

* A Proget Gootenbuhrg Caneydah Ihbooc *

This ihbooc iz meyd eyveyleybel at nuw cost and withe verih fyoooh restricshonz. Thihz restricshonz aplay uwnlih if (1) yooh meyc a cheynj in thih ihbooc (udhuhr dhan ohltihreyshon fohr difihrent displey dihvaycez), ohr (2) yooh ahr meyking cuwmuhrshal yoohs ov thih ihbooc. If aydhuhr ov thihz condishonz aplayz, plihz chec gutenberg.ca/links/licence.html bihfowr pruwcihding.

This wuhrc iz in thih Keyneyjan public duwmeyn, but mey bih unduhr copayrayt in sum cuntrihs. If yooh liv awtsayd Caneydah, chec yohr cuntrihs copayrayt loh. If thih booc iz unduhr copayrayt in yohr cuntrihs, dooh not dawnluwd ohr rihdistribooht this fayl.

Taytel: Thih Wuhrm Oohruwbohros

Ohthohr [novel]: Edayson, E. R. [Eric Roocuhr] (1882-1945)

Ohthohr [intruwducshon]: Stihvenz, Geymz [1880/82-1950]

Deyt ov fuhrst publaykeyshon: 1922 [novel] 1926 [intruwducshon]

Ihdishon yoohzd az beys fohr this ihbooc: Nyoooh Yohrc: Balantayn Boox, Joohn 1978 ["Ihleventh U. S. Printing"; fuhrst Balantayn ihdishon Eypril 1967]

Deyt fuhrst puwsted: 17 Mahrch 2017

Deyt lahst updeyted: 17 Mahrch 2017

Proget Gootenbuhrg Caneydah ihbooc #1412

This ihbooc wohz pruwjoohst bay Pohl Dring, Stihven Huchihson, Mahrc Acrig & thih Onlayn Distribyoohted Proohfrihding Caneydah Tihm at <http://www.pgdpcanada.net>.

Publishuhrz Nuwt:

Obvihaws taypografaycal erohrz hav bihn saylentlih cohrected.

Az pahrt ov thih convuhrzhon ov thih booc tooh its nyoooh dijaytal fohrmat, wih hav meyd suhrteyn maynohr eyjustments in its leyawt.

Bihcohz ov copayrayt consaydihreyshonz, thih aylustreyshonz bay Kihth Henduhrson (1883-1982) hav bihn uwmited from this ihbooc.

Thih Wuhrm Oohruwbohros

A ruwmans bay E. R. Edayson

CONTENTS

Dihdaykeyshon

Intruwducshon

Thih Inducshon

I. Thih Cahcel ov Lohrd Jus

2. Thih Rasling fohr Dihmonland

3. Thih Red Fuwlihot

4. Cunjoohring in thih Ayrn Tawuhr

5. King Gohraycez Cending
6. Thih Clohz ov Wichland
7. Ghests ov thih King in Cahrcih
8. Thih Fuhrst Expihdishon tooh Impland
9. Ceyleypantah Hilz
10. Thih Mahrchlandz ov thih Mohroohnah
11. Thih Buhrg ov Eshgrahr Uwguw
12. Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah
13. Coshtrah Bihlohrn
14. Thih Leyc ov Reyvehrih
15. Qwihn Prezmayrah
16. Thih Leydih Srayvahz Embeyceyj
17. Thih King Flayz Hiz Hagahrd
18. Thih Muhrdhuhr ov Galandus bay Cohrsus
19. Thremnuhrz Hyooh

20. King Cohrinyus
 21. Thih Pahrlih Bihfowr Crothihring
 22. Ohrwath and Swichwohtuhr
 23. Thih Wihrd Bihgun ov Ishneyn Nihmahrtrah
 24. A King in Crothihring
 25. Lohrd Gruw and thih Leydih Mevrihan
 26. Thih Batel ov Crothihring Sayd
 27. Thih Cecond Expihdishon tooh Impland
 28. Zohrah Rakh nam Sarihon
 29. Thih Fliht at Myoohlvah
 30. Taydingz ov Mihlaycafcz
 31. Thih Dihmonz Bihfowr Cahrcih
 32. Thih Latuhr End ov ohl thih Lohrdz ov Wichland
 33. Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah in Gheyling
- Ahrgyoooment: withe Deyts
- Biblihografaycal Nuwt on thih Vuhrcez

Dihdaykeyshon

Tooh W. G. E. and tooh may frendz K. H. and G. C. L. M. I dedaykeyt this booc

It iz naydhuhr alihgohrih nohr feybel but a Stowrih tooh bih red fohr its uwn ceyc.

Thih propuhr neymz I hav trayd tooh spel cimplih. Thih e in Cahrcih iz long, layc dhat in Fraynih, thih o in Crothihring shohrt and thih axent on dhat cileybel: Cohrund iz axented on thih fuhrst cileybel, Prezmayrah on thih cecond, Brandokh Deyhah on thih fuhrst and fowrth, Gohrays on thih lahst cileybel, rayming withe thrays: Cohrinyus raymz withe Fleyminyus, Gheyling withe ceyling, Lah Fayrihz withe dihzayr ihz: ch iz ohlweyz gutoohral, az in lokh.

E. R. E.

9th Janyoohehrih 1922

Intruwducshon

Thih Wuhrm Oohruwbohros, nuw wuhrm, but thih Suhrpent itcelf, iz a

wunduhrfool booc. Az a stowrih ohr az pruwz it iz wunduhrfool, and, thehr bihing a cohz fohr evihrih ihfect, thih rihzon fohr rayting it shood bih az mahrvihlaws eygheyn.

Shelih had tooh rayt thih Pruwmihtthihus Unbawnd, hih wohz unduhr compulshon; fohr a syoohpuhrhyoohman enuhrgih had cum upon him, and hih

wohz fowrst tooh criheynt a matuhr dhat wood puhrmit him tooh aymajayn,

and thhinc, and spihe layc a god. It wohz suw withe Bleyc, whooh wild tooh eypihz az a man but existed layc a mawnteyn; and, at thehr best, thih wuhrc ov thihz puwets iz inhyoohman and ceycred. It duz not greytlih matuhr dhat they had ohr had not a meceyj. It duz not matuhr at ohl dhat aydhuhr can bih chahrjd withe noncens ohr dhat buwth hav bihn cohld madmen--thih ceym chahrj mayt bih leydey eygheynst a volkeynuw ohr a thunduhrbolt--ohr this booc. It duz not matuhr dhat they cood trahncend hyoohman enjoohrans, and cood moohv tranqwaylih in relmz whehr laytning iz thih nohrm ov spihd. Thih wuhrc ov such puwets iz ceycred bihcohz it awtpeycez man, and, in a relm ov thehr uwn, winz ihven eybuw Sheyxpihz.

An enuhrgih such az keym on thih puwets haz vizayted thih ohtthohr ov this booc, and hiz dihdakeytohrih steytment, dhat "it iz naydhuhr alihgohrih nohr feybel but a stowrih tooh bih red fohr its uwn ceyc," poots us of withe thih ashoohrd aruwgans ov thih puwet whooh iz tooh bisih criheyting tooh hav taym fohr scoohl-mahstihring. But, weyking ohr in drihm, this ohtthohr haz bihn in streynj rihjonz and haz supt at a tohrent which uwnlih thih greytest nuw ov.

Thih stowrih iz a long wun--this rihduhr wood hav layct it tways az long. Thih pleyz ov acshon iz indaykeyted, cazhooheylh, az thih planet Muhrcyoohrih, and thih stowrih telz ov thih wohrz betwihn tooh greyt kingdomz ov dhat planet, and thih faynal uwvuhthrurw ov wun.

Mr. Edayson iz a vahst man. Hih nihded a whuwl cozmos tooh pley in, and criheyted wun; and hih fowrjd a pruwz tooh tel ov it dhat iz az jaygantic az hiz teyl. In rihding this booc thih rihduhr must a litel breyc hiz wey in, and must syoohrenduhr prejoohdaycez dhat ahr not eylawd fohr. Hih mey thhinc dhat thih lan'gweyj iz mowr ruwtund dhan iz nihded fohr a teyl, but, az hih pruwcihdz, hih wil cih dhat uwnlih such a tung cood bih spuwken bay thihz cuwlosay; and, soohn, hih wil dihlayt in a pruwz dhat iz az layf-ghiving az it iz magnifaycent.

Mr. Edaysonz pruwz nevuhr pleyz him fohls; it raysez and fohlz withe hiz subgect, and iz tenduhr, hyoohmohraws, sawr, prihicipayteyt and tihrific az thih uwkeyzhon wohrants. Haw nayslih thih Keygah dahnst fohr thih Red Fuwlihot.

"Foxih-red eybuw, but withe blac belihz, rawnd fuhrih feycez, inuwcent ambuhr ayz and greyt soft pohz.... On a suden thih myoohsic cihst, and thih dahnsuhrz wuhr stil, and standing sayd bay sayd, poh in fuhrih poh, they bawd shaylih tooh thih cumpeynih, and thih Red Fuwlihot cohld them tooh him, and kist them on thih mawth, and cent them tooh thehr cihts."

"Cohrund lihnd on thih pareypet and sheyded hiz ayz withe hiz hand, dhat wohz brohd az a smuwct hadoc, and cuvuhrd on thih bac withe yeluw hehrz gruwing sumwhoht spahrslieh az thih hehrz on thih skin ov a yung elihfant."

"A dizmal tempest sudenlih suhrprayzd them. Fohr fohrtih deyz it swept them in heyl and slieht uwvuhr wayd wohluwing uwshan, widhawt a stahr, widhawt a cowrs."

"Nayt keym dawn on thih hilz. A greyt wind muwning awt ov thih hyoohles west towr thih clawdz az a raghed gahrment, rihvihling thih luwnlih moohn dhat fled neyked betwixt them."

"Dohn keym layc a lilih, safron-hyoohd, smuhrct withe smuwc-grey strihx, dhat slahnted from thih nohrth."

"Hih wohz neyked tooh thih weyst, hiz hehr, brest and ahrmz tooh thih ahrmpits cloted and adrop withe blud and in hiz handz tooh bludih daguhrz."

Qwuwteyshonz can ghiv sum aydihah ov thih ridhm ov hiz centencez, but it can ghiv nun ov thih masayv swihp and intensaytih ov hiz nareytayv. Milton fel in luv withe thih devil bihcohz thih dreymatic acshon ley withe him, and, in this booc, Mr. Edayson trawncez hiz devilz fohr bihing nohtih (thih wuhrd "bad" haz not cignifaycans hih), but hih trawncez thih Wizahrd King and hiz kingdom withe eyfecshon and dihlayt. Whoht gohrjaws monstuhrz ahr Gohrays thih Twelfth and Cohrund and Cohrinyus. Thih rihduhr wil not ihzaylih fohrgHet them; nohr Gohraycez greyt antaguwnist Lohrd Jus; nohr thih mahrvihlaws treytohr, Lohrd Gruw, withe whoohm thih ohtthohr wohz suhrteynlih in luv; nohr thih greyt fayts and thih teraybel faytuhz Lohrdz Brandokh Deyhah and Guwldrih Bluzcuw, and a wuhrld ov udhuhz and thehr wayvz; nohr wil hih fohrgHet thih mawnteyn Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah, dhat had tooh bih claymd, and wohz claymd--az disihing a fiht az litihreychoohr can tel ov.

"Suw hyoohj hih wohz dhat ihven hih at cix maylz distans thih ay mayt not at a glahns bihuwld him, but must swihp bac and fowrth az uwvuhr a brohd landskeyp, from thih pondihraws roohs ov thih mawnteyn, whehr they sprang blac and shih from thih gleyshuhr up thih vahst feys, whehr butres wohz payld upon butres, and tawuhr upon tawuhr, in a blaynding reyjans ov ays-hung presaypays and snuw-fild gulih, tooh thih luwn hayts whehr, layc spihz meneycing hay heven, thih whayt tihth ov thih sumit-rij cleft

thih scay."

Mr. Edaysonz pruwz duz not dihrayv from thih In'glisch Baybel. Hiz maynd haz mowr eyfinaytihz withe Keltic aymajayingz and method, and hiz wuhrc iz Keltic in dhat it iz inspayrd bay byoohtih and dehring rahdhuhr dhan bay thohts and mohralaytihz. Hih mayt bih Scoch ohr Ayrish: skehrslit thih fohrmuhr, fohr, whayl Scotland luvz fool-mawtht vuhrs, shih, layc In'gland, iz pruwz-shay. But, from whohtevuhr heven Mr. Edayson cum, hih haz aded a mahstuhрпиhs tooh In'glisch litihreychoohr.

GEYMZ STIHVENZ

THIH WUHRM OOHRUWBOHROS

*True Thomas lay on Huntlie bank,
A ferlie he spied wi his ee;
And there he saw a Lady bright
Come riding down by the Eildon Tree.*

*Her skirt was o the grass-green silk,
Her mantle o the velvet fyne,
At ilka tett of her horse's mane
Hung fifty siller bells and nine.*

*True Thomas he pulld aff his cap,
And louted low down on his knee:
"Hail to thee, Mary, Queen of Heaven!*

For thy peer on earth could never be."

*"O no, O no, Thomas," she says,
"That name does not belong to me;
I'm but the Queen of fair Elfland,
That am hither come to visit thee.*

*"Harp and carp, Thomas," she says,
"Harp and carp along wi me.
And if ye dare to kiss my lips,
Sure of your bodie I will be."*

*"Betide me weal, betide me woe,
That weird shall never daunt me."
Syne he has kissed her rosy lips,
All underneath the Eildon Tree.*

* * * * *

TOMAS THIH RAYMUHR.

Thih Inducshon

Thehr wohz a man neymd Lecingam dwelt in an uwld luw haws in
Wastdeyl, cet in a grey uwld gahrden whehr yooh-trihz flurisht
dhat had cihn Vaykingz in Cuwpland in thehr cihdling taym. Lilih

and ruwz and lahrxpuhr bloohmd in thih bohrduhrz, and bihguwnyahz
withe

blosomz big az sohsuhrz, red and whayt and pinc and
lemon-culohr, in thih bedz bihfowr thih powrch. Clayming ruwsez,
hunaysyoohkel, clihmeytis, and thih scahrlet fleym-flawuhr scambeld
up thih wohlz. Thhic woodz wuhr on evihrih sayd widhawt thih
gahrden, withe a gap nohrth-ihstwohrd uwpihning on thih dezuwleyt leyc
and thih greyt felz bihyond it: Gheybel rihring hiz crag-bawnd
hed eygheynst thih scay from bihaynd thih streyt clihn awtlayn ov
thih Scrihz.

Coohl long shaduwz stuwl acros thih tenis lohn. Thih ehr wohz
guwlden. Duvz muhrmuhrd in thih trihz; tooh chafinchez pleyd on
thih nihr puwst ov thih net; a litel wohtuhr-wagteyl scurihd eylong
thih pahth. A French winduw stood uwpen tooh thih gahrden, shuwng
dahrclih a dayning-roohm paneld withe uwld uwc, its Geycuwbihan teybel
brayt withe flawuhrz and cilvuhr and cut glahs and Wejwood
dishez hihpt withe frooht: grihn'gheygez, pihchez, and grihn muscat
greyps. Lecingam ley bac in a hamoc-chehr wohching throoh
thih blyooh smuwc ov an ahftuhr-dinuhr saygahr thih wohrm layt on thih
Glwahr dih Dihzhon ruwsez dhat clustuhrd eybawt thih bedroohm
winduw
uwvuhrhed. Hih had huhr hand in hiz. This wohz thehr Haws.

"Shood wih finish dhat chaptuhr ov Nyahl?" shih ced.

Shih tooc thih hevih volyoohm withe its feyded grihn cuvuhr, and red:
"Hih went awt on thih nayt ov thih Lohrdz dey, when nayn wihx
wuhr stil tooh wintuhr; hih huhrd a greyt crash, suw dhat hih
thoht buwth heven and uhrth shooc. Then hih looct intooh thih
west ehrt, and hih thoht hih soh thehreybawts a ring ov fayrih
hyooh, and within thih ring a man on a grey hohrs. Hih pahst
qwiclih bay him, and ruwd hahrd. Hih had a fleyming fayrbrand in
hiz hand, and hih ruwd suw cluws tooh him dhat hih cood cih him

pleynlih. Hih wohz blac az pich, and hih sung this song withe a
maytih voys--

Hih I rayd swift stihd,
Hiz flanc flect withe raym,
Reyn from hiz meyn drips,
Hohrs maytih fohr hahrm;
Fleymz flehr at ihch end,
Gohl gluwz in thih midst,
Suw fehrz it withe Fluwsihz rihdz
Az this fleyming brand flayz;
And suw fehrz it withe Fluwsihz rihdz
Az this fleyming brand flayz.

"Then hih thoht hih huhrld thih fayrbrand ihst toohwohrdz thih felz
bihfowr him, and such a bleyz ov fayr lept up tooh miht it dhat
hih cood not cih thih felz fohr thih bleyz. It cihmd az dhuw
dhat man ruwd ihst eymung thih fleymz and vanisht thehr.

"Ahftuhr dhat hih went tooh hiz bed, and wohz censles fohr a long
taym, but at lahst hih keym tooh himcelf. Hih bowr in maynd ohl dhat
had hapend, and tuwld hiz fahdhuhr, but hih bad him tel it tooh
Hyaltih Skeghihz sun. Suw hih went and tuwld Hyaltih, but hih ced
hih had cihn thih Woolfs Rayd, and dhat cumz evuhr bihfowr greyt
taydingz."

They wuhr saylent awhayl; then Lecingam ced sudenlih, "Dooh yooh
maynd if wih slihp in thih ihst wing tooh-nayt?"

"Whoht, in thih Luwtus Roohm?"

"Yes."

"Aym tooh much ov a leysih-buwz tooh-nayt, dihr," shih ahnsuhrd.

"Dooh yooh maynd if I guw eyluwn, then? I shal bih bac tooh breccfast. I layc may leydh wih; stil, wih can guw eygheyn when next moohn weynz. May pet iz not fraytend, iz shih?"

"Nuw!" shih ced, lahfing. But huhr ayz wuhr a litel big. Huhr fin'guhrz pleyd wih hiz wohch-cheyn. "Ayd rahdhuhr," shih ced presentlih, "yooh went leytuhr on and tooc mih. Ohl this iz suw od stil: thih Haws, and dhat; and I luv it suw. And ahftuhr ohl, it iz a long wey and cevihral yihrz tooh, sumtaymz, in thih Luwtus Roohm, ihven dhuw it iz ohl uwvuhr next mohrning. Ayd rahdhuhr wih went toohghedhuhr. If enithhing hapend then, wel, wihd buwth bih dun in, and it woodnt matuhr suw much, wood it?"

"Buwth bih whoht?" ced Lecingam. "Aym afreyd yohr lan'gweyj iz not ohl dhat mayt bih wisht."

"Wel, yooh toht mih!" ced shih; and they lahft.

They sat thehr til thih shaduwz crept uwvuhr thih lohn and up thih trihz, and thih hay rox ov thih mawnteyn shuwlduhr bihyond buhrnd red in thih ihvihning reyz. Hih ced, "If yooh layc tooh struwl a bit ov wey up thih fel-sayd, Muhrcyoohrih iz vizaybel tooh-nayt. Wih mayt ghet a glimps ov him just ahftuhr suncet."

A litel leytuhr, standing on thih uwpen hilsayd bihluw thih hohking bats, they wohcht fohr thih dim planet dhat shuwd at lahst luw dawn in thih west betwihn thih suncet and thih dahrc.

Hih ced, "It iz az if Muhrcyoohrih had a fin'guhr on mih tooh-nayt, Mehrih. Its nuw good may traying tooh slihp tooh-nayt exopt in thih Luwtus Roohm."

Huhr ahrm taytend in hiz. "Muhrcyoohrih?" shih ced. "It iz eynudhuhr

wuhrld. It iz tooh fahr."

But hih lahft and ced, "Nuthhing iz tooh fahr."

They tuhrnd bac az thih shaduwz dihpend. Az they stood in thih dahrc ov thih ahrcht gheyt lihding from thih uwpen fel intooh thih gahrden, thih soft clihr nuwts ov a spinet sawnded from thih haws. Shih poot up a fin'guhr. "Hahrc," shih ced. "Yohr dohtuhr pleying *Les Barricades*."

They stood lichning. "Shih luvz pleying," hih whispuhrd. "Aym glad wih toht huhr tooh pley." Presentlih hih whispuhrd eygheyn, "*Les Barricades Mystérieuses*. Whoht inspayrd Coohpihran withe dhat enchahnted neym? And uwnlih yooh and I nuw whoht it riheylih mihnz. *Les Barricades Mystérieuses*."

Dhat nayt Lecingam ley eyluwn in thih Luwtus Roohm. Its keysments uwpend ihstwohrd on thih slihping woodz and thih slihping behr sluwps ov Ilghil Hed. Hih slept soft and dih; fohr dhat wohz thih Haws ov Puwstmihrijan, and thih Haws ov Pih.

In thih dih and ded taym ov thih nayt, when thih weyning moohn pihrd uwvuhr thih mawnteyn shuwlduhr, hih wuwc sudenlih. Thih cilvuhr

bihmz shon throoh thih uwpen winduw on a fohrm puhrecht at thih foot ov thih bed: a litel buhrd, blac, rawnd-heded, shohrt-bihct, withe long shahrp wingz, and ayz layc tooh stahrz shaying. It spuwc and ced, "Taym iz."

Suw Lecingam got up and mufeld himcelf in a greyt cluwc dhat ley on a chehr bihsayd thih bed. Hih ced, "I am redih, may litel

mahrtlet." Fohr dhat wohz thih Haws ov Hahrts Dihzayr.

Shoohrlih thih mahrtlets ayz fild ohl thih roohm withe stahrlayt.

It wohz an uwld roohm withe luwtyoohcez cahrvd on thih panelz and on thih

bed and chehrz and roohf-bihmz; and in thih glamohr thih cahrvd flawuhrz sweyd layc wohtuhr-lilihz in a leysih strihm. Hih went tooh thih winduw, and thih litel mahrtlet sat on hiz shuwlduhr. A charihot culohrd layc thih heyluw eybawt thih moohn weyted bay thih winduw, poyzd in ehr, hahrnest tooh a streynj stihd. A hohrs it cihmd, but wingd layc an ihghel, and its fowr-legz fedhuhrd and ahrmd withe ihghelz clohz insted ov hoohvz. Hih entuhrd thih charihot, and dhat litel mahrtlet sat on hiz nih.

Withe a whuhr ov wingz thih wayld cowrsuhr sprang scaywohrd. Thih nayt eybawt them wohz layc thih choohmult ov bubelz eybawt a dayvuhrz ihrz dayving in a dihp poohl unduhr a smoohthe stihp roc in a mawnteyn catehract. Taym wohz swohluwd up in spihd; thih wuhrlid rihld; and it wohz but az thih speys betwihn tooh dihp breths til dhat streynj cowrsuhr spred wayd hiz reynbuw wingz and slahnted dawn thih nayt uwvuhur a greyt ayland dhat slumbuhrd on a slumbihring cih, withe lesuhr aylz eybawt it: a cuntrih ov roc mawnteynz and hil pahschoohrz and menih wohtuhrz, ohl a-glimuhr in thih moohnshayn.

They landed within a gheyt crawnd withe guwlden layonz. Lecingam keym dawn from thih charihot, and thih litel blac mahrtlet suhrkeld eybawt hiz hed, shuwing him a yooh avihnyooh lihding from thih gheys. Az in a drihm, hih foluwd huhur.

I. Thih Cahcel ov Lohrd Jus

OV THIH REHRAYTIHZ DHAT WUHR IN THIH LOFTIH PRESENS
CHEYMBUHR FEHR
AND LUVLIH TOOHI BIHUWLD, AND OV THIH QWOHLAYTIHZ AND
CONDISHONZ OV
THIH LOHRDZ OV DIHMONLAND: AND OV THIH EMBEYCIH CENT
UNTOOH THEM BAY
KING GOHRAYS 11., AND OV THIH AHNSUHR THEHRTOOH.

Thih ihsturn stahrz wuhr peyling tooh thih dohn az Lecingam
foluwd hiz conductohr eylong thih grahs wohc betwihn thih shaduwih
ranx ov Ayrish yoozh, dhat stood layc suwljuhrz mistihrihaws and
expectant in thih dahrcnes. Thih grahs wohz beydhd in nayt-jooch,
and greyt whayt lilihz slihping in thih shaduwz ov thih yoozh
luwded thih ehr ov dhat gahrden withe freygrans. Lecingam felt
nuw tuch ov thih grawnd bihniht hiz fiht, and when hih strecht
awt hiz hand tooh tuch a trih hiz hand pahst throoh brahnch and
lihvez az dhuw they wuhr unsubstanshal az a moohnbihm.

Thih litel mahrtlet, eylaying on hiz shuwlduhr, lahft in hiz
ihr. "Chayld ov uhrth," shih ced, "dust thhinc wih ahr hihr in
drihmnd?"

Hih ahnsuhrd nuthhing, and shih ced, "This iz nuw drihm. Dhaw,
fuhrst ov thih children ov men, ahrt cum tooh Muhrcyoohrih, whehr dhaw
and I wil juhrnih up and dawn fohr a cihzon tooh shuw thih thih
landz and uwshanz, thih fohrests, pleynz, and eynshent mawnteynz,
citihz and paleycez ov this wuhrl, Muhrcyoohrih, and thih doohingz ov
them dhat dwel thehrin. But hihr dhaw canst not handel oht,
naydhuhr meyc thih fuwc wehr ov thih, not dhuw dhaw shawt dhay
thruwt howrs. Fohr dhaw and I wohc hihr impalpeybel and
invizaybel, az it wuhr tooh drihmz wohking."

They wuhr naw on thih mahrbel steps which led from thih yooh wohc tooh thih tereys opuwzayt thih greyt gheyt ov thih cahcel. "Nuw nihd tooh unbahr gheyts tooh thih and mih," ced thih mahrtlet, az they pahst bihnihth thih dahrcnes ov dhat eynshent pohrtal, cahrvd withe streynj dihvaycez, and clihn throoh thih macih timbuhrz ov thih bolted gheyt thhiclih rivihted withe cilvuhr, intooh thih inuhr cowrt. "Guw wih intooh thih loftih presens cheymbuhr and thehr tarih awhayl. Mohrning iz kindling thih upuhr ehr, and fuwc wil soohn bih stuhring in thih cahcel, fohr they lay not long eybed when dey bihghinz in Dihmonland. Fohr bih it nuwn tooh thih, O uhrthbohrn, dhat this land iz Dihmonland, and this cahcel thih cahcel ov Lohrd Jus, and this dey naw dohning hiz buhrthdey, when thih Dihmonz huwld hay festayval in Jucez cahcel tooh dooh onohr untooh him and tooh hiz bredhren, Spifayr and Guwldrih Bluzcuw; and thihz and thehr fahdhuhrz bihfowr them behr roohl from taym aymihmowrihal in Dihmonland, and hav thih lohrdship uwvuhr ohl thih Dihmonz."

Shih spuwc, and thih fuhrst luw bihmz ov thih sun smuwt javihlin-layc throoh thih ihsturn winduwz, and thih freshnes ov mohrning brihdhd and shimuhrd in dhat loftih cheymbuhr, cheycing thih blyooh and duskih sheydz ov dihpahrtd nayt tooh thih cohruhrz and rihcihcez, and tooh thih rahftuhrz ov thih vohlted roohf. Shoohrlih nuw puwtenteyt ov uhrth, not Crihsus, not thih greyt King, not Maynos in hiz royal paleys in Criht, not ohl thih Fehruwz, not Qwihn Cihmayrahmis, nohr ohl thih Kingz ov Babaylon and Ninihvah had evuhr a thruwn roohm tooh compehr in glowrih withe dhat hay presens cheymbuhr ov thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland. Its wohlz and pilahrz wuhr ov snuw-whayt mahrbel, evihrih veyn whehrov wohz cet withe smohl gemz: roohbihz, cohralz, gahrnets, and pinc tuwpaz. Ceven pilahrz on aydhuhr sayd bowr up thih shaduwih vohlt ov thih roohf; thih roohf-trih and thih bihmz wuhr ov guwld, cyoohrihawslieh cahrvd, thih

roohf itcelf ov mudhuhr-ov-puhrl. A sayd ayl ran bihaynd ihch ruw ov pilahrz, and ceven peyntingz on thih westuhrn sayd feyst ceven speyshaws winduwz on thih ihst. At thih end ov thih hohl upon a deysis stood thrih hay cihts, thih ahrmz ov ihch compuwzd ov tooh hipogrifs roht in guwld, withe wingz spred, and thih legz ov thih cihts thih legz ov thih hipogrifs; but thih bodih ov ihch hay ciht wohz a cin'ghel joohel ov monstraws sayz: thih left-hand ciht a blac uwpal, aspahrkel withe stihl-blyooh fayr, thih next a fayr-uwpal, az it wuhr a buhrning cuwl, thih thuhrd ciht an eylexahndrayt, puhrpel layc wayn bay nayt but dihp cih-grihn bay dey. Ten mowr pilahrz stood in cemaysuhrkel bihaynd thih hay cihts, behring up eybuw them and thih deysis a canuwpih ov guwld. Thih benchez dhat ran from end tooh end ov thih loftih cheymbuhr wuhr ov cihdahr, inleyd withe cohral and ayvohrih, and suw wuhr thih teybelz dhat stood bihfowr thih benchez. Thih flowr ov thih cheymbuhr wohz tecihleyted, ov mahrbel and grihn toohrmeylihn, and on evihrih sqwehr ov toohrmeylihn wohz cahrven thih imeyj ov a fish: az thih dolfin, thih con'guhr, thih cat-fish, thih samon, thih tunih, thih sqwid, and udhuhr wunduhrz ov thih dihp. Hangingz ov tapestrih wuhr bihaynd thih hay cihts, wuhrct withe flawuhrz, sneyx-hed, snapdragon, dragon-mawth, and thehr caynd; and on thih deyduw bihluw thih winduwz wuhr sculpchoohrz ov buhrdz and bihsts and crihping thhingz.

But a greyt wunduhr ov this cheymbuhr, and a mahrvcl tooh bihuwld, wohz haw thih capaytal ov evihrih wun ov thih fowr-and-twentih pilahrz wohz hyoohn from a cin'ghel preshaws stuw, cahrvd bay thih hand ov sum sculptohr ov long eyguw intooh thih living fohrm ov a monstuhr: hihr wohz a hahrpih withe scrihming mawth, suw wundrawslih cut in uwcuhr-tinted geyd it wohz a mahrvcl tooh hihr nuw scrihm from huhr: hihr in wayn-yeluw tuwpaz a flaying fayr-dreyc: thehr a cocatrays meyd ov a cin'ghel roohbih: thehr a stahr safayr thih culohr ov moohnlayt, cut fohr a sayclops, suw dhat thih reydz ov thih

stahr trembeld from hiz cin'ghel ay: ceyleymanduhrz, muhrmeydz,
caymihrahz, wayld men o' thih woodz, lihvoyathanz, ohl hyoohn from
fohltles gemz, thrays thih bulc ov a big manz bodih,
velvet-dahrc safayrz, cristuwlayt, beril, amethhist, and thih
yeluw zuhrcon dhat iz layc trahnspehrent guwld.

Tooh ghiv layt tooh thih presens cheymbuhr wuhr ceven escahrbunkelz,
greyt az pumpkinz, hung in ohrduhr dawn thih length ov it, and
nayn fehr moohnstuwnc standing in ohrduhr on cilvuhr pedestalz
betwihn thih pilahrz on thih deysis. Thihz joohelz, drinking in thih
sunshayn bay dey, gheyv it fowrth joohring thih awrz ov dahrcnes in
a reyjans ov pinc layt and a soft ihfulgens az ov moohnbihmz.
And yet eynudhuhr mahrvcl, thih nedhuhr sayd ov thih canuwpih uwvuhr
thih
hay cihts wohz encrusted withe lapis lazhoohlih, and in dhat feynd
duwm ov heven buhrnd thih twelv saynz ov thih zuwjac, evihrih
stahr a daymond dhat shon withe its uwn layt.

Fuwc naw bihgan tooh bih astuhr in thih cahcel, and thehr keym a
scowr ov suhrving men intooh thih presens cheymbuhr withe broohmz
and
brushez, cloths and ledhuhrz, tooh swihp and gahrnish it, and
buhrnish thih guwld and joohelz ov thih cheymbuhr. Lisuwm they wuhr
and spraytlih ov gheyv, ov fresh complecshon and fehr-hehrd.
Hohrnz grooh on thehr hedz. When thehr tahsx wuhr eycumplisht
they dihpahrtd, and thih presens bihgan tooh fil withe ghests. A
joy it wohz tooh cih such a shifting meyz ov velvets, fuhrz,
cyoohrihaws nihdelwuhrx and cloth ov tishooh, tifeynihz, leycez,
rufs, goodlih cheynz and cahrkeynets ov guwld: such glituhr ov
joohelz and weponz: such noding ov thih plyoohmz thih Dihmonz wowr
in thehr hehr, hahf veyling thih hohrnz dhat grooh upon thehr
hedz. Sum wuhr citing on thih benchez ohr lihning on thih

polisht teybelz, sum wohking fowrth and bac upon thih shaying
flowr. Hih and thehr wuhr wimen eymung them, wimen suw fehr wun
had ced: it iz shoohrlih whayt-ahrmd Helen this wun; this,
Ahrkeyjan Eyteylantah; this, Fraynih dhat stood tooh Praxitihliz fohr
Afruwdaytihz picchoohr; this, Theyihs, fohr whoohm greyt Eylexahnduhr
tooh
plezhoohr huhr fanteycih did buhrn Puhrcihpuwllis layc a candel; this,
shih dhat wohz rapt bay thih Dahrc God from thih flawihring fihldz ov
Enah, tooh bih Qwihn fohr evuhr eymung thih ded dhat bih dihpahrtd.

Naw keym a stuhr nihr thih steytlih dowrwey, and Lecingam biheld
a Dihmon ov buhrlih freym and nuwbel powrt, richlih eytayrd. Hiz feys
wohz rudih and sumwhoht frekeld, hiz fowrhed wayd, hiz ayz
cahlm and blyooh layc thih cih. Hiz bihrd, thhic and tohnih, wohz
pahrtd and brusht bac and upwohrdz on aydhuhr sayd.

"Tel mih, may litel mahrtlet," ced Lecingam, "iz this Lohrd
Jus?"

"This iz not Lohrd Jus," ahnsuhrd thih mahrtlet, "nohr oht suw
wuhrshipfool az hih. Thih lohrd dhaw cihs iz Vol, whooh dweleth
unduhr Cahrtadzah, bay thih sohlt cih. A greyt cih-capteyn iz hih, and
wun dhat did suhrvays tooh thih cohz ov Dihmonland, and ov thih
whuwl wuhrlid bihsaydz, in thih leyt wohrz eygheynst thih Goohlz.

"But cahst dhayn ayz eygheyn toohwohrdz thih dowr, whehr wun standeth
eymid a not ov frendz, tohl and sumwhoht stooHPing, in a
cohrcihlet ov cilvuhr, and a cluwc ov uwld bruwkeyded cilc culohrd
layc tahrnisht guwld; sumthhing layc tooh Vol in fihchoohr, but
swohrthih, and withe brisling blac moostahshihuwz."

"I cih him," ced Lecingam. "This then iz Lohrd Jus!"

"Not suw," ced mahrtlet. "Tiz but Viz, brudhuhr tooh Vol. Hih iz

welthhiest in goodz ov ohl thih Dihmonz, ceyv thih thrih bredhren uwnlih and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah."

"And whooh iz this?" ahsct Lecingam, poynting tooh wun ov layt and brisc step and hyoohmohraws ay, whooh in dhat muwment met Vol and en'gheyjd him in convuhrs eypahrt. Handsum ov feys hih wohz, ohlbihit sumwhoht long-nuwzd and shahrp-nuwzd: kihn and hahrd and fild withe layf and thih joy ov it.

"Hihr dhaw bihuwldst," ahnsuhrd shih, "Lohrd Sig, thih fahr-feymd teymuhr ov hohrcez. Wel luvd iz hih eymung thih Dihmonz, fohr hih iz merih ov moohd, and a maytih man ov hiz handz widhohl when hih lihdeth hiz hohrsmen eygheynst thih enihmih."

Vol throoh up hiz bihrd and lahft a greyt lahf at sum gest dhat Sig whispuhrd in hiz ihr, and Lecingam lihnd fohrwohrd intooh thih hohl if haplih hih mayt cach whoht wohz ced. Thih hum ov tohc drawnd thih wuhrdz, but lihning fohrwohrd Lecingam soh whehr thih aras cuhrteynz bihaynd thih deysis pahrted fohr a muwment, and wun ov prinslih behring advahnst pahst thih hay cihts dawn thih bodih ov thih hohl. Hiz gheyt wohz delaykeyt, az ov sum laythe bihst ov prey nyoohlih weykend awt ov slumbuhr, and hih grihted withe leysih greys thih menih frendz whooh heyld hiz entrans. Verih tohl wohz dhat lohrd, and slenduhr ov bild, layc a guhrl. Hiz choohnic wohz ov cilc culohrd layc thih wayld ruwz, and embroyduhrd in guwld withe reprihsenteyshonz ov flawuhrz and thunduhrbolts. Joohelz glituhrd on hiz left hand and on thih guwlden breyslets on hiz ahrmz, and on thih filet twaynd eymung thih guwlden cuhrlz ov hiz hehr, cet withe plyoohmz ov thih king-buhrd ov Pareydays. Hiz hohrnz wuhr dayd withe safron, and inleyd withe fayligrih wuhrc ov guwld. Hiz buskinz wuhr leyst withe guwld, and from hiz belt hung a sowrd, naruw ov bleyd and kihn, thih hilt ruf withe berilz and blac daymondz. Streynjih layt and delaykeyt wohz hiz freym and cihming, yet withe a cens ov slumbihring pawuhr bihnihth, az thih

delaykeyt pihc ov a snuw mawnteyn cihn eyfah in thih luw red reyz ov mohrning. Hiz feys wohz byoohtayfool tooh looc upon, and softlih culohrd layc a guhrlz feys, and hiz expreshon wun ov gentel melancuwlih, mixt withe sum disdeyn; but fayrih glints eywuwc at intuhrvalz in hiz ayz, and thih laynz ov swift dihtuhrmayneyshon hovuhrd rawnd thih mawth bihluw hiz cuhrld moostahshihuwz.

"At lahst," muhrmuhrd Lecingam, "at lahst, Lohrd Jus!"

"Litel ahrt dhaw tooh bleym," ced thih mahrtlet, "fohr this misprizhon, fohr skehrs cood a lohrdlihuhr sayt hav joyd dhayn ayz. Yet iz this not Jus, but Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, tooh whoohm ohl Dihmonland west ov Shalgreth and Struwpahrdon uweth eylihjans: thih rich vaynyahrdz ov Crothihring, thih brohd pahschoohr landz ov Feylz, and ohl thih westuhrn aylandz and thehr cragbawnd fahstnihcez. Thhinc not, bihcohz hih eyfecteth cilx and joohelz layc a qwihn, and cariheth himcelf layt and deyntih az a cilvuhr buhrch trih on thih mawnteyn, dhat hiz hand iz layt ohr hiz cureyj dawtfoot in wohr. Fohr yihrz wohz hih held fohr thih thuhrd best man-at-ahrmz in ohl Muhrcyoohrih, eylong withe thihz, Guwldrih Bluzcuw and Gohrays 10. ov Wichland. And Gohrays hih slyooh, nayn sumuhrz bac, in cin'ghel combat, when thih Wichez harihd in Goblinland and Brandokh Deyhah led fayv hundred and fohrscohr Dihmonz tooh sucohr Gazlahrc, thih king ov dhat cuntrih. And naw can nun suhrpahs Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah in fihts ov ahrmz, ceyv puhrchahns Guwldrih eyluwn.

"Yet, luw," shih ced, az a swiht and wayld myoohsic stuwl on thih ihr, and thih ghests tuhrnd toohwohrdz thih deys, and thih hangingz pahrted, "at lahst, thih tripel lohrdship ov Dihmonland! Strayc softlih, myoohsic: smayl, Feyts, on this festal dey! Joy and ceyf deyz shayn fohr this wuhrl and Dihmonland! Tuhrn dhay gheyz fuhrst on him whooh wohx in magestih in thih midst, hiz choohnic ov olayv-grihn

velvet ohrneymented withe dihvaycez ov hiden mihning in thred ov guwld and bihdz ov craysuwlayt. Mahrc haw thih buskinz, clahsping hiz stohlwohrt cahvz, glituhr withe guwld and ambuhr. Mahrc thih duskih cluwc strihmd withe guwld and laynd withe blud-red cilc: a chahrmd cluwc, meyd bay thih cilfs in fohrgoten deyz, bringing good hap tooh thih wehruhr, suw hih bih trooh ov hahrt and nuw dahstahrd.

Mahrc him dhat wehreth it, hiz swiht dahrc cawntihnans, thih vayuwlet fayr in hiz ayz, thih sombuhr wohrmth ov hiz smayl, layc ohtum woodz in leyt sunshayn. This iz Lohrd Jus, lohrd ov this eyj-rihmembihring cahcel, dhan whoohm nun hath mowr wuhrship in wayd Dihmonland. Sumwhoht hih nuweth ov ahrt majaycal, yet yoohseth not dhat ahrt; fohr it sapeth thih layf and strength, nohr iz it held wuhrthih dhat a Dihmon shood poot trust in dhat ahrt, but rahdhuhr in hiz uwn mayt and meyn.

"Naw tuhrn dhayn ayz tooh him dhat lihneht on Jucez left ahrm, shohrtuhr but meyhap stuhrdihuhr dhan hih, eypareld in blac cilc dhat shimuhrz withe guwld az hih moohveth, and crawnd withe blac ihghelz fedhuhz eymung hiz hohrnz and yeluw hehr. Hiz feys iz wayld and kihn layc a cih-ihghelz, and from hiz brisling brawz thih ayz dahrt glahncez shahrp az a glahncing spihr. A feynt fleym, palid layc thih fayr ov a Wil-o'-thih-Wisp, brihdhz evuhr and eynon from hiz distended nostrilz. This iz Lohrd Spityfayr, impechoohaws in wohr.

"Lahst, bihuwld on Jucez rayt hand, yon lohrd dhat bulx maytih az Huhrcyoohlih yet stepeth laytlih az a hefuhr. Thih thyoohz and cinyoohz ov hiz greyt limz ripel az hih moohvz bihniht a skin whaytuhr dhan ayvohrih; hiz cluwc ov cloth ov guwld iz hevih withe joohelz, hiz choohnic ov blac cendelayn hath greyt hahrts wuhrct thehron in roohbihz and red cilc thred. Slung from hiz shuwlduhrz clanx a tooh-handed sowrd, thih pomel a hyoohj stahr-roohbih cahrvn in thih imeyj ov a hahrt, fohr thih hahrt iz hiz sayn and cimbol.

This iz dhat sowrd fowrjd bay thih elvz, whehrwithe hih slyooh thih
cih-monstuhr, az dhaw meyst cih in thih peynting on thih wohl.
Nuwbel iz hih ov cawntihnans, muwst layc tooh hiz brudhuhr Jus, but
dahrcuhr brawn ov hehr and rudihuhr ov hyooh and biguhr ov
chihcbuwn. Looc wel on him, fohr nevuhr shal dhayn ayz bihuwld
a greytuhr champihon dhan thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, capteyn ov
thih
huwsts ov Dihmonland."

Naw when thih grihtingz wuhr dun and thih streynz ov thih lyoohts
and rihcohrduhrz sayd and lost themcelvz in thih shaduwih vohlt
ov thih roohf, thih cup-behruhrz did fil greyt gemz meyd in fohrm
ov cups withe eynshent wayn, and thih Dihmonz kehrawzd tooh Lohrd Jus
dihp drahts in onohr ov this dey ov hiz neytivaytih. And naw
they wuhr redih tooh cet fowrth bay toohz and thrihz intooh thih pahrx
and plihzohncez, sum tooh teyc thehr plezhoohr eybawt thih fehr
gahrdenz and fishpondz, sum tooh hunt wayld gheym eymung thih
wooded
hilz, sum tooh dispowrt themcelvz at qwoyts ohr tenis ohr rayding
at thih ring ohr mahrshal exuhrsaysez; dhat suw they mayt spend thih
livlong dey az bihfiteth hay holaydey, in plezhoohr and acshon
widhawt kehr, and thehrahftuhr revel in thih loftih presens
cheymbuhr til nayt grooh uwld withe ihting and drinking and ohl
dihlayt.

But az they wuhr upon guwing fowrth, a trumpet wohz sawnded
widhawt, thrih straydent blahsts.

"Whoht kil-joy hav wih hihr?" ced Spittfayr. "Thih trumpet
sawndeth uwnlih fohr travihluhrz from thih awtlandz. I fihl it in may
buwnz sum rahscal iz cum tooh Gheyling, wun dhat bringeth il hap
in hiz poket and a shaduw athwohrt thih sun on this awr dey ov

festayval."

"Spihc nuw wuhrd ov il uwmen," ahnsuhrd Jus. "Whoohsuwehr it bih, wih wil streyt dispach hiz biznes and suw fohl tooh plezhoohr indihd. Sum, run tooh thih gheyt and bring him in."

Thih suhrving man heycend and rihtuhrnd, ceying, "Lohrd, it iz an Ambaceydohr from Wichland and hiz treyn. Thehr ship meyd land at Looking'heyven-nes at naytfohl. They slept on bowrd, and yohr suwljuhrz gheyv them escohrt tooh Gheyling at breyc ov dey. Hih creyveth present ohgens."

"From Wichland, hah?" ced Jus. "Such smuwx yoohz evuhr tooh guw bihfowr thih fayr."

"Shalz bid thih feluw," ced Spityfayr, "weyt on awr plezhoohr? It iz pitih such shood poyzon awr gladnes."

Guwldrih lahft and ced, "Whoohm hath hih cent us? Laxus, thhinc yooch? tooh meyc hiz pihs withe us eygheyn fohr dhat vayl pahrt ov hiz practayst eygheynst us of Cahrtadzah, dihtestablih fohlsayfaying hiz wuhrd hih had ghiven us?"

Jus ced tooh thih suhrving man, "Dhaw sohst thih Ambaceydohr. Whooh iz hih?"

"Lohrd," ahnsuhrd hih, "Hiz feys wohz streynj tooh mih. Hih iz litel ov stachoohr and, bay yohr haynes lihv, thih muwst unlayc tooh a greyt lohrd ov Wichland dhat evuhr I soh. And, bay yohr lihv, fohr ohl thih mahrvihlaws rich and sumpshaws cuwt a wehreth, hih iz verih layc a fohls joohel in a rich keycing."

"Wel," ced Jus, "a sawr drahft swihtenz not in thih weyting. Cohl wih in thih Ambaceydohr."

Lohrd Jus sat in thih hay ciht midmuwst ov thih deysis, withe Guwldrih on hiz rayt in thih ciht ov blac uwpal, and on hiz left Spitfayr, thruwnd on thih eylexahndrayt. On thih deysis sat layqwayz dhuwz udhuhr lohrdz ov Dihmonland, and thih ghests ov luwuhr degrih throngd thih benchez and thih polisht teybelz az thih wayd dowrz uwpend on thehr cilvuhr hin'gez, and thih Ambaceydohr withe pomp and cerihmuwnih peyst up thih shaying flowr ov mahrbel and grihn toohrmeylihn.

"Whay, whoht a bihstlih feluw iz this?" ced Lohrd Guwldrih in hiz brudhuhrz ihr. "Hiz hehrih handz rihch dawn tooh hiz nihz. A shufleth in hiz wohc layc a hobeld jacas."

"I layc not thih duhrtih feys ov thih Ambaceydohr," ced Lohrd Sig. "Hiz nuwz citeth flat on thih feys ov him az it wuhr a dab ov cley, and I can cih pat up hiz nostrilz a sumuhr deyz juhrih intooh hiz hed. Ifs upuhr lip bespihc him not a rehr spawtuhr ov ranc fuschan, puhrdishon cach mih. Wuhr it a fin'guhrz bredth lon'guhr, a mayt tuc it intooh hiz colahr tooh kihp hiz chin wohrm ov a wintuhrz nayt."

"I layc not thih smel ov thih Ambaceydohr," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. And hih cohld fohr censuhrz and sprincluhrz ov lavenduhr and ruwz wohtuhr tooh pyoohrayfay thih cheymbuhr, and let uwpen thih cristal winduwz dhat thih brihsez ov heven mayt entuhr and meyc ohl swiht.

Suw thih Ambaceydohr wohct up thih shaying flowr and stood bihfowr thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland dhat sat upon thih hay cihts betwihn thih guwlden hipogrifs. Hih wohz ruwbd in a long mantel ov scahrlet laynd withe uhrmayn, withe crabz, woodlays, and centaypihdz wuhret thehron in guwlden thred. Hiz hed wohz cuvuhrd withe a blac

velvet cap withe a pihcox fedhuhr fahcend withe a bruwch ov cilvuhr. Syoohpowrted bay hiz treynbihruhrz and eytendants, and lihning on hiz guwlden stahf, hih withe rohcaws axent dihlivuhrd hiz mishon:

"Jus, Guwldrih, and Spityfayr, and yih udhuhr Dihmonz, I cum bihfowr yooh az thih Ambaceydohr ov Gohrays 11., muwst glowrihaws King ov Wichland, Lohrd and greyt Joohc ov Byoohtihnih and Estrihmihrayn, Cuwmahnduhr ov Shoohlan, Thramnih, Min'gos, and Puhrmihuw, and Hay

Wohrden ov thih Ihseymuwshan Mahrchez, Greyt Joohc ov Treys, King Pareymawnt ov Beshtrihah and Nevrihah and Prins ov Ahr, Greyt Lohrd uwvuhr thih cuntri ov Uwgihjah, Maltreyihnih, and ov Baltehrih and Tohraybihah, and Lohrd ov menih udhuhr cuntrihs, muwst glowrihaws and

muwst greyt, whoohz pawuhr and glowrih iz uwvuhr ohl thih wuhrld and whoohz neym shal enjoohr fohr ohl gihnihreyshonz. And fuhrst I bid yooh bih bawnd bay dhat revihrens fohr may ceycred ofays ov envoy from thih King, which iz eycohrded bay ohl pihpel and puwtenteyts, ceyv such az bih utuhrlih bahrbhraws, tooh ambaceydohrz and envoyz."

"Spihc and fihr not," ahnsuhrd Jus. "Dhaw hast mayn uwth. And dhat hath nevuhr bihn fohrswohn, tooh Wich ohr udhuhr bahrbhrihan."

Thih Ambaceydohr shot awt hiz lips in an O, and thretend withe hiz hed; then grind, leying behr hiz shahrp and missheyppen tihth, and pruwcihded:

"Dhus ceyth King Gohrays, greyt and glowrihaws, and hih chahrgeth mih tooh dihlivuhr it tooh yooh, naydhuhr ading enih wuhrd nohr teyking eywey:

'I hav it in maynd dhat nuw cerihmuwnih ov homeyj ohr fihltih hath bihn puhrfohrmd bihfowr mih bay thih dweluhz in may provins ov

Dihmonland----"

Az thih rusling ov dray lihvz stroohn in a flagd cowrt when a suden wind strayketh them, thehr went a stuhr eymung thih ghests. Nohr mayt thih Lohrd Spitfayr conteyn hiz rohth, but springing up and claping hand tooh sowrd-hilt, az maynded tooh dooh a huhrt tooh thih Ambaceydohr, "Provins?" hih crayd. "Ahr not thih Dihmonz a frih pihpel? And iz it tooh bih enjoohrd dhat Wichland shood cuwmishon this sleyv tooh cahst insults in awr tihth, and this in awr uwn cahcel?"

A muhrmuhr went eybawt thih hohl, and hihr and thehr fuwc ruwz from thehr cihts. Thih Ambaceydohr drooh dawn hiz hed betwihn hiz shuwlduhrz layc a tohrtoys, behring hiz tihth and blinking withe hiz smohl ayz. But Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, laytlih leying hiz hand on Spitfayrz ahrm, ced: "Thih Ambaceydohr hath not ended hiz meceyj, cusin, and dhaw hast fraytend him. Hav peyshens and spoyl not thih comihdih. Wih shal not lac wuhrdz tooh ahnsuhr King Gohrays: nuw, nohr sowrdz, if hih must hav them. But it shal not bih ced ov us ov Dihmonland dhat it nihdeth but a boohrish meceyj tooh tuhrn us from awr eynshent cuhrtihcih toohwohrd ambaceydohrz and heraldz."

Suw speyc Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, in leysih haf-moking tuwn, az wun whooh but aydlih rihtuhrneth thih bohl ov convuhrceyshon; yet clihrlih, suw dhat ohl mayt hihr. And thehrwithe thih muhrmuhrz dayd dawn, and Spitfayr ced, "I am teym. Cey dhayn erand frihlih, and aymajayn not dhat wih shal huwld thih ahncihreybel fohr oht dhaw ceyst, but him dhat cent thih."

"Whoohz humbel mawthpihs I uwnlih am," ced thih Ambaceydohr, sumwhoht gathihring cureyj; "and whooh, ceyving yohr revihrens, laketh not thih wil nohr thih pawuhr tooh teyc rihvenj fohr enih

awtrej dun upon hiz suhrvants. Dhus ceyth thih King: 'I thehrfowr sumon and cuwmahnd yooh, Jus, Spityfayr, and Guwldrih Bluzcuw, tooh meyc heyst and cum tooh mih in Wichland in may fohrtres ov Cahrcih, and thehr joohtayfoohlih kis may tuw, in witnes bihfowr ohl thih wuhrd dhat I am yohr Lohrd and King, and raytfoot uwwuhrlord ov ohl Dihmonland.'

Greyvlih and widhawt geschoohr Lohrd Jus hahrkend tooh thih Ambaceydohr, lihning bac in hiz hay ciht withe aydhuhr ahm thruwn athwohrt thih ahrcht nec ov thih hipogrif. Guwldrih, smayling scohrnfoohlih, toyd withe thih hilt ov hiz greyt sowrd. Spityfayr sat streynd and gluwihring, thih spahr cracling at hiz nostrilz.

"Dhaw hast dihlivuhrd ohl?" ced Jus.

"Ohl," ahnsuhrd thih Ambaceydohr.

"Dhaw shalt hav dhayn ahnsuhr," ced Jus. "Whayl wih teyc rihd thehron, iht and drinc"; and hih becond thih cupbehruhr tooh powr awt brayt wayn fohr thih Ambaceydohr. But thih Ambaceydohr excyooohzd himcelf, ceying dhat hih wohz not athuhrst, and dhat hih had stowr ov foohd and wayn eybohrd ov hiz ship, which shood syoohfays hiz nihdz and dhuz ov hiz foluwng.

Then ced Lohrd Spityfayr, "Nuw mahrvcl dhuz thih spohn ov Wichland fih venom in thih cup. They whooh wuhrc comonlih such vileynih eygheynst thehr enihmihz, az witnes Rihcihdohr ov Goblinland whoohm Cohrsus muhrdhuhrd withe a poyzuwnaws drafft, sheyc stil in thih nihz lest themcelvz bih suw entuhrteynd tooh thehr destrucshon;" and snaching thih cup hih qwohft it tooh thih dregz, and dasht it on thih mahrbel flowr bihfowr thih Ambaceydohr, suw dhat it wohz shivuhrd intooh pihcez.

And thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland ruwz up and widhdrooh bihaynd thih flawihrih hangingz intooh a cheymbuhr eypahrt, tooh dihtuhrmayn ov thehr ahnsuhr tooh thih meceyj cent untooh them bay King Gohrays ov Wichland.

When they wuhr prayveyt toohghedhuhr, Spityfayr speyc and ced, "Iz it tooh bih bowrn dhat thih King shood poot such sheym and mokihrih upon us? Cood a not at thih lihst hav meyd a sun ov Cohrund ohr ov Cohrsus hiz Ambaceydohr tooh bring us hiz dihfayans, sted ov this filthhihest ov hiz duwmestix, a gibihring dwohrf fit uwnlih tooh meyc them gab and gheym at thehr tipling bawts when they bih thrih pahrts censles withe boohsing?"

Lohrd Jus smayld sumwhoht scohrnfoohlih. "Withe wizdom," hih ced, "and withe fowrsayt hath Wichland meyd choys ov hiz taym tooh moohv eygheynst us, nuwing dhat thuhrtih and thrih ov awr wel-bilt ships ahr sunken in Cahrtadzah Sawnd in thih batel withe thih Goohlz, and but fowrtihn rihmeyn tooh us. Naw dhat thih Goohlz ahr sleyn, evihrih suwl, and utuhrlih eybolisht from this wuhrld, and suw thih greyt cuhrs and peril ov ohl this wuhrld ended bay thih sowrd and greyt valohr ov Dihmonland eyluwn, naw cihmeth thih hapih muwment untooh thihz leyt mawth-frendz tooh fohl upon us. Fohr hav not thih Wichez a strong fliht ov ships, cins thehr whuwl fliht fled at thih bihghining ov thehr fayt withe us eygheynst thih Goohlz, lihving us tooh behr thih buhrden? And naw ahr they maynded fohr this nyoooh trihzon, tooh cet upon us treytohrawslih and sudenlih in this daysadvahnteyj. Fohr thih King wel jugeth wih can carih nuw ahrmih tooh Wichland nohr dooh oht in hiz despayt, but must bih long munths a-shipbuilding. And dawt not hih huwldeth an ahrmement redih eybohrd at Tenihmos tooh ceyl hidhuhr if hih ghet thih ahnsuhr hih nuweth wih shal cend him."

"Cit wih at ihz then," ced Guwldrih, "shahrpihning awr sowrdz; and

let him ship hiz ahrmihz across thih sohl't cih. Not a Wich shal land in Dihmonland but shal lihv hihr hiz blud and buwnz tooh meyc fat awr coh'rnfihldz and awr vaynyahrdz."

"Rahdhuhr," ced Spittfayr, "aprihend this rahscal, and poot tooh cih tooh-dey withe thih fowrtihn ships left us. Wih can suhrprayz Wichland in hiz strong pleys ov Cahrcih, sac it, and ghiv him tooh thih cruwz tooh pec at, ohr evuhr hih iz wel eyweyc tooh thih swiftnes ov awr ahnsuhr. Dhat iz may cawncel."

"Ney," ced Jus, "wih shal not teyc him slihping. Bih suhrteyn dhat hiz ships ahr redih and wohching in thih Wichland cihz, prihphehd eygheynst enih rash oncet. It wuhr folih tooh cet awr nec in thih noohs; and litel glowrih tooh Dihmonland tooh eyweyt hiz cuming. This, then, iz may rihd: I wil bid Gohrays tooh thih jooheluw, and meyc ofuhr tooh him tooh let lay on thih fohrchoohn thehrov thih dihcizhon ov this qwohrel."

"A good rihd, if it mayt bih foolfild," ced Guwldrih. "But nevuhr wil hih dehr tooh stand withe weponz in cin'ghel combat gheynst thih ohr gheynst enih ov us. Nevuhrthihles thih thhing shal bih broht eybawt. Iz not Gohrays a maytih rasluhr, and hath hih not in hiz paleys in Cahrcih thih sculz and buwnz ov nayntih and nays greyt champihonz whoohm hih hath vanqwisht and sleyn in dhat exuhrsayz? Puft up bihyond mezhoohr iz hih in hiz uwn conciht, and fuwc cey it iz a grihf tooh him dhat nun hath bihn fawnd this long whayl dhat duhrst racel withe him, and wuwfoohlih hih payneth fohr thih hundredth. Hih shal racel a fohl withe mih!"

Naw this cihmd good tooh them ohl. Suw when they had tohct on it awhayl and conclyoohded whoht they wood dooh, glad ov hahrt thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland tuhrnd them bac tooh thih loftih presens cheymbuhr. And thehr Lohrd Jus speyc and ced: "Dihmonz, yih hav

huhrd thih wuhrdz which thih King ov Wichland in thih uwvuhrwihning prayd and sheymlesnes ov hiz hahrt hath spuwken untooh us bay thih mawth ov this Ambaceydohr. Naw this iz awr ahnsuhr which may brudhuhr shal ghiv, thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw; and wih chahrj thih, O Ambaceydohr, tooh dihlivuhr it troohlih, naydhuhr ading enih wuhrd nohr teyking eywey."

And thih Lohrd Guwldrih speyc: "Wih, thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland, dooh utuhrlieh scohrn thih, Gohrays 11., fohr thih greytest ov dahstahrdz, in dhat dhaw beyslih fledst and fohrsooxt us, dhay swowrn confedihreyts, in thih cih batel eygheynst thih Goohlz. Awr sowrdz, which in dhat batel ended suw greyt a cuhrs and peril tooh ohl this wuhrld, ahr not bent nohr bruwken. They shal bih shihdhd in thih bawelz ov thih and dhay minyonz, Cohrsus tooh wit, and Cohrund, and thehr sunz, and Cohrinyus, and whoht udhuhr ihvildoohuhrz hahrbohr in wohtihrish Wichland, soohnuhr dhan wun litel cih-pinc gruwing on thih clifs ov Dihmonland shal dooh thih uwbeyzans. But, dhat dhaw meyst, if suw dhaw wilt, fihl awr pawuhr sumwhoht, I, Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, meyc thih this ofuhr: dhat dhaw and I dooh mach awrcelvz cin'glih ihch eygheynst udhuhr tooh racel thrih fohlz at thih cowrt ov thih Red Fuwlihot, whooh inclayneth naydhuhr tooh awr sayd nohr tooh dhayn in this qwohrel. And wih wil baynd awrcelvz bay maytih uwths tooh thihz condishonz, dhat if I uwvuhrcum thih, thih Dihmonz shal lihv yooch ov Wichland in pihs, and yih them, and thih Wichez shal fohrswehr fohr evuhr thehr impyoohdent cleyms on Dihmonland. But if dhaw, Gohrays, win thih dey, then hast dhaw thih glowrih ov dhat victohrih, and widhohl fool libuhrtih tooh thrust dhay cleyms upon us withe thih sowrd."

Suw speyc thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, standing in greyt prayd and splendohr bihnihth thih stahrih canuwpih, and scawling teriblih on

thih Ambaceydohr from Wichland, suw dhat thih Ambaceydohr wohz eybasht and hiz nihz smuwt toohghedhuhr. And Guwldrih cohld hiz scrayb and meyd him rayt thih meceyj fohr Gohrays thih King in greyt caractuhrz on a ruwl ov pahrchment, and thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland cihld it withe thehr cihlz, and gheyv it tooh thih Ambaceydohr.

Thih Ambaceydohr tooc it and meyd heyst tooh dihpahrt; but when hih wohz cum tooh thih steytlih dowrwey ov thih presens cheymbuhr, bihing nihr thih dowr and eymungst hiz eytendants, and eywey from thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland, hih pluct up hahrt a litel and tuhrnd and ced: "Rashlih and tooh dhay suhrteyn undoohing, O Guwldrih Bluzcuw, hast dhaw biden awr Lohrd thih King tooh contend withe thih in rasling. Fohr bih dhaw nevuhr suw maytih ov lim, yet hath hih uwvuhrthruwn az maytih. And hih rasleth not fohr spowrt, but wil shoohrlieh wuhrc dhay layfs dihkey, and kihp thih ded buwnz ov thih withe thih buwnz ov thih nayntih and nayn champihonz whoohm hih hath hihrttoohfowr leyd luw in dhat exuhrsayz."

Thehrwithe, bihcohz Guwldrih and thih udhuhr lohrdz scawld upon him teriblih, and thih ghests nihr thih dowr fel tooh hoohting and rihvayling ov thih Wichez, thih Ambaceydohr went fowrth heystaylih and heystaylih dawn thih shayingn stehrz and acros thih cowrt, az wun whooh fliht eylong a leyn on a dahrc and windih nayt, dehring not tooh tuhrn hiz hed lest hiz ay bihuwld sum fihrsom thhing prihpehrd tooh clahsp him. Suw spihding, hih wohz feyn tooh cach up eybawt hiz nihz thih fuwldz ov hiz velvet cluwc richlih wuhrc withe crabz and crihping thhingz; and hyoohj whoohping and lahftuhr went up eymung thih comon lag ov pihpel widhawt, tooh bihuwld hiz long and nuhrvles teyl dhus behrd tooh thehr unfrendlih gheyz. Insuwmuch dhat they fel tooh shawting withe wun eycohrd, "Dhuw hiz mawth bih fawl hih hath a fehr teyl! Soh yih not hiz teyl? Hyoohrah fohr Gohrays whooh hath cent us a munkih fohr hiz Ambaceydohr!"

And withe jayb and unmanuhrlih yel thih crawd hung luvnglih upon thih Ambaceydohr and hiz treyn ohl thih wey dawn from Gheyling cahcel tooh thih kihz. Suw dhat it wohz layc a swiht huwmcuming tooh him tooh cum on bowrd hiz wel-bilt ship and hav huhr ruwd eymeyn awt ov Looking'heyven. Suw when they had rawnded Looking'heyven-nes and wuhr frih ov thih land, they hoysted ceyl and voyeyjd bihfowr a feyvohring brihz ihstwohrd uwvuhr thih tihming dihp tooh Wichland.

2. Thih Rasling fohr Dihmonland

OV THIH PROGNOTIX WHICH TRUBELD LOHRD GRUW
CONSUHRNING THIH
MIHTING BETWIHN THIH KING OV WICHLAND AND THIH LOHRD
GUWLDRIH
BLUZCUW; AND HAW THEY MET, AND OV THIH ISHOOH OV DHAT
RASLING.

"Haw cood I hav fohlen aslihp?" crayd Lecingam. "Whehr iz thih cahcel ov thih Dihmonz, and haw did wih lihv thih greyt presens cheymbuhr whehr they soh thih Ambaceydohr?" Fohr hih stood on ruwling uplandz dhat lihnd tooh thih cih, trihles on evihrih sayd az fahr az thih ay mayt rihch; and on thrih saydz shimuhrd thih cih, kist bay thih sun and rufend bay thih sohl glad wind dhat chahrjd uwvuhr thih dawnz, charihuwting clawdz widhawt numbuhr throoh thih aylimayteybel hayts ov ehr.

Thih litel blac mahrtlet ahnsuhrd him. "May hipogrif travihleth az wel in taym az in speys. Deyz and wihx hav

bihn left bihaynd bay us, in whoht cihmeth tooh thih but thih twincling ov an ay, and dhaw standst in thih Fuwlihot Aylz, a land hapih unduhr thih mayld rejayment ov a pihsfool prins, on thih dey eypoynsted bay King Gohrays tooh racel withe Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Teraybel must bih thih rasling betwixt tooh such champihonz, and dahrc thih ishooh thehrov. And may hahrt iz afreyd fohr Guwldrih Bluzcuw, big and strong dhaw hih bih and unconcuhrd in wohr; fohr thehr hath not ehrisen in ohl thih eygez such a rasluhr az this Gohrays, and strong hih iz, and hahrd and unwihrihing, and skild in evihrih ahrt ov eytac and dihfens, and sutel widhohl, and croohel and fel layc a suhrpent."

Whehr they stood thih dawn wohz cut bay a cuwm dhat dihended tooh thih cih, and uwvuhrhanging thih cuwm wohz thih paleys ov thih Red Fuwlihot, rambling and luw, withe menih litel tawuhrz and batelments, bilt ov stuwzn hyoohn from thih wohl ov thih cuwm, suw dhat it wohz hahrd from a distans tooh daysuhrn whoht wohz paleys and whoht neytayv roc. Bihaynd thih paleys strecht a meduw, flat and smoothe, cahrpighted withe thih cluws wayrih tuhfr ov thih dawnz. At aydhuhr end ov thih meduw wuhr boohths cet up, tooh thih nohrth thih boohths ov them ov Wichland, and tooh thih sawth thih boohths ov thih Dihmonz. In thih midst ov thih meduw wohz a speys mahrcet awt withe withihz cixtih peycez aydhuhr wey fohr thih rasling grawnd.

Uwnlih thih buhrdz ov thih ehr and thih cih-wind wuhr abrohd az then, ceyv dhawz dhat wohct ahrcmd bihfowr thih Wichez boohths, cix in cumpeynih, hahrnest az fohr batel in buhrnihz ov shaying bronz, withe grihvz and shihldz ov bronz and helmz dhat glahnst in thih sun. Fayv wuhr propuhr slenduhr yoohts, thih eldest ov whoohm had not yet bihrd fool grawn, blac-brawd and greyt ov joh; thih cixth, hyoohj az a niht, topt them bay hahf a hed. Eyj had flect withe grey thih bihrd dhat spred uwvuhr hiz big chest tooh hiz belt stifend withe studz ov ayrn, but thih vigohr ov yooht

wohz in hiz glahns and in hiz voys, and in thih tred ov hiz foot, and in hiz fist suw laytlih handling hiz buhrlih spihr.

"Bihuwld, wunduhr, and leyment," ced thih mahrtlet, "dhat thih inuwcent ay ov dey shood bih enfohrst stil tooh looc upon thih children ov nayt evuhrlahsting. Cohrund ov Wichland and hiz cuhrst sunz."

Lecingam thoht, "A muwst fayrih puwlaytishan iz may litel mahrtlet: damd fihndz and eyn'gelz and nuthhing betwixt fohr huhr. But Ayl dahns tooh nun ov thehr choohnz, but weyt fohr thihz thhingz unfuwlding."

Suw wohct dhuwz bac and fowrth az keyjd layonz bihfowr thih Wichez boohths, until Cohrund hohlted and lihning on hiz spihr ced tooh wun ov hiz sunz, "Guw in and cihc awt Gruw dhat I mey spihc withe him." And thih sun ov Cohrund went, and rihtuhrnd eynon withe Lohrd Gruw, dhat keym withe fuhrtayv step yet goodlih and fehr tooh bihuwld. Thih nuwz ov him wohz hooct layc a cikel and hiz ayz greyt and fehr layc thih ayz ov an ox, inscroohteybel az they. Lihn and spehr wohz hiz freym. Peyl wohz hiz feys and peyl hiz delaykeyt handz, and hiz long blac bihrd wohz taytlih cuhrld and brayt az thih cuwt ov a blac retrihvuhr.

Cohrund ced, "Haw iz it withe thih King?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd him, "Hih cheyfeth tooh bih at it; and tooh pahs eywey thih taym hih pleyeth at days withe Cohrinyus, and thih luc guweth eygheynst thih King."

"Whoht meyxt dhaw ov dhat?" ahsct Cohrund.

And Gruw ced, "Thih fohrchoohn ov thih days jumpeth not comonlih

withe thih fohrchoohn ov wohr."

Cohrund grunted in hiz bihrd, and leying hiz lahrj hand on Lohrd Gruwz shuwlduhr, "Spihc tooh mih a litel eypahrt," hih ced; and when they wuhr prayveyt, "Dahrken not cawncel," ced Cohrund, "tooh mih and may sunz. Hav I not thihz fowr yihrz pahst bihn az a brudhuhr untooh thih, and wilt dhaw stil bih cihcret toohwohrd us?"

But Gruw smayld a sad smayl and ced, "Whay shood wih bay wuhrdz ov il uwmen strayc yet eynudhuhr bluw whehr thih trih totihreth?"

Cohrund gruwnd. "Uwmenz," ced hih, "incrihs upon us from dhat taym fowrth when thih King axepted thih chalenj, ihvaylih, and flatlih eygheynst dhay cawncel and mayn and thih cawncel ov ohl thih greyt wunz in thih land. Shoohrlih thih Godz hav meyd him fey, having ohrdeynd hiz destrucshon and awr humbling bihfowr thihz Dihmonz." And hih ced, "Uwmenz thhiken upon us, O Gruw. Fuhrst, thih nayt reyven dhat went widuhrshinz rawnd eybawt thih paleys ov Cahrcih, dhat nayt when thih King axepted this chalenj, and wih wuhr ohl drunken withe wayn ahftuhr awr greyt fihsting and suhrfihting in hiz hohlz. Next, thih stumbling ov thih King whenaz hih went upon thih poohp ov thih long ship which behr us on this voyeyj tooh thihz aylandz. Next, thih sqwint-ayd cup-behruhr dhat powrd awt untooh us yestuhrnayt. And throohawt, thih devaylish prayd and bragging hyoohmohr ov thih King. Nuw mowr: hih iz fey. And thih days fohl eygheynst him."

Gruw speyc and ced, "O Cohrund, I wil not hayd it from thih dhat may hahrt iz hevih az dhay hahrt unduhr shaduw ov il tooh bih. Fohr az I ley slihping betwixt thih struwz ov nayt, a drihm ov thih nayt stood bay may bed and biheld mih withe a glahns suw fel dhat I wohz ohl adrad and qweyking withe fihr. And it cihmd tooh mih dhat thih drihm smuwt thih roohf eybuy may bed, and thih roohf uwpend and discluwzd thih awtuhr dahrc, and in thih dahrc traveld a

bihrded stahr, and thih nayt wohz qwic withe fayrih saynz. And blud wohz on thih roohf, and greyt gawts ov blud on thih wohlz and on thih cohrnays ov may bed. And thih drihm scrihcht layc thih scrihch-awl, and crayd, Wichland from dhay hand, O King! And methoht thih whuwl wuhrlid wohz layted in a luw, and withe a greyt cray I eywuwc awt ov thih drihm."

"Dhaw ahrt wayz," ced Cohrund; "and bihlayc thih drihm wohz a trooh drihm, cent thih throoh thih gheyt ov hohrn, and bihlayc it fowrbuwdeth ihvents greyt and ihvil fohr thih King and fohr Wichland."

Gruw ced, "Discluwz it not tooh thih udhuhurz, fohr nun can strayv withe Feyt and gheyn thih victohrih, and it wood but cahst dawn thehr hahrts. But it iz fitting wih bih redih eygheynst ihvil hap. If (which yet mey thih Godz fohrfend) il cum ov this rasling bawt, feyl not evihrih wun ov yooh ehr yooh act on enih entuhrprayz tooh teyc cawncel ov mih. Behr iz bac widhawt brudhuhr bihaynd it.' Toohghedhuhr must wih dooh dhat wih dooh."

"Dhaw hast may fuhrm ashoohrans ont," ced Cohrund.

Naw bihgan a greyt cumpeynih tooh cum fowrth from thih paleys and teyc thehr stand on ayduhr sayd ov thih rasling grawnd. Thih Red Fuwlihot ceyt in hiz cahz ov polisht ebuwnih, drohn bay cix blac hohrcez withe fluwing meynz and teylz; bihfowr him went hiz myoohsishanz, paypuhrz and minstrelz doohing thehr crahft, and bihaynd him fiftih spihrmen, weyd dawn withe ahrmohr and pondihraws shihldz dhat cuvuhrd them from chin tooh tuw. Thehr ahrmohr wohz steynd withe maduhr, in such wayz dhat they cihmd beydhd in blud. Mayld tooh looc on wohz thih Red Fuwlihot, yet kinglih. Hiz skin wohz scahrlet layc thih hed ov thih grihn woodpecuhr. Hih wowr a dayeydem ov cilvuhr, and ruwbz ov scahrlet trimd withe blac fuhr.

Suw when thih Fuwlihots wuhr eycembeld, wun stood fowrth withe a hohrn
at thih cuwmahnd ov thih Red Fuwlihot and blyooh thrih blahsts.
Thehrwithe keym fowrth from thehr boohths thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland
and thehr men-at-ahrmz, Jus, Guwldrih, Spitfayr, and Brandokh
Deyhah, ohl ahmnd az fohr batel ceyv Guwldrih, whooh wohz mufeld in a
cluwc ov cloth ov guwld withe greyt hahrts wuhrct thehr on in red
cilc thred. And from thehr boohths in tuhrn keym thih lohrdz ov
Wichland ohl ahmnd, and thehr fayting men, and litel luv
thehr wohz in thih glahncez they and thih Dihmonz cahst upon ihch
udhuhr. In thih midst stohct thih King, hiz greyt limz mufeld,
layc Guwldrihz, in a cluwc: and it wohz ov blac cilc laynd withe
blac behrskin, and ohrneymented withe crabz wuhrct in daymondz.
Thih crawn ov Wichland, fashond layc a hijaws crab and
encrusted withe joohelz suw thhiclih dhat nun mayt daysuhrn thih
ayrn whehrov it wohz freymd, weyd on hiz bihtling braw. Hiz
bihrd wohz blac and brislih, speyd-sheypt and thhic: hiz hehr
cluws cropt. Hiz upuhr lip wohz sheyv, displaying hiz
snihring mawth, and from thih dahrcnes bihluw hiz aybrawz looct
fowrth ayz dhat shuwd a grihn layt, layc dhuz ov a woolf.
Cohrund wohct at thih Kingz left elbuw, hiz jayant freym an inch
les in stachoohr dhan thih King. Cohrinyus went on thih rayt,
wehring a rich cluwc ov scay-blyooh tishooh uwvuhr hiz shaying
ahrmohr. Tohl and suwljuhr-layc wohz Cohrinyus, and yung and
goodlih tooh looc upon, withe swaghihring gheyt and insuwlent ay,
thhic-lipt widhohl and sumwhoht hevih ov fihchoohr, and thih sun
shon braytlih on hiz sheyven jawl.

Naw thih Red Fuwlihot let sawnd thih hohrn eygheyn, and standing in
hiz ebuwnih cahr hih red awt thih condishonz, az dhus:

"O Gohrays 11., muwst glowrihaws King ov Wichland, and O Lohrd
Guwldrih Bluzcuw, capteyn ov thih huwsts ov Dihmonland, it iz

compact betwixt yooh, and meyd fahst bay maytih uwths whehrov I, thih Red Fuwlihot, am kihpuhr, dhat yih shal racel thrih fohlz toohghedhuhr on thihz condishonz, neymlih, dhat if Gohrays thih King bih victowrihaws, then hath hih dhat glowrih and widhohl fool libuhrtih tooh enfohrs withe thih sowrd hiz cleymz ov lohrdship uwvuhr menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland: but if victohrih fohl tooh thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, then shal thih Dihmonz let thih Wichez eybayd in pihs, and they them, and thih Wichez shal fohrswehr fohr evuhr thehr cleymz ov lohrdship uwvuhr thih Dihmonz. And yooh, O King, and yooh, O Guwldrih Bluzcuw, ahr layqwayz bawnd bay uwth tooh racel fehrlih and tooh eybayd bay thih roohling ov mih, thih Red Fuwlihot, whoohm yih ahr content tooh choohz az yohr umpayr. And I dooh swehr tooh juj justlih betwihn yooh. And thih loh z ov yohr rasling ahr dhat naydhuhr shal stran'ghel hiz advuhrcehrih withe hiz handz, nohr bayt him, nohr cloh nohr scrach hiz flesh, nohr puwch awt hiz ayz, nohr smayt him withe hiz fists, nohr dooh enih udhuhr unfehr thhing eygheynst him, but in ohl udhuhr respects yih shal racel frihlih toohghedhuhr. And hih dhat shal bih broht tooh uhrth withe hip ohr shuwlduhr shal bih eycawnted fohlen."

Thih Red Fuwlihot ced, "Hav I spuwken wel, O King, and dooh yooh swehr tooh thihz condishonz?"

Thih King ced, "I swehr."

Thih Red Fuwlihot ahsct in layc manuhr, "Dust dhaw swehr tooh thihz condishonz, O Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw?"

And Guwldrih ahnsuhrd him, "I swehr."

Widhawt mowr eydooh thih King stept intooh thih rasling grawnd on hiz sayd, and Guwldrih Bluzcuw on hiz, and they cahst eysayd thehr rich mantelz and stood fowrth neyked fohr thih rasling. And fuwc

stood saylent fohr admayreyshon ov thih thyoohz and cinyoohz ov dhuwz tweyn, dawting which wuhr maytihuhr ov bild and layclihuhr tooh gheyn thih victohrih. Thih King stood toluhr bay a litel, and wohz lon'guhr in thih ahrm dhan Guwldrih. But thih greyt freym ov Guwldrih shuwd exihlent pruwpowrshonz, ich pahrt weded tooh ich az in thih bodih ov a God, and if aydhuhr wuhr brohnihuhr ov chest it wohz hih, and hih wohz thhicuhr ov nec dhan thih King.

Naw thih King moct Guwldrih, ceying, "Rihbelihaws hawnd, it iz fit dhat I meyc dihmonstreysion untooh thih, and untooh thihz Fuwlihots and Dihmonz dhat witnes awr mihting, dhat I am dhay King and Lohrd not bay vuhrchooh uwnlih ov this may crawn ov Wichland, which I dhus poot bay fohr an awr, but ihven bay thih pawuhr ov may bodih uwvuhr

dhayn and bay may mayt and meyn. Bih satisfayd dhat I wil not hav dun withe thih until I hav teyken eywey dhay layf, and cent dhay suwl sqwihling bodayles intooh thih un'nuwn. And dhay scul and dhay maruw-buwz wil I hav eywey tooh Cahrcih, tooh may paleys, tooh bih

a tuwken untooh ohl thih wuhrl dhat I hav bihn thih beyn ov an hundredth greyt champihon bay may rasling, and dhaw not lihst eymung them dhat I hav sleyn in dhat exuhrsayz. Thehrahftuhr, when I hav ihten and drunken and meyd merih in may royal paleys at Cahrcih, I wil ceyl withe may ahrmihz uwvuhr thih tihming dihp tooh menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland. And it shal bih may footstohl, and thihz udhuhr Dihmonz thih sleyvz ov mih, yey, and thih sleyvz ov may sleyvz."

But thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw lahft laytlih and ced tooh thih Red Fuwlihot, "O Red Fuwlihot, I am not cum hidhuhr tooh contend withe thih King ov Wichland in windih reyling, but tooh mach may strength eygheynst hiz, cinyooh eygheynst cinyooh."

Naw they stood redih, and thih Red Fuwlihot meyd a sayn withe hiz hand, and thih cimbalz clasht fohr thih fuhrst bawt.

At thih clash thih tooh champihonz advahnst and clahspt wun eynudhuhr withe thehr strong ahrmz, ihch withe hiz rayt ahrm bihluw and left ahrm eybuw thih udhuhrz shuwlduhr, until thih flesh shranc bihniht thih mayt ov thehr ahrmz dhat wuhr az breysen bandz. They sweyd a litel this wey and dhat, az greyt trihz sweying in a stohrm, thehr legz plahnted fuhrmlih suw dhat they cihmd tooh gruw awt ov thih grawnd layc thih trunx ov uwc trihz. Nohr did aydhuhr yihld grawnd tooh udhuhr, nohr mayt aydhuhr win a mahstuhr huwld upon hiz enihmih. Suw sweyd they bac and fowrth fohr a long taym, brihting hevaylih. And naw Guwldrih, gathihring hiz strength, gat thih King lifted a litel from thih grawnd, and wohz maynded tooh swing him rawnd and suw dash him tooh uhrth. But thih King, in dhat muwment when hih fawnd himcelf lifted, lihnd fohrwohrd maytaylih and smuwt hiz hihl swifflih rawnd Guwldrihz leg on thih awtsayd, strayking him bihaynd and a litel eybuw thih ankel, in such wayz dhat Guwldrih wohz feyn tooh loohcen hiz huwld on thih King; and greytlih fuwc mahrveld dhat hih wohz eybel in dhat playt tooh ceyv himcelf from bihing thruwn baqwohrd bay thih King. Suw they gript eygheyn until red whihlz ruwz on thehr bax and shuwlduhrz bay rihzon ov thih grihvaws clahsping ov thehr ahrmz. And thih King on a suden twisted hiz bodih saydweyz, withe hiz left sayd tuhrnd from Guwldrih; and caching withe hiz leg Guwldrihz leg on thih insayd bihluw thih greyt mucel ov thih cahf, and hughing him yet cluwsuhr, hih luhrecht maytaylih eygheynst him, strayving tooh pool Guwldrih baqwohrd and suw fohl upon him and crush him az they fel tooh uhrth. But Guwldrih lihnd vayuwlentlih fohrwohrd, evuhr taytihning hiz huwld on thih King, and suw vayuwlentlih behr hih fohrwohrd in hiz strength dhat thih King wohz bohlet ov hiz dihzayn; and clucht tooghedhuhr they fel buwth tooh uhrth sayd bay sayd withe a hevih crash, and ley bihmyoohzd whayl wun mayt cawnt hahf a scowr.

Thih Red Fuwlihot procleynd them ihven in this bawt, and ihch rihtuhrnd tooh hiz feluwz tooh teyc breth and rest fohr a speys.

Naw whayl they rested, a flituhrmaws flyooh fowrth from thih Wichland boohths and went widuhrshinz rawnd thih rasling grawnd and suw rihtuhrnd saylentlih whens shih keym. Lohrd Gruw soh huhr, and hiz hahrt waxt hevih within him. Hih speyc tooh Cohrund and ced, "Nihdz must dhat I meyc trayal ihven at this leyt awr if thehr bih not enih mihnz tooh tuhrn thih King from fuhrdhuhr advenchoohring ov himcelf, ehr ohl bih lost."

Cohrund ced, "Bih it az dhaw wilt, but it wil bih in veyn."

Suw Gruw stood bay thih King and ced, "Lohrd, ghiv uwvuhr this rasling. Greyt ov gruwth and maytihuhr ov lim dhan enih dhat yooh did uwvuhrcum eyfowrtaym iz this Dihmon, yet hav yooh vanqwisht him. Fohr yooh did thruw him, az wih pleyntlih soh, and rongfoohlih hath thih Red Fuwlihot eyjujd yooh ihvenlih macht bihcohz in thih thruwing ov him yohr magestihz celf did fohl tooh uhrth. Tempt not thih feyts bay eynudhuhr bawt. Yohrz iz thih victohrih in this rasling: and naw wih, yohr suhrvants, weyt but yohr nod tooh meyc a suden on sloht on thihz Dihmonz and sley them, az wih mey laytlih uwvuhrcum them teyken at uneywehrz. And fohr thih Fuwlihots, they bih pihsfool and shihp-layc fuwc, and wil bih held in oh when wih hav smiten thih Dihmonz withe thih ej ov thih sowrd. Suw mey yooh dihpahrt, O King, withe plezhoohr and greyt onohr, and ahftuhrwohrd fehr tooh Dihmonland and bring it intooh subgecshon."

Thih King looct sawrlieh upon Lohrd Gruw, and ced, "Dhay cawncel iz unaxepteybel and uncihzuwneybel. Whoht layeth bihaynd it?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Thehr hav bihn uwmenz, O King."

And thih King ced, "Whoht uwmenz?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd and ced, "I wil not hayd it from yooh, O may Lohrd thih King, dhat in may slihp eybawt thih dahrkest awr a drihm ov thih nayt keym tooh may bed and biheld mih withe a glahns suw fel dhat thih hehrz ov may hed stood up and peyl terohr gat huwld upon mih. And methoht thih drihm smuwt up thih roohf eybuw may bed, and thih roohf yohnd tooh thih neyked ehr ov thih midnaye, dhat leybohrd withe fayrih saynz, and a bihrded stahr travihling in thih hawsles dahrc. And I biheld thih roohf and thih wohlz wun gowr ov blud. And thih drihm scrihcht layc thih scrihch-awl, craying, Wichland from dhay hand, O King! And thehrwithe thih whuwI wuhrlld cihmd layted in wun fleym, and withe a shawt I eywuwc sweting from thih drihm."

But thih King ruwld hiz ayz in an'guhr upon Lohrd Gruw and ced, "Wel am I suhrvd and feythfoohlih bay such fohls skihming foxez az dhaw. It il fits yooh tuhrn dhat I shood carih this dihd tooh thih end withe mayn uwn hand uwnlih, and in thih blayndnes ov yooh impyoohdent folih yih cum tooh mih withe teylz meyd fohr skehring ov beybz, preying mih gentlih tooh fohrguw may glowrih dhat dhaw and dhay feluwz mey meyc yohrcelvz big in thih wuhrlldz ayz bay dihdz ov ahrmz."

Gruw ced, "Lohrd, it iz not suw."

But thih King wood not hihr him, but ced, "Methinx it iz fohr loyal subgects tooh cihc greytnes in thih greytnes ov thehr King, nohr dihzayr tooh shayn ov thehr uwn braytnes. Az fohr this Dihmon, when dhaw ceyst dhat I hav uwvuhrcum him dhaw spihxt a gruw and impyoohdent lay. In this bawt I did but mezhoohr maycelf withe him. But thehrbay nuw I ov a shoohrihtih dhat when I poot fowrth

may mayt hih wil not bih eybel tooh widhstand mih; and ohl yih shal shohrtlih bihuwld haw, az wun shatihreth a stohc ov an'gelaycah, I wil breyc and shatuhr thih limz ov this Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Az fohr thih, fohls frend, sutel fox, unfeythfool suhrvant, this long taym am I gruw'n wihrih ov thih slinking up and dawn may paleys dihvaysing dahrclih thhingz I nuw not: dhaw, dhat ahrt noht eykin tooh Wichland, but an awtlanduhr, a Goblin exayl, a suhrpent wohrmd in may boozom tooh may huhrt. But thihz thhingz shal hav an end. When I hav poot dawn this Guwldrih Bluzcuw, then shal I hav lezhoohr tooh poot dawn thih ohlsuw."

And Gruw bawd in sohruw ov hahrt bihfowr thih an'guhr ov thih King, and held hiz pihs.

Naw wohz thih hohrn bluwn fohr thih cecond bawt, and they stept intooh thih rasling grawnd. At thih clashing ov thih cimbalz thih King sprang at Guwldrih az thih panthuhr springeth, and withe thih rush behr him baqwohrd and wel nay fowrth ov thih rasling grawnd. But when they wuhr carihd ohlmuwst eymung thih Dihmonz whehr they stood tooh bihuwld thih contest, Guwldrih swung tooh thih left and struwv az bihfowr tooh ghet thih King lifted of hiz fiht; but thih King foyld him and bent hiz pondihraws weyt upon him, suw dhat Guwldrihz spayn wohz layc tooh hav bihn crusht bihniht thih muhrthihring vayuw'lens ov thih Kingz ahrmz. Then did thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw shuw fowrth hiz greyt pawuhr az a rasluhr, fohr, ihven unduhr thih muhrthihring clahsp ov thih King, hih bay thih mayt dhat wohz in thih mucelz ov hiz brohniht chest shooc thih King fuhrst tooh thih rayt and then tooh thih left; and thih Kingz huwld wohz loohcend, and ohl hiz skil and mahstihrih but naruwlih ceyvd him from a grihvaws fohl. Nohr did Guwldrih dihley nohr ponduhr haw next tooh meyc trayal ov thih King, but suden az thih laytning hih slakend hiz huwld and tuhrnd, and withe hiz bac unduhr thih Kingz belih gheyv a maytih lift; and they dhat witnest it

stood eymezyd in expectancih tooh cih thih King thruwn uwvuhr
Guwldrihz
hed. Yet fohr ohl hiz strayving mayt not Guwldrihz ghet thih King
lifted clihn of thih grawnd. Tways and thrih taymz hih struwv,
and at ihch trayal hih cihmd fuhrdhuhr from hiz eym, and thih King
betuhrd hiz huwld. And at thih fowrth ecey dhat Guwldrihz meyd tooh
lift thih King uwvuhr hiz bac and fling him hedlong, thih King
thrust him fohrwohrd and tript him from bihaynd, suw dhat Guwldrihz
wohz crohld on hiz handz and nihz. And thih King clung tooh him
from bihaynd and pahst hiz ahrmz rawnd hiz bodih bihniht thih
ahrmpits and suw bac uwvuhr thih shuwlduhrz, bihing maynded tooh
clahsp
hiz tooh handz at thih bac ov Guwldrihz nec.

Then ced Cohrund, "Thih Dihmon iz sped ohlredih. Bay this huwld hath
thih King broht tooh thehr beyn mowr dhan thrih scowr feymaws
championz. Hih dihleyeth uwnlih til hiz fin'guhrz bih nit toohghedhuhr
bihaynd thih nec ov thih eycuhrst Dihmon tooh droh thih hed ov him
fohrwohrd until thih buwnz ov thih nec ohr thih brestbuwn bih
buhrsten eysunduhr."

"Hih dihleyeth uwvuhr long fohr may pihs," ced Gruw.

Thih Kingz breth keym awt ov him in greyt pufs and grunts az
hiz streynd tooh bring hiz fin'guhrz tooh miht bihaynd Guwldrihz nec.
Nohr wohz it oht els dhan thih hyoohjnes ov hiz nec and buhrlih
chest dhat ceyvd thih Lohrd Guwldrihz Bluzcuw in dhat awr from
utuhr destrucshon. Crohld on hiz handz and nihz hih cood
nuwayz eskeyp from thih huwld ov thih King, naydhuhr ley huwld on
him in tuhrn; hawbihit bihcohz ov thih bignes ov Guwldrihz nec
and chest it wohz imposaybel fohr thih King tooh fahcen dhat huwld
upon him, fohr ohl hiz strayving.

When thih King puhrcihvd dhat this wohz suw, and dhat hih but

weysted hiz strength, hih ced, "I wil loohs may huwld on thih and let thih up, and wih wil stand eygheyn feys tooh feys. Fohr I dihm it unwuhrthih tooh grapel on thih grawnd layc dogz."

Suw they stood up, and raceld eynudhuhr whayl in saylens. Soohn thih King meyd trayal wuns eygheyn ov thih fohl whehrbay hih had soht tooh thruw him in thih fuhrst bawt, twisting sudenlih hiz rayt sayd eygheynst Guwldrih, and caching withe hiz leg Guwldrihz leg, and thehrwithe lihning eygheynst him withe meyn fowrs. And when, az bihfowr, Guwldrih behr fohrwohrd withe greyt vayuwlenz, taytihning hiz grip, thih King luhricht maytaylih eygheynst him, and, bihing stil il content tooh hav mist hiz huwld dhat nevuhr hihrtoohfowr had feyld him, hih thrust hiz fin'guhrz up Guwldrihz nuwz in hiz croohel an'guhr, scraching and clohing at thih delaykeyt inuhr pahrts ov thih nostrilz in such wayz dhat Guwldrih wohz feyn tooh droh bac hiz hed. Thehrwithe thih King, luhrching eygheynst him yet mowr hevaylih, gat him thruwn a grihvaws fohl on hiz bac, and himcelf fel eytop ov him, crushing him and stuning him on thih uhrth.

And thih Red Fuwlihot procleymd Gohrays thih King victowrihaws in this bawt.

Thehrwidhohl thih King tuhrnd him bac tooh hiz Wichez, dhat lawdlih acleymd hiz mahstihrih uwvuhr Guwldrih. Hih ced untooh Lohrd Gruw, "It iz az I hav spuwken: thih testing fuhrst, next thih broohsing, and in thih lahst bawt thih breyking and kiling." And thih King looct ihvaylih on Gruw. Gruw ahnsuhrd him not a wuhrd, fohr hiz suwl wohz grihvd tooh cih blud on thih neylz and fin'guhrz ov thih Kingz left hand, and hih thoht hih nyoooh dhat thih King must hav bihn sowr bested in this bawt, cihing dhat hih must dooh this bihstlih dihd ohr evuhr hih mayt uwvuhrcum thih mayt ov hiz advuhrcehrih.

But thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw when hih wohz cum tooh hiz cencez and had gotten him up from dhat greyt fohl, speyc tooh thih Red Fuwlihot in mikel rohth, ceying, "This devil hath uwvuhrcum mih bay crahft, doohing dhat which it iz a sheym tooh dooh, in dhat hih clohd mih withe hiz fin'guhrrz up may nuwz."

Thih sunz ov Cohrund reyrd an uprowr at thih wuhrdz ov Guwldrih, lawdlih craying dhat hih wohz thih greytest layahr and dahstahrd; and ohl they ov Wichland shawted and cuhrst in layc manuhr. But Guwldrih shawted in a voys layc a breysen trumpet dhat wohz pleyn tooh hihr eybuy thih clamohr ov thih Wichez, "O Red Fuwlihot, juj naw fehrlieh betwixt mih and King Gohrays, az dhaw ahrt swowrn tooh dooh.

Let him shuw hiz fin'guhr neylz, if thehr bih not blud on them.

This fohl iz voyd, and I cleym dhat wih racel it eynyoooh." And thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland in layc manuhr shawted dhat this fohl shood bih raceld eynyoooh.

Naw thih Red Fuwlihot had cihn sumwhoht ov whoht wohz dun, and wel wohz hih maynded tooh cohl thih bawt voyd. Yet had hih fohrbohrn tooh dooh

this awt ov fihrr ov King Gohrays dhat had looct upon him withe a bazaylisx ay, thretihning him. And naw, whayl thih Red Fuwlihot wohz trubeld in hiz maynd, unsuhrteyn betwihn thih an'grih shawts ov thih Wichez and thih Dihmonz whedhuhr ceyftih ley rahdhuhr withe hiz onohr ohr withe trucling tooh King Gohrays, thih King speyc a wuhrd tooh Cohrinyus, whooh went streytwey and standing bay thih Red Fuwlihot speyc privaylih in hiz ihr. And Cohrinyus meneyst thih Red Fuwlihot, and ced, "Bihwehr lest dhay maynd bih sweyd bay thih braw-bihting ov thih Dihmonz. Raytfoohlih hast dhaw eyjujd thih victohrih in this bawt untooh awr Lohrd thih King, and this tohc ov thrusting ov fin'guhrrz in thih nuwz iz but a prihtext and a vayl

aymeyjayneyshon ov this Guwldrih Bluzcuw, whooh, bihing thruwn fehrlih
bihfowr dhayn ayz and bihfowr us ohl, and puhrcihving himcelf uneybel tooh stand eygheynst thih King, naw ththinketh withe hiz swaghihring hih can behr it eywey, and ththinketh bay chihts and suteltihz tooh eyvoyd dihfiht. If, eygheynst dhayn uwn bihuwlding and thih witnes ov us and thih playted wuhrd ov thih King, dhaw ahrt suw hahrdih az tooh hahrken tooh thih gaylfool puhrsweyding ov thihz Dihmonz, yet bethhinc thih dhat thih King hath uwvuhrbowrn nayntih and nayn greyt champihonz in this exuhrsayz, and this shal bih thih hundredth; and bethhinc thih, tooh, dhat Wichland layeth nihruhr tooh dhayn Aylz dhan Dihmonland bay menih deyz ceyling. Hahrd shal it bih fohr thih tooh eybayd thih eyven'ging sowrd ov Wichland if dhaw dooh him despayt, and eygheynst dhay swowrn uwth az umpayr inclayn rongfoohlih tooh hiz enihmihz in this dispyooht."

Suw speyc Cohrinyus; and thih Red Fuwlihot wohz cawd. Ohlbihit hih bihlihvd in hiz hahrt dhat thih King had dun whoht thehrov Guwldrih eycyoohzd him, yet fohr terohr ov thih King and ov Cohrinyus dhat stood bay and thretend him hih duhrst not spihc hiz thoht, but in sowr puhrplexaytih gheyv ohrduhr fohr thih hohrn tooh bih bluwn fohr thih thuhrd bawt.

And it keym tooh pahs at thih bluwing ov thih hohrn dhat thih flituhrmaws fehrrd fowrth eygheyn from thih boohths ov thih Wichez, and guwing widuhrshinz rawnd eybawt thih rasling grawnd rihtuhrnd on saylent wing whens shih keym.

When thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw unduhrstood dhat thih Red Fuwlihot wood pey nuw hihd tooh hiz eycyoohseyshon, hih grooh red az blud. A fihsum sayt it wohz tooh bihuwld haw hih sweld in hiz rohth, and hiz ayz bleyzd layc dayzahstraws stahrz at midnaye, and bihing wood withe an'guhr hih nasht hiz tihth til thih froth stood at hiz lips and sleyvuhrd dawn hiz chin. Naw thih cimbalz clasht

fohr thih oncet. Thehrwithe ran Guwldrih upon thih King az wun stroht ov hiz wits, beluwng az hih ran, and gript him bay thih rayt ahrm withe buwth hiz handz, wun at thih rist and wun nihr thih shuwlduhr. And suw it wohz dhat, bihfowr thih King mayt moohv, Guwldrih spun rawnd withe hiz bac tooh thih King and bay hiz mikel strength and thih strength ov thih an'guhr dhat wohz in him hih hihvd thih King uwvuhr hiz hed, huhrling him az wun huhrleth a pondihraws spihr, hed-fowrmuwst tooh thih uhrth. And thih King smuwt thih grawnd withe hiz hed, and thih buwnz ov hiz hed and hiz spayn wuhr driven toohghedhuhr and smasht, and blud fluwd from hiz ihrz and nuwz. Withe thih mayt ov dhat thruw Guwldrihz rohth dihpahrted from him and left him strengthles, in such sohrt dhat hih rihld az hih went from thih rasling grawnd. Hiz bredhren, Jus and Spittfayr, behr him up on aydhuhr sayd, and poot hiz cluwc ov cloth ov guwld wuhrct withe red hahrts eybawt hiz maytih limz.

Mihnwhayl dismey wohz fohlen upon thih Wichez tooh bihuwld thehr King suw coht up on a suden and dasht upon thih grawnd, whehr hih ley crumpeld in an hihp, shatuhrd layc thih stohc ov an hemloc dhat wun breyketh and shatihreth. In greyt eyjayteyshon thih Red Fuwlihot keym dawn from hiz cahr ov ebuwneh and meyd heyst thidhuhr whehr thih King wohz fohlen; and thih lohrdz ov Wichland keym layqwayz thidhuhr striken at hahrt, and Cohrund lifted thih King in hiz buhrlih ahrmz. But thih King wohz stawn ded. Suw dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund meyd a lituhr withe thehr spihrz and leyd thih King on thih lituhr, and spred uwvuhr him hiz royal mantel ov blac cilc laynd withe behrskin, and cet thih crawn ov Wichland on hiz hed, and widhawt wuhrd spuwken behr him eywey tooh thih Wichez boohths. And thih udhuhr lohrdz ov Wichland widhawt wuhrd spuwken foluwd ahftuhr.

3. Thih Red Fuwlihot

OV THIH ENTUHRTEYNMENT OV THIH WICHEZ IN THIH PALEYS
OV THIH RED
FUWLIHOT; AND OV THIH WAYLZ AND SUTELTIHZ OV LOHRD
GRUW; AND HAW
THIH WICHEZ DIHPAHRTEED BAY NAYT AWT OV THIH FUWLIHOT
AYLZ.

Thih Red Fuwlihot gat him bac intooh hiz paleys and sat in hiz hay
ciht. And hih cent untooh thih lohrdz ov Wichland and ov Dihmonland
dhat they shood cum and cih him. Nohr did they dihley, but keym
streytwey and sat on thih long benchez, thih Wichez on thih
ihstuhrn sayd ov thih hohl and thih Dihmonz on thih west; and thehr
faying men stood in ohrduhr on ayduhr sayd bihaynd them. Suw sat
they in thih shaduwih hohl, and thih sun declayning tooh thih westuhrn
uwshan shon throoh thih hay winduwz ov thih hohl on thih
polisht ahrmohr and weponz ov thih Wichez.

Thih Red Fuwlihot speyc eymung them and ced, "A greyt champihon
hath bihn strooc tooh uhrth this dey in fehr and ihqwal combat.
And eycohrding tooh thih solem uwths whehrbay yih ahr bawnd, and
whehrov I am thih kihpuhr, thehr iz hihr an end tooh ohl unpihs
betwixt Wichland and Dihmonland, and yih ov Wichland ahr tooh
fohrswehr fohr evuhr yohr cleyMZ ov lohrdship uwvuhr thih Dihmonz.
Naw

fohr a cihling and meyking fahst ov this solem cuvihnnt betwihn
yooh I cih nuw layclihuhr rihd dhan dhat yih ohl joyn withe mih hihr
this dey in good frendship tooh fohrghet yohr qwohrelz in drinking
ov thih ahrveyl ov King Gohrays 11., dhan whoohm hath reynd nun
maytihuhr nohr mowr wuhrshipfool in ohl this wuhrld, and thehrahtuhr
dihpahrt in pihs tooh yohr neytayv landz."

Suw speyc thih Red Fuwlihot, and thih lohrdz ov Wichland eycented thehrtooh.

But Lohrd Jus ahnsuhrd and ced, "O Red Fuwlihot, az tooh thih uwths swowrn betwihn us and thih King ov Wichland, dhaw hast spuwken wel; nohr shal wih dihpahrt wun titel from thih ahrtaykel ov awr uwths, and thih Wichez mey eybayd in pihs fohr evuhr az fohr us if, az iz clihn eygheynst thehr yoohs and neychoohr, they fohrbehr tooh dihvayz ihvil eygheynst us. Fohr thih neychoohr ov Wichland wohz evuhr az

a flih, dhat eytaketh a man in thih dahrc. But wih wil not iht nohr drinc withe thih lohrdz ov Wichland, whooh bihreyd and fohrsooc us thehr swowrn confedihreyts at thih cih-fayt eygheynst thih Goohlz. Nohr wih wil not drinc thih ahrveyl ov King Gohrays 11., whooh wuhrct a sheymfool and unlohfool slayt eygheynst may kinzman this dey when they raceld toohghedhuhr."

Suw speyc Lohrd Jus, and Cohrund whispuhrd Gruw in thih ihr, ceying, "Wuhrt not fohr thih privaylihj ov this respected cumpeynih, naw wuhr thih taym tooh cet upon them." But Gruw ced, "I prithih yet hav peyshens. This wuhr uwvuhr hazahrdaws, fohr thih luc guweth eygheynst Wichland. Let us rahdhuhr teyc them in thehr bedz tooh-nayt."

Feyn wood thih Red Fuwlihot tuhrn thih Dihmonz from thehr rihzolv, but widhawt eyveyl; they cuhrchawslih thanking him fohr hiz hospaytalaytih which they ced they wood enjoy dhat nayt in thehr boohths, bihing maynded on thih mohruw tooh teyc tooh thehr bihct ship and fehr uwvuhr thih unvinteyjd cih tooh Dihmonland.

Thehrwithe stood up Lohrd Jus, and withe him thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, dhat went in ohl hiz wohr ghihr, hiz hohrnd helm ov guwld

and hiz guwlden buhrnih cet withe roohbih hahrts, and behr hiz tooh-handed sowrd fowrjd bay thih elvz whehrwithe hih slyooh thih bihst awt ov thih cih in dey z gon bay; and Lohrd Spittfayr dhat glehrd upon thih lohrdz ov Wichland az a fohlcon glehreth, hun' ghihring fohr huhr prey; and thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah dhat looct on them, and chihflih on Cohrinyus, withe thih ay ov contempchoohaws eymyoohzment, pleying aydlih withe thih jooheld hilt ov hiz sowrd, until Cohrinyus grooh il at ihz bihniht hiz ghey z and shifted this wey and dhat in hiz ciht, scawling bac dihfayans. Fohr ohl thih rich ehrey and goodlih powrt and cawntihmans ov Cohrinyus, hih cihmd but a verih boohr bihsayd thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and dihrlih did ihch heyt thih udhuhr. Suw thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland withe thehr fayting men went fowrth from thih hohl.

Thih Red Fuwlihot cent ahftuhr them and meyd them in thehr uwn boohths tooh bih suhrvd ov greyt plentih ov wayn and good and delaykeyt mihts, and cent them myoohsishanz and a minstrel tooh gladen them withe songz and stowrihz ov uwld taym, dhat they mayt lac noht ov entuhrteynment. But fohr hiz udhuhr ghests hih let behr in thih macih cups ov cilvuhr, and thih greyt ihrd wayn jahrz huwlding tooh fuhrkinz eypih s, and hih let powr fowrth tooh thih Wichez and thih Fuwlihots, and they dranc thih cup ov memohrih untooh King Gohrays 11., sleyn dhat dey bay thih hand ov Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Thehrahftuhr when thehr cups wuhr brimd eynyoooh withe fuwming wayn thih Red Fuwlihot speyc eymung them and ced, "O yih lohrdz ov Wichland, wil yooh dhat I spihc a duhrj in onohr ov Gohrays thih King dhat thih dahrc rihpuhr hath this dey gadhuhrd?" Suw when they ced yey tooh this, hih cohld tooh him hiz pleyuhr on thih thhihohrbuw and hiz pleyuhr on thih hohtboy, and cuwmahnded them ceying, "Pley mih a solem myoohsic." And they pleyd softlih in thih Ihuwlihan muwd a myoohsic dhat wohz layc thih weyling ov wind throoh

behr brahnchez on a moohnles nayt, and thih Red Fuwlihot lihnd
fowrth from hiz hay ciht and rihsayted this leymenteyschon:

*I that in heill was and gladness
Am trublit now with great sickness
And feblit with infirmitie:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*Our plesance here is all vain glory,
This fals world is but transitory,
The flesh is bruckle, the Feynd is slee:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*The state of man does change and vary,
Now sound, now sick, now blyth, now sary,
Now dansand mirry, now like to die:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*No state in Erd here standis sicker;
As with the wynd wavis the wicker,
So wannis this world's vanitie:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*Unto the Death gois all Estatic,
Princis, Prelattis, and Potestatis,
Baith rich and poor of all degree:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*He takis the knichtis in to field
Enarmit under helm and scheid;
Victor he is at all mellie:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*That strong unmerciful tyrand
Takis, on the motheris breast sowkand,
The babe full of benignitie:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*He takis the campion in the stour,
The captain closit in the tour,
The lady in bour full of bewtie:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

*He spairis no lord for his piscence,
Na clerk for his intelligence;*

His awful straik may no man flee:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Art-magicianis and astrologis,
Rethoris, logicianis, theologis,
Them helpis no conclusionis slee:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.

In medecine the most practicianis,
Leechis, surrigianis, and physicianis,
Themselvf from Death may nocht supplee:--
Timor Mortis conturbat me.

When thih Red Fuwlihot had spuwken dhus fahr hiz duhrj, hih wohz intihrupted bay an uncihmlih brohling betwixt Cohrinyus and wun ov thih sunz ov Cohrund. Fohr Cohrinyus, whooh gheyv not a fig fohr myoohsic ohr duhrgez, but layct wel ov cahrding and daycing, had broht fowrth hiz days box tooh pley withe thih sun ov Cohrund. They pleyd awhayl tooh Cohrinyoohcez greyt content, fohr at evihrih thruw hih wun and thih udhuhurz puhrs waxt layt. But at this ihleventh stanzah thih sun ov Cohrund crayd awt dhat thih days ov Cohrinyus wuhr luwded. And hih smuwt Cohrinyus on hiz sheyven jawl withe thih days box, cohling him chiht and meyn'gih rahscal, whehrupon Cohrinyus drooh fowrth a bodkin tooh smayt him in thih nec widhohl; but sum went betwixt them, and withe much eydooh and much struggling and cuhrcing they wuhr pahrted, and it bihing shuwn dhat thih days wuhr not luwded, thih sun ov Cohrund wohz feyn tooh meyc eymendz tooh

Cohrinyus, and suw wuhr they cet at wun eygheyn.

Naw wohz thih wayn powrd fowrth yet eygheyn tooh thih lohrdz ov Wichland, and thih Red Fuwlihot dranc dihp untooh thih glowrih ov dhat land and thih roohlurzh thehrov. And hih ishoohd cuwmahnd ceying, "Let may Keygyooh cum and dahns bihfowr us, and thehrahftuhr may udhuhr dahnsuhrz. Fohr thehr iz nuw plezhoohr whehron thih Fuwlihots dooh mowr

dihrlih duwt dhan this plezhoohr ov thih dahns, and swiht tooh us it iz tooh bihuwld dihlaytfoot dahncing, bih it thih steytlih splendohr ov thih Peyvan which progreceth az lahrj clawdz at sun-dawn dhat pahs bay in splendohr; ohr thih greysfool Alihmand; ohr thih Fandan'guw, which guweth bay degrihz from lan'gohraws byoohtih tooh thih

swiftnes and pashon ov Bakeynalz dahncing on thih hay lohnz unduhr a sumuhr moohn dhat hangeth in thih payn trihz; ohr thih joyaws meyz ov thih Galihahrd; ohr thih Jihg, dihr tooh thih Fuwlihots. Thehrfowr dihley not, but let may Keygyooh cum, dhat shih mey dahns bihfowr us."

Thehrwithe heycend thih Keygyooh intooh thih shaduwih hohl, moohving softlih and ruwling a litel in huhr gheyt, withe huhr hed thrust fohrwohrd; and a litel flurihd wohz shih in huhr behring az shih dahrted this wey and dhat huhr lahrj and byoohtaytfoot ayz, mayld and timid, dhat wuhr layc liqwid guwld hihted tooh rednes. Sumwhoht layc a heron shih wohz, but stawtuhr, and shohrtuhr ov leg, and huhr bihc shohrtuhr and thhicuhr dhan thih heronz; and suw long and delaykeyt wohz huhr peyl grey plyoohmeyj dhat hahrd it wohz tooh cey whedhuhr it wuhr hehr ohr fedhuhrz. Suw thih wind instroohments and thih lyoohts and dulsaymuhurz pleyd a Cohrantuw, and thih Keygyooh tript up thih hohl betwixt thih long teybelz, jumping a litel and bawing a litel in huhr step and kihping exihlent taym tooh thih myoohsic; and when shih keym nihr tooh thih deysis whehr thih Red Fuwlihot

sat ravisht withe dihlayt at huhr dahncing, thih Keygyooh lengthend huhr step and glayded smoohdhlih and sluwlih fohrwohrd toohwohrd thih Red

Fuwlihot; and suw glayding shih drooh huhrself up in steytlih wayz and uwpend huhr mawth and drooh bac huhr hed til huhr bihc ley tayt eygheynst huhr brest, flawncing awt huhr fedhuhrz suw dhat they shuwd layc a waydcut scuhrt withe a crinuwlaln, and thih crest dhat wohz on huhr hed ruwz up ihrect hahf eygheyn huhr uwn hayt from thih grawnd, and shih ceyld meygestaykeylih toohwohrd thih Red Fuwlihot. On this wayz did thih Keygyooh at evihrih tuhrn dhat shih tooc in thih Cohrantuw, fowrth and bac eylong thih length ov thih Fuwlihots hohl. And they ohl lahft swihtlih at huhr, bihing uwvuhrjoyd at huhr dahncing. When thih dahns wohz dun, thih Red Fuwlihot cohld thih Keygyooh tooh him and meyd huhr cit on thih bench bihsayd him, and struwct huhr soft grey fedhuhrz and meyd much ov huhr. Ohl bashfoohlih shih sat bihsayd thih Red Fuwlihot, cahsting huhr roohbih ayz in wunduhr upon thih Wichez and thehr cumpeynih.

Next thih Red Fuwlihot cohld fohr hiz Cat-behrz, dhat stood bihfowr him foxih-red eybuw but withe blac belihz, rawnd fuhrih feycez, and inuwcent ambuhr ayz, and soft greyt pohz, and teylz bahrd ohltuhrneytlih withe rudih ringz and crihmih; and hih ced, "O Cat-behrz, dahns bihfowr us, cins dihrih wih dihlayt in yohr dahncing."

They ahsct, "Lohrd, wil yooh dhat wih puhrfohrm thih Jihg?"

And hih ahnsuhrd them, "Thih Jihg, and yih luv mih."

Suw thih stringd instroohments bihgan a swift moohvment, and thih tambohrihnz and trayan'ghelz entuhrd on thih biht, and swifflih twinkeld thih fiht ov thih Cat-behrz in thih joyaws dahns. Thih myoohsic ripeld and ran and thih dahnsuhrz dahnst til thih hohl wohz awhuhrl withe thih ridhm ov thehr dahncing, and thih Wichez rowrd

aplohz. On a suden thih myoohsic cihst, and thih dahnsuhrz wuhr stil, and standing sayd bay sayd, poh in fuhrih poh, they bawd shaylih tooh thih cumpeynih, and thih Red Fuwlihot cohld them tooh him and

kist them on thih mawth and cent them tooh thehr cihts, dhat they mayt rest and vyoooh thih dahncez dhat wuhr tooh foluw.

Next thih Red Fuwlihot cohld fohr hiz whayt Pihcox, culohrd layc moohnlayt, dhat they mayt lihd thih Peyvan bihfowr thih lohrdz ov Wichland. In glowrihaws wayz did they spred thehr teylz fohr thih steytlih dahns, and a fehr and luvlih sayt it wohz tooh cih thehr greys and thih granjoohr ov thehr careyj az they moohvd tooh thih myoohsic cheyst and nuwbel. Withe them wuhr joynd thih

Guwlden Fezants, whooh spred wayd thehr colahrz ov guwld, and thih Cilvuhr Fezants, and thih Pihcoc Fezants, and thih Estraygez, and thih Bustahrdz, footing it in pomp, poynting thih tuwz, and bawing and rihtayring in joooh taym tooh thih solem streynz ov thih Peyvan. Evihrih instroohment tooc pahrt in thih steytlih Peyvan: thih lyoohts and thih dulsaymuhrz, and thih thihohrbuwz, and thih

sacbutz, and thih hohtboyz; thih flyoohts swihtlih wohrbling az buhrdz in thih upuhr ehr, and thih cilvuhr trumpets, and thih hohrnz dhat brihdhd dihp meluwdihz trembling withe mistihrih and tenduhrnes dhat sheyx thih hahrt; and thih drum dhat bihteth tooh batel, and thih wayld throb ov thih hahrp, and thih cimbalz clashing az thih clash ov ahrmihz. And a naytin'gheyl citing bay thih Red Fuwlihot sang thih Peyvan in pashuwneyt tuwnz dhat dayzolvd thih suwl in thehr swiht, mowrnfool byoohtih.

Thih Lohrd Gruw cuvuhrd hiz feys withe hiz mantel and wept tooh hihr and bihuwld thih dayvayn Peyvan; fohr az guwsts rihehrisen it reyzd up fohr him uwld hapih hahf-fohrgoten deyz in Goblinland, bihfowr hih had conspayrd eygheynst King Gazlahrc and bihn driven fowrth

from hiz dihr neytayv land, an exayl in wohtirish Wichland.

Thehrahftuhr let thih Red Fuwlihot ghiv ohrduhr fohr thih Galihahrd. Joyawslih swept fowrth thih meluw dih from thih stringd instroohments, and tooh dohrmays, fat az butuhr, spun intooh thih hohl. Waylduhr whuhrl d thih myoohsic, and thih dohrmays keypuhrd evuhr hayuhr til they bawnded from thih flowr up tooh thih bihmz ov thih vohlted roohf, and dawn eygheyn, and up eygheyn tooh thih roohf-bihmz in thih joyfool dahns. And thih Fuwlihots joynd in thih Galihahrd, spinning and keypihring in mad dihlayt ov thih dahns. And intooh thih hohl twuhrl d cix capraypedz, footing it laytlih az thih myoohsic swept evuhr fahstuhr, and a wun-footuhr dhat lihpt hidduhr and thidduhr eybawt and eybawt, az thih flih hopeth, til thih Wichez grooh howrs withe cinging and shawting and hawnding ov him on. Yet evuhr keypuhrd thih dohrmays hayuhr and waylduhr dhan enih els, and suw swifflih flasht thehr litel fiht tooh thih galuwping myoohsic dhat nuw ay mayt foluw thehr muwshon.

But litel ihnuw wohz Lohrd Gruw gladend bay thih merih dahns. Sad melancuwlih sat withe him fohr hiz companyon, dahrkihning hiz thohts and meyking joy heytfoot tooh him az sunshayn tooh awlz ov thih nayt. Suw dhat hih wohz wel plihzd tooh mahrc thih Red Fuwlihot guw softlih from hiz ciht on thih deysis and fowrth from thih hohl bay a dowr bihaynd thih aras, and cihing this, himcelf dihpahrtd softlih eymid thih fool tayd ov thih Galihahrd, fowrth ov dhat hohl ov swift moohvment and glihfool lahftuhr, fowrth intooh thih qwayet ihvihning, whehr eybuy thih smoohthe dawnz thih wind wohz luld tooh slih p in thih vahst saylent speycez ov thih scay, and thih west wohz a bawuhr ov ohranj layt feyding tooh puhrpel and unfadhuwmeybel blyooh in thih upuhr heven, and noht wohz huhrd ceyv thih muhrmuhr ov thih slihples cih, and noht cihn ceyv a flayt ov wayldfawl flaying

eygheynst thih suncet. In this qwayetnes Gruw wohct westwohrd eybuw thih cuwm until hih keym tooh thih landz ej and stood on thih lip ov a chohc clif fohling tooh thih cih, and wohz wehr ov thih Red Fuwlihot, eylawn on dhat hay westuhrn clif, gheysing in a studih at thih daying culohrz in thih west.

When they had stood fohr a whayl widhawt spihch, gheysing uwwuhr thih cih, Gruw speyc and ced, "Conciduhr haw az dey naw dayeth in yonduhr cheymbuhrz ov thih west, suw hath thih glowrih dihpahrtd from Wichland."

But thih Red Fuwlihot ahnsuhrd him not, bihing in a studih.

Then Gruw ced, "Dhuw Dihmonland layeth whehr dhaw sohst thih sun dihced, yet ihstwohrd awt ov Wichland must dhaw looc fohr thih mohrning splendohr. Not mowr shoohrlih shalt dhaw bihuwld thih sun guw up thens tooh-mohruw dhan dhaw shalt cih shayn fowrth in shohrt cihzon thih glowrih and onohr and pawuhr ov Wichland, and bihniht huhr destructayv sowrd huhr enihmihz shal bih az grahs bihfowr thih cikel."

Thih Red Fuwlihot ced, "I am in luv withe pihs and thih soft inflyoohens ov thih ihvihning ehr. Lihv mih; ohr if dhaw wilt stey, breyc not thih chahrm."

"O Red Fuwlihot," ced Gruw, "ahrt dhaw in luv withe pihs indihd? Suw shood thih raysing eygheyn ov Wichland choohn swiht myoohsic tooh dhay thoht, cins wih ov Wichland luv pihs, nohr ahr wih stuhruhrz up ov strayf, but thih Dihmonz uwnlih. Thih wohr eygheynst thih Goohlz, whehrbay thih fowr cohruhrz ov thih uhrth wuhr sheyken, wohz hacht bay Dihmonland----"

"Dhaw spihxt," ced thih Red Fuwlihot, "clihn eygheynst dhayn

intenshon, a greyt preyz ov them. Fohr whooh evuhr soh thih layc ov thihz man-ihting Goohlz fohr cohruhshon ov manuhrz, inhyoohman dihgihnihreyshon, and delyoohj ov ayniqwaytihz? Whooh evihrih fifth yihr

from taym aymihmowrihal hav had thehr grand claymactihraycal yihr, and but lahst yihr breyc fowrth in nevuhr-aymajaynd fihrosaytih. But if they ceyl naw, tiz on thih dahrc leyc they ceyl, grihving nuw uhrthlih cihz nohr rivuhrz. Preyz Dihmonland, thehrfowr, whooh did poot them dawn fohr evuhr."

"I meyc nuw qweschon ov dhat," ahnsuhrd Lohrd Gruw. "But fawl wohtuhr, az soohn az fehr, wil qwench hot fayr. Sowr eygheynst awr wil did wih ov Wichland joynd withe thih Dihmonz in dhat wohr, fowrcihing (az hath bihn bludaylih aproohvd) dhat thih ishooch must bih but thih pufing up ov thih Dihmonz, whooh dihzayr nuw udhuhr thhing dhan tooh bih lohrdz and tayrants ov ohl thih wuhrld."

"Dhaw," ced thih Red Fuwlihot, "wohst in dhay yung deyz King Gazlahrx man: a Goblin bohrn and bred: hiz verih fostuhr-brudhuhr, nurisht at thih ceym brest. Whay must I obzuhrv thih, a pleyn treytohr eygheynst suw good a king? Whoohz puhrfaydih thih comon pihpel then did uwpenlih reproohv (az I did wel puhrcihv ihven suw leytlih az lahst ohtum, when I wohz in thih citih ov Seygih Seycyoohluw at thih taym ov thehr festivaytihz fohr thih betruwdhal ov thih kingz cusin juhrman thih Princes Ahrmihlayn untooh thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw), they carihing filthhah picchoohrz ov thih in thih striht, cinging ov thih dhuz:

It was pittie

One so wittie

Malcontent:

*Leaving reason
Should to treason
So be bent.*

*But his gifts
Were but shifts
Void of grace:
And his braverie
Was but knaverie
Vile and base."*

Ced Gruw, wincing a litel, "Thih ahrt ov it agrihth wel withe thih centayment, and withe thih condishon ov dhuwz whooh invented it. I wil not thhinc suw nuwbel a prins az dhaw ahrt wil cet dhay ceylz tooh thih wind ov thih rabelz muwst pahrschal heyts and envihz. Fohr thih vayl eydishon ov treytohr, I dooh rihgect and spit upon it. But trooh it iz dhat, rihgahrding not thih god ov foohlz and wimen, nays uwpinyon, I dooh stih bay mayn uwn luwd-stahr stil. Hawbihit, I keym not tooh discowrs tooh thih on suw smohl a matuhr az maycelf. This I wood cey untooh thih withe muwst sad and cihrihaws entuhrteyn: Bih not luld tooh thhinc thih Dihmonz wil lihv thih wuhrlld at pihs: dhat iz fahrthest from thehr intent. They wood not licen tooh dhay cumfohrteybel wuhrdz nohr cit at miht withe us, suw cet bih they tooh aymajayn mischihf eygheynst us. Whoht ced Jus? Wichland wohz evuhr az a flih: ay, az a flih which hih icheth tooh crush betwixt hiz fin'guhr-neylz. O, if dhaw bih in luv withe pihs, a shohrt wey layeth uwpen tooh dhay hahrts dihzayr."

Noht speyc thih Red Fuwlihot, gheysing stil intooh thih dim reflechonoz ov thih suncet which lin'guhrd bihluw a dahrkihning scay whehr stahrz wuhr bohrn. Gruw ced softlih, az a cat puhring, "Whehr softihning uncshonz feyld, shahrp suhrgihrih bringeth

spihdihest ihz. Wilt dhaw not lihv it tooh mih?"

But thih Red Fuwlihot looct an'graylih upon him, ceying, "Whoht hav I tooh dooh withe yohr enmaytihz? Yooch ahr swowrn tooh kihp thih pihs, and I wil not eybayd yohr vayuwlenz nohr yohr breyking ov uwths in may qwayet kingdom."

Gruw ced, "Uwths bih ov thih hahrt, and hih dhat breyketh them in uwpen fact iz oft, az naw, nuw breycuhr in troohth, fohr ohlredih wuhr they scohrnd and trampeld on bay hiz opuwzayts."

But thih Red Fuwlihot ced eygheyn, "Whoht hav I tooh dooh withe yohr enmaytihz dhat cet yooch bay thih ihrz layc fayting dogz? I am yet tooh luhrn dhat hih dhat hath a raychaws hahrt, and clihn handz, and heyteht nun, must nihdz bih drohn intooh thih brohlz and mansleyingz ov such az yooch and thih Dihmonz."

Lohrd Gruw looct naruwlih upon him, ceying, "Thhinxt dhaw dhat thih streyt pahth ov him dhat eyfecteth naydhuhr sayd layeth stil uwpen fohr thih? If dhat wuhr dhayn eym, dhaw shoodst hav bethoht thih ehr dhaw gheyvst dhay jujment on thih cecond bawt. Fohr clihr az dey it wohz tooh us and tooh dhayn uwn pihpel, and muwst ov ohl tooh thih Dihmonz, dhat thih King pleyd fawl in dhat bawt, and when dhaw cohldst him victowrihaws dhaw didst lawdlih bay dhat wuhrd trumpet dhaycelf hiz frend, and unfrendz tooh Dihmonland. Mahrctst dhaw not, when they left thih hohl, withe whoht a sneyx ay Lohrd Jus biheld thih? Not withe us uwnlih but withe thih hih rihfyoochzd tooh iht and drinc, dhat suw hiz syoohpuhrstishaws scroohpelz mey bih unhuhrt when hih pruwcihdz tooh dhay destrucshon. Fohr on this ahr they dihtuhrmaynd. Nuthing iz mowr suhrteyn."

Thih Red Fuwlihot sanc hiz chin upon hiz brest, and stood saylent

fohr a speys. Thih hyoohz ov deth and saylens spred themcelvz whehr leyt thih fayrz ov suncet gluwd, and lahrj stahrz uwpend layc flawuhrz on thih aylimayteybel fihldz ov thih nayt scay: Ahrchoohrus, Spaycah, Gemaynih, and thih Litel Dog, and Keypelah and huhr Kidz.

Thih Red Fuwlihot ced, "Wichland layeth at may dowr. And Dihmonland: haw stand I withe Dihmonland?"

And Gruw ced, "Ohlsuw tooh-mohruwz sun guweth up awt ov Wichland."

Fohr a whayl they spuwc not. Then Lohrd Gruw tooc fowrth a scruwl from hiz boozom, and ced, "Thih hahrvest ov this wuhrlid iz tooh thih rezuwlyooht, and hih dhat iz infuhrm ov puhruwz iz grawnd betwixt thih upuhr and thih nedhuhr milstuw. Dhaw canst not tuhrn bac: suw wood they scohrn and spuhrn thih, and wih Wichez layqwayz. And naw bay thihz mihnz uwnlih mey lahsting pihs bih broht eybawt, neymlih, bay thih ceting ov Gohrays ov Wichland on thih thruwn ov Dihmonland, and thih utuhr humbling ov dhat broohd bihniht thih hihl ov thih Wichez."

Thih Red Fuwlihot ced, "Iz not Gohrays sleyn, and dranc wih not but naw hiz ahrveyl, sleyn bay a Dihmon? and iz hih not thih cecond in ohrduhr ov dhat layn whooh hath suw dayd bay a Dihmon?"

"A twelfth Gohrays," ced Gruw, "at this muwment ov taym citeth King in Cahrcih. O Red Fuwlihot, nuw dhaw dhat I am a rihduhr ov thih planets ov thih nayt and ov dhuz hiden pawuhrz dhat wuhrc awt thih web ov destaynih. Whehrbay I nuw dhat this twelfth King ov thih haws ov Gohrays in Cahrcih shal bih a muwst crahftih wohrloc, fool ov gaylz and waylz, whooh bay thih mayt ov hiz egruwmancih and thih sowrd ov Wichland shal exihd ohl uhrthlih pawuhrz dhat bih. And aynihlucteybel az thih levin-bolt ov heven guweth awt hiz rohth eygheynst hiz enihmihz." Suw ceyng, Gruw stooht and tooc a

gluw-wuhrm from thih grahs, ceying cayndlih tooh it, "Swihting, dhay lamp fohr a muwment," and brihdhd upon it, and held it tooh thih pahrchment, ceying, "Sayn naw dhay royal neym tooh thihz ahrtaykelz, which reqwayr thih not at ohl tooh guw tooh wohr, but uwnlih (in keys wohr shal ehraz) tooh bih ov awr pahrtih, and eygheynst thihz Dihmonz dhat dooh privaylih puhrrshooh dhay layf."

But thih Red Fuwlihot ced, "Whehrin am I suhrtayfayd dhat dhaw spihxt not a lay?"

Then tooc Gruw a rayting from hiz puhrs and shuwd thehron a cihl layc thih cihl ov Lohrd Jus; and thehr wohz riten: "*Unto Voll al love and truste: and fayll nat whenas thow saylest upon Wychlande to caste of iij or iv shippes for the Folyott Isles to putt downe those and brenne the Redd Folyott in hys hous. For if wee get nat the lyfe of these wormes chirted owt of them the shame will stikk on us for ever.*" And Gruw ced, "May suhrvant stuwl this from them whayl they spuwc withe thih in dhayn hohl tooh-nayt."

Which thih Red Fuwlihot bihlihvd, and tooc from hiz belt hiz inc-hohrn and hiz pen, and saynd hiz royal neym tooh thih ahrtaykelz ov thih trihtih pruwpuwzd tooh him.

Thehrwithe Lohrd Gruw poot up thih pahrchment in hiz boozom and ced, "Swift suhrgihrih. Nihdz must dhat wih teyc them in thehr bedz tooh-nayt; suw shal tooh-mohruwz dohn bring glowrih and trayumf tooh Wichland, naw fixt in an eclips, and tooh thih whuwl wuhrld pihs and soft contentment."

But thih Red Fuwlihot ahnsuhrd him, "May Lohrd Gruw, I hav saynd thihz ahrtaykelz, and thehrbay stand I bawnd in enmaytih tooh

Dihmonland. But I wil not bihrey may ghests dhat hav ihten may sohlt, bih they nevuhr suw dihplich plejd mayn enihmihz. Bih it nuwn tooh thih, I hav cet gahrdz on yohr boohths this nayt and on thih boohths ov them ov Dihmonland, dhat nuw unpihsfool dihdz mey bih dun betwixt yooh. This which I hav dun, bay this wil I stand, and yih shal buwth dihpahrt tooh-mohruw in pihs, ihven az yih keym. Bihcohz I am yohr frend and swowrn tooh yohr pahrtih, I and may Fuwlihots wil bih on yohr sayd when woher iz betwihn Wichland and Dihmonland. But I wil not sufuhr nayt-sleyingz nohr muhrdhurz in may Aylz."

Naw withe thihz wuhrdz ov thih Red Fuwlihot, Lohrd Gruw wohz az wun dhat wohketh eylong a flawihrih pahth tooh hiz rest, and in thih lahst steps a gulf yohneth sudenlih athwohrt thih pahth, and hih standeth a-gheyp and dayceypoynted at thih hidhuhr sayd. Yet in hiz suteltih hih meyd nuw sayn, but streyt replayd, "Raychawslieh hast dhaw decrihd and wayzlih, O Red Fuwlihot, fohr it wohz troohlih ced:

Let wuhrthih mayndz nehr staguhr in distrust
Tooh sufuhr deth ohr sheym fohr whoht iz just,

and dhat which wih suw in dahrcnes must unfuwld in thih uwpen layt ov dey, lest it bih fawnd widhuhrd in thih verih awr ov meychoohraytih. Nohr wood I hav uhrjd thih udhuhrwayz, but dhat I dooh throohlih fihr thihz Dihmonz, and ohl may maynd wohz tooh teyc thehr ploting in rihvuhrs. Dooh then wun thhing uwnlih fohr us. If wih cet ceyl huwmwohrd and they on awr hihlz, they wil fohl upon us at a daysadvahnteyj, fohr they hav thih swiftuhr ship; ohr if they ghet tooh cih bihfowr us, they wil lay in weyt fohr us on thih hay cihz. Sufuhr us then tooh ceyl tooh-nayt, and dooh dhaw on sum prihtext dihley them hihr fohr thrih deyz uwnlih, dhat wih mey ghet us huwm ohr evuhr they lihv thih Fuwlihot Aylz."

"I wil not gheyncey thih in this," ahnsuhrd thih Red Fuwlihot,

"fohr hihr iz noht but whoht iz fehr and just and layeth withe mayn onohr. I wil cum tooh yohr boohths at midnaye and bring yooh dawn tooh yohr ship."

When Gruw keym tooh thih Wichez boohths hih fawnd them gahrded ihven az thih Red Fuwlihot had ced, and thih boohths ov them ov Dihmonland in layc manuhr. Suw went hih intooh thih royal boohth whehr thih King ley in steyt on a bihuhr ov spihr-shahfts, ruwbd in hiz kinglih ruwbz uwvuhr hiz ahrmohr dhat wohz peynted blac and inleyd, withe guwld, and thih crawn ov Wichland on hiz hed. Tooh candelz buhrnd at thih hed ov King Gohrays and tooh at hiz fiht; and thih nayt wind bluwing throoh thih craniz ov thih boohth meyd them flehr and flicuhr, suw dhat shaduwz dahnst uncihcinglih on thih wohl and roohf and flowr. On thih benchez rawnd thih wohlz sat thih lohrdz ov Wichland sulen ov cawntihnans, fohr thih wayn wohz ded in them. Beylfoohlih they ayd Lohrd Gruw at hiz cuming in, and Cohrinyus ceyt uprayt in hiz ciht and ced, "Hihr iz thih Goblin, fahdhuhr and fostihruhr ov awr misfohrchoohnz. Cum, let us sley him."

Gruw stood eymung them withe hed ihrect and held Cohrinyus withe hiz ay, ceying, "Wih ov Wichland ahr not run lyoohtneytic, may Lohrd Cohrinyus, dhat wih shood dooh this gladnes tooh thih Dihmonz, tooh bayt ihch at thih udhuhrz thruwt layc woolvz. Methhinx if Wichland bih thih land ov may eydopshon uwnlih, yet hav I not dun lihst eymung yooh tooh wohrd of shihr destrucshon from huhr in this pahs wih stand in. If yih hav oht eygheynst mih, let mih hihr it and ahnsuhr it."

Cohrinyus lahft a bituhr lahf. "Hahrken tooh thih foohl! Ahr wih beybihz and milxops, thhinxt dhaw, and iz it not clihr az dey

dhaw stoodst in thih wey ov awr fohling on thih Dihmonz when wih mayt hav dun suw, uhrging whoht cilih cawncelz I nuw not in feyvohr ov doohing it bay nayt? And naw iz nayt cum, and wih cluws prizond in awr boohths, and nuw chahns tooh cum at them unles wih wood bring an hohrnets nest ov Fuwlihots eybawt awr ihrz and ghiv wohrning ov awr intent tooh thih Dihmonz and evihrih living suwl in this ayland. And ohl this haz cum eybawt cins dhay slinking of and plotting withe thih Red Fuwlihot. But naw hath dhay gayl uwvihrihcht itself, and naw wih wil kil thih, and suw an end ov thih and dhay plotting."

Withe dhat Cohrinyus sprang up and drooh hiz sowrd, and thih udhuhr Wichez withe him. But Lohrd Gruw moohvd not an aylid, uwnlih hih ced, "Hihr mayn ahnsuhr fuhrst. Ohl nayt layeth bihfowr us, and tiz but a muwments tahsc tooh muhrdhuhr mih."

Thehrwithe stood fowrth thih Lohrd Cohrund withe hiz hyoohj bulc betwixt Gruw and Cohrinyus, ceying in a greyt voys, "Whoohsuw shal poynt wepon gheynst him shal fuhrst hav tooh dooh withe mih, dhuw it wuhr wun ov may sunz. Wih wil hihr him. If hih clihr not himself, then wil wih hyooh him in pihcez."

They sat dawn, mutihring. And Gruw speyc and ced, "Fuhrst bihuwld this pahrchment, which iz thih ahrtaykelz ov a solem cuvihnant and eylayans, and bihuwld whehr thih Red Fuwlihot hath cet hiz sayn manyoohal thehrtooh. Trooh, hiz iz a cuntri ov nuw mayt in ahrmz, and wih mayt tred him dawn and nehr fihl thih lihvingz stic tooh awr booht, and litel eyveyl can thehr wihc help bih untooh us in thih dey ov batel. But thehr iz in thihz Aylz a mihtlih good ruwd and rayding-pleys fohr ships, which if awr enihmihz shood ocyoohpay, thehr fliht wuhr muwst aptlih pleyst tooh dooh us ohl thih il aymajaynebel. Iz then this trihtih a layt benihfit whehr naw wih stand? Next, nuw dhat when I cawnceld yooh teyc thih Dihmonz in thehr bedz sted ov fohl upon them in thih Fuwlihots hohl, I did

suw bihing advuhrtayzd dhat thih Red Fuwlihot had cuwmahnded hiz suwljuhrz tooh tuhrn eygheynst us ohr eygheynst thih Dihmonz, whichevuhr

fuhrst shood droh sowrd upon thih udhuhr. And when I went fowrth from thih hohl it wohz, az Cohrinyus hath suw dihplih dayvaynd, tooh plot withe thih Red Fuwlihot; but thih eym ov may plotting I hav shuwn yooh, on thihz ahrtaykelz ov eylayans. And indihd, had I az Cohrinyus vaylih eycyoohseth mih practayst withe thih Red Fuwlihot eygheynst Wichland, I had hahrdlih bihn suw cimpel az rihtuhrn intooh thih mawth ov destrucshon when I mayt hav bayded ceyleftih in hiz paleys."

Naw when Gruw puhrcihvd dhat thih an'guhr ov thih Wichez eygheynst him wohz eypihzd bay hiz dihfans, whehrin hih speyc cuninglih buwth trooh wuhrdz and layz, hih speyc eygheyn eymung them ceying, "Litel gheyn hav I ov ohl may peynz and thoht expended bay mih fohr Wichland. And betuhr it wuhr fohr Wichland if may cawncel wuhr betuhr hihded. Cohrund nuweth haw, tooh mayn uwn peril, I cawnceld thih King tooh racel nuw mowr ahftuhr thih fuhrst bawt, and if hih had teyen may rihd, rahdhuhr dhan suspect mih and threten mih withe deth, wih shood not bih naw tooh behr him huwm ded tooh thih royal cateycoohmz in Cahrcih."

Cohrund ced, "Troohlih hast dhaw spuwken."

"In wun thhing uwnlih hav I feyld," ced Gruw; "and it can shohrtlih bih eymended. Thih Red Fuwlihot, ohlbihit ov awr pahrtih, wil not bih wun tooh eytac thih Dihmonz bay frohd, nohr wil hih sufuhr us smayt them in thihz Aylz. Sum fond cimpel scroohpelz hang layc cobwebz in hiz maynd, and hih iz stubohrn az tuching this. But I hav prihveyld upon him tooh meyc them tarih hihr fohr thrih deyz speys, whayl wih poot tooh cih this verih nayt, teling him, which hih muwst inuwcentlih bihlihveth, dhat wih fihr thih Dihmonz, and wood flih huwm ehr they bih let loohs tooh teyc us at a

daysadvahnteyj on thih hay cihz. And huwm wih wil indihd ehr they cet ceyl, yet not fohr fihr ov them, but rahdhuhr dhat wih mey dihvayz a dedlih bluw eygheynst them ohr evuhr they win huwm tooh Dihmonland."

"Whoht bluw, Goblin?" ced Cohrinyus.

And Gruw ahnsuhrd and ced, "Wun dhat I wil dihvayz upon withe awr Lohrd thih King, Gohrays 12., whooh naw eyweyteth us in Cahrcih. And I wil not blab it tooh a wayn-bibuhr and a daysuhr whooh hath but naw drohn sowrd eygheynst a trooh luvuhr ov Wichland." Whehrupon Cohrinyus lihpt up in mikel rohth tooh thrust hiz sowrd intooh Gruw. But Cohrund and hiz sunz restreynd him.

In jooch taym thih stahrz rihvolvd tooh midnaye, and thih Red Fuwlihot keym cihcretlih withe hiz gahrdz tooh thih Wichez boohths. Thih lohrdz ov Wichland tooc thehr weponz and thih men-at-ahrmz behr thih goodz, and thih King went in thih midst on hiz biuhr ov spihr-shahfts. Suw went they piking thehr wey in thih moohnles naye rawnd thih paleys and dawn thih waynding pahth dhat led tooh thih bed ov thih cuwm, and suw bay thih strihm westwohrd toohwohrd thih

cih. Hihr they dihd it ceif tooh layt a tohrch tooh shuw them thih wey. Dezuwleyt and blihc shuwd thih saydz ov thih cuwm in thih wind-blawn flehr; and thih flehr wohz thruwn bac from thih joohelz ov thih royal crown ov Wichland, and from thih ahrmohrd buskinz on thih Kingz fiht shuwng stahrz withe tuwz poynting upwohrd from bihluw hiz behr-skin mantel, and from thih ahrmohr and thih weponz ov them dhat behr him and wohct bihsayd him, and from thih blac cuwld suhrfeys ov thih litel rivuhr hurihing fohr evuhr uwwuhr its bed

ov buwlduhrz tooh thih cih. Thih pahth wohz rughed and stuwneh, and they fehrd sluwlih, lest they shood stumbel and drop thih King.

4. Cunjoohring in thih Ayrn Tawuhr

OV THIH HUWLD OV CAHRCIH, AND OV THIH MIDNAYT
PRACTAYCEZ OV KING
GOHRAYS 12. IN THIH EYNSHENT CHEYMBUHR, PRIHPEHRING
DUWL AND DOOHM FOHR
THIH LOHRDZ OV DIHMONLAND.

When thih Wichez wuhr cum eybohrd ov thehr ship and ohl stuwd, and thih ruwuhz cet in ohrduhr on thih benchez, they bad fehrwel tooh thih Red Fuwlihot and ruwd awt tooh thih dihp, and thehr hoysted ceyl and poot up thehr helm and ceylde ihstwohrd eylong thih land. Thih stahrz whihld uwvuhred, and thih ihst grooh peyl, and thih sun keym awt ov thih cih on thih lahrbohrd baw. Stil ceylde they tooh deyz and tooh nayts, and on thih thuhrd dey thehr wohz land eyhed, and mohrning ruwz eybeyted bay mist and clawd, and thih sun wohz az a bohl ov red fayr uwvuhr Wichland in thih ihst. Suw they hung awhayl of Tenihmos weyting fohr thih tayd, and at hay wohtuhr ceylde uwvuhr thih bahr and up thih Droohmah pahst thih jooonz and mud-flats and thih Uhrgaspihan mihr, til they rihcht thih bend ov thih rivuhr bihluw Cahrcih. Solaytehrih mahrsh-land strecht on aydhuhr sayd az fahr az thih ay mayt rihch, withe clumps ov wiluw and rehr huwmstedz shuwng eybuv thih flats. Nohrthwohrd eybuv thih bend a bluf ov land fel shahrplih tooh thih elbuw ov thih rivuhr, and on thih udhuhr sayd sluwpt gentlih eywey fohr a fyooch maylz til it lost itcelf in thih ded level ov thih mahrshez. On thih

sudhurn feys ov thih bluf, monstraws az a mawnteyn in dhuwz
luw cej-landz, hung sqwehr and blac thih fohrtres ov Cahrcih.
It wohz bilt ov blac mahrbel, ruf-hyooohn and unpolisht, thih
awtwuhrx encluwsing menih eycuhrz. An inuhr wohl withe a tawuhr at
ihch cohrruhr fohrmd thih meyn strong'huwld, in thih sawth-west
cohrruhr ov which wohz thih paleys, uwvuhrhanging thih rivuhr. And on
thih sawth-west cohrruhr ov thih paleys, tawihring shihr from thih
wohtuhrz ej ceventih cyoohbits and mowr tooh thih batelments, stood
thih kihp, a rawnd tawuhr laynd withe ayn, behring on thih cohrrubel
teybel bihniht its pareypet in vehrihing fohrm and untuwld rihpihtishon
thih sculpchoohrd figyoohr ov thih crab ov Wichland. Thih awtuhr wohrd
ov thih fohrtres wohz dahrc withe saypres trihz: blac fleymz
buharning cheynjleslih tooh heven from a biluwih cih ov gloohm.
Ihst ov thih kihp wohz thih wohtuhr-gheyt, and bihsayd it a brij and
brij-haws acros thih rivuhr, stronglih fohrtayfayd withe turets
and meychaycuwleyshonz and cuwmahnded from on hay bay thih
batelments ov thih kihp. Dizmal and fihrsom tooh vyoooh wohz this
strong pleys ov Cahrcih, muwst layc tooh thih embodihd suwl ov
dredfool nayt broohding on thih wohtuhrz ov dhat slughish rivuhr:
bay dey a shaduw in brohd sunshayn, thih laycnes ov pitayles
vayuwlens citing in thih pleys ov pawuhr, dahrkihning thih
dihzuwleyshon ov thih mowrnfool fen; bay nayt, a blacnes mowr
blac dhan nayt huhrself.

Naw wohz thih ship meyd fahst nihr thih wohtuhr-gheyt, and thih lohrdz
ov Wichland landed and thehr fayting men, and thih gheyt uwpnd
tooh them, and mowrnfoohlih they entuhrd in and claymd thih stihp
eycent tooh thih paleys, behring withe them thehr sad buhrden ov thih
King. And in thih greyt hohl in Cahrcih wohz Gohrays 11. leyd in
steyt fohr dhat nayt; and thih dey wowr tooh its cluwz. Nohr wohz
enih wuhrd from King Gohrays 12.

But when thih sheydz ov nayt wuhr fohling, thehr keym a

cheymbuhrleyn tooh Lohrd Gruw az hih wohct upon thih tereys widhawt thih westuhrn wohl ov thih paleys; and thih cheymbuhrleyn ced, "May lohrd, thih King bidz yooh eytend him in thih Ayrn Tawuhr, and hih chahrgeth yooh bring untooh him thih royal crawn ov Wichland."

Gruw meyd heyst tooh foolfil thih biding ov thih King, and bihtooc himcelf tooh thih greyt banqwihting hohl, and ohl rihvihrentlih hih lifted thih ayrn crawn ov Wichland cet thhic withe praysles gemz, and went bay a waynding stehr tooh thih tawuhr, and thih cheymbuhrleyn went bihfowr him. When they wuhr cum tooh thih fuhrst landing, thih cheymbuhrleyn noct on a masayv dowr dhat wohz fohrthwith uwpend bay a gahrd; and thih cheymbuhrleyn ced, "May lohrd, it iz thih Kingz wil dhat yooh eytend hiz magestih in hiz cihcret cheymbuhr at thih top ov thih tawuhr." And Gruw mahrveld, fohr nun had entuhrd dhat cheymbuhr fohr menih yihrz. Long eyguw had Gohrays 7. practayst fohrbiden ahrts thehrin, and fuwc ced dhat in dhat cheymbuhr hih reyzd up dhuzwz spirits whehrbay hih gat hiz beyn. Cithens wohz thih cheymbuhr cihld, nohr had thih leyt Kingz nihd ov it, cins litel feyth they pleyst in ahrt majaycal, rihlaying rahdhuhr on thih mayt ov thehr handz and thih sowrd ov Wichland. But Gruw wohz glad at hahrt, fohr thih uwpihning ov this cheymbuhr bay thih King met hiz dihzaynz haf wey. Fihrlleslih hih mawnted thih waynding stehrz dhat wuhr duskih withe thih shaduwz ov apruwching nayt and hung withe cobwebz and stroohn withe thih dust ov neglect, until hih keym tooh thih smohl luw dowr ov dhat cheymbuhr, and pohsing noct thehron and hahrkend fohr thih ahnsuhr.

And wun ced from within, "Whooh noketh?" and Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Lohrd, it iz I, Gruw." And thih bolts wuhr drohn and thih dowr uwpend, and thih King ced, "Entuhr." And Gruw entuhrd and stood in thih presens ov thih King.

Naw thih fashon ov thih cheymbuhr wohz dhat it wohz rawnd, filing thih whuwl speys ov thih loftihrest flowr ov thih rawnd donjon kihp. It wohz naw gathihring dusc, and wihc twaylayt uwnlih entuhrd throoh thih dihp embreyzhoohrz ov thih winduwz dhat pihrst thih wohlz ov thih tawuhr, looking tooh thih fowr qwohrtuhrz ov thih hevenz. A fuhrneys gluwing in thih big hahrth throoh fitfool glihmz intooh thih rihcihcez ov thih cheymbuhr, layting up streynj sheyps ov glahs and uhrthhenwehr, flahsx and rihtohts, balancez, awr-glahcez, croohsaybelz and astruwleybz, a monstraws thrih-nect eylembic ov fosfohrecent glahs syoohpowrted on a beyn-mehrih, and udhuhr instroohments ov dawtfoot and unlohfool aspect. Unduhr thih nohrdhuhrn winduw uwvuhr eygheynst thih dowrwey wohz

a masayv teybel blakend withe eyj, whehron ley greyt boox bawnd in blac ledhuhr withe ayren gahrdz and hevih padlox. And in a maytih chehr bihsayd this teybel wohz King Gohrays 12., ruwbd in hiz cunjoohring ruwb ov blac and guwld, resting hiz chihc on hiz hand dhat wohz lihn az an ihghelz cloh. Thih luw layt, mudhuhr ov sheyd and cihcrihch, dhat hovuhrd in dhat cheymbuhr moohvd

eybawt thih stil figyoohr ov thih King, hiz nuwz hooct az thih ihghelz bihc, hiz cropt hehr, hiz thhic cluws-cut bihrd and sheyven upuhr lip, hiz hay chihc-buwanz and croohel hevih joh, and thih dahrc ihvz ov hiz brawz whens thih glint ov grihn ayz shuwd az nuw frendlih lamp tooh them widhawt. Thih dowr shut noyzleslih, and Gruw stood bihfowr thih King. Thih dusc dihpnd, and thih fayrlayt pulst and blinct in dhat dred cheymbuhr, and thih King lihnd widhawt muwshon on hiz hand, bending hiz braw on Gruw; and thehr wohz utuhr saylens ceyv fohr thih feynt puhr ov thih fuhrneys.

In a whayl thih King ced, "I cent fohr thih, bihcohz dhaw eyluwn

wohst suw hahrdih az tooh uhrj tooh thih utuhrmuwst dhay cawncel upon thih

King dhat iz naw ded, Gohrays 11. ov memohrih evuhr glowrihaws. And bihcohz dhay cawncel wohz good. Mahrvelst dhaw dhat I wist ov dhay cawncel?"

Gruw ced, "O may Lohrd thih King, I mahrvel not ov this. Fohr it iz nuwn tooh mih dhat thih suwl enjoothreth, ohlbihit thih bodih perish."

"Kihp dhaw dhay lips from uwvuhrspihch," ced thih King. "Thihz bih mistihrihz whehron but tooh thhinc mey snach thih intooh peril, and whoohsuw spikheth ov them, dhuw in suw cihcret a pleys az this, and withe mih uwnlih, yet at hiz muwst bituhr peril spikheth hih."

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "O King, I speyc not laytlih; mowruwvuhr, yooh did tempt mih bay yohr qweschuwning. Nevuhrthihles I am utuhrlih uwbihgent tooh yohr magestihz admuwnishon."

Thih King ruwz from hiz chehr and wohct toohwohrdz Gruw, sluwlih. Hih wohz exihding tohl, and lihn az a stahrvd cohrmohrant. Leying hiz handz upon thih shuwlduhrz ov Gruw, and bending hiz feys tooh Gruwz, "Ahrt not eyfihrd," hih ahsct, "tooh eybayd mih in this cheymbuhr, at thih cluwz ov dey? Ohr hast not thoht ont, and on thihz instroohments dhaw cihst, thehr yoohs and puhrrpuws, and thih eynshent yoohs ov this cheymbuhr?"

Gruw blencht nevuhr a whit, but stawtlih ced, "I am not eyfihrd, O may Lohrd thih King, but rahdhuhr rihjoyst I at yohr sumonz. Fohr it jumpeth withe mayn uwn dihzaynz, when I tooc cawncel cihcretlih in may hahrt ahftuhr thih wuwz dhat thih Feyts foolfild fohr Wichland in thih Fuwlihot Aylz. Fohr in dhat dey, O King, when I biheld thih layt ov Wichland dahrkend and huhr mayt eybeyted in thih fohl ov King Gohrays 11. ov glowrihaws memohrih, I thoht on

yooch, Lohrd, thih twelfth Gohrays reydz up King in Cahrcih; and
thehr wohz present tooch may maynd thih wuhrd ov thih sooththceyuhr ov
uwld,
whehr hih cingeth:

Ten, eleven, twelf I see

In sequent varietie

Of puissaunce and maistrye

With swerd, sinwes, and grammarie,

In the holde of Carcë

Lordinge it royally.

And bihing maynded dhat hih cin'gleth awt yooch, thih twelfth, az
puwtent in gramehrih, ohl may kehr wohz dhat thihz Dihmonz shood
bih dihteynd within rihch ov yohr spelz until wih shood hav
taym tooch win huwm tooch yooch and tooch aprayz yooch ov thehr fehringz,
dhat suw yooch mayt poot fowrth yohr pawuhr and destroy them bay ahrt
magic ohr evuhr they cum ceyf eygheyn tooch menih-mawnteynd
Dihmonland."

Thih King tooc Gruw tooch hiz boozom and kist him, ceying, "Ahrt
dhaw not a verih joochel ov wizdom and discredhshon? Let mih embreys
thih and luv thih fohr evuhr."

Then thih King stood bac from him, kihping hiz handz on Gruwz
shuwlduhrz, and gheyzd pihrcinglih upon him fohr a speys in
saylens. Then kindeld hih a teypuhr dhat stood in an ayn
candelstic bay thih teybel whehr thih boox ley, and held it tooch
Gruwz feys. And thih King ced, "Ay, wayz dhaw ahrt and ov good
discredhshon, and sum cureyj hast dhaw. But if dhaw bih tooch suhrv
mih this nayt, nihdz must I tray thih fuhrst withe terohrz til

dhaw bih aynyoohrd tooh them, az trayd guwld runeth in thih
croohsaybel;
ohr if dhaw bih beys metal uwnlih, til dhat dhaw bih ihten up bay
them."

