

BEOWULF

A STUDENT EDITION

Compiled by S. J. Harris

AMHERST, MA

2013

PREFACE

This is not an edition of the poem, per se, but a compilation of various editions published during the last century. My intent is to provide a reasonably trustworthy PDF that can be printed out and written on.

Over the last decade or so, I have encouraged students to translate in a particular way. First, I recommend that one record grammatical information beneath every word using abbreviations. A singular, masculine noun in the nominative case is “N.m.s.nom.” A plural, feminine noun in the dative case is “N.f.pl.dat.” A type 2, strong verb in the preterite singular is “V2.s.pt,” and so forth. Second, I recommend that these notes be written in one color, below the word, and one’s translation in another, above the word. As a model, I sometimes show annotated medieval manuscripts, covered in glosses and notes.

I have tried to keep the text as free of commentary as possible. I did not want to prejudice interpretation. The underlying mark-up for this edition is available if you would like to make changes or reconfigure it to add footnotes or sidenotes. Please feel free to contact me for a copy of the mark-up.

SJH
12 April 2013

BEOWULF

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Anonymous

BL Cotton Vitellius A.xv

Follows Klaeber 3, modified with K4, eds. Fulk, Bjork, and Niles (Toronto 2008), with variants of ASPR noted. Collated by Stephen Harris, 2013.

HWÆT! WE GARDENA in geardagum f.129r
þeodcýninga, þrym gefrunon,
hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.
Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,
5 monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,
egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð
feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,
weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,
oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra
10 ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cýning!

1 GARDENA | Foliation after Zupitza, with minor corrections, according to the old style
(add 3 for new 1884 foliation)

6 eorlas | MS *eorl*.

Dæm 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.

13 God] Pagan-Christian arguments aside, *God* is capitalized throughout because it is a proper name, like *Andy Hardy* or *Tooth Fairy*.

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. f.130r
 þa gyt hie him asetton segen *gel*denne
 heah ofer heafod, leton holm beran,
 geafon on garsecg; him wæs geomor sefa,
 50 murnende mod. Men ne cunnon
 secgan to soðe, seleræden*de*,

51 seleræden*de*] MS sele rædenne.

hæleð under heofenum, hwa þæm hlæste onfeng.

ÐA wæs on burgum Beowulf Scyldinga,

Fitt I

leof leodcýning, longe þrage

55 folcum gefræge fæder ellor hwearf,

aldor of earde, oþ þæt him eft onwoc

heah Healfdene; heold þenden lifde,

gamol ond guðreow, glæde Scyldingas.

 Ðæm feower bearn forðgerimed

60 in worold wocun, weoroda ræswan,

Heorogar ond Hroðgar ond Halga til,

hyrde ic þæt . . . *wæs Onelan cwen,*

Heaðo-Scilfingas healsgebedda.

 Pa wæs Hroðgare heresped gyfen,

65 wiges weorðmynd, þæt him his winemagas

georne hyrdon, oðð þæt seo geogoð geweoþ,

magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn

þæt healreced hatan wolde,

medoærn micel men gewyrcean

f.130v

70 þonne ylðo bearn æfre gefrunon,

ond þær on innan eall gedælan

60 ræswan | MS ræswa.

62 . . . | MS no gap

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* *aþumsweorum*
 85 æfter wælniðe wæcnan scolde.
 Ða se ellengæst earfoðlice
 þrage geþolode, se þe in þystrum bad,
 þæt he dogora gehwam dream gehyrde
 hludne in healle; þær wæs hearpan sweg,
 90 swutol sang scopes. Sægde se þe cuþe
 frumsceaft fira feorran reccan,

Grendel hears
singing.

84 *ecghete* | MS *secg hete*.

84 *aþumsweorum* | MS *aþum swerian*

cwæð þæt se Ælmihtiga eorðan worhte,
wlitebeorhtne wang, swa wæter bebugeð,
gesette sigehrepig 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 forscifen 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,

Grendel
named.

106 Scyppend] MS scyppen

107 Caines] MS comes

eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas,
swylce gigantas, þa wið Gode wunnon
lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.

f.132v

115 **GEWAT** ða neosian, syþðan niht becom,

Fitt II

hean huses, hu hit Hring-Dene
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.

Da 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,

werġan gastes; wæs þæt gewin to strang,
 lað ond longsum. Næs hit lengra fyrst, f. 133r
 135 ac ymb ane niht eft gefremede
 morðbeala mare, ond no mearn fore,
 fæhðe ond fyrene; wæs to fæst on þam.
 Ða 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 wiðeallum, oðþæt idel stod
 husa selest. Wæs seo hwil micel;
 twelf wintra tid torn geþolode
 wine Scyldinga, weana gehwelcne,
 sidra sorga. Forðam gesyne wearð,
 150 ylda bearnum, undyrne cuð,
 gyddum geomore, þætte Grendel wan

139 *sohte* | MS *nothing*

148 Scyldinga | MS scyldenda

149 gesyne | *del.* secgum, neither in MS

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, f. 133v
 160 deorc deaðscua, 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

158 banan | MS banū

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.

f. 134r

SWA ða mælceare maga Healfdenes

Fitt III

190 singala seað; ne mihte snotor hæleð
 wean onwendan; wæs þæt gewin to swyð,

175 *hærgtrafum*] MS hræg trafum

lāþ ond longsum, þe on ða leode becom,
nydwracu niþgrim, nihtbealwa mæst.
Pæt fram ham gefrægn Higelaces þegn,
195 god mid Geatum, Grendles dæda;
se wæs moncynnes mægenes strengest
on þæm dæge þysses lifes,
æpele ond eacen. Het him yðlidan
godne gegyrwan; cwæð, he guðcýning
200 ofer swanrade secean wolde,
mærne þeoden, þa him wæs manna þearf.
Done siðfæt him snotere ceorlas
lythwon logon, þeah he him leof wære;
hwetton higerofne, hæl sceawedon.
205 Hæfde se goda Geata leoda
cempan gecorone þara þe he cenoste
findan mihte. Fiftynana 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,

f. 134v

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. Ðanon up hraðe
225 Wedera leode on wang stigon,
sæwudu sældon syrcan hrysedon,
guðgewædo; Gode þancedon
þæs þe him yþlade eaðe wurdon.
Ða of wealle geseah weard Scildinga, f. 135r
230 se þe holmclifu healdan scolde,
beran ofer bolcan beorhte randas,
fyrdsearu fuslicu; hine fyrwyrt 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? Ic *hwile* 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

Shoreguard
 greets
 Beowulf.

f. 135v

240 Ic *hwile* wæs | MS le wæs

250 næfne | MS næfre

furþur feran. Nu ge feorbuend,
255 mereliðende, minne gehyrað
anfealdne geþoht: ofost is selest
to gecyðanne hwanan eowre cyme syndon.”

HIM se yldesta ondswarode, **Fitt IIII**
werodes wisa, wordhord onleac:
260 “We synt gumcynnes Geata leode
ond Higelaces heorðgeneatas.
Wæs min fæder folcum gecyþed,
æþele ordfruma, Ecgþeow haten;
gebad wintra worn, ær he on weg hwurfe,
265 gamol of geardum; hine gearwe geman
witena welhwylc wide geond eorþan.
We þurh holdne hige hlaford þinne,
sunu Healfdenes, secean cwomon,
leodgebyrgean. Wes þu us larena god.
270 Habbaðwe 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, f. 136r

255 minne] MS mine

þæt mid Scyldingum sceaðona ic nat hwylc,
 275 deogol dædhata, deorcum nihtum
 eaweðþurh 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 edwenden æfre scolde
 bealuwa bisigu, bot eft cuman —
 ond þa cearwylmas colran wurðap;
 oððe a syþðan earfoðþrage,
 þreanyd þolað þenden þær wunað
 285 on heahstede husa selest.”
 Weard mabelode 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 forðberan
 wæpen ond gewædu; ic eow wisige.
 Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate

280 edwenden] MS edwendan

wiðfeonda gehwone flotan eowerne,
 295 niwtyrwydne nacan on sande
 arum healdan, oþ ðæt eft byreð
 ofer lagustreamas leofne mannan f. 136v
 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 hleorbergan gehroden golde,
 305 fah ond fyrheard; ferhwearde heold
 guþmod grimmon. Guman onetton,
 sigon ætsomne, oþ þæt 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.

302 *sale* | MS *sole*

304 *hleorbergan* | MS *hleor beran*

306 *grimmon* | MS *grummon*

307 *sæl timbred* | MS *æltimbred*

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,
 wiðwraðwerod wearde healdan.” f. 137r
 320 **STRÆT** wæs stanfah, stig wisode **Fitt V**
 gumum ætgædere. Guðbyrne scan
 heard hondlocen; hringiren scir
 song in searwum. Þa hie to sele furðum
 in hyra gryregeatwum gangan cwomon,
 325 setton sæmeþe side scyldas,
 rondas regnhearde, wið þæs recedes weal;
 bugon þa to bence. Byrnan hringdon,
 guðsearo gumena; garas stodon,
 sæmanna searo, samod ætgædere,
 330 æscholt ufan græg; wæs se irenþreat
 wæpnum gewurþad. Þa ðær wlonc hæleð

312 *hof*] MS of

oretmeccas æfter *æþelum* frægn:

“Hwanon ferigeað ge fætte scyldas,

græge syrcan ond grimhelmas,

335 heresceafta heap? Ic eom Hroðgares

ar ond ombiht. Ne seah ic elþeodige

þus manige men modiglicran.

Wen ic þæt ge for wlenco, nalles for wræcsiðum,

ac for higeþrymmum Hroðgar sohton.”

340 Him þa ellenrof andswarode,

wlanc Wedera leod, word æfter spræc,

heard under helme: “We synt Higelaces

beodgeneatas; Beowulf is min nama.

Wille ic aseccan sunu Healfdenes,

345 mærum þeodne, min ærende,

aldre þinum, gif he us geunnan wile

þæt we hine swa godne gretan moton.”

Wulfgar maþelode; þæt wæs Wendla leod;

wæs his modsefa manegum gecyðed,

350 wig ond wisdom: “Ic þæs wine Deniga,

frean Scildinga, frinan wille,

Wulfgar greets
Beowulf

f. 137v

Beowulf to
Wulfgar

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:

f. 138r

“Her syndon geferede, feorran cumene

Wulfgar to
Hroðgar

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 maðelode, helm Scyldinga:

Fitt VI

357 anhar] MS un har

“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 þritiges
 380 manna mægen-cræft on his mundgripe
 heaþorof hæbbe. Hine halig God
 for arstafum us onsende,
 to West-Denum, 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 *Wadera leodum* word inne abead:
 “Eow het secgan sigedrihten min,

f. 138v

 375 eafora | MS eaforan

 389 *** | MS *no gap*

aldor East-Dena, 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. f. 139r

Snyredon ætsomne, þa secg wisode,
under Heorotes hrof; *eode hildedeor*
heard under helme, þæt he on heorðe gestod.

