

The Fortunes of Men

Krapp and Dobbie 1936, 154-6.

¹ Ful oft þæt gegongeð, mid godes meahtum, þætte wer ond wif in woruld cennað bearn mid gebyrdum ond mid bleom gyrwað, tennaþ ond tætaþ, oppæt seo tid cymeð, gegæð gearrimum, þæt þa geongan leomu, liffæstan leoðu, geloden weorþað.

⁷ Fergað swa ond feþað fæder ond modor, giefað ond gierwaþ.

⁸ God ana wat hwæt him weaxendum winter bringað.

¹⁰ Sumum þæt gegongeð on geoguðfeore þæt se endestæf earfeðmægum wealic weorþeð.

¹² Sceal hine wulf etan, har hæðstapa; hinsip þonne modor bimurneð.

¹⁴ Ne bið swylc monnes geweald.

¹⁵ Sumne sceal hungor ahiþan, sumne sceal hreoh fordripan, sumne sceal gar agetan, sumne guð abreotan.

¹⁷ Sum sceal leomena leas lifes neotan, folmum ætfeohthan, sum on feðe lef, seonobennum seoc, sar cwanian, murnan meotudgesceaft mode gebysgad.

²¹ Sum sceal on holte of hean beame fiperleas feallan; bið on flihte seþeah, laced on lyfte, oppæt lengre ne bið westem wudubeames.

²⁴ Þonne he on wyrtruman sigeð sworcenferð, sawle bireafod, fealleþ on foldan, feorð biþ on siþe.

²⁷ Sum sceal on fepe on feorwegas nyde gongan ond his nest beran, tredan uriglast elpeodigra, frecne foldan; ah he feormendra lyt lifgendra, lað biþ æghwær fore his wonsceaftum wineleas hæle.

³³ Sum sceal on geapum galgan ridan, seomian æt swylte, oppæt sawlhord, bancofa blodig, abrocen weorþeð.

³⁶ Þær him hrefn nimeþ heafodsyne, sliteð salwiggpad sawelleasne; noþer he þy facne mæg folmum biwergan, laþum lyftsceapan, biþ his lif scæcen, ond he feleleas, feores orwena, blac on beame bideð wyrde, bewegen wælmiste.

⁴² Bið him werig noma.

⁴³ Sumne on bæle sceal brond aswencan, fretan frecne lif fægne monnan; þær him lifgedal lungre weorðeð, read reþe gled; reoteð meowle, seo hyre bearn gesihð brondas þeccan.

⁴⁸ Sumum meces ecg on meodubence yrrum ealowosan ealdor oppringed, were winsadum; bið ær his worda to hræd.

⁵¹ Sum sceal on beore þurh byreles hond meodugal mægga; þonne he gemet ne con gemearcian his muþe mode sine, ac sceal ful earmlice ealdre linnan, dreogan dryhtenbealo dreamum biscyred, ond hine to sylfcwale secgas nemnað, mænað mid muþe meodugales gedrinc.

⁵⁸ Sum sceal on geoguþe mid godes meahtum his earfoðsip ealne forspildan, ond on yldo eft eadig weorþan, wunian wyndagum ond welan þicgan, maþmas ond meodufol mægburge on, þæs þe ænig fira mæge forð gehealdan.

⁶⁴ Swa missenlice mehtig dryhten geond eorþan sceat eallum dæleð, scyreþ ond scrifeð ond gesceapo healdeð, sumum eadwelan, sumum earfeþa dæl, sumum geogoþe glæd, sumum guþe blæd, gewealdenne wigplegan, sumum wyrp opppe scyte, torhtlicne tiir, sumum tæfle cræft, bleobordes gebregd.

⁷¹ Sume boceras weorþað wisfæste.

⁷² Sumum wundorgiefe þurh goldsmiþe gearwad weorþað; ful oft he gehyrdeð ond gehyrsteð wel, brytencyniges beorn, ond he him brad syleð lond to leane.

⁷⁶ He hit on lust þigeð.

⁷⁷ Sum sceal on heape hælþum cweman, blissian æt beore bencsittendum; þær biþ
drincendra dream se micla.

⁸⁰ Sum sceal mid hearpan æt his hlaforðes fotum sittan, feoh þicgan, ond a snellice snere
wræstan, lætan scralletan sceacol, se þe hleapeð, nægl neomegende; biþ him neod micel.

⁸⁵ Sum sceal wildne fugel wloncne atemian, heafoc on honda, oþþæt seo heoroswealwe
wynsum weorþeð; deþ he wyrplas on, fedeþ swa on feterum fiþrum dealne, lepeþ lyftswiftn
lytlum gieflum, oþþæt se wælisca wædum ond dædum his ætgiefan eaðmod weorþeð ond to
hagostealdes honda gelæred.

⁹³ Swa wrætlice weoroda nergend geond middangeard monna cræftas sceop ond scyrede ond
gesceapo ferede æghwylcum on eorþan eormencynnes.

⁹⁷ Forþon him nu ealles þonc æghwa secge, þæs þe he fore his miltsum monnum scrifeð.