

Beowulf

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum,
þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,
5
monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,
weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra
10
ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cyning!
ðæm eafera wæs æfter cenned,
geong in geardum, þone god sende
folce to frofre; fyrenðearfe ongeat
15
þe hie ær drugon aldorlease
lange hwile. Him þæs liffrea,
wuldres wealdend, woroldare forgeaf;
Beowulf wæs breme (blæd wide sprang),
Scyldes eafera Scedelandum in.
20
Swa sceal geong guma gode gewyrcean,
fromum feohgiftum on fæder bearme,
þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
wilgesipas, þonne wig cume,
leode gelæsten; lofdædum sceal
25
in mægþa gehwære man geþeon.
Him ða Scyld gewat to gescæphwile
felahror feran on frean wære.
Hi hyne þa ætbæron to brimes faroðe,
swæse gesipas, swa he selfa bæd,
30
þenden wordum weold wine Scyldinga;
leof landfruma lange ahte.
þær æt hyðe stod hringedstefna,
isig ond utfus, æþelinges fær.
Aledon þa leofne þeoden,
35
beaga bryttan, on bearm scipes,

mærne be mæste. þær wæs madma fela
 of feorwegum, frætwa, gelæded;
 ne hyrde ic cymlicor ceol gegyrwan
 hildewæpnum ond heaðowædum,
 40
 billum ond byrnum; him on bearme læg
 madma mænigo, þa him mid scoldon
 on flodes æht feor gewitan.
 Nalæs hi hine læssan lacum teodan,
 þeodgestreorum, þon þa dydon
 45
 þe hine æt frumsceaft forð onsendon
 ænne ofer yðe umborwesende.
 þa gyt hie him asetton segen geldenne
 heah ofer heafod, leton holm beran,
 geafon on garsecg; him wæs geomor sefa,
 50
 murnende mod. Men ne cunnon
 secgan to soðe, selerædende,
 hæleð under heofenum, hwa þæm hlæste onfeng.
 ða wæs on burgum Beowulf Scyldinga,
 leof leodcyning, longe þrage
 55
 folcum gefræge (fæder ellor hwearf,
 aldor of earde), oþþæt him eft onwoc
 heah Healfdene; heold þenden lifde,
 gamol ond guðreow, glæde Scyldingas.
 ðæm feower bearn forð gerimed
 60
 in worold wocun, weoroda ræswan,
 Heorogar ond Hroðgar ond Halga til;
 hyrde ic þæt wæs Onelan cwen,
 Heaðoscilfingas healsgebedda.
 þa wæs Hroðgare heresped gyfen,
 65
 wiges weorðmynd, þæt him his winemagas
 georne hyrdon, oðð þæt seo geogoð geweoð,
 magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn
 þæt healreced hatan wolde,
 medoærn micel, men gewyrcean
 70
 þonne ylde bearn æfre gefrunon,
 ond þær on innan eall gedælan
 geongum ond ealdum, swylc him god sealde,
 buton folcscare ond feorum gumena.
 ða ic wide gefrægn weorc gebannan
 75

manigre mægþe geond þisne middangeard,
 folcstede frætwan. Him on fyrste gelomp,
 ædre mid yldum, þæt hit wearð ealgearo,
 healærna mæst; scop him Heort naman
 se þe his wordes geweald wide hæfde.

80

He beot ne aleh, beagas dælde,
 sinc æt symle. Sele hlifade,
 heah ond horngeap, heaðowylma bad,
 laðan liges; ne wæs hit lenge þa gen
 þæt se ecghete apumsweorum

85

æfter wælniðe wæcnan scolde.
 ða se ellengæst earfoðlice
 þrage geþolode, se þe in þystrum bad,
 þæt he dogora gehwam dream gehyrde
 hludne in healle; þær wæs hearpan sweg,

90

swutol sang scopes. Sægde se þe cuþe
 frumsceaft fira feorran reccan,
 cwæð þæt se ælmihtiga eorðan worhte,
 wlitebeorhtne wang, swa wæter bebugeð,
 gesette sigehreþig sunnan ond monan

95

leoman to leohte landbuendum
 ond gefrætwade foldan sceatas
 leomum ond leafum, lif eac gesceop
 cynna gehwylcum þara ðe cwice hwyrfaþ.
 Swa ða drihtguman dreamum lifdon

100

eadiglice, oððæt an ongan
 fyrene fremman feond on helle.
 Wæs se grimma gæst Grendel haten,
 mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold,
 fen ond fæsten; fifelcynnes eard

105

wonsæli wer weardode hwile,
 siþðan him scyppend forscrifen hæfde
 in Caines cynne. þone cwealm gewræc
 ece drihten, þæs þe he Abel slog;
 ne gefeah he þære fæhðe, ac he hine feor forwræc,

110

metod for þy mane, mancynne fram.
 þanon untydras ealle onwocon,
 eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas,
 swylce gigantas, þa wið gode wunnon
 lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.

115 Gewat ða neosian, syþðan niht becom,
hean huses, hu hit Hringdene
æfter beorþege gebun hæfdon.
Fand þa ðær inne æþelinga gedriht
swefan æfter symble; sorge ne cuðon,
120 wonsceaft wera. Wiht unhælo,
grim ond grædig, gearo sona wæs,
reoc ond reþe, ond on ræste genam
þritig þegna, þanon eft gewat
huðe hremig to ham faran,
125 mid þære wælfylle wica neosan.
ða wæs on uhtan mid ærdæge
Grendles guðcræft gumum undyrne;
þa wæs æfter wiste wop up ahafen,
micel morgensweg. Mære þeoden,
130 æþeling ærgod, unbliðe sæt,
þolode ðryðswyð, þegnsorge dreah,
syðþan hie þæs laðan last sceawedon,
wergan gastes; wæs þæt gewin to strang,
lað ond longsum. Næs hit lengra fyrst,
135 ac ymb ane niht eft gefremede
morðbeala mare ond no mearn fore,
fæhðe ond fyrene; wæs to fæst on þam.
þa wæs eaðfynde þe him elles hwær
gerumlicor ræste sohte,
140 bed æfter burum, ða him gebeacnod wæs,
gesægd soðlice sweotolan tacne
healðegnes hete; heold hyne syðþan
fyr ond fæstor se þæm feonde ætwand.
Swa rixode ond wið rihte wan,
145 ana wið eallum, oðþæt idel stod
husa selest. Wæs seo hwil micel;
XII wintra tid torn geþolode
wine Scyldinga, weana gehwelcne,
sidra sorga. Forðam secgum wearð,
150 ylða bearnum, undyrne cuð,
gyddum geomore, þætte Grendel wan
hwile wið Hroþgar, heteniðas wæg,
fyrene ond fæhðe fela missera,

singale sæce, sibbe ne wolde
 155 wið manna hwone mægenes Deniga,
 feorhbealo feorran, fea þingian,
 ne þær nænig witena wenan þorfte
 beorhtre bote to banan folmum,
 ac se æglæca ehtende wæs,
 160 deorc deapscua, duguþe ond geogoþe,
 seomade ond syrede, sinnihte heold
 mistige moras; men ne cunnon
 hwyder helrunan hwyrftum scriþað.
 Swa fela fyrena feond mancynnes,
 165 atol angengea, oft gefremede,
 heardra hynða. Heorot eardode,
 sincfage sel sweartum nihtum;
 no he þone gifstol gretan moste,
 maþðum for metode, ne his myne wisse.
 170 þæt wæs wræc micel wine Scyldinga,
 modes brecða. Monig oft gesæt
 rice to rune; ræd eahtedon
 hwæt swiðferhðum selest wære
 wið færgryrum to gefremmanne.
 175 Hwilum hie geheton æt hærgtrafum
 wigweorþunga, wordum bædon
 þæt him gastbona geoce gefremede
 wið þeodþreaum. Swylc wæs þeaw hyra,
 hæþenra hyht; helle gemundon
 180 in modsefan, metod hie ne cuþon,
 dæda demend, ne wiston hie drihten god,
 ne hie huru heofena helm herian ne cuþon,
 wuldres waldend. Wa bið þæm ðe sceal
 þurh sliðne nið sawle bescufan
 185 in fyres fæþm, frofre ne wenan,
 wihte gewendan; wel bið þæm þe mot
 æfter deaðdæge drihten secean
 ond to fæder fæþmum freoðo wilnian.
 Swa ða mælceare maga Healfdenes
 190 singala seað, ne mihte snotor hæleð
 wean onwendan; wæs þæt gewin to swyð,
 laþ ond longsum, þe on ða leode becom,

nydwracu niþgrim, nihtbealwa mæst.
 195 þæt fram ham gefrægn Higelaces þegn,
 god mid Geatum, Grendles dæda;
 se wæs moncynnes mægenes strengest
 on þæm dæge þysses lifes,
 æpele ond eacen. Het him yðlidan
 200 godne gegyrwan, cwæð, he guðcyning
 ofer swanrade secean wolde,
 mærne þeoden, þa him wæs manna þearf.
 ðone siðfæt him snotere ceorlas
 lythwon logon, þeah he him leof wære;
 hwetton higerofne, hæl sceawedon.
 205 Hæfde se goda Geata leoda
 cempan gecorone þara þe he cenoste
 findan mihte; XVna sum
 sundwudu sohte; secg wisade,
 lagucræftig mon, landgemyrcu.
 210 Fyrst forð gewat. Flota wæs on yðum,
 bat under beorge. Beornas gearwe
 on stefn stigon; streamas wundon,
 sund wið sande; secgas bæron
 on bearm nacan beorhte frætwe,
 215 guðsearo geatolic; guman ut scufon,
 weras on wilsid, wudu bundenne.
 Gewat þa ofer wægholm, winde gefysed,
 flota famiheals fugle gelicost,
 220 oðþæt ymb antid oþres dogores
 wundenstefna gewaden hæfde
 þæt ða liðende land gesawon,
 brimclifu blican, beorgas steape,
 side sænæssas; þa wæs sund liden,
 eoletes æt ende. þanon up hraðe
 225 Wedera leode on wang stigon,
 sæwudu sældon (syrca hrysedon,
 guðgewædo), gode þancedon
 þæs þe him yplade eaðe wurdon.
 þa of wealle geseah weard Scildinga,
 230 se þe holmclifu healdan scolde,
 beran ofer bolcan beorhte randas,

fyrdsearu fuslicu; hine fyrwyt bræc
 modgehygdum, hwæt þa men wæron.
 Gewat him þa to waroðe wicge ridan
 235
 þegn Hroðgares, þrymmum cwehte
 mægenwudu mundum, meþelwordum frægn:
 "Hwæt syndon ge searohæbbendra,
 byrnum werede, þe þus brontne ceol
 ofer lagustræte lædan cwomon,
 240
 hider ofer holmas? ...le wæs
 endesæta, ægwearde heold,
 þe on land Dena laðra nænig
 mid scipherge sceðþan ne meahte.
 No her cuðlicor cuman ongunnon
 245
 lindhæbbende; ne ge leafnesword
 guðfremmendra gearwe ne wisson,
 maga gemedu. Næfre ic maran geseah
 eorla ofer eorþan ðonne is eower sum,
 secg on searwum; nis þæt seldguma,
 250
 wæpnum geweorðad, næfne him his wlite leoge,
 ænlic ansyn. Nu ic eower sceal
 frumcyn witan, ær ge fyr heonan,
 leassceaweras, on land Dena
 furþur feran. Nu ge feorbuend,
 255
 mereliðende, minne gehyrað
 anfealdne geþoht: Ofost is selest
 to gecyðanne hwanan eowre cyme syndon."
 Him se yldesta ondswarode,
 werodes wisa, wordhord onleac:
 260
 "We synt gumcynnes Geata leode
 ond Higelaces heorðgeneatas.
 Wæs min fæder folcum gecyþed,
 æþele ordfruma, Ecgþeow haten.
 Gebad wintra worn, ær he on weg hwurfe,
 265
 gamol of geardum; hine gearwe geman
 witena welhwylc wide geond eorþan.
 We þurh holdne hige hlaford þinne,
 sunu Healfdenes, secean cwomon,
 leodgebyrgean; wes þu us larena god.
 270
 Habbað we to þæm mæran micel ærende,

Deniga frean, ne sceal þær dyrne sum
 wesan, þæs ic wene. þu wast (gif hit is
 swa we soþlice secgan hyrdon)
 275 þæt mid Scyldingum sceaðona ic nat hwylc,
 deogol dædhata, deorcum nihtum
 eaweð þurh egsan uncuðne nið,
 hynðu ond hrafyl. Ic þæs Hroðgar mæg
 þurh rumne sefan ræd gelæran,
 280 hu he frod ond god feond oferswyðeþ,
 gyf him edwendan æfre scolde
 bealuwa bisigu, bot eft cuman,
 ond þa cearwylmas colran wurðað;
 oððe a syþðan earfoðþrage,
 285 þreanyd þolað, þenden þær wunað
 on heahstede husa selest."
 Weard mabelode, ðær on wicge sæt,
 ombiht unforht: "æghwæþres sceal
 scearp scyldwiga gescad witan,
 290 worda ond worca, se þe wel þenceð.
 Ic þæt gehyre, þæt þis is hold weorod
 frean Scyldinga. Gewitað forð beran
 wæpen ond gewædu; ic eow wisige.
 Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate
 295 wið feonda gehwone flotan eowerne,
 niwtyrwydne nacan on sande
 arum healdan, oþðæt eft byreð
 ofer lagustreamas leofne mannan
 wudu wundenhals to Wedermearce,
 300 godfremmendra swylcum gifeþe bið
 þæt þone hilderæs hal gedigeð."
 Gewiton him þa feran. Flota stille bad,
 seomode on sale sidfæþmed scip,
 on ancre fæst. Eoforlic scionon
 305 ofer hleorberan gehroden golde,
 fah ond fyrheard; ferhwearde heold
 guþmod grimmon. Guman onetton,
 sigon ætsomne, oþþæt hy sæl timbred,
 geatolic ond goldfah, ongyton mihton;
 310 þæt wæs foremærost foldbuendum

receda under roderum, on þæm se rica bad;
 lixte se leoma ofer landa fela.
 Him þa hildedeor hof modigra
 torht getæhte, þæt hie him to mihton
 gegnum gangan; guðbeorna sum
 315
 wicg gewende, word æfter cwæð:
 "Mæl is me to feran; fæder alwalda
 mid arstafum eowic gehealde
 siða gesunde. Ic to sæ wille
 wið wrað werod wearde healdan."
 320
 Stræt wæs stanfah, stig wisode
 gumum ætgædere. Guðbyrne scan
 heard hondlocen, hringiren scir
 song in searwum, þa hie to sele furðum
 in hyra gryregeatwum gangan cwomon.
 325
 Setton sæmeþe side scyldas,
 rondas regnhearde, wið þæs recedes weal,
 bugon þa to bence. Byrnan hringdon,
 guðsearo gumena; garas stodon,
 sæmanna searo, samod ætgædere,
 330
 æscholt ufan græg; wæs se irenþreat
 wæpnum gewurþad. þa ðær wlonc hæleð
 oretmecgas æfter æþelum frægn:
 "Hwanon ferigeað ge fætte scyldas,
 græge syrcan ond grimhelmas,
 335
 heresceafta heap? Ic eom Hroðgares
 ar ond ombiht. Ne seah ic elþeodige
 þus manige men modiglicran.
 Wen ic þæt ge for wlenco, nalles for wræcsiðum,
 ac for higeþrymmum Hroðgar sohton."
 340
 Him þa ellenrof andswarode,
 wlanc Wedera leod, word æfter spræc,
 heard under helme: "We synt Higelaces
 beodgeneatas; Beowulf is min nama.
 Wille ic asecgan sunu Healfdenes,
 345
 mærum þeodne, min ærende,
 aldre þinum, gif he us geunnan wile
 þæt we hine swa godne gretan moton."
 Wulfgar mapeleode (þæt wæs Wendla leod;
 wæs his modsefa manegum gecyðed,

350 wig ond wisdom): "Ic þæs wine Deniga,
 frean Scildinga, frinan wille,
 beaga bryttan, swa þu bena eart,
 þeoden mærne, ymb þinne sið,
 ond þe þa ondsware ædre gecyðan

355 ðe me se goda agifan þenceð."
 Hwearf þa hrædlice þær Hroðgar sæt
 eald ond anhar mid his eorla gedriht;
 eode ellenrof, þæt he for eaxlum gestod
 Deniga frean; cuþe he duguðe þeaw.

360 Wulfgar maðelode to his winedrihtne:
 "Her syndon geferede, feorran cumene
 ofer geofenes begang Geata leode;
 þone yldestan oretmecgas
 Beowulf nemnað. Hy benan synt

365 þæt hie, þeoden min, wið þe moton
 wordum wrixlan. No ðu him wearne geteoh
 ðinra gegncwida, glædman Hroðgar.
 Hy on wiggetawum wyrðe þinceað
 eorla geæhtlan; huru se aldor deah,

370 se þæm heaðorincum hider wisade."
 Hroðgar maþelode, helm Scyldinga:
 "Ic hine cuðe cnihtwesende.
 Wæs his ealdfæder Ecgþeo haten,
 ðæm to ham forgeaf Hreþel Geata

375 angan dohtor; is his eafora nu
 heard her cumen, sohte holdne wine.
 ðonne sægdon þæt sæliþende,
 þa ðe gifsceattas Geata fyredon
 þyder to þance, þæt he XXXtiges

380 manna mægencræft on his mundgripe
 heaþorof hæbbe. Hine halig god
 for arstafum us onsende,
 to Westdenum, þæs ic wen hæbbe,
 wið Grendles gryre. Ic þæm godan sceal

385 for his modþræce madmas beodan.
 Beo ðu on ofeste, hat in gan
 seon sibbedriht samod ætgædere;
 gesaga him eac wordum þæt hie sint wilcuman

Deniga leodum."
390 word inne abead:
"Eow het secgan sigedrihten min,
aldor Eastdena, þæt he eower æþelu can,
ond ge him syndon ofer sæwylmas
heardhicgende hider wilcuman.

395 Nu ge moton gangan in eowrum guðgeatawum
under heregriman Hroðgar geseon;
lætað hildebord her onbidan,
wudu, wælsceaftas, worda geþinges."
Aras þa se rica, ymb hine rinc manig,

400 þryðlic þegna heap; sume þær bidon,
heaðoreaf heoldon, swa him se hearda bebead.
Snyredon ætsomne, þa secg wisode,
under Heorotes hrof
heard under helme, þæt he on heoðe gestod.

405 Beowulf maðelode (on him byrne scan,
searonet seowed smipes orþancum):
"Wæs þu, Hroðgar, hal! Ic eom Higelaces
mæg ond magoðegn; hæbbe ic mærdða fela
ongunnen on geogoþe. Me wearð Grendles þing

410 on minre eþeltyrf undyrne cuð;
secgað sæliðend þæt þæs sele stande,
reced selesta, rinca gehwylcum
idel ond unnyt, siððan æfenleoht
under heofenes hador beholen weorþeð.

