déor precious māðmas treasures forniman carry off
ærre former māl time se an the one ðæ gēn
lēode people duguðe proven warriors long long hweorfan live
weard guardian wine-geómor mourning friends wēnan expect ylca same
lýtel little fæ space of time long-gestréon long acquired
brúcan enjoy mōtan be permitted beorh barrow eall-gearo fully ready
wumian stand wong open ground water-yō wave nēah near
niwe new nēas headland near-craft art of inaccessibility
on innan inside beran carry eorl-gestréon warrior
bring ring hyrde keeper bōrd-wyrō hoard-worthy dāl a quantity
fætted plated fēa few cwēican speak
bealdan hold hrēo earth haleō men ne not mōtan be able
eorl warrior āht possession ēowest indeed ēor first on from dē thē
gōd valiant begytan get gūð-dēað death in war forniman carry off
fæorh-bealo life-destroyer frēcne terrible fyrs men gehyelc every one
leode people min my þāra ðe who ofgyfan forsake
geseōn see sele-drēam hall-joy nāh I have not hwī anyone who
wegan bear
ódde or forð beran carry out fætted plated wēge cup
drync-fæt drinking vessel déor precious duguð company of tried warriors
eorl elsewhere scacan pass
sceal must hearda hard helm helmet byrsted adorned
féet plate befeallen bereft formynd burnisher swefan sleep
beondo-grīna battle-mask biwæn polish
gē and swylice likewise bere-pād war-coat hilde battle gebeldan endure
ofor above bord shield gebred clash bite ðeiron irón (sword)
brosuan decay after with beorn man byrne mail-shirt hring ring
after with wig-fruma war-leader wīde far fēran travel
haleō warrior bealf side nan not at all hearpa harp wyn joy
gomen delight gēo-bēam singing wood gōd good hafoc hawk
gōd through sæl hall swingan swoop mearth horse
burh-stede courtyard bēstan stamp bealo-cwēal baiful slaughter
fela many fæorh-cynna living race onsēdan send away
gíomor-mōd sad at heart gīohō sorrow mōnan speak of

2252a ‘they have seen the joys of the hall’
án æfter eallum, unblīc hweard

deges ond nihtes, oððet déades wylm

hrān æt heortan. Hord-wynne fond

eald ēht-sceadā opene standan,

sē cē byrnende biorgas sēceð,
nacod nið-draaca, nihtes fleógeð
fyre befængan; hyne fold-bœnd

swīðe ondrêadā. Hē gesēcan sceall
hord on hrūsan, þær hē hēðen gold
varað wintrum frōð; ne byð him wihte ðy sēl.

Swā se ðēod-sceadā þrēo hund wintra
hēold on hrūsan hord-ærna sum

ēacen-craftig, oððet hyne ðā ðēalachs
mon on möde; man-dryhtne bēr
fæted wēge, frioðo-wēre bēd
hlaford sinne. Dā wæs hord rāsod,
onboren bēga hord, bēne getībād

fēasceatfum men. Frēa scēawode
fira fyrn-geoweorc forman sīcē.

Þā se wyrm onwōc, wrōht wæs genīwad;

stonc dā æfter stāne, stearc-heart onfānd
fēondes fōt-lāst; hē tō forð gestōp

dyrnan crafte, dracan hlafde nēah.

Swā mæg unfege ēðe gedīgan
wēan ond wrēc-sīð, sē cē Waldendes
hlīdo gehæaldeþ. Hord-werd sōhte
georne æfter grunde, wolde guman findan,

þone þē him on sweofote sāre getēode;

hāt ond hrēoh-mōð hlēw oft ymbe-hweard;
ealne ùtanwēardne; nē ðēr ænig mon
on þēre wēstenne; hwæðe wiges gefēh,
beaudwe weorcse; hwilum on beoth æðwēard,

