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Ďe Werm Ōroboros

A romans bi E. R. Ĕdison

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Dedikaŋon

Too W. G. E. and too mi frendz K. H. and G. C. L. M. I dëdikāt  
ðis bøk

It iz niðer älegore nor fabel but a Stœere too be red for its  
ôn sāk.

Ðe pröper nāmz I hav trīd too spel simple. Ðe e in Karse  
iz loŋ, līk ðat in Frine, ðe o in Kröðeriŋ fort and ðe  
aksent on ðat sīlabel: Korund iz aksented on ðe ferst  
sīlabel, Prezmirâ on ðe sëkond, Brandox Dahâ on ðe ferst  
and fœrþ, Gorīs on ðe lâst sīlabel, rimiŋ wið þrīs:  
Korinyus rīmz wið Flaminyus, Galiŋ wið saliŋ, Lâ Firēz  
wið dezīr ēz: ch iz ôlwāz gūtœoral, az in lox.

E. R. E.

9th Dzãnuare 1922

## Introdukƿon

Ɖe Werm OOroboros, no werm, but Ɖe Serpent itself, iz a wunderfö! bök. Az a stœere or az pröz it iz wunderfö!, and, Ɖêr beinj a kôz for ëvere efekt, Ɖe rezon for ritiŋ it ƿud be az marvelö!s agãn.

Šële had tœ rīt Ɖe Promepeus Unböld, he wôz under kompulſon; for a superhuman ënerdže had kum ūpon him, and he wôz færst tœ kreät a mäter Ɖat wud permit him tœ imadzĩn, and þink, and spēk lĩk a god. It wôz so wið Blãk, huœ wild tœ apêr az a man but eksisted lĩk a mœntãn; and, at Ɖêr best, Ɖe werk ov Ɖêz poets iz inhuman and sãkred. It duz not grãtle mäter Ɖat Ɖa had or had not a mësãdz. It duz not mäter at ôl Ɖat iðer kan be tƿardz wið nonsens or Ɖat bœþ hav bën kôld madmen--Ɖe sãm tƿardz mĩt be lãd agãnst a volkano or a þunderbolt--or Ɖis bök. It duz not mäter Ɖat Ɖa kud trãnsend human endzurans, and kud moov trankwile in relmz huêr lĩtniŋ iz Ɖe norm ov spēd. Ɖe werk ov sutƿ poets iz sãkred bekôz it ūtpasez man, and, in a relm ov Ɖêr ôn, winz even abuv Šãkspêr.

An ënerdže sutƿ az kãm on Ɖe poets haz vĩzited Ɖe ôþor ov Ɖis bök, and hiz dedikatore stãtment, Ɖat "it iz niðer älegore nor fabel but a stœere tœ be red for its ôn sãk," ƿuts us of wið Ɖe äƿurd ärogans ov Ɖe poet huœ iz tœ bĩze kreatiŋ tœ hav tĩm for skœol-mãsteriŋ. But, wakiŋ or in drêm, Ɖis ôþor haz bën in strãndz rëdzoŋz and haz supt at a torent hũtƿ ônle Ɖe gratest no ov.

Ɖe stœere iz a loŋ wun--Ɖis reder wud hav lĩkt it twĩs az loŋ. Ɖe plãs ov akƿon iz indikated, kãzuale, az Ɖe plãnet Merkure, and Ɖe stœere telz ov Ɖe worz betwên tœ grãt kiŋdomz ov Ɖat plãnet, and Ɖe final overþro ov wun.

Mr. Èdison iz a vãst man. He neded a huöl kozmos tœ pla in, and kreated wun; and he færdzd a pröz tœ tel ov it Ɖat iz az dzigantik az hiz tãl. In rediŋ Ɖis bök Ɖe reder must a lĩtel brãk hiz wa in, and must surrender predžudisez Ɖat ar not alðd for. He ma þink Ɖat Ɖe langwãdz iz mœr rotund Ɖan iz neded for a tãl, but, az he prosëdz, he wil se Ɖat ônle sutƿ a tunj kud be spoken bi Ɖêz kolösi; and, soœn, he wil delĩt in a pröz Ɖat iz az lĩf-gĩviŋ az it

iz magnīfisent.

Mr. Ēdisonz prōz nēver plāz him fōls; it rizez and fōlz wið hiz subdʒekt, and iz tender, humorōs, sōr, presīpitāt and terīfik az ðe okaʒon worants. Hŷ nīse ðe Kagâ dānst for ðe Red Foleot.

"Fokse-red abuv, but wið blak bēlēz, rōnd fūre fasez, īnosent amber īz and grāt soft pōz.... On a sūden ðe muzik sēst, and ðe dānsers wer stil, and standiŷ sīd bi sīd, pō in fūre pō, ða bŷd file tō ðe kumpane, and ðe Red Foleot kōld ðem tō him, and kist ðem on ðe mŷp, and sent ðem tō ðēr sēts."

"Korund lēnd on ðe pārapet and faded hiz īz wið hiz hand, ðat wōz brōd az a smōkt hādok, and kūverd on ðe bak wið yēlo hērz groiŷ sumhōt sparsle az ðe hērz on ðe skin ov a yuŷ ēlefant."

"A dizmal tempest sūdenle serprīzd ðem. For forte dāz it swept ðem in hāl and slēt over wīd wōloirŷ oʒan, wīðŷt a star, wīðŷt a kōers."

"Nīt kām dŷn on ðe hilz. A grāt wind moniŷ ŷt ov ðe hules west tōr ðe klŷdz az a rāged garment, reveliŷ ðe lōnle mōn ðat fled naked betwikst ðem."

"Dōn kām īk a līle, safron-hūd, smerkt wið smōk-gra strēks, ðat slānted from ðe norp."

"He wōz naked tō ðe wāst, hiz hēr, brest and armz tō ðe armpits klōted and adrop wið blud and in hiz handz tō blūde dāgerz."

Kwotafonz kan giv sum ideā ov ðe riōm ov hiz sentensez, but it kan giv nun ov ðe māsīv swēp and intensite ov hiz nāratiṽ. Milton fel in luv wið ðe dēvil bekōz ðe dramātik akʒon la wið him, and, in ðis bŷk, Mr. Ēdison trŷnsez hiz dēvilz for beiŷ nōte (ðe werd "bad" haz not signīfikans hēr), but he trŷnsez ðe Wīzard Kiŷ and hiz kiŷdom wið afekʒon and delīt. Hŷt gordʒōs monsterz ar Gorīs ðe Twelfp and Korund and Korinyus. ðe reder wil not ezile forget ðem; nor Gorisez grāt antāgonist Lord Dʒus; nor ðe marvelōs trator, Lord Gro, wið hŷm ðe ōpor wōz sertānle in luv; nor ðe grāt fīts and ðe tēribel fiterz Lordz Brandox Dahā and Gōldre Bluzko, and a werld ov ŷðerz and ðēr wīvz; nor wil he forget ðe mŷntān Koftrā Pivrarxā, ðat had tō be klīmd, and wōz klīmd--az dīzeiŷ a fēt az līteratfūr kan tel ov.

"So hūdʒ he wōz ðat even hēr at siks mīlz distans ðe i

mī̄t not at a glāns behōld him, but must swēp bak and fœrþ  
az over a brōd landskāp, from ðe ponderŷs rōots ov ðe  
mō̄ntān, hŷer ða spranþ blak and fēr from ðe glafer up  
ðe vāst fās, hŷer butres wōz pīld ŷpon butres, and  
tþer ŷpon tþer, in a blīndiþ rādʒans ov īs-huþ þrēsipīs  
and sno-fild gŷle, tō ðe lōn hīts hŷer, līk spērz  
mēnasiþ hi hēven, ðe hŷit tēþ ov ðe sŷmit-ridʒ kleft  
ðe ski."

Mr. Ēdisonz prōz duz not derīv from ðe Inglif Bibel. Hiz  
mī̄nd haz mœr afīnitēz wið Keltik imadʒiniþz and mēþod, and  
hiz werk iz Keltik in ðat it iz inspīrd bi bute and dariþ  
rāðer ðan bi þōts and morālītēz. He mī̄t be Skotf or  
Iriþ: skērsle ðe former, for, hŷil Skotland luvz  
fōl-mō̄þt vers, fe, līk Inland, iz prōz-fi. But, from  
hŷôtēver hēven Mr. Ēdison kum, he haz āded a māsterpēs tō  
Inglif līteratfūr.

## D3ĀMZ STEVENZ

### ÐE WERM OOROBOROS

*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.*

\* \* \* \* \*

TÖMAS DE RIMER.

De Indukfon

Ðêr wôz a man nāmd Lēsīŋam dwelt in an ōld lo hŷs in Wastdāl, set in a gra ōld garden hvêr u-trêz flūriŋt ōat had sēn Vikiŋz in Kōpland in ðêr sēdliŋ tīm. Līle and rōz and larksper blōmd in ðe borderz, and begōnyāz wið blōsomz big az sōserz, red and hvīt and pink and lēmon-kūlor, in ðe bedz befœr ðe pœrtŋ. Klimiŋ rozez, hūnisukel, klematis, and ðe skarlet flām-flŷer skrambeld up ðe wōlz. Þik wudz wer on ěvere sīd wiðŷt ðe garden, wið a gap norþ-ēstword openiŋ on ðe dēzolāt lāk and ðe grāt felz beŷond it: Gabel reriŋ hiz krag-bŷnd hed agānst ðe ski from behīnd ðe strāt klēn ŷtīn ov ðe Skrêz.

Kool loŋ ŋādōz stōl akros ðe tēnis lōn. Ðe êr wōz gōlden. Duvz mermerd in ðe trêz; tō tŋāfintŋez plād on ðe nêr pōst ov ðe net; a lītel wōter-wagtāl skūrêd alon ðe pāþ. A Frenŋ windo stūd open tō ðe garden, ŋoiŋ darkle a diniŋ-rōom pāneld wið ōld ōk, its Dzakobean tabel brīt wið flŷerz and silver and kut glās and Wedŷwud dīŋez hēpt wið frūt: grēngādzez, pētŋez, and grēn muskat grāps. Lēsīŋam la bak in a hāmok-tŋêr wōtŋiŋ þrō ðe blu smōk ov an āfter-dīner sigar ðe worm līt on ðe Glwar de Dezon rozez ōat klusterd abŷt ðe bedrōom windo overhed. He had her hand in hiz. Ðis wōz ðêr Hŷs.

"Σud we fīniŋ ðat tŋapter ov Nŷāl?" ŋe sed.

Σe tuk ðe hēve vōlūm wið its faded grēn kūver, and red: "He went ŷt on ðe nīt ov ðe Lordz da, hven nīn wēks wer stil tō winter; he herd a grāt kraŋ, so ðat he þōt bōþ hēven and erþ ŋuk. Ðen he lukt intō ðe

west êrt, and he þôt he sô ðarabŷts a riŷ ov fire  
hu, and wiðin ðe riŷ a man on a gra hors. He pâst  
kwikle bi him, and rōd hard. He had a flamiŷ fīrbrand in  
hiz hand, and he rōd so klōs tō him ðat he kud se him  
plānle. He wōz blak az pitf, and he suŷ ðis soŷ wið a  
mite vq̄s--

Hēr I rīd swift stēd,  
Hiz flank flekt wið rīm,  
Rān from hiz mān drips,  
Hors mite for harm;  
Flāmz flēr at ētf end,  
Gōl glōz in ðe midst,  
So fērz it wið Flozēz rēdz  
Az ðis flamiŷ brand flīz;  
And so fērz it wið Flozēz rēdz  
Az ðis flamiŷ brand flīz.

"Ðen he þôt he herld ðe fīrbrand ēst tōwordz ðe felz  
befœr him, and sutf a blāz ov fīr lept up tō mēt it ðat  
he kud not se ðe felz for ðe blāz. It sēmd az ðo  
ðat man rōd ēst amuŷ ðe flāmz and vāniŷt ðēr.

"Āfter ðat he went tō hiz bed, and wōz sensles for a loŷ  
tīm, but at lâst he kām tō himself. He bœr in mīnd ôl ðat  
had hāpend, and tōld hiz fāðer, but he bad him tel it tō  
Hŷalte Skëgēz sun. So he went and tōld Hŷalte, but he sed  
he had sēn ðe Wōlfs Rīd, and ðat kumz ēver befœr grāt  
tidiŷz."

Ða wer silent āhŷil; ðen Lēsīŷam sed sūdenle, "Dō u  
mīnd if we slēp in ðe ēst wiŷ tō-nīt?"

"Hŷôt, in ðe Lotus Rōom?"

"Yes."

"Īm tō mutf ov a laze-bōnz tō-nīt, dēr," ŷe ānserd.

"Dō u mīnd if I go alōn, ðen? I ŷal be bak tō brekfast.  
I līk mi lade wið me; stil, we kan go agān huen nekst mōon  
wānz. Mi pet iz not fritend, iz ŷe?"

"No!" ŷe sed, lâfiŷ. But her īz wer a lītel big. Her  
fingerz plād wið hiz wōtf-tfān. "Īd rāðer," ŷe sed  
prēzentle, "u went later on and tŷk me. Ôl ðis iz so od  
stil: ðe Hŷs, and ðat; and I luv it so. And āfter ôl, it  
iz a loŷ wa and sēveral yērz tō, sumtīmz, in ðe Lotus  
Rōom, even ðo it iz ôl over nekst morniŷ. Īd rāðer we  
went tŷgēðer. If ēniŷiŷ hāpend ðen, wel, wēd bōp be  
dun in, and it wōdnt māter so mutf, wōd it?"



"Bōp be hvōt?" sed Lēsījam. "Īm afrād yor langwādʒ iz not ōl đat mīt be wīft."

"Wel, u tōt me!" sed Je; and đa lâft.

Đa sat đēr til đe fādōz krept over đe lōn and up đe trēz, and đe hi roks ov đe mōntān fōlder beƵond bernd red in đe eveniņ rāz. He sed, "If u līk tō strōl a bit ov wa up đe fel-sīd, Merkure iz vīzibel tō-nīt. We mīt get a glimps ov him dʒust âfter sunset."

A lītel later, standiņ on đe open hilsīd belo đe hōkiņ bats, đa wōtft for đe dim plānet đat fōd at lâst lo dĥn in đe west betwēn đe sunset and đe dark.

He sed, "It iz az if Merkure had a finger on me tō-nīt, Mare. Its no gūd mi triiņ tō slēp tō-nīt eksept in đe Lotus Rōom."

Her arm titend in hiz. "Merkure?" Je sed. "It iz anūđer world. It iz tō far."

But he lâft and sed, "Nūpiņ iz tō far."

Đa ternd bak az đe fādōz depend. Az đa stōd in đe dark ov đe artft gāt lediņ from đe open fel into đe garden, đe soft klēr nōts ov a spīnet sĥnded from đe hĥs. Še pōt up a finger. "Hark," Je sed. "Yor dōter plaini *Les Barricades*."

Đa stōd līseniņ. "Še luvz plaini," he hvisperd. "Īm glad we tōt her tō pla." Prēzentle he hvisperd agān, "*Les Barricades Mystérieuses*. Hvōt inspīrd Kĥperin wiđ đat entfānted nām? And ōnle u and I no hvōt it reale mēnz. *Les Barricades Mystérieuses*."

\*\*\*\*

Đat nīt Lēsījam la alōn in đe Lotus Rōom. Its kāsments opend ēstword on đe slepiņ wōdz and đe slepiņ bēr slōps ov lġil Hed. He slept soft and dēp; for đat wōz đe Hĥs ov Pōstmeridʒan, and đe Hĥs ov Pēs.

In đe dēp and ded tīm ov đe nīt, hven đe waniņ moon pērd over đe mōntān fōlder, he wōk sūdenle. Đe silver bēmz fon þrō đe open windo on a form pertft at đe fōt ov đe bed: a lītel berd, blak, rĥnd-hēded, fort-bēkt, wiđ loņ farp wiņz, and īz līk tō starz

finiŋ. It spōk and sed, "Tīm iz."

So Lēsīŋam got up and müfeld himself in a grāt klōk đat la on a tġēr besīd đe bed. He sed, "I am rēde, mi lītel martlet." For đat wōz đe Hġs ov Harts Dezīr.

Σūrle đe martlets īz fild ōl đe rōom wiđ starlīt.

It wōz an ōld rōom wiđ lotusez karvd on đe pānelz and on đe bed and tġērz and rōof-bēmz; and in đe glāmōr đe karvd flġerz swād līk wōter-līlēz in a laze strēm. He went tō đe windo, and đe lītel martlet sat on hiz fōlder. A tġāreot kŭlord līk đe halo abġt đe mōon wated bi đe windo, pġzd in êr, harnest tō a strāndz stēd. A hors it sēmd, but wiŋd līk an egel, and its fōer-legz fēđerd and armd wiđ egelz klōz insted ov hōovz. He enterd đe tġāreot, and đat lītel martlet sat on hiz ne.

Wiđ a hver ov wiŋz đe wīld kōerser spranġ skiword. Đe nīt abġt đem wōz līk đe tġumult ov būbelz abġt a diverz ērz diviŋ in a dēp pool under a smōđ stēp rok in a mġntān kātarakt. Tīm wōz swōlōd up in spēd; đe werld rēld; and it wōz but az đe spās betwēn tō dēp breġs til đat strāndz kōerser spred wīd hiz rānbo wiŋz and slānted dġn đe nīt over a grāt iland đat slumberd on a slumberiŋ se, wiđ lēser īlz abġt it: a kuntre ov rok mġntānz and hil pāstġūrz and mēne wōterz, ōl a-glīmer in đe mōonġīn.

Đa landed wiđin a gāt krġnd wiđ gōlden lionz. Lēsīŋam kām dġn from đe tġāreot, and đe lītel blak martlet serkeld abġt hiz hed, ġoiŋ him a u āvenu lediŋ from đe gāts. Az in a drēm, he fōlōd her.

I. Đe Kāsel ov Lord Dzus

OV ĐE RARITĒZ ĐAT WER IN ĐE LOFTE PRĒZENS TΣĀMBER FĒR AND LUVLE Tōō BEHōLD, AND OV ĐE KWōLITĒZ AND KONĐġSONZ OV ĐE LORDZ OV DEMONLAND: AND OV ĐE EMBASE SENT UNTōō ĐEM BI KIŊ GORġS 11., AND OV ĐE ĀNSER ĐĒRTōō.

Đe ēstern starz wer paliŋ tō đe dōn az Lēsīŋam fōlōd hiz konduktor alonġ đe grās wōk betwēn đe ġādoe ranks ov Irif ūz, đat stod līk sōldzerz mistereġs and ekspektant in đe darknes. Đe grās wōz bāđd in nīt-dzu, and grāt hŭit līlēz slepiŋ in đe ġādōz ov đe ūz loded đe êr ov đat garden wiđ frāgrans. Lēsīŋam felt

no tutf ov ðe gr̥nd benēþ hiz fēt, and hven he stretft  
þt hiz hand tō tutf a tre hiz hand pāst þrō brāntf and  
lēvz az ðo ða wer unsubstanfal az a mōnbēm.

Ðe lītēl martlet, alitiŋ on hiz fōlder, lāft in hiz  
ēr. "Tfīld ov erþ," fe sed, "dust þink we ar hēr in  
drēmland?"

He ānserd nūþiŋ, and fe sed, "Ðis iz no drēm. Ðþ,  
ferst ov ðe tfīldren ov men, art kum tō Merkure, hvēr ðþ  
and I wil dzerne up and dþn for a sezon tō fo ðe ðe  
landz and oþanz, ðe forests, plānz, and ānfent mþntānz,  
sītēz and pālasez ov ðis werld, Merkure, and ðe dōiŋz ov  
ðem ðat dwel ðarin. But hēr ðþ kanst not handel ôt,  
niðer māk ðe fōk wēr ov ðe, not ðo ðþ fþt ði  
þrōt hōers. For ðþ and I wōk hēr impalpabel and  
invizibel, az it wer tō drēmz wōkiŋ."

Ða wer nþ on ðe marbel steps hvitf led from ðe u wōk  
tō ðe tērās oþozīt ðe grāt gāt ov ðe kâsel. "No nēd  
tō unbar gāts tō ðe and me," sed ðe martlet, az ða  
pāst benēþ ðe darknes ov ðat ānfent portal, karvd wið  
strāndz devisez, and klēn þrō ðe māse timberz ov ðe  
bolted gāt þikle riveted wið silver, intō ðe ĩner kœrt.  
"Go we intō ðe lofte prēzens tfāmber and ðēr tāre āhvīl.  
Morniŋ iz kindliŋ ðe ūper ēr, and fōk wil sōn be  
stūriŋ in ðe kâsel, for ða li not loŋ abed hven da  
bēginz in Demonland. For be it nōn tō ðe, O erþborn, ðat  
ðis land iz Demonland, and ðis kâsel ðe kâsel ov Lord  
Dzus, and ðis da nþ dōniŋ hiz berþda, hven ðe Demonz  
hōld hi festival in Džūsez kâsel tō dō ōnor untō him and  
tō hiz breðren, Spitfir and Gōldre Bluzko; and ðēz and  
ðēr fāðerz befœr ðem bēr rīl from tīm imemœreal in  
Demonland, and hav ðe lordfip over ôl ðe Demonz."

Σe spōk, and ðe ferst lo bēmz ov ðe sun smōt  
dzävelin-līk þrō ðe ēstern windōz, and ðe fresnes ov  
morniŋ brēðd and fīmerd in ðat lofte tfāmber, tfasiŋ  
ðe blu and duske fādz ov departed nīt tō ðe kornorz and  
resesez, and tō ðe rāfterz ov ðe vōlted rōof. Σūrle no  
potentāt ov erþ, not Kresus, not ðe grāt Kiŋ, not Minos  
in hiz rġal pālās in Krēt, not ôl ðe Farōz, not Kwēn  
Semirāmis, nor ôl ðe Kiŋz ov Bābilon and Nīnevā had ēver a  
þrōn rōom tō kompēr in glœre wið ðat hi prēzens tfāmber  
ov ðe lordz ov Demonland. Its wōlz and pīlarz wer ov  
sno-hvīt marbel, ēvere vān hvarov wōz set wið smōl dzemz:  
rubēz, koralz, garnets, and pink topaz. Sēven pīlarz on  
iðer sīd bœr up ðe fādoe vōlt ov ðe rōof; ðe

roof-tre and ðe bēms wer ov gōld, kureðsle karvd, ðe  
roof itself ov mūðer-ov-perl. A sīd īl ran behīnd ētʃ  
ro ov pīlarz, and sēven pāntiŋz on ðe western sīd fāst  
sēven spaʃðs windōz on ðe ēst. At ðe end ov ðe hōl ūpon  
a dais stūd þre hi sēts, ðe armz ov ētʃ kompōzd ov tō  
hīpogrifs rōt in gōld, wið wiŋz spred, and ðe legz ov  
ðe sēts ðe legz ov ðe hīpogrifs; but ðe bōde ov ētʃ  
hi sēt wōz a singel dʒuel ov monstɔrs sīz: ðe left-hand  
sēt a blak opal, asparkel wið stēl-blu fir, ðe nekst a  
fir-opal, az it wer a bernij kōl, ðe þerd sēt an  
aleksāndrīt, perpel līk wīn bi nīt but dēp se-grēn bi  
da. Ten mœr pīlarz stūd in sēmiserkel behīnd ðe hi  
sēts, bariŋ up abuv ðem and ðe dais a kánope ov gōld. Ðe  
bentʃez ðat ran from end tō end ov ðe lofte tʃāmber wer ov  
sedar, inlād wið koral and ivore, and so wer ðe tabelz ðat  
stūd befœr ðe bentʃez. Ðe flœr ov ðe tʃāmber wōz  
tēselated, ov marbel and grēn tœrmalēn, and on ēvere  
skwēr ov tœrmalēn wōz karven ðe īmādʒ ov a fif: az ðe  
dolphin, ðe konger, ðe kat-fif, ðe sāmon, ðe tūne, ðe  
skwid, and ūðer wunderz ov ðe dēp. Hāŋiŋz ov tāpestre wer  
behīnd ðe hi sēts, werkt wið fløerz, snāks-hed,  
snapdrāgon, drāgon-mðþ, and ðēr kīnd; and on ðe dado belo  
ðe windōz wer skulptʃūrz ov berdʒ and bēsts and krepin  
þiŋz.

But a grāt wunder ov ðis tʃāmber, and a marvel tō behōld, wōz  
hð ðe kápital ov ēvere wun ov ðe fœr-and-twente pīlarz wōz  
hūn from a singel præʃðs stōn, karvd bi ðe hand ov sum  
skulptor ov loŋ ago intō ðe līviŋ form ov a monster: hēr  
wōz a harpe wið skremiŋ mðþ, so wundrðsle kut in  
oker-tinted dʒād it wōz a marvel tō hēr no skrēm from her:  
hēr in wīn-yēlo topaz a fliiŋ fir-drāk: ðēr a  
kōkatrīs māð ov a singel rube: ðēr a star sāfir ðe  
kūlor ov mœnlīt, kut for a sīklops, so ðat ðe rāz ov ðe  
star trembeld from hiz singel i: salamanderz, mermādʒ,  
kimerāz, wīld men o' ðe wudʒ, leviāþanz, ôl hūn from  
fôltles dʒemz, þrīs ðe bulk ov a big manz bōde,  
velvet-dark sāfirz, kristolīt, bēril, āmēpist, and ðe  
yēlo zerkon ðat iz līk trānsparent gōld.

Tō giv līt tō ðe præzens tʃāmber wer sēven eskarbunkelz,  
grāt az pumpkinz, huŋ in order dðn ðe lenþ ov it, and  
nīn fēr mœnstōnz standiŋ in order on silver pēdestalz  
betwēn ðe pīlarz on ðe dais. Ðēz dʒuelz, drinkiŋ in ðe  
sunʃīn bi da, gāv it fœrþ dʒuriŋ ðe þrz ov darknes in  
a rādʒans ov pink līt and a soft efuldzens az ov mœnbēmz.  
And yet anūðer marvel, ðe nēðer sīd ov ðe kánope over ðe  
hi sēts wōz enkrusted wið lāpis lāʒule, and in ðat fānd  
dōm ov hēven bernd ðe twelw sīnz ov ðe zōdʒak, ēvere  
star a dimond ðat fon wið its ōn līt.

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Fōk nŕ began tō be aster in ðe kâsel, and ðêr kām a skœr ov serviŕ men intō ðe præzens tŕāmbær wið brōomz and brŭŕez, klops and lēðerz, tō swēp and garniŕ it, and berniŕ ðe gōld and dzuelz ov ðe tŕāmbær. Līsōm ða wer and sprītle ov gāt, ov freŕ komplekŕon and fêr-hêrd. Hornz gru on ðêr hedz. Hven ðêr tâskz wer akumpliŕt ða departed, and ðe præzens began tō fil wið gestz. A dzŕ it wōz tō se sutŕ a fiftiŕ māz ov velvets, ferz, kureŕs nedelwerks and kloþ ov tīfu, tīfanēz, lasez, rufs, gŭdle tŕānz and karkanets ov gōld: sutŕ glīter ov dzuelz and wēponz: sutŕ nōdiŕ ov ðe plŭmz ðe Demonz wœr in ðêr hêr, hāf valiŕ ðe hornz ðat gru ũpon ðêr hedz. Sum wer sītiŕ on ðe bentŕez or leniŕ on ðe pōliŕt tabelz, sum wōkiŕ fœrþ and bak ũpon ðe finiŕ flœr. Hêr and ðêr wer wīmen amuŕ ðem, wīmen so fêr wun had sed: it iz fŭrle hŭt-armd Hēlen ðis wun; ðis, Arkādŕan Atalantā; ðis, Frine ðat stŭd tō Praksitelēz for Afrodītēz piktfŭr; ðis, Pæŕs, for hŭom grāt Aleksānder tō plēzŭr her fantase did bern Persepolis līk a kandel; ðis, ŕe ðat wōz rapt bi ðe Dark God from ðe flŕeriŕ fēldz ov Ēnā, tō be Kwēn for ëver amuŕ ðe ded ðat be departed.

Nŕ kām a ster nêr ðe stātle dœrwa, and Lēsīŕam beheld a Demon ov berle frām and nobel pœrt, ritŕle atīrd. Hiz fās wōz rŭde and sumhŭt frēkeld, hiz fœrhed wīd, hiz īz kâlm and blu līk ðe se. Hiz bērd, þik and tōne, wōz parted and bruŕt bak and upwordz on iðer sīd.

"Tel me, mi lītel martlet," sed Lēsīŕam, "iz ðis Lord Dŕus?"

"Ðis iz not Lord Dŕus," ānserd ðe martlet, "nor ôt so werŕipfŭl az he. Ðe lord ðŕ sēst iz Vol, hŭ dwēlep under Kartadzā, bi ðe sōlt se. A grāt se-kaptān iz he, and wun ðat did serviŕ tō ðe kōz ov Demonland, and ov ðe hŭl werld besīdz, in ðe lāt worz agānst ðe Gœlz.

"But kâst ðīn īz agān tōwordz ðe dœr, hŭer wun standeþ amid a not ov frendz, tōl and sumhŭt stœpiŕ, in a korselet ov silver, and a klōk ov ōld brokaded silk kŭlord līk tarniŕt gōld; sumþiŕ līk tō Vol in fētŕŭr, but sworðe, and wið brisiŕiŕ blak muŕtāŕeōz."

"I se him," sed Lēsīŕam. "Ðis ðen iz Lord Dŕus!"

"Not so," sed martlet. "Tiz but Viz, brŭðer tō Vol. He iz welpeest in gŭdz ov ôl ðe Demonz, sāv ðe þre breðren

ōnle and Lord Brandox Dahâ."

"And hʉ∞ iz đis?" āskt Lēsīŋam, pŋntiŋ t∞ wun ov līt and brisk step and humorŮs i, hʉ∞ in đat moment met Vol and engādʒd him in konvers apart. Handsum ov fās he wōz, ōlbeit sumhʉt loŋ-nōzd and ʒarp-nōzd: kēn and hard and fild wiđ līf and đe dʒŋ ov it.

"Hēr đŮ behōldst," ānserd ʒe, "Lord Zig, đe far-fāmd tamer ov horsez. Wel luvd iz he amuŋ đe Demonz, for he iz mēre ov mōod, and a mite man ov hiz handz wiđōl hven he ledeþ hiz horsmen agānst đe ēneme."

Vol þru up hiz bērd and lâft a grāt lâf at sum dʒest đat Zig hʉsperd in hiz ēr, and Lēsīŋam lēnd forword int∞ đe hōl if haple he mīt katʒ hʉt wōz sed. Đe hum ov tōk drŮnd đe werdz, but leniŋ forword Lēsīŋam sō hʉēr đe āras kertānz behīnd đe dais parted for a moment, and wun ov prinsle bariŋ advānst pāst đe hi sēts dŮn đe bōde ov đe hōl. Hiz gāt wōz dēlikāt, az ov sum līđ bēst ov pra nule wakend þt ov slumber, and he greted wiđ laze grās đe mēne frendz hʉ∞ hāld hiz entrans. Vēre tōl wōz đat lord, and slender ov bild, līk a gerl. Hiz tʒunik wōz ov silk kŮlord līk đe wīld rōz, and embrqderd in gōld wiđ reprezentafonz ov flberz and þunderbolts. Dʒuelz glīterd on hiz left hand and on đe gōlden brāslets on hiz armz, and on đe fīlet twīnd amuŋ đe gōlden kerlz ov hiz hēr, set wiđ plūmz ov đe kiŋ-berd ov Pāradīs. Hiz hornz wer đīd wiđ safron, and inlād wiđ filigre werk ov gōld. Hiz buskinz wer lāst wiđ gōld, and from hiz belt huŋ a sœerd, nāro ov blād and kēn, đe hilt ruf wiđ bērilz and blak dimondz. Strāndʒle līt and dēlikāt wōz hiz frām and semiŋ, yet wiđ a sens ov slumberiŋ pŮer benēþ, az đe dēlikāt pēk ov a sno mŮntān sēn afar in đe lo red rāz ov morniŋ. Hiz fās wōz butifŮl t∞ lŮk ūpon, and softle kŮlord līk a gerlz fās, and hiz eksprēʒon wun ov dʒentel mēlankole, mikst wiđ sum disdān; but fire glints awōk at intervalz in hiz īz, and đe līnz ov swift determinafon hōverd rŮnd đe mŮþ belo hiz kerld mŮstāʒeōz.

"At lâst," mermerd Lēsīŋam, "at lâst, Lord Dʒus!"

"Lītel art đŮ t∞ blām," sed đe martlet, "for đis misprīzon, for skērs kŮd a lordleer sīt hav dʒŋd đīn īz. Yet iz đis not Dʒus, but Lord Brandox Dahâ, t∞ hʉ∞m ōl Demonland west ov ʒalgreþ and Stropardon oep alēdʒans: đe ritʒ vīnyardz ov KrŮđeriŋ, đe brōd pāstʒūr landz ov Fālz, and ōl đe western ilandz and đēr kragbŮnd fāstnesez. Pink not, bekōz he afekteþ silks and dʒuelz līk a kwēn, and kāreeþ himself līt and dānte az a silver bertʒ tre on đe mŮntān, đat hiz hand iz līt or hiz

kūrādʒ dǫtfōl in wor. For yērz wōz he held for ðe þerd best man-at-armz in ōl Merkure, aloŋ wið ðēz, Gōldre Bluzko and Gorīs 10. ov Witʃland. And Gorīs he slu, nīn sūmerz bak, in singel kombat, hven ðe Witʃez hārēd in Goblinland and Brandox Dahâ led fiv hundred and forskor Demonz tō sūkor Gazlark, ðe kiŋ ov ðat kuntre. And nǫ kan nun serpās Lord Brandox Dahâ in fēts ov armz, sāv pertʃāns Gōldre alōn.

"Yet, lo," ʃe sed, az a swēt and wīld muzik stōl on ðe ēr, and ðe gests ternd tōwordz ðe dais, and ðe hāŋiŋʒ parted, "at lâst, ðe tŕipel lordʃip ov Demonland! Strīk softle, muzik: smīl, Fāts, on ðis festal da! Dʒŋ and sāf dāz ʃīn for ðis werld and Demonland! Tern ði gāz ferst on him hʉ wōks in madʒeste in ðe midst, hiz tʃunik ov ōlīv-grēn velvet ornamented wið devisez ov hīden meniŋ in þred ov gōld and bēdz ov krisolīt. Mark hǫ ðe buskinz, klāspiŋ hiz stōlwort kâvz, glīter wið gōld and amber. Mark ðe duske klōk strēmd wið gōld and līnd wið blud-red silk: a tʃarmd klōk, mād bi ðe silfs in forgōten dāz, brīŋiŋ gʉd hap tō ðe warer, so he be tru ov hart and no dāstard. Mark him ðat wareþ it, hiz swēt dark kǫntenans, ðe violet fīr in hiz īz, ðe somber wormþ ov hiz smīl, līk ōtum wʉdz in lāt sunʃīn. Ðis iz Lord Dʒus, lord ov ðis ādʒ-rememberiŋ kâsel, ðan hʉm nun hap mæer werʃip in wīd Demonland. Sumhʉt he noep ov art madʒikal, yet uzeþ not ðat art; for it sǎpeþ ðe līf and strenþ, nor iz it held werðe ðat a Demon ʃʉd pʉt trust in ðat art, but rāðer in hiz ōn mīt and mān.

"Nǫ tern ðīn īz tō him ðat lenep on Dʒūsez left arm, ʃorter but mahap sterdeer ðan he, apāreld in blak silk ðat ʃīmerz wið gōld az he mœveþ, and krǫnd wið blak egelz fēðerz amuŋ hiz hornz and yēlo hēr. Hiz fās iz wīld and kēn līk a se-egelz, and from hiz brisliŋ brǫz ðe īz dart glānsez ʃarp az a glānsiŋ spēr. A fānt flām, pǎlid līk ðe fīr ov a Wil-o'-ðe-Wisp, brēðz ēver and anon from hiz distended nostrilz. Ðis iz Lord Spitfīr, impetʃuǫs in wor.

"Lâst, behōld on Dʒūsez rīt hand, yon lord ðat bulks mite az Herkulēz yet stēpeþ lītle az a hēfer. Ðe þūz and sīnūz ov hiz grāt limz rīpel az he mœvz benēþ a skin hʉiter ðan ivore; hiz klōk ov kloþ ov gōld iz hēve wið dʒuelz, hiz tʃunik ov blak sendalīn hap grāt harts werkt ðaron in rubēz and red silk þred. Sluŋ from hiz ʃōlderz klanks a tō-handed sœrd, ðe pōmel a hūdʒ star-rube karven in ðe īmādʒ ov a hart, for ðe hart iz hiz sīn and simbol. Ðis iz ðat sœrd fœrdʒd bi ðe elvz, hʉerwið he slu ðe se-monster, az ðǫ māst se in ðe pāntiŋ on ðe wōl.

Nobel iz he ov k̄ntenans, mōst l̄ik t̄o hiz br̄ūðer D̄zus, but darker br̄ūn ov h̄er and r̄ūdeer ov hu and b̄iger ov t̄f̄ekbōn. L̄uk wel on him, for n̄ever fal ð̄in īz behōld a grater t̄jampeon ðan ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko, kaptān ov ðe hōsts ov Demonland."

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N̄l̄ h̄ven ðe gretiŋz wer dun and ðe strānz ov ðe l̄ūts and rekorderz s̄id and lost ðemselvz in ðe f̄ādoe vōlt ov ðe r̄oof, ðe kup-barerz did fil grāt d̄zemz mād in form ov kups wið ān̄fent wīn, and ðe Demonz kar̄l̄zd t̄o Lord D̄zus d̄ēp dr̄āfts in ōnor ov ðis da ov hiz nat̄ivite. And n̄l̄ ða wer r̄ēde t̄o set f̄oer̄p bi t̄oaz and þr̄ēz int̄o ðe parks and plezōnsez, sum t̄o t̄āk ð̄er pl̄ēzūr ab̄l̄t ðe f̄ēr gardenz and fiŋpondz, sum t̄o hunt wīld gām amuŋ ðe wōded hilz, sum t̄o disp̄oert ðemselvz at kw̄qts or t̄ēnis or ridiŋ at ðe riŋ or mar̄fal eksersizez; ðat so ða mīt spend ðe livloŋ da az bef̄iteþ hi hōlida, in pl̄ēzūr and ak̄fon wiðl̄t k̄ēr, and ðar̄āfter r̄ēvel in ðe lofte pr̄ēzens t̄f̄amber til nīt gru ōld wið etiŋ and drinkiŋ and ōl delīt.

But az ða wer ūpon goiŋ f̄oer̄p, a trumpet wōz s̄ōnded wiðl̄t, þre strident bl̄āsts.

"H̄ōt kil-d̄z̄q̄ hav we h̄ēr?" sed Spitf̄ir. "Ðe trumpet s̄ōndēþ ōnle for tr̄avelerz from ðe l̄tlandz. I f̄ēl it in mi bōnz sum r̄āskal iz kum t̄o Galiŋ, wun ðat br̄iŋēþ il hap in hiz pōket and a f̄ādo aþwort ðe sun on ðis l̄r da ov festival."

"Sp̄ēk no werd ov il omen," ānserd D̄zus. "H̄oosoēr it be, we wil strāt dispat̄f hiz biznes and so f̄ōl t̄o pl̄ēzūr ind̄ēd. Sum, run t̄o ðe gāt and briŋ him in."

Ðe serviŋ man hasend and reternd, saiŋ, "Lord, it iz an Ambāsad̄or from Wit̄fland and hiz tr̄ān. Ð̄ēr f̄ip mād land at L̄ukiŋhaven-nes at nīt̄fōl. Ða slept on b̄oerd, and yor s̄ōldzerz gāv ðem eskort t̄o Galiŋ at br̄āk ov da. He kraveþ pr̄ēzent ōdzens."

"From Wit̄fland, h̄ā?" sed D̄zus. "Sut̄f smōks ūz ēver t̄o go bef̄oer ðe f̄ir."

"Σalz bid ðe f̄ēlo," sed Spitf̄ir, "wāt on l̄r pl̄ēzūr? It iz p̄ite sut̄f f̄ud p̄qzon l̄r gladnes."

Gōldre l̄āft and sed, "H̄oom hap he sent us? Laksus, þink



u? tō māk hiz pēs wið us agān for ðat vīl part ov hiz praktīst agānst us of Kartadzā, detestable fōlsifiij hiz werd he had gīven us?"

Dzūs sed tō ðe serviŋ man, "ÐǾ sōst ðe Ambāsador. Hūō iz he?"

"Lord," ānserd he, "Hiz fās wōz strāndz tō me. He iz lītel ov statfūr and, bi yor hines lēv, ðe mōst unlīk tō a grāt lord ov Witfland ðat ēver I sō. And, bi yor lēv, for ôl ðe marvelōs ritf and sumpfōs kōt a warep, he iz vère līk a fōls dzuel in a ritf kasiŋ."

"Wel," sed Dzūs, "a sǾr drāft swetenz not in ðe watiŋ. Kōl we in ðe Ambāsador."

Lord Dzūs sat in ðe hi sēt midmōst ov ðe dais, wið Gōldre on hiz rīt in ðe sēt ov blak opal, and on hiz left Spitfīr, prōnd on ðe aleksāndrīt. On ðe dais sat līkwīz ðōz ūðer lordz ov Demonland, and ðe gests ov loer degre prōnd ðe bentfez and ðe pōlijft tabelz az ðe wīd dærz opend on ðēr silver hindzez, and ðe Ambāsador wið pomp and sēremone pāst up ðe finiŋ fløer ov marbel and grēn tōormalēn.

"Hi, hvôt a bēstle fēlo iz ðis?" sed Lord Gōldre in hiz brūðerz ēr. "Hiz hare handz rēt f dǾn tō hiz nēz. A fuflep in hiz wōk līk a hōbeld dzākas."

"I līk not ðe derte fās ov ðe Ambāsador," sed Lord Zig. "Hiz nōz sītep flat on ðe fās ov him az it wer a dab ov kla, and I kan se pat up hiz nostrilz a sūmer dāz dzerne intō hiz hed. Ifs ūper lip bespēk him not a rēr spǾter ov rank fustfan, perđifon katf me. Wer it a fingerz bredp longer, a mīt tuk it intō hiz kōlar tō kēp hiz tfin worm ov a winterz nīt."

"I līk not ðe smel ov ðe Ambāsador," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. And he kōld for senserz and sprinklerz ov lāvender and rōz wōter tō purifi ðe tfāmber, and let open ðe kristal windōz ðat ðe brezez ov hēven mīt enter and māk ôl swēt.

So ðe Ambāsador wōkt up ðe finiŋ fløer and stōd befør ðe lordz ov Demonland ðat sat ūpon ðe hi sēts betwēn ðe gōlden hīpogrifs. He wōz rōbd in a loŋ mantel ov skarlet līnd wið ermīn, wið krabz, wōdlīs, and sentipēdz werkt ðaron in gōlden þred. Hiz hed wōz kūverd wið a blak velvet kap wið a pekoks fēðer fāsēnd wið a brōtf ov silver. Supcærted bi hiz trānbererz and atendants, and leniŋ on hiz gōlden stāf, he wið rōkōs aksent delīverd

hiz mīfon:

"Dzus, Göldre, and Spitfir, and ye ūðer Demonz, I kum befær u az ðe Ambäsador ov Gorīs 11., mōst glæreþs Kiŋ ov Witfland, Lord and grāt Dzūk ov Butene and Estremerīn, Komānder ov Sulan, Pramne, Mingos, and Permeo, and Hi Worden ov ðe Ezamofan Martfez, Grāt Dzūk ov Trās, Kiŋ Pāramþnt ov Befreâ and Nevreâ and Prins ov Ar, Grāt Lord over ðe kuntre ov Ōdzēdzâ, Maltraene, and ov Baltare and Toribeâ, and Lord ov mēne ūðer kuntrēz, mōst glæreþs and mōst grāt, huoz pþer and glære iz over ôl ðe werld and huoz nām fal endzūr for ôl dzenerafonz. And ferst I bid u be bþnd bi ðat rēverens for mi sākred ôfis ov envq from ðe Kiŋ, hutf iz akorded bi ôl pepel and potentāts, sāv sutf az be ūterle barbarþs, tō ambäsadorz and envqz."

"Spēk and fēr not," ānserd Dzus. "Ðþ hast mīn ôþ. And ðat haþ nēver bēn forsworn, tō Witf or ūðer barborean."

Ðe Ambäsador fot þt hiz lips in an O, and þrētend wið hiz hed; ðen grind, laiŋ bēr hiz farp and misfapen tēþ, and proseded:

"Ðus sāþ Kiŋ Gorīs, grāt and glæreþs, and he tfardzēþ me tō delīver it tō u, niðer ādiŋ ěne werd nor takiŋ awa: 'I hav it in mīnd ðat no sēremone ov hōmādz or fēlte haþ bēn performd befær me bi ðe dwēlerz in mi prōvins ov Demonland----'"

Az ðe rusliŋ ov dri lēvz strūn in a flagd kœrt huen a sūden wind strikēþ ðem, ðēr went a ster amuŋ ðe gests. Nor mīt ðe Lord Spitfir kontān hiz rôþ, but sprīŋiŋ up and klāpiŋ hand tō sœrd-hilt, az mīnded tō dœ a hert tō ðe Ambäsador, "Prōvins?" he krīd. "Ar not ðe Demonz a fre pepel? And iz it tō be endzūrd ðat Witfland fud komīfon ðis slāv tō kâst insults in þr tēþ, and ðis in þr ōn kâsel?"

A mermer went abþt ðe hōl, and hēr and ðēr fōk rōz from ðēr sēts. Ðe Ambäsador dru dþn hiz hed betwēn hiz fōlderz līk a tortqs, bariŋ hiz tēþ and blinkiŋ wið hiz smōl īz. But Lord Brandox Dahâ, lītle laiŋ hiz hand on Spitfirz arm, sed: "Ðe Ambäsador haþ not ended hiz mēsādz, kūzin, and ðþ hast fritend him. Hav pafens and spq̄l not ðe kōmede. We fal not lak werdz tō ānser Kiŋ Gorīs: no, nor sœrdz, if he must hav ðem. But it fal not be sed ov us ov Demonland ðat it nedēþ but a bœrif mēsādz tō tern us from þr ānfent kertese tōoword ambäsadorz and hēraldz."

So spāk Lord Brandox Dahâ, in laze hâf-mökiņ tōn, az wun hū∞ but īdle reterneþ ðe bōl ov konversaġon; yet klērle, so ðat ôl mīt hēr. And ðêrwið ðe mermerz dīd dġn, and Spitfīr sed, "I am tām. Sa ðīn ěrand frele, and imadzīn not ðat we ġal hōld ðe ânserabel for ôġ ðġ sâst, but him ðat sent ðe."

"Hū∞z humbel mġþpēs I ōnle am," sed ðe Ambâsador, sumhūôt gâðeriņ kūrādġ; "and hū∞, saviņ yor rēverens, lākeþ not ðe wil nor ðe pġer tō tāk revendġ for ěne ġtrādġ dun ūpon hiz servants. Ðus sâþ ðe Kiņ: 'I ðêrfœer sūmon and komând u, Dġus, Spitfīr, and Gōldre Bluzko, tō māk hâst and kum tō me in Witġland in mi fortres ov Karse, and ðêr dzutifœole kis mi to, in witnes befœer ôl ðe werld ðat I am yor Lord and Kiņ, and rīġfol overlord ov ôl Demonland.'"

Grāvle and wiðġt dzestġūr Lord Dġus harkend tō ðe Ambâsador, leniņ bak in hiz hi sēt wið iðer arm þrōn aþwort ðe artġt nek ov ðe ġipogrīf. Gōldre, smiliņ skornfœole, tġd wið ðe hilt ov hiz grāt sœrd. Spitfīr sat strând and gloeriņ, ðe sparks krakliņ at hiz nostrilz.

"Ðġ hast delīverd ôl?" sed Dġus.

"Ôl," ânserd ðe Ambâsador.

"Ðġ ġalt hav ðīn ânser," sed Dġus. "Hūīl we tāk rēd ðaron, ēt and drink"; and he bġkond ðe kupbarer tō pœer ġt brīġ wīn for ðe Ambâsador. But ðe Ambâsador ekskūzd himself, saiņ ðat he wōz not âþerst, and ðat he had stœer ov fœod and wīn aboard ov hiz ġip, hūġġ ġœd sufīs hiz nēdz and ðōz ov hiz fōloiņ.

Ðen sed Lord Spitfīr, "No marvel ðo ðe spōn ov Witġland fēr vēnom in ðe kup. Ða hū∞ werk kōmonle sutġ vīlane agānst ðêr ěnemēz, az witnes Resedor ov Goblinland hū∞m Korsus merðerd wið a pġzonġs drâġt, ġāk stil in ðe nēz lest ðemselvz be so entertānd tō ðêr destrukġon;" and snatġiņ ðe kup he kwōġt it tō ðe dregz, and daġt it on ðe marbel flœer befœer ðe Ambâsador, so ðat it wōz ġīverd intō pesez.

And ðe lordz ov Demonland rōz up and wiðdru behīnd ðe flġbere hāņiņz intō a tġāمبر apart, tō determīn ov ðêr ânser tō ðe mēsādġ sent untō ðem bi Kiņ Gorīs ov Witġland.

Hven ða wer privāt tʉgēðer, Spitfīr spāk and sed, "Iz it tʉ be bœrn ðat ðe Kiŋ fʉd pʉt sutf fām and mōkere ūpon us? Kʉd a not at ðe lēst hav mād a sun ov Korund or ov Korsus hiz Ambāsador tʉ briŋ us hiz defians, sted ov ðis filþeest ov hiz domestiks, a dʒīberīŋ dworf fit ōnle tʉ māk ðem gab and gām at ðēr tipliŋ bʉts hven ða be þre parts sensles wið bʉziŋ?"

Lord Dʒus smīld sumhʉt skornfʉole. "Wið wizdom," he sed, "and wið fœrsīt haþ Witfland mād tʉŋs ov hiz tīm tʉ mʉov agānst us, noiŋ ðat þerte and þre ov ʉr wel-bilt fips ar sunken in Kartadzā Sʉnd in ðe bātel wið ðe Gʉolz, and but fœrtēn remān tʉ us. Nʉ ðat ðe Gʉolz ar slān, ēvere sōl, and ūterle abōlift from ðis werld, and so ðe grāt kers and pēril ov ōl ðis werld ended bi ðe scærd and grāt vālor ov Demonland alōn, nʉ semep ðe hāpe moment untʉ ðēz lāt mʉþ-frendz tʉ fōl ūpon us. For hav not ðe Witfez a stroŋ flēt ov fips, sins ðēr hʉl flēt fled at ðe bēgīniŋ ov ðēr fit wið us agānst ðe Gʉolz, leviŋ us tʉ bēr ðe berden? And nʉ ar ða mīnded for ðis nu trezon, tʉ set ūpon us tratorʉsle and sūdenle in ðis disadvāntādʒ. For ðe Kiŋ wel dʒudʒep we kan kære no arme tʉ Witfland nor dʉ ōt in hiz despīt, but must be loŋ munþs a-fipbildiŋ. And dʉt not he hōldep an armament rēde aboard at Tēnemos tʉ sāl hīðer if he get ðe ānser he noep we fal send him."

"Sit we at ēz ðen," sed Gōldre, "farpeniŋ ʉr scærdz; and let him fip hiz armēz akros ðe sōlt se. Not a Witf fal land in Demonland but fal lēv hēr hiz blud and bōnz tʉ māk fat ʉr kornfēldz and ʉr vīnyardz."

"Rāðer," sed Spitfīr, "aprehend ðis rāskal, and pʉt tʉ se tʉ-da wið ðe fœrtēn fips left us. We kan serprīz Witfland in hiz stroŋ plās ov Karse, sak it, and giv him tʉ ðe krōz tʉ pek at, or ēver he iz wel awāk tʉ ðe swiftnes ov ʉr ānser. Ðat iz mi kʉnsel."

"Na," sed Dʒus, "we fal not tāk him slepiŋ. Be sertān ðat hiz fips ar rēde and wōtʉiŋ in ðe Witfland sēz, prepērd agānst ēne raf onset. It wer fōle tʉ set ʉr nek in ðe nʉos; and lītel glœre tʉ Demonland tʉ awāt hiz kūmiŋ. Ðis, ðen, iz mi rēd: I wil bid Gorīs tʉ ðe dʒuēlo, and māk ōfer tʉ him tʉ let li on ðe fortʉn ðarov ðe desiʒon ov ðis kworel."

"A gʉd rēd, if it mīt be fʉlfild," sed Gōldre. "But nēver wil he dēr tʉ stand wið wēponz in singel kombat

gānst ðe or gānst ěne ov us. Nĕverðeles ðe þiŋ fal be brôt abþt. Iz not Gorīs a mite rasler, and haþ he not in hiz pālās in Karse ðe skulz and bōnz ov nīnte and nīn grāt tʃampeonz huom he haþ vankwiʃt and slān in ðat eksersīz? Puʃt up beʏond mĕzūr iz he in hiz ōn konsĕt, and fōk sa it iz a grĕf tō him ðat nun haþ bĕn fōnd ðis loŋ huīl ðat derst rāsel wið him, and wofōle he pineþ for ðe hundredþ. He fal rāsel a fōl wið me!"

Nþ ðis sĕmd gūd tō ðem ōl. So hven ða had tōkt on it āhuīl and konkluded huōt ða wūd dō, glad ov hart ðe lordz ov Demonland ternd ðem bak tō ðe lofte prĕzens tʃāmbĕr. And ðĕr Lord Dʒus spāk and sed: "Demonz, ye hav herd ðe werdz hviʃ ðe Kiŋ ov Witʃland in ðe overweniŋ pŕid and fāmlesnes ov hiz hart haþ spoken untō us bi ðe mþþ ov ðis Ambāsador. Nþ ðis iz þr ānser hviʃ mi brūðer fal giv, ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko; and we tʃardʒ ðe, O Ambāsador, tō delīver it trule, niðer ādiŋ ěne werd nor takiŋ awa."

And ðe Lord Gōldre spāk: "We, ðe lordz ov Demonland, dō ūterle skorn ðe, Gorīs 11., for ðe gratest ov dāstardz, in ðat ðþ bāsle fledst and forsukst us, ði swœrn konfĕderāts, in ðe se bātel agānst ðe Gōlz. Þr sœrdz, hviʃ in ðat bātel ended so grāt a kers and pĕril tō ōl ðis werld, ar not bent nor broken. Ða fal be fĕðd in ðe bþelz ov ðe and ði minyonz, Korsus tō wit, and Korund, and ðĕr sunz, and Korinyus, and huōt ūðer evildœerz harbor in wōteriʃ Witʃland, sœner ðan wun lītel se-pink groiŋ on ðe klifs ov Demonland fal dō ðe obazans. But, ðat ðþ māst, if so ðþ wilt, fĕl þr pþer sumhuōt, I, Lord Gōldre Bluzko, māk ðe ðis ōfer: ðat ðþ and I dō matʃ þrselvz single ĕtʃ agānst ūðer tō rāsel þre fōlz at ðe kœrt ov ðe Red Foleot, huō inklineþ niðer tō þr sīd nor tō ðīn in ðis kworel. And we wil bīnd þrselvz bi mite ōþs tō ðĕz kondīʃonz, ðat if I overkum ðe, ðe Demonz fal lĕv u ov Witʃland in pĕs, and ye ðem, and ðe Witʃez fal forswĕr for ĕver ðĕr impudent klāmz on Demonland. But if ðþ, Gorīs, win ðe da, ðen hast ðþ ðe glœre ov ðat viktore, and wiðōl ful līberte tō þrust ði klāmz ūpon us wið ðe sœrd."

So spāk ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko, standiŋ in grāt pŕid and splendor benĕþ ðe stāre kānope, and skþliŋ tĕrible on ðe Ambāsador from Witʃland, so ðat ðe Ambāsador wōz abaʃt and hiz nĕz smōt tʒĕðer. And Gōldre kōld hiz skrīb and mād him rīt ðe mĕsādʒ for Gorīs ðe Kiŋ in grāt kārakterz on a rōl ov partʃment, and ðe lordz ov

Demonland seld it wið ðær sēlz, and gāv it tō ðe Ambāsador.

Ðe Ambāsador tok it and mād hāst tō depart; but hven he wōz kum tō ðe stātle dærwā ov ðe prēzens tƿāmbær, bein nēr ðe dæc and amunƿst hiz atendants, and awa from ðe lordz ov Demonland, he plukt up hart a lītel and ternd and sed: "Rafle and tō ði sertān undwāin, O Gōldre Bluzko, hast ðʒ bīden ʒr Lord ðe Kin tō kontend wið ðe in rasliƿ. For be ðʒ nēver so mite ov lim, yet haƿ he overprōn az mite. And he raslep not for spært, but wil ƿūrle werk ði līfs deka, and kēp ðe ded bōnz ov ðe wið ðe bōnz ov ðe nīnte and nīn tƿampeonz hƿom he haƿ hērtwƿæc lād lo in ðat eksersīz."

Ðærwið, bekōz Gōldre and ðe ŷðer lordz skʒld ŷpon him tērible, and ðe gests nēr ðe dæc fel tō hƿotiƿ and reviliƿ ov ðe Witƿez, ðe Ambāsador went færƿ hāstile and hāstile dʒn ðe ƿiniƿ stēz and akros ðe kært, az wun hƿo flēƿ alon a lān on a dark and winde nīt, dariƿ not tō tern hiz hed lest hiz i behōld sum fēsum ƿiƿ prepērd tō klāsp him. So spedinƿ, he wōz fān tō katƿ up abʒt hiz nēz ðe fōldz ov hiz velvet klōk ritƿle werkt wið krabz and krepinƿ ƿiƿz; and hūdƿ hƿopiƿ and lâfter went up amunƿ ðe kōmon lag ov pepel wīðʒt, tō behōld hiz loƿ and nervles tāl ðus bērd tō ðær unfrendle gāz. Insomutƿ ðat ða fel tō ƿʒtiƿ wið wun akord, "Ðo hiz mʒƿ be fʒl he haƿ a fēr tāl! Sō ye not hiz tāl? Hurā for Gorīs hƿo haƿ sent us a munke for hiz Ambāsador!"

And wið dƿiƿb and unmānerle yel ðe krʒd hun lūviƿle ŷpon ðe Ambāsador and hiz trān ōl ðe wa dʒn from Galiƿ kāsæl tō ðe kēz. So ðat it wōz līk a swēt hōmkūmiƿ tō him tō kum on bærd hiz wel-bilt ƿiƿ and hav her rōd amān ʒt ov Lʒkiƿhaven. So hven ða had rʒnded Lʒkiƿhaven-nes and wer fre ov ðe land, ða hƿstet sāl and vƿādzd befær a favoriƿ brēz ēstword over ðe temiƿ dēƿ tō Witƿland.

## 2. Ðe Rasliƿ for Demonland

OV ÐE PROGNOSTIKS HITƿ TRŪBELD LORD GRO KONSERNIƿ ÐE METIƿ BETWĒN ÐE KIN OV WITƿLAND AND ÐE LORD GŌLDRE BLUZKO; AND Hƿ ÐA MET, AND OV ÐE ĨƿU OV ÐAT RASLIƿ.

"Hǣ kƿd I hav fōlen aslēp?" krīd Lēsījam. "Hƿēr iz ðe kâsel ov ðe Demonz, and hǣ did we lēv ðe grāt prēzens tƿāmbēr hƿēr ða sō ðe Ambâsador?" For he stod on roliŋ uplandz ðat lēnd tƿo ðe se, treles on ēvere sīd az far az ðe i mīt rētƿ; and on þre sīdz ƿīmerd ðe se, kist bi ðe sun and rūfend bi ðe sōlt glad wind ðat tƿardzƿd over ðe dǣnz, tƿǣreotiŋ klǣdz wīððt number þrƿo ðe ilīmitabel hīts ov êr.

Ðe lītēl blak martlet ânserd him. "Mi hīpogrīf trāveleþ az wel in tīm az in spās. Dāz and wēks hav bēn left behīnd bi us, in hƿōt semēþ tƿo ðe but ðe twinkliŋ ov an i, and ðǣ standst in ðe Foleot Īlz, a land hāpe under ðe mīld redziment ov a pēsƿol prins, on ðe da apƿnted bi Kiŋ Gorīs tƿo rāsel wið Lord Gōldre Bluzko. Tēribel must be ðe rasliŋ betwikst tƿo sutƿ tƿjampeonz, and dark ðe ƿju ðarov. And mi hart iz afrād for Gōldre Bluzko, big and stroŋ ðo he be and unkonkerd in wor; for ðēr hap not arīzen in ōl ðe ādzez sutƿ a rasler az ðis Gorīs, and stroŋ he iz, and hard and unwereiŋ, and skild in ēvere art ov atak and defens, and sūtēl wīðōl, and kruel and fel Īk a serpent."

Hƿēr ða stod ðe dǣn wōz kut bi a kōm ðat desended tƿo ðe se, and overhāŋiŋ ðe kōm wōz ðe pālās ov ðe Red Foleot, ramliŋ and lo, wið mēne lītēl tǣerz and bātēlments, bilt ov stōnz hūn from ðe wōl ov ðe kōm, so ðat it wōz hard from a distans tƿo disern hƿōt wōz pālās and hƿōt natīv rok. Behīnd ðe pālās stretƿt a mēdo, flat and smƿð, karpeted wið ðe klōs wire terf ov ðe dǣnz. At iðer end ov ðe mēdo wer bƿps set up, tƿo ðe norþ ðe bƿps ov ðem ov Witƿland, and tƿo ðe sǣþ ðe bƿps ov ðe Demonz. In ðe midst ov ðe mēdo wōz a spās markt þt wið wīðēz sikste pasez iðer wa for ðe rasliŋ grǣnd.

Ōnle ðe berdz ov ðe êr and ðe se-wind wer abrōd az ðen, sāv ðōz ðat wōkt armd befœr ðe Witƿez bƿps, siks in kumpāne, harnest az for bātēl in bernēz ov ƿiniŋ bronz, wið grēvz and ƿēldz ov bronz and helmz ðat glānst in ðe sun. Fīv wer prōper slender ūps, ðe eldest ov hƿƿm had not yet bērd ƿul grōn, blak-brǣd and grāt ov dzō; ðe siksp, hūdƿ az a nēt, topt ðem bi hāf a hed. Ādz had flekt wið gra ðe bērd ðat spred over hiz big tƿfest tƿo hiz belt stīfend wið studz ov ĩrn, but ðe ƿigor ov ūþ wōz in hiz glāns and in hiz ƿq̄s, and in ðe tred ov hiz ƿt̄, and in hiz fist so lītēl handliŋ hiz berle spēr.

"Behōld, wunder, and lament," sed ðe martlet, "ðat ðe ĩnosent i ov da ƿud be enforst stil tƿo lƿk ūpon ðe

tʃildren ov nīt ēverlāstīŋ. Korund ov Witʃland and hiz kerst sunz."

Lēsīŋam ʃōt, "A mōst fire politīʃan iz mi lītēl martlet: damd fēndz and āndʒelz and nūʃīŋ betwikst for her. But Ī dāns tōo nun ov ǝēr tʃūnz, but wāt for ǝēz ʃīŋz unfōldīŋ."

So wōkt ǝōz bak and fōerʃ az kādʒd lionz befōer ǝe Witʃez bōōʃs, until Korund hōlted and lenīŋ on hiz spēr sed tōo wun ov hiz sunz, "Go in and sēk ʃt Gro ǝat I ma spēk wiǝ him." And ǝe sun ov Korund went, and reternd anon wiǝ Lord Gro, ǝat kām wiǝ fertīv step yet ǝudle and fēr tōo behōld. ǝe nōz ov him wōz hōkt līk a sīkel and hiz īz grāt and fēr līk ǝe īz ov an oks, inskrutabel az ǝa. Lēn and spēr wōz hiz frām. Pāl wōz hiz fās and pāl hiz dēlikāt handz, and hiz loŋ blak bērd wōz tītēl kerld and brīt az ǝe kōt ov a blak retriever.

Korund sed, "Hǝ iz it wiǝ ǝe Kiŋ?"

Gro ānserd him, "He tʃafep tōo be at it; and tōo pās awa ǝe tīm he plaep at dīs wiǝ Korinyus, and ǝe luk goep agānst ǝe Kiŋ."

"Hōt mākst ǝǝ ov ǝat?" āskt Korund.

And Gro sed, "ǝe fortʃūn ov ǝe dīs dʒumpep not kōmonle wiǝ ǝe fortʃūn ov wor."

Korund grunted in hiz bērd, and laiŋ hiz lardʒ hand on Lord Grōz fōlder, "Spēk tōo me a lītēl apart," he sed; and hven ǝa wer privāt, "Darken not kǝnsel," sed Korund, "tōo me and mi sunz. Hav I not ǝēz fōer yērz pāst bēn az a brūǝer untōo ǝe, and wilt ǝǝ stil be sēkret tōoword us?"

But Gro smīld a sad smīl and sed, "Hi ʃud we bi werdz ov il omen strīk yet anūǝer blo huēr ǝe tre tōterep?"

Korund grōnd. "Omenz," sed he, "inkrēs ūpon us from ǝat tīm fōerʃ hven ǝe Kiŋ aksepted ǝe tʃālendʒ, evile, and flatle agānst ǝi kǝnsel and mīn and ǝe kǝnsel ov ōl ǝe grāt wunz in ǝe land. Σūrle ǝe Godz hav mād him fa, hāviŋ ordānd hiz destrukʃon and ʃr humbliŋ befōer ǝēz Demonz." And he sed, "Omenz ʃīken ūpon us, O Gro. Ferst, ǝe nīt raven ǝat went wīderʃīnz rōnd abǝt ǝe pālās ov Karse, ǝat nīt hven ǝe Kiŋ aksepted ǝis tʃālendʒ, and we wer ōl drunken wiǝ wīn āfter ʃr grāt fēstīŋ and serfetiŋ in hiz hōlz. Nekst, ǝe stumpliŋ ov ǝe Kiŋ huēnaz he went ūpon ǝe pōop ov ǝe loŋ ʃīp hītf bēr us on ǝis



vqādʒ tō ðēz ilandz. Nekst, ðe skwint-īd kup-barer ðat pærd ʒt untō us yesternīt. And þrōōt, ðe dēvilif pīd and brāgiŋ humor ov ðe Kiŋ. No mæ: he iz fa. And ðe dīs fōl agānst him."

Gro spāk and sed, "O Korund, I wil not hīd it from ðe ðat mi hart iz hēve az ði hart under fādo ov il tō be. For az I la slepiŋ betwikst ðe strōks ov nīt, a drēm ov ðe nīt stōd bi mi bed and beheld me wið a glāns so fel ðat I wōz ōl adrad and kwakiŋ wið fēr. And it sēmd tō me ðat ðe drēm smōt ðe rōof abuv mi bed, and ðe rōof opend and disklōzd ðe ʒter dark, and in ðe dark trāveld a bērded star, and ðe nīt wōz kwik wið fire sīnz. And blud wōz on ðe rōof, and grāt gʒts ov blud on ðe wōlz and on ðe kornīs ov mi bed. And ðe drēm skrētʃt līk ðe skrētʃ-ʒl, and krīd, Witʃland from ði hand, O Kiŋ! And mēpōt ðe hvōl world wōz lited in a lo, and wið a grāt kri I awōk ʒt ov ðe drēm."

"Ðʒ art wīz," sed Korund; "and belīk ðe drēm wōz a tru drēm, sent ðe þrō ðe gāt ov horn, and belīk it færbodeþ events grāt and evil for ðe Kiŋ and for Witʃland."

Gro sed, "Disklōz it not tō ðe ʒðerz, for nun kan strīv wið Fāt and gān ðe viktore, and it wōd but kāst dʒn ðēr harts. But it iz fitiŋ we be rēde agānst evil hap. If (hvītʃ yet ma ðe Godz forfend) il kum ov ðis rasliŋ bʒt, fāl not ēvere wun ov u ēr u akt on ēne enterprīz tō tāk kʒnsel ov me. Bēr iz bak wiðʒt brūðer behīnd it.' Tōgēðer must we dō ðat we dō."

"Ðʒ hast mi ferm āʃurans ont," sed Korund.

Nʒ began a grāt kumpane tō kum færp from ðe pālās and tāk ðēr stand on iðer sīd ov ðe rasliŋ grʒnd. Ðe Red Foleot sāt in hiz kar ov pōlift ēbone, drōn bi siks blak horsez wið floiŋ mānz and tālz; befæ: him went hiz muzīʃanz, piperz and minstrelz dōiŋ ðēr krāft, and behīnd him fifte spērmen, wād dʒn wið armor and ponderʒs fēldz ðat kūverd ðem from tʃin tō to. Ðēr armor wōz stānd wið māder, in sutʃ wīz ðat ða sēmd bāðd in blud. Mīld tō lōk on wōz ðe Red Foleot, yet kiŋle. Hiz skin wōz skarlet līk ðe hed ov ðe grēn wōdpēker. He wæ: a diadem ov silver, and rōbz ov skarlet trimd wið blak fer.

So hven ðe Foleots wer asehbeld, wun stōd færp wið a horn at ðe komānd ov ðe Red Foleot and blu þre blāsts. Ðērwið kām færp from ðēr bōps ðe lordz ov Demonland

and ðær men-at-armz, Dzus, Göldre, Spitfir, and Brandox  
Dahâ, ôl armd az for bätel sāv Göldre, h∞ wôz müfeld in a  
klök ov kloþ ov göld wið grāt harts werkt ðaron in red  
silk þred. And from ðær b∞ps in tern kām ðe lordz ov  
Witfland ôl armd, and ðær fitiŋ men, and litel luv  
ðær wôz in ðe glânsez ða and ðe Demonz kâst ūpon ētŋ  
ūðer. In ðe midst stōkt ðe Kiŋ, hiz grāt limz müfeld,  
līk Göldrēz, in a klök: and it wôz ov blak silk līnd wið  
blak bērskin, and ornamented wið krabz werkt in dimondz.  
Ðe krþn ov Witfland, fāfond līk a hidzþs krab and  
enkrusted wið dzuēlz so þikle ðat nun mīt disern ðe  
īrn hvarov it wôz frāmd, wād on hiz bētliŋ brþ. Hiz  
bērd wôz blak and brisle, spād-fāpt and þik: hiz hēr  
klōs kroit. Hiz ūper lip wôz jāvd, displaiŋ hiz  
sneriŋ mþþ, and from ðe darknes belo hiz ībrþz lōkt  
fœrþ īz ðat fōd a grēn līt, līk ðōz ov a wōlf.  
Korund wōkt at ðe Kiŋz left elbo, hiz dziant frām an intŋ  
les in statfūr ðan ðe Kiŋ. Korinyus went on ðe rīt,  
wariŋ a ritŋ klök ov ski-blu tīŋu over hiz finiŋ  
armor. Tōl and sōldzer-līk wôz Korinyus, and yuŋ and  
gudle t∞ luk ūpon, wið swāgeriŋ gāt and insolent i,  
þik-lipt wiðōl and sumhōt hēve ov fētŋ, and ðe sun  
ŋon brītle on hiz ŋaven dʒþl.

Nþ ðe Red Foleot let sþnd ðe horn agān, and standiŋ in  
hiz ēbone kar he red þt ðe kondīfonz, az ðus:

"O Gorīs 11., mōst glœereþs Kiŋ ov Witfland, and O Lord  
Göldre Bluzko, kaptān ov ðe hōsts ov Demonland, it iz  
kompakt betwikst u, and mād fāst bi mite ōþs hvarov I,  
ðe Red Foleot, am keper, ðat ye ŋal rāsel þre fōlz  
tugēðer on ðēz kondīfonz, nāmle, ðat if Gorīs ðe Kiŋ  
be viktœreþs, ðen hap he ðat glœere and wiðōl fōl līberte  
t∞ enfors wið ðe sœrd hiz klāmz ov lordŋip over  
mēne-mþntānd Demonland: but if viktore fōl t∞ ðe Lord  
Göldre Bluzko, ðen ŋal ðe Demonz let ðe Witfez abīd in  
pēs, and ða ðem, and ðe Witfez ŋal forswēr for ēver  
ðær klāmz ov lordŋip over ðe Demonz. And u, O Kiŋ, and  
u, O Göldre Bluzko, ar līkwīz bþnd bi ōþ t∞ rāsel  
fērle and t∞ abīd bi ðe ruliŋ ov me, ðe Red Foleot, h∞om  
ye ar kontent t∞ tŋuz az yor umpīr. And I d∞ swēr t∞  
dʒudʒ dʒustle betwēn u. And ðe lōz ov yor rasliŋ ar  
ðat niðer ŋal strangel hiz adversare wið hiz handz, nor  
bīt him, nor klō nor skratŋ hiz fleŋ, nor pōtŋ þt hiz  
īz, nor smīt him wið hiz fists, nor d∞ ēne ūðer unfēr  
þiŋ agānst him, but in ôl ūðer respekts ye ŋal rāsel  
frele tugēðer. And he ðat ŋal be brōt t∞ erþ wið hip  
or fōlder ŋal be akþnted fōlen."

Ðe Red Foleot sed, "Hav I spoken wel, O Kiŋ, and d∞ u

swêr tœ ðêz kondifonz?"

Ðe Kiŋ sed, "I swêr."

Ðe Red Foleot âskt in lîk mǎner, "Dust ðŷ swêr tœ ðêz kondifonz, O Lord Göldre Bluzko?"

And Göldre ânserd him, "I swêr."

Wíðŷt mœr adœ ðe Kiŋ stept intoœ ðe rasliŋ grŷnd on hiz sîd, and Göldre Bluzko on hiz, and ða kâst asîd ðêr ritf mantelz and stœd færþ naked for ðe rasliŋ. And fœk stœd silent for admiraŋon ov ðe þûz and sînûz ov ðœz twān, dŷtiŋ hwiŋ wer miteer ov bild and lîkleer tœ gān ðe viktore. Ðe Kiŋ stœd tœler bi a lîtel, and wôz longer in ðe arm ðan Göldre. But ðe grāt frām ov Göldre fœd ekselent propœrŋonz, êtf part wêded tœ êtf az in ðe bœde ov a God, and if iðer wer brœneer ov tfest it wôz he, and he wôz þiker ov nek ðan ðe Kiŋ.

Nŷ ðe Kiŋ mœkt Göldre, saiŋ, "Rebêleŷs hŷnd, it iz fit ðat I māk demonstraŋon untœ ðe, and untœ ðêz Foleots and Demonz ðat witnes ŷr metiŋ, ðat I am ði Kiŋ and Lord not bi vertfu œnle ov ðis mi krŷn ov Witfland, hwiŋ I ðus pœt bi for an ŷr, but even bi ðe pŷer ov mi bœde over ðîn and bi mi mîr and mān. Be sātisfid ðat I wil not hav dun wið ðe until I hav taken awa ði lîf, and sent ði sœl skweliŋ bœdiles intoœ ðe ŷnœn. And ði skul and ði mǎro-bœnz wil I hav awa tœ Karse, tœ mi pālās, tœ be a token untœ œl ðe werld ðat I hav bēn ðe bān ov an hundredþ grāt tjampeon bi mi rasliŋ, and ðŷ not lēst amuŋ ðem ðat I hav slān in ðat eksersîz. Ðarāfter, hven I hav eten and drunken and mād mēre in mi rœal pālās at Karse, I wil sāl wið mi armēz over ðe temiŋ dēp tœ mēne-mŷntānd Demonland. And it fal be mi futstœl, and ðêz ŷðer Demonz ðe slāvz ov me, ya, and ðe slāvz ov mi slāvz."

But ðe Lord Göldre Bluzko lâft lîtle and sed tœ ðe Red Foleot, "O Red Foleot, I am not kum hîðer tœ kontend wið ðe Kiŋ ov Witfland in winde raliŋ, but tœ matf mi streŋþ agānst hiz, sînu agānst sînu."

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Nŷ ða stœd rēde, and ðe Red Foleot mād a sîn wið hiz hand, and ðe simbalz klaft for ðe ferst bŷt.

At ðe klaŋ ðe tœ tjampeonz advānst and klāspt wun anŷðer wið ðêr stroŋ armz, êtf wið hiz rîr arm belo and left

arm abuv ðe ũðerz fōlder, until ðe flef frank benēþ  
ðe mīt ov ðēr armz ðat wer az brazen bandz. Ða swād  
a lītel ðis wa and ðat, az grāt trēz swaiŋ in a storm,  
ðēr legz plānted fermle so ðat ða sēmd tō gro ũt ov  
ðe grōnd līk ðe trunks ov ōk trēz. Nor did iðer yēld  
grōnd tō ũðer, nor mīt iðer win a māster hōld ũpon hiz  
ēneme. So swād ða bak and færþ for a loŋ tīm, breðiŋ  
hēvile. And nŭ Gōldre, gāðeriŋ hiz strenþ, gat ðe Kiŋ  
lifted a lītel from ðe grōnd, and wōz mīnded tō swiŋ him  
rōnd and so ðaf him tō erþ. But ðe Kiŋ, in ðat moment  
hven he fōnd himself lifted, lēnd forword mitile and smōt  
hiz hēl swiftele rōnd Gōldrēz leg on ðe ũtsīd, strikiŋ  
him behīnd and a lītel abuv ðe ankel, in sutf wīz ðat  
Gōldre wōz fān tō loosen hiz hōld on ðe Kiŋ; and grātle  
fōk marveld ðat he wōz abel in ðat plīt tō sāv himself  
from beiŋ þrōn bakword bi ðe Kiŋ. So ða gript agān  
until red hvēlz rōz on ðēr baks and fōlderz bi rezon ov  
ðe grevŭs klāspiŋ ov ðēr armz. And ðe Kiŋ on a sūden  
twisted hiz bōde sīdwāz, wið hiz left sīd ternd from  
Gōldre; and katfiŋ wið hiz leg Gōldrēz leg on ðe insīd  
belo ðe grāt mūsel ov ðe kāf, and hūgiŋ him yet kloser,  
he lertft mitile agānst him, striviŋ tō pul Gōldre  
bakword and so fōl ũpon him and kruf him az ða fel tō  
erþ. But Gōldre lēnd violentle forword, ēver titeniŋ hiz  
hōld on ðe Kiŋ, and so violentle bēr he forword in hiz  
strenþ ðat ðe Kiŋ wōz bōlkt ov hiz dezīn; and klutft  
tugēðer ða fel bōþ tō erþ sīd bi sīd wið a hēve  
kraŋ, and la bemūzd hūil wun mīt kōnt hāf a skøer.

Ðe Red Foleot proklāmd ðem even in ðis bōt, and ētŋ  
reternd tō hiz fēlōz tō tāk breþ and rest for a spās.

Nŭ hūil ða rested, a flītermŭs flu færþ from ðe  
Witŋland bōþs and went wīderfiŋz rōnd ðe rasliŋ  
grōnd and so reternd silentle hvens fe kām. Lord Gro sō  
her, and hiz hart wakst hēve wīðin him. He spāk tō Korund  
and sed, "Nēdz must ðat I māk trial even at ðis lāt ũr  
if ðēr be not ēne mēnz tō tern ðe Kiŋ from ferðer  
adventfuriŋ ov himself, ēr ōl be lost."

Korund sed, "Be it az ðŭ wilt, but it wil be in vān."

So Gro stōd bi ðe Kiŋ and sed, "Lord, giv over ðis  
rasliŋ. Grāt ov grōþ and miteer ov lim ðan ēne ðat  
u did overkum afærtīm iz ðis Demon, yet hav u  
vankwiŋt him. For u did þro him, az we plānle sō, and  
roŋfōle hap ðe Red Foleot ādzudzd u evenle matft  
bekōz in ðe þroiŋ ov him yor madzestēz self did fōl tō  
erþ. Tempt not ðe fāts bi anŭðer bōt. Yorz iz ðe

viktore in ðis rasliŋ: and nŷ we, yor servants, wāt but yor nod tō māk a sūden onslōt on ðēz Demonz and sla ðem, az we ma lītle overkum ðem taken at ūnawērz. And for ðe Foleots, ða be pēsful and fēp-līk fōk, and wil be held in ō hven we hav smīten ðe Demonz wið ðe edz ov ðe sœrd. So ma u depart, O Kiŋ, wið plēzūr and grāt ōnor, and āfterword fēr tō Demonland and briŋ it intō subdʒekʃon."

Ðe Kiŋ lukt sŷrle ūpon Lord Gro, and sed, "Ði kŷnsel iz ūnakseptabel and unsezonabel. Huōt liep behīnd it?"

Gro ānserd, "Ðēr hav bēn omenz, O Kiŋ."

And ðe Kiŋ sed, "Huōt omenz?"

Gro ānserd and sed, "I wil not hīd it from u, O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, ðat in mi slēp abŷt ðe darkest ŷr a drēm ov ðe nīt kām tō mi bed and beheld me wið a glāns so fel ðat ðe hērz ov mi hed stōd up and pāl tēror gat hōld ūpon me. And mēpōt ðe drēm smōt up ðe rōof abuv mi bed, and ðe rōof yōnd tō ðe naked ēr ov ðe midnīt, ðat labord wið fire sīnz, and a bērded star trāvelīŋ in ðe hŷsles dark. And I beheld ðe rōof and ðe wōlz wun gœr ov blud. And ðe drēm skrētʃt līk ðe skrētʃ-ŷl, kriiŋ, Witʃland from ði hand, O Kiŋ! And ðērwið ðe huōl werld sēmd lited in wun flām, and wið a ʃŷt I awōk swētiŋ from ðe drēm."

But ðe Kiŋ rōld hiz īz in anger ūpon Lord Gro and sed, "Wel am I servd and fāpʃœle bi sutʃ fōls skemiŋ foksez az ðŷ. It il fits yor tern ðat I ʃud käre ðis dēd tō ðe end wið mīn ōn hand ōnle, and in ðe blīndnes ov yor impudent fōle ye kum tō me wið tālz mād for skariŋ ov bābz, praiŋ me dzentle tō forgo mi glœere ðat ðŷ and ði fēlōz ma māk yorselvz big in ðe werldz īz bi dēdz ov armz."

Gro sed, "Lord, it iz not so."

