

## *Atlakviða* (from the *Poetic Edda*)

(trans. from the Old Norse by Ursula Dronke)

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|---|---|---|
| 1. <i>Atli sendi<br/>ár til Gunnars,<br/>kunnan segg at ríða;<br/>Knéfrøðr var sá heitinn.<br/>At gorrðom kom hann Giúka<br/>ok at Gunnars hóllo,<br/>bekkiom aringeypom<br/>ok at bióri svásom.</i>  | 4 'There you may choose shields<br>and ashen spears, smooth-shaven,<br>gold-plated helmets<br>and a great company of Huns,<br>saddlecloths of gold and silver,<br>tunics of foreign scarlet,<br>pennoned lances,<br>bit-clenching chargers. | my helmet and shield the brightest,<br>brought from the Emperor's hall—<br>one of mine is better<br>than those of all the Huns.'  |
| 1 Atli sent<br>a messenger to Gunnarr,<br>an expert envoy;<br>Knéfrøðr he was called.<br>To the courts of Giúki he came<br>and to Gunnarr's hall,<br>to hearth-encircling benches<br>and delicious ale.                                       | 5 'He said he would give you the plain too<br>of broad Gnitahiðr<br>—of shrill spear<br>and of gilded prows—<br>vast treasures<br>and homesteads on the Dnieper,<br>that famous thicket<br>men call Mirkwood.'                              | 8 'What do you think the lady meant<br>when she sent us a ring<br>wrapped in the heath-ranger's coat?<br>I think she offered us a warning.<br>I found a hair of the heath-ranger<br>twisted round the red ring.<br>Our way is wolfish<br>if we ride on this journey.'   |
| 2 There the warrior-band drank<br>— thoughts were hooded in silence —<br>wine in the exotic hall —<br>they feared the Huns' anger.<br>Then Knéfrøðr called out<br>with cold voice,<br>the southerner<br>— he sat on a high seat of honour — : | 6 Gunnarr then turned his head<br>and said to Hogni:<br>'What, young prince, do you advise for<br>us,<br>when we hear such an offer?<br>I knew of no gold<br>on Gnitahiðr,<br>that we two did not own<br>as much ourselves.                 | 9 No kinsmen urged Gunnarr,<br>nor close cousin either,<br>no confidants or counsellors,<br>nor powerful nobles.<br>Gunnarr called to them<br>as a king should,<br>glorious in his meadhall,<br>in great passion of spirit:   |
| 3 'Atli sent me here<br>riding with a message<br>on bit-clenching steed<br>over untracked Mirkwood,<br>to ask both of you, Gunnarr,<br>to come to our benches<br>with their hearth-encircling helmets,<br>to visit Atli in his home.          | 7 'We have seven chambers<br>full of swords,<br>on everyone of them<br>the hilt is of gold.<br>I know my horse is the best<br>and my sword the sharpest,<br>that my bows grace the bench<br>and my mail-coats are of gold,                  | 10 'Rise now, Fiörnir,<br>make the warriors' gold cups<br>flow round the hall<br>in the hands of men!<br><br>11 'The wolf shall rule<br>the inheritance of the Niflungar,<br>the old packs of grey ones,<br>if Gunnarr is lost.<br>The swart-skinned bears<br>shall bite with wrangling teeth,<br>bring sport to the stud of curs,<br>if Gunnarr does not come back.' |

12 They led the prince of the land,  
 valiant people  
 weeping led the war-keen men  
 from their children's courts.  
 Then said the young  
 heir of Hǫgni:  
 'Go with fortune and wisdom.  
 wherever your brave spirit draws you!'

13 The bold ones made  
 the bit-clenching steeds  
 speed their paces over the hills,  
 through untracked Mirkwood.  
 All Hunmark shuddered  
 as the stern ones passed —  
 they urged the whip-shy creatures  
 through the green-covered plains.

14 They saw the land of Atli  
 and deep garrisoned turrets,  
 — warriors of Bikki standing  
 on the high fort —  
 the palace over the southern peoples,  
 surrounded by timbered benches,  
 by rim-girt shields,  
 shining bucklers —  
 they saw the pennoned lances.  
 And there Atli drank  
 wine in the exotic hall.  
 Guards were out at their posts  
 to watch for Gunnarr and his men,  
 lest they should come here seeking  
 with shrill spear  
 to wage war against the tyrant.