405 Beowulf maðelode; on him byrne scan,
searonet seowed smiþes orþancum:

“Wæs þu, Hroðgar, hal! Ic eom Higelaces
mæg ond magoðegn; hæbbe ic mærdða fela
ongunnen on geogobe. Me wearð Grendles þing

410 on minre eþeltyrf undyrne cuð;
secgað sæliðend þæt þæs sele stande,

403 *eode hildedeor* | MS editorial emendation

reced selesta, rinca gehwylcum
 idel ond unnyt, siððan æfenleoht
 under heofenes haðor beholen weorþeð.
 415 Ða me þæt gelærdon leode mine
 þa selestan, snotere ceorlas,
 þeoden Hroðgar, þæt ic þe sohte,
 forþan hie mægenes cræft minne cuþon;
 selfe ofersawon, ða ic of searwum cwom,
 420 fah from feondum, þær ic fife geband,
 yðde eotena cyn ond on yðum slog
 niceras nihtes, nearoþearfe dreah,
 wræc Wedera nið — wean ahsodon — f. 139v
 forgrand gramum; ond nu wið Grendel sceal,
 425 wið þam aglæcan, ana gehegan
 ðing wið þyrse. Ic þe nuða,
 brego Beorht-Dena, 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, minra eorla gedryht,

414 haðor] MS hador

ond 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 Geatena leode

etan unforhte, swa he oft dyde,

f. 140r

445 mægenhred manna. Na þu minne þearft

hafalan hydan, ac he me habban wile

dreore fahne, gif mec deað nimeð:

byred 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,

beaduscruða betst, þæt mine breost wereð,
hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædlaŋ laf,
455 Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel.”

HROÐGAR maþelode, helm Scyldinga:

Fitt VII

“For fyhtum þu, wine min Beowulf,
ond for arstafum usic sohtest.
Gesloh þin fæder fæhðe mæste;
460 wearþ he Heaþolafe to handbonan
mid Wilfingum; ða hine *Wedera* cyn
for herebrogan habban ne mihte.
Panon he gesohte Suð-Dena folc
ofer yða gewealc, Ar-Scyldinga;
465 ða ic furþum weold folce Deniga
ond on geogoðe heold ginne rice,
hordburh hæleþa, ða wæs Heregar dead,
min ylðra mæg unlifigende,
bearn Healfdenes; se wæs betera ðonne ic.
470 Siððan þa fæhðe feo þingode:
sende ic Wylfingum ofer wæteres hrycg

Hroþgar to
Beowulf

f. 140v

457 fyhtum] del. *gewyrhtum*

461 *Wedera*] MS gara

466 ginne] MS gimme

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,

Fitt VIII

500 þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga,
onband beadurune. Wæs him Beowulfes sið,
modges merefaran, micel æþþunca,
forþon þe he ne uþe þæt ænig oðer man
æfre mærdða þon ma middangeardes

f. 141v

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.

Unferþ to
Beowulf

515 Þær git eagorstream earmum þehton,
 mæton merestræta, mundum brugdon,
 glidon ofer garsecg; geofon yþum weol,
 wintrys wylmum. Git on wæteres æht
 seofonniht swuncon; he þe æt sunde oferflat,
 hæfde mare mægen. Þa hine on morgentid
 on Heaðo-Ræmes holm up ætbær;
 520 ðonon he gesohte swæsne eþel,
 leof his leodum, lond Brondinga,
 freoðoburh fægere, þær he folc ahte,
 burh ond beagas. Beot eal wið þe
 sunu Beanstanes soðe gelæste. f.142r

525 Ðonne wene ic to þe wyrsan 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 Breca spræce,
 sægdest from his siðe. Soð ic talige,
 þæt ic merestrengo maran ahte,

Beowulf
 replies to
 Unferð

eafeþo 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 meahhte,
 hraþor on holme; no ic fram him wolde.
 Ða wit ætsomne on sæ wæron f.142v
 545 fifnihta fyrst, oþþæt unc flod todraf,
 wado weallende, wedera cealdost,
 nipende niht, ond norþan wind
 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

534 eafeþo | ASPR. earfeþo

555 grim on grape; hwæpre me gyfeþe wearð
þæt ic aglæcan orde geræhte,
hildebille; heaþoræs fornam
mihtig meredeor þurh mine hand.

SWA mec gelome laðgeteonan

Fitt IX

560 þreatedon þearle. Ic him þenode
deoran sweorde, swa hit gedefe wæs.
Næs hie ðære fülle gefean hæfdon,
manfordædlan, þæt hie me þegon,
symbel ymbsæton sægrunde neah;

565 ac on mergenne mecum wunde

be yðlafe uppe lægon,

f.143r

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 ofsloh

575 niceras nigene. No ic on niht gefrægn
under heofones hwealf heardran feohtan,
ne on egstreamum earmran mannon;
hwæpere ic fara feng feore gedigde,
siþes werig. Ða mec sæ oþbær,
580 flod æfter faroðe on Finna land,
wadu weallendu. No ic wiht fram þe
swylcra searoniða secgan hyrde,
billa brogan. Breca næfre git
æt heaðolace, ne gehwæþer incer,
585 swa deorlice dæd gefremede
fagum sweordum (no ic þæs *fela* gylpe),
þeah ðu þinum broðrum to banan wurde,
heafodmægum; þæs þu in helle scealt f.143v
werhðo dreogan, þeah þin wit duge.
590 Secge ic þe to soðe, sunu Ecglafes,
þæt næfre Grendel swa fela gryra gefremede,
atol æglæca, ealdre þinum,
hynðo on Heorote, gif þin hige wære,
sefa swa searogrim, swa þu self talast.
595 Ac he hafað onfunden þæt he þa fæhðe ne þearf,

atole ecgþræce eower leode
swiðe onsittan, Sigescyldinga;
nymeð nydbade, nænegum arað
leode Deniga, ac he lust wigeð,
600 swefeð ond sendeþ, secce ne weneþ
to Gardenum. Ac ic him Geata sceal
eafod ond ellen ungeara nu,
gupe gebeodan. Gæp eft se þe mot
to medo modig, sibþan morgenleht
605 ofer ylða bearn opres dogores,
sunne sweglwered suþan scineð.”
Ða wæs on salum sinces brytta,
gamolfeax ond guðrof; geoce gelyfde
brego Beorhtdena, gehyrde on Beowulfe f.144v
610 folces hyrde fæstrædne geþoht.
Ðær wæs hæleþa hleahtor, hlyn swynsode,
word wæron wynsume. Eode Wealhþeow forð, Wealhþeow
cwen Hroðgares, cynna gemyndig, enters
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 seleful, sigerof kyning.

620 Ymbeode þa ides Helminga
duguþe ond geogoþe dæl æghwylcne,
sincfato sealde, oppæt sæl alamp
þæt hio Beowulfe, beaghroden cwen
mode gepungen, medoful ætbær;
625 grette Geata leod, Gode þancode
wisfæst wordum þæs ðe hire se willa gelamp

þæt heo on ænigne eorl gelyfde
fyrena frofre. He þæt ful geþeah,
wæltreow wiga æt Wealhþeon,

f.144v

630 ond þa gyddode guþe gefysed.

Beowulf mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

“Ic þæt hogode, þa ic on holm gestah,
sæbat gesæt mid minra secga gedriht,
þæt ic anunga eowra leoda

Beowulf
pledges his life

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.
 Ða wæs eft swa ær inne on healle
 þryðword sprecen, ðeod on sælum,
 sigefolca sweg, oþ þæt semninga
 645 sunu Healfdenes secean wolde
 æfenræste; wiste þæm ahlæcan
 to þæm heahsele hilde gepinged,
 siððan hie sunnan leoht geseon meahton,
 oþ ðe 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 nuða.

f.145r

Hroðgar to
Beowulf

648 meahton] ASPR. ne meahton

Hafa nu ond geheald husa selest,
gemyne mærpō, 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,
seleward aseted; sundornytte beheold
ymb aldor Dena, eotonward abead.
Huru Geata leod georne truwode
670 modgan mægnes, metodes hylde.
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;

Fitt X

f.145v

Beowulf vows
to his men

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 heapodeor, 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,

The Geats
rest

f.146r

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 scynscaþa under sceadu bregdan)
ac he wæccende wraþum on andan
bad bolgenmod beadwa geþinges.

710 ÐA com of more under misthleopum

Fitt XI

Grendel gongan, godes yrre bær;
mynte se manscaða manna cynnes
sumne besyrwan in sele þam hean.

Grendel enters

715 Wod under wolcnum to þæs þe he winreced,
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.

f.146v

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 sibbegedriht samod ætgædere,
730 magorinca heap. Þa his mod ahlog;
mynte þæt he gedælde, ærþon dæg cwome,
atol aglæca, anra gehwylces
lif wið lice, þa him alumpen wæs
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

f.131r

740 gefeng] MS. earlier leaf interpolated here

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. He him 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.