But ðe Kiŋ wōd not hēr him, but sed, "Mēpinkz it iz for lŷal subdʒekts tō sēk grātnes in ðe grātnes ov ðēr Kiŋ, nor dezīr tō ʃīn ov ðēr ōn brītnes. Az for ðis Demon, hven ðŷ sāst ðat I hav overkum him ðŷ spēkst a grōs and impudent li. In ðis bŷt I did but mēzūr miself wið him. But ðērbi no I ov a ʃurete ðat hven I pōt fœrp mi mīt he wil not be abel tō wiðstand me; and ōl ye ʃal ʃortle behōld hŷ, az wun ʃāterep a stōk ov andʒēlikā, I wil brāk and ʃāter ðe limz ov ðis Gōldre Bluzko. Az for ðe, fōls friend, sūtel foks, unfāpʃœl servant, ðis loŋ

tīm am I grōn were ov ðe slinkiŋ up and dðn mi pālās  
deviziŋ darkle þiŋz I no not: ðð, ðat art nôt akin  
tōo Witfland, but an ðtlander, a Goblin eksīl, a serpent  
wormd in mi buzom tōo mi hert. But ðēz þiŋz fal hav an  
end. Hven I hav pūt dðn ðis Gōldre Bluzko, ðen fal I  
hav lēzūr tōo pūt dðn ðe ôlso."

And Gro bðd in soro ov hart befær ðe anger ov ðe Kiŋ,  
and held hiz pēs.

Nð wōz ðe horn blōn for ðe sēkond bðt, and ða stept  
intō ðe rasliŋ grðnd. At ðe klāfiŋ ov ðe simbalz ðe  
Kiŋ spranŋ at Gōldre az ðe panþer sprīŋeþ, and wið ðe  
ruf bær him bakword and wel ni færþ ov ðe rasliŋ  
grðnd. But hven ða wer kārēd ôlmōst amuŋ ðe Demonz  
hvēr ða stōd tōo behōld ðe kontest, Gōldre swuŋ tōo ðe  
left and strōv az befær tōo get ðe Kiŋ lifted of hiz fēt;  
but ðe Kiŋ fqlld him and bent hiz ponderðs wāt ūpon him,  
so ðat Gōldrēz spīn wōz līk tōo hav bēn kruft benēþ  
ðe merðeriŋ violens ov ðe Kiŋz armz. Ðen did ðe Lord  
Gōldre Bluzko fo færþ hiz grāt pðer az a rasler, for,  
even under ðe merðeriŋ klāsp ov ðe Kiŋ, he bi ðe mīt  
ðat wōz in ðe müsels ov hiz brōne tjest fuk ðe Kiŋ  
ferst tōo ðe rīt and ðen tōo ðe left; and ðe Kiŋz hōld  
wōz loosend, and ôl hiz skil and māstere but nārole sāvð  
him from a grevðs fōl. Nor did Gōldre dela nor ponder hð  
nekst tōo māk trial ov ðe Kiŋ, but sūden az ðe lītŋiŋ he  
slākend hiz hōld and ternd, and wið hiz bak under ðe  
Kiŋz bële gāv a mite lift; and ða ðat witnest it  
stōd amāzd in ekspektanse tōo se ðe Kiŋ þrōn over Gōldrēz  
hed. Yet for ôl hiz striviŋ mīt not Gōldre get ðe Kiŋ  
lifted klēn of ðe grðnd. Twīs and þre tīmz he strōv,  
and at ētj trial he sēmd ferðer from hiz ām, and ðe Kiŋ  
bēterd hiz hōld. And at ðe færþ ēsa ðat Gōldre mād tōo  
lift ðe Kiŋ over hiz bak and fliŋ him hedloŋ, ðe Kiŋ  
þrust him forword and tript him from behīnd, so ðat Gōldre  
wōz krōld on hiz handz and nēz. And ðe Kiŋ kluŋ tōo him  
from behīnd and pāst hiz armz rðnd hiz böde benēþ ðe  
armpits and so bak over ðe fōlderz, beiŋ mīnded tōo klāsp  
hiz tōo handz at ðe bak ov Gōldrēz nek.

Ðen sed Korund, "Ðe Demon iz sped ôlrēde. Bi ðis hōld hap  
ðe Kiŋ brōt tōo ðēr bān mæer ðan þre skær famðs  
tjampeonz. He delaep ònle til hiz fingerz be nit tugðer  
behīnd ðe nek ov ðe akerst Demon tōo drō ðe hed ov him  
forword until ðe bōnz ov ðe nek or ðe brestbōn be  
bersten asunder."

"He delaep over loŋ for mi pēs," sed Gro.

De Kiņz breþ kām ʅt ov him in grāt pufs and grunts az he strānd tō briņ hiz fingerz tō mēt behīnd Gōldrēz nek. Nor wōz it ōt els đan đe hūdʒnes ov hiz nek and berle tʒfest đat sāvđ đe Lord Gōldre Bluzko in đat ʅr from ūter destrukʒon. Krōld on hiz handz and nēz he kōđ nowīz eskāp from đe hōld ov đe Kiņ, niđer la hōld on him in tern; hʅbeit bekōz ov đe bignes ov Gōldrēz nek and tʒfest it wōz impōsibel for đe Kiņ tō fāsen đat hōld ūpon him, for ōl hiz striviņ.

Hven đe Kiņ persēvd đat đis wōz so, and đat he but wāsted hiz strenþ, he sed, "I wil lōos mi hōld on đe and let đe up, and we wil stand agān fās tō fās. For I dēm it unwerđe tō grāpel on đe grōnd līk dogz."

So đa stōđ up, and rāseld anūđer hūl in silens. Soon đe Kiņ māđ trial wuns agān ov đe fōl hvērbi he had sōt tō þro him in đe ferst bʅt, twistiņ sūdenle hiz rīt sīđ agānst Gōldre, and katʒiņ wiđ hiz leg Gōldrēz leg, and đērwiđ leniņ agānst him wiđ mān fōers. And hven, az befōer, Gōldre bēr forword wiđ grāt violens, titeniņ hiz grip, đe Kiņ lertʒt mitile agānst him, and, beiņ stil il kontent tō hav mist hiz hōld đat něver hērtōfōer had fāld him, he þrust hiz fingerz up Gōldrēz nōz in hiz kruel anger, skratʒiņ and klōiņ at đe dėlikāt īner parts ov đe nostrilz in sutʒ wīz đat Gōldre wōz fān tō drō bak hiz hed. Đērwiđ đe Kiņ, lertʒiņ agānst him yet mōer hēvile, gat him þrōn a grevʅs fōl on hiz bak, and himself fel atop ov him, krūʒiņ him and stūniņ him on đe erþ.

And đe Red Foleot proklāmd Gorīs đe Kiņ viktōereʅs in đis bʅt.

Đērwiđōl đe Kiņ ternd him bak tō hiz Witʒez, đat lʅdle aklāmd hiz māstere over Gōldre. He sed untō Lord Gro, "It iz az I hav spoken: đe testiņ ferst, nekst đe bruziņ, and in đe lāst bʅt đe brakiņ and kīliņ." And đe Kiņ lʅkt evile on Gro. Gro ānserd him not a werd, for hiz sōl wōz grēvd tō se blud on đe nālz and fingerz ov đe Kiņz left hand, and he þōt he nu đat đe Kiņ must hav bēn sōer bested in đis bʅt, seiņ đat he must dō đis bēstle dėđ or ēver he mīt overkum đe mīt ov hiz adversare.

But đe Lord Gōldre Bluzko hven he wōz kum tō hiz sensez and had gōten him up from đat grāt fōl, spāk tō đe Red Foleot in mīkel rōþ, saiņ, "Đis dėvil haþ overkum me bi krāft,

dooiŋ ðat hwiŋ it iz a fām too doo, in ðat he klôd me wið  
hiz fingerz up mi nōz."

Ðe sunz ov Korund rāzd an uprœr at ðe werdz ov Göldre,  
lðdle kriiŋ ðat he wôz ðe gratest liar and dâstard; and  
ôl ða ov Witŋland ŋl̥ted and kerst in l̥k māner. But  
Göldre ŋl̥ted in a vq̥s l̥k a brazen trumpet ðat wôz plān  
too hēr abuv ðe klām̥or ov ðe Witŋez, "O Red Foleot, dzud̥z  
n̥l̥ fêrle betwikst me and Kiŋ Gor̥s, az ð̥l̥ art swœrn too doo.  
Let him ŋo hiz finger nāl̥z, if ðêr be not blud on ðem.  
Ðis fôl iz vq̥d, and I klām̥ ðat we rāsel it anu." And  
ðe lordz ov Demonland in l̥k māner ŋl̥ted ðat ðis fôl  
ŋud be rāseld anu.

N̥l̥ ðe Red Foleot had sēn sumh̥ot ov h̥ot wôz dun, and wel  
wôz he m̥inded too kôl ðe b̥l̥t vq̥d. Yet had he forborn too doo  
ðis l̥t ov fêr ov Kiŋ Gor̥s ðat had l̥kt ūpon him wið a  
bāzilisks i, pr̥teniŋ him. And n̥l̥, h̥il̥ ðe Red Foleot  
wôz tr̥beld in hiz m̥ind, unsertān betwēn ðe angre ŋl̥ts ov  
ðe Witŋez and ðe Demonz h̥eðer sāfte la rāðer wið hiz  
ōnor or wið trukliŋ too Kiŋ Gor̥s, ðe Kiŋ spāk a werd  
too Korinyus, h̥oo went strātwa and standiŋ bi ðe Red  
Foleot spāk pr̥vile in hiz ēr. And Korinyus mēnāst ðe Red  
Foleot, and sed, "Bewêr lest ði m̥ind be swād bi ðe  
br̥l̥-betiŋ ov ðe Demonz. R̥itfœle hast ð̥l̥ ādzud̥zd ðe  
viktore in ðis b̥l̥t untoo l̥r Lord ðe Kiŋ, and ðis tōk ov  
pr̥ustiŋ ov fingerz in ðe nōz iz but a pretekst and a v̥l̥  
imād̥zinaŋon ov ðis Göldre Bluzko, h̥oo, beiŋ pr̥on fêrle  
befœr ð̥in īz and befœr us ôl, and perseviŋ himself  
ūnabel too stand agānst ðe Kiŋ, n̥l̥ pinkeŋ wið hiz  
swāgeriŋ he kan bêr it awa, and pinkeŋ bi t̥fêts and  
s̥teltēz too avq̥d defēt. If, agānst ð̥in ōn behöldiŋ and  
ðe witnes ov us and ðe plited werd ov ðe Kiŋ, ð̥l̥ art  
so harde az too harken too ðe g̥il̥f̥l̥ perswadiŋ ov ðēz  
Demonz, yet bēpink ðe ðat ðe Kiŋ hap overbœrn n̥inte  
and n̥in grāt t̥ŋampeonz in ðis eksers̥iz, and ðis ŋal be  
ðe hundredŋ; and bēpink ðe, too, ðat Witŋland lieŋ  
nerer too ð̥in īlz ðan Demonland bi mēne dāz saliŋ.  
Hard ŋal it be for ðe too ab̥id ðe avend̥ziŋ sœrd ov  
Witŋland if ð̥l̥ doo him desp̥it, and agānst ði swœrn ōŋ az  
ump̥ir ink̥l̥in ron̥fœle too hiz ēnemēz in ðis disp̥ūt."

So spāk Korinyus; and ðe Red Foleot wôz k̥ld. Ôlbeit he  
belēvd in hiz hart ðat ðe Kiŋ had dun h̥ot ðarov  
Göldre akūzd him, yet for t̥r̥or ov ðe Kiŋ and ov Korinyus  
ðat st̥ud bi and pr̥tend him he derst not sp̥ek hiz  
p̥ôt, but in sœr perpleksite gāv order for ðe horn too be  
blōn for ðe perd b̥l̥t.



And it kām too pās at ðe bloiŋ ov ðe horn ðat ðe  
flītermōs fērd færþ agān from ðe boops ov ðe Witfez,  
and goiŋ wīderfinz rōnd abōt ðe rasliŋ grōnd reternd  
on silent wiŋ huens fe kām.

Hven ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko understod ðat ðe Red Foleot  
wod pa no hēd too hiz akuzaŋon, he gru red az blud. A  
fērsuŋ sīt it wōz too behōld hō he sweld in hiz rōþ,  
and hiz īz blāzd līk dizāstrōs starz at midnīt, and  
beiŋ wod wið anger he naft hiz tēþ til ðe froþ stod  
at hiz lips and slaverd dōn hiz tfin. Nō ðe simbalz klaft  
for ðe onset. Ðērwið ran Gōldre ūpon ðe Kiŋ az wun  
strōt ov hiz wits, bēloiŋ az he ran, and gript him bi  
ðe rīt arm wið bōþ hiz handz, wun at ðe rist and wun  
nēr ðe fōlder. And so it wōz ðat, befær ðe Kiŋ mīt  
mōv, Gōldre spun rōnd wið hiz bak too ðe Kiŋ and bi hiz  
mīkel streŋþ and ðe streŋþ ov ðe anger ðat wōz in him  
he hēvd ðe Kiŋ over hiz hed, herliŋ him az wun herleþ a  
ponderōs spēr, hed-færmōst too ðe erþ. And ðe Kiŋ smōt  
ðe grōnd wið hiz hed, and ðe bōnz ov hiz hed and hiz  
spīn wer drīven togēder and smaft, and blud flōd from  
hiz ērz and nōz. Wið ðe mīt ov ðat þro Gōldrēz rōþ  
departed from him and left him streŋþles, in sutf sort ðat  
he rēld az he went from ðe rasliŋ grōnd. Hiz breðren,  
Dzus and Spitfīr, bēr him up on iðer sīd, and pōt hiz  
klōk ov kloþ ov gōld werkt wið red harts abōt hiz mite  
limz.

Mēnhvīl disma wōz fōlen ūpon ðe Witfez too behōld ðēr  
Kiŋ so kōt up on a sūden and daft ūpon ðe grōnd, hvēr  
he la krumpeld in an hēþ, fāterd līk ðe stōk ov an  
hemlok ðat wun brakeþ and fātereþ. In grāt ādzītaŋon  
ðe Red Foleot kām dōn from hiz kar ov ēbone and mād hāst  
ðīðer hvēr ðe Kiŋ wōz fōlen; and ðe lordz ov Witfland  
kām līkwīz ðīðer strīken at hart, and Korund lifted ðe  
Kiŋ in hiz berle armz. But ðe Kiŋ wōz stōn ded. So ðōz  
sunz ov Korund mād a līter wið ðēr spērz and lād ðe  
Kiŋ on ðe līter, and spred over him hiz rōgal mantel ov  
blak silk līnd wið bērskin, and set ðe krōn ov Witfland  
on hiz hed, and wīðōt werd spoken bēr him awa too ðe  
Witfez boops. And ðe ūðer lordz ov Witfland wīðōt werd  
spoken fōlōd āfter.

### 3. Ðe Red Foleot

OV ÐE ENTERTĀNMENT OV ÐE WITSEZ IN ÐE PĀLĀS OV ÐE RED  
FOLEOT; AND OV ÐE WĪLZ AND SŪTELTĒZ OV LORD GRO; AND Hō

## DE WITSEZ DEPARTED BI NĪT ȚT OV ĐE FOLEOT ĪLZ.

Đe Red Foleot gat him bak intō hiz pālās and sat in hiz hi sēt. And he sent untō đe lordz ov Witfland and ov Demonland đat đa fȳd kum and se him. Nor did đa dela, but kām strātwa and sat on đe loŋ bentfez, đe Witfez on đe ēstern sīd ov đe hōl and đe Demonz on đe west; and đēr fitiŋ men stȳd in order on iđer sīd behīnd đem. So sat đa in đe fādoe hōl, and đe sun dekliniŋ tō đe western ofan Jon þrō đe hi windōz ov đe hōl on đe pōlift armor and wēponz ov đe Witfez.

Đe Red Foleot spāk amuŋ đem and sed, "A grāt tʃampeon haþ bēn strūk tō erþ đis da in fēr and ēkwāl kombat. And akordiŋ tō đe sōlem ōþs huērbi ye ar bōnd, and hwarov I am đe keper, đēr iz hēr an end tō ōl unpēs betwikst Witfland and Demonland, and ye ov Witfland ar tō forswēr for ēver yor klāmz ov lordfip over đe Demonz. Nȳ for a seliŋ and makiŋ fāst ov đis sōlem kūvenant betwēn u I se no līkleer rēd đan đat ye ōl dzqŋ wiđ me hēr đis da in gȳd frendfip tō forget yor kworelz in drinkiŋ ov đe arvāl ov Kiŋ Gorīs 11., đan huōm haþ rānd nun miteer nor mœr werfipfōl in ōl đis werld, and đarāfter depart in pēs tō yor natīv landz."

So spāk đe Red Foleot, and đe lordz ov Witfland asented đērtō.

But Lord Dzus ānserd and sed, "O Red Foleot, az tō đe ōþs swœrn betwēn us and đe Kiŋ ov Witfland, đȳ hast spoken wel; nor šal we depart wun tītel from đe artikel ov ȳr ōþs, and đe Witfez ma abīd in pēs for ēver az for us if, az iz klēn agānst đēr ūs and nātʃūr, đa forbēr tō devīz evil agānst us. For đe nātʃūr ov Witfland wōz ēver az a fle, đat atākeþ a man in đe dark. But we wil not ēt nor drink wiđ đe lordz ov Witfland, huō berād and forsȳk us đēr swœrn konfēderāts at đe se-fīt agānst đe Gōlz. Nor we wil not drink đe arvāl ov Kiŋ Gorīs 11., huō werkt a fāmʃōl and unlōʃōl slīt agānst mi kinzman đis da hven đa rāseld tȳgēđer."

So spāk Lord Dzus, and Korund huišperd Gro in đe ēr, saiŋ, "Wert not for đe pŕivīlēdz ov đis respekted kumpāne, nȳ wer đe tīm tō set ūpon đem." But Gro sed, "I pŕiđe yet hav paʃens. Đis wer over hāzardȳs, for đe luk goeþ agānst Witfland. Let us rāđer tāk đem in đēr bedz tō-nīt."

Fān wȳd đe Red Foleot tern đe Demonz from đēr rezolv,

but wið ȝt avāl; ða kertȝsle þankiȝ him for hiz  
hospitālite hwiȝ ða sed ða wƿd endȝȝ ðat nīȝ in  
ðēr bƿps, beȝ mīnded on ðe moro tƿ tāk tƿ ðēr  
bēkt ȝip and fēr over ðe unvintādȝd se tƿ Demonland.

Ðērwið stƿd up Lord Dȝus, and wið him ðe Lord Gōldre  
Bluzko, ðat went in ȝl hiz wor gēr, hiz hornd helm ov gōld  
and hiz gōlden berne set wið rube harts, and bēr hiz  
tƿ-handed scerd ferdȝd bi ðe elvz hƿerwið he slu ðe  
bēst ȝt ov ðe se in dāz gon bi; and Lord Spitfīr ðat  
glērd ȝpon ðe lordz ov Witȝland az a fōlkon glareȝ,  
hungeriȝ for her pra; and ðe Lord Brandox Dahā ðat lȝkt  
on ðem, and tȝfēfle on Korinyus, wið ðe i ov kontemptȝuȝs  
amȝzment, plain ȝdle wið ðe dȝueld hilt ov hiz scerd,  
until Korinyus gru il at ēz benēȝ hiz gāz and ȝifted  
ðis wa and ðat in hiz sēt, skȝliȝ bak defians. For ȝl  
ðe ritȝ ara and gȝdle pœrt and kȝntenans ov Korinyus, he  
sēmd but a vēre bœr besīd ðe Lord Brandox Dahā, and  
dērle did ēȝ hāt ðe ȝðer. So ðe lordz ov Demonland wið  
ðēr fitiȝ men went fœrȝ from ðe hōl.

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Ðe Red Foleot sent āfter ðem and mād ðem in ðēr ȝn  
bƿps tƿ be servd ov grāt plente ov wīn and gȝd and  
dēlikāt mēts, and sent ðem muzīfanz and a minstrel tƿ  
glāden ðem wið sonȝ and stœrēz ov ȝld tīm, ðat ða  
mīȝ lak nōt ov entertānment. But for hiz ȝðer gests he  
let bēr in ðe māse kups ov silver, and ðe grāt ērd wīn  
dȝarz hōldiȝ tƿ ferkinz apēs, and he let pœr fœrȝ tƿ ðe  
Witȝez and ðe Foleots, and ða drank ðe kup ov mēmore untƿ  
Kiȝ Gorīs 11., slān ðat da bi ðe hand ov Gōldre Bluzko.

Ðarāfter hven ðēr kups wer brimd anu wið fomiȝ wīn  
ðe Red Foleot spāk amuȝ ðem and sed, "O ye lordz ov  
Witȝland, wil u ðat I spēk a derdȝ in ȝnor ov Gorīs  
ðe Kiȝ ðat ðe dark reper hap ðis da gāðerd?" So hven  
ða sed ya tƿ ðis, he kōld tƿ him hiz plaer on ðe  
þeorbo and hiz plaer on ðe hōtbȝ, and komāded ðem  
saiȝ, "Pla me a sōlem muzik." And ða plād softle in ðe  
Eolean mōd a muzik ðat wōz līk ðe waliȝ ov wind þrƿ  
bēr brāntȝez on a mœnles nīȝ, and ðe Red Foleot lēnd  
fœrȝ from hiz hi sēt and resited ðis lamentaȝon:

*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,  
Themselſ from Death may nocht supplee:--  
Timor Mortis conturbat me.*

Hæn ðe Red Foleot had spoken ðus far hiz derdz, he wōz interupted bi an unsēmlē brōliſ betwikst Korinyus and wun ov ðe sunz ov Korund. For Korinyus, h<sub>∞</sub> gāv not a fig for muzik or derdzez, but līkt wel ov kardiſ and disiſ, had brōt fœrþ hiz dīs boks t<sub>∞</sub> pla wið ðe sun ov Korund. Ða plād āh<sub>∞</sub>l t<sub>∞</sub> Korinyusez grāt kontent, for at ēvere þro he wun and ðe ūðerz pers wakst līt. But at ðis elēvenþ stanzā ðe sun ov Korund krīd þt ðat ðe dīs ov Korinyus wer loded. And he smōt Korinyus on hiz faven dz<sub>∞</sub>l wið ðe dīs boks, kōliſ him t<sub>∞</sub>fēt and māndze rāskal, hvarūpon Korinyus dru fœrþ a bodkin t<sub>∞</sub> smīt him in ðe nek wiðōl; but sum went betwikst ðem, and wið mut<sub>∞</sub>f ad<sub>∞</sub> and mut<sub>∞</sub>f strugliſ and kersiſ ða wer parted, and it beiſ fōn ðat ðe dīs wer not loded, ðe sun ov Korund wōz fān t<sub>∞</sub> māk amendz t<sub>∞</sub> Korinyus, and so wer ða set at wun agān.

Nþ wōz ðe wīn pœrd fœrþ yet agān t<sub>∞</sub> ðe lordz ov Wit<sub>∞</sub>fland, and ðe Red Foleot drank dēp unt<sub>∞</sub> ðe glære ov ðat land and ðe rulerz ðarov. And he īfūd komānd saiſ, "Let mi Kagu kum and dāns befœr us, and ðarāfter mi ūðer dānsersz. For ðēr iz no plēzūr hvaron ðe Foleots d<sub>∞</sub> mœr dērle dōt ðan ðis plēzūr ov ðe dāns, and swēt t<sub>∞</sub> us it iz t<sub>∞</sub> behōld delītfōl dānsiſ, be it ðe stātle splendor ov ðe Pavan h<sub>∞</sub>it<sub>∞</sub>f progrēsep az lardz klīdz at sun-dōn ðat pās bi in splendor; or ðe grāsfōl Alemand; or ðe Fandango, h<sub>∞</sub>it<sub>∞</sub>f goep bi degrēz from langorþs bute t<sub>∞</sub> ðe

swiftnes and pǎfon ov Bǎkanalz dǎnsiŋ on ðe hi lōnz  
under a sǔmer mǎon ðat hǎŋeþ in ðe pīn trēz; or ðe  
dzǫþs mǎz ov ðe Gǎleard; or ðe Ʒēg, dēr tǎ ðe Foleots.  
Ðērfoer dela not, but let mi Kagu kum, ðat je ma dǎns  
befoer us."

Ðērwið hasend ðe Kagu intǎ ðe Ʒǎdoe hōl, mǎoviŋ  
softle and roliŋ a lītel in her gāt, wið her hed þrust  
forword; and a lītel flūrēd wōz je in her bariŋ az je  
darted ðis wa and ðat her lardz and butiful īz, mīld and  
tīmid, ðat wer līk likwid gōld heted tǎ rednes. Sumhvōt  
līk a hēron je wōz, but stōter, and forter ov leg, and her  
bēk forter and þīker ðan ðe hēronz; and so loŋ and  
dēlikāt wōz her pāl gra plumādz ðat hard it wōz tǎ sa  
hvēðer it wer hēr or fēðerz. So ðe wind instruments and  
ðe lūts and dulsimerz plād a Koranto, and ðe Kagu tript  
up ðe hōl betwikst ðe loŋ tabelz, dzumpiŋ a lītel and  
bōiŋ a lītel in her step and kepiŋ ekselent tīm tǎ ðe  
muzik; and hven je kām nēr tǎ ðe dais hvēr ðe Red Foleot  
sat rǎviŋt wið delīt at her dǎnsiŋ, ðe Kagu lenþend  
her step and glided smǎðle and slole forword tǎword ðe Red  
Foleot; and so glidiŋ je dru herself up in stǎtle wīz and  
opend her mōþ and dru bak her hed til her bēk la tīt  
agānst her brest, flōnsiŋ þt her fēðerz so ðat ða  
Ʒōd līk a wīdkut skert wið a krīnolīn, and ðe krest  
ðat wōz on her hed rōz up erekt hāf agān her ōn hīt  
from ðe grōnd, and je sǎld mǎdzestikale tǎword ðe Red  
Foleot. On ðis wīz did ðe Kagu at ēvere tern ðat je tǔk  
in ðe Koranto, foerþ and bak alon ðe lenþ ov ðe Foleots  
hōl. And ða ōl lǎft swētle at her, beiŋ overdzǫd at  
her dǎnsiŋ. Hven ðe dǎns wōz dun, ðe Red Foleot kōld ðe  
Kagu tǎ him and mǎd her sit on ðe bentf besīd him, and  
strōkt her soft gra fēðerz and mǎd mutf ov her. Ōl  
baffoele je sat besīd ðe Red Foleot, kǎstiŋ her rube īz  
in wunder ūpon ðe Witfez and ðēr kumpane.

Nekst ðe Red Foleot kōld for hiz Kat-bērz, ðat stod befoer  
him fokse-red abuv but wið blak bēlēz, rōnd fūre fasez,  
and īnosent amber īz, and soft grāt pōz, and tǎlz bard  
ōlternǎtle wið rūde riŋz and kreme; and he sed, "O  
Kat-bērz, dǎns befoer us, sins dērle we delīt in yor  
dǎnsiŋ."

Ða āskt, "Lord, wil u ðat we perform ðe Ʒēg?"

And he ānserd ðem, "Ðe Ʒēg, and ye luv me."

So ðe striŋd instruments began a swift mǎovment, and ðe  
tamborēnz and triangelz enterd on ðe bēt, and swifftle  
twinkeld ðe fēt ov ðe Kat-bērz in ðe dzǫþs dǎns. Ðe

muzik rīpeld and ran and ðe dānsersz dānst til ðe hōl wōz  
āhverl wið ðe riðm ov ðēr dānsiņ, and ðe Witfez rærd  
aplōz. On a sūden ðe muzik sēst, and ðe dānsersz wer  
stil, and standiņ sīd bi sīd, pō in fūre pō, ða bļd  
file tō ðe kumpane, and ðe Red Foleot kōld ðem tō him and  
kist ðem on ðe mļp and sent ðem tō ðēr sēts, ðat  
ða mīt rest and vu ðe dānses ðat wer tō fōlo.

Nekst ðe Red Foleot kōld for hiz huīt Pekoks, kūlord  
līk mōnlīt, ðat ða mīt lēd ðe Pavan befær ðe  
lordz ov Witfland. In glæreþs wīz did ða spred ðēr  
tālz for ðe stātle dāns, and a fēr and luvle sīt it wōz  
tō se ðēr grās and ðe grandzūr ov ðēr kārādz az ða  
mōvd tō ðe muzik tǵāst and nobel. Wið ðem wer dzqnd ðe  
Gōlden Fēzants, huō spred wīd ðēr kōlarz ov gōld, and  
ðe Silver Fēzants, and ðe Pekok Fēzants, and ðe  
Estrīdzez, and ðe Bustardz, fōtiņ it in pomp, pqtņiņ ðe  
tōz, and bļiņ and retiriņ in dzu tīm tō ðe sōlem strānz  
ov ðe Pavan. Évere instrument tuk part in ðe stātle  
Pavan: ðe lūts and ðe dulsimerz, and ðe þeorbōz, and ðe  
sakbuts, and ðe hōtbqz; ðe flūts swētle worbliņ az  
berdz in ðe ūper ér, and ðe silver trumpets, and ðe hornz  
ðat brēðd dēp mēlodēz trembliņ wið mistere and  
tendernes ðat fāks ðe hart; and ðe drum ðat beteþ tō  
bātel, and ðe wīld þrob ov ðe harp, and ðe simbalz  
klāfiņ az ðe klaf ov armēz. And a nitingāl sītiņ bi  
ðe Red Foleot sarj ðe Pavan in pǵfonāt tōnz ðat  
dizolvd ðe sōl in ðēr swēt, mœrnful bute.

Ðe Lord Gro kūverd hiz fās wið hiz mantel and wept tō hēr  
and behōld ðe divīn Pavan; for az gōsts rearīzen it rāzd  
up for him ōld hāpe hāf-forgōten dāz in Goblinland, befær  
he had konspīrd agānst Kiņ Gazlark and bēn drīven færþ  
from hiz dēr nativ land, an eksil in wōteriņ Witfland.

Ðarāfter let ðe Red Foleot giv order for ðe Gǵleard.  
Dzqþsle swept færþ ðe mēlode from ðe striņd instruments,  
and tō dormīs, fat az būter, spun intō ðe hōl. Wīlder  
hverld ðe muzik, and ðe dormīs kaperd éver hier til  
ða bļnded from ðe flær up tō ðe bēmz ov ðe vōlted  
roof, and dļn agān, and up agān tō ðe roof-bēmz in ðe  
dzqful dāns. And ðe Foleots dzqnd in ðe Gǵleard, spīniņ  
and kaperiņ in mad delīt ov ðe dāns. And intō ðe hōl  
twerld siks kapripedz, fōtiņ it lītle az ðe muzik swept  
éver fāster, and a wun-fōter ðat lēpt hiðer and ðīðer  
abļt and abļt, az ðe fle hōpeþ, til ðe Witfez gru  
hœrs wið sīniņ and fļtiņ and hļndiņ ov him on. Yet  
éver kaperd ðe dormīs hier and wīlder ðan ěne els, and  
so swifflē flaft ðēr lītēl fēt tō ðe gǵlopiņ muzik  
ðat no i mīt fōlo ðēr moĶon.

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But lītel eno wōz Lord Gro glādend bi ðe mēre dāns. Sad mēlankole sat wið him for hiz kompanjon, darkeniḡ hiz þōts and makiḡ dʒɑ hātful tō him az sunʃīn tō ʒlz ov ðe nīt. So ðat he wōz wel plēzd tō mark ðe Red Foleot go softle from hiz sēt on ðe dais and færp from ðe hōl bi a dœr behīnd ðe āras, and seiḡ ðis, himself departed softle amid ðe fōl tīd ov ðe Gāleard, færp ov ðat hōl ov swift mœvment and gleful lâfter, færp into ðe kwiet eveniḡ, hvēr abuv ðe smœð dʒnz ðe wind wōz luld tō slēp in ðe vāst silent spasez ov ðe ski, and ðe west wōz a bʒer ov orandʒ līt fadiḡ tō perpel and unfāðomabel blu in ðe ūper hēven, and nōt wōz herd sāv ðe mermer ov ðe slēples se, and nōt sēn sāv a flīt ov wīldfʒl fliiḡ agānst ðe sunset. In ðis kwietnes Gro wōkt westword abuv ðe kōm until he kām tō ðe landz edʒ and stʉd on ðe lip ov a tʃōk klif fōliḡ tō ðe se, and wōz wēr ov ðe Red Foleot, alōn on ðat hi western klif, gaziḡ in a stūde at ðe diiḡ kŭlorz in ðe west.

Hven ða had stʉd for a hŭil wīðʒt spētʃ, gaziḡ over ðe se, Gro spāk and sed, "Konsīder hʒ az da nʒ diep in yonder tʃāmberz ov ðe west, so hap ðe glœre departed from Witʃland."

But ðe Red Foleot ānserd him not, beiḡ in a stūde.

Ðen Gro sed, "Ðo Demonland liep hvēr ðʒ sōst ðe sun desend, yet ēstword ʒt ov Witʃland must ðʒ lœk for ðe morniḡ splendor. Not mœr ʃŭrle ʃalt ðʒ behōld ðe sun go up ðens tō-moro ðan ðʒ ʃalt se ʃīn færp in ʃort sezon ðe glœre and ōnor and pʒer ov Witʃland, and benēp her destruktīv scærd her ēnemēz ʃal be az grās befœr ðe sīkel."

Ðe Red Foleot sed, "I am in luv wið pēs and ðe soft influens ov ðe eveniḡ êr. Lēv me; or if ðʒ wilt sta, brāk not ðe tʃarm."

"O Red Foleot," sed Gro, "art ðʒ in luv wið pēs indēd? So ʃud ðe riziḡ agān ov Witʃland tʃŭn swēt muzik tō ði þōt, sins we ov Witʃland luv pēs, nor ar we stŭrerz up ov strīf, but ðe Demonz ōnle. Ðe wor agānst ðe Gœlz, hvērbi ðe fœr kornerz ov ðe erp wer ʃaken, wōz hatʃt bi Demonland----"

"Ðʒ spēkst," sed ðe Red Foleot, "klēn agānst ðīn intenʃon, a grāt prāz ov ðem. For hŭœ ēver sō ðe līk ov



ðēz man-etinj Goolz for korupjon ov mǎnerz, inhuman dēdzgenerafon, and dēlūdʒ ov inikwitēz? Hw̄ ēvere fiŋp̄ yēr from tīm imemœreal hav had ðēr grand klimakterikal yēr, and but lâst yēr brāk fœrp̄ in nēver-imadzīnd ferōsite. But if ða sāl n̄l, tiz on ðe dark lāk ða sāl, greviŋ no erple sēz nor rīverz. Prāz Demonland, ðērfœr, hw̄ did p̄t̄ ðem d̄l̄n for ēver."

"I māk no kwestjon ov ðat," ānserd Lord Gro. "But f̄l̄ wōter, az soon az fēr, wil kwentj hot fir. Sœr agānst ʒr wil did we ov Witjland dz̄q̄n wið ðe Demonz in ðat wor, fœrseiŋ (az hap bēn blūdile aprōvd) ðat ðe īfu must be but ðe p̄fiŋ up ov ðe Demonz, hw̄ dezīr no ūðer þiŋ ðan t̄o be lordz and tirants ov ōl ðe werld."

"D̄l̄," sed ðe Red Foleot, "wōst in ði yuŋ dāz Kiŋ Gazlarks man: a Goblin born and bred: hiz vēre foster-brūðer, nūriŋt at ðe sām brest. H̄i must l̄ obzerv ðe, a plān trator agānst so ḡod a kiŋ? Hw̄z perfide ðe kōmon pepel ðen did openle reprōv (az l̄ did wel persēv even so lāt̄le az lâst ōtum, hven l̄ wōz in ðe sīte ov Zādʒe Zakulo at ðe tīm ov ðēr festivitēz for ðe betroðal ov ðe kiŋz kūzin dzerman ðe Prinses Armelīn unt̄o ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko), ða kǎreiŋ filpe pikt̄fūrʒ ov ðe in ðe strēt, sīŋiŋ ov ðe ðus:

*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."*

Sed Gro, winsiŋ a līt̄el, "Ðe art ov it agrēp̄ wel wið ðe sentiment, and wið ðe kondījon ov ðōz hw̄ invented it. I wil not þiŋk so nobel a prins az ð̄l̄ art wil set ði sālʒ t̄o ðe wind ov ðe rābelz mōst parfal hāts and envēz. For ðe vīl adījon ov trator, l̄ d̄o rēdzekt and spit ūpon it. But tru it iz ðat, regardiŋ not ðe god ov f̄oalz and wīmen, nīs opinyon, l̄ d̄o stēr bi mīn ōn lōd-star

stil. Hl̥beit, I kām not t̥o diskœers t̥o ðe on so sm̥ol a  
māter az miself. Ðis I w̥od sa unt̥o ðe wið m̥ost sad and  
sereþs entertān: Be not luld t̥o þink ðe Demonz wil lēv  
ðe werld at pēs: ðat iz farðest from ðēr intent. Ða  
w̥od not lisen t̥o ði kumfortabel werdz nor sit at mēt wið  
us, so set be ða t̥o imadzīn mistfēf agānst us. Hūōt sed  
Dzus? Witfland w̥ōz ēver az a fle: i, az a fle hūitf he  
itfep t̥o kruf betwikst hiz finger-nālz. O, if ðl̥ be in  
luv wið pēs, a fort wa lieþ open t̥o ði harts dezīr."

Nōt spāk ðe Red Foleot, gaziņ stil int̥o ðe dim  
reflekjonz ov ðe sunset hūitf lingerd belo a darkeniņ ski  
hūr starz wer born. Gro sed softle, az a kat pūriņ,  
"Hūr softeniņ unkjonz fāld, farp serdzere brīņep  
spedeest ēz. Wilt ðl̥ not lēv it t̥o me?"

But ðe Red Foleot lukt angrile ūpon him, saiņ, "Hūōt hav  
I t̥o d̥o wið yor enmitēz? U ar swœrn t̥o kēp ðe pēs,  
and I wil not abīd yor violens nor yor brakiņ ov ōps  
in mi kwiet kiņdom."

Gro sed, "Ōps be ov ðe hart, and he ðat brakeþ ðem in  
open fakt iz oft, az n̥l̥, no braker in trūþ, for ōlrēde wer  
ða skornd and trampeld on bi hiz ōpozīts."

But ðe Red Foleot sed agān, "Hūōt hav I t̥o d̥o wið yor  
enmitēz ðat set u bi ðe ērz līk fitiņ dogz? I am yet  
t̥o lern ðat he ðat hap a rītfl̥s hart, and klēn handz,  
and hateþ nun, must nēdz be drōn int̥o ðe brōlz and  
manslainz ov sutf az u and ðe Demonz."

Lord Gro lukt nārole ūpon him, saiņ, "Þinkst ðl̥ ðat  
ðe strāt pāþ ov him ðat afekteþ niðer sīd lieþ stil  
open for ðe? If ðat wer ðīn ām, ðl̥ fudst hav  
bēþōt ðe ēr ðl̥ gāvst ði dzudzment on ðe sēkond  
b̥lt. For klēr az da it w̥ōz t̥o us and t̥o ðīn ōn pepel,  
and m̥ost ov ōl t̥o ðe Demonz, ðat ðe Kiņ plād fl̥l in  
ðat b̥lt, and hven ðl̥ kōldst him viktœereþs ðl̥ didst  
l̥dle bi ðat werd trumpet ðiself hiz frend, and unfrendz  
t̥o Demonland. Marktst ðl̥ not, hven ða left ðe hōl, wið  
hūōt a snāks i Lord Dzus beheld ðe? Not wið us ōnle but  
wið ðe he refūzd t̥o ēt and drink, ðat so hiz  
superstīfl̥s skrupelz ma be unhert hven he prosēdz t̥o ði  
destrukfon. For on ðis ar ða determīnd. Nūþiņ iz mœer  
sertān."

Ðe Red Foleot sank hiz tfin ūpon hiz brest, and st̥od silent  
for a spās. Ðe hūz ov deþ and silens spred ðemselvz  
hūr lāt ðe fīrz ov sunset glōd, and lardz starz opend

līk fl̥erz on ðe il̥imitabel fēldz ov ðe nīt ski:  
Arktfurus, Spikâ, Džẽmine, and ðe Litel Dog, and Kapělâ and  
her Kidz.

Ðe Red Foleot sed, "Witfland lieþ at mi dœr. And  
Demonland: h̥ stand I wið Demonland?"

And Gro sed, "Ôlso tœ-morōz sun goeþ up ̥t ov Witfland."

For a huil̥ ða spōk not. Ðen Lord Gro tœk fœrþ a skrōl  
from hiz buzom, and sed, "Ðe harvest ov ðis werld iz tœ ðe  
rẽzolūt, and he ðat iz inferm ov perpōs iz gr̥nd betwikst  
ðe ūper and ðe nēðer milstōn. Ð̥ kanst not tern bak:  
so wœd ða skorn and spern ðe, and we Witfez līkwīz.  
And n̥ bi ðēz mēnz ōnle ma lâstiŋ pēs be brōt ab̥t,  
nāmle, bi ðe sētiŋ ov Gorīs ov Witfland on ðe þrōn ov  
Demonland, and ðe ūter humbliŋ ov ðat brœd benēþ ðe  
hēl ov ðe Witfez."

Ðe Red Foleot sed, "Iz not Gorīs slān, and drank we not but  
n̥ hiz arvāl, slān bi a Demon? and iz he not ðe sēkond in  
order ov ðat līn huœ hap so dīd bi a Demon?"

"A twelfþ Gorīs," sed Gro, "at ðis moment ov tīm sīteþ  
Kiŋ in Karse. O Red Foleot, no ð̥ ðat I am a reder ov  
ðe plānets ov ðe nīt and ov ðōz hīden p̥erz ðat werk  
̥t ðe web ov destine. Huērbi I no ðat ðis twelfþ Kiŋ  
ov ðe h̥s ov Gorīs in Karse fal be a mōst kräfte worlok,  
fœl ov gīlz and wīlz, huœ bi ðe mīt ov hiz egromanse and  
ðe sœrd ov Witfland fal eksēd ôl erple p̥erz ðat be.  
And ineluktabel az ðe lēvin-bolt ov hēven goeþ ̥t hiz rōþ  
agānst hiz ēnemēz." So saiŋ, Gro stœopt and tœk a  
glo-werm from ðe grās, saiŋ kīndle tœ it, "Swetiŋ, ði  
lamp for a moment," and brēðd ūpon it, and held it tœ ðe  
partfment, saiŋ, "Sīn n̥ ði r̥al nām tœ ðēz artikelz,  
hvitf rekwīr ðe not at ôl tœ go tœ wor, but ōnle (in kās  
wor fal arīz) tœ be ov ̥r parte, and agānst ðēz Demonz  
ðat dœ prīvile perfu ði līf."

But ðe Red Foleot sed, "Huarin am I sertifid ðat ð̥  
spēkst not a li?"

Ðen tœk Gro a ritiŋ from hiz pers and fōd ðaron a  
sēl līk ðe sēl ov Lord Džus; and ðēr wōz rīten: "*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 Gro sed, "Mi servant stōl ðis from ðem hūl ða spōk wið ðe in ðin hōl tō-nīt."

Hvitf ðe Red Foleot belēvd, and tōk from hiz belt hiz ink-horn and hiz pen, and sīnd hiz rǫal nām tō ðe artikelz ov ðe trete propōzd tō him.

Ðērwið Lord Gro pūt up ðe partfment in hiz bʊzom and sed, "Swift serdzere. Nēdz must ðat we tāk ðem in ðēr bedz tō-nīt; so fal tō-morōz dōn briŋ glære and triumf tō Witfland, nʌ fikst in an eklips, and tō ðe hūl werld pēs and soft kontentment."

But ðe Red Foleot ânserd him, "Mi Lord Gro, I hav sīnd ðēz artikelz, and ðērbi stand I bʌnd in enmite tō Demonland. But I wil not bera mi gests ðat hav eten mi sōlt, be ða nēver so dēple pledzd mīn ėnemēz. Be it nōn tō ðe, I hav set gardz on yor bōps ðis nīt and on ðe bōps ov ðem ov Demonland, ðat no unpēsful dēdz ma be dun betwikst u. Ðis hvitf I hav dun, bi ðis wil I stand, and ye fal bōp depart tō-moro in pēs, even az ye kām. Bekōz I am yor frend and swærn tō yor parte, I and mi Foleots wil be on yor sīd hven wor iz betwēn Witfland and Demonland. But I wil not sūfer nīt-slainz nor merðerz in mi ĩlz."

Nʌ wið ðēz werdz ov ðe Red Foleot, Lord Gro wōz az wun ðat wōkeþ aloŋ a flðere pāþ tō hiz rest, and in ðe lâst steps a gulf yōneþ sūdenle aþwort ðe pāþ, and he standeþ a-gāþ and disapōrted at ðe hīðer sīd. Yet in hiz sūtelte he mād no sīn, but strāt replīd, "Rītʃʌsle hast ðʌ dekrēd and wīzle, O Red Foleot, for it wōz trule sed:

Let werðe mīndz nēr stāger in distrust  
Tō sūfer dep or fām for hvōt iz dzust,

and ðat hvitf we so in darknes must unfōld in ðe open ĩt ov da, lest it be flðnd wīðerd in ðe vēre þr ov matfurate. Nor wōd I hav erdzd ðe ũðerwīz, but ðat I dō þrōle fēr ðēz Demonz, and ôl mi mīnd wōz tō tāk ðēr plōtiŋ in revers. Dō ðen wun þiŋ ònle for us. If we set sāl hōmword and ða on þr hēlz, ða wil fōl ũpon us at a disadvāntādʒ, for ða hav ðe swifter fip; or if ða get tō se befœer us, ða wil li in wāt for us on ðe hi sēz. Sūfer us ðen tō sāl tō-nīt, and dō ðʌ on sum pretekst dela ðem hēr for þre dāz ònle, ðat we ma get us hōm or ėver ða lēv ðe Foleot ĩlz."

"I wil not gānsa ðe in ðis," ānserd ðe Red Foleot,  
"for hēr iz nôt but huôt iz fêr and dzust and lieþ wið  
mīn ōnor. I wil kum tō yor bōps at midnīt and briŋ  
u dōn tō yor fip."

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Hven Gro kām tō ðe Witfez bōps he fōnd ðem garded even  
az ðe Red Foleot had sed, and ðe bōps ov ðem ov Demonland  
in līk māner. So went he intō ðe rjal bōp huêr ðe Kiŋ  
la in stāt on a beer ov spēr-fāfts, rōbd in hiz kinle  
rōbz over hiz armor ðat wōz pānted blak and inlād, wið  
gōld, and ðe krōn ov Witfland on hiz hed. Tō kandelz  
bernd at ðe hed ov Kiŋ Gorīs and tō at hiz fêt; and ðe  
nīt wind bloiŋ þrō ðe krānēz ov ðe bōp mād ðem  
flêr and flīker, so ðat fādōz dānst unsesinle on ðe  
wōl and rōof and flœr. On ðe bentfez rōnd ðe wōlz sat ðe  
lordz ov Witfland sūlen ov kōntenans, for ðe wīn wōz ded  
in ðem. Bālfōle ða īd Lord Gro at hiz kūmiŋ in, and  
Korinyus sāt uprīt in hiz sêt and sed, "Hēr iz ðe  
Goblin, fāðer and fosterer ov þr misfortfūnz. Kum, let us  
sla him."

Gro stōd amuŋ ðem wið hed erekt and held Korinyus wið hiz  
i, saiŋ, "We ov Witfland ar not run lunatik, mi Lord  
Korinyus, ðat we fōd dō ðis gladnes tō ðe Demonz, tō  
bit ētf at ðe ūðerz þrōt līk wōlvz. Mēþinks if  
Witfland be ðe land ov mi adopson ōnle, yet hav I not dun  
lēst amuŋ u tō word of fêr destrukjon from her in ðis  
pās we stand in. If ye hav ōt agānst me, let me hēr it  
and ānser it."

Korinyus lāft a bīter lāf. "Harken tō ðe fōl! Ar we  
babēz and milksops, þinkst ðþ, and iz it not klêr az da  
ðþ stōdst in ðe wa ov þr fōliŋ on ðe Demonz hven we  
mīt hav dun so, erdzin huôt sīle kōnselz I no not in  
favor ov dōiŋ it bi nīt? And nþ iz nīt kum, and we  
klōs prīzond in þr bōps, and no tfāns tō kum at ðem  
unles we wōd briŋ an hornets nest ov Foleots abþt þr  
ērz and giv worniŋ ov þr intent tō ðe Demonz and ēvere  
līviŋ sōl in ðis iland. And ōl ðis haz kum abþt sins  
ði slinkiŋ of and plōtiŋ wið ðe Red Foleot. But nþ hap  
ði gīl overētf itself, and nþ we wil kil ðe, and so  
an end ov ðe and ði plōtiŋ."

Wið ðat Korinyus spruŋ up and dru hiz sœrd, and ðe ūðer  
Witfez wið him. But Lord Gro mōvd not an ilid, ōnle he  
sed, "Hēr mīn ānser ferst. Ōl nīt lieþ befœr us, and  
tiz but a moments tâsk tō merðer me."

Ðêrwið stœd færþ ðe Lord Korund wið hiz hũdz bulk betwikst Gro and Korinyus, saiŋ in a grāt vq̄s, "Hœso ƒal p̄q̄nt wēpon gānst him ƒal ferst hav tœ dœ wið me, ðo it wer wun ov mi sunz. We wil hēr him. If he klēr not himself, ðen wil we hu him in pesez."

Ða sat d̄ŋn, mũteriŋ. And Gro spāk and sed, "Ferst behōld ðis partfment, hwiƒ iz ðe artikelz ov a sōlem kũvenant and aliens, and behōld huēr ðe Red Foleot haþ set hiz sīn mǎnual ðêrtœ. Tru, hiz iz a kuntre ov no mīt in armz, and we mīt tred him d̄ŋn and nēr fēl ðe leviŋz stik tœ ųr bœot, and lītel avāl kan ðêr wēk help be untœ us in ðe da ov bātel. But ðêr iz in ðēz Īlz a mētle gũd rōd and ridiŋ-plās for ƒips, hwiƒ if ųr ēnemēz ƒud ōkupi, ðêr flēt wer mōst aptle plāst tœ dœ us ōl ðe il imadziŋabel. Iz ðen ðis trete a līt bēnefit huēr n̄ŋ we stand? Nekst, no ðat hven I k̄ŋseld u tāk ðe Demonz in ðêr bedz sted ov fōl ūpon ðem in ðe Foleots hōl, I did so beiŋ advertīzd ðat ðe Red Foleot had komāded hiz sōldzerz tœ tern agānst us or agānst ðe Demonz, hwiƒēver ferst ƒud drō scærd ūpon ðe ūðer. And hven I went færþ from ðe hōl it wōz, az Korinyus haþ so dēple divīnd, tœ plot wið ðe Red Foleot; but ðe ām ov mi plōtiŋ I hav ƒōn u, on ðēz artikelz ov aliens. And indēd, had I az Korinyus vile akuzep me praktīst wið ðe Red Foleot agānst Witƒland, I had hardle bēn so simpel az retern intoœ ðe m̄þ ov destrukƒion hven I mīt hav bided sǎfle in hiz pālās."

N̄ŋ hven Gro persēvd ðat ðe anger ov ðe Witƒez agānst him wōz apēzd bi hiz defens, hvarin he spāk kũniŋle bōþ tru werdz and līz, he spāk agān amuŋ ðem saiŋ, "Lītel gān hav I ov ōl mi pānz and þōt ekspended bi me for Witƒland. And bēter it wer for Witƒland if mi k̄ŋsel wer bēter heded. Korund noep h̄ŋ, tœ mīn ōn pēril, I k̄ŋseld ðe Kiŋ tœ rāsel no mœr āfter ðe ferst b̄t, and if he had taen mi rēd, rāðer ðan suspekt me and þrēten me wið dep, we ƒud not be n̄ŋ tœ bēr him hōm ded tœ ðe r̄q̄al k̄atakœmz in Karse."

Korund sed, "Trule hast ð̄ŋ spoken."

"In wun þiŋ ōnle hav I fāld," sed Gro; "and it kan ƒortle be amended. Ðe Red Foleot, ōlbeit ov ųr parte, wil not be wun tœ atak ðe Demonz bi frōd, nor wil he sũfer us smīt ðem in ðēz Īlz. Sum fond simpel skrupelz haŋ līk kobwebz in hiz mīnd, and he iz stũborn az tutƒiŋ ðis. But I hav prevāld ūpon him tœ māk ðem tǎre hēr for þre dāz

spās, hūil we pūt tō se ðis vēre nīt, tēliŋ him, hwiŋ  
he mōst īnosentle beleveþ, ðat we fēr ðe Demonz, and  
wud fle hōm ēr ða be let loos tō tāk us at a  
disadvāntādz on ðe hi sēz. And hōm we wil indēd ēr ða  
set sāl, yet not for fēr ov ðem, but rāðer ðat we ma  
devīz a dedle blo agānst ðem or ēver ða win hōm tō  
Demonland."

"Hūōt blo, Goblin?" sed Korinyus.

And Gro ānserd and sed, "Wun ðat I wil devīz ūpon wið  
ųr Lord ðe Kiŋ, Gorīs 12., hūō nų awateþ us in Karse.

And I wil not blab it tō a wīn-bīber and a diser hūō hap  
but nų drōn sœrd agānst a tru lūver ov Witfland."

Huarūpon Korinyus lēpt up in mīkel rōþ tō þrust hiz  
sœrd intō Gro. But Korund and hiz sunz restrānd him.

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In dzu tīm ðe starz revolvd tō midnīt, and ðe Red Foleot  
kām sēkretle wið hiz gardz tō ðe Witfez boops. ðe lordz  
ov Witfland tuk ðēr wēponz and ðe men-at-armz bēr ðe  
gudz, and ðe Kiŋ went in ðe midst on hiz beer ov  
spēr-fāfts. So went ða pīkiŋ ðēr wa in ðe moonles  
nīt rųnd ðe pālās and dųn ðe wīndiŋ pāþ ðat led tō  
ðe bed ov ðe kōm, and so bi ðe strēm westword tōword ðe  
se. Hēr ða dēmd it sāf tō līt a tortŋ tō ŋo ðem ðe  
wa. Dēzolāt and blēk ŋōd ðe sīdz ov ðe kōm in ðe  
wind-blōn flēr; and ðe flēr wōz þrōn bak from ðe dzuelz  
ov ðe rųal krųn ov Witfland, and from ðe armord buskinz  
on ðe Kiŋz fēt ŋoiŋ stark wið tōz pųntiŋ upword from  
belo hiz bēr-skin mantel, and from ðe armor and ðe wēponz  
ov ðem ðat bēr him and wōkt besīd him, and from ðe blak  
kōld serfās ov ðe lītēl rīver hūreīŋ for ēver over its bed  
ov bōlderz tō ðe se. ðe pāþ wōz rųged and stone, and ða  
fērd slole, lest ða ŋud stumbel and drop ðe Kiŋ.

#### 4. Kundzuriŋ in ðe Īrn Tųer

OV ðE HŌLD OV KARSE, AND OV ðE MIDNĪT PRAKTISEZ OV KIŊ  
GORĪS 12. IN ðE ĀNŠENT TSĀMBER, PREPARIŊ DŌL AND DOOM FOR  
ðE LORDZ OV DEMONLAND.

Hūen ðe Witfez wer kum aboard ov ðēr ŋip and ōl stōd,  
and ðe roerz set in order on ðe bentfez, ða bad fērwel  
tō ðe Red Foleot and rōd ųt tō ðe dēp, and ðēr hųsted

sāl and pūt up ðēr helm and sāld ēstword alonj ðe land.  
Ðe starz hvēld overhed, and ðe ēst gru pāl, and ðe sun  
kām ʒt ov ðe se on ðe larbord bʒ. Stil sāld ða too  
dāz and too nīts, and on ðe þerd da ðēr wōz land ahed,  
and mornij rōz abated bi mist and klʒd, and ðe sun wōz az a  
bōl ov red fīr over Witʒland in ðe ēst. So ða huŋ  
āhūl of Tēnemos watiŋ for ðe tīd, and at hi wōter  
sāld over ðe bar and up ðe Drumā pāst ðe dʒūnz and  
mud-flats and ðe Ergaspean mēr, til ða rētʒt ðe bend ov  
ðe rīver belo Karse. Sōlitare marʒ-land stretʒt on iðer  
sīd az far az ðe i mīt rētʒ, wið klumps ov wīlo and  
rēr hōmstedz ʒoiŋ abuv ðe flats. Norpword abuv ðe  
bend a bluf ov land fel ʒarple too ðe elbo ov ðe rīver,  
and on ðe ūðer sīd slōpt dʒentle awa for a fu mīlz til  
it lost itself in ðe ded lēvel ov ðe marʒez. On ðe  
sūðern fās ov ðe bluf, monstrʒs az a mʒntān in ðōz  
lo sedʒ-landz, huŋ skwēr and blak ðe fortres ov Karse.  
It wōz bilt ov blak marbel, ruf-hūn and unpōlīʒt, ðe  
ʒtwerks enkloziŋ mēne akerz. An ĩner wōl wið a tʒer at  
ētʒ korner formd ðe mān stronʒhōld, in ðe sʒp-west  
korner ov hwiʒt wōz ðe pālās, overhāŋij ðe rīver. And on  
ðe sʒp-west korner ov ðe pālās, tʒerij ʒēr from ðe  
wōterz edʒ sēvente kubits and mœr too ðe bātelments, stōd  
ðe kēp, a rʒnd tʒer līnd wið ĩrn, bariŋ on ðe korbel  
tabel benēp its pārapet in vareij form and untōld repetīʒon  
ðe skulptʒūrd ʒīgūr ov ðe krab ov Witʒland. Ðe ʒter word  
ov ðe fortres wōz dark wið sīpres trēz: blak flāmz  
berniŋ tʒāndʒlesle too hēven from a bīloe se ov glōom.  
Ēst ov ðe kēp wōz ðe wōter-gāt, and besīd it a bridʒ and  
bridʒ-hʒs akros ðe rīver, stronʒle fortifið wið tūrets  
and matʒikolaʒonz and komānded from on hi bi ðe  
bātelments ov ðe kēp. Dizmal and fērsom too vu wōz ðis  
stronʒ plās ov Karse, mōst līk too ðe embōdēd sōl ov  
dredʒul nīt brœdiŋ on ðe wōterz ov ðat slūgiʒ rīver:  
bi da a ʒādo in brōd sunʒīn, ðe līknes ov pītiles  
violens sītiŋ in ðe plās ov pʒer, darkeniŋ ðe  
dezolaʒon ov ðe mœrnʒul fen; bi nīt, a blaknes mœr  
blak ðan nīt herself.

Nʒ wōz ðe ʒip mād fāst nēr ðe wōter-gāt, and ðe lordz  
ov Witʒland landed and ðēr fitiŋ men, and ðe gāt opend  
too ðem, and mœrnʒwōle ða enterd in and klīmd ðe stēp  
asent too ðe pālās, bariŋ wið ðem ðēr sad berden ov ðe  
Kiŋ. And in ðe grāt hōl in Karse wōz Gorīs 11. lād in  
stāt for ðat nīt; and ðe da wœr too its klōz. Nor wōz  
ēne werd from Kiŋ Gorīs 12.

But hven ðe ʒādz ov nīt wer fōliŋ, ðēr kām a  
tʒāamberlān too Lord Gro az he wōkt ūpon ðe tērās wiðʒt



ðe western wôl ov ðe pālās; and ðe tƒāंबरlān sed, "Mi lord, ðe Kiŋ bidz u atend him in ðe Īrn TĦer, and he tƒardzeþ u briŋ untō him ðe rƒal krĦn ov Witƒland."

Gro mād hāst tō ƒulfil ðe bīdiŋ ov ðe Kiŋ, and betŋk himself tō ðe grāt bankwetiŋ hōl, and ôl reverentle he lifted ðe ĩrn krĦn ov Witƒland set þik wið pīsles dzemz, and went bi a wīndiŋ stēr tō ðe tĦer, and ðe tƒāंबरlān went befœr him. Hven ða wer kum tō ðe ferst landiŋ, ðe tƒāंबरlān nokt on a māsīv dœr ðat wōz forþwiþ opend bi a gard; and ðe tƒāंबरlān sed, "Mi lord, it iz ðe Kiŋz wil ðat u atend hiz madzeste in hiz sēkret tƒāंबर at ðe top ov ðe tĦer." And Gro marveld, for nun had enterd ðat tƒāंबर for mēne yēr. Loŋ ago had Gorīs 7. praktīst forbīden arts ðarin, and fōk sed

ðat in ðat tƒāंबर he rāzd up ðōz spīrits hŷerbi he gat hiz bān. Sīðens wōz ðe tƒāंबर sēld, nor had ðe lāt Kiŋz nēd ov it, sins lītel fāþ ða plāst in art madzikal, reliiŋ rāðer on ðe mīt ov ðēr handz and ðe sœrd ov Witƒland. But Gro wōz glad at hart, for ðe openiŋ ov ðis tƒāंबर bi ðe Kiŋ met hiz dezīnz hāf wa.

Fērlesle he mĦnted ðe wīndiŋ stērz ðat wer duske wið ðe ƒādōz ov aprōtƒiŋ nīt and huŋ wið kobwebz and strūn wið ðe dust ov neglekt, until he kām tō ðe smōl lo dœr ov ðat tƒāंबर, and pōziŋ nokt ðaron and harkend for ðe ānsēr.

And wun sed from wīðin, "Hō nōkeþ?" and Gro ānserd, "Lord, it iz I, Gro." And ðe bolts wer drōn and ðe dœr opend, and ðe Kiŋ sed, "Enter." And Gro enterd and stōd in ðe prēzens ov ðe Kiŋ.

NĦ ðe ƒāfon ov ðe tƒāंबर wōz ðat it wōz rĦnd, ƒiŋ ðe hŷl spās ov ðe lofteest flœr ov ðe rĦnd dondzon kēþ. It wōz nĦ gāðeriŋ dusk, and wēk twilīt ōnle enterd þrō ðe dēp embrazūr z ov ðe windōz ðat pērst ðe wōlz ov ðe tĦer, lŷkiŋ tō ðe fœr kworterz ov ðe hēvenz. A fernās gloiŋ in ðe big harþ þru ƒitfōl glēmz intō ðe resesez ov ðe tƒāंबर, litiŋ up strāndz ƒāps ov glās and erpenwēr, flāsk and retorts, bālansez, ŷr-glāsez, krusibelz and astrolābz, a monstrōs þre-nekt alembik ov fosforēsant glās supœrted on a bān-mare, and ŷðer instruments ov dĦtƒōl and unlōfōl aspekt. Under ðe norðern windo over agānst ðe dœrwa wōz a māsīv tabel blākend wið ādz, hvaron la grāt bŷks bĦnd in blak lēðer wið ĩrn gardz and hēve padloks. And in a mite tƒēr besīd ðis tabel wōz Kiŋ Gorīs 12., rōbd in hiz kundzuriŋ rōb ov blak and gōld, restiŋ hiz tƒĕk on hiz hand ðat wōz lēn az an egelz klō. ðe lo līt, mŷðer ov ƒād and sēkrese, ðat hōverd in ðat tƒāंबर mōvd

abŕt ðe stil fīgūr ov ðe Kiŕ, hiz nōz hŕkt az ðe  
egelz bēk, hiz kroit hēr, hiz þik klōs-kut bērd and  
ſaven ūper lip, hiz hi tſĕk-bōnz and kruel hēve dʒō, and  
ðe dark ēvz ov hiz brŕz huens ðe glint ov grēn īz  
fōd az no frendle lamp tō ðem wiðŕt. ðe dær fut  
nqzlesle, and Gro stōd befær ðe Kiŕ. ðe dusk depend,  
and ðe firſit pulst and blinkt in ðat dred tſāmber, and  
ðe Kiŕ lēnd wiðŕt moſon on hiz hand, bendiŕ hiz brŕ on  
Gro; and ðēr wōz ūter silens sāv for ðe fānt per ov ðe  
fernās.

In a huīl ðe Kiŕ sed, "I sent for ðe, bekōz ðŕ alōn  
wōst so harde az tō erdʒ tō ðe ūtermōst ði kŕnsel ūpon ðe  
Kiŕ ðat iz nŕ ded, Gorīs 11. ov mēmōre ēver glœereŕs. And  
bekōz ði kŕnsel wōz gud. Marvelst ðŕ ðat I wist ov  
ði kŕnsel?"

Gro sed, "O mi Lord ðe Kiŕ, I marvel not ov ðis. For it iz  
nōn tō me ðat ðe sōl endʒureþ, ōlbeit ðe bōde pĕrif."

"Kĕp ðŕ ði lips from overspĕtſ," sed ðe Kiŕ. "Ðēz be  
misterēz huaron but tō þink ma snatſ ðe intō pĕril, and  
huoso spekeþ ov ðem, ðo in so sĕkret a plās az ðis,  
and wið me ōnle, yet at hiz mōst bīter pĕril spekeþ he."

Gro ānserd, "O Kiŕ, I spāk not lītle; mærover, u did  
tempt me bi yor kwestſoniŕ. Nĕverðeles I am ūterle  
obĕdʒent tō yor madʒestēz admonīſon."

ðe Kiŕ rōz from hiz tſĕr and wōkt tōwordz Gro, slole. He  
wōz eksediŕ tōl, and lēn az a starvd kormorant. Laiŕ hiz  
handz ūpon ðe fōlderz ov Gro, and bendiŕ hiz fās tō Grōz,  
"Art not afĕrd," he āskt, "tō abīd me in ðis tſāmber, at  
ðe klōz ov da? Or hast not þōt ont, and on ðēz  
instruments ðŕ sĕst, ðēr ūs and perpōs, and ðe ānfent  
ūs ov ðis tſāmber?"

Gro blentſt nĕver a huīt, but stŕtle sed, "I am not afĕrd,  
O mi Lord ðe Kiŕ, but rāðer rĕdʒqst I at yor sūmonz. For  
it dʒumpeþ wið mīn ōn dezīnz, hven I tŕk kŕnsel sĕkretle  
in mi hart āfter ðe wōz ðat ðe Fāts fŕlfild for  
Witſland in ðe Foleot Īlz. For in ðat da, O Kiŕ, hven I  
beheld ðe līt ov Witſland darkend and her mīt abated in  
ðe fōl ov Kiŕ Gorīs 11. ov glœereŕs mēmōre, I þōt on  
u, Lord, ðe twelfþ Gorīs rāzd up Kiŕ in Karse; and  
ðēr wōz prĕzent tō mi mīnd ðe werd ov ðe soþsaer ov ōld,  
huēr he sīŕeþ:

*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 bein̄ mīnded ðat he singleþ ȝt u, ðe twelfþ, az  
potent in grām̄are, ôl mi kêr wôz ðat ðēz Demonz ƿud  
be detānd wiðin rētf ov yor spelz until we ƿud hav  
tīm tō win hōm tō u and tō aprīz u ov ðēr fariņz,  
ðat so u mīt ƿut færþ yor p̄ler and destr̄q ðem bi art  
madz̄ik or ēver ða kum sāf agān tō mēne-m̄htānd  
Demonland."

Ðe Kiņ tok Gro tō hiz b̄zom and kist him, saiņ, "Art  
ð̄l not a vēre d̄zuel ov wizdom and diskrēfon? Let me embrās  
ðe and luv ðe for ēver."

Ðen ðe Kiņ st̄ud bak from him, kepiņ hiz handz on Grōz  
fōlderz, and gāzd p̄ersin̄le ūpon him for a spās in  
silens. Ðen kindeld he a taper ðat st̄ud in an īrn  
kandelstik bi ðe tabel huēr ðe b̄uks la, and held it tō  
Grōz fās. And ðe Kiņ sed, "I, wīz ð̄l art and ov gud  
diskrēfon, and sum kūrād̄z hast ð̄l. But if ð̄l be tō serv  
me ðis nīt, nēdz must I tri ðe ferst wið t̄erorz til  
ð̄l be inūrd tō ðem, az trīd gōld rūnep in ðe krusibel;  
or if ð̄l be bās mētal ōnle, til ðat ð̄l be eten up bi  
ðem."

Gro sed untō ðe Kiņ, "For mēne yērz, Lord, or ēver I kām  
tō Karse, I fērd up and d̄l̄n ðe werld, and I am akwānted  
wið obd̄zekts ov t̄eror az a t̄fīld wið hiz tqz. I hav sēn in  
ðe sūðern sēz, bi ðe līt ov Akernar and Kanopus, d̄ziant  
se-horsez batliņ wið āt-lēged k̄utel-fīfez in ðe  
huerl̄p̄oolz ov ðe Korf. Yet wōz I ūnafrād. I wōz in ðe īl  
Zonā h̄en ðe ferst ov ðe pit brast færþ in ðat īl and  
split it az a manz skul iz split wið an aks, and ðe grēn  
gulfs ov ðe se swōlōd ðat īl, and ðe stentf and ðe  
stēm huņ in ðe êr for dāz huēr ðe berniņ rok and erp  
had sizeld in ðe ofan. Yet wōz I ūnafrād. Ōlso wōz I wið  
Gazlark in ðe flīt ȝt ov Zād̄ze Zakulo, h̄en ðe Goolz tok  
ðe pālās over ȝr hedz, and p̄ertents wōkt in hiz hōlz in  
brōd dalīt, and ðe Goolz kundzūrd ðe sun ȝt ov hēven.  
Yet wōz I ūnafrād. And for þerte dāz and þerte nīts  
wōnderd I alōn on ðe fās ov ðe Morunā in Ūper Impland,  
huēr skērs a līviņ sōl hap bēn: and ðēr ðe evil wīts  
ðat pepel ðe êr ov ðat d̄ezert dogd mi steps and d̄zīberd  
at me in darknes. Yet wōz I ūnafrād; and kām in d̄zu tīm tō  
Mornā Morunā, and ðens, standiņ on ðe lip ov ðe eskarpment

az it wer on ðe edz ov ðe werld, lukt sǫpawa huēr  
nēver mortal i had gāzd afærtīm, akros ðe untrōden  
forests ov ðe Bhavinan. And in ðat skie distans,  
pre-ēminent beƿond rāndz on rāndz ov īs-rōbd mǫntānz, I  
beheld tō pēks þrōnd for ēver betwēn ferm land and hēven  
in ūnerple luvlines: ðe spīrz and are ridzev ov Koftrā  
Pivraxā, and ðe wīld prēsipisez ðat sœr upword from ðe  
abīsez tō ðe kwēnle silent sno-dōm ov Koftrā Belorn."

Hven Gro had ended, ðe Kiŋ ternd him awa and, takiŋ from a  
felf a retort fild wið a dark blu fluid, set it on a  
bān-mare, and a lamp ðarunder. Fūmz ov a fānt perpel hu  
kām fœrþ from ðe nek ov ðe retort, and ðe Kiŋ gǫðerd  
ðem in a flāsk. He mād sīnz over ðe flāsk and Jŭk fœrþ  
intō hiz hand ðērfrom a fīn pǫder. Ðen sed he untō Gro,  
hōldiŋ ƿt ðe pǫder in ðe open pālm ov hiz hand, "Lŭk  
nārole at ðis pǫder." And Gro lukt. Ðe Kiŋ mŭterd an  
inkantafon, and ðe pǫder mœvd and hēvd, and wōz līk a  
krōliŋ mas ov tƿēzmīts in an overīp tƿēz. It  
inkrēst in vōlūm in ðe Kiŋz hand, and Gro persēvd ðat  
ētƿ partīkular grān had legz. Ðe grānz gru befœr hiz  
īz, and bekām ðe sīz ov mustard sēdz, and ðen ov  
barlekornz, swiftle krōliŋ ētƿ over ūðer. And even az he  
marveld, ða wakst grāt az kidne bēnz, and nƿ wōz ðēr  
fāp and semiŋ klēr tō him, so ðat he beheld ðat ða  
wer smōl frogz and pādoks; and ða overflōd from ðe  
Kiŋz hand az ða wakst swiftle in sīz, pœriŋ on tō ðe  
flœr. And ða sēst not tō inkrēs and gro; and nƿ wer  
ða lardz az lītel dogz, nor mīt ðe Kiŋ retān mœr ðan  
a singel wun, hōldiŋ hiz hand under its bēle huīl it wāvd  
its legz in ðe ēr; and ða wer wōkiŋ on ðe tabelz and  
dzosliŋ on ðe flœr. Pālid ða wer, and permeabel tō līt  
līk þin horn, and ðēr hu a fānt perpel, even az ðe hu  
ov ðe vapor huens ða wer endzenderd. And nƿ wōz ðe rōom  
fild wið ðem so ðat ða mǫnted perfors wun on anŭðerz  
fōlderz, and ða wer ov ðe bignes ov wel fāted hogz;  
and ða gōgeld ðēr īz at Gro and krōkt. Ðe Kiŋ lukt  
nārole on Gro, huō stŭd in ðe prēzens ov ðat spektakel,  
ðe krŭn ov Witfland in hiz handz; and ðe Kiŋ markt ðat  
ðe krŭn trembeld not a huīt in Grōz handz ðat held it. So  
he sed a sertān werd, and ðe pādoks and ðe frogz gru  
smōl agān, frinkiŋ mœr swiftle ðan ða had grōn, and so  
vāniƿt.

Ðe Kiŋ nƿ tuk from ðe felf a bōl ðe sīz ov ðe eg ov  
an estridz, ov dark grēn glās. He sed untō Gro, "Lŭk wel  
at ðis glās and tel me huōt ðƿ sēst." Gro ānserd him,  
"I se a fīftiŋ fādo wīðin." Ðe Kiŋ komāded him  
saiŋ, "Daƿ it dƿn wið ōl ði streŋþ ūpon ðe flœr."  
Ðe Lord Gro lifted ðe bōl wið bōþ handz abuv hiz hed,

and it wōz ponderōs az a bōl ov led, and akordinȝ tō ðe komānd ov Gorīs ðe Kiȝ he herld it on ðe flōer, so ðat it wōz paȝt in pesez. And, behōld, a puf ov þik smōk berst fōerþ from ðe fragments ov ðe bōl and tȝk ðe form ov wun ov human fāp and dredfōl aspekt, hƿoz tō legz wer tō riðinȝ snāks; and it stōd in ðe tƿāber so tōl ðat ðe hed ov it tutȝt ðe vōlted selinȝ, vuiȝ ðe Kiȝ and Gro malēvolentle and mēnasiȝ ðem. Ðe Kiȝ kōt dȝn a sœrd ðat huȝ agānst ðe wōl, and pȝt it in Grōz hand, fȝtinȝ, "Smīt of ðe legz ov it! and dela not, or ðȝ art but ded!" Gro smōt and kut of ðe left leg ov ðe evil wīt, ezile, az it wer kūtȝ ov būter. But from ðe stump kām fōerþ tō freȝ snāks a-riðinȝ; and so it fērd līkwīz wið ðe rīt leg, but ðe Kiȝ fȝted, "Smīt and sēs not, or ðȝ art but a ded dog!" and ēver az Gro hūd a snāk in twān fōerþ kām tō mœr from ðe wœnd, til ðe tƿāber wōz a māz ov ðēr riglinȝ formz. And stil Gro hūd wið a wil, until ðe swet stōd on hiz brȝ, and he sed, pantȝ betwēn ðe strōks, "O Kiȝ, I hav mād him mēne-lēged az a sentipēd: must I māk him a mīreapod ēr nīts deklīn?" And ðe Kiȝ smīld, and spāk a werd ov hīden meniȝ; and ðērwið ðe termȝl wōz gon az a gust ov wind departeȝ, and nōt left sāv ðe fīverd splinterz ov ðe grēn bōl on ðe tƿāber flōer.

"Wōst not afērd?" āskt ðe Kiȝ, and hven Gro sed na, "Mēþinks ðēz sīts ov tēror fȝd mutȝ aflīkt ðe," sed ðe Kiȝ, "sins wel I no ðȝ art not skild in art madȝikal."

"Yet am I a filōsofer," ānserd Lord Gro; "and sumhuōt no I ov alkime and ðe hīden prōpertēz ov ðis matereal werld: ðe vertȝūz ov herbz, plānts, stōnz, and mīneralz, ðe wāz ov ðe starz in ðēr kœrsez, and ðe influensez ov ðōz hēvenle bōdēz. And I hav held konvers wið berdȝ and fīȝez in ðēr degre, and ðat dȝgeneraȝon hviȝ krepeȝ on ðe erȝ iz not held in skorn bi me, but oft tōk I in swēt kompanȝonȝip wið ðe eft ov ðe pond, and ðe glo-werm, and ðe lade-berd, and ðe pizmīr, and ðēr kīnd, makinȝ ðem mi lītēl gōsips. So hav I a sertān lœr hviȝ liteȝ me in ðe ȝter kœrt ov ðe sēkret tempel ov grāmāre and art forbid, ōlbeit I hav not pērd wīðin ðat tempel. And bi mi filōsofe, O Kiȝ, I am sertifiȝd konsernȝ ðēz aparȝsonȝ hviȝ u hav rāzd for me, ðat ða be iluzonz and fantazmȝ ōnle, abel tō tēriȝ ðe sōl indēd ov him ðat noep not divīn filōsofe, but wīðȝt bōdile pȝer or ēsens. Nor iz ōt tō fēr in sutȝ, sāv ðe fēr itself hvērwið ða strīk ðe simpel."

Ðen sed ðe Kiȝ, "Bi huōt token nōst ðȝ ðis?"

And ðe Lord Gro mād ânsere unt∞ him, "O Kiŋ, az a tƿīld weveþ a daze-tƿān, ðus ezile did u kundzūr up ðēz ƿāps ov tēror. Not in sutƿ wīz fareþ he ðat kōleþ ƿt ov ðe dēþ ðe dedle tēror indēd; but wið tƿl and swet and wið straniŋ ov þōt, wil, hart, and sīnu fareþ he."

Ðe Kiŋ smīld. "Ðʒ sāst tru. Nʒ, ðērfœr, sins fantazmagoreā makeþ not ði hart t∞ kwāl, I prezent ðe a mœr matereal horor."

And he lited ðe kandelz in ðe grāt kandelstiks ov īrn and opend a lītel sēkret dœr in ðe wōl ov ðe tƿāmbere nēr ðe flœr; and Gro beheld īrn barz wīðin ðe lītel dœr, and herd a hīsīŋ from behīnd ðe barz. Ðe Kiŋ tƿk a ke ov silver ov dēlikāt konstrukƿon, ðe handel slender and þre spanz in lenþ, and opend ðe īrn grated dœr. And ðe Kiŋ sed, "Behōld and se, ðat hƿitƿ spruŋ from ðe eg ov a kok, hatƿt bi ðe def āder. Ðe glāns ov its i sufiseþ t∞ tern t∞ stōn ēne līviŋ þiŋ ðat standeþ beƿœr it. Wer I but for wun instant t∞ loos mi spelz hƿērbi I hōld it in subdzekƿon, in ðat moment wūd end mi līf dāz and ðīn. So stroŋ in þrōpertēz ov il iz ðis serpent hƿitƿ ðe ānfent Ēneme ðat dwēleþ in darknes hap plāst ūpon ðis erþ, t∞ be a bān unt∞ ðe tƿīldren ov men, but an instrument ov mīt in ðe hand ov entƿānterz and sorsererz."

Ðērwið kām fœrþ ðat ofsprīŋ ov perđīƿon from its hōl, strūtiŋ erekt on its t∞ legz ðat wer ðe legz ov a kok; and a koks hed it had, wið roze kōm and wōtelz, but ðe fās ov it līk no ƿlīz fās ov mīdel-erþ but rāðer a gorgonz ƿt ov Hel. Blak ƿīniŋ fēðerz gru on its nek, but ðe bōde ov it wōz ðe bōde ov a drāgon wið skālz ðat glīterd in ðe rāz ov ðe kandelz, and a skale krest stōd on its bak; and its wīnz wer līk bats wīnz, and its tāl ðe tāl ov an aspik wið a stiŋ in ðe end ðarov, and from its bēk its forkt tuŋ flīkerd vēnomʒsle. And ðe statƿūr ov ðe þiŋ wōz a lītel abuv a kubit. Nʒ bekōz ov ðe spelz ov Kiŋ Gorīs hƿērbi he held it ensorseld it mīt not kāst its bānƿul glāns ūpon him, nor ūpon Gro, but it wōkt bak and fœrþ in ðe kandel līt, avertiŋ its īz from ðem. Ðe fēðerz on its nek wer fluft up wið anger and wundrʒs swiftele tƿerld its skale tāl, and it hist ēver mœr fērsle, erkt bi ðe bondz ov ðe Kiŋz entƿāntment; and ðe breþ ov it wōz nƿzōm, and huŋ in slūgiƿ rēps abʒt ðe tƿāmbere. So for a hƿīl it wōkt beƿœr ðem, and az it lƿkt sīdloŋ pāst him Gro beheld ðe līt ov its īz ðat wer az sik mœnz bernīŋ pƿzōnʒsle þrœ a mist ov grenīƿ yēlo in ðe dusk ov nīt. And stroŋ loðīŋ sēzd him, so ðat hiz gordz rōz t∞ behōld ðe þiŋ, and hiz

br̥ and ðe pālmz ov hiz handz bekām klāme, and he sed, "Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, I hav lukt stedfāstle on ðis kōkatrīs and it afriteþ me no hwiit, but it iz lōþle in mi sīt, so ðat mi gordz rizeþ bekōz ov it," and wið ðat he fel a-vōmitiŋ. And ðe Kiŋ komānded ðat serpent bak into its hōl, hwiðer it reternd, hīsŋ rōþfoole.

Nð ðe Kiŋ pærd færþ wīn, spekiŋ a tfarm over ðe kup, and hwen ðe brīt wīn had revīvd Lord Gro, ðe Kiŋ spāk saiŋ, "It iz wel, O Gro, ðat ðð hast fōn ðiself a filōsofer indēd, and ov hart intrēpid. Yet even az no blād iz ūterle trīd until wun tri it in vēre bātel, hwiðer if it snap wo and dōm wāt on ðe hand ðat wēldz it, so must ðð in ðis midnīt sūfer a yet fērser fernās-hēt ov tēror, hwarin if ðð be rēdzūst we ar bōþ lost eternale, and ðis Karse and ôl Witfland blāsted wið us for ēver in ruin and oblīveon. Derst abīd ðis trial?"

Gro ānserd, "I am hot too oba yor werd, O Kiŋ. For wel no I ðat it iz idel too hōþ bi fantomz and iluzonz too apōl ðe Demonz, and ðat agānst ðe Demonz ðe dedle i ov ði kōkatrīs wer ternd in vān. Stl̥t ov hart ar ða, and instruktet in ôl lœr, and Dzus a sorserer ov ānfent pðer, huð hap tfarmz too blunt ðe glāns ov bāzilisk or kōkatrīs. He ðat wud strīk dðn ðe Demonz must kundzūr indēd."