415 þa me þæt gelærdon leode mine
þa selestan, snotere ceorlas,
þeoden Hroðgar, þæt ic þe sohte,
forþan hie mægenes cræft minne cuþon,
selfe ofersawon, ða ic of searwum cwom,

420 fah from feondum, þær ic fife geband,
yðde eotena cyn ond on yðum slog
niceras nihtes, nearoþearfe dreah,
wræc Wedera nið (wean ahsodon),
forgrand gramum, ond nu wið Grendel sceal,

425 wið þam aglæcan, ana gehegan
ðing wið þyrse. Ic þe nu ða,
brego Beorhtdena, biddan wille,

eodor Scyldinga, anre bene,
 þæt ðu me ne forwyrne, wigendra hleo,
 430
 freowine folca, nu ic þus feorran com,
 þæt ic mote ana ond minra eorla gedryht,
 þes hearda heap, Heorot fælsian.
 Hæbbe ic eac geahsod þæt se æglæca
 for his wonhydum wæpna ne recceð.
 435
 Ic þæt þonne forhicge (swa me Higelac sie,
 min mondrihten, modes bliðe),
 þæt ic sweord bere oþðe sidne scyld,
 geolorand to guþe, ac ic mid grape sceal
 fon wið feonde ond ymb feorh sacan,
 440
 lað wið laþum; ðær gelyfan sceal
 dryhtnes dome se þe hine deað nimeð.
 Wen ic þæt he wille, gif he wealdan mot,
 in þæm guðsele Geotena leode
 etan unforhte, swa he oft dyde,
 445
 mægen Hreðmanna. Na þu minne þearft
 hafalan hydan, ac he me habban wile
 dreore fahne, gif mec deað nimeð.
 Byreð blodig wæl, byrgean þenceð,
 eteð angenga unmunlice,
 450
 mearcað morhopu; no ðu ymb mines ne þearft
 lices feorme leng sorgian.
 Onsend Higelace, gif mec hild nime,
 beaduscruða betst, þæt mine breost wereð,
 hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædlan laf,
 455
 Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel."
 Hroðgar mæpelode, helm Scyldinga:
 "For gewyrhtum þu, wine min Beowulf,
 ond for arstafum usic sohtest.
 Gesloh þin fæder fæhðe mæste;
 460
 wearþ he Heapolafe to handbonan
 mid Wilfingum; ða hine Wedera cyn
 for herebrogan habban ne mihte.
 þanon he gesohte Suðdena folc
 ofer yða gewearc, Arscyldinga.
 465
 ða ic furþum weold folce Deniga
 ond on geogoðe heold ginne rice,

hordburh hæleþa; ða wæs Heregar dead,
 min yldra mæg unlifigende,
 bearn Healfdenes; se wæs betera ðonne ic.
 470
 Siððan þa fæhðe feo þingode;
 sende ic Wylfingum ofer wæteres hrycg
 ealde madmas; he me aþas swor.
 Sorh is me to secganne on sefan minum
 gumena ængum hwæt me Grendel hafað
 475
 hynðo on Heorote mid his hetþancum,
 færniða gefremed. Is min fletwerod,
 wigheap gewanod; hie wyrd forsweop
 on Grendles gryre. God eape mæg
 þone dolsceaðan dæda getwæfan.
 480
 Ful oft gebeotedon beore druncne
 ofer ealowæge oretmeccas
 þæt hie in beorsele bidan woldon
 Grendles guþe mid gryrum ecga.
 ðonne wæs þeos medoheal on morgentid,
 485
 drihtsele dreorfah, þonne dæg lixe,
 eal bencþelu blode bestymed,
 heall heorudreore; ahte ic holdra þy læs,
 deorre duguðe, þe þa deað fornam.
 Site nu to symle ond onsæl meoto,
 490
 sigehreð secgum, swa þin sefa hwette."
 þa wæs Geatmæcgum geador ætsomne
 on beorsele benc gerymed;
 þær swiðferhþe sittan eodon,
 þryðum dealle. þegn nytte beheold,
 495
 se þe on handa bær hroden ealowæge,
 scencte scir wered. Scop hwilum sang
 hador on Heorote. þær wæs hæleða dream,
 duguð unlytel Dena ond Wedera.
 Unferð mabelode, Ecglafes bearn,
 500
 þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga,
 onband beadurune (wæs him Beowulfes sið,
 modges merefaran, micel æfpunca,
 forþon þe he ne uþe þæt ænig oðer man
 æfre mærdða þon ma middangeardes
 505
 gehedde under heofenum þonne he sylfa):

"Eart þu se Beowulf, se þe wið Breca n wunne,
 on sidne sæ ymb sund flite,
 ðær git for wlencc wada cunnedon
 ond for dolgilpe on deop wæter
 510
 aldrum neþdon? Ne inc ænig mon,
 ne leof ne lað, belean mihte
 sorhfullne sið, þa git on sund reon.
 þær git eagorstream earmum þehton,
 mæton merestræta, mundum brugdon,
 515
 glidon ofer garsecg; geofon ypum weol,
 wintrys wylmum. Git on wæteres æht
 seofon niht swuncon; he þe æt sunde oferflat,
 hæfde mare mægen. þa hine on morgentid
 on Heaþoræmas holm up ætbær;
 520
 ðonon he gesohte swæsne Œ,
 leof his leodum, lond Brondinga,
 freoðoburh fægere, þær he folc ahte,
 burh ond beagas. Beot eal wið þe
 sunu Beanstanes soðe gelæste.
 525
 ðonne wene ic to þe wyrsan geþingea,
 ðeah þu heaðoræsa gehwær dohte,
 grimre guðe, gif þu Grendles dearst
 nihtlongne fyrst nean bidan."
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 530
 "Hwæt! þu worn fela, wine min Unferð,
 beore druncen ymb Breca n spræce,
 sægdest from his siðe. Soð ic talige,
 þæt ic merestrenge maran ahte,
 earfeþo on ypum, ðonne ænig oþer man.
 535
 Wit þæt gecwædon cnihtwesende
 ond gebeotedon (wæron begen þa git
 on geogoðfeore) þæt wit on garsecg ut
 aldrum neðdon, ond þæt geæfndon swa.
 Hæfdon swurd nacod, þa wit on sund reon,
 540
 heard on handa; wit unc wið hronfixas
 werian þohton. No he wiht fram me
 flodypum feor fleotan meahhte,
 hraþor on holme; no ic fram him wolde.
 ða wit ætsomne on sæ wæron
 545

fif nihta fyrst, oþþæt unc flod todraf,
 wado weallende, wedera cealdost,
 nipende niht, ond norþanwind
 heaðogrim ondhwearf; hreo wæron yþa.
 Wæs merefixa mod onhrered;
 550
 þær me wið laðum licsyrce min,
 heard, hondlocen, helpe gefremede,
 beadohrægl broden on breostum læg
 golde gegyrwed. Me to grunde teah
 fah feondscaða, fæste hæfde
 555
 grim on grape; hwæþre me gyfeþe wearð
 þæt ic aglæcan orde geræhte,
 hildebille; heaþoræs fornam
 mihtig meredeor þurh mine hand.
 Swa mec gelome laðgeteonan
 560
 þreatedon þearle. Ic him þenode
 deoran sweorde, swa hit gedefe wæs.
 Næs hie ðære fülle gefean hæfdon,
 manfordædlan, þæt hie me þegon,
 symbel ymbsæton sægrunde neah;
 565
 ac on mergenne mecum wunde
 be yðlafe uppe lægon,
 sweordum aswefede, þæt syðþan na
 ymb brontne ford brimliðende
 lade ne letton. Leoht eastan com,
 570
 beorht beacen godes; brimu swaþredon,
 þæt ic sænæssas geseon mihte,
 windige weallas. Wyrð oft nereð
 unfægne eorl, þonne his ellen deah.
 Hwæþere me gesælde þæt ic mid sweorde ofslah
 575
 niceras nigene. No ic on niht gefrægn
 under heofones hwealf heardran feohtan,
 ne on egstreamum earmran mannon;
 hwaþere ic fara feng feore gedigde,
 siþes werig. ða mec sæ oþbær,
 580
 flod æfter faroðe on Finna land,
 wadu weallendu. No ic wiht fram þe
 swylcra searoniða secgan hyrde,
 billa brogan. Breca næfre git
 æt heaðolace, ne gehwæþer incer,

585 swa deorlice dæd gefremede
fagum sweordum (no ic þæs fela gylpe),
þeah ðu þinum broðrum to banan wurde,
heafodmægum; þæs þu in helle scealt
werhðo dreogan, þeah þin wit duge.

590 Secge ic þe to soðe, sunu Ecglafes,
þæt næfre Grendel swa fela gryra gefremede,
atol æglæca, ealdre þinum,
hynðo on Heorote, gif þin hige wære,
sefa swa searogrim, swa þu self talast.

595 Ac he hafað onfunden þæt he þa fæhðe ne þearf,
atole ecgþræce eower leode
swiðe onsittan, Sigescyldinga;
nymeð nydbade, nænegum arað
leode Deniga, ac he lust wigeð,

600 swefeð ond sendeþ, secce ne weneþ
to Gardenum. Ac ic him Geata sceal
eafod ond ellen ungeara nu,
guþe gebeodan. Gæþ eft se þe mot
to medo modig, siþþan morgenleoht

605 ofer ylða bearn oþres dogores,
sunne sweglwered suþan scineð."
þa wæs on salum sinces brytta,
gamolfeax ond guðrof; geoce gelyfde
brego Beorhtdena, gehyrde on Beowulfe

610 folces hyrde fæstrædne geþoht.
ðær wæs hæleþa hleahtor, hlyn swynsode,
word wæron wynsume. Eode Wealhþeow forð,
cwen Hroðgares, cynna gemyndig,
grette goldhroden guman on healle,

615 ond þa freolic wif ful gesealde
ærest Eastdena eþelwearde,
bæd hine bliðne æt þære beorþege,
leodum leofne. He on lust geþeah
symbol ond seful, sigerof kyning.

620 Ymbeode þa ides Helminga
duguþe ond geogoþe dæl æghwylcne,
sincfata sealde, oþþæt sæl alamp
þæt hio Beowulfe, beaghroden cwen

mode gepungen, medoful ætbær;
 625 grette Geata leod, gode þancode
 wisfæst wordum þæs ðe hire se willa gelamp
 þæt heo on ænigne eorl gelyfde
 fyrena frofre. He þæt ful geþeah,
 wæltreow wiga, æt Wealhþeon,
 630 ond þa gyddode guþe gefysed;
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 "Ic þæt hogode, þa ic on holm gestah,
 sæbat gesæt mid minra secga gedriht,
 þæt ic anunga eowra leoda
 635 willan geworhte oþðe on wæl crunge,
 feondgrapum fæst. Ic gefremman sceal
 eorlic ellen, oþðe endedæg
 on þisse meoduhealle minne gebidan."
 ðam wife þa word wel licodon,
 640 gilpcwide Geates; eode goldhroden
 freolicu folccwen to hire frean sittan.
 þa wæs eft swa ær inne on healle
 þryðword sprecen, ðeod on sælum,
 sigefolca sweg, oþþæt semninga
 645 sunu Healfdenes secean wolde
 æfenræste; wiste þæm ahlæcan
 to þæm heahsele hilde geþinged,
 siððan hie sunnan leoht geseon ne meahton,
 oþðe nipende niht ofer ealle,
 650 scaduhelma gesceapu scriðan cwoman,
 wan under wolcnum. Werod eall aras.
 Gegrette þa guma oþerne,
 Hroðgar Beowulf, ond him hæl abead,
 winærnes geweald, ond þæt word acwæð:
 655 "Næfre ic ænegum men ær alyfde,
 siððan ic hond ond rond hebban mihte,
 ðryþærn Dena buton þe nu ða.
 Hafa nu ond geheald husa selest,
 gemyne mærþo, mægenellen cyð,
 660 waca wið wraþum. Ne bið þe wilna gad,
 gif þu þæt ellenweorc aldre gedigest."
 ða him Hroþgar gewat mid his hæleþa gedryht,

eodur Scyldinga, ut of healle;
 wolde wigfruma Wealhþeo secan,
 665
 cwen to gebeddan. Hæfde kyningwuldor
 Grendle togeanes, swa guman gefrungon,
 seleweard asetod; sundornytte beheold
 ymb aldor Dena, eotonweard abead.
 Huru Geata leod georne truwode
 670
 modgan mægnes, metodes hylde.
 ða he him of dyde isernbyrnan,
 helm of hafelan, sealde his hyrsted sword,
 irena cyst, ombihtþegne,
 ond gehealdan het hildegatwe.
 675
 Gespræc þa se goda gylpworda sum,
 Beowulf Geata, ær he on bed stige:
 "No ic me an herewæsmun hnagran talige,
 guþgeweorca, þonne Grendel hine;
 forþan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle,
 680
 aldre beneotan, þeah ic eal mæge.
 Nat he þara goda þæt he me ongean slea,
 rand geheawe, þeah ðe he rof sie
 niþgeweorca; ac wit on niht sculon
 secge ofersittan, gif he gesecean dea
 685
 wig ofer wæpen, ond siþðan witig god
 on swa hwæþere hond, halig dryhten,
 mærdō deme, swa him gemet þince."
 Hylde hine þa heaþodeor, hleorbolster onfeng
 eorles andwlitan, ond hine ymb monig
 690
 snellic særinc selereste gebeah.
 Nænig heora þohte þæt he þanon scolde
 eft eardlufan æfre gesecean,
 folc oþðe freoburh, þær he afeded wæs;
 ac hie hæfdon gefrunen þæt hie ær to fela micles
 695
 in þæm winsele wældeað fornam,
 Denigea leode. Ac him dryhten forgeaf
 wigspeda gewiofu, Wedera leodum,
 frofor ond fultum, þæt hie feond heora
 ðurh anes cræft ealle ofercomon,
 700
 selfes mihtum. Soð is gecyþed
 þæt mihtig god manna cynnes

weold wideferhð. Com on wanre niht
 scriðan sceadugenga. Sceotend swæfon,
 þa þæt hornreced healdan scoldon,
 705
 ealle buton anum. þæt wæs yldum cup
 þæt hie ne moste, þa metod nolde,
 se scynscaða under sceadu bregdan;
 ac he wæccende wrapum on andan
 bad bolgenmod beadwa geþinges.
 710
 ða com of more under misthleopum
 Grendel gongan, godes yrre bær;
 mynte se manscaða manna cynnes
 sumne besyrwan in sele þam hean.
 Wod under wolcnum to þæs þe he winreced,
 715
 goldsele gumena, gearwost wisse,
 fættum fahne. Ne wæs þæt forma sið
 þæt he Hroþgares ham gesohte;
 næfre he on aldordagum ær ne siþðan
 heardran hæle, healðegnas fand.
 720
 Com þa to recede rinc siðian,
 dreamum bedæled. Duru sona onarn,
 fyrbendum fæst, syþðan he hire folmum æthran;
 onbræd þa bealohydig, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 recedes muþan. Raþe æfter þon
 725
 on fagne flor feond treddode,
 eode yrremod; him of eagam stod
 ligge gelicost leoht unfæger.
 Geseah he in recede rinca manige,
 swefan sibbegedriht samod ætgædere,
 730
 magorinca heap. þa his mod ahlog;
 mynte þæt he gedælde, ærþon dæg cwome,
 atol aglæca, anra gehwylces
 lif wið lice, þa him alumpen wæs
 wistfille wen. Ne wæs þæt wyrd þa gen
 735
 þæt he ma moste manna cynnes
 ðicgean ofer þa niht. þryðswyð beheold
 mæg Higelaces, hu se manscaða
 under færgripum gefaran wolde.
 Ne þæt se aglæca yldan þohte,
 740
 ac he gefeng hraðe forman siðe

slæpendne rinc, slat unwearnum,
bat banlocan, blod edrum dranc,
synsnædum swealh; sona hæfde
unlyfigendes eal gefeormod,
745
fet ond folma. Forð near ætstop,
nam þa mid handa higeþihtigne
rinc on ræste, ræhte ongean
feond mid folme; he onfeng hraþe
inwitþancum ond wið earm gesæt.
750
Sona þæt onfunde fyrena hyrde
þæt he ne mette middangeardes,
eorþan sceata, on elran men
mundgripe maran. He on mode wearð
forht on ferhðe; no þy ær fram meahte.
755
Hyge wæs him hinfus, wolde on heolster fleon,
secan deofla gedræg; ne wæs his drohtoð þær
swylce he on ealderdagum ær gemette.
Gemunde þa se goda, mæg Higelaces,
æfenspræce, uplang astod
760
ond him fæste wiðfeng; fingras burston.
Eoten wæs utweard; eorl furþur stop.
Mynte se mæra, þær he meahte swa,
widre gewindan ond on weg þanon
fleon on fenhopu; wiste his fingra geweald
765
on grames grapum. þæt wæs geocor sið
þæt se hearmscaþa to Heorute ateah.
Dryhtsele dynede; Denum eallum wearð,
ceasterbuendum, cenra gehwylcum,
eorlum ealuscerwen. Yrre wæron begen,
770
reþe renweardas. Reced hlynsode.
þa wæs wundor micel þæt se winsele
wiðhæfde heaþodeorum, þæt he on hrusan ne feol,
fæger foldbold; ac he þæs fæste wæs
innan ond utan irenbendum
775
searopuncum besmipod. þær fram sylle abeag
medubenc monig, mine gefræge,
golde geregnad, þær þa graman wunnon.
þæs ne wendon ær witan Scyldinga
þæt hit a mid gemete manna ænig,
780

betlic ond banfag, tobrecan meahhte,
listum tolucan, nymbþe liges fæþm
swulge on swaþule. Sweg up astag
niwe geneahhe; Norðdenum stod
atelic egesa, anra gehwylcum
785
þara þe of wealle wop gehyrdon,
gryreleoð galan godes ondsacan,
sigeleasne sang, sar wanigean
helle hæfton. Heold hine fæste
se þe manna wæs mægene strengest
790
on þæm dæge þysses lifes.
Nolde eorla hleo ænige þinga
þone cwealmcuman cwicne forlætan,
ne his lifdagas leoda ænigum
nytte tealde. þær genehost brægd
795
eorl Beowulfes ealde lafe,
wolde freadrihtnes feorh ealgian,
mæres þeodnes, ðær hie meahhton swa.
Hie þæt ne wiston, þa hie gewin drugon,
heardhicgende hildemeccgas,
800
ond on healfa gehwone heawan þohton,
sawle secan, þone synscaðan
ænig ofer eorþan ireнна cyst,
guðbilla nan, gretan nolde,
ac he sigewæpnum forsworen hæfde,
805
ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldorgedal
on ðæm dæge þysses lifes
earmlic wurðan, ond se ellorgast
on feonda geweald feor siðian.
ða þæt onfunde se þe fela æror
810
modes myrðe manna cynne,
fyrene gefremede (he wæs fag wið god),
þæt him se lichoma læstan nolde,
ac hine se modega mæg Hygelaces
hæfde be honda; wæs gehwæper oðrum
815
lifigende lað. Licsar gebad
atol æglæca; him on eaxle wearð
syndolh sweotol, seonowe onsprungon,
burston banlocan. Beowulfe wearð
guðhreð gyfeþe; scolde Grendel þonan

