the-court he was silent and seemed much
þrútna málit; konungr spyrr, því hann væri svá hljóðr; „vel
swelling the-matter (the)-king asks why he were so silent well
viljum vér til þín gera sem fyrr“. Þórir sagði: „Ekki frý
will we to thee do as before Thorir said Not doubt
ek á þat, enn varla verðr þat með hallkvæmd“. Konungr
I on that but hardly becomes that with fitness (The)-king
spyrr: „Hvat skortir at um þat, sem faðir minn gerði?“
asks What lacks to about that which father my did

„Ekki leita ek á þetta“, sagði Þórir, „enn stœrrum gaf
Not seek I at this said Thorir but greater gave
faðir þinn mér sem er sverð þetta“. Konungr sagði: „Er þat
father thy me as is sword this (The)-king said Is that
gersemi mikil?“ „Sjá þú“, sagði Þórir. Konungr tók við ok
treasure great See thou said Thorir (The)-king took up(-it) and
brá sverðinu ok mælti: „Ekki er þetta ótígins manns eiga“.
drew the-sword and spoke Not is this low-born man's possession
Þórir sagði: „Þiggi þér þá, herra“. Konungr sagði: „Eigi
Thorir said Accept you (it)-then lord (The)-king said Not
vil ek þat; þú skalt eiga ok þér lengst fylgja“. Hann gekk
wish I that thou shalt own(-it) and thee longest follow He went
at Þóri í hásætinu ok lagði í gegn um hann, ok lét þar
at Thorir in the-high-seat and thrust in against through him and let there
standa sverðit í sárinu. Hann mælti: „Ýmsar munu vit
stand the-sword in the-wound He spoke Various will we-two
Án sendast sendingar á milli“. Síðan bjó hann skip,
An send(-each-other) sendings in between Then fitted he ship
ok vóru á sex tigir manna, ok bað þá fara á fund
and were on(-it) six tens of-men and bade them go to (the)-meeting
Áns ok leggja í lægi hans ok teygja hann á skip; „ok
of-An and lay in harbor his and lure him onto ship and
segið at þar sé kominn Þórir bróðir hans, ok vili leita
say-ye that there be come Thorir brother his and will seek
um sættir; enn ef hann kemr í greipr yðr, þá drepið
about settlements but if he comes into grips your then kill-ye
hann ok er þá goldit nökkut fyrir mína bræðr, ef þessir
him and is then paid somewhat for my brothers if these
koma fyrir þá; komið snemma dags til Áns“. Þetta verk
come for them come-ye early in-day to An This deed
mæltist mjök illa fyrir, ok var hann nú kallaðr Ingjaldr
was-spoken-of very ill before and was he now called Ingjald

hinn illi af hverjum manni; síðan fóru þeir veg sinn; enn
the Evil by every man then went they way their but
áðr um nóttina enn þeir kvómu við land, þá dreymdi Án
before in the-night than they came to land then dreamed An
ok sagði Jórunni: „Mér þótti Þórir hér kominn daprlegr
and told Jorunn To-me seemed Thorir here come sad
mjök; enn ávalt hefir hann komit er mik hefir dreymt
very but always has he come when me has dreamed
hann; enn eigi vilda ek at þeir fœri erindislausir, er hann
him but not wished I that they went errandless who him
fœra hingat með slíku móti, (er mér) segir hugr um, því
bring hither in such manner as to-me says mind about because
hann sýndist mér allr blóðugr, ok stóð sverð í gegn um
he seemed to-me all bloody and stood sword in against through
hann“. Hon kvað svá vera mega, at skýrir væri draumar
him She said so be may that clear were dreams
hans. Án spratt upp ok sagði at menn mundu koma;
his An sprang up and said that men would come
hann lét búa fjögur skip, ok vóru tvau við útey, enn
he had prepare four ships and were two by outer-island but
önnur tvau í leynivógi hjá læginu fyrir bænum; Án sendi
other two in hidden-cove by the-harbor before the-farm An sent
menn í bygðina eftir mönnum, at drekka fagnaðaröl á
men into the-settlement after men to drink welcome-ale in
mót Þóri, ef hann kemr glaðr ok heill, ellegar reyna vópn
against Thorir if he comes glad and whole or-else try weapons
sín. Án var á bœnum, enn menn hans á skipum, ok beið
their An was at the-farm but men his on ships and waited
hann búinn þess, er at höndum kœmi. Eftir þat sjá þeir,
he ready for-that which to hands came After that see they
at skip rendi á lægit fyrir bœinn, ok rauðir skildir
that ship ran into the-harbor before the-farm and red shields

á. Skipamenn sendu Án orð, at hann kœmi ofan ok
on(-it) Ship-men sent An word that he should-come down and
fyndi Þóri bróður sinn, er þar var kominn at leita um
meet Thorir brother his who there was come to seek about
sættir. Án mælti: „Oft hefir hann ekki þann mun metit,
settlements An spoke Often has he not that difference measured
(at ganga heim), ok lætr hann nú lítit á skorta“. Þeir
to go home and lets he now little on lack They
kvóðu honum svefnhöfugt. Án kveðst ganga mundu ofan
said to-him sleep-heavy An says-of-himself go would down
at skipi, enn eigi lengra; þeir treystust eigi at ganga at
to ship but not farther they dared not to go at
honum, ok skutu Þóri af skipi upp, ok báðu Án taka við
him and shoved Thorir from ship up and bade An take up
vinsending Ingjalds konungs; Án tók Þóri upp ok mælti:
friend-sending of-Ingjald king An took Thorir up and spoke
„Goldit hefir þú grunnýðgi þinnar, er þú trúðir konungi
Paid hast thou shallowness thy when thou trustedst (the)-king
vel, enn annat mun nú skyldara, enn at ávíta þik“; hann
well but other will now more-due than to reproach thee he
skaut honum í hellisskúta, enn hljóp út á skipit, ok brá
shoved him into cave-hollow but leapt out onto the-ship and raised
upp rauðum skildi; hann leggr nú at þeim, ok börðust þeir,
up red shield he lays now at them and fought they
ok fellu mjök menn Ingjalds konungs. Einn maðr barðist
and fell many men of-Ingjald king One man fought
á knjánum; Grímr sótti at honum; enn sá maðr hjó
on the-knees Grim pressed at him but that man hewed
til hans á knésbótina ok af kálfann með hælbeininu,
at him on the-hollow-of-the-knee and off the-calf with the-heel-bone
ok lét hann mundu stirðfœttan, áðr enn grœtt væri;
and made-out him would stiff-footed before than healed were

þeir drápu hvert manns barn. Án lét haug gera ok skip í
they killed every man's child An had mound make and ship in
setja ok Þóri í lyfting, enn konungsmenn á hvórttveggja
set and Thorir in poop but king's-men on each
borð, til þess at þat sýndist í því, at honum skyldu allir
side for that that it seemed in that that him should all
þjóna. Grímr var grœddr. Konungr spyrr nú þessi tíðendi,
serve Grim was healed (The)-king hears now these tidings
ok þótti enn eigi mjök aukizt hafa sinn sómi eðr sœmd.
and seemed still not much increased have his esteem or honor

VII · ÞÓRIR HIGH-LEG

Ingjaldr's men attack Án's farm; Án and Grímr escape by boat, Grímr dies, and Án is saved by the cottager Erpr. Later Án meets a young archer who proves to be his son Þórir by Drífa. Jórunn names him Þórir háleggr. Þórir burns Ingjaldr's hall, kills the king, and takes his sister Ása. Án goes north to Hrafnista; from him descend Ingimundr the Old of Vatnsdalr and Sigurðr bjóðaskalli.

Þat var einn morgin, at Án var heima á bœ sínum, at
That was one morning that An was at-home on farm his that
hann mælti: „Þat hygg ek, sagði hann, „at menn sé í
he spoke That think I said he that men be in
skóginum, mjök margir, ok má vera, at komi at því, sem
the-wood very many and may be that (it)-come to that as
mælt er, at mikit er konungs ríkit ok mikil er konungs
said is that great is (the)-king's realm and great is (the)-king's
gifta“. Án vekr nú húskarla sína, ok mælti: „Oft finst þat
luck An wakes now house-carls his and spoke Often is-found that
á, at ek er vel kvóngaðr; Jórunn hefir oft varat mik við,
in(-it) that I am well married Jorunn has often warned me at(-it)

at ek skylda eigi sitja hér við mótþykki konungs, enn
that I should not sit here against (the)-ill-will of-(the)-king but
ek vildi láta drífa um stafn, sem verða mætti“. Síðan tók
I would let drive about stem as become might Then took
hann ás einn, ok hjó í sundr, ok telgir handarhald á
he beam one and hewed (it)-in asunder and carves hand-hold on
báðum hlutunum. Án sagði: „Þá er vér komum út, mun
both the-pieces An said Then when we come out will
hringr sleginn um oss, enn mér þykkir ilt at flýja; enn
ring struck about us but to-me seems ill to flee but
vit Grímr munum eigi vópnum við koma“, ok bað hann
we-two Grim will not weapons to bring and bade him
taka annan trélurkinn, ok svá gerðu þeir. Þeir snøru nú til
take other the-wood-club and so did they They turned now to
sjóvar; þá var konungr þar kominn með mikinn mannfjölda.
sea then was (the)-king there come with great multitude
Þeir Án ruddu götu fyrir sér, ok lömdu á tvær hendr;
They An cleared path before themselves and struck on two hands
þótti konungs mönnum þar eigi gott at búa undir, enn
seemed to-king's men there not good to dwell under(-it) but
húskarlar sóttu þar eftir, ok vóru margir drepnir, enn konur
house-carls pressed there after and were many slain but women
kómust á náðir Jórunnar. Þeir Án ok Grímr kvómust
came to (the)-protection of-Jorunn They An and Grim came
á eina róðrarskútu, ok sáu konungsflotann umhverfis sik,
onto one rowing-boat and saw (the)-king's-fleet around them
enn út miðsyndis var ein njósnarskúta. Án sagði, at honum
but out mid-sound was one spy-boat An said that to-him
þœtti vel, at þeir gerði þeim nökkurn öfundarkrók, „sem
seemed good that they made them some envy-book as
oss eru settir til meins“. Án skaut einum fork, er járni
for-us are set for harm An thrust one fork which with-iron

var búinn, undir rangbyrðit á skútunni, ok gerðist þat
was fitted under (the)-bottom-plank on the-boat and became that
skifti á, at sjór kolblár kom í staðinn, ok kölluðu menn
change in(-it) that sea coal-blue came into the-place and called men
á konungs skipin, at þeir hjálpi þeim. Án sótti undan út
to (the)-king's ships that they help them An pressed away out
á millum þeira. Án sagði, at meiri mundi róðr Gríms,
in between them An said that greater would-be (the)-rowing of-Grim
ef báðir fœtr hans væri jafnir; hann kvað einkis skyldu
if both feet his were even he said nothing should
í sakna. Án fann eigi fyrr enn hlummarnir á árunum
in(-it) miss An found not sooner than the-oar-handles on the-oars
skullu millum herða honum, enn Grímr var sprunginn af
struck between shoulders his but Grim was burst from
róðrinum. Án sté nú fyrir borð, ok vildi þat sízt, at
the-rowing An stepped now over board and wished that least that
konungs menn hefði hendr at honum; þeir sáu, at maðrinn
king's men had hands on him they saw that the-man
var fyrir borð stiginn, enn annarr lá dauðr í austrinum;
was over board stepped but (the)-other lay dead in the-bilge
þeir segja konungi þetta; hann sagði: „Þess var vón at Án
they tell (the)-king this he said That was hope that An
fyrirmyndi oss at hafa hendr at honum, enn þó skal honum
grudged us to have hands on him but yet shall him
fyrir alt eitt koma, ok setjum vörðu alt með sjónum, at
for all one come and set-we watch all along the-sea that
hann komist eigi á land“. Þetta kom Án í hug, ok snýr
he come not to land This came to-An into mind and turns
þvers til eyjar einnar, er lá utan fyrir, ok komst þar upp,
across to island one which lay out before and came there up
ok var þá allmáttfarinn. Erpr hét sá, er þar bjó, ok
and was then very-exhausted Erp was-called he who there dwelt and

kona hans; ekki var þar fleira manna. Erpr kannar fjörur,
wife his not was there more of-men Erp searches shores
ok fór með eyk, ok sá, at maðr lá mikill á ströndinni;
and went with draft-horse and saw that a-man lay great on the-strand
bóndi ætlaði hann dauðan ok gekk illa at honum; Án
(the)-farmer thought him dead and went ill at him An
bað hann fara djarflega. Erpr sagði: „Þú munt hafa hœgri
bade him go boldly Erp said Thou wilt have softer
sæng haft heima hjá Jórunni“. Hann ekr honum nú heim,
bed had at-home with Jorunn He drives him now home
ok skögðu fœtrnir út af vagninum; kerling bað hann eigi
and jutted the-feet out from the-wagon (the)-crone bade him not
dauðum manni heim aka. Erpr kvað önnur efni í vera
dead man home drive Erp said other matters in (it-to)-be
ok sagði henni; hon mælti, at þat mundi gott til fjár, ef
and told her she spoke that that would good for wealth if
við góðan dreng ætti um. Án hrestist þar nú mjök.
with good warrior (they)-had about(-it) An recovered there now much
Ingjaldr konungr hugði Án dauðan, ok fór hann heim. Án
Ingjald king thought An dead and went he home An
var með karli, ok er hann var heill, flytr Erpr hann til
was with (the)-churl and when he was whole carries Erp him to
lands; Án kvað þeim vel farit hafa, ok gaf kerlingu gull,
land An said to-them well gone have and gave (the)-crone gold
enn Erpi eyna, ok lét þó meira skyldu verðkaup þeira
but to-Erp the-island and made-out yet more should payment their
í tómi. Síðan kom Án heim. Jórunn hafði nökkut snúit
in leisure Then came An home Jorunn had somewhat turned
áleiðis á meðan, ok skorti þó mikit á, at risna mætti
forward on while and lacked yet much in that hospitality might
haldast. Menn fögnuðu vel Án; enn hann svarar húsfreyju:
be-kept Men welcomed well An but he answers (the)-housewife

„Ekki höfum vér jafnir verit um fjárhagina hingat til við
Not have we equal been about the-finances hither to with
þik“; hon kvaðst ekki at því telja, ef hann heldist
thee she said-of-herself not at that complain if he kept
við; honum kom nú í hug, at eigi mundi óráðlegt, at
with(-her) To-him came now into mind that not would ill-advised to
vitja fjárins í skála Garans, því honum þótti nú nauðsyn
visit the-wealth in (the)-hut of-Garan because to-him seemed now need
til bera; hann lét þat nú heim færa, ok sagði Jórunni:
to(-it) bear he had it now home bring and said to-Jorunn
„hér máttu líta á mína eigu“, ok segir allan tilburðinn;
here mayest-thou look on my possession and tells all the-course-of-events
þótti hann þá eigi félauss sem menn ætluðu; kom nú í
seemed he then not penniless as men thought came now into
samt lag um fé þeira sem áðr eðr meira. Án setr nú
same state about wealth their as before or more An sets now
njósnir alla vega frá sér. Ingjaldr konungr frétti þetta, ok
spies all ways from himself Ingjald king learned this and
hafði hann gæzlur á sér, ok svaf í skála hjá hirð sinni.
had he guards on himself and slept in hall with court his
Án fylgdi smíðum sínum sem fyrr; ok eitt kveld, sem hann
An followed smithwork his as before and one evening as he
gekk frá smíðinni, sá hann í ey einni eld brenna; honum
went from the-smithwork saw he on island one fire burn to-him
kom í hug, at konungr mundi enn vitja eða snöttungar
came into mind that (the)-king would again visit or robbers
mundu leggjast á fé hans; hann forvitnast um ok
would fall on wealth his he inquires about(-it) and
fór til sjóvar einnsaman, ok tók sér bát ok rær til
went to sea alone and took for-himself boat and rows to
eyjarinnar. Hann sá þar mann sitja við eldstó, unglegan
the-island He saw there a-man sit by fireplace young

ok mikinn; sá var í skyrtu ok línbrók; hann mataðist;
and big he was in shirt and linen-breeches he ate
silfrdiskr stóð fyrir honum; hann hafði knif tannskeftan, ok
silver-dish stood before him he had knife tooth-hafted and
stakk upp ór katlinum, ok át slíkt af er honum sýndist,
stuck up from the-kettle and ate such off(-it) as to-him seemed
enn kastar aftr í, er kólnaði, enn tók þá annat upp. Án
but throws back in what cooled but took then other up To-An
þótti hann eigi varlega búa um sik; hann skaut til hans,
seemed he not carefully dwell about himself he shot at him
ok kom í stykkit, er hann vó upp ór katlinum, ok
and came into the-piece which he lifted up from the-kettle and
datt þat í ösku niðr; hann leggr skeytit niðr hjá sér, ok
fell that into ash down he lays the-arrow down by himself and
mataðist sem áðr. Án skaut ör annarri, ok kom hon í
ate as before An shot arrow another and came it into
diskinn fyrir hann, ok fell hann í tvó hluti; þessi sat ok
the-dish before him and fell it into two parts this-one sat and
gaf øngan gaum at þessu; þá skaut Án hinni þriðju, ok
gave no heed to this then shot An the third and
kom sú í knífskeftit, er aftr stóð ór hendi honum,
came that-one into the-knife-haft which back stood from hand his
ok fló skeftit í tvó hluti. Þá mælti sjá hinn ungi maðr:
and flew the-haft into two parts Then spoke this the young man
„Þessi maðr gerði mér mein, enn sér lítit gagn, er hann
This man did me harm but himself little gain when he
spilti knífi mínum“. Hann þreif upp boga sinn, enn Án
spoiled knife my He seized up bow his but to-An
kom í hug, at eigi var víst, hvar óskytin ör geigaði;
came into mind that not was certain where unshot arrow would-swerve
hann gekk öðrum megin eikarinnar ok lét hana á millum
he went (to)-other side of-the-oak and let it in between

