

ÞRYMSKVIÐA (*The Lay of Thrym, Thrym's Poem*)
(or, The Hammer Recovered)
[Thorpe's Subtitle]

Bellows' Introduction (1936)

The *Thrymskvitha* is found only in the *Codex Regius*, where it follows the *Lokasenna*. Snorri does not quote from it, nor, rather oddly, does the story occur in the *Prose Edda*.

Artistically the *Thrymskvitha* is one of the best, as it is, next to the *Voluspo*, the most famous, of the entire collection. It has, indeed, been called "the finest ballad in the world," and not without some reason. Its swift, vigorous action, the sharpness of its characterization and the humor of the central situation combine to make it one of the most vivid short narrative poems ever composed. Of course we know nothing specific of its author, but there can be no question that he was a poet of extraordinary ability. The poem assumed its present form, most critics agree, somewhere about 900, and thus it is one of the oldest in the collection. It has been suggested, on the basis of stylistic similarity, that its author may also have composed the *Skirnismol*, and possibly *Baldur's Draumar*. There is also some resemblance between the *Thrymskvitha* and the *Lokasenna* (note, in this connection, Bugge's suggestion that the *Skirnismol* and the *Lokasenna* may have been by the same man), and it is not impossible that all four poems have a single authorship.

The *Thrymskvitha* has been preserved in excellent condition, without any serious gaps or interpolations. In striking contrast to many of the poems, it contains no prose narrative links, the story being told in narrative verse—a rare phenomenon in the poems of the *Edda*.

Hollander's Introduction (1962)

This is the best-known, and deservedly among the most famous of the poems in the collection; indeed, it is one of the few great ballads of world literature, a classic in which purely Northern material has found its most adequate and most characteristic expression. One does not know what to admire most, the happy choice of subject, the marvelous characterization—effected with an admirable economy of means—the robust humor, the immense elasticity of the action.

It is a satisfaction to know that this high evaluation is not one of modern taste alone. That the lay was a favorite also in olden times is attested by the existence, in all lands inhabited by Scandinavians, of folk ballads clearly based on it. It is therefore all the more surprising that Snorri makes no reference to it and that we are entirely dependent on the text as found in the *Codex Regius*.

There has been much discussion as to the probable date of the poem. Formerly, most scholars were inclined to set it early—the tenth century or earlier—and see in it a primitive nature myth. Modern opinion has swung to the very opposite extreme, considering it one of the latest in the collection. The reasons seem compelling: the perfect text tradition; numerous demonstrable loans from other, earlier Eddic and skaldic poem; the epic-balladic form, which points to the thirteenth century rather than to an early period; the tell-tale fact that its action is nowhere alluded to in Old Norse monuments while, on the other hand, all action in it can be found among the dramatic personae of other poems (as is pointed out in the footnotes). The suggestion has been made that for aught we know it may be the work of Snorri himself, the most versatile genius of Old Norse literature. He possessed the prerequisites: a great sense of humor, intimate knowledge of mythology, considerable poetic talent. It would be understandable that he did not care to quote himself in his *Prose Edda* (written ca. 1220) or adduce the story of the poem as a genuine myth.

As to the central theme of the poem, it might have been imported to Scandinavia during the crusades: there exists an Arabic tale with similarities too striking to be accidental.

