

## Old English Poems, Prose & Lessons

Read by Stephen Pollington

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- a complete Old English language course  
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### The Capture of the Five Boroughs

Her Eadmund cyning, Engla þeoden,  
mæggea mundbora, Myrce geeode,  
dyre dædfruma, swa Dor scadeþ,  
Hwitanwyllesgeat and Humbra ea,  
brada brimstream. Burga fife,  
Ligoraceaster and Lincylene  
and Snotingaham, swylce Stanford eac  
and Deoraby. Dæne wæran æror  
under Norðmannum nyde gebegde  
on hæþenra hæfteclommum  
lange þrage, oþ hie alysde eft  
for his weorþscipe wiggendra hleo,  
afera Eadweardes, Eadmund cyning.

### From The Parker Chronicle

#### Alfred on Athelney

Anno 878

Her hiene bestæl se here on midne winter ofer tuelftan niht to Cippanhamme, 7 geridon Wesseaxna lond 7 gesæton 7 micel þæs folces (7) ofer sæ adræfdon, 7 þæs oþres þone mæstan dæl hie geridon, 7 him to gecirdon buton þam cyninge Ælfrede. 7 he lytle werede unieþelice æfter wudum for, 7 on morfæstenum; 7 þæs ilcan wintra wæs Inwæres broþur 7 Healfdenes on Westseaxum on Defenascire mid .xxiii. scipum, 7 hiene mon þær ofslog, 7 .dccc. monna mid him. 7 .xl. monna his heres; 7 þæs on Eastron worhte ælfred cyning lytle werede geweorc æt Æþelingæigge, 7 of þam geweorce was winnende wiþ þone here, 7 Sumursætna se dæl, se þær niehst wæs; þa on þære seofodan wiecan ofer Eastron he Gerard to Ecgbryhtes stane be eastan Sealwyda, 7 him to common þær ongen Sumorsæte alle, 7 Wilsætana, 7 Hamtunscir se dæl, se hiere behinon sæ was, 7 his gefægene wærun; 7 he for ymb ane niht of þam wicum to Iglea, 7 þæs ymb ane to Eþandune, 7 þær gefeahrt wiþ alne þone here, 7 hiene gefliemde, 7 him æfter rad oþ þæt geweorc, 7 þær sæt .xiiii. niht; 7 þa salde se here him foregislas 7 micle aþas þæt hie of his rice uuoldon 7 him eac geheton þæt kyning fulwihte onfon wolde 7 hie þæt gelæston swa, 7 þæs ymb .iii. wiecan com se cyning to him Godrum þritiga sum þara monna þe in þam here weorþuste wæron æt Alre, 7 þæt is wiþ Æþelinggæige; 7 his se cyning þær onfeng æt fulwihte, 7 his crismlising was æt Weþmor, 7 he was .xii. niht mid þam cyninge, 7 he hine miclum 7 his geferan mid feo weorðude.

## From The Parker Chronicle

### Cynewulf and Cyneheard

Anno 755 [actually 757]

Her Cynewulf benam Sigebryht his rices 7 West Seaxna wiotan for unryhtum dædum buton Hamtunscire 7 he hæfde þa oþ he ofslog þone aldormon þe him lengest wunode 7 hiene þa Cynewulf on Andred adræfde 7 he þær wunode oþ þæt hiene an swan ofstang æt Pryfetesflodan 7 he wræc þone aldormon Cumbran 7 se Cynewulf oft miclum gefeohtum feaht uuip Bretwalum 7 ymb .xxx. wintra þæs þe he rice hæfde he wolde adræfan anne æpeling se was Cyneheard haten 7 se Cyneheard wæs þæs Sigebryhtes broþur 7 þa geascode he þone cyning lytle werode on wifcyppe on Merantune 7 hine þær berad 7 þone bur utan beeode ær hine þa men onfunden þe mid þam kyninge wærun 7 þa ongeat se cyning þæt 7 he on þa duru eode 7 þa unheanlice hine werode oþ he on þone æpeling locude 7 þa utrædde on hine 7 hine miclum gewundode. 7 hie alle on þone Cyning wærun feohtende oþ þæt hie hine ofslægenne hæfdon 7 þa on þæs wifes gebærum onfundon þæs cyninges þegnas þa unstillnesse 7 þa þider urnon swa hwelc swa þonne gearo wearþ 7 radost 7 hiera se æpeling gehwelcum feoh 7 feorh gebead 7 hiera nænig hit geþicgean nolde'. Ac hie simle feohtende wæran oþ hie alle lægon butan anum Bryttiscum gisle 7 se swiþe gewundad wæs. Þa on morgenne gehierdun þæt þæs cyninges þegnas þe him beæftan wærun þæt se cyning ofslægen wæs þa ridon hie þider 7 his aldormon Osric 7 Wiferþ his þegn 7 þa men þe he beæftan him læfde ær 7 þone æpeling on þære byrig metton þær se cyning ofslægen læg 7 þa gatu him to belocen hæfdon 7 þa þærto eodon 7 þa gebead he him hiera agenne dom feos 7 londes gif hie him þæs rices uþon 7 him cypdon þæt hiera mægum him mid wæron þa þe him from noldon 7 þa cuædon hie þæt him nænig mæg leofra nære þonne hiera hlaford 7 hie næfre his banan folgian noldon 7 þa budon hie hiera mægum þæt hie gesunde from eodon 7 hie cuædon þæt tæt ilce hiera geferum geboden wære þe ær mid þam cyninge wærun þa cuædon hie þæt hie hie þæs ne onmunden þon ma þe eowre geferan þe mid þam cyninge ofslægene wærun. 7 hie þa ymb þa gatu feohtende wæron oþ þæt hie þærinne fulgon 7 þone æpeling ofslogon 7 þa men þe him mid wærun alle butan anum se wæs þæs aldormonnes godsunu 7 he his feorh generede 7 þeah he wæs oft gewundad. 7 se Cynewulf ricsode .xxx. wintra 7 his lic liþ æt Wintanceastre 7 þæs æþlinges æt Ascanmynster 7 hiera ryhtfæder cyn gæþ to Cerdice 7 þy ilcan geare mon ofslog Æþelbald Miercna cyning on Seccandune 7 his lic liþ on Hreopadune 7 Beornræd feng to rice 7 lytle hwile heold 7 ungefeallice 7 þy ilcan geare Offa feng to rice 7 heold .xxxviii. wintra 7 his sunu Egferþ heold .xli. daga 7 .c. daga. Se Offa wæs Þincgferþing Þincgferþ Eanwulfing, Eanwulf Osmoding, Osmod Eawing, Eawa Pybing, Pybba Creoding, Creoda Cynewalding, Cynewald Cnebing, Cnebba Iceling, Icel Eomæring, Eomær Angelþowing, Angelþeow Offing, Offa Wærmunding, Wærmund Wyhtlæging, Wihtlæg Wodening.