þeira. Sjá hinn ungi maðr skaut hinni fyrstu ör, svá
them This the young man shot the first arrow so
Án hugði at koma mundi á hann miðjan, ef hann hefði
An thought that come would on him middle if he had
beðit; önnur þótti honum sem komit mundi hafa fyrir
waited (the)-second seemed to-him as-if come would have before
bringspalir honum, enn hin þriðja í augat, ok stóðu svá
(the)-midriff of-him but the third into the-eye and stood so
allar til í eikinni, þar sem Án hafði staðit. Þá mælti sá
all to in the-oak there where An had stood Then spoke that
hinn ungi maðr: „Hitt er þeim ráð, er skaut at mér,
the young man That is for-him counsel who shot at me
at sýna sik nú, ok hittumst við, ef hann á við mik
to show himself now and meet-we together if he has with me
sakir“. Síðan gekk Án fram, ok tóku til (at) glíma, ok var
cases Then went An forward and took to to wrestle and was
þeira atgangr mjök sterklegr. Án mœddist skjótara, því at
their onset very strong An tired quicker because that
hinn var stinnleggaðr ok sterkr. Án bað þá hvílast, enn
the-other was stiff-legged and strong An bade then rest but
hinn ungi maðr lézt búinn til hvórstveggja, ok þó réð
the young man professed ready for each and yet ruled
Án; hann spyrr: „hvert er nafn þitt?“ hann kvaðst Þórir
An he asks what is name thy he said-of-himself Thorir
heita, enn sagði föður sinn heita Án, „eðr hverr ertu?“ „Ek
be-called but said father his be-called An or who art-thou I
heiti Án“, sagði hann. Ungi maðr sagði“. „Þat mun
am-called An said he (The)-young man said That will
satt vera, at margs góðs muntu án vera, ok ertu nú
true be that of-much good wilt-thou without be and art-thou now
án sauðarins þess, er ek tók“. Án sagði: „Hirðum ekki
without the-sheep that which I took An said Care-we not

um heiftarmál, ok er þetta lítils vert, eðr hverjar hefir þú
about hate-speeches and is this little worth or what hast thou
jartegnir, ef þú finnr föður þinn?“ „Ek ætla finnast muni
tokens if thou findest father thy I think found will
sönn merki sögu minnar, enn þó em ek eigi skyldr þér at
true tokens of-tale my but yet am I not bound to-thee to
sýna“, sagði Þórir. Án lét þat betr sama at sýna, hvat til
show said Thorir An made that better befit to show what to
marks væri um faðerni hans. Þórir sýnir honum hringinn.
token were about fatherhood his Thorir shows him the-ring
Án sagði: „Sönn eru þessi merki, at föður þinn hefir hér
An said True are these tokens that father thy has here
fyrir hitt, ok förum heim ok vitjum betra herbergis“. Þeir
before met and go-we home and visit better lodging They
gera nú svá, ok koma heim, ok sátu menn hans ok biðu
do now so and come home and sat men his and waited
eftir honum með ugg ok ótta, því þeir vissu eigi, hvat
after him with dread and fear because they knew not what
af honum var orðit. Án settist í öndvegi ok Þórir hjá
of him was become An sat in high-seat and Thorir beside
honum; Jórunn spyrr, hverr sjá maðr væri hinn ungi. Án
him Jorunn asks who this man were the young An
bað hann sjálfan segja til nafns síns. Hann sagði: „Þórir
bade him himself tell of name his He said Thorir
heiti ek, ok em ek son Áns“. Hon mælti: „Kemr at því,
am-called I and am I son of-An She spoke Comes to that
sem mælt er, at hverr er auðgari enn þykkist; ekki sagðir
as said is that each is wealthier than (he)-thinks not toldest
þú mér at þú ættir þenna son, enn þó hygg ek ekki
thou me that thou hadst this son but yet think I not
aukasmiði vera munu at honum, ok togið af honum, eðr
extra-work be will on him and pull-ye from him or

hversu gamall ertu?“ „Átján vetra“, sagði Þórir. Hon sagði:
how old art-thou Eighteen winters said Thorir She said
„Þat ætla ek, at ek muna kalla þik hálegg, því at ek
That think I that I will call thee High-Leg because that I
hefi øngum sét hærra til knés“. Hann sagði: „Þetta nafn
have none seen higher to knee He said This name
líkar mér, ok muntu gefa mér nökkut í nafnfesti, at
pleases me and wilt-thou give me something as name-fastening that
menn kalli mik svá“; hon sagði þat skyldu satt, ok gaf
men call me so she said that should (be)-true and gave
honum gull mikit. Án spyrr Þórir at um uppfœði hans
him gold much An asks Thorir of about upbringing his
með karli; hann kvað orð á hafa verit, at þar fœddist
with (the)-churl he said word about have been that there was-raised
upp dóttir; „því at Ingjaldr konungr vildi drepa mik, ok
up daughter because that Ingjald king would kill me and
flýðik því norðan sem verða mátti“. Þar var Þórir um
fled-I therefore from-the-north as become might There was Thorir through
vetrinn. Án mælti eitt sinn: „Eigi nenni ek at fœða þik
the-winter An spoke one time Not care I to feed thee
upp sitjanda lengr, ef þú leggr ekki fram“; hann kvaðst
up sitting longer if thou layest nothing forth he said-of-himself
eigi til hafa í fémunum nema hringinn. Án kvað sér
not to have in wealth except the-ring An said to-himself
betra þykkja, at hafa sendiför nökkura: „sýnist mér sem
better seem to have errand some seems to-me as-if
þú værir skyldr til at hefna nafns þíns á Ingjaldi konungi;
thou were bound to to avenge name thy on Ingjald king
ætla ek at þér verði auðit helzt af vórri ætt, því at
think I that to-thee be granted most from our kin because that
þat er reynt, at vit konungr leggjumst aldri hendr á;
that is tested that we-two (the)-king lay-on-each-other never hands on

ok ekki þarftu hingat at vitja, nema hefndin komi fram,
and not needest-thou hither to visit unless the-vengeance come forth
hvórt sem þú átt skylt við mik eðr eigi. Sverðit Þegn
whether as thou art related to me or not The-sword Thegn
skaltu eiga, ok ef þú kemr þessu verki fram, þá er þar
shalt-thou own and if thou bringest this work forth then is there
systir konungs; haf þú hana með þér, ok gjalt henni son
sister of-(the)-king have thou her with thee and pay her son
fyrir bróður". Þórir kvað þetta gera mundu, ok helt með
for brother Thorir said this do would and held with
skip albúit í hernað enn at hausti hafði hann fimm skip
ship all-ready into raiding but in autumn had he five ships
vel skipuð; hann var yfrit djarfr maðr ok sterkr ok hinn
well manned he was very bold man and strong and the
mesti hervíkingr. Hann kom á bœ Ingjalds konungs
greatest war-viking He came to (the)-farm of-Ingjald king
á náttarþeli, ok bar eld at skálanum; vöknuðu menn við
at night-dark and bore fire to the-hall woke men at
reykinn. Ingjaldr konungr spyrr, hverr fyrir eldinum réði.
the-smoke Ingjald king asks who for the-fire ruled
Hann kvað Þórir hálegg þar vera. Konungr segir: „Vera má
He said Thorir High-Leg there be (The)-king says Be may
at þessi gneisti hafi flogit af Drífu karls dóttur, því
that this spark have flown from Drifa (the)-churl's daughter because
þar hefir mér lengi grunr á verit; ok má vera at oss
there has to-me long suspicion on been and may be that to-us
verði fullelda um þat lýkr". Þórir kveðst á þat viljaðr,
be full-fire about that ends Thorir says-of-himself to that willing
at sjatnaði illvirki hans. Ingjaldr konungr lét þá brjóta
that subsided evil-deeds his Ingjald king had then break
upp stokkana, ok bera á skálahurðina, ok kvað eigi vilja
up the-logs and bear onto the-hall-door and said not will

inni brenna; þá hlupu menn út. Þórir var nær staddr, þá
inside burn then ran men out Thorir was near placed then
er konungr kom út, ok hjó hann banahögg. Hann tók
when (the)-king came out and hewed him death-blow He took
burt Ásu, ok hafði með sér ok mikit fé, ok sendi
away Asa and had (her)-with him and great wealth and sent
hvórttveggja föður sínum; hann tók vel við Ásu, enn Þórir
both to-father his he took well to Asa but Thorir
legst í hernað, ok vann mörg framaverk; hann var
lays-himself into raiding and did many deeds-of-renown he was
ágætr maðr ok þótti líkr föður sínum. Þórir kom með þat
excellent man and seemed like father his Thorir came with that
til Áns, at hann var orðinn stórauðigr, ok fekk þar góðar
to An that he was become very-wealthy and got there good
viðtökur. Hann var þar um vetrinn, enn at vóri sagði
welcome He was there through the-winter but in spring said
hann Áni, at hann vill á burt ráðast, „ok gef ek þér upp
he to-An that he will off away betake and give I thee up
eignir allar; enn þú girnst eigi eignir þær, sem Ingjaldr
possessions all but thou covet not possessions those which Ingjald
konungr hefir átt, því at skamt mun at bíða, at eytt
king has owned because that short will to wait that destroyed
mun fylkiskonungum; ok er betra at gæta sinnar sœmdar
will (the)-shire-kings and is better to guard his honor
enn at setjast í hærra stað ok þaðan minkast; enn ek
than to settle in higher place and thence lessen but I
mun fara norðr í Hrafnistu til eigna minna. Erp skaltu
will go north into Hrafnista to possessions my Erp shalt-thou
annast ok fóstra þinn ok móður“. Síðan fór Án norðr,
tend and foster-father thy and mother Then went An north
enn Þórir varð gildr maðr. Án kom norðr í eyna, ok
but Thorir became substantial man An came north to the-island and

átti hann þar dóttur, þá er Mjöll hét, móður Þorsteins,
had he there daughter that who Mjoll was-called mother of-Thorstein
Ketils sonar raums, föður Ingimundar hins gamla í Vazdal.
Ketil's son Raum's father of-Ingimund the Old in Vatnsdal
Án átti oft at berja um þær skinnkyrtlur norðr þar, ok
An had often to beat about those skin-tunics north there and
þótti hann hinn mesti maðr fyrir sér. Son Þóris var
seemed he the greatest man for himself (The)-son of-Thorir was
Ögmundr akraspillir, faðir Sigurðar bjóðaskalla, ágæts manns
Ogmund Field-Spoiler father of-Sigurd Feast-Bald excellent man
í Noregi, ok lýkr hér við sögu Áns bogsveigis.
in Norway and ends here with (the)-saga of-An Bow-Bender

Hrómundar saga Greipssonar

The Saga of Hromund Greipsson

King Óláfr rules Garðar in Denmark, with the brothers Kári and Örnúlfr guarding his land and the slanderers Bíldr and Voli at his side. Hrómundr is the boldest of Greipr's nine sons. Off the Úlfasker Kári finds the viking Hröngviðr, who boasts of thirty-three years of raiding and sixty battles and of his sword Brynþvari, and promises to sheathe it in Kári's breast.

Sá konungr réð fyrir Görðum í Danmörk, er Óláfr hét;
That king ruled over Gardar in Denmark who Olaf was-called
hann var son Gnoðar-Ásmundar; hann var maðr frægr.
he was son of-Gnod-Asmund he was man famous
Brœðr tveir Kári ok Örnúlfr vóru landvarnarmenn konungs,
Brothers two Kari and Ornulf were land-defense-men of-(the)-king
hermenn miklir. Þar bjó einn ríkr bóandi; sá hét
warriors great There dwelt one mighty farmer that-one was-called
Greipr; hann átti þá konu, er Gunnlöð hét, dóttir Hróks
Greip he had that wife who Gunnlod was-called daughter of-Hrok
hins svarta. Þau áttu níu sonu, er svá hétu: Hrólfr, Haki,
the Black They had nine sons who so were-called Hrolf Haki
Gautr, Þröstr, Angantýr, Logi, Hrómundr, Helgi, Hrókr; þeir
Gaut Throst Angantyr Logi Hromund Helgi Hrok they
vóru allir efnilegir menn, þó var Hrómundr fyrir þeim öllum;
were all promising men yet was Hromund before them all
hann kunni eigi at hræðast; hann var augnafagr, hárbjartr ok
he knew not to fear he was fair-eyed bright-haired and
herðamikill, mikill ok sterkr, líktist mjök Hróki móðurföður
broad-shouldered great and strong took-after much Hrok mother's-father
sínum. Með konungi vóru tveir menn; hét einn Bíldr,
his With (the)-king were two men was-called one Bild
annarr Voli; þeir vóru illir ok undirförulir; konungr matti
(the)-other Voli they were evil and sly (the)-king valued

þá mikils. Eitt sinn helt Óláfr konungr austr fyrir Noreg
them much One time held Olaf king east past Norway
með her sinn, ok heldu at Úlfaskerjum, herjuðu ok lágu
with army his and held to Ulfasker harried and lay
við eitt eyland. Konungr býðr Kára ok Örnúlfi at ganga
by one island (The)-king bids Kari and Ornulf to go
upp á eyjuna, ok vita hvórt þeir sæi engi herskip. Þeir
up onto the-island and see whether they saw no warships They
gengu upp á landit, ok litu sex herskip undir hömrum
went up onto the-land and saw six warships under crags
nokkurum; þar var einn dreki allskrautlegr. Kári kallar til
some there was one dragon-ship very-splendid Kari calls to
þeira ok spyrr, hverr fyrir skipunum réði. Einn dólgr stóð
them and asks who over the-ships ruled One fiend stood
upp á drekanum, ok kvaðst Hröngviðr heita, „eða hvert
up on the-dragon-ship and said-of-himself Hrongvid be-called or what
er nafn þitt?“ Kári sagði til sín ok síns bróður ok mælti:
is name thy Kari said of himself and his brother and spoke
„Ek veit engan verri enn þik, ok þar fyrir skal ek höggva
I know none worse than thee and there for shall I hew
þik í smá stykki“. Hröngviðr mælti: „Ek hefi herjað sumar
thee into small pieces Hrongvid spoke I have harried summer
ok vetr í þrjú ok þrjá tigi ár, ok háð sex tigi orrostur
and winter for three and three tens years and held six tens battles
ok fengit jafnan sigr; mitt sverð heitir Brynþvari, er aldri
and gotten always victory my sword is-called Byrnie-Washer which never
hefir sljóvgast; kom þú hér á morgun, Kári, ek skal slíðra
has dulled come thou here on morrow Kari I shall sheathe
hann í þínu brjósti“. Kári kveðst eigi bila mundu.
it in thy breast Kari says-of-himself not waver would
Hröngviðr mátti kjósa hvern dag mann fyrir sverðsins oddi.
Hrongvid might choose every day man before the-sword's point

In the battle Hröngviðr runs Kári through and spears Örnúlfr. No iron bites him. Hrómundr, armed with a club and wearing a gray goat-beard and a hat, takes up the king's banner, clubs Hröngviðr's black men to death, and kills Hröngviðr with three blows. The rest of the vikings surrender.

Þeir brœðr kómu aftr til konungs, ok sögðu honum tiðindin.
They brothers came back to (the)-king and told him the-tidings
Konungr bauð at halda til orrostu, ok svá var gert, hittust
(The)-king bade to hold to battle and so was done met
þeir, ok tókst þar harðr bardagi; þeir brœðr gengu vel fram;
they and was-joined there hard battle they brothers went well forward
Kári hafði jafnan átta eðr tólf í hverju höggi; Hröngviðr
Kari had always eight or twelve in each blow Hrongvid
sá þetta; hljóp hann upp á konungs skip til Kára, ok
saw this leapt he up onto (the)-king's ship to Kari and
lagði sverðinu í gegn um hann. Þegar Kári hafði fengit
thrust with-the-sword in against through him As-soon-as Kari had gotten
sárit, segir hann til konungs: „Lifið heilir, herra, ek man
the-wound says he to (the)-king Live hale lord I will
hjá Óðni gista". Hröngviðr vó Örnúlf upp á spjóti sínu.
with Odin lodge Hrongvid slew Ornulf up on spear his
Eftir fall þeira brœðra kallar Hröngviðr, at þeir skuli upp
After (the)-fall of-them brothers calls Hrongvid that they shall up
gefast; er þá illr kurr í liði konungs. Engi járn bitu
give is then ill murmur in (the)-force of-(the)-king No iron bit
Hröngvið. Nú er þess getit, at Hrómundr Greipsson var í
Hrongvid Now is of-that spoken that Hromund Greipsson was in
fylgd með konungi; hann tekr sér kylfu í hönd, bindr
following with (the)-king he takes for-himself club in hand binds

sér grátt ok sítt geitarskegg, ok setr síðan hatt á höfuð
on-himself gray and long goat-beard and sets then hat on head
sér, veðr svá fram, ok finnr þá bræðr báða dauða; tekr upp
his wades so forward and finds them brothers both dead takes up
merki konungs ok lemr með kylfunni blámenn til dauða.
(the)-banner of-(the)-king and beats with the-club black-men to death
Hröngviðr spyrr, hverr sá væri, „eðr er þetta nokkut faðir
Hrongvid asks who that were or is this any father
hans illa Kára?“ Hrómundr segir nafn sitt, ok kveðst
his ill Kari Hromund says name his and says-of-himself
hefna vilja þeira bræðra, „enn eigi var Kári mér skyldr, samt
avenge will them brothers but not was Kari to-me kin yet
skal ek drepa þik“, ok í (því) gaf hann Hröngviði kylfuhögg
shall I kill thee and in that gave he to-Hrongvid club-blow
svá mikit, at hann bar halt höfuð eftir ok mælti: „Ek hefi
so great that he bore limp head after and spoke I have
verit víða í bardögum ok aldri fengit þvílíkt högg“. Annat
been widely in battles and never gotten such blow (The)-second
högg sló Hrómundr til Hröngviðar, svá hausinn brotnaði;
blow struck Hromund at Hrongvid so the-skull broke
í þriðja höggi misti hann lífit. Eftir þat gengu þeir, sem
in (the)-third blow lost he the-life After that went those who
eftir lifðu, allir á hendr konungi, ok lyktaðist svá bardaginn.
left lived all on hands to-(the)-king and ended so the-battle

Hrómundr spares and heals Hröngviðr's brother Helgi the Bold, who goes to Sweden. In the Hebrides a churl named Máni, whose cows the king's men have taken, tells Hrómundr of the berserk Þráinn, once king of Valland, buried in a mound with great treasure. Hrómundr pays him and sails six days south to the mound.

