

BEOWULF

Anonymous

BL Cotton Vitellius A.xv

Prologue *In which Beowulf's genealogy is established, and Scyld is described. The building of Heorot and the coming of Grendel.* MS denotes manuscript; A and B denote Thorkelin's transcripts (following Klaeber).

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

feascraft funden, he þæs frofre gebad,

weox under wolcnum, weorðmyndum þah,

oðþæt him æghwylc þara ymbsittendra

1 GARDENA] MS *capitalis*.

6 eorlas] MS *eorl*.

1 geardagum] days of yore: BONJOUR, 1950; NILES, 1979; Foliation according to the old style (add 3 for new 1884 foliation)

10 ofer hronrade hyran scolde,
 gomban gyldan. þæt wæs god cyning!
 Ðæm eafera wæs æfter cenned
 geong in geardum, þone God sende
 folce to frofre; fyrenðearfe ongeat
15 þe hie ær drugon aldor/lease
 lange hwile. Him þæs Liffrea,
 wuldres wealdend, woroldare forgeaf;
 Beowulf wæs breme blæd wide sprang,
 Scyldes eafera Scedelandum in.
20 Swa sceal *geong* guma gode gewyrcean,
 fromum feohgiftum on fæder *bearme*,
 þæt hine on ylde eft gewunigen
 wilgesipas, þonne wig cume,
 leode gelæsten; lofdædum sceal
25 in mægþa gehwære man geþeon.
 Him ða Scyld gewat to gescæphwile
 felahror feran on frean wære.
 Hi hyne þa ætbæron to brimes faroðe,
 swæse gesipas, swa he selfa bæd,
30 þenden wordum weold wine Scyldinga;

leof landfruma lange ahte.
 Þær æt hyðe stod hringedstefna,
 isig ond utfus, æþelinges fær.
 Aledon þa leofne þeoden,
 35 beaga bryttan, on bearm scipes,
 mærne be mæste. þær wæs madma fela
 of feorwegum frætwa gelæded;
 ne hyrde ic cymlicor ceol gegyrwan
 hildewæpnum ond heaðowædum,
 40 billum ond byrnum; him on bearme læg
 madma mænigo, þa him mid scoldon
 on flodes æht feor gewitan.
 Nalæs hi hine læssan lacum teodan,
 þeodgestreonum, þon þa dydon
 45 þe hine æt frumsceafte 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 geweax,

magodriht micel. Him on mod bearn

þæt healreced hatan wolde,

medoærn micel men gewyrcean

f.130v

70 þonne ylðo bearn æfre gefrunon,

60 *ræswan* | MS *ræswa*.

62 . . . | MS no gap

ond þær on innan eall gedælan
 geongum ond ealdum, swylc him God sealde,
 buton folcscare ond feorum gumena.
 Ða ic wide gefrægn weorc gebannan
 75 manigre mægþe geond þisne middangeard,
 folcstede frætwan. Him on fyrste gelomp,
 ædre mid yldum, þæt hit wearð ealgearo,
 healærna mæst; scop him Heort naman
 se þe his wordes geweald wide hæfde.
 80 He beot ne aleh, beagas dælde,
 sinc æt symle. Sele hlifade,
 heah ond horngæap, heaðowylma bad,
 laðan liges; ne wæs hit lenge þa gen
 þæt se *ecghete* *apumsweorum*
 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

Grendel hears
singing.

84 *ecghete* | MS *secg hete*.

84 *apumsweorum* | MS *apum swerian*

frumsceaft fira feorran reccan,
 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 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,
 siþðan 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.

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

Grendel
 named.

106 Scyppend] MS scyppen

107 Caines] MS comes

	þanon untydras	ealle onwocon,	
	eotenas ond ylfe	ond orcneas,	
	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.	
	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,
 wergan 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 gepolode
 wine Scyldinga, weana gehwelcne,
 sidra sorga. Forðam gesyne wearð,
 150 ylða bearnum, undyrne cuð,

139 *sohte* | MS *nothing*

148 Scyldinga | MS scyldenda

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

gyddum geomore, þætte Grendel wan
hwile wið Hroþgar, heteniðas wæg,
fyrene ond fæhðe fela missera,
singale sæce; sibbe ne wolde
155 wið manna hwone mægenes Deniga,
feorhbealo feorran, fea þingian,
ne þær nænig witenas 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 Pæt wæs wræc micel wine Scyldinga,