"Grāt," sed ðe Kiŋ, "iz ðe strenþ and kūniŋ ov ðe sēd ov Demonland. Bi mān strenþ hav ða nð fōn māstere over us, az sadle witneseþ ðe overþro ov Gorīs 11., gānst huðm no mortal kūd stand up and rāsel and not di, til kerst Gōldre, drunk wið splēn and enve, slu him in ðe Foleot Īlz. Nor wōz ðer ēne afœrtīm too l̥tdō us in fēts ov armz, and Gorīs 10., viktœreðs in singel kombats wīððt number, mād l̥r nām glœereðs over ôl ðe werld. Yet at ðe lāst he gat hiz dēþ, l̥t ov ôl ekspektafon and bi huðt tretferðs slīt I no not, standiŋ in singel kombat agānst ðe kerld step-dānser from Krōðeriŋ. But I, ðat am skild in grāmare, dō bēr a miteer endzīn agānst ðe Demonz ðan brōne sīnūz or ðe scœrd ðat smiteþ asunder. Yet iz mīn endzīn pērilðs too him ðat uzeþ it."

Ðerwið ðe Kiŋ unlukt ðe gratest ov ðōz b̥ks ðat la bi on ðe māsiv tabel, saiŋ in Grōz ēr, az wun huð wud not be overherd, "Ðis iz ðat ôfol b̥k ov grāmare hwiðer in ðis sām t̥fāmber, on sutf a nīt, Gorīs 7. sterd ðe vāste dēþ. And no ðat from ðis serkumstāns alōn ensūd ðe ruin ov Kiŋ Gorīs 7., in ðat, hāviŋ bi hiz hēlif siens kundzūrd up sumhuðt from ðe primeval

dark, and beiŋ ūterle fordun wið ðe swet and stres ov  
hiz kundzuriŋ, hiz mīnd wōz klīdded for a moment, in sutŋ sort  
ðat iðer he forgot ðe werdz rit in ðis grāmare, or ðe  
pādŋ hvaron ða wer rit, or spētŋ fāld him tō spēk  
ðōz werdz ðat must be spoken, or mīt tō dō ðōz þiŋz  
hvitŋ must be dun tō komplēt ðe tŋarm. Hūêrfœer he kept not  
hiz pðer over ðat hvitŋ he had kōld ʒt ov ðe dēp, but it  
ternd ūpon him and tēr him lim from lim. Sutŋ līk dōom  
wil l avqđ, renuiŋ in ðēz lāter dāz ðōz self-sām  
spelz, if ðʒ derst stand bi me undismād ðe hūl l ūter  
mi inkantaŋonz. And fōdst ðʒ mark me fāl or waver êr  
ôl be akumplift, ðen falt ðiself la hand on buk and  
krusibel and fūfil hvōtsoëvev iz nēdfūl, az l fal ferst  
fo ðe. Or kwālŋt ðʒ at ðis?"

Gro sed, "Lord, fo me mi tāsŋ. And l wil käre it, ðo  
ôl ðe Furēz ov ðe pit flok tō ðis tŋāmbær tō sa me na."

So ðe Kiŋ instruktet Gro, rehersiŋ tō him ðōz akts ðat  
wer nēdfūl, and makiŋ nōn untō him ðe diverz pādŋez ov ðe  
grāmare hvaron wer rit ðōz werdz hvitŋ must be spoken  
ētŋ in its dŋu tīm and sēkwens. But ðe Kiŋ pronʒnst not  
yet ðōz werdz, pŋŋtiŋ ōnle tō ðem in ðe buk, for hōso  
spekeþ ðōz werdz in vān and ʒt ov sezon iz lost. And nʒ  
hven ðe retorts and bekerz wið ðêr sēveral neks and tŋūbz  
and ðe apertenanseŋ ðarov wer set in order, and ðe  
unhālōd proseseŋ ov fiksaŋon, kondŋunkŋon, deflagraŋon,  
putrefakŋon, and rubefikaŋon wer neriŋ matŋurite, and ðe  
bālfūl star Antarēz standiŋ bi ðe astrolāb wiðin a lītēl  
ov ðe meridŋan signifiđ ðe instant aprōtŋ ov midnīt, ðe  
Kiŋ deskribd on ðe flœer wið hiz kundzuriŋ rod þre  
pentakelz inklōzd wiðin a sēven-pŋnted star, wið ðe sīnz  
ov Kanser and ov Skorpeo dŋŋnd bi sertān rūnz. And in ðe  
midst ov ðe star he limd ðe īmādŋ ov a grēn krab etiŋ ov  
ðe sun. And terniŋ tō ðe sēvente-þerd pādŋ ov hiz grāt  
blak grāmare ðe Kiŋ resited in a mite vŋŋ werdz ov  
hīden meniŋ, kōliŋ on ðe nām ðat it iz a sin tō ūter.

Nʒ hven he had spoken ðe ferst spel and wōz silent, ðêr  
wōz a dedle kwiet in ðat tŋāmbær, and a tŋil in ðe êr az  
ov winter. And in ðe kwiet Gro herd ðe Kiŋz breþ kūmiŋ  
and goiŋ, az ov wun hō hap rōd a kœers. Nʒ ðe blud  
ruft bak tō Grōz hart and hiz handz and fēt bekām kōld  
and a kōld swet brāk fœrþ on hiz brʒ. But for ôl ðat, he  
held yet hiz kūrādŋ ferm and hiz brān rēde. ðe Kiŋ  
moŋond tō Gro tō brāk of ðe tāl ov a sertān drop ov  
blak glās ðat la on ðe tabel; and wið ðe snāpiŋ ov its  
tāl ðe hūl drop fel in pesez in a kœers blak pðder.  
Gro bi ðe Kiŋz direkŋon gāðerd ðat pðder and dropt it



in ðe grāt alembik hvarin a grēn fluid sēōd and būbeld abuv ðe flām ov a lamp; and ðe fluid bekām red az blud, and ðe böde ov ðe alembik fild wið a tōne smōk, and sparks ov sun-līk brīleans flaft and krākeld þrō ðe smōk. Ðarūpon distild from ðe nek ov ðe alembik a hūit qļ inkombustibel, and ðe Kiņ dipt hiz rod in ðat qļ and deskribd rōnd ðe sēven-pqnted star on ðe flær ðe fīgūr ov ðe werm Ooroboros, ðat etep hiz ōn tāl. And he rōt ðe formulā ov ðe krab belo ðe serkel, and spāk hiz sēkond spel.

Hven ðat wōz dun, yet mæc bitij sēmd ðe nīt êr and yet mæc līk ðe grāv ðe stilnes ov ðe tġamber. Ðe Kiņz hand fuk az wið an agu az he ternd ðe pādgez ov ðe mite buk. Grōz tēþ tġāterd in hiz hed. He grīted ðem tūgēðer and wated. And nŃ þrō ēvere windo kām a līt intō ðe tġamber az ov skīz paliņ tō ðe dōn. Yet not hvole so; for nēver yet kām dōn at midnīt, nor from ōl fœc kworterz ov ðe ski at wuns, nor wið sutġ swift strīdz ov inkresij līt, nor wið a līt so gāstle. Ðe kandel flāmz Bernd filme az ðe glēr wakst stroņ from wīðŃt: an evil pālid līt ov bāl and korupġon, hvarin ðe handz and fasez ov ðe Kiņ Gorīs and hiz disipel fōd deþ-pāl, and ðēr lips blak az ðe dark skin ov a grāp hvēr ðe blōm haz bēn rubd of from it. Ðe Kiņ krīd tērible, "Ðe ūr aprōtġep!" And he tōk a fial ov kristal kontaniņ a dekokġon ov wōlfs dġēle and salamanderz blud, and dropt sēven drops from ðe alembik intō ðe fial and pœrd fœrþ ðat līkor on ðe fīgūr ov ðe krab drōn on ðe flær. Gro lēnd agānst ðe wōl, wēk in böde but wið wil unbŃd. So bīter wōz ðe kōld ðat hiz handz and fēt wer benumd, and ðe līkor from ðe fial kondzēld hvēr it fel. Yet ðe swet stūd in bēdz on ðe fœrhed ov ðe Kiņ bi rezon ov ðe mite striviņ ðat wōz hiz, and in ðe overþēriņ glēr ov ðat līt from ðe undersīdz he stūd stif and erek, handz klentġt and armz ūstretġt, and spāk ðe werdz *LURO VOPO VIR VOARCHADUMIA*.

NŃ wið ðōz werdz spoken ðe vīvid līt departed az a blōn-Ńt lamp, and ðe midnīt klōzd dŃn agān wīðŃt. Nor wōz ēne sŃnd herd sāv ðe þik pantiņ ov ðe Kiņ; but it wōz az if ðe nīt held its breþ in ekspektaġon ov ðat hūitġ wōz tō kum. And ðe kandelz spūterd and Bernd blu. Ðe Kiņ swād and klutġt ðe tabel wið hiz left hand; and agān ðe Kiņ pronŃnst tērible ðe werd *VOARCHADUMIA*.

Ðarāfter for ðe spās ov ten hart-bēts silens huņ līk a kestrel pqzd in ðe līseniņ nīt. Ðen went a kraġ þrō erþ and hēven, and a blīndiņ wildfīr þrō ðe tġamber az it had bēn a þunderbolt. Ōl Karse kwākt, and ðe

tjāamber wōz fild wið a betiņ ov wiņz, līk ðe wiņz ov sum monstrōs berd. Ðe êr ðat wōz wintre kōld wakst on a sūden hot az ðe breþ ov a berniņ młntān, and Gro wōz nēr tjokiņ wið ðe smel ov sūt and ðe smel ov brimstōn. And ðe tjāamber rokt az a fip ridiņ in a swel wið ðe wind agānst ðe tīd. But ðe Kiņ, stēdein himself agānst ðe tabel and klutfiņ ðe edz ov it til ðe vānz on hiz lēn hand sēmd ni tō berstiņ, krīd in fort breþs and wið an ôlterd vq̄s, "Bi ðēz fīgūrz drōn and bi ðēz spelz entfānted, bi ðe unkfōn ov wōlf and salamander, bi ðe unblest sīn ov Kanser nł leniņ tō ðe sun, and bi ðe fire hart ov Skorpeo ðat flameþ in ðis ȝr on nīts meridzan, ðł art mi þrōl and instrument. Abās ðe and serv me, werm ov ðe pit. Els wil I bi and bi sūmon ȝt ov ānfent nīt intēlīdzensez and dominafōnz miteer far ðan ðł, and ða fal serv mīn endz, and ðe fal ða tjān wið tjānz ov kwentfles fīr and drag ðe from torment tō torment þrō ðe dēp."

Ðērwið ðe erþkwāk wōz stild, and ðēr remānd but a kwīveriņ ov ðe wōlz and flōer and ðe wind ov ðōz unsēn wiņz and ðe hot smel ov sūt and brimstōn berniņ. And spētj kām ȝt ov ðe temiņ êr ov ðat tjāamber, strāndzle swēt, saiņ, "Akerst retj ðat trublst ȝr kwiet, huôt iz ði wil?" Ðe tēror ov ðat spētj māð ðe þrōt ov Gro dri, and ðe hērz on hiz skalp stōd up.

Ðe Kiņ trembeld in ôl hiz memberz līk a fritend hors, yet wōz hiz vq̄s lēvel and hiz kłntenans unrūfeld az he sed hōersle, "Mīn ēnemēz sāl at da-brāk from ðe Foleot Īlz. I lōs ðe agānst ðem az a fōlkon from mi rist. I giv ðe ðem. Tern ðem tō ði wil: hł or huēr it skilz not, so ðł dō but brāk and destrq̄ ðem of ðe fās ov ðe world. Awa!"

But nł wōz ðe Kiņz endzurans klēn spent, so ðat hiz nēz fāld him and he sank līk a sik man intō hiz mite tjēr. But ðe rōom wōz fild wið a tjumult az ov rūfiņ wōterz, and a lāfter abuv ðe tjumult līk tō ðe lāfter ov sōlz kondemd. And ðe Kiņ wōz remīnded ðat he had left unspoken ðat werd huītj fōd dismis hiz sendiņ. But tō sutj werines wōz he nł kum and so ūterle wōz hiz streņþ gon ȝt from him in ðe eksersīz ov hiz spelz, ðat hiz tuņ klāv tō ðe rōof ov hiz młþ, so ðat he mīt not spēk ðe werd; and horrible he rōld up ðe huīts ov hiz ĩz bēkoniņ tō Gro, ðe huīl hiz nervles fingerz sōt tō tern ðe hēve pādzev ov ðe grāmare. Ðen sprāņ Gro fōerþ tō ðe tabel, and agānst it sprōliņ, for nł wōz ðe grāt kēp ov Karse faken anu az wun Jakeþ a dīs boks, and lītniņz

opend ðe hēvenz, and ðe þunder rærd unsesinle, and ðe sǫnd ov wōterz stund ðe ēr in ðat tǫamber, and stil ðat lâfter pēld abuv ðe termǫl. And Gro nu ðat it wōz nǫ wið ðe Kiŋ even az it had bēn wið Gorīs 7. in yērz

gon bi, hven hiz strenþ gāv færþ and ðe spīrit tēr him and plāsterd ðōz tǫamber-wōlz wið hiz blud. Yet wōz Gro mīndfōl, even in ðat hidzǫs storm ov tēror, ov ðe nīnte-sēvenþ pādʒ hvaron ðe Kiŋ had fōn him ðe werd ov dismīsal, and he rentft ðe bŭk from ðe Kiŋz pōlzēd grāsp and ternd tō ðe pādʒ. Skērs had hiz i fōnd ðe werd, hven a hwerlwind ov hāl and slēt swept into ðe tǫamber, and ðe kandelz wer blōn ǫt and ðe tabelz overset. And in ðe plundziŋ darknes benēþ ðe krāfiŋ ov ðe þunder Gro pitfiŋ hedlon felt klōz klāsp hiz hed and bōde. He krīd in hiz āgone ðe werd, ðat wōz ðe werd *TRIPSARECOPSEM*, and so fel a-swōniŋ.

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It wōz hi nōon hven ðe Lord Gro kām tō hiz sensez in ðat tǫamber. ðe stron sprin sunfīn pærd þrō ðe sūðern windo, litiŋ up ðe rēkādʒ ov ðe nīt. ðe tabelz wer kāst dǫn and ðe flær strūn and splaft wið kostle ēsensez and erþs spilt from fāterd fialz and dʒarz and kāskeets: afrozelmeā, fel ov gōld, safron ov gōld, azem, amīnþ, stiptereā ov Melos, konfōnded wið mandragorā, vinum ardenz, sal armōnyak, devǫriŋ akwā rēdʒā, lītel pōolz and skāterd glōbūlz ov kwiksilver, pǫzonǫs dekokfonz ov tōdstōolz and ov uberēz, munkshŭd, þorn-āpel, wulfs bān and blak hēlebor, kwintēsensez ov drāgonz blud and serpents bīl; and wið ðēz, splaft tŭgēðer and wāsted, elikserz ðat wīz men hav dīd a-dremiŋ ov: spiritus munde, and ðat sōverān alkahest hviŋ dizolveþ ēvere substans dipt ðarin, and ðat orum potabīl hviŋ bein itself perfekt indʒuseþ perfekfon in ðe līviŋ frām. And in ðis welter ov spǫld trēzūr wer ðe grāt kundzuriŋ bŭks herld amid ðe ruin ov retorts and aludelz ov glās and led and silver, sand-bāps, matrased, spatfula, āpanorz, and ūðer instruments inumerabel ov rēr dezīn, tost and broken on ðe tǫamber flær. ðe Kiŋz tǫēr wōz þrōn agānst ðe fernās, and hūdeld agānst ðe tabel la ðe Kiŋ, hiz hed þrōn bak, hiz blak bērd pǫntiŋ skiword, fōiŋ hiz sīnue hare þrōt. Gro lŭkt nārole at him; sō ðat he sēmd unhert and slept dēp; and so, noiŋ wel ðat slēp iz a prēzent rēmede for ēvere il, wōtft bi ðe Kiŋ in silens ōl da til sūper tīm, for ōl he wōz sœr an-hungerd.

Hven at lenþ ðe Kiŋ awōk, he lŭkt abǫt him in amāz.  
"Mēpōt I tript at ðe lâst step ov lâst nīts dʒerne,"

he sed. "And trule strāndz riot hap left its fōtprints in mi tƒāmbēr."

Gro ānserd, "Lord, sœrle wōz I trīd; yet fōlfild I yor behest."

Ɖe Kiŋ lâft az wun hƳoz sōl iz at ēz, and standiŋ ūpon hiz fēt sed untō Gro, "Tāk up Ɖe krŋn ov Witƒland and krŋn me. And Ɖat hi ōnor ƒalt Ɖŋ hav, bekōz I dō luv Ɖe for Ɖis nīt gon bi."

Nŋ wiƉŋt wer Ɖe lordz ov Witƒland asembeld in Ɖe kœrtyard, beiŋ bŋnd for Ɖe grāt bankwetiŋ hōl tō ēt and drink, untō hƳom Ɖe Kiŋ kām fœrƒ from Ɖe gāt belo Ɖe kēp, rōbd in hiz kundzuriŋ rōb. Wundrŋs brīt sparkeld Ɖe dzemz ov Ɖe īrn krŋn ov Witƒland abuv Ɖe hēve brŋ and tƒēkbōnz and Ɖe fērs disdānfōl lip ov Ɖe Kiŋ, az he stōd Ɖēr in hiz madzeste, and Gro wiƉ Ɖe gard ov ōnor stōd in Ɖe ƒādo ov Ɖe gāt. And Ɖe Kiŋ sed, "Mi lordz Korund and Korsus and Korinyus and Gālandus, and ye sunz ov Korsus and ov Korund, and ye ūƉer Witƒez, behōld yor Kiŋ, Ɖe twelfƒ Gorīs, krŋnd wiƉ Ɖis krŋn in Karse tō be Kiŋ ov Witƒland and ov Demonland. And ōl kuntrēz ov Ɖe werld and Ɖe rulerz Ɖarov, so mēne az Ɖe sun duƒ spred hiz bēmz over, ƒal dō me obazans, and kōl me Kiŋ and Lord."

Ōl Ɖa ƒŋted asent, praziŋ Ɖe Kiŋ and bŋiŋ dŋn befœr him.

Ɖen sed Ɖe Kiŋ, "Imadzīn not Ɖat ōps swœrn untō Ɖe Demonz bi Gorīs 11. ov mēmore ēver glœereŋs bīnd me ēne huit.

I wil not be at pēs wiƉ Ɖis Dzus and hiz breƉren, but dō akŋnt Ɖem ōl mīn ēnemēz. And Ɖis nīt hav I mād a sendiŋ tō tāk Ɖem on Ɖe wāst ov wōterz az Ɖa sāl hōmword tō mēne-mŋntānd Demonland."

Korund sed, "Lord, yor werdz ar az wīn untō us. And wel we gest Ɖat Ɖe prinsipālītēz ov darknes wer afōt lāst nīt, seiŋ ōl Karse rokt and Ɖe ƒŋndafonz Ɖarov rōz and fel az Ɖe brest ov Ɖe lardz erƒ a-breƉiŋ."

Hven Ɖa wer kum intō Ɖe bankwetiŋ hōl, Ɖe Kiŋ sed, "Gro ƒal sit at mi rīt hand Ɖis nīt, sins manfœle hap he servd me." And hven Ɖa skŋld at Ɖis, and spāk ētƒ in Ɖe ūƉerz ēr, Ɖe Kiŋ sed, "HƳso amuŋ u ƒal so serv me and so wōter Ɖe grōƒ ov Ɖis Witƒland az hap Gro in Ɖis nīt gon bi, untō him wil I dō līk ōnor." But untō Gro he sed, "I wil briŋ Ɖe hōm tō Goblinland in triumf, Ɖat wentst fœrƒ an eksīl. I wil pluk Gazlark from hiz

þrōn, and māk ðe kiŋ in Zādze Zakulo, and ōl Goblinland  
falt ðð hōld for me in fe, eksersiziŋ dominyon over it."

## 5. Kiŋ Gorisez Sendiŋ

OV KIŊ GAZLARK, AND OV ÐE KŪMIŊ OV ÐE SENDIŊ ŪPON ÐE  
DEMONZ ON ÐE HI SĒZ; WIÐ HŪ ÐE LORD D3US BI ÐE ĒGIŊ  
ON OV HIZ KOMPANYONZ WŌZ PERSWADED TŌ AN UNADVĪZD RAŚNES.

Ðe nekst morniŋ fōloin ðat nīt hven Kiŋ Gorīs 12. sat  
krŷnd in Karse az iz afærsed, wōz Gazlark a-saliŋ on ðe  
mīdel se, hōmword from ðe ēst. Sēven fips ov wor he had,  
and ða stērd in kōlum sŷp-westword klōs hōld on ðe  
starbord tak. Gratest and farest amuŋ ðem wōz fe hu∞ led  
ðe līn, a grāt drāgon ov wor pānted āzūr ov ðe sūmer se  
wið tŷeriŋ hed ov a werm, plated wið gōld and rōt wið  
overlāpiŋ skālz, gapiŋ defians from her bŷz, and a wermz  
tāl erekt at ðe p∞p. Sēvente and fiv pikt men ov  
Goblinland sāld on ðat fip, klad in ga kertelz and bernēz  
ov māl and armd wið aksez, spērz, and sœrdz. Ðēr fēldz,  
ētj wið hiz devīs, huŋ at ðe bŷlworks. On ðe hi p∞p  
sat Kiŋ Gazlark, hiz sterde handz grāspiŋ ðe grāt steriŋ  
pādel. Gŷdle ov meen and wel nit wer ōl ða ov  
Goblinland ðat went on ðat grāt fip, yet did Gazlark ŷtd∞  
ðem ōl in gŷdlines and strenþ and ōl kiŋlines. He wœr  
a silken kertel ov Tirean perpel. Brōd ristlets ov woven gōld  
wer on hiz rists. Dark-skind wōz he az wun ðat hap livd  
ōl hiz dāz in ðe hot sunfīn: klēn-kut ov fētūr,  
sumhŷt hŷke-nōzd, wið grāt īz and hŷt tēþ and  
tīt-kerld blak mustāfeōz. Nōt restfŷl wōz ðēr in hiz  
prezens and bariŋ, but rafnes and impetfŷs fir; and he  
wōz wīld t∞ lŷk on, swift and butifŷl az a stag in ōtum.

Tefmar, ðat wōz ðe skīper ov hiz fip, stŷd at hiz elbo.  
Gazlark sed t∞ him, "Iz it not wun ov ðe þre gālant  
spektakelz ov ðe werld, a gŷd fip trēdiŋ ðe haseniŋ  
fūrōz ov ðe se līk a kwēn in grās and bute, skāteriŋ  
up ðe wāv-krests befœr her stem in a glīteriŋ rān?"

"Ya, Lord," ānserd he; "and hŷt be ðe ŷðer t∞?"

"Wun ðat I mōst unhāpile did mis, hvarov but yesterda we  
had tidiŋz: t∞ behōld sutf a batliŋ ov grāt tjampeonz and  
sutf a viktore az Lord Gōldre obtānd ŷpon yonder vōntiŋ  
tirant."

"Ðe þerd fal be sēn, I þink," sed Tefmar, "hven ðe

Lord Gōldre Bluzko ƒal in yor rǫal pālās ov Zādze Zakulo, amid pomp and hi rēdzǫsiŋ, wed ðe yuŋ prinses yor kūzin: mōst fortŋunāt lord, ðat must be lord ov her hƳom ōl dzust senfūr duǰ aknōledz ðe ornament ov erǰ, ðe mōdel ov hēven, ðe kwēn ov bute."

"Kīnd Godz hasen ðe da," sed Gazlark. "For trule tiz a mōst swēt las, and ðōz kinzmen ov Demonland mi derest frendz. But for hƳoz grāt uphōldiŋ tīm and agān, Teƒmar, in dāz gon bi, hƳēr wer I tōda and mi kiŋdom, and hƳēr ðǰ and ōl ov u?" ðe kiŋz brǰ darkend a lītēl wið ǰōt. Āfter a tīm he began tō sa, "I must hav mœr grāt akƒon: ðēz trīveal hāreiŋz, spǫlz ov Nevreā, tƒasiŋ ov Ezamoƒan blak-a-mœrz, be tǫz not werðe ov Ƴr grāt nām and renƳn amuŋ ðe naƒonz. Sumpiŋ I wōd enakt ðat ƒal embrǫl and astōniƒ ðe werld, even az ðe Demonz hven ða perdzd erǰ ov ðe Gœlz, ēr I go dƳn intō silens."

Teƒmar wōz stariŋ tōword ðe sūðern bærn. He ƒǫnted wið hiz hand: "Ðēr rideǰ a grāt ƒip, O kiŋ. And mēpinks ƒe haǰ a strāndz Ƴk."

Gazlark gāzd ernestle at her for an instant, ðen strātwa ƒifted hiz helm and stērd tōwordz her. He spāk no mœr, stariŋ ēver az he sāld, markiŋ ēver az ðe distans lēsēnd mœr and mœr partīkularz ov ðat ƒip. Her silken sāl flūterd in tāterz from ðe yard; ƒe rōd fēble, az wun gropiŋ in darknes, wið bērlē streŋǰ tō sta her from driftiŋ stern-fœrmōst befœr ðe wind. So huŋ ƒe on ðe se, az wun struk stƒupid bi sum blo, dǰtiŋ hƳitƒ wa her harbor la or hƳitƒ wa her kœrs. Az a ǰiŋ hƳitƒ haǰ bēn held in ðe flām ov a monstrōs kandel, so sēmd ƒe, siŋd and bezmertƒt wið sƳt. Smaƒt wōz her ƒrǰd ƒigūr-hed, and smaƒt wōz her hi fōksl, and bernd and ƒāterd ðe karvd timberz ov ðe ƒœp and ðe fēr sēts ðat wer ðaron. Se lēkt, so ðat a skœr ov her kru must be stil a-baliŋ tō kēp her aflōt. Ov her ƒifte œrz, hāƒ wer broken or gon adrift, and mēne ov ðe ƒips kumpane la wōnded and sum slān under her ǰworts.

And nǰ wōz Kiŋ Gazlark wēr az he dru nēr ðat hēr wōz ðe Lord Dzus on her ruind ƒœp a-steriŋ, and bi him Spitƒir and Brandox Dahā. Ðēr dzueld armz and gēr and ritƒ atīr wer blak wið mōst stinkiŋ sƳt, and it wōz az ðo admirafon and grēf and anger wer so lokt and twīnd wīðin ðem ðat nun ov ðēz ƒāƒonz mīt win fœrǰ tō ƒtword ƒoiŋ on ðēr frozen kǰntenansez.

Hven ða wer wīðin haliŋ distans, Gazlark hāld ðem. Ða ānserd him not, ōnle behōldiŋ him wið aleen īz. But

ða stopt ðe fip, and Gazlark la aboard ov her and kām  
on bærd and went up on ðe pœp and greted ðem. And he sed,  
"Wel met in an il þr. Huōts ðe māter?"

Ðe Lord Dʒus mād az if tœ spēk, but no werd kām. Ōnle he  
tœk Gazlark bi bōþ handz and sat dþn wið a grāt grōn on  
ðe pœp, avertiŋ hiz fās. Gazlark sed, "O Dʒus, for so mēne  
a tīm az ðþ hast bærn part in mi evilz and sūkord me,  
fūrle rīt rekwireþ I hav part ov ðin?"

But Dʒus ānserd in a þik, strāndʒ vq̄s ôl unlīk himself,  
"Mīn, sāst ðþ, O Gazlark? Huōt in ðe stabliŋt werld iz  
mīn, ðat am ðus in a moment rēvd ov him ðat wōz mīn ōn  
hartstriŋ, mi brūðer, ðe mīt ov mīn arm, ðe tʃefest  
sītadel ov mi dominyon?" And he berst intœ a grāt pāfon ov  
wepiŋ.

Kiŋ Gazlarks riŋz wer drīven intœ ðe flef ov hiz fingerz  
bi ðe grip ov Dʒūsez stroŋ handz on hiz. But he skērs wist  
ov ðe pān, sutʃ āgone ov mīnd wōz in him for ðe los ov hiz  
frend, and for ðe biþernes and wunder ðat it wōz tœ behōld  
ðēz þre grāt lordz ov Demonland wēp līk fritend  
wīmen, and ôl ðēr fips kumpane ov trīd men ov wor wepiŋ  
and waliŋ besīdz. And Gazlark sô wel ðat ðēr lordle  
sōlz wer unseted for a sezon bekōz ov sum dredful fakt,  
ðe hāvok hvarov hiz īz mōst wofœle beheld, hūl its  
partīkularz wer yet dark tœ him, yet wið a tēror in darknes  
ðat mīt wel māk hiz hart tœ kwāl.

Bi mutʃ kwestʃoniŋ he wōz at lāst wel advertīzd ov huōt had  
befōlen: hþ ða ðe da befœr, in brōd nœn, on sutʃ a  
sūmer se, had herd a nq̄z līk ðe flāpiŋ ov wiŋz  
þtstretʃt from wun edʒ ov ðe ski tœ anūðer, and in a  
moment ðe kālm se wōz lifted up and fel agān and ðe huōl  
se klaft tʃgēðer and rœrd, yet wōz ðe fip not sunken.  
And ðēr wōz a tʃumult abþt ðem ov þunder and rādʒiŋ wōterz  
and blak nīt and wildfir in ðe nīt; huiʃ prēzentle  
pāsiŋ awa and ðe darknes liftiŋ, ðe se la sōlitare az  
far az i mīt rētʃ. "And nūþiŋ iz mœr sertān," sed  
Dʒus, "ðan ðat ðis iz a sendiŋ ov Kiŋ Gorīs 12. spoken  
ov bi ðe prōfets az a grāt klark ov nekromanse beʏond ôl  
ūðer ðis werld hap sēn. And ðis iz hiz vendʒans for ðe  
wōz we rōt for Witʃland in ðe Foleot līz. Agānst sutʃ  
a pēril I had provided sertān amulets mād ov ðe stōn  
alektorean, huiʃ groep in ðe gīzard ov a kok hatʃt on a  
mœnles nīt huen Sātern berneþ in a human sīn and ðe lord  
ov ðe þerd hþs iz in ðe āsendant. Ðēz sāvð us, ôlbeit  
sœrle būfeted, from destrukʃon: ôl sāv Gōldre alōn. He,  
bi sum kerst tʃāns, huēðer he neglekted tœ wēr ðe tʃarm I  
gāv him, or ðe tʃān ov it wōz broken in ðe plundʒiŋ ov ðe

fip, or bi sum ūðer mēnz twōz lost: hven dalīt kām agān, we stōd but þre on ðis pōop hvēr fœr had stōd. Mœr I no not."

"O Gazlark," sed Spitfīr, "Þr brūðer ðat iz stolen from us, wið us it fūrle lieþ tō fīnd him and set him fre."

But Dʒus grōnd and sed, "In hwiþ star ov ðe unklīmd ski wilt ðð bēgin þr sertf? Or in hwiþ ov ðe sēkret strēmz ov ofan hvēr ðe lāst grēn rāz ar kwentʃt in œze darknes?"

Gazlark wōz silent for a huī. Ðen he sed, "I þink nōt līkleer ðan ðis, ðat Gorīs haþ kōt awa Gōldre Bluzko intō Karse, hvēr he hōldeþ him in dʒures. And ðīðer must we strātwa tō delīver him."

Dʒus ānserd no werd. But Gazlark sēzd hiz hand, saiŋ, "Þr ānfent luv and yor oft sūkoriŋ ov Goblinland in dāz gon bi māk ðis mi kworel. Hēr nð mi rēd. Az I fērd from ðe ēst þrō ðe Strāts ov Rinaþ I beheld a mite kumpane ov forte sāl, bðnd ēstword tō ðe Beftrean se. Wel it wōz ða markt us not az we la under ðe īlz ov Ēleen in ðe dusk ov eveniŋ. For tutʃiŋ later at Norvasp in Piksiland we lernd ðat ðēr sālð Laksus wið ðe huīl Witʃland flēt, beiŋ mīnded tō werk evil dēdz amuŋ ðe pēsʃol sītēz ov ðe Beftrean sebœrd. And az wel met wer an antelōp wið a devðriŋ lion, az I and mi sēven ʃips wið ðōz il-dœerz in sutʃ streŋþ on ðe hi sēz. But nð, behōld hð wīd standeþ ðe dœr tō þr wīʃez. Laksus and ðat grāt armament ar sāf hāreiŋ ēstword-ho. I māk kwestʃon hvēðer at ðis moment mœr ðan nīn skœr or ten skœr fitiŋ men be left in Karse. I hav hēr ov mīn ōn ni on fiv hundred. Nēver wōz farer tʃāns tō tāk Witʃland wið hiz klōz benēþ ðe tabel, and rʃqale ma we skratʃ hiz fās ēr he get ðem fœrþ agān." And Gazlark lâft for dʒʃq ov bātel, and krīd, "O Dʒus, smīlz it not tō ðe, ðis rēd ov mīn?"

"Gazlark," sed Lord Dʒus, "nōble and wið ðat open hand and hart ðat I hav luvd in ðe from ov ōld hast ðð mād ðis ōfer. Yet not so iz Witʃland tō be overkum, but āfter loŋ dāz ov labor ōnle, and laiŋ ov skēmz and bildiŋ ov ʃips and gāðeriŋ ov hōsts ānserabel tō ðe streŋþ we bēr ov lāt agānst ðe Goolz hven we destrʃd ðem."

Nor for ōl hiz erdʒiŋ mīt Gazlark mœv him ēne hwiþ.

But Spitfīr sat bi hiz brūðer and spāk privātle tō him:



"Kinzman, huôt ālz ðe? Iz ôl hi hart and swiftnes tœ akfon kruft ȝt ov Demonland, and duþ but ðe unservisabel dzūsles skin remān tœ us? Ðȝ art klēn unlīk ðat ðȝ hast ēver bēn, and kœd Witfland behōld us nȝ wel mīt he dzudȝ ðat bās fēr had taen hōld ūpon us, seiȝ ðat wið ðe odz ov strenȝ so fortfunātle ov ȝr sīd we frink from strikiȝ at him."

Dȝus sed in Spitfīrz ēr, "Ðis it iz, ðat I dœ misdȝt me ov ðe stedfāstnes ov ðe Goblinz. Tœ līk tœ fīr amuȝ ded lēvz iz ðe sūden flām ov ðēr vālor, a pœr piȝ tœ reli on if wuns ða be tȝekt. So dœ I kȝnt it fōle trustiȝ in ðem for ȝr mān strenȝ tœ go up agānst Karse. Ôlso it iz but a wīld fanse ðat Gōldre haþ bēn trānsœerted intœ Karse."

But Spitfīr lēpt up a-kersiȝ, and krīd ȝt, "O Gazlark, ðȝ wert best fēr hōm tœ Goblinland. But we wil sāl openle tœ Karse and krāv ôdzens ov ðe grāt Kiȝ, entretiȝ him sūfer us tœ kis hiz to, and aknōlēdziȝ him tœ be ȝr Kiȝ and us hiz il-kondīfond, disobēdzent tȝildren. So ma he hable restœer untœ us ȝr brūðer, hven he haþ tȝastīzd us, and hable ov hiz merse send us hōm tœ Demonland, ðēr tœ fōn ūpon Korsus or vīl Korinyus, or hœmsoēver he ȝal set up in Galiȝ for hiz Vīsrȝ. For wið Gōldre haþ ôl manlines departed ȝt ov Demonland, and we be milksops ðat remān, and obdzekts ov skorn and spītiȝ."

Nȝ hūl Spitfīr spāk ðus in rôþ and soro ov hart, ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ fērd fœr and āft on ðe gaȝwa abȝt and abȝt, az a kādȝd panþer fareþ hven fedīȝ tīm iz loȝ overdȝu. And at hūlz he klapt hand tœ ðe hilt ov hiz loȝ and glīteriȝ sœrd and rāteld it in ðe skābard. At lenȝ, standīȝ over agānst Gazlark, and iȝ him wið a mōkiȝ glāns, "O Gazlark," he sed, "ðis ðat haþ befōlen bredeþ in me a kruel perterbaȝon hūitȝ kārēz mi spīrits ȝtwordz, stūriȝ up a tempest in mi mīnd and prepariȝ mi bōde tœ mēlankole, and madnes itself. Ðe kūr ov ðis iz ōnle fitiȝ. Hūērfœr if ðȝ luv me, Gazlark, ȝt wið ði sœrd and word ðiself. Fit I must, or ðis pāȝon wil kil me kwīt ȝt. Tiz piȝe tœ drō ūpon mi frend, but siþ we be band from fitiȝ wið ȝr ēnemēz, huôt tȝȝs remanep?"

Gazlark lâft and sēzd him plafœle bi ðe armz, saiȝ, "I wil not fit wið ðe, hȝ pītile soēr ðȝ āsk it, Brandox Dahâ, ðat sāvdst Goblinland from ðe Witȝez"; but strāt gru grāv agān and sed tœ Dȝus, "O Dȝus, be rūld. Ðȝ sēst huôt temper ði frendz ar in. Ôl we be az hȝndz

tūgiŋ agānst ðe lēf tō be loost agānst Karse in ðis hæpe þr, ðat līkle kūmeþ not agān."

Nþ hven Lord Dzus persēvd ðem ôl agānst him, and hot-mþpt for ðat atempt, he smīld skornfōole and sed, "O mi brūðer and mi frendz, huôt êkōz and kwālpīps ar u bekum huō sēm tō katf wizdom bi imitatiŋ her vq̄s? But ye be mad līk Martf hērz, ěvere man ov u, and miself tō. Brāk īs in wun plās, twil krak in mœr. And trule I kêr not grātles for mi lif nþ ðat Gōldre iz gon from me. Kāst we lots, ðen, huīf ov us þre fal fêr hōm tō Demonland wið ðis þr fip, ðat iz but a lām duk sins ðis sendiŋ. And he on huōm ðe lot fal fōl must fêr hōm tō konsert ðe razinŋ ov a mite flēt and armament tō kære on þr wor agānst ðe Witfez."

So spāk Lord Dzus, and ôl ða huō had but a fort þr ago felt ðemselvz in sutf p̄qnt ðat ðêr wōz in ðem no hōp ov konvalēsens nor ov lif, had nþ ðêr spīrits rāzd in a semiŋ drunken'nes, and þōt ōnle on ðe gladnes ov bātel.

Ðe lordz ov Demonland markt ētf hiz lot and kāst it in ðe helm ov Gazlark, and Gazlark fuk ðe helm, and ðêr lept fœrþ ðe lot ov ðe Lord Spitfir. Rīt rôpfōl wōz he. So ðe lordz ov Demonland did of ðêr armor and ðêr kostle apārel ðat wōz blak wið sūt, and let klenz it. Sikste ov ðêr fitiŋ men ðat wer unskāðd bi ðe sendiŋ went aboard wun ov Gazlarks fips, and ðe kru ov ðat fip mand ðe fip ov Demonland, and Spitfir tok ðe steriŋ pādel, and ðe Demonz ðat wer hert la in ðe hōld ov ðe hōlo fip. Ða brōt fœrþ a spêr sāl and hq̄sted it in plās ov ðat ðat wōz destrq̄d; so in sœr diskontent, yet wið a tfêrfōl kñntenans, ðe Lord Spitfir set sāl for ðe west. And Gazlark ðe kiŋ sat bi ðe steriŋ pādel ov hiz fêr drāgon ov wor, and bi him ðe Lord Dzus and ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ, huō wōz līk a wor-hors impafent for bātel. Her prð swuŋ norþ and so rþnd ēstawa, and her sāl brq̄derd wið flþer-de-lusez smōt ðe māst and fild tō ðe norþ-west wind, and ðōz ūðer siks fêrd âfter her in līn ahead wið huīt sālz unferld, stridiŋ mādžestik over ðe fōl brōd bīlōz.

## 6. Ðe Klōz ov Witfland

OV KIŊ GAZLARKS LEDIŊ IN ÐE ATEMPT ON KARSE IN ÐE DARK,  
AND Hþ HE PROSPERD ÐARIN, AND OV ÐE GRĀT STAND OV LORD

## D3US AND LORD BRANDOX DAHÂ.

On ðe eveniŋ ov ðe þerd da, huēnaz ða dru nēr tō wīðin sīt ov ðe Witfland kōst, ða brāld up ðēr sālz and wated for ðe nīt, ðat so ða mīt māk ðe landfōl āfter dark; for lītel tō ðēr mīnd it wōz ðat ðe Kiŋ fȳd hav nūz ov ðēr fariŋz. Ðis wōz ðēr plan, tō bētƿ ðēr fips on ðe lōnle fœr sum tō lēgz norþ ov Tēnemos, huens it wōz but tō ųrz martƿ akros ðe fen tō Karse. So huen ðe sun set and ōl ðe wāz wer darkend ða mūfeld ðēr œrz and rōd silentle tō ðe lo fœr ðat fōd strāndzle nēr in ðe darknes, yet ēver sēmd tō fle and kēp its distans az ða rōd tōword it. Kūmiŋ at lenþ āfœr, ða dru ðēr fips up on ðe bētƿ. Sum fifte men ov ðe Goblinz ða left tō gard ðe fips, huī ðe rest tōk ðēr wēponz. And huen ða wer marƿald ða martƿ inland over ðe sand-dzūnz and so on tō ðe open fen; and seiŋ ðat ðe mōst ov ðem bi far wer ov Goblinland, it wōz agrēd betwēn ðōz þre, Dzus, Brandox Dahâ, and Gazlark, ðat Gazlark fȳd hav komānd ov ðis emprīz. So fērd ða silentle akros ðe marƿez, ðat wer ferm enuf for martƿiŋ so it wer dun serkumspektle, rþndiŋ ðe werst mos-hagz and ðe smōl loxs ðat wer skāterd hēr and ðēr. For ðe wēðer had bēn fīn for a sezon, and lītel nu wōter stōd on ðe marƿ. But az ða dru nēr tō Karse ðe wēðer wersend and fīn rān began tō fōl. And ōlbeit ðēr wōz lītel kumfort martƿiŋ þrō ðe drizliŋ merk ov nīt tōwordz ðat fortres ov evil nām, yet wōz Lord Dzus glad at ðe rān, sins it favord serprīz, and on serprīz huŋ ōl ðēr hōps.

Abþt ðe mīdel nīt ða hōlted wīðin fœr hundred pasez ov ðe ųter wōlz ov Karse, ðat lōmd gōstle þrō ðe wōtere kertān, silent az it had bēn a tōom huēr Witfland la in dep, rāðer ðan ðe māld fel hvarin so grāt a þēr sat watiŋ. Ðe sīt ov ðat vāst bulk kþtƿ fādoe in ðe rān lited ðe fīr ov bātel in ðe brest ov Gazlark, nor wōd ōt plēz him sāv ðat ða fȳd go forþwiþ up tō ðe wōlz wið ōl ðēr fœrs, and so martƿ rþnd ðem seiŋ huēr ða mīt brāk sūdenle in and sēz ðe plās. Nor wōd he līsen tō ðe kþnsel ov Lord Dzus, huō wōd send fœrþ detatfments tō selekt a spot for asōlt and briŋ bak werd befœr ðe huōl fœrs advānst. "Be fūr," sed Gazlark, "ðat ða wīðin ar ōl fokst and kupƿōten ðe þerd nīt wið swīliŋ ov wīn, in ōnor ov sutƿ triumf az he haþ gōten bi hiz sendiŋ, and but a sore wōtƿ iz kept on sutƿ nīt. For huō, sa ða, fal kum up agānst Karse nþ ðat ðe þēr ov Demonland iz strīken in pesez? Ðe skornd Goblinz, hā? A moƿon for lāfter and derīzon.

But ðīn advāns gard mīt giv ðem warniḡ or ēver ȝr  
mān fœrs kud sēz ðe okaḡon. Na, but az ðe Goolz in  
an evil da kūmiḡ sūdenle ūpon me in Zādze Zakulo gat mi  
pālās taken ēr we wer wel wēr ov ðēr kūmiḡ, so must we  
tāk ðis hōld ov Karse. And if ðȝ fērst a sāle, rīt  
hotle dōo I dezīr it. For if ða open ðe gāt we ar enuf  
tōo fœrs an entre in despīt ov ēne numberz ða ar līk tōo  
hav wīðin."

Nȝ Dzus þōt il ov ðis kōnsel, yet, for a strāndz  
langor ðat stil huḡ abȝt hiz wits, he wōd not gānsa  
Gazlark. So krept ða in stelþ nēr tōo ðe grāt wōlz ov  
Karse. Softle ēver fel ðe rān, and breples stōd ðe  
sīpresez wīðin ðe ȝter word, and blank and dum and  
untēnanted frȝnd ðe blak marbel wōlz ov ðat slepiḡ  
kāsel. And dōor midnīt wated over ôl.

Nȝ Gazlark īfūd komānd, bīdiḡ ðem martȝ warile rȝnd ðe  
wōlz norþword, for no wa wōz betwikst ðe lofte wōlz and ðe  
rīver on ðe sȝþ and ēst, but tōo ðe norþ-ēst wōz he  
hōpfōl tōo fīnd a līkle plās tōo win intōo ðe hōld. In sutȝ  
order went ða ðat Gazlark wið an hundred ov hiz āblest men  
led ðe van, and āfter him kām ðe Demonz. ðe mān strenþ  
ov ðe Goblinz fōlōd āfter, wið Teȝmar for ðēr kaptān.  
Warile ða martȝt, and nȝ wer ða on ðe riziḡ grȝnd  
ðat ran bak norþ and west from ðe bluf ov Karse tōo ðe  
fen. Fōl eger wer ða ov Goblinland and flōn wið ðe  
intoksikaȝon ov impendiḡ bātel, and ða ov ðe vangard  
fērd apās, ȝtstripiḡ ðe Demonz, so ðat Dzus wōz fān tōo  
hasen āfter ðem lest ða ȝud looz tutȝ and fōl tōo  
konfuḡon. But Teȝmarz men fērd grātle tōo be left behīnd,  
nor mīt he hōld ðem bak, but ða must run betwikst ðe  
Demonz and ðe wōlz, meniḡ tōo dȝaḡn wið Gazlark. Dzus swœr  
under hiz breþ, saiḡ, "Se ðe unrule rābel ov Goblinland.  
And ða wil yet be ȝr undōoiḡ."

In sutȝ kās stōd ða, nor wer Teȝmarz fōk mœr ðan  
twente pasez from ðe wōlz, huēn, sūden az nīt-lītniḡ,  
flērz wer kindeld alonḡ ðe wōlz, dazliḡ ðe Goblinz and  
ðe Demonz and brītle litiḡ ðem for ðōz ðat mand ðe  
wōlz, huō fel a-ȝœtiḡ at ðem wið spērz and ārōz and  
a-sliḡiḡ ov stōnz. In ðe sām moment opend a postern gāt,  
huēns sālēd fœrþ ðe Lord Korinyus wið an hundred and  
fifte stȝt ladz ov Witȝland, ȝȝtiḡ, "He ðat wōd sup ov  
ðe krab ov Witȝland must dēl wið ðe nīperz ēr he ēsa  
ðe fel"; and tȝardziḡ Gazlarks arme in ðe flank he kut  
ðem klēn in tōo. Az wun wōd fērd fœrþ Korinyus, smitiḡ on  
iðer hand wið a tōo-edzȝd aks wið heft lapt wið bronz;  
and grātle ðo ðe fōk ov Gazlark ȝtnumberd him, yet

wer ða so taken at ūnawêrz and konfðnded bi ðe sūden onslōt ov Korinyus ðat ða mīt not abīd him but ēverīhūr gāv grðnd befær hiz onslōt. And mēne wer wønded and sum wer slān; and wið ðēz Tejmar ov Goblinland, ðe māster ov Gazlarks fip. For smitiņ at Korinyus and mīsiņ ov hiz ām he l̥ted forword wið ðe blo, and Korinyus hūd at him wið hiz aks and ðe blo kām on Tejmarz nek and so hūd of hiz hed. N̥ Gazlark wið ðe best ov hiz fitiņ men wōz kum sum wa pāst ðe postern, but hūenaz ða fel tō fitiņ he ternd bak strātwa tō mēt Korinyus, kōliņ l̥dle on hiz men tō rāle agānst ðe Witfez and drīv ðem bak wiðin ðe wōlz. So hven Gazlark wōz gōten þrō ðe pres tō wiðin rētj ov Korinyus, he þrust at Korinyus wið a spēr, wøndiņ him in ðe arm. But Korinyus smōt ðe spēr-fāft asunder wið hiz aks, and lept ūpon Gazlark, gīviņ him a grāt wønd on ðe fōlder. And Gazlark tøk tō hiz scærd, and mēne blōz ða bandēd ðat mād iðer stāger, til Korinyus struk Gazlark on ðe helm a grāt d̥n-strōk ov hiz aks, az wun driveþ a pīl wið a wøden mālet. And bekōz ov ðe gud helm he wær, gīven bi Lord Dzus in dāz gon bi az a gift ov luv and frendfip, wōz Gazlark sāvð and hiz hed not kloven asunder; for on ðat helm Korinyusez aks mīt not bīt. Yet wið ðat grāt strōk wer Gazlarks sensez drīven færþ ov him for a sezon, so ðat he fel sensles tō ðe erþ. And wið hiz fōl kām disma ūpon ðem ov Goblinland.

Ôl ðis befel in ðe ferst brunt ov ðe bätel, nor wer ðe lordz ov Demonland yet fole d̥qnd in ðe mēla, for ðe grāt pres ov Gazlarks men wer betwēn ðem and ðe Witfez; but n̥ Dzus and Brandox Dahâ went færþ mitile wið ðēr fōloin, and tøk up Gazlark ðat la līk wun ded, and Dzus bad a kumpane ov ðe Goblinz bēr him tō ðe fips, and ðēr wōz he bestōd sāf and s̥nd. But ðe Witfez f̥ted l̥dle ðat Kiņ Gazlark wōz slān; and at ðis t̥fozen tīm Korund, ðat wōz kum p̥vile færþ ov a hīden dær on ðe western sīd ov Karse wið fifte men, tøk ðe Goblinz mitile in ðe rēr. So ða, stil fōliņ bak befær Korinyus and Korund, and ðēr harts sik at ðe supozed slaiņ ov Gazlark, wakst ful ov d̥t and dēdzekjon; for in ðe wōtere darknes ða mīt nowīz persēv bi h̥ mutf ða l̥twent in numberz ðe men ov Witfland. And pānik tøk ðem, so ðat ða brōk and fled befær ðe Witfez, ðat kām āfter ðem rēzolūt, az a stōt hōldeþ bi a rābit, and slu ðem bi skærz and bi fiftēz az ða fled from Karse. Skērs þre skær men ov ðat brāv kumpane ov Goblinland ðat went up wið Gazlark agānst Karse wun awa intō ðe marfez and kām tō ðēr fips, eskapiņ pītiles destrukjon.

But Korund and Korinyus and ðēr mān førs ternd wiðl̥t

mœr adœ agānst ðe Demonz, and bīter wōz ðe bātel ðat befel betwikst ðem, and grāt ðe klāter ov ðêr blōz. And nŷ wer ðe odz klēn tŷāndz d abŷt wið ðe pŷtiŷ ov ðe Goblinz ŷt ov ðe bātel, sins but fu ov Witŷland wer fōlen, and ða wer az fœr tœ wun agānst ðe Demonz, hēmiŷ ðem in and hāviŷ at ðem from ēvere sīd. And sum ŷot at ðem from ðe wōl, until a tŷāns ŷot kām ðat wōz līk tœ hav stōv in Korundz helm, huœ strātwa sent werd ðat hven ðe rŷt wōz ended he wud māk lark-pīz ov ðe kŷ-hēded dōdipōl huœsoēver he mīt be ðat had set ðem ðus a-ŷœtiŷ, spœliŷ spœrt for ðêr komrādz and endāndzeriŷ ðêr līvz. Ðêrwið sēst ðe ŷœtiŷ from ðe wōl.

And nŷ grim and wœndsum gru ðe bātel, for ðe Demonz mitile wiðstud ðe onset ov ðe Witŷez, and ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ ruft wið an onslōt ēver and anon ŷpon Korund or ŷpon Korinyus, nor mīt iðer ov ðēz grāt kaptānz bē up loŷ agānst him, but ēvere tīm gāv bak befœr Lord Brandox Dahâ; and bīterle kerst ða wun anŷðer az ētŷ in tern wōz fān tœ sāv himself amid ðe pres ov ðêr fitiŷ men. Nor kŷd wun hōp in wun nīts spās tœ behōld sutŷ dēdz ov dēriŷ-dœ az wer dun ðat nīt bi Lord Brandox Dahâ, ðat plād hiz sœrd lītle az wun handleŷ a wīlo wōnd; yet deŷ sat on ðe pœnt ðarov. In sutŷ wīz ðat elēven stŷt sœrderz ov Witŷland wer slān bi him, and fiftēn besīdz wer sœrle wœnded. And at ðe lāst, Korinyus, stuŷ bi Korundz tōnts az bi a gadfli, and wel ni berstiŷ for grēf and fām at hiz il spedriŷ, lept ŷpon Lord Brandox Dahâ az wun reft ov hiz wits, amiŷ at him a grāt tœ-handed blo ðat wōz apt enuf tœ klēv him tœ ðe brisket. But Brandox Dahâ slipt from ðe blo lītle az a kiŷŷifer fliiŷ abuv an ôlder-ŷādōd strēm avœdeŷ a brāntŷ in hiz flīt, and ran Korinyus ŷrœ ðe rīt rist wið hiz sœrd. And strāt wōz Korinyus pŷt ŷt ov ðe fit. Nor had ða grater satisfakŷon ðat went agānst Lord Dzus, huœ mōd at ðem wið grāt swōŷiŷ blōz, behēdiŷ sum and huiŷ sum asunder in ðe midst, til ða wer fān tœ kēp klēr ov hiz repiŷ. So fôt ðe Demonz in ðe glēr and wōtere mist, grātle agānst grāt odz, until ôl wer smīten tœ erŷ sāv ðōz tœ lordz alōn, Dzus and Brandox Dahâ.

Nŷ stud Kiŷ Gorīs on ðe ŷter bātelments ov Karse, ôl armd in hiz blak armor inlād wið gōld; and he beheld ðōz twān hŷ ða fôt bak tœ bak, and hŷ ðe Witŷez beset ðem on ēvere sīd yet nowīz mīt prevāl agānst ðem. And ðe Kiŷ sed untœ Gro ðat wōz bi him on ðe wōl, "Mīn īz dāzel in ðe mist and tortŷlīt. Huôt be ðēz ðat māntān so blūde an advāntādz ŷpon mi kempere-men?"

Gro ânserd him, "Σūrle, O Kiņ, ðēz be nun ūðer ðan Lord Dzus and Lord Brandox Dahâ ov Kröðeriņ."

Ðe Kiņ sed, "So bi deġrēz kŭmeþ mi sendiņ hōm tō me. For bi mi art I hav intēlīdzens, ôlbeit not sertānle, ðat Gōldre wōz taken bi mi sendiņ; so hav I mi dezīr on him I hōld mōst in hāt. And ðēz, sāvđ bi ðēr entfāntments from līk ruin, hav bēn drīven mad tō ruf intō ðe open mǫþ ov mi vendzans." And hven he had gāzd āhŭil, ðe Kiņ snērd and sed untō Gro, "A swēt sīt, tō behōld an hundred ov mi āblest men flintf and duk befœr ðēz twān. Til nŭ mēþōt ðēr wōz a sœrd in Witfland, and mēþōt Korinyus and Korund not simpel brāgarts wīðŭt pðer or hart, az hēr apereþ, sins līk bŕz wel bertft ða dō krindz from ðe finiņ sœrdz ov Dzus and ðe vīl upstart from Kröðeriņ."

But Korinyus, hŭō stōd no longer in ðe bātēl but bi ðe Kiņ, fŭl ov splēn and hiz rist ôl blŭde, krīd ŭt, "U dō us roņ, O Kiņ. Džuster it wer tō prāz mi grāt dēd in ambŭfiņ ðis mite kumpane ov ŭr ěnemēz and pōtiņ ðem ôl tō ðe slōter. And if I prevāld not agānst ðis Brandox Dahâ yor madzeste nēdz not tō marvel, sins a grater ðan I, Gorīs 10. ov mēmore ěver glœereŭs, wōz lītle konkerd bi him. Hŭerin mēþinks I am ðe lŭkeer, tō hav but a gord rist and not mi deþ. Az for ðēz twān, ða be stik-frēz, on hŭōm no pŕnt or edz ma bīt. And nōt wer mœr tō be lŭkt for, sins we dēl wið sutf a sorserer az ðis Dzus."

"Rāðer," sed ðe Kiņ, "ar ye ôl grōn milksops. But I hav no ferðer stŭmak for ðis interlŭd, but strāt wil end it."

Ðērwið ðe Kiņ kōld tō him ðe ôld Džŭk Korsus, bīdiņ him tāk nets and katf ðe Demonz ðarin. And Korsus, fariņ fœrþ wið nets, bi fēr wāt ov numberz and wið ðe deþ ov nēr a skœr ov ðe Witfez at lenþ gat ðis performd, and Lord Dzus and Lord Brandox Dahâ wel tangeld in ðe nets, and lapt abŭt az silkwermz in ðēr kokōnz, and so drōn intō Karse. Sŭndle wer ða bumpt aloņ ðe grŕnd, and glad eno wer ðe Witfez tō hav göten ðōz grāt fiterz skotft at lāst. For ŭterle spent wer Korund and hiz men, and fān tō drop for vøre werines.

So hven ða wer göten intō Karse, ðe Kiņ let sertf wið tortfez and briņ in ðem ov Witfland ðat la hert befœr ðe wōlz; and ěne Demonz or Goblinz ðat wer hapt ŭpon in līk

kās he let sla wið ðe særd. And ðe Lord Dzus and ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ, stil lapt tīle in ðēr nets, he let flīj int∞ a korner ov ðe ĩner kœrt ov ðe pālās līk t∞ bālz ov dāmādʒd gʊdz, and set a gard ūpon ðem until mornīj.

Az ðe lordz ov Witfland wer ūpon goīj t∞ bed ða beheld westword bi ðe se a red glo, and tunʒ ov fir bernīj in ðe nīt. Korinyus sed unt∞ Lord Gro, "Lo hvēr ði Goblinz bern ðēr fīps, lest we perʒu ðem az ða fle fāmfoale hōmword in ðe fīp ða kēp from ðe bernīj. Wun fīp sufiseþ, for mōst ov ðem be ded."

And Korinyus betuk him slepile t∞ bed, pōziīj on ðe wa t∞ kik at ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ, ðat la sāfle swāðd in hiz net pŕerles az ðen t∞ d∞ him harm.

## 7. Gestz ov ðe Kiīj in Karse

OV ðE T∞ BANKWET HÔLZ ðAT WER IN KARSE, ðE ÔLD AND ðE NU, AND OV ðE ENTERTĀNMENT GĪVEN BI KIĪJ GORĪS 12. IN ðE WUN HÔL T∞ LORD DZUS AND LORD BRANDOX DAHĀ AND IN ðE ŪDER T∞ ðE PRINS LĀ FIRĒZ; AND OV ðĒR LĒV-TAKIĪJ HVEN ðE BANKWET WÔZ DUN.

Ðe moro ov ðat bātel dônd fēr on Karse. Fōk la loīj abed āfter ðēr tqī, and until ðe sun wōz hi nôt sterd befœr ðe wōlz. But t∞word n∞n kām fœrþ a band sent bi Kiīj Gorīs t∞ briīj in ðe spqī; and ða tuk up ðe bōdēz ov ðe slān and lād ðem in hŕ on ðe rīt bank ov ðe rīver Drumâ hāf a mīl belo Karse, Witfez, Demonz, and Goblinz in wun grāv tugēðer, and rāzd up a grāt hŕ over ðem.

Nŕ wōz ðe sunz hēt stronī, but ðe fādo ov ðe grāt kēp rested stil on ðe tērās wīðŕt ðe western wōl ov ðe pālās. Kool and rēdolent ov ēz and soft repōz wōz ðat tērās, pāvd wið flagstōnz ov red dʒasper, wið splēnwort, asafetidā, līvid tōdstoalz, drāgonz tēþ, and bīter m∞n-sēd groīj in ðe dʒqīnts. On ðe ŕter edʒ ov ðe tērās wer bʒfez ov arbor vita plānted in a ro, skwôt and rŕnd līk slepiīj dormīs, wið klumps ov tʒōk-pard akonīt in ðe interspasez. Mēne hundred fēt in leīþ wōz ðe tērās from norþ t∞ sŕþ, and at iðer end a flīt ov blak marbel steps led dŕn t∞ ðe lēvel ov ðe ĩner word and its embāteld wōl.



Bentfez ov grēn dʒasper māsile bilt and laden wið velvet  
kʊfonz ov mēne kŭlorz stʊd agānst ðe pālās wōl fasin  
tʊ ðe west, and on ðe bentf nerest ðe Īrn Tʰer a lade sat  
at ēz, etiŋ krēm waferz and a kwins tart servd bi her  
watiŋ-wīmen in dīfez ov pāl gōld for her morniŋ mēl. Tōl  
wōz ðat lade and slender, and bute dwelt in her az ðe  
sunfīn dwelz in ðe red floer and gra-grēn trunks ov a  
bētʃ wʊd in erle sprinŋ. Her tōne hēr wōz gāðerd in dēp  
fōldz ūpon her hed and mād fāst bi grāt silver pinz, ðēr  
hedz set wið anakīt dimondz. Her gʊn wōz ov kloþ ov  
silver wið a nōted kord-werk ov blak silk embrʊdere  
ēverīhēr dekt wið lītel mʊnstōnz, and over it ʃe wær  
a mantel ov figūrð sätin ðe kŭlor ov ðe wʊd-pidʒonz wiŋ,  
tinseld and overkāst wið silver þredz. Hŭīt-skind ʃe  
wōz, and grāsfʊl az an antelōp. Her ĩz wer grēn, wið  
yēlo fire glēmz. Dāntile ʃe āt ðe tart and waferz,  
sīpinŋ at hŭīlz from a kup ov amber, artifiʃale karvd,  
hŭīt wīn kool from ðe sēlarz belo Karse; and a maden  
sītinŋ at her fēt plād on a sēven-strinŋd lūt, sīŋinŋ  
vēre swētle ðis soŋ:

*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.*

"No mæer," sed ðe lade; "ði vq̄s iz krakt ðis morniŋ.

Iz nun abrôd yet ðð kanst fīnd tō tel me ov lâst nīts  
dōiņz? Or ar ôl gon mi lordz gāt, ðat I left slepiņ  
stil az ðo ôl ðe pōpēz ov ôl erps gardenz brēðd  
drðzines abðt hiz hed?"

"Wun kŭmeþ, mādā, " sed ðe dāmozēl.

Ðe lade sed, "Ðe Lord Gro. He ma rezolv me. Ðo wer he  
in ðe stor lâst nīt, ðat wer a wunder indēd."

Ðērwið kām Gro aloņ ðe tērās from ðe norþ, klad in a  
mantel ov dun-kŭlord velvet wið a kōlar ov rāzd werk ov  
gōld ūpon silver perl; and hiz loņ blak kerle bērd wōz  
perfūmd wið orandz-flðer wōter and andžēlikā. Hven ða had  
greted wun anŭðer and ðe lade had bīden her wīmen stand  
apart, ſe sed, "Mi lord, I þerst for tidiņz. Rekðnt tō me  
ôl ðat befel sins sundðn. For I slept sðndle til ðe  
strēks ov morniņ ſōd þrō mi tſāamber windōz, and ðen  
I awōk from a fliiņ drēm ov sēnets sðndiņ tō ðe onset,  
and tortſez in ðe nīt, and worz alārumz. And ðēr wer  
tortſez indēd in mi tſāamber litiņ mi lord tō bed, ðat  
ānserd me no werd but strātwa fel aslēp az in ūter  
werines. Sum slīt skratſez he hap, but els unherť. I  
wōd not wāk him, for bālm iz in slumber; ôlso iz he il tō  
dō wið if wun wāk him so. But ðe tātēl and wīld sermīz ov  
ðe servants bloeþ az ēver tō ôl pŕqnts ov wunder: az ðat a  
grāt armament ov Demonland iz disembarkt at Tēnemos, and ôl  
rðted lâst nīt bi mi lord and bi Korinyus, and Gōldre  
Bluzko slān in singel kombat wið ðe Kiņ. Or ðat Džus hap  
set a tſfarm on Laksus and ôl þr flēt, makiņ ðem sāl līk  
pārisīdz agānst ðis land, Džus and ðe ūðer Demonz lediņ  
ðem; and ôl slān sāv Laksus and Gōldre Bluzko, but ðēz  
brōt bðnd intō Karse, stark mad and frōpiņ at ðe lips,  
and Korinyus ded ov hiz wōondz āfter slaiņ ov Brandox Dahā.  
Or, foollſle," and her grēn īz litend dāndžerðsle, "ðat  
it wōz mi brŭðer rīzen in revolt tō rest Piksiland from ðe  
overlordſip ov Gorīs, and džŕnd wið Gazlark tō ðat end,  
and ðēr arme overþrōn and bōþ taen prīzoner."

Gro lâft and sed, "Σŭrle, O mi Lade Prezmirā, trŭþ  
māskeþ in mēne a strāndz diſgīz hven ſe rideþ rumorz  
broomstik þrō kiņz pālasez. But sumhŭt ov herself hap  
ſe ſōn ðe, if ðð konklūd ðat an event wōz brōt tō  
berþ betwikst dark and sunrīz tō stāger ðe werld, and ðat  
ðe pðer ov Witſland blōmd fœrþ ðis nīt intō unbehōlden  
gløere."

"Ðð spēkst big, mi lord," sed ðe lade. "Wer ðe Demonz  
in it?"

"I, mǎdam," he sed.

"And triumft on? and slān?"

"Ôl slān sāv Dzus and Brandox Dahâ, and ða taken," sed Gro.

"Wôz ðis mi lordz dœiŋ?" Je âskt.

"Grâtles, az I þink," sed Gro; "ðo Korinyus klameþ for himself, az kœmonle, ðe mǎn œnor ov it."

Prezmirâ sed, "He klameþ overmutf." And Je sed, "Ðêr wer nun in it sāv Demonz?"

Gro, noiŋ her þôt, smīld and mǎd ânsers, "Mǎdam, ðêr wer Witfez."

"Mi Lord Gro," Je krīd, "ðð dust il tœ mok me. Ðð art mi frend. Ðð nœst ðe Prins mi brüðer prðd and sūden tœ anger. Ðð nœst it tʃafeþ him tœ hav Witfland over him. Ðð nœst ðe tīm iz mēne dāz overpāst hven he ʃud briŋ hiz yêrle trībūt tœ ðe Kiŋ."

Gröz grāt oks-iz wer soft az he lukt ūpon ðe Lade Prezmirâ, saiŋ, "Mœst äʃürdle am I ði frend, mǎdam. Belīk, if trūþ wer tœld, ðð and ði lord ar ôl ðe tru frendz I hav in wôteriʃ Witfland: u tœ, and ðe Kiŋ: but hœ slepeþ sǎf in ðe favor ov kiŋz? Â, mǎdam, nun ov Piksiland stœd in ðe bätel yesternīt. Ðêrfœr let ði söl be at êz. But mi tâsk it wôz, standiŋ on ðe bätelments besīd ðe Kiŋ, tœ smīl and smīl hūil Korinyus and þr fitiŋ men mǎd a blūde hävok ov fœr or fiv hundred ov mīn œn kinsfolk."

Prezmirâ kôt her breþ and wôz silent a moment. Ðen, "Gazlark?"

"Ðe mǎn fœrs wôz hiz, it apereþ," ânsers Lord Gro. "Korinyus brägeþ himself hiz bānzman, and sertān it iz he feld him tœ erþ. But I am sêkretle advertīzd he wôz not amuŋ ðe ded taken up ðis morniŋ."

"Mi lord," Je sed, "mi dezīr for nūz drinks dēp hūil ðð art fāstiŋ. Sum, briŋ mēt and wīn for mi Lord Gro." And tœ dāmozels ran and reternd wið sparkliŋ gōlden wīn in a beker, and a dīʃ ov lamprāz wið hīpokras sôs. So Gro sat him dðn on ðe dzasper bentf and, hūil he āt and drank, reherst tœ ðe Lade Prezmirâ ðe dœiŋz ov ðe nīt.

Hwen he had ended fe sed, "Hǽ hap ðe Kiŋ delt wið ðōz twān, Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahā?"

Gro ānserd, "He hap ðem klapt up in ðe ōld bankwetiŋ hōl in ðe Īrn Tǽer." And hiz brǽ darkend, and he sed, "Tiz piŋe ði lord la ðus loŋ abed, and so kām not tō ðe kǽnsil, huēr Korsus and Korinyus, bakt bi ði step-sunz and ðe sunz ov Korsus, egd on ðe Kiŋ tō ūz fāmfoole ðēz lordz ov Demonland. Tru iz ðat distitf huitf admōnīfep us--

No hwen tō spēk, for mēne tīmz it briŋz  
Dāndʒer tō giv ðe best advīs tō Kiŋz;

and lītel for mi help, and lītel gān wiðōl, had it bēn  
had I ðen openle wiðstōd ðem. Korinyus iz ēver wōtful tō  
fliŋ Goblin in mi tēp. But Korund waep in ðēr kǽnsilz  
az hiz hand waep in bātel."

Nǽ az Gro spāk kām ðe Lord Korund on ðe tērās, kōliŋ  
for stil wīn tō kool hiz prōt wiðōl. Prezmirā pœrd fœrþ  
tō him: "Ðǽ art blāmd tō me for kepiŋ ði bed, mi lord,  
ðat fʒdst hav bēn deviziŋ wið ðe Kiŋ tutfiŋ ǽr  
ēnemēz taen kaptīv in ðis nīt gon bi."

Korund sat bi hiz lade on ðe bentf and drank. "If ðat be ōl,  
mādam," sed he, "ðen hav I lītel tō tʒardʒ mi konfens  
wiðōl. For nōt līz rēdeer ðan strīk of ðēr hedz,  
and so briŋ ōl tō a fit and hāpe endiŋ."

"Far ūðerwīz," sed Gro, "hap ðe Kiŋ determīnd. He let  
drag befœr him Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahā, and wið mēne  
flērz and dʒībz, Welkum,' he sāp, tō Karse. Yor tabel  
fal not lak stœr ov dēlikāts huīl ye ar mi gests;  
ōlbeit ye kum unbīden.' Ðērwið he let drag ðem tō ðe ōld  
bankwet hōl. And he bad hiz smīps drīv grāt ĩrn stapelz  
intō ðe wōl, hvaron he let haŋ up ðe Demonz bi ðēr  
rists, spred-egeld agānst ðe wōl, makiŋ bōp rists and  
ankelz fāst tō ðe stapelz wið dʒīvz ov ĩrn. And ðe Kiŋ let  
dīt ðe tabel befœr ðēr fēt az for a bankwet, ðat ðe  
sīt and ðe savor mīt torment ðem. And he kōld ōl us  
tō hiz kǽnsil ðīðer ðat we mīt prāz hiz konsēt and  
mok ðem anu."

Sed Prezmirā, "A grāt kiŋ fʒd rāðer be a dog ðat  
kīlep klēn, ðan a kat ðat pāteþ and spœrteþ wið hiz  
pra."

"Tru it iz," sed Korund, "ðat ða wer safer slān." He  
rōz from hiz sēt. "Twer not amis," he sed, "ðat I had  
werd wið ðe Kiŋ."

"Hûêrfœer so?" âskt Prezmirâ.

"He ðat slepeþ lât," sed Korund, iinj her humorðsle,  
"sumtîmz haþ nûz for her ðat rizeþ betîmz tœ sit on ðe  
western tērās. And ðis wôz I kum tœ tel ðe, ðat I but  
nþ beheld ēstword from þr tġamber windo, ridinj tœword  
Karse þt ov Piksiland dþn ðe Wa ov Kiņz----"

"Lâ Firēz?" Je sed.

"Mîn îz be stronġ eno and klēr eno," sed Korund, "but  
þðdst skērs rekwîr me swêr tœ mîn ōn brūðer at þre  
mîlz distans. And az for ðîn, I lēv ðe ðe swariņ."

"Hœ fœd rîd dþn ðe Wa ov Kiņz from Piksiland," krîd  
Prezmirâ, "but Lâ Firēz?"

"Ðat, mādām, let Ęko ânser ðe," sed Korund. "And it  
stîkeþ in mi mînd, ðat ðe Prins mi brūðer-in-lô iz wun  
ðat tieþ tœ hiz hartstriņz ðe remembrans ov pâst  
bēnefits. Ðis tœ, ðat nun did him ēver a grater bēnefit  
ðan Džus, ðat sāvð hiz lîf siks winterz bak in Impland ðe  
Mœr. Hûêrfœer, if Lâ Firēz be tœ fêr þr rêvelz ðis  
nît, nēdfol it iz ðat ðe Kiņ komând ðēz gablerz tœ  
kēp silens tutġinj þr entertānment ov ðēz lordz in ðe  
ōld bankwet hōl, and in džēneral tutġinj ðe fêr ov  
Demonland in ðis fitinj."

Prezmirâ sed, "Kum, Īl go wið ðe."

Ða fþnd ðe Kiņ on ðe topmōst bātelments abuv ðe  
wōter-gāt wið hiz lordz abþt him, gaziņ ēstawa tœword ðe  
loġ lo hilz beþond huitġ la Piksiland. But hven Korund began  
tœ open hiz mînd tœ ðe Kiņ, ðe Kiņ sed, "Ðþ grōst ōld,  
O Korund, and lîk a ġud-for-nūþinj tġapman briņst not ði  
wêrz tœ market êr ðe market be dun. I hav ōlrēde taen  
order for ðis, and strātle tġardzd mi pepel ðat nôt  
befel lâst nît sāv a fariņ ov ðe Goblinz agānst Karse,  
and ðêr overþro, and mi tġasiņ ov ðem wið a grāt  
slôter intœ ðe se. Hœso bi spētġ or sîn ġal revēl tœ  
Lâ Firēz ðat ðe Demonz wer in it, or ðat ðēz ėnemēz ov  
mîn ar ðus entertānd bi me tœ ðêr diskumfort in ðe ōld  
bankwet hōl, he ġal looz nūþinj but hiz lîf."

Korund sed, "It iz wel, O Kiņ."

Ðe Kiņ sed, "Kaptān džēneral, hvôt iz þr strenþ?"

Korinyus ânserd, "Sēvente and þre wer slān, and ðe

ŭðerz for ðe mōst part hert: I amuŋ ðem, ðat am ðus  
wun-handed for ðe hŭl. I wil not engādʒ tō fīnd u, O  
Kiŋ, fitte sŭnd men in Karse."

"Mi Lord Korund," sed ðe Kiŋ, "ðīn īz pērst ēver a  
lēg beŷond ðe best amuŋ us, yuŋ or ōld. Hŭ mēne mākst  
ðŭ yon kumpane?"

Korund lēnd on ðe pārapet and fadēd hiz īz wið hiz hand  
ðat wōz brōd az a smōkt hādok and kŭverd on ðe bak wið  
yēlo hērz groiŋ sumhōt sparsle, az ðe hērz on ðe  
skin ov a yuŋ ēlefant. "He rideþ wið þre skær hors, O  
Kiŋ. Wun or tō mær I giv u for gŭd luk, but if a hav a  
horsman fuer ðan sikste, nēver luv me mær."

Ðe Kiŋ mŭterd an imprekaŋon. "It iz ðe kers ov tŷāns  
brīŋeþ him ðus pat hven I hav mi pŭerz abrōd and am left  
wið tō lītel strenþ tō ō him if he prœv erksum. Wun ov  
ði sunz, O Korund, fal tāk hors and rīd sŭþ tō Zorn and  
Permeo and muster a fu skær fitiŋ men from ðe herdzmen  
and farmerz wið hŭt spēd he ma. It iz komānded."

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Nŭ wōz ðe āfternœon wariŋ tō eveniŋ hven ðe Prins Lā  
Firēz wōz kum in wið ōl hiz kumpane, and gretiŋz dun,  
and ðe trībŭt sāf bestōd, and slepiŋ rōm apŋnted for  
him and hiz. And nŭ ēr ōl gādērd tŷgēðer in ðe grāt  
bankwet hōl ðat wōz bilt bi Gorīs 11., hven he wōz ferst  
mād Kiŋ, in ðe sŭpēst korer ov ðe pālās; and it far  
ekseded in grātnes and magnīfisens ðe ōld hōl hŭēr Lord  
Dzus and Lord Brandox Dahā wer held in dʒures. Sēven ēkwal  
wōlz it had, ov dark grēn dʒasper, spekt wið blŭde spots.  
In ðe midst ov wun wōl wōz ðe lofte dærwa, and in ðe  
wōlz rīt and left ov ðis and in ðōz ðat inklōzd ðe  
angel ōpozīt ðe dær wer grāt windōz plāst hi, gīviŋ  
līt tō ðe bankwet hōl. In ētʃ ov ðe sēven angelz ov ðe  
wōl a kariatid, kut in ðe līknes ov a þre-hēded dʒiant  
from ponderŭs bloks ov blak serpentīn, bōd benēþ ðe  
mas ov a monstrŭs krab hŭn ʒt ov ðe sām stōn. Ðe mite  
klōz ov ðōz sēven krabz sprēdiŋ upwordz bēr up ðe dōm  
ov ðe roof, ðat wōz smœð and kŭverd ōl over wið  
pāntiŋz ov bātēlz and huntiŋ sēnz and rasliŋ bŭts in  
dark and smoke kŭlorz ānserabel tō ðe glœme grandʒŭr ov  
ðat tŷāmber. On ðe wōlz benēþ ðe windōz glēmd wēponz  
ov wor and ov ðe tŷās, and on ðe tō blīnd wōlz wer nāld  
up ōl orderle ðe skulz and ded bōnz ov ðōz tŷampeonz  
hvitʃ had rāseld afcærtīm wið Kiŋ Gorīs 11. or ēver he  
apŋnted in an evil ʒr tō rāsel wið Gōldre Bluzko.

Akros ðe ĩnermōst angel fasiŋ ðe dæŋ wōz a loŋ tabel and a karven bentf behīnd it, and from ðe too endz ov ðat tabel, set skwēr wið it, too ũðer tabelz yet longer and bentfez bi ðem on ðe sīdz nekst ðe wōl stretft too wiðin a fort spās ov ðe dæŋ. Midmōst ov ðe tabel too ðe rīt ov ðe dæŋ wōz a hi sēt ov ōld sīpres wud, grāt and fēr, wið kufonz ov blak velvet brōderd wið gōld, and fasiŋ it at ðe ōpozīt tabel anūðer hi sēt, smōler, and ðe kufonz ov it sōn wið silver. In ðe spās betwikst ðe tabelz fiv ĩrn brazeerz, māsiv and futed wið klōz līk an egelz, stūd in a ro, and behīnd ðe bentfez on iðer sīd wer nīn grāt standz for flambōz too līt ðe hōl bi nīt, and sēven behīnd ðe kros bentf, set at ēkwā distansez and even wið ðe wōlz. ðe flær wōz pāvđ wið stetīt, hūt and kreme, wið vānz ov ritf brōn and blak and perpelz and splāfez ov skarlet. ðe tabelz restiŋ on grāt trēsels wer māse slabz ov a duske pōlift stōn, pōderd wið sparks ov gōld az smōl az ātomz.

ðe wīmen sat on ðe kros-bentf, and midmōst ov ðem ðe Lade Prezmirā, hoo ðtwent ðe rest in bute and kwēnlines az Venus ðe lēser plānets ov ðe nīt. Zenambreā, wīf too Dzūk Korsus, sat on her left, and on her rīt Srivā, dōter too Korsus, strāndzle fēr for sutf a fāðer. On ðe ũper bentf, too ðe rīt ov ðe dæŋ, ðe lordz ov Witfland sat abuv and belo ðe Kiŋz hi sēt, klad in hōlida atīr, and ða ov Piksiland had plās over agānst ðem on ðe loer bentf. ðe hi sēt on ðe loer bentf wōz set apart for Lā Firēz. Grāt plāts and dīfez ov gōld and silver and pānted porselān wer set in order on ðe tabelz, laden wið dēlikasēz. Harps and bagpīps struk up a barbārik muzik, and ðe gests rōz too ðēr fēt, az ðe finiŋ dærz swuŋ open and Gorīs ðe Kiŋ fōlōd bi ðe Prins hiz gest enterd ðat hōl.

Līk a blak egel servaiŋ erp from sum hi mōntān ðe Kiŋ pāst bi in hiz madzeste. Hiz berne wōz ov blak tĳān mā, its kōlar, slēvz, and skert edzd wið plāts ov dul gōld set wið hiasinps and blak opalz. Hiz hōz wer blak, kros-garterd wið bandz ov sēlskin trimd wið dimondz. On hiz left pum wōz hiz grāt signet riŋ fāfond in gōld in ðe semblans ov ðe werm Oroboros ðat etep hiz ōn tāl: ðe bēzel ov ðe riŋ ðe hed ov ðe werm, māđ ov a pētĳ-kūlord rube ov ðe bignes ov a spārōz eg. Hiz klōk wōz woven ov ðe skinz ov blak kōbrāz stitft tūgēðer wið gōld wīr, its liniŋ ov blak silk sprinkeld wið dust ov gōld. ðe ĩrn krōn ov Witfland wād on hiz brō, ðe klōz ov ðe krab erekt līk hornz; and ðe fēn ov its dzuelz wōz mēne-kūlord līk ðe rāz ov Sīreus on a klēr nīt ov frost and wind at Ūl-tīd.

ðe Prins Lā Firēz went in a mantel ov blak sendalīn

sprinkeld ëverihûer wið spangelz ov gōld, and ðe tʃunik  
benēþ it ov ritʃ fīgūrd silk dīd dēp perpel ov ðe Pâsk  
flûer. From ðe gōlden serklet on hiz hed tœ wiŋz spruŋ  
aloft ekskwiʒitle fāfond in plāts ov beten kōper venērd  
wið dʒuelz and enāmelz and plated wið præʃls mētalz tœ ðe  
semblans ov ðe wiŋz ov ðe oleander hōk-moþ. He wōz  
sumþiŋ belo ðe kōmon hīt, but stl̥t and stroŋ and  
sterdile nit, wið red krisp kerle hêr, brōd-fāst and  
rūde, klēn-fāvd, wið hi wīd-nostrild nōz and buʃe  
red hëve ībrl̥z, huens hiz īz, mōst līk hiz lade  
sisterz, se-grēn and fire, ʃot glānsez līk a lionz.