Nú kannar Hrómundr skipin, ok finnr einn mann hallast
Now searches Hromund the-ships and finds one man lean
upp við í stafni; hann spyrr þann mann at nafni; sá
up against in (the)-prow he asks that man of name that-one
kveðst Helgi heita hinn frœkni, bróðir Hröngviðar, „ok
says-of-himself Helgi be-called the Bold brother of-Hrongvid and
nenni ek eigi friðar at biðja". Hrómundr lét grœða Helga
care I not of-peace to ask Hromund had heal Helgi
hinn frœkna. Hann sigldi þar eftir í Svíþjóð, ok gerðist
the Bold He sailed there after into Sweden and became
landvarnarmaðr. Þar eftir helt Óláfr konungr liði sínu vestr
land-defense-man There after held Olaf king force his west
til Suðreyja, gengu þar á land ok tóku strandhögg. Karl
to (the)-Hebrides went there on land and took shore-raid Churl
einn bjó þar nærri; konungsmenn höfðu tekit kýr hans, ok
one dwelt there near king's-men had taken cows his and
ráku undan sér; lét hann mjök aumlega um þann missi.
drove (them)-before them made he very pitifully about that loss
Hrómundr kemr at, ok spyrr hverr sá væri; karlinn segir,
Hromund comes to(-him) and asks who that were the-churl says
at bygð sín væri allskamt þaðan, ok kvað meiri fremd, at
that dwelling his were very-short thence and said greater renown to
brjóta hauga ok ræna drauga fé. Þessi kvaðst Máni at
break mounds and rob ghosts' wealth This-one said-of-himself Mani by

nafni. Hrómundr bað hann segja sér, ef hann vissi nokkut
name Hromund bade him tell him if he knew anything
um soddan. Máni sagðist víst vita, ok mælti: „Þráinn,
about such Mani said-of-himself surely know and spoke Thrain
sem vann Valland, ok var þar konungr, berserkr mikill
who won Valland and was there king berserk great
ok sterkr, fullr galdra, hann var settr í haug með sverði,
and strong full of-spells he was set in mound with sword
herklæðum ok fé miklu, enn fáir fýsast þangat". Hrómundr
war-gear and wealth great but few desire thither Hromund
spyrr, hverja leið sigla skal þangat; hann segir at hann
asks which way sail (one)-shall thither he says that he
má sigla rétt suðr í sex daga. Hrómundr þakkar karli
may sail straight south for six days Hromund thanks (the)-churl
fregn þessa, gaf honum fé, ok lét hann taka kýr sínar.
(for)-news this gave him wealth and let him take cows his
Sigldu þeir svá þaðan, eftir því, sem karl vísaði þeim til,
Sailed they so thence after that which (the)-churl directed them to
ok at sex daga fresti sáu þeir hauginn rétt fyrir framstafni.
and at six days' end saw they the-mound straight before prow

IV · HRÓMUNDR AND THE MOUND-DWELLER

Hrómundr is let down alone into the mound, gathers the treasure, and takes the sword Mistilteinn. Þráinn wrestles him and tears his flesh; thrown, he tells how he won a hundred and twenty-four holm-fights with it. Hrómundr cuts off his head and burns him, and keeps the sword, a ring, and a necklace.

Þeir kómu vestan at Vallandi, ok fundu hauginn ok
They came from-the-west to Valland and found the-mound and
rufu þegar. Ok at liðnum sex dögum kómu þeir glugga
broke(-it) at-once And at passed six days made they window

á hauginn; sáu þeir at þar sat á stóli dólgr mikill, blár
into the-mound saw they that there sat on chair fiend great black
ok digr, allr gulli klæddr, svá leiftraði af, rumdi hann
and stout all with-gold clad so flashed from(-him) roared he
mjök, ok blés at eldi. Hrómundr spyrr, hverr nú vill ganga
much and blew at fire Hromund asks who now will go
í hauginn, ok sá skuli kjósa sér þrjá gripi. Voli
into the-mound and that-one shall choose for-himself three treasures Voli
kvað: „Engi mundi vilja gefa líf sitt við því; eru hér nú
said None would wish give life his for that are here now
sex tigir manna, ok man tröll þetta öllum dauða veita“.
six tens of-men and will troll this to-all death give
Hrómundr mælti: „Vogat mundi Kári hafa þetta, ef lífs
Hromund spoke Dared would Kari have this if alive
væri“, ok kvað maklegt, þó sér væri niðr slept í festi,
(he)-were and said fitting yet (that)-he were down let on rope
þó betra sé at fást við átta aðra. Fór svá Hrómundr niðr
though better be to deal with eight others Went so Hromund down
í festinni; var þat á nóttu; ok er hann kom niðr, bar
on the-rope was that at night and when he came down bore
hann saman fé mikit, ok batt í festarenda. Þráinn
he together wealth great and bound (it)-on (the)-rope's-end Thrain
hafði verit á fyrri dögum konungr yfir Vallandi, ok vann
had been in former days king over Valland and won
alt með göldrum, gerði margt ilt af sér, ok þá hann var
all with spells did much ill of himself and when he was
svá gamall, at hann kunni eigi at stríða lengr, lét hann
so old that he could not to fight longer had he
setja sik lifandi í hauginn ok mikit fé með sér. Nú
set himself living into the-mound and great wealth with him Now
sér Hrómundr, hvar sverðit hangir uppi á einni súlu; hann
sees Hromund where the-sword hangs up on one pillar he

kippir því ofan, girðist með, ok gengr fram at stólnum
pulls it down girds-himself with(-it) and goes forward to the-chair
ok mælti: „Mér mun vera mál ór haugnum, fyrst enginn
and spoke For-me will be time out-of the-mound since none
hamlar, eða hvernin vegnar þér hérna, hinn gamli?
hinders or how fares (it)-with-thee here the old
sástu eigi at ek bar saman fé þitt, enn þú höktir kyrr,
sawest-thou not that I bore together wealth thy but thou coweresr still
hundr leiðr, eðr hvat var þér í augum, er þú horfðir
hound loathsome or what was to-thee in eyes when thou lookedst
á, at ek tók sverðit ok menit ok fjölda þinna annarra
on that I took the-sword and the-necklace and multitude of-thy other
gripa?“ Þráinn kvað sér einkis um vert þykkja, ef hann
treasures Thrain said to-himself nothing about worth seem if he
léti sik kyrran sitja á stóli sínum; „ek kunna áðr fyrr
let himself still sit on chair his I could before earlier
at berjast; er (ek) þá orðinn nógu ragr, ef þú einn skalt
to fight am I then become enough craven if thou alone shalt
ræna mik auði, ok vil ek synja þér gripanna; máttu sjá
rob me of-wealth and will I deny thee the-treasures mayest-thou beware
við mér dauðum“. Þá mælti Hrómundr: „Rigaðu þér á
against me dead Then spoke Hromund Get-thou thyself on
fœtr, ragr ok blauðr, ok tak þú sverðit aftr af mér, ef þú
feet craven and coward and take thou the-sword back from me if thou
þorir“. Draugr mælti: „Þat er engin fremd, at bera sverð á
darest (The)-ghost spoke That is no renown to bear sword on
mik vápnlausan, heldr vil ek reyna afl við þik ok glímu“.
me weaponless rather will I test strength with thee and wrestling
Hrómundr kastar þá sverðinu ok treystir afli sínu. Þráinn
Hromund throws then the-sword and trusts strength his Thrain
sá þetta ok leysti ofan ketil sinn, er hafði uppi. Hann var
saw this and loosed down kettle his which (he)-had up He was

þá eigi frýnlegr, blés þá at eldi, er hann var búinn at
then not pleasant-looking blew then at fire when he was ready to
eta ór katlinum; funi mikill var í milli fóta honum, enn
eat from the-kettle flame great was in between feet his but
ketillinn fullr í búki; hann var í stakki gullfáguðum; báðar
the-kettle full in belly he was in smock gold-adorned both
hendr hans vóru brenglaðar, ok beygðust neglr fyrir góma.
hands his were twisted and bent nails before fingertips
Hrómundr mælti: „Skríddu af stóli, skálkr argr, sviftr öllu
Hromund spoke Crawl-thou off chair rogue craven stripped of-all
fé“. Þá sagði draugr: „Nú man mál vera, at fara á fœtr,
wealth Then said (the)-ghost Now will time be to go on feet
fyrst þú frýjar mér hugar“. Dagr líðr, enn kveldar, ok
since thou tauntest me of-courage Day passes but evening-comes and
gerðist þá myrkt í haugnum; hann gekk þá til glímu við
became then dark in the-mound he went then to wrestling with
Hrómund, enn kastaði niðr katli sínum. Neytti þá Hrómundr
Hromund but threw down kettle his Used then Hromund
afls, ok svá gengust þeir hart at, at grjót ok steinar
strength and so went-at-each-other they hard at(-it) that gravel and stones
gengu upp. Þá datt draugrinn á annat kné, ok mælti: „Þú
went up Then fell the-ghost on one knee and spoke Thou
stjakar mér, ok víst ertu hraustr maðr“. Hrómundr sagði:
shovest me and surely art-thou hardy man Hromund said
„Stattu stuðningslaust á fœtr aftr; miklu ertu linari, enn
Stand-thou propless on feet again much art-thou softer than
Máni karl sagði“. Þá tók Þráinn at tryllast, ok fyltist
Mani (the)-churl said Then took Thrain to grow-troll-like and filled-itself
upp haugrinn með illan daun, setti hann þá klœr sínar á
up the-mound with evil stench set he then claws his on
hnakka Hrómundi, ok sleit hold af beinum á lendar ofan
(the)-nape of-Hromund and tore flesh off bones on loins down

ok mælti: „Kvarta eigi um, þó gráni leikrinn ok sárni
and spoke Complain not about though grow-gray the-play and smart
kroppr þinn, því nú skal ek rífa þik kvikan í sundr“.
body thy because now shall I tear thee alive in asunder
„Eigi veit ek“, sagði Hrómundr, „hvaðan soddan kattakyn
Not know I said Hromund whence such cats'-kin
er komit í haug þenna“. Draugrinn mælti: „Þú munt
is come into mound this The-ghost spoke Thou wilt
fæddr vera af Gunnlöð; eru fáir þínir líkar“. „Ilt mun vera“,
born be of Gunnlod are few thy likes Ill will be
sagði Hrómundr, „at þú klórir mik lengi“; glímdu þeir
said Hromund that thou claw me long wrestled they
hart ok lengi, svá alt skalf, þat nærri var, þar til um síðir,
hard and long so all shook that near was there till at last
at Hrómundr feldi hann á fótarbragði. Þá var orðit mjök
that Hromund felled him by foot-trip Then was become very
dimt; þá mælti draugr: „Nú vanstu mik með ráðum, ok
dark then spoke (the)-ghost Now wonnest-thou me by wiles and
tókst sverð mitt; þat skifti með okkr leikum; lengi hefi ek
tookest sword my that changed between us-two games long have I
lifat í haugi mínum, ok lafat á fé, enn eigi er gott at
lived in mound my and dangled on wealth but not is good to
trúa gripum sínum, þó góðir þykki, of mjök, ok aldri
trust treasures one's though good (they)-seem too much and never
hefi ek ætlat, at þú, Mistilteinn, mitt góða sverð, mundir
have I thought that thou Mistletoe my good sword would
verða mér til meins“. Varð Hrómundr þá lauss ok náði
become to-me for harm Became Hromund then loose and got
sverðinu, ok mælti: „Herm mér nú, hvat marga menn í
the-sword and spoke Tell me now how many men in
hólmgöngu þú vanst með Mistilteini“. „Hundrað fjóra ok
holm-going thou wonnest with Mistletoe Hundred four and

tuttugu“, kvað draugrinn, „ok fekk ek aldri skeinu. Semingr
twenty said the-ghost and got I never scratch Seming
konungr, er var í Svíþjóð, ok ek, reyndum okkrar íþróttir,
king who was in Sweden and I tested our-two skills
ok hugði hann ek mundi seint unninn verða“. „Lengi hefir
and thought he I would slowly overcome be Long hast
þú“, sagði Hrómundr, „verit mönnum til meins, ok mun
thou said Hromund been to-men for harm and will
þat happaverk at láta þik sem fyrst deyja“. Hjó hann svá
that lucky-deed to let thee as soonest die Hewed he so
höfuðit af draugnum, ok brendi hann upp allan á báli; fór
the-head off the-ghost and burned him up all on pyre went
svá ór haugnum. Spurðu menn þá, hvernin Þráinn ok hann
so out-of the-mound Asked men then how Thrain and he
hefðu skilit; hann kvað þat hafa gengit í kjör, „því ek
had parted he said that have gone as choice because I
hjó af honum höfuðit“. Eignaðist Hrómundr þá þrjá gripi,
hewed off him the-head Got Hromund then three treasures
er hann sótti í hauginn, hring, men ok Mistiltein. Allir
which he fetched in the-mound ring necklace and Mistletoe All
fengu þeir of fjár; sigldi Óláfr konungr svá þaðan
got they abundance of-wealth sailed Olaf king so thence
ok norðr til síns ríkis; settist síðan at landi sínu um kyrt.
and north to his realm settled then in land his in quiet

Voli kills Hrókr, to whom Hrómundr had given a ring. Hrómundr grows close to the king's sister Svanhvít, and the slanders of Voli and Bíldr drive him and his brother from court. Svanhvít reproaches her brother for keeping such men and dismissing the one who entered the mound.

Eftir þetta var Hrómundr mjök frægr, vinsæll ok stórgjöfull;
After this was Hromund very famous well-liked and great-giving
hann gaf einum manni, þeim er Hrókr hét, eitt sinn
he gave to-one man that who Hrok was-called one time
gullhring góðan, er vó eyri. Þat fekk Voli at vita, ok drap
gold-ring good which weighed ounce That got Voli to know and killed
Hrók á náttartíma, enn tók hringinn. Enn sem konungr vissi
Hrok at night-time but took the-ring But as (the)-king knew
þetta, kvaðst hann skyldi launa Vola einhvern tíma hans
this said-of-himself he should repay Voli some time his
hrekki. Konungr átti tvær systr; önnur þeira hét Dagný,
tricks (The)-king had two sisters one of-them was-called Dagny
enn hin Svanhvít; sú var framar at öllu, ok var engin
but the-other Svanhvit that-one was foremost in all and was no
hennar líki millum Svíþjóðar ok Hálogalands. Hrómundr
her like between Sweden and Halogaland Hromund
Greipsson var nú heima, ok gerði sér kátt við Svanhvít, ok
Greipsson was now at-home and made himself merry with Svanhvit and
forðast hvórki Vola né Bíld. Hon mælti eitt sinn við Hrómund
avoided neither Voli nor Bild She spoke one time with Hromund
ok segir, Voli ok Bíldr muni rœgja hann við konung. Hann
and says Voli and Bild will slander him to (the)-king He
mælti: „Ek hræðumst øngvar argar fýlur, ok svá lengi þú vilt
spoke I fear no craven brutes and so long thou wilt

unna mér viðtals, þá man ek tala við þik“. Svá varð megn
grant me converse then will I talk with thee So became strong
þessi rógburðr, at Hrómundr ok hans bróðir urðu at rýma
this slander that Hromund and his brother had to clear-out
frá konungs hirð, ok fóru heim til föður síns. Lítit hér eftir
from (the)-king's court and went home to father their Little here after
talar Svanhvít við Óláf konung ok sagði: „Nú er Hrómundr
talks Svanhvit with Olaf king and said Now is Hromund
dœmdr í brot frá konungs hirð, hverr vára sæmd jók
judged off away from (the)-king's court who our honor increased
þó mest, enn aftr í staðinn hafi þér með yðr þá tvá, er
yet most but back in the-place have you with you those two who
hvórki rœkja frægð né dáð“. Konungr svarar: „Heyrt hefi ek
neither tend fame nor deed (The)-king answers Heard have I
getið, hann mundi fífla þik, ok skal sverðit skilja ykkar ást“.
spoken be would seduce thee and shall the-sword part your-two love
„Lítt manstu nú“, sagði hon, „þegar hann einn gekk
Little rememberest-thou now said she when be alone went
í hauginn, enn engi annarr þorði, ok fyrr man Voli ok
into the-mound but no other dared and sooner will Voli and
Bildr hengdr verða“, sagði hon; gekk síðan snúðugt í brott.
Bild hanged be said she went then briskly off away

The two Haddingjar kings and Helgi the Bold challenge Óláfr to battle on the ice of Lake Vænir. Svanhvít gives Hrómundr a shield and a band against wounds. A dream holds him back, but his eight brothers fight, and Helgi, helped by the sorceress Lara in swan's shape, kills all eight.

