

Beowulf in Anglo-Saxon

Hwæt! We Gardena in geardagum,
 þeodcýninga, þrym gefrunon,
 hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
 Oft Scyld Scefing **sceaþena** þreatum,

5

monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
 egsode **eorlas**. Syððan ærest wearð
 feascraft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,
 weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
 oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymsittendra

10

ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
 gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cýning!
 ðam 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,
 þeodgestreonum, þon þa dydon

45

þe hine æt frumsceafta 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 geweox,
 magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn
 þæt healreced hatan wolde,

medoærn micel, men gewyrcean

70

þonne ylðo 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 gepolode, 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 gefræt Wade 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 forscriften 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 gepolode
 wine **Scyldinga**, weana gehwelcne,
 sidra sorga. Forðam **secgum** wearð,

150

ylda 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.
 þæt fram ham gefrægn Higelaces þegn,

195

god mid Geatum, Grendles dæda;
 se wæs moncynnes mægenes strengest
 on þæm dæge þysses lifes,
 æþele ond eacen. Het him yðlidan
 godne gegyrwan, cwæð, he guðcýning

200

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
 cempa 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,
 oðþæt ymb antid oþres dogores

220

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 gepoht: 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,
 æpele 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)
 þæt mid Scyldingum sceaðona ic nat hwylc,

275

deogol dædhata, deorcum nihtum
 eaweð þurh egsan uncuðne nið,
 hynðu ond hrafyl. Ic þæs Hroðgar mæg
 þurh rumne sefan ræd gelæran,

hu he frod ond god feond oferswyðeþ,

280

gyf him edwendan æfre scolde
 bealuwa bisigu, bot eft cuman,
 ond þa cearwylmas colran wurðað;
 oððe a syþðan earfoðþrage,
 þreanyd þolað, þenden þær wunað

285

on heahstede husa selest."
 Weard maþelode, ðær on wicge sæt,
 ombeht unforht: "æghwæþres sceal
 scearp scyldwiga gescad witan,
 worda ond worca, se þe wel þenceð.

290

Ic þæt gehyre, þæt þis is hold weorod
 frean Scyldinga. Gewitaþ forð beran
 wæpen ond gewædu; ic eow wisige.
 Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate
 wið feonda gehwone flotan eowerne,

295

niwtyrwydne nacan on sande
 arum healdan, oþðæt eft byreð
 ofer lagustreamas leofne mannan
 wudu wundenhals to Wedermearce,
 godfremmendra swylcum gifeþe bið

300

þæt þone hilderæs hal gedigeð."
 Gewiton him þa feran. Flota stille bad,
 seomode on **sale** sidfæþmed scip,
 on ancre fæst. Eoforlic scionon
 ofer hleorberan gehroden golde,

305

fah ond fyrheard; ferhwearde heold
 guþmod **grimmon**. Guman onetton,
 sigon ætsomne, oþþæt hy **sæl** timbred,
 geatolic ond goldfah, ongyton mihton;
 þæt wæs foremærost foldbuendum

310

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 særepe side scyldas,
 rondas regnhearde, wið þæs recedes weal,
 bugon þa to bence. Byrnan hringdon,
 guðsearo gumena; gas stodon,
 sæmanna searo, samod ætgædere,

330

æscholt ufan græg; wæs se irenþreat
 wæpnum gewurpad. þa ðær wlonc hæleð
 oretmecgas æfter **æpelum** frægn:
 "Hwanon ferigeað ge fætte scyldas,
 græge syrcan ond grimhelmas,

335

herescafta heap? Ic eom Hroðgares
 ar ond ombiht. Ne seah ic elpeodige
 þus manige men modiglicran.
 Wen ic þæt ge for wlenco, nalles for wræcsiðum,
 ac for higeprymmum 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 mæpelode (þæt wæs Wendla leod;

wæs his modsefa manegum gecyðed,

350

wig ond wisdom): "Ic þæs wine Deniga,
frea 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
heaporof 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 sibbegedriht 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 smiþes orþancum):
 "Wæs þu, Hroðgar, hal! Ic eom Higelaces
 mæg ond magoðegn; hæbbe ic mærða 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 dreaht,
 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 unmurnlice,

450

mearcað morhopu; no ðu ymb mines ne þearft
 lices feorme leng sorgian.
 Onsend Higelace, gif mec hild nime,
 beaduscruda betst, þæt mine breost wereð,

hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædlan laf,

455

Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel."
 Hroðgar mabelode, 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 gewealc, 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 eaþe mæg
 þone dolsceaðan dæda getwæfan.