15 Their sister was quickest to note  
 that they came into the hall,  
 both her brothers—  
 she was far from drunk with ale;  
 'You are betrayed now, Gunnarr —

strong king, what will you do  
 against the Huns' cruel schemes?  
 Get out at once from this hall!

16 'You would have done better, brother,  
 if you had come in coat of mail  
 and hearth-encircling helmets  
 to see Atli's home.  
 You should have stayed in the saddle  
 through sun-lit days,  
 made the Norns weep  
 at the corpses' forced pallor,  
 made the shieldmaids of the Huns  
 try their skill at the harrow—  
 while Atli himself  
 you should have brought into the snake-  
 pit.  
 Now the snake-pit lies waiting  
 for Hǫgni and you.'

17 'It has grown late now, sister,  
 to summon the Niflungar—  
 it is a long way to seek  
 for an escort of men  
 from the hills of Worms on the Rhine,  
 for valiant fighters.'

18 They seized Gunnarr  
 and set him in chains,  
 gracious lord of Burgundians,  
 and bound him fast.

19 Hǫgni struck down seven  
 with his sharp sword,  
 and the eighth  
 he hurled into the hot fire.  
 So must a brave man  
 defend himself against enemies  
 as Hogni defended  
 his own body.

20 They asked the brave one  
 if he would for his life,  
 lord of Goths,  
 pay with gold.

21 'Hǫgni's heart  
 must lie in my hand,  
 cut bleeding from the breast  
 of the brave knight,  
 with cruel-slitting knife  
 from the king's son.'

22 They cut the heart  
 from Hialli's breast  
 bleeding, and laid it on a platter  
 and brought that before Gunnarr.

23 Then Gunnarr said,  
 leader of men,  
 'Here I have the heart  
 of Hialli the coward,  
 unlike the heart  
 of Hǫgni the brave:  
 it quivers much  
 as it lies on the platter—  
 it quivered twice as much  
 when it lay in his breast.'

24 Hǫgni laughed then  
 as they cut to the heart  
 the living sculptor of scars—  
 to cry out never entered his thoughts.  
 Bleeding, they laid it on a platter  
 and brought it before Gunnarr.

25 Glorious, Gunnarr spoke,  
 spear-skilled Niflung:  
 'Here I have the heart  
 of Hogni the brave,

- unlike the heart  
of Hialli the coward:  
it hardly quivers  
as it lies on the platter—  
it quivered not even so much  
when it lay in his breast.
- 26 ‘You shall be as far, Atli,  
from the eyes of men,  
as you shall be  
from the treasure that is mine.  
On me alone  
all the secret rests  
of the Niflung hoard—  
now Hǫgni is not living.
- 27 ‘A doubt was always with me  
while both of us lived,  
now there is none  
when only I am left alive.  
The Rhine shall be master  
of the metal of men’s strife,  
the god-sprung river rule  
the inheritance of the Niflungar.  
In rolling waters rather  
shall the foreign rings glint  
than that gold should shine  
on the Huns' children's hands!’
- 28 ‘Wheel out the chariot—  
now the prisoner is in bonds!’
- 29 Atli the mighty  
rode a steed with ringing mane,  
encircled by blades of war—  
their brother-in-law.  
Guðrún, sister of those  
heroes of triumph,  
fought back her tears,  
powerless in the surging hall.
- 30 ‘May your fate, Atli,  
fit the oaths you swore  
often to Gunnarr  
and pledged long ago,  
by the sun southward-curving  
and by Oðinn's crag,  
by the steed of sleep’s pillows  
and by Ullr's ring.’
- 31 And on from there  
the bridled vessel drew  
the jewels’ keeper,  
sovereign of enmity, to death.
- 32 The living prince  
they placed in a pit  
that was crawling  
—a crowd of men did it—  
with snakes inside.  
But Gunnarr, alone,  
with hate in his soul,  
struck his harp with his hand.  
The chords resounded.  
So must a brave, munificent lord  
guard his gold  
against men.
- 33 Atli turned  
towards his own lands  
his swift-paced horse  
back from the murder.  
There was clattering in the courtyard,  
crowding of horses,  
the song of men's weapons—  
they were back from the moor.
- 34 Then Guðrún came out  
to meet Atli  
with gilded cup,
- to render a lord his due:  
‘You may take and eat, sire,  
in your hall  
joyfully from Guðrún’s hands  
young beasts gone to the shades.’
- 35 Atli’s ale-cups rang  
heavy with drink,  
as in the hall together  
the Huns assembled their host,  
long-moustached men.  
Brisk warriors entered.
- 36 With gleaming face she darted  
to bring drink,  
demonic woman, for the warriors—  
picked out morsels to eat with the ale,  
with repulsion, for the blanched faces—  
and then told Atli his shame:
- 37 ‘You have your own sons’  
—giver of swords—  
bleeding hearts from their bodies  
chewed with honey.  
You are digesting, proud one,  
slaughtered human meat,  
eating it as ale-morsels,  
sending it to the high seats.
- 38 ‘You will not again call  
to your knee  
Erpr or Eitill,  
both merry with feasting—  
you will not see again  
at the centre of the dais  
the bounteous princes  
fitting shafts to their spears,  
clipping manes,  
or cantering their horses.’

