



LANGUAGE COURSE

Old English Reading 1 Texts

10 Chapters

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Generated with Claude

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Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts



Appendix: Texts

The Old English of each text read in the course, on its own page with its source and licence stated, and a .txt file you can download. There are no glosses or translations here; those are in the chapters. Chapter 1, Reading Strategy, has no text of its own.

TEXT	CHAPTER	WHAT IS GIVEN	.TXT
The Lord's Prayer	2	whole prayer	lords-prayer.txt
Cædmon's Hymn	3	whole hymn	caedmons-hymn.txt
The Chronicle: Annals 455 to 477	4	four annals	chronicle-455-477.txt
The Chronicle: Annal 449	5	first 13 sentences	chronicle-449.txt
Ælfric's Colloquy: The Opening	6	opening 13 lines	colloquy.txt
Exeter Book Riddle 25	7	11 lines	riddle-25.txt
Beowulf: Lines 1 to 11	8	lines 1 to 11	beowulf-1-11.txt
The Wanderer	9	whole poem, 115 lines	wanderer.txt
The Battle of Maldon	10	whole text on the page, 325 lines	battle-of-maldon.txt

Note on sources

All texts are given as the cited pages print them, with the editors' marks. The works are medieval; the editions I read are public domain or are Wikipedia/Wikisource text under CC BY-SA, as stated on each page. *Beowulf* is only an extract because I read no source of the whole poem; *The Wanderer* and *The Battle of Maldon* are in full from Bright's 1913 edition. I copied each text from the pages I

read, but I have not checked any of them against a printed edition, so check before you rely on a spelling.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · The Lord's Prayer



The Lord's Prayer

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 2.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikipedia, *Old English*, section "The Lord's Prayer" (Early West Saxon). The Old English only; the article's glosses and translation are not repeated here. Wikipedia text is licensed CC BY-SA. The prayer itself is a medieval text.

The text

Fæder ūre þū þe eart on heofonum,
Sīe þīn nama ġehālgod.
Tōbecume þīn rīce,
Ġeweorðe þīn willa, on eorðan swā swā on heofonum.
Ūrne dæghwamlīcan hlāf sele ūs tōdæg,
And forġief ūs ūre gyltas, swā swā wē forġiefað ūrum gyltendum.
And ne ġelæd þū ūs on costnunge, ac ālīes ūs of yfele.
Sōðlīce.

Note

Spelling uses dotted consonants (ġ, ċ) and long marks, as the article prints them.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · Cædmon's Hymn



Cædmon's Hymn

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 3.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikipedia, *Cædmon's Hymn*, section "Text and translation": the normalised Old English of the Moore Bede (Northumbrian dialect). The slash marks the half-line break.

Wikipedia text is licensed CC BY-SA 4.0. The hymn is a medieval text.

The text

1. Nū scylun hergan / hefaenrīcaes Uard,
2. metudæs maecti / end his mōdgidanc,
3. uerc Uuldurfadur, / suē hē uundra gihuaes,
4. ēci dryctin / ōr āstelidæ
5. hē ærist scōp / aelda barnum
6. heben til hrōfe, / hāleg scepen.
7. Thā middungeard / moncynnæs Uard,
8. eci Dryctin, / æfter tīadæ
9. fīrum foldu, / Frēa allmectig.

Note

Normalised means the editor has regularised some spellings; it is not a diplomatic transcription of the manuscript.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · The Chronicle: Annals 455 to 477



The Chronicle: Annals 455 to 477

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 4.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (E)*, annals 455, 465, 473 and 477, from C.

Plummer's 1892 edition, exactly as the page prints them. The work is public domain; the Wikisource page text is CC BY-SA 4.0.

The text

455. Her Hengest and Horsa fuhton wið Wyrhtgerne þam cininge on þære stowe þe is cweden .Ægeles þrep. and his broðor Horsan man of sloh. and æfter þonn feng to rice Hengest. and Æsc his sunu.

465. Her Hengest and Æsc gefuhton wið Walas neh Wippedes fleote. and ðær of slogon xii Wilsce ealdor men. and heora an þegn wearð þær of slegen. þam wæs nama Wipped.

473. Her Hengest and Æsc ge fuhton wið Walas. and genamon unarimenlicu here reaf. and þa Walas flugon þa Englan swiðe þæarle.

477. Her com Ælle on Brytenland. and his iii suna. Cymen. and Wlencing. and Cissa. mid iii scipum on ða stowe þe is genemnad Cymenesora. and þær of slogon manige Walas. and sume on fleame be drifon. on þone wudu þe is nemned Andredes lege.

Note

The page's quirks are kept, for example *þæearle* in 473, which I think may be a slip (see Old English Reading 1, Chapter 4).