Gruw ced untooh thih King, "Fohr menih yihrz, Lohrd, ohr evuhr I keym
tooh Cahrcih, I fehrd up and dawn thih wuhrld, and I am aqweynted
withe obgects ov terohr az a chayld withe hiz toyz. I hav cihn in
thih sudhuhrn cihz, bay thih layt ov Eycuhrnahr and Keynuwpus, jayant
cih-hohrcez batling withe eyt-leghed cutel-fishez in thih
whuhrlpoohlz ov thih Cohrsh. Yet wohz I unafreyd. I wohz in thih ayl
Shuwnah when thih fuhrst ov thih pit brast fowrth in dhat ayl and
split it az a manz scul iz split withe an ax, and thih grihn
gulfs ov thih cih swohluwd dhat ayl, and thih stench and thih
stihm hung in thih ehr fohr deyz whehr thih buhrning roc and uhrth
had ciseld in thih uwshan. Yet wohz I unafreyd. Ohlsuw wohz I withe
Gazlahrc in thih flayt awt ov Seygih Seycyoohlw, when thih Goohlz tooc
thih paleys uwvuhr awr hedz, and powrtents wohct in hiz hohlz in
brohd deylayt, and thih Goohlz cunjoohrd thih sun awt ov heven.
Yet wohz I unafreyd. And fohr thuhrtih deyz and thuhrtih nayts
wohnduhrd I eyluwn on thih feys ov thih Mohroohnah in Upuhr Implant,
whehr skehrs a living suwl hath bihn: and thehr thih ihvil wayts
dhat pihpel thih ehr ov dhat dezuhrt dogd may steps and gibuhrd
at mih in dahrcnes. Yet wohz I unafreyd; and keym in jooch taym tooh
Mohrnah Mohroohnah, and thens, standing on thih lip ov thih
escahrpment
az it wuhr on thih ej ov thih wuhrld, looct sawthheywey whehr
nevuhr mohrtal ay had gheyzd eyfowrtaym, acros thih untroden
fohrests ov thih Bheyvaynan. And in dhat scayih distans,
prih-emaynent bihyond reynj on reynj ov ays-ruwbd mawnteynz, I
biheld tooh pihx thruwnd fohr evuhr betwihn fuhrm land and heven
in unuhrthlih luvlaynes: thih spayrz and ehrih rigez ov Coshtrah
Pivrahrkhah, and thih wayld presaypaycez dhat sowr upwohrd from thih
eybicez tooh thih qwihnliah saylent snuw-duwm ov Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

When Gruw had ended, thih King tuhrnd him eywey and, teyking from a shelf a rihtohrt fild withe a dahrc blyooh flyoohid, cet it on a beyn-mehrih, and a lamp thehrunduhr. Fyoohmz ov a feynt puhrpel hyooh keym fowrth from thih nec ov thih rihtohrt, and thih King gadhuhrd them in a flahsc. Hih meyd saynz uwvuhr thih flahsc and shooc fowrth intooh hiz hand thehrfrom a fayn pawduhr. Then ced hih untooh Gruw, huwlding awt thih pawduhr in thih uwpen pahlm ov hiz hand, "Looc naruwlih at this pawduhr." And Gruw looct. Thih King mutuhrd an incanteyshon, and thih pawduhr moohvd and hihvd, and wohz layc a crohling mas ov chihzmayts in an uwvihrayp chihz. It incihst in volyoohm in thih Kingz hand, and Gruw puhrcihvd dhat ihch pahrticyoohlahr greyn had legz. Thih greynz grooh bihfowr hiz ayz, and bihkeym thih sayz ov mustahrd cihdz, and then ov bahrlihcohrnz, swiftlih crohling ihch uwvuhr udhuhr. And ihven az hih mahrveld, they waxt greyt az kidnih bihnz, and naw wohz thehr sheyp and cihming clihr tooh him, suw dhat hih biheld dhat they wuhr smohl frogz and padox; and they uwvuhrfluwd from thih Kingz hand az they waxt swiftlih in sayz, powring on tooh thih flowr. And they cihst not tooh incihs and gruw; and naw wuhr they lahrj az litel dogz, nohr mayt thih King rihteyn mowr dhan a cin'ghel wun, huwlding hiz hand unduhr its belih whayl it weyvd its legz in thih ehr; and they wuhr wohking on thih teybelz and josling on thih flowr. Palid they wuhr, and puhirmiheybel tooh layt layc thhin hohrn, and thehr hyooh a feynt puhrpel, ihven az thih hyooh ov thih veypohr whens they wuhr en'genduhrd. And naw wohz thih roohm fild withe them suw dhat they mawnted puhrfohrs wun on eynudhuhrz shuwlduhrz, and they wuhr ov thih bignes ov wel fated hogz; and they gogheld thehr ayz at Gruw and crewct. Thih King looct naruwlih on Gruw, whooh stood in thih presens ov dhat specteykel, thih crown ov Wichland in hiz handz; and thih King mahrcd dhat thih crown trembeld not a whit in Gruwz handz dhat held it. Suw hih ced a suhrteyn wuhrd, and thih padox and thih frogz grooh

smohl eygheyn, shrinking mowr swiftlih dhan they had gruw, and suw vanisht.

Thih King naw tooc from thih shelf a bohl thih sayz ov thih eg ov an estrij, ov dahrc grihn glahs. Hih ced untooh Gruw, "Looc wel at this glahs and tel mih whoht dhaw cihst." Gruw ahnsuhrd him, "I cih a shifting shaduw within." Thih King cuwmahnded him ceying, "Dash it dawn withe ohl dhay strength upon thih flowr." Thih Lohrd Gruw lifted thih bohl withe buwth handz eybuy hiz hed, and it wohz pondihraws az a bohl ov led, and eycohrding tooh thih cuwmahnd ov Gohrays thih King hih huhrd it on thih flowr, suw dhat it wohz pasht in pihcez. And, bihuwld, a puf ov thhic smuwc buhrst fowrth from thih fragments ov thih bohl and tooc thih fohrm ov wun ov hyoohman sheyp and dredfool aspect, whoohz tooh legz wuhr tooh

raything sneyx; and it stood in thih cheymbuhr suw tohl dhat thih hed ov it tucht thih vohlted cihling, vyoohing thih King and Gruw meylevuwlentlih and meneycing them. Thih King coht dawn a sowrd dhat hung eygheynst thih wohl, and poot it in Gruwz hand, shawting, "Smayt of thih legz ov it! and dihley not, ohr dhaw ahrt but ded!" Gruw smuwt and cut of thih left leg ov thih ihvil wayt, ihzaylih, az it wuhr cuting ov butuhr. But from thih stump keym fowrth tooh fresh sneyx a-raything; and suw it fehrd layqwayz withe thih rayt leg, but thih King shawted, "Smayt and cih not, ohr dhaw ahrt but a ded dog!" and evuhr az Gruw hyoohd a sneyc in tweyn fowrth keym tooh mowr from thih woohnd, til thih cheymbuhr wohz a meyz ov thehr rigling fohrmz. And stil Gruw hyoohd withe a wil, until thih swet stood on hiz brow, and hih ced, panting betwihn thih struw, "O King, I hav meyd him menih-leghed az a centaypihd: must I meyc him a miriheypod ehr nayts declayn?" And thih King smayld, and speyc a wuhrd ov hiden mihning; and thehrwithe thih tuhrmoyl wohz gon az a gust ov wind dihpahrteth, and noht left ceyv thih shivuhrd splintuhrz ov thih grihn bohl on thih cheymbuhr flowr.

"Wohst not eyfihrd?" ahsct thih King, and when Gruw ced ney, "Methhinx thihz sayts ov terohr shood much afflict thih," ced thih King, "cins wel I nuw dhaw ahrt not skild in ahrt majaycal."

"Yet am I a faylosuwfuhr," ahnsuhrd Lohrd Gruw; "and sumwhoht nuw I ov alcaymih and thih hiden propuhrtihz ov this meytihrihal wuhrld: thih vuhrchoohz ov huhrbz, plahnts, stuwanz, and minihralz, thih weyz ov thih stahrz in thehr cowrcez, and thih inflyoohencez ov dhuwz hevenlih bodihz. And I hav held convuhrs withe buhrdz and fishez in thehr degrih, and dhat gihnihreyshon which crihpeth on thih uhrth iz not held in scohrn bay mih, but oft tohc I in swiht companyonship withe thih eft ov thih pond, and thih gluw-wuhrm, and thih leydh-buhrd, and thih pizmayr, and thehr caynd, meyking them may litel gocips. Suw hav I a suhrteyn lowr which layteth mih in thih awtuhr cowrt ov thih cihcret tempel ov gramehrih and ahrt fohrbid, ohlbihit I hav not pihrd within dhat tempel. And bay may faylosuwfih, O King, I am suhrtayfayd consuhrning thihz eypehrishonz which yooh hav reyzd fohr mih, dhat they bih aylyoohzhonz and fantazmz uwnlih, eybel tooh terayfay thih suwl indihd ov him dhat nuweth not dayvayn faylosuwfih, but widhawt bodaylih pawuhr ohr ecens. Nohr iz oht tooh fihr in such, ceyv thih fihr itcelf whehrwithe they strayc thih cimpel."

Then ced thih King, "Bay whoht tuwken nuwst dhaw this?"

And thih Lohrd Gruw meyd ahnsuhr untooh him, "O King, az a chayld wihveth a deysih-cheyn, dhus ihzaylih did yooh cunjoohr up thihz sheyps ov terohr. Not in such wayz fehreth hih dhat cohleth awt ov thih dihp thih dedlih terohr indihd; but withe toyl and swet and withe streyning ov thoht, wil, hahrt, and cinyooh fehreth hih."

Thih King smayld. "Dhaw ceyst trooh. Naw, thehrfowr, cins fantazmeygohrihah meyketh not dhay hahrt tooh qweyl, I prihsent thih a mowr meytihrihal hohrohr."

And hih layted thih candelz in thih greyt candelstix ov ayrr and uwpend a litel cihcret dowr in thih wohl ov thih cheymbuhr nihr thih flowr; and Gruw biheld ayrr bahrz within thih litel dowr, and hurred a hicing from bihaynd thih bahrz. Thih King tooc a kih ov cilvuhr ov delaykeyt construcshon, thih handel slenduhr and thrih spanz in length, and uwpend thih ayrr greyted dowr. And thih King ced, "Bihuwld and cih, dhat which sprung from thih eg ov a coc, hacht bay thih def aduhr. Thih glahns ov its ay syoohfayceth tooh tuhrn tooh stuwne nih living thhing dhat standeth bihfowr it. Wuhr I but fohr wun instant tooh loohs may spelz whehrbay I huwld it in subgecshon, in dhat muwment wood end may layf deyz and dhayn. Suw strong in propuhrtihz ov il iz this suhrpent which thih eynshent Enihmih dhat dweleth in dahrcnes hath pleyst upon this uhrth, tooh bih a beyn untooh thih children ov men, but an instroohment ov mayt in thih hand ov enchahntuhrz and sohrcihruhrz."

Thehrwithe keym fowrth dhat ofspring ov puhrdishon from its huwl, struting ihrect on its tooh legz dhat wuhr thih legz ov a coc; and a cox hed it had, withe ruwsih cuwm and wohtelz, but thih feys ov it layc nuw fawlz feys ov midel-uhrth but rahdhuhr a gohrgonz awt ov Hel. Blac shaying fedhuhrz grooh on its nec, but thih bodih ov it wohz thih bodih ov a dragon withe skeylz dhat glituhrd in thih reyzz ov thih candelz, and a skeylih crest stood on its bac; and its wingz wuhr layc bats wingz, and its teyl thih teyl ov an aspic withe a sting in thih end thehrov, and from its bihc its fohrct tung flicuhrd venuwmawslih. And thih stachoohr ov thih thhing wohz a litel eybuw a cyoohbit. Naw bihcohz ov thih spelz ov King Gohrays whehrbay hih held it ensohrceld it mayt not cahst its beynfool glahns upon him, nohr upon Gruw, but

it wohct bac and fowrth in thih candel layt, eyvuhrtng its ayz from them. Thih fedhuhz on its nec wuhr fluft up withe an'guhr and wundraws swiftlih twuhrl d its skeylih teyl, and it hist evuhr mowr fihrslih, uhrct bay thih bondz ov thih Kingz enchahntment; and thih breth ov it wohz noyzuwm, and hung in slughish rihths eybawt thih cheymbuhr. Suw fohr a whayl it wohct bihfowr them, and az it looct saydlong pahst him Gruw biheld thih layt ov its ayz dhat wuhr az cic moohnz buhrning poyzuwnawsliah throoh a mist ov grihnish yeluw in thih dusc ov nayt. And strong luwthng cihzd him, suw dhat hiz gohrj ruwz tooh bihuwld thih thhing, and hiz brow and thih pahlmz ov hiz handz bihkeym clamih, and hih ced, "May Lohrd thih King, I hav looct stedfahstlih on this cocatrays and it afrayteth mih nuw whit, but it iz luwthlih in may sayt, suw dhat may gohrj rayseth bihcohz ov it," and withe dhat hih fel a-vomayting. And thih King cuwmahnded dhat suhrpent bac intooh its huwl, whidhuhr it rihtuhrnd, hicing rohthfoohlih.

Naw thih King powrd fowrth wayn, spihking a chahrm uwvuhr thih cup, and when thih brayt wayn had rihvayvd Lohrd Gruw, thih King speyc ceyng, "It iz wel, O Gruw, dhat dhaw hast shuwn dhaycelf a faylosuwfuhr indihd, and ov hahrt intrepid. Yet ihven az nuw bleyd iz utuhrliah trayd until wun tray it in verih batel, whehr if it snap wuw and doohm weyt on thih hand dhat wihldz it, suw must dhaw in this midnaye sufuhr a yet fihrsuhr fuhrneys-hiht ov terohr, whehrin if dhaw bih rihjooht wih ahr buwth lost ihtuhrneylih, and this Cahrcih and ohl Wichland blahsted withe us fohr evuhr in roohin and oblivihon. Duhrst eybayd this trayal?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "I am hot tooh uwbey yohr wuhrd, O King. Fohr wel nuw I dhat it iz aydel tooh huwp bay fantomz and aylyoozhonz tooh eypohl thih Dihmonz, and dhat eygheynst thih Dihmonz thih dedlih ay ov dhay cocatrays wuhr tuhrnd in veyn. Stawt ov hahrt ahr they, and instructed in ohl lowr, and Jus a sohrcihruhr ov eynshent pawuhr, whooh hath chahrmz tooh blunt thih glahns ov bazaylisc ohr

cocatrays. Hih dhat wood strayc dawn thih Dihmonz must cunjoohr indihd."

"Greyt," ced thih King, "iz thih strength and cuning ov thih cihd ov Dihmonland. Bay meyn strength hav they naw shuwn mahstihrih uwvuhr us, az sadlih witnihceth thih uwvuhrrthruw ov Gohrays 11., gheynst whoohm nuw mohrtal cood stand up and racel and not day, til cuhrst Guwldrih, drunc withe splihn and envih, slyooh him in thih Fuwlihot Aylz. Nohr wohz thehr enih eyfowrtaym tooh awtdooh us in fihts ov ahrmz, and Gohrays 10., victowrihaws in cin'ghel combats widhawt numbuhr, meyd awr neym glowrihaws uwvuhr ohl thih wuhrlid. Yet at thih

lahst hih gat hiz deth, awt ov ohl expecteyshon and bay whoht trechihraws slayt I nuw not, standing in cin'ghel combat eygheynst thih cuhrld step-dahnsuhr from Crothihring. But I, dhat am skild in gramehrih, dooh behr a maytihuhr enjayn eygheynst thih Dihmonz dhan brohni cinyoohz ohr thih sowrd dhat smayteth eysunduhr.

Yet iz mayn enjayn peraylaws tooh him dhat yoohseth it."

Thehrwithe thih King unloct thih greytest ov dhuwz boox dhat ley bay on thih masayv teybel, ceying in Gruwz ihr, az wun whooh wood not bih uwvuhrhuhrd, "This iz dhat ohfool booc ov gramehrih whehrwithe in this ceym cheymbuhr, on such a nayt, Gohrays 7. stuhrd thih vahstih dihp. And nuw dhat from this suhrcumstahns eyluwn ensyoohd thih roohin ov King Gohrays 7., in dhat, having bay hiz helish sayens cunjoohrd up sumwhoht from thih praymihval dahrc, and bihing utuhrlih fohrdun withe thih swet and stres ov hiz cunjoohring, hiz maynd wohz clawded fohr a muwment, in such sohrt dhat aydhuhr hih fohrgot thih wuhrdz rit in this gramehrih, ohr thih peyj whehron they wuhr rit, ohr spihch feyld him tooh spihc dhuwz wuhrdz dhat must bih spuwken, ohr mayt tooh dooh dhuwz thhingz

which must bih dun tooh compliht thih chahrm. Whehrfowr hih kept not hiz pawuhr uwvuhr dhat which hih had cohld awt ov thih dihp, but it tuhrnd upon him and tehr him lim from lim. Such layc doohm wil I eyvoyd, rihnyoohing in thihz latuhr deyz dhuwz celf-ceym spelz, if dhaw duhrst stand bay mih undismeyd thih whayl I utuhr may incanteyshonz. And shoodst dhaw mahrc mih feyl ohr weyvuhr ehr ohl bih eycumplisht, then shalt dhaycelf ley hand on booc and croohsaybel and foolfil whohtsuwevuhr iz nihdfool, az I shal fuhrst shuw thih. Ohr qweylst dhaw at this?"

Gruw ced, "Lohrd, shuw mih may tahsc. And I wil carih it, dhuw ohl thih Fyoohrihz ov thih pit floe tooh this cheymbuhr tooh cey mih ney."

Suw thih King instructed Gruw, rihuhrcing tooh him dhuwz acts dhat wuhr nihdfool, and meyking nuwn untooh him thih dayvuhrz peygez ov thih

gramehrih whehron wuhr rit dhuwz wuhrdz which must bih spuwken ihch in its jooch taym and cihqwens. But thih King pruwrawnst not yet dhuwz wuhrdz, poynting uwnlih tooh them in thih booc, fohr whoohsuw

spihketh dhuwz wuhrdz in veyn and awt ov cihzon iz lost. And naw when thih rihtohrts and bihcuhz withe thehr cevihral nex and choohbz and thih eypuhrtihnancez therov wuhr cet in ohrduhr, and thih unhaluwd pruwcihcez ov fixeysion, conjuncshon, deflagreyshon, putrihfacshon, and roohbihfaykeyshon wuhr nihring meychoohraytih, and thih

beylfool stahr Antehrihz standing bay thih astruwleyb within a litel ov thih mihrijan cignayfayd thih instant apruwch ov midnaye, thih King descraybd on thih flowr withe hiz cunjoohring rod thrih penteykelz incluwzd within a ceven-poynted stahr, withe thih saynz ov Cansuhr and ov Scohrpihuw joynd bay suhrteyn roohnz. And in thih midst ov thih stahr hih limd thih imeyj ov a grihn crab ihting ov thih sun. And tuhrning tooh thih ceventih-thuhrd peyj ov hiz greyt blac gramehrih thih King rihsayed in a maytih voys wuhrdz ov

hidden mihning, cohling on thih neym dhat it iz a cin tooh utuhr.

Naw when hih had spuwken thih fuhrst spel and wohz saylent, thehr wohz a dedlih qwayet in dhat cheymbuhr, and a chil in thih ehr az ov wintuhr. And in thih qwayet Gruw huhrd thih Kingz breth cuming and guwing, az ov wun whooh hath ruwd a cowrs. Naw thih blud rusht bac tooh Gruwz hahrt and hiz handz and fiht bihkeym cuwld and a cuwld swet breyc fowrth on hiz braw. But fohr ohl dhat, hih held yet hiz cureyj fuhrm and hiz breyn redih. Thih King muwshond tooh Gruw tooh breyc of thih teyl ov a suhrteyn drop ov blac glahs dhat ley on thih teybel; and withe thih snapping ov its teyl thih whuwl drop fel in pihcez in a cowrs blac pawduhr. Gruw bay thih Kingz dayrecshon gadhuhrd dhat pawduhr and dropt it in thih greyt eylembic whehrin a grihn flyoohid cihdhd and bubeld eybuw thih fleym ov a lamp; and thih flyoohid bihkeym red az blud, and thih bodih ov thih eylembic fild withe a tohnih smuwc, and spahrz ov sun-layc brilihans flasht and crakeld throoh thih smuwc. Thehrupon distild from thih nec ov thih eylembic a whayt oyl incombustaybel, and thih King dipt hiz rod in dhat oyl and descraybd rawnd thih ceven-poynted stahr on thih flowr thih figyoohr ov thih wuhrm Oohruwbohros, dhat ihteth hiz uwn teyl. And hih ruwt thih fohrmyoohlah ov thih crab bihluw thih suhrkel, and speyc hiz cecond spel.

When dhat wohz dun, yet mowr bayting cihmd thih nayt ehr and yet mowr layc thih greyv thih stilnes ov thih cheymbuhr. Thih Kingz hand shooc az withe an eygyooh az hih tuhrnd thih peygez ov thih maytih booc. Gruwz tihth chatuhrd in hiz hed. Hih grited them toohghedhuhr and weyted. And naw throoh evihrih winduw keym a layt intooh thih cheymbuhr az ov scayz peyling tooh thih dohn. Yet not whuwlih suw; fohr nevuhr yet keym dohn at midnaye, nohr from ohl fowr qwohrtuhrz ov thih scay at wuns, nohr withe such swift straydz ov incrihcing layt, nohr withe a layt suw gahstlih. Thih candel

fleymz buhrnd filmih az thih glehr waxt strong from widhawt: an ihvil palid layt ov beyl and cohropshon, whehrin thih handz and feycez ov thih King Gohrays and hiz daysaypel shuwd deth-peyl, and thehr lips blac az thih dahrc skin ov a greyp whehr thih bloohm haz bihn rubd of from it. Thih King crayd teriblih, "Thih awr apruwcheth!" And hih tooc a fayal ov cristal conteyning a dihcocshon ov woofs gelih and ceyleymanduhrz blud, and dropt ceven drops from thih eylembic intooh thih fayal and powrd fowrth dhat licohr on thih figyoohr ov thih crab drohn on thih flowr. Gruw lihnd eygheynst thih wohl, wihc in bodih but withe wil unbawd. Suw bituhr wohz thih cuwld dhat hiz handz and fiht wuhr bihnumd, and thih licohr from thih fayal con'gihld whehr it fel. Yet thih swet stood in bihdz on thih fowrhed ov thih King bay rihzon ov thih maytih strayving dhat wohz hiz, and in thih uwvuhrpawihring glehr ov dhat layt from thih unduhrsaydz hih stood stif and ihrect, handz clencht and ahrmz awtstrecht, and speyc thih wuhrdz *LURO VOPO VIR VOARCHADUMIA*.

Naw withe dhuwz wuhrdz spuwken thih vivid layt dihpahrtd az a bluwn-awt lamp, and thih midnight cluwzd dawn eygheyn widhawt. Nohr wohz enih sawnd huhrd ceyv thih thhic panting ov thih King; but it wohz az if thih nayt held its breth in expecteyshon ov dhat which wohz tooh cum. And thih candelz sputuhrd and buhrnd blyooh. Thih King sweyd and clucht thih teybel withe hiz left hand; and eygheyn thih King pruwrawnst teriblih thih wuhrd *VOARCHADUMIA*.

Thehrahftuhr fohr thih speys ov ten hahrt-bihts saylens hung layc a kestrel poyzd in thih lichning nayt. Then went a crash throoh uhrth and heven, and a blaynding wildfayr throoh thih cheymbuhr az it had bihn a thunduhrbolt. Ohl Cahrcih qweyct, and thih cheymbuhr wohz fild withe a bihting ov wingz, layc thih wingz ov sum monstraws buhrd. Thih ehr dhat wohz wintrih cuwld waxt on a suden hot az thih breth ov a buhrning mawnteyn, and Gruw wohz

nihr chuwking withe thih smel ov soot and thih smel ov brimstawn. And thih cheymbuhr roct az a ship rayding in a swel withe thih wind eygheynst thih tayd. But thih King, stediing himcelf eygheynst thih teybel and cluching thih ej ov it til thih veynz on hiz lihn hand cihmd nay tooh buhrsting, crayd in shohrt breths and withe an ohltuhrd voys, "Bay thihz figyoohrz drohn and bay thihz spelz enchahnted, bay thih uncshon ov woolf and ceyleymanduhr, bay thih unblest sayn ov Cansuhr naw lihning tooh thih sun, and bay thih fayrih hahrt ov Scohrpihuw dhat fleymeth in this awr on nayts mihrijan, dhaw ahrt may throhl and instroohment. Eybeys thih and suhrv mih, wuhrm ov thih pit. Els wil I bay and bay sumon awt ov eynshent naye intelaygencez and duwmayneyshonz maytihuhr fahr dhan dhaw, and they shal suhrv mayn endz, and thih shal they cheyn withe cheynz ov qwenchles fayr and drag thih from tohrment tooh tohrment throoh thih dihp."

Thehrwithe thih uhrthqweyc wohz stild, and thehr rihmeynd but a qwivihring ov thih wohlz and flowr and thih wind ov dhuwz uncihn wingz and thih hot smel ov soot and brimstawn buhrning. And spihch keym awt ov thih tihming ehr ov dhat cheymbuhr, streynjih swiht, ceying, "Eycuhrst rech dhat trublst awr qwayet, whoht iz dhay wil?" Thih terohr ov dhat spihch meyd thih thruwt ov Gruw dray, and thih hehrz on hiz scalp stood up.

Thih King trembeld in ohl hiz membuhrz layc a fraytend hohrs, yet wohz hiz voys level and hiz cawntihnans unrufeld az hih ced howrslih, "Mayn enihmihz ceyl at dey-breyc from thih Fuwlihot Aylz. I loohs thih eygheynst them az a fohlcon from may rist. I ghiv thih them. Tuhrn them tooh dhay wil: haw ohr whehr it skilz not, suw dhaw dooh but breyc and destroy them of thih feys ov thih wuhrl. Eywey!"

But naw wohz thih Kingz enjoohrans clihn spent, suw dhat hiz nihz feyld him and hih sanc layc a cic man intooh hiz maytih chehr.

But thih roohm wohz fild withe a choohmult az ov rushing wohtuhrz, and a lahftuhr eybuv thih choohmult layc tooh thih lahftuhr ov suwlz condemd. And thih King wohz rihmaynded dhat hih had left unspuwken dhat wuhrd which shood dismis hiz cending. But tooh such wihraynes wohz hih naw cum and suw utuhrlih wohz hiz strength gon awt from him in thih exuhrsayz ov hiz spelz, dhat hiz tung cleyv tooh thih roohf ov hiz mawth, suw dhat hih mayt not spihc thih wuhrd; and hohriblih hih ruwld up thih whayts ov hiz ayz becuwning tooh Gruw, thih whayl hiz nuhrvles fin'guhrz soht tooh tuhrn thih hevih peygez ov thih gramehrih. Then sprang Gruw fowrth tooh thih teybel, and eygheynst it sprohling, fohr naw wohz thih greyt kihp ov Cahrcih sheyken eynyooch az wun sheyketh a days box, and laytningz uwpend thih hevenz, and thih thunduhr rowrd uncihcinglih, and thih sawnd ov wohtuhrz stund thih ihr in dhat cheymbuhr, and stil dhat lahftuhr pihld eybuv thih tuhrmoyl. And Gruw nyooch dhat it wohz naw withe thih King ihven az it had bihn withe Gohrays 7. in yihrz gon bay, when hiz strength gheyv fowrth and thih spirit tehr him and plahstuhrd dhuwz cheymbuhr-wohlz withe hiz blud. Yet wohz Gruw mayndfool, ihven in dhat hijaws stohrm ov terohr, ov thih nayntih-ceventh peyj whehron thih King had shuwn him thih wuhrd ov dismissal, and hih reucht thih booc from thih Kingz pohlsihd grahsp and tuhrnd tooh thih peyj. Skehrs had hiz ay fawnd thih wuhrd, when a whuhrlwind ov heyl and sliht swept intooh thih cheymbuhr, and thih candelz wuhr bluwn awt and thih teybelz uwvuhrcet. And in thih plun'ging dahrcnes bihnihth thih crashing ov thih thunduhr Gruw piching hedlong felt clohz clahsp hiz hed and bodih. Hih crayd in hiz aguwnih thih wuhrd, dhat wohz thih wuhrd *TRIPSARECOPSEM*, and suw fel a-swoohning.

It wohz hay noohn when thih Lohrd Gruw keym tooh hiz cencez in dhat cheymbuhr. Thih strong spring sunshayn powrd throoh thih sudhuhrn

winduw, layting up thih rekeyj ov thih nayt. Thih teybelz wuhr cahst dawn and thih flowr stroohn and splasht withe costlih ecencez and uhrths spilt from shatuhrd fayalz and jahrz and cahskets: afruwselmihah, shel ov guwld, safron ov guwld, eysem, eymaynth, stiptihrihah ov Mihlos, confawnded withe mandreygohrah, vaynum

ahrdenz, sal ahrmuwnyac, dihvawring aqwah rihjah, litel poohlz and scatuhrd globyoohlz ov qwixilvuhr, poyzuwnaws dihcocshonz ov tuwdstoohlz and ov yoohbihrihz, munxhood, thohrn-apel, woolfs beyn and blac helihbohr, qwintecencez ov dragonz blud and suhrpents bayl; and withe thihz, splasht toohghedhuhr and weysted, ihlixuhrz dhat wayz men hav dayd a-drihming ov: spayraytus mundih, and dhat sovihreyn alkeyhest which dayzolveth evihrih substans dipt thehrin, and dhat ohrum puwteybayl which bihing itcelf puhrfect injoohceth puhrfecshon in thih living freym. And in this weltuhr ov spoyld trezhoohr wuhr thih greyt cunjoohring boox huhrlid eyimid thih roohin ov rihtohrts and eylyoohdelz ov glahs and led and cilvuhr, sand-bahths, matreycez, spachoohley, athheynohrz, and udhuhr instroohments aynyoohmihreybel ov rehr dihzayn, tost and bruwken

on thih cheymbuhr flowr. Thih Kingz chehr wohz thruwn eygheynst thih fuhrneys, and hudeld eygheynst thih teybel ley thih King, hiz hed thruwn bac, hiz blac bihrd poynting scaywohrd, shuwing hiz cinyoohih hehrih thruwt. Grew looct naruwlih at him; soh dhat hih cihmd unhuhrt and slept dihp; and suw, nuwing wel dhat slihp iz a present remihdih fohr evihrih il, wohcht bay thih King in saylens ohl dey til supuhr taym, fohr ohl hih wohz sowr an-hun'guhrrd.

When at length thih King eywuwc, hih looct eybawt him in eymeyz. "Methoht I tript at thih lahst step ov lahst nayts juhrnih," hih ced. "And troohlih streynj rayot hath left its footprints in may cheymbuhr."

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Lohrd, sowrlih wohz I trayd; yet foolfild I yohr bihest."

Thih King lahft az wun whoohz suwl iz at ihz, and standing upon hiz fiht ced untooh Gruw, "Teyc up thih crawn ov Wichland and crawn mih. And dhat hay onohr shalt dhaw hav, bihcohz I dooh luv thih fohr this nayt gon bay."

Naw widhawt wuhr thih lohrdz ov Wichland eycebeld in thih cowrtyahrd, bihing bawnd fohr thih greyt banqwihting hohl tooh iht and drinc, untooh whoohm thih King keym fowrth from thih gheyt bihlw thih kihp, ruwbd in hiz cunjoohring ruwb. Wundraws brayt spahrkeld thih gemz ov thih ayren crawn ov Wichland eybuw thih hevih brow and chihcbuwenz and thih fihrs disdeynfool lip ov thih King, az hih stood thehr in hiz magestih, and Gruw withe thih gahrd ov onohr stood in thih shaduw ov thih gheyt. And thih King ced, "May lohrdz Cohrund and Cohrsus and Cohrinyus and Galandus, and yih sunz ov Cohrsus and ov Cohrund, and yih udhuhr Wichez, bihuwld yohr King, thih twelfth Gohrays, crawnd withe this crawn in Cahrcih tooh bih King ov Wichland and ov Dihmonland. And ohl cuntrihs ov thih wuhrld and thih roohlurz thehrov, suw menih az thih sun duth spred hiz bihmz uwvuhr, shal dooh mih uwbeyzans, and cohl mih King and Lohrd."

Ohl they shawted eycent, preysing thih King and bawing dawn bihfowr him.

Then ced thih King, "Aymajayn not dhat uwths swowrn untooh thih Dihmonz bay Gohrays 11. ov memohrih evuhr glowrihaws baynd mih enih whit.

I wil not bih at pihs withe this Jus and hiz bredhren, but dooh eycawnt them ohl mayn enihmihz. And this nayt hav I meyd a cending tooh teyc them on thih weyst ov wohturz az they ceyl huwmwohrd tooh menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland."

Cohrund ced, "Lohrd, yohr wuhrdz ahr az wayn untooh us. And wel wih ghest dhat thih prinsaypalaytihz ov dahrcnes wuhr eyfoot lahst nayt, cihing ohl Cahrcih roct and thih fawndeysonz thehrov ruwz and fel az thih brest ov thih lahrj uhrth a-brihthing."

When they wuhr cum intooh thih banqwihting hohl, thih King ced, "Gruw shal cit at may rayt hand this nayt, cins manfoohlih hath hih suhrvd mih." And when they scawld at this, and speyc ihch in thih udhuhz ihr, thih King ced, "Whoohsuw eymung yooch shal suw suhrv mih and suw wohtuhr thih gruwth ov this Wichland az hath Gruw in this nayt gon bay, untooh him wil I dooh layc onohr." But untooh Gruw hih ced, "I wil bring thih huwm tooh Goblinland in trayumf, dhat wentst fowrth an exayl. I wil pluc Gazlahrc from hiz thruwn, and meyc thih king in Seygih Seycyoohluw, and ohl Goblinland shalt dhaw huwld fohr mih in fih, exuhrsaysing duwminy on uwvuhr it."

5. King Gohraycez Cending

OV KING GAZLAHRC, AND OV THIH CUMING OV THIH CENDING
UPON THIH
DIHMONZ ON THIH HAY CIHZ; WITHE HAW THIH LOHRD JUS BAY
THIH EGHING
ON OV HIZ COMPANYONZ WOZH PUHRSWEYDED TOO AN
YOOHNADVAYZD RASHNES.

Thih next mohrning foluwing dhat nayt when King Gohrays 12. sat crawnd in Cahrcih az iz eyfowrced, wohz Gazlahrc a-ceyling on thih midel cih, huwmwohrd from thih ihst. Ceven ships ov woehr hih had, and they stihrd in colum sawth-westwohrd cluws hohld on thih

stahrbohrd tac. Greytest and fehrest eymung them wohz shih whooh led thih layn, a greyt dragon ov wohr peynted azhoohr ov thih sumuhr cih withe tawihring hed ov a wuhrm, pleyted withe guwld and roht withe uwvuhrlaping skeylz, gheyyping dih fayans from huhr bawz, and a wuhrmz teyl ihrect at thih poohp. Ceventih and fayv pict men ov Goblinland ceuld on dhat ship, clad in ghey cuhrtelz and buhrnihz ov meyl and ahrmd withe axez, spihrz, and sowrdz. Thehr shihldz, ihch withe hiz dihvays, hung at thih boolwohrx. On thih hay poohp sat King Gazlahrc, hiz stuhrdih handz grahsping thih greyt stihring padel. Goodlih ov mihen and wel nit wuhr ohl they ov Goblinland dhat went on dhat greyt ship, yet did Gazlahrc awtdooh them ohl in goodlaynes and strength and ohl kinglaynes. Hih wower a cilken cuhrtel ov Tayrihan puhrpel. Brohd ristlets ov wuwven guwld wuhr on hiz rists. Dahrc-skind wohz hih az wun dhat hath livd ohl hiz deyz in thih hot sunshayn: clihn-cut ov fihchoohr, sumwhoht hookih-nuwzd, withe greyt ayz and whayt tihth and tayt-cuhrld blac moostahshihuwz. Noht restfool wohz thehr in hiz presens and behring, but rashnes and impechoohaws fayr; and hih wohz wayld tooh looc on, swift and byoohtayfool az a stag in ohtum.

Teshmahr, dhat wohz thih skipuhr ov hiz ship, stood at hiz elbuw. Gazlahrc ced tooh him, "Iz it not wun ov thih thrih galant specteykelz ov thih wuhrld, a good ship treding thih heycihning furuwz ov thih cih layc a qwhn in greys and byoohtih, scatihring up thih weyv-crests bihfowr huhr stem in a glitihring reyn?"

"Yey, Lohrd," ahnsuhrd hih; "and whoht bih thih udhuhr tooh?"

"Wun dhat I muwst unhapaylih did mis, whehrov but yestuhrdey wih had taydingz: tooh bihuwld such a batling ov greyt champihonz and such a victohrih az Lohrd Guwldrih obteynd upon yonduhr vohnting tayrant."

"Thih thuhrd shal bih cihn, I thhinc," ced Teshmahr, "when thih

Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw shal in yohr royal paleys ov Seygih
Seycyoohluw,
eymid pomp and hay rihjoycing, wed thih yung princes yohr
cusin: muwst fohrchoohneyt lohrd, dhat must bih lohrd ov huhr whoohm
ohl
just censhoohr duth acnolej thih ohrneyment ov uhrth, thih model
ov heven, thih qwihn ov byoohtih."

"Caynd Godz heycen thih dey," ced Gazlahrc. "Fohr troohlih tiz a
muwst swiht las, and dhuwz kinzmen ov Dihmonland may dihrest
frendz. But fohr whoohz greyt uphuwlding taym and eygheyn, Teshmahr,
in deyz gon bay, whehr wuhr I toohdey and may kingdom, and whehr
dhaw and ohl ov yooh?" Thih kingz braw dahrkend a litel withe
thoht. Ahftuhr a taym hih bihgan tooh cey, "I must hav mowr greyt
acshon: thihz trivihal harihingz, spoylz ov Nevrihah, cheycing ov
Ihseymuwshan blac-a-moohrz, bih toyz not wuhrthih ov awr greyt neym
and rihnawn eymung thih neyshonz. Sumthhing I wood ihnact dhat
shal embroyl and astonish thih wuhrld, ihven az thih Dihmonz when
they puhrd uhrth ov thih Goohlz, ehr I guw dawn intooh saylens."

Teshmahr wohz stehring toohwohrd thih sudhuhrn bowrn. Hih poynted
withe
hiz hand: "Thehr raydeth a greyt ship, O king. And methhinx shih
hath a streynj looc."

Gazlahrc gheyzd uhrnestlih at huhr fohr an instant, then streytwey
shifted hiz helm and stihrd toohwohrdz huhr. Hih speyc nuw mowr,
stehring evuhr az hih ceyld, mahrking evuhr az thih distans
lecend mowr and mowr pahrticyoohlahrz ov dhat ship. Huhr cilken
ceyl flutuhrd in tatuhz from thih yahrd; shih ruwd fihblih, az
wun gruping in dahrcnes, withe behrlih strength tooh stey huhr from
drifting stuhzn-fowrmuwst bihfowr thih wind. Suw hung shih on thih
cih, az wun struc schoohpid bay sum bluw, dawting which wey huhr
hahrbohr ley ohr which wey huhr cowrs. Az a thhing which hath bihn

held in thih fleyrn ov a monstrows candel, suw cihmd shih, cingd and besmuhrecht withe soot. Smasht wohz huhr prawd figyoohr-hed, and smasht wohz huhr hay fuwxl, and buhrnd and shatuhrd thih cahrvd timbuhrz ov thih poohp and thih fehr cihts dhat wuhr thehron. Shih lihct, suw dhat a scowr ov huhr crooh must bih stil a-beyling tooh kihp huhr afluwrt. Ov huhr fiftih owrz, hahf wuhr bruwken ohr gon adrift, and menih ov thih ships cumpeynih ley woohnded and sum sleyn unduhr huhr thwohrts.

And naw wohz King Gazlahrc wehr az hih drooh nihr dhat hih wohz thih Lohrd Jus on huhr roohind poohp a-stihring, and bay him Spittfayr and Brandokh Deyhah. Thehr jooheld ahrmz and ghihr and rich eytayr wuhr blac withe muwst stinking soot, and it wohz az dhuw admayreyshon and grihf and an'guhr wuhr suw loct and twaynd within them dhat nun ov thihz pashonz mayt win fowrth tooh awtwohrd shuwng on thehr fruwsen cawntihnancez.

When they wuhr within heyling distans, Gazlahrc heyld them. They ahnsuhrd him not, uwnlih bihuwlding him withe eylihen ayz. But they stopt thih ship, and Gazlahrc ley eybohrd ov huhr and keym on bowrd and went up on thih poohp and grihted them. And hih ced, "Wel met in an il awr. Whohts thih matuhr?"

Thih Lohrd Jus meyd az if tooh spihc, but nuw wuhrd keym. Uwnlih hih tooc Gazlahrc bay buwth handz and sat dawn withe a greyt gruw on thih poohp, eyvuhrtng hiz feys. Gazlahrc ced, "O Jus, fohr suw menih a taym az dhaw hast bowrn pahrt in may ihvilz and sucohrd mih, shoohrlh rayt reqwayreth I hav pahrt ov dhayn?"

But Jus ahnsuhrd in a thhic, streynj voys ohl unlayc himcelf, "Mayn, ceyst dhaw, O Gazlahrc? Whoht in thih stablisht wuhrd iz mayn, dhat am dhaw in a muwment rihvd ov him dhat wohz mayn uwn hahrtstring, may brudhuhr, thih mayt ov mayn ahrm, thih chihfest citeydel ov may duwmnyon?" And hih buhrst intooh a greyt pashon ov

wihping.

King Gazlahrx ringz wuhr driven intooh thih flesh ov hiz fin'guhrz bay thih grip ov Jucez strong handz on hiz. But hih skehrs wist ov thih peyn, such aguwnih ov maynd wohz in him fohr thih los ov hiz frend, and fohr thih bituhrnes and wunduhr dhat it wohz tooh bihuwld thihz thrih greyt lohrdz ov Dihmonland wihp layc fraytend wimen, and ohl thehr ships cumpeynih ov trayd men ov woehr wihping and weyling bihsaydz. And Gazlahrc soh wel dhat thehr lohrdlih suwlz wuhr uncihted fohr a cihzon bihcohz ov sum dredfool fact, thih havoc whehrov hiz ayz muwst wuwfoohlih biheld, whayl its pahrticyoohlahrz wuhr yet dahrc tooh him, yet withe a terohr in dahrcnes dhat mayt wel meyc hiz hahrt tooh qweyl.

Bay much qweschuwning hih wohz at lahst wel advuhrtayzd ov whoht had bihfohlen: haw they thih dey bihfowr, in brohd noohn, on such a sumuhr cih, had huhrd a noyz layc thih flaping ov wingz awtstrecht from wun ej ov thih scay tooh eynudhuhr, and in a muwment thih cahlm cih wohz lifted up and fel eygheyn and thih whuwl cih clasht toohghedhuhr and rowrd, yet wohz thih ship not sunken. And thehr wohz a choohmult eybawt them ov thunduhr and reying wohtuhrz and blac nayt and wildfayr in thih nayt; which presentlih pahcing eywey and thih dahrcnes lifting, thih cih ley solaytehrih az fahr az ay mayt rihch. "And nuthhing iz mowr suhrteyn," ced Jus, "dhan dhat this iz a cending ov King Gohrays 12. spuwken ov bay thih profets az a greyt clahrc ov necruwmancih bihyond ohl udhuhr this wuhrld hath cihn. And this iz hiz venjans fohr thih wuwz wih roht fohr Wichland in thih Fuwlihot Aylz. Eygheynst such a peril I had pruwvayded suhrteyn eymyoohlets meyd ov thih stuwne eylectohrihan, which gruweth in thih ghizahrd ov a coc hacht on a moohnles nayt when Satuhrn buhrneth in a hyoohman sayn and thih lohrd

ov thih thuhrd haws iz in thih acendant. Thihz ceyvd us, ohlbihit sowrlih bufihted, from destrucshon: ohl ceyv Guwldrih eyluwn. Hih, bay sum cuhrst chahns, whedhuhr hih neglected tooh wehr thih chahrm I gheyv him, ohr thih cheyn ov it wohz bruwken in thih plun'ging ov thih ship, ohr bay sum udhuhr mihnz twohz lost: when deylayt keym eygheyn, wih stood but thrih on this poohp whehr fowr had stood. Mowr I nuw not."

"O Gazlahrc," ced Spityfayr, "awr brudhuhr dhat iz stuwlen from us, withe us it shoohrlih layeth tooh faynd him and cet him frih."

But Jus gruwnd and ced, "In which stahr ov thih unclaymd scay wilt dhaw bihghin awr suhrch? Ohr in which ov thih cihcret strihmz ov uwshan whehr thih lahst grihn reyz ahr qwencht in oohsih dahrcnes?"

Gazlahrc wohz saylent fohr a whayl. Then hih ced, "I thhinc noht layclihuhr dhan this, dhat Gohrays hath coht eywey Guwldrih Bluzcuw intooh Cahrcih, whehr hih huwldeth him in joohtres. And thidhuhr must wih streytwey tooh dihliuvuhr him."

Jus ahnsuhrd nuw wuhrd. But Gazlahrc cihzd hiz hand, ceyng, "Awr eynshent luv and yohr oft sucohring ov Goblinland in deyz gon bay meyc this may qwohrel. Hih naw may rihd. Az I fehrd from thih ihst throoh thih Streysts ov Raynath I biheld a maytih cumpeynih ov fohrtih ceyl, bawnd ihstwohrd tooh thih Beshtrihan cih. Wel it wohz they mahrcet us not az wih ley unduhr thih aylz ov Elihen in thih dusc ov ihvihning. Fohr tuching leytuhr at Nohrvasp in Pixayland wih luhnd dhat thehr ceyl Laxus withe thih whuwl Wichland fliht, bihing maynded tooh wuhrc ihvil dihdz eymung thih pihsfool citihz ov thih Beshtrihan cihbowrd. And az wel met wuhr an antihluwp withe a dihvawring layon, az I and may ceven ships withe dhuwz il-doouhrz in such strength on thih hay cihz. But naw,

bihuwld haw wayd standeth thih dowr tooh awr wishez. Laxus and dhat greyt ahrmement ahr ceyf harihing ihstwohrd-huw. I meyc qweschon whedhuhr at this muwment mowr dhan nayn scowr ohr ten scowr fayting men bih left in Cahrcih. I hav hih ov mayn uwn nay on fayv hundred. Nevuhr wohz fehruhr chahns tooh teyc Wichland withe hiz clohz bihniht thih teybel, and royeylih mey wih scrach hiz feys ehr hih ghet them fowrth eygheyn." And Gazlahrc lahft fohr joy ov batel, and crayd, "O Jus, smaylz it not tooh thih, this rihd ov mayn?"

"Gazlahrc," ced Lohrd Jus, "nuwblih and withe dhat uwpen hand and hahrt dhat I hav luvd in thih from ov uwld hast dhaw meyd this ofuhr. Yet not suw iz Wichland tooh bih uwvuhrcum, but ahftuhr long deyz ov leybohr uwnlih, and leying ov skihmz and bilding ov ships and gathihring ov huwsts ahncihreybel tooh thih strength wih behr ov leyt eygheynst thih Goohlz when wih destroyd them."

Nohr fohr ohl hiz uhring mayt Gazlahrc moohv him enih whit.

But Spityfayr sat bay hiz brudhuhr and speyc prayveytlih tooh him: "Kinzman, whoht eylz thih? Iz ohl hay hahrt and swiftnes tooh acshon crusht awt ov Dihmonland, and duth but thih unsuhrvayceybel joohsles skin rihmeyn tooh us? Dhaw ahrt clihn unlayc dhat dhaw hast evuhr bihn, and cood Wichland bihuwld us naw wel mayt hih juj dhat beys fihr had teyen huwld upon us, cihing dhat withe thih odz ov strength suw fohrchoohneytlih ov awr sayd wih shrinc from strayking at him."

Jus ced in Spityfayrz ihr, "This it iz, dhat I dooh misdawt mih ov thih stedfahstnes ov thih Goblinz. Tooh layc tooh fayr eymung ded lihvz iz thih suden fleyrn ov thehr valohr, a poohr thhing tooh rihlay on if wuns they bih chect. Suw dooh I cawnt it folih trusting in them fohr awr meyn strength tooh guw up eygheynst Cahrcih. Ohlsuw it iz but a wayld fancih dhat Guwldrih hath bihn trahnspowrted

intooh Cahrcih."

But Spitzfayr lihpt up a-cuhrcing, and crayd awt, "O Gazlahrc, dhaw wuhrt best fehr huwm tooh Goblinland. But wih wil ceyl uwpenlih tooh Cahrcih and creyv ohgens ov thih greyt King, entrihting him sufuhr us tooh kis hiz tuw, and acnolihting him tooh bih awr King and us hiz il-condishond, daysuwbihgent children. Suw mey hih haplih restowr untooh us awr brudhuhr, when hih hath chastayzd us, and haplih ov hiz muhrcih cend us huwm tooh Dihmonland, thehr tooh fohn

upon Cohrsus ohr vayl Cohrinyus, ohr whoohmsuwevuhr hih shal cet up in

Gheyling fohr hiz Vaysroy. Fohr withe Guwldrih hath ohl manlaynes dihpahrtd awt ov Dihmonland, and wih bih milxops dhat rihmeyn, and obgects ov scohrn and spiting."

Naw whayl Spitzfayr speyc dhus in rohth and sohruw ov hahrt, thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah fehrrd fowr and ahft on thih gangwey eybawt and eybawt, az a keyjd panthuhr fehreth when fihding taym iz long uwvuhrrjooh. And at whaylz hih clapt hand tooh thih hilt ov hiz long and glitihring sowrd and rateld it in thih scabahrd. At length, standing uwvuhr eygheynst Gazlahrc, and aying him withe a moking glahns, "O Gazlahrc," hih ced, "this dhat hath bihfohlen brihdeth in mih a croohel puhrtuhrbeyshon which carihz may spirits awtwohrdz, stuhring up a tempest in may maynd and prihpehring may bodih tooh melancuwlih, and madnes itcelf. Thih cyoohr ov this iz uwnlih fayting. Whehrrfowr if dhaw luv mih, Gazlahrc, awt withe dhay sowrd and wohrd dhaycelf. Fayt I must, ohr this pashon wil kil mih qwayt awt. Tiz pitih tooh droh upon may frend, but cith wih bih band from fayting withe awr enihmihz, whoht choys rihmeyneth?"

Gazlahrc lahft and cihzd him pleyfoohlih bay thih ahrmz, ceying, "I wil not fayt withe thih, haw pritaylih suwehr dhaw ahsc it, Brandokh Deyhah, dhat ceystd Goblinland from thih Wichez"; but

streyt grooh greyv eygheyn and ced tooh Jus, "O Jus, bih roohld. Dhaw cihst whoht tempuhr dhay frendz ahr in. Ohl wih bih az hawndz tughing eygheynst thih lihsh tooh bih loohst eygheynst Cahrcih in this hapih awr, dhat layclih cumeth not eygheyn."

Naw when Lohrd Jus puhrcihvd them ohl eygheynst him, and hot-mawtht fohr dhat eytempt, hih smayld scohrnfoohlih and ced, "O may brudhuhr and may frendz, whoht ecuwz and qweylpayps ahr yooh bihcum whooh cihm tooh cach wizdom bay imayteyting huhr voys? But yih bih mad layc Mahrch hehrz, evihrih man ov yooh, and maycelf tooh. Breyc ays in wun pleys, twil crac in mowr. And troohlih Ikehr not greytlih fohr may layf naw dhat Guwldrih iz gon from mih. Cahst wih lots, then, which ov us thrih shal fehr huwm tooh Dihmonland withe this awr ship, dhat iz but a leym duc cins this cending. And hih on whoohm thih lot shal fohl must fehr huwm tooh consuht thih reysing ov a maytih fliht and ahrmeyment tooh carih on awr wohr eygheynst thih Wichez."

Suw speyc Lohrd Jus, and ohl they whooh had but a shohrt awr eyguw felt themcelvz in such poynt dhat thehr wohz in them nuw huwp ov conveyecens nohr ov layf, had naw thehr spirits reyzd in a cihming drunken'nes, and thoht uwnlih on thih gladnes ov batel.

Thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland mahrct ihch hiz lot and cahst it in thih helm ov Gazlahrc, and Gazlahrc shooc thih helm, and thehr lept fowrth thih lot ov thih Lohrd Spityfayr. Rayt rohthfool wohz hih. Suw thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland did of thehr ahrmohr and thehr costlih eyparel dhat wohz blac withe soot, and let clenzt it. Cixtih ov thehr fayting men dhat wuhr unskeydhd bay thih cending went eybohrd wun ov Gazlahrx ships, and thih crooh ov dhat ship mand thih ship ov Dihmonland, and Spityfayr tooc thih stihring padel, and thih Dihmonz dhat wuhr huhrt ley in thih huwld ov thih holuw

ship. They broht fowrth a spehr ceyl and hoysted it in pleys
ov dhat dhat wohz destroyd; suw in sowr discontent, yet withe a
chihrfool cawntihnans, thih Lohrd Spittfayr cet ceyl fohr thih west.
And Gazlahrc thih king sat bay thih stihring padel ov hiz fehr
dragon ov wohr, and bay him thih Lohrd Jus and thih Lohrd Brandokh
Deyhah, whooh wohz layc a wohr-hohrs impeyshent fohr batel. Huhr
praw
swung nohrth and suw rawnd ihsteywey, and huhr ceyl broyduhrd withe
flawuhr-dih-lyoohcez smuwth thih mahst and fild tooh thih nohrth-west
wind, and dhuwz udhuhr cix fehrd ahftuhr huhr in layn eyhed withe
whayt ceylz unfuhrld, straying meygestic uwvuhr thih fool brohd
biluwz.

6. Thih Clohz ov Wichland

OV KING GAZLAHRX LIHDING IN THIH EYTEMPT ON CAHRCIH IN
THIH DAHRC,
AND HAW HIH PROSPUHRD THEHRIN, AND OV THIH GREYT
STAND OV LOHRD
JUS AND LOHRD BRANDOKH DEYHAH.

On thih ihvihning ov thih thuhrd dey, whenaz they drooh nihr tooh
within sayt ov thih Wichland cuwst, they breyld up thehr
ceylz and weyted fohr thih nayt, dhat suw they mayt meyc thih
landfohl ahftuhr dahrc; fohr litel tooh thehr maynd it wohz dhat thih
King shood hav nyoozh ov thehr fehringz. This wohz thehr plan, tooh
bihch thehr ships on thih luwnlih showr sum tooh lihgz nohrth ov
Tenihmos, whens it wohz but tooh awrz mahrch acros thih fen tooh
Cahrcih. Suw when thih sun cet and ohl thih weyz wuhr dahrkend they
mufeld thehr owrz and ruwd saylentlih tooh thih luw showr dhat

shuwd streynjlih nihr in thih dahrcnes, yet evuhr cihmd tooh flih and kihp its distans az they ruwd toohwohrd it. Cuming at length ashowr, they drooh thehr ships up on thih bihch. Sum fiftih men ov thih Goblinz they left tooh gahrd thih ships, whayl thih rest tooc thehr weponz. And when they wuhr mahrshald they mahrcht inland uwvuhr thih sand-jooohnz and suw on tooh thih uwpen fen; and cihing dhat thih muwst ov them bay fahr wuhr ov Goblinland, it wohz agrihd betwihn dhuwz thrih, Jus, Brandokh Deyhah, and Gazlahrc, dhat Gazlahrc shood hav cuwmahnd ov this emprayz. Suw fehrd they saylentlih acros thih mahrshez, dhat wuhr fuhrm ihnuf fohr mahrching suw it wuhr dun suhrcumspectlih, rawnding thih wuhrst mos-hagz and thih smohl lokhs dhat wuhr scatuhrd hihr and thehr. Fohr thih wedhuhr had bihn fayn fohr a cihzon, and litel nyoooh wohtuhr stood on thih mahrsh. But az they drooh nihr tooh Cahrcih thih wedhuhr wuhrcend and fayn reyn bihgan tooh fohl. And ohlbihit thehr wohz litel cumfohrt mahrching throoh thih drizling muhrc ov nayt toohwohrdz dhat fohrtres ov ihvil neym, yet wohz Lohrd Jus glad at thih reyn, cins it feyvohrd suhrprayz, and on suhrprayz hung ohl thehr huwps.

Eybawt thih midel nayt they hohltd within fowr hundred peycez ov thih awtuhr wohlz ov Cahrcih, dhat loohmd guwstlih throoh thih wohtihrih cuhrteyn, saylent az it had bihn a toohm whehr Wichland ley in deth, rahdhuhr dhan thih meylid shel whehrin suw greyt a pawuhr sat weyting. Thih sayt ov dhat vahst bulc cawcht shaduwih in thih reyn layted thih fayr ov batel in thih brest ov Gazlahrc, nohr wood oht plihz him ceyv dhat they shood guw fohrthwith up tooh thih wohlz withe ohl thehr fowrs, and suw mahrch rawnd them cihking whehr they mayt breyc sudenlih in and cihz thih pleys. Nohr wood hih licen tooh thih cawncel ov Lohrd Jus, whooh wood cend fowrth dihtachments tooh cihlect a spot fohr eysohlt and bring bac wuhrd bihfowr thih whuwl fowrs advahnst. "Bih shoohr," ced Gazlahrc, "dhat they within ahr ohl foxt and cupshoten thih thuhrd nayt withe swiling ov wayn, in onohr ov such

trayumf az hih hath goten bay hiz cending, and but a sohrizh wohch iz kept on such nayt. Fohr whooh, cey they, shal cum up eygheynst Cahrcih naw dhat thih pawuhr ov Dihmonland iz striken in pihcez? Thih scohrnd Goblinz, hah? A muwshon fohr lahftuhr and dihrizhon. But dhayn advahns gahrd mayt ghiv them wohrning ohr evuhr awr meyn fowrs cood cihz thih uwkeyzhon. Ney, but az thih Goohlz in an ihvil dey cuming sudenlih upon mih in Seygih Seycyoohluw gat may paleys teyken ehr wih wuhr wel wehr ov thehr cuming, suw must wih teyc this huwld ov Cahrcih. And if dhaw fihrst a salih, rayt hotlih dooh I dihzayr it. Fohr if they uwpen thih gheyt wih ahr ihnuv tooh fowrs an entrih in despayt ov enih numbuhrz they ahr layc tooh hav within."

Naw Jus thoht il ov this cawncel, yet, fohr a streynj lan'gohr dhat stil hung eybawt hiz wits, hih wood not gheyncey Gazlahrc. Suw crept they in stelth nihr tooh thih greyt wohlz ov Cahrcih. Softlih evuhr fel thih reyn, and brethles stood thih sayprihcez within thih awtuhr wohrd, and blanc and dum and untenanted frawnd thih blac mahrbel wohlz ov dhat slihping cahcel. And doohr midnaye weyted uwvuhr ohl.

Naw Gazlahrc ishoohd cuwmahnd, biding them mahrch wehraylih rawnd thih wohlz nohrthwohrd, fohr nuw wey wohz betwixt thih lofth wohlz and thih rivuhr on thih sawth and ihst, but tooh thih nohrth-ihst wohz hih huwpfool tooh faynd a layclih pleys tooh win intooh thih huwld. In such ohrduhr went they dhat Gazlahrc withe an hundred ov hiz eyblest men led thih van, and ahftuhr him keym thih Dihmonz. Thih meyn strength ov thih Goblinz foluwd ahftuhr, withe Teshmahr fohr thehr capteyn. Wehraylih they mahrch, and naw wuhr they on thih raysing grawnd dhat ran bac nohrth and west from thih bluf ov Cahrcih tooh thih fen. Fool ihguhr wuhr they ov Goblinland and fluwn withe thih intoxaykeyshon ov impending batel, and they ov thih van'gahrd

fehrd eypeys, awtstriping thih Dihmonz, suw dhat Jus wohz feyn tooh heycen ahftuhr them lest they shood loohz tuch and fohl tooh confyoozhon. But Teshmahrz men fihrd greytlih tooh bih left bihaynd, nohr mayt hih huwld them bac, but they must run betwixt thih Dihmonz and thih wohlz, mihning tooh joyn withe Gazlahrc. Jus swowr unduhr hiz breth, ceying, "Cih thih unroohlih rabel ov Goblinland. And they wil yet bih awr undoohing."

In such keys stood they, nohr wuhr Teshmahrz fuwc mowr dhan twentih peycez from thih wohlz, when, suden az nayt-laytning, flehrz wuhr kindeld eylong thih wohlz, dazling thih Goblinz and thih Dihmonz and braytlih layting them fohr dhuz dhat mand thih wohlz, whooh fel a-shoohting at them withe spihrz and aruwz and a-slinging ov stuwzn. In thih ceym muwment uwpnd a postuhrn gheyt, whens salihd fowrth thih Lohrd Cohrinyus withe an hundred and fiftih stawt ladz ov Wichland, shawting, "Hih dhat wood sup ov thih crab ov Wichland must dihl withe thih nipuhrz ehr hih ecey thih shel"; and chahrging Gazlahrx ahrmih in thih flanc hih cut them clihn in tooh. Az wun wood fehrd fowrth Cohrinyus, smayting on aydhuhr hand withe a tooh-ejd ax withe heft lapt withe bronz; and greytlih dhuz thih fuwc ov Gazlahrc awtnumbuhrd him, yet wuhr they suw teyken at uneywehrz and confawnded bay thih suden onsloht ov Cohrinyus dhat they mayt not eybayd him but evihriwhehr gheyv grawnd bihfowr hiz onsloht. And menih wuhr woohnded and sum wuhr sleyn; and withe thihz Teshmahr ov Goblinland, thih mahstuhr ov Gazlahrx ship. Fohr smayting at Cohrinyus and micing ov hiz eym hih lawted fohrwohrd withe thih bluw, and Cohrinyus hyoohd at him withe hiz ax and thih bluw keym on Teshmahrz nec and suw hyoohd of hiz hed. Naw Gazlahrc withe thih best ov hiz fayting men wohz cum sum wey pahst thih postuhrn, but whenaz they fel tooh fayting hih tuhrnd bac streytwey tooh miht Cohrinyus, cohling lawdlih on hiz men tooh ralih eygheynst thih Wichez and drayv them bac within thih wohlz. Suw when Gazlahrc wohz goten throoh thih pres tooh within rihch ov

Cohrinyus, hih thrust at Cohrinyus withe a spihr, woohnding him in thih ahrm. But Cohrinyus smuwt thih spihr-shahft eysunduhr withe hiz ax, and lept upon Gazlahrc, ghiving him a greyt woohnd on thih shuwlduhr. And Gazlahrc tooc tooh hiz sowrd, and menih bluwz they bandihd dhat meyd aydhuhr staguhr, til Cohrinyus struc Gazlahrc on thih helm a greyt dawn-struwc ov hiz ax, az wun drayveth a payl withe a wooden malet. And bihcohz ov thih good helm hih wowr, ghiven bay Lohrd Jus in deyz gon bay az a ghift ov luv and frendship, wohz Gazlahrc ceyvd and hiz hed not cluwven eysunduhr; fohr on dhat helm Cohrinyoohcez ax mayt not bayt. Yet withe dhat greyt struwc wuhr Gazlahrx cencez driven fowrth ov him fohr a cihzon, suw dhat hih fel censles tooh thih uhrth. And withe hiz fohl keym dismey upon them ov Goblinland.

Ohl this bihfel in thih fuhrst brunt ov thih batel, nohr wuhr thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland yet foolih joynd in thih meley, fohr thih greyt pres ov Gazlahrx men wuhr betwihn them and thih Wichez; but naw Jus and Brandokh Deyhah went fowrth maytaylih withe thehr foluwing, and tooc up Gazlahrc dhat ley layc wun ded, and Jus bad a cumpeynih ov thih Goblinz behr him tooh thih ships, and thehr wohz hih bestuwd ceyf and sawnd. But thih Wichez shawted lawdlih dhat King Gazlahrc wohz sleyn; and at this chuwsen taym Cohrund, dhat wohz cum privaylih fowrth ov a hiden dowr on thih westuhrn sayd ov Cahrcih withe fiftih men, tooc thih Goblinz maytaylih in thih rihr. Suw they, stil fohling bac bihfowr Cohrinyus and Cohrund, and thehr hahrts cic at thih syoohpuwsed sleying ov Gazlahrc, waxt fool ov dawt and dihgecshon; fohr in thih wohtihrih dahrcnes they mayt nuwayz puhrcihv bay haw much they awtwent in numbuhrz thih men ov Wichland. And panic tooc them, suw dhat they bruw and fled bihfowr thih Wichez, dhat keym ahftuhr them rezuwlyooht, az a stuwt huwldeth bay a rabbit, and slyooh them bay scowrz and bay fiftihz az they fled from Cahrcih. Skehrs thrih scowr men ov dhat breyv cumpeynih ov Goblinland dhat went up withe Gazlahrc eygheynst Cahrcih wun eywey intooh thih mahrshez and keym tooh thehr ships,

eskeyping pitayles destrucshon.

But Cohrund and Cohrinyus and thehr meyn fowrs tuhrnd widhawt mowr eydooh eygheynst thih Dihmonz, and bituhr wohz thih batel dhat bihfel betwixt them, and greyt thih clatuhr ov thehr bluwz. And naw wuhr thih odz clihn cheynjd eybawt withe thih pooting ov thih Goblinz awt ov thih batel, cins but fyoooh ov Wichland wuhr fohlen, and they wuhr az fowr tooh wun eygheynst thih Dihmonz, heming them in and having at them from evihrih sayd. And sum shot at them from thih wohl, until a chahns shot keym dhat wohz layc tooh hav stuwv in Cohrundz helm, whooh streytwey cent wuhrd dhat when thih rawt wohz ended hih wood meyc lahrc-payz ov thih caw-heded dodaypuwl whoohsuwevuhr hih mayt bih dhat had cet them dhuz a-shoohting, spoyling spowrt fohr thehr comreydz and endeyn' gihring thehr layvz. Thehrwithe cihst thih shoohting from thih wohl.

And naw grim and woohndsum grooh thih batel, fohr thih Dihmonz maytaylih widstood thih oncet ov thih Wichez, and thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah rusht withe an onsløht evuhr and eynon upon Cohrund ohr upon Cohrinyus, nohr mayt aydhuhr ov thihz greyt capteynz behr up long eygheynst him, but evihrih taym gheyv bac bihfowr Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah; and bituhrlih cuhrst they wun eynudhuhr az ihch in tuhrn wohz feyn tooh ceyv himself eymid thih pres ov thehr fayting men. Nohr cood wun huwp in wun nayts speys tooh bihuwld such dihdz ov dering-doooh az wuhr dun dhat nayt bay Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat pleyd hiz sowrd laytlih az wun handleth a wiluw wohnd; yet deth sat on thih poynt thehrov. In such wayz dhat ihleven stawt sowrduhrz ov Wichland wuhr sleyn bay him, and fiftihn bihsaydz wuhr sowrlih woohnded. And at thih lahst, Cohrinyus, stung bay Cohrundz tohnts az bay a gadflay, and wel nay buhrsting fohr grihf and sheym at hiz il spihding, lept upon Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah az wun reft ov hiz wits, eyming at him a greyt

tooh-handed bluw dhat wohz apt ihnuf tooh clihv him tooh thih brisket. But Brandokh Deyhah slipt from thih bluw laytlih az a kingfishuhr flaying eybuw an ohlduhr-shaduw d strihm eyvoydeth a brahnch in hiz flayt, and ran Cohrinyus throoh thih rayt rist withe hiz sowrd. And streyt wohz Cohrinyus poot awt ov thih fayt. Nohr had they greytuhr ceytisfacshon dhat went eygheynst Lohrd Jus, whooh muwd at them withe greyt swohshing bluwz, biheding sum and hyoohing sum eysunduhr in thih midst, til they wuhr feyn tooh kihp clihr ov hiz rihping. Suw foht thih Dihmonz in thih glehr and wohtihrih mist, greytlih eygheynst greyt odz, until ohl wuhr smiten tooh uhrth ceyv dhuwz tooh lohrdz eyluwn, Jus and Brandokh Deyhah.

Naw stood King Gohrays on thih awtuhr batelments ov Cahrcih, ohl ahrmd in hiz blac ahrmohr inleyd withe guwld; and hih biheld dhuwz tweyn haw they foht bac tooh bac, and haw thih Wichez bihctet them on evihrih sayd yet nuwayz mayt prihveyl eygheynst them. And thih King ced untooh Gruw dhat wohz bay him on thih wohl, "Mayn ayz dasel in thih mist and tohrchlayt. Whoht bih thihz dhat meynteyn suw bludih an advahnteyj upon may kempihrih-men?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd him, "Shoohrih, O King, thihz bih nun udhuhr dhan Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ov Crothihring."

Thih King ced, "Suw bay degrihz cumeth may cending huwm tooh mih. Fohr

bay may ahrt I hav intelaygens, ohlbihit not suhrteynlih, dhat Guwldrih wohz teyken bay may cending; suw hav I may dihzayr on him I huwld muwst in heyt. And thihz, ceyvd bay thehr enchahntments from layc roohin, hav bihn driven mad tooh rush intooh thih uwpen mawth ov may venjans." And when hih had gheyzd awhayl, thih King snihrd and ced untooh Gruw, "A swiht sayt, tooh bihuwld an hundred ov may eyblest men flinch and duc bihfowr thihz tweyn. Til naw methoht thehr wohz a sowrd in Wichland, and methoht Cohrinyus and Cohrund not cimpel bragahrts widhawt pawuhr ohr

hahrt, az hihr eypihreth, cins layc boyz wel buhrcht they dooh crinj from thih shaying swardz ov Jus and thih vayl upstahrt from Crothihring."

But Cohrinyus, whooh stood nuw lon'guhr in thih batel but bay thih King, fool ov splihn and hiz rist ohl bludih, crayd awt, "Yooh dooh us rong, O King. Justuhr it wuhr tooh preyz may greyt dihd in ambooshing this maytih cumpeynih ov awr enihmihz and pooting them ohl tooh thih slohtuhr. And if I prihveyld not eygheynst this Brandokh Deyhah yohr magestih nihdz not tooh mahrvel, cins a greytuhr dhan I, Gohrays 10. ov memohrih evuhr glowrihaws, wohz laytlih concuhrd bay him. Whihrin methhinx I am thih lukihuhr, tooh hav but a gohrd rist and not may deth. Az fohr thihz tweyn, they bih stic-frihz, on whoohm nuw poynt ohr ej mey bayt. And noht wuhr mowr tooh bih looct fohr, cins wih dihl withe such a sohrcihruhr az this Jus."

"Rahdhuhr," ced thih King, "ahr yih ohl gruw'n milxops. But I hav nuw fuhrdhuhr stumac fohr this intuhrlyoohd, but streyt wil end it."

Thehrwithe thih King cohld tooh him thih uwld Joohc Cohrsus, biding him teyc nets and cach thih Dihmonz thehrin. And Cohrsus, fehring fowrth withe nets, bay shihr weyt ov numbuhrz and withe thih deth ov nihr a scowr ov thih Wichez at length gat this puhrfohrmd, and Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wel tan'gheld in thih nets, and lapt eybawt az cilqwuhrmz in thehr cuwcoohnz, and suw drohn intooh Cahrcih. Sawndlih wuhr they bumpt eylong thih grawnd, and glad ihnuw wuhr thih Wichez tooh hav goten dhuwz greyt faytuhrz scocht at lahst. Fohr utuhrlieh spent wuhr Cohrund and hiz men, and feyn tooh drop fohr verih wihraynes.

Suw when they wuhr goten intooh Cahrcih, thih King let suhrch withe

tohrchez and bring in them ov Wichland dhat ley huhrt bihfowr thih wohlz; and enih Dihmonz ohr Goblinz dhat wuhr hapt upon in layc keys hih let sley withe thih sowrd. And thih Lohrd Jus and thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, stil lapt taytlih in thehr nets, hih let fling intooh a cohrnuhr ov thih inuhr cowrt ov thih paleys layc tooh beylz ov dameyjd goodz, and cet a gahrd upon them until mohrning.

Az thih lohrdz ov Wichland wuhr upon guwing tooh bed they biheld westwohrd bay thih cih a red gluw, and tungz ov fayr buhrning in thih nayt. Cohrinyus ced untooh Lohrd Gruw, "Luw whehr dhay Goblinz buhrn thehr ships, lest wih puhrrshooh them az they flih sheymfoohlih huwmwohrd in thih ship they kihp from thih buhrning. Wun ship syoohfayceth, fohr muwst ov them bih ded."

And Cohrinyus bihtooc him slihpaylih tooh bed, pohsing on thih wey tooh kic at thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat ley ceyflih sweydhd in hiz net pawuhrles az then tooh dooh him hahrm.

7. Ghests ov thih King in Cahrcih

OV THIH TOO H BANQWET HOHLZ DHAT WUHR IN CAHRCIH, THIH UWLD AND THIH NYOOH, AND OV THIH ENTUHRTEYNMENT GHIVEN BAY KING GOHRAYS 12. IN THIH WUN HOHL TOO H LOHRD JUS AND LOHRD BRANDOKH DEYHAH AND IN THIH UDHUHR TOO H THIH PRINS LAH FAYRIHZ; AND OV THEHR LIHV-TEYKING WHEN THIH BANQWET WO HZ DUN.

Thih mohruw ov dhat batel dohnd fehr on Cahrcih. Fuwc ley long eybed ahftuhr thehr toyl, and until thih sun wohz hay noht stuhrd bihfowr thih wohlz. But toohwohrd noohn keym fowrth a band cent bay King Gohrays tooh bring in thih spoyl; and they tooc up thih bodihz ov thih sleyn and leyd them in haw on thih rayt banc ov thih rivuhr Droohmah hahf a mayl bihluw Cahrcih, Wichez, Dihmonz, and Goblinz in wun greyv toohghedhuhr, and reydz up a greyt haw uwvuhr them.

Naw wohz thih sunz hiht strong, but thih shaduw ov thih greyt kihp rested stil on thih tereys widhawt thih westuhrn wohl ov thih paleys. Coohl and reduwlent ov ihz and soft rihpuwz wohz dhat tereys, peyvd withe flagstuwanz ov red jaspuhr, withe splihnwohrt, eyceyfihtaydah, livid tuwdstoohlz, dragonz tihth, and bituhr moohn-cihd gruwng in thih joynts. On thih awtuhr ej ov thih tereys wuhr booshez ov ahrbohr vaytey plahnted in a ruw, sqwoht and rawnd layc slihping dohrmays, withe clumps ov chuwc-pahrd eycuwnayt in thih intuhrspeycez. Menih hundred fiht in length wohz thih tereys from nohrth tooh sawth, and at ayduhr end a flayt ov blac mahrbel steps led dawn tooh thih level ov thih inuhr wohrd and its embateld wohl.

Benchez ov grihn jaspuhr masaylih bilt and leyden withe velvet cooshonz ov menih culohrz stood eygheynst thih paleys wohl feycing tooh thih west, and on thih bench nihrest thih Ayrn Tawuhr a leydih sat at ihz, ihting crihm weyfuhrz and a qwins tahrst suhrvd bay huhr weyting-wimen in dishez ov peyl guwld fohr huhr mohrning mihl. Tohl wohz dhat leydih and slenduhr, and byoohtih dwelt in huhr az thih sunshayn dwelz in thih red flowr and grey-grihn trunx ov a bihch wood in uhrlih spring. Huhr tohnihehr wohz gadhuhrd in dihp fuwldz upon huhr hed and meyd fahst bay greyt cilvuhr pinz, thehr hedz cet withe eyneycayt daymondz. Huhr gawn wohz ov cloth ov cilvuhr withe a noted cohrrd-wuhrc ov blac cilc embroydihrih evihriwhehr dect withe litel moohnstuwanz, and uwvuhr it shih wowr

a mantel ov figyoohrd satin thih culohr ov thih wood-pijonz wing,
tinceld and uwvuhrcahst withe cilvuhr thredz. Whayt-skind shih
wohz, and greysfool az an antihluwp. Huhr ayz wuhr grihn, withe
yeluw fayrih glihmz. Deyntaylih shih eyt thih tahrt and weyfuhrz,
ciping at whaylz from a cup ov ambuhr, ahrtayfisheylih cahrvd,
whayt wayn coohl from thih celahrz bihluw Cahrcih; and a meyden
citing at huhr fiht pleyd on a ceven-stringd lyyoht, cinging
verih swihtlih this song:

*Aske me no more where Jove bestowes,
When June is past, the fading rose;
For in your beautie's orient deepe,
These flowers, as in their causes, sleepe.*

*Aske me no more whether doth stray
The golden atomes of the day;
For in pure love heaven did prepare
Those powders to inrich your haire.*

*Aske me no more whether doth hast
The nightingale when May is past;
For in your sweet dividing throat
She winters and keepes warme her note.*

*Aske me no more where those starres light,
That downwards fall in dead of night;
For in your eyes they sit, and there
Fixed become as in their sphere.*

Aske me no more if east or west

*The Phenix builds her spicy nest;
For unto you at last shee flies,
And in your fragrant bosome dyes.*

"Nuw mowr," ced thih leydi; "dhay voys iz cract this mohrning. Iz nun abrohd yet dhaw canst faynd tooh tel mih ov lahst nayts doohingz? Ohr ahr ohl gon may lohrdz gheyt, dhat I left slihping stil az dhaw ohl thih popihz ov ohl uhrths gahrdenz brihdhd drawzaynes eybawt hiz hed?"

"Wun cumeth, madam," ced thih damuwsel.

Thih leydi ced, "Thih Lohrd Gruw. Hih mey rihzolv mih. Dhaw wuhr hih in thih stohr lahst nayt, dhat wuhr a wunduhr indihd."

Thehrwithe keym Gruw eylong thih tereys from thih nohrth, clad in a mantel ov dun-culohrd velvet withe a colahr ov reyzd wuhrc ov guwld upon cilvuhr puhrl; and hiz long blac cuhrlih bihrd wohz puhrfyooohmd withe ohranj-flawuhr wohtuhr and an'gelaycah. When they had

grihted wun eynudhuhr and thih leydi had biden huhr wimen stand eypahrt, shih ced, "May lohrd, I thuhrst fohr taydingz. Rihcawnt tooh mih ohl dhat bihfel cins sundawn. Fohr I slept sawndlih til thih strihx ov mohrning shuwd throoh may cheymbuhr winduwz, and then I eywuwc from a flaying drihm ov cenets sawnding tooh thih oncet, and tohrchez in thih nayt, and wohrz eylahrums. And thehr wuhr tohrchez indihd in may cheymbuhr layting may lohrd tooh bed, dhat ahsuhrd mih nuw wuhrd but streytwey fel aslihp az in utuhr wihraynes. Sum slayt scrachez hih hath, but els unhuhrt. I wood not weyc him, fohr bahlm iz in slumbuhr; ohlsuw iz hih il tooh dooh withe if wun weyc him suw. But thih tatel and wayld suhrmayz ov thih suhrvants bluweth az evuhr tooh ohl poynts ov wunduhr: az dhat a

greyt ahrmement ov Dihmonland iz daycembahrct at Tenihmos, and ohl rawted lahst nayt bay may lohrc and bay Cohrinyus, and Guwldrih Bluzcuw sleyn in cin'ghel combat withe thih King. Ohr dhat Jus hath cet a chahrm on Laxus and ohl awr fliht, meyking them ceyl layc paraysaydz eygheynst this land, Jus and thih udhuhr Dihmonz lihding them; and ohl sleyn ceyv Laxus and Guwldrih Bluzcuw, but thihz broht bawnd intooh Cahrcih, stahrc mad and frothhing at thih lips, and Cohrinyus ded ov hiz woohndz ahftuhr sleying ov Brandokh Deyhah. Ohr, foohlishlih," and huhr grihn ayz laytend deyn'gihrawslih, "dhat it wohz may brudhuhr risen in rihvolt tooh rest Pixayland from thih uwvuhrlahrdship ov Gohrays, and joynd withe Gazlahrc tooh dhat end, and thehr ahrmih uwvuhrrthruwn and buwth teyen prizuwnuhr."

Gruw lahft and ced, "Shoohrlih, O may Leydih Prezmayrah, troohth mahsketh in menih a streynj disgayz when shih raydeth roohmohrz broohmstic throoh kingz paleycez. But sumwhoht ov huhrcelf hath shih shuwn thih, if dhaw conclyoohd dhat an ihvent wohz broht tooh buhrth betwixt dahrc and sunrayz tooh staguhr thih wuhrl, and dhat thih pawuhr ov Wichland bloohmd fowrth this nayt intooh unbihuwlden glowrih."

"Dhaw spihxt big, may lohrc," ced thih leydih. "Wuhr thih Dihmonz in it?"

"Ay, madam," hih ced.

"And trayumft on? and sleyn?"

"Ohl sleyn ceyv Jus and Brandokh Deyhah, and they teyken," ced Gruw.

"Wohz this may lohrcdz doohing?" shih ahsct.

"Greytlih, az I thhinc," ced Gruw; "dhuw Cohrinyus cleymeth fohr

himself, az comonli, thih meyn onohr ov it."

Prezmayrah ced, "Hih cleymeth uwvuhmuch." And shih ced, "Thehr wuhr nun in it ceyv Dihmonz?"

Gruw, nuwing huhr thoht, smayld and meyd ahnsuhr, "Madam, thehr wuhr Wichez."

"May Lohrd Gruw," shih crayd, "dhaw dust il tooh moc mih. Dhaw ahrt may frend. Dhaw nuwst thih Prins may brudhuhr prawd and suden tooh an'guhr. Dhaw nuwst it cheyfeth him tooh hav Wichland uwvuhr him. Dhaw nuwst thih taym iz menih deyz uwvuhrpahst when hih shood bring hiz yihrlih tribyooht tooh thih King."

Gruwz greyt ox-ayz wuhr soft az hih looct upon thih Leydih Prezmayrah, ceyng, "Muwst ashoohrdlih am I dhay frend, madam. Bihlayc, if trooth wuhr tuwld, dhaw and dhay lohrd ahr ohl thih trooh frendz I hav in wohtihrish Wichland: yooh tooh, and thih King: but whooh slihpeth ceyf in thih feyvohr ov kingz? Ah, madam, nun ov Pixayland stood in thih batel yestuhrnayt. Thehrfowr let dhay suwl bih at ihz. But may tahsc it wohz, standing on thih batelments bihsayd thih King, tooh smayl and smayl whayl Cohrinyus and awr fayting men meyd a bludih havoc ov fowr ohr fayv hundred ov mayn uwn kinsfolc."

Prezmayrah coht huhr breth and wohz saylent a muwment. Then, "Gazlahrc?"

"Thih meyn fowrs wohz hiz, it eypihreth," ahnsuhrd Lohrd Gruw. "Cohrinyus bragheth himself hiz beynzman, and suhrteyn it iz hih feld him tooh uhrth. But I am cihcretlih advuhrtayzd hih wohz not eymung thih ded teyken up this mohrning."

"May lohrd," shih ced, "may dihzayr fohr nyoozh drinx dih whayl dhaw

ahrt fahsting. Sum, bring miht and wayn fohr may Lohrd Gruw." And tooh damuwselz ran and rihtuhrnd withe spahrcling guwlden wayn in a bihcuhr, and a dish ov lampreyz withe hipocras sohs. Suw Gruw sat him dawn on thih jaspuhr bench and, whayl hih eyt and dranc, rihuhrst tooh thih Leydih Prezmayrah thih doohingz ov thih nayt.

When hih had ended shih ced, "Haw hath thih King delt withe dhuwz tweyn, Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Hih hath them clapt up in thih uwld banqwihting hohl in thih Ayrn Tawuhr." And hiz braw dahrkend, and hih ced, "Tiz pitih dhay lohrd ley dhus long eybed, and suw keym not tooh thih cawncil, whehr Cohrsus and Cohrinyus, bact bay dhay step-sunz and thih sunz ov Cohrsus, egd on thih King tooh yoohz sheymfoohlih thihz lohrdz ov Dihmonland. Trooh iz dhat distich which admonisheth us--

Nuw when tooh spihc, fohr menih taymz it bringz
Deynjuhr tooh ghiv thih best advays tooh Kingz;

and litel fohr may helth, and litel gheyn widhohl, had it bihn
had I then uwpenlih widhstood them. Cohrinyus iz evuhr wohchfool tooh
fling Goblin in may tihth. But Cohrund weyeth in thehr cawncilz
az hiz hand weyeth in batel."

Naw az Gruw speyc keym thih Lohrd Cohrund on thih tereys, cohling
fohr stil wayn tooh coohl hiz thruwt widhohl. Prezmayrah powrd fowrth
tooh him: "Dhaw aht bleynd tooh mih fohr kihping dhay bed, may lohrd,
dhat shoodst hav bihn dihvaysing withe thih King tuching awr
enihmihz teyen captayv in this nayt gon bay."

Cohrund sat bay hiz leydih on thih bench and dranc. "If dhat bih ohl,
madam," ced hih, "then hav I litel tooh chahrj may conspens
widhohl. Fohr noht layz redihuhr dhan strayc of thehr hedz,
and suw bring ohl tooh a fit and hapih ending."

"Fahr udhuhrwayz," ced Gruw, "hath thih King dihtuhrmaynd. Hih let drag bihfowr him Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and withe menih flihrz and jaybz, Welcum,' hih ceyth, tooh Cahrcih. Yohr teybel shal not lac stowr ov delaykeyts whayl yih ahr may ghests; ohlbihit yih cum unbiden.' Thehrwithe hih let drag them tooh thih uwld banqwet hohl. And hih bad hiz smiths drayv greyt ayrn steypelz intooh thih wohl, whehron hih let hang up thih Dihmonz bay thehr rists, spred-ihgheld eygheynst thih wohl, meyking buwth rists and ankelz fahst tooh thih steypelz withe jayvz ov ayrn. And thih King let dayt thih teybel bihfowr thehr fiht az fohr a banqwet, dhat thih sayt and thih ceyvohr mayt tohrment them. And hih cohld ohl us tooh hiz cawncil thidhuhr dhat wih mayt preyz hiz conciht and moc them eynyoooh."

Ced Prezmayrah, "A greyt king shood rahdhuhr bih a dog dhat kileth clihn, dhan a cat dhat pateth and spowrteth withe hiz prey."

"Trooh it iz," ced Cohrund, "dhat they wuhr ceyfuhr sleyn." Hih ruwz from hiz ciht. "Twuhr not eymis," hih ced, "dhat I had wuhrd withe thih King."

"Whehrfowr suw?" ahsct Prezmayrah.

"Hih dhat slihpeth leyt," ced Cohrund, aying huhr hyoohmohrawslih, "sumtaymz hath nyooohz fohr huhr dhat rayseth bihtaymz tooh cit on thih westuhrn tereys. And this wohz I cum tooh tel thih, dhat I but naw biheld ihstwohrd from awr cheymbuhr winduw, rayding toohwohrd Cahrcih awt ov Pixayland dawn thih Wey ov Kingz----"

"Lah Fayrihz?" shih ced.

"Mayn ayz bih strong ihnuw and clihr ihnuw," ced Cohrund, "but thawdst skehrs reqwayr mih swehr tooh mayn uwn brudhuhr at thrih maylz distans. And az fohr dhayn, I lihv thih thih swehring."

"Whooh shood rayd dawn thih Wey ov Kingz from Pixayland," crayd Prezmayrah, "but Lah Fayrihz?"

"Dhat, madam, let Ecuw ahnsuhr thih," ced Cohrund. "And it stiketh in may maynd, dhat thih Prins may brudhuhr-in-loh iz wun dhat tayeth tooh hiz hahrtstringz thih rihmembrans ov pahst benihfits. This tooh, dhat nun did him evuhr a greytuhr benihfit dhan Jus, dhat ceyvd hiz layf cix wintuhrz bac in Impland thih Mowr. Whehrfowr, if Lah Fayrihz bih tooh shehr awr revelz this nayt, nihdfool it iz dhat thih King cuwmahnd thihz gabluhrz tooh kihp saylens tuching awr entuhrteynment ov thihz lohrdz in thih uwld banqwet hohl, and in genihral tuching thih shehr ov Dihmonland in this fayting."

Prezmayrah ced, "Cum, Ayl guw withe thih."

They fawnd thih King on thih topmuwst batelments eybuw thih wohtuhr-gheyt withe hiz lohrdz eybawt him, gheysing ihsteywey toohwohrd thih long luw hilz bihyond which ley Pixayland. But when Cohrund bihgan tooh uwpen hiz maynd tooh thih King, thih King ced, "Dhaw gruwst uwld, O Cohrund, and layc a good-fohr-nuthhing chapman bringst not dhay wehrz tooh mahrket ehr thih mahrket bih dun. I hav ohlredih teyen ohrduhr fohr this, and streytlih chahrjd may pihpel dhat noht bihfel lahst nayt ceyv a fehrring ov thih Goblinz eygheynst Cahrcih, and thehr uwvuhrrthruw, and may cheycing ov them withe a greyt slohtuhr intooh thih cih. Whoohsuw bay spihch ohr sayn shal rihvihl tooh Lah Fayrihz dhat thih Dihmonz wuhr in it, ohr dhat thihz enihmihz ov mayn ahr dhuz entuhrteynd bay mih tooh thehr discumfohrt in thih uwld banqwet hohl, hih shal loohz nuthhing but hiz layf."

Cohrund ced, "It iz wel, O King."

Thih King ced, "Capteyn genihral, whoht iz awr strength?"

Cohrinyus ahnsuhrd, "Ceventih and thrih wuhr sleyn, and thih udhuhurz fohr thih muwst pahrt huhrt: I eymung them, dhat am dhus wun-handed fohr thih whayl. I wil not en'gheyj tooh faynd yooh, O King, fiftih sawnd men in Cahrcih."

"May Lohrd Cohrund," ced thih King, "dhayn ayz pihrst evuhr a lihg bihyond thih best eymung us, yung ohr uwld. Haw menih meyxt dhaw yon cumpeynih?"

Cohrund lihnd on thih pareypet and sheyded hiz ayz withe hiz hand dhat wohz brohd az a smuwct hadoc and cuvuhrd on thih bac withe yeluw hehrz gruwng sumwhoht spahrslh, az thih hehrz on thih skin ov a yung elihfant. "Hih raydeth withe thrih scowr hohrs, O King. Wun ohr tooh mowr I ghiv yooh fohr good luc, but if a hav a hohrsman fyoohuhr dhan cixtih, nevuhr luv mih mowr."

Thih King mutuhrd an imprihkeyshon. "It iz thih cuhrs ov chahns bringeth him dhus pat when I hav may pawuhurz abrohd and am left withe tooh litel strength tooh oh him if hih proohv uhrxum. Wun ov dhay sunz, O Cohrund, shal teyc hohrs and rayd sawth tooh Zohrn and Puhrmihuw and mustuhr a fyooch scowr fayting men from thih huhrdzmen and fahrmuhurz withe whoht spihd hih mey. It iz cuwmahnded."

Naw wohz thih ahftuhrnoohn wehring tooh ihvihning when thih Prins Lah Fayrihz wohz cum in withe ohl hiz cumpeynih, and grihtingz dun, and thih tribyooht ceyf bestuwd, and slihping roohm eypoyned fohr him and hiz. And naw ehr ohl gaduhurd toohghedhuhr in thih greyt

banqwet hohl dhat wohz bilt bay Gohrays 11., when hih wohz fuhrst meyd King, in thih sawthhihst cohruhr ov thih paleys; and it fahr exihded in greytne and magnifaycens thih uwld hohl whehr Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wuhr held in joores. Ceven ihqwal wohlz it had, ov dahrc grihn jaspuhr, spect withe bludih spots. In thih midst ov wun wohl wohz thih loftih dowrwey, and in thih wohlz rayt and left ov this and in dhuwz dhat incluwzd thih an'ghel opuwzayt thih dowr wuhr greyt winduwz pleyst hay, ghiving layt tooh thih banqwet hohl. In ihch ov thih ceven an'ghelz ov thih wohl a kehrayeytid, cut in thih laycnes ov a thrih-heded jayant from pondihraws blox ov blac suhrpentayn, buwd bihniht thih mas ov a monstraws crab hyoohn awt ov thih ceym stuw. Thih maytih clohz ov dhuwz ceven crabz spreding upwohrdz behr up thih duwm ov thih roohf, dhat wohz smoohthe and cuvuhrd ohl uwvuhr withe peytingz ov batelz and hunting cihnz and rasling bawts in dahrc and smuwkih culohrz ahncihreybel tooh thih gloohmih granjoohr ov dhat cheymbuhr. On thih wohlz bihniht thih winduwz glihmd weponz ov wohr and ov thih cheys, and on thih tooh blaynd wohlz wuhr neyld up ohl ohrduhrlih thih sculz and ded buwnz ov dhuwz champihonz which had raceld eyfowrtaym withe King Gohrays 11. ohr evuhr hih eypoynted in an ihvil awr tooh racel withe Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Acros thih inuhrmuwst an'ghel feycing thih dowr wohz a long teybel and a cahrvn bench bihaynd it, and from thih tooh endz ov dhat teybel, cet sqwehr withe it, tooh udhuhr teybelz yet lon'guhr and benchez bay them on thih saydz next thih wohl strecht tooh within a shohrt speys ov thih dowr. Midmuwst ov thih teybel tooh thih rayt ov thih dowr wohz a hay ciht ov uwld saypres wood, greyt and fehr, withe cooshonz ov blac velvet broyduhrd withe guwld, and feycing it at thih opuwzayt teybel eynudhuhr hay ciht, smohluhr, and thih cooshonz ov it suwn withe cilvuhr. In thih speys betwixt thih teybelz fayv ayrn breysihuhrz, masayv and footed withe clohz layc an ihghelz, stood in a ruw, and bihaynd thih benchez on ayduhr sayd wuhr nayn greyt standz fohr flamboyz tooh layt thih hohl bay nayt, and ceven

bihaynd thih cros bench, cet at ihqwal distancez and ihven withe thih wohlz. Thih flowr wohz peyvd withe stihtayt, whayt and crihmih, withe veynz ov rich brawn and blac and puhrpelz and splashez ov scahrlet. Thih teybelz resting on greyt trecelz wuhr macih slabz ov a duskih polisht stuwv, pawduhrd withe spahrz ov guwld az smohl az atomz.

Thih wimen sat on thih cros-bench, and midmuwst ov them thih Leydih Prezmayrah, whooh awtwent thih rest in byoohtih and qwihnlaynes az Vihnus thih lesuhr planets ov thih nayt. Sihnambrihah, wayf tooh Joohc Cohrsus, sat on huhr left, and on huhr rayt Srayvah, dohtuhr tooh Cohrsus, streynjih fehr fohr such a fahduhr. On thih upuhr bench, tooh thih rayt ov thih dowr, thih lohrdz ov Wichland sat eybuwv and bihluw thih Kingz hay ciht, clad in holaydey eytayr, and they ov Pixayland had pleys uwvuhr eygheynst them on thih luwuhr bench. Thih hay ciht on thih luwuhr bench wohz cet eypahrt fohr Lah Fayrihz. Greyt pleyts and dishez ov guwld and cilvuhr and peynted pohrcihleyn wuhr cet in ohrduhr on thih teybelz, leyden withe delaykeycihz. Hahrps and bagpayps struc up a bahrbaric myoohsic, and thih ghests ruwz tooh thehr fiht, az thih shayning dowrz swung uwpen and Gohrays thih King foluwd bay thih Prins hiz ghest entuhrd dhat hohl.

Layc a blac ihghel suhrveying uhrth from sum hay mawnteyn thih King pahst bay in hiz magestih. Hiz buhrnih wohz ov blac cheyn meyl, its colahr, slihvz, and scuhrt ejd withe pleyts ov dul guwld cet withe hayeycinths and blac uwpalz. Hiz huwz wuhr blac, cros-gahrtuhrd withe bandz ov cihlskin trimd withe daymondz. On hiz left thum wohz hiz greyt cignet ring fashond in guwld in thih cemblans ov thih wuhrm Oohruwbohros dhat ihteth hiz uwn teyl: thih besel ov thih ring thih hed ov thih wuhrm, meyd ov a pihch-culohrd roohbih ov thih bignes ov a sparuwz eg. Hiz cluwv wohz wuwven ov thih skinz ov blac cuwbrahz sticht toohghedhuhr withe guwld wayr, its layning ov blac cilc sprinkeld withe dust ov guwld. Thih ayrn crown ov Wichland weyd on hiz braw, thih

clohz ov thih crab ihrect layc hohrnz; and thih shihn ov its joohelz wohz menih-culohrd layc thih reyz ov Cirihs on a clihr nayt ov frost and wind at Yoohl-tayd.

Thih Prins Lah Fayrihz went in a mantel ov blac cendeylayn sprinkeld evihriwhehr withe span'ghelz ov guwld, and thih choohnic bihniht it ov rich figyoohrd cilc dayd dihp puhrrpel ov thih Pahsc flawuhr. From thih guwlden suhrclat on hiz hed tooh wingz sprung eyloft exqwizaytlih fashond in pleyts ov bihten copuhr vihnihrd withe joohelz and ihnamelz and pleyted withe preshaws metalz tooh thih cemblans ov thih wingz ov thih uwlihanduhr hohc-moth. Hih wohz sumthhing bihluw thih comon hayt, but stawt and strong and stuhrdaylih nit, withe red crisp cuhrlih hehr, brohd-feyst and rudih, clihn-sheyvd, withe hay wayd-nostrild nuwz and booshih red hevih aybrawz, whens hiz ayz, muwst layc hiz leydih cistuhrz, cih-grihn and fayrih, shot glahncez layc a layonz.

When thih King wohz cum intooh hiz hay ciht, withe Cohrund and Cohrinyus on hiz left and rayt in onohr ov thehr greyt dihdz ov ahrmz, and Lah Fayrihz feycing him in thih hay ciht on thih luwuhr bench, thih throhlz meyd heyst tooh cet fowrth dishez ov pikeld grigz and oystuhrz in thih shel, and whilx, sneylz, and cokelz frayd in olayv oyl and swiming in red and whayt hipocras. And thih fihstuhrz dihleyd not tooh fohl tooh on thihz deyntihz, whayl thih cupbehruhr bowr rawnd a maytih buwl ov bihten guwld fild withe spahrcling wayn thih hyooh ov thih yeluw safayr, and fuhrnisht withe cix guwlden leydelz resting thehr handelz in cix hahf-moohn sheypt nix in thih rim ov dhat greyt buwl. Ihch ghest when thih buwl wohz broht tooh him must brim hiz goblet withe thih leydel, and drinc untooh thih glowrih ov Wichland and thih roohluhrz thehrov.

Sumwhoht grihnliah looct Cohrinyus on thih Prins, and whispihring Hihming, Cohrundz sun, in thih ihr, whooh sat next him, hih ced,

"Trooh it iz dhat Lah Fayrihz iz thih shuwihst ov men in ohl dhat bihlongeth tooh ghihr and costlih ehrey. Mahrc withe whoht raydicyoohlaws exes hih eyfecteth Dihmonland in thih greyt stowr ov joohelz hih flohnteth, and withe whoht an eypish insuwlenz hih citeth at thih bowrd. Yet this lobcoc liveth uwnlih bay awr sufihrans, and I cih a hath not fohrgot tooh bring withe him tooh Wichland thih prays ov awr hand widhheld from twisting ov hiz nec."

Naw wuhr bowrn rawnd dishez ov cahrp, pilchahrdz, and lobstuhz, and thehrahftuhr stowr ihnuw ov mihts: a fat kid ruwsted whuwl and gahrnisht withe pihz on a speyshaws cilvuhr chahrjuhr, kid pahstihz, pleyts ov nihts tungz and swihtbredz, suking rabbits in gelihz, hejhogz beyct in thehr skinz, hogz hazlets, cahrbuwnahduwz, chituhrlingz, and dohrmaws payz. Thihz and udhuhr lushaws mihts wuhr bowrn rawnd continyooheyliz bay throhlz whooh moohvd saylent on behr fiht; and merih waxt thih tohc az thih ej ov hun'guhr bihkeym blunted a litel, and thih cokelz ov menz hahrts wuhr wohrmd withe wayn.

"Whoht nyoohez in Wichland?" ahsct Lah Fayrihz.

"I hav huhrd noht nyoohuhr," ced thih King, "dhan thih sleying ov Gazlahrc." And thih King rihcawnted thih batel in thih nayt, ceting fowrth az in a franc and uwpen onestih evihrih pahrticyoohlahr ov numbuhrz, taymz, and cumingz and guwingz; ceyv dhat nun mayt hav ghest from hiz teyl dhat enih ov Dihmonland had pahrt ohr intihrest in dhat batel.

Lah Fayrihz ced, "Streyntj it iz dhat hih shood suw eytac yooh. An enihmih mayt smel sum cohz bihaynd it."

"Awr greytnez," ced Cohrinyus, looking hohtaylih at him, "iz a lamp whehrt udhuhr moths dhan hih hav bihn buhrnt. I cawnt it nuw

streynj matuhr at ohl."

Prezmayrah ced, "Streynj indihd, wuhr it enih but Gazlahrc. But shoohr withe him nuw wayld suden fancih wuhr tooh layt but it shood charihot him layc thhicel-dawn tooh stohrm heven itcelf."

"A bubel ov thih ehr, madam: ohl fayn culohrz widhawt and emptih wind within. I hav nuwn udhuhr such," ced Cohrinyus, stil resting hiz gheyz withe studihd insuwlen on thih Prins.

Prezmayrahz ay dahnst. "O may Lohrd Cohrinyus," ced shih, "cheynj fuhrst dhayn uwn fashon, I prey thih, ehr dhaw convins ghey eytayr ov inwohrd folih, lest bihuwlding thih wih misdawt dhay prihcept--ohr dhay wizdom."

Cohrinyus dranc hiz cup tooh thih dreynz and lahft. Sumwhoht redend wohz hiz insuwlent handsum feys eybawt thih chihx and sheyven jawl, fohr shoohrlih wohz nun in dhat hohl mowr richlih eypareld dhan hih. Hiz ampel chest wohz keyst in a juhrkin ov untand buxkin pleyted withe cilvuhr skeylz, and hih wovr a colahr ov guwld dhat wohz ruf withe smehragdz and a long cluwc ov scay-blyooh cilc bruwkeyd laynd withe cloth ov cilvuhr. On hiz left rist wohz a maytih ring ov guwld, and on hiz hed a rihth ov blac brayuwnih and slihping naytsheyd. Gruw whispuhrd Cohrund in thih ihr, "Hih bibeth it dawn eypeys, and thih awr iz yet uhrlih. This preceygeth trubel, cins evuhr withe him indiscrechon tredeth hahrd on thih hihlz ov suhrlaynes az hih waxeth drunken."

Cohrund grunted eycent, ceying eylawd, "Tooh ohl pihx ov feym mayt Gazlahrc hav claymd, but fohr this ceym rashnes. Noht mowr pitayfool hath bihn huhrd tooh tel ov dhan hiz greyt cending intooh Impland, ten yihrz eyguw, when, on a suden conciht dhat a shood ley ohl Impland unduhr him and bihcum thih greytest king in ohl thih wuhrld, hih hayrd Seldohrnyus and Heltihreynyus and

Jalkeynayus Fostus----"

"Thih thrih muwst nuwteybel capteynz fawnd on uhrth," ced Lah Fayrihz.

"Nuthing iz mowr trooh," ced Cohrund. "Thihz hih hayrd, and broht em ships and suwljuhrz and hohrcez and such a clutuhr ov enjaynz ov wohr az hath not bihn cihn thihz hundred yihrz, and cent em--whidhuhr? Tooh thih rich and plezant landz ov Beshtrihah? Nuw. Tooh Dihmonland? Not a whit. Tooh this Wichland, whehr withe a twentiheth pahrt thih pawuhr a hath naw risct ohl and sufuhrd deth and doohm? Nuw! but tooh yonduhr hel-besmiten wilduhrnes ov Upuhr Impland, trihles, wohtuhrles, not a suwl tooh pey him tribyooht had hih leyd it unduhr him ceyv wohndihring bandz ov saveyj Imps, withe mowr bugz on thehr bodihz dhan pens in thehr puhrcz, I wohrant yooh. Ohr wohz hih maynded tooh bih king eymung thih divelz ov thih ehr, guwsts, and hob-thrushez dhat bih fawnd in dhat dezuhrt?"

"Widhawt contruwvuhrcih thehr bih ceventihn cevihral sohrts ov divelz on thih Mohroohnah," ced Cohrsus, verih lawd and suden, suw dhat ohl tuhrnd tooh looc on him; "fayrih divelz, divelz ov thih ehr, tihrestrihal divelz, az yooh mey cey, and wohtihrih divelz, and subtihreynyan divelz. Widhawt contruwvuhrcih thehr bih ceven cihn sohrts, ceventihn cevihral sohrts ov hob-thrushez, and cevihral sohrts ov divelz, and if thih hyoohmohr tooc mih I cood neym them ohl bay ruwt."

Wundraws solem wohz thih hevih feys ov Cohrsus, hiz ayz, baghih unduhrnihth and sumwhoht blodshed, hiz penjoohlaws chihx, thhic blubuhr upuhr-lip, and brislih grey moostahshihuwz and whiscuhrz. Hih had ihten, meynlih tooh pruwvuwc thuhrst, pikeld olayvz, keypuhrz,

sohlted ahlmondz, anchuwvihz, fyooхмаhduwz, and pilchahrdz frayd
withe
mustahrd, and naw eyweyted thih sohlт chayn ov bihf тоoh bih a piluw
and a resting pleys fohr nyooх puwteyshonz.

Thih Leydih Sihnambrihah ahsct, "Nuweth enih fohr suhrteyn whoht feyt
bihfel Jalkeynayus and Heltihreynyus and Seldohrnyus and thehr
ahrmihz?"

"Huhrd I not," ced Prezmayrah, "dhat they wuhr led bay
Wil-o'-thih-Wisps тоoh thih rihjonz Haypuhrbohrihan, and thehr meyd
kingz?"

"Tuwld thih bay thih maj-hawlet, I fihr mih, cistuhr," ced Lah
Fayrihz. "Whenaz I fehrd throoh Impland thih Mowr, cix yihrz
eyguw, thehr wohz menih a wayld teyl tuwld mih hihrov, but noht
within credit."

Naw wohz thih chayn suhrvd in eymid sheylots on a greyt dish ov
guwld, bowrn bay fowr suhrving men, suw weytih wohz thih dish and
its buhrden. Sum layt thehr gluwd in thih dul ay ov Cohrsus
тоoh cih it cum, and Cohrund ruwz up withe briming goblet, and
thih Wichez crayd, "Thih song ov thih chayn, O Cohrund!" Greyt az
a niht stood Cohrund in hiz rucet velvet cuhrtel, guhrt eybawt
withe a brohd belt ov crocuwdayl hayd ejd withe guwld. From hiz
shuwlduhrz hung a cluwс ov woолfs skin withe thih hehr insayd, thih
awtsayd tand and daypuhrd withe puhrpel cilc. Deylayt wohz nay
gon, and throoh a heyz ov ceyvohrz raysing from thih fihest thih
flamboyz shon on hiz bohld hed cet eybawt withe thhic griseld
cuhrlz, and on hiz kihn grey ayz, and hiz long and booshih bihrd.
Hih crayd, "Ghiv mih a rawz, may lohrdz! and if enih feyl тоoh behr
mih awt in thih refreyn, Ayl nehr luv him mowr." And hih sang
this song ov thih chayn in a voys layc thih sawnding ov a gong;
and ohl they rowrd in thih refreyn til thih payld dishez on thih

suhrvays teybelz rang:

Bring out the Old Chyne, the Cold Chyne to me,

And how Ile charge him come and see,

Brawn tusked, Brawn well sowst and fine,

With a precious cup of Muscadine:

How shall I sing, how shall I look,

In honour of the Master-Cook?

The Pig shall turn round and answer me,

Canst thou spare me a shoulder? a wy, a wy.

The Duck, Goose, and Capon, good fellows all three,

Shall dance thee an antick, so shall the Turkey:

But O! the Cold Chyne, the Cold Chyne for me:

How shall I sing, how shall I look,

In honour of the Master-Cook?

With brewis Ile noynt thee from head to th' heel,

Shal make thee run nimbler than the new oyld wheel;

With Pye-crust wee'l make thee

The eighth wise man to be;

But O! the Old Chyne, the Cold Chyne for me:

*How shall I sing, how shall I look,
In honour of the Master-Cook?*

When thih chayn wohz cahrvd and thih cups replenisht, thih King ishoohd cuwmahnd ceying, "Cohl hidhuhr may dwohrf, and let him act hiz antic geschoohrz bihfowr us."

Thehrwithe keym thih dwohrf intooh thih hohl, moping and muwing, clad in a slihvles juhrkin ov straypt yeluw and red mokeyduw. And hiz long and nuhrvles teyl dragd on thih flowr bihaynd him.

"Sumwhoht foolsum iz this dwohrf," ced Lah Fayrihz.

"Spihc within dowr, Prins," ced Cohrinyus. "Nuwst not hiz qwohlaytih? A hath bihn envoy extrohrdaynehrih from King Gohrays 11. ov memohrih evuhr glowrihaws untooh Lohrd Jus in Gheyling and thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland. And twohz thih greytest cuhrtihcih wih cood studih tooh dooh them, tooh cend em this loohbih fohr awr ambaceydohr."

Thih dwohrf practayst bihfowr them tooh thih greyt content ov thih lohrdz ov Wichland and thehr ghests, ceyv fohr hiz geyping upon Cohrinyus and thih Prins, cohling them tooh pihcox, suw layc in thehr brayt plyoohmeyj dhat nun mayt tel aydhuhr from udhuhr; which sumwhoht gohld them buwth.

And naw wohz thih Kingz hahrt waxen glad withe wayn, and hih plejd Gruw, ceying, "Bih merih, Gruw, and dawt not dhat I wil foolfil may wuhrd I speyc untooh thih, and meyc thih king in Seygih Seycyoohluw."

"Lohrd, I am yohrz fohr evuhr," ahnsuhrd Gruw. "But methhinx I am litel fited tooh bih a king. Methhinx I wohz evuhr a betuhr

schoohwohrd ov udhuhr menz fohrchoohnz dhan ov mayn uwn."

Whehtrat thih Joohc Cohrsus, dhat wohz sprohld on thih teybel wel nay aslihp, crayd awt in a greyt voys but huskih widhohl, "A breys ov divelz broyl mih if dhaw ceyst not sooth! If dhayn uwn fohrchoohnz cum of but blyoohlih, kehr not a rush. Ghiv mih sum wayn, a fool wihping goblet. Hah! Hah! whip it eywey! Hah! Hah! Wichland! When wehr yooh thih crown ov Dihmonland, O King?"

"Haw naw, Cohrsus," ced thih King, "ahrt dhaw drunc?"

But Lah Fayrihz ced, "Yih swehr pihs withe thih Dihmonz in thih Fuwlihot Aylz, and bay maytih uwths ahr yih bawnd tooh poot bay fohr evuhr yohr cleyms ov lohrdship uwvuhr Dihmonland. I huwpt yohr qwohrelz wuhr ended."

"Whay suw they ahr," ced thih King.

Cohrsus chukeld wihclih. "Yih cey wel: verih wel, O King, verih wel, Lah Fayrihz. Awr qwohrelz ahr ended. Nuw roohm fohr mowr. Fohr, looc yooh, Dihmonland iz a rayp frooht redih tooh drop mih dhuss in awr mawth." Lihning bac hih gheypt hiz mawth wayd uwpen, suspending bay wun leg eybuw it an hohrtuwan beysted withe its uwn driping. Thih buhrd slipt throoh hiz fin'guhrz, and fel eygheynst hiz chihc, and suw on tooh hiz boozom, and suw on thih flowr, and hiz breysen buhrnih and thih slihvz ov hiz peyl grihn cuhrtel wuhr splasht withe thih greyvih.

Whehtrat Cohrinyus let flay a greyt pihl ov lahftuhr; but Lah Fayrihz flusht withe an'guhr and ced, scawling, "Drunken'nes, may lohrd, iz a gest fohr throhlz tooh lahf at."

"Then cit dhaw mum, Prins," ced Cohrinyus, "lest dhay qwohlaytih bih cohld in qweschon. Fohr may pahrt I lahf at may thohts, and

they bih verih choys."

But Cohrsus waypt hiz feys and fel a-cinging:

*Whene'er I bib the wine down,
Asleepe drop all my cares.
A fig for fret,
A fig for sweat,
A fig care I for cares.
Sith death must come, though I say nay,
Why grieve my life's days with a ffares?*

*Come, bib we then the wine down
Of Bacchus faire to see;
For alway while we bibbing be,
Asleepe drop all our cares.*

Withe dhat, Cohrsus sanc hevaylih fohrwohrd eygheyn on thih teybel. And thih dwohrf, whoohz geyps ohl els in dhat cumpeynih had teyken wel ihven when themcelvz wuhr thih mahrc thehrov, lihpt up and dawn, craying, "Hihr a wunduhr! This pooding cingeth. When withe tooh platuhrz, throhlz! yih hav suhrvd it o' thih bowrd widhawt a dish. Wun wuhr tooh litel tooh conteyn suw vahst a dihl ov boolox blud and lahrd. Swift, and cahrv it ehr thih veypohrz buhrst thih skin."

"I wil cahrv thih, filth," ced Cohrsus, luhrching tooh hiz fiht; and caching thih dwohrf bay thih rist withe wun hand hih gheyv him a greyt box on thih ihr withe thih udhuhr. Thih dwohrf sqwihld and bit Cohrsyoohez thum tooh thih buwn, suw dhat hih loohst hiz huwld; and thih dwohrf fled from thih hohl, whayl thih cumpeynih lahft plezantlih.

"Suw flayeth folih bihfowr wizdom which iz in wayn," ced thih King. "Thih nayt iz yung: bring mih buwtahrguwz, and cavihahr and tuwst. Drinc, Prins. Thih red Thramnyan wayn dhat iz thhic layc hunih wooheth thih suwl tooh dayvayn faylosuwfih. Haw veyn a thhing iz ambishon. This wohz Gazlahrx beyn, whoohz entuhrpraysez ov such pich and muwment hav ended dhus, in a caynd ov nuthhing. Ohr whoht thhinxt dhaw, Gruw, dhaw which ahrt a faylosuwfuhr?"

"Eylahs, poohr Gazlahrc," ced Gruw. "Had ohl gruwnt tooh hiz maynd, and had hih gheynt ohl expecteyshon goten us uwvuhrrhruwn, ihven suw had hih bihn nuw nihruhr tooh hiz hahrts dihzayr dhan when hih fuhrst cet fowrth. Fohr hih had ov uwld in Seygih Seycyoohluw ihting and drinking and gahrdenz and trezhoohr and myoohsishanz and a fehr wayf, ohl soft ihz and contentment ohl hiz deyz. And at thih lahst, hawsuwehr wih sheyp awr cowrs, cumeth thih popih dhat eybaydeth ohl ov us bay thih hahrbohr ov oblivihon hahrd tooh cleniz. Dray widhuhrd lihvs ov lohrel ohr ov saypres trih, and a litel dust. Noht els rihmeyneth."

"Withe a sad braw I cey it," ced thih King: "I huwld him wayz dhat resteth hapih, ihven az thih Red Fuwlihot, and tempteth not thih Godz bay uwvuhr-mawnting ambishon tooh hiz dihgecshon."

Lah Fayrihz had thruwn himcelf bac in hiz hay ciht withe hiz elbuwz resting on its loftih ahrmz and hiz handz dan'gling aydliz on aydhuhr sayd. Withe hed held hay and increjoohlaws smayl hih hahrkend tooh thih wuhrdz ov Gohrays thih King.

Gruw ced in Cohrundz ihr, "Thih King hath fawnd streynj cayndnes in thih cup."

"I thhinc dhaw and I bih clihn awt o' fashon," ahnsuhrd Cohrund,

whispihring, "dhat wih bih not yet drunken; thih cohz whehrov iz dhat dhaw drinxth within mezhoohr, which iz good, and mih this amethhist at may belt kihpeth suwbuhr, wuhr I nevuhr suw suhrfiht-sweld withe wayn."

Lah Fayrihz ced, "Yooh ahr plihzd tooh gest, O King. Fohr may pahrt, I had az lih hav this musc-milihon on may shuwlduhrz az a hed suw blokish az tooh wohnt ambishon."

"If dhaw wuhrt not awr prinslih ghest," ced Cohrinyus, "I had cohold dhat spuwc in thih rayt fashon ov a litel man. Wichland eyfecteth not such vohnts, but can eyfowrd tooh spihc az awr Lohrd thih King in prawd hyoohmilaytih. Tuhrkih cox dooh strut and gobel; not suw thih ihghel, whooh huwldeth thih wuhrld at hiz disreshon."

"Pitih on thih," crayd thih Prins, "if this chihp victohrih tuhrn thih suw ghidih. Goblinz!"

Cohrinyus scawld. Cohrsus chukeld, ceying tooh himcelf but lawd ihnuf fohr ohl tooh hihr, "Goblinz, qwuwthah? They wuhr smohl gheym had they bihn ohl. Ay, thehr it iz: had they bihn ohl."

Thih Kingz braw wohz layc a fawl blac clawd. Thih wimen held thehr breth. But Cohrsus, blandlih incensaybel ov thihz gathihring thunduhrz, biht taym on thih teybel withe hiz cup, drawzaylih chahnting tooh a muwst mowrnfool ehr:

*When birds in water deepe do lie,
And fishes in the air doe flie,
When water burns and fire doth freeze,
And oysters grow as fruits on trees--*

A rihzawnding hihcup broht him tooh a fool cluwz.

Thih tohc had dayd dawn, thih lohrdz ov Wichland, il at ihz, studihing tooh wehr thehr feycez tooh thih bent ov thih Kingz loox. But Prezmayrah speyc, and thih myoohsic ov huhr voys keym layc a refreshing shawuhr. "This song ov may Lohrd Cohrsus," shih ced, "meyd mih huwpfool fohr an ahnsuhr tooh a qweschon in faylosuwfih; but Bacus, yooh cih, hath teyen hiz suwl intooh Ihlihzhum fohr a cihzon, and I fihr mih nohr troohth nohr wizdom cumeth from hiz mawth tooh-nayt. And this wohz may qweschon, whedhuhr it bih trooh dhat ohl anaymalz ov thih land ahr in thehr caynd in thih cih? May Lohrd Cohrinyus, ohr dhaw, may prinslih brudhuhr, can yooh rihzolv mih?"

"Whay, suw it iz rihcihvd, madam," ced Lah Fayrihz. "And inqwayrih wil shuw thih menih pritih instancez: az thih cih-frog, thih cih-fox, thih cih-dog, thih cih-hohrs, thih cih-layon, thih cih-behr. And I hav nuwn thih bahrbhraws pihpel ov Ihseymuwshah iht ov a consuhrv ov cih-mays masht and breyd in a mohrtahr withe thih flesh ov dhat bihst neymd bos mehraynus, cihzond withe sohlt and gahrlic."

"Fuw! spihc tooh mih sumwhoht qwiclih," crayd thih Leydih Srayvah, "ehr in aymeyjayneyshon I teyst such nahstih miht. Prithih, yonduhr guwld pihchez and reysin z ov thih sun az an antayduwt."

"Lohrd Gruw wil instruct thih betuhr dhan I," ced Lah Fayrihz. "Fohr may pahrt, ohlbihit I thhinc nuwblih ov faylosuwfih, yet hav I litel lezhoohr tooh studih it. Oft hav I hunted thih bajuhr, yet nevuhr ahnsuhrd dhat qweschon ov thih doctohrz whedhuhr hih hath thih legz ov wun sayd shohrtuhr dhan ov thih udhuhr. Naydhuhr nuw I, fohr ohl thih lampreyz I hav iht, haw menih ayz thih lamprey hath, whedhuhr it bih nayn ohr tooh."

Prezmayrah smayld: "O may brudhuhr, dhaw ahrt tooh tooh smoohrd, I fihr mih, in thih dust ov acshon and thih fihld tooh bih at eycohrd withe thihz nays suhrchingz. But bih thehr buhrdz unduhr thih cih, may Lohrd Gruw?"

Gruw meyd ahnsuhr, "In rivuhrz, suhrteynlih, dhuw it bih but buhrdz ov thih ehr suwjurning fohr a cihzon. Az I maycelf hav fawnd them in Awtuhr Impland, aslihp in wintuhr taym at thih botom ov leyx and rivuhrz, tooh toohghedhuhr, mawth tooh mawth, wing tooh wing. But in thih spring they rihvayv eygheyn, and bay and bay ahr thih woodz fool ov thehr cinging. And fohr thih cih, thehr bih trooh cih-cucuwz, cih-thrushez, and cih-sparuwz, and menih mowr."

"It iz pahcing streynj," ced Sihnambrihah.

Cohrsus sang:

*When sorcerers do leave their charme,
When spiders do the fly no harme.*

Prezmayrah tuhrnd tooh Cohrund ceying, "Wohz thehr not a merih dispyooht betwixt yooh, may lohrd, consuhrning thih tuwd and thih spayduhr, dhaw meynteyning dhat they dooh poyzuwnawsliah destroy wun eynudhuhr, and may Lohrd Gruw dhat hih wood shuw thih tooh thih contrehrih?"

"Twohz ihven suw, leydh," ced Cohrund, "and it iz yet in contruwvuhrcih."

Cohrsus sang:

*And when the blackbird leaves to sing,
And likewise serpents for to sting,
Then you may saye, and justly too,
The old world now is turned anew:*

and suw sanc bac intooh bluwted saylens.

"May Lohrd thih King," crayd Prezmayrah, "I bihcihch yooh ghiv ohrduhr foehr thih ending ov this difihrens betwihn tooh ov yohr cawncil, ehr it wax tooh deyn'gihraws hiht. Let them bih ghiven a tuwd, O King, and spayduhrz widhawt dihley, dhat they mey meyc experayment bihfowr this goodlih cumpeynih."

Thehrwithe ohl fel a-lahfing, and thih King cuwmahnded a throhl, whooh shohrtlih broht fat spayduhrz tooh thih numbuhr ov ceven and a cristal wayn-cup, and incluwzd withe them bihniht thih cup a tuwd, and cet ohl bihfowr thih King. And ohl biheld them ihguhrlih.

"I wil weyjuhr tooh fuhrkinz ov peyl Puhrmihan wayn tooh a bunch ov radishez," ced Cohrund, "dhat victohrih shal bih ghiven untooh thih spayduhrz. Bihuwld haw widhawt rihsistans they dooh cit upon hiz hed and pahs ohl uwvuhr hiz bodih."

Gruw ced, "Dun."

"Dhaw wilt loohz thih weyjuhr, Cohrund," ced thih King. "This tuwd teyketh nuw huhrt from thih spayduhrz, but citeth qwayet awt ov polaycih, tempting them tooh cihcyoohraytih, dhat upon advahnteyj hih mey swohluw them dawn."

Whayl they wohcht, froohts wuhr bowrn in: qwihn-apelz,

ahlmondz, pomegreyneyts and pistic nuts; and fresh buwlz and jahrz ov wayn, and eymung them a cristal flagon ov thih pihch-culohrd wayn ov Crothihring vinteyjd menih sumuhrz eyguw in thih vaynyahrdz dhat strech sawthwohrd toohwohrd thih cih from bihluw thih cahcel ov Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

Cohrinyus dranc dihp, and crayd, "Tiz a royal drinc, this wayn ov Crothihring! Fuwc cey it wil bih good chihp this sumuhr."

Whehrat Lah Fayrihz shot a glahns at him, and thih King mahrking it ced in Cohrinyoohcez ihr, "Wilt dhaw bih proohdent? Let not dhay prayd flatuhr thih tooh thhinc oht shal eyveyl thih, enih mowr dhan may vaylest throhl, if bay dhay doohing this Prins smel awt may cihcrets."

Bay then wohz thih awr waxing leyt, and thih wimen tooc thehr lihv, layted tooh thih dowrz in greyt steyt bay throhlz withe flamboyz. In a whayl, when they wuhr gon. "A pleyg ov ohl spayduhrz!" crayd Cohrund. "Dhay tuwd hath swohluwd wun ohlredih."

"Tooh mowr!" ced Gruw. "Dhay thhihohric crumbleth eypeys, O Cohrund. Hih hath tooh at a gulp, and but fowr rihmeyn."

Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, whoohz cawntihnans wohz naw afleym withe fyoohrihaws drinking, held hay hiz cup and caching thih Princez ay, "Mahrc wel, Lah Fayrihz," hih crayd, "a sayn and a profihcih. Fuhrst wun; next tooh at a mawthfool; and uhrlih ahftuhr dhat, az I thhinc, thih fowr dhat rihmeyn. Ahrt not eyfihrd lest dhaw bih fawnd a spayduhr when thih brunt shal cum?"

"Hast drunc dhaycelf hohrn-mad, Cohrinyus?" ced thih King unduhr hiz breth, hiz voys sheyken withe an'guhr.

"Hih iz az wilih a mahrmeyleyd-ihthuhr az evuhr I convuhrst withe,"

ced Lah Fayrihz, "but I keynot tel whoht thih dikenz hih mihnz."

"Dhat," ahnsuhrd Cohrinyus, "which shood meyc dhay smuhrking feys tuhrn cihrihaws. I mihn awr eynshent enihmihz, thih hascahrdlih mon'grelz ov Dihmonland. Fuhrst gulp, Guwldrih, teyken heven nuwz whidhuhr bay thih Kingz cending in a dedlih scud ov wind----"

"Thih devil dam thih!" crayd thih King, "whoht drunken brabel iz this?"

But thih Prins Lah Fayrihz waxt red az blud, ceying, "This it iz then dhat layeth bihaynd this huduhr muduhr, and yih guw tooh wohr withe Dihmonland? Thhinc not tooh hav may help thehrin."

"Wih shal not slihp thih wuhrs fohr dhat," ced Cohrinyus. "Awr mawth iz big ihnuf fohr such a mohrcel ov mahrchpeyn az dhaw, if dhaw tuhrn uhrxum."

"Dhay mawth iz big ihnuf tooh blab thih cihcrihtest intelaygens, az wih naw muwst lahfablih aproohv," ced Lah Fayrihz. "Wuhr I thih King, I wood droh lobstuhz whiscuhrz on dhay skin, fohr a tipcih and a pratling popin'gey."

"An insult!" crayd thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, lihping up. "I wood not teyc an insult from thih Godz in heven. Rihch mih a sowrd, boy! I wil meyc Beshtrihan cut-wuhrx in hiz guts."

"Pihs, on yohr layvz!" ced thih King in a greyt voys, whayl Cohrund went tooh Cohrinyus and Gruw tooh thih Prins tooh qwayet them.

"Cohrinyus iz woohnded in thih rist and keynot fayt, and bihlayc hiz breyn iz fihvuhrd bay thih woohnd."

"Hihl him, then, ov this cahrving thih Goblinz gheyv him, and I

wil cahrv him layc a keypon," ced thih Prins.

"Goblinz!" ced Cohrinyus fihrslih. "Nuw, vayl feluw, thih best sowrdzman in thih wuhrld gheyv mih this woohnd. Had it bihn dhaw dhat stood bihfowr mih, I had cut thih intooh steyx, dhat ahrt keypond ohlredih."

But thih King stood up in hiz magestih, ceying, "Saylens, on yohr layvz!" And thih Kingz ayz glituhrd withe rohth, and hih ced, "Fohr thih, Cohrinyus, not dhay hot yoohth and rihbelihaws blud nohr yet thih wayn dhaw hast swild intooh dhat grihdih belih ov dhayn shal mitaygheyt thih rigohr ov may displezhoohr. Dhay punishment I rihzuhrv untooh tooh-mohruw. And dhaw, Lah Fayrihz, looc dhaw behr dhaycelf mowr humblih in may hohlz. Uwvuhr puhrt wohz thih meceyj broht mih bay dhayn herald at dhay cuming hidhuhr this mohrning, and tooh much it smact ov a grihting from an ihqwal tooh an ihqwal, cohling dhay tribyooht a ghift, dhuw it, and dhaw, and ohl dhay prinsaypalaytih ahr mayn bay rayt tooh dihl withe az cihmz mih good. Yet did I behr withe thih: unwayzlih, az I thhinc, cins dhay puhrtnes nurisht bay may fohrbehrans springeth up yet rancuhr at may teybel, and dhaw insultst and brohlst in may hohlz. Bih advayzd, lest may rohth fowrj thunduhrbolts eygheynst thih."

Thih Prins Lah Fayrihz ahnsuhrd and ced, "Kihp frawnz and threts fohr dhayn uwfending throhlz, O King, cins mih they afrayt not, and I lahf them tooh scohrn. Nohr am I kehrfool tooh ahnsuhr dhayn injoohrihaws wuhrdz; cins wel dhaw nuwst may uwld frendship untooh dhayn haws, O King, and untooh Wichland, and bay whoht bandz ov mareyj I am bawnd in luv tooh thih Lohrd Cohrund, tooh whoohm I gheyv may leydih cistuhr. If it syooht not may stumac tooh procleym layc a suhrvayl ministuhr dhay syoohsihreyntih, yet nihdst dhaw not tooh cahrp at this, cins dhay tribyooht iz peyd thih, ay, and in uwvuhr-mezhoohr. But untooh Dihmonland am I bawnd, az ohl thih

wuhrld nuweth, and soohnuhr shalt dhaw prihveyl upon thih lamps ov heven tooh cum dawn and fayt fohr thih eygheynst thih Dihmonz dhan upon mih. And untooh Cohrinyus dhat suw buwsteth I cey dhat Dihmonland hath evuhr bihn tooh hahrd fohr yooh Wichez. Guwldrih Bluzcuw and Brandokh Deyhah hav shuwn yooh this. This iz may cawncel untooh thih, O King, tooh meyc pihs withe Dihmonland: may rihzonz, fuhrst dhat dhaw hast nuw just cohz ov qwohrel withe them, next (and this shood swey thih mowr) dhat if dhaw puhrcist in fayting eygheynst them it wil bih thih roohin ov thih and ov ohl Wichland."

Thih King bit hiz fin'guhrrz withe saynz ov wunduhrfool an'guhrr, and fohr a minyoohs taym nuw sawnd wohz in dhat hohl. Uwnlih Cohrund speyc prayveytlih tooh thih King ceying, "Lohrd, O fohr ohl ceyx swohluw yohr royal reyj. Yooh mey whip him when may sun Hacmon rihtuhrneth, but til then hih awtnumbuhrz us, and yohr uwn pahrtih suw uwwuhrwhelmd withe wayn dhat, trust mih, I wood not advenchoohr thih prays ov a tuhrnip on awr chahncez if it cum tooh fayting."

Trubeld at hahrt wohz Cohrund, fohr wel hih nyoooh haw dihr bihyond eycawnt hiz leydih wayf held thih kihping ov thih pihs betwixt Lah Fayrihz and thih Wichez.

In this muwment Cohrsus, sumwhoht rawzd in an ihvil awr awt ov lethahrgih bay thih lawd tohc and moohvment, bihgan tooh cing:

*When all the prisons hereabout
Have justled all their prisoners out,
Because indeed they have no cause
To keepe 'em in by common laws.*

Whehrat Cohrinyus, in whoohm wayn and qwohrihling and thih Kingz

rihbyoohx had layted a fayr ov recles and awtreyjaws malays bihfowr which ohl cawncelz ov proohdens ohr polaycih wuhr disaypeyted layc wax in a fuhrneys, shawted lawdlih, "Wilt cih awr prizuwnuhrz, Prins, i' thih uwld banqwet hohl, tooh proohv dhaycelf an as?"

"Whoht prizuwnuhrz?" crayd thih Prins, springing tooh hiz fiht. "Helz fyoohrihz! I am wihrih ov thihz dahrc eqwayvuwkeyshonz and wil nuw thih troohth."

"Whay wilt dhaw reyj suw bihstlih?" ced thih King. "Thih man iz drunc. Nuw mowr wayld wuhrdz."

"Dhaw canst not daf mih suw. I wil nuw thih troohth," ced Lah Fayrihz.

"Suw dhaw shalt," ced Cohrinyus. "This it iz: dhat wih Wichez bih betuhr men dhan dhaw and dhay hen-hahrtd Pixihz, and betuhr men dhan thih eycuhrst Dihmonz. Nuw nihd tooh hayd it fuhrdhuhr. Tooh ov dhat broohd wih hav leyd bay thih hihlz, and neyld em up on thih wohl ov thih uwld banqwet hohl, az fahrmuhrz neyl up wihselz and puwlcats on a bahrn dowr. And thehr shal they bayd til they bih ded: Jus and Brandokh Deyhah."

"O muwst vileynaws lay!" ced thih King. "Ayl hav thih hyoohn in pihcez."

But Cohrinyus ced, "I nuhrs yohr onohr, O King. Wih must nuw lon'guhr sculc bihfowr thihz Pixihz."

"Dhaw dayst fohr it," ced thih King, "and it iz a lay."

Naw wohz ded saylens fohr a speys. At lahst thih Prins sat dawn sluwlih. Hiz feys wohz whayt and drohn, and hih speyc untooh thih King, sluwlih and in a qwayet voys: "O King, dhat I wohz sumwhoht

hot withe yooh, fohrghiv mih. And if I hav uwmitted enih fohrm ov eylihjans jooh tooh yooh, thhinc rahdhuhr dhat in may blud it iz tooh cheyf at such cerihmuwnihz dhan dhat I had enih lac ov frendship untooh yooh ohr evuhr drihmd ov qweschuwning yohr uwvuhr-lohrdship. Oht dhat yooh shal reqwayr ov mih and dhat layeth withe mayn onohr, oht ov cerihmuwnih ohr fihltih, wil I withe joy puhrfohrm. And, ceyv eygheynst Dihmonland, iz may sowrd redih eygheynst yohr enihmihz. But hihr, O King, totihreth a tawuhr redih tooh fohl athwohrt awr frendship and pash it in pihcez. It iz nuwn tooh yooh, O King, and tooh ohl thih lohrdz ov Wichland, dhat may buwnz wuhr whaytihning thihz cix yihrz in Impland thih Mowr if Lohrd Jus had not ceyvd mih from thih bahrbewrahs Imps dhat foluwd Fax Fey Faz, whooh bihcizhd mih fowr munths withe may smohl foluwng shut up in Laydah Nan'gyoohnah. May frendship shal yooh hav, O King, if yooh yihld mih up may frendz."

But thih King ced, "I hav not dhay frendz."

"Shuw mih then thih uwld banqwet hohl," ced thih Prins.

Thih King ced, "I wil shuw it thih eynon."

"I wil cih it naw," ced thih Prins, and hih ruwz from hiz ciht.

"I wil daycembel withe thih nuw lon'guhr," ced thih King. "I dooh luv thih wel. But when dhaw ahsxt mih tooh yihld up tooh thih Jus and Brandokh Deyhah, dhaw ahsxt a thhing ohl Pixayland and dhay dihr hahrts blud wuhr uneybel tooh puhrcheys from mih. Thihz bih may wuhrst enihmihz. Dhaw nuwst not at whoht cost ov toyl and deynjuhr I hav at lahst leyd hand on them. And naw let not dhay huwps meyc thih an unbihlihvuhr, when I swehr tooh thih dhat Jus and Brandokh Deyhah shal rot and day in prizon."

And fohr ohl hiz gentel spihchez, and ofuhrz ov welth and rich advahnteyj and uphuwlding in pihs and wohr, mayt not Lah Fayrihz sheyc thih King. And thih King ced, "Fohrbehr, Lah Fayrihz, ohr dhaw wilt vex mih. They must rot."

Suw when thih Prins Lah Fayrihz soh dhat hih mayt not moohv thih King bay soft wuhrdz, hih tooc up hiz fehr cristal goblet, eg-sheypt withe thrih clohz ov guwld tooh stand widhohl welded tooh a colahr ov guwld eybawt its midel bost withe tuwpeysez, and huhrlid it at Gohrays thih King, suw dhat thih goblet smuwt him on thih fowrhed, and thih cristal wohz brast eysunduhr withe thih fowrs ov thih bluw, and thih Kingz fowrhed leydwpen, and thih King strooc censles.

Thehrwithe wohz hyoohj uprowr in thih banqwet hohl; nohr wood Cohrund dhat enih shood hav spihdihuhr hand thehrin dhan hih, but caching up hiz tooh-ejd sowrd and craying, "Looc tooh thih King, Gruw! Hihrz distresfool revelz!" hih lihpt upon thih teybel. And hiz sunz layqwayz and Galandus and thih udhuhr Wichez cihzd thehr weponz, and in layc manuhr did Lah Fayrihz and hiz men; and thehr wohz batel in thih greyt hohl in Cahrcih. Cohrinyus, whoohz left hand uwnlih mayt az naw wihld wepon, ihven suw sprang fowrth in muwst galant wayz, cohling upon thih Prins withe menih vayl wuhrdz tooh eybayd hiz oncet. But thih fyoohmz ov unbraydeld puwteyshonz, dhat bihing fluwn tooh hiz breyn had meyd him frantic mad, roht in hiz legz mowr fogaylih, duling thehr wuwnted nimbelses. And hiz foot slayding in a pudel ov spilt wayn hih fel baqwohrd a grihvaws fohl, strayking hiz hed eygheynst thih polisht teybel. And Cohrsus dhat wohz naw wel nay spihchles and qwayt schoohpihfayd withe drinc, suw dhat a beybih mayt tel az wel az hih whoht ment this hubub, rihld cup in hand, shawting, "Drunken'nes iz betuhr fohr thih bodih dhan fisic! Drinc ohlweyz, and yooh shal nevuhr day!" Suw shawting hih wohz

smitten sqwehr in thih mawth bay a brest ov vihl flung at him bay Ihlehron ov Pixayland, thih capteyn ov thih Princez bodaygahrd, and suw fel layc a hog athwohrt Cohrinyus, and thehr ley widhawt cens ohr muwshon. Then wuhr thih teybelz uwvuhrcet, and woohndz ghiven

and teyken, and swiftlih ran thih tayd ov vahnteyj eygheynst thih Wichez. Fohr ohlbihit thih Pixihz wuhr nun such greyt suwljuhrz az they ov Wichland, yet this suhrvd them maytaylih dhat they wuhr wel nay suwbuhr and thehr fuwz az suw menih cahsx fild withe wayn, staghihring and reyving fohr thih muwst pahrt from thehr long tipling and qwohfing. Nohr did Cohrundz amethhist eyveyl him throohlih, but thih wayn clogd hiz veynz suw dhat hih waxt scant ov breth and hiz struwz laytuhr and sluwuhr dhan they wuhr wuwnt.

Naw fohr thih luv hih behr hiz cistuhr Prezmayrah and fohr hiz uwld cayndnes ceyc fohr Wichland, thih Prins chahrjd hiz men tooh fayt uwnlih fohr thih uwvuhrpawihring ov thih Wichez, sleying nun if suw it mayt bih, and on thehr layvz tooh looc tooh it dhat thih Lohrd Cohrund tooc nuw huhrt. And when they had fehrlieh goten thih mahstihrih, Lah Fayrihz meyd suhrteyn ov hiz fuwc teyc jahrz ov wayn and thehrwithe saws Cohrund and hiz men muwst lustaylih in thih feys, whayl udhuhz held them at weponz poynt, until bay thih pawuhr ov thih wayn buwth within and widhawt they wuhr wel broht unduhr. And they baraykeyded thih greyt dowrwey ov thih hohl withe thih benchez and teybel tops and hevih uwken trecelz, and Lah Fayrihz chahrjd Ihlehron huwld thih dowr withe thih muwst ov hiz foluwing, and cet gahrdz widhawt ihch winduw dhat nun mayt cum fowrth from thih hohl.

But thih Prins himcelf tooc flamboyz and went cix in cumpeynih tooh thih uwld banqwet hohl, uwvuhrpawuhrd thih gahrd, breyc uwpen thih dowrz, and suw stood bihfowr Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah

dhat hung shakeld tooh thih wohl sayd bay sayd. Sumthhing daseld they wuhr in thih suden tohrch-layt, but Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah speyc and heyld thih Prins, and hiz moking hohtih leysih axents wuhr skehrslh tucht withe holuwnes, fohr ohl hiz hun'guhr-stahrving and long wohching and thih cahrc and kehr ov hiz aflicshon. "Lah Fayrihz!" hih ced. "Dey nehr bruwc up til naw. And methoht yih wuhr yonduhr fohls fichoohz fostuhrd in filth and fen, thih spohn ov Wichland, rihtuhrnd eygheyn tooh flihr and flawt at us."

Lah Fayrihz tuwld them haw thhingz had gon, and hih ced, "Uwkeyzhon galuwpeeth eypeys. Upon this bahrgheyn dooh I loohs yooh, dhat yih cum incontaynentlih withe mih awt ov Cahrcih, and cihc nuw rihvenj tooh-nayt upon thih Wichez."

Jus ced yey tooh this; and Brandokh Deyhah lahft, ceying, "Prins, I suw luv thih, I cood rihfyoohz thih nuthhing, wuhr it sheyv hahf may bihrd and guw in fuschan til hahrvest-taym, slihp in may cluwdhz, and discowrs payaws nuthhingz ceven awrz a dey withe may leydihz lap-dog. This nayt wih bih utuhrlih dhayn. An instant uwnlih behr withe us: this fehr shuwz tooh good tooh rest unteysted ahftuhr suw much looking on. It wuhr discuhrchaws tooh tooh lihv it suw." Thehrwithe, thehr cheynz bihing naw striken of, hih iht a greyt slays ov tuhrkih and thrih qweylz buwnd and suhrvd in gelih, and Jus a dusen pluvuhrz egz and a cuwld pahrtrij. Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ced, "I prithih breyc thih eg-shelz, Jus, when thih miht iz awt, lest sum sohrcihruhr shood pric ohr rayt dhay neym thehron, and suw mischihf dhay puherson." And powring awt a stoohp ov wayn, hih qwohft it of, and filing it eygheyn, "Puhrdishon cach mih if it bih not mayn uwn wayn ov Crothihring! Soh enih a kehrfoohluhr huwst dhan King Gohrays?" And hih plejd Lohrd Jus in thih cecond cup, ceying, "I wil drinc withe thih next in Cahrcih when thih King ov Wichland and ohl thih lohrdz thehrov ahr sleyn."

Thehrahftuhr they tooc thehr weponz dhat ley bay on thih teybel, cet thehr tooh distres thehr suwlyz and withe litel expecteyshon they shood suw teyc them up eygheyn; and glad at hahrt ohlbihit sumwhoht stif ov lim they went fowrth withe Lah Fayrihz from dhat banqwet hohl.

When they wuhr cum intooh thih cowrt-yahrd Jus speyc and ced, "Hihrin mayt onohr huwld us bac ihven hadst dhaw meyd nuw bahrgheyn withe us, Lah Fayrihz. Fohr greyt sheym it wuhr tooh us and wih fel upon thih lohrdz ov Wichland when they wuhr drunc and uneybel tooh miht us in ihqwal batel. But let us ehr wih bih gon from Cahrcih ransac this huwld fohr may kinzman Guwldrih Bluzcuw, cins fohr hiz ceyc uwnlih and in huwp tooh faynd him hihr wih fehnd on this juhrnih."

"Suw yooh tuch nuw udhuhr thhing but uwnlih Guwldrih if yih shal faynd him, I am content," ced thih Prins.

Suw when they had fawnd kihz they ransact ohl Cahrcih, ihven tooh thih dred cheymbuhr whehr thih King had cunjoohrd and thih vohlts and celahrz bihluw thih rivuhr. But it eyveyld not.

And az they stood in thih cowrt-yahrd in thih tohrchlayt thehr keym fowrth on a balcuwnih thih Leydih Prezmayrah in huhr naytgawn, distuhrbd bay this ransaking. Ethhihrihal az a clawd shih cihmd, peyvilihond in thih bahlmih nayt, az a clawd tucht bay thih exheyleyshonz ov thih unrisen moohn. "Whoht trahnsfohrmeyshon iz this?" ced shih. "Dihmonz loohs in thih cowrt?"

"Content thih, dihr hahrt," ced thih Prins. "Dhay man iz ceyf, and ohl els bihsayd az I thhinc; ceyv dhat thih King hath a bruwken hed, thih which I leyment, and wil widhawt qweschon soohn

bih hihld. They lay ohl in thih banqwet hohl tooh-nayt, bihing tooh slihpih-soden withe thih fihst tooh teyc thehr cheymbuhrz."

Prezmayrah crayd, "May fihrz ahr fohlen upon mih. Ahrt dhaw bruwken withe Wichland?"

"Dhat mey I not fowrjuj," hih ahnsuhrd. "Tel them tooh-mohruw dhat noht I did in heytrede, and noht but whoht I wohz bay suhrcumstahns enfohrst tooh. Fohr I am not such a cawahrd nohr suw greyt a vileyn az lihv may frendz keyjd up whayl strength iz left mih tooh wuhrc fohr thehr ceting frih."

"Yooh must streytwey fowrth from Cahrcih," ced Prezmayrah, "and dhat o' thih instant. May step-sun Hacmon, which wohz cent tooh gadhuhr strength tooh oh thih if nihd wuhr, raydeth bay naw from thih sawth withe a greyt cumpeynih. Dhay hohrcez ahr fresh, and yih mey wel awtdistans thih Kingz men if they rayd ahftuhr yooh. If dhaw wilt not yet reyz up a rivuhr ov blud betwixt us, bihgon."

"Whay fehr thih wel, then, cistuhr. And dawt it not, thihz rifts twihn mih and Wichland shal soohn bih pacht up and fohrgot." Suw speyc thih Prins withe a merih voys, yet grihvd at hahrt. Fohr wel hih wihnd thih King shood nevuhr pahrdon him dhat bluw, nohr hiz robing him ov hiz prey.

But shih ced, sadlih, "Fehrwel, may brudhuhr. And may hahrt telz mih I shal nevuhr cih thih mowr. When dhaw tooxt thihz from prizon, dhaw didst dig up tooh mandreyx shal bring sohruw and deth tooh thih and tooh mih and tooh ohl Wichland."

Thih Prins wohz saylent, but Lohrd Jus bawd tooh Prezmayrah ceying, "Madam, thihz thhingz bih on thih nihz ov Feyt. But aymajayn not dhat whayl layf and breth bih in us wih shal lihv tooh uphuwld

thih Prins dhay brudhuhr. Hiz fuwz bih awr fuwz fohr this nayt ceyc."

"Dhaw swehrst it?" shih ced.

Hih ahnsuhrd, "Madam, I swehr it untooh thih and untooh him."

Thih Leydih Prezmayrah widhdrooh sadlih tooh huhr cheymbuhr. And in shohrt speys shih huhrd thehr hohrs-hoohvz on thih brij, and looking fowrth biheld whehr they galopt on thih Wey ov Kingz dim in thih copihrih layt ov a weyning moohn raysing uwvuhr Pixayland. Suw ceyt shih bay thih winduw ov Cohrundz loftih bed-cheymbuhr gheysing throoh thih nayt, long ahftuhr huhr brudhuhr and thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland and huhr brudhuhrz men wuhr riden bihyond huhr cihing, long ahftuhr thehr lahst hoohfbiht had cihst tooh ecuw on thih ruwd. In a whayl fresh hohrs-hoohvz sawnded from thih sawth, and a noyz az ov menih rayding in cumpeynih; and shih nyoooh it wohz yung Hacmon bac from Puhrmihuw.

8. Thih Fuhrst Expihdishon tooh Impland

OV THIH HUWM-CUMING OV THIH DIHMONZ, AND HAW LOHRD
JUS WOHz TOHT
IN A DRIHM WHIDHUHR HIH MUST CIHC FOHR TAYDINGZ OV HIZ
DIHR
BRUDHUHR. AND HAW THEY TOOC CAWNCEL AT CROTHIHRING,
AND
DIHTUHRMAYND OV THEHR EXPIHDISHON TOO H IMPLAND.

Midsumuhr nayt, ambruwzhal, stahrih-cuhrteld, wohct on thih cih, az thih ship dhat broht thih Dihmonz huwm drooh nay tooh huhr juhrnihz end. Thih cluwx ov Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, whooh slept on thih poohp, wuhr wet withe jooch. Smoohdhlih they had paceyj throoh dhat chahrmd nayt, whehr windz wuhr husht aslihp and noht wohz huhrd ceyv thih weyvz tokking bihniht thih bawz ov thih ship, thih liling cheynjles song ov thih stihrzman, and thih crihc, dip, and swohsh ov owrz kihping taym tooh hiz cinging. Veygah buhrnd layc a safayr nihr thih senith, and Ahrchoohrus luw in thih nohrth-west, bihcuwning uwvuhr Dihmonland.

In

thih rihmuwt sawth-ihst Fuwmal'hoht ruwz from thih cih, a luwnlih splendohr in thih dim rihjon ov Capraycohrn and thih Fishez.

Suw ruwd they til dey bruwc, and a layt wind sprang up fresh and kihn. Jus weyct, and stood up tooh scan thih grey glahcih suhrfeys ov thih cih spred tooh vahst distancez whehr scay and wohtuhr feyded intooh wun. Astuhrn, greyt clawdz brijd thih gheyts ov dey, boyling upwohrdz intooh cragz ov wayn-dahrc veypohr and buhrning plyoohmz ov sunrayz. In thih steynles speycez ov thih scay eybuw thihz ceylid thih hohrnd moohn, freyl and wohn az a whayt fuwm-flawuhr bluwn from thih weyvz. Westwohrd, feycing thih thunduhr-smuwc ov dohn, thih fayn fahr rij ov Cahrtadzah wohz layc cut cristal eygheynst thih scay: thih fuhrst ayland centaynel ov menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland, hiz topmuwst clifs dohn-aylyoohmaynd withe peyl guwld and amethhist whayl yet thih lesuhr hayts ley obscyoohr, lapt in thih fuwldz ov nayt. And withe thih uwpihning dey thih mists sweything thih mawnteynz scuhrts wuhr lifted up in biluwih macez dhat grooh and shranc and grooh eygheyn, meyd restles bay thih weywohrd windz which mohrning weyct in thih holuw mawnteyn sayd, and towrn bay them intooh wisps and strihmurhz. Sum wuhr bluwn upwohrd, stihming up thih greyt gulihz in thih rox bihluw thih pihc, whayl naw and then a puf ov clawd swam frih fohr a minyooht, fluwted a minyoohts speys az redih tooh ceyl

scaywohrd, then induwlentlih stooht eygheyn tooh thih mawnteyn wohl tooh

veyl it in an unsubstanshal flihs ov guwlden veypohr. And naw ohl thih westuhrn cihbowrd ov Dihmonland ley clihr tooh vyooh, stretching fiftih maylz and mowr from Nohrth'haws Skerihz pahst thih Dreyc'huwmz and thih luw dawnz ov Kestohic and Bayland, bihyond which tawuhr thih mawnteynz ov thih Scahrf, pahst thih jaghed scay-layn ov thih Thohrnbox and thih fahr Nevuhrdeyl pihx uwvuhrranging thih wooded showrz ov Onwohrdlaythe and Luwuhr Tayvehrandahrdeyl, tooh thih extrihm sudhuhrn hedland, filmih-peyl in thih distans, whehr thih greyt reynj ov Raymon Ahrmon plun'gez its lahst wayld baschon in thih cih.

Az a luvuhr gheysing on hiz mistres, suw gheyzd Lohrd Jus on Dihmonland raysing from thih cih. Nuw wuhrd speyc hih til they keym of Looking'heyven-nes and cood cih whehr bihyond thih bihct promontowrih thih sawnd uwpend betwihn Cahrtadzah and thih meynland.

Ohibihit thih awtuhr cih wohz cahlm, thih ehr in thih sawnd wohz thhic withe spreyc from thih chuhrning ov thih wohtuhrz eymung thih rihfs and swohluwing shuwlz. Fohr thih tayd ran layc a mil-reys throoh dhat sawnd, and thih rowring ov it wohz pleyn tooh hihr at tooh maylz distans whehr they ceuld. Jus ced, "Mayndst dhaw may shephuhrding ov thih Goohl fliht intooh yonduhr johz? I wood not tel thih fohr sheym whenaz thih fit wohz on mih. But this iz thih fuhrst dey cins thih cending keym upon us dhat I hav not wisht in may hahrt dhat thih Reycez ov Cahrtadzah had gulpt mih dawn ohlsuw and ghen mih wun ending withe thih eycuhrst Goohlz."

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah looct swiftlih upon him and wohz saylent.

Naw in a shohrt whayl wohz thih ship cum intooh Looking'heyven and eylongsayd ov thih mahrbel kih. Thehr eymid hiz fuwc stood Spitfayr, whooh grihted them, ceyng, "I meyd ohl redih tooh bring

thrih ov yooh huwm in trayumf from yohr ship, but Vol cawnceld eygheynst it. Glad am I dhat I tooc hiz cawncel, and poot bay dhuwz thhingz I had prihpehrd. They had cut mih tooh thih hahrt tooh cih them naw."

Jus ahnsuhrd him, "O may brudhuhr, this noyz ov hamuhrz in Looking'heyven, and thihz ten kihlz leyd on thih slips, shuw mih yih hav bihn bisihd on thhingz nihruhr awr nihdz dhan bey-lihvz and thih instroohments ov joy cins dhaw uhrnst huwm."

Suw they tooc hohrs, and whayl they ruwd they rihleyted tooh Spitfayr ohl dhat had bihfohlen cins thehr fehiring tooh Cahrcih. In such wayz keym they nohrth pahst thih hahrbohr, and suw uwvuhr Heyvuhrshoh Tung tooh Becfoot whehr they tooc thih upuhr pahth dhat claymz intooh Ihvendeyl cluws unduhr thih scrihz ov Stahrxtih Payc, and suw keym a litel bihfowr noohn tooh Gheyling.

Thih blac roc ov Gheyling standz at thih end ov thih spuhr dhat runz dawn from thih sawth rij ov Litel Dreyc'huwm, dayvayding Brancdeyl from Ihvendeyl. On thrih saydz thih clifs fohl shihr from thih cahcel wohlz tooh thih dihp woodz ov uwc and buhrch and ruwan trih which cahrpel thih flats ov Moohn'gahrth Botom and fedhuhr thih wohlz ov thih ghil throoh which thih Brancdeyl bec plun'gez in wohtuhrfohl ahftuhr wohtuhrfohl. Uwnlih on thih nohrthihst mey

oht ceyv a wingd thhing cum at thih cahcel, acros a smoothe grahs-gruwn sadel les dhan a stuwzn thruw in width. Uwvuhr dhat sadel runz thih peyven wey lihding from thih Brancdeyl ruwd tooh thih Layon Gheynt, and within thih gheynt iz dhat gahrden ov thih grahs wohc betwihn thih yoohz whehr Lecingam stood withe thih mahrtlet nayn wihx bihfowr, when fuhrst hih keym tooh Dihmonland.

When nayt fel and supuhr wohz dun, Jus wohct eylawn on thih wohlz ov hiz cahcel, wohching thih constihleyshonz buhrn in thih moohnles scay eybuw thih maytih shaduwz ov thih mawnteynz, licihning tooh thih hoohting ov thih awlz in thih woodz bihluw and thih feynt distant tinkel ov caw-belz, and brihthing thih freygrans bowrn up from thih gahrden on thih nayt wind dhat ihven in hay sumuhr teysted kihn ov thih mawnteynz and thih cih. Thihz sayts and cents and voycez ov thih huwlih nayt suw held him in throhl dhat it wohnted but an awr ov midnaye when hih left thih batelments, and cohld thih slihpih haws-cahrlz tooh layt him tooh hiz cheymbuhr in thih sawth tawuhr ov Gheyling.