480

Ful oft gebeotedon beore druncne
 ofer ealowæge oretmecgas
 þæt hie in beorsele bidan woldon
 Grendles guþe mid gryrum ecga.
 ðonne wæs þeos medoheal on morgentid,

485

drihtsele dreorfah, þonne dæg lixte,
 eal benþelu 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 Geatmægum 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 maþelode, Ecglafes bearn,

500

þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga,
 onband beadurune (wæs him Beowulfes sið,
 modges merefaran, micel æfþunca,
 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 wunne,
 on sidne sæ ymb sund flite,
 ðær git for wlence 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 yþum 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 %%OE%%,
 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 wýrsan geþingea,
 ðeah þu heaðoræsa gehwær dohte,
 grimre guðe, gif þu Grendles dearst
 nihtlongne fyrst nean bidan."

Beowulf maþelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

530

"Hwæt! þu worn fela, wine min **Unferð**,
 beore druncen ymb Brecan spræce,
 sægdest from his siðe. Soð ic talige,
 þæt ic merestrengo maran ahte,
 earfeþo on yþum, 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
 flodyþum feor fleotan meahte,
 hrapor 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,
symbol ymbsæton sægrunde neah;

565

ac on mergenne mecum wunde
be yðlafæ 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 ofslöh

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 opbær,

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;
 nymed 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,
 gupe gebeodan. Gæþ eft se þe mot
 to medo modig, siþþan morgenleht

605

ofer ylða bearn opres 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 gepoht.
 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
 symbel ond selesful, sigerof kyning.

620

Ymbeode þa ides Helminga
 dugupe ond geogoþe dæl æghwylcne,
 sincfato 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,

wælreow wiga, æt Wealhþeon,

630

ond þa gyddode guþe gefysed;
 Beowulf maþelode, 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,
 siþðan 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 wrapum. 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 aseted; sundornytte beheold
ymb aldor Dena, eotonweard ahead.
Huru Geata leod georne truwoðe

670

modgan mægnes, metodes hyldo.
ða he him of dyde isernbyrnan,
helm of hafelan, sealde his hyrsted sweord,
irena cyst, ombihtþegne,
ond gehealdan het hildegeatwe.

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 dear

685

wig ofer wæpen, ond siþðan witig god
on swa hwæþere hond, halig dryhten,
mærðo 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 **scynscapa** under sceadu bregdan;
 ac he wæccende wraþum 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 eagum stod
 ligge gelicost leoht unfæger.
 Geseah he in recede rinca manige,
 swefan sibbedriht 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

wistfylle 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 heapodeorum, þæt he on hrusan ne feol,
fæger foldbold; ac he þæs fæste wæs
innan ond utan irenbendum

775

searþoncum besmīþod. 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, tobrecaþ meahte,
listum tolucaþ, nymþe 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 meahton 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 irenna cyst,
guðbilla nan, gretan nolde,

ac he sigewæpnum forsworen hæfde,

805

ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldorgedal
on ðæm dæge þysses lifes
earnlic 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,
ellenmærþum. 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 fenfreoðo feorh alegde,
 hæþene sawle; þær him hel onfeng.
 þanon eft gewiton ealdgesiðas,
 swylce geong manig of gomenwaþe

855

fram mere modge mearum ridan,
 beornas on blancum. ðær wæs Beowulfes
 mærdō mæned; monig oft gecwæð
 þætte suð ne norð be sām 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, gidda 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, uncupes 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,
 æpelinges 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 wreccena wide mærost
 ofer werþeode, wigendra hleo,

900

ellendædum (he þæs ær onðah),
 siððan Heremodes hild sweðrode,
eafod ond ellen. He mid Eotenum wearð
 on feonda geweald forð forlacen,
 snude forsended. Hine sorhwylmas

905

lemede to lange; he his leodum wearð,
 eallum æpellingum to aldorcare;
 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,
 %%OE%% Scyldinga. He þær eallum wearð,
 mæg Higelaces, manna cynne,

915

freondum gefægra; hine fyren onwod.
 Hwilum 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 tinfæst getrume micle,
 cystum gecyþed, ond his cwen mid him
 medostigge mæt mægþa hose.