### Deniga Hergung - The Danes' Harrying

Her on ðissum geare ferde se here abutan Defnanscire into Sæfernumuðan ond þær gehergodon ægðer ge on Cornwealum ge on Norðwealum ond on Defenum, ond eodon him þa up æt Weceport and þær micel yfel worhton on bærnette and on manslihtum. Ond æfter þam wendon eft abutan Penwiltsteort on ða suðhealfe ond wendon þa into Tamermuðan ond eodon þa up oðþæt hie comon to Hlidaforða ond ælc ðing bærnodon ond slogon þæt hie gemetton ond Ordulfes mynster æt Tæfingsctoce forbærndon ond unasegendlice herehuðe mid him to scipum brohton.

## Engla Tocyme - The Arrival of the English

Ða wæs ymb feower hund wintra and nigon and feowertig fram ures drihtnes menniscnyse þæt Martianus casere rice onfeng and vii gear hæfde. Se wæs siexta eac feowertigum fram Augusto þam casere. Ða Angleþeod and Seaxna wæs gelaðod fram þam foresprecan cyninge, and on Brytene com on þrim miclum scipum, and on eastdæle þisses ealondes eardungstowe onfeng þurh ðæs ilcan cyninges bebod, þe hie hider gelaðode, þæt hie sceoldon for heora eðle compian and feohtan. And hie sona compodon wið heora gewinnan, þe hie oft ær norðan onhergodon; and Seaxan þa sige geslogon, þa sendon hie ham ærendracan and heton secgan þisses landes wæstmærnysse and Brytta yrgþo. And hie þa sona hider sendon maran sciphre strengrena wigena; and wæs unoferswiðendlic werod, þa hie togædre geþeodde wæron. And him Bryttas sealdon and geafon eardungstowe betwuh him, þæt hie for sibbe and for hælo heora eðles campoden and wunnen wið heora feondum, and hie him andleofne and are forgeafen for heora gewinne.

Comon hie of þrim folcum ðam strangestum Germanie, þæt is of Seaxum and of Angle and of Geatum. Of Geata fruman sindon Cantware and Wihtsætan; þæt is seo ðeod þe Wiht þæt ealond oneardað. Of Seaxum, þæt is of ðam lande þe mon hateð Ealdseaxan, comon Eastseaxan and Suðseaxan and Westseaxan. Of Engle comon Eastengle and Middelengle and Mierce and eall Norðhymbra cynn; is þæt land ðe Angulus is genemned, betwuh Geatum and Seaxum; and is sægd of ðære tide þe hie ðanon gewiton oð todæg þæt hit weste wunige. Wæron ærest heora latteowas and heretogan twegen gebroðru, Hengest and Horsa. Hie wæron Wihtgilses suna, þæs fæder wæs Woden nemned, of ðæs strynde monigra mægða cyningcynn fruman lædde. Ne wæs ða ielding to þon þæt hie heapmælum comon maran weorod of þam þeodum þe we ær gemynegodon. And þæt folc ðe hider com ongan weaxan and miclian to þon swiðe þæt hie wæron on miclum ege þam selfum landbigengum ðe hie ær hider laðedon and cigdon.

