

# BEOWULF

Anonymous

BL Cotton Vitellius A.xv

*Follows Klaeber 3, modified with K4, eds. Fulk, Bjork, and Niles, with variants of ASPR noted.*

**HWÆT!** WE GARDENA in geardagum f.129r

þeodcyninga, þrym gefrunon,

hu ða æþelingas ellen fremedon.

Oft Scyld Scefing sceapena þreatum,

5 monegum mægþum, meodosetla ofteah,

egsode eorlas. Syððan ærest wearð

feasceaft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,

weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,

oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra

10 ofer hronrade hyran scolde,

gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cyning!

---

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.  
 Pær æt hyðe stod      hringedstefna,

f.129v

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 bearne 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 frumsceafte      forð onsendon  
      ænne ofer yðe      umborwesende. f.130r  
      þa gyt hie him asetton      segen *geldenne*  
      heah ofer heafod,      leton holm beran,  
      geafon on garsecg;      him wæs geomor sefa,  
 50      murnende mod.      Men ne cunnon  
      secgan to soðe,      seleræden*de*,  
      hæleð under heofenum,      hwa þæm hlæste onfeng.

---

51 seleræden*de*] MS sele rædenne.

**Ða** wæs on burgum      Beowulf Scyldinga,

**Fitt I**

leof leodcyning,      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 geweax,

magodriht micel.      Him on mod bearn

þæt healreced      hatan wolde,

medoærn micel      men gewyrcean

f.130v

70      þonne ylde bearn      æfre gefrunon,

ond þær on innan      eall gedælan

geongum ond ealdum,      swyle him God sealde,

---

60 ræswan | MS ræswa.

62 . . . | MS no gap

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 horngæap,      heaðowylma bad,  
     laðan liges;      ne wæs hit lenge þa gen  
     þæt se ecghete      aþumsweorum  
 85      æfter wælniðe      wæcnan scolde.  
     Ða se ellengæst      earfoðlice  
     þrage gepolode,      se þe in þystrum bad,  
     þæt he dogora gehwam      dream gehyrde  
     hludne in healle;      þær wæs hearpan sweg,  
 90      swutol sang scopes.      Sægde se þe cuþe  
     frumsceaft fira      feorran reccan,  
     cwæð þæt se Ælmihtiga      eorðan worhte,

Grendel hears  
singing.

f.132r F.  
131 after f.  
146.

---

84 ecghete | MS secg hete.

84 aþumsweorum | MS aþum swerian

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 gehwylcūm      þara ðe cwise 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,  
 sibðan him Scyppend      forscrifen hæfde  
 in Caines cynne.      Þone cwealm gewræc  
 ece drihten,      þæs þe he Abel slog;  
 ne gefeah he þære fæhðe,      ac he hine feor forwræc,  
 110      metod for þy mane,      mancynne fram.  
 þanon untydras      ealle onwocon,  
 eotenas ond ylfe      ond orcneas,

Grendel  
named.

---

106 Scyppend | MS scyppen

107 Caines | MS comes

swylce gigantas,      þa wið Gode wunnon

f.132v

lange þrage;      he him ðæs lean forgeald.

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.

Ða wæs on uhtan      mid ærdæge

Grendles guðcræft      gumum undyrne;

þa wæs æfter wiste      wop up ahafen,

micel morgensweg.      Mære þeoden,

130      æþeling ærgod,      unbliðe sæt,

þolode ðryðswyð,      þegnsorge dreah,

syðþan hie þæs laðan      last sceawedon,

wergan gastes;      wæs þæt gewin to strang,

f. 133r

135      lað ond longsum.      Næs hit lengra fyrst,  
          ac ymb ane niht      eft gefremede  
          morðbeala mare,      ond no mearn fore,  
          fæhðe ond fyrene;      wæs to fæst on þam.  
          Pa 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  
          hwile wið Hroþgar,      heteniðas wæg,