925

Hroðgar mæpelode (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
 succum 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 maþelode, bearn Ecþeowes:
"We þæt ellenweorc estum miclum,
feohtan fremedon, frecne geneðdon

960

eafod uncupes. 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,
earn 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 **gesecan** 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 symbel þicgan.
Ne gefrægen ic þa mægþe maran weorode
ymb hyra sincgyfan sel gebæran.
Bugon þa to bence blædagande,

fylle gefægon; fægere geþægon

1015

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

1020

Forgeaf þa Beowulfe **beorn** 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 scyldfreca
 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 gehwæpres
 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 lapes 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 meahte
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 sincgestreonum
 fættan goldes, swa he Fresena cyn
 on beorsele byldan wolde.

1095

ða hie getruwedon on twa healfa
 fæste frioðuwære. 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 geardum; he to gyrnwræce
 swiðor þohte þonne to sælade,

1140

gif he torngemot þurhteon mihte
 þæt he Eotena bearm inne gemunde.
 Swa he ne forwyrnde woroldrædenne,
 þonne him Hunlafing hildeleoman,
 billa selest, on bearm dyde,

1145

þæs wæron mid Eotenum ecge cuðe.
 Swylce ferhðfrecan Fin eft begeat
 sweordbealo sliðen æt his selfes ham,
 siþðan grimne gripe Guðlaf ond Oslaf
 æfter sæsiðe, sorge, mændon,

1150

æt witon weana dæl; ne meahte wæfre mod
 forhabban in hrepre. ða wæs heal **roden**
 feonda feorum, swilce Fin slægen,
 cyning on corpre, ond seo cwen numen.

Sceotend Scyldinga to scypon feredon

1155

eal ingesteald eorðcyninges,
swylce hie æt Finnes ham findan meahton
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 freondlaþu
 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;
 wýrsan wigfreacan wæl **reafedon**
 æfter guðsceare, Geata leode,
 hreawic heoldon. Heal swege onfeng.

1215

Wealhðeo mapelode, heo fore þæm werede spræc:
 "Bruc ðisses beages, Beowulf leofa,
 hyse, mid hæle, ond þisses hrægles neat,
þeodgestreona, ond geþeoh tela,
 cen þec mid cræfte ond þýssum 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 geondbræded 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, oþþæt ende becwom,

1255

swylt æfter synnum. þæt gesyne wearþ,
 widcuþ werum, þætte wrecend þa gyt
 lifde æfter lapum, 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

hwæpre he gemunde mægenes strenge,
gimfæste gife ðe him god sealde,
ond him to anwaldan are gelyfde,
frofre ond fultum; ðy he þone feond ofercwom,
gehnægde helle gast. þa he hean gewat,

1275

dream 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 æþelinga anne hæfde

1295

fæste befangen, þa heo to fenne gang.
 Se wæs Hroþgare hæleþa leofost
 on gesiðes had be sām 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 aldrþegn 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 mapelode, 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,
fyller **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 meahton,
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 wyrtum 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,
ealdgestreonom, swa ic ær dyde,
wundnum golde, gyf þu on weg cymest."
Beowulf maþelode, 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.

1400 þa wæs Hroðgare hors gebæted,
 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 **fyrðleoð**. Feþa eal gesæt.