Thorpe (1866)	Bellows (1936)	Hollander (1962)
1. Wroth was Vingthor, when he awoke, And his hammer missed; His beard he shook, his forehead struck, The son of earth felt all around him;	1. Wild was Vingthor ¹ when he awoke, And when his mighty hammer he missed; He shook his beard, his hair was bristling, As the son of Jorth ² about him sought.	1. Wroth was Vingthór ³⁵ when awaking he Mjólnir ³⁶ missed, his mighty hammer; His beard gan shake, his shaggy head, Fjörgyn's first-born— he fumbled about him.
2. And first of all these words he uttered: "Hear now, Loki! what I now say, Which no one knows anywhere on earth, Nor in heaven above; the As's hammer is stolen!"	2. Hear now the speech that first he spake: "Harken, Loki, ³ and heed my words, Nowhere on earth is it known to man, Nor in heaven above: our hammer is stolen."	2. These words then first fell from his lips: "Hear thou, Loki, what loss I have, Which no wight knows—neither on earth Nor in heaven: my hammer is stolen!"
3. They went to the fair Freyia's dwelling, And he these words first of all said: "Wilt thou me, Freyia, thy feather-garment lend, That perchance my hammer I may find?"	3. To the dwelling fair of Freyja ⁴ went they, Hear now the speech that first he spake: "Wilt thou, Freyja, thy feather-dress ⁵ lend me, That so my hammer I may seek?"	3. To Freya's bower they bent their steps. These words then first fell from his lips: "Wilt thou, Freya, thy feather coat lend me, My hammer to seek, if haply I find it?"
4. Freyia "That I would give thee, although of gold it were, And trust it to thee, though it were of silver."	4. Freyja spake: "Thine should it be though of silver bright, And I would give it though 'twere of gold." ⁶	4. Freya said: "Though of gold it were I gave it to thee, And for thy sake, though of silver it were."
5. Flew then Loki—the plumage rattled— Until he came beyond the Æsir's dwellings, And came within the Jotun's land.	Then Loki flew, and the feather-dress whirred, Till he left behind him the home of the gods, And reached at last the realm of the giants.	5. Flew then Loki the feather coat whirred, Left behind him the halls of the gods, And winged his way to the world of etins.