Nokkuru síðar kómu tveir konungar af Svíþjóð; hétu
Somewhat later came two kings from Sweden were-called
báðir Haddingjar. Helgi Hröngviðs bróðir var með þeim;
both Haddings Helgi Hrongvid's brother was with them
þeir buðu Óláfi konungi til orrostu vestr á Vænisís. Hann
they challenged Olaf king to battle west on Vaener-ice He
vill nú heldr mœta þeim enn flýja óðal sitt; gerir nú
will now rather meet them than flee ancestral-land his sends now
orð Hrómundi ok brœðrum hans at fylgja sér. Þá vildi
word to-Hromund and brothers his to follow him Then would
Hrómundr hvergi fara, kvað Bíld ok Vola vel duga ok vinna
Hromund nowhere go said Bild and Voli well avail and win
alt með konungi. Konungr fór af stað með lið sitt. Svanhvít
all with (the)-king (The)-king went from place with force his Svanhvit
klökknaði við, ok fór heim til Hrómundar; hann tók henni
was-moved at(-it) and went home to Hromund he took her
vel. „Virð nú til bœn mína", sagði hon, „meir enn beiðni
well Value now to prayer my said she more than (the)-request
bróður míns, ok veit nú lið konungi; ek vil gefa þér einn
of-brother my and give now force to-(the)-king I will give thee one
skjöld með því bandi, er honum fylgir; mun þik eigi saka,
shield with that band which it follows will thee not harm
meðan þú hefir þat". Hrómundr þakkar henni gjöf þessa;
while thou hast that Hromund thanks her (for)-gift this

gladdist hon þá; hann bjóst til ferðar ok brœðr hans átta.
was-gladdened she then he got-ready for journey and brothers his eight
Nú kemr konungr með lið sitt til Vænisíss; var þar fyrir
Now comes (the)-king with force his to Vaener-ice was there before(-them)
Svía lið; enn at morgni, þegar vígljóst var, vápnast þeir
Swedes' force but in morning as-soon-as fight-light was arm-themselves they
á ísnum, ok sóttu Svíar hart fram. Strax sem bardaginn
on the-ice and pressed Swedes hard forward Straight as the-battle
hófst, var Bíldr veginn, enn Voli kom þar eigi. Óláfr
began was Bild slain but Voli came there not Olaf
konungr ok konungr Haddingr varð sárr. Hrómundr hafði
king and king Hadding became wounded Hromund had
sett hrauktjald hinum megin vazins; brœðr hans herklæðast
set shock-tent the-other side of-the-lake brothers his arm-themselves
snemma um morguninn; Hrómundr mælti: „Illa hefir mik
early in the-morning Hromund spoke Ill has me
dreymt í nótt; ok man eigi ganga alt at óskum, ok man
dreamed in night and will not go all to wishes and will
ek ekki fara í dag til orrostu". Brœðr hans sögðu, þat væri
I not go in day to battle Brothers his said that were
stór skömm, at þora eigi at veita konungi lið, enn vera þó
great shame to dare not to give (the)-king force but be yet
kominn þess erindis. Þeir kómu til orrostu, ok gengu hart
come (on)-that errand They came to battle and went hard
fram, ok fell hverr um þveran annan, er þeim mœtti af
forward and fell each about athwart other who them met of
liði Haddingja. Ein fjölkyngiskona var þar komin í álftar
(the)-force of-(the)-Haddings One witchcraft-woman was there come in swan's
ham; hon gólaði með svá miklum galdralátum, at enginn
shape she screamed with so great spell-noises that none
gáði at verja sik Óláfs manna; flaug hon yfir þá Greipssyni
heeded to defend himself of-Olaf men flew she over them Greip's-sons

ok söng hátt; hon hét Lara. Helgi hinn frækni mætti
and sang loud she was-called Lara Helgi the Bold met
þeim brœðrum þat sama sinn, ok drap þá alla átta saman.
them brothers that same time and killed them all eight together

VII · HELGI THE BOLD FALLS

Helgi taunts Hrómundr into throwing down Svanhvít's shield. Helgi's high stroke kills his own mistress Lara in swan's shape, and its point slits Hrómundr's belly. Hrómundr cleaves Helgi, laces his belly shut, and fights on until the Haddingjar flee. Voli blows Mistilteinn from his hand into the lake, and Hrómundr kills him with his bare hands. He has fourteen wounds and has lost his eight brothers and his sword.

Í því bili kom Hrómundr í bardagann. Helgi hinn
In that moment came Hromund into the-battle Helgi the
frækni þekti hann, ok mælti: „Nú er sá kominn hér,
Bold knew him and spoke Now is that-one come here
sem vó Hröngvið bróður minn; megi þér nú sjá við
who slew Hrongvid brother my may you now beware against
hans sverði, sem hann sótti í hauginn; varstu nú fjarri, er
his sword which he fetched in the-mound wast-thou now far when
ek drap brœðr þína“. Hrómundr mælti: „Eigi þarftu, Helgi,
I killed brothers thy Hromund spoke Not needest-thou Helgi
at frýja mér hugar, því annathvórt ek eðr þú, skulum nú
to taunt me of-courage because either I or thou shall now
falla“. Helgi sagði: „Mistilteinn er svá þungt vápn, at þú
fall Helgi said Mistletoe is so heavy weapon that thou
fær eigi valdit; vil ek ljá þér þat annat sverð, er þú getr
canst not wield will I lend thee that other sword which thou canst
valdit“. Hrómundr mælti: „Eigi þarftu at bregða mér um
wield Hromund spoke Not needest-thou to charge me with

hugleysi; muna muntu þat högg, er ek gaf Hröngviði,
cowardice remember wilt-thou that blow which I gave Hrongvid
þá haus hans molaðist“. Helgi sagði: „Þú Hrómundr hefir
then skull his was-crushed Helgi said Thou Hromund hast
bundit um þína hönd sokkaband meyjar einnar; skil þik
bound about thy hand garter of-maiden one part thyself
við skjöld þann, er þú berr, þú fær engin sár, meðan
from shield that which thou bearest thou gettest no wounds while
þú berr þetta, ok held ek fyrir satt, þú trúir á þá meyju“.
thou bearest this and hold I for true thou trustest in that maiden
Hrómundr þoldi eigi þessi skapraunarorð, ok kastaði niðr
Hromund bore not these taunt-words and threw down
skildinum. Helgi frækni hafði jafnan sigr haft, ok vann
the-shield Helgi (the)-Bold had always victory had and won
með fjölkyngi. Frilla hans hét Lara, sú sem þar var í
with witchcraft Mistress his was-called Lara that-one who there was in
álftarlíki. Helgi reiddi svá hátt sverð sitt upp yfir sik, at
swan's-likeness Helgi swung so high sword his up over himself that
þat tók sundr fótlegg álftarinnar, ok rendi sverðit ofan í
it took asunder (the)-leg of-the-swan and ran the-sword down into
(völlinn) upp at hjöltum, ok mælti: „Nú er mín heill farin,
the-field up to hilts and spoke Now is my luck gone
ok illa tókst til, er ek mista þín“. Hrómundr mælti: „Þú
and ill turned-out to when I missed thee Hromund spoke Thou
vanst, Helgi, hit mesta slys, er þú drapst sjálfr frillu þína,
didst Helgi the greatest mishap when thou killedst thyself mistress thy
ok farin man þín heill“; datt Lara dauð niðr. Enn af því
and gone will thy luck fell Lara dead down But from that
höggi, er Helgi hjó til Hrómundar, svá sverðit hljóp at
blow which Helgi hewed at Hromund so the-sword ran to
hjöltum ofan, snart oddr sverðsins kvið Hrómundar, ok
hilts down grazed (the)-point of-the-sword (the)-belly of-Hromund and

risti niðr, enn Helgi laut eftir högginu; var þá Hrómundr
slit(-it) down but Helgi stooped after the-blow was then Hromund
eigi seinn, ok høggr Mistilteini í höfuð Helga; klauf
not slow and hews with-Mistletoe into (the)-head of-Helgi clove
hjálminn ok hausinn, svá staðar nam í herðum; brotnaði
the-helmet and the-skull so stop took in shoulders broke
þá skarð í sverðit. Eftir þat tók Hrómundr tygilkníf sinn,
then notch in the-sword After that took Hromund belt-knife his
ok stakk á kviðinn á sér í sársbrúnirnar raufir; hratt svá
and stuck at the-belly on himself in the-wound's-edges holes thrust so
inn ístrunni, er út hangdi, rifjar þar með saman kviðinn
in the-paunch which out hung laces there with together the-belly
með bandi, ok batt klæðin hart at, barðist svá í ákafa,
with band and bound the-clothes hard on(-it) fought so in fury
ok feldi hvern um annan þveran, og barðist fram til miðrar
and felled each about other athwart and fought forward till middle
nætr; flýði þat lið, sem eftir var af Haddingjum; lýkr þar
night fled that force which left was of (the)-Haddings ends there
með orrostu. Hrómundr sér þá, at einn maðr stendr þar
with battle Hromund sees then that one man stands there
á ísnum; veit hann sá sami muni hafa með göldrum
on the-ice knows he that-one same will have with spells
gert ísinn á vatnit; þekti hann, at þetta var Voli. Hann
made the-ice on the-lake knew he that this was Voli He
kvað eigi óskylt, at launa honum, hljóp til hans, reiddi
said not unbound to repay him leapt to him swung
Mistiltein, ok vildi höggva hann. Voli blés sverðit ór hendi
Mistletoe and would hew him Voli blew the-sword from hand
honum, ok hitti þat fyrir vök eina ok sökk niðr til grunns.
his and hit it at hole one and sank down to bottom
Þá hló Voli, ok mælti: „Nú ertu feigr, er þú mistir
Then laughed Voli and spoke Now art-thou doomed when thou lost

Mistiltein ór hendi þinni“. Hrómundr sagði: „Fyrr muntu
Mistletoe from hand thy Hromund said Sooner wilt-thou
deyja enn ek“; hljóp hann þá at Vola ok greip hann upp,
die than I leapt he then at Voli and gripped him up
færði niðr við ísinn, svá hálsbeinit brotnaði; lá þessi
brought (him)-down against the-ice so neck-bone broke lay this
galdrarumr þar dauðr. Enn Hrómundr settist niðr á ísinn.
spell-lout there dead But Hromund sat down on the-ice
Hann mælti: „Ek hafði eigi ráð meyjarinnar, því
He spoke I had not (the)-counsel of-the-maiden therefore
hefi ek nú fengit fjórtán undir, ok þó þar til fellu brœðr
have I now gotten fourteen wounds and yet there to fell brothers
mínir átta, ok mitt góða sverð Mistilteinn fell í vatnið,
my eight and my good sword Mistletoe fell into the-water
ok þess fæ ek aldri bœtr, at ek misti sverðit“; gekk hann
and of-that get I never amends that I lost the-sword went he
síðan þaðan ok heim at tjaldi sínu, ok tók nokkura hvíld.
then thence and home to tent his and took some rest

VIII · THE HIDING AT HAGALL'S

Svanhvít sews up Hrómundr's wounds and sends him to the churl Hagall and his clever wife to be healed. Hagall finds Mistilteinn in a pike's stomach. Blindr the Evil tells the king where Hrómundr is hidden, but the old woman hides him under her kettle and then dresses him as a woman grinding at the quern, and the searchers twice go away empty-handed.

Nú eru konungs systr sóttar; kannar Svanhvít sár
Now are (the)-king's sisters fetched examines Svanhvit (the)-wounds
Hrómundar, ok saumar kviðinn saman, ok leitar honum
of-Hromund and sews the-belly together and seeks for-him

hœginda. Hon lét fœra hann karli þeim til grœðslu, er
easing She had bring him to-churl that for healing who
Hagall hét; kerling hans var klók; þau tóku vel við
Hagal was-called crone his was clever they took well to
honum, ok grœddu hann at heilu. Þat fann Hrómundr, at
him and healed him to whole That found Hromund that
þessi hjón vóru margkunnug. Karl var vanr at veiða fiska,
this couple were much-knowing (The)-churl was wont to catch fish
ok eitt sinn, er hann var at veiðiskap sínum, dró hann
and one time when he was at fishing his drew he
eina geddu, ok er hann kom heim ok kruféi hana, fann
one pike and when he came home and cut-open it found
hann í hennar maga Mistiltein, sverð Hrómundar, ok fekk
he in its stomach Mistletoe (the)-sword of-Hromund and gave
honum þat. Hrómundr varð glaðr við, ok kysti á hjölt
him it Hromund became glad at(-it) and kissed on (the)-hilt
sverðsins, ok umbunaði vel karli. Einn maðr var sá með
of-the-sword and rewarded well (the)-churl One man was that with
Haddings konungs her, sem hét Blindr hinn illi; hann
Hadding king's army who was-called Blind the Evil he
sagði konungi, at Hrómundr væri lífs, ok grœddr á laun
told (the)-king that Hromund were alive and healed in secret
hjá Hagali karli ok konu hans. Konungr kvað ótrúlegt,
with Hagal (the)-churl and wife his (The)-king said unbelievable
at þau mundu þora at leyna honum. Konungr bauð at
that they would dare to hide him (The)-king bade to
leita hans; Blindr fór með nokkura menn til húsa þeira
search-for him Blind went with some men to (the)-houses of-them
Hagals, ok spurði, ef Hrómundr væri þar geymdr. Kerling
Hagal and asked if Hromund were there kept (The)-crone
sagði, hann mundi eigi þar finnast. Blindr leitaði vandlega,
said he would not there be-found Blind searched carefully

ok fann eigi, því at kerling hafði falit Hrómund undir
and found not because that (the)-crone had hidden Hromund under
hitunarkatli sínum. Blindr ok hans félagar gengu þaðan, ok
heating-kettle her Blind and his fellows went thence and
er þeir vóru á leið komnir, sagði Blindr: „Eigi er ferð vór
when they were on way come said Blind Not is journey our
fræg vorðin, ok skulum vér aftr snúa“. Þeir gerðu svá, kómu
famous become and shall we back turn They did so came
heim ok fundu kerlingu; sagði Blindr, hon væri brögðótt,
home and found (the)-crone said Blind she were tricky
ok hefði hon geymt Hrómund undir katli sínum. „Leitið ok
and had she kept Hromund under kettle her Search-ye and
takið hann þar þá“, kvað hon. Enn því sagði hon þetta,
take him there then said she But therefore said she this
at þegar hon sá, þeir snøru aftr, fœrði hon Hrómund í
that as-soon-as she saw they turned back brought she Hromund into
kvenskrúða, ok lét hann mala ok snúa kvørn. Þeir leita nú í
women's-dress and had him grind and turn quern They search now in
húsunum; ok þegar þeir koma, þar mærin snøri kvørninni,
the-houses and when they come there (the)-maid turned the-quern
snuðruðu þeir alt um kring, enn sú sama leit óhýrt til
sniffed they all about around but that same looked unkindly at
konungsmanna; snøru svá í brott, at þeir fundu eigi; ok
king's-men turned so off away that they found not and
er þeir vóru á leið komnir, sagði, Blindr at kerling man
when they were on way come said Blind that (the)-crone will
hafa vilt sjónir fyrir þeim, ok sér þykki grunsamt,
have tricked sights for them and to-himself seems suspicious
at Hrómundr muni hafa verit þat, sem snøri kverninni í
that Hromund will have been that which turned the-quern in
kvenklæðum, ok sé ek oss hefir yfir sézt; dugir oss eigi
women's-clothes and see I us has over been-seen avails us not

at þreyta við kerlingu, því hon er oss klókari“; báðu
to contend with (the)-crone because she is than-us cleverer wished
þeir henni ils, ok fóru heim aftr til konungs við svá búit.
they on-her ill and went home back to (the)-king with so done

IX · BLINDR'S DREAMS

Blindr tells King Haddingr dream after dream of a wolf, hawks, swine, a giant, a serpent, and a dragon's skin hung with Hrómundr's belt. The king reads each one to his own liking, until Blindr dreams of an iron ring round his neck, which the king reads as his hanging and both their deaths.