Hven ðe Kiŋ wōz kum intœ hiz hi sēt, wið Korund and  
Korinyus on hiz left and rīt in ðnor ov ðêr grāt dēdz  
ov armz, and Lâ Firēz fasiŋ him in ðe hi sēt on ðe loer  
bentʃ, ðe þrōlz mād hāst tœ set færþ dīʃez ov pīkeld  
grigz and qsterz in ðe ʃel, and huilks, snālz, and kōkelz  
frīd in ōlīv q̄l and swīmiŋ in red and huīt hīpokras. And  
ðe fēsterz delād not tœ fōl tœ on ðēz dāntēz, huī  
ðe kupbarer bæer r̥nd a mite bōl ov beten gōld fild  
wið sparkliŋ wīn ðe hu ov ðe yēlo sāfir, and  
ferniʃt wið siks gōlden ladelz restiŋ ðêr handelz in siks  
hāf-mœn fāpt niks in ðe rim ov ðat grāt bōl. Ētʃ  
gest hven ðe bōl wōz brōt tœ him must brim hiz goblet  
wið ðe ladel, and drink untœ ðe glœere ov Witʃland and ðe  
rulerz ðarov.

Sumhuôt grēnle lōkt Korinyus on ðe Prins, and hūisperiŋ  
Hemiŋ, Korundz sun, in ðe ēr, huœ sat nekst him, he sed,  
"Tru it iz ðat Lâ Firēz iz ðe ʃoeest ov men in ōl ðat  
belōŋeþ tœ gēr and kostle ara. Mark wið huôt ridīkul̥s  
ekses he afekteþ Demonland in ðe grāt stœer ov dʒuelz he  
flōnteþ, and wið huôt an apiʃ insolens he siþeþ at ðe  
bœerd. Yet ðis lobkok līveþ ōnle bi ʃr sūferans, and I  
se a hap not forgot tœ briŋ wið him tœ Witʃland ðe pīs  
ov ʃr hand wiðheld from twistiŋ ov hiz nek."

Nl̥ wer bæern r̥nd dīʃez ov karp, piltʃardz, and lobsterz,  
and ðarāfter stœer eno ov mēts: a fat kid rōsted huōl and  
garniʃt wið pēz on a spaʃls silver tʃardʒer, kid pâstēz,  
plāts ov nēts tunʒ and swētbredz, sūkiŋ rābits in  
dʒëlēz, hedʒhogz bākt in ðêr skinz, hogz hazlets,  
karbonādōz, tʃīterliŋz, and dorml̥s pīz. ðēz and ūðer  
lūʃls mēts wer bæern r̥nd kontīnuale bi þrōlz huœ  
mœvd silent on bêr fēt; and mēre wakst ðe tōk az ðe edʒ  
ov hunger bekām blunted a lītēl, and ðe kōkelz ov menz  
harts wer wormd wið wīn.

"Huôt nūz in Witʃland?" āskt Lâ Firēz.



"I hav herd nôt nuer," sed ðe Kiŋ, "ðan ðe slaiŋ ov Gazlark." And ðe Kiŋ rekłnted ðe bätel in ðe nīt, sētij fœrþ az in a frank and open ðneste ëvere partikular ov numberz, tīmz, and kŭmiŋz and goiŋz; sāv ðat nun mīt hav gest from hiz tāl ðat ëne ov Demonland had part or interest in ðat bätel.

Lâ Firēz sed, "Strändz it iz ðat he fŭd so atak u. An ëneme mīt smel sum kôz behīnd it."

"Ūr grätnes," sed Korinyus, lŭkiŋ hôtele at him, "iz a lamp hvarat ũðer moþs ðan he hav bēn bernt. I kłnt it no strändz mäter at ôl."

Prezmirâ sed, "Strändz indēd, wer it ëne but Gazlark. But fŭr wið him no wīld süden fanse wer too līt but it fŭd tĵäreot him līk þisel-dłn too storm hēven itself."

"A būbel ov ðe êr, mădam: ôl fīn kŭlorz wiðłt and empte wind wiðin. I hav nōn ũðer sutf," sed Korinyus, stil restij hiz gāz wið stŭdēd insolens on ðe Prins.

Prezmirâz i dānst. "O mi Lord Korinyus," sed fe, "tĵändz ferst ðīn ōn fāfon, I pra ðe, êr ðł konvins ga atīr ov inword föle, lest behöldiŋ ðe we misdłt ði presept--or ði wizdom."

Korinyus drank hiz kup too ðe drānz and lâft. Sumhŭt rēdend wōz hiz insolent handsum fās abłt ðe tĵēks and faven dzłl, for fŭrle wōz nun in ðat hōl mœr ritfle apäreld ðan he. Hiz ampel tĵest wōz kāst in a dzerkin ov untand bukskin plated wið silver skālz, and he wœr a kōlar ov göld ðat wōz ruf wið smaragdz and a loŋ klōk ov ski-blu silk brokād līnd wið kloþ ov silver. On hiz left rist wōz a mite riŋ ov göld, and on hiz hed a rēþ ov blak brione and slepiŋ nītĵād. Gro hŭisperd Korund in ðe êr, "He bĵeþ it dłn apās, and ðe Ūr iz yet erle. Ðis prēsādzeþ trŭbel, sins ëver wið him indiskrēfon trēdeþ hard on ðe hēlz ov serlines az he wakseþ drunken."

Korund grunted asent, saiŋ alłd, "Too ôl pēks ov fām mīt Gazlark hav klīmd, but for ðis sām rafnes. Nôt mœr þītifŭl haþ bēn herd too tel ov ðan hiz grāt sendij intō Impland, ten yērz ago, huen, on a süden konsēt ðat a fŭd la ôl Impland under him and bekum ðe gratest kiŋ in ôl ðe werld, he hīrd Zeldornyus and Helterānyus and Dzalkanius Fostus----"

"Ðe þre mōst notabel kaptānz fłnd on erþ," sed Lâ Firēz.

"Nūpiŋ iz mæŋ tru," sed Korund. "Ďēz he hīrd, and brōt em fips and sōldzerz and horsez and sutf a klūter ov endzīnz ov wor az haþ not bēn sēn Ďēz hundred yērz, and sent em--hūðer? T∞ ðe ritf and plēzant landz ov Beftreâ? No. T∞ Demonland? Not a hūit. T∞ ðis Witfland, hūer wið a twenteep part ðe pþer a haþ nþ riskt ôl and sūferd dep and d∞m? No! but t∞ yonder hel-besmiten wildernes ov Ūper Impland, treles, wōterles, not a sōl t∞ pa him tñbūt had he lād it under him sāv wōnderiŋ bandz ov sāvādʒ Imps, wið mæŋ bugz on ðēr bōdēz ðan pens in ðēr persez, I worant u. Or wōz he mīnded t∞ be kiŋ amuŋ ðe dīvelz ov ðe êr, gōsts, and hob-þrūfez ðat be fōnd in ðat dēzert?"

"Wīðlēt kontroveŋe ðēr be sēventēn sēveral sorts ov dīvelz on ðe Morunā," sed Korsus, vēre lþd and sūden, so ðat ôl ternd t∞ tøk on him; "fire dīvelz, dīvelz ov ðe êr, terestreal dīvelz, az u ma sa, and wōtere dīvelz, and subterānyan dīvelz. Wīðlēt kontroveŋe ðēr be sēven sēn sorts, sēventēn sēveral sorts ov hob-þrūfez, and sēveral sorts ov dīvelz, and if ðe humor tøk me I kud nām ðem ôl bi rōt."

Wundrþs sōlem wōz ðe hēve fās ov Korsus, hiz īz, bāge undernēþ and sumhūot bludfed, hiz pendzulþs tʃēks, þik blūber ūper-lip, and brisle gra mōstāfeōz and hūskerz. He had eten, mānle t∞ provōk þerst, þikeld ōlīvz, kaperz, sōlted ālmondz, antfovēz, fumādōz, and piltfardz frīd wið mustard, and nþ awated ðe sōlt tʃīn ov bēf t∞ be a þīlo and a restiŋ plās for nu potafonz.

Ðe Lade Zenambreâ āskt, "Noep ěne for sertān hūot fāt befel Dʒalkanius and Helterānyus and Zeldornyus and ðēr armēz?"

"Herd I not," sed Prezmirā, "ðat ða wer led bi Wil-o'-ðe-Wisps t∞ ðe rēdʒonz Hiperborean, and ðēr māð kiŋz?"

"Tōld ðe bi ðe madʒ-hþlet, I fēr me, sister," sed Lā Firēz. "Hūēnaz I fērd þr∞ Impland ðe Mæŋ, siks yērz ago, ðēr wōz mēne a wīld tāl tōld me herov, but nōt wīðin krēdit."

Nþ wōz ðe tʃīn servd in amid falots on a grāt diŋ ov gōld, bcærn bi fæŋ serviŋ men, so wate wōz ðe diŋ and its berden. Sum līt ðēr glōd in ðe dul i ov Korsus t∞ se it kum, and Korund rōz up wið brīmiŋ goblet, and ðe Witfez krīd, "Ðe soŋ ov ðe tʃīn, O Korund!" Grāt az

a nēt stōd Korund in hiz rūset velvet kertel, gert abŕt wið a brōd belt ov krōkodīl hīd edʒd wið gōld. From hiz fōlderz huŕ a klōk ov wōlfs skin wið ðe hēr insīd, ðe ŕtsīd tand and diperd wið perpel silk. Dalīt wōz ni gon, and þrō a hāz ov savorz riziŕ from ðe fēst ðe flambqz fon on hiz bōld hed set abŕt wið þik grīzeld kerlz, and on hiz kēn gra īz, and hiz loŕ and bʊʃe bērd. He krīd, "Giv me a rŕz, mi lordz! and if ěne fāl tō bēr me ŕt in ðe refrān, Īl nēr luv him mœr." And he saŕ ðis soŕ ov ðe tʃīn in a vqz līk ðe sŕndiŕ ov a goŕ; and ōl ða rœrd in ðe refrān til ðe pīld dīʃez on ðe servīs tabelz raŕ:

*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?*

Hūen ðe tʃīn wōz karvd and ðe kups replēniʃt, ðe Kiŕ ĩʃūd komānd saiŕ, "Kōl hīðer mi dworf, and let him akt hiz antik dʒestʃŕz befœr us."

Ðêrwið kām ðe dworf int∞ ðe hōl, mōpiŋ and moiŋ,  
klad in a slēvles dzerkin ov strīpt yēlo and red mōkado.  
And hiz loŋ and nervles tāl dragd on ðe flœr behīnd him.

"Sumhūôt fulsum iz ðis dworf," sed Lâ Firēz.

"Spēk wīðin dœr, Prins," sed Korinyus. "Nōst not hiz  
kwōlite? A hap bēn envq ekstrordinare from Kiŋ Gorīs 11.  
ov mēmre ēver glœreðs unt∞ Lord Dʒus in Galiŋ and ðe lordz  
ov Demonland. And twōz ðe gratest kertese we kud stūde t∞  
d∞ ðem, t∞ send em ðis lœbe for ʒr ambāsador."

Ðe dworf praktist befœr ðem t∞ ðe grāt kontent ov ðe  
lordz ov Witfland and ðêr gests, sāv for hiz dʒapiŋ ūpon  
Korinyus and ðe Prins, kōliŋ ðem t∞ pekoks, so līk in  
ðêr brīt plumādʒ ðat nun mīt tel iðer from ūðer;  
huitʃ sumhūôt gōld ðem bōp.

And nð wōz ðe Kiŋz hart waksen glad wið wīn, and he  
pledʒd Gro, saiŋ, "Be mēre, Gro, and dðt not ðat I wil  
fulfil mi werd I spāk unt∞ ðe, and māk ðe kiŋ in Zādʒe  
Zakulo."

"Lord, I am yorz for ēver," ânserd Gro. "But mēpinks I am  
lītel fited t∞ be a kiŋ. Mēpinks I wōz ēver a bēter  
stʃuword ov ūðer menz fortʃūnz ðan ov mīn ōn."

Harat ðe Dʒūk Korsus, ðat wōz sprōld on ðe tabel wel  
ni aslēp, krīd ʒt in a grāt vqʒ but huske wīðōl, "A  
brās ov dīvelz brqł me if ðʒ sāst not sœp! If ðīn ōn  
fortʃūnz kum of but blule, kêr not a ruʃ. Giv me sum  
wīn, a ful wepiŋ goblet. Hâ! Hâ! hviŋ it awa! Hâ! Hâ!  
Witfland! Hven wêr u ðe krðn ov Demonland, O Kiŋ?"

"Hð nð, Korsus," sed ðe Kiŋ, "art ðʒ drunk?"

But Lâ Firēz sed, "Ye swêr pēs wið ðe Demonz in ðe  
Foleot Īlz, and bi mite ōps ar ye bðnd t∞ pœt bi for  
ēver yor klāmz ov lordʃip over Demonland. I hōpt yor  
kworelz wer ended."

"Hi so ða ar," sed ðe Kiŋ.

Korsus tʃūkeld wēkle. "Ye sa wel: vēre wel, O Kiŋ, vēre  
wel, Lâ Firēz. ʒr kworelz ar ended. No rœm for mœr. For,  
lœk u, Demonland iz a rīp frūt rēde t∞ drop me ðus in  
ʒr mðp." Leniŋ bak he gāpt hiz mðp wīd open,  
suspendiŋ bi wun leg abuv it an hortolan basted wið its ōn  
drīpiŋ. Ðe berd slipt þrœ hiz fingerz, and fel

agānst hiz t̄fēk, and so on t̄o hiz b̄uzom, and so on ðe fl̄ær,  
and hiz brazen berne and ðe sl̄ēvz ov hiz pāl gr̄ēn kertel  
wer splaft wið ðe grave.

H̄arat Korinyus let fli a grāt p̄ēl ov lāfter; but Lā  
Firēz fluft wið anger and sed, sk̄l̄iŋ, "Drunken'nes, mi  
lord, iz a d̄zest for p̄r̄olz t̄o lāf at."

"Ðen sit ð̄l̄ mum, Prins," sed Korinyus, "lest ði kw̄olite  
be k̄old in kwest̄fon. For mi part I lāf at mi p̄ots, and  
ða be vēre t̄f̄qs."

But Korsus w̄ipt hiz fās and fel a-s̄iŋiŋ:

*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 affaires?*

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

Wið ðat, Korsus sank h̄ēvile forword agān on ðe tabel. And  
ðe dworf, h̄ooz d̄zāps ôl els in ðat kumpane had taken wel  
even h̄en ðemselvz wer ðe mark ðarov, l̄ēpt up and d̄l̄n,  
kriiŋ, "H̄ēr a wunder! Ðis p̄udiŋ s̄iŋeþ. H̄en wið t̄o  
plāterz, p̄r̄olz! ye hav servd it o' ðe b̄ærd wið̄l̄t a  
dij. Wun wer t̄o l̄itel t̄o kontān so vāst a d̄ēl ov  
b̄uloks blud and lard. Swift, and karv it ēr ðe vaporz  
berst ðe skin."

"I wil karv ðe, filp," sed Korsus, lert̄iŋ t̄o hiz f̄ēt;  
and kat̄iŋ ðe dworf bi ðe rist wið wun hand he gāv him a  
grāt boks on ðe ēr wið ðe ūðer. Ðe dworf skw̄ēld and bit  
Korsusez þum t̄o ðe b̄ōn, so ðat he l̄oost hiz h̄old; and ðe  
dworf fled from ðe h̄ol, h̄īl ðe kumpane lāft pl̄ēzantle.

"So flieþ f̄ole bef̄ær wizdom h̄vit̄f iz in w̄iŋ," sed ðe  
Kiŋ. "Ðe n̄it iz yuŋ; briŋ me botarḡōz, and k̄āvear and  
t̄ōst. Drink, Prins. Ðe red þramnyan w̄iŋ ðat iz þik l̄ik  
h̄ūne w̄oæþ ðe s̄ol t̄o div̄iŋ fil̄sofe. H̄l̄ vān a þiŋ iz  
amb̄iŋon. Ðis w̄ōz Gazlarks bān, h̄ooz enterprizez ov sut̄f  
pit̄f and moment hav ended ðus, in a k̄iŋd ov n̄ūþiŋ. Or h̄ot

pinkst ðð, Gro, ðð hvitf art a filösofer?"

"Aläs, þoo Gazlark," sed Gro. "Had ôl grön too hiz mīnd, and had he gānst ôl ekspektafon göten us overþrön, even so had he bēn no nerer too hiz harts dezīr ðan hven he ferst set fœrþ. For he had ov ôld in Zādze Zakulo etiŋ and drinkiŋ and gardenz and trēzūr and muzīfanŋ and a fēr wīf, ôl soft ēz and kontentment ôl hiz dāz. And at ðe lāst, hðsoēr we fāp þr kœrs, kūmeþ ðe pöpe ðat abideþ ôl ov us bi ðe harbor ov oblīveon hard too klenz. Dri wiðerd lēvz ov lorel or ov sīpres tre, and a lītel dust. Nôt els remaneþ."

"Wið a sad brð I sa it," sed ðe Kiŋ: "I hōld him wīz ðat restep hæpe, even az ðe Red Foleot, and temptep not ðe Godz bi over-mðntiŋ ambīfon too hiz dēdzekfon."

Lā Firēz had þrön himself bak in hiz hi sēt wið hiz elbōz restiŋ on its lofte armz and hiz handz dangliŋ īdle on iðer sīd. Wið hed held hi and inkredzulðs smīl he harkend too ðe werdz ov Gorīs ðe Kiŋ.

Gro sed in Korundz ēr, "Ðe Kiŋ haþ fðnd strāndz kīndnes in ðe kup."

"I þink ðð and I be klēn þt o' fāfon," ānserd Korund, hīsperiŋ, "ðat we be not yet drunken; ðe kōz hvarov iz ðat ðð drinkst wiðin mēzūr, hvitf iz gōd, and me ðis āmēþist at mi belt kepeþ sober, wer I nēver so serfēt-sweld wið wīn."

Lā Firēz sed, "U ar plēzd too dzest, O Kiŋ. For mi part, I had az lēf hav ðis musk-mīleon on mi fōlderz az a hed so blōkiŋ az too wōnt ambīfon."

"If ðð wert not þr prinsle gest," sed Korinyus, "I had kōld ðat spōk in ðe rīt fāfon ov a lītel man. Witf land afekteþ not sutf vōnts, but kan afœrd too spēk az þr Lord ðe Kiŋ in þrðd humīlite. Terke koks dœ strut and göbel; not so ðe egel, hœ hōldeþ ðe werld at hiz diskrēfon."

"Pīte on ðe," krīd ðe Prins, "if ðis tŋep viktore tern ðe so gīde. Goblinz!"

Korinyus skðld. Korsus tŋukeld, saiŋ too himself but lðd enuf for ôl too hēr, "Goblinz, kwopâ? Ða wer smôl gām had ða bēn ôl. I, ðēr it iz: had ða bēn ôl."

Ðe Kiŋz brð wōz līk a fðl blak klðd. Ðe wīmen held

ðêr brêp. But Korsus, blandle insensibel ov ðêz gǣðerij  
þunderz, bêt tîm on ðe tabel wið hiz kup, drÿzile  
tjântij tœ a mœst mœrnful êr:

*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 rezÿndij hekup brôt him tœ a ful klœz.

Ðe tœk had dīd dÿn, ðe lordz ov Witfland, il at êz,  
stÿdeij tœ wêr ðêr fasez tœ ðe bent ov ðe Kirz lœks.  
But Prezmirâ spāk, and ðe muzik ov her vq̄s kām līk a  
refrêfij ſÿer. "Ðis soij ov mi Lord Korsus," Je sed,  
"mād me hœpfol for an ânser tœ a kwestjon in filœsofe; but  
Bākus, u se, hap taen hiz sœl intœ Elezum for a  
sezon, and I fêr me nor trÿp nor wizdom kÿmeþ from hiz  
mÿþ tœ-nīt. And ðis wôz mi kwestjon, hvêðer it be tru  
ðat ôl ânimalz ov ðe land ar in ðêr kīnd in ðe se? Mi  
Lord Korinyus, or ðÿ, mi prinsle brÿðer, kan u rezolv  
me?"

"Hji, so it iz resêvd, mādam," sed Lâ Firêz. "And inkwire  
wil jo ðe mêne prite instansez: az ðe se-frog, ðe  
se-foks, ðe se-dog, ðe se-hors, ðe se-lion, ðe  
se-bêr. And I hav nœn ðe barbarÿs pepel ov Ezamofâ êt  
ov a konserv ov se-mīs maft and brād in a mortar wið  
ðe flej ov ðat bêst nāmd bos marinus, sezond wið sœlt  
and garlik."

"Fo! spêk tœ me sumhvôt kwikle," krīd ðe Lade Srivâ, "êr  
in imādžinafon I tāst sutj nāste mêt. Prite, yonder gœld  
pêtjez and razinz ov ðe sun az an antidôt."

"Lord Gro wil instrukt ðe bêter ðan I," sed Lâ Firêz.  
"For mi part, ôlbeit I þink nœble ov filœsofe, yet hav I  
lītel læzÿr tœ stÿde it. Oft hav I hunted ðe badzer, yet  
nêver ânserd ðat kwestjon ov ðe doktorz hvêðer he hap ðe  
legz ov wun sīd forter ðan ov ðe ũðer. Niðer no I, for  
ôl ðe lamprāz I hav êt, hÿ mêne īz ðe lampra hap,  
hvêðer it be nīn or tœ."

Prezmirâ smīld: "O mi brÿðer, ðÿ art tœ tœ smœrd, I  
fêr me, in ðe dust ov akjon and ðe fêld tœ be at akord  
wið ðêz nis sertfijz. But be ðêr berdz under ðe se,  
mi Lord Gro?"

Gro mād ânser, "In rīverz, sertānle, ðo it be but berdz  
ov ðe êr sœdžernij for a sezon. Az I miself hav fÿnd ðem

in Țter Impland, aslēp in winter tīm at ðe bōtom ov lāks  
and rīverz, tō tūgēðer, mǫp tō mǫp, wiŋ tō wiŋ. But in  
ðe spring ða revīv agān, and bi and bi ar ðe wōdz fōl  
ov ðēr sīŋiŋ. And for ðe se, ðēr be tru se-kǫkōz,  
se-prūfez, and se-spārōz, and mēne mœr."

"It iz pāsīŋ strāndz," sed Zenambreā.

Korsus saŋ:

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

Prezmirā ternd tō Korund saiŋ, "Wōz ðēr not a mēre  
dispūt betwikst u, mi lord, konserniŋ ðe tōd and ðe  
spider, ðǫ māntaniŋ ðat ða dō pǫzonȚsle destrŋ wun  
anūðer, and mi Lord Gro ðat he wōd fo ðe tō ðe  
kontrare?"

"Twōz even so, lade," sed Korund, "and it iz yet in  
kontroverse."

Korsus saŋ:

*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 so sank bak intō blotod silens.

"Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ," krīd Prezmirā, "I besētŋ u giv order  
for ðe endiŋ ov ðis dīferens betwēn tō ov yor kȚnsil,  
ēr it waks tō dāndzērȚs hēt. Let ðem be gīven a tōd, O Kiŋ,  
and spiderz wīðȚt dela, ðat ða ma māk ekspērimēt befœr  
ðis gȚdle kumpane."

Ðērwið ôl fel a-lāfiŋ, and ðe Kiŋ komānded a prōl,  
hȚ fōrtle brōt fat spiderz tō ðe number ov sēven and a  
kristal wīn-kup, and inklōzd wið ðem benēp ðe kup a  
tōd, and set ôl befœr ðe Kiŋ. And ôl beheld ðem egerle.

"I wil wādzer tō ferkinz ov pāl Permean wīn tō a buntŋ ov  
rādīfez," sed Korund, "ðat viktore ŋal be gīven untō ðe  
spiderz. Behōld hȚ wīðȚt rezistans ða dō sit ūpon hiz  
hed and pās ôl over hiz bōde."

Gro sed, "Dun."



"Ðǫ wilt looz ðe wādzer, Korund," sed ðe Kiŋ. "Ðis tōd takeþ no hert from ðe spiderz, but siþeþ kwiet ǫt ov pōlise, temptiŋ ðem tō sekurite, ðat ūpon advāntādƷ he ma swōlo ðem dǫn."

Hwīl ða wōtft, frūts wer bærn in: kwēn-āpelz, ālmondz, pōmegranāts and pistik nuts; and freƷ bōlz and dƷarz ov wīn, and amuŋ ðem a kristal flāgon ov ðe pētƷ-kūlord wīn ov Krōðeriŋ vintādƷd mēne sūmerz ago in ðe vīnyardz ðat stretƷ sǫþword tōword ðe se from belo ðe kâsel ov Lord Brandox Dahâ.

Korinyus drank dēp, and krīd, "Tiz a rǫal drink, ðis wīn ov Krōðeriŋ! Fōk sa it wil be gōd tƷep ðis sūmer."

Hwarat Lâ Firēz fot a glâns at him, and ðe Kiŋ markiŋ it sed in Korinyusez ēr, "Wilt ðǫ be prudent? Let not ði prīd flāter ðe tō þink ǫt Ʒal avāl ðe, ēne mœr ðan mi vilest þrōl, if bi ði dœiŋ ðis Prins smel ǫt mi sēkrets."

Bi ðen wōz ðe Ʒr waksin lāt, and ðe wīmen tuk ðēr lēv, lited tō ðe dœrz in grāt stāt bi þrōlz wið flambqz. In a hwīl, hwen ða wer gon. "A plāg ov ǫl spiderz!" krīd Korund. "Ði tōd hap swōlōd wun ǫlrēde."

"Tō mœr!" sed Gro. "Ði þeorik krumbleþ apās, O Korund. He hap tō at a gulp, and but fœr remān."

Ðe Lord Korinyus, hƷoz kǫntenans wōz nǫ aflām wið fureðs drinkiŋ, held hi hiz kup and katƷiŋ ðe Prinsez i, "Mark wel, Lâ Firēz," he krīd, "a sīn and a prōfese. Ferst wun; nekst tō at a mǫþƷol; and erle āfter ðat, az i þink, ðe fœr ðat remān. Art not afērd lest ðǫ be fǫnd a spider hwen ðe brunt Ʒal kum?"

"Hast drunk ðiself horn-mad, Korinyus?" sed ðe Kiŋ under hiz breþ, hiz vqƷ Ʒaken wið anger.

"He iz az wīte a marmalād-eter az ēver i konverst wið," sed Lâ Firēz, "but i kanot tel hwōt ðe dīkenz he mēnz."

"Ðat," ānserd Korinyus, "hwitƷ Ʒud māk ði smerkiŋ fās tern sereðs. I mēn Ʒr ānfent ēnemēz, ðe haskardle mongrelz ov Demonland. Ferst gulp, Gōldre, taken hēven nōz hwīðer bi ðe Kiŋz sendiŋ in a dedle skud ov wind----"

"Ðe dēvil dam ðe!" krīd ðe Kiŋ, "hwōt drunken brābel iz ðis?"

But ðe Prins Lâ Firēz wakst red az blud, saiŋ, "Ðis it iz ðen ðat lieþ behīnd ðis hūder mūder, and ye go tō wor wið Demonland? Þink not tō hav mi help ðarin."

"We ſal not slēp ðe wers for ðat," sed Korinyus. "Þr mþþ iz big enuf for sutſ a morsel ov martſþān az ðþ, if ðþ tern erksum."

"Ði mþþ iz big enuf tō blab ðe sēkrettest intēlīdþens, az we nþ mōst lâfable aprōv," sed Lâ Firēz. "Wer I ðe Kiŋ, I wōd drō lobsterz huiskerz on ði skin, for a tipse and a pratliŋ pōpindþa."

"An insult!" krīd ðe Lord Korinyus, lepiŋ up. "I wōd not tāk an insult from ðe Godz in hēven. Rētſ me a scērd, bŋ! I wil māk Beftrean kut-werks in hiz guts."

"Pēs, on yor līvz!" sed ðe Kiŋ in a grāt vaþs, hūl Korund went tō Korinyus and Gro tō ðe Prins tō kwiet ðem. "Korinyus iz wōnded in ðe rist and kanot fit, and belīk hiz brān iz feverd bi ðe wōnd."

"Hēl him, ðen, ov ðis karviŋ ðe Goblinz gāv him, and I wil karv him līk a kapon," sed ðe Prins.

"Goblinz!" sed Korinyus fērsle. "No, vīl fēlo, ðe best scērdzman in ðe werld gāv me ðis wōnd. Had it bēn ðþ ðat stōd befōer me, I had kut ðe intō stāks, ðat art kapond ôlrēde."

But ðe Kiŋ stōd up in hiz madþeste, saiŋ, "Silens, on yor līvz!" And ðe Kiŋz īz glīterd wið rôþ, and he sed, "For ðe, Korinyus, not ði hot ūþ and rebēleþs blud nor yet ðe wīn ðþ hast swild intō ðat grede bēle ov ðīn ſal mītigāt ðe rīgor ov mi displēþūr. Ði pūniþment I rezerv untō tō-moro. And ðþ, Lâ Firēz, lþk ðþ bēr ðiself mœr humble in mi hōlz. Over pert wōz ðe mēsādþ brōt me bi ðīn hērald at ði kūmiŋ hīðer ðis morniŋ, and tō mutſ it smakt ov a gretiŋ from an ēkwal tō an ēkwal, kōliŋ ði trībūt a gift, ðo it, and ðþ, and ôl ði prinsipālīte ar mīn bi rīt tō dēl wið az sēmz me gud. Yet did I bēr wið ðe: unwīzle, az I þink, sins ði pertnes nūriþt bi mi forbarans sprīŋeþ up yet ranker at mi tabel, and ðþ insultst and brōlst in mi hōlz. Be advīzd, lest mi rôþ fœrdþ þunderbolts agānst ðe."

Ðe Prins Lâ Firēz ānserd and sed, "Kēþ frþnz and þrets for ðīn ofendiŋ þrōlz, O Kiŋ, sins me ða afrīt not, and I lâf ðem tō skorn. Nor am I kērfol tō ānsere ðīn indþureþs werdz; sins wel ðþ nōst mi ôld

frendſip untō ðīn hſs, O Kiſ, and untō Witſland, and bi  
hōt bandz ov mārādʒ I am bſnd in luv tō ðe Lord Korund,  
tō huom I gāv mi lade ſiſter. If it sūt not mi stūmak tō  
proklām līk a ſervīl mīnīſter ði ſuzerānte, yet nēdst  
ðſ not tō karp at ðis, ſins ði trībūt iz pād ðe, i,  
and in over-mēzūr. But untō Demonland am I bſnd, az ōl ðe  
werld noep, and ſooner ſalt ðſ prevāl ūpon ðe lamps ov  
hēven tō kum dſn and fīt for ðe agānſt ðe Demonz ðan  
ūpon me. And untō Korinyus ðat ſo bōſteþ I ſa ðat  
Demonland haþ ēver bēn tō hard for u Witſez. Gōldre  
Bluzko and Brandox Dahâ hav ſōn u ðis. ðis iz mi  
kſnſel untō ðe, O Kiſ, tō māk pēs wið Demonland: mi  
rezonz, ferſt ðat ðſ haſt no dzuſt kōz ov kworel wið  
ðem, nekſt (and ðis ſud ſwa ðe mœr) ðat if ðſ  
persist in fitiſ agānſt ðem it wil be ðe ruin ov ðe  
and ov ōl Witſland."

Ðe Kiſ bit hiſ fingerz wið sīnz ov wunderfōl anger, and for  
a mīnūts tīm no sſnd wōz in ðat hōl. Ōnle Korund spāk  
privātle tō ðe Kiſ ſaiſ, "Lord, O for ōl sāks swōlo  
yor rſqal rādʒ. U ma hviþ him hven mi ſun Hakmon reſerſep,  
but til ðen he ſtnumberz us, and yor ōn parte ſo  
overhuelmd wið wīn ðat, truſt me, I wōd not adventſūr ðe  
prīs ov a ternip on ſr tſānſez if it kum tō fitiſ."

Trībeld at hart wōz Korund, for wel he nu hſ dēr beſond  
akſnt hiſ lade wīf held ðe kepiſ ov ðe pēs betwikſt Lâ  
Firēz and ðe Witſez.

In ðis moment Korsus, ſumhōt rſzd in an evil ſr ſt ov  
lēpardʒe bi ðe lſd tōk and mōvment, began tō ſiſ:

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

Huarat Korinyus, in huom wīn and kworeliſ and ðe Kiſz  
rebūks had lited a fir ov rekles and ſtrādʒſ mālīs  
befœr hviſf ōl kſnſelz ov prudens or pōliſe wer dīſipated  
līk waks in a fernās, ſſted lſdle, "Wilt ſe ſr prīzonerz,  
Prins, i' ðe ōld bankwet hōl, tō prœv ðiſelf an aſ?"

"Hōt prīzonerz?" krīd ðe Prins, ſprīſiſ tō hiſ fēt.  
"Helz furēz! I am were ov ðēz dark ekwivokafonz and wil  
no ðe trūþ."

"Hi wilt ðð rādꝛ so bēstle?" sed ðe Kiŋ. "Ðe man iz drunk. No mæer wīld werdz."

"Ðð kanst not daf me so. I wil no ðe trūþ," sed Lā Firēz.

"So ðð falt," sed Korinyus. "Ðis it iz: ðat we Witfez be bēter men ðan ðð and ði hen-harted Piksēz, and bēter men ðan ðe akerst Demonz. No nēd tœ hīd it ferðer. Tœ ov ðat brœod we hav lād bi ðe hēlz, and nāld em up on ðe wōl ov ðe ōld bankwet hōl, az farmerz nāl up wezelz and pōlkats on a barn dœr. And ðêr fal ða bīd til ða be ded: Dꝛus and Brandox Dahâ."

"O mōst vīlanðs li!" sed ðe Kiŋ. "Ī hav ðe hūn in pesez."

But Korinyus sed, "I ners yor ōnor, O Kiŋ. We must no longer skulk befœr ðêz Piksēz."

"Ðð dīst for it," sed ðe Kiŋ, "and it iz a li."

Nð wōz ded silens for a spās. At lāst ðe Prins sat dðn slole. Hiz fās wōz hūit and drōn, and he spāk untœ ðe Kiŋ, slole and in a kwiet vqꝛ: "O Kiŋ, ðat I wōz sumhūot hot wið u, forgiv me. And if I hav omīted ēne form ov alēdꝛans dꝛu tœ u, þink rāðer ðat in mi blud it iz tœ tꝛāf at sutꝛ sēremonēz ðan ðat I had ēne lak ov frendꝛip untœ u or ēver drēmd ov kwestꝛoniŋ yor over-lordꝛip. Ôt ðat u fal rekwīr ov me and ðat lieþ wið mīn ōnor, ôt ov sēremonē or fēlte, wil I wið dꝛꝛ perform. And, sāv agānst Demonland, iz mi sœrd rēde agānst yor ēnemēz. But hēr, O Kiŋ, tōtereþ a tðer rēde tœ fōl aþwort ðr frendꝛip and paꝛ it in pesez. It iz nōn tœ u, O Kiŋ, and tœ ôl ðe lordz ov Witꝛland, ðat mi bōnz wer hūiteniŋ ðêz siks yērz in Impland ðe Mœr if Lord Dꝛus had not sāvð me from ðe barbarðs Imps ðat fōlōd Faks Fa Faz, hœ besēzd me fœr munþs wið mi smōl fōloinꝛ fut up in Lidâ Nangunâ. Mi frendꝛip fal u hav, O Kiŋ, if u yēld me up mi frendz."

But ðe Kiŋ sed, "I hav not ði frendz."

"So me ðen ðe ōld bankwet hōl," sed ðe Prins.

Ðe Kiŋ sed, "I wil ꝑo it ðe anon."

"I wil se it nð," sed ðe Prins, and he rōz from hiz sēt.

"I wil disembel wið ðe no longer," sed ðe Kiŋ. "I doo  
luv ðe wel. But hven ðŷ âskst me too yēld up too ðe  
Dzus and Brandox Dahâ, ðŷ âskst a þiŋ ôl Piksiland and  
ði dēr harts blud wer ūnabel too pertfās from me. Ðēz  
be mi werst ēnemēz. Ðŷ nōst not at huôt kost ov tq̄l and  
dāndz̄er I hav at lāst lād hand on ðem. And nŷ let not ði  
hōps māk ðe an unbelever, hven I swēr too ðe ðat Dzus  
and Brandox Dahâ ſal rot and di in p̄izon."

And for ôl hiz d̄zentel spētfez, and öferz ov welþ and ritf  
advântād̄z and uphōldiŋ in pēs and wor, mīt not Lâ Firēz  
fāk ðe Kiŋ. And ðe Kiŋ sed, "Forbêr, Lâ Firēz, or ðŷ  
wilt veks me. Ða must rot."

So hven ðe Prins Lâ Firēz sô ðat he mīt not moov ðe  
Kiŋ bi soft werdz, he tok up hiz fēr kristal goblet,  
eg-ſāpt wið þre klōz ov gōld too stand wīðōl welded too a  
kōlar ov gōld abŷt its mīdel bost wið topazez, and herld  
it at Gorīs ðe Kiŋ, so ðat ðe goblet smōt him on ðe  
fœrhed, and ðe kristal wōz brast asunder wið ðe fœrs ov  
ðe blo, and ðe Kiŋz fœrhed lād open, and ðe Kiŋ  
struk sensles.

Ðêrwið wōz hūd̄z uprœr in ðe bankwet hōl; nor wud Korund  
ðat ēne ſud hav spedeer hand ðarin ðan he, but  
katfiŋ up hiz too-ed̄zd særd and kriiŋ, "Lok too ðe Kiŋ,  
Gro! Hêrz distresful rêvelz!" he lēpt ūpon ðe tabel. And  
hiz sunz līkwīz and Gālandus and ðe ūðer Witfez sēzd  
ðêr wēponz, and in līk māner did Lâ Firēz and hiz men;  
and ðêr wōz bātel in ðe grāt hōl in Karse. Korinyus,  
huooz left hand ōnle mīt az nŷ wēld wēpon, even so spran  
fœrþ in mōst gālant wīz, kōliŋ ūpon ðe Prins wið mēne  
vīl werdz too abīd hiz onset. But ðe fūmz ov unbrideld  
potaſonz, ðat beiŋ flōn too hiz brān had mād him frantik  
mad, rōt in hiz legz mœr fōgile, dūliŋ ðêr wōnted  
nimbeldes. And hiz fœt slidiŋ in a pūdel ov spilt wīn he  
fel bakword a grevŷs fōl, strikiŋ hiz hed agānst ðe  
pōlift tabel. And Korsus ðat wōz nŷ wel ni spētflēs  
and kwīt stfupefid wið drink, so ðat a babe mīt tel az  
wel az he huôt ment ðis hūbub, rēld kup in hand,  
ſŷtiŋ, "Drunken'nes iz bēter for ðe bōde ðan fīzik!  
Drink ôlwāz, and u ſal nēver di!" So ſŷtiŋ he wōz  
smīten skwēr in ðe mŷþ bi a brest ov vël fluŋ at him bi  
Elaron ov Piksiland, ðe kaptān ov ðe Prinsez bōdigard, and  
so fel līk a hog apwort Korinyus, and ðêr la wīðŷt  
sens or moſon. Ðen wer ðe tabelz overset, and woondz gīven  
and taken, and swifflē ran ðe tīd ov vāntād̄z agānst ðe  
Witfez. For ôlbeit ðe Piksēz wer nun sutf grāt sōldz̄erz az  
ða ov Witſland, yet ðis servd ðem mitile ðat ða wer  
wel ni sober and ðêr fōz az so mēne kāsks fild wið

wīn, stāgeriŋ and raviŋ for ðe mōst part from ðēr loŋ tipliŋ and kwōfiŋ. Nor did Korundz āmēpist avāl him þrœle, but ðe wīn klogd hiz vānz so ðat he wakst skant ov breþ and hiz strōks liter and sloer ðan ða wer wōnt.

Nþ for ðe luv he bēr hiz sister Prezmirā and for hiz ōld kīndnes sāk for Witfland, ðe Prins tʃardʒd hiz men tō fit ōnle for ðe overþleriŋ ov ðe Witfez, slaiŋ nun if so it mīt be, and on ðēr līvz tō lʊk tō it ðat ðe Lord Korund tʊk no hert. And hven ða had fērle gōten ðe māstere, Lā Firēz mād sertān ov hiz fōk tāk dʒarʒ ov wīn and ðērwið sʌs Korund and hiz men mōst lustile in ðe fās, hʊl ūðerz held ðem at wēponz pʌnt, until bi ðe pʌer ov ðe wīn bōþ wīðin and wīðt ða wer wel brōt under. And ða bārikaded ðe grāt dærwa ov ðe hōl wið ðe bentfez and tabel tops and hēve oken trēsels, and Lā Firēz tʃardʒd Elaron hōld ðe dær wið ðe mōst ov hiz fōloinŋ, and set gardz wīðt ētʃ windo ðat nun mīt kum færþ from ðe hōl.

But ðe Prins himself tʊk flambʊz and went siks in kumpane tō ðe ōld bankwet hōl, overþerd ðe gard, brāk open ðe dærz, and so stʊd befær Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahā ðat huŋ fākeld tō ðe wōl sīd bi sīd. Sumpiŋ dāzeld ða wer in ðe sūden tortʃ-līt, but Lord Brandox Dahā spāk and hāld ðe Prins, and hiz mōkiŋ hōte laze aksents wer skērsle tutʃt wið hōlones, for ōl hiz hunger-starviŋ and loŋ wōtʃiŋ and ðe kark and kēr ov hiz aflikʃon. "Lā Firēz!" he sed. "Da nēr brōk up til nþ. And mēpōt ye wer yonder fōls fitʃūz fosterd in filþ and fen, ðe spōn ov Witfland, reternd agān tō flēr and flōt at us."

Lā Firēz tōld ðem hþ þiŋz had gon, and he sed, "Okazon gālopeþ apās. Ūpon ðis bargān dʊ I lʊs u, ðat ye kum inkontinentle wið me þt ov Karse, and sēk no revendʒ tō-nīt ūpon ðe Witfez."

Dʒus sed ya tō ðis; and Brandox Dahā lāft, saiŋ, "Prins, I so luv ðe, I kʊd refūz ðe nūþiŋ, wer it fāv hāf mi bērd and go in fustʃan til harvest-tīm, slēp in mi klōðz, and diskærs piþs nūþiŋz sēven þrz a da wið mi ladēz lap-dog. ðis nīt we be ūterle ðīn. An instant ōnle bēr wið us: ðis fēr fōz tō gud tō rest untāsted āfter so mutʃ lʊkiŋ on. It wer diskertʃʌs tō tō lēv it so." ðērwið, ðēr tʃānz beiŋ nþ striken of, he ēt a grāt slīs ov terke and þre kwālz bōnd and servd in dʒēle, and Dʒus a dūzen plūverz egz and a kōld partridʒ. Lord Brandox Dahā sed, "I pīðe brāk ðe

eg-felz, Dzus, hven ðe mēt iz ʒt, lest sum sorserer  
ƒud prik or rīt ði nām ðaron, and so mistƒēf ði  
person." And pæriŋ ʒt a stœp ov wīn, he kwōft it of,  
and ƒilīŋ it agān, "Perdīƒon katƒ me if it be not mīn ōn  
wīn ov Krōðeriŋ! Sō ēne a kērfœoler hōst ðan Kiŋ  
Gorīs?" And he pledzð Lord Dzus in ðe sēkond kup, saiŋ, "I  
wil drink wið ðe nekst in Karse hven ðe Kiŋ ov Witƒland  
and ôl ðe lordz ðarov ar slān."

Ðarâfter ða tʒk ðēr wēponz ðat la bi on ðe tabel,  
set ðēr tœ distres ðēr sōlz and wið lītēl ekspektaƒon  
ða ƒud so tāk ðem up agān; and glad at hart ôlbeit  
sumhūôt stif ov lim ða went færþ wið Lā Firēz from ðat  
bankwet hōl.

Hven ða wer kum intoo ðe kœrt-yard Dzus spāk and sed,  
"Herin mīt ōnor hōld us bak even hadst ðʒ mād no  
bargān wið us, Lā Firēz. For grāt ƒām it wer tœ us and  
we fel ūpon ðe lordz ov Witƒland hven ða wer drunk and  
ūnabel tœ mēt us in ēkwāl bātel. But let us ēr we be gon  
from Karse ransak ðis hōld for mi kinzman Gōldre Bluzko,  
sins for hiz sāk ōnle and in hōp tœ ƒind him hēr we ƒērd  
on ðis dʒerne."

"So u tutƒ no ūðer þiŋ but ōnle Gōldre if ye ƒal ƒind  
him, I am kontent," sed ðe Prins.

So hven ða had ƒlnd kēz ða ransakt ôl Karse, even tœ  
ðe dred tƒāंबर huēr ðe Kiŋ had kundzūrd and ðe vōlts  
and sēlarz belo ðe rīver. But it avāld not.

And az ða stūd in ðe kœrt-yard in ðe tortƒlīt ðēr  
kām færþ on a balkone ðe Lade Prezmirā in her nītġlŋ,  
disterbd bi ðis ransākiŋ. Ēpereal az a klʒd ƒe sēmd,  
pavīleond in ðe bālme nīt, az a klʒd tutƒt bi ðe  
ekshalaƒonz ov ðe unrīzen mœn. "Hūôt trānsformaƒon iz ðis?"  
sed ƒe. "Demonz loos in ðe kœrt?"

"Kontent ðe, dēr hart," sed ðe Prins. "Ði man iz sāf,  
and ôl els besīd az I þink; sāv ðat ðe Kiŋ hap a  
broken hed, ðe huiƒ I lament, and wil wīðʒt kwestƒon soon  
be hēld. Ða li ôl in ðe bankwet hōl tœ-nīt, beiŋ tœ  
slepe-sōden wið ðe ƒēst tœ tāk ðēr tƒāंबरz."

Prezmirā krīd, "Mi ƒērz ar ƒōlen ūpon me. Art ðʒ broken  
wið Witƒland?"

"Ðat ma I not ƒærdzudʒ," he ânserd. "Tel ðem tœ-moro  
ðat nôt I did in hātred, and nôt but huôt I wōz bi

serkumstāns enforst tō. For I am not sutf a kǫard nor so grāt a vīlān az lēv mi frendz kādʒd up hūīl strenj̥p iz left me tō werk for ðēr sētiŋ fre."

"U must strātwa fœr̥p from Karse," sed Prezmirā, "and ðat o' ðe instant. Mi step-sun Hakmon, hūitf wōz sent tō gǎðer strenj̥p tō ðe if nēd wer, ridep bi nǫ from ðe sǫp wið a grāt kumpane. Ði horsez ar fref, and ye ma wel ūtdistans ðe Kiŋz men if ða rīd âfter u. If ðǫ wilt not yet rāz up a rīver ov blud betwikst us, begon."

"Hi fēr ðe wel, ðen, sister. And dǫt it not, ðēz rifts twēn me and Witfland fal sōn be patft up and forgot." So spāk ðe Prins wið a mēre vq̥s, yet grēvd at hart. For wel he wēnd ðe Kiŋ fʊd nēver pardon him ðat blo, nor hiz rōbiŋ him ov hiz pra.

But fe sed, sadle, "Fērwel, mi brūðer. And mi hart telz me I fal nēver se ðe mœr. Hven ðǫ tukst ðēz from p̥rizon, ðǫ didst dig up tō mandrāks fal briŋ soro and dep tō ðe and tō me and tō ōl Witfland."

Ðe Prins wōz silent, but Lord Dʒus bǫd tō Prezmirā saiŋ, "Mādam, ðēz piŋz be on ðe nēz ov Fāt. But imadzīn not ðat hūīl līf and brep be in us we fal lēv tō uphōld ðe Prins ði brūðer. Hiz fōz be ūr fōz for ðis nīt sāk."

"Ðǫ swērst it?" fe sed.

He ānserd, "Mādam, I swēr it untō ðe and untō him."

Ðe Lade Prezmirā wiðdru sadle tō her t̥fāmber. And in fort spās fe herd ðēr hors-hœvz on ðe bridʒ, and lokiŋ fœr̥p beheld hūēr ða gǎlopt on ðe Wa ov Kiŋz dim in ðe kōpere līt ov a waniŋ mœn riziŋ over Piksiland. So sāt fe bi ðe windo ov Korundz lofte bed-t̥fāmber gaziŋ p̥rō ðe nīt, loŋ âfter her brūðer and ðe lordz ov Demonland and her brūðerz men wer rīden beʏond her seiŋ, loŋ âfter ðēr lâst hœfbēt had sēst tō ēko on ðe rōd. In a hūīl fref hors-hœvz sǫnded from ðe sǫp, and a nq̥z az ov mēne ridiŋ in kumpane; and fe nu it wōz yuŋ Hakmon bak from Permeo.

8. Ðe Ferst Ekspedīfon tō Impland



OV ÐE HŌM-KŪMIŃ OV ÐE DEMONZ, AND HƆ LORD DƆUS WŌZ TŌT  
IN A DRĒM HŪÐER HE MUST SĒK FOR TIDIŃZ OV HIZ DĒR  
BRŪÐER. AND HƆ ÐA TŪK KŪNSEL AT KRŌÐERIŃ, AND  
DETERMĪND OV ÐĒR EKSPEDĪSON TŌO IMPLAND.

Midsŭmer nīt, ambrozal, stāre-kerteld, wŏkt on ðe se,  
az ðe fip ðat brŏt ðe Demonz hŏm dru ni tŏ her  
dzernĕz end. Ðe klŏks ov Lord DƆus and Lord Brandox Dahā,  
hŭŏ slept on ðe pŏop, wer wet wið dƆu. Smŏðle ða had  
pāsādƆ pŏŏ ðat tƆarmd nīt, hŭēr windz wer huft  
aslĕp and nŏt wŏz herd sāv ðe wāvz tŏkiŃ benĕp ðe  
błz ov ðe fip, ðe liltiŃ tƆāndƆles soŃ ov ðe stĕrzman,  
and ðe krĕk, dip, and swŏf ov œrz kepiŃ tĭm tŏ hiz  
siŃiŃ. Vagā Bernd lĭk a sāfir nĕr ðe zĕniþ, and  
ArktƆurus lo in ðe norþ-west, bekoniiŃ over Demonland. In  
ðe remŏt słp-ĕst Fomalhŏt rŏz from ðe se, a lŏnle  
splendor in ðe dim rĕdƆon ov Kaprikorn and ðe Fĭfejz.

So rŏd ða til da brŏk, and a lĭt wind spranƆ up freƆ  
and kĕn. DƆus wākt, and stŏd up tŏ skan ðe gra glāse  
serfās ov ðe se spred tŏ vāst distansez hŭēr ski and wŏter  
faded intŏ wun. Astern, grāt klłdz bridƆd ðe gāts ov da,  
bŏliŃ upwordz intŏ kragz ov wĭn-dark vapor and berniiŃ  
plŭmz ov sunrĭz. In ðe stānles spasez ov ðe ski abuv  
ðĕz sālð ðe hornd mŏon, frāl and wŏn az a hŭit  
fŏm-flłer blŏn from ðe wāvz. Westword, fasiŃ ðe  
þunder-smŏk ov dŏn, ðe fĭn far ridƆ ov Kartadzā wŏz lĭk  
kut kristal agānst ðe ski: ðe ferst iland sentinel ov  
mĕne-młntānd Demonland, hiz topmŏst klifs dŏn-ilumĭnd  
wið pāl gŏld and āmĕpist hŭil yet ðe lĕser hĭts la  
obskŭr, lapt in ðe fŏldz ov nīt. And wið ðe openiiŃ da  
ðe mists swaðiiŃ ðe młntānz skerts wer lifted up in  
biłoe māsez ðat gru and Ɔrank and gru agān, māð  
restles bi ðe waword windz hŭitƆ morniŃ wākt in ðe hŏlo  
młntān sĭd, and tœrn bi ðem intŏ wisps and stremerz. Sum  
wer blŏn upword, stemiiŃ up ðe grāt gŭlĕz in ðe roks  
belo ðe pĕk, hŭil nł and ðen a puf ov klłd swam fre  
for a mĭnŭt, floted a mĭnŭts spās az rĕde tŏ sāl  
skiword, ðen indolentle stŏopt agān tŏ ðe młntān wŏl tŏ  
vāl it in an unsubstanƆal flĕs ov gŏlden vapor. And nł  
ŏl ðe western sebœrd ov Demonland la klĕr tŏ vu,  
stretƆiiŃ fifte mĭlz and mœr from Norphłs Skĕrĕz pāst  
ðe Drākhŏmz and ðe lo dłnz ov Kestŏik and Biland,  
beƆond hŭitƆ tłer ðe młntānz ov ðe Skarf, pāst ðe dƆāged  
ski-lĭn ov ðe Pornbaks and ðe far Nĕverdāl pĕks  
overhāŃiiŃ ðe wŏded Ɔœrz ov Onwordlĭð and Loer  
Tivarandardāl, tŏ ðe ekstrĕm sŭðern hedland, filme-pāl in  
ðe distans, hŭēr ðe grāt rāndƆ ov Rimon Armon plundƆez its

lâst wîld bastfon in ðe se.

Az a lüver gaziņ on hiz mistres, so gāzd Lord Dzus on  
Demonland riziņ from ðe se. No werd spāk he til ða kām  
of Lūkiņhaven-nes and kūd se hvēr beƷond ðe bēkt  
prōmontære ðe sūnd opend betwēn Kartadzâ and ðe mānland.  
Ôlbeit ðe Ʒter se wōz kâlm, ðe êr in ðe sūnd wōz þik  
wið spra from ðe tjerniņ ov ðe wōterz amuņ ðe rēfs and  
swōloinƷ fōlz. For ðe tīd ran līk a mil-rās þrō  
ðat sūnd, and ðe ræriņ ov it wōz plān tō hēr at tō  
mīlz distans hvēr ða sāld. Dzus sed, "Mīndst ðƷ mi  
fepherdiņ ov ðe Gool flēt intō yonder dƷōz? I wud not  
tel ðe for fām hvēnaz ðe fit wōz on me. But ðis iz ðe  
ferst da sins ðe sendiņ kām ŷpon us ðat I hav not wiƷt  
in mi hart ðat ðe Rasez ov Kartadzâ had gulpt me dƷn ôlso  
and ġiven me wun endiņ wið ðe akerst Goolz."

Lord Brandox Dahâ lukt swifftle ŷpon him and wōz silent.

NƷ in a fort hƷil wōz ðe fip kum intō Lūkiņhaven and  
alorƷsīd ov ðe marbel ke. Ðēr amid hiz fōk stūd  
Spitfīr, hƷoo greted ðem, saiņ, "I mād ôl rēde tō briņ  
þre ov u hōm in triumf from yor fip, but Vol  
kƷnseld agānst it. Glad am I ðat I tuk hiz kƷnsel, and  
pƷt bi ðōz þiņz I had prepērd. Ða had kut me tō ðe  
hart tō se ðem nƷ."

Dzus ānserd him, "O mi brūðer, ðis nqz ov hāmerz in  
Lūkiņhaven, and ðēz ten kēlz lād on ðe slīps, fo me ye  
hav bēn bīzēd on þiņz nerer Ʒr nēdz ðan ba-lēvz and  
ðe instruments ov dƷq sins ðƷ ernst hōm."

So ða tuk hors, and hƷil ða rōd ða related tō  
Spitfīr ôl ðat had befōlen sins ðēr fariņ tō Karse. In  
sutf wīz kām ða norþ pāst ðe harbor, and so over  
Haverfō Tun tō Bekfūt hvēr ða tuk ðe ŷper pāþ  
ðat klīnz intō Evendāl klōs under ðe skrēz ov Starkste  
Pīk, and so kām a lītel befær noon tō Galiņ.

Ðe blak rok ov Galiņ standz at ðe end ov ðe sper ðat  
runz dƷn from ðe sƷþ ridƷ ov Lītel Drākhōm, dividiņ  
Brankdāl from Evendāl. On þre sīdz ðe klīfs fōl fēr  
from ðe kâsel wōlz tō ðe dēp wudz ov ôk and bertf and  
roan tre huitf karpet ðe flats ov Mœngarþ Bōtom and  
fēðer ðe wōlz ov ðe gil þrō huitf ðe Brankdāl bek  
plundƷez in wōterfōl âfter wōterfōl. Ônle on ðe norþēst ma  
ôt sāv a wiņd þiņ kum at ðe kâsel, akros a smōð  
grās-grōn sādēl les ðan a stōnz þro in widþ. Over  
ðat sādēl runz ðe paven wa lediņ from ðe Brankdāl rōd

too ðe Lion Gāt, and wiðin ðe gāt iz ðat garden ov ðe  
grās wōk betwēn ðe ūz huēr Lēsīnam stōd wið ðe  
martlet nīn wēks befær, hven ferst he kām too Demonland.

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Hven nīt fel and sūper wōz dun, Dzus wōkt alōn on ðe  
wōlz ov hiz kâsel, wōtfinj ðe konstelafoz bern in ðe  
moonles ski abuv ðe mite fādōz ov ðe mǫntānz,  
līsenij too ðe hœtīj ov ðe ȝlz in ðe wōdz belo and ðe  
fānt distant tinkel ov kȝ-belz, and breðīj ðe frāgrans  
bœrn up from ðe garden on ðe nīt wind ðat even in hi  
sūmer tāsted kēn ov ðe mǫntānz and ðe se. ðēz sīts  
and sents and vqsez ov ðe hole nīt so held him in þrōl  
ðat it wōnted but an ȝr ov midnīt hven he left ðe  
bātelments, and kōld ðe slepe hȝs-karlz too līt him too  
hiz tƒāmbēr in ðe sȝp tȝer ov Galiij.

Wundrȝs fēr wōz ðe grāt fær-pōsted bed ov ðe Lord Dzus,  
bilded ov sōlid gōld, and huŋ wið kertānz ov dark-blu  
tāpestre hvaron wer fīgūrd slēp-flȝerz. ðe kānope abuv  
ðe bed wōz a mozaik ov tine stōnz, dȝet, serpentīn, dark  
hiasinȝ, blak marbel, bludstōn, and lāpis lāzule, so  
konfȝnded in a māz ov ōlteriŋ hu and luster ðat ða mīt  
mok ðe palpitatiŋ ski ov nīt. And ðarin wōz ðe līknes  
ov ðe konstelafoŋ ov Orion, held bi Dzus for gardȝan ov hiz  
fortȝūnz, ðe starz hvarov, līk ðōz benēȝ ðe gōlden  
kānope in ðe prēzens tƒāmbēr, wer dȝuelz fīniŋ ov ðēr  
ōn līt, yet ded wōd glīmeriŋ in ðe dark. For Beteldȝūz  
wōz a rube fīniŋ, and a dimond for Rīdȝel, and pāl topazez  
for ðe ūðer starz. ðe fær pōsts ov ðe bed wer ov ðe  
ȝiknes ov a manz arm in ðēr ūper parts, but ðēr loer  
parts grāt az hiz wāst and karven in ðe īmādȝ ov berdȝ and  
bēsts: at ðe fōt ov ðe bed a lion for kūrādȝ and an ȝl  
for wizdom, and at ðe hed an alōnt for fāȝfulnes ov hart  
and a kiŋfīfer for hāpines. On ðe kornīs ov ðe bed and  
on ðe pānelz abuv ðe pīlo agānst ðe wōl wer karvd  
Dȝūsez dēdz ov dēriŋ-dœ; and ðe latest karviŋ wōz ov ðe  
se-fīt wið ðe Gœlz. Too ðe rīt ov ðe bed stōd a  
tabel wið ōld bȝks ov soŋȝ and bȝks ov ðe starz and ov  
herbz and bēsts and trāvelerz tālz, and ðēr wōz Dzus wōnt  
too la hiz sœrd besīd him huīl he slept. Ōl ðe wōlz wer  
pāneld wið dark swēt-smēliŋ wōd, and armor and wēponz  
huŋ ðaron. Mite tƒests and ālmerēz hāspt and bȝnd wið  
gōld stōd agānst ðe wōl, hvarin he kept hiz ritƒ apārel.  
Windōz opend too ðe west and sȝp, and on ētƒ windo-ledȝ  
stōd a bōl ov palest dȝād fild wið huīt rozez; and ðe  
ēr enteriŋ ðe bed-tƒāmbēr wōz laden wið ðēr sent.

Abȝt kok-kro kām a drēm untō Lord Dzus, standiŋ bi hiz

hed and tutfiŋ hiz īz so đat he sēmd tō wāk and lōk abłt đe tġāmbēr. And he sēmd tō behōld an evil bēst ōl berniŋ az a drāk, bīze in hiz tġāmbēr, wiđ mēne hedz, đe mōst vēnomłs đat ēver he đe dāz ov hiz līf had sēn, and abłt it its fiv fōnz, līk tō itself but smōler. It sēmd tō Dzus đat in plās ov hiz sœrd đēr la a grāt spēr ov fēr werkmanfiŋ on đe tabel bi hiz bed; and it sēmd tō him in hiz drēm đat đis spēr had bēn hiz ōl hiz līf, and wōz hiz gratest trēzūr, and đat wiđ it he mīt akumpliŋ ōl piŋz and wiđłt it skērsle ōt tō hiz mīnd. He labord tō rētf łt hiz hand tō đe spēr, but sum płer wiđheld him so đat for ōl hiz striviŋ he mīt not ster. But đat bēst tōk up đe spēr in its dzōz, and went wiđ it fœrp from đe tġāmbēr. It sēmd tō Dzus đat đe płer đat held him departed wiđ đe departiŋ ov đe bēst, so đat he lēpt up and snatft dłn wēponz from đe wōl and mād an onslōt on đe fōnz ov đat fel bēst đat wer tariŋ dłn đe woven hāŋiŋz and māriŋ wiđ đēr fire brēp đe figūr ov đe kiŋfiŋer at đe hed ov hiz bed. Ōl đe tġāmbēr wōz fōl ov đe rēk ov berniŋ, and he pōt hiz frendz wer wiđ him in đe tġāmbēr, Vol and Viz and Zig and Spitfir and Brandox Dahā, fitiŋ wiđ đe bēsts, and đe bēsts prevāld agānst đem. Đen it sēmd tō him đat đe bedpōst karven in đe līknes ov an łl spāk tō him in hiz drēm in human spētŋ; and đe łl sed, "O fōl, đat falt dzustle be pōt in grāt mīzere wiđłt end, eksept đł briŋ bak đe spēr. Hast đł forgot đat đis ōnle iz đi gratest trēzūr and mōst werđeest đi kēr?"

Đērwiđ kām bak đat grim and grizful bēst intō đe tġāmbēr, and Dzus asāld it, kriiŋ tō đe łl, "Unsīvil łl, hvēr đen must I fīnd mi spēr đat đis bēst haŋ hīden?"

And it sēmd tō him đat đe łl mād ānser, "Inkwīr in Koftrā Belorn."

So tġumultfułs wōz Lord Dzūsez drēm đat he wōz fluŋ at wakiŋ łt ov bed on tō đe dērskin karpets ov đe flœr, and hiz rīt hand klutft đe hilt ov hiz grāt sœrd hvēr it la on đe tabel bi hiz bed, hvaraz in hiz drēm he had beheld đe spēr. Mitile mœvd wōz he; and forpwiŋ klōđd himself, and fariŋ prō đe dim koridorz kām tō Spitfirz tġāmbēr, and sat on đe bed and wākt him. And Dzus tōld him hiz drēm, and sed, "I hōld miself klēn ov ōl blām herabłt, for from đat da fœrp đis ōnle haŋ bēn mi kēr, hł tō fīnd mi dēr brūđer and fetŋ him hōm, and ōnle đen tō rēk miself on đe Witfez. And hvōt wōz đis spēr in mi drēm if not Gōldre? Đis vīzon ov đe nīt kindlep for us a bekon fir we nēdz must sēk tō. It bad me inkwīr in

Koftrā Belorn, and til đat be dun nēver wil I rest nor so mutf az þink on ôt besīdz."

Spitfir ānserd and sed, "Đŷ bēst ŷr ōldest brūðer, and I fal fölo and oba ðe in ôl đat đŷ wilt dœ or falt ordān herov."

Đen fêrd Dzus tœ ðe gest-tfāamber, hvêr Lord Brandox Dahâ la a-slepiŷ, and wākt him and tōld him ôl. Brandox Dahâ snūgeld him under ðe bedklōðz and sed, "Let me be and let me slēp yet tœ ŷrz. Đen wil I rīz and bāð and ara miself and ēt mi morniŷ mēl, and đarāfter wil I tāk rēd wið ðe and tel ðe sumhvôt for đīn advāntādz. I hav not slept in a gœs-fēðer bed and fēts ov lōn ðēz mēne wēks. If đŷ plāg me nŷ, bi God, I wil inkontinentle tāk hors over ðe Stīl tœ Krōðeriŷ, and let ðe and đīn afêrz go tœ ðe dēvil."

So Dzus lâft and left him in pēs. And later hven đa had eten đa wōkt in a plaft āle, hvêr ðe êr wōz kœl and ðe perpel fādo on ðe pāp wōz dāpeld wið brīt fleks ov sunfīn. Lord Brandox Dahâ sed, "Đŷ nōst đat Koftrā Belorn iz a grāt mŷntān, besīd hvitf ŷr mŷntānz ov Demonland wœd sēm but lītel hilz unremarkt, and đat it standeþ in ðe ŷtermōst parts ov erþ beŷond ðe wāsts ov Ūper Impland, and đŷ mītst sertf a yēr þrœ ôl ðe pepeld kuntrēz ov ðe werld and not fīnd wun līviŷ sōl hvœ had so mutf az beheld it from afar."

"Đis mutf I no," sed Lord Dzus.

"Iz đīn hart ŷterle bent on đis dzerne?" sed Brandox Dahâ. "Or iz it not preposterŷs, and a þiŷ tœ kumfort ŷr ēnemēz, đat we fūd ðus at ðe bīdiŷ ov a drēm fli tœ far and pērilŷs landz, rāðer đan pa Witfjland prēzentle for ðe fām he haþ dun us?"

Dzus ānserd him, "Mi bed iz hālōd bi spelz ov sutf a vertfu đat no nôte drēm flōn þrœ ðe ivore gāt nor no nqzōm wizardre haþ pŷer tœ trūbel hiz slēp hvœ slepeþ ðēr. Đis drēm iz tru. For Witfjland ðēr iz tīm eno. If đŷ wilt not go wið me tœ Koftrā Belorn, I must go wīððt ðe."

"Enuf," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "Đŷ nōst for ðe I ti mi pers wið a spiderz þred. Đen fêr we must tœ Impland, and herin ma I help ðe. For līsen hvīl I tel ðe a þiŷ. Hvēnaz I slu Gorīs 10. in Goblinland, Gazlark gāv me aloŷ wið ŷðer gœd gifts, a grāt kureōsite: a tretēz or

buk köpēd ʒt on partfment bi Bhoreon hiz sekretare, hvarin it spekeþ ov ôl ðe wāz tō Impland and hvôt kuntrēz and kiŋdomz li nekst tō ðe Morunâ and ðe frunts ðarov, and ðe marvelz ðat he fʒnd in ðōz landz. And ôl ðat iz rit in ðis buk wōz set dʒn fāpfœle bi Bhoreon âfter ðe tēliŋ ov Gro, ðe sām hvitf nʒ hap part wið ðe Witflanderz. Grāt ðnor had Gro az ðen from Gazlark for hiz far dzerneinʒ and for ðat hvitf iz rīten in ðis buk ov wunderz; and ðis it wōz ðat had ferst put in Gazlarks mīnd tō send ðat ekspedīfon intō Impland, hvitf so rēdzūst him and kām so retfjedle tō nôt. If ðen ðʒ wilt sēk tō Koftrâ Belorn, kum hōm wið me tō-da and I wil fo ðe mi buk."

So spāk Lord Brandox Dahâ, and Lord Dʒus strātwa orderd fœrþ ðe horsez, and sent mēsendʒerz tō Vol under Kartadzâ and tō Viz at Darklērsted bīdiŋ ðem mēt him at Krōðeriŋ wið hvôt spēd ða mīt. It wōz fœr ʒrz befœr nōon hven Dʒus, Spitfir, and Brandox Dahâ rōd dʒn from Galiŋ and þrō ðe wudz ov Mœngarþ Bōtom at ðe fot ov ðe lāk, takiŋ ðe mān bridel rōd up Brakiŋdāl, ðat runz bi ðe western mardʒin ov Mœnmēr under ðe butresez ov ðe Skarf. Ða rōd slōle, for ðe sun wōz stroŋ on ðēr baks. Glāse wōz ðe lāk and līk a terkwqz, and ðe bertf-klad slōps tō ðe ēst and norþ and ðe bēr rūged ridʒez ov Staðfel and Budrafel beʒond wer mīrord in its depþs. On ðe left az ða rōd, ðe sperz ov ðe Skarf impended from on hi in pīld bastfonz ov blak porfire līk dʒiants kāsēlz; and lītel vālēz tʒōkt wið monstrʒs bōlderz, amuŋ hvitf ðe silver bertfez krʒdiŋ fōd līk tine garden plānts, ran stēple bak betwēn ðe sperz. Up ðōz vālēz apērd suksēsīvle ðe mān sūmits ov ðe Skarf, sāvādʒ and remōt, frʒniŋ dʒnword az it wer betwēn ðēr ōn nēz: Glōmre Pīk, Mīkelskarf, and Ilstak. Bi nōon ða had klīmd tō ðe ekstrēm hed ov Brakiŋdāl, and hōlted on ðe Stīl, a lītel beʒond ðe wōterjed, under ðe fēr norðern wōl ov Il Drēnok. Befœr ðem ðe pās plundʒd stēple intō Amadardāl. Ðe loer rētʒ ov Switʒwōter fon fiftēn mīlz or mœr tō ðe west, wel ni hīden in ðe hēt-hāz. Nerer at hand in ðe norþwest la Rāmerik Mēr, buzomd amuŋ ðe smœð-bakt Keliland hilz and ðe ēsternmōst Uplandz ov Σalgreþ Hēþ, wið ðe se beʒond; and on ðe vāle flœr, nēr ðe wōterzmēt hvēr Trānzdāl runz intō Amadardāl, it wōz pōsibel tō deskri ðe rōfs ov Zigz hʒs at Mēne Bʒfez.

Hven ða kām dʒn ðīðer, Zig wōz ʒt a-huntiŋ. So ða left werd wið hiz lade wīf and drank a stīrup kup and rōd on, up Switʒwōter Wa, and for twelv mīlz and mœr alonʒ ðe sūðern fœr ov Switʒwōter. So dropt ða intō

Gafterndāl, and ðens rþndiŋ ðe western slōps ov Erngāt  
End kām up on ðe Krōðeriŋ Sīd hven ðe fǣdōz wer  
lenþeniŋ in ðe gōlden sūmer eveniŋ. Ðe Sīd ran dʒentle  
west for a lēg or mæc tō hvēr Punderferþ la līk beten  
gōld benēþ ðe sun. Akros ðe Ferþ ðe pīn-forests ov  
Westmark, ōld az ðe werld, rōz tōword Brokste Edʒ and  
Dʒemzar Edʒ: a far-fluŋ amfīþeater ov bēc klif and skre  
fūtiŋ in ðe prospekt tō ðe norþ. Hi on ðe left tþerd  
ðe prēsipisez ov Erngāt End; sþþword and sþþ-ēstword la  
ðe se. So rōd ða dþn ðe Sīd, þrō dēp pēsful  
mēdōz fēr wið hwi oks-i dazēz, blubelz and yēlo  
gōtsbērd and se kampeon, dēp-blu dʒenʒanz, agrimone and  
wīld mardʒoram, and pink klover and bīndwēd and grāt yēlo  
būterkups fēstiŋ on ðe sun. And on an ēminens beʒond hwiʒ  
ðe land fel awa mæc stēple tōword ðe se, ðe ōniks tþerz  
ov Krōðeriŋ standiŋ abuv wōdz and gardenz fōd  
milk-hwi agānst hēven and ðe klēr hiliŋ.

Hven ða wer nþ but hāf a mīl from ðe kāsēl Dʒus sed,  
"Behōld and se. Ðe Lade Mevrean haþ espīd us from afar, and  
rideþ fæcþ tō briŋ ðe hōm."

Brandox Dahā kanterd ahead tō mēt her: a lade līt ov bild  
and eksediŋ fēr tō lūk ūpon, brāv ov kārādʒ līk a  
wor-hors, soft ov fētjūr, klēr-brþd, gra-īd and  
prþd-īd: swēt-mþt, but not az wun hū kan spēk nōt  
but swētnes. Her rōb wōz ov pāl buf-kūlord silk, wið  
korsādʒ kūverd az bi a spiderz web wið fīn gōlden þredz;  
and ʒe wæc a pɑnt-lās rūfel stīfend wið gōld and silver  
wīr and spangeld wið lītēl dimondz. Her dēp hēr, blak az  
ðe ravenz wiŋ, wōz fāsēnd wið pinz ov gōld, and a yēlo  
rōz ðat nēsēld in its kqīlz wōz az ðe mōon lūkiŋ fæcþ  
amūŋ þik klþdz ov nīt.

"Dōiŋz be afot, mi lade sister," sed Lord Brandox Dahā.  
"Wun Kiŋ ov Witʒland hav we dun dþn sins we sālde hens;  
and gested in Karse wið anūðer, lītēl tō þr kontent. Ōl  
hwiʒ þiŋz īl tel ðe anon. Nþ lieþ þr rōd sþþ for  
Impland, and Krōðeriŋ iz but þr karavanseri."

Se ternd her hors, and ða rōd ōl in kumpane intō ðe  
fǣdo ov ðe ānʒent sedarz ðat klusterd tō ðe norþ ov ðe  
hōm-mēdz and plēzūr gardenz, stātē, gōnt-limd,  
flat-brþd, blēk agānst ðe ski. On ðe left a līle-paven  
lāk slept kool benēþ mite elmz, wið a blak swōn nēr ðe  
bank and her fæc signets doziŋ in a ro, ðēr hedz tukt  
benēþ ðēr wiŋz, so ðat ða lukt līk bōlz ov  
gra-brþn froþ flotiŋ on ðe wōter. Ðe pāþ lediŋ tō ðe  
bridʒ-gāt zig-zagd stēple up ðe mþnd betwēn lo brōd

bālustrād̄z ov huīt ōniks bariŋ at intervalz skwēr ōniks  
pots, plānted sum wið yēlo rozez and sum wið wundrōs  
flōerz, grāt and dēlikāt, wið frāl huīt fel-īk  
pētalz. Dēp, mistereōs senterz had ðōz flōerz, þik wið  
soft hērz wiðin, and dark wiðin wið velvete perpel strēkt  
wið blak and blud kūlor and dust ov gōld.

Ðe kāsēl ov Lord Brandox Dahā standiŋ at ðe top ov ðe  
mōnd wōz serkeld bi a ditf bōþ brōd and dēp. Ðe gāt  
befōer ðe drōbridz wōz ov īrn gilded and ritfle rōt.  
Ðe tōerz and gāthōs wer ov huīt ōniks līk ðe kāsēl  
itself, and on iðer hand befōer ðe gāt wōz a kolōsal  
marbel hīpogrif, standiŋ mōer ðan þerte fēt hi at ðe  
wiðerz; and ðe wiŋz and hōovz and tālonz ov ðe hīpogrifs  
and ðēr mānz and fōerlōks wer overlād wið gōld, and  
ðēr īz karbunkelz ov purest luster. Over ðe gāt wōz  
rīten in lēterz ov gōld:

*Ye braggers an 'a',  
Be skeered and awa'  
Frae Brandoch Daha.*

But tō tel even a tenþ part ov ðe marvelz ritf and butifol  
ðat wer in ðe hōs ov Krōðeriŋ: its kool kōerts and  
kolonād̄z ritf wið dzemz and frāgrant wið kostle spisez and  
strāndz blōomz: its bed-tfāmberz huēr, kōt līk Afrodite  
in her gōlden net, ðe spīrit ov slēp sēmd ēver tō fāk  
slumber from its plūmz, and nun mīt be wakiŋ loŋ in ðōz  
tfāmberz but swēt slēp overkām ðēr ilidz: ðe Tfāmber ov  
ðe Sun and ðe Tfāmber ov ðe Mōon, and ðe grāt mīdel hōl  
wið its hi gālere and ivore stēr: tō tel ov ōl ðēz  
wer but tō klq imād̄zinaŋon wið piktfuriŋ in wun huīl ov  
over-mutf glōere and splendor.

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Nōt befel ðat nīt sāv ðe kūmiŋ ov Zig befōer  
sun-dōn, and ov ðōz breðren Vol and Viz in ðe nīt,  
hāviŋ rīden hard in obēdzens tō ðe werd ov Dzus. In ðe  
morniŋ hven ða had eten ðēr da-mēl ðe lordz ov  
Demonland went dōn intō plezōnsez, and wið ðem ðe Lade  
Mevrean. And in an āle ðat wōz rōoft wið bēmz ov sedar  
restiŋ on marbel pīlarz, ðe bēmz and pīlarz smūðerd wið  
dark-red rozez, ða sat lūkiŋ ēstword akros a sunk garden.  
Ðe wēðer wōz swēt and grafōs, and þik dzu la on ðe  
pāl tērāst lōnz ðat led dōn amuŋ flōer bedz tō ðe  
fiŋ-pond in ðe midst. Ðe wōter mād a kool mīror hvaron  
floted yēlo and krimzon wōter-līlēz openiŋ tō ðe ski. Ōl  
ðe grēnz and flōer-kūlorz glōd worm and klēn, but soft



wīðol and fǣdoe, vāld in ðe gra hāz ov ðe sūmer  
morniŋ.

Ða sat hēr and ðēr az ða listed on tǣfēr and bentfēz,  
nēr a hūdz tank or vāz ov dark grēn dzād huēr  
sulfer-kūlord līlēz gru in langorþs bute, ðēr  
bak-kerld pētalz foinŋ ðe skarlet anþerz; and ol ðe ēr  
wōz hēve wið ðēr swētnes. Ðe grāt dzād vāz wōz rōnd  
and flat līk ðe bōde ov a tortʒs, open at ðe top huēr ðe  
līlēz gru. It wōz karvd wið skālz, az it wer ðe bōde ov  
a drāgon, and a drāgonz hed a-gapiŋ rērd itself at wun  
end, and at ðe ūðer ðe tāl kervd up and over līk ðe  
handel ov a bāsket, and ðe tāl had lītel fœr and hīnd fēt  
wið klōz, and a smōler hed at ðe end ov ðe tāl gāpt  
dþnwordz bitinŋ at ðe lardz hed. Fœr legz supœrted ðe  
bōde, and ētƿ leg wōz a smōl drāgon standinŋ on its hīnd  
fēt, its hed groinŋ into ðe parent bōde az ðe þi or  
fōlder dzʒɑnt ʃʊd dzʒɑn ðe trunk. In ðe kerv ov ðe  
krētfūrz nek, hiz bak propt agānst its hed, sat ðe  
Lord Brandox Dahâ in grāsfol ēz, wun fœt tutfīŋ ðe  
grōnd, ðe ūðer swīŋinŋ fre; and in hiz handz wōz ðe bʊk,  
bōnd in dark pūs-kūlord gōtskin and gōld, gīven him bi  
Gazlark in yērz gon bi. Zig wōtƿt him īdle tern ðe pādʒez  
hūl ðe ūðerz tōkt. Leninŋ tœword Mevrean he hʊisþerð in  
her ēr, "Iz not he abel and ƿapen for tœ subdʒu and pʊt under  
him ol ðe werld: ði brūðer? A man ov blud and pēril, and  
yet so fēr tœ behōld ðat it iz a marvel?"

Her iz dānst. Se sed, "It iz pūr trūþ, mi lord."

Nð spāk Spitfīr sainŋ, "Rēd fœrþ tœ us, I pra ðe, ðe  
bʊk ov Gro; for mi sōl iz afīr tœ set fœrþ on ðis fariŋ."

"Tiz rit sumhvōt krabdle," sed Brandox Dahâ, "and mōst  
damnable loŋ. I spent hāf lāst nīt a-sertfīŋ ont, and  
tiz mōst apārent no ūðer wa lieþ tœ ðēz mōntānz sāv  
bi ðe Morunâ, and akros ðe Morunâ iz (if Gro sa tru) but  
wun wa, and ðat from ðe Gulf ov Mūlvâ: '*a xx dayes journeye  
from northe by south-est.*' For hēr he tēlep ov wōtersprinŋz  
bi ðe wa, but he sāþ in ūðer parts ov ðe dēzert be no  
wōtersprinŋz, sāv onle sprinŋz vēnomþs, huēr '*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 he sa tru?" sed Spitfīr. "He iz a ternkōt and a  
renegado. Huēr fœr not ðērfœr a liar?"

"But a filösofer," ânserd Džus. "I nu him wel ov òld in Goblinland, and I džudž him tœ be wun hœ iz not fòls sāv ònle in pòlise. Sütel ov mīnd he iz, and dērlē lūvēp plōtiŋ and skemiŋ, and, az I þink, perversle afektep ēver ðe looziŋ sīd if he be brôt into ēne kworel; and ðis hap dragd him oft-tīmz tœ misfortfūn. But in ðis bœk ov hiz trāvelz he must nēdz spēk trūþ, az it semeþ tœ me, tœ be tru tœ hiz òn self."

Ðe Lade Mevrean lœkt aprœviŋle on Lord Džus and her i twinkeld. For wel it līkt her humor tœ hēr menz nātūr so divīnd.

"O Džus, frend ov mi hart," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, "ði werdz prosēd, az ēver ða did, from ðe tru fōnt ov wizdom, and I embrās ðem and ðe. Ðis bœk iz a gīd hviť we řal fōlo not helter-skelter but az òld men ov wor. If ðen ðe řit rōd tœ Mornâ Morunâ li from ðe Gulf ov Mūlvâ, wer we not best sāl strāt ðiðerword and la up řr řips in ðat Gulf hūr ðe kōst and ðe kuntre sīd be wiðłt habitafon, rāðer ðan fēr tœ sum nerer haven ov řter Impland sutř az Arlan Mþp hviðer ðł and Spitřir fērd siks sūmerz ago?"

"Not Arlan Mþp, o' ðis dzerne," sed Džus. "Sum spœrt pertřāns we mīt obtān ðēr had we lēžūr for řitiŋ wið ðe akerst inhābitants, but ēvere dāz dela we nł doo māk hōldeþ mi brūðer anūðer da in bondādž. Ðe prinsez and Fāzez ov ðe Imps hav mēne stroŋ wōld tłnz and tłerz in òl ðōz kōstlandz, and hard bi in a mēdžamnis ov ðe řiver Arlan, in Orpiř, iz ðe grāt kâsel ov Faks Fa Faz, hūrtoœ Gōldre and I drāv him hōm from Lidâ Nangunâ."