Beowulf seizes
 Grendel

747 He him] not in ASPR

eoten wæs utweard, eorl furþur stop.
 Mynte se mæra, hwær he meahte swa, f.131v
 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.
 Pa 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 searoþoncum besmiþod. Þær fram sylle abeag
 medubenc monig, mine gefræge,
 golde geregnad, þær þa graman wunnon.
 Pæs ne wendon ær witan Scyldinga
 þæt hit a mid gemete manna ænig,
 780 betlic ond banfag, tobrecan meahte,

762 hwær | ASPR. þær

listum tolucan, nymþe liges fæþm
 swulge on swaþule. Sweg up astag f.147r
 niwe geneahhe; Norðdenum stod
 atelic egesa, anra gehwylcum
 785 þara þe of wealle wop gehyrdon,
 gryreleoð galan godes andsacan,
 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 **Fitt XII**

þone cwealmcuman cwicne forlætan,
 ne his lifdagas leoda ænigum
 nytte tealde. Þær genehost brægd Beowulf's men
join in
 795 eorl Beowulfes ealde lafe,
 wolde freadrihtnes feorh ealgian,
 mæres þeodnes, ðær hie meahton swa.
 Hie þæt ne wiston, þa hie gewin drugon,
 heardhicgende hildemecgas,
 800 ond on healfa gehwone heawan þohton,

782 up] MS. foliation returns to normal

786 andsacan] ASPR. ondsacan

sawle secan: þone synscaðan
 ænig ofer eorþan irenna cyst,
 guðbilla nan, gretan nolde,
 ac he sigewæpnum forsworen hæfde, f.147v
 805 ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldorgedal
 on ðæm dæge þysses lifes
 earmlic wurðan, ond se ellorgast
 on feonda geweald feor siðian.
 Ða þæt onfunde se þe fela æror
 810 modes myrðe manna cynne,
 fyrene gefremede (he *wæs* fag wið God)
 þæt him se lichoma læstan nolde,
 ac hine se modega mæg Hygelaces
 hæfde be honda; wæs gehwæper oðrum
 815 lifigende lað. Licsar gebad
 atol æglæca; him on eaxle wearð
 syndolh sweotol, seonowe onsprungon,
 burston banlocan. Beowulfe wearð
 guðhreð gyfeþe. Scolde Grendel þonan
 820 feorhseoc fleon under fenhleoðu,
 secean wynleas wic; wiste þe geornor

þæt his aldres wæs ende gegongen,
 dogera dægum. 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 earm ond eaxle (þær wæs eal geador
 Grendles grape) under geapne hrof.

f.148v

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

Fitt XIII

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. f.148v
850 Deaðfæge deog, siððan dreama leas
in fenfreoðo feorh alegde,
hæþene sawle; þær him hel onfeng.
Panon eft gewiton ealdgesiðas
swylce geong manig of gomenwape
855 fram mere modge mearum ridan,
beornas on blancum. Ðær wæs Beowulfes
mærðo mæned; monig oft gecwæð
þætte suð ne norð be sæm tweonum
ofer eormengrund oþer nænig
860 under swegles begong selra nære
rondhæbbendra, rices wyrðra.
Ne hie huru winedrihten wiht ne logon,
glædne Hroðgar, ac þæt wæs god cyning.

	Hwilum heaþorofe	hleapan leton,	
865	on geflit faran	fealwe mearas	Horse racing and singing
	ðær him foldwegas	fægere þuhton,	
	cystum cuðe.	Hwilum cyninges þegn,	
	guma gilphlæden,	gidda gemyndig,	
	se ðe eal fela	ealdgesegena	
870	worn gemunde,	word oþer fand	
	soðe gebunden;	secg eft ongan	
	sið Beowulfes	snyttrum styrian	f.149r
	ond on sped wrecan	spel gerade,	
	wordum wrixlan.	Welhwylc gecwæð	
875	þæt he fram Sigemundes	secgan hyrde	Lay of Sigemund
	ellendædum,	uncuþes fela,	
	Wælsinges gewin,	wide siðas,	
	þara þe gumena bearn	gearwe ne wiston,	
	fæhðe ond fyrena,	buton Fitela mid hine,	
880	þonne he swulces hwæt	secgan wolde,	
	eam his nefan,	swa hie a wæron	
	æt niða gehwam	nydgesteallan;	
	hæfdon eal fela	eotena cynnes	
	sweordum gesæged.	Sigemunde gesprong	

885 æfter deaðdæge dom unlytel,
 syþðan wiges heard wurm acwealde,
 hordes hyrde. He under harne stan,
 æþelinges bearn, ana geneðde
 frecne dæde, ne wæs him Fitela mid.
 890 Hwæpre him gesælde ðæt þæt swurd þurhwod
 wræhtlicne 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, f.149v
 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, Lay of
Heremod
 eafod ond ellen. He mid Eotenum wearð
 on feonda geweald forð forlacen,
 snude forsended. Hine sorhwylmas
 905 lemedon to lange; he his leodum wearð,

eallum æþellingum to aldorceare;
 swylce oft bemearn ærran mælum
 swiðferhþes sið snotor ceorl monig,
 se þe him bealwa to bote gelyfde,
 910 þæt þæt ðeodnes bearn geþeon scolde,
 fæderæþelum onfon, folc gehealdan,
 hord ond hleoburh, hæleþa rice,
 eþel 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 f.150r
 swiðhicgende to sele þam hean
 920 searowundor seon; swylce self cyning
 of brydbure, beahhorda weard,
 tryddode tirlfæst getrume micle,
 cystum gecyþed, ond his cwen mid him
 medostigge mæt mægþa hose.
 925 **HROÐGAR** maþelode (he to healle geong, **Fitt XIV**
 stod on stapole, geseah steapne hrof,

golde fahne, ond Grendles hond):

“Ðisse ansyne alwealdan þanc

Hroðgar's
speech

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 witenas gehwylc*um*

ðara þe ne wendon þæt hie wideferhð

leoda landgeweorc laþum beweredon

scuccum ond scinum. Nu scealc hafað

f.150v

940 þurh drihtnes miht dæd gefremede

ðe we ealle ær ne meahton

snyttum 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 betesta, me for sunu wylle

Hroðgar's
proposal of
adoption

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. Ðu 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 eafoð uncuþes. Uþe ic swiþor
 þæt ðu hine selfne geseon moste,
 feond on frætewum fylwerigne.
 Ic *hine* hrædlice heardan clammum
 on wælbedde wriþan þohte,
 965 þæt he for *mundgripe* minum scolde
 licgean lifbysig, butan his lic swice.
 Ic hine ne mihte, þa metod nolde,
 ganges getwæman, no ic him þæs georne ætfealh,

Beowulf
replies

f.151r

feorhgeniðlan; wæs to foremihtig
 970 feond on feþe. Hwæþere he his folme forlet
 to lifwraþe last weardian,
 earm ond eaxle. No þær ænige swa þeah
 feasceaft guma frofre gebohte;
 no þy leng leofað laðgeteona,
 975 synnum geswenced, ac hyne sar hafað
 mid *nidgripe* 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,
 sipðan æþelingas eorles cræfte
 ofer heanne hrof hand sceawedon,
 feondes fingras. Foran æghwylc wæs,
 985 steda nægla gehwylc, style gelicost,
 hæþenes handsporu hilderinces,
 egl unheoru. Æghwylc gecwæð
 þæt him heardra nan hrinan wolde

f.151v

985 steda | ASPR. stiðra

990 iren ærgod, þæt ðæs ahlæcan
blodge beadufolme onberan wolde.

ÐA wæs haten hreþe Heort innanweard **Fitt XV**
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 befeonne, —fremme se þe wille—
ac gesecan sceal sawlberendra
1005 nyde genydde, niþða bearna,
grundbuendra gearwe stowe,
þær his lichoma legerbedde fæst
swefeþ æfter symle. Ða wæs sæl ond mæl
þæt to healle gang Healfdenes sunu;

1010 wolde self cyning symbol þicgan.
Ne gefrægen ic þa mægþe maran weorode
ymb hyra sincgyfan sel gebæran.
Bugon þa to bence blædagande,
fyller gefægon; fægere geþægon
1015 medoful manig magas þara
swiðhicgende on sele þam hean,
Hroðgar ond Hroþulf. Heorot innan wæs
freondum afylled; nalles facenstafas
Peodscyldingas þenden fremedon.
1020 Forgeaf þa Beowulfe bearn Healfdenes,
segen gyldenne sigores to leane,
hroden hildcumbor, 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 fewer madmas
golde gegyrede gummanna fela
in ealobence oðrum gesellan.
1030 Ymb þæs helmes hrof heafodbeorge

Hroðgar
rewards
Beowulf

wirum bewunden walu utan heold,
 þæt him feola laf frecne ne meaht f.152v
 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 gewurþað;
 þæt wæs hildesetl heahcyniges
 1040 ðonne sweorda gelac sunu Healfdenes
 efnan wolde — næfre on ore læg
 widcubes wig ðonne walu feollon.
 Ond ða Beowulfe bega gehwæþres
 eodor Ingwina onweald geteah,
 1045 wicga ond wæpna, het hine wel brucan.
 Swa manlice mære þeoden,
 hordweard hæleþa, heaþoræsas geald
 mearum ond madmum, swa hy næfre man lyhð,
 se þe secgan wile soð æfter rihte.
 1050 **ÐA** gyt æghwylcum eorla drihten **Fitt XVI**

1032 meaht *e* | ASPR meahton

þara þe mid Beowulfe brimlade teah
 on þære medubence maþðum gesealde,
 yrfelafe, ond þone ænne heht
 golde forgyldan, þone ðe Grendel ær
 1055 mane acwealde — swa he hyra ma wolde,
 nefne him witig God wyrd forstode
 ond ðæs mannes mod. Metod eallum weold
 gumena cynnes, swa he nu git deð.
 Forþan bið andgit æghwær selest,
 1060 ferhðes foreþanc. Fela sceal gebidan
 leofes ond laþes se þe longe her
 on ðyssum windagum worolde bruceð.
 Þær wæs sang ond sweg samod ætgædere
 fore Healfdenes hildewisan,
 1065 gomenwudu greted, gid oft wrecen,
 ðonne Healgamen Hroþgares scop
 æfter medobence mænan scolde
 Finnes eaferan, ða hie se fær begeat,
 hæleð Healfdena, Hnæf Scyldinga,
 1070 in Freswæle feallan scolde.

f.153r

Scop sings of
Finnsburh

1068 Finnes eaferan] ASPR be Finnes eaferum

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! f.153v
 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 f.154r
 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 scede.
 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 eal gylden,

1106 scede] ASPR scolde

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. Guðrec astah,
 wand to wolcnum; wælfyra mæst f.154v
 1120 hlynode for hlawe. Hafelan multon,
 bengeato burston, ðonne blod ætspranc,
 laðbite lices. Lig ealle forswealg,
 gæsta gifrost, þara ðe þær guð fornam
 bega folces; wæs hira blæd scacen.
 1125 **GEWITON** him ða wigend wica neosian **Fitt XVII**
 freondum befeallen, Frysland geseon,
 hamas ond heaburh. Hengest ða gyt
 wælfagne winter wunode mid Finne;
 he unhlitme eard gemunde,
 1130 þeah þe he *ne* meahte on mere drifan
 hringedstefnan — holm storme weol,

1118 Guðrec | ASPR Guðrinc

1129 he | ASPR eal

won wið winde, winter yþe beleac
isgebinde — oþ ðæt 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 bearn inne gemunde —
swa he ne forwyrnde woroldrædenne —
þonne him Hunlafing hildeleoman,
billa selest, on bearm dyde,
1145 þæs wæron mid Eotenum ecge cuðe.
Swylce ferhðfreca Fin eft begeat
sweordbealo sliðen æt his selfes ham,
siþðan grimne gripe Guðlaf ond Oslaf
æfter sæsiðe sorge mændon,
1150 ætwiton weana dæl; ne meahthe wæfre mod
forhabban in hreþre. Ða wæs heal roden
feonda feorum, swilce Fin slægen,