150 BEOWULF

151 BEOWULF

an one unblīc cheerless hwæorfan move about
deges by day oððet until wylm three
hirmān touch hēorte heart hord-wyn-hord-joard-fynd findan find
eald old ðēht-sceadā night ravager
byrnende burning biorg barrow sēcan seek out
nacod naked, smooth nið-draaca spiteful dragon nihtes by night fleógeð fly
fyre fire befængan enfolded hyne him fold-bœnd country dwellers
swīðe greatly ondrēadā dread gesēcan sceall seek out sēcanan have to
hord hoard hrūne earth hēðen heathen
warian guard winter year frōð ancient white at all ðē sēl the better
ðēod-sceadā waster of peoples þrēo three hund hundred winter year
hēðan keep hrūne ground hord-ærna treasure-house sum a special one
ēacen-craftig enormous in might oððet until an one sēalgan enrage
mon man mōd heart man-dryhten master bēron bear
fæted plated wēge cup frioðo-wēre pact of peace bīdan entreat
hlaford lōð sin his hord hoard rāsian rifle
onberan rob bēg ring bīn request tīdan grant
fēasceatfummen man man fēra lord sēawian look upon
frīs men fyrn-geoweorc ancient work forms first sīð time
wyrm serpent onweaca awakēe wrōhte stripes niwan renew
stīcan glide after along stōn rock stearc-heart ruthless onfīdan discover
fōnd enemy fōt-lāst foot-trace to forð too far forward gestēpan step
dyrne stealthy craft cunning draaca dragon bērfeod head nēah near
māgan be able unfege not fated to die ēðe easily gedīgan survive
wēa misery wrēc-sīð exile Walend Ruler
hylfdō favōr gehæaldan protect hord-werd hoard-guard sēcan search
georne eagerly after along grund ground gumna man

sweofoft sleep sāre grievously getēon deal with
htēhot hrēoh-mōð savage-hearted hlēw oft ymbe-hweard fan round
eal whole ùtanwēard outside ðēr any
wēstēn wēsterness hwæōre yet wīg wēr gefēon rejoice in
beaud battle wēorc action hwilum at times beorh barrow ðēwēorfan turn

2268a 'the sole survivor'

2298b 'yet he rejoiced in the fight'
sinc-fæt söhte; hē þæt sōna onfand,
dæt hæfde gumena sum goldes gefandod,
hēah-gestrēona. Hord-woard onbåd
earfoðlice, oðdæt æfenn cwom.
Wæs ðæs geholgen beorges hyrd, 2300
wolde se lāða lige forgylldan
drinc-fæt dýre. þā wæs deag sceacen
wyrme on willan; nō on wealle læng
bīdan wolde, ac mid bæle fór,
fýre gefyðed. Wæs se fruma egeslice
lēodum on lande, swā hýt lungre wearð
on hyra sinc-gifan sāre geendod. 2305

Dā se gæst ongan gleðum spīwan,
beorht hofu bārnan; bryn-lēoma stōd
eldum on andan; nō dēr āht cwices
lāð lyft-floga læfan wolde.
Wæs ðæs wyrmes wīg wide gesyne,
nearo-fāges nīð nēan ond feǫran,
hū se gūd-sceāða Gēata lēode
hatode ond hýnde. Hord eft gesēctæ,
dryht-sele dyrme är dages hwiłe.
Hæfde land-warā lige befængan,
bēde ond bronde; beorges getruwode,
wīges ond wealles; him sōo wēn gēlēah.
þā wæs Biowulfē brōga gecyðed 2315
snūde tō sōde, þæt his sylfes hām,
bōlda sēlēst, bryne-wylmum mealt,
gif-stōl Gēata. þæt dām gōdan wæs
hrēow on hreōre, hyge-sorge mēst.
Wēnde se wissa, þæt hē Wealdende
2320 ofer ealde riht, ēcecan Dryhtne,

'sinc-fæt precious cup sēcan look for sōna at once ouflanf discover
bīna man sum some gefandan tamper with
hēah-gestrēona glorious treasure hord-woard hoard-guard oufandan wait
earfoðlice with difficulty oðdæt until æfenn evening cuman come
gehelgen swolen (with rage) beorg barrow hyrdKEEPER
lāða hateful one līg flame forgýdan pay back
drinc-fæt drinking-vessel dýre precious deag day sceacen passed
wyrn serpent wīl a delight weall wall læng læng longer
bīdan wait sc but bēl flame faran go forth
fyr fyre gefyðed prepared fruma beginning egeslice terrifying
lēode people swā as lungre swiftly wearðan be
on for sinc-gifas treasure-giver sāre grievously endan bring to an end
gast visitant ongimman begin gēlād flame spīwan spew forth
beorht bright hof dwelling bārnan burn bryn-lēoma burning glow
eīde men anda terror ahōt ought, anything cwic alive
lāð lōd hateful līf-dīcga air-flīer lēfan leave
wyrn serpent wīg onslaught wide far and wide gesyne to be seen
nearo-fāg cruelly hostile nīð malice nēan from near feǫran from far
hū how gūd-sceāða destroyer lēode people
hatian hate hynan injure hord hoard gescēcan shoot back to
2325 dryht-sele splendid hall dyrne secret dēr before deag day hwīl time
land-warā dweliers in the land līg flame befængen enveloped
bīl fire broad burning beorg barrow getruwan trust
wīg valour weall wall sōo the wēn hope gelēogan deceive
brōga terror gecyðan make known
snūde swiftly tō sōde in truth sīfan own hām home
bold building sēlēst best bryne-wylina burning surge mealt melt
gif-stōl gift-stool gōda hero
hrēow sorrow hrēôfer heart hyge-sorge grief mēst greatest
wēnas think wīsa wise Wēsdend Ruler
2330 ofer against eald ancient riht law ēce everlasting Dryhten Lord

2310b-11 'just as it was quickly and painfully brought to an end for their treasure-giver'}
bitre gebulge; bröst innan wëoll
þöstrum geboncum, swa him þeþwe ne wæs.