Um vetrinn eftir bar mart fyrir Blind í svefni, ok
In the-winter after appeared much to Blind in sleep and
segir konungi eitt sinn draum sinn ok mælti svá: „Mér
tells (the)-king one time dream his and spoke so To-me
þótti vargr einn renna austan, hann beit yðr, konungr, ok
seemed wolf one run from-the-east it bit you king and
veitti yðr áverka“. Konungr kvaðst ráða þenna draum
gave you wound (The)-king said-of-himself interpret this dream
svá: „Hér man koma konungr af nokkurum stað, ok mun
so Here will come king from some place and will
fundrinn verða skœðr fyrst, enn falla þó niðr til sátta“.
the-meeting be harmful first but fall yet down to settlements
Enn kvað Blindr sik dreymt hafa, at honum þótti margir
Again said Blind himself dreamed have that to-him seemed many
haukar sitja í einu húsi: „ok þekti ek þar fálka þinn,
hawks sit in one house and knew I there falcon thy
herra; hann var allr fjaðralauss ok flettr hamnum“. Konungr
lord it was all featherless and stripped of-the-plumage (The)-king
mælti: „Vindr man koma af skýjum, ok skelfa vóra borg.
spoke Wind will come from clouds and shake our town

Þriðja draum sagði Blindr svá leiðis: „Mörg svín sá ek
(The)-third dream said Blind so wise Many swine saw I
renna sunnan at konungs höllu, rótuðu jörðinni upp
run from-the-south to (the)-king's hall rooted the-earth up
með rananum“. Konungr mælti: „Þat er fyrir sjóvar ólgu,
with the-snout (The)-king spoke That is for sea's swell
vótviðrum, ok grasvexti þeim, er grær af vazins vökva,
wet-weathers and grass-growth that which grows from water's moisture
er sólin skín í heiði“. Fjórða draum sagði Blindr: „Mér
when the-sun shines in clear-sky (The)-fourth dream said Blind To-me
þótti einn ógurlegr hriki koma austan at; hann beit
seemed one fearful giant come from-the-east to(-us) he bit
yðr stóra und“. Konungr mælti: „Sendimenn frá nokkurum
you great wound (The)-king spoke Messengers from some
konungi munu koma í mína höll; þeir munu bíta upp
king will come into my hall they will bite up
öllum sínum vópnum ok þar af man ek reiðast“. „Fimti
all their weapons and there from will I grow-angry (The)-fifth
draumr er sá“, sagði Blindr, „at mér þótti liggja um
dream is that said Blind that to-me seemed lie about
Svíaveldi grimmlegr ormr“. „Hér mun koma at landi“,
(the)-Swedes'-realm grim serpent Here will come to land
sagði konungr, „dreki vænn, hlaðinn gersemum“. „Sétta
said (the)-king dragon-ship handsome laden with-treasures (The)-sixth
sinn dreymdi mik“, sagði Blindr, „at mér þótti koma af
time dreamed me said Blind that to-me seemed come from
landi svört ský með klóm ok vængjum, ok flugu brott
land black clouds with claws and wings and flew away
með þik, konungr; þá dreymdi mik enn, at ormr einn væri
with thee king then dreamed me again that serpent one were
hjá Hagali karli; sá beit menn grimmlega; át hann
with Hagal (the)-churl that-one bit men grimly ate it

bæði mik ok yðr upp ok alla konungs menn, eða hvat
both me and you up and all (the)-king's men or what
man þetta þýða?“ Konungr mælti: „Heyrt hefi ek skamt
will this mean (The)-king spoke Heard have I short
frá híbýlum Hagals liggi híðbjörn nokkurr; ek mun fara at
from (the)-dwelling of-Hagal lies den-bear some I will go to
vinna björninn, ok man hann þá byrstast mjök“. „Hér næst
kill the-bear and will it then bristle much Here next
dreymdi mik, at dreka hamr væri dreginn um konungs
dreamed me that dragon's skin were drawn about (the)-king's
höll, ok hekk þar við lindi Hrómunds“. Konungr mælti: „Þat
hall and hung there on belt of-Hromund (The)-king spoke That
veiztu, at Hrómundr misti sverðit ok linda í vatninu,
knowest-thou that Hromund lost the-sword and belt in the-water
eða ertu nú hræddr við Hrómund?“ Fleiri drauma dreymdi
or art-thou now afraid of Hromund More dreams dreamed
Blind, hverja hann sagði konungi, enn konungr réði þá
Blind which he told (the)-king but (the)-king interpreted them
alla sér í vil, enn øngvan svá sem merking til höfðu.
all for-himself in favor but none so as meaning to had
Nú segir Blindr enn einn draum sinn; þann er hann
Now tells Blind yet one dream his that which him
sjálfan snerti, ok mælti: „Mér þótti járnhringr settr á minn
himself touched and spoke To-me seemed iron-ring set on my
háls“. Konungr sagði: „Þat er þýðing þess draums, at þú
neck (The)-king said That is (the)-meaning of-that dream that thou
munt hengdr verða, ok þar með munu vit báðir feigir“.
wilt hanged be and there with will we-two both doomed

Óláfr and Hrómundr come upon King Haddingr in his out-bower by night. Hrómundr kills a giant champion and then Haddingr, whom no sword will bite, with a club. Blindr is hanged as his dream foretold. Óláfr marries Svanhvít to Hrómundr, and from them come lines of kings and champions.

Eftir þetta safnar Óláfr konungr liði; helt síðan til Svíþjóðar.
After this gathers Olaf king force held then to Sweden
Hrómundr fylgdi honum; kómu þeir óvart at höllu Haddings
Hromund followed him came they unawares to (the)-hall of-Hadding
konungs. Hann lá í útiskemmu einni. Hann varð eigi fyrr varr
king He lay in out-bower one He became not sooner aware
við, enn upp var brotin skemmu hurðin. Haddingr hrópar á
of(-it) than up was broken (the)-bower door Hadding shouts on
menn sína, ok spyrr, hverir um nætr stríða; Hrómundr sagði
men his and asks who in nights make-strife Hromund said
til sín. Konungr sagði: „Þú munt vilja hefna þinna bræðra“.
of himself (The)-king said Thou wilt wish avenge thy brothers
Hrómundr kvað, hann skyldi fátt tala um fall bræðra sinna;
Hromund said he should little talk about (the)-fall of-brothers his
„skaltu nú þess gjalda, ok hér lífit missa“. Þá hljóp upp
shalt-thou now of-that pay and here the-life lose Then leapt up
einn kappi Haddings konungs svá stórr sem risi. Hrómundr
one champion of-Hadding king so big as giant Hromund
drap þann. Haddingr konungr verst í hvílunni, enn fekk
killed that-one Hadding king defends-himself in the-bed but got
ekkert sár, því hvert sinn Hrómundr hjó til hans, kom
no wound because each time Hromund hewed at him came
sverðit flatt á konung. Þá tók Hrómundr kylfu, ok lamdi
the-sword flat on (the)-king Then took Hromund club and beat

Hadding konung í hel. Þá mælti Hrómundr: „Hér hefi ek
Hadding king to death Then spoke Hromund Here have I
feldan Hadding konung, ok hefi ek eigi séð frægra mann“.
felled Hadding king and have I not seen more-famous man
Karlinn Blindr, er hét Bavis, var bundinn ok hengdr,
The-churl Blind who was-called Bavis was bound and hanged
ok rættist svá draumr hans. Tóku þeir þar mikit gull ok
and was-fulfilled so dream his Took they there much gold and
annat fé; heldu síðan heim. Óláfr konungr gifti Hrómundi
other wealth held then home Olaf king married to-Hromund
Svanhvít; þau untust vel, áttu sonu ok dœtr til samans,
Svanhvit they loved-each-other well had sons and daughters to together
ok vóru afbragð annarra; eru af þeim komnar konunga ættir
and were (the)-excellence of-others are from them come kings' kins
ok kappar miklir, ok lýkr hér sögu Hrómundar Greipssonar.
and champions great and ends here (the)-saga of-Hromund Greipsson

Ásmundar saga kappabana

The Saga of Asmund the Champion-Killer

King Buðli of Sweden loves skilled smiths. Two strangers, Olíus and Alíus, prove their craft with a knife and a gold ring, and the king forces them to make two swords that will cut anything. One breaks when tested, and Olíus, made to forge another, says it will kill the noblest of brothers, the king's daughter's sons. The smiths vanish into the earth, and Buðli sinks the sword in a leaded case in the lake at Agnafit.

Buðli er konungr nefndr; hann réð fyrir Svíþjóðu, ríkr
Budli is a-king named he ruled over Sweden mighty
ok ágætr; þat var háttr hans at elska mjök smiðu, þá
and excellent that was custom his to love much smiths those
er hann fekk hagasta, ok honum gerði gersimar. Hann
whom he got handiest and for-him made treasures He
átti drotningu ok dóttur, er Hildr hét. Þat varð þar
had queen and daughter who Hild was-called That became there
til tíðinda, at drotning andaðist, ok var konungr kvánlauss.
to tidings that (the)-queen died and was (the)-king wifeless
Þess er getit, at eitt kveld kómu tveir menn til konungs,
That is spoken-of that one evening came two men to (the)-king
ok gengu fyrir hann með kveðju; konungr spurði, hverir
and went before him with greeting (the)-king asked who
þeir væri, enn annarr nefndist Olíus, enn annarr Alíus:
they were but one named-himself Olius but (the)-other Alius
„ok vildim vit hér vetrvist þiggja". Hann spurði, ef þeir
and would we-two here winter-quarters accept He asked if they
væri hagleiksmenn nökkurir eðr búnir við íþróttum; þeir
were craftsmen any or ready with accomplishments they
kvóðust kunna at gera haglega hvern hlut, þann er
said-of-themselves can to make skillfully every thing that which
smíða skyldi. Konungr vísaði þeim til sætis, ok bað þá þar
forge (one)-should (The)-king showed them to seat and bade them there

vera. Í þenna tíma var með konungi boð nakkvart, enn um
be In that time was with (the)-king feast some but in
kveldit kómu í höllina smiðir konungs, ok sýndu honum
the-evening came into the-hall smiths of-(the)-king and showed him
smíðit, gull eðr vápn; svá gerðu þeir ávalt, ef menn kómu
the-smithwork gold or weapons so did they always if men came
þangat, konungi til frægðar. Allir menn lofuðu smíði þeira
thither to-(the)-king for fame All men praised smithwork their
nema gestir; þeir rœddu fátt um; knífr einn var í því
except (the)-guests they talked little about(-it) knife one was in that
smíði vandaðr; þetta var sagt konungi, ok kveðst hann
smithwork fine this was told (the)-king and says-of-himself he
ætla, at þeir mundi eigi betr smíða. Hann kallar þá til
think that they would not better forge He calls them to
sín ok mælti: „Hví eru þit svá tregir til at lofa þat
himself and spoke Why are you-two so reluctant to to praise that
smíði, er hér er fram borit, eðr kunni þit betr at gera".
smithwork which here is forth borne or can you-two better to make
Þeir kvóðu konung þat reyna mega, ef hann vildi, at smíði
They said (the)-king that test may if he wished that smithwork
þetta mundi eigi mikils vert hjá því. Konungr bað þá gera
this would not much worth beside that (The)-king bade them make
þá smíð, er til afbragðs mettist: „ef þit vilið eigi vera
that smithwork which to excellence be-reckoned if you-two will not be
falsarar"; þeir kváðust brátt munu reyna, at þessi smíð
fakers they said-of-themselves soon will prove that this smithwork
er lítils verð ok eigi góð. Þeir settu knífinn í rönd
is of-little worth and not good They set the-knife into (the)-rim
borðsins fyrir konung, ok lá hjá þegar eggin; þeir báðu þar
of-the-table before (the)-king and lay by at-once the-edge they bade there
konung taka við gersimi sinni, enn kvóðust freista mundu
(the)-king take back treasure his but said-of-themselves try would

„at gera annan knif. Konungr bað þá svá gera, ok síðan
to make other knife (The)-king bade them so do and then
gerðu þeir knif einn, ok færðu konungi; hann brá á
made they knife one and brought (the)-king he drew (it)-on
kamp sér ok tók af kampinn ok skinnit, svá at í holdi
mustache his and took off the-mustache and the-skin so that in flesh
nam staðar. Konungr mælti: „Þat mun satt vera, at ið
(it)-took stop (The)-king spoke That will true be that you-two
munuð hagir menn, ok nú skuluðið gera mér gullhring“,
will (be)-handy men and now shall-you-two make me gold-ring
ok svá gerðu þeir, ok færðu konungi; hann leit á, ok
and so did they and brought (the)-king he looked at(-it) and
mælti: „Þat er rétt sagt, at ek hefi eigi séð meiri gersimi
spoke That is rightly said that I have not seen greater treasure
í einum gullhring“, ok svá mæltu allir er sá. Konungr kvað
in one gold-ring and so spoke all who saw (The)-king said
slíkt tíginna manna þjónustumenn, ok síðan mælti hann:
such noble men's serving-men and then spoke he
„Nú skuluð ið gera mér tvau sverð, þau er eigi beri
Now shall you-two make me two swords those which not bear
minna af öðru smíði, enn þessi smíð ykkur, ok þeim sé
less from other smithwork than this smithwork your-two and them be
hvergi til þess höggvit, er þau bíti eigi. Olíus kveðst
nowhere to that hewn which they bite not Olius says-of-himself
þat eigi vilja, ok lézt eigi ørvænt þykkja, at nakkvat mikit
that not wish and professed not unexpected seem that something great
mundi á liggja, ef þeir gerði nauðgir ok kvað til hófs bazt
would on lie if they made forced and said to measure best
at búa. Konungr kvað þá gera skyldu, hvórt er þeir gerði
to make (The)-king said them make should whether that they made
nauðgir eðr eigi. Síðan setjast þeir til smíðar, ok gerðu tvau
forced or not Then sit they to smithing and made two

sverð sérhvárr þeira, ok gengu síðan fyrir konung, ok sýndu
swords each of-them and went then before (the)-king and showed
honum sverðin. Konungr leit á, ok sýndust honum
him the-swords (The)-king looked at(-them) and seemed to-him
vænleg, „eða hverir fylgja kostir?“ Olíus segir, hann kvað
promising or what follow qualities Olius says he said
því hvergi munda til höggva, at þat mundi eigi bíta, „ok
therefore nowhere would to hew that it would not bite and
hygg ek á því munu vera øngva annmarka“. Konungr segir:
think I on it will be no flaw (The)-king says
„Þá er gott, ok verðum vér at reyna hversu staðgott væri“,
Then is good and must we to test how steadfast (it)-were
ok skaut oddinum í öndugissúlu, ok lagðist lítt sverðit,
and thrust the-point into high-seat-pillar and bent little the-sword
ok síðan reisti hann þat í glugg einum. Smiðrinn kvað þat
and then set he it in window one The-smith said that
ofraun sverðinu, ok lét þat til höggs búit, enn eigi til
over-test for-the-sword and made-out that for blow made but not for
reistingar; konungr kvað þat eigi mundu högg standast, ef
bending (the)-king said that not would blow withstand if
þat brotnaði í slíkum tilraunum. Ok nú reyndi hann þat
it broke in such trials And now tested he that
sverð, er Alíus hafði gert, ok hljóp þat aftr sem skíð, ok
sword which Alius had made and sprang it back as ski and
at öllu var þat vænlegra enn hitt, ok stóðst hvárttveggja
in all was it more-promising than the-other and withstood each
þær raunir, er konungr gerði. Konungr mælti: „Þetta er
those trials which (the)-king made (The)-king spoke This is
enn betra, er Alíus hefir gert; ok er hvárttveggja gott, eða
yet better which Alius has made and is each good or
hver náttúra fylgir?“ Alíus segir: „Þat, herra, ef þau mœtast
what nature follows Alius says That lord if they meet

á lofti, ok séu þau í móti borin, þá mun sverð mitt
in air and be they in against borne then will sword my
framar, ok má þat þó kalla kosti eina ok jafna“.
(be)-ahead and may that yet call qualities one-and-the-same and equal
Síðan tók konungr þat sverð, er Olíus hafði gert ok vildi
Then took (the)-king that sword which Olius had made and would
brjóta, ok þá brast sverðit við hjaltit. Konungr bað hann
break(-it) and then broke the-sword at the-hilt (The)-king bade him
betra sverð gera, ok síðan gekk hann reiðr til smiðju ok
better sword make and then went he angry to smithy and
gerði sverð, ok fekk þat konungi; hann hafði nú allar slíkar
made sword and gave it (the)-king he had now all such
raunir, sem við et fyrra, ok stóðst þetta allar. Konungr
trials as with the former and withstood this all (The)-king
mælti: „Nú hefir þú vel gert, eðr er nú ekki hér á til
spoke Now hast thou well done or is now nothing here on for
vandkvæðis?“ Hann segir: „Járngott er sverð, enda mun
difficulty He says Iron-good is (the)-sword and-also will
nú nökkur forföll á liggja til hamingju brots, því at þat
now some hindrance on lie to luck's breaking because that it
mun verða at bana enum göfugustum bræðrum, dóttursonum
will become to death to-the noblest brothers to-daughter's-sons
þínum“. Konungr mælti: „Spá þú manna armastr; nú skal
thy (The)-king spoke Prophesy thou of-men wretchedest now shall
bræðrum at bana verða, ok þó ógöfgum“, ok hjó til hans,
to-brothers to death become and yet ignoble and hewed at him
enn þeir vóru þá horfnir með skjótri brautför, ok neyttu
but they were then vanished with quick departure and used
þá ennar neðri leiðar. Konungr mælti: „Þetta eru miklir
then the lower way (The)-king spoke These are great
óvinir, ok við því skal vinna, at sverð geri manni eigi
enemies and against that shall (one)-work that sword do to-man not

mein“. Konungr lét þá gera stokk at sverðinu með blýi,
harm (The)-king had then make case at the-sword with lead
ok lét søkkva niðr í Löginn hjá Agnafit.
and had sink(-it) down into the-Lake by Agnafit

II · HELGI AND HILDR

King Helgi, son of Hildibrandr of Húnaland, comes to Buðli and asks for his daughter Hildr. They marry, and their son Hildibrandr is fostered by his grandfather in Húnaland, where he is expected to become a great champion.

Helgi hét konungur ágætr; hann var hermaðr mikill.
Helgi was-called a-king excellent he was warrior great
Helgi fór með herskipum á fund Buðla konungs, ok
Helgi went with warships to (the)-meeting of-Budli king and
gerði honum orðsending, at hann mundi þar friðmaðr vera,
made him message that he would there peace-man be
ok kveðst vilja kannast við hann, ok þiggja at honum
and says-of-himself will acquaint-himself with him and accept from him
veizlu; konungr tók því vel. Helgi konungr gekk upp til
feast (the)-king took that well Helgi king went up to
hallar, ok fekk þar góðar viðtökur. Hildibrandr hét faðir
hall and got there good welcome Hildibrand was-called (the)-father
Helga konungs, er réð fyrir Húnalandi. Helgi konungr mælti
of-Helgi king who ruled over Hunland Helgi king spoke
þá: „Birta mun ek minn vilja til yðar með tilmæli ráðahags
then Reveal will I my will to you with request of-match
við dóttur yðra; má ek sjá hvárttveggja, at þessu sœmd, mik
with daughter your may I see each in this honor me
til landvarnar við yðr, enn ríki yðart til móts“. Buðli konungr
for land-defense with you but realm your in return Budli king

segir: „Ek vil yðru ørendi vel svara með samhuga hennar við
says I will your errand well answer with consent her with
oss“; ok síðan var þetta mál kært við hana, enn hon geldr
us and then was this matter told to her but she gives
til samþykki vilja föður síns, ok er nú aukin veizlan eftir
to agreement (the)-will of-father her and is now increased the-feast after
tíginna manna sið, ok fær Helgi konungr Hildar, dóttur Buðla
noble men's custom and gets Helgi king Hild daughter of-Budli
konungs, ok síðan vóru þeir mágar samhuga, ok var
king and then were they kinsmen-by-marriage of-one-mind and was
Buðla konungi mikit traust at Helga konungi. Þau Hildr áttu
to-Budli king great support in Helgi king They Hild had
son, er Hildibrandr hét, er manna var vænstr, ok þegar
a-son who Hildibrand was-called who of-men was handsomest and at-once
er hann dróst á fœtr, þá mælti Helgi konungr faðir hans:
when he drew-himself on feet then spoke Helgi king father his
„Þinn fóstrfaðir skal vera Hildibrandr enn ríki, faðir minn, í
Thy foster-father shall be Hildibrand the Mighty father my in
Húnalandi, ok er þá vænst, at þín forlög verði mátulegust“.
Hunland and is then likeliest that thy fates become most-fitting
Helgi konungr sendi nú þangat sveininn; Hildibrandr konungr
Helgi king sent now thither the-boy Hildibrand king
tók ágætlega við honum, og kveðst vænta, at þar mundi
took excellently to him and says-of-himself expect that there would
upp fœðast einn kappi. Eftir þat fór Helgi konungr í
up be-raised one champion After that went Helgi king into
hernað, enn Buðli konungr gerðist gamall löndum at stýra.
raiding but Budli king became old lands to rule

King Álfr of Denmark and his champion Áki attack the aged Buðli, who falls in battle. Álfr takes Buðli's daughter Hildr as plunder and gives her to Áki, though Helgi already had her. Áki and Hildr have a son, Ásmundr, who goes raiding as soon as he can.