---

139 *sohte* | MS *nothing*

148 Scyldinga | MS scyldenda

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



fyrene ond fæhðe      fela missera,  
 singale sæce;      sibbe ne wolde  
 155      wið manna hwone      mægenes Deniga,  
          feorhbealo feorran,      fea þingian,  
          ne þær nænig witenas      wenan þorfte  
          beorhtre bote      to banan folmum,  
          ac se æglæca      ehtende wæs,      f. 133v  
 160      deorc deaðscua,      dugupe ond geogope,  
          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      Pæt wæs wræc micel      wine Scyldinga,  
          modes brecða.      Monig oft gesæt  
          rice to rune;      ræd eahtedon,

---

158 banan] MS banû

hwæt swiðferhðum      selest wære  
 wið færgryrum      to gefremmanne.  
 175      Hwylum hie geheton      æt *hærgtrafum*  
 wigweorþunga,      wordum bædon  
 þæt him gastbona      geoce gefremede  
 wið þeodþreaum.      Swylc wæs þeaw hyra,  
 hæþenra hyht;      helle gemundon  
 180      in modsefan,      metod hie ne cuþon,  
 dæda demend,      ne wiston hie drihten God,  
 ne hie huru heofena helm      herian ne cuþon,  
 wuldres waldend.      Wa bið þæm ðe sceal  
 þurh sliðne nið      sawle bescufan  
 185      in fyres fæþm,      frofre ne wenan,  
 wihte gewendan;      wel bið þæm þe mot  
 æfter deaðdæge      drihten secean  
 ond to fæder fæþmum      freoðo wilnian.  
**Swa** ða mælceare      maga Healfdenes  
 190      singala seað;      ne mihte snotor hæled  
 wean onwendan;      wæs þæt gewin to swyð,  
 laþ ond longsum,      þe on ða leode becom,

f. 134r

**Fitt III**

---

175 *hærgtrafum*] MS hræg trafum

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.  
 Ðone siðfæt him      snotere ceorlas  
 lythwon logon,      þeah he him leof wære;  
 hwetton higerofne,      hæl sceawedon. f. 134v  
 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,  
 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.      Panon up hraðe  
 225      Wedera leode      on wang stigon,  
 sæwudu sældon      syrcan hrysedon,  
 guðgewædo;      Gode þancedon  
 þæs þe him yplade      eaðe wurdon.  
 Pa 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  
 furþur feran. Nu ge feorbuend,

Shoreguard  
 greets  
 Beowulf.

f. 135v

---

240 Ic *hwile* wæs] MS le wæs

250 næfne] MS næfre

255       mereliðende,       minne gehyrað  
          anfealdne geþoht:       ofost is selest  
          to gecyðanne       hwanan eowre cyme syndon.”

**Him** se yldesta       ondswarode,  
          werodes wisa,       wordhord onleac:

**Fitt IIII**

260       “We synt gumcynnes       Geata leode  
          ond Higelaces       heorðgeneatas.  
          Wæs min fæder       folcum gecyþed,  
          æpele ordfruma,       Ecgþeow haten;  
          gebad wintra worn,       ær he on weg hwurfe,

265       gamol of geardum;       hine gearwe geman  
          witena welhwylc       wide geond eorþan.  
          We þurh holdne hige       hlaford þinne,  
          sunu Healfdenes,       secean cwomon,  
          leodgebyrgen.       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

          þæt mid Scyldingum       sceaðona ic nat hwylc,

---

255 minne] MS mine

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 wurðað;  
              oððe a syþðan        earfoðþrage,  
              þreanyd þolað        þenden þær wunað  
 285        on heahstede        husa selest.”  
              Weard mæpelode        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  
              wiðfeonda gehwone        flotan eowerne,

---

280 edwenden] MS edwendan

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.  
            Him þa hildedeor        *hof* modigra

---

302 *sale* | MS *sole*

304 *hleorbergan* | MS *hleor beran*

306 *grimmon* | MS *grummon*

307 *sæl timbred* | MS *æltimbred*

312 *hof* | MS *of*



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.      Ða 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.      Ða ðær wlonc hæleð  
 oretmecgas      æfter *æþelum* frægn:

---

332 *æþelum* | MS hælepum

	“Hwanon ferigeað ge      fætte scyldas,	Wulfgar greets Beowulf
	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.”	f. 137v
340	Him þa ellenrof      andswarode,	
	wlanc Wedera leod,      word æfter spræc,	
	heard under helme:      “We synt Higelaces	Beowulf to Wulfgar
	beodgeneatas;      Beowulf is min nama.	
	Wille ic asecgan      sunu Healfdenes,	
345	mærum þeodne,      min ærende,	
	aldre þinum,      gif he us geunnan wile	
	þæt we hine swa godne      gretan moton.”	
	Wulfgar mapelode;      þæt wæs Wendla leod;	
	wæs his modsefa      manegum gecyðed,	
350	wig ond wisdom:      “Ic þæs wine Deniga,	
	frean Scildinga,      frinan wille,	
	beaga bryttan,      swa þu bena eart,	
	þeoden mærne,      ymb þinne sið,	

ond þe þa ondsware      ædre gecyðan  
 355      ðe me se goda      agifan þenceð.”  
 Hwearf þa hrædlice      þær Hroðgar sæt  
 eald ond anhar      mid his eorla gedriht;  
 eode ellenrof,      þæt he for eaxlum gestod  
 Deniga frean;      cuþe he duguðe þeaw.  
 360      Wulfgar maðelode      to his winedrihtne:      f. 138r  
 “Her syndon geferede,      feorran cumene  
 ofer geofenes begang      Geata leode;  
 þone yldestan      oretmecgas  
 Beowulf nemnað.      Hy benan synt  
 365      þæt hie, þeoden min,      wið þe moton  
 wordum wrixlan.      No ðu him wearne geteoh  
 ðinra gegncwida,      glædman Hroðgar.  
 Hy on wiggetawum      wyrðe þinceað  
 eorla geæhtlan;      huru se aldor deah,  
 370      se þæm heaðorincum      hider wisade.”  
**Hroðgar** maþelode,      helm Scyldinga:      **Fitt VI**  
 “Ic hine cuðe      cnihtwesende;  
 wæs his ealdfæder      Ecgþeo haten,

Wulfgar to  
Hroðgar

Hroðgar to  
Wulfgar

ðæm to ham forgeaf      Hreþel Geata  
 375      angan dohtor;      is his eafor *a* nu  
          heard her cumen,      sohte holdne wine.  
          Donne sægdon þæt      sæliþende,  
          þa ðe gifsceattas      Geata fyredon  
          þyder to þance,      þæt he þritiges      f. 138v  
 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      *Wedera leodum*      word inne abead:  
          “Eow het secgan      sigedrihten min,  
          aldor East-Dena,      þæt he eower æpelu can,  
          ond ge him syndon      ofer sæwylmas

Wulfgar to  
 Hroðgar

---

375 eafor*a*] MS eaforan

389 \*\*\*] MS *no gap*

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 mæra fela  
         ongunnen on geogoþe.      Me wearð Grendles þing  
 410      on minre eþeltyrf      undyrne cuð;  
         secgað sæliðend      þæt þæs sele stande,  
         reced selesta,      rinca gehwylcum  
         idel ond unnyt,      siððan æfenleoht

Beowulf to  
 Hroðgar

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 —  
          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,  
          ond þes hearda heap      Heorot fælsian.  
          Hæbbe ic eac geahsod      þæt se æglæca

---

414 haðor] MS hador

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    mægenhreð manna.      Na þu minne þearft  
      hafalan hydan,      ac he me habban wile  
      dreore fahne,      gif mec deað nimeð:  
      byreð blodig wæl,      byrgean þenceð,  
      eteð angenga      unmunlice,  
 450    mearcað morhopu —      no ðu ymb mines ne þearft  
      lices feorme      leng sorgian.  
      Onsend Higelace,      gif mec hild nime,  
      beaduscruda betst,      þæt mine breost wereð,  
      hræglas selest;      þæt is Hrædla laf,

455 Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel.”