Hæfde īg-draça lēoda fæsten,
ēa-lond útān, eorð-weakd ðone
2335
glēðum forgrunden; him þæs gōd-kyning,
Wedera þiōden, wæce leornode.
Heht him þā gewyrcean wīngendra hlēo
eall-lērnen, eorla dryhten,
wīg-bord wraētlic; wisse hē gearwe,
2340 þet him holt-wudu helpan ne mahte,
lind wīō līge. Scelode lēn-daga
sēelīng ēr-gōd ende gebīdan,
worulde līfes, ond se wyrn somod,
þeah ðæ hord-welan hēolda lange.

Oferhode ȳa hrīngan fengel,
þēt hē þone wīd-flogan weorde gesōhte,
śidan herge; nō hē him þæ saece ondrēd,
ē hīm þæs wyrmes wīg for wīht dyde,
cafoð ond ellen, forðōn hē ēr fela,
2345 nearo nōðende, nōða gedīgede,
hīlde-hlemmA, syddān hē Hrōdāres,
sigor-ēadig secg, sele fālsode
ond ǣt gūde forgrāp. Grendelēs mēgum
lāðan cynnes.
Nō þæt læsest wæs

2355 hond-gemōt, þær mon Hygelcā slōh,
syddān Gēata cyaning gōdē rāsum,
frēa-wīne folca Frēs-londum, on,
Hrēolēs eafora hīoro-dryncum swealt,
bille gebēaten. þōnan Bīowulf cōm

2333–358 'The fire-dragon had with his flames entirely destroyed the stronghold of the people, both the fortress and the coastal land outside it'
2341b-42 Or, if MS þend is emended to þēnd rather than ðæm. 'The seafarer, the prince good from of old, had to endure the end of his days'

2348 'nor did he take much account of the worm's valour'
2357 Frēs-londum: Frisia. Historians record that Hygelac died in about 820 in a raid on the Franks, having laid waste the lands of the Hetware by the mouth of the Rhine, the northern border of the Frankish Empire
2360 sylfes cræfte, sund-nytte drêah; 
  hæfde him on earme eorla þrítiga 
  hilde-gawta, þa hê to holme stâg; 
  nealles Hetware hêmge porfton 
  fêo-wiges, þê him foran ongêan 
2365 linde bærôn; lýt eft becwôm 
  fram þâm hild-frecan hámes niosan. 
  Óferswm ðâm sioleða bigong sunu Ecgêowes, 
  earm ân-haga eft tô lêodum; 
  þêr him Hygd geþeâd hord ond rice, 
2370 bêgas ond brego-stôl; bearnæ ne truwode, 
  þêt hê wîd æl-fylcum ðapel-stôlas 
  healdan cûde, ðâ wæs Hygelâc dêad. 
  Nô ôy ár feasceafte findan meahton 
  æt dâm ægelinge ânige ðinga, 
2375 þêt hê Heardrêde hlâford wære, 
  oðde þone cnyedôm ciosan wolde. 
  Hwædre hê hine on folce fréond-lârum hêold, 
  étsum mid àre, oðdeæt hê yldra wærð, 
  Weder-Gêatum wêold. Hyne wrâc-mæcgas 
2380 ofer sê sôhtan, suna Óhteres; 
  hæfdo nô forhealden helm Scyldinga, 
  þone sêlesan sê-cyninga, 
  þâra de in Swô-rice sinc brynnde, 
  mærne þêoden. Him þêt to mearce wêard; 
2385 hê þêr for feorme feorm-wunde hîát, 
  sêwerdes swengum, sunu Hygelêces; 
  ond him eft gewât Ongenóioes bearn;

2360 'when he took the path to the ocean'. Beowulf 'had the armour of thirty' on his arm when he turned towards the ocean, rather than (as in older interpretations) during his solitary swim back to his people. The swimming feat is secondary to his having defeated thirty enemies before leaving the field upon which Hygelac lay slain