Spring comes
to Finnsburh

f.155r

	cýning on corþre, ond seo cwen numen.	
	Sceotend Scyldinga to scypon feredon	
1155	eal ingesteald eorðcýninges,	
	swylce hie æt Finnes ham findan meahton	
	sigla searogimma. Hie on sælade	
	drihtlice wif to Denum feredon,	
	læddon to leodum. Leoð wæs asungen,	f.155v
1160	gleomannes gyd. Gamen eft astah,	End of Finnsburh
	beorhtode bencsweg; byrelas sealdon	
	win of wunderfatum. Þa cwom Wealhþeo forð	Wealhþeow enters
	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,	Wealhþeow's speech
1170	sinces brytta. Þu on sælum wes,	
	goldwine gumena, ond to Geatum spræc	
	mildum wordum, swa sceal man don.	
	Beo wið Geatas glæd, geofena gemyndig,	

1195 hrægl ond hringas, healsbeaga mæst f.156v
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.
Pone hring hæfde Higelac Geata,
nefa Swertinges, nyhstan siðe,
siðþan he under segne sinc ealgode,
1205 wælreaf werede; hyne wyrd fornam,
syþðan he for wlenco wean ahsode,
fæhðe to Frysum. He þa frætwe wæg,
eorclanstanas ofer yða ful,
rice þeoden; he under rande gecranc.
1210 Gehwearf þa in Francna fæþm feorh cyninges,
breostgewædu ond se beah somod.
Wyrsan wigfreca wæl reafedon
æfter guðsceare, Geata leode,
hreawic heoldon. Heal swege onfeng.
1215 Wealhðeo mapelode, heo fore þæm werede spræc:

“Bruc ðisses beages, Beowulf leofa,
 hyse, mid hæle, ond þisses hrægles neot, f.157r
 þeodgestreona, ond geþeoh tela,
 cen þec mid cræfte ond þyssum cnyhtum wes
 1220 lara liðe. Ic þe þæs lean geman.
 Hafast þu gefered þæt ðe feor ond neah
 ealne wideferhþ weras ehtigað,
 efne swa side swa sæ bebugeð,
 windgeard, weallas. Wes þenden þu lifige,
 1225 æþeling, eadig. Ic þe an tela
 sincgestreona. Beo þu suna minum
 dædum gedefe, dreamhealdende.
 Her is æghwylc eorl oþrum getrywe,
 modes milde, mandrihtne hold;
 1230 þegnas syndon geþwære, þeod eal gearo,
 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. f.157v
 Setton him to heafdon hilderandas,
 bordwudu beorhtan; þær on bence wæs
 ofer æþelinge yþgesene
 1245 heaþosteapa 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.

Fitt XIX

SIGON þa to slæpe. Sum sare angeald
 æfenræste, swa him ful oft gelamp,
 sibðan goldsele Grendel warode,
 unriht æfnde, oþ þæt ende becwom,
 1255 swylt æfter synnum. Þæt gesyne wearþ,
 widcuþ werum, þætte wrecend þa gyt
 lifde æfter laþum, lange þrage,

æfter guðceare. Grendles modor,
 ides aglæcwif yrmþe gemunde,
 1260 se þe wæteregesān wunian scolde,
 cealde streamas, siþðan *Cain* wearð
 to ecgbanan angan breþer,
 fæderenmæge; he þa fag gewat,
 morþre gemearcod mandream fleon, f.158r
 1265 westen warode. Ðanon woc fela
 geosceaftgasta; wæs þæra Grendel sum,
 heorowearh hetelic, se æt Heorote fand
 wæccendne wer wiges bidan.
 Ðær 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. Ða he hean gewat,
 1275 dreame bedæled deaþwic seon,
 mancynnes feond, ond his modor þa gyt,
 gifre ond galgmod gegān wolde
 sorhfulne sið, sunu deað wrecan.

Com þa to Heorote, ðær Hringdene
 1280 geond þæt sæld swæfun. Ða ðær sona wearð
 edhwyrft eorlum, siþðan inne fealh
 Grendles modor. Wæs se gryre læssa
 efne swa micle swa bið mægþa cræft,
 wiggyre wifes, be wæpnedmen,
 1285 þonne heoru bunden, hamere geþruen,
 sweord swate fah swin ofer helme
 ecgum dyhttig andweard scireð.
 Ða 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 sæm tweonum,
 rice randwiga, þone ðe heo on ræste abreat,

f.158v

1285 geþruen | ASPR gepuren

blædfæstne beorn. Næs Beowulf ðær,
 1300 ac wæs oþer in ær geteohhod
 æfter maþðungife 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, f.159r
 syðþan he aldorþegn unlyfigendne,
 þone deorestan deadne wisse.
 1310 Hraþe wæs to bure Beowulf fetod,
 sigoreadig secg. Samod ærdæge
 eode eorla sum, æþele cempa
 self mid gesiðum þær se snotera bad,
 hwæþer him alwalda æfre wille
 1315 æfter weaspelle wyrpe gefremman.
 Gang ða æfter flore fyrdwyrðe man
 mid his handscale — healwudu dynede —
 þæt he þone wisan wordum nægde
 frean Ingwina, frægn gif him wære

1320 *æfter neodlaðum* niht getæse.

HROÐGAR maþelode, helm Scyldinga:

Fitt XX

“Ne frin þu æfter sælum. Sorh is geniwod

Hroðgar's
speech

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,

f.159v

æþeling ærgod, swylc Æschere wæs.

1330 Wearð him on Heorote to handbanan

wælgæst wæfre; ic ne wat hwæder

atol æse wlanc eftsiðas teah,

fylle gefreƿnod. 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,

1333 gefreƿnod | ASPR gefægnod

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

Tale of
Grendel

f.160r

1354 on geardagum] Cf. line 1

1380 Ic þe þa fæhðe feo leanige,
ealdgestreonum, swa ic ær dyde,
wundnan golde, gyf þu on weg cymest.”

BEOWULF mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

Fitt XXI

“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 losað,
ne on foldan fæþm, ne on fyrgeholt,
ne on gyfenes grund, ga þær he wille.

1395 Dys dogor þu geþyld hafa
weana gehwylces, swa ic þe wene to.”
Ahleop ða se gomela, Gode þancode,
mihtigan drihtne, þæs se man gespræc.
Pa wæs Hroðgare hors gebæted,

f. 161r

1400 wicg wundenfeax. Wisa fengel
 geatolic gende; gumfeþa stop
 lindhæbbendra. Lastas wæron
 æfter walddswaþum 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,
 oþ þæt 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

The hunt for
Grendel's
mother

The Mere

on þam holmclife hafelan metton.
 Flod blode weol — folc to sægon —
 hatan heolfre. Horn stundum song f.161v
 fuslic *fyr*dleoð. Feþa eal gesæt.
 1425 Gesawon ða æfter wætere wýrmcýnnes fela,
 sellice sædracan, sund cunnian,
 swylce on næshleoðum nicras licgean,
 ða on undernmæl oft bewitigað
 sorhfulne sið on segrade,
 1430 wýrmas ond wildeor. Hie on weg hruron,
 bitere ond gebolgne, bearhtm ongeaton,
 guðhorn galan. Sunne Geata leod
 of flanbogan feores getwæfde,
 yðgewinnes, þæt him on aldre stod
 1435 herestræl hearda; he on holme wæs
 sundes þe sænra, ðe hýne swylt fornam.
 Hræþe wearð on yðum mid eoferspreotum
 heorohocyhtum hearde genearwod,
 niða genæged, ond on næs togen,
 1440 wundorlic wægþora; weras sceawedon
 gryrelicne 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 inwitfeng, aldre gesceþðan;
 ac se hwita helm hafelan werede, f.162r
 se þe meregrundas mengan scolde,
 1450 secan sundgebland since geweorðad,
 befongen freawrasnum, swa hine fyrndagum
 worhte wæpna smið, wundrum teode,
 besette swinlicum, þæt hine syðþan no
 brond ne beadomecas bitan ne meahton.
 1455 Næs þæt þonne mætost mægenfultuma
 þæt him on ðearfe lah ðyle Hroðgares;
 wæs þæm hæftmece Hrunting nama.
 Þæt wæs an foran ealdgestreona;
 ecg wæs iren, atertanum fah,
 1460 ahyrded heaþoswate; næfre hit æt hilde ne swac
 manna ængum þara þe hit mid mundum bewand,
 se ðe gryresiðas gegan dorste,

folcstede fara; næs þæt forma sið
 þæt hit ellenweorc æfnan scolde.
 1465 Huru ne gemunde mago Ecglafes,
 eafopes cræftig, þæt he ær gespræc
 wine druncen, þa he þæs wæpnes onlah
 selran sweordfrecan. Selfa ne dorste
 under yða gewin aldre geneþan,
 1470 drihtscype dreogan; þær he dome forleas,
 ellenmærðum. Ne wæs þæm oðrum swa, f.162v
 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.