"Tiz an il kōst tœ, tœ řind a landiŋ," sed Brandox Dahâ, terniŋ ðe lēvz ov ðe bœk. "Az he sāþ, *'Ymplande the More beginnith at the west syde of the mowth of Arlan and occupieth all the lond unto the hedeland Sibrion, and therefro sowth away to the Corshe, by gesse a viř hundred myles, wherby the se is not ther of nature favorable nor no haven is or cumming yn meete for shippes.'*"

So āfter sum tōk and sertřiŋ ov ðat bœk ov Gro ða determīnd ðis řud be ðēr plan: tœ fēr tœ Impland bi wa ov ðe Strāts ov Melikafkaz and ðe Didornyan Se, and so la up ðēr řips in ðe Gulf ov Mūlvâ, and landiŋ ðēr start strātwa akros ðe wildernes tœ Mornâ Morunâ, even az Gro had deskřībd ðe wa.

"Ēr we lēv it," sed Brandox Dahâ, "hēr huôt he spekep

konserniȝ Koftrâ Belorn. Ðis he beheld from Mornâ Morunâ,  
 hvarov he sâp: *'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 stondith 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 Kyng 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  
 mountaines 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 aboute 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 mantycores of the  
 mountaines will certeynely ete his brains ere he come thither.  
 And were he so fortunate as scape these mantycores, yet cowlde  
 hee never climbe up the gret craggess 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 wisdome alone,  
 and as I seye these woulde not avayl to climbe those clif fes  
 and yce ryvers.'*"

"Hôt be ðēz mantikorz ov ðe mōntānz ðat ēt menz

brānz?" āskt ðe Lade Mevrean.

"Ðis bŭk iz so ekselent wel rit," sed her brŭðer, "ðat ðīn ānsēr apereþ on ðis sām pādȝ: *'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 owt 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.'*"

"Ðēz bēsts," sed Spitfīr, "wer alōn enuf tō drō me ðīðer. I šal brinj ðe hōm a smōl wun, mādam, tō kēp tġānd in ðe kœrt."

"Ðat ƒod daf me from ði frendƒip for ēver, kŭzin," sed Mevrean, strokiŋ ðe fēðere ērz ov her lītel marmozet ðat kŭdeld in her lap. "Ðat huiƒ fedep on brānz wer overnŭriƒt in Demonland, and belīk wŭd overun ðe hŭl kuntre-sīd."

"Send it tō Witƒland," sed Zig. "Hŭēr hven it haþ ēt up Gro and Korund it ma sup lītle on ðe Kiŋ, and ðen mōst fortƒunātle starv for lak ov its prōper nŭtriment."

Dȝus stŭd up from hiz sēt. "Ðŭ and I and Spitfīr," sed he tō Brandox Dahâ, "must tō werk rōndle and gāðer strenȝ, for tiz ôlrēde midsŭmer. U, Viz, Vol, and Zig, must hav ðe wordiŋ ov ųr hōmz hŭilz we be gon. We kanot be les ðan tō þŭzand scerdz on ðis fariŋ."

"Hŭ mēne ƒips, Vol," āskt Lord Brandox Dahâ, "kanst ðŭ giv us, buskt and bŭn, ēr ðis mœn wān?"

"Ðēr be fœrtēn aflōt," sed Vol. "Besīdz ðēz, ten kēlz li on ðe slips at Lŭkiŋhaven, and nīn mœr haþ Spitfīr but nŭ lād dŭn on ðe bētƒ befœr hiz hŭs at ųlswik."

"Perte and þre in sum," sed Spitfīr. "U se we hav not twīdeld ųr þumz hŭilst ye wer gon."

Dȝus pāst bak and fœrþ wið grāt strīdz, hiz brŭ klŭded and hiz dȝō klentƒt. In a hŭil he sed, "Laksus haþ forte sāl, drāgonz ov wor. I am not so idel-hēded az fēr wiððt an arme intō Impland, but sertān it iz ðat if ųr il-wīlerz

wōd mœv wor agānst us we stand in apārent wēknes, hēr  
or abrōd, tœ pro bak ðēr onset."

Vol sed, "Ov ðēz nīntēn fips a-bildiŋ no mœr ðan  
tœ kan tāk ðe wōter befœr a munþ be pāst, and but sēven  
mœr ēr siks munþs tīm, pʊf we nēver so mitile ðe werk."

"Ðe sezon wareþ, and mi brūðer wāstep in dʒures. We must  
sāl ēr anūðer mœon gro ōld," sed Dʒus.

Vol sed, "Ðen wið sikstēn sāl ðʒ sālst, O Dʒus; and  
ðen ðʒ lēvst us not wun fip at hōm til mœr be fīniŋt  
and lōntʃt."

"Hʒ kan we lēv u so?" krīd Spitfīr.

But Brandox Dahâ lukt tœwordz hiz lade sister, met her  
glāns, and wōz sātisfīd. "Ðe tʃɑs lieþ fēr befœr us,"  
sed he. "If we wil ēt ðe eg, lītel nēd tœ debāt hʊðer  
ðe fel must go."

Mevrean rōz from her sēt lāfiŋ, and sed, "Ðen let ðe  
kʒnsil rīz, mi lordz." And her īz gru sereʒs, and fe  
sed, "Σal ða māk rīmz ūpon us ðat we ov Demonland,  
hʊom men repūt and hōld ðe miteest lordz in ōl ðe world,  
hʊŋ fepifl̩e bak from ðis hi nēdfʊl enterprīz lest,  
ʒr gratest kaptānz beiŋ abrōd, ʒr ēnemēz mīt haple  
tāk us at hōm at disadvāntādʒ? It ʃal not be sed ov ðe  
wīmen ov Demonland ðat ða upheld sutʃ kʒnselz."

## 9. Salapantâ Hilz

OV ÐE LANDIŊ OV LORD DʒUS AND HIZ KOMPANYONZ IN ʒTER IMPLAND  
AND ÐĒR METIŊ WIÐ ZELDORNYUS, HELTERĀNYUS, AND DʒALKANIUS  
FOSTUS; AND OV ÐE TIDIŊZ TŌLD BI MIVARΣ, AND ÐE DELIŊZ OV  
ÐE PŔE GRĀT KAPTĀNZ ON ÐE HILZ OV SALAPANTĀ.

On ðe þerte and ferst da āfter ðat kʒnsil held in  
Krōðeriŋ, ðe flēt ov Demonland pʊt tœ se from  
Lʊkiŋhaven: elēven drāgonz ov wor and tœ grāt fips ov  
berðen, bʒnd for ðe ūtermōst sēz ov erþ in kwest ov ðe  
Lord Gōldre Bluzko. Atēn hundred Demonz fērd on ðat  
ekspediʃon, and not a man amuŋ ðem ðat wōz not a komplēt  
sōldʒer. For fiv dāz ða rōd sʒpawa on a windles se,  
and on ðe siksþ ðe se-klifs ov Goblinland kām ʒt ov ðe  
hāz on ðēr starbord bʒ. Ða rōd sʒp alon ðe land,  
and on ðe tenþ da ʒt from Lʊkiŋhaven pāst under ðe

Nes ov Ozam, dzerneij ðens fær dāz wið a favorij wind over ðe open sēz tō Sibreon. But nŕ, hven ða had rŕnded ðat dark prŕmontære and wer abŕt sterij ēst alon ðe kŕst ov Impland ðe Mær, and les ðan ten dāz dzerne la betwikst ðem and ðēr haven in Mŭlvā, a dizmal tempest sŭdenle serprīzd ðem. For forte dāz it swept ðem in hāl and slēt over wīd-wŕloij ofan, wīðŕt a star, wīðŕt a kœrs; til, on a fērs midnīt ov wind and darknes and rœrij wŕterz wŕz Dzŭsez and Spitfirz ſip and ŭðer fær in her kumpane drīven on ðe roks on a le ſœr and broken in pesez. Hardle, and āfter lon batlij amuŕ grāt wāvz, ðŕz breðren wun āſœr, were and hert. In ðe inhospitabel līt ov a wet and winde dŕn ða musterd on ðe bētſ sutſ ov ðēr fŕk az had eskāpt ŕt ov ðe mŕp ov destrukſon; and ða wer pre hundred and perte and pre.

Spitfir, behŕldij ðēz piŕz, spāk and sed, "Ðis land hap a vīlanŕs lŕk stŭreſ mi remembrans, az but tō behŕld verdzŭs sŕreſ ðe mŕp ov him hu∞ wuns tāsted ðarov. Rememberst ðŕ ðis land?"

Dzŭs skand ðe lo lon kŕst-līn ðat swept norſ and west tō an estſquare, and beŭond ran westwordz til it wŕz lost in ðe skud and drivij spra. Dēzolāt berdz flu abuv ðe welter ov ðe serdzez. He sed, "Sertānle ðis iz Arlan Mŕp, huēr lēst ov ŕl I had tſŭzd tō kum a-land wið so smŕl a hed ov men. Yet falt ðŕ prœv hēr, az it hap ēver bēn, hŕ ŕl okaŕonz ar but steps for us tō klīm fām bi."

"ŕr ſips lost," krīd Spitfir, "and ðe mœr part ov ŕr men, and werst ov ŕl, Brandox Dahā ðat iz werſ ten pŕzand. Ezileer ſal a lītēl ant bib ðis ofan dri, ðan ſal we in ðis takiŕ perform ŕr enterprīz." And he kerst and blasfēmd, sain, "Kerst be ðe mālis ov ðe se, hviſ, hāvij brŕk ŕr pŕer, nŕ spueſ us āſœr hēr tō ŕr mēr undœrij; and so hap dun grāt sŭkor tō ðe Kiŕ ov Witſland, and untō ŕl ðe werld besīd grāt dāmādŕ."

But Dzŭs ānserd him, "Pīnk not ðat ðēz kontrare windz kum ov fortſŭn or bi ðe influens ov malignant and kombustīv starz. Ðis wēðer bloeſ ŕt ov Karse. Even az ðēz vēre wāvz ðŕ behŕldst hav ētſ hiz bak-wŕf or underto, so fŕloep āfter ēvere sendij an underto ov evil hap, huērbi, ŕlbeit in ēsens a les dedle piŕ, mēne hav bēn drŕnd and wŕft awa hu∞ stŭd unremœvd agānst ðe mān strŕk ov ðe braker. So wer we twīs sins ðat da brŕt nēr tō ŕr bān: ferst, hven ŕr dzudŕment beij darkend wið a strāndŕ distrakſon we went up wið Gazlark agānst Karse; nekst, hven ðis storm rekt us hēr bi Arlan Mŕp. Ðo bi mīn art I rebated ðe Kiŕz sendij, yet agānst ðe

malefījal underto ðat fōlōd it mi tʃarmz avāl not, nor ðe vertʃūz ov ōl sorserʃs herbz ðat gro."

"Ar ðēz þiŋz so, and wilt ðʃ yet be temperāt?" sed Spitfīr.

"Kontent ðe," sed Dʒus. "Ðe sandz run dðn. A sertān tīm ōnle rūnep ðis strēm for ʃr hert; it must nʃ hav wel ni spent itself, and it wer t∞ pērilʃs for him t∞ kundʒūr a sēkond tīm, az lāst Ma he kundʒūrd in Karse."

"H∞ tōld ðe ðat?" āskt Spitfīr.

"I d∞ but kondʒektʃūr it," ānserd he, "from mi stūdeij ov sertān profētik ritiŋz tutʃiŋ ðe prinsez ov ðat blud and līn. Hūēbi it apereþ (yet not klērle, but rīdel-wīz) ðat if wun and ðe sām Kiŋ, ēsaiŋ a sēkond tīm in hiz ōn person an enterprīz in ðat kīnd, ʃud fāl, and ðe pʃerz ov darknes destrq him, ðen iz not hiz līf spilt alōn (az it fortʃūnd afærtīm unt∞ Gorīs 7. at hiz ferst atempt), but ðēr ʃal be an end for ēver ov ðe huōl hʃs ov Gorīs hwiʃ hap for so mēne dʒeneraʃonz rānd in Karse."

"Wel," sed Spitfīr, "so stand we t∞ ʃr tʃāns. Ōld mukhilz wil bl∞om at lāst."

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Nʃ for nīntēn dāz fērd ðōz breðren and ðēr kumpane ēstword þr∞ ʃter Impland: ferst akros a kuntre ov wīndiŋ slepe rīverz and rede lāks inumerabel, ðen bi roliŋ uplandz and ʃampān grʃnd. At lenþ, on an even, ða kām ūpon a hēþ rūniŋ up ēstword t∞ a rāndʒ ov tumbeld hilz. Ðe hilz wer not lofte nor stēp, but rūged ov ʃtīn and ðēr serfās ruf wið kragz and bōlderz, so ðat it wōz a māz ov lītel ēminensez and vālēz grōn ūpon bi hēðer and fern and rank sad-kūlord grās, wið stunted þorn trēz and dʒuniperz harboriŋ in ðe klefts ov ðe roks. On ðe wōter-ʃed, az on an horsez wīðerz, lʃkiŋ west t∞ ðe red Oktober sunset and sʃp t∞ ðe far līn ov ðe Didornyan Se, ða kām ūpon a spi-fortalīs, ōld and dēzolāt, and wun sītiŋ in ðe gāt. For vēre dʒq ðēr harts melted wīðin ðem, hven ða nu him for nun ūðer ðan Brandox Dahā.

So ða embrāst him az wun beʃond hōp rīzen from ðe grāv. And he sed, "Þr∞ ðe Strāts ov Melikafkaz wōz I bœrn, and rekt at lāst on ðe lōnle ʃær ten lēgz sʃpword from ðis spot, hwiðer I wun alōn, hāviŋ lost mi ʃip and

ôl mi dēr kompanyonz. In mi mīnd it wōz đat ye must fēr bi  
đis rōd tō Mūlvā if ye sūferd fiprek in đe ȝter  
kōsts ov Impland.

"Harken," he sed, "and I wil tel u a wunder. A sēven-nīt  
hav I awated u in đis rōstij-sted ov dōz and ȝlz. And  
it iz a karavanseri ov grāt armēz đat pās bi in đe  
wildernes, and hāviŋ parlēd wiđ tō I awāt đe þerd. For  
wel I þink đat hēr I hav mād diskūvere ov a grāt  
mistere, wun đat haþ engādȝd đe spekulafoŋz ov wīz men for  
yērz. For on đat da ov mi kūmiŋ hīðer, hven sunset wōz  
red, az nȝ u se it, behōld an arme martfiŋ up from đe  
ēst wiđ grāt flagz a-flōntij in đe wind and ôl kīndz ov  
muzik. Hwiŋ I behōldij, mēþōt if đēz be ēnemēz, đen  
goep dȝn mi līfs dāz wiđ ōnor, and if frendz, đen  
kūmeþ prōvender from đōz wāgonz ov berðen đat fōlo đis  
arme. A wate argument; sins not so mutȝ az đe smel ov  
vītelz had I, sāv nāste nuts and bērēz ov đe open fēld,  
sins I kām fōrþ ov đe se. So went I, takiŋ mi wēponz, on  
đe wōlz ov đis spi-fortalīs and hāld đem, bīdiŋ đem  
sa fōrþ đēr kwōlite. And he đat wōz đēr kaptān rōd up  
under đe wōlz, and hāld me wiđ ôl kertese and nobel  
pœrt. And huō þink ye twōz?"

Đa ānserd nōt.

"Wun đat haþ bēn famȝs," sed he, "up and dȝn đe erp  
for a marvelȝs vālorȝs and brāv sōldȝer ov fortȝūn. Hav ye  
forgot đat enterprīz ov Gazlark đat had its bēreiŋ in  
Impland?"

"Wōz he lītel and dark," āskt Dȝus, "līk a kēn dāger  
sūdenle unfēðd at midnīt? Or brīt wiđ đe splendor  
ov a pēnond spēr at a dȝȝstij on hi hōlida? Or wōz he  
dāndȝerȝs ov aspekt līk an ōld sœrd, ruste in đe midst but  
brīt at pȝnt and edȝ, brōt fōrþ for dēdz ov destine at  
đe fated da?"

"Đīn āro strikeþ in đe tȝipel riŋ o' đe mark," sed  
Lord Brandox Dahā. "Grāt ov grōþ he wōz, and a vēre pekok  
ov splendor in hiz pānople ov wor; and a grāt pitȝ-blak  
stāleon bēr him. So I spāk him fēr, saiŋ, 'O mōst  
magnīfisent and godlīk Helterānyus, konkeror in an hundred  
fīts, huōt mākst đȝ đēz loŋ yērz in ȝter Impland wiđ  
đis grāt hed ov men? And huōt dark lōdstōn drōz u đēz  
nīn yērz, sins wiđ grāt sȝnd ov trumpets and tramp ov  
horsez đȝ and Zeldornyus and Dȝalkanius Fostus went fōrþ tō  
māk Impland Gazlarks fōtstōl; sins hwiŋ tīm ôl đe  
werld beleveþ u lost and ded?' And he beheld me wiđ aleen  
īz, and mād ānser, 'O Brandox Dahā, đe werld dȝerneep  
tō its sīle wil, but I fēr ôlwa wiđ mi perpōs befōer me.



Be it nīn yērz, or but nīn mœnz, or nīn ādzēz, hūōt kēr I?  
Zeldornyus wūd I enkōnter and engādʒ him in bātel, ōat  
stil flēp befœr mi fās. Ēt and drink wið me tœ-nīt;  
but þink not tœ detān me nor tœ tern me tœ idel þōts  
besīd mi perpōs. For wið ðe dōniŋ ov ðe da I must fœrþ  
agān in kwest ov Zeldornyus.'

"So I āt and drank and wōz mēre ōat nīt wið Helterānyus  
in hiz pavīleon ov silk and gōld. And wið ðe dōn he  
marfald hiz arme and martʃt westword tœword ðe plānz.

"And on ðe þerd da, az I sat wīðōt ðis wōl, kersīŋ yor  
slo kūmiŋ, behōld an arme martʃiŋ from ðe ēst and wun  
lediŋ ðem mōnted on a smōl dun hors; and he wōz klad in  
blak armor finiŋ līk ðe ravenz wiŋ, wið blak egelz  
plūmz in hiz helm, and īz līk ðe īz ov a kat-a-mōntān,  
foī ov sparkliŋ flām. Lītel wōz he, and fērs ov fās, and  
līð, and hard tœ lūk on and tīrles tœ lūk on līk a  
stōt. And I hāld him from hūēr I sat, saiŋ, 'O mōst  
notabel and pwesant Dzalkanius Fostus, jāterer ov ðe hōsts  
ov men, hūðerword over ðe lōnle hēps forlorn, ðō and  
ði grāt armament?' And he lited dōn from hiz hors, and  
tūk me bi ðe armz wið bōp hiz handz, and sed, If a man  
drēm, tœ spēk wið ded men betokenz prōfit. And art not ðō  
ov ðe ded, O Brandox Dahā? For in forgōten dāz, ōat nō  
sprīŋ up in mi mīnd az flōerz in a wēd-tʃōkt garden āfter  
mēne yērz, so blœmst ðō in mi mēmore: grāt amuŋ ðe  
grāt wunz ov ðe werld ōat wōz, ðō and ðīn hōs in  
Krōðeriŋ abuv ðe se-loxs in mēne-mōntānd Demonland.  
But oblīveon, līk a sōndiŋ se, sōndep betwikst me and  
ðōz dāz; and ðe nqz ov ðe serf stōpep mīn ērz, and  
ðe mist ov ðe se darkeneþ mīn īz ōat strān for a sīt  
ov ðōz far tīmz and ðe dēdz ðarov. Yet for ðōz ded  
dāz sāk, ēt wið me and drink wið me tœ-nīt, sins hēr  
for a nīt wuns mœr I pitʃ mi mœviŋ tent on Salapantā  
Hilz. And tœ-moro I fēr onword. For nēver ma rest briŋ  
bālm tœ mi sōl until I fīnd ōt Helterānyus and smīt hiz hed  
from hiz fōlderz. Grāt jām tœ him but lītel marvel iz it,  
ōat he stil kœrseþ befœr me az an hēr. For tratorz wer  
ēver dāstardz. And hūō ēver herd tel ov a mœr hēliʃ  
dēvilif damd trator ðan he? Nīn yērz ago, hven  
Zeldornyus and I mād rēde tœ desīd ōr kworelz bi bātel,  
werd kām tœ me in a lūke ōr hō ōat ðis Helterānyus wið  
kūniŋ kolubrīn and mālis vīperīn and slīts serpentīn  
went abōt tœ atak me in ðe rēr. So ternd I rīt abōt tœ  
kruf him, but ðe fat tʃuf-kat wōz fled.'

"So spāk Dzalkanius Fostus; and I āt and drank wið him ōat  
nīt, and karðzd wið him in hiz tent. And at brāk ov da

he struk kamp and rōd westawa wið hiz arme."

Brandox Dahâ sēst, and lukt ēstword tæword ðe gāts ov nīt. And lo, an arme fariŋ up from ðe loer mæor-landz, tæword ðem on ðe ridz, horsmen and fūtmēn in dens ara, and ðēr kaptān on a grāt brūn hors ridiŋ in ðe van. Loŋ-limd he wōz and lēn, ōl armd in duste ruste armor hakt and dinted in an hundred fīts, wið wærn lēðer gōntlets on hiz handz and a faded kampaniŋ klōk þrōn bak from hiz fōlderz. He kārēd hiz kâsk at hiz sādēl-bo and hiz hed wōz bē: ðe hed ov an ōld lēn huntiŋ-dog, wið hūit hēr swept bak from a rūged brū hūer blu vānz fōd; grāt-nōzd and bone-fāst, wið hūdʒ bʊfe hūit mʊstāfēōz and ībrūz, and blu īz glemiŋ from kǎvernʊs i-sōkets. Hiz hors wōz kerst-lūkiŋ, wið ērz lād bak and blud-fed dāndʒerʊs īz, and he in ðe sādēl sat erek and unyēldiŋ az a lāns.

Hēn he and hiz arme kām up ūpon ðe ridz, he dru rān and hāld ðe Demonz. And he sed, "On ēvere nīnþ da ðēz nīn yērz hav I beheld ðis lōnle plās ov erþ, az I þerfūd āfter Dʒalkanius Fostus ðat stil eludeþ me and stil flēþ befōer me; and ðis iz strāndʒ, sins he wōz ēver a grāt fiter and engādʒd ðēz nīn yērz pāst tæ dæ bātel wið me. And nū fēr kūmēþ ūpon me ðat eld drōep a vāl ov iluzon apwort mīn īz, portendiŋ ðe aprōtʃ ov deþ or ēver I perform mi wil. For hēr in ðe unsertān līt ov eveniŋ rīz up befōer me fāps and semblansez az ov gests ov Gazlark ðe kiŋ in Zādʒe Zakulo in dāz gon bi: ōld frendz ov Gazlarks ūt ov mēne-mūntānd Demonland: Brandox Dahâ, ðat slu ðe Kiŋ ov Witʃland, and Spitfir ov ʃlswik, and Dʒus hiz brūðer, ðe sām hūitʃ had lordʃip over ōl ðe Demonz ēr we fērd tæ Imþland. Gōsts and bak-kūmerz ov a werld forgot. But if ye be rīt fleʃ and blud, spēk and diskūver yorselvz."

Dʒus ānserd him, "O mōst redʊtabel Zeldornyus and in wor invinsibel, wel mīt a man ekspekt spīrits ov ðe ded on ðēz kwiet hilz abʊt kokʃut tīm. And if ðū dēm us sutʃ, hū mutʃ mæer ʃal we, ðat be wōndererz nu-ʃiprekt ūt ov hungre sēz, supōz ðe but a ʃād, and ðēz grāt hōsts ov ðīn but fetʃez ov ðe ded ðat be departed, stemiŋ up from Ērebus az dalīt dīz?"

"O mōst renʊnd and redʊtabel Zeldornyus," sed Brandox Dahâ, "ðū wōst wuns mi gest in Krōðeriŋ. Tæ rezolv ði dʊts and ʃrz, bid us tæ sūper. It wer māter indēd if spīrits bōdiles wer abel tæ bib wīn and ēt up erple bāk-mēts."

So Zeldornyus let pitf hiz tents, and apqnted ðe fifþ þr befœr midnīt for ðōz lordz ov Demonland tō sup wið him. Êr ða forgāðerd in Zeldornyusez tent ða spāk amuŋ ðemselvz, and Spitfir sed, "Wōz ëver sutf a wunder or sutf a pītifol trik o' ðe Fāts az brīŋeþ ðēz þre grāt kaptānz tō wāst ðe remnant ov ðēr dāz in ðis remōt wildernes? Dþt not but ðêrz praktīs in it, ðat makeþ ðem martf ðēz loŋ yērz ðis tʃāndzles rþnd, ētʃ fleiŋ wun ðat wōd fān enkþnter him, and stil sekiŋ anūðer ðat flīz befœr him."

"Nëver went man wið ðat lūk ov ðe īz Zeldornyus haþ," sed Dʒus, "but he wōz a man ensorseld."

"Wið sutf a lūk," sed Brandox Dahâ, "went Helterānyus and Dʒalkanius. But mark þr interest. Twer gōd tō brāk ðe tʃarm and klām ðēr help for þr pānz. Szalz fo ðe ōld lion ōl ðe trūþ ov ðis fakt tō-nīt?"

So spāk Lord Brandox Dahâ, and ðōz breðren dēmd hiz kþnsel gōd. So at sūper, hven menz harts wer glādend wið gōd tʃēr, ðe Lord Dʒus sāt him dþn bi Zeldornyus and opend tō him ðis māter, saiŋ, "O renþnd Zeldornyus, hþ befōleþ it ðat ðēz nīn yērz ðþ perʃūst āfter Dʒalkanius Fostus, ʃāterer ov hōsts, and huôt wōz yor dīferens betwikst u ðat set u bi ðe ērz?"

Zeldornyus sed, "O Dʒus, must I ānser ðe bi rezonz in ðis māter ðat iz rūld bi ðe hi starz and Fāt ðat lāz men at ðēr leŋþ? Enuŋ for ðe ðat unpēs befel betwikst me and Dʒalkanius mite in wor, and it wōz konfermd betwēn us ðat bi ðe arbitrāment ov ðe blūde fēld we ʃōd end þr dīferens. But he abōd me not; and ðēz nīn yērz I sēk tō mēt wið him in vān."

"Ðêr wōz a þerd ov u," sed Dʒus. "Huôt tidiŋz hast ðþ ov Helterānyus?"

Zeldornyus ānserd him, "No tidiŋz."

"Wilt ðþ," sed Dʒus, "ðat I enliten ðe heron?"

Zeldornyus sed, "Ðþ and ði fēlōz alōn ov ðe tʃildren ov men hav spoken wið me sins ðēz þiŋz began. For ða ðat dwelt in ðis rēdʒon fled yērz ago, akþntiŋ ðe plās akerst. A pōltre kru ða wer, and mēn mēt eno for þr sœrdz. Spēk ðen, if ðþ menest me wel, and ʃo me ōl."

"Helterānyus," sed Lord Dʒus, "perʃueþ ðe ðēz nīn yērz, az ðþ perʃūst Dʒalkanius Fostus. Mi kūzin hēr haþ sēn

him but siks dāz ago, in đis sām plās, and tōkt wiđ him,  
and fʊk him bi đe hand, and nu hiz mīnd. Σūrle ye be ōl  
þre hōlden bi sum entfāntment, đat beinj ōld komrādz in  
armz so strāndzle and tō so lītēl perpōs dō perfu ētʃ đe  
ūđerz līf. I pŕiđe let us be a mēn betwikst u ōl tō set  
u at wun agān, and fre u from so strāndz a þrōldom."

But wiđ đōz werdz spoken wōz Zeldornyus grōn red az blud.  
In a hūil he sed, "It wer blak tretʃere. Īl not krēdit  
it."

But Lord Brandox Dahā ānserd him, "From hiz ōn lips I  
resēvd it, O Zeldornyus. And đērtō I plīt mi trop. Đis  
besīdz, đat Džalkanius Fostus wōz ternd from batliŋ wiđ  
đe nīn yēz ago (az he himself hap tōld me, and mād ferm  
hiz saiŋ wiđ mōst fērful ōþs), bi intēlīdzens brōt  
him đat Helterānyus wōz in đat ʝr mīnded tō tāk him in đe  
rēr."

"I," sed Spitfīr, "and untō đis da he martʃep on  
Helterānyusez trak az đʝ on hiz."

Wiđ đōz werdz spoken wōz Zeldornyus grōn yēlo az ōld  
partʃment, and hiz hūit mōstāʃeōz brīseld līk a lionz. He  
sat silent āhūil, đen, restiŋ ūpon Džus đe kōld and stēde  
gāz ov hiz blu īz, "Đe werld kumz bak tō me," he sed,  
"and đis mēmōre đērwiđ, đat đa ov Demonland wer  
trūþ-tēlerz hūđer tō frend or fo, and ēver held it fām  
tō kog and li." Ōl đa bʝd grāvle and he sed wiđ a  
grāt lo ov anger in hiz īz, "Đis Helterānyus devizeþ  
agānst me, it wel apereþ, đe self-sām tretʃere hvarov  
he wōz fōlsle akūzd tō Džalkanius Fostus. Đēr wer no  
līkleer plās tō kruʃ him đan hēr on Salapantā ridz. If I  
stand hēr tō abīd hiz onset, đe li ov đe grʝnd  
befrendeþ me, and Džalkanius kūmeþ at hiz hēlz tō gāđer  
đe broken mēts āfter I hav mād mi fēst."

Brandox Dahā sed in Džūsez ēr, "ʝr pēsmakiŋ takeþ a  
pŕite tern. Hēlz i' đe ēr: monstrʝs unladilīk!"

But nōt đa kʝd sa wʝd mōv Zeldornyus. So in đe end  
đa ōferd him đēr bākiŋ in đis adventʃūr. "And hven đe  
da iz wun, đen ʃalt đʝ lend us đī mīt in ʝr  
enterpŕīz, and ād us in ʝr worz wiđ Witʃland đat be for  
tō kum."

But Zeldornyus sed, "O Džus and ye lordz ov Demonland, I yēld  
u þanks; but ye ʃal not mēdel in đis bātel. For we kām  
þre kaptānz wiđ ʝr hōsts untō đis land, and beheld đe

land, and lād it under us. Țrz it iz, and if ěne mēdel or māk wið us, wer we nēver so set at enmite wun wið anūðer, we must dʒɔŋ tʉgēðer in hiz despīt and briŋ him tʉ bān. Be stil ðen, and behōld and se huôt berp fāt ʃal briŋ fœrp on Salapantā Hilz. But if I liv, ðarāfter ʃal ye hav mi frendʃip and mi help in ōl yor enterprizez huôtsoēver."

For āhvīl he sat wīðłt spētʃ, hiz stark vānd handz klentʃt on ðe bærd befœr him; ðen riziŋ, went wīðłt werd tʉ ðe dœr ov hiz pavīleon tʉ stūde ðe nīt. ðen ternd he bak tʉ Lord Dʒus, and spāk tʉ him: "No ðat huen ðis mœn nł pāst wōz but þre dāz ōld I began tʉ be trūbeld wið a katar or rœm hvitʃ yet troubleþ me; and wel ðł wotst ðat huoso fōleþ sik on ðe þerd da ov ðe mœnz ādʒ, he wil di. Tʉ-nīt ōlso iz a nu mœn, and ov a Sāterda; and ðat betokeneþ fitiŋ and bludʃed. Ōlso ðe wind bloeþ from ðe słþ; and he ðat bēgīneþ ðat gām wið a słþ wind ʃal hav ðe viktore. Wið sutʃ unsertān blaknes and brītnes openeþ ðe dœr ov Fāt befœr me."

Dʒus błd hiz hed, and sed, "O Zeldornyus, ði spētʃ iz soþ."

"I wōz ēver a fiter," sed Zeldornyus.

Far intʉ ðe nīt sat ða in ðe tent ov renłnd Zeldornyus, drinkiŋ and tōkiŋ ov līf and destine and ōld worz and ðe tʃānsez ov wor and grāt adventʃūr; and an Țr āfter midnīt ða parted, and Dʒus and Spitfir and Brandox Dahā betok ðem tʉ ðēr rest in ðe wōtʃ-tłer on ðe ridʒ ov Salapantā.

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On sutʃ wīz pāst þre dāz bi, Zeldornyus watiŋ wið hiz arme on ðe hil, and ðe Demonz sūpiŋ wið him nītle. And on ðe þerd da he dru łt hiz arme az for bātel, ekspektiŋ Helterānyus. But niðer ðat da nor ðe nekst nor ðe nekst da fōloin brōt sīt nor tidiŋz ov Helterānyus, and strāndʒ it sēmd tʉ ðem and hard tʉ ges huôt tern ov fortʃūn had delād hiz kūmiŋ. ðe siksp nīt wōz overkāst, and merk darknes kūverd ðe erp. Huen sūper wōz dun, az ðe Demonz betok ðemselvz tʉ ðēr slepiŋ plās, ða herd a skūfel and ðe vqʃ ov Brandox Dahā, hu went fœrmōst ov ðem, kriiŋ, "Hēr hav I kōt a hēþ-dogz hvelp. Giv me a līt. Huôt ʃal I dœ wið him?"

Men wer rǣzd and līts brôt, and Brandox Dahâ servād  
đat hwiƿ he held pinyond bi ðe armz, kôt bi ðe entrans  
too ðe fortalīs: wun wið skêrd wīld-bēst īz in a swort  
fās, gōlden ēr-rinƿ in hiz ērz, and a þik klōs-kropt  
bērd interlāst wið gōld wīr twisted amuƿ its kerlz;  
bêr-armd, wið a tƿunik ov öter-skin and wīd hare trǣzerz  
kros-stitƿt wið silver þred, a serklet ov gōld on hiz  
hed, and frizd dark hêr plāted in too þik tālƿ đat  
huƿ forword over hiz fōlderz. Hiz lips wer drôn bak, līk  
a kros-grānd dogz snarliƿ betwikst fêr and fêrsnes, and  
hiz hwiƿ pƿnted tēþ and ðe hwiƿts ov hiz īz flaƿt in  
ðe tortƿ-līt.

So ða had him wið ðem intoo ðe tǣer, and set him befœr  
ðem, and Dƿus sed, "Fêr not, but tel fœrþ untoo us ði nām  
and līneādƿ, and huôt briƿz ðe lerkiƿ in ðe nīƿ abǣt  
þr lodƿiƿ. We mēn ðe no hert, so ðǣ praktīs not agānst  
us and þr sāfte. Art ðǣ a dwēler in ðis Impland, or a  
wōnderer, līk az we be, from kuntrēz beƿond ðe sēz? hast  
ðǣ kompanyonz, and if so, huēr be ða, and huôt, and hǣ  
mēne?"

And ðe strāndƿer naƿt ŷpon ðem wið hiz tēþ, and sed, "O  
dēvilz trānzmarēn, mok not but sla."

Dƿus entreded him kīndle, gīviƿ him mēt and drink, and in a  
huīl mād kwestƿon ov him wuns mœr, "Huôt iz ði nām?"

Huērtoo he replīd, "O dēvil trānzmarēn, pīte ov ðīn  
ignorans siþ ðǣ nōst not Mivarƿ Faz." And he fel intoo  
a grāt pāƿon ov wepiƿ, kriiƿ alǣd, "Wo werþ ðe wo  
đat iz fōlen ŷpon ôl ðe land ov Impland!"

"Huôts ðe māter?" sed Dƿus.

But Mivarƿ sēst not too wāl and too lament, saiƿ, "Ƿt  
hāro and alās for Faks Fa Faz and ĩlaroƿ Faz and Lermeƿ  
Faz and Gandāsā Faz and ôl ðe grāt wunz in ðe land!" And  
hven ða wud hav kwestƿond him he krīd agān, "Kers ye  
bīterle Filpriƿs Faz, hwiƿ betrād us intoo ðe hand ov ðe  
dēvil ultramontān in ðe kāsel ov Orpiƿ."

"Huôt dēvil iz ðis ðǣ spēkst ov?" āskt Dƿus.

"He hap kum," he ānserd, "over ðe mǣntānz Ƿt ov ðe  
norþ kuntre, đat alōn wōz abel too ānser Faks Fa Faz. And  
ðe vq̄s ov hiz spētƿ iz līk untoo ðe rœriƿ ov a bwl."

"Ƿt ov ðe norþ?" sed Dƿus, gīviƿ him mœr wīn, and  
ekstfāndƿiƿ glānsez wið Spitfīr and Brandox Dahâ. "I wud

hēr mœer ov ðis."

Mivarf drank, and sed, "O dēvilz trānzmarēn, ye giv me stron wōterz hūtf kumfort mi sōl, and ye spēk me soft werdz. But fal I not fēr soft werdz? Soft werdz wer spōk bi ðis dēvil ultramontān, hven he and kerst Filprits spāk soft werdz untō us in Orpif: untō me, and untō Faks Fa Faz, and Gandāsā, and Īlarof, and untō ōl ov us, āfter ȝr overpro in bātel agānst him bi ðe banks ov Arlan."

Dȝus āskt, "Ov huōt fāfon iz he tō lōk on?"

"He hap a grāt yēlo bērd beflekt wið gra," sed Mivarf, "and a bōld fine pāt, and standep big az a nēt."

Dȝus spāk apart tō Brandox Dahā, "Ðērz māter in it if ðis be tru." And Brandox Dahā pœerd fœrþ untō Mivarf and bad him drink agān, saiȝ, "O Mivarf Faz, we be strāndȝerz and gests in wīd-fluȝ Impland. Be it nōn tō ðe ðat ȝr pȝer iz beȝond ken, and ȝr welþ trānsendeþ ðe imādȝinaȝon ov man. Yet iz ȝr benēvolens ov līk mēȝūr wið ȝr pȝer and ritȝez, overfloiȝ az hūne from ȝr harts untō sutf az resēv us openle and tel us ðat hūtf iz. Ōnle be wornd, ðat if ēne li tō us or āsa krāftile tō delūd us, not ðe mantikorz ðat lodȝ beȝond ðe Morunā wer mœer dreful tō ðat man ðan we."

Mivarf kwāld, but ānserd him, "Ūz me wel, u wer best, and u fal hēr from me nōt but huōt iz tru. Ferst wið ðe sœerd he vankwiȝt us, and ðen wið sūtel werdz invited us tō tōk wið him in Orpif, pretendiȝ frendȝip. But ða ar ōl ded ðat harkend tō him. For hven he held ðem klōzd up in ðe kȝnsil rōom in Orpif, himself went sēkretle fœrþ, hūl hiz men lād handz on Gandāsā Faz and on Īlarof Faz, and on Faks Fa Faz ðat wōz gratest amuȝst us, and on Lermeȝ Faz, and kut of ðēr hedz and set ðem up on pōlz wīðȝt ðe gāt. And ȝr armēz ðat wated wīðȝt wer dismād tō se ðe hedz ov ðe Fāzez ov Impland so set on pōlz, and ðe armēz ov ðe dēvilz ultramontān stil prēteniȝ us wið dep. And ðis big bōld bērded dēvil spāk ðem ov Impland fēr, saiȝ ðēz ðat he had slān wer ðēr oprēsorz and he wōd giv ðem ðēr harts dezīr if ða wōd be hiz men, and he wōd māk ðem fre, ēvere man, and fēr ȝt ōl Impland amuȝst ðem. So wer ðe kōmon sort befōld and brōt under bi ðis bōld dēvil from beȝond ðe mȝntānz, and nȝ nun wiðstandep him in ōl Impland. But I ðat had held bak from hiz kȝnsil in Orpif, ferīȝ hiz gīl, hardle eskāpt from mi fōk ðat rōz agānst me. And I fled intō ðe wōdz and wildernesez."

"Hûêr lâst sô ye him?" âskt Džus.

Mivarf ânserd him, "A þre dāz djerne norþwest ov ðis, at Tormerif in Atfere."

"Hûôt mād he ðêr?" âskt Džus.

Mivarf ânserd, "Stil deviziŋ evil."

"Agānst hƿom?" âskt Džus.

Mivarf ânserd, "Agānst Zeldornjus, hwiƿ iz a dēvil trānzmarēn."

"Giv me sum mœr wīn," sed Džus, "and fil agān a beker for Mivarf Faz. I dœ luv nôt so mutƿ az tāl-tēliŋ a-nīts. Wið hƿom devīzd he agānst Zeldornjus?"

Mivarf ânserd, "Wið anūðer dēvil from beƿond sēz; I hav forgot hiz nām."

"Drink and remember," sed Džus; "or if tiz gon from ðe, pānt me hiz piktƿūr."

"He haþ abŷt mi bignes," sed Mivarf, ðat wôz lītel ov statƿūr. "Hiz īz be brīt, and he sumhûôt favoreþ ðis wun," pŕŕntiŋ at Spitƿīr, "ðo belīk he haþ not ôl so fērs a fās. He iz lēn-fāst and dark ov skin. He goeþ in blak īrn."

"Iz he Džalkanius Fostus?" âskt Džus.

And Mivarf ânserd, "I."

"Ðêrz musk and amber in ði spētƿ," sed Džus. "I must hav mœr ov it. Hûôt mēn ða tœ dœ?"

"Ðis," sed Mivarf: "Az I sat līseniŋ in ðe dark wīðŷt ðêr tent, it wôz mād absolūt ðat ðis Džalkanius had bēn desēvd in supozīŋ ðat anūðer dēvil trānzmarēn, hƿom men kôl Helterānyus, had bēn mīnded tœ dœ tretƿerðsle agānst him; hvaraz, az ðe bôld dēvil mād him belēv, twôz no sutƿ þiŋ. And so it wôz konkluded ðat Džalkanius ƿud send riderz âfter Helterānyus tœ māk pēs betwēn ðem, and ðat ða tœ ƿud forþwiþ dʒŕŕn tœ kil Zeldornjus, wun fôliŋ on him in ðe frunt and ðe ŷðer in ðe rēr."

"So tiz kum tœ ðis?" sed Spitƿīr.

"And hven ða hav Zeldornjus slān," sed Mivarf, "ðen must



ða help ðis bôld-pât in hiz undertakiņz."

"And so pa him for hiz rēdz?" sed Dzus.

And Mivarf ânserd, "Even so."

"Wun þiņ mœr I wœd no," sed Dzus. "Hŷ grāt a fôloiņ haþ he in Impland?"

"Ðe gratest strenþ ðat he kan māk," ânserd Mivarf, "ov dēvilz ultramontān iz az I þiņk tœ skœr hundred. Mēne Imps besīd wil fôlo him, but ða hav but ŷr kuntre wēponz."

Lord Brandox Dahâ tuk Dzus bi ðe arm and went fœrþ wið him intœ ðe nī. Ðe frosted grās kruntft under ðêr tred: strāndz starz blinkt in ðe sŷþ in a winde spās betwikst klŷd and slepiņ erþ, Akernar nēr ðe meridzan bedīmiņ ōl lēser firz wið hiz pūr rādžans.

"So kŷmep Korund ŷpon us az an egel ŷt ov ðe sītles blu," sed Brandox Dahâ, "wið twelw tīmz ŷr fœrsez tœ let us ðe wa tœ ðe Morunâ, and ōl Impland līk a spanyel smiliņ at hiz hēl; if indēd ðis simpel sōl sa tru, az I þiņk he dup."

"Ðŷ fôlst ōl ov a hōlida mœod," sed Dzus, "at ðe ferst sentiņ ov ðis grāt hāzard."

"O Dzus," krīd Brandox Dahâ, "ðīn ōn breþ liteneþ at it, and ði werdz kum mœr sprītle fœrþ. Ar not ōl landz, ōl êrz, wun kuntre untœ us, so ðêr be grāt dœiņz afot tœ kēp brīt ŷr sœrdz?"

Dzus sed, "Êr we slēp I wil inform Zeldornyus hŷ ðe wind fifteþ. He must fās bōþ wāz nŷ, til ðis fēld be kut. Ðis bātel must not go agānst him, for hiz ênemēz be engādžd (if Mivarf sa tru) tœ giv ðe help ov ðêr sœrdz tœ Korund."

So fêrd ða tœ Zeldornyusez tent, and Dzus sed bi ðe wa, "Ov ðis be sātisfīd: Korund bareþ not blād on ðe hilz ov Salapantâ. Ðe Kiņ haþ intēlīdzenserz tœ kēp him advertīzd ov ōl entfānted serkelz ov ðe werld, and wel he noeþ huôt influencez mœov hēr, and wið huôt dāndžer tœ ðemselvz ŷtlanderz drô sœrd hēr, az witnes ðe dœm folfild ðēz nīn yērz bi ðēz þre kaptānz. Ðêrfœr wil Korund, instruktet in ðēz þiņz bi hiz māster ðat sent him, lŷk tœ dēl wið us ŷðerhuēr ðan in ðis tfarmd kornor ov ðe erþ. And he wer az wel tāk a bēr bi ðe tœþ az mēdel in ðe fīt ðat nŷ impendeþ, and so briņ ŷpon him ðēz

pre sezond armēz dʒɑnd in wun for hiz destrukʃon."

Ða pāst ðe gard wið ðe wōtʃwerd, and wākt Zeldornyus and tōld him ôl. And he, mūfeld in hiz grāt faded klōk, went fœrþ tœ se gardz wer set and ôl fūr agānst an onslōt from iðer sīd. And standiŋ bi hiz tent tœ giv gʊd nīt tœ ðōz lordz ov Demonland, he sed, "It līks me bēter so. I ēver wōz a fiter; so, wun fit mœr."

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Ðe moro dōnd and pāst ūneventʃul, and ðe morōz moro. But on ðe þerd morniŋ âfter ðe kŭmiŋ ov Mivarʃ, behōld, ēst and west, grāt armēz martʃiŋ from ðe plānz, and Zeldornyusez ara drōn up tœ mēt ðem on ðe ridʒ, wið wēponz glemiŋ and horsez tʃampiŋ and trumpets bloiŋ ðe kōl ov bātel. No gretiŋz wer betwikst ðem, nor so mutʃ az a mēsādʒ ov tʃālendʒ or defians, but Dʒalkanius wið hiz blak riderz ruʃt tœ ðe onset from ðe west and Helterānyus from ðe ēst. But Zeldornyus, līk a gra ōld wōlf, snāpiŋ nʌ ðis wa nʌ ðat, stemd ðe tīd ov ðēr onslōt. So began ðe bātel grāt and fel, and kontīnūd ðe livloŋ da. Þrīs on iðer sīd Zeldornyus went fœrþ wið a grāt streŋþ ov tʃozen men, in so mutʃ ðat hiz ēnemēz fled befœr him az ðe partridʒ duþ befœr ðe spāro-hōk; and þrīs did Helterānyus and þrīs Dʒalkanius Fostus rāle and herl him bak, mʌntiŋ ðe ridʒ anu.

But hven it dru nēr tœ eveniŋ, and ðe dark da darkend tœword nīt, ðe bātel sēst, diiŋ dʒn sŭdenle intœ silens. Ðōz lordz ov Demonland kām dʒn from ðēr tʃer, and wōkt amuŋ ðe hēps ov ded men slān tœword a plās ov slābe rok in ðe nek ov ðe ridʒ. Hēr, alōn on ðat fēld, Zeldornyus lēnd ūpon hiz spēr, gaziŋ dʒnword in a stŭde, hiz arm kāst abʌt ðe nek ov hiz ōld brʌn hors hœ huŋ hiz hed and snift ðe grʌnd. Þrœ a rift in ðe western klʌdz ðe sun glêrd fœrþ; but hiz bēmz wer not so red az ðe liŋ and bent ov Salapantā fēld.

Az Dʒus and hiz kompanyonz dru nēr, no sʌnd wōz herd sāv from ðe Fortalīs behīnd ðem: a diskordant plŭkiŋ ov a harp, and ðe vq̄s ov Mivarʃ huēr he wōkt and harpt befœr ðe wōlz, siŋiŋ ðis dīte:

*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're ditches and mires,  
She follows the spirit that guides now.*

*No beast for his food  
Dares now range the wood,  
But husht in his laire he lies lurking;  
While mischiefs, by these,  
On land and on seas,  
At noone of night are a working.*

*The storme will arise  
And trouble the skies;  
This night, and more for the wonder,  
The ghost from the tomb  
Affrighted shall come,  
Cal'd out by the clap of the thunder.*

Hæn ða wer kum tō Zeldornȳus, ðe Lord Dȳus spāk saiȳ,  
"O mōst redðtabel Zeldornȳus, renðnd in wor, fūrle ði  
prognostikaȳonȳ bi ðe mōon wer tru. Behōld ðe nobel  
viktore ðð hast obtānd ūpon ðīn ěnemēȳ."

But Zeldornȳus ānserd him not, stil gaziȳ dðnwordȳ befōer  
hiz fēt. And ðēr wōȳ Helterāȳȳus fōlen, ðe sōerd ov  
Dȳalkanius Fostus standiȳ in hiz hart, and hiz rīt hand  
grāspiȳ stil hiz ōn sōerd ðat had gīven Dȳalkanius hiz  
bān-sōer.

So lukt ða āhūil on ðōȳ tō grāt kaptānz slān. And  
Zeldornȳus sed, "Spēk not kumfortable tō me ov viktore, O  
Dȳus. So loȳ az ðat sōerd, and ðat, had hiz māster alīv, I  
did not mōer dezīr mīn ōn sāfte ðan ðēr destrukȳon hū  
wið me in dāȳ gon bi mād konkwest ov wīd Impland. And se  
wið hūȳt a pȳȳzond violens ða labord mi undōoiȳ, and in  
hūȳt an ūnekspekted ruin ar ða sūdenle broken and gon." And  
az wun grōn intō a dēp sadnes he sed, "Hūer wer ōl  
heroikal parts but in Helterāȳȳus? and a man mīt māk a  
garment for ðe mōon sōoner ðan fit ðe ōr-lepiȳ akȳonȳ

ov grāt Džalkanius, hu∞ nŝ leveþ but hiz bōde t∞ beduŋ  
ðat erþ ðat wōz lātſe faken at hiz tēror. I hav waded  
in red blud t∞ ðe ne; and in ðis ŝr, in mi ōld yērz,  
ðe werld iz bekum for me a vīzon ōnle and a mok-fo."

Ðērwið he lukt on ðe Demonz, and ðēr wōz ðat in hiz  
īz ðat stād ðēr spētſ.

In a huīl he spāk agān, saiŋ, "I swēr unt∞ u mi  
ferðerans if I prevāld. But nŝ iz mīn arme pāst awa az  
waks wāstep befœr ðe fir, and I wāt ðe dark fēriman hu∞  
tāreep for no man. Yet, sins nēver hav I rōt mīn  
obligafonz in sande but in marbel mēmorēz, and sins viktore  
iz mīn, resēv ðēz gifts: and ferst ðŝ, O Brandox Dahâ,  
mi scœrd, sins befœr ðŝ wōst ov yērz atēn ðŝ wōst  
akŝnted ðe miteest amuŋ men-at-armz. Mitile ma it  
avāl ðe, az me in tīm gon bi. And unt∞ ðe, O Spittfir, I  
giv ðis klōk. Ōld it iz, yet ma it stand ðe in gūd  
sted, sins ðis vertſu it haþ ðat he hu∞ wareþ it ſal  
not fōl alīv int∞ ðe hand ov hiz ēnemēz. Wēr it for mi  
sāk. But unt∞ ðe, O Džus, giv I no gift, for ritſ ðŝ art  
ov ōl gūd gifts: ōnle mi gūd wil giv I unt∞ ðe, ēr  
erþ gāþ for me."

So ða þankt him wel. And he sed, "Depart from me, sins  
nŝ aprōtſep ðat huiſ must komplēt ðis dāz undœiŋ."

So ða fērd bak t∞ ðe spi-fortalīs, and nīt kām dŝn on  
ðe hilz. A grāt wind moniŋ ŝt ov ðe hules west tœr  
ðe klŝdz az a rāged garment, reveliŋ ðe lōnle mœn ðat  
fled naked betwikst ðem. Az ðe Demonz lukt bakword in ðe  
mœnlīt t∞ huēr Zeldornyus stūd gaziŋ on ðe ded, a nqz  
az ov þunder mād ðe ferm land trembel and drŝnd ðe  
hŝliŋ ov ðe wind. And ða beheld hŝ erþ gāpt for  
Zeldornyus.

Åfter ðat, ðe dark ſut dŝn apwort ðe mœn, and nīt and  
silens huŋ on ðe fēld ov Salapantâ.

10. Ðe Martſlandz ov ðe Morunâ

OV ÐE DŽERNE OV ÐE DEMONZ FROM SALAPANTÂ T∞ EŠGRAR OGO:  
HUARIŊ IZ SET DŝN KONŠERNIŊ ÐE LADE OV IŠNĀN NEMARTRĀ,  
AND ŪÐER NOTABEL MĀTERZ.

Mivarſ Faz kām betīmz on ðe moro t∞ ðe lordz ov

Demonland, and fġnd ðem rēde for ðe rōd. So he āskt ðem hŷer ðēr dzerne la, and ða ānserd, "Ēst."

"Ēstword," sed Mivarf, "ōl wāz lēd tō ðe Morunā. Nun ma go ðīðer and not dī."

But ða lâft and ānserd him, "Dō not tō nārole defīn ȝr pȝer, swēt Mivarf, restraniȝ it tō ði kapāsītēz. No ðat ȝr dzerne iz a māter determīnd ov, and it iz fikst wið nālz ov dimond tō ðe wōl ov inēvitabel nesēsīte."

Ða tōk lēv ov him and went ðēr wāz wið ðēr smōl arme. For fōer dāz ða dżernēd þrō dēp wōdz karpeted wið ðe lēvz ov a þȝzand ōtumz, hŷer at midmōst nōn twilīft dwelt amuȝ huft wōdland nȝzez, and sōlem ibōlz glērd nītle betwēn ðe tre-trunks, gaziȝ on ðe Demonz az ða martȝt or tōk ðēr rest.

Ðe fifþ da, and ðe siksp and ðe sēvenþ, ða dżernēd bi ðe sūðern mardżin ov a grāvele se, mād ōl ov sand and grāvel and no drop ov wōter, yet ēbiȝ and floiȝ ōlwa wið grāt wāvz az anūðer se duþ, nēver standiȝ stil and nēver at rest. And ōlwāz bi da and nīt az ða kām þrō ðe dēzert wōz a grāt nȝz vēre hidȝȝs and a sġnd az it wer ov tamborēnz and trumpets; yet wōz ðe plās sōlitare tō ðe i, and no līviȝ þiȝ afōt ðēr sāv ðēr kumpane fariȝ tō ðe ēst.

On ðe ātþ da ða left ðe fōer ov ðat wōterles se and kām bi broken rōke grġnd tō ðe desent tō a wīd vāl, felterles and unfrūtful, wið ðe brōd stone bed ov a lītel rīver wīndiȝ in ðe strap. Hēr, lȝkiȝ ēstword, ða beheld in ðe luster ov a lāt brīt-finiȝ sun a kâsel ov red stōn on a tērās ov ðe fel-sīd beȝond ðe vāle. Dȝus sed, "We kan be ðēr befōer nītfōl, and ðēr wil we tāk gestiȝ." Hven ða dru nēr ða wer wēr, betwikst sunset and mōnlīft, ov wun sītiȝ on a bōlder in ðēr pāþ abġt a ferloȝ from ðe kâsel, az if gaziȝ on ðem and awatiȝ ðēr kūmiȝ. But hven ða kām tō ðe bōlder ðēr wōz no sutf person. So ða pāst on ðēr wa tōword ðe kâsel, and hven ða lȝkt behīnd ðem, lo, ðēr wōz he sītiȝ on ðe bōlder bariȝ hiz hed in hiz handz: a strāndȝ þiȝ, huitf wōd kōz ēne man tō abhor.

Ðe kâsel gāt stōd open, and ða enterd in, and so bi ðe kōert-yard tō a grāt hōl, wið ðe bōerd set az for a bankwet, and brīt firz and an hundred kandelz berniȝ in ðe stil ēr; but no līviȝ þiȝ wōz ðēr tō be sēn, nor vȝs herd in ōl ðat kâsel. Lord Brandox Dahā sed, "In ðis

land tō fāl ov marvelz ōnle for an ȝr wer ðe strāndzest  
marvel. Bankwet we lītle and so tō bed." So ða sat dǣn and  
ā, and drank ov ðe hūne-swēt wīn, til ōl þōts ov  
wor and hardfip and ðe ūnimadzīnd pērilz ov ðe wildernes  
and Korundz grāt arme prepariŋ ðēr destrufjon faded from  
ðēr mīndz, and ðe spīrit ov slumber wōod ðēr were  
frāmz.

Ðen a fānt muzik, trublȝs in its volupȝs wīld swētnes,  
floted on ðe ēr, and ða beheld a lade enter on ðe dais.  
Butifol ȝe sēmd beȝond ðe bute ov mortal wīmen. In her  
dark hēr wōz ðe līknes ov ðe hornd mōon in hūne-kūlord  
simofānz ēvere stōn hvarov held a strāt bēm ov līt  
imprīzond ðat kwīverd and glēmd az sunbēmz kwīver wadiŋ  
in ðe klēr dēps ov a sūmer se. Ȝe wœr a kōt-harde ov  
soft krimzon silk, klōs fitiŋ, so ðat ȝe did trule apārel  
her apārel and wið her ōn luvlines mād it mœr sumpȝs.  
Ȝe sed, "Mi lordz and gests in Iƿnān Nemartrā, ðēr be  
bedz ov dǣn and ȝets ov lōn for ōl ov u ðat be aware.  
But no ðat I kēp a spāro-hōk sītiŋ on a pertȝ in ðe  
ēstern tǣr, and he ðat wil wāk mi spāro-hōk ðis nīt  
loŋ, alōn wiððt ēne kumpane and wiððt slēp, I ȝal kum  
tō him at ðe nīts end and ȝal grāt untō him ðe ferst  
þiŋ ðat he wil āsk me ov erple þiŋz." So saiŋ ȝe  
departed līk a drēm.

Brandox Dahā sed, "Kāst we lots for ðis adventfūr."

But Dȝus spāk agānst it, saiŋ, "Ðērz līkle sum gīl  
herin. We must not in ðis akerst land sūfer ōt tō  
sēdzūs ȝr mīndz, but fōlo ȝr set perpōs. We must not be ov  
ðōz hū go fœrþ for wōl and kum hōm ȝorn."

Brandox Dahā and Spitfīr mōkt at ðis, and kāst lots  
betwēn ðemselvz. And ðe lot fel ūpon Lord Brandox Dahā.  
"Ðȝ ȝalt not deni me ðis," sed he tō Lord Dȝus, "els wil  
I nēver mœr dō ðe gōd."

"I nēver kōd yet deni ðe ēnþiŋ," ānserd Dȝus. "Art not  
ðȝ and I finger and þum? Ōnle forget not, hūtsoēr  
betīd, hūerfœr we be kum hīðer."

"Art not ðȝ and I finger and þum?" sed Brandox Dahā.  
"Fēr nūþiŋ, O frend ov mi hart. Īl not forget it."

So hūl ðe ūðerz slept, Brandox Dahā wākt ðe  
spāro-hōk, nīt-loŋ in ðe ēstern tȝāmbes. For ōl ðat  
ðe kōld hilsīd wiððt wōz ruf wið hœr-frost ðe ēr wōz  
worm in ðat tȝāmbes and hēve, dispoziŋ stronȝle tō slēp.  
Yet he klōzd not an i, but stil beheld ðe spāro-hōk,

tēliņ it stōerēz and twekiņ it bi ðe tāl ēver and anon az it gru drūze. And it ānserd fortle and bōrifle, lōkiņ ūpon him malēvolentle.

And wið ðe gōlden dōn, behōld ðat lade in ðe fādoe dōerwa. At her enteriņ in, ðe spāro-hōk klikt its wiņz az in anger, and wiðōlt mōer adō tukt its bēk benēp its wiņ and went tō slēp. But ðat brīt lade, lōkiņ on ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ, spāk and sed, "Rekwīr it ov me, mi Lord Brandox Dahâ, ðat hwiť ðō mōst dezīrst ov erple piņz."

But he, az wun bedāzeld, stōd up saiņ, "O lade, iz not ði bute at ðe dōn ov da an irādzařon ðat mīt dispel ðe mists ov hel? Mi hart iz rāviťt wið ði luvlines and ōnle fed wið ði sīt. ðērfōer ði bōde wil I hav, and nun ūðer piņ erple."

"ðō art a fōol," ře krīd, "ðat nōst not huōt ðō āskst. Ov ōl piņz erple mītst ðō hav taken třūz; but I am not erple."

He ānserd, "I wil hav nōt els."

"ðō dust embrās ðen a grāt dāndzer," sed ře, "and los ov ōl ði gōd luk, for ðe and ði frendz besīd."

But Brandox Dahâ, seiņ hō her fās bekām on a sūden sutř az ar nu-blōn rozez at ðe dōniņ, and her īz wīd and dark wið luv-lōņiņ, kām tō her and tōk her in hiz armz and fel tō kīsiņ and embrasiņ ov her. On sutř wīz ða abōd for āhūl, ðat he wōz wēr ov no piņ els on erp sāv ōnle ðe sens-mādeniņ kares ov ðat ladēz hēr, ðe perfūm ov it, ðe kis ov her mōp, ðe swel and fōl ov ðat ladēz brest straniņ agānst hiz. ře sed in hiz ēr softle, "I se ðō art tō māsterřul. I se ðō art wun huō wil be denīd nūpiņ, on huōtsoēver ðīn hart iz set. Kum." And ða pāst bi a hēve-kertānd dōerwa intō an īner řfāmber, huēr ðe ēr wōz fild wið ðe brep ov mer and nard and ambergre, a fragranse az ov slepiņ luvlines. Hēr, amid ðe darknes ov řiť hāņiņz and subdzūd glints ov gōld, a worm rādžans ov řaded lamps wōťřt abuv a kōťř, grāt and brōd and dōne-pīlōd. And hēr for a loņ řīm ða sōlāst ðem wið luv and ōl delīť.

Even az ōl piņz hav an end, he sed at ðe lāst, "O mi lade, mistres ov harts, hēr wōd I abīd ēver, abandoniņ ōl els for ði luv sāk. But mi kompanyonz tāre for me in ðīn hōlz belo, and grāt māterz wāt on mi direkřon. Giv me ði divīn mōp wuns agān, and bid me ādzū."

Se wôz liiŋ az if aslêp akros hiz brest: smœð-skind,  
hwīt, worm, wið fāple þrōt lēnd bakword agānst ðe  
spīs-odorðs darknesez ov her unbðnd hēr; wun tres, hēve  
and splendid līk a piþon, kqld betwēn hwīt arm and bʊzom.  
Swift az a snāk fe ternd, klīriŋ fērsle abðt him,  
prēsiniŋ fērsle agān tœ hiz her insafabel swēt fervent  
lips, kriiŋ ðat hēr must he dwel untœ eternite in ðe  
intoksikafon ov perfekt luv and plēzūr.

But hven in ðe end, dzentle konstraniŋ her tœ loos him and  
let him go, he arōz and klōðd and armd him, ðat lade  
kōt abðt her a trānzludent rōb ov silvere fēn, az hven  
ðe sūmer mœon vālz but not hīdz wið a filme klðd her  
butēz splendor, and so standiŋ befœr him spāk and sed,  
"Go ðen. Ðis iz got bi kâstiŋ ov perlz tœ hogz. I ma not  
sla ðe, sins over ði böde I hav no ūðer pðer. But  
bekōz ðð falt not lāf overmutf, hāviŋ rekwīrd me ov  
ðat hwīt wōz beʏond ðe pakt and beiŋ endzʌrd iz nð  
slited ov ðe and abūzd, ðērfœr no, prðd man, ðat  
þre gifts I hēr wil grānt ðe ðērtœ ov mīn ōn  
tʃuziŋ. Ðð falt hav wor and not pēs. He ðat ðð werst  
hātst fal þro dðn and ruin ði fēr lordʃip, Krððeriŋ  
Kāsel and ðe mānz ðarov. And ðo vendzans fal  
overtāk him at ðe lāst, bi anūðerz hand ðan ðīn fal it  
kum, and tœ ðīn hand fal it be denīd."

Ðērwið fe fel a-wepiŋ. And ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ, wið  
grāt rezoluʃon, went fœrþ from ðe tʃāmber. And lŷkiŋ bak  
from ðe þrēʃöld he beheld bōþ ðat and ðe ʌter tʃāmber  
vʌrd ov lade and spāro-hōk bōþ. And a grāt werines kām  
sūdenle ūpon him. So, goiŋ dðn, he fðnd Lord Dzus and hiz  
kompanyonz slepiŋ on ðe kōld stōnz, and ðe bankwet hōl  
empte ov ôl gēr and dank wið mos and kobwebz, and bats  
slepiŋ hed-dðnword amuŋ ðe krumbliŋ rœof-bēmz; nor wōz  
ēne sīn ov lāst nīts bankwetiŋ. So Brandox Dahâ rðzd  
hiz kompanyonz, and tōld Dzus hð he had fērd, and ov ðe  
wērd lād on him bi ðat lade.

And ða went grātle wunderiŋ fœrþ ov ðe akerst kâsel ov  
lʃnān Nemartrâ, glad tœ kum of so skāðles.

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On ðat nīnþ da ov ðēr dzerne from Salapantâ ða kām  
þrœ wāst landz ov stōn and líviŋ rok, hūer not so mutf  
az an erþ-lðs sterd wið líf. Gordzez split ðe erþ  
hēr and ðēr: rok-wōld lābirinþs ov glœm, unvīzited for  
ēver bi sunbēm or mœonbēm, turbulent in ðēr depþs wið  
wōterz ðat lēpt and tʃernd for ēver, nēver stil and nēver



silent. So wōz ðat dāz dzerne tortfuðs, terniŋ nŋ up nŋ dŋn alonŋ ðōz rīver banks tō find krōsiŋ plasez.

Hven ða wer hōlted at nōn bi ðe depest rift ða had yet beheld, ðēr kām wun haseniŋ tō ðem and fel dŋn bi Dʒus and la pantij fās tō erþ az breþles from lonŋ rūniŋ.

And hven ða rāzd him up, behōld Mivarf Faz, harnest in ðe gēr ov a blak rider ov Dʒalkanius Fostus and armd wið aks and sœrd. Grāt wōz hiz ādʒitaʃon, and he spētʃles for lak ov breþ. Ða ūzd him kīndle, and gāv him tō drink from a grāt skin ov wīn, Zeldornyusez gift, and anon he sed, "He haþ armd kŋntles hundredz ov ŋr fōk wið wēponz taken from Salapantā fēld. Ðēz, led bi ðe dēvilz hiz sunz, wið Filprits kerst ov ðe godz, be gon befœr tō hōld ōl ðe wāz be-ēst ov u. Nīt and da hav I rīden and run tō worn u. Himself, wið hiz mān streŋþ ov dēvilz ultramontān, rideþ hot on yor traks."

Ða þankt him wel, marveliŋ mutʃ ðat he ʃud be at sutʃ pānz tō advertiz ðem ov ðēr dāndʒer. "I hav ēt yor sōlt," ānserd he, "and mœrover ye ar agānst ðis nōte wīked bōldhed ðat kām over ðe mŋntānz tō opres us. Ðērfoer I wud dœ u gud. But I kan lītel. For I am pœr, ðat wōz ritʃ in land and fe. And I am alōn, ðat had formerle fiv hundred spērmes lodʒiŋ in mi hōlz tō dœ mi plēzūr."

"Ðērz nēd tō dœ kwikle ðat we dœ," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "Hŋ grāt start ov him hadst ðŋ?"

"He must be ūpon u in an ŋr or twān," sed Mivarf, and fel a-wepiŋ.

"Tō kōp him in ðe open," sed Dʒus, "wer grāt glœere and ŋr sertān dep."

"Giv me tō þink, but a mīnūts hūl," sed Brandox Dahâ. And hūl ða buskt ðem he wōkt muziŋ bi ðe lip ov ðat ravēn, switʃiŋ pēbelz over ðe edʒ wið hiz sœrd. Ðen he sed, "Ðis iz wīðŋt dŋt ðat strēm Aðrāʃā spoken ov bi Gro. O Mivarf, rūneþ not ðis flud ov Aðrāʃā sŋþ tō ðe sōlt lāks ov Ogo Morveo, and wōz ðēr not ðarabŋt a hōld nāmd Eʃgrar Ogo?"

Mivarf ānserd, "Ðis iz so. But nēver herd I ov ēne so witles az go ðīðer. Hēr huēr we stand iz ðe land fērsum enuf; but Eʃgrar Ogo standeþ at ðe vēre edʒ ov ðe Morunâ. No man haþ harbord ðēr ðēz hundred yērz."

"Standep it yet?" sed Brandox Dahâ.

"For ôl I wot ov," ânserd Mivarf.

"Iz it stronj?" he âskt.

"In ôld tîmz it wôz þôt no plās stronger," ânserd Mivarf. "But ye wer az wel di hēr bi ðe hand ov ðe dēvilz ultramontān, az ðēr be tœrn in pesez bi bad spīrits."

Brandox Dahâ ternd him abŷt tœ Dʒus. "It iz rezolvd?" sed he. Dʒus ânserd, "Ya;" and forþwip ða started at a grāt pās sŷþ aloŷ ðe rīver.

"Mēþôt u fœd hav bēn gōten klēn awa êr ðis," sed Mivarf az ða went. "Ðis iz but nīn or ten dāz dʒerne, and tiz nŷ ðe sikstēŷþ da sins ye did lēv me on Salapantā Hilz."

Brandox Dahâ lâft. "Sikstēŷþ!" sed he. "Þŷlt be ritf, Mivarf, if ðŷ rēkon gōld pesez o' ðis fǣŷon ðŷ dust dāz. Ðis iz but ŷr nīŷþ dāz dʒerne."

But Mivarf stœd stōtle tœ it, saiŷ ðat wôz ðe sēvenþ da âfter ðēr departfūr hven Korund ferst kām tœ Salapantā, "And I fleiŷ nŷ nīn dāz befœr hiz fās tʃānst on yor traks, and nŷ ŷt ov ôl ekspektaŷon on u." Nor for ôl ðēr mōkiŷ wœd he be ternd from ðis. And hven, az ða stil prest þrœ ðe dēzert sŷþword, ðe sun deklīnd and set in a klēr ski, behōld ðe mœon a lītel pāst her fœl: and Dʒus sô ðat ʃe wôz sēven dāz ôlder ðan on ðat nīt ʃe wôz hven ða kām tœ Iʃnān Nemartrā. So he fœd ðis wunder tœ Brandox Dahâ and Spitfīr, and mutf ða marveld.

"U ar mutf tœ þank me," sed Brandox Dahâ, "ðat I kept u not a fœl yēr awatiŷ ov me. Befru me, but ðat sēven dāz spās sēmd tœ me but an ŷr!"

"Līkle eno, tœ ðe," sed Spitfīr sumhōt grēnle. "But ôl we slept ðe wēk ŷt on ðe kōld stōnz, and I am hāf lāmd yet wið ðe āk ont."

"Na," sed Dʒus, lâfiŷ; "I wil not hav ðe blām him."

Ðe mœon wôz hi hven ða kām tœ ðe sôlt lāks ðat la wun a lītel abuv ðe ŷðer in rōke basinz. Ðēr wōterz wer līk ruf silver, and ðe harf fās ov ðe wildernes wôz blak and silver in ðe mœonlīt; and it wôz az a kuntre ov ded bōnz, blīnd and stērīl benēþ ðe mœon. Betwikst ðe lāks a rib ov rok rōz monstrŷs tœ an ěminens krag-bēgert

on ěvere sīd, wið dark wōlz rīnj in rōnd abuv ðe klifs. Ðīðer ða hasend, and az ða klīmd and stumbeld amuŋ ðe kragz a fe-þl skwēkt on ðe bātelments and tøk wiŋ gōst-þk abuv ðēr hedz. Ðe tēþ ov Mivarf Faz tǵāterd, but rīt glad wer ðe Demonz az ða wun up ðe roks and enterd at lāst intō ðat dezerted berg. Wiðþt, ðe nīt wōz stil; but fīrz wer bernij in ðe dēzert ēstword, and ūðerz az ða wōtft wer kindeld in ðe west, and soon wōz ðe serkel dzǵnd ov twinkliŋ pǵnts ov red rōnd abþt Eǵgrar Ogo and ðe lāks.

Dzuz sed, "Bi an þr hav we fōerstōld ðem. And behōld hþ he rīŋeþ us abþt az men rīŋ a skorpeon in flām."

So ða mād ōl fūr, and set ðe gard, and slept until pāst dōn. But Mivarf slept not, for tēror ov hob-þrūfez from ðe Morunā.

## 11. Ðe Berg ov Eǵgrar Ogo

OV ÐE LORD KORUNDZ BESE3IŊ OV ÐE BERG ABUV ÐE LĀKS OV OGO MORVEO, AND HJÔT BEFEL ÐÊR BETWIKST HIM AND ÐE DEMONZ; HJĀRIN IZ ÔLSO AN EKSĀMPEL Hþ ÐE SÛTEL OV HART STANDEþ AT HJĪLZ IN GRĀT DĀND3ER OV HIZ DEP.

Hven ðe Lord Korund nu ov a furete ðat he held ðem ov Demonland fut up in Eǵgrar Ogo, he let dīt sūper in hiz tent, and mād a serfēt ov vēnison pāstēz and hēþ-koks and lobsterz from ðe lāks. Ðērwið he drank ni a skinfōl ov swēt dark þramnyan wīn, in sutǵ sort ðat an þr befōer midnīt, bekūmiŋ spētǵles, he wōz holpen bi Gro tō hiz kþtǵ and slept a grāt dēþ slēp til morniŋ.

Gro wōtft in ðe tent, hiz rīt elbo propt on ðe tabel, hiz tǵēk restiŋ on hiz hand, hiz left hand rētǵiŋ forword wið dēlikāt fingerz tǵiŋ nþ wið ðe slēk hēve perfūmd māsez ov hiz bērd, nþ wið ðe goblet hvens he sipt ěver and anon pāl wīn ov Permeo. Hiz þōts inkonstant az insekts in a sūmer garden flīted ěver rōnd and rōnd, restiŋ nþ on ðe sēn befōer him, ðe grāt form ov hiz dzēneral rapt in slumber, nþ on ūðer sēnz sunderd bi grāt gulfs ov tīm or were lēgz ov pērilþs wāz. So ðat in wun instant he sō in fanse ðat lade in Karse welkumiŋ her lord reternd in triumf, and him, ma be, krōnd kiŋ ov nu-vankwiǵt Impland; and in ðe nekst, swept from ðe fūtǵūr tō ðe pāst, beheld agān ðe grāt sendiŋ-of in Zādze Zakulo, Gazlark in hiz splendor on ðe gōlden stērz saiŋ ādzu tō

ðōz þre kaptānz and ðêr matþles armament færðoōmd tōo  
dogz and krōz on Salapantā Hilz; and ôlwāz, līk a glōome  
bakgrōnd darkeniþ hiz mīnd, loōmd ðe yōniþ vqđ,  
fētþūrles and vāst, beþond ðe investij serkel ov Korundz  
armēz: ðe blīnd blāsted emptines ov ðe Morunā.

Wið sutþ fansēz, mēlankole līk a grāt berd sēteld ūpon  
hiz sōl. Ðe līts flīkerd in ðêr sōkets, and for vēre  
werines Grōz ilidz klōzd at lenþ over hiz lardz likwid  
īz; and, tōo tīrd tōo ster from hiz sēt tōo sēk hiz kōtþ,  
he sank forword on ðe tabel, hiz hed pīlōd on hiz armz.  
Ðe red glo ov ðe brazeer slumberd ēver dīmer and dīmer on  
ðe slender form and blak þiniþ kerlz ov Gro, and on ðe  
mite frām ov Korund hvēr he la wið wun grāt sperd  
boōted leg stretþt alonþ ðe kōtþ, and ðe ūðer flunþ þt  
sīdwāz restij its hēl on ðe grōnd.

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It wōnted but tōo þrz ov nōon hven a sunbēm strikiþ þrōo  
an openij in ðe hāniþz ov ðe tent þon ūpon Korundz  
ilidz, and he awōk freþ and brisk az a ūþ on a huntij  
morn. He wākt Gro, and gīviþ him a klap on ðe fōlder,  
"Ðþ roþst a fēr morn," he sed. "Ðe dēvil dam me blak  
az būtermilk if it be not grāt þām in ðe; and I, ðat wōz  
born ðis da siks and forte yērz az ðe yērz kum abþt, bīze  
wið mīn afērz sins sunrīz."

Gro yōnd and smīld and stretþt himself. "O Korund," he  
sed, "kōnterfēt a līvleer wunder in ðīn īz if ðþ wilt  
perswād me ðþ sōst ðe sunrīz. For I þink ðat wer az  
nu and ūneksāmpeld a sīt for ðe az ēne I kōd prōdzūs tōo  
ðe in Impland."

Korund ānserd, "Trule I wōz seldom so unsīvil az serþrīz  
Mādam Orçerā in her nītgōn. And ðe þrīs or fær tīmz I  
hav bēn færst ðērtōo, tōt me it iz an þr ov krūd ērz  
and mists huiþ brēd kōld dark humorz in ðe böde, an þr  
hven ðe tortþ ov līf bernz wekest. Wīðin ðêr! briþ me mi  
morniþ drāft."

Ðe bq brōt tōo kups ov hūit wīn, and hūil ða drank,  
"A þin ungrafþs drink iz ðe wel-spriþ," sed Korund: "a  
drink for kweze-stūmakt skipdzaks: for sand-leveriks, not  
for men. And līk it iz ðe da-spriþ: an ungrātþol saples  
þr, an þr for stab-i'-ðe-baks and kōld-blūded betraerz.  
Å, giv me wīn," he krīd, "and nōon-da visez, and  
brazen-brōd inikwitēz."

"Yet ðērz mēne a dēd ov prōfit dun bi þl-līþ," sed

Gro.

"I," sed Korund: "dēdz ov darknes: and ðêr, mi lord, Īm stil ði skōlar. Kum, lets be dœiŋ." And takiŋ hiz helm and wēponz, and bukliŋ abŷt him hiz grāt wolfskin klōk, for ðe êr wōz eger and froste wīðŷt, he strōd fœrþ. Gro rapt himself in hiz fer mantel, dru on hiz lamskin gluvz, and fōlōd him.

"If ðŷ wilt tāk mi rēd," sed Lord Gro, az ða lōkt on Eƒgrar Ogo stark in ðe bāren sunlīt, "þŷlt dœ ðis ōnor tœ Filpŕits, hwiƒ I kwestƒon not he mutƒ dezireþ, tœ sūfer him and hiz fōk tāk ferst nok at ðis nut. It haþ a hard lōk. Pīte it wer tœ wāst gōd Witƒland blud in a ferst asōlt, hven ðēz vīl instruments stand rēde tœ ŷr perpōs."

Korund grunted in hiz bērd, and wið Gro at hiz elbo pāst in silens þrœ ðe līnz, hiz kēn īz sertƒiŋ ēver ðe klifs and wōlz ov Eƒgrar Ogo, til in sum hāf-ŷrz spās he hōlted agān befœr hiz tent, hāviŋ mād a komplēt serkit ov ðe berg. Ðen he spāk: "Pŷt me in yonder fitiŋ-sted, and if it wer ōnle but I and fifte abel ladz tœ man ðe wōlz, yet wōd I hōld it agānst ten þŷzand."

Gro held hiz pēs āhŷl, and ðen sed, "Ðŷ spēkst ðis in ōl sadnes?"

"In sober sadnes," ānserd Korund, skwariŋ hiz fōlderz at ðe berg.

"Ðen þŷlt not asōlt it?"

Korund lâft. "Not asōlt it, kwopâ! Ðat wer a swēt tāl twikst ðe bql̄d and ðe rōst in Karse: Īd not asōlt it!"

"Yet konsīder," sed Gro, takiŋ him bi ðe arm. "So ƒapeþ ðe māter in mi mīnd: ða be fu and ƒut up in a lītel plās, in ðis far land, ŷt ov rētƒ and ŷt ov mīnd ov ōl sūkor. Wer ða dēvilz and not men, ðe multitƒūd ov ŷr armēz and ðīn ōn trīd kwōlītēz must dōnt ðem. Be ðe plās nēver so kokƒūr, dŷt not sum dŷts ðarov must pŷzon ðêr sekurite. Ðêrfœr befœr ðŷ risk a repuls hwiƒ must dispel ðōz dŷts ūz ðīn advāntādƒ. Bid Dƒus tœ a parle. Ōfer him kondīƒonz: it skilz not hŷt. Brīb ðem ŷt intœ ðe open."

"A pŕite plan," sed Korund. "þŷlt mērit wizdomz krŷn if ðŷ kanst tel me hŷt kondīƒonz we kan ōfer ðat ða wōd tāk. And hŷlst ðŷ ridlst ðat, remember ðat ðo ðŷ

and I be mǎsterz herabŕt, anŭðer rānz in Karse."

Lord Gro lâft dzentle. "Lēv dzestiŋ," he sed, "O Korund, and nēver hōp tō gul me tō belēv ðe sutf a bāb in pōlise. Σal ðe Kiŋ blām us ðo we sīn awa Demonland, i and ðe wīd werld besīdz, tō Dzus tō lūr him fœrþ? Unles indēd we wer so neglektfōl ov ŕr interest az sŭfer him, wuns fœrþ, tō elūd ŕr klutfez."

"Gro," sed Korund, "I luv ðe. But hardle kanst ðŕ resēv þiŋz az I resēv ðem ðat hav delt ôl mi dāz in grāt strīps, gīven and taken in ðe open fēld. I stikt not tō tāk part in ði notabel trezon agānst ðēz pœr snāks ov Impland ðat we trapt in Orpij. Ôlz fêr agānst sutf dert. Besīdz, grāt nēd wōz ũpon us ðen, and hard it iz for an empte sak tō stand strāt. But hēr iz far ũðer mǎter. Ôlz wun hēr but ðe plŭkiŋ ov ðe āpel: it iz ðe vēre mǎn ov mi ambīfon tō humbel ðēz Demonz openle bi ðe tēror ov mi sœrd: hvērfœr I wil not ũz ũpon ðem kogz and stops and ôl ði dēviliŋ triks, sutf az fŭd briŋ me mœr ov skorn ðan ov glœere in ðe īz ov āfterkŭmerz."