2363-65a 'not at all did the Hetware need to be triumphant about their foot-fighting, those who had carried shields in front of them against him'
hâmes niosan, syðdan Heardrêd læg,
let öne brego-stôl Biowulf healdan,
2390 Gêatum wealdan; þæt was göd cyning.
34 Sê öes lêod-hryres lêan gemunde
ufaran dógrum, Eadgilsê wearð,
frasceafum frêond; folce gestêpte
of er sæ side sunu Æhteres,
2395 wigum ond wêþnum. Þæt gewreç syðdan
cealdum cear-stðum, cyning eadlre binêat.
Swâ hê nîða gehwane genesê hêfe,
slîora geslyhta, sunu Ecgðowes,
enlen-weorca, oð öne ànne ðeg,
2400 þê hê wið þam wyhrne gewegan sceolde.
Gewât þa twelfa sum, torne gebolgen,
dryhten Gêata draca sceawian.
Hêfe þa grufun, hwana sio fêðhô arás,
bealo-nîð biorna; him þo bearne cwôm
mêdpum-fet mære þurh ðês meldan hond.
Sê wæs on dâm ðréate þrêttêða sceg,
þe ðês orleges ôr onstealde,
hêft hyge-giômor, sceolde hêan ðônôn
wong wîsian. Hê ofer willan giong,
2410 þo ðês ðe hê corð-sele ánne wisse,
hiw ond hrûsan holm-wyrmne nêh,
yô-gewinnen, sê wæs innan full
wrêttâ ond wîra. Weard unhimore,
egearo guô-freca gold-mâômas hêold,
eald under corðan; nas þêt yô ceap
tô gegangenne gumena äñigum.
Gesat dê na nesse niô-heard cyning
þenden hêlo âbêad heord-genêatum.
gold-wine Geatla. Him wea geðmor sefa,
wæfre ond weal-fús, wyrd ungemete nêah,
sê ðone gomelan grêtan sceoldê,
sêcean såwle hord, sundar gedælan
dife wið ic; nô þon lange was
torh æpelinges flæsce bewunden.

Browulf mægelade, bearn Ecgðæowes:
‘Fela ic on giogoðe giô-rêsa genæs,
orleg-hwiða; ic þæt eall gemon.
‘Ic was syfan-wintre, þa mec sinca baldor,
frêa-wine folca æt minum fæder genam.
’Hêold mec ond hæfde Hröðel cyning,
’geaf mê sinc ond symbel, sibbe gemunde;
’næs ic him þo life lâðra ðwihte
’beorn in burgum þonne his bearna hwylc,
’Herebeald ond Hæðcy, ðôðe Hylgelc min.

’Was þâm yldestan ungþæðefice
’mæges dæcum morþor-bed strêð,
syððan hyne Hæðcy of horn-bogan,
’his frêa-wine flâne geswenctæ,
mistæ mercelses ond his mæg ofsêôt,
’brôðor ðærne, blôdigan gare.
’Þæt wæs feoh-lêas gefeoðt, fyrenum gesynæd,
hreðre hyge-mêðe; sceoldone hwœðre swa þêah
øøeling unwrecen ealdres linnan.
‘Swâ bið geðmorlic gomelum ceorle
’tô geðibadanne, þæt his byre ride
’giong on galgan. þonne hê gyd wrece,
sârganie sang, þonne his sunu hanguð
hreftne ðô hrôðre ond hê him helpe ne maeg.

‘se ‘which’ (though wyrd is feminine)
Boys were often fostered out in noble families, and gave their loyalty to the foster-father. Hrethel is the father of Browulf’s mother
‘That was an assault without compensation, criminally sinful’

gold-wine gold-friend geðmor mournful sefa breast
wæfre restless weal-fús ready for death wyrd fate ungemete immeasurably
nêah near
gomela old (man) grêtan meet sculan be obliged to
alecan seek sæwol soul hord treasure sundor asunder gedælan divide
wið from þe body þon from then longe for long
feorh life æþeling prince þêse flesh bewiwendan enclaps
mægelan speak bearn son
fela many giogoð youth giô-rêsa onslaught in war genæsæ survive
orleg-hwið time of strife gemuman remember
syfan-wintre seven years old mec me sinca treasure baldor lord
frêa-wine lord-friend folc people æt from gemiman receive
healdan protect habban keep cyning king
gyfan give sinc treasure symbol feast sundor kinship gemuman keep in mind
tô in lâðra more hateful ðwihte anything
beorn a warrior burg stronghold þonne than bearn son hwylc each
oðde or min my
yldestæ eldest ungþæðefice unfittingly
mæg kinsman dæd deed morþor-bed violent death-bed strêð prepared
syððan when hyne him horn-boga horn bow
frêa-wine lord and friend flân arrow geswencan strike down
missæ miss merceæ mark mæg kinsman ofscutan shoot dead
brôðor brother ðær another blôdig blood-stained gâr shaft
feoh-lêas inexplicable gefeoðt assault fyremen wickedly synglan sin
hreðer heart hyge-mêðe mind-wearing hwœðre yet swa þêah nevertheless
æþeling prince unwrecen unavenged aldor life linnan lose
gemorlic sorrowful gomel old ceorl man
gebðan endure hyne son ridan ride
giong young gæla gallows þonne than gyd lament wrecen raise
sârganie sorrowful sang sunu son hangian hang
hreftæn raven hrôðr joy hæl help