**Fitt
XXII**

Beowulf says
farewell

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.” f.163r
Æfter þæm wordum Wedergeata leod
efste mid elne, nalas andsware
bidan wolde; brimwylm onfeng
1495 hilderince. Ða wæs hwil dæg
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 ælwihta eard ufan cunnode.
Grap þa togeanes, guðrinc gefeng
atolan clommum. No þy ær in gescod
halan lice; hring utan ymbbearh,
þæt heo þone fyrðhom ðurhfon ne mihte,

1505 locene leoðosyrca laþan fingrum.
Bær þa seo brimwylf, þa heo to botme com,
hringa þengel to hofe sinum,
swa he ne mihte, no he þæs modig wæs,
wæpna gewealdan, ac hine wundra þæs fela
1510 swencte on sunde, sædeor monig
hildetuxum heresyrcan bræc,
ehton aglæcan. Ða se eorl ongeat
þæt he *in* niðsele nathwylcum wæs,
þær him nænig wæter wihte ne sceþede,
1515 ne him for hrofsele hrinan ne mehte
færgripe flodes; fyrleoht geseah,
blacne leoman, beorhte scinan.
Ongeat þa se goda grundwyrgegne,
merewif mihtig; mægenræs forgeaf
1520 hildebille, hond sweng ne ofteah,
þæt hire on hafelan hringmæl agol
grædig guðleoð. Ða se gist onfand
þæt se beadoleoma bitan nolde,
aldre sceþðan, ac seo ecg geswac
1525 ðeodne æt þearfe; ðolode ær fela

Beowulf enters
Grendelkin
Hall

f.163v

Hrunting fails

hondgemota, helm oft gescær,
 fæges fyrðhrægl; ða wæs forma sið
 deorum madme, þæt his dom alæg.
 Eft wæs anræd, nalas elnes læt,
 1530 mærdða gemyndig mæg Hylaces.
 Wearp ða wundenmæl wrættum gebunden
 yrre oretta, þæt hit on eorðan læg,
 stið ond stylecg; strenge getruwode,
 mundgripe mægenes. Swa sceal man don,
 1535 þonne he æt guðe gegan þenceð
 longsumne lof, na ymb his lif cearað.
 Gefeng þa be eaxle — nalas for fæhðe mearn —
 Guðgeata leod Grendles modor;
 brægd þa beadwe heard, þa he gebolgen wæs,
 1540 feorhgeniðlan, þæt heo on flet gebeah.
 Heo him eft hraþe andlean forgeald
 grimman grapum ond him togeanes feng;
 oferwearp þa werigmod wigena strengest,
 feþecempa, þæt he on fylle wearð.
 1545 Ofsæt þa þone selegyst ond hyre seax geteah,
 brad *ond* brunecg, wolde hire bearn wrecan,

f.164r

Grendel's
mother draws
a seax

angan eaferan. Him on eaxle læg
breostnet broden; þæt gebearh feore,
wið ord ond wið ecge ingang forstod.
1550 Hæfde ða forsiðod sunu Ecgþeowes
under gynne grund, Geata cempa,
nemne him heaðobyrne helpe gefremede,
herenet hearde, ond halig God.
Geweold wigsigor witig drihten,
1555 rodera rædend, hit on ryht gesced
yðelice, syþðan he eft astod.

GESEAH ða on searwum sigeeadig bil,
eald sweord eotenisc, ecgum þyhtig,
wigena weorðmynd; þæt *wæs* wæpna cyst,
1560 buton hit wæs mare ðonne ænig mon oðer
to beadulace ætberan meahte,
god ond geatolic, giganta geweorc.
He gefeng þa fetelhilt, freca Scyldinga
hreoh ond heorogrim hringmæl gebrægd,
1565 aldres orwena, yrringa sloh,
þæt hire wið halse heard grapode,
banhringas bræc. Bil eal ðurhwod

**Fitt
XXIII**

f.164v

	fægne flæschoman;	heo on flet gecrong.	
	Sweord wæs swatig,	secg weorce gefeh.	Beowulf kills Grendel's mother
1570	Lixte se leoma,	leoht inne stod,	
	efne swa of hefene	hadre scineð	
	rodres 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	Beowulf seeks recompense
	ðara þe he geworhte	to Westdenum	
	oftor micle	ðonne on ænne 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,	ðæs þe he on ræste geseah	
	guðwerigne	Grendel licgan	
	aldorleasne,	swa him ær gescod	

1585 ðæs þe | ASPR to ðæs þe

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, f.165r
 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. Ða þæt sweord ongan
 æfter heaþoswate hildegicelum,
 wigbil wanian. Ðæt 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, f.165v
 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

Beowulf
 returns to
 shore

BEOWULF mabelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

“Hwæt! we þe þas sælac, sunu Healfdenes,

leod Scyldinga, lustum brohton

tires to tacne, þe þu her to locast.

1655 Ic þæt unsofte ealdre gedigde

wigge under wætere, weorc geneþde

earfoðlice; ætrihte wæs

guð getwæfed, nymðe mec God scylde.

Ne meahte ic æt hilde mid Hruntinge

1660 wiht gewyrcean, þeah þæt wæpen duge;

ac me geuðe ylða waldend

þæt ic on wage geseah wlitig hangian

f.166v

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

þurh wæteres wylm waldend sealde.
 Swa wæs on ðæm scennum sciran goldes
 1695 þurh runstafas rihte gemearcod,
 geseted ond gesæd hwam þæt sweord geworht,
 irena cyst, ærest wære,
 wreoþenhilt ond wyrmfah. Ða se wisa spræc
 sunu Healfdenes, swigedon ealle:
 1700 “Þæt, la, mæg secgan se þe soð ond riht
 fremed on folce, feor eal gemon,
 eald eþelweard, 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,
 hæledum to helpe. Ne wearð Heremod swa
 1710 eaforum Ecgwelan, Arscyldingum;
 ne geweox he him to willan, ac to wælfalle
 ond to deaðcwalum Deniga leodum;

Hroðgar's
Sermon

f.167v

1702 eþelweard] ASPR weard

1715 breat bolgenmod beodgeneatas,
 eaxlgesteallan, oþ þæt he ana hwearf,
 mære þeoden, mondreamum from.
 Ðeah þe hine mihtig God mægenes wynnum,
 eafeþum steppte, 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 ylðo, ne him inwitsorh
 on sefan sweorceð, ne gesacu ohwær
 ecghete eoweð, ac him eal worold
 wendeð on willan; he þæt wyrse ne con,
 1740 **OÐ ÞÆT** him on innan oferhygda dæl
 weaxeð ond wridað. Þonne se weard swefeð,
 saweale hyrde; bið se slæp to fæst,
 bisgum gebunden, bona swiðe neah,
 se þe of flanbogan fyrenum sceoteð.
 1745 Þonne bið on hreþre under helm 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 fætte beagas, ond he þa forðgesceaft
 forgyteð ond forgymeð, þæs þe him ær God sealde,
 wuldres waldend, weorðmynda dæl.

**Fitt
XXV**

f.168v

1750 fætte | ASPR fædde

1740 **OÐ ÞÆT** | Fitt number added after text. As with Fitt 30, this one interrupts a sentence. See Kiernan.

Hit on endestæf eft gelimpeð
 þæt se lichoma læne gedreoseð,
 1755 fæge gefealleð; fehð oþer to,
 se þe un murnlice madmas dælep,
 eorles ærgestreon, egesan ne gymeð.
 Bebeorh þe ðone bealonið, Beowulf leofa,
 secg betesta, 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
 forsitedeð ond forswordeð; 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 f.169r
 modceare micle. Þæs sig metode þanc,
 ecean dryhtne, þæs ðe ic on aldre gebad
 1780 þæt ic on þone hafelan heorodreorigne
 ofer eald gewin eagum starige.
 Ga nu to setle, symbelwynne dreoh
 wigge weorþað; unc sceal worn fela
 maþma gemænra, sipðan morgen bið.”
 1785 Geat wæs glædmod, geong sona to
 setles neosan, swa se snottra heht.
 Pa wæs eft swa ær ellenrofum
 fletsittendum fægere gereorded
 niowan stefne. Nihthelm geswearc
 1790 deorc ofer dryhtgumum. Duguð eal aras.
 Wolde blondenfeax beddes neosan,
 gamela Scylding. Geat unigmetes wel,
 rofne randwigan, restan lyste;
 sona him seleþegn siðes wergum,

1795 feorrancundum, forð wisade,
 se for andrysum ealle beweotede
 þegnes þearfe, swylce þy dogor
 heaþoliðende habban scoldon.
 Reste hine þa rumheort; reced hliuade
 1800 geap ond goldfah; gæst inne swæf
 oþ þæt hrefn blaca heofones wynne
 bliðheort bodode. Ða com beorht [leoma] f.169v
 [ofer sceadwa] scacan; scaþan onetton,
 wæron æþelingas eft to leodum
 1805 fuse to farenne; wolde feor þanon Day of
 cuma collenferhð ceoles neosan. Departure
 Heht þa se hearda Hrunting beran
 sunu Ecglafes, heht his sweord niman,
 leoffic iren; sægde him þæs leanes þanc,
 1810 cwæð, he þone guðwine godne tealde,
 wigcræftigne, nales wordum log
 meces ecge; þæt wæs modig secg.
 Ond þa siðfreme, searwum gearwe
 wigend wæron; eode weorð Denum
 1815 æþeling to yppan, þær se oþer wæs,

hæle hildedeor Hroðgar grette.

BEOWULF maþelode, bearn Ecgþeowes:

Fitt
XXVI

“Nu we sæliðend secgan wyllað

feorran cumene, þæt we fundiaþ

Beowulf takes
his leave

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

f.170r

þæt þec ymsittend egesan þywað,

swa þec hetende hwilum dydon,

ic ðe þusenda þegna bringe,

1830 hæleþa to helpe. Ic on Higelac wat,

Geata dryhten, þeah ðe he geong sy,

folces hyrde, þæt he mec fremman wile

wordum ond worcum, þæt ic þe wel herige

ond þe to geoce garholt bere,

1835 mægenes fultum, þær ðe bið manna þearf.

Gif him þonne Hreþric to hofum Geata
geþingeð þeodnes bearn, he mæg þær fela
freonda findan; feorcyþðe beoð
selran gesohte þæm þe him selfa deah.”

1840

Hroðgar maþelode him on ondsware:

“Þe þa wordcwidas wigtig drihten
on sefan sende; ne hyrde ic snotorlicor
on swa geongum feore guman þingian.

Hroðgar
replies

Pu eart mægenes strang ond on mode frod,

1845

wis wordcwida. Wen ic talige,
gif þæt gegangeð, þæt ðe gar nymed,
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.

f.170v

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 betestan
ond be healse genam; hruron him tearas,
blondenfeaxum. Him wæs bega wen,
ealdum infrodum, oþres swiðor, f.171r
1875 þæt hie seoððan *no* geseon moston,
modige on meþle. Wæs him se man to þon leof
þæt he þone breostwylm forberan ne mehte,

ac him on hreþre hygebendum fæst
æfter deorum men dyrne langað
1880 beorn wið blode. Him Beowulf þanan,
guðrinc goldwlanc græsmoldan træd
since hremig; sægenga bad
agendfreat, se þe on ancre rad.
Pa wæs on gange gifu Hroðgares
1885 oft geæhted; þæt wæs an cyning,
æghwæs orleahre, oþ þæt hine ylde benam
mægenes wynnnum, se þe oft manegum scod.