Æfter þissum hie ða geweredon to sumre tide wið Pehtum, þa hie ær ðurh gefeoht feor adrifon. And þa wæron Seaxan secende intingan and towyrde heora gedales wið Bryttas, cyðdon him openlice and sægdon, nemne hie him maran andleofne sealden, þæt hie woldon him sylfe niman and hergian, þær hie hit findan mihton. And sona ða beotunge dædum læston; bærndon and hergodon and slogon fram eastsæ oð westsæ, and him nænig wiðstod. Ne wæs ungelic wræcc þam ðe iu Chaldeas bærndon Hierusaleme weallas and ða cynelican getimbru mid fyre fornomon for ðæs godes folces synnum. Swa þonne her fram þære arleasan ðeode, hwæðere rihte godes dome, neah ceastra gehwylce and land forhergode wæron. Hruon and feollon cynelicu getimbru somod and anlipie, and gehwær sacerdas and mæssepreostas betwuh wibedum wæron slægene and cwielmde; biscopas mid folcum buton ænigre are sceawunge ætgædre mid iserne and lige fornumene wæron. And ne wæs seo bebyrignys sealde þam ðe swa hreowlice acwealde wæron. And monige ðære earmen lafe on westenum fangene wæron and heapmælum sticode. Sume for hungre heora feondum on hand eodon and ecne þeowdom geheton wið ðæm þe him mon andleofne forgeafe; sume ofer sæ sorgiende gewiton; sume forhtiende on eðle gebidon and þearfende lif in wuda and in westenum and on heam clifum sorgiende mode symle dydon.

## The Battle of Brunanburh

Her Æþelstan cyning, eorla dryhten,  
beorna beahgifa and his broþor eac,  
eadmund æþeling, ealdorlangne tir  
geslogon æt sæcce sweorda ecgum  
ymbe Brunanburh. Bordweal clufan,  
heowan heaþolinde hamora lafan,  
afaran eadweardes swa him geæþele wæs  
from cneomægum þæt hi æt campe oft  
wiþ laþra gehwæne land ealgodon,  
hord and hamas. Hettend crungun,  
Sceottta leoda and scipflotan  
fæge feollan, feld dænnede  
secga swate siðþan sunne up  
on morgentid, mære tungol,  
glad ofer grundas, godes condel beorht,  
eces drihtnes, oð sio æþele gesceaft  
sah to setle. Þær læg secg mænig  
garum ageted, guma norþerna  
ofer scild scoten swilce Scittisc eac  
werig, wiges sæd. Wesseaxe forð  
ondlongne dæg eoredcistum  
on last legdun laþum þeodum,  
heowan herefleman hindan þearle  
mecum mylenscearpan. Myrce ne wyrndon  
heardes hondplegan hæleþa nanum  
þæra þe mid Anlafe ofer æra gebland  
on lides bosme land gesohtun,  
fæge to gefeohte. Fife lægun  
on þam campstede cyningas giunge,  
sweordum aswefede, swilce seofene eac  
eorlas Anlafes unrim heriges,  
flotan and Scotta. Þær geflemed wearð  
Norðmanna bregu, nede gebeded,  
to lides stefne litle werode;  
cread cnear on flot, cyning ut gewat  
on fealene flod, feorh generede.  
Swilce þær eac se froda mid fleame com  
on his cyþþe norð Costontinu  
har hilderinc, hreman ne þorfte  
mæca gemanan, he wæs his mæga sceard  
freonda gefylled on folcstede,  
beslagen æt sæcce and his sunu forlet  
on wælstowe wunden forgrunden,  
giiungne æt guðe. Gelpan ne þorfte  
beorn blandenfeax bilgeslihtes,  
eald inwidda, ne Anlaf þy ma;  
mid heora herelafum hlehhan ne þorftun  
þæt heo beaduweorca beteran wurdun  
on campstede cumbolgehnastes,  
garmittinge, gumena gemotes,  
wæpengewrixles, þæs hi on wælfelda

wiþ eadweardes afaran plegodan.  
Gewitan him þa Norþmen nægledcnearrum,  
dreorig daraða laf on Dinges mere  
ofer deop wæter Difelin secan,  
eft Iraland æwiscmode.  
Swilce þa gebroþer begen ætsamne,  
cynig and æþeling cyþþe sohton,  
Wesseaxna land wiges hremige.  
Letan him behindan hræw bryttian  
saluwigpadan þone sweartan hræfn  
hyrnednebban and þane hasewanpadan  
earn æftan hwit, æses brucan  
grædigne guðhafoc and þæt græge deor  
wulf on wealde. Ne wearð wæl mare  
on þis eiglande æfre gieta  
folces gefylled beforan þissum  
sweordes ecgum þæs þe us secgaþ bec,  
ealde uðwitan, siþþan eastan hider  
Engle and Seaxe up becoman  
ofer brad brimu Brytene sohtan,  
wlance wigsmiþas, Wealas ofercoman,  
earlas arhwate eard begeatan.