Álfr hét konungur, er réð fyrir Danmörku; dóttir hans
Alf was-called a-king who ruled over Denmark daughter his
hét Æsa en fagra; hon var fræg víða um lönd af
was-called Aesa the Fair she was famous widely about lands for
vænleik sínum ok hannyrðum. Áki hét einn ríkr kappi
fairness her and handiwork Aki was-called one mighty champion
í Danmörku; hann var í kærleikum miklum við konung, ok
in Denmark he was in affections great with (the)-king and
Álfi konungi var (at) honum mest traust. Konungr kallaði
to-Alf king was in him most trust (The)-king called
hann til sín ok mælti: „Hernað viljum vér drýgja í sumar,
him to himself and spoke Raiding will we carry-out in summer
ok taka það ríki undir vára eign, er áðr liggr gæzlulaust,
and take that realm under our possession which before lies guardless
enn þó frami ef at náist". Kappinn svarar: „Herra, hvar viti
but yet renown if at (it)-be-got The-champion answers Lord where know
þér ríki falt?" Konungr mælti: „Buðli konungr er nú ørvasi
you realm for-sale (The)-king spoke Budli king is now decrepit
at aldri, ok viljum vér leggja undir oss hans ríki". Áki
with age and will we lay under us his realm Aki
segir: „Eigi vil ek þess letja, at gera stórræði, ok mun enn
says Not will I that dissuade to do great-deed and will still
sem fyrr eftir framaverk, at þér munuð laun hyggja vinum
as before after deeds-of-renown that you will reward intend to-friends

yðrum fyrir sitt starf“. Síðan bjuggu þeir Álfr konungr
your for their work Then fitted-out they Alf king
ok Áki her sinn, ok herjuðu í Svíþjóð á ríki Buðla
and Aki army their and harried in Sweden on (the)-realm of-Budli
konungs, ok gerðu þar mikit hervirki í manndrápum ok
king and did there great war-havoc in man-slayings and
fjár upptektum. Enn er Buðli konungr spyrr þetta, stefnir
of-wealth seizures But when Budli king hears this summons
hann saman sínum her, ok fær lítit lið, er styrkr Helga
he together his army and gets little force since (the)-strength of-Helgi
mágs hans var fjarri, enn þó helt hann sókn upp,
kinsman-by-marriage his was far but yet held he battle up
ok var borinn ofmagni, ok fell í þeiri orrostu, enn
and was borne by-overwhelming-might and fell in that battle but
Álfr konungr tók at herfangi dóttur hans ok allmikit fé,
Alf king took as plunder daughter his and very-much wealth
ok fara nú heim við svá búit. Þá mælti Álfr: „Svá hefir
and go now home with so done Then spoke Alf So has
oss til handa borizt, at vér höfum gnógt ríki ok fé, enn
to-us to hands come that we have enough realm and wealth but
fyrir þitt liðsinni, Áki, vil ek gifta þér Hildi Buðladóttur,
for thy help Aki will I marry to-thee Hild Budli's-daughter
þótt hon eigi áðr bónda“. Áki segir: „Hver munu önnur
though she had before husband Aki says What will other
skapfeldri laun enn þessi, ok eigi þykki mér at verra, þótt
more-pleasing reward than this and not seems to-me that worse though
Helgi konungr eigi hana áðr“. Eftir það gekk Áki at eiga
Helgi king had her before After that went Aki to marry
Hildi, ok áttu þau einn son; sá hét Ásmundr. Hann
Hild and had they one son that-one was-called Asmund He

var snemma mikill ok sterkr, ok lagðist í víking þegar
was early great and strong and took to viking-raiding as-soon-as
hann mátti ok braut undir sik mikinn hermanna afla.
he might and broke under himself great warriors' strength

IV · HILDIBRANDR HÚNAKAPPI

Hildibrandr, Helgi's son, gathers great strength and forces the dukes of Saxland into tribute, on their sister's counsel. Hearing of his grandfather Buðli's death, he invades Denmark, kills King Álfr in a berserk fury, and becomes the most famous of men.

Nú er þar til máls at taka, er Hildibrandr er, bróðir hans,
Now is there to speech to take that Hildibrand is brother his
son Helga konungs, enn Helgi konungr fell í hernaði.
son of-Helgi king but Helgi king fell in raiding
Hildibrandr braut undir sik mikinn afla, ok sveimaði víða
Hildibrand broke under himself great strength and roamed widely
með her sinn; hann var mægðr við þann konung, er
with army his he was related-by-marriage with that king who
Laszinus hét; hann var einn enn ríkasti konungr; hann
Laszinus was-called he was one the mightiest king he
sótti þangat með vinganarorðum til mágs síns, ok
went thither with friendly-words to kinsman-by-marriage his and
var honum þar vel fagnat; hann tók nú at gerast framgjarn
was to-him there well welcomed he took now to become forward-eager
mjök, er aflinn vóx; þá vóru hertugar göfgir ok ættstórir
much when the-strength grew then were dukes noble and of-great-kin
í Saxlandi. Hildibrandr Húnakappi fór nú á hendr þeim,
in Saxland Hildibrand Huns'-Champion went now on hands them
ok kvaðst vilja, at þeir gerði honum slíka virðing, sem
and said-of-himself wish that they gave him such honor as

hann beiddi, eða þeir mundi sem aðrir sæta afarkostum. Þeir
he asked or they would as others suffer hard-terms They
hertogarnir áttu systur, ok var hon mest at ráðum, því at
the-dukes had a-sister and was she most at counsels because that
hon var þeira vitrust; síðan áttu þau eintal ok ætlast fyrir,
she was of-them wisest then had they private-talk and planned for(-it)
hvat af skyldi kjósa; hon kvað þar meira ráð, at vægjast til
what of should choose she said there more counsel to yield to
hans með skattgjaldi enn eiga orrostu, „ok er þat ráð, at
him with tribute than have battle and is that counsel to
ætla sér hóf enn snúast þá til mótstöðu, er styrkr er
reckon for-oneself measure but turn then to resistance when strength is
nakkvarr“; kvað hér svá mundu fara sem í öðrum stöðum, at
some said here so would go as in other places that
hann mun sigrast. Síðan sögðu þeir hertogarnir, at þeir vilja
he will conquer Then said they the-dukes that they will
játa honum skattgildi; hann kvað þat forsjállegt, ok sættast
grant him tribute he said that prudent and are-reconciled
á þat. Hildibrandr Húnakappi braut nú margar þjóðir undir
on that Hildibrand Huns'-Champion broke now many peoples under
sik; hann spyrr nú þau tíðindi, fall Buðla konungs,
himself he hears now those tidings (the)-fall of-Budli king
móðurföður síns; hann stefndi þá her at sér af nýju,
mother's-father his he summoned then army to himself from new
ok kvaddi þings. Hann mælti: kvað mönnum kunnigt, hverr
and called assembly He spoke said to-men known what
vandi á var, at fara í hernað, enn lét eigi at högum til
custom on was to go into raiding but made-out not at fittingly to
skift, ef herja skyldi á víkinga eðr á aðra menn fyrir litla
divided if harry (one)-should on vikings or on other men for little
sök eðr øngva, enn hefna eigi móðurföður síns; eftir þat flutti
cause or none but avenge not mother's-father his after that moved

hann herinn í ríki Álfs konungs, ok kvað Dani hafa
he the-army into (the)-realm of-Alf king and said (the)-Danes have
kent atför um búshagi; hann lét eisa eldum ok brenna víða.
taught attack on households he had blaze with-fires and burn widely
Álfr konungr sótti nú í mót með her sinn, ok þegar þeir
Alf king pressed now in against with army his and as-soon-as they
fundust, börðust þeir. Hildibrandr konungr hafði berserkja
met fought they Hildibrand king had berserks'
náttúru, ok kom á hann berserksgangr. Ekki var Áki hertogi
nature and came on him berserk-fury Not was Aki duke
við þessa orrostu, því at hann var í hernaði. Hildibrandr
at this battle because that he was in raiding Hildibrand
konungr gekk í gegn um fylkingar Álfs konungs, ok var
king went in against through (the)-arrays of-Alf king and was
ilt fyrir honum at verða; hjó hann á tvær hendr sér, ok
ill before him to be hewed he on two hands himself and
sótti grenjandi at konungsmerkinu, ok í þeirri orrostu fell
pressed howling at (the)-king's-banner and in that battle fell
Álfr konungr ok margt lið hans, ok eftir þat fóru Húnar
Alf king and much force his and after that went (the)-Huns
aftr. Hildibrandr gerist þá allra manna frægastr, ok sat
back Hildibrand becomes then of-all men most-famous and sat
jafnan at búum sínum á vetrum, enn herjaði á sumrum.
always at farms his in winters but harried in summers

Ásmundr and the rich Eyvindr skinnhöll both woo Princess Æsa, who will take the man with the fairer hands; she chooses Ásmundr's scarred ones. She asks him to avenge her father on Hildibrandr and sends him to an old farmer, who helps him dive three times for Buðli's sword. The farmer remarks his likeness to Hildibrandr. Æsa then sends him to the dukes of Saxland.

Þar er nú til máls at taka, er Ásmundr Ákason var
There is now to speech to take that Asmund Akason was
í hernaði, ok þótti víkingum hann ósvífr í atlögum ok
in raiding and seemed to-vikings he reckless in attacks and
harðgerr. Eyvindr skinnhöll hét maðr, danskr at ætt,
hardy Eyvind Skin-Hall was-called a-man Danish by kin
vænn maðr ok ríkr ok auðigr, ok barsk á mikit, enn
handsome man and mighty and wealthy and bore-himself on much but
er þeir feðgar Áki ok Ásmundr kómu ór hernaði þá
when they father-and-son Aki and Asmund came from raiding then
vóru þeim sögð þessi tíðendi, fall Álfs konungs; þeir
were to-them told these tidings (the)-fall of-Alf king they
sátu nú í kyrðum; Ásmundr vissi nú eigi frændsemi milli
sat now in quiet Asmund knew now not kinship between
þeira Hildibrands, því at móðir hans sagði honum ekki
them Hildibrand because that mother his told him not
frá. Eyvindr skinnhöll fór á fund Ænsu ennar fögru
of(-it) Eyvind Skin-Hall went to (the)-meeting of-Aesa the Fair
konungsdóttur, ok kveðst mæla vilja til ráðahags við hana;
king's-daughter and says-of-himself speak will for match with her
kvað henni vera kunnigan mannasóma sinn ok fjáreign, ætt
said to-her be known man's-honor his and wealth kin
hans ok framkvæmd; hon kveðst hafa mundu við ráð
his and achievement she says-of-herself have would with counsel

vina sinna um annsvör. Eftir þetta berr hon málit fyrir
of-friends her about answers After this bears she the-matter before
þá Áka ok Ásmund fóstbróður sinn. Áki kveðst þessa
them Aki and Asmund foster-brother her Aki says-of-himself this
ekki mundu fýsa. Þá mælti Ásmundr: „Ekki skaltu eiga
not would urge Then spoke Asmund Not shalt-thou have
Eyvind; mik skaltu eiga“. Hon segir: „Fóstbróðir, meira
Eyvind me shalt-thou have She says Foster-brother more
hefir hann nú yfirlæti í landinu, ok býr ríkulegar, enn
has he now esteem in the-land and dwells more-richly but
þat munda ek ætla, at þú mundir hafa manndóm meira“.
that would I think that thou wouldst have manhood more
Ásmundr mælti: „Legg til hamingju þína með mér, ok má
Asmund spoke Lay to luck thy with me and may
þá verða báðum okkr vegr at þessi ráðagerð“. Hon mælti:
then become for-both us-two honor in this match She spoke
„Þann ykkarn vil ek eiga“, segir hon, „er mér fær fegri
That-one of-you-two will I have says she who to-me brings fairer
hendr í haust ór hernaði“. Síðan lögðu þau niðr þessa
hands in autumn from raiding Then laid they down this
umrœðu, ok lögðust þeir í hernað báðir eftir vanda,
talk and betook-themselves they into raiding both after wont
ok hætti Ásmundr oft með miklum háska til stórfanga,
and risked Asmund often with great danger for great-takings
ok aflaði svá fjár ok frama, enn Eyvindr var oftlega hjá
and gained so wealth and renown but Eyvind was often with
matgerðarmönnum, ok lét eigi ganga glófa af hendi sér.
food-preparing-men and let not go glove off hand his
Enn er at hausti kom, sóttu þeir báðir á fund
But when to autumn (it)-came sought they both to (the)-meeting
konungsdóttur, hvárr með sínum mönnum. Eyvindr gekk
of-(the)-king's-daughter each with his men Eyvind went

fyrri fram, ok bað konungsdóttur líta á sínar hendr. Ása
first forward and bade (the)-king's-daughter look at his hands Asa
en fagra mælti: „Vel hafa þessar hendr varðveittar verit,
the Fair spoke Well have these hands kept been
ok eru hvítar ok fagrar; hafa lítt litat sik í blóði, né
and are white and fair have little colored themselves in blood nor
ófegraðar í höggum; sjám nú, Ásmundr, þínar hendr“, segir
disfigured in blows see-we now Asmund thy hands says
hon; hann rétti fram sínar hendr, ok vóru þær øróttar ok
she he stretched forth his hands and were they scarred and
heldr dökkvar af blóði ok vópnabiti, ok er hann brá frá
rather dark from blood and weapon-bites and when he drew from
klæðunum, þá vóru þær hlaðnar hringum gulls til axlar;
the-clothes then were they laden with-rings of-gold to shoulder
þá mælti konungsdóttir: „Þat mun þó mitt atkvæði, at
then spoke (the)-king's-daughter That will yet my verdict that
Ásmundar hendr sé fegri með öllu saman, ok ertu Eyvindr
Asmund's hands be fairer with all together and art-thou Eyvind
frá ráðinn þessum ráðahag“. Ásmundr mælti: „Þá mun ek
from counseled this match Asmund spoke Then will I
til kosinn, frú“. Hon segir: „Fyrr skaltu hefna föður míns,
to chosen lady She says Sooner shalt-thou avenge father my
því at þann einn samir mér mann at eiga, er þess rekr
because that that-one alone befits me man to have who that pursues
réttar, ok viðr sér frama á Hildibrandi Húnakappa“. Þá
right and wins himself renown on Hildibrand Huns'-Champion Then
mælti Ásmundr: „Hversu má hann vinnast, er engi sigrast
spoke Asmund How may he be-overcome whom none conquers
á honum, eðr hvert ráð leggr þú til?“ Hon segir: „Heyrt
on him or what counsel layest thou to She says Heard
hefi ek, at sverð sé fólgit í Leginum hjá Agnafit, ok heyrt
have I that sword be hidden in the-Lake by Agnafit and heard

hefi ek ummæli á því, ef þat sverð væri borit í móti því,
have I words about it if that sword were borne in against that
er Hildibrandr hefir, at hans sverð skyldi undan láta, enn
which Hildibrand has that his sword should under give but
í nánd vatninu býr gamall bóndi, vin minn, ok mun hann
in near the-water dwells old farmer friend my and will he
gera þér farargreiða með mínu tilstilli". Ásmundr kvað
make for-thee journey-help with my arrangement Asmund said
þat mundu á finnast, at hann var gjarn til ráðahags við
that would upon be-found that he was eager for match with
hana, ef hann segði sik í þessa hættu. Eftir þetta fór
her if he said himself into this risk After this went
Ásmundr einnsaman til bóndans, ok sagði honum sitt ørendi
Asmund alone to the-farmer and told him his errand
ok orðsending konungsdóttur; bóndinn bað hann velkominn;
and message of-(the)-king's-daughter the-farmer bade him welcome
hann horfði mjök á Ásmund of kveldit. Ásmundr mælti:
he looked much at Asmund through the-evening Asmund spoke
„Hví horfir þú á mik?" Hann kvað sök til vera. Ásmundr
Why lookest thou at me He said cause to be Asmund
mælti: „Hversu lengi hefir þú hér búit?" Hann kveðst
spoke How long hast thou here dwelt He says-of-himself
þar hafa búit allan aldr sinn, „enn þar hygg ek nú at því,
there have dwelt all life his but there think I now on that
at hér gistu fyrir löngu sendimenn Buðla konungs, enn
that here lodged before long messengers of-Budli king but
þeir fóru með Hildibrand til fóstrs til Hildibrands konungs,
they went with Hildibrand to fostering to Hildibrand king
enn þik hefi ek séð annan vænlegstan enn hann, ok honum
but thee have I seen second most-promising than him and to-him
líkastan at svip". Ásmundr mælti: „Eigi veit ek at með
likest in look Asmund spoke Not know I that between

okkr sé nein skylda, eðr hvat veiztu til sverðs þess, hvar
us-two be any kinship or what knowest-thou of sword that where
fólgit sé, er afrek er frá sagt“. Hann segir: „Hér var
hidden be about-which feat is from told He says Here was
ek, þá er því var sökt, ok gerla hefi ek mið til, hvar
I then when it was sunk and clearly have I marks to where
þat er fólgit, ok mun enn vera óspilt, at því er ek hygg“.
it is hidden and will still be unspoiled for that which I think
Þá mælti Ásmundr: „Fyrir orðsending konungsdóttur þá
Then spoke Asmund For (the)-message of-(the)-king's-daughter then
flyttu mik þangat“. Hann kvað svá vera skyldu. Hann
carry-thou me thither He said so be should He
hafði með sér flykki stór ok eldskíð. Ásmundr mælti: „Hvat
had with him flitches great and fire-wood Asmund spoke What
skal þetta búandi?“ „Œrit mun þér kalt, er þú kemr
shall this farmer Enough will to-thee cold when thou comest
(upp), þótt þú bakir þik við þetta“. Ásmundr mælti: „Þú
up though thou bake thee at this Asmund spoke Thou
ert ráðigr mjök“. Síðan fóru þeir á skipi, ok þá er
art counsel-wise much Then went they on ship and then when
minst varir Ásmund, mælti búandi: „Hér svána“. Síðan
least expects Asmund spoke (the)-farmer Here so Then
hljóp Ásmundr fyrir borð ok kafaði, ok er hann kom
leapt Asmund over board and dived and when he came
upp þá vildi hann niðr öðru sinni. Bóndi mælti: „Þat
up then wished he down a-second time (The)-farmer spoke That
hœfir þér eigi, bakastu nú ok snæð“, ok svá gerir hann,
befits thee not bake-thou now and eat and so does he
ok öðru sinni, er hann kafar, kennir hann stokksins,
and (the)-second time when he dives feels he the-case
ok lyftir nökkut svá, ok fór upp ok bakaðist; ok nú
and lifts somewhat so and went up and baked-himself and now