The Chronicle: Annal 449

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 5.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (E)*, annal 449, from C. Plummer's 1892 edition: the first thirteen sentences only. The annal continues beyond them. The work is public domain; the Wikisource page text is CC BY-SA 4.0.

The text

1. Her Martianus and Valentinus onfengon rice, and rixadon vii wiñt.
2. and on þeora dagum gelaðode Wyrtheorn Angel cin hider.
3. and hi þa coman on þrim ceolum hider to Brytene. on þam stede Heopwines fleot.
4. Se cyning Wyrtheorn gef heom land on suðan eastan ðissum lande.
5. wiððan þe hi sceoldon feohton wið Pyhtas.
6. Heo þa fuhton wið Pyhtas. and heofdon sige swa hwer swa heo comon.
7. Hy ða sendon to Angle heton sendon mara fultum.
8. and heton heom secgan Brytwalana nahtscipe. and þes landes cysta.
9. Hy ða sona sendon hider mare weored þam oðrum to fultume.

10. Ða comon þa men of þrim megðum Germanie. Of Ald Seaxum. of Anglum. of Iotum.

11. Of Iotum comon Cantwara. and Wihtwara. þ is seo megð þe nu eardap on Wiht.

12. and þ cyn on West Sexum þe man nu git hæet Iutna cynn.

13. Of Eald Seaxum coman East Seaxa. and Suð Sexa. and West Sexa.

Note

The lines here are one sentence each; the page prints the annal as running prose.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · Ælfric's Colloquy: The Opening



Ælfric's Colloquy: The Opening

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 6.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Ælfric's Colloquy*, the opening thirteen lines as used in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 6. The page marks the work public domain; the Wikisource text is CC BY-SA 4.0. The page names no edition, editor or date and asks for verification, so treat this as an unchecked transcription.

The text

Teacher: hwæt hæfst þu weorkes

Student A: ic eom geanwyrde monuc ond sincge ælce dæg seofon tida mid gebroþrum ac þeahhwæþere ic wolde betwenan leornian spreca on leden gereorde

Teacher: hwæt cunnon þas þine geferan

Student A: summe synt yrþlingas sume scephyrdas sume oxanhyrdas sume eac swylce huntan sume fisceras sume fugleras sume cypmenn sume scewyrhtan sealteras bæceras

Teacher: hwæt sægest þu yrþlingc hu begæst þu weorc þin

Student B: eala leof hlaford þearle ic deorfe ic ga ut on dægræd þywende oxan to felda ond iugie hie to syl nys hit swa stearc winter þæt ic durre lutian æt ham for ege hlafordes mines ac geiukodan oxan ond gefæstnodon sceare ond cultre mid þære syl ælce dæg ic sceal erian fulne æcer oþþe mare

Teacher: hæfst þu ænigne geferan

Student B: ic hæbbe sumne cnapan þywende oxan mid gadisene

Note

The speaker labels (Teacher, Student A, Student B) are as shown in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 6. The text has no punctuation or capitals.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · Exeter Book Riddle 25



Exeter Book Riddle 25

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 7.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikipedia, *Exeter Book*, section "Riddles", Riddle 25 as printed there; the article cites Marsden (2015), *The Cambridge Old English Reader*. The dot marks the half-line break. Wikipedia text is licensed CC BY-SA 4.0. The riddle is a medieval text.

The text

Ic eom wunderlicu wiht · wifum on hyhte
neahbuendum nyt; · nægum sceþþe
burgsittendra nymthe · bonan anum.
Stapol min is steapheah · stonde ic on bedde
neoðan ruh nathwær. · Neþeð hwilum
ful cyrtenu · ceorles dohtor
modwlanc meowle · þæt heo on mec gripe
ræseð mec on reodne · reafath min heafod
fegeð mec on fæsten. · Feleþ sona
mines gemotes · seo þe mec nearwað
wif wundenlocc. · Wæt bið þæt eage.

Note

The full stops and half-line dots are the editor's. I do not know whether these eleven lines are the whole riddle.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · Beowulf: Lines 1 to 11



Beowulf: Lines 1 to 11

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 8.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Beowulf* (Wyatt), A. J. Wyatt's 1894 edition based on Zupitza's autotypes, lines 1 to 11 of the Prelude. The dot marks the gap between half-lines. The edition is public domain by age; Wikisource's own contributions to the transcription are generally CC BY-SA, which I did not check for this page.