- 820
feorhseoc fleon under fenhleoðu,
secean wynleas wic; wiste þe geornor
þæt his aldres wæs ende gegongen,
dogera dægrim. Denum eallum wearð
æfter þam wælræse willa gelumpen.
- 825
Hæfde þa gefælsod se þe ær feorran com,
snotor ond swyðferhð, sele Hroðgares,
genered wið niðe; nihtweorce gefeh,
ellenmærpum. Hæfde Eastdenum
Geatmecga leod gilp gelæsted,
- 830
swylce oncyþðe ealle gebette,
inwidsorge, þe hie ær drugon
ond for þreanydum þolian scoldon,
torn unlytel. þæt wæs tacen sweotol,
syþðan hildedeor hond alegde,
- 835
earn ond eaxle (þær wæs eal geador
Grendles grape) under geapne hrof.
ða wæs on morgen mine gefræge
ymb þa gifhealle guðrinc monig;
ferdon folctogan feorran ond nean
- 840
geond widwegas wundor sceawian,
laþes lastas. No his lifgedal
sarlic þuhte secga ænegum
þara þe tirleases trode sceawode,
hu he werigmod on weg þanon,
- 845
niða ofercumen, on nicera mere
fæge ond geflymed feorhlastas bær.
ðær wæs on blode brim weallende,
atol yða geswing eal gemenged
haton heolfre, heorodreore weol.
- 850
Deaðfæge deog, siððan dreama leas
in fenfreoðu feorh alegde,
hæþene sawle; þær him hel onfeng.
þanon eft gewiton ealdgesiðas,
swylce geong manig of gomenwape
- 855
fram mere modge mearum ridan,
beornas on blancum. ðær wæs Beowulfes
mærdō mæned; monig oft gecwæð
þætte suð ne norð be sæm tweonum

ofer eormengrund oþer nænig
 860 under swegles begong selra nære
 rondhæbbendra, rices wyrðra.
 Ne hie huru winedrihten wiht ne logon,
 glædne Hroðgar, ac þæt wæs god cyning.
 Hwilum heaþorofe hleapan leton,
 865 on geflit faran fealwe mearas
 ðær him foldwegas fægere þuhton,
 cystum cuðe. Hwilum cyninges þegn,
 guma gilphlæden, gidða gemyndig,
 se ðe ealfela ealdgesegena
 870 worn gemunde, word oþer fand
 soðe gebunden; secg eft ongan
 sið Beowulfes snyttrum styrian
 ond on sped wrecan spel gerade,
 wordum wrixlan. Welhwylc gecwæð
 875 þæt he fram Sigemundes secgan hyrde
 ellendædum, uncuþes fela,
 Wælsinges gewin, wide siðas,
 þara þe gumena bearn gearwe ne wiston,
 fæhðe ond fyrena, buton Fitela mid hine,
 880 þonne he swulces hwæt secgan wolde,
 eam his nefan, swa hie a wæron
 æt niða gehwam nydgesteallan;
 hæfdon ealfela eotena cynnes
 sweordum gesæged. Sigemunde gesprong
 885 æfter deaðdæge dom unlytel,
 syþðan wiges heard wurm acwealde,
 hordes hyrde. He under harne stan,
 æþelinges bearn, ana geneðde
 frecne dæde, ne wæs him Fitela mid.
 890 Hwæpre him gesælde ðæt þæt swurd þurhwod
 wrætlicne wurm, þæt hit on wealle ætstod,
 dryhtlic iren; draca morðre swealt.
 Hæfde aglæca elne gegongen
 þæt he beahhordes brucan moste
 895 selfes dome; sæbat gehleod,
 bær on bearm scipes beorhte frætwa,
 Wælses eafera. Wurm hat gemealt.

Se wæs wrecena wide mærost
 ofer werþeode, wigendra hleo,
 900
 ellendædum (he þæs ær onðah),
 siððan Heremodes hild sweðrode,
 eafoð ond ellen. He mid Eotenum wearð
 on feonda geweald forð forlacen,
 snude forsended. Hine sorhwylmas
 905
 lemede to lange; he his leodum wearð,
 eallum æþellingum to aldorceare;
 swylce oft bemearn ærran mælum
 swiðferhþes sið snotor ceorl monig,
 se þe him bealwa to bote gelyfde,
 910
 þæt þæt ðeodnes bearn geþeon scolde,
 fæderæþelum onfon, folc gehealdan,
 hord ond hleoburh, hæleþa rice,
 ⚔ Scyldinga. He þær eallum wearð,
 mæg Higelaces, manna cynne,
 915
 freondum gefægra; hine fyren onwod.
 Hwylum flitende fealwe stræte
 mearum mæton. ða wæs morgenleoht
 scofen ond scynded. Eode scealc monig
 swiðhicgende to sele þam hean
 920
 searowundor seon; swylce self cyning
 of brydbure, beahhorda weard,
 tryddode tirfæst getrume micle,
 cystum gecyþed, ond his cwen mid him
 medostigge mæt mægþa hose.
 925
 Hroðgar mæþelode (he to healle geong,
 stod on stapole, geseah steapne hrof,
 golde fahne, ond Grendles hond):
 "ðisse ansyne alwealdan þanc
 lungre gelimpe! Fela ic laþes gebad,
 930
 grynna æt Grendle; a mæg god wyrcan
 wunder æfter wundre, wuldres hyrde.
 ðæt wæs ungeara þæt ic ænigra me
 weana ne wende to widan feore
 bote gebidan, þonne blode fah
 935
 husa selest heorodreorig stod,
 wea widscofen witena gehwylcum

ðara þe ne wendon þæt hie wideferhð
 leoda landgeweorc laþum beweredon
 scuccum ond scinum. Nu scealc hafað
 940
 þurh drihtnes miht dæd gefremede
 ðe we ealle ær ne meahton
 snyttrum besyrwan. Hwæt, þæt secgan mæg
 efne swa hwylc mægþa swa ðone magan cende
 æfter gumcynnum, gyf heo gyt lyfað,
 945
 þæt hyre ealdmetod este wære
 bearngebyrdo. Nu ic, Beowulf, þec,
 secg betsta, me for sunu wylle
 freogan on ferhþe; heald forð tela
 niwe sibbe. Ne bið þe nænigra gad
 950
 worolde wilna, þe ic geweald hæbbe.
 Ful oft ic for læssan lean teohhode,
 hordweorþunge hnahran rince,
 sæmran æt sæcce. þu þe self hafast
 dædum gefremed þæt þin dom lyfað
 955
 awa to aldre. Alwalda þec
 gode forgylde, swa he nu gyt dyde!"
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecþeowes:
 "We þæt ellenweorc estum miclum,
 feohtan fremedon, frecne geneðdon
 960
 eafod uncuþes. Uþe ic swiþor
 þæt ðu hine selfne geseon moste,
 feond on frætewum fylwerigne.
 Ic hine hrædlice heardan clammum
 on wælbedde wriþan þohte,
 965
 þæt he for mundgripe minum scolde
 licgean lifbysig, butan his lic swice.
 Ic hine ne mihte, þa metod nolde,
 ganges getwæman, no ic him þæs georne ætfealh,
 feorhgeniðlan; wæs to foremihtig
 970
 feond on feþe. Hwæþere he his folme forlet
 to lifwraþe last weardian,
 earm ond eaxle. No þær ænige swa þeah
 feasceaft guma frofre gebohte;
 no þy leng leofað laðgeteona,
 975
 synnum geswenced, ac hyne sar hafað

mid nydgripe nearwe befongen,
balwon bendum. ðær abidan sceal
maga mane fah miclan domes,
hu him scir metod scrifan wille."
980
ða wæs swigra secg, sunu Eclafes,
on gylpspræce guðgeweorca,
siþðan æþelingas eorles cræfte
ofer heanne hrof hand sceawedon,
feondes fingras. Foran æghwylc wæs,
985
stiðra nægla gehwylc, style gelicost,
hæþenes handsporu hilderinces,
egl, unheoru. æghwylc gecwæð
þæt him heardra nan hrinan wolde
iren ærgod, þæt ðæs ahlæcan
990
blodge beadufolme onberan wolde.
ða wæs haten hreþe Heort innanweard
folmum gefrætwod. Fela þæra wæs,
wera ond wifa, þe þæt winreced,
gestsele gyredon. Goldfag scinon
995
web æfter wagum, wundorsiona fela
secga gehwylcum þara þe on swylc starað.
Wæs þæt beorhte bold tobrocen swiðe,
eal inneward irenbendum fæst,
heorras tohlidene. Hrof ana genæs,
1000
ealles ansund, þe se aglæca,
fyrendædum fag, on fleam gewand,
aldres orwena. No þæt yðe byð
to befleonne, fremme se þe wille,
ac geseacan sceal sawlberendra,
1005
nyde genydde, niþða bearna,
grundbuendra gearwe stowe,
þær his lichoma legerbedde fæst
swefep æfter symle. þa wæs sæl ond mæl
þæt to healle gang Healfdenes sunu;
1010
wolde self cyning symbol þicgan.
Ne gefrægen ic þa mægþe maran weorode
ymb hyra sincgyfan sel gebæran.
Bugon þa to bence blædagande,
fyllen gefægon; fægere geþægon
1015

medoful manig magas þara
 swiðhigende on sele þam hean,
 Hroðgar ond Hroþulf. Heorot innan wæs
 freondum afylled; nalles facenstafas
 þeodscyldingas þenden fremedon.

1020

Forgeaf þa Beowulfe bearn Healfdenes
 segen gyldenne sigores to leane;
 hroden hildecumbor, helm ond byrnan,
 mære maðþumsweord manige gesawon
 beforan beorn beran. Beowulf geþah

1025

ful on flette; no he þære feohgyfte
 for sceotendum scamigan ðorfte.
 Ne gefrægn ic freondlicor feower madmas
 golde gegyrede gummanna fela
 in ealobence oðrum gesellan.

1030

Ymb þæs helmes hrof heafodbeorge
 wirum bewunden walu utan heold,
 þæt him fela laf frecne ne meahton
 scurheard sceþðan, þonne scyldfrecan
 ongean gramum gangan scolde.

1035

Heht ða eorla hleo eahta mearas
 fætedhleore on flet teon,
 in under eoderas. þara anum stod
 sadol searwum fah, since gewurþad;
 þæt wæs hildesetl heahcyninges,

1040

ðonne sweorda gelac sunu Healfdenes
 efnan wolde. Næfre on ore læg
 widcuþes wig, ðonne walu feollon.
 Ond ða Beowulfe bega gehwæþres
 eodor Ingwina onweald geteah,

1045

wicga ond wæpna, het hine wel brucan.
 Swa manlice mære þeoden,
 hordweard hæleþa, heaþoræsas geald
 mearum ond madmum, swa hy næfre man lyhð,
 se þe secgan wile soð æfter rihte.

1050

ða gyt æghwylcum eorla drihten
 þara þe mid Beowulfe brimlade teah
 on þære medubence maþðum gesealde,
 yrfelafe, ond þone ænne heht
 golde forgyldan, þone ðe Grendel ær

1055
mane acwealde, swa he hyra ma wolde,
nefne him witig god wyrd forstode
ond ðæs mannes mod. Metod eallum weold
gumena cynnes, swa he nu git deð.
Forþan bið andgit æghwær selest,

1060
ferhðes foreþanc. Fela sceal gebidan
leofes ond laþes se þe longe her
on ðyssum windagum worolde bruceð.
þær wæs sang ond sweg samod ætgædere
fore Healfdenes hildewisan,

1065
gomenwudu greted, gid oft wrecen,
ðonne healgamen Hroþgares scop
æfter medobence mænan scolde
be Finnes eaferum, ða hie se fær begeat,
hæleð Healfdena, Hnæf Scyldinga,

1070
in Freswæle feallan scolde.
Ne huru Hildeburh herian þorfte
Eotena treowe; unsynnum wearð
beloren leofum æt þam lindplegan,
bearnum ond broðrum; hie on gebyrd hruron,

1075
gare wunde. þæt wæs geomuru ides!
Nalles holinga Hoces dohtor
meotodsceaft bemearn, syþðan morgen com,
ða heo under swegle geseon meahste
morþorbealo maga, þær heo ær mæste heold

1080
worolde wynne. Wig ealle fornam
Finnes þegnas nemne feaum anum,
þæt he ne mehte on þæm meðelstede
wig Hengeste wiht gefeohtan,
ne þa wealafe wige forþringan

1085
þeodnes ðegna; ac hig him geþingo budon,
þæt hie him oðer flet eal gerymdon,
healle ond heahsetl, þæt hie healfre geweald
wið Eotena bearn agan moston,
ond æt feohgyftum Folcwaldan sunu

1090
dogra gehwylce Dene weorþode,
Hengestes heap hringum wenede
efne swa swiðe sincgestreonom
fættan goldes, swa he Fresena cyn

on beorsele byldan wolde.
 1095 ða hie getruwedon on twa healfa
 fæste frioðu wære. Fin Hengeste
 elne, unflitme aðum benemde
 þæt he þa wealafe weotena dome
 arum heolde, þæt ðær ænig mon
 1100 wordum ne worcum wære ne bræce,
 ne þurh inwitsearo æfre gemænden
 ðeah hie hira beaggyfan banan folgedon
 ðeodenlease, þa him swa geþearfod wæs;
 gyf þonne Frysna hwylc frecnan spræce
 1105 ðæs morþorhetes myndgiend wære,
 þonne hit sweordes ecg seðan scolde.
 Ad wæs geæfned ond icge gold
 ahæfen of horde. Herescyldinga
 betst beadorinca wæs on bæl gearu.
 1110 æt þæm ade wæs eþgesyne
 swatfah syrce, swyn ealgylden,
 eofer irenheard, æþeling manig
 wundum awyrded; sume on wæle crungon.
 Het ða Hildeburh æt Hnæfes ade
 1115 hire selfre sunu sweoloðe befæstan,
 banfatu bærnan ond on bæl don
 eame on eaxle. Ides gnornode,
 geomrode giddum. Guðrinc astah.
 Wand to wolcnum wælfyra mæst,
 1120 hlynode for hlawe; hafelan multon,
 bengeato burston, ðonne blod ætspranc,
 laðbite lices. Lig ealle forswalg,
 gæsta gifrost, þara ðe þær guð fornam
 bega folces; wæs hira blæd scacen.
 1125 Gewiton him ða wigend wica neosian,
 freondum befeallen, Frysland geseon,
 hamas ond heaburh. Hengest ða gyt
 wælfagne winter wunode mid Finne
 eal unhlitme. Eard gemunde,
 1130 þeah þe he ne meahte on mere drifan
 hringedstefnan; holm storme weol,
 won wið winde, winter yþe beleac

isgebinde, oþðæt oþer com
 gear in geardas, swa nu gyt deð,
 1135
 þa ðe syngales sele bewitiað,
 wuldortorhtan weder. ða wæs winter scacen,
 fæger foldan bearm. Fundode wrecca,
 gist of gearдум; he to gyrnwræce
 swiðor þohte þonne to sælade,
 1140
 gif he torngemot þurhteon mihte
 þæt he Eotena bearn inne gemunde.
 Swa he ne forwyrnde woroldrædenne,
 þonne him Hunlafing hildeleoman,
 billa selest, on bearm dyde,
 1145
 þæs wæron mid Eotenum ecge cuðe.
 Swylce ferhðfreca Fin eft begeat
 sweordbealo sliðen æt his selfes ham,
 siþðan grimne gripe Guðlaf ond Oslaf
 æfter sæsiðe, sorge, mændon,
 1150
 ætwiton weana dæl; ne meahhte wæfre mod
 forhabban in hreþre. ða wæs heal roden
 feonda feorum, swilce Fin slægen,
 cyning on corþre, ond seo cwen numen.
 Sceotend Scyldinga to scypon feredon
 1155
 eal ingesteald eorðcyninges,
 swylce hie æt Finnes ham findan meahhton
 sigla, searogimma. Hie on sælade
 drihtlice wif to Denum feredon,
 læddon to leodum. Leoð wæs asungen,
 1160
 gleomannes gyd. Gamen eft astah,
 beorhtode bencsweg; byrelas sealdon
 win of wunderfatum. þa cwom Wealhþeo forð
 gan under gyldnum beage, þær þa godan twegen
 sæton suhtergefæderan; þa gyt wæs hiera sib ætgædere,
 1165
 æghwylc oðrum trywe. Swylce þær Unferþ þyle
 æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga; gehwylc hiora his ferhþe
 treowde,
 þæt he hæfde mod micel, þeah þe he his magum nære
 arfæst æt ecga gelacum. Spræc ða ides Scyldinga:
 "Onfoh þissum fulle, freodrihten min,
 1170
 since brytta! þu on sælum wes,

goldwine gumena, ond to Geatum spræc
mildum wordum, swa sceal man don.
Beo wið Geatas glæd, geofena gemyndig,
nean ond feorran þu nu hafast.

1175

Me man sægde þæt þu ðe for sunu wolde
hererinc habban. Heorot is gefælsod,
beahsele beorhta; bruc þenden þu mote
manigra medo, ond þinum magum læf
folc ond rice, þonne ðu forð scyle

1180

methodsceaft seon. Ic minne can
glædne Hroþulf, þæt he þa geogoðe wile
arum healdan, gyf þu ær þonne he,
wine Scildinga, worold oflættest;
wene ic þæt he mid gode gyldan wille

1185

uncran eaferan, gif he þæt eal gemon,
hwæt wit to willan ond to worðmyndum
umborwesendum ær arna gefremedon."
Hwearf þa bi bence þær hyre byre wæron,
Hreðric ond Hroðmund, ond hæleþa bearn,

1190

giogoð ætgædere; þær se goda sæt,
Beowulf Geata, be þæm gebroðrum twæm.
Him wæs ful boren ond freondlapu
wordum bewægned, ond wunden gold
estum geeawed, earmreade twa,

1195

hrægl ond hringas, healsbeaga mæst
þara þe ic on foldan gefrægen hæbbe.
Nænigne ic under swegle selran hyrde
hordmaððum hæleþa, syþðan Hama ætwæg
to þære byrhtan byrig Brosinga mene,

1200

sigle ond sincfæt; searoniðas fleah
Eormenrices, geceas ecne ræd.
þone hring hæfde Higelac Geata,
nefa Swertinges, nyhstan siðe,
siðþan he under segne sinc ealgode,

1205

wælreaf werede; hyne wyrd fornam,
syþðan he for wlenco wean ahsode,
fæhðe to Frysum. He þa frætwe wæg,
eorclanstanas ofer yða ful,
rice þeoden; he under rande gecranc.

1210

Gehwearf þa in Francna fæþm feorh cyninges,
breostgewædu ond se beah somod;
wyrsan wigfreca wæl reafedon
æfter guðsceare, Geata leode,
hreawic heoldon. Heal swege onfeng.