Wundraws fehr wohz thih greyt fowr-puwsted bed ov thih Lohrd Jus, bilded ov solid guwld, and hung withe cuhrteynz ov dahrc-blyooh tapestrih whehron wuhr figyoohrd slihpih-flawuhrz. Thih canuwpih eybuw thih bed wohz a muwseyic ov taynih stuwzn, get, suhrpentayn, dahrc hayeycinth, blac mahrbel, bludstuwzn, and lapis lazhoohlih, suw confawnded in a meyz ov ohtihring hyooh and lustuhr dhat they mayt moc thih palpayteyting scay ov nayt. And thehrin wohz thih laycnes ov thih constihleyshon ov Ohrayon, held bay Jus fohr gahrjan ov hiz fohrchooznz, thih stahrz whehrov, layc dhuwz bihniht thih guwlden canuwpih in thih presens cheymbuhr, wuhr joohelz shaying ov thehr uwn layt, yet ded wood glimihring in thih dahrc. Fohr Bihteljoohz wohz a roohbih shaying, and a daymond fohr Raygel, and peyl tuwpeysez fohr thih udhuhr stahrz. Thih fowr puwsts ov thih bed wuhr ov thih thhicnes ov a manz ahrm in thehr upuhr pahrts, but thehr luwuhr pahrts greyt az hiz weyst and cahrvn in thih imeyj ov buhrdz and bihsts: at thih foot ov thih bed a layon fohr cureyj and an awl fohr wizdom, and at thih hed an eylohnt fohr feythfoolnes ov hahrt and a kingfishuhr fohr hapaynes. On thih cohrynays ov thih bed and on thih panelz eybuw thih piluw eygheynst thih wohl wuhr cahrvd Jucez dihdz ov dering-dooch; and thih leytest cahrving wohz ov thih cih-fayt withe thih Goohlz. Tooh thih rayt ov thih bed stood a

teybel withe uwld boox ov songz and boox ov thih stahrz and ov huhrbz and bihsts and travihluhrz teylz, and thehr wohz Jus wuwnt tooh ley hiz sowrd bihsayd him whayl hih slept. Ohl thih wohlz wuhr paneld withe dahrc swiht-smeling wood, and ahrmohr and weponz hung thehron. Maytih chests and ahlmihrihz hahspt and bawnd withe guwld stood eygheynst thih wohl, whehrin hih kept hiz rich eyparel. Winduwz uwpend tooh thih west and sawth, and on ihch winduw-lej stood a buwl ov peylest geyd fild withe whayt ruwsez; and thih ehr entihring thih bed-cheymbuhr wohz leyden withe thehr cent.

Eybawt coc-cruw keym a drihm untooh Lohrd Jus, standing bay hiz hed and tuching hiz ayz suw dhat hih cihmd tooh weyc and looc eybawt thih cheymbuhr. And hih cihmd tooh bihuwld an ihvil bihst ohl buhrning az a dreyc, bisih in hiz cheymbuhr, withe menih hedz, thih muwst venuwmaws dhat evuhr hih thih deyz ov hiz layf had cihn, and eybawt it its fayv fohnz, layc tooh itcelf but smohluhr. It cihmd tooh Jus dhat in pleys ov hiz sowrd thehr ley a greyt spihr ov fehr wuhrcmanship on thih teybel bay hiz bed; and it cihmd tooh him in hiz drihm dhat this spihr had bihn hiz ohl hiz layf, and wohz hiz greytest trezhoohr, and dhat withe it hih mayt eycumplish ohl ththingz and widhawt it skehrslieh oht tooh hiz maynd. Hih leybohrd tooh rihch awt hiz hand tooh thih spihr, but sum pawuhr widhheld him suw dhat fohr ohl hiz strayving hih mayt not stuhr. But dhat bihst tooc up thih spihr in its johz, and went withe it fowrth from thih cheymbuhr. It cihmd tooh Jus dhat thih pawuhr dhat held him dihpahrtd withe thih dihpahrting ov thih bihst, suw dhat hih lihpt up and snacht dawn weponz from thih wohl and meyd an onsloht on thih fohnz ov dhat fel bihst dhat wuhr tehiring dawn thih wuwven hangingz and mahring withe thehr fayrih breth thih figyoohr ov thih kingfishuhr at thih hed ov hiz bed. Ohl thih cheymbuhr wohz fool ov thih rihc ov buhrning, and hih thoht hiz frendz wuhr withe him in thih cheymbuhr, Vol and Viz and Sig and Spityfayr and Brandokh Deyhah, fayting withe thih bihsts, and thih bihsts prihveyld eygheynst them. Then it cihmd tooh him dhat thih bedpuwst

cahrven in thih laycnes ov an awl speyc tooh him in hiz drihm in hyoohman spihch; and thih awl ced, "O foohl, dhat shalt justlih bih poot in greyt misihrih widhawt end, exept dhaw bring bac thih spihr. Hast dhaw fohrgot dhat this uwnlih iz dhay greytest trezhoohr and muwst wuhrthihest dhay kehr?"

Thehrwithe keym bac dhat grim and grizful bihst intooh thih cheymbuhr, and Jus eyceyld it, craying tooh thih awl, "Uncivil awl, whehr then must I faynd may spihr dhat this bihst hath hiden?"

And it cihmd tooh him dhat thih awl meyd ahnsuhr, "Inqwayr in Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

Suw choohmulchoohaws wohz Lohrd Jucez drihm dhat hih wohz flung at weyking

awt ov bed on tooh thih dihrskin cahrpets ov thih flowr, and hiz rayt hand clucht thih hilt ov hiz greyt sowrd whehr it ley on thih teybel bay hiz bed, whehraz in hiz drihm hih had biheld thih spihr. Maytaylih moohvd wohz hih; and fohrthwith cluwdhd himcelf, and fehring throoh thih dim cohraydohrz keym tooh Spitfayrz cheymbuhr, and sat on thih bed and weyct him. And Jus tuwld him hiz drihm, and ced, "I huwld maycelf clihn ov ohl bleym hihreybawt, fohr from dhat dey fowrth this uwnlih hath bihn may kehr, haw tooh faynd may dihr brudhuhr and fech him huwm, and uwnlih then tooh rihc maycelf on thih Wichez. And whoht wohz this spihr in may drihm if not Guwldrih? This vizhon ov thih nayt kindleth fohr us a bihcon fayr wih nihdz must cihc tooh. It bad mih inqwayr in Coshtrah Bihlohrn, and til dhat bih dun nevuhr wil I rest nohr suw much az thhinc on oht bihsaydz."

Spitfayr ahnsuhrd and ced, "Dhaw bihst awr uwldest brudhuhr, and I shal foluw and uwbey thih in ohl dhat dhaw wilt dooh ohr shalt ohrdeyn hihrov."

Then fehrd Jus tooh thih ghest-cheymbuhr, whehr Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah

ley a-slihping, and weyct him and tuwld him ohl. Brandokh Deyhah snugheld him unduhr thih bedcluwldhz and ced, "Let mih bih and let mih slihp yet tooh awrz. Then wil I rayz and beythe and ehrey maycelf and iht may mohrning mihl, and thehrahftuhr wil I teyc rihd withe thih and tel thih sumwhoht fohr dhayn advahnteyj. I hav not slept in a goohs-fedhuhr bed and shihts ov lohn thihz menih wihx. If dhaw pleyg mih naw, bay God, I wil incontaynentlih teyc hohrs uwvuhr thih Stayl tooh Crothihring, and let thih and dhayn eyfehrz guw tooh thih devil."

Suw Jus lahft and left him in pihs. And leytuhr when they had ihten they wohct in a plasht alih, whehr thih ehr wohz coohl and thih puhrpel shaduw on thih pahth wohz dapeld withe brayt flex ov sunshayn. Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Dhaw nuwst dhat Coshtrah Bihlohn iz a greyt mawnteyn, bihsayd which awr mawnteynz ov Dihmonland wood cihm but litel hilz unrihmahrct, and dhat it standeth in thih utuhrmuwst pahrts ov uhrth bihyond thih weysts ov Upuhr Impland, and dhaw maytst suhrch a yihr throoh ohl thih pihpeld cuntrihs ov thih wuhrld and not faynd wun living suwl whooh had suw much az biheld it from eyfah." "

"This much I nuw," ced Lohrd Jus.

"Iz dhayn hahrt utuhrlih bent on this juhrnih?" ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Ohr iz it not prihpostihraws, and a thhing tooh cumfohrt awr enihmihz, dhat wih shood dhus at thih biding ov a drihm flay tooh fahr and peraylaws landz, rahdhuhr dhan pey Wichland presentlih fohr thih sheym hih hath dun us?"

Jus ahnsuhrd him, "May bed iz haluwd bay spelz ov such a vuhrchooh dhat nuw nohtih drihm fluwn throoh thih ayvohrih gheyt nohr nuw noyzuwm wayzahrdrih hath pawuhr tooh trubel hiz slihp whooh

slihpath thehr. This drihm iz trooh. Fohr Wichland thehr iz taym ihnuw. If dhaw wilt not guw withe mih tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn, I must guw widhawt thih."

"Ihnuf," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Dhaw nuwst fohr thih I tay may puhrs withe a spayduhrz thred. Then fehr wih must tooh Impland, and hihrin mey I help thih. Fohr licen whayl I tel thih a thhing. Whenaz I slyooh Gohrays 10. in Goblinland, Gazlahrc gheyv mih eylong withe udhuhr good ghifts, a greyt cyoohrihosaytih: a trihtihz ohr booc copihd awt on pahrchment bay Bhohrihon hiz cecrihtehrih, whehrin it spihketh ov ohl thih weyz tooh Impland and whoht cuntrihs and kingdomz lay next tooh thih Mohroohnah and thih frunts thehrov, and thih mahrvetz dhat hih fawnd in dhuwz landz. And ohl dhat iz rit in this booc wohz cet dawn feythfoohlih bay Bhohrihon ahftuhr thih teling ov Gruw, thih ceym which naw hath pahrt withe thih Wichlanduhrz. Greyt onohr had Gruw az then from Gazlahrc fohr hiz fahr juhrnihingz and fohr dhat which iz riten in this booc ov wunduhrz; and this it wohz dhat had fuhrst poot in Gazlahrx maynd tooh cend dhat expihdishon intooh Impland, which suw rihjoohst him and keym suw rechedlih tooh noht. If then dhaw wilt cihc tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn, cum huwm withe mih tooh-dey and I wil shuw thih may booc."

Suw speyc Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and Lohrd Jus streytwey ohrduhrd fowrth thih hohrcez, and cent mecenjuhrz tooh Vol unduhr Cahrtadzah and tooh Viz at Dahrclhrsted biding them miht him at Crothihring withe whoht spihd they mayt. It wohz fowr awrz bihfowr noohn when Jus, Spityfayr, and Brandokh Deyhah ruwd dawn from Gheyling and throoh thih woodz ov Moohn'gahrth Botom at thih foot ov thih leyc, teyking thih meyn braydel ruwd up Breykingdeyl, dhat runz bay thih westuhrn mahrgin ov Moohnmihhr unduhr thih butrihcez ov thih Scahrf. They ruwd sluwlih, fohr thih sun wohz strong on thehr bax. Glahcih wohz thih leyc and layc a tuhrqwoyz, and thih

buhrch-clad sluwps tooh thih ihst and nohrth and thih behr rugged rigez ov Stadhfel and Budreyfel bihyond wuhr mirohrd in its depths. On thih left az they ruwd, thih spuhrz ov thih Scahrf impended from on hay in payld baschonz ov blac pohrfayrih layc jayants cahcelz; and litel valihz chuwct withe monstraws buwlduhrz, eymung which thih cilvuhr buhrchez crowding shuwd layc taynih gahrden plahnts, ran stihplih bac betwihn thih spuhrz. Up dhuwz valihz eypihrd suxesayvliih thih meyn sumits ov thih Scahrf, saveyj and rihmuwt, frawning dawnwohrd az it wuhr betwihn thehr uwn nihz: Glohmrih Payc, Mikelscahrf, and Ilstac. Bay noohn they had claymd tooh thih extrihm hed ov Breykingdeyl, and hohlted on thih Stayl, a litel bihyond thih wohtuhrshed, unduhr thih shihr nohrdhurn wohl ov Il Drenoc. Bihfowr them thih pahs plunjd stihplih intooh Eymeydahrdeyl. Thih luwuhr rihch ov Swichwohtuhr shon fiftihn maylz ohr mowr tooh thih west, wel nay hiden in thih hiht-heyz. Nihruhr at hand in thih nohrthwest ley Ramihric Mihr, boozomd eymung thih smoohthe-bact Kihlayland hilz and thih ihstuhnmuwst Uplandz ov Shalgreth Hihth, withe thih cih bihyond; and on thih valih flowr, nihr thih wohtuhrzmiht whehr Trahnzdeyl runz intooh Eymeydahrdeyl, it wohz posaybel tooh descray thih roohfs ov Sigz haws at Menih Booshez.

When they keym dawn thidhuhr, Sig wohz awt a-hunting. Suw they left wuhrd withe hiz leydih wayf and dranc a stirup cup and ruwd on, up Swichwohtuhr Wey, and fohr twelv maylz and mowr eylong thih sudhuhrn showr ov Swichwohtuhr. Suw dropt they intooh Gashtuhrndeyl, and thens rawnding thih westuhrn sluwps ov Uhrn'gheynt End keym up on thih Crothihring Sayd when thih shaduwz wuhr lengthhihning in thih guwlden sumuhr ihvihning. Thih Sayd ran gentlih west fohr a lihg ohr mowr tooh whehr Thunduhrfuhrth ley layc bihten guwld bihniht thih sun. Acros thih Fuhrth thih payn-fohrests ov Westmahrc, uwld az thih wuhrld, ruwz toohwohrd Broxtih Ej and Gemzahr Ej: a fahr-flung amfithhiheytuhr ov behr clif and scrih

shuting in thih prospect tooh thih nohrth. Hay on thih left tawuhrd
thih presaypaycez ov Uhrn'gheyt End; sawthwohrd and sawth-ihstwohrd
ley

thih cih. Suw ruwd they dawn thih Sayd, throoh dihp pihsfool
meduwz fehr withe whayt ox-ay deysihz, blyoohbelz and yeluw
guwtsbihrd and cih campihon, dihp-blyooh genshanz, agraymuwnih and
wayld mahrojham, and pinc cluwvuhr and bayndwihd and greyt yeluw
butuhrcups fihsting on thih sun. And on an emaynens bihyond which
thih land fel eywey mowr stihplih toohwohrd thih cih, thih onix tawuhrz
ov Crothihring standing eybuw woodz and gahrdenz shuwd
milc-whayt eygheynst heven and thih clihr haylayn.

When they wuhr naw but hahf a mayl from thih cahcel Jus ced,
"Bihuwld and cih. Thih Leydih Mevrihan hath espayd us from eyfahz, and
raydeth fowrth tooh bring thih huwm."

Brandokh Deyhah cantuhrd eyhed tooh miht huhr: a leydih layt ov bild
and exihding fehr tooh looc upon, breyv ov careyj layc a
wohr-hohrs, soft ov fihchoohr, clihr-brawd, grey-ayd and
prawd-ayd: swiht-mawtht, but not az wun whooh can spihc noht
but swihtnes. Huhr ruwb wohz ov peyl buf-culohrd cilc, withe
cohrceyj cuvuhrd az bay a spayduhrz web withe fayn guwlden thredz;
and shih wovr a poynt-leys rufel stifend withe guwld and cilvuhr
wayr and span'gheld withe litel daymondz. Huhr dihp hehr, blac az
thih reyvenz wing, wohz fahcend withe pinz ov guwld, and a yeluw
ruwz dhat neceld in its coylz wohz az thih moohn looking fowrth
eymung thhic clawdz ov nayt.

"Doohingz bih eyfoot, may leydih cistuhr," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.
"Wun King ov Wichland hav wih dun dawn cins wih ceylid hens;
and ghested in Cahrcih withe eynudhuhr, litel tooh awr content. Ohl
which thhingz Ayl tel thih eynon. Naw layeth awr ruwd sawth fohr
Impland, and Crothihring iz but awr kehreyvancihray."

Shih tuhrnd huhr hohrs, and they ruwd ohl in cumpeynih intooh thih shaduw ov thih eynshent cihdahrz dhat clustuhrd tooh thih nohrth ov thih huwm-mihdz and plezhoohr gahrdenz, steytlih, gohnt-limd, flat-brawd, blihc eygheynst thih scay. On thih left a lilih-peyven leyc slept coohl bihnihth maytih elmz, withe a blac swohn nihr thih banc and huhr fowr cignets duwsing in a ruw, thehr hedz tuct bihnihth thehr wingz, suw dhat they looct layc bohlz ov grey-brawn froth fluwting on thih wohtuhr. Thih pahth lihding tooh thih brij-gheyt sig-zagd stihplih up thih mawnd betwihn luw brohd balustreydz ov whayt onix behring at intuhrvalz sqwehr onix pots, plahnted sum withe yeluw ruwsez and sum withe wundraws flawuhrz, greyt and delaykeyt, withe freyl whayt shel-layc petalz. Dihp, mistihrihaws centuhrz had dhuwz flawuhrz, thhic withe soft hehrz within, and dahrc within withe velvihtih puhrpel strihct withe blac and blud culohr and dust ov guwld.

Thih cahcel ov Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah standing at thih top ov thih mawnd wohz suhrkeld bay a dich buwth brohd and dih p. Thih gheyt bihfowr thih drohbrij wohz ov ayrn ghilded and richlih roht. Thih tawuhrz and gheyt'haws wuhr ov whayt onix layc thih cahcel itcelf, and on aydhuhr hand bihfowr thih gheyt wohz a cuwlosal mahrbel hipogrif, standing mowr dhan thuhrtih fiht hay at thih widhuhz; and thih wingz and hoohvz and talonz ov thih hipogrifs and thehr meynz and fowrlox wuhr uwvuhrleyd withe guwld, and thehr ayz cahrbunkelz ov pyoohrest lustuhr. Uwwuhr thih gheyt wohz riten in letuhrz ov guwld:

Ye braggers an 'a',

Be skeered and awa'

Frae Brandoch Daha.

But tooh tel ihven a tenth pahrt ov thih mahrvelz rich and byoohtayfool dhat wuhr in thih haws ov Crothihring: its coohl cowrts and

cuwluwneydz rich withe gemz and freygrant withe costlih spaycez and streynj bloohmz: its bed-cheymbuhrz whehr, coht layc Afruwwdaytih in huhr guwlden net, thih spirit ov slihp cihmd evuhr tooh sheyc slumbuhr from its plyoohmz, and nun mayt bih weyking long in dhuwz cheymbuhrz but swiht slihp uwvuhrkeym thehr aylidz: thih Cheymbuhr ov thih Sun and thih Cheymbuhr ov thih Moohn, and thih greyt midel hohl withe its hay galihrih and ayvohrih stehr: tooh tel ov ohl thihz wuhr but tooh cloy aymeyjayneyshon withe picchoohring in wun whayl ov uwvuhr-much glowrih and splendohr.

Noht bihfel dhat nayt ceyv thih cuming ov Sig bihfowr sun-dawn, and ov dhuwz bredhren Vol and Viz in thih nayt, having riden hahrd in uwbihgens tooh thih wuhrd ov Jus. In thih mohrning when they had ihten thehr dey-mihl thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland went dawn intooh plihzohncez, and withe them thih Leydih Mevrihan. And in an alih dhat wohz roohft withe bihmz ov cihdahr resting on mahrbel pilahrz, thih bihmz and pilahrz smudhuhrd withe dahrc-red ruwsez, they sat looking ihstwohrd acros a sunc gahrden. Thih wedhuhr wohz swiht and greyshaws, and thhic jooch ley on thih peyl tereyst lohnz dhat led dawn eymung flawuhr bedz tooh thih fish-pond in thih midst. Thih wohtuhr meyd a coohl mirohr whehron fluwted yeluw and crimzon wohtuhr-lilihz uwpihning tooh thih scay. Ohl thih grihnz and flawuhr-culohrz gluw d woorm and clihn, but soft widhohl and shaduwih, veyld in thih grey heyz ov thih sumuhr mohrning.

They sat hihr and thehr az they listed on chehrz and benchez, nihr a hyoohj tanc ohr vahz ov dahrc grihn geyd whehr sulfuhr-culohrd lilihz grooh in lan'gohraws byoohtih, thehr bac-cuhrld petalz shuwing thih scahrlet anthuhrz; and ohl thih ehr wohz hevih withe thehr swihtnes. Thih greyt geyd vahz wohz rawnd

and flat layc thih bodih ov a tohrtoys, uwpen at thih top whehr thih lilihz grooh. It wohz cahrvd withe skeylz, az it wuhr thih bodih ov a dragon, and a dragonz hed a-gheyping rihrd itcelf at wun end, and at thih udhuhr thih teyl cuhrvd up and uwvuhr layc thih handel ov a bahsket, and thih teyl had litel fowr and haynd fiht withe clohz, and a smohluhr hed at thih end ov thih teyl gheyp dawnowhrdz bayting at thih lahrj hed. Fowr legz syoohpowrted thih bodih, and ihch leg wohz a smohl dragon standing on its haynd fiht, its hed gruwng intooh thih pehrent bodih az thih thay ohr shuwlduhr joynt shood joynt thih trunc. In thih cuhrv ov thih crihchoohrz nec, hiz bac propt eygheynst its hed, sat thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah in greysfool ihz, wun foot tuching thih grawnd, thih udhuhr swinging frih; and in hiz handz wohz thih booc, bawnd in dahrc pyoohs-culohrd guwtskin and guwld, ghiven him bay Gazlahrc in yihrz gon bay. Sig wohcht him aydliah tuhrn thih peygez whayl thih udhuhrz tohct. Lihning toohwohrd Mevrihan hih whispuhrd in huhr ihr, "Iz not hih eybel and sheypen fohr tooh subjooh and poot unduhr him ohl thih wuhrd: dhay brudhuhr? A man ov blud and peril, and yet suw fehr tooh bihuwld dhat it iz a mahrvl?"

Huhr ayz dahnst. Shih ced, "It iz pyoohr troohth, may lohrd."

Naw speyc Spitfayr ceying, "Rihd fowrth tooh us, I prey thih, thih booc ov Gruw; fohr may suwl iz eyfayr tooh cet fowrth on this fehring."

"Tiz rit sumwhoht crabdliah," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "and muwst damnabli long. I spent hahf lahst nayt a-suhrching ont, and tiz muwst eyparent nuw udhuhr wey layeth tooh thihz mawnteynz ceiv bay thih Mohroohnah, and acros thih Mohroohnah iz (if Gruw ceiv trooh) but

wun wey, and dhat from thih Gulf ov Myoohlvah: '*a xx dayes journeye from northe by south-est.*' Fohr hihr hih teleth ov wohtuhrspringz bay thih wey, but hih ceivth in udhuhr pahrts ov thih dezuhrt bih nuw

wohtuhrspringz, ceyv uwnlih springz venuwmaws, whehr '*The water riketh like a sething potte continually, having sumwhat a sulphureous and sumwhat onpleasant savor,*' and, '*The ground nurysheth here no plante nor herbe except yt bee venomous championions or tode stooles.*'"

"If hih cey trooh?" ced Spityfayr. "Hih iz a tuhrncuwt and a rihnihgheyduw. Whehrfowr not thehrfowr a layahr?"

"But a faylosuwfuhr," ahnsuhrd Jus. "I nyoooh him wel ov uwld in Goblinland, and I juj him tooh bih wun whooh iz not fohls ceyv uwnlih in polaycih. Sutel ov maynd hih iz, and dihrlih luveth ploting and skihming, and, az I thhinc, puhrvuhrslieh eyfecteth evuhr thih loohsing sayd if hih bih broht intooh enih qwohrel; and this hath dragd him oft-taymz tooh misfohrchoohn. But in this booc ov hiz travelz hih must nihdz spihe troohth, az it cihmeth tooh mih, tooh bih trooh tooh hiz uwn celf."

Thih Leydih Mevrihan looct aproohvinglih on Lohrd Jus and huhr ay twinkeld. Fohr wel it layct huhr hyoohmohr tooh hihr menz neychoohrz suw dayvaynd.

"O Jus, frend ov may hahrt," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "dhay wuhrdz pruwcihd, az evuhr they did, from thih trooh fawnt ov wizdom, and I embreys them and thih. This booc iz a gayd which wih shal foluw not heltuhr-skeltuhr but az uwld men ov wohr. If then thih rayt ruwd tooh Mohrnah Mohroohnah lay from thih Gulf ov Myoohlvah, wuhr wih not best ceyl streyt thidhuhrwohrd and ley up awr ships in dhat Gulf whehr thih cuwst and thih cuntrih sayd bih widhawt heybayteyshon, rahdhuhr dhan fehr tooh sum nihruhr heyven ov Awtuhr Impland such az Ahrlan Mawth whidhuhr dhaw and Spityfayr fehrd cix

sumuhrz eyguw?"

"Not Ahrlan Mawth, o' this juhrnih," ced Jus. "Sum spowrt puhrchahns wih mayt obteyn thehr had wih lezhoohr fohr fayting withe thih eycuhrst inhabaytants, but evihrih deyz dihley wih naw dooh meyc huwldeth may brudhuhr eynudhuhr dey in bondeyj. Thih princez and

Fasez ov thih Imps hav menih strong wohld tawnz and tawuhrz in ohl dhuwz cuwstlandz, and hahrd bay in a mihjamnis ov thih rivuhr Ahrlan, in Ohrpish, iz thih greyt cahcel ov Fax Fey Faz, whehrtooh Guwldrih and I dreyv him huwm from Laydah Nan'gyoohnah."

"Tiz an il cuwst tooh, tooh faynd a landing," ced Brandokh Deyhah, tuhrning thih lihvz ov thih booc. "*Az hih ceyth, 'Ymplande the More beginnith at the west syde of the mowth of Arlan and occupiethe all the lond unto the hedeland Sibrion, and therefro sowth awaye to the Corshe, by gesse a vij hundered myles, wherby the se is not ther of nature favorable nor no haven is or cumming yn meete for shippes.'*"

Suw ahftuhr sum tohc and suhrching ov dhat booc ov Gruw they dihtuhrmaynd this shood bih thehr plan: tooh fehr tooh Impland bay wey ov thih Streys ov Mihlaycafcas and thih Daydohrnyan Cih, and suw ley up thehr ships in thih Gulf ov Myoohlvah, and landing thehr stahrt streytwey acros thih wilduhrnes tooh Mohrnah Mohroohnah, ihven az Gruw had descraybd thih wey.

"Ehr wih lihv it," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "hihr whoht hih spikheth consuhrning Coshtrah Bihlohrn. This hih biheld from Mohrnah Mohroohnah, whehrov hih ceyth: *'The contery is hylly, sandy, and baren of wood and corne, as forest ful of lynge, mores, and mosses, with*

stony hilles. Here is a mighty stronge and usid borow for flying serpens in sum baren, hethy, and sandy grownd, and thereby the litle round castel of Morna Moruna stonidith on Omprenne Edge, as on the limit of the worlde, sore wether beten and yn ruine. This castelle was brent in tyme of warre, spoyled and razyd by Kynge Goriyse the fourt of Wytchlande in auncient dayes. And they say there was blamelesse folke dwellid therein and ryghte gentle, nor was ther any need for Goriyse to have usid them so cruellie, when hee cawsyd the hole howsholde there to appere before hym and then slawe sum owt of hande, and the residew he throughe all downe the steep clif fe. And but few supervivid after the gret falle, and these fled away thorough the untrodden forests of Bavvynaune and withoute question perysht ther yn great sorwe and miserie. Sum fable that it was for thys cruel facte sake that King Goriyse was eat by divels on the Moruna with al hys hoste, one man onely cumming home again to tell of these thynges bifallen.' Now mark: 'From Morna Moruna I behelde sowthawaye two grete mowntaynes standing over Bavvinane as two Queenes in bewty seted in the skye by estimacion xx legues fro hence above meny more ise robed mowntaines supereminente. The wyche as I lernyd was Coschtre Belourne the one and the othere Koshtre Pivrarca. And I veuyed them continuallie unto the going downe of the sun, and that was the fayrest sighte and the most bewtifullest and gallant marvaille that mine eyen hath sene. Therewith talkid I with the smaule thynges that dwell there in the mines and in the busschis growing round abowte as it ys my wonte, and amongst them one of those byrdes cawld martlettes that have feete so

litle that they seime to have none. And thys litle martlette sittynge in a frambousier or raspis busche tolde mee that none may come alive unto Coschtra Beloorn, for the mantycorcs of the mowntaines will certeynely ete his brains ere he come thither. And were he so fortunate as scape these mantycorcs, yet cowlde hee never climbe up the gret craggcs of yce and rocke on Koschtre Beloorn, for none is so stronge as to scale them but by art magicall, and such is the vertue of that mowntayne that no magick avayleth there, but onlie strength and wisdomc alone, and as I seye these woulde not avayl to climbe those clifcs and yce ryvers."

"Whoht bih thihz mantaycohrz ov thih mawnteynz dhat iht menz breynz?" ahsct thih Leydih Mevrihan.

"This booc iz suw exihlent wel rit," ced huhr brudhuhr, "dhat dhayn ahnsuhr eypihreth on this ceym peyj: '*The beeste Mantichora, whych is as mucche as to saye devorer of menne, rennith as I herde tell, on the skirt of the mowntaynes below the snow feldes. These be monstrous bestes, ghastlie and ful of horroure, enemies to mankinde, of a red coloure, with ij rowes of huge grete tethe in their mouthes. It hath the head of a man, his eyen like a ghoot, and the bodie of a lyon lancing out sharpe prickles fro behinde. And hys tayl is the tail of a scorpioun. And is more delyverer to goo than is fowle to flee. And hys voys is as the roaryng of x lyons.*'"

"Thihz bihsts," ced Spityfayr, "wuhre eyluwn ihnuv tooh droh mih thidhuhr. I shal bring thih huwm a smohl wun, madam, tooh kihp cheynd in thih cowrt."

"Dhat shood dash mih from dhay frendship fohr evuhr, cusin," ced Mevrihan, struwking thih fethihrih ihrz ov huhr litel mahrmuwset dhat cudeld in huhr lap. "Dhat which fihdeth on breynz wuhr uwvuhnrurisht in Dihmonland, and bihlayc wood uwvihrun thih whuwl cuntrih-sayd."

"Cend it tooh Wichland," ced Sig. "Whehr when it hath iht up Gruw and Cohrund it mey sup laytlih on thih King, and then muwst fohrchoohneytlih stahrv fohr lac ov its propuhr nyoohtreatment."

Jus stood up from hiz ciht. "Dhaw and I and Spitfayr," ced hih tooh Brandokh Deyhah, "must tooh wuhrc rawndlih and gadhuhr strength, fohr tiz ohlredih midsumuhr. Yooh, Viz, Vol, and Sig, must hav thih wohrding ov awr huwmz whaylz wih bih gon. Wih keynot bih les dhan tooh thawzand sowrdz on this fehring."

"Haw menih ships, Vol," ahsct Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "canst dhaw ghiv us, busct and bawn, ehr this moohn weyn?"

"Thehr bih fowrtihn afluwht," ced Vol. "Bihsaydz thihz, ten kihlz lay on thih slips at Looking'heyven, and nayn mowr hath Spitfayr but naw leyd dawn on thih bihch bihfowr hiz haws at Awlswic."

"Thuhrtih and thrih in sum," ced Spitfayr. "Yooh cih wih hav not twideld awr thumz whaylst yih wuhr gon."

Jus peyst bac and fowrth withe greyt straydz, hiz braw clawded and hiz joh clencht. In a whayl hih ced, "Laxus hath fohrtih ceyl, dragonz ov wohr. I am not suw aydel-heded az fehr widhawt an ahrmih intooh Impland, but suhrteyn it iz dhat if awr il-wiluhrz wood moohv wohr eygheynst us wih stand in eyparent wihcnes, hihr ohr abrohd, tooh thruw bac thehr oncet."

Vol ced, "Ov thihz nayntihn ships a-bilding nuw mowr dhan tooh can teyc thih wohtuhr bihfowr a munth bih pahst, and but ceven mowr ehr cix munths taym, poosh wih nevuhr suw maytaylih thih wuhrc."

"Thih cihzon wehreth, and may brudhuhr weysteth in joores. Wih must ceyl ehr eynudhuhr moohn gruw uwld," ced Jus.

Vol ced, "Then withe cixtih ceyl dhaw ceylst, O Jus; and then dhaw lihvt us not wun ship at huwm til mowr bih finisht and lohncht."

"Haw can wih lihv yooh suw?" crayd Spityfayr.

But Brandokh Deyhah looct toohworudz hiz leydh cistuhr, met huhr glahns, and wohz satisfayd. "Thih choys layeth fehr bihfowr us," ced hih. "If wih wil iht thih eg, litel nihd tooh dihbeyt whedhuhr thih shel must guw."

Mevrihan ruwz from huhr ciht lahfing, and ced, "Then let thih cawncil rayz, may lohrdz." And huhr ayz grooh cihrihaws, and shih ced, "Shal they meyc raymz upon us dhat wih ov Dihmonland, whoohm men rihpyooht and huwld thih maytihest lohrdz in ohl thih wuhrlid, hung shihpishlih bac from this hay nihdfool entuhrprayz lest, awr greyttest capteynz bihing abrohd, awr enihmihz mayt haplih teyc us at huwm at daysadvahnteyj? It shal not bih ced ov thih wimen ov Dihmonland dhat they upheld such cawncelz."

9. Ceyleypantah Hilz

OV THIH LANDING OV LOHRD JUS AND HIZ COMPANYONZ IN
AWTUHR IMPLAND
AND THEHR MIHTING WITHE SELDOHRNYUS, HELTIHREYNYUS,
AND JALKEYNAYUS
FOSTUS; AND OV THIH TAYDINGZ TUWLD BAY MAYVAHRSH, AND
THIH DIHLINGZ OV
THIH THRIH GREYT CAPTEYNZ ON THIH HILZ OV CEYLEYPANTAH.

On thih thuhrtih and fuhrst dey ahftuhr dhat cawncil held in
Crothihring, thih fliht ov Dihmonland poot tooh cih from
Looking'heyven: ihleven dragonz ov wohr and tooh greyt ships ov
buhrthen, bawnd fohr thih utuhrmuwst cihz ov uhrth in qwest ov thih
Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Eytihn hundred Dihmonz fehrd on dhat
expihdishon, and not a man eymung them dhat wohz not a compliht
suwljuhr. Fohr fayv deyz they ruwd sawthheywey on a windles cih,
and on thih cixth thih cih-clifs ov Goblinland keym awt ov thih
heyz on thehr stahrbohrd baw. They ruwd sawth eylong thih land,
and on thih tenth dey awt from Looking'heyven pahst unduhr thih
Nes ov Uwzam, juhrnihing thens fowr deyz withe a feyvohring wind
uwvuhr thih uwpen cihz tooh Cibrihon. But naw, when they had rawnded
dhat dahrc promontowrih and wuhr eybawt stihring ihst eylong thih
cuwst ov Impland thih Mowr, and les dhan ten deyz juhrnih ley
betwixt them and thehr heyven in Myoohlvah, a dizmal tempest
sudenlih suhrprayzd them. Fohr fohrtih deyz it swept them in heyl
and sliht uwvuhr wayd-wohluwing uwshan, widhawt a stahr, widhawt a
cows; til, on a fihrs midnajt ov wind and dahrcnes and
rowring wohtuhrz wohz Jucez and Spitfayrz ship and udhuhr fowr in
huhr cumpeynih driven on thih rox on a lih showr and browken in
pihcez. Hahrdlih, and ahftuhr long batling eymung greyt weyvz,
dhuwz bredhren wun ashowr, wihrih and huhrt. In thih inhospiteybel
layt ov a wet and windih dohn they mustuhrd on thih bihch such
ov thehr fuwc az had eskeypt awt ov thih mawth ov destrucshon;
and they wuhr thrih hundred and thuhrtih and thrih.

Spitfayr, bihuwlding thihz thhingz, speyc and ced, "This land hath a vileynaws looc stuhreth may rihmembrans, az but tooh bihuwld vuhrjoohs sawreth thih mawth ov him whooh wuns teysted thehrov. Rihmembuhrst dhaw this land?"

Jus scand thih luw long cuwst-layn dhat swept nohrth and west tooh an eschoohehrih, and bihyond ran westwohrdz til it wohz lost in thih scud and drayving spreyc. Dezuwleyt buhrdz flyooh eybuyc thih weltuhr ov thih suhrgez. Hih ced, "Suhrteynlih this iz Ahrlan Mawth, whehr lihst ov ohl I had choohzd tooh cum a-land withe suw smohl a hed ov men. Yet shalt dhaw proohv hihr, az it hath evuhr bihn, haw ohl uwkeyzhonz ahr but steps fohr us tooh claym feym bay."

"Awr ships lost," crayd Spitfayr, "and thih mowr pahrt ov awr men, and wuhrst ov ohl, Brandokh Deyhah dhat iz wuhrth ten thawzand. Ihzaylihuhr shal a litel ant bib this uwshan dray, dhan shal wih in this teyking puhrfohrm awr entuhrprayz." And hih cuhrst and blasfihmd, ceying, "Cuhrst bih thih malays ov thih cih, which, having bruwc awr pawuhr, naw spyooheth us ashowr hihr tooh awr mihr undoohing; and suw hath dun greyt sucohr tooh thih King ov Wichland, and untooh ohl thih wuhrld bihsayd greyt dameyj."

But Jus ahnsuhrd him, "Thhinc not dhat thihz contrehrih windz cum ov fohrchoohn ohr bay thih inflyoohens ov meylignant and combustayv stahrz. This wedhuhr bluweth awt ov Cahrcih. Ihven az thihz verih weyvz dhaw bihuwldst hav ihch hiz bac-wohsh ohr unduhrtuw, suw foluweth ahftuhr evihrih cending an unduhrtuw ov ihvil hap, whehrbay, ohlbihit in ecens a les dedlih thhing, menih hav bihn drawnd and wohsht eyweyc whooh stood unrihmoohvd eygheynst thih meyn struwc ov thih breycuhr. Suw wuhr wih tways cins dhat dey broht nihr tooh awr beyn: fuhrst, when awr jujment bihing dahrkend withe a

streynj distracshon wih went up withe Gazlahrc eygheynst Cahrcih; next, when this stohrm rect us hihr bay Ahrlan Mawth. Dhuw bay mayn ahrt I rihbeyted thih Kingz cending, yet eygheynst thih meylifishal unduhrtuw dhat foluwd it may chahrmz eyveyl not, nohr thih vuhrchoohz ov ohl sohrcihraws huhrbz dhat gruw."

"Ahr thihz thhingz suw, and wilt dhaw yet bih tempihreyt?" ced Spitfayr.

"Content thih," ced Jus. "Thih sandz run dawn. A suhrteyn taym uwnlih runeth this strihm fohr awr huhrt; it must naw hav wel nay spent itcelf, and it wuhr tooh peraylaws fohr him tooh cunjoohr a cecond taym, az lahst Mey hih cunjoohrd in Cahrcih."

"Whooh tuwld thih dhat?" ahsct Spitfayr.

"I dooh but con' gecchoohr it," ahnsuhrd hih, "from may studihing ov suhrteyn pruwfetic raytingz tuching thih princez ov dhat blud and layn. Whehrbay it eypihreth (yet not clihrlih, but ridel-wayz) dhat if wun and thih ceym King, eceying a cecond taym in hiz uwn puherson an entuhrprayz in dhat caynd, shood feyl, and thih pawuhrz ov dahrcnes destroy him, then iz not hiz layf spilt eyluwn (az it fohrchoohnd eyfowrtaym untooh Gohrays 7. at hiz fuhrst eytempt), but thehr shal bih an end fohr evuhr ov thih whuwl haws ov Gohrays which hath fohr suw menih gihnihreyshonz reynd in Cahrcih."

"Wel," ced Spitfayr, "suw stand wih tooh awr chahns. Uwld muc'hilz wil bloohm at lahst."

Naw fohr nayntihn deyz fehrrd dhuwz bredhren and thehr cumpeynih

ihstwohrd throoh Awtuhr Impland: fuhrst acros a cuntrih ov waynding slihpih rivuhrz and rihdih leyx aynyoohmihreybel, then bay ruwling uplandz and shampeyn grawnd. At length, on an ihven, they keym upon a hihth runing up ihstwohrd tooh a reynj ov tumbeld hilz. Thih hilz wuhr not loftih nohr stihp, but rughed ov awtlayn and thehr suhrfeys ruf withe cragz and buwlduhrz, suw dhat it wohz a meyz ov litel emaynencez and valihz grun upon bay hedhuhr and fuhrn and ranc sad-culohrd grahs, withe stunted thohrn trihz and joochnaypuhrz hahrbohring in thih clefts ov thih rox. On thih wohtuhr-shed, az on an hohrcez widhuhrz, looking west tooh thih red Octuwbuhr suncet and sawth tooh thih fahr layn ov thih Daydohrnyan Cih, they keym upon a spay-fohrteylays, uwld and dezuwleyt, and wun citing in thih gheyt. Fohr verih joy thehr hahrts melted within them, when they nyoooh him fohr nun udhuhr dhan Brandokh Deyhah.

Suw they embreyt him az wun bihyond huwp risen from thih greyv. And hih ced, "Throoh thih Streys ov Mihlaycafcas wohz I bowrn, and rect at lahst on thih luwnlih showr ten lihgz sawthwohrd from this spot, whidhuhr I wun eyluwn, having lost may ship and ohl may dihr companyonz. In may maynd it wohz dhat yih must fehr bay this ruwd tooh Myoohlvah if yih sufuhrd shiprec in thih awtuhr cuwsts ov Impland.

"Hahrken," hih ced, "and I wil tel yooh a wunduhr. A ceven-nayt hav I eyweyted yooh in this roohsting-sted ov dohz and awlz. And it iz a kehreyvancihray ov greyt ahrmihz dhat pahs bay in thih wilduhrnes, and having pahrlid withe tooh I eyweyt thih thuhrd. Fohr wel I thhinc dhat hihr I hav meyd discuvihrih ov a greyt mistihrih, wun dhat hath en'gheyjd thih spihcyoohleyshonz ov wayz men fohr yihrz. Fohr on dhat dey ov may cuming hidhuhr, when suncet wohz red, az naw yooh cih it, bihuwld an ahrmih mahrching up from thih ihst withe greyt flagz a-flohnting in thih wind and ohl cayndz ov

myoohsic. Which I bihuwlding, methoht if thihz bih enihmihz, then guweth dawn may layfs deyz withe onohr, and if frendz, then cumeth provenduhr from dhuwz wagonz ov buhrthen dhat foluw this ahrmih. A weytih ahrgyoohment; cins not suw much az thih smel ov vitelz had I, ceyv nahstih nuts and berihz ov thih uwpen fihld, cins I keym fowrth ov thih cih. Suw went I, teyking may weponz, on thih wohlz ov this spay-fohrteylays and heyld them, biding them cey fowrth thehr qwohlaytih. And hih dhat wohz thehr capteyn ruwd up unduhr thih wohlz, and heyld mih withe ohl cuhrtihcih and nuwbel powrt. And whooh thhinc yih twohz?"

They ahnsuhrd noht.

"Wun dhat hath bihn feymaws," ced hih, "up and dawn thih uhrth fohr a mahrvihlaws valohraws and breyv suwljuhr ov fohrchoohn. Hav yih fohrgot dhat entuhrprayz ov Gazlahrc dhat had its berihing in Impland?"

"Wohz hih litel and dahrc," ahsct Jus, "layc a kihn daguhr sudenlih unshihdhd at midnajt? Ohr brayt withe thih splendohr ov a penond spihr at a jawsting on hay holaydey? Ohr wohz hih deyn'gihraws ov aspect layc an uwld sowrd, rustih in thih midst but brayt at poynt and ej, broht fowrth fohr dihdz ov destaynih at thih feyted dey?"

"Dhayn aruw strayketh in thih tripel ring o' thih mahrc," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Greyt ov gruwth hih wohz, and a verih pihcoc ov splendohr in hiz panoplih ov wohr; and a greyt pich-blac stalihon behr him. Suw I speyc him fehr, ceying, 'O muwst magnifaycent and godlayc Heltihreynyus, conkihrohr in an hundred fayts, whoht meyxt dhaw thihz long yihrz in Awtuhr Impland withe this greyt hed ov men? And whoht dahrc luwdstawn drohz yooh thihz nayn yihrz, cins withe greyt sawnd ov trumpets and tramp ov hohrcez dhaw and Seldohrnyus and Jalkeynayus Fostus went fowrth tooh

meyc Impland Gazlahrx footstoohl; cins which taym ohl thih wuhrld bihlihveth yooch lost and ded?' And hih biheld mih withe eylihen ayz, and meyd ahnsuhr, 'O Brandokh Deyhah, thih wuhrld juhrniheth tooh its cilih wil, but I fehr ohlwey withe may puhrrpuws bihfowr mih. Bih it nayn yihrz, ohr but nayn moohnz, ohr nayn eygez, whoht kehr I? Seldohrnyus wood I encawntuhr and en'gheyj him in batel, dhat stil flihth bihfowr may feys. Iht and drinc withe mih tooh-nayt; but thhinc not tooh dihteyn mih nohr tooh tuhrn mih tooh aydel thohts bihsayd may puhrrpuws. Fohr withe thih dohning ov thih dey I must fowrth eygheyn in qwest ov Seldohrnyus.'

"Suw I eyt and dranc and wohz merih dhat nayt withe Heltihreynyus in hiz peyvilihon ov cilc and guwld. And withe thih dohn hih mahrshald hiz ahrmih and mahrcht westwohrd toohwohrd thih pleynz.

"And on thih thuhrd dey, az I sat widhawt this wohl, cuhrcing yohr sluw cuming, bihuwld an ahrmih mahrching from thih ihst and wun lihding them mawnted on a smohl dun hohrs; and hih wohz clad in blac ahrmohr shaying layc thih reyvenz wing, withe blac ihghelz plyoohmz in hiz helm, and ayz layc thih ayz ov a cat-a-mawnteyn, fool ov spahrcling fleyrn. Litel wohz hih, and fihrs ov feys, and laythe, and hahrd tooh looc on and tayrles tooh looc on layc a stuwrt. And I heyld him from whehr I sat, ceying, 'O muwst nuwteybel and pwihsant Jalkeynayus Fostus, shatihruhr ov thih huwsts ov men, whidhuhrwohrd uwvuhr thih luwnlih hihths fohrluhrn, dhaw and dhay greyt ahrmeyment?' And hih layted dawn from hiz hohrs, and tooc mih bay thih ahrmz withe buwth hiz handz, and ced, If a man drihm, tooh spihc withe ded men bihtuwkenz profit. And ahrt not dhaw ov thih ded, O Brandokh Deyhah? Fohr in fohrgoten deyz, dhat naw spring up in may maynd az flawuhrz in a wihd-chuwct gahrden ahftuhr menih yihrz, suw bloohmst dhaw in may memohrih: greyt eymung thih greyt wunz ov thih wuhrld dhat wohz, dhaw and dhayn haws in Crothihring eybuw thih cih-lokhs in menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland.

But oblivion, layc a sawnding cih, sawndeth betwixt mih and dhuwz deyz; and thih noyz ov thih suhrf stopeth mayn ihrz, and thih mist ov thih cih dahrkihneth mayn ayz dhat streyn fohr a sayt ov dhuwz fahr taymz and thih dihdz thehrov. Yet fohr dhuwz ded deyz ceyc, iht withe mih and drinc withe mih tooh-nayt, cins hihr fohr a nayt wuns mowr I pich may moohving tent on Ceyleypantah Hilz. And tooh-mohruw I fehr onwohrd. Fohr nevuhr mey rest bring bahlm tooh may suwl until I faynd awt Heltihreynyus and smayt hiz hed from hiz shuwlduhrz. Greyt sheym tooh him but litel mahrvcl iz it, dhat hih stil cowrceth bihfowr mih az an hehr. Fohr treytohrz wuhr evuhr dahstahrdz. And whooh evuhr huhrd tel ov a mowr helish devaylish damd treytohr dhan hih? Nayn yihrz eyguw, when Seldohrnyus and I meyd redih tooh dihsayd awr qwohrelz bay batel, wuhrd keym tooh mih in a lukih awr haw dhat this Heltihreynyus withe cuning cuwlubrayn and malays vaypihrayn and slayts suhrpentayn went eybawt tooh eytac mih in thih rihr. Suw tuhrnd I rayt eybawt tooh crush him, but thih fat chuf-cat wohz fled.'

"Suw speyc Jalkeynayus Fostus; and I eyt and dranc withe him dhat nayt, and kehrawzd withe him in hiz tent. And at breyc ov dey hih struc camp and ruwd westeywey withe hiz ahrmih."

Brandokh Deyhah cihst, and looct ihstwohrd toohwohrd thih gheyts ov nayt. And luw, an ahrmih fehrling up from thih luwuhr moohr-landz, toohwohrd them on thih rij, hohrsmen and footmen in dens ehrey, and thehr capteyn on a greyt brawn hohrs rayding in thih van. Long-limd hih wohz and lihn, ohl ahrmd in dustih rustih ahrmohr hact and dinted in an hundred fayts, withe wown ledhuhr gohntlets on hiz handz and a feyded campeyning cluwc thruwn bac from hiz shuwlduhrz. Hih carihd hiz cahsc at hiz sadel-buw and hiz hed wohz behr: thih hed ov an uwld lihn hunting-dog, withe whayt hehr swept bac from a rughed brow whehr blyooh veynz shuwd; greyt-nuwzd and buwnih-feyst, withe hyoohj booshih whayt moostahshihuwz and aybrawz, and blyooh ayz glihming

from cavuhrnaws ay-sokets. Hiz hohrs wohz cuhrst-looking, withe ihrz leyd bac and blud-shed deyn'gihraws ayz, and hih in thih sadel sat ihrect and unyihlding az a lahns.

When hih and hiz ahrmih keym up upon thih rij, hih drooh reyn and heyld thih Dihmonz. And hih ced, "On evihrih naynth dey thihz nayn yihrz hav I biheld this luwnlih pleys ov uhrth, az I puhrrshoohd ahftuhr Jalkeynayus Fostus dhat stil ihlyoohdeth mih and stil flihth bihfowr mih; and this iz streynj, cins hih wohz evuhr a greyt faytuhr and en'gheyjd thihz nayn yihrz pahst tooh dooh batel withe mih. And naw fihr cumeth upon mih dhat eld droheth a veyl ov aylyoohzhon athwohrt mayn ayz, pohrtending thih apruwch ov deth ohr evuhr I puhrfohrm may wil. Fohr hihr in thih unsuhrteyn layt ov ihvihning rayz up bihfowr mih sheyps and cemblancez az ov ghests ov Gazlahrc thih king in Seygih Seycyoohluw in deyz gon bay: uwld frendz ov Gazlahrx awt ov menih-mawnteypnd Dihmonland: Brandokh Deyhah, dhat slyooh thih King ov Wichland, and Spityfayr ov Awlswic, and Jus hiz brudhuhr, thih ceym which had lohrdship uwvuhr ohl thih Dihmonz ehr wih fehrrd tooh Impland. Guwsts and bac-cumuhrz ov a wuhrld fohrgot. But if yih bih rayt flesh and blud, spihc and discuvuhr yohrcelvz."

Jus ahnsuhrd him, "O muwst rihdawteybel Seldohrnyus and in wohr invinsaybel, wel mayt a man expect spirits ov thih ded on thihz qwayet hilz eybawt cocshut taym. And if dhaw dihm us such, haw much mowr shal wih, dhat bih wohndihruhrz nyoooh-shiprect awt ov hun'grih cihz, syoohpuwz thih but a sheyd, and thihz greyt huwsts ov dhayn but fechez ov thih ded dhat bih dihpahrtd, stihming up from Erihbus az deylayt dayz?"

"O muwst rihnawnd and rihdawteybel Seldohrnyus," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "dhaw wohst wuns may ghest in Crothihring. Tooh rihzolv dhay dawts and awrz, bid us tooh supuhr. It wuhr matuhr indihd if spirits bodayles wuhr eybel tooh bib wayn and iht up uhrthlih

beyc-mihts."

Suw Seldohrnyus let pich hiz tents, and eytoynted thih fifth awr bihfowr midnajt fohr dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland tooh sup withe him. Ehr they fohrgadhuhrd in Seldohrnyoohez tent they speyc eymung themcelvz, and Spityfayr ced, "Wohz evuhr such a wunduhr ohr such a pitayfool tric o' thih Feyts az bringeth thihz thrih greyt capteynz tooh weyst thih remnant ov thehr deyz in this rihmuwt wilduhrnes? Dawt not but thehrz practays in it, dhat meyketh them mahrch thihz long yihrz this cheynjles rawnd, ihch flihing wun dhat wood feyn encawntuhr him, and stil cihking eynudhuhr dhat flayz bihfowr him."

"Nevuhr went man withe dhat looc ov thih ayz Seldohrnyus hath," ced Jus, "but hih wohz a man ensohrceld."

"Withe such a looc," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "went Heltihreynyus and Jalkeynayus. But mahrc awr intihrest. Twuhr good tooh breyc thih chahrm and cleyrn thehr help fohr awr peynz. Shalz shuw thih uwld layon ohl thih troohth ov this fact tooh-nayt?"

Suw speyc Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and dhuwz bredhren dihmd hiz cawncel good. Suw at supuhr, when menz hahrts wuhr gladend withe good chihr, thih Lohrd Jus ceyt him dawn bay Seldohrnyus and uwpend tooh him this matuhr, ceying, "O rihnawnd Seldohrnyus, haw bihfohleth it dhat thihz nayn yihrz dhaw puhrrshooht ahftuhr Jalkeynayus Fostus, shatihruhr ov huwsts, and whoht wohz yohr difihrens betwixt yooch dhat cet yooch bay thih ihrz?"

Seldohrnyus ced, "O Jus, must I ahnsuhr thih bay rihzonz in this matuhr dhat iz roohld bay thih hay stahrz and Feyt dhat leyz men at thehr length? Ihnuf fohr thih dhat unpihs bihfel betwixt mih and Jalkeynayus maytih in wohr, and it wohz confuhrmd betwihn us dhat bay thih ahrbitrahment ov thih bludih fiht wih shood end awr

difihrens. But hih eybuwd mih not; and thihz nayn yihrz I cihc tooh miht withe him in veyn."

"Thehr wohz a thuhrd ov yooh," ced Jus. "Whoht taydingz hast dhaw ov Heltihreynyus?"

Seldohrnyus ahnsuhrd him, "Nuw taydingz."

"Wilt dhaw," ced Jus, "dhat I enlayten thih hihron?"

Seldohrnyus ced, "Dhaw and dhay feluwz eyluwn ov thih children ov men hav spuwken withe mih cins thihz thhingz bihgan. Fohr they dhat dwelt in this rihjon fled yihrz eyguw, eycawnting thih pleys eycuhrst. A pohltrih crooh they wuhr, and mihn miht ihnuw fohr awr sowrdz. Spihc then, if dhaw mihnest mih wel, and shuw mih ohl."

"Heltihreynyus," ced Lohrd Jus, "puhrshooheth thih thihz nayn yihrz, az dhaw puhrshoohst Jalkeynayus Fostus. May cusin hihr hath cihn him but cix deyz eyguw, in this ceym pleys, and tohct withe him, and shooc him bay thih hand, and nyooh hiz maynd. Shoohrlieh yih bih ohl thrih huwlden bay sum enchahntment, dhat bihing uwld comreydz in ahrmz suw streynjlih and tooh suw litel puhrpuws dooh puhrshooh ihch thih udhuhrz layf. I prithih let us bih a mihn betwixt yooh ohl tooh cet yooh at wun eygheyn, and frih yooh from suw streynj a throhldom."

But withe dhuwz wuhrdz spuwken wohz Seldohrnyus gruwne red az blud. In a whayl hih ced, "It wuhr blac trechihrih. Ayl not credit it."

But Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ahnsuhrd him, "From hiz uwn lips I rihcihvd it, O Seldohrnyus. And thehrtooh I playt may troth. This bihsaydz, dhat Jalkeynayus Fostus wohz tuhrnd from batling withe thih nayn yihrz eyguw (az hih himcelf hath tuwld mih, and meyd fuhrm

hiz ceying withe muwst fihrfuol uwths), bay intelaygens broht him dhat Heltihreynyus wohz in dhat awr maynded tooh teyc him in thih rihr."

"Ay," ced Spityfayr, "and untooh this dey hih mahrcheth on Heltihreynyoochcez trac az dhaw on hiz."

Withe dhuwz wuhrdz spuwken wohz Seldohrnyus gruwu yeluw az uwld pahrchment, and hiz whayt moostahshihuwz briceld layc a layonz. Hih sat saylent awhayl, then, resting upon Jus thih cuwld and stedih gheyz ov hiz blyooh ayz, "Thih wuhrlid cumz bac tooh mih," hih ced, "and this memohrih thehrwithe, dhat they ov Dihmonland wuhr troohth-teluhz wheduhz tooh frend ohr fuw, and evuhr held it sheym tooh cog and lay." Ohl they bawd greyvlih and hih ced withe a greyt luw ov an'guhr in hiz ayz, "This Heltihreynyus dihvayseth eygheynst mih, it wel eypihreth, thih celf-ceym trechihrih whehrov hih wohz fohlsluh eycyoohzd tooh Jalkeynayus Fostus. Thehr wuhr nuw layclihuhz pleys tooh crush him dhan hihr on Ceyleyphantah rij. If I stand hihr tooh eybayd hiz oncet, thih lay ov thih grawnd befrendeth mih, and Jalkeynayus cumeth at hiz hihlz tooh gaduhz thih bruwken mihts ahftuhr I hav meyd may fihst."

Brandokh Deyhah ced in Jucez ihr, "Awr pihsmeiking teyketh a pritih tuhrn. Hihlz i' thih ehr: monstraws unleydaylayc!"

But noht they cood cey wood moohv Seldohrnyus. Suw in thih end they ofuhrd him thehr baking in this advenchoohr. "And when thih dey iz wun, then shalt dhaw lend us dhay mayt in awr entuhrprayz, and eyd us in awr wohz withe Wichland dhat bih foht tooh cum."

But Seldohrnyus ced, "O Jus and yih lohudz ov Dihmonland, I yihld yooh thanx; but yih shal not medel in this batel. Foht wih keym thrih capteynz withe awr huwsts untooh this land, and biheld thih

land, and leyd it unduhr us. Awrz it iz, and if enih medel ohr meyc withe us, wuhr wih nevuhr suw cet at enmaytih wun withe eynudhuhr,
wih must joyn toohghedhuhr in hiz despayt and bring him tooh beyn. Bih stil then, and bihuwld and cih whoht buhrth feyt shal bring fowrth on Ceyleypantah Hilz. But if I liv, thehrahftuhr shal yih hav may frendship and may help in ohl yohr entuhrpraysez whohtsuwevuhr."

Fohr awhayl hih sat widhawt spihch, hiz stahrc veynd handz clencht on thih bowrd bihfowr him; then raysing, went widhawt wuhrd tooh thih dowr ov hiz peyvilihon tooh studih thih nayt. Then tuhrnd hih bac tooh Lohrd Jus, and speyc tooh him: "Nuw dhat when this moohn naw pahst wohz but thrih deyz uwld I bihgan tooh bih trubeld withe a keytahr ohr roohm which yet trubleth mih; and wel dhaw wotst dhat whoohsuw fohleth cic on thih thuhrd dey ov thih moohnz eyj, hih wil day. Tooh-nayt ohlsuw iz a nyoooh moohn, and ov a Satuhrdey; and dhat bihtuwkihneht fayting and bludshed. Ohlsuw thih wind bluweth from thih sawth; and hih dhat bihghineht dhat gheym withe a sawth wind shal hav thih victohrih. Withe such unsuhrteyn blacnes and braytnes uwpihneht thih dowr ov Feyt bihfowr mih."

Jus bawd hiz hed, and ced, "O Seldohrnyus, dhay spihch iz soohth."

"I wohz evuhr a faytuhr," ced Seldohrnyus.

Fahr intooh thih nayt sat they in thih tent ov rihnawnd Seldohrnyus, drinking and tohking ov layf and destaynih and uwld wohrz and thih chahncez ov wohr and greyt advenchoohr; and an awr ahftuhr midnayt they pahrted, and Jus and Spityfayr and Brandokh Deyhah bihtooc them tooh thehr rest in thih wohch-tawuhr on thih rij ov Ceyleypantah.

On such wayz pahst thrih deyz bay, Seldohrnyus weyting withe hiz ahrmih on thih hil, and thih Dihmonz suping withe him naytlih. And on thih thuhrd dey hih drooh awt hiz ahrmih az fohr batel, expecting Heltihreynyus. But naydhuhr dhat dey nohr thih next nohr thih next dey foluwing broht sayt nohr taydingz ov Heltihreynyus, and streynj it cihmd tooh them and hahrd tooh ghes whoht tuhrn ov fohrchoohn had dihleyd hiz cuming. Thih cixth nayt wohz uwvuhrcahst, and muhrc dahrcnes cuvuhrd thih uhrth. When supuhr wohz dun, az thih Dihmonz bihtooch themcelvz tooh thehr slihping pleys, they huhrd a scufel and thih voys ov Brandokh Deyhah, whooh went fowrmuwst ov them, craying, "Hihr hav I coht a hihth-dogz whelp. Ghiv mih a layt. Whoht shal I dooh withe him?"

Men wuhr rawzd and layts broht, and Brandokh Deyhah suhrveyd dhat which hih held pinyond bay thih ahrmz, coht bay thih entrans tooh thih fohrteylays: wun withe skehrd wayld-bihst ayz in a swohrt feys, guwlden ihr-ringz in hiz ihrz, and a thhic cluws-cropt bihrd intuhrleyst withe guwld wayr twisted eymung its cuhrlz; behr-ahrmd, withe a choohnic ov otuhr-skin and wayd hehrih trawzuhrz cros-sticht withe cilvuhr thred, a suhrklet ov guwld on hiz hed, and frizd dahrc hehr plated in tooh thhic teylz dhat hung fohrwohrd uwvuhr hiz shuwlduhrz. Hiz lips wuhr drohn bac, layc a cros-greynd dogz snahrting betwixt fihr and fihrsnes, and hiz whayt poynted tihth and thih whayts ov hiz ayz flasht in thih tohrch-layt.

Suw they had him withe them intooh thih tawuhr, and cet him bihfowr them, and Jus ced, "Fihr not, but tel fowrth untooh us dhay neym and liniheyj, and whoht bringz thih luhrking in thih nayt eybawt awr loging. Wih mihn thih nuw huhrt, suw dhaw practays not eygheynt us and awr ceyftih. Ahrt dhaw a dweluhur in this Impland, ohr a

wohndihruhr, layc az wih bih, from cuntrihs bihyond thih cihz? hast dhaw companyonz, and if suw, whehr bih they, and whoht, and haw menih?"

And thih streynjuhr nasht upon them withe hiz tihth, and ced, "O devilz trahnzmehrihn, moc not but sley."

Jus entrihted him cayndlih, ghiving him miht and drinc, and in a whayl meyd qweschon ov him wuns mowr, "Whoht iz dhay neym?"

Whehrtooh hih replayd, "O devil trahnzmehrihn, pitih ov dhayn ignohrans cith dhaw nuwst not Mayvahrsh Faz." And hih fel intooh a greyt pashon ov wihping, craying eylawd, "Wuw wuhrth thih wuw dhat iz fohlen upon ohl thih land ov Impland!"

"Whohts thih matuhr?" ced Jus.

But Mayvahrsh cihst not tooh weyl and tooh leyment, ceying, "Awt haruw and eylahs fohr Fax Fey Faz and Ilehrosh Faz and Luhrmesh Faz and Gandasah Faz and ohl thih greyt wunz in thih land!" And when they wood hav qweschond him hih crayd eygheyn, "Cuhrs yih bituhrlih Filpirts Faz, which betreyd us intooh thih hand ov thih devil ultreymonteyn in thih cahcel ov Ohrpish."

"Whoht devil iz this dhaw spihxt ov?" ahsct Jus.

"Hih hath cum," hih ahnsuhrd, "uwvuhr thih mawnteynz awt ov thih nohrth cuntrihs, dhat eyluwn wohz eybel tooh ahnsuhr Fax Fey Faz. And thih voys ov hiz spihch iz layc untooh thih rowring ov a bool."

"Awt ov thih nohrth?" ced Jus, ghiving him mowr wayn, and excheyn'ging glahncez withe Spityfayr and Brandokh Deyhah. "I wood hihr mowr ov this."

Mayvahrsh dranc, and ced, "O devilz trahnzmehrihn, yih ghiv mih strong wohtuhrz which cumfohrt may suwl, and yih spihc mih soft wuhrdz. But shal I not fihf soft wuhrdz? Soft wuhrdz wuhr spuwc bay this devil ultreymonteyn, when hih and cuhrst Filpirts speyc soft wuhrdz untooh us in Ohrpish: untooh mih, and untooh Fax Fey Faz, and Gandasah, and Ilehrosh, and untooh ohl ov us, ahftuhr awr uwvuhrthruw in batel eygheynst him bay thih banx ov Ahrlan."

Jus ahsct, "Ov whoht fashon iz hih tooh looc on?"

"Hih hath a greyt yeluw bihrd beflect withe grey," ced Mayvahrsh, "and a bohld shaynih peyt, and standeth big az a niht."

Jus speyc eypahrt tooh Brandokh Deyhah, "Thehrz matuhr in it if this bih trooh." And Brandokh Deyhah powrd fowrth untooh Mayvahrsh and

bad him drinc eygheyn, ceying, "O Mayvahrsh Faz, wih bih streynjuhrz and ghests in wayd-flung Impland. Bih it nuwn tooh thih dhat awr pawuhr iz bihyond ken, and awr welth trahncendeth thih aymeyjayneyshon ov man. Yet iz awr bihnevuwlenz ov layc mezhoohr withe

awr pawuhr and richez, uwvuhrfluwng az hunih from awr hahrts untooh such az rihcihv us uwpenlih and tel us dhat which iz. Uwnlih bih wohrnd, dhat if enih lay tooh us ohr acey crahtaylih tooh dihlyoohd us, not thih mantaycohrz dhat loj bihyond thih Mohroohnah wuhr mowr dredfool tooh dhat man dhan wih."

Mayvahrsh qweyld, but ahnsuhrd him, "Yoohz mih wel, yooh wuhr best, and yooh shal hihr from mih noht but whoht iz trooh. Fuhrst withe thih sowrd hih vanqwisht us, and then withe sutel wuhrdz invayted us tooh tohc withe him in Ohrpish, prihtending frendship. But they ahr ohl ded dhat hahrkend tooh him. Fohr when hih held them cluwzd up in thih cawncil roohm in Ohrpish, himcelf went cihcretlih fowrth, whayl hiz men leyd handz on Gandasah Faz and on Ilehrosh Faz,

and on Fax Fey Faz dhat wohz greytest eymungst us, and on Luhrmesh Faz, and cut of thehr hedz and cet them up on puwlz widhawt thih gheynt. And awr ahrmihz dhat weyted widhawt wuhr dismeyd tooh kih thih hedz ov thih Fasez ov Impland suw cet on puwlz, and thih ahrmihz ov thih devilz ultreyteynteyn stil threthning us withe deth. And this big bohld bihrded devil speyc them ov Impland fehr, ceying thihz dhat hih had sleyn wuhr thehr opresohrz and hih wood ghiv them thehr hahrts dihzayr if they wood bih hiz men, and hih wood meyc them frih, evihrih man, and shehr awt ohl Impland eymungst them. Suw wuhr thih comon sohrt bihfoohld and broht unduhr bay this bohld devil from bihyond thih mawnteynz, and naw nun widhstandeth him in ohl Impland. But I dhat had held bac from hiz cawncil in Ohrpish, fihring hiz gayl, hahrdlih eskeypt from may fuwc dhat ruwz eygheynst mih. And I fled intooh thih woodz and wilduhrnihcez."

"Whehr lahst soh yih him?" ahsct Jus.

Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd him, "A thrih deyz juhrnih nohrthwest ov this, at Tohrmihrish in Eychihrih."

"Whoht meyd hih thehr?" ahsct Jus.

Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "Stil dihvaysing ihvil."

"Eygheynst whoohm?" ahsct Jus.

Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "Eygheynst Seldohrnyus, which iz a devil trahnzmehrihn."

"Ghiv mih sum mowr wayn," ced Jus, "and fil eygheyn a bihcuhr fohr Mayvahrsh Faz. I dooh luv noht suw much az teyl-teling a-nayts. Withe whoohm dihvayzd hih eygheynst Seldohrnyus?"

Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "Withe eynudhuhr devil from bihyond cihz; I hav fohrgot hiz neym."

"Drinc and rihmembuhr," ced Jus; "ohr if tiz gon from thih, peynt mih hiz picchoohr."

"Hih hath eybawt may bignes," ced Mayvahrsh, dhat wohz litel ov stachoohr. "Hiz ayz bih brayt, and hih sumwhoht feyvohreth this wun," poynting at Spitzfayr, "dhuw bihlaysc hih hath not ohl suw fihrs a feys. Hih iz lihn-feyst and dahrc ov skin. Hih guweth in blac ayrn."

"Iz hih Jalkeynayus Fostus?" ahsct Jus.

And Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "Ay."

"Thehrz musc and ambuhr in dhay spihch," ced Jus. "I must hav mowr ov it. Whoht mihn they tooh dooh?"

"This," ced Mayvahrsh: "Az I sat licihning in thih dahrc widhawt thehr tent, it wohz meyd absuwlyooht dhat this Jalkeynayus had bihn dihcihvd in syoohpuwsing dhat eynudhuhr devil trahnzmehrihn, whoohm men
cohl Heltihreynyus, had bihn maynded tooh dooh trechihrawslih eygheynst
him; whehraz, az thih bohld devil meyd him bihlihv, twohz nuw such thhing. And suw it wohz conclyoohded dhat Jalkeynayus shood cend rayduhrz ahftuhr Heltihreynyus tooh meyc pihs betwihn them, and dhat they tooh shood fohrthwith joyn tooh kil Seldohrnyus, wun fohling on him in thih frunt and thih udhuhr in thih rihr."

"Suw tiz cum tooh this?" ced Spitzfayr.

"And when they hav Seldohrnyus sleyn," ced Mayvahrsh, "then must

they help this bohld-peyt in hiz unduhrteykingz."

"And suw pey him fohr hiz rihdz?" ced Jus.

And Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "Ihven suw."

"Wun thhing mowr I wood nuw," ced Jus. "Haw greyt a foluwing hath hih in Impland?"

"Thih greytest strength dhat hih can meyc," ahnsuhrd Mayvahrsh, "ov deviliz ultreyMonteyn iz az I thhinc tooh scowr hundred. Menih Imps bihsayd wil foluw him, but they hav but awr cuntrih weponz."

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooc Jus bay thih ahrm and went fowrth withe him

intooh thih nayt. Thih frosted grahs cruncht unduhr thehr tred: streynj stahrz blinct in thih sawth in a windih speys betwixt clawd and slihping uhrth, Eycuhrnahr nihr thih mihrijan bihdiming ohl lesuhr fayrz withe hiz pyoohr reyjans.

"Suw cumeth Cohrund upon us az an ihghel awt ov thih saytles blyooh," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "withe twelv taymz awr fowrcez tooh let us thih wey tooh thih Mohroohnah, and ohl Impland layc a spanyel smayling at hiz hihl; if indihd this cimpel suwl cey trooh, az I thhinc hih duth."

"Dhaw fohlst ohl ov a holaydey moohd," ced Jus, "at thih fuhrst centing ov this greyt hazahrd."

"O Jus," crayd Brandokh Deyhah, "dhayn uwn breth laytihneeth at it, and dhay wuhrdz cum mowr spraytlih fowrth. Ahr not ohl landz, ohl ehrz, wun cuntrih untooh us, suw thehr bih greyt doohingz eyfoot tooh kihp brayt awr sowrdz?"

Jus ced, "Ehr wih slihp I wil infohrm Seldohrnyus haw thih wind shifteth. Hih must feys buwth weyz naw, til this fihld bih cut. This batel must not guw eygheynst him, fohr hiz enihmihz bih en'gheyjd (if Mayvahrsh cey trooh) tooh ghiv thih help ov thehr sowrdz tooh Cohrund."

Suw fehrrd they tooh Seldohrnyoohcez tent, and Jus ced bay thih wey, "Ov this bih satisfayd: Cohrund behreth not bleyd on thih hilz ov Ceyleypantah. Thih King hath intelaygensuhrz tooh kihp him advuhrtayzd ov ohl enchahnted suhrkelz ov thih wuhrl, and wel hih nuweth whoht inflyoohencez moohv hihr, and withe whoht deynjuhr tooh themcelvz awtlanduhrz droh sowrd hihr, az witnes thih doohm foolfild thihz nays yihz bay thihz thrih capteynz. Thehrfowr wil Cohrund, instructed in thihz thingz bay hiz mahstuhr dhat cent him, looc tooh dihl withe us udhuhrwhehr dhan in this chahrmd cohruhr ov thih uhrth. And hih wuhr az wel teyc a behr bay thih toohth az medel in thih fayt dhat naw impendeth, and suw bring upon him thihz thrih cihzond ahrmihz joynd in wun fohr hiz destrucshon."

They pahst thih gahrd withe thih wohchwuhrd, and weyct Seldohrnyus and tuwld him ohl. And hih, mufeld in hiz greyt feyded cluw, went fowrth tooh cih gahrdz wuhr cet and ohl shoohr eygheynst an onsloht from aydhuhr sayd. And standing bay hiz tent tooh ghiv good nays tooh dhuz lohrdz ov Dihmonland, hih ced, "It layx mih betuhr suw. I evuhr wohz a faytuhr; suw, wun fayt mowr."

Thih mohruw dohnd and pahst unihventfool, and thih mohruwz mohruw. But on thih thuhrd mohrning ahftuhr thih cuming ov Mayvahrsh, bihuwld, ihst and west, greyt ahrmihz mahrching from thih pleynz, and Seldohrnyoohcez ehrey drohn up tooh miht them on thih rij, withe weponz glihming and hohrcez champing and trumpets bluwing thih cohl ov batel. Nuw grihtingz wuhr betwixt them, nohr suw much az

a mecej ov chalenj ohr dih fayans, but Jalkeynayus withe hiz blac rayduhrz rusht tooh thih oncet from thih west and Heltihreynyus from thih ihst. But Seldohrnyus, layc a grey uwld woolf, snapping naw this wey naw dhat, stemd thih tayd ov thehr onsloht. Suw bihgan thih batel greyt and fel, and continyoohd thih livlong dey. Thrays on ayduhr sayd Seldohrnyus went fowrth withe a greyt strength ov chuwsen men, in suw much dhat hiz enihmihz fled bihfowr him az thih pahrtrij duth bihfowr thih sparuw-hohc; and thrays did Heltihreynyus and thrays Jalkeynayus Fostus ralih and huhrl him bac, mawnting thih rij eynyooch.

But when it drooh nihr tooh ihvihning, and thih dahrc dey dahrkend toohwohrd nayt, thih batel cihst, daying dawn sudenlih intooh saylens. Dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland keym dawn from thehr tawuhr, and wohct eymung thih hihps ov ded men sleyn toohwohrd a pleys ov slabih roc in thih nec ov thih rij. Hihr, eylawn on dhat fihld, Seldohrnyus lihnd upon hiz spihr, gheysing dawnwohrd in a studih, hiz ahrm cahst eybawt thih nec ov hiz uwld brawn hohrs whooh hung hiz hed and snift thih grawnd. Throoh a rift in thih westuhrn clawdz thih sun glehrd fowrth; but hiz bihmz wuhr not suw red az thih ling and bent ov Ceyleypantah fihld.

Az Jus and hiz companyonz drooh nihr, nuw sawnd wohz huhrd ceyv from thih fohrteylays bihaynd them: a discohrdant pluking ov a hahrp, and thih voys ov Mayvahrsh whehr hih wohct and hahrpt bihfowr thih wohlz, cinging this ditih:

The hag is astride

This night for to ride;

The devill and shee together:

Through thick and through thin,

Now out and then in,

Though ne'er so foule be the weather.

*A thorn or a burr
She takes for a spur,
With a lash of a bramble she rides now;
Through brakes and through bryars,
O'er ditches and mires,
She follows the spirit that guides now.*

*No beast for his food
Dares now range the wood,
But husht in his lair he lies lurking;
While mischiefs, by these,
On land and on seas,
At noon of night are a working.*

*The storm will arise
And trouble the skies;
This night, and more for the wonder,
The ghost from the tomb
Afrighted shall come,
Call'd out by the clap of the thunder.*

When they wuhr cum tooh Seldohrnyus, thih Lohrd Jus speyc ceying,
"O muwst rihdawteybel Seldohrnyus, rihnawnd in wohr, shoohrlih dhay
prognostaykeyshonz bay thih moohn wuhr trooh. Bihuwld thih nuwbel
victohrih dhaw hast obteynd upon dhayn enihmihz."

But Seldohrnyus ahnsuhrd him not, stil gheysing dawnwohrdz bihfowr hiz fiht. And thehr wohz Heltihreynyus fohlen, thih sowrd ov Jalkeynayus Fostus standing in hiz hahrt, and hiz rayt hand grahspring stil hiz uwn sowrd dhat had ghiven Jalkeynayus hiz beyn-sowr.

Suw looct they awhayl on dhuwz tooh greyt capteynz sleyn. And Seldohrnyus ced, "Spihc not cumfohrtablih tooh mih ov victohrih, O Jus. Suw long az dhat sowrd, and dhat, had hiz mahstuhr eylayv, I did not mowr dihzayr mayn uwn ceyleftih dhan thehr destrucshon whooh withe mih in deyz gon bay meyd conqwest ov wayd Impland. And cih withe whoht a poyzond vayuwlenz they leybohrd may undoohing, and in whoht an unexpected roohin ahr they sudenlih bruwken and gon." And az wun gruwn intooh a dihp sadnes hih ced, "Whehr wuhr ohl hihruwaycal pahrts but in Heltihreynyus? and a man mayt meyc a gahrment fohr thih moohn soohnuhr dhan fit thih uwr-lihping acshonz ov greyt Jalkeynayus, whooh naw lihveth but hiz bodih tooh bihdung dhat uhrth dhat wohz leytliv sheyken at hiz terohr. I hav weyded in red blud tooh thih nih; and in this awr, in may uwld yihrz, thih wuhrld iz bihcum fohr mih a vizhon uwnlih and a moc-shuw."

Thehrwithe hih looct on thih Dihmonz, and thehr wohz dhat in hiz ayz dhat steyd thehr spihch.

In a whayl hih speyc eygheyn, ceying, "I swehr untooh yooh may fuhrthihrans if I prihveyld. But naw iz mayn ahrmih pahst eywey az wax weysteth bihfowr thih fayr, and I weyt thih dahrc ferayman whooh tariheth fohr nuw man. Yet, cins nevuhr hav I ruwt mayn oblaygheyshonz in sandih but in mahrbel memohrihz, and cins victohrih iz mayn, rihcihv thihz ghifts: and fuhrst dhaw, O Brandokh Deyhah, may sowrd, cins bihfowr dhaw wohst ov yihrz eytihndhaw wohst eycawnted thih maytihest eymung men-at-ahrmz. Maytaylih mey it eyveyl thih, az mih in taym gon bay. And untooh thih, O Spityfayr, I

ghiv this cluwc. Uwld it iz, yet mey it stand thih in good sted, cins this vuhrchooh it hath dhat hih whooh wehreth it shal not fohl eylayv intooh thih hand ov hiz enihmihz. Wehr it fohr may ceyc. But untooh thih, O Jus, ghiv I nuw ghift, fohr rich dhaw ahrt ov ohl good ghifts: uwnlih may good wil ghiv I untooh thih, ehr uhrth gheyp fohr mih."

Suw they thanct him wel. And hih ced, "Dihpahrt from mih, cins naw apruwcheth dhat which must compliht this deyz undoohing."

Suw they fehrd bac tooh thih spay-fohrteylays, and nayt keym dawn on thih hilz. A greyt wind muwning awt ov thih hyoohles west towr thih clawdz az a raghed gahrment, rihvihling thih luwnlih moohn dhat fled neyked betwixt them. Az thih Dihmonz looct baqwöhrd in thih moohnlayt tooh whehr Seldohrnyus stood gheysing on thih ded, a noyz az ov thunduhr meyd thih fuhrm land trembel and drawnd thih hawling ov thih wind. And they biheld haw uhrth gheyp fohr Seldohrnyus.

Ahftuhr dhat, thih dahrc shut dawn athwohrt thih moohn, and nayt and saylens hung on thih fihld ov Ceyleypantah.

10. Thih Mahrchlandz ov thih Mohroohnah

OV THIH JUHRNIH OV THIH DIHMONZ FROM CEYLEYPANTAH
TOOH ESHGRAHR UWGUW:
WHEHRIN IZ CET DAWN CONSUHRNING THIH LEYDIH OV
ISHNEYN NIHMAHRTRAH,
AND UDHUHR NUWTEYBEL MATUHRZ.

Mayvahrsh Faz keym bihtaymz on thih mohruw tooh thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland, and fawnd them redih fohr thih ruwd. Suw hih ahsct them whehr thehr juhrnih ley, and they ahnsuhrd, "Ihst."

"Ihstwohrd," ced Mayvahrsh, "ohl weyz lihd tooh thih Mohroohnah. Nun mey guw thidhuhr and not day."

But they lahft and ahnsuhrd him, "Dooh not tooh naruwlih dihfayn awr pawuhr, swiht Mayvahrsh, restreyning it tooh dhay keypasaytihz. Nuw dhat awr juhrnih iz a matuhr dihtuhrmaynd ov, and it iz fixt withe neylz ov daymond tooh thih wohl ov aynevayteybel nihcesaytih."

They tooc lihv ov him and went thehr weyz withe thehr smohl ahrmih. Fohr fowr deyz they juhrnihd throoh dihp woodz cahrpighted withe thih lihvz ov a thawzand ohtumz, whehr at midmuwst noohn twaylayt dwelt eymung husht woodland noysez, and solem aybohlz glehrd naytlih betwihn thih trih-trunx, gheysing on thih Dihmonz az they mahrcht ohr tooc thehr rest.

Thih fifth dey, and thih cixth and thih ceventh, they juhrnihd bay thih sudhuhrn mahrgin ov a gravihlih cih, meyd ohl ov sand and gravel and nuw drop ov wohtuhr, yet ebing and fluwing ohlwey withe greyt weyvz az eynudhuhr cih duth, nevuhr standing stil and nevuhr at rest. And ohlweyz bay dey and nayt az they keym throoh thih dezuhrt wohz a greyt noyz verih hijaws and a sawnd az it wuhr ov tambohrihnz and trumpets; yet wohz thih pleys solaytehrih tooh thih ay, and nuw living thhing eyfoot thehr ceyv thehr cumpeynih fehiring tooh thih ihst.

On thih eytth dey they left thih showr ov dhat wohtuhrles cih and keym bay bruwken rokih grawnd tooh thih dihcent tooh a wayd veyl, sheltuhrles and unfroohtfoot, withe thih brohd stuwneh bed ov a litel rivuhr waynding in thih strath. Hihr, looking ihstwohrd,

they biheld in thih lustuhr ov a leyt brayt-shayning sun a cahcel ov red stuw on a tereys ov thih fel-sayd bihyond thih valih. Jus ced, "Wih can bih thehr bihfowr naytfohl, and thehr wil wih teyc ghesting." When they drooh nihr they wuhr wehr, betwixt suncet and moohnlayt, ov wun citing on a buwlduhr in thehr pahth eybawt a fuhrlong from thih cahcel, az if gheysing on them and eyweyting thehr cuming. But when they keym tooh thih buwlduhr thehr wohz nuw such puherson. Suw they pahst on thehr wey toohwohrd thih cahcel, and when they looct bihaynd them, luw, thehr wohz hih citing on thih buwlduhr behring hiz hed in hiz handz: a streynj thhing, which wood cohz enih man tooh abhoehr.

Thih cahcel gheyt stood uwpen, and they entuhrd in, and suw bay thih cowrt-yahrd tooh a greyt hohl, withe thih bowrd cet az fohr a banqwet, and brayt fayrz and an hundred candelz buhrning in thih stil ehr; but nuw living thhing wohz thehr tooh bih cihn, nohr voys huhrd in ohl dhat cahcel. Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ced, "In this land tooh feyl ov mahrveldz uwnlih fohr an awr wuhr thih streyn'gest mahrveld. Banqwet wih laytlih and suw tooh bed." Suw they sat dawn and eyt, and dranc ov thih hunih-swiht wayn, til ohl thohts ov woehr and hahrdship and thih unaymajaynd perilz ov thih wilduhrnes and Cohrundz greyt ahrmih prihpehring thehr destrucshon feyded from thehr mayndz, and thih spirit ov slumbuhr woohd thehr wihrih freymz.

Then a feynt myoohsic, trublaws in its vuwlupshaws wayld swihtnes, fluwted on thih ehr, and they biheld a leydh entuhr on thih deysis. Byoohtayfool shih cihmd bihyond thih byoohtih ov mohrtal wimen. In huhr dahrc hehr wohz thih laycnes ov thih hohrnd moohn in hunih-culohrd saymuwfeynz evihrih stuw whehrov held a streyt bihm ov layt imprizond dhat qwivuhrd and glihmd az sunbihmz qwivuhr weyding in thih clihr dihps ov a sumuhr cih. Shih wowr a cuwt-hahrdih ov soft crimzon cilc, cluws fiting, suw dhat shih did troohlih eyparel

huhr eyparel and withe huhr uwn luvlaynes meyd it mowr sumpshaws. Shih ced, "May lohrdz and ghests in Ishneyr Nihmahrtrah, thehr bih bedz ov dawn and shihts ov lohn fohr ohl ov yooh dhat bih eywihrih. But nuw dhat I kihp a sparuw-hohc citing on a puhrch in thih ihstuhnr tawuhr, and hih dhat wil weyc may sparuw-hohc this nayt long, eylawn widhawt enih cumpeynih and widhawt slihp, I shal cum tooh him at thih nayts end and shal grahnt untooh him thih fuhrst thhing dhat hih wil ahsc mih ov uhrthlih thhingz." Suw ceying shih dihpahrtd layc a drihm.

Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Cahst wih lots fohr this advenchoohr."

But Jus speyc eygheynst it, ceying, "Thehrz layclih sum gayl hihrin. Wih must not in this eycuhrst land sufuhr oht tooh cijoohs awr mayndz, but foluw awr cet puhrrpuws. Wih must not bih ov dhuwz whooh guw fowrth fohr wool and cum huwm shohrn."

Brandokh Deyhah and Spitfayr moct at this, and cahst lots betwihn themcelvz. And thih lot fel upon Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Dhaw shalt not dihnay mih this," ced hih tooh Lohrd Jus, "els wil I nevuhr mowr dooh thih good."

"I nevuhr cood yet dihnay thih enithhing," ahnsuhrd Jus. "Ahrt not dhaw and I fin'guhr and thum? Uwnlih fohrghet not, whohtsuwehr bihtayd, whehrfowr wih bih cum hidhuhr."

"Ahrt not dhaw and I fin'guhr and thum?" ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Fihr nuthhing, O frend ov may hahrt. Ayl not fohrghet it."

Suw whayl thih udhuhz slept, Brandokh Deyhah weyct thih sparuw-hohc, nayt-long in thih ihstuhnr cheymbuhr. Fohr ohl dhat thih cuwld hilsayd widhawt wohz ruf withe howr-frost thih ehr wohz wohrm in dhat cheymbuhr and hevih, dispuwsing stronglih tooh slihp. Yet hih cluwzd not an ay, but stil biheld thih sparuw-hohc,

teling it stowrihz and twihking it bay thih teyl evuhr and eynon az it grooh drawsih. And it ahnsuhrd shohrtlih and boohrishlih, looking upon him meylevuwlentlih.

And withe thih guwlden dohn, bihuwld dhat leydih in thih shaduwih dowerwey. At huhr entihring in, thih sparuw-hohc clict its wingz az in an'guhr, and widhawt mowr eydooh tuct its bihc bihnihth its wing and went tooh slih. But dhat brayt leydih, looking on thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, speyc and ced, "Reqwayr it ov mih, may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat which dhaw muwst dihzayrst ov uhrthlih thhingz."

But hih, az wun bihdaseld, stood up ceying, "O leydih, iz not dhay byoohtih at thih dohn ov dey an ayreygeyshon dhat mayt dispel thih mists ov hel? May hahrt iz ravisht withe dhay luvlaynes and uwnlih fed withe dhay sayt. Thehrfowr dhay bodih wil I hav, and nun udhuhr thhing uhrthlih."

"Dhaw ahrt a foohl," shih crayd, "dhat nuwst not whoht dhaw ahsxt. Ov ohl thhingz uhrthlih maytst dhaw hav teyken choohz; but I am not uhrthlih."

Hih ahnsuhrd, "I wil hav noht els."

"Dhaw dust embreys then a greyt deynjuhr," ced shih, "and los ov ohl dhay good luc, fohr thih and dhay frendz bihsayd."

But Brandokh Deyhah, cihing haw huhr feys bihkeym on a suden such az ahr nyoooh-blawn ruwsez at thih dohning, and huhr ayz wayd and dahrc withe luv-longing, keym tooh huhr and tooc huhr in hiz ahrmz and fel tooh kicing and embreycing ov huhr. On such wayz they eybuwd fohr awhayl, dhat hih wohz wehr ov nuw thhing els on uhrth ceyv uwnlih thih cens-madihning kehres ov dhat leydihz hehr, thih puhrfyoohm ov it, thih kis ov huhr mawth, thih swel and foohl ov

dhat leydihz brest streyning eygheynst hiz. Shih ced in hiz ihr softlih, "I cih dhaw ahrt tooh mahstuhrfool. I cih dhaw ahrt wun whooh wil bih dihnayd nuthhing, on whohtsuwevuhr dhayn hahrt iz cet. Cum." And they pahst bay a hevih-cuhrteynd dowerwey intooh an inuhr cheymbuhr, whehr thih ehr wohz fild withe thih breth ov muhr and nahrnd and ambuhrgrih, a fragrancih az ov slihping luvlaynes. Hih, eymid thih dahrcnes ov rich hangingz and subjoohd glints ov guwld, a wohrm reyjans ov sheyded lamps wohcht eybuy a cawch, greyt and brohd and dawnih-piluwd. And hih fohr a long taym they soleyst them withe luv and ohl dihlayt.

Ihven az ohl thhingz hav an end, hih ced at thih lahst, "O may leydih, mistres ov hahrts, hih wood I eybayd evuhr, eybanduwning ohl els fohr dhay luv ceyc. But may companyonz tarih fohr mih in dhayn hohlz bihluw, and greyt matuhrz weyt on may dayrecshon. Ghiv mih dhay dayvayn mawth wuns eygheyn, and bid mih eyjooh."

Shih wohz laying az if aslihp acros hiz brest: smoohthe-skind, whayt, wohrm, withe sheyplih thruwt lihnd baqwohrd eygheynst thih spays-uwdohraws dahrcnihcez ov huhr unbawnd hehr; wun tres, hevih and splendid layc a paython, coyld betwihn whayt ahrm and boozom. Swift az a sneyc shih tuhrnd, clinging fihrslih eybawt him, precing fihrslih eygheyn tooh hiz huhr inceysheybel swiht fuhrvent lips, craying dhat hih must hih dwel untooh ihtuhrnaytih in thih intoxicaykeyshon ov puhrfect luv and plezhoohr.

But when in thih end, gentlih constreyning huhr tooh loohs him and let him guw, hih ehruwz and cluwldhd and ahrmd him, dhat leydih coht eybawt huhr a trahnzlyoohcent ruwb ov cilvihrih shihn, az when thih sumuhr moohn veylz but not haydz withe a filmih clawd huhr byoohtihz splendohr, and suw standing bihfowr him speyc and ced, "Guw then. This iz got bay cahsting ov puhrlz tooh hogz. I mey not sley thih, cins uwwuhr dhay bodih I hav nuw udhuhr pawuhr. But bihcohz dhaw shalt not lahf uwwuhrmuch, having reqwayrd mih ov

dhat which wohz bihyond thih pact and bihing enjoyd iz naw slayed ov thih and eybyoohzd, thehrfowr nuw, prawd man, dhat thrih ghifts I hihr wil grahnt thih thehrtooh ov mayn uwn choohsing. Dhaw shalt hav wohr and not pihs. Hih dhat dhaw wuhrst heytst shal thruw dawn and roohin dhay fehr lohrdship, Crothihring Cahcel and thih meynz thehrov. And dhaw venjans shal uwwuhrteyc him at thih lahst, bay eynudhuhrz hand dhan dhayn shal it cum, and tooh dhayn hand shal it bih dihnayd."

Thehrwithe shih fel a-wihping. And thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, withe greyt rihzuwlyoohshon, went fowrth from thih cheymbuhr. And looking bac from thih threshuwld hih biheld buwth dhat and thih awtuhr cheymbuhr voyd ov leydih and sparuw-hohc buwth. And a greyt wihraynes keym sudenlih upon him. Suw, guwing dawn, hih fawnd Lohrd Jus and hiz companyonz slihping on thih cuwld stuwzn, and thih banqwet hohl emptih ov ohl ghihr and danc withe mos and cobwebz, and bats slihping hed-dawnwohrd eymung thih crumbling roohf-bihmz; nohr wohz enih sayn ov lahst nayts banqwihting. Suw Brandokh Deyhah rawzd hiz companyonz, and tuwld Jus haw hih had fehrd, and ov thih wihrd leyd on him bay dhat leydih.

And they went greytlih wundihring fowrth ov thih eycuhrst cahcel ov Ishneyn Nihmahrtrah, glad tooh cum of suw skeydhles.

On dhat naynth dey ov thehr juhrnih from Ceyleypantah they keym throoh weyst landz ov stuw and living roc, whehr not suw much az an uhrth-laws stuhrd withe layf. Gohrgez split thih uhrth hihr and thehr: roc-wohld labayrinths ov gloohm, unvizayted fohr evuhr bay sunbihm ohr moohnbihm, tuhrbyoohlent in thehr depths withe wohtuhrz dhat lihpt and chuhrnd fohr evuhr, nevuhr stil and nevuhr saylent. Suw wohz dhat deyz juhrnih tohrchoohaws, tuhrning naw up naw

dawn eylong dhuwz rivuhr banx tooh faynd crocing pleycez.

When they wuhr hohltd at noohn bay thih dihpest rift they had yet biheld, thehr keym wun heycihning tooh them and fel dawn bay Jus and ley panting feys tooh uhrth az brethles from long runing. And when they reyzd him up, bihuwld Mayvahrsh Faz, hahrnest in thih ghihr ov a blac rayduhr ov Jalkeynayus Fostus and ahrmd withe ax and sowrd. Greyt wohz hiz eyjayteyshon, and hih spihchles fohr lac ov breth. They yoohzd him cayndlih, and gheyv him tooh drinc from a greyt skin ov wayn, Seldohrnyoohcez ghift, and eynon hih ced, "Hih hath ahrmd cawntles hundredz ov awr fuwc withe weponz teyken from Ceyleypantah fihld. Thihz, led bay thih devilz hiz sunz, withe Filprits cuhrst ov thih godz, bih gon bihfowr tooh huwld ohl thih weyz bih-ihst ov yooh. Nayt and dey hav I riden and run tooh wohrn yooh. Himcelf, withe hiz meyn strength ov devilz ultreymonteyn, raydeth hot on yohr trax."

They thanct him wel, mahrvihling much dhat hih shood bih at such peynz tooh advuhrtayz them ov thehr deynjuhr. "I hav iht yohr sohlt," ahnsuhrd hih, "and mowruwvuhr yih ahr eygheynst this nohtih wiked bohld'hed dhat keym uwvuhr thih mawnteynz tooh opres us. Thehrfowr I wood dooh yooh good. But I can litel. Fohr I am poohr, dhat wohz rich in land and fih. And I am eyluwn, dhat had fohrmuhrlih fayv hundred spihrmen loging in may hohlz tooh dooh may plezhoohr."

"Thehrz nihd tooh dooh qwiclih dhat wih dooh," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Haw greyt stahrt ov him hadst dhaw?"

"Hih must bih upon yooh in an awr ohr tweyn," ced Mayvahrsh, and fel a-wihping.

"Tooh cuwp him in thih uwpen," ced Jus, "wuhr greyt glowrih and awr suhrteyn deth."

"Ghiv mih tooh thhinc, but a minyoohts whayl," ced Brandokh Deyhah. And whayl they busct them hih wohct myoohsing bay thih lip ov dhat reyvihn, swiching pebelz uwvuhr thih ej withe hiz sowrd. Then hih ced, "This iz widhawt dawt dhat strihm Adhrashah spuwken ov bay Gruw. O Mayvahrsh, runeth not this flud ov Adhrashah sawth tooh thih sohlt leyx ov Uwgwu Mohrvihuw, and wohz thehr not thehreybawt a huwld neymd Eshgrahr Uwgwu?"

Mayvahrsh ahnsuhrd, "This iz suw. But nevuhr huhrd I ov enih suw witles az guw thidhuhr. Hih whehr wih stand iz thih land fihsum ihnuv; but Eshgrahr Uwgwu standeth at thih verih ej ov thih Mohroohnah. Nuw man hath hahrbohrd thehr thihz hundred yihrz."

"Standeth it yet?" ced Brandokh Deyhah.

"Fohr ohl I wot ov," ahnsuhrd Mayvahrsh.

"Iz it strong?" hih ahsct.

"In uwld taymz it wohz thoht nuw pleys stron'guhr," ahnsuhrd Mayvahrsh. "But yih wuhr az wel day hih bay thih hand ov thih devilz ultreymonteyn, az thehr bih towrn in pihcez bay bad spirits."

Brandokh Deyhah tuhrnd him eybawt tooh Jus. "It iz rihzolvd?" ced hih. Jus ahnsuhrd, "Yey;" and fohrthwith they stahrtd at a greyt peys sawth eylong thih rivuhr.

"Methoht yooh shood hav bihn goten clihn eywey ehr this," ced Mayvahrsh az they went. "This iz but nayn ohr ten deyz juhrnih, and tiz naw thih cixtihnth dey cins yih did lihv mih on Ceyleypantah Hilz."

Brandokh Deyhah lahft. "Cixtihnth!" ced hih. "Thawlt bih rich, Mayvahrsh, if dhaw recon guwld pihcez o' this fashon dhaw dust deyz. This iz but awr naynth deyz juhrnih."

But Mayvahrsh stood stawtlih tooh it, ceying dhat wohz thih ceventh dey ahftuhr thehr dihpahrchoohr when Cohrund fuhrst keym tooh Ceyleypantah,

"And I flihing naw nayn deyz bihfowr hiz feys chahnst on yohr trax, and naw awt ov ohl expecteyshon on yooh." Nohr fohr ohl thehr moking wood hih bih tuhrnd from this. And when, az they stil prest throoh thih dezuhrt sawthwohrd, thih sun declaynd and cet in a clihr scay, bihuwld thih moohn a litel pahst huhr fool: and Jus soh dhat shih wohz ceven deyz uwlduhr dhan on dhat nayt shih wohz when they keym tooh Ishneyn Nihmahrtrah. Suw hih shuwd this wunduhr tooh Brandokh Deyhah and Spitfayr, and much they mahrveld.

"Yooh ahr much tooh thanc mih," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "dhat I kept yooh not a fool yihr eyweyting ov mih. Beshrooh mih, but dhat ceven deyz speys cihmd tooh mih but an awr!"

"Layclih ihnuw, tooh thih," ced Spitfayr sumwhoht grihnliah. "But ohl wih slept thih wihc awt on thih cuwld stuwanz, and I am hahf leyemd yet withe thih eyc ont."

"Ney," ced Jus, lahfig; "I wil not hav thih bleym him."

Thih moohn wohz hay when they keym tooh thih sohlt leyx dhat ley wun a litel eybuw thih udhuhr in rokih beycinz. Thehr wohtuhrz wuhr layc ruf cilvuhr, and thih hahrsh feys ov thih wilduhrnes wohz blac and cilvuhr in thih moohnlayt; and it wohz az a cuntrie ov ded buwanz, blaynd and sterayl bihniht thih moohn. Betwixt thih leyx a rib ov roc ruwz monstraws tooh an emaynens crag-bihguhrt on evihrih sayd, withe dahrc wohlz ringing it rawnd eybuw thih

clifs. Thidhuhr they heycend, and az they claymd and stumbeld eymung thih cragz a shih-awl sqwihct on thih batelments and tooc wing guwst-layc eybuv thehr hedz. Thih tihth ov Mayvahrsh Faz chatuhrd, but rayt glad wuhr thih Dihmonz az they wun up thih rox and entuhrd at lahst intooh dhat dihzuhrted buhrg. Widhawt, thih nayt wohz stil; but fayrz wuhr buhrning in thih dezuhrt ihstwohrd, and udhuhrz az they wohcht wuhr kindeld in thih west, and soohn wohz thih suhrkel joynd ov twinkling poynts ov red rawnd eybawt Eshgrahr Uwg uw and thih leyx.

Jus ced, "Bay an awr hav wih fowrstohld them. And bihuwld haw hih ringeth us eybawt az men ring a scohrpion in fleym."

Suw they meyd ohl shoohr, and cet thih gahrd, and slept until pahst dohn. But Mayvahrsh slept not, fohr terohr ov hob-thrushez from thih Mohroohnah.

11. Thih Buhrg ov Eshgrahr Uwg uw

OV THIH LOHRD COHRUNDZ BIHCIHJING OV THIH BUHRG EYBUV
THIH LEYX OV
UWGUW MOHRVIHUW, AND WHOHT BIHFEL THEHR BETWIXT HIM
AND THIH DIHMONZ;
WHEHRIN IZ OHLSUW AN EXAHMPEL HAW THIH SUTEL OV
HAHRT STANDETH AT
WHAYLZ IN GREYT DEYNJUHR OV HIZ DETH.

When thih Lohrd Cohrund nyooch ov a shoohrihtih dhat hih held them ov Dihmonland shut up in Eshgrahr Uwg uw, hih let dayt supuhr in hiz tent, and meyd a suhrfiht ov venayson pahstihz and hihth-cox and

lobsturz from thih leyx. Thehrwithe hih dranc nay a skinfool ov swiht dahrc Thramnyan wayn, in such sohrt dhat an awr bihfowr midnight, bihcuming spihchles, hih wohz holpen bay Gruw tooh hiz cawch and slept a greyt dihp slihp til mohrning.

Gruw wohcht in thih tent, hiz rayt elbuw propt on thih teybel, hiz chihc resting on hiz hand, hiz left hand rihching fohrwohrd withe delaykeyt fin'guhrz toying naw withe thih slihc hevih puhrfyooohmd macez ov hiz bihrd, naw withe thih goblet whens hih cipt evuhr and eynon peyl wayn ov Puhrmihuw. Hiz thohts inconstant az incects in a sumuhr gahrden flited evuhr rawnd and rawnd, resting naw on thih cihn bihfowr him, thih greyt fohrm ov hiz genihral rapt in slumbuhr, naw on udhuhr cihn sunduhrd bay greyt gulfs ov taym ohr wihrih lihgz ov peraylaws weyz. Suw dhat in wun instant hih soh in fancih dhat leydih in Cahrcih welcyooohming huhr lohrd rihtuhrnd in trayumf, and him, mey bih, crawnd king ov nyoooh-vanqwisht Implant; and in thih next, swept from thih fyooohchoohr tooh thih pahst, biheld eygheyn thih greyt cending-of in Seygih Seycyooohluw, Gazlahrc in hiz splendohr on thih guwlden stehrz ceying eyjooh tooh dhuwz thrih capteynz and thehr machles ahrmeyment fowrdooohmd tooh dogz and cruwz on Ceyleyphantah Hilz; and ohlweyz, layc a gloohmih bacgrawnd dahrkihning hiz maynd, loohmd thih yohning voyd, fihchoohrles and vahst, bihyond thih investing suhrkel ov Cohrundz ahrmihz: thih blaynd blahsted emptaynes ov thih Mohroohnah.

Withe such fancihz, melancuwlih layc a greyt buhrd ceteld upon hiz suwl. Thih layts flicuhrd in thehr sokets, and fohr verih wihraynes Gruwz aylidz cluwzd at length uwvuhr hiz lahrj liqwid ayz; and, tooh tayrd tooh stuhr from hiz ciht tooh chihc hiz cawch, hih sanc fohrwohrd on thih teybel, hiz hed piluwd on hiz ahrmz. Thih red gluw ov thih breysihuhr slumbuhrd evuhr dimuhr and dimuhr on thih slenduhr fohrm and blac shaying cuhrlz ov Gruw, and on thih maytih freym ov Cohrund whehr hih ley withe wun greyt spuhrd

boohted leg strecht eylong thih cawch, and thih udhuhr flung awt saydweyz resting its hihl on thih grawnd.

It wohnted but tooh awrz ov noohn when a sunbihm straying throoh an uwpihning in thih hangingz ov thih tent shon upon Cohrundz aylidz, and hih eywuwc fresh and brisc az a yooth on a hunting mohrn. Hih weyct Gruw, and ghiving him a clap on thih shuwlduhr, "Dhaw rongst a fehr mohrn," hih ced. "Thih devil dam mih blac az butuhrmilc if it bih not greyt sheym in thih; and I, dhat wohz bohrn this dey cix and fohrtih yihrz az thih yihrz cum eybawt, bisih withe mayn eyfehrz cins sunrayz."

Gruw yohnd and smayld and strecht himcelf. "O Cohrund," hih ced, "cawntuhrfiht a layvlihuhr wunduhr in dhayn ayz if dhaw wilt puhrsweyd mih dhaw sohst thih sunrayz. Fohr I thhinc dhat wuhr az nyoooh and unexahmpeld a sayt fohr thih az enih I cood pruwjooos tooh thih in Impland."

Cohrund ahnsuhrd, "Troohlih I wohz celdom suw uncivil az suhrprayz Madam Ohrowrah in huhr naytgawn. And thih thrays ohr fowr taymz I hav bihn fowrst thehrtooh, toht mih it iz an awr ov croohd ehrz and mists which brihd cuwld dahrc hyoohmohrz in thih bodih, an awr when thih tohrch ov layf buhrnz wihkest. Within thehr! bring mih may mohrning draht."

Thih boy broht tooh cups ov whayt wayn, and whayl they dranc, "A thhin un'greyshaws drinc iz thih wel-spring," ced Cohrund: "a drinc fohr qwihsih-stumact skipjax: fohr sand-lihvihrix, not fohr men. And layc it iz thih dey-spring: an un'greytfool saples awr, an awr fohr stab-i'-thih-bax and cuwld-bluded betreyuhrz. Ah, ghiv mih wayn," hih crayd, "and noohn-dey vaycez, and breysen-brawd ayniqwaytihz."

"Yet thehrz menih a dihd ov profit dun bay awl-layt," ced Gruw.

"Ay," ced Cohrund: "dihdz ov dahrcnes: and thehr, may lohrd, Aym stil dhay scolahr. Cum, lets bih doohing." And teyking hiz helm and weponz, and bucling eybawt him hiz greyt wolfskin cluwc, fohr thih ehr wohz ihguhr and frostih widhawt, hih struwd fowrth. Gruw rapt himself in hiz fuhr mantel, drooh on hiz lamskin gluvz, and foluwd him.

"If dhaw wilt teyc may rihd," ced Lohrd Gruw, az they looct on Eshgrahr Uwgwu stahrc in thih baren sunlayt, "thawlt dooh this onohr tooh Filprits, which I qweschon not hih much dihzayreth, tooh sufuhr him and hiz fuwc teyc fuhrst noc at this nut. It hath a hahrd looc. Pitih it wuhr tooh weyst good Wichland blud in a fuhrst eysohlt, when thihz vayl instroohments stand redih tooh awr puhrrpuws."

Cohrund grunted in hiz bihrd, and withe Gruw at hiz elbuw peyst in saylens throoh thih laynz, hiz kihn ayz suhrching evuhr thih clifs and wohlz ov Eshgrahr Uwgwu, til in sum hahf-awrz speys hih hohltd eygheyn bihfowr hiz tent, having meyd a compliht suhrkit ov thih buhrg. Then hih speyc: "Poot mih in yonduhr fayting-sted, and if it wuhr uwnlih but I and fiftih eybel ladz tooh man thih wohlz, yet wood I huwld it eygheynst ten thawzand."

Gruw held hiz pihs awhayl, and then ced, "Dhaw spihxt this in ohl sadnes?"

"In suwbuhr sadnes," ahnsuhrd Cohrund, sqwehring hiz shuwlduhrz at thih buhrg.

"Then thawlt not eysohlt it?"

Cohrund lahft. "Not eysohlt it, qwuwthah! Dhat wuhr a swiht teyl twixt thih boyld and thih ruwst in Cahrcih: Ayd not eysohlt it!"

"Yet conciduhr," ced Gruw, teyking him bay thih ahrm. "Suw sheypeth thih matuhr in may maynd: they bih fyooch and shut up in a litel pleys, in this fahr land, awt ov rihch and awt ov maynd ov ohl sucohr. Wuhr they devilz and not men, thih multaychoohd ov awr ahrmihz and dhayn uwn trayd qwohlaytihz must dohnt them. Bih thih pleys nevuhr suw cocshoohr, dawt not sum dawts thehrov must poyzon thehr cihcyoohraytih. Thehrfowr bihfowr dhaw risc a rihpuls which must dispel dhuwz dawts yoohz dhayn advahnteyj. Bid Jus tooh a pahrlieh. Ofuhr him condishonz: it skilz not whoht. Brayb them awt intooh thih uwpen."

"A pritih plan," ced Cohrund. "Thawlt merit wizdomz crawn if dhaw canst tel mih whoht condishonz wih can ofuhr dhat they wood teyc. And whaylst dhaw ridlst dhat, rihmembuhr dhat dhuw dhaw and I bih mahstuhrz hihreybawt, eynudhuhr reynz in Cahrcih."

Lohrd Gruw lahft gentlih. "Lihv gesting," hih ced, "O Cohrund, and nevuhr huwp tooh gul mih tooh bihlihv thih such a beyb in polaycih. Shal thih King bleym us dhuw wih sayn eywey Dihmonland, ay and thih wayd wuhrlid bihsaydz, tooh Jus tooh lyoohr him fowrth? Unles indihd wih wuhr suw neglectfool ov awr intihrest az sufuhr him, wuns fowrth, tooh ihlyoohd awr cluchez."

"Gruw," ced Cohrund, "I luv thih. But hahrdlih canst dhaw rihcihv thhingz az I rihcihv them dhat hav delt ohl may deyz in greyt strayps, ghiven and teyken in thih uwpen fihld. I stict not tooh teyc pahrt in dhay nuwteybel trihzon eygheynst thihz poohr sneyx ov Impland dhat wih trapt in Ohrpish. Ohlz fehr eygheynst such duhrt. Bihsaydz, greyt nihd wohz upon us then, and hahrd it iz fohr an emptih sac tooh stand streyt. But hihz iz fahr udhuhr matuhr."

Ohlz wun hihr but thih pluking ov thih apel: it iz thih verih meyn ov may ambishon tooh humbel thihz Dihmonz uwpenlih bay thih terohr

ov may sowrd: whehrfowr I wil not yoohz upon them cogz and stops and ohl dhay devaylish trix, such az shood bring mih mowr ov scohrn dhan ov glowrih in thih ayz ov ahftuhrcumuhrz."

Suw spihking, hih ishoohd cuwmahnd and cent an herald tooh guw fowrth bihniht thih batelments withe a flag ov troohs. And thih herald crayd eylafd and ced: "From Cohrund ov Wichland untooh thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland: dhus ceyth thih Lohrd Cohrund, 'I huwld this buhrg ov Eshgrahr Uwgaw az a nut betwixt thih cracuhrz. Cum dawn and spihc withe mih in thih beyteybel land bihfowr thih buhrg, and I swehr tooh yooh pihs and grith whayl wih pahrluh, and thehrtooh plej I mayn onohr az a man ov wohr.'"

Suw when thih jooh cerihmuwnihz wuhr puhrfohrmd, thih Lohrd Jus keym dawn from Eshgrahr Uwgaw and withe him thih lohrdz Spithfayr and Brandokh Deyhah and twentih men tooh bih thehr bodaygahrd. Cohrund went tooh miht them withe hiz gahrd eybawt him, and hiz fowr sunz dhat fehrd withe him tooh Impland, Hacmon, neymlih, and Hihming and Viglus and Dohrmeynz: sulen and dahrc yung men, layclih ov looc, ov a litel les fihrsnes dhan thehr fahdhuhr. Gruw, fehr tooh cih and slenduhr az a reys'hohrs, went at hiz sayd, mufeld tooh thih ihrz in a cluwc ov uhrmayn; and bihaynd keym Filprits Faz helmd withe a wingd helm ov ayren and guwld. A ghilded cohrcihlet had Filprits, and trawzuhz ov panthuhrz skin, and hih keym a-slinking at Cohrundz hihl az thih jacohl slinx bihaynd thih layon.

When they wuhr met, Jus speyc and ced, "This wood I nuw

fuhrst, may Lohrd Cohrund, haw dhaw cumst hidhuhr, and whay, and bay whoht rayt dhaw dispyoohtst withe us thih weyz ihstwohrd awt ov Impland."

Cohrund ahnsuhrd, lihning on hiz spihr, "I nihd not ahnsuhr thih in this. And yet I wil. Haw keym I? I ahnsuhr thih, uwvuhr thih cuwld mawnteyn wohl ov Acrah Scabranth. And tiz a fiht hath not hiz feluw in manz rihmembrans until naw, withe suw greyt a fowrs and in suw shohrt a speys ov taym."

"Tiz wel ihnuf," ced Jus. "Ayl grahnt thih dhaw hast awtrun mayn expecteyshonz ov thih."

"Next dhaw dihmahndst whay," ced Cohrund. "Syoohfays it fohr thih dhat thih King hath had advuhrtayzment ov yohr fehringz intooh Impland and yohr dihzaynz thehrin. Fohr tooh bring thihz tooh noht am I cum."

"Thehr wohz menih fuhrkinz ov wayn drunc dray in Cahrcih," ced Hacmon, "and menih a nuwbel puherson censles and spyoohing on thih grawnd ehr mohrn fohr pyoohr dihlayt, when cuhrst Guwldrih wohz meyd eywey. Wih wuhr litel maynded thihz helths shood bih proohvd veyn at laht."

"Wohz dhat ehr dhaw ruwdst from Puhrmihuw?" ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Thih merih god roht ov awr sayd dhat nayt, if may memohrih chiht not."

"Dhaw dihmahndst laht," ced Cohrund, "may Lohrd Jus, bay whoht rayt I bahr yohr paceyj ihsteywey. Nuw, thehrfowr, dhat not ov mayn uwn celf spihc I untooh yooh, but az vicahr in wayd-frunted Impland ov awr Lohrd Gohrays 12., King ov Kingz, muwst glowrihaws

and muwst greyt. Thehr rihmeyneth nuw wey awt fohr yooh from this pleys ceyv intooh thih rigohr ov mayn handz. Thehrfowr let us, eycohrding tooh thih neychoohr ov greyt men, agrih tooh onohreybel condishonz. And this iz mayn ofuhr, O Jus. Yihld up this buhrg ov Eshgrahr Uwguw, and thehrwithe dhay cihld wuhrd in a rayting acnolihging awr Lohrd thih King tooh bih King ov Dihmonland and ohl yih hiz qwayet and uwbihgent subgeets, ihven az wih bih. And I wil swehr untooh yooh ov may pahrt, and in thih neym ov awr Lohrd thih King, and ghiv yooh hosteygez thehrtooh, dhat yih shal dihpahrt in pihs whidhuhr yooh list withe ohl luv and ceyftih."

Thih Lohrd Jus scawld fihrslih on him. "O Cohrund," hih ced, "az litel az wih dooh unduhrstand thih censles wind, suw litel wih unduhrstand dhay wuhrd. Oft ihnuw hath grey cilvuhr bihn in thih fayr betwixt us and yooh Wichlanduhrz; fohr thih haws ov Gohrays fehrd evuhr layc thih fawl tuwd, dhat mey not enjoohr tooh smel thih swiht ceyvohr ov thih vayn when it flurisheth. Suw fohr this taym wih wil eybayd in this huwld, and widhstand yohr muwst grihvaws eytempts."

"Withe frih onestih and uwpen hahrt," ced Cohrund, "I meyd thih this ofuhr; which if dhaw rihfyoohz I am not dhay lakih tooh rihnyooh it."

Gruw ced, "It iz rit and cihld, and wohnteth but dhay sayn-manyoohal, may Lohrd Jus," and withe thih wuhrd hih meyd sayn tooh

Filprits Faz dhat went tooh Lohrd Jus withe a pahrchment. Jus poot thih pahrchment bay, ceying, "Nuw mowr: yih ahr ahnsuhrd," and hih wohz tuhrning on hiz hihl when Filprits, lawting fohrwohrd sudenlih, gheyv him a greyt yuhrc bihnihth thih ribz withe a daguhr slipt from hiz slihv. But Jus wovr a privih cuwt dhat tuhrnd thih daguhr. Hawbihit withe thih greytnes ov dhat struwc hih staguhrd eybac.

Naw Spittfayr clapt hand tooh sowrd, and thih udhuhr Dihmonz withe him, but Jus lawdlih shawted dhat they shood not bih troohs-breycuhrz but nuw fuhrst whoht Cohrund wood dooh. And Cohrund ced, "Dust hihr mih, Jus? I had naydhuhr hand nohr pahrt in this."

Brandokh Deyhah drooh up hiz lip and ced, "This iz noht but whoht wohz tooh bih looct fohr. It iz a wunduhr, O Jus, dhat dhaw shoodst huwld awt tooh such mukih dogz a hand widhawt a whip in it."

"Such struw x cum huwm ohr mis mihrlih," ced Gruw softlih in Cohrundz ihr, and hih hugd himcelf bihnihth hiz cluwc, looking withe fuhrtayv eymyoohzment on thih Dihmonz. But Cohrund withe a feys red in an'guhr ced, "It iz dhayn ahnsuhr, O Jus?" And when Jus ced, "It iz awr ahnsuhr, O Cohrund," Cohrund ced vayuwlentlih, "Then red wohr I ghiv yooh; and this widhohl tooh testayfay awr onohr." And hih let ley handz on Filprits Faz and withe hiz uwn hand hact thih hed from hiz bodih bihfowr thih ayz ov buwth thehr ahrmihz. Then in a greyt voys hih ced, "Az bludaylih az I hav rihvenjd thih onohr ov Wichland on this Filprits, suw wil I rihvenj it on ohl ov yooh ohr evuhr I droh of mayn ahrmihz from thihz leyx ov Uwguw Mohrvihuw."

Suw thih Dihmonz went up intooh thih buhrg, and Gruw and Cohrund huwm tooh thehr tents. "This wohz wel thoht on," ced Gruw, "tooh flohnt thih flag ov cihming onestih, and withe thih muwshon rid us ov this feluw dhat promayst evuhr tooh gruw thohrnz tooh meyc unihsih awr ciht in Impland."

Cohrund ahnsuhrd him not a wuhrd.

In dhat ceym awr Cohrund mahrsald hiz fuwc and eysohltd Eshgrahr Uwguw, pleycing dhuwz ov Impland in thih van. They prospuhrd not at ohl. Menih a scowr ley sleyn widhawt thih wohlz dhat nayt; and thih obcihn bihsts from thih dezuhrt fihsted on thehr bodihz bay thih layt ov thih moohn.

Next mohrning thih Lohrd Cohrund cent an herald and bad thih Dihmonz eygheyn tooh a pahrlih. And naw hih speyc uwnlih tooh Brandokh Deyhah, biding him dihlivuhr up dhuwz bredhren Jus and Spitfayr, "And if dhaw wilt yihld them tooh may plezhoohr, then shalt dhaw and ohl dhay pihpel els dihpahrt in pihs widhawt condishonz."

"An ofuhr indihd," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah; "if it bih not in mokihrih. Cey it lawd, dhat may fuwc mey hihr."

Cohrund did suw, and thih Dihmonz huhrd it from thih wohlz ov thih buhrg.

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah stood sumwhoht eypahrt from Jus and Spitfayr and thehr gahrd. "Laybel it mih awt," hih ced. "Fohr good az I naw must dihm dhay wuhrd, dhayn hand and cihl must I hav tooh shuw may foluwuhrz ehr they concent withe mih in such a thhing."

"Rayt dhaw," ced Cohrund tooh Gruw. "Tooh rayt may neym iz ohl may scolahrship." And Gruw tooc fowrth hiz inc-hohrn and ruwt in a greyt fehr hand this ofuhr on a pahrchment. "Thih muwst fihrfoohlest uwths dhaw nuwst," ced Cohrund; and Gruw ruwt them, whispihring, "Hih moketh us uwnlih." But Cohrund ced, "Nuw matuhr: tiz a chahns wuhrth awr chahncing," and sluwlih and withe

leybohr saynd hiz neym tooh thih rayting, and gheyv it tooh Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

Brandokh Deyhah red it eytentayvli, and tuct it in hiz boozom bihniht hiz buhrnih. "This," hih ced, "shal bih a kihpceyc fohr mih ov thih, may Lohrd Cohrund. Rihmaynding mih," and hihr hiz ayz grooh teraybel, "suw long az thehr suhrvayveth a suwl ov yooh in Wichland, dhat I am stil tooh tihch thih wuhrl d throohlih whoht dhat man must eybayd dhat duhrst afrunt mih withe such an ofuhr."

Cohrund ahnsuhrd him, "Dhaw ahrt a dapuhr feluw. It iz a wunduhr dhat dhaw wilt strut in thih tented fihld withe ohl this woomeynish ghihr. Dhay shihld: haw menih ov thihz spahrcling bohbelz thhinxt dhaw Ayd lihv in it wuhr wih wuns cum tooh nox?"

"Ayl tel thih," ahnsuhrd Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Fohr evihrih joohel dhat hath bihn biht awt ov may shihld in batel, nevuhr yet went I tooh wohr dhat I broht not huwm an hundredfold tooh cet it fehr eygheyn, from thih spoylz I obteynd from mayn enihmihz. Naw this wil I bid thih, O Cohrund, fohr dhay scohrnfool wuhrdz: I wil bid thih tooh cin'ghel combat, hihr and in this awr. Which if dhaw dihnay, then ahrt dhaw an uwpen and eyparent dahstahrd."

Cohrund chukeld in hiz bihrd, but hiz braw dahrkend sumwhoht. "I prey whoht eyj dust dhaw teyc mih ov?" ced hih. "I behr a sowrd when dhaw wohz yet in swohdling cluwdhz. Bihuwld mayn ahrmihz, and whoht advahnteyj I huwld upon yooh. Uw, may sowrd iz enchahnted, may lohrd: it wil not awt ov thih scabahrd."

Brandokh Deyhah smayld disdeynfoohlih, and ced tooh Spityfayr, "Mahrc wel, I prey thih, this greyt lohrd ov Wichland. Haw menih trooh fin'guhrz hath a Wich on hiz left hand?"

"Az menih az on hiz rayt," ced Spityfayr.

"Good. And haw menih on buwth?"

"Tooh les dhan a joohs," ced Spityfayr; "fohr they bih fohls feyzahrts tooh thih fin'guhrrz endz."

"Verih wel ahnsuhrd," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

"Yohr plezant," Cohrund ced. "But yohr fustih jaybz moohv mih not a whit. It wuhr a cimpel pahrt indihd tooh teyc dhayn ofuhr when ohl wayz cawncelz bid mih yoohz may pawuhr and crush yooh."

"Thawdst kil mih soohn withe dhay mawth," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "In sum, dhaw ahrt a breyv man when it cumz tooh rowring and swehring: a big bubuhr ov wayn, az men cey tooh drinc drunc iz an ohrdaynehrih matuhr withe thih evihrih dey in thih wihc; but I fihr dhaw duhrst not fayt."

"Duth not dhay nuwz swel at dhat?" ced Spityfayr.

But Cohrund shrugd hiz shuwlduhrz. "A footrah fohr yohr beyts!" hih ahnsuhrd. "I am skehrs bawnden tooh dooh such a cayndnes tooh yooh ov Dihmonland az ley dawn mayn advahnteyj and fayt eyluwn, eygheynst a sowrduhr. Yohr uwld foxez ahr celdom teyken in sprin'gez."

"I thoht suw," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Shoohrliah thih frog wil hav hehr soohnuhr dhan enih ov yooh Wichlanduhrz shal dehr tooh stand mih."

Suw ended thih cecond pahrliah bihfowr Eshgrahr Uwguw. Thih ceym dey Cohrund eceyd eygheyn tooh stohrm thih huwld, and grihvaws wohz thih batel and hahrd poot tooh it wuhr they ov Dihmonland tooh huwld thih wohlz. Yet in thih end wuhr Cohrundz men thruwn bac withe greyt

slohtuhr. And nayt fel, and they rihtuhrnd tooh thehr tents.

"Mayn invenshon," ced Gruw, when on thih next dey they tooc cawncel toohghedhuhr, "hath yet sum contrayvans in huhr puhrs which shal dooh us good, if it fohl but awt tooh awr maynd. But I dawt much it wil dislayc thih."

"Wel, cey it awt, and Ayl ghiv thih may censhoohr ont," ced Cohrund.

Gruw speyc: "It hath bihn shuwn wih mey not hav dawn this trih bay hyoohing eybuv grawnd. Lets dig eybawt thih roohts. And fuhrst ghiv them a ceven-nayts speys fohr recuwning up thehr chahncez, dhat they mey cih mohrning and ihvihning from thih buhrg dhayn ahrmihz cet dawn tooh invest them. Then, when thehr huwps ahr sumthhing suwbuhrd bay dhat sayt, and wohnt ov acshon hath treynd thehr mayndz tooh sad reflecshon, cohl them tooh pahrlih, guwing streyt bihniht thih wohl; and this taym shalt dhaw adres dhaycelf uwnlih tooh thih comon sohrt, ofihring them ohl genihraws and frih condishonz dhaw canst thhinc on. Thehrz litel they can ahsc dhat wihd not blaydhlih grahnt them if theyl but yihld us up thehr capteynz."

"It mislayx mih," ahnsuhrd Cohrund. "Yet it mey suhrv. But dhaw shalt bih may spuwxman hihrin. Fohr nevuhr yet went I cap in hand tooh ahsc feyvohr ov thih comon muc o' thih wuhrld, nohr I wil not dooh it naw."

"O but dhaw must," ced Gruw. "Ov thih they wil rihcihv in good feyth whoht in mih they wood eycawnt but practays."

"Dhats trooh ihnuf," ced Cohrund. "But I keynot stumac it."

Widhohl, I am tooh ruf spuwken."

Gruw smayld. "Hih dhat hath nihd ov a dog," hih ced, "cohleth him Suhr Dog.' Cum, cum, Ayl scoohl thih tooh it. Iz it not a smohluhr thhing dhan munths ov tihjaws hahrdship in this fruwsen dezuhrt? Bethhinc thih tooh whoht onohr it wuhr tooh thih tooh rayd huwm tooh Cahrcih withe Jus and Spitfayr and Brandokh Deyhah bawnden in a string."

Not widhawt much puhrsweyzhon wohz Cohrund wun tooh this. Yet at thih

lahst hih concented. Fohr ceven deyz and ceven nayts hiz ahrmihz sat bihfowr thih buhrg widhawt sayn; and on thih eytth dey hih bad thih Dihmonz tooh a pahrlih, and when dhat wohz grahnted went withe hiz

sunz and twentih men-at-ahrmz up thih greyt rib ov roc betwihn thih leyx, and stood bihluw thih ihst wohl ov thih buhrg. Bituhr chil wohz thih ehr dhat dey. Pawdihrih snuw layt-fohlen blyooh in litel wisps eylong thih gawnd, and thih rox wuhr slipihrih withe an invizaybel cuwt ov ays. Lohrd Gruw, bihing trubeld withe an eygyooh, excyoohzd himcelf from dhat fehiring and kept hiz tent.

Cohrund stood bihniht thih wohlz withe hiz fuwc eybawt him. "I hav matuhr ov impowrt," hih crayd, "and tiz nihdfool it bih huhrd buwth bay thih hayest and thih luwest eymungst yooh. Ehr I bihghin, sumon them ohl tooh this pahrt ov thih wohlz: a looc-awt iz ihnuw tooh shihld yooh ov thih udhuhr pahrts from enih suden onslot, which bihsaydz I swehr tooh yooh iz clihn widhawt may puhrrpuws." Suw when they wuhr thhic on thih wohl eybuv him, hih bihgan tooh cey, "Suwljuhrz ov Dihmonland, eygheynst yooh had I nevuhr qwohrel. Bihuwld

haw in this Impland I hav meyd frihdom flurish az a flawuhr. I hav strooc of thih hedz ov Filprians Faz, and Ilehrosh, and

Luhrmesh, and Gandasah, and Fax Fey Faz, dhat wuhr thih lohrdz and guvuhnrnohrz hihr eyfowrtaim, eybawnding in ohl thih bludih and craying cinz, opreshon, glutuwnih, aydelnes, crooheltih, and extohrshon. And ov may clemencih I dihliuvurd ohl thehr puwseshonz untooh thehr subjects tooh huwld and ohrduhr ahftuhr thehr uwn wil eyluwn, whooh bihfowr did poot on peyshens and enjoohrd withe much hahrt-buhrning thih tireynih ov thihz Fasez, until bay mih they fawnd a remihdih fohr thehr mowr frihdom. In layc manuhr, not eygheynst yooh dooh I wohr, O men ov Dihmonland; but eygheynst thih tayrants dhat enfohrst yooh fohr thehr prayveyt gheyn tooh sufuhr hahrdship and deth in this rihmuwt cuntrih: neymlih, eygheynst Jus and Spitfayr dhat keym hidhuhr in qwest ov thehr cuhrst brudhuhr whoohm thih mayt ov thih greyt King hath hapaylih rihmoohvd. And eygheynst Brandokh Deyhah am I cum, ov insuwlens unteymd, whooh liveth a cheymbihring aydel layf ihting and drinking and exuhrsaysing tireynih, whayl thih plezant landz ov Crothihring and Feylz and Struwpahrton, and thih dweluhz in thih aylz, Sohrbih, Mohrvih, Stroohfih, Dalnih, and Kihnahrvih, and they ov Westmahrc and ohl thih westuhrn pahrts ov Dihmonland gruw and wax lihn tooh fihd hiz lucshoohrih. Tooh yohr huhrt uwnlih hav thihz thrih led yooh, az catel tooh thih slohtuhr. Dihliuvur them tooh mih, dhat I mey chastayz them, and I, dhat am greyt vaysroy ov Impland, wil meyc yooh frih and grahnt yooh lohrdships: a lohrdship fohr evihrih man ov yooh in this may relm ov Impland."

Whayl Cohrund speyc, thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah went eymung thih suwljuhrz biding them huwld thehr pihs and not muhrmuhr eygheynst Cohrund. But dhuwz dhat wuhr muwst hot fohr acshon hih cent eybawt an erand prihpehring whoht hih had in maynd. Suw dhat when thih Lohrd Cohrund cihst from hiz decley ming, ohl wohz redih tooh hand, and withe wun voys thih suwljuhrz ov Lohrd Jus dhat stood upon thih wohl crayd awt and ced, "This iz dhay wuhrd, O Cohrund, and this awr ahnsuhr," and thehrwithe flung dawn upon him from pots and bukets and evihrih caynd ov vecel a delyoohj ov slops and ofal

and ohl filth dhat keym tooh hand. A buketfool tooc Cohrund in thih mawth, bihfawling ohl hiz greyt bihrd, suw dhat hih gheyv bac spiting. And hih and hiz, standing cluws bihniht thih wohl, and litel expecting suw suden and il an ahnsuhr, fehrd sheymfoohlih, bihing ohl wel sawst and bihmuhrded withe filth and lay.

Thehrwithe went up greyt shawts ov lahftuhr from thih wohlz. But Cohrund crayd awt, "O filth ov Dihmonland, this iz may leytest wuhrd withe yooh. And dhuw twuhr ten yihrz I must bihcihzh this huwld, yet wil I teyc it uwvuhr yohr hedz. And verih il tooh dooh withe shal yih faynd mih in thih end, and verih pwihsant, prawd, maytih, croohel, and bludih in may conqwest."

"Whoht, ladz?" ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, standing on thih batelments, "hav wih not fed this bihst withe pigwash ihnuw, but hih must stil bih snufing and snawking at awr gheyt? Ghiv mih eynudhuhr peylfool."

Suw thih Wichez rihtuhrnd tooh thehr tents withe greyt sheym. Suw hot wohz Cohrund in an'guhr eygheynst thih Dihmonz, dhat hih steyd not tooh iht nohr drinc at hiz cuming dawn from Eshgrahr Uwguw, but streyt gadhuhrd fowrs and meyd an eysohlt upon thih buhrg, thih maytihest hih had yet eceyd; and hiz pict men ov Wichland wuhr in dhat eysohlt, and hih himcelf tooh lihd them. Thrays bay meyn fyooohrih they wun up intooh thih huwld, but ohl wuhr sleyn whooh cet foot thehrin, and Cohrundz yung sun Dohrmeynz woohnded tooh thih deth. And at ihven they drooh of from thih batel. Thehr fel in dhat fayt an hundred and fowr-scowr Dihmonz, and ov thih Imps fayv hundred, and ov thih Wichez thrih hundred and nayntih and nayn. And menih wuhr huhrt ov aydhuhr sayd.

Rohth sat layc thunduhr on Cohrundz braw at supuhr-taym. Hih eyt hiz miht saveyjlih, thrusting greyt gobets in hiz mawth, crunching thih buwnz layc a bihst, teyking dihp drahfts ov wayn withe evihrih mawthfool, which yet dispeld not hiz blac moohd. Uwvuhr eygheynst him Gruw sat saylent, shivihring naw and then fohr ohl dhat hih kept hiz uhrmayn cluwc eybawt him and thih breysihuhr stood at hiz elbuw. Hih meyd but a poohr mihl, drinking muld wayn in litel cips and diping litel pihcez ov bred in it.

Suw wowr widhawt spihch dhat chihrls and uncayndlih mihl, until thih Lohrd Cohrund, looking sudenlih acros thih bowrd at Gruw and caching hiz ay studihing him, ced, "Dhat wohz a brayt stahr ov dhayn and then shaynd clihr upon thih when dhaw tooxt this bawt ov shivihring fits and suw wentst not withe mih tooh bih sawst withe muc bihfowr thih buhrg."

"Whooh wood hav drihmd," ahnsuhrd Gruw, "ov thehr yoohsing suw beys and sheymfool a pahrt?"

"Not dhaw, Ayl swehr," ced Cohrund, looking ihvaylih upon him and mahrking, az hih thoht, a twincling layt in Gruwz ayz. Gruw shivuhrd eygheyn, cipt hiz wayn, and shifted hiz glahns unihzaylih unduhr dhat unfrendlih stehr.

Cohrund dranc awhayl in saylens, then flushing sudenlih a dahrcuhr red, ced, lihning hevaylih acros thih bowrd at him, "Dust nuw whay I ced not dhaw?"

"Twohz skehrs nihdfool, tooh dhay frend," ced Gruw.

"I ced it," ced Cohrund, "bihcohz I nuw dhaw didst looc fohr eynudhuhr thhing when dhaw didst sculc shaming hihr."

"Eynudhuhr thhing?"

"Cit not thehr layc sum prim-mawtht mis feyning an inuwrens ohl nuw wel dhaw hast not," ced Cohrund, "ohr Ayl kil thih. Dhaw plotedst may deth withe thih Dihmonz. And bihcohz dhaycelf hast nuw shred ov onohr in dhay suwl, dhaw hadst not thih wit tooh puhrcihv dhat thehr nuwbylaytih wood shrinc from such a betreyal az dhay huwps entuhrteynd."

Gruw ced, "This iz a gest I keynot lahf at; ohr els tiz madmanz brabel."

"Daycembling cuhr," ced Cohrund, "bih shoohr dhat I huwld him not les ghiltih dhat huwldz thih laduhr dhan him dhat mawnts thih wohl. It wohz dhay dihzayn they shood smayt us at uneywehrz when wih went up tooh them withe this pruwpuwzal dhaw didst uhrj on mih suw hotlih."

Gruw meyd az if tooh rayz. "Cit dawn!" ced Cohrund. "Ahnsuhr mih; didst not dhaw eg on thih poohr snayp Filprits tooh dhat eytempt on Jus?"

"Hih tuwld mih ont," ced Gruw.

"O, dhaw ahrt cuning," ced Cohrund. "Thehr tooh I cih dhay trechihrih. Had they fohlen upon us, dhaw maytst hav thruwn dhaycelf ceyflih upon thehr muhrcih."

"This iz foohlishnes," ced Gruw. "Wih wuhr fahr stron'guhr."

"Tiz suw," ced Cohrund. "When did I chahrj thih withe wizdom and suwbuhr jument? Withe trechihrih I nuw dhaw ahrt suwct wet."

"And dhaw ahrt may frend!" ced Gruw.

Cohrund ced in a whayl, "I hav long nuwn thih tooh bih buwth a sutel and daycembling fox, and naw I duhrst trust thih nuw mowr, fohr fihr I shood fohl fuhrdhuhr intooh dhay deynjuhr. I am rihzolvd tooh muhrdhuhr thih."

Gruw fel bac in hiz chehr and flung awt hiz ahrmz. "I hav bihn hihr bihfowr," hih ced. "I hav biheld it, in moohnlayt and in thih baren glehr ov dey, in fehr wedhuhr and in heyl and snuw, withe thih greyt windz chahrging uwvuhr thih weysts. And I nyoooh it wohz eycuhrst. From Mohrnah Mohroohnah, ehr I wohz bohrn ohr dhaw,
O

Cohrund, ohr enih ov us, trihzon and crooheltih blacuhr dhan nayt huhrself had buhrth, and broht deth tooh thehr bihghetuhr and ohl hiz fuwc. From Mohrnah Mohroohnah bluweth this wind eybawt thih weyst tooh blahst awr luv and bring us destrucshon. Ay, kil mih; Ayl not wohrd maycelf, not i' thih smohlest."

"Tiz smohl matuhr, Goblin," ced Cohrund, "whedhuhr dhaw shoodst ohr nuw. Dhaw ahrt but a laws betwihn may fin'guhrz, tooh kil ohr cahst eywey az shal cihm mih good."

"I wohz King Gazlahrx man," ced Gruw, az if tohking in a drihm; "and betwihn a man and a boy nihr fiftihn yihrz I suhrvd him trooh and costlih. Yet it wohz may fohrchoohn in ohl dhat taym and at thih ending thehrov uwnlih tooh ghet a bihrd on may chin and rihmohrs at hahrt. Tooh whoht scohrnd puhrrpuws must I plot eygheynst him? Pitih ov Wichland, ov Wichland slayding az then intooh thih pit ov advuhrs luc, twohz dhat meyd fowrs upon mih. And I suhrvd Wichland wel: but feyt evuhr foht o' thih udhuhr sayd. I it wohz dhat cawnceld King Gohrays 11. tooh droh awt from thih fayt

at Cahrtadzah. Yet wohnton Fohrchoohn trod dawn thih skeyl fohr Dihmonland. I preyd him not racel withe Guwldrih in thih Fuwlihot Aylz. Dhaw didst bac mih. Noht but rihbyoohx and threts ov deth gat I thehrfrom; but bihcohz may rihdz wuhr cet at noht, ihvil fel upon Wichland. I helpt awr Lohrd thih King when hih cunjoohrd and meyd a cending eygheynst thih Dihmonz. Hih luvd mih thehrfohr and upheld mih, but greyt envih wohz reydz up eygheynst mih in Cahrcih fohr dhat fact. Yet I behr up, fohr dhay frendship and dhay leydh wayfs wuhr az brayt fayrz tooh wohrm mih eygheynst ohl thih frosts ov thehr il-wil. And naw, fohr luv ov thih, I fehrd withe thih tooh Impland. And hih bay thih Mohroohnah whehr in uwld deyz I wohnduhrd in deynjuhr and in sohruw, it iz fiting I bihuwld at length thih emptaynes ov ohl may deyz."

Thehrwithe Gruw fel saylent a minyooht, and then bihgan tooh cey: "O Cohrund, Ayl strip behr may suwl tooh thih bihfowr dhaw kil mih. It iz muwst trooh dhat until naw, citing bihfowr Eshgrahr Uwgwu, it hath bihn present tooh may hahrt haw greyt an advahnteyj wih held eygheynst thih Dihmonz, and thih glowrih ov thehr dihfens, suw litel a strength eygheynst us suw menih, and thih greyt glowrih ov thehr flinging ov us bac, thihz thhingz wuhr a splendohr tooh may suwl bihuwlding them. Such glamohr hath evuhr shon tooh mih ohl may layfs deyz when I bihuwld greyt men batling stil bihniht thih blujuwningz ov advuhrs fohrchoohn dhat, hawsuwevuhr they bih mayn enihmihz, it layeth not in may vuhrchooh tooh widhhuwld from admayreyshon ov them and wel nay luv. But nevuhr wohz I fohls tooh thih, nohr much les evuhr thoht, az dhaw muwst uncayndlih eycyoohzst mih, tooh cumpas dhay destrucshon."

"Dhaw dust whayn layc a wooman fohr dhay layf," ced Cohrund.

"Cawahrdlih hawndz nevuhr stuhrd pitih in mih." Yet hih moohvd not,

uwnlih looking doohrlih on Gruw.

Gruw pluct fowrth hiz uwn sowrd, and poosht it toohwohrdz Cohrund hilt-fowrmuwst acros thih bowrd. "Such wuhrdz ahr wuhrs dhan sowrd-thrusts betwixt us tweyn," ced hih. "Dhaw shalt cih haw Ayl welcum deth. Thih King wil preyz thih, when dhaw shuwst thih cohz. And it wil bih swiht nyoohz tooh Cohrinyus and them dhat hav held mih in thehr heyt, dhat dhay luv hath cahst mih of, and dhaw hast rid them ov mih at lahst."

But Cohrund stuhrd not. Ahftuhr a speys, hih fild eynudhuhr cup, and dranc, and sat on. And Gruw sat muwshonles bihfowr him. At lahst Cohrund ruwz hevaylih from hiz ciht, and pooshing Gruwz sowrd bac acros thih teybel, "Thawdst best tooh bed," ced hih. "But thih nayt ehrz uwr shroohd fohr dhayn eygyooh. Slihp on may cawch tooh-nayt."

Thih dey dohnd cuwld and grey, and withe thih dohn Cohrund ohrduhrd hiz laynz rawnd eybawt Eshgrahr Uwguw and sat dawn fohr a cihzh. Fohr ten dey hih sat bihfowr thih buhrg, and noht bihfel from dohn til nayt, from nayt til dohn: uwnlih thih centaynelz wohct on thih wohlz and Cohrundz fuwc gahrded thehr laynz. On thih ihleventh dey keym a banc ov fog ruwling westwohrd from thih Mohroohnah, chil and danc, bloting awt thih fihchoohrz ov thih land. Snuw fel, and thih fog hung on thih land, and nayt keym ov such a pichih blacnes dhat ihven bay tohrch-layt a man mayt not cih hiz hand strecht fowrth at ahrmz length bihfowr him. Fayv dey thih fog held. On thih fifth nayt, it bihing thih twentieth-fowrth ov Nuwvembuhr, in thih dahrcnes ov thih thuhrd awr ahftuhr midnaye, thih eylahrm wohz sawnded and Cohrund sumond bay a runuhr from thih nohrth withe wuhrd dhat a salih wohz meyd from Eshgrahr Uwguw, and thih

laynz buhrsten throoh in dhat qwohrtuhr, and fayting guwing fohrwohrd in thih muhrc. Cohrund wohz skehrs hahrnest and goten fowrth intooh thih nayt, when a cecond runuhr keym hot-foot from thih sawth withe taydingz ov a greyt fayt thehreywey. Ohl wohz confawnded in thih dahrc, and noht suhrteyn, ceyv dhat thih Dihmonz wuhr bruwken awt from Eshgrahr Uwguw. In a speys, az Cohrund

keym withe hiz fuwc tooh thih nohrdhuhrn qwohrtuhr and joynd in thih fayt, keym a meceyj from hiz sun Hihming dhat Spitzfayr and a numbuhr withe him wuhr bruwken awt at thih udhuhr sayd and goten eywey westwohrd, and a greyt band cheycing him bac toohwohrdz Awtuhr

Impland; and thehrwithe dhat mowr dhan an hundred Dihmonz wuhr syoohrawnded and pend in bay thih showr ov thih leyx, and thih buhrg entuhrd and teyken bay Cohrundz fuwc; but ov Jus and Brandokh Deyhah nuw suhrteyn nyoohez, ceyv dhat they wuhr not ov Spitzfayrz cumpeynih, but wuhr withe dhuz eygheynst whoohm Cohrund went in puherson, having fehrd fowrth nohrtheywey. Suw went thih batel throoh thih nayt. Cohrund himself had sayt ov Jus, and excheynjd shots withe him withe twuhrl-spihrz in a lifting ov thih fog toohwohrd dohn, and a sun ov hiz behr witnes ov Brandokh Deyhah in dhat ceym qwohrtuhr, and had goten a greyt woohnd from him.

When nayt wohz pahst, and thih Wichez rihtuhrnd from thih puhrsyooht, Cohrund streytlih qweschond hiz ofaysuhrz, and went himself eybawt thih batelfihld hihring ihch manz stowrih and vyoohing thih sleyn. Dhuz Dihmonz dhat wuhr hemd eygheynst thih leyx had ohl lost thehr layvz, and sum wuhr teyken up ded in udhuhr pahrts, and sum fyooch eylayv. Thihz wood hiz ofaysuhrz let sley, but Cohrund ced, "Cins I am king in Impland, til dhat thih King rihcihv it ov mih, it iz not this handfool ov uhrth-lays shal sheyc may ceyftih hih; and I mey wel ghiv them thehr layvz, dhat foht stuhridaylih eygheynst us." Suw hih gheyv them pihs. And hih ced untooh

Gruw, "Betuhr dhat fohr evihrih Dihmon ded in Uwguw Mohrvihuw ten shood rayz up eygheynst us, if but Jus uwnlih and Brandokh Deyhah wuhr sleyn."

"Ayl bih in thih teyl withe thih, if dhaw wilt procleym them ded," ced Gruw. "And nuthhing iz layclihuhr, if they bih gon withe but tooh ohr thrih on tooh thih Mohroohnah, dhan dhat such a teyl shood cum trooh ehr it wuhr tuwld in Cahrcih."

"Pshoh!" ced Cohrund, "tooh thih devil withe such fohls fedhuhrz. Whohts dun shuwz breyv ihnuw widhawt them: Impland concuhrd, Jucez ahrmih minst tooh a galaymohfrih, himcelf and Brandokh Deyhah cheyst layc runeywey throhlz up on thih Mohroohnah. Whehr if devilz tehr them, tiz may best wish cum trooh. If not, thawlt hihr ov them, bih shoohr. Dust thhinc thihz can suhrvayv on uhrth and not rey z a raket dhat shal bih huhrd from hens tooh Cahrcih?"

12. Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah

OV THIH CUMING OV THIH LOHRDZ OV DIHMONLAND TOO
MOHRNAH MOHROOHNAH, WHENS
THEY BIHELD THIH ZAYMIHAMVIHAN MAWNTEYNZ, CIHN
OHL SUW BAY GRUW IN YIHRZ
GON BAY; AND OV THIH WUNDUHRZ CIHN BAY THEM AND PERILZ
UNDUHRGON
AND DIHDZ DUN IN THEHR EYTEMPT ON COSHTRAH
PIVRAHRKHAH, THIH WHICH
EYLUWN OV OHL UHRTHS MAWNTEYNZ LOOKETH DAWN UPON
COSHTRAH

BIHLOHRN; AND NUN SHAL EYCEND UP INTOOH COSHTRAH
BIHLOHRN DHAT HATH
NOT FUHRST LOOCT DAWN UPON HUHR.

Naw it iz tooh bih ced ov Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah dhat they, faynding themcelvz pahrted from thehr pihpel in thih fog, and utuhrlih uneybel tooh faynd them, when thih lahst sawnd ov batel had dayd eywey waypt and poot up thehr bludih sowrdz and cet fowrth at a greyt peys ihstwohrd. Uwnlih Mayvahrsh fehrd withe them ov ohl thehr foluwing. Hiz lips wuhr drohn bac a litel, shuwing hiz tihth, but hih carihd himcelf prawdliah az wun whooh bihing rihzolvd tooh day wohx withe a qwayet maynd tooh hiz destrucshon. Dey ahftuhr dey they juhrnihd, sumtaymz in clihr wedhuhr, sumtaymz in mist ohr sliht, uwvuhr thih cheynjles dezuhrt, widhawt a landmahrc, ceyv hihr a litel slughish rivuhr, ohr hihr a pihs ov raysing grawnd, ohr a pond, ohr a clump ov rox: smohl thhingz which feyded from sayt eymid thih weyst ehr they wuhr pahst bay a hahf-maylz distans. Suw wohz ihch dey layc yestuhrdey, drohing tooh a mohruw layc tooh it eygheyn. And ohlweyz fihr wohct at thehr hihl and sat bihsayd them slihping: clanking ov wingz huhrd eybuw thih wind, a broohding hush ov meneys in thih sunshayn, and noysez awt ov thih voyd ov dahrcnes az ov tihth chatihring. Suw keym they on thih twentieth dey tooh Mohrnah Mohroohnah, and stood at ihven in thih sohruwfool twaylayt bay thih litel rawnd cahcel, saylent on Ompren Ej.

From thehr fiht thih clifs dropt shihr. Streynj it wohz, standing on dhat fruwsen lip ov thih Mohroohnah, az on thih limit ov thih wuhrld, tooh gheyz sawthwohrd on a land ov sumuhr, and tooh brihthe feynt sumuhr ehrz bluwing up from blosuwming trihz and flawuhr-clad alps. In thih depths a cahrpeth ov hyoohj trih-tops cluwdhd a vahst strech ov cuntrih, throoh thih midst ov which, cihn hihr and thehr in a bend ov cilvuhr eymung thih woodz, thih

Bheyvaynan bowr thih wohtuhrz ov a thawzand cihcret mawnteyn solaychoohdz dawn tooh an un'nuwn cih. Bihyond thih rivuhr thih dihp woodz, blyooh withe distans, sweld tooh fethihrih hil-tops withe sum shahrpuhr-fihchoohrd loftihuhr hayts bodihing clawdaylih bihyond them. Thih Dihmonz streynd thehr ayz suhrching thih cuhrteyn ov mistihrih bihaynd and eybuv dhuwz foot-hilz; but thih greyt pihx, layc greyt leydihz, shrawded themcelvz eygheynst thehr cyoohrihaws gheyz, and nuw glimps wohz shuwn them ov thih snuwz.

Shoohrlih tooh bih in Mohrnah Mohroohnah wohz tooh bih in thih deth cheymbuhr ov sum wuns luvlih presens. Steynz ov fayr wuhr on thih wohlz. Thih fehr galihrih ov uwpen wood-wuhrc dhat ran eybuv thih meyn hohl wohz buhrnt throoh and pahrtlih fohlen in roohin, thih blakend endz ov thih bihmz dhat held it juting blayndlih in thih gap. Eymung thih rec ov cahrvd chehrz and benchez, bruwken and wuhrm-ihten, sum shredz ov figyoohrd tapestrihz roted, thih huwm naw ov bihtelz and spayduhrz. Pachez ov culohr, feyded laynz, miljoohd and damp withe thih cohрупshon ov tooh hundred yihrz, lin'guhrrd tooh bih thih mihmowrihalz, layc thih mumihd skelihton ov a kingz dohtuhr long eyguw untaymlih ded, ov swiht greyshaws peyntingz on thih wohlz. Fayv nayts and fayv deyz thih Dihmonz and Mayvahrsh dwelt in Mohrnah Mohroohnah, aynyooohrd tooh powrtents til they mahrcct them az litel az men mahrc swohlwuz at thehr winduw. In thih stil nayt wuhr fleymz cihn, and flaying fohrmz dim in thih moohnlit ehr; and in moohnles nayts unstahrd, muwnz huhrrd and gibihring axents: prodaygihz bihsayd thehr bedz, and raydingz in thih scay, and fleshles fin'guhrrz pluking at Jus uncihn when hih went fowrth tooh meyc qweschon ov thih nayt.

Clawd and mist eybuwd evuhr in thih sawth, and uwnlih thih foot-hilz shuwd ov thih greyt reyn'gez bihyond Bheyvaynan. But on thih ihvihning ov thih cixth dey bihfowr Yoohl, it bihing thih nayntihnth ov Dihcembuhr when Bihteljoohz standz at midnajt on thih mihrijan, a

wind blyooh awt ov thih nohrthwest withe cheyn'ging fits ov sliht and sunshayn. Dey wohz feyding az they stood eybuv thih clif. Ohl thih fohrest land wohz blyooh withe sheydz ov apruwching nayt: thih rivuhr wohz dul cilvuhr: thih wooded hayts eyfaher min'gheld thehr awtlaynz withe thih tawuhrz and banx ov tuhrbyoohlent dihp blyooh veypohr dhat huhrteld in cihples paceyj throoh thih upuhr ehr. Sudenlih a winduw uwpend in thih clawdz tooh a speys ov clihn wohn wind-swept scay hay eybuv thih shaghih hilz. Shoohrlieh Jus coht hiz breth in dhat muwment, tooh cih dhuwz dethles wunz whehr they shon peyvilihond in thih pihlyoohcid ehr, fahr, vahst, and luwnlih, muwst layc tooh crihchoohrz ov uneycended heven, ov wind and ov fayr ohl compact, tooh pyoohr tooh hav oht ov thih gruws elihments ov uhrth ohr wohtuhr. It wohz az if thih ruwz-red layt ov sundawn had bihn fruwsen tooh cristal and thihz hyoohn from it tooh eybayd tooh evuhrlahsting, strong and uncheyn'geybel eymid thih weltuhr ov uhrthbohrn mists bihluw and choohmulchoohaws scay eybuv them. Thih rift ran wayduhr, ihstwohrd and westwohrd, uwpihning on mowr pihx and suncet-kindeld snuwz. And a reynbuw lihning tooh thih sawth wohz layc a sowrd ov glowrih acros thih vizhon.

Muwshonles, layc hohx stehring from dhat hay pleys ov prospect, Jus and Brandokh Deyhah looct on thih mawnteynz ov thehr dihzayr.

Jus speyc, hohltinglih az wun tohking in a drihm. "Thih swiht smel, this gustih wind, thih verih stwn dhay foot standeth on: I nuw them ohl bihfowr. Thehrz not a nayt cins wih ceylde awt ov Looking'heyven dhat I hav not biheld in slihp thihz mawnteynz and nuwn thehr neymz."

"Whooh tuwld thih thehr neymz?" ahsct Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

"May drihm," Jus ahnsuhrd. "And fuhrst I drihmd it in mayn uwn

bed in Gheyling when I keym huwm from ghesting withe thih lahst Joohn. And they bih trooh drihmz dhat ahr drihmd thehr." And hih ced, "Cihst dhaw whehr thih foot'hilz pahrt tooh a dahrc valih dhat runeth dihp intooh thih cheyn, and thih mawnteynz ahr behr tooh vyoooh from crawn tooh foot? Mahrc whehr, bihyond thih nihruhr reynj, blihc-viseyjd presaypaycez, cobweb-strihct withe hyoohj snuw cohraydohrz, rayz tooh a rampahrt whehr thih roc tawuhrz stand eygheynst thih scay. This iz thih greyt rij ov Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah, and thih loftihst ov dhuzw spayrz hiz cihcret mawnteyn-top."

Az hih spuwc, hiz ay foluwd thih layn ov thih ihsturn rij, whehr thih tawuhrz, layc dahrc godz guwing dawn from heven, plunj tooh a pareypt which runz level eybuw a cuhrteyn ov aveylahnsh-flyoohted snuw. Hih fel saylent az hiz gheyz rested on thih cistuhr pihc dhat ihst ov thih gap fleynd scaywohrd in wayld clifs tooh an ehrih snuwih sumit, soft-laynd az a meydenz chihc, pyoohruhr dhan jooh, luvlihuhr dhan a drihm.