158 *banan*] MS *banū*

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

f. 134r

Fitt III

175 *hærgtrafum*] MS hræg trafum

	wean onwendan;	wæs þæt gewin to swyð,	
	laþ ond longsum,	þe on ða leode becom,	
	nydwracu niþgrim,	nihtbealwa mæst.	
	Þæt fram ham gefrægn	Higelaces þegn,	
195	god mid Geatum,	Grendles dæda;	
	se wæs moncynnes	mægenes strengest	
	on þæm dæge	þysses lifes,	
	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.	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.	Ðanon up hraðe	
225	Wedera leode	on wang stigon,	
	sæwudu sældon	syrca hrysedon,	
	guðgewædo;	Gode þancedon	
	þæs þe him yþlade	eaðe wurdon.	
	Pa of wealle geseah	weard Scildinga,	f. 135r
230	se þe holmclifu	healdan scolde,	
	beran ofer bolcan	beorhte randas,	
	fyrðsearu fuslicu;	hine fyrwyt bræc	

modgehygdum, hwæt þa men wæron.
 Gewat him þa to waroðe wicge ridan
 235 þegn Hroðgares, þrymmum cwehte
 mægenwudu mundum, meþelwordum frægn:
 “Hwæt syndon ge searohæbbendra,
 byrnum werede, þe þus brontne ceol
 ofer lagustræte lædan cwomon,
 240 hider ofer holmas? 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,

f. 135v

240 Ic *hwile* wæs] MS le wæs

250 næfne] MS næfre

leassceaweras, on land Dena
 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,

æpele ordfruma, Ecgþeow haten;

gebad wintra worn, ær he on weg hwurfe,

265 gamol of geardum; hine gearwe geman
 witena welhwylc wide geond eorþan.

We þurh holdne hige hlaford þinne,

sunu Healfdenes, secean cwomon,

leodgebyrgean. Wes þu us larena god.

270 Habbaðwe to þæm mæran micel ærende,
 Deniga frean. Ne sceal þær dyrne sum

Deniga frean. Ne sceal þær dyrne sum

wesan, þæs ic wene: þu wast, gif hit is

255 minne] MS mine

swa we soþlice secgan hyrdon, f. 136r
 þæt mid Scyldingum sceaðona ic nat hwylc,
 275 deogol dædhata, deorcum nihtum
 eawedþurh 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 maþelode ðær on wicge sæt,
 ombeht unforht: “æghwæþres sceal
 scearp scyldwiga gescad witan,
 worda ond worca, se þe wel þenceð.
 290 Ic þæt gehyre, þæt þis is hold weorod
 frean Scyldinga. Gewitaþ forðberan
 wæpen ond gewædu; ic eow wisige.

280 edwenden] MS edwendan

Swylce ic maguþegnas mine hate
 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

oretmecgas æfter *æþelum* frægn:

“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 maþelode; þæt wæs Wendla leod;

wæs his modsefa manegum gecyðed,

350 wig ond wisdom: “Ic þæs wine Deniga,

frean Scildinga, frinan wille,

332 *æþelum* | MS *hælepum*

	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 maþelode,	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 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 *Wædera leodum* word inne abead:
 “Eow het secgan sigedrihten min,

Hroðgar to
Wulfgar

f. 138v

Wulfgar to
Hroðgar

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 mærdæ fela
 ongunnen on geogoþe. Me wearð Grendles þing
 410 on minre eþeltyrf undyrne cuð;
 secgað sæliðend þæt þæs sele stande,

Beowulf to
Hroðgar

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 —
 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 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,
hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædla laf,
455 Welandes geweorc. Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel.”

Hroðgar maþelode, helm Scyldinga:

Fitt VII

Hroþgar to
Beowulf

“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.

