

The Wanderer

Anonymous

Exeter Book

Oft him anhaga are gebideð,
metudes miltse, þeah þe he modcearig
geond lagulade longe sceolde
hreran mid hondum hrimcealde sæ,
wadan wræclastas. Wyrð biðful aræd! 5
Swa cwæðeardstapa, earfeþa gemyndig,
wraþra wælsleahta, winemæga hryre:
"Oft ic sceolde ana uhtna gehwylce
mine ceare cwipæn. Nis nu cwicra nan
þe ic him modsefan minne durre 10
sweotule asecgan. Ic to soþe wat
þæt biþin eorle indryhten þeaw,
þæt he his ferðlocan fæste binde,

healde his hordcofan, hycge swa he wille.
 Ne mæg werig mod wyrde wiðstandan, 15
 ne se hreo hyge helpe gefremman.
 Forðon domgeorne dreorigne oft
 in hyra breostcofan bindaðfæste;
 swa ic modsefan minne sceolde,
 oft earmcearig, eðle bidæled, 20
 freomægum feor feterum sælan,
 siþþan geara iu goldwine minne
 hrusan heolstre biwrah, ond ic hean þonan
 wod wintercearig ofer waþema gebind,
 sohte sele dreorig sinces bryttan, 25
 hwær ic feor oþþe neah findan meahhte
 þone þe in meoduhealle min mine wisse,
 oþþe mec freondleasne frefran wolde,
 weman mid wynnum. Wat se þe cunnað,
 hu sliþen bið sorg to geferan, 30
 þam þe him lyt hafað leofra geholena.
 Waraðhine wræclast, nales wunden gold,
 ferðloca freorig, nalæs foldan blæd.
 Gemon he selesecgas ond sincþege,

hu hine on geoguðe his goldwine 35
 wenede to wiste. Wyn eal gedreas!
 Forþon wat se þe sceal his winedryhtnes
 leofes larcwidum longe forþolian,
 ðonne sorg ond slæp somod ætgædre
 earmne anhogan oft gebindað. 40
 þinceðhim on mode þæt he his mondryhten
 clyppe ond cysse, ond on cneo lecge
 honda ond heafod, swa he hwilum ær
 in geardagum giefstolas breac.
 ðonne onwæcneðeft wineleas guma, 45
 gesihðhim biforan fealwe wegas,
 baþian brimfuglas, brædan feþra,
 hreosan hrim ond snaw, hagle gemenged.
 þonne beoðþy hefigran heortan benne,
 sare æfter swæsne. Sorg biðgeniwad, 50
 þonne maga gemynd mod geondhweorfeð;
 greteðgliwstafum, georne geondsceawað
 secga geseldan. Swimmaðeft on weg!
 Fleotendra ferð no þær fela bringeð
 cuðra cwidegiedda. Cearo biðgeniwad 55

þam þe sendan sceal swiþe geneahhe
 ofer waþema gebind werigne sefan.
 Forþon ic geþencan ne mæg geond þas woruld
 for hwan modsefa min ne gesweorce,
 þonne ic eorla lif eal geondþence, 60
 hu hi færlice flet ofgeafon,
 modge maguþegnas. Swa þes middangeard
 ealra dogra gehwam dreoseðond fealleþ,
 forþon ne mæg weorþan wis wer, ær he age
 wintra dæl in woruldrice. Wita sceal geþyldig, 65
 ne sceal no to hatheort ne to hrædwyrde,
 ne to wac wiga ne to wanhydig,
 ne to forht ne to fægen, ne to feohgifre
 ne næfre gielpes to georn, ær he geare cunne.
 Beorn sceal gebidan, þonne he beot spriceð, 70
 oþþæt collenferð cunne gearwe
 hwider hreþra gehygd hweorfan wille.
 Ongietan sceal gleaw hæle hu gæstlic bið,
 þonne ealre þisse worulde wela weste stondeð,
 swa nu missenlice geond þisne middangeard 75
 winde biwaune weallas stondaþ,

hrim bihrorene, hryðge þa ederas.
 Worjaðþa winsalo, waldend licgað
 dreame bidrorene, duguþeal gecrong,
 wlonc bi wealle. Sume wig fornom, 80
 ferede in forðwege, sumne fugel oþbær
 ofer heanne holm, sumne se hara wulf
 deaðe gedælde, sumne dreorighleor
 in eorðscræfe eorl gehydde.
 Yþde swa þisne eardgeard ælda scyppend 85
 oþþæt burgwara breahntma lease
 eald enta geweorc idlu stodon.
 Se þonne þisne wealsteal wise geþohte
 ond þis deorce lif deope geondþenceð,
 frod in ferðe, feor oft gemon 90
 wælslehta worn, ond þas word acwið:
 "Hwær cwom mearg? Hwær cwom mago? Hwær cwom maþþum-
 gyfa?
 Hwær cwom symbla gesetu? Hwær sindon seledreamas?
 Eala beorht bune! Eala byrnwiga!
 Eala þeodnes þrym! Hu seo þrag gewat, 95
 genap under nihthelm, swa heo no wære.

Stondeðnu on laste leofre duguþe
 weal wundrum heah, wrymlicum fah.
 Eorlas fornoman asca þryþe,
 wæpen wælgifru, wurd seo mære, 100
 ond þas stanhleoþu stormas cnyssað,
 hriðhreosende hrusan bindeð,
 wintres woma, þonne won cymeð,
 nipeðnihtscua, norþan onsendeð
 hreo hæglfare hæleþum on andan. 105
 Eall is earfoðlic eorþan rice,
 onwendeðwyrda gesceaft weoruld under heofonum.
 Her biðfeoh læne, her biðfreond læne,
 her biðmon læne, her biðmæg læne,
 eal þis eorþan gesteal idel weorþeð!" 110
 Swa cwæðsnottor on mode, gesæt him sundor æt rune.
 Til biþse þe his treowe gehealdeþ, ne sceal næfre his torn to
 rycene
 beorn of his breostum acyþan, nemþe he ær þa bote cunne,
 eorl mid elne gefremman. Wel biðþam þe him are seceð,
 frofre to fæder on heofonum, þær us eal seo fæstnung stondeð.