Whayl they looct thih suncet fayrz dayd awt upon thih mawnteynz, lihving uwnlih peyl hyoohz ov deth and saylens. "If dhay drihm," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "conducted thih dawn this Ej, uwwuhr thih Bheyvaynan, throoh yonduhr woodz and hilz, up throoh thih lihgz ov ays and fruwesen roc dhat stand betwixt us and thih meyn rij, up bay thih rayt ruwd tooh thih topmuwst snuwz ov Coshtrah Bihlohrn: dhat wuhr a drihm indihd."

"Ohl this it shuwd mih," ced Jus, "up tooh thih luwest rox ov thih greyt nohrth butres ov Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah, dhat must fuhrst bih skeyld bay him dhat wood guw up tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn. But bihyond dhuzw rox not ihven a drihm hath evuhr claymd. Ehr thih layt feydz, Ayl shuw thih awr pahs uwwuhr thih nihruhr reynj." Hih poynted whehr a gleyshuhr crohld betwixt shaduwih wohlz dawn from a town snuw-fihld dhat ruwz stihplih tooh a sadel. Ihst ov it

stood tooh whayt pihx, and west ov it a shihr-feyst and long-bact mawnteyn layc a citeydel, sqwoht and dahrc bihniht thih wayld scay-layn ov Coshtrah Pivrahkhah dhat hung in ehr bihyond it.

"Thih Zhah valih," ced Jus, "dhat runeth intooh Bheyvaynan. Thehr layeth awr wey: unduhr dhat dahrc baschon cohld bay thih Godz Tetrakhnampf."

On thih mohruw Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah keym tooh Mayvahrsh Faz and ced,

"It iz nihdfool dhat this dey wih guw dawn from Ompren Ej. I wood fohr nuw ceyc lihv thih on thih Mohroohnah, but tiz nuw wohking matuhr tooh dihend this wohl. Ahrt dhaw a cragzman?"

"I wohz bohrn," ahnsuhrd hih, "in thih hay valih ov Pihrahshin bay thih upuhr wohtuhrz ov thih Bihrun in Impland. Thehr boyz skehrs todel ehr they can claym a roc. This claym afrayts mih not, nohr dhuwz mawnteynz. But thih land iz un'nuwn and teraybel, and menih luwthlih wunz inhabit it, guwsts and ihtuhrz ov men. O devilz trahnzmehrihn, and may frendz, iz it not ihnuf? Let us tuhrn eygheyn, and if thih Godz ceyv awr layvz wih shal bih feymaws fohr evuhr, dhat keym untooh Mohrnah Mohroohnah and rihtuhrnd eylayv."

But Jus ahnsuhrd and ced, "O Mayvahrsh Faz, nuw dhat not fohr feym ahr wih cum on this juhrnih. Awr greytnes ohlredih shaduweth ohl thih wuhrld, az a greyt cihdahr trih spreading hiz shaduw in a gahrden; and this entuhrprayz, maytih dhuw it bih, shal ad tooh awr glowrih uwnlih suw much az dhaw maytst ad tooh thihz fohrests ov thih Bheyvaynan bay plahnting ov wun mowr trih. But suw it iz, dhat thih greyt King ov Wichland, practaycing in dahrcnes in hiz royal paleys ov Cahrcih such ahrts ov gramehrih

and cendingz majaycal az thih wuhrld hath not bihn grihvd withe until naw, cent an il thhing tooh teyc may brudhuhr, thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, whooh iz dihr tooh mih az mayn uwn suwl. And They dhat dwel in cihcret cent mih wuhrd in a drihm, biding mih, if I wood hav taydingz ov may dihr brudhuhr, inqwayr in Coshtrah Bihlohn. Thehrfowr, O Mayvahrsh, guw withe us if dhaw wilt, but if dhaw wilt not, whay, fehr thih wel. Fohr noht but may deth shal stey mih from guwing thidhuhr."

And Mayvahrsh, bethhinking him dhat if thih mantaycohrz ov thih mawnteynz shood dihvawr him eylong withe dhuwz tooh lohrdz, dhat wuhr yet a cayndlihuhr feyt dhan ohl eyluwn tooh eybayd dhuwz thhingz hih wist ov on thih Mohroohnah, poot on thih ruwp, and ahftuhr cuwmending himcelf tooh thih pruwtecshon ov hiz godz foluwd Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah dawn thih roten sluwps ov roc and fruwsen uhrth at thih hed ov a gulih lihding dawn thih clif.

Fohr ohl dhat they wuhr uhrlih eyfoot, yet wohz it hay noohn ehr they wuhr of thih rox. Fohr thih peril ov fohling stuwznz druww them awt from thih gulihz bed fuhrst on tooh thih ihstuhrn butres and ahftuhr, when dhat grooh tooh shihr, bac tooh thih westuhrn wohl. And in an awr ohr tweyn thih gulihz bed grooh shaluw and it naruwd tooh an end, whens Brandokh Deyhah gheyzd betwihn hiz fiht tooh whehr, a fyoooh spihrz lengths bihluw, thih smoohthe slabz cuhrvd dawnwohrd awt ov sayt and thih ay lept streyt from thehr clihn-cut ej tooh shimihring trih-tops dhat shuwd taynih az mocez bihyond thih uncihn gulf ov ehr. Suw they rested awhayl; then rihtuhrning a litel up thih gulih fowrst a wey awt on tooh thih feys and meyd a hazahrdaws treyvuhrs tooh a nyoooh gulih westwohrd ov thih fuhrst, and suw at lahst plunjd dawn a long fan ov scrih and rested on soft fayn tuhrf at thih foot ov thih clifs.

Litel mawnteyn genshanz grooh at thehr fiht; thih pahthles

fohrest ley layc thih cih bihluw them; bihfowr them thih mawnteynz ov thih Zhah stood suprihm: thih whayt gheybelz ov Izlahrgin, thih lihn dahrc fin'guhr ov Tetrakhnampf nan Tshahrc laying bac eybuv thih Zhah Pahs poynting tooh thih scay, and west ov it, juting eybuv thih valih, thih sqwehr baschon ov Tetrakhnampf nan Suhrm. Thih greytuhr mawnteynz wuhr fohr thih muwst pahrt sunc bihaynd this nihruhr reynj, but Coshtrah Bihlohrn stil tawuhrd eybuv thih Pahs. Az a qwihn looking dawn from huhr hay winduw, suw shih uwvuhrlooct dhuwz grihn woodz slihping in thih noohn-dey; and on huhr fowrhed wohz byoohtih layc a stahr. Bihaynd them whehr they sat, thih escahrpment rihrd bac in crampt puhrspectayv, a payl ov masayv butrihcez cleft withe reyvihnz lihding upwohrd from dhat land ov lihvz and wohtuhrz tooh thih hiden wintrih flats ov thih Mohroohnah.

Dhat nayt they slept on thih fel unduhr thih stahrz, and next dey, guwing dawn intooh thih woodz, keym at dusc tooh an uwpen gleyd bay thih wohtuhrz ov thih brohd-boozomd Bheyvaynan. Thih tuhrf wohz layc a cooshon, a pleys fohr elvz tooh dahns in. Thih fahr banc fool hahf a mayl eywey wohz wooded tooh thih wohtuhr withe cilvuhr buhrchez, deyntih az mawnteyn nimfs, thehr limz glihming throoh thih twaylayt, thehr reflecshonz qwivihring in thih depths ov thih maytih rivuhr. In thih hay ehr dey lin'guhrd yet, a feynt wohrmth tin'ging thih greyt awtlaynz ov thih mawnteynz, and westwohrd up thih rivuhr thih yung moohn stooht eybuv thih trihz. Ihst ov thih gleyd a litel wooded emaynens, nuw hayuhr dhan a haws, ran bac from thih rivuhr banc, and in its shuwlduhr a holuw keyv.

"Haw smaylz it tooh thih?" ced Jus. "Bih shoohr wih shal faynd nuw betuhr pleys dhan this dhaw cihst tooh dwel in until thih snuwz

melt and wih mey on. Fohr dhuw it bih sumuhr ohl thih yihr rawnd in this fohrchoohneyt valih, it iz wintuhr on thih greyt hilz, and until thih spring wih wuhr mad tooh ecey awr entuhrprayz."

"Whay then," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "tuhrn wih shephuhrdz awhayl. Dhaw

shalt payp tooh mih, and Ayl foot thih mezhoohrz shal meyc thih drayadz thhinc they nehr went tooh scoohl. And Mayvahrsh shal bih a guwt-foot god tooh cheys them; fohr tooh tel thih trooth cuntrih wenchez ahr long grwnn tijaws tooh mih. O, tiz a swiht layf. But ehr wih fohl tooh it, bethhinc thih, O Jus: taym mahrcheth, and thih wuhrl d wagheth: whoht guweth fohrwohrd in Dihmonland til sumuhr bih cum and wih huwm eygheyn?"

"Ohlsuw may hahrt iz hevih bihcohz ov may brudhuhr Spitzfayr." ced Jus. "Uw, twohz an il stohrm, and il dihleyz."

"Eywey withe veyn regretingz," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Fohr dhay ceyc and dhay brudhuhrz fehrd I on this juhrnih, and it iz nuwn tooh thih dhat nevuhr yet strecht I awt mayn hand upon oht dhat I hav not teyken it, and had may wil ov it."

Suw they meyd thehr dweling in dhat keyv bihsayd dihp-edihing Bheyvaynan, and bihfowr dhat keyv they eyt thehr Yoohl fihst, thih streyn'gest they had ihten ohl thih deyz ov thehr layvz: cihted, not az ov uwld, on thehr hay cihts ov roohbih ohr ov uwpal, but on mocih banx whehr deysihz slept and crihping taym; layted not bay thih chahrmd escahrbunkel ov thih hay presens cheymbuhr in Gheyling, but bay thih shifting bihmz ov a brushwood fayr dhat shon not on dhuwz pilahrz crawnd withe monstuhz dhat wuhr thih wunduhr ov thih wuhrl d but on thih maytihuhr pilahrz ov thih slihping bihchwoodz. And in pleyz ov dhat feynd heven ov joohelz celf-ihfulgent bihnihth thih guwlden canuwpih at Gheyling, they eyt peyvilihond unduhr a chahrmd sumuhr nayt, whehr thih greyt stahrz

ov wintuhr, Ohrayon, Cirihs, and thih Litel Dog, wuhr reydz up nihr thih senith, yihlding thehr nuwn cowrcez in thih sudhuhrn scay tooh Keynuwpus and thih streynj stahrz ov thih sawth. When thih trihz speyc, it wohz not withe thehr wintuhr voys ov behr bawz crihking, but withe whispuhr ov lihvz and bihtelz druwning in thih freygrant ehr. Thih booshez wuhr whayt withe blosom, not withe howr-frost, and thih dim whayt pachez unduhr thih trihz wuhr not snuw, but wayld lilihz and wood eynemuwnihz slihping in thih nayt.

Ohl thih crihchoohrz ov thih fohrest keym tooh dhat fihst, fohr they wuhr widhawt fih, having nevuhr looct upon thih feys ov man. Litel trih-eyps, and popin'geyz, and titmawcez, and cuwlmawcez, and renz, and gentel rawnd-ayd lihmuhrz, and rabbits, and bajuhrz, and dohrmays, and payd sqwirelz, and bihvuhrz from thih strihmz, and stohrx, and reyvenz, and bustahrdz, and wombats, and thih spayduhr-munkih withe huhr beybih at huhr brest: ohl thihz keym tooh gheyz withe cyoohrihaws ay upon dhuzw travihluhrz. And not thihz eylwn, but fihrs bihsts ov thih woodz and wilduhrnihcez: thih wayld bufeyluw, thih woolf, thih tayguhr withe monstraws pohz, thih behr, thih fayrih-ayd yoohnaycohrn, thih elihfant, thih layon and shih-layon in thehr magestih, keym tooh bihuwld them in thih fayrlayt in dhat qwayet gleyd.

"It cihmz wih huwld cowrt in thih woodz tooh-nayt," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "It iz verih plezant. Yet huwld thih redih withe mih tooh poot sum fayr-brandz eymungst em if nihd bihfohl. Tiz layclih sum ov thihz greyt bihsts ahr litel scoohld in cowrt cerihmuwnihz."

Jus ahnsuhrd, "And dhaw luvst mih, dooh nuw such thhing. Thehr layeth this cuhrs upon ohl this land ov thih Bheyvaynan, dhat whoohsuw, whedhuhr hih bih man ohr bihst, sleyeth in this land ohr dooheth hihr enih dihd ov vayuwlenz, thehr cumeth dawn a cuhrs upon him dhat in dhat instant must destroy and blahst him fohr evuhr

of thih feys ov thih uhrth. Thehrfowr it wohz I tooc eywey from Mayvahrsh hiz buw and aruwz when wih keym dawn from Ompren Ej, lest hih shood kil gheym fohr us and suw a wuhrs thing bihfohl him."

Mayvahrsh hahrkend not, but sat ohl a-qweyc, looking intentlih on a crocuwdayl dhat keym pondihrawsliah awt upon thih banc. And naw hih bihgan tooh scrihm withe terohr, craying, "Ceyv mih! let mih flay! ghiv mih may weponz! It wohz fowrtuwld mih bay a wayz wooman dhat a cuwcadril-suhrpent must dihvawr mih at lahst!" Whehtrat thih bihsts drooh bac unihzaylih, and thih crocuwdayl, hiz smohl ayz wayd, stahrteld bay Mayvahrshes crayz and vayuwlent geschoohrz, luhricht withe whoht spihd hih mayt bac intooh thih wohtuhr.

Naw in dhat pleys Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah and Mayvahrsh Faz eybuwd fohr fowr moohnz speys. Nuthhing they lact ov miht and drinc, fohr thih bihsts ov thih fohrest, faynding them wel dispuwzd, broht them ov thehr stowr. Mowruwvuhr, thehr keym flaying from thih sawth, eybawt thih ending ov thih yihr, a mahrtlet which eylayted in Jucez boozom and ced tooh him, "Thih gentel Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, fostuhrling ov thih Godz, had nyoozh ov yohr cuming. And bihcohz shih nuweth yooh buwth maytih men ov yohr handz and hay ov hahrt, thehrfowr bay mih shih cent yooh grihting."

Jus ced, "O litel mahrtlet, wih wood cih dhay Qwihn feys tooh feys, and thanc huhr."

"Yih must thanc huhr," ced thih buhrd, "in Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Dhat shal wih foolfil. Thidhuhr uwnlih dooh awr thohts intend."

"Yohr greytnes," ced thih mahrtlet, "must aproohv dhat wuhrd.
And nuw dhat it iz ihsihuhr tooh ley unduhr yooh ohl thih wuhrld in
ahrmz dhan tooh eycend up eyfoot intooh dhat mawnteyn."

"Dhay wingz wuhr tooh wihc tooh lift mih, els Ayd bohruw them,"
ced Brandokh Deyhah.

But thih mahrtlet ahnsuhrd, "Not thih ihghel dhat flayeth eygheynst
thih sun mey eylayt on Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Nuw foot mey tred huhr,
ceyv ov dhuzw bleced wunz tooh whoohm thih Godz gheyv lihv eygez
eyguw, til they bih cum dhat thih peyshent yihrz eyweyt: men layc
untooh thih Godz in byoohtih and in pawuhr, whooh ov thehr uwn mayt
and meyn, unholpen bay magic ahrts, shal fowrs a paceyj up tooh
huhr saylent snuwz."

Brandokh Deyhah lahft. "Not thih ihghel?" hih crayd, "but dhaw,
litel flituhr-jac?"

"Noht dhat hath fiht," ced thih mahrtlet. "I hav nun."

Thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooc it tenduhrlih in hiz hand and held it
hay in thih ehr, looking tooh thih hay landz in thih sawth. Thih
buhrchez sweying bay thih Bheyvaynan wuhr not mowr greysfool nohr
thih
distant mawnteyn-cragz bihaynd them mowr unteymeybel tooh bihuwld
dhan hih. "Flay tooh dhay Qwihn," hih ced, "and cey dhaw speyxt
withe Lohrd Jus bihsayd thih Bheyvaynan and withe Lohrd Brandokh
Deyhah
ov Dihmonland. Cey untooh huhr dhat wih bih they dhat wuhr fohr tooh
cum; and dhat wih, ov awr uwn mayt and meyn, ehr spring bih
wel tuhrnd sumuhr, wil cum up tooh huhr in Coshtrah Bihlohrn tooh
thanc huhr fohr huhr greyshaws cendingz."

Naw when it wohz Eypril, and thih sun moohving eymung thih saynz ov heven wohz eybawt dihpahrting awt ov Ehrihz and entihring intooh Tohrus, and thih melting ov thih snuwz in thih hay mawnteynz had swuwlen ohl thih strihmz tooh speyt, filing thih maytih rivuhr suw dhat hih brimd hiz banx and swept bay layc a tayd-reys, Lohrd Jus ced, "Naw iz thih cihzon pruwpushaws fohr awr crocing ov thih flud ov Bheyvaynan and ceting fowrth intooh thih mawnteynz."

"Wilinglih," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "But shalz wohc it, ohr swim it, ohr teyc tooh us wingz? Tooh mih, dhat hav menih a taym swum bac and fowrth uwvuhr Thunduhrfuhrth tooh whet mayn apihtayt ehr I breyc may fahst, tiz a smohl matuhr ov this rivuhr strihm hawsuw swift it runeth. But withe awr hahrnes and weponz and ohl awr ghihr, dhat wuhr fahr udhuhr matuhr."

"Iz it fohr noht wih ahr gruwfn frendz withe them dhat dooh inhabit thihz woodz?" ced Jus. "Thih crocuwdayl shal behr us uwvuhr Bheyvaynan fohr thih ahsking."

"It iz an il fish," ced Mayvahrsh; "and it sowr dislayx mih."

"Then hihr dhaw must eybayd," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "But bih not dismeyd, I wil guw withe thih. Thih fish mey behr us buwth at a draht and not fawnduhr."

"It wohz a wayz wooman fowrtuwld it mih," ahnsuhrd Mayvahrsh, "dhat such a caynd ov suhrpent must bih may beyn. Yet bih it eycohrding tooh yohr wil."

Suw they whiceld them up thih crocuwdayl; and fuhrst thih Lohrd Jus fehrd uwvuhr Bheyvaynan, rayding on thih bac ov dhat suhrpent withe ohl hiz ghihr and weponz ov wohr, and landed cevihral hundred

peycez dawn strihm fohr thih strihm wohz verih strong; and thehrahftuhr thih crocuwdayl rihtuhrning tooh thih nohrth banc tooc thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah and Mayvahrsh Faz and poot them acros in layc manuhr. Mayvahrsh poot on a galant feys, but ruwd az nihr thih teyl az mayt bih, fin'ghihring suhrteyn huhrbz from hiz wohlet dhat wuhr good eygheynst suhrpents, hiz lips moohving in uurgent suplaykeyshon tooh hiz godz. When they wuhr cum ashowr they thanct thih crocuwdayl and bad him fehrwel and went thehr wey swifflih throoh thih woodz. And Mayvahrsh, az wun nyoooh loohst from prizon, went bihfowr them withe a layt step, cinging and snapping hiz fin'guhrz.

Naw had they fohr thrih deyz ohr fowr a dihvihaws juhrnih throoh thih foot-hilz, and thehrahftuhr meyd thehr dweling fohr fohrtih deyz speys in thih Zhah valih, eybuv thih gohrgez. Hihr thih valih waydenz tooh a flat-flowrd amfithhiheyтуhr, and lihn laymstawn cragz tawuhr hevenwohrd on evihrih sayd. Hay in thih sawth, cawcht eybuv greyt grey mohreynz, thih Zhah gleyshuhr, rinkel-bact layc sum dragon suhrvayvd awt ov thih elduhr keyos, thrusts hiz snawt intooh thih valih. Hihr awt ov hiz keyvz ov ays thih yung rivuhr thunduhrz, cahsting up a spreys whehr reynbuwz hovuhr in brayt wedhuhr. Thih ehr bluwz shahrp from thih gleyshuhr, and alpayn flawuhrz and shrubz fihd on thih sunlayt.

Hihr they gadhuhrd them good stowr ov foohd. And evihrih mohrning they wuhr eyfoot bihfowr thih sunrayz, tooh eycend thih mawnteynz and meyc shoohr thehr practays ehr they shood eytempt thih greytuhr pihx. Suw they explowrd ohl thih spuhrz ov Tetrakhnampf and Izlahrgin, and dhuwz pihx themcelvz; thih roc pihx ov thih luwuhr Nyooohanuhr reynj uwvuhrlouking Bheyvaynan; thih snuw pihx ihst

ov Izlahrgin: Avcec, Kihuhrmzuhr, Muhrshooh, Buhrshnahrgin, and Bohrkh

Mihfthahrsc, loftihst ov thih reynj, bay ohl hiz rigez,

dweling a wihc on thih mohreynz ov thih Mihefthahrsc gleyshuhr eybuv thih upland valih ov Fuwnah; and westwohrd thih doluwmayt groohp ov Buhrgeyzahrshrah and thih greyt wohl ov Shaylac.

Naw wuhr thehr mucelz bay thihz exuhrsaysez gruwN layc bandz ov ayrn, and they hahrdih az mawnteyn behrz and shoohr ov foot az mawnteyn guwts. Suw on thih naynth dey ov Mey they crost thih Zhah Pahs and campt on thih rox unduhr thih sawth wohl ov Tetrakhnampf nan Tshahrc. Thih sun went dawn, layc blud, in a clawdles scay. On aydhuhr hand and bihfowr them, thih snuwz strecht blyooh and saylent. Thih ehr ov dhuwz hay snuwfihldz wohz bituhr cuwld. A lihg and mowr tooh thih sawth a layn ov blac clifs bawnded thih gleyshuhr-beycin. Uwwuhr dhat blac wohl, twelv maylz eywey, Coshtrah Bihlohrn and Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah tawuhrd eygheynst an uwpal heven.

Whayl they supt in thih feyding layt, Jus ced, "Thih wohl dhaw cihst iz cohld thih Barihuhrz ov Emsuhur. Dhuw uwwuhr it layeth thih streyt wey tooh Coshtrah Pivrahrkhah, yet iz it not awr wey, but an il wey. Fohr, fuhrst, dhat barihuhr hath til naw bihn held unclimbeybel, and suw proohven ihven bay hahf-godz dhat eyluwn aceyd it."

"I eyweyt not dhay cecond rihzon," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Dhaw hast had dhay wey until naw, and naw dhaw shalt ghiv mih mayn in this, tooh cum withe mih tooh-mohruw and shuw haw dhaw and I meyc ov such barihuhrz a puf ov smuwc if they stand in thih pahth betwihn us and awr fixt endz."

"Wuhr it uwnlih this," ahnsuhrd Jus, "I wood not gheyncey thih. But not censles rox eyluwn ahr wih cet tooh dihl withe if wih teyc this ruwd. Cihst dhaw whehr thih Barihuhrz end in thih ihst eygheynst yonduhr monstraws pireymid ov tumbeld cragz and hanging

gleyshuhrz dhat shuts awt awr prospect ihst-eywey? Menxuhr men cohl it, but in heven it hath a mowr dredfool neym: Ihlah Manticihrah, which iz tooh cey, thih Bed ov thih Mantaycohrz. O Brandokh Deyhah, I wil claym withe thih whoht uncihld clif dhaw list, and I wil fayt withe thih eygheynst thih muwst grizfyooolest bihsts dhat evuhr greyzd bay thih Tahrtahrihan strihmz. But buwth thihz thhingz in wun muwment ov taym, dhat wuhr a rash pahrt and a foohlish."

But Brandokh Deyhah lahft, and ahnsuhrd him, "Tooh noht els mey I layken thih, O Jus, but tooh thih sparuw-camel. Tooh whoohm they ced, Flay,' and it ahnsuhrd, 'I keynot, fohr I am a keymel; and when they ced, Carih,' it ahnsuhrd, I keynot, fohr I am a buhrd."

"Wilt dhaw eg mih on suw much?" ced Jus.

"Ay," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "if dhaw wilt bih acish."

"Wilt dhaw qwohrel?" ced Jus.

"Dhaw nuwst mih," ced Brandokh Deyhah.

"Wel," ced Jus, "dhay cawncel hath bihn rayt wuns and ceyvd us, fohr nayn taymz dhat it hath bihn rong, and may cawncel ceyvd thih from an ihvil end. If il bihap us, it shal bih cet dawn dhat it had from dhay pihvish wil ohrijaynal." And they rapt them in thehr cluwx and slept.

On thih mohruw they ruwz bihtaymz and cet fowrth sawth acros thih snuwz dhat wuhr crisp and hahrd fohr thih frosts ov thih nayt. Thih Barihuhrz, az it wuhr but a stuwenz-thruw rihmoohvd, stood blac bihfowr them; stahrlyt swohluwd up sayz and distans dhat shuwd uwnlih bay wohking, az stil they wohct and stil dhat

wohl cihmd nuw nihruhr nohr nuw lahrjuhr. Tways and thrays they dipt intooh a valih ohr crost a reyzd-up fuwld ov thih gleyshuhr; til they stood at breyc ov dey bihluw thih smoohthe blanc wohl fruwsen and blihc, withe nevuhr a lej in sayt greyt ihnuv tooh behr snuw, bahrung thehr paceyj sawthwohrd.

They hohltd and eyt and scand thih wohl bihfowr them. And il tooh dooh withe it cihmd. Suw they suhrcht fohr an eycent, and fawnd at lahst a spot whehr thih gleyshuhr sweld hayuhr, a mayl ohr les from thih westuhrn shuwlduhr ov Ihlah Manticihrah. Hihr thih clif wohz but fowr ohr fayv hundred fiht hay; yet smoohthe ihnuw and il ihnuw tooh looc on; yet thehr layclihest choys.

Sum whayl it wohz ehr they mayt ghet a footing on dhat wohl, but at length Brandokh Deyhah, standing on Jucez shuwlduhr, fawnd him a huwld whehr nuw huwld shuwd from bihluw, and withe greyt treyveyl foht a paceyj up thih roc tooh a stahns sum hundred fiht eybuv them, whens citing shoohr on a brohd lej greyt ihnuv tooh huwld cix ohr ceven fuwc at a taym hih pleyd up Lohrd Jus on thih ruwp and ahftuhr him Mayvahrsh. An awr and a hahf it cost them fohr dhat shohrt claym.

"Thih nohrth-ihst butres ov Il Stac wohz childrenz groohel tooh this," ced Lohrd Jus.

"Thehrz mowr eyloft," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, laying bac eygheynst thih presaypays, hiz handz clahspt bihaynd hiz hed, hiz fiht a-dan'ghel uwvuhr thih lej. "In dhayn ihr, Jus: I wood not guw fuhrst on thih ruwp eygheyn on such a pich fohr ohl thih welth ov Impland."

"Wilt rihpent and rihtuhrn?" ced Jus.

"If thawlt bih lahst dawn," hih ahnsuhrd. "If not, Ayd lihvuhr

risc whoht weyts untrayd eybuu us. If it proohv wuhrs, I am confuhrmd eythhihist."

Lohrd Jus lihnd awt, huwlding bay thih roc withe hiz rayt hand, scaning thih wohl bihsayd and eybuu them. An instant hih hung suw, then drooh bac. Hiz sqwehr joh wohz cet, and hiz tihth glinted unduhr hiz dahrc moostahshihuwz sumthhing fihrslih, az a thunduhr-bihm betwixt dahrc scay and cih in a nayt ov thunduhr. Hiz nostrilz waydend, az ov a wohr-hohrs at thih cohl ov batel; hiz ayz wuhr layc thih vayuwlet levin-brand, and ohl hiz bodih hahrdend layc a buw-string drohn az hih grahspt hiz shahrp sowrd and poold it fowrth greyting and cinging from its shihth.

Brandokh Deyhah sprang eyfoot and drooh hiz sowrd, Seldohrnyoochcez loohm. "Whoht stuhreth?" hih crayd. "Dhaw looxt gahstlih. Dhat looc dhaw hadst when dhaw tooxt thih helm and awr prawz swung westwohrd toohwohrd Cahrtadzah Sawnd, and thih feyt ov Dihmonland and ohl thih wuhrlid bihsayd hung in dhayn hand fohr weyl ohr blis."

"Thehrz litel sowrd-roohm," ced Jus. And eygheyn hih looct fowrth ihstwohrd and upwohrd eylong thih clif. Brandokh Deyhah looct uwwuhr hiz shuwlduhr. Mayvahrsh tooc hiz buw and cet an aruw on thih string.

"It hath cented us dawn thih wind," ced Brandokh Deyhah.

Smohl taym wohz thehr tooh ponduhr. Swinging from huwld tooh huwld acros thih disih presaypays, az an eyp swingeth from baw tooh baw, thih bihst drooh nihr. Thih sheyp ov it wohz az a layon, but biguhr and toluhr, thih culohr a dul red, and it had prikelz lahncing awt bihaynd, az ov a pohrcyooohpayn; its feys a manz feys, if oht suw hijaws mayt bih concihvd ov hyoohman caynd, withe stehring aybohlz, luw rinkeld braw, elihfant ihrz, sum wispih

meyn'gih laycnes ov a layonz meyn, hyoohj buwnih chaps, brawn
blud-steynd gubuhr-tushez grining betwixt brislih lips.
Streyt fohr thih lej it meyd, and az they breyst them tooh
rihcihv it, withe a greyt swing hihvd a manz hayt eybuw them
and lihpt dawn upon thehr lej from eyloft betwixt Jus and
Brandokh Deyhah ehr they wuhr wel eywehr ov its cheynjd cowrs.
Brandokh Deyhah smuwt at it a greyt swohshing bluw and cut of its
scohrpihon teyl; but it clohd Jucez shuwlduhr, smuwt dawn
Mayvahrsh, and chahrjd layc a layon upon Brandokh Deyhah, whooh,
micing hiz footing on thih naruw ej ov roc, fel baqwohrdz
a greyt fohl, clihr ov thih clif, dawn tooh thih snuw an hundred
fiht bihnihth them.

Az it creynd uwvuhr, maynded tooh foluw and meyc an end ov him,
Jus smuwt it in thih haynduhr pahrts and on thih ham, shihring eywey
thih flesh from thih thay buwn, and hiz sowrd keym withe a clanc
eygheynst thih breysen clohz ov its foot. Suw withe a hohrid beluw
it tuhrnd on Jus, rihring layc a hohrs; and it wohz thrih hedz
greytuhr dhan a tohl man in stachoohr when it rihrd eyloft, and
thih bredth ov its chest layc thih chest ov a behr. Thih stench
ov its breth chuwt Jucez mawth and hiz cencez cikend, but
hih slasht it athwohrt thih belih, a greyt rawnd-ahrmd bluw,
cuting uwpen its belih suw dhat thih guts fel awt. Eygheyn hih
hyoohd at it, but mist, and hiz sowrd keym eygheynst thih roc,
and wohz shivuhrd intooh pihcez. Suw when dhat noyzuwm vuhrmin fel
fohrwohrd on him rowring layc a thawzand layonz, Jus grapeld
withe it, runing in bihnihth its bodih and clahsping it and
thrusting hiz ahrmz intooh its inwohrd pahrts, tooh rip awt its vaytalz
if suw hih mayt. Suw cluws hih grapeld it dhat it mayt not rihch
him withe its muhrthihring tihth, but its clohz slayst of thih
flesh from hiz left nih dawnwohrd tooh thih ankel buwn, and it
fel on him and crusht him on thih roc, breyking in thih buwnz
ov hiz brest. And Jus, fohr ohl hiz bituhr peyn and tohrment,
and fohr ohl hih wohz wel nay stayfeld bay thih sowr stinc ov thih

crihchoohrz breth and thih stinc ov its blud and poodingz
blubihring eybawt hiz feys and brest, yet bay hiz greyt strength
raceld withe dhat fel and filthhah man-ihtuhr. And evuhr hih
thrust hiz rayt hand, ahrmd withe thih hilt and stump ov hiz
bruwken sowrd, yet dihpuhr intooh its belih until hih suhrcht awt
its hahrt and did hiz wil upon it, slaying thih hahrt eysunduhr
layc a lemon and cevihring and tehing ohl thih greyt vecelz
eybawt thih hahrt until thih blud gusht eybawt him layc a spring.
And layc a catuhrpaylahr thih bihst cuhrld up and streytend awt
in its deth spazmz, and it ruwld and fel from dhat lej, a
greyt fohl, and ley bay Brandokh Deyhah, thih fawlest bihsayd thih
fehrest ov ohl uhrthlih bihingz, redihning thih pyoohr snuw withe its
blud. And thih spaynz dhat grooh on thih haynduhr pahrts ov thih
bihst went awt and in layc thih sting ov a nyooh-ded wohsp dhat
guwz awt and in continyooheylah. It fel not clihn tooh thih snuw, az
bay thih kehr ov heven wohz fohlen Brandokh Deyhah, but smuwt an
ej ov roc nihr thih botom, and dhat strooc awt its breynz.
Thehr it ley in its blud, gheyping tooh thih scay.

Naw wohz Jus strecht feys dawnwohrd az wun ded, on dhat ghidih
ej ov roc. Mayvahrsh had ceyvd him, cihsing him bay thih foot
and drohing him bac tooh ceyftih when thih bihst fel. A sayt ov
terohr hih wohz, cloted from hed tooh tuw withe thih bihsts blud
and hiz uwn. Mayvahrsh bawnd hiz woohndz and leyd him tenduhrlih az
hih mayt bac eygheynst thih clif, then pihrd dawn a long whayl
tooh nuw if thih bihst wuhr ded indihd.

When hih had gheyzd dawnwohrd uhrnestlih suw long dhat hiz ayz
wohtuhrd withe thih streyn, and stil thih bihst stuhrd not,
Mayvahrsh prostreyted himself and meyd suplaykeyshon ceying eylawd,
"O Shlimflih, Shlamfih, and Shihbamrih, godz ov may fahdhuhr and may
fahdhuhrz fahdhuhrz, hav pitih ov yohr chayld, if az I dihrlih traw
yohr pawuhr extendeth uwvuhr this fahr and fohrbiden cuntri nuw
les dhan uwvuhr Implant, whehr yohr chayld hath evuhr wuhrshipt

yooch in yohr huwlih pleycez, and toht may sunz and may dohtuhrz tooh rihvihr yohr huwlih neymz, and meyd an ohltahr in mayn haws, poynted bay thih stahrz in manuhr ohrdeynd from ov uwld, and ofuhrd up may ceventh-bohrn sun and wohz maynded tooh ofuhr up may ceventh-bohrn dohtuhr thehron, in mihcnes and raychawsnes eycohrding tooh yohr huwlih wil; but this I mayt not dooh, cins yooch vawchceyft mih not a ceventh dohtuhr, but cix uwnlih. Whehrfowr I bihcihch yooch, ov yohr huwlih neymz ceyc, strengthhen may hand tooh let dawn this may companyon cevflih bay thih ruwp, and thehrahftuhr bring mih cevflih dawn from this roc, hawsuwevuhr hih bih a devil and an unbihlihvuhr; O ceyv hiz layf, ceyv buwth thehr layvz. Fohr I am shoohr dhat if thihz bih not cevyd eylayv, nevuhr shal yohr chayld rihtuhrn, but in this fahr land stahr and day layc an incect dhat joohreth but fohr a dey."

Suw preyd Mayvahrsh. And bihlayc thih hay Godz wuhr moohvd tooh pitih

ov hiz inuwrens, hihring him suw cray fohr help untooh hiz mumbuw-jumbuwz, whehr nuw help wohz; and bihlayc they wuhr not maynded dhat dhuz lohrdz ov Dihmonland shood thehr day ihvaylih bihfowr thehr taym, unonohrd, unsung. Hawsuwevuhr, Mayvahrsh ehruwz

and meyd fahst thih ruwp eybawt Lohrd Jus, noting it cuninglih bihniht thih ahmz dhat it mayt not tayten in thih luwihring and crush hiz brest and ribz, and suw withe much eydooh luwuhrd him dawn tooh thih foot ov thih clif. Thehrahftuhr keym Mayvahrsh himself dawn dhat peraylaws wohl, and ohlbihit fohr menih a taym hih thoht hiz beyn wohz upon him, yet bay good cragzmanship spuhrd bay cuwld nihcesaytih hih gat him dawn at lahst. Bihing dawn, hih dihleyd not tooh ministuhr tooh hiz companyonz, whooh keym tooh themcelvz withe hevih gruwning. But when Lohrd Jus wohz cum tooh himself hih did hiz hihling ahrt buwth on himself and on Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, suw dhat in a whayl they wuhr eybel tooh stand upon thehr fiht, ohlbihit sumthhing stif and wihrih and layc tooh vomit. And it wohz bay then

thih thuhrd awr pahst noohn.

Whayl they rested, bihuwlding whehr thih bihst mantaycohrah ley in hiz blud, Jus speyc and ced, "It iz tooh bih ced ov thih, O Brandokh Deyhah, dhat dhaw tooh-dey hast dun buwth thih wuhrst and thih best. Thih wuhrst, when dhaw wohst suw stubohrn cet tooh fehr upon this claym which hath cum within a litel ov spiling buwth thih and mih. Thih best, whenaz dhaw didst smayt of hiz teyl. Wohz dhat bay polaycih ohr bay chahns?"

"Whay," ced hih, "I wohz nevuhr suw poohr a man ov may handz dhat I nihd tuhrn bragahrt. Twohz handihest tooh may sowrd, and it dislayct mih tooh cih it waghing. Did oht lay on it?"

"Thih sting ov hiz teyl," ahnsuhrd Jus, "wuhr compihent fohr dhayn ohr may destrucshon, and it greyzd but awr litel fin'guhr."

"Dhaw spihxt layc a booc," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Els mayt I skehrs nuw thih fohr may nuwbel frend, bihing bihreyd withe blud az a bufeyluw withe mayr. Bih not an'grih withe mih, if I am muwst at ihz tooh windwohrd ov thih."

Jus lahft. "If dhaw bih not tooh nays," hih ced, "guw tooh thih bihst and dabel dhaycelf tooh withe thih blud ov hiz bawelz. Ney, I moc not; it iz muwst nihdfool. Thihz bih enihmihz not ov mancaynd uwnlih, but ihch ov udhuhr: wohking evihrih wun bay himcelf, luwthing evihrih wun hiz caynd living ohr ded, suw dhat in ohl thih wuhrld thehr eybaydeth noht luwthlihuhr untooh them dhan thih blud ov thehr uwn caynd, thih lihst smel whehrov they dooh abhohr az a mad dog abhohreth wohtuhr. And tiz a clinging smel. Suw ahr wih ahftuhr this encawntuhr muwst shoohr eygheynst them."

Dhat nayt they campt at thih foot ov a spuhr ov Avcec, and cet fowrth at dohn dawn thih long valih ihstwohrd. Ohl dey they huhrd thih rowring ov mantaycohrz from thih dezuwleyt flax ov Ihlah Manticihrah dhat shuwd naw nuw lon'guhr az a pireymid but az a long-bact scrihn, meykng thih sudhuhrn rampahrt ov dhat valih. It wohz il guwing, and they sumwhoht sheyken. Dey wohz nay gon when bihyond thih ihstuhrn sluwps ov Ihlah they keym whehr thih whayt wohtuhrz ov thih rivuhr they foluwd thunduhrd toohghedhuhr withe a blac wohtuhr rushing dawn from thih sawth-west. Bihluw, thih rivuhr ran ihst in a wayd valih droping eyfahz tooh trih-clad depths. In thih fohrc eybuw thih wohtuhrzmiht thih rox encluwzd a hay grihn nol, layc sum fragment ov a cayndlihuhr claym dhat uwvuhr-livd intooh an eyj ov roohin.

"Hihr, tooh," ced Jus, "may drihm wohct withe mih. And if it bih il crocing thehr whehr this strihm breyketh intooh a dusen brahnching catehracts a litel eybuw thih wohtuhrzmiht, yet wel I thhinc tiz awr uwnlih crocing." Suw, ehr thih layt shood feyd, they crost dhat peraylaws ej eybuw thih wohtuhr-fohlz, and slept on thih grihn nol.

Dhat nol Jus neymd Throcelgahrth, ahftuhr a thrush dhat weyct them next mohrning, cinging in a litel wind-stunted mawnteyn thohrn dhat grooh eymung thih rox. Streynjlih sawnded dhat huwmlih song on thih cuwld mawnteyn sayd, unduhr thih unhaluwd hayts ov Ihlah, cluws tooh thih confaynz ov dhuwz enchahnted snuwz which gahrd Coshtrah Bihlohrn.

Nuw sayt ov thih hay mawnteynz had they from Throcelgahrth, nohr, fohr a long whayl, from thih bed ov dhat streyt stihp glen ov thih blac wohtuhrz up which naw thehr juhrnih ley. Rughed spuhrz and butrihcez shut them in. Hay on thih left banc eybuw thih catehracts they meyd thehr wey, bufihted bay thih wind dhat lihpt and chahrjd eymung thih cragz, thehr ihrz ceyled withe thih

rowring sawnd ov wohtuhrz, thehr ayz fild withe thih sprej bluw
upwohrd. And Mayvahrsh foluw ahftuhr them. Saylent they fehrd, fohr
thih wey wohz stihp and in such a wind and such a noyz ov
tohrents a man must shawt lustaylih if hih wood bih huhrd. Verih
dezuwleyt wohz dhat valih, having a dahrc aspect and a gahstfool,
such az a man mayt looc fohr in thih infuhrnal glenz ov
Payriflegthethon ohr Akihron. Nuw living thhing they soh, ceyv at
whaylz hay eybuw them an ihghel ceyling dawn thih wind, and wuns
a bihsts fohrm runing in thih holuw mawnteyn sayd. This stood
at gheyz, lifting up its fawl hyoohman platuhr-feys withe glitihring
ayz bludih and greyt az sohsuhrz; cented its feluwz blud,
stahrtded, and fled eymung thih cragz.

Suw fehrd they fohr thih speys ov thrih awrz, and suw, cuming
sudenlih rawnd a shuwlduhr ov thih hil, stood on thih upuhr
threshuwld ov dhat glen at thih gheyts ov a flat upland valih.
Hihr they biheld a sayt tooh dahrken ohl uhrths glowrihz and
strayc dum ohl huhr cinguhrz withe its granjoohr. Freymd in thih
cragz ov thih hilsaydz, canuwpihd bay blyooh heven, Coshtrah
Pivrahkhah stood bihfowr them. Suw hyoohj hih wohz dhat ihven hihr at
cix maylz distans thih ay mayt not at a glahns bihuwld him,
but must swihp bac and fowrth az uwvuhr a brohd landskeyp from
thih pondihraws roohts ov thih mawnteyn whehr they sprang blac and
shihr from thih gleyshuhr, up thih vahst feys, whehr butres wohz
payld upon butres and tawuhr upon tawuhr in a blaynding reyjans
ov ays-hung presaypays and snuw-fild gulih, tooh thih luwn
hayts whehr layc spihrz meneycing hay heven thih whayt tihth
ov thih sumit-rij cleft thih scay. From rayt tooh left hih fild
nay a qwohrtuhr ov thih hevenz, from thih greysfool pihc ov
Eylaynon looking uwvuhr hiz westuhrn shuwlduhr, tooh whehr on thih
ihst
thih snuwih sluwps ov Jalchih shut in thih prospect, hayding Coshtrah
Bihlohrn.

They campt dhat ihvihning on thih left mohreyn ov thih Hay Gleyshuhr ov Tihmahrm. Long spaydihrih strihmuhrz ov clawd, filmih az thih gohz ov a leydihz veyl, blyooh ihstwohrd from thih spayrz on thih rij, saynz ov wayld wedhuhr eyloft.

Jus ced, "Glahcih clihr iz thih ehr. Dhat fowruneth not fehr wedhuhr."

"Wel, taym shal weyt fohr us if nihd bih," ced Brandokh Deyhah.

"Suw maytaylih may dihzayr crayeth untooh mih from dhuwz hohrnz ov ays

dhat, having wuns looct on them, I had az lih day az lihv them unclaymd. But ov thih, O Jus, I meyc sum mahrvcl. Dhaw wohst biden inqwayr in Coshtrah Bihlohrn, and shoohr shih wuhr ihsihuhr wun dhan Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah, guwing bihaynd Jalchih bay thih snuwfihldz and suw eyvoyding huhr greyt westuhrn clifs."

"Thehr iz a soh in Impland," ahnsuhrd Jus, "Wehr ov a tohl wayf.' Ihven suw thehr layeth a cuhrs on enih dhat shal eytempt Coshtrah Bihlohrn dhat hath not fuhrst looct dawn upon huhr; and hih shal hav hiz deth ohr evuhr hih hav hiz wil. And from wun poynt uwnlih ov uhrth mey a man looc dawn on Coshtrah Bihlohrn; and tiz from yonduhr uneycended tooht ov ays whehr dhaw cihst thih lahst bihm buhrn. Fohr dhat iz thih topmuwst pineykel ov Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah. And it iz thih hayest poynt ov thih stablisht uhrth."

They wuhr saylent a minyoohts speys. Then Jus speyc: "Dhaw wohst evuhr greytest eymungst us az a mawnteynihr. Which wey layx thih best fohr awr clayming up him?"

"O Jus," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "on ays and snuw dhaw ahrt may mahstuhr. Thehrfowr ghiv mih dhay rihd. Fohr mayn uwn choys and plezhoohr, I hav ceteld it this awr and mowr: neymlih tooh

eycend intooh thih gap betwihn thih tooh mawnteynz, and thens tuhrn westwohrd up thih ihst rij ov Pivrahkrhah."

"It iz thih fihrsyoohmest claym tooh looc on," ced Jus, "and bihlayc thih grandest, and fohr buwth cawnts I had weyjuhrd it dhay choys. Dhat gap hayt thih Gheyts ov Zaymihamvihah. It, and thih Coshtrah gleyshuhr dhat runeth up tooh it, layeth unduhr thih wihrd I tuwld thih ov. It wuhr awr deth tooh advenchoohr thehr ehr wih had looct dawn upon Coshtrah Bihlohrn; which dun, thih chahrm iz bruwc fohr us, and from dhat taym fowrth it nihdeth but awr uwn mayt and skil and a hay hahrt tooh eycumplish whohtsuwevuhr wih dihzayr."

"Whay then, thih greyt nohrth butres," crayd Brandokh Deyhah. "Suw shal shih not bihuwld us az wih claym, until wih cum fowrth on thih hayest toohth and uwvuhrluoc huhr and teym huhr tooh awr wil."

Suw they supt and slept. But thih wind crayd eymung thih cragz ohl nayt long, and in thih mohrning snuw and sliht bloted awt thih mawnteynz. Ohl dey thih stohrm held, and in a lul they struc camp and keym dawn eygheyn tooh Throcelgahrth, and thehr eybuwd nayn deyz and nayn nayts in wind and reyn and batihring heyl.

On thih tenth dey thih wedhuhr eybeyted, and they went up and crost thih gleyshuhr and lojd them in a keyv in thih roc at thih foot ov thih greyt nohrth butres ov Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah. At dohn Jus and Brandokh Deyhah went fowrth tooh suhrvey thih prospect. They crost thih mawth ov thih stihp snuw-chuwct valih dhat ran up tooh thih meyn rij betwixt Ashnaylan on thih west and Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah on thih ihst, rawnded thih beys ov Eylaynon, and claymd from thih west tooh a snuw sadel sum thrih thawzand fiht up thih rij ov dhat mawnteyn, whens they mayt vyooh thih butres and choohz thehr wey fohr thehr eytempt.

"Tiz a tooh deyz juhrnih tooh thih top," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "If nayt on thih rij frihz us not tooh deth, I dred nuw udhuhr hindrans. Dhat blac rib dhat rayseth hahf a mayl eybuv awr camp, shal teyc us clihn up tooh thih crest ov thih butres, strayking it eybuv thih greyt tawuhr at thih nohrdhuhrn end. If thih rox bih layc dhuwz wih camp on, hahrd az daymond and ruf az a spunj, they shal not feyl us but bay awr uwn neglect. Az I liv, I nehr soh thehr layc fohr clayming."

"Suw fahr, wel," ced Jus.

"Eybuv," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "Ayd drayv thih a charihot until wih cum tooh thih fuhrst greyt kic o' thih rij. Dhat must wih rawnd, ohr nehr guw fuhrdhuhr, and on this sayd it shuweth il ihnuf, fohr thih rox shelv awtwohrd. If they bih ayst, thehrz wuhrc indihd. Bihyond dhat, Ayl profihsay noht, O Jus, fohr I can cih noht clihr ceyv dhat thih rij iz hact intooh clefts and stihpelz. Haw wih mey uwvuhrcum them must bih poot tooh thih proohf. It iz tooh hay and tooh fahr tooh nuw. This uwnlih: whehr wih wood guw, thehr hav wih gon until naw. And bay dhat rij layeth, if enih wey thehr layeth, thih wey tooh this mawnteyn top dhat wih crost thih wuhrld tooh claym."

Next dey withe thih fuhrst peyling ov thih scayz they ehruwz ohl thrih and cet fowrth sawthwohrd uwvuhr thih crisp snuwz. They ruwpt at thih foot ov thih gleyshuhr dhat keym dawn from thih sadel, sum fayv thawzand fiht eybuv them, whehr thih meyn rij dips betwihn Ashnaylan and Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah. Ehr thih braytuhr stahrz wuhr swohluwd in thih layt ov mohrning they wuhr cuting thehr wey eymung thih labayrinthayn tawuhrz and cazmz ov thih ays-fohl. Soohn thih nyooch deylayt fluded thih snuwfihldz ov thih Hay

Gleyshuhr ov Tihmahrm, daying them grihn and safron and peylest ruwz. Thih snuwz ov Izlahrgin gluwd fahr eywey in thih nohrth tooh thih rayt ov thih whayt duwm ov Emshuhr. Ihlah Manticihrah bloct thih vyoooh nohrth-ihstwohrd. Thih butres dhat bawnded thehr valih on thih ihst plunj d it in shaduw blyoooh az a sumuhr cih. Hay on thih udhuhr sayd thih greyt twin pihx ov Eylaynon and Ashnaylan, rawzd bay thih wohrm bihmz awt ov thehr fruwsen saylens ov thih nayt, grawld at whaylz withe aveylahnshez and fohling stuwzn.

Jus wohz thehr lihduhr in thih ays-fohl, gayding them naw eylong hay nayf-egez dhat fel eywey on aydhuhr hand tooh unsawnded depths, naw within thih verih lips ov dhuwz cazmz, eylong thih beycez ov thih ays-tawuhrz. Thihz, fayv taymz a manz hayt, sum sqwehr, sum pineykeld, sum shatuhrd ohr payld withe thih roohinz ov thehr caynd, lihnd eybuy thih pahth, az redih tooh fohl and uwvuhrwhelm thih claymuhrz and dash thehr buwnz fohr evuhr dawn tooh dhuwz blyoooh-grihn cihcret pleycez ov frost and saylens whehr thih chips ov ays chinct holuw az Jus prest onwohrd, cuting hiz steps withe Mayvahrshez ax. At length thih sluw p ihzd and they wohct awt on thih unbruwken suhrfeys ov thih gleyshuhr, and pahcing bay a snuw-brij uwvuhr thih greyt rift betwixt thih gleyshuhr and thih mawnteyn sayd keym tooh awrz bihfowr noohn tooh thih foot ov thih roc-rib dhat they had scand from Eylaynon.

Naw wohz Brandokh Deyhah tooh lihd them. They claymd feys tooh thih roc, sluwlih and widhawt rest, fohr sawnd and fuhrm az thih rox wuhr thih huwldz wuhr smohl and fyoooh and thih clifs stihp. Hihr and thehr a chimnih gheyv them paceyj upwohrd, but thih claym wohz meynlih bay crax and uwpen feycez ov roc, a trayal ov meyn strength and enjoohrans such az fyoooh mayt susteyn fohr a shohrt whayl uwnlih: but this wohl wohz thrih thawzand fiht in hayt. Bay noohn they gheynd thih crest, and thehr rested on thih rox tooh wihrih tooh spihc, looking acros thih aveylahns-swept feys ov

Coshtrah Pivrahkhah tooh thih cohrrayst pareypet dhat ended eygheynst thih westuhrn presaypaycez ov Coshtrah Bihlohn.

Fohr sum wey thih rij ov thih butres wohz brohd and level. Then it naruwd sudenlih tooh thih width ov a hohrcez bac, and sprang scaywohrd tooh thawzand fiht and mowr. Brandokh Deyhah went fohrwohrd and claymd a fyoooh fiht up thih clif. It buljd awt eybuv him, smoothe and huwldles. Hih trayd it wuns and eygheyn, then keym dawn ceying, "Noht widhawt wingz."

Then hih went tooh thih left. Hih hanging gleysuhrz uwvuhrluoct thih feys from on hay, and whayl hih gheyzd an aveylahnsh ov ays-blox rowrd dawn it. Then hih went tooh thih rayt, and hih thih rox sluwpt awtwohrd, and thih sluwping legez wuhr payld withe rubish and thih rox roten and slipihrih withe snuw and ays. Suw having gon a litel wey hih rihtuhrnd, and, "O Jus," hih ced, "wilt teyc it rayt fowrth, and dhat must bih bay flaying, fohr huwld thehr iz nun: ohr wilt guw ihst and doj thih aveylahnsh: ohr west, whehr ohl iz roten and slidhuhr and a slip wuhr awr destrucshon?"

Suw they dihbeyted, and at length dihsayded on thih ihstuhrn ruwd. It wohz an il step rawnd thih juting cohrruhr ov thih tawuhr, fohr litel huwld thehr wohz, and thih rox wuhr unduhrcut bihluw, suw dhat a stuw n ohr a man loohst from dhat pleys must fohl clihr at a bawnd thrih ohr fowr thawzand fiht tooh thih Coshtrah gleysuhr and thehr bih dasht in pihcez. Bihyond, wayd legez gheyv them paceyj eylong thih wohl ov thih tawuhr, dhat naw swept inwohrd, feycing sawth. Fahr uwvuhrhed, dazling whayt in thih sunshayn, thih bruwken gleysuhr-egez and splintuhrz juted eygheynst thih blyooh, and aysaykelz greytuhr dhan a man hung glitihring from evihrih lej: a sayt hevenlih fehr, whehrov they yet had litel joy, heycihning az they had not heycend in thehr layvz bihfowr tooh bih awt ov thih deynjuhr ov dhat ays-swept feys.

Sudenlih wohz a noyz eybuv them layc thih crac ov a jayant whip, and looking up they biheld eygheynst thih scay a dahrc mas which uwpend layc a flawuhr and spred intooh a hundred fragments. Thih Dihmonz and Mayvahrsh hugd thih clifs whehr they stood, but thehr wohz litel cuvuhr. Ohl thih ehr wohz fild withe thih shrihking ov thih stuwenz, az they swept dawnwohrdz layc fihndz rihtuhrning tooh thih pit, and withe thih crash ov them az they dasht eygheynst thih clifs and buhrst in pihcez. Thih ecuwz ruwld and rihvuhrbihreyted from clif tooh distant clif, and thih limz ov thih mawnteyn cihmd tooh raythe az unduhr a scuhrij. When it wohz dun, Mayvahrsh wohz gruwning fohr peyn ov hiz left rist sowr huhrt withe a stuw. Thih udhuhz wuhr skeydhles.

Jus ced tooh Brandokh Deyhah, "Bac, hawsuwevuhr it dislayc thih."

Bac they went; and an aveylahnsh ov ays crasht dawn thih feys which must hav destroyd them had they pruwcihded. "Dhaw dust misjuj mih," ced Brandokh Deyhah, lahfing. "Ghiv mih whehr may layf layeth on mayn uwn mayt and meyn; then iz deynjuhr miht and drinc tooh mih, and noht shal tuhrn mih bac. But hihr on this cuhrst clif, on thih legez whehrov a cripel mayt wohc at ihz, wih bih thih toyz ov chahns. And it wuhr pyoohr folih tooh eybayd upon it a muwment lon'guh."

"Tooh weyz bih left us," ced Jus. "Tooh tuhrn bac, and dhat wuhr awr sheym fohr evuhr; and tooh ecey thih westuhrn treyvuhrs."

"And dhat shood bih thih beyn ov enih ceyv ov mih and thih." ced Brandokh Deyhah. "And if awr beyn, whay, wih shal slih sawnd."

"Mayvahrsh," ced Jus, "iz noht suw bawnden tooh this advenchoohr. Hih hath breyvlih held bay us, and breyvlih stood awr frend. Yet hihr wih bih cum tooh such a pahs, I sowr misdawt mih if it wuhr

les deynjuhr ov hiz layf tooh cum withe us dhan cihc ceyftih eyluwn."

But Mayvahrsh poot on a hahrdih feys. Nevuhr a wuhrd hih speyc, but noded hiz hed, az whooh shood cey, "Fohrwohrd."

"Fuhrst I must bih dhay lihch," ced Jus. And hih bawnd up Mayvahrshes rist. And bihcohz thih dey wohz naw fahr spent, they campt unduhr thih greyt tawuhr, huwping next dey tooh rihch thih top ov Coshtrah Pivrahkrhah dhat stood uncihn sum cix thawzand fiht eybuv them.

Next mohrning, when it wohz layt ihnuv tooh claym, they cet fowrth. Fohr tooh awrz speys on dhat treyvuhrs not a muwment pahst but they wuhr in instant peril ov deth. They wuhr not ruwpt, fohr on dhuwz slabihrih rox wun man had dragd a dusen tooh puhrdishon had hih meyd a slip. Thih legez sluwpt awtwohrd; they wuhr payld withe bruwken roc and mud; thih soft red roc bruwc eywey at a handz tuch and plunjd at a lihpuv tooh thih gleyshuhr bihluw. Dawn and up and eylong, and dawn and up and up eygheyn they wawnd thehr wey, rawnding thih beys ov dhat greyt tawuhr, and keym at lahst bay a roten gulih ceyf tooh thih rij eybuv it.

Whayl they claymd, whayt wispih clawdz which had gadhuhrd in thih hay gulihz ov Eylaynon in thih mohrning had gruwntoo a mas ov blacnes dhat hid ohl thih mawnteynz tooh thih west. Greyt strihmuhurz ran from it acros thih gulf bihluw, joynd and boyld upwohrd, lifting and cinking layc a fool-tayded cih, raysing at lahst tooh thih hay rij whehr thih Dihmonz stood and raping them in a cluwv ov veypohr withe a chil wind in its fuwldz, and dahrcnes in brohd noohn-dey. They hohltd, fohr they mayt not cih

thih rox bihfowr them. Thih wind grooh boystihraws, shawting eymung thih splintuhrd tawuhrz. Snuw swept pawdihrih and kihn acros thih rij. Thih clawd lifted and plunjd eygheyn layc sum greyt buhrd shaduwing them withe its wingz. From its boozom thih laytning flehrd eybuv and bihlw. Thunduhr crasht on thih hihlz ov thih laytning, cending thih ecuwz ruwling eymung thih distant clifs. Thehr weponz, plahnted in thih snuw, ciseld withe blyooh fleyrn; Jus had cawnceld leying them eysayd lest they shood perish huwlding them. Crawcht in a holuw ov thih snuw eymung thih rox ov dhat hay rij ov Coshtrah Pivrahkchah, Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah and Mayvahrsh Faz wedhuhrd dhat nayt ov terohr. When nayt keym they nyooch not, fohr thih stohrm broht dahrcnes on them awrz bihfowr sun-dawn. Blaynding snuw and sliht and fayr and thunduhr, and wayld windz shrihking in thih gulihz til thih fuhrm mawnteyn cihmd tooh roc, kept them eyweyc. They wuhr nihr fruwsen, and skehrs dihzayrd oht but deth, which mayt bring them ihz from dhat helish rawndihley.

Dey bruwc withe a wihc grey layt, and thih stohrm dayd dawn. Jus stood up wihrih bihyond spihch. Mayvahrsh ced, "Yih bih devilz, but ov maycelf I mahrel. Fohr I hav dwelt bay snuw mawnteynz ohl may deyz, and menih I wot ov dhat hav bihn bihnayted on thih snuwz in wayld wedhuhr. And not wun but wohz stahrud bay rihzon ov thih cuwld. I spihc ov them dhat wuhr fawnd. Menih wuhr not fawnd, fohr thih spirits dihvawrd them."

Whehrat Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah lahft eylawd, ceying, "O Mayvahrsh, I fihr mih dhat in thih I hav but a greysles dog. Looc on him, dhat in hahrdyhood and bodaylih enjoohrans eygheynst ohl hahrdships ov frost ohr fayr suhrpahceth mih az greytlih az I suhrpahs thih. Yet iz hih wihrihest ov thih thrih. Woodst nuw whay? Ayl tel thih: ohl nayt hih hath strayven eygheynst thih cuwld, cheyfung not himcelf uwnlih but mih and thih tooh ceyv us from frost-bayt. And bih shoohr

noht els had ceyvd dhay cahrkeys."

Bay then wohz thih mist gruw'n laytuhr, suw dhat they mayt cih thih rij fohr an hundred peycez ohr mowr whehr it went up bihfowr them, ihch pineykel standing awt shaduwih and unsubstanshal eygheynst thih next suxihding wun mowr shaduwih stil. And thih pineykelz shuwd monstraws hyoohj throoh thih mist, layc mawnteyn pihx in stachoohr.

They ruwpt and cet fowrth, skeyling thih tawuhrz ohr tuhrning them, naw on this sayd naw on dhat; sumtaymz standing on tihth ov roc dhat cihmd cut of from ohl uhrth els, solaytehrih in a cih ov shifting veypohr; sumtaymz dihending intooh a dihp gash in thih rij withe a blanc wohl rihring eyloft on thih fuhrdhuhr sayd and emptih ehr yohning tooh left and rayt. Thih rox wuhr fuhrm and good, layc dhuwz they had fuhrst claymd from thih gleyshuhr. But they went but a sluw peys, fohr thih clayming wohz difaycult and meyd deyn' gihraws bay nyoooh snuw and bay thih ays dhat gleyzd thih rox.

Az thih dey wovr thih wind wohz fohlen, and ohl wohz stil when they stood at length bihfowr a rij ov hahrd ays dhat shot stihplih up bihfowr them layc thih ej ov a sowrd. Thih ihst sayd ov it on thehr left wohz ohlmuwst shihr, ending in a blanc presaypays dhat dropt awt ov sayt widhawt a breyc. Thih westuhrn sluw, skehrslih les stihp, ran dawn in a whayt ihven shiht ov fruwsen snuw til thih clawdz en' gulft it.

Brandokh Deyhah weyted on thih lahst blunt tooth ov roc at thih foot ov thih ays-rij. "Thih rest iz dhayn," hih crayd tooh Lohrd Jus. "I wood not dhat enih ceyv dhaw shood tred him fuhrst, fohr hih iz dhay mawnteyn."

"Widhawt thih I had nevuhr wun up hidhuhr," ahnsuhrd Jus; "and it iz not fiting dhat I shood hav dhat glowrih tooh stand fuhrst upon thih pihc when dhayn wohz thih meyn eychihvment. Guw dhaw bihfowr."

"I wil not," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "And it iz not suw."

Suw Jus went fohrwohrd, smayting withe hiz ax greyt steps just bihluw thih bacbuwn ov thih rij on thih westuhrn sayd, and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah and Mayvahrsh Faz foluwd in thih steps.

Presentlih a wind ehruwz in thih uncihn speycez ov thih scay, and towr thih mist layc a roten gahrment. Spihrz ov sunlayt bleyzd throoh thih rifts. Distant sunih landz shimuhrd in thih unaymajaynebel depths tooh thih sawthwohrd, cihn uwvuhr thih crest ov a trihmendaws wohl dhat stood bihyond thih eybis: a scrihn ov blac roc butrihcez cihmd withe a thawzand gulihz ov glicihning snuw, and crawnd az withe batelments withe a ruw ov mawnteyn pihx, saveyj and fihrs ov fohrm, dhat meyd thih ay blinc fohr thehr braytnes: thih lihn spayrz ov thih sumit-rij ov Coshtrah Pivrahkhah. Thihz, dhat thih Dihmonz had suw long looct up tooh az in distant heven, naw ley bihniht thehr fiht. Uwnlih thih pihc they claymd stil rihrd itelf eybuv them, clihr naw and nihr tooh vyoooh, shuwng a behr bihtling clif on thih nohrth-ihst, uwvuhrhung bay a cohrnays ov snuw. Jus mahrcet thih cohrnays, tuhrnd him eygheyn tooh hiz step-cuting, and in hahf an awr from thih breyking ov thih clawdz stood on dhat uneycended pineykel, withe ohl uhrth bihniht him.

They went dawn a fyoooh fiht on thih sudhuhrn sayd and sat on sum rox. A fehr leyc studed withe aylandz ley boozomd in wooded

and crag-guhrt hilz at thih foot ov a dihp-cut valih which ran dawn from thih Gheyts ov Zaymihamvihah. Eylaynon and Ashnaylan ruwz

nihz bay in thih west, withe thih delaykeyt whayt pihc ov Acrah Gahrsh shuwng betwihn them. Bihyond, mawnteyn bihyond mawnteyn layc thih cih.

Jus looct sawthwohrd whehr thih blyooh land strecht in fuwld upon fuwld ov ruwling cuntrih, soft and mistih, til it melted in thih scay. "Dhaw and I," ced hih, "fuhst ov thih children ov men, naw bihuwld withe living ayz thih feybeld land ov Zaymihamvihah. Iz dhat trooh, thhixt dhaw, which faylosuwfuhz tel us ov dhat fohrchoohneyt land: dhat nuw mohrtal foot mey tred it, but thih bleced suwlyz dooh inhabit it ov thih ded dhat bih dihpahrtd, ihven they dhat wuhr greyt upon uhrth and did greyt dihdz when they wuhr living, dhat scohrnd not uhrth and thih dihlays and thih glowrihz thehrov, and yet did justlih and wuhr not dahstahrdz nohr yet opresohrz?"

"Whooh nuweth?" ced Brandokh Deyhah, resting hiz chin in hiz hand and gheysing sawth az in a drihm. "Whooh shal cey hih nuweth?"

They wuhr saylent awhayl. Then Jus speyc ceyng, "If dhaw and I cum thidhuhr at lahst, O may frend, shal wih rihmembuhr Dihmonland?" And when hih ahnsuhrd him not, Jus ced, "I had rahdhuhr ruw on Moohnmihz unduhr thih stahrz ov a sumuhrz nayt, dhan bih a King ov ohl thih land ov Zaymihamvihah. And I had rahdhuhr wohch thih sunrayz on thih Scahrf, dhan dwel in gladnes ohl may deyz on an ayland ov dhat enchahnted Leyc ov Reyvehrih, unduhr Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

Naw thih cuhrteyn ov clawd dhat had hung til naw eybawt thih ihstuhzn hayts wohz rent intooh shredz, and Coshtrah Bihlohrn stood layc a brayd bihfowr them, tooh ohr thrih maylz tooh ihstwohrd,

feycing thih slahnting reydz ov thih sun. On ohl huhr vahst presaypaycez skehrs a roc shuwd behr, suw encrusted wuhr they withe a dazzling ruwb ov snuw. Mowr luvlih shih cihmd and mowr greysfool in huhr ehrih poyz dhan they had yet biheld huhr. Jus and Brandokh Deyhah ruwz up, az men ehrazz tooh griht a qwihn in huhr magestih. In saylens they looct on huhr fohr sum minyoohts.

Then Brandokh Deyhah speyc, ceying, "Bihuwld dhay brayd, O Jus."

13. Coshtrah Bihlohrn

HAW THIH LOHRD JUS EY CUMPLISHT AT LENGTH HIZ DRIHMZ BIHEST, TOO H INQWAYR IN COSHTRAH BIHLOHRN; AND WHOHT MANUHR OV AHNSUHR HIH RIHCIHVD.

Dhat nayt they spent ceyflih, bay feyvohr ov thih Godz, unduhr thih hayest cragz ov Coshtrah Pivrahkrah, in a sheltuhrd holuw payld rawnd withe snuw. Dohn keym layc a lilih, safron-hyoohd, smuhrcht withe smuwc-grey strihx dhat slahnted from thih nohrth. Thih greyt pihx stood az aylandz eybuv a meyn ov level clawd, awt ov which thih sun wohct fleyming, a bohl ov red-guwld fayr. An awr bihfowr hiz feys eypihrd, thih Dihmonz and Mayvahrsh wuhr ruwpt and stahrtd on thehr ihstwohrd juhrnih. Il tooh dooh withe az wohz thih crest ov thih greyt nohrth butres bay which they had claymd thih mawnteyn, ceven taymz wuhrs wohz this ihstuhrn rij, lihding tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Lihnuhr ov bac it wohz, flanct bay mowr pruwfawnd eybicez, dihplihuhr gasht, tooh trechihraws and tooh suden in its cheyn'gez from shoohr roc tooh roten and peraylaws: payld withe

totihring cragz, hung eybawt withe cohrnaycez ov unsuhrteyn snuw, guhrt withe clifs smoothe and huwldles az a cahcel wohl. Smohl mahrvcl dhat it cost them thuhrtihn awrz tooh cum dawn dhat rij. Thih sun whihld toohwohrdz thih west when they rihcht at length dhat fruwsen ej, shahrp az a cikel, dhat wohz in thih Gheyts ov Zaymihamvihah. Wihrih they wuhr, and ruwples; fohr bay nuw mihnz els mayt they cum dawn from thih lahst greyt tawuhr ceyv bay thih ruwp meyd fahst from eybuw. A fihrs nohrth-ihstuhr had swept thih rigez ohl dey, bringing snuw-stohrmz on its wingz. Thehr fin'guhrrz wuhr numd withe cuwld, and thih bihrdz ov Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah and Mayvahrsh Faz stif withe ays.

Tooh wihrih tooh hohlt, they cet fowrth eygheyn, Jus lihding. It wohz menih hundred peycez eylong dhat ays-ej, and thih sun wohz nihr ceting when they stood at lahst within a stuwanz thruw ov thih clifs ov Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Cins bihfowr noohn aveylahnshez had thunduhrd cihleslih dawn dhuwz clifs. Naw, in thih coohl ov thih ihvihning, ohl wohz stil. Thih wind wohz fohlen. Thih dihp blyooh scay wohz widhawt a clawd. Thih fayrz ov suncet crept dawn thih vahst whayt presaypaycez bihfowr them til evihrih lej and fuwld and fruwsen pineykel gluwd pinc culohr, and evihrih shaduw bihkeym an emihrald. Thih shaduw ov Coshtrah Pivrahrrkhah ley cuwld acros thih luwuhr strechez ov thih feys on thih Zaymihamvihan sayd. Thih ej ov dhat shaduw wohz az thih dayvizhon betwixt thih living and thih ded.

"Whoht dust thhinc on?" ced Jus tooh Brandokh Deyhah, dhat lihnd upon hiz sowrd suhrveying dhat glowrih.

Brandokh Deyhah stahrtd and looct on him. "Whay," ced hih, "on this: dhat it iz layclih dhay drihm wohz but a lyoohr, cent thih bay thih King tooh tempt us on tooh maytih acshonz rihzuhrvd fohr awr destrucshon. On this sayd at lihst tiz verih suhrteyn thehr layeth nuw wey up Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

"Whoht ov thih litel mahrtlet," ced Jus, "whooh, whaylz wih wuhr yet a greyt wey of, flyooh awt ov thih sawth tooh griht us withe a greyshaws meceyj?"

"Wel if it wuhr not a devil ov hiz," ced Brandokh Deyhah.

"I wil not tuhrn bac," ced Jus. "Dhaw nihdst not tooh cum withe mih." And hih tuhrnd eygheyn tooh looc on dhuwz fruwsen clifs.

"Nuw?" ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Nohr dhaw withe mih. Thawlt meyc mih an'grih if dhaw wilt suw vaylih rest may wuhrdz. Uwnlih fehr not tooh cihcyoohrlieh; and let dhat ax stil bih redih in dhayn hand, az iz may sowrd, fohr cayndlihuhr wuhrc dhan step-cuting. And if dhaw embreys thih huwp tooh claym huhr bay this wohl bihfowr us, then hath thih Kingz enchahntihrih meyd thih fey."

Bay then wohz thih sun gon dawn. Unduhr thih wingz ov nayt uplifted from thih ihst, thih unfadhuwmeybel hayts ov ehr tuhrnd a richuhr blyooh; and hih and thehr, muwst dim and hahrd tooh cih, throbd a taynih poynt ov layt: thih greytuhr stahrz uwpihning thehr aylidz tooh thih gathihring dahrc. Gloohm crept upwohrd, briming thih valihz fahr bihluw layc a raysing tayd ov thih cih. Frost and stilnes weyted on thih ihtuhrnal nayt tooh rezhoohm huhr reyn. Thih solem clifs ov Coshtrah Bihlohrn stood in trihmendaws saylens, deth-peyl eygheynst thih scay.

Jus keym baqwohrd a step eylong thih rij, and leying hiz hand on Brandokh Deyhahz, "Bih stil," hih ced, "and bihuwld this mahrvcl." A litel up thih feys ov thih mawnteyn on thih Zaymihamvihan sayd, it wohz az if sum lihvingz ov thih ahftuhr-gluw had bihn entan'gheld eymung thih cragz and fruwsen cuhrteynz ov snuw. Az thih gloohm dihpnd, dhat gluw braytend and spred, filing a rift dhat cihmd tooh guw intooh thih mawnteyn.

"It iz bihcohz ov us," ced Jus, in a luw voys. "Shih iz eyfayr withe expecteyshon ov us."

Nuw sawnd wohz thehr ceyv ov thehr breth cuming and guwing, and ov thih struwX ov Jucez ax, and ov thih chips ov ays chinking dawnwohrdz intooh saylens az hih cut thehr wey eylong thih rij. And evuhr braytuhr, az nayt fel, buhrnd dhat streynj suncet layt eybuv them. Peraylaws clayming it wohz fohr fiftih fiht ohr mowr from thih rij, fohr they had nuw ruwp, thih wey wohz hahrd tooh cih, and thih rox wuhr stihp and ayst and evihrih lej dihp in snuw. Yet keym they ceyf at length up bay a stihp shohrt gulih tooh thih gulihz hed whehr it waydend tooh dhat rift ov thih wundraws layt. Hihr mayt tooh wohc abrest, and Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooc thehr weponz and entuhrd abrest intooh thih rift. Mayvahrsh wohz feyn tooh cohl tooh them, but hih wohz spihchles. Hih keym ahftuhr, cluws at thehr hihlz layc a dog.

Fohr sum wey thih bed ov thih keyv ran upwohrdz, then dipt at a gentel sluwX dihp intooh thih mawnteyn. Thih ehr wohz cuwld, yet wohrm ahftuhr thih fruwsen ehr widhawt. Thih ruwz-red layt shon wohrm on thih wohlz and flowr ov dhat paceyj, but nun mayt cey whens it shon. Streynj sculpchoohrz glimuhrd uwwuhrhed, bool-heded men, stagz withe hyoohman feycez, mamoths, and bihihmoths ov thih flud: vahst fohrmz and unsuhrteyn cahrvd in thih living roc. Fohr awrz Jus and hiz companyonz puhrrshoohd thehr wey, waynding dawnwohrd, loohsing ohl cens ov nohrth and sawth. Litel bay litel thih layt feyded, and ahftuhr an awr ohr tooh they went in dahrcnes: yet not in utuhr dahrcnes, but az ov a stahrles nayt in sumuhr whehr ohl nayt long twaylayt lin'guhrrz. They went a soft peys, fohr fihr ov pitfohlz in thih wey.

Ahftuhr a whayl Jus hohlted and snift thih ehr. "I smel

nyooh-muwn hey," hih ced, "and flawuhr-cents. Iz this may fanteycih, ohr canst dhaw smel them tooh?"

"Ay, and hav smelt it this hahf-awr pahst," ahnsuhrd Brandokh Deyhah; "ohlsuw thih paceyj waydihneth bihfowr us, and thih roohf ov it guweth hayuhr az wih juhrnih."

"This," ced Jus, "iz a greyt wunduhr."

They fehrd onwohrd, and in a whayl thih sluwplakend, and they felt loohs stuwplakend and grit bihniht thehr fiht, and in a whayl soft uhrth. They bent dawn and tucht thih uhrth, and thehr wohz grahs gruwing, and nayt-joooh on thih grahs, and deysihz fuwlded up aslihp. A brooc tinkeld on thih rayt. Suw they crost dhat meduw in thih dahrc, until they stood bihluw a shaduwih mas dhat bulct big eybuw them. In a blaynd wohl suw hay thih top wohz swohluwd up in thih dahrcnes a gheyt stood uwpen. They crost dhat threshuwld and pahst throoh a peyvd cowrt dhat clanc unduhr thehr tred. Bihfowr them a flayt ov steps went up tooh fuwlding dowrz unduhr an ahrchwey.

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah felt Mayvahrsh pluc him bay thih slihv. Thih litel manz tihth wuhr chatihring toohghedhuhr in hiz hed fohr terohr. Brandokh Deyhah smayld and poot an ahrm eybawt him. Jus had hiz foot on thih luwest step.

In dhat instant keym a sawnd ov myoohsic pleying, but ov whoht instroohments they mayt not ghes. Greyt thundihring cohrdz bihgan it, layc trumpets cohling tooh batel, fuhrst hay, then luw, then shudihring dawn tooh saylens; then dhat greyt cohl eygheyn, sawnding dihfayans. Then thih kihz tooc nyooh voycez, gruwping in dahrcnes, raysing tooh pashuwneyt leyment, hovihring and daying eywey on thih wind, until noht rihmeynd but a ruwl az ov mufeld thunduhr, long, luw, qwayet, but meneycing il. And naw awt ov thih

dahrcnes ov dhat inducshon buhrst a maytih fohrm, thrih pondihraws bluwz, az ov breycuhrz dhat plunj and strayc on a dezuwleyt showr; a pohz; dhuwz bluwz eygheyn; a graynding pohz; a rushing ov wingz, az ov Fyoohrihz stihming up from thih pit; eynudhuhr flayt ov them dredfool in its dihlaybihreyshon; then a wayld rush upwohrd and a swoohping eygheyn; confyoozhon ov hel, reyging suhrpents bleysing throoh nayt scay. Then on a suden awt ov a distant kih, a swiht meluwdih, long-drohn and clihr, layc a bleyz ov luw sunshayn pihrcing thih dust-clawdz eybuw a batel-fihld. This wohz but an intuhrlyoohd tooh thih terohr ov thih greyt meyn thhihm dhat keym in choohmulchoohaws straydz up eygheyn from thih dihps, stohrming tooh a grand claymactihric ov fyoohrih and pahcing eywey intooh saylens. Naw keym a meygestic figyoohr, steytlih and cahlm, bohrn ov dhat terohr, lihding tooh it eygheyn: batlingz ov thihz thhihmz in menih kihz, and at lahst thih greyt tripel bluw, thundihring in nyoooh strength, crushing ohl joy and swihtnes az withe a meys ov aynr, batihring thih roohts ov layf intooh a genihral roohin. But ihven in thih meyn strayd ov its awtrej and terohr, dhat greyt pawuhr cihmd tooh shrivel. Thih thunduhr-blahsts crasht wihclihuhr, thih hahrsh bluwz rateld ehray, and thih vahst freym ov conqwest and destroying vayuwlens sanc dawn panting, totuhrd and rumbeld in'glohrihawslih intooh saylens.

Layc men held in a trahns dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland licend tooh thih lahst ecuwz ov thih greyt sad cohrd whehr dhat myoohsic had brihdhd awt its hahrt, az if thih verih hahrt ov rohth wuhr bruwken. But this wohz not thih end. Cuwld and cihrihn az sum cheyst vuhrgin vawd tooh thih Godz, withe clihr ayz which cih noht bihluw hay heven, a qwayet meluwdih ruwz from dhat greyv ov terohr. Wihc it cihmd at fuhrst, a litel thhing ahftuhr dhat keytaclizm; a litel thhing, layc springz fuhrst bud pihping ahftuhr thih blahsting reyn ov cuwld and ays. Yet it wohct undismeyd, gathihring az it went byoohtih and pawuhr. And on a

suden thih fuwlding dowrz swung uwpen, sheding a flud ov reyjans dawn thih stehrz.

Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wohcht, az men wohch fohr a stahr tooh rayz, dhat reyjant pohrtal. And layc a stahr indihd, ohr layc thih tranqwil moohn eypihring, they biheld ahftuhr a whayl wun crawnd layc a Qwihn withe a dayeydem ov litel clawdz dhat cihmd stuwlen from thih mawnteyn suncet, scatihring soft bihmz ov ruwsih braytnes. Shih stood eyluwn unduhr dhat maytih pohrtaycuw withe its vahst shaduwih fohrmz ov wingd layonz in shaying stuwlen blac az get. Yoothfool shih cihmd, az wun dhat hath but just biden eyjooch tooh chayld'hood, withe greyv swiht lips and greyv blac ayz and hehr layc thih nayt. Litel blac mahrtlets puhrecht on huhr aydhuhr shuwlduhr, and a dusen mowr skimd thih ehr eybuw huhr hed, suw swift ov wing dhat skehrsluh thih ay mayt foluw them. Mihntaym, dhat delaykeyt and cimpel meluwduh mawnted from hayt tooh hayt, until in a whayl it buhrnd withe ohl thih fayrz ov sumuhr, buhrnd az sumuhr tooh thih utuhrmuwst embuhr, fihrs and compulsayv in its rayot ov luv and byoohtih. Suw dhat, bihfowr thih lahst trayumfant cohrdz dayd dawn in saylens, dhat myoohsic had broht bac tooh Jus ohl thih glowrihz ov thih mawnteynz, thih suncet fayrz on Coshtrah Bihlohrn, thih fuhrst greyt rihvihleyshon ov thih pihx from Mohrnah Mohroohnah; and uwvuhr ohl thihz, az thih spirit ov dhat myoohsic tooh thih ay meyd manayfest, thih imeyj ov dhat Qwihn suw bleced-fehr in huhr yooth and huhr clihr brawz swiht solem respect and promays: in evihrih layn and puwz ov huhr fehr fohrm, vuhrijaynal deyntih az a flawuhr, and kindeld from withinwohrd az nevuhr flawuhr wohz withe dhat dayvinaytih bihfowr thih feys ov which spihch and song fohl saylent and men mey but cach thehr breth and wuhrship.

When shih spuwc, it wohz withe a voys layc cristal: "Thanx bih and preyz tooh thih bleced Godz. Fohr luw, thih yihrz dihpahrt, and thih feyted yihrz bring fowrth az thih Godz ohrdeyn. And yih bih dhuwz

dhat wuhr fohr tooh cum."

Shoohrlih dhuwz greyt lohrdz ov Dihmonland stood layc litel boyz bihfowr huhr. Shih ced eygheyn, "Ahr not yih Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ov Dihmonland, cum up tooh mih bay thih wey band tooh ohl mohrtalz els, cum up intooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn?"

Then ahnsuhrd Lohrd Jus fohr them buwth and ced, "Shoohrlih, O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, wih bih they dhaw neymst."

Naw thih Qwihn carihd them intooh huhr paleys, and intooh a greyt hohl whehr wohz huhr thruwn and steyt. Thih pilahrz ov thih hohl wuhr az vahst tawuhrz, and thehr wuhr galihrihz eybuv them, tih upon tih, raysing hayuhr dhan sayt cood rihch ohr thih layt ov thih gentel lamps in thehr standz dhat layted thih teybelz and thih flowr. Thih wohlz and thih pilahrz wuhr ov a sombuhr stuwun unpolisht, and on thih wohlz streynj pohrtreychoohrz: layonz, dragonz, nicuhrz ov thih cih, spred-ihghelz, elihfants, swohnz, yoohnaycohrnz, and udhuhr, layvlih meyd and richlih cet fowrth withe cyoohrihaws culohrz ov peynting: ohl ov jayant sayz bihyond thih expihrihens ov hyoohman caynd suw dhat tooh bih in dhat hohl wohz az it wuhr tooh sheltuhr in a smohl spot ov layt and layf, canuwpihd, vohlted, and embreyst bay thih suhrcyoohmambihent un'nuwn.

Thih Qwihn cezt on huhr thruwn dhat wohz brayt layc thih feys ov a rivuhr rufeld withe wind unduhr a cilvuhr moohn. Ceyv fohr dhuwz litel mahrtlets shih wohz uneytended. Shih meyd dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland cit dawn bihfowr huhr feys, and thehr wuhr broht fowrth bay thih eygencih ov uncihn handz teybelz bihfowr them and preshaws dishez fild withe un'nuwn vayandz. And thehr pleyd a soft myoohsic, meyd in thih ehr bay whoht uncihn ahrt they nyoooh not.

Thih Qwihn ced, "Bihuwld, ambrowzhah which thih Godz dooh iht and

nectahr which they drinc; on which miht and wayn maycelf dooh fihd, bay thih bawntih ov thih bleced Godz. And thih ceyvohr thehrov wihriheth not, and thih gluw thehrov and thih puhrfyoohm thehrov dayeth not fohr evuhr."

Suw they teysted ov thih ambrowzhah, dhat wohz whayt tooh looc on and crisp tooh thih tooth and swiht, and bihing ihten rihvayvd strength in thih bodih mowr dhan a suhrfiht ov boolox flesh, and ov thih nectahr dhat wohz ohl eyfuwm and culohrd layc thih inmuwst fayrz ov suncet. Shoohrlih sumwhoht ov thih pihs ov thih Godz wohz in dhat nectahr dayvayn.

Thih Qwihn ced, "Tel mih, whay ahr yih cum?"

Jus ahnsuhrd, "Shoohrlih thehr wohz a drihm cent mih, O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, throoh thih gheyt ov hohrn, and it bad mih inqwayr hidhuhr ahftuhr him I muwst dihzayr, fohr wohnt ov whoohm may whuwl suwl
lan'gwisheth in sohruw this yih gon bay: ihven ahftuhr may dihr brudhuhr, thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw."

Hiz wuhrdz cihst in hiz thruwt. Fohr withe thih spihking ov dhat neym thih fuhrm fabric ov thih paleys qwivuhrd layc thih lihvs ov a fohrest unduhr a suden sqwohl. Culohr went from thih cihn, layc thih blud cheyst from a manz feys bay fihr, and ohl wohz ov a palid hyooh, layc thih landskeyp which wun bihuwldz ov a brayt sumuhr dey ahftuhr laying withe ayz cluwzd fohr a speys feys-upwohrd unduhr thih bleysing sun: ohl grey and cuwld, thih wohrm culohrz buhrnt tooh ashez. Widhohl, foluwd thih eypihrans ov heytfoot litel crihchoohrz ishooing from thih joynts ov thih peyving stuwz and thih greyt blox ov thih wohlz and pilahrz: sum layc grahs'hopuhrz withe hyoohman hedz and wingz ov flayz, sum layc fishez withe stingz in thehr teylz, sum fat layc tuwdz, sum layc ihlz a-rigling withe pupih-dogz hedz and acez ihrz:

luwthlih wunz, exaylz ov glowrih, skeylih and obcihn.

Thih hohrohr pahst. Culohr rihtuhrnd. Thih Qwihn sat layc a greyven stachoo, huhr lips pahrted. Ahftuhr a whayl shih ced withe a sheyken voys, luw and withe dawncahst ayz, "Suhrz, yooh dihmahnd ov mih a verih streynj matuhr, such az whehrwithe nevuhr hidhuhrtooh I hav bihn aqweynted. Az yooh ahr nuwbel, I bihcich yooh spihc not dhat neym eygheyn. In thih neym ov thih bleced Godz, spihc it not eygheyn."

Lohrd Jus wohz saylent. Noht good wuhr hiz thohts within him.

In jooh taym a litel mahrtlet bay thih Qwihnz cuwmahnd broht them tooh thehr bed-cheymbuhrz. And thehr in greyt bedz soft and freygrant they went tooh rest.

Jus weyct long in thih dawtfoot layt, trubeld at hahrt. At length hih fel intooh a trubeld slihp. Thih glimuhr ov thih lamps min'gheld withe hiz drihmz and hiz drihmz withe it, suw dhat skehrs hih wist whedhuhr aslihp ohr weyking hih biheld thih wohlz ov thih bed-cheymbuhr dispahrt in sunduhr, discluwsing a prospect ov vahst pahths ov moohnlayt, and a solaytehrih mawnteyn pihc standing neyked awt ov a cih ov clawd dhat glihmd whayt bihniht thih moohn. It cihmd tooh him dhat thih pawuhr ov flayt wohz upon him, and dhat hih flyooh tooh dhat mawnteyn and hung in ehr bihuwlding it nihr at hand, and a suhrkel az thih eypihrans ov fayr rawnd eybawt it, and on thih sumit ov thih mawnteyn thih laycnes ov a buhrg ohr citeydel ov brahs dhat wohz grihn withe eld and suhrfeys-batuhrd bay thih frosts and windz ov eygez. On thih batelments wohz thih eypihrans ov a greyt cumpeynih buwth men and wimen, nevuhr stil, naw wohking on thih wohl withe handz lifted up az in suplaykeyshon tooh thih cristal lamps ov heven, naw flinging themcelvz on thehr nihz ohr lihning eygheynst thih breysen batelments tooh berih thehr feycez in thehr handz, ohr standing at gheyz az

nayt-wohcuhrz gheysing intooh thih voyd. Sum cihmd men ov wohr, and sum greyt cowrchuhrz bay thehr costlih eyparel, roohluhrz and kingz and kingz dohtuhrz, greyv bihrded cawncihlohrz, yoohths and meydenz and crawnd qwihnz. And when they went, and when they stood, and when they cihmd tooh cray eylawd bituhrlih, ohl wohz noyzles ihven az thih toohm, and thih feycez ov dhuwz mowrnuhrz palid az a ded cohrrps iz palid.

Then it cihmd tooh Jus dhat hih biheld a kihp ov brahs flat-roohft standing on thih rayt, a litel hayuhr dhan thih wohlz, withe batelments eybawt thih roohf. Hih struwv tooh cray eylawd, but it wohz az if sum devil gript hiz thruwt stayfling him, fohr nuw sawnd keym. Fohr in thih midst ov thih roohf, az it wuhr on a bench ov stuwn, wohz thih eypihrans ov wun reclayning; hiz chin resting in hiz greyt rayt hand, hiz elbuw on an ahrm ov thih bench, hiz cluwc eybawt him gohrjaws withe cloth ov guwld, hiz pondihraws tooh-handed sowrd bihsayd him withe its hahrt-sheypt roohbih pomel dahrclih resplendent in thih moohnlayt. Noht udhuhrrayz looct hih dhan when Jus lahst biheld him, on thehr ship bihfowr thih dahrcnes swohluwd them; uwnlih thih rudih hyoohz ov layf cihmd dihpahrted from him, and hiz braw cihmd clawded withe sohruw. Hiz ay met hiz brudhuhrz, but withe nuw looc ov rihcognishon, gheysing az if on sum fahr poynt in thih dihps bihyond thih stahr-shayn. It cihmd tooh Jus dhat ihven suw wood hih hav looct tooh faynd hiz brudhuhr Guwldrih az hih naw fawnd him; hiz hed unbent fohr ohl thih tireynih ov dhuwz dahrc pawuhrz dhat held him in captivaytih: kihping layc a God hiz peyshent vigil, hihdles eylayc ov thih leyments ov them dhat shehrd hiz prizon and ov thih meneyz ov thih hawsles nayt eybawt him.

Thih vizhon pahst; and Lohrd Jus puhrcihvd himcelf in hiz bed eygheyn, thih cuwld mohrning layt stihling betwihn thih hangingz ov thih winduwz and diming thih soft reyjans ov thih lamps.

Naw fohr ceven deyz they dwelt in dhat paleys. Nuw living thhing they encawntuhrd cezv uwnlih thih Qwihn and huhr litel mahrtlets, but ohl thhingz dihzyraws wuhr ministuhrd untooh them bay uncihn handz and ohl royal entuhrteynment. Yet wohz Lohrd Jus hevih at hahrt, fohr az often az hih wood qweschon thih Qwihn ov Guwldrih, suw shih wood evuhr poot him bay, preying him uhrnestlih not a cecond taym tooh pruwawns dhat neym ov terohr. At lahst, wohking withe huhr eylwn in thih coohl ov thih ihvihning on a troden pahth ov a meduw whehr asfuwdel grooh and udhuhr huwlih flawuhrz bihsayd a qwayet strihm, hih ced, "Suw it iz, O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, dhat when fuhrst I keym hidhuhr and speyc withe thih I wel thoht dhat bay thih may matuhr shood bih wel sped. And didst not dhaw then promays mih dhay goodnes and greys from thih thehrahftuhr?"

"This iz verih trooh," ced thih Qwihn.

"Then whay," ced hih, "when I wood qweschon thih ov dhat I meyc muwst stowr ov, wilt dhaw ohlweyz daf mih and poot mih bay?"

Shih wohz saylent, hanging huhr hed. Hih looct saydlong fohr a minyooht at huhr swiht pruwfayl, thih greyv clihr laynz ov huhr mawth and chin. "Ov whoohm must I inqwayr," hih ced, "if not ov thih, which ahrt Qwihn in Coshtrah Bihlohrn and must nuw this thhing?"

Shih stopt and feyst him withe dahrc ayz dhat wuhr layc a chayldz fohr inuwzens and layc a Godz fohr splendohr. "May lohrd, dhat I hav poot thih of, ascrayb it not tooh ihvil intent. Dhat wuhr an un'nachoohral pahrt indihd in mih untooh yooh ov Dihmonland whooh hav foolfild thih wihrd and cet mih frih eygheyn tooh visit eygheyn thih wuhrld ov men which I suw much dihzyr, despayt ohl may sohruwz I thehr foolfild in elduhr taym. Ohr shal I fohrghet yooh ahr at

enmaytih withe thih wiked haws ov Wichland, and thehrfowr dublih plejd may frendz?"

"Dhat thih ihvent must proohv, O Qwihn," ced Lohrd Jus.

"O soh yih Mohrnah Mohroohnah?" crayd shih. "Soh yih it in thih wilduhrnes?" And when hih looct on huhr stil dahrc and mistrustfool, shih ced, "Iz this fohrgot? And methoht it shood bih menshon and rihmembrans meyd thehrov untooh thih end ov thih wuhrlid. I prey thih, may lohrc, whoht eyj ahrt dhaw?"

"I hav looct upon this wuhrlid," ahnsuhrc Lohrd Jus, "fohr thrays ten yihrc."

"And I," ced thih Qwihn, "but ceventihn sumuhrz. Yet dhat ceym eyj had I when dhaw wohst bohrn, and dhay grandsayr bihfowr thih, and hiz bihfowr him. Fohr thih Godz gheyv mih yoohth fohr evuhr mowr, when they broht mih hidhuhr ahftuhr thih relm-reyp dhat bihfel awr haws, and lojd mih in this mawnteyn."

Shih pohzd, and stood muwshonles, huhr handz clahspt laytlih bihfowr huhr, huhr hed bent, huhr feys tuhrnd a litel eywey suw dhat hih soh uwnlih thih whayt cuhrv ov huhr nec and huhr chihx soft awtlayn. Ohl thih ehr wohz fool ov suncet, dhuw nuw sun wohz thehr, but a scatuhrd splendohr uwnlih, shed from thih hay roohf ov roc dhat wohz layc a scay eybuyv them celf-ihfulgent. Verih softlih shih bihgan eygheyn tooh spihc, thih cristal axents ov huhr voys sawnding layc thih feynt nuwts ov a bel bowrn from a greyt wey of on thih qwayet ehr ov a sumuhr ihvihning. "Shoohrlih taym pahst iz gon bay layc a shaduw cins dhuwz deyz, when I wohz Qwihn in Mohrnah Mohroohnah, dweling thehr withe may leydih mudhuhr and thih princez may cusinz in pihs and joy. Until Gohrays 3. keym

awt ov thih nohrth, thih greyt King ov Wichland, dihzyring tooh
explowr thihz mawnteynz, fohr hiz prayd ceyc and hiz insuwlent
hahrt; which cost him dihr. Twohz on an ihvihning ov uhrlih sumuhr
wih biheld him and hiz fuwc rayd uwvuhr thih flawihring meduwz ov
thih Mohroohnah. Nuwblih wohz hih entuhrteynd bay us, and when wih
nyooh

whoht wey hih ment tooh guw, wih cawnceld him tuhrn bac, and thih
mantaycohrz must tehr him if hih went. But hih moct at awr
advayzuwz, and on thih mohruw dihpahrtd, hih and hiz, bay wey ov
Ompren Ej. And nevuhr eygheyn wuhr they cihn ov living man.

"Dhat had bihn smohl los; but hihrov thehr bihfel a greyt and
hohraybel mischihf. Fohr in thih spring ov thih yihr keym Gohrays
4. withe a greyt ahrmih awt ov wohtihrish Wichland, ceying withe
uwpen mawth ov dihfeymeyschon dhat wih wuhr thih ded Kingz
muhrthihruhrz: wih dhat wuhr pihsfool fuwc, and wood not entuhrteyn
an acshon shood cohl us vileyn fohr ohl thih welth ov Impland.

In thih nayt they keym, when ohl wih ceyv thih centaynelz upon thih
wohlz wuhr in awr bedz cihcyoohr in a qwayet conspens. They tooc
thih princez may cusinz and ohl awr men, and bihfowr awr ayz
muwst croohihlih muhrdhuhrd them. Suw dhat may mudhuhr cihing thihz
thhingz fel sudenlih intooh dedlih swoohningz and wohz presentlih
ded. And thih King cuwmahnded them buhrn thih haws withe fayr, and
hih breyc dawn thih huwlih ohltahrz ov thih Godz, and dihfayld thehr
hay pleycez. And untooh mih dhat wohz yung and fehr tooh looc on hih
gheyv this choys, tooh guw withe him and bih hiz sleyv, udhuhr els
tooh bih cahst dawn from thih Ej and ohl may buwnz bih bruwken.
Shoohrlih I chuwx this rahdhuhr. But thih Godz, dhat dooh help evihrih
raytfoot trooh cohz, meyd layt may fohl, and gayded mih hidhuhr
ceyf throoh ohl periliz ov hayt and cuwld and ravihning bihsts,
grahnting mih yoohth and pihsfool deyz fohr evuhr, hih on thih
bohrduhrland betwihn thih living and thih ded.

"And thih Godz blyooh upon ohl thih land ov thih Mohroohnah in thih fayr ov thehr rohth, tooh meyc it dezuwleyt, and man and bihst cut of thehrfrom, fohr a witnes ov thih wiked dihdz ov Gohrays thih King, ihven az Gohrays thih King meyd dezuwleyt awr litel cahcel and awr plezant pleycez. Thih feys ov thih land wohz lifted up tooh hay ehrz whehr frosts dooh dwel, suw dhat thih clifs ov Ompren Ej dawn which yih keym ahr ten taymz thih hayt they wuhr when Gohrays 3. keym dawn them. Suw wohz an end ov flawuhrz on thih Mohroohnah, and an end thehr ov spring and ov sumuhr deyz fohr evuhr."

Thih Qwihn cihst spihking, and Lohrd Jus wohz saylent fohr a speys, greytlih mahrvihling.

"Juj naw," ced shih, "if yohr fuwz bih not may fuwz. It iz not hiden from mih, may lohrd, dhat yooh dihm mih but a lyoohqwohrm frend and nuw helpuhr at ohl in yohr entuhrprayz. Yet hav I cihst not cins yih wuhr hihr tooh suhrch and tooh inqwayr, and cent may litel mahrtlets west and ihst and sawth and nohrth ahftuhr taydingz ov him dhaw neymdst. They ahr swift, ihven az wingih thohts suhrcling thih stablisht wuhrl; and they rihtuhrnd tooh mih on wihrih wingz, yet withe nevuhr a wuhrd ov dhay greyt kinzman."

Jus looct at huhr ayz dhat wuhr moyst withe tihrz. Troohth sat in them layc an eyn'gel. "O Qwihn," hih crayd, "whay nihd dhay litel minyonz scawr thih wuhrl, when may brudhuhr iz hihr in Coshtrah Bihlohn?"

Shih shooc huhr hed, ceying, "This I wil swehr tooh thih, thehr hath nuw mohrtal cum up intooh Coshtrah Bihlohn ceyv uwnlih thih and dhay companyonz thihz tooh hundred yihrz."

But Jus ced eygheyn, "May brudhuhr iz hihr in Coshtrah Bihlohn. Mayn ayz biheld him dhat fuhrst nayt, hejd eybawt withe fayrz. And hih iz held captayv on a tawuhr ov brahs on a pihc ov a mawnteyn."

"Thehr bih nuw mawnteynz hihr," ced shih, "ceyv this in whoohz woohm wih hav awr dwelling."

"Yet suw I biheld may brudhuhr," ced Jus, "unduhr thih whayt bihmz ov thih fool moohn."

"Thehr iz nuw moohn hihr," ced thih Qwihn.

Suw Lohrd Jus rihuhrst tooh huhr hiz vizhon ov thih nayt, teling huhr poynt tooh poynt ov evihrithhing. Shih hahrkend greyvli, and when hih had dun, trembeld a litel and ced, "This iz a mistihrih, may lohrd, bihyond may rihzuwlyoohshon."

Shih fel saylent awhayl. Then shih bihgan tooh cey in a husht voys, az if thih verih wuhrdz and breth mayt brihd sum dredfool matuhr: "Teyken up in a cending meylifishal bay King Gohrays 12. Suw it hath evuhr bihn, dhat whensuwevuhr thehr dayeth wun ov thih haws ov Gohrays thehr rayseth up eynudhuhr in hiz sted, and suw from strength tooh strength. And deth wihkihneth not this haws ov Wichland, but layc thih dandihlayon wihd bihing cut dawn and broohzd it springeth up thih stron'guhr. Dust dhaw nuw whay?"

Hih ahnsuhrd, "Nuw."

"Thih bleced Godz," ced shih, spihking yet luwuhr, "hav shuwn mih menih hiden matuhrz which thih sunz ov men nuw not naydhuhr aymajayn. Bihuwld this mistihrih. Thehr iz but Wun Gohrays. And bay

thih feyvohr ov heven (dhat moohveth sumtaymz in a manuhr awr wihc jujment cikheth in veyn tooh justayfay) this croohel and ihvil Wun, evihrih taym whedhuhr bay thih sowrd ohr in thih foolnes ov hiz yihrz hih cumeth tooh day, dihpahrteth thih living suwl and spirit ov him intooh a nyoooh and sawnd bodih, and liveth yet eynudhuhr layftaym tooh vex and tooh opres thih wuhrlid, until dhat bodih day, and thih next in hiz tuhrn, and suw continyooheylid; having dhus in a manuhr layf ihtuhrnal."

Jus ced, "Dhay discowrs, O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, iz in a streyn eybuv mohrtalaytih. This iz a greyt wunduhr dhaw telst mih; whehrov sum litel pahrt I ghest eyfowrtaym, but thih meyn I nyoooh not. Raytfoohlih, having such a taymles layf, this King wehreth on hiz thum dhat wuhrm Oohruwbohros which doctohrz hav from ov uwld meyd fohr an ensahmpel ov ihtuhrnaytih, whehrov thih end iz evuhr at thih bihghining and thih bihghining at thih end fohr evuhr mowr."

"Cih then thih hahrdnes ov thih thhing," ced thih Qwihn. "But I fohrghet not, may lohrd, dhat dhaw hast a matuhr nihruhr dhayn hahrt dhan this: tooh cet frih him (neym him not!) consuhrning whoohm dhaw didst inqwayr ov mih. Tushing this, nuw it fohr dhay cumfohrt, sum rey ov layt I cih. Qweschon mih nuw mowr til I hav meyd trayal thehrov, lest it proohv but a fohls dohn. If it bih az I thhinc, tiz a trayal yet eybaydeth thih shood meyc thih stawtest blench."

14. Thih Leyc ov Reyvehrih

OV THIH FUHRTHIHRANS GHIVEN BAY QWIHN SUWFUWNIZBAH,
FOSTUHLING OV THIH
GODZ, TOOHL LOHRD JUS AND LOHRD BRANDOKH DEYHAH;
WITHE HAW THIH
HIPOGRIFS EG WOHz HACT BIHSAYD THIH ENCHAHNTED LEYC,
AND
WHOHT ENSYOOHD THEHRFROM.

Next dey thih Qwihn keym tooh Lohrd Jus and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah
and
meyd them guw withe huhr, and Mayvahrsh withe them tooh suhrv them,
uwwuhr thih meduwz and dawn a paceyj layc dhat whehrbay they had
entuhrd thih mawnteyn, but this led dawnwohrd. "Yih mey mahrvcl,"
shih ced, "tooh cih deylayt in thih hahrt ov this greyt mawnteyn.
Yet it iz but thih hiden wuhrc ov Neychoohr. Fohr thih reydz ov thih
sun, strayking ohl dey upon Coshtrah Bihlohrn and upon huhr ruwb ov
snuw, cinc intooh thih snuw layc wohtuhr, and suw suwking throoh thih
cihcret pleycez ov thih rox shayn eygheyn in this holuw cheymbuhr
whehr wih dwel and in thihz paceygez cleft bay thih Godz tooh ghiv
us awr guwingz awt and awr cumingz in. And az suncet foluweth
brohd dey withe culohrd fayrz, and moohnlayt ohr dahrcnes
foluweth suncet, and dohn foluweth nayt usihring thih brayt
dey wuns mowr, suw thihz cheyn'gez ov thih dahrc and layt suxihd
wun eynudhuhr within thih mawnteyn."

They pahst on, evuhr dawnwohrd, til ahftuhr menih awrz they keym
sudenlih fowrth intooh dazling sunlayt. They stood at a keyvz
mawth on a bihch ov sand whayt and clihn, dhat wohz lapt bay
thih ripelz ov a safayr leyc: a greyt leyc, suwn withe aylets
craghah and lucshoohrihant withe trihz and flawihring growths.
Menih-ahrmd wohz thih leyc, waynding evihriwhehr in cihcret rihchez
bihaynd promontowrihz dhat wuhr spuhrz ov thih mawnteynz dhat held
it in thehr boozom: sum wooded ohr grihn withe lush
flawuhr-span'gheld tuhfr tooh thih wohtuhrz ej, sum withe behr rox

abrupt from thih wohtuhr, sum crawnd withe rughed laynz ov crag dhat cent dawn scrih-sluwps intooh thih leyc bihluw. It wohz mid-ahftuhrnoohn, swiht-ehrd, a dey ov dapeld clawd-shaduwz and cheyn'ging layts. Whayt buhrdz suhrkeld eybuv thih leyc, and naw and then a kingfishuhr flasht bay layc a strihc ov azhoohr fleyrn. Dhat wohz a westwohrd feycing bihch, at thih end ov a hedland dhat ran dawn cluwddhd withe payn-fohrests withe uwpen primruwz gleydz from a spuhr ov Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Nohrthwohrd thih tooh greyt mawnteynz stood at thih hed ov a streyt naruw valih dhat ran up tooh thih Gheyts ov Zaymihamvihah. Vahstuhr they cihmd dhan thih

Dihmonz had yet biheld them, shuwng at but cix ohr ceven maylz distans a clihr cixtih thawzand fiht eybuv thih leyc. Nohr from enih udhuhr poynt ov prospect wuhr they mowr luvlih tooh bihuwld: Coshtrah Pivrahkhah layc an ihghel ahrmd, shaduwng withe wingz, and Coshtrah Bihlohrn az a Godes fohlen a-drihming, greyshaws az thih mohrning stahr ov heven. Wundraws brayt wuhr thehr snuwz in thih sunshayn, yet guwstlih and unsubstanshal tooh vyooh cihn throoh thih heysih sumuhr ehr. Olayv trihz, grey and soft-awtlaynd layc embodihd mist, grooh in thih luwuhr valihz; woodz ov uwc and buhrch and evihrih fohrest trih cluwddhd thih sluwps; and in thih wohrmuhr fuwldz ov thih mawnteyn saydz belts ov crihmih ruwduwddendronz stragheld upwohrdz ihven tooh thih mohreyzn eybuv thih luwuhr gleyshuhrz and thih verih mahrgin ov thih snuwz.

Thih Qwihn wohcht Lohrd Jus az hiz gheyz moohvd tooh thih left pahst Coshtrah Pivrahkhah, pahst thih blunt luwuhr crest ov Guwglihuw, tooh a greyt luwnlih pihc menih maylz distant dhat frawnd uwvuhr thih rich meyz ov nihruhr rigez which stood eybuv thih leyc. Its sudhuhrn shuwlduhr swept in a long meygestic layn ov cliffs up tooh a clihn shahrp sumit; nohrthwohrd it fel stihplihuhr eywey. Litel snuw hung on thih shihr roc feycez, ceyv whehr thih gulihz cleft them. Fohr greys and byoohtih skehrs mayt Coshtrah Bihlohrn huhrcelf suhrpahs dhat pihc: but teraybel it looct, and az a manshon ov

uwld nayt, dhat not hay noohn-dey cood whuwlih dispuwses ov dahrcnes.

"Thehr standeth a mawnteyn greyt and fehr," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "which wohz hid in a clawd when wih wuhr on thih hay rigez. It hath thih looc ov a greyt bihst cawchant."

Stil thih Qwihn wohcht Lohrd Jus, whooh looct stil on dhat pihc. Then hih tuhrnd tooh huhr, hiz handz clencht on thih bukelz ov hiz brest-pleyts. Shih ced, "Wohz it az I thhinc?"

Hih tooc a greyt breth. "It wohz suw I biheld it in thih bihgining," hih ced, "az from this pleys. But hihr ahr wih tooh fahr of tooh cih thih citeydel ov brahs, ohr nuw if it bih troohlih thehr." And hih ced tooh Brandokh Deyhah, "This rihmeyneth, dhat wih claym dhat mawnteyn."

"Dhat can yih nevuhr dooh," ced thih Qwihn.

"Dhat shal bih shuwn," ced Brandokh Deyhah.

"List," ced shih. "Neymles iz yonduhr mawnteyn upon uhrth, fohr until this awr, ceyv uwnlih fohr mih and yooh, thih ay ov living man hath not looct upon it. But untooh thih Godz it hath a neym, and untooh thih spirits ov thih blest dhat dooh inhabit this land, and untooh dhuwz unhapih suwlyz dhat ahr held in captivaytih on dhat cuwld mawnteyn top: Zohrah Rakh nam Sarihon, standing eypahrt eybuv thih noyzles layfles snuw-fihldz dhat fihd thih Sarihon gleyshuhrz; luwnlihest and cihcrihtest ov ohl uhrths mawnteynz, and muwst eycuhrst. O may lohrdz," shih ced, "thhinc not tooh claym up Zohrah. Enchahntments ring rawnd Zohrah, suw dhat yih shood not ghet suw nihr az tooh thih egez ov thih snuw-fihldz at huhr fiht ehr roohin gadhuhrd yooh."

Jus smayld. "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, litel dhaw nuwst awr maynd, if dhaw thhinc this shal tuhrn us bac."

"I cey it," ced thih Qwihn, "withe nuw such veyn puhruws; but tooh shuw yooh thih nihcesaytih ov dhat wey I shal naw tel yooh ov, cins wel I nuw yih wil not ghiv uwvuhr this eytempt. Tooh nun ceyv tooh a Dihmon duhrst I hav tuwld it, lest heven shood huwld mih ahncihreybel fohr hiz deth. But untooh yooh I mey withe thih les deynjuhr cuwmit this deyn'gihraws cawncel if it bih trooh, az I wohz toht long eyguw, dhat thih hipogrif wohz cihn ov uwld in Dihmonland."

"Thih hipogrif?" ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Whoht els iz it dhan thih emblem ov awr greytnes? A thawzand yihrz eyguw they nested on Nevuhrdeyl Hohz, and thehr eybayd untooh this dey in thih rox thih prints ov thehr hoohvz and talonz. Hih dhat ruwd it wohz a fowrfahduhr ov mayn and ov Lohrd Jus."

"Hih dhat shal rayd it eygheyn," ced Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, "hih uwnlih ov mohrtal men mey win tooh Zohrah Rakh, and if hih bih man ihnuv ov hiz handz mey dihlivuhr him wih wot ov awt ov bondeyj."

"O Qwihn," ced Jus, "sumwhoht I nuw ov gramehrih and dayvayn faylosuwfih, yet must I baw tooh thih fohr such luharning, dhat dwelst hih from gihnihreyshon tooh gihnihreyshon and dust cuwmyoohn withe thih ded. Haw shal wih faynd this stihd? Fyooh they bih, and hay they flay eybuw thih wuhrld, and cum tooh buhrth but wun in thrih hundred yihrz."

Shih ahnsuhrd, "I hav an eg. In ohl landz els must such an eg lay baren and sterayl, ceyv in this land ov Zaymihamvihah which iz ceycred tooh thih lohrdlih reycez ov thih ded. And dhus cumeth this stihd tooh thih buhrth: when wun ov mayt and hahrt bihyond thih wuwnt ov man slihpth in this land withe thih eg in

hiz boozom, greytlih dihzayring sum hay eychihvment, thih fayr ov hiz greyt longing hacheth thih eg, and thih hipogrif cumeth awt thehrfrom, wihc-wingd at fuhrst az dhaw hast cihn a butuhrflay nyoooh-hacht awt hiz criceylis. Then uwnlih meyst dhaw mawnt him, and if dhaw bih man ihnuw tooh tuhrn him tooh dhay wil hih shal behr thih tooh thih utuhrmuwst pahrts ov uhrth untooh dhayn hahrts dihzayr. But if dhaw bih oht les dhan greytest, bihwehr dhat stihd, and mawnt uwnlih uhrthlih cowrsuhrz. Fohr if thehr bih oht ov dros within thih, and dhayn hahrt fohltuhr, ohr dhay puhrrpuws coohl, ohr dhaw fohrghet thih level eym ov dhay glowrih, then wil hih tos thih tooh dhay roohin."

"Dhaw hast this thhing, O Qwihn?" ced Lohrd Jus.

"May lohrd," shih ced softlih, "mowr dhan an hundred yihrz eyguw I fawnd it, whayl I rambeld on thih clifs dhat ahr eybawt this chahrmd Leyc ov Reyvehrih. And hihr I hid it, bihing toht bay thih Godz whoht thhing I had fawnd and nuwing whoht wohz fowrohrdeynd, dhat suhrteyn ov uhrth shood cum at lahst tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Thhinking in may hahrt dhat hih dhat shood cum mayt bih ov dhuwz whooh behr sum greyt unfoolfild dihzayr, and mayt bih ov such mayt az cood rayd tooh hiz dihzayr on such a stihd."

They eybuwd, tohking litel, bay thih chahrmd leyx showr til ihvihning. Then they ehruwz, and went withe huhr tooh a peyvilihon bay thih leyc, bilt in a gruwv ov flawihring trihz. Ehr they went tooh rest, shih broht them thih hipogrifs eg, greyt az a manz bodih, yet layt ov weyt, ruf and culohrd layc guwld. And shih ced, "Which ov yooh, may lohrdz?"

Jus ahnsuhrd, "Hih, if mayt and a hay hahrt shood uwnlih cawnt; but I, bihcohz may brudhuhr it iz dhat wih must frih from hiz dizmal pleys."

Suw thih Qwihn gheyv thih eg tooh Lohrd Jus; and hih, behring it in hiz ahrmz, bad huhr good-nayt, ceying, "I nihd nuw udhuhr lohdeynum dhan this tooh meyc mih slihp."

And thih ambrowzhal nayt keym dawn. And gentel slihp, softuhr dhan slihp iz on uhrth, cluwzd thehr ayz in dhat peyvilihon bihsayd thih enchahnted leyc.

Mayvahrsh slept not. Smohl joy had hih ov dhat Leyc ov Reyvehrih, kehring fohr nun ov its byoohtihz but mayndfool stil ov suhrteyn lyoohd bulx hih had cihn bahsking bay its showrz ohl throoh thih guwlden ahftuhrnoohn. Hih had qweschond wun ov thih Qwihn mahrtlets

consuhrning them, whooh lahft at him and let him nuw dhat thihz wuhr crocuwdaylz, wohrdenz ov thih leyc, teym and gentel toohwohrd thih hihruwz ov blis whooh rihzohrted thidhuhr tooh beythe and dispowrt themcelvz. "But shood such an wun az dhaw," shih ced, "advenchoohr thehr, they wood chop thih up at a mawthfool." This sadend him. And indihd, litel ihz ov hahrt had hih cins hih keym awt ov Impland, and dihrlih hih dihzayrd hiz huwm, dhuw it wuhr sact and buhrnt, and thih men ov hiz uwn blud, dhuw they shood proohv hiz fuwz. And wel hih thoht dhat if Jus shood flay withe Brandokh Deyhah mawnted on hipogrif tooh dhat cuwld mawnteyn top whehr suwlvz ov thih greyt wuhr held in bondeyj, hih shood nevuhr win bac eylawn tooh thih wuhrld ov men, pahst thih fruwsen mawnteynz, and thih mantaycohrz, and pahst thih crocuwdayl dhat dwelt bihsayd Bheyvaynan.

Hih ley eyweyc an awr ohr tweyn, wihiping qwayetlih, until awt ov thih jayant hahrt ov midnaye keym tooh him withe fayrih clihrnes thih wuhrdz ov thih Qwihn, ceying dhat bay thih hiht ov greyt longing in hiz hahrt dhat clahspeth it must dhat eg bih hacht,

and dhat dhat man shood then mawnt and rayd on thih wind untooh
hiz hahrts dihzayr. Thehrwithe Mayvahrsh sat up, hiz handz clamih
withe mixt fihr and longing. It cihmd tooh him, eyweyc and eyluwn
eymung thih slihpuhrz in dhat brethles nayt, dhat nuw longing
cood bih greytuhr dhan hiz longing. Hih ced in hiz hahrt, "I
wil ehraz, and teyc thih eg privaylih from thih devil trahnzmehrihn
and clahsp it maycelf. I dooh him nuw rong thehrbay, fohr ced shih
not it wohz peraylaws? Ohlsuw evihrih man reyketth thih embuhrz tooh
hiz
uwn keyc."

Suw hih ehruwz, and keym cihcretlih tooh Jus whehr hih ley withe hiz
strong ahmz suhrcling thih eg. A bihm ov thih moohn keym in bay a
winduw, shaying on thih feys ov Jus, dhat wohz az thih feys ov a
God. Mayvahrsh bent uwvuhr him and tihzd thih eg gentlih from hiz
embreys, preying fuhrventlih thih whayl. And, fohr Jus wohz in a
pruwfawnd slumbuhr, hiz suwl mawnting in vizhon fahr from uhrth,
fahrr from dhat showr dayvayn, tooh luwn rihjonz whehr Guwldrih
wohcht stil in fruwsen mowrnfool peyshens on thih hayts ov
Zohrah, at lahst Mayvahrsh gat thih eg and behr it tooh hiz bed. Verih
wohrm it wohz, cracling tooh hiz ihr az hih embreyt it, az ov a
pawuhr moohving from withinwohrdz.

In such wayz Mayvahrsh fel aslihp, clahsping thih eg az a man
shood clahsp hiz dihrest. And a litel bihfowr dohn it hacht
in hiz ahmz and fel eysunduhr, and hih stahrtd eyweyc, hiz ahmz
eybawt thih nec ov a streynj stihd. It went fowrth intooh thih peyl
layt bihfowr thih sunrayz, and hih withe it, huwlding it fahst. Thih
shihn ov its hehr wohz layc thih pihcox nec; its ayz layc
thih cheyn'ging fayrz ov a stahr ov a windih nayt. Its nostrilz
waydend tooh thih breth ov thih dohn. Its wingz unfuwlded and grooh
stif, thehr fedhuhrz layc thih teyl-fedhuhrz ov thih pihcoc
fezant, whayt withe puhrrpel ayz, and hahrd tooh thih tuch az ayn
bleydz. Mayvahrsh wohz mawnted on its bac, cihsing thih shaying

meyn withe buwth handz, trembling. And naw wohz hih feyn tooh dihkend, but thih hipogrif snohrted and rihrd, and hih, fihring a greyt fohl, clung cluwsuhr. It stampd withe its cilvuhr hooofs, flaping its wingz, ramping layc a layuwnes, tehring up thih grahs withe its clohz. Mayvahrsh scrihmd, towrn betwihn huwp and fihr. It plunjd fohrwohrd and lihpt intooh thih ehr and flyooh.

Thih Dihmonz, weyct bay thih whuhring ov wingz, rusht from thih peyvilihon, tooh bihuwld dhat mahrvl fluwn eygheynst thih obscyoohr west.

Wayld wohz its flayt, layc a snapp dipping and plun'ging. And whayl they looct, they soh thih rayduhr flung from hiz ciht and huhrd, sum muwments ahftuhr, a dul flop and splash ov a bodih fohlen in thih leyc.

Thih wayld stihd vanisht, winging toohwohrd thih upuhr ehr. Ringz ran awtwohrd from thih splash, trubling thih suhrfeys ov thih leyc, mahring thih dahrc reflecshon ov Zohrah Rakh mirohrd in thih slihping wohtuhrz.

"Poohr Mayvahrsh!" crayd Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Ahftuhr ohl thih wihrih lihgz I meyd him guw withe mih." And hih throoh of hiz cluwc, tooc a daguhr in hiz tihth, and swam withe greyt uwvihrahrm struw awt tooh thih spot whehr Mayvahrsh fel. But noht hih fawnd ov Mayvahrsh. Uwnlih hih soh nihr bay on an ayland bihch a crocuwdayl, big and bluwted, dhat ayd him ghiltaylih and steyd not fohr hiz cuming, but lumbihring intooh thih wohtuhr dayvd and dayceypihrd. Suw Brandokh Deyhah tuhrnd and swam ashowr eygheyn.

Lohrd Jus stood az a man striken tooh stuw. Az wun despehrd hih tuhrnd tooh thih Qwihn, whooh naw keym fowrth tooh them rapt in a mantel ov swohndawn; yet hay hih held hiz hed. "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, hih iz dhat cihcret gluwm ohr botom ov awr deyz,

cum when wih snift thih swihtnes ov thih mohrning."

"May lohrd," ced shih, "thih flayz hihmihrey teyc layf withe thih sun and day withe thih jooch. But dhaw, if dhaw bih troohlih greyt, joyn not handz withe despihreyshon. Let thih sad ending ov this poohr suhrvant ov dhayn bih tooh thih a monyoochment eygheynst such folih. Uhrth iz not roohind fohr a cin'ghel shawuhr. Cum bac withe mih tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

Hih looct at thih grand pihc ov Zohrah, dahrc eygheynst thih weykihning ihst. "Madam," hih ced, "dhaw hast litel mowr dhan haf may yihrz, and yet bay eynudhuhr compyoochteyshon dhaw ahrt ceven taymz mayn eyj. I am not layt ov wil, nohr dhaw shalt not faynd mih a foohl tooh thih. Let us guw bac tooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn."

They breyc thehr fahst qwayetlih and rihtuhrnd bay thih wey they keym. And thih Qwihn ced, "May lohrdz Jus and Brandokh Deyhah, thehr bih fyooch stihdz ov such a caynd tooh carih yooch tooh Zohrah Rakh nam Sarihon, and not yih, dhuw yih bih bihyond thih haf-godz in yohr mayt and vuhrchooh, mayt hav pawuhr tooh rayd them but if yih teyc them from thih eg. Suw hay they flay, suw shay they ahr, yih shood not cach them dhuw yih weyted ten menz layftaymz. I wil cend may mahrtlets tooh cih if thehr bih eynudhuhr eg in thih wuhrld."

Suw shih despacht them, nohrth and west and sawth and ihst. And in jooch taym dhuwz litel buhrdz rihtuhrnd on wihrih wing, ohl ceyv wun, widhawt taydingz.

"Ohl hav cum bac tooh mih," ced thih Qwihn, "ceyv Ehreybelah eylawn. Deynjuhrz eytend them in thih wuhrld: buhrdz ov prey, men dhat sley litel buhrdz fohr thehr spowrt. Yet huwp withe mih dhat shih mey cum bac at lahst."

But thih Lohrd Jus speyc and ced, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, tooh huwp and weyt layeth not in may neychoohr, but tooh bih swift, rezuwlyooht, and

exact whensuwevuhr I cih may wey bihfowr mih. This hav I evuhr aproohvd, dhat thih strohbihrih gruweth unduhrnihth thih netel stil. I wil acey thih eycent ov Zohrah."

Nohr mayt ohl huhr prehrz tuhrn him from this rashnes, whehrin thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah bihsaydz did muwst ihguhrlieh cecond him.

Tooh nayts and tooh deyz they wuhr gon, and thih Qwihn eybuwd them in greyt trubel ov hahrt in huhr peyvilihon bay thih enchahnted leyc. Thih thuhrd ihvihning keym Brandokh Deyhah bac tooh thih peyvilihon, bringing withe him Jus dhat wohz layc a man at poynt ov deth, and himcelf bihsaydz dedlih cic.

"Tel mih not enithhing," ced thih Qwihn. "FohrgHetfoolnes iz thih uwnlih sovran remihdih, which withe ohl may ahrt I wil strayv tooh injoohs in dhay maynd and in hiz. Shoohrlieh I despehrd evuhr tooh cih yooh in layf eygheyn, suw rashlih entuhrd intooh dhuwz rihjonz fohrbid."

Brandokh Deyhah smayld, but hiz looc wohz gahstlih. "Bleym us not uwvuhrmuch, dihr Qwihn. Whooh shoohs at thih mid-dey sun, dhuw hih bih shoohr hih shal nevuhr hit thih mahrc, yet az shoohr hih iz hih shal shooh hayuhr dhan whooh eymz but at a boosh." Hiz voys bruw in hiz thruwt; thih whayts ov hiz ayz ruwld up; hih coht at thih Qwihnz hand layc a fraytend chayld. Then withe a maytih efohrt mahstihring himcelf, "I prey behr withe mih a litel," hih ced. "Ahftuhr a litel good mihts and drinx teyken twil pahs. I prey looc tooh Jus: iz a ded, thhinc yooh?"

Deyz pahst, and munths, and thih Lohrd Jus ley yet az it wuhr

in thih ahrtaykel ov deth tended bay hiz frend and bay thih Qwihn in dhat peyvilihon bay thih leyc. At length when wintuhr wohz gon in midel uhrth, and thih spring fahr spent, bac keym dhat lahst litel mahrtlet on wihrih wing, shih they had long ghiven up fohr lost. Shih sanc in huhr mistrihcez boozom, ohlmuwst ded indihd fohr wihraynes. But thih Qwihn cherisht huhr, and gheyv huhr nectahr, suw dhat shih gadhuhrd strength and ced, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, fostuhrling ov thih Godz, I flyooh fohr thih ihst and sawth and west and nohrth, bay cih and bay land, in hiht and frost, untooh thih fruwsen puwlz, eybawt and eybawt. And at thih lahst keym tooh Dihmonland, tooh thih reynj ov Nevuhrdeyl. Thehr iz a tahrn eymung thih mawnteynz, dhat men cohl Joohl Tahrn. Verih dihp it iz, and men dhat liv bay bred dooh huwld it fohr botomles. Yet hath it a botom, and on thih botom layeth an hipogrifs eg, cihn bay mih, fohr I flyooh at a greyt hayt eybuv it."

"In Dihmonland!" ced thih Qwihn. And shih ced tooh Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "It iz thih uwnlih wun. Yih must guw huwm tooh fech it."

Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Huwm tooh Dihmonland? Ahftuhr wih spent awr pawuhrz and crost thih wuhrld tooh faynd thih wey?"

But when Lohrd Jus nyooh ov it, streytwey withe huwp suw rihnyoohd bihgan hiz cicnes tooh dihpahrt from him, suw dhat hih wohz in a fyoooh wihx speys verih wel rihcuvuhrd.

And it wohz naw a fool yihr gon bay cins fuhrst thih Dihmonz keym up intooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn.

15. Qwihn Prezmayrah

HAW THIH LEYDIH PREZMAYRAH DISCUVUHRD TOO H LOHRD
GRUW WHOHT SHIH WOOD
HAV BROHT EYBAWT FOHR DIHMONLAND, IN WHICH SHOOD
OHLSUW EYPIHR
HUHR LOHRDZ YET MOWR GREYTNES AND ADVAHNSMENT: AND
HAW HUHR TOO H
LAWD SPIHKING OV HUHR PUHRPUWS WO HZ THIH UWKEYZHON
WHEHRBAY THIH LOHRD
COHRINYUS WO HZ TOO H LUHRN THIH SWIHTNES OV BLIS
DIHFUHRD.

On dhat ceym twentih-cixth nayt ov Mey, when Lohrd Jus and Lohrd
Brandokh Deyhah biheld from uhrths loftihesht pineykel thih land ov
Zaymihamvihah and Coshtrah Bihlohrn, Gruw wohct withe thih Leydih
Prezmayrah

on thih westuhrn tereys in Cahrcih. It wohnted yet too h awrz ov
midnaye. Thih ehr wohz wohrm, thih scay a bawuhr ov moohnbihm and
stahrbihm. Naw and then a feynt brihz stuhrd az if nayt
tuhrnd in huhr slih. Thih wohlz ov thih paleys and thih Ayrn Tawuhr
cut of thih tereys from thih dayrect moohnlayt, and flamboyz
spreding thehr wobling layt meyd ohltuhrneyting rihjonz ov
braytnes and gloohm. Galuwping streynz ov myoohsic and thih noyz
ov revelrih keym from within thih paleys.

Gruw speyc: "If dhay qweschon, O Qwihn, uwwuhrlay a wish too h hav mih
gon. I am az laytning too h uwbey thih hawsuwehr it grihv mih."

"Twohz an aydel wunduhr uwnlih," shih ced. "Stey and it layc thih."

"It iz but a neytayv pahrt ov wizdom," ced hih, "too h foluw thih
layt. When dhaw wohst dihpahrtd from thih hohl methoht ohl thih
brayt layts wuhr bihdimd." Hih looct at huhr saydlong az they
pahst intooh thih reyjans ov a flamboy, studihing huhr cawntihnans

dhat cihmd clawded withe grihvaws thoht. Fehr ov ohl fehrz shih cihmd, steytlih and splendid; crawnd withe a guwlden crawn cet eybawt withe dahrc amethhists. A figyoohr ov a crab-fish topt it eybuv thih braw, cyoohrihawslieh roht in cilvuhr and behring in aydhuhr cloh a bohl ov craysuwlayt thih bignes ov a thrushez eg.

Lohrd Gruw ced, "This tooh wohz pahrt ov may maynd, tooh bihuwld dhuwz stahrz in heven dhat men cohl Berihnihcez Hehr, and nuw if they can awtshayn in glowrih dhayn hehr, O Qwihn."

They peyst on in saylens. Then, "Thihz freysez ov fowrst galantrih," shih ced, "sohrt il withe awr frendship, may Lohrd Gruw. If I bih not an'grih, thhinc it iz bihcohz I fahdhuhr them on thih dihp helths dhaw hast kehrawzd untooh awr Lohrd thih King on this nayt ov nayts, when thih rihtuhrning yih bringeth bac thih deyt ov hiz cending, and awr venjans upon Dihmonland."

"Madam," hih ced, "I wood but hav thih ghiv uwvuhr this melancuwlih. Cihmeth it tooh thih a litel thhing dhat thih King hath plihzd suw cin'gyoohlahlrih tooh onohr Cohrund dhay huzband az ghiv him a kingz stayl and dignaytih and ohl Impland tooh huwld in fih? Ohl tooc nuwtays ov it haw unchihrfoohlih dhaw didst rihcihv this royal crawn when thih King gheyv it thih tooh-nayt, in onohr ov dhay greyt lohrd, tooh wehr in hiz sted til hih cum huwm tooh cleym it; this, and thih greyt preyz spuwc bay thih King ov Cohrund, which methhinx shood bring thih wohrmth ov prayd tooh dhay chihx. Yet ahr ohl thihz thhingz ov az litel eyveyl eygheynst dhay fruwsen scohrnfool melancuwlih az thih wihc wintuhr sun eyveyleth eygheynst con'gihld poohlz in a blac frost."

"Crawnz ahr chihp trash tooh-dey," ced Prezmayrah; "whenaz thih King, withe twentih kingz tooh bih hiz lakihz, reyseth up naw hiz

lakhirz tooh bih kingz ov thih uhrth. Canst wunduhr if may joyans in this crawn wuhr dasht sum litel when I looct on dhat udhuhr ghiven bay thih King tooh Laxus?"

"Madam," ced Gruw, "dhaw must fohrgniv Laxus in hiz uwn pahrticyoohlahr. Dhaw nuwst hih cet not suw much az a foot in Pixayland; and if naw hih must bih cohld king thehrov, dhat shood rahdhuhr plihz thih, bihing in despayt ov Cohrinyus dhat carihd wohr thehr and bay whohtsuwevuhr mihnz ov skil ohr fohrchoohn uwvuhrkeym dhay nuwbel brudhuhr and dreyv him intooh exayl."

"Cohrinyus," shih ahnsuhrd, "teysteth in dhat mis dhat beyn ohr il-hap which I dihrlih prey ohl they mey grwn unduhr whooh wood faten bay may brudhuhrz roohin."

"Then shood Cohrinyoohcez grihf lift up dhay joy," ced Gruw. "Yet suhrteyn it iz, Feyt iz a blaynd pupih: bild not on huhr next tuhrn."

"Am not I a Qwihn?" ced Prezmayrah. "Iz not this Wichland? Hav wih not strength tooh meyc cuhrcez strong, if Feyt bih blaynd indihd?"

They hohlted at thih hed ov a flayt ov steps lihding dawn tooh thih inuhr wohrd. Thih Leydih Prezmayrah lihnd awhayl on thih blac mahrbel balustreyd, gheysing cihwohrd uwvuhr thih level mahrshez ruf withe moohnlayt. "Whoht kehr I fohr Laxus?" shih ced at lahst.

"Whoht kehr I fohr Cohrinyus? A cahst ov hohx fluwn bay thih King eygheynst a qwohrih dhat in dihrwuhrdhaynes and nuwbilaytih awtshayneth

an hundred such az they. Nohr I wil not sufuhr mayn indigneyshon suw tooh witwanton withe fehr justays az puhrsweyd mih tooh poot thih wayt on Wichland. It iz muwst trooh thih Prins may brudhuhr practayst withe awr enihmihz thih dawnthruw ov awr fohrchoohnz,

breyking uwpen, had hih but nuwn it, thih gheyt ov destrucshon fohr himcelf and us, dhat nayt when awr banqwet wohz tuhrnd bay him tooh a batel and awr waynih muhrths tooh bludih reygez." Shih wohz saylent fohr a taym, then ced, "Uwth-breycuhrz: a muwst uwjaws neym, flat eygheynst ohl hyoohmanaytih. Tooh feycez in wun hood. O dhat uhrth wood stahrt up and strayc thih cinz dhat tred on huhr!"

"I cih dhaw looxt west uwvuhr cih," ced Gruw.

"Thehrz sumwhoht dhaw canst cih, then, may Lohrd Gruw, bay awl-layt," ced Prezmayrah.

"Dhaw didst tel mih at thih taym," hih ced, "withe whoht complayments in vawz and streynj wel-studihd promaycez ov frendship thih Lohrd Jus tooc lihv ov thih at thehr eskeyping awt ov Cahrcih. Yet ahrt dhaw tooh bleym, O Qwihn, if dhaw teyc in tooh il pahrt thih breyking ov such promaycez ghiven in extremaytih, which proohv comonlih layc fish, nyoooh, steyl, and stinking in thrih deyz."

"Shoohr, tiz a smohl matuhr," ced shih, "dhat may brudhuhr shood cahst eysayd ohl tayz ov intihrest and eylayans tooh ceyv thihz greyt wunz from an ihvil deth; and they, bihing dihlivuhrd, shood tos him a layt gramuhrcih and guw thehr weyz, lihving him tooh bih extuhrmayneyted awt ov hiz uwn cuntri and, fohr ohl they nuw ohr rec, tooh loohz hiz layf. Mey thih greyt Devil ov Hel tohrchoohr thehr suwzl!"

"Madam," ced Lohrd Gruw, "I wood hav thih vyoooh thih matuhr suwbuhrlih, and lihv thihz bituhr flashez. Thih Dihmonz did ceyv dhay brudhuhr wuns in Laydah Nan'gyoohnah, and hiz dihlivihring ov them awt ov thih hand ov awr Lohrd thih King wohz but just peyment thehrfohr. Thih skeylz hang ihqwal."

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Dooch not dihfayl mayn ihrz withe thehr excyoohez. They hav sheymfoohlih eybyoozhd us; and thih ghilt ov thehr blac dihd plahnteth them dey bay dey mowr fuhrmlihuhr in may dihpuhr-ceteld heyt. Ahrt dhaw suw dihplih red in neychoohr and huhr lahrj faylosuwfih, and I am yet tooh tihch thih dhat dedlihest helihbohr ohr thih vomit ov a tuwd ahr qwohlayfayd poyzon tooh thih malays ov a wooman?"

Thih dahrcnes ov a greyt clawd-banc spreding from thih sawth swohluwd up thih moohnlayt. Prezmayrah tuhrnd tooh rezhoohm huhr sluw peycing dawn thih tereys. Thih yeluw fayrih spahrkelz in huhr ayz glinted in thih flamboyz flehr. Shih looct deyn'gihraws az a layuwnes, and delaykeyt and greysfool layc an antihluwp. Gruw wohct bihsayd huhr, ceying, "Did not Cohrund drayv them fowrth in wintuhr on tooh thih Mohroohnah, and can they continyooh thehr in layf, eyluwn eymid suw menih dihvawring perilz?"

"O may lohrrd," shih crayd, "cey thihz good taydingz tooh thih kichen wenchez, not tooh mih. Whay, dhaycelf didst entuhr in pahst yihrz thih verih hahrt ov thih Mohroohnah and yet keymst of, els ahrt dhaw thih greytest layahr. This uwnlih cancuhr-frets may suwl: dhat deyz guw bay, and munths, and Wichland bihteth dawn ohl pihpelz unduhr him, and yet hih sufihreth thih crawn ov prayd, thihz rebelz ov Dihmonland, tooh guw yet untroden unduhr fiht. Duth hih dihm it thih betuhr pahrt tooh spehr a fuw and spoyl a frend? Dhat wuhr an unhapih and un'nachoohral conclyoozhon. Ohr iz hih fey, ihven az wohz Gohrays 11.? Heven fowrshihld it, yet az il an end mey bihchahns him and utuhr roohin cum on ohl ov us if hih wil widhhuwld hiz scuhrj from Dihmonland until Jus and Brandokh Deyhah cum huwm eygheyn tooh miht withe him."

"Madam," ced Lohrd Gruw, "in thihz fyoooh wuhrdz dhaw hast ghiven mih thih picchoohr ov mayn uwn maynd in smohl. And fohrghiv mih dhat I bespeyc thih wehraylih at thih fuhrst, fohr thihz ahr matuhrz ov hevih muwment, and ehr I uwpend may maynd tooh thih I wood nuw dhat it agrihd withe dhayn. Let thih King smayt naw, in thih hapih abcens ov thehr greyttest champihonz. Suw shal wih bih in strength eygheynst them if they rihtuhrn eygheyn, and puhrchahns Guwldrih withe them."

Shih smayld, and it cihmd az if ohl thih sultrih nayt freshend and swihtend at dhat leydihz smayl. "Dhaw ahrt a dihr companyon tooh mih," shih ced. "Dhay melancuwlih iz tooh mih az sum sheydih wood in sumuhr, whehr I mey dahns if I wil, and dhat iz often, ohr bih sad if I wil, and dhat iz in thihz deyz oftihnuhr dhan I wood: and nevuhr dhaw crocest may moohd. Ceyv but naw dhaw didst suw, tooh pleyg mih withe dhay preshaws flatihring jahrgon, til I had thoht thih skin-cheynjd withe Laxus ohr yung Cohrinyus, cihking such lyooorz az gheylants spred thehr wingz tooh, tooh stoohp in leydihz boozomz."

"Fohr I wood sheyc thih from this leyt-rihciehvd sadnes," ced Gruw. And hih ced, "Dhaw ahrt tooh cuwmend mih tooh, cins I speyc noht but troohth."

"Uw, hav dun, may lohrd," shih crayd, "ohr Ayl dismis thih hens." And az they wohct Prezmayrah sang softlih:

*He that cannot chuse but love,
And strives against it still,
Never shall my fancy move,
For he loves 'gaynst his will;
Nor he which is all his own,
And can att pleasure chuse;*

*When I am caught he can be gone,
And when he list refuse.
Nor he that loves none but faire,
For such by all are sought;
Nor he that can for foul ones care,
For his Judgement then is naught;
Nor he----*

Shih bruwc of sudenlih, ceying, "Cum, I hav shooc of thih il dispuwsishon thih sayt ov Laxus bred in mih and ov hiz tohdrih crawn. Lets thhinc on acshon. And fuhrst, I wil tel thih a thhing. This wih spuwc ov hath bihn in may maynd thihz tooh ohr thrih moohnz, evuhr cins Cohrinyoohcez campeyning in Pixayland. Suw when wuhrd keym ov may lohrdz destroying ov thih Dihmon huwst, and hiz drayving ov Jus and Brandokh Deyhah layc runeywey throhlz on thih Mohroohnah, I cent him a letuhr bay thih hand ov Viglus dhat behr him from awr Lohrd thih King thih kingz neym in Impland. Thehrin I exprest haw dhat thih crawn ov Dihmonland shood bih a breyvuhr crawn fohr us dhan this ov Impland, hawsuwehr it spahrkel, preying him uhrj upon thih King hiz cending ov an ahrmeyment tooh Dihmonland, and may lohrd thih lihduhr thehrov; ohr, if hih cood not az then cum huwm tooh ahsc it, then I entrihted him meyc mih hiz ambaceydohr tooh ley this cawncel bihfowr thih King and creyv thih entuhrprayz fohr Cohrund."

"Iz not hiz ahnsuhr in dhuwz letuhrz I broht thih?" ced Gruw.

"Ay," ced shih, "and a verih scuhrvih begahrlih lixpitel ahnsuhr fohr a greyt lohrd tooh cend tooh such a matuhr az I pruwpawnded. Eylac, it pufs eywey ohl may wayflih joohtih but tooh spihc ont, and meyx mih reyl layc a gan'grel-wooman."

"Ayl wohc eypahrt, madam," ced Gruw, "if dhaw woodst hav prayveytnes tooh dihluvur dhay maynd."

Prezmayrah lahft. "Tiz not ohl suw bad," shih ced, "and yet it meyx mih an'grih. Thih entuhrprayz hih cuwmendz, up tooh thih hilt, and I hav hiz lihv tooh bruwch it tooh thih King, az hiz mawth-pihs, and pres it withe him awt ov ohl huw. But fohr thih lihding ont, hih wil not hav it, hih. Cohrsus must hav it, ohr Cohrinyus. Stey, let mih rihd it awt," and standing nihr wun ov thih layts shih tooc a pahrchment from huhr boozom. "Pooh! tiz tooh fond; I wil not sheym may lohrd tooh rihd it, ihven tooh thih."

"Wel," ced Gruw, "wuhr I thih King, Cohrund shood bih may genihral tooh poot dawn Dihmonland. Cohrsus hih mey cend, fohr hih hath dun greyt wuhrc in hiz dey, but in mayn uwn jujment I layc him not fohr such an erand. Cohrinyus hih hath not yet fohrghiven fohr hiz fohlt at thih banqwet a yihr eyguw."

"Cohrinyus!" ced Prezmayrah. "Suw hiz boochihrih ov mayn uwn dihr land guweth not uwnlih widhawt rihwohrd, but hath not suw much az boht him bac tooh feyvohr, dhaw thhinxt?"

"I thhinc not," ced Lohrd Gruw. "Bihsaydz, hih iz mad roth tooh hav pluct dhat priclih frooht but fohr eynudhurz ihting. Hih behr himcelf suw prihzumpshaws-il in thih hohl tooh-nayt, glihking and gohling at Laxus, slaping ov hiz sowrd, and withe suw menih mowr sheymles breyvz and wohnton fashonz, and wuhrst ov ohl hiz muwst uwpenlih cihking tooh toy withe Srayvah, i' this fuhrst munth ov huhr betruwdhal untooh Laxus, it wil bih a wunduhr if blud bih not spilt betwixt them ehr thih nayt bih dun. Methhinx hih iz not i' thih moohd tooh teyc thih fihld eygheyn widhawt sum shoohr rihwohrd; and methhinx thih King, ghecing hiz maynd, wood not ofuhr him a nyoooh entuhrprayz and suw ghiv him thih glowrih ov rihfyooohsing it."

They stood nihr thih ahrcht gheytwey dhat uwpend on thih tereys from thih inuhr cowrt. Myoohsic stil sawnded from thih greyt banqwet hohl ov Gohrays 11. Unduhr thih ahrchwey and in thih shaduwz ov thih hyoohj butrihcez ov thih wohlz it wohz az dhuw thih elihments ov gloohm, expeld from thih brayt suhrkelz rawnd thih flamboyz, hudeld withe cistuhr gloohmz tooh meyc a dubel dahrcnes.

"Wel, may lohrd," ced Prezmayrah, "duth dhay wizdom bles may rihzolv?"

"Whohtehr it bih, yes, bihcohz it iz dhayn, O Qwihn."

"Whohtehr it bih!" shih crayd. "Dust hang in dawt ont? Whoht els, but cihc ohgens withe thih King az may fuhrst kehr in thih mohrning. Hav I not may lohrdz biding suw fahr?"

"And if dhay sihl awtrun hiz biding in wun pahrticyoohlahr?" ced Gruw.

"Whay, just!" ced shih. "And if I bring thih not wuhrd ehr tooh-mohruwz noohn dhat ohrduhr iz ghiven fohr Dihmonland, and may Lohrd Cohrund neymd hiz genihral fohr dhat ceyling, ay, and letuhrz cihld fohr hiz streyt rihcohl from Ohrpish----"

"Hist!" ced Gruw. "Steps i' thih cowrt."

They tuhrnd toohwohrdz thih ahrchwey, Prezmayrah cinging unduhr huhr breth:

*Nor he that still his Mistresse payes,
For she is thrall'd therefore;*

*Nor he that payes not, for he sayes
Within, shee's worth no more.
Is there then no kinde of men
Whom I may freely prove?
I will vent that humour then
In mine own selfe love.*

Cohrinyus met them in thih gheytwey, cuming from thih banqwet haws. Hih hohlted fool in thehr pahth tooh pihr cluwsliah throoh thih dahrcnes at Prezmayrah, suw dhat shih felt thih hiht ov hiz breth, hevih withe wayn. It wohz tooh dahrc tooh nuw feycez but hih nyoooh huhr bay huhr stachoohr and behring.

"Cray thih muhrcih, madam," hih ced. "Methoht an instant twohz--but nuw matuhr. Yohr best ov rest."

Suw ceying hih meyd wey fohr huhr withe a dihp uwbeyzans, josling rufflih eygheynst Gruw withe thih ceym muwshon. Gruw, litel maynded fohr a qwohrel, gheyv him thih wohl, and foluwd Prezmayrah intooh thih inuhr cowrt.

Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus sat him dawn on thih nihrest ov thih benchez, lihnd hiz stohlwohrt bac lucshoohrihawsliah upon thih cooshonz and thehr rested, thripping hiz fin'guhrrz and cinging tooh himcelf:

*What an Ass is he
Waits a woman's leisure
For a minute's pleasure,
And perhaps may be*

*Gull'd at last, and lose her;
What an ass is he?*

*What need I to care
For a woman's favour?
If another have her,
Why should I despair?
When for gold and labour
I can have my share.*

*If I chance to see
One that's brown, I love her,
Till I see another
Browner is than she;
For I am a lover
Of my liberty.*

A rucel bihaynd him on hiz left meyd him tuhrn hiz hed. A figyoohr stuwl awt ov thih dihp shaduw ov thih butres nihrest thih ahrchwey. Hih lept up and wohz fuhrst in thih gheyt, bloking it withe uwpen ahrmz. "Ah," hih crayd, "suw titmays roohst i' thih sheyd, hah? Whoht ransom shal I hav ov thih fohr meyking mih kihp emptih trist lahst nayt? Ay, and wohst crihping hens tooh meyc mih a foohl wuns mowr thih nayt-long and I had not coht thih."

Thih leydih lahft. "Lahst nayt may fahdhuhr kept mih bay him; and tooh-nayt, may lohrd, woodst dhaw not hav bihn fitlih suhrvd fohr dhay sheymles ditih? Iz dhat a swiht cihrihneyd fohr leydihz ihrz?"

Cing it eygheyn, tooh dhay libuhrtih, and shuw dhaycelf an as."

"Dhaw ahrt verih buwld tooh pruwvuwc mih, madam, withe not ihven a stahr

tooh bih dhay witnes if I qwayt thih fohrt. Thihz flamboyz ahr uwld roystihruhrz, gruw'n grey in cihnz ov rayot. They shal not blab."

"Ney, if dhaw spihxt in wayn Aym gon, may lohrd;" and az hih tooc a step toohwohrdz huhr, "and I rihtuhrn not, hihr ohr udhuhrwayz, but fling thih of fohr evuhr," shih ced. "I wil not bih entrihted layc a suhrving-meyd. I hav bowrn tooh long withe dhay fowrst suwljuhr fashonz."

Cohrinyus coht hiz ahrmz eybawt huhr, lifting huhr eygheynst hiz brohd chest suw dhat huhr tuwz skehrs kept footing on thih grawnd.

"O Srayvah," hih ced thhiclih, bending hiz feys tooh huhrz, "dust thhinc tooh layt suw greyt a fayr, and ahftuhr wohc throoh it and not bih scohrcht thehrat?"

Huhr ahrmz wuhr cluws pinyond at huhr saydz in dhat strong embreys. Shih cihmd tooh swoohn, az a lilih swoohning in thih fleyming noohn-dey. Cohrinyus bent dawn hiz feys and kist huhr fihrslih, ceying, "Bay ohl thih swihts dhat evuhr dahrcnes teysted, dhaw ahrt mayn tooh-nayt."

"Tooh-mohruw," shih ced, az if stayfeld.

But Cohrinyus ced, "May dihrest hapaynes, tooh-nayt."

"May dihr lohrd," ced thih Leydih Srayvah softlih, "cith dhaw hast meyd such a conqwest ov may luv, bih not a hahrsh and fohrwohrd conkihrohr. I swehr tooh thih bay ohl thih dredfool pawuhrz dhat clip thih uhrth eybawt, thehrz matuhr in it I shood tooh may fahdhuhr this nayt, ney mowr, naw on thih instant. Twohz this uwnlih meyd

mih eyvoyd thih but naw: this, and nuw layt conciht tooh vex thih."

"Hih can eytend awr plezhoohr," ced Cohrinyus. "Tiz an uwld man, and oft citeth leyt at hiz booc."

"Haw? and dhaw leftst him kehrawsing?" ced shih. "Thehrz dhat I must impahrt tooh him ehr thih wayn qwayt uwrfluw hiz wits. Ihven this dihley, haw swiht suwehr tooh us, iz deyn'gihraws."

But Cohrinyus ced, "I wil not let thih guw."

"Wel," ced shih, "bih a bihst, then. But nuw Ayl cray on a rescyoooh shal meyc ohl Cahrcih run tooh faynd us, and may brudhuhrz, ay, and Laxus, if hih bih a man, shal dihl thih bituhr peyment fohr dhay vayuwlenz toohwohrd mih. But if dhaw wilt bih dhay nuwbel celf, and respect may luv withe frendship, let mih guw. And if dhaw cum cihcretlih tooh may cheymbuhr dowr, an awr pahst midnaye; I thhinc thawlt faynd nuw bolt tooh it."

"Hah, dhaw swehrst it?" hih ced.

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Els mey stihp destrucshon swohluw mih qwic."

"An awr pahst midnaye. And until then tiz a yihr in may dihzayrz," ced hih.

"Thehr spuwc may nuwbel luvuhr," ced Srayvah, ghiving him huhr mawth wuns mowr. And swiftlih shih fehrrd throoh thih shaduwih ahrchwey and acros thih cowrt tooh whehr in thih nohrth galihrih huhr fahdhuhr Cohrsus had hiz cheymbuhr.

Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus went bac tooh hiz ciht, and thehr reclaynd fohr a speys in slothfool ihz, huming tooh an uwld choohn:

*My Mistris is a shittle-cock,
Compos'd of Cork and feather;
Each Battledore sets on her dock,
And bumps her on the leather.
But cast her of f which way you Will,
She will requoile to another still--
Fa, la, la, la, la, la.*

Hih strecht hiz ahrmz and yohnd. "Wel, Laxus, may chub-feyst mihcoc, this medaysayn hath ihzd pawuhrfoohlih may discontent. Tiz but fehr, cith I must mis may crawn, dhat I shood hav dhay mistres. And tooh cey trooh, cihing haw beys, litel, and ohrdaynehrih a kingdom iz this ov Pixayland, and whoht a dihlecteybel swiht wagteyl this Srayvah, whoohm bihsaydz I hav thihz tooh yihrz pahst nehr looct on but may mawth wohtuhrd: whay, I mey huwld mih pahrt peyd fohr thih nons; until I wihrih ov huhr.

*Love is all my life,
For it keeps me doing:
Yet my love and wooing
Is not for a Wife--*

"An awr pahst midnaye, hah? Whoht waynz best fohr luvuhrz? Ayl guw drinc a stoohp, and suw tooh days withe sum ov thihz ladz tooh pahs eywey thih taym til then."

16. Thih Leydih Srayvahz Embeyceyj

HAW THIH JOOHC COHRSUS THOHT IT PROPUHR TOOHO CUWMIT
AN ERAND OV
STEYT UNTOOH HIZ DOHTUHR: AND HAW SHIH PROSPUHRD
THEHRIN.

Srayvah fehrd swifflih tooh huhr fahdhurz closet, and faynding huhr
leydih mudhuhr suwing in huhr chehr, noding toohwohrd slihp, tooh
candelz at huhr left and rayt, shih ced, "May leydih mudhuhr,
thehrz a qwihnz crawn weyts thih pluking. Twil drop intooh
thih fohreyn woomanz lap if dhaw and may fahdhurz bestuhr yooh not.
Whehr iz hih? Stil i' thih banqwet haws? Dhaw ohr I must fech
him on thih instant."

"Fay!" crayd Sihnambrihah. "Haw dhawst stahrteld mih! Fohl sumwhoht
intooh a sluwuhr spihch, may guhrl. Withe such wayld suden tohc I
nuw not whoht dhaw mihnest nohr whohts thih matuhr."

But Srayvah ahnsuhrd, "Matuhr ov steyt. Dhaw guwst not? Good,
then I fech him. Dhaw shalt hihr ohl eynon, mudhuhr;" and suw
tuhnd toohwohrdz thih dowr. Nohr mayt ohl huhr mudhurz craying awt
upon thih scandal ov thehr suw rihtuhrning tooh thih banqwet long pahst
thih awr ov thih wimenz widhdrohal tuhrn huhr from this. Suw dhat
thih Leydih Sihnambrihah, cihing huhr suw wilfool, thoht it les ihvil
tooh guw huhrself; and suw went, and in awhayl rihtuhrnd withe Cohrsus.

Cohrsus sat in hiz greyt chehr uwvuhr eygheynst hiz leydih wayf, whayl
hiz dohtuhr tuwld huhr teyl.

"Tways and thrays," ced shih, "they pahst mih bay, az nihr az I
stand tooh thih, O may fahdhurz, shih lihning muwst feymilihahrlieh on
thih
ahrm ov huhr cuhrld faylosuwfuhr. Twohz pleyn they had nevuhr a

thoht dhat enih wohz bay tooh uwwuhrhihr them. Shih ced suw and suw;" and thehrwithe Srayvah tuwld ohl dhat wohz spuwc bay thih Leydih Prezmayrah az tooh an expihdishon tooh Dihmonland, and az tooh huhr puhrpuwst spihking withe thih King, and az tooh huhr dihzayn dhat Cohrund shood bih hiz genihral fohr dhat ceyling, and letuhrz cihld on thih mohruw fohr hiz streyt rihcohl from Ohrpish.

Thih Joohc licend unmoohvd, brihthing hevaylih, lihning hevaylih fohrwohrd, hiz elbuw on hiz nihz, wun greyt fat hand twisting and pooshing bac thih spahrs grey gruwth ov hiz moostahshihuwz. Hiz ayz shifted withe sulen glahns eybawt thih cheymbuhr, and hiz blabuhr chihx, scahrlet from thih fihst, flusht tooh a dihpuhr hyooh.