So spekiŋ, he īfŭd komānd and sent an hērald tō go fœrþ benēþ ðe bātelments wið a flag ov trūs. And ðe hērald krīd alŕd and sed: "From Korund ov Witfland untō ðe lordz ov Demonland: ðus sǎþ ðe Lord Korund, 'I hōld ðis berg ov Efgrar Ogo az a nut betwikst ðe krākerz. Kum dŕn and spēk wið me in ðe batabel land befœr ðe berg, and I swēr tō u pēs and griþ hvīl we parle, and ðērtō pledz I mīn ōnor az a man ov wor.'"

So hven ðe dzu sēremonēz wer performd, ðe Lord Dzus kām dŕn from Efgrar Ogo and wið him ðe lordz Spitfir and Brandox Dahā and twente men tō be ðēr bōdigard. Korund went tō mēt ðem wið hiz gard abŕt him, and hiz fœr sunz ðat fêrd wið him tō Impland, Hakmon, nāmle, and Hemiŋ and Viglus and Dormānz: sŭlen and dark yuŋ men, līkle ov lœk, ov a lītel les fērsnes ðan ðēr fāðer. Gro, fêr tō se and slender az a rāshors, went at hiz sīd, mŭfeld tō ðe ērz in a klōk ov ermīn; and behīnd kām Filprits Faz helmd wið a wiŋd helm ov īrn and gōld. A gilded korselet had Filprits, and trŕzerz ov panperz skin, and he kām a-slinkiŋ at Korundz hēl az ðe dzākōl slinks behīnd ðe lion.

Hven ða wer met, Dzus spāk and sed, "Ðis wōd I no ferst, mi Lord Korund, hŕ ðŕ kumst hīðer, and hvi, and bi hvôt rīt ðŕ dispŭtst wið us ðe wāz ēstword ŕt ov Impland."

Korund ânserd, leniņ on hiz spēr, "I nēd not ânser ðe in ðis. And yet I wil. Hŷ kām I? I ânser ðe, over ðe kōld mŷntān wōl ov Akrā Skabranþ. And tiz a fēt haþ not hiz fēlo in manz remembrans until nŷ, wið so grāt a fœrs and in so fort a spās ov tīm."

"Tiz wel enuf," sed Dzus. "Ī grāt ðe ðŷ hast ŷtrun mīn ekspektafonz ov ðe."

"Nekst ðŷ demāndst hvi," sed Korund. "Sufis it for ðe ðat ðe Kiņ haþ had advertizment ov yor fariņz into Impland and yor dezīnz ðarin. For tō briņ ðēz tō nōt am I kum."

"Ðēr wōz mēne ferkinz ov wīn drunk dri in Karse," sed Hakmon, "and mēne a nobel person sensles and spuiņ on ðe grōnd êr morn for pūr delīt, hven kerst Gōldre wōz mād awa. We wer lītēl mīnded ðēz helps ŷud be prōvd vān at lāst."

"Wōz ðat êr ðŷ rōdst from Permeo?" sed Lord Brandox Dahā. "Ðe mēre god rōt ov ŷr sīd ðat nīt, if mi mēmore tŷēt not."

"Ðŷ demāndst lāst," sed Korund, "mi Lord Dzus, bi hvōt rīt I bar yor pāsādŷ ēstawa. No, ðêrfœr, ðat not ov mīn ōn self spēk I untō u, but az vīkar in wīd-frunted Impland ov ŷr Lord Gorīs 12., Kiņ ov Kiņz, mōst glœereŷs and mōst grāt. Ðēr remaneþ no wa ŷt for u from ðis plās sāv into ðe rīgor ov mīn handz. Ðêrfœr let us, akordiņ tō ðe nātŷūr ov grāt men, agre tō ōnorabel kondīfonz. And ðis iz mīn ōfer, O Dzus. Yēld up ðis berg ov Eŷgrar Ogo, and ðêrwið ði sēld werd in a ritiņ aknōlēdzīņ ŷr Lord ðe Kiņ tō be Kiņ ov Demonland and ōl ye hiz kwiet and obēdzent subdzekts, even az we be. And I wil swēr untō u ov mi part, and in ðe nām ov ŷr Lord ðe Kiņ, and giv u hostādzez ðêrtō, ðat ye ŷal depart in pēs hŷðer u list wið ōl luv and sāfte."

Ðe Lord Dzus skŷld fērsle on him. "O Korund," he sed, "az lītēl az we dō understand ðe sensles wind, so lītēl we understand ði werd. Oft eno haþ gra silver bēn in ðe fir betwikst us and u Witŷlanderz; for ðe hŷs ov Gorīs fērd ēver līk ðe fŷl tōd, ðat ma not endzūr tō smel ðe swēt savor ov ðe vīn hven it flŷrŷeþ. So for ðis tīm we wil abīd in ðis hōld, and wiðstand yor mōst grevŷs atempts."

"Wið fre ðneste and open hart," sed Korund, "I mād ðe ðis öfer; hwiƿ if ðð refūz I am not ði lāke tō renu it."

Gro sed, "It iz rit and sēld, and wōntep but ði sīn-mānual, mi Lord Dzus," and wið ðe werd he mād sīn tō Filprits Faz ðat went tō Lord Dzus wið a partƿment. Dzus pōt ðe partƿment bi, saiſ, "No mæ: ye ar ānserd," and he wōz terniſ on hiz hēl hven Filprits, lſtiſ forword sūdenle, gāv him a grāt yerƿ benēp ðe ribz wið a dāger slipt from hiz slēv. But Dzus wæ: a pſive kōt ðat ternd ðe dāger. Hſbeit wið ðe grātnes ov ðat strōk he stāgerd abak.

Nſ Spittfīr klapt hand tō særd, and ðe ſðer Demonz wið him, but Dzus lſdle ſſted ðat ða ſvd not be trūs-brakerz but no ferst hvōt Korund wōd dō. And Korund sed, "Dust hēr me, Dzus? I had niðer hand nor part in ðis."

Brandox Dahā dru up hiz lip and sed, "Ðis iz nōt but hvōt wōz tō be lukt for. It iz a wunder, O Dzus, ðat ðð ſvdst hōld ſt tō sutƿ mūke dogz a hand wīðſt a hvip in it."

"Sutƿ strōks kum hōm or mis mērle," sed Gro softle in Korundz ē: and he hugd himself benēp hiz klōk, lſkiſ wið fertiv amūzment on ðe Demonz. But Korund wið a fās red in anger sed, "It iz ðīn ānser, O Dzus?" And hven Dzus sed, "It iz ſr ānser, O Korund," Korund sed violentle, "Ðen red wor I giv u; and ðis wīðōl tō testifi ſr önor." And he let la handz on Filprits Faz and wið hiz ōn hand hakt ðe hed from hiz böde befæ: ðe īz ov bōp ðēr armēz. Ðen in a grāt vqz he sed, "Az blūdile az I hav revendzð ðe önor ov Witƿland on ðis Filprits, so wil I revendz it on ōl ov u or ēver I drō of mīn armēz from ðēz lāks ov Ogo Morveo."

So ðe Demonz went up into ðe berg, and Gro and Korund hōm tō ðēr tents. "Ðis wōz wel pōt on," sed Gro, "tō flōnt ðe flag ov semiſ ðneste, and wið ðe moƿon rid us ov ðis fēlo ðat prōmīst ēver tō gro þornz tō māk ſneze ſr sēt in Impland."

Korund ānserd him not a werd.

In ðat sām ſr Korund marƿald hiz fōk and asōlted Efgrar Ogo, plasīſ ðōz ov Impland in ðe van. Ða prosperd not at ōl. Mēne a skæ: la slān wīðſt ðe wōlz ðat nīt; and ðe obsēn bēsts from ðe dēzert fēsted on



ðêr bōdēz bi ðe līt ov ðe mœon.

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Nekst morniņ ðe Lord Korund sent an hērald and bad ðe Demonz agān tœ a parle. And nŷ he spāk ōnle tœ Brandox Dahâ, bīdiņ him delīver up ðōz breðren Dzus and Spitfīr, "And if ðŷ wilt yēld ðem tœ mi plēzūr, ðen falt ðŷ and ôl ði pepel els depart in pēs wiðŷt kondīfonz."

"An ōfer indēd," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ; "if it be not in mōkere. Sa it lŷd, ðat mi fōk ma hēr."

Korund did so, and ðe Demonz herd it from ðe wōlz ov ðe berg.

Lord Brandox Dahâ stud sumhōt apart from Dzus and Spitfīr and ðêr gard. "Libel it me ŷt," he sed. "For gōd az I nŷ must dēm ði werd, ðīn hand and sēl must I hav tœ fo mi fōloerz êr ða konsent wið me in sutf a þiņ."

"Rīt ðŷ," sed Korund tœ Gro. "Tœ rīt mi nām iz ôl mi skōlarfīp." And Gro tuk fœrþ hiz ink-horn and rōt in a grāt fêr hand ðis ōfer on a partfment. "Ðe mōst fêrfœlest ōps ðŷ nōst," sed Korund; and Gro rōt ðem, hūisperiņ, "He mōkeþ us ōnle." But Korund sed, "No mäter: tiz a tfâns werþ ŷr tfânsiņ," and slole and wið labor sīnd hiz nām tœ ðe ritiņ, and gāv it tœ Lord Brandox Dahâ.

Brandox Dahâ red it atentīvle, and tukt it in hiz bōzom benēþ hiz berne. "Ðis," he sed, "fal be a kēpsāk for me ov ðe, mi Lord Korund. Remīdiņ me," and hēr hiz īz gru tēribel, "so loņ az ðêr serviveþ a sōl ov u in Witfland, ðat I am stil tœ tētŷ ðe werld þrœle huōt ðat man must abīd ðat derst afrunt me wið sutf an ōfer."

Korund ânserd him, "Ðŷ art a dāper fēlo. It iz a wunder ðat ðŷ wilt strut in ðe tented fēld wið ôl ðis wōmanif gēr. Ði fēld: hŷ mēne ov ðēz sparkliņ bōbelz þinkst ðŷ Īd lēv in it wer we wuns kum tœ noks?"

"Īl tel ðe," ânserd Lord Brandox Dahâ. "For ėvere dzuel ðat haþ bēn bēt ŷt ov mi fēld in bātel, nēver yet went I tœ wor ðat I brōt not hōm an hundredfold tœ set it fêr agān, from ðe spqłz I obtānd from mīn ėnemēz. Nŷ ðis wil I bid ðe, O Korund, for ði skornfōl werdz: I wil bid ðe tœ singel kombat, hēr and in ðis ŷr. Hwitf if ðŷ deni, ðen art ðŷ an open and apārent dāstard."

Korund tʃükeld in hiz bērd, but hiz brʃ darkend sumhʊt. "I pra hʊt ādz dust ðʃ tāk me ov?" sed he. "I bē a særd hven ðʃ wōz yet in swōdliŋ klōðz. Behōld mīn armēz, and hʊt advāntādʒ I hōld ūpon u. O, mi særd iz entʃānted, mi lord: it wil not ʃt ov ðe skābard."

Brandox Dahâ smīld disdānfōole, and sed tō Spitfīr, "Mark wel, I pra ðe, ðis grāt lord ov Witʃland. Hʃ mēne tru fingerz haʃ a Witʃ on hiz left hand?"

"Az mēne az on hiz rīt," sed Spitfīr.

"Gʊd. And hʃ mēne on bōʃ?"

"Tō les ðan a dzūs," sed Spitfīr; "for ða be fōls fazarts tō ðe fingerz endz."

"Vēre wel ānserd," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ.

"Yor plēzant," Korund sed. "But yor fuste dzībʒ mōv me not a hʊit. It wer a simpel part indēd tō tāk ðīn ōfer hven ōl wīz kʃnselz bid me ūz mi ʃʃer and kruʃ u."

"ʃʃdst kil me sōn wið ði mʃʃ," sed Brandox Dahâ. "In sum, ðʃ art a brāv man hven it kumz tō rōeriŋ and swariŋ: a big bŭber ov wīn, az men sa tō drink drunk iz an ordinare māter wið ðe ēvere da in ðe wēk; but I fēr ðʃ derst not fīt."

"Dup not ði nōz swel at ðat?" sed Spitfīr.

But Korund ʃrugd hiz ʃōlderz. "A fōtrā for yor bāts!" he ānserd. "I am skērs bʃnden tō dō sutʃ a kīndnes tō u ov Demonland az la dʃn mīn advāntādʒ and fīt alōn, agānst a særd. Yor ōld foksez ar seldom taken in sprindʒez."

"I ʃōt so," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "Σūrle ðe frog wil hav hēr sōner ðan ēne ov u Witʃlanderz ʃal dēr tō stand me."

So ended ðe sēkond parle befœr Eʃgrar Ogo. ðe sām da Korund ēsād agān tō storm ðe hōld, and grevʃs wōz ðe bātel and hard ʃt tō it wer ða ov Demonland tō hōld ðe wōlz. Yet in ðe end wer Korundz men ʃrōn bak wið grāt slōter. And nīt fel, and ða reternd tō ðēr tents.

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"Mīn invenʃon," sed Gro, hven on ðe nekst da ða tʊk

kønsel tuggøder, "hap yet sum kontrivans in her pers hutf  
fal doo us god, if it fól but ʅt too ʅr mīnd. But I dōt  
mutf it wil dislīk ðe."

"Wel, sa it ʅt, and Ī giv ðe mi senfūr ont," sed  
Korund.

Gro spāk: "It hap bēn fōn we ma not hav dōn ðis tre  
bi huij abuv grōnd. Lets dig abʅt ðe roots. And ferst  
giv ðem a sēven-nīts spās for rēkoniņ up ðēr tfānsez,  
ðat ða ma se morniņ and eveniņ from ðe berg ðīn  
armēz set dōn too invest ðem. ðen, hven ðēr hōps ar  
sumpiņ soberd bi ðat sīt, and wōnt ov akfjon hap  
trānd ðēr mīndz too sad reflekfjon, kōl ðem too parle,  
goiņ strāt benēp ðe wōl; and ðis tīm falt ðʅ  
adres ðiself onle too ðe kōmon sort, óferiņ ðem ôl  
dzēnerʅs and fre kondīfjonz ðʅ kanst piņk on. ðērz  
lītel ða kan āsk ðat wēd not blīðle grānt ðem if  
ðāl but yēld us up ðēr kaptānz."

"It mislīks me," ānserd Korund. "Yet it ma serv. But ðʅ  
falt be mi spōksman herin. For nēver yet went I kap in hand  
too āsk favor ov ðe kōmon muk o' ðe werld, nor I wil not  
doo it nʅ."

"O but ðʅ must," sed Gro. "Ov ðe ða wil resēv in god  
fāp hvōt in me ða wōd akʅnt but praktīs."

"ðats tru enuf," sed Korund. "But I kanot stūmak it.  
Wīðōl, I am too ruf spoken."

Gro smīld. "He ðat hap nēd ov a dog," he sed, "kōleþ him  
Ser Dog.' Kum, kum, Ī skool ðe too it. Iz it not a  
smōler piņ ðan munþs ov tēdzʅs hardfip in ðis frozen  
dēzert? Bēpiņk ðe too hvōt ōnor it wer too ðe too rīd  
hōm too Karse wið Dʅus and Spitfir and Brandox Dahā bʅnden  
in a striņ."

Not wiðʅt mutf perswazon wōz Korund wun too ðis. Yet at ðe  
lāst he konsented. For sēven dāz and sēven nīts hiz armēz  
sat befør ðe berg wiðʅt sīn; and on ðe ātþ da he bad  
ðe Demonz too a parle, and hven ðat wōz grānted went wið hiz  
sunz and twente men-at-armz up ðe grāt rib ov rok betwēn  
ðe lāks, and stūd belo ðe ēst wōl ov ðe berg. Bīter  
tfil wōz ðe ēr ðat da. Pʅdere sno līt-fōlen blu in  
lītel wisps alonj ðe grōnd, and ðe roks wer slīpere wið  
an invīzibel kōt ov īs. Lord Gro, beiņ trūbeld wið an  
agu, ekskūzd himself from ðat fariņ and kept hiz tent.

Korund stūd benēp ðe wōlz wið hiz fōk abʅt him. "I hav

mäter ov impœert," he krīd, "and tiz nēdfol it be herd bōp bi ðe hiest and ðe loest amun̄st u. Êr I bëgin, sūmon ðem ôl tœ ðis part ov ðe wôlz: a tœk-ŷt iz eno tœ fēld u ov ðe ŷðer parts from ěne sūden onslôt, hwiť besīdz I swēr tœ u iz klēn wīðŷt mi perpōs." So hwen ða wer pik on ðe wôl abuv him, he began tœ sa, "Söldzerz ov Demonland, agānst u had I nēver kworel. Behöld hŷ in ðis Impland I hav mād fredom flūrif az a flŷer. I hav strök of ðe hedz ov Filprits Faz, and Ílarof, and Lermeť, and Gandāsâ, and Faks Fa Faz, ðat wer ðe lordz and gūvernorz hēr afœertīm, abŷndiņ in ôl ðe blūde and kriiņ sinz, oprēfon, glūtone, idelnes, kruelte, and ekstorfon. And ov mi klēmense I delīverd ôl ðēr pozēfonz untœ ðēr subdzekts tœ hōld and order âfter ðēr ōn wil alōn, hœ befœer did pœt on paťens and endzūrđ wið mutť hart-berniņ ðe tīrane ov ðēz Fāzez, until bi me ða flŷnd a rēmede for ðēr mœer fredom. In līk māner, not agānst u dœ I wor, O men ov Demonland; but agānst ðe tirants ðat enforst u for ðēr privāt gān tœ sūfer hardfip and dep in ðis remōt kuntre: nāmle, agānst Džus and Spitfir ðat kām hīðer in kwest ov ðēr kerst brūðer hœom ðe mīt ov ðe grāt Kiņ hap hāpile remœvd. And agānst Brandox Dahâ am I kum, ov insolens untāmd, hœ līvep a tťāmberiņ idel līf etiņ and drinkiņ and eksersiziņ tīrane, hwił ðe plēzant landz ov Krōðeriņ and Fālz and Stopardon, and ðe dwēlerz in ðe tīlz, Sorbe, Morve, Strufe, Dalne, and Kenarve, and ða ov Westmark and ôl ðe western parts ov Demonland grōn and waks lēn tœ fēd hiz lukfure. Tœ yor hert ōnle hav ðēz pre led u, az kätel tœ ðe slōter. Delīver ðem tœ me, ðat I ma tťastiz ðem, and I, ðat am grāt vīsrq ov Impland, wil māk u fre and grānt u lordfips: a lordfip for ěvere man ov u in ðis mi relm ov Impland."

Hwił Korund spāk, ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ went amun̄ ðe söldzerz bīdiņ ðem hōld ðēr pēs and not mermer agānst Korund. But ðōz ðat wer mōst hot for akfon he sent abŷt an ěrand prepariņ hwiłt he had in mīnd. So ðat hwen ðe Lord Korund sēst from hiz deklamiņ, ôl wôz rēde tœ hand, and wið wun vq̄s ðe söldzerz ov Lord Džus ðat stvd ŷpon ðe wôl krīd ŷt and sed, "Đis iz ði werd, O Korund, and ðis ŷr ânser," and ðērwið flun̄ dŷn ŷpon him from pots and bŷkets and ěvere kīnd ov vēsel a dēlūdž ov slops and ôfal and ôl filp ðat kām tœ hand. A bŷketfol tœk Korund in ðe mŷp, befŷliņ ôl hiz grāt bērd, so ðat he gāv bak spītiņ. And he and hiz, standiņ klōs benēp ðe wôl, and lītel ekspektiņ so sūden and il an ânser, fērd fāmfoole, beiņ ôl wel sŷst and bemerded wið filp and li.

Ðêrwið went up grāt fŷts ov lâfter from ðe wôlz. But Korund krīd ŷt, "O filþ ov Demonland, ðis iz mi latest werd wið u. And ðo twer ten yērz I must besēz ðis hōld, yet wil I tāk it over yor hedz. And vēre il tœ dœ wið fal ye find me in ðe end, and vēre pwesant, prŷd, mite, kruel, and blūde in mi konkwest."

"Hŷt, ladz?" sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, standiŷ on ðe bātelments, "hav we not fed ðis bēst wið pigwaf eno, but he must stil be snūfiŷ and snŷkiŷ at ŷr gāt? Giv me anŷðer pālfŷl."

So ðe Witfez reternd tœ ðêr tents wið grāt fām. So hot wôz Korund in anger agānst ðe Demonz, ðat he stād not tœ ēt nor drink at hiz kŷmiŷ dŷn from EƷgrar Ogo, but strāt gāðerd fœrs and mād an asôlt ŷpon ðe berg, ðe miteest he had yet ēsād; and hiz pikt men ov Witfland wer in ðat asôlt, and he himself tœ lēd ðem. Prīs bi mān fure ða wun up intœ ðe hōld, but ôl wer slān hœ set fŷt ðarin, and Korundz yuŷ sun Dormānz wœnded tœ ðe dep. And at even ða dru of from ðe bātel. Ðêr fel in ðat fit an hundred and fœr-skœr Demonz, and ov ðe Imps fiv hundred, and ov ðe Witfez þre hundred and nīnte and nīn. And mēne wer hert ov iðer sīd.

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Rôþ sat līk þunder on Korundz brŷ at sŷper-tīm. He āt hiz mēt sāvādʒle, þrustiŷ grāt gœbets in hiz mŷþ, kruntfiŷ ðe bōnz līk a bēst, takiŷ dēp drāfts ov wīn wið ēvere mŷþfŷl, hwiƷ yet dispeld not hiz blak mœd. Over agānst him Gro sat silent, fīveriŷ nŷ and ðen for ôl ðat he kept hiz ermīn klōk abŷt him and ðe brazeer stœd at hiz elbo. He mād but a pœr mēl, drinkiŷ muld wīn in lītel sips and dīpiŷ lītel pesez ov bred in it.

So wœr wiððt spētƷ ðat tƷērles and unkīndle mēl, until ðe Lord Korund, lŷkiŷ sŷdenle akros ðe bærd at Gro and katfiŷ hiz i stŷdeŷ him, sed, "Ðat wôz a brīt star ov ðīn and ðen fīnd klēr ŷpon ðe hven ðŷ tŷkst ðis bŷt ov fīveriŷ fits and so wentst not wið me tœ be sŷst wið muk befœr ðe berg."

"Hœ wœd hav drēmd," ānserd Gro, "ov ðêr uziŷ so bās and fāmƷl a part?"

"Not ðŷ, īl swêr," sed Korund, lŷkiŷ evile ŷpon him and markiŷ, az he þôt, a twinkliŷ līt in Grōz īz. Gro fīverd agān, sipt hiz wīn, and fīfted hiz glāns ŷnezile under ðat unfrendle stêr.

Korund drank āhvīl in silens, ðen flūfiņ sūdenle a darker red, sed, leniņ hēvile akros ðe bærd at him, "Dust no hvi I sed not ðā?"

"Twôz skêrs nēdfol, tō ði frend," sed Gro.

"I sed it," sed Korund, "bekôz I no ðā didst lūk for anūðer þiņ hven ðā didst skulk fāmiņ hēr."

"Anūðer þiņ?"

"Sit not ðēr līk sum prim-māþt mis faniņ an īnosens ôl no wel ðā hast not," sed Korund, "or Īl kil ðe. Ðā plōtedst mi deþ wið ðe Demonz. And bekôz ðiself hast no f̄red ov ōnor in ði sōl, ðā hadst not ðe wit tō persēv ðat ðēr nobīlite wōd frink from sutf a betraal az ði hōps entertānd."

Gro sed, "Ðis iz a dzest I kanot lāf at; or els tiz madmanz brābel."

"Disembliņ ker," sed Korund, "be fūr ðat I hōld him not les gilte ðat hōldz ðe lāder ðan him ðat mōnts ðe wōl. It wōz ði dezīn ða f̄ud smīt us at ūnawērz hven we went up tō ðem wið ðis propozal ðā didst erd̄z on me so hotle."

Gro mād az if tō rīz. "Sit d̄n!" sed Korund. "Ānser me; didst not ðā eg on ðe pōor snīp Filprits tō ðat attempt on D̄zus?"

"He tōld me ont," sed Gro.

"O, ðā art kūniņ," sed Korund. "Ðēr tō I se ði tretfere. Had ða fōlen ūpon us, ðā mītst hav þrōn ðiself sāfle ūpon ðēr merse."

"Ðis iz fōlīfnes," sed Gro. "We wer far stronger."

"Tiz so," sed Korund. "Hven did I t̄fard̄z ðe wið wizdom and sober dzud̄zment? Wið tretfere I no ðā art sōkt wet."

"And ðā art mi frend!" sed Gro.

Korund sed in a hvīl, "I hav loņ nōn ðe tō be bōþ a sūtel and disembliņ foks, and nā I derst trust ðe no mcær, for fēr I f̄ud fōl ferðer intō ði dānd̄zer. I am rezolvd tō merðer ðe."

Gro fel bak in hiz t̄f̄er and fluŋ ʒt hiz armz. "I hav b̄en h̄er bef̄er," he sed. "I hav beheld it, in m̄onl̄it and in ǝe b̄aren gl̄er ov da, in f̄er w̄eǝer and in h̄āl and sno, wiǝ ǝe gr̄āt windz t̄f̄ardziŋ ov ǝe w̄āsts. And I nu it w̄ōz ak̄erst. From Morn̄ā Morun̄ā, ǝr I w̄ōz born or ǝʒ, O Korund, or ǝne ov us, trezon and kruelte bl̄aker ǝan n̄it herself had ber̄p, and br̄ōt dep t̄ō ǝēr b̄eḡeter and ǝl hiz f̄ōk. From Morn̄ā Morun̄ā bloep ǝis wind ab̄ʒt ǝe w̄āst t̄ō bl̄āst ʒr luv and briŋ us destruk̄ʒon. I, kil me; Ī not word miself, not i' ǝe sm̄olest."

"Tiz sm̄ol m̄āter, Goblin," sed Korund, "h̄w̄eǝer ǝʒ ʒōdst or no. ǝʒ art but a l̄ʒs betw̄en mi fingerz, t̄ō kil or k̄āst awa az ʒal s̄em me ǝud."

"I w̄ōz Kiŋ Gazlarks man," sed Gro, az if t̄ōkiŋ in a dr̄em; "and betw̄en a man and a b̄q̄ n̄er fift̄en ȳerz I servd him tru and kostle. Yet it w̄ōz mi fort̄j̄ūn in ǝl ǝat t̄im and at ǝe endiŋ ǝarov ǝnle t̄ō get a b̄erd on mi t̄ʒin and remors at hart. T̄ō h̄ōt skornd perp̄ōs must I plot aḡānst him? P̄ite ov Wit̄ʒland, ov Wit̄ʒland slidiŋ az ǝen int̄ō ǝe pit ov advers luk, tw̄ōz ǝat m̄ād f̄ers ūpon me. And I servd Wit̄ʒland wel: but f̄āt ǝver f̄ōt o' ǝe ūǝer s̄id. I it w̄ōz ǝat k̄ʒnseld Kiŋ Gor̄is 11. t̄ō dr̄ō ʒt from ǝe f̄it at Kartadz̄ā. Yet w̄ōnton Fort̄j̄ūn trod d̄ʒn ǝe sk̄āl for Demonland. I pr̄ād him not r̄āsel wiǝ Ḡöldre in ǝe Foleot Īlz. ǝʒ didst bak me. N̄ōt but reb̄ūks and ʒrets ov dep gat I ǝērfrom; but bek̄ōz mi r̄ēdz wer set at n̄ōt, evil fel ūpon Wit̄ʒland. I helpt ʒr Lord ǝe Kiŋ h̄ven he kund̄z̄urd and m̄ād a sendiŋ aḡānst ǝe Demonz. He luvd me ǝērfor and upheld me, but gr̄āt enve w̄ōz r̄āzd up aḡānst me in Karse for ǝat fakt. Yet I b̄er up, for ǝi frend̄ʒip and ǝi lade w̄ifs wer az br̄it f̄irz t̄ō worm me aḡānst ǝl ǝe frosts ov ǝēr il-wil. And n̄ʒ, for luv ov ǝe, I f̄erd wiǝ ǝe t̄ō Im̄pland. And h̄er bi ǝe Morun̄ā h̄w̄er in ǝld d̄āz I w̄ōnderd in d̄ānd̄ʒer and in soro, it iz f̄itiŋ I beh̄ōld at len̄p ǝe emptines ov ǝl mi d̄āz."

ǝērwiǝ Gro fel silent a m̄in̄ūt, and ǝen began t̄ō sa: "O Korund, Ī strip b̄er mi s̄ōl t̄ō ǝe bef̄er ǝʒ kil me. It iz m̄ōst tru ǝat until n̄ʒ, s̄itiŋ bef̄er Eʒgrar Ogo, it hap̄ b̄en pr̄ēzent t̄ō mi hart h̄ʒ gr̄āt an adv̄ānt̄ād̄ʒ we held aḡānst ǝe Demonz, and ǝe gl̄ære ov ǝēr defens, so l̄itel a stren̄p aḡānst us so m̄ēne, and ǝe gr̄āt gl̄ære ov ǝēr fl̄iŋiŋ ov us bak, ǝēz ʒiŋz wer a splendor t̄ō mi s̄ōl beh̄ōldiŋ ǝem. Sut̄ʒ gl̄āmor hap̄ ǝver ʒon t̄ō me ǝl mi l̄ifs d̄āz h̄ven I beh̄ōld gr̄āt men batliŋ stil ben̄ēp ǝe blud̄ʒoniŋz ov advers fort̄j̄ūn ǝat, h̄ʒsōever ǝa be m̄in̄ ǝnem̄ēz, it liep not in mi vert̄ʒu t̄ō wiǝh̄ōld from admiraʒon

ov ðem and wel ni luv. But nēver wōz I fōls tō ðe, nor mutf les ēver þōt, az ðð mōst unkīndle akūzst me, tō kumpas ði destrukfon."

"Ðð dust hūin līk a wōman for ði līf," sed Korund.  
"Kðardle hðndz nēver sterd pīte in me." Yet he mōvd not, ònle lōkiñ dōrle on Gro.

Gro plukt fōerþ hiz òn sœrd, and pōft it tōwordz Korund hilt-fœrmōst akros ðe bærd. "Sutf werdz ar wers ðan sœrd-þrusts betwikst us twān," sed he. "Ðð falt se hð lī welkum deþ. Ðe Kiñ wil prāz ðe, hven ðð fōst ðe kōz. And it wil be swēt nūz tō Korinyus and ðem ðat hav held me in ðēr hāt, ðat ði luv haþ kāst me of, and ðð hast rid ðem ov me at lāst."

But Korund sterd not. Åfter a spās, he fild anūðer kup, and drank, and sat on. And Gro sat mojonles befær him. At lāst Korund rōz hēvile from hiz sēt, and pōfij Grōz sœrd bak akros ðe tabel, "Þðdst best tō bed," sed he. "But ðe nīt ērz òr frūd for ðīn agu. Slēp on mi kðtf tō-nīt."

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Ðe da dōnd kōld and gra, and wið ðe dōn Korund orderd hiz līnz rðnd abðt Eþgrar Ogo and sat dðn for a sēz. For ten dāz he sat befær ðe berg, and nōt befel from dōn til nīt, from nīt til dōn: ònle ðe sentinelz wōkt on ðe wōlz and Korundz fōk garded ðēr līnz. On ðe elēvenþ da kām a bank ov fog roliñ westword from ðe Morunā, tñil and dank, blōtiñ þt ðe fētþurz ov ðe land. Sno fel, and ðe fog huñ on ðe land, and nīt kām ov sutf a pitfe blaknes ðat even bi tortf-līt a man mīt not se hiz hand stretft fōerþ at armz lenþ befær him. Fiv dāz ðe fog held. On ðe fifþ nīt, it beij ðe twente-fōerþ ov November, in ðe darknes ov ðe þerd þr åfter midnīt, ðe alarm wōz slnded and Korund sūmond bi a rñner from ðe norþ wið werd ðat a sāle wōz mād from Eþgrar Ogo, and ðe līnz bersten þrō in ðat kworter, and fitij goij forword in ðe merk. Korund wōz skērs harnest and gōten fōerþ intō ðe nīt, hven a sēkond rñner kām hot-fot from ðe sþp wið tidiñz ov a grāt fit ðarawa. Ōl wōz konfðnded in ðe dark, and nōt sertān, sāv ðat ðe Demonz wer broken þt from Eþgrar Ogo. In a spās, az Korund kām wið hiz fōk tō ðe norðern kworter and dʒqnd in ðe fit, kām a mēsādʒ from hiz sun Hemiñ ðat Spitfir and a number wið him wer broken þt at ðe ũðer sīd and gōten awa westword, and a grāt band tñasiñ him bak tōwordz þter Impland; and ðērwið ðat mœr ðan an hundred Demonz wer



surŕnded and pend in bi ðe fœr ov ðe lāks, and ðe berg enterd and taken bi Korundz fōk; but ov Dzus and Brandox Dahâ no sertān nūz, sāv ðat ða wer not ov Spīfīrz kumpane, but wer wið ðōz agānst hƿœm Korund went in person, hāviŕ fêrd fœrþ norþawa. So went ðe bātel þrœ ðe nīt. Korund himself had sīt ov Dzus, and ekstfāndʒd fots wið him wið twerl-spērz in a liftiŕ ov ðe fog tœword dōn, and a sun ov hiz bêr witnes ov Brandox Dahâ in ðat sām kworter, and had gōten a grāt wœnd from him.

Hƿen nīt wōz pāst, and ðe Witfez reternd from ðe persūt, Korund strātle kwestfond hiz ōfiserz, and went himself abŕt ðe bātelfêld heriŕ ētʃ manz stœere and vuiŕ ðe slān. ðōz Demonz ðat wer hemd agānst ðe lāks had ōl lost ðêr līvz, and sum wer taken up ded in ũðer parts, and sum fu alīv. ðêz wœd hiz ōfiserz let sla, but Korund sed, "Sins I am kiŕ in Impland, til ðat ðe Kiŕ resêv it ov me, it iz not ðis handfœl ov erþ-līs ʃal ʃāk mi sāfte hêr; and I ma wel giv ðem ðêr līvz, ðat fôt sterdile agānst us." So he gāv ðem pês. And he sed untœ Gro, "Bêter ðat for ëvere Demon ded in Ogo Morveo ten ʃud rīz up agānst us, if but Dzus ōnle and Brandox Dahâ wer slān."

"Īl be in ðe tāl wið ðe, if ðŕ wilt proklām ðem ded," sed Gro. "And nŕþiŕ iz ĩkleer, if ða be gon wið but tœ or þre on tœ ðe Morunâ, ðan ðat sutʃ a tāl ʃud kum tru êr it wer tōld in Karse."

"Pʃô!" sed Korund, "tœ ðe dēvil wið sutʃ fōls fêðerz. Hƿôts dun ʃōz brāv eno wīðŕt ðem: Impland konkerd, Džusez arme minst tœ a gālimōfre, himself and Brandox Dahâ tʃāst ĩk rŕnawa þrōlz up on ðe Morunâ. Hƿêr if dēvilz têr ðem, tiz mi best wiʃ kum tru. If not, þŕlt hêr ov ðem, be ʃŕ. Dust þink ðêz kan servīv on erþ and not rāz a rāket ðat ʃal be herd from hens tœ Karse?"

## 12. Koftrâ Pivrarxâ

OV ðE KŪMIŕ OV ðE LORDZ OV DEMONLAND Tœ MORNÂ MORUNÂ, HƿENS ðA BEHELD ðE ZIMEAMVEAN MŕNTĀNZ, SĒN ÔLSŌ BI GRO IN YĒRZ GON BI; AND OV ðE WUNDERZ SĒN BI ðEM AND PĒRILZ UNDERGON AND DĒDZ DUN IN ðĒR ATEMPT ON KOΣTRĀ PIVRARXĀ, ðE HƿITΣ ALŌN OV ÔL ERÞS MŕNTĀNZ LŪKEÞ DŕN ŪPON KOΣTRĀ BELORN; AND NUN ΣAL ASEND UP INTOŌ KOΣTRĀ BELORN ðAT HAP NOT FERST LŪKT DŕN ŪPON HER.

Nŕ it iz tō be sed ov Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahâ ðat ða, findiŋ ðemselvz parted from ðêr pepel in ðe fog, and ũterle ũnabel tō find ðem, hven ðe lâst sŕnd ov bätel had ðid awa wipt and put up ðêr blüde særdz and set fœrþ at a grät päs êstword. Ōnle Mivarf fêrd wið ðem ov ôl ðêr föloiŋ. Hiz lips wer drôn bak a lïtel, Joiŋ hiz tēþ, but he kārēd himself prŕdle az wun h∞ bein rezolvd tō di wōks wið a kwiet mīnd tō hiz destrufjon. Da âfter da ða dzernēd, sumtīmz in klēr wēðer, sumtīmz in mist or slēt, over ðe tʃāndʒles dēzert, wiðŕt a landmark, sāv hēr a lïtel slūgiʃ rīver, or hēr a pēs ov riziŋ grŕnd, or a pond, or a klump ov roks: smōl þiŋz hwiʃ faded from sīt amid ðe wāst êr ða wer pāst bi a hāf-mīlz distans. So wōz êtʃ da līk yesterda, drōiŋ tō a moro līk tō it agān. And ôlwāz fêr wōkt at ðêr hēl and sat besīd ðem slepiŋ: klankiŋ ov wiŋz herd abuv ðe wind, a brœdiŋ huf ov mēnās in ðe sunʃiŋ, and nqzez ŕt ov ðe vqrd ov darknes az ov tēþ tʃäteriŋ. So kām ða on ðe twenteep da tō Mornâ Morunâ, and stōd at even in ðe soroful twilīt bi ðe lïtel rŕnd kâsel, silent on Ompren Edʒ.

From ðêr fēt ðe klifs dropt ʃēr. Strāndʒ it wōz, standiŋ on ðat frozen lip ov ðe Morunâ, az on ðe līmit ov ðe werld, tō gāz sŕpword on a land ov sūmer, and tō brēð fānt sūmer êrz bloiŋ up from blōsomiŋ trēz and flŕer-klad alps. In ðe depþs a karpet ov hūdʒ tre-tops klōðd a vāst stretʃ ov kuntre, þrœ ðe midst ov hwiʃ, sēn hēr and ðêr in a bend ov silver amuŋ ðe wōdz, ðe Bhavinan bœr ðe wōterz ov a þʒzand sēkret mŕntān sŕlitʃūdʒ dŕn tō an ũnōn se. Beʒond ðe rīver ðe dēp wōdz, blu wið distans, sweld tō fēðere hil-tops wið sum ʃarper-fētʃurd lofteer hīts bödeiŋ klŕdile beʒond ðem. ðe Demonz strānd ðêr īz sertʃiŋ ðe kertān ov mistere behīnd and abuv ðōz ʃot-hilz; but ðe grät pēks, līk grät ladēz, ʃrŕded ðemselvz agānst ðêr kureŕs gāz, and no glimps wōz ʃōn ðem ov ðe snōz.

Σŕle tō be in Mornâ Morunâ wōz tō be in ðe dep tʃāmber ov sum wuns luvle præzens. Stānz ov ʃiŋ wer on ðe wōlz. ðe fêr gālere ov open wōd-werk ðat ran abuv ðe mān hōl wōz bernt þrœ and partle fōlen in ruin, ðe blākend endz ov ðe bēmz ðat held it dzŕtiŋ blīndle in ðe gap. Amuŋ ðe rek ov karvd tʃêrz and bentʃez, broken and werm-eten, sum ʃredz ov ʃigŕrd täpestrēz rŕted, ðe hōm nŕ ov betelz and spiderz. Patʃez ov kŕlor, faded līnz, mildʒūd and damp wið ðe korupjon ov tō hundred yērz, lingerd tō be ðe memœrealz, līk ðe mŕmēd skēleton ov a kiŋz dŕter loŋ ago untīmle ded, ov swēt graʃŕs pāntiŋz on ðe wōlz. Fīv nīts and fīv dāz ðe Demonz and Mivarf dwelt in Mornâ

Morunâ, inūrd tō pœrtents til ða markt ðem az lītel az men mark swōlōz at ðēr windo. In ðe stil nīt wer flāmz sēn, and fliiŋ formz dim in ðe mōonlit êr; and in mōonles nīts unstard, mōnz herd and dʒīberinŋ aksents: prōdīdʒēz besīd ðēr bedz, and ridinŋ in ðe ski, and flefles fingerz plūkiŋ at Dʒus unsēn hven he went færp tō māk kwestʃon ov ðe nīt.

Klīd and mist abōd ēver in ðe sǫp, and ōnle ðe fūt-hilz ʃōd ov ðe grāt rāndʒez beʒond Bhavinan. But on ðe eveninŋ ov ðe siksƀ da befær ŪI, it beinŋ ðe nīntēnƀ ov Desember hven Beteldʒūz standz at midnīt on ðe meridʒan, a wind blu ʒt ov ðe norƀwest wið tʃāndʒinŋ fits ov slēt and sunʃīn. Da wōz fadiŋ az ða stōd abuv ðe klif. ŌI ðe forest land wōz blu wið ʃādʒ ov aprōtʃinŋ nīt: ðe rīver wōz dul silver: ðe wōded hīts afar mingeld ðēr ʒtīnŋ wið ðe tǫerz and banks ov turbulent dēp blu vapor ðat herteld in sēsles pāsādʒ ƀrō ðe ūper êr. Sūdenle a windo opend in ðe klīdz tō a spās ov klēn wōn wind-swept ski hi abuv ðe ʃāge hilz. Σūrle Dʒus kōt hiz breƀ in ðat moment, tō se ðōz deples wunz hvēr ða ʃon pavīleond in ðe pelusid êr, far, vāst, and lōnle, mōst līk tō krētʃūrʒ ov ūnasended hēven, ov wind and ov fir ōl kompakt, tō pūr tō hav ōt ov ðe grōs ēlements ov erƀ or wōter. It wōz az if ðe rōz-red līt ov sundǫn had bēn frozen tō kristal and ðēz hūn from it tō abīd tō ēverlāstinŋ, stronŋ and untʃāndʒabel amid ðe welter ov erƀborn mists belo and tʃumultʃuǫs ski abuv ðem. ðe rift ran wider, ēstword and westword, openinŋ on mœr pēks and sunset-kindeld snōz. And a rānbo leninŋ tō ðe sǫp wōz līk a sœrd ov glœere akros ðe vīʒon.

Mōʃonles, līk hōks stariŋ from ðat hi plās ov prospekt, Dʒus and Brandox Dahâ lukt on ðe mǫntānz ov ðēr dezīr.

Dʒus spāk, hōltinŋle az wun tōkiŋ in a drēm. "ðe swēt smel, ðis guste wind, ðe vēre stōn ði fūt standēƀ on: I no ðem ōl befær. ðērʒ not a nīt sins we sāld ʒt ov Lūkiŋhaven ðat I hav not beheld in slēƀ ðēz mǫntānz and nōn ðēr nāmz."

"Hō tōld ðe ðēr nāmz?" āskt Lord Brandox Dahâ.

"Mi drēm," Dʒus ānserd. "And ferst I drēmd it in mīn ōn bed in Galiŋ hven I kām hōm from gestiŋ wið ðe lāst Dʒūn. And ða be tru drēmz ðat ar drēmd ðēr." And he sed, "Sēst ðǫ hvēr ðe fothilz part tō a dark vāle ðat rūnep dēƀ intō ðe tʃān, and ðe mǫntānz ar bēr tō

vu from krŕn too fut? Mark huêr, beƳond ðe nerer rāndz,  
blēk-vīzādzd prēsipisez, kobweb-strēkt wið hūdƳ sno  
koridorz, rīz too a rampart huêr ðe rok tŕerz stand  
agānst ðe ski. Ðis iz ðe grāt ridƳ ov Koftrā Pivrarxā,  
and ðe lofteest ov ðōz spīrz hiz sēkret mŕntān-top."

Az he spōk, hiz i fōlōd ðe līn ov ðe ēstern ridƳ,  
huêr ðe tŕerz, līk dark godz goiŋ dŕn from hēven, plundƳ  
too a pārapet huiƳ runz lēvel abuv a kertān ov  
āvalānf-fluted sno. He fel silent az hiz gāz rested on ðe  
sister pēk ðat ēst ov ðe gap flāmd skiword in wīld klīfs  
too an are snoe sūmit, soft-līnd az a madenz tŕēk, purer  
ðan dƳu, luvleer ðan a drēm.

Huī ða lukt ðe sunset fīrz dīd ūt ūpon ðe mŕntānz,  
leviŋ ōnle pāl hūz ov deƳ and silens. "If ði drēm,"  
sed Lord Brandox Dahā, "kondukted ðe dŕn ðis EdƳ, over  
ðe Bhavinan, þroo yonder wōdz and hilz, up þroo ðe  
lēgz ov īs and frozen rok ðat stand betwikst us and ðe  
mān ridƳ, up bi ðe rīt rōd too ðe topmōst snōz ov  
Koftrā Belorn: ðat wer a drēm indēd."

"Ō! ðis it fōd me," sed DƳus, "up too ðe loest roks ov  
ðe grāt norþ butres ov Koftrā Pivrarxā, ðat must ferst  
be skāld bi him ðat wōd go up too Koftrā Belorn. But beƳond  
ðōz roks not even a drēm haƳ ēver klīmd. Ēr ðe līt  
fādƳ, īl ŋo ðe ūr pās over ðe nerer rāndƳ." He  
pqnted huêr a glafer krōld betwikst fādoe wōlz dŕn from  
a tœrn sno-fēld ðat rōz stēple too a sādēl. Ēst ov it  
stōd too huī pēks, and west ov it a fēr-fāst and  
loŋ-bakt mŕntān līk a sītadel, skwōt and dark benēþ ðe  
wīld ski-līn ov Koftrā Pivrarxā ðat huŋ in êr beƳond it.

"Ðe Ƴā vāle," sed DƳus, "ðat rūneþ intoo Bhavinan. Ðêr  
lieþ ūr wa: under ðat dark bastŋon kōld bi ðe Godz  
Tetraxnampf."

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On ðe moro Lord Brandox Dahā kām too MivarƳ Faz and sed,  
"It iz nēdfōl ðat ðis da we go dŕn from Ompren EdƳ. I  
wōd for no sāk lēv ðe on ðe Morunā, but tiz no wōkiŋ  
māter too desend ðis wōl. Art ðŕ a kragzman?"

"I wōz born," ānserd he, "in ðe hi vāle ov PerarƳin bi  
ðe ūper wōterz ov ðe Berun in Impland. Ðêr baƳ skêrs  
tōdel êr ða kan klīm a rok. Ðis klīm afrīts me not,  
nor ðōz mŕntānz. But ðe land iz ūnōn and tēribel, and  
mēne lōþle wunz inhābit it, gōsts and eterz ov men. O  
dēvilz trānzmarēn, and mi frendz, iz it not enuf? Let us

tern agān, and if ðe Godz sāv ʒr līvz we ʒal be famʒs  
for ēver, ðat kām untō Mornā Morunā and reternd alīv."

But Dzus ānserd and sed, "O Mivarʒ Faz, no ðat not for  
fām ar we kum on ðis dʒerne. ʒr grātnes ôlrēde  
ʒādoep ôl ðe werld, az a grāt sedar tre sprēdiŋ hiz  
ʒādo in a garden; and ðis enterprīz, mite ðo it be,  
ʒal ad tō ʒr glōere ōnle so mutʒ az ðʒ mītst ad tō  
ðēz forests ov ðe Bhavinan bi plāntiŋ ov wun mœr tre. But  
so it iz, ðat ðe grāt Kiŋ ov Witʒland, praktisiŋ in  
darknes in hiz rŋal pālās ov Karse sutʒ arts ov grāmare  
and sendiŋz madʒikal az ðe werld haʒ not bēn grēvd wið  
until nʒ, sent an il piŋ tō tāk mi brūðer, ðe Lord  
Gōldre Bluzko, huō iz dēr tō me az mīn ōn sōl. And Ða  
ðat dwel in sēkret sent me werd in a drēm, bīdiŋ me, if I  
wōd hav tidiŋz ov mi dēr brūðer, inkwīr in Koftrā  
Belorn. Ðêrfœr, O Mivarʒ, go wið us if ðʒ wilt, but if  
ðʒ wilt not, hvi, fêr ðe wel. For nôt but mi dep  
ʒal sta me from goiŋ ðīðer."

And Mivarʒ, bēpinkŋ him ðat if ðe mantikorz ov ðe  
mʒntānz ʒud devʒr him alon wið ðōz tō lordz, ðat  
wer yet a kīndleer fāt ðan ôl alōn tō abīd ðōz piŋz  
he wist ov on ðe Morunā, pʒt on ðe rōp, and âfter komendiŋ  
himself tō ðe protekʒon ov hiz godz fōlōd Lord Brandox  
Dahā dʒn ðe rōten slōps ov rok and frozen erp at ðe  
hed ov a gūle lediŋ dʒn ðe klif.

For ôl ðat ða wer erle afot, yet wōz it hi nōn êr  
ða wer of ðe roks. For ðe pēril ov fōliŋ stōnz drōv  
ðem ʒt from ðe gūlēz bed ferst on tō ðe ēstern butres  
and âfter, hven ðat gru tō ʒēr, bak tō ðe western wōl.  
And in an ʒr or twān ðe gūlēz bed gru ʒālo and it  
nārōd tō an end, huens Brandox Dahā gāzd betwēn hiz fēt  
tō huēr, a fu spērz leŋps belo, ðe smōð slabz kervd  
dʒnword ʒt ov sīt and ðe i lept strāt from ðêr  
klēn-kut edʒ tō ʒīmeriŋ tre-tops ðat ʒōd tine az  
mōsez beʒond ðe unsēn gulf ov êr. So ða rested āhūl;  
ðen reterniŋ a lītēl up ðe gūle fœrst a wa ʒt on tō ðe  
fās and mād a hāzardʒs travers tō a nu gūle westword ov  
ðe ferst, and so at lāst plundʒd dʒn a loŋ fan ov skre and  
rested on soft fīn terf at ðe fot ov ðe klifs.

Lītēl mʒntān dʒenʒanz gru at ðêr fēt; ðe pāples  
forest la līk ðe se belo ðem; befœr ðem ðe mʒntānz  
ov ðe ʒā stud suprēm: ðe huīt gabelz ov lzlardʒin, ðe  
lēn dark finger ov Tetraxnampf nan Tʒark liiŋ bak abuv  
ðe ʒā Pās pŋntiŋ tō ðe ski, and west ov it, dʒūtiŋ abuv  
ðe vāle, ðe skwēr bastʒon ov Tetraxnampf nan Tserm. Ðe

grater mǫntānz wer for ðe mōst part sunk behīnd ðis  
nerer rāndz, but Koftrā Belorn stil tǫerd abuv ðe Pās.  
Az a kwēn lǫkiŋ dǫn from her hi windo, so ʃe overlǫkt  
ðōz grēn wǫdz slepiŋ in ðe nōn-da; and on her fǫerhed  
wōz bute līk a star. Behīnd ðem hǫer ða sat, ðe  
eskarpmēt rērd bak in krampt perspektīv, a pīl ov  
māsīv butresez kleft wið ravēnz lediŋ upword from ðat  
land ov lēvz and wōterz tō ðe hīden wintre flats ov ðe  
Morunā.

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Ðat nīt ða slept on ðe fel under ðe starz, and nekst  
da, goiŋ dǫn intō ðe wǫdz, kām at dusk tō an open glād  
bi ðe wōterz ov ðe brōd-buzomd Bhavinan. Ðe terf wōz līk  
a kǫʃon, a plās for elvz tō dāns in. Ðe far bank fǫl  
hāf a mīl awa wōz wǫded tō ðe wōter wið silver bertʃez,  
dānte az mǫntān nimfs, ðēr limz glemiŋ þrō ðe  
twilīt, ðēr reflekʃonz kwīveriŋ in ðe depþs ov ðe  
mite rīver. In ðe hi êr da lingerd yet, a fānt wormþ  
tindziŋ ðe grāt ǫtlīnz ov ðe mǫntānz, and westword up  
ðe rīver ðe yuŋ mōn stōopt abuv ðe trēz. Ēst ov ðe  
glād a lītēl wǫded ěminens, no hier ðan a hǫs, ran  
bak from ðe rīver bank, and in its ʃōlder a hōlo kāv.

"Hǫ smīlz it tō ðe?" sed Dʒus. "Be ʃūr we ʃal fīnd no  
bēter plās ðan ðis ðǫ sēst tō dwel in until ðe snōz  
melt and we ma on. For ðo it be sūmer ōl ðe yēr rǫnd  
in ðis fortʃunāt vāle, it iz winter on ðe grāt hilz, and  
until ðe sprīŋ we wer mad tō ěsa ǫr enterpīz."

"Hi ðen," sed Brandox Dahā, "tērn we ʃepherdz āhvīl. Ðǫ  
ʃalt pīp tō me, and Īl fūt ðe mēzūrʒ ʃal māk ðe  
driadz þīnk ða nēr went tō skōol. And Mivarʃ ʃal be a  
gōt-fūt god tō tʃās ðem; for tō tel ðe trūþ kuntre  
wentʃez ar loŋ grōn tēdzǫs tō me. O, tiz a swēt līf. But  
ēr we fōl tō it, bēþink ðe, O Dʒus: tīm martʃep, and ðe  
werld wāgeþ: huōt goeþ forword in Demonland til sūmer be  
kum and we hōm agān?"

"Ōlso mi hart iz hēve bekōz ov mi brūðer Spitfīr." sed  
Dʒus. "O, twōz an il storm, and il delāz."

"Awa wið vān regrētiŋz," sed Lord Brandox Dahā. "For ði  
sāk and ði brūðerz fērd Ī on ðis dʒerne, and it iz nōn  
tō ðe ðat nēver yet stretʃt Ī ǫt mīn hand ūpon ðt  
ðat Ī hav not taken it, and had mi wil ov it."

So ða mād ðēr dwēliŋ in ðat kāv besīd dēp-ēdeŋ

Bhavinan, and befær ðat kāv ða āt ðēr Ūl fēst, ðe strāndzest ða had eten ōl ðe dāz ov ðēr līvz: seted, not az ov ōld, on ðēr hi sēts ov rube or ov opal, but on mōse banks hvēr dazēz slept and krepīn tīm; lited not bi ðe tfarmd eskarbunkel ov ðe hi prēzens tġāmbēr in Galiŋ, but bi ðe fiftiŋ bēmz ov a brufwud fir ðat fon not on ðōz pīlarz krūnd wið monsterz ðat wer ðe wunder ov ðe werld but on ðe miteer pīlarz ov ðe slepiŋ bētfwudz. And in plās ov ðat fānd hēven ov dzuēlz self-efuldzent benēp ðe gōlden kānope at Galiŋ, ða āt pavileond under a tfarmd sūmer nīt, hvēr ðe grāt starz ov winter, Orion, Sīreus, and ðe Lītel Dog, wer rāzd up nēr ðe zēniþ, yēldiŋ ðēr nōn kærsez in ðe sūðern ski tō Kanopus and ðe strāndz starz ov ðe sþp. Hven ðe trēz spāk, it wōz not wið ðēr winter vqz ov bēr bǫz krekiŋ, but wið hwisper ov lēvz and betelz droniŋ in ðe frāgrant ēr. Ðe būfez wer hvīt wið blōsom, not wið hœr-frost, and ðe dim hvīt patfez under ðe trēz wer not sno, but wīld līlēz and wud anēmonēz slepiŋ in ðe nīt.

Ōl ðe krētġurz ov ðe forest kām tō ðat fēst, for ða wer wīðlŧt fēr, hāviŋ nēver lukt ūpon ðe fās ov man. Lītel tre-āps, and pōpindzāz, and titmǫsez, and kōlmǫsez, and renz, and dzentel rǫnd-īd lemerz, and rābits, and badzerz, and dormīs, and pīd skwīrelz, and beverz from ðe strēmz, and storks, and ravenz, and bustardz, and wombats, and ðe spider-munke wið her babe at her brest: ōl ðēz kām tō gāz wið kureþs i ūpon ðōz trāvelerz. And not ðēz alōn, but fērs bēsts ov ðe wudz and wildernesez: ðe wīld būfalo, ðe wulf, ðe tiger wið monstrþs pōz, ðe bēr, ðe fire-īd unikorn, ðe ēlefant, ðe lion and ġe-lion in ðēr madzeste, kām tō behōld ðem in ðe firġit in ðat kwiet glād.

"It sēmz we hōld kært in ðe wudz tō-nīt," sed Lord Brandox Dahā. "It iz vēre plēzant. Yet hōld ðe rēde wið me tō pŧt sum fir-brandz amuŋst em if nēd befōl. Tiz līkle sum ov ðēz grāt bēsts ar lītel skoold in kært sēremonēz."

Dzuz ānserd, "And ðþ luvst me, dœ no sutġ piŋ. Ðēr lieþ ðis kers ūpon ōl ðis land ov ðe Bhavinan, ðat hvœso, hvēðer he be man or bēst, slaep in ðis land or dœeþ hēr ēne dēd ov violens, ðēr kūmeþ dþn a kers ūpon him ðat in ðat instant must destrŋ and blāst him for ēver of ðe fās ov ðe erþ. Ðērfær it wōz I tok awa from Mivarġ hiz bo and ārōz hven we kām dþn from Ompren Edz, lest he ġud kil gām for us and so a wers piŋ befōl him."

Mivarf harkend not, but sat ôl a-kwāk, lŭkiŋ intentle on a krökodīl đat kām ponderŭsle Ƴt ũpon đe bank. And nŭ he began tŭ skrēm wiđ tēror, kriiŋ, "Sāv me! let me fli! giv me mi wēponz! It wōz fœrtöld me bi a wīz wŭman đat a kokadriŋ-serpent must devŭr me at lāst!" Huarat đe bēsts dru bak ũnezile, and đe krökodīl, hiz smōl īz wīd, starteld bi Mivarfez krīz and violent dżestfūrz, lertft wiđ huôt spēd he mīt bak intŭ đe wōter.

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Nŭ in đat plās Lord Dżus and Lord Brandox Dahâ and Mivarf Faz abōd for fœr mœnz spās. Nŭŕiŋ đa lakt ov mēt and drink, for đe bēsts ov đe forest, fīndiŋ đem wel dispōzd, brôt đem ov đēr stœr. Mœrover, đēr kām fliiŋ from đe sŭŕ, abŭt đe endiŋ ov đe yēr, a martlet hwiť alited in Dżŭsez buzom and sed tŭ him, "Đe dżentel Kwēn Sofonizbâ, fosterliŋ ov đe Godz, had nŭz ov yor kŭmiŋ. And bekôz fe noeŕ u bōŕ mite men ov yor handz and hi ov hart, đêrfœr bi me fe sent u gretiŋ."

Dżus sed, "O lītel martlet, we wŭd se đi Kwēn fās tŭ fās, and ŕank her."

"Ye must ŕank her," sed đe berd, "in Koftrâ Belorn."

Brandox Dahâ sed, "Đat ſal we fŭlfil. Đīđer ōnle dŭ ŭr ŕŕŭts intend."

"Yor grātnes," sed đe martlet, "must aprŭv đat werd. And no đat it iz ezeer tŭ la under u ôl đe werld in armz đan tŭ asend up afot intŭ đat mŭntān."

"Đi wiŋz wer tŭ wēk tŭ lift me, els Īd boro đem," sed Brandox Dahâ.

But đe martlet ânserd, "Not đe egel đat flieŕ agānst đe sun ma alīt on Koftrâ Belorn. No fŭt ma tred her, sāv ov đōz blēsed wunz tŭ huŭm đe Godz gāv lēv ādżez ago, til đa be kum đat đe paſent yērz awāt: men līk untŭ đe Godz in bute and in pŭer, huŭ ov đēr ōn mīt and mān, unholpen bi madżik arts, ſal fœrs a pāsādż up tŭ her silent snōz."

Brandox Dahâ lâft. "Not đe egel?" he krīd, "but đŭ, lītel flīter-dżak?"

"Nôt đat haŕ fēt," sed đe martlet. "I hav nun."



Ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ tók it tenderle in hiz hand and held it hi in ðe êr, lókiŋ tō ðe hi landz in ðe sǫþ. Ðe bertfez swaiŋ bi ðe Bhavinan wer not mœr grāsfōl nor ðe distant mǫntān-kragz behīnd ðem mœr untamabel tō behōld ðan he. "Fli tō ði Kwēn," he sed, "and sa ðǫ spākst wið Lord Dzus besīd ðe Bhavinan and wið Lord Brandox Dahâ ov Demonland. Sa untō her ðat we be ða ðat wer for tō kum; and ðat we, ov Ƴr ōn mīt and mān, êr sprinŋ be wel ternd sūmer, wil kum up tō her in Koftrā Belorn tō þank her for her grafþs sendinŋ."

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Nǫ hven it wōz Āpril, and ðe sun mœviŋ amuŋ ðe sīnz ov hēven wōz abǫt departinŋ Ƴt ov Arēz and enterinŋ intō Torus, and ðe meltinŋ ov ðe snōz in ðe hi mǫntānz had swollen ōl ðe strēmz tō spāt, filiŋ ðe mite rīver so ðat he brimd hiz banks and swept bi līk a tīd-rās, Lord Dzus sed, "Nǫ iz ðe sezon propīþs for Ƴr krōsiŋ ov ðe flud ov Bhavinan and sētiŋ fœrþ intō ðe mǫntānz."

"Wīliŋle," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "But falz wōk it, or swim it, or tāk tō us wiŋz? Tō me, ðat hav mēne a tīm swum bak and fœrþ over Þunderferþ tō hvet mīn āpetīt êr I brāk mi fāst, tiz a smōl māter ov ðis rīver strēm hǫso swift it rūneþ. But wið Ƴr harnes and wēponz and ōl Ƴr gēr, ðat wer far ūðer māter."

"Iz it for nōt we ar grōn frendz wið ðem ðat dō inhābit ðēz wōdz?" sed Dzus. "Ðe krōkodīl fal bēr us over Bhavinan for ðe āskiŋ."

"It iz an il fiŋ," sed Mivarŋ; "and it sœr dislīks me."

"Ðen hēr ðǫ must abīd," sed Brandox Dahâ. "But be not dismād, I wil go wið ðe. Ðe fiŋ ma bēr us bōþ at a drāft and not fǫnder."

"It wōz a wīz wōman fœrtōld it me," ānserd Mivarŋ, "ðat sutŋ a kīnd ov serpent must be mi bān. Yet be it akordinŋ tō yor wil."

So ða hǫseld ðem up ðe krōkodīl; and ferst ðe Lord Dzus fērd over Bhavinan, ridinŋ on ðe bak ov ðat serpent wið ōl hiz gēr and wēponz ov wor, and landed sēveral hundred pasez dǫn strēm for ðe strēm wōz vēre stronŋ; and ðarāfter ðe krōkodīl reterninŋ tō ðe norþ bank tók ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ and Mivarŋ Faz and put ðem akros in līk māner. Mivarŋ put on a gālant fās, but rōd az nēr ðe tāl az mīt be, fingerinŋ sertān herbz from hiz wōlet ðat

wer gud agānst serpents, hiz lips mœvniŋ in erdzent  
suplikaŋon tœ hiz godz. Hœn ða wer kum āfœer ða  
þankt ðe krökodil and bad him fêrwel and went ðêr wa  
swiftle þrœ ðe wœdz. And Mivarŋ, az wun nu loost from  
þrizon, went befœer ðem wið a lit step, sijnij and  
snāpiŋ hiz fingerz.

Nð had ða for þre dāz or fœer a deveðs djerne þrœ  
ðe fut-hilz, and ðarāfter mād ðêr dwēliŋ for forte  
dāz spās in ðe 3â vāle, abuv ðe gordzez. Hêr ðe  
vāle widenz tœ a flat-flœrd amfiþeater, and lēn  
limstōn kragz tðer hēvenword on ēvere sīd. Hi in ðe  
sðþ, kðtft abuv grāt gra morānz, ðe 3â glafer,  
rinkel-bakt lik sum drāgon servīvd ðt ov ðe elder  
kaos, þrusts hiz snðt into ðe vāle. Hêr ðt ov hiz kāvz  
ov is ðe yuŋ rīver þunderz, kāstiŋ up a spra huêr  
rānbōz hōver in brit wēðer. ðe êr blōz ŋarp from ðe  
glafer, and alpīn flðerz and ŋrubz fêd on ðe sunlit.

Hêr ða gāðerd ðem gud stœr ov fœod. And ēvere morniŋ  
ða wer afot befœer ðe sunrīz, tœ asend ðe mðntānz and  
māk fūr ðêr praktīs êr ða ŋud atempt ðe grater  
pêks. So ða eksplœrd ôl ðe sperz ov Tetraxnampf and  
Izlardzin, and ðōz pēks ðemselvz; ðe rok pēks ov ðe  
loer Nuāner rāndz overløkiŋ Bhavinan; ðe sno pēks ēst  
ov Izlardzin: Avsek, Keermzer, Merŋu, Berŋnardzin, and Borx  
Meheþparsk, lofteest ov ðe rāndz, bi ôl hiz ridzez,  
dwēliŋ a wêk on ðe morānz ov ðe Meheþparsk glafer  
abuv ðe upland vāle ov Fonâ; and westword ðe dōlomīt  
groop ov Berdzazarŋrâ and ðe grāt wôl ov Silak.

Nð wer ðêr müselz bi ðêz eksersizez grōn lik bandz ov  
īrn, and ða harde az mðntān bêrz and fūr ov fut az  
mðntān gōts. So on ðe nīŋþ da ov Ma ða krost ðe 3â  
Pās and kampt on ðe roks under ðe sðþ wôl ov  
Tetraxnampf nan Tŋark. ðe sun went dðn, lik blud, in a  
klðdles ski. On iðer hand and befœer ðem, ðe snōz  
stretft blu and silent. ðe êr ov ðōz hi snofēldz wōz  
bīter kōld. A lēg and mœr tœ ðe sðþ a līn ov blak  
klifs bðnded ðe glafer-basin. Over ðat blak wôl, twelv  
mīlz awa, Koftrâ Belorn and Koftrâ Pivraxâ tðerd  
agānst an opal hēven.

Huī ða supt in ðe fadiŋ lit, Dzus sed, "ðe wôl  
ðð sēst iz kōld ðe Bāreerz ov Emŋer. ðo over it  
lieþ ðe strāt wa tœ Koftrâ Pivraxâ, yet iz it not þr  
wa, but an il wa. For, ferst, ðat bāreer hap til nð  
bēn held unklimbabel, and so prœven even bi hāf-godz ðat  
alōn āsād it."

"I awāt not ði sĕkond rezon," sed Brandox Dahā. "Ðŷ hast had ði wa until nŷ, and nŷ ðŷ falt giv me mīn in ðis, tō kum wið me tō-moro and fo hŷ ðŷ and I māĕ ov sutf bāreerz a puf ov smōk if ða stand in ðe pāp betwēn us and ŷr fikst endz."

"Wer it ōnle ðis," ānserd Dʒus, "I wōd not gānsa ðe. But not sensles roks alōn ar we set tō dēl wið if we tāk ðis rōd. Sēst ðŷ huēr ðe Bāreerz end in ðe ēst agānst yonder monstrŷs pīramid ov tumbeld kragz and hānʒiŷ glaferz ðat futs ŷt ŷr prospekt ēst-awa? Menkser men kōl it, but in hēven it haþ a mœr dredfōl nām: Elā Mantiserā, huif iz tō sa, ðe Bed ov ðe Mantikorz. O Brandox Dahā, I wil klīm wið ðe huōt unsēld klif ðŷ list, and I wil fit wið ðe agānst ðe mōst grizfulest bēsts ðat ēver grāzd bi ðe Tartārean strēmz. But bōp ðēz þiŷ in wun moment ov tīm, ðat wer a raf part and a fōlif."

But Brandox Dahā lâft, and ānserd him, "Tō nōt els ma I liken ðe, O Dʒus, but tō ðe spāro-kāmel. Tō huōm ða sed, Fli,' and it ānserd, 'I kanot, for I am a kāmel; and hven ða sed, Kāre,' it ānserd, I kanot, for I am a berd."

"Wilt ðŷ eg me on so mutf?" sed Dʒus.

"I," sed Brandox Dahā, "if ðŷ wilt be āsif."

"Wilt ðŷ kworel?" sed Dʒus.

"Ðŷ nōst me," sed Brandox Dahā.

"Wel," sed Dʒus, "ði kŷnsel haþ bēn rīt wuns and sāvđ us, for nīn tīmz ðat it haþ bēn roŷ, and mi kŷnsel sāvđ ðe from an evil end. If il behap us, it fal be set dŷn ðat it had from ði peviþ wil oridʒinal." And ða rapt ðem in ðēr klōks and slept.

On ðe moro ða rōz be tīmz and set fœrþ sŷp akros ðe snōz ðat wer krisp and hard for ðe frosts ov ðe nīt. Ðe Bāreerz, az it wer but a stōnz-þro remōvd, stōd blak befœr ðem; starlīt swōlōd up sīz and distans ðat fōd ōnle bi wōkiŷ, az stil ða wōkt and stil ðat wōl sēmd no nerer nor no lardʒer. Twīs and þrīs ða dipt intō a vāle or krost a rāzd-up fōld ov ðe glafer; til ða stōd at brāk ov da belo ðe smōð blank wōl frozen and blĕk, wið nēver a ledʒ in sīt grāt enuf tō bēr sno, bāriŷ ðēr pāsādʒ sŷpword.

Ða hōlted and āt and skand ðe wōl befær ðem. And il  
tōo dōo wið it sēmd. So ða sertʃt for an asent, and fōnd  
at lāst a spot hvēr ðe glafer sweld hier, a mīl or les  
from ðe western fōlder ov Elā Mantiserā. Hēr ðe klif wōz  
but fær or fiv hundred fēt hi; yet smōōð eno and il  
eno tōo lōk on; yet ðēr līkleest tʃɑs.

Sum hūil it wōz ēr ða mīt get a foting on ðat wōl,  
but at lenþ Brandox Dahâ, standiŋ on Dʒūsez fōlder, fōnd  
him a hōld hvēr no hōld fōd from belo, and wið grāt  
travāl fōt a pāsādʒ up ðe rok tōo a stāns sum hundred  
fēt abuv ðem, huens sītiŋ fūr on a brōd ledʒ grāt  
enuf tōo hōld siks or sēven fōk at a tīm he plād up Lord  
Dʒus on ðe rōp and āfter him Mivarʃ. An ʒr and a hāf it  
kost ðem for ðat fort klīm.

"Ðe norþ-ēst butres ov Il Stak wōz tʃildrenz gruel tōo  
ðis," sed Lord Dʒus.

"Ðērʒ mœr aloft," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, liiŋ bak  
agānst ðe prēsipīs, hiz handz klāspt behīnd hiz hed, hiz  
fēt a-dangel over ðe ledʒ. "In ðīn ēr, Dʒus: I wōd not  
go ferst on ðe rōp agān on sutʃ a pitʃ for ôl ðe welþ  
ov Impland."

"Wilt repent and retern?" sed Dʒus.

"If þōlt be lāst dōn," he ānserd. "If not, Īd lever  
risk hūōt wāts untrīd abuv us. If it prōov wers, I am  
konfermd aþeist."

Lord Dʒus lēnd ʒt, hōldiŋ bi ðe rok wið hiz rīt hand,  
skāniŋ ðe wōl besīd and abuv ðem. An instant he huŋ so,  
ðen dru bak. Hiz skwēr dʒō wōz set, and hiz tēþ glinted  
under hiz dark mōstāʃeōz sumpiŋ fērsle, az a  
þunder-bēm betwikst dark ski and se in a nīt ov þunder.  
Hiz nostrilz widend, az ov a wor-hors at ðe kōl ov bātel;  
hiz īz wer līk ðe violet lēvin-brand, and ôl hiz bōde  
hardend līk a bo-strīŋ drōn az he grāspt hiz ʃarp scērd  
and pōld it færþ gratiŋ and sīŋiŋ from its fēþ.

Brandox Dahâ spranʃ afōt and dru hiz scērd, Zeldornyusez  
lōom. "Hūōt stūreþ?" he krīd. "Ðō lōkst gāstle. Ðat  
lōk ðō hadst hven ðō tōkst ðe helm and ʒr prōz swuŋ  
westword tōoword Kartadzâ Sōnd, and ðe fāt ov Demonland and  
ôl ðe werld besīd huŋ in ðīn hand for wāl or blis."

"Ðērʒ lītēl scērd-rōom," sed Dʒus. And agān he lōkt  
færþ ēstword and upword aloŋ ðe klif. Brandox Dahâ lōkt  
over hiz fōlder. Mivarʃ tōk hiz bo and set an āro on ðe

striņ.

"It haþ sented us dþn ðe wind," sed Brandox Dahâ.

Smôl tīm wôz ðêr tœ ponder. Swīņiņ from hōld tœ hōld akros ðe dīze prēsipīs, az an āp swīņeþ from bþ tœ bþ, ðe bēst dru nēr. Ðe fāp ov it wôz az a lion, but bīger and tōler, ðe kūlor a dul red, and it had pīkelz lânsiņ ūt behīnd, az ov a porkupīn; its fās a manz fās, if ôt so hidþs mīt be konsēvd ov human kīnd, wið stariņ ibōlz, lo rinkeld brþ, ëlefant êrz, sum wispe māndþe līknes ov a lionz mān, hūdþ bone tþaps, brþn blud-stānd gūber-tūfez grīniņ betwikst brisle lips. Strāt for ðe ledþ it mād, and az ða brāst ðem tœ resēv it, wið a grāt swiņ hēvd a manz hīt abuv ðem and lēpt dþn ūpon ðêr ledþ from aloft betwikst Dzus and Brandox Dahâ êr ða wer wel awêr ov its tþāndþd kœrs. Brandox Dahâ smôt at it a grāt swōfiņ blo and kut of its skorpeon tāl; but it klōd Dþūsez fōlder, smôt dþn Mivarþ, and tþardþd līk a lion ūpon Brandox Dahâ, huœ, mīsiņ hiz fūtiņ on ðe nāro edþ ov rok, fel bakwordz a grāt fōl, klēr ov ðe klif, dþn tœ ðe sno an hundred fēt benēþ ðem.

Az it krānd over, mīnded tœ fōlo and māk an end ov him, Dzus smôt it in ðe hīnder parts and on ðe ham, feriņ awa ðe fleþ from ðe þi bōn, and hiz sœrd kām wið a klank agānst ðe brazen klōz ov its fūt. So wið a horid bělo it ternd on Dzus, reriņ līk a hors; and it wôz þre hedz grater ðan a tōl man in statþūr hven it rērd aloft, and ðe bredþ ov its tþest līk ðe tþest ov a bêr. Ðe stentþ ov its breþ tþōkt Dþūsez mþþ and hiz sensez sīkend, but he slaft it aþwort ðe bële, a grāt rōnd-armd blo, kūtiņ open its bële so ðat ðe guts fel ūt. Agān he hūd at it, but mist, and hiz sœrd kām agānst ðe rok, and wôz fīverd intoœ pesez. So hven ðat nqzōm vermin fel forword on him rœriņ līk a þþzand lionz, Dzus grāpeld wið it, rūniņ in benēþ its böde and klāspiņ it and þrustiņ hiz armz intoœ its inword parts, tœ rip ūt its vitalz if so he mīt. So klōs he grāpeld it ðat it mīt not rētþ him wið its merðeriņ tēþ, but its klōz slīst of ðe fleþ from hiz left ne dþnword tœ ðe ankel bōn, and it fel on him and kruft him on ðe rok, brakiņ in ðe bōnz ov hiz brest. And Dzus, for ôl hiz bīter pān and torment, and for ôl he wôz wel ni stifeld bi ðe sœr stink ov ðe krētþūrþz breþ and ðe stink ov its blud and þudiņz blūberiņ abþt hiz fās and brest, yet bi hiz grāt strenþ rāseld wið ðat fel and filþe man-eter. And ëver he þrust hiz rīt hand, armd wið ðe hilt and stump ov hiz broken sœrd, yet deper intoœ its bële until he sertþt ūt

its hart and did hiz wil ūpon it, slisiŋ ðe hart asunder  
līk a lēmon and sēveriŋ and tariŋ ōl ðe grāt vēselz  
abŷt ðe hart until ðe blud guft abŷt him līk a sprinŋ.  
And līk a kǎterpilar ðe bēst kerld up and stratend ŷt  
in its deþ spazmz, and it rōld and fel from ðat ledz, a  
grāt fōl, and la bi Brandox Dahâ, ðe fōlest besīd ðe  
faresť ov ōl erþle beinŋz, rēdeniŋ ðe pūr sno wið its  
blud. And ðe spīnz ðat gru on ðe hīnder parts ov ðe  
bēst went ŷt and in līk ðe stiŋ ov a nu-ded wōsp ðat  
gōz ŷt and in kontīnuale. It fel not klēn tō ðe sno, az  
bi ðe kēr ov hēven wōz fōlen Brandox Dahâ, but smōt an  
edz ov rok nēr ðe bōtom, and ðat strōk ŷt its brānz.  
Ðēr it la in its blud, gapiŋ tō ðe ski.

Nŷ wōz Dzus stretft fās dŷnword az wun ded, on ðat gīde  
edz ov rok. Mivarf had sāvđ him, seziŋ him bi ðe fot  
and drōiŋ him bak tō säfte hven ðe bēst fel. A sīt ov  
tēror he wōz, klōted from hed tō to wið ðe bēsts blud  
and hiz ōn. Mivarf bŷnd hiz wōndz and lād him tenderle az  
he mīt bak agānst ðe klif, ðen pērd dŷn a loŋ hūl  
tō no if ðe bēst wer ded indēd.

Hven he had gāzd dŷnword ernestle so loŋ ðat hiz īz  
wōterd wið ðe strān, and stil ðe bēst sterđ not,  
Mivarf prostrated himself and mād suplikaŷon saiŋ alðd,  
"O Σlimfle, Σlamfe, and Σebamre, godz ov mi fāðer and mi  
fāðerz fāðerz, hav pīte ov yor tŷlīd, if az I dērle trŷ  
yor pŷer ekstendēþ over ðis far and forbīden kuntre no  
les ðan over Impland, hŷer yor tŷlīd hap ēver werfipt  
u in yor hole plasez, and tōt mi sunz and mi dōterz tō  
revēr yor hole nāmz, and mād an ōltar in mīn hŷs,  
pŷnted bi ðe starz in māner ordānd from ov ōld, and  
ōferd up mi sēvenþ-born sun and wōz mīnded tō ōfer up mi  
sēvenþ-born dōter ðaron, in mēknes and rītŷsnes  
akordiŋ tō yor hole wil; but ðis I mīt not dō, sins u  
vŷtŷsāft me not a sēvenþ dōter, but siks ōnle. Hŷerfōer I  
besētf u, ov yor hole nāmz sāk, streŋþen mi hand tō  
let dŷn ðis mi kompanyon sāfle bi ðe rōþ, and ðarāfter  
brinŋ me sāfle dŷn from ðis rok, hŷsoēver he be a dēvil  
and an unbelever; O sāv hiz līf, sāv bōþ ðēr līvz. For  
I am fūr ðat if ðēz be not sāvđ alīv, nēver fal yor  
tŷlīd retern, but in ðis far land starv and di līk an  
insekt ðat dzureþ but for a da."

So prād Mivarf. And belīk ðe hi Godz wer mōvd tō pīte  
ov hiz īnosens, heriŋ him so kri for help untō hiz  
mumbo-dzumbōz, hŷer no help wōz; and belīk ða wer not  
mīnded ðat ðōz lordz ov Demonland fud ðēr di evile  
befōer ðēr tīm, ūnōnord, unsuŋ. Hŷsoēver, Mivarf arōz

and māđ fāst đe rōp abŕt Lord Džus, nōtiŕ it kŕniŕle  
benēp đe armz đat it mīť not titen in đe loeriŕ and  
kruf hiz brest and ribz, and so wiđ mutf ad∞ loerd him  
dŕn t∞ đe fut ov đe klif. Đarāfter kām Mivarf himself  
dŕn đat pērilŕs wōl, and ōlbeit for mēne a tīm he pōť  
hiz bān wōz ũpon him, yet bi ġud kragzmanfip sperd bi kōld  
nesēsite he gat him dŕn at lāst. Beiŕ dŕn, he delād not  
t∞ mīnister t∞ hiz kompanyonz, h∞ kām t∞ đemselvz wiđ  
hēve groniŕ. But hven Lord Džus wōz kum t∞ himself he did  
hiz heliŕ art bōp on himself and on Lord Brandox Dahā, so  
đat in a hŕl đa wer abel t∞ stand ũpon đēr fēt, ōlbeit  
sumpiŕ stif and were and līk t∞ vōmit. And it wōz bi đen  
đe pērd ŕr pāst n∞n.

Hŕl đa rested, behōldiŕ hŕēr đe bēst mantikorā la in  
hiz blud, Džus spāk and sed, "It iz t∞ be sed ov đe, O  
Brandox Dahā, đat đŕ t∞-da hast dun bōp đe werst and  
đe best. Đe werst, hven đŕ wōst so stŕborn set t∞ fēr  
ũpon đis klīm hŕitf hap kum wīđin a lītel ov spīliŕ  
bōp đe and me. Đe best, hŕēnaz đŕ didst smīť of hiz  
tāl. Wōz đat bi pōlise or bi tŕfāns?"

"Hi," sed he, "I wōz nēver so p∞r a man ov mi handz đat I  
nēđ tern brāgart. Twōz handeest t∞ mi s∞rd, and it dislīkt  
me t∞ se it wāgiŕ. Did ōť li on it?"

"Đe stiŕ ov hiz tāl," ānserd Džus, "wer kompetent for  
đīn or mi destrukfjon, and it grāzd but ŕr lītel finger."

"Đŕ spēkst līk a bŕk," sed Brandox Dahā. "Els mīť I  
skērs no đe for mi nobel frend, beiŕ berād wiđ blud  
az a būfalo wiđ mīr. Be not angre wiđ me, if I am mōst at  
ēz t∞ windword ov đe."

Džus lāft. "If đŕ be not t∞ nīs," he sed, "go t∞ đe  
bēst and dābel điself t∞ wiđ đe blud ov hiz bŕelz. Na,  
I mok not; it iz mōst nēdfŕl. Đēz be ēnemēz not ov mankīnd  
ōnle, but ēťf ov ũđer: wōkiŕ ēvere wun bi himself, lođiŕ  
ēvere wun hiz kīnd līviŕ or ded, so đat in ōl đe werld  
đēr abidep nōť lōpleer unt∞ đem đan đe blud ov  
đēr ōn kīnd, đe lēst smel hvarov đa d∞ abhor az a mad  
dog abhorep wōter. And tiz a klīŕiŕ smel. So ar we āfter  
đis enkŕnter mōst fŕr agānst đem."