‘Likewise it is sorrowful for an old man to endure...’ A father cannot take vengeance on a son who has accidentally killed another son; a plight compared to that of the father of a criminal who has been justly hanged. As there is no lawful remedy, he despairs
'eald ond infrōd, ānige gefremman.
2450 'Symle bið gemynægad morna gehwylece
eaforan ellor-siō; ōōres ne gēmēo
'tō gebidanne burgum in innan
'yrfeg-wærda, þonne se ān hafað
þurh deādēs nōd dēdā gefondad.
2455 'Gesēhō dor-scearig on his suna bure
'win-sele wēstne, windge restere,
'rēote berofene; ridend swēfād,
'heæo in hōdoman; nis þær hearpan swēg,
'gomen in geardum; swylice dēr iū wēron.

[35] 'Gewiteð þonne on sealman, sorh-lēōd geæað,
'ān after ānum; þūhte him eall tō rūm,
'wongas ond wicc-stede. Swā Wedra helm
eafter Herebealde heortan sorge
'seallinde waeg; wihte ne meahte
2465 'on dām feorh-bonan fēghōd gebētan;
'nō ðōy ār ē hē pēo headō-rinc hattian ne meahte
lādum dēdum, þēah him lēof ne was.
'Hē dā mid þēre sorhge, þē him tō sēr belamp,
'gum-dēnam ogefeað. Godes lēoht gēcēas;
2470 'eafearum lēfre, swā dēō adigg mon,
'lond ond lēōd-byrig, þā hē of life gewāt.
'þā was synn ond sacu Swēona ond Gēata;
quor wīd wæter wrōht gemēne,
'here-nīð hearda; syðdan Hrēōel swēalt,
2475 'ōðē him Ongenōeowes eafearan wēran
'frome, fyrd-hwate; frēode ne woldon
'ofor heafō healdan, ac ymb Hrēosna-beorh.

2451b-34 'he does not care to wait for a second heir [yrfeg-wærda is genitive singular] in the stronghold, when the first has, under the compulsion of death, experienced the last of his deeds'
2461a 'one for one'; the father for the son
2465b 'make good by violence'
'ealtonin ðët sear oft gefremedon. ðæt màg-wine mine gewrécgan,
2480 fæðe ðæt ðër ðyræg, ðøn swæ hæt gefræge wæs,
'thæh de ðër his ealdre gehohte, heardan cæpe;
'æðcyrne weard, 'Gæta dryhtne, gōd onsaðe,
2485 þær ic on morgne gefrægn màg ðëræne
billes ecgum on bonan stælan, þær Ongenthew Eofores nìosað;
'gōd-helm tōglāð, gomela Scylding
'hreas heoro-blāc, honum gemunde
2490 fæðo genōge, feorh-sweng ne oftæah.
'ography of ðæt māðmas, þæ he mæ sealde,
geald ðæt gūðe, swæ mæ gifeðe wæs,
łeohtan sweorde; hæ mæ lond forgeaf,
'eard, eðel-wyn. Ñes him ðæg þearf,
2495 þæt þær Gisðum oðde þær Gār-Denum
oðde in Swi-roce sēcæan þurfe
wyrsan wig-freccan, weorde gecypan.
'Synle ic him on fēðan beforan wolfde,
âna on orde, ond swæ þō aldre sceall
2500 þæt mec ðær ond sið of gelæste,
syðan ic for dugeðum ðegrlæfne wearnô
'ðō hand-bonan, Hūga cempan.
'Nalles he ðā fææwe Frēs-cyninge,
bræot-woerðunge brīgand mōste,
2505 ac in campe gecrōng cumbles hyrde,
'thepeling on elne; ne wæs ecg bona,