<p>6. On a mound sat Thrym, the Thursar's lord, For his greyhounds plaiting gold bands And his horses' manes smoothing.</p> <p>7. "How goes it with the Æsir? How goes it with the Alfár? Why art thou come alone to Jotunheim?"</p> <p>Loki</p> <p>8. "Ill it goes with the Æsir, Ill it goes with the Alfar. Hast thou Hlorridi's hammer hidden?"</p> <p>Thrym</p> <p>9. "I have Hlorridi's hammer Hidden eight rasts beneath the earth; It shall no man get again, Unless he bring me Freyia to wife."</p> <p>10. Flew then Loki—the plumage rattled— Until he came beyond the Jotun's dwellings, And came within the Æsir's courts; There he met Thor, in the middle court, Who these words first of all uttered.</p> <p>11. "Hast thou had success as well as labour? Tell me from the air the long tidings. Oft of him who sits are the tales defective, And he who lies down utters falsehood."</p> <p>Loki</p> <p>12. "I have had labour and success: Thrym has thy hammer, the Thursar's lord. It shall no man get again, Unless he bring him Freyia to wife."</p> <p>13. They went the fair Freyia to find; And he those words first of all said: "Bind thee, Freyia, in bridal raiment, We two must drive to Jotunheim."</p> <p>14. Wroth then was Freyia, and with anger chafed, All the Æsir's hall beneath her trembled: In shivers flew the famed Brisings necklace. "Know me to be of women lewdest, If with thee I drive to Jotunheim."</p> <p>15. Straightway went the Æsir all to council, And the Asyniur all to hold converse; And deliberated the mighty gods, How they Hlorridi's hammer might get back.</p> <p>16. Then said Heimdall, of Æsir brightest— He well foresaw, like other Vanir— "Let us clothe Thor with bridal raiment, Let him have the famed Brisings necklace."</p> <p>17. "Let by his side keys jingle, And woman's weeds fall round his knees, But on his breast place precious stones, And a neat coif set on his head."</p> <p>18. Then said Thor, the mighty As: "Me the Æsir will call womanish, If I let myself be clad in bridal raiment."</p> <p>19. Then spake Loki, Laufey's son: "Do thou, Thor! refrain from suchlike words: Forthwith the Jotuns will Asgard inhabit, Unless thy hammer thou gettest back."</p> <p>20. Then they clad Thor in bridal raiment, And with the noble Brisings necklace,</p> <p>Let by his side keys jingle, And woman's weeds fall round his knees; And on his breast placed precious stones, And a neat coif set on his head.</p>	<p>5. Thrym⁷ sat on a mound, the giants' master, Leashes of gold he laid for his dogs, And stroked and smoothed the manes of his steeds.</p> <p>Thrym spake: 6. "How fare the gods, how fare the elves?⁸ Why comst thou alone to the giants' land?"</p> <p>Loki spake:⁹ "Ill fare the gods, ill fare the elves! Hast thou hidden Hlorrithi's¹⁰ hammer?"</p> <p>Thrym spake:¹¹ 7. "I have hidden Hlorrithi's hammer, Eight miles down deep in the earth; And back again shall no man bring it If Freyja I win not to be my wife."</p> <p>8. Then Loki flew, and the feather-dress whirred, Till he left behind him the home of the giants, And reached at last the realm of the gods. There in the courtyard Thor he met: Hear now the speech that first he spake:</p> <p>9. "Hast thou found tidings as well as trouble?¹² Thy news in the air shalt thou utter now; Oft doth the siter his story forget, And lies he speaks who lays himself down."</p> <p>Loki spake:¹³ 10. "Trouble I have, and tidings as well: Thrym, king of the giants, keeps thy hammer, And back again shall no man bring it If Freyja he wins not to be his wife."</p> <p>11. Freyja the fair then went they to find Hear now the speech that first he spake: "Bind on, Freyja, the bridal veil, For we two must haste to the giants' home."</p> <p>12. Wrathful was Freyja, and fiercely she snorted, And the dwelling great of the gods was shaken,¹⁴ And burst was the mighty Brisings' necklace:¹⁵ "Most lustful indeed should I look to all If I journeyed with thee to the giants' home."</p> <p>13. Then were the gods together met, And the goddesses came and council held, And the far-famed ones a plan would find,¹⁶ How they might Hlorrithi's hammer win.</p> <p>14. Then Heimdall spake, whitest of the gods,¹⁷ Like the Waness¹⁸ he knew the future well: "Bind we on Thor the bridal veil, Let him bear the mighty Brisings' necklace;</p> <p>15. "Keys around him let there rattle, And down to his knees hang woman's dress; With gems full broad upon his breast, And a pretty cap to crown his head."</p> <p>16. Then Thor the mighty his answer made: "Me would the gods unmanly call If I let bind the bridal veil."¹⁹</p> <p>17. Then Loki spake, the son of Laufey:²⁰ "Be silent, Thor, and speak not thus; Else will the giants in Asgarth dwell If thy hammer is brought not home to thee."</p> <p>18. Then bound they on Thor the bridal veil, And next the mighty Brisings' necklace.</p> <p>19. Keys around him let they rattle, And down to his knees hung woman's dress; With gems full broad upon his breast, And a pretty cap to crown his head.