1215

Wealhðeo mæpelode, heo fore þæm werede spræc:
"Bruc ðisses beages, Beowulf leofa,
hyse, mid hæle, ond þisses hrægles neot,
þeodgestreona, ond geþeoh tela,
cen þec mid cræfte ond þyssum cnyhtum wes

1220

lara liðe; ic þe þæs lean geman.
Hafast þu gefered þæt ðe feor ond neah
ealne wideferhþ weras ehtigað,
efne swa side swa sæ bebugeð,
windgeard, weallas. Wes þenden þu lifige,

1225

æþeling, eadig. Ic þe an tela
sincgestreona. Beo þu suna minum
dædum gedefe, dreamhealdende.
Her is æghwylc eorl oþrum getrywe,
modes milde, mandrihtne hold;

1230

þegnas syndon geþwære, þeod ealgearo,
druncne dryhtguman doð swa ic bidde."
Eode þa to setle. þær wæs symbla cyst;
druncon win weras. Wyrð ne cuþon,
geosceaft grimme, swa hit agangen wearð

1235

eorla manegum, syþðan æfen cwom
ond him Hroþgar gewat to hofe sinum,
rice to ræste. Reced weardode
unrim eorla, swa hie oft ær dydon.
Bencþelu beredon; hit geondbreæded wearð

1240

beddum ond bolstrum. Beorscealca sum
fus ond fæge fletræste gebeag.
Setton him to heafdon hilderandas,
bordwudu beorhtan; þær on bence wæs
ofer æþelinge yþgesene

1245

heaposteapa helm, hringed byrne,
þrecwudu þrymlic. Wæs þeaw hyra
þæt hie oft wæron an wig gearwe,
ge æt ham ge on herge, ge gehwæþer þara,
efne swylce mæla swylce hira mandryhtne

- 1250
 þearf gesælde; wæs seo þeod tilu.
 Sigon þa to slæpe. Sum sare angeald
 æfenræste, swa him ful oft gelamp,
 siþðan goldsele Grendel warode,
 unriht æfnde, oppæt ende becwom,
- 1255
 swylt æfter synnum. þæt gesyne wearþ,
 widcuþ werum, þætte wrecend þa gyt
 lifde æfter laþum, lange þrage,
 æfter guðceare. Grendles modor,
 ides, aglæcwif, yrmþe gemunde,
- 1260
 se þe wætereges an wunian scolde,
 cealde streamas, siþðan Cain wearð
 to ecgbanan angan breþer,
 fæderenmæge; he þa fag gewat,
 morþre gemearcod, mandream fleon,
- 1265
 westen warode. þanon woc fela
 geosceaftgasta; wæs þæra Grendel sum,
 heorowearh hetelic, se æt Heorote fand
 wæccendne wer wiges bidan.
 þær him aglæca ætgræpe wearð;
- 1270
 hwæþre he gemunde mægenes strenge,
 gimfæste gife ðe him god sealde,
 ond him to anwaldan are gelyfde,
 frofre ond fultum; ðy he þone feond ofer cwom,
 gehnægde helle gast. þa he hean gewat,
- 1275
 dreame bedæled, deapwic seon,
 mancynnes feond, ond his modor þa gyt,
 gifre ond galgmod, gegan wolde
 sorhfulne sið, sunu deað wrecan.
 Com þa to Heorote, ðær Hringdene
- 1280
 geond þæt sæld swæfun. þa ðær sona wearð
 edhwyrft eorlum, siþðan inne fealh
 Grendles modor. Wæs se gryre læssa
 efne swa micle swa bið mægþa cræft,
 wiggryre wifes, be wæpnedmen,
- 1285
 þonne heoru bunden, hamere geþuren,
 sweord swate fah swin ofer helme
 ecgum dyhttig andweard scireð.
 þa wæs on healle heardecg togen

sweord ofer setlum, sidrand manig
 1290
 hafen handa fæst; helm ne gemunde,
 byrnan side, þa hine se broga angeat.
 Heo wæs on ofste, wolde ut þanon,
 feore beorgan, þa heo onfunden wæs.
 Hraðe heo æþelunga anne hæfde
 1295
 fæste befangen, þa heo to fenne gang.
 Se wæs Hroþgare hæleþa leofost
 on gesiðes had be sæm tweonum,
 rice randwiga, þone ðe heo on ræste abreat,
 blædfæstne beorn. Næs Beowulf ðær,
 1300
 ac wæs oþer in ær geteohhod
 æfter maþðumgife mærum Geate.
 Hream wearð in Heorote; heo under heolfre genam
 cuþe folme; cearu wæs geniwod,
 geworden in wicun. Ne wæs þæt gewrixle til,
 1305
 þæt hie on ba healfa bicgan scoldon
 freonda feorum. þa wæs frod cyning,
 har hilderinc, on hreon mode,
 syðþan he aldorþegn unlyfigendne,
 þone deorestan deadne wisse.
 1310
 Hraþe wæs to bure Beowulf fetod,
 sigoreadig secg. Samod ærdæge
 eode eorla sum, æþele cempa
 self mid gesiðum þær se snotera bad,
 hwæþer him alwalda æfre wille
 1315
 æfter weaspelle wyrpe gefremman.
 Gang ða æfter flore fyrdwyrðe man
 mid his handscale (healwudu dynede),
 þæt he þone wisan wordum nægde
 frean Ingwina, frægn gif him wære
 1320
 æfter neodlaðum niht getæse.
 Hroðgar mabelode, helm Scyldinga:
 "Ne frin þu æfter sælum! Sorh is geniwod
 Denigea leodum. Dead is æschere,
 Yrmenlafes yldra broþor,
 1325
 min runwita ond min rædbora,
 eaxlgestealla, ðonne we on orlege
 hafelan weredon, þonne hniton feþan,

- eoferas cnysedan. Swylc scolde eorl wesan,
 æþeling ærgod, swylc æschere wæs!
 1330
 Wearð him on Heorote to handbanan
 wælgæst wæfre; ic ne wat hwæder
 atol æse wlanc eftsiðas teah,
 fülle gefægnod. Heo þa fæhðe wræc
 þe þu gystran niht Grendel cwealdest
 1335
 þurh hæstne had heardum clammum,
 forþan he to lange leode mine
 wanode ond wyrde. He æt wige gecrang
 ealdres scyldig, ond nu oþer cwom
 mihtig manscaða, wolde hyre mæg wrecan,
 1340
 ge feor hafað fæhðe gestæled
 (þæs þe þincean mæg þegne monegum,
 se þe æfter sincgyfan on sefan greoteþ),
 hreþerbealo hearde; nu seo hand ligeð,
 se þe eow welhwylcra wilna dohte.
 1345
 Ic þæt londbuend, leode mine,
 selerædende, secgan hyrde
 þæt hie gesawon swylce twegen
 micle mearcstapan moras healdan,
 ellorgæstas. ðæra oðer wæs,
 1350
 þæs þe hie gewislicost gewitan meah-ton,
 idese onlicnæs; oðer earmsceapen
 on weres wæstmum wræclastas træd,
 næfne he wæs mara þonne ænig man oðer;
 þone on geardagum Grendel nemdon
 1355
 foldbuende. No hie fæder cunnon,
 hwæþer him ænig wæs ær acenned
 dyrnra gasta. Hie dygel lond
 warigeað, wulfhleoþu, windige næssas,
 frecne fengelad, ðær fyrgenstream
 1360
 under næssa genipu niþer gewiteð,
 flod under foldan. Nis þæt feor heonon
 milgemearces þæt se mere standeð;
 ofer þæm hongiað hrinde bearwas,
 wudu wirtum fæst wæter oferhelmað.
 1365
 þær mæg nihta gehwæm niðwundor seon,
 fyr on flode. No þæs frod leofað

- gumena bearna, þæt þone grund wite;
 ðeah þe hæðstapa hundum geswenced,
 heorot hornum trum, holtwudu sece,
 1370
 feorran geflymed, ær he feorh seleð,
 aldor on ofre, ær he in wille
 hafelan hydan. Nis þæt heoru stow!
 þonon yðgeblond up astigeð
 won to wolcnum, þonne wind styreþ,
 1375
 lað gewidru, oðþæt lyft drysmaþ,
 roderas reotað. Nu is se ræd gelang
 eft æt þe anum. Eard git ne const,
 frecne stowe, ðær þu findan miht
 felasinnigne secg; sec gif þu dyrre.
 1380
 Ic þe þa fæhðe feo leanige,
 ealdgestreonum, swa ic ær dyde,
 wundnum golde, gyf þu on weg cymest."
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 "Ne sorga, snotor guma; selre bið æghwæm
 1385
 þæt he his freond wrece, þonne he fela murne.
 Ure æghwylc sceal ende gebidan
 worolde lifes; wyrce se þe mote
 domes ær deaþe; þæt bið drihtguman
 unlifgendum æfter selest.
 1390
 Aris, rices weard, uton raþe feran
 Grendles magan gang sceawigan.
 Ic hit þe gehate, no he on helm losaþ,
 ne on foldan fæþm, ne on fyrgeholt,
 ne on gyfenes grund, ga þær he wille.
 1395
 ðys dogor þu geþyld hafa
 weana gehwylces, swa ic þe wene to."
 Ahleop ða se gomela, gode þancode,
 mihtigan drihtne, þæs se man gespræc.
 þa wæs Hroðgare hors gebæted,
 1400
 wicg wundenfeax. Wisa fengel
 geatolic gende; gumfeþa stop
 lindhæbbendra. Lastas wæron
 æfter waldswaþum wide gesyne,
 gang ofer grundas, þær heo gegnum for
 1405
 ofer myrcan mor, magoþegna bær

þone selestan sawolleasne
 þara þe mid Hroðgare ham eahtode.
 Ofereode þa æþelinga bearn
 steap stanhliðo, stige nearwe,
 1410
 enge anpaðas, uncuð gelad,
 neowle næssas, nicorhusa fela.
 He feara sum beforan gengde
 wisra monna wong sceawian,
 oþþæt he færinga fyrgenbeamas
 1415
 ofer harne stan hleonian funde,
 wynleasne wudu; wæter under stod
 dreorig ond gedrefed. Denum eallum wæs,
 winum Scyldinga, weorce on mode
 to geþolianne, ðegne monegum,
 1420
 oncyð eorla gehwæm, syðþan æscheres
 on þam holmclife hafelan metton.
 Flod blode weol (folc to sægon),
 hatan heolfre. Horn stundum song
 fuslic fyrleoð. Feþa eal gesæt.
 1425
 Gesawon ða æfter wætere wýrmcýnnes fela,
 sellice sædracan, sund cunnian,
 swylce on næshleoðum nicras licgean,
 ða on undernmæl oft bewitigað
 sorhfulne sið on segrlade,
 1430
 wýrmas ond wildeor; hie on weg hruron,
 bitere ond gebolgne, bearhtm ongeaton,
 guðhorn galan. Sumne Geata leod
 of flanbogan feores getwæfde,
 yðgewinnes, þæt him on aldre stod
 1435
 herestræl hearda; he on holme wæs
 sundes þe sænra, ðe hyne swylt fornam.
 Hræþe wearð on yðum mid eoferspreotum
 heorohocyhtum hearde genearwod,
 niða genæged, ond on næs togen,
 1440
 wundorlic wægþora; weras sceawedon
 gryreligne gist. Gyrede hine Beowulf
 eorlgewædum, nalles for ealdre mearn.
 Scolde herebyrne hondum gebroden,
 sid ond searofah, sund cunnian,
 1445

seo ðe bancofan beorgan cuþe,
 þæt him hildegrap hreþre ne mihte,
 eorres inwifeng, aldre gesceþðan;
 ac se hwita helm hafelan werede,
 se þe meregrundas mengan scolde,
 1450
 secan sundgebland since geweorðad,
 befongen freawrasnum, swa hine fyrndagum
 worhte wæpna smið, wundrum teode,
 besette swinlicum, þæt hine syðþan no
 brond ne beadomecas bitan ne meahton.
 1455
 Næs þæt þonne mætost mægenfultuma
 þæt him on ðearfe lah ðyle Hroðgares;
 wæs þæm hæftmece Hrunting nama.
 þæt wæs an foran ealdgestreona;
 ecg wæs iren, atertanum fah,
 1460
 ahyrded heaþoswate; næfre hit æt hilde ne swac
 manna ængum þara þe hit mid mundum bewand,
 se ðe gryresiðas gegan dorste,
 folcstede fara; næs þæt forma sið
 þæt hit ellenweorc æfnan scolde.
 1465
 Huru ne gemunde mago Ecglafes,
 eafþes cræftig, þæt he ær gespræc
 wine druncen, þa he þæs wæpnes onlah
 selran sweordfreca. Selfa ne dorste
 under yða gewin aldre geneþan,
 1470
 drihtscype dreogan; þær he dome forleas,
 ellenmærðum. Ne wæs þæm oðrum swa,
 syðþan he hine to guðe gegyred hæfde.
 Beowulf maðelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 "Gefenc nu, se mæra maga Healfdenes,
 1475
 snottra fengel, nu ic eom siðes fus,
 goldwine gumena, hwæt wit geo spræcon,
 gif ic æt þearfe þinre scolde
 aldre linnan, þæt ðu me a wære
 forðgewitenum on fæder stæle.
 1480
 Wes þu mundbora minum magoþegnum,
 hondgesellum, gif mec hild nime;
 swylce þu ða madmas þe þu me sealdest,
 Hroðgar leofa, Higelace onsend.
 Mæg þonne on þæm golde ongitan Geata dryhten,

1485
geseon sunu Hrædles, þonne he on þæt sinc starað,
þæt ic gumcystum godne funde
beaga bryttan, breac þonne moste.
Ond þu Unferð læt ealde lafe,
wrætlic wægsweord, widcuðne man

1490
heardecg habban; ic me mid Hruntinge
dom gewyrce, oþðe mec deað nimeð."
æfter þæm wordum Wedergeata leod
efste mid elne, nalas ondsware
bidan wolde; brimwylm onfeng

1495
hilderince. ða wæs hwil dæges
ær he þone grundwong ongytan mehte.
Sona þæt onfunde se ðe floda begong
heorogifre beheold hund missera,
grim ond grædig, þæt þær gumena sum

1500
ælwihhta eard ufan cunnode.
Grap þa togeanes, guðrinc gefeng
atolan clommum. No þy ær in gescod
halan lice; hring utan ymbbearh,
þæt heo þone fyrðhom ðurhfon ne mihte,

1505
locene leoðosyrca laþan fingrum.
Bær þa seo brimwylf, þa heo to botme com,
hringa þengel to hofe sinum,
swa he ne mihte, no he þæs modig wæs,
wæpna gewealdan, ac hine wundra þæs fela

1510
swencte on sunde, sædeor monig
hildetuxum heresyrcan bræc,
ehton aglæcan. ða se eorl ongeat
þæt he in niðsele nathwylcum wæs,
þær him nænig wæter wihte ne sceþede,

1515
ne him for hrofsele hrinan ne mehte
færgripe flodes; fyrleoht geseah,
blacne leoman, beorhte scinan.
Ongeat þa se goda grundwyrgegne,
merewif mihtig; mægenræs forgeaf

1520
hildebille, hond sweng ne ofteah,
þæt hire on hafelan hringmæl agol
grædig guðleoð. ða se gist onfand
þæt se beadoleoma bitan nolde,

aldre sceþðan, ac seo ecg geswac
 1525 ðeodne æt þearfe; ðolode ær fela
 hondgemota, helm oft gescær,
 fæges fyrðhrægl; ða wæs forma sið
 deorum madme, þæt his dom alæg.
 Eft wæs anræd, nalas elnes læt,
 1530
 mærdða gemyndig mæg Hylaces.
 Wearp ða wundenmæl wrættum gebunden
 yrre oretta, þæt hit on eorðan læg,
 stið ond stylecg; strenge getruwode,
 mundgripe mægenes. Swa sceal man don,
 1535
 þonne he æt guðe gegan þenceð
 longsumne lof, na ymb his lif cearað.
 Gefeng þa be eaxle (nalas for fæhðe mearn)
 Guðgeata leod Grendles modor;
 brægd þa beadwe heard, þa he gebolgen wæs,
 1540
 feorhgeniðlan, þæt heo on flet gebeah.
 Heo him eft hraþe andlean forgeald
 grimman grapum ond him togeanes feng;
 oferwearp þa werigmod wigena strengest,
 feþecempa, þæt he on fülle wearð.
 1545
 Ofsæt þa þone selegyst ond hyre seax geteah,
 brad ond brunecg, wolde hire bearn wrecan,
 angan eaferan. Him on eaxle læg
 breostnet broden; þæt gebearh feore,
 wið ord ond wið ecge ingang forstod.
 1550
 Hæfde ða forsiðod sunu Ecgþeowes
 under gynne grund, Geata cempa,
 nemne him heaðobyrne helpe gefremede,
 herenet hearde, ond halig god
 geweold wigsigor; witig drihten,
 1555
 rodera rædend, hit on ryht gesced
 yðelice, syþðan he eft astod.
 Geseah ða on searwum sigeeadig bil,
 eald sweord eotenisc, ecgum þyhtig,
 wigena weorðmynd; þæt wæs wæpna cyst,
 1560
 buton hit wæs mare ðonne ænig mon oðer
 to beadulace ætberan meahte,
 god ond geatolic, giganta geweorc.