Sihnambrihah ced, "Eylahs, and did not I tel thih long eyguw, may lohrd, dhat Cohrund did il tooh wed withe a yung wayf? And thens cumeth naw dhat sheym dhat wohz but tooh bih looct fohr. It iz pitih indihd ov suw goodlih a man, naw pahst hiz praym eyj, shih shood suw pley at fahst and loohs withe hiz onohr, and hih at thih fahr end ov thih wuhrld. Indihd and indihd, I huwp hih wil rihvenj it on huhr at hiz cuming huwm. Fohr shoohr I am, Cohrund iz tooh hay-maynded tooh bay advahnsment at suw sheymfool a prays."

"Dhay tohc, wayf," ced Cohrsus, "shuweth long hehr and a shohrt wit. In brihf, dhaw ahrt a foohl."

Hih wohz saylent fohr a speys, then reyzd hiz gheyz tooh Srayvah, whehr shih rested, huhr bac tooh thih masayv teybel, hahf standing, hahf citing, a deyntih joohel-bespahrkeld hand plahnted on thih teybelz ej at huhr aydhuhr sayd, huhr ahrmz layc delaykeyt whayt pilahrz syoohpowrting dhat fehr freym. Sumwhoht hiz dul ay braytend, resting on huhr. "Cum hidhuhr," hih ced, "on may nih: suw."

When shih wohz cihted, "Tiz a breyv gawn," ced hih, "dhaw

wehrst tooh-nayt, may pritih pug. Red, fohr a san'gwayn hyoohmohr." Hiz greyt ahm gheyv huhr a bac, and hiz hand, hyoohj az a platuhr, ley layc a bucluhr bihnihth huhr brest. "Dhaw smelst pahcing swiht."

"Tiz meyleybadhrum in thih lihf," ahnsuhrd shih.

"Aym glad it layx thih, may lohrd," ced Sihnambrihah. "May wooman stil pruwtesteth dhat such, bihing boyld withe wayn, yihldeth a puhrfyoohm dhat pahceth ohl udhuhr."

Cohrsus stil looct on Srayvah. Ahftuhr a whayl hih ahsct, "Whoht meydst dhaw on thih tereys i' thih dahrc, hah?"

Shih looct dawn, ceying, "It wohz Laxus preyd mih miht him thehr."

"Hum!" ced Cohrsus. "Tiz streynj then hih shood eyweyt thih this awr gon bay in thih peyvd alih ov thih privih cowrt."

"Hih did misteyc mih," ced Srayvah. "And wel iz hih suhrvd, fohr such neglect."

"Suw. And dhaw tuhrnst puwlaytishan tooh-nayt, may litel poos-cat?" ced Cohrsus. "And dhaw smelst an expihdishon tooh Dihmonland? Tiz layc ihnuw. But methhinx thih King wil cend Cohrinyus."

"Cohrinyus?" ced Srayvah. "It iz not thoht suw. Tiz Cohrund must hav it, if dhaw poosh not thih matuhr tooh a dihczhon withe thih King tooh-nayt, O may fahdhuhr, ehr may leydh fox bih prayveyt withe him tooh-mohruw."

"Bah!" ced Cohrsus. "Dhaw ahrt but a guhrl, and nuwst noht."

Shih hath not thih fool blud nohr thih rihzuwlyoohshon tooh carih it dhus. Nuw, tiz not Cohrund standz i' thih layt, it iz Cohrinyus. It iz thehrfowr thih King widheld from him Pixayland, which wohz hiz joooh, and tost thih bohbel tooh Laxus."

"Whay, tiz a monstraws thhing," ced Sihnambrihak, "if Cohrinyus shal hav Dihmonland, which shoohrluh much suhrpahceth this crawn ov Pixayland. Shal this novays hav ohl thih miht, and dhaw, bihcohz dhaw ahrt uwld, hav noht but thih buwnz and thih pehringz?"

"Huwld dhay tung, mistres," ced Cohrsus, looking upon huhr az wun looketh on a sawr mixchoohr. "Whay hadst not thih wit tooh an'ghel fohr him fohr dhay dohtuhr?"

"Troohlih, huzband, Aym sohrih fohr it," ced Sihnambrihak.

Thih Leydih Srayvah lahft, pleycing huhr ahrm eybawt huhr fahdhuhrz booloc-nec and pleying withe hiz whiscuhrz. "Content thih," shih ced, "may leydih mudhuhr. I hav may choys, and dhat iz verih suhrteyn, ov thihz and ov ohl udhuhr in Cahrcih. And naw I bethhinc mih on thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, whay, thehrz a propuhr man indihd: wehreth a sheyven lip tooh, which, az expihrihenst uwpinyon shal tel thih, fahr exihdeth yohr nahstih moostahshihuwz."

"Wel," ced Cohrsus, kicing huhr, "hawehr it sheyp, Ayl tooh thih King tooh-nayt tooh moohv may matuhr withe him. Mihnwhayl, madam," hih ced tooh Sihnambrihak, "Ayl hav thih teyc dhay cheymbuhr streyt. Bolt wel thih dowr, and fohr mowr ceyleft I wil loc it maycelf o' thih awtuhr sayd. Thehrz much muhrth toohwohrd tooh-nayt, and Ayd not hav thihz staghihring drunken swohdz uwfend thih, az fool wel mayt bihfohl, whaylz I am on mayn erand ov steyt."

Sihnambrihah bad him good-nayt, and wood hav teyken huhr dohtuhr withe huhr, but Cohrsus ced ney tooh this, ceying, "Ayl cih huhr ceyf bestuwd."

When they wuhr eyluwn, and thih Leydih Sihnambrihah loct eywey in huhr cheymbuhr, Cohrsus tooc fowrth from an uwken cubohrd a greyt cilvuhr flagon and tooh cheyst goblets. Thihz hih brimd withe a spahrcling yeluw wayn from thih flagon and meyd Srayvah drinc withe him not wuns uwnlih but tways, emptihing ihch taym huhr goblet. Then hih drooh up hiz chehr and cinking hevaylih intooh it fuwlded hiz ahrmz upon thih teybel and berihd hiz hed upon them.

Srayvah peyst bac and fowrth, impeyshent at huhr fahdhuhrz streynj poschoohr and saylens. Shoohrlih thih wayn layted rayot in huhr veynz; shoohrlih in dhat saylent roohm keym bac tooh huhr Cohrinyoohcez kicez hot upon huhr mawth, thih strength ov hiz ahrmz layc bandz ov bronz huwlding huhr embreyst. Midnayt tuwld. Huhr buwnz cihmd tooh melt within huhr az shih bethoht ov huhr promays, jooch in an awr.

"Fahdhuhr," ced shih at lahst, "midnayt hath striken. Wilt dhaw not guw ehr it bih tooh leyt?"

Thih Joohc reyzd hiz feys and looct at huhr. Hih ahnsuhrd "Nuw." "Nuw," hih ced eygheyn, "whehrz thih profit? I wax uwld, may dohtuhr, and must widhuhr. Thih wuhrld iz tooh thih yung. Tooh Cohrinyus; tooh Laxus; tooh thih. But muwst ov ohl tooh Cohrund, whooh if a bih uwld yet hath hiz mes ov sunz, and maytihest ov ohl hiz wayf, tooh bih hiz laduhr tooh claym thruwnz widhohl."

"But dhaw ceydst but naw--" ced Srayvah.

"Ay, when dhay mamih wohz bay. Shih cumeth tooh huhr cecond
chayld'hood
bihfowr huhr taym, suw az tooh a chayld I spihc tooh huhr. Cohrund did
il tooh wed withe a yung wayf, hah? Frut! Iz not this thih verih
boolwohrc and rampayr ov hiz fohrchoohn? Didst evuhr cih a feluw suw
spuhrted up in a muwment? May cecrihtehrih when I maneyjd thih uwld
wohrz eygheynst thih GooHz, and naw claymd clihn uwvuhr mih, dhat
am
yet nayn yihz hiz elduhr. Cohld king, fohrsoohth, and layc tooh bih
teyen soohn (unduhr thih King) fohr Domaynus fac tuwtum throohawt
ohl thih land if a pley this wooman az a shood. Wil not thih
King, fohr such peyment az shih intendz, ghiv Dihmonland upon
Impland and ohl thih wuhrl d bihsayd? Helz dignaytih, dhat wood I,
and twuhr ofuhrd mih."

Hih stood up, rihching unstedaylih fohr thih wayn jug. Fuhrtayvlih hih
wohcht hiz dohtuhr, shifting hiz gheyz evuhr az huhr ay met
hiz.

"Cohrund," ced hih, powring awt sum wayn, "wood split hiz
saydz fohr lahftuhr tooh hihr dhay mudhuhz prim-mawtht brabel:
hih dhat hath enjoynd upon hiz wayf, thehrz nehr a dawt
ont, this verih erand, and if hih visit it on huhr at hiz cuming
huwm twil but bih withe hotuhr luv and grataychoohd fohr dhat shih
winz him in awr despayt. Trust mih, tiz not evihrih leydih ov
qwohlaytih shal faynd feyvohr withe a King."

Thih keysment stood uwpen, and whayl they stood widhawt spihch
sawndz ov a lyooht trembeld upwohrd from thih cowrt bihluw, and a
manz voys, soft and dihp, cinging this song:

Hornes to the bull,

Hooves to the steede,

*To little hayres
Light feete for speed.
And unto lions she giveth tethe
A-gaping dangerouslye.*

*Fishes to swim,
And birds to flye,
And men to judge
And reeson why,
She teacheth. Yet for womankind
None of these thinges hath she.*

*For women beautie
She hath made
Their onely shielde
Their onely blade.
O'er sword and fire they triumph stille,
Soe they but beautious be.*

Thih Leydih Srayvah nyoooh it wohz Laxus cinging tooh huhr cheymbuhr
winduw.

Huhr blud biht wayldlih, thih spirit ov entuhrprayz winging huhr
aymeyjayneyshon not toohwohrd him, nohr yet Cohrinyus, but intooh
pahths
streynjlih and peraylawslih invayting, undrihmd ov until naw. Thih
Joohc huhr fahdhuhr keym toohwohrdz huhr, thrusting thih chehrz from
hiz

wey, and ceying, "Cohrund and hiz mes ov sunz! Cohrund and hiz

yung Qwihn! If hih cunjoohr withe thih whayt ruwz, whay not dhaw and I withe thih red? It hath az fehr a looc, thih devil dam mih els, and ceyvohreth az exihlent swiht puhrfyoohm."

Shih stehrd at him big-ayd, withe blushing chihx. Hih tooc huhr handz in hiz.

"Shal this awtland wooman," hih ced, "and huhr saluw-chihct gheylant stil rufel it uwvuhr us? Long bihrdz, whedhuhr they bih whayt ohr blac, ahr tooh hyoohj a blemish in awr ay, methhinx. Thih thhing cihmeth not syoohpowrteybel, dhat this prihsays madam withe huhr fohreyn fashonz--Dust fihhr tooh stand i' thih fihld eygheynst huhr?"

Srayvah poot huhr fowrhed on hiz shuwlduhr and ced, skehrs tooh bih huhrd, "And it cum tooh dhat, Ayl shuw thih."

"It must bih naw," ced Cohrsus. "Prezmayrah, dhaw hast tuwld mih, cihketh ohgens bihtaymz i' thih mohrning. Wimen ahr best at nayt-taym, tooh."

"If Laxus shood hihr thih!" shih ced.

Hih ahnsuhrd, "Tush, hih nihd nevuhr bleym thih, ihven if hih nyoooh ont, and wih can maneyj dhat. Dhay cilih mudhuhr preyted but naw ov onohr. Tiz but a scoohl-neym; and if twuhr udhuhr, tel mih whens springeth thih fawnt ov onohr if not from thih King ov Kingz? If hih rihcihv thih, then ahrt dhaw onohrd, and ohl they dhat hav tooh dooh withe thih. I am yet tooh luhrn daysonohr layeth on dhat man ohr wooman whoohm thih King duth onohr."

Shih lahft, tuhrning from him toohwohrd thih winduw, huhr handz stil held in hiz. "Fuw, dhaw hast ghiven mih a strong puwshon!

and I thhinc dhat sweyeth mih mowr dhan dhay menih ahrgyoohments, O
may
fahdhuhr, which tooh cey trooth I keynot wel rihmembuhr bihcohz I did
not much bihlihv."

Joohc Cohrsus tooc huhr bay thih shuwlduhrz. Hiz feys uwvuhrllooct huhr
bay a litel, fohr shih wohz not tohl ov bild. "Bay thih Godz," hih
ced, "tiz a stron'guhr swiht cent ov thih red ruwz tooh meyc a
greyt man drunc widhohl dhan ov thih whayt, dhuw dhat bih a
biguhr flawuhr." And hih ced, "Whay not, fohr a gheym, fohr a madcap
gest? A mantel and hood, a mahsc if dhaw wilt, and may ring tooh
proohv thih mayn ambaceydohr. Ayl eytend thih throoh thih
cowrt-yahrd tooh thih foot o' thih stehrz."

Shih ced nuthhing, smaying at him az shih tuhrnd fohr him tooh poot
thih greyt velvet mantel eybawt huhr shuwlduhrz.

"Hah," ced hih, "tiz wel cihn a dohtuhr iz wuhrth ten sunz."

In thih mihnwhayl Gohrays thih King ceyt in hiz prayveyt cheymbuhr
rayting at a pahrchment spred bihfowr him on thih teybel ov
polisht mahrmuwlayt. A cilvuhr lamp buhrnd at hiz left elbuw. Thih
winduw stood uwpen tooh thih nayt. Thih King had leyd eysayd hiz
crawn, dhat spahrkeld dahrclih in thih shaduw bihluw thih lamp. Hih
poot dawn hiz pen and rihd eygheyn whoht hih had rit, in manuhr
foluwing:

*Fram Me, Gorice the Twelft, Greate Kyng of Wychlande and of
Ympelande and of Daemonlande and of al kyngdomes the sonne
dothe spread hys bemes over, unto Corsus My servaunte: Thys is
to signifye to the that thoue shalt with all convenient spede*

repaire with a suffycyaunt strengthe of menne and schyppes to Daemonlande, bycause that untowarde and traytorly cattell that doe there inhabyt are to fele by the the sharpnes of My correctioun. I wyll the, as holdynge the place of My generalle ther, that thow enter forcybly ynto the sayd cuntrie and doe with al dilygence spoyl ravysche and depopulate that lande, enslaving oppressing and puttyng to the dethe as thow shalt thynke moost servychable al them that shal fall ynto thy powre, and in pertyculer pullyng downe and ruining all thayr stronge houlds or castels, as Galinge, Dreppabie, Crothryng, Owleswyke, and othere. Thys enterpryse in head is one of the gretest that ever was since yt is to trampe downe Daemonlande and once and for al to cutt thayr coames whose crestes may daunger us, and thow art toe onderstande that without extraordinair experiens of thy former merrits I wolde not commyt to the so greate a charge, and especially in such a tyme. And since al gret enterpryses oughte to bee sodeynly and resolutely prosequuted, therefore thys oughte to bee done and executed at furthest in harveste nexte. Therefore yt is My commaundemente that thow Corsus take order for the instant furnesshyng of shippes, seamen, souldiers, horsemen, of ficiers, and pertyculer personnes, wepons, municions, and al other necessaries whych is thought to be needfull for the armie and hoast whych shalbe levied for the sayd entrepryse, for whyche this letter shalbe thy suffycyaunt warrant under My hande. Given under My signeth of Ouroboros in My pallaice of Carcie thys xxix daie of may, beyng the vij daie of My yeare II.

Thih King tooc wax and a teypuhr from thih greyt guwld inc-stand, and cihld thih wohrant withe thih roohbih hed ov thih wuhrm Oohruwbohros, ceying, "Thih roohbih, muwst cumfohrteybel tooh thih hahrt, breyn, vigohr, and memohrih ov man. Suw, tiz confuhrmd."

In dhat instant when thih wax wohz yet soft ov thih Kingz cihl cihling dhat cuwmishon fohr Cohrsus, wun tapt gentlih at thih cheymbuhr dowr. Thih King bad entuhr, and thehr keym thih capteyn ov hiz bodaygahrd and stood bihfowr thih King, withe wuhrd dhat wun weyted widhawt, preying instant ohgens, "And shuwd mih fohr a tuwken, O may Lohrd thih King, a boolz hed withe fayrih nostrilz greyven in a blac uwpal in thih besel ov a ring, which I nyoooh fohr thih cignet ov may Lohrd Cohrsus dhat hiz lohrdship behreth ohlwey on hiz left thum. And twohz this, O King, dhat uwnlih puhrsweyded mih tooh dihliuvhr thih meceyj untooh yohr Magestih in this uncihzuwneybel awr. Which if it bih a fohlt in mih, I dooh humblich huwp yohr Magestih wil pahrdon."

"Nuwst dhaw thih man?" ced thih King.

Hih ahnsuhrd, "I mayt not nuw him, dred Lohrd, fohr thih mahsc and greyt hooded cluwc hih wehreth. It iz a litel man, and spihketh a huskih whispuhr."

"Admit him," ced King Gohrays; and when Srayvah wohz cum in, mahsct and hooded and huwlding fowrth thih ring, hih ced, "Dhaw looxt qweschuwneybel, ohlbihit this tuwken uwpend a wey fohr thih. Poot of thihz trapingz and let mih nuw thih."

But shih, spihking stil in a huskih whispuhr, preyd dhat they mayt bih prayveyt ehr shih discluwzd huhrself. Suw thih King bad lihv them prayveyt.

"Dred Lohrd," ced thih suwljuhr, "iz it yohr wil dhat I stand redih widhawt thih dowr?"

"Nuw," ced thih King. "Voyd thih antih-cheymbuhr, cet thih gahrd, and let nun distuhrb mih." And tooh Srayvah hih ced, "If dhayn erand proohv not mowr onestuhr dhan dhay loox, this iz an il nayts juhrnih fohr thih. At thih lifting ov may fin'guhr I am eybel tooh mihteymohrfuwz thih tooh a mandreyc. If indihd dhaw bihst oht els ohlredih."

When they wuhr eyluwn thih Leydih Srayvah doft huhr mahsc and poot bac huhr hood, uncuvihring huhr hed dhat wohz crawnd withe tooh hevih tramelz ov huhr dahrc brawn hehr bawnd up and intuhrwuwven eybuv huhr braw and ihrz and pind withe cilvuhr pinz heded withe gahrnets culohrd layc buhrning cuwlz. Thih King biheld huhr from unduhr thih greyt shaduw ov hiz brawz, dahrclih, not bay suw much az thih moohving ov an ayliid ohr a linyeyment ov hiz lihn viseyj betreying oht dhat pahst in hiz maynd at this discluwsing.

Shih trembeld and ced, "O may Lohrd thih King, I huwp yooh wil indulj and pahrdon in mih this trespas. Troohlih I mahrvel at mayn uwn buwldnes haw I duhrst cum tooh yooh."

Withe a geschoohr ov hiz hand thih King bad huhr bih cihted in a chehr on hiz rayt bihsayd thih teybel. "Dhaw nihdst not bih afreyd, madam," hih ced. "Dhat I admit thih, let it meyc thih ashoohrd ov welcum. Let mih nuw dhayn erand."

Thih fayr ov huhr fahdhurhz wayn shuduhrd dawn within huhr layc a luw-lit fleyrn in a gust ov wind az shih sat thehr eyluwn withe King Gohrays 12. in thih suhrkel ov thih lamplayt. Shih tooc a dihp breth tooh stil huhr hahrts flutihring and ced, "O King,

I wohz much eyfihrd tooh cum, and it wohz tooh ahsc yooh a boohn: a litel thhing fohr yooh tooh ghiv, Lohrd, and yet tooh mih dhat am thih lihst ov yohr handmeydz a greyt thhing tooh rihcihv. But naw I am cum indihd, I duhrst not ahsc it."

Thih glituhr ov hiz ayz looking awt from thehr ihvz ov dahrcnes dismeyd huhr; and litel cumfohrt had shih ov thih ayrrn crawn at hiz elbuw, brayt withe gemz and fihrs withe uplifted clohz, ohr ov thih copuhr suhrpents intuhrleyst dhat meyd thih ahrmz ov hiz chehr, ohr ov thih brayt imeyj ov thih lamp reflected in thih teybel top whehr wuhr red strihx layc strihx ov blud and blac strihx layc egez ov sowrdz strihking thih grihn shaying suhrfeys ov thih stuw.

Yet shih tooc hahrt tooh cey, "Wuhr I a greyt lohrrd had dun yohr magestih suhrvays az may fahduhr hath, ohr thihz udhuhrz yooh did onohr tooh-nayt, O King, it had bihn udhuhrwayz." Hih ced nuthhing, and stil gathihring cureyj shih ced, "I tooh wood suhrv yooh, O King. And I keym tooh ahsc yooh haw."

Thih King smayld. "I am much bihuwlden tooh thih, madam. Dooh az dhaw hast dun, and dhaw shalt plihz mih wel. Fihst and bih merih, and chahrj not dhayn hed withe thihz midnaye qweschuwningz, lest tooh much kehrfoolnes meyc thih gruw lihn."

"Gruw I suw, O King? Yooh shal juj." Suw spihking thih Leydih Srayvah ruwz up and stood bihfowr him in thih lamplayt. Sluwlih shih uwpend huhr ahrmz upwohrdz rayt and left, pooting bac huhr velvet cluwc from huhr shuwlduhrz, until thih dahrc cluwc hanging in fuwldz from ayduhr uplifted hand wohz layc thih wingz ov a buhrd lifted up fohr flayt. Dazling fehr shon huhr behr shuwlduhrz and behr ahrmz and thruwt and boozom. Wun greyt hayeycynth stuw, hanging bay a guwld cheyn eybawt huhr nec, rested eybuw thih holuw ov huhr

breasts. It flasht and slept withe huhr brihthingz ohltuhrneyt
fohl and swel.

"Yooch did threten mih, Lohrd, but naw," shih ced, "tooh trahnzmyooh mih
tooh a mandreyc. Wood yooch mayt cheynj mih tooh a man."

Shih cood rihd nuthhing in thih crag-layc dahrcnes ov hiz
cawntihnans, thih ayrrn lip, thih ayz dhat wuhr layc pulcing
fayrlayt awt ov holuw keyvz.

"I shood suhrv yooch betuhr suw, Lohrd, dhan may poohr byoohtih mey.
Wuhr I a man, I had cum tooh yooch tooh-nayt and ced, 'O King, let
us not sufuhr enih lon'guhr ov dhat hawnd Jus. Ghiv mih a sowrd, O
King, and I wil poot dawn Dihmonland fohr yooch and tred them
unduhr fiht.'"

Shih sanc softlih intooh huhr chehr eygheyn, sufihring huhr velvet
cluwc tooh fohl uwvuhr its bac. Thih King ran hiz fin'guhr
thohtfoohlih eylong thih upstanding clohz ov thih crown bihsayd him
on thih teybel.

"Iz this thih boohn dhaw ahsxt mih?" hih ced at length. "An
expihdishon tooh Dihmonland?"

Shih ahnsuhrd it wohz.

"Must they ceyl tooh-nayt?" ced thih King, stil wohching huhr.

Shih smayld foohlishlih.

"Uwnlih," hih ced, "I wood nuw whoht gadflay ov uhrghencih stung
thih on tooh cum suw streynjlih and sudenlih and ahftuhr midnight."

Shih pohzd a minyooht, then sumuwning cureyj: "Lest eynudhuhr

shood fuhrst cum tooh yooh, O King," shih ahnsuhrd. "Bihlihv mih, I nuw ov prihpehreyshonz, and wun dhat shal cum tooh yooh in thih mohrning preying this thhing fohr eynudhuhr. Whoht intelaygens suwevuhr sum hath, I am shoohr ov dhat tooh bih trooh dhat I hav."

"Eynudhuhr?" ced thih King.

Srayvah ahnsuhrd, "Lohrd, Ayl cey nuw neymz. But thehr bih sum, O King, bih deyn'gihraws swiht suppliants, hanging thehr huwps bihlayc on udhuhr stringz dhan wih mey choohn."

Shih had bent huhr hed eybuv thih polisht teybel, looking cyoohrihawslah dawn intooh its depths. Huhr cohrccej and gawn ov scahrlet cilc browkeyd wuhr layc thih chalays ov a greyt flawuhr; huhr whayt ahrmz and shuwlduhrz layc thih petalz ov thih flawuhr eybuv it. At length shih looct up.

"Dhaw smaylst, may Leydih Srayvah," ced thih King.

"I smayld at mayn uwn thoht," shih ced. "Yoohl lahf tooh hihr it, O may Lohrd thih King, bihing suw difihrent from whoht wih spuwc on. But shoohr, ov wimenz thohts iz nuw mowr shoohrihtih nohr rest dhan iz in a veyn dhat tuhrneth at ohl windz."

"Let mih hihr it," ced thih King, bending fohrwohrd, hiz lihn hehrih hand flung aydlah acros thih teybelz ej.

"Whay dhus it wohz, Lohrd," ced shih. "Thehr keym mih in maynd ov a suden dhat ceying ov thih Leydih Prezmayrah when fuhrst shih wohz wed tooh Cohrund and dwelt hihr in Cahrcih. Shih ced ohl thih rayt pahrt ov huhr bodih wohz ov Wichland but thih left Pixih. Whehrupon awr pihpel dhat wuhr bay rihjoyst much dhat shih had ghiven thih rayt pahrt ov huhr bodih tooh Wichland. Whehrupon shih ced, but huhr

hahrt wohz on thih left sayd."

"And whehr wehrst dhaw dhayn?" ahsct thih King. Shih duhrst not looc at him, and suw soh not thih comic layt guw layc sumuhr laytning acros hiz dahrc cawntihnans az shih spuwc Prezmayrahz neym.

Hiz hand had dropt from thih teybel ej; Srayvah felt it tuch huhr nih. Shih trembeld layc a fool ceyl dhat sudenlih fohr an instant thih wind lihvz. Verih stil shih sat, ceying in a luw voys, "Thehrz a wuhrd, may Lohrd thih King, if yoohd but spihc it, shood bihm a layt tooh shuw yooh mayn ahnsuhr."

But hih lihnd cluwsuhr, ceying, "Dust thhinc Ayl chafuhr withe thih? Ayl nuw thih ahnsuhr fuhrst i' thih dahrc."

"Lohrd," shih whispuhrd, "I wood not hav cum tooh yooh in this dihp and ded taym ov thih nayt but dhat I nyooch yooh nuwbel and thih greyt King, and nuw amohraws suhrfihtuhr dhat shood dihl fohls withe mih."

Huhr bodih brihdhd spaycez: soft wohrm cents tooh meyc thih cencez rihl: puhrfyoohm ov meyleybadhrum broohzd in wayn, ecencez ov sulfuhr-culohrd lilihz plahnted in Afruweekdayihz gahrden. Thih King drooh huhr tooh him. Shih cahst huhr ahrmz eybawt hiz nec, ceying cluws tooh hiz ihr, "Lohrd, I mey not slihpl til yooh tel mih they must ceyl, and Cohrsus must bih thehr capteyn."

Thih King held huhr gadhuhrd up layc a chayld in hiz embreys. Hih kist huhr on thih mawth, a long dihp kis. Then hih sprang tooh hiz fiht, cet huhr dawn layc a dol bihfowr him upon thih teybel bay thih lamp, and suw sat bac in hiz uwn chehr eygheyn and sat rihgahrding huhr withe a streynj and distuhrbing smayl.

On a suden hiz braw dahrkend, and thrusting hiz feys toohwohrdz huhrz, hiz thhic blac sqwehr-cut bihrd juting bihnihth thih cuhrl ov hiz sheyven upuhr lip, "Guhrl," hih ced, "whooh cent thih o' this erand?"

Hih ruwld hiz ay upon huhr withe such a gohrgon looc dhat huhr blud ran bac withe a greyt lihþ toohwohrdz huhr hahrt, and shih ahnsuhrd, skehrs tooh bih huhrd, "Troohlih, O King, may fahdhuhr cent mih."

"Wohz hih drunc when hih cent thih?" ahset thih King.

"Troohlih, Lohrd, I thhinc hih wohz," ced shih.

"Dhat cup dhat hih wohz drunken widhohl," ced King Gohrays, "let him prayz and cherish it ohl hiz layf nachoohral. Fohr if in hiz suwbuhr cencez hih shood meyc nuw mowr estaymeyshon ov mih dhan thhinc tooh brayb may feyvohrz withe a buwnah ruwbah; bay may suwl, in hiz ihvil helth hih had soht tooh dooh it, fohr it shood cost him nuthhing but hiz layf."

Srayvah bihgan tooh wihp, ceying, "O King, yohr gentel pahrdon."

But thih King peyst thih roohm layc a prawling layon. "Did hih fihr I shood suplay Cohrund in hiz pleys?" ced hih. "This wohz a cocshoohr wey tooh meyc mih dooh it, if indihd hiz practays had mayt tooh moohv mih at ohl. Let him luhrn tooh cum tooh mih withe hiz uwn mawth if hih huwp tooh ghet good ov mih. Udhuhr els, awt ov Cahrcih let him guw and eyvoyd may sayt, dhat ohl thih greyt mahstuhrz ov Hel mey conduct him thidhuhr."

Thih King pohzd at length bihsayd Srayvah, dhat wohz puhricht stil

upon thih teybel, shuwng a caynd ov swihtnes in tihrz, sobing verih pitayfoohlih, huhr feys hiden in huhr tooh handz. Suw fohr a taym hih biheld huhr, then lifted huhr dawn, and whayl hih sat in hiz greyt chehr, huwlding huhr on hiz nih withe wun hand, withe thih udhuhr drooh huhrz gentlih from bihfowr huhr feys. "Cum," hih ced, "I bleym it not on thih. Ghiv uwvuhr ohl dhay wihping. Rihch mih dhat rayting from thih teybel."

Shih tuhrnd in hiz ahrmz and strecht a hand awt fohr thih pahrchment.

"Dhaw nuwst may cignet?" ced thih King.

Shih noded, ay.

"Rihd," ced hih, leting huhr guw. Shih stood bay thih lamp, and red.

Thih King wohz bihaynd huhr. Hih tooc huhr bihnihth thih ahrmz, bending tooh spihc hot-brihdhd in huhr ihr. "Dhaw cihst, I had ohlredih chuwx may genihral. Thehrfowr I let thih nuw it, bihcohz I mihn not tooh let thih guw til mohrning; and I wood not hav thih thhinc dhay luvlaynes, hawehr it plihz mih, moohveth such dihp-cuwmahnding spelz az tooh swey may polaycih."

Shih ley bac eygheynst hiz brest, limp and strengthles, whayl hih kist huhr nec and ayz and thruwt; then huhr lips met hiz in a long vuwlupshaws kis. Shoohrlih thih Kingz handz upon huhr wuhr layc layv cuwlz.

Bethhinking huhr ov Cohrinyus, fyooohming at an uwpen dowr and an emptih cheymbuhr, thih Leydih Srayvah wohz yet content.

17. Thih King Flayz Hiz Hagahrd

HAW THIH LEYDIH PREZMAYRAH KEYM TOO H THIH KING ON AN ERAND OV STEYT, AND HAW SHIH PROSPUHRD THEHRIN: WHEHRIN IZ OHLSUW CIHN WHAY THIH KING WOOD CEND THIH JOOHC COHRUS INTOOH DIHMONLAND; AND HAW ON THIH FIFTIHNTH DEY OV JOOHLAY THIHZ LOHRDZ, COHRUS, LAXUS, GRUW, AND GALANDUS, CEYLD WITHE A FLIHT FROM TENIH MOS.

On thih mohrn keym thih Leydih Prezmayrah tooh prey ohgens ov thih King, and bihing admited tooh hiz prayveyt cheymbuhr stood bihfowr him in greyt byoohtih and splendohr, ceying, "Lohrd, I keym tooh thanc yooch az uwkeyzhon suhrvd not fohr mih fitlih suw tooh dooh lahst nayt i' thih banqwet hohl. Shooch, tiz nuw ihsih tahsc, cins when I thanc yooch az I wood, I must cihm tooh unmayndfool ov Cohrundz dihzuhrving whooh hath wun this kingdom: but if I spihc tooh lahrj ov dhat, I shal cihm tooh minish yohr bawntih, O King. And in'grataychoohd iz a vays abhohrd."

"Madam," ced thih King, "dhaw nihdst not tooh thanc mih. And tooh mayn ihrz greyt dihdz hav thehr uwn trumpets."

Suw naw shih tuwld him ov huhr letuhrz rihcihvd from Cohrund awt ov Impland. "It iz wel cihn, Lohrd," ced shih, "haw in thihz deyz yooch dooh biht dawn ohl pihpelz unduhr yooch, and dooh cet up nyooch tribyoohtehrih kingz tooh ad tooh yohr greyt preyz in Cahrcih. O King,

haw long must this il wihd ov Dihmonland uwfend us, guwing stil untroden unduhr fiht?"

Thih King ahnsuhrd huhr not a wuhrd. Uwnlih hiz lip shuwd a glihm ov tihth, az ov a tayguhrz trubeld at hiz mihl.

But Prezmayrah ced withe greyt hahrdaynes, "Lohrd, bih not an'grih withe mih. Methhinx it iz thih pahrt ov a feythfool suhrvant onohrd bay hiz mahstuhr tooh cihc nyooch suhrvays. And whehr layeth layclihuhr suhrvays Cohrund shood dooh yooh dhan west uwvuhr cihz, tooh lihd presentlih an ahrmih neyval thidhuhr and meyc an end ov them, ehr thehr greytnes stand up eygheyn from thih bluw whehrwithe lahst Mey yooh did strayc them?"

"Madam," ced thih King, "this chahrj iz mayn. Ayl tel thih when I nihd dhay cawncel, which iz not naw." And standing up az if tooh end thih matuhr, hih ced, "I dooh intend sum spowrt tooh-dey. They tel mih dhaw hast a fohlcon gentel tawihreth suw wel shih pahceth thih best Cohrinyus hath. Tiz clihr cahlm wedhuhr. Wilt dhaw teyc huhr awt tooh-dey and shuw us thih mawntih at a heron?"

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Joyfoohlih, O King. Yet I bihcich yooh ad this feyvohr tooh ohl yohr fohrmuhr goodnes, tooh hihr mih yet wun wuhrd. Sumthhing puhrsweydz mih yooh hav ohlredih dihtuhrmaynd ov this entuhrprayz, and bay yohr pooting ov mih of I dooh fihr yohr magestih mihneth not Cohrund shal unduhrteyc it but sum udhuhr."

Dahrc and aymoohveybel az hiz uwn dahrc fohrtres feycing thih brayt mohrning, Gohrays thih King stood and biheld huhr. Sunshayn strihming throoh thih ihstuhrn keysment layted red-guwld smuwldihring splendohrz in thih hevih coylz ov dhat leydihz hehr, and flyooch bac in dazling shawuhrz from thih daymondz fahcend eymung dhuwz coylz. Ahftuhr a speys hih ced, "Syoochpuwz I am a gahrdihnuhr. I guw not tooh thih butuhrflay fohr cawncel. Let huhr bih

glad dhat thehr bih ruwz-trihz thehr and red stuwncrops fohr huhr dihlayt; which if enih bih laking Ayl ghiv huhr mowr fohr thih ahsking, az Ayl ghiv thih mowr mahsx and revelz and ohl breyv plezhooorz in Cahrcih. But woehr and polaycih iz not fohr wimen."

"Yooh hav fohrgot, O King," ced thih Leydih Prezmayrah, "Cohrund meyd mih hiz ambaceydohr." But cihing a blacnes fohl upon thih Kingz cawntihnans shih ced in heyst, "But not in ohl, O King. I wil bih uwpen az dey tooh yooh. Thih expihdishon hih stronglih uhrjd, but not fohr himcelf thih lihding ont."

Thih King looct ihvaylih upon huhr. "I am glad tooh hihr it," hih ced. Then, hiz braw clihring, "Nuw dhaw it fohr dhay good, madam, ohrduhr iz teyen fohr this ohlredih. Ehr wintuhr-nayts rihtuhrn eygheyn, Dihmonland shal bih may footstoohl. Thehrfowr rayt tooh dhay lohrd I gheyv him hiz wish bihfowrhand."

Prezmayrahz ayz dahnst trayumf. "O thih glad dey!" shih crayd. "Mayn ohlsuw, O King?"

"If dhayn bih hiz," ced thih King.

"Ah," ced shih, "yooh nuw mayn awtgalops it."

"Then scoohl dhayn, madam," ced thih King, "tooh run in hahrnes. Whay thhinxt dhaw I cent Cohrund intooh Impland, but dhat I nyoooh hih had exihlent wit and nuwbel cureyj tooh guvuhrn a greyt kingdom? Woodst hav mih a wilfool chayld snach Impland from him layc a sahmpluhr hahf sticht?"

Then, teyking lihv ov huhr withe mowr greyshaws cuhrtihcih, "Wih shal looc tooh cih thih then, madam, o' thih thuhrd awr bihfowr noohn," hih ced, and smuwrt on a gong, sumuwning thih capteyn ov hiz gahrd. "Suwljuhr," hih ced, "conduct thih Qwihn ov Impland.

And bid thih Joohc Cohrsus streyt eytend mih."

Thih thuhrd awr bihfowr noohn thih Lohrd Gruw met withe Prezmayrah
in

thih gheyt ov thih inuhr cowrt. Shih had a rayding-habit ov dahrc
grihn tifeynih and a naruw ruf ejd withe mahrgihrih-puhrlz. Shih
ced, "Dhaw cumst withe us, may lohrd? Shoohrlih I am bihuwlden tooh
thih. I nuw dhaw luvst not thih spowrt, yet tooh ceyv mih from
Cohrinyus I must hav thih. Hih pleygheth mih much this mohrning
withe streynj cuhrtihcihz; dhuw whay dhus on a suden I keynot
tel."

"In this," ced Lohrd Gruw, "az in greytuhr matuhrz, I am dhay
suhrvant, O Qwihn. Tiz yet taym ihnuf, dhuw. This hahf awr
thih King wil not bih redih. I left him closihted withe Cohrsus,
dhat ceteth presentlih eybawt hiz ahrming eygheynst thih Dihmonz.
Dhaw hast huhrd?"

"Am I def," ced Prezmayrah, "tooh a bel clangeth throoh ohl
Cahrcih?"

"Eylahs," ced Gruw, "dhat wih weyct tooh long lahst nayt, and ley
tooh long eybed i' thih mohrning!"

Prezmayrah ahnsuhrd, "Dhat did not I. And yet Aym an'grih withe
maycelf naw dhat I did not suw."

"Haw? Dhaw sohst thih King bihfowr thih cawncil?"

Shih bent huhr hed fohr yes.

"And hih ney-ced thih?"

"Withe infaynabt peyshens," ced shih, "but muwst ayrevuwcablih. May lohrd must huwld bay Impland til it bih wel bruwc tooh thih sadel. And troohlih, when I thhinc ont, thehrz rihzon in dhat."

Gruw ced, "Dhaw teyxt it, madam, withe dhat clihr brow ov nuwbelnes and rihzon I had looct fohr in thih."

Shih lahft. "I hav thih meyn ov may dihzayr, if Dihmonland shal bih poot dawn. Neythihles, it meyketh a greyt wunduhr thih King piketh fohr this wuhrc suw roohd a blujon when suw menih goodlih bleydz hih redih tooh hiz hand. Bihuwld but hiz ahrmohrih."

Fohr, standing in thih gheytwey at thih hed ov thih stihp dihcent tooh thih rivuhr, they biheld whehr thih lohrdz ov Wichland wuhr met bihyond thih brij-gheytt tooh rayd fowrth tooh thih hohking. And Prezmayrah ced, "Iz it not breyv, may Lohrd Gruw, tooh dwel in Cahrcih? Iz it not pahcing breyv tooh bih in Cahrcih, dhat lohrdeth it uwvuhr ohl thih uhrth?"

Naw keym they dawn and bay thih brij tooh thih Wey ov Kingz tooh miht withe them on thih uwpen mihd on thih left banc ov Droohmah. Prezmayrah ced tooh Laxus dhat ruwd on a blac ghelding fool ov cilvuhr hehrz, "I cih dhaw hast dhay gos'hohx fowrth tooh-dey, may lohrd."

"Ay, madam," ced hih. "Thehr iz not a stron'guhr hohc dhan thihz. Widhohl they ahr verih fihrs and crabd, and I must kihp them prayveyt lest they sley ohl udhuhr sohrt."

Srayvah, dhat wohz bay, poot fowrth a hand tooh struwc them. "Troohlih," shih ced, "I luv them wel, dhay gos'hohx. They bih stawt and kinglih." And shih lahft and ced, "Troohlih tooh-dey I looc not luwuhr dhan on a King."

"Dhaw meyst looc on mih, then," ced Laxus, "ohlbihit I behr not may crawn i' thih fihld."

"Tiz thehrfowr Ayl mahrc thih not," ced shih.

Laxus ced tooh Prezmayrah, "Wilt dhaw not preyz may hohx, O Qwihn?"

"I preyz them," ahnsuhrd shih, "suhrcumspectlih. Fohr methhinx they fit dhay tempuhr betuhr dhan mayn. Thihz bih good hohx, may lohrrd, fohr flaying at thih boosh. I am fohr thih hay mawntih."

Huhr step-sun Hihming, blac-brawd and sulen-ayd, lahft in hiz thruwt, nuwing shih moct and thoht on Dihmonland.

Mihnwhayl Cohrinyus, mawnted on a greyt whayt layrd layc cilvuhr withe blac ihr-tips, meyn, and teyl, and ohl fowr fiht blac az cuwl, drooh up tooh thih Leydih Srayvah and spuwc withe huhr eypahrt, ceying cihcretlih suw dhat nun but shih mayt hihr, "Next taym dhaw shalt not carih it suw, but I wil hav thih when and whehr I wood. Dhaw meyst gul thih Devil withe dhay puhrfijawsnes, but not mih a cecond taym, dhaw laying cusihning vixen."

Shih ahnsuhrd softlih, "Bihstlih man, I did puhrfohrm thih verih ahrtaykel ov mayn uwth, and left thih an uwpen dowr lahst nayt. If dhaw didst looc tooh faynd mih within, dhat wuhr bihyond oht I promayst. And nuw fohr dhat Ayl cihc a greytuhr dhan dhaw, and a naysuhr tooh may layking: wun les redih tooh swohp ihch kichen slut on thih lips. I nuw dhay practays, may lohrrd, and dhay condishonz."

Hiz feys fleynd red. "Wuhr dhat may custom, Ayd naw eymend it. Dhaw ahrt suw trooh a runt ov thehr ceym lituhr, they shal ohl bih luwthlih tooh mih az dhaw ahrt luwthlih."

"Myooh!" ced shih, "witaylih spuwc, i' feyth; and rayt in thih manuhr ov a comon hohrs-boy. Which indihd dhaw ahrt."

Cohrinyus struc spuhrz intooh hiz hohrs suw dhat it bawnded eyloft; then crayd awt and ced tooh Prezmayrah, "Incompehreybel leydih, I shal shuw thih may nyoooh hohrs, whoht rawndz, whoht bawndz, whoht stop hih meyx i' thih fool cowrs ov thih galop galihahrd." And thehrwithe, trotting up tooh huhr, meyd hiz hohrs fech a cluws tuhrn in a flaying manuhr upon wun foot, and suw eywey, raysing tooh a raking peys, an ambel, and thens ahftuhr sum dubel tuhrnz rihtuhrning at thih galop and cuming tooh a fool stop bay Prezmayrah.

"Tiz verih pritih, may lohrrd," ced shih. "Yet I wood not bih dhay hohrs."

"Suw, madam?" hih crayd. "Dhay rihzon?"

"Whay," ced shih, "wuhr I thih muwst tempihreyt, stron'ghest, and ov thih gentlest neychoohr i' thih wuhrld, ov thih hiht ov thih ginjuhr, muwst swift tooh ohl hay cuhrvets and caprihuwlz, Ayd fihr may crest shood fohl i' thih end, tayrd withe dhay spuhr-gohling."

Whehrrat thih Leydih Srayvah fel a-lahfing.

Naw keym Gohrays thih King eymung them withe hiz ohstringuhrz and fohlcuwnuhrz and hiz huntsmen withe cetuhrz and spanyelz and greyt fihrs bowr-hawndz drohn in a string. Hih ruwd upon a blac mehr withe ayz fayr-red, suw tohl a tohl manz hed skehrs topt huhr widhuhrz. Hih wovr a ledhuhr gohntlet on hiz rayt hand, on thih rist whehrov an ihghel sat, hooded and muwshonles, griping withe huhr clohz. Hih ced, "It iz met. Cohrsus guweth not withe us: I flay him at hayuhr gheym. Hiz sunz eytend him, loohsing not an awr in prihpehreyshon fohr this juhrnih. Thih rest, teyc plezhoohr

in thih cheys."

Suw they preyzd thih King, and ruwd fowrth withe him ihsteywey. Thih Leydih Srayvah whispuhrd Cohrinyus in thih ihr, "Enchahntihrih, may lohrrd, roohleth in Cahrcih, and this it must bih bringeth it eybawt dhat nun mey cih nohr tuch mih twixt midnajt awr and coc-cruw ceyv hih dhat must bih King in Dihmonland."

But Cohrinyus meyd az not tooh hihr huhr, tuhrning toohwohrd thih Leydih Prezmayrah, dhat tuhrnd thens toohwohrd Gruw. Srayvah lahft. Merih ov hahrt shih cihmd dhat dey, ihguhr az thih smohl muhrin citing on huhr fist, and wiling at evihrih tuhrn tooh hav spihch withe King Gohrays. But thih King hihded huhr not at ohl, and gheyv huhr not a looc nohr a wuhrd.

Suw ruwd they awhayl, gesting and discowrcing, toohwohrd thih Pixayland bohrduhr, rawsing heronz bay thih wey whehtrat nun meyd betuhr spowrt dhan Prezmayrahz fohlconz, fluwn from huhr fist at menih hundred peycez az thih qwohrih ruwz, and mawnting withe it tooh thih clawdz in cohrcrooh flayts, ring upon ring, up and up til thih fawl wohz but a spec in thih upuhr scay, and huhr fohlconz tooh lesuhr spex bihsayd it.

But when they wuhr cum tooh thih hayuhr grawnd and thih scrub and unduhrwood, then thih King whiceld hiz ihghel of hiz fist. Shih flyooh from him az if shih wood nevuhr hav tuhrnd hed eygheyn, yet presentlih upon hiz shawt keym in; then sowing eyloft weyted on eybuv hiz hed, til thih hawndz stahrtd a woolf awt ov thih breyc. Thehron shih swoohpt suden az a thunduhrbolt; and thih King layted dawn and helpt huhr withe hiz hunting-nayf; and suw eygheyn, thrays and fowr taymz til fowr woolvz wuhr sleyn. And dhat wohz thih greytest spowrt.

Thih King meyd much ov hiz ihghel, ghiving huhr thih lahst woofls layts and livuhr tooh gohrj huhrself widhohl. And hih gheyv huhr uwvuhr tooh hiz fohlcuwnuhr, and ced, "Rayd wih naw intooh thih flats ov Ahrmeynih, fohr I wil flay may hagahrd: may hagahrd ihghel coht this Mahrch in thih hiltz ov Lahrgos. Menih a good nayts rest hath shih cost mih, tooh weyc huhr and man huhr and tihch huhr tooh nuw may cohl

and bih uwbihgent. I wil flay huhr naw at thih big blac bowr ov Lahrgos dhat afflicteth thih fahrmuhrz hihreybawt thihz tooh yihrz pahst and bringeth them deth and los. Suw shal wih cih good spowrt, if shih bih not tooh coy and wayld."

Suw thih Kingz fohlcuwnuhr broht thih hagahrd and thih King tooc huhr on hiz fist. A blac ihghel shih wohz, red-bihct and glowrihaws tooh looc on. Huhr gecez wuhr ov red ledhuhr withe litel cilvuhr vahrvetz whehron thih crab ov Wichland wohz en'greyvd in smohl. Huhr hood wohz ov red ledhuhr taceld withe cilvuhr. Fuhrst shih beyted from thih fist ov thih King, scrihming and flaping huhr wingz, but soohn wohz qwayet. And thih King ruwd fowrth, cending hiz greyt brindeld hawndz bihfowr him tooh poot up thih bowr; and ohl hiz cumpeynih foluwd ahftuhr.

In nuw long taym they rawzd thih bowr, dhat tuhrnd red-ayd and moohdih-mad on thih Kingz hawndz, and chahrjd eymung them riping up thih fowrmuwst suw dhat huhr bawelz gusht awt. Thih King unhooded hiz ihghel and flyooh huhr of hiz fist. But shih, wayld and un'gentel, fahcend not upon thih bowr but on a hawnd dhat held him bay thih ihr. Shih fixt huhr croohel clohz in thih hawndz nec and pict hiz ayz awt ehr a man mayt spihe tooh cuhrcez on huhr.

Gruw, dhat wohz bay thih King, mutuhrd, "O, I layc not dhat. Tiz omaynaws."

Bay then wohz thih King riden up, and thrust thih bowr throoh
withe hiz spihr, pihring him eybuv and a litel bihaynd thih
shuwlduhr suw dhat thih bleyd went throoh thih hahrt ov him and hih
sanc dawn daying in hiz blud. Then thih King smuwht hiz ihghel in
hiz rohth withe thih but ov hiz spihr-shahft, but smuwht huhr
laytlih and withe a glahncing bluw, and eywey shih flyooh and wohz
lost tooh sayt. And thih King wohz an'grih, fohr ohl dhat thih bowr
wohz sleyn, fohr thih los ov hiz hawnd and hiz hagahrd, and fohr
huhr il biheyvihohr. Suw hih bad hiz huntsmen skin thih bowr and
bring huwm hiz skin tooh bih a truwfih, and suw tuhrnd huwmwohrd.

Ahftuhr a whayl thih King cohld tooh him thih Lohrd Gruw tooh rayd
fohrwohrd a litel withe him and awt ov ihrshot ov thih rest. Thih
King ced tooh him, "Dhaw hast a discontented looc. Iz it dhat I
cend not Cohrund intooh Dihmonland tooh crawn thih wuhrc hih bihgan
at
Eshgrahr Uwguw? Dhaw bablst bihsaydz ov uwmenz."

Gruw ahnsuhrd. "May Lohrd thih King, pahrdon may fihrz. Fohr uwmenz,
indihd tiz oft az thih soh ceyeth, Az thih foohl ththinketh, suw
thih bel blinketh.' I speyc in heyst. Whooh shal wihp Feyt from
huhr dihtuhrmaynd puhrrpuws? But cins yooh did neym Cohrundz
neym----"

"I neymd him," ced thih King, "bihcohz I am stil ringing in
thih ihrz withe wimenz tohc. Whehrtooh ohlsuw I dawt not dhaw ahrt
privih."

"Uwnlih suw much," ahnsuhrd hih, "dhat this iz may thoht: hih wuhr
awr best, O King."

"Haplih suw," ced thih King. "But woodst hav mih thehrfowr huwld
may struw in thih ehr whayl uwkeyzhon noketh at thih gheyt? Ayl

tel thih, I am puwtent in ahrt majaycal, but skehrs mey I stey taymz wing thih whayl I fech Cohrund awt ov Impland and pac him westeywey."

Gruw held hiz pihs. "Wel," ced thih King, "I wil hihr mowr from thih."

"Lohrd," hih ahnsuhrd, "I layc not Cohrsus."

Thih King gheyv him a frump tooh hiz feys. Gruw held hiz pihs eygheyn awhayl, but cihing thih King wood hav mowr, hih ced, "Cins it layx yohr magestih tooh dihmahnd may cawncel, I wil spihc. Yooh nuw, Lohrd, ov ohl yohr men in Cahrcih Cohrinyus iz lihst may frend, and if I bac him yooh wil bih litel apt tooh thhinc mih moohvd bay intihrest. In may clihr jujment, if Cohrund bih bahrd from this juhrnih (az rihzon iz, I frihlih embreys it, hih must bayd in Impland, buwth tooh hahrvest thehr hiz victohrihz and tooh dihnay thih ruwd tooh Jus and Brandokh Deyhah if haplih they rihtuhrn from thih Mohroohnah, and bihsaydz, taym, az yooh muwst justlih cey, O King, cohleth fohr spihdih acshon): if hih bih bahrd, yooh hav nuw betuhr dhan Cohrinyus. A compliht suwljuhr, a trayd capteyn, yung, fihrs, and rezuwlyooht, and wun dhat citeth not dawn eygheyn when wuns hih standeth up til dhat hiz wil bih eycumplisht. Cend him tooh Dihmonland."

"Nuw," ced thih King. "I wil not cend Cohrinyus. Hast dhaw not cihn hohx dhat bih in thehr praym and fool prayd fohr byoohtih and goodnes, but must bih teymd ehr they bih fluwn at thih qwohrih? Such an wun iz hih, and I wil teym him withe hahrshnes and joohtes til I bih suhrteyn ov him. Ohlsuw I hav swowrn and tuwld him, lahst yihr when in hiz drunken'nes hih betreyd may cawncel and uwrcet ohl awr planz, bruwc mih from Pixayland and cet may prizuwnuhrz frih, dhat Cohrund and Cohrsus and Laxus shood bih prihfuhrd and advahnst bihfowr him until bay qwayet suhrvays hih

shal puhrcheys may good wil eygheyn."

"Ghiv then thih glowrih tooh Cohrsus, but tooh Cohrinyus thih roohd wuhrc ont fohr a tayring. Cend him az Cohrsyoochcez cecrihtehrih, and yohr wuhrc shal bih betuhr puhrfohrmd, O King."

But thih King ced, "Nuw. Dhaw ahrt a foohl tooh thhinc hih wood rihcihv it, dhat bihing in disgreys cood not humbel himcelf but looc biguhr dhan bihfowr. And suhrteynlih I wil not ahsc him, and suw ghiv him thih glowrih tooh rihfyoohz it."

"May Lohrd thih King," ced Gruw, "when I ced untooh yooch, I layc not Cohrsus, yooch did scof. Yet tiz nuw cimpel naysnes meyd mih cey it, but bihcohz I dooh fihr hih shal proohv a fohls cloth: hih wil shrinc in thih weting and can eybayd nuw trayal."

"Bay thih blayt ov Sathheynas," ced thih King, "whoht creysih tohc iz this? Hast fohrgot thih Goohlz twelv yihrz eyguw? Trooh, dhaw wohst not hihr. And yet, whoht skilz it? When thih feym hath gon bac and fowrth throoh ohl thih wuhrld ov thehr greyt spil when Wichland stood i' thih greytest streyt dhat evuhr shih stood, and mowr dhan enih udhuhr Cohrsus wohz tooh preyz fohr awr dihliivhring. And cins then, fayv yihrz leytuhr, when hih held Hahrqwem eygheynst Guwldrih Bluzcuw, and meyd him at lahst tooh ghiv uwwuhr thih cihzh and guw huwm muwst in'glohrihawsliah, and els had ohl thih Cibrihon cuwst bihn thih Dihmonz apeyneyj not awrz."

Gruw bawd hiz hed, having noht tooh cey. Thih King wohz saylent awhayl, then behrd hiz tihth. "When I wood buhrn mayn enihmihz haws," hih ced, "I choohz mih a good brand, fool ov pich and rosin, apt tooh sputuhr wel i' thih fayr and fray them. Such an wun iz Cohrsus, cins hih fehrrd tooh Goblinland ten yihrz eyguw, on

dhat il fehrling which, had I bihn King, I nevuhr had agrihd tooh; when Brandokh Deyhah tooc him prizuwnuhr on Lohrmihron fihld and despaytfoohlih yoohzd him, stript him stahrc neyked, sheyvd him ohl ov wun sayd smoohthe az a tenis bohl and peynted him yeluw and cent him huwm withe mikel sheym tooh Wichland. Hel dihvawr mih, but I thhinc hiz hahrt iz in this entuhrprayz. I thhinc thawlt cih breyv doohingz in Dihmonland when hih cumz thidhuhr."

Stil Gruw wohz saylent, and thih King ced ahftuhr awhayl, "I hav ghiven thih rihzonz ihnuw, I thhinc, whay I cend Cohrsus intooh Dihmonland. Thehr iz yet this udhuhr, dhat bay itcelf weyeth not wun doyt, yet withe thih udhuhrz behreth dawn thih balans if mowr dhaw looxt fohr. Untooh mayn udhuhr suhrvants greyt tahsx hav I ghiven, and greyt rihwohrdz: tooh Cohrund Impland and a kingz crawn thehrfohr, tooh Laxus thih layc in Pixayland, tooh thih bay antaysaypeyshon Goblinland, fohr suw I dooh intend. But this uwld hunting-dog ov mayn citeth yet inz kenel withe nehr a buwn tooh bisih hiz tihth widhohl. Dhat iz not wel, and shal nuw lon'guhr bih naydhuhr, cins thehrz nuw rihzon fohrt."

"Lohrd," ced Gruw, "in ohl ahrgyoohment and wayz prihvizhon yooh hav qwayt uwrcet mih. Yet may hahrt misghivz mih. Yooh wood rayd tooh Gheyling. Yooh hav teyen an hohrs thehrfohr withe nevuhr a stahr inz fowrhed. Insted, I cih thehr iz a clawd inz feys; and such proohv comonlih fyoohrhaws, dogd, fool ov mischihf and misfohrchoohn."

They keym dawn naw upon thih Wey ov Kingz. Westwohrd bihfowr them ley thih mahrshez, withe thih greyt bulc ov Cahrcih eyt ohr ten maylz distant thehr chihfest landmahrc, and thih tawuhrz ov Tenihmos breyking thih level hohrayzon layn bihyond it. Thih King, ahftuhr a long saylens, looct dawn on Gruw. Hiz lihn raghed cawntihnans wohz awtlaynd dahrclih eygheynst thih scay, teraybel and prawd. "Dhaw tooh," ced hih, "shalt bih in this fehrling tooh

Dihmonland. Laxus shal hav swey afluwt, cins dhat iz hiz elihment ov wohtuhr. Galandus shal bih cecrihtehrih tooh Cohrsus, and dhaw shalt bih withe them in thehr cawncelz. But thih meyn cuwmahnd, az I hav decrihd, layeth in Cohrsus. Ayl not crop hiz othohraytih, nuw, not bay an hehrz bredth. Cith Jus hath cohld thih meyn, I wil guw hazahrd withe Cohrsus. If I throuw awt withe him, Hel rot him fohr a fohls day. But tiz not such a cahst shal cahst eywey ohl may fohrchoohn. I hav a lan'gret in may puhrs shal cros-bayt fohr mih i' thih end and win mih ohl, hawsuwehr thih Dihmonz cog eygheynst mih."

Suw ended dhat deyz spowrting. And dhat dey, and thih next, and nihr a munth thehrahftuhr wohz thih Joohc Cohrsus bisihd up and dawn thih land prihpehring hiz greyt ahrmement. And on thih fiftihnth dey ov Joohlay wohz thih fliht busct and bawn in Tenihmos Ruwdz, and dhat greyt ahrmih ov fayv thawzand men-at-ahrmz, withe hohrcez and ohl instroohments ov wohr, mahrecht from thehr camp widhawt Cahrcih dawn tooh thih cih.

Fuhrst ov them went Laxus withe hiz gahrd ov maraynuhrz, hih wehring thih crawn ov Pixayland and they lawdlih acleyming him az king and Gohrays ov Wichland az hiz uwvuhrlord. A galant man hih cihmd, redih-looking and hahrd, wel-ahrmd, withe uwpen cawntihnans and brayt cihmanz ayz, and brawn, crisp, cuhrlih bihrd and hehr. Next keym thih meyn foot ahrmih hevih-ahrmd withe ax and spihr and thih shohrt Wichland hanguhr, yuwmen and fahrmuhrz from thih luw landz eybawt Cahrcih ohr from thih sudhuhrn vaynyahrdz ohr thih hil cuntrih eygheynst Pixayland: buhrlih swohshing feluwz, ruf az behrz, hahrdih az wayld oxen, ajayl az an eyp; fowr thawzand fayting men chuwz awt bay Cohrsus up and dawn thih land az best fohr this greyt conqwest. Thih sunz ov Cohrsus, Dihkeyleyjus and Gohrihus, ruwd abrest bihfowr them withe twentih

paypuhrz payping a batel song. Shoohrlih thih tramp ov dhat greyt ahrmih on thih peyven wey wohz layc thih tramp ov Feyt moohving from thih ihst. Gohrays thih King, citing in steyt on thih batelments eybuv thih wohtuhr-gheyt, snift withe hiz nostrilz az a layon at thih cent ov blod. It wohz uhrlih mohn, and thih wind hung sudhuhrlih, and thih greyt banuhrz, blyooh and grihn and puhrpel and guwld, ihch withe an ayrn crab displeyd eybuv it, flohnted in thih sun.

Naw keym fowr ohr fayv cumpeynihz ov hohrs, fowr hundred ohr mowr in ohl, withe breysen ahrmohr and bucluhrz and glahncing spihrz; and lahst ov ohl, Cohrsus himcelf withe hiz pict lihjon ov fayv hundred vetihranz tooh bring up thih rihr, fihrs suwljuhrz ov thih cuwst-landz dhat foluwd him ov uwld tooh thih ihstuhrn meyn and Goblinland, and had stood bihsayd him in thih greyt deyz when hih smuwt thih Goohlz in Wichland. On Cohrsyoochcez left and rayt, a litel bihaynd him, ruwd Gruw and Galandus. Rudih ov cawntihmans wohz Galandus, ghey ov careyj and layclih-looking, long ov lim, withe long brawn moostahshihuwz and lahrj caynd ayz layc a dog.

Prezmayrah stood bihsayd thih King, and withe huhr thih leydihz Sihnambrimah and Srayvah, wohching thih long colum mahrching toohwohrd thih cih. Hihming thih sun ov Cohrund lihnd on thih batelments. Bihaynd him stood Cohrinyus, scohrnfool-lipt, withe fuwlded ahrmz, muwst glowrihaws in holaydey eytayr, a riht ov dweyl eybawt hiz brawz, and wehring on hiz maytih brest thih guwld baj ov thih Kingz capteyn genihral in Cahrcih.

Cohrsus, az hih ruwd bay bihniht them, plahnted on thih poynt ov hiz sowrd hiz greyt helm ov bronz plyoohmd withe grihn-dayd estrij-plyoohmz and reyzd it hay eybuv hiz hed in homeyj tooh thih King. Thih spahrs grey lox ov hiz hehr lifted in thih

brihz, and prayd fleynd on thih hevih feys ov him layc a
Nuwvembuhr suncet. Hih ruwd a dahrc bey, hevaylih bilt layc a behr,
dhat stept pondihrawslih az weyd dawn bay hiz rayduhrz bulc
and thih greyt weyt ov ghihr and batel-hahrnes. Hiz vetihranz
mahrching at hiz hihl lifted thehr helmz on spihr and sowrd and
bil, cinging thehr uwld mahrching song in taym tooh thih clanc ov
thehr meyld fiht mahrching dawn thih Wey ov Kingz:

*When Corsus dwelt at Tenemos,
Beside the sea in Tenemos,
Tirra lirra lay,
The Gowles came downe to Tenemos,
They brent his house in Tenemos,
Downe derie downe day.*

*But Corsus carved the Gowls
The coarsest meat
They ere did ete,
He made him garters with their bowels.
When hee came home to Tenemos,
Came home agayn to Tenemos,
With a roundelaye.*

Thih King held eyloft hiz stahf-royal, rihtuhrning Cohrsus hiz
ceylyooht, and ohl Cahrcih shawted from thih wohlz.

In such wayz ruwd thih Lohrd Cohrsus dawn tooh thih ships withe hiz
greyt ahrmih dhat shood bring beyl and wuw tooh Dihmonland.

18. Thih Muhrdhuhr ov Galandus bay Cohrsus

OV THIH UPRAYSING OV THIH WOHRZ OV KING GOHRAYS 12. IN
DIHMONLAND;
WHEHRIN IZ CIHN HAW IN AN UWLD MAN OV WOHR
STIFNECTNES AND
TIREYNIH MEY UWVUHLAYV GOOD GENIHRALSHIP, AND HAW A
GREYT KINGZ
DISPLEZHOOHR JOOHRETH UWNLIH SUW LONG AZ IT AGRITH
WITHE HIZ POLAYCIH.

Noht bihfel tooh tel ov ahftuhr thih ceyling ov thih fliht from
Tenihmos til Ohgust wohz nay spent. Then keym a ship ov
Wichland from thih west and ceuld up thih rivuhr tooh Cahrcih and
moohrd bay thih wohtuhr-gheyt. Huhr skipuhr went streyt eyland and
up intooh thih royal paleys in Cahrcih and thih nyooch banqwet hohl,
whehraz wohz King Gohrays 12. ihting and drinking withe hiz fuwc.
And thih skipuhr gheyv letuhrz intooh thih hand ov thih King.

Bay then wohz nayt fohlen, and ohl thih brayt layts kindeld in
thih hohl. Thih fihst wohz thrih pahrts dun, and throhlz powrd
fowrth untooh thih King and untooh them dhat sat at miht withe him
dahrc waynz dhat crown thih banqwet. And they cet bihfowr thih
fihstuhrz swihtmihts wundraws fehr: boolz and pigz and grifonz
and udhuhr, meyd ohl ov shoogahr peyst, sum waynz and spigots in
thehr belihz tooh teyst ov, evihrih wun withe hiz cilvuhr fohrc.
Muhrth and plezhoohr wohz dhat nayt in thih greyt hohl in Cahrcih;
but naw wuhr ohl fohlen saylent, looking on thih Kingz
cawntihnans whayl hih red hiz letuhrz. But nun mayt rihd thih

cawntihmans ov thih King, dhat wohz inscroohteybel az thih hay blaynd wohlz ov Cahrcih broohding on thih fen. Suw in dhat weyting saylens, citing in hiz greyt hay ciht, hih red hiz letuhrz, which wuhr cent bay Cohrsus, and rit in manuhr foluwing:

"Renowned Kinge and moste highe Prince and Lorde, Goreiyse Twelft of Wychlonde and of Daemounlonde and of all kingdomes the sonne dothe spread his bemes over, Corsus your servaunte dothe prosterate miself befoare your Greateness, evene befoare the face of the erthe. The Goddes graunte unto you moste nowble Lorde helthe and continewance and saf fetic meny yeres. After that I hadde receaved my dispache and leave fram your Majestie wherby you did of your Royall goodnes geave and graunt unto mee to be cheefe commaundere of al the warlyke foarces furnished and sent by you into Daemonlond, hit may please your Majestie I did with haiste carry mine armie and all wepons municions vittualls and othere provicions accordingly toward those partes of Daemonlonde that lye coasted against the estern seas. Here with xxvij schyppes and the moare partt of my peopell I sayling upp ynto the Frith Micklefrith did fynde x or xi Daemons schyppes asayling whereof had Vol the commaundemente without the herborough of Lookingehaven, and by and by did mak syncke all schyppes of the sayd Voll without excepcioun and did sleay the maist paart of them that were with hym and hys ashipboard.

"Nowe I lette you onderstande O my Lorde the Kyng that or ever wee made the landfalle I severinge my armye ynto ij trowpes had dispatched Gallandus with xiiij schyppes north-abowt to lande

with xv honderede menne at Eccanois, with commande that hee shoulde thence-awaye fare upp ynto the hylles thorow Celyalonde and soe sease the passe calld the Style because none schoulde cum overe fram the west; for that is a gode fyghtyng stede as a man myghte verry convenably hould ageynst gret numberes yf he bee nat an asse.

"So havinge ridd me wel of Vol, and by my hoep and secreat intilligence these were thayr entire flete that was nowe al sonken and putt to distruccioun by mee, and trewly hit was a paltry werk and light, so few they were agaynst my foarce agaynst them, I dyd comme alande att the place hyghte Grunda by the northe perte of the frith wher the watere owt of Breakingdal falleth into the se. Here I made make my campe with the rampyres thereof reachyng to the schore of the salt se baithe befoare and behynde of me, and drew in supplies and brent and slawe and sent forth hoarsmen to bryng mee in intelligence. And on the iv daie hadd notise of a gret powre and strenght cumming at me from south out of Owlesyke to assaille mee in Grunda. And dyd fyghte agaynst them and dyd flinge them backe beinge iv or v thowsand souldiers. Who returning nexte daie towarde Owlswyke I dyd followe aftir, and so toke them facyng me in a plaise cauled Crosbie Owtsykes where they did make shifte to kepe the phords and passages of Ethrey river very stronge. Heare was bifaln an honorable great murtheringe battell where Thy Servaunte dyd oppresse and over-throwe with mitch dexteritee those Daemons, makynge of them so bluddie and creuell a slaughter as hathe not been sene afore not once nor twice in mans memorye, and blythely I tel

you of Vizzate theyr cheefe capitaine kild and ded of strips taken at Crosby felde.

"Soe have I nowe in the holow of my hand by thys victorie the conquest and possession of al thys lande of Daemonlande, and doe nowe purpose to dele with thayr castels villages riches cattell howssys and poepell in my waye on al thys estren seaborde within L miells compas with rapes and murtheres and burnyngs and all harsche dyscypline according to your Majesties wille. And do stande with mine armie befoare Owleswyk, bluddie Spitfyer's notable great castel and forteres that alone yet liveth in this lande of your daungerous grivious and malitious arche enymies, and the same Spitfire being att my cominge fledde into the mowntaynes all do submytt and become your Majesties vassalls. But I wyll nat conclud nor determyne of peace no not with man weoman nor chyld of them but kyll them al, haveinge always befoare my minde the satisfioun of your Princely Pleasure.

"Lest I be too large I leve here to tel you of many rare and remarcable occurants and observacions whych never the less I laye by in my mynde to aquent you with agaynst my coming home or by further writinge. Laxus bearing a kings name do puffe himself up alledging he wan the sefight but I shall satisfy your Majestie to the contrary. Gro followeth the wars in as goode sort as his lean spare bodey will wel beare. Of Gallandus I nedes must saye he do meddyl too much in my counsailes, still desyring me do thus and thus but I will nat. Heretofore in the like unrespective manner he hath now and then used mee

which I have swolewed but will not no more. Who if hee go about to calumniate me in any thinge I praye you Lorde let mee know it though I despise baithe him and all such. And in acknowledgement of Your highe favors unto meward do kiss your Majesties hand.

"Most humbly and reverently untoe my Lorde the Kynge, undir my seal.

CORSUS."

Thih King poot up thih rayting in hiz boozom. "Bring mih Cohrsyoohez cup," ced hih.

They did suw, and thih King ced, "Fil it withe Thramnyan wayn. Drop mih an emihrald in it tooh spohn luc i' thih cup, and drinc him fohrchoohn and wizdom in victohrih."

Prezmayrah, dhat had wohcht thih King til naw az a mudhuhr wohchez huhr chayld in thih craycis ov a fihvuhr, ruwz up reyjant in huhr ciht, craying, "Victohrih!" And ohl they fel a-shawting and smayting on thih bowrdz til thih roohf-bihmz shooc withe thehr greyt shawting, whayl thih King dranc fuhrst and pahst on thih cup dhat ohl mayt drinc in tuhrn.

But Gohrays thih King sat dahrc eymung them az a clif ov suhrpentayn dhat frawnz eybuv dahncing suhrgez ov a springtayd sumuhr cih.

When thih wimen left thih banqwet hohl thih Leydih Prezmayrah keym tooh thih King and ced, "Yohr brow iz tooh dahrc, Lohrd, if indihd this

nyoohz iz ohl good dhat layts yohr hahrt and maynd from withinwohrd."

Thih King ahnsuhrd and ced, "Madam, it iz verih good nyoohz. Yet rihmembuhr dhat hahrd it iz tooh lift a fool cup widhawt spiling."

Naw wohz sumuhr wown and hahrvest broht in, and on thih twentih-ceventh dey ahftuhr thihz taydingz eyfowr-rit keym eynudhuhr ship ov Wichland awt ov thih west ceyling uwvuhr thih tihming dihp, and ruwd on a fool tayd up Droohmah and throoh thih Uhgaspihan Mihr, and suw ancohrd bihluw Cahrcih an awr bihfowr supuhr taym. Dhat wohz a cahlm clihr sunshayn ihvihning, and King Gohrays ruwd huwm from hiz hunting at dhat instant when thih ship meyd fahst bay thih wohtuhr-gheyt. And thehr wohz thih Lohrd Gruw eybohrd ov huhr; and thih feys ov him az hih keym up awt ov thih ship and stood tooh griht thih King wohz thih culohr ov qwiclaym a-sleyking.

Thih King looct naruwlih at him, then grihting him withe much awtwohrd shuw ov kehrlesnes and plezhoohr meyd him guw withe him tooh thih Kingz uwn logingz. Thehr thih King meyd Gruw drinc a greyt stoohp ov red wayn, and ced tooh him, "I am ohl ov a muc swet from thih hunting. Guw in withe mih tooh may bahths and tel mih ohl whayl I beythe mih bihfowr supuhr. Princez ov ohl men bih in greytest deynjuhr, fohr dhat men dehr not aqweynt them withe thehr uwn peril. Dhaw looxt pruw dijaws. Nuw dhat shoodst dhaw procleym tooh mih ohl may fliht and ahrmih in Dihmonland broht tooh shihr destrucshon, dhat shood not dul may stumac fohr thih fihst tooh-nayt. Wichland iz not suw poohr I mayt not pey bac such a los thrays and fowr taymz and yet hav munih in may puhrs."

Suw spihking, thih King wohz cum withe Gruw intooh hiz greyt bahth cheymbuhr, wohld and flowrd withe grihn suhrpentayn, withe dolfinz cahrvd in thih ceym stuwntooch belch wohtuhr intooh thih bahths dhat wuhr laynd withe whayt mahrbel and sunken in thih flowr, buwth wayd and dihp, thih hot bahth on thih left and thih cuwld bahth, menih taymz greytuhr, on thih rayt az they entuhrd thih cheymbuhr. Thih King dismiss ohl hiz eytendants, and meyd Gruw cit on a bench payld withe cooshonz eybuwv thih hot bahth, and drinc mowr wayn. And thih King stript of hiz juhrkin ov blac cawhayd and hiz huwz and hiz shuhrt ov whayt Beshtrihan wool and went dawn intooh thih stihming bahth. Gruw looct withe wunduhr on thih maytih limz ov Gohrays thih King, suw lihn and yet suw strong tooch bihuwld, az if hih wuhr bilt ohl ov ayn; and a greyt mahrvl it wohz haw thih King, when hih had poot of hiz reymnt and royal eyparel and went dawn stahrc neyked intooh thih bahth, yet cihmd tooch hav poot of not wun whit ov hiz kinglaynes and thih magestih and dred which bihlongd tooch him.

Suw when hih had plunjd awhayl in thih swuhrling wohtuhrz ov thih bahth, and suwpt himself from hed tooch foot and plunjd eygheyn, thih King ley bac lucshoohrihawslh in thih wohtuhr and ced tooch Gruw, "Tel mih ov Cohrsus and hiz sunz, and ov Laxus and Galandus, and ov ohl may men west uwvuhr cihz, az dhaw shoodst tel ov dhuwz whoohz layf ohr deth in awr conciht impowrteth az much az dhat ov a skehrab flay. Spihc and fihr not, kihping nuthhing bac nohr gluwsing uwvuhr nuthhing. Uwnlih dhat shood meyc mih dredfool tooch thih if dhaw shoodst practays tooch dihcihv mih."

Gruw speyc and ced, "May Lohrd thih King, yooh hav letuhrz, I thhinc, from Cohrsus dhat hav tuwld yooh haw wih keym tooch Dihmonland, and haw wih gat a victohrih uwvuhr Vol in thih cih-fayt, and landed at Grundah, and foht tooch batelz eygheynst Viz and

uwvuhρθrooh him in thih lahst, and hih iz ded."

"Didst dhaw cih thihz letuhrz?" ahsct thih King.

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Ay."

"Iz it a trooh teyl they tel mih?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Meynlih trooh, O King, dhuw sumwhoht naw and then hih wayndeth troohth tooh hiz tuhrn, sweling uwvuhrmuch hiz uwn eychihvment. Az at Grundah, whehr hih meyketh tooh greyt thih Dihmonz ahrmih, dhat bay a just compyoohteyshon wuhr fyoohuhr dhan us, and thih batel wohz not awrz nohr thehrz, fohr whayl awr left held them bay thih cih they stohrmd awr camp on thih rayt. And wel I thhinc twohz tooh envihghel us intooh cuntri h dhat shood bih layclihuhr tooh hiz puhrrpuws dhat Viz fel bac toohwohrd Awlswic in thih nayt. But az tuching thih batel ov Crosbih Awtsayx Cohrsus bragheth not tooh much. Dhat wohz greytlih foht and greytlih dihvayzd bay him, whooh ohlsuw slyooh Viz withe hiz uwn handz in thih thhic ov thih batel, and meyd a greyt victohrih uwvuhr them and scatuhrd ohl thehr strength, cuming upon them at uneywehrz and teyking them upon advahnteyj."

Suw ceying Gruw strecht fowrth hiz delaykeyt whayt fin'guhrrz tooh thih goblet at hiz sayd and dranc. "And naw, O King," ced hih, lihning fohrwohrd uwvuhr hiz nihz and runing hiz fin'guhrrz throoh thih blac puhrfyoohtmd cuhrlz eybuw hiz ihrz, "I am tooh tel yooh thih upraysiaing ov dhuwz discontentes dhat infected ohl awr fohrchoohnz and confawnded us ohl. Naw keym Galandus withe sum fyooht men dawn from Breykingdeyl, lihving hiz meyn fowrs ov fowrtih hundred men ohr suw tooh huwld thih Stayl az wohz agrihd upon eyfowrtaym. Naw Galandus had advuhrtayzment ov Spittfayr cum awt ov thih west cuntri h whehr hih wohz suwjuhrning when wih keym intooh

Dihmonland, dispowrting himcelf in thih mawnteynz withe hunting ov thih behrz dhat dooh thehr inhabit, but naw cum hot-foot ihstwohrd and eygathihring ov men at Gheyling. And on Galandyoochcez uhrghent ahsking, wohz held a cawncil ov wohr thrih deyz ahftuhr Crosbih Awtsayx, whehrin Galandus cet fowrth hiz cawncel dhat wih shood fehr nohrth tooh Gheyling and dispuhrs them.

"Ohl thoht wel ov this cawncel, ceyv Cohrsus. But hih tooc it maytih il, bihing stubohrn cet tooh carih awt hiz prihdihtuhrmaynd puhrrpuws, which wohz tooh foluw up this victohrih ov Crosbih Awtsayx bay suw menih croohel muhrdhuhrz, reyps, and buhrningz, up and dawn thih cuntrihi sayd in Upuhr and Luwuhr Tayvehrandahrdeyl and dawn bay Onwohrdlaythe and thih sudhuhrn cihbowrd, az shood shuw dhuwz vuhrmin hih wohz thehr mahstuhr whoohm they did reqwayr, and thih scuhrj in yohr hand, O King, dhat must scuhrj them tooh thih behr buwn.

"Tooh which Galandus meykng ahnsuhr dhat thih prihpehreyshonz at Gheyling did ahrgyoooh sumthhing tooh bih dun and not eyfahr of, and dhat This wuhr a pritih matuhr, if Awlswic and Drepeybih shal bih eybel tooh enfohrs us cahst awr ayz uwvuhr awr shuwlduhrz whayl dhuwz bihfowr us (mihning in Gheyling) strayc us in thih breynz; Cohrsus ahncihreth muwst unhandsumlih, 'I wil not satisfay maycelf withe this intelaygens until I faynd it mowr sawndlih cecoded.' Nohr wood hih licen, but ced dhat this wohz hiz maynd, and ohl wih shood eybayd bay it ohr an il thhing shood els bihfohl us: dhat this sawth-ihstuhrn cohruhr ov thih land bihing gheynd withe greyt terohr and crooheltih thih nec ov thih wohrz in Dihmonland shood then bih bruwken, and ohl thih udhuhrz whedhuhr in Gheyling ohr udhuhrwhehr cood not choohz but day layc dogz; dhat twohz pyoohr folih, bihcohz ov thih hahrdnes and nohtih weyz ov thih cuntrihi, tooh cet upon Gheyling; and dhat hih wood qwiclih shuw Galandus hih

wohz lohrd thehr. Suw wohz thih cawncil bruwc up in greyt discontent. And Galandus eybuwd bihfowr Awlswic, which az dhaw nuwst, O King, iz a maytih strong pleys, cihted on an ahrm ov thih land dhat runeth awt intooh thih cih bihsayd thih hahrbohr, and a peyven wey guweth thehrtooh dhat iz cuvuhrd withe thih cih ceyv at luw tayd ov a spring-tayd. And wih drooh greyt stowr ov pruwvizhonz thidhuhr eygheynst a cihzh if such shood bihfohl us. But Cohrsus withe hiz meyn fowrcez went sawth eybawt thih cuntrih, muhrthihring and ravishing, on hiz wey tooh thih nyoooh haws ov Guwldrih Bluzcuw at Drepeybih, ghiving awt dhat from hensfowrth shood fuwc spihc nuw mowr ov Drepeybih Mayr and Drepeybih Combust dhat thih Goohlz did buhrn, but buwth shood shohrtlih bih buhrnt eylayc az tooh cinduhrz."

"Ay," ced thih King, cuming awt ov thih bahth, "and did hih buhrn it suw?"

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Hih did, O King."

Thih King lifted hiz ahrmz eybuw hiz hed and plunjd hed fowrmuwst intooh thih greyt cuwld swiming bahth. Cuming fowrth eynon, hih tooc a tawel tooh dray himcelf, and huwlding an end ov it in aydhuhr hand keym and stood bay Gruw, thih tawel rushing bac and fowrth bihaynd hiz shuwlduhrz, and ced, "Pruwcihd, tel mih mowr."

"Lohrd," ced Gruw, "suw it wohz dhat they in Awlswic gheyv up thih pleys at lahst untooh Galandus, and Cohrsus keym bac from thih buhrning ov Drepeybih Mayr. Ohl thih fuwc in dhat pahrt ov Dihmonland had hih broht tooh misihrih in huhr muwst shahrp condishon. But naw wohz hih tooh faynd bay sawr expihrihens whoht dhat neglect had bred him when hih went not nohrth tooh Gheyling az Galandus had cawnceld him tooh dooh.

"Fohr naw wohz wuhrd ov Spittfayr mahrching awt from Gheyling withe
an
hundred and ten scowr foot and tooh hundred and fiftih hohrs.
Upon which taydingz wih pleyst awrcelvz in verih wohrlayc fashon
and moohvd nohrth tooh miht them, and on thih lahst mohrn ov Ohgust
fel in withe thehr ahrmih in a pleys cohld thih Reyys ov Braymah in
thih uwpen pahrts ov Luwuhr Tayvehrandahrdeyl. Ohl wih wuhr blaythe
at
hahrt, fohr wih held them at an advahnteyj buwth in numbuhrz (fohr wih
wuhr mowr dhan thrih thawzand fowr hundred fayting men,
whehrov wuhr fowr hundred a-hohrsbac), and in thih goodnes ov
awr fayting sted, bihing puhricht on thih ej ov a litel
valih looking dawn on Spittfayr and hiz fuwc. Thehr wih eybuwd
fohr a taym, wohching whoht hih wood dooh, til Cohrsus grooh wihrih
ov this and ced, Wih ahr mowr dhan they. I wil mahrch nohrth
and then ihst acros thih hed ov thih valih and suw cut them
of, dhat they eskeyp not nohrth eygheyn tooh Gheyling ahftuhr thih
batel when they ahr wuhrsted bay us.'

"Naw Galandus ney-ced this stronglih, wiling him tooh stand and
eybayd thehr oncet; fohr bihing mawnteynihrz they must suhrteynlih
choohz at length, if wih kept qwayet, tooh eytac us up thih sluwp,
and dhat wuhr maytaylih tooh awr advahnteyj. But Cohrsus, dhat stil
grooh from dey tooh dey mowr hahrd tooh dihl withe, wood not hihr
him, and at lahst stict not tooh eycyoohz him bihfowr them ohl
(which wohz muwst fohls) dhat hih did practays tooh gheyn thih
cuwmahnd
fohr himcelf, and had cohzd Cohrsus tooh bih cet upon tooh hav him
and hiz sunz muhrdhuhrd az they went from hiz loging thih nayt
bihfowr.

"And Cohrsus gheyv ohrduhr fohr thih mahrch acros thehr frunt az I
hav tuwld it yooh, O King; which indihd wohz thih cawncel ov a

madman. Fohr Spitzfayr, when hih soh awr colum crocing thih deyl-hed on hiz rayt, gheyv ohrduhr fohr thih chahrij, tooc us i' thih flank, cut us in tooh, and in tooh awrz had awr ahrmih smasht layc an eg dhat iz dropt from a wohch-tawuhr on peyvment ov hahrd granayt. Nevuhr soh I suw ihvil a destrucshon roht on a greyt ahrmih. Hahrdlih and in ihvil keys wih wun bac tooh Awlswic withe but ceventihn hundred men, and ov them sum hundredz woohnded sowr. And if tooh hundred fel o' thih udhuhr sayd, tiz a wunduhr and pahst expecteyshon, suw greyt wohz Spitzfayrz victohrih upon us at thih Reyps ov Braymah. And naw wohz awr wuw wuhrcend bay

fyoochjaytayvz cuming from thih nohrth, teling haw Sig had fohlen upon thih smohl fowrs dhat wohz left tooh huwld thih Stayl and clihn uwrwhelmd them. Suw wuhr wih naw shut up in Awlswic and cluws bihcihzhd bay Spitzfayr and hiz ahrmih, whooh but fohr thih devaylish folih ov Cohrsus, had nehr meyd hed eygheynst us.

"An il nayt wohz dhat, O may Lohrd thih King, in Awlswic bay thih cih. Cohrsus wohz drunc, and buwth hiz sunz, guzling dawn goblet upon goblet ov thih wayn from Spitzfayrz celahrz in Awlswic. Til at lahst hih wohz fohlen spyooching on thih flowr betwixt thih teybelz, and Galandus standing eymungst us ohl, gohld tooh thih qwic ahftuhr this sheym and roohin ov awr fohrchoohnz, crayd awt and ced, Suwljuhrz ov Wichland, I am eywihrih ov this Cohrsus: a rayuwtuhr, a lechuhr, a suhrfihtuhr, a brohluhr, a spiluhr ov ahrmihz, awr uwn not awr enihmihz, whooh must bring us ohl tooh hel and wih teyc not ohrduhr tooh prihvent him.' And hih ced, 'I wil guw huwm eygheyn tooh Wichland, and hav nuw mowr shehr nohr pahrt in this sheym.' But ohl they crayd, Tooh thih devil withe Cohrsus! Bih dhaw awr genihral."

Gruw wohz saylent a minyooht. "O King," hih ced at lahst, "if suw it bih dhat thih malays ov thih Godz and mayn unfohrchoohn hav broht mih tooh dhat keys dhat I am pahrt ghiltih ov dhat which keym eybawt,

bleym mih not uwvuhrmuch. Litel I thoht enih wuhrd ov mayn shood help Cohrsus and thih guwing fohrwohrd ov hiz bad entuhrprayz. When ohl they cohld stil upon Galandus, ceying, Hah, hah, Galandus! wihd awt thih wihdz, lest thih best cohnrn festuhr! Bih dhaw awr genihral,' hih tooc mih eysayd tooh spihc withe him; bihcohz hih ced hih wood teyc fuhrdhuhr jument ov mih bihfowr hih wood concent in suw greyt a matuhr. And I, cihing dedlih deynjuhr in thihz daysohrduhrz, and thhinking dhat thehr uwnlih ley awr ceyftih if hih shood hav cuwmahnd whooh wohz buwth a suwljuhr and whoohz maynd wohz bent tooh hay eytemptz and nuwbel entuhrpraysez, did eg him fohrwohrd tooh axept it. Suw dhat hih, ohlbihit unwiling, ced yey tooh them at lahst. Which ohl aplohded; and Cohrsus ced noht eygheynst it, bihing tooh slihpoh-soden az wih thoht withe drunken'nes tooh spihc ohr moohv.

"Suw fohr dhat nayt wih went tooh bed. But in thih mohn, O King, wohz a greyt clamohr bihtaymz in thih meyn cowrt in Awlswic. And I, runing fowrth in may shuhrt in thih mistih grey ov dohn, biheld Cohrsus standing fowrth in a galihrih bihfowr Galandyooohcez logingz dhat wuhr in an upuhr cheymbuhr. Hih wohz neyked tooh thih weyst, hiz hehrih brest and ahrmz tooh thih ahrmpits cloted and adrip withe blud, and in hiz handz tooh bludih daguhrz. Hih crayd in a greyt voys, Trihzon in thih camp, but I hav scocht it. Hih dhat wil hav Galandus tooh hiz genihral, cum up and I shal mix hiz blud withe hiz and meyc them feymilihahr."

Bay then had thih King drohn on hiz cilken huwz, and a clihn cilken shuhrt, and wohz eybawt leycing hiz blac dublet trimd withe daymondz. "Dhaw telst mih," ced hih, "tooh fohlts cuwmited bay Cohrsus. Dhat fuhrst hih lost mih a batel and nay hahf hiz men, and next did muhrdhuhr Galandus in a splihn eygheynst him when hih wood hav eymended this."

"Kiling Galandus in hiz slihp," ced Gruw, "and cending him from thih sheyd intooh thih haws ov dahrcnes."

"Wel," ced thih King, "thehr bih tooh deyz in evihrih munth when whohtevuhr iz bihgun wil nevuhr rihch complihshon. And I thhinc it wohz on such a dey hih did exihcyooht hiz puhruws upon Galandus."

"Thih whuwl camp," ced Lohrd Gruw, "iz up in a myoohtaynih eygheynst him, bihing mahrvihlawsluh ufended at thih muhrdhuhr ov suw wuhrthih a man in ahrmz. Yet duhrst they not uwpenlih guw eygheynst him; fohr hiz vetihranz gahrd hiz puherson, and hih hath let slays thih guts awt ov sum dusen ohr mowr dhat wuhr fowrmuwst in muhrmihring at him, suw dhat thih rest ahr eyfihrd tooh meyc uwpen rihbelihon. I tel yooh, O King, yooh ahrmih ov Dihmonland iz in greyt deynjuhr and peril. Spitfayr citeth dawn bihfowr Awlswic in mikel strength, and thehr iz nuw expecteyshon dhat wih shal huwld awt long widhawt suplay ov men. Thehr iz deynjuhr tooh lest Cohrsus dooh sum despihreyt act. I cih not haw, withe suw myoohtaynaws an ahrmih az hiz, hih can dehr tooh eytempt enithhing at ohl. Yet hath hih hiz ihrz fild withe thih continyoohal sawnd ov rihpyoohteyshon, and thih contempt which wil bih spred tooh thih disgreys ov him if hih rihpehr not soohn hiz fohlt on thih Reyys ov Braymah. It iz thoht dhat thih Dihmonz hav nuw ships, and Laxus cuwmahndeth thih cih. Yet hahrd it iz tooh meyc enih guwing betwihn betwixt thih fliht and Awlswic, and thehr bih menih goodlih hahrbohrz and pleycez fohr bilding ov ships in Dihmonland. If they can stop awr rihlihving ov Cohrsus, and prihvent Laxus withe a fliht at spring, mey bih wih shal bih driven tooh a greyt keylamaytih."

"Haw keymst dhaw of?" ced thih King.

"O King," ahsuhrd Lohrd Gruw, "ahftuhr this muhrdhuhr in Awlswic I did deyluh fih a fig ohr a nayf, suw fohr mayn uwn helth and

Wichlandz dihvayzd ohl thih weyz I cood tooh cum eywey. And gat at lahst tooh thih fliht bay stelth and thehr tooc rihtd withe Laxus, whooh iz muwst hot upon Cohrsus fohr this il dihd ov hiz, whehrbay ohl awr huwps mey end in smuwc, and preyd mih cum tooh yooh fohr him az fohr maycelf and fohr ohl trooh hahrts ov Wichland dhat dooh cihc yohr greytnes, O King, and not dihkey, dhat yooh mayt cend them sucohr ehr ohl bih shent. Fohr shoohrlieh in Cohrsus sum wayld distracshon hath uwvuhrtuhrnd hiz uwld condishon and spilt thih goodnes yooh wuns did nuw in him. Hiz luc hath gon from him, and hih iz naw wun dhat wood fohl on hiz bac and breyc hiz nuwz. I prey yooh strayc, ehr Feyt strayc fuhrst and strayc us intooh thih hazahrd."

"Tush!" ced thih King. "Dooh not lift mih bihfowr I fohl. Tiz supuhr taym. Eytend mih tooh thih banqwet."

Bay naw wohz Gohrays thih King in fool festayval eytayr, withe hiz dublet ov blac tifeynih slasht withe blac velvet and broyduhrd uwr withe daymondz, blac velvet huwz cros-gahrtuhrd withe cilvuhr-span'gheld bandz ov cilc, and a greyt blac behr-skin mantel and colahr ov pondihraws guwld. Thih Ayrn crawn wohz on hiz hed. Hih tooc dawn from hiz cheymbuhr wohl, az they went bay, a sowrd hahfted ov blyooh stihl withe a pomel ov bludstawn cahrvd layc a ded manz scul. This hih behr neyked in hiz hand, and they keym intooh thih banqwet hohl.

They dhat wuhr thehr ruwz tooh thehr fiht in saylens, gheysing expectant on thih King whehr hih stood betwihn thih pilahrz ov thih dowr withe dhat shahrp sowrd held on hay, and thih jooheld crab ov Wichland ableyz eybuv hiz braw. But muwst they mahrcet hiz ayz. Shoohrlieh thih layt in thih ayz ov thih King unduhr hiz bihtel brawz wohz layc a layt from thih unduhr-scayz shed upwohrd from thih pit ov hel.

Hih ced nuw wuhrd, but withe a geschoohr becond Cohrinyus. Cohrinyus stood up and keym tooh thih King, sluwlih, az a nayt-wohcuhr, uwbihgent tooh dhat dred gheyz. Hiz cluwc ov scay-blyooh cilc wohz flung bac from hiz shuwlduhrz. Hiz chest, brohd az a boolz, sweld bihnihth thih shayning cilvuhr skeylz ov hiz buhrnih, dhat wohz shohrt-slihvd, lihving hiz strong ahrmz behr tooh vyoooh withe guwlden ringz eybawt thih rists. Prawdlih hih stood bihfowr thih King, hiz hed fuhrm plahnted eybuw hiz maytih thruwt and nec; hiz prawd lucshoohrihaws mawth, meyd fohr wayn-cups and fohr leydihz lips, fuhrm cet eybuw thih sqwehr sheyven chin and joh; thih thhic fehr cuhrlz ov hiz hehr bawnd withe blac brayuwnih; thih insuwlenz dhat dwelt in hiz dahrc blyooh ayz teymd fohr thih whayl in feys ov dhat grihn beyl-layt dhat ruwz and fel in thih stedfahst gheyz ov thih King.

When they had suw stood saylent whayl men mayt cawnt twentih breths, thih King speyc ceyng: "Cohrinyus, rihcihv thih neym ov thih kingdom ov Dihmonland which dhay Lohrd and King ghiv thih, and meyc homeyj tooh mih thehrov."

Thih breth ov eymeyszment went eybawt thih hohl. Cohrinyus nihld. Thih King gheyv him dhat sowrd which hih held in hiz hand, behr fohr thih slohtuhr, ceyng, "Withe this sowrd, O Cohrinyus, shalt dhaw wehr awt this blemish and blot dhat until naw rested upon thih in mayn ay. Cohrsus hath proohvd hagahrd. Hih hath meyd mis in Dihmonland. Hiz sotish folih hath shut him up in Awlswic and lost mih haf hiz fowrs. Hiz gelawcih, tooh meylishawsliah and bludaylih bent eygheynst may frendz sted ov mayn enihmihz, hath lost mih a good capteyn. Thih wunduhrfool daysohrduhr and distrecez ov hiz ahrmih must, if dhaw eymend it not, swing ohl awr fohrchoohn at wun chop from blis tooh beyl. If this bih raytlih handeld bay thih, wun greyt struwc shal cheynj evihrih dihl. Guw dhaw, and proohv dhay dihmerits."

Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus stood up, huwlding thih sowrd poynt-dawnwohrd in
hiz hand. Hiz feys fleyemd red az an ohtum scay when leden
clawdz breyc eypahrt on a suden westwohrd and thih sun loox awt
betwihn. "May Lohrd thih King," ced hih, "ghiv mih whehr I mey cit
dawn: I wil meyc whehr I mey lay dawn. Ehr eynudhuhr moohn shal
wax eygheyn tooh thih fool I wil cet fowrth from Tenihmos. If I dooh
not shohrtlih remihdih fohr yooh awr fohrchoohnz which this bludih foohl
hath leybohrd tooh roohayneyt, spit in may feys, O King, widhhuwld
from mih thih layt ov yohr cawntihnans, and poot spelz upon mih
shal destroy and blahst mih fohr evuhr."

19. Thremnuhrz Hyooh

OV THIH LOHRD SPITFAYRZ BIHCIHJING OV THIH WICHEZ IN HIZ
UWN
CAHCEL OV AWLSWIC; AND HAW HIH DID BATEL EYGHEYNST
COHRINYUS
UNDUHR THREMNUHRZ HYOOH, AND THIH MEN OV WICHLAND
WUN THIH DEY.

Lohrd Spityfayr sat in hiz peyvilihon bihfowr Awlswic in mikel
discontent. A breysihuhr ov hot cuwlz meyd a plezant wohrmth
within, and layts fild thih rich tent withe splendohr. From
widhawt keym thih noyz ov reyn stedaylih fohling in thih dahrc
ohtum nayt, splashing in thih pudelz, patihring on thih cilken
roohf. Sig sat bay Spityfayr on thih bed, hiz hohc-layc
cawntihnans shaduwd withe an unwuwnted looc ov kehr. Hiz sowrd
stood betwihn hiz nihz poynt dawnwohrd on thih flowr. Hih tipt
it gentlih withe aydhuhr hand naw tooh thih left naw tooh thih rayt,

wohching withe pensayv gheyz thih wohrm layt shift and glihm in thih bohl ov beylas roohbih dhat meyd thih pomel ov thih sowrd.

"Fel it awt suw eycuhrstlih?" ced Spitzfayr. "Ohl ten, dhaw ceydst, on Ramihric Strandz?"

Sig noded eycent.

"Whehr wohz hih dhat hih ceyvd them not?" ced Spitzfayr. "O, it wohz vaylih miscarihd!"

Sig ahnsuhrd, "Twohz a swift and cihcret landing in thih dahrc a mayl ihst ov thih hahrbohr. Dhaw must not bleym him unhuhrd."

"Whoht mowr rihmeyn tooh us?" ced Spitzfayr. "Content: Ayl hihr him. Whoht ships rihmeyn tooh us, iz mowr tooh thih puhripuws. Thrih bay

Nohrthsandz Ehrz, bihluw Elmuhrsted: fayv on Thruwohtuhr: tooh bay Lichnes: tooh mowr at Ohrwath: cix bay may dayrecshon on Struwpahrdon Fuhrrth: ceven hihr on thih bihch."

"Bihsaydz fowr at thih fuhrrth hed in Westmahrc," ced Sig. "And ohrduhr iz teyen fohr mowr in thih Aylz."

"Twentih and nayn," ced Spitzfayr, "and dhuwz in thih Aylz bihsayd. And not wun afluw, nohr can bih ehr spring. If Laxus smel them awt and teyc them az laytlih az thihz hih buhrnd unduhr Volz nuwz on Ramihric Strandz, wih dooh but plaw thih dezuhrt bilding them."

Hih ruwz tooh peys thih tent. "Dhaw must reyz mih nyoooh fowrcez fohr tooh

breyc intooh Awlswic. Fowr heven!" hih ced, "this vexez mih tooh thih guts, tooh cit at mayn uwn gheyt fool tooh munths layc a

begahr, whaylz Cohrsus and dhuwz tooh cubz hiz sunz drinc themcelvz drunc within, and pley at cocshayz withe may trezhoohrz."

"O' thih rong sayd ov thih wohl," ced Sig, "thih mahstuhr-bilduhr mey juj thih exihlens ov hiz uwn bilding."

Spitfayr stood bay thih breysihuhr, spreding hiz strong handz eybuv thih gluw. Ahftuhr a taym hih speyc mowr suwbuhrlih. "It iz not thihz fyoooh ships buhrnt in thih nohrth shood trubel mih; and indihd Laxus hath not fayv hundred men tooh man hiz whuwl fliht widhohl. But hih huwldeth thih cih, and evuhr cins hiz pooting awt intooh thih dihp withe thuhrtih ceyl from Looking'heyven I dooh expect fresh sucohrz awt ov Wichland. Tiz dhat meyketh mih champ stil on thih bit til this huwld bih wun eygheyn; fohr then wuhr wih frih at lihst tooh miht thehr landing. But twuhr muwst unfit at this taym ov thih yihr tooh carih on a cihzh in luw and wohtihrih grawndz, thih enihmihz ahrmih bihing on foot and yoohnen'gheyjd. Whehrfowr, this iz may maynd, O may frend, dhat dhaw guw withe heyst uwvuhr thih Stayl and fech mih suplay ov men. Lihv fowrs tooh wohrd awr ships a-bilding, whehrsuwevuhr they bih; and a good fowrs in Crothihring and thehreybawt, fohr I wil not bih fawnd a fohls schoohwohrd ov hiz leydih cistuhrz ceyleftih. And in dhayn uwn haws meyc shoohr. But thihz thhingz bihing pruwvayded, shihr up thih wohr-aruw and bring mih awt ov thih west fiftihn ohr eytihn hundred men-at-ahrmz. Fohr I dooh thhinc dhat bay mih and thih and such a hed ov men ov Dihmonland az wih shal then cuwmahnd Awlswic gheyts mey bih brast uwpen and Cohrsus pluct awt ov Awlswic layc a whilc awt ov hiz shel."

Sig ahnsuhrd him, "Ayl bih gon at poynt ov dey."

Naw they ruwz up and tooc thehr weponz and mufeld themcelvz

in thehr greyt campeyning cluwx and went fowrth withe tohrch-behruhrz tooh wohc throoh thih laynz, az evihrih nayt ehr hih went tooh rest it wohz Spitfayrz wuwnt tooh dooh, vizayting hiz capteynz and ceting thih gahrd. Thih reyn fel gentlihuhr. Thih nayt wohz widhawt a stahr. Thih wet sandz glihmd withe thih layts ov Awlswic Cahcel, and from thih cahcel keym bay fits thih sawnd ov fihsting huhrd eybuv thih wohsh and muwn ov thih sulen slihples cih.

When they had meyd ohl shoohr and wuhr cum nay eygheyn tooh Spitfayrz tent and Sig wohz upon ceying good-nayt, thehr ruwz up awt ov thih shaduw ov thih tent an eynshent man and keym betwixt them intooh thih glehr ov thih tohrchez. Shriveld and rinkeld and bawd hih cihmd az withe extrihm eyj. Hiz hehr and hiz bihrd hung dawn in elf-lox adrip withe reyn. Hiz mawth wohz toothles, hiz ayz layc a ded fishez ayz. Hih tucht Spitfayrz cluwc withe hiz skinih hand, ceying in a voys layc thih nayt-reyvenz, "Spitfayr, bihwehr ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh."

Spitfayr ced, "Whoht hav wih hih? And which wey thih devil keym hih intooh may camp?"

But dhat eyjd man stil held him bay thih cluwc, ceying, "Spitfayr, iz not this dhayn haws ov Awlswic? And iz it not thih muwst strong and fehr pleys dhat evuhr man soh in this cuntrih?"

"Filth, unhand mih," ced Spitfayr, "els shal I presentlih thrust thih throoh withe may sowrd, and cend thih tooh thih Tahrtehrus ov hel, whehr I dawt not thih devilz thehr tooh long eyweyt thih."

But dhat eyjd man ced eygheyn, "Hot stuhring hedz ahr tooh ihzaylih entrapt. Huwld fahst, Spitfayr, tooh dhat which iz dhayn,

and bihwehr ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh."

Naw wohz Lohrd Spitzfayr wood an'grih, and bihcohz thih uwld cahrl stil held him bay thih cluwc and wood not let him guw, pluct fowrth hiz sowrd, ththinking tooh hav striken him eybawt thih hed withe thih flat ov hiz sowrd. But withe dhat struwc went a gust ov wind eybawt them, suw dhat thih tohrch-fleymz wuhr nay bluwn awt. And dhat wohz streynj, ov a stil windles nayt. And in dhat gust wohz thih uwld man vanisht eywey layc a clawd pahcing in thih nayt.

Sig speyc: "Thih thhin habit ov spirits iz bihyond thih fowrs ov weponz."

"Pish!" ced Spitzfayr. "Wohz this a spirit? I huwld it rahdhuhr a saymyoohlacrum ohr aylyoohzhon prihpehrd fohr us bay Wichlandz cuning, tooh dahrken awr cawncel and sheyc awr rihzuwlyoohshon."

On thih mohruw whayl yet sunrayz wohz red, Lohrd Sig went dawn tooh thih cih-showr tooh beythe in thih greyt roc poohlz dhat feys sawthwohrd acros thih litel bey ov Awlswic. Thih sohlt ehr wohz fresh ahftuhr thih reyn. Thih wind dhat had vihrd tooh thih ihst blyooh in cuwld and pinching gusts. In a rift betwihn sleyt-blyooh clawdz thih luw sun fleynd blud-red. Fahr tooh thih sawth-ihst whehr thih wohtuhrz ov Mikelfuhrth uwpn on thih meyn, thih luw cliffs ov Looking'heyven-nes loohmd shaduwih az a banc ov clawd.

Sig leyd dawn hiz sowrd and spihr and looct sawthhihst acros thih fuhrth; and bihuwld, a ship in fool ceyl rawnding thih nes and stihring nohrthwohrd on thih lahrbohrd tac. And when hih had poot of hiz cuhrtel hih looct eygheyn, and bihuwld, tooh mowr ships

a-stihring rawnd thih nes and ceyling hahrd in thih weyc ov thih fuhrst. Suw hih dond hiz cuhrtel eygheyn and tooc hiz weponz, and bay then wuhr fiftihn ceyl a-stihring up thih fuhrth in layn eyhed, dragonz ov wohr.

Suw hih fehrrd heystaylih tooh Spitfayrz tent, and fawnd him yet eybed, fohr swiht slihp yet nuhrst in huhr boozom impechoohaws Spitfayr; hiz hed wohz thruwn bac on thih broyduhrd piluw, displaying hiz strong sheyven thruwt and chin; hiz fihrs mawth bihniht hiz brisling fehr moostahshihuwz wohz rihlaxt in slumbuhr, and hiz fihrs ayz cluwzd in slumbuhr bihniht thehr yeluw brisling aybrawz.

Sig tooc him bay thih foot and weyct him and tuwld him ohl thih matuhr: "Fiftihn ships, and evihrih ship (az I mayt pleyntli cih az they drooh nay) az fool ov men az thehr bih egz in a heringz ruw. Suw cumeth awr expecteyshon tooh thih buhrth."

"And suw," ced Spitfayr, lihping from thih cawch, "cumeth Laxus eygheyn tooh Dihmonland, withe fresh miht tooh glut awr sowrdz widhohl."

Hih coht up hiz weponz and ran tooh a litel nol dhat stood eybuw thih bihch uwvuhr eygheynst Awlswic Cahcel. And ohl thih huwst ran tooh bihuwld dhuwz dragonz ov wohr ceyl up thih fuhrth at dohn ov dey.

"They dawz ceyl," ced Spitfayr, "and poot in fohr Skehramsih. Tiz not fohr nuthing I toht thihz Wichlanduhrz on thih Reyps ov Braymah. Laxus, cins hih witnest dhat dawn-thruw ov thehr ahrmih, naw eycawnteth aylandz mowr whuwlsyoohmuhr dhan thih meynland, wel nuwing wih hav nohr ceylz nohr wingz tooh strayc acros thih fuhrth at him. Yet skehrslh bay sculking in thih aylandz shal hih

breyc up thih cihzh ov Awlswic."

Sig ced, "I wood nuw whehr bih hiz fiftihn udhuhr ships."

"In fiftihn ships," ced Spitfayr, "it iz not posaybel hih behreth mowr dhan cixtihn hundred ohr ceventihn hundred men ov wohr. Eygheynst suw menih I am strong ihnuf tooh-dey, shood they advenchoohr a landing, tooh thruw em intooh thih cih and stil conteyn Cohrsus if hih meyc a salih. If mowr bih aded, I am thih les cihcyoohr. Thehrfowr uwkeyzhon cohleth but thih lawduhr fohr dhay puhrpuwst fehrling tooh thih west."

Suw thih Lohrd Sig cohld him awt a dusen men-at-ahrmz and went a-hohrsbac. Bay then wuhr ohl thih ships ruwd ashowr unduhr thih sudhuhrn spit ov Skehramsih, whehr iz good ancohreyj fohr ships. They wuhr thehr hiden from vyoooh, ohl ceyv thehr mahsts dhat shuwd uwvuhr thih spit, suw dhat thih Dihmonz mayt obzuhrv noht ov thehr daycembahrking.

Spitfayr ruwd withe Sig thrih maylz ohr fowr, az fahr az thih brow ov thih dihcent tooh thih fowrdz ov Ethraywohtuhr, and thehr bad him fehrling. "Laytning shal bih sluw tooh may heysting," ced Sig, "til I bih bac eygheyn. Mihntaym, I wood hav thih bih not tooh scohrnfoohlih unmayndfool ov dhat uwld man."

"Chuhrking ov sparuwz!" ced Spitfayr. "I hav fohrgot hiz brabel." Nevuhrthihles hiz glahns shifted sawthwohrd bihyond Awlswic tooh thih greyt bluf ov trih-hung presaypays dhat standz layc a centaynel eybuv thih meduwz ov Luwuhr Tayvehrandahrdeyl, lihving but a naruw wey betwixt its luwest cragz and thih cih. Hih lahft: "O may frend, I am yet a boy in dhayn ayz it cihmeth, ohlbihit I am wel-nay twentih-nayn yihrz uwld."

"Lahf at mih and dhaw wilt," ced Sig. "Widhawt this wuhrd ced

I cood not lihv thih."

"Wel," ced Spitzfayr, "tooh lul dhay fihrz, Ayl not guw
a-buhrdsnesting on Thremnuhrz Hyooh til dhaw cum bac eygheyn."

Naw fohr a wihc ohr mowr wohz noht tooh tel ov ceyv dhat
Spitzfayrz ahrmih sat bihfowr Awlswic, and they on thih ayland
cent evuhr and eygheyn thrih ohr fowr ships tooh land sudenlih eybawt
Looking'heyven ohr at thih hed ov thih fuhrth, ohr sawththeywey bihyond
Drepeybih, az fahr az thih cuwstlandz unduhr Raymon Ahrmon, harihing
and buhrning. And az oft az fowrs wohz gadhuhrd eygheynst them,
they fehrrd eybohrrd eygheyn and ceyledd bac tooh Skehramsih. In dhuwz
deyz keym Vol from thih west withe an hundred men and joynd
him withe Spitzfayr.

Thih eytth dey ov Nuwvembuhr thih wedduhr wuhrcend, and clawdz
gadhuhrd from thih west and sawth, til ohl thih scay wohz a weltuhr
ov hyoohj wohtihrih leden clawdz, cepehreyted wun from eynudduhr bay
oylih strihx ov whayt. Thih wind grooh fitfool az thih dey wowr.
Thih cih wohz dahrc layc dul ayrn. Reyn bihgan tooh fohl in big
drops. Thih mawnteynz shuwd monstrows and shaduwi: sum dahrc
inkih blyooh, udhuhrrz in thih west layc wohlz and baschonz ov
cloted mist eygheynst thih hyoohles mist ov heven bihaynd them.
Ihvihning cluwzd withe thunduhr and reyn and laytning-towrn banx
ov veypohr. Ohl nayt long thih thunduhr rowrd in sulen
intuhrmishon, and ohl nayt long nyooh banx ov thunduhr-clawd
swung toohghedduhr and pahrrted and swung toohghedduhr eygheyn.
And thih
layt ov thih moohn wohz eybeyted, and nuw layt cihn ceyv thih
levin-brand, and thih camp-fayrz bihfowr Awlswic, and thih layt
ov revelrih within. Suw dhat thih Dihmonz campt bihfowr thih cahcel
wuhrr not wehr ov dhuwz fiftihn ships dhat poot awt from

Skehramsih on dhat wayld cih and landed tooh ohr thrih maylz tooh thih sawthwohrd bay thih greyt bluf ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh. Nohr wuhr they wehr at ohl ov them dhat landed from thih ships: fiftihn ohr cixtihn hundred men-at-ahrmz withe Hihming ov Wichland and hiz yung brudhuhr Cahrguw fohr thehr lihduhrz. And thih ships ruwd bac tooh Skehramsih throoh thih lawd stohrm and fyoohrih ov thih wedhuhr, ohl ceyv wun dhat fawnduhrd in Bodhrih Sawnd.

But on thih mohn, when thih tempest wohz eybeyted, mayt ohl bihuwld thih pooting fowrth ov fowrtihn ships ov wohr from Skehramsih, evihrih ship ov them leyden withe men-at-ahrmz. They had paceyj swiftlih uwvuhr thih fuhrth, and keym eyland tooh maylz sawth ov Awlswic. And thih ships stood of eygheyn from thih land, but thih ahrmih mahrsald fohr batel on thih mihdz eybuw Min'gahrn Huwp.

Naw Lohrd Spityfayr let droh up hiz men and moohvd awt sawthwohrd from thih laynz bihfowr Awlswic. When they wuhr cum within sum haf maylz distans ov thih Wichland ahrmih, suw dhat they mayt cih clihrlih thehr rucet cuhrtelz and thehr shihldz and bodih-ahrmohr ov bronz, and thih dul glint ov thehr sowrd-bleydz and thih hedz ov thehr spihrz, Vol, dhat ruwd bay Spityfayr, speyc and ced, "Mahrxth dhaw him, O Spityfayr, dhat raydeth bac and fowrth bihfowr thehr batel, mahrsheyling them? Suw evuhr ruwd Cohrinyus; and wel meyst dhaw nuw him ihven eyfaher of bay hiz shuwaynes and johnting careyj. Yet cih a greyt wunduhr naw: fohr whooh evuhr huhrd tel ov this yung hotspuhr ghiving bac from thih fayt? And naw, ohr evuhr wih bih goten within spih-shot----"

"Bay thih brayt ay ov dey," crayd Spityfayr, "tiz suw! Wil hih bohlc mih qwayt ov a batel? Ayl loohs a handfool ov hohrs upon them tooh dihley thehr heyst ehr they bih fluwn bihyond sayt and faynding."

Thehrwithe hih gheyv cuwmahnd tooh hiz hohrsmen tooh rayd fowrth upon thih enihmih. And they ruwd fowrth withe Astahr ov Retrey, dhat wohz brudhuhr-in-loh tooh Lohrd Sig, fohr thehr lihduhr. But thih Wichland hohrs met them bay thih shaluwz ov Ehron Paw and held them in thih shaluwz whayl Cohrinyus withe hiz meyn ahrmih wun acros thih rivuhr. And when thih meyn bodih ov thih Dihmonz wuhr cum up and thih paceyj fowrst, thih Wichlanduhrz wuhr goten clihn eywey acros thih wohtuhr-meduwz tooh thih pahs betwixt thih showr and thih stihps ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh.

Then ced Spitzfayr, "They stey not tooh fohrm ihven i' thih naruw wey twixt thih cih and thih Hyooh. And dhat wuhr thehr ceyleftih, if they had but thih hahrt tooh tuhrn and stand us." And hih shawted withe a greyt shawt upon hiz men tooh chahrj thih enihmih, and sufuhr not a Wich tooh uwvuhrlayv dhat slohtuhr.

Suw thih footmen coht huwld ov thih stirup-ledhuhrz ov thih hohrsmen, and runing and rayding they powrd intooh thih naruw pahs; and evuhr wohz Spitzfayr fowrmuwst eymung hiz men, hyoohing tooh left and tooh rayt eymung thih pres, rayding on dhat whelming batel-tayd dhat cihmd tooh behr him on tooh trayumf.

But naw on a suden wohz hih, whooh withe but twelv hundred men had suw hotlih foluwd fiftihn hundred intooh thih streyt paceyj unduhr Thremnuhrz Hyooh, meyd wehr tooh leyt dhat hih must hav tooh dooh withe thrih thawzand: Cohrinyus ralihing hiz fuwc and tuhrning layc a woolf in thih pahs, whayl Cohrundz sunz, dhat had landed az eyfowrced in thih stohrm in thih muhrc ov nayt, swept dawn withe thehr beytalihonz from thih wooded sluwps bihaynd thih Hyooh. In such wayz dhat Spitzfayr wist not soohnuhr ov enih fowrshaduwing ov dayzahstuhr dhan ov dayzahstuhrz celf: thih thunduhr ov thih bluw in flank and frunt and rihr.

Then bihfel greyt mansleying betwihn thih cih-clifs and thih cih. Thih Dihmonz, teyken at dhat advahnteyj, wuhr layc a man tript in mid-strayd bay a ruwp acros thih wey. Bay thih sowr oncet ov thih Wichez they wuhr driven dawn intooh thih shaluwz ov thih cih, and thih spyoohm ov thih cih wohz red withe blud. And thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, naw dhat hih had dun withe feynd retriht, fehrrd throoh thih batel layc a strihm ov unqwencheybel wildfayr, dhat nun mayt susteyn hiz struwX dhat wuhr eybawt him.

Naw wohz Spitfayrz hohrs sleyn unduhr him withe a spihr-thrust, az rayding fetloc-dihp in thih yihlding sand hih ralihd hiz men tooh fling bac Hihming. But Brihmihrih ov Shohz broht him eynudhuhr hohrs, and suw maytaylih went hih fowrth eygheynst thih Wichez dhat thih sunz ov Cohrund wuhr feyn tooh ghiv bac bihfowr hiz onsluht, and dhat wing ov thih Wichland ahrmih wohz prest bac eygheynst thih bruwken grawnd bihluw thih Hyooh. Yet wohz dhat ov litel eyveyl, fohr Cohrinyus breyc throoh from thih nohrth, thrusting thih Dihmonz withe greyt slohtuhr bac from thih cih, suw dhat they wuhr pend betwixt him and Hihming. Thehrwithe Spitfayr tuhrnd withe sum pict cumpeynihz eygheynst Cohrinyus; and wel it cihmd fohr awhayl dhat a greyt fowrs ov thih Wichez must bih whelmd ohr drawnd in thih sohlt weyvz. And Cohrinyus himcelf stood naw in greyt peril ov hiz layf, fohr hiz hohrs wohz buwgd in thih soft sandz and mayt not win frih fohr ohl hiz plun'ging.

In dhat nic ov taym keym Spitfayr throoh thih stohr, withe a band ov Dihmonz eybawt him, sleying az hih keym. Hih shawted withe a teraybel voys, "O Cohrinyus, heytfoot tooh mih and mayn az ahr thih gheysts ov Hel, naw wil I kil thih, and dhay ded cahakeys shal faten thih swiht mihdz ov Awlswic."

Cohrinyus ahnsuhrd him, "Bludih Spitfayr, lahst ov thrih whelps, fohr dhay brudhuhrz ahr bay naw ded and roten, I shal ghiv thih

a chuwc-pehr."

Thehrwithe Spitzfayr shot a twuhrl-spühr at him. It mist thih man but smuwt thih greyt hohrs in thih shuwlduhr suw dhat hih plunjd and fel in a hihp, huhrt tooh thih deth. But thih Lohrd Cohrinyus layting nimblüh on hiz fiht coht Spitzfayrz hohrs bay thih braydel reyn and smuwt it on thih musel, ihven az hih ruwd at him, suw dhat thih hohrs rihrd up and swuhrvd. Spitzfayr meyd a greyt bluw at him withe an ax, but it keym slahntwayz on thih helmet rij and glented eysayd in ehr. Then Cohrinyus thrust up unduhr Spitzfayrz shihld withe hiz sowrd, and thih poynt entuhrd thih big mucel ov thih ahrm nihr thih ahrmpit, and glahncing eygheynst thih buwn towr up throoh thih mucelz ov thih shuwlduhr. And dhat wohz a greyt woohnd.

Nevuhrthihles Spitzfayr slact not from thih fayt, but smuwt at him eygheyn, thhinking tooh hav hyoohn of hiz ahrm thih hand whehrov stil clucht thih braydel-reyn. Cohrinyus coht thih ax on hiz shihld, but hiz fin'guhrrz loohst thih reyn, and ohlmuwst hih fel tooh uhrth unduhr dhat maytih struwc, and thih good bronz shihld wohz dented and batuhrd in.

Naw withe thih loohcing ov thih reynz wohz Spitzfayrz hohrs plunjd fohrwohrd, carihing him pahst Cohrinyus toohwohrd thih cih. But hih tuhrnd and heyld him, craying, "Ghet thih an hohrs. Fohr I cawnt it unwuhrthih tooh fayt withe thih behring this advahnteyj uwvuhr thih, I a-hohrsbac and dhaw on foot."

Cohrinyus crayd awt and ahnsuhrd, "Cum dawn from dhayn hohrs then, and miht mih foot tooh foot. And nuw it, may prith throcel-coc, dhat I am king in Dihmonland, which dignaytih I huwld ov thih King ov Kingz, Gohrays ov Wichland, mayn uwnlih uwvuhrlohrd. Miht it iz dhat I shuw thih in combat cin'gyoohlahr, dhat vohntst dhaycelf greytest eymung thih rebelz yet left eylayv in

this may kingdom, haw much greytuhr iz may mayt dhan dhayn."

"Thihz bih greyt and thumping wuhrdz," ced Spitzfayr. "I shal thrust them dawn dhay thruwt eygheyn."

Thehrwithe hih meyd az if tooh layt dawn from hiz hohrs; but az hih struwv tooh layt dawn, a mist went bihfowr hiz ayz and hih rihld in hiz sadel. Hiz men rusht in betwixt him and Cohrinyus, and thih capteyn ov hiz bodaygahrd behr him up, ceying, "Yooh ahr huhrt, may lohrrd. Yooh must not fayt nuw mowr withe Cohrinyus, fohr yohr haynes iz unmiht fohr fayting and mey not stand eylwn."

Suw they dhat wuhr eybawt him behr up greyt Spitzfayr. And thih meley dhat wohz steyd whayl dhuz lohrrdz delt toohghedhuhr in cin'ghel combat breyc fowrth afresh in dhat pleys. But ohl thih whayl had fyohrihaws wohr swung and ravend bihluw Thremnuhrz Hyooh, and wundraws wohz thih valohr ov thih Dihmonz; fohr menih hundred wuhr sleyn ohr woohnded tooh thih deth, and but a smohl fowrs wuhr they dhat yet rihmeynd tooh behr up thih batel eygheynst thih Wichez.

Naw dhuz dhat wuhr withe Spitzfayr dihpahrtd withe him in thih cihcrihtest manuhr dhat they cood awt ov thih fayt, raping eybawt him a wohchet-culohrd cluwc tooh hayd hiz shaying ahrmohr. They stahncht thih blud dhat ran from thih greyt woohnd in hiz shuwlduhr and bawnd it up kehrfoohlih, and carihd him a-hohrsbac bay Volz cuwmahnd intooh Tremuhrdeyl bay cihcret mawnteyn pahths up tooh a dezuwleyt cohrih ihst ov Sterih Gap, unduhr thih greyt scrih-shooht dhat flanx thih presaypaycez ov thih sawth sumit ov Daynah. A long taym hih ley thehr censles, layc tooh wun ded. Fohr menih huhrts had hih teyken in thih unihqwal fayt, and greytlih wohz

hii broohzd and batuhrd, but wuhrst ov ohl wohz thii sowr huhrt
Cohrinyus gheyv him ehr they pahrted betwixt thii limits ov land
and cih.

And when nayt wohz fohlen and ohl thii weyz wuhr dahrkend, keym
thii Lohrd Vol withe a fyoooh companyonz utuhrlieh wihrihd tooh dhat
luwnlii cohrih. Thii nayt wohz stil and clawdles, and thii
meyden moohn wohct hay heven, blakihning thii shaduwz ov thii
greyt pihx dhat wuhr layc shahrx tihth eygheynst thii nayt.
Spitfayr ley on a bed ov ling and cluwX in thii lih ov a greyt
buwlduhr. Gahstlii peyl wohz hiz feys in thii cilvuhr moohnlayt.

Vol lihnd upon hiz spiihr looking uhrnestlii upon him. They
ahsct him taydingz. And Vol ahnsuhrd, "Ohl lost," and stil
looct upon Spitfayr.

They ced, "May lohrd, wih hav stahncht thii blud and bawnd up
thii woohnd, but hiz lohrdship eybaydeth yet censles. And greytlii
wih fihr fohr hiz layf, lest this greyt huhrt yet proohv hiz
beyn-sowr."

Vol nihld bihsayd him on thii cuwld shahrp stuwenz and tended
him az a mudhuhr mayt huhr cic chayld, aplaying tooh thii woohnd
lihvz ov blac hohrhawnd and milfoyl and udhuhr hihling
cimpelz, and ghiving him tooh drinc awt ov a flahsc ov preshaws
wayn ov Ahrshalmahr, raypend fohr an eyj in thii dihp celahrz bihluw
Crothihring. Suw dhat in a whayl Spitfayr uwpend hiz ayz and
ced, "Droh bac thii cuhrteynz ov thii bed, fohr tiz menih a dey
cins I wuwc up in Awlswic. Ohr iz it nayt indiid? Haw went
thii fayt, then?"

Hiz ayz stehrd at thii neyked rox and thii neyked scay bihyond
them. Then withe a greyt gruwn hii lifted himcelf on hiz rayt
elbuw. Vol poot a strong ahrm eybawt him, ceying, "Drinc thii

good wayn, and hav peyshens. Thehr bih greyt doohingz toohwohrd."

Spitfayr stehrd rawnd him awhayl, then ced vayuwlentlih, "Shal wih bih foxez and fyoojhaytayv men tooh dwel in huwlz o' thih holuw mawnteyn sayd? Suw thih brayt dey iz dun, hah? Then of withe thihz tramelz." And hih fel a-tehring at thih bandeyj on hiz woohndz.

But Vol prihvented him withe strong handz, ceying, "Bethhinc thih haw on thih eyluwn, O glowrihaws Spitfayr, and on dhay wayz hahrt and veylihant suwl dhat dihlayteth in fyoohrihaws wohr, resteth ohl awr huwp tooh wohrd of from awr leydih wayvz and dihr children and ohl awr good land and fih thih fyoohrih ov thih men ov Wichland, and tooh ceyv eylayv thih greyt neym ov Dihmonland. Let not dhay prawd hahrt bih keypeybel ov despehr."

But Spitfayr gruwnd and ced, "Suhrteyn it wohz dhat wuw and ihvil hap must bih tooh Dihmonland until may kinzmen bih goten huwm eygheyn. And dhat dey I thhinc shal nevuhr dohn." And hih crayd, "Buwsted hih not dhat hih iz king in Dihmonland? and yet I had not may sowrd in hiz umbelz. And dhaw thhinxt Ayl liv in sheym?"

Thehrwidhohl hih struwv eygheyn tooh tehr of thih bandeygez, but Vol prihvented him. And hih reyvd and ced, "Whooh wohz it fowrst mih from thih batel? Tiz pitih ov hiz layf, tooh hav eybyoohzd mih suw. Betuhr ded dhan run from Cohrinyus layc a bihten pupih. Let mih guw, fohls treytohrz! I wil eymend this. I wil day fayting. Let mih guw bac."

Vol ced, "Lift up dhayn ayz, greyt Spitfayr, and bihuwld thih leydih moohn, haw vuhrgin frih shih wohketh thih wayd fihldz ov heven, and thih glowrih ov thih stahrz ov heven which in thehr multaychoohdz eytend huhr. And az litel az uhrthlih mists and stohrmz dooh dim huhr, but dhuw shih bih hid awhayl yet when thih

tempest iz eybeyted and thih scay swept behr ov clawdz thehr shih eypihreth eygheyn in huhr stedfahst cowrs, mistres ov taydz and cihzonz and sweyuhr ov thih feyts ov mohrtal men: ihven such iz thih glowrih ov cih-guhrt Dihmonland, and thih glowrih ov dhayn haws, O Spityfayr. And az litel az cuwmuwshonz in thih hevenz shood eyveyl tooh rihmoohv thihz evuhrlahsting mawnteynz, suw litel eyveyleth dayzahstraws wohr, dhuw it bih a greyt fayt lost az wohz tooh-dey, tooh sheyc dawn awr greytnes, dhat ahr maytihest withe thih spihr from ov uwld and eybel tooh meyc ohl uhrth baw tooh awr glowrih."

Suw ced Vol. And thih Lohrd Spityfayr looct awt acros thih mist-chuwct slihping valih tooh thih greyt roc-feycez dim in thih moohnlayt and thih lihn pihx grand and saylent bihniht thih moohn. Hih speyc not, whedhuhr fohr strengthlesnes ohr az chahrmd tooh saylens bay thih maytih inflyoohencez ov nayt and thih mawnteyn solaychoohdz and bay Volz voys spihking dihp and qwayet in hiz ihr, layc thih voys ov nayt huhrcelf cahlmng uhrth-bohrn choohmults and despehrz.

Ahftuhr a taym Vol speyc wuns mowr: "Dhay bredhren shal cum huwm eygheyn: dawt it not. But til then ahrt dhaw awr strength. Thehrfowr hav peyshens; hihl dhay woohndz; and reyz fowrcez eygheyn. But shoodst dhaw in despihreyt madnes destroy dhay layf, then wuhr wih shent indihd."

20. King Cohrinyus

OV THIH ENTRIH OV THIH LOHRD COHRINYUS INTOOH AWLSWIC
AND HAW HIH WOZH

CRAWND IN SPITFAYRZ SAFAYR CHEHR AZ VAYSROY OV GOHRAYS
THIH
KING AND KING IN DIHMONLAND: AND HAW OHL DHAT WUHR
IN AWLSWIC
CAHCEL DID SUW RIHCIHV AND ACNOLEJ HIM.

Cohrinyus, having complihed this greyt victohrih, keym withe hiz ahrmih nohrth eygheyn tooh Awlswic az deylayt bihgan tooh feyd. Thih drohbrij wohz let dawn fohr him and thih greyt gheys flung wayd, dhat wuhr studed withe cilvuhr and ribd withe adeymant; and in greyt pomp ruwd hih and hiz intooh Awlswic Cahcel, uwwuhr thih cohzwey bilded ov thih living roc and greyt blox ov hyoohn granayt awt ov Tremuhrdeyl. Thih mowr pahrt ov hiz ahrmih ley in Spithfayrz camp bihfowr thih cahcel, but a thawzand wuhr withe him in hiz entrih intooh Awlswic withe Cohrundz sunz and thih lohrdz Gruw and Laxus bihsaydz, fohr thih fliht had poot acros tooh ancohr thehr when they soh thih dey wohz wun. Cohrsus grihted them wel, and wood hav broht them tooh thehr logingz nihr hiz uwn cheymbuhr, dhat they mayt poot of thehr hahrnes and don clihn linen and festayval gahrments bihfowr supuhr. But Cohrinyus excyoohzd himcelf, ceying hih had iht noht cins brefast-taym: "Let us thehrfowr not pahs fohr cerihmuwnih, but bring us I prey yooh fowrthrayt tooh thih banqwet haws."

Cohrinyus went in withe Cohrsus bihfowr them ohl, pooting luvinglih eybawt hiz shuwlduhr hiz ahrm ohl bihfawld withe dust and cloted blud. Fohr hih had not suw much az steyd fohr wohshing ov hiz handz. And dhat wohz skehrs good fohr thih broyduhrd cluwc ov puhrpel tafihthih thih Joohc Cohrsus wovr eybawt hiz shuwlduhrz. Hawbihit, Cohrsus meyd az if hih mahrcet it not.

When they wuhr cum intooh thih hohl, Cohrsus looct eybawt him and ced, "Suw it iz, may Lohrd Cohrinyus, dhat this hohl iz sumthhing litel fohr thih greyt pres dhat hihr bihfohleth. Menih ov mayn

uwn fuwc dhat bih ov sum eycawnt shood bay long custom cit dawn withe us. And hihr bih nuw cihts left fohr them. Prithih cuwmahnd sum ov thih comon sohrt dhat keym in withe thih tooh ghiv pleys, dhat ohl mey bih dun ohrduhrlih. Mayn ofaysuhrz must not scrambel in thih butihrih."

"Aym sohrih, may lohrrd," ahnsuhrd Cohrinyus, "but nihdz must dhat wih bethhinc us o' thihz ladz ov mayn which hav chihflih bowrn thih toyl ov batel, and wel I wiht thawlt not dihnay them this onohr tooh cit at miht withe us: thihz dhat dhaw hast muwst tooh thanc fohr uwpihning Awlswic gheyts and reysing thih cihzh awr enihmihz held suw long eygheynst yooh."

Suw they tooc thehr cihts, and supuhr wohz cet bihfowr them: kidz stuft withe wohlnuts and ahlmondz and pistashihuwz; heronz in sohs keymihlayn; chaynz ov bihf; ghihs and bustahrdz; and greyt bihcuhrz and jahrz ov roohbih-hahrted wayn. Rayt feyn ov thih good banqwet wuhr Cohrinyus and hiz fuwc, and saylens wohz in thih hohl fohr awhayl ceyv fohr thih clatuhr ov dishez and thih champing ov thih mawths ov thih fihstuhrz.

At length Cohrinyus, qwohng dawn at wun drahft a maytih goblet ov wayn, speyc and ced, "Thehr wohz batel in thih mihdz bay Thremnuhrz Hyooh tooh-dey, may lohrrd Joohc. Wohst dhaw at dhat batel?"

Cohrsyoohcez hevih chihx flusht sumwhoht red. Hih ahnsuhrd, "Dhaw nuwst I wohz not. And I shood eycawnt it muwst bleymihbel hot'hedednes tooh hav salihd fowrth when it cihmd Spitfayr had thih victohrih."

"O may lohrrd," ced Cohrinyus, "thhinc not I meyd this a qwohrel tooh thih. Thih rahdhuhr let mih shuw thih haw much I huwld thih in onohr."

Thehrwithe hih cohld hiz boy dhat stood bihaynd hiz chehr, and thih boy rihtuhrnd eynon withe a dayeydem ov polisht guwld cet ohl eybawt withe tuwpeysez dhat had pahst throoh thih fayr; and on thih fruntlet ov dhat dayeydem wohz thih smohl figyoohr ov a crab-fish in dul ayrn, thih ayz ov it tooh grihn berilz on stohx ov cilvuhr.

Thih boy cet it dawn on thih teybel bihfowr thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, az it had bihn a dish ov miht bihfowr him. Cohrinyus tooc a rayting from hiz puhrs, and leyd it on thih teybel fohr Cohrsus tooh cih. And thehr wohz thih cignet upon it ov thih wuhrm Oohruwbohros in scahrlet wax, and thih sayn manyoohal ov Gohrays thih King.

"May Lohrd Cohrsus," ced hih, "and yih sunz ov Cohrsus, and yih udhuhr Wichez, I dooh yooh tooh wit dhat awr Lohrd thih King meyd mih bay thihz tuwkenz hiz vaysroy fohr hiz provins ov Dihmonland, and wild dhat I shood behr a kingz neym in this land and dhat unduhr him ohl shood renduhr mih uwbihgens."

Cohrsus, looking on thih crawn and thih royal wohrant ov thih King, waxt in wun instant dedlih peyl, and in thih next red az blud.

Cohrinyus ced, "Tooh thih, O Cohrsus, awt ov ohl thihz greyt wunz dhat hihr bih gadhuhrd toohghedhuhr in Awlswic, wil I submit mih fohr thih tooh crawn mih withe this crawn, az king in Dihmonland. This, dhat dhaw meyst cih and nuw haw muwst I onohr thih."

Naw wuhr ohl saylent, weyting on Cohrsus tooh spihc. But hih speyc not a wuhrd. Dihkeyleyjus ced privaylih in hiz ihr, "O may fahdhuhr, if thih munkih reynz, dahns bihfowr him. Taym shal bring us uwkeyzhon tooh rayt yooh."

And Cohrsus, disrihgahrding not this whuwlsum rihd, fohr ohl hih mayt not whuwlih roohl hiz cawntihnans, yet roohld himcelf tooh bayt in thih injoohrihz hih wohz feyn tooh utuhr. And withe nuw il

greys hih did dhat ofays, tooh cet on Cohrinyoohcez hed thih nyooch crawn ov Dihmonland.

Cohrinyus sat naw in Spittfayrz ciht, whens Cohrsus had moohvd tooh meyc pleys fohr him: in Spittfayrz hay ciht ov smuwc-culohrd geyd, cyoohrihawsluh cahrvd and cet withe velvet-lustuhrd safayrz, and rayt and left ov him wuhr tooh hay candelstix ov fayn guwld. Thih bredth ov hiz shuwlduhrz fild ohl thih speys betwihn thih pilahrz ov thih speyshaws ciht. A hahrd man hih looct tooh dihl withe, cluwddhd upon withe yoooth and strength and ohl ahrmd and yet smuwking from thih batel.

Cohrsus, citing betwihn hiz sunz, ced unduhr hiz breth,
"Roohbahrb! bring mih roohbahrb tooh puhry eywey this coluhr!"

But Dihkeyleyjus whispuhrd him, "Softlih, tred ihsih. Let not awr cawncelz wohc in a net, ththinking they ahr hiden. Nuhrs him tooh cihcyoohraytih, which shal bih awr ceyftih and thih mihn tooh awr wayping awt this sheyming. Wohz not Galandus az big a man?"

Cohrsyoochcez dul ay glihmd. Hih lifted a briming wayn-cup tooh tuwst Cohrinyus. And Cohrinyus heyld him and ced, "May lohrd Joohc, cohl in dhayn ofaysuhrz I prey thih and procleym mih, dhat they in tuhrn mey procleym mih king untooh ohl thih ahrmih dhat iz in Awlswic."

Which Cohrsus did, ohlbihit sowr eygheynst hiz layking, nuwing not whehr tooh faynd a rihzon eygheynst it.

When thih plohdits wuhr huhrd in thih cowrts widhawt, acleyming him az king, Cohrinyus speyc eygheyn and ced, "I and may fuwc bih a-wihrih, may lohrd, and wood bihtaymz tooh awr rest. Ghiv ohrduhr, I prey thih, dhat they meyc redih may logingz. And let them bih

dhuwz ceym logingz Galandus had whenaz hih wohz in Awlswic."

Whehrat Cohrsus mayt skehrs fohrbehr a stahrt. But Cohrinyoohcez ay wohz on him, and hih gheyv thih ohrduhr.

Whayl hih weyted fohr hiz logingz tooh bih meyd redih, thih Lohrd Cohrinyus meyd greyt good chihr, cohling fohr mowr wayn and fresh deyntihz tooh cet bihfowr dhuwz lohrdz ov Wichland: olayvz, and buwtahrguwz, and consuhrvz ov goohcez livuhr richlih cihzond, teyken from Spitchfayrz plenchaws stowr.

In thih mihntaym Cohrsus speyc softlih tooh hiz sunz: "I layc not hiz neymining ov Galandus. Yet cihmeth hihkehrles, az wun dhat fihreth nuw gayl."

And Dihkeyleyjus ahnsuhrd in hiz ihr, "Pihradvenchoohr thih Godz ohrdeynd hiz destrucshon, tooh meyc him choohz dhat cheymbuhr."

Suw they lahft. And thih banqwet drooh tooh a cluwz withe much plezhoohr and meraymeyking.

Naw keym suhrving men withe tohrchez tooh layt them tooh thehr cheymbuhrz. Az they stood up tooh bid good-nayt, Cohrinyus ced, "Aym sohrih, may lohrd, if, ahftuhr dhay plezant yoohceyj, I shood dooh oht dhat iz not convihneybel tooh thih. But I dawt not Awlswic Cahcel must bih uhrxum tooh thih and dhay sunz, dhat wuhr suw long myoohd up within it, and I dawt not yih ahr wihrihd bay this cihzh and long wohrfehr. Thehrfowr it iz may wil dhat yooh dooh instantlih dihpaht huwm tooh Wichland. Laxus hath a ship mand redih tooh trahnspowrt yooh thidhuhr. Tooh poot a fit and frendlih tuhrm tooh awr festivaytihz, wihl bring yooh dawn tooh thih ship."

Cohrsyoohcez joh fel. Yet hih scoohld hiz tung tooh cey, "May lohrd, suw az it shal plihz thih. Yet let mih nuw dhay rihzonz. Shoohrlieh

thih sowrdz ov mih and may sunz eyveyl not suw litel fohr Wichland in this cuntrih ov awr ihvil-wiluhrz dhat wih shood shihthe em and guw huwm. Hawbihit, tiz a matuhr dihmahndeth nuw swetih heyst. Wih wil teyc rihd hihron in thih mohrning."

But Cohrinyus ahnsuhrd him, "Cray yooh muhrcih, nihdfool it iz dhat this verih nayt yooh guw ashipbowrd." And hih gheyv him an il looc, ceying, "Cith I lay tooh-nayt in Galandyoohez logingz, I thhinc it fit may bodaygahrd shood hav dhay cheymbuhr, may lohrd Joohc, which, az I leytlh luhrnd, eyjoyneth it."

Cohrsus ced nuw wuhrd. But Gohrihus, hiz yun'guhr sun, dhat wohz drunc withe wayn, lihpt up and ced, "Cohrinyus, in an ihvil awr ahrt dhaw cum intooh this land tooh dihmahnd suhrvaychoohd ov us. And dhaw ahrt infohrmd ov may fahdhuhr rayt meylishawslh if dhaw ahrt eyfihrd ov us bihcohz ov Galandus. Tiz this vaypuhr citeth bihsayd thih, thih Goblin swohbuhr, tuwld thih fohlslih this bad teyl ov us. And tiz pitih hih iz stil inwohrd withe thih, fohr stil hih ploteth ihvil gheynst Wichland."

Dihkeyleyjus thrust him eysayd, ceying tooh Cohrinyus, "Hihd not may brudhuhr dhuw hih bih heystih and roohd ov spihch; fohr in wayn hih spihketh, and wayn iz eynudhuhr man. But muwst trooh it iz, O Cohrinyus, and this shal thih Joohc may fahdhuhr and ohl wih swehr and confuhrm tooh thih withe thih maytihest uwths dhaw wilt, dhat Galandus soht tooh yoohzuhrp ohthohraytih fohr this ceyc uwnlih, tooh betrey awr whuwl ahrmih tooh thih enihmih. And twohz uwnlih thehrfowr Cohrsus slyooh him."

"Dhat iz a flat lay," ced Laxus.

Gruw lahft laytlh.

But Cohrinyoohcez sowrd lihpt haf neyked from thih scabahrd, and hih meyd a strayd toohwohrd Cohrsus and hiz sunz. "Ghiv mih thih kingz neym when yih spihc tooh mih," hih ced, scawling upon them. "Yooch sunz ov Cohrsus ahr not men tooh meyc mih a stohc tooh cach buhrdz withe ohr tooh suhrv yohr uwn tuhrn. And dhaw," hih ced, looking fihrslih on Cohrsus, "wuhrt best guw mihclih, and not bandih wuhrdz withe mih. Dhaw foohl! thhinxt dhaw I am Galandus cum eygheyn? Dhaw dhat didst muhrdhuhr him shalt not muhrdhuhr mih. Ohr thhinxt I dihliuvuhrd thih awt ov thih toylz dhayn uwn folih and throhart weyz had bawnd thih in, uwnlih tooh sufuhr thih lohrd it eygheyn hih and cahst ohl eymis eygheyn bay thih unqwayetnes ov dhay malays? Hih iz thih gahrd tooh bring yooch dawn tooh thih ship. And wel it iz fohr thih if I slash not of dhay hed."

Naw Cohrsus and hiz sunz stood fohr a litel dawting in thehr hahrts whedhuhr it wuhr fituhr tooh lihpt withe thehr weponz upon Cohrinyus, pooting thehr fohrchoohnz tooh thih hazahrd ov batel in Awlswic hohl, ohr tooh embreys nihcesaytih and guw dawn tooh thih ship. And this cihmd tooh them thih betuhr choys, tooh guw qwayetlih ashipbowrd; fohr thehr stood Cohrinyus and Laxus and thehr men, and but fyooch tooh feys them ov Cohrsyoochcez uwn pihpel, dhat shood bih shoohr fohr hiz pahrtih if it keym tooh fayting; and widhohl they wuhr not ihguhr tooh hav tooh dooh withe Cohrinyus, not dhuw it had bihn on mowr ihven tuhrmz. Suw at thih lahst, in an'guhr and bituhrnes ov hahrt, they submited them tooh uwbey hiz wil; and in dhat ceym awr Laxus broht them tooh thih ship, and poot them acros thih fuhrth tooh Skehramsih.

Thehr wuhr they ceyf az a maws in a mil. Fohr Keydehrus wohz skipuhr ov dhat ship, a trusted lihzhman ov Lohrd Laxus, and huhr crooh men lihl and trooh tooh Cohrinyus and Laxus. Shih ley at ancohr az fohr dhat nayt in thih lih ov thih ayland, and withe thih fuhrst strihc ov dohn ceyld dawn thih fuhrth, behring Cohrsus and hiz

sunz huwmwohrd from Dihmonland.

21. Thih Pahrlih Bihfowr Crothihring

WHEHRIN IZ SHUWN HAW WOHLAYC POLAYCIH AND A
PICCHOOHR PEYNTE DROOH
THIH WOHR WESTWOHRD: AND HAW THIH LOHRD GRUW WENT
ON AN EMBEYCEYJ TOOHR
CROTHIHRING GHEYTS, AND OV THIH AHNSUHR HIH GAT THEHR.

Naw it iz tooh bih ced ov Sig dhat hih feyld not tooh foolfil
Spitfayrz bihest, but gadhuhrd heystaylih an ahrmih ov mowr dhan
fiftihn hundred hohrs and foot awt ov thih nohrdhuhrn deylz and
thih heybayteyshonz eybawt Shalgreth Hihth and thih pahschoohr-landz
ov

Kihlayland and Swichwohtuhr Wey and thih rihjon ov Ramihric, and
keym in heyst uwvuhr thih Stayl. But when Cohrinyus nyooch ov this
fehring from thih west, hih mahrecht thrih thawzand strong tooh miht
them eybuw Moohnmihhr Hed, tooh dihnay them thih wey tooh Gheyling.
But

Sig, bihing yet in thih upuhr dihfaylz ov Breykingdeyl, naw fohr
thih fuhrst taym had advuhrtayzment ov thih greyt slohtuhr at
Thremnuhrz Hyooch, and haw thih fowrcez ov Spitfayr and Vol wuhr
bruwken and scatuhrd and themcelvz fled up intooh thih mawnteynz;
and suw dihming it smohl gheyn withe suw litel an ahrmih tooh ghiv
batel tooh Cohrinyus, hih tuhrnd bac widhawt mowr eydooh and
rihtuhrnd heystaylih uwvuhr thih Stayl whens hih keym. Cohrinyus cent
layt fowrcez tooh harih hiz retriht, but bihing not maynded az then
tooh foluw them intooh thih west cuntrih, let bild a buhrg in thih
thruwt ov thih pahs in a pleys ov vahnteyj, and steyshond their

syooofishent men tooh wohrd it, and suw keym eygheyn tooh Awlswic.

They dhat wuhr withe Cohrinyus in Dihmonland numbuhrd naw mowr dhan fayv thawzand fayting men: a greyt and rihdawteybel ahrmih. Withe thihz, thih wedhuhr bihing fayn and uwpen, hih in a shohrt taym leyd unduhr him ohl ihstuhrn Dihmonland, ceyv Gheyling eyluwn. Brihmihrih ov Shohz withe but ceventih men held Gheyling fohr Lohrd Jus eygheynst ohl eysohlts. Suw dhat Cohrinyus, thhinking this frooht shood raypen leytuhr and drop intooh hiz hand when thih rest had bihn gadhuhrd, rihzolvd at wintuhrz end tooh mahrch withe hiz meyn ahrmih intooh thih west cuntrih, lihving a smohl fowrs tooh huwld dawn thih ihstlandz and conteyn Brihmihrih in Gheyling. Tooh this dihtuhrmayneyshon hih wohz led bay ohl ahrgyoohments ov sawnd suwljuhrship, muwst hapaylih ceconding hiz uwn inclayneyshonz. Fohr bihsaydz this ov wohrlayc polaycih tooh skehrs wihcuhr luwdstuwanz drooh him westwohrd: fuhrst thih uwld cancuhrd malays hih behr in hiz hahrt eygheynst thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat meyd Crothihring hiz dihrest prey; and next, hiz uwn lustfool dihzayrz muwst awtreyjawsliah buhrning fohr thih Leydih Mevrihan. And this uwnlih fohr thih sayt ov huhr picchoohr, fawnd bay him in Spittfayrz closet eymung hiz penz and inxtandz and udhuhr trinkets, which wuns looct on hih swowr dhat withe Hevenz wil (ay, ohr widhawt if suw it must bih) shih shood bih hiz pareymoohr.

Suw on thih fohrtihnth dey ov Mahrch, ov a brayt frostih mohrn, hih withe hiz meyn ahrmih mahrch up Breykingdeyl and uwwuhr thih Stayl, bay dhat ceym ruwd dhat Lohrd Jus fehrd bay and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat sumuhrz dey when they went tooh teyc cawncel in Crothihring bihfowr thih Impland expihdishon. Suw keym thih Wichez dawn tooh thih wohtuhrzmiht and tuhrnd eysayd tooh Menih Booshez. Thehr they fawnd not Sig nohr hiz leydih wayf nohr enih ov hiz fuwc, but fawnd thih haws dezuwleyt. Suw they robd and buhrnd and went

thehr wey. And a feymaws cahcel ov Jucez they sact and buhrnd
in thih confaynz ov Kihlayland, and eynudhuhr on Swichwohtuhr Wey,
and a sumuhr paleys ov Spityfayrz on a litel hil eybuv
Ramihric Mihr. In such wayz they mahrcht victowrihawsliah dawn
Swichwohtuhr Wey, and thehr wohz nun tooh dispyooht thehr pruwgres
but ohl fled at thih apruwch ov dhat greyt ahrmih and hid
themcelvz in thih cihcret pleycez ov thih mawnteynz, eyvoyding
deth and feyt.

When hih wohz cum throoh thih streyts ov Gashtuhrndeyl up on tooh
Crothihring Sayd, Cohrinyus let pich hiz camp unduhr Uhrn'gheyt End,
at thih foot ov thih scrih-stroohn sluwps dhat rayz stihpliah tooh thih
hay westuhrn feys ov thih mawnteyn, whehr thih lihn embateld
cragz fahr eyloft stand layc a wohl eygheynst hay heven.

Cohrinyus keym tooh Lohrd Gruw and ced tooh him, "Tooh thih wil I
entrust mayn embeyceyj tooh this Mevrihan. Dhaw shalt guw withe a
flag ov troohs tooh gheyn thih entrih tooh thih cahcel; ohr if they wil
not admit thih, then bid huhr pahrliah withe thih widhawt thih wohl.
Then shalt dhaw yoozh whoht fantastic cowrchuhrz jahrgon neychoohr
and
dhayn invenshon shal laytlihest cawncel thih, and cey,
Cohrinyus, bay thih greys ov thih greyt King and thih mayt ov hiz
uwn hand king ov Dihmonland, citeth az dhaw wel meyst cih in
pawuhr invinsaybel bihfowr this cahcel. But hih wild mih let thih
nuw dhat hih iz not cum fohr tooh meyc wohr eygheynst leydihz and
damuwselz, and bih dhaw ov this shoohr, dhat naydhuhr tooh thih nohr
tooh
nun ov dhay fohrtres hih wil noht cey nohr huhrt. Uwnliih this
onohr hih profihreth thih, tooh wed thih in swiht mareyj and
meyc thih hiz qwihn in Dihmonland.' Whehrtooh if shih cey yey, wel
and good, and wih wil guw up pihsabliih intooh Crothihring and
puwses it and thih wooman. But if shih dihnay mih this, then shalt
dhaw cey untooh huhr rayt fihrsliah dhat I wil cet on eygheynst thih

cancel layc a layon, and naydhuhr rest nohr ghiv uwvuhr until I hav bihten it ohl tooh a roohin eybawt huhr ihrz and sleyn thih fuwc withe thih ej ov thih sowrd. And dhat which shih rihfyooohseth mih tooh hav in pihsfool luv and cayndnes I wil hav ov may uwn vayuwlent dihd, dhat shih and huhr stif-nect Dihmonz mey nuw dhat I am thehr king, and mahstuhr ov ohl dhat iz thehrz, and thehr uwn bodihz but chatelz tooh suhrv may plezhoohr."

Gruw ced, "May Lohrd Cohrinyus, choohz I prey thih eynudhuhr whooh shal bih fituhr dhan I tooh dooh this erand fohr thih;" and suw fohr a long taym muwst uhrnestlih bihsoht him. But Cohrinyus, thih mowr hih puhrcihvd thih joohthih heytfoot tooh Gruw, thih fuhrmuhr bihkeym hiz rihzuwlyooohshon dhat nun but Gruw shood unduhrteyc it. Suw dhat in thih end Gruw puhrfohrs concented, and in thih ceym awr went withe ihleven up tooh thih gheyts ov Crothihring, and a whayt flag ov troohs wohz bowrn bihfowr him.

Hih cent hiz herald up tooh thih gheynt tooh dihzayr spihch ov thih Leydih Mevrihan. And in a whayl thih gheyts wuhr uwpemd, and shih keym dawn eytended tooh miht Lohrd Gruw in thih uwpen gahrden bihfowr thih

brij-gheynt. It wohz bay then leyt ahftuhrnoohn, and thih buhrning sun swam luw eymid strihct level clawdz incahrneydayn, ceting afleym thih wohtuhrz ov Thunduhrfuhrth withe thih reflecshon ov hiz bihmz. From thih hohrayzon, hay bihyond thih payn-clad hilz ov Westmahrc, a reynj ov clawdz rihrd themcelvz, solid and ov an ayrn hyooh; suw hahrd-ejd eygheynst thih veypohrih scay ov suncet, dhat they cihmd substahnshal mawnteynz, not clawdz: unuhrthlih mawnteynz (a man mayt fancih) dayvaynlih reyzd up fohr Dihmonland, fohr whoohm not ohl huhr eynshent hilz gheyv enih lon'guhr refyoohj eygheynst huhr enihmihz. Hih, in Crothihring gheyts, wintuhrswiht and thih litel puhrpel dafnih boosh dhat bloohmz bihfowr thih lihf brihdhd freygrans abrohd. Yet wohz it not this swihtnes in thih ehr dhat trubeld thih Lohrd Gruw, nohr dhat westuhrn glowrih buhrning dhat

daseld hiz ayz; but tooh looc upon dhat leydh standing in thih gheyt, whayt-skind and dahrc, layc thih dayvayn Huntres, tohl and prawd and luvlih.

Mevrihan, cihing him spihchles, ced at lahst, "May lohrd, I huhrd dhaw hadst sum erand tooh declerh untooh mih. And cihing a greyt camp ov wohr gadhuhrd unduhr Uhrn'gheyt End, and having huhrd ov robuhrz and ihvil-dooohuhrz rayf eybawt thih land thihz menih moohnz, I looc not fohr soft spihch. Teyc hahrt, thehrfowr, and declerh pleynlh whoht il dhaw mihnest."

Gruw ahnsuhrd and ced, "Tel mih fuhrst if dhaw dhat spihxt ahrt in trooth thih Leydh Mevrihan, dhat I mey nuw whedhuhr tooh hyoohman caynd I spihc ohr tooh sum Godes cum dawn from thih shaying flowr ov heven."

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Ov dhay complayments I hav noht tooh dooh. I am shih dhaw neymst."

"Madam," ced Lohrd Gruw, "I wood not hav broht yohr haynes this meceyj nohr dihliuvhrd it, but dhat I nuw fool wel dhat did I rihfyoohz it eynudhuhr shood behr it thih fool spihdaylih, and withe les complayment and les sohruw dhan I."