The text

- 1 **Hwæt! wē Gār-Dena · in gēar-dagum**
 þēod-cyninga · þrym gefrūnon,
 hū ðā æþelingas · ellen fremedon.
 Oft Scyld Scēfing · sceapena þrēatum,
5 **monegum mægþum · meodo-setla oftēah.**
 Egsode eorl, · syððan ārest wearð
 fēa-sceaft funden; · hē þæs frōfre gebād,
 wēox under wolcnum, · weorð-myndum þāh,
 oð þæt him æghwylc · þāra ymb-sittendra
10 **ofer hron-rāde · hýran scolde,**
 gomban gyldan; · þæt wæs gōd cyning.

Note

Only this extract is given. The poem has over 3,000 lines and I have not read a source of the whole text.

Old English Reading 1

Appendix · Texts · The Wanderer



The Wanderer

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 9.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Bright's Anglo-Saxon Reader* (J. W. Bright, 1913), "XXIII. The Wanderer", the whole poem (115 lines). The dot marks the half-line break; the line numbers count the verse lines and agree with Bright's own marks at every fifth line. The work and the 1913 edition are public domain in the US; Wikisource's own contributions to the transcription are generally CC BY-SA, which I did not check for this page.

The text

- 1 **Oft him ānhaga · āre gebīdeð,**
 Metudes miltse, · þēah þe he mōdcearig
 geond lagulāde · longe sceolde
 hrēran mid hōndum · hrīmcealde sǣ,
5 **wadan wræclāstas: · wyrð bið ful ārǣd!**
 Swā cwæð eardstapa, · earfeþa gemyndig,
 wrāþra wælsleahta, · winemāga hryre:
 ‘Oft ic sceolde āna · ūhtna gehwylce
 mīne ceare cwīþan; · nis nū cwicra nān,
10 **þe ic him mōdsefan · mīnne durre**
 sweotule āsecgan. · Ic tō sōþe wāt
 þæt biþ in eorle · indryhten þēaw,

þæt hē his ferðlocan · fæste binde,
 healde his hordcofan, · hycge swā hē wille;
 15 ne mæg wērig mōd · wyrde wiðstōndan
 nē sē hrēo hyge · helpe gefrēmmān:
 for ðon dōmgeorne · drēorigne oft
 in hyra brēostcofan · bindað fæste.
 Swā ic mōdsefan · mīnne sceolde,
 20 oft earmcearig, · ēðle bidæled,
 frēomægum feor · feterum sēlan,
 siþþan gēara iū · goldwine mīnne
 hrūsan heolster biwrāh, · and ic hēan þōnan
 wōd wintercearig · ofer waþema gebind,
 25 sōhte sēle drēorig · sinces bryttan,
 hwær ic feor oþþe nēah · findan meahte
 þone þe in meoduhealle · minne wisse
 oþþe mec frēondlēasne · frēfran wolde,
 wēnian mid wynnum. · Wāt sā þe cunnað
 30 hū slīpen bið · sorg tō gefēran
 þām þe him lýt hafað · lēofra geholena:
 warað hine wræclāst, · nāles wunden gold,
 ferðloca frēorig, · nālæs foldan blād;
 gemōn hē sēlesēcgas · and sincþege,
 35 hū hine on geoguðe · his goldwine
 wēnede tō wiste: · wyn eal gedrēas!
 For þon wāt sē þe sceal · his winedryhtnes
 lēofes lārcwidum · lōnge forþolian,
 ðonne sorg and slāp · sōmod ætgædre

40 earmne ānhagan · oft gebindað:
 þinceð him on mōde · þæt hē his mōndryhten
 clyppe and cysse, · and on cnēo lēcge
 hōnda and hēafod, · swā hē hwīlum ær
 in gēardagum · giefstōlas brēac;
 45 ðonne onwæcneð eft · winelēas guma,
 gesihð him biforan · fealwe wægas,
 baþian brimfuglas, · brædan feþra,
 hrēosan hrīm and snāw · hagle gemenged.
 Þonne bēoð þy hefigran · heortan þenne,
 50 sære æfter swæsne, · sorg bið genīwad,
 þonne māga gemynd · mōd geondhweorfeð,
 grēteð glīwstafum, · georne geondscēawað
 sęcga geseldan: · swimmað eft on weg;
 flēotendra ferð · no þær fela bringeð
 55 cūðra cwidegiedda; · cearo bið genīwad
 þām þe sęndan sceal · swīþe geneahhe
 ofer waþema gebind · wērigne sefan.
 For þon ic geþencan ne mæg · geond þās woruld
 for hwan mōdsefa · min ne gesweorce,
 60 þonne ic eorla līf · eal geondþence,
 hū hī fārlīce · flēt ofgēafon,
 mōdge maguþegnas. · Swā þēs middangeard
 ealra dōgra gehwām · drēoseð and fealleþ;
 for þon ne mæg weorþan wīs · wer, ær hā āge
 65 wintra dæl in woruldrīce. · Wita sceal geþyldig,
 nē sceal nō tō hātheort · nē tō hrædwyrde,

nē tō wāc wiga · nē tō wanhȳdig,
nē tō forht nē tō fægen · nē tō feohgīfre,
nē nǣfre gielpes tō georn, · ær hē geare cunne.