### **Ines Domas – Extracts from the Laws of King Ine**

Be Ines domum. xliiij. Ic, Ine, mid Godes giefe Westseaxena cynig, mid geðeahhte ond mid lare Cenredes mines fæder ond Heddes mines biscopes ond Eorcenwaldes mines biscopes, mid eallum minum ealdormonnum ond þæm ieldstum witum minre ðeode ond eac micelre gesomnunge Godes ðeowa, wæs smeagende be ðære hælo urra sawla ond be ðæm staþole ures rices, ðætte riht æw ond rihte cynedomas ðurh ure folc gefæstnode ond getrymede wæren, þætte nænig ealdormanna ne us undergeðeodedra æfter þam wære awendende ðaus ure domas.

Be gefeohtum. 1. Gif hwa gefeohte on cyninges huse sie he scyldig ealles his ierfes ond sie on cyninges dome hwæðer he lif age oþþe nage. Gif hwa on mynstre gefeohte, cxx scillinga gebete. Gif hwa on ealdormonnes huse gefeohte oððe on oðres geðungenes witan, lx scillinga gebete he ond oþer lx geselle to wite. Gif ðonne on gafolgeldan huse oððe on gebures gefeohte cxx scillinga to wite geselle and ðam gebure vi scillinga. Ond þeah hit sie on middum felda gefohten, cxx scillinga to wite sie agiefen. Gif ðonne on gebeorscipe hie geciden ond oðer hiora mid geðylde hit forbere, geselle se oðer xxx scillinga to wite.

### **The Ordeal - B. Be ðon ðe ordales weddigap**

GIF hwa ordales weddige, ðonne cume he, þrim nihtum ær, to þam mæssepreoste þe hit halgian scyle, and fede hine sylfne, mid hlafe and mid wætre and sealte and wyrstum ær he to gan scyle, and gestonde him mæssan þæra þreora daga ælcne, and offrige to and ga to husle ðy dæge þe he to ðam ordale gan scyle, and swerige ðonne þone að þæt he sy mid folcrynhte unscyldig ðære tihltan, ær he to ðam ordale ga.

And gif hit sy wæter, ðæt he gedufe oþre healfe elne on þam rape. Gif hit sy isenordal, beon ðreo niht ær mon þa hond undo.

### **Læcedomas - Leechdoms**

Wið ða blegene genim nigon ægra ond seoð hie fæste, ond nim þa geolcan ond do þæt hwite aweg, ond mera ða geolcan on anre pannan, ond wring þæt wos ut þurh ænne clað, ond nim eall swa fela dropena wines swa ðara ægra beo, and eall swa fela dropena unhalgodes eles, ond eall swa fela huniges dropena, ond of finoles moran eall swa fela dropena, genim ðonne ond do hit eall tosomne ond wring ut ðurh ænne clað ond sele ðam menn etan. Him bið sona sel.

Gif mon ðung ete, aþecge buteran ond drince – se ðung gewit on ða buteran. Eft wið ðone, stande on heafde, aslege him mon fela scarpna on þam scancan, þonne gewit ut þæt atter þurh þa scarpan.

### **Wið Dweorh - Against a Dwarf**

Wið dweorh man sceal niman VII lytle oflætan, swylce man mid ofrað, and writan þas naman on ælcra oflætan: Maximianus, Malchus, Iohannes, Martimianus, Dionisius, Constantinus, Serafion. þænne eft þæt galdor, þæt her æfter cweð, man sceal singan, ærest on þæt wynstre eare, þænne on þæt swiðre eare, þænne bufan þæs mannes moldan.

And ga þænne an mædenman to and ho hit on his sweoran, and do man swa þry dagas; him bið sona sel.

Her com in gangan, in spiderwiht, hæfde him his haman on handa, cwæð þæt þu his hæncgest wære, legde þe his teage an sweoran.

Ongunnan him of þæm lande liþan; sona swa hy of þæm lande coman, þa ongunnan him ða liþu colian.

þa com in gangan dweores sweostar; þa geændade heo and aðas swor ðæt næfre þis ðæm adlegan derian ne moste, ne þæm þe þis galdor begytan mihte, oððe þe þis galdor ongalan cuþe.

Amen.

Fiað.

### **Wið Wennum - Against a Wen**

Wenne, wenne, wenchichenne, her ne scealt þu timbrien, ne nenne tun habben, ac þu scealt north eonene to þan nihgan berhge, þer þu hauest, ermig, enne broþer.

He þe sceal legge leaf et heafde.

Under fot wolues, under ueþer earnes, under earnes clea, a þu geweornie.

Clinge þu als wa col on heorþe, scring þu als wa scerne awage, and weorne als wa weter on anbre.

Swa litel þu gewurþe als wa linsetcorn, and miccli lesse als wa anes handwurmes hupeban, and als wa litel þu gewurþe þet þu nawiht gewurþe.

### **Wið Wæterælfadle - Against Water-Elf Disease**

Gif mon biþ on wæterælfadle, þonne beoþ him þa handnæglas wonne and þa eagan tearige and wile locian niþer.