CWOM þa to flode felamodigra,
hægstealdra *heap*, hringnet bæron,
1890 locene leoðosyrca. Landweard onfand
eftsið eorla, swa he ær dyde;
no he mid hearne of hliðes nosan
gæstas grette, ac him togeanes rad,
cwæð þæt wilcuman Wedera leodum
1895 scaþan scirhame to scipe foron.
Pa wæs on sande sægeap naca
hladen herewædum, hringedstefna,
mearum ond maðmum; mæst hlifade

**Fitt
XXVII**

f.171v

	ofer Hroðgares	hordgestreonum.	
1900	He þæm batwearde	bunden golde	A gift for the shore guard
	swurd gesealde,	þæt he syðþan wæs	
	on meodubence	maþme þy weorþra,	
	yrfelafe.	Gewat him on naca	
	drefan deop wæter,	Dena land ofgeaf.	
1905	Pa 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,	f.172r
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,	Hygelac's Hall
	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.	Modþryðo wæg	The Lay of Offa's Queen
	Fremu, folces cwen,	firen ondrysne.	
	Nænig þæt dorste	deor geneþan	
	swæsra gesiða,	nefne sinfrea,	
1935	þæt hire an dæg	eagum starede,	
	ac him wælbende	weotode tealde	f.172v
	handgewriþene;	hraþe seoþðan wæs	
	æfter mundgripe	mece geþinged,	
	þæt hit sceadenmæl	scyran moste ,	Scribe B

1939 **moste**] MS. **Scribe B** takes over after the third full line on the folio, and will write 40 percent of the manuscript's lines (1056, versus Scribe A's 1750), containing 38 percent

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

f.173r

of the poem's verses (1216, versus Scribe A's 1939).

1960 eðel sinne; þanon Eomer woc
 hæleðum to helpe, Hemminges mæg,
 nefa Garmundes, niða cræftig.
 GEWAT him ða se hearda mid his hondscole
 sylf æfter sande sæwong tredan,
 1965 wide waroðas. Woruldcandel scan,
 sigel suðan fus. Hi sið drugon,
 elne geeodon, to ðæs ðe eorla hleo,
 bonan Ongenþeoes burgum in innan,
 geongne guðcýning godne gefrunon
 1970 hringas dælan. Higelace wæs
 sið Beowulfes snude gecyðed,
 þæt ðær on worðig wigendra hleo,
 lindgestealla, lifigende cwom,
 heaðolaces hal to hofe gongan.
 1975 Hraðe wæs gerymed, swa se rica 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

**Fitt
XXVIII**

Room is made
for Beowulf

f.173v

hwylc orleghwil uncer Grendles
 wearð on ðam wange, þær he worna fela
 Sigescyldingum sorge gefremede,
 2005 yrmðe to aldre. Ic ðæt eall gewræc,
 swa begylpan *ne* þearf Grendeles maga
 ænig ofer eorðan uhthlem þone,
 se ðe lengest leofað laðan cynnes,
 fære 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;

f.174v
 Prophecy
 concerning
 Freawaru

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 —
 OÐ ÐÆT hie forlæddan to ðam lindplegan
 2040 swæse gesiðas ond hyra sylfra feorh.
 Þonne cwið æt beore se ðe beah gesyhð,

Fitts
XXIX-
XXX

f.175r

eald æscwiga, se ðe eall *geman*,
 garcwealm gumena —him bið grim sefa),
 onginneð geomormod geongum cempan
 2045 þurh hreðra gehygd higes cunnian,
 wigbealu weccan, ond þæt word acwyð:
 ‘Meaht ðu, min wine, mece gecnawan
 þone þin fæder to gefeohte bær
 under heregriman hindeman siðe,
 2050 dyre iren, þær hyne Dene slogon,
 weoldon wælstowe, syððan Wiðergyld læg,
 æfter hæleþa hryre, hwate Scyldungas?
 Nu her þara banena byre nathwylces
 frætsum hremig on flet gæð,
 2055 morðres gylpeð, ond þone maðþum 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 geare.

Old Retainer's
goad

f.175v

2065 Þonne bioð *abrocene* on ba healfe
 aðsweord eorla; *syððan* Ingelde
 weallað wælniðas, ond him wiflufan
 æfter cearwælmum colran weorðað.
 Þy ic Heaðobearðna hylde ne telge,
 dryhtsibbe dæl Denum unfæcne,
 freondscipe fæstne. Ic sceal forð sprecan
 2070 gen ymbe Grendel, þæt ðu geare cunne,
 sinceð 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 forswalg.
 No ðy ær ut ða gen idelhende
 bona blodigtoð, bealewa gemyndig,
 of ðam goldsele gongan wolde,

Beowulf
 recounts his
 deeds

ac he mægnes rof min costode,
2085 grapode gearofolm. Glof hangode f.176r
sid ond syllic, searobendum fæst;
sio wæs orðoncum eall gegyrwed
deoffles 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 recenne hu *ic* ðam leodsceaðan
yfla gehwylces ondlean forgeald;
2095 þær ic, þeoden min, þine leode
weorðode weorcum. He on weg losade,
lytle hwile lifwynna breac;
hwæpre him sio swiðre swaðe weardade
hand on Hiorte, ond he hean ðonan
2100 modes geomor meregrund gefeoll.
Me þone wælræs wine Scildunga
fættan golde fela leanode,
manegum maðmum, syððan mergen com
ond we to symble geseten hæfdon.

2105 Þær wæs gidd ond gleo. Gomela Scilding, f.176v
 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, oð ðæt 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 bæl hladan	
	leofne mannan;	hio þæt lic ætbær	f.177r
	feondes fæð <i>mum</i>	<i>under</i> firgenstream.	
	Þæt wæs Hroðgare	hreowa tornost	
2130	þara þe leodfruman	lange begeate.	
	Ða 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 wælmes,	þe is wide cuð,	
	grimne gryreligne	grundhyrde fond;	
	þær unc hwile wæs	hand gemæne,	
	holm heolfre weoll,	ond ic heafde becearf	
	in ðam <i>guð</i> sele	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.	Fitt XXXI
2145	Nealles ic ðam leanum	forloren hæfde,	
	mægnes mede,	ac he me <i>maðmas</i> geaf,	f.177v

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,
 headosteapne 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

Beowulf
 presents
 treasures to
 Hygelac

f.178r

2170 dyrnum cræfte, deað renian
 hondgesteallan. Hygelace wæs
 niða heardum nefa swyðe hold,
 ond gehwæðer oðrum hroþra gemyndig.
 Hyrde ic þæt he ðone healsbeah Hygde gesealde,
 wrætlicne wundurmaððum, ðone þe him Wealhðeo geaf,
 ðeodnes dohtor, þrio wicg somod
 2175 swancor ond sadolbeorht; hyre syððan wæs
 æfter beahðege breost geweorðod.
 Swa bealdode bearn Ecgðeowes,
 guma guðum cuð, godum dædum,
 dreah æfter dome; nealles druncne slog
 2180 heorðgeneatas; næs him hreoh sefa,
 ac he mancynnes mæste cræfte
 ginfæstan gife, þe him God sealde,
 heold hildedeor. Hean wæs lange,
 swa hyne Geata bearn godne ne tealdon,
 2185 ne hyne on medobence micles wyrðne
 dryhten Wedera gedon wolde;
 swyðe wendon þæt he sleac wære,
 æðeling unfrom. Edwenden cwom

Beowulf
 presents
 treasures to
 Hygd

f.178v

2190 tireadigum menn torna gehwylces.
 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 þam samod
 on ðam leodscipe lond gecynde,
 eard, eðelriht, oðrum swiðor
 side rice þam ðær selra wæs.

Hygelac
 presents
 Hreðel's sword

2200 **EFT** þæt geiode ufaran dogrum
 hildehlæmmum, syððan Hygelac læg
 ond Hear*d*rede hildemeceas
 under bordhreodan to bonan wurdon,
 ða hyne gesohtan on sigeþeode
 2205 hearde hildefrecan, Heaðoscilfingas,
 niða genægðan nefan Hererices,
 syððan Beowulfe brade rice
 on hand gehwearf; he geheold tela
 fiftig wintra —wæs ða frod cyning,

50 years pass

2210	eald eþelweard— oð ðæt <i>an</i> ongan deorcum nihtum draca ricsian, se ðe on heaum hofe hord beweotode, stanbeorh stearcne; stig under læg, eldum uncuð. Þær on innan giong	The Dragon
2215	niðða nathwylc, <i>se ðe neh</i> geþrong hæðnum horde, hond [eðe gefeng], <i>searo</i> since fah. He þæt syððan [bemað], þeah ðe he slæpende besyred wurde þeofes cræfte; þæt sie ðiod <i>onfand</i> ,	The Thief f.179r
2220	bufolc beorna, þæt he gebolgen wæs. NEALES met gewældum wýrmhord abræc	Fitt XXXII
2225	sylfes willum, se ðe him sare gesceod, ac for þreanedlan þeow nathwylces hæleða bearna heteswengeas fleah, ærnes þearfa, ond ðær inne fealh, secg synbysig, sona <i>in þa</i> tide þæt þær ðam gyste gryrebroga stod;	

2213 stearcne] ASPR. steapne

2215 geþrong] ASPR. gefeng

2217 *searo* since fah] ASPR. since fahne

2221 met] ASPR. mid

2226 tide] ASPR. onfunde

hwæðre *earmsceapen* *ealdre neþde*,

[*manuscript illegible at this point*]

2230 forht *on fehðe* þa hyne se fær begeat. f.179v

Sincfæt *sohte*. Þær wæs swylcra fela

in ðam eorðsele ærgestreona,

swa hy on geardagum gumena nathwylc,

eormenlafe æþelan cynnes,

2235 þanchycgende þær gehyddde,

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 eall gearo

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,

Lay of the
Last Survivor

eorla æhte. Hwæt, hyt ær on ðe
 gode begeaton. Guðdeað fornam,
 2250 *f*eorhbealo *f*recne, *f*yra *g*ehwylcne
 leoda minra, þone ðe þis [lif] ofgeaf,
 gesawon seledreamas. Nah hwa sweord wege f.180r
 oððe *forð bere* fæted wæge,
 dryncfæt deore; *duguð* ellor *sceoc*.
 2255 Sceal se hearda helm *h*yrsted golde
 fætum befeallen; feormynd swefað,
 þa ðe beadogriman bywan sceoldon,
 ge swylce seo herepad, sio æt hilde gebad
 ofer borda gebræc bite irena,
 2260 broснаð 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.”

2251 þone | ASPR. þara

2252 Nah | ASPR. Ic nah

2253 *forð bere* | ASPR. feormie

Swa giomormod gíohðo mænde
 an æfter eallum, unbliðe hwearf
 dægēs ond nihtes, oð ðæt 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 f.180v
hearh 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, oð ðæt hyne an abealch
 mon on mode; mandryhtne bær
 fæted wæge, frioðowære bæd Thief bears
 hlaford sinne. Ða wæs hord rasod, cup to lord
 onboren beaga hord, bene getiðad
 2285 feascaftum men. Frea sceawode
 fira fyrngeweorc forman siðe.