1425 Gesawon ða æfter wætere wýrmcynnes fela,
 sellice sædracan, sund cunnian,
 swylce on næshleoðum nicras licgean,
 ða on undernmæl oft bewitigað
 sorhfulne sið on segrade,

1430 wyrmas 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 wægbora; 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,
 befangen 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,
 eafopes cræftig, þæt he ær gespræc
 wine druncen, þa he þæs wæpnes onlah
 selran sweordfreacan. 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:
 "Geþenc 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 fyrdhom ðurhfon ne mihte,

1505

locene leoðosyrcaŋ lapan 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 grundwyrgenne,
 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 fyrdhrægl; ða wæs forma sið
 deorum madme, þæt his dom alæg.
 Eft wæs anræd, nalas elnes læt,

1530

mærða 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 fylle 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
hreoþ ond heorogrim hringmæl gebrægd,

1565

aldres orwena, yrringa sloh,
þæt hire wið halse heard grapode,
banhringas bræc. Bil eal ðurhwod
fægne flæschoþan; 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 æne sið,

1580

þonne he Hroðgares heorðgeneatas
sloh on sweofote, slæpende fræt
folces Denigea fyftyne 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

onwinded 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
 ferhþum 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 fyrdhwate 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

wliteson wrætlic; weras on sawon.
 Beowulf maþelode, 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 gewyrcan, 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,
wundorsmiþa geweorc, ond þa þas worold ofgeaf
gromheort guma, godes ondsaca,
morðres scyldig, ond his modor eac,
on gewæld gehwearf woroldcýninga

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 endelean
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
fremeð on folce, feor eal gemon,
eald %%OE%% weard, 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 geweoþ he him to willan, ac to wælfelle
ond to deaðcwalum Deniga leodum;
breat bolgenmod beodgeneatas,

eaxlgesteallan, oppæt he ana hwearf,

1715

mære þeoden, mondreamum from.
 ðeah þe hine mihtig god mægenes wynnum,
 eafeþum stepte, 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.
 Hwilum 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 yldo, 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,
 sawele hyrde; bið se slæp to fæst,
 bisgum gebunden, bona swiðe neah,
 se þe of flanbogan fyrenum sceoteð.

1745

þonne bið on hreþre under helm drepen
 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 ylðo; oððe eagenas bearhtm
 forsitedð ond forsworcedð; 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 eagam 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 snotra 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 andrysnum ealle **beweotede**
þegnes þearfe, swylce þy dogore
heapoliðende habban scoldon.
Reste hine þa rumheort; reced hliuade

1800

geap ond goldfah; gæst inne swæf
oþþæt hrefn blaca heofones wynne
bliðheort bodode. ða com beorht scacan
scapan onetton,
wæron æpelingas eft to leodum

1805

fuse to **farene**; 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 siðfrome, searwum gearwe
wigend wæron; eode weorð Denum

1815

æpeling to yppan, þær se oþer wæs,
hæle hildedeor Hroðgar grette.
Beowulf mæpelode, 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 mæpelode 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, oþres 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 goldwlanç, 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 orleahtræ, oþþæt hine ylðo benam
mægenes wynnnum, se þe oft manegum scod.
Cwom þa to flode felamodigra,

1890 hægstealdra **heap**, hringnet bæron,
 locene leoðosyrca. 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, wisdomes heold

1960

eðel sinne; þonon **Eomer** woc
hæleðum to helpe, **Hemminges** mæg,
nefa Garmundes, niða cræftig.
Gewat him ða se hearda mid his handscole
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 wordig wigendra hleo,
lindgestealla, lifigende cwom,
heaðolaces hal to hofe gongan.

1975

Hraðe wæs gerymed, swa se rica bebead,
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 truwode

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

yrmdæ 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 higes cunnian,
 wigbealu weccæan, 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** hyldo ne telge,
 dryhtsibbe dæl Denum unfæcne,
 freondscipe fæstne. Ic sceal forð spreca

2070

gen ymbe Grendel, þæt ðu geare cunne,
 sinces 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 dædfruma, gedon wolde
 manigra sumne; hyt ne mihte swa,
 syððan ic on yrre uppriht astod.
 To lang ys to reccenne 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**;
 hwæþre him sio swiðre swaðe weardade

hand on Hiorte, ond he hean ðonan

2100

modes geomor meregrund gefeoll.
 Me þone wælraes 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,
 hildestrengo; 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 gynwræce 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 bel 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,

mærðo fremede; he me mede gehet.