- 39 Moaning rose from the benches,  
 a monstrous song of men,  
 a howl beneath the rich cloaks:  
 the Huns' children wept—  
 save only Guðrún  
 who never wept  
 for her brothers, fierce as bears,  
 and beloved sons,  
 young, untried by life,  
 whom she bore to Atli.
- 40 She scattered gold,  
 gosling-bright one,  
 with red rings  
 enriched the servants.  
 She made fate mount  
 and the shining metal flow—  
 the lady was not solicitous  
 for the treasures of the temple.
- 41 Atli, unsuspecting ...  
 he had drunk himself weary,  
 he had no weapons,  
 did not recoil from Guðrún—  
 often the sport was sweeter  
 when they would fondly  
 and frequently embrace  
 before the nobles.
- 42 With a sword-point she gave the bedding  
 blood to drink,  
 with a hand eager for death,  
 and freed the dogs.  
 She flung before the hall-door  
 a brand, and wakened the servants,  
 that bride, with its blaze.  
 She let those acts atone for her brothers.
- 43 She gave to the fire all  
 who were inside

and had come from Gunnarr's murder  
 from Myrkheimr.  
 The ancient rafters fell,  
 smoke rose from the temples,  
 the homestead of Buðli's clan,  
 and the shieldmaids were burnt  
 in the hall, their flow of life staunch—  
 they sank into the hot flames.

- 44 The whole tale is told:  
 never after her  
 will any wife go thus in armour  
 to avenge her brothers.  
 She caused the death  
 of three kings  
 of a nation,  
 bright lady, before she died.

The story is told still more clearly in  
 the Greenland 'Lay of Atli'.

## "Otter's Ransom" (From Snorri's *Edda*) (trans. from the Old Norse by Anthony Faulkes)

What is the reason for gold being called otter-payment? It is said that when the Æsir went to explore the whole world – Odin and Loki and Hænir – they came to a certain river and went along the river to a certain waterfall, and by the waterfall there was an otter and it had caught a salmon in the waterfall and was eating it with eyes half-closed. Then Loki picked up a stone and threw it at the otter and hit its head. Then Loki was triumphant at his catch, that he had got in one blow otter and salmon. Then they picked up the salmon and the otter and took them with them, then came to a certain farm and went in. The farmer that lived there was called Hreidmar. He was a person of great power and was skilled in magic. The Æsir asked if they could have a night's lodging there and said they had plenty of provisions with them and showed the farmer their catch. And when Hreidmar saw the otter, he called his sons Fafnir and Regin and said their brother Otter had been killed and also who had done it. Now the family went up to the Æsir, and took them prisoner and bound them, and then revealed about the otter, that he was Hreidmar's son. The Æsir offered a ransom for their lives, as much wealth as Hreidmar himself wished to decide, and these terms were agreed between them and confirmed with oaths. Then the otter was skinned. Hreidmar took the otter-skin and announced to them that they were to fill the skin with red gold and then cover it entirely, and these were to be the terms of their settlement. Then Odin sent Loki into the world of black-elves and he came across a dwarf called Andvari. He was a fish in a lake, and Loki captured him and imposed on him as a ransom all the gold he had in his cave. And when they came into the cave the dwarf brought out all the gold he had, and that was a substantial amount of wealth. Then the dwarf slipped under his arm one small gold ring. But Loki saw and told him to hand over the ring. The dwarf asked him not to take the ring from him, saying he could multiply wealth for himself from the ring if he kept it. Loki said the dwarf was not going to keep one penny and took the ring from him and went out, and the dwarf pronounced that this ring should be the