- 70 Beorn sceal gebīdan, · þonne hē bēot spriceð,
oþ þæt collenferð · cunne gearwe
hwider hreþra gehygd · hweorfan wille.
Ongietan sceal glēaw hæle · hū gæstlīc bið,
þonne eall þisse worulde wela · wēste stōndeð,
75 swā nū missenlice · geond þisne middangeard
winde biwāune · weallas stōndaþ,
hrīme bihrorene, · hryðge þā ederas.
Wōriað þā wīnsalo, · waldend licgað
drēame bidrorene; · duguð eal gecrōng
80 wlōnc bī wealle: · sume wīg fornōm,
fērede in forðwege; · sumne fugel oþbær
ofer hēanne holm; · sumne sē hāra wulf
dēaðe gedælde; · sumne drēorighlēor
in eorðscræfe · eorl gehȳdde:
85 ȳþde swā þisne eardgeard · ælda Scyppend,
oþ þæt burgwara · breahmta lēase
eald ęnta geweorc · īdlu stōdon.
Sē þonne þisne wealsteal · wīse, geþōhte,
and þis deorce līf · dēope geondþenceð,
90 frōd in ferðe · feor oft gemōn
wælsleahta worn, · and þās word ācwið:
‘Hwær cwōm mearg? hwær cwōm mago? · hwær cwōm
māþpumgyfa?

hwær cwōm symbla gesetu? · hwær sindon seledrēamas?

Ēalā beorht bune! · ēalā byrnwiga!

95 ēalā þēodnes þrym · hū sēo þrāg gewāt,
genāp under nihthelm, · swā hēo nō wære!

Stōndeð nū on lāste · lēofre duguþe
weal wundrum hēah, · wrymlicum fāh:
eorlas fornōmon · asca þrȳþe,

100 wāpen wælgīfru, · wyrd sēo mære;
and þās stānhleoþu · stormas cnyssað;
hrīð hrēosende · hrūsan bindeð,
wintres wōma, · þonne wōn cymeð,
nīpeð nihtscūa, · norþan onsēndeð

105 hrēo hæglfare · hæleþum on andan.

Eall is earfoðlic · eorþan rīce,
onwēndeð wyrda gesceaft · weoruld under heofonum:
hēr bið feoh lāne, · hēr bið frēond lāne,
hēr bið mōn lāne, · hēr bið mæg lāne;

110 eal þis eorþan gesteal · īdel weorþeð!’

Swā cwæð snottor on mōde, · gesæt him sundor æt rūne

Til biþ sē þe his trēowe gehealdeð: · ne sceal nāfre his torn tō
rycene

beorn of his brēostum ācȳþan, · nemþe hē ær þā bōte cunne,
eorl mid ȅlne gefrēmman. · Wel bið þām þe him āre sēceð,

115 frōfre tō Fæder on heofonum, · þær ūs eal sēo fæstnung
stōndeð.

Note

I removed Bright's textual footnotes and kept his letters, including φ and ϱ in some words. Old English Reading 1, Chapter 9 reads lines 1 to 15.



The Battle of Maldon

The Old English only, with no gloss or translation. Read in Old English Reading 1, Chapter 10.

[Download as a .txt file.](#)

SOURCE AND LICENCE

Wikisource, *Bright's Anglo-Saxon Reader* (J. W. Bright, 1913), "The Battle of Maldon", all of the text on the page (325 lines). The dot marks the half-line break; the line numbers count the verse lines and agree with Bright's marks at lines 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300 and 320. The work and the 1913 edition are public domain in the US; Wikisource's own contributions to the transcription are generally CC BY-SA, which I did not check for this page.