eastol terrible lawit-sear malicious slaughter gefremman carry out
mág-wine friend and kinsman gewrecan avenge
2480 fæðo attack ðyræg outrage swæ as gefræge known
'ðæh de although ðër one of them ealdor ðær life gæcypan pay for
heard hard cæp bargain weordan prove
dryhten lord gōd war onsaðe fatal
2485 morgen morning gefrægna learn màg kinsman ðër the other
bille sword ecg edge bonne slayer stælan avenge
þær when nìosað attack
2490 gōd-helm war-helmet tōglāðan split gomel aged
hrōssec fall heoro-blāc pale from the sword hōnd hand gemannan remember
fæðo ac or genōge enough feorh-sweng life-blow ofðon hold back
2495 māðmas treasures sēllan give
gyldan repay gōd battle gīfeðe granted
lēoht gleaming forgysan give in return
eard land eðel-wyn the joy of a domain þearf need
2500 oðde or
2495 oðde or sēcæan seek þurfan need
wyrsan lesser wig-freccan warrior weord price gecypan buy
symle always fēða band of foot-soldiers beforan in front
āna alone ðō ond van swā to aldre through life
2500 sceac battle fremman do þenden while þollan last
2490 þær which ðō early sið late gefræstan serve
syðan since for before dugeð noble guard weordan prove
tō as hand-bonna slayer by hand cempa champion
2505 nalles not at all frææwe trappings
briost-woerðunge breast-armorment brīgand present mōtan be allowed
ac but campe battle gecypan fall cumble standard hyrdre keeper
2505 æþeling prince ðær valour ecg edge bonne slayer

to have ‘heard about’ this is in epic style. The death of ‘the aged Scylding’ is
described at 292ff
2490 him Hygelac, who is now Beowulf’s king
2497b ‘was accustomed to be in front of’
'ac him hilde-grāp heortan wylmas,
'bān-hūs gebræc. Nū sceall billes ecg,
'hond ond heard sword ymb hord wīgan.'

Bēowulf maēlodode, bēot-wordum spræc
niehstan sīde: 'Ic genēōde fela
'gūða on geogoðe; gīt ic wylle,
'frōd folces wærd, fǣhōe sēcan,
'mērōu freman, gīf mec se mān-sceāða

2515 'of eorō-sele ût gesēċeōd!'

Gegrētē dā ġumena gehwylcne,
hwate helm-berend hindeman sīde,
swēse gesiōas: 'Nōlde ic sceord beran,
'wæpen tō wyrme, gīf ic wiste hū

2520 'wiō dām āglēċean elles meahte
'gylpe wiōgripa, swā ic gīō wiō Grendle dyde;
'ac ic ðēr heaðū-fyres hātēs wēne,
'oreōes ond attres; forðōn ic mē on hafu
'bord ond byrnan. Nelle ic beorges wærd

2525 'oferlēon fōtes trem, ac unc furðūr sceal
'weordan āt wealle, swā unc wyrōry gēōðō
'Metōd manna gehwæs. Ic eom on mōde from,
'þæt ic wiō ðone gūð-flogan gylp ofersitte.

2530 'Gebōd gē on beorge, byrnum werede,
'scēgas on scarwum, hwæðer sēl mege
'æfter wēl-rēse wunde gēōðō
'uncer twēga. Nis þæt ðōwer sīō,
'nē gemet mannes, nefne mīn ānes
'þæt hē wiō āglēċean eofōdo dēle,
'eorlscype efnē. Ic mid ealne sceall
'gold gegangan, oðō gūð nīmēþ,
'teorh-bealu frēcne, frēan ēowermē!'
The stone arches, with later details, suggest a megalithic chambered barrow.
tô gescipe scyndan. Scyld wêl gebearg
life ond lice læsstan hwile
mêrum þêode þonne his myne sôhte;
ôr hê þy fyrist forman ðögore
wealdan môste, swa him wyrd ne gescrâf

hrêô aet hilde. Hond up âbrâðæd
Gêata dryhten, gryre-fâhne sôh
inge-lâfe, þat sío ðeg gewâc,
brûn on bâné, bêt unsiwôð
þonne his ðôd-cyning þearfe hêftfe,
byssigum gebâded. Þa wæs beorges weard
æfter heathu-swenge on hrêôum môde,
wearp wæl-fyre, wîde sprungon
hilde-lêoman. Hrêô-sigora ne gealp
gold-wine Gêata; gûð-bill geswâc,
nacod æt nîbê, swa hyt nô scoelde,
irene ær-gôð. Ne wæs þat ðë se ðiib,
þat se mëra maga Ecgêôowes
grund-wong bône ofgyfan wolde;
scoelde ofer willan wic earðian
elles hwergen, swâ sceal ðôhwylc mon
álêtan lên-dagas. Nës dâ long tô ðon,
þat dâ ðålêcêcan hê eft gemêttôn.
Hyrte hyne hord-weard - hreðer ðêome wêoll
mêtwan stefne; nearo ðôrowêde,
fyre befongen, sê ðe ær folce wêold.
Nealles him on hêape hand-gestelaalan,
æðelinga bearn ymba gestôdon
hilde-cystum, ac hê on holt bugon,
ealdre burgan. Hîora in ðënum wêoll
sefa wîo sorgum. Sibb ðêre ne mëg