Þanon 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 yldra mæg unlifigende,
bearn Healfdenes; se wæs betera ðonne ic.

f. 140v

470 Siððan þa fæhðe feo þingode:
sende ic Wylfingum ofer wæteres hrycg

457 fyhtum] del. *gewyrhtum*

461 *Wedera*] MS gara

466 ginne] MS gimme

ealde madmas; he me aþas swor.
 Sorh is me to secganne on sefan minum
 gumena ængum hwæt me Grendel hafað
 475 hynðo on Heorote mid his 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, f. 141r
 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.”
 Ða wæs Geatmægum geador ætsomne
 on beorsele benc gerymed;

þær swiðferhþe sittan eodon,
 þryðum dealle. Þegn nytte beheold,
 495 se þe on handa bær hroden ealowæge,
 scencte scir wered. Scop hwilum sang
 hador on Heorote. Þær wæs hæleða dream,
 duguð unlytel Dena ond Wedera.
Unferð maþelode, Ecglafes bearn,
 500 þe æt fotum sæt frean Scyldinga,
 onband beadurune. Wæs him Beowulfes sið,
 modges merefaran, micel æþþunca,
 forþon þe he ne uþe þæt ænig oðer man
 æfre mærdða þon ma middangeardes
 505 gehedde under heofenum þonne he sylfa:
 “Eart þu se Beowulf, se þe wið Breca wunne
 on sidne sæ ymb sund flite,
 ðær git for wlence wada cunnedon
 ond for dolgilpe on deop wæter
 510 aldrum neþdon? Ne inc ænig mon,
 ne leof ne lað, belean mihte
 sorhfullne sið, þa git on sund reon.

Fitt VIII

f. 141v

Unferþ to
Beowulf

Pær git eagorstream earmum þehton,
 mæton merestræta, mundum brugdon,
 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.
 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,

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 meahte,
 hraþor on holme; no ic fram him wolde.
 Ða wit ætsomne on sæ wæron
 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; heaporaes 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,
 symbol ymbseton sægrunde neah;

565 ac on mergenne mecum wunde
 be yðlafe uppe lægon,
 sweordum aswefede, þæt syðþan na
 ymb brontne ford brimliðende
 lade ne letton. Leoht eastan com,

570 beorht beacen Godes; brimu swaþredon,
 þæt ic sænæssas geseon mihte,
 windige weallas. Wyrð oft nereð
 unfægne eorl, þonne his ellen deah.
 Hwæpere 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
 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
 eafoð ond ellen ungeara nu,
 guþe gebeodan. Gæþ eft se þe mot
 to medo modig, siþþan morgenleoht
 605 ofer ylða bearn opres dogores,
 sunne sweglwered supan scineð.”
 Ða wæs on salum since brytta,
 gamolfeax ond guðrof; geoce gelyfde
 brego Beorhtdena, gehyrde on Beowulfe
 610 folces hyrde fæstrædne geþoht.
 Ðær wæs hælepa hleahtor, hlyn swynsode,
 word wæron wynsume. Eode Wealhþeow forð,
 cwen Hroðgares, cynna gemyndig,
 grette goldhroden guman on healle,
 615 ond þa freolic wif ful gesealde
 ærest Eastdena eþelwearde,

bæd hine bliðne æt þære beorþege,
 leodum leofne. He on lust geþeah
 symbel ond seleaf, 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,
 wælreow wiga æt Wealhþeon,
 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
 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.

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, 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:
“No ic me an herewæsmun hnagran talige
guþgeweorca, þonne Grendel hine;

forþan ic hine sweorde swebban nelle,
 680 aldre beneotan, þeah ic eal mæge.
 Nat he þara goda þæt he me ongean slea,
 rand geheawe, þeah ðe he rof sie
 niþgeweorca; ac wit on niht sculon
 secge ofersittan, gif he gesecean dear
 685 wig ofer wæpen, ond siþðan witig God
 on swa hwæþere hond, halig dryhten
 mærðo deme, swa him gemet þince.”
 Hylde hine þa 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,

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 wrapum 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.
 Wod under wolcnum to þæs þe he winreced,
 715 goldsele gumena, gearwost wisse,
 fættum fahne. Ne wæs þæt forma sið
 þæt he Hroþgares ham gesohte;
 næfre he on aldordagum ær ne siþðan
 heardran hæle, healðegnas fand.
 720 Com þa to recede rinc siðian,

dreamum bedæled. Duru sona onarn,
 fyrbendum fæst, syþðan he hire folmum æthran;
 onbræd þa bealohydig, ða he gebolgen wæs,
 recedes mupan. 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. Pryðswyð beheold
 mæg Higelaces, hu se manscaða
 under færgripum gefaran wolde.
 Ne þæt se aglæca yldan þohte,
 740 ac he gefeng hraðe forman siðe
 slæpendne rinc, slat unwearnum,

bat banlocan, blod edrum dranc,
 synsnædum swealh; sona hæfde
 unlyfigendes eal gefeormod,
 745 fet ond folma. Forð near ætstop,
 nam þa mid handa higeþihtigne
 rinc on ræste. 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.
 eoten wæs utweard, eorl furþur stop.