Do him þis to læcedome: eforþrote, cassuc, fone niþpoweard, eowberge, elehtre, eolone, mersmealwan crop, fenminte, dile, lillie, attorlape, polleie, marubie, docce, ellen, felterre, wermod, streawbergean leaf, consolde.

ofgeot mid ealþ, do hæligwæter to, sing þis gealdor ofer þriwa: Ic benne awrat betest beadowræda, swa benne ne burnon, ne burston, ne fundian, ne feologan, ne hoppettan, ne wund waxsian, ne dolh diopian; ac him self healde halewæge, ne ace þe þon ma, þe eorþan on earce ace.

Sing þis manegum siþum: Eorþe þe onbere eallum hire mihtum and mægenum.

þas galdor mon mæg singan on wunde.

## The Nine Herbs Charm

Gemyne ðu, mucgwyr, hwæt þu ameldodest, hwæt þu renadest æt Regenmelde.

Una þu hattest, yldost wyrta.

ðu miht wið III and wið XXX, þu miht wiþ attre and wið onflyge, þu miht wiþ þam laþan ðe geond lond færð.

Ond þu, wegbræde, wyrta modor, eastan openo, innan mihtigu; ofer ðe crætu curran, ofer ðe cwene reodan, ofer ðe bryde bryodedon, ofer þe fearras fnærdon.

Eallum þu þon wiðstode and wiðstunedest; swa ðu wiðstonde attre and onflyge and þæm laðan þe geond lond fereð.

Stune hætte þeos wyr, heo on stane geweo; stond heo wið attre, stunað heo wærce.

Stiðe heo hatte, wiðstunað heo attre, wreceð heo wraðan, weorpeð ut attor.

þis is seo wyr seo wiþ wrym gefeaht, þeos mæg wið attre, heo mæg wið onflyge, heo mæg wið ðam laþan ðe geond lond fereþ.

Fleoh þu nu, attorlaðe, seo læsse ða maran, seo mare þa læssan, oððæt him beigra bot sy.

Gemyne þu, mægðe, hwæt þu ameldodest, hwæt ðu geændadest æt Alorforda; þæt næfre for gefloge feorh ne gesealde syþðan him mon mægðan to mete gegyrede.

þis is seo wyr ðe wergulu hatte; ðas onsænde seolh ofer sæs hrygc ondan attres oþres to bote.

Ðas VIII magon wið nygon attrum.

Wrym com snican, toslat he man; ða genam Woden VIII wuldortanas, sloh ða þa næddran, þæt heo on VIII tofleah.

þær geændade æppel and attor, þæt heo næfre ne wolde on hus bugan.

Fille and finule, felamihtigu twa, þa wyrte gesceop witig drihten, halig on heofonum, þa he hongode; sette and sænde on VII worulde earmum and eadigum eallum to bote.

Stond heo wið wærce, stunað heo wið attre, seo mæg wið III and wið XXX, wið feondes hond and wið færbregde, wið malscrunge manra wihta.

Nu magon þas VIII wyrta wið nygon wuldorgeflogenum, wið VIII attrum and wið nygon onflygnum, wið ðy readan attre, wið ðy runlan attre, wið ðy hwitan attre, wið ðy wedenan attre, wið ðy geolwan attre, wið ðy grenan attre, wið ðy wonnan attre, wið ðy wedenan attre, wið ðy brunan attre, wið ðy basewan attre, wið Wrymgeblæd, wið wætergeblæd, wið þorngeblæd, wið þystelgeblæd, wið ysgeblæd, wið attorgeblæd, gif ænig attor cume eastan fleogan oððe ænig norðan cume oððe ænig westan ofer werðeode.

Crist stod ofer adle ængan cundes.

Ic ana wat ea rinnende þær þa nygon nædran nean behealdað; motan ealle weoda nu wrytum aspringan, sæs toslupan, eal sealt wæter, ðonne ic þis attor of ðe geblawe.

Mucgwyr, wegbrade þe eastan open sy, lombescyrse, attorlaðan, mageðan, netelan, wudusuræppel, fille and finul, ealde sapan.

Gewyrc ða wyrta to duste, mængc wiþ þa sapan and wiþ þæs æpples gor.

Wyrc slypan of wætere and of axsan, genim finol, wyl on þære slyppan and beþe mid æggemongc, þonne he þa sealf on do, ge ær ge æfter.

Sing þæt galdor on ælcra þara wyrta, III ær he hy wyrce and on þone æppel ealswa; ond singe þon men in þone muð and in þa earan buta and on ða wunde þæt ilce galdor, ær he þa sealf on do.