2570b-759 'The shield gave the life and body of the famous prince good protection
for less time than he had planned, on this the first occasion in his life when he
was to manage without fate having assigned him glory in battle'

2570 geceice fæte sceâdan hasten sceâld shield geboorgan protect
2571 lie body bânan lesser hwil time
2572 mëre famous þêoden prince þonne than myne intention sêcan seek
2573 ôr where þy at that ðyrst time forma first ðögore day
2575 wealdan manage mótan be allowed swa as wyrd fate gescrafan assign
2575 hrêô glory hilde battle âbrêgan raise
dryhten lord gryre-fâh terrible in its markings sêan strike
inge-lêf mighty inheritance eeg edge gewiccan fail
brûn gleaming hân bone ðitan bite unsiwôðer less strongly
þonne than his his ðôd-cyning king of a people þearf need habban have
2580 bysige trouble geboðan press hard beorg barrow weard guardian
heathu-sweng battle-stroke hrêô savage môd mood
weorpan throw wæl-fyre deadly fire wîde far springan spring
hilde-lêoma light of battle hrêô-sigör glorious victory gyþpan boast
gold-wine gold-giving friend gûð-bill war-sword geswiccan fail
2585 nacod bare ðiib battle
irên iron ær-gôð good from of old ðëe easy ðiib expedition
mëre famous maga son
grund-wong place on earth bône that ofgyfan give up
sculan be obliged ofer against willa wish wic dwelling earðian inhabit
2590 elles hwergen elsewhere ðôhwylc each
álêtan leave lêa-agasan transitory days tô ðon until the time
ægêcâa terrible one eft again gemêtan meet
brytan take heart bord-weard hoard-keeper hreðer breast ðôm breath
wealân heave
2595 niwa fresh stefn occasion nearo severe straits grôswian suffer
2595 fyre fire befengen enclosed ær formerly felc people wealdan rule
nealles not at all bêap band hand-gestella close companion
æðeling prince hears son ymba about gastandân take a stand
hilde-cyst virtue in battle ac but holt wood bugan flee
ealdor life beorgan save hîora of them ðan one wealân wealân well up
2600 sefa spirit sorg grief sibb kinship ðêre ever

2592 ægêcêcan: Beowulf and the dragon
2600b-01 'Nothing can remove the kinship-bond for one who thinks rightly'
wih tun onwendum þám þe wāl þenceð.

[36] Wīglāf wēs hātēn, Wēoxstānēs sunu,
leôflic lind-wiɡa, lēoð Scythainge,
þæg Ælfrēces; gesēah his mon-dryhten
under here-grīman hāt þrōwian.

Gemunde dā dā ārē þē hē him ār forgeaf,
wīc-stede weligne Wēgmundinga,
folc-rīht gehwylc, swā his fēder āhtē;
ne mīhte dā forhabban, hond rōnd gefēng,
geolwe linde; gōmel swyrð getēah,
þæt wēs mid eldan ēannundes láf,
sūna ūhtēres. þám æt sæcce weard,
waecan winelēsam, Wēohstān bana
mēces ecgum, ond his māgum æþēr
brūn-fāgne helm, hringde byrman,
eaeld-sweord etonisc. þæt hīm Onelā forgeaf,
his āeðelinges guð-gwēða,
fyrder-searō fūlic; nó ymbe dā fēðe sprēc,
þēah þē hē his brōðor bearīn leamode.

2620 Hē freawas gehēōd fēla missērā,
biill ond byrnan, oððēāt his byre mihte
eorliscē efnan swā his ār-fēder;
geaf hīm dā mid Gēatum guð-gwēða
ēghwæs unfrīm, þā hē of ealdre gewāt,
frōd on forō-weg. þā wēs forma sið
geōgan cempan, þæt hē gūðe rōs
mið his frēo-dryhtin fremman sceolde.

With Wīglāf come new perspectives. He is a prince of the Scythes, who rule the Swedes. His father fought for Onelā and slew Ēannumund, a guest of the Geatē. Wēowulf hēafted Eadgēls kill Onelā and regain the throne of Sweden (391ff). Later Beowulf confirms Wīglāf in his inheritance of the domain of the Wēgmundings - a race to which, it turns out, Beowulf also belongs.