deadly destruction of whoever possessed it. Loki said that he was happy for that to be so, and that it would have power to remain valid, this pronouncement, inasmuch as he would bring it to the ears of those who took possession of the ring. He went off back to Hreidmar's and showed Odin the gold. And when Odin saw the ring he found it beautiful and removed it from the treasure, and started paying Hreidmar the gold. The latter then filled the otter-skin as tightly as he could and stood it up when it was full. Then Odin went up to it and began covering the skin with the gold. Then he told Hreidmar to see whether the skin was now fully covered, and Hreidmar looked and examined closely and saw one whisker and said it must be covered, otherwise it was the end of any agreement between them. Then Odin took out the ring and covered the whisker and declared that they were now quit of the otter-payment. And when Odin had taken his spear and Loki his shoes and they had no need to have any more fear, then Loki pronounced that it should remain valid, what Andvari had pronounced, that the ring and the gold should be the death of him who possessed it, and this was subsequently fulfilled. Now it has been told why gold is called otter-payment or the Æsir's forced payment or strife-metal.

What more is there to tell about the gold? Hreidmar then took the gold as atonement for his son, and Fafnir and Regin demanded something of it for themselves in atonement for their brother. Hreidmar would not let them have a single penny of the gold. The brothers then undertook this terrible course of action that they killed their father for the gold. Then Regin demanded that Fafnir should divide the gold equally between them. Fafnir replied that there was little likelihood of his sharing the gold with his brother when he had killed his father for the gold, and told Regin to be off, otherwise he would meet the same fate as Hreidmar. Fafnir had now got hold of a helmet that had belonged to Hreidmar, and put it on his head – it was known as *ægis-helm* [terror-helmet], and all creatures are afraid of it

when they see it – and a sword called Hrotti. Regin had a sword called Refil. Then he fled away, but Fafnir went up on to Gnita-heath and made himself a lair there and turned into the form of a serpent and lay down on the gold.

Regin then went to King Hialprek's in Thiod and became craftsman to him. Then he took into fosterage Sigurd, son of Sigmund son of Volsung, and son of Hiordis daughter of Eylimi. Sigurd was the most splendid of all war-kings in descent and strength and courage. Regin told him about where Fafnir was lying on the gold and incited him to go and try and get the gold. Then Regin made a sword called Gram, which was so sharp that when Sigurd put it down in running water, it cut in two a tuft of wool that drifted with the current against the sword's edge. Next Sigurd split Regin's anvil down to its base with the sword. After that Sigurd and Regin went on to Gnita-heath. Then Sigurd dug a trench in Fafnir's path and got into it, and when Fafnir crawled down to the water and he passed over the trench, Sigurd thrust the sword through him, and this killed him. Then Regin came up and told him he had killed his brother, and said he was willing to accept from him in atonement that he should take Fafnir's heart and roast it on a fire, and Regin lay down and drank Fafnir's blood and lay down to sleep. But when Sigurd was roasting the heart and he thought it must be done, he tried with his finger how tough it was. And when the juice ran out of the heart on to his finger, he was scalded and put his finger in his mouth. And when the heart's blood touched his tongue, he found he knew a bird's speech, and understood what the tits sitting in the tree were saying. One of them said:

‘There sits Sigurd, spattered with blood, Fafnir's heart at the fire he roasts, wise I would consider the ring-spoiler [generous man] if he ate the shining life-steak [heart].’

‘There lies Regin,’ said another, ‘planning with himself, intending to trick the boy who trusts him. In his wrath he composes crooked speeches. The maker of mischiefs intends to avenge his brother.’

Then Sigurd went up to Regin and killed him, and then to his horse, whose name was Grani, and rode it until he came to Fafnir's lair. Then he picked up the gold and tied it in packs and put them up on Grani's back, and climbed on himself and rode on his way. Now the story has been told that is the origin of gold being called lair or abode of Fafnir or metal of Gnita-heath or burden of Grani.