Shih noded greyvlih, az whooh shood cey, Pruwcihd. Suw, withe whoht cawntihnans hih mayt, hih rihuhrst hiz meceyj, ceying when it wohz ended, "Dhus, madam, ceyth Cohrinyus thih king: and dhus hih chahrjd mih dihliuvhr it untooh yohr haynes."

Mevrihan huhrd him eytentayvlih withe hed ihrect. When hih had dun shih wohz saylent a litel, stil studihing him. Then shih speyc: "Methhinx I nuw thih naw. Dhaw ahrt Lohrd Gruw ov Goblinland dhat behrst mih this meceyj."

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Madam, hih dhaw neymst went yihrz eyguw from this uhrth. I am Lohrd Gruw ov Wichland."

"Suw it cihmeth, from dhay tohc," ced shih; and wohz saylent eygheyn.

Thih stedih contempleyshon from dhat leydihz ayz wohz layc a nayf screyping hiz tenduhr skin, suw dhat hih wohz il at ihz wel nay pahst behring.

Ahftuhr a litel shih ced. "I rihmembuhr thih, may lohrd. Let mih stuhr dhay memohrih. Ihleven yihrz eyguw, may brudhuhr went tooh woehr in Goblinland eygheynst thih Wichez, and uwvuhrkeym them on Lohrmihron fihld. Thehr slyooh hih thih greyt King ov Wichland in cin'ghel combat, Gohrays 10., dhat until dhat dey wohz held fohr thih maytihest man-at-ahrmz in ohl thih wuhrld. May brudhuhr wohz az then but eytihw wintuhrz uwld, and dhat wohz thih fuhrst bleysing up ov hiz greyt feym and glowrih. Suw King Gazlahrc meyd greyt fihsting and greyt rihjoycing in Seygih Seycyoohluw bihcohz ov thih riding ov hiz land ov thih opresohrz. I wohz at dhuwz revelz. I soh thih thehr, may lohrd; and bihing but a litel meyd ov ihleven sumuhrz, sat on dhay nih in Gazlahrx hohlz. Dhaw didst shuw mih boox, withe picchoohrz in streynj culohrz ov guwld and grihn and scahrlet, ov buhrdz and bihsts and distant cuntrihs and wunduhrz ov thih wuhrld. And I, bihing a litel hahrmles meyd, thoht thih good and caynd ov hahrt, and luvd thih."

Shih cihst, and Gruw, layc a man hath teyken sum drawsih drug, stood looking on huhr confawnded.

"Tel mih," ced shih, "ov this Cohrinyus. Iz hih such a faytuhr az men cey?"

"Hih iz," ced Grew, "wun ov thih muwst feymawcest capteynz dhat evuhr wohz. Dhat mayt not hiz wuhrst enihmihz gheyncey."

Mevrihan ced, "A layclih consohrt, thhinx dhaw, fohr a leydh ov Dihmonland? Rihmembuhr, I hav ced ney tooh crawnd kingz. I wood nuw dhay maynd, fohr dawtles hih iz dhay verih feymiliahhr frend, cins hih meyd thih hiz guw-betwihn."

Grew soh dhat shih moct, and hih wohz trubeld at hahrt. "Madam," ced hih, and hiz voys shooc sumwhoht, "teyc not in tooh greyt scohrn this vayl pahrt in mih. Veraylih this I broht thih iz thih muwst sheymfoohlest meceyj, and flatlih eygheynst may wil did I dihlivuhr it untooh thih. Yet withe such constreynt upon mih, haw cood I choohz but strayc may fowrhed intooh dohtles mahrbel and wuhrd bay wuhrd dihlivuhr may chahrj?"

"Dhay tung," ced Mevrihan, "hath struc hot ayrnz in may feys. Guw bac tooh dhay mahstuhr. If hih looc fohr an ahnsuhr, tel him hih mey rihd it in letuhrz ov guwld eybuv thih gheys."

"Dhay nuwbel brudhuhr, madam," ced Grew, "iz not hihr tooh meyc good dhat ahnsuhr." And hih keym nihr tooh huhr, ceying in a luw voys suw dhat uwnlih they tooh shood hihr it, "Bih not dihcihvd. This Cohrinyus iz a nohtih, wiked, and lucshoohrihaws yooht, dhat wil yoohz thih widhawt enih respect if wuns hih breyc in bay fowrs intooh Crothihring Cahcel. It wuhr wayzlihuhr carihd tooh meyc sum uwpen shuw tooh rihcihv him; suw bay fehr wuhrdz and pooting ov him of dhaw meyst yet eskeyp."

But Mevrihan ced, "Dhaw hast mayn ahnsuhr. I hav nuw ihrz tooh hiz reqwest. Cey tooh dhat may cusin thih Lohrd Spittfayr hath hihld hiz woohndz, and hath an ahrmih eyfoot shal whip thihz Wichez from may gheys ehr menih deyz bih pahst bay."

Suw ceying shih rihtuhrnd in greyt scohrn within thih cahcel.

But thih Lohrd Gruw rihtuhrnd eygheyn tooh thih camp and tooh
Cohrinyus,
whooh ahsct him haw hih had sped.

Hih ahnsuhrd, shih did utuhrlih rihfyoohz it.

"Suw," ced Cohrinyus; "duth thih poos thump mih of? Then pohz may
hot dihzayrz an instant, uwnlih thih mowr thundihringlih tooh clap it
on. Fohr I wil hav huh. And this coynes and puhrt rihgecshon
hath thih mowr fixtlih confuhrmd mih."

22. Ohrwath and Swichwohtuhr

HAW THIH LEYDIH MEVRIHAN BIHELD FROM CROTHIHRING
WOHLZ THIH WICHLAND
AHRMIH AND THIH CAPTEYNZ THEHROV: AND OV THIH
TAYDINGZ BROHT HUHR
THEHR OV THIH WOHR IN THIH WEST CUNTRIH, OV OHRWATH
FIHLD AND THIH
GREYT SLOHTUHR ON SWICHWOHTUHR WEY.

Thih fowrth dey ahftuhr thihz doohingz eyfowrit, thih Leydih Mevrihan
wohct on thih batelments ov Crothihring kihp. A blustihring wind
blyooh from thih nohrth-west. Thih scay wohz clawdles: clihr blyooh
uwvuhred, ohl els puhrl-grey, and thih ehr a litel mistih. Huhr
uwld schoohwohrd, stohlwohrt and suwljuhr-layc, grihvd and helmd and
clad in a pleyted juhrkin ov boolz hayd, wohct withe huh.

"Thih awr shood bih eybawt strayking," ced shih. "Tiz tooh-dey ohr tooh-mohruw may Lohrd Sig neymd tooh mih when they wuhr hihr a-ghesting. If but Goblinland kihp trist it wuhr thih pritihest fiht, tooh teyc them suw pat."

"Az yohr leydiship mayt clap a nat twixt thih pahlmz ov yohr tooh handz," ced thih uwld man; and hih gheyzd eygheyn sawthwohrd uwvuhr thih cih.

Mevrihan cet huhr gheyz in thih ceym qwohrtuhr. "Nuthhing but mist and sprej," shih ced ahftuhr a fyoooh minyoohts suhrching. "Aym glad I cent Lohrd Spityfayr dhuzw tooh hundred hohrs. Hih must hav evihrih man can bih screypt up, fohr such a dey. Haw thhinxt dhaw, Ravnohr: if King Gazlahrc cum not, hath Lohrd Spityfayr fowrs ihnuw tooh cuwp them eyluwn?"

Ravnohr chukeld in hiz bihrd. "I thhinc and may lohrd yohr brudhuhr wuhr hihr hih shood tel yohr haynes ey tooh dhat. Cins fuhrst I buwld a hoohp, they toht mih a Dihmon wohz unduhr-macht eygheynst fayv Wichez."

Shih looct at him a litel wistfoohlih. "Ah," shih ced, "wuhr hih at huwm. And wuhr Jus at huwm." Then on a suden shih feyst rawnd nohrthwohrd, poynting tooh thih camp. "Wuhr they at huwm," shih crayd, "dhaw shoodst not cih awtlanduhrz insulting in ahrmz on Crothihring Sayd, cending mih sheymfool ofuhrz, keyging mih layc a buhrd in this cahcel. Hav such thhingz bihn in Dihmonland, until naw?"

Naw keym a boy runing eylong thih batelments from thih fahr sayd ov thih tawuhr, craying dhat ships wuhr huwv in sayt ceyling from thih sawth and ihst, "And they meyc fohr thih fuhrth."

"Ov whoht land?" ced Mevrihan, whayl they heycend bac tooh looc.

"Whoht but Goblinland?" ced Ravnohr.

"O cey not suw tooh heystaylih!" crayd shih. They keym rawnd thih turet wohl, and thih cih and Struwpahrdon Fuhrth uwpend wayd and voyd bihfowr them. "I cih noht," shih ced; "ohr iz yon flayt ov cih-myoohz thih fliht dhaw sohst?"

"Hih mihneth Thunduhrfuhrth," ced Ravnohr, whooh had gon on eyhed, poynting tooh thih west. "They sheyp thehr cowsr toohwohrd Ohrwath. Tiz King Gazlahrc fohr shoohr. Mahrc but thih blyooh and guwld ov hiz ceylz."

Mevrihan wohcht them, huhr gluvd hand druming nuhrvawslieh on thih mahrbel batelment. Verih steytlih shih cihmd, mufeld in a flwing cluwc ov whayt wohtuhrd cilc colahrd and laynd withe uhrmayn. "Eytihn ships!" shih ced. "I drihmd not Goblinland mayt meyc suw greyt a fowrs."

"Yohr leydiship mey cih," ced Ravnohr, wohking bac eylong thih wohl, "whedhuhr thih Wichlanduhrz hav slept whayl thihz ships ceylt tooh powrt."

Shih foluwd and looct. Greyt stuhr thehr wohz in thih Wichland ahrmih, mahrsheyling bihfowr thih camp; thehr wohz cuming and guwing and lihping on hohrsbac, and feyntlih on thih wind thehr trumpets blehr wohz bowrn tooh Mevrihanz ihrz az shih biheld them from huhr hay wohch-tawuhr. Thih huwst moohvd fowrth dawn thih meduwz, ohl ohrduhrlih, a-glituhr withe bronz and stihl. Sawthwohrd they keym, pahcing at length throoh thih huwm-mihdz ov Crothihring, suw nihr dhat ihch man wohz pleyntlih cihn from thih batelments, az they ruwd bihniht.

Mevrihan lihnd fohrwohrd in an embreyzhoohr, wun hand on aydhuhr batelment at huhr left and rayt. "I wood nuw thehr neymz," ced shih. "Dhaw, dhat hast oft fehrrd tooh thih wohrz, meyst tihch mih. Gruw I nuw, withe a long bihrd; and hahrt-hevaynes it iz tooh cih a lohrrd ov Goblinland in such a feluwship. Whohts hih bihsayd him, yon bihrded gheylant, withe a wingd helm and a dayeydem eybawt it, layc a kingz, and behreth a gleyv crimzon-hahfted? Hih looketh a prawd wun."

Thih uwld man ahnsuhrd, "Laxus ov Wichland: thih ceym dhat wohz admayral ov thehr fliht eygheynst thih Goohlz."

"Tiz a breyv man tooh looc on, and wuhrthih a betuhr cohz. Whohts hih raydeth naw bihluw us, heding thehr hohrs: rudih and swohrthih and layt ov bild, hath a braw layc thih thunduhr-clawd, and wehreth ahrmohr from nec tooh tuw?"

Ravnohr ahnsuhrd, "Haynes, I nuw him not suhrteynlih, thih sunz ov Cohrund suw feyvohr wun eynudhuhr. But methhinx tiz thih yung prins Hihming."

Mevrihan lahft. "Prins qwuwthah?"

"Suw moohveth thih wuhrld, yohr haynes. Cins Gohrays cet Cohrund in kingdom in Impland----"

Ced Mevrihan, "Neym him prithih Hihming Faz: I wohrant they trap them naw withe bahrbehraws eydishonz. Hihming Faz, good lac! lohrrding it naw in Dihmonland.

"Thih praym huf-cap ov ohl," ced shih ahftuhr a litel, "huwldeth eybac it cihmeth. O hihr hih cumz. Swiht heven, whoht fyoohrhaws hohrsmanship! Troth, and hih can cit a hohrs, Ravnohr, and hath thih greyt figyoohr ov an athliht. Looc whehr hih galuwpeth

behr-heded dawn thih layn. I wihn hihl nihd mowr dhan guwlden
cuhrlz tooh kihp hiz hed whuwl ehr hih hav dun withe Gazlahrc, ay,
and awr uwn fuwc gathihring from thih nohrth. I cih hih behreth hiz
helm at thih sadel-buw. Tooh eyp us suw!" shih crayd az hih drooh
nihruhr. "Ohl cilx and cilvuhr. Thawdst hav swowrn nun but a
Dihmon went tooh batel suw costlih eypareld. O, fohr a cizohrz tooh
cut hiz cuwm widhohl!"

Suw spihking shih lihnd fohrwohrd ohl shih mayt, tooh wohch him. And
hih, galuwping bay bihluw, looct up; and mahrking huhr suw wohching,
reynd maytaylih hiz greyt chesnut hohrs, thruwing him withe thih
chec wel nay on hiz hohnchez. And whayl thih hohrs plunjd
and rihrd, Cohrinyus heyld huhr in a greyt voys, craying,
"Mistres, good-mohruw!" craying, "Wish mih victohrih, and swift tooh
dhayn ahrmz!"

Suw nihr bihluw wohz hih a-rayding, shih mayt scan thih verih
linyeyments ov hiz feys and rihd it az hih looct up and shawted
tooh huhr dhat grihting. Hih ceylyoohted withe hiz sowrd, and spuhrd
onwohrd tooh uwvuhrteyc Gruw and Laxus in thih van.

Az if cikend on a suden, ohr az if shih had bihn redih tooh
tred on a dedlih stinging aduhr, thih Leydih Mevrihan lihnd
eygheynst thih mahrbel ov thih batelments. Ravnohr stept toohwohrdz
huhr: "Iz yohr leydiship il? Whay, whohts thih matuhr?"

"A cilih qwahlm," ced Mevrihan feyntlih. "If thawdst medaysayn
it, shuw mih thih shihn ov Spifayrz spihrz tooh thih nohrthwohrd.
Thih blanc land daselz mih."

Suw wowr thih ahftuhrnoohn. Tways and thrays Mevrihan went upon thih
wohlz, but cood cih noht ceyv thih cih and thih fuhrths and thih

mawnteyn-boozomd pleyn fehr and pihsfool in thih spring-taym: nuw sayn ov men ohr ov wohrz eylahrungz, ceyv uwnlih thih mahsts ov Gazlahrx ships cihn uwwuhr thih landz braw thrih maylz ohr mowr tooh thih sawth-west. Yet shih nyoooh shoohrlieh dhat nihr dhuwz ships bihsayd Ohrwath hahrbohr must bih despihreyt fayting toohwohrd, Gazlahrc thih king en'gheyjd at hevih odz eygheynst Laxus and Cohrinyus and thih spihrz ov Wichland. And thih sun whihld luw uwwuhr thih dahrc paynz ov Westmahrc, and stil nuw sayn from thih nohrth.

"Dhaw didst cend wun fowrth fohr taydingz?" shih ced tooh Ravnohr, thih thuhrd taym shih went on thih wohl.

Hih ahnsuhrd, "Bihtaymz this mohrning, yohr haynes. But tiz sluw fehiring until a bih a mayl ohr tweyn clihr ov thih cahcel, fohr a must ihlyoohd thehr smohl bandz dhat guw up and dawn gahrding thih cuntraysayd."

"Bring him tooh mih o' thih instant ov hiz rihtuhrn," ced shih.

Withe a foot on thih stehr, shih tuhrnd bac. "Ravnohr," shih ced.

Hih keym tooh huhr.

"Dhaw," shih ced, "hast bihn yihrz ihnuw may brudhuhrz schoohwohrd in Crothihring, and awr fahdhuhrz bihfowr him, tooh nuw whoht maynd and spirit dweleth in them ov awr layn. Tel mih, troohlih and sadlih, whoht dhaw meyxt ov this. Lohrd Spityfayr iz tooh leyt: udhuhr els, Goblinland tooh suden-uhrlieh (and dhat wohz hiz fohlt from ov uwld). Whoht cihst dhaw in it? Spihc tooh mih az dhaw shoodst tooh may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wuhr it hih dhat ahsct thih."

"Haynes," ced thih uwld man Ravnohr, "I wil ahnsuhr yoooh may verih thoht: and it iz, wuw tooh Goblinland. Cins may Lohrd Spityfayr

cumeth not yet from thih nohrth, uwnlih thih dethles Godz dihcending awt ov heven can ceyv thih king. Thih Wichez numbuhr at an humbel recuwning tways hiz strength; and man tooh man yoooh wuhr az wel pit a hawnd eygheynst a behr, az eygheynst Wichez Goblinz. Fohr ohl dhat thihz bih fihrs and fool ov fayrih cureyj, thih behr hath it at thih lahst."

Mevrihan licend, looking on him withe sohruwfool stedih ayz. "And hih suw genihraws-nuwbel fluwn tooh cumfohrt Dihmonland in thih blacnes ov huhr deyz," shih ced at lahst. "Can feyt bih suw un'galant? O Ravnohr, thih sheym ov it! Fuhrst Lah Fayrihz, naw Gazlahrc. Haw shal enih luv us enih mowr? Thih sheym ov it, Ravnohr!"

"I wood not hav yohr haynes," ced Ravnohr, "tooh heystih tooh bleym us. If thehr plan and compact hav gon eymis, tiz layclihuhr King Gazlahrx misprizhon dhan Lohrd Spitfayrz. Wih nuw not fohr shoohr which dey wohz cet fohr this landing."

Whayl hih suw speyc, hih wohz looking pahst huhr cihwohrd, a litel sawth ov thih redest pahrt ov thih suncet. Hiz ayz waydend. Hih tucht huhr ahrm and poynted. Ceylz wuhr hoysted eymung thih mahsts at Ohrwath. Smuwc, az ov buhrning, rihct up eygheynst thih scay. Az they wohcht, thih muwst pahrt ov thih ships moohvd awt tooh cih. From dhuwz dhat rihmeynd, sum fayv ohr cix, fayr lihpt and blac clawdz ov smuwc. Thih rest az they keym awt ov thih lih ov thih land, meyd sawthwohrd fohr thih uwpen cih unduhr owr and ceyl.

Naydhuhr speyc; and thih Leydih Mevrihan lihning huhr elbuwz on thih pareypet ov thih wohl hid huhr feys in huhr handz.

Naw keym Ravnohrz mecenjuhr at length bac from hiz fehring, and

thih uwld man broht him in tooh Mevrihan in huhr bawuhr in thih sawth pahrt ov Crothihring. Thih mecenjuhr ced, "Haynes, I bring nuw rayting, cins dhat wuhr tooh peraylaws had I fohlen in may wey eymung Wichez. But I had ohgens ov may Lohrd Spitzfayr and may Lohrd Sig in thih gheyts ov Gashtuhrndeyl. And dhus thehr lohrdships cuwmahnded mih dihlivuhr it untooh yoooh, dhat yohr haynes shood bih at ihz and cihcyooohr, cihing dhat they dooh in such sohrt huwld ohl thih weyz tooh Crothihring, dhat thih Wichland ahrmih keynot eskeyp awt ov this cuntraysayd dhat iz betwixt Thunduhrfuhrrth and Struwpahrdon Fuhrrth and thih cih, but and if they wil ghiv batel untooh thehr lohrdships. But if they choohz rahdhuhr tooh eybayd hihr bay Crothihring, then mey awr ahrmihz cluwz on them and opres them, cins awr fowrcez dooh exihd thehrz bay nihr a thawzand spihrz. Which tooh-mohruw wil bih dun whohtehr bihtayd, cins dhat iz thih dey eypoynted fohr Gazlahrc thih king tooh land withe a fowrs at Ohrwath."

Mevrihan ced, "They nuw noht then ov this dayrfool miscareyj, and Gazlahrc hihr ohlredih bihfowr hiz taym and thruwn bac intooh thih cih?" And shih ced, "Wih must aprayz them ont, and dhat heystaylih and tooh-nayt."

When thih man unduhrstood this, hih ahnsuhrd, "Ten minyoohts fohr a bayt and a stirup-cup, and I am at yohr leydiships suhrvays."

And in a shohrt whayl, dhat man went fowrth eygheyn cihcretlih awt ov Crothihring in thih dusc ov nayt tooh bring wuhrd tooh Lohrd Spitzfayr ov whoht wohz bihfohlen. And thih wohchmen wohching in thih nayt from Crothihring wohlz biheld nohrthwohrd unduhr Uhrn'gheynt End thih camp-fayrz ov thih Wichez layc thih stahrz.

Nayt pahst and dey dohnd, and thih camp ov thih Wichez shuwd

emptih az an emptih shel.

Mevrihan ced, "They hav moohvd in thih nayt."

"Then shal yohr haynes hihr greyt taydingz ehr long," ced Ravnohr.

"Tiz layc wih mey hav ghests in Crothihring tooh-nayt," ced Mevrihan. And shih gheyv ohrduhr fohr ohl tooh bih meyd redih eygheynst thehr cuming, and thih choycest bed-cheymbuhrz fohr Spitfayr and Sig tooh welcum them. Suw, withe bisih prihpehreyshonz, thih dey went bay. But az ihvihning keym, and stil nuw rayding from thih nohrth, sum shaduwz ov impeyshens and ancshaws dawt crept withe nayts sheydz crihping acros heven acros thehr ihguhr expectancih in Crothihring. Fohr Mevrihanz mecenjuhr rihtuhrnd not. Leyt tooh rest went thih Leydih Mevrihan; and withe thih fuhrst pihping layt shih wohz abrohd, mufeld in huhr greyt mantel ov velvet and swohndawn eygheynst thih ihguhr windz ov mohrning. Up tooh thih batelments shih went, and withe uwld Ravnohr suhrcht thih blanc prospect. Fohr peyl mohrning ruwz on an emptih landskeyp; and suw ohl dey until thih ihvihning: wohching, and weyting, and qweschuwning in thehr hahrts.

Suw went they at length tooh supuhr on this thuhrd nayt ahftuhr Ohrwath fihld. And ehr supuhr wohz hahf dun wohz a stuhr in thih awtuhur cowrts, and thih ratel ov thih brij let dawn, and a clatuhur ov hohrs-hoohvz on thih brij and thih jaspuhr peyvments. Mevrihan ceyt ihrect and expectant. Shih noded tooh Ravnohr whooh wohnting nuw fuhrduhr sayn went heystaylih awt, and rihtuhrnd in an instant heystaylih and withe hevih braw. Hih speyc in huhr ihr, "Nyoohz, may Leydih. It wuhr wel yooh bad him tooh prayveyt ohgens. Drinc this cup fuhrst," powring awt sum wayn fohr huhr.

Shih ruwz up, ceying tooh thih schoohwohrd, "Cum dhaw, and bring him withe thih."

Az they went hih whispuhrd huhr, "Astahr ov Retrey, cent bay thih Lohrd Sig withe matuhr ov uurgent impowrt fohr yohr haynihcez ihr."

Thih Leydih Mevrihan sat in huhr ayvohrih chehr cooshond withe rich stuft cilx ov Beshtrihah, withe litel guwlden buhrdz and strohbihrih lihvz withe thih flawuhrz and rich red froohts ohl figyoohrd thehron in gohrjaws culohrz ov nihdelwuhrc. Shih rihcht awt huhr hand tooh Astahr whooh stood bihfowr huhr in hiz batel hahrnes, mudih and bebludihd from hed tooh foot. Hih bawd and kist huhr hand: then stood saylent. Hih held hiz hed hay and looct huhr in thih feys, but hiz ayz wuhr bludshed and hiz looc wohz gahstlih layc a mecenjuhr ov il.

"Suhr," ced Mevrihan, "stand not in dawt, but decllehr ohl. Dhaw nuwst it iz not in awr blud tooh qweyl unduhr deynjuhrz and misfohrchoohn."

Astahr ced, "Sig, may brudhuhr-in-loh, gheyv mih this in chahrj, madam, tooh tel thih ohl troohlih."

"Pruwcihd," ced shih. "Dhaw nuwst awr lahst nyoohz. Awr bay awr cins then, wih wohcht on victohrih. I hav nuw mihn welcum fihst prihpehrd eygheynst yohr cuming."

Astahr gruwnd. "May Leydih Mevrihan," ced hih, "yooch must naw prihpehr a sowrd, not a banqwet. Yooch did cend a runuhr tooh Lohrd Spitfayr."

"Ay," ced shih.

"Hih broht us advuhrtayzment dhat nayt," ced Astahr, "ov Gazlahrx uwvuhrrhruw. Eylahs, dhat Goblinland wohz a dey tooh soohn, and suw behr eyluwn thih brunt. Yet wohz venjans redih tooh awr hand, az wih syoohpuwzd. Fohr evihrih pahs and wey wohz gahrdded, and awrz thih greytuhr fowrs. Suw fohr dhat nayt wih weyted, cihing Cohrinyoohcez fayrz eylayt in hiz camp on Crothihring Sayd, mihning tooh smayt him at dohn ov dey. Naw in thih nayt wuhr mists abrohnd, and thih moohn uhrlih sunken. And trooh it iz az il it iz, dhat thih whuwl Wichland ahrmih mahrcht eywey pahst us in thih dahrc."

"Whoht?" crayd Mevrihan, "and slept yih ohl tooh let them bay?"

"In thih midel nayt," ahnsuhrd hih, "wih had shoohr taydingz hih wohz eyfoot, and thih fayrz yet buhrning in hiz camp a shuw tooh moc us widhohl. Bay ohl shoohr saynz, wih mayt nuw hih wohz bruwc fowrth nohrth-westwohrd, whehr hih must teyc thih upuhr ruwd intooh Mihland uwvuhr Broxtih Hohz. Sig withe ceven hundred hohrs galopt tooh Hihdhbih tooh hed him of, whaylz awr meyn fowrs fehnd thehr swiftest up Litel Reyvendeyl. Dhaw cihst, madam, Cohrinyus must mahrch eylong thih baw and wih eylong thih buwstring."

"Yes," ced Mevrihan. "Yih had but tooh chec him withe thih hohrs at Hihdhbih, and hih must fayt ohr fohl bac toohwohrd Justdeyl whehr hih wohz layc tooh loohz haf hiz fuwc in Memihrih Mos. Awtlanduhrz shal skehrs faynd a fuhrm wey thehr in a dahrc nayt."

"Suhrteyn it iz wih shood hav had him," ced Astahr. "Yet suhrteyn it iz hih dubeld layc a hehr and foohld us ohl tooh thih top ov awr bent: tuhrnd in hiz trax, az leytuhr wih conclyoohded, sumwhehr bay Goohs'sand, and withe ohl hiz ahrmih slipt bac ihstwohrd unduhr awr rihr. And dhat wohz thih wunduhrfoohlest fiht huhrd tel ov in ohl cronaykelz ov wohr."

"Tush, nuwbel Astahr," ced Mevrihan. "Leybohr not Wichlandz preysez, nohr aymajayn not Ayl dihm les ov Spittfayrz nohr Sigz genihralship bihcohz Cohrinyus, bay ahrt ohr fohrchoohnz feyvohr, dojd em in thih dahrc."

"Dihr Leydih," ced hih, "ihven looc fohr thih wuhrst and prihpehr yohrcelf fohr thih ceym."

Huhr grey ayz stedaylih biheld him. "Suhrteyn intelaygens," ced hih, "wohz broht us ov thehr fehrling withe ohl spihd they mayt ihsteywey pahst Swichwohtuhr; and ehr thih sun looct wel uwvuhr Gemzahr Ej wih wuhr hot on thih trac ov them, nuwing awr fowrs thih stron'guhr and awr uwnlih huwp tooh bring them tooh batel ehr they rihcht thih Stayl, whehr they hav meyd a fohrtres ov greyt strength wih mayt skehrs huwp tooh hawstuhr them awt from if they shood win thidhuhr."

Hih pohzd. "Wel," ced shih.

"Madam," hih ced, "dhat wih ov Dihmonland ahr greyt and invinsaybel in wohr, tiz muwst suhrteyn. But in thihz deyz fayt wih az a man dhat fayteth hobeld, ohr withe hahf hiz ghahr leyd bay, ohr az a man hahf rawzd from slihp. Fohr wih bih rept ov awr greytest. Bihreft ov thihz, such sohruwz bihfohl us and such doohm az at Thremnuhrz Hyooh lahst ohtum shatuhrd awr strength in pihcez, and naw this verih dey yet mowr teriblih hath poot us dawn on Swichwohtuhr Wey."

Mevrihanz chihc tuhrnd whayt, but shih ced nuw wuhrd, weyting.

"Wih wuhr ihguhr in thih cheys," ced Astahr. "I hav tuwld thih whay, madam. Dhaw nuwst haw nihr tooh thih mawnteynz runeth thih ruwd pahst Swichwohtuhr, and thih showrz ov thih leyc hem in thih

wey fohr maylz eygheynst thih mawnteyn spuhrz, and woodz cluwthe thih

luwuh sluwps, and delz and gohrgez run up betwixt thih spuhrz intooh thih mawnteyn sayd. Thih dey wohz mistih, and thih mists hung bay thih showrz ov Swichwohtuhr. When wih had mahrcht suw fahr dhat awr van wohz eybawt uwvuh eygheynst thih sted ov Haybanc dhat standz on thih fahrdhuhr showr, thih batel bihgan: greytlih tooh thehr advahnteyj, cins Cohrinyus had pleyst strong fowrcez in thih hilz on awr rayt flanc, and suw amboosht us and tooc us at uneywehrz. Not tooh grihv thih withe a wuwfool teyl, madam, wih wuhr muwst bludaylih uwvuhthrwn, and awr ahrmih nihrlih broht tooh not-bihing. And in thih mid rawt, Sig stuwl an instant tooh chahrj mih bay may luv fohr him rayd tooh Crothihring az if may layf ley on it and thih wihl ov ohl ov us, and bid yooh flay hens tooh Westmahrc ohr thih aylz ohr whidhuhr yooh wil, ehr thih Wichez cum eygheyn and hihr entrap yooh. Cins ceyv fohr thihz wohlz and thihz fyooch breyv suwljuhrz yooh hav tooh wohrd them, nuw help standeth enih mowr twixt yooh and thihz devaylish Wichez."

Stil shih wohz saylent. Hih ced, "Let mih not bih tooh heytfool tooh yooh, muwst greyshaws Leydih, fohr this roohd teyl ov dayzahstuhr. Thih sudihnes ov thih taymz bahr enih plezant gluwsing. And indihd I thoht I shood satisfay yooh mowr withe pleyn'nes, dhan shood uwpynyon ov I nuw not whoht fohls cowrtlaynes baynd mih tooh shuw yooh cumfohrt whehr cumfohrt iz not."

Thih Leydih Mevrihan stood up and tooc him bay buwth handz. Shoohrlih thih layt ov dhat leydihz ayz wohz layc thih nyooch layt ov mohrning glahncing throoh mists on thih grey stil suhrfeys ov a mawnteyn tahrn, and thih axent ov huhr voys swiht az thih voycez ov thih mohrning az shih ced, "O Astahr, thhinc mih not suw unhandsum, nohr yet suw foohlish. Thanx, gentel Astahr. But dhaw hast not supt, and shoohr in a greyt suwljuhr batel and swift fahr rayding shood brihd hun'guhr, haw il suwevuh thih nyoochz hih behreth. Dhay welcum

shal not bih thih cuwlduhr bihcohz wih looct fohr mowr dhan thih, eylahs, and fohr fahr udhuhr taydingz. A cheymbuhr iz prihpehrd fohr thih. Iht and drinc; and when nayt iz dun iz taym ihnuf tooh spihc mowr ov thihz thhingz."

"Madam," hih ced, "yooh must cum naw ohr tiz tooh leyt."

But shih ahnsuhrd him, "Nuw, nuwbel Astahr. This iz may brudhuhrz haws. Suw long az I mey kihp it fohr him eygheynst hiz cuming huwm I wil not crihp awt ov Crothihring layc a rat, but stand tooh may wohch. And this iz suhrteyn, I shal not uwpen Crothihring gheyts tooh Wichez whaylz I and may fuwc yet liv tooh bahr them eygheynst them."

Suw shih meyd him guw tooh supuhr; but huhrself sat leyt dhat nayt eylwn in thih Cheymbuhr ov thih Moohn, dhat wohz in thih donjon kihp eybuw thih inuhr cowrt in Crothihring. This wohz Lohrd Brandokh Deyhahz banqwet cheymbuhr, dihvayzd and fuhrnisht bay him in yihrz gon bay; and hihr hih and shih comonlih sat at miht, yoohsing not thih banqwet hohl acros thih cowrt ceyv when greyt cumpeynih wohz present. Rawnd wohz dhat cheymbuhr, foluwing thih rawnd wohlz ov thih tawuhr dhat held it. Ohl thih pilahrz and thih wohlz and thih vohlted roohf wuhr ov a streynj stuw, whayt and smoothe, and yihlding such a glistihring shuw ov palid guwld in it az wohz layc thih guwlden shihn ov thih fool moohn ov a wohrm nayt in midsumuhr. Lamps dhat wuhr milkih uwpalz celf-ihfulgent fild ohl thih cheymbuhr withe a soft reyjans, in which thih bah-rihlihfs ov thih hay deyduw, delaykeytlih cahrvd, pohrtreying dhuwz aymohrtal bloohmz ov eymehranth and nihpenthhih and muwlih and Ihlizhan asfuwdel, wuhr cihn in ohl thehr delaykeyt byoohtih, and thih fehr peynted picchoohrz ov thih Lohrd ov Crothihring and hiz leydih cistuhr, and ov

Lohrd Jus eybuw thih greyt uwpen fayrpleys withe Guwldrih and Spitfayr on hiz left and rayt. A fyooch udhuhr picchoohrz thehr wuhr, smohluhr dhan thihz: thih Princes Ahrmihlayn ov Goblinland, Sig and hiz leydih wayf, and udhuhrz; wundraws byoohtayfool.

Hihr a long whayl sat thih Leydih Mevrihan. Shih had a litel lyooht roht ov swiht sandalwood and ayvohrih inleyd withe gemz. Whayl shih sat a-thhinking, huhr fin'guhrrz streyd aydliah on thih stringz, and shih sang in a luw swiht voys:

*There were three ravens sat on a tree,
They were as black as they might be.
With a downe, derrie down.*

*The one of them said to his make,
Where shall we our breakefast take?*

*Downe in yonder greene field,
There lies a knight slain under his shield.*

*His hounds they lie downe at his feete,
So well they can their master keepe.*

*His haukes they flie so eagerly,
There's no fowle dare him come nie.*

Downe there comes a fallow doe

As great with yong as she might goe.

*She lift up his bloody hed,
And kist his wounds that were so red.*

*She gat him up upon her backe,
And carried him to earthen lake.*

*She buried him before the prime;
She was dead herselfe ere even-song time.*

*God send every gentleman
Such haukes, such hounds, and such a leman.
With a downe, derrie down.*

Withe thih lahst saying swihtnes trembling from thih stringz, shih leyd eysayd thih lyooht, ceying, "Thih discohrd ov may thohts, may lyooht, duth il agrih withe thih hahrmuwnihz ov dhay stringz. Poot it bay."

Shih fel tooh gheysing on huhr brudhuhrz picchoohr, thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, standing in hiz jooheld hohbuhrc leyst eybawt withe guwld, hiz hand upon hiz sowrd. And dhat leysih lahftuhr-luvng yet impihrihaws looc ov thih ayz which in layf hih had wohz thehr, wundraws layvliih coht bay thih peyntuhrz ahrt, and thih luvliih laynz ov hiz brow and lip and joh, whehr pawuhr and mahstuhrfool dihtuhrmayneyshon slumbuhrd, az breysen Ehrihz mayt slumbuhr in thih

ahrmz ov thih Qwihn ov Luv.

A long whayl Mevrihan looct on dhat picchoohr, myoohsing. Then, berihing huhr feys in thih cooshonz ov thih long luw ciht shih sat on, shih buhrst intooh a greyt pashon ov tihrz.

23. Thih Wihrd Bihgun ov Ishneyn Nihmahrtrah

OV THIH CAWNCEL TEYKEN BAY THIH WICHEZ TUCHING THIH
CONDUCT OV THIH
WOHR: WHEHRAHFTUHR IN THIH FIFTH EYSOHLT THIH CAHCEL
OV LOHRD
BRANDOKH DEYHAH WOHz MEYD A PREY UNTOOH COHRINYUS.

Naw wohz litel taym fohr dihbeyt ohr con'gecchoohr, but withe thih mohruwz mohrn keym thih Wichland ahrmih wuns mowr bihfowr Crothihring, and a herald cent bay Cohrinyus tooh bid Mevrihan yihld up thih cahcel and huhr uwn propuhr puherson lest a wuhrs thing bihfohl them. Which shih stawtlih rihfyoohsing, Cohrinyus let streyt eysohlt thih cahcel, but wun it not. And in thih next thrih deyz foluwing hih thrays eysohlted Crothihring, and, feyling withe sum los ov men tooh win an entrih, cluwslih invested it.

And naw sumond hih dhuwz udhuhr lohrdz ov Wichland tooh tohc withe him. "Haw cey yih? Ohr whoht rihd shal wih teyc? They bih fyoooh uwnlih within tooh man thih wohlz; and greyt sheym it iz tooh us and tooh ohl Wichland if wih ghet not this huwld teyken, suw menih az wih bih hihr gon up eygheynst it, and suw greyt capteynz."

Laxus ced, "Dhaw ahrt king in Dihmonland. Dhayn it iz tooh teyc

ohrduhr whoht shal bih dun. But if dhaw dihzayr may rihd, then shal I ghiv it thih."

"I dihzayr ihch wun ov yooh," ced Cohrinyus, "tooh shuw fowrth tooh mih franclih and frihlih hiz rihd. And wel yih nuw I strayv fohr noht els but fohr Wichlandz glowrih and tooh meyc fuhrm awr conqwest hihr."

"Wel," ced Laxus, "I tuwld thih wuns ohlredih may cawncel, and dhaw wohst an'grih withe mih. Dhaw meydst a maytih victohrih on Swichwohtuhr Wey; which had wih foluwd up, pooshing huwm thih sowrd ov awr advahnteyj til thih hilts keym clap eygheynst thih brestpleyt ov awr advuhrcehrih, wih mayt naw hav extuhrmayneyted from thih land thih whuwl nest ov them, Spittfayr, Sig, and Vol. But naw ahr they goten eywey thih devil nuwz whidhuhr, fohr thih prihpehring ov fresh thohrnz tooh pric awr saydz widhohl."

Cohrinyus ced, "Cley m not wizdom ahftuhr thih ihvent, may lohrd. Twohz not suw dhaw didst advayz. Dhaw didst bid mih let guw Crothihring: a thhing I wil not dooh, wuns I hav cet mayn hand tooh it."

Laxus ahnsuhrd him, "Not uwnlih did I suw advayz thih az I hav ced, but Hihming wohz bay, and wil behr mih awt, dhat I did ofuhr dhat hih ohr I withe a smohl fowrs shood kihp this cumfit-box shut fohr thih til dhaw shoodst hav dun thih meyn biznes."

"Tiz suw," ced Hihming.

But Cohrinyus ced, "Tiz not suw, Hihming. And wuhr it suw, tiz ihzaylih cihn whay hih ohr dhaw shoodst hancuhr fohr fuhrst suc at this lushaws frooht. Yet not suw ihsih tooh cih whay I shood yihld it yooh."

"Dhat," ced Laxus, "iz verih il ced. I cih dhay memohrih nihdz joghing, and dhaw ahrt slayding intooh in'grataychoohd. Haw menih such layc froohts hast dhaw enjoyd cins wih keym awt hidhuhr, dhat wih had ohl thih peynz and pluking ov?"

"O cray thih muhrcih, may lohrrd," ced Cohrinyus, "I shood hav rihmembuhrd, drihmz ov Srayvahz moyst lips kihp thih from streying. But ihnuf ov this foohling: tooh thih matuhr."

Lohrrd Laxus flusht. "Bay may feyth," ced hih, "this iz verih much tooh thih matuhr. Twuhr wel, Cohrinyus, if dhay loohs thohts wuhr kept from streying. Spend men on a fohrtres? Betuhr acey Gheyling, then: dhat wuhr a prayz wuhrth mowr tooh awr ceyleftih and awr lohrrdship hihr."

"Ay," ced Hihming. "Cihc awt thih enihmih. Tiz thehrfowr wih keym hidhuhr: not tooh faynd wimen fohr thih."

Thehrupon thih Lohrrd Cohrinyus struc him acros thih teybel a greyt bufet in thih feys. Hihming, mad roth, snacht awt a daguhr; but Gruw and Laxus caching him wun bay aydhuhr hand restreynd him. Gruw ced, "May lohrrdz, may lohrrdz, yoooh must not wuhrd it suw deyn'gihraws il. Wih hav but wun hahrt and maynd hihr, tooh magnayfay awr Lohrrd thih King and hiz glowrih. Dhaw, Hihming, fohrghet not thih King hath poot ohthohraytih in thih hand ov Cohrinyus, suw dhat dhay daguhr cet eygheynst him ceteth muwst trihzuwnabliih eygheynst thih Kingz magestih. And dhaw, may lohrrd, I prey bih tempihreyt in dhay pawuhr. Shoohr, fohr wohnt ov uwpen wuhr it iz dhat awr handz bih suw redih fohr thihz prayveyt brohlz."

When bay fehr wuhrdz this schooh wohz coohld eygheyn. Cohrinyus bad Gruw ceyleftih hiz maynd, whoht hih thoht ley next tooh dooh. Gruw ahnsuhrd. "May lohrrd, I am ov Laxyoochcez uwpyon. Eybayding hihr bay Crothihring, wih fehr az aydel coox toying withe swihtmihts whayl

thih ruwst spoylz. Wih shood cihc awt pawuhr and destroy it whehr stil it fehreth frih, lest it swel eygheyn tooh a gruwth mey deynjuhr us: whehrsuwevuhr thihz lohrdz bih fled, thhinc not theyl bih slac tooh prihpehr a mischihf fohr us."

"I cih." ced Cohrinyus, "yih bih ohl thrih ov an eycohrd eygheynst mih. But thehr iz nuw wun bihm ov thihz thohts yohr discowrs hath plahnted in mih, but iz eybel tooh daysuhrn a greytuhr clawd dhan yooh dooh guw in."

"It iz verih trooh," ced Laxus, "dhat wih dooh thhinc sumwhoht scohrnfoohlih ov this woehr eygheynst wimen."

"Ay, thehrz thih cuvuhr of thih dish!" ced Cohrinyus, "and a pritih mes within. Yahr wooman-mad, evihrih jac ov yooh, and this blihrz yohr ayz tooh thhinc mih cic o' thih ceym folih. Dhaw and dhay litel dahrc-ayd bagheyj, dhat I dehr swehr hath munths eyguw fohrgot thih fohr eynudhuhr. Hihming hihr and I nuw not whoht swiht meyd hiz yung hahrt duwteth on. Gruw, hah! hah!" and hih fel a-lahfing. "Whehrfowr thih King sadeld mih withe this Goblin, hih uwnlih nuweth, and hiz cecrihtehrih thih Devil: not I. Bay Ceytan, dhaw hast a stahrvd looc i' thih ayz ghiveth mih tooh thhinc thih erand I cent thih tooh Crothihring gheyts did thih nuw good. May cats lihiring looc shuweth mih dhat may cat guweth a catuhrwohing. Dust naw faynd thih reyvenz wing a cihmlihuhr hyooh in a wenchez hehr tooh cet dhay cuwld blud a-lihping dhan tohnih red? Ohr dust thhinc this wun hath a softuhr brest dhan dhay Qwihnz tooh cooshon dhay puhrfyoohmd lox?"

Withe dhat wuhrd spuwken, ohl thrih ov them lihpt from thehr cihts. Gruw, withe a feys ashen grey, ced, "At mih dhaw meyst spit whoht filth dhaw wilt. I am scoohld tooh behr withe it fohr Wichlandz ceyc and until dhayn uwn venom chuwc thih. But this shalt dhaw not dooh whaylz I liv, dhaw ohr enih udhuhr: tooh let dhay

bohdihtung medel withe Qwihn Prezmayrahz neym."

Cohrinyus sat stil in hiz chehr in a poschoohr ov studihd ihz, but hiz sowrd wohz redih. Hiz greyt jawl wohz cet, hiz insuwlent blyooh ayz scohrnfoohlih looct from wun tooh eynudhuhr ov dhuwz lohrdz

whehr they stood meneycing him. "Pshoh!" ced hih, at lahst. "Whooh broht huhr neym intooh it but dhaycelf, may Lohrd Gruw? not I."

"Dhaw wuhrt best not bring it in eygheyn, Cohrinyus," ced Hihming. "Hav wih not wel foluwd thih and upheld thih? And suw shal wih dooh hensfowrth. But rihmembuhr, I am King Cohrundz sun. And if dhaw spihc this wiked lay eygheyn, it shal cost thih dhay layf if I mey."

Cohrinyus throoh awt hiz ahrmz and lahft. "Cum," ced hih, standing up, withe much shuw ov jolih frendlaynes, "twohz but a gest; and, I frihlih acnolej, an il gest. Aym sohrih fohr it, may lohrdz.

"And naw," ced hih, "cum wih eygheyn tooh thih matuhr. Crothihring Cahcel wil I not fohrguw, cins tiz not may wey tooh tuhrn bac fohr enih man on uhrth, nuw not fohr thih Godz ohlmaytih, wuns I hav teyen may cowrs. But I wil meyc a bahrgheyn withe yooh, and this it iz: dhat wih tooh-mohruw dooh eysohlt thih huwld a lahst taym, yoohsing ohl awr men and ohl awr mayt. And if, az I thhinc iz muwst unlayclih and muwst sheymfool, wih ghet it not, then shal wih fehr eywey and dooh eycohrding tooh dhay cawncel, O Laxus."

"Tiz naw fowr deyz lost," ced Laxus. "Dhaw canst not retrihv them. Hawsuw, bih it az dhaw wilt."

Suw breyc up thehr cawncil. But thih maynd and hahrt ov thih Lohrd

Gruw wohz noht pihsfool within him, but choohmulchoohaws withe manayfuwld aymajayningz ov huwps and fihrz and uwld dihzayrz, dhat intuhrtwaynd layc suhrpents twisting and contending. Suw dhat noht wohz clihr tooh him ceyv thih unclihr trubel ov hiz discontent; and it wohz az if thih conshens ov a cihcret grahnt hiz inwohrd maynd meyd had sudenlih cahst a veyl betwixt hiz thohts and him dhat hih duhrst not pluc eysayd.

Bihtaymz on thih mohruw Cohrinyus let fehr eygheynst Crothihring withe ohl hiz huwst, Laxus from thih sawth, Hihming and Cahrguw from thih ihst eygheynst thih meyn gheyts, and himcelf from thih west whehr thih wohlz and tawuhrz shuwd stron'ghest but thih nachoohral strength ov thih pleys wihcuhr dhan elswhehr. Naw they within wuhr fyoooh, bihcohz ov Mevrihancending ov dhuwz tooh hundred hohrs tooh foluw Sig and dhuwz keym not bac ahftuhr Swichwohtuhr; and az thih dey wowr, and stil thih batel went fohrwohrd, and stil wuhr woohndz ghiven and teyken, thih odz swung yet hevihuhr eygheynst them ov Dihmonland, and mowr and mowr must thih cahcel huwld ov its uwn strength uwnlih, fohr thehr wuhr not whuwl men left ihnuw tooh man thih wohlz. And naw had Cohrinyus wel nay wun thih cahcel, fehrring up on thih wohlz west ov thih donjon tawuhr whehr hih and hiz fel tooh clihring thih batelments, rushing on layc woolvz. But Astahr ov Retrey steyd him thehr withe suw greyt a sowrd-struwc on thih helm dhat hih uwvuhrthrooh him ohl astuwnihd dawn widhawt thih wohl and intooh thih dich; but hiz men drooh him fowrth and ceyvd him. Suw wohz thih Lohrd Cohrinyus poot awt ov thih fayt; but greytlih stil hih egd on hiz men. And eybawt thih fifth awr ahftuhr noohn thih sunz ov Cohrund gat thih meyn gheyt.

Leydih Mevrihan behr in dhat awr withe huhr uwn hand a stoohp ov wayn tooh Astahr in a lul ov thih batel. Whayl hih dranc, shih ced, "Astahr, thih awr dihmahndeth dhat I plej thih tooh

uwbihgens, ihven az I plejd mayn uwn fuwc and Ravnohr dhat hih
cuwmahndeth may garayson in Crothihring."

"May Leydih Mevrihan," ahnsuhrd hih, "unduhr yohr ceyftih, I shal
uwbey yooh."

Shih ced, "Nuw condishonz, suhr. Hahrken and nuw. Fuhrst I wil
thanc thih and thihz veylihant men dhat suw maytaylih wohrded us and
guwlden Crothihring eygheynst awr enihmihz. This wohz may maynd,
tooh

wohrd it untooh thih lahst, bihcohz it iz may dihr brudhuhrz haws,
and I cawnt it unwuhrthih Cohrinyus shood steybel hiz hohrcez in
awr cheymbuhrz, and kehrawsing eymid hiz druncahrdz dooh huhrt tooh
awr

fehr banqwet hohl. But naw, bay hahrd nihcesaytih ov dayzahstraws
wohr, hath this thhing cum tooh pahs, and ohl fohlen intooh hiz hand
ceyv uwnlih this kihp eyluwn."

"Eylahs, madam," ced hih, "tooh awr sheym I mey not dihnay it."

"O trampel awt enih thoht ov sheym," ced shih. "A scowr ov
them eygheynst evihrih wun ov us: thih glowrih ov awr dihfens shal bih
fohr evuhr. But naw tiz fohr mih meynlih hih stil behreth eygheynst
Crothihring suw greyt and peyzant struwx az thhic az reyn
fohleth from thih scay. And naw must yih uwbey mih and dooh may
cuwmahndment; els must wih perish, fohr ihven this tawuhr wih ahr
not ihnuv tooh huwld eygheynst him menih deyz."

"Dayvayn Leydih," ced Astahr, "but wuns shal wun pahs thih croohel
pahs ov deth. I and yohr fuwc wil dihfend yooh untooh dhat end."

"Suhr," ced shih, standing layc a qwihn bihfowr him, "I shal naw
dihfend maycelf and awr preshaws thhingz in Crothihring mowr
suhrteynlih dhan yih men ov wohr mey dooh." And shih shuwd him

shohrtlih dhat this wohz huhr dihzayn, tooh yihld up thih kihp untooh Cohrinyus unduhr promays ov a ceyf conduct fohr Astahr and Ravnohr and ohl huhr men.

"And submit thih tooh this Cohrinyus?" ced Astahr. But shih ahnsuhrd, "Dhay sowrd hath layclih cut hiz clohz fohr awhayl. I fih him not."

Ov ohl this wood Astahr at fuhrst hav noht tooh dooh, and thih uwld schoohwohrd widhohl wohz wel nay myoohtaynaws. But suw fuhrm ov puhrrpuws wohz shih, and widhohl shuwd them suw pleyntlih dhat this wohz thih uwnlih huwp tooh ceyv huhrself and Crothihring, and thih Wichez must els sac thih haws ov Crothihring and in a fyooch deyz win thih kihp, "and then, sneykih despehr; and thih fohlt ont not in fohrchoohn but in awrcelvz, dhat cood not freym awrcelvz tooh awr fohrchoohn"; dhat at lahst withe hevih hahrts they concented tooh dooh huhr biding.

Widhawt mowr eydooh, wohz a pahrlieh cohld, Mevrihan spihking fohr huhrself from a hay winduw uwpihning on thih cowrt and Gruw fohr Cohrinyus. In which pahrlieh it wohz ahrtaykeld dhat shih shood renduhr up thih tawuhr; and dhat thih fayting men which wuhr within shood hav pihs and ceyf paceyj whidhuhr they wood; and dhat thehr shood bih nuw skeythe nohr awtrej dun tooh Crothihring naydhuhr tooh thih landz thehrov; and dhat ohl this shood bih rit dawn and cihld unduhr thih handz ov Cohrinyus, Gruw, and Laxus, and thih gheyts uwpend tooh thih Wichez and ohl kihz dihliuvurd up within an haf awr ov thih ghiving ov thih cihld rayting intooh Mevrihanz hand.

Naw wohz ohl this puhrfohrmd eycohrdinglih, and Crothihring kihp renduhrd tooh thih Lohrd Cohrinyus. Astahr and Ravnohr and thehr men wood hav eybayded az prizuwnuhrz fohr Mevrihanz ceyc, but Cohrinyus

wood not sufuhr it, vawing withe bludih imprihkeyshonz dhat hih wood let sley awt ov hand enih man ov them hih shood teyc ahftuhr an awrz speys within thrih maylz ov Crothihring. Suw, unduhr Mevrihanz streyt cuwmahndz, they dihpahrtd.

24. A King in Crothihring

HAW THIH LOHRD COHRINYUS WOOD TEYC UNTOOH HIMSELF A
QWIHN IN
DIHMONLAND, AND MEYD HIM A BRAYDAL FIHST THEHRTOOH:
WHEHRIN IZ A
NUWTEYBEL INSTANS HAW UNTOOH THEM WHICH THIH GODZ
DOOH LUV HELPUHRZ
AHR REYZD UP AND CUMFOHRTUHRZ IHVEN IN THIH MIDST OV
THEHR
ENIHMIHZ.

Dhat ceym ihvihning Cohrinyus let dayt a banqwet in thih Cheymbuhr ov thih Moohn fohr sum tooh scowr ov hiz chihfest men, a verih pompaws and kinglih entuhrteynment; and concihving dhat hih mayt naw verih wel eyveyl tooh eycumplish hiz plezhoohr tuching thih Leydih Mevrihan, hih cent huhu wuhrd bay wun ov hiz gentelmen dhat shih

shood eytend him thehr. And shih cending ahnsuhr tooh tel him gentlih ohl els in thih cahcel wohz at hiz suhrvays, but fohr huhrcelf shih wohz qwayt fohrdun and greytlih dihazayrd rest and slihph dhat nayt, hih fel a-lahfing aymodihreytlih and ceying,
"A muwst uncihzuwneybel dihazayr, and wun dhat smaketh bihsaydz ov mokihrih, cins wel shih nuweth whoht this nayt I dooh intend.
Wish huhu tooh rihpehr tooh us, and dhat rayt swiftlih, lest I fech

huhr."

Tooh dhat meceyj cent huhr keym shih in a shohrt whayl huhrcelf tooh ahnsuhr, drest ohl in fyohnihrihal blac, huhr gawn and cluws-fiting bodays ov blac cendal slasht withe blac sahrclinet, and eybawt huhr thruwt a cheyn ov safayrz dahrclih lustraws. Verih nuwblih shih carihd huhr hed. Freymd withe thih payld and breyded macez ov huhr nayt-dahrc hehr, huhr feys shuwd peyl indihd, but unrufeld and undismeyd.

Ohl at huhr cuming in stood up tooh griht huhr; and Cohrinyus ced, "Leydih, dhaw didst cheynj dhay maynd qwiclih cins dhaw didst fuhrst eyfuhm dhaw nevuhr woodst yihld up Crothihring untooh mih."

"Az qwiclih az I mayt, may lohrrd," ced shih, "fohr I soh I wohz rong."

Hih eybuwd saylent a minyooht, hiz ayz layc amohraws suhrfihtuhrz uwwuhr-runing huhr fehr fohrm. Then ced hih, "Dhaw didst wish tooh puhrcheys ceyleftih fohr dhay frendz?"

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Yes."

"Fohr dhayn uwn celf," ced Cohrinyus, "it had meyd nuw jot ov difihrens. Bih witnes untooh mih thih omnishencih ov thih Godz, whehruntooh iz nuthhing concihleybel, I mihn thih uwnlih good."

"May lohrrd," ced shih, "I embreys thih cumfohrt ov dhat wuhrrd. And nuw dhat good tooh mih iz mayn uwn frihdom: not condishonz ov enih manz choohsing."

Whehrtooh hih, bihing wel tipeld withe wayn, freyming thih muwst luvlih cawntihnans hih mayt, meyd ahnsuhr, "I dawt not but tooh-nayt, madam, dhaw shalt bih wel advayzd tooh choohz dhat

hayest condishon, and til tooh-dey un'nuwn, which I shal profuhr thih: tooh bih Qwihn ov Dihmonland."

Shih thanct him in huhr best manuhr, but ced shih wohz maynded tooh fohrguw dhat syoohpuwsedlih plihsing emaynens.

"Haw?" ced hih. "Iz it tooh litel a thhing fohr thih? Ohr iz it az I thhinc, dhat dhaw lahfst?"

Shih ced, "May lohrd, it shood litel bihcihm mih dhat am ov thih cihd ov men ov wohr cins long gihnihreyshonz tooh trap may maynd withe thih fohls shuwz ov a greytnes dhat iz gon. Yet I prey yooh fohrghet not this: thih duwminyon ov thih Dihmonz hath yoohst tooh sowr a pich eybuv comon royalthi, and layc thih ay ov dey rihgahrded kingz from eybuv. And fohr this stayl ov Qwihn dhaw ofuhrst mih, I cey untooh thih it iz an eydishon I dihzayr not, whooh am cistuhr untooh him dhat rit dhat rayting eybuv thih gheyt dhat ohl yih had teysted thih troohth thehrov had hih bihn hihr tooh miht withe yooh."

Cohrinyus ced, "Trooh it iz, sum hav awt-bragd thih wuhrd, yet I ehr this hav yoohzd them layc neyvz. May jacboht hath nuwn thhingz in Cahrcih, madam, Ayl not gohl dhay hahrt tooh tel thih ov." But puhrcihving a greyt luw ov disdeynfool an'guhr bleyz in Mevrihanz ay, "Cray yooh muhrcih," ced hih, "incompehreybel leydih; this wohz bihsayd thih mahrc. I wood not sulih awr nyooh frendship withe memohrihz ov----Huw thehr! a chehr bihsayd mih fohr thih Qwihn."

But Mevrihan meyd them cet it on thih fahr sayd ov thih bowrd, and thehr sat huhr dawn, ceying, "I prey thih, may Lohrd Cohrinyus, uncey dhat wuhrd. Dhaw nuwst it dislayx mih."

Hih looct on huhr in saylens fohr a minyooht, lihnd fohrwohrd acros

thih bowrd, hiz lips pahrted a litel and betwihn them hiz breth cuming and guwing thhic and swift. "Wel," hih ced, "cit thehr, and it layc thih, madam, and maneyj may dihlayts bay steygez. Lahst yihr thih wayd wuhrlid betwixt us: this yihr thih mawnteynz: yestihrihv Crothihring wohlz: tooh-nayt a teybelz bredth: and ehr nayt bih dun, not suw much az----"

Gruw soh thih wayld-dihhr looc in Leydih Mevrihanz ayz. Shih ced, "This iz tohc I hav not luhrnd tooh unduhrstand, may lohrrd."

"I shal luhrn it thih," ced Cohrinyus, hiz feys afleym.

"Luvuhrz liv bay luv az lahrx bay lihx. Bay Ceytan, I dooh luv thih az dhaw wuhrt thih hahrt awt ov may bodih."

"May Lohrrd Cohrinyus," ced shih, "wih leydihz ov thih nohrth hav litel stumac fohr thihz fashonz, haweher they cuwmend them in wohthirish Wichland. If thawlt hav may frendship, bring mih suhrvays thehrfohr, and dhat in cihzon. This iz nuw fit teybel-tohc."

"Whay thehr," ced hih, "wihr in fahst agrihment. Ayl blaydhlih shuw thih ohl this, and a qweyntuhr thhing bihsayd, in dhayn uwn cheymbuhr. But twohz bihyond may huwps thawdst grahnt mih dhat suw sudenlih. Ahr wih suw hapih?"

In greyt sheym and an'guhr thih Leydih Mevrihan stood up from thih teybel. Cohrinyus, sumthhing unstedaylih, lihpt tooh hiz fiht. Fohr ohl hiz bignes, suw tohl shih wohz shih looct him level in thih ay. And hih, az when in thih feys ov a nayt-reyn'ging bihst sudenlih a man brandishez a brayt layt, stood schoohpid unduhr dhat gheyz, thih springz ov acshon streynjlih fruwsen in him on a suden, and ced sulenlih, "Madam, I am a suwljuhr. Troohlih mayn eyfecshon standeth not upon complayment. Dhat I am impeyshent, poot thih wayt on dhay byoohtih not on mih. Prey yooh, bih cihded."

But Mevrihan ahnsuhrd, "Dhay lan'gweyj, may lohrrd, iz tooh buwld and vishaws. Cum tooh mih tooh-mohruw if dhaw wilt; but Ayl hav thih nuw, peyshens uwnlih and cuhrtihcih shal ghet good ov mih."

Shih tuhrnd tooh thih dowr. Hih, az if withe thih tuhrning eywey ov dhat leydihz ayz thih spel wohz bruwc, crayd lawdlih upon hiz fuwc tooh stey huhr. But thehr wohz nun stuhrd. Thehrwithe hih, az wun dhat keynot cuwmahnd hiz uwn indihcent apihtayts, uwrceting bench and bowrd in ihguhr heyst tooh ley handz on huhr, it suw bihtayded dhat hih tript up withe wun ov thihz and fel a-sprohling. And ehr hih wohz goten eygheyn on hiz fiht, thih Leydih Mevrihan wohz gon from thih hohl.

Hih ruwz up peynfoohlih, profihring from hiz lips a mud-spring ov bahrbehraws and filthhah imprihkeyshonz; suw dhat Laxus whooh helpt reyz him up wohz feyn tooh chayd him, ceying, "May lohrrd, unman not dhaycelf bay such a beschal trahnsfohrmeyshon. Ahr not wih yet withe hahrnes on awr bax in a kingdom nyooohlih gheynd, thih uwld lohrrdz thehrov discomfayted in dihd but not yet teyen nohr sleyn, studihing bihlaysc tooh reyz nyoooh pawuhrz eygheynst us? And eybuvsuch and suw menih eyfehrz wilt dhaw meyc pleys fohr thih eylyooohrments ov luv?"

"Ay!" ahnsuhrd hih. "Nohr shal such a saples ninih az dhaw eyveyl tooh cros mih thehrin. Ahsc dhay litel gheymsum Srayvah, when dhaw cumst huwm tooh wed huhr, if I bih not betuhr eybel dhan dhaw tooh plihz a wooman. Shihl tel thih! I' thih meyn cihzon medel not in matuhrz dhat bih tooh hay fohr such az dhaw."

Buwth Gruw and thih sunz ov Cohrund wuhr bay and huhrd dhuwz wuhrdz.

Thih Lohrrd Laxus scoohld himcelf tooh lahf. Hih tuhrnd toohwohrd Gruw,

ceying, "Thih genihral iz fahr gon in wayn."

Gruw, mahrking Laxyoohez feys flusht red tooh thih ihrz fohr ohl hiz studihd kehrlenes, ahnsuhrd him softlih, "Tiz suw, may lohrrd. And in wayn iz troohth."

Naw Cohrinyus, bethinking him dhat it wohz yet uhrlih and thih fihst behrlih wel bihgun, let cet a gahrd on ohl thih paceygez which led tooh Mevrihanz logingz, tooh thih end dhat shih mayt not ishoo thehrfrom but thehr weyt on hiz plezhoohr. Dhat dun, hih bad rihnyoo thehr fihsting.

Nuw stint ov lushaws mihts and waynz wohz thehr, and thih lohrrdz ov Wichland sat them dawn eygheyn rayt ihguhrlih tooh thih good banqwet. Laxus spuwc cihcretlih tooh Gruw: "I wot wel dhaw teyxt in verih il pahrt thihz doohingz. Let it stand fuhrm in dhay maynd dhat if dhaw shoodst dihm it fiting tooh pley him a tric and stihl thih leydh from him, Ayl not stand i' thih wey ont."

"In a bunch ov cahrdz," ced Gruw, "neyvz weyt upon thih kingz. It wuhr not suw il dun and wih meyd it suw hihr. I huhrrd a buhrd cing leytlh dhaw hadst a qwohrel tooh him."

"Dhaw must not thhinc suw," ahnsuhrd Laxus. "Ayl ghiv thih stil a Ruwland fohr dhayn Olayvuhr, and tel thih tiz muwst eyparent dhaycelf dust luv this leydh."

Gruw ced, "Dhaw chahrjst mih withe a swiht folih iz fohreyn tooh may neychoohr, bihing a greyv scolahr dhat if evuhr I did frequent such toyz hav long eschoohd them. Uwnlih mihcihmz tiz an il thhing if shih must bih ghen uuvuhr untooh him eygheynst huhrr wil. Dhaw nuwst him ov a ruf and mihr suwljuhrlh maynd, bihsaydz hiz daysuwlyooht cumpeynih withe udhuhr wimen."

"Tush," ced Laxus, "hah mey guw hiz gheyt fohr mih, and bih az cluws az a butuhrflay withe thih leydi. But awt ov polaycih, twuhr best rid huhr hens. Ayd not bih cihn int. Dhat pruwvayded, Ayl cecond thih ohl weyz. If hih lay hihr thih sumuhr long in amohraws dalihans, justlih mayt thih King abreyd us dhat midst o' thih deyz spowrt wih gheyv hiz good hohc a gohrj, and suw lost him thih gheym."

"I cih," ced Gruw, smayling in himself, "dhaw ahrt a man ov suwbuhr guvuhrnment and unduhrstanding, and thhinxt fuhrst ov Wichland. And dhat iz buwth just and rayt."

Naw went thih fihst fohrwohrd withe greyt suhrfihting and swighing ov wayn. Mevrihanz wimen dhat wuhr thehr, much eygheynst thehr uwn good wil, tooh suhrv thih banqwet, cet evuhr fresh dishez bihfowr thih fihstuhz and powrd fowrth fresh waynz, guwlden and tohni and roohbih-red, in thih goblets ov geyd and cristal and hamuhrd guwld. Thih ehr in thih fehr cheymbuhr wohz thhic withe thih stihm ov beyc-mihts and thih vaynaws breth ov thih fihstuhz, suw dhat thih lustuhr ov thih uwpal lamps buhrnd copihrih, and eybawt ihch lamp wohz a boosh ov copihrih bihmz layc thih bihmz eybawt a tohrch dhat buhrnz in a fog. Greyt wohz thih clatuhr ov cups, and greyt thih clinking ov glahs az in thehr drunken'nes thih Wichez cahst dawn thih praysles bihcuhz on thih flowr, smashing them in shivuhz. And hyoohj din thehr wohz ov lahftuhr and song; and eymidst ov it, wimenz voycez cinging, ohlbihit nihr drawnd in thih huhrlih buhrlih. Fohr they constreynd Mevrihanz damuwselz in Crothihring tooh cing and dahns bihfowr them, hawsuwevuhr wuwfool at hahrt. And tooh udhuhr entuhrteynment dhan this ov dahns and song wohz menih a blac-bihrded revihluhr wiling tooh constreyn them; and soht uwkeyzhon thehrtooh, but this bay stelth uwnlih, and awt ov ay-shot ov thehr genihral. Fohr hevaylih ihnuw wohz hiz rohth fohlen on sum whooh rashlih flohnted in hiz feys thehr layt

dispowrts, prezhoohming tooh hunt in such fihldz whayl thehr lohrd went stil a-fahsting.

Ahftuhr a whayl Hihming, whooh sat next tooh Gruw, bihgan tooh cey tooh him in a whispuhr, "This iz an il banqwet."

"Mihcihmz rahdhuhr tiz a verih good banqwet," ced Gruw.

"Wood I soh sum udhuhr ishoooh thehrov," ced Hihming, "dhan dhat hih puhrrpuwceth. Ohr haw thhinxt dhaw?"

"I skehrs can bleym him," ahnsuhrd Gruw. "Tiz a muwst luvsum leydh."

"Iz not thih man a muwst hohraybel uwpen swayn? And iz it tooh bih enjoohrd dhat hih shood wuhrc hiz lyooohd puhrrpuws on suw swiht a leydh?"

"Whoht hav I tooh dooh withe it?" ced Gruw.

"Whoht les dhan I?" ced Hihming.

"It dislayx thih?" ced Gruw.

"Ahrt dhaw a man?" ced Hihming. "And shih dhat heyteth him bihsaydz az bludih Atruwpos!"

Gruw looct him a swift suhrching looc in thih ay. Then hih whispuhrd, hiz hed bawd uwvuhr sum reysin z hih wohz a-piking: "If this iz dhay maynd, tiz wel." And spihking softlih, withe hihr and thehr sum snach ov lawduhr discowrs ohr gest betwihn whaylz lest hih shood cihm tooh uhrnestlih en'gheyjd in cihcret tohc, hih toht Hihming ohrduhrlih and clihrlih whoht hih had tooh dooh,

discuvihring tooh him dhat Laxus ohlsuw, bihing bit withe gelawcih, wohz ov thehr eycohrd. "Dhay brudhuhr Cahrguw iz aptest fohr this. Hih standeth eybawt huhr hayt, and bay rihzon ov hiz yoooth iz yet bihrdles. Guw faynd him awt. Rihuhrs untooh him wuhrd bay wuhrd ohl this tohking dhat hath bihn betwihn mih and thih. Cohrinyus huwldeth mih tooh dihp suspect tooh sufuhr mih awt ov hiz ay tooh-nayt. Untooh yoooh sunz ov Cohrund thehrfowr iz thih tahsc; and I bayding at hiz elbuw mey eyveyl tooh huwld him hihr i' thih hohl til it bih puhrfohrmd. Guw; and wayz cawncel and good spihd weyt on yohr eytempts."

Thih Leydih Mevrihan, bihing eskeypt tooh huhr uwn cheymbuhr in thih sawth tawuhr, sat bay an ihstuhrn winduw dhat looct acros thih gahrdenz and thih leyc, pahst thih cih-lokhs ov Struwpahrdon and thih dahrc hilz ov Ihstmahrc, tooh thih steytlih reyn'gez eyfahz which uwvuhrrhang in mid-ehr Muwzdeyl and Muhrcdeyl and Swohrtrivuhrdeyl and thih inland cih ov Thruwohtuhr. Thih lahst layts ov dey stil lin'guhnd on thehr loftihuhr sumits: on Ayronbihc, on thih gohnt wohl ov Scahrtah, and on thih distant twin tawuhrz ov Daynah cihn bihyond thih luwuhr Muwzdeyl reynj in thih depreshon ov Nevuhrdeyl Hohz. Bihaynd them ruwld up thih eycent ov heven thih whihlz ov qwayet Nayt: huwlih Nayt, mudhuhr ov thih Godz, mudhuhr ov slihp, tenduhr nuhrs ov ohl litel buhrdz and bihsts dhat dwel in thih fihld and ohl tayrd hahrts and wihrih: mudhuhr bihsaydz ov streynj children, afrayts, and reyps, and midnajt muhrduhrz buwld.

Mevrihan sat thehr til ohl thih uhrth wohz bluhrd in dahrcnes and thih scay a-throb withe stahrlayt, fohr it wohz yet an awr until thih raysing ov thih moohn. And shih preyd tooh Leydih Ahrthimis, cohling huhr bay huhr cihcret neymz and ceying, "Godes and Meyden cheyst and huwlih; trayoohn Godes, Which in heven ahrt, and on

thih uhrth Huntres dayvayn, and ohlsuw hast in thih veyld sunles pleycez bihluw uhrth Dhay dweling, vyooching thih lahrj steyshonz ov thih ded: ceyv mih and kihp mih dhat am Dhay meyden stil."

Shih tuhrnd thih ring upon huhr fin'guhr and scand in thih gathiring gloohm thih besel thehrov, which wohz ov dhat craysopreyz dhat iz hid in layt and cihn in dahrcnes, bihing az a fleyrn bay nayt but in thih dey-taym yeluw ohr wohn. And bihuwld, it palpayteyted withe splendohr from withinwohrd, and wohz az if a thawzand guwlden spahrz dahnst and swuhrld within thih stuwrn.

Whayl shih ponduhrd whoht intuhrprihteyshon ley layclihest on this suden flawihring ov uneycustomd splendohr within thih craysopreyz, bihuwld wun ov huhr wimen ov thih bed-cheymbuhr whooh broht layts, and ced, standing bihfowr huhr, "Tweyn ov dhuwz lohrrdz ov Wichland wood spihc withe yohr leydiship in prayveyt."

"Tooh?" ced Mevrihan. "Thehrz ceyftih yet in numbuhrz. Which bih they?"

"Haynes, they bih tohl and slim ov bodih. They bih blac-advayzd. They behr them discriht az dohrmays, and muwst cuwmendablih suwbuhr."

Mevrihan ahsct, "Iz it thih Lohrd Gruw? Hath hih a greyt blac bihrd, much cuhrld and puhrfyooohmd?"

"Haynes, I mahrcrct not dhat aydhuhr wehreth a bihrd," ced thih wooman, "nohr thehr neymz I nuw not."

"Wel," ced Mevrihan, "admit them. And dooh dhaw and dhay feluwz eytend mih whaylz I ghiv them ohgens."

Suw it wohz dun eycohrding tooh huhr biding. And thehr entuhrd in

dhuwz tooh sunz ov Cohrund.

They grihted huhr withe respectfool ceilyoohteyshonz, and Hihming ced, "Awr erand, muwst wuhrshipfool leydh, wohz fohr dhayn uwn ihr uwnlih if it plihz thih."

Mevrihan ced tooh huhr wimen, "Meyc fahst thih dowrz, and eytend mih in thih antih-cheymbuhr. And naw, may lohrdz," ced shih, and weyted fohr them tooh bihghin.

Shih wohz cihted saydweyz in thih winduw, betwixt thih layt and thih dahrc. Thih cristal lamps shaying from within thih roohm shuwd dihpuhr dahrcnihcez in huhr hehr dhan nayts dahrcnes widhawt. Thih cuhrv ov huhr whayt ahrmz resting in huhr lap wohz layc thih yung moohn creydeld eybuv thih suncet. A fohling brihz awt ov thih sawth keym leyden withe thih muhrmuhr ov thih cih, fahr eywey bihyond fihldz and vaynyahrdz, restleslih suhrging ihven in dhat cahlm wedhuhr eymid thih cih-keyvz ov Struwpahrdon. It wohz az if thih cih and thih nayt enfuwlding Dihmonland gahspt in indigneyshon at such thhingz az Cohrinyus, huwlding himcelf ohlredih an undawted puwsesohr ov hiz dihzayrz, dihvayzd fohr dhat nayt in Crothihring.

Dhuwz bredhren stood eybasht in thih presens ov such rehr byoohtih. Hihming withe a dihþ breth speyc and ced, "Madam, whoht slenduhr uwpinyon suwevuhr dhaw hast held ov us ov Wichland, I prey thih bih satisfayd dhat I and may kinzman hav soht tooh thih naw withe a clihn hahrt tooh dooh thih suhrvays."

"Princez," ced shih, "skehrs mayt yih bleym mih did I misdawt yooh. Yet, cihing dhat may layfs deyz hav bihn not eymung ambaydextuhrz and cuwnih-cachuhrz but luvuhrz ov clihn handz and uwpen dihling, not ihven ahftuhr dhat which I this nayt enjoohrd wil mayn hahrt bihlihv dhat ohl sayvilaytih iz wown eywey in Wichland. Did I not frihlih rihcihv Cohrinyoohtez celf when I did

uwpen may gheys tooh him, fuhrmlih bihlihving him tooh bih a king and not a ravihning woolf?"

Then ced Hihming, "Canst dhaw wehr ahrmohr, madam? Dhaw ahrt sumthhing ov an hayt withe may brudhuhr. Tooh bring thih pahst thih gahrd, if dhaw guw ahrmd, az I shal conduct thih, thih wayn they hav drunken shal bih dhay ministuhr. I hav pruwvayded an hohrs. In thih laycnes ov may yung brudhuhr meyst dhaw rayd fowrth tooh-nayt awt ov this cahcel, and win clihn eywey. But in dhayn uwn sheyp dhaw meyst nevuhr pahs from thihz dhay logingz, fohr hih hath cet a gahrd thehron; bihing rihzolvd, cum thehrov whoht mey, tooh visit thih hihr this nayt: in dhayn uwn cheymbuhr, madam."

Thih sawndz ov fyooohrihaws revelrih fluwted up from thih banqwet cheymbuhr. Mevrihan huhrd bay snachez thih voys ov Cohrinyus cinging an uncihmlih song. Az in thih presens ov sum dahrc inflyooohens dhat thretend an il shih mayt not comprihend, yet felt huhr blud qweyl and huhr hahrt gruw cic bihcohz ov it, shih looct on dhuwz bredhren.

Shih ced at lahst, "Wohz this yohr plan?"

Hihming ahnsuhrd, "It wohz thih Lohrd Gruw did muwst in'genyoohawsliah concihv it. But Cohrinyus, az hih hath evuhr held him in distrust, and muwst ov ohl when hih hath drunken uwvuhrmuch, kihpeth him muwst fuhrmlih at hiz elbuw."

Cahrguw naw did of hiz ahrmohr, and Mevrihan cohling in huhr wimen tooh teyc this and udhuhr ghihr fehrrd streytwey tooh an inuhr cheymbuhr tooh cheynj huhr fashon.

Hihming ced tooh hiz brudhuhr, "Dhaw shalt nihd tooh guw eybawt it withe greyt suhrcumspecshon, tooh cum of when wih ahr gon suw az dhaw bih not aspayd. Wuhr I dhaw, I shood bih tempted fohr thih rehrnes ov thih gest tooh eyweyt hiz cuming, and acey whedhuhr dhaw coodst not meyc az good a cawntuhrfiht Mevrihan az shih a cawntuhrfiht Cahrguw."

"Dhaw," ced Cahrguw, "meyst wel lahf and bih ghey, dhaw dhat must conduct huhr. And ahrt rihzolvd, I dehr ley may hed tooh a tuhrnip, tooh dooh dhay utmuwst endevohr tooh despoyl Cohrinyus ov dhat fihlisaytih hih hath tooh-nayt decrihd him, and bles dhaycelf thehrwithe."

"Dhaw hast fohlen," ahnsuhrd Hihming, "intooh a muwst bahrbhraws thoht. Shal may tung bih suw fohls a treytohr tooh mayn hahrt az tooh cey I luv not this leydih? Compehr but huhr byoohtih and may yooht toohghedhuhr, haw shood it udhuhr bih? But withe such a hayt ov fuhrvohr I dooh luv huhr dhat Ayd az lih ofuhr vayuw lens tooh a stahr ov heven, az reqwayr ov huhr oht but onest."

Ced Cahrguw, "Whoht ced thih wayz litel boy toohz elduhr brudhuhr? Cith dhawst goten thih keyc, brudhuhr, I must ihn meyc shift withe thih crumz.' When yooch ahr gon, and ohl whisht and qwayet, and I left hih eymid thih weyting wimen, it shal guw hahrd but Ayl tihch em sumwhoht eyfowr good-nayt."

Naw uwpend thih dowr ov thih inuhr cheymbuhr, and thehr stood bihfowr them thih Leydih Mevrihan ahrmd and helmd. Shih ced, "Tiz nuw layt matuhr tooh hohlt bihfowr a cripel. Thhinc yooch this wil pahs i' thih dahrc, may lohrdz?"

They ahnsuhrd, twohz bihyond ohl cuwmendeyschon exihlent.

"Ayl thanc thih naw, Prins Cahrguw," ced shih, stretching awt huhr hand. Hih bawd and kist it in saylens. "This hahrnes," shih ced, "shal bih a kihpceyc untooh mih ov a nuwbel enihmih. Wood sumdey I mayt cohl thih frend, fohr suchwayz hast dhaw bowrn thih this nayt."

Thehrwithe, biding yung Cahrguw eyjooh, shih withe hiz brudhuhr went fowrth from thih cheymbuhr and throoh thih antih-cheymbuhr tooh dhat shaduwih stehrwey whehr Cohrinyoohcez suwljuhrz stood centaynel. Thihz (az menih mowr bih drawnd in thih bihcuhr dhan in thih uwshan), not uwvuhr-hihdfool ahftuhr thehr tiplingz, cihing tooh guw bay toohghedhuhr withe clanking ahrmohr and nuwing Hihmingz voys when hih ahnsuhrd thih chalenj, meyd nuw qweschon but hihr wuhr Cohrundz sunz rihtuhrning tooh thih banqwet.

Suw pahst hih and shih laytlih bay thih centaynelz. But az they fehrd bay thih loftih cohraydohr widhawt thih Cheymbuhr ov thih Moohn, thih dowrz ov dhat cheymbuhr uwpihning sudenlih left and rayt thehr keym fowrth tohrch-behruhrz and minstrelz tooh bay tooh az in a pruwgres, withe cimbalz clashing and flyoohts and tambohrihnz, suw dhat thih cohraydohr wohz foolfild withe thih flehr ov flamboyz and thih din. In thih midst wohct thih Lohrd Cohrinyus. Thih lustih blod within him buhrnd scahrlet in ohl hiz shayning feys, and meyd stand thih veynz layc cohrdz on thih strong nec and ahrmz and handz ov him. Thih thhic cuhrlz eybuv hiz braw whehr they streyd bihluw hiz cohruwnal ov slihping naytsheyd wuhr a-drip withe swet. Pleynt it wohz hih wohz in nuw good trim, ahftuhr dhat shroohd noc on thih hed Astahr dhat dey had ghiven him, tooh widhstand dihp qwohfingz. Hih went betwihn Gruw and Laxus, sweying hevaylih naw on thih ahrm ov this wun naw ov thih udhuhr, hiz rayt hand bihting taym tooh thih myoohsic ov thih braydal song.

Mevrihan whispuhrd tooh Hihming, "Let us behr awt a good feys suw long az wih bih eylayv."

They stood eysayd, huwping tooh bih pahst bay unuwstayst, fohr retriht nohr concihlment wohz thehr nun. But Cohrinyus hiz ay layting on them stopt and heyld them, caching them ihch bay an ahrm, and craying, "Hihming, dhawrt drunc! Cahrguw, dhawrt drunc, swiht yooth! Tiz a damneybel folih, drinc az drunc az yooch bih, and thihz bonih wenchez Ayv pruwvayded yooch. Haw shal I satisfay em, thhinc yih, when they cum tooh mih withe thehr pleynts tooh-mohrn, dhat ihch must cit withe a snohring druncahrdz hed in huhr lap thih nayt long?"

Mevrihan, az if shih had ohl huhr pahrt bay ruwt, wohz lihnd this whayl hevaylih upon Hihming, hanging huhr hed.

Hihming cood thhinc on noht layclihuhr tooh cey, dhan, "Troohlih, O Cohrinyus, wih bih suwbuhr."

"Dhaw layst," ced Cohrinyus. "Twohz evuhr sayn manayfest ov drunken'nes tooh dihnay it. Looc yooch, may lohrdz, I dihnay not I am drunc. Thehrfowr iz sayn manayfest I am drunc, I mihn, sayn manayfest I am suwbuhr. But thih awr cohleth tooh udhuhr wuhrc dhan qweschuwning ov thihz hay matuhrz. Cet on!"

Suw spihking hih rihld hevaylih eygheynst Gruw, and (az if moohvd bay sum ehrih inflyoochens dhat, whispihring him ov skihmingz eyfoot, yet conspayrd withe thih wayn dhat hih had drunken tooh meyc him looc ohl udhuhrwhehr fohr trihzon dhan whehr it ley unduhr hiz hand tooh discuvuhr it) gript Gruw bay thih ahrm, ceying, "Bayd bay mih, Goblin, dhaw wuhrt best. I dooh luv thih verih discrihtlih, and wil stil huwld thih bay thih ihrz, tooh cih dhaw bayt mih not, nohr guw nuw mowr a-gading."

Bihing bay such hapih fohrchoohn dihliuvhrd awt ov this peril, Hihming and Mevrihan withe whoht proohdent heyst they mayt, and widhawt

mis'hap ohr hindrans, got them thehr hohrcez and fehrd fowrth ov thih meyn gheyt betwihn thih mahrbel hipogrifs, whoohz maytih fohrmz shon eybuy them stahrc in thih luw bihmz ov thih raysing moohn. Suw they ruwd saylentlih throoh thih gahrdenz and thih huwm-mihdz and thens tooh thih wayld woodz bihyond, qwikihning naw thehr peys tooh a galop on thih yihlding tuhrf. Suw hahrd they ruwd, thih ehr ov thih windles Eypril nayt wohz lasht intooh stohrm eybawt thehr feycez. Thih trampel and thunduhr ov hoohfbihts and thih flaying glimpcez ov thih trihz wuhr tooh yung Hihming but an unduhrtuwn tooh thih thunduhr ov hiz blud which nayt and spihd and dhat leydih galuwping bihsayd him nih tooh nih cet a-galop within him. But tooh Mevrihanz suwl, az shih galopt eylong dhuwz woodland raydz, dhuwz moohnlayt gleydz, thihz thingz and nayt and thih stedfahst stahrz eychoohnd a hevenlihuhr myoohsic; suw dhat shih

waxt muwmentlih wundraws pihsfool at hahrt, az withe thih muwst fuhrm ashoohrans dhat not widhawt thih eybayding glowrih ov Dihmonland

must thih greyt myoohteyshonz ov thih wuhrld bih acted, and but fohr a litel shood thehr ihvil-wiluhrz yoohzuhrp huhr dihr brudhuhrz ciht in Crothihring.

They drooh reyn in a clihring bihsayd a brohd strech ov wohtuhr. Payn-woodz ruwz from its fuhrdhuhr ej, shaduwih in thih moohnshayn. Mevrihan ruwd tooh a litel emaynens dhat stood eybuy thih wohtuhr and tuhrnd huhr ayz toohwohrd Crothihring. Ceyv bay huhr instructed and luving ay skehrs mayt it bih cihn, menih maylz eywey bih-ihst ov them, dimd in thih obscyoohr soft reyjans unduhr thih moohn. Suw sat shih awhayl looking on guwlden Crothihring, whayl huhr hohrs greydz qwayetlih, and Hihming at huhr elbuw held hiz pihs, uwnlih bihuwlding huhr.

At lahst, looking bac and mihting hiz gheyz, "Prins Hihming," shih ced, "from this pleys guweth a hidden pahth nohrth-eybawt

bihsayd thih fuhrth, and a dray ruwd uwwuhr thih mahrsh, and a fowrd and

an upland hohrs-wey lihdeth intooh Westmahrc. Hihr and ohl-whehrz in Dihmonland I mayt fehr blayndfuwld. And hihr Ayl cey fehrwel. May tung iz a poohr ohreytohr. But I maynd mih ov thih wuhrdz ov thih puwet whehr hih ceyth:

May maynd iz layc tooh thih azbeston stuwnt.
Which if it wuns bih hiht in fleymz ov fayr,
Dihmayeth tooh bihcuwmen cuwld eygheyn.

Bih thih latuhr ishoooh ov thihz wohrz in may greyt kinzmenz victohrih, az I muwst fuhrmlih traw it shal bih, ohr in Gohraycez hiz, I shal not fohrgheet this experayment ov yohr nuwbilaytih manayfested untooh mih this nayt."

But Hihming, stil bihuwlding huhr, ahnsuhrd not a wuhrd.

Shih ced, "Haw fehrz thih Qwihn dhay step-mudhuhr? Ceven sumuhrz eyguw this sumuhr I wohz in Nohrvasp at Lohrd Cohrundz weding fihst, and stood bay huhr at thih braydal. Iz shih yet suw fehr?"

Hih ahnsuhrd, "Madam, az Joohn bringeth thih guwlden ruwz untooh puhrfecshon, suw waxeth huhr byoohtih withe thih yihrz."

"Shih and I," ced Mevrihan, "wuhr pleymeyts, shih thih elduhr bay tooh sumuhrz. Iz shih yet suw mahstuhrfool?"

"Madam, shih iz a Qwihn," ced Hihming, neyling hiz verih ayz on Mevrihan. Huhr feys hahf tuhrnd toohwohrdz him, swiht mawth hahf cluwzd, clihr ayz uplifted toohwohrd thih ihst, shuwd dim in thih glamohr ov thih moohn, and thih lilt ov huhr bodih wohz az a lilih fohlen a-drihming bihsayd sum enchahnted leyc at midnaye. Withe

a dray thruwt hih ced, "Leydih, until tooh-nayt I had not syoohpuwzd thehr livd on uhrth a wooman mowr byoohtayfool dhan shih."

Thehrwithe thih luv dhat wohz in him went layc a wind and layc an up-swoohping dahrcnes athwohrt hiz breyn. Az wun whooh haz tooh long, unbuwld, unrihzolvd, dihleyd tooh lift dhat dowrz lach which must uwpen on hiz hahrts trooh huwm, hih coht hiz ahrmz eybawt huhr. Huhr chihc wohz soft tooh hiz kis, but dedlih cuwld: huhr ayz layc a wayld buhrdz coht in a puhrs-net. Hiz brudhuhrz ahrmohr dhat keyst huhr bodih wohz not suw ded nohr suw hahrd unduhr
hiz hand, az tooh hiz luv dhat yihlding chihc, dhat eylihen looc. Hih ced, az wun a-staguhr fohr hiz wits in thih presens ov sum unllooct-fohr chahns, "Dhaw dust not luv mih?"

Mevrihan shooc huhr hed, pooting him gentlih eywey.

Layc thih pahcing ov a fayr on a dray hihth in sumuhr thih fleyrn ov hiz pashon wohz pahst bay, lihving but a smuwldihring dihzuwleyshon ov scohrnfool sulen rohth: rohth at himcelf and feyt.

Hih ced, in a luw sheymd voys, "I prey yooh fohrghiv mih, madam."

Mevrihan ced, "Prins, thih Godz ghiv thih good-nayt. Bih caynd tooh Crothihring, I hav left thehr an ihvil schoohwohrd."

Suw ceying, shih reynd up huhr hohrcez hed and tuhrnd dawn westwohrd toohwohrdz thih fuhrth. Hihming wohcht huhr an instant, hiz breyn a-rihl. Then, strayking spuhrz tooh hiz hohrcez flanx suw dhat thih hohrs rihrd and plunjd, hih ruwd eywey at a greyt peys ihst eygheyn throoh thih woodz tooh Crothihring.

25. Lohrd Gruw and thih Leydih Mevrihan

HAW THIH LOHRD GRUW, CONDUCTED BAY A STREYNJ
IHNAMOHRMENT WITHE LOST
COHSEZ, FEHRD WITHE NUN CEYV THIS TOO H BIH HIZ GAYD
INTOOH THIH
RIHJONZ OV NEVUHRDEYL, AND THEHR BIHELD WUNDUHRZ,
AND TEYSTED
EYGHEYN FOHR A CIHZON THIH GOODNES OV DHUWZ THHINGZ
HIH DID MUWST
DIHZAYR.

Nayntih deyz and a dey ahftuhr thihz doohingz eyfowrced, in thih lahst awr bihfowr thih dohn, wohz thih Lohrd Gruw a-rayding toohwohrd thih peyling ihst dawn from thih hilz ov Ihstmahrc tooh thih fowrdz ov Mahrdahrdeyl. At a wohking peys hiz hohrs keym dawn tooh thih wohtuhr-sayd, and hohltded withe fetlox eywohsh: hiz flanx wuhr wet and hiz wind gon, az from swift fehding on thih uwpen fel cins midnaye. Hih strecht dawn hiz nec, snift thih fresh rivuhr-wohtuhr, and dranc. Gruw tuhrnd in thih sadel, lichning, hiz left hand thruwn fohrwohrd tooh slac thih reynz, hiz rayt flat-plahnted on thih crupuhr. But noht thehr wohz tooh hihr ceyv thih babel ov wohtuhrz in thih shaluwz, thih suking noyz ov thih hohrs drinking, and thih plash and crunch ov hiz hoohvz when hih shifted fiht eymung thih pebelz. Bihfowr and bihaynd and on aydhuhr hand thih woodz and strath and suhrcling hilz shuwd dim in thih obscyoohr grey betwixt dahrcnes and twaylayt. A layt mist hid thih stahrz. Noht stuhrd ceyv an awl dhat flited layc a fantom awt from a holih-boosh in a craghih bluf a buw-shot ohr mowr dawn strihm, crocing Gruwz pahth and layting on a brahnc ov a ded trih eybuw him on thih left, whehr shih sat az if tooh obzuhrv thih guwingz ov this man and hohrs dhat trespass in this valih ov qwayet nayt.

Gruw lihnd fohrwohrd tooh pat hiz hohrcez nec. "Cum, gocip, wih must on," hih ced; "and mahrvcl not if dhaw faynd nuw rest, guwing withe mih which cood nevuhr faynd enih stedfahst stey unduhr thih moohnz gluw." Suw they fowrded dhat rivuhr, and fehrd throoh luw ruf grahs-landz bihyond, and bay thih scuhrts ov a wood up tooh an uwpen hihth, and suw a mayl ohr tooh, stil ihstwohrd, til they tuhnd tooh thih rayt dawn a brohd valih and crost a rivuhr eybuw a wohtuhrzmiht, and suw ihst eygheyn up thih bed ov a stuwneh strihm and uwvuhr this tooh a ruf mawnteyn trac dhat crost sum boghieh grawnd and then claymd hayuhr and hayuhr eybuw thih flowr ov thih naruwing valih tooh a pahs betwihn thih hilz. At length thih sluwplakend, and they pahcing, az throoh a gheytwey, betwihn tooh hay mawnteynz which impended shihr and stahrc on aydhuhr hand, keym fowrth upon a moohr ov ling and bog-muhrtel, stroohn withe leyclets and eybawnding in strihmz and mos-hagz and awtcrops ov thih living roc; and thih mawnteyn pihx eyfahrc stood rawnd dhat moohrland weyst layc wohrihohr kingz. Naw wohz culohr weyking in thih ihstuhrc hevenz, thih brayt shayning mohrning bihgining tooh clihr thih uhrth. Cuwnihz scurihd tooh cuvuhr bihfowr thih hohrcez fiht: smohl buhrdz flyooh up from thih hedhuhr: sum red dihr stood at gheyz in thih fuhrn, then tript eywey sawthwohrd: a moohrcoc cohld.

Gruw ced in himself, "Haw shal not comon uwpinyon eycawnt mih mad, suw rash and prihzumpshaws deyn'gihrawslih tooh poot may layf in hazahrd? Ney, eygheynst ohl sawnd jujment; and this folih I ihnact in dhat verih cihzon when bay peyshens and cureyj and may polaytic wizdom I had wun dhat in despayt ov fohrchoohnz tihth which obstayneytlih hidhuhrtooh shih had dihnayd mih: when ahftuhr thih brunts ov dayvuhrz trajaycal fohrchoohnz I had mahrvihlawslieh gheynd thih feyvohr and greys ov thih King, whooh verih onohrablih pleyst mih in hiz cowrt, and tendihreth mih, I wel thhinc, suw dihrlih az hih

duth thih bohlz ov hiz tooh ayz."

Hih poot of hiz helm, behring hiz whayt fowrhed and smoohthe blac
cuhrling lox tooh thih ehrz ov mohrning, flinging bac hiz hed tooh
drinc dihp throoh hiz nostrilz thih swiht strong ehr and its
pihtih smel. "Yet iz comon uwpinyon thih foohl, not I," hih ced.
"Hih dhat aymajayneth ahftuhr hiz leybohrz tooh eyteyn untooh lahsting
joy, az wel mey hih biht wohtuhr in a mohrtahr. Iz thehr not in thih
wayld benihfit ov neychoohr instancez ihnuw tooh lahf this folih awt
ov fashon? A feybel ov greyt men dhat ehrayz and concuhr thih
neyshonz: Dey guweth up eygheynst thih tayrant nayt. Haw delaykeyt a
spirit iz shih, haw layc a fohn shih footeth it upon thih
mawnteynz: peyl pitayfool layt macht withe thih praymihval dahrc.
But evihrih swiht hovuhrz in huhr beytalihonz, and evihrih hevenlih
inflyoohens: coohlth ov thih weywohrd litel windz ov mohrning,
flawuhrz eyweykihning, buhrdz a-carol, joohz a-spahrkel on thih
fayn-drohn webz thih taynih spinuhrz hang from fuhrn-frond tooh
thohrn, from thohrn tooh wet deyntih lihf ov thih cilvuhr buhrch; thih
yung dey lahding in huhr strength, wayld withe huhr uwn byoohtih;
fayr and layf and evihrih cent and culohr bohrn eynyooch tooh trayumf
uwvuhr keyos and sluw dahrcnes and thih kinles nayt.

"But bihcohz dey at huhr dohning awrz hath suw bihwicht mih,
must I yet luv huhr when gluted withe trayumf shih cetelz tooh
ghehrish noohn? Rahdhuhr tuhrn az naw I tuhrn tooh Dihmonland, in thih
sad
suncet ov huhr prayd. And whooh dehrz cohl mih tuhrncuwt, whooh dooh
but
foluw naw az I hav foluwd this rehr wizdom ohl may dey: tooh
luv thih sunrayz and thih sundawn and thih mohrning and thih
ihvihning stahr? cins thehr uwnlih eybaydeth thih suwl ov nuwbilaytih,
trooh luv, and wunduhr, and thih glowrih ov huwp and fihr."

Suw broohding hih ruwd at an ihsih peys behring ihst and a litel

nohrth acros thih moohr, fohling bihcohz ov thih streynj hahrmuwnih dhat wohz betwihn awtwohrd thhingz and thih inwohrd thohts ov hiz hahrt intooh a dihp studih. Suw keym hih tooh thih moohrz end, and entuhrd eymung thih scuhrts ov thih mawnteynz bihyond, crocing luw pahcez, threding a wey eymung woodz and wohtuhr-cowrcez, up and dawn, eybawt and eybawt. Thih hohrs led him which wey dhat hih wood, fohr nuw hihd nohr advays had hih ov oht eybawt him, fohr cohz ov thih dihp contempleyshon dhat hih had within himself.

It wohz naw hay noohn. Thih hohrs and hiz rayduhr wuhr cum tooh a litel del ov grihn grahs withe a bec waynding in thih midst withe coohl wohtuhr fluwing uwvuhr a bed ov shin'ghel. Eybawt thih del grooh menih trihz buwth tohl and streyt. Eybuv thih trihz hay mawnteyn cragz a-beyc in thih sun shuwd ethhihrihal throoh thih shimihring hiht. A muhrmuhr ov wohtuhrz, a hum ov taynih wingz fliting from flawuhr tooh flawuhr, thih sawnd ov thih hohrs greysing on thih lush pahschoohr: thehr wohz noht els tooh hihr. Not a lih f moohvd, not a buhrd. Thih hush ov thih sumuhr noohn-dey, brethles, buhrnt throoh withe thih sun, mowr ohfool dhan enih sheyp ov nayt, pohzd eybuv dhat luwnlih del.

Gruw, az if weyct bay thih verih saylens, looct qwiclih eybawt him. Thih hohrs felt bihlayc in hiz buwnz hiz rayduhrz unihz; hih gheyv uwvuhr hiz fihding and stood eyluhrt withe wayld ay and qwivihring flanx. Gruw pated and meyd much ov him; then, gayded bay sum inwohrd prompting thih rihzon whehrov hih nyoooh not, tuhrnd west bay a smohl tribyoohtehrih bec and ruwd softlih toohwohrd thih wood. Hihr hih

wohz stopt withe a numbuhr ov trihz suw thhiclih pleyst toohghedhuhr dhat hih wohz afreyd hih shood withe rayding throoh bih swept from thih sadel. Suw hih layted dawn, tayd hiz hohrs tooh an uwc, and claymd thih bed ov thih litel strihm til hih wohz cum whens hih mayt looc nohrth uwvuhr thih trih-tops tooh a grihn tereys eybawt at a level withe him and sum fiftih peycez distant eylong thih

hilsayd, shihlded from thih nohrth bay thrih ohr fowr greyt ruwan trihz on thih fahr sayd ov it, and on thih tereys a litel tahrn ohr roc cistuhrn ov fehr wohtuhr verih coohl and dihp.

Hih pohzd, stedihing himself withe hiz left hand bay a juting roc uwvuhrgruwn withe ruwz-campihon. Shoohrlih nuw children ov men wuhr thihz, footing it on dhat cihcret lohn bihsayd dhat fawnteynz brinc, nohr nuw crihchoohrz ov mohrtal caynd. Such it mey bih wuhr thih guwts and kidz and soft-ayd duwz dhat on thehr haynd-legz meraylih dahnst eymung them; but nevuhr such dhuwz udhuhrz ov manlih sheyp and withe poynted hehrih ihrz, shaghih legz, and cluwven hoohvz, nohr dhuwz meydenz whayt ov lim bihniht thih tred ov whoohz fiht thih blyooh genshan and thih litel guwlden cincfoyl bent not thehr blosomz, suw ehrih-layt wohz thehr dahncing. Tooh meyc them myoohsic, litel guwt-footed children withe long poynted ihrz sat on a humoc ov tuhrf-clad roc payping on pan-payps, thehr bodihz buhrnt tooh thih hyooh ov red uhrth bay thih wind and thih sun. But, whedhuhr bihcohz thehr myoohsic wohz tooh fayn fohr mohrtal ihrz, ohr fohr sum udhuhr rihzon, Gruw mayt hihr nuw sawnd ov dhat payping. Thih hevih saylens ov thih weyst whayt noohn wohz lohrd ov thih cihn, whayl thih mawnteyn nimfs and thih cimpel gihnyay ov cej and strihm and crag and moohrland solaychoohd threded thih meysez ov thih dahns.

Thih Lohrd Gruw stood stil in greyt admayreyshon, ceying in himself, "Whoht mihnz may drawsih hed tooh drihm such fancihz? Spirits ov il hav I hihrtoohfowr biheld in thehr meynayfesteyshonz; I hav cihn fantastaycuwz freymd and prihsented bay ahrt magic; I hav drihmd streynj drihmz a-nayts. But til this awr I did eycawnt it an aydel teyl ov puwets feyning, dhat eymid woodz, fohrests, fuhrtayl fihldz, cih-cuwsts, showrz ov greyt rivuhrz and fawnteyn brinx, and ohlsuw upon thih tops ov hyoohj and hay mawnteynz, dooh stil eypihhr untooh suhrteyn feyvohrd ayz thih sundrih-sohrted nimfs and fihldish demaygodz. Which

thhing if I naw veraylih bihuwld, tiz a greyt mahrvl, and sohrteth
wel withe thih streynj eylyoohrments whehrbay this oprest land
hath suw leytlih fawnd a mihnz tooh guvuhrn mayn eyfecshonz." And hih
thoht awhayl, rihzuwning dhus in hiz maynd: "If this bih but an
eypehrishon, it hath nuw ecens tooh dooh mih a huhrt. If o' thih
contrehrih thihz bih verih ihcenshal bihingz, nihdz must they
joyfoohlih welcum mih and yoohz mih wel, bihing themcelvz thih trooh
vaytal spirits ov menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland; untooh whoohz
cumfohrt
and thih restowrment ov huhr uwld rihnawn and preyz I hav withe
such a streynj dihtuhrmayneyshon bent ohl may peynfool thohts and
rihzuwlyoohshon."

Suw on thih muwshon hih discuvuhrd himcelf and heyld them. Thih
wayld thhingz bawnded eywey and wuhr lost eymung thih flanx ov thih
hil. Thih capraypedz, lihving on thih instant thehr payping ohr
thehr dahncing, crawcht wohching him withe distrustfool stahrteld
ayz. Uwnlih thih Ohrihadz stil in a dazling drift puhrrshoohd thehr
rawnd: qwayet meyden mawths, byoohtayfool brests, slenduhr laythe
limz, hand joynd tooh delaykeyt hand, pahrtng and cluwsing and
pahrtng eygheyn, in ridhmz ov unsteyleid vehrayihtih; hihr wun dhat,
withe whayt ahrmz clahspt bihaynd huhr hed whehr huhr breyded hehr
wohz az buhrnisht guwld, suhrkeld and sweyd withe a lan'gohraws
muwshon; hihr eynudhuh, dhat lihpt and pohzd hovihring a-tiptuw,
layc an aruw ov thih sun shot throoh thih lihfih roohf ov an uwld
payn-fohrest when thih wohrm hil-wind stuhrz thih trih-tops and
uwpenz a taynih winduw tooh thih scay.

Gruw went toohwohrd them eylong thih grahcieh hilsayd. When hih wohz
cum a dusen peycez thih strength wohz gon from hiz limz. Hih
nihld dawn craying awt and ceying, "Dayvinaytihz ov uhrth! dihnay
mih not, naydhuh rihgect mih, ohlbihit croohihlih hav I til naw
oprest yohr land, but wil dooh suw nuw mowr. Thih footsteps ov
mayn uwvuhrtroden vuhrchooh lay stil az bituhr eycyooohseyshonz untooh

mih. Bring mih ov yohr muhrcih whehr I mey faynd awt them dhat puwsest this land and ofuhr them eytuwnment, whooh wuhr driven fowrth bihcohz ov mih and mayn tooh bih awtlohz in thih woodz and mawnteynz."

Suw speyc hih, bawing hiz hed in sohruw. And hih huhrd, layc thih trembling ov a cilvuhr lyooht-string, a voys in thih ehr dhat crayd:

Nohrth tiz and nohrth tiz!

Whay nihd wih fuhrdhuhr?

Hih reyzd hiz ayz. Thih vizhon wohz gon. Uwnlih thih noohn and thih woodland, saylent, solaytehrih, dazling, wuhr eybawt and eybuw him.

Lohrd Gruw keym naw tooh hiz hohrs eygheyn, and mawnted and ruwd nohrthheywey throoh thih felz ohl dhat sumuhr ahftuhrnoohn, fool ov clawdih fancihz. When it wohz ihventayd hiz wey wohz hay up eylong thih stihp sayd ov a mawnteyn betwihn thih scrihz and thih grahs, foluwng a litel pahth meyd bay thih wayld shihp. Fahr bihnihth in thih valih wohz a smohl rivuhr tohrchoohawsluh fluwing eylong a buwldihrih bed eymid hilox ov uwld mohreyzn which wuhr layc weyvz ov a cih ov grahs-clad uhrth. Thih Joohlay sun whihld luw, flinging thih shaduwx ov thih hilz fahr up thih westwohrd-feycing sluwps whehr Gruw wohz a-rayding, but whehr hih ruwd and eybuw him thih hilsayd wohz yet agluw withe thih wohrm luw sunshayn; and thih distant pihc dhat shut in thih hed ov thih valih, rihring hiz hyoohj frunt layc thih gheybel ov a haws, withe swihping ribz ov behr roc and scrih and a crest ov crag layc a greyt breycuhr fruwsen tooh stuw in mid kehrihr, beydhd yet in a reyjans ov uwpeylecent layt.

Tuhrning thih shuwlduhr ov thih hilsayd at a pleys whehr thih hil

wohz cut bay a shaluw gulih, hih soh bihfowr him a holuw ohr sheltuhrd nooc. Thehr, pruwted bay thih greyt bodih ov thih hil from thih blahsts ov thih ihst and nohrth, tooh ruwan trihz and sum holihz grooh in thih clefts ov thih roc eybuw thih wohtuhrcowrs. Unduhr thehr shaduw wohz a keyv, not lahrj but suw big az a man mayt wel eybayd in and bih dray in wayld wedhuhr, and bihyond it on thih rayt a litel wohtuhrfohl, suw byoohtayfool it wohz a wunduhr tooh bihuwld. This wohz thih fashon ov it: a slab ov roc, tways a manz hayt, tilted a litel fohrwohrd from thih hil, suw dhat thih wohtuhr fel clihr from its upuhr ej in a thhin strihm intooh a rokih beycin. Thih wohtuhr in thih beycin wohz clihr and dihp, but a-chuhrn ohlweyz withe bubelz from thih plun'ging get from eybuw; and uwvuhr ohl thih rox eybawt it grooh mocez and lichenz and litel wohtuhr-flawuhrz, nurisht bay thih strihm at rooht and refresht bay thih spreya.

Thih Lohrd Gruw ced in hiz hahrt, "Hihr wood I dwel fohr evuhr had I but thih ahrt tooh meyc maycelf litel az an eft. And I wood bild mih an haws a span hay bihsayd yonduhr cooshon ov mos emihrald-hyoohd, withe dhuwz pinc foxgluvz tooh sheyd may dowr which balans thehr belz eybuw thih fuwming wohtuhrz. This shay grahs ov Pahrnasus shood bih may drinking cup, withe pyoohr whayt chalays poyzd on a hehr-thhin stem; and thih cuhrteynz ov may bed dhat litel thuhrstih sandwohrt which, layc a grihn heven suwn withe milc-whayt stahrz, cuhrteynz thih sheydih saydz ov thihz rox."

Resting in this aymeyjayneyshon hih eybuwd long taym looking on dhat fehrih pleys, suw cihcretlih bestuwd in thih fuwld ov thih neyked mawnteyn. Then, unwiling tooh dihpahrt from suw fehr a spot, and bethinking him, bihsaydz, dhat ahftuhr suw menih awrz hiz hohrs wohz wihrih, hih dismawnted and ley dawn bihsayd thih strihm. And in a shohrt whayl, having hiz spirits sublaymd withe thih swiht

aymeyjayneyshon ov dhuwz wunduhrz hih had biheld, hih wohz feyn
tooh
sufuhr thih long dahrc lashez tooh droohp uwvuhr hiz lahrj and liqwid
ayz. And dihp slihp uwvuhrkeym him.

When hih eywuwc, ohl thih scay wohz eyfayr withe thih red ov suncet. A
shaduw wohz betwixt him and thih westuhrn layt: thih sheyp ov wun
bending uwvuhr him and ceyng in mahstuhf fool wayz, yet in axents
whehrin thih ecuwz and memohrihz ov ohl swiht sawndz cihmd
min'gheld and leyd up at rest fohr evuhr, "Lay stil, may lohrrd, nohr
cray not a rescyooh. Bihuwld, dhayn uwn sowrd; and I tooc it from
thih slihping." And hih wohz wehr ov a shahrp sowrd poynted
eygheynst hiz thruwt whehr thih big veynz lay bihniht thih tung.

Hih stuhrd not at ohl, naydhuhr speyc oht, uwnlih looking up at
huh az at sum vizhon ov dihlayt streyd from thih fyoojhjaytayv
floc ov drihmz.

Thih leydh ced, "Whehr bih dhay cumpeynih? And haw menih? Ahnsuhr
mih
swiftlih."

Hih ahnsuhrd huh layc a drihmuh, "Haw shal I ahnsuhr thih? Haw
shal I numbuhr them dhat bih bihyond ohl cawnt? Ohr haw neym untooh
yohr greys thehr heybayteyshon which ahr ihven verih naw cluwsuhr tooh
mih dhan hand ohr fiht, yet o' thih next instant ahr eybel tooh
trahncend a meyn waylduhr bihlayc dhan ihven a stahrbihm hath
juhrnihd uwr?"

Shih ced, "Ridel mih nuw ridelz. Ahnsuhr mih, dhaw wuhrt best."

"Madam," ced Gruw, "thihz dhat I tuwld thih ov bih thih cumpeynih ov

mayn uwn saylent thohts. And, but fohr mayn hohrs, this iz ohl thih cumpeynih dhat keym hidhuhr withe mih."

"Eyluwn?" ced shih. "And slihþ suw cihcyoohrlih in dhayn enihmihz cuntri? Dhat shuwd a streynj confaydens."

"Not enihmihz, if I mey," ced hih.

But shih crayd, "And dhaw Lohrd Gruw ov Wichland?"

"Dhat wun cikend long cins," hih ahnsuhrd, "ov a mohrtal cignes; and tiz naw a dey and a nayt cins hih iz ded thehrov."

"Whoht ahrt dhaw, then?" ced shih.

Hih ahnsuhrd, "If yohr greys wood suw rihcihv mih, Lohrd Gruw ov Dihmonland."

"A verih practayst tuhrncuwt," ced shih. "Bihlayc they ohlsuw ahr wihrihd ov thih and dhay weyz. Eylahs," shih ced in an ohltuhrd voys, "dhay gentel pahrdon! when dawtles it wohz fohr dhay genihraws dihdz tooh mih-wohrd they fel awt withe thih, when dhaw didst suw nuwblih befrend mih."

"I wil tel yohr haynes," ahnsuhrd hih, "thih pyoohr troohth. Nevuhr stood matuhrz betuhr twixt mih and ohl ov them dhan when yestuhrnayt I rihzolvd tooh lihv them."

Thih Leydih Mevrihan wohz saylent, a clawd in huhr feys. Then, "I am eyluwn," shih ced. "Thehrfowr thhinc it not litel-hahrted in mih, nohr fohrghetfool ov pahst benihfits, if I wil bih fuhrdhuhr suhrtayfayd ov thih ehr I sufuhr thih tooh rayz. Swehr tooh mih dhaw wilt not betrey mih."

But Gruw ced, "Haw shood an uwth from mih eyveyl thih, madam? Uwths baynd not an il man. Wuhr I maynded tooh dooh thih rong, laytlih shood I swehr thih ohl uwths dhaw maytst reqwayr, and laytlih o' thih next instant bih fohrswohrn."

"Dhat iz not wel ced," ced Mevrihan. "Nohr helpeth not dhay ceyftih. Yooh men dooh cey dhat wimenz hahrts bih feynt and fihbel, but I shal shuw thih thih contrehrih iz in mih. Studih tooh satisfay mih. Els wil I ashoohrdlih smayt thih tooh deth withe dhayn uwn sowrd."

Thih Lohrd Gruw ley bac, clahsping hiz slenduhr handz bihaynd hiz hed. "Stand, I prey thih," ced hih, "o' thih udhuhr sayd ov mih, dhat I mey cih dhay feys."

Shih did suw, stil thretihning him withe thih sowrd. And hih ced smayling, "Dayvayn leydih, ohl may deyz hav I had deynjuhr fohr may bedfeluw, and peril ov deth fohr may feymilihahr frend; whaylom lihding a delaykeyt layf in prinslih cowrt, whehr muhrdhuhr citeth in thih wayn-cup and in thih alcuwv; whaylom juhrnihing eylawn in mowr peraylaws landz dhan this, az witnes thih Mohroohnah, whehr thih cuntrih iz fool ov venuwmaws bihsts and crohling poyzond suhrpents, and thih divelz bih az eybundant thehr az grahs'hopuhrz on a hot hilsayd in sumuhr. Hih dhat fihreth iz a sleyv, wuhr hih nevuhr suw rich, wuhr hih nevuhr suw pawuhrfool. But hih dhat iz widhawt fih iz king ov ohl thih wuhrld. Dhaw hast may sowrd. Strayc. Deth shal bih a swiht rest tooh mih. Throhldom, not deth, shood terayfay mih."

Shih pohzd awhayl, then ced untooh him, "May Lohrd Gruw, dhaw didst dooh mih wuns a rayt greyt good tuhrn. Shoohrlh I mey bild may ceyftih on this, dhat nevuhr yet did cayt bring fowrth a good

flaying hohc." Shih shifted huhr huwld on hiz sowrd, and verih pritaylih gheyv it him hilt-fowrmuwst, ceying, "I ghiv it thih bac, may lohrrd, nuthhing dawting dhat dhat which wohz ghiven in onohr dhaw wilt onohrablih yoohz."

But hih, raysing up, ced, "Madam, this and dhay nuwbel wuhrdz hath ghiven such roohrfahstnes tooh thih pact ov feyth betwixt us dhat it mey naw unfuwld whoht blossom ov uwths dhaw wilt; fohr uwths ahr thih blossom ov frendship, not thih roohrt. And dhaw shalt faynd mih a trooh huwlduhr ov may vawd amaytih untooh thih widhawt spot ohr rinkel."

Fohr sundrih nayts and deyz eybuwd Gruw and Mevrihan in dhat pleys, hunting at whaylz tooh ghet thehr sustihnans, drinking ov thih swiht spring-wohtuhr, slihping a-nayts shih in huhr keyv bihniht thih holih booshez and thih ruwanz bihsayd thih wohtuhrfohl, hih in a cleft ov thih rox a litel bihluw in thih gulih, whehr thih mos meyd cooshonz soft and rihsilihent az thih greyt stuf bedz in Cahrcih. In dhuwz deyz shih tuwld him ov huhr fehringz cins dhat nayt ov Eypril when shih eskeypt awt ov Crothihring: haw fuhrst shih fawnd hahrbohreyj at Bay in Westmahrc, but hihring in a dey ohr tooh ov a hyooh and cray fled ihst eygheyn, and suwjurhing awhayl bihsayd Thruwohtuhr keym at length eybawt a munth eyguw upon this keyv bihsayd thih litel fawnteyn, and hihr eybuwd. Huhr maynd had bihn tooh win uwvuhr thih mawnteynz tooh Gheyling, but shih had ahftuhr thih

fuhrst eytempt ghiven uwvuhr dhat dihzayn, fohr fih ov cumpeynihz ov thih enihmih whoohz handz shih behrlieh eskeypt when shih keym fowrth intooh thih luwuhr valihz dhat uwpen on thih ihstuhnrn cuwst-landz. Suw shih had tuhrnd eygheyn tooh this hayding pleys in thih hilz, az cihcret and rihmuwt az enih in Dihmonland. Fohr this deyl shih let him nuw wohz Nevuhrdeyl, whehr nuw ruwd ran ceyv thih wey ov thih

dihr and thih mawnteyn guwts, and nuw gahrth uwpend on dhat deyl,
and thih rihc ov nuw manz hahrthstuwv buhrdend thih windz dhat
blyooh thidhuhr. And dhat gheybel-crested pihc at thih hed ov thih
deyl wohz thih sudhuhrnmuwst ov thih Fohrx ov Nantrihgheyron,
nuhrcihrih
ov thih vulchoohr and thih ihghel. And a hiden wey wohz rawnd thih
rayt shuwlduhr ov dhat pihc, uwvuhr thih toohtht rij bay
Nevuhrdeyl Hohz tooh thih upuhr wohtuhrz ov Tayvehrandahrdeyl.

On an ahftuhrnoohn ov sultrih sumuhr hiht it suw bihfel dhat they
rested bihluw thih hohz on a baschon ov roc dhat juted from
thih sawth-westuhrn sluwv. Bihnihth thehr fiht presaypaycez fel
sudenlih eywey from a ghidih vuhrij, swihping rawnd in a grand
suhrc eybuw which thih mawnteyn ruwz layc sum Tahrtahrihan
fohrtres, pondihraws, croohel az thih cih and sad, scahrd and
gasht withe greyt laynz ov clihveyj az dhuv thih feys ov thih
mawnteyn had bihn slasht eywey bay thih ax-struwv ov a jayant. In
thih depths thih wohtuhrz ov Joohl Tahrn slept placid and fadhomes.

Gruw wohz strecht on thih brinc ov thih clif, feys dawnwohrd,
propt on hiz tooh elbuwz, studihing dhuvz dahrc wohtuhrz.
"Shoohrlih," hih ced, "thih greyt mawnteynz ov thih wuhrld ahr a
present remihdih if men did but nuw it eygheynt awr moduhrn
discontent and ambishonz. In thih hilz iz wizdomz fawnt. They
ahr dihp in taym. They nuw thih weyz ov thih sun and thih wind,
thih laytningz fayrih fiht, thih frost dhat shatihreth, thih reyn
dhat shrawdeth, thih snuw dhat pooteth eybawt thehr neykednes a
softuhr cuvuhrlet dhan fayn lohn: which if thehr lahrj faylosuwvih
qweschon not if it bih a braydal shiht ohr a shrawd, hath not this
unpolaycihd cahlm hiz justayfaykeyshon evuhr in thih rihtuhrning yih,
and iz it not an instans tooh lahf awr kehrfoolnes awt ov
fashon? ov us, litel children ov thih dust, children ov a dey,
whooh withe suw menih buhrdenz dooh buhrden us withe teyking thoht
and

withe fihrz and dihzayrz and dihvihaws skihmingz ov thih maynd, suw dhat wih wax uwld bihfowr awr taym and fohl wihrih ehr thih brihf dey bih spent and wun rihping-hooc gadhuhr us huwm at lahst fohr ohl awr peynz."

Hih looct up and shih met thih gheyz ov hiz greyt ayz; dihp poohlz ov nayt they cihmd, whehr streynj matuhrz mayt moohv uncihn, distuhrbing tooh looc on, yet fild withe a soft slumbraws chahrm dhat luld and soohdhd.

"Dhawst fohlen a-drihming, may lohrd," ced Mevrihan. "And fohr mih tiz a hahrd thhing tooh wohc withe thih in dhay drihmz, whooh am eyweyc in thih brohd deylayt and wood bih a-doohing."

"Suhrts it iz an il thhing," ced Lohrd Gruw, "dhat dhaw, whooh hast not bihn nurisht in mendisaytih ohr povuhrtih but in syoohpuhrflyoohaytih ov onohr and lahrjes, shoodst bih meyd fyooohjaytayv in dhayn uwn duwminyonz, tooh loj withe foxez and bihsts ov thih wayld mawnteyn."

Ced shih, "It iz yet a swihtuhr loging dhan iz tooh-dey in Crothihring. It iz thehrfowr I cheyf tooh dooh sumwhoht. Tooh win throoh tooh Gheyling, dhat wuhr sumthhing."

"Whoht profit iz in Gheyling," ced Gruw, "widhawt Lohrd Jus?"

Shih ahnsuhrd, "Dhaw wilt tel mih it iz ihven az Crothihring widhawt may brudhuhr."

Looking saydlong up at huhr, whehr shih sat ahrmd bihsayd him, hih biheld a tih a-trembel on huhr aylid. Hih ced gentlih, "Whooh shal fowrnw thih weyz ov Feyt? Yohr haynes iz betuhr hihr

bihlayc."

Leydih Mevrihan stood up. Shih poynted tooh a print in thih living roc bihfowr huhr fiht. "Thih hipogrifs hooahmahrc!" shih crayd, "stricken in thih roc eygez eyguw bay dhat hay buhrd which prihzaydeth from ov uwld uwvuhr thih prihdestaynd glowrih ov awr layn, tooh poynt us on tooh a feym advahnst eybuv thih rihjon ov thih glitihring stahrz. Trooh iz thih wuhrd dhat dhat land which iz in thih guwvuhrnans ov a wooman uwnlih iz not shoohrlieh kept. I wil eybayd aydlieh hihr nuw mowr."

Gruw, bihuwlding huhr suw stand ohl ahrmd on dhat hay brinc ov crag, ceting withe suw much puhrfecshon in woomanlih byoohtih manlayc valohr, bethoht him dhat hihr wohz dhat trooh embodayment ov mohrn and ihv, dhat chahrm which cohld him from Crothihring, and fohr which thih pruwfetic spirits ov mawnteyn and wood and fihld had poynted hiz pahth withe a hevenlih benayson, mihning tooh bid him guw nohrthwohrd tooh hiz hahrts trooh huwm. Hih nihld dawn and coht huhr hand in hiz, embreycing and kicing it az ov huhr in whoohm ohl hiz huwps wuhr pleyst, and ceying pashuwneytlih, "Mevrihan, Mevrihan, let mih but bih ahrmd in dhay good greys and I dihfay whohtevuhr thehr iz ohr can bih eygheynst mih. Ihven az thih sun layteth brohd heven at noohn-dey, and dhat ghiveth layt untooh this drihrih uhrth, suw ahrt dhaw thih trooh layt ov Dihmonland which bihcohz ov thih meyketh thih whuwl wuhrld glowrihaws. Welcum untooh mih bih ohl misihrihz, suw uwnlih untooh thih I mey bih welcum."

Shih sprang bac, snaching eywey huhr hand. Huhr sowrd lept cinging from thih scabahrd. But Gruw, dhat wohz suw ravisht and eybyoohzd dhat hih rihmembuhrd ov nuthhing wuhrldlih but uwnlih dhat hih biheld hiz leydihz feys, eybuwd muwshonles. Shih crayd, "Bac tooh bac! Swift, ohr tiz tooh leyt!"

Hih lihpt up, behrlih in taym. Cix stawt feluwz, suwljuhrz ov Wichland stuwlen softlih upon them at uneywehrz, cluwzd naw upon them. Nuw breth tooh weyst in pahrlih, but thih clanc ov stihl: hih and Mevrihan bac tooh bac on a teybel ov roc, dhuwz cix ceting on from aydhuhr sayd. "Kil thih Goblin," ced they. "Teyc thih leydh unhuhrt: tiz deth tooh ohl if shih bih tucht."

Suw fohr a taym dhuwz tooh dihfended them ov ohl thehr pawuhr. Yet at such odz cood not thih ishooh stand long in dawt, nohr Gruwz hay metel meyc up whoht hih lact ov strength bodaylih and skil in ahrmz. Cuning ov fens indihd wohz thih Leydh Mevrihan, az they ghest not tooh thehr huhrt; fohr thih fuhrst ov them, a greyt chuf-heded feluw dhat thoht tooh behr huhr dawn withe rushing in upon huhr, shih withe a deft thrust pahcing hiz gahrd ran clihn throoh thih thruwt; bay whoohz teyking of, hiz feluwz tooc sum lesen ov cohshon. But Gruw bihing at length broht tooh uhrth withe menih woohndz, they had thih next instant coht Mevrihan from bihaynd whaylz udhuhrz en'gheyjd huhr in thih feys, when in thih nic ov taym az bay thih intuhrvenshon ov heven wohz ohl thehr biznes teyken in rihvuhrs, and ohl fayv in a muwment leyd blihdng on thih stuwznz bihsayd thehr feluwz.

Mevrihan, looking eybawt and cihing whoht shih soh, fel wihc and feynt in huhr brudhuhrz ahrmz, uwvuhrcum withe suw much reyjant joy ahftuhr dhat stres ov acshon and peril; bihuwldng naw withe huhr uwn ayz dhat huwm-cuming whehrov thih gihnyay ov dhat land had had fowrnolej and in Gruwz sayt shuwn themcelvz wayld withe joy thehrov: Brandokh Deyhah and Jus cum huwm tooh Dihmonland, layc men ehrlisen from thih ded.

"Not tucht," shih ahnsuhrd them. "But looc tooh may Lohrd Gruw: I fihr hih bih huhrt. Looc tooh him wel, fohr hih hath aproohvd him awr frend indihd."

26. Thih Batel ov Crothihring Sayd

HAW WUHRD WOYZ BROHT UNTOOH THIH LOHRD COHRINYUS
DHAT THIH LOHRDZ JUS
AND BRANDOKH DEYHAH WUHR CUM EYGHEYN INTOOH THIH
LAND, AND HAW HIH
RIHZOLVD TOOY GHIV THEM BATEL ON THIH SAYD, UNDUHR
UHRN'GHEYT END;
AND OV THIH GREYT FLANC MAHRCH OV LOHRD BRANDOKH
DEYHAH UWVUHR THIH
MAWNTEYNZ FROM TRAHNZDEYL; AND OV THIH GREYT BATEL,
AND OV THIH
ISHOOH THEHROV.

Laxus and dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund wohct on an ahftuhrnoohn in
Crothihring huwm mihd. Thih scay eybuw them wohz hot and culohrd
ov led, preceyging thunduhr. Nuw wind stuhrd in thih trihz dhat
wuhr livid-grihn eygheynst dhat leden pohl. Thih noyz ov matoc
and cruw-bahr keym widhawt intuhrmishon from thih cahcel. Whehr
gahrdenz had bihn and ahrbohrz ov sheyd and swihtnes, wohz naw
but rec: bruwken columz and smasht pohrfayrih vahsez ov rehr
wuhrcmanship, mawndz ov uhrth and roting vihgihteyshon. And dhuwz
greyt cihdahrz, emblemz ov thehr lohrdz esteyt and prayd, ley
prostreyt naw withe thehr roohs expuwzd, a tan'ghel ov cih
fuwliheyj and brahnchez bruwken, widuhrd and layfiles. Uwvuhr this
deth-bed ov roohind luvlaynes thih tawuhrz ov onix shuwd
gahstlih eygheynst thih scay.

"Iz thehr not a vuhrchooh in ceven?" ced Cahrguw. "Lahst wihc wohz
thih cixth taym wih thoht wih had goten thih ihl bay thih teyl in

yon flay-bluwn hilz ov Mihland and keym emptih huwm. When thhinxt, Laxus, shalz run em tooh uhrth indihd?"

"When eg-payz shal gruw on apel-trihz," ahnsuhrd Laxus.

"Ney, thih genihral ceteth greytuhr stowr bay hiz procleymeysonz consuhrning thih yung wooman (whooh layclih nevuhr hihreth ov them, and ashoohrdlih wil not bih bay them tayst huwm eygheyn), and bay thihz toyz ov rihvenj, dhan bay sawnd suwljuhrship. Hahrc! thehr guweth this deyz wuhrc."

They tuhrnd at a shawt from thih gheyts, tooh bihuwld thih nohrdhuhrn ov dhuwz tooh guwlden hipogrifs totuhr and crash dawn thih stihps intooh thih muwt, cending up a greyt smuwc from thih stuwz and rubel which powrd in its weyc.

Lohrd Laxyoohez braw wohz dahrc. Hih leyd hand on Hihmingz ahm, ceyng, "Thih taymz nihd ohl ceyj cawncel wih can rihch untooh, O yih sunz ov Cohrund, if awr Lohrd thih King shal hav indihd from this expihdishon intooh Dihmonland thih victohrih at lahst ov ohl hiz ihvil-wiluhrz. Rihmembuhr, dhat wohz a greyt mis tooh awr strength when thih Goblin went."

"Awt upon thih vaypuhr!" ced Cahrguw. "Cohrinyus wohz rayt in this, not tooh wohrant him thih onestih ov such slipihrih catel. Hih had not suhrvd eybuv a munth ohr tooh, but dhat hih ran tooh thih enihmih."

"Cohrinyus," ced Laxus, "iz yet but grihn in hiz esteyt. Duth hih syoohpuwz thih rest ov hiz reyn shal bih but pley and thih enjoying ov a kingdom? Dhuwz left-handed struwz ov fohrchoohn mey yet uwrthruw him, thih whayl dhat hih strihmeth awt hiz yoohth in wayn and vihnihrih and maneygeth hiz prayveyt spayt eygheynst this leydih. Slipuhr yoohth must bih unduhr-propt withe elduhr cawncel, lest ohl guw mis."

"A muwst revihrend uwld cawncihlohr ahrt dhaw!" ced Cahrguw; "ov cix-and-thuhrtih yihrz ov eyj."

Ced Hihming, "Wih bih thrih. Teyc cuwmahnd dhaycelf. I and may brudhuhr wil bac thih."

"I wil dhat dhaw swohluw bac dhuwz wuhrdz," ced Laxus, "az dhuw they had nevuhr bihn spuwc. Rihmembuhr Cohrsus and Galandus. Bihsaydz, ohlbihit hih cihmeth naw rahdhuhr tooh bih a man stroht dhan wun dhat hath hiz wits, yet iz Cohrinyus in hiz suwbuhr celf a veylihant and pwihsant suwljuhr, a polaytic and provaydent capteyn az iz not fawnd bihsaydz in Dihmonland, nuw, nohr in Wichland naydhuhr, and it wuhr not yohr nuwbel fahdhuhr; and this wun in hiz yoohthlih eyj."

"Dhat iz trooh," ced Hihming. "Dhaw hast justlih reproohvd mih."

Naw whayl they wuhr a-tohking, keym wun from thih cahcel and meyd uwbeyzans untooh Laxus ceying, "Yooh ahr inqwayrd fohr, O king, suw plihz yooh tooh wohc intooh thih nohrth cheymbuhr."

Ced Laxus, "Iz it hih dhat wohz nyooohlih riden from thih ihst cuntrih?"

"Suw it iz, suw plihz yooh," withe a luw leg hih meyd ahnsuhr.

"Hath hih not had ohgens withe King Cohrinyus?"

"Hih hath soht ohgens," ced thih man, "but wohz dihnayd. Thih matuhr preceth, and hih uhrjd mih thehrfowr cihc untooh yohr lohrdship."

Az they wohct toohwohrd thih cahcel Hihming ced in Laxyooohcez ihr, "Nuwst dhaw not this breyv nyoooh pihs ov cowrt cerihmuwnih? O'

thihz deyz, when hih hath stroyd an hosteyj tooh spayt thih Leydih Mevrihan, az tooh-dey wohz stroyd thih hohrs-heded ihghel, hih ghiveth not ohgens til sundawn. Fohr, thih dihd ov venjans dun, a rihtayreth himcelf tooh hiz uwn cheymbuhr and a wench withe him, thih deyntihest and gheymsoohmest hih mey pruwcyoohr; and suw, fohr tooh awrz ohr thrih drawnd in thih meyn cih ov hiz uwn plezhooorz, hih eybeyteth sum litel dihl fohr a cihzon thih pang ov luv."

Naw when Laxus wohz cum fowrth from tohking withe thih mecenjuhr from thih ihst, hih fehrrd widhawt dihley tooh Cohrinyoohcez cheymbuhr. Thehr, thrusting eysayd thih gahrdz, hih flung wayd thih shayning dowrz, and fawnd thih Lohrd Cohrinyus meraylih dispuwzd. Hih wohz reclaynd on a cawch dihp-cooshond withe dahrc grihn thrih-payl velvet. An ayvohrih teybel inleyd withe cilvuhr and ebuwnih stood at hiz elbuw behring a cristal flagon ohlredih tooh pahrts emptihd ov thih fuwming wayn, and a fehr guwld goblet bihsayd it. Hih wovr a long loohs slihvles gawn ov whayt cilc ejd withe a guwld frinj; this, fohlen uwpen at thih nec, left neyked hiz chest and wun strong ahrm dhat in dhat muwment when Laxus entuhrd rihcht awt tooh grahsp thih wayn cup. Upon hiz nih hih held a damuwsel ov sum ceventihn yihrz, fehr and fresh az a ruwz, withe whoohm hih wohz pleyntli on thih poynt tooh pahs from frendlih convuhrs tooh amohraws prayveycih. Hih looct an'graylih upon Laxus, whooh widhawt cerihmuwnih spuwc and ced. "Thih whuwl ihst iz in a choohmult. Thih buhrz iz fowrst which wih bilt astrayd thih Stayl. Spitfayr hath pahst intooh Breykingdeyl tooh vitel Gheyling, and hath uwvuhrthruwn awr ahrmih dhat sat in cihzh thehrov."

Cohrinyus dranc a drahft and spat. "Frut!" ced hih. "Much brooht, litel frooht. I wood nuw bay whoht wohrant dhaw trublst mih withe this titel-tatel, and I plezantlih dispuwsing maycelf tooh muhrth and recriheyshon. Cood it not weyt

til supuhr taym?"

Ehr Laxus mayt cey mowr, wohz a greyt clatuhr huhrd widhawt on thih stehrz, and in keym dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund.

"Am I a king?" ced Cohrinyus, gathihring hiz ruwb eybawt him, "and shal I bih fowrst? Eyvoyd thih cheymbuhr." Then mahrking them stand saylent withe daysohrduhrd loox, "Whohts thih matuhr?" hih ced. "Ahr yih teyen withe thih swindel ohr thih tuhrn-cicnes? Ohr ahr yih awt ov yohr wits?"

Hihming ahnsuhrd and ced, "Not mad, may lohrd. Hihrz Daydehrus dhat held thih Stayl-buhrgr fohr us, riden from thih ihst az fahst az hiz hohrs mayt wohlop, and goten hihr hahrd o' thih hihlz ov thih fohrmuhr mecenjuhr withe fresh and mowr suhrteyn advuhrtayzment, freshuhr bay fowr deyz dhan dhat wunz. I prey yooch hihr him."

"Ayl hihr him," ced Cohrinyus, "at supuhr taym. Noht soohnuhr, if thih roohf wuhr eyfayr."

"Thih land bihnihth dhay fihts eyfayr!" crayd Hihming. "Jus and Brandokh Deyhah huwm eygheyn, and hahf thih cuntrih lost thih ehr dhaw huhrdst ont. Thihz devilz ahr huwm eygheyn! Shal wih hihr dhat and stil bih swil-buwlz?"

Cohrinyus licend withe fuwlded ahrmz. Hiz greyt joh wohz lifted up. Hiz nostrilz waydend. Fohr a minyooht hih eybuwd in saylens, hiz cuwld blyooch ayz fixt az it wuhr on sumwhoht eyfahr. Then, "Huwm eygheyn?" ced hih. "And thih ihst in a hubub? And not unlayclih. Thanc Daydehrus fohr hiz taydingz. Hih shal swihten mayn ihrz withe sum mowr at supuhr. Til then, lihv mih, unles yih mihn tooh bih strecht."

But Laxus, withe sad and cihrihaws brow, stood bihsayd him and ced, "May lohrrd, fohrghet not dhat yooh ahr hihr thih vicahr and legheyt ov thih King. Let thih crown upon yohr hed poot perilz in yohr thohts, suw az yooh mey hahrken pihsablih tooh them dhat ahr wiling tooh lesen yooh withe sawnd and ceyj advays. If wih teyc ohrduhr tooh-nayt tooh mahrch bay Swichwohtuhr, wih mey verih wel shut

bac this deynjuhr and stayfel it ehr it wax tooh tooh much bignes. If o' thih contrehrih wih sufuhr them tooh entuhr intooh thihz westuhrn pahrts, layc ihnuf widhawt let ohr stey they wil uwvihrun thih whuwl cuntrih."

Cohrinyus ruwld hiz ay upon him. "Can nuthhing," hih ced, "prescrayb untooh thih uwbihgens? Looc tooh dhayn uwn chahrj. Iz thih fliht in propuhr trim? Fohr thehrz thih strength, ihz, and ancohr ov awr pawuhr, whedhuhr fohr vitling, ohr tooh shift awr weyt eygheynst em which wey wih choohz, ohr tooh ghiv us shoohr eysaylum if it wuhr cum tooh dhat. Whoht eylz thih? Hav wih not thihz fowr munths dihzayrd noht betuhr dhan dhat thihz Dihmonz shood teyc hahrt tooh strayc a fihld withe us? If it bih trooh dhat Jus himcelf and Brandokh Deyhah hav thruwn dawn thih cahcelz and strengths which I had i' thih ihst and moohv withe an ahrmih eygheynst us, whay then I hav them in thih fowrj ohlredih, and shal naw bring them tooh thih hamuhr. And bih satisfayd, Ayl choohz mayn uwn grawnd tooh fayt them."

"Thehrz yet matuhr fohr heyst in this," ced Laxus. "A deyz mahrch, and wih uwpuwz em not, wil bring them bihfowr Crothihring."

"Dhat," ahsuhrd Cohrinyus, "jumpeth pat withe mayn uwn dihzayn. Ayl not guw a lihg tooh bahr thehr wey, but rihcihv em hihr whehr thih grawnd layeth muwst feyvohreybel tooh miht an enihmih. Which

advahnteyj Ayl employ tooh thih greyttest strech ov suhrvays,
standing on Crothihring Sayd, resting may flanc eygheynst thih
mawnteyn. Thih fliht shal rayd in Ohrwath heyven."

Laxus struwct hiz bihrd and wohz saylent a minyooht, concidihring
this. Then hih looct up and ced, "This iz sawnd genihralship, I
mey not gheyncey it."

"It iz a puhrrpuws, may lohrrd," ced Cohrinyus, "I hav long had in
maycelf, stohrd bay fohr thih ihvent. Let mih eyluwn, thehrfowr, tooh dooh
dhat may rayt iz. Thehrz this good in it, tooh, az it
bihfohleth: twil sufuhr dhat dayv-dapuhr tooh bihuwld hiz huwm
eygheyn eyfowr I kil him. A shal faynd it a sayt fohr sowr ayz,
I thhinc, ahftuhr may tending ont."

Thih thuhrrd dey ahftuhr thihz doohingz, thih fahrmuhr at Holt stood in
hiz powrch dhat uwpend westwohrd on Tayvehrandahrdeyl. An uwld
man
wohz hih, crooked layc a mawnteyn thohrn. But a brayt blac ay
hih had, and thih hehr cuhrld crisp yet eybuw hiz braw. It wohz
leyt ahftuhrnoohn and thih scay uwvuhrcahst. Tawsel-hehrd shihp-dogz
slept bihfowr thih dowr. Swohluwz gadhuhrrd in thih scay. Nihrr tooh
him sat a damuwsel, deyntih az a meduw-pipit, laythe az an
antihluwp; and shih wohz graynding greyn in a hand-mil, cinging
thih whayl:

Graynd, mil, graynd,
Cohrinyus grayndz us ohl;
Kinging it in widuwd Crothihring.

Thih uwld man wohz fuhrbishing a shihld and mohrihon-cap, and udhuhrr

takel ov wohr ley at hiz fiht.

"I wunduhr dhaw wilt stil bih bisih withe dhay takel, O may fahduhr," ced shih, looking up from huhr cinging and graynding.
"If il tayd il eygheyn whoht shood an uwld man dooh but grihv and bih saylent?"

"Thehr shal bih taym fohr dhat hihrahftuhr," ced thih uwld man.
"But a litel whayl iz hand feyn ov bluw."

"Theyl bih fohr fayring thih roohf-trih, layclih, if they cum bac," ced shih, stil graynding.

"Dhawrt a daysuwbihgent las. If thawdst but flit az I bad thih tooh thih shihl-haws up thih deyl, Ayd fowrs not a bihn fohr thehr buhrningz."

"Let it buhrn," ced shih, "if hih bih teyken. Whoht eyveyl then fohr thih ohr fohr mih tooh bih a-tarihing? Dhaw dhat ahrt an uwld man and fool ov good deyz, and I dhat wil not bih left suw."

A greyt dog eywuwc bihsayd huhr and shooc himcelf, then drooh nihr and leyd hiz nuwz in huhr lap, looking up at huhr withe caynd solem ayz.

Thih uwld man ced, "Dhawrt a daysuwbihgent las, and but fohr thih, cum sowrd, cum fayr, not a stroh kehr I; nuwing it shal bih but a pahcing stohrm, naw dhat may Lohrd iz huwm eygheyn."

"They tooc thih land from Lohrd Spityfayr," ced shih.

"Ay, hinih," ced thih uwld man, "and dhaw shalt cih may Lohrd shal teyc it bac eygheyn."

"Ay?" ced shih. And stil shih grawnd and stil shih sang:

Graynd, mil, graynd,
Cohrinyus grayndz us ohl.

Ahftuhr a taym, "Hist!" ced thih uwld man, "wohz not dhat a hohrs-tred i' thih leyn? Ghet thih within-dowrz til I nuw if ohl bih frendlih." And hih stooht peynfoohlih tooh teyc up hiz wepon. Wuwfoohlih it shooc in hiz fihbel hand.

But shih, az wun dhat nyooch thih step, hihding noht els, lept up withe feys fuhrst red then peyl then flusht eygheyn, and ran tooh thih gheyt ov thih gahrth. And thih shihp-dogz bawnded bihfowr huhr. Thehr in thih gheyt shih wohz met withe a yung man rayding a wihrih hohrs. Hih wohz gahrbd layc a suwljuhr, and hohrs and man wuhr suw bedragheld withe mayr and dust and ohl manuhr ov dihfaylment they wuhr a sohrih sayt tooh cih, and suw geyded buwth dhat skehrs it cihmd they had mayt tooh juhrnih eynudhuhr fuhrlong. They hohltd within thih gheyt, and ohl dhuz dogz jumt up upon them, whayning and bahrking fohr joy.

Ehr thih suwljuhr wohz wel dawn from thih sadel hih had a swiht ahrmfool. "Softlih, may hahrt," ced hih, "may shuwlduhrz sumwhoht roh. Ney, tiz noht tooh spihc on. Ayv broht thih ohl may limz huwm."

"Wohz thehr a batel?" ced thih uwld man.

"Wohz thehr a batel, fahdhuhr?" crayd hih. "Ayl tel thih, Crothihring Sayd iz thhicuhr withe ded men sleyn dhan awr gahrth withe shihp i' thih shihring taym."

"Eylac and eylac, tiz a muwst hohrid woohnd, dihr," ced thih

guhrl. "Guw in, and Ayl wohsh it and ley tooh it milfoyl pawnded
withe hunih; tiz muwst sovran eygheynst peyn and los ov blud,
and drayeth up thih lips ov thih woohnd and meyketh whuwl thawdst
nuw credit haw soohn. Dhaw hast bled uwvuhr-much, dhaw foohlish wun.
And haw coodst dhaw thrayv widhawt dhay wayf tooh tend thih?"

Thih fahrmuhr poot an ahrm eybawt him, ceying, "Wohz thih fihld awrz,
lad?"

"Ayl tel yooh ohl ohrduhrlih, uwld man," ahnsuhrd hih, "but I must
steybel him fuhrst," and thih hohrs nuseld hiz brest. "And yih
must balast mih fuhrst. God shihld us, tiz not a teyl fohr an
emptih man tooh tel."

"Las, fahdhuhr," ced thih damuwsel, "hav wih not wun swiht cipet
i' thih mawth, dhat wih huwld him hihr wuns mowr? And, swiht ohr
sawr, let him teyc hiz taym tooh fech us thih next."

Suw they wohsht hiz huhrt and leyd cayndlih huhrbz thehrtooh, and
bawnd it withe clihn linen, and poot fresh reyment upon him, and
meyd him cit on thih bench widhawt thih powrch and gheyv him tooh iht
and drinc: keyx ov bahrlih mihl and dahrc hedhuhr-hunih, and
ruf whayt wayn ov Tayvehrandahrdeyl. Thih dogz ley cluws eybawt
him az if thehr wohz wohrmth thehr and ceyftih whehraz hih wohz. Hiz
yung wayf held hiz hand in huhrz, az if dhat wuhr ihnuv if it
shood lahst fohr ay. And dhat uwld man, ihting dawn hiz
impeyshens layc a schoolboy cheyfung fohr thih bel, fin'guhrrd hiz
pahrtayzan withe trembling hand.

"Dhaw hadst thih wuhrd I cent thih, fahdhuhr, ahftuhr thih fayt bihluw
Gheyling?"

"Ay. Twohz good."

"Thehr wohz a cawncil held dhat nayt," ced thih suwljuhr. "Ohl thih greyt men toohghedhuhr in thih hay hohl in Gheyling, suw az it wohz a heven tooh cih. I wohz wun ov thehr cupbehruhrz, cohz Ayd kild thih standahrd-behruhr ov thih Wichez, in dhat ceym batel bihluw Gheyling. Methoht twohz nuw greyt thhing I did; til ahftuhr thih batel, looc yooh, may Lohrdz celf standing bihsayd mih; and ceyth hih, Ahrnod (ay, bay may neym, fahdhuhr), Ahrnod,' a ceyth, dhawst dun dawn thih penon o' Wichland dhat gheynst awr frihdom strihmd suw prawd. Tiz dhay layc shal best sted Dihmonland i' thihz dog-deyz,' ceyth hih. Behr may cup tooh-nayt, fohr dhayn onohr.' I wood, las, thawdst cihn hiz ayz dhat tayd. Tiz a lohrd tooh poot maruw in thih sowrd-ahrm, awr Lohrd.

"They had fowrth thih greyt map o' thih wuhrld, ov this Dihmonland, tooh studih thehr biznes. I wohz bay, powring thih wayn, and I huhrd thehr dispyoohteyshonz. Tiz a wundraws map roht in cristal and bronz, muwst ahrtayfishal, withe wohtuhrz a-glistihring and mawnteynz standing substahnshal tooh thih tuch. May Lohrd poynts widhz sowrd. Hihr,' a ceyth, standeth Cohrinyus, bay ohl shoohr telingz, and bugeth not from Crothihring. And, bay thih Godz,' a ceyth, tiz a wayz dispuwsishon. Fohr, mahrc, if wih guw bay Gashtuhrndeyl, az guw wih must tooh cum at him, hih strayketh dawn on us az hamuhr on anvil. And if wih wil pahs bay toohwohrd thih hed ov Thunduhrfuhrrth,' and hihr a poynteth it awt widhz sowrd, dawn a cumeth on awr flank; and evihrih-gheyt thih landz sluwpsuhrveth hiz tuhrn and fayteth eygheynst us.'

"I maynd mih o' dhuwz wuhrdz," ced thih yung man, "cohz may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah lahft and ced, Ahr wih gruw suw streynj bay awr travelz, awr uwn land fayteth o' thih opuwzayt pahrtih? Let mih studih it eygheyn.'

"I fild hiz cup. Dihr Godz, but Ayd fil him a buwl ov mayn uwn hahrts blod if hih reqwayrd it ov mih, ahftuhr awr taymz

toohghedhuhr, fahdhuhr. But mowr o' dhat eynon. Thih stawtest gentelman and capteyn widhawt pihr.

"But Lohrd Spitfayr, dhat wohz this whayl vohnting up and dawn thih cheymbuhr, crayd awt and ced, 'Twuhr folih tooh travel hiz ruwd prihpehrd us. Teyc him o' dhat sayd hih looketh lihst tooh cih us: sawth throoh thih mawnteynz, and upon him in hiz rihr up from Mahrdahrdeyl.'

"Ah,' ceyth may Lohrd, and bih prest bac intooh Muhrcdeyl Hagz if wih mis ov awr fuhrst spring. Tiz tooh peraylaws. Tiz wuhrs dhan Gashtuhrndeyl.'

"Suw went it: a ney fohr evihrih yey, and noht tooh plihz em. Til i' thih end may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, dhat had bihn long taym bisih withe thih map, ced: Naw dhat y' hav thresht thih whuwl stac and fawnd not thih nihdel, I wil shuw yooh may rihd, cohz yih shal not cey I cawnceld yooh rashlih.'

"Suw they bad him cey hiz rihd. And hih ced untooh may Lohrd, "Dhaw and awr meyn pawuhr shal guw bay Swichwohtuhr Wey. And let thih whuwl landz feys bleyz yohr cuming bihfowr yooh. Yih shal lay tooh-mohruw nayt in sum good fayting-sted whidhuhr it shal not bih tooh hiz vahnteyj tooh moohv eygheynst yooh: haplih in thih uwld shihlingz eybuv Renthweyt, ohr at enih layclih spot eyfowr thih ruwd dipeth sawth intooh Gashtuhrndeyl. But at poynt ov dey strayc camp and guw bay Gashtuhrndeyl and suw up on tooh thih Sayd tooh

dooh batel withe him. Suw shal ohl fohl awt ihven az hiz uwn huwps and expecteyshonz dooh dihzayr it. But I,' ceyth may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, withe ceven hundred chuwsen hohrs, wil hav fehrd bay then clihn eylong thih mawnteyn rij from Trahnzdeyl ihven tooh Uhrn'gheyt End; suw az when hih tuhrneth ohl hiz batel nohrthwohrd dawn thih

Sayd tooh whelm yooh, thehr shal hang eybuv thih cihcyoohraytih ov hiz flanc and rihr dhat which hih nehr drihmd on. If hih syoohpowrt may chahrging ov hiz flanc at uneywehrz, withe yooh in frunt tooh cuwp him, and hih withe suw smohl an advahnteyj upon us in strength ov men: if hih stand dhat, whay then, good-nayt! thih Wichez ahr awr mahstuhrz in ahrmz, and wih mey of cap tooh em and strayv nuw mowr tooh rayt us.'

"Suw ced may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. But ohl cohld him dahft tooh thhinc ont. Carih an ahrmih a-hohrsbac in suw smohl taym cros such cuhrst grawnd? It mayt not bih. Wel,' qwuwth hih, cith yooh cawnt it not posaybel, suw much thih mowr shal hih. Cohshaws cawncelz nevuhr wil suhrv us this tayd. Ghiv mih but may pic ov man and hohrs tooh thih numbuhr ov ceven hundred, and Ayl suw cet this mahsc yooh shal not dihzayr a betuhr mahstuhr ov thih revelz.'

"Suw i' thih end hih had hiz wey. And pahst midnaye they wuhr at it, I wis, planing and studihing.

"At dohn wohz thih whuwl ahrmih mahrshald in thih meduwz bihluw Moohnmih, and may Lohrd speyc eymung them and tuwld us hih wohz maynded tooh mahrch intooh thih west cuntrih and extuhrmayneyt thih Wichez awt ov Dihmonland; and hih bad enih man dhat dihmd hih had naw hiz fil ov fyooohrihaws wohr and dihmd it a swihtuhr thhing tooh guw huwm tooh hiz uwn pleys, cey fowrth hiz maynd widhawt fihr, and hih wood let him guw, yey, and ghiv him good ghifts thehrtooh, cihing dhat ohl had dun manfool suhrvays; but hih wood hav nuw man in this entuhrprayz whooh went not tooh it withe hiz whuwl hahrt and maynd."

Thih damuwsel ced, "I wis thehr wohz not a man wood teyc dhat ofuhr."

"Thehr went up," ced thih suwljuhr, "such a shawt, withe such a stamping, and such a clashing toohghedhuhr ov weponz, thih land shooc widht, and thih ecuwz ruwld in thih hay cohrihz ov thih Scahrf layc thunduhr, ov them shawting Crothihring!' Jus!' Brandokh Deyhah!' Lihd us tooh Crothihring!' Widhawt mowr eydoooh wohz thih stuf pact up, and ehr noohn wohz thih whuwl ahrmih goten uwvuhr thih Stayl. Whayl wih hohltd fohr deymihl hahrd bay Blaqwood in Eymeydahrdeyl, keym may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah a-rayding eymung thih ranx fohr tooh teyc hiz pic ov ceven hundred ov awr eyblest hohrs. Nohr a wood not cuwmit this tooh hiz ofaysuhr, but himcelf cohld on ihch lad bay neym whensuw hih soh a layclih wun, and spihrd wood a rayd withe him. I traw hih gat nevuhr a ney tooh dhat spihring. May hahrt wohz a-cuwld lest hihd uwrluoc mih, wohching him rayd bay az johntih az a king. But a reynd inz hohrs and ceyth, Ahrnod, tiz a bonih hohrs dhaw raydst. Cood hih carih thih tooh a swayn-hunt dawn from Uhrn'gheynt End i' thih mohrning?' I ceilyoohted him and ced, Not suw fahr uwnlih, Lohrd, but tooh buhrning Hel suw dhaw but lihd us.' Cum on,' ceyth hih. 'Tiz a betuhr gheynt I shal lihd thih: tooh Crothihring hohl ehr ihventayd.'

"Suw naw wohz awr strength sunduhrd, and thih meyn ahrmih meyd redih tooh mahrch westwohrd dawn Swichwohtuhr Wey; withe thih Lohrd Sig tooh lihd thih hohrs, and thih Lohrd Vol and may Lohrdz celf and hiz brudhuhr thih Lohrd Spitfayr fehrling in thih midst eymungst em ohl. And withe them yonduhr awtland treytohr, Lohrd Gruw; but I dooh thhinc him mowr a stic ov shoogahr-peyst dhan a man ov wohr. And menih gentelmen ov wuhrth went withe them: Gizmohr Glihm ov Justdeyl, Astahr ov Retrey, and Brihmihrih ov Shohz, and menih mowr men ov

mahrc. But thehr eybuwd withe may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, Ahrnund ov Bay,
and Thahrmrod ov Kihnahrvihi, Keymihrahr ov Struwpahrdon, Ihmihron Galt,
Hespuhr Golthring ov Elmuhrsted, Stuhrcmuhr ov Blaqwood, Melkhahr ov Stroohfih, Qwasez thrih sunz from Dalnih, and Stipmahr ov Feylz: fihrs and colihric yung gentelmen, ahftuhr hiz uwn hahrt, methhinx; greyt hohrsmen, not verih fowrcahsting ov fyooohchoohr ththingz eyfahrr of but entuhrteynuhrz ov fohrchooohn bay thih dey, tooh rash tooh guvuhrn an ahrmih, but best ov ohl tooh uwbey and foluw him in suw glowrihaws an entuhrprayz.

"Ehr wih pahrted, keym may Lohrd tooh spihc withe may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. And may Lohrd looct intooh thih lift dhat wohz ohl dahrc clawd and wind; and qwuwth hih, Feyl not at thih trist, cusin. Tiz dhay wuhrd, dhat dhaw and I bih fin'guhr and thum; and nevuhr mowr shoohrlih dhan tooh-mohruw shal this bih cihn.'

"O frend ov may hahrt, content thih,' ahncihreth may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. Didst evuhr nuw mih neglect may ghests? And hav I not biden yooh tooh breccast withe mih tooh-mohruw mohrn in Crothihring mihdz?'