Wīglāf inerits Ēannumund's sword through his father Wēohstān. Wēohstān

had killed Ēannumund, Onelā's nephew, and presented Ēannumund's sword to Onelā, who gave it back to him. It is this sword, which Ēannumund may have inherited from Othēerē, that wounds the dragon.

his Onelā's

hē Wēohstān; hīs broðor 'hīs (Onelā's) brother's'

hē Wēohstān

The Wēgmundings may have lived between the Swedes and the Geats.
Ne gemælt him se mód-sefa, né his mæges láf
gewác æt wige. þet se wyrm onfand,
2630 syðan hie tógedre gegán hæfdon.
Wīgláf maðelode, word-rihta fela
sægde gestiðum — him wes sefa geömorses.
    'Ic ðæt mæl geman, þær wæ medu þegun,
'ponne wē gehétun ússum hlásaðe
2635 in bior-sele, ðe ús ðás bêgas geaf,
'þæt wē him ðā gūð-getawa gyldan woldon,
'gīf him þyslicu þærfl gelumpe,
'helmas ond heard swerð. Dē hē úsic on herge gecēas
'tō ðýssum síð-fate sylfes willum,
2640 onmundr úsic mǣrða, ond ðās māðmas geaf,
'þē hē úsic gār-wǐgend gōde tealde,
'hwate helm-berend, þēah ðe hlásað ús
'þēs ellen-woorc āna aððhte
'tō gefremmanne, folces hyrde,
2645 forðām hē ðanna mæst mǣrða gefremede,
'dēða dollicra. Nū is sé dag cumen
'þæt ðūre man-dryhten mægenes behōfðā,
'gōðra gūð-rinces; wutun gōgand tō,
'helpen hīld-fruman, þēnden hýt syf,
2650 gūðe-gēgas grim! God wāt on mecc
'þæt mē is micle lēofre, þēt mínne lēc-hāman
'mid mínne gold-gyfand gūða feōmīne,
'Ne þynce ðē mēs ryse, þæt wē rōndas beren
'eft tō earde, nēmne wē ærōr mǣgen
2655 fāne gefyllan, feorh ealgyðan
'Wedrā dēdōnes. Ic wāt geare,
'þæt nērōn eald-gwyryht, þæt hē āna scyłe
'Gēata duguðe gnorn þrōwian,

2651 word-rihta alternatively 'statement of duty'
2642b ðs 'for us'
2645 'because of all men he had achieved the greatest deeds of glory'
gesigan sink sæce battle ārum to us
2660 byrne corslet beadu-scūð battle-coat bām to both gemæne shared
wadan advance wæl-rēc deadly smoke wig-heafoled helmet beran bear
frēan lord fulturn help fēa few cwēōnan speak
Rōf dear lēstān perform eall all tela well
swā as geogōð-fēorth youth-time gnāra long ago gecweōnan declare
2665 ne not lēstān allow be while dē thee lifgend living
dōm glory gedrēōsan abate dād deed rōf famed
mōeling prince ān-hīdīg resolute megen strength
feorh life ealgiān defend ful-lēstān support
wyrn serpent yrre angry cumān come
2670 atol terrible inwit-gest spiteful visitant dōer second sīð time
fyr-wyllum fire-surge fah adorned fōond enemy nōsian seek out
lāð hostile lig flame fōo wave fāran advance
byrnan burn bord shield wiō up to rōnd boss byrne corslet
geong young gār-wiga spear-warrior gloc help gefremman furnish
2675 ac but maga man mēg kinnman scyl shiel
dene bravely gegān go to dē when āgen own
glēd flame forgrīdand destroy gēn again gōd-cyning war-king
mōerō glory gemūnna summon megen-strego great strength slētan strike
hilde-bīlla battle-sword heafoled head stōdan stick
2680 sip violence nēdan impel forberstan shatter
gewican fail sæce combat
gomol ancient grāg-māl grey-marked gifeōe granted
eron iron ēcg edge, sword
hild battle tō too
2685 sē dō which meæcæn sword gehwā every gēhrēge information
swing blow ofersēcan overstrain sæce fight beran bear
wēson weapon wund wound wōn at all dē sēl the better
bōod-sceāna ravager of a people brīdd third sīð time
frēcne terrible fyr-draaca fire-drake fāhōa feud gemynig mindful of

2659b–60 'both of us must share together sword and helmet…'
2680 Nailing fails Beowulf, as Huntting had
2682 Him Beowulf
2674a 'wundum beard 'hardened by wounds' (cf. 1460)