Then Sigurd rode on until he came across a building on the mountain. In it a woman was sleeping and she was wearing helmet and mail-coat. He drew his sword and cut the mail-coat [brynje] off her. Then she awoke and said her name was Hild, She is known as Brynhild, and was a valkyrie. Sigurd rode on and came to a king called Giuki. His wife's name was Grimhild. Gunnar, Hogni, Gudrun, Gudny were their children. Gothorm was Giuki's stepson. Sigurd stayed there a long time. Then he married Giuki's daughter Gudrun, and Gunnar and Hogni swore oaths of brotherhood with Sigurd. After that Sigurd and the sons of Giuki went to Atli Budlason to ask for his sister Brynhild as wife for Gunnar. She was living on Hindafell and around her hall was a flickering flame, and she had made a vow to wed only that man who dared to ride the flickering flame. Then Sigurd and the Giukungs – they are also known as Niflungs – rode up on to the mountain, and Gunnar then tried to ride the flickering flame. His horse was called Goti, but this horse dared not gallop into the fire. Then they exchanged forms, Sigurd and Gunnar, and also names, since Grani would move under no man but Sigurd. Then Sigurd leapt up on to Grani and rode the flickering flame. That evening he entered into marriage with Brynhild. But when they got into bed, he drew his sword Gram from its sheath and laid it between them. And in the morning when he got up and dressed, he gave Brynhild as morning gift the gold ring that Loki had taken from Andvari, and received from her another ring as keepsake. Sigurd then leapt on his horse and rode to his companions. He and Gunnar then changed back their forms and they returned to Giuki with Brynhild. Sigurd had two children with Gudrun: Sigmund and Svanhild.

It happened on one occasion that Brynhild and Gudrun went down to the water to bleach their hair. When they got to the river, Brynhild waded out into the river away from the bank and said she did not want to pour over her head the water that ran out of Gudrun's hair, since she had the more valiant husband. Then Gudrun followed her out into the river, saying it was her right to wash her hair in the river higher up, since she was married to a man whom neither Gunnar nor anyone else in the world was as brave as, for he had killed Fafnir and Regin and succeeded to the wealth of both. Then Brynhild replied:

'It was a greater achievement for Gunnar to have ridden the flickering flame when Sigurd did not dare.'

Then Gudrun laughed and said:

'Do you reckon it was Gunnar that rode the flickering flame? I reckon that the one that went to bed with you was the one that gave me this gold ring, and that gold ring that you are wearing and that you received as morning gift, that is known as Andvari's gift, and I reckon it was not Gunnar that won it on Gnitah Heath.'

Then Brynhild was silent and went home. After this she incited Gunnar and Hogni to kill Sigurd, but because they had sworn oaths to Sigurd, they incited their brother Gothorm to kill Sigurd. He stabbed Sigurd through with a sword while he was asleep, but when Sigurd received the wound he threw his sword Gram after Gothorm so that it severed the man in two in the middle. There fell Sigurd and his three-year-old son called Sigmund, whom they killed. After this Brynhild stabbed herself with a sword and she was burned with Sigurd, while Gunnar and Hogni took over Fafnir's legacy and Andvari's gift and went on ruling their lands. King Atli Budlason, Brynhild's brother, then married Gudrun, formerly Sigurd's wife, and they had children. King Atli invited Gunnar and Hogni to visit him, and they complied with the invitation. But before they left home they hid the gold, Fafnir's legacy, in the Rhine, and this gold has never again been found. But King Atli met them with an armed force

and fought Gunnar and Hogni and they were captured. King Atli had Hogni's heart cut out while he was alive. This brought about his death. He had Gunnar thrown into a snake-pit, but he was secretly provided with a harp, and he plucked it with his toes, as his hands were tied. He played the harp in such a way that all the snakes went to sleep except for the one adder that darted at him and struck at the bottom of his breastbone, burying its head in the hollow and hanging on to his liver until he died. Gunnar and Hogni are known as Niflungs and Giukungs; hence gold is called Niflungs' treasure or inheritance.

Soon afterwards Gudrun killed her two sons and had goblets made out of their skulls with silver and gold. Then a funeral was held for the Niflungs. At this feast Gudrun had mead served to King Atli in these goblets, and it was mixed with the boys' blood, and she had their hearts cooked and given to the king to eat. And when this had been done, she told him of it to his face with many unsavoury words. There was no shortage there of strong mead, so that nearly everyone fell asleep where they sat. That night she went to the king as he slept, and with her Hogni's son, and attacked him. He died as a result. Then they set fire to the hall and the people inside were burned up. After this she went down to the sea and leapt into the sea and tried to destroy herself, but she drifted across the fiord and found herself in the land ruled over by King Ionakr. And when he saw her he took her in and married her. They had three sons called Sorli, Hamdir, Erp. They all had hair black as a raven in colour like Gunnar and Hogni and other Niflungs. Boy Sigurd's daughter Svanhild was brought up there. She was the most beautiful of all women. King Iormunrekk the Great heard of this. He sent his son Randver to ask for her hand on his behalf. And when he got to Ionakr's, Svanhild was handed over to him. He was to take her to Iormunrekk. Then Bikki said it was more suitable for Randver to marry Svanhild, since he was young, as they both were, whereas Iormunrekk was old. The young people took well to this suggestion. Next Bikki told the king about this. Then King Iormunrekk had his son taken and led to the gallows. Then Randver got his hawk and plucked off the feathers