þriðja sinn kafar hann, ok náir hann stokkinum, ok fluttu
(the)-third time dives he and gets he the-case and carried
þeir hann til lands, ok þá hjó Ásmundr upp stokkinn
they it to land and then hewed Asmund up the-case
með øxi, ok gekk af hyrnan er kom í sverðs eggina.
with axe and went off the-corner which came into (the)-sword's edge
Ásmundr mælti: „Vel hefir þú veitt, karl, ok þigg af mér
Asmund spoke Well hast thou given churl and accept from me
einn gullhring fyrir þitt starf, ok vitja mín kunnlega ef þú
one gold-ring for thy work and visit me familiarly if thou
þarft“. Karl þakkaði honum vel, ok skildust. Eftir þat
needest (The)-churl thanked him well and parted After that
fór Ásmundr heim, ok segir konungsdóttur. Hon sagði: „Nú
went Asmund home and tells (the)-king's-daughter She said Now
er mikit at unnit, ok muntu vera ágætr maðr; nú er ráð
is much at done and wilt-thou be excellent man now is counsel
fyrir hendi; ek vil senda þik til þeira hertoga í Saxlandi,
at hand I will send thee to those dukes in Saxland
er ríkit hafa mist fyrir Hildibrandi, ok til systur þeira,
who the-realm have lost to Hildibrand and to sister their
því at hon er vitr kona, ok er þat mitt ráð, at gerast
because that she is wise woman and is that my counsel to proceed
þaðan til slíkra hluta, sem þá vill í hendr bera, því
thence to such things as then will into hands bear because
at flesta get ek stopalt ganga fyrir þér við áræði þitt ok
that most guess I unsteady go for thee with daring thy and
góðan vápna kost“, ok síðan fór Ásmundr í braut.
good weapons' choice and then went Asmund off away

The dukes' sister dreams of a great man who will restore their fortunes, and Ásmundr arrives. They tell him how Hildibrandr's berserks challenge them to holm-fights each season, a farm at stake each time, until only twelve farms are left. Ásmundr offers to defend their realm.

Nú er at segja, hvat í Saxlandi er, at einn dag tók systir
Now is to tell what in Saxland is that one day took (the)-sister
hertoga til orða: „Svá vísa mér draumar til, sem oss muni
of-(the)-dukes to words So show me dreams to as-if us will
sœkja heim ágætr maðr, sá er oss muni verða at mikilli
seek home excellent man that-one who to-us will become for great
hamingju ok váru ríki". Þeir brœðr tóku því vel, ok um
fortune and our realm They brothers took that well and in
kveldit þess dags sá þeir ríða at höllinni mikinn mann með
the-evening of-that day saw they ride to the-hall great man with
ágætlegum vápnum, ok hertogarnir gengu í móti honum, ok
excellent weapons and the-dukes went in against him and
buðu honum þar (at vera); hann lézt þat þiggja mundu; þeir
bade him there to be he professed that accept would they
settu hann milli sín, enn systir þeira skenkti, ok settist
set him between themselves but sister their poured and sat
síðan á tal við hann ok brœðr hennar. Hon mælti þá: „Ekki
then in talk with him and brothers her She spoke then Not
er oss mjök kunnigt um yðra hagi, enn sjá kunnu vér
is to-us much known about your circumstances but see can we
þat, at mikill tignarsvipr er yfir yðr, ok trúum vér at nökkut
that that great dignity-look is over you and believe we that something
gott leiði oss af þér ok þinni hérkvámu; nú munu þér
good lead to-us from thee and thy hither-coming now will you

heyrt hafa, hverja nauð vér þolum fyrir ofríki Hildibrands
heard have what distress we suffer for (the)-tyranny of-Hildibrand
Húnakappa; vér gengum fyrst undir skattgjald, enn nú skulum
Huns'-Champion we went first under tribute but now shall
vér mœta á hverjum misserum hólmgönguboðum af hans
we meet in each season holm-challenges from his
berserkjum, ok skal æ bú standa við hverja hólmgöngu;
berserks and shall ever farm stand for each holm-going
höfum vér nú svá mist bæði manna várra ok búa, ok eru
have we now so lost both of-men our and farms and are
eigi meir eftir enn tólf bú várs hertogadœmis". Ásmundr
not more left than twelve farms of-our dukedom Asmund
svarar: „Frú", segir hann, „mikinn skaða kæri þér fyrir mér,
answers Lady says he great harm complain you before me
ok nauðsyn væri að hefta þenna storm, ok til þess er ek hér
and need were to check this storm and for that am I here
kominn, at verja yðvart ríki, ef ek fæ". Hertogarnir segja, at
come to defend your realm if I can The-dukes say that
skamt mun líða, áðr kraft mun vera hólmgöngu. Ásmundr
short will pass before demand will be of-holm-going Asmund
segir: „Þá verðr því at svara". Hann er nú þar í góðu yfirlæti.
says Then must that to answer He is now there in good cheer

King Laszinus has Vöggr sent to the dukes. Vöggr notes Ásmundr's likeness to Hildibrandr and his sword's likeness to Hildibrandr's. Ásmundr answers that a man will meet them at the holm. Vöggr reports him likely to be a match for any man, and Hildibrandr sends one of his champions.

Nú verðr at segja frá Lazino konungi ok Hildibrandi
Now must to tell of Laszinus king and Hildibrand
Húnakappa mág hans. Hildibrandr segir: „Mun eigi
Huns'-Champion kinsman-by-marriage his Hildibrand says Will not
kominn sá tími, er hólmgöngu skal reyna við hertogana
come that time when holm-going shall try with the-dukes
ok menn þeira; nú væri eigi torsóttlegt at ná þeim búum
and men their now were not difficult to get those farms
er eftir eru". Konungr mælti: „Gerum heldr mann til þeira,
which left are (The)-king spoke Send-we rather man to them
ok vita ef auðvellegar fáist". Sá maðr hét Vöggr,
and know if more-easily (they)-are-gotten That man was-called Vogg
er sendr var; frá hans ferð er ekki sagt, fyrr enn hann
who sent was of his journey is nothing said before than he
kemr til hertoganna; hann gekk í höllina ok fyrir borð
comes to the-dukes he went into the-hall and before table
og mælti síðan: „Lazinus konungr ok hinn ríki Hildibrandr
and spoke then Laszinus king and the mighty Hildibrand
Húnakappi vilja vita, hvárt þit vilið koma til hólmstefnu,
Huns'-Champion will know whether you-two will come to holm-meeting
eðr láta þrautlaust, þat er eftir er". Hertogarnir svara:
or give-up without-struggle that which left is The-dukes answer
„Svá er nú komit, at ef ofmikil þykkir vór eiga, at lítit
So is now come that if too-much seems ours own that little

er at missa, hjá því sem góðra drengja“. Ásmundr mælti:
is to lose beside that as of-good warriors Asmund spoke
„Hví mæli þit svá? mun eigi því meiri nauðsyn at halda,
Why speak you-two so will not that more need to hold
er minna er eftir“. Vöggr horfir á hann. Ásmundr mælti:
when less is left Vogg looks at him Asmund spoke
„Hví horfir þú svá þrátt á mik?“ Hann segir: „Þat berr
Why lookest thou so constantly at me He says That bears
til, at ek hefi eigi séð enn þriðja mann jafnvirðulegan sem
to that I have not seen the third man equally-worthy as
þit Hildibrandr eruð; hann er ljósari, enn þú ert eigi
you-two Hildibrand are he is lighter but thou art not
óharðmannlegri, ok spurt hefir Hildibrandr, at ókuðr maðr
less-hardy and heard has Hildibrand that unknown man
var hér kominn með góð vápn, ok ek skylda sjá þitt sverð“.
was here come with good weapons and I should see thy sword
Ásmundr bað hann ráða; hann leit nú á ok mælti: „Hér
Asmund bade him rule he looked now on(-it) and spoke Here
fara vápnin eftir yfirsýn þeira, er eigu, hitt er bjartara
go the-weapons after (the)-looks of-those who own(-them) this is brighter
ok gert betr, enn eigi er þat snarpara“. Ásmundr kveðst
and made better but not is it keener Asmund says-of-himself
eigi þat vita, „enn vita munt þú vilja þitt ørendi“. Hann
not that know but know wilt thou wish thy errand He
kvað svá vera. Ásmundr mælti: „Seg svá höfðingjum yðrum,
said so be Asmund spoke Say so to-chieftains your
at koma mun maðr af hendi hertoganna til hólmstefnu“.
that come will man from (the)-hand of-the-dukes to holm-meeting
Nú reið Vöggr heim, ok kvaddi konung ok Hildibrand.
Now rode Vogg home and greeted (the)-king and Hildibrand
Hildibrandr mælti: „Hver svör kantu at segja af ráðagerð
Hildibrand spoke What answers canst-thou to tell of (the)-plans

hertoganna“. Vöggr svarar: „Þess er mér vón, at þeir ljúgi
of-the-dukes Vogg answers That is to-me hope that they belie
eigi hólmstefnu“. Hildibrandr mælti: „Þá eru þeir nú mjök
not (the)-holm-meeting Hildibrand spoke Then are they now much
herðir, eða veldr því sá hinn ókunni maðr, eða með hverjum
hardened or causes that that the unknown man or with what
svip sýndist þér hann; þú ert glöggþekkinn“. Vöggr segir:
look seemed to-thee he thou art keen-sighted Vogg says
„Hans yfirbragð er með því, at hann er látaðr vel ok
His appearance is with that that he is mannered well and
alllíkr yðr í augum, ok sýndist mér líklegr til, at vera
very-like you in eyes and seemed to-me likely to that be
muni ofrhugi, ok þat sverð hefir hann, er ek sá ekki
will over-bold-one and that sword has he which I saw not
jafnlíkt því sem þú hefir; ok þat hygg ek, at ór einum
equally-like that which thou hast and that think I that from one
afli (sé) borin“. Hildibrandr mælti: „Mikit finst þér um
forge be borne Hildibrand spoke Much is-found to-thee about
þenna mann; ætlar þú eigi, at mitt sverð muni vera, eðr
this man thinkest thou not that my sword will be or
hann muni minn jafningi vera?“ Vöggr svarar: „Eigi veit ek,
he will my equal be Vogg answers Not know I
hvárt hann er þinn jafningi; hitt veit ek, at sá er bersk
whether he is thy equal that know I that that-one who fights
við hann, kemr í þá raun, at hann er víst dugandi maðr“.
with him comes into that trial that he is surely capable man
Hildibrandr mælti: „Framarla segist þér frá“, ok nú
Hildibrand spoke Far-forward is-told to-thee about(-him) and now
lætr Hildibrandr einn af sínum köppum ríða til hólmstefnu.
lets Hildibrand one of his champions ride to holm-meeting

Ásmundr cuts the first champion in two and then kills two, four, five, six, seven, and eight of Hildibrandr's berserks in turn, winning back the dukes' farms. Dream-women urge him on against the last eleven, and he kills them all. Men say he would not yield even to Hildibrandr himself.

Ok nú er Ásmundi sagt, ok nú biðr hann taka sinn hest
And now is to-Asmund told and now bids he take his horse
ok sín herklæði; hertogar mæltu: „Vér bjóðum þér várt
and his war-gear (the)-dukes spoke We offer thee our
lið"; hann kvað einn skyldi einum í mót koma; hann ríðr
force he said one should one in against come he rides
nú þangat, sem hólmstefnan skyldi vera, ok nú riðust þeir
now thither where the-holm-meeting should be and now rode they
at með brugðnum sverðum, ok et fyrsta högg hjó
at(-each-other) with drawn swords and the first blow hewed
Ásmundr hann sundr í miðju, fleygði síðan hlutunum út
Asmund him asunder in middle flung then the-pieces out
á ána, ok rak þá fyrir höfuðborg konungs. Hildibrandr
into the-river and drove them past (the)-chief-town of-(the)-king Hildibrand
mælti: „Seint sœkist várum félaga, at leysa þenna enn
spoke Slowly goes for-our fellow to dispatch this the
ókunna mann". Síðan mælti maðr einn: „Herra", segir sá,
unknown man Then spoke man one Lord says that-one
„hér mun kostr at sjá hann, er hann rekr eftir ánni,
here will chance to see him where he drifts along the-river
ok er nú í tveim hlutum". Hann mælti: „Œrit er þessi
and is now in two pieces He spoke Enough is this
stórhöggr, og skipizt nú tveir af várum mönnum, ok
great-striker and be-assigned now two of our men and

leysið hann því skjótara af hendi“. Þeir kvóðu eigi þat
dispatch-ye him the quicker off hand They said not that
mikit verk. Hildibrandr mælti: „Várt gagn er þat, ef þit
great work Hildibrand spoke Our gain is that if you-two
vinnið skjótt sigr á honum“. Ok annan dag eftir riðu
win quickly victory over him And (the)-next day after rode
þeir til vígvallar tveir móti Ásmundi; hann mælti: „Hér
they to fighting-field two against Asmund he spoke Here
hafa berserkir fásén lög, er tvau sverð koma í móti
have berserks rarely-seen law when two swords come in against
einu, enn albúinn em ek at freista þetta víg við ykkr
one but all-ready am I to try this fight with you
tvá“. Þeim þótti óvirðulegt at standa tveim fyrir einum,
two To-them seemed unworthy to stand two before one
ok hjuggu báðir til hans, enn hann brá fyrir sik skildi,
and hewed both at him but he threw before himself shield
ok hjó sínu höggi hvórn til bana. Síðan reið hann aftr
and hewed with-his blow each to death Then rode he back
til hertoganna, enn þeir gengu í móti honum með fagnaði;
to the-dukes but they went in against him with welcome
hann kveðst ætla, at aftr hefði unnizt þrjú bú þeim
he says-of-himself think that back had been-won three farms them
til handa í hans ferð. Þá mælti systir hertoganna: „Eigi
to hand in his journey Then spoke (the)-sister of-the-dukes Not
hafa vilzt várir draumar um þessa manns kvámu“. Hann
have gone-astray our dreams about this man's coming He
sat nú þar í veg miklum, ok hlaut af þessu frægð mikla.
sat now there in honor great and got from this fame great
Þetta var nú sagt Hildibrandi, ok hann mælti: „Ekki undr
This was now told to-Hildibrand and he spoke Not wonder
þykki mér þetta, þó at einn maðr sigri tvá menn; nú
seems to-me this though that one man conquer two men now

skal skipa fjórum mönnum í mót honum“. Kapparnir kvóðu
shall assign four men in against him The-champions said
þat auðsætt, at þeir mundu skifta honum sundr í fjóra
that easily-seen that they would divide him asunder into four
staði, ok nú riðu þeir til vígvallarins með góðum hjálmum
places and now rode they to the-fighting-field with good helmets
ok hvítum brynjum ok hvössum sverðum. Nú kómu þessi
and white mail-coats and keen swords Now came these
tíðendi fyrir Ásmund ok hertogana; þá báðu þeir, at hann
tidings before Asmund and the-dukes then asked they that he
skyldi fara með jafnmörgum mönnum; hann kveðst eigi
should go with as-many men he says-of-himself not
þat vilja; lét þat vænst, at einn mundi senn einum
that wish made-out that likeliest that one would at-once one
í móti, enn kvað mikit árnast, ef fjögur bú fengist. Ok
in against but said much gained if four farms were-gotten And
því næst fundust þeir. Ásmundr mælti: „Þat er auðsætt,
that next met they Asmund spoke That is easily-seen
at ér þykkizt lítils verðir ok þér skipizt fjórir í móti
that you think-yourselves little worth and you are-assigned four in against
einum, ok eigi megi þér kappar heita, heldr safnaðarmenn“.
one and not may you champions be-called rather gathered-men
Þeir urðu ákafa reiðir við orð hans, ok sóttu at honum
They became fiercely angry at words his and pressed at him
þegar, enn þat sverð, er hann bar, beit brynjur ok hjálma
at-once but that sword which he bore bit mail-coats and helmets
jafnslétt sem næfr, ok eirði ekki mannsbeinum né holdi,
equally-smooth as birch-bark and spared not man's-bones nor flesh
enn sá reiddi til, er sterkan armlegg hafði ok gott
but that-one swung at who strong arm had and good
hjarta; þeir fengu stór sár af honum, ok skamt var í
heart they got great wounds from him and short was in