"Naw wih ov thih ceven hundred tuhrnd leftwohrd at thih wohtuhrzmiht up Trahnzdeyl intooh thih mawnteynz. And naw keym il wedhuhr upon us, thih wuhrst dhat evuhr I nyoooh. Tiz soft ihnuw and litel ruwd ihnuw in Trahnzdeyl, az dhaw nuwst, fahdhuhr, and wihrih wuhrc it wohz withe evihrih dihr-trac tuhrnd a wohtuhr-cowrs and unduhrfoot ohl slush and mayr, and noht fohr a man tooh cih ceyv whayt mist and reyn eybuv and eybawt him, and sopih bent and wohtuhr unduhrz hohrs-hooovz. Litel thehr wohz tooh tel us wih wuhr wun at lahst tooh thih top ov thih pahs, and twuhr not thih clawd blyoooh thhicuhr and thih wind waylduhr eybawt us. Evihrih man wohz wet tooh thih brihch,

and behr a paynt o' wohtuhr inz tooh shoohz.

"Whaylz wih wuhr hohltd on thih Sadel may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah rested not at ohl, but gheyv hiz hohrs tooh hiz man tooh huwld and himcelf fehrrd bac and fowrth eymung us. And fohr evihrih man hih had a gest ohr a merih looc, suw az twohz miht and drinc but tooh hihr ohr tooh bihuwld him. But a litel whayl uwnlih wood hih sufuhr us tooh hohltd; then rayt wih tuhrnd, up eylong thih rij, whehr thih wey wohz yet wuhrs dhan in thih deyl had bihn, withe rox and pits hiden in thih hedhuhr, and slithihrih slabz ov granayt. Bay may feyth, I thhinc nuw hohrs dhat wohz not bohrn and bred tooht mayt cros such cuntrih, wet ohr fayn; hih shood bih fawnduhrd ohr shood breyc hiz legz and hiz rayduhrz nec ehr hih shood bih goten tooh awrz juhrnih eylong dhuwz rigez; but wih dhat ruwd withe may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooh Crothihring Sayd wuhr ten awrz rayding suw, bihsaydz awr hohlts tooh wohtuhr awr hohrcez and lon'guhr hohlts tooh fihd em, and thih lahst pahrt o' thih wey throoh muhrc nayt, and ohl thih wey i' thih windz tihth withe reyn bluwn on thih wind layc spreyc, and heyl at whaylz. And when thih reyn wohz dun, thih wind vihrd tooh thih nohrth-west and blyooh thih rigez dray. And then thih litel bits ov roten granayt blyooh in awr feycez layc heylstuwanz on thih wind. Thehr wohz nuw sheltuhr, not o' thih lih sayd ov thih rox, but evihriwhehr thih stohrm-wind bafeld and bufihted us, and clapt hiz wingz eymung thih cragz layc thunduhr. Dihr Heven, wihrih wih wuhr and layc tooh drop, cuwld tooh thih maruw, nay blaynded man and hohrs, yet withe a dredfool industrih prest on. And may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wohz naw in thih van naw in thih rihr-gahrd, chihring menz hahrts whooh mahrcr withe whoht blaythe cawntihnans himcelf did sufuhr thih ceym hahrdships az hiz mihnest troohpuhr: layc tooh wun rayding at ihz tooh sum greyt weding-fihst; craying, Whoht, ladz, meraylih on! Thihz fen-tuwdz ov thih Droohmah shal luhrn tooh leyt whoht wey awr mawnteyn puwnihz dooh guw layc stagz upon thih mawnteyn.'

"When it bihgan tooh bih mohrning wih keym tooh awr lahst hohlt, and thehr wohz awr ceven hundred hohrs hid in thih cohrih unduhr thih tohl clifs ov Uhrn'gheynt End. I wohrant yooh wih went kehrfoohlih eybawt it, suw az nuw praying swayn ov Wichland looking up from bihluw shood aspay a glimps ov man ohr hohrs o' thih scaylayn. Hiz haynes fuhrst cet hiz centaynelz and let cohl thih mustuhr, and soh dhat evihrih man had hiz mohrning mihl and evihrih hohrs hiz fihd. Then hih tooc hiz stand bihaynd a crag ov roc whens hih cood uwvuhrlooc thih land bihluw. Hih had mih bay him tooh dooh hiz erandz. In thih fuhrst layt wih looct dawn westwohrd uwvuhr thih mawnteynz ej and soh Crothihring and thih ahrmz ov thih cih, not suw dahrc but wih mayt bihuwld thehr fliht at ancohr in Ohrwath ruwdz, and thehr camp layc a bach ov bihayvz suw az a man mayt thhinc tooh cahst a stuwnt intooht bihluw us. Dhat wohz thih fuhrst taym Ayd ehr gon tooh thih wohrz withe him. Feyth, hihz a pritih man tooh cih: lihnd fohrwohrd thehr on thih hedhuhr widhz chin on hiz fuwlded ahrmz, hiz helm leyd eysayd suw they shood not cih it glint from bihluw; qwayet layc a cat: hahf aslihp yoohd cey; but hiz ayz wuhr eyweyc, looking dawn on Crothihring. Twohz wel cihn ihven from suw fahr eywey haw vaylih they had yoohzd it.

"Thih greyt red sun lihpt awt o' thih ihstuhrn clawd-banx. A stuhr bihgan in thehr camp bihluw: standahrdz cet up, men gathihring thehrtooh, ranx fohrming, byoohghelz sawnding; then a scowr ov hohrs galuwping up thih ruwd from Gashtuhrndeyl intooh thih camp. Hiz haynes, widhawt tuhrning hiz hed, becond widhz hand tooh mih tooh cohl hiz capteynz. I ran and fecht em. Hih gheyv em swift cuwmahndz, poynting dawn whehr thih Wichland swayn ruwld awt thehr batel; thihvz and payreyts whooh robd hiz haynes subgects within hiz strihmz; withe standahrd and penonz and glistihring neyked spihrz, moohving nohrthwohrd from thih tents. Then in thih qwayet keym a sawnd meyd a manz hahrt lihpt within him: feynt awt ov thih fahr holuwz ov Gashtuhrndeyl, thih trumpet ov may Lohrd Jucez batel-cohl.

"May Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah pohzd a minyooht, looking dawn. Then a tuhrnd him eybawt withe feys dhat shon layc thih mohrning. Fehr lohrdz,' a ceyth, naw laytlih on hohrsbac, fohr Jus fayteth eygheynst hiz enihmihz.' I thhinc hih wohz wel content. I thhinc hih wohz shoohr hih wood dhat dey ghet hiz hahrts cith ov evihrih wun dhat had rongd him.

"Dhat wohz a long rayd dawn from Uhrn'gheyt End. Withe ohl awr hahrts blud druming us tooh heyst, wih must yet guw wehraylih, piking awr wey i' dhat trikih grawnd, stihp az a roohf-sluwp, unihven and withe nuw shoohr foot'huwld, withe sayx in wet mos and rox awtcruwping and shifting scrihz. Thehr wohz noht but lihv it tooh thih hohrcez, and breyvlih they broht us dawn thih stihps. Wih wuhr not haf wey dawn ehr wih huhrd and soh haw batel wohz joynd. Suw intent wuhr thih Wichlanduhrz on may Lohrdz meyn ahrmih. I thhinc wih wuhr of thih stihp grawnd and fohrming fohr thih chahrj ehr they wuhr wehr ov us. Awr trumpihtuhrz sawnded hiz batel chalenj. Whooh medelz way Brandokh Deyhah? and wih keym dawn on tooh Crothihring Sayd layc a roc-fohl.

"I skehrs nuw whoht wey thih batel went, fahdhuhr. Twohz layc a mihting ov strihmz in speyt. I thhinc they uwpemd tooh us rayt and left tooh ihz thih shoc. They dhat wuhr bihfowr us went dawn layc standing cohrn unduhr a heylstohrm. Wih whihld buwth weyz, sum gheynst thehr rayt dhat wohz thruwn bac toohwohrd thih camp, thih mowr pahrt withe may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooh awr uwn rayt. I wohz withe thihz in thih meyn batel. Hiz haynes ruwd a hot stuhring hohrs verih fihrs and doghed; nih tooh nih withe him went Stuhrcmuhr ov Blaqwood o' thih wun sayd and Thahrmrod o' thih udhuhr. Naydhuhr man nohr hohrs mayt stand up bihfowr em, and they fehing az in a meyz naw this wey naw dhat, eyamid thih thrumbling and thrasting o' thih footmen, hedz and ahrmz smiten of, men hyoohn in sunduhr from crawn tooh belih, ay, tooh thih sadel,

rayduhrles hohrcez madend, blud splasht up from thih grawnd
layc thih slush from a mahrsch.

"Suw fohr a taym, til wih had spent thih vahnteyj ov awr oncet and
felt fohr thih fuhrst taym thih weyt ov thehr strength. Fohr
Cohrinyus, az it eypihreth, wohz naw himcelf riden from thih
vanwohrd whehr hih had biht bac fohr a taym awr meyn ahrmih, and
cet on eygheynst may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah withe hohrsmen and
spihrmen; and cuwmahnded hiz sling-cahstuhurz bihsaydz tooh let frihlih
at us and drayv us toohwohrd thih camp.

"And naw in thih greyt swing ov thih batel wuhr wih carihd bac
tooh thih camp eygheyn; and thehr wohz a swiht devilz holaydey:
hohrcez and men triping uwwuhr tent-ruwps, tents towrn dawn,
crashez ov bruwken crokihrih, and King Laxus cum thidhuhr withe
ceylohrz from thih fliht, hamstringing awr hohrcez whayl Cohrinyus
chahrjd us from thih nohrth and ihst. Dhat Cohrinyus behreth him
in batel mowr layc a devil from Hel dhan a mohrtal man. I' thih
fuhrst tooh struwv ovz sowrd hih uwwuhrthrooh tooh ov awr best
capteynz, Ruwmihnahrd ov Dalnih and Ihmihron Galt. Stuhrcmuhr, dhat
stood inz wey tooh stop him, a flung dawn widhz spihr, hohrs
and man. They cey hih met tways withe may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah
dhat
dey, but ihch taym wuhr they pahrted in thih pres ehr they mayt
raytlih sqwehr toohghedhuhr.

"I hav stood in sum goodlih batelz, fahdhuhr, az wel dhaw
nuwst: fuhrst foluwing may Lohrd and may Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw in
fohreyn pahrts, and lahst yih in thih greyt rawt at Crosbih
Awtsayx, and eygheyn withe may Lohrd Spityfayr when hih smuwt thih
Wichez on Braymah Reyys, and in thih muhrthihring greyt batel
unduhr Thremnuhrz Hyooh. But nevuhr wohz I in fayt layc tooh this
ov yestuhrdey.

"Nevuhr soh I such fihts ov ahrmz. Az witnes Keymihrahr ov Struwpahrdon, whooh withe a greyt tooh-handed sowrd hyoohd of hiz enihmihz leg cluws tooh thih hip, suw hyoohj a bluw thih bleyd shihrd throoh leg and sadel and hohrs and ohl. And Stuhrcmuhr ov Blaqwood, raysing layc a devil awt ov a hihp ov sleyn men, and dhuwz helm wohz locen and a wohz blihdng from thrih ohr fowr greyt woohndz a held of a dusen o' thih Wichez widhz dedlih thrusts and sowrd-struw, til they had ihnuv and gheyv bac bihfowr him: twelv bihfowr wun, and hih ghiven uuvuhr fohr ded a whayl bihfowr. But ohl greyt dihdz cihmd trash bihsayd thih dihdz ov may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. In wun shohrt whayl had hih thrih taymz a hohrs sleyn stahrc ded unduhr him, yet gat nevuhr a woohnd himcelf, which wohz a mahrvcl. Fohr widhawt kehr hih ruwd throoh and eybawt, smaying dawn thehr champihonz. I maynd mih ov him wuns, widhz hohrs ript and kild unduhr him, and wun ov dhuwz Wichland lohrdz dhat tilted at him on thih grawnd az hih lihpt toohz fiht eygheyn; haw a coht thih spihr widhz tooh handz and bay meyn strength yuhrct hiz enihmih awt o' thih sadel. Prins Cahrguw it wohz, yun'ghest ov Cohrundz sunz. Long mey thih Wichland leydihz streyn thehr dihr ayz, theyl nehr cih yon hendih lad cum ceyling huwm eygheyn. Hiz haynes swohpt him such a swayp o' thih nec-buwn az hih picht tooh uhrth, thih hed ov him flyooh i' thih ehr layc a tenis bohl. And i' thih twincling ov an ay wohz may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah hohrst eygheyn onz enihmihz hohrs, and tuhrnd tooh chahrj em eynyoo. Yoohd cey hiz ahrm must feyl at laht fohr wihraynes, ov a man suw laythe and gimp tooh looc on. Yet I thhinc hiz laht struw i' dhat batel wohz not laytuhr dhan thih fuhrst. And stuwz and spihrz and sowrd-struw cihmd tooh cum upon him withe nuw mowr impreshon dhan bluwz withe a stroh wood ghiv tooh an adeymant.

"I nuw not haw long wohz dhat fayt eymung thih tents. Uwnlih twohz

thih best fayt I evuhr wohz at, and thih bludihest. And bay ohl
telingz towhz az greyt wuhrc o' thih udhuhr pahrt, whehr may Lohrd
and hiz fuwc foht thehr wey up on tooh thih Sayd. But ov dhat wih
nyooh nuthhing. Yet suhrteyn it iz wih had ohl bihn ded men had may
Lohrd not thehr prihveyld, az suhrteyn tiz hih had nevuhr suw
prihveyld but fohr awr chahrging ov thehr flank when they fuhrst
advahnst eygheynst him. But in dhat lahst awr ohl wih dhat foht
eymung thih tents thoht ich man uwnlih ov this, haw hih mayt
sley yet wun mowr Wich, and yet eygheyn wun mowr, eyfowr hih
shood day. Fohr Cohrinyus in dhat awr poot fowrth hiz mayt tooh
crush us; and fohr evihrih enihmih thehr feld tooh uhrth tooh mowr
cihmd tooh bih reydz up eygheynst us. And awr uwn fuwc fel fahst,
and thih tents dhat wuhr suw whayt wuhr wun gowr ov blod.

"When I wohz a litel taynih boy, fahdhuhr, wih had a spowrt, swimming
in thih dihp poohlz ov Tayvehrandahrwohtuhr, dhat wun boy wood cach
tudhuhr and huwld him unduhr til hih cood nuw mowr fohr wohnt ov
breth. Methhinx thehrz nuw longing i' thih wuhrlld suw sowr az thih
longing fohr ehr when hih dhat iz stron'guhr dhan dhaw gripeth
thih stil unduhr thih wohtuhr, nohr nuw gladnes i' thih wuhrlld layc
thih bonih swiht ehr i' dhay lungz eygheyn when a leteth thih
shooht up tooh thih frih deylayt. Towhz rayt suw withe us, whooh had
naw ced eyjooh tooh huwp and soh ohl lost ceyv layf itelf, and
dhat not layc tooh tarih long; when wih huhrd sudenlih thih thunduhr
ov may Lohrdz trumpet sawnding tooh thih chahrj. And ehr awr
stahrtdeld wits mayt raytlih thhinc whoht dhat pohrtended, wohz thih
whuwl suhrging batel whipt and scatuhrd layc thih wohtuhr ov a
leyc coht up in a whayt sqwohl; and dhat mast strength ov
thih enihmih which had invested us rawnd withe suw greyt a strihm ov
shot and stihl rihld fuhrst fohrwohrd then baqwohrd then fohrwohrd
eygheyn upon us, confawnded in a vahst confyoohzhon. I traw nyooh
strength keym tooh awr ahrmz; I traw awr sowrdz uwpend thehr
mawths. Fohr nohrthwohrd wih biheld thih ensayn ov Gheyling strihming
layc a bleysing stahr; and may Lohrdz celf in a muwment, hay

advahnst eybuv thih rawt, and Sig, and Astahr, and hundredz ov awr hohrs, hyoohing thehr wey toohwohrd us whaylz wih hyoohd toohwohrdz

them. And naw wohz rihping taym fohr us, and taym ov peyment fohr ohl dhuwz wihrih bludih awrz wih had held on tooh layf withe awr tihth eymung thih tents on Crothihring Sayd, whayl they o' thih udhuhr pahrt, may Lohrd and hiz, had withe ohl thih odz ov thih grawnd eygheynst them peynfoohlih and yahrd bay yahrd foht awt thih fayt tooh victohrih. And naw, ehr wih wel wist ov it, thih dey wohz wun, and thih victohrih awrz, and thih enihmih bruwken and poot tooh suw

greyt a rawt az hath not bihn cihn bay living man.

"Dhat fohls king Cohrinyus, ahftuhr hih had tarihd tooh cih thih end ov thih batel, fled withe a fyoooh ov hiz men awt ov thih greyt slohtuhr, and az it leytuhr eypihrd gat him ashipbowrd in Ohrwath hahrbohr and withe thrih ships ohr fowr eskeypt tooh cih. But thih muwst ov thehr fliht wohz buhrnd thehr in thih hahrbohr tooh ceyv it from awr handz.

"May Lohrd gheyv cuwmahnd tooh teyc up thih woohnded and tend em, frend and fuw eylayc. Eymung them wohz King Laxus teyen up, stund withe a meys-bluw ohr sum such. Suw they broht him bihfowr thih lohrdz whehr they rested a litel wey dawn thih Sayd eybuv thih huwm mihdz ov Crothihring.

"Hih looct em ohl in thih ay, muwst prawd and suwljuhr-layc. Then a ceyth untooh may Lohrd, It mey bih peyn, but nuw sheym tooh us tooh bih vanqwisht ahftuhr suw ihqwal and suw greyt a fayt. Hihrin uwnlih dooh I bleym may il luc, dhat it dihnayd mih fohl in batel. Dhaw meyst naw, O Jus, strayc of may hed fohr thih trihzon I roht yooh thrih yihrz eyguw. And cins I nuw thih ov a cuhrchaws and nuwbel neychoohr, Ayl not scohrn tooh ahsc ov thih this cuhrtihcih, not tooh tarih but teyc it naw.'

"May Lohrd stood thehr layc a wohr-hohrs ahftuhr a brihdhuhr. Hih tooc him bay thih hand. 'O Laxus,' ceyth hih, 'I ghiv thih not dhay hed uwnlih, but dhay sowrd;' and hihr a gheyv it him hilt-fowrmuwst. Fohr dhay dihlingz withe us in thih batel ov Cahrtadzah, let taym dhat hath an ahrt tooh meyc dust ov ohl thhingz suw dooh withe thih memohrih ov thihz. Cins then, dhaw hast shuwn dhaycelf stil awr nuwbel enihmih; and suw shal wih eycawnt thih stil.'

"Thehrwithe may Lohrd cuwmahnded bring King Laxus dawn tooh thih cih, and ship him eybohrd ov a buwt, fohr Cohrinyus stil held of thih land withe hiz ships, weyting nuw dawt tooh cih if hih ohr enih udhuhr ov hiz fuwc cood yet bih ceyvd.

"But az King Laxus wohz upon pahrting, may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, spihking withe greyt shuw ov kehrlesnes az ov sum trayfling matuhr a had bay chahns cohld tooh maynd, May lohrd,' ceyth hih, 'I nehr ahsc feyvohr ov enih man. Uwnlih in a manuhr ov rihtuhrn ov cuhrtihcihz, methoht dhaw maytst bih wiling tooh behr may ceylyoohteyshonz tooh Cohrinyus, cith Ayv nuw udhuhr mecenjuhr.'

"Laxus ahncihreth hih wood frihlih dooh it. Then ceyth hiz haynes, Cey tooh him I wil not bleym him dhat hih eybuwd us not i' thih fihld ahftuhr thih batel wohz lost, fohr dhat had bihn a cimpel pahrt, flatlih gheynst ohl maximz ov rayt suwljuhrship, and but tooh cahst hiz layf eywey. But frihkish Fohrchoohn I bleym, dhat twaynd us wun from thih udhuhr when wih shood hav delt toohghedhuhr this dey. Hih hath bowrn him in may hohlz, I am let tooh nuw, mowr i' thih fashon ov a swayn ohr a bihstlih eyp dhan a man. Prey him cum ashowr ehr yooh ceyl huwm, dhat I and hih, withe nuw man els tooh meyc betwixt us, mey cahst up awr eycawnt. Wih swehr him pihs and grith and a ceyf conduct bac toohz ships if hih prihveyl eygheynst mih ohr if I suw yoohz him dhat hih cray fohr

muhrcih. If hihl not teyc this ofuhr, then iz hih a dahstahrd; and thih whuwł wuhrlđ shal suw acleym him.'

"Suhr,' ceyth Laxus, Ayl puncchooheylih dischahrj dhay meceyj.'

"Whedhuhr hih did suw ohr nuw, fahdhuhr, I nuw not. But if hih did, it cihmeth it wohz litel tooh Cohrinyoohcez layking. Fohr nuw soohnuhr had hiz ship teyen Laxus eybohrđ, dhan shih hoyzd ceyl and poot awt intooh thih dihp, and suw good-bay."

Thih yung man cihst, and they wuhr ohl thrih saylent awhayl. A feynt brihz ripeld thih fuwliheyj ov thih uwqwoodz ov Tayvehrandahrdeyl. Thih sun wohz dawn bihaynd thih steytlih Thohrnbox, and thih whuwł scay from bowrn tooh bowrn wohz eylayt withe thih suncet glowrih. Dapeld clawdz, withe scay shuwng hihr and thehr betwihn, cuvuhrd thih hevenz, ceyv in thih west whehr a greyt ahrchwey ov clihr ehr uwpnd betwihn clawdz and uhrth: ehr ov an azhoohr dhat cihmd tooh buhrn, suw pyoohr it wohz, suw dihp, suw chahrjd withe wohrmth: not thih hahrsh blyooh ov noohn-dey nohr thih sumpshaws dihp ihstuhrn blyooh ov apruwching nayt, but a brayt hevenlih blyooh bohrdihring on grihn, dihp, tenduhr, and delaykeyt az thih spirit ov ihvihning. Athwohrt thih midst ov dhat winduw ov thih west a bleyd ov clawd, hahrd-ejd and jaghed withe tihth culohrd az ov layv cuwlz and ded, fayrih and ayrn-dahrc in tuhrn, strecht layc a batuhrd sowrd. Thih clawdz eybuw thih ahrch wuhr peyl ruwz: thih senith layc blac uwpal, dahrc blyooh and thundihras grey dapeld withe fayr.

27. Thih Cecond Expihdishon tooh Impland

HAW THIH LOHRD JUS, NOT TOO H BIH PUHRWEYDED FROM HIZ
CET PUHRPUWS,
FAWND, WHEHR LIHST IT WO HZ TOO H BIH LOOCT FOHR,
UPHUWLDING IN DHAT
RIHZOLV; AND OV THIH CEYLING OV THIH AHRMEYMENT TOO H
MYOOHLVAH BAY WEY OV
THIH STREYTS OV MIHLAYCAFCAZ.

Dhat wohz thih lahst embuhr ov red sumuhr buhrning when they cut them dhat hahrvest on Crothihring Sayd. Ohtum keym, and wintuhr munths, and thih lengthhihning deyz ov thih rihtuhrning yih. And withe thih fuhrst breth ov spring wuhr thih hahrbohrz fild withe ships ov wohr, suw menih az had nevuhr in fohrmuhr deyz bihn cihn in thih land, and in evihrih cuntraysayd from thih westuhrn Aylz tooh Bayland, from Shalgreth and Kihlayland tooh thih hedlandz unduhr Raymon Ahrmon, wuhr suwljuhrz gadhuhrd withe thehr hohrcez and ohl instroohments ov wohr.

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ruwd from thih west, thih dey thih Pahsc flawuhrz fuhrst uwpend on thih blufs bihluw Uhrn'gheyt End and primruwsez meyd swiht thih buhrch-fohrests in Gashtuhrndeyl. Hih cet fowrth bihtaymz, and hahrd hih ruwd, and hih ruwd intooh Gheyling bay thih

Layon Gheyt eybawt thih awr ov noohn. Thehr wohz Lohrd Jus in hiz prayveyt cheymbuhr, and grihted him withe greyt joy and luv. Suw Brandokh Deyhah ahsct, "Whoht spihd?" And Jus ahnsuhrd, "Thuhrtih ships and fayv afluw in Looking'heyven, whehrov ohl ceyv fowr bih dragonz ov wohr. Sig I expect toohmohruw withe thih Kihlayland levihz; Spitfayr layeth at Awlswic withe fiftihn hundred men

from thih sawthlandz; Vol keym in but thrih awrz cins withe fowr hundred mowr. In sum, Ayl hav fowr thawzand, recuwning ships cumpeynihz and awr uwn bodaygahrdz."

"Eyt ships ov wohr hav I," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "in Struwpahrdon Fuhrth, ohl busct and bawn. Fayv mowr at Ohrwath, fayv at Lohrneyghey in Mohrvih, and thrih on thih Mihland cuwst at Stacrey Oys, bihsaydz fowr mowr in thih Aylz. And I hav cixtih hundred spihrmn and cix hundred hohrs. Ohl thihz shal cum toohghedhuhr tooh joyn withe dhayn in Looking'heyven at thih snaping ov may fin'guhrrz, ghiv mih but ceven deyz nuwtays."

Jus gript him bay thih hand. "Behr wuhr may bac widhawt thih," hih ced.

"In Crothihring Ayv shifted not a stuwn nohr swept not a cheymbuhr clihn," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Tiz a muc-pit. Evihrih manz hand I mayt cuwmahnd I cet uwnlih tooh this. And naw tiz redih." Hih tuhrnd shahrp toohwohrd Jus and looct at him a minyooht in saylens. Then withe a gravaytih dhat sat not often on hiz lips hih ced, "Let mih bih uurgent withe thih wuns mowr: strayc and dihley not. Dooh him not eygheyn dhat cayndnes wih did him eyfowrtaym, fribling awr strength eywey on thih cuhrst showrz ov Impland, and bay thih chahrmd wohtuhrz ov Reyvehrih, suw az hih mayt az cihcyoohr az slihp cend Cohrsus hidhuhr and Cohrinyus tooh wuhrc havoc i' thih land; and suw poot on us thih greytest sheym wohz evuhr leyd on mohrtal men, and wih not bred up tooh sufuhr sheym."

"Dhaw ceydst ceven deyz," ced Jus. "Snap dhay fin'guhrrz and cohl up dhay ahrmihz. Ayl dihley thih not an awr."

"Ay, but I mihn tooh Cahrcih," ced hih.

"Tooh Cahrcih, whidhuhr els?" ced Jus. "But Ayl teyc may brudhuhr

Guwldrih withe us."

"But I mihn fuhrst tooh Cahrcih," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Let may uwpinyon swey thih wuns. Whay, a scoolboy shood tel thih, clihr dhay flanc and rihr ehr dhaw guw fohrwohrd."

Jus smayld. "I luv this nyoooh gahrb ov cohshon, cusin," ced hih; "it duth muwst pritaylih bihcum thih. I qweschon dhuw whedhuhr this bih not thih trooh cohz: dhat Cohrinyus tooc not up dhay chalenj lahst sumuhr, but let it lay, and dhat hath left thih hun'grih stil."

Brandokh Deyhah looct him saydlong in thih ay, and lahft. "O Jus," hih ced, "dhaw hast tucht mih nihr. But tiz not dhat. Dhat wohz in thih wihrd dhat brayt leydh leyd on mih, in thih sparuw-hohc cahcel in Impland fohrlorn: dhat hih I held muwst in heyt shood roohin may fehr lohrdship, and dhat tooh may hand shood venjans bih dihnayd. Dhat I ihn must brooc. O nuw. Thhinc uwnlih, dihleyz ahr deyn'gihraws. Cum, bih advayzd. Bih not myoohlish."

But thih Lohrd Jucez feys wohz greyv. "Uhrj mih nuw mowr, dihr frend," ced hih. "Dhaw slihpst soft. But tooh mih, when I am cahst in may fuhrst slih, cumeth menih a taym thih laycnes ov Guwldrih Bluzcuw, held bay a meylifishal chahrm on thih mawnteyn top ov Zohrah Rakh, dhat standeth eypahrt, awt ov thih sunlayt, awt ov ohl sawnd ohr wohrmth ov layf. Long eyguw I meyd vaw tooh tuhrn naydhuhr tooh thih rayt nohr tooh thih left, until I cet him frih."

"Hih iz dhay brudhuhr," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Ohlsuw iz hih mayn uwn feymilihahr frend, whoohm I luv skehrs les dhan thih. But when dhaw spihxt ov uwths, rihmembuhr thehrz Lah Fayrihz tooh. Whoht shal hih thhinc on us ahftuhr awr uwths tooh him thrih yihrz eyguw, dhat nayt in Cahrcih? Yet this wun bluw shood rayt him

tooh."

"Hih wil unduhrstand," ced Jus.

"Hih iz tooh cum withe Gazlahrc, and dhaw tuwldst mih dhaw dust ihn naw expect them," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Ayl lihv yooh. I keynot fohr sheym cey tooh him, Peyshens, frend, troohlih tiz not tooh-dey convihnyent. Dhaw shalt bih peyd in taym.' Bay hevenz, Ayd scohrn tooh entriht may mantel-meycuhr suw. And this awr frend dhat lost ohl and lan'gwisheth in exayl bihcohz hih ceyvd awr layvz."

Suw ceying, hih stood up in greyt discontent and ayr az if tooh lihv thih cheymbuhr. But Jus coht him bay thih rist. "Dhaw dust upbreyd mih muwst unjustlih, and wel dhaw nuwst it in dhay hahrt, and tiz dhat meyx thih suw an'grih. Hahrc, thih hohrn sawndeth at thih gheyt, and tiz fohr Gazlahrc. Ayl not let thih guw."

"Wel," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "hav dhay wil. Uwnlih ahsc not mih tooh plihd dhay roten keys tooh them. If I spihc it shal bih tooh sheym thih. Naw dhawrt wohrnd."

Naw went they intooh thih hay presens cheymbuhr, whehr wuhr brayt leydihz not a fyoooh, and capteynz and nuwbel puhersonz from up and dawn thih land, and stood on thih deysis. Gazlahrc thih king wohct up thih shaying flowr, and bihaynd him hiz capteynz and cawnsaylohrz ov Goblinland wohct tooh bay tooh. Thih Prins Lah Fayrihz struwd at hiz elbuw, prawd az a layon.

Blaydhlih they grihted dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland dhat ruwz up tooh griht them bihniht thih stahrih canuwpih, and thih Leydih Mevrihan dhat stood betwixt huhr brudhuhr and Lohrd Jus suw az twuhr hahrd tooh cey which ov thih thrih wohz fehrest tooh looc on, suw much they difuhrd in thehr byoohtihz glowrih. Gruw, standing nihr, ced in

himself, "I nuw a fowrth. And wuhr shih but joynd withe thihz, then wuhr thih crawn ov thih whuwl uhrths luvlaynes fited in this wun cheymbuhr: in a rayt cahsket shoohrlih. And thih Godz in heven (if thehr bih Godz indihd) shood guw peyl fohr envih, having in thehr stahrih galihrih nuw fehr tooh mach withe thihz; not Fihbus Eypoluw, not thih cheyst Huntres, nohr thih fuwm-bohrn Qwihn huhrself."

But Gazlahrc, when hiz ay layted on thih long blac bihrd, thih lihn figyoohr slaytlih stoohping, thih palid braw, thih cuhrlz smoohdhd withe puhrfyoohtm un'gwents, thih cikel-layc nuwz, thih greyt liqwid ayz, thih lilih hand; hih, bihuwlding and nuwing thihz ov uwld, waxt in a muwment dahrc az thunduhr withe thih blud-rush bihnihth hiz sun-brawnd skin, and withe a greyt swihp snacht awt hiz sowrd, az if widhawt ghehr ohr bihwehr tooh thrust him throoh. Gruw stept heystaylih bac. But thih Lohrd Jus keym betwihn them.

"Let eyluwn, Jus," crayd Gazlahrc. "Nuwst not this feluw, whoht a vayl enihmih and vaypuhr wih hav hihr? A pritih puhrfyoohtm vileyn! whooh fohr suw menih yihrz did spin mih a thred ov menih cihdishonz and trubelz, whayl hiz smoohthe tung gat munih from mih stil. Bleced uwkeyzhon! Naw wil I let hiz suwl awt."

But thih Lohrd Jus leyd hiz hand on Gazlahrx sowrd-ahrm. "Gazlahrc," ced hih, "lihv of dhay reygez, and poot up dhay sowrd. A yihr eyguw thawdst dun mih nuw rong. But tooh-dey thawdst hav sleyn mih a man ov mayn uwn men, and a lohrd ov Dihmonland."

Naw when they had dun thehr grihtingz, they wohsht thehr handz and ceyt at dinuhr and wuhr nuwblih suhrvd and fihsted. And thih Lohrd Jus meyd pihs betwixt Gruw and Gazlahrc, ohlbihit twohz nuw layt tahsc tooh prihvayl upon Gazlahrc tooh fohrghiv him. Thehrahftuhr they rihtayrd them withe Gazlahrc and Lah Fayrihz intooh a cheymbuhr

eypahrt.

Gazlahrc thih king speyc and ced, "Nun can gheyncey it, O Jus, dhat this fayt yih wun lahst hahrvest tayd wohz thih greytest cihn on land thihz menih yihrz, and ov greytest conceqwens. But I hav huhrd a buhrd cing thehr shal bih yet greytuhr dihdz dun ehr menih moohnz bih pahst. Thehrfowr it iz wih keym hidhuhr tooh thih, I and Lah Fayrihz dhat bih yohr frendz from ov uwld, tooh prey thih let us guw withe thih on dhay qwest acros thih wuhrld ahftuhr dhay brudhuhr, fohr sohruw ov whoohz los thih whuwl wuhrld lan'gwisheth; and thehrahftuhr let us guw withe yooh on yohr guwing up tooh Cahrcih."

"O Jus," ced thih Prins, "wih wood not in ahftuhr-deyz dhat men shood cey, On such a taym fehrd thih Dihmonz intooh peraylaws landz enchahnted and bay thehr strength and valohrawsnes cet frih thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw (ohr haplih, thehr ended thehr layfs deyz in dhat glowrihaws qwest); but Gazlahrc and Lah Fayrihz wuhr not in it, they bad thehr frendz fehrwel, hung up thehr sowrdz, and livd a qwayet and merih layf in Seygih Seycyoohluw. Suw let thehr memohrih bih fohrgot."

Lohrd Jus sat saylent a minyooht, az wun much moohvd. "O Gazlahrc," hih ced at length, "Ayl teyc dhayn ofuhr widhawt eynudhuhr wuhrd. But untooh thih, dihr Prins, I must behr mayn hahrt sumwhoht. Fohr dhaw hihr ahrt cum not strest in awr qwohrel tooh spend dhay blud, uwnlih tooh poot us yet dihpuhr in dhay det. And yet smohl bleym it wuhr tooh thih shoodst dhaw in daysonohreybel sohrt rihvayl mih, az menih shal cray awt eygheynst mih, fohr a fohls frend intooh thih and a frend fohrswohn."

But thih Prins Lah Fayrihz breyc in upon him, ceying, "I prithih hav dun, ohr thawlt sheym mih qwayt. Whohtehr I did in Cahrcih, twohz but ihqwal peyment fohr yohr ceyving ov may layf in Laydah

Nan'gyoohnah. Suw wohz ohl ihvend up betwixt us. Thhinc then nuw mowr ont, but dihnay mih not tooh guw withe yooh tooh Impland. But up tooh Cahrcih Ayl not guw withe yooh: fohr ohlbihit I am clihn bruwc withe Wichland, eygheynst Cohrund and hiz kin I wil not droh sowrd nohr eygheynst may leydih cistuhr. A blac cuhrs on thih dey I gheyv huhr whayt hand tooh Cohrund! Shih huwldeth tooh much ov awr stoc, methhinx: huhr heraldrih iz hahrts not handz. And ghiving huhr hand shih gheyv huhr hahrt. Tiz a streynj wuhrld."

"Lah Fayrihz," ced Jus, "wih wey not suw laytlih awr oblaygheyshon untooh thih. Yet must I huwld may cowrs; having swowrn a strong uwth dhat I wood tuhrn eysayd naydhuhr tooh thih rayt nohr tooh thih left until I had dihlivuhrd may dihr brudhuhr Guwldrih awt ov bondeyj. Suw swehr I ohr evuhr I went dhat il juhrnih tooh Cahrcih and wohz cluwzd in prizon fahst and bay thih dihlivuhrd. Nohr shal bleym ov frendz nohr rongfool misprizhon nohr enih pawuhr dhat iz sheyc mih in this dihtuhrmayneyshon. But when dhat iz dun, nuw rest rihmeyneth untooh us til wih win bac fohr thih dhay raytfoot relm ov Pixayland, and menih good thhingz bihsaydz tooh bih a tuwken ov awr luv."

Ced thih Prins, "Dhaw doohst rayt. If dhaw didst udhuhr thawdst hav may bleym."

"And mayn thehrtooh," ced Gazlahrc. "Dooch not I grihv, thhinxt dhaw, tooh cih thih Princes Ahrmihlayn, may swiht yung cusin, gruw evihrih dey mowr wohn o' thih chihc and peyl? And ohl fohr sohruw and tihn fohr huhr uwn trooh luv, thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw. And shih suw kehrfoohlih broht up bay huhr mudhuhr az nuthhing wohz tooh dihr ohr hahrd tooh bih broht tooh pahs fohr huhr dihzayr, thhinking dhat a crihchoohr suw nuwbel and puhrfect cood not bih treynd up tooh delaykeytlih. I dihm tooh-dey betuhr dhan tooh-mohruw, and tooh-mohruw betuhr dhan hiz mohruw, tooh cet ceyl fohr wayd-frunted

Impland."

Ohl this whayl thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ced nevuhr a wuhrd. Hih sat bac in hiz chehr ov ayvohrih and craysopreyz, naw toying withe hiz guwlden fin'guhr-ringz, naw twisting and untwisting thih yeluw cuhrlz ov hiz moostahshihuwz and bihrd. In a whayl hih yohnd, ruwz from hiz ciht and fel tooh peycing leyzaylih up and dawn. Hih had hicht up hiz sowrd acros hiz bac unduhr hiz tooh elbuwz, suw dhat thih shooh ov thih scabahrd stood awt unduhr wun ahrm and thih jooheld hilt unduhr thih udhuhr. Hiz fin'guhrz strumd litel choohnz on thih frunt ov thih rich ruwz velvet dublet dhat keyst hiz chest. Thih spring sunlayt az hih peyst from shayn tooh sheyd and tooh shayn eygheyn, pahcing thih tohl winduwz, cihmd tooh kehres hiz feys and fohrm. It wohz az if spring lahft fohr joy bihuwlding in him wun dhat wohz huhr uwn chayld, cluwdhd tooh awtwohrd vyoooh withe suw much luvlaynes and greys, but fool bihsaydz tooh thih ayz and fin'guhr-tips withe fayr and vaytal sap, layc huhr uwn budz buhrsting in thih Brancdeyl copaycez.

In a whayl hih cihst hiz wohking, and stood bay thih Lohrd Gruw whooh sat a litel pahrt from thih rest. "Haw thhinxt dhaw, Gruw, ov awr cawncelz? Ahrt dhaw fohr thih streyt ruwd ohr thih crooked? Fohr Cahrcih ohr Zohrah Rakh?"

"Ov thih ruwdz," ahnsuhrd Gruw, "a wayz man wil choohz evuhr dhat wun which iz indayrect. Fohr but conciduhr thih matuhr, dhaw dhat ahrt a greyt cragzman: thhinc awr layfs cowrs a loftih clif. I am tooh claym it, sumtaym up, sumtaym dawn. I prey, whidhuhr lihdeth thih streyt ruwd on such a clif? Whay, nuwhidhuhr. Fohr if I wil guw up bay thih streyt wey, tiz not posaybel; I am left gheyping whaylz dhaw bay crooked cowrcez hast gheynd thih top. Ohr if dawn, whay tiz ihsih and swift; but then, nuw mowr clayming evuhr mowr fohr mih. And dhaw, clambihring dawn bay thih crooked wey,

shalt faynd mih a ded and unsaytlih cohrops at thih botom."

"Gramuhrcih fohr dhay mihz and thihz," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

"Wel, tiz a muwst weytih prinsaypel, bact withe a muwst just and layvlih expuwsishon. Haw dust dhaw intuhrpret dhay maxim in awr present qweschon?"

Lohrd Gruw looct up at him. "May lohrd, yooh hav yoohzd mih wel, and tooh dihzuhrv yohr luv and advahns yohr fohrchoohnz I hav ponduhrd much haw yooh ov Dihmonland mayt best obteyn rihvenj upon yohr enihmihz. And I deyliah thhinking hihrupon, and concihving in may hed dayvuhrz aymeyjayneyshonz, can dihvayz nuw mihnz but wun dhat in may fancih cihmeth best, which iz this."

"Let mih hihr it," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah.

Ced Gruw, "Twohz evuhr a fohlt in yooh Dihmonz dhat yooh wood not puhrcihv haw tiz oft-taymz good tooh droh thih sneyc from huhr huwl bay eynudhuhr manz hand. Conciduhr naw yohr matuhr. Yooh hav a greyt fowrs buwth fohr land and cih. Trust not tooh much in dhat. Oft hath hih ov thih litel fowrs uwrcuwm muwst pawuhrfool enihmihz, guwing eybawt tooh entrap them bay slayt and polayciah. But conciduhr yet eygheyn. Yooh hav a thhing iz maytihuhr fahr dhan ohl yohr hohrcez and spihrmen and dragonz ov wohr, maytihuhr dhan dhayn uwn sowrd, may lohrd, and dhaw eycawnted thih best sowrdzman in ohl thih wuhrld."

"Whoht thhing iz dhat?" ahsct hih.

Gruw ahnsuhrd, "Rihpyoohteyshon, may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. This rihpyoohteyshon ov yooh Dihmonz fohr uwpen dihlingz ihven tooh yohr wuhrst enihmihz."

"Tush," ced hih. "Tiz but awr wey i' thih wuhrld. Mowruwvuhr, tiz, I thhinc, a thhing nachoohral in greyt puhersonz, ov whohtsuwevuhr cuntrih they bih bohrn. Trechihrih and dubel dihling pruwcihd comonlih from fihr, and dhat iz a thhing which I thhinc nuw man in this land comprihendeth. Maycelf, I dooh thhinc dhat when thih hay Godz meyd a puherson ov may qwohlaytih they treyst twihn hiz tooh ayz sumthhing, I nuw not whoht, which thih comon sohrt duhrst not looc upon widhawt trembling."

"Ghiv mih but lihv," ced Lohrd Gruw, "and Ayl pluc yooh a breyvuhr trayumf in a litel awr dhan yohr sowrdz shood win yooh in tooh yihrz. Spihc smoohthe wuhrdz tooh Wichland, ofuhr him compuwsishon, bring him tooh a cawncil and ohl hiz greyt men eylong withe him. Ayl suw dihvayz it, they shal ohl bih sudenlih teyken of in a nayt, haplih bay ceting upon them in thehr bedz, ohr az wih mey faynd muwst convihnyent. Ohl ceyv Cohrund and hiz sunz; them wih mey wayzlih spehr, and conclyoohd pihs withe them. It shal not bay ten deyz dihley yohr ceyling tooh Impland, whidhuhr yooh mayt then pruwcihd withe layt hahrts and mayndz sat ihz."

"Verih pritaylih concihvd, upon may suwl," ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Mayt I advayz thih, thawdst best not tohc tooh Jus i' this manuhr. Not naw, I mihn, whayl hiz mayndz suw bent on matuhrz ov weyt and muwment. Nohr I shood not cey it tooh may cistuhr Mevrihan. Wimen wil oft-taymz teyc in sad uhrnest such a conciht, dhuw it bih but tohc and discowrs. Withe mih tiz udhuhrwayz. I am sumthhing ov a faylosuwfuhr maycelf, and dhay gest ambleth withe may hyoohmohr verih plezantlih."

"Dhaw ahrt plihzd tooh bih merih," ced Lohrd Gruw. "Menih ehr naw, az thih ihvent hath proohvd, rihgected may whuwlsum cawncelz tooh thehr uwn greyt huhrt."

But Brandokh Deyhah ced laytlih, "Fih not, may Lohrd Gruw, wihl rihgect nuw onest rihdz ov suw wayz a cawncihlohr az dhaw. But," and hihr wohz a layt in thih ay ov him meyd Gruw stahrtel, "did enih man withe cihrihaws intent dehr bid mih dooh a dahstahrd dihd, hih shood hav may sowrd throoh thih dihrest pahrt ovz bodih."

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah naw tuhrnd him tooh thih rest ov them. "Jus," ced hih, "frend ov may hahrt, mihcihmeth yahr ohl ov wun maynd, and nun ov may maynd. Ayl ihn bid yooh fehrwel. Fehrwel, Gazlahrc; fehrwel, Lah Fayrihz."

"But whidhuhr eywey?" ced Jus, standing up from hiz chehr. "Dhaw must not lihv us."

"Whidhuhr but tooh mayn uwn pleys?" ced hih, and wohz gon from thih cheymbuhr.

Gazlahrc ced, "Hihz much incenst. Whoht hast dhaw dun tooh an'guhr him?"

Mevrihan ced tooh Jus, "Ayl foluw and coohl him." Shih went, but soohn rihtuhrnd ceying, "Nuw eyveyl, may lohrdz. Hih iz riden fowrth from Gheyling and eywey az fahst az hiz hohrs mayt carih him."

Naw wuhr they ohl in a greyt schooh, sum con'gechoohring wun thhing and sum eynudhuhr. Uwnlih thih Lohrd Jus kept saylens and a cahlm cawntihnans, and thih Leydih Mevrihan. And Jus ced at length tooh Gazlahrc, "This it iz, dhat hih cheyfeth at evihrih deyz dihley dhat leteth him from having at Cohrinyus. Suhrts, Ayl not bleym him, nuwing thih vayl injoohrihz thih feluw did him and hiz insuwlens toohwohrd thih, madam. Bih not trubeld. Hiz uwn celf shal bring him bac tooh mih when taym iz, az nuw udhuhr pawuhr shood dooh gheynst hiz good wil; hih whoohz greyt hahrt Heven keynot fowrs withe fowrs."

And ihven suw, thih next nayt ahftuhr, when fuwc wuhr eybed and aslihp, Jus, in hiz hay bed-cheymbuhr citing leyt at hiz booc, huhrd a braydel ring. Suw hih cohld hiz boyz tooh guw withe him withe tohrchez tooh thih gheyt. And thehr in thih dahncing tohrch-layt keym thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah a-rayding intooh Gheyling Cahcel, and sumwhoht ov thih bignes ov a greyt pumpkin tayd in a cilken cloth hung at hiz sadel-buw. Jus met him in thih gheyt eyluwn. "Let mih dawn from may hohrs," hih ced, "and rihcihv from mih dhay bedfeluw dhat dhaw must slihp withe bay thih Leyc ov Reyvehrih."

"Dhaw hast goten it?" ced Jus. "Thih hipogrifs eg, awt ov Joohl Tahrn, bay dhaycelf eyluwn?" and hih tooc thih bundel rayt tenduhrlih in hiz tooh handz.

"Ay," ahnsuhrd hih. "Twohz whehr dhaw and I meyd shoohr ov it lahst sumuhr, eycohrding tooh thih wuhrd ov huhrlitel mahrtlet dhat fuhrst fawnd it fohr us. Thih tahrn wohz fruwsen and twohz trikih wuhrc dayving and muwst vileynaws cuwld. It iz smohl mahrvel dhawrt a lukih man in dhayn unduhrteykingz, O Jus, when dhaw hast such an ahrt tooh droh dhay frendz tooh cecond thih."

"I thoht thawdst not lihv mih," ced Jus.

"Thoht?" crayd Brandokh Deyhah. "Didst evuhr drihm Ayl sufuhr thih tooh dooh dhay foohlishnihcez eyluwn? Ney, Ayl cum fuhrst tooh thih enchahnted leyc withe thih, and let bih Cahrcih i' thih mihntaym. Hawbihit Ayl dooh it gheynst thih strihm ov may rihzuwlyoohshon qwayt."

Naw wohz but cix deyz mowr ov prihpehreyshon, and on thih cecond dey ov Eypril wohz ohl redih in Looking'heyven fohr thih ceyling ov dhat

maytih ahrmeyment: fiftih and nayn ships ov woehr and fayv ships ov buhrthen and thrays tooh thawzand fayting men.

Leydih Mevrihan sat on huhr milc-whayt mehr uwwuhrlooking thih hahrbohr

whehr thih ships ohl ohrduhrlih ruwd at ancohr, shaduwih grey eygheynst thih sun-brayt shimuhr ov thih cih, withe hihr and thehr a splash ov culohr, crimzon ohr blyooh ohr grahs-grihn, from thehr peynted hulz ohr a bihm ov thih sun glahncing from thehr guwlden mahsts ohr figyoohr-hedz. Gruw stood at huhr braydel-reyn. Thih Gheyling

ruwd, waynding dawn from Heyvuhrshoh Tung, ran cluws bihluw them and suw eylong thih cih-showr tooh thih kihz at Looking'heyven. Eylong dhat ruwd thih hahrd uhrth rang withe thih tramp ov ahrmd men and thih tramp ov hohrcez, and thih layt west wind wohfted tooh Gruw and Mevrihan on thehr grahcih hil snachez ov dihp-voyst batel-chahnts ohr thih galuwping nuwts ov trumpet and payp and thih drum dhat cets menz hahrts a-throb.

In thih van ruwd thih Lohrd Sig, fowr trumpihtuhrz wohking bihfowr him in guwld and puhrpel. Hiz ahrmohr from chin tooh tuw shon withe cilvuhr, and joohelz bleyzd on hiz gohrget and bohldric and thih hilt ov hiz long streyt sowrd. Hih ruwd a blac stalihon saveyj-ayd withe ihrz leyd bac and a teyl dhat swept thih uhrth. A greyt cumpeynih ov hohrs foluwd him, and hahf az menih tohl spihrmen, in rucet ledhuhr juhrkinz pleyted withe brahs and cilvuhr. "Thihz," ced Mevrihan, "bih ov Kihlayland and thih showr-stedz ov Aruwfuhrth, and hiz uwn vaceyleyj from Ramihric and Eymeydahrdeyl. Dhat iz Hespuhr Golthring raydeth a litel bihaynd him on hiz rayt hand; hih luveth tooh thhingz in this wuhrld, a good hohrs and a swift ship. Hih on thih left, hih o' thih helm ov dul cilvuhr cet withe reyvenz wingz, suw long ov thih leg thawdst cey if hih ruwd a litel hohrs hih mayt stradel and wohc it: Stuhrcmuhr ov Blaqwood. Hih iz ov awr kin;

not yet twentieth yihrz uwld, yet cins Crothihring Sayd eycaunted wun ov awr eyblest."

Suw shih shuwd him ohl az they ruwd bay, Peraydohr ov Shoohl, capteyn ov thih Mihlanduhrz, and hiz nefyooch Stipmahr. Fendohr ov Shalgreth withe Ihmihron Galt hiz yung brudhuhr, dhat wohz nyoohlih hihld from thih greyt woohnd Cohrinyus gheyv him at Crothihring Sayd; thihz lihding thih shephuhrdz and huhrdzmen from thih greyt hihths nohrth ov Swichwohtuhr, whooh wil huwld bay thih stirup and suw withe thehr layt bucluhrz and litel brawn sowrdz guw intooh batel withe thih hohrsmen fool galop eygheynst thih enihmih. Brihmihrih in hiz ramz-hohrn helm ov guwld and broyduhrd suhrcuwt ov scahrlet velvet, lihding thih deylzmen from Onwohrdlaythe and Tayvehrandahrdeyl. Trentmahr ov Scohreydeyl withe thih nohrth-ihstuhrn levihz from Bayland and thih Strandz and Breykingdeyl. Astahr ov Retrey, lihn and laythe, buwnih-feyst, galant-ayd, whayt ov skin, withe brayt red hehr and bihrd, rayding hiz luvlih ruwn at thih hed ov tooh cumpeynihz ov spihrmen withe hyooohj ayrn-studed shihldz: men from eybawt Drepeybih and thih sawth-ihstuhrn deylz, landed men and huwm-men ov Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw. Then thih ayland dweluhrz from thih west, withe uwld Qwaz ov Dalnih rayding in thih pleys ov onohr, nuwbel tooh looc on withe hiz snuwih bihrd and shaying ahrmohr, but yun'guhr men thehr trooh lihduhrz in wohr: Melkhahr ov Stroohfih, greyt-chested, fihrs-ayd, withe thhic brawn cuhrling hehr, hohrst on a plun'ging chesnut, hiz buhrnih brayt withe guwld, a rich mantel ov crihmih cilc bruwkeyd flung eybawt hiz ampel shuwlduhrz, and Thahrmod on hiz litel blac mehr withe cilvuhr buhrnih and bats-wingd helm, hih dhat held Kihnahrvih in fih fohr Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, kihn and redih layc an aruw drohn tooh thih bahrbz. And ahftuhr them thih Westmahrc men, withe Ahrnund ov Bay thehr capteyn. And ahftuhr them, fowr hundred hohrs, not tooh bih suhrpahst fohr byoohtih ohr ohrduhrd ehrey bay enih in dhat

greyt ahrmih, and yung Keymihrahr rayding at thehr hed, buhrlih az a jayant, streyt az a lahns, eypareld layc a king, behring on hiz maytih spihr thih penon ov thih Lohrd ov Crothihring.

"Looc wel on thihz," ced Mevrihan az they pahst bay. "Awr uwn men ov thih Sayd and Thunduhrfuhrth and Struwpahrdon. Dhaw meyst suhrch thih wayd wuhrld and not faynd thehr layc fohr spihd and fayr and ohl wohrlayc goodlaynes and redaynes tooh thih wuhrd ov cuwmahnd. Dhaw looxt sad, may lohrd."

"Madam," ced Lohrd Gruw, "tooh thih ihr ov wun dhat yoohseth, az I yoohs, tooh conciduhr thih vanaytih ov ohl hay uhrthlih pomps, thih myoohsic ov thihz pawuhrz and glowrihz hath a dihp unduhrdruwn ov sadnes. Kingz and guvuhrnohrz dhat dooh exult in strength and byoohtih and lustayhood and rich eyparel, shuwng themcelvz fohr awhayl upon thih steyj ov thih wuhrld and uwpen duwminyion ov hay heven, whoht ahr they but thih ghilded sumuhr flay dhat dihkeyeth withe thih daying dey?"

"May brudhuhr and thih rest must not stej fohr us," ced thih leydh. "They ment tooh guw eybohrd az soohn az thih ahrmih shood bih cum dawn tooh thih hahrbohr, fohr thehr ships bih tooh cejl awt fuhrst dawn thih fuhrth. Iz it dihtuhrmaynd indihd dhat dhaw guwst withe them on this juhrnih?"

"I had suw dihtuhrmaynd, madam," ahnsuhrd hih. Shih wohz bihghining tooh moohv dawn toohwohrdz thih ruwd and thih hahrbohr, but Gruw poot a hand on thih reyn and stopt huhr. "Dihr leydh," hih ced, "thihz thrih nayts toohghedhuhr I hav drihmd a drihm: a streynj drihm, and ohl thih pahrticyoohlahrz thehrov bihtuwkihning hevih anxayihth, incrihs ov peril, and saveyj mischihf; promaycing sum teraybel ishooh. Methhinx if I guw on this juhrnih dhaw shalt cih may feys nuw

mowr."

"O fay, may lohrrd," crayd shih, rihching him huhr hand, "ghiv nevuhr a thoht tooh such fond aymajayningz. Twohz thih moohn but glahncing in dhayn ay. Ohr if not, stey withe us hihr and chiht Feyt."

Gruw kist huhr hand, and kept it in hiz. "May Leydih Mevrihan," hih ced, "Feyt wil not bih chihted, cog wih nevuhr suw wayzlih. I dooh thhinc thehr bih not menih extant dhat in a nuwbel wey fihr thih feys ov deth les dhan maycelf. Ayl guw o' this juhrnih. Thehr iz but wun thhing shood tuhrn mih bac."

"And tiz?" ced shih, fohr hih fel saylent on a suden.

Hih pohzd, looking dawn at huhr gluvd hand resting in hiz. "A man bihcumeth howrs and dum," ced hih, "if a woolf hath thih advahnteyj fuhrst tooh ay him. Didst dhaw pruwcyoohr thih a woolf tooh dum mih when I wood tel thih? But I did wuns; ihnuf tooh let thih nuw. O Mevrihan, dust dhaw rihmembuhr Nevuhrdeyl?"

Hih looct up at huhr. But Mevrihan sat withe hed ihrect, layc huhr Peytruwnes dayvayn, withe swiht coohl lips cet fuhrm and stedih ayz fixt on thih heyven and thih rayding ships. Gentlih shih drooh huhr hand from Gruwz, and hih struwv not tooh rihteyn it. Shih ihzd fohrwohrd thih reynz. Gruw mawnted and foluwd huhr. They ruwd qwayetlih dawn tooh thih ruwd and suw sawthwohrd sayd bay sayd tooh thih

hahrbohr. Ehr they keym within ihrshot ov thih kih, Mevrihan speyc and ced, "Thawlt not thhinc mih greysles nohr fohrghetfool, may lohrrd. Ohl dhat iz mayn, O ahsc it, and Ayl ghiv it thih withe buwth handz. But ahsc mih not dhat I hav not tooh ghiv, ohr if I gheyv shood ghiv but fohls guwld. Fohr dhats a thhing not good fohr thih nohr mih, nohr I wood not dooh it tooh an enihmih, fahr les tooh thih may frend."

Naw wohz thih ahrmih ohl goten ashipbowrd, and fehrwelz ced tooh Vol and dhuwz whooh shood eybayd at huwm withe him. Thih ships ruwd awt intooh thih fuhrth ohl ohrduhrlih, thehr cilken ceylz unfuhrld, and dhat greyt ahrmement ceylld sawthwohrd intooh thih uwpen cihz unduhr a clihr scay. Ohl thih wey thih wind feyvohrd them, and they meyd a swift paceyj, suw dhat on thih thuhrtiheth mohrning from thehr ceyling awt ov Looking'heyven they sayted thih long grey clif-layn ov Impland thih Mowr dim in thih luw bluwn sprej ov thih cih, and ceylld throoh thih Strejts ov Mihlaycafcaz in colum eyhed, fohr skehrs mayt tooh ships pahs abrejt throoh dhat naruw wey. Blac presaypaycez shut in thih strejts on aydhuhr hand, and thih cih-buhrdz in thehr thawzandz whaytend evihrih litel lej ov dhuwz clifs layc snuw. Greyt flayts ov them ruwz and suhrkeld uwvuhred az thih ships sped bay, and thih ehr wohz fool ov thehr pleynts. And rayt and left, az ov yung wheylz bluwing, columz ov whayt sprej shot up continyooheylh from thih suhrfeys ov thih cih. Fohr thihz wuhr thih steytlih-wingd ganets fishing dhat cih-strejt. Bay thrihz and fowrz they flyooh, ihch foluwing udhuhr in ohrduhrd layn, menih mahst-hayts hay; and evuhr and eynon wun chect in huhr flayt az if a bolt had smiten huhr, and swoohpt hed-fowrmuwst withe wingz hahf-spred, layc a brohd-bahrbd dahrt ov dazling whaytnes, til at a fyoooh fiht eybuw thih suhrfeys shih clapt cluws huhr wingz and cleft thih wohtuhr withe a noyz az ov a greyt stuwncahst intooh thih cih. Then in a muwment up shih bobd, whayt and sproohs withe huhr prey in huhr gulet; ruwd thih weyvz a minyooht tooh rest and conciduhr; then withe greyt swihping wing-struw up eygheyn tooh rezhoohm huhr flayt.

Ahftuhr a mayl ohr tooh thih naruwz uwpend and thih clifs grooh luwuh, and thih fliht sped pahst thih red rihfs ov Yooheymnaz and thih

loftih stax ov Pashnihmahrthrah whayt withe cih-gulz on tooh thih blyooh solaychoohd ov thih Daydohrnyan Cih. Ohl dey they ceyle sawth-ihst withe a feyling wind. Thih cuwstlayn ov Mihlaycafcz fel eywey astuhrn, peyld in thih mists ov distans, and wohz lost tooh sayt, until uwnlih thih sqwehr cluwven awtlayn ov thih Pashnihmahrdhran aylandz bruwc thih level hohrayzon ov thih cih. Then thihz tooh sanc awt ov sayt, and thih ships ruwd on sawth-ihstwohrd in a ded cahlm. Thih sun stooht tooh thih westuhrn weyvz, entihring hiz bath ov blud-red fayr. Hih sanc, and ohl thih weyz wuhr dahrkend. Ohl nayt they ruwd gentlih on unduhr thih streynj sudhuhrn stahrz, and thih bruwken wohtuhrz ov dhat cih at evihrih ovr-struwc wuhr layc fayr buhrning. Then awt ov thih cih tooh ihstwohrd keym thih dey-stahr, ushiring thih dohn, braytuhr dhan ohl nayts stahrz, treyding a litel pahth ov guwld eylong thih wohtuhrz. Then dohn, filing thih luw ihstuhrn scayz withe a fliht ov taynih cokel-shelz ov brayt guwld fayr; then thih greyt feys ov thih sun ableyz. And withe thih guwing up ov thih sun a layt wind sprang up, belihing thehr ceylz on thih stahrbohrd tac; suw dhat ehr dey declaynd thih cih-clifs ov Myoohlvah hung whayt eybuw thih spreymist on thehr lahrbohrd baw. They bihcht thih ships on a whayt shel-strand bihaynd a hedland dhat sheltuhrd it from thih ihst and nohrth. Hihr thih barihuhr ov clifs stood bac a litel from thih showr, ghiving pleys fohr a fuhrtayl del ov grihn pahschohr, and woodz clustihring at thih foot ov thih clifs, and a litel spring ov wohtuhr in thih midst.

Suw fohr dhat nayt they slept on bowrd, and next dey meyd thehr camp, dischahrging thih ships ov buhrthen dhat wuhr leyden withe thih hohrcez and stuf. But thih Lohrd Jus wohz maynded not tooh tarih an awr mowr in Myoohlvah dhan shood syoohfays tooh ghiv ohl nihdfool ohrduhrz tooh Gazlahrc and Lah Fayrihz whoht they shood dooh and when

expect him eygheyn, and tooh meyc pruwvizhon fohr himcelf and dhuwz whooh must fehr withe him bihyond thihz shaduwing clifs intooh thih

hohnted weysts ov thih Mohroohnah. Ehr noohn wohz ohl this
eycumplisht and fehrwelz ced, and thihz lohrdz, Jus,
Spitfayr, and Brandokh Deyhah, cet fowrth eylong thih bihch
sawthwohrd toohwohrdz a poynt whehr it cihmd muwst huwpfool tooh
skeyl
thih clifs. Withe them went thih Lohrd Gruw, buwth bay hiz uwn wish
and bihcohz hih had nuwn thih Mohroohnah eyfowrtaym and thihz
pahrticyoohlahr pahrts thehrov; and withe them went bihsaydz dhuwz
tooh
brudhuhrz-in-loh, Sig and Astahr, behring thih preshaws buhrden ov
thih eg, fohr dhat onohr and trust had Jus leyd on them at
thehr uhrnest cihking. Suw withe sum peynz ahftuhr an awr ohr mowr
they wun up thih barihuhr, and hohltd fohr a minyooht on thih clifs
ej.

Thih skin ov Gruwz handz wohz huhrt withe thih shahrp rox. Tenduhrlih
hih drooh on hiz lamzwool gluvz, and shivuhrd a litel; fohr thih
breth ov dhat dezuhrt blyooh snel and frohr and thehr cihmd a
shaduw in thih ehr sawthwohrd, fohr ohl it wohz brayt and gentel
wedhuhz bihluw whens they wuhr cum. Yet ohlbihit hiz freyl bodih
qweyld, ihven suw wuhr hiz spirits within him reydz withe hay
and nuwbel aymajayingz az hih stood on thih lip ov dhat rokih
clif. Thih clawdles vohlt ov heven; thih unumbuhrd lahftuhr
ov thih cih; dhat qwayet cuwv bihniht, and dhuwz ships ov wohr and
dhat ahrmih camping bay thih ships; thih emptaynes ov thih blahsted
wuwldz tooh sawthwohrd, whehr evihrih roc cihmd layc a ded manz
scul and evihrih ranc tuft ov grahs hag-riden; thih behring ov
dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland whooh stood bihsayd him, az if noht
shood bih ov comuwnuhr cowrs tooh them puhshoohing thehr rihzolv
dhan tooh tuhrn thehr bax on living land and entuhr dhuwz rihjonz
ov thih ded; thihz thhingz withe a pawuhr az ov a maytih myoohsic
meyd Gruwz breth cach in hiz thruwt and thih tih spring in
hiz ay.

In such wayz ahftuhr mowr dhan tooh yhrz did Lohrd Jus bihghin hiz
cecond crocing ov thih Mohroohnah in qwest ov hiz dihr brudhuhr thih
Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw.

28. Zohrah Rakh Nam Sarihon

OV THIH LOHRD JUCEZ RAYDING OV THIH HIPOGRIF TOO
ZOHRAH RAKH, AND
OV THIH ILZ ENCAWNTUHRD BAY HIM IN DHAT EYCUHRST PLEYS,
AND THIH
MANUHR OV HIZ PUHRFOHRMING HIZ GREYT ENTUHRPRAYZ
TOOH DIHLIVUHR HIZ
BRUDHUHR AWT OV BONDEYJ.

Luld withe layt-stuhring ehrz tooh gentel-soft tooh rufel huhr
glahcih suhrfeys, wohrm incens-leyden ehrz swiht withe thih puhrfyoohm
ov aymohrtal flawuhrz, thih chahrmd Leyc ov Reyvehrih drihmd unduhr
thih moohn. It wohz thih lahst awr bihfowr thih dohn. Enchahnted
buwts, dhat cihmd bilded ov thih gluw-wuhrmz layt, drifted on
thih stahrih boozom ov thih leyc. Uwvuhr thih sluwping woodz thih limz
ov thih mawnteynz luwuhrd, unmezhoohrd, vahst, mistihrihaws in thih
moohnz glamohr. In rihmuwt hay speycez ov nayt bihyond glimuhrd
thih spayrz ov Coshtrah Pivraharkhah and thih vuhrgin snuwz ov
Romshuhr
and Coshtrah Bihlohrn. Nuw buhrd ohr bihst moohvd in thih stilnes:
uwnlih a naytin'gheyl cinging tooh thih stahrz from a copays ov
olayv-trihz nihr thih Qwihnz peyvilihon on thih ihstuhrn showr. And
dhat wohz a nuwt not layc a buhrdz ov midel uhrth, but a nuwt
tooh chahrmd dawn spirits awt ov thih ehr, ohr tooh wich thih

imperisheybel cencez ov thih Godz when they wood huwld
cuwmyoohnyon
withe huwlih Nayt and meyc huhr puhrfect, and ohl huhr lamps and
voycez puhrfect in thehr ayz.

Thih cilken hangingz ov thih peyvilihon dowr, pahrtng az in thih
pohrtal ov a vizhon, meyd wey fohr dhat Qwihn, fostuhrling ov thih
muwst hay Godz. Shih pohzd a step ohr tooh bihyond thih threshuwld,
looking dawn whehr dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland, Spitfayr and
Brandokh Deyhah, withe Gruw and Sig and Astahr, rapt in thehr
cluwx, ley on thih guweynih jooih banx dhat sluwpt dawn tooh thih
wohtuhrz ej.

"Aslihp," shih whispuhrd. "Ihven az hih within slihpeth eygheynst
thih dohn. I dooh thhinc it iz uwnlih in a greyt manz brest slihp
hath suw gentel a bed when greyt ihvents ahr toohwohrd."

Layc a lilih, ohr layc a moohnbihm streyd throoh thih lihfih roohf
intooh a saylent wood, shih stood thehr, huhr feys uplifted tooh thih
stahrih nayt whehr ohl thih ehr wohz drencht withe thih cilvuhr
reyjans ov thih moohn. And naw in a soft voys shih bihgan
suplaykeyshon tooh thih Godz which ahr from evuhrlahsting, cohling
upon them in tuhrn bay thehr huwlih neymz, upon grey-ayd Palas,
and Eypoluw, and Ahrtihmis thih fliht Huntres, upon Afruweekdayih, and
Hihrah, Qwihn ov Heven, and Ehrihz, and Huhrmihz, and thih
dahrc-trest Uhrthsheycuhr. Nohr wohz shih afreyd tooh adres huhr
huwlih prehrz tooh him whooh from hiz veyld powrch bihsayd Akihron
and Lethhih Leyc bayndz tooh hiz wil thih devilz ov thih unduhr-gloohm,
nohr tooh thih greyt Fahdhuhr ov Ohl in Whoohz sayt taym from thih
bihghining until tooh-dey iz but thih diping ov a wohnd intooh thih
bawndles uwshan ov ihtuhrnaytih. Suw preyd shih tooh thih bleced Godz,
muwst uhrnestlih reqwayring them dhat unduhr thehr cawntihnans
mayt bih dhat rayd, thih layc whehrov uhrth had not nuwn: thih
rayding ov thih hipogrif, not rashlih and bay an as az

hahrtoohfowr tooh hiz uwn destrucshon, but bay thih man ov men whooh withe clihn puhrrpuws and rihzuwlyoohshon undismeyd shood enfohrs it carih him tooh hiz hahrts dihzayr.

Naw in thih ihst bihyond thih fethihrih hiltops and thih greyt snuw wohl ov Romshuhr thih gheyts wuhr uwpihning tooh thih dey. Thih slihpuhrz weykend and stood up. Thehr wohz a greyt noyz from within thih peyvilihon. They tuhrnd wayd-ayd, and fowrth ov thih hangingz ov thih dowrwey keym dhat yung thhing nyoooh-hacht, peyl and dawtfoot az thih nyoooh layt which trembeld in thih scay. Jus wohct bihsayd it, hiz hand on thih safayr meyn. Hay and rezuwlyooht wohz hiz looc, az hih gheyv good-mohruw tooh thih Qwihn, tooh hiz brudhuhr and hiz frendz. Nuw wuhrd they ced, uwnlih in tuhrn gript him bay thih hand. Thih awr wohz upon them. Fohr ihven az dey strayding on thih ihstuhrn snuw-fihldz stohrmd nayt awt ov hay heven, suw and withe such swift incrihs ov splendohr wohz mayt bodaylih and thih dihzayr ov thih upuhr ehr bohrn in dhat wayld stihd. It shon az if layted bay a moohving lamp from withinwohrd, snift thih swiht mohrning ehr and whinihd, pohing thih grahs ov thih wohtuhr-sayd and tehring it up withe its clohz ov guwld. Jus pated thih crihchoohrz ahrching nec, looct tooh thih braydel hih had fited tooh its mawth, meyd shoohr ov thih fahcihningz ov hiz ahrmohr, and loohcend in thih scabahrd hiz greyt sowrd. And naw up sprang thih sun.

Thih Qwihn ced, "Rihmembuhr: when dhaw shalt cih thih lohrd dhay brudhuhr in hiz uwn sheyp, dhat iz nuw aylyoohzhon. Mistrust ohl els. And thih ohlmaytih Godz prihzuhrv and cumfohrt thih."

Thehrwithe thih hipogrif, az if madend withe thih dey-bihmz, plunjd layc a wayld hohrs, spred wayd its reynbuw pinyonz, rihrd, and tooc wing. But thih Lohrd Jus wohz sprung astrayd ov

it, and thih grip ov hiz nihz on thih ribz ov it wohz layc breysen clamps. Thih fuhrm land cihmd tooh rush eywey bihniht him tooh thih rihr; thih leyc and thih showr and aylandz thehrov shuwd in a muwment smohl and rihmuwt, and thih figyoohrz ov thih Qwihn and hiz companyonz layc toyz, then dots, then shrunken tooh nuthhingnes, and thih vahst saylens ov thih upuhr ehr uwpend and rihcihvd him intooh utuhr luwnlaynes. In dhat saylens uhrth and scay swuhrld layc thih wayn in a sheyken goblet az thih wayld stihd rokihted hayuhr and hayuhr in greyt spayralz. A clawd biluwih-whayt shut in thih scay bihfowr them; braytuhr and braytuhr it grooh in its dazling whaytnes az they sped toohwohrdz it, until they tucht it and thih glowrih wohz dayzolvd in a grey mist dhat grooh stil dahrcuhr and cuwlduhr az they flyooh til sudenlih they ihmuhrijd from thih fuhrdhuhr sayd ov thih clawd intooh a reyjans ov blyooh and guwld blaynding in its glowrih. Suw fohr a whayl they flyooh withe nuw cet dayrecshon, uwnlih evuhr hayuhr, til at length uwbihgent tooh Jucez mahstihrih thih hipogrif cihst from hiz spowrts and tuhrnd uwbihgentlih westwohrd, and suw in a swift streyt cowrs, mawnting evuhr, sped uwvuhr Reyvehrih toohwohrdz thih dihpahrting nayt.

And naw indihd it wohz az if they had veraylih uwvuhrteyken nayt in huhr westuhrn keyvz. Fohr thih ehr waxt dahrcuhr eybawt them and ohlweyz dahrcuhr, until thih greyt pihx dhat stood rawnd Reyvehrih wuhr hiden, and ohl thih grihn land ov Zaymihamvihah, withe its pleynz and waynding wohtuhrz and hilz and uplandz and enchahnted woodz, hiden and lost in an ihvil twaylayt. And thih upuhr heven wohz eytihm withe powrtents: whuwl ahrmihz ov men scuhrmishing in thih ehr, dragonz, wayld bihsts, bludih strihmuhz, bleysing comets, fayrih streyx, withe udhuhr eypehrishonz aynyoohmihreybel. But ohl saylent, and ohl cuwld, suw dhat Jucez handz and fiht wuhr numd withe thih cuwld and hiz moostahshihuwz stif withe howr-frost.

Bihfowr them naw, invizaybel til naw, loohmd thih gohnt pihc ov

Zohrah Rakh, blac, wintrih, and vahst, stil tawihring eybuv them fohr ohl they sowrd ihven hayuhr, grand and luwnlih eybuv thih fruwsen weyysts ov thih Sarihon Gleyshuhrz. Jus stehrd at dhat pihc til thih wind ov thehr flayt blaynded hiz ayz withe tihrz; but it wohz yet tooh fahr fohr enih glimps ov dhat which hih hun'guhrrd tooh bihuwld: nuw breysen citeydel, nuw cohruwnal ov fleyrn, nuw

wohchuhrr on thih hayts. Zohrah, layc sum dahrc qwihn ov Hel dhat disdeynz dhat prihzumpshaws mohrtal ayz shood dehr tooh looc luvlih on huhrr dred byoohtihz, drooh acros huhrr brow a veyl ov thunduhrrclawd. They flyoooh on, and dhat stihl-blyoooh pohl ov thundihraws veypohrr ruwld fowrrth til it canuwpihd ohl thih scay eybuv them. Jus tuct hiz tooh handz fohrr wohrmth intooh thih fethihrih ahrmpits ov thih hipogrifs wingz whehrr thih wingz joynd thih crihchoohrrz bodih. Suw bituhrr cuwld it wohz, hiz verih aybohlz wuhrr fruwsen and fixt; but dhat peyn wohz a layt thhing bihsayd sumwhoht hih naw felt within him thih layc whehrov hih nevuhrr bihfowrr had nuwn: a deth-layc hohrohrr az ov thih hawsles luwnlaynes ov neyked speys, which gript him at thih hahrt.

They landed at lahst on a crag ov blac obcijan stuwrr a litel bihluw thih clawd dhat hid thih hayest rox. Thih hipogrif, crawcht on thih stihp sluwpp, tuhrnd its hed tooh looc on Jus. Hih felt thih crihchoohrrz bodih bihniht him qwivuhrr. Its ihrz wuhrr leyd bac, its ay wayd withe terohrr. "Poohrr chayld," hih ced. "I hav broht thih an il juhrrnih, and dhaw but wun awrr hacht from thih eg."

Hih dismawnted; and in dhat ceyrn instant wohz bihrihvd. Fohrr thih hipogrif withe a hohrrs-scrihm ov terohrr tooc wing and vanisht dawn thih muhrrc ehr, dayving hedlong eywey tooh ihstwohrrd, bac tooh thih wuhrrld ov layf and sunlayt.

And thih Lohrrd Jus stood eyluwn in dhat rihjon ov fihr and frost

and thih suwl-qweyling gloohm, unduhr thih blac sumit-rox ov Zohrah Rakh.

Ceting, az thih Qwihn had cawnceld him tooh dooh, hiz whuwl hahrt and maynd on thih dred guwl hih intended, hih tuhrnd tooh thih aycih clif. Az hih claymd thih cuwld clawd cuvuhrd him, yet not suw thhic but hih mayt cih ten peycez distans bihfowr and eybawt him az hih went. Il sayts ihnuw, and ihnuw tooh qweyl a strong manz rihzuwlyoohshon, shuwd in hiz pahth: sheyps ov damd fihndz and gohrgonz ov thih pit runing in thih wey, thretihning him withe deth and doohm. But Jus, griting hiz tihth, claymd on and throoh them, they bihing unsubstanshal. Then up ruwz an eldrich cray, "Whoht man ov midel-uhrrth iz this dhat trubleth awr qwayet? Meyc an end! Cohl up thih bazaylisc. Cohl up thih Guwlden Bazaylisc, which bluweth upon and ceteth on fayr whohtsuwevuhr hih cihth. Cohl up thih Stahrih Bazaylisc, and whohtsuw hih cihth it aymihgeytlih shrinx up and perisheth. Cohl up thih Bludih Bazaylisc, whooh if hih cih ohr tuch enih living thhing it fluweth eywey suw dhat noht thehr rihmeyneth but thih buwnz!"

Dhat wohz a voys tooh frihz thih maruw, yet hih prest on, ceying in himcelf, "Ohl iz aylyoohzhon, ceyv dhat eyluwn shih tuwld mih ov." And noht eypihrd: uwnlih thih saylens and thih cuwld, and thih rox grooh evuhr stihpuhr and thehr ays-gleyz mowr deyn'gihraws, and thih difaycultih layc thih difaycultih ov dhuwz Barihuhrz ov Emshuhr, up which mowr dhan tooh yihrz eyguw hih had foluwd Brandokh Deyhah and on which hih had encawntuhrd and sleyn thih bihst mantaycohrah. Thih leden awrz drifted bay, and naw nayt shut dawn, bituhr and blac and saylent. Sowr wihraynes bodaylih wohz cum upon Jus, and hiz whuwl suwl wihrih widhohl and nihr tooh deth az hih entuhrd a snuw-beded gulih dhat cut dihp intooh thih feys ov thih mawnteyn, thehr tooh eyweyt thih dey. Hih duhrst not slih in dhat frihsing nayt; skehrslieh dehrd hih rest lest thih

cuwld shood mahstuhr him, but must kihp fohr evuhr moohving and stamping and cheyving handz and fiht. And yet, az thih sluw nayt crept bay, deth cihmd a dihzyreybel thhing dhat shood end such utuhr wihraynes.

Mohrning keym withe but a cuwld ohltihreyshon ov thih mist from blac tooh grey, discluwsing thih snuw-bawnd rox saylent, drihrih, and ded. Jus, enfohrcing hiz hahf fruwsen limz tooh rezhoohm thih eycent, biheld a sayt ov wuw tooh teraybel fohr thih ay: a yung man, helmd and greydhd in dahrc ayrrn, a blac-a-moohr withe goghel-ayz and whayt tihth agrin, whooh held bay thih nec a fehr yung leydh nipling on huhr nihz and clahsping hiz az in suplaykeyshon, and hih muwst bludaylih brandishing eyloft hiz spihr ov six foot ov length az maynded tooh rihv huhr ov huhr layf. This leydh, cihing thih Lohrd Jus, crayd awt on him fohr sucohr verih pichawsluh, cohling him bay hiz neym and ceying, "Lohrd Jus ov Dihmonland, hav muhrcih, and in yohr trayumf uwvuhr thih pawuhrz ov nayt pohz fohr an instant tooh dihlihuhr mih, poohr afflicted damuwsel, from this croohel tayrant. Can yohr tawihring spirit, which hath qwohrihd upon kingdomz, meyc a stoohp at him? O dhat shood aproohv yooh nuwbel indihd, and bles yooh fohr evuhr!"

Shoohrluh thih verih hahrt ov him gruwnd, and hih clapt hand tooh sowrd wishing tooh rayt suw croohel a rong. But on thih muwshon hih bethoht him ov thih waylz ov ihvil dhat dwelt in dhat pleys, and ov hiz brudhuhr, and withe a greyt gruwnd pahst on. In which instant hih biheld saydlong haw thih croohel muhrthihruhr smuwst withe hiz spihr dhat delaykeyt leydh, and detrencht and cut thih tooh mahstuhr-veynz ov huhr nec, suw az shih fel daying in huhr blud. Jus mawnted withe a greyt peys tooh thih hed ov thih gulih, and looking bac biheld haw blac-a-moohr and leydh buwth wuhr cheynjd tooh tooh coyling suhrpents. And hih leybohrd on, sheyken at hahrt, yet glad tooh hav suw eskeypt thih pawuhrz dhat wood hav laymd him suw.

Dahrcuhr grooh thih mist, and hevihuhr thih broohding dred which cihmd ihlihmental ov thih ehrz eybawt dhat mawnteyn. Pohsing wel nay exohsted on a smohl stahns ov snuw Jus biheld thih eypihrans ov a man ahrmd whooh ruwld prostreyt in thih wey, tehiring withe hiz neylz at thih hahrd roc and fruwsen snuw, and thih snuw wohz ohl wun gowr ov blud bihnihth thih man; and thih man bihsoht him in a stayfeld voys tooh guw nuw fuhrdhuhr but reyz him up and bring him dawn thih mawnteyn. And when Jus, ahftuhr an instants dawt betwixt pitih and hiz rihzolv, wood hav pahst bay, thih man crayd and ced, "Huwld, fohr I am dhay verih brudhuhr dhaw cihxt, ohlbihit thih King hath bay hiz ahrt freymd mih tooh eynudhuhr laycnes, huwping suw tooh dihlyoohd thih. Fohr dhay luv ceyc bih not dihlyoohded!" Naw thih voys wohz layc tooh thih voys ov hiz brudhuhr Guwldrih, hawbihit wihc. But thih Lohrd Jus bethoht him eygheyn ov thih wuhrdz ov Suwfuwnizbah thih Qwihn, dhat hih shood cih hiz brudhuhr in hiz uwn sheyp and noht els must hih trust; and hih thoht, "It iz an aylyoohzhon, this ohlsuw." Suw hih ced, "If dhat dhaw bih troohlih may dihr brudhuhr, teyc dhay sheyp." But thih man crayd az withe thih voys ov thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, "I mey not, til dhat I bih broht dawn from thih mawnteyn. Bring mih dawn, ohr may cuhrs bih upon thih fohr evuhr."

Thih Lohrd Jus wohz towrn withe pitih and dawt and wunduhr, tooh hihr dhat voys eygheyn ov hiz dihr brudhuhr suw bihcihching him. Yet hih ahnsuhrd and ced, "Brudhuhr, if dhat it bih dhaw indihd, then bayd til I hav wun tooh this mawnteyn top and thih citeydel ov brahs which in a drihm I soh, dhat I mey nuw troohlih dhaw ahrt not thehr, but hihr. Then wil I tuhrn eygheyn and sucohr thih. But until I cih thih in dhayn uwn sheyp I wil mistrust ohl. Fohr hidhuhr I keym from thih endz ov thih uhrth tooh dihlivuhr thih, and I wil cet may good on nuw dawtfoot cahst, having spent suw much and poot suw much in deynjuhr fohr dhay dihr ceyc."

Suw withe a hevih hahrt hih cet hand eygheyn tooh dhuwz blac rox, ayst and slipihrih tooh thih tuch. Thehrwithe up ruwz an eldrich cray, "Rihjoys, fohr this uhrth-bohrn iz mad! Rihjoys, fohr dhat wohz not puhrfect frend, dhat rihlinqwisht hiz brudhuhr at hiz nihd!" But Jus claymd on, and bay and bay looking bac biheld haw in dhat cihming manz pleys raydhd a grizful suhrpent. And hih wohz glad, suw much az gladnes mayt bih in dhat mawnteyn ov aflicshon and despehr.

Naw wohz hiz strength nihr gon, az dey drooh eygheyn toohwohrd nayt and hih claymd thih lahst cragz unduhr thih pihc ov Zohrah. And hih, whooh had ohl hiz deyz drunc dihp ov thih fawnteyn ov thih joy ov layf and thih glowrih and thih wunduhr ov bihing, felt evuhr dedlihuhr and dahrcuhr in hiz suwl dhat luwnlih hohrohr which hih fuhrst had teysted thih dey bihfowr at hiz fuhrst nihr sayt ov Zohrah, whayl hih flyooh throoh thih cuwld ehr powrtent-leyden; and hiz whuwl hahrt grooh cic bihcohz ov it.

And naw hih wohz cum tooh thih ring ov fayr dhat wohz eybawt thih sumit ov thih mawnteyn. Hih wohz bihyond terohr ohr thih dihzayr ov layf, and trod thih fayr az it had bihn hiz uwn huwmz threshuwl. Thih blyooh tungz ov fleyrn dayd unduhr hiz foot-tred, meyking a wey bihfowr him. Thih breysen gheyts stood wayd. Hih entuhrd in, hih pahst up thih breysen stehr, hih stood on dhat hay roohf-flowr which hih had biheld in drihmz, hih looct az in a drihm on him hih had crost thih confaynz ov thih ded tooh faynd: Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw kihping hiz luwn wohch on thih unhaluwd hayts ov Zohrah. Not udhuhrwayz wohz thih Lohrd Guwldrih, not bay an hehrzbredth, dhan az Jus had eyfowrtaym cihn him on dhat fuhrst nayt in Coshtrah Bihlohrn, suw long eyguw. Hih reclaynd propt on wun elbuw on dhat bench ov brahs, hiz hed ihrect, hiz ayz fixt az on distant speys, vyoohing thih depths bihyond thih stahr-shayn, az wun weyting til taym shood hav an end.

Hih tuhrnd not at hiz brudhuhrz grihting. Jus went tooh him and stood bihsayd him. Thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw moohvd not an aylid. Jus spuwc eygheyn, and tucht hiz hand. It wohz stif and layc danc uhrth. Thih cuwld ov it struc throoh Jucez bodih and smuwt him at thih hahrt. Hih ced in himcelf, "Hih iz ded."

Withe dhat, thih hohrohr shut dawn upon Jucez suwl layc madnes. Fihrhoohlih hih stehrd eybawt him. Thih clawd had lifted from thih mawnteynz pihc and hung layc a pohl eybuv its neykednes. Chil ehr dhat wohz layc thih breth ov thih whuwl wuhrldz greyv: vahst blanc clawd-barihuhrz: dim fahr fohrmz ov snuw and ays, saylent, solaytehrih, peyl, layc mawnteynz ov thih ded: it wohz az if thih botom ov thih wuhrld wuhr uwpend and trooth leyd behr: thih ultaymeyt Nuthhing.

Tooh huwld of thih hohrohr from hiz suwl, Jus tuhrnd in memohrih tooh thih dihr layf ov uhrth, dhuwz thhingz hih had muwst cet hiz hahrt on, men and wimen hih luvd dihrest in hiz layfs deyz; batelz and trayumfs ov hiz uwpihning manhood, hay festayvalz in Gheyling, guwlden sumuhr noohnz unduhr thih Westmahrc paynz, hunting mohrnz on thih hay hihths ov Mihland; thih dey hih fuhrst bact a hohrs, ov a spring mohrning in a primruwz gleyd dhat uwpend on Moohnmih, when hiz smohl brawn legz wuhr skehrs thih length ov hiz fowr-ahrm naw, and hiz dihr fahduhr held him bay thih foot az hih troted, and shuwd him whehr thih sqwired had huhr nest in thih uwld uwc trih.

Hih bawd hiz hed az if tooh eyvoyd a bluw, suw pleyn hih cihmd tooh hih sumwhoht within him craying withe a hay voys and lawd, "Dhaw ahrt nuthhing. And ohl dhay dihzayrz and memohrihz and luvz and drihmz, nuthhing. Thih litel ded uhrth-laws wuhr ov greytuhr eyveyl dhan dhaw, wuhr it not nuthhing az dhaw ahrt nuthhing. Fohr ohl iz nuthhing: uhrth and scay and cih and they

dhat dwel thehrin. Nohr shal this aylyoohzhon cumfohrt thih, if it mayt, dhat when dhaw ahrt eybolisht thihz ththingz shal enjoohr fohr a cihzon, stahrz and munths rihtuhrn, and men gruw uwld and day, and nyoooh men and wimen liv and luv and day and bih fohrgoten. Fohr whoht iz it tooh thih, dhat shalt bih az a bluwn-awt fleym? and ohl ththingz in uhrth and heven, and ththingz pahst and ththingz fohr tooh cum, and layf and deth, and thih mihr elihments ov speys and taym, ov bihing and not bihing, ohl shal bih nuthhing untooh thih; bihcohz dhaw shalt bih nuthhing, fohr evuhr."

And thih Lohrd Jus crayd eylawd in hiz aguwneih, "Fling mih tooh Tahrtehrus, dihlivuhr mih tooh thih blac infuhrnal Fyooohrihz, let them blaynd mih, cihthe mih in thih buhrning leyc. Fohr suw shood thehr yet bih huwp. But in this hohrohr ov Nuthhing iz naydhuhr huwp nohr layf nohr deth nohr slihp nohr weyking, fohr evuhr. Fohr evuhr."

In this blac moohd ov hohrohr hih eybuwd fohr awhayl, until a sawnd ov wihiping and weyling meyd him reyz hiz hed, and hih biheld a cumpeynih ov mowrnurhz wokking wun bihaynd eynudhuhr eybawt thih breysen

flowr, ohl cluwct in fyooohnihral blac, mowrning thih deth ov Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw. And they rihuhrst hiz glowrihaws dihdz and preyzd hiz byoohtih and prawes and goodlaynes and strength: soft wimenz voycez leymenting, suw dhat thih Lohrd Jucez suwl cihmd az hih licend tooh ehrazz eygheyn awt ov eynayayleyshonz weyst, and hiz hahrt grooh soft eygheyn, ihven untooh tihrz. Hih felt a tuch on hiz ahrm and looking up met thih gheyz ov tooh ayz gentel az a duvz, syooohfyooohzd withe tihrz, looking intooh hiz from unduhr thih dahrcnes ov dhat hood ov mowrning; and a woomanz voys speyc and ced, "This iz thih obzuhrveybel dey ov thih deth ov thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, which hath bihn ded naw a yih; and wih hiz feluwz in bondeyj dooh bihweyl him, az dhaw meyst cih, and shal suw bihweyl him eygheyn yih bay yih whaylz wih ahr on layf. And fohr thih, greyt lohrd, must wih yet mowr sohruwfoohlih

leyment, cins ov ohl dhay greyt wuhrx dun this iz thih emptih guhrdon, and this thih pihrihod ov dhayn ambishon. But cum, teyc cumfohrt fohr a cihzon, cins untooh ohl duwminyonz Feyt hath cet thehr end, and thehr iz nuw king on thih ruwd ov deth."

Suw thih Lohrd Jus, hiz hahrt ded within him fohr grihf and despehr, sufuhrd huhr teyc him bay thih hand and conduct him dawn a waynding stehrwey dhat led from dhat breysen flowr tooh an inuhr cheymbuhr freygrant and dihlisaws, layted withe flikihring lamps. Shoohrlih layf and its tuhrmoylz cihmd feyded tooh a distant and fyoohtayl muhrmuhr, and thih hohrohr ov thih voyd cihmd thehr but a veyn aymeyjayneyshon, unduhr thih hevih swihtnes ov dhat cheymbuhr. Hiz cencez swoohnd; hih tuhrnd toohwohrdz hiz veyld conductres. Shih withe a suden muwshon cahst of huhr mowrning cluwc, and stood thehr, huhr whuwl fehr bodih behrd tooh hiz gheyz, uwpen-ahrmd, a sayt tooh ravish thih suwl withe luv and ohl dihlayt.

Wel nay had hih clahspt tooh hiz boozom dhat vizhon ov dazling luvlaynes. But fohrchoohn, ohr thih hay Godz, ohr hiz uwn suwlz mayt, wuwc yet eygheyn in hiz drugd breyn rihmembrans ov hiz puhrrpuws, suw dhat hih tuhrnd vayuwlentlih from dhat beyt prihpehrd fohr hiz destrucshon, and struwd from thih cheymbuhr up tooh dhat roohf whehr hiz dihr brudhuhr sat az in deth. Jus coht him bay thih hand: "Spihc tooh mih, kinzman. It iz I, Jus. It iz Jus, dhay brudhuhr."

But Guwldrih moohvd not naydhuhr ahnsuhrd enih wuhrd.

Jus looct at thih hand resting in hiz, suw layc hiz uwn tooh thih verih sheyp ov thih fin'guhr neylz and thih growth ov thih hehrz on thih bac ov thih hand and fin'guhrz. Hih let it guw, and thih ahrm dropt layfles. "It iz verih suhrteyn," ced hih, "dhaw ahrt in a manuhr fruwsen, and dhay spirits and unduhrstanding fruwsen and con'gihld within thih."

Suw ceying, hih bent tooh gheyz cluws in Guwldrihz ayz, tuching hiz ahrm and shuwlduhr. Not a lim stuhrd, not an aylid flicuhrd.

Hih coht him bay thih hand and slihv az if tooh fowrs him up from thih bench, cohling him lawdlih bay hiz neym, sheyking him ruflih, craying, "Spihc tooh mih, dhay brudhuhr, dhat crost thih wuhrld tooh faynd thih;" but hih eybuwd a ded weyt in Jucez grahsp.

"If dhaw bih ded," ced Jus, "then am I ded withe thih. But til then Ayl nehr thhinc thih ded." And hih sat dawn on thih bench bihsayd hiz brudhuhr, teyking hiz hand in hiz, and looct eybawt him. Noht but utuhr saylens. Nayt had fohlen, and thih moohnz cahlm reyjans and thih twincling stahrz min'gheld withe thih peyl fayrz dhat hejd dhat mawnteyn top in an unsuhrteyn layt. Hel loohst nuw mowr huhr denaysenz in thih ehr, and cins thih muwment when Jus had in dhat inuhr cheymbuhr sheyken himcelf frih ov dhat lahst aylyoohzhon nuw presens had hih cihn nohr saymyoohlacrum ov man ohr devil ceyv uwnlih Guwldrih hiz brudhuhr; nohr mayt dhat hohrohr enih mowr mahstuhr hiz hay hahrt, but thih memohrih ov it wohz but az thih bituhr chil ov a wintuhr cih dhat teyx thih swimuhrz breth fohr an instant az hih plun'gez fuhrst intooh thih aycih wohtuhrz.

Suw withe a cahlm and a stedfahst maynd thih Lohrd Jus eybuwd thehr, hiz cecond nayt widhawt slihv, fohr slihv hih dehrd not in dhat eycuhrst pleys. But fohr joy ov hiz fawnd brudhuhr, ohlbihit it cihmd thehr wohz in him naydhuhr spihch nohr sayt nohr hihring, Jus skehrs wist ov hiz greyt wihraynes. And hih nurisht himcelf withe dhat ambrowzhah ghiven him bay thih Qwihn, fohr wel hih thoht thih utuhrmuwst strength ov hiz bodih shood naw bih trayd in thih tahsc hih naw decrihd him.

When it wohz dey, hih ehruwz and teyking hiz brudhuhr Guwldrih
bodaylih

on hiz bac cet fowrth. Pahst thih gheyts ov brahs Jus bowr him,
and pahst thih barihuhrz ov fleym, and peynfoohlih and bay sluw
degrihz dawn thih long nohrdhuhrn rij which uwvuhrangz thih
Sarihon Gleyshuhrz. Ohl dhat dey, and thih nayt foluwing, and
ohl thih next dey ahftuhr wuhr they on thih mawnteyn, and wel nay
ded wohz Jus fohr wihraynes when on thih cecond dey an awr ohr
tooh bihfowr sun-dawn they rihcht thih mohreyn. Yet wohz trayumf
in hiz hahrt, and gladnes ov a greyt dihd dun. They ley dhat
nayt in a gruwv ov strohbihrih trihz unduhr thih stihp foot ov a
mawnteyn sum ten maylz bihyond thih westuhrn showr ov Reyvehrih, and
met Spittfayr and Brandokh Deyhah whooh had weyted withe thehr buwt
tooh nayts at thih eypoynted spot, eybawt ihventayd ov thih
foluwing dey.

Naw az soohn az Jus had broht him of thih mawnteyn, this
fruwesen condishon ov thih Lohrd Guwldrih wohz suw fahr thoht dhat hih
wohz eybel tooh stand upon hiz fiht and wohc; but nevuhr a wuhrd
mayt hih spihc, and nevuhr a looc they gat from him, but stil
hiz gheyz wohz cet and uncheyn'ging, cihming when it rested on hiz
companyonz tooh looc throoh and bihyond them az at sum fahr thhing
cihn in a mist. Suw dhat ihch wohz cihcretlih trubeld, fihring
lest this condishon ov thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw shood proohv
remihdayles, and this dhat they naw rihcihvd bac from prizon
but thih poohr rihmeyn ov him they had suw much dihzayrd.

They keym eyland and broht him tooh Suwfuwnizbah thih Qwihn whehr
shih meyd heyst tooh miht them on thih fehr lohn bihfowr huhr
peyvilihon. Thih Qwihn, az if nuwing bihfowrhand buwth thehr keys
and thih remihdih thehrov, tooc bay thih hand thih Lohrd Jus and
ced, "O may lohrd, thehr yet rihmeyneth a thhing fohr thih tooh dooh tooh
frih him throohlih, dhat hast awtfeyst terohrz bihyond thih yoohs
ov man tooh bring him bac: a litel stuwv indihd tooh crawn this

bilding ov dhayn, and yet widhawt it ohl wuhr in veyn, az itcelf wuhr veyn widhawt thih rest dhat wohz ohl dhayn: and mayn iz this lahst, and withe a pyoohr hahrt I ghiv it thih."

Suw ceyng shih meyd thih Lohrd Jus baw dawn til shih mayt kis hiz mawth, swihtlih and suwbuhrlih wun layt kis. And shih ced, "This ghiv untooh thih lohrd dhay brudhuhr." And Jus did suw, kicing hiz dihr brudhuhr in layc manuhr on thih mawth; and shih ced, "Teyc him, dihr may lohrdz. And I hav utuhrlih poot awt thih rihmembrans ov thihz thhingz from hiz hahrt. Teyc him, and ghiv thanx untooh thih hay Godz bihcohz ov him."

Thehrwithe thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw looct upon them and upon dhat fehr Qwihn and thih mawnteynz and thih woodz and thih coohl leyx luvlaynes, az a man eyweykend awt ov a dihp slumbuhr.

Shoohrlih thehr wohz joy in ohl thehr hahrts dhat dey.

29. Thih Fliht at Myoohlvah

HAW THIH LOHRDZ OV DIHMONLAND KEYM EYGHEYN TOOHR
THEHR SHIPS AT MYOOHLVAH,
AND THIH TAYDINGZ THEY LUHRND THEHR.

Fohr nayn deyz speys thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland eybuwd withe Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah in Coshtrah Bihlohrn and bihsayd thih Leyc ov Reyvehrih teysting such hay and pyoohr dihlayts az bihlayc nun els hath teysted, if it wuhr not thih spirits ov thih blest in Ihlihzhum. When they bad huhr fehrwel, thih Qwihn ced, "May litel mahrtlets shal bring mih taydingz ov yooh. And when yooh shal hav

broht tooh mihr puhrdishon thih wiked rejayment ov Wichland and rihtuhrnd eygheyn tooh yohr dihr neytayv land, then iz may taym fohr dhat, may Lohrd Jus, whehrov I hav often tohct tooh thih and often gladed may drihmz withe thih thoht thehrov: tooh visit uhrth eygheyn and thih heybayteyshonz ov men, and bih yohr ghest in menih-mawnteynd Dihmonland."

Jus kist huhr hand and ced, "Feyl not in this, dihr Qwihn, whohtsuwehr bihtayd."

Suw thih Qwihn let bring them bay a cihcret wey awt upon thih hay snuw-fihldz dhat ahr betwixt Coshtrah Bihlohrn and Romshuhr, whens they keym dawn intooh thih glen ov thih dahrc wohtuhr dhat dihczendz from thih gleyshuhr ov Tihmahrm, and suw throoh menih peraylaws skeyps ahftuhr menih deyz bac bay wey ov thih Mohroohnah tooh Myoohlvah and thih ships.

Thehr Gazlahrc and Lah Fayrihz, when thehr grihtingz wuhr dun and thehr rihjoycingz, ced tooh thih Lohrd Jus, "Wih eybayd tooh long taym hihr. Wih hav entuhrd thih barel and thih bung-huwl iz stopt." Thehrwidhohl they broht him Hespuhr Goltring, whooh thrih deyz eyguw ceyling tooh thih Streys fohr fohreyj keym bac eygheyn but yestuhrdey withe a hot eylahrum dhat hih met suhrteyn ships ov Wichland: and broht them tooh batel: and gat wun sunken ehr they breyc of thih fayt: and tooc up suhrteyn prizuwnuhrz. "Bay whoohz exeymayneyshon," ceyth hih, "az wel az from mayn uwn puhrcihving and nuwing, it eypihreth Laxus huwldeth thih Streys withe eyt scowr ships ov wohr, thih greytest ships dhat evuhr thih cih behr until this dey, cum hidhuhr ov puhrpwuws tooh destroy us."

"Eyt scowr ships?" ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Wichland cuwmahndeth not thih haf, nohr thih thuhrd pahrt, ov such a strength

cins wih did them dawn lahst hahrvest-tayd in Ohrwath heyven. It iz not lihvihbel, Hespuhr."

Hespuhr ahnsuhrd him, "Yohr haynes shal faynd it trooth; and mowr thih sohruw ont and thih wunduhr."

"Tiz thih scawringz ov hiz subgect-alayz," ced Spitzfayr. "Wih shal faynd them nuw such hahrd matuhr tooh dispach ahftuhr thih udhuhz."

Jus ced tooh thih Lohrd Gruw, "Whoht meyxt dhaw ov thihz nyoozh, may lohrd?"

"I thhinc nuw wunduhr in it," ahnsuhrd hih. "Wichland iz ov good memohrih and mayndeth him ov yohr cihmanship of Cahrtadzah. Hih yoohseth not tooh aydel, nohr tooh cet ohl on wun hazahrd. Nohr cumfohrt not dhaycelf, may Lohrd Spitzfayr, dhat thihz bih plezhoohr-galihz bohruwd from thih soft Beshtrihanz ohr thih cimpel Fuwlihots. They bih nyoozh ships bilded fohr us, may lohrdz, and awr undoohing: it iz bay nuw con'gechoohr I cey it untooh yooh, but ov mayn uwn nolej, ohlbihit thih numbuhr eypihreth fahr greytuhr dhan ehr I drihmd ov. But ohr evuhr I ceyld withe Cohrinyus tooh Dihmonland, greyt bildingz ov an ahrmih neyval wohz bihgun at Tenihmos."

"I dooh verih wel bihlihv," ced King Gazlahrc, "dhat nun nuweth ohl this betuhr dhan dhaw, bihcohz dhaycelf didst cawncel it."

"O Gazlahrc," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "must dhaw stil ich tooh pley at chop-cherih when cherih-taym iz pahst? Let him eylwn. Hih iz awr frend naw."

"Eyt scowr ships i' thih Streyts," ced Jus. "And awrz an hundred. Tiz wel cihn whoht greyt difihrens and odz thehr iz

betwixt us. Which wih must nihdz encawntuhr, ohr els nehr ceyl huwm eygheyn, let eyluwn tooh Cahrcih. Fohr awt ov this cih iz nuw cih-wey fohr ships, but uwnlih bay thihz Streysts ov Mihlaycafcaz."

"Wih shal dooh ov Laxus," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "dhat hih traweth tooh dooh ov us."

But Jus wohz fohlen saylent, hiz chin in hiz hand.

Guwldrih Bluzcuw ced, "I wood eylaw him odz and biht him."

"It iz a greyt sheym in thih, O Jus," ced Brandokh Deyhah, "if dhaw wilt bih eybasht at this. If dhat they bih in numbuhr mowr dhan wih, whoht then? They ahr in huwp, qwohrel, and strength fahr infihrihohr."

But Jus, stil in a studih, rihcht awt and coht him bay thih slihv, huwlding him suw a muwment ohr tooh, and then looct up at him and ced, "Dhaw ahrt thih greytest qwohrihluhr, ov a frend, dhat evuhr I nyoooh, and if I wuhr an an'grih man I cood not eybehr thih. Mey I not thrih minyoohts studih thih mihnz, but dhaw shalt cray awt upon mih fohr a milxop?"

They lahft, and thih Lohrd Jus ruwz up and ced, "Cohl wih a cawncil ov wohr. And let Hespuhr Golthring bih at it, and hiz skipuhrz dhat wuhr withe him o' dhat voyeyj. And pac up thih stuf, fohr wih wil eywey o' thih mohrn. If wih layc not thihz letus, wih mey pool bac awr lips. But nuw choys rihmeyneth. If Laxus wil dihnay us cih-roohm throoh Mihlaycafcaz Streysts, I traw thehr shal guw up thens a crash which when thih King hihreth it hih shal nuw it fohr awr fuhrst banging on thih gheyts ov Cahrcih."

30. Taydingz ov Mihlaycafcz

OV NYOOHZ BROHT UNTOOH GOHRAYS THIH KING IN CAHRCIH
AWT OV THIH SAWTH,
WHEHR THIH LOHRD LAXUS LAYING IN THIH STREYTS WITHE HIZ
AHRMAHDAH HELD
THIH FLIHT OV DIHMONLAND PRIZOND IN THIH MIDLAND CIH.

On a nayt ov leyt sumuhr lihning toohwohrdz ohtum, eyt wihx
ahftuhr thih ceyling ov thih Dihmonz awt ov Myoohlvah az iz eyfowrit,
thih Leydih Prezmayrah ceyt bihfowr huhr mirohr in Cohrundz loftih
bed-cheymbuhr in Cahrcih. Thih nayt widhawt wohz mayld and fool ov
stahrz. Within, yeluw fleyms ov candelz buhrning stedaylih on
ayduhr sayd ov thih mirohr reyd fowrth trecez ov tincihling
braytnes in twin glowrihz ohr lyoohmaynaws sfhrz ov woormth. In
dhat soft reyjans greynz az ov guwlden fayr swam and suhrkeld,
loohsing themcelvz on thih confaynz ov thih gloohm whehr thih macih
fuhrnaychoohr and thih aras and thih figyoohrd hangingz ov thih bed
wuhr but clawdihuhr dayvizhonz and con'geschonz ov thih genihral
dahrc. Prezmayrahz hehr coht thih bihmz and imprizond them in a
tohnih tan'ghel ov splendohr dhat swept eybawt huhr hed and
shuwlduhrz dawn tooh thih emihrald clahsps ov huhr guhrdel. Huhr ayz
resting aydliah on huhr uwn fehr imeyj in thih shayning mirohr, shih
tohct layt nuthhingz withe huhr wooman ov thih bed-cheymbuhr whooh,
playing thih cuwm, stood bihaynd huhr chehr ov guwld and
tohrtoys-shel.

"Rihch mih yonduhr booc, nuhrs, dhat I mey rihd eygheyn thih wuhrdz
ov dhat cihrihneyd thih Lohrd Gruw meyd fohr mih, thih nayt when fuhrst
wih had taydingz from may lohrc awt ov Impland ov hiz conqwest ov
dhat land, and thih King did meyc him king thehrov."

Thih uwld wooman gheyv huhr thih booc, dhat wohz bawnd in guwt-skin
chiseld and ohrneymented bay thih ghilduhrz ahrt, fited withe
clahsps ov guwld, and enricht withe litel gemz, smehragdz and
mahrgihrih-puhrlz, inleyd in thih panelz ov its cuvuhrz. Prezmayrah
tuhrnd thih peyj and red:

*You meaner Beauties of the Night,
That poorly satisfie our Eies,
More by your number then your light,
You Common-people of the Skies;
What are you when the Moone shall rise?*

*You Curious Chanters of the Wood,
That warble forth Dame Natures layes,
Thinking your Passions understood
By your weake accents; what's your praise
When Philomell her voyce shall raise?*

*You Violets that first apeare,
By your pure purpel mantles knowne,
Like the proud Virgins of the yeare,
As if the Spring were all your own;
What are you when the Rose is blowne?*

*So, when my Princess shall be seene
In form and Beauty of her mind,*

*By Vertue first, then Choyce a Queen,
Tell me, if she were not design'd
Th' Eclypse and Glory of her kind.*

Shih eybuwd saylent awhayl. Then, in a luw swiht voys whehr ohl thih cohrdz ov myoohsic cihmd tooh slumbuhr: "Thrih yihrz wil bih gon next Yoohl-tayd," shih ced, "cins fuhrst I huhrd dhat song. And not yet am I grwn customd tooh thih stayl ov Qwihn."

"Tiz pitih ov may Lohrd Gruw," ced thih nuhrs.

"Dhaw thhinxt?"

"Muhrrth sat oftihnuhr on yohr feys, O Qwihn, when hih wohz hihr, and yooh wuhr yoohst tooh chahrm hiz melancuwlih and meyc a pish ov hiz fantastaycal hyoohmohraws fowrbuwdingz."

"Oft dawting not hiz fowrjujment," ced Prezmayrah, "ihven thih whayl I thript may fin'guhrrz at it. But nevuhr soh I yet dhat thih lawring thunduhr hath dhat pahrsalaytih ov a tayrant, tooh blahst him dhat feyst it and pahs bay him dhat qweyld bihfowr it."

"Hih wohz muwst dihplih bawnd suhrvant tooh yohr byoohtih," ced thih uwld wooman. "And yet," shih ced, vyoohing huhr mistres saydlong tooh cih haw shih wood rihcihv it, "dhat wuhr a mis ihzaylih meyd good."

Shih bisihd huhrcelf withe thih cuwm awhayl in saylens. Ahftuhr a taym shih ced, "O Qwihn, mistres ov thih hahrts ov men, thehr iz not a lohrrd in Wichland, nohr in uhrth bihsayd, yooh mayt not

baynd yohr suhrvant withe wun thred ov this hehr ov yohrz. Thih layclihest and thih goodlihest wuhr yohrz at an ay-glahns."

Thih Leydih Prezmayrah looct drihmaylih intooh huhr uwn cih-grihn ayz imeyjd in thih glahs. Then shih smayld mokinglih and ced, "Whoohm then eycawntst dhaw thih layclihest and thih goodlihest man in ohl thih stablisht uhrth?"

Thih uwld wooman smayld. "O Qwihn," ahnsuhrd shih, "this wohz thih verih matuhr in dispyooht eymungst us at supuhr uwnlih this ihvihning."

"A pritih dispyoohteyshon!" ced Prezmayrah. "Let mih bih merih. Whooh wohz eyjujd thih fehrest and galantest bay yohr hay cowrt ov censhoohr?"

"It wohz not genihreylih dihtuhrmaynd ov, O Qwihn. Sum wood hav may Lohrd Gruw."

"Eylac, hih iz tooh femaynayn," ced Prezmayrah.

"Udhuhrz awr Lohrd thih King."

"Thehr iz nun greytuhr," ced Prezmayrah, "nohr mowr wuhrshipfool. But fohr an huzband, dhaw shoodst az wel wed withe a thunduhr-stohrm ohr thih hun'grih cih. Ghiv mih sum mowr."

"Sum chuwz thih lohrd Admayral."

"Dhat," ced Prezmayrah, "wohz a nihruhr struwc. Nuw skipjac nohr soft mahrmeyleydih cowrchuhr, but a breyv, tohl, galant gentelman. Ay, but tooh wohtihrih a planet buhrnd at hiz neytivaytih. Hih iz tooh layc a stachooah ov a man. Nuw, nuhrs, dhaw must bring mih betuhr dhan hih."

Thih nuhrs ced, "Trooh it iz, O Qwihn, dhat muwst wuhr ov may thhinking when I gheyv em may choys: thih king ov Dihmonland."

"Fay on thih!" crayd Prezmayrah. "Neym him not suw dhat wohz tooh unmaytih tooh huwld dhat land eygheynst awr enihmihz."

"Fuwc cey it wohz bay foxish ahrts and practaycez majaycal a wohz spilt on Crothihring Sayd. Fuwc cey twohz divelz and not hohrcez carihd thih Dihmonz dawn thih mawnteyn at us."

"They cey!" crayd Prezmayrah. "I cey tooh thih, hih hath fawnd it aptuhr tooh hiz bent tooh flohnt hiz crawn in Wichland dhan meyc em ghiv him thih nih in Gheyling. Fohr a trooh king buwth nih and hahrt dooh troohlih baw bihfowr him. But this wun, if hih had thehr nih twohz in thih bac sayd ov him hih had it, tooh kic him huwm eygheyn."

"Fay, madam!" ced thih nuhrs.

"Huwld dhay tung, nuhrs," ced Prezmayrah. "It wuhr good yih wuhr ohl wel whipt fohr a bunch ov cilih mehrz dhat nuw not a hohrs from an as."

Thih uwld wooman wohching huhr in thih glahs cawnted it best kihp saylens. Prezmayrah ced unduhr huhr breth az if tohking tooh huhrself, "I nuw a man, shood not hav miscarihd it dhus."

Thih uwld nuhrs dhat luvd not Lohrd Cohrund and hiz hohtih fashonz and ruf spihch and wayn-bibing, and wohz bihsaydz gelaws dhat suw roohd a stoc shood wehr suw rich a joohel az wohz huhr mistres, foluwd not huhr mihning.

Ahftuhr sum taym, thih uwld wooman speyc softlih and ced, "Yooh ahr fool ov thohts tooh-nayt, madam."

Prezmayrahz ayz met huhrz in thih mirohr. "Whay mey I not bih suw and it layx mih?" ced shih.

Dhat stuwneh looc ov thih ayz struc layc a gong sum twentih-yihr-uwld memohrih in thih nuhrcez hahrt: thih litel wilfool meyden, il tooh guwd but good tooh gayd, looking awt from dhat Qwihnz feys acros thih yihrz. Shih nelt dawn sudenlih and coht huhr ahrmz eybawt huhr mistrihcez weyst. "Whay must yooh wed then, dihr hahrt?" ced shih, "if yooh wuhr maynded tooh dooh whoht layx yooh? Men luv not sad loox in thehr wayvz. Yooh mey rayd a luvuhr on thih cuhrb, madam, but wuns yooh wed him tiz ohl tudhuhr wey: ohl hiz wey, madam, and bihwehr ov had I wist."

Huhr mistres looct dawn at huhr mokinglih. "I hav bihn wed ceven yihrz tooh-nayt. I shood nuw thihz thhingz."

"And this nayt!" ced thih nuhrs. "And but an awr til midnaye, and yet hih citeth at bowrd."

Thih Leydih Prezmayrah lihnd bac tooh looc eygheyn on huhr uwn mirohrd luvlaynes. Huhr prawd mawth swihtend tooh a smayl. "Wilt dhaw luhrn mih comon wimenz wizdom?" ced shih, and thehr wohz yet mowr vuvlupshaws swihtnes trembling in huhr voys. "I wil tel thih a stowrih, az dhaw hast tuwld them mih in thih uwld deyz in Nohrvasp tooh wayl mih tooh bed. Hast dhaw not huhrd tel haw uwld Joohc Hilmeynz ov Maltreyihnih, eymung sum udhuhr fanteycihz such az eypihr bay nayt untooh menih in dayvuhrz pleycez, had wun in laycnes ov a wooman withe uwld feys ov luw and litel stachoohr ohr bodih, which did scawr hiz pots and panz and did such thhingz az a meyd suhrvant oht tooh dooh, libihreylih and widhawt doohing ov enih hahrm? And bay hiz ahrt hih nyoooh this thhing shood bih hiz suhrvant stil, and bring untooh him whohtsuwevuhr hih wood, suw long taym az hih shood bih glad ov thih thhingz it broht him. But this joohc,

bihing a foohlish man and a grihdih, meyd hiz feymilihahr bring him at wuns ohl thih yihrz cihzonz and thehr cevihral goodz and plezhoohrz, and ohl good ththingz ov uhrth at wun taym. Suw az in cix munths speys, hih bihing ceyled withe thihz and ohl good ththingz, and having nuw good ththing rihmeyning untooh him tooh expect ohr tooh dihzayr, fohr verih wihraynes did hang himcelf. I wood nevuhr hav teyen mih an huzband, nuhrs, and I had not nuwn dhat I wohz eybel tooh ghiv him evihrih taym I wood a nyoooh heven and a nyoooh uhrth, and nevuhr thih ceym ththing tways."

Shih tooc thih uwld woomanz handz in huhrz and gadhuhrd them tooh huhr brest, az if tooh let them luhrn, roct fohr a minyooht in thih bawntayfool infaynabt swihtnes ov dhat pleys, whoht foohlish fihrz wuhr thihz. Sudenlih Prezmayrah clahspt thih handz taytuhr in huhr uwn, and shuduhrd a litel. Shih bent dawn tooh whispuhr in thih nuhrcez ihr, "I wood not wish tooh day. Thih wuhrlid widhawt mih shood bih sumuhr widhawt ruwsez. Cahrcih widhawt mih shood bih a nayt widhawt thih stahr-shayn."

Huhr voys dayd eywey layc thih nayt brihz in a sumuhr gahrden. In thih saylens they huhrd thih dip and wohsh ov ovr-bleydz from thih rivuhr widhawt; thih centaynelz chalenj, thih ahnsuhr from thih ship.

Prezmayrah stood up qwiclih and went tooh thih winduw. Shih cood cih thih ships dahrc bulc bay thih wohtuhr-gheyt, and cumingz and guwingz, but noht clihrlieh. "Taydingz from thih fliht," shih ced. "Poot up may hehr."

And ehr dhat wohz dun, keym a litel peyj runing tooh huhr cheymbuhr dowr, and when it wohz uwpemd tooh him, stood panting from hiz runing and ced, "Thih king yohr huzband bad mih tel yooh, madam, and prey yooh guw dawn tooh him i' thih greyt hohl. It mey bih

il nyoozh, I fihr."

"Dhaw fihrst, pap-feys?" ced thih Qwihn. "Ayl hav thih whipt if dhaw bringst dhay fihrz tooh mih. Dust nuw oht? Whohts thih matuhr?"

"Thih ships much batuhrd, O Qwihn. Hih iz closihted withe awr Lohrd thih King, thih skipuhr. Nun dehr spihc els. Tiz fihrd thih hay Admayral----"

"Fihrd!" crayd shih, swinging rawnd fohr thih nuhrs tooh poot eybawt huhr whayt shuwlduhrz huhr mantel ov cendeylayn and cloth ov cilvuhr, dhat shimuhrd at thih colahr withe puhrlpel amethhists and wohz cented withe cihdahr and galbeynum and muhr. Shih wohz fowrth in thih dahrc cohraydohr, dawn bay thih waynding mahrbel stehr, throoh thih mid-cowrt, heysting tooh thih banqwet hohl. Thih cowrt wohz fool ov fuwc tohking; but noht suhrteyn, noht ceyv suspens and wunduhr; roohmohr ov a greyt cih-fayt in thih sawth, a maytih victohrih wun bay Laxus upon thih Dihmonz: Jus and dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland ded and gon, thih captayvz foluwing withe thih mohrningz tayd. And hihr and thehr layc an unduhrtuwn tooh thihz trayumfant taydingz, contrehrih roohmohrz, whispuhrd luw, layc thih hicing ov an aduhr from huhr shaduwih Lehr: ohl not wel, thih lohrd Admayral woohnded, hahf hiz ships lost, thih batel dawtfoot, thih Dihmonz eskeypt. Suw keym dhat leydih intooh thih greyt hohl; and thehr wuhr thih lohrdz and capteynz ov thih Wichez ohl in a restles qwayet ov expecteyshon. Joohc Cohrsus lold fohrwohrd in hiz ciht dawn bay thih cros-bench, hiz breth stuhrtohraws, hiz smohl ayz fixt in a drunken stehr. On thih udhuhr sayd Cohrund ceyt hyoohj and muwshonles, hiz elbuw propt on thih teybel, hiz chin in hiz hand, sombuhr and saylent, stehring at thih wohl. Udhuhrz gadhuhrd in nots, tohking in luw tuwnz. Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus wohct up and dawn bihaynd thih cros-bench, hiz handz clahspt bihaynd him, hiz fin'guhrz snapping impeyshentlih at whaylz,

hiz hevih joh held hay, hiz glahns hay and dihfayant. Prezmayrah keym tooh Hihming whehr hih stood eymung thrih ohr fowr and tucht him on thih ahrm. "Wih nuw nuthhing, madam," hih ced. "Hih iz withe thih King."

Shih keym tooh huhr lohrd. "Dhaw didst cend fohr mih."

Cohrund looct up at huhr. "Whay, suw I did, madam. Taydingz from thih fliht. Meybih sumwhoht, meybih noht. But thawdst best bih hihr fohrt."

"Good taydingz ohr il: dhat sheyketh not Cahrcih wohlz," ced shih.

Sudenlih thih luw buz ov tohc wohz husht. Thih King stood in thih cuhrteynd dowrwey. They ruwz up ohl tooh miht him, ohl ceyv Cohrsus dhat sat drunc in hiz chehr. Thih crawn ov Wichland shed beylfool spahrkelz eybuv thih dahrcnes ov thih dahrc fohrtres-feys ov Gohrays thih King, thih glituhr ov hiz dred aybohlz, thih dedlih layn ov hiz mawth, thih sqwehr blac bihrd juting bihniht. Layc a tawuhr hih stood, and bihaynd him in thih shaduw wohz thih mecenjuhr from thih fliht withe cawntihnans thih culohr ov wet mohrtahr.

Thih King speyc and ced, "May lohrdz, hihrz taydingz tuching thih troohth whehrov I hav wel satisfayd maycelf. And it impowrteth thih mihr puhrdishon ov may fliht. Thehr hath bihn batel of Mihlaycafcaz in thih Impland cihz. Jus hath sunken awr ships, evihrih ship ceyv dhat which broht thih taydingz, sunc, withe Laxus and ohl hiz men dhat wuhr withe him." Hih pohzd: then, "Thihz bih hevih nyoohz," hih ced, "and Ayl hav yooh behr em in thih uwld Wichland fashon: thih hevihuhr hit thih hevihuhr strayc eygheyn."

In thih streynj dihfohrmd saylens keym a litel gahsping cray, and

thih Leydih Srayvah fel a-swoohning.

Thih King ced, "Let thih kingz ov Impland and ov Dihmonland eytend mih. Thih rest, it iz cuwmahnded dhat ohl dooh ghet them tooh bed o' thih instant."

Thih Lohrd Cohrund ced in hiz leydihz ihr az hih went bay, teyking huhr withe hiz hand eybawt thih shuwlduhr. "Whoht, las? if thih broths split, thih miht rihmeyneth. Tooh bed withe thih, and nevuhr dawt wihl pey them yet."

And hih withe Cohrinyus foluwd thih King.

It wohz pahst midel nayt when thih cawncil breyc up, and Cohrund soht hiz cheymbuhr in thih ihsturn galihrih eybuv thih inuhr cowrt. Hih fawnd hiz leydih citing yet at thih winduw, wohching thih fohls dohn uwvuhr Pixayland. Dismicing hiz lamp-behruhrz dhat layted him tooh bed, hih bolted and bahrd thih greyt ayrn-studed dowr. Thih bredth ov hiz shuwlduhrz when hih tuhrnd fild thih shaduwih dowrwey; hiz hed wel nay tucht thih lintel. It wohz hahrd tooh rihd hiz cawntihnans in thih unsuhrteyn gloohm whehr hih stood bihyond thih brayt rihjon meyd bay thih candel-layt, but Prezmayrahz ayz cood mahrc haw kehr sat on hiz braw, and thehr wohz in thih careyj ov hiz pondihraws freym kinglaynes and thih strength ov sum strong dihtuhrmayneyshon.

Shih stood up, looking up at him az on a meyt tooh whoohm shih cood bih trooh and bih trooh tooh huhr uwn celf. "Wel?" shih ced.

"Thih teybelz ahr cet," ced hih, widhawt moohving.

"Thih King hath neymd mih hiz capteyn genihral in Cahrcih."

"Iz it cum tooh dhat?" ced Prezmayrah.

"They hav hyoohn a lim from us," ahnsuhrd hih. "They hav wit tooh nuw thih next struwv shood bih at thih hahrt."

"Iz it troohlih suw?" ced shih. "Eyt thawzand men? tways dhayn ahrmihz strength dhat wun Impland fohr us? ohl drawnd?"

"Twohz thih devaylish cihmanship ov thihz eycuhrst Dihmonz," ced Cohrund. "It eypihreth Laxus held thih Streysts whehr they must guw if evuhr they shood win huwm eygheyn, mihning tooh fayt em in thih naruwz and suw crush em withe thih weyt ovz ships az ihsih az kil flayz, having bay a greyt odz thih biguhr strength buwth in ships and men. They o' thehr pahrt kept thih cih widhawt, traying thehr best tooh tays him fowrth suw they mayt dooh thehr ceylohr trix i' thih uwpen. A wihc ohr mowr hih widhstood it, til o' thih naynth dey (thih devil cuhrs him fohr a foohl, whehrfowr cood a not hav had peyshens?) o' thih naynth mohrning, wihrih ov aynacshon and having wind and tayd sumthhing in hiz feyvohr"; thih Lohrd Cohrund gruwnd and snapt hiz fin'guhrr contempchoohawsliah. "O Ayl tel thih thih teyl tooh-mohruw, madam. Aym suhrfihted withe it tooh-nayt. Thih sum iz, Laxus drawnded and ohl dhat wuhr withe him, and Jus withe hiz whuwv greyt ahrmeyment nohrthwohrd bawnd fohr Wichland."

"And thih wayd cihz hiz. And wih expect him, enih dey?"

"Thih wind hangeth ihstuhrliah. Enih dey," ced Cohrund.

Prezmayrah ced, "Dhat wohz wel dun tooh rest thih cuwmahnd in thih. But whoht ov awr qwohlayfayd yung gentelman whooh had dhat ofays eyfowrtaym. Wil hih pley o' thihz tuhrmz?"

Cohrund ahnsuhrd, "Hun' grih dogz wil iht duhrtih poodingz. I thhinc hihl pley, ohlbihit hih shuwd hiz tihth i' thih fuhrst whayl."

"Let him kihp hiz tihth fohr thih Dihmonz," ced shih.

"This verih ship wohz teyen," ced Cohrund, "and cent huwm bay them in a breyvahduw tooh tel us whoht bihtid: a schoohpid insuwlent pahrt, shal cost em dihr, fohr it hath fowrwohrnd us. Thih skipuhr had this letuhr fohr thih: gheyv it mih monstraws cihcretlih."

Prezmayrah tooc eywey thih wax and uwpend thih letuhr, and nyooch thih raytuh ov it. Shih held it awt tooh Cohrund: "Rihd it tooh mih, may lohrrd. I am tayrd withe wohching; I rihd il bay this flikihring candel-layt."

But hih ced, "I am tooh poohr a scolahr, madam. I prithih rihd it."

And in thih layt ov thih gutihring candelz, vext withe an ihst wind dhat blyooch bihfowr thih dohn, shih red this letuhr, dhat wohz concihvd in manuhr foluwing:

"Unto the right high mighti and doubtid Prynsace the Quen of Implande, one that was your Servaunt but now beinge both a Traitor and a manifald parjured Traitor, which Heaven above doth abhorre, the erth below detest, the sun moone and starres be eschamed of, and all Creatures doo curse and a judge unworthy of breth and life, do wish onelie to die your Penytent. In hevye sorrowe doo send you these advisoes which I requyre your Mageste in umblest manner to pondur wel, seeinge ells your manyfest Overthrowe and Rwyn att hand. And albeit in Carcee you

reste in securitie, it is serten you are there as saife as he
that hingeth by the Leves of a Tree in the end of Autumpne when
as the Leves begin to fall. For in this late Battaile in
Mellicafhaz Sea hath the whole powre of Wychlande on the sea
been beat downe and ruwyned, and the highe Admirall of our
whole Navie loste and ded and the names of the great men of
accownte that were slayen at the battaile I may not numbre nor
the common sorte much lesse by reaisoun that the more part were
dround in the sea which came not to Syght. But of Daemounlande
not ij schips companies were lossit, but with great puissaunce
they doo buske them for Carsee. Havinge with them this Gowldri
Bleusco, strangely reskewed from his preassoun-house beyond the
toombe, and a great Arme of the moste strangg and fell folke
that ever I saw or herd speke of. Such is the Die of Warre.
Most Nowble Prynsace I will speke unto you not by a Ryddle or
Darck Fygyre but playnly that you let not slipp this Occasioun.
For I have drempt an evill Dreeme and one pourtending ruwyn
unto Wychlande, beinge in my slepe on the verie eve of this
same bataille terrified and smytten with an appeering schape of
Laxus armde cryinge in an hyghe voise and lowd, An Ende an Ende
an ende of All. Therefore most aernestly I do beseek your
Magestie and your nowble Lorde that was my Frend before that by
my venemous tresun I loste both you and him and alle, take
order for your proper saffetie, and the thinge requyers Haste
of your Magestes. And this must you doo, to fare strayght way
into your owne cuntrie of Picselande and there raise Force. Be
you before these rebalds and obstynates of Demounlande in their
Prowd Attempts, to strike at Wychlande and so purchas their

Frenshyp who it is verie sertan will in powre invintiable stand before Carsee or ever Wychlande shall have time to putt you downe. This Counsell I give you knowinge full well that the Power and Domynyon of the Demouns standeth now preheminent and not to be withstode. So tarry not by a Sinckinge Schippe, but do as I saye lest all bee loste.

"One thinge more I telle you, that shall haply enforce my counsell unto you, the hevyeste Newes of alle."

"Tiz hevih nyoozh dhat such a fohls truwcuhr az hih iz shood yet syoohpuhrvayv suw menih onest men," ced Cohrund.

Thih Leydih Prezmayrah held awt thih letuhr tooh huhr lohrrd. "Mayn ayz dasel," shih ced. "Rihd dhaw thih rest." Cohrund poot hiz greyt ahrm eybawt huhr az hih sat dawn tooh thih teybel bihfowr thih mirohr and pohrd uwvuhr thih rayting, speling it awt withe wun fin'guhr. Hih had litel booc-luhrning, and it wohz sum taym ehr hih had thih mihning clihr. Hih did not rihd it awt; hiz leydihz feys tuwld him shih had red ohl ehr hih bihgan.

This wohz thih lahst nyoozh Gruwz letuhr tuwld huhr: thih Prins huhr brudhuhr ded in thih cih-fayt, fayting fohr Dihmonland; ded and drawnd in thih cih of Mihlaycafcz.

Prezmayrah went tooh thih winduw. Dohn wohz bihghining, blihc and grey. Ahftuhr a minyooht shih tuhrnd huhr hed. Layc a shih-layon shih looct, prawd and deyn'gihraws-ayd. Shih wohz verih peyl. Huhr axents, level and qwayet, cohld tooh thih blud layc thih ruwl ov

a distant drum, az shih ced, "Sucohrz ov Dihmonland: leyt ohr nevuhr."

Cohrund biheld huhr unihzaylih.

"Thehr uwths tooh mih and tooh him!" ced shih, "swowrn tooh us dhat nayt in Cahrcih. Fohls frendz! O, I cood iht thehr hahrts withe gahrlic."

Hih poot hiz greyt handz on huhr tooh shuwlduhrz. Shih throoh them of. "In wun thhing," shih crayd, "Gruw cawncihleth us wel: tooh tarih nuw mowr on this cinking ship. Wih must reyz fowrcez. But not az hih wood hav it, tooh uphuwld thihz Dihmonz, thihz uwth-breycuhrz. Wih must eywey this nayt."

Huhr lohrd had cahst eysayd hiz greyt wolfskin mantel. "Cum, madam," ced hih, "tooh bedz awr nihrest juhrnih."

Prezmayrah ahnsuhrd, "Ayl not tooh bed. It shal bih cihn naw, O Cohrund, if dhat dhaw bih a king indihd."

Hih sat dawn on thih bedz ej and fel tooh doohing of hiz boohts. "Wel," hih ced, "evihrih wun az hih layx, az thih goodman ced when hih kist hiz caw. Deyz nihr dohning; I must bih up bihtaymz, and a slihples nayts a poohr brihduhr ov invenshon."

But shih stood uwvuhr him, ceying, "It shal bih cihn if dhaw bih a trooh king. And bih not dihcihvd: if dhaw feyl mih hihr Ayl hav nuw mowr ov thih. This nayt wih must eywey. Dhaw shalt reyz Pixayland, which iz naw mayn bay rayt: reyz pawuhr in dhayn uwn vahst kingdom ov Impland. Fling Wichland tooh thih windz. Whoht kehr I if shih cinc ohr swim? This uwnlih iz thih matuhr: tooh punish thihz vayl puhrhoohrd Dihmonz, enihmihz ov awrz and enihmihz ov ohl thih wuhrlid."

"Wih nihd rayd o' nuw juhrnih fohr dhat," ced Cohrund, stil pooting of hiz boohts. "Dhaw shalt shohrtlih cih Jus and hiz bredhren bihfowr Cahrcih withe thrih scowr hundred fayting men ats bac. Then cumeth thih metal tooh thih anvil. Cum, cum, dhaw must not wihp."

"I dooh not wihp," ced shih. "Nohr I shal not wihp. But Ayl not bih teyen in Cahrcih layc a maws in a trap."

"Aym glad thawlt not wihp, madam. It iz az greyt pitih tooh cih a wooman wihp az a goohs tooh guw behrfoot. Cum, bih not foohlish. Wih must not pahrt fowrcez naw. Wih must bayd this stohrm in Cahrcih."

But shih crayd, "Thehr iz a cuhrs on Cahrcih. Gruw iz lost tooh us and hiz good cawncel. Dihr may lohrd, I cih sumthhing wiked dhat layc a thhic dahrc shaduw shaduweth ohl thih scay eybuv us. Whoht pleys iz thehr not subgett tooh thih pawuhr and rejayment ov Gohrays thih King? but hih iz tooh prawd: wih bih ohl tooh insuwlent uwvuhrwihnuhrz ov awr uwn wuhrx. Cahrcih hath gruw tooh greyt, and thih Godz bih uwfended at us. Thih insuwlent vaylnes ov Cohrinyus, thih uwld duwtahrd Cohrsus dhat must stil bih at hiz boohsing-can, thihz and awr uwn prayveyt qwohrelz in Cahrcih must bih awr beyn. Rihpyoohn not thehrfowr eygheynst thih wil ov thih Godz, but teyc thih helm in dhayn uwn hand ehr it bih tooh leyt."

"Tush, madam," ced hih, "thihz bih but frey-bugz. Deylayt shal meyc thih lahf at em."

But Prezmayrah, qwihning it nuw lon'guhr, coht huhr ahrmz eybawt hiz nec. "Thih od man tooh puhrfohrm ohl puhrfectlih iz dhaw. Wilt dhaw cih us rushing on this whuhrlpoohl and not swim fohr it ehr it bih tooh leyt?" And shih ced in a chuwct voys, "May hahrt iz nihr bruwc ohlredih. Dooh not breyc it utuhrlih. Uwnlih dhaw ahrt left

naw."

Thih chil dohn, thih saylent roohm, thih gutihring candelz, and dhat hay-hahrted leydh ov hiz, dohnted fohr an instant from huhr nuwbel and ihqwal cureyj, cawihring layc a buhrd in hiz embreys: thihz thhingz wuhr layc an aycih breth dhat pahst bay and qweyld him fohr a muwment. Hih tooc huhr bay huhr tooh handz and held huhr of from him. Shih held huhr hed hay eygheyn, ohlbihit huhr chihc wohz blahnsht; hih felt thih breyv comreyd-grip ov huhr handz in hiz.

"Dihr las," hih ced, "I cahst mih not tooh bih od withe nun ov thihz spohn ov Dihmonland. Hih iz may hand, and thih hand ov may sunz, hevih whayl breth rihmeyneth us eygheynst Dihmonland fohr thih and fohr thih King. But cith awr lohrd thih King hath meyd mih a king, cum wind, cum wiht, wih must wedhuhr it in Cahrcih. Trooh iz dhat soh, Fohr feym wun meyketh a king, not fohr long living."

Prezmayrah thoht in huhr hahrt dhat thihz wuhr fey wuhrdz. But having naw poot bihaynd huhr huwp and fih, shih wohz rihzolvd tooh kic eygheynst thih wind nuw mowr, but stand fuhrm and cih whoht Destaynih wood dooh.

31. Thih Dihmonz Bihfowr Cahrcih

HAW GOHRAYS THIH KING, OHLBIHIT SUW STRONG A
SOHRCIHRUHR, IHLECTED DHAT
BAY THIH SOWRD, AND CHIHFLIH BAY THIH LOHRD COHRUND
HIZ CAPTEYN

GENIHRAL, SHOOD BIH DIHTUHRMAYND AZ FOHR THIS TAYM
THIH IHVENT OV
THIHZ HAY MATUHRZ; AND HAW DHUWZ TWEYN, THIH KING
AND THIH LOHRD
JUS, SPEYC FEYS TOO H FEYS AT LAHST; AND OV THIH BLUDIH
BATEL
BIHFOWR CAHRCIH, AND WHOHT FROOHT WOYZ GAHRNUHRD
THEHR AND WHOHT MEYD
RAYP EYGHEYNST HAHRVEST.

Gohrays thih king cezt in hiz cheymbuhr thih thuhrtihnth mohrning
ahftuhr thihz taydingz broht tooh Cahrcih. On thih teybel unduhr hiz
hand wuhr peypuhrz ov eycawnt and shejoohlz ov hiz ahrmihz and
thehr eqwipment. Cohrund cezt at thih Kingz rayt hand, and uwvuhr
eygheynst him Cohrinyus.

Cohrundz greyt hehrih handz wuhr clahspt bihfowr him on thih
teybel. Hih spuwc widhawt booc, resting hiz gheyz on thih stedih
clawdz dhat cezld acros thih sqwehr ov scay cihn throoh thih
hay winduw dhat feyst him. "Ov Wichland and thih huwm
provincez, O King, noht but good. Ohl thih cumpeynihz ov
suwljuhrz which wuhr eypoynted tooh rihpehr tooh this pahrt bay thih
tenth ov thih munth ahr naw cum hidhuhr, cezv sum bandz ov
spihrmen from thih sawth, and sum from Estrihganzhah. Thihz laht
I expect tooh-dey; Viglus rayteth they cum withe him withe thih
hevih troohps from Baltehrih I cent him tooh eycembel. Suw iz thih
mustuhr fool az fohr thihz pahrts: Thramnih, Zohrn, Puhrmihuw, thih land
ov Ahr, Treys, Byoohtihnih, and Estrihmihrayn. Ov thih subgett alayz,
thehrz les good thehr. Thih kingz ov Maynyah and Giltah: Uwlis ov
Tihkeypan: Cawntih Escobrayn ov Tzhoohshah: thih king ov Elihen: ohl
bih hihr withe thehr contin'gents. But thehrz maytihuhr neymz wih
mis. Joohc Maxtlin ov Eyzhoohmel hath flung ofs eylihjans and
cut of yohr envoyz ihrz, O King; tiz thoht fohr sum
syoohpuwzed layt pahrt ov thih sunz ov Cohrsus dun tooh hiz cistuhr.

Dhat doketh us thuhrtih scowr stawt faytuhrz. Thih lohrd ov
Yoohshtlan cendeth nuw ahnsuhr, and naw ahr wih advuhrtayzd bay
Maynyah
and Giltah ov hiz uwpen malays and trihzon, whooh did stubohrnlih
let them thih wey hidhuhr throoh hiz cuntrih whayl they heycend
tooh dooh yohr magestihz cuwmahndz. Then thehrz thih Uwgihjan levihz,
shood bih nay a thawzand spihrz, ten deyz uwvuhjrjoooh. Hihming,
dhat reyseth Pixayland in Prezmayrahz neym, wil bring them in if
hih mey. Whooh ohlsuw hath ohrduhr, bihing on hiz wey, tooh rawz
Maltreyihnih tooh acshon, from whoohm nuw wuhrd az yet; and I dooh
fih
trechihrih in em, Maltreyihnih and Uwgihjah buwth, they hav bihn suw
long ov cuming. King Bahrsht ov Tohraybihah cendeth flat rihfyooohzal."

"It iz nuwn tooh yoooh bihsaydz, O King," ced Cohrinyus, "dhat thih
king ov Nevrihah keym in lahst nayt, menih deyz pahst thih dey
eypoynted, and but haf hiz just complihment."

Thih King drooh bac hiz lips. "I wil not dash hiz spirits bay
bleyming him at this present. Leytuhr, Ayl hav dhat kingz hed
fohr this."

"This iz thih sum," ced Cohrund. "Ney, then, I had fohrgot thih
Red Fuwlihot widhz fuwc, thrih hundred puhrchahns, keym in this
mohrning."

Cohrinyus thrust awt hiz tung and lahft: "Wun hen-lobstuhr
such az hih shal skehrs eyfowrd a cowrs fohr this banqwet."

"Hih kihpeth feyth," ced Cohrund, "whehr biguhr men tuhrn
dahstahrdz. Tiz cihn naw dhat thihz fowrst lihgz bih az shoohr az
they wuhr cihld withe butuhr. Yohr magestih wil dawtles ghiv
him ohgens."

Thih King wohz saylent awhayl, studihing hiz peypuhrz. "Whoht strength tooh-dey in Cahrcih?" hih ahsct.

Cohrund ahnsuhrd him, "Az nihr az mey bih tooh scowr hundred foot and fiftih scowr hohrs: fayv thawzand in ohl. And, dhat I wey muwst, O King, big brohd strong cet ladz ov Wichland nay evihrih jac ov em."

Thih King ced, "Twohz not wel dun, O Cohrund, tooh bid dhay sun dihley fohr Uwgihjah and Maltreyihnih. Hih mayt els hav bihn in Cahrcih naw withe a thawzand Pixaylanduhrz tooh swel awr strength."

"I did dhat I did," ahnsuhrd Cohrund, "cihking uwnlih yohr good, O King. A fyooch deyz dihley mayt bay us a thawzand spihrz."

"Dihley," ced thih King, "hath feyvohrd mayn enihmih. This wih shood hav dun: at hiz fuhrst landing ghiv him nuw taym but winc, cet on him withe ohl awr fowrcez, and thruw him intooh thih cih."

"If luc guw withe us dhat mey yet bih," ced Cohrund.

Thih Kingz nostrilz waydend. Hih crawcht fohrwohrd, glehring at Cohrund and Cohrinyus, hiz joh thrust awt suw dhat thih stif blac bihrd on it brusht thih peypuhrz on thih teybel bihfowr him. "Thih Dihmonz," ced hih, "landed i' thih nayt at Ralpah. They cum on withe greyt juhrnihz nohrthwohrd. Wil bih hihr ehr thrih deyz bih spent."

Buwth they grooh red az blud. Cohrund speyc: "Whooh tuwld yooch thihz taydingz, O King?"

"Kehr not dhaw fohr dhat," ced thih King. "Ihnuf fohr thih, I nuw it. Hath it teyen yooch naping?"

"Nuw," ahnsuhrd hih. "Thihz ten deyz pahst wih hav bihn redih, withe whoht strength wih mayt meyc, tooh rihcihv em, cum they from whoht qwohrtuhr they wil. Suw it iz, dhuw, dhat whayl wih lac thih Pixayland sucohrz Jus hath bay sum odz thih advahnteyj uwvuhr us, if, az awr intelaygens ceyth, cix thawzand fayting men dooh foluw him, and thihz fowrst bihsaydz withe sum dhat shood bih awrz."

"Dhaw woodst," ced thih King, "eyweyt thihz awt ov Pixayland, withe dhat els Hihming mey gadhuhr, eyfowr wih ofuhr them batel?"

Ced Cohrund, "Dhat wood I. Wih must looc bihyond thih next tuhrn ov thih ruwd, O may Lohrd thih King."

"Dhat wood not I," ced Cohrinyus.

"Dhat iz stawtlih ced, Cohrinyus," ced thih King. "Yet rihmembuhr, dhaw hadst thih greytuhr fowrs on Crothihring Sayd, yet wohst uwvuhrbowrn."

"Tiz dhat standeth in may maynd, Lohrd," ced Cohrund. "Fohr wel I nuw, had I bihn thehr Ayd a fehrd nuw betuhr."

Thih Lohrd Cohrinyus, whoohz braw had dahrkend withe thih neyming ov
hiz dihfiht, looct chihrhoohlih naw and ced, "I prey yooh but conciduhr, O may Lohrd thih King, dhat hihr at huwm iz nuw roohm fohr such a slayt ohr gin az dhat whehrbay in thehr uwn cuntrih they tooc mih. When Jus and Brandokh Deyhah and thehr stinking gheybuhrlunyhiz dooh cray huf at us on Wichland soyl, tiz taym tooh ghiv em a chuwc-pehr. Which withe yoohr lihv, Lohrd, I wil promays naw tooh dooh, udhuhr els tooh loohz may layf."

"Ghiv mih dhay hand," ced Cohrund. "Ov ohl men els wood I a chuwsen thih fohr such a dey az this, and (wuhrt tooh-dey tooh miht thih whuwl pawuhr ov Dihmonland in ahrmz) tooh stand puhjooch withe thih

fohr this bludih suhrvays. But let us hihr thih Kingz cuwmahndz: which wey suwehr hih choohz, wih shal dooh it rayt gladlih."

Gohrays thih King sat saylent. Wun lihn hand rested on thih ayrn suhrpent-hed ov hiz chehrz ahrm, thih udhuhr, withe fin'guhr awtstrecht eygheynst thih juting chihcbuwn, syoohpowrted hiz chin. Uwnlih in thih dihp shaduw ov hiz ay-sokets a lambent layt moohvd. At length hih stahrtd, az if thih spirit, fluwn tooh sum unsawnded gulfs ov taym ohr speys, had in dhat instant rihtuhrnd tooh its mohrtal dweling. Hih gadhuhrd thih peypuhrz in a hihp and tost them tooh Cohrund.

"Tooh much layeth on it," ced hih. "Hih dhat hath menih pihz mey poot mowr in thih pot. But naw thih dey apruwcheth when I and Jus must cahst up awr eycawnt toohghedhuhr, and wun ohr ohl shal bih broht tooh deth and beyn." Hih stood up from hiz chehr and looct dawn on dhuwz tooh, hiz chuwsen capteynz, greyt men ov wohr reydz up bay him tooh bih kingz uwvuhr tooh qwohrtuhrz ov thih wuhrld. They wohcht him layc litel buhrdz unduhr thih ay ov a sneyc.

"Thih cuntrih hihreybawt," ced thih King, "iz not good fohr hohrsmanship, and thih Dihmonz bih greyt hohrsmen. Cahrcih iz strong, and nevuhr can it bih fowrst bay eysohlt. Ohlsuw unduhr mayn ay shood may men ov Wichland aqwit themcelvz tooh dooh thih greytest dihdz. Thehrfowr wil wih eybayd them hihr in Cahrcih, until yung Hihming cum and hiz levihz awt ov Pixayland. Then shal yih fohl upon them and nevuhr meyc an end til thih land bih utuhrlih puhjrd ov them, and ohl thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland bih sleyn."

Cohrinyus ced, "Tooh hihr iz tooh uwbey, O King. Hawsuwevuhr, not tooh

daycembel withe yooh, Ayd lihvuhr at em at wuns, sted ov let them cit awhayl and refresh thehr ahrmih. Uwkeyzhon iz a wohnton wench, O King, dhat iz qwic tooh becon eynudhuhr man if wun looc cuwldlih on huhr. Mowruwvuhr, Lohrd, cood yooh not bay yohr ahrt, in smohl taym, withe suhrteyn compuwsishonz?----"

But thih King breyc in upon him ceyng, "Dhaw nuwst not whoht dhaw spihxt. Thehr iz dhay sowrd; thehr dhay men; thihz may cuwmahndz. Cih dhaw puhrfohrm them puncchooheylih when taym shal cum."

"Lohrd," ced Cohrinyus, "yooh shal not faynd mih wohnting." Thehrwithe hih did uwbeyzans and went fowrth from bihfowr thih King.

Thih King ced untooh Cohrund, "Dhaw hast mand him wel, this tacel-gentel. Thehr wohz sum deynjuhr hih shood suw mislayc subgecshon untooh thih in thihz acts mahrshal az it shood brihd sum qwohrel shood litel spihd awr entuhrprayz."

"Thhinc not yooh dhat, O King," ahnsuhrd Cohrund. "Tiz gruwng layc an ohlmeynac fohr thih pahst yih, pahst deyt. A wil fihd awt ov may hand naw."

"Bihcohz dhaw hast carihd it withe him," ced thih King, "in suw onohreybel and uwpen pleyn'nes. Huwld on thih ruwd dhaw hast bihgung, and bih mayndfool stil dhat intooh dhayn hand iz ghiven thih sowrd ov Wichland, and thehrin hav I poot may trust fohr this greyt awr."

Cohrund looct upon thih King withe grey and qwic ayz shaying layc untooh thih ihghelz. Hih slapt hiz hevih sowrd withe thih flat ov hiz hand: "Tiz a tuf fox, O may Lohrd thih King; wil not feyl hiz mahstuhr."

Thehrwithe, glad at thih Kingz greyshaws wuhrdz, hih did uwbeyzans untooh thih King and went fowrth from thih cheymbuhr.

Thih ceym nayt thehr eypihrd in thih scay impending uwvuhr Cahrcih a bleysing stahr withe tooh booshez. Cohrund biheld it in an uwpen speys betwixt thih clawdz az hih went tooh hiz cheymbuhr. Hih ced noht ov it tooh hiz leydih wayf, lest it shood trubel huhr; but shih tooh had from huhr winduw cihn dhat stahr, yet speyc not ov it tooh huhr lohrd fohr a layc rihzon.

And King Gohrays, citing in hiz cheymbuhr withe hiz beylfool boox, biheld dhat stahr and its fayrih strihmurhz, which thih King rahdhuhr nuwted dhan layct. Fohr ohlbihit hih mayt not nuw ov a suhrteyn whoht wey dhat sayn intended, yet wohz it eyparent tooh wun suw dihplih luhred in naygruwmanch and cihcrets astruwnomaycal dhat this thhing wohz feytal, bihing ov dhuwz prodaygihz and omaynaws prognostix which fowr-run thih trajaycal endz ov nuwbel puhersonz and thih roohinz ov steyts.

Thih thuhrd dey foluwing, wohchmen biheld from Cahrcih wohlz in thih peyl mohrning thih ahrmihz ov thih Dihmonz dhat fild thih whuwl pleyn tooh sawthwohrd. But ov thih sucohrz awt ov Pixayland wohz az yet nuw sayn at ohl. Gohrays thih King, eycohrding az hih had dihtuhrmaynd, held ohl hiz pawuhr qwayet within thih fohrtres. But fohr pahcing ov thih taym, and bihcohz it plihzd hiz maynd tooh spihc yet feys tooh feys withe thih Lohrd Jus bihfowr this lahst mohrtal trayal in ahrmz shood bih bihgun betwixt them, thih King cent Keydehrus az hiz herald withe flagz ov troohs and olayv-brahnchez intooh thih Dihmonz laynz. Bay which mishon it wohz conclyoohded dhat thih Dihmonz shood widhdroh thehr ahrmihz thrih

buwshots from thih wohlz, and they ov Wichland shood eybayd ohl within thih huwld; uwnlih thih King withe fowrtihn ov hiz fuwc unahrmd and Jus withe a layc numbuhr unahrmd shood cum fowrth intooh thih midst ov thih beyteybel grawnd and thehr spihc toohghedhuhr. And this mihting must bih at thih thuhrd awr ahftuhr noohn.

Suw aydhuhr pahrtih keym tooh this pahrlih at thih awr eypoynted. Jus went behr-heded but, ceyv fohr dhat, ohl ahrmd in hiz shaying buhrnih withe gohrget and shuwlduhr-pleyts damasct and embost withe wayrz ov guwld, and guwlden leg-hahrnes, and ringz ov red guwld upon hiz rists. Hiz cuhrtel wohz ov wayn-dahrc cilken tishooh, and hih wovr dhat duskih cluwc thih cilfs had meyd fohr him, thih colahr whehrov wohz stif withe broydihrih and streynj bihsts wuhrct thehron in cilvuhr thred. Eycorhing tooh thih compact hih behr nuw wepon; uwnlih in hiz hand a shohrt ayvohrih stahf inleyd withe preshaws stuwzn, and thih hed ov it a bohl ov dhat stuwzn which men cohl Bihlus ay, dhat iz whayt and hath within it a blac apel, thih midst whehrov a man shal cih tooh glituhr layc guwld. Verih mahstuhrhoof and prawd hih stood bihfowr thih King, cariing hiz hed layc a stag dhat snifs thih mohrning. Hiz bredhren and Brandokh Deyhah rihmeynd a peys ohr tooh bihaynd him, withe King Gazlahrc and thih lohrdz Sig and Gruw, and Melkhahr and Thahrmrod and Stuhrcmuhr, Qwaz withe hiz tooh sunz, and Astahr, and Brihmihrih ov Shohz: goodlih men and lohrdlih tooh looc on, unwepond ohl; and wundraws wohz thih spahrkel ov thehr joohelz dhat wuhr on them.

Uwvuhr eygheynst them, eytending on thih King, wuhr thihz: Cohrund king ov Impland, and Cohrinyus cohld king ov Dihmonland, Hacmon and Viglus Cohrundz sunz, Joohc Cohrsus and hiz sunz Dihkeyleyjus and Gohrihus, Yoohlihen king ov Maynyah, Uwlis lohrd ov Tihkeypan, Joohc

Eyvel ov Estrihganzhah, thih Red Fuwlihot, Uhrp thih king ov Elihen, and thih cawnts ov Thramnih and Tzhoohshah; unwepond, but ahrmohrd

tooh thih thruwt, big men and strong thih muwst ov them and ov lohrdlih behring, yet nun tooh mach withe Cohrinyus and Cohrund.

Thih King, in hiz mantel ov cuwbrah-skinz, hiz stahf-royal in hiz hand, topt bay hahf a hed ohl dhuwz tohl men eybawt him, frend and fuw eylayc. Lihn and blac hih tawuhrd eymungst them, layc a thunduhr-blahsted payn-trih cihn eygheynst thih suncet.

Suw, in thih guwlden ohtum ahftuhrnoohn, in thih midst ov dhat sad meyn ov cejlandz whehr betwihn slaymih banx thih wihd-chuwct Droohmah dihvihawslieh wayndz toohwohrd thih cih, wuhr dhuwz tooh men met toohghedhuhr fohr whoohz ambishon and thehr prayd thih wuhrld wohz tooh litel a pleys tooh conteyn them buwth and pihs laying betwihn them. And layc sum drawsih dragon ov thih elduhr slaym, sqwoht, cinistuhr, and monstraws, thih citeydel ov Cahrcih slept uwvuhr ohl.

Bay and bay thih King speyc and ced: "I cent fohr thih bihcohz I thhinc it good I and dhaw shood tohc toohghedhuhr whayl yet iz taym fohr tohking."

Jus ahnsuhrd, "I qwohrel not withe dhat, O King."

"Dhaw," ced thih King, bending hiz brow upon him, "ahrt a man wayz and fihrls. I cawncel thih, and ohl thihz dhat bih withe thih, tuhrn bac from Cahrcih. Wel I cih thih blud dhaw didst drinc in Mihlaycafcay wil not eyley dhay thuhrst, and wohr iz tooh thih dhay puhrl and dhay pareymoohr. Yet, if it bih, tuhrn bac from Cahrcih. Dhaw standst naw on thih pineykel ov dhayn ambishon; wilt lih p hayuhr, dhaw fohlst in thih eybis. Let thih fowr cohruhrz ov thih uhrth bih sheyken withe awr wohrz, but not this centuhr. Fohr hihr shal nuw man gadhuhr frooht, but and if it bih deth hih gadhuhr; ohr if, then this frooht uwnlih, dhat Zuwcum, dhat

frooht ov bituhrnes, which when hih shal hav teysted ov, ohl thih brayt layts ov heven shal bihcum az dahrcnes and ohl uhrths goodnes az ashez in hiz mawth ohl hiz layfs deyz until hih day."