and asked for it to be sent to his father. Then he was hanged. And when King Iormunrekk saw the hawk, it struck him that just as the hawk was unable to fly and lacked feathers, so his kingdom was disabled, he being old and having no son. Then King Iormunrekk brought this about, as he was riding from the forest after hunting with his men, and Queen Svanhild was sitting bleaching her hair: then they rode over her and trod her to death under their horses' hooves. And when Gudrun learned of this, she incited her sons to vengeance for Svanhild. And as they were preparing to set out, she provided them with mail-coats and helmets that were so strong that iron could not penetrate them. She told them what they were to do when they got to King Iornunrekk's, that they were to attack him at night while he was asleep. Sorli and Hamdir were to cut off his arms and legs, and Erp his head. But after they had started off, they asked Erp what assistance they could expect from him if they got to King Iormunrekk. He replied that he would give them the help that an arm gives a leg. They said there was no way at all that a leg could be supported by an arm. They were so angry with their mother for having sent them on their way with spiteful words, they wanted to do what would hurt her most, and they killed Erp, because she loved him most. Shortly afterwards, as Sorli was walking, he slipped with one leg and supported himself with his arm. Then he said:

'Now the arm has helped the leg. It would have been better now if Erp had remained alive.'

And when they got to King Iormunrekk's at night, while he was asleep, and cut off his arms and legs, then he awoke and called to his men, telling them to wake up. Then said Hamdir:

'The head would have been off by now, if Erp had been alive.'

Then the king's men got up and attacked them and found they could not overcome them with weapons. Then Iormunrekk shouted that they must be stoned. This was done. They fell there, Sorli and Hamdir. Thus the whole family and progeny of Giuki were now

dead.

There survived boy Sigurd a daughter called Aslaug who was brought up at the home of Heimir in Hlymdales, and from her important family lines are descended.

They say that Sigmund Volsungsson was so tough that he could drink poison and not be harmed, while his son Sinfiotli and Sigurd had such hard skins that poison did not harm them if it got on to their bare flesh. Thus the poet Bragi has used the following expression in his poetry:

When on the hook of the old Lit's men's [giants'] fight-challenger [Thor] hung the coiling eel [Midgard serpent] of the Volsungs' drink [poison] coiled.

Most poets have composed poetry based on these stories and have used various elements in them. Bragi the Old composed verses about the fall of Sorli and Hamdir in the *drapa* [sequence with refrain] he composed about Ragnar Lodbrok:

And then Iormunrekk did wake with an unpleasant dream in a torrent of swords among blood-stained troops. There was uproar in Randver's chief kinsmen's [Iormunrekk's] hall when Erp's raven-black brothers avenged their injuries.

Corpse-dew [blood] flowed over the benches together with the attack-elf's [warrior's, Iormunrekk's] blood on the floor where severed arms and legs could be recognized. Men's ale-giver [king] fell head-first into the pool mixed with gore. This is depicted on leaf of Leifi's lands [sea; the sea's leaf is the decorated shield].

There, so that they made a circle round the ruler's floor-horse-[house-]tub [bed], the rivet-lacking sword-sail [shield] masts [warriors] stand. Very soon Hamdir and Sorli came to be struck by everyone at once with Hergaut's [Odin's] woman-friend's [lord's, earth's] hard shoulder-lumps

[stones].

The steel-torrent-[battle-]impeller [king] caused Giuki's  
descendants to be hit hard when they tried to deprive Bird-  
hild's [Swan-hild's, Svanhild's] delight [husband] of life.  
And they all managed to repay Ionakr's sons for the brightly  
shining forehead-blows coming from dark-shirt's [mail-  
coat's] birch [warrior] and his sword-edge.

I can see this fall of warriors on the fair base of the shield.  
Ragnar gave me the Ræ's chariot [ship] moon [shield] and a  
multitude of stories with it.