**Hroðgar** mapelode, helm Scyldinga:

**Fitt VII**

“For fyhtum þu, wine min Beowulf,  
ond for arstafum usic sohtest.

Hroþgar to  
Beowulf

Gesloh þin fæder fæhðe mæste;  
460 wearþ he Heapolafe to handbonan  
mid Wilfingum; ða hine *Wedera* cyn  
for herebrogan habban ne mihte.

Panon he gesohte Suð-Dena folc  
ofer yða gewealc, Ar-Scyldinga;

f. 140v

465 ða ic furþum weold folce Deniga  
ond on geogoðe heold *ginne* rice,  
hordburh hæleþa, ða wæs Heregar dead,  
min yldra mæg unlifigende,  
bearn Healfdenes; se wæs betera ðonne ic.

470 Siððan þa fæhðe feo þingode:  
sende ic Wylfingum ofer wæteres hrycg  
ealde madmas; he me aþas swor.

Sorh is me to secganne on sefan minum

---

457 fyhtum] del. *gewyrhtum*

461 *Wedera*] MS gara

466 *ginne*] MS gimme



gumena ængum      hwæt me Grendel hafað  
 475      hynðo on Heorote      mid his heteþancum,  
          færniða gefremed;      is min fletwerod,  
          wigheap gewanod;      hie wyrd forsweop  
          on Grendles gryre.      God eaþe mæg  
          þone dolscaðan      dæda getwæfan.  
 480      Ful oft gebeotedon      beore druncne  
          ofer ealowæge      oretmecgas  
          þæt hie in beorsele      bidan woldon  
          Grendles guþe      mid gryrum ecga.  
          Donne wæs þeos medoheal      on morgentid,  
 485      drihtsele dreorfah      þonne dæg lixte,  
          eal bencþelu      blode bestymed,  
          heall heorudreore;      ahte ic holdra þy læs,  
          deorre duguðe,      þe þa deað fornam.  
          Site nu to symle      ond onsæl meoto,  
 490      sigehreð secgum,      swa þin sefa hwette.”  
          Pa wæs Geatmægum      geador ætsomne  
          on beorsele      benc gerymed;  
          þær swiðferhþe      sittan eodon,  
          þryðum dealle.      Þegn nytte beheold,

f. 141r

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  
              aldrum neþdon?        Ne inc ænig mon,  
              ne leof ne lað,        belean mihte  
              sorhfullne sið,        þa git on sund reon.  
              Þær git eagorstream        earmum þehton,  
              mæton merestræta,        mundum brugdon,

Unferþ to  
Beowulf

515      glidon ofer garsecg;      geofon yþum weol,  
          wintrys wylmum.      Git on wæteres æht  
          seofonniht swuncon;      he þe æt sunde oferflat,  
          hæfde mare mægen.      Ða hine on morgentid  
          on Heaþo-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 gepingea,  
          ðeah þu heaðoræsa      gehwær dohte,  
          grimre guðe,      gif þu Grendles dearst  
          nihtlongne fyrst      nean bidan.”  
          Beowulf mabelode,      bearn Ecgþeowes:  
 530      “Hwæt, þu worn fela,      wine min *Unferð*,  
          beore druncen      ymb Breca spræce,  
          sægdest from his siðe.      Soð ic talige,  
          þæt ic merestrengo      maran ahte,  
          eafepo on yþum,      ðonne ænig oþer man.