He gefeng þa fetelhilt, freca Scyldinga
 hreoh ond heorogrim hringmæl gebrægd,
 1565
 aldres orwena, yrringa sloh,
 þæt hire wið halse heard grapode,
 banringas bræc. Bil eal ðurhwod
 fægne flæschoman; heo on flet gecrong.
 Sweord wæs swatig, secg weorce gefeh.
 1570
 Lixte se leoma, leoht inne stod,
 efne swa of hefene hadre scineð
 rodores candel. He æfter recede wlat;
 hwearf þa be wealle, wæpen hafenade
 heard be hiltum Higelaces ðegn,
 1575
 yrre ond anræd. Næs seo ecg fracod
 hilderince, ac he hraþe wolde
 Grendle forgyldan guðræsa fela
 ðara þe he geworhte to Westdenum
 oftor micle ðonne on ænne sið,
 1580
 þonne he Hroðgares heorðgeneatas
 sloh on sweofote, slæpende fræt
 folces Denigea fiftyne men
 ond oðer swylc ut offerede,
 laðlicu lac. He him þæs lean forgeald,
 1585
 reþe cempa, to ðæs þe he on ræste geseah
 guðwerigne Grendel licgan
 aldorleasne, swa him ær gescod
 hild æt Heorote. Hra wide sprong,
 syþðan he æfter deaðe drepe þrowade,
 1590
 heorosweng heardne, ond hine þa heafde becearf.
 Sona þæt gesawon snottre ceorlas,
 þa ðe mid Hroðgare on holm wliton,
 þæt wæs yðgeblond eal gemenged,
 brim blode fah. Blondenfeaxe,
 1595
 gomele ymb godne, ongeador spræcon
 þæt hig þæs æðelinges eft ne wendon
 þæt he sigehreðig secean come
 mærne þeoden; þa ðæs monige gewearð
 þæt hine seo brimwylf abroten hæfde.
 1600
 ða com non dæges. Næs ofgeafon
 hwate Scyldingas; gewat him ham þonon

goldwine gumena. Gistas setan
modes seoce ond on mere staredon,
wiston ond ne wendon þæt hie heora winedrihten
1605
selfne gesawon. þa þæt sweord ongan
æfter heaþoswate hildegicelum,
wigbil wanian. þæt wæs wundra sum,
þæt hit eal gemealt ise gelicost,
ðonne forstes bend fæder onlæteð,
1610
onwindeð wælrapas, se geweald hafað
sæla ond mæla; þæt is soð metod.
Ne nom he in þæm wicum, Wedergeata leod,
maðmæhta ma, þeh he þær monige geseah,
buton þone hafelan ond þa hilt somod
1615
since fage. Sweord ær gemealt,
forbarn brodenmæl; wæs þæt blod to þæs hat,
ættren ellorgæst se þær inne swealt.
Sona wæs on sunde se þe ær æt sæcce gebad
wighryre wraðra, wæter up þurhdeaf.
1620
Wæron yðgebland eal gefælsod,
eacne eardas, þa se ellorgast
oflet lifdagas ond þas lænan gesceaft.
Com þa to lande lidmanna helm
swiðmod swymman; sælace gefeah,
1625
mægenbyrþenne þara þe he him mid hæfde.
Eodon him þa togeanes, gode þancodon,
ðryðlic þegna heap, þeodnes gefegon,
þæs þe hi hyne gesundne geseon moston.
ða wæs of þæm hroran helm ond byrne
1630
lungre alysed. Lagu drusade,
wæter under wolcnum, wældreore fag.
Ferdon forð þonon feþelastum
ferhpum fægne, foldweg mæton,
cuþe stræte. Cyningbalde men
1635
from þæm holmclife hafelan bæron
earfoðlice heora æghwæþrum,
felamodigra; feower scoldon
on þæm wælstenge weorcum geferian
to þæm goldsele Grendles heafod,
1640
oþðæt semninga to sele comon

frome fyrðhwate feowertyne
 Geata gongan; gumdryhten mid
 modig on gemonge meodowongas træd.
 ða com in gan ealdor ðegna,
 1645
 dædcene mon dome gewurþad,
 hæle hildedeor, Hroðgar gretan.
 þa wæs be feaxe on flet boren
 Grendles heafod, þær guman druncon,
 egeslic for eorlum ond þære idese mid,
 1650
 wliteseon wrætlic; weras on sawon.
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 "Hwæt! we þe þas sælac, sunu Healfdenes,
 leod Scyldinga, lustum brohton
 tires to tacne, þe þu her to locast.
 1655
 Ic þæt unsofte ealdre gedigde
 wigge under wætere, weorc geneþde
 earfoðlice; ætrihte wæs
 guð getwæfed, nymðe mec god scylde.
 Ne meahte ic æt hilde mid Hruntinge
 1660
 wiht gewyrcean, þeah þæt wæpen duge;
 ac me geuðe ylða waldend
 þæt ic on wage geseah wlitig hangian
 eald sweord eacen (oftost wisode
 winigea leasum), þæt ic ðy wæpne gebræd.
 1665
 Ofsloh ða æt þære sæcce, þa me sæl ageald,
 huses hyrdas. þa þæt hildebil
 forbarn brogdenmæl, swa þæt blod gesprang,
 hatost heaþoswata. Ic þæt hilt þanan
 feondum ætferede, fyrendæda wræc,
 1670
 deaðcwealm Denigea, swa hit gedefe wæs.
 Ic hit þe þonne gehate, þæt þu on Heorote most
 sorhleas swefan mid þinra secga gedryht
 ond þegna gehwylc þinra leoda,
 duguðe ond iogoþe, þæt þu him ondrædan ne þearft,
 1675
 þeoden Scyldinga, on þa healfe,
 aldorbealu eorlum, swa þu ær dydest."
 ða wæs gylden hilt gamelum rince,
 harum hildfruman, on hand gyfen,
 enta ærgeweorc; hit on æht gehwearf
 1680

- æfter deofla hryre Denigea frean,
 wundorsmīpa geweorc, ond þa þas worold ofgeaf
 gromheort guma, godes ondsaca,
 morðres scyldig, ond his modor eac,
 on geweald gehwearf woroldcyninga
- 1685
- ðæm selestan be sæm tweonum
 ðara þe on Scedenigge sceattas dælde.
 Hroðgar maðelode, hylt sceawode,
 ealde lafe, on ðæm wæs or writen
 fyrngewinnes, syðþan flod ofsloh,
- 1690
- gifen geotende, giganta cyn
 (frecne geferdon); þæt wæs fremde þeod
 ecean dryhtne; him þæs endelea
 þurh wæteres wylm waldend sealde.
 Swa wæs on ðæm scennum sciran goldes
- 1695
- þurh runstafas rihte gemearcod,
 geseted ond gesæd hwam þæt sweord geworht,
 irena cyst, ærest wære,
 wreoþenhilt ond wyrmfah. ða se wisa spræc
 sunu Healfdenes (swigedon ealle):
- 1700
- "þæt, la, mæg secgan se þe soð ond riht
 fremed on folce, feor eal gemon,
 eald ŝweard, þæt ðes eorl wære
 geboren betera! Blæd is aræred
 geond widwegas, wine min Beowulf,
- 1705
- ðin ofer þeoda gehwylce. Eal þu hit geþyldum healdest,
 mægen mid modes snyttrum. Ic þe sceal mine gelæstan
 freode, swa wit furðum spræcon. ðu scealt to frofre weorþan
 eal langtwidig leodum þinum,
 hæleðum to helpe. Ne wearð Heremod swa
- 1710
- eaforum Ecgwelan, Arscyldingum;
 ne geweox he him to willan, ac to wælfealle
 ond to deaðcwalum Deniga leodum;
 breat bolgenmod beodgeneatas,
 eaxlgesteallan, oppæt he ana hwearf,
- 1715
- mære þeoden, mondreamum from.
 ðeah þe hine mihtig god mægenes wynnun,
 eafepum steppe, ofer ealle men
 forð gefremede, hwæþere him on ferhþe greow
 breosthord blodreow. Nallas beagas geaf

1720

Denum æfter dome; dreamleas gebad
þæt he þæs gewinnes weorc þrowade,
leodbealo longsum. ðu þe lær be þon,
gumcyste ongit; ic þis gid be þe
awræc wintrum frod. Wundor is to secganne

1725

hu mihtig god manna cynne
þurh sidne sefan snyttru bryttað,
eard ond eorlscipe; he ah ealra geweald.
Hwylum he on lufan læteð hworfan
monnes modgeþonc mæran cynnes,

1730

seleð him on eþle eorþan wynne
to healdanne, hleoburh wera,
gedeð him swa gewealdene worolde dælas,
side rice, þæt he his selfa ne mæg
for his unsnyttrum ende geþencean.

1735

Wunað he on wiste; no hine wiht dweleð
adl ne ylðo, ne him inwitsorh
on sefan sweorceð, ne gesacu ohwær
ecghete eoweð, ac him eal worold
wendeð on willan (he þæt wyrse ne con),

1740

oðþæt him on innan oferhygda dæl
weaxeð ond wridað. þonne se weard swefeð,
saweale hyrde; bið se slæp to fæst,
bisgum gebunden, bona swiðe neah,
se þe of flanbogan fyrenum sceoteð.

1745

þonne bið on hreþre under helm drepn
biteran stræle (him bebeorgan ne con),
wom wundorbebodum wergan gastes;
þinceð him to lytel þæt he lange heold,
gytsað gromhydig, nallas on gylp seleð

1750

fædde beagas, ond he þa forðgesceaft
forgyteð ond forgymeð, þæs þe him ær god sealde,
wuldres waldend, weorðmynda dæl.
Hit on endestæf eft gelimpeð
þæt se lichoma læne gedreoseð,

1755

fæge gefealleð; fehð oþer to,
se þe unmurnlice madmas dæleþ,
eorles ærgestreon, egesan ne gymeð.
Bebeorh þe ðone bealonið, Beowulf leofa,

secg betsta, ond þe þæt selre geceos,
 1760
 ece rædas; oferhyda ne gym,
 mære cempa. Nu is þines mægnes blæd
 ane hwile. Eft sona bið
 þæt þec adl oððe ecg eafopes getwæfeð,
 oððe fyres feng, oððe flodes wylm,
 1765
 oððe gripe meces, oððe gares fliht,
 oððe atol yldo; oððe eagna bearhtm
 forsited and forsworceð; semninga bið
 þæt ðec, dryhtguma, deað oferswyðeð.
 Swa ic Hringdena hund missera
 1770
 weold under wolcnum ond hig wigge beleac
 manigum mægþa geond þysne middangeard,
 æscum ond ecgum, þæt ic me ænigne
 under swegles begong gesacan ne tealde.
 Hwæt, me þæs on eþle edwenden cwom,
 1775
 gyrn æfter gomene, seopðan Grendel wearð,
 ealdgewinna, ingenga min;
 ic þære socne singales wæg
 modceare micle. þæs sig metode þanc,
 ecean dryhtne, þæs ðe ic on aldre gebad
 1780
 þæt ic on þone hafelan heorodreorigne
 ofer ealdgewin eagum starige!
 Ga nu to setle, symbelwynne dreoh
 wigge weorþad; unc sceal worn fela
 maþma gemænra, siþðan morgen bið."
 1785
 Geat wæs glædmod, geong sona to
 setles neosan, swa se snottra heht.
 þa wæs eft swa ær ellenrofum
 fletsittendum fægere gereorded
 niowan stefne. Nihthelm geswearc
 1790
 deorc ofer dryhtgumum. Duguð eal aras.
 Wolde blondenfeax beddes neosan,
 gamela Scylding. Geat unigmetes wel,
 rofne randwigan, restan lyste;
 sona him seleþegn siðes wergum,
 1795
 feorrancundum, forð wisade,
 se for andrysum ealle beweotede
 þegnes þearfe, swylce þy dogore

heapoliðende habban scoldon.
 Reste hine þa rumheort; reced hliuade
 1800
 gear ond goldfah; gæst inne swæf
 oþþæt hrefn blaca heofones wynne
 bliðheort bodode. ða com beorht scacan
 scapan onetton,
 wæron æþelingas eft to leodum
 1805
 fuse to farenne; wolde feor þanon
 cuma collenferhð ceoles neosan.
 Heht þa se hearda Hrunting beran
 sunu Ecglafes, heht his sweord niman,
 leoflic iren; sægde him þæs leanes þanc,
 1810
 cwæð, he þone guðwine godne tealde,
 wigcræftigne, nales wordum log
 meces ecge; þæt wæs modig secg.
 Ond þa siðfreme, searwum gearwe
 wigend wæron; eode weorð Denum
 1815
 æþeling to yppan, þær se oþer wæs,
 hæle hildedeor Hroðgar grette.
 Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:
 "Nu we sæliðend secgan wyllað,
 feorran cumene, þæt we fundiaþ
 1820
 Higelac secan. Wæron her tela
 willum bewenede; þu us wel dohtest.
 Gif ic þonne on eorþan owihte mæg
 þinre modlufan maran tilian,
 gumena dryhten, ðonne ic gyt dyde,
 1825
 guðgeweorca, ic beo gearo sona.
 Gif ic þæt gefricge ofer floda begang,
 þæt þec ymsittend egesan þywað,
 swa þec hetende hwilum dydon,
 ic ðe þusenda þegna bringe,
 1830
 hæleþa to helpe. Ic on Higelac wat,
 Geata dryhten, þeah ðe he geong sy,
 folces hyrde, þæt he mec fremman wile
 wordum ond worcum, þæt ic þe wel herige
 ond þe to geoce garholt bere,
 1835
 mægenes fultum, þær ðe bið manna þearf.
 Gif him þonne Hreþric to hofum Geata

- geþingeð, þeodnes bearn, he mæg þær fela
 freonda findan; feorcyþðe beoð
 selran gesohte þæm þe him selfa deah."
- 1840
- Hroðgar maþelode him on ondsware:
 "þe þa wordcwidas wigtig drihten
 on sefan sende; ne hyrde ic snotorlicor
 on swa geongum feore guman þingian.
 þu eart mægenes strang ond on mode frod,
- 1845
- wis wordcwida. Wen ic talige,
 gif þæt gegangeð, þæt ðe gar nymeð,
 hild heorugrimme, Hreþles eaferan,
 adl oþðe iren ealdor ðinne,
 folces hyrde, ond þu þin feorh hafast,
- 1850
- þæt þe Sægeatas selran næbben
 to geceosenne cyning ænigne,
 hordweard hæleþa, gyf þu healdan wylt
 maga rice. Me þin modsefa
 licað leng swa wel, leofa Beowulf.
- 1855
- Hafast þu gefered þæt þam folcum sceal,
 Geata leodum ond Gardenum,
 sib gemæne, ond sacu restan,
 inwitniþas, þe hie ær drugon,
 wesan, þenden ic wealde widan rices,
- 1860
- maþmas gemæne, manig oþerne
 godum gegretan ofer ganotes bæð;
 sceal hringnaca ofer heafu bringan
 lac ond luftacen. Ic þa leode wat
 ge wið feond ge wið freond fæste geworhte,
- 1865
- æghwæs untæle ealde wisan."
 ða git him eorla hleo inne gesealde,
 mago Healfdenes, maþmas XII;
 het hine mid þæm lacum leode swæse
 secean on gesyntum, snude eft cuman.
- 1870
- Gecyste þa cyning æþelum god,
 þeoden Scyldinga, ðegn betstan
 ond be healse genam; hruron him tearas,
 blondenfeaxum. Him wæs bega wen,
 ealdum infrodum, opres swiðor,
- 1875
- þæt hie seoððan no geseon moston,

- modige on meþle. Wæs him se man to þon leof
 þæt he þone breostwylm forberan ne mehte,
 ac him on hreþre hygebendum fæst
 æfter deorum men dyrne langað
- 1880
 beorn wið blode. Him Beowulf þanan,
 guðrinc goldwlanc, græsmoldan træd
 since hremig; sægenga bad
 agendfrean, se þe on ancre rad.
 þa wæs on gange gifu Hroðgares
- 1885
 oft geæhted; þæt wæs an cyning,
 æghwæs orleahtra, oppæt hine ylde benam
 mægenes wynnum, se þe oft manegum scod.
 Cwom þa to flode felamodigra,
 hægstealdra heap, hringnet bæron,
- 1890
 locene leoðosyrcan. Landweard onfand
 eftsið eorla, swa he ær dyde;
 no he mid hearme of hliðes nosan
 gæstas grette, ac him togeanes rad,
 cwæð þæt wilcuman Wedera leodum
- 1895
 scapan scirhame to scipe foron.
 þa wæs on sande sægeap naca
 hladen herewædum, hringedstefna,
 mearum ond maðmum; mæst hlifade
 ofer Hroðgares hordgestreonum.
- 1900
 He þæm batwearde bunden golde
 swurd gesealde, þæt he syðþan wæs
 on meodubence maþme þy weorþra,
 yrfelafe. Gewat him on naca
 drefan deop wæter, Dena land ofgeaf.
- 1905
 þa wæs be mæste merehrægla sum,
 segl sale fæst; sundwudu þunede.
 No þær wegflotan wind ofer yðum
 siðes getwæfde; sægenga for,
 fleat famigheals forð ofer yðe,
- 1910
 bundenstefna ofer brimstreamas,
 þæt hie Geata clifu ongitan meahton,
 cuþe næssas. Ceol up geþrang
 lyftgeswenced, on lande stod.
 Hraþe wæs æt holme hyðweard geara,
- 1915

- se þe ær lange tid leofra manna
 fus æt faroðe feor wlatode;
 sælde to sande sidfæþme scip,
 oncerbendum fæst, þy læs hym yþa ðrym
 wudu wynsuman forwrecan meahte.
- 1920
- Het þa up beran æþelinga gestreon,
 frætwe ond fætgold; næs him feor þanon
 to gesecanne sinces bryttan,
 Higelac Hreþling, þær æt ham wunað
 selfa mid gesiðum sæwealle neah.
- 1925
- Bold wæs betlic, bregorof cyning,
 heah in healle, Hygd swiðe geong,
 wis, welþungen, þeah ðe wintra lyt
 under burhlocan gebiden hæbbe,
 Hæreþes dohtor; næs hio hnah swa þeah,
- 1930
- ne to gneað gifa Geata leodum,
 maþmgestreona. Mod þryðo wæg,
 fremu folces cwen, firen ondrysne.
 Nænig þæt dorste deor geneþan
 swæsra gesiða, nefne sinfrea,
- 1935
- þæt hire an dæges eagum starede,
 ac him wælbende weotode tealde
 handgewriþene; hraþe seoþðan wæs
 æfter mundgripe mece geþinged,
 þæt hit sceadenmæl scyran moste,
- 1940
- cwealmbealu cyðan. Ne bið swylc cwenlic þeaw
 idese to efnanne, þeah ðe hio ænlicu sy,
 þætte freoðuwebbe feores onsæce
 æfter ligetorne leofne mannan.
 Huru þæt onhohsnode Hemminges mæg;
- 1945
- ealodrincende oðer sædan,
 þæt hio leodbealewa læs gefremede,
 inwitniða, syððan ærest wearð
 gyfen goldhroden geongum cempan,
 æðelum diore, syððan hio Offan flet
- 1950
- ofer fealone flod be fæder lare
 siðe gesohte; ðær hio syððan well
 in gumstole, gode, mære,
 lifgesceafta lifigende breac,
 hiold heahlufan wið hæleþa brego,

1955

ealles moncynnes mine gefræge
þone selestan bi sæm tweonum,
eormencynnes. Forðam Offa wæs
geofum ond guðum, garcene man,
wide geweorðod, wisdom e heold

1960

eðel sinne; þonon Eomer woc
hæleðum to helpe, Hemminges mæg,
nefa Garmundes, niða cræftig.
Gewat him ða se hearda mid his hondscole
sylf æfter sande sæwong tredan,

1965

wide waroðas. Woruldcandel scan,
sigel suðan fus. Hi sið drugon,
elne geeodon, to ðæs ðe eorla hleo,
bonan Ongenþeoes burgum in innan,
geongne guðcýning godne gefrunon

1970

hringas dælan. Higelace wæs
sið Beowulfes snude gecyðed,
þæt ðær on worðig wigendra hleo,
lindgestealla, lifigende cwom,
heaðolaces hal to hofe gongan.