milli, ok drap hann þá fjóra, ok rak þá út á ána með
between and killed he them four and drove them out into the-river with
hestunum. Nú fréttir Hildibrandr þetta, ok mælti: „Er nú
the-horses Now learns Hildibrand this and spoke Is now
annathvárt, at menn várir eru minni til herskapar enn vér
either that men our are less for warfare than we
hugðum, eðr ellegar er sjá forgangsmaðr“. Hann kallar þá
thought or else is this foremost-man He calls then
til sín fimm hina grimmustu kappa sína, ok kvað þeim
to himself five the grimmest champions his and said for-them
eigi ofætlat, þótt þeir sigraði einn mann; þeir kvóðust
not over-reckoned though they conquered one man they said-of-themselves
ætla at færa í hóf hans dul ok gefa dýrum hræ
intend to bring into measure his conceit and give to-beasts carrion
hans; síðan ganga þeir út, enn er Ásmundr spyrr þetta,
his then go they out but when Asmund hears this
þá mælti hann: „Í dag ætla ek at vinna til borðhalds
then spoke he In day intend I to win for table-keeping
mér“. Þeir kvóðust ætla ugga, at hann mundi ofmikit
for-me They said-of-themselves intend fear that he would too-much
ætla sér, enn kvóðust alla sœmd honum at launa
intend for-himself but said-of-themselves all honor him to repay
eiga. Síðan hittust þeir ok börðust þegar, ok hjó Ásmundr
owe Then met they and fought at-once and hewed Asmund
stórt ok tíðum, ok lauk svá at hann drap þá alla. Enn
great and often and ended so that he killed them all But
er Hildibrandr spyrr þetta, mælti hann: „Seint dofnar hans
when Hildibrand hears this spoke he Slowly numbs his
hönd, ok skamt skal til, at hann skal ná at berjast“.
hand and short shall to(-be) that he shall get to fight
Þá gerist í skálanum ymr mikill af grenjun berserkjanna,
Then becomes in the-hall din great from howling of-the-berserks

er sjá einn manna skal ganga yfir svá marga menn. Þá
that this one of-men shall go over so many men Then
mælti Hildibrandr: „Búist nú sex várir menn, ok mætti
spoke Hildibrand Get-ready now six our men and might
þér þá vinna þá frægð at hefna várra manna“. Síðan fóru
you then win that fame to avenge our men Then went
þeir til hólms, ok þá er Ásmundr spyrr þetta, bjóst
they to holm and then when Asmund hears this got-ready
hann skjótt ok mælti: „Þat sverð hefi ek, at jafngott er
he quickly and spoke That sword have I that equally-good is
at drepa með sex menn sem þrjá“; ok síðan fundust þeir.
to kill with six men as three and then met they
Þá mæltu kapparnir, at hann skyldi laust láta sverðit ok
Then spoke the-champions that he should loose let the-sword and
gefast upp. Hann segir: „Þat mun eigi at óhöggnum
give-himself up He says That will not with unhewn
skildi; er yðr ókærin nauðsyn at hefna yðarra manna“.
shield since to-you uncalled-for need to avenge your men
Síðan börðust þeir, ok sóttu hann fast; hann kunni et sama
Then fought they and pressed him hard he knew the same
lag á, at höggva sverðs egginni nú ok fyrr, ok þótt
way at(-it) to hew with-sword's edge now as before and though
hann fengi sár, þá linaði hann ekki sverðshöggunum, ok
he got wounds then slackened he not the-sword-blows and
hjó suma sundr í miðju, ok svá lauk, at hann drap þá
hewed some asunder in middle and so ended that he killed them
alla, ok fór aftr til hertuganna. Þeir gerðust fjölmennir, er
all and went back to the-dukes They became numerous when
ríkit vanst æ undir þá, ok nú er í hvers manns húsi
the-realm was-won ever under them and now is in every man's house
umrœða um þenna kappa. Ok enn kómu þessi tíðendi fyrir
talk about this champion And again came these tidings before

Hildibrand, ok mælti hann: „Rýrt verðr nú tal várra
Hildibrand and spoke he Thinned becomes now (the)-count of-our
manna, eðr hvat er nú eftir?“ „Herra“, segja þeir, „eftir eru
men or what is now left Lord say they left are
sjau ok tuttugu“. (Hildibrandr svarar): „Svá mun nú mega
seven and twenty Hildibrand answers So will now may
metast heðan í frá, at þessi enn ókunni maðr (sé) taliðr
be-reckoned hence in from that this the unknown man be counted
með stórköppum, ok svá bleðr hann af, sem vit munum
with great-champions and so peels he off as-if we-two will
hittast verða, enn senda skal enn sjau, þá er lengi hafa
meet must but send shall (one)-again seven those who long have
í minni þjónustu verit“. Síðan bjuggust þeir. Ásmundi var
in my service been Then got-ready they To-Asmund was
sagt nú, at eigi mundi setuefni. Hann segir: „Er þat þá
told now that not would (be)-time-to-sit He says Is that then
eins snæðings hald, ef næðust sjau bú?“ Síðan fór hann,
of-one meal's keeping if were-gotten seven farms Then went he
ok kómu í móti honum sjau kappar; þá mælti Ásmundr:
and came in against him seven champions then spoke Asmund
„Fyrir hví hleypir Hildibrandr út mönnum sínum, enn sitr
For why sends Hildibrand out men his but sits
heima sjálfr, ok etr á mik smámenni?“ Þeir reiddust mjök
at-home himself and sets on me small-men They grew-angry much
við orð hans, ok kváðu hann í øngva raun koma skulu,
at words his and said him into no trial come should
at berjast við Hildibrand. Síðan börðust þeir, ok hversu sem
to fight with Hildibrand Then fought they and however as
at ortist, þá drap hann þá alla; síðan hratt hann þeim
at(-it) went then killed he them all then thrust he them
út á ána, enn er Hildibrandr frá þat, þá mælti hann:
out into the-river but when Hildibrand learned that then spoke he

„Miklu eru nú stœrri atburðir orðnir, enn vér megum láta
Much are now greater happenings become than we may let
af hyggjast; nú skulu at honum átta berserkir, því at
off think now shall at him eight berserks because that
engum várum er líft við þat, ef eigi verða hefndir“.
to-none of-ours is life-bearable with that if not become vengeances
Síðan grenjuðu þeir mjök ok bitu ór skjöldum, þat er
Then howled they much and bit from shields that which
tók; enn Ásmundr var með hertogunum, ok kómu honum
took(-hold) but Asmund was with the-dukes and came to-him
þessi tíðindi, at enn mun kostr at berjast. Þá mælti
these tidings that again will chance to fight Then spoke
systir hertoga: „Sœmd sú, er vér létum, er nú öll aftr
(the)-sister of-(the)-dukes Honor that which we lost is now all back
komin, ok með meira mætti enn vér höfum spurdaga til“.
come and with more might than we have news of
Ásmundr segir: „Skulum vér til hætta, því at hann vill
Asmund says Shall we to(-it) venture because that he will
berserkjunum út egna, enn engi máttr er yfir þeim, ok
the-berserks out set-on but no might is over them and
betra mundi, at þeira ríkdómr legðist við várt ríki, því
better would that their wealth were-laid with our realm because
at ér mistuð ranglega“. Síðan reið hann í mót þeim, ok
that you lost wrongfully Then rode he in against them and
þegar þeir fundust, börðust þeir, ok var sjá fundr lengstr,
as-soon-as they met fought they and was this meeting longest
enn svá lýkr, at hann drepr þá alla. Enn er Hildibrandr
but so ends that he kills them all But when Hildibrand
spyrr þetta, eiskraði hann mjök ok mælti: „Sjá maðr er
hears this raged he much and spoke This man is
hamingjudrjúgr, er ekki tjóar mannmergð móti; nú skulu
luck-rich whom nothing avails crowd-of-men against now shall

at honum þeir ellifu, sem eftir eru“. Ok er Ásmundr spyrr
at him those eleven who left are And when Asmund hears
þetta, þá þagnaði hann. Hertugarnir mæltu: „Nú viljum vér
this then fell-silent he The-dukes spoke Now will we
skipa liði með þér, enn þú ver foringinn, ok mun þér þá
assign force with thee but thou be the-leader and will to-thee then
sigrast, enn þú bersk eigi einn við svá marga ofrhuga“.
(be)-victory but thou fight not alone with so many over-bold-ones
Ásmundr svarar øngvu, ok kom aftan, ok snæða menn, ok
Asmund answers nothing and came evening and eat men and
fóru síðan at sofa. Ásmund dreymdi, at konur stóðu yfir
went then to sleep Asmund dreamed that women stood over
honum með hervápnum ok mæltu: „Hvat veit óttabragð
him with war-weapons and spoke What means fear-look
þitt? þú ert ætlaðr at vera forgangsmaðr annarra, enn þú
thy thou art intended to be foremost-man of-others but thou
óttast ellifu menn; vér erum spádísir þínar ok skulum
fearest eleven men we are prophetic-disir thy and shall
þér vörn veita móti mönnum þeim, er þú átt við at
for-thee defense give against men those whom thou hast with to
reyna“; við þetta spratt hann upp ok bjóst, enn flestir
try At this sprang he up and got-ready but most
löttu hann; síðan reið hann í móti köppunum; enn þeir
dissuaded him then rode he in against the-champions but they
þóttust ráð hans í gaupnum hafa, ok létu honum
thought-themselves counsel his in palms have and made-out to-him
betr hent at ganga á hönd Hildibrandi enn látast. Hann
better fitting to go on hand to-Hildibrand than lose-life He
kvað þá sér eigi ófalari til dauða, enn þeir sem fyrr
said them for-himself not less-for-sale to death than those whom before
drap hann, ok kvað þat auðvitað, at mikill mundi verða
killed he and said that self-evident that great would be

frægðar munr eins ok ellifu. Síðan börðust þeir, ok kringdu
of-fame difference of-one and eleven Then fought they and circled
um hann, enn hann var torsóttr, ok festust vápnin lítt
about him but he was hard-to-get-at and fastened the-weapons little
við hann, enn sverð hans beit alt, þat sem fyrir varð
on him but sword his bit all that which before(-it) came
ok þat tók, ok lauk svá, at hann veitti þeim öllum bana.
and that took and ended so that he gave them all death
Hertogarnir höfðu fylgt honum ok kváðu hans afrek aldri
The-dukes had followed him and said his feat never
mundu fyrnast, ok gerðist þat orð manna, at hann
would be-forgotten and became that (the)-word of-men that he
mundi eigi undan (víkja), þótt sjálfr Hildibrandr Húnakappi
would not away yield though himself Hildibrand Huns'-Champion
kœmi í móti honum, er manna var frægastr í þann tíma.
came in against him who of-men was most-famous in that time

IX · HILDIBRANDR'S DEATH-SONG

In a berserk fury Hildibrandr kills his own son and goes against Ásmundr. Hildibrandr's sword breaks on Ásmundr's helmet, and he lies mortally wounded. In verse he tells of the two swords, his shield marked with eighty slain, the son he killed, and he asks Ásmundr, whom he calls brother, to cover him with his clothes.

Ok er Hildibrandr frá þetta, at kappar hans vóru drepnir,
And when Hildibrand learned this that champions his were slain
þá kom á hann berserksgangr, ok snørist þegar til ferðar,
then came on him berserk-fury and turned-himself at-once to journey
ok mælti: „Eigi skal þat mælt, at ek hætta mönnum mínum
and spoke Not shall that said that I risk men my
út, enn þorak eigi sjálfr at berjast". Enn í vanstilli þessu,
out but dare-I not myself to fight But in frenzy this

er á honum var, ok (er) hann var á ferðina kominn, þá
which on him was and when he was on the-journey come then
sá hann son sinn ok drap hann þegar. Síðan ók hann upp
saw he son his and killed him at-once Then drove he up
með ánni Rín til móts við Ásmund; þann skjöld hafði
along the-river Rhine to meeting with Asmund that shield had
hann, er á vóru markaðir menn svá margir, sem hann
he which on were marked men as many as he
hafði drepit. Enn er Ásmundr spurði þetta, þá bjóst hann
had killed But when Asmund heard this then got-ready he
til móts við hann. Enn þegar er þeir fundust, þá börðust
to meeting with him But at-once when they met then fought
þeir, ok vóru flest högg œrit stór. Enn er þeir höfðu lengi
they and were most blows very great But when they had long
barizt af mikilli reiði, þá neytti Hildibrandr afls, ok hjó
fought from great wrath then used Hildibrand strength and hewed
til Ásmundar af öllu afli tveim höndum, ok í því er
at Asmund with all strength with-two hands and in that when
sverðit kom í hjálminn, þá brast þat sundr undir hjaltinu,
the-sword came into the-helmet then broke it asunder under the-hilt

ok fór brandrinn grenjandi niðr í ána, enn hann varð
and went the-blade howling down into the-river but he became
sárr mörgum sárum; síðan kvað hann vísur þessar:
wounded with-many wounds then spoke he verses these

„Mjök er vandgætt,
Much is hard-to-tell
hvé verða skal
how become shall
of borinn öðrum
— born to-other
at banorði;
for death-word
þik drótt of bar
thee host — bore
af Danmörku,
from Denmark
enn mik sjálfan
but me myself
á Svíþjóðu.
in Sweden

Tveir vóru þeir
Two were they
*tyrvir gjarnir
destroyers eager
Buðla nautar,
Budli's gifts
nú er brotinn annarr;
now is broken (the)-one

svá höfðu dvergar
so had dwarves
dauðir smíðat,
dead forged
sem engi mun
as none will
áðr né síðan.
before nor since

Stendr mér at höfði
Stands at-me at head
hlíf en brotna,
shield the broken
eru þar taldir
are there counted
tigir átta
tens eight
manna þeira,
of-men those
er ek at morði varð;
whom I to murder became
liggr þar enn svási
lies there the dear
sonr at höfði
son at head
eftir erfingi,
after heir

er ek eiga gat,
whom I have begot
óviljandi
unwilling
aldrs synjaðak.
of-life denied-I

Bið ek þik, bróðir,
Ask I thee brother
bœnar einnar,
of-boon one
einnar bœnar,
of-one boon
eigi þú synja;
not thou refuse
mik skaltu verja
me shalt-thou cover
váðum þínum,
with-clothes thy
sem fjörs bani
as of-life slayer
fár annars mun.
few of-another will

Nú verð ek liggja
Now must I lie
lífs andvana
of-life bereft
mœki undaðr
by-sword wounded
þeims magnar sár“.
that-which swells wounds

X · ÁSMUNDR KAPPABANI

Ásmundr buries Hildibrandr with honor and regrets his deed. At Æsa's hall, where another man is about to woo her, he tells in verse of his fights and dreams. He forgives Æsa, marries her, kills her other suitor, and becomes famous as Ásmundr kappabani.

Eftir þat dó Hildibrandr Húnakappi; ok gerði
After that died Hildibrand Huns'-Champion and made
Ásmundr virðulega leizlu hans, ok hugði þá illa
Asmund worthily burial his and thought then ill
sínu verki. Hann hitti þá ekki hertugana, ok fór
of-his deed He met then not the-dukes and went
þá á þann bœ, er móðir hans átti ok Æsa
then to that farm which mother his had and Aesa
en fagra konungsdóttir; þá ætlar maðr at biðja
the Fair king's-daughter then intends a-man to ask-for

hennar. Ásmundr kvað, er hann kom í hallar
her Asmund spoke when he came into hall's
dyrnar:
doors

„Lítt varði mik
Little expected me
laga þeira,
of-laws their
at mik manns einskis
that me of-man none
*ófyrr kvæði,
less-brave would-call
þá er mik til kappa
then when me to champion
kuru Húnmegir
chose Hun-kinsmen
átta sinnum
eight times
fyrir jöfurs ríki.
before prince's realm

Þá hvarflaði
Then wavered
hugr í brjósti,
mind in breast
er menn ellifu
when men eleven
ofrkapp buðu;
over-contest offered

áðr mér í svefni
before to-me in sleep
sögðu dísir,
said disir
at ek hjörleik þann
that I sword-play that
heyja skyldak.
wage should-I

Börðumst einn við einn,
Fought-we one against one
enn endr við tvó,
but again against two
fimm ok fjóra
five and four
fletmenninga;
bench-men
sex ok við sjau
six and against seven
senn á velli
at-once on field
einn ek við átta,
alone I against eight
þó ek enn lifi.
yet I still live

Þá kom enn hári
Then came the hoary
Hildibrandr
Hildibrand
Húnakappi,
Huns'-Champion
hann var mér ómakr,
he was to-me troublesome
ok ek markaða
and I marked
meðan á honum
while on him
herkumbl harðleg
war-tokens hard
fyrir hjálm neðan".
under helm beneath

Eftir þat fögnuðu menn honum vel, ok var hann
After that welcomed men him well and was he
kallaðr Ásmundr kappabani. Konungsdóttir bað hann
called Asmund Champion-Killer (The)-king's-daughter bade him
(taka) af sér reiði, þótt hon hefði verit í tilstilli
take from himself anger though she had been in contriving
um þetta, ok lét várkunn við sik, enn lét mikit
about this and pleaded excuse for herself but made-out great
atkvæði fylgt hafa vápnunum, enn þótt hann hefði
decree followed have the-weapons but though he had
reiðzt henni, þá mintist hann ástar hennar við
been-angered with-her then remembered he love her toward
sik, ok gerði brúðlaup sitt, ok gekk at eiga Æsu hina
him and made wedding his and went to marry Aesa the

fögru, enn drap þann, er hennar hafði beðit, ok er
Fair but killed that-one who her had asked-for and is
sá eigi nefndr. Síðan gerðist Ásmundr kappabani
that-one not named Then became Asmund Champion-Killer
víðfrægr ok nafnkunnugr maðr, ok lýkr þar þessari
far-famed and renowned man and ends there this
sögu.
saga