Beowulf  
 replies to  
 Unferð

---

534 eafepo] ASPR. earfepo

535        Wit þæt gecwædon        cnihtwesende  
          ond gebeotedon        (wæron begen þa git  
          on geogoðfeore)        þæt wit on garsecg ut  
          aldrum neðdon,        ond þæt geæfndon swa.  
          Hæfdon swurd nacod,        þa wit on sund reon,  
540        heard on handa;        wit unc wið hronfixas  
          werian þohton.        No he wiht fram me  
          flodyþum feor        fleotan meahte,  
          hrafpor on holme;        no ic fram him wolde.  
          Da wit ætsomne        on sæ wæron        f.142v  
545        fifnihta fyrst,        oppæt 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  
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 fylle      gefean hæfdon,  
                  manfordædlan,      þæt hie me þegon,  
                  symbel ymb sæton      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;  
 hwaþere ic fara feng      feore gedigde,  
 siþes werig.      Ða mec sæ opbær,  
 580 flod æfter faroðe      on Finna land,  
 wadu weallendu.      No ic wiht fram þe  
 swylcra searoniða      secgan hyrde,  
 billa brogan.      Breca næfre git  
 æt heaðolace,      ne gehwæþer incer,  
 585 swa deorlice      dæd gefremede  
 fagum sweordum      (no ic þæs *fela* gylpe),  
 þeah ðu þinum broðrum      to banan wurde,  
 heafodmægum;      þæs þu in helle scealt      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,  
guþe gebeodan.      Gæþ eft se þe mot  
to medo modig,      sibþan morgenleoht  
605      ofer ylða bearn      opres dogores,  
sunne sweglwered      supan scineð.”  
Pa wæs on salum      sinces brytta,  
gamolfeax ond guðrof;      geoce gelyfde  
brego Beorhtdena,      gehyrde on Beowulfe  
610      folces hyrde      fæstrædne gepoht.  
Ðær wæs hæleþa hleahtor,      hlyn swynsode,  
word wæron wynsume.      Eode Wealhþeow forð,  
cwen Hroðgares,      cynna gemyndig,  
grette goldhroden      guman on healle,  
615      ond þa freolic wif      ful gesealde  
ærest Eastdena      eþelwearde,  
bæd hine bliðne      æt þære beorþege,  
leodum leofne.      He on lust geþeah

f.144v

Wealhþeow  
brings the cup

symbel ond seleaf,      sigerof kyning.  
 620      Ymbeode þa      ides Helminga  
           duguþe ond geogope      dæl æghwylcne,  
           sincfato sealde,      oppæt sæl alamp  
           þæt hio Beowulfe,      beaghroden cwen  
           mode geþungen,      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 maþelode,      bearn Ecgþeowes:  
           “ Ic þæt hogode,      þa ic on holm gestah,  
           sæbat gesæt      mid minra secga gedriht,  
           þæt ic anunga      eowra leoda  
 635      willan geworhte      oppðe on wæl crunge,  
           feondgrapum fæst.      Ic gefremman sceal  
           eorlic ellen,      oppðe endedæg  
           on þisse meoduhealle      minne gebidan.”  
           Ðam wife þa word      wel licodon,

Beowulf  
 pledges his life



640       gilpcwide Geates;       eode goldhroden  
           freolicu folccwen       to hire frean sittan.  
       Pa 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:       f.145r  
 655       “Næfre ic ænegum men       ær alyfde,  
       siþðan ic hond ond rond       hebban mihte,  
       ðryþærn Dena       buton þe nuða.  
       Hafa nu ond geheald       husa selest,  
       gemyne mærpō,       mægenellen cyð,

---

648 meahton] ASPR. ne meahton

660       waca wið wrapum.       Ne bið þe wilna gad  
           gif þu þæt ellenweorc       aldre gedigest.”  
       **ÐA** him Hroþgar gewat       mid his hæleþa gedryht,       **Fitt X**  
       eodur Scyldinga,       ut of healle;  
       wolde wigfruma       Wealhþeo secan,  
 665       cwen to gebeddan.       Hæfde kyningwuldor  
       Grendle togeanes,       swa guman gefrungon,  
       seleweard aseted;       sundornytte beheold  
       ymb aldor Dena,       eotonweard 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:       f.145v  
       “No ic me an herewæsmun       hnagran talige  
       gubgeweorca,       þonne Grendel hine;  
       forþan ic hine sweorde       swebban nelle,  
 680       aldre beneotan,       þeah ic eal mæge.