1975

Hraðe wæs gerymed, swa se rica bebed,
feðgestum flet innanweard.
Gesæt þa wið sylfne se ða sæcce genæs,
mæg wið mæge, syððan mandryhten
þurh hleoðorcwyde holdne gegrette,

1980

meaglum wordum. Meoduscencum hwearf
geond þæt healreced Hæreðes dohtor,
lufode ða leode, liðwæge bær
hæleðum to handa. Higelac ongan
sinne geseldan in sele þam hean

1985

fægre fricgean (hyne fyrwet bræc,
hwylce Sægeata siðas wæron):
"Hu lomp eow on lade, leofa Biowulf,
þa ðu færinga feorr gehogodest
sæcce secean ofer sealt wæter,

1990

hilde to Hiorote? Ac ðu Hroðgare
widcuðne wean wihte gebettest,
mærum ðeodne? Ic ðæs modceare
sorhwylmum seað, siðe ne truwoðe

leofes mannes; ic ðe lange bæd
 1995
 þæt ðu þone wælgæst wihte ne grette,
 lete Suðdene sylfe geweorðan
 guðe wið Grendel. Gode ic þanc secge
 þæs ðe ic ðe gesundne geseon moste."
 Biowulf maðelode, bearn Ecgðioes:
 2000
 "þæt is undyrne, dryhten Higelac,
 micel gemeting, monegum fira,
 hwylc orleghwil uncer Grendles
 wearð on ðam wange, þær he worna fela
 Sigescyldingum sorge gefremede,
 2005
 yrmðe to aldre. Ic ðæt eall gewræc,
 swa begylpan ne þearf Grendeles maga
 ænig ofer eorðan uhtlem þone,
 se ðe lengest leofað laðan cynnes,
 facne bifongen. Ic ðær furðum cwom
 2010
 to ðam hringsele Hroðgar gretan;
 sona me se mæra mago Healfdenes,
 syððan he modsefan minne cuðe,
 wið his sylfes sunu setl getæhte.
 Weorod wæs on wynne; ne seah ic widan feorh
 2015
 under heofones hwealf healsittendra
 medudream maran. Hwilum mæru cwen,
 friðusibb folca, flet eall geondhwearf,
 bædde byre geonge; oft hio beahwriðan
 secge sealde, ær hie to setle geong.
 2020
 Hwilum for duguðe dohtor Hroðgares
 eorlum on ende ealuwæge bær;
 þa ic Freaware fletsittende
 nemnan hyrde, þær hio nægled sinc
 hæleðum sealde. Sio gehaten is,
 2025
 geong, goldhroden, gladum suna Frodan;
 hafað þæs geworden wine Scyldinga,
 rices hyrde, ond þæt ræd talað,
 þæt he mid ðy wife wælfæhða dæl,
 sæcca gesette. Oft seldan hwær
 2030
 æfter leodhryre lytle hwile
 bongar bugeð, þeah seo bryd duge!
 Mæg þæs þonne ofþyncan ðeodne Heaðobeardna

ond þegna gehwam þara leoda,
 þonne he mid fæmnan on flett gæð,
 2035
 dryhtbearn Dena, duguða biwenede;
 on him gladiað gomelra lafe,
 heard ond hringmæl Heaðabeardna gestreon
 þenden hie ðam wæpnum wealdan moston,
 oððæt hie forlæddan to ðam lindplegan
 2040
 swæse gesiðas ond hyra sylfra feorh.
 þonne cwið æt beore se ðe beah gesyhð,
 eald æscwiga, se ðe eall geman,
 garcwealm gumena (him bið grim sefa),
 onginneð geomormod geongum cempan
 2045
 þurh hreðra gehygd higas cunnian,
 wigbealu weccan, ond þæt word acwyð:
 'Meaht ðu, min wine, mece gecnawan
 þone þin fæder to gefeohte bær
 under heregriman hindeman siðe,
 2050
 dyre iren, þær hyne Dene slogon,
 weoldon wælstowe, syððan Wiðergyld læg,
 æfter hæleþa hryre, hwate Scyldungas?
 Nu her þara banena byre nathwylces
 frætsum hremig on flet gæð,
 2055
 morðres gylpeð, ond þone maðpum byreð,
 þone þe ðu mid rihte rædan sceoldest.'
 Manað swa ond myndgað mæla gehwylce
 sarum wordum, oððæt sæl cymeð
 þæt se fæmnan þegn fore fæder dædum
 2060
 æfter billes bite blodfag swefeð,
 ealdres scyldig; him se oðer þonan
 losað lifigende, con him land geara.
 þonne bioð abrocene on ba healfe
 aðsweord eorla; syððan Ingelde
 2065
 weallað wælniðas, ond him wiflufan
 æfter cearwælmum colran weorðað.
 þy ic Heaðobeardna hylðo ne telge,
 dryhtsibbe dæl Denum unfæcne,
 freondscipe fæstne. Ic sceal forð sprecan
 2070
 gen ymbe Grendel, þæt ðu geara cunne,
 since brytta, to hwan syððan wearð

hondræs hæleða. Syððan heofones gim
 glad ofer grundas, gæst yrre cwom,
 eatol, æfengrom, user neosan,
 2075
 ðær we gesunde sæl weardodon.
 þær wæs Hondscio hild onsæge,
 feorhbealu fægum; he fyrrest læg,
 gyrded cempa; him Grendel wearð,
 mærum maguþegne to muðbonan,
 2080
 leofes mannes lic eall forswealg.
 No ðy ær ut ða gen idelhende
 bona blodigtoð, bealewa gemyndig,
 of ðam goldsele gongan wolde,
 ac he mægnes rof min costode,
 2085
 grapode gearofolm. Glof hangode
 sid ond syllic, searobendum fæst;
 sio wæs orðoncum eall gegyrwed
 deofles cræftum ond dracan fellum.
 He mec þær on innan unsynnigne,
 2090
 dior dædfroma, gedon wolde
 manigra sumne; hyt ne mihte swa,
 syððan ic on yrre uppriht astod.
 To lang ys to recenne hu ic ðam leodsceaðan
 yfla gehwylces ondlean forgeald;
 2095
 þær ic, þeoden min, þine leode
 weorðode weorcum. He on weg losade,
 lytle hwile lifwynna breac;
 hwæpre him sio swiðre swaðe weardade
 hand on Hiorte, ond he hean ðonan
 2100
 modes geomor meregrund gefeoll.
 Me þone wælræs wine Scildunga
 fættan golde fela leanode,
 manegum maðmum, syððan mergen com
 ond we to symble geseten hæfdon.
 2105
 þær wæs gidd ond gleo. Gomela Scilding,
 felafricgende, feorran rehte;
 hwilum hildedeor hearpan wynne,
 gomenwudu grette, hwilum gyd awræc
 soð ond sarlic, hwilum syllic spell
 2110
 rehte æfter rihte rumheort cyning.

Hwilum eft ongan, eldo gebunden,
 gomel guðwiga gioguðe cwiðan,
 hilstrengo; hreðer inne weoll,
 þonne he wintrum frod worn gemunde.
 2115
 Swa we þær inne ondlangne dæg
 niode naman, oððæt niht becwom
 oðer to yldum. þa wæs eft hraðe
 gearo gyrnwræce Grendeles modor,
 siðode sorhfull; sunu deað fornam,
 2120
 wighete Wedra. Wif unhyre
 hyre bearn gewræc, beorn acwealde
 ellenlice; þær wæs æschere,
 frodan fyrnwitan, feorh uðgenge.
 Noðer hy hine ne moston, syððan mergen cwom,
 2125
 deaðwerigne, Denia leode,
 bronde forbærnan, ne on bæll hladan
 leofne mannan; hio þæt lic ætbær
 feondes fæðmum under firgenstream.
 þæt wæs Hroðgare hreowa tornost
 2130
 þara þe leodfruman lange begeate.
 þa se ðeoden mec ðine life
 healsode hreohmod, þæt ic on holma geþring
 eorlscipe efnde, ealdre geneðde,
 mærdō fremede; he me mede gehet.
 2135
 Ic ða ðæs wælmes, þe is wide cuð,
 grimne gryreligne grundhyrde fond;
 þær unc hwile wæs hand gemæne,
 holm heolfre weoll, ond ic heafde becearf
 in ðam guðsele Grendeles modor
 2140
 eacnum ecgum, unsofte þonan
 feorh oðferede. Næs ic fæge þa gyt,
 ac me eorla hleo eft gesealde
 maðma menigeo, maga Healfdenes.
 Swa se ðeodkyning þeawum lyfde.
 2145
 Nealles ic ðam leanum forloren hæfde,
 mægnes mede, ac he me maðmas geaf,
 sunu Healfdenes, on minne sylfes dom;
 ða ic ðe, beorcnyning, bringan wylle,
 estum geywan. Gen is eall æt ðe
 2150

lissa gelong; ic lyt hafo
 heafodmaga nefne, Hygelac, ðec."
 Het ða in beran eaforheafodsegn,
 heaðosteapne helm, hare byrnan,
 guðsweord geatolic, gyd æfter wræc:
 2155
 "Me ðis hildesceorp Hroðgar sealde,
 snotra fengel, sume worde het
 þæt ic his ærest ðe est gesægde;
 cwæð þæt hyt hæfde Hiorogar cyning,
 leod Scyldunga lange hwile;
 2160
 no ðy ær suna sinum syllan wolde,
 hwatum Heorowearde, þeah he him hold wære,
 breostgewædu. Bruc ealles well!"
 Hyrde ic þæt þam frætsum feower mearas
 lungre, gelice, last weardode,
 2165
 æppelfealu we; he him est geteah
 meara ond maðma. Swa sceal mæg don,
 nealles inwitnet oðrum bregdon
 dyrnum cræfte, deað renian
 hondgesteallan. Hygelace wæs,
 2170
 niða heardum, nefa swyðe hold,
 ond gehwæðer oðrum hroþra gemyndig.
 Hyrde ic þæt he ðone healsbeah Hygde gesealde,
 wrætlicne wundurmaððum, ðone þe him Wealhðeo geaf,
 ðeodnes dohtor, þrio wicg somod
 2175
 swancor ond sadolbeorht; hyre syððan wæs
 æfter beahðege breost geweorðod.
 Swa bealdode bearn Ecgðeowes,
 guma guðum cuð, godum dædum,
 dreah æfter dome, nealles druncne slog
 2180
 heorðgeneatas; næs him hreoh sefa,
 ac he mancynnes mæste cræfte
 ginfæstan gife, þe him god sealde,
 heold hildedeor. Hean wæs lange,
 swa hyne Geata bearn godne ne tealdon,
 2185
 ne hyne on medobence micles wyrðne
 drihten Wedera gedon wolde;
 swyðe wendon þæt he sleac wære,
 æðeling unfrom. Edwenden cwom
 tireadigum menn torna gehwylces.

2190
 Het ða eorla hleo in gefetian,
 heaðorof cyning, Hreðles lafe
 golde gegyrede; næs mid Geatum ða
 sincmaðþum selra on sweordes had;
 þæt he on Biowulfes bearm alegde

2195
 ond him gesealde seofan þusendo,
 bold ond bregostol. Him wæs bam samod
 on ðam leodscipe lond gecynde,
 eard, eðelriht, oðrum swiðor
 side rice þam ðær selra wæs.

2200
 Eft þæt geiode ufaran dogrum
 hildehlæmmum, syððan Hygelac læg
 ond Heardrede hildemeceas
 under bordhreoðan to bonan wurdon,
 ða hyne gesohtan on sigeþeode

2205
 hearde hildrefrecan, Heaðoscilfingas,
 niða genægðan nefan Hererices,
 syððan Beowulfe brade rice
 on hand gehwearf; he geheold tela
 fiftig wintra (wæs ða frod cyning,
 eald eþelweard), oððæt an ongan
 deorcum nihtum draca ricsian,
 se ðe on heaum hofe hord beweotode,
 stanbeorh steapne; stig under læg,
 eldum uncuð. þær on innan giong

2210
 eald eþelweard), oððæt an ongan
 deorcum nihtum draca ricsian,
 se ðe on heaum hofe hord beweotode,
 stanbeorh steapne; stig under læg,
 eldum uncuð. þær on innan giong

2215
 niða nathwylc, se ðe neh gefeng
 hæðnum horde, hond,
 since fahne. He þæt syððan,
 þeah ðe he slæpende besyred wurde
 þeofes cræfte; þæt sie ðiod onfand,

2220
 bufolc beorna, þæt he gebolgen wæs.
 Nealles mid gewealdum wrymhord abræc
 sylfes willum, se ðe him sare gesceod,
 ac for þreanedlan þeow nathwylces
 hæleða bearna heteswengeas fleah,

2225
 ærnes þearfa, ond ðær inne fealh,
 secg synbysig, sona onfunde
 þæt þær ðam gyste gryrebroga stod;
 hwæðre earmsceapen

...sceapen

2230

þa hyne se fær begeat.
Sincfæt; þær wæs swylcra fela
in ðam eorðhuse ærgestreona,
swa hy on geardagum gumena nathwylc,
eormenlafe æþelan cynnes,

2235

þanchycgende þær gehydde,
deore maðmas. Ealle hie deað fornam
ærran mælum, ond se an ða gen
leoda duguðe, se ðær lengest hwearf,
weard winegeomor, wende þæs ylcan,

2240

þæt he lytel fæc longgestreona
brucan moste. Beorh eallgearo
wunode on wonge wæteryðum neah,
niwe be næsse, nearocræftum fæst.
þær on innan bær eorlgestreona

2245

hringa hyrde hordwyrðne dæl,
fættan goldes, fea worda cwæð:
"Heald þu nu, hruse, nu hæleð ne moston,
eorla æhte! Hwæt, hyt ær on ðe
gode begeaton. Guðdeað fornam,

2250

feorhbealo frecne, fyra gehwylcne
leoda minra, þara ðe þis lif ofgeaf,
gesawon seledream. Ic nah hwa sweord wege
oððe feormie fæted wæge,
dryncfæt deore; duguð ellor sceoc.

2255

Sceal se hearda helm hyrsted golde
fætum befeallen; feormynd swefað,
þa ðe beadogriman bywan sceoldon,
ge swylce seo herepad, sio æt hilde gebad
ofer borda gebræc bite irena,

2260

brosnað æfter beorne. Ne mæg byrnan hring
æfter wigfruman wide feran,
hæleðum be healfe. Næs hearpan wyn,
gomen gleobeames, ne god hafoc
geond sæl swingeð, ne se swifta mearh

2265

burhstede beateð. Bealocwealm hafað
fela feorhcynna forð onsended!"
Swa giomormod giohðo mænde

an æfter eallum, unbliðe hwearf
 dægес ond nihtes, oððæt deaðes wylm
 2270
 hran æt heortan. Hordwynne fond
 eald uhtsceaða opene standan,
 se ðe byrnende biorgas seceð,
 nacod niðdraca, nihtes fleogeð
 fyre befangen; hyne foldbuend
 2275
 swiðe ondrædað. He gesecean sceall
 hord on hrusan, þær he hæðen gold
 warað wintrum frod, ne byð him wihte ðy sel.
 Swa se ðeodsceaða þreo hund wintra
 heold on hrusan hordærna sum,
 2280
 eacencræftig, oððæt hyne an abealch
 mon on mode; mandryhtne bær
 fæted wæge, frioðowære bæd
 hlaford sinne. ða wæs hord rasod,
 onboren beaga hord, bene getiðad
 2285
 feasceaftum men. Frea sceawode
 fira fyrngeweorc forman siðe.
 þa se wurm onwoc, wroht wæs geniwad;
 stonc ða æfter stane, stearcheort onfand
 feondes fotlast; he to forð gestop
 2290
 dyrnan cræfte dracan heafde neah.
 Swa mæg unfæge eaðe gedigan
 wean ond wræcsið, se ðe waldendes
 hylдо gehealdeþ! Hordweard sohte
 georne æfter grunde, wolde guman findan,
 2295
 þone þe him on sweofote sare geteode,
 hat ond hreohmod hlæw oft ymbehwearf
 ealne utanweardne, ne ðær ænig mon
 on þære westenne; hwæðre wiges gefeh,
 beaduwe weorces, hwilum on beorh æthwearf,
 2300
 sincfæt sohte. He þæt sona onfand
 ðæt hæfde gumena sum goldes gefandod,
 heahgestreona. Hordweard onbad
 earfoðlice oððæt æfen cwom;
 wæs ða gebolgen beorges hyrde,
 2305
 wolde se laða lige forgyldan
 drincfæt dyre. þa wæs dæg sceacen

wyrme on willan; no on wealle læg,
bidan wolde, ac mid bæle for,
fyre gefysed. Wæs se fruma egeslic
2310
leodum on lande, swa hyt lungre wearð
on hyra sincgifan sare geendod.
ða se gæst ongan gledum spiwan,
beorht hofu bærnan; bryneleoma stod
eldum on andan. No ðær aht cwices
2315
lað lyftfloga læfan wolde.
Wæs þæs wyrmes wig wide gesyne,
nearofages nið nean ond feorran,
hu se guðsceaða Geata leode
hatode ond hynde; hord eft gesceat,
2320
dryhtsele dyrnne, ær dæges hwile.
Hæfde landwara lige befangen,
bæle ond bronde, beorges getruwode,
wiges ond wealles; him seo wen ge Leah.
þa wæs Biowulfe broga gecyðed
2325
snude to soðe, þæt his sylfes ham,
bolda selest, brynewylmum mealt,
giftol Geata. þæt ðam godan wæs
hreow on hreðre, hygesorga mæst;
wende se wisa þæt he wealdende
2330
ofer ealde riht, ecean dryhtne,
bitre gebulge. Breost innan weoll
þeostum geþoncum, swa him geþywe ne wæs.
Hæfde ligdraca leoda fæsten,
ealond utan, eorðweard ðone
2335
gledum forgrunden; him ðæs guðkyning,
Wedera þioden, wræce leornode.
Heht him þa gewyrcean wigendra hleo
eallirene, eorla dryhten,
wigbord wrætlic; wisse he gearwe
2340
þæt him holtwudu helpan ne meahte,
lind wið lige. Sceolde lændaga
æþeling ærgod ende gebidan,
worulde lifes, ond se wurm somod,
þeah ðe hordwelan heolde lange.
2345
Oferhogode ða hringa fengel

þæt he þone widflogan weorode gesohte,
 sidan herge; no he him þa sæcce ondred,
 ne him þæs wyrmes wig for wiht dyde,
 eafod ond ellen, forðon he ær fela
 2350
 nearo neðende niða gedigde,
 hildehlemma, syððan he Hroðgares,
 sigoreadig secg, sele fælsode
 ond æt guðe forgrap Grendeles mægum
 laðan cynnes. No þæt læsest wæs
 2355
 hondgemota, þær mon Hygelac sloh,
 syððan Geata cyning guðe ræsum,
 freawine folca Freslundum on,
 Hreðles eafora hiorodryncum swealt,
 bille gebeaten. þonan Biowulf com
 2360
 sylfes cræfte, sundnytte dreah;
 hæfde him on earme ana XXX
 hildegeatwa, þa he to holme beag.
 Nealles Hetware hremge þorfton
 feðewiges, þe him foran ongean
 2365
 linde bæron; lyt eft becwom
 fram þam hildfrecan hames niosan.
 Oferswam ða sioleða bigong sunu Ecgðeowes,
 earm anhaga, eft to leodum;
 þær him Hygd gebead hord ond rice,
 2370
 beagas ond bregostol, bearne ne truwode
 þæt he wið ælfylcum eþelstolas
 healdan cuðe, ða wæs Hygelac dead.
 No ðy ær feasceafte findan meahton
 æt ðam æðelinge ænige ðinga,
 2375
 þæt he Heardrede hlaford wære
 oððe þone cynedom ciosan wolde;
 hwæðre he him on folce freondlarum heold,
 estum mid are, oððæt he yldra wearð,
 Wedergeatum weold. Hyne wræcmæcgas
 2380
 ofer sæ sohtan, suna Ohteres;
 hæfdon hy forhealden helm Scylfinga,
 þone selestan sæcyninga
 þara ðe in Swiorice sinc brytnade,
 mærne þeoden. Him þæt to mearce wearð;
 2385

he þær for feorme feorhwunde hleat
 sweordes swengum, sunu Hygelaces,
 ond him eft gewat Ongendioes bearn
 hames niosan, syððan Heardred læg,
 let ðone bregostol Biowulf healdan,
 2390
 Geatum wealdan. þæt wæs god cyning!
 Se ðæs leodhryres lean gemunde
 uferan dogrum, Eadgilse wearð
 feasceaftum freond, folce gestepte
 ofer sæ side sunu Ohteres,
 2395
 wigum ond wæpnum; he gewræc syððan
 cealdum cearsiðum, cyning ealdre bineat.
 Swa he niða gehwane genesen hæfde,
 sliðra geslyhta, sunu Ecgðiwes,
 ellenweorca, oð ðone anne dæg
 2400
 þe he wið þam wyrme gewegan sceolde.
 Gewat þa *XII*a sum torne gebolgen
 dryhten Geata dracan sceawian.
 Hæfde þa gefrunen hwanan sio fæhð aras,
 bealonið biorna; him to bearne cwom
 2405
 maðpumfæt mære þurh ðæs meldan hond.
 Se wæs on ðam ðreate þreotteoða secg,
 se ðæs orleges or onstealde,
 hæft hygegiomor, sceolde hean ðonon
 wong wisian. He ofer willan giong
 2410
 to ðæs ðe he eorðsele anne wisse,
 hlæw under hrusan holmwylme neh,
 yðgewinne; se wæs innan full
 wrætta ond wira. Weard unhiore,
 gearo guðfreca, goldmaðmas heold,
 2415
 eald under eorðan. Næs þæt yðe ceap
 to gegangenne gumena ænigum!
 Gesæt ða on næsse niðheard cyning,
 þenden hælo abead heorðgeneatum,
 goldwine Geata. Him wæs geomor sefa,
 2420
 wæfre ond wælfus, wyrd ungemete neah,
 se ðone gomelan gretan sceolde,
 secean sawle hord, sundur gedælan
 lif wið lice, no þon lange wæs
 feorh æpelinges flæsce bewunden.