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Đat nīť đa kampt at đe fut ov a sper ov Avsek, and set  
f∞rp at dōn dŕn đe loŕ vāle ēstword. Ōl da đa herd  
đe rōeriŕ ov mantikorz from đe dēzolāt flanks ov Elā

Mantiserâ ðat fōd nŀ no longer az a pīramid but az a loŋ-bakt skrēn, makinġ ðe sūðern rampart ov ðat vāle. It wōz il goinġ, and ða sumhuōt faken. Da wōz ni gon hven beyond ðe ēstern slōps ov Elā ða kām huēr ðe huīt wōterz ov ðe rīver ða fōlōd þunderd tugēðer wið a blak wōter rūfġin dŀn from ðe sŀp-west. Belo, ðe rīver ran ēst in a wīd vāle drōpiŋ afar tō tre-klad dep̄ps. In ðe fork abuv ðe wōterzmēt ðe roks enklōzd a hi grēn nol, līk sum fragment ov a kīndleer klīm ðat over-livd intō an ādʒ ov ruin.

"Hēr, tō," sed Dʒus, "mi drēm wōkt wið me. And if it be il krōsiŋ ðēr huēr ðis strēm brakeþ intō a dūzen brāntfġin kātarakts a lītel abuv ðe wōterzmēt, yet wel l þink tiz ŀr ōnle krōsiŋ." So, ēr ðe līt fōd fād, ða krost ðat pērilŀs edʒ abuv ðe wōter-fōlz, and slept on ðe grēn nol.

Ðat nol Dʒus nāmd Prōselgarþ, āfter a þruƒ ðat wākt ðem nekst morniŋ, sġiŋ in a lītel wind-stunted mŀntān þorn ðat gru amuŋ ðe roks. Strāndʒle sŀnded ðat hōmle soŋ on ðe kōld mŀntān sīd, under ðe unhālōd hīts ov Elā, klōs tō ðe konfġin ov ðōz entfānted snōz huitƒ gard Koftrā Belorn.

No sīt ov ðe hi mŀntānz had ða from Prōselgarþ, nor, for a loŋ huīl, from ðe bed ov ðat strāt stēp glen ov ðe blak wōterz up huitƒ nŀ ðēr dzerne la. Rūged sperz and butresez fut ðem in. Hi on ðe left bank abuv ðe kātarakts ða māð ðēr wa, þūfeted bi ðe wind ðat lēpt and tʒardʒd amuŋ ðe kragz, ðēr ērz sated wið ðe rœriŋ sŀnd ov wōterz, ðēr īz fild wið ðe spra blōn upword. And Mivarƒ fōlōd āfter ðem. Silent ða fērd, for ðe wa wōz stēp and in sutƒ a wind and sutƒ a nqz ov torents a man must fŀt lustile if he wōd be herd. Vēre dēzolāt wōz ðat vāle, hāviŋ a dark aspekt and a gāstfōl, sutƒ az a man mīt lŀk for in ðe infernal glenz ov Piriflēgēpon or Åkeron. No līviŋ þiŋ ða sō, sāv at huīlz hi abuv ðem an egel salinġ dŀn ðe wind, and wuns a bēsts form rūniŋ in ðe hōlo mŀntān sīd. Ðis stōd at gāz, liftiŋ up its fŀl human plāter-fās wið glīteriŋ īz blūde and grāt az sōserz; sented its fēlōz blud, started, and fled amuŋ ðe kragz.

So fērd ða for ðe spās ov þre ŀrz, and so, kūmiŋ sūdenle rŀnd a fōlder ov ðe hil, stōd on ðe ūper þrēfōld ov ðat glen at ðe gāts ov a flat upland vāle. Hēr ða beheld a sīt tō darken ōl erþs glœrēz and strīk dum ōl her siŋerz wið its grandʒūr. Frāmd in ðe kragz ov ðe hilsīdz, kānopēd bi blu hēven, Koftrā



Pivrarxâ stūd befœr ðem. So hūdƷ he wōz ðat even hēr at  
siks mīlz distans ðe i mīt not at a glāns behōld him,  
but must swēp bak and fœrþ az over a brōd landskāp from  
ðe ponderþs roots ov ðe mþntān hūêr ða spranþ blak and  
fēr from ðe glafer, up ðe vāst fās, hūêr butres wōz  
pīld ūpon butres and tþer ūpon tþer in a blīndiþ rādƷans  
ov īs-huþ prēsipīs and sno-fild gūle, tœ ðe lōn  
hīts hūêr līk spērz mēnasiþ hi hēven ðe hūit tēþ  
ov ðe sūmit-ridƷ kleft ðe ski. From rīt tœ left he fild  
ni a kworter ov ðe hēvenz, from ðe grāsful pēk ov  
Alinon lūkiþ over hiz western fōlder, tœ hūêr on ðe ēst  
ðe snœ slōps ov DƷaltƷe fut in ðe prospekt, hidiþ Koftrā  
Belorn.

Ða kampt ðat eveniþ on ðe left morān ov ðe Hi  
Glafer ov Temarm. Loþ spidere stremerz ov klþd, filme az  
ðe gōz ov a ladēz vāl, blu ēstword from ðe spīrz on  
ðe ridƷ, sīnz ov wīld wēðer aloft.

DƷus sed, "Glāse klēr iz ðe êr. Ðat fœrūneþ not fēr  
wēðer."

"Wel, tīm Ʒal wāt for us if nēd be," sed Brandox Dahâ.  
"So mitile mi dezīr kriep untœ me from ðōz hornz ov īs  
ðat, hāviþ wuns lukt on ðem, I had az lēf di az lēv  
ðem unklīmd. But ov ðe, O DƷus, I māk sum marvel. Ðþ  
wōst bīden inkwīr in Koftrā Belorn, and fūr Ʒe wer ezeer  
wun ðan Koftrā Pivrarxâ, goiþ behīnd DƷaltƷe bi ðe  
snofēldz and so avqdiþ her grāt western klifs."

"Ðêr iz a sō in Impland," ānserd DƷus, "Wêr ov a tōl  
wīf.' Even so ðêr lieþ a kers on ěne ðat Ʒal atempt  
Koftrā Belorn ðat hap not ferst lukt dþn ūpon her; and he  
Ʒal hav hiz deþ or ěver he hav hiz wil. And from wun  
pƷnt ōnle ov erþ ma a man lūk dþn on Koftrā Belorn; and  
tiz from yonder ūnasended tœþ ov īs hūêr ðþ sēst ðe  
lāst bēm bern. For ðat iz ðe topmōst pīnakel ov Koftrā  
Pivrarxâ. And it iz ðe hiest pƷnt ov ðe stabliƷt  
erþ."

Ða wer silent a mīnūts spās. Ðen DƷus spāk: "Ðþ wōst  
ěver gratest amuþst us az a mþntanēr. HuitƷ wa līks ðe  
best for þr klimiþ up him?"

"O DƷus," sed Brandox Dahâ, "on īs and sno ðþ art mi  
māster. Ðêrfœr giv me ði rēd. For mīn ōn tƷqs and  
plēzūr, I hav sēteld it ðis þr and mœr: nāmle tœ  
asend intœ ðe gap betwēn ðe tœ mþntānz, and ðens tern  
westword up ðe ēst ridƷ ov Pivrarxâ."

"It iz ðe fērsument klīm tœ lūk on," sed DƷus, "and belīk

ðe grandest, and for bōþ kǫnts I had wādþerd it ði tʃɑs.  
Ðat gap hīt ðe Gāts ov Zimeamveâ. It, and ðe Koftrâ  
glafer ðat rǫneþ up tœ it, lieþ under ðe wērd I tōld  
ðe ov. It wer þr dep tœ adventʃūr ðēr êr we had lœkt  
dǫn ūpon Koftrâ Belorn; hwiʃ dun, ðe tʃarm iz brōk for  
us, and from ðat tīm fœrþ it nedep but þr ōn mīt and  
skil and a hi hart tœ akumpliʃ hōtsoēver we dezīr."

"Hwi ðen, ðe grāt norþ butres," krīd Brandox Dahâ. "So  
ʃal ʃe not behōld us az we klīm, until we kum fœrþ on ðe  
hiest tœþ and overlœk her and tām her tœ þr wil."

So ða supt and slept. But ðe wind krīd amurj ðe kragz  
ōl nīt loŋ, and in ðe morniŋ sno and slēt blōted þt  
ðe mǫntānz. Ōl da ðe storm held, and in a lul ða  
struk kamp and kām dǫn agān tœ Prōselgarþ, and ðēr  
abōd nīn dāz and nīn nīts in wind and rān and bāteriŋ  
hāl.

On ðe tenþ da ðe wēðer abated, and ða went up and  
krost ðe glafer and lodþd ðem in a kāv in ðe rok at  
ðe ʃut ov ðe grāt norþ butres ov Koftrâ Pivrarxâ. At  
dōn Dʒus and Brandox Dahâ went fœrþ tœ serva ðe prospekt.  
Ða krost ðe mǫþ ov ðe stēþ sno-tʃōkt vāle ðat ran  
up tœ ðe mān ridʒ betwikst Afnilan on ðe west and Koftrâ  
Pivrarxâ on ðe ēst, rǫnded ðe bās ov Alinon, and klīmd  
from ðe west tœ a sno sādæl sum þre þǫzand fēt up ðe  
ridʒ ov ðat mǫntān, huens ða mīt vu ðe butres and  
tʃūz ðēr wa for ðēr atempt.

"Tiz a tœ dāz dʒerne tœ ðe top," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ.  
"If nīt on ðe ridʒ frēz us not tœ dep, I dred no ūðer  
hindrans. Ðat blak rib ðat rizeþ hāf a mīl abuv þr  
kamp, ʃal tāk us klēn up tœ ðe krest ov ðe butres,  
strikiŋ it abuv ðe grāt tǫer at ðe norðern end. If ðe  
roks be līk ðōz we kampt on, hard az dimond and ruf az  
a spundʒ, ða ʃal not fāl us but bi þr ōn neglekt. Az I  
liv, I nēr sō ðēr līk for klimiŋ."

"So far, wel," sed Dʒus.

"Abuv," sed Brandox Dahâ, "Īd drīv ðe a tʃāreot until we  
kum tœ ðe ferst grāt kik o' ðe ridʒ. Ðat must we rǫnd,  
or nēr go ferðer, and on ðis sīd it ʃoep il enuf,  
for ðe roks ʃelv þtword. If ða be ĩst, ðērʒ werk  
indēd. Beyond ðat, ĩl prōfesi nōt, O Dʒus, for I kan  
se nōt klēr sāv ðat ðe ridʒ iz hakt intœ klefts and  
stepelz. Hǫ we ma overkum ðem must be pœt tœ ðe proof. It  
iz tœ hi and tœ far tœ no. Ðis ōnle: huēr we wœd go,

ðêr hav we gon until nþ. And bi ðat ridz lieþ, if êne  
wa ðêr lieþ, ðe wa tœ ðis mþntân top ðat we krost  
ðe werld tœ klîm."

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Nekst da wið ðe ferst paliŋ ov ðe skîz ða arôz ôl  
þre and set færþ sþþword over ðe krisp snôz. Ða rôpt  
at ðe fut ov ðe glafer ðat kâm dþn from ðe sâdel, sum  
fiv þþzand fêt abuv ðem, huêr ðe mân ridz dips  
betwên Afnilan and Koftrâ Pivrarxâ. Êr ðe briter starz  
wer swôlôd in ðe lîf ov morŋiŋ ða wer kûtiŋ ðêr  
wa amuŋ ðe lâbiriŋþin tþerz and kazmz ov ðe îs-fôl.  
Soon ðe nu dalîf flûded ðe snofêldz ov ðe Hi  
Glafer ov Temarm, diiŋ ðem grên and safron and palest  
rôz. Ðe snôz ov Izlardzin glôd far awa in ðe norþ tœ ðe  
rîf ov ðe huîf dôm ov Emfer. Elâ Mantîserâ blokt ðe  
vu norþ-êstword. Ðe butres ðat bþnded ðêr vâle on  
ðe êst plundzð it in fâdo blu az a sûmer se. Hi on ðe  
ûðer sîd ðe grât twin pêks ov Alinon and Afnilan, rþzd  
bi ðe worm bêmz þt ov ðêr frozen silens ov ðe nîf,  
grþld at huîlz wið âvalânþez and fôliŋ stônz.

Dzus wôz ðêr leder in ðe îs-fôl, gidiŋ ðem nþ aloŋ  
hi nîf-edgez ðat fel awa on iðer hand tœ unsþnded  
deþþs, nþ wiðin ðe vêre lips ov ðôz kazmz, aloŋ ðe  
basez ov ðe îs-tþerz. Ðêz, fiv tîmz a manz hîf, sum  
skwêr, sum pînakeld, sum fâterd or pîld wið ðe ruinz  
ov ðêr kînd, lênd abuv ðe pâþ, az rêde tœ fôl and  
overhuelm ðe klimerz and daf ðêr bônz for êver dþn tœ  
ðôz blu-grên sêkret plasez ov frost and silens huêr ðe  
tþîps ov îs tþink hôlo az Dzus prest onword, kûtiŋ hiz  
steps wið Mivarþez aks. At lenþ ðe slôp êzd and ða  
wôkt þt on ðe unbroken serfâs ov ðe glafer, and pâsiŋ  
bi a sno-bridz over ðe grât rift betwikst ðe glafer and  
ðe mþntân sîd kâm tœ þrz befœer noon tœ ðe fut ov ðe  
rok-rib ðat ða had skand from Alinon.

Nþ wôz Brandox Dahâ tœ lêd ðem. Ða klîmd fâs tœ ðe  
rok, slole and wiðþt rest, for sþnd and ferm az ðe roks  
wer ðe hôldz wer smôl and fu and ðe klîfs stêp. Hêr  
and ðêr a tþimne gâv ðem päsädz upword, but ðe klîm wôz  
mânle bi kraks and open fasez ov rok, a trial ov mân  
streŋþ and endzurans sutþ az fu mîf sustân for a fort  
huîl ônle: but ðis wôl wôz þre þþzand fêt in hîf. Bi  
noon ða gând ðe krest, and ðêr rested on ðe roks tœ  
were tœ spêk, lûkiŋ akros ðe âvalânþ-swept fâs ov  
Koftrâ Pivrarxâ tœ ðe kornîst pârapet ðat ended agânst  
ðe western præsipisez ov Koftrâ Belorn.

For sum wa ðe ridz ov ðe butres wôz brôd and lëvel.  
Ðen it nārôd sūdenle tō ðe widp ov a horsez bak, and  
spran skiword tō þǫzand fēt and mæz. Brandox Dahâ went  
forword and klīmd a fu fēt up ðe klif. It buldʒd ʒt  
abuv him, smœð and hōldles. He trīd it wuns and agān,  
ðen kām dʒn sain, "Nôt wiððt wiŋz."

Ðen he went tō ðe left. Hēr hāŋiŋ glaferz overlukt ðe  
fās from on hi, and hūil he gāzd an āvalānf ov  
īs-bloks rœrd dʒn it. Ðen he went tō ðe rīt, and hēr  
ðe roks slōpt ʒtword, and ðe slopiŋ ledʒez wer pīld  
wið rūbif and ðe roks rōten and slīpere wið sno and  
īs. So hāviŋ gon a lītel wa he reternd, and, "O Dʒus," he  
sed, "wilt tāk it rīt fœrþ, and ðat must be bi fliiŋ,  
for hōld ðēr iz nun: or wilt go ēst and dodz ðe  
āvalānf: or west, hvēr ôl iz rōten and slīðer and a slip  
wer ʒr destrukʒon?"

So ða debated, and at lenþ desided on ðe ēstern rōd. It  
wôz an il step rʒnd ðe dʒūtiŋ kornor ov ðe tʒer, for  
lītel hōld ðēr wôz, and ðe roks wer underkut belo, so  
ðat a stōn or a man loost from ðat plās must fōl klēr at  
a bʒnd þre or fœr þǫzand fēt tō ðe Koftrā glafer and  
ðēr be daft in pesez. Beyond, wīd ledʒez gāv ðem  
pāsādʒ alon ðe wōl ov ðe tʒer, ðat nʒ swept inword,  
fasiŋ sʒþ. Far overhed, dazliŋ hūit in ðe sunʒin, ðe  
broken glafer-edʒez and splinterz dʒūted agānst ðe blu, and  
isikelz grater ðan a man huŋ glīteriŋ from ēvere ledʒ: a  
sīt hēvenle fēr, hvarov ða yet had lītel dʒaŋ, haseniŋ  
az ða had not hasend in ðēr līvz befœr tō be ʒt ov ðe  
dāndʒer ov ðat īs-swept fās.

Sūdenle wôz a nqz abuv ðem līk ðe krak ov a dʒiant hvip,  
and lʒkiŋ up ða beheld agānst ðe ski a dark mas hvitʒ  
opend līk a flʒer and spred intō a hundred fragments. Ðe  
Demonz and Mivarʒ hugd ðe klifs hvēr ða stōd, but  
ðēr wôz lītel kūver. Ôl ðe êr wôz fild wið ðe  
ʒrekiŋ ov ðe stōnz, az ða swept dʒnwordz līk fēndz  
reterniŋ tō ðe pit, and wið ðe kraʒ ov ðem az ða daft  
agānst ðe klifs and berst in pesez. Ðe êkōz rōld and  
reverberated from klif tō distant klif, and ðe limz ov ðe  
mʒntān sēmd tō rīð az under a skerdʒ. Hven it wôz dun,  
Mivarʒ wôz groniŋ for pān ov hiz left rist sœr hert wið  
a stōn. Ðe ūðerz wer skāðles.

Dʒus sed tō Brandox Dahâ, "Bak, hʒsoëvev it dislīk ðe."

Bak ða went; and an āvalānf ov īs kraft dʒn ðe fās

hvitf must hav destrqd ðem had ða proseded. "Ðð dust misdzudz me," sed Brandox Dahâ, lâfiņ. "Giv me hvêr mi lif liep on mīn ōn mīt and mān; ðen iz dāndzēr mēt and drink tō me, and nôt fal tern me bak. But hēr on ðis kerst klif, on ðe ledzēz hvarov a krīpel mīt wōk at ēz, we be ðe tqz ov tfāns. And it wer pūr fōle tō abīd ūpon it a moment longer."

"Tō wāz be left us," sed Dzus. "Tō tern bak, and ðat wer ðr fām for ēver; and tō ēsa ðe western travers."

"And ðat fūd be ðe bān ov ēne sāv ov me and ðe." sed Brandox Dahâ. "And if ðr bān, hvi, we fal slēp sōnd."

"Mivarf," sed Dzus, "iz nôt so bōnden tō ðis adventfūr. He hap brāvle held bi us, and brāvle stōd ðr frend. Yet hēr we be kum tō sutf a pās, I sœr misdðt me if it wer les dāndzēr ov hiz lif tō kum wið us ðan sēk sāfte alōn."

But Mivarf pūt on a harde fās. Nēver a werd he spāk, but nōded hiz hed, az hvō fūd sa, "Forword."

"Ferst I must be ði lētj," sed Dzus. And he bōnd up Mivarfez rist. And bekōz ðe da wōz nð far spent, ða kampt under ðe grāt tðer, hopiņ nekst da tō rētj ðe top ov Koftrā Pivrarxâ ðat stōd unsēn sum siks þōzand fēt abuv ðem.

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Nekst morniņ, hvēn it wōz lit enuf tō klīm, ða set fœrþ. For tō ðrz spās on ðat travers not a moment pāst but ða wer in instant pēril ov dep. Ða wer not rōpt, for on ðōz slābere roks wun man had dragd a dūzen tō perđifon had he mād a slip. Ðe ledzēz slōpt ðtword; ða wer pīld wið broken rok and mud; ðe soft red rok brōk awa at a handz tutf and plundzd at a lēp tō ðe glafer belo. Dðn and up and aloņ, and dðn and up and up agān ða wðnd ðēr wa, rðndiņ ðe bās ov ðat grāt tðer, and kām at lāst bi a rōten gūle sāf tō ðe ridz abuv it.

Hvī ða klīmd, hvīt wispe klðdz hvitf had gāðerd in ðe hi gūlēz ov Alinon in ðe morniņ had grōn tō a mas ov blaknes ðat hid ōl ðe mðntānz tō ðe west. Grāt stremerz ran from it akros ðe gulf belo, dzqnd and bqlid upword, liftiņ and sinkiņ lik a fōl-tided se, riziņ at lāst tō ðe hi ridz hvêr ðe Demonz stōd and rāpiņ ðem

in a klōk ov vapor wið a tʃil wind in its fōldz, and  
darknes in brōd nœn-da. Ða hōlted, for ða mīt not se  
ðe roks befœr ðem. Ðe wind gru bœsterðs, ʃŭtiŋ amuŋ  
ðe splinterd tðerz. Sno swept pðdere and kēn akros ðe  
ridz. Ðe klŭd lifted and plundzð agān līk sum grāt berd  
ʃādoiŋ ðem wið its wiŋz. From its buzom ðe lītniŋ  
flērd abuv and belo. Þunder kraŋt on ðe hēlz ov ðe  
lītniŋ, sendiŋ ðe ěkōz roliŋ amuŋ ðe distant klifs.  
Ðēr wēponz, plānted in ðe sno, sizeld wið blu flām;  
Dʒus had kŭnseld laiŋ ðem asīd lest ða ʃud pēriʃ  
hōldiŋ ðem. Krŭtʃt in a hōlo ov ðe sno amuŋ ðe roks  
ov ðat hi ridz ov Koftrā Pivraxâ, Lord Dʒus and Lord  
Brandox Dahâ and Mivarʃ Faz wēðerd ðat nīt ov tēror.  
Hven nīt kām ða nu not, for ðe storm brōt darknes  
on ðem ʒrz befœr sun-dŭn. Blīndiŋ sno and slēt and fir  
and þunder, and wīld windz ʃrekiŋ in ðe gŭlēz til ðe  
ferm mŭntān sēmd tœ rok, kept ðem awāk. Ða wer nēr  
frozen, and skērs dezīrd ôt but deþ, huitʃ mīt briŋ  
ðem ēz from ðat hēlif rŭndela.

Da brōk wið a wēk gra līt, and ðe storm dīd dŭn. Dʒus  
stūd up were beʒond spētʃ. Mivarʃ sed, "Ye be dēvilz, but  
ov miself I marvel. For I hav dwelt bi sno mŭntānz ôl mi  
dāz, and mēne I wot ov ðat hav bēn benited on ðe snōz  
in wīld wēðer. And not wun but wōz starvd bi rezon ov ðe  
kōld. I spēk ov ðem ðat wer fŭnd. Mēne wer not fŭnd, for  
ðe spīrits devŭrd ðem."

Hvarat Lord Brandox Dahâ lâft alŭd, saiŋ, "O Mivarʃ, I  
fēr me ðat in ðe I hav but a grāsles dog. Lŭk on him,  
ðat in hardihŭd and bōdile endʒurans agānst ôl hardʃips ov  
frost or fir serpāsep me az grātle az I serpās ðe. Yet  
iz he wereest ov ðe þre. Wŭdst no hvi? Ī tel ðe:  
ôl nīt he haþ striven agānst ðe kōld, tʃafiŋ not himself  
ōnle but me and ðe tœ sāv us from frost-bīt. And be ʃūr  
nôt els had sāvð ði karkās."

Bi ðen wōz ðe mist grōn liter, so ðat ða mīt se ðe  
ridz for an hundred pasez or mœr huēr it went up befœr  
ðem, ētʃ pīnakel standiŋ ŭt ʃādoe and unsubstanʃal  
agānst ðe nekst suksediŋ wun mœr ʃādoe stil. And ðe  
pīnakelz ʃōd monstrðs hūdʒ þrœ ðe mist, līk mŭntān  
pēks in statʃūr.

Ða rōpt and set fœrþ, skaliŋ ðe tðerz or terniŋ ðem,  
nŭ on ðis sīd nŭ on ðat; sumtīmz standiŋ on tēþ ov  
rok ðat sēmd kut of from ôl erþ els, sōlitare in a se  
ov ʃiftiŋ vapor; sumtīmz desendiŋ intœ a dēþ gaʃ in  
ðe ridz wið a blank wōl reriŋ aloft on ðe ferðer sīd  
and empte êr yōniŋ tœ left and rīt. Ðe roks wer ferm

and gʷd, līk dōz ða had ferst klīmd from ðe glafer.  
But ða went but a slo pās, for ðe klimiŋ wōz dīfīkult  
and māð dāndzerʷs bi nu sno and bi ðe īs ðat glāzd ðe  
roks.

Az ðe da wæc ðe wind wōz fōlen, and ôl wōz stil huen  
ða stʷd at leŋp befoer a ridz ov hard īs ðat fot  
stēple up befoer ðem līk ðe edz ov a sœrd. Ðe ēst sīd  
ov it on ðêr left wōz ôlmōst fêr, endiŋ in a blank  
prēsipīs ðat dropt ʷt ov sīt wiðʷt a brāk. Ðe  
western slōp, skêrsle les stēp, ran dʷn in a huīt even  
fēt ov frozen sno til ðe klīdz engulft it.

Brandox Dahâ wated on ðe lâst blunt tōp ov rok at ðe  
fot ov ðe īs-ridz. "Ðe rest iz ðīn," he krīd tō Lord  
Dzus. "I wʷd not ðat ěne sāv ðʷ fʷd tred him ferst,  
for he iz ði mʷntān."

"Wiðʷt ðe I had nēver wun up hīðer," ānserd Dzus; "and  
it iz not fītiŋ ðat I fʷd hav ðat glœre tō stand ferst  
ūpon ðe pēk huen ðīn wōz ðe mān atfēvment. Go ðʷ  
befoer."

"I wil not," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "And it iz not so."

So Dzus went forword, smitiŋ wið hiz aks grāt steps dzust  
belo ðe bakbōn ov ðe ridz on ðe western sīd, and Lord  
Brandox Dahâ and Mivarf Faz fōlōd in ðe steps.

Prēzentle a wind arōz in ðe unsēn spasez ov ðe ski, and  
tœc ðe mist līk a rōten garment. Spêrz ov sunlīt blāzd  
þrō ðe rifts. Distant sūne landz fīmerd in ðe  
ūnimadzīnabel dep̄ps tō ðe sʷpword, sēn over ðe krest ov a  
tremendʷs wōl ðat stʷd beʷond ðe abis: a skrēn ov blak  
rok butresez sēmd wið a þʷzand gūlēz ov glīseniŋ  
sno, and krʷnd az wið bātelments wið a ro ov mʷntān  
pēks, sāvādʷz and fêrs ov form, ðat māð ðe i blink for  
ðêr brītnes: ðe lēn spīrz ov ðe sūmit-ridz ov  
Koftrā Pivrarxâ. Ðēz, ðat ðe Demonz had so loŋ lʷkt up  
tō az in distant hēven, nʷ la benēp ðêr fēt. Ōnle ðe  
pēk ða klīmd stil rērd itself abuv ðem, klēr nʷ and  
nēr tō vu, fōiŋ a bêr bētliŋ klif on ðe norp-ēst,  
overhuŋ bi a kornīs ov sno. Dzus markt ðe kornīs, ternd  
him agān tō hiz step-kūtiŋ, and in hāf an ʷr from ðe  
brakiŋ ov ðe klīdz stʷd on ðat ūnasended pīnakel, wið  
ôl erp benēp him.

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Ða went dʷn a fu fēt on ðe sūðern sīd and sat on sum

roks. A fêr lāk stūded wið ilandz la bʊzomd in wʊded  
and krag-gert hilz at ðe fʊt ov a dēp-kut vāle hʊitʃ ran  
dʌn from ðe Gāts ov Zimeamveā. Alinon and Afnilan rōz  
nēr bi in ðe west, wið ðe dēlikāt hʊit pēk ov Akrā Garʃ  
ʃoinʃ betwēn ðem. Beʏond, mʌntān beʏond mʌntān līk ðe  
se.

Dʒus lʊkt sʌpword hʊēr ðe blu land stretʃt in fōld  
ʊpon fōld ov roliŋ kuntre, soft and miste, til it melted in  
ðe ski. "Ðʌ and I," sed he, "ferst ov ðe tʃildren ov men,  
nʌ behōld wið līviŋ īz ðe fabeld land ov Zimeamveā. Iz  
ðat tru, þinkst ðʌ, hʊitʃ filōsoferz tel us ov ðat  
fortʃunāt land: ðat no mortal fʊt ma tred it, but ðe  
blēsed sōlz dʌ inhābit it ov ðe ded ðat be departed, even  
ða ðat wer grāt ʊpon erp and did grāt dēdz hʊen ða  
wer līviŋ, ðat skornd not erp and ðe delīts and ðe  
glōerēz ðarov, and yet did dʒustle and wer not dāstardz nor  
yet oprēsorz?"

"Hʊ noep?" sed Brandox Dahā, restiŋ hiz tʃin in hiz hand  
and gaziŋ sʌp az in a drēm. "Hʊ ʃal sa he noep?"

Ða wer silent āhʊil. Ðen Dʒus spāk saiŋ, "If ðʌ and I  
kum ðīðer at lāst, O mi frend, ʃal we remember  
Demonland?" And hʊen he ānserd him not, Dʒus sed, "I had  
rāðer ro on Mʌonmēr under ðe starz ov a sūmerz nīt,  
ðan be a Kiŋ ov ôl ðe land ov Zimeamveā. And I had rāðer  
wōtʃ ðe sunrīz on ðe Skarf, ðan dwel in gladnes ôl mi  
dāz on an iland ov ðat entʃānted Lāk ov Ravare, under  
Koftrā Belorn."

Nʌ ðe kertān ov klʌd ðat had huŋ til nʌ abʌt ðe  
ēstern hīts wōz rent into ʃredz, and Koftrā Belorn stʊd  
līk a brīd befær ðem, tʌ or þre mīlz tʌ ēstword,  
ʃasiŋ ðe slāntiŋ rāz ov ðe sun. On ôl her vāst prēsipisez  
skērs a rok ʃōd bēr, so enkrusted wer ða wið a  
dazliŋ rōb ov sno. Mær luvle ʃe sēmd and mær grāsʃul  
in her are pʌz ðan ða had yet beheld her. Dʒus and  
Brandox Dahā rōz up, az men arīz tʌ grēt a kwēn in her  
madʒeste. In silens ða lʊkt on her for sum mīnūts.

Ðen Brandox Dahā spāk, saiŋ, "Behōld ði brīd, O Dʒus."

### 13. Koftrā Belorn

Hʌ ðE LORD DʒUS AKUMPLIʃT AT LENp Hiz DRēmZ BEHEST, Tʌ  
INKWĪR IN KOʃTRĀ BELORN; AND HʊÔT MĀNER OV ĀNSER HE



## RESĒVD.

Ɖat nīt ɔa spent sāfle, bi favor ov ɔe Godz, under ɔe hiest kragz ov Koftrā Pivrarxā, in a ſelterd hōlo pīld rōnd wið sno. Dōn kām līk a līle, safron-hūd, smertft wið smōk-gra strēks ɔat slānted from ɔe norþ. Ɖe grāt pēks stōd az ilandz abuv a mān ov lēvel klīd, ſt ov hviſ ɔe sun wōkt flamiņ, a bōl ov red-gōld fir. An ſr befær hiz fās apērd, ɔe Demonz and Mivarſ wer rōpt and started on ɔēr ēstword dzerne. Il tōo dōo wið az wōz ɔe krest ov ɔe grāt norþ butres bi hviſ ɔa had klīmd ɔe mōntān, sēven tīnz wers wōz ɔis ēstern ridz, lediņ tōo Koftrā Belorn. Lener ov bak it wōz, flankt bi mœr profōnd abīsez, dēpleer gaft, tōo tretſerſs and tōo sūden in its tſāndzez from fūr rok tōo rōten and pērilſs: pīld wið tōteriņ kragz, huņ abſt wið kornīsez ov unsertān sno, gert wið klīfs smōð and hōldles az a kāsēl wōl. Smōl marvel ɔat it kost ɔem pērtēn ſrz tōo kum dōn ɔat ridz. Ɖe sun hvēld tōowordz ɔe west huen ɔa rētft at lenþ ɔat frozen edz, ſarp az a sīkel, ɔat wōz in ɔe Gāts ov Zimeamveā. Were ɔa wer, and rōples; for bi no mēnz els mīt ɔa kum dōn from ɔe lāst grāt tſer sāv bi ɔe rōp mād fāst from abuv. A fērs norþ-ēster had swept ɔe ridzez ōl da, brīņiņ sno-stormz on its wiņz. Ɖēr fingerz wer numd wið kōld, and ɔe bērdz ov Lord Brandox Dahā and Mivarſ Faz stif wið īs.

Tōo were tōo hōlt, ɔa set fœrp agān, Dzus lediņ. It wōz mēne hundred pasez alon ɔat īs-edz, and ɔe sun wōz nēr sētiņ huen ɔa stōd at lāst wiðin a stōnz þro ov ɔe klīfs ov Koftrā Belorn. Sins befær nōon āvalānſez had þunderd sēslesle dōn ɔōz klīfs. Nſ, in ɔe kool ov ɔe eveniņ, ōl wōz stil. Ɖe wind wōz fōlen. Ɖe dēp blu ski wōz wiðſt a klīd. Ɖe firz ov sunset krept dōn ɔe vāst hviſ prēsipīsez befær ɔem til ēvere ledz and fōld and frozen pīnakel glōd pink kſlor, and ēvere ſādo bekām an ēmerald. Ɖe ſādo ov Koftrā Pivrarxā la kōld akros ɔe loer stretſez ov ɔe fās on ɔe Zimeamvean sīd. Ɖe edz ov ɔat ſādo wōz az ɔe divīzon betwikst ɔe līviņ and ɔe ded.

"Hvōt dust þink on?" sed Dzus tōo Brandox Dahā, ɔat lēnd ſþon hiz sœrd servaiņ ɔat glœere.

Brandox Dahā started and lœkt on him. "Hi," sed he, "on ɔis: ɔat it iz līkle ɔi drēm wōz but a lūr, sent ɔe bi ɔe Kiņ tōo tempt us on tōo mite akſonz rezervd for ſr destrukſon. On ɔis sīd at lēst tiz vēre sertān ɔēr lieþ no wa up Koftrā Belorn."

"Hô̄t ov ðe līt̄el martlet," sed D̄zus, "h̄∞, h̄w̄lz we wer yet a grāt wa of, flu ʒt ov ðe s̄ʒp̄ t̄∞ grēt us wið a graʒʒs mēsād̄z?"

"Wel if it wer not a dēvil ov hiz," sed Brandox Dahâ.

"I wil not tern bak," sed D̄zus. "Ðʒ nēdst not t̄∞ kum wið me." And he ternd agān t̄∞ l̄uk on ðōz frozen klifs.

"No?" sed Brandox Dahâ. "Nor ðʒ wið me. P̄ʒlt māk me angre if ðʒ wilt so vile rest mi werdz. Ōnle fēr not t̄∞ sekūrle; and let ðat aks stil be rēde in ðīn hand, az iz mi s̄ærd, for kīndleer werk ðan step-kūtiŋ. And if ðʒ embrās ðe hōp t̄∞ klīm her bi ðis wōl bef̄æer us, ðen hap ðe Kiŋz entfāntere mād ðe fa."

Bi ðen wōz ðe sun gon d̄ʒn. Under ðe wiŋz ov nīt uplifted from ðe ēst, ðe unfāðomabel hīts ov êr ternd a ritfer blu; and hēr and ðēr, mōst dim and hard t̄∞ se, þrobd a tine p̄q̄nt ov līt̄: ðe grater starz openiŋ ðēr ilidz t̄∞ ðe gāðeriŋ dark. Gl̄om krept upword, brīmiŋ ðe vālēz far belo līk a riziŋ tīd ov ðe se. Frost and stilnes wated on ðe eternal nīt t̄∞ rēzūm her rān. Ðe sōlem klifs ov Koftrā Belorn st̄ud in tremendʒs silens, deþ-pāl agānst ðe ski.

D̄zus kām bakword a step alon ðe ridz, and laiŋ hiz hand on Brandox Dahâz, "Be stil," he sed, "and behōld ðis marvel." A līt̄el up ðe fās ov ðe m̄ʒntān on ðe Zimeamvean sīd, it wōz az if sum leviŋz ov ðe āfter-glo had bēn entangeld amuŋ ðe kragz and frozen kertānz ov sno. Az ðe gl̄om depend, ðat glo britend and spred, filiŋ a rift ðat sēmd t̄∞ go int̄∞ ðe m̄ʒntān.

"It iz bekōz ov us," sed D̄zus, in a lo v̄q̄s. "Σe iz afir wið ekspektaʒon ov us."

No s̄ʒnd wōz ðēr sāv ov ðēr breþ kūmiŋ and goiŋ, and ov ðe strōks ov D̄zūsez aks, and ov ðe t̄ʒips ov īs t̄ʒinkiŋ d̄ʒnwordz int̄∞ silens az he kut ðēr wa alon ðe ridz. And ēver briter, az nīt fel, bernd ðat strāndz sunset līt̄ abuv ðem. P̄irilʒs klimiŋ it wōz for fifte fēt or m̄æer from ðe ridz, for ða had no rōp, ðe wa wōz hard t̄∞ se, and ðe roks wer stēp and īst and ēvere ledz dēp in sno. Yet kām ða s̄āf at lenþ up bi a stēp fort gūle t̄∞ ðe gūlēz hed h̄ēr it widend t̄∞ ðat rift ov ðe wundrʒs līt̄. Hēr mīt t̄∞ wōk abrest, and Lord D̄zus and Lord Brandox Dahâ t̄uk ðēr wēponz and enterd abrest int̄∞ ðe rift. Mivarʒ wōz fān t̄∞ kōl t̄∞ ðem, but he wōz spētʒles.

He kām âfter, klōs at ðêr hēlz līk a dog.

For sum wa ðe bed ov ðe kāv ran upwordz, ðen dipt at a dzentel slōp dēp intō ðe mōntān. Ðe êr wōz kōld, yet worm âfter ðe frozen êr wīðl̥t. Ðe rōz-red līt jon worm on ðe wōlz and flœr ov ðat pāsād̥z, but nun mīt sa huens it jon. Strānd̥z skulptfūr̥z glīmerd overhed, b̥ul-hēded men, stagz wið human fasez, māmops, and behemops ov ðe flud: vāst formz and unsertān karvd in ðe līviŋ rok. For Þrz D̥zus and hiz kompanyonz perfūd ðêr wa, wīndiŋ d̥l̥nword, loziŋ ôl sens ov norp and s̥þ̥. Lītel bi lītel ðe līt faded, and âfter an Þr or tō ða went in darknes: yet not in ūter darknes, but az ov a starles nīt in sūmer huêr ôl nīt loŋ twilīt lingerz. Ða went a soft pās, for fêr ov pitfōlz in ðe wa.

Âfter a huīl D̥zus hōlted and snift ðe êr. "I smel nu-mōn ha," he sed, "and fl̥er-sents. Iz ðis mi fantase, or kanst ð̥l̥ smel ðem tō?"

"I, and hav smelt it ðis hāf-Þr pāst," ânserd Brandox Dahâ; "ôlso ðe pāsād̥z wideneþ befœr us, and ðe roof ov it goeþ hier az we d̥zerne."

"Ðis," sed D̥zus, "iz a grāt wunder."

Ða fêrd onword, and in a huīl ðe slōp slākend, and ða felt loos stōnz and grit benēþ ðêr fēt, and in a huīl soft erþ. Ða bent d̥l̥n and tutft ðe erþ, and ðêr wōz grās groiŋ, and nīt-d̥zu on ðe grās, and dazēz fōlded up aslēþ. A brok tinkeld on ðe rīt. So ða krost ðat mēdo in ðe dark, until ða stōd belo a fādoe mas ðat bulkt big abuv ðem. In a blīnd wōl so hi ðe top wōz swōlōd up in ðe darknes a gāt stōd open. Ða krost ðat þrēfōld and pāst þrō a pāv̥d kœrt ðat klankt under ðêr tred. Befœr ðem a flīt ov steps went up tō fōldiŋ dœrz under an artfwa.

Lord Brandox Dahâ felt Mivarf pluk him bi ðe slēv. Ðe lītel manz tēþ wer tfāteriŋ t̥gēðer in hiz hed for tēror. Brandox Dahâ smīld and pot an arm ab̥t him. D̥zus had hiz fot on ðe loest step.

In ðat instant kām a s̥l̥nd ov muzik plain, but ov huôt instruments ða mīt not ges. Grāt þunderiŋ kordz began it, līk trumpets kōliŋ tō bātel, ferst hi, ðen lo, ðen f̥ūderiŋ d̥l̥n tō silens; ðen ðat grāt kōl agān, s̥l̥ndiŋ defians. Ðen ðe kēz t̥ok nu vqsez, gropiŋ in darknes, riziŋ tō p̥āfonāt lament, hōveriŋ and diiŋ awa on ðe wind, until nôt remānd but a rōl az ov müfeld

punder, loŋ, lo, kwiet, but mėnasiŋ il. And nŋ ūt ov đe darknes ov đat indukŋon berst a mite form, þre ponderŋs blōz, az ov brakerz đat plundz and strik on a dēzolāt fœr; a pōz; đōz blōz agān; a grīndiŋ pōz; a rūfiŋ ov wiŋz, az ov Furēz stemiŋ up from đe pit; anŋđer flit ov đem dredfŋl in its deliberaŋon; đen a wīld ruf upword and a swœpiŋ agān; konfuŋon ov hel, rādziŋ serpents blaziŋ þrœ nīt ski. Đen on a sŋden ūt ov a distant ke, a swēt mėlode, loŋ-drōn and klēr, līk a blāz ov lo sunfīn pēsiŋ đe dust-klŋdz abuv a bātel-fēld. Đis wōz but an interlŋd tœ đe tēror ov đe grāt mān þēm đat kām in tʃumultʃuŋs strīdz up agān from đe dēps, stormiŋ tœ a grand klimakterik ov fure and pāsiŋ awa intœ silens. Nŋ kām a mādžestik figŋr, stātle and kālm, born ov đat tēror, lediŋ tœ it agān: batliŋz ov đēz þēmz in mėne kēz, and at lāst đe grāt tŋpel blo, þunderiŋ in nu strenþ, krŋfiŋ ōl dzŋ and swētnes az wiđ a mās ov īrn, bāteriŋ đe rœots ov līf intœ a dzēneral ruin. But even in đe mān strīd ov its ūtrādž and tēror, đat grāt pŋer sēmd tœ fŋivel. Đe þunder-blāsts kraft wēkleer, đe harf blōz rāteld ari, and đe vāst frām ov konkwest and destrŋiŋ violens sank dŋn pantiŋ, tōterd and rumbeld ingloreŋsle intœ silens.

Līk men held in a trāns đōz lordz ov Demonland līsēnd tœ đe lāst ěkōz ov đe grāt sad kord hŋer đat muzik had brēđd ūt its hart, az if đe vēre hart ov rōþ wer broken. But đis wōz not đe end. Kōld and serēn az sum tʃāst verdziŋ vŋd tœ đe Godz, wiđ klēr īz hŋitʃ se nōt belo hi hēven, a kwiet mėlode rōz from đat grāv ov tēror. Wēk it sēmd at ferst, a lītel þiŋ āfter đat kataklizm; a lītel þiŋ, līk sprinž ferst bud pepiŋ āfter đe blāstiŋ rān ov kōld and īs. Yet it wōkt undismād, gāđeriŋ az it went bute and pŋer. And on a sŋden đe fōldiŋ dœrz swuŋ open, fēdiŋ a flud ov rādžans dŋn đe stērz.

Lord Džus and Lord Brandox Dahā wōtʃt, az men wōtʃ for a star tœ rīz, đat rādžant portal. And līk a star indēd, or līk đe trankwil mœon aperiŋ, đa beheld āfter a hŋil wun krŋnd līk a Kwēn wiđ a diadem ov lītel klŋdz đat sēmd stolen from đe mŋntān sunset, skāteriŋ soft bēmz ov roze brītnes. Še stŋd alōn under đat mite portiko wiđ its vāst fādoe formz ov wiŋd lionz in finiŋ stōn blak az džet. Ūpfŋl ʃe sēmd, az wun đat hap but džust bīden ādžu tœ tʃīldhŋd, wiđ grāv swēt lips and grāv blak īz and hēr līk đe nīt. Lītel blak martlets pertʃt on her iđer fōlder, and a dŋzen mœer skimd đe ēr abuv her hed, so swift ov wiŋ đat skērsle đe i mīt fōlo đem. Mēntīm, đat dēlikāt and simpel mėlode mŋnted from hīt

too hīt, until in a hūl it bernd wið ôl ðe fīrz ov  
sūmer, bernd az sūmer too ðe ūtermōst ember, fērs and  
kompulsīv in its riot ov luv and bute. So ðat, befær ðe  
lāst triumfant kordz dīd dġn in silens, ðat muzik had  
brôt bak too Dʒus ôl ðe glærēz ov ðe mġntānz, ðe  
sunset fīrz on Koftrā Belorn, ðe ferst grāt revelaʒon ov  
ðe pēks from Mornā Morunā; and over ôl ðēz, az ðe spīrit  
ov ðat muzik too ðe i mād mānifest, ðe ĩmādʒ ov ðat Kwēn  
so blēsed-fēr in her ūþ and her klēr brġz swēt sōlem  
respekt and prōmīs: in ěvere līn and pōz ov her fēr form,  
verdʒinal dānte az a flġer, and kindeld from wiðinword az  
něver flġer wōz wið ðat divīnite befær ðe fās ov hwiʒ  
spētʒ and soʒ fōl silent and men ma but katʒ ðēr breþ  
and werʒip.

Hven ʒe spōk, it wōz wið a vqʒ līk kristal: "Panks be  
and prāz too ðe blēsed Godz. For lo, ðe yērʒ depart, and  
ðe fated yērʒ briŋ færþ az ðe Godz ordān. And ye be ðōz  
ðat wer for too kum."

Σūrle ðōz grāt lordz ov Demonland stōd līk lītel bqʒ  
befær her. Σe sed agān, "Ar not ye Lord Dʒus and Lord  
Brandox Dahā ov Demonland, kum up too me bi ðe wa band too  
ôl mortalz els, kum up intoo Koftrā Belorn?"

Den ānserd Lord Dʒus for ðem bōþ and sed, "Σūrle, O  
Kwēn Sofonizbā, we be ða ðġ nāmst."

Nġ ðe Kwēn kārēd ðem intoo her pālās, and intoo a grāt  
hōl hūer wōz her þrōn and stāt. Ðe pīlarz ov ðe hōl  
wer az vāst tġerz, and ðēr wer gālerēz abuv ðem, tēr  
ūpon tēr, riziŋ hier ðan sīt kūd rētʒ or ðe līt ov  
ðe dʒentel lamps in ðēr standz ðat lited ðe tabelz and  
ðe floer. Ðe wōlz and ðe pīlarz wer ov a somber stōn  
unpōlīft, and on ðe wōlz strāndʒ portrātʒūrʒ: lionz,  
drāgonz, nīkerz ov ðe se, spred-egelz, ělefants, swōnz,  
unikornz, and ūðer, līvle mād and ritʒle set færþ wið  
kureġs kŭlorz ov pāntiŋ: ôl ov dʒiant sīz beʒond ðe  
ekspereens ov human kīnd so ðat too be in ðat hōl wōz az it  
wer too ʒelter in a smōl spot ov līt and līf, kānopēd,  
vōlted, and embrāst bi ðe serkumambeent ūnōn.

Ðe Kwēn sāt on her þrōn ðat wōz brīt līk ðe fās ov a  
rīver rūfeld wið wind under a silver mōon. Sāv for ðōz  
lītel martlets ʒe wōz ūnatended. Σe mād ðōz lordz ov  
Demonland sit dġn befær her fās, and ðēr wer brôt  
færþ bi ðe ādʒense ov unsēn handz tabelz befær ðem and  
preʒġs dīʒez fild wið ūnōn viandz. And ðēr plād a  
soft muzik, mād in ðe ēr bi hūot unsēn art ða nu not.

De Kwēn sed, "Behōld, ambrozâ hwiƒ ðe Godz doo ēt and nektar hwiƒ ða drink; on hwiƒ mēt and wīn miself doo fēd, bi ðe bħnte ov ðe blēsed Godz. And ðe savor ðarov wereep not, and ðe glo ðarov and ðe perfūm ðarov diep not for ēver."

So ða tāsted ov ðe ambrozâ, ðat wōz hwiƒ too luk on and krisp too ðe tooþ and swēt, and bein eten revīvd strenþ in ðe bōde mæc ðan a serfēt ov buloƒs fleƒ, and ov ðe nektar ðat wōz ol afōm and kŭlord lik ðe inmost firz ov sunset. Σŭrle sumhuōt ov ðe pēs ov ðe Godz wōz in ðat nektar divīn.

De Kwēn sed, "Tel me, hwi ar ye kum?"

Dzus ānserd, "Σŭrle ðēr wōz a drēm sent me, O Kwēn Sofonizbâ, þroo ðe gāt ov horn, and it bad me inkwīr hīðer āfter him I mōst dezīr, for wōnt ov huom mi huol sōl langwīƒep in soro ðis yēr gon bi: even āfter mi dēr brūðer, ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko."

Hiz werdz sēst in hiz þrōt. For wið ðe spekiſ ov ðat nām ðe ferm fabrik ov ðe pālās kwīverd lik ðe lēvz ov a forest under a sūden skwōl. Kŭlor went from ðe sēn, lik ðe blud tƒāst from a manz fās bi fēr, and ol wōz ov a pālid hu, lik ðe landskāp hwiƒ wun behōldz ov a brīt sūmer da āfter liiſ wið īz klōzd for a spās fās-upword under ðe blaziſ sun: ol gra and kōld, ðe worm kŭlorz bernt too āƒez. Wīðōl, fōlōd ðe aperans ov hātƒol lītēl krētƒŭrz īƒuiſ from ðe dzŕŕnts ov ðe pavīſ stōnz and ðe grāt bloƒs ov ðe wōlz and pīlarz: sum lik grāshōperz wið human hedz and wiſz ov flīz, sum lik fīƒez wið stiſz in ðēr tālz, sum fat lik tōdz, sum lik ēlz a-rigliſ wið pŭpe-dogz hedz and āsez ērz: lōþle wunz, eksīlz ov gløere, skale and obsēn.

De horror pāst. Kŭlor reternd. De Kwēn sat lik a graven statƒu, her lips parted. Āfter a huil ƒe sed wið a ƒaken vŕs, lo and wið dħnkāst īz, "Serz, u demānd ov me a vēre strāndz māter, sutƒ az huērwið nēver hīðertoo I hav bēn akwānted. Az u ar nobel, I besēƒ u spēk not ðat nām agān. In ðe nām ov ðe blēsed Godz, spēk it not agān."

Lord Dzus wōz silent. Nōt gud wer hiz þōts wīðin him.

In dzu tīm a lītēl martlet bi ðe Kwēnz komānd brōt ðem too ðēr bed-tƒāmberz. And ðēr in grāt bedz soft and frāgrant ða went too rest.

Dzus wākt loſ in ðe dħtƒol līt, trŭbeld at hart. At

lenþ he fel int∞ a trübeld slēp. Ðe glīmer ov ðe lamps mingeld wið hiz drēmz and hiz drēmz wið it, so ðat skērs he wist hvēðer aslēp or wakiþ he beheld ðe wōlz ov ðe bed-tfāmbere dispart in sunder, diskloziþ a prospekt ov vāst pāps ov m∞nlīt, and a sōlitare mōntān pēk standiþ naked þt ov a se ov klōd ðat glēmd hūit benēþ ðe m∞n. It sēmd t∞ him ðat ðe pþer ov flīt wōz ūpon him, and ðat he flu t∞ ðat mōntān and huþ in ēr behōldiþ it nēr at hand, and a serkel az ðe aperans ov fir rōnd abþt it, and on ðe sūmit ov ðe mōntān ðe līknes ov a berg or sītadel ov brās ðat wōz grēn wið eld and serfās-bāterd bi ðe frosts and windz ov ādzez. On ðe bātelments wōz ðe aperans ov a grāt kumpane bōþ men and wīmen, nēver stil, nþ wōkiþ on ðe wōl wið handz lifted up az in suplikaþon t∞ ðe kristal lamps ov hēven, nþ flīriþ ðemselvz on ðēr nēz or leniþ agānst ðe brazen bātelments t∞ bēre ðēr fasez in ðēr handz, or standiþ at gāz az nīt-wōkerz gaziþ int∞ ðe vq̄d. Sum sēmd men ov wor, and sum grāt kœrtferz bi ðēr kostle apārel, rulerz and kiþz and kiþz dōterz, grāv bērded kþnselorz, ūps and madenz and krōnd kwēnz. And hven ða went, and hven ða stōd, and hven ða sēmd t∞ kri alþd bīterle, ōl wōz nq̄zles even az ðe t∞m, and ðe fasez ov ðōz mœrnerz pālid az a ded korps iz pālid.

Ðen it sēmd t∞ Dzus ðat he beheld a kēp ov brās flat-rooft standiþ on ðe rīt, a lītēl hier ðan ðe wōlz, wið bātelments abþt ðe roof. He strōv t∞ kri alþd, but it wōz az if sum dēvil gript hiz þrōt stīfliþ him, for no sþnd kām. For in ðe midst ov ðe roof, az it wer on a bentf ov stōn, wōz ðe aperans ov wun rekliniþ; hiz tfin restiþ in hiz grāt rīt hand, hiz elbo on an arm ov ðe bentf, hiz klōk abþt him gordzþs wið kloþ ov gōld, hiz ponderþs t∞-handed sœrd besīd him wið its hart-fāpt rube pōmel darkle resplendent in ðe m∞nlīt. Nōt ūðerwīz lōkt he ðan hven Dzus lāst beheld him, on ðēr fip befœr ðe darknes swōlōd ðem; ōnle ðe rūde hūz ov līf sēmd departed from him, and hiz brþ sēmd klōded wið soro. Hiz i met hiz brūðerz, but wið no lōk ov rekognīþon, gaziþ az if on sum far pōnt in ðe dēps beþond ðe star-fīn. It sēmd t∞ Dzus ðat even so wōd he hav lōkt t∞ find hiz brūðer Gōldre az he nþ fþnd him; hiz hed unbent for ōl ðe tīrane ov ðōz dark pþerz ðat held him in kaptīvite: kepiþ līk a God hiz pafent vidzil, hēdles alīk ov ðe laments ov ðem ðat fērd hiz þrizon and ov ðe mēnās ov ðe hþsles nīt abþt him.

Ðe vīzon pāst; and Lord Dzus persēvd himself in hiz bed agān, ðe kōld morniþ līt steliþ betwēn ðe hāþiþz ov

ðe windōz and ðīmiņ ðe soft rādʒans ov ðe lamps.

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Nŀ for sēven dāz ða dwelt in ðat pālās. No līviņ þiņ ða enkŀnterd sāv ōnle ðe Kwēn and her lītel martlets, but ōl þiņz dezirŀs wer mīnisterd unt∞ ðem bi unsēn handz and ōl rŀjal entertānment. Yet wōz Lord Dʒus hēve at hart, for az often az he wūd kwestʒon ðe Kwēn ov Gōldre, so ʒe wūd ēver pŀt him bi, praiņ him earnestle not a sēkond tīm t∞ pronŀns ðat nām ov tēror. At lāst, wōkiņ wið her alōn in ðe k∞al ov ðe eveniņ on a trōden pāp ov a mēdo huēr asfodel gru and ūðer hole flŀerz besīd a kwiet strēm, he sed, "So it iz, O Kwēn Sofonizbā, ðat huen ferst I kām hiðer and spāk wið ðe I wel þōt ðat bi ðe mi māter ʒud be wel sped. And didst not ðŀ ðen prōmīs me ði ɡudnes and grās from ðe ðarāfter?"

"Ðis iz vēre tru," sed ðe Kwēn.

"Ðen hui," sed he, "huen I wūd kwestʒon ðe ov ðat I māk mōst stœr ov, wilt ðŀ ōlwāz daf me and pŀt me bi?"

Se wōz silent, hāņiņ her hed. He lŀkt sīdloņ for a mīnūt at her swēt profīl, ðe grāv klēr līnz ov her mŀp and tʒin. "Ov hu∞m must I inkwīr," he sed, "if not ov ðe, hwiʒ art Kwēn in Koftrā Belorn and must no ðis þiņ?"

Se stopt and fāst him wið dark īz ðat wer līk a tʒīldz for īnosens and līk a Godz for splendor. "Mi lord, ðat I hav pŀt ðe of, askrīb it not t∞ evil intent. Ðat wer an ūnatʒural part indēd in me unt∞ u ov Demonland hu∞ hav fŀlfild ðe wērd and set me fre agān t∞ vīzit agān ðe werld ov men hwiʒ I so mutʒ dezīr, despīt ōl mi sorōz I ðēr fŀlfild in elder tīm. Or ʒal I forget u ar at enmite wið ðe wīked hŀs ov Witʒland, and ðērfœr duple pledʒd mi frendz?"

"Ðat ðe event must pr∞v, O Kwēn," sed Lord Dʒus.

"O sō ye Mornā Morunā?" krīd ʒe. "Sō ye it in ðe wildernes?" And huen he lŀkt on her stil dark and mistrustfŀl, ʒe sed, "Iz ðis forgot? And mēþōt it ʒud be menʒon and remembrans mād ðarov unt∞ ðe end ov ðe werld. I pra ðe, mi lord, huôt ādʒ art ðŀ?"

"I hav lŀkt ūpon ðis werld," ānserd Lord Dʒus, "for þrīs ten yērz."

"And I," sed ðe Kwēn, "but sēventēn sŀmerz. Yet ðat sām



ādʒ had I hven ðʒ wōst born, and ði grandsīr befœr ðe,  
and hiz befœr him. For ðe Godz gāv me ūþ for ěver mœr,  
hven ða brôt me hiðer âfter ðe relm-rāp ðat befel  
ʒr hʒs, and lodʒd me in ðis mʒntān."

Σe pōzd, and stōd moʒonles, her handz klāspt lītle  
befœr her, her hed bent, her fās ternd a lītel awa so  
ðat he sō ōnle ðe huīt kerv ov her nek and her tʒeks  
soft ʒtlīn. Ōl ðe ěr wōz fōl ov sunset, ðo no sun wōz  
ðēr, but a skāterd splendor ōnle, ʒed from ðe hi roof  
ov rok ðat wōz līk a ski abuv ðem self-efuldʒent. Věre  
softle ʒe began agān tō spěk, ðe kristal aksents ov her  
vɑs sʒndiŋ līk ðe fānt nōts ov a bel bærn from a  
grāt wa of on ðe kwiet ěr ov a sūmer eveniŋ. "Σūrle  
tīm pāst iz gon bi līk a ʒādo sins ðōz dāz, hven I wōz  
Kwěn in Mornā Morunā, dwěliŋ ðēr wið mi lade mūðer and  
ðe prinsez mi kūzinz in pěs and dʒɑ. Until Gorīs 3. kām  
ʒt ov ðe norþ, ðe grāt Kiŋ ov Witʒland, deziriŋ tō  
eksplœr ðěz mʒntānz, for hiz prīd sāk and hiz insolent  
hart; huītʒ kost him děr. Twōz on an eveniŋ ov erle sūmer  
we beheld him and hiz fōk rīd over ðe flěeriŋ mědōz ov  
ðe Morunā. Nōble wōz he entertānd bi us, and hven we nu  
huôt wa he ment tō go, we kʒnseld him tern bak, and ðe  
mantikorz must těr him if he went. But he moks at ʒr  
advizōz, and on ðe moro departed, he and hiz, bi wa ov  
Ompren Edʒ. And něver agān wer ða sěn ov liviŋ man.

"ðat had běn smōl los; but herov ðēr befel a grāt and  
horibel mistʒěf. For in ðe sprinŋ ov ðe yěr kām Gorīs  
4. wið a grāt arme ʒt ov wōteriʒ Witʒland, saiŋ wið  
open mʒþ ov defamaʒon ðat we wer ðe ded Kiŋz  
merðerertz: we ðat wer pěsfōl fōk, and wōd not entertān  
an akʒon ʒod kōl us vīlān for ōl ðe welþ ov Impland.  
In ðe nīt ða kām, hven ōl we sāv ðe sentinelz ūpon ðe  
wōlz wer in ʒr bedz sekūr in a kwiet konʒens. ða tʒk  
ðe prinsez mi kūzinz and ōl ʒr men, and befœr ʒr īz  
mōst kruele merðerd ðem. So ðat mi mūðer seiŋ ðěz  
piŋz fel sūdenle intō dedle swœniŋz and wōz prězentle  
ded. And ðe Kiŋ komānded ðem bern ðe hʒs wið fīr, and  
he brāk dʒn ðe hole ōltarz ov ðe Godz, and defīld ðēr  
hi plasez. And untō me ðat wōz yuŋ and fěr tō lʒk on he  
gāv ðis tʒɑs, tō go wið him and be hiz slāv, ūðer els  
tō be kāst dʒn from ðe Edʒ and ōl mi bōnz be broken.  
Σūrle I tʒōz ðis rāðer. But ðe Godz, ðat dō help ěvere  
rītfōl tru kōz, mād līt mi fōl, and gided me hiðer  
sāf þrō ōl pěrilz ov hīt and kōld and rāveniŋ běsts,  
grāntiŋ me ūþ and pěsfōl dāz for ěver, hěr on ðe  
borderland betwěn ðe liviŋ and ðe ded.

"And ðe Godz blu ūpon ōl ðe land ov ðe Morunā in ðe fīr ov ðēr rôþ, tō māc it dēzolāt, and man and bēst kut of ðērfrom, for a witnes ov ðe wīked dēdz ov Gorīs ðe Kiŋ, even az Gorīs ðe Kiŋ māc dēzolāt þr lītel kāsel and þr plēzant plasez. Ðe fās ov ðe land wōz lifted up tō hi êrz hvēr frosts dō dwel, so ðat ðe klifs ov Ompren Edz dōn hwiþf ye kām ar ten tīmz ðe hīt ða wer hven Gorīs 3. kām dōn ðem. So wōz an end ov flþerz on ðe Morunā, and an end ðēr ov sprīŋ and ov sūmer dāz for ěver."

Ðe Kwēn sēst spekiŋ, and Lord Dzus wōz silent for a spās, grātles marveliŋ.

"Dzudz nþ," sed þe, "if yor fōz be not mi fōz. It iz not hīden from me, mi lord, ðat u dēm me but a lūkworm frend and no helper at ōl in yor enterprīz. Yet hav I sēst not sins ye wer hēr tō sertf and tō inkwīr, and sent mi lītel martlets west and ēst and sþþ and norþ âfter tidiŋz ov him ðþ nāmdst. Ða ar swift, even az wīŋe þōts serkliŋ ðe stabliþt werld; and ða reternd tō me on were wiŋz, yet wið nēver a werd ov ði grāt kinzman."

Dzus lukt at her īz ðat wer mqt wið tērz. Trūþ sat in ðem līc an āndzel. "O Kwēn," he krīd, "hvi nēd ði lītel minyonz skþr ðe werld, hven mi brūðer iz hēr in Koftrā Belorn?"

Σe fuk her hed, saiŋ, "Ðis I wil swēr tō ðe, ðēr hap no mortal kum up into Koftrā Belorn sāv ōnle ðe and ði kompanyonz ðēz tō hundred yērz."

But Dzus sed agān, "Mi brūðer iz hēr in Koftrā Belorn. Mīn īz beheld him ðat ferst nīt, hedzd abþt wið firz. And he iz held kaptīv on a tþer ov brās on a pēk ov a mþntān."

"Ðēr be no mþntānz hēr," sed þe, "sāv ðis in hūoz woom we hav þr dwēliŋ."

"Yet so I beheld mi brūðer," sed Dzus, "under ðe hūit bēmz ov ðe fūl mōon."

"Ðēr iz no mōon hēr," sed ðe Kwēn.

So Lord Dzus reherst tō her hiz vīzon ov ðe nīt, tēliŋ her pqt tō pqt ov ěverþiŋ. Σe harkend grāvle, and hven he had dun, trembeld a lītel and sed, "Ðis iz a mistere, mi lord, beþond mi rezoluþon."

Se fel silent āhvīl. Ðen fe began tō sa in a huft  
vq̄s, az if ðe vēre werdz and breþ mīt brēd sum  
dredfōl māter: "Taken up in a sendiḡ malefījal bi Kiḡ  
Gorīs 12. So it haþ ēver bēn, ðat huensōēver ðēr dieþ  
wun ov ðe h̄s ov Gorīs ðēr rizeþ up anūðer in hiz  
sted, and so from strenþ tō strenþ. And deþ wekenēþ  
not ðis h̄s ov Witfland, but līk ðe dandelion wēd beinḡ  
kut d̄n and brūzd it sprīḡeþ up ðe stronger. Dust ð̄  
no hvi?"

He ānserd, "No."

"Ðe blēsed Godz," sed fe, spekiḡ yet loer, "hav fōn  
me mēne hīden māterz hviḡ ðe sunz ov men no not niðer  
imadzīn. Behōld ðis mistere. Ðēr iz but Wun Gorīs. And bi  
ðe favor ov hēven (ðat mōveþ sumtīmz in a māner þr  
wēk dzudzment sekeþ in vān tō dzustifi) ðis kruel and evil  
Wun, ēvere tīm huēðer bi ðe sœrd or in ðe fulnes ov hiz  
yērz he kūmeþ tō di, departeþ ðe līviḡ sōl and spīrit ov  
him into a nu and s̄nd bōde, and līveþ yet anūðer līftīm  
tō veks and tō opres ðe werld, until ðat bōde di, and ðe  
nekst in hiz tern, and so kontīnuale; hāviḡ ðus in a māner  
līf eternal."

Dz̄us sed, "Ði diskœers, O Kwēn Sofonizbā, iz in a strān  
abuv mortālite. Ðis iz a grāt wunder ð̄ telst me;  
hvarov sum lītel part I gest afœrtīm, but ðe mān I  
nu not. Rītfōle, hāviḡ sutf a tīmlēs līf, ðis Kiḡ  
wareþ on hiz þum ðat werm Ooroboros hviḡ doktorz hav  
from ov ōld mād for an ensampel ov eternite, hvarov ðe end  
iz ēver at ðe bēḡiniḡ and ðe bēḡiniḡ at ðe end for ēver  
mœr."

"Se ðen ðe hardnes ov ðe þiḡ," sed ðe Kwēn. "But I  
forget not, mi lord, ðat ð̄ hast a māter nerer ðīn hart  
ðan ðis: tō set fre him (nām him not!) konserniḡ huōm ð̄  
didst inkwīr ov me. Tutfiḡ ðis, no it for ði kumfort,  
sum ra ov līt I se. Kwestfon me no mœr til I hav mād  
trial ðarov, lest it prōv but a fōls dōn. If it be az I  
þink, tiz a trial yet abideþ ðe f̄ud māk ðe st̄test  
blentf."

14. Ðe Lāk ov Ravare

OV ÐE FERÐERANS GĪVEN BI KWĒN SOFONIZBĀ, FOSTERLIḡ OV ÐE

GODZ, TŌ LORD DʒUS AND LORD BRANDOX DAHĀ; WIÐ Hʒ ÐE  
HĪPOGRIFS EG WŌZ HATʒT BESĪD ÐE ENTʒĀNTED LĀK, AND  
HŪŌT ENSŪD ÐĒRFROM.

Nekst da ðe Kwēn kām tŏ Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahā and  
mād ðem go wið her, and Mivarʒ wið ðem tŏ serv ðem,  
over ðe mēdōz and dʒn a pāsādʒ lĭk ðat huērbi ða had  
enterd ðe mʒntān, but ðis led dʒnword. "Ye ma marvel,"  
ʒe sed, "tŏ se dalĭt in ðe hart ov ðis grāt mʒntān.  
Yet it iz but ðe hĭden werk ov Nātʒūr. For ðe rāz ov ðe  
sun, strikiŋ ōl da ūpon Koftrā Belorn and ūpon her rōb ov  
sno, sink intŏ ðe sno lĭk wōter, and so sokiŋ þrŏ ðe  
sēkret plasez ov ðe roks ʒĭn agān in ðis hōlo tʒāmbē  
huēr we dwel and in ðēz pāsādʒez kleʒt bi ðe Godz tŏ giv  
us ʒr goiŋz ʒt and ʒr kŭmiŋz in. And az sunset fōloēþ  
brōd da wið kŭlord ʒĭrz, and mŏnĭt or darknes  
fōloēþ sunset, and dōn fōloēþ nĭt ūʒeriŋ ðe brĭt  
da wuns mŏer, so ðēz tʒāndʒez ov ðe dark and lĭt suksēd  
wun anūðer wiðin ðe mʒntān."

Ða pāst on, ēver dʒnword, til āfter mēne ʒrz ða kām  
sŭdenle foerþ intŏ dazliŋ sunĭt. Ða stŏd at a kāvz  
mʒþ on a bēʒʒ ov sand huĭt and klēn, ðat wōz lapt bi  
ðe rĭpelz ov a sāʒĭr lāk: a grāt lāk, sōn wið ilets  
krāge and lukʒureant wið trēz and flʒeriŋ grōþs.  
Mēne-armd wōz ðe lāk, wĭndiŋ ēverĭhuēr in sēkret rētʒez  
behĭnd prŏmontŏerēz ðat wer sperz ov ðe mʒntānz ðat held  
it in ðēr buzom: sum wōded or grēn wið luʒ  
flʒer-spangeld terʒ tŏ ðe wōterz edʒ, sum wið bēr roks  
abrupt from ðe wōter, sum krʒnd wið rūged lĭnz ov krag  
ðat sent dʒn skre-slōps intŏ ðe lāk belo. It wōz  
mid-āfternŏn, swēt-ērd, a da ov dāpeld klʒd-ʒādōz and  
tʒāndʒiŋ lĭts. Huĭt berdz serkeld abuv ðe lāk, and nʒ  
and ðen a kiŋʒĭʒer flaʒt bi lĭk a strēk ov āʒŭr flām.  
Ðat wōz a westword fasiŋ bēʒʒ, at ðe end ov a hedland ðat  
ran dʒn klōðd wið pĭn-forests wið open primrōz glādʒ  
from a sper ov Koftrā Belorn. Norþword ðe tŏ grāt  
mʒntānz stŏd at ðe hed ov a strāt nāro vāle ðat  
ran up tŏ ðe Gāts ov Zimeamveā. Vāster ða sēmd ðan ðe  
Demonz had yet beheld ðem, ʒoiŋ at but siks or sēven mĭlz  
dĭstans a klēr sikstēn þʒzand fēt abuv ðe lāk. Nor from  
ēne ūðer pŏnt ov prospekt wer ða mŏer luvle tŏ behōld:  
Koftrā Pivraxā lĭk an egel armd, ʒādoiŋ wið wiŋz,  
and Koftrā Belorn az a Gōdes fōlen a-dreminiŋ, graʒʒs az  
ðe morniŋ star ov hēven. Wundrʒs brĭt wer ðēr snōz in  
ðe sunʒĭn, yet gōstle and unsubstanʒal tŏ vu sēn  
þrŏ ðe haze sŭmer ēr. Ōĭv trēz, gra and  
soft-ʒtĭnd lĭk embōdēd mist, gru in ðe loer vālēz;

wōdz ov ōk and bertf and ěvere forest tre klōōd ōe slōps; and in ōe wormer fōldz ov ōe mōntān sīdz belts ov kreme rododendronz strāgeld upwordz even tō ōe morānz abuv ōe loer glaferz and ōe vēre mardzin ov ōe snōz.

Ɖe Kwēn wōtft Lord Dzus az hiz gāz mōovd tō ōe left pāst Koftrā Pivrarxā, pāst ōe blunt loer krest ov Gōgleo, tō a grāt lōnle pēk mēne mīlz distant ōat frōnd over ōe ritf māz ov nerer ridzez huitf stōd abuv ōe lāk. Its sūōern fōlder swept in a loŋ mādžestik līn ov klifs up tō a klēn farp sūmit; norpword it fel stēpleer awa. Lītel sno huŋ on ōe fēr rok fasez, sāv hvēr ōe gūlēz kleft ōem. For grās and bute skērs mīt Koftrā Belorn herself serpās ōat pēk: but tēribel it lōkt, and az a manjon ov ōld nīt, ōat not hi nōon-da kud huole dispozes ov darknes.

"Ɖēr standep a mōntān grāt and fēr," sed Lord Brandox Dahā, "huitf wōz hid in a klōd huēn we wer on ōe hi ridzez. It haŋ ōe lōk ov a grāt bēst kōtfant."

Stil ōe Kwēn wōtft Lord Dzus, hvō lōkt stil on ōat pēk. Ɖen he ternd tō her, hiz handz klentft on ōe būkelz ov hiz brest-plāts. Se sed, "Wōz it az l pink?"

He tōk a grāt breŋ. "It wōz so l beheld it in ōe bēgīniŋ," he sed, "az from ōis plās. But hēr ar we tō far of tō se ōe sītadel ov brās, or no if it be trule ōēr." And he sed tō Brandox Dahā, "Ɖis remanep, ōat we klīm ōat mōntān."

"Ɖat kan ye nēver dō," sed ōe Kwēn.

"Ɖat fal be fōn," sed Brandox Dahā.

"List," sed fe. "Nāmlēs iz yonder mōntān ūpon erŋ, for until ōis ūr, sāv ōnle for me and u, ōe i ov līviŋ man haŋ not lōkt ūpon it. But untō ōe Godz it haŋ a nām, and untō ōe spīrits ov ōe blest ōat dō inhābit ōis land, and untō ōōz unhāpe sōlz ōat ar held in kaptīvite on ōat kōld mōntān top: Zorā Rax nam Sāreon, standiŋ apart abuv ōe nqzles līfles sno-fēldz ōat fēd ōe Sāreon glaferz; lōnleest and sēkretest ov ōl erŋs mōntānz, and mōst akerst. O mi lordz," fe sed, "pink not tō klīm up Zorā. Entfāntments riŋ rōnd Zorā, so ōat ye fōd not get so nēr az tō ōe edzez ov ōe sno-fēldz at her fēt ēr ruin gāōerd u."

Dzus smīld. "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, lītel ōŋ nōst ūr mīnd,

if ðǫ þink ðis ƿal tern us bak."

"I sa it," sed ðe Kwēn, "wið no sutƿ vān perpōs; but tōo ƿo u ðe nesēsīte ov ðat wa I ƿal nǫ tel u ov, sins wel I no ye wil not giv over ðis atempt. Tōo nun sāv tōo a Demon derst I hav tōld it, lest hēven ƿud hōld me ānserabel for hiz deþ. But untōo u I ma wið ðe les dāndʒer komit ðis dāndʒerþs kǫnsel if it be tru, az I wōz tōt loŋ ago, ðat ðe hīpogrif wōz sēn ov ōld in Demonland."

"Ðe hīpogrif?" sed Lord Brandox Dahā. "Hōt els iz it ðan ðe emblem ov þr grātnes? A þǫzand yērz ago ða nested on Nēverdāl Hōz, and ðēr abīd untōo ðis da in ðe roks ðe prints ov ðēr hōvz and tǫlonz. He ðat rōd it wōz a ƿærfāðer ov mīn and ov Lord Dʒus."

"He ðat ƿal rīd it agān," sed Kwēn Sofonizbā, "he ōnle ov mortal men ma win tōo Zorā Rax, and if he be man enuf ov hiz handz ma delīver him we wot ov þt ov bondādʒ."

"O Kwēn," sed Dʒus, "sumhōt I no ov grāmāre and divīn filōsofe, yet must I bǫ tōo ðe for sutƿ lernīŋ, ðat dwelst hēr from dʒeneraƿon tōo dʒeneraƿon and dust komūn wið ðe ded. Hǫ ƿal we fīnd ðis stēd? Fu ða be, and hi ða fli abuv ðe werld, and kum tōo berþ but wun in þre hundred yērz."

Σe ānserd, "I hav an eg. In ōl landz els must sutƿ an eg li bāren and stērīl, sāv in ðis land ov Zimeamveā hviƿ iz sākred tōo ðe lordle rasez ov ðe ded. And ðus kǫmep ðis stēd tōo ðe berþ: hven wun ov mīt and hart beʒond ðe wōnt ov man slepeþ in ðis land wið ðe eg in hiz bʒozom, grātīle dezirīŋ sum hi atƿēvment, ðe fīr ov hiz grāt lōŋīŋ hatƿep ðe eg, and ðe hīpogrif kǫmep þt ðērfrom, wēk-wīŋd at ferst az ðǫ hast sēn a būterfli nu-hatƿt þt hiz krīsalis. Ðen ōnle māst ðǫ mǫnt him, and if ðǫ be man eno tōo tern him tōo ði wil he ƿal bē ðe tōo ðe ūtermōst parts ov erþ untōo ðīn harts dezīr. But if ðǫ be ōt les ðan gratest, bewēr ðat stēd, and mǫnt ōnle erþle kōerserz. For if ðēr be ōt ov dros wīðīn ðe, and ðīn hart fōlter, or ði perpōs kōol, or ðǫ forget ðe lēvel ām ov ði glære, ðen wil he tos ðe tōo ði ruin."

"Ðǫ hast ðis þīŋ, O Kwēn?" sed Lord Dʒus.

"Mi lord," ƿe sed softle, "mōer ðan an hundred yērz ago I fǫnd it, hvīl I rambeld on ðe klīfs ðat ar abþt ðis

tʃarmd Lāk ov Ravare. And hēr I hid it, bein̄ tōt bi ðe  
Godz huōt piŋ I had fʃnd and noiŋ huōt wōz fæordānd,  
ðat sertān ov erp̄ ʃud kum at lāst tō Koftrā Belorn.  
Pinkiŋ in mi hart ðat he ðat ʃud kum mīt be ov ðōz  
huō bēr sum grāt unfulfild dezīr, and mīt be ov sutʃ  
mīt az kud rīd tō hiz dezīr on sutʃ a stēd."

Ða abōd, tōkiŋ lītel, bi ðe tʃarmd lāks ʃær til  
eveniŋ. Ðen ða arōz, and went wið her tō a pavīleon bi  
ðe lāk, bilt in a grōv ov flʃeriŋ trēz. Êr ða went tō  
rest, ʃe brōt ðem ðe hīpogrifs eg, grāt az a manz  
bōde, yet līt ov wāt, ruf and kŭlord līk gōld. And  
ʃe sed, "Hvitʃ ov u, mi lordz?"

Dʒus ānserd, "He, if mīt and a hi hart ʃud ōnle  
kʃnt; but I, bekōz mi brŭðer it iz ðat we must fre from  
hiz dizmal plās."

So ðe Kwēn gāv ðe eg tō Lord Dʒus; and he, bariŋ it in  
hiz armz, bad her gud-nīt, saiŋ, "I nēd no ũðer  
lōdanum ðan ðis tō māk me slēp."

And ðe ambrozal nīt kām dʃn. And dʒentel slēp, softer  
ðan slēp iz on erp̄, klōzd ðēr īz in ðat pavīleon  
besīd ðe entʃānted lāk.

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Mivarʃ slept not. Smōl dʒŋ had he ov ðat Lāk ov Ravare,  
kariŋ for nun ov its butēz but mīndfŭl stil ov sertān  
lūd bulks he had sēn bāskiŋ bi its ʃærz ōl p̄rō ðe  
gōlden āfternōn. He had kwestʃond wun ov ðe Kwēnz martlets  
konserniŋ ðem, huō lāft at him and let him no ðat ðēz  
wer krōkodīlz, wordenz ov ðe lāk, tām and dʒentel tōword  
ðe herōz ov blis huō rezorted ðīðer tō bāð and dispœrt  
ðemselvz. "But ʃud sutʃ an wun az ðʃ," ʃe sed,  
"adventʃŭr ðēr, ða wʃd tʃop ðe up at a mʃp̄fŭl." Ðis  
sādend him. And indēd, lītel ēz ov hart had he sins he  
kām ʃt ov Impland, and dērle he dezīrd hiz hōm, ðo it  
wer sakt and bernt, and ðe men ov hiz ōn blud, ðo  
ða ʃud p̄rōv hiz fōz. And wel he p̄t ðat if Dʒus  
ʃud fli wið Brandox Dahā mʃnted on hīpogrif tō ðat  
kōld mʃntān top huēr sōlz ov ðe grāt wer held in  
bondādʒ, he ʃud nēver win bak alōn tō ðe werld ov men,  
pāst ðe frozen mʃntānz, and ðe mantikorz, and pāst ðe  
krōkodīl ðat dwelt besīd Bhavinan.

He la awāk an ʃr or twān, wepiŋ kwietle, until ʃt ov  
ðe dʒiant hart ov midnīt kām tō him wið fire klērnes

ðe werdz ov ðe Kwēn, saiŋ ðat bi ðe hēt ov grāt  
lōŋiŋ in hiz hart ðat klāspeþ it must ðat eg be hatft,  
and ðat ðat man fʊd ðen mōnt and rīd on ðe wind untō  
hiz harts dezīr. Ðērwið Mivarf sat up, hiz handz klāme  
wið mikst fēr and lōŋiŋ. It sēmd tō him, awāk and alōn  
amuŋ ðe sleperz in ðat breþles nīt, ðat no lōŋiŋ  
kʊd be grater ðan hiz lōŋiŋ. He sed in hiz hart, "I  
wil arīz, and tāk ðe eg privéle from ðe dēvil trānzmarēn  
and klāsp it miself. I dō him no roŋ ðērbī, for sed je  
not it wōz pērilþs? Ōlso ēvere man rakeþ ðe emberz tō hiz  
ōn kāk."

So he arōz, and kām sēkretle tō Dʒus huēr he la wið hiz  
stronŋ armz serkliŋ ðe eg. A bēm ov ðe mōon kām in bi a  
windo, finiŋ on ðe fās ov Dʒus, ðat wōz az ðe fās ov a  
God. Mivarf bent over him and tēzd ðe eg dzentle from hiz  
embrās, praiŋ ferventle ðe huīl. And, for Dʒus wōz in a  
profōnd slumber, hiz sōl mōntiŋ in vīzon far from erþ,  
far from ðat fœr divīn, tō lōn rēdʒonz huēr Gōldre  
wōtft stil in frozen mœrnful paʃens on ðe hīts ov  
Zorā, at lāst Mivarf gat ðe eg and bēr it tō hiz bed. Vēre  
worm it wōz, krakliŋ tō hiz ēr az he embrāst it, az ov a  
pþer mœviŋ from wīðinwordz.