Nat he þara goda      þæt he me ongean slea,  
 rand geheawe,      þeah ðe he rof sie  
 niþgeweorca;      ac wit on niht sculon  
 secge ofersittan,      gif he gesecean dear  
 685 wig ofer wæpen,      ond siþðan witig God  
 on swa hwæþere hond,      halig dryhten  
 mærdō deme,      swa him gemet þince.”  
 Hylde hine þa heaþodeor,      hleorbolster onfeng  
 eorles andwlitan,      ond hine ymb monig  
 690 snellic særinc      selereste gebeah.  
 Nænig heora þohte      þæt he þanon scolde  
 eft eardlufan      æfre gesecean,  
 folc oþðe freoburh,      þær he afeded wæs;  
 ac hie hæfdon gefrunen      þæt hie ær to fela micles  
 695 in þæm winsele      wældeað fornam,  
 Denigea leode.      Ac him dryhten forgeaf  
 wigspeda gewiofu,      Wedera leodum,  
 frofor ond fultum,      þæt hie feond heora  
 ðurh anes cræft      ealle ofercomon,  
 700 selfes mihtum.      Soð is gecyþed  
 þæt mihtig God      manna cynnes

The Geats  
 rest

f.146r

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      wrapum on andan  
 bad bolgenmod      beadwa geþinges.  
 710 **ÐA** com of more      under misthleopum  
 Grendel gongan,      godes yrre bær;  
 mynte se manscaða      manna cynnes  
 sumne besyrwan      in sele þam hean.  
 Wod under wolcnum      to þæs þe he winreced,  
 715 goldsele gumena,      gearwost wisse,  
 fættum fahne.      Ne wæs þæt forma sið  
 þæt he Hroþgares      ham gesohte;  
 næfre he on aldordagum      ær ne siþðan  
 heardran hæle,      healðegnas fand.  
 720 Com þa to recede      rinc siðian,  
 dreamum bedæled.      Duru sona onarn,  
 fyrbendum fæst,      syþðan he hire folmum æthran;

**Fitt XI**

f.146v

Wealhþeow  
brings the cup

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  
      slæpendne rinc,      slat unwearnum,  
      bat banlocan,      blod edrum dranc,

---

740 gefeng] MS. earlier leaf interpolated here

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 ongear  
          feond mid folme;      he onfeng hraþe  
          inwitþancum      ond wið earm gesæt.  
 750      Sona þæt onfunde      fyrena hyrde  
          þæt he ne mette      middangeardes,  
          eorþan sceata,      on elran men  
          mundgripe maran.      He on mode wearð  
          forht on ferhðe;      no þy ær fram meahte.  
 755      Hyge wæs him hinfus,      wolde on heolster fleon,  
          secan deofla gedræg;      ne wæs his drohtoð þær  
          swylce he on ealderdagum      ær gemette.  
          Gemunde þa se goda,      mæg Higelaces,  
          æfenspræce,      uplang astod  
 760      ond him fæste wiðfeng;      fingras burston.  
          eoten wæs utweard,      eorl furþur stop.  
          Mynte se mæra,      hwær he meahte swa,

Beowulf seizes  
 Grendel

f.131v

---

747 He him | not in ASPR

762 hwær | ASPR. þær

widre gewindan      ond on weg þanon  
 fleon on fenhopu;      wiste his fingra geweald  
 765 on grames grapum.      Pæt 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.  
 Ða 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 searopuncum besmipod.      Ðær fram sylle abeag  
 medubenc monig,      mine gefræge,  
 golde geregnad,      þær þa gramæn wunnon.  
 Ðæs ne wendon ær      witan Scyldinga  
 þæt hit a mid gemete      manna ænig,  
 780 betlic ond banfag,      tobrecean meahte,  
 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  
 þone cwealmcuman      cwicne forlætan,  
 ne his lifdagas      leoda ænigum  
 nytte tealde.      Þær genehost brægd  
 795      eorl Beowulfes      ealde lafe,  
 wolde freadrihtnes      feorh ealgian,  
 mæres þeodnes,      ðær hie meahton swa.  
 Hie þæt ne wiston,      þa hie gewin drugon,  
 heardhicgende      hildemecgas,  
 800      ond on healfa gehwone      heawan þohton,  
 sawle secan:      þone synscaðan  
 ænig ofer eorþan      irenna cyst,