²¹</p>	<p>6. On a mound sate Thrym,³⁷ the thurses' lord; Golden halters for his hounds he twined, And sleeked the names of slender horses.³⁸</p> <p>Thrym said: 7. "What ails the Æsir, what ails the alfs?³⁹ Why art thou come to etin-home?"</p> <p>(Loki said): "Tis ill with the Æsir, (ill with the alfa):⁴⁰ Dost hide Hlorrithi's hammer with thee?"</p> <p>(Thrym said): 8. "Hlorrithi's hammer I hide with me Full eight roasts⁴¹ deep the ground beneath; Mjólnir no wight may win from me But he Freyja bring as bride to me.</p> <p>9. Flew then Loki, the feather coat whirred, Left behind him the home of the etins, And winged his way to the world of gods. Him Thor met there in middle court. These words then first fell from his lips:</p> <p>10. "What welcome word rewards they toil? Tell while aloft thy long tidings:⁴² Sitting, one oft his errand forgets, And lying, tells lies altogether."⁴³</p> <p>(Loki said): 11. "A welcome word rewards my toil: Thrym has thy hammer, the thurses' lord. Mjólnir no wight may win from him, But he Freyja bring as bride with him."</p> <p>12. To Freyja's bower they bent their steps. These words then first fell from his lips: "Busk thee, Freyja, in bridal linen, We twain shall wend to the world of etins."</p> <p>13. Wroth grew Freyja, foamed with rage; The shining halls shook with her wrath, The Brisings' necklace⁴⁴ burst asunder: "Most mad after men thou mayst call me, If I wend with thee to the world of etins."</p> <p>14. To the Thing forthwith fared all godheads, And all goddesses gathered together. Among them mooted the mighty gods How they Hlorrithi's hammer'd win back.</p> <p>15. Whereon Heimdall, whitest of gods— He fathomed the future as foreknowing Van—⁴⁵ "Busk we Thór then in bridal linen, And buckle on him the Brisings' necklace.</p> <p>16. "Let a housewife's door keys dangle about him,⁴⁶ / Let woman's weeds be worn by him. Let him bear on his breast bridal jewels, A hood on his head, as behooves a bride."</p> <p>17. Then thus spake Thor, the thewful god: "A craven wretch may call me the gods If I busk me in bridal linen."</p> <p>18. Then quoth Loki, Laufey's offspring:⁴⁷ "Hush thee now, Thor, and heed thee words: Soon will the etins in Ásgarth⁴⁸ dwell, But thou fetch home the hammer from them."</p> <p>19. Busked they Thor then in bridal linen, Buckled on him the Brisings' necklace,</p> <p>Let a housewife's door keys dangle about him, And woman's weeds be worn by him: On his breast he bore bridal jewels, A hood on his head as behooves a bride.</p>
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<p>21. Then said Loki, Laufey's son: "I will with thee as a servant go: we two will drive to Jotunheim."</p> <p>22. Straightway were the goats homeward driven, Hurried to the traces; they had fast to run. The rocks were shivered, the earth was in a blaze; Odin's son drove to Jotunheim.</p> <p>23. Then said Thrym, the Thursar's lord: "Rise up, Jotuns! and the benches deck, Now they bring me Freyja to wife, Niord's daughter, from Noatun.</p> <p>24. "Hither to our court let bring gold-horned cows, All-black oxen, for the Jotuns' joy. Treasures I have many, necklaces many, Freyja alone seemed to me wanting."</p> <p>25. In the evening they early came, And for the Jotuns beer was brought forth. Thor alone an ox devoured, salmons eight, And all the sweetmeats women should have. Sif's consort drank three salsd of mead.</p> <p>26. Then said Thrym, the Thursar's prince: "Where hast thou seen brides eat more voraciously? I never saw brides feed more amply, Nor a maiden drink more mead."</p> <p>27. Sat the all-crafty serving-maid close by, Who words fitting found against the Jotun's speech: "Freyja has nothing eaten for eight nights, So eager was she for Jotunheim."</p> <p>28. Under her veil he stooped desirous to salute her, But sprang back along the hall. "Why are so piercing Freyja's looks? Methinks that fire burns from her eyes."</p> <p>29. Sat the all-crafty serving-maid close by, Who words fitting found against the Jotun's speech: "Freyja for eight nights has not slept, So eager was she for Jotunheim."</p> <p>30. In came the Jotun's luckless sister, For a bride-gift she dared to ask: "Give me from thy hands the ruddy rings, If thou wouldst gain my love, My love and favour all."</p> <p>31. Then said Thrym, the Thursar's lord: "Bring the hammer in, the bride to consecrate; Lay Miollnir on the maiden's knee; Unite us each with other by the hand of Vor."</p> <p>32. Laughed Hlorridi's soul in his breast, When the fierce-hearted his hammer recognized. He first slew Thrym, the Thursar's lord, And the Jotun's race all crushed;</p> <p>33. He slew the Jotun's aged sister, Her who a bride-gift had demanded; She a blow got instead of shillings, A hammer's stroke for many rings.</p> <p>So got Odin's son his hammer back.