2276 *hearh* | ASPR. *hord*

Ða se wurm onwoc, wroht wæs geniwad;
 stonc ða æfter stane, stearcheort onfand
 feondes fotlast; he to forð gestop
 2290 dyrnan cræfte dracon 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 þam westenne; hwæðre wiges gefeh,
 bea*duwe* weorces, hwilum on beorh æthwearf,
 2300 sincfæt sohte. He þæt sona onfand
 ðæt hæfde gumena sum goldes gefandod,
 heahgestreona. Hordweard onbad
 earfoðlice oð ðæt æfen cwom;
 wæs ða gebolgen beorges hyrde,
 2305 wolde se laða lige forgyldan
 drincfæt dyre. Ða wæs dæg sceacen

f.181r

2298 þam | ASPR. þære

	wyrme on willan; no on wealle læng,	
	bidan wolde, ac mid bæle for,	
	fyre gefyсед. Wæs se fruma egeslic	Dragon's terror
2310	leodum on lande, swa hyt lungre wearð on hyra sincgifan sare geendod.	
	ÐA SE GÆST ongan gledum spiwan,	Fitt XXXIII
	beorht hofu bærnan; bryneleoma stod eldum on andan. No ðær aht cwices	
2315	lað lyftfloga læfan wolde.	f.181v
	Wæs þæs wyrmes wig wide gesyne, nearofages nið nean ond feorran, hu se guðsceaða Geata leode hatode ond hynde; hord eft gesceat,	
2320	dryhtsele dyrne, ær dægес hwile. Hæfde landwara lige befangen, bæle ond bronde, beorges getruwode, wiges ond wealles; him seo wen ge Leah.	
	Pa wæs Biowulfe broga gecyðed	
2325	snude to soðe, þæt his sylfes ham, bolda selest, brynewylmum mealt, gifstol Geata. Þæt ðam godan wæs	Beowulf assesses fault

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
 eall irenne, eorla dryhten,
 wigbord wrætlic; wisse he gearwe
 2340 þæt him holtwudu *helpan* ne meahte,
 lind wið lige. Sceolde *liþend* daga
 æþeling ærgod ende gebidan,
 worulde lifes, ond se wrym 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,

f.182r

2341 *liþend* daga] ASPR. lændaga

ne him þæs wyrmes wig for wiht dyde,
 eafoð 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 *ealra* þritig
 hildegeatwa, þa he to holme *þrong*.
 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,

The fate of
Hygelac

f.182v

2361 *ealra*] ASPR. ana

2362 *þrong*] ASPR. beag

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 feasceaft 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, oð ðæt he yldra wearð,
 Wedergeatum weold. Hyne wræcmæcgas
 2380 ofer sæ sohtan, suna Ohteres;
 hæfdon hy forhealden helm Scylfinga,
 þone selestan sæcýninga
 þara ðe in Swiorice sinc brytnade,
 mærne þeoden. Him þæt to mearce wearð; f.183r
 2385 he þær *f*or feorme feorhwunde hleat
 sweordes swengum, sunu Hygelaces,
 ond him eft gewat Ongenðioes bearn
 hames niosan, syððan Heardred læg,

2390 let ðone bregostol Biowulf healdan,
 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 twelfa sum torne gebolgen
 dryhten Geata dracan sceawian.
 Hæfde þa gefrunen hwanan sio fæhð aras,
 bealonið biorna; him to bearne cwom
 2405 maðþumfæt 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

**Fitt
XXXIV**

f.183v

Thirteen seek
the Dragon

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 æþelinges flæsce bewunden.
 2425 Biowulf maþelade, bearn Ecgðeowes:
 “Fela ic on giogode 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,

Beowulf
 speaks to his
 men

f.184r

geaf me sinc ond symbel, sibbe gemunde.
 Næs ic him to life laðra owihte,
 beorn in burgum, þonne his bearna hwylc,
 Herebeald ond Hæðcyn oððe Hygelac min.
 2435 Wæs þam yldestan ungedefelice
 mæges dædum morþorbed stred,
 syððan hyne Hæðcyn of hornbogan,
 his freawine, flane geswencte,
 miste mercelses ond his mæg ofscet,
 2440 broðor oðerne blodigan gare.
 Pæt 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 eaferum læfde, swa deð eadig mon,
lond ond leodbyrig, þa he of life gewat.
Pa wæs synn ond sacu Sweona ond Geata

Fitt
XXXV

f.185r

ofer wid wæter, wroht gemæne,
herenið hearda, syððan Hreðel swealt,
2475 oð ðe him Ongenðeowes eaferan wæran
frome fyrdhwate, freode ne woldon
ofer heafo healdan, ac ymb Hreosnabeorh
eatolne inwitscear oft gefremedon.
Pæt 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.
Pa ic on morgne gefrægn mæg oðerne
2485 billes ecgum on bonan stælan,
þær Ongenþeow Eofores niosað.
Guðhelm toglad, gomela Scylfing
hreas *hilde*blac; hond gemunde
fæhðo genoge, feorhsweng ne ofteah.
2490 Ic him þa maðmas, þe he me sealde,
geald æt guðe, swa me gifede 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
 wýrsan wigfreca, weorðe gecypan. f.185v
 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 ceman;
 nalles he ða frætwe Frescýninge,
 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,
 mærdū fremman, gif mec se mansceaða

Beowulf
 recollects
 killing
 Day-Raven

Beowulf vows

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 f.186r
 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 feohte sceal
 weorðan æt wealle, swa unc wyrd geteoð,
 metod manna gehwæs. Ic eom on mode from
 þæt ic wið þone guðflogan gylp ofersitte.
 Gebide ge on beorge byrnum werede,
 2530 secgas on searwum, hwæðer sel mæge
 æfter wælræse wunde gedygan
 uncer twega. Nis þæt eower sið
 ne gemet mannes, nefne min anes,
 þæt he wið aglæcean eofodo dæle,

2525 feohte] ASPR. furður

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, f.186v
 gumcystum god, guða gedigde,
 hildehlemma, þonne hnitān feðān,
 2545 stondan stanbogan, stream ut þonan
 brecañ of beorge. Wæs þære burnān wælm
 heaðofyrum hat; ne meahthe horde neah
 unbyrnende ænige hwile
 deop gedygan for draçan lege.
 2550 Let ða of breostum, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 Wedergeata leod word ut faran, Beowulf calls
 stearcheort styrmde; stefn in becom out Dragon
 heaðotorht hlynnan under harne stan.
 Hete wæs onhrered, hordweard oncnioiw
 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 guðcýning,	gomele lafe,	
	ecgum unslaw;	æghwæðrum wæs	
2565	bealohycendra	broga fram oðrum.	f.187r
	Stiðmod gestod	wið steapne rond	
	winia bealdor,	ða se wýrm gebeah	
	snude tosomne;	he on searwum bad.	
	Gewat ða byrnende	gebogen scriðan,	Dragon's First Attack
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 wýrd ne gescraf	
2575	hreð æt hilde.	Hond up abræd	
	Geata dryhten,	gryrefahne sloh	

incgelafe, þæt sio ecg gewac Sword
damaged
 brun on bane, bat unswiðor
 þonne his ðiodcýning þearfe hæfde,
 2580 bysigum gebæded. Ða 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 f.187v
 alætan lændagas. Næs ða long to ðon
 þæt ða aglæcean hy eft gemetton.
 Hyrte hyne hordweard, hreðer æðme weoll
 niwan stefne; nearo ðrowode,
 2595 fyre befongen, se ðe ær folce weold.
 Nealles him on heape handgesteallan,
 æðelinga bearn, ymbe gestodon

hildecystum, ac hy on holt bugon,
ealdre burgan. Hiora in anum weoll
2600 sefa wið sorgum; sibb æfre ne mæg
wiht onwendan þam ðe wel þenceð.

WIGLAF wæs haten Weoxstanes sunu,
leoffic 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,

**Fitt
XXXVI**

Wiglaf's
sword

f.188r

þeah ðe he his broðor bearn abredwade.
 2620 He frætwe geheold fela missera,
 bill ond byrnan, oð ðæt 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. Ða wæs forma sið
 geongan cempan þæt he guðe ræs
 mid his freodryhtne fremman sceolde.
 Ne gemealt him se modsefa, ne his mæges laf
 gewac æt wige; þæt se wurm onfand,
 2630 syððan hie togædre gegan hæfdon.
 Wiglaf maðelode, wordrihta fela
 sægde gesiðum —him wæs sefa geomor:
 “Ic ðæt mæl geman, þær we medu þegun,
 þonne we geheton ussum hlaforde
 2635 in biorsele, ðe us ðas beagas geaf,
 þæt we him ða guðgetawa gyldan woldon
 gif him þyslicu þearf gelumpe,
 helmas ond heard sword. Ðe he usic on herge geceas
 to ðyssum siðfate sylfes willum,

Wiglaf recalls
his oath

f.188v

2640 onmunde usic mærdā, 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 mærdā gefremede,
 dæda dollicra. Nu is se dæg cumen
 þæt ure mandryhten mægenes behofað,
 godra guðrinca; wutun gongan to,
 helpan hildfruman, þenden hyt sy,
 2650 gledgesa 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 f.197r
 Wedra ðeodnes. Ic wat geare
 þæt næron ealdgewyrht, þæt he ana scyle
 Geata duguðe gnorn þrowian,
 gesigan æt sæcce; urum sceal sweord ond helm,

2655 feorh] MS. Leaf now renumbered to fit between 188 and 189

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 yrre cwom,

2670 atol inwitgæst, oðre siðe
fyrwylmum fah fionda niosian,
laðra manna; lig yðum 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. Ða gen guðcyning
mod gemunde, mægenstrengo sloh
hildebille, þæt hyt on heafolan stod

Wiglaf to
Beowulf

Dragon's
Second Attack

2678 *mod*] ASPR. mærdā

2680 niþe genyded; Nægling forbærst,
geswac æt sæcce sweord Biowulfes,
gomol ond grægmæl. Him þæt gifeðe ne wæs

Beowulf's
sword snaps

f.197v

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.

Dragon's
Third Attack

Pa wæs þeodsceaða þridan siðe,
frecne fyrdraca, fæhða gemyndig,
2690 rædde on ðone rofan, þa him rum ageald,
hat ond heaðogrim, heals ealne ymbefeng
biteran banum; he geblodegod wearð
sawuldriore, swat yðum weoll.