## Metrical Charm 11: A Journey Charm

Ic me on þisse gyrde beluce and on godes helde bebeode  
wið þane sara stice, wið þane sara slege,  
wið þane grymma gryre,  
wið ðane micela egða þe bið eghwam lað,  
and wið eal þæt lað þe in to land fare.  
Sygegealdor ic begale, sigegyrd ic me wege,  
wordsig and worcsige. Se me dege;  
ne me mere ne gemyrre, ne me maga ne geswence,  
ne me næfre minum feore forht ne gewurpe,  
ac gehæle me ælmihtig and sunu and frofre gast,  
ealles wuldres wyrðig dryhten,  
swa swa ic gehyrde heofna scyppende.  
Abrame and Isace  
and swilce men, Moyses and Iacob,  
and Daut and Iosep  
and Evan and Annan and Elizabet,  
Saharie and ec Marie, modur Cristes,  
and eac þæ gebroþru, Petrus and Paulus,  
and eac þusend þinra engla  
clipige ic me to are wið eallum feondum.  
Hi me ferion and friþion and mine fore nerion,  
eal me gehealdon, me gewealdon,  
worces stirende; si me wuldres hyht,  
hand ofer heafod, haligra rof,  
sigerofra sceolu, soðfæstra engla.  
Biddu ealle bliðu mode  
þæt me beo Matheus helm, Marcus byrne,  
leoht, lifes rof, Lucos min swurd,  
scearp and scirecg, scyld Iohannes,  
wuldre gewlitegod wælgar Seraffin.  
Forð ic gefare, frind ic gemete,  
eall engla blæd, eadiges lare.  
Bidde ic nu sigeres god godes miltse,  
siðfæt godne, smylte and lihte  
windas on waroþum. Windas gefran,  
circinde wæter simble gehælede  
wið eallum feondum. Freond ic gemete wið,  
þæt ic on þæs ælmihtgian frið wunian mote,  
belocun wið þam laþan, se me lyfes eht,  
on engla blæd gestapelod,  
and inna halre hand heofna rices,  
þa hwile þe ic on þis life wunian mote.  
Amen.



### Metrical Charm 8: For a Swarm of Bees

Wið ymbe nim eorþan, oferweorp mid þinre swiþran  
handa under þinum swiþran fet, and cwet:  
Fo ic under fot, funde ic hit.  
Hwæt, eorðe mæg wið ealra wihta gehwilce  
and wið andan and wið æminde  
and wið þa micelan mannes tungan.  
And wiððon forweorp ofer greot, þonne hi swirman, and cweð:  
Sitte ge, sigewif, sigað to eorþan!  
Næfre ge wilde to wuda fleogan.  
Beo ge swa gemindige mines godes,  
swa bið manna gehwilc metes and eþeles.

### Wulf and Eadwacer

Leodum is minum swylce him mon lac gife;  
willað hy hine aþecgan, gif he on þreat cymeð.  
Ungelic is us.  
Wulf is on iege, ic on oþerre.  
Fæst is þæt eglond, fenne biworpen.  
Sindon wælreowe weras þær on ige;  
willað hy hine aþecgan, gif he on þreat cymeð.  
Ungelice is us.  
Wulfes ic mines widlastum wenum dogode;  
þonne hit wæs renig weder ond ic reotugu sæt,  
þonne mec se beaducafa bogum bilegde,  
wæs me wyn to þon, wæs me hwæþre eac lað.  
Wulf, min Wulf, wena me þine  
seoce gedydon, þine seldcymas,  
murnende mod, nales meteliste.  
Gehyrest þu, Eadwacer? Uncerne earne hwelp  
bireð wulf to wuda.  
þæt mon eape tosliteð þætte næfre gesomnad wæs,  
uncer giedd geador.

### Beowulf –The Funeral of Scyld Scefing

Him ða Scyld gewat to gescæphwile felahror feran on frean wære.  
Hi hyne þa ætbæron to brimes faroðe, swæse gesiþas, swa he selfa bæd, þenden wordum weold  
wine Scyldinga, leof landfruma lange ahte.  
Þær æt hyðe stod hringedstefna, isig ond utfus, æþelinges fær.  
Aledon þa leofne þeoden, beaga bryttan, on bearm scipes, mærne be mæste.  
Þær wæs madma fela of feorwegum, frætwa, gelæded; ne hyrde iccymlicor ceol gegyrwan  
hildewæpnum ond heaðowædum, billum ond byrnum; him on bearme læg madma mænigo, þa  
him mid scoldon on flodes æht feor gewitan.  
Nalæs hi hine læssan lacum teodan, þeodgestreonom, þon þa dydon þe hine æt frumsceaft  
forð onsendon ænne ofer yðe umborwesende.  
þa gyt hie him asetton segen geldenne heah ofer heafod, leton holm beran, geafon on garsecg;  
him wæs geomor sefa, murnende mod.  
Men ne cunnon secgan to soðe, selerædende, hæleð under heofenum, hwa þæm hlæste onfeng.