2425

Biowulf mabelade, bearn Ecgðeowes:
"Fela ic on giogoðe guðræsa genæs,
orleghwila; ic þæt eall gemon.
Ic wæs syfanwintre, þa mec sinca baldor,
freawine folca, æt minum fæder genam;

2430

heold mec ond hæfde Hreðel cyning,
geaf me sinc ond symbel, sibbe gemunde.
Næs ic him to life laðra owihte,
beorn in burgum, þonne his bearna hwylc,
Herebeald ond Hæðcyn oððe Hygelac min.

2435

Wæs þam yldestan ungedefelice
mæges dædum morþorbed stred,
syððan hyne Hæðcyn of hornbogan,
his freawine, flane geswencte,
miste mercelses ond his mæg ofscet,

2440

broðor oðerne blodigan gare.
þæt wæs feohleas gefeoht, fyrenum gesyngad,
hreðre hygemeðe; sceolde hwæðre swa þeah
æðeling unwrecen ealdres linnan.
Swa bið geomorlic gomelum ceorle

2445

to gebidanne, þæt his byre ride
giong on galgan, þonne he gyd wrece,
sarigne sang, þonne his sunu hangað
hrefne to hroðre, ond he him helpe ne mæg,
eald ond infrod, ænige gefremman.

2450

Symble bið gemyndgad morna gehwylce
eaforan ellorsið; oðres ne gymeð
to gebidanne burgum in innan
yrfewardas, þonne se an hafað
þurh deaðes nyd dæda gefondad.

2455

Gesyhð sorhcearig on his suna bure
winsele westne, windge reste
reote berofene. Ridend swefað,
hæleð in hoðman; nis þær hearpan sweg,
gomen in geardum, swylce ðær iu wæron.

2460

Gewiteð þonne on sealman, sorhleoð gæleð
an æfter anum; þuhte him eall to rum,
wongas ond wicstede. Swa Wedra helm
æfter Herebealde heortan sorge

weallende wæg. Wihte ne meahte
 2465
 on ðam feorhbonan fæghðe gebetan;
 no ðy ær he þone heaðorinc hatian ne meahte
 laðum dædum, þeah him leof ne wæs.
 He ða mid þære sorhge, þe him swa sar belamp,
 gumdream ofgeaf, godes leoht geceas,
 2470
 eaferum læfde, swa deð eadig mon,
 lond ond leodbyrig, þa he of life gewat.
 þa wæs synn ond sacu Sweona ond Geata
 ofer wid wæter, wroht gemæne,
 herenið hearda, syððan Hreðel swealt,
 2475
 oððe him Ongenðeowes eaferan wæran
 frome, fyrdhwate, freode ne woldon
 ofer heafo healdan, ac ymb Hreosnabeorh
 eatolne inwitscear oft gefremedon.
 þæt mægwine mine gewræcan,
 2480
 fæhðe ond fyrene, swa hyt gefræge wæs,
 þeah ðe oðer his ealdre gebohte,
 heardan ceape; Hæðcynne wearð,
 Geata dryhtne, guð onsæge.
 þa ic on morgne gefrægn mæg oðerne
 2485
 billes ecgum on bonan stælan,
 þær Ongenþeow Eofores niosað.
 Guðhelm toglad, gomela Scylfing
 hreas hildeblac; hond gemunde
 fæhðo genoge, feorhsweng ne ofteah.
 2490
 Ic him þa maðmas, þe he me sealde,
 geald æt guðe, swa me gifeðe wæs,
 leohtan sweorde; he me lond forgeaf,
 eard, eðelwyn. Næs him ænig þearf
 þæt he to Gifðum oððe to Gardenum
 2495
 oððe in Swiorice secean þurfe
 wyrсан wigfreca, weorðe gecypan.
 Symle ic him on feðan beforan wolde,
 ana on orde, ond swa to aldre sceall
 sæcce fremman, þenden þis sweord þolað,
 2500
 þæt mec ær ond sið oft gelæste.
 Syððan ic for dugeðum Dæghrefne wearð
 to handbonan, Huga cempan;

nalles he ða frætwe Frescyninge,
 breostweorðunge, bringan moste,
 2505
 ac in compe gecrong cumbles hyrde,
 æþeling on elne; ne wæs ecg bona,
 ac him hildegrap heortan wylmas,
 banhus gebræc. Nu sceall billes ecg,
 hond ond heard sweord, ymb hord wigan."
 2510
 Beowulf maðelode, beotwordum spræc
 niehstan siðe: "Ic geneoðde fela
 guða on geogoðe; gyt ic wylle,
 frod folces weard, fæhðe secan,
 mærdū fremman, gif mec se mansceaða
 2515
 of eorðsele ut geseceð."
 Gegrette ða gumena gehwylcne,
 hwate helmberend, hindeman siðe,
 swæse gesiðas: "Nolde ic sweord beran,
 wæpen to wyrme, gif ic wiste hu
 2520
 wið ðam aglæcean elles meahte
 gylpe wiðgripan, swa ic gio wið Grendle dyde.
 Ac ic ðær heaðufyres hates wene,
 oreðes ond attres; forðon ic me on hafu
 bord ond byrnan. Nelle ic beorges weard
 2525
 forfleon fotes trem, ac unc furður sceal
 weorðan æt wealle, swa unc wyrd geteoð,
 metod manna gehwæs. Ic eom on mode from
 þæt ic wið þone guðflogan gylp ofersitte.
 Gebide ge on beorge byrnum werede,
 2530
 secgas on searwum, hwæðer sel mæge
 æfter wælræse wunde gedygan
 uncer twega. Nis þæt eower sið
 ne gemet mannes, nefne min anes,
 þæt he wið aglæcean efofoðo dæle,
 2535
 eorlscype efne. Ic mid elne sceall
 gold gegangan, oððe guð nimeð,
 feorhbealu frecne, frean eowerne!"
 Aras ða bi ronde rof oretta,
 heard under helme, hiorosercean bær
 2540
 under stancleofu, strengo getruwode
 anes mannes. Ne bið swylc earges sið!

Geseah ða be wealle se ðe worna fela,
 gumcystum god, guða gedigde,
 hildehlemma, þonne hnitān feðan,
 2545
 stōdan stanbogan, stream ut þōnan
 brecan of beorge. Wæs þære burnan wælm
 heaðofyrum hat; ne meahste horde neah
 unbyrnende ænige hwile
 deop gedygan for dračan lege.
 2550
 Let ða of breostum, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 Wedergeata leod word ut faran,
 stearcheort styrmdē; stefn in becom
 heaðotorht hlynnan under hārne stan.
 Hete wæs onhrered, hordweard oncnīow
 2555
 mannes reorde; næs ðær mara fyrst
 freode to frīclan. From ærest cwom
 oruð aglæcean ut of stane,
 hat hildeswat. Hruse dynede.
 Biorn under beorge bordrand onswaf
 2560
 wið ðam gryregieste, Geata dryhten;
 ða wæs hringbogan heorte gefysed
 sæcce to seceanne. Sweord ær gebræd
 god guðcyning, gomele lafe,
 ecgum unslaw; æghwæðrum wæs
 2565
 bealohycgendra broga fram oðrum.
 Stiðmod gestod wið steapne rond
 winia bealdor, ða se wurm gebeah
 snude tosomne; he on searwum bad.
 Gewat ða byrnende gebogen scriðan,
 2570
 to gescipe scyndan. Scyld wel gebearg
 life ond lice læssan hwile
 mærum þeodne þonne his myne sohte,
 ðær he þy fyrste, forman dogore
 wealdan moste swa him wyrd ne gescraf
 2575
 hreð æt hilde. Hond up abræd
 Geata dryhten, gryrefahne sloh
 incgelafe, þæt sio ecg gewac
 brun on bane, bat unswiðor
 þonne his ðiodcyning þearfe hæfde,
 2580
 bysigum gebæded. þa wæs beorges weard

æfter heaðuswenge on hreoum mode,
 wearp wælfyre; wide sprungon
 hildeleoman. Hreðsigora ne gealp
 goldwine Geata; guðbill geswac,
 2585
 nacod æt niðe, swa hyt no sceolde,
 iren ærgod. Ne wæs þæt eðe sið,
 þæt se mæra maga Ecgðeowes
 grundwong þone ofgyfan wolde;
 sceolde ofer willan wic eardian
 2590
 elles hwergen, swa sceal æghwylc mon
 alætan lændagas. Næs ða long to ðon
 þæt ða aglæcean hy eft gemetton.
 Hyrte hyne hordweard (hreðer æðme weoll)
 niwan stefne; nearo ðrowode,
 2595
 fyre befongen, se ðe ær folce weold.
 Nealles him on heape handgesteallan,
 æðelinga bearn, ymbe gestodon
 hildecystum, ac hy on holt bugon,
 ealdre burgan. Hiora in anum weoll
 2600
 sefa wið sorgum; sibb æfre ne mæg
 wiht onwendan þam ðe wel þenceð.
 Wiglaf wæs haten Weoxstanes sunu,
 leoflic lindwiga, leod Scylfinga,
 mæg ælfheres; geseah his mondryhten
 2605
 under heregriman hat þrowian.
 Gemunde ða ða are þe he him ær forgeaf,
 wicstede weligne Wægmunðinga,
 folcrihta gehwylc, swa his fæder ahte.
 Ne mihte ða forhabban; hond rond gefeng,
 2610
 geolwe linde, gomel swyrd geteah,
 þæt wæs mid eldum Eanmundes laf,
 suna Ohteres. þam æt sæcce wearð,
 wræccan wineleasum, Weohstan bana
 meces ecgum, ond his magum ætbær
 2615
 brunfagne helm, hringde byrnan,
 eald sweord etonisc; þæt him Onela forgeaf,
 his gædelinges guðgewædu,
 fyrdsearo fuslic, no ymbe ða fæhðe spræc,
 þeah ðe he his broðor bearn abredwade.
 2620

He frætwe geheold fela missera,
 bill ond byrnan, oððæt his byre mihte
 eorlscipe efnan swa his ærfæder;
 geaf him ða mid Geatum guðgewæda,
 æghwæs unrim, þa he of ealdre gewat,
 2625
 frod on forðweg. þa wæs forma sið
 geongan ceman, þæt he guðe ræs
 mid his freodryhtne fremman sceolde.
 Ne gemealt him se modsefa, ne his mæges laf
 gewac æt wige; þæt se wyrm onfand,
 2630
 syððan hie togædre gegan hæfdon.
 Wiglaf maðelode, wordrihta fela
 sægde gesiðum (him wæs sefa geomor):
 "Ic ðæt mæl geman, þær we medu þegun,
 þonne we geheton ussum hlaforde
 2635
 in biorsele, ðe us ðas beagas geaf,
 þæt we him ða guðgetawa gyldan woldon
 gif him þyslicu þearf gelumpe,
 helmas ond heard sword. ðe he usic on herge geceas
 to ðyssum siðfate sylfes willum,
 2640
 onmunde usic mærdða, ond me þas maðmas geaf,
 þe he usic garwigend gode tealde,
 hwate helmberend, þeah ðe hlaford us
 þis ellenweorc ana aðohte
 to gefremmanne, folces hyrde,
 2645
 for ðam he manna mæst mærdða gefremede,
 dæda dollicra. Nu is se dæg cumen
 þæt ure mandryhten mægenes behofað,
 godra guðrinca; wutun gongan to,
 helpan hildfruman, þenden hyt sy,
 2650
 gledegesa grim. God wat on mec
 þæt me is micle leofre þæt minne lichaman
 mid minne goldgyfan gled fæðmie.
 Ne þynceð me gerysne þæt we rondas beren
 eft to earde, nemne we æror mægen
 2655
 fane gefyllan, feorh ealgian
 Wedra ðeodnes. Ic wat geara
 þæt næron ealdgewyrht, þæt he ana scyle
 Geata duguðe gnorn þrowian,
 gesigan æt sæcce; urum sceal sword ond helm,

2660

byrne ond beaduscud, bam gemæne."
Wod þa þurh þone wælrec, wigheafolan bær
freat on fultum, fea worda cwæð:
"Leofa Biowulf, læst eall tela,
swa ðu on geoguðfeore geara gecwæde

2665

þæt ðu ne alæte be ðe lifigendum
dom gedreosan. Scealt nu dædum rof,
æðeling anhydig, ealle mægene
feorh ealgian; ic ðe fullæstu."
æfter ðam wordum wurm yrre cwom,

2670

atol inwitgæst, oðre siðe
fyrwylmum fah fionda niosian,
laðra manna; ligyðum for.
Born bord wið rond, byrne ne meahthe
geongum garwigan geoce gefremman,

2675

ac se maga geonga under his mæges scyld
elne geeode, þa his agen wæs
gledum forgrunden. þa gen guðcýning
mærdða gemunde, mægenstrengo sloh
hildebille, þæt hyt on heafolan stod

2680

nipe genyded; Nægling forbærst,
geswac æt sæcce sweord Biowulfes,
gomol ond grægmæl. Him þæt gifeðe ne wæs
þæt him irenna ecge mihton
helpan æt hilde; wæs sio hond to strong,

2685

se ðe meca gehwane, mine gefræge,
swenge ofersohthe, þonne he to sæcce bær
wæpen wundrum heard; næs him wihte ðe sel.
þa wæs þeodsceaða þridan siðe,
frecne fyrdraca, fæhða gemyndig,

2690

ræsde on ðone rofan, þa him rum ageald,
hat ond heaðogrim, heals ealne ymbefeng
biteran banum; he geblodegod wearð
sawuldriore, swat yðum weoll.
ða ic æt þearfe gefrægn þeodcýninges

2695

andlongne eorl ellen cyðan,
cræft ond cenðu, swa him gecynde wæs.
Ne hedde he þæs heafolan, ac sio hand gebarn
modiges mannes, þær he his mæges healp,

2700 þæt he þone niðgæst nioðor hwene sloh,
 secg on searwum, þæt ðæt sweord gedeaf,
 fah ond fæted, þæt ðæt fyr ongon
 sweðrian syððan. þa gen sylf cyning
 geweold his gewitte, wællseaxe gebræd
 biter ond beaduscearp, þæt he on byrnan wæg;
 2705
 forwrat Wedra helm wyrm on middan.
 Feond gefyldan (ferh ellen wræc),
 ond hi hyne þa begen abroten hæfdon,
 sibæðelingas. Swylc sceolde secg wesan,
 þegn æt ðearfe! þæt ðam þeodne wæs
 2710
 siðast sigehwila sylfes dædum,
 worlde geweorces. ða sio wund ongon,
 þe him se eorðdraca ær geworhte,
 swelan ond swellan; he þæt sona onfand,
 þæt him on breostum bealoniðe weoll
 2715
 attor on innan. ða se æðeling giong
 þæt he bi wealle wishycgende
 gesæt on sesse; seah on enta geweorc,
 hu ða stanbogan stapulum fæste
 ece eorðreced innan healde.
 2720
 Hyne þa mid handa heorodreorigne,
 þeoden mærne, þegn ungemete till
 winedryhten his wætere gelafede,
 hilde sædne, ond his helm onspeon.
 Biowulf mæpelode (he ofer benne spræc,
 2725
 wunde wælbleate; wisse he gearwe
 þæt he dæghwila gedrogen hæfde,
 eorðan wynne; ða wæs eall sceacen
 dogorgerimes, deað ungemete neah):
 "Nu ic suna minum syllan wolde
 2730
 guðgewædu, þær me gifeðe swa
 ænig yrfeweard æfter wurde
 lice gelenge. Ic ðas leode heold
 fiftig wintra; næs se folccyning,
 ymbesittendra ænig ðara,
 2735
 þe mec guðwinum gretan dorste,
 egesan ðeon. Ic on earde bad
 mælgesceafta, heold min tela,

ne sohte searoniðas, ne me swor fela
 aða on unriht. Ic ðæs ealles mæg
 2740
 feorhbennum seoc gefean habban;
 for ðam me witan ne ðearf waldend fira
 morðorbealo maga, þonne min sceaceð
 lif of lice. Nu ðu lungre geong
 hord sceawian under harne stan,
 2745
 Wiglaf leofa, nu se wyrm ligeð,
 swefeð sare wund, since bereafod.
 Bio nu on ofoste, þæt ic ærwelan,
 goldæht ongite, gearo sceawige
 swegle searogimmas, þæt ic ðy seft mæge
 2750
 æfter maððumwelan min alætan
 lif ond leodscipe, þone ic longe heold."
 ða ic snude gefrægn sunu Wihstanes
 æfter wordcwydum wundum dryhtne
 hyran heaðosiocum, hringnet beran,
 2755
 brogdne beadusercean under beorges hrof.
 Geseah ða sigehreðig, þa he bi sesse geong,
 magoþegn modig maððumsigla fealo,
 gold glitnian grunde getenge,
 wundur on wealle, ond þæs wyrmes denn,
 2760
 ealdes uhtflogan, orcas stondan,
 fyrnmanfa fatu feormendlease,
 hyrstum behrorene; þær wæs helm monig
 eald ond omig, earmbeaga fela
 searwum gesæled. Sinc eaðe mæg,
 2765
 gold on grunde, gumcynnes gehwone
 oferhigian, hyde se ðe wylle.
 Swylce he siomian geseah segn eallgylden
 heah ofer horde, hondwundra mæst,
 gelocen leoðocræftum; of ðam leoma stod,
 2770
 þæt he þone grundwong ongitan meahhte,
 wræte giondwilitan. Næs ðæs wyrmes þær
 onsyn ænig, ac hyne ecg fornam.
 ða ic on hlæwe gefrægn hord reafian,
 eald enta geweorc, anne mannan,
 2775
 him on bearm hlodon bunan ond discas
 sylfes dome; segn eac genom,