## Fitt XII

Beowulf's men  
join in

---

786 andsacan] ASPR. ondsacan



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 dægrim.      Denum eallum wearð

æfter þam wælræse      willa gelumpen.  
 825      Hæfde þa gefælsod      se þe ær feorran com,  
 snotor ond swyðferhð,      sele Hroðgares,  
 genered wið niðe.      Nihtweorce gefeh, f.148v  
 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.  
**ÐA** wæs on morgen      mine gefræge **Fitt XIII**  
 ymb þa gifhealle      guðrinc monig;  
 ferdon folctogan      feorran ond nean  
 840      geond widwegas      wundor sceawian,  
 lapas lastas.      No his lifgedal  
 sarlic þuhte      secga ænegum  
 þara þe tirleases      trode sceawode,  
 hu he werigmod      on weg þanon,

845      niða ofercumen,      on nicera mere  
          fæge ond geflymed      feorhlastas bær.  
          Ðær wæs on blode      brim weallende,  
          atol yða geswing      eal gemenged  
          haton heolfre,      heorodreore weol. 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  
          mærdō mæned;      monig oft gecwæð  
          þætte suð ne norð      be sæm tweonum  
          ofer eormengrund      oþer nænig  
 860      under swegles begong      selra nære  
          rondhæbbendra,      rices wyrðra.  
          Ne hie huru winedrihten      wiht ne logon,  
          glædne Hroðgar,      ac þæt wæs god cyning.  
          Hwilum heaþorofe      hleapan leton,  
 865      on geflit faran      fealwe mearas Horse racing  
and singing

	ðær him foldwegas	fægere þuhton,	
	cystum cuðe.	Hwilum cyninges þegn,	
	guma gilphlæden,	gidða gemyndig,	
	se ðe eal fela	ealldgesegena	
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,	uncupes fela,	
	Wælsinges gewin,	wide siðas,	
	þara þe gumena bearn	gearwe ne wiston,	
	fæhðe ond fyrena,	buton Fitela mid hine,	
880	þonne he swulces hwæt	secgan wolde,	
	eam his nefan,	swa hie a wæron	
	æt niða gehwam	nydgesteallan;	
	hæfdon eal fela	eotena cynnes	
	sweordum gesæged.	Sigemunde gesprong	
885	æfter deaðdæge	dom unlytel,	
	syþðan wiges heard	wyrm acwealde,	

hordes hyrde.      He under harne stan,  
 æþelinges bearn,      ana geneðde  
 frecne dæde,      ne wæs him Fitela mid.  
 890      Hwæpre him gesælde      ðæt þæt swurd þurhwod  
 wrætlicne wurm,      þæt hit on wealle ætstod,  
 dryhtlic iren;      draca morðre swealt.  
 Hæfde aglæca      elne gegongen  
 þæt he beahhordes      brucan moste  
 895      selfes dome;      sæbat gehleod,      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,  
 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 tirfæst      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

lungre gelimpe.      Fela ic lapas 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      lapum beweredon  
         scuccum ond scinum.      Nu scealc hafað      f.150v  
 940      þurh drihtnes miht      dæd gefremede  
         ðe we ealle      ær ne meahton  
         snyttrum besyrwan.      Hwæt, þæt secgan mæg  
         efne swa hwylc mægþa      swa ðone magan cende  
         æfter gumcynnum,      gyf heo gyt lyfað,  
 945      þæt hyre ealdmetod      este wære  
         bearngebyrdo.      Nu ic, Beowulf, þec,  
         secg betesta,      me for sunu wylle  
         freogan on ferhþe;      heald forð tela  
         niwe sibbe.      Ne bið þe nænigra gad