## The Wanderer

Oft him anhaga      are gebideð,  
metudes miltse,      þeah þe he modcearig  
geond lagulade      longe sceolde  
hreran mid hondum      hrimcealde sæ,  
wadan wræclastas.      Wyrð bið ful aræd!  
Swa cwæð eardstapa,      earfeþa gemyndig,  
wraþra wælsleahta,      winemæga hryre:  
"Oft ic sceolde ana      uhtna gehwylce  
mine ceare cwipān.      Nis nu cwicra nan  
þe ic him modsefan      minne durre  
sweotule asecgan.      Ic to soþe wat  
þæt biþ in eorle      indryhten þeaw,  
þæt he his ferðlocan      fæste binde,  
healde his hordcofan,      hycge swa he wille.  
Ne mæg werig mod      wyrde wiðstandan,  
ne se hreo hyge      helpe gefremman.  
Forðon domgeorne      dreorigne oft  
in hyra breostcofan      bindað fæste;  
swa ic modsefan      minne sceolde,  
oft earmcearig,      eðle bidæled,  
freomægum feor      feterum sælan,  
siþþan geara iu      goldwine minne  
hrusan heolstre biwrah,      ond ic hean þonan  
wod wintercearig      ofer waþema gebind,  
sohte sele dreorig      sinces bryttan,  
hwær ic feor oþþe neah      findan meahte  
þone þe in meoduhealle      min mine wisse,  
oþþe mec freondleasne      frefran wolde,  
weman mid wynnum.      Wat se þe cunnað,  
hu sliþen bið      sorg to geferan,  
þam þe him lyt hafað      leofra geholena.  
Warað hine wræclast,      nales wunden gold,  
ferðloca freorig,      nalæs foldan blæd.  
Gemon he selesecgas      ond sincþege,  
hu hine on geoguðe      his goldwine  
wenede to wiste.      Wyn eal gedreas!  
Forþon wat se þe sceal      his winedryhtnes  
leofes larcwidum      longe forþolian,  
ðonne sorg ond slæp      somod ætgædre  
earmne anhogan      oft gebindað.  
þinceð him on mode      þæt he his mondryhten  
clyppe ond cysse,      ond on cneo lecge  
honda ond heafod,      swa he hwilum ær  
in geardagum      giefstolas breac.  
ðonne onwæcneð eft      wineleas guma,  
gesihð him biforan      fealwe wegas,  
baþian brimfuglas,      brædan feþra,  
hreasan hrim ond snaw,      hagle gemenged.  
þonne beoð þy hefigran      heortan benne,  
sare æfter swæsne.      Sorg bið geniwad,  
þonne maga gemynd      mod geondhweorfeð;

greteð gliwstafum, georne geondsceawað  
secga geseldan. Swimmað eft on weg!  
Fleotendra ferð no þær fela bringeð  
cuðra cwidegiedda. Cearo bið geniwad  
þam þe sendan sceal swiþe geneahhe  
ofer waþema gebind werigne sefan.  
Forþon ic gebencan ne mæg geond þas woruld  
for hwan modsefa min ne gesweorce,  
þonne ic eorla lif eal geondþence,  
hu hi færlice flet ofgeafon,  
modge maguþegnas. Swa þes middangeard  
ealra dogra gehwam dreoseð ond fealleþ,  
forþon ne mæg weorþan wis wer, ær he age  
wintra dæl in woruldrice. Wita sceal geþyldig,  
ne sceal no to hatheort ne to hrædwyrde,  
ne to wac wiga ne to wanhydig,  
ne to forht ne to fægen, ne to feohgifre  
ne næfre gielpes to georn, ær he geare cunne.  
Beorn sceal gebidan, þonne he beot spricedð,  
oþþæt collenferð cunne gearwe  
hwider hreþra gehygd hweorfan wille.  
Ongietan sceal gleaw hæle hu gæstlic bið,  
þonne ealre þisse worulde wela weste stondeð,  
swa nu missenlice geond þisne middangeard  
winde biwaune weallas stondaþ,  
hrime bihrorene, hryðge þa ederas.  
Woriað þa winsalo, waldend licgað  
dreame bidrorene, duguþ eal gecrong,  
wlonc bi wealle. Sume wig fornom,  
ferede in forðwege, sumne fugel oþbær  
ofer heanne holm, sumne se hara wulf  
deaðe gedælde, sumne dreorighleor  
in eorðscræfe eorl gehydde.  
Yþde swa þisne eardgeard ælda scyppend  
oþþæt burgwara breahntma lease  
eald enta geweorc idlu stodon.  
Se þonne þisne wealsteal wise geþohte  
ond þis deorce lif deope geondþenceð,  
frod in ferðe, feor oft gemon  
wælsleahta worn, ond þas word acwið:  
"Hwær cwom mearg? Hwær cwom mago? Hwær cwom maþpumgyfa?  
Hwær cwom symbla gesetu? Hwær sindon seledreamas?  
Eala beorht bune! Eala byrnwiga!  
Eala þeodnes þrym! Hu seo þrag gewat,  
genap under nihthelm, swa heo no wære.  
Stondeð nu on laste leofre duguþe  
weal wundrum heah, wyrmlicum fah.  
Eorlas fornoman asca þryþe,  
wæpen wælgifru, wyrd seo mære,  
ond þas stanhleoþu stormas cnyssað,  
hrið hreosende hrusan bindeð,  
wintres woma, þonne won cymeð,  
nipeð nihtscua, norþan onsendeð

hreo hæglfare hæleþum on andan.  
Eall is earfoðlic eorþan rice,  
onwendeð wyrda gesceaft weoruld under heofonum.  
Her bið feoh læne, her bið freond læne,  
her bið mon læne, her bið mæg læne,  
eal þis eorþan gesteal idel weorþeð!"  
Swa cwæð snottor on mode, gesæt him sundor æt rune.  
Til biþ se þe his treowe gehealdeþ, ne sceal næfre his torn to rycene  
beorn of his breostum acyþan, nemþe he ær þa bote cunne,  
eorl mid elne gefremman. Wel bið þam þe him are seceð,  
frofre to fæder on heofonum, þær us eal seo fæstnung stondeð.