**Fitt
XXXVII**

ÐA IC ÆT ÞEARFE *gefrægn* þeodcyninges
2695 andlongne eorl ellen cyðan,
cræft ond cendū, 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,

2705 fah ond fæted, þæt ðæt fyr ongon
 sweðrian syððan. Ða gen sylf cyning
 geweold his gewitte, wællseaxe gebræd
 biter ond beaduscearp, þæt he on byrnan wæg;
 forwrat Wedra helm wyrm on middan.
 Feond gefyldan —ferh ellen wræc—
 ond hi hyne þa begen abroten hæfdon,
 sibæðelingas. Swylc sceolde secg wesan,
 þegn æt ðearfe. Þæt ðam þeodne wæs
 2710 siðast sigehwila sylfes dædum,
 worlde geweorces. Ða sio wund ongon,
 þe him se eorðdraca ær geworhte,
 swelan ond swellan; he þæt sona onfand,
 þæt him on breostum bealoniðe weoll
 2715 attor on innan. Ða se æðeling giong
 þæt he bi wealle wishycgende
 gesæt on sesse; seah on enta geweorc,
 hu ða stanbogan stapulum fæste
 ece eorðreced innan healde.
 2720 Hyne þa mid handa heorodreorigne,
 þeoden mærne, þegn ungemete till

Beowulf and
 Wiglaf kill
 Dragon

f.189r

winedryhten his wætere gelafede,
hilde sædne, ond his helm onspeon.
Biowulf maþelode, 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
ænic yrfeward æfter wurde
lice gelenge. Ic ðas leode heold
fiftig wintra; næs se folccyning,
ymbesittendra ænic ðara,
2735 þe mec guðwinum gretan dorste,
egesam 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

Beowulf's
Last Speech

f.189v

lif of lice. Nu ðu lungre geong
 hord sceawian under harne stan,
 2745 Wiglaf leofa, nu se wurm 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

**Fitt
XXXVIII**

Wiglaf
descends into
the barrow

f.190r

searwum gesæled. Sinc eaðe mæg,
2765 gold on grunde, gumcynnes gehwone
oferhigian, hyde se ðe wylle.
Swylce he siomian geseah segn eall gylden
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— ealdhlaforðes
þam ðara maðma mundbora wæs
2780 longe hwile, ligegeasan 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, oð þæt wordes ord
 breosthord þurhbræc. [Biorncyning spræc]
 gomel on gιοhðe gold sceawode:
 “Ic ðara frætwa frean ealles ðanc,
 2795 wuldurcyninge, 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,

Beowulf gives
thanks

þæt hit sæliðend syððan hatan
Biowulfes biorh, ða ðe brentingas
ofer floda genipu feorran drifað.”

f.191r

2810 Dyde him of healse hring gyldenne
 þioden þristhydig, þegne gesealde,
 geongum garwigan, goldfahne helm,
 beah ond byrnan, het hyne brucan well:

 “Þu eart endelaf usses cynnes,
 Wægmunðinga. Ealle wyrd forsweop

2815 mine magas to methodsceafte,
 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

Beowulf
commends
Wiglaf

Fitt
XXXIX

 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

wyrm 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 f.191v
middelnihtum, 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.

2850 ða ne dorston ær dareðum lacan
 on hyra mandryhtnes miclan þearfe,
 ac hy scamiende scyldas bæran,
 guðgewædu, þær se gomela læg,
 wlitan on Wilaf. He gewergad sæt,
 feðecempa, frean eaxlum neah,
 wehte hyne wætre; him wiht ne speow.
 2855 Ne meahte he on eorðan, ðeah he uðe wel,
 on ðam frumgare feorh gehealdan,
 ne ðæs wealdendes wiht oncirran;
 wolde dom godes dædum rædan
 gumena gehwylcum, swa he nu gen deð. f.192r
 2860 Ða wæs æt ðam geongan grim andswaru
 eðbegete þam ðe ær his elne forleas.
 Wiglaf maðelode, Weohstanes sunu,
 sec, sarigferð seah on unleofe:
 “Ðæt, 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,

Wiglaf
 addresses
 Retainers

beoden his þegnum, swylce he þrydlicost
 2870 ower feor oððe neah findan meahhte,
 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 meahhte
 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. f.192v
 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

Fitt XL

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

Messenger
speaks

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

healdeð higemæðum heafodwearde

f.193r

2910 leofes ond laðes. Nu ys leodum wen

Prophecy of
war

orleghwile, syððan underne
 Froncum ond Frysum fyll cyninges
 wide weorðeð. Wæs sio wroht scepem
 heard wið Hugas, syððan Higelac cwom
 2915 faran flotherge on Fresna land,
 þær hyne Hetware hilde genægdon,
 elne geeodon mid ofer-mægene,
 þæt se byrnwiga bugan sceolde,
 feoll on feðan, nalles frætwe geaf
 2920 ealdor dugode. Us wæs a syððan
 Merewioingas milts ungyfeðe.
 Ne ic to Sweoðeode sibbe oððe treowe
 wihte ne wene, ac wæs wide cuð
 þætte Ongendio ealdre besnyðede
 2925 Hæðcen Hreþling wið Hrefna Wudu,
 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,
oð ðæt hi oðeodon earfoðlice
2935 in Hrefnes Holt hlafordlease.

Besæt ða sinherge sweorda lafe,
wundum werge, wean oft gehet f.193v
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, **Fitt XLI**
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. Ða wæs æht boden
Sweona leodum, segn Higelaces
freoðowong þone forð ofereodon,
2960 syððan Hreðlingas to hagan þrungon.
Ðær wearð Ongenðiow ecgum sweorda,
blondenfexa, on bid wrecen,
þæt se þeodcyning ðafian sceolde
Eafores anne dom. Hyne yrringa f.194r
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
wyrsan 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,

Ongenðeow
kills Wulf

2975 þæt he blode fah bugan sceolde,
feoll on foldan; næs he fæge þa git,
ac he hyne gewyrpte, þeah ðe him wund hrine.

Higelac's
thane kills
Ongenðeow

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.

2985 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.

2990 He *ðam* frætwum feng ond him fægre gehet
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

f.194v

2995 landes ond locenra beaga —ne ðorfte him ða lean oðwitan
 mon on middangearde, syððan hie ða mærdā geslogon—
 ond ða Iofore forgeaf angan dohtor,
 hamweorðunge, hylde to wedde.
 Pæt 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 þeodcýning þær sceawian
 ond þone gebringan, þe us beagas geaf,
 3010 on adfære. Ne scel anes hwæt
 meltan mid þam modigan, ac þær is maðma hord,
 gold unrime grimme geceapod,
 ond nu æt siðestan sylfes feore
 beagas *gebohte*. þa sceall brond fretan,
 3015 æled þeccean, nalles eorl wegan

Messenger
adduces cause

Hoard
consigned to
fire

f.195r

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,

They descend
to the shore

Wedra þeoden, wundordeaðe swealt.
Ær hi þær gesegan syllicran wiht,
wyrn on wonge wiðerræhtes þær
3040 laðne licgean; wæs se legdraca
grimlic, gryrefah, gledum beswæled. f.195v
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 stodað 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.

ÐA WÆS GESYNE þæt se sið ne ðah

þam ðe unrihte inne gehydde
 3060 wræte under wealle. Weard ær ofsloh
 feara sumne; þa sio fæhð gewearð
 gewrecen wraðlice. Wundur hwar þonne
 eorl ellenrof ende gefere
 lifgesceafta, þonne leng ne mæg
 3065 mon mid his *magum* meduseld buan.
 Swa wæs Biowulfe, þa he biorges weard
 sohte, searoniðas; seolfa ne cuðe
 þurh hwæt his worulde gedal weorðan sceolde.
 Swa hit oð domes dæg diope benemdon
 3070 þeodnas mære, þa ðæt þær dydon,
 þæt se secg wære synnum scildig,
 hergum geheaðerod, hellbendum fæst,
 wommum gewitnad, se ðone wong strude,
 næs he goldhwæte gearwor hæfde
 3075 agendes est ær gesceawod.
 Wiglaf maðelode, Wihstanes sunu:
 “Oft sceall eorl monig anes willan
 wræc adreogan, swa us geworden is.

f.196r

Ne meahton we gelæran leofne þeoden,
3080 rices hyrde, ræd ænigne,
þæt he ne grette goldweard þone,
lete hyne licgean þær he longe wæs,
wicum wunian oð woruldende;
heold on heahgesceap. Hord ys gesceawod,
3085 grimme gegongen; wæs þæt gifede 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 searo[gimma] 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,
 boldagenda, þæt hie bælwudu
 feorran feredon, folcagende,
 godum togenes: “Nu sceal gled fretan,
 3115 weaxan wonna leg wigena strengel,
 þone ðe oft gebad isernscure,
 þonne stræla storm strengum gebæded
 scoc ofer scildweall, sceft nytte heold,
 feðergearwum fus flane fulleode.”
 3120 Huru se snotra sunu Wihstanes

Wiglaf calls
for a pyre

	acigde of corðre	cyninges þegnas	f.198r
	syfone <i>tosomne</i> ,	þa selestan,	
	eode eahta sum	under inwithrof	Eight men withdraw the Hoard
	hilderinc[a];	sum on handa bær	
3125	æledleoman,	se ðe on orde geong.	
	Næs ða on hlytme	hwa þæt hord strude,	
	syððan orwearde	ænigne dæl	
	secgas gesegon	on sele wunian,	
	læne licgan;	lyt ænig mearn	
3130	þæt hi ofostlice	ut geferedon	
	dyre maðmas.	Dracan ec scufun,	
	wyrm ofer weallclif,	leton weg niman,	
	flod fæðmian	frætwa hyrde.	
	Pa wæs wunden gold	on wæn hladen,	
3135	æghwæs unrim,	æþeling boren,	
	har hilde[rinc]	to Hronesnæsse.	
	HIM ÐA GEGIREÐAN	Geata leode	Fitt XLIII
	ad on eorðan	unwaclicne,	
	helm[um] behongen,	hildebordum,	
3140	beorhtum byrnum,	swa he bena wæs;	
	alegdon ða tomiddes	mærne þeoden	

3121 **cyninges**] MS. f.197 now precedes f.189

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.
 Pa ymbe hlæw riodan hildediore,
 3170 æpelinga bearn, ealra twelfe,
 woldon *ceare* cwiðan *ond kyning mænan*,
 wordgyd wrecan ond ymb *wer* sprecan;
 eahtodan eorlscipe ond his ellenweorc
 duguðum demdon, swa hit *gedefe* bið
 3175 þæt mon his winedryhten wordum herge,
 ferhðum freoge, þonne he forð scile
 of lichaman *læded* weorðan.
 Swa begnornodon Geata leode
 hlafordes *hryre*, heorðgeneatas,
 3180 cwædon þæt he wære wyruldcyning[a]

Beowulf's
Barrow

12 Nobles ride
round

manna mildust ond monðwærust,

leodum liðost ond lofgeornost.