beacna beorhtost. Bill ær gescod
 (ecg wæs iren) ealdhlafordes
 þam ðara maðma mundbora wæs
 2780
 longe hwile, ligegesan wæg
 hatne for horde, hioroweallende
 middelnihum, oðþæt he morðre swealt.
 Ar wæs on ofoste, eftsiðes georn,
 frætsum gefyrðred; hyne fyrwet bræc,
 2785
 hwæðer collenferð cwicne gemette
 in ðam wongstede Wedra þeoden
 ellensiocne, þær he hine ær forlet.
 He ða mid þam maðmum mærne þioden,
 dryhten sinne, driorigne fand
 2790
 ealdres æt ende; he hine eft ongon
 wæteres weorpan, oðþæt wordes ord
 breosthord þurhbræc.
 gomel on gιοhðe (gold sceawode):
 "Ic ðara frætwa frean ealles ðanc,
 2795
 wuldurcynige, wordum secge,
 ecum dryhtne, þe ic her on starie,
 þæs ðe ic moste minum leodum
 ær swyltdæge swylc gestrynan.
 Nu ic on maðma hord mine bebohte
 2800
 frode feorhlege, fremmað gena
 leoda þearfe; ne mæg ic her leng wesan.
 Hatað heaðomære hlæw gewyrcean
 beorhtne æfter bæle æt brimes nosan;
 se scel to gemyndum minum leodum
 2805
 heah hlifian on Hronesnæsse,
 þæt hit sæliðend syððan hatan
 Biowulfes biorh, ða ðe brentingas
 ofer floda genipu feorran drifað."
 Dyde him of healse hring gyldenne
 2810
 þioden þristhydig, þegne gesealde,
 geongum garwigan, goldfahne helm,
 beah ond byrnan, het hyne brucan well:
 "þu eart endelaf usses cynnes,
 Wægmunðinga. Ealle wyrd forsweop
 2815
 mine magas to metodsceafte,

eorlas on elne; ic him æfter sceal."
 þæt wæs þam gomelan gingæste word
 breostgehygdum, ær he bælcure,
 hate heaðowylmas; him of hreðre gewat
 2820
 sawol secean soðfæstra dom.
 ða wæs gegongen guman unfrodum
 earfoðlice, þæt he on eorðan geseah
 þone leofestan lifes æt ende
 bleate gebæran. Bona swylce læg,
 2825
 egeslic eorðdraca ealdre bereafod,
 bealwe gebæded. Beahhordum leng
 wurm wohbogen wealdan ne moste,
 ac hine irenna ecga fornamon,
 hearde, heaðoscearde homera lafe,
 2830
 þæt se widfloga wundum stille
 hreas on hrusan hordærne neah.
 Nalles æfter lyfte lacende hwearf
 middelnihtrum, maðmæhta wlonc
 ansyn ywde, ac he eorðan gefeoll
 2835
 for ðæs hildfruman hondgeweorce.
 Huru þæt on lande lyt manna ðah,
 mægenagenda, mine gefræge,
 þeah ðe he dæda gehwæs dyrstig wære,
 þæt he wið attorsceaðan oreðe geræsde,
 2840
 oððe hringsele hondum styrede,
 gif he wæccende weard onfunde
 buon on beorge. Biowulfe wearð
 dryhtmaðma dæl deaðe forgolden;
 hæfde æghwæðer ende gefered
 2845
 lænan lifes. Næs ða lang to ðon
 þæt ða hildlatan holt ofgefan,
 tydre treowlogan tyne ætsomne.
 ða ne dorston ær dareðum lacan
 on hyra mandryhtnes miclan þearfe,
 2850
 ac hy scamiende scyldas bæran,
 guðgewædu, þær se gomela læg,
 wlitan on Wilaf. He gewergad sæt,
 feðecempa, frean eaxlum neah,
 wehte hyne wætre; him wiht ne speow.
 2855

- Ne meahte he on eorðan, ðeah he uðe wel,
on ðam frumgare feorh gehealdan,
ne ðæs wealdendes wiht oncirran;
wolde dom godes dædum rædan
gumena gehwylcum, swa he nu gen deð.
- 2860
þa wæs æt ðam geongan grim ondswaru
eðbegete þam ðe ær his elne forleas.
Wiglaf maðelode, Weohstanes sunu,
sec, sarigferð (seah on unleofe):
"þæt, la, mæg secgan se ðe wyle soð specan
- 2865
þæt se mondryhten se eow ða maðmas geaf,
eoredgeatwe, þe ge þær on standað,
þonne he on ealubence oft gesealde
healsittendum helm ond byrnan,
þeoden his þegnum, swylce he þrydlicost
- 2870
ower feor oððe neah findan meahte,
þæt he genunga guðgewædu
wraðe forwurpe, ða hyne wig beget.
Nealles folccyning fyrdgesteallum
gylpan þorfte; hwæðre him god uðe,
- 2875
sigora waldend, þæt he hyne sylfne gewræc
ana mid ecge, þa him wæs elnes þearf.
Ic him lifwraðe lytle meahte
ætgifan æt guðe, ond ongan swa þeah
ofer min gemet mæges helpan;
- 2880
symle wæs þy sæmra, þonne ic sweorde drep
ferhðgeniðlan, fyr unswiðor
weoll of gewitte. Wergendra to lyt
þrong ymbe þeoden, þa hyne sio þrag becwom.
Nu sceal sincþego ond swyrdgifu,
- 2885
eall eðelwyn eowrum cynne,
lufen alicgean; londrihtes mot
þære mægburge monna æghwylc
idel hweorfan, syððan æðelingas
feorran gefricgean fleam eowerne,
- 2890
domleasan dæd. Deað bið sella
eorla gehwylcum þonne edwitlif!"
Heht ða þæt heaðoweorc to hagan biodan
up ofer ecgclif, þær þæt eorlweorod
morgenlongne dæg modgiomor sæt,

2895 bordhæbbende, bega on wenum,
 endedogores ond eftcymes
 leofes monnes. Lyt swigode
 niwra spella se ðe næs gerad,
 ac he soðlice sægde ofer ealle:

2900 "Nu is wilgeofa Wedra leoda,
 dryhten Geata, deaðbedde fæst,
 wunað wæreste wyrmes dædum.
 Him on efn ligeð ealdorgewinna
 sexbennum seoc; sweorde ne meahte

2905 on ðam aglæcean ænige þinga
 wunde gewyrcean. Wiglaf siteð
 ofer Biowulfe, byre Wihstanes,
 eorl ofer oðrum unlifigendum,
 healdeð higemæðum heafodwearde

2910 leofes ond laðes. Nu ys leodum wen
 orleghwile, syððan underne
 Froncum ond Frysum fyll cyninges
 wide weorðeð. Wæs sio wroht scepem
 heard wið Hugas, syððan Higelac cwom

2915 faran flotherge on Fresna land,
 þær hyne Hetware hilde genægdon,
 elne geeodon mid ofermægene,
 þæt se byrnwiga bugan sceolde,
 feoll on feðan, nalles frætwe geaf

2920 ealdor dugoðe. Us wæs a syððan
 Merewioingas milts ungyfeðe.
 Ne ic to Sweoðeode sibbe oððe treowe
 wihte ne wene, ac wæs wide cuð
 þætte Ongenðio ealdre besnyðede

2925 Hæðcen Hreþling wið Hrefnawudu,
 þa for onmedlan ærest gesohton
 Geata leode Guðscilfingas.
 Sona him se froda fæder Ohtheres,
 eald ond egesfull, ondslyht ageaf,

2930 abreot brimwisan, bryd ahredde,
 gomela iomeowlan golde berofene,
 Onelan modor ond Ohtheres,
 ond ða folgode feorhgeniðlan,

oððæt hi oðeodon earfoðlice
 2935
 in Hrefnesholt hlafordlease.
 Besæt ða sinherge sweorda lafe,
 wundum werge, wean oft gehet
 earmre teohhe ondlonge niht,
 cwæð, he on mergenne meces ecgum
 2940
 getan wolde, sum on galgtreowum
 fuglum to gamene. Frofor eft gelamp
 sarigmodum somod ærdæge,
 syððan hie Hygelaces horn ond byman,
 gealdor ongeaton, þa se goda com
 2945
 leoda dugoðe on last faran.
 Wæs sio swatswaðu Sweona ond Geata,
 wælræs weora wide gesyne,
 hu ða folc mid him fæhðe towehton.
 Gewat him ða se goda mid his gædelingum,
 2950
 frod, felageomor, fæsten secean,
 eorl Ongenþio, ufor oncirde;
 hæfde Higelaces hilde gefrunen,
 wlonces wigcræft, wiðres ne truwode,
 þæt he sæmannum onsacan mihte,
 2955
 heaðoliðendum hord forstandan,
 bearn ond bryde; beah eft þonan
 eald under eorðweall. þa wæs æht boden
 Sweona leodum, segn Higelaces
 freoðowong þone forð ofereodon,
 2960
 syððan Hreðlingas to hagan þrungon.
 þær wearð Ongenðiow ecgum sweorda,
 blondenfexa, on bid wrecen,
 þæt se þeodcyning ðafian sceolde
 Eafores anne dom. Hyne yrringa
 2965
 Wulf Wonreding wæpne geræhte,
 þæt him for swenge swat ædrum sprong
 forð under fexe. Næs he forht swa ðeh,
 gomela Scilfing, ac forgeald hraðe
 wursan wrixle wælhlem þone,
 2970
 syððan ðeodcyning þyder oncirde.
 Ne meahte se snella sunu Wonredes
 ealdum ceorle ondslyht giofan,

ac he him on heafde helm ær gescer,
 þæt he blode fah bugan sceolde,
 2975
 feoll on foldan; næs he fæge þa git,
 ac he hyne gewyrpte, þeah ðe him wund hrine.
 Let se hearda Higelaces þegn
 bradne mece, þa his broðor læg,
 eald sweord eotonisc, entiscne helm
 2980
 breacan ofer bordweal; ða gebeah cyning,
 folces hyrde, wæs in feorh dropen.
 ða wæron monige þe his mæg wriðon,
 ricone arærdon, ða him gerymed wearð
 þæt hie wælstowe wealdan moston.
 2985
 þenden reafode rinc oðerne,
 nam on Ongenðio irenbyrnan,
 heard swyrd hilted ond his helm somod,
 hares hyrste Higelace bær.
 He ðam frætsum feng ond him fægre gehet
 2990
 leana mid leodum, ond gelæste swa;
 geald þone guðræs Geata dryhten,
 Hreðles eafora, þa he to ham becom,
 Iofore ond Wulfe mid ofermaðmum,
 sealde hiora gehwæðrum hund þusenda
 2995
 landes ond locenra beaga (ne ðorfte him ða lean oðwitan
 mon on middangearde), syððan hie ða mærdæ geslogon,
 ond ða Iofore forgeaf angan dohtor,
 hamweorðunge, hylde to wedde.
 þæt ys sio fæhðo ond se feondscipe,
 3000
 wælnið wera, ðæs ðe ic wen hafo,
 þe us seceað to Sweona leoda,
 syððan hie gefricgeað frean userne
 ealdorleasne, þone ðe ær geheold
 wið hettendum hord ond rice
 3005
 æfter hæleða hryre, hwate Scildingas,
 folcred fremede oððe furður gen
 eorlscipe efnde. Nu is ofost betost
 þæt we þeodcyning þær sceawian
 ond þone gebringan, þe us beagas geaf,
 3010
 on adfære. Ne scel anes hwæt
 meltan mid þam modigan, ac þær is maðma hord,

gold unrime grimme geceapod,
ond nu æt siðestan sylfes feore
beagas gebohte. þa sceall brond fretan,
3015
æled þeccean, nalles eorl wegan
maððum to gemyndum, ne mægð scyne
habban on healse hringweorðunge,
ac sceal geomormod, golde bereafod,
oft nalles æne elland tredan,
3020
nu se herewisa hleahtor alegde,
gamen ond gleodream. Forðon sceall gar wesan
monig, morgenceald, mundum bewunden,
hæfen on handa, nalles hearpan sweg
wigend weccan, ac se wonna hrefn
3025
fus ofer fægum fela reordian,
earne secgan hu him æt æte speow,
þenden he wið wulf wæl reafode."
Swa se secg hwata secggende wæs
laðra spella; he ne leag fela
3030
wyrda ne worda. Weorod eall aras;
eodon unbliðe under Earnanæs,
wollenteare wundur sceawian.
Fundon ða on sande sawulleasne
hlimbed healdan þone þe him hringas geaf
3035
ærran mælum; þa wæs endedæg
godum gegongen, þæt se guðcýning,
Wedra þeoden, wundordeaðe swealt.
ær hi þær gesegan syllicran wiht,
wurm on wonge wiðerræhtes þær
3040
laðne licgean; wæs se legdraca
grimlic, gryrefah, gledum beswæled.
Se wæs fiftiges fotgemearces
lang on legere, lyftwynne heold
nihtes hwilum, nyðer eft gewat
3045
dennes niosian; wæs ða deaðe fæst,
hæfde eorðscrafa ende genyttod.
Him big stoda bunan ond orcas,
discas lagon ond dyre swyrd,
omige, þurhetone, swa hie wið eorðan fæðm
3050
þusend wintra þær eardodon.

þonne wæs þæt yrfe, eacencræftig,
 iumonna gold galdre bewunden,
 þæt ðam hringsele hrinan ne moste
 gumena ænig, nefne god sylfa,
 3055
 sigora soðcyning, sealde þam ðe he wolde
 (he is manna gehyld) hord openian,
 efne swa hwylcum manna swa him gemet ðuhte.
 þa wæs gesyne þæt se sið ne ðah
 þam ðe unrihte inne gehydde
 3060
 wræte under wealle. Weard ær ofsloh
 feara sumne; þa sio fæhð gewearð
 gewrecen wraðlice. Wundur hwar þonne
 eorl ellenrof ende gefere
 lifgesceafta, þonne leng ne mæg
 3065
 mon mid his magum meduseld buan.
 Swa wæs Biowulfe, þa he biorges weard
 sohte, searoniðas; seolfa ne cuðe
 þurh hwæt his worulde gedal weorðan sceolde.
 Swa hit oð domes dæg diope benemdon
 3070
 þeodnas mære, þa ðæt þær dydon,
 þæt se secg wære synnum scildig,
 hergum geheaðerod, hellbendum fæst,
 wommum gewitnad, se ðone wong strude,
 næs he goldhwæte gearwor hæfde
 3075
 agendes est ær gesceawod.
 Wiglaf maðelode, Wihstanes sunu:
 "Oft sceall eorl monig anes willan
 wræc adreogan, swa us geworden is.
 Ne meahton we gelæran leofne þeoden,
 3080
 rices hyrde, ræd ænigne,
 þæt he ne grette goldweard þone,
 lete hyne licgean þær he longe wæs,
 wicum wunian oð woruldende;
 heold on heahgesceap. Hord ys gesceawod,
 3085
 grimme gegongen; wæs þæt gifeðe to swið
 þe ðone þeodcyning þyder ontyhte.
 Ic wæs þær inne ond þæt eall geondseh,
 recedes geatwa, þa me gerymed wæs,
 nealles swæslice sið alyfed
 3090

inn under eorðweall. Ic on ofoste gefeng
 micle mid mundum mægenbyrðenne
 hordgestreona, hider ut ætbær
 cyninge minum. Cwico wæs þa gena,
 wis ond gewittig; worn eall gespræc
 3095
 gomol on gehðo ond eowic gretan het,
 bæd þæt ge geworhton æfter wines dædum
 in bælstede beorh þone hean,
 micelne ond mærne, swa he manna wæs
 wigend weorðfullost wide geond eorðan,
 3100
 þenden he burhwelan brucan moste.
 Uton nu efstan oðre siðe,
 seon ond secean searogimma geþræc,
 wundur under wealle; ic eow wisige,
 þæt ge genoge neon sceawiað
 3105
 beagas ond brad gold. Sie sio bær gearo,
 ædre geæfned, þonne we ut cymen,
 ond þonne geferian frean userne,
 leofne mannan, þær he longe sceal
 on ðæs waldendes wære gepolian."
 3110
 Het ða gebeodan byre Wihstanes,
 hæle hildedior, hæleða monegum,
 boldagenda, þæt hie bælwudu
 feorran feredon, folcagende,
 godum togenes: "Nu sceal gled fretan,
 3115
 weaxan wonna leg wigena strengel,
 þone ðe oft gebad isernscure,
 þonne stræla storm strengum gebæded
 scoc ofer scildweall, sceft nytte heold,
 feðrgearwum fus flane fullode."
 3120
 Huru se snotra sunu Wihstanes
 acigde of corðre cyninges þegnas
 syfone tosomne, þa selestan,
 eode eahta sum under inwithrof
 hilderinca; sum on handa bær
 3125
 æledleoman, se ðe on orde geong.
 Næs ða on hlytme hwa þæt hord strude,
 syððan orwearde ænigne dæl
 secgas gesegon on sele wunian,
 læne licgan; lyt ænig mearn

- 3130
 þæt hi ofostlice ut geferedon
 dyre maðmas. Dracan ec scufun,
 wyrm ofer weallclif, leton weg niman,
 flod fæðmian frætwa hyrde.
 þa wæs wunden gold on wæn hladen,
- 3135
 æghwæs unrim, æþeling boren,
 har hilderinc to Hronesnæsse.
 Him ða gegiredan Geata leode
 ad on eorðan unwaclicne,
 helmum behongen, hildebordum,
- 3140
 beorhtum byrnum, swa he bena wæs;
 alegdon ða tomiddes mærne þeoden
 hæleð hiofende, hlaford leofne.
 Ongunnon þa on beorge bælfyra mæst
 wigend weccan; wudurec astah,
- 3145
 sweart ofer swioðole, swogende leg
 wope bewunden (windblond gelæg),
 oðþæt he ða banhus gebrocen hæfde,
 hat on hreðre. Higum unrote
 modceare mændon, mondryhtnes cwealm;
- 3150
 swylce giomorgyd Geatisc meowle
 bundenheorde
 song sorgcearig swiðe geneahhe
 þæt hio hyre heofungdagas hearde ondrede,
 wælfylla worn, werudes egesan,
- 3155
 hynðo ond hæftnyd. Heofon rece swealg.
 Geworhton ða Wedra leode
 hleo on hoe, se wæs heah ond brad,
 wægliðendum wide gesyne,
 ond betimbredon on tyn dagum
- 3160
 beadurofes becn, bronda lafe
 wealle beworhton, swa hyt weorðlicost
 foresnotre men findan mihton.
 Hi on beorg dydon beg ond siglu,
 eall swylce hyrsta, swylce on horde ær
- 3165
 niðhedige men genumen hæfdon,
 forleton eorla gestreon eorðan healdan,
 gold on greote, þær hit nu gen lifað
 eldum swa unnyt swa hit æror wæs.

þa ymbe hlæw riodan hildediore,
3170
æþelinga bearn, ealra twelfe,
woldon ceare cwiðan ond kyning mænan,
wordgyd wrecan ond ymb wer sprecan;
eahtodan eorlscipe ond his ellenweorc
duguðum demdon, swa hit gedefe bið
3175
þæt mon his winedryhten wordum herge,
ferhðum freoge, þonne he forð scile
of lichaman læded weorðan.
Swa begnornodon Geata leode
hlafordes hryre, heorðgeneatas,
3180
cwædon þæt he wære wyruldcyninga
manna mildust ond monðwærust,
leodum liðost ond lofgeornost.