The text

- 1 [...] brocen wurde;
 hēt þā hyssa hwæne · hors forlætan,
 feorr āfȳsan, · and forð gangan,
 hiegan tō handum, · and tō hige gōdum.
- 5 Þā þæt Offan mæg · ærest onfunde,
 þæt sē eorl nolde · yrhðo gepolian:
 hē lēt him þā of handon · lēofne flēogan
 hafoc wið þæs holtes, · and tō þære hilde stōp:
 be þām man mihte oncnāwan · þæt sē cniht nolde
- 10 wācian æt þām wīge, · þā hē tō wæpnum fēng.
 Ēac him wolde Ēadrīc · his ealdre gelæstan,
 frēan tō gefeohte; · ongan þā forð beran

gār tō gūþe: · hē hæfde gōd geþanc,
 þā hwīle þe hē mid handum · healdan mihte
 15 bord and brād swurd; · bēot hē gelæste,
 þā hē ætforan his frēan · feohtan sceolde.
 Ðā þær Byrhtnōð ongan · beornas trymian,
 rād and rædde, · rincum tæhte
 hū hī sceoldon standan · and þone stede healdan,
 20 and bæd þæt hyra randas · rihte hēoldon
 fæste mid folman, · and ne forhtedon nā.
 Þā hē hæfde þæt folc · fægere getrymmed,
 hē lihte þā mid lēodon · þær him lēofost wæs,
 þær hē his heorðwerod · holdost wiste.
 25 Þā stōd on stæðe, · stiðlice clypode
 wīcinga ār, · wordum mælde,
 sē on bēot ābēad · brimlīþendra
 ærende tō þām eorle, · þær hē on ōfre stōd:
 'Me sendon tō þē · sæmen snelle;
 30 hēton ðē secgan · þæt þū mōst sendan raðe
 bēagas wið gebeorge; · and ēow betere is
 þæt gē þisne gārræs · mid gafole forgyldon,
 þonne wē swā hearde · hilde dælon.
 Ne þurfe wē ūs spillan, · if gē spedap tō þām:
 35 wē willað wið þām golde · grið fæstnian.
 Gyf þū þat gerædest, · þe hēr rīcost eart,
 þæt þū þīne lēoda · lȳsan wille,
 syllan sām annum · on hyra sylfra dōm
 feoh wið frēode, · and niman frið æt ūs,

40 wē willað mid þām sceattum · ūs tō scype gangan,
 on flot fēran, · and ēow frīþes healdan.'
 Byrhtnōð mapelode, · bord hafenode,
 wand wācne æsc, · wordum mælde,
 yrre and anræd · āgeaf him andsware:
 45 'Gehȳrst þū, sǣlida, · hwæt þis folc segeð?
 hī willað ēow tō gafole · gāras syllan,
 ættrynne ord · and ealde swurd,
 þā heregeatu · þe ēow æt hilde ne dēah.
 Brimmanna boda, · ābēod eft ongēan,
 50 sege þīnum lēodum · miccle lāþre spell,
 þæt hēr stynt unforcuð · eorl mid his werode,
 þe wile gealgean · ēþel þysne,
 Æþelrēdes eard, · ealdres mīnes,
 folc and foldan; · feallan sceolon
 55 hǣþene æt hilde. · Tō hēanlīc mē þinceð
 þæt gē mid ūrum sceattum · tō scype gangon
 unbefohtene, · nū gē þus feor hider
 on ūrne eard · in becōmon.
 Ne sceole gē swā sōfte · sinc gegangan;
 60 ūs sceal ord and ecg · ær geseman,
 grim gūðplega, · ær wē gofol syllon.'
 Hēt þā bord beran, · beornas gangan,
 þæt hī on þām ēasteðe · ealle stōdon.
 Ne mihte þær for wætere · werod tō þām oðrum;
 65 þær cōm flōwende · flōd æfter ebban,
 lucon lagustrēamas; · tō lang hit him þūhte,

hwænne hī tōgædere · gāras bēron.

Hī þær Pantan strēam · mid prasse bestōdon,

Ēastseaxena ord · and sē æschere;

70 ne mihte hyra ænig · ōðrum derian,

būton hwā þurh flānes flyht · fyl genāme.

Sē flōd ūt gewāt; · þā flotān stōdon gearowe,

wīcinga fela, · wīges georne.

Hēt þā hæleða hlēo · healdan þā bricge

75 wigan wīgheardne, · sē wæs hāten Wulfstān,

cāfne mid his cynne, · þæt wæs Cēolan sunu,

þe ðone forman man · mid his francan ofscēat

þe þær baldlicost · on þā bricge stop.

Þær stōdon mid Wulfstāne · wigan unforhte,

80 Ælfere and Maccus, · mōdige twēgen,

þā noldon æt þām forða · flēam gewyrcean,

ac hī fæstlice · wið ðā fýnd weredon,

þā hwīle þe hī wāpna · wealdan mōston.

Þā hī þæt ongēaton · and georne gesāwon

85 þæt hī þær bricgweardas · bitere fundon,

ongunnon lytegian þā · lāðe gystas,

bædon þæt hī ūpgang · āgan mōston,

ofer þone ford faran, · feþan lādan.

Ðā sē eorl ongan · for his ofermōde

90 ālyfan landes tō fela · lāþere ðēode.