950        worolde wilna,        þe ic geweald hæbbe.  
          Ful oft ic for læssan        lean teohhode,  
          hordweorþunge        hnahran rince,  
          sæmran æt sæcce.        Ðu þe self hafast  
          dædum gefremed        þæt þin *dom* lyfað  
 955        awa to aldre.        Alwalda þec  
          gode forgylde,        swa he nu gyt dyde.”  
          Beowulf mabelode,        bearn Ecþeowes:  
          “We þæt ellenweorc        estum miclum,  
          feohtan fremedon,        frecne geneðdon  
 960        eafoð uncupes.        Uþe ic swiþor  
          þæt ðu hine selfne        geseon moste,  
          feond on frætewum        fylwerigne.  
          Ic *hine* hrædlice        heardan clammum        f.151r  
          on wælbedde        wriþan þohte,  
 965        þæt he for *mundgripe*        minum scolde  
          licgean lifbysig,        butan his lic swice.  
          Ic hine ne mihte,        þa metod nolde,  
          ganges getwæman,        no ic him þæs georne ætfealh,  
          feorhgeniðlan;        wæs to foremihtig  
 970        feond on fepe.        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,  
 siþðan æpelingas      eorles cræfte  
 ofer heanne hrof      hand sceawedon,  
 feondes fingras.      Foran æghwylc wæs,  
 985 steda nægla gehwylc,      style gelicost,  
 hæpenes handsporu      hilderinces,      f.151v  
 egl unheoru.      Æghwylc gecwæð  
 þæt him heardra nan      hrinan wolde  
 iren ærgod,      þæt ðæs ahlæcan  
 990 blodge beadufolme      onberan wolde.

---

985 steda] ASPR. stiðra

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 inneweard      irenbendum fæst,

heorras tohlidene.      Hrof ana genæs

1000      ealles ansund,      þe se aglæca

fyrendædum fag,      on fleam gewand,

aldres orwena.      No þæt yðe byð

to befleonne,      —fremme se þe wille—

ac gesecan sceal      sawlberendra

1005      nyde genydde,      niþða bearna,

grundbuendra      gearwe stowe,

þær his lichoma      legerbedde fæst

swefep æfter symle.      Ða wæs sæl ond mæl

þæt to healle gang      Healfdenes sunu;

f.152r

1010      wolde self cyning      symbel þicgan.

Ne gefrægen ic þa mægþe      maran weorode

ymb hyra sincgyfan      sel gebæran.  
 Bugon þa to bence      blædagande,  
 fylle gefægon;      fægere geþægon  
 1015 medoful manig      magas þara  
 swiðhicgende      on sele þam hean,  
 Hroðgar ond Hroþulf.      Heorot innan wæs  
 freondum afylled;      nalles facenstafas  
 Peodscyldingas      þenden fremedon.  
 1020 Forgeaf þa Beowulfe      bearn Healfdenes,  
 segen gyldenne      sigores to leane,  
 hroden hildecumbor,      helm ond byrnan.  
 Mære maðþumsweord      manige gesawon  
 beforan beorn beran.      Beowulf geþah  
 1025 ful on flette;      no he þære feohgyfte  
 for sceotendum      scamigan ðorfte.  
 Ne gefrægn ic freondlicor      feower madmas  
 golde gegyrede      gummanna fela  
 in ealobence      oðrum gesellan.  
 1030 Ymb þæs helmes hrof      heafodbeorge  
 wirum bewunden      walu utan heold,  
 þæt him feola laf      frecne ne meahte

Hroðgar  
 rewards  
 Beowulf

f.152v

scurheard scepðan,      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  
          widcupes wig      ðonne walu feollon.  
          Ond ða Beowulfe      bega gehwæpres  
          eodor Ingwina      onweald geteah,  
 1045      wicga ond wæpna,      het hine wel brucan.  
          Swa manlice      mære þeoden,  
          hordweard hæleþa,      heaþoræsas geald  
          mearum ond madmum,      swa hy næfre man lyhð,  
          se þe secgan wile      soð æfter rihte.  
 1050      **ÐA** gyt æghwylcum      eorla drihten      **Fitt XVI**  
          þara þe mid Beowulfe      brimlade teah  
          on þære medubence      maþðum gesealde,