</p>	<p>20. Then Loki spake, the son of Laufey: "As thy maid-servant thither I go with thee; We two shall haste to the giants' home."</p> <p>21. Then home the goats²² to the hall were driven, They wrenched at the halters, swift were they to run; / The mountains burst, earth burned with fire, And Othin's son sought Jotunheim.²³</p> <p>22. Then loud spake Thrym, the giants' leader: "Bestir ye, giants, put straw on the benches; Now Freyja they bring to be my bride, The daughter of Njorth out of Noatun.²⁴</p> <p>23. "Gold-horned cattle go to my stables, Jet-black oxen, the giant's joy; Many my gems, and many my jewels, Freyja alone did I lack, methinks."</p> <p>24. Early it was to evening come, And forth was borne the beer for the giants; Thor alone ate an ox, and eight salmon, / All the dainties as well that were set for the women; And drank Sif's²⁵ mate three tuns of mead.²⁶</p> <p>25. Then loud spake Thrym, the giants' leader: "Who ever saw bride more keenly bite? I ne'er saw bride with a broader bite, Nor a maiden who drank more mead than this!"</p> <p>26. Hard by there sat the serving-maid wise, So well she answered the giant's words: "From food has Freyja eight nights fasted, So hot was her longing for Jotunheim."</p> <p>27. Thrym²⁷ looked 'neath the veil, for he longed to kiss, / But back he leaped the length of the hall: "Why are so fearful the eyes of Freyja? Fire,²⁸ methinks, from her eyes burns forth."</p> <p>28. Hard by there sat the serving-maid wise, So well she answered the giant's words: "No sleep has Freyja for eight nights found, So hot was her longing for Jotunheim."²⁹</p> <p>29. Soon came the giant's luckless³⁰ sister, Who feared not to ask the bridal fee: "From thy hands the rings of red gold take, If thou wouldst win my willing love, (My willing love and welcome glad.)"³¹</p> <p>30. Then loud spake Thrym, the giants' leader: "Bring in the hammer to hallow³² the bride; On the maiden's knees let Mjollnir lie, That us both the band of Vor³³ may bless."</p> <p>31. The heart in the breast of Hlorrithi laughed When the hard-souled one his hammer beheld; First Thrym, the king of the giants, he killed, Then all the folk of the giants he felled.</p> <p>32. The giant's sister old he slew, She who had begged the bridal fee; A stroke she got in the shilling's stead, And for many rings the might of the hammer.</p> <p>33. And so his hammer got Othin's son.³⁴</p>	<p>20. Then quoth Loki, Laufey's offspring: "With thee I will, to wait on thee; We twain shall wend to the world of etins."</p> <p>21. Then home the goats⁴⁹ to the hall were driven, Haltered with ropes to run with the wain: The mountains brake, the earth burned with fire, Rode Óthin's son⁵⁰ to etin-world.</p> <p>22. Said Thrym these words, the thurses' lord: "Stand up, etins, put straw on benches:⁵¹ To be my bride they bring me Freyja, Njorth's daughter from Nóatún.</p> <p>23. "In my garth there graze golden-horned kine, Oxen all black, for etins a joy; Many rings have I, many riches have I, Freyja alone I lack, methinks."</p> <p>24. Soon had the sun set in that land;⁵² Then ale was borne on the etins' table; Ate there an ox and eight salmons, Bolted all dainties dealt for women, Three measures of mead drank Mjollnir's wielder.</p> <p>25. Said Thrym these words, the thurses' lord: "Where sawest thou bride bite more sharply? Never saw I bride bite more broadly, Nor more of mead a maiden drink."</p> <p>26. The waiting maid wise these words then found, To the etin thus she answer made: "Naught ate Freyja for full eight nights, So eager was she for etin-world."</p> <p>27. He looked 'neath the veil, longed to kiss her: Back reeled the rash one through roomy hall: "Why are so fearful Freyja's eyes? Methinks that fire flames in her eyes."</p> <p>28. The waiting maid wise these words then found, To the etin thus she answer made: "Slept not Freyja for full eight nights, So eager was she for etin-world."</p> <p>29. In stepped the etins' starveling sister,⁵³ A bridal gift she dared beg from her: "Rings of red gold give thou to me, If fain would'st have my friendship and love, All my friendship and fondness too."</p> <p>30. Said Thrym these words, the thurses' lord: "Bring the hammer the bride to bless; On the maiden's lap lay ye Mjollnir;⁵⁴ In Vór's⁵⁵ name then our wedlock hallow!"</p> <p>31. Laughed Hlórriþi's heart within him When the hammer beheld the hardy one: Thrym he slew first, the thurses' lord, Then crushed he all the etins' kin,</p> <p>32. Slew eke the old sister of etins, Her who had begged for bridal gift. For shillings she got a shock of the hammer, A grinding blow for golden rings.</p> <p>Thus Hlórriþi his hammer got him.</p>
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¹ Vingthor ("Thor the Hurler"): another name for Thor, equivalent to Vingnir (*Vafþrútnismol*, 51). Concerning Thor and his hammer, Mjollnir, cf. *Hymiskvitha*, *Lokasenna*, and *Harbarthsljóth*, passim.