Ongan ceallian þā · ofer cald wæter

Byrhtelmes bearn · (beornas gehlyston):

'Nū ēow is gerȳmed, · gāð ricene tō ūs,

guman tō gūþe; · God āna wāt

95 hwā þære wælstōwe · wealdan mōte.'

Wōdon þā wælwulfas · (for wætere ne murnon),
wīcinga werod, · west ofer Pantan,
ofer scīr wæter · scyldas wægon,
lidmen tō lande · linde bāron.

100 Þær ongēan gramum · gearowe stōdon

Byrhtnōð mid beornum; · hē mid bordum hēt
wyrcaþ þone wīhagan, · and þæt werod healdan
fæste wið fēondum. · Þā wæs feohte nēh,
tīr æt getohte; · wæs sēo tīd cumen

105 þæt þær fāge men · feallan sceoldon.

Þær wearð hrēam āhafen, · hremmas wundon,
earn æses georn; · wæs on eorþan cyrm.
Hī lēton þā of folman · fēolhearde speru,
gegrundene · gāras flēogan;

110 bogan wæron bysige, · bord ord onfēng.

biter wæs sē beaduræs, · beornas fēollon
on gehwæðere hand, · hyssas lāgon.

Wund wearð Wulfmær, · wælræste gecēas,
Byrhtnōðes mæg; · hē mid billum wearð,

115 his swuster sunu, · swīðe forhēawen.

Þær wearð wīcingum · wīperlean āgyfen:
gehȳrde ic þæt Ēadweard · ānne slōge
swīðe mid his swurde, · swenges ne wyrnde,
þæt him æt fōtum feoll · fāge cempa;

120 þæs him his ðeoden · þanc gesæde,

þām būrpēne, · þā hē byre hæfde.

Swā stemnetton · stiðhicgende

hyssas æt hilde; · hogodon georne

hwā þær mid orde · ærost mihte

125 on fāgean men · feorh gewinnan,

wigan mid wæpnum; · wæl fēol on eorðan.

Stōdon stædefæste; · stihte hī Byrhtnōð,

bæd þæt hyssa gehwylc · hogode tō wīge

þe on Denon wolde · dōm gefeohtan.

130 Wōd þā wīges heard, · wæpen ūp āhōf,

bord tō gebeorge, · and wið þæs beornes stōp;

ēode swā anræd · eorl tō þām ceorle:

ægþer hyra oðrum · yfeles hogode.

Sende ðā sē sārinc · sūþerne gār,

135 þæt gewundod wearð · wigena hlāford;

hē scēaf þā mid ðām scylde, · þæt sē sceaft tobærst,

and þæt spere sprengde, · þæt hit sprang ongēan.

Gegremod wearð sē gūðrinc; · hē mid gāre stang

wlancne wīcing, · þe him þā wunde forgeaf.

140 Frōd wæs sē fyrdrinc; · hē lēt his francan wadan

þurh ðæs hysses hals; · hand wīsode

þæt hē on þām fārsceaðan · feorh geræhte.

Ða hē oþerne · ofstlice scēat,

þæt sēo byrne tōbærst; · hē wæs on brēostum wund

145 þurh ðā hringlocan, · him æt heortan stōd

ætterne ord. · Se ēorl wæs þē blīpra,

hlōh þā mōdi man, · sæde Metode þanc

ðæs dægweorces · þe him Drihten forgeaf.
 Forlēt þā drenga sum · daroð of handa,
 150 flēogan of folman, · þæt sē tō forð gewāt
 þurh ðone æþelan · Æþelrēdes þegen.
 Him be healfe stōd · hyse unweaxen,
 cniht on gecampe, · se full cāflīce
 brād of þām beorne · blōdigne gār,
 155 Wulfstānes bearn, · Wulfmār sē geonga,
 forlēt forheardne · faran eft ongēan;
 ord in gewōd, · þæt sē on eorþan læg
 þe his þēoden ær · þearle geræhte.
 Ēode þā gesyrwed · secg tō þām eorle;
 160 hē wolde þæs beornes · bēagas gefecgan,
 rēaf and hringas · and gerēnod swurd.
 Ðā Byrhtnōð brād · bill of scēaðe,
 brād and brūneccg, · and on þā byrnan slōh:
 tō raþe hine gelette · lidmanna sum,
 165 þā hē þæs eorles · earm āmyrde;
 fēoll þā tō foldan · fealohilte swurd,
 ne mihte hē gehealdan · heardne mēce,
 wāpnas wealdan. · Þā gýt þæt word gecwæð
 hār hilderinc, · hyssas bylde,
 170 bæd gangan forð · gōde gefēran;
 ne mihte þā on fōtum leng · fæste gestandan;
 hē tō heofenum wlāt:
 'Ic geþancie þē, · ðēoda Waldend,
 ealra þāra wynta · þe ic on worulde gebād.