747 He him] not in ASPR

Mynte se mæra, hwær he meahte swa,
 widre gewindan ond on weg þanon
 fleon on fenhopu; wiste his fingra geweald
 765 on grames grapum. Þæt wæs geocor sið
 þæt se hearmscaþa to Heorute ateah.
 Dryhtsele dynede; Denum eallum wearð,
 ceasterbuendum, cenra gehwylcum,
 eorlum ealuscerwen. Yrre wæron begen,
 770 reþe renweardas. Reced hlynsode.
 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 searopuncum besmiþod. Pær 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, tobreca meahte,
 listum tolucan, nymþe liges fæþm

762 hwær | ASPR. þær

swulge on swaþule. Sweg up astag
 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 freatrihtnes 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

Fitt XII

786 andsacan] ASPR. ondsacan

ænig ofer eorþan irenna cyst,
 guðbilla nan, gretan nolde,
 ac he sigewæpnum forsworen hæfde,
 805 ecga gehwylcre. Scolde his aldorgedal
 on ðæm dæge þysses lifes
 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,
 ellenmærþum. Hæfde Eastdenum
 Geatmecga leod gilp gelæsted,
 830 swylce oncyþðe ealle gebette,
 inwidsorge, þe hie ær drugon
 ond for þreanydum þolian scoldon,
 torn unlytel. Pæt 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
 ymb þa gifhealle guðrinc monig;
 ferdon folctogan feorran ond nean
 840 geond widwegas wundor sceawian,
 lapas lastas. No his lifgedal
 sarlic þuhte secga ænegum
 para þe tirleases trode sceawode,

Fitt XIII

hu he werigmod on weg þanon,
 845 niða ofercumen, on nicera mere
 fæge ond geflymed feorhlastas bær.
 Ðær wæs on blode brim weallende,
 atol yða geswing eal gemenged
 haton heolfre, heorodreore weol.
 850 Deaðfæge deog, siððan dreama leas
 in fenfreoðo feorh alegde,
 hæpene 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

 ðær him foldwegas fægere þuhton,
 cystum cuðe. Hwilum cyninges þegn,
 guma gilphlæden, gidða gemyndig,
 se ðe eal fela ealdgesegena
870 worn gemunde, word oþer fand
 soðe gebunden; secg eft ongan
 sið Beowulfes snyttrum styrian
 ond on sped wrecan spel gerade,
 wordum wrixlan. Welhwylc gecwæð
875 þæt he fram Sigemundes secgan hyrde
 ellendædum, uncupes fela,
 Wælsinges gewin, wide siðas,
 þara þe gumena bearn gearwe ne wiston,
 fæhðe ond fyrena, buton Fitela mid hine,
880 þonne he swulces hwæt secgan wolde,
 eam his nefan, swa hie a wæron
 æt niða gehwam nydgesteallan;
 hæfdon 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
wrætlicne wurm, þæt hit on wealle ætstod,
dryhtlic iren; draca morðre swealt.
Hæfde aglæca elne gegongen
þæt he beahhordes brucan moste
895 selfes dome; sæbat gehleod,
bær on bearm scipes beorhte frætwa,
Wælses eafera. Wurm hat gemealt.
Se wæs wreccena wide mærost
ofer werþeode, wigendra hleo,
900 ellendædum (he þæs ær onðah),
siððan Heremodes hild sweðrode,
eafod ond ellen. He mid Eotenum wearð
on feonda geweald forð forlacen,
snude forsended. Hine sorhwylmas
905 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
 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,
 stod on stapole, geseah steapne hrof,
 golde fahne, ond Grendles hond):

Fitt XIV

“Ðisse ansyne alwealdan þanc
 lungre gelimpe. Fela ic laþes gebad,
 930 grynna æt Grendle; a mæg God wyrcan
 wunder æfter wundre, wuldres hyrde.
 Dæt 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
 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 maþelode, 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
 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,
 earn ond eaxle. No þær ænige swa þeah
 feasceaft guma frofre gebohte;
 no þy leng leofað laðgeteona,
 975 synnum geswenced, ac hyne sar hafað
 mid *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 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
 iren ærgod, þæt ðæs ahlæcan

985 steda | ASPR. stiðra

990 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 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;
 1010 wolde self cyning symbel picgan.