## Deor

Welund him be wurman wræces cunnade, anhydig eorl earfoþa dreag, hæfde him to gesiþþe  
sorge ond longað, wintercealde wræce; wean oft onfond, siþþan hine Niðhad on nede legde,  
swoncre seonobende on syllan monn.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.  
Beadohilde ne wæs hyre broþra deaþ on sefan swa sar swa hyre sylfre þing, þæt heo gearolice  
ongieten hæfde þæt heo eacen wæs; æfre ne meahte þriste gepencan, hu ymb þæt sceolde.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.  
We þæt Mæðhilde monge gefrignon wurdon grundlease Geates frige, þæt hi seo sorglufu slæp  
ealle binom.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.  
Deodric ahte þritig wintra Mæringa burg; þæt wæs monegum cup.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.  
We geascodan Eormanrices wylfenne gepoht; ahte wide folc Gotena rices.  
þæt wæs grim cyning.  
Sæt secg monig sorgum gebunden, wean on wenan, wyscte geneahhe þæt þæs cynerices  
ofercumen wære.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.  
Siteð sorgcearig, sælum bidæled, on sefan sweorceð, sylfum þinceð þæt sy endeleas earfoða  
dæl.  
Mæg þonne gepencan, þæt geond þas woruld witig dryhten wendeþ geneahhe, eorle monegum  
are gesceawað, wislicne blæd, sumum weana dæl.  
þæt ic bi me sylfum secgan wille, þæt ic hwile wæs Heodeninga scop, dryhtne dyre.  
Me wæs Deor noma.  
Ahte ic fela wintra folgað tilne, holdne hlaford, oppæt Heorrenda nu, leoðcræftig monn  
londryht gepah, þæt me eorla hleo ær gesealde.  
þæs ofereode, þisses swa mæg.

## Beowulf's Greeting

Beowulf maðelode on him byrne scan, searonet seowed smiþes orþancum: Wæs þu, Hroðgar, hal.

Ic eom Higelaces mæg ond magoðegn; hæbbe ic mærdða fela ongunnen on geogoþe.

Me wearð Grendles þing on minre eþeltyrf undyrne cuð; secgað sæliðend þæt þæs sele stande, reced selesta, rinca gehwylcum idel ond unnyt, siððan æfenleoht under heofenes hador beholen weorþeð.

þa 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, fah from feondum.

þær ic fiþe geband, yðde eotena cyn ond on yðum slog niceras nihtes, nearoþearfe dreah, wræc Wedera nið wean ahsodon, forgrand gramum, ond nu wið Grendel sceal, wið þam aglæcan, ana gehegan ðing wið þyrse.

Ic þe nu ða, brego Beorhtdena, biddan wille, eodor Scyldinga, anre bene, þæt ðu me ne forwyrne, wigendra hleo, freowine folca, nu ic þus feorran com, þæt ic mote ana ond minra eorla gedryht, þes hearda heap, Heorot fælsian.

Hæbbe ic eac geahsod þæt se æglæca for his wonhydum wæpna ne recceð.

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, 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 Geotena leode etan unforhte, swa he oft dyde, mægen Hreðmanna.

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, mearcað morhopu; no ðu ymb mines ne þearft lices feorme leng sorgian.

Onsend Higelace, gif mec hild nime, beaduscruða betst, þæt mine breost wereð, hrægla selest; þæt is Hrædlan laf, Welandes geweorc.

Gæð a wyrd swa hio scel.

## Durham

Is ðeos burch breome geond Breotenrice, steppa gestaðolad, stanas ymbutan wundrum gewæxen.

Weor ymbeornad, ea yðum stronge, and ðer inne wunað feola fisca kyn on floda gemonge.

And ðær gewexen is wudafæstern micel: wuniad in ðem wycum wilda deor monige, in deope dalum deora ungerim.

Is in ðere byri eac bearnum gecyðed ðe arfesta eadig Cudberch and ðes clene cyninges heafud, Osuualdes, Engle leo, and Aidan biscop, Eadberch and Eadfrið, æðele geferes.

Is ðer inne midd heom æðelwold biscop and breoma bocera Beda, and Boisil abbot, ðe clene Cudberte on gecheðe larde lustum, and he his lara wel genom.

Eardiað æt ðem eadige in in ðem minstre unarimeda reliquia, ðær monia wundrum gewurðað, ðes ðe writ seggeð, midd ðene drihnes wer domes bideð.