175 Nū ic āh, milde metod, · mæste þearfe
 þæt þū mīnum gāste · gōdes geunne,
 þæt mīn sāwul tō ðē · sīðian mōte
 on þīn geweald, · þeoden engla,
 mid friþe ferian; · ic eom frymdi tō þē
 180 þæt hī helsceaðan · hynan ne mōton.'
 Ðā hine hēowon · hǣðene scealcas
 and bēgen þā beornas · þe him big stōdon,
 Ælfnōð and Wulmǣr · bēgen lāgon,
 ðā onemn hyra frēan · feorh gesealdon.
 185 Hī bugon þā fram beaduwe · þe þær bēon noldon.
 Þær wurdon Oddan bearn · ærest on flēame,
 Godrīc fram gūþe, · and þone gōdan forlēt
 þe him mænigne oft · mēar gesealde;
 hē gehlēop þone eoh · þe āhte his hlāford,
 190 on þām gerǣdum · þe hit riht ne wæs,
 and his brōðru mid him, · bēgen ærndon,
 Godrinc and Godwīg, · gūþe ne gūmdon,
 ac wendon fram þām wīge · and þone wudu sōhton,
 flugon on þæt fæsten, · and hyra fēore burgon,
 195 and manna mā · þonne hit ænig mæð wære,
 gyf hī þā gearnunga · ealle gemundon,
 þe hē him tō duguþe · gedōn hǣfde.
 Swā him Offa on dæg · ær āsǣde,
 on þām mæpelstede, · þā hē gemōt hǣfde,
 200 þæt þær mōdiglice · manega spræcon,
 þe eft æt þearfe · þolian noldon.

Ðā wearð āfeallen · þæs folces ealdor,
 Æþelrēdes eorl; · ealle gesāwon
 heorðgenēatas · þæt hyra heorra læg.
 205 Þā ðær wendon forð · wlance þegenas,
 unearge men · efston georne:
 hī woldon þā ealle · oððer twēga,
 līf forlātan · oððe leofne gewrecan.
 Swā hī bylde forð · bearn Ælfrīces,
 210 wiga wintrum geong, · wordum mælde,
 Ælfwine þā cwæð, · hē on ellen spræc:
 'Gemunað þā mæla, · þe wē oft æt meodo spræcon,
 þonne wē on bence · bēot āhōfon,
 hæleð on healle, · ymbe heard gewinn;
 215 nū mæg cunnian · hwā cēne sý.
 Ic wylle mīne æþelo · eallum gecyþan,
 þæt ic wæs on Myrcon · miccles cynnes;
 wæs mīn ealda fæder · Ealhelm hāten,
 wīs ealdorman, · woruldgesælig.
 220 Ne sceolon mē on þære þēode · þegenas ætwītan
 þæt ic of ðisse fyrde · fēran wille,
 eard gesēcan, · nū mīn ealdor ligeð
 forhēawan æt hilde; · mē is þæt hearma mæst:
 hē wæs ægðer mīn mæg · and mīn hlāford.'
 225 Þā hē forð ēode, · fāhðe gemunde,
 þæt hē mid orde · āne geræhte
 flotan on þām folce, · þæt sē on foldan læg
 forwegen mid his wæpne. · Ongan þā winas manian,

frýnd and gefēran, · þæt hī forð ēodon.

230 Offa gemælde, · æscholt āscēoc:

'Hwæt þū, Ælfwine, · hafast ealle gemanode,

þegenas tō þearfe: · nū ūre þēoden līð,

eorl on eorðan, · ūs is eallum þearf

þæt ūre æghwylc · ōþerne bylde

235 wigan tō wīge, · þā hwīle þe hē wāpen mæge

habban and healdan, · heardne mēce,

gār and gōd swurd. · Ūs Godrīc hæfð,

earh Oddan bearn, · ealle beswicene:

wēnde þæs formoni man, · þā hē on mēare rād,

240 on wlancan þām wicge, · þæt wære hit ūre hlāford;

for þan wearð hēr on felda · folc tōtwæmed,

scyldburch tōbrocen: · ābrēoðe his angin,

þæt hē hēr swā manigne · man āflȳmde!'

Lēofsunu gemælde · and his linde āhōf,

245 bord tō gebeorge, · hē þām beorne oncwæð:

'Ic þæt gehāte, · þæt ic heonon nelle

flēon fōtes trym, · ac wille furðor gān,

wrecan on gewinne · mīnne winedrihten.