2135

Ic ða ðæs wælnes, 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, beorncyning, 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 frætwum feower mearas
 lungre, gelice, last weardode,

2165

æppelfealuwe; 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 hropra 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 hildefreca, Heaðoscilfingas,
niða genægdan nefan Hererices,
syððan Beowulfe brade rice
on hand gehwearf; he geheold tela
fiftig wintra (wæs ða frod cyning,

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** wýrmhord **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, **para** 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**
dæges 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 wyrm 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
 hylde 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 bænan; 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,
 gifstol 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
 þeostrum 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
 eallirenne, 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 wyrm 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 Freslondum 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 hildfreca 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 wræcmæggas

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 Ongenðioes 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 gesteppe
 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 *XIIa* 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 mæpelade, 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 symbol, 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, sorhleod 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

eafelum 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 Ongendæowes eaforan 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
 wursan 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 geneðde fela
 guða on geogoðe; gyt ic wylle,
 frod folces weard, fæhðe secan,
mærðu 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** seal
 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 hnitan feðan,

2545

stondan stanbogan, stream ut þonan
 breacan of beorge. Wæs þære burnan wælm
 heaðofyrum hat; ne meahte horde neah
 unbyrnende ænige hwile
 deop gedygan for dracan lege.

2550

Let ða of breostum, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 Wedergeata leod word ut faran,
 stearcheort styrnde; stefn in becom
 heaðotorht hlynnan under harne stan.

Hete wæs onhrered, hordweard oncnio

2555

mannes reorde; næs ðær mara fyrst
 freode to friclan. 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

bealohycendra broga fram oðrum.
 Stiðmod gestod **wið** steapne rond
 winia bealdor, ða se wyrm 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 befangen, 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 sweord. 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 geare
þæt næron ealdgewyrht, þæt he ana scyle
Geata duguðe gnorn þrowian,

gesigan æt sæcce; urum sceal sweord ond helm,

2660

byrne ond **beaduscud**, bam gemæne."
 Wod þa þurh þone wælrec, wigheafolan bær
 frean 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 yre cwom,

2670

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

2675

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

2680

niþe 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 ofersohte, 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** þeodcyninges

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,
 þæt he þone niðgæst nioðor hwene sloh,

2700

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 wurm 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 mapelode (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 yrfeward 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
 mælgescrafta, 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,
 fyrnmanna 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 meahte,
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 **hladon** 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, ligeges an wæg
hatne for horde, hioroweallende
middelnihum, oðþæt he morðre swealt.
Ar wæs on ofoste, eftsides 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 **glohðe** (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,
Wægmundinga. Ealle wyrd **forsweop**

2815

mine magas to metodsceaft,
eorlas on elne; ic him æfter sceal."
þæt wæs þam gomelan gingæste word
breostgehygdum, ær he bæl cure,
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
middelnihum, 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,
 wliton 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 wælreste 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 scepen
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

brecan 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 mærdða 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

3010 ond þone gebringan, þe us beagas geaf,
 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,
 wým 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 stodaþ 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 soðcýning, 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

agens est ær gesceawod.
 Wiglaf maðelode, Wihstanes sunu:
 "Oft sceall eorl monig anes willan
 wræc **adreogan**, swa us geworden is.

Ne meahon 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 geþolian."

3110

Het ða gebeodan byre Wihstanes,
 hæle hildedior, hæleða monegum,
 boldagendra, 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 fulleode."

3120

Huru se snotra sunu Wihstanes
 acigde of cordre **cyninges** þegnas
 syfone **tosomme**, 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,
 wurm ofer weallclif, leton weg niman,
 flod fæðmian frætwa hyrde.
þa wæs wunden gold on wæn hladen,

3135

æghwæs unrim, **æpeling** 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

swært 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 riordan 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
 hlaforðes **hryre**, heorðgeneatas,

3180

cwædon þæt he wære **wyruldcyninga**
manna mildust ond **monðwærust**,
 leodum liðost ond lofgeornost.