² Jorth: Earth, Thor's mother, Othin being his father.

³ Loki: cf. *Lokasenna*, passim.

⁴ Freyja: Njorth's daughter, and sister of Freyr; cf. *Lokasenna*, introductory prose and note, also *Skirnismol*, introductory prose. Freyja's house was Sessrymnir ("Rich in Seats") built in Folkvang ("Field of the Folk"); cf. *Grimnismol*, 14.

- ⁵ Feather-dress: this flying equipment of Freyja's is also used in the story of Thjazi, wherein Loki again borrows the "hawk's dress" of Freyja, this time to rescue Ithun; cf. *Harbarthsljóth*, 19 and note.
- ⁶ The manuscript and most editions have lines 1-2 in inverse order. Several editors assume a lacuna before line 1, making a stanza out of the two conjectural lines (Bugge actually supplies them) and lines 1-2 of stanza 4. Thus they either make a separate stanza out of lines 3-5 or unite them in a six-line stanza with 5. The manuscript punctuation and capitalization--not wholly trustworthy guides--indicate the stanza divisions as in this translation.
- ⁷ Thrym: a frost-giant. Gering declares that this story of the theft of Thor's hammer symbolizes the fact that thunderstorms rarely occur in winter.
- ⁸ Line 1: cf. *Voluspá*, 48, 1.
- ⁹ The manuscript does not indicate Loki as the speaker of lines 3-4.
- ¹⁰ Hlorrithi: Thor.
- ¹¹ No superscription in the manuscript. Vigfusson made up and inserted lines like "Then spake Loki the son of Laufey" whenever he thought they would be useful.
- ¹² The manuscript marks line 2, instead of line 1, as the beginning of a stanza, which has caused editors some confusion in grouping the lines of stanzas 8 and 9.
- ¹³ No superscription in the manuscript.
- ¹⁴ Many editors have rejected either line 2 or line 3. Vigfusson inserts one of his own lines before line 4.
- ¹⁵ Brisings' necklace: a marvelous necklace fashioned by the dwarfs, here called Brisings (i.e., "Twiners"); cf. *Lokasenna*, 20 and note.
- ¹⁶ Lines 1-3 are identical with *Baldrs Draumar*, I, 1-3.
- ¹⁷ Heimdall: the phrase "whitest of the gods" suggests that Heimdall was the god of light as well as being the watchman. His wisdom was probably connected with his sleepless watching over all the worlds; cf. *Lokasenna*, 47 and note.
- ¹⁸ On the Wanæs cf. *Voluspá*, 21 and note. They are not elsewhere spoken of as peculiarly gifted with knowledge of future events.
- ¹⁹ Possibly a line has been lost from this stanza.
- ²⁰ Laufey: Loki's mother, cf. *Lokasenna*, 52 and note.
- ²¹ 18-19. The manuscript abbreviates all six lines, giving only the initial letters of the words. The stanza division is thus arbitrary; some editors have made one stanza of the six lines, others have combined the last two lines of stanza 19 with stanza 20. It is possible that a couple of lines have been lost.
- ²² Goats: Thor's wagon was always drawn by goats; cf. *Hymiskvitha*, 38 and note.
- ²³ Jotunheim: the world of the giants.
- ²⁴ Njorth: cf. *Voluspá*, 21, and *Grimnismol*, 11 and 16. Noatun ("Ships'-Haven"): Njorth's home, where his wife, Skathi, found it impossible to stay; cf. *Grimnismol*, 11 and note.
- ²⁵ Sif: Thor's wife; cf. *Lokasenna*, note to introductory prose and stanza 53.
- ²⁶ Grundtvig thinks this is all that is left of two stanzas describing Thor's supper. Some editors reject line 4. In line 3 the manuscript has "he," the reference being, of course, to Thor, on whose appetite cf. *Hymiskvitha*, 15.