Ne þurfon mē embe Stūrmere · stedefæste hælæð

250 wordum ætwītan, · nū mīn wine gecranc,

þæt ic hlāfordlēas · hām sīðie,

wende fram wīge, · ac mē sceal wāpen niman,

ord and īren.' · Hē ful yrre wōd,

feagt fæstlice, · flēam hē forhogode.

255 Dunnere þā cwæð, · daroð ācwehte,

unorne ceorl, · ofer eall clypode,
bæd þæt beorna gehwylc · Byrhtnōð wræce:
'Ne mæg nā wandian · sē þe wrecan þenceð
frēan on folce, · nē for feore murnan.'

260 Þā hī forð ēodon, · feores hī ne rōhton;
ongunnon þā hīredmen · heardlice feohtan,
grame gārberend, · and God bædon
þæt hī moston gewrecan · hyra winedrihten,
and on hyra fēondum · fyl gewyrcean.

265 Him sē gýsel ongan · geornlice fylstan;
hē wæs on Norðhymbron · heardes cynnes,
Ecglāfes bearn, · him wæs Æscferð nama:
hē ne wandode nā · æt þām wīgplegan,
ac hē fýsde forð · flān genehe;

270 hwīlon hē on bord scēat, · hwīlon beorn tāsde;
āfre embe stunde · hē sealde sume wunde,
þā hwīle ðe hē wæpna · wealdan mōste.

Ðā gýt on orde stōd · Ēadweard sē langa,
gearo and geornful; · gylpwordum spræc,

275 þæt hē nolde flēogan · fōtmæl landes,
ofer bæc būgan, · þā his betera læg:
hē bræc þone bordweall, · and wið þā beornas feaht,
oð þæt hē his sincgyfan · on þām sām annum
wurðlice wrec, · ær hē on wæle lāge.

280 Swā dyde Æþerīc, · æþele gefēra,
fūs and forðgeorn, · feaht eornoste,
Sībyrhtes brōðor · and swīðe mænig oþer

clufon cellod bord, · cēne hī weredon;
 bærst bordes lārig, · and sēo byrne sang
 285 gryreleoða sum. · Þā æt gūðe slōh
 Offa þone sǣlidan, · þæt hē on eorðan feoll,
 and ðær Gaddes mæg · grund gesōhte:
 raðe wearð æt hilde · Offa forhēawen;
 hē hæfde ðēah geforþod · þæt hē his frēan gehet,
 290 swā hē bēotode ær · wið his bēahgifan
 þæt hī sceoldon bēgen · on burh rīdan,
 hāle tō hāme, · oððe on here crincgan,
 on wælstōwe · wundum sweltan;
 hē læg ðegenlice · ðēodne gehende.
 295 Ðā wearð borda gebræc; · brimmen wōdon,
 gūðe gegremode; · gār oft þurhwōd
 fāges feorhhūs. · Forð þā ēode Wīstān,
 Þurstānes sunu, · wið þās secgas feaht;
 hē wæs on geþrange · hyra þrēora bana,
 300 ær him Wīgelīnes bearn · on þām wæle lāge.
 Þær wæs stið gemōt; · stōdon fæste
 wigan on gewinne, · wīgend cruncon,
 wundum wērige; · wæl fēol on eorþan.
 Oswold and Ealdwold · ealle hwīle,
 305 bēgen þā gebrōþru, · beornas trymedon,
 hyra winemāgas · wordon bādon
 þæt hī þær æt ðearfe · þolian sceoldon,
 unwāclīce · wāpna nēotan.
 Byrhtwold mæpelode, · bord hafenode,

- 310 (sē wæs eald genēat), · æsc ācwehte;
hē ful baldlice · beornas lārde:
'Hige sceal þē heardra, · heorte þē cēnre,
mōd sceal þē mære, · þē ūre mægen lýtlað.
hēr lið ūre ealdor · eall forhēawen,
315 gōd on grēote; · ā mæg gnornian
sē ðe nū fram þīs wīgplegan · wendan þenceð.
Ic eom frōd fēores; · fram ic ne wille,
ac ic mē be healfe · mīnum hlāforde
be swā lēofan men, · licgan þence.'
- 320 Swā hī Æþelgāres bearn · ealle bylde,
Godrīc tō gūþe; · oft hē gār forlēt
wælspere windan · on þā wīcingas,
swā hē on þām folce · fyrrest ēode,
hēow and hýnde, · oð þæt hē on hilde gecranc.
325 Næs þæt nā sē Godrīc · þe ðā gūðe forbēah

Note

The poem is incomplete: the first line is a fragment (*[...] brocen wurde*), and the manuscript was destroyed in a fire in 1731 (Bright's note). I removed Bright's variant footnotes. Old English Reading 1, Chapter 10 reads lines 309 to 319.