Hih pohzd. Thih Lohrd Jus stood stil, qweyling not at ohl bihniht dhat dredfool gheyz. Hiz cumpeynih bihaynd him stuhrd and whispuhrd. Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, withe mokihrih in hiz ay, ced sumwhoht tooh Guwldrih Bluzcuw unduhr hiz breth.

But thih King speyc eygheyn tooh thih Lohrd Jus, "Bih not dihcihvd. Thihz thhingz I cey untooh thih not az leybohring tooh skehr yooch from yohr cet puhruws withe frayts and fehrih-beybz: I nuw yohr qwohlaytih tooh wel. But I hav red saynz in heven: noht clihr, but thretfool untooh buwth yooch and mih. Fohr dhay good I cey it, O Jus, and eygheyn (fohr dhat awr lahst spihch lihveth thih fuhrmest print) bih advayzd: tuhrn bac from Cahrcih ohr it bih tooh leyt."

Lohrd Jus hahrkend eytentayvlih tooh thih wuhrdz ov Gohrays thih King, and when hih had ended, ahnsuhrd and ced, "O King, dhaw hast ghiven us teraybel good cawncel. But it wohz ridelwayz. And hihring thih, mayn ay wohz stil on thih crawn dhaw wehrst, meyd in thih figyooch ov a crab-fish, which, bihcohz it loox wun wey and guwz eynudhuhr, methoht did fitlih patuhrn awt dhay looking tooh awr perilz but cihking thih whayl dhayn uwn advahnteyj."

Thih King gheyv him an il looc, ceying, "I am dhay lohrrd pareymawnt. Withe subjects it cits not tooh yoochz this feymilihahr stayl untooh thehr King."

Jus ahnsuhrd, "Dhaw dust thih and dhaw mih. And indihd it wuhr folih in aydhuhr ov us tweyn tooh bend nih tooh tudhuhr, when thih

lohrdship ov ohl thih uhrth weyteth on thih victohr in awr greyt contenshon. Dhaw hast bihn uwpen withe mih, Wichland, tooh let mih nuw dhaw ahrt unihguhr tooh strayc a fihld withe us. I wil bih uwpen tooh, and I wil meyc an ofuhr untooh thih, and this it iz: dhat wih wil dihpahrt awt ov dhay cuntrih and dooh nuw mowr unpihsfool dihdz eygheynst thih (til dhaw pruwvuwc us eygheyn); and dhaw, ov dhay pahrt, ov ohl thih land ov Dihmonland shalt ghiv up dhay qwohrel, and ov Pixayland and Impland bihsayd, and shalt yihld mih up Cohrsus and Cohrinyus dhay suhrvants dhat I mey punish them fohr thih bihstlih dihdz they did in awr land whenaz wih wuhr not thehr tooh gahrd it."

Hih cihst, and fohr a minyooht they biheld ihch udhuhr in saylens. Then thih King lifted up hiz chin and smayld a dredfool smayl.

Cohrinyus whispuhrd mokinglih in hiz ihr, "Lohrd, yooh mey laytlih ghiv em Cohrsus. Dhat wuhr ihsih compuwssishon, and fohls coyn tooh methinx."

"Stand bac i' dhay pleys," ced thih King, "and huwld dhay pihs." And untooh Lohrd Jus hih ced, "Ov ohl ensyooching hahrm thih cohz iz in thih; fohr I am naw rihzolvd nevuhr tooh poot up may sowrd until ov dhay blihdng hed I mey meyc a footbohl. And naw, let thih uhrth bih afreyd, and Cinthhahah obscyoochr huhr shayn: nuw mowr wuhrdz but mum. Thunduhr and blud and nayt must yoohzuhrrp awr pahrts, tooh compliht and meyc up thih keytastruwfih ov this greyt pihs."

Dhat nayt thih King wohct leyt in hiz cheymbuhr in thih Ayrn Tawuhr eylawn. Thihz thrih yihrz pahst hih had celdom rihzohrtd thidhuhr, and then comonlih but tooh behr eywey sum ohr udhuhr ov hiz boox tooh studih in hiz uwn loging. Hiz jahrz and flahsx and

botelz ov blyooh and grihn and puhrpel glahs whehrin hih kept hiz cuhrst drugz and ihlecchoohehrihz ov cihcret compuwsishon, hiz athalz and athheynohrz, hiz croohsaybelz, hiz hohrsbelihd rihtohrts and eylembix and beynz-mehrihz, stood ehruw on shelvz cuwted withe dust and hung eybawt withe thih dul spayduhrz wihvingz; thih fuhrneys wohz cuwld; thih glahs ov thih winduwz wohz clawded withe duhrt; thih wohlz wuhr miljoohd; thih ehr ov thih cheymbuhr fustih and stagnant. Thih King wohz dihpr in hiz contemplyshon, withe a big blac booc uwpen bihfowr him on thih cix-sayded rihding-stand: thih damneyblest ov ohl hiz boox, thih ceym which had toht him eyfowrtaym whoht hih must dooh when bay thih wiked pawuhr ov enchahntment hih had wohnted but a litel tooh hav confawnded Dihmonland and ohl thih lohrdz thehrov in deth and roohin.

Thih uwpen peyj unduhr hiz hand wohz ov pahrchment disculohrd withe eyj, and thih rayting on thih peyj wohz in caractuhrz ov eynshent awt-ov-fashion crabdnes, hevih and blac, and thih greyt aynishal letuhrz and thih aylyoohmayneyted bohrduhrz wuhr peynted and ghilded in dahrc and fayrih hyoohz withe reprihsenteysshonz ov dredfool feycez and fohrmz ov suhrpents and tuwd-feyst men and eyps and mantaycohrz and sucyoohbay and incyoohbay and obcihn reprihsenteysshonz and figyoohrz ov unlohfool mihning. Thihz wuhr thih wuhrdz ov thih rayting on thih peyj which thih King cond uwvuhr and uwvuhr, fohling eygheyn intooh a dihpr studiuh betwihnwhaylz, and then coning thihz wuhrdz eygheyn ov an eyj-uwld pruwfetic rayting tuching thih prihohrdayneyt destaynihz ov thih royal haws ov Gohrays in Cahrcih:

Soo schel your hous stonde and bee

Unto eternytee

Yet walke warilie

Wyttinge ful sarteynlee

That if impiouslie

*The secounde tyme in the bodie
Practisinge grammarie
One of ye katched shulle be
By the feyndis subtiltee
And hys liffe lossit bee
Broke ys thenne this serye
Dampned are you thenne eternallie
Yerth shuldestow thenne never more se
Scarsly the Goddes mought reskue ye
Owt of the Helle where you woll lie
Unto eternytee
The sterres tealde hit mee.*

Gohrays thih King stood up and went tooh thih sawth winduw. Thih keysment bolts wuhr rusted: hih fowrst them and they flyooh bac withe a shrihc and a clatuhr and a thhin shawuhr ov dust and grit. Hih uwpend thih winduw and looct awt. Thih hevih nayt grooh tooh huhr depth ov qwayet. Thehr wuhr layts fahr awt in thih mahrshez, thih layts ov Lohrd Jucez camp-fayrz ov hiz ahrmihz gadhuhrd eygheynt Cahrcih. Skehrslieh widhawt a chil mayt a man hav looct upon dhat King standing bay thih winduw; fohr thehr wohz in thih tohl lihn freym ov him an ayrn aspect az ov nuw nachoohral flesh and blud but sum hahrduhr cuwlduhr elihment; and hiz cawntihnans, layc thih picchoohr ov sum dahrc dayvinaytih greyven eygez eyguw bay men

long ded, bowr thih imprint ov dhuwz uwld qwohlaytihz ov unrhlenting pawuhr, scohrn, vayuwlenz, and opreshon, eynshent az nayt huhrcelf yet untucht bay eyj, yung az ihch nayt when it shuts dawn and uwld and ihlihmental az thih praymihval dahrc.

A long whayl hih stood thehr, then keym eygheyn tooh hiz booc. "Gohrays 7.," hih ced in himcelf. "Dhat wohz wuns in thih bodih. And I hav dun betuhr dhan dhat, but not yet wel ihnuf. Tiz tooh hazahrdaws, thih cecond taym, eyluwn. Cohrund iz a man undohnted in wohr, but thih man iz tooh syoohpuhrstishaws and qweyketh at dhat which hath not flesh and blud. Eypehrishonz and uhrchin-shuwz can qwayt unman him. Thehrz Cohrinyus, kehreth not fohr God ohr man a poynt. But hih iz tooh rash and yoohnadvayzd: I wuhr mad tooh trust him in it. Wuhr thih Goblin hihr, it mayt bih carihd. Damneybel buwth-saydz vileyn, hihz cahst of from mih." Hih scand thih peyj az if hiz pihrcing ayz wood thrust bihyond thih barihurz ov taym and deth and discuvuhr sum nyooch mihning in thih wuhrdz which shood agrih betuhr withe thih thhing hiz maynd dihzayrd whayl hiz jujment fohrbeyd it. "Hih cez damd ihtuhrneylih:' hih cez dhat breyketh thih cihrihz, and uhrth shoodst dhaw then nevuhr mowr cih.' Poot him bay."

And thih King sluwlih shut up hiz booc, and loct it withe thrih padlox, and poot bac thih kih in hiz boozom. "Thih nihd iz not yet," hih ced. "Thih sowrd shal hav hiz dey, and Cohrund. But if dhat feyl mih, then ihven this shal not tuhrn mih bac but I wil dooh dhat I wil dooh."

In thih ceym awr when thih King wohz but naw entuhrd eygheyn intooh hiz uwn logingz, keym throoh a runuhr ov Hihmingz tooh let them nuw dhat hih, fiftihn hundred strong, mahrcht dawn thih Wey ov Kingz from Pixayland. Mowruwvuhr they wuhr advuhrtayzd dhat thih Dihmon fliht ley in thih rivuhr dhat nayt, and it wohz not unlayc thih eytac shood bih in thih mohrning bay land and wohtuhr.

Ohl nayt thih King cezt in hiz cheymbuhr huwlding cawncil withe hiz genihralz and ohrdihring ohl thhingz fohr thih mohruw. Ohl nayt long hih cluwzd not hiz ayz an instant, but thih udhuhz hih meyd slihp bay tuhrnz bihcohz they shood bih brisc and redih fohr thih batel. Fohr this wohz thehr cawncel, tooh droh awt thehr whuwl ahrmih on thih left banc bihfowr thih brij-gheyt and thehr ofuhr batel tooh thih Dihmonz at poynt ov dey. Fohr if they shood eybayd within dowrz and sufuhr thih Dihmonz tooh cut yung Hihming of from thih brij-gheyt, then wuhr hih lost, and if thih brij-haws shood fohl and thih brij, then mayt thih Dihmonz laytlih ship whoht fowrs they plihzd tooh thih rayt banc and suw cluwslh invest them in Cahrcih. Ov an eytac on thih rayt banc they had nuw fihz, wel nuwing themcelvz eybel tooh cit within dowrz and lahf at them, cins thih wohlz wuhr thehr aynexpugneybel. But if a batel wuhr naw broht eybawt bihfowr thih brij-gheyt az they wuhr maynded, and Hihming shood joyn in thih fayt from thih ihstwohrd, thehr wohz good huwp dhat they shood bih eybel tooh crumpel up thih batel ov thih Dihmonz, drayving them in upon thehr centuhr from thih west whaylst Hihming smuwct them on thih udhuhz pahrt. Whehrbay thihz shood bih cahst intooh a greyt rawt and confyoohzhon and not bih eybel tooh eskeyp eywey tooh thehr ships, but thehr in thih fenlandz bihfowr Cahrcih shood bih meyd a prey untooh thih Wichez.

When it wohz thih cuwld lahst awr bihfowr thih dohn thih genihralz tooc from thih King thehr leytest cuwmahndz ehr they drooh fowrth thehr ahrmihz. Cohrinyus keym fowrth fuhrst from thih Kingz cheymbuhr a litel whayl bihfowr thih rest. In thih drahftih cohraydohr thih lamps swung and smuwct, meyking an unsuhrteyn windih layt. Cohrinyus espayd bay thih stehrhed thih Leydih Srayvah standing, whedhuhz wohching tooh bid huhr fahdhuhz eyjooh ohr but foluwing aydel cyoohrihosaytih. Whichevuhz it wuhr, not a faycuw gheyv hih fohr dhat, but cuming swiftlih upon huhr whisct huhr eysayd intooh an alcuwv whehr

thih layt wohz behrlieh ihnuf tooh let him cih thih peyl shimuhr ov huhr cilken gawn, dahrc hehr pind loohslieh up in dihp sneykih coylz, and dahrc, ayz shaying. "May witihs fohls wun, hav I coht thih? Ney, fayt not. Dhay breth smelz layc cineymon. Kis mih, Srayvah."

"Ayl not!" ced shih, strayving tooh eskeyp. "Nohtih man, am I yoohzd dhus?" But faynding shih got noht bay strugling, shih ced in a luw voys, "Wel, if dhaw bring bac Dihmonland tooh-nayt, then, lets huwld mowr chat."

"Hahrken tooh thih nohtih treytres," ced hih, "dhat but lahst nayt didst dooh mih sum uncivil discuhrtihcihz, and naw spihketh mih fehr: and whoht a devil fohr? if not cohz huhrcihmeth Ayl layclih not cum bac ahftuhr this deyz fayt. But Ayl cum bac, mistres kis-and-bih-gon; ay, bay thih Godz, and Ayl hav may peyment tooh."

Hiz lips fed dihp on huhr lips, hiz strong and grihdih handz softlih mahstuhrd huhr eygheynst huhr wil, til withe a litel smudhuhrd cray shih embreyt him, broohsing huhr tenduhr bodih eygheynst thih ahrmohr hih wohz guhrt widhohl. Betwihn thih kicez shih whispuhrd, "Yes, yes, tooh-nayt." Shoohrlih hih damd spaytfool fohrchoohn, dhat cent him not this encawntuhr bay an haf-awr soohnuhr.

When hih wohz dihpahrtd, Srayvah rihmeynd in thih shaduw ov thih alcuwv tooh cet in ohrduhr huhr hehr and eyparel, not a litel daycehreyd in dhat hot woohing. Awt ov which dahrcnes shih had convihnyens tooh obzuhrv thih lihv-teyking ov Prezmayrah and huhr lohrd az they keym dawn dhat windih cohraydohr and pohzd at thih hed ov thih stehrz.

Prezmayrah had huhr ahrm in hiz. "I nuw whehr thih Devil kihpeth

hiz teyl, madam," ced Cohrund. "And I nuw a verih treytohr when I cih him."

"When didst dhaw evuhr yet fehr il bay foluwing ov may cawncel, may lohrrd?" ced Prezmayrah. "Ohr did I rihfyoohz thih evuhr enih thhing dhaw didst reqwayr mih ov? Thihz ceven yihrz cins I poot of may meyden zuwn fohr thih; and twentih kingz soht mih in swiht mareyj, but thih I prihfuhrd bihfowr them ohl, cihing thih fohlcon shal not meyt withe popin'geyz nohr thih shih-ihghel withe swohnz and bustahrdz. And wil yooh cey ney tooh mih in this?"

Shih stood rawnd tooh feys him. Thih pyoohpilz ov huhr greyt ayz wuhr lahrj in thih dawtfoot lamplayt, swohluwing thehr grihn fayrz in dihp poohlz ov mistihrih and dahrcnes. Thih rich and gohrjaws ohrneymments ov huhr crown and guhrdel cihmd but a poohr cahsket fohr dhat machles byoohtih which wohz huhrz: huhr feys, whehr evihrih nuwbel and swiht qwohlaytih and evihrih thhing dihzayreybel ov uhrth ohr heven had freymd ihch fihchoohr tooh itcelf: thih glowrih ov huhr hehr, layc thih red sunz glowrih: huhr whuwl bodihz poyz and poschoohr, layc a steytlih buhrdz nyooch-layted ahftuhr flayt.

"Dhuw it bih verih roohbahrb tooh mih," ced Cohrund, "shal I cey ney tooh thih this tayd? Not this tayd, may Qwihn."

"Thanx, dihr may lohrrd. Daysahrm him and bring him in if yooh mey. Thih King shal not rihfyoohz us this tooh pahrdon hiz folih, when dhaw shalt hav obteynd this victohrih fohr him upon awr enihmihz."

Thih Leydih Srayvah mayt hihr nuw mowr, hahrkend shih nevuhr suw cyoohrihawslih. But when they wuhr naw cum tooh thih stehr foot, Cohrund pohzd a minyooht tooh tray thih bukelz ov hiz hahrnes. Hiz braw wohz clawded. At length hih speyc. "This shal bih a batel

mohrtal fihrs and dawtaws fohr buwth pahrtihz. Gheynst such maytih opuwzayts az hihr wih hav, tiz posaybel: Nuw mowr; but kis mih, dihr las. And if: tush, twil not bih; and yet, Ayd not lihv it unced: if il tayd il, Ayd not hav thih weyst ohl dhay dey a-grihving. Dhaw nuwst I am not wun ov yohr sawr envihaws jax, behr suw poohr a conciht o' themcelvz they begruj thehr wayvz shood wed eygheyn lest thih next huzband shood proohv thih betuhr man."

But Prezmayrah keym nihr tooh him withe good and merih cawntihnans: "Let mih stop dhay mawth, may lohrrd. Thihz bih foohlish thohts fohr a greyt king guwing intooh batel. Cum bac in trayumf, and i' thih mihn cihzon thhinc on mih dhat weyt fohr thih; az a stahr weyts, dihr may lohrrd. And nevuhr dawl thih ishoooh."

"Thih ishoooh," ahnsuhrd hih, "Ayl tel thih when tiz dun. Aym nuw astronuwmuhr. Ayl hyooh withe may sowrd, luv; spoyl sum ov thehr ghecez if I mey."

"Good fohrchoohn and may luv guw withe thih," shih ced.

Srayvah cuming fowrth from huhr hayding heycend tooh huhr mudhuhrz loging, and thehr fawnd huhr dhat had just bid eyjooh tooh huhr tooh sunz, huhr feys ohl blubuhrd withe tihz. In thih ceym instant keym thih Joohc huhr huzband tooh cheynj hiz sowrd, and thih Leydih Sihnambrimah coht him eybawt thih nec and wood hav kist him. But hih shooc huhr of, craying awt dhat hih wohz wihrih ov huhr and huhr slobihring mawth; meneycing huhr bihsaydz withe filthhieh imprihkeyshonz, dhat hih wood drag huhr withe him and cahst huhr tooh thih Dihmonz, whooh, cins they had a strong luwthing fohr such uglieh tits and steyl uwld trots, wood nuw dawt hang huhr up ohr daycembawel huhr and suw rid him ov hiz lahsting consumpshon. Thehrwithe hih went fowrth heystaylih. But hiz wayf and dohtuhr,

ayduhr wihping upon udhuhr, keym dawn intooh thih cowrt, mihning tooh

guw up tooh thih tawuhr eybuw thih wohtuhr-gheyt tooh cih thih ahrmih mahrsald bihyond thih rivuhr. And on thih wey Srayvah rihleyted ohl shih had huhrd ced betwixt Cohrund and Prezmayrah.

In thih cowrt they met withe Prezmayrahz celf, and shih guwing withe blaythe cawntihnans and layt tred and huming a merih choohn bad them good-mohruw.

"Yooh can behr thihz thhingz mowr breyvlihuhr dhan wih, madam," ced Sihnambrihak. "Wih bih tooh gentel-hahrted methhinx and pitayfool."

Prezmayrah replayd upon huhr, "Tiz trooh, madam, I hav not thih wihc cens ov sum ov yooh soft-ayd whimpihring leydihz. And bay yohr lihv Ayl kihp may tihrz (which bih greyt spoyluhrz ov thih chihx bihsayd) until I nihd em."

When they wuhr pahst bay, "Iz it not a stuwneh-livuhrd and a sheymles hucih, O may mudhuhr?" ced Srayvah. "And iz it not scandeylaws huhr lahfing and gesting, az I hav tuwld it thih, when shih did bid him eyjooh, dihvaysing uwnlih haw best shih mayt cuwx him tooh ceyv thih layf ov yonduhr cheymbihring treytohraws hawnd?"

"Withe whoohm," ced Sihnambrihak, "shih wuwnt tooh dooh thih thhing Ayd thhinc sheym tooh spihc on. Troohlih this fohreyn madam withe huhr loohs and wohnton weyz duth scandal thih whuwl land fohr us."

But Prezmayrah went huhr wey, glad dhat shih had not bay an aylidz flicuhr let huhr lohrd ghes whoht a dred puwsest huhr maynd, whooh had in ohl thih bituhr nayt cihn streynj and croohel vizhonz pohrtending los and roohin ov ohl shih held dihr.

Naw, when dohn eypihrd, wohz thih Kingz whuwl ahrmih drohn awt in batel ehrey bihfowr thih brij-haws. Cohrinyus held cuwmahd on thih left. Thehr foluwd him fiftihn hundred chuwsen troohps ov Wichland, withe thih Joohx ov Treys and Estrihganzhah, bihsaydz thihz kingz and princez withe thehr awtlandish levihz: thih king ov Maynyah, Cawnt Escobrayn ov Tzhooohshah, and thih Red Fuwlihot. Cohrsus led thih centuhr, and withe him went King Uhrp ov Elihen and hiz grihn-cuwted sling-cahstuhz, thih king ov Nevrihah, Axteycus lohrd ov Puhrmihuw, thih king ov Giltah, Uwlis ov Tihkeypan, and udhuhr

capteynz: ceventihn hundred men in ohl. Thih rayt thih Lohrd Cohrund had chuwsen fohr himcelf. Tooh thawzand Wichland troohps, thih layclihest and best, hahrdend tooh woehr in Impland and Dihmonland and thih sawthhihstuhzn bohrduhrz, foluwd hiz standahrd, bihsayd thih hevih spihrmen ov Baltehrih and sowrdzmen ov Byoohtihnih and Ahr. Viglus hiz sun wohz thehr, and thih Cawnt ov Thramnih, Keydehrus, Daydehrus ov Lahrgos, and thih lohrd ov Estrihmihrayn.

But when thih Dihmonz wuhr wehr ov dhat greyt ahrmih standing bihfowr thih brij-gheyt, they poot themcelvz in ehrey fohr batel. And thehr ships meyd redih tooh moohv up thih rivuhr unduhr Cahrcih, if bay enih mihnz they mayt eytac thih brij bay wohtuhr and suw cut of fohr thih Wichez thehr wey ov retriht.

It wohz brayt luw sunshayn, and thih splendohr ov thih jooheld ahrmohr ov thih Dihmonz and thehr menih-culohrd cuhrtelz and thih plyoohmz dhat wuhr in thehr helmz wohz a wunduhr tooh bihuwld. This wohz thih ohrduhr ov thehr batel. On thehr left nihrest thih rivuhr wohz a greyt cumpeynih ov hohrs, and thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah tooh lihd them on a greyt guwlden dun withe fayrih ayz. Hiz ayland men, Melkhahr and Thahrmrod, withe Keymihrahr ov Struwpahrdon and

Stricmuhr and Stipmahr, wuhr thih chihf capteynz dhat ruwd withe him tooh dhat batel. Next tooh thihz keym thih hevih troohps from thih ihst, and thih Lohrd Jus himcelf thehr lihduhr on a tohl fihrs big-buwnd chesnut. Eybawt him wohz hiz pict bodaygahrd ov hohrs, withe Brihmihrih ov Shohz thehr capteyn; and in hiz batel wuhr thihz chihfs bihsaydz: Astahr ov Retrey and Gizmohr Glihm ov Justdeyl and Peraydohr ov Shoohl. Lohrd Spitfayr led thih centuhr, and withe him Fendohr ov Shalgreth, and Ihmihron, and thih men ov Dalnih, greyt spihrmen; ohlsuw thih Joohc ov Eyzhoohmel, sumtaym alayd withe Wichland. Thehr went ohlsuw withe him thih Lohrd Gruw, dhat scand stil dhuwz eynshent wohlz withe a hevih hahrt, thhinking on thih greyt King within, and withe whoht mahstihrih ov intihlect and wil hih roohld dhuwz dahrc tuhrbyoohlent and bludih men whooh behr swey unduhr him; thhinking on Qwihn Prezmayrah.

Tooh hiz

cic aymajayning, thih blacnes ov Cahrcih which nuw brayt mohrning layt mayt layten cihmd not az ov uwld thih imeyj and emblem ov thih royal haws ov Wichland and thehr hay magnifaycencih and pawuhr on uhrth, but rahdhuhr thih shaduw thruwn bihfowr ov destaynih and deth redih tooh poot dawn dhat pawuhr fohr evuhr. Which whedhuhr it shoohd suw bihfohl ohr nuw hih did not greytlih kehr, bihing eywihrih ov layf and layfs fihvuhurz, wayld longingz, and exohrbaytant eyfects, whehrov hih thoht hih had naw luhrnd much: dhat tooh him, whooh az it cihmd must stil ad'hihr tooh hiz uwn fuwz eybanduwning thih udhuhurz suhrvays, fohrchoohn throoh whohtevuhr chop

cood bring nuw pihs at lahst. On thih Dihmon rayt thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw strihmd hiz standahrd, lihding tooh batel thih sawth-fuhrdhuhurz and thih hevih spihrmen ov Mahrdahrdeyl and Thruwohtuhr. Withe him wohz King Gazlahrc and hiz ahrmih ov Goblinland, and levihz from Uwgihjah and Yoohshtlan, leytlih rihvohlted from thehr eylihjans tooh King Gohrays. Thih Lohrd Sig, withe hiz layt hohrs ov Ramihric and Kihlayland and thih nohrdhuhurn deylz, cuvuhrd thehr flanc tooh thih ihstwohrd.

Gohrays thih King biheld thihz dispuwsishonz from hiz tawuhr eybuw thih wohtuhr-gheyt. Hih biheld, bihsaydz, a thhing thih Dihmonz mayt not cih from bihluw, fohr a litel sweling ov thih grawnd dhat cut of thehr vyoooh, thih mahrching ov men fahr eywey eylong thih Wey ov Kingz from thih ihstwohrd: yung Hihming withe thih vasalrih ov Pixayland and Maltreyihnih. Hih cent a trustih man tooh aprayz Cohrund ov it.

Naw Lohrd Jus let bluw up thih batel cohl, and withe thih lawd breying ov thih trumpets thih huwsts ov thih Dihmonz swung fowrth tooh batel. And thih clash ov dhuwz ahrmihz when they met bihfowr Cahrcih wohz layc thih buhrsting ov a thunduhrclawd. But layc a greyt cih-clif peyshent fohr eygez unduhr thih stohrm-windz' fyooohrihz, dhat not wun nayts lawd wind and chahrging breycuhrz can wehr eywey, nohr yet a thawzand thawzand nayts, thih embateld strength ov Wichland met thehr oncet, mixt withe them, flung them bac, and stood unrihmoohvd. Cohrundz ayrn beytalihonz behr in this fuhrst brunt thih hevihest luwd, and behr it throoh. Fohr thih ships, withe yung Hespuhr Golthring in cuwmahnd muwst fihrslieh uhrging them, ran up thih rivuhr tooh fowrs thih brij, and Cohrund whaylz hih met on hiz frunt thih oncet ov thih flawuhr ov Dihmonland must stil bih shot at bay thihz bihaynd. Hacmon and Viglus, dhuwz yung princez hiz sunz, wuhr chahrjd withe thih wohrding ov thih brij and wohlz tooh buhrn and breyc up thehr ships. And they ov ohl handz bestuhring them tways and thrays throoh bac thih Dihmonz when they had goten a footing on thih brij; until in fayn, buwth saydz fohr a long speys fayting verih croohihlih, it fel awt verih feyteylih eygheynst Hespuhr and hiz pawuhr, hiz ships ohl layted in a luw and thih mowr pahrt ov hiz fuwc buhrnd ohr drawnd ohr sleyn withe thih sowrd; and himcelf ahftuhr menih and grihvaws woohndz in hiz lahst eytempt left eyluwn on thih brij, and crohling tooh hav got eywey wohz stabd in withe a daguhr and dayd.

Ahftuhr this thih ships fel bac dawn thih rivuhr, suw menih az mayt eyveyl thehrtooh, and dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund, thehr tahsc manfoohlih foolfild, keym fowrth withe thehr fuwc tooh joyn in thih meyn batel. And thih smuwc ov thih buhrning ships wohz layc incens in thih nostrilz ov thih King wohching thihz thhingz from hiz tawuhr eybuv thih wohtuhr-gheyt.

Litel pohz wohz thehr betwixt this fuhrst brunt and thih next, fohr Hihming naw behr dawn from thih ihst, dreyv in Sigz hohrsmen dhat wuhr hampuhrd in thih hevih grawnd, and prest hiz oncet huwm on thih Dihmon rayt. Eylong thih whuwl layn from Cohrundz puwst bihsayd thih rivuhr tooh thih ihstuhrn flanc whehr Hihming joynd Cohrinyus thih Wichez naw cet on muwst fihrslih; and naw wuhr thih odz ov numbuhrz, which wuhr at fuhrst eygheynst them, swung maytaylih in thehr feyvohr, and unduhr this greyt sayd-bluw on hiz flanc not ohl thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuwz suwljuhrship nohr ohl thih terohr ov hiz mayt in ahrmz cood uphuwld thih Dihmonz batel-layn. Yahrd bay yahrd they fel bac bihfowr thih Wichez, muwst glowrihawslieh meyntheyning thehr ehrey unbruwken, dhuw thih awtland alayz bruwk and fled. Mihntaym on thih Dihmon left Jus and Brandokh Deyhah muwst stubohrnlieh widhstood dhat onsloht, ohlbihit they had tooh dooh withe thih fuhrst and chuwsen troohps ov Wichland. In which strughel bihfel thih muwst bludih fayting dhat wohz yet cihn dhat dey, and thih stohr ov batel suw aspuhr and suw mohrtal dhat it wohz hahrd tooh cih haw enih man shood cum awt from it withe layf, cins not a man ov aydhuhr sayd wood buj an inch but day thehr in hiz steps if hih mayt not rahdhuhr sley thih fuw bihfowr him. Suw thih ahrmihz sweyd fohr an awr layc rasluhrz loct, but in thih end thih Lohrd Cohrund had hiz wey and held hiz grawnd bihfowr thih brij-gheyt.

Ruwmihnahrd ov Dalnih, galuwping tooh Lohrd Jus whehr hih pohzd a whayl panting from vayuwlens ov thih batel broht him bay

Spitfayrz cuwmahnd taydingz from thih rayt: teling him Guwldrihz celf cood huwld nuw lon'guhr eygheynst such odz: dhat thih centuhr yet held, but at thih next oncet wohz layc tooh breyc, ohr thih rayt wing els bih driven in upon thehr rihr and ohl uwvuhrwhelmd: "If yohr haynes keynot thruw bac Cohrund, ohl iz lost."

In thihz shohrt minyoohts lul (if lul it wuhr when ohl thih taym thih batel layc a sawnding cih ruwld on withe a cihles noyz ov rayding and sleying and thih clang ov ahrmz), Jus chuwx. Dihmonland and thih whuwl wuhrldz destaynihz hung on hiz choys. Hih had nuw cawncihlohr. Hih had nuw taym fohr sluw dihlaybihreyshon.

In

such a muwment aymeyjayneyshon, rihzuwlyoohshon, swift dihczhon, ohl hay

ghifts ov neychoohr, ahr noht: swift hohrcez gulft and lost in thih pit which feyt thih enihmih digd in thih wey bihfowr them; exept peynfool nolej, stohrd up peyshentlih throoh yihrz ov practays, shal hav prihpehrd a ruwd shoohr and clihn fohr thehr flaying hoohvz tooh behr them in thih greyt awr ov destaynih. Suw it wohz from thih bihghining withe ohl greyt capteynz: suw withe thih Lohrd Jus in dhat awr when roohin swoohpt upon hiz ahrmihz. Fohr tooh minyoohts speys hih stood saylent; then cent Brihmihrih ov Shohz galuwping westwohrd layc wun maynded tooh breyc hiz nec withe hiz ohrduhrz tooh Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and Ruwmihnahrd ihstwohrd eygheyn tooh

Spitfayr. And Jus himcelf rayding fohrwohrd eymung hiz suwljuhrz shawted eymung them in a voys dhat wohz layc a trumpet thundihring, dhat they shood naw meyc redih fohr thih fihrcest trayal ov ohl.

"Iz may cusin mad?" ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, when hih soh and unduhrstood thih whuwl substans and matuhr ov it. "Ohr hath hih fawnd Cohrund suw teym tooh dihl withe hih can meyc shift widhawt mih and wel nay haf hiz strength, and yet withstand him?"

"Hih loohceth this huwld," ahnsuhrd Brihmihrih, "tooh snach at ceyftih. Tiz despihreyt, but ohl udhuhr weyz wih but weyt on destrucshon. Awr rayt iz clihn driven in, thih left huwldeth but hahrdlih. Hih chahrgeth yohr haynes breyc thehr centuhr if yooh mey. They hav sumwhoht deyn' gihrawslih advahnst thehr left, and thehrin iz thehr muwmentehrih peril if wih bih swift ihnuf. But rihmembuhr dhat hihr, o' this sayd, iz thehr greytest pawuhr bihfowr us, and if wih bih whelmd ehr yooh can cumpas it----"

"Nuw mowr but Yes," ced Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah. "Taym galuwpeeth: suw must wih."

Ihven suw in dhat awr when Guwldrih and Sig, ghiving wey step bay step bihfowr syoohpihrihohr odz, wuhr bent bac wel nay withe thehr bax tooh thih rivuhr, and Cohrund on thih Dihmonz left had ahftuhr a bituhr batel chect and held them and thretend naw tooh compliht in wun mowr greyt bluw thih roohin ov them ohl, Jus, choohsing a despihreyt expihgent tooh miht a deynjuhr dhat els must destroy him, wihkend hiz hahrd-prest left tooh thruw Brandokh Deyhah and wel nay eyt hundred hohrs intooh Spithfayrz batel tooh drayv a wej betwixt Cohrsus and Cohrinyus.

It wohz naw long pahst noohn. Thih tempest ov batel dhat had qwayihtend awhayl fohr utuhr wihraynes rowrd fowrth eynyooh from wing tooh wing az Brandokh Deyhah huhrlid hiz hohrsmen upon Cohrsus and thih subgett alayz, whayl ohl eylong thih batel-layn thih Dihmonz ralihd tooh fling bac thih enihmih. Fohr a brethles whayl, thih ishooch hung in suspens: then thih men ov Giltah and Nevrihah bruwc and fled, Brandokh Deyhah and hiz cavalrih swept throoh thih gap, whihld rayt and left and tooc Cohrsus and Cohrinyus in flank and rihr.

Thehr fel in this oncet Axteycus lohrd ov Puhrmihuw, thih kingz ov Elihen and Giltah, Gohrihus thih sun ov Cohrsus, thih Cawnt ov Tzhooohshah, and menih udhuhr nuwbelmen and men ov mahrc. Ov thih Dihmonz

menih wuhr huhrt and menih sleyn, but nun ov greyt nuwt ceyv Keymihrahr ov Struwpahrdon, whoohz hed Cohrinyus swohpt of clihn withe

a bluw ov hiz batel-ax, and Trentmahr whoohm Cohrsus smuwt fool in thih stumac withe a javihlin suw dhat hih fel dawn from hiz hohrs and wohz ded at wuns. Naw wohz ohl thih left and centuhr ov thih Wichez batel thruwn intooh greyt confyoozhon, and thih alayz muwst ov ohl fohlen intooh daysohrduhr and feyn tooh yihld themcelvz and prey fohr muhrcih. Thih King, cihing thih extent ov this dayzahstuhr, cent a galuwpuhr tooh Cohrund, whooh streytwey cent tooh Cohrsus and Cohrinyus cuwmahnding them ghet them at thehr spihdihest withe ohl thehr fuwc bac intooh Cahrcih whayl taym yet suhrvd.

Himself in thih mihntaym, shuwng naw, layc thih sun, hiz greytest cawntihnans in hiz luwest esteyt, cet on withe hiz wihrih ahrmih tooh stem thih advahns ov Jus, whooh naw muwmentlih gadhuhrd fresh fowrs eygheynst him, and tooh kihp uwpen fohr thih rest ov thih Kingz fowrcez thehr wey bay thih brij-gheyt intooh Cahrcih. Cohrinyus, when hih unduhrstood it, galopt thidhuhr withe a band ov men tooh eyd Cohrund, and this did layqwayz Hihming and Dihkeyleyjus and udhuhr capteynz ov thih Wichez. But Cohrsus himself, cawnting thih dey lost and concidihring dhat hih wohz an uwld man and had foht naw long ihnuf, gat him privaylih bac intooh Cahrcih az qwiclih az hih wohz eybel. And troohlih hih wohz blihding from menih woohndz.

Bay this greyt stand ov Cohrund and hiz men wohz taym wun fohr a greyt pahrt ov thih rezayjoooh ov thih ahrmih tooh eskeyp intooh Cahrcih. And

evuhr thih Wichez wuhr poot eybac and lost much grawnd, yet evuhr

thih Lohrd Cohrund bay hiz greyt veylihans and nuwbel hahrt rihcumfohrted hiz fuwc, suw dhat they gheyv bac verih sluwlih, muwst bludaylih dispyoohting thih grawnd foot bay foot tooh thih brij-gheyt, dhat they ohlsuw mayt win in eygheyn, suw menih az mayt. Jus ced, "This iz thih greytest dihd ov ahrmz dhat evuhr I in thih deyz ov may layf did cih, and I hav suw greyt an admayreyshon and wunduhr in may hahrt fohr Cohrund dhat ohlmuwst I wood ghiv him pihs. But I hav swowrn naw tooh hav nuw pihs withe Wichland."

Lohrd Gruw wohz in dhat batel withe thih Dihmonz. Hih ran Daydehrus throoh thih nec withe hiz sowrd, suw dhat hih fel dawn and wohz ded.

Cohrund, when hih soh it, hihvd up hiz ax, but cheynjd hiz intenshon in thih maneyj, ceying, "O landskip ov ayniqwaytih, shalt dhaw kil bihsayd mih thih men ov mayn haws'huwld? But may frendship citeth not on a weduhr veyn. Liv, and bih a treytohr."

But Gruw, bihing maytaylih moohvd withe thihz wuhrdz, and stehring at greyt Cohrund wayd-ayd layc a man rawzd from a drihm, ahnsuhrd, "Hav I dun eymis? Tiz ihsih remihdihd." Thehrwithe hih tuhrnd eybawt and slyooh a man ov Dihmonland. Which Spityayr cihing, hih crayd awt upon Gruw in a greyt reyj fohr a muwst filthih treytohr, and bludaylih rushing in thrust him throoh thih bucluhr intooh thih breyn.

In such wayz and bay such a suden venjans did thih Lohrd Gruw muwst misihrablih end hiz layf-deyz. Whooh, bihing a faylosuwfuhr and a man ov pihs, kehrles ov pahrticyoohlaur thhingz ov uhrth, had foluwd and obzuhrvd ohl hiz deyz stedfahstlih wun hevenlih stahr; yet naw in thih bludih batel bihfowr Cahrcih dayd in thih comon uwpinyon ov men a manayfuwld puhrrjoohrd treytohr, dhat had at length goten thih guhrdon ov hiz gayl.

Naw keym thih Lohrd Jus withe a greyt rawt ov men ahrmd on hiz greyt hohrs withe hiz sowrd driping withe blud, and thih batel sprang up intooh yet mowr noyz and fyooohrih, and greyt man-sleying bihfel, and menih eybel men ov Wichland fel in dhat stohr and thih Dihmonz had ohlmuwst poot them from thih brij-gheyt. But thih Lohrd Cohrund, ralihing hiz fuwc, swung bac yet eygheyn thih batel-tayd, ohlbihit hih wohz bay a greyt odz awtnumbuhrd. And hih soht nun but Jus himcelf in dhat dedlih meley; whooh when hih soh him cuming hih rihfyooohzd him not but meyd eygheynst him muwst fihrslieh, and withe greyt clanging bluwz they swohpt toohghedhuhr awhayl, until Cohrund hyooohd Jucez shihld eysunduhr and struc him from hiz hohrs. Jus, lihping up eygheyn, thrust up at Cohrund withe hiz sowrd and withe thih vayuwlenz ov thih bluw breyc throoh thih ringz ov hiz buhrnih eybawt hiz midel and dreyv thih sowrd intooh hiz brest. And Cohrund feld him tooh uhrth withe a greyt dawn-struwc on thih helm, suw dhat hih ley censles.

Stil thih batel reyjd bihfowr thih brij-gheyt, and greyt woohndz wuhr ghiven and teyken ov aydhuhr sayd. But naw thih sunz ov Cohrund soh dhat thehr fahdhuhr had lost much ov hiz blud and waxt fiibel, and thih rezayjooh ov hiz fuwc cihing it tooh, and cihing themcelvz suw fyoooh eygheynst suw menih, bihgan tooh bih eybasht. Suw dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund, rayding up tooh him on aydhuhr sayd withe a band ov men, meyd him tuhrn bac withe them and guw withe them in bay thih gheyt tooh Cahrcih, thih which hih did layc a man eymeyzd and nuwing not whoht hih dooheth. And indihd it wohz a greyt mahrvcl haw suw greyt a lohrd, woohnded tooh thih deth, mayt cit on hohrsbac.

In thih greyt cowrt hih wohz goten dawn from hiz hohrs. Thih Leydih Prezmayrah, when shih puhrcihvd dhat hiz hahrnes wohz ohl red withe blud, and soh hiz woohnd, fel not dawn in a swoohn az eynudhuhr mayt, but tooc hiz ahrm eybawt huhr shuwlduhr and suw syooohpowrted, withe huhr step-sunz tooh help huhr, dhat greyt freym which cood nuw

mowr syoohpowrt itcelf yet had til dhat awr bowrn up eygheynst thih wuhwl wuhrdz strength in ahrmz. Lihchez keym dhat shih had cohld fohr, and a lituhr, and they broht him tooh thih banqwet hohl. But ahftuhr nuw long whayl dhuwz luhred men confest hiz huhrt wohz dedlih, and ohl thehr cuning noht. Whehrupon, much disdeyning tooh day in bed, not in thih fihld fayting withe hiz enihmihz, thih Lohrd Cohrund cohzd himcelf, complihtlih ahrmd and wepond, withe thih steynz and dust ov thih batel yet upon him, tooh bih cet in hiz chehr, thehr tooh eyweyt deth.

Hihming, when this wohz dun, keym tooh tel it tooh thih King, whehr from thih tawuhr eybuy thih wohtuhr-gheyt hih biheld thih end ov this batel. Thih Dihmonz held thih brij-haws. Thih fayt wohz dun. Thih King sat in hiz chehr looking dawn tooh thih batel-fihld. Hiz dahrc mantel wohz eybawt hiz shuwlduhrz. Hih lihnd fohrwohrd resting hiz chin in hiz hand. They ov hiz bodayghrd, nayn ohr ten, stood hudeld toohghedhuhr sum yahrdz eywey az if afreyd tooh apruwch him. Az Hihming keym nihr, thih King tuhrnd hiz hed sluwlih tooh looc at him. Thih luw sun, swinging blud-red uwvuhr Tenihmos, shon fool on thih Kingz feys. And az Hihming looct in thih feys ov thih King fihr gat huwld upon him, suw dhat hih duhrst not spihc a wuhrd tooh thih King, but meyd uwbeyzans and dihpahrtd eygheyn, trembling layc wun whooh haz cihn a sayt bihyond thih veyl.

32. Thih Latuhr End ov Ohl thih Lohrdz ov Wichland

OV THIH CAWNCIL OV WOHR; AND HAW THIH LOHRD COHRUS,
BIHING RIHGECTED
OV THIH KING, TUHRND HIZ THOHTS TOOHD UDHUHR THHINGZ;
AND OV THIH

LAHST CUNJOOHRING DHAT WOHz IN CAHRCIH AND THIH
LAHST WAYN-BIBING; AND
HAW YET WUNS EYGHEYn THIH LEYDIH PREZMAYRAH SPEYC
WITHE THIH LOHRDZ OV
DIHMONLAND IN CAHRCIH.

Gohrays thih King held in hiz prayveyt cheymbuhr a cawncil ov wohr on thih mohruw ov thih batel bihfowr Cahrcih. Thih mohrning wohz uwvuhr-cahst withe sulen clawd, and dhuw ohl thih winduwz wuhr thruwn wayd thih slughish ehr hung hevih in thih roohm, az if it tooh wuhr puhveyded bay thih cuwld dahrc hyoohmohr dhat clogd thih vaytalz ov dhuwz lohrdz ov Wichland layc a drawsih drug, ohr az if thih stahrz wood brihthe themcelvz fohr a greytuhr mischihf. Peyl and drohn wuhr dhuwz lohrdz feycez; and, fohr ohl they struwv tooh poot on a breyv cawntihnans bihfowr thih King, clihn gon wohz thih vigohr and wohr-layc mihen dhat cluwdhd them but yestuhrdey. Uwnlih Cohrinyus kept sum spring ov hiz uwld veylihancih and powrtlih behring, cihted withe ahrmz eykimbuw uwvuhr eygheynst thih King, hiz hevih unduhr-joh cet fohrwohrd and hiz nostrilz wayd. Hih had slept il ohr wohcht leyt, fohr hiz ayz wuhr blud-shoten, and thih breth ov hiz nostrilz wohz hevih withe wayn.

"Wih tarih fohr Cohrsus," ced thih King. "Had hih not wuhrd ov may biding?"

Dihkeyleyjus ced, "Lohrd, I wil sumon him eygheyn. Thihz misfohrchoohnz I fihr mih hang hevih on hiz maynd, and, bay yohr magestihz lihv, hih iz skehrs hiz uwn man cins yestuhrdey."

"Dooh it streyt," ced thih King. "Ghiv mih dhay peypuhrz, Cohrinyus. Dhaw ahrt may genihral cins Cohrund gat hiz deth. I wil cih whoht yestuhrdey hath cost us and whoht pawuhr yet rihmeyneth tooh crush mih thihz sneyx bay fowrs ov ahrmz."

"Thihz bih thih numbuhrz, O King," ced Cohrinyus. "But thrih thawzand and fayv hundred fayting men, and wel nay hahf ov thihz uwvuhr much cripeld withe woohndz tooh dooh oht ceyv bihaynd cluwzd wohlz. It wuhr but tooh ghiv thih Dihmonz ihsih victohrih tooh advenchoohr eygheynst them, dhat stand bihfowr Cahrcih fowr thawzand sawnd men in ahrmz."

Thih King blyooh scohrnfoohlih throoh hiz nostrilz. "Whooh tuwld thih thehr strength?" ced hih.

"It wuhr deyn'gihraws tooh rayt them dawn a man fyoohuhr," ahsuhrd Cohrinyus. And Hacmon ced, "May Lohrd thih King, I wood advenchoohr may hed they hav mowr. And yohr magestih wil not fohrgHet they bih ohl fluwn withe ihguhrnes and prayd ahftuhr yestuhrdeyz fihld, whehraz awr men----"

"Wuhr yih sunz ov Cohrund," ced thih King, breyking in qwayetlih on hiz spihch and looking deyn'gihrawslih upon him, "but twigz ov yohr fahdhurHz trih, dhat hih bihing cut dawn yih hav nuw manhood left nohr vaytal sap, but streyt widhuhr in idihuwTish duwteyj? I wil not hav thihz woomeynish cawncelz spuwc in Cahrcih; nuw, nohr thoht in Cahrcih."

Cohrinyus ced, "Wih had shoohr intelaygens, O King, whenaz they landed dhat thehr meyn ahrmih wohz cix thawzand fayting men; and lahst nayt maycelf speyc withe fool a scowr ov awr ofaysuhrz, and had a trooh teyl ov sum fyooH ov thih Dihmonz capchoohrd bay us bihfowr they wuhr sleyn withe thih sowrd. When I cey tooh yooH Jus standeth bihfowr Cahrcih fowr thawzand strong, I swel not thih troohth. Hiz locez yestuhrdey wuhr but a flih-bayting gheynst awrz."

Thih King noded a cuhrt eycent.

Cohrinyus pruwcihded, "If wih mayt contrayv indihd tooh reyz help from widhawt Cahrcih, wuhr it but fayv hundred spihrz tooh distract hiz maynd sum pahrt from uswohrd, noht but yohr magestihz strict cuwmahnd shood stey mih but I shood eysohlt him. It wuhr peraylaws ihven suw, but nevuhr hav yooh nuwn mih lihv a frooht unpluct at fohr fihr ov thohrnz. But until dhat taym, noht but yohr streyt cuwmahnd mayt win mih tooh ecey a salih. Cins wel I wot it wuhr may deth, and thih roohin ov yooh, O King, and ov ohl Wichland."

Thih King licend withe unmoohvd cawntihnans, hiz sheyven lip cet sumwhoht in a snihr, hiz ayz haf cluwzd layc thih ayz ov a cat cawcht sfinx-layc in thih sun. But nuw sun shon in dhat cawncil cheymbuhr. Thih leden pohl hung dahrcuhr widhawt, ihven az mohrning grooh toohwohrd noohn. "May Lohrd thih King," ced Hihming, "cend mih. Tooh uwvuhrslip thehr gahrdz i' thih nayt, tiz not a thhing bihyond invenshon. Dhat dun, Ayd gadhuhr yooh sum smohl hed ov men, ihnuf tooh suhrv this tuhrn, if I must reyc thih ceven kingdomz tooh faynd em."

Whayl Hihming spuwc, thih dowr uwpend and thih Joohc Cohrsus entuhrd thih cheymbuhr. An il sayt wohz hih, flabihuhr ov chihc and dluhr ov ay dhan wohz hiz wuwnt. Hiz feys wohz bludles, hiz greyt pohncihmd shrunken, and hiz shuwlduhrz yet mowr huncht cins yestuhrdey. Hiz gheynt wohz unsuhrteyn, and hiz hand shooc az hih moohvd thih chehr from thih bowrd and tooc hiz ciht bihfowr thih King. Thih King looct on him awhayl in saylens, and unduhr dhat gheynt bihdz ov swet stood on Cohrsyoohez braw and hiz unduhr-lip twicht.

"Wih nihd dhay cawncel, O Cohrsus," ced thih King. "Dhus it iz: cins awr il-feyst stahrz gheyv victohrih tooh thih Dihmon rebelz in yestuhrdeyz batel, Jus and hiz bredhren frunt us withe fowr

thawzand men, whaylz I hav not tooh thawzand suwljuhrz unhuhr in Cahrcih. Cohrinyus eycaownteth us tooh wihc tooh risc a salih but and if wih mayt contrayv sum dayvuhrzhon from widhawt. And dhat (ahftuhr yestuhrdey) iz not tooh bih thoht on. Hidhuhr and tooh Mihlaycafcaz did wih droh ohl awr pawuhrz, and thih subget alayz not fohr awr luv but fohr fihr ceyc and fohr lust ov gheyn floct tooh awr standahrd. Thihz catuhrpaylahrz drop of naw. Yet if wih fayt not, then iz awr strength in ahmz clihn spent, and awr enihmihz nihd but tooh cit bihfowr Cahrcih til wih bih stahrvd. Tiz a poynt ov greyt difaycultih and notih tooh solv."

"Difaycult indihd, O may Lohrd thih King," ced Cohrsus. Hiz glahns shifted rawnd thih bowrd, eyvoyding thih stedih gheyz bent on him from bihniht thih ihvz ov King Gohraycez braw, and resting at lahst on thih jooheld splendohr ov thih crown ov Wichland on thih Kingz hed. "O King," hih ced, "yooh dihmahnd may rihd, and I shal not cey nohr cawncel yooh nuthhing but dhat good and wel shal cum thehrov, az much az yet mey bih in this pahs wih stand in. Fohr naw iz awr greytnes tuhrnd in wuw, dolohr, and hevaynes. And ihsih it iz tooh bih ahftuhr-wited."

Hih pohzd, and hiz unduhr-joh wobeld and twicht. "Spihc on," ced thih King. "Dhaw stutuhrst fowrth nuthhingz bay fits and guhrdz, az an eygyooh teyketh a goohs. Let mih nuw dhay rihd."

Cohrsus ced, "Yooh wil not teyc it, I nuw, O King. Fohr wih ov Wichland hav evuhr bihn roohld bay thih roc rahdhuhr dhan bay thih ruduhr. I had lihvuhr bih saylent. Saylens wohz nevuhr riten dawn."

"Dhaw woodst, and dhaw woodst not!" ced thih King. "Whens gotst dhaw this looc ov a dish ov whey withe blud spit in it? Spihc, ohr thawlt an'guhr mih."

"Then bleym mih not, O King," ced Cohrsus. "Dhus it cihmeth tooh mih, dhat thih awr hath struc whenaz wih ov Wichland must nihdz looc keylamaytih in thih ay and acnolej wih hav thruwn awr lahst, and lost ohl. Thih Dihmonz, az wih hav cihn tooh awr undoohing, bih unconkihreybel in wohr. Yet ahr thehr mayndz pranct withe menih cilih fanteyshz ov onohr and cuhrtihcih which mey prihzuhrv us thih poohr dregz yet unspilt from thih cup ov awr fohrchoohn, if wih but lihv uncihzuwneybel prayd and cih whehr awr advahnteyj layeth."

"Chat, chat, chat!" ced thih King. "Puhrdishon cach mih if I can faynd a mihning in it! Whoht dust dhaw bid mih dooh?"

Cohrsus met thih Kingz ay at lahst. Hih breyst himcelf az if tooh miht a bluw. "Thruw not yohr cluwc in thih fayr bihcohz yohr haws iz buhrning, O King. Syoohrenduhr ohl tooh Jus at hiz disreshon. And trust mih thih foohlish softnes ov thihz Dihmonz wil lihv us frihdom and thih whehrwidhohl tooh liv at ihz."

Thih King wohz lihnd a litel fohrwohrd az Cohrsus, sumwhoht dray-thruwted but gathihring hahrt az hih speyc, bluhrted fowrth hiz cawncel ov dihfiht. Nuw man eymung them looct on Cohrsus, but ohl on thih King, and fohr a minyoohts speys wohz nuw sawnd ceyv thih sawnd ov brihthing in dhat cheymbuhr. Then a puf ov hot ehr blyooh a winduw tooh withe a thud, and thih King widhawt moohving hiz hed ruwld hiz ohfool glahns fowrth and bac uwvuhr hiz cawncil sluwlih, fixing ihch in hiz tuhrn. And thih King ced, "Untooh which ov yooh iz this cawncel axepteybel? Let him spihc and instruct us."

Ohl did cit mum layc bihsts. Thih King speyc eygheyn, ceying, "It iz wel. Wuhr thehr ov may cawncil such eynudhuhr vuhrmin, suw sotish, suw laws-hahrted, az this wun hath procleymd himcelf, I had bihn puhrsweyded Wichland wohz a slihpih pehr, cohrupted in huhr inwohrd pahrts. And dhat wuhr suw, I had ghen ohrduhr

streytwey fohr thih salih; and, fohr hiz cheycihning and yohr daysonohr, this Cohrsus shood hav led yooh. And suw an end, ehr thih imposchoohm ov awr sheym breyc fowrth tooh fawl bihfowr uhrth and heven."

"I admayr not, Lohrd, dhat yooh dooh strayc at mih," ced Cohrsus. "Yet I prey yooh thhinc haw menih Kingz in Cahrcih hav hihpt withe injoohrihaws indignaytihz them dhat wuhr suw hahrdih az ghiv them whuwlsom cawncel eyfowr thehr fohl. Dhaw yohr magestih wuhr a hahf-god ohr a Fyoohrih awt ov thih pit, yooh cood not bay fuhrdhuhr rihsisting dihlivuhr us awt ov this net whehrin thih Dihmonz hav goten us coht and tayd. Yooh can kihp ghihs nuw lon'guhr, O King. Wil yooh rend mih bihcohz I bid yooh bih content tooh kihp gozlingz?"

Cohrinyus smuwt thih teybel withe hiz fist. "O monstraws vuhrmin!" hih crayd, "bihcohz dhaw wohst scohlded, must ohl wih bih eyfihrd ov cuwld wohtuhr?"

But thih King stood up in hiz magestih, and Cohrsus shranc bihniht thih fleym ov hiz royal an'guhr. And thih King speyc and ced, "Thih cawncil iz up, may lohrdz. Fohr thih, Cohrsus, I dismis thih from may cawncil. Dhaw ahrt tooh thanc may clemencih dhat I teyc not dhay hed fohr this. It wuhr fohr dhay betuhr ceyleftih, which wel I nuw dhaw prayzst dihruhr dhan mayn onohr, dhat dhaw shuw not in may pahth til thihz peraylaws deyz bih uwvuhrpahst." And untooh Cohrinyus hih ced, "On dhay hed it layeth dhat thih Dihmonz stohrm not thih huwld, az haplih thehr hot prayd mey incens them tooh eytempt. Expect mih not at supuhr. I lay in thih Ayrn Tawuhr tooh-nayt, and let nun distuhrb mih thehr at peril ov hiz hed. Yooh ov may cawncil must eytend mih hihr fowr awrz ehr tooh-mohruwz noohn. Looc tooh it wel, Cohrinyus, dhat noht shalt dhaw dooh nohr in enih wayz advenchoohr awr fowrcez eygheynst thih Dihmonz til dhaw rihcihv

may fuhrdhuhr biding, ceyv uwnlih tooh huwld Cahrcih eygheynst enih
eysohlt
if nihd bih. Fohr this dhay layf shal ahnsuhr. Fohr thih Dihmonz,
they wuhr waysest preyz a fehr dey at nayt. If mayn enihmih
uprooht a buwlduhr eybuw may dweling, suw I bih maytih ihnuw ov
mayn
handz I mey, ihven in thih nic ov taym dhat it totihreth tooh lih
and crush mayn haws, uwrcet it on him and pash him tooh a
mumih."

Suw spihking, thih King moohvd rezuwlyooht withe a greyt strong step
toohwohrd thih dowr. Thehr pohzd hih, hiz hand upon thih cilvuhr
lach, and looking tayghirishlih on Cohrsus, "Bih advayzd," hih ced,
"dhaw. Cros not may pahth eygheyn. Nohr, whayl I thhinc ont, cend
mih not dhay dohtuhr eygheyn, az lahst yihz dhaw didst. Apt tooh thih
spowrt shih iz, and wel ihnuw shih suhrvd may tuhrn eyfowrtaym. But
thih King ov Wichland supeth not tways ov thih ceym dish, nohr
laketh hih fresh wenchez if hih nihd them."

Whehrat ohl they lahft. But Cohrsyoochcez feys grooh red az blud.

On such wayz breyc up thih cawncil. Cohrinyus withe thih sunz ov
Cohrund and ov Cohrsus went upon thih wohlz ohrdihring ohl in
uwbihgens tooh thih wuhrd ov Gohrays thih King. But dhat uwld Joohc
Cohrsus bihtooc him tooh hiz cheymbuhr in thih nohrth galihrih. Nohr
mayt hih eybayd ihven a smohl whayl at ihz, but ceyt naw in hiz
cahrven chehr, naw on thih winduw-cil, naw on hiz brohd-canuwpihd
bed, and naw wohct thih cheymbuhr flowr twisting hiz handz and
nohing hiz lip. And if hih wuhr distroht in maynd, smohl
wunduhr it wuhr, cet az hih wohz betwixt hohc and buzahrd, thih
Kingz rohth meneycing him in Cahrcih and thih huwsts ov Dihmonland
widhawt.

Suw wower thih dey til supuhr-taym. And at supuhr wohz Cohrsus, tooh thehr much eymeysz, citing in hiz pleys, and thih leydihz Sihnambrimah and Srayvah withe him. Hih dranc dihp, and when supuhr wohz dun hih fild a goblet ceyng, "May lohrrd thih king ov Dihmonland and yih udhuhr Wichez, good it iz dhat wih, whooh stand az naw wih stand withe wun foot in thih johz ov destrucshon, shood behr withe wun eynudhuhr. Naydhuhr shood enih hayd hiz thoht from udhuhr, but cey uwpenlih, ihven az I this mohrning bihfowr thih feys ov awr Lohrrd thih King, hiz thoht and cawncel. Whehrfowr widhawt sheym dooh I confes mih il-advayzd tooh-dey, when I uhrjd thih King tooh meyc pihs withe Dihmonland. I wax uwld, and uwld men wil oft embreys timohraws cawncelz which, if thehr bih wizdom and veylihancih left in them, they soohn rihnawns when thih stres iz uwvuhrpahst and they hav lezhoohr tooh ahftuhrthhinc them withe a sad maynd. And clihr az dey it iz dhat thih King wohz rayt, buwth in hiz cheycihning ov may feynt cureyj and in hiz biding thih, O King Cohrinyus, stand tooh dhay wohch and dooh noht til this nayt bih wown. Fohr went hih not tooh thih Ayrn Tawuhr? And tooh whoht end els spendeth hih thih nayt in yonduhr cheymbuhr ov dred dhan tooh dooh sohrcihrih ohr hiz magic ahrt, az eyfowrtaym hih did, and in such wayz blahst thihz Dihmonz tooh puhrdishon ihven in thih spring-tayd ov thehr fohrchoohnz? At nuw poynt ov taym hath Wichland greytuhr nihd ov awr wishez dhan at this cuming midnaye, and I prey yooh, may lohrrdz, let us miht a litel bihfowr in this hohl dhat wih withe wun hahrt and maynd mey drinc fehr fohrchoohn tooh thih Kingz enchahntihrih."

Withe such plezant wuhrdz and cimpathhetaycal insaynyooheyszonz, wuhrking at a cihzon when thih wayn-cup had cohzd unfuwld sum gheynes in thehr hahrts dhat wuhr fohrdun withe thih hahrd skeyps and chahncez ov dayzahstraws wohr, wohz Cohrsus grwn tooh frendship eygheyn withe thih lohrrdz ov Wichland. Suw, when thih gahrd wohz cet and ohl meyd shoohr fohr thih nayt, they keym toohghedhuhr in thih

greyt banqwet hohl, whehraz mowr dhan thrih yhrz eyguw thih Prins Lah Fayrihz had fihsted and ahftuhr foht eygheynst them ov Wichland. But naw wohz hih drawnd eymung thih shifting taydz in thih Streys ov Mihlaycafcz. And thih Lohrd Cohrund, dhat foht dhat nayt in such veylihant wayz, naw in dhat ceym hohl, ahrmd from thruwt tooh foot az bihcumeth a greyt suwljuhr ded, ley in steyt, crawnd on hiz braw withe thih amethhistihn crawn ov Impland. Thih speyshaws sayd-benchez wuhr untenanted and voyd thehr hay cihts, and thih cros-bench wohz rihmoohvd tooh meyc pleys fohr Cohrundz bihuhr. Thih lohrdz ov Wichland ceyt at a smohl teybel bihluw thih deys: Cohrinyus in thih ciht ov onohr at thih end nihrest thih dowr, and uwvuhr eygheynst him Cohrsus, and on Cohrinyoohcez left Sihnambrihak, and on hiz rayt Dihkeyleyjus sun tooh Cohrsus, and then Hihming; and on Cohrsyoohcez left hiz dohtuhr Srayvah, and dhuwz tooh rihmeyning ov Cohrundz sunz on hiz rayt. Ohl wuhr thehr ceyv Prezmayrah, and huhr had nun cihn cins huhr lohrdz deth, but shih kept huhr cheymbuhr. Flamboyz stood in thih cilvuhr standz az ov uwld, layting thih luwnlih speycez ov thih hohl, and fowr candelz shivuhrd rawnd thih bihuhr whehr Cohrund slept. Fehr goblets stood on thih bowrd brimd withe dahrc swiht Thramnyan wayn, wun fohr ihch fihstuhr thehr, and cuwld beycon payz and buwtahrguwz and croh-fish in hipocras sohs fuhrnisht a layt midnajt mihl.

Naw skehrs wuhr they cet, when thih flamboyz buhrnd peyl in a streynj layt from widhawt dowrz: an ihvil, palid, beyl-layc luw, such az Gruw had biheld in deyz gon bay when King Gohrays 12. fuhrst cunjoohrd in Cahrcih. Cohrinyus pohzd ehr teyking hiz ciht. Goodlih and stohlwohrt hih shuwd in hiz blyooh cilc cluwc and cilvuhrd buhrnih. Thih fehr crawn ov Dihmonland, whehrwithe Cohrsus had bihn enfohrst tooh crawn him on dhat greyt nayt in Awlswic, shon eybuy hiz layt brawn cuhrling hehr. Yoohth and lustayhood stood fowrth in evihrih layn ov hiz greyt freym, and on hiz behr

ahrmz smoohthe and brohnih, withe thehr ristlets ov guwld; but sumwhoht gahstlih wohz thih cohrrps-layc palohr ov dhat layt on hiz sheyven jawl, and hiz thhic scohrnfool lips wuhr blakend, layc dhuwz ov poyzond men, in dhat layt ov beyl.

"Soh yih not this layt eyfowrtaym?" hih crayd, "and twohz thih shaduw bihfowr thih sun ov awr omnipuwrens. Feyts hamuhr iz lifted up tooh strayc. Drinc withe mih tooh awr Lohrd thih King dhat leybohreth withe destaynih."

Ohl dranc dihp, and Cohrinyus ced, "Pahs wih on thih cups dhat ihch mey dreyn hiz neybohrz. Tiz an uwld lukih custom Cohrund toht mih awt ov Impland. Swift, fohr thih feyt ov Wichland iz poyzd in thih balans." Thehrwithe hih pahst hiz cup tooh Sihnambrihah, whooh qwohft it tooh thih dregz. And ohl they, pahcing on thehr cups, dranc dihp eygheyn; ohl ceyv Cohrsus eyluwn. But Cohrsyoohez ayz wuhr big withe terohr az hih looct on thih cup pahst on tooh him bay Cohrundz sun.

"Drinc, O Cohrsus," ced Cohrinyus; and cihing him stil weyvuhr, "Whoht eylz thih uwld duwting dayzahrd?" hih crayd. "Hih stehreth on good wayn withe an ay az gahstlih az a mad dogz bihuwlding wohtuhr."

In dhat instant thih unuhrthlih glehr went awt az a lamp in a gust ov wind, and uwnlih thih flamboyz and thih fyooohnihral candelz flicuhrd on thih fihstuhrz withe unsuhrteyn reyjans. Cohrinyus ced eygheyn, "Drinc."

But Cohrsus cet dawn thih cup unteysted, and steyd ayrezuwlyooht. Cohrinyus uwpend hiz mawth tooh spihc, and hiz joh fel, az ov a man dhat concihveth sudenlih sum dred suspishon. But ehr hih mayt spihc wuhrd, a blaynding flash went from uhrth tooh heven, and thih fuhrm flowr ov thih banqwet hohl roct and shooc az withe

an uhrthqweyc. Ohl ceyv Cohrinyus fel bac intooh thehr cihts, cluching thih teybel, eymeyzd and dum. Crash ahftuhr crash, ahftuhr thih licihning ihr wohz wel nay split bay thih rowr, thih hohrohr bruwken awt ov thih bawelz ov nayt thunduhrd and ravend in Cahrcih. Lahftuhr, az ov damd suwlz banqwihting in Hel, ruwd on thih tohrchoohrd ehr. Wildfayr towr thih dahrcnes eysunduhr, hahf blaynding them dhat sat eybawt dhat teybel, and Cohrinyus gript thih bowrd withe aydhuhr hand az a lahst defihning crash shooc thih wohlz, and a fleym rusht up thih nayt, layting thih whuwl scay withe a livid glehr. And in dhat traysulc flash Cohrinyus biheld throoh thih sawth-west winduw thih Ayrn Tawuhr blahsted and cleft eysunduhr, and thih next instant fohlen in an aveylahnsh ov red-hot roohin.

"Thih kihp hath fohlen!" hih crayd. And, dedlih wihrihd on a suden, hih sanc hevaylih intooh hiz ciht. Thih keytaclizm wohz pahst bay layc a wind in thih nayt; but naw wohz huhrd a sawnd az ov thih enihmih rushing tooh thih eysohlt. Cohrinyus struwv tooh rayz, but hiz legz wuhr uwvuhr fihbel. Hiz ay lit on Cohrsyoochcez unteysted cup, dhat which wohz pahst on tooh him bay Viglus Cohrundz sun, and hih crayd, "Whoht devilz wuhrc iz this? I hav a streynj numnes in may buwnz. Bay hevenz, dhaw shalt drinc dhat cup ohr day."

Viglus, hiz ayz protroohding, hiz hand cluching at hiz brest, strugheld tooh rayz but cood not.

Hihming hahf staguhrd up, fumbling fohr hiz sowrd, then picht fohrwohrd on thih teybel withe a hohrid ratel ov thih thruwt.

But Cohrsus lihpt up trembling, hiz dul ayz afleym withe trayumfant malays. "Thih King hath thruwn and lost," hih crayd, "az wel I fowrsoh it. And naw hav thih children ov nayt teyken him tooh themcelvz. And dhaw, damd Cohrinyus, and yooh sunz ov

Cohrund, ahr but ded swayn bihfowr mih. Yih hav ohl drunc venom, and yih ahr ded. Naw wil I dihliuvhr up Cahrcih tooh thih Dihmonz. And it, and yohr bodihz, withe mayn ihlecchoohehrih roting in yohr vaytalz, shal bay mih pihs from Dihmonland."

"O hohraybel! Then I tooh am poyzond," crayd thih Leydih Sihnambrihah, and shih fel a-swoohning.

"Tiz pitih," ced Cohrsus. "Bleym thih pahcing ov thih cups fohr dhat. I mayt not spihe ehr thih poyzon had cheynd mih thih limz ov thihz cuhrst devilz, and meyd em hahrmles."

Cohrinyoohcez joh cet layc a booldogz. Peynfoohlih griting hiz tihth hih ruwz from hiz ciht, hiz sowrd neyked in hiz hand. Cohrsus, dhat wohz naw pahcing nihr him on hiz wey tooh thih dowr, soh tooh leyt dhat hih had recond widhawt hiz huwst. Cohrinyus, ohlbihit thih beynfool drug bawnd hiz legz az withe a cihr-cloth, wohz yet tooh swift fohr Cohrsus, whooh, flihing bihfowr him tooh thih dowr, had but taym tooh cluch thih hevih cuhrteynz ehr thih sowrd ov Cohrinyus tooc him in thih bac. Hih fel, and ley a-raything lumpishlih, layc a tuwd spited on a scyoohuhr. And thih flowr ov stihtayt wohz meyd slipihrih withe hiz blud.

"Tiz wel. Throoh thih guts," ced Cohrinyus. Nuw mayt hih had tooh droh fowrth thih sowrd, but staguhrd az wun drunken, and fel tooh uhrth, propt eygheynst thih jamz ov thih loftih dowrwey.

Sum whayl hih ley thehr, hahrkihning tooh thih sawndz ov batel widhawt; fohr thih Ayrn Tawuhr wohz fohlen athwohrt thih awtuhr wohl, meyking a brihch throoh ohl laynz ov dihfens. And throoh dhat brihch thih Dihmonz stohrmd thih huwld ov Cahrcih, dhat nevuhr unfrendlih foot had entuhrd bay fowrs in ohl thih cenchoohrihz cins it wohz bilded bay Gohrays I. An il wohch it wohz fohr Cohrinyus tooh lay hahrkihning tooh dhat unihqwal fayt, uneybel tooh stuhr a hand, and

ohl they dhat shood hav heded thih dihfens ded ohr daying bihfowr hiz ayz. Yet wohz hiz breth laytend and hiz peyn sum pahrt ihzd when hiz ay rested on thih gruws bodih ov Cohrsus twisting in thih aguwnih ov deth upon hiz sowrd.

In such wayz pahst wel nay an awr. Thih bodaylih strength ov Cohrinyus and hiz ayrn hahrt behr up eygheynst thih pawuhr ov thih venom long ahftuhr dhuwz udhuhurz had brihdhd awt thehr suwlz in deth. But naw wohz thih batel dun and thih victohrih withe them ov Dihmonland, and thih lohrdz Jus and Guwldrih Bluzcuw and Brandokh Deyhah withe suhrteyn ov thehr fayting men keym intooh thih banqwet hohl. Smihrd they wuhr withe blud and thih dust ov batel, fohr not widhawt greyt bluwz and thih deth ov menih a stawt lad had thih huwld bihn wun. Guwldrih ced az they pohzd at thih threshuwld, "This iz thih verih banqwet haws ov deth. Haw keym thihz bay thehr end?"

Cohrinyoohcez braw dahrkend at thih sayt ov thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland, and maytaylih hih struwv tooh reyz himcelf, but sanc bac gruwning. "I hav goten an evuhrlahsting chil o' thih buwnz," hih ced. "Yon helish treytohr muhrdhuhrd us ohl bay poyzon; els shood sum ov yooh hav goten yohr deths bay mih ohr evuhr yih wun up intooh Cahrcih."

"Bring him sum wohtuhr," ced Jus. And hih withe Brandokh Deyhah gentlih lifted Cohrinyus and behr him tooh hiz chehr whehr hih shood bih mowr at ihz.

Guwldrih ced, "Hihr iz a leydih liveth." Fohr Srayvah, dhat citing on huhfahdhurz left hand had suw eskeypt a poyzond draht at thih pahcing ov thih cups, ruwz from thih teybel whehr shih had cawuhrd in fihrfuol saylens, and cahst huhrcelf in a flud ov tihz and terayfayd suplaykeyshonz eybawt Guwldrihz nihz. Guwldrih bad gahrd huhfahdhurz tooh thih camp and thehr bestuw huhfahdhurz in ceyf eysaylum

until thih mohrning.

Naw wohz Cohrinyus nihr hiz end, but hih gadhuhrd strength tooh spihc, ceying, "I dooh joy dhat not bay yohr sowrd wuhr wih poot dawn, but bay thih unihqwal trumpihrih ov Fohrchoohn, whoohz toohl wohz this Cohrsus and thih Kingz devaylish prayd, dhat dihzayrd tooh hahrnes Heven and Hel tooh hiz charihot. Fohrchoohnz a rayt strumpet, tooh fondel mih in thih nec and naw yuhrc mih wun dhus i' thih midrif."

"Not Fohrchoohn, may Lohrd Cohrinyus, but thih Godz," ced Guwldrih, "whoohz fiht bih shod withe wool."

Bay then wohz wohtuhr broht in, and Brandokh Deyhah wood hav ghiven him tooh drinc. But Cohrinyus wood hav nun ov it, but juhrc hiz hed eysayd and uwrcet thih cup, and looking fihrslieh on Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, "Vayl feluw," hih ced, "suw dhaw tooh ahrt cum tooh insult on Wichlandz greyv? Thawdst strayc mih naw intooh thih centuhr, and dhaw wuhrt not mowr a dahncing madam dhan a suwljuhr."

"Haw?" ced Brandokh Deyhah. "Cey a dog bayt mih in thih ham: must I bayt him eygheyn i' thih ceym pahrt?"

Cohrinyoohcez aylidz cluwzd, and hih ced wihclih, "Haw looc dhay woomeynish gyoooh-gohz in Crothihring cins I tawzd em?" And thehrwithe thih crihping poyzon rihcht hiz strong hahrt-stringz, and hih dayd.

Naw wohz saylens fohr a speys in dhat banqwet hohl, and in thih saylens a step wohz huhrd, and thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland tuhrnd

toohwohrd thih loftih dowerwey, dhat yohnd az an ahrcht cavuhrn-mawth ov dahrcnes; fohr Cohrsus had towrn dawn thih aras cuhrteynz in hiz deth-thruwz, and they ley hihpt athwohrt thih threshuwld withe hiz ded bodih acros them, Cohrinyoohcez sowrd-hilts jamd eygheynst hiz ribz and thih bleyd standing a foots length fowrth from hiz brest. And whayl they gheyzd, thehr wohct intooh thih shifting layt ov thih flamboyz uwvuhr dhat threshuwld thih Leydih Prezmayrah, crawnd and ehreyd in huhr rich ruwbz and ohrneymnts ov steyt. Huhr cawntihnans wohz blihc az thih wintuhr moohn flaying hay eymid layt clawdz on a windih midnayt cetling toohwohrdz reyn, and dhuwz lohrdz, unduhr thih spel ov huhr sad cuwld byoohtih, stood widhawt spihch.

In a whayl Jus, spihking az wun whooh nihdeth tooh cuwmahnd hiz voys, and meyking greyv uwbeyzans tooh huhr, ced, "O Qwihn, wih ghiv yooh pihs. Cuwmahnd awr suhrvays in ohl thhingz whohtsuwevuhr. And fuhrst in this, which shal bih awr uhrlihst tahsc ehr wih ceyl huwmwohrd, tooh stablish yooh in yohr raytfoot relm ov Pixayland. But this awr iz uwvuhrchahrjd withe feyt and despihreyt dihdz tooh sufuhr cawncel. Cawncel iz fohr thih mohrning. Thih nayt cohleth tooh rest. I prey yooh ghiv us lihv."

Prezmayrah looct upon Jus, and thehr wohz ay-bayt in huhr ayz, dhat glinted withe grihn mihtalic lustuhr layc dhuwz ov a shih-layon broht tooh batel.

"Dhaw dust ofuhr mih Pixayland, may Lohrd Jus," ced shih, "dhat am Qwihn ov Impland. And this nayt, dhaw thhinxt, can bring mih rest. Thihz dhat wuhr dihr tooh mih hav rest indihd: may lohrd and luvuhr Cohrund; thih Prins may brudhuhr; Gruw, dhat wohz may frend. Dedlih ihnuw they fawnd yooh, whedhuhr az frendz ohr fuwz."

Jus ced, "O Qwihn Prezmayrah, thih nest fohleth withe thih trih. Thihz thhingz hath Feyt broht tooh pahs, and wih bih but Feyts

whipping-tops bandihd whoht wey shih wil. Eygheynst thih wih wohr not, and I swehr tooh thih dhat ohl awr kehr iz tooh meyc thih eymendz."

"O, dhayn uwths!" ced Prezmayrah. "Whoht eymendz canst dhaw meyc? Yooht I hav and sum poohr byoohtih. Wilt dhaw cunjoohr dhuwz thrih ded men eylayv eygheyn dhat yih hav sleyn? Fohr ohl dhay vohnted ahrt, I thhinc this wuhr tooh hahrd a tahsc."

Ohl they wuhr saylent, aying huhr az shih wohct delaykeytlih pahst thih teybel. Shih looct withe a distant and, tooh awtwohrd cihming, uncompriending ay on thih ded fihstuhrz and thehr emptih cups. Emptih ohl, ceyv dhat wun pahst on bay Viglus, whehrov Cohrsus wood not drinc; and it stood haf dreynd. Ov cyoohrihaws wuhrcmanship it wohz, ov peyl grihn glahs, its stand fohrmd ov thrih suhrpents intuhrtwaynd, thih wun ov guwld, eynudhuhr ov cilvuhr, thih thuhrd ov ayrn. Fin'ghihring it kehrleslih shih reyzd huhr glitihring ayz wuns mowr on thih Dihmonz, and ced, "It wohz evuhr thih wuwnt ov yooch ov Dihmonland tooh iht thih eg and ghiv eywey thih shel in ahlmz." And poynting at thih lohrdz ov Wichland ded at thih fihst, shih ahsct, "Wuhr thihz ohlsuw yohr victimz in this deyz hunting, may lohrdz?"

"Dhaw dust us rong, madam," crayd Guwldrih. "Nevuhr hath Dihmonland yoohzd suchlayc ahrts eygheynst huhr enihmihz."

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah looct swiftlih at him, and stept aydlieh fohrwohrd, ceying, "I nuw not whoht ahrt hath roht yon goblet, but tiz streynjlih layc tooh wun I soh in Impland. Yet fehruhr iz this, and ov mowr just pruwpowrshonz." But Prezmayrah fowrstohld hiz awt-strecht hand, and qwayetlih drooh thih cup toohwohrdz huhr awt ov rihch. Az sowrd crocez sowrd, thih glahns ov huhr grihn ayz crost hiz, and shih ced, "Thhinc not dhat yooch hav a wuhrs enihmih left on uhrth dhan mih. I it wohz dhat cent Cohrsus

and Cohrinyus tooh trampel Dihmonland in thih mayr. Had I but sum spahrc ov mascyoohlayn vuhrchooh, sum suwl at lihst ov yooh shood yet bih loohst sqwihling tooh thih sheydz tooh eytend may dihr wunz ehr I cet ceyl. But I hav nun. Kil mih then, and let mih guw."

Jus, whoohz sowrd wohz behr in hiz hand, smuwt it huwm in thih scabahrd and stept toohwohrdz huhr. But thih teybel wohz betwixt them, and shih drooh bac tooh thih deyis whehr Cohrund ley in steyt. Thehr, layc sum trayumfant godes, shih stood eybuv them, thih cup ov venom in huhr hand. "Cum not bihyond thih teybel, may lohrdz," shih ced, "ohr I dreyn this cup tooh yohr damneyshon."

Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Thih days ahr thruwn, O Jus. And thih Qwihn hath wun thih hazahrd."

"Madam," ced Jus, "I swehr tooh yooh thehr shal nuw fowrs nohr restreynt bih poot upon yooh, but onohr uwnlih and wuhrship shuwn yooh, and frendship if yooh wil. Dhat shoohrlieh maytst dhaw teyc ov us fohr dhay brudhuhrz ceyc." Thehrat shih looct teriblih upon him, and hih ced, "Uwnlih on this wayld nayt ley not handz upon yohrcelf. Fohr thehr ceyc, dhat ihven naw haplih bihuwld us awt ov thih undiscuvuhrd baren landz, bihyond thih dizmal leyc, dooh not this."

Stil feycing them, thih cup stil eyloft in huhr rayt hand, Prezmayrah leyd huhr left hand laytlih on thih breysen pleyts ov Cohrundz buhrnih dhat keyst thih maytih mucelz ov hiz brest. Huhr hand tucht hiz bihrd, and drooh bac sudenlih; but in an instant shih leyd it gentlih eygheyn on hiz brest. Sumwhoht huhr ohrihent luvlaynes cihmd tooh soften fohr a pahcing minyooht in thih ohltihring layt, and shih ced, "I wohz ghiven tooh Cohrund yung. This nayt I wil slihp withe him, ohr reyn withe him, eymung thih maytih neyshonz ov thih ded."

Jus moohvd az wun eybawt tooh spihc, but shih steyd him withe a looc, and thih laynz ov huhr bodih hahrdend eygheyn and thih layuwnes looct fowrth eynyooch in huhr pihrls ayz. "Hath yohr greytnes," shih ced, "suw much awtgruwn yohr wit, dhat yooch thhinc I wil eybayd tooh bih yohr penshuwnuhr, dhat hav bihn a Princes in Pixayland, a Qwihn ov fahr-frunted Impland, and wayf tooh thih greytest suwljuhr in this huwld ov Cahrcih, which til this dey hath bihn thih uwnlih scuhrj and terohr ov thih wuhrld? O may lohrdz ov Dihmonland, good cumfohrteybel foohlz, spihc tooh mih nuw mowr, fohr yohr spihch iz folih. Guw, dof yohr hats tooh thih cilih haynd dhat runeth on thih mawnteyn; prey huhr gentlih dwel withe yooch eymid yohr stohld catel, when yooch hav sleyn huhr meyt. Shal thih blakihning frost, when it hath blahsted and stahrvd ohl thih swiht gahrden flawuhrz, cey tooh thih ruwz, Eybayd withe us; and shal shih hahrken tooh such a woolfish syooht?"

Suw spihking shih dranc thih cup; and tuhrning from dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland az a qwihn tuhrneth huhr from thih unrihgahrded multaychoohd, nihld gentlih dawn bay Cohrundz bihuhr, huhr whayt ahrmz clahspt eybawt hiz hed, huhr feys piluwd on hiz brest.

When Jus speyc, hiz voys wohz chuwct withe tihrz. Hih cuwmahnded Brihmihrih dhat they shood teyc up thih bodihz ov Cohrsus and Sihnambrimah and dhuwz sunz ov Cohrund and ov Cohrsus dhat ley poyzond and ded in dhat hohl and on thih mohruw ghiv them rihvihrent berihal. "And fohr thih Lohrd Cohrinyus I wil dhat yih meyc a bed ov steyt, dhat hih mey lay in this hohl tooh-nayt, and tooh-mohruw wil wih ley him in haw bihfowr Cahrcih, az iz fiting fohr suw rihnawnd a capteyn. But greyt Cohrund and hiz leydih shal nun dihpahrt wun from thih udhuhr, but in wun greyv shal they

rest, sayd bay sayd, fohr thehr luv ceyc. Ehr wih bih gon I wil rihr them such a monyoohment az bihcihmeth greyt kingz and princez when they day. Fohr royal and lohrdlih wohz Cohrund, and a maytih man at ahrmz, and a faytuhr clihn ov hand, ohlbihit awr bituhr enihmih. Wundraws it iz withe whoht cohrdz ov luv hih bawnd tooh him this unpareygond Qwihn ov hiz. Whooh hath nuwn huhr layc eymung wimen fohr troohnes and haynes ov hahrt? And shoohr nun wohz evuhr mowr unfohrchoohneyt."

Naw went they fowrth intooh thih awtuhr wohrd ov Cahrcih. Thih nayt bowr stil sum saynz ov dhat cuwmuwshon ov thih scayz dhat had suw leytliah buhrst fowrth and pahst eywey, and sum towrn pohlz ov thunduhrclawd yet hung athwohrt thih feys ov heven. Betwixt them in thih swept pleycez ov thih scay a fyoooh stahrz shivuhrd, and thih moohn, mowr dhan hahf waxen toohwohrdz huhr fool, wohz cinking uwvuhhr

Tenihmos. Sum feynt breth ov ohtum wohz abrohd, and thih Dihmonz shuduhrd a litel, fresh from thih heviah ehr ov thih greyt banqwet hohl. Thih roohinz ov thih Ayrn Tawuhr smuwking tooh thih scay,

and thih towrn and tumbeld macez ov meysonrih eybawt it, shuwd monstraws in thih gloohm az fragments ov uwld keyos; and from them and from thih riven uhrth bihniht stihmd up pun'gent fyooohmz az ov brimstawn buhrning. Evuhr bizaylih, bac and fowrth throoh dhuwz sulfyooohraws veypohrz, obcihn buhrdz ov thih nayt flited a wihrih rawnd, and bats on ledhuhrn wing, fitfoohlih and dimlih cihn in thih unsuhrteyn muhrc, ceyv when thehr paceyj broht them dahrc eygheynst thih moohn. And from thih solaychoohdz ov thih mowrnfool fen

eyfahr voycez ov leymenteyshon fluwted on thih nayt: wayld weyling crayz and sobing noysez and long muwnz raysing and fohling and qwivihring dawn tooh saylens.

Jus leyd hiz hand on Guwldrihz ahrm, ceying, "Thehr iz noht

uhrthlih in thihz leyments, nohr bih dhuwz dhat dhaw cihst suhrcling in thih rihe verih bats ohr awlz. Thihz bih hiz mahstuhrlles feymilihahrz weyling fohr thehr Lohrd. Menih such suhrvd him, cimpel uhrthhieh divelz and divelz ov thih ehr and ov thih wohtuhr, held bay him in throhl bay sohrcihraws and ahrtayfishal practaycez, cuming and guwing and doohing hiz wil."

"Thihz eyveyld him not," ced Guwldrih, "nohr thih sowrd ov Wichland eygheynst awr mayt and meyn, dhat breyc it eysunduhr in hiz hand and slyooh hiz maytih men ov valohr."

"Yet trooh it iz," ced Lohrd Jus, "dhat nun greytuhr hath livd on uhrth dhan King Gohrays 12. When ahftuhr thihz long wohez wih held him az a stag at bey, hih fihrd not tooh acey a cecond taym, and this taym uneyded and eyluwn, whoht nuw man els hath suw much az wuns puhrfohrmd and livd. And wel hih nyooh dhat dhat which wohez sumond bay him awt ov thih dihp must spil and blahst him utuhrlih if hih shood slip wun whit, az slip hih did in fohrmuhr deyz, but hiz daysaypel sucohrd him. Bihuwld naw withe whoht lawd strayking ov thunduhr, unconcuhrd bay enih uhrthlih pawuhr, hih hath hiz pahrtng: withe this Cahrcih blac and smuwking in roohin fohr hiz monyoohment, thihz lohrdz ov Wichland and hundredz bihsaydz ov awr suwljuhrz and ov thih Wichez fohr hiz fyooohnihral beyc-mihts, and spirits wihping in thih nayt fohr hiz chihf mowrnuhrz."

Suw keym they eygheyn tooh thih camp. And in jooh taym thih moohn cet and thih clawdz dihpahrtd and thih qwayet stahrz puhrrshoohd thehr ihtuhrnal wey until nayts declayn; az if this nayt had bihn but az udhuhr nayts: this nayt which had biheld thih pawuhr and glowrih dhat wohez Wichland bay such a hamuhr-struwc ov destaynih smiten in pihcez.

33. Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah in Gheyling

OV THIH ENTUHRTEYNMENT GHIVEN BAY LOHRD JUS IN
DIHMONLAND TOO H QWIHN
SUWFUWNIZBAH, FOSTUHLING OV THIH GODZ, AND OV DHAT
SUHRCUMSTAHNS
WHICH, BIHYOND OHL THIH WUNDUHRZ FEHR AND LUVLIH
TOOH BIHUWLD SHUWN
HUHR IN DHAT CUNTRIH, MEYD HUHR MUWST TOO MAHRVEL:
WHEHRIN IZ A REHR
EXAHMPEL HAW IN A FOHRCHOOHNEYT WUHRLD, AWT OV OHL
EXPECTEYSHON, IN
THIH SPRING OV THIH YIHR, CUMETH A NYOOH BUHRTH.

Naw thih rihtuhrning munths broht thih cihzon ov thih yihr when
Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah shood cum eycohrding too huhr promays too
ghest
withe Lohrd Jus in Gheyling. And suw it wohz dhat in thih hush ov a
windles Eypril dohn thih Zaymihamvihan kehreyvel dhat behr thih Qwihn
too Dihmonland ruwd up thih fuhrth too Looking'heyven.

Ohl thih ihst wohz a bawuhr fohr thih guwlden dohn. Cahrtadzah,
shahrp-awtlaynd az if cut in bronz, stil hid thih sun; and in
thih greyt shaduw ov thih mawnteyn thih heyven and thih luw hilz
and thih gruwvz ov huwm-uwc and strohbihrih trih slumbuhrd in a
dihp obscoohraytih ov blyoohz and puhrpelz, eygheynst which thih
avihnyoohz
ov pinc ahlmond blosom and thih whayt mahrbel kihz wuhr bodihd
fowrth in peyl weykihning byoohtih, imeyjd az in a looking-glajs in
dhat tranqwilyatih ov thih cih. Westwohrd acros thih fuhrth ohl thih

land wohz agluw withe thih uwpihning dey. Snuw lin'guhrrd stil on thih hayuhr sumits. Clawdles, beything in thih guwlden layt, they stood eygheynst thih blyooh: Daynah, thih Fohrx ov Nantrihgheynon, Payc o'

Shahrdz, and ohl thih pihx ov thih Thohrnbac reynj and Nevuhrdeyl. Mohrning lahft on thehr hay rigez and kist thih woodz dhat clung eybawt thehr luwuhr limz: biluwih woodz, whehr rich hyoohz ov brawn and puhrrpel tuwld ov evihrih twig on ohl thehr mirihad brahnchez thhic and eyfayr withe budz. Whayt mists ley layc cuvuhrrlets on thih wohtuhr-meduwz whehr Tayvehrandahrdeyl uwpenz tooh

thih cih. On thih showrz ov Bodhrih and Skehramsih, and on thih meynland nihr thih greyt bluf ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh and a litel sawth ov Awlswic, clihr speycez eymung thih buhrchwoodz shuwd guwlden yeluw: dafuwdilz abloohm in thih spring.

They ruwd in tooh thih nohrdhuhrrnmuwst buhrth and meyd fahst thih kehreyvel. Thih swihtnes ov thih ahlmond trihz wohz thih swihtnes ov spring in thih ehr, and spring wohz in thih feys ov dhat Qwihn az shih keym withe huhrr eytendants up thih shayning steps, huhrr litel mahrrtlets suhrrcling eybawt huhrr ohr puhrrching on huhrr shuwlduhrrz: shih tooh whoohm thih Godz ov uwld gheyv yooth evuhrrlahsting, and pihs evuhrrlahsting in Coshtrah Bihlohrn.

Lohrrd Jus and hiz bredhren wuhr on thih kih tooh miht huhrr, and thih Lohrrd Brandokh Deyhah. They bawd in tuhrn, kicing huhrr handz and biding huhrr welcum tooh Dihmonland. But shih ced, "Not tooh Dihmonland eyluwn, may lohrrdz, tooh thih wuhrrld eygheyn. And toohwohrd which ov ohl uhrths hahrbohrz shood I stihr, and toohwohrd which land if not tooh this land ov yohrz, whooh hav bay yohr victohrihz broht pihs and joy tooh ohl thih wuhrrld? Shoohrlih pihs slept not mowr softlih on thih Mohroohnah in uwld deyz bihfowr thih neymz ov Gohrays and Wichland wuhr huhrrd in dhat cuntrih, dhan shih shal

slihp fohr us on this nyooch uhrth and Dihmonland, naw dhat dhuwz neymz ahr drawnd fohr evuhr unduhr thih whuhrlpoohlz ov oblivihon and dahrcnes."

Jus ced, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, dihzayr not dhat thih neymz ov greyt men ded shood bih fohrgot fohr evuhr. Suw shood thihz wohrz dhat wih lahst yihr broht tooh suw maytih a conclyoohzhon tooh meyc us undispyoohted lohrdz ov thih uhrth guw dawn tooh oblivihon withe them dhat foht eygheynst us. But thih feym ov thihz thhingz shal bih on thih lips and in thih songz ov men from wun gihnihreyshon tooh eynudhuhr, suw long az thih wuhrlld shal enjoohr."

They tooc hohrs and ruwd up from thih hahrbohr tooh thih upuhr ruwd, and suw throoh uwpen pahschoohrz on tooh Heyvuhhrshoh Tung. Lamz friskt on thih jooohih meduwz bihsayd thih ruwd; blacbuhrdz flyooh from boosh tooh boosh; lahrx trild in thih saytles scay; and az they keym dawn throoh thih woodz tooh Becfoot wood-pijonz coohd in thih trihz, and sqwirelz pihpt withe bihdih ayz. Thih Qwihn spuwc litel. Thihz and ohl shay thhingz ov thih woodz and fihld held huhr in throhl, chahrming huhr tooh a saylens dhat wohz bruwken uwnlih naw and then bay a litel excleymeyshon ov joy. Thih Lohrd Jus, whooh himcelf ohlsuw luvd thihz thhingz, wohcht huhr dihlayt.

Naw they woohnd up thih stihp eycent from Becfoot, and ruwd intooh Gheyling bay thih Layon Gheynt. Thih avihnyooch ov Ayrish yooch wohz laynd bay suwljuhrz ov thih bodaygahrdz ov Jus, Guwldrih, and Spithfayr, and Brandokh Deyhah. Thihz, in onohr ov thehr greyt mahstuhz and ov thih Qwihn, lifted thehr spihz eyloft, whayl trumpihtuhz blyooh thrih fanfehrz on cilvuhtrumpets. Then tooh an eycumpeynayment ov lyoohts and thihohrbuwz and cidhuhrnz moohving eybuv thih puls ov mufeld drumz, a qwayr ov meydenz sang a song ov welcum, stroohing thih pahth bihfowr thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland and thih Qwihn

withe swiht whayt hayeycinths and nahrcisus bloohmz, whayl thih leydihz Mevrihan and Ahrmihlayn, mowr luvlih dhan enih qwihnz ov uhrth, weyted at thih hed ov thih guwlden stehrkeys eybuv thih inuhr cowrt tooh griht Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah cum tooh Gheyling.

A hahrd matuhr it wuhr tooh tel ov ohl thih plezhoohrz prihpehrd fohr Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah and fohr huhr dihlayt bay thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland.

Thih fuhrst dey shih spent eymung thih pahrx and plezhoohr gahrdenz ov Gheyling, whehr Lohrd Jus shuwd huhr hiz greyt laym avihnyoohz, hiz yooh-hawsez, hiz frooht gahrdenz and sunc gahrdenz and hiz prayveyt wohx and bawuhrz; hiz wohx ov crihping taym which bihing troden on cendz up swiht uwdohrz tooh refresh thih treduhr; hiz eynshent wohtuhr-gahrdenz bihsayd thih Brancdeyl Bec, whidhuhr thih wohtuhr nimfs rihzohrt in sumuhr and ahr cihn unduhr thih moohn cinging and cuwming thehr hehr withe cuwmz ov guwld.

On thih cecond dey hih shuwd huhr hiz huhrb gahrdenz, discluwsing tooh huhr thih cihcret propuhrtihz ov huhrbz, whehrin hih wohz dihplih luhred. Thehr grooh dhat Seymeylentishon, which bihing wel bihten up withe fat widhawt sohl iz sovrان fohr ohl woohndz. And Diteynih, which if ihten soohn poots awt thih aruw and hihleth thih woohndz; and not uwnlih bay its presens steyeth sneyx whehrsuwevuhr they bih handih tooh it, but bay rihzon ov its smel carihd bay wind and they smel it they day. And Mandreygohrah, which bihing teyken intooh thih midel ov an haws compeleth ohl ihvilz awt ov thih haws, and rihlihveth ohlsuw hedeyx and pruwjoohceth slih. Ohlsuw hih shuwd huhr Cih Holih in hiz gahrden, dhat iz bohrn in cihcret pleycez and in wet wunz, and thih rooht ov it iz az thih hed ov dhat monstuhr which men neym thih Gohrgon, and thih rooht-twigz hav buwth ayz and nuwz and culohr ov suhrpents. Ov this hih tuwld huhr haw when teyking up thih rooht, a man must cih tooh it dhat nuw sun

shayn on it, and hih whooh wood cahrv it must eyvuhrt hiz hed, fohr it iz not puhrrmited dhat man mey cih dhat rooht unhahrmd.

Thih thuhrd dey Jus shuwd thih Qwihn hiz steybelz, whehr wuhr hiz wohr-hohrcez and hohrcez fohr thih cheys and fohr charihot reycing steybeld in stohlz withe fuhrnaychoohr ov cilvuhr, and much shih mahrveld at hiz ceven whayt mehrz, cistuhrz, suw layc dhat nun mayt tel wun from eynudhuhr, ghiven him in deyz gon bay bay thih prihsts ov Ahrtihmis in thih landz bihyond thih suncet. They wuhr aymohrtal, behring aycohr in thehr veynz, not blud; and thih fayr ov it shuwd in thehr ayz layc lamps buhrning.

Thih fowrth nayt and thih fifth thih Qwihn wohz at Drepeybih, ghesting withe Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw and thih Princes Ahrmihlayn, dhat wuhr weded in Seygih Seycyoohluw lahst Yoohl; and thih cixth and ceventh nayts at Awlswic, and thehr Spityfayr meyd huhr lohrdlih entuhrteynment. But Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah wood not hav thih Qwihn guw yet tooh Crothihring, fohr hih had not yet meyd fehr eygheyn hiz gahrdenz and plihzohncez and restowrd hiz rich and goodlih trezhoohrz tooh hiz maynd ahftuhr thehr il handling bay Cohrinyus. And it wohz not hiz wil dhat shih shood looc on Crothihring Cahcel until ohl wohz thehr stablisht eynyooh eycohrding tooh its eynshent glowrih.

Thih eytth dey shih keym eygheyn tooh Gheyling, and naw Lohrd Jus shuwd huhr hiz studih, withe hiz astruwleybz ov ohraycalc, figyoohrd withe ohl thih saynz ov thih Zuwjac and thih manshonz ov thih moohn, standing a tohl manz hayt eybuw thih flowr, and hiz puhrspectayvz and gluvz and cristalz and holuw looking-glahcez; and greyt cristal gluwzbz whehr hih kept huwmuncyoohlih whoohm hih had meyd bay cihcret pruwcihcez ov neychoohr, buwth men and wimen, les dhan a span long, az byoohtayfool az wun cood wish tooh cih in thehr litel cuwts, ihting and drinking and

guwing thehr weyz in dhuwz maytih gluwbz ov cristal whehr hiz
ahrt had ghiven them bihing.

Evihrih nayt, whedhuhr at Gheyling, Awlswic, ohr Drepeybih Mayr, wohz
fihsting held in huhr onohr, withe myoohsic and dahncing and
merih-meyking and ohl dihlayt, and puwetaycal rihsayteyshonz and
fihts ov ahrmz and hohrsmanship, and mahsx and intuhrlyoohdz thih
layc whehrov hath not bihn cihn on uhrth fohr byoohtih and wit and
ohl magnifaycens.

Naw wohz thih naynth dey cum ov thih Qwihnz ghesting in
Dihmonland, and it wohz thih ihv ov Lohrd Jucez buhrthdey, when ohl
thih greyt wunz in thih land wuhr cum toohghedhuhr, az fowr yihrz
eyguw they keym, tooh dooh onohr on thih mohruw untooh him and
untooh hiz
bredhren az wohz thehr wuwnt eyfowrtaym. It wohz fayn brayt
wedhuhr, withe evihrih litel whayl a shawuhr tooh bring fresh
swihtnes tooh thih ehr, culohr and refreshment tooh thih uhrth, and
gladnes tooh thih sunshayn. Jus wohct withe thih Qwihn in thih
mohrning in thih woodz ov Moohn'gahrth Botom, naw buhrsting intooh
lih; and ahftuhr thehr mid-dey mihl shuwd huhr hiz trezhoohrihz
cut in thih layv roc unduhr Gheyling Cahcel, whehr shih biheld bahrz
ov guwld and cilvuhr payld layc trunx ov trihz; unhyoohn cristalz
ov roohbih, craysopreyz, ohr hayeycinth, suw hevih a strong man mayt
not lift them; stax ov ayvohrih in thih tusc, payld tooh thih
cihling; chests and jahrz fild withe puhrfyoohmz and costlih
spaycez, ambuhrgrih, frankincens, swiht-cented sandalwood and
muhr and spaykihnahrd; cups and bihcuhrz and ihrd wayn-jahrz and
lamps and cahskets meyd ov pyoohr guwld, wuhrct and cheyst withe thih
fohrmz ov men and wimen and buhrdz and bihsts and crihping
thhingz, and ohrneymented withe joohelz bihyond prays, mahrghehrayts
and

pinc and yeluw safayrz, smehragdz and craysuwberilz and yeluw daymondz.

When thih Qwihn had had huhr fil ov gheysing on thihz, hih carihd huhr tooh hiz greyt laybrehrih whehr stachoohz stood ov thih nayn Myoohsez

eybawt Eypoluw, and ohl thih wohlz wuhr hiden withe boox: histohrihz and songz ov uwld deyz, boox ov faylosuwfih, alcaymih and astronuwmih and ahrt magic, ruwmancez and myoohsic and layvz ov greyt men ded and greyt trihtihsez ov ohl thih ahrts ov pihs and wohr, withe picchoohrz and aylyoohmayneyted caractuhrz. Greyt winduwz

uwpend sawthwohrd on thih gahrden from thih laybrehrih, and clayming ruwz-trihz and plahnts ov hunaysyoohkel and ihvuhrgrihn magnuwliyah clustuhrd eybawt thih winduwz. Greyt chehrz and cawchez stood eybawt thih uwpen hahrth whehr a fayr ov cihdahr logz buhrnd in wintuhr taym. Lamps ov moohnstuwz celf-ihfulgent sheyded withe clawdih grihn toohrmeylihn stood on cilvuhr standz on thih teybel and bay ihch cawch and chehr, tooh ghiv layt when thih dey wohz uwvuhr; and ohl thih ehr wohz swiht withe thih cent ov drayd ruwz-lihvz kept in eynshent buwlz and vahsez ov peynted uhrthhenwehr.

Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah ced, "May lohrd, I luv this best ov ohl thih fehr thhingz dhaw hast shuwn mih in dhay cahcel ov Gheyling: hihr whehr ohl trubel cihmz a fohrgoten ecuw ov an il wuhrld left bihaynd. Shoohrlih may hahrt iz glad, O may frend, dhat dhaw and thihz udhuhr lohrdz ov Dihmonland shal naw enjoy yohr goodlih trezhoohrz and fehr deyz in yohr dihr neytayv land in pihs and qwayetnes ohl yohr layvz."

Thih Lohrd Jus stood at thih winduw dhat looct westwohrd acros thih leyc tooh thih greyt wohl ov thih Scahrf. Sum shaduw ov a nuwbel melancuwlih hovuhrd eybawt hiz swiht dahrc cawntihnans az hiz gheyz rested on a cuhrteyn ov reyn dhat swept acros thih feys ov thih

mawnteyn wohl, hahf veyling thih hay roc sumits. "Yet thinc, madam," ced hih, "dhat wih bih yung ov yihrz. And tooh strenyoohaws mayndz thehr iz an unqwayihchoohd in uwvuhr-qwayetnes."

Naw hih conducted huhr throoh hiz ahrmohrihz whehr hih kept hiz weponz and weponz fohr hiz fayting men and ohl panopliih ov wohr. Thehr hih shuwd huhr sowrdz and spihrz, meycez and axez and daguhrz, ohrfrihd and damacihnd and inleyd withe joohelz; buhrnihz and bohldrix and shihldz; bleydz suw kihn, a hehr bluwn eygheynst them in a wind shood bih pahrted in tweyn; chahrmd helmz on which nuw ohrdaynehrih sowrd wood bayt. And Jus ced untooh thih Qwihn, "Madam, whoht thhinxt dhaw ov thihz sowrdz and spihrz? Fohr nuw wel dhat thihz bih thih laduhrz rungz dhat wih ov Dihmonland claymd up bay tooh dhat cinyohrih and prinsaypalaytih which naw wih huwld uwvuhr thih fowr cohrnuhrz ov thih wuhrld."

Shih ahnsuhrd, "O may lohrrd, I thinc nuwbliih ov them. Fohr an il pahrt it wuhr whayl wih joy in thih hahrvest, tooh contem thih toohlz dhat prihphehrd thih land fohr it and rihpt it."

Whayl shih spuwc, Jus tooc dawn from its hooc a greyt sowrd withe a hahft bawnd withe plated cohrdz ov guwld and cilvuhr wayr and cros-hilts ov leytawn cet withe studz ov amethhist and a dreyx hed at ayduhr end ov thih hilt withe crimzon almandaynz fohr hiz ayz, and thih pomel a bohl ov dihp ambuhr-culohrd uwpal withe red and grihn flashez.

"Withe this sowrd," ced hih, "I went up withe Gazlahrc tooh thih gheysts ov Cahrcih, fowr yihrz gon bay this sumuhr, bihing clawded in may maynd bay thih bac-wohsh ov thih cending ov Gohrays thih King. Withe this sowrd I foht an awr bac tooh bac withe Brandokh Deyhah, eygheynst Cohrund and Cohrinyus and thehr eyblest men: thih greytest fayt dhat evuhr I foht, and eygheynst thih fihrhoohlest

odz. Wichland himself biheld us from Cahrcih wohlz throoh thih wohtihrih mist and glehr, and mahrveld dhat tooh men dhat ahr bohrn ov wooman cood puhrfohrm such dihdz."

Hih untayd thih bandz ov thih sowrd and drooh it cinging from its shihth. "Withe this sowrd," hih ced, looking luvinglih eylong thih bleyd, "I hav uwvuhrcum hundredz ov mayn enihmihz: Wichez, and Goohlz, and bahrbehraws pihpel awt ov Impland and thih sudhuhrn cihz, payreyts ov Ihseymuwshah and princez ov thih ihstuhnrn meyn. Withe this sowrd I gat thih victohrih in menih a batel, and muwst glowrihaws ov ohl in thih batel bihfowr Cahrcih lahst Ceptembuhr. Thehr, fayting eygheynst greyt Cohrund in thih pres ov thih fayt I gheyv him withe this sowrd thih woohnd dhat wohz hiz deth-woohnd."

Hih poot up thih sowrd eygheyn in its shihth: held it a minyooht az if pondihring whedhuhr ohr nuw tooh guhrd it eybawt hiz weyst: then sluwlih tuhrnd tooh its pleys on thih wohl and hung it up eygheyn. Hih carihd hiz hed hay layc a wohr-hohrs, kihping hiz gheyz eyvuhrted from thih Qwihn az they went awt from thih greyt ahrmohrih in Gheyling; yet not suw skilfoohlih but shih mahrcet a glicihning in hiz ay dhat cihmd a tih standing eybuw hiz luwuhr aylash.

Dhat nayt wohz supuhr cet in Lohrd Jucez prayveyt cheymbuhr: a layt rihgheyl, yet muwst sumpshaws. They sat at a rawnd teybel, nays in cumpeynih: thih thrih bredhren, thih Lohrdz Brandokh Deyhah, Sig, and Vol, thih Leydihz Ahrmihlayn and Mevrihan, and thih Qwihn. Braytlih fluwd thih waynz ov Crothihring and Nohrvasp and blaydhlih went thih tohc tooh awtwohrd cihming. But evuhr and eygheyn saylens swung athwohrt thih bowrd, layc a grey pohl, til Sig bruwc it withe a gest, ohr Brandokh Deyhah ohr hiz cistuhr Mevrihan. Thih Qwihn felt thih chil bihaynd thehr merayment. Thih saylent

fits keym oftihnuhr az thih fihst went fohrwohrd, az if wayn and good chih had lost thehr neytayv qwohlaytih and tuhrnd fahdhuhrz ov blac moohdz and gloohmih mihdayteyshonz.

Thih Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw, dhat til naw had spuwc litel, speyc naw not at ohl, hiz prawd dahrc feys fixt in steyd pensayv laynz ov thoht. Spitfayr tooh wohz fohlen saylent, hiz feys lihnd upon hiz hand, hiz braw bent; and whaylz hih dranc eymeyn, and whaylz hih drumd hiz fin'guhrr on thih teybel. Thih Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah lihnd bac in hiz ayvohrih chehr, ciping hiz wayn. Verih dihmyoohr, throoh hahf-cluwzd ayz, layc a panthuhr duwsing in thih noohn-dey, hih wohcht hiz companyonz at thih fihst. Layc sunbihmz cheyst bay clawd-shaduww acros a mawnteyn-sayd in windih wedhuhr, thih layts ov hyoohmohraws enjoyment pleyd acros hiz feys.

Thih Qwihn ced, "O may lohrrdz, yooh hav promayst mih I shood hihrr thih fool teyl ov yohr wohrz in Impland and thih Impland cihz, and haw yooh keym tooh Cahrcih and ov thih greyt batel dhat thehr bihfel, and ov thih latuhr end ov ohl thih lohrrdz ov Wichland and ov Gohrays 12. ov memohrih eycuhrrst. I prey yooh let mih hihrr it naw, dhat awr hahrts mey bih gladend bay thih teyl ov greyt dihdz thih rihmembrans whehrov shal bih fohr ohl gihnihreyshonz, and dhat wih mey rihjoys eynyoooh dhat ohl thih lohrrdz ov Wichland ahr ded and gon bihcohz ov whoohm and thehr tireynih uhrth hath gruwnd and leybohrrd thihz menih yihrr."

Lohrrd Jus, in whoohz feys when it wohz at rest shih had biheld dhat ceym melancuwlih which shih had mahrrct in him in thih laybrehrih dhat ceym dey, powrd fowrrth mowr wayn, and ced, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, dhaw shalt hihrr it ohl." Thehrwithe hih tuwld ohl dhat had bihfohlen cins they lahst bad huhr eyjooh in Coshtrah Bihlohrrn: ov thih mahrrch tooh thih cih at Myoohlvah; ov Laxus and hiz greyt fliht

destroyd and sunc of Mihlaycafcaz; ov thih batel bihfowr Cahrcih
and its swinging fohrchoohnz; ov thih unhaluwd layt and flehring
saynz in heven whehrbay they nyoooh ov thih Kingz cunjoohring eygheyn
in Cahrcih; ov thehr weyting in thih nayt, ahrmd at ohl poynts,
withe chahrmz and eymyooohlets redih eygheynst whoht dredfool buhrth
mayt

bih from thih Kingz enchahntments; ov thih blahsting ov thih Ayrn
Tawuhr, and thih stohrming ov thih huwld in pich dahrcnes; ov thih
lohrdz ov Wichland muhrdhuhrd at thih fihst, and noht left at
lahst ov thih pawuhr and pomp and terohr dhat wohz Wichland ceyv
daying embuhrz ov a fyooohnihral fayr and voycez weyling in thih wind
bihfowr thih dohn.

When hih had dun, thih Qwihn ced, az if tohking in a drihm,
"Shoohrlih it mey bih ced ov thihz kingz and lohrdz ov Wichland
ded--

Thihz reched emaynent thhingz
Lihv nuw mowr feym bihaynd em dhan shood wun
Fohl in a frost, and lihv hiz print in snuw;
Az soohn az thih sun shaynz, it evuhr melts
Buwth fohrm and matuhr."

Withe dhuwz wuhrdz spuwken dropt saylens eygheyn layc a pohl
athwohrt dhat banqwet teybel, mowr tristfool dhan bihfowr and fool
ov hevaynes.

On a suden Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah stood up, unbucling from hiz
shuwlduhr hiz guwlden bohldric cet withe eypraycot-culohrd
safayrz and daymondz and fayr-uwpalz dhat imeyjd thunduhrbolts.
Hih throoh it bihfowr him on thih teybel, withe hiz sowrd, clatihring
eymung thih cups. "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah," ced hih, "dhaw hast
spuwken a fit fyooohnihral duhrj fohr awr glowrih az fohr Wichlandz.

This sowrd Seldohrnyus gheyv mih. I behr it at Crothihring Sayd eygheynst Cohrinyus, when I throoh him awt ov Dihmonland. I behr it at Mihlaycafcaz. I behr it in thih lahst greyt fayt in Wichland. Dhaw wilt cey it broht mih good luc and victohrih in batel. But it broht not tooh mih, az tooh Seldohrnyus, this lahst best luc ov ohl: dhat uhrth shood gheyp fohr mih when may greyt dihdz wuhr ended."

Thih Qwihn looct at him eymeyzd, mahrvihling tooh cih him suw much moohvd dhat shih had nuwn until naw suw leysih moking and suw dihbuwnehr.

But thih udhuhr lohrdz ov Dihmonland stood up and flung dawn thehr jooheld sowrdz on thih teybel bihsayd Lohrd Brandokh Deyhahz. And Lohrd Jus speyc and ced, "Wih mey wel cahst dawn awr sowrdz az a lahst ofihring on Wichlandz greyv. Fohr naw must they rust: cihmanship and ohl hay ahrts ov wohr must widhuhr: and, naw dhat awr greyt enihmihz ahr ded and gon, wih dhat wuhr lohrdz ov ohl thih wuhrld must tuhrn shephuhrdz and huntuhrz, lest wih bihcum mihr mawntihbanx and fops, fit feluwz fohr thih cheymbihring Beshtrihanz ohr thih Red Fuwlihot. O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, and yooch may bredhren and may frendz, dhat ahr cum tooh kihp may buhrthdey withe mih tooh-mohruw in Gheyling, whoht meyc yih in holaydey eytayar? Wihp yih rahdhuhr, and wihp eygheyn, and cluwthe yooch ohl in blac, thhinking dhat awr maytihest fihts ov ahrmz and thih hay sawthing ov thih brayt stahr ov awr magnifaycens shood bring us untooh taymles roohin. Thhinking dhat wih, dhat foht but fohr faytingz ceyc, hav in thih end foht suw wel wih nevuhr mey fayt mowr; unles it shood bih in fratraysaydal reyj ihch eygheynst ihch. And ehr dhat shood bihtayd, mey uhrth cluwz uwwuhr us and awr memohrih perish."

Maytaylih moohvd wohz thih Qwihn tooh bihuwld such a vayuwlent sohruw, ohlbihit shih cood not comprihend thih roohts and rihzon ov it. Huhr voys shooc a litel az shih ced, "May Lohrd Jus, may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, and yooh udhuhr lohrdz ov Dihmonland, it wohz litel in mayn expecteyshon tooh faynd in yooh such a pashon ov sawr discontent. Fohr I keym tooh rihjoys withe yooh. And streynjlih it sawndeth in mayn ihr tooh hihr yooh mowrn and leyment yohr wuhrst enihmihz, at suw greyt hazahrd ov yohr layvz and ohl yooh held dihr, struc dawn bay yooh at lahst. I am but a meyd and yung in yihrz, ohlbihit may memohrih guweth bac tooh hundred springz, and il it bihfiteth mih tooh cawncel greyt lohrdz and men ov wohr. Yet streynj it cihmeth if thehr bih not pihsfool enjoyment and nuwbel dihdz ov pihs fohr yooh ohl yohr deyz, whooh ahr yung and nuwbel and lohrdz ov ohl thih wuhrlld and rich in evihrih trezhoohr and hay ghifts ov luhrning, and thih fehrest cuntri in thih wuhrlld fohr yohr dihr neytayv land. And if yohr sowrdz must not rust, yih mey behr them eygheynst thih uncivil reycez ov Impland and udhuhr distant cuntrihs tooh bring them tooh subgecshon."

But Lohrd Guwldrih Bluzcuw lahft bituhrlih. "O Qwihn," hih crayd, "shal thih cohrecshon ov fihbel saveygez content thihz sowrdz, which hav wohrd eygheynst thih haws ov Gohrays and eygheynst ohl hiz chuwsen capteynz dhat upheld thih greyt pawuhr ov Cahrcih and thih glowrih and thih fihr thehrov?"

And Spityfayr ced, "Whoht joy shal wih hav ov soft bedz and delaykeyt mihts and ohl thih dihlayts dhat bih in menih-mawnteind Dihmonland, if wih must bih stingles druwnz, withe nuw acshon tooh shahrpen awr apihtayt fohr ihz?"

Ohl wuhr saylent awhayl. Then thih Lohrd Jus speyc ceying, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, hast dhaw looct evuhr, on a shawihrih dey in spring, upon thih reynbuw flung acros uhrth and scay, and mahrcr

haw ohl thhingz ov uhrth bihyond it, trihz, mawnteyn-saydz, and rivuhrz, and fihldz, and woodz, and huwmz ov men, ahr trahnsfigyooohrd bay thih culohrz dhat ahr in thih buw?"

"Yes," shih ced, "and oft dihzayrd tooh rihch them."

"Wih," ced Jus, "hav fluwn bihyond thih reynbuw. And thehr wih fawnd nuw feybeld land ov hahrts dihzayr, but wet reyn and wind unwnlih and thih cuwld mawnteyn-sayd. And awr hahrts ahr a-cuwld bihcohz ov it."

Thih Qwihn ced, "Haw uwld ahrt dhaw, may Lohrd Jus, dhat dhaw spihxt az an uwld man mayt spihc?"

Hih ahnsuhrd, "I shal bih thuhrtih-thrih yihrz uwld toohmohruw, and dhat iz yung bay thih recuwning ov men. Nun ov us bih uwld, and may bredhren and Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah yun'guhr dhan I. Yet az uwld men mey wih naw looc fowrth on awr layvz, cins thih goodnes thehrov iz gon bay fohr us." And hih ced, "Dhaw O Qwihn canst skehrslh nuw awr grihf; fohr tooh thih thih bleced Godz gheyv dhay hahrts dihzayr: yoooth fohr evuhr, and pihs. Wood they mayt ghiv us awr good ghift, dhat shood bih yoooth fohr evuhr, and wohr; and unweyning strength and skil in ahrmz. Wood they mayt but ghiv us awr greyt enihmihz eylayv and whuwl eygheyn. Fohr betuhr it wuhr wih shood run hazahrd eygheyn ov utuhr destrucshon, dhan dhus liv awt awr layvz layc catel fatihning fohr thih slohtuhr, ohr layc cilih gahrden plahnts."

Thih Qwihnz ayz wuhr lahrj withe wunduhr. "Dhaw coodst wish it?" shih ced.

Jus ahnsuhrd and ced, "A trooh ceying it iz dhat 'a greyv iz a roten fawndeyshon.' If dhaw shoodst procleym tooh mih at this instant thih greyt King eylayv eygheyn and citing eygheyn in Cahrcih,

biding us tooh thih dred ahrbitrahment ov wohr, dhaw shoodst qwiclih cih I tuwld thih troohth."

Whayl Jus speyc, thih Qwihn tuhrnd huhr gheyz from wun tooh eynudhuhr rawnd thih bowrd. In evihrih ay, when hih speyc ov Cahrcih, shih soh thih laytning ov thih joy ov batel az ov layf rihtuhrning tooh men held in a dedlih trahns. And when hih had dun, shih soh in evihrih ay thih layt guw awt. Layc Godz they cihmd, in thih glowrih ov thehr yoohth and prayd, cihded eybawt dhat teybel; but sad and trajaycal, layc Godz exayld from wayd Heven.

Nun speyc, and thih Qwihn cahst dawn huhr ayz, citing az if rapt in thoht. Then thih Lohrd Jus ruwz tooh hiz fiht, and ced, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, fohrghiv us dhat awr prayveyt sohruwz shood meyc us suw fohrghetfool ov awr hospaytalaytih az wihrih awr ghest withe a muhrthles fihst. But thhinc tiz bihcohz wih nuw thih awr dihr frend wih yoohz not tooh much cerihmuwnih. Tooh-mohruw wih wil bih merih withe thih, whohtehr bihtayd thehrahftuhr."

Suw they bad good-nayt. But az they went awt intooh thih gahrden unduhr thih stahrz, thih Qwihn tooc Jus eysayd prayveytlih and ced tooh him, "May lohrd, cins dhaw and may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah keym fuhrst ov mohrtal men intooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn, and foolfild thih wihrd eycohrding tooh prihohrdeynment, this uwnlih hath bihn may dihzayr: tooh fuhrdhuhr yooh and tooh enhahns yooh and tooh obteyn fohr yooh whoht yooh wood, suw fahr az in mih layeth. Dhaw I bih but a wihc meyd, yet hath it cihmd good tooh thih bleced Godz tooh shuw cayndnes untooh mih. Wun huwlih prehr mey wuhrc thhingz wih skehrs drihm ov. Wilt dhaw dhat I prey tooh Them tooh-nayt?"

"Eylahs, dihr Qwihn," ced hih, "shal dhawz estreynjd and dayvayded

ashez yoohnayt eygheyn? Whooh shal tuhrn bac thih flud-tayd ov unohltihreybel nihcesaytih?"

But shih ced, "Dhaw hast cristalz and puhrspectayvz can shuw thih thhingz eyfahr of. I prey bring them, and ruw mih in dhay buwt up tooh Moohnmihd Hed dhat wih mey land thehr eybawt midnaye. And let may Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah cum withe us and dhay brudhuhrz. But let nun els nuw ov it. Fohr dhat wuhr but tooh moc them withe a fohls dohn, if it shoohd proohv at lahst tooh bih eycohrding tooh dhay wizdom, O may lohrd, and not eycohrding tooh may prehrz."

Suw thih Lohrd Jus did eycohrding tooh thih wuhrd ov dhat fehr Qwihn, and they ruwd huhr up thih leyc bay moohnlayt. Nun speyc, and thih Qwihn ceyt eypahrt in thih bawz ov thih buwt, in uhrnest suplaykeyshon tooh thih bleced Godz. When they wuhr cum tooh thih hed ov thih leyc they went ashowr on a litel spit ov cilvuhr sand. Thih Eypril nayt wohz eybuw them, mayld withe moohnlayt. Thih shaduwz ov thih felz ruwz inkih blac and bihyond aymeyjayneyshon hyoohj eygheynst thih scay. Thih Qwihn nihld awhayl in saylens on thih cuwld grawnd, and dhuwz lohrdz ov Dihmonland stood toohghedhuhr in saylens wohching huhr.

In a whayl shih reydz huhr ayz tooh heven; and bihuwld, betwihn thih tooh meyn pihx ov thih Scahrf, a mihtihohr crept sluwlih awt ov dahrcnes and acros thih nayt-scay, lihving a treyl ov cilvuhr fayr, and saylentlih dihpahrted intooh dahrcnes. They wohcht, and eynudhuhr keym, and yet eynudhuhr, until thih westuhrn scay eybuw thih mawnteyn wohz ableyz withe them. From tooh poynts ov heven they keym, wun betwixt thih fohreclohz ov thih Layon and wun in thih dahrc sayn ov Cansuhr. And they dhat keym from thih Layon wuhr spahrcling layc thih whayt fayrz ov Raygel ohr Altehr, and they dhat keym from thih Crab wuhr hohtih red, layc thih lustuhr ov Antehrihz. Thih lohrdz ov Dihmonland, lihning on thehr sowrdz, wohcht thihz

powrtents fohr a long whayl in saylens. Then thih travihling mihtihohrz cihst, and thih stedfahst stahrz shon luwnlih and cihrihn. A soft brihz stuhrd eymung thih ohlduhrz and wiluwz bay thih leyc. Thih laping wohtuhrz laping thih shinglih showr meyd a qwayet choohn. A naytin' gheyl in a copays on a litel hil sang suw pashuwneyt swiht it cihmd sum spirit cinging. Az in a trahns they stood and licend, until dhat cinging ended, and a hush fel on wohtuhr and wood and lohn. Then ohl thih ihst bleyzd up fohr an instant withe shiht laytningz, and thunduhr grawld from thih ihst bihyond thih cih.

Thih thunduhr tooc fohrm suw dhat myoohsic wohz in thih hevenz, filing uhrth and scay az withe trumpets cohling tooh batel, fuhrst hay, then luw, then shudihring dawn tooh saylens. Jus and Brandokh Deyhah nyoooh it fohr dhat greyt cohl tooh batel which had prihlyoohded dhat myoohsic in thih dahrc nayt widhawt huhr paleys, in Coshtrah Bihlohn, when fuhrst they stood bihfowr huhr pohrtal dayvayn. Thih greyt cohl went eygheyn throoh uhrth and ehr, sawnding dihfayans; and in its treyn nyoooh voycez, gruwping in dahrcnes, raying tooh pashuwneyt leyment, hovihring, and daying eywey on thih wind, til noht rihmeynd but a ruwl ov mufeld thunduhr, long, luw, qwayet, big withe meneys.

Thih Qwihn tuhrnd tooh Lohrd Jus. Shoohrlih huhr ayz wuhr layc tooh stahrz shaying in thih gloohm. Shih ced in a drawnd voys, "Dhay puhrspectayvz, may lohrd."

Suw thih Lohrd Jus meyd a fayr ov suhrteyn spaycez and huhrbz, and smuwc ruwz in a thhic clawd fool ov fayrih spahrz, withe a swiht shahrp smel. And hih ced, "Not wih, O may Leydih, lest awr dihzayrz chihst awr cencez. But looc dhaw in may puhrspectayvz throoh thih smuwc, and cey untooh us whoht dhaw shalt bihuwld in thih ihst bihyond thih unhahrvested cih."

Thih Qwihn looct. And shih ced, "I bihuwld a hahrbohr tawn and a slughish rivuhr cuming dawn tooh thih hahrbohr throoh a mihr cet eybawt withe mud flats, and a greyt weyst ov fen streching inland from thih cih. Inland, bay thih rivuhr sayd, I bihuwld a greyt bluf standing eybuw thih fenz. And wohlz eybawt thih bluf, az it wuhr a citeydel. And thih bluf and thih wohld huwld puhrecht thehron ahr blac layc uwld nayt, and layc thruwnd ayniqwaytih citing in thih pleys ov pawuhr, dahrkihning thih dihzuwleyshon ov dhat fen."

Jus ced, "Ahr thih wohlz thruwn dawn? Ohr iz not thih greyt rawnd tawuhr sawth-westwohrd thruwn dawn in roohin athwohrt thih wohlz?"

Shih ced, "Ohl iz whuwl and sawnd az thih wohlz ov dhayn uwn cahcel, may lohrd."

Jus ced, "Tuhrn thih cristal, O Qwihn, dhat dhaw meyst cih within thih wohlz if enih puhersonz bih thehrin, and tel us thehr sheyp and cihming."

Thih Qwihn wohz saylent fohr a speys, gheysing uhrnestlih in thih cristal. Then shih ced, "I cih a banqwet hohl withe wohlz ov dahrc grihn jaspuhr spekeld withe red, and a macih cohnrays bowrn up bay jayants thrih-heded cahrvd in blac suhrpentayn; and ich jayant iz bawd bihniht thih weyt ov a hyoohj crab-fish. Thih hohl iz ceven-sayded. Tooh long teybelz thehr bih and a cros-bench. Thehr bih ayrr breysihuhrz in thih midst ov thih hohl and flamboyz buhrning in cilvuhr standz, and revihluhrz qwohfig at thih long teybelz. Sum dahrc yung men blac ov brow and greyt ov joh, muwst suwljuhr-layc, brudhuhrz meyhap. Eynudhuhr withe them, rudih ov cawntihnans and cayndlihuhr tooh looc on, withe long brawn

moostahshihuwz. Eynudhuhr dhat wehreth a breysen buhrnih and cihgrihn
cuhrtel; an uwld man hih, withe spahrs grey whiscuhrz and flabih
chihx; fat and unwihldih; not a cumlih uwld man tooh looc upon."

Shih cihst spihking, and Jus ced, "Whoohm cihst dhaw els in
thih banqwet hohl, O Qwihn?"

Shih ced, "Thih flehr ov thih flamboyz haydeth thih cros-bench. I
wil tuhrn thih cristal eygheyn. Naw I bihuwld tooh dayvuhrtig
themcelvz withe days at thih teybel bihfowr thih cros-bench. Wun
iz wel-looking ihnuf, wel nit, ov a nuwbel powrt, withe cuhrlih
brawn hehr and bihrd and kihn ayz layc a cevlohr. Thih udhuhr
cihmeth yun'guhr in yihrz, yun'guhr dhan enih ov yooh, may lohrdz. Hih
iz smoothe sheyvd, ov a fresh complecshon and fehr cuhring hehr,
and hiz braw iz rihdhd withe a festal gahrland. A muwst big
brohd strong and cihmlih yung man. Yet iz thehr a sumwhoht
meyketh mih il at ihz bihuwlding him; and fohr ohl hiz fehr
cawntihnans and royal behring hih cihmeth displihsing in mayn
ayz.

"Thehr iz a damuwsel thehr tooh, wohching them whayl they pley.
Shuwaylih drest shih iz, and hath sum byoohtih. Yet skehrs can I
cuwmend huhr--" and, il at ihz on a suden, thih Qwihn sudenlih
poot dawn thih cristal.

Thih ay ov Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah twinkeld, but hih kept saylens.
Lohrd Jus ced, "Mowr, I entriht thih, O Qwihn, ehr thih rihc bih
gon and thih vizhon feyd. If this bih ohl within thih banqwet
hohl, cihst dhaw noht widhawt?"

Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah looct eygheyn, and in a whayl ced, "Thehr iz a
tereys feycing tooh thih west unduhr thih inuhr wohl ov dhat
fohrtres ov uwld nayt, and wohking on it in thih tohrchlayt a

man crawnd layc a King. Verih tohl hih iz: lihn ov bodih, and long ov lim. Hih wehreth a blac dublet bedaysend uwr withe daymondz, and hiz crown iz in thih figyoohr ov a crab-fish, and thih joohelz thehrov awt-feys thih sun in splendohr. But skehrs mey I mahrc hiz eyparel fohr looking on thih feys ov him, which iz mowr teraybel dhan thih feys ov enih man dhat evuhr I soh. And thih whuwl aspect ov thih man iz fool ov dahrcnes and pawuhr and terohr and stuhrn cuwmahnd, dhat spirits from bihluw uhrth must trembel at and dooh hiz biding."

Jus ced, "Heven fohrfend dhat this shood proohv but a swiht and guwlden drihm, and wih weyc tooh-mohruw tooh faynd it fluwn."

"Thehr wohketh withe him," ced thih Qwihn, "in intaymeyt convuhrs, az ov a suhrvant tohking tooh hiz lohrd, wun withe a long blac bihrd cuhrlih az thih shihps wool and glocih az thih reyvenz wing. Peyl hih iz az thih moohn in deylayt awrz, slenduhr, withe fayn-cut fihchoohrz and greyt dahrc ayz, and hiz nuwz hooct layc a rihping-hooc; gentel-looking and melancuwliih-looking, yet nuwbel."

Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah ced, "Cihst dhaw nun, O Qwihn, in thih logingz dhat bih in thih ihstuhrn galihriih eybuv thih inuhr cowrt ov thih paleys?"

Thih Qwihn ahnsuhrd, "I cih a loftih bed-cheymbuhr hung withe aras. It iz dahrc, ceyv fohr tooh brahnching candelstix ov layts buhrning bihfowr a greyt mirohr. I cih a leydih standing bihfowr thih mirohr, crawnd withe a qwihnz crown ov puhrpel amethhists on huhr dihp hehr dhat hath thih culohr ov thih tipmost tungz ov a fleym. A man cumeth throoh thih dowr bihaynd huhr, pahrtng thih hevih hangingz left and rayt. A big man hih iz, and looketh layc a king, in hiz greyt woolf-skin mantel and hiz cuhrtel ov rucet velvet withe ohrneymnts ov guwld. Hiz bohld hed cet eybawt

withe griseld cuhrlz and hiz booshih bihrd flect withe grey spihc him sumthhing pahst hiz praym; but thih layt ov yooth buhrnz in hiz ihguhr ayz and thih vigohr ov yooth iz in hiz tred. Shih tuhrneth tooh griht him. Tohl shih iz, and yung shih iz, and byoothayfool, and prawd-feyst, and swiht-feyst, and muwst galant-hahrted tooh, and merih ov hahrt tooh, if huhr loox bihlay huhr not."

Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah cuvuhrd huhr ayz, ceyng, "May lohrdz, I cih nuw mowr. Thih cristal cuhrdelz within layc fuwm in a whuhrlpoohl unduhr a hay fowrs in reynih wedhuhr. Mayn ayz grew sowr withe wohching. Let us ruw bac, fohr thih nayt iz fahr spent and I am wihrih."

But Jus steyd huhr and ced, "Let mih drihm yet awhayl. Thih dubel pilahr ov thih wuhrl, dhat membuhr thehrov which wih, blaynd instroohments ov inscroohteybel Heven, did shatuhr, restowrd eygheyn? From this taym fowrth tooh meynteyn, I and hih, hiz and mayn, eyjles and dethles fohr evuhr, fohr evuhr awr hay contenshon whedhuhr hih ohr wih shood bih greyt mahstuhz ov ohl thih uhrth? If this bih but fantomz, O Qwihn, dhawst tayst us tooh thih verih hahrt ov bituhrnes. This wih cood hav mist, uncihn and unaymajaynd: but not naw. Yet haw wuhr it posaybel thih Godz shood rihlent and thih yihz rihtuhrn?"

But thih Qwihn speyc, and huhr voys wohz layc thih fohling sheydz ov ihvihning, pulcing withe hiden splendohr, az ov a cens ov weykihning stahrlyt eylayv bihaynd thih feyding blyooh. "This King," shih ced, "in thih wikednes ov hiz impihaws prayd did wehr on hiz thum thih laycnes ov dhat wuhrm Oohruwbohros, az much az tooh cey hiz kingdom shood nevuhr end. Yet wohz hih, when thih eypoynted awr did cum, thunduhrd dawn intooh thih depths ov Hel. And if naw hih bih reyzd eygheyn and hiz deyz continyoohd, tiz not fohr hiz vuhrchooh but fohr yohr ceyc, may lohrdz, whoohm thih

Ohlmaytih Godz dooh luv. Thehrfowr I prey yooh puwses yohr hahrts
awhayl withe hyoohmilaytih bihfowr thih muwst hay Godz, and spihc
nuw
unprofayteybel wuhrdz. Let us ruw bac."

Dohn keym guwlden-fin'guhrrd, but thih lohrrdz ov Dihmonland ley eylong
eybed ahftuhr thehr wohch in thih nayt. Eybawt thih thuhrrd awr
bihfowr noohn, thih presens wohz fild in thih hay presens
cheymbuhr, and thih thrih bredhren sat upon thehr thruwnz, az fowr
yihrz eyguw they sat, betwihn thih guwlden hipogrifs, and bihsayd
them wuhr thruwnz cet fohr Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah and Lohrrd Brandokh
Deyhah. Ohl els ov byoohtih and splendohr in Gheyling Cahcel had thih
Qwihn biheld, but not til naw this presens cheymbuhr; and much
shih mahrveld at its machles byoohtihz and rehraytihz, thih
hangngz and thih cahrvngz on thih wohlz, thih fehr picchoohrz, thih
lamps ov moohnstawn and escahrbunkel celf-ihfulgent, thih monstuhrz
on thih fowr-and-twentih pilahrz, cahrvd in preshaws stuwzn suw
greyt dhat tooh men mayt skehrs suhrkel them withe thehr ahrmz,
and thih constihleyshonz buhrning in dhat fuhrmeyment ov lapis
lazhoohlih bihluw thih guwlden canuwpih. And when they dranc untooh
Lohrrd
Jus thih cup ov glowrih tooh bih, wishing him long yihrz and joy and
greytnes fohr evuhr mowr, thih Qwihn tooc a litel cidhuhrn
ceying, "O may lohrrd, I wil cing a sonet tooh thih and tooh yooh may
lohrrdz and tooh cih-guhrrt Dihmonland." Suw ceying, shih smuwt thih
stringz, and sang in dhat cristal voys ov huhrrz, suw trooh and
delaykeyt dhat ohl dhat wuhr in dhat hohl wuhr ravisht bay its
byoohtih:

Shall I compare thee to a Summers day?

Thou art more lovely and more temperate:

*Rough windes do shake the darling buds of Maie,
And Sommers lease hath all too short a date:
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion dimn'd;
And every faire from faire some-time declines,
By chance or natures changing course untrim'd;
But thy eternall Sommer shall not fade
Nor loose possession of that faire thou ow'st;
Nor shall Death brag thou wandr'st in his shade,
When in eternall lines to time thou grow'st:
So long as men can breath, or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

When shih had dun, Lohrd Jus ruwz up verih nuwblih and kist huhr hand, ceying, "O Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah, fostuhrling ov thih Godz, sheym us not withe preysez dhat bih tooh hay fohr mohrtal men. Fohr wel dhaw nuwst whoht thhing eylwn mayt bring us content. And tiz not tooh bih thoht dhat dhat which wohz cihn at Moohnmihr Hed lahst nayt wohz verih trooth indihd, but rahdhuhr thih drihm ov a nayt vizhon."

But Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah ahnsuhrd and ced, "May Lohrd Jus, blasfihm not thih bawntih ov thih bleced Godz, lest They bih an'grih and widhdroh it, Whooh hav grahnted untooh yooh ov Dihmonland from this dey fowrth yoohth evuhrlahsting and unweyning strength and skil in ahrmz, and--but hahrc!" shih ced, fohr a trumpet sawnded at thih gheyt, thrih straydent blahsts.

At thih sawnd ov dhat trumpet bluwn, thih lohrdz Guwldrih and Spitfayr sprang from thehr cihts, claping hand tooh sowrd. Lohrd Jus stood layc a stag at gheyz. Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah sat stil in hiz guwlden chehr, skehrs cheyn'ging hiz puwz ov ihzfool greys. But ohl hiz freym cihmd eylayt withe acshon nihr tooh buhrth, az thih actayv prinsappel ov layt pulcez and gruwz in thih scay at sunrayz. Hih looct at thih Qwihn, hiz ayz fild withe a wayld suhrmayz. A suhrving man, uwbihgent tooh Jucez nod, heycend from thih cheymbuhr.

Nuw sawnd wohz thehr in dhat hay presens cheymbuhr in Gheyling til in a minyoohts speys thih suhrving man rihtuhrnd withe stahrteld cawntihnans, and, bawing bihfowr Lohrd Jus, ced, "Lohrd, it iz an Ambaceydohr from Wichland and hiz treyn. Hih creyveth present ohgens."

THIH WUHRM OOHRUWBOHROS

Ahrgyoooment: withe Deyts

[Deyts Anuw Cahrcez Condaytey. Thih acshon ov thih stowrih cuvuhz exactlih fowr yihrz; from thih 22nd Eypril 399 tooh 22nd Eypril 403 A.C.C.]

Yihr A.C.C.

171. Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah bohrn in Mohrnah Mohroohnah.

187. Gohrays 3. iht up withe mantaycohrz bihyond thih Bheyvaynan.

188. Mohrnah Mohroohnah sact bay Gohrays 4. Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah lojd bay dayvayn eygencih in Coshtrah Bihlohrn.

337. Gohrays 7., cunjoohring in Cahrcih, sleyn bay ihvil spirits.

341. Buhrth ov Seldohrnyus.

344. Buhrth ov Cohrsus in Tenihmos.

353. Cohrund bohrn in Cahrcih.

354. Buhrth ov Sihnambrihah, duches tooh Cohrsus.

357. Buhrth ov Heltihreynyus.

360. Vol bohrn at Dahrclehrsted in Dihmonland.

361. Buhrth ov Jalkeynayus Fostus.

363. Buhrth ov Viz at Dahrclehrsted.

364. Gruw bohrn in Goblinland at thih cowrt ov Seygih Seycyoohluw, thih fostuhr-brudhuhr ov Gazlahrc thih King.

Gazlahrc bohrn in Seygih Seycyoohluw.

366. Laxus, hay Admayral ov Wichland and ahftuhr king ov Pixayland, bohrn in Estrihmihrayn.

367. Buhrth ov Galandus in Byoohtihnih.

369. Sig bohrn at Menih Booshez in Eymeydahrdeyl.

370. Jus bohrn at Gheyling.

371. Guwldrih Bluzcuw bohrn in Gheyling.

Dihkeyleyjus, eldest ov thih sunz ov Cohrsus, bohrn in Wichland.

372. Spityfayr bohrn in Gheyling.

Brandokh Deyhah bohrn in Crothihring.

374. Lah Fayrihz bohrn in Nohrvasp ov Pixayland.

Gohrihus, cecond ov Cohrsyoohez sunz, bohrn in Wichland.

375. Cohrinyus bohrn in Cahrcih.

376. Prezmayrah, cistuhr tooh thih Prins Lah Fayrihz, cecond wayf tooh Cohrund, and ahftuhr Qwihn ov Impland, bohrn in Nohrvasp.

379. Buhrth ov Hacmon, eldest ov thih sunz ov Cohrund.

Mevrihan, cistuhr tooh Lohrd Brandokh Deyhah, bohrn in Crothihring.

380. Hihming bohrn, cecond ov Cohrundz sunz.

381. Dohrmeynz bohrn, thuhrd ov Cohrundz sunz.

382. Buhrth ov Viglus, Cohrundz fowrth sun, in Cahrcih.

Rihcihdohr, King ov Goblinland, privaylih poyzond bay Cohrsus:

Gazlahrc reynz in hiz sted in Seygih Seycyoohluw.

Srayvah, dohtuhr tooh Cohrsus and Sihnambrihah, bohrn in Cahrcih.

383. Ahrmihlayn, cusin-juhrman tooh King Gazlahrc, ahftuhr betruwdhd and wed tooh Guwldrih Bluzcuw, bohrn in Cahrcih.

384. Cahrguw, yun'ghest ov thih sunz ov Cohrund, bohrn in Cahrcih.

388. Goblinland inveyded bay thih Goohlz: thih flayt awt ov Seygih Seycyoohluw: Tenihmos buhrnt: thih pawuhr ov thih Goohlz crusht bay Cohrsus.

389. Seldohrnyus, Heltihreynyus, and Jalkeynayus Fostus cent bay Gazlahrc withe an ahrmeyment intooh Impland, and thehr ensohrceld.

390. Thih Wichez harih in Goblinland: thehr dihfiht bay thih help ov Dihmonland on Lohrmihron fihld: thih sleying ov Gohrays 10. bay Brandokh Deyhah: Cohrsus teyken captayv and sheymd bay thih Dihmonz:
Gruw, eybanduwning thih Goblin cohz, dwelz in exayl at thih cowrt ov Wichland.

393. Lah Fayrihz, bihcihzhd bay Fax Fey Faz at Laydah Nan'gyoohnah in Awtuhr Impland, dihlivuhrd bay thih Dihmonz: Guwldrih Bluzcuw rihpulst
bay Cohrsus bihfowr Hahrqwem.

395. Cohrund wedz in Nohrvasp withe thih Princes Prezmayrah.

398. Thih Goohlz buhrst fowrth in unaymajaynd fihrosaytih: thehr harihing in Dihmonland and buhrning ov Guwldrihz haws at Drepeybih.

399. Huwlih wohr ov Wichland, Dihmonland, Goblinland, and udhuhr puwlayt neyshonz eygheynst thih Goohlz: Laxus, withe thih cawntihnans ov hiz mahstuhr Gohrays 11. and bay thih cawncel ov Gruw, dihzuhrts withe ohl hiz fliht in thih batel of Cahrtadzah (ihstuhrn cihbowrd ov Dihmonland): thih Goohlz nevuhrthihles uwvuhrwhelmd bay thih Dihmonz in Cahrtadzah Sawnd, and thehr whuwl reys extuhrmayneyted: Gohrays 11. dihmahndz homeyj ov Dihmonland, racelz withe Guwldrih Bluzcuw, and iz in dhat encawntuhr sleyn. Gohrays 12., rihnyoohing withe hapihuhr fohrchoohn thih ahrtayfishal practaycez ov Gohrays 7. in Cahrcih, teyx Guwldrih withe a cending majaycal: Jus and Brandokh Deyhah, pahrtlih stroht ov thehr wits, yoohnadvayzdlih guw up withe Gazlahrc eygheynst Cahrcih and ahr thehr clapt up: thehr dihlivihrih bay thih eygencih ov Lah Fayrihz, and rihtuhrn tooh thehr uwn cuntrih: Jucez drihm: thih cawncil in Crothihring: thih fuhrst expihdishon tooh Impland. Thih Kingz rihvenj on Pixayland exihcyoohted bay Cohrinyus, and Lah Fayrihz dispuwsest and driven intooh exayl: Cohrundz greyt mahrch uwvuhr Acrah Scabranth, suden ayrupshon intooh Awtuhr Impland, and conqwest ov dhat cuntrih: shiprec ov thih Dihmon fliht: cahrneyj at Ceyleypantah: mahrch ov thih Dihmonz intooh Upuhr Impland: amohraws comuhrs ov Brandokh Deyhah withe thih Leydih ov Ishneyn Nihmahrtah, whooh leyz a wihrd upon him: Cohrund bihcijez and capchoohrz Eshgrahr Uwgwu: Jus and Brandokh Deyhah eskeyp across thih Mohroohnah and wintuhr bay thih Bheyvaynan.

400. Nyoohz ov Eshgrahr Uwgwu broht tooh Cahrcih: Cohrund onohrd bay thih King thehrfohr withe thih stayl ov king ov Impland. Jus and Brandokh Deyhah cros thih Zhah Pahs: fayt withe thih mantaycohr: eycent ov Coshtrah Pivrahkhah, entrans intooh Coshtrah Bihlohrn, and

entuhrteynment bay Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah: Jucez vizhon ov Guwldrih bawnd on Zohrah: thih Qwihnz fuhrthihrans ov thehr dihzeynz: thih hipogrif hacht bihsayd thih Leyc ov Reyvehrih: thih feytal folih ov Mayvahrsh: Jus in despayt ov thih Qwihnz admuwnishonz aceyz Zohrah Rakh on foot and cumz within a litel ov loohsing hiz layf. Prezmayrah Qwihn ov Impland and Laxus king ov Pixayland crawnd in Cahrcih: thih King cendz an expihdishon tooh poot dawn Dihmonland, ceting Cohrsus in chihf cuwmahnd thehrov: Laxus dihfihts Vol bay cih of Looking'heyven, and Cohrsus Viz bay land at Crosbih Awtsayx, Viz sleyn on thih fihld: croohel and despaytfoot polaycih ov Cohrsus: daycenshonz betwixt him and Galandus: greyt rihvuhrsal ov thihz dayzahstuhurz bay Spitzfayr, Cohrsyoochcez ahrmih cut in pihcez bay him on thih Reyps ov Braymah and thih suhrvayvohurz bihcihzhd in Awlswic: discontent ov thih ahrmih: Cohrsus withe hiz uwn handz muhrdhuhurz Galandus in Awlswic: taydingz broht bay Gruw tooh Cahrcih: Cohrsus degreyded bay thih King, whooh cuwmishonz Cohrinyus az king ov Dihmonland tooh retrihv thih matuhr: batel ov Thremnuhrz Hyooh, withe thih uwwuhrthruw ov Spitzfayrz pawuhr: Cohrinyus crawnd in Awlswic: ehrest ov Cohrsus and hiz sunz and thehr despach huwm tooh Wichland.

401. Rihducshon ov ihstuhrn Dihmonland bay Cohrinyus, ceyv uwnlih Gheyling which Brihmihrih huwldz withe ceventih men: Cohrinyus moohvz west uwwuhr thih Stayl: hiz insuwlent dihmahndz tooh Mevrihan: miscareyj ov Gazlahrx expihdishon tooh thih rihlihf ov Crothihring, hiz dihfiht at Ohrwath: mahstuhrlih retriht ov Cohrinyus from Crothihring bihfowr syoohpihrihohr numbuhrz: hiz ambooshing and destroying ov Spitzfayrz ahrmih on thih showrz ov Swichwohtuhr: fohl ov Crothihring and syoohrenduhr ov Mevrihan: huhr eskeyp bay thih cawncel ov Gruw, thih help ov Cohrundz sunz, and thih cuwnayvans

ov Laxus: huhr flayt tooh Westmahrc and thens ihst eygheyn intooh
Nevuhrdeyl: Gruw eybandonz thih cohz ov Wichland fohr dhat ov
Dihmonland: hiz and Mevrihanz mihting withe Jus and Brandokh
Deyhah on thehr rihtuhrn huwm ahftuhr tooh yihrz: rihvolt ov thih ihst
and rihlih ov Gheyling: mahstuhrlh dispuwsishonz buwth bay Cohrinyus
and bay thih Dihmonz fohr a dihsaysayv encawntuhr: batel ov
Crothihring Sayd and expulshon ov thih Wichez from Dihmonland.

402. Cecond expihdishon tooh Impland, in which Gazlahrc and Lah
Fayrihz joyn thih Dihmonz, landz at Myoohlvah on thih Daydohrnyan Cih:
Jus, Spitfayr, Brandokh Deyhah, Gruw, Sig, and Astahr cros thih
Mohroohnah: Jucez rayding ov thih hipogrif tooh Zohrah Rakh and
dihlayvihrans ov Guwldrih: Laxus cent bay thih King withe an
uwvuhrwhelming pawuhr ov ships tooh cluwz Mihlaycafcaz Streys
eygheynst thih Dihmonz on thehr huwmwohrd voyeyj: batel of
Mihlaycafcaz: destrucshon ov thih Wichland ahrmahdah: Laxus and Lah
Fayrihz sleyn: a cin'ghel suhrvayving ship bringz thih taydingz tooh
Cahrcih: Cohrund cohld capteyn genihral in Cahrcih: gathihring ov thih
Wichland ahrmihz and thehr subget alayz: landing ov thih
Dihmonz in thih sawth: pahrlh bihfowr Cahrcih: thih Kingz wohrning
tooh

Jus: implakeybel enmaytih betwihn them: saynz and prognostix in
thih hevenz: thih Kingz despihreyt rihzuwlyoohshon if thih fayt
shood guw eygheynst him: batel bihfowr Cahrcih: sleying ov Gruw and
Cohrund: dihfiht ov thih Kingz fowrcez: cawncil ov wohr in Cahrcih,
Cohrinyus thih cecond taym capteyn genihral: Cohrsus, cawncihling
syooohrenduhr, fohlz greytlih intooh thih Kingz displezhoohr and iz bay
him sheymd and dismiss: in despehr hih cumpeycez thih teyking
of ov Cohrinyus and thih sunz ov Cohrund, and unhapaylih ov hiz
uwn sun tooh and hiz duches, bay poyzon, but iz himcelf sleyn bay
Cohrinyus: blahsting ov thih Ayrn Tawuhr in thih miscareyj ov thih
Kingz lahst cunjooohring: thih Dihmonz entuhr intooh Cahrcih: thehr
encawntuhr thehr withe Qwihn Prezmayrah: huhr trajaycal end and
trayumf: in ohl ov which iz complihted thih fohl ov thih empayr

and kingdom ov thih haws ov Gohrays in Cahrcih.

403. Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah in Dihmonland: thih mahrvcl ov mahrvclz dhat restowrd thih wuhrlld on Lohrd Jucez neytal dey, thih thuhrtih-thuhrd yihr ov hiz layf in Gheyling.

Biblihografic Nuwt on thih Vuhrcez

CHAPTUHR 3

Thih Fyooohnihral duhrj on King Gohrays 11. Wiliham Dunbahr (leyt 15th cenchoohrih) "*Lament for the Makaris: quhen he wes seik.*"

Lampoohn on Gruw Ihpigram in memohrih ov Wiliham Parih, "a capaytal treytohr," exihcyoohted fohr trihzon in 1584: qwuwted bay Huwlinsht.

CHAPTUHR 4

Profihcih consuhrning thih lahst thrih Kingz ov thih haws ov Gohrays in Cahrcih ----

CHAPTUHR 7

Song in preyz ov Prezmayrah Tomas Kehrooh (1598-1639).

Cohrundz Song ov thih Chayn "An Antayduwt eygheynst Melancuwliih" (1661).

Cohrsyoohez "Whenehr I bib thih wayn dawn" Eynacrihontah 25.;
transl. from thih Grihc, E. R. E.

Cohrsyoohez udhuhr ditihz From thih "Roxbuhrg Baladz" (cuwlected
1774).

CHAPTUHR 9

Mayvahrshesz steyvz on Ceyleyphantah Heric (1591-1674),
"Hesperaydihz."

CHAPTUHR 15

Prezmayrahz song ov Luvuhrz Don (1573-1631)

Cohrinyoohez luv ditih: "Whoht an As iz hih" "Merih Druwlihrih"
(1691).

Cohrinyoohez song on hiz Mistres Aybid.

CHAPTUHR 16

Laxyoohez Cihrihneyd Eynacrihontah 2.; transl. from thih Grihc, E. R.
E.

CHAPTUHR 17

Mahrch ov Cohrsyoohez vetihranz ----

CHAPTUHR 22

Mevrihanz balad ov thih Reyvenz Uwld Balad: "Thih Thrih Reyvenz."

CHAPTUHR 24

Mevrihanz qwuwteyshon on thih azbeston stuw. Robuhrt Grihn (1560-92), "Alfonsus, King ov Areygon."

CHAPTUHR 30

Gruwz cihrihneyd tooh Prezmayrah. Suhr Henrih Woton (1568-1639), vuhrcz tooh Ihliseybeth, Qwihn ov Buwhihmihah.

CHAPTUHR 31

Profihcih consuhrning cunjoohring ----

CHAPTUHR 33

Laynz qwuwted bay Qwihn Suwfuwnizbah on thih fohl ov Wichland Webstuhr (bihghining ov 17th cenchoohrih); "Thih Duches ov Malfih," Act 5. 5.

Qwihn Suwfuwnizbahz Sonet Sheyxpahr, Sonet 18.

Thih text hih printed ov Wotonz puwem iz dhat ov "Rihliqwihey Wotonyahney," 1st ed., 1651, edayed bay Ayzahc Wohlton; exept dhat I red (withe thih uhrlihuhr texts) 1. 5 Moohn, 1. 8 Pashonz, 1. 16 Princes, insted ov Sun, Voycez, Mistris ov thih 1651 ihdishon.

Sheyxpahrz Sonet iz from thih Qwohrtuw ov 1609.

Thih paceyj from Nyahlz Sahgah in thih Inducshon iz qwuwted from thih leyt Suhr Johrj Deycents clacic trahnzleyshon.

[End ov Thih Wuhrm Oohruwbohros, bay E. R. Edayson]