- ²⁷ For clearness I have inserted Thrym's name in place of the pronoun of the original.
- ²⁸ Fire: the noun is lacking in the manuscript; most editors have inserted it, however, following a late paper manuscript.
- ²⁹ In the manuscript the whole stanza is abbreviated to initial letters, except for "sleep," "Freyja," and "found."
- ³⁰ Luckless: so the manuscript, but many editors have altered the word "arma" to "aldna," meaning "old," to correspond with line 1 of stanza 32.
- ³¹ Line 5 may well be spurious.
- ³² Hallow: just what this means is not clear, but there are references to other kinds of consecration, though not of a bride, with the "sign of the hammer." According to Vigfusson, "the hammer was the holy sign with the heathens, answering to the cross of the Christians." In Snorri's story of Thor's resuscitation of his cooked goat (cf. *Hymiskvitha*, 38, note) the god "hallows" the goat with his hammer. One of the oldest runic signs, supposed to have magic power, was named Thor's-hammer.
- ³³ Vor: the goddess of vows, particularly between men and women; Snorri lists a number of little-known goddesses similar to Vor, all of them apparently little more than names for Frigg.
- ³⁴ Some editors reject this line, which, from a dramatic stand point, is certainly a pity. In the manuscript it begins with a capital letter, like the opening of a new stanza.
- ³⁵ "Consecration-Thór." See St.30.
- ³⁶ "The Crusher" (?); or, possibly, related to Russian *molnya*, "lightning." It never misses its aim and always returns to Thór's hands.
- ³⁷ "The Noisy."
- ³⁸ A Homeric situation. The action (like the fashioning of bow and arrow—see *Rígsþula*, St.28) is one typical of the lord; so is sitting on a mound..
- ³⁹ See *Voluspá*, St.47 and note.
- ⁴⁰ Supplied by all editors.
- ⁴¹ Leagues.
- ⁴² That is, however long they be.
- ⁴³ The meaning of these curious lines may be that the longer the delay, the less accurate the report—a night's sleep may pervert it utterly—out of regard for the host? The pun exists in the original.
- ⁴⁴ The *Brisinga men* ("The Shining Necklace") was a torque fashioned (according to the late *Sǫrla Þáttur*) by four dwarfs. It is no doubt identical with the precious *Brösinga mene* in *Beowulf* (Line 1199).
- ⁴⁵ We are not told elsewhere that the Vanir gods were prophetic (as were some of the Æsir: Óðin, Frigg, Gefjon, for instance).
- ⁴⁶ See *Rígsþula*, St.23.
- ⁴⁷ See *Lokasenna*, St.52 and note.
- ⁴⁸ The habitation of the Æsir. See *Voluspá* St.24 and note.
- ⁴⁹ They draw Thor's wain.
- ⁵⁰ Thor, by the giantess Fjorgyn or Hlóðyn. There is a definite resemblance between lines 3 and 4 of the original and Stanzas 15 and 16 of the Poem "Haustlong" by the skald Thjóðhólf ór Hvini (ninth century).
- ⁵¹ This was done on festal occasions. See *Baldrs draumar*, St.6, and St.1 of the (anonymous) skaldic poem *Eiríksmál*.
- ⁵² Because of the location of the frost-giants in the far North (east); but the line is susceptible of the translation: "Early at eve | they in had come."
- ⁵³ "The etins' sister" is probably a kenning for "giantess."
- ⁵⁴ A consecration with the hammer is known also elsewhere. The hammer is a phallic symbol of fertility, like the *lingam* of the Hindus.
- ⁵⁵ "Vow," "pledge," a goddess, probably an hypostasis of Frigg, goddess of marriage.