In sutf wīz Mivarf fel aslēp, klāspiŋ ðe eg az a man  
fʊd klāsp hiz derest. And a lītēl befoer dōn it hatft  
in hiz armz and fel asunder, and he started awāk, hiz armz  
abþt ðe nek ov a strāndʒ stēd. It went fœrþ intō ðe pāl  
līt befoer ðe sunrīz, and he wið it, hōldiŋ it fāst. Ðe  
fēn ov its hēr wōz līk ðe pekoks nek; its īz līk  
ðe tʃāndʒiŋ firz ov a star ov a winde nīt. Its nostrilz  
widend tō ðe breþ ov ðe dōn. Its wiŋz unfōlded and gru  
stif, ðēr fēðerz līk ðe tāl-fēðerz ov ðe pekok  
fēzant, huīt wið perpel īz, and hard tō ðe tutf az īrn  
blādz. Mivarf wōz mōnted on its bak, seiŋ ðe finiŋ  
mān wið bōþ handz, trembliŋ. And nþ wōz he fān tō  
desend, but ðe hīpogrif snorted and rērd, and he, ferīŋ  
a grāt fōl, kluŋ kloser. It stamp t wið its silver hōofs,  
flāpiŋ its wiŋz, rampiŋ līk a liones, tariŋ up ðe  
grās wið its klōz. Mivarf skrēmd, tœrn betwēn hōp and  
fēr. It plundʒd forword and lēpt intō ðe ēr and flu.

Ðe Demonz, wākt bi ðe huīriŋ ov wiŋz, ruft from ðe  
pavīleon, tō behōld ðat marvel flōn agānst ðe obskūr west.  
Wīld wōz its flīt, līk a snīp dīpiŋ and plundʒiŋ. And  
huīl ða lukt, ða sō ðe rider fluŋ from hiz sēt and  
herd, sum moments āfter, a dul flop and splaf ov a böde  
fōlen in ðe lāk.

Ðe wīld stēd vānift, wiŋiŋ tōword ðe ūper ēr. Riŋz



ran ȝtword from ðe splaf, trubliŋ ðe serfās ov ðe lāk,  
māriŋ ðe dark reflekŋon ov Zorā Rax mīrord in ðe  
slepiŋ wōterz.

"Poor Mivarf!" krīd Lord Brandox Dahā. "After ōl ðe were  
lēgz I māð him go wið me." And he þru of hiz klōk,  
tōk a dāger in hiz tēþ, and swam wið grāt overarm strōks  
ȝt too ðe spot huēr Mivarf fel. But nōt he fōnd ov  
Mivarf. Ōnle he sō nēr bi on an iland bētŋ a krōkodīl,  
big and bloted, ðat īd him giltile and stād not for hiz  
kūmiŋ, but lumberiŋ intō ðe wōter dīvd and disapērd. So  
Brandox Dahā ternd and swam āfcer agān.

Lord Dʒus stod az a man strīken too stōn. Az wun despērd he  
ternd too ðe Kwēn, huō nȝ kām fœrþ too ðem rapt in a  
mantel ov swōnzdȝn; yet hi he held hiz hed. "O Kwēn  
Sofonizbā, hēr iz ðat sēkret glōm or bōtom ov ȝr dāz,  
kum hven we snift ðe swētnes ov ðe morniŋ."

"Mi lord," sed ʒe, "ðe flīz hemera tāk līf wið ðe sun  
and di wið ðe dʒu. But ðȝ, if ðȝ be trule grāt, dʒaŋ  
not handz wið desperafon. Let ðe sad endiŋ ov ðis poor  
servant ov ðīn be too ðe a mōnument agānst sutŋ fōle.  
Erþ iz not ruind for a singel ʒȝer. Kum bak wið me too  
Koftrā Belorn."

He lȝkt at ðe grand pēk ov Zorā, dark agānst ðe wakeniŋ  
ēst. "Mādam," he sed, "ðȝ hast lītel mœr ðan hāf mi  
yērz, and yet bi anūðer komputafon ðȝ art sēven tīnz mīn  
ādʒ. I am not līt ov wil, nor ðȝ ʒalt not fīnd me a fool  
too ðe. Let us go bak too Koftrā Belorn."

Ða brāk ðēr fāst kwietle and reternd bi ðe wa ða  
kām. And ðe Kwēn sed, "Mi lordz Dʒus and Brandox Dahā,  
ðēr be fu stēdz ov sutŋ a kīnd too käre u too Zorā Rax  
nam Säreon, and not ye, ðo ye be beȝond ðe hāf-godz in  
yor mīt and vertŋu, mīt hav pȝer too rīd ðem but if ye  
tāk ðem from ðe eg. So hi ða fli, so ʒi ða ar, ye  
ʒod not katŋ ðem ðo ye wated ten menz līftīnz. I  
wil send mi martlets too se if ðēr be anūðer eg in ðe  
werld."

So ʒe despatŋt ðem, norþ and west and sȝþ and ēst. And  
in dʒu tīm ðōz lītel berdz reternd on were wiŋ, ōl sāv  
wun, wiðȝt tidiŋz.

"Ōl hav kum bak too me," sed ðe Kwēn, "sāv Arabēlā  
alōn. Dāndʒerz atend ðem in ðe werld: berdz ov pra, men  
ðat sla lītel berdz for ðēr spœrt. Yet hōp wið me ðat  
ʒe ma kum bak at lāst."

But ðe Lord Dzus spāk and sed, "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, tō hōp and wāt liep not in mi nātſūr, but tō be swift, rēzolūt, and eksakt huensoēver I se mi wa befær me. Ðis hav I ēver aprœvd, ðat ðe strōbere groeþ undernēþ ðe nētel stil. I wil āsa ðe asent ov Zorā."

Nor mīt ôl her prēz tern him from ðis raſnes, hvarin ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ besīdz did mōst egerle sēkond him.

Tō nīts and tō dāz ða wer gon, and ðe Kwēn abōd ðem in grāt trūbel ov hart in her pavīleon bi ðe entſānted lāk. Ðe þerd eveniņ kām Brandox Dahâ bak tō ðe pavīleon, brīņiņ wið him Dzus ðat wōz līk a man at pqrnt ov deþ, and himself besīdz dedle sik.

"Tel me not ēņiþiņ," sed ðe Kwēn. "Forgetſolnes iz ðe ōnle sovran rēmede, hviſ wið ôl mi art I wil strīv tō indzūs in ði mīnd and in hiz. Σūrle I despērd ēver tō se u in līf agān, so raſle enterd intō ðōz rēdzonz forbid."

Brandox Dahâ smīld, but hiz lūk wōz gāstle. "Blām us not overmutſ, dēr Kwēn. Hō fœots at ðe mid-da sun, ðo he be fūr he ſal nēver hit ðe mark, yet az fūr he iz he ſal fœot hier ðan hō āmz but at a bſf." Hiz vq̄s brōk in hiz þrōt; ðe hſits ov hiz īz rōld up; he kōt at ðe Kwēnz hand līk a fritend tſīld. Ðen wið a mite ēfort māsteriņ himself, "I pra bēr wið me a lītel," he sed. "Āfter a lītel gſd mēts and drinks taken twil pās. I pra lūk tō Dzus: iz a ded, þink u?"

Dāz pāst, and munþs, and ðe Lord Dzus la yet az it wer in ðe artikel ov deþ tended bi hiz frend and bi ðe Kwēn in ðat pavīleon bi ðe lāk. At leņþ hven winter wōz gon in mīdel erþ, and ðe sprīņ far spent, bak kām ðat lāst lītel martlet on were wiņ, ſe ða had loņ gīven up for lost. Se sank in her mistresez bſzom, ōlmōst ded indēd for werines. But ðe Kwēn tſēriſt her, and gāv her nektar, so ðat ſe gāðerd strenþ and sed, "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, fosterliņ ov ðe Godz, I flu for ðe ēst and sþþ and west and norþ, bi se and bi land, in hēt and frost, untō ðe frozen pōlz, abþt and abþt. And at ðe lāst kām tō Demonland, tō ðe rāndz ov Nēverdāl. Ðēr iz a tarn amuņ ðe mþntānz, ðat men kōl Dzul Tarn. Vēre dēp it iz, and men ðat liv bi bred dō hōld it for bōtomles. Yet hap it a bōtom, and on ðe bōtom lieþ an hīpogrifs eg, sēn bi me, for I flu at a grāt hīt abuv it."

"In Demonland!" sed ðe Kwēn. And ſe sed tō Lord Brandox

Dahâ, "It iz ðe ònle wun. Ye must go hōm tō fetf it."

Brandox Dahâ sed, "Hōm tō Demonland? Åfter we spent þr pþerz and krost ðe werld tō fīnd ðe wa?"

But hven Lord Dʒus nu ov it, strātwa wið hōp so renūd began hiz siknes tō depart from him, so ðat he wōz in a fu wēks spās vère wel rekūverd.

And it wōz nþ a fōl yēr gon bi sins ferst ðe Demonz kām up into Koftrâ Belorn.

## 15. Kwēn Prezmirâ

Hʒ ðE LADE PREZMIRÂ DISKŪVERD TŌ LORD GRO HŪŌT ʒE WŪD  
HAV BRŌT ABʒT FOR DEMONLAND, IN HŪITʒ ʒŪD ŌLSO APĒR  
HER LORDZ YET MĀER GRĀTNES AND ADVĀNSMENT: AND Hʒ HER TŌO  
LʒD SPEKIŪ OV HER PERPŌS WŌZ ðE OKAZON HŪĒRBI ðE LORD  
KORINYUS WŌZ TŌO LERN ðE SWĒTNES OV BLIS DEFERD.

On ðat sām twente-siksþ nīt ov Ma, hven Lord Dʒus and Lord Brandox Dahâ beheld from erþs lofteest pīnakel ðe land ov Zimeamveâ and Koftrâ Belorn, Gro wōkt wið ðe Lade Prezmirâ on ðe western tērās in Karse. It wōnted yet tō þrz ov midnīt. ðe êr wōz worm, ðe ski a bþer ov mōnbēm and starbēm. Nþ and ðen a fānt brēz sterd az if nīt ternd in her slēp. ðe wōlz ov ðe pālās and ðe Īrn Tþer kut of ðe tērās from ðe direkt mōnlīt, and flambqz sprēdiŪ ðēr wobliŪ līt mād ōlternatiŪ rēdʒonz ov brītnes and glōom. GālopiŪ strānz ov muzik and ðe nqz ov rēvelre kām from wiðin ðe pālās.

Gro spāk: "If ði kwestʒon, O Kwēn, overli a wif tō hav me gon. I am az lītŪ tō oba ðe hþsoēr it grēv me."

"Twōz an idel wunder ònle," ʒe sed. "Sta and it līk ðe."

"It iz but a nativ part ov wizdom," sed he, "tō fōlo ðe līt. Hven ðþ wōst departed from ðe hōl mēþōt ōl ðe brīt līts wer bedimd." He lʒkt at her sīdloŪ az ða pāst into ðe rādʒans ov a flambq, stūdeŪ her kþntenans ðat sēmd klþded wið grevþs þōt. Fēr ov ōl fērʒ ʒe sēmd, stātle and splendid; krþnd wið a gōlden krþn set abþt wið dark āmēpists. A figūr ov a krab-fif topt it abuv ðe brþ, kureþsle rōt in silver and bariŪ in iðer klō a bōl ov krisolīt ðe bignes ov a þrūʒez eg.

Lord Gro sed, "Ðis tō wōz part ov mi mīnd, tō behōld ðōz starz in hēven ðat men kōl Bērenesez Hēr, and no if ða kan ʒtʃīn in glœre ðīn hēr, O Kwēn."

Ða pāst on in silens. Ðen, "Ðēz frazez ov fœrst gālantre," ʃe sed, "sort il wið ʒr frendʃip, mi Lord Gro. If I be not angre, þīnk it iz bekōz I fāðer ðem on ðe dēp helps ðʒ hast karʒzd untō ʒr Lord ðe Kiŋ on ðis nīt ov nīts, hven ðe reterniŋ yēr brīŋeþ bak ðe dāt ov hiz sendiŋ, and ʒr vendʒans ūpon Demonland."

"Mādam," he sed, "I wōd but hav ðe giv over ðis mēlankole. Semep it tō ðe a lītēl þiŋ ðat ðe Kiŋ hap plēzd so singularle tō ōnor Korund ði huzband az giv him a kiŋz stīl and dignite and ōl Impland tō hōld in fe? Ōl tʒk notīs ov it hʒ untʃērfœle ðʒ didst resēv ðis rʒal krʒn hven ðe Kiŋ gāv it ðe tō-nīt, in ōnor ov ði grāt lord, tō wēr in hiz sted til he kum hōm tō klām it; ðis, and ðe grāt prāz spōk bi ðe Kiŋ ov Korund, hviʃ mēþinks ʃʒd briŋ ðe wormþ ov prīd tō ði tʃēks. Yet ar ōl ðēz þiŋz ov az lītēl avāl agānst ði frozen skornfʒl mēlankole az ðe wēk winter sun avaleþ agānst kondzēld pœlz in a blak frost."

"Krʒnz ar tʃēp traʃ tō-da," sed Prezmirā; "hvenaz ðe Kiŋ, wið twente kiŋz tō be hiz lākēz, razeþ up nʒ hiz lākēz tō be kiŋz ov ðe erþ. Kanst wunder if mi dʒʒans in ðis krʒn wer daʃt sum lītēl hven I lōkt on ðat ūðer gīven bi ðe Kiŋ tō Laksus?"

"Mādam," sed Gro, "ðʒ must forgiv Laksus in hiz ōn partīkular. Ðʒ nōst he set not so mutʃ az a fʒt in Pīksiland; and if nʒ he must be kōld kiŋ ðarov, ðat ʃʒd rāðer plēz ðe, beiŋ in despīt ov Korinyus ðat kārēd wor ðēr and bi hviʃsoēver mēnz ov skil or fortʃūn overkām ði nobel brūðer and drāv him intō eksīl."

"Korinyus," ʃe ānserd, "tāsteþ in ðat mis ðat bān or il-hap hviʃ I dērle pra ōl ða ma grōn under hʒ wōd fāten bi mi brūðerz ruin."

"Ðen ʃʒd Korinyusez grēf lift up ði dʒʒ," sed Gro. "Yet sertān it iz, Fāt iz a blīnd pūpe: bild not on her nekst tern."

"Am not I a Kwēn?" sed Prezmirā. "Iz not ðis Witʃland? Hav we not strenþ tō māk kersez stroŋ, if Fāt be blīnd indēd?"

Ɖa hōlted at ðe hed ov a flīt ov steps lediŋ dŕn tō ðe ĩner word. Ɖe Lade Prezmirā lēnd āhvīl on ðe blak marbel bālustrād, gaziŋ seword over ðe lēvel marfez ruf wið mōnlīt. "Huôt kēr I for Laksus?" Je sed at lāst. "Huôt kēr I for Korinyus? A kâst ov hōks flōn bi ðe Kiŋ agānst a kwore ðat in dērwerðines and nobīlite ʒt fineþ an hundred sutf az ða. Nor I wil not sūfer mīn indignafon so tō witwanton wið fēr dʒustīs az perswād me tō pūt ðe wīt on Witfland. It iz mōst tru ðe Prins mi brūðer praktīst wið ʒr ěnemēz ðe dŕnþro ov ʒr fortʒūnz, brakiŋ open, had he but nōn it, ðe gāt ov destrukfjon for himself and us, ðat nīt hven ʒr bankwet wōz ternd bi him tō a bātel and ʒr wine merþs tō blūde rādʒez." Ɖe wōz silent for a tīm, ðen sed, "Ōþ-brakerz: a mōst ōdʒʒs nām, flat agānst ōl humānite. Tō fasez in wun hʒd. O ðat erp wōd start up and strīk ðe sinz ðat tred on her!"

"I se ðʒ lʒkst west over se," sed Gro.

"Ɖērʒ sumhuôt ðʒ kanst se, ðen, mi Lord Gro, bi ʒl-līt," sed Prezmirā.

"Ɖʒ didst tel me at ðe tīm," he sed, "wið huôt kompliments in vʒz and strāndʒ wel-stūdēd prōmisez ov frendʒip ðe Lord Dʒus tʒk lēv ov ðe at ðēr eskapiŋ ʒt ov Karse. Yet art ðʒ tō blām, O Kwēn, if ðʒ tāk in tō il part ðe brakiŋ ov sutf prōmisez gīven in ekstrēmite, hʒtʒ prōv kōmonle līk fiʒ, nu, stāl, and stinkiŋ in pre dāz."

"Ɖūr, tiz a smōl māter," sed Je, "ðat mi brūðer ʒud kâst asīd ōl tīz ov interest and aliāns tō sāv ðēz grāt wunz from an evil deþ; and ða, beiŋ delīverd, ʒud tos him a līt grāmerse and go ðēr wāz, leviŋ him tō be eksterminated ʒt ov hiz ōn kuntre and, for ōl ða no or rek, tō looz hiz līf. Ma ðe grāt Dēvil ov Hel tortʒūr ðēr sōlz!"

"Mādam," sed Lord Gro, "I wōd hav ðe vu ðe māter soberle, and lēv ðēz bīter flāfez. Ɖe Demonz did sāv ði brūðer wuns in Lidā Nangunā, and hiz delīveriŋ ov ðem ʒt ov ðe hand ov ʒr Lord ðe Kiŋ wōz but dʒust pament ðērfor. Ɖe skālʒ haŋ ēkwā."

Ɖe ānserd, "Dō not defīl mīn ērz wið ðēr ekskusez. Ɖa hav ʒāmfōle abūzd us; and ðe gilt ov ðēr blak dēd plāntēþ ðem da bi da mœr fermleer in mi deper-sēteld hāt. Art ðʒ so dēple red in nātʒūr and her lardʒ

filösofe, and I am yet too tētſ ðe ðat dedleest hēlebor  
or ðe vōmit ov a tōd ar kwōlifid pəʒon too ðe mālīs ov a  
wōman?"

Ðe darknes ov a grāt klūd-bank sprēdiſ from ðe sǫp  
swōlōd up ðe mōnlīt. Prezmirā ternd too rēzūm her slo  
pasiſ dǫn ðe tērās. Ðe yēlo fire sparkelz in her īz  
glinted in ðe flambəz flēr. Se lukt dāndzerǫs az a  
liones, and dēlikāt and grāsful līk an antelōp. Gro wōkt  
besīd her, saiſ, "Did not Korund drīv ðem fœrþ in winter  
on too ðe Morunā, and kan ða kontīnu ðēr in līf, alōn  
amid so mēne devǫriſ pērilz?"

"O mi lord," ſe krīd, "sa ðēz gūd tidiſz too ðe kitſen  
wentſez, not too me. Hi, ðiself didst enter in pāst yērz ðe  
vēre hart ov ðe Morunā and yet kāmst of, els art ðǫ ðe  
gratest liar. Ðis ōnle kanker-frets mi sōl: ðat dāz go bi,  
and munþs, and Witſland betep dǫn ōl pepelz under him,  
and yet he sūfereþ ðe krǫn ov prīd, ðēz rēbelz ov  
Demonland, too go yet untrōden under fēt. Duþ he dēm it ðe  
bēter part too spēr a fo and spəl a frend? Ðat wer an  
unhāpe and ūnatſural konkluzon. Or iz he fa, even az wōz  
Gorīs 11.? Hēven fœrfēld it, yet az il an end ma  
betſāns him and ūter ruin kum on ōl ov us if he wil  
wiðhōld hiz skerdz from Demonland until Dzus and Brandox  
Dahā kum hōm agān too mēt wið him."

"Mādam," sed Lord Gro, "in ðēz fu werdz ðǫ hast gīven me  
ðe piktfūr ov mīn ōn mīnd in smōl. And forgiſ me ðat I  
bespāk ðe warile at ðe ferst, for ðēz ar māterz ov  
hēve moment, and ēr I opend mi mīnd too ðe I wōd no  
ðat it agrēd wið ðīn. Let ðe Kiſ smīt nǫ, in ðe hāpe  
absens ov ðēr gratest tſampeonz. So ſal we be in strenþ  
agānst ðem if ða retern agān, and pertſāns Gōldre wið  
ðem."

Se smīld, and it sēmd az if ōl ðe sultre nīt frēfend  
and swetend at ðat ladēz smīl. "Ðǫ art a dēr kompanyon  
too me," ſe sed. "Ði mēlankole iz too me az sum ſade wōd  
in sūmer, huēr I ma dāns if I wil, and ðat iz often, or  
be sad if I wil, and ðat iz in ðēz dāz oftener ðan I  
wōd: and nēver ðǫ krōsest mi mōd. Sāv but nǫ ðǫ didst  
so, too plāg me wið ði prēſǫs flāteriſ dzargon, til I  
had þōt ðe skin-tſāndzd wið Laksus or yuſ Korinyus,  
sekiſ sutſ lūrz az galants spred ðēr wiſz too, too stoop  
in ladēz buzomz."

"For I wōd ſāk ðe from ðis lāt-resēvd sadnes," sed  
Gro. And he sed, "Ðǫ art too komend me too, sins I spāk

nôt but trūþ."

"O, hav dun, mi lord," Je krīd, "or Īl dīsmis ðe hens." And az ða wōkt Prezmirā saŋ softle:

*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----*

Se brōk of sūdenle, saiŋ, "Kum, I hav ƒuk of ðe il dispozīfon ðe sīt ov Laksus bred in me and ov hiz tōdre krōn. Lets þink on akƒon. And ferst, I wil tel ðe a þiŋ. Ðis we spōk ov hap bēn in mi mīnd ðēz tō or þre mōonz, ēver sins Korinyusez kampaniŋ in Pīksiland. So hven werd kām ov mi lordz destrqīŋ ov ðe Demon hōst, and hiz driviŋ ov Dzus and Brandox Dahâ līk rūnawa þrōlz on ðe Morunâ, I sent him a lēter bi ðe hand ov Viglus ðat bēr him from Ūr Lord ðe Kiŋ ðe kiŋz nām in Impland. Ðarin I eksprest hþ ðat ðe krōn ov Demonland ƒud be a braver krōn for us ðan ðis ov Impland, hþsoēr it sparkel, praiŋ him erdž ūpon ðe Kiŋ hiz sendiŋ ov an armament tō Demonland, and mi lord ðe leder ðarov; or, if he kūd not az ðen kum hōm tō âsk it, ðen I entreted him māk me hiz ambāsador tō la ðis kōnsel befœr ðe Kiŋ and krāv ðe enterpīz for Korund."

"Iz not hiz ânser in ðōz lēterz I brōt ðe?" sed Gro.

"I," sed Je, "and a vēre skerve bēgarle likspītel ânser for a grāt lord tō send tō sutƒ a māter az I propōnded. Alak, it pufs awa ôl mi wīfle dżute but tō spēk ont, and māks me rāl līk a gangrel-wōman."

"Īl wōk apart, mādam," sed Gro, "if ðþ wudst hav privātnes tō delīver ði mīnd."

Prezmirā lâft. "Tiz not ôl so bad," Je sed, "and yet it

māks me angre. Ðe enterprīz he komendz, up tō ðe hilt, and I hav hiz lēv tō brōtf it tō ðe Kiŋ, az hiz mǽp-pēs, and pres it wið him ʒt ov ôl ho. But for ðe lediŋ ont, he wil not hav it, he. Korsus must hav it, or Korinyus. Sta, let me rēd it ʒt," and standiŋ nēr wun ov ðe līts fe tsk a partfment from her bŷzom. "Pœ! tiz tō fond; I wil not fām mi lord tō rēd it, even tō ðe."

"Wel," sed Gro, "wer I ðe Kiŋ, Korund fŷd be mi dzĕneral tō pŷt dʒn Demonland. Korsus he ma send, for he haþ dun grāt werk in hiz da, but in mīn ōn dzudʒment I līk him not for sutf an ěrand. Korinyus he haþ not yet forgiven for hiz fōlt at ðe bankwet a yēr ago."

"Korinyus!" sed Prezmirâ. "So hiz bŷtfere ov mīn ōn dēr land goeþ not ōnle wiðʒt reword, but haþ not so mutf az bōt him bak tō favor, ðʒ þinkst?"

"I þink not," sed Lord Gro. "Besīdz, he iz mad roþ tō hav plukt ðat prikle frūt but for anŷðerz etiŋ. He bēr himself so prezumpfʒs-il in ðe hōl tō-nīt, glekiŋ and gōliŋ at Laksus, slāpiŋ ov hiz sœrd, and wið so mēne mœr fāmles brāvz and wōnton fāʒonz, and werst ov ôl hiz mōst openle sekiŋ tō tq wið Srivâ, i' ðis ferst munþ ov her betroðal untō Laksus, it wil be a wunder if blud be not spilt betwikst ðem êr ðe nīt be dun. Mēþinks he iz not i' ðe mood tō tāk ðe fēld agān wiðʒt sum fūr reword; and mēþinks ðe Kiŋ, gēsŋ hiz mīnd, wŷd not ōfer him a nu enterprīz and so giv him ðe glœre ov refuziŋ it."

Ða stŷd nēr ðe artfŷt gātwa ðat opend on ðe tērās from ðe ĩner kœrt. Muzik stil sĕnded from ðe grāt bankwet hōl ov Gorīs 11. Under ðe artfwa and in ðe fādōz ov ðe hŷdz butresez ov ðe wōlz it wōz az ðo ðe ělements ov glœm, ekspeld from ðe brīt serkelz rĕnd ðe flambqz, hŷdeld wið sister glœmz tō māk a dŷbel darknes.

"Wel, mi lord," sed Prezmirâ, "dup ði wizdom bles mi rezolv?"

"Hŷtēr it be, yes, bekōz it iz ðīn, O Kwēn."

"Hŷtēr it be!" fe krīd. "Dust haŋ in dʒt ont? Hŷt els, but sēk ōdzens wið ðe Kiŋ az mi ferst kēr in ðe morniŋ. Hav I not mi lordz bīdiŋ so far?"

"And if ði zēl ʒtrun hiz bīdiŋ in wun partīkular?" sed Gro.

"Hi, dzust!" sed fe. "And if I briŋ ðe not werd êr



tō-morōz nōn đat order iz gĭven for Demonland, and mi Lord  
Korund nāmd hiz dʒĕneral for đat salij, i, and lĕterz  
sĕld for hiz strāt rekōl from Orpij----"

"Hist!" sed Gro. "Steps i' đe kĕert."

Đa ternd tōwordz đe artfwa, Prezmirā sĭrij under her  
brep:

*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.*

Korinyus met đem in đe gātwa, kŭmiŕj from đe bankwet  
hŭs. He hōlted ful in đēr pāp tō pēr klōsle þrō đe  
darknes at Prezmirā, so đat fe felt đe hēt ov hiz brep,  
hĕve wiđ wĭn. It wōz tō dark tō no fasez but he nu her  
bi her statfŭr and barij.

"Kri đe merse, mādā," he sed. "Mĕþōt an instant  
twōz--but no māter. Yor best ov rest."

So saiŕj he mād wa for her wiđ a dĕp obazans, dʒosliŕj  
rufle agānst Gro wiđ đe sām moʒon. Gro, lĭtel mĭnded  
for a kworel, gāv him đe wōl, and fōlōd Prezmirā intō  
đe ĭner kĕert.

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Đe Lord Korinyus sat him dĕn on đe nerest ov đe bentfez,  
lĕnd hiz stōlwort bak lukfureðsle ŭpon đe kŭfonz and  
đēr rested, þŕiþij hiz fingerz and sĭrij tō himself:

*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 rūsel behīnd him on hiz left mād him tern hiz hed. A figūr stōl ʒt ov ǝe dēp fādo ov ǝe butres nerest ǝe artfwa. He lept up and wōz ferst in ǝe gāt, blōkiŋ it wið open armz. "Â," he krīd, "so titmīs rœst i' ǝe fād, hâ? Huôt ransom fal I hav ov ǝe for makinŋ me kēp empte trist lâst nīt? I, and wōst krepiŋ hens tœ māk me a fœol wuns mœer ǝe nīt-loŋ and I had not kôt ǝe."

ǝe lade lâft. "Lâst nīt mi fâðer kept me bi him; and tœ-nīt, mi lord, wœdst ǝʒ not hav bēn fitle servd for ǝi fāmles dīte? Iz ǝat a swēt serenād for ladēz ērz? Siŋ it agān, tœ ǝi liberte, and fo ǝiself an as."

"ǝʒ art vēre bōld tœ provōk me, mādān, wið not even a star tœ be ǝi witnes if I kwīt ǝe fort. ǝēz flambqz ar ōld rqtstererz, grōn gra in sēnz ov riot. ǝa fal not blab."

"Na, if ǝʒ spēkst in wīn Īm gon, mi lord;" and az he tœk a step tœwordz her, "and I retern not, hēr or ūðerwīz, but fliŋ ǝe of for ēver," ʒe sed. "I wil not be entreted līk a serviŋ-mād. I hav bœern tœ loŋ wið ǝi fœerst sōldʒer fāʒonz."

Korinyus kôt hiz armz abʒt her, liftiŋ her agānst hiz brōd tʒfest so ǝat her tōz skērs kept fœtiŋ on ǝe grōnd. "O Srivā," he sed þikle, bendiŋ hiz fās tœ herz, "dust þink tœ līt so grāt a fīr, and âfter wōk þrœ it and not be skortʒt ǝarat?"

Her armz wer klōs pinyond at her sīdz in ǝat stronŋ embrās. ʒe sēmd tœ swœon, az a līle swœoniŋ in ǝe flamiŋ nœon-da. Korinyus bent dʒn hiz fās and kist her fērsle, saiŋ, "Bi ōl ǝe swēts ǝat ēver darknes tāsted, ǝʒ art mīn tœ-nīt."

"Too-moro," je sed, az if stifeld.

But Korinyus sed, "Mi derest häpines, too-nīt."

"Mi dēr lord," sed ðe Lade Srivâ softle, "sip ðð hast mād sutf a konkwest ov mi luv, be not a harf and forword konkeror. I swēr too ðe bi ôl ðe dredful pðerz ðat klip ðe erp abðt, ðêrz māter in it I fud too mi fâðer ðis nīt, na mœr, nð on ðe instant. Twôz ðis ònle mād me avqð ðe but nð: ðis, and no līt konsēt too veks ðe."

"He kan atend ðr plëzūr," sed Korinyus. "Tiz an ôld man, and oft sīteþ lāt at hiz bøk."

"Hð? and ðð leftst him karðziŋ?" sed je. "Ðêrz ðat I must impart too him êr ðe wīn kwīt ôrflo hiz wits. Even ðis dela, hð swēt soêr too us, iz dāndzerðs."

But Korinyus sed, "I wil not let ðe go."

"Wel," sed je, "be a bēst, ðen. But no Īl kri on a resku fal māk ôl Karse run too fīnd us, and mi brüðerz, i, and Laksus, if he be a man, fal dēl ðe bīter pament for ði violens tooword me. But if ðð wilt be ði nobel self, and respekt mi luv wið frendfip, let me go. And if ðð kum sēkretle too mi tfāmber dœr, an ðr pāst midnīt; I þink þðlt fīnd no bolt too it."

"Hâ, ðð swêrst it?" he sed.

Σe ânserd, "Els ma stēp destrukfon swôlo me kwik."

"An ðr pāst midnīt. And until ðen tiz a yēr in mi dezīrz," sed he.

"Ðêr spōk mi nobel lüver," sed Srivâ, gīviŋ him her mðþ wuns mœr. And swifflle je fêrd þrœ ðe fādoe artfwa and akros ðe kœrt too hûer in ðe norþ gälere her fâðer Korsus had hiz tfāmber.

Ðe Lord Korinyus went bak too hiz sēt, and ðêr reklīnd for a spās in slopføl ēz, hūmiŋ too an ôld tfūn:

*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 off which way you Will,*

*She will requoile to another still--  
Fa, la, la, la, la, la.*

He stretfht hiz armz and yônd. "Wel, Laksus, mi tfub-fāst mekok, ðis mēdisīn haþ ēzd pþerfœle mi diskontent. Tiz but fêr, siþ I must mis mi krþn, ðat I fud hav ði mistres. And tœ sa tru, seiŋ hþ bās, lītel, and ordinare a kiŋdom iz ðis ov Piksiland, and huôt a delektabel swēt wagtāl ðis Srivâ, huôm besīdz I hav ðēz tœ yērz pâst nêr lœkt on but mi mþp wôterd: hvi, I ma hōld me part pād for ðe nons; until I were ov her.

*Love is all my life,  
For it keeps me doing:  
Yet my love and wooing  
Is not for a Wife--*

"An þr pâst midnīt, hâ? Huôt wīnz best for lüverz? Ìl go drink a stoop, and so tœ dīs wið sum ov ðēz ladz tœ pās awa ðe tīm til ðen."

16. Ðe Lade Srivâz Embasādʒ

Hþ ÐE D3ÛK KORSUS PÔT IT PRÖPER Tœ KOMIT AN ĘRAND OV STĀT UNTœ HIZ DÔTER: AND Hþ SE PROSPERD ÐARIN.

Srivâ fêrd swifflle tœ her fâðerz klözet, and findiŋ her lade müðer soiŋ in her tfêr, nõdiŋ tœword slēp, tœ kandelz at her left and rīt, fe sed, "Mi lade müðer, ðērz a kwēnz krþn wāts ðe plūkiŋ. Twil drop into ðe forān wōmanz lap if ðþ and mi fâðer bester u not. Huêr iz he? Stil i' ðe bankwet hþs? Ðþ or I must fetf him on ðe instant."

"Fi!" krīd Zenambreâ. "Hþ ðþst starteld me! Fôl sumhuôt into a sloer spētʒ, mi gerl. Wið sutʒ wīld süden tœk I no not huôt ðþ menest nor huôts ðe mäter."

But Srivâ ânserd, "Mäter ov stāt. Ðþ gōst not? Gud, ðen I fetf him. Ðþ falt hêr ôl anon, müðer;" and so ternd tœwordz ðe dæer. Nor mīt ôl her müðerz kriiŋ þt ūpon ðe skandal ov ðêr so reterniŋ tœ ðe bankwet loŋ pâst ðe þr ov ðe wīmenz wiðdrôal tern her from ðis. So ðat ðe Lade Zenambreâ, seiŋ her so wilfoł, þôt it les evil

tō go herself; and so went, and in āhvīl reternd wið Korsus.

Korsus sat in hiz grāt tǣr over agānst hiz lade wīf, hvīl  
hiz dōter tōld her tāl.

"Twīs and þrīs," sed ƿe, "ða pāst me bi, az nēr az I  
stand tō ðe, O mi fāðer, ƿe leniſ mōst famīlearle on ðe  
arm ov her kerld filōsofer. Twōz plān ða had nēver a  
þōt ðat ēne wōz bi tō overhēr ðem. Se sed so and so;"  
and ðērwið Srivā tōld ōl ðat wōz spōk bi ðe Lade  
Prezmirā az tō an ekspedīƿon tō Demonland, and az tō her  
perpōst spekiſ wið ðe Kiſ, and az tō her dezīn ðat  
Korund ƿud be hiz dʒēneral for ðat salīſ, and lēterz  
sēld on ðe moro for hiz strāt rekōl from Orpiƿ.

Ðe Dʒūk līsend unmoovd, breðiſ hēvile, leniſ hēvile  
forword, hiz elbo on hiz nēz, wun grāt fat hand twistiſ  
and pʒiſ bak ðe spars gra grōp ov hiz muſtāƿeōz. Hiz  
tīz ƿiſted wið sūlen glāns abōt ðe tǣmber, and hiz  
blāber tǣks, skarlet from ðe fēst, fluƿt tō a deper  
hu.

Zenambreā sed, "Alās, and did not I tel ðe loſ ago, mi  
lord, ðat Korund did il tō wed wið a yuſ wīf? And ðens  
kūmeþ nō ðat ƿām ðat wōz but tō be lōkt for. It iz pīte  
indēd ov so gʒdle a man, nō pāst hiz pīm ādʒ, ƿe ƿud  
so pla at fāst and loos wið hiz ōnor, and he at ðe far  
end ov ðe werld. Indēd and indēd, I hōp he wil revendʒ it  
on her at hiz kūmiſ hōm. For ƿūr I am, Korund iz tō  
hi-mīnded tō bi advānsment at so ƿāmƿol a pīrīs."

"Ði tōk, wīf," sed Korsus, "ƿoep loſ hēr and a ƿort  
wit. In brēf, ðō art a ƿol."

He wōz silent for a spās, ðen rāzd hiz gāz tō Srivā, hvēr  
ƿe rested, her bak tō ðe māsiƿ tabel, hāf standiſ, hāf  
siſiſ, a dānte dʒuel-besparkeld hand plānted on ðe tabelz  
edʒ at her iðer sīd, her armz līk dēlikāt hvīt pīlarz  
supcœrtiſ ðat fēr frām. Sumhvōt hiz dul i britend,  
restiſ on her. "Kum hīðer," he sed, "on mi ne: so."

Hven ƿe wōz seted, "Tiz a brāv gōn," sed he, "ðō  
wērst tō-nīt, mi pīte pug. Red, for a sangwīn humor."  
Hiz grāt arm gāv her a bak, and hiz hand, hūdʒ az a plāter,  
la līk a bukler benēþ her brest. "Ðō smelst pāsiſ  
swēt."

"Tiz malabaðrum in ðe lēf," ānserd ƿe.

"Īm glad it līks ðe, mi lord," sed Zenambreā. "Mi wuman

stil protestep ðat sutf, beinj bqlid wið wīn, yēldeþ a  
perfūm ðat pāseþ ōl ūðer."

Korsus stil lukt on Srivâ. Āfter a hūil he āskt, "Hūt  
mādst ðþ on ðe tērās i' ðe dark, hā?"

Σe lukt dþn, saiņ, "It wōz Laksus prād me mēt him  
ðēr."

"Hum!" sed Korsus. "Tiz strāndz ðen he fud awāt ðe  
ðis þr gon bi in ðe pāvð āle ov ðe prīve kœert."

"He did mistāk me," sed Srivâ. "And wel iz he servd, for  
sutf neglekt."

"So. And ðþ ternst politīfan tœ-nīt, mi lītel pūs-kat?"  
sed Korsus. "And ðþ smelst an ekspedīfon tœ Demonland?  
Tiz līk eno. But mēþinks ðe Kiņ wil send Korinyus."

"Korinyus?" sed Srivâ. "It iz not þôt so. Tiz Korund must  
hav it, if ðþ þvf not ðe māter tœ a desīzon wið ðe  
Kiņ tœ-nīt, O mi fāðer, êr mi lade foks be privāt wið him  
tœ-moro."

"Bâ!" sed Korsus. "Ðþ art but a gerl, and nōst nôt.  
Σe hap not ðe fōl blud nor ðe rezoluþon tœ kære it  
ðus. No, tiz not Korund standz i' ðe līt, it iz Korinyus.  
It iz ðêrfœer ðe Kiņ wiðheld from him Pīksiland, hūitf wōz  
hiz dzu, and tost ðe bōbel tœ Laksus."

"Hui, tiz a monstrþs þiņ," sed Zenambreâ, "if Korinyus  
fal hav Demonland, hūitf fūrle mutf serpāseþ ðis krþn  
ov Pīksiland. Σal ðis nōvīs hav ōl ðe mēt, and ðþ,  
bekōz ðþ art ōld, hav nôt but ðe bōnz and ðe  
pariņz?"

"Höld ði tunj, mistres," sed Korsus, lūkiņ ūpon her az  
wun lūkeþ on a sþr mikstfūr. "Hui hadst not ðe wit tœ angel  
for him for ði dōter?"

"Trule, huzband, Īm sore for it," sed Zenambreâ.

Ðe Lade Srivâ lâft, plasiņ her arm abþt her fāðerz  
bulo-k-nek and plain wið hiz hūskerz. "Kontent ðe," fe  
sed, "mi lade mūðer. I hav mi tʃqs, and ðat iz vère  
sertān, ov ðêz and ov ōl ūðer in Karse. And nþ I bēþink  
me on ðe Lord Korinyus, hui, ðêrz a prōper man indēd:  
wareþ a faven lip tœ, hūitf, az ekspereenst opinyon fal  
tel ðe, far eksedeþ yor nāste mustāfeōz."

"Wel," sed Korsus, kīsiŋ her, "hǽr it fāp, Īl tō  
ðe Kiŋ tō-nīt tō mōv mi māter wið him. Mēnhwīl,  
mādam," he sed tō Zenambreā, "Īl hav ðe tāk ði tƒāmber  
strāt. Bolt wel ðe dær, and for mœr sāfte I wil lok  
it miself o' ðe ƒter sīd. Ðêrz mutƒ merp tōword  
tō-nīt, and Īd not hav ðêz stāgeriŋ drunken swōdz  
ofend ðe, az ƒul wel mīt befōl, hwīlz I am on mīn  
ërand ov stāt."

Zenambreā bad him gōd-nīt, and wōd hav taken her  
dōter wið her, but Korsus sed na tō ðis, saiŋ, "Īl  
se her sāf bestōd."

Hven ða wer alōn, and ðe Lade Zenambreā lokt awa in her  
tƒāmber, Korsus tōk ƒœrþ from an oken kŭbord a grāt  
silver flāgon and tō tƒāst goblets. Ðêz he brimd wið a  
sparkliŋ yēlo wīn from ðe flāgon and mād Srivā drink wið  
him not wuns ōnle but twīs, empteiŋ ētƒ tīm her goblet.  
Ðen he dru up hiz tƒêr and sinkiŋ hēvile intō it fōlded  
hiz armz ūpon ðe tabel and bērēd hiz hed ūpon ðem.

Srivā pāst bak and ƒœrþ, impafent at her fāðerz strāndz  
postƒūr and silens. Σūrle ðe wīn lited riot in her vānz;  
ƒūrle in ðat silent rōom kām bak tō her Korinyusez kīsez  
hot ūpon her mǽþ, ðe strenþ ov hiz armz līk bandz ov  
bronz hōldiŋ her embrāst. Midnīt tōld. Her bōnz sēmd  
tō melt wiðin her az ƒe bēþōt ov her prōmīs, dzu in an  
ǽr.

"Fāðer," sed ƒe at lāst, "midnīt haþ strīken. Wilt ðǽ  
not go êr it be tō lāt?"

Ðe Dzŭk rāzd hiz fās and lokt at her. He ānserd "No."  
"No," he sed agān, "hwêrz ðe prōfit? I waks ōld, mi  
dōter, and must wiðer. Ðe werld iz tō ðe yuŋ. Tō  
Korinyus; tō Laksus; tō ðe. But mōst ov ôl tō Korund, hwō if  
a be ōld yet haþ hiz mes ov sunz, and miteest ov ôl hiz  
wīf, tō be hiz lāder tō klīm þrōnz wiðōl."

"But ðǽ sādst but nǽ--" sed Srivā.

"I, hven ði māme wōz bi. Σe kŭmeþ tō her sēkond tƒīldhōd  
befœr her tīm, so az tō a tƒīld I spēk tō her. Korund did  
il tō wed wið a yuŋ wīf, hā? Frut! Iz not ðis ðe vēre  
bŭlwork and rampīr ov hiz fortƒŭn? Didst ëver se a fēlo so  
sperted up in a moment? Mi sekretare hven I mǽnādƒd ðe ōld  
worz agānst ðe Goolz, and nǽ klīmd klēn over me, ðat am  
yet nīn yēr hiz elder. Kōld kiŋ, forsœþ, and līk tō be  
taen sōn (under ðe Kiŋ) for Dōminus fak totum þrōst

ôl ðe land if a pla ðis wōman az a fōd. Wil not ðe  
Kij, for sutf pament az fe intendz, giv Demonland ūpon  
Impland and ôl ðe werld besīd? Helz dignite, ðat wōd I,  
and twer ôferd me."

He stōd up, rētfinj unstedile for ðe wīn dzug. Fertivle he  
wōtft hiz dōter, fiftinj hiz gāz ēver az her i met  
hiz.

"Korund," sed he, pæriņ ūt sum wīn, "wōd split hiz  
sīdz for lâfter tō hēr ði mūdērz prim-mōpt brābel:  
he ðat hap endzqnd ūpon hiz wīf, ðērz nēr a dōt  
ont, ðis vēre ērand, and if he vīzit it on her at hiz kūmiņ  
hōm twil but be wið hōter luv and grātifūd for ðat fe  
winz him in ūr despīt. Trust me, tiz not ēvere lade ov  
kwōlite fal fīnd favor wið a Kij."

Ðe kāsment stōd open, and hūl ða stōd wiðōt spētj  
sōndz ov a lūt trembeld upword from ðe kœrt belo, and a  
manz vq̄s, soft and dēp, sīriņ ðis sorj:

*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.*

Ðe Lade Srivā nu it wōz Laksus sīriņ tō her t̄fāंबर windo.  
Her blud bēt wīldle, ðe spīrit ov enterprīz wīriņ her  
imādžinafōn not tōword him, nor yet Korinyus, but intō pāps



strāndzle and pērilšsle invitij, undrēmd ov until nš. Ēe Džūk her fāðer kām tōwordz her, þrustij ðe tʃēz from hiz wa, and saij, "Korund and hiz mes ov sunz! Korund and hiz yuŋ Kwēn! If he kundzūr wið ðe huīt rōz, hui not ðš and I wið ðe red? It haþ az fēr a lōk, ðe dēvil dam me els, and savoreþ az ekselent swēt perfūm."

Še stērd at him big-īd, wið blūfij tʃēks. He tōk her handz in hiz.

"Šal ðis štland wōman," he sed, "and her sālo-tʃēkt galant stil rūfel it over us? Loŋ bērdz, huēðer ða be huīt or blak, ar tō hūdʒ a blēmij in šr i, mēþinks. Ēe þij semeþ not supcærtabel, ðat ðis presīs mādam wið her forān fāfonz--Dust fēr tō stand i' ðe fēld agānst her?"

Srivā pōt her fōerhed on hiz jōlder and sed, skērs tō be herd, "And it kum tō ðat, Ī fo ðe."

"It must be nš," sed Korsus. "Prezmirā, ðš hast tōld me, sekeþ ōdzens beþimz i' ðe mornij. Wīmen ar best at nīt-tīm, tō."

"If Laksus fūd hēr ðe!" Je sed.

He ānserd, "Tuf, he nēd nēver blām ðe, even if he nu ont, and we kan mānādʒ ðat. Ēi sīle mūðer prated but nš ov ōnor. Tiz but a skool-nām; and if twer ūðer, tel me huens sprīŋeþ ðe fšnt ov ōnor if not from ðe Kiŋ ov Kiŋz? If he resēv ðe, ðen art ðš ōnord, and ōl ða ðat hav tō dō wið ðe. I am yet tō lern disōnor lieþ on ðat man or wōman huōm ðe Kiŋ dup ōnor."

Še lāft, ternij from him tōword ðe windo, her handz stil held in hiz. "Fo, ðš hast gīven me a stronj poʃon! and I þink ðat swaep me mœr ðan ði mēne arguments, O mi fāðer, huīt tō sa trūþ I kanot wel remember bekōz I did not mutʃ belēv."

Džūk Korsus tōk her bi ðe jōlderz. Hiz fās overlōkt her bi a lītel, for Je wōz not tōl ov bild. "Bi ðe Godz," he sed, "tiz a stronger swēt sent ov ðe red rōz tō māk a grāt man drunk wiðōl ðan ov ðe huīt, ðo ðat be a bīger flšer." And he sed, "Hui not, for a gām, for a madkap dzest? A mantel and huð, a māsik if ðš wilt, and mi rij tō pꝛov ðe mīn ambāsador. Ī atend ðe þꝛō ðe kœrt-yard tō ðe fut o' ðe stērz."

Se sed nūpiŋ, smiliŋ at him az se ternd for him too pŋt  
ðe grāt velvet mantel abðt her fōlderz.

"Hā," sed he, "tiz wel sēn a dōter iz werp ten sunz."

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In ðe mēnhūī Gorīs ðe Kiŋ sāt in hiz privāt tġamber  
ritiŋ at a partġment spred befōer him on ðe tabel ov  
pōlift marmolīt. A silver lamp bernd at hiz left elbo. ðe  
windo stŋd open too ðe nīt. ðe Kiŋ had lād asīd hiz  
krðn, ðat sparkeld darkle in ðe fādo belo ðe lamp. He  
pŋt dðn hiz pen and rēd agān huōt he had rit, in māner  
fōloinŋ:

*Fram Me, Gorice the Twelġt, 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 sufġycyaunt 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 thou enter forcybly ynto the sayd cuntrie and doe  
with al dilygence spoyl ravysche and depopulate that lande,  
enslavying oppresyng and puttyng to the dethe as thou shalt  
thynke moost servychable al them that shal fall ynto thy powre,  
and in pertyculer pullyng downe and ruinating 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  
chaarge, 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 thou  
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 sufġycyaunt warrant under My hande. Given under My signeth  
of Ouroboros in My pallaice of Carcie thys xxix daie of may,  
beynge the vij daie of My yeare II.*

Ɖe Kiŋ tøk waks and a taper from Ɖe grāt gōld ink-stand,  
and sēld Ɖe worant wið Ɖe rube hed ov Ɖe werm  
Oroboros, sairŋ, "Ɖe rube, mōst kumfortabel tō Ɖe hart,  
brān, vīgor, and mēmōre ov man. So, tiz konfermd."

In Ɖat instant hven Ɖe waks wōz yet soft ov Ɖe Kiŋz sēl  
seliŋ Ɖat komiŋon for Korsus, wun tapt dzentle at Ɖe  
tŋamber dær. Ɖe Kiŋ bad enter, and Ɖēr kām Ɖe kaptān  
ov hiz bōdigard and stōd befōer Ɖe Kiŋ, wið werd Ɖat wun  
wated wiððt, praiŋ instant ōdzens, "And ŋōd me for a  
token, O mi Lord Ɖe Kiŋ, a bōlz hed wið fire nostrilz  
graven in a blak opal in Ɖe bēzel ov a riŋ, hwiŋ I nu for  
Ɖe signet ov mi Lord Korsus Ɖat hiz lordŋip bareþ ōlwa on  
hiz left þum. And twōz Ɖis, O Kiŋ, Ɖat ōnle perswaded me  
tō delīver Ɖe mēsādʒ untō yor Madʒeste in Ɖis unsezonabel  
Þr. Hwiŋ if it be a fōlt in me, I dō humble hōp yor  
Madʒeste wil pardon."

"Nōst Ɖð Ɖe man?" sed Ɖe Kiŋ.

He ānserd, "I mīt not no him, dred Lord, for Ɖe māsks  
and grāt huded klōk he wareþ. It iz a lītel man, and  
spekeþ a huske hwisper."

"Admit him," sed Kiŋ Gorīs; and hven Srivā wōz kum in,  
māsks and huded and hōldiŋ fōerþ Ɖe riŋ, he sed, "Ɖð  
lōkst kwestŋonabel, ōlbeit Ɖis token opend a wa for Ɖe.  
Pūt of Ɖēz trāpiŋz and let me no Ɖe."

But ŋe, spekiŋ stil in a huske hwisper, prād Ɖat Ɖa  
mīt be privāt ēr ŋe disklōzd herself. So Ɖe Kiŋ bad  
lēv Ɖem privāt.

"Dred Lord," sed Ɖe sōldʒer, "iz it yor wil Ɖat I stand  
rēde wiððt Ɖe dær?"

"No," sed Ɖe Kiŋ. "Vqđ Ɖe ante-tŋamber, set Ɖe gard, and  
let nun disterb me." And tō Srivā he sed, "If Ɖīn ērand  
prōv not mōer ōnester Ɖan Ɖi lōks, Ɖis iz an il nīts  
dʒerne for Ɖe. At Ɖe liftiŋ ov mi finger I am abel tō  
metamorfōz Ɖe tō a mandrāk. If indēd Ɖð bēst ōt  
els ōlrēde."

Hven Ɖa wer alōn Ɖe Lade Srivā doft her māsks and pūt  
bak her hūd, unkūveriŋ her hed Ɖat wōz krōnd wið tō  
hēve trāmelz ov her dark brōn hēr bōnd up and interwoven  
abuv her brō and ērz and pind wið silver pinz hēded wið  
garnets kōlord līk berniŋ kōlz. Ɖe Kiŋ beheld her from

under ðe grāt fǣdo ov hiz brǣz, darkle, not bi so mutf az  
ðe mæviŋ ov an ilid or a linyament ov hiz lēn vīzādƷ  
betrain ȝt ðat pāst in hiz mīnd at ðis diskloziŋ.

Ʒe trembeld and sed, "O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, I hōp u wil  
induldƷ and pardon in me ðis trespas. Trule I marvel at mīn  
ȝn bōldnes hƷ I derst kum tȝ u."

Wið a dzestfūr ov hiz hand ðe Kiŋ bad her be seted in a  
tƷêr on hiz rīt besīd ðe tabel. "ÐƷ nēdst not be  
afrād, mādam," he sed. "Ðat I admit ðe, let it māk ðe  
ǣfūrd ov welkum. Let me no ðīn ęrand."

Ðe fīr ov her fāðerz wīn fūderd dƷn wīðin her līk a  
lo-lit flām in a gust ov wind az fe sat ðêr alȝn wið  
Kiŋ Gorīs 12. in ðe serkel ov ðe lamplīt. Ʒe tȝk a  
dēp breþ tȝ stil her harts flūteriŋ and sed, "O Kiŋ,  
I wōz mutf afērd tȝ kum, and it wōz tȝ āsk u a bȝon: a  
lītel þiŋ for u tȝ giv, Lord, and yet tȝ me ðat am ðe  
lēst ov yor handmādz a grāt þiŋ tȝ resēv. But nƷ I am  
kum indēd, I derst not āsk it."

Ðe glīter ov hiz īz lȝkiŋ Ʒt from ðêr ēvz ov  
darknes dismād her; and lītel kumfort had fe ov ðe īrn  
krƷn at hiz elbo, brīt wið dzemz and fērs wið uplifted  
klōz, or ov ðe kȝper serpents interlāst ðat mād ðe armz  
ov hiz tƷêr, or ov ðe brīt īmādz ov ðe lamp reflekted in  
ðe tabel top hƷer wer red strēks līk strēks ov blud and  
blak strēks līk edƷez ov sȝerdz strekiŋ ðe grēn fīniŋ  
serfās ov ðe stȝn.

Yet fe tȝk hart tȝ sa, "Wer I a grāt lord had dun yor  
madƷeste servīs az mi fāðer hap, or ðēz ūðerz u did  
ȝnor tȝ-nīt, O Kiŋ, it had bēn ūðerwīz." He sed  
nūþiŋ, and stil gāðeriŋ kūrādƷ fe sed, "I tȝ wȝd  
serv u, O Kiŋ. And I kām tȝ āsk u hƷ."

Ðe Kiŋ smīld. "I am mutf behōlden tȝ ðe, mādam. Dȝ az ðƷ  
hast dun, and ðƷ falt plēz me wel. Fēst and be mēre,  
and tƷardƷ not ðīn hed wið ðēz midnīt kwestfoniŋz,  
lest tȝ mutf kērfȝlnes māk ðe gro lēn."

"Gro I so, O Kiŋ? U fal dzudƷ." So spekiŋ ðe Lade  
Srivā rȝz up and stȝd befȝer him in ðe lamplīt. Slole fe  
opend her armz upwordz rīt and left, pȝtiŋ bak her velvet  
klōk from her fȝlderz, until ðe dark klōk hāŋiŋ in fȝldz  
from iðer uplifted hand wōz līk ðe wiŋz ov a berd lifted  
up for flīt. Dazliŋ fêr fon her bêr fȝlderz and bêr  
armz and þrȝt and bȝzom. Wun grāt hiasinþ stȝn, hāŋiŋ bi  
a gȝld tƷfān abƷt her nek, rested abuv ðe hȝlo ov her

brests. It flajt and slept wið her breðinȝ ōlternāt  
fōl and swel.

"U did þrēten me, Lord, but nȝ," Je sed, "tō trānzmu me  
tō a mandrāk. Wud u mīt tƿāndȝ me tō a man."

Se kōd rēd nūþin in ðe krag-līk darknes ov hiz  
kōntenans, ðe īrn lip, ðe īz ðat wer līk pulsij  
firrit ȝt ov hōlo kāvz.

"I ƿud serv u bēter so, Lord, ðan mi pōw bute ma.  
Wer I a man, I had kum tō u tō-nīt and sed, 'O Kiȝ, let  
us not sūfer ēne longer ov ðat hȝnd Dȝus. Giv me a sœrd, O  
Kiȝ, and I wil pūt dȝn Demonland for u and tred ðem  
under fēt.'" "

Se sank softle intō her tƿēr agān, sūferij her velvet  
klōk tō fōl over its bak. ðe Kiȝ ran hiz finger  
þōtƿole alonȝ ðe upstandij klōz ov ðe krȝn besīd him  
on ðe tabel.

"Iz ðis ðe bōon ðȝ āskst me?" he sed at lenȝ. "An  
ekspedīȝon tō Demonland?"

Se ānserd it wōz.

"Must ða sāl tō-nīt?" sed ðe Kiȝ, stil wōtƿinȝ her.

Se smīld fōlīȝle.

"Ōnle," he sed, "I wud no hȝt gadfli ov erdȝense sturȝ  
ðe on tō kum so strāndȝle and sūdenle and āfter midnīt."

Se pōzd a mīnūt, ðen sūmonij kūrādȝ: "Lest anȝðer  
ƿud ferst kum tō u, O Kiȝ," Je ānserd. "Belēv me, I  
no ov preparaȝonz, and wun ðat ƿal kum tō u in ðe  
mornij praiȝ ðis þinȝ for anȝðer. Hȝt intēlīdȝens  
soēver sum hap, I am ƿūr ov ðat tō be tru ðat I hav."

"Anȝðer?" sed ðe Kiȝ.

Srivā ānserd, "Lord, īl sa no nāmz. But ðēr be sum, O  
Kiȝ, be dāndȝerȝ swēt supleants, hāȝinȝ ðēr hōps belīk  
on ūðer stringȝ ðan we ma tƿūn."

Se had bent her hed abuv ðe pōlīft tabel, lōkinȝ  
kureȝsle dȝn intō its depȝs. Her korsādȝ and gȝn ov skarlet  
silk brokād wer līk ðe tƿālīs ov a grāt flȝer; her hȝt  
armz and ƿōlderz līk ðe pētalz ov ðe flȝer abuv it. At

lenþ fe lukt up.

"Ðǫ smīlst, mi Lade Srivā," sed ðe Kiņ.

"I smīld at mīn ōn þōt," fe sed. "Ūl lāf tō hēr it, O mi Lord ðe Kiņ, beīņ so dīferent from hvōt we spōk on. But fūr, ov wīmenz þōts iz no mœr furete nor rest ðan iz in a vān ðat terneþ at ōl windz."

"Let me hēr it," sed ðe Kiņ, bendīņ forword, hiz lēn hare hand flūņ īdle akros ðe tabelz edz.

"Hī ðus it wōz, Lord," sed fe. "Ðēr kām me in mīnd ov a sūden ðat saiņ ov ðe Lade Prezmirā hven ferst fe wōz wed tō Korund and dwelt hēr in Karse. Se sed ōl ðe rīt part ov her bōde wōz ov Witfland but ðe left Pikse. Hvarūpon ǫr pepel ðat wer bi rēdzqst mutf ðat fe had gīven ðe rīt part ov her bōde tō Witfland. Hvarūpon fe sed, but her hart wōz on ðe left sīd."

"And hvēr wērst ðǫ ðīn?" āskt ðe Kiņ. Se derst not lukt at him, and so sō not ðe kōmik līt go līk sūmer lītīņ akros hiz dark kǫntenans az fe spōk Prezmirāz nām.

Hiz hand had dropt from ðe tabel edz; Srivā felt it tutf her ne. Se trembeld līk a fōl sāl ðat sūdenle for an instant ðe wind lēvz. Vēre stil fe sat, saiņ in a lo vqz, "Ðēr z a werd, mi Lord ðe Kiņ, if ūd but spēk it, fōd bēm a līt tō fo u mīn ānser."

But he lēnd kloser, saiņ, "Dust þīnk īl tǫāfer wið ðe? īl no ðe ānser ferst i' ðe dark."

"Lord," fe hvīspērd, "I wōd not hav kum tō u in ðis dēp and ded tīm ov ðe nīt but ðat I nu u nobel and ðe grāt Kiņ, and no āmorǫs serfeter ðat fōd dēl fōls wið me."

Her bōde brēðd spīsez: soft worm sents tō māk ðe sensez rēl: perfūm ov malabaðrum brūzd in wīn, ēsensez ov sulfer-kūlord līlēz plānted in Afrodītēz garden. Ðe Kiņ dru her tō him. Se kāst her armz abǫt hiz nek, saiņ klōs tō hiz ēr, "Lord, I ma not slēp til u tel me ða must sāl, and Korsus must be ðēr kaptān."

Ðe Kiņ held her gāðerd up līk a tǫīld in hiz embrās. He kīst her on ðe mǫþ, a loņ dēp kīs. Ðen he sprāņ tō hiz fēt, set her dǫn līk a dol befœr him ūpon ðe tabel bi ðe lamp, and so sat bak in hiz ōn tǫē agān and sat regardīņ her wið a strāndz and dīsterbīņ smīl.

On a sūden hiz brļ darkend, and þrustiη hiz fās tōwordz herz, hiz þik blak skwēr-kut bērd dzūtiη benēþ ðe kerl ov hiz faven ūper lip, "Gerl," he sed, "h∞ sent ðe o' ðis ērand?"

He rōld hiz i ūpon her wið sutf a gorgon lūk ðat her blud ran bak wið a grāt lēp tōwordz her hart, and fe ânserd, skērs tō be herd, "Trule, O Kiη, mi fāðer sent me."

"Wōz he drunk hven he sent ðe?" âskt ðe Kiη.

"Trule, Lord, I þink he wōz," sed fe.

"Ðat kup ðat he wōz drunken wiðōl," sed Kiη Gorīs, "let him prīz and tferiη it ōl hiz līf natfural. For if in hiz sober sensez he fūd māk no mæer estimafon ov me ðan þink tō brīb mi favorz wið a bonā robā; bi mi sōl, in hiz evil helþ he had sōt tō dō it, for it fūd kost him nūþiη but hiz līf."

Srivā began tō wēp, saiη, "O Kiη, yor dzentel pardon."

But ðe Kiη pāst ðe rōom līk a prļliη lion. "Did he fēr I fūd supli Korund in hiz plās?" sed he. "Ðis wōz a kokfūr wa tō māk me dō it, if indēd hiz praktīs had mīt tō mōov me at ōl. Let him lern tō kum tō me wið hiz ōn mļþ if he hōp tō get gūd ov me. Ūðer els, ūt ov Karse let him go and avqđ mi sīt, ðat ōl ðe grāt māsterz ov Hel ma kondukt him ðīðer."

Ðe Kiη pōzd at lenþ besīd Srivā, ðat wōz pertft stil ūpon ðe tabel, foinη a kīnd ov swētnes in tērz, sōbiη vēre pītifōole, her fās hīden in her tō handz. So for a tīm he beheld her, ðen lifted her dļn, and hūl he sat in hiz grāt tfer, hōldiη her on hiz ne wið wun hand, wið ðe ūðer dru herz dzentle from befær her fās. "Kum," he sed, "I blām it not on ðe. Giv over ōl ði wepiη. Rēt f me ðat ritiη from ðe tabel."

Σe ternd in hiz armz and stretft a hand ūt for ðe partfment.

"Ðļ nōst mi signet?" sed ðe Kiη.

Σe nōded, i.

"Rēd," sed he, lētiη her go. Σe stōd bi ðe lamp, and red.

Ðe Kiŋ wōz behīnd her. He tʉk her benēþ ðe armz, bendiŋ  
tʉ spēk hot-brēðð in her ēr. "Ðʉ sēst, I had ôlrēde  
tʃōz mi dʒēneral. Ðērfœer I let ðe no it, bekōz I mēn  
not tʉ let ðe go til morniŋ; and I wʉd not hav ðe  
þink ði luvlines, hʉēr it plēz me, mʉveþ sutʃ  
dēp-komāndiŋ spelz az tʉ swa mi pōlise."

Se la bak agānst hiz brest, limp and streŋþles, hʉī  
he kist her nek and īz and þrōt; ðen her lips met hiz  
in a loŋ volupʃʉs kis. Σūrle ðe Kiŋz handz ūpon her  
wer līk līv kōlz.

Bēpinkiŋ her ov Korinyus, fumiŋ at an open dœer and an empte  
tʃāmber, ðe Lade Srivā wōz yet kontent.

### 17. Ðe Kiŋ Flīz Hiz Hāgard

Hʉ ÐE LADE PREZMIRĀ KĀM Tʉ ÐE KIŊ ON AN ĘRAND OV STĀT,  
AND Hʉ SE PROSPERD ÐARIN: HʉARIN IZ ÔLSO SĒN HʉI ÐE  
KIŊ WʉD SEND ÐE DʒŪK KORSUS INTOÐ DEMONLAND; AND Hʉ ON ÐE  
FIFTĒNÞ DA OV DʒULI ÐĒZ LORDZ, KORSUS, LAKSUS, GRO, AND  
GĀLANDUS, SĀLD WIÐ A FLĒT FROM TĒNEMOS.

On ðe morn kām ðe Lade Prezmirā tʉ pra ôdzens ov ðe  
Kiŋ, and beiŋ admīted tʉ hiz privāt tʃāmber stʉd befœer  
him in grāt bute and splendor, saiŋ, "Lord, I kām tʉ  
þank u az okaʒon servd not for me fītle so tʉ dʉ lāst  
nīt i' ðe bankwet hōl. Σūr, tiz no eze tāsks, sins hʉen  
I þank u az I wʉd, I must sēm tʉ unmiŋdfʉl ov Korundz  
dezerviŋ hʉ hʉ hap wun ðis kiŋdom: but if I spēk tʉ lardʒ  
ov ðat, I þal sēm tʉ mīniʃ yor bʉnte, O Kiŋ. And  
ingrātītʃūd iz a vīs abhord."

"Mādam," sed ðe Kiŋ, "ðʉ nēdst not tʉ þank me. And tʉ  
mīn ērz grāt dēdz hav ðēr ōn trumpets."

So nʉ þe tōld him ov her lēterz resēvd from Korund ʉt ov  
Impland. "It iz wel sēn, Lord," sed þe, "hʉ in ðēz dāz  
u dʉ bēt dʉn ôl pepelz under u, and dʉ set up nu  
trībutare kiŋz tʉ ad tʉ yor grāt prāz in Karse. O Kiŋ,  
hʉ loŋ must ðis il wēd ov Demonland ofend us, goiŋ stil  
untrōden under fēt?"

Ðe Kiŋ ānserd her not a werd. Ōnle hiz lip fōd a glēm  
ov tēþ, az ov a tigerz trūbeld at hiz mēl.



But Prezmirâ sed wið grāt hardines, "Lord, be not angre wið me. Mēpinks it iz ðe part ov a fāpfūl servant ðnord bi hiz māster tō sēk nu servīs. And hvēr lieþ līkleer servīs Korund fūd dō u ðan west over sēz, tō lēd prēzentle an arme naval ðīðer and māk an end ov ðem, êr ðēr grātnes stand up agān from ðe blo hvērwið lāst Ma u did strīk ðem?"

"Mādam," sed ðe Kiŋ, "ðis tʃardz iz mīn. Īl tel ðe hven I nēd ði kŋnsel, hviʃ iz not nŋ." And standiŋ up az if tō end ðe māter, he sed, "I dō intend sum spœrt tō-da. Ða tel me ðŋ hast a fōlkon dʒentel tðereþ so wel ʃe pāseþ ðe best Korinyus hap. Tiz klēr kālm wēðer. Wilt ðŋ tāk her ŋt tō-da and ʃo us ðe mŋnte at a hēron?"

Se ānserd, "Dʒɑfœle, O Kiŋ. Yet I besētʃ u ad ðis favor tō ôl yor former gŋdnes, tō hēr me yet wun werd. Sumpiŋ perswādʒ me u hav ôlrēde determīnd ov ðis enterprīz, and bi yor pŋtiŋ ov me of I dō fēr yor madʒeste menep not Korund ʃal undertāk it but sum ūðer."

Dark and imœvabel az hiz ōn dark fortres fasiŋ ðe brīt morniŋ, Gorīs ðe Kiŋ stŋd and beheld her. Sunʃīn stremiŋ þrœ ðe ēstern kāsment lited red-gōld smōlderīŋ splendorz in ðe hēve kqłz ov ðat ladēz hēr, and flu bak in dazliŋ ʃŋerz from ðe dimondz fāsend amuŋ ðōz kqłz. Āfter a spās he sed, "Supōz I am a gardener. I go not tō ðe būterfli for kŋnsel. Let her be glad ðat ðēr be rōz-trēz ðēr and red stōnkrops for her delīt; hviʃ if ēne be lākiŋ Īl giv her mœr for ðe āskiŋ, az Īl giv ðe mœr māsks and rēvelz and ôl brāv plēzŋr̄z in Karse. But wor and pōlise iz not for wīmen."

"U hav forgot, O Kiŋ," sed ðe Lade Prezmirâ, "Korund mād me hiz ambāsador." But seiŋ a blaknes fōl ūpon ðe Kiŋz kŋntenans ʃe sed in hāst, "But not in ôl, O Kiŋ. I wil be open az da tō u. Ðe ekspedīʃon he stronle erdʒd, but not for himself ðe lediŋ ont."

Ðe Kiŋ lŋkt evile ūpon her. "I am glad tō hēr it," he sed. Ðen, hiz brŋ kleriŋ, "No ðŋ it for ði gŋd, mādam, order iz taen for ðis ôlrēde. Êr winter-nīts retern agān, Demonland ʃal be mi fotstœl. Ðêrfœr rīt tō ði lord I gāv him hiz wiʃ befœrhand."

Prezmirāz īz dānst triumf. "O ðe glad da!" ʃe krīd. "Mīn ôlso, O Kiŋ?"

"If ðīn be hiz," sed ðe Kiŋ.

"Ā," sed fe, "u no mīn ūtgālops it."

"Ðen skool ðīn, mādam," sed ðe Kiŋ, "tō run in harnes. Hī pinkst ðŷ I sent Korund into Impland, but ðat I nu he had ekselent wit and nobel kūrādʒ tō gūvern a grāt kiŋdom? Wūdst hav me a wilful tʃīld snatʃ Impland from him līk a sāmpler hāf stitʃt?"

Ðen, takiŋ lēv ov her wið mæŋ graʃʊs kertese, "We ʃal lūk tō se ðe ðen, mādam, o' ðe þerd ŷr befær nōn," he sed, and smōt on a goŋ, sūmoniŋ ðe kaptān ov hiz gard. "Sōldʒer," he sed, "kondukt ðe Kwēn ov Impland. And bid ðe Dʒūk Korsus strāt atend me."

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Ðe þerd ŷr befær nōn ðe Lord Gro met wið Prezmirā in ðe gāt ov ðe īner kært. Se had a ridiŋ-hābit ov dark grēn tīfane and a nāro ruf edʒd wið mardʒere-perlz. Se sed, "Ðŷ kumst wið us, mi lord? Sūrle I am behōlden tō ðe. I no ðŷ luvst not ðe spært, yet tō sāv me from Korinyus I must hav ðe. He plageþ me mutʃ ðis morniŋ wið strāndʒ kertesēz; ðo hī ðus on a sūden I kanot tel."

"In ðis," sed Lord Gro, "az in grater māterz, I am ði servant, O Kwēn. Tiz yet tīm enuf, ðo. Ðis hāf ŷr ðe Kiŋ wil not be rēde. I left him klōzeted wið Korsus, ðat sēteþ prēzentle abŷt hiz armiŋ agānst ðe Demonz. Ðŷ hast herd?"

"Am I def," sed Prezmirā, "tō a bel klāŋeþ þrō ōl Karse?"

"Alās," sed Gro, "ðat we wākt tō loŋ lāst nīt, and la tō loŋ abed i' ðe morniŋ!"

Prezmirā ānserd, "Ðat did not I. And yet Īm angre wið miself nŷ ðat I did not so."

"Hŷ? Ðŷ sōst ðe Kiŋ befær ðe kŷnsil?"

Se bent her hed for yes.

"And he na-sed ðe?"

"Wið infinīt pafens," sed fe, "but mōst irēvokable. Mi lord must hōld bi Impland til it be wel brōk tō ðe sādēl. And trule, hven I pink ont, ðērʒ rezon in ðat."

Gro sed, "Ðǫ tākst it, mādam, wið ðat klēr brǫ ov nobelnes and rezon I had lukt for in ðe."

Σe láft. "I hav ðe mǎn ov mi dezīr, if Demonland ƒal be ƒot dǫn. Naðeles, it makeþ a grāt wunder ðe Kiŋ ƒīkeþ for ðis werk so rūd a bludzon hven so mēne gudle blādz he rēde tō hiz hand. Behōld but hiz armore."

For, standiŋ in ðe gātwa at ðe hed ov ðe stēp desent tō ðe řiver, ða beheld hvēr ðe lordz ov Witƒland wer met beƒond ðe bridz-gāt tō rīd færþ tō ðe hōkiŋ. And Prezmirā sed, "Iz it not brāv, mi Lord Gro, tō dwel in Karse? Iz it not ƒāsiŋ brāv tō be in Karse, ðat lordeþ it over ōl ðe erþ?"

Nǫ kām ða dǫn and bi ðe bridz tō ðe Wa ov Kiŋz tō mēt wið ðem on ðe open mēd on ðe left bank ov Drumā. Prezmirā sed tō Laksus ðat rōd on a blak geldiŋ ƒul ov silver hēr, "I se ðǫ hast ði goshōks færþ tō-da, mi lord."

"I, mādam," sed he. "Ðēr iz not a stronger hōk ðan ðēz. Wīðōl ða ar vēre fērs and krabd, and I must kēþ ðem privāt lest ða sla ōl ūðer sort."

Srivā, ðat wōz bi, ƒot færþ a hand tō strōk ðem. "Trule," ƒe sed, "I luv ðem wel, ði goshōks. Ða be stǫt and kiŋle." And ƒe láft and sed, "Trule tō-da I luk not loer ðan on a Kiŋ."

"Ðǫ māst luk on me, ðen," sed Laksus, "ōlbeit I bēr not mi krǫn i' ðe fēld."

"Tiz ðērfær īl mark ðe not," sed ƒe.

Laksus sed tō Prezmirā, "Wilt ðǫ not ƒrāz mi hōks, O Kwēn?"

"I ƒrāz ðem," ānserd ƒe, "serkumspektle. For mēþinks ða fit ði temper bēter ðan mīn. Ðēz be gud hōks, mi lord, for fliiŋ at ðe bƒf. I am for ðe hi mǫnte."

Her step-sun Hemiŋ, blak-brǫd and sūlen-īd, láft in hiz ƒrōt, noiŋ ƒe mōkt and ƒōt on Demonland.

Mēnhvīl Korinyus, mǫnted on a grāt hvīt līrd līk silver wið blak ēr-tips, mǎn, and tāl, and ōl fær fēt blak az kōl, dru up tō ðe Lade Srivā and spōk wið her apart, saiŋ sēkretle so ðat nun but ƒe mīt hēr, "Nekst tīm ðǫ ƒalt not käre it so, but I wil hav ðe hven and hvēr

I wud. Ðǣ māst gul ðe Dēvil wið ði perfidzǣsnes, but not me a sēkond tīm, ðǣ liiŋ kūzeniŋ viksen."

Σe ānserd softle, "Bēstle man, I did perform ðe vēre artikel ov mīn ōþ, and left ðe an open dǣer lāst nīt. If ðǣ didst lǣk tō fīnd me wīðin, ðat wer beƷond ōt I prōmīst. And no for ðat Īl sēk a grater ðan ðǣ, and a niser tō mi likiŋ: wun les rēde tō swōp ētƷ kitƷen slut on ðe lips. I no ði praktīs, mi lord, and ði kondīfonz."

Hiz fās flāmd red. "Wer ðat mi kustom, Īd nǣ amend it. Ðǣ art so tru a runt ov ðēr sām līter, ða Ʒal ōl be lōþle tō me az ðǣ art lōþle."

"Mu!" sed Ʒe, "wītīle spōk, i' fāþ; and rīt in ðe māner ov a kōmon hors-bq. HuitƷ indēd ðǣ art."

Korinyus struk sperz intō hiz hors so ðat it bǣnded aloft; ðen krīd Ʒt and sed tō Prezmirā, "Inkomparabel lade, I Ʒal Ʒo ðe mi nu hors, huōt rǣndz, huōt bǣndz, huōt stop he māks i' ðe fūl kǣers ov ðe gǣlop gǣleard." And ðērwið, trōtiŋ up tō her, mād hiz hors fetƷ a klōs tern in a fliiŋ māner ŷpon wun fūt, and so awa, riziŋ tō a rǣkiŋ pās, an ambel, and ðens āfter sum dūbel ternz reterniŋ at ðe gǣlop and kūmiŋ tō a fūl stop bi Prezmirā.

"Tiz vēre prīte, mi lord," sed Ʒe. "Yet I wud not be ði hors."

"So, mādam?" he krīd. "Ði rezon?"

"Hi," sed Ʒe, "wer I ðe mōst temperāt, strongest, and ov ðe dǣntlest nātƷūr i' ðe werld, ov ðe hēt ov ðe dǣindǣer, mōst swift tō ōl hi kervets and kapreōlz, Īd fēr mi krest Ʒod fōl i' ðe end, tīrd wið ði sper-gōliŋ."

Hwarat ðe Lade Srivā fel a-lāfiŋ.

Nǣ kām Gorīs ðe Kiŋ amuŋ ðem wið hiz ōstriŋerz and fōlkonerz and hiz huntsmen wið sēterz and spanyelz and grāt fērs bǣer-hǣndz drōn in a striŋ. He rōd ŷpon a blak mēr wið Īz fir-red, so tōl a tōl manz hed skērs topt her wīðerz. He wǣer a lēðer gōntlet on hiz rīt hand, on ðe rist hwarov an egel sat, huōded and moƷonles, grīpiŋ wið her klōz. He sed, "It iz met. Korsus goeþ not wið us: I fli him at hier gām. Hiz sunz atend him, loōziŋ not an Ʒr in preparafon for ðis dǣerne. Ðe rest, tāk plēzūr in ðe tƷās."

So ða prāzd ðe Kiŋ, and rōd fǣerþ wið him ēstawa. Ðe

Lade Srivâ hisperd Korinyus in ðe ēr, "Entfântere, mi lord, ruleþ in Karse, and ðis it must be brīņeþ it abþt ðat nun ma se nor tutf me twikst midnīt þr and kok-kro sāv he ðat must be Kiņ in Demonland."

But Korinyus mād az not tō hēr her, terniņ tōword ðe Lade Prezmirâ, ðat ternd ðens tōword Gro. Srivâ lâft. Měre ov hart fe sēmd ðat da, eger az ðe smōl merlin sītiņ on her fist, and wīliņ at ēvere tern tō hav spētƒ wið Kiņ Gorīs. But ðe Kiņ heded her not at ōl, and gāv her not a lūk nor a werd.

So rōd ða āhūl, dzestiņ and diskœrsiņ, tōword ðe Piksiland border, rþziņ hēronz bi ðe wa hvarat nun mād bēter spœrt ðan Prezmirâz fōlkonz, flōn from her fist at mēne hundred pasez az ðe kwore rōz, and mþntiņ wið it tō ðe klþdz in korkskru flīts, riņ ūpon riņ, up and up til ðe fþl wōz but a spek in ðe ūper ski, and her fōlkonz tō lēser speks besīd it.

But hven ða wer kum tō ðe hier grþnd and ðe skrub and underwōd, ðen ðe Kiņ hūseld hiz egel of hiz fist. Σe flu from him az if fe wōd nēver hav ternd hed agān, yet prēzentle ūpon hiz fþt kām in; ðen sœriņ aloft wated on abuv hiz hed, til ðe hþndz started a wōlf þt ov ðe brāk. Ðaron fe swœopt sūden az a þunderbolt; and ðe Kiņ lited dþn and helpt her wið hiz huntiņ-nīf; and so agān, þrīs and fœer tīmz til fœer wōlvz wer slān. And ðat wōz ðe gratest spœrt.

Ðe Kiņ mād mutf ov hiz egel, gīviņ her ðe lāst wōlfs līts and līver tō gordz herself wiðōl. And he gāv her over tō hiz fōlkoner, and sed, "Rīd we nþ intō ðe flats ov Armane, for I wil fli mi hāgard: mi hāgard egel kōt ðis Martf in ðe hilz ov Largos. Mēne a gūd nīts rest hap fe kost me, tō wāk her and man her and tētƒ her tō no mi kōl and be obēdzent. I wil fli her nþ at ðe big blak bœr ov Largos ðat aflikteþ ðe farmerz herabþt ðēz tō yērz pāst and brīņeþ ðem deþ and los. So fal we se gūd spœrt, if fe be not tō kq and wīld."

So ðe Kiņz fōlkoner brōt ðe hāgard and ðe Kiņ tūk her on hiz fist. A blak egel fe wōz, red-bēkt and glœereþs tō lūk on. Her dzēsez wer ov red lēðer wið lītel silver varvelz hvaron ðe krab ov Witfland wōz engrāvđ in smōl. Her hūd wōz ov red lēðer tāseld wið silver. Ferst fe bated from ðe fist ov ðe Kiņ, skreminiņ and flāpiņ her wiņz, but sōon wōz kwiet. And ðe Kiņ rōd fœerþ, sendiņ hiz grāt brindeld hþndz befœer him tō pūt up ðe bœr; and ōl

hiz kumpane fōlōd āfter.

In no loŋ tīm ða rǣzd ðe bæŕ, ðat ternd red-īd and mœde-mad on ðe Kiŋz hǣndz, and tƿardzð amuŋ ðem řipiŋ up ðe fœrmōst so ðat her bǣlz guƿt ƿt. Ðe Kiŋ unhuðed hiz egel and flu her of hiz fist. But ƿe, wīld and undzentel, fāsend not ūpon ðe bæŕ but on a hǣnd ðat held him bi ðe ēŕ. Se fikst her kruel klōz in ðe hǣndz nek and pikst hiz īz ƿt ēŕ a man mīt spēk tœ kersez on her.

Gro, ðat wōz bi ðe Kiŋ, mŭterd, "O, I līk not ðat. Tiz ōminǣs."

Bi ðen wōz ðe Kiŋ řīden up, and þrust ðe bæŕ þrœ wið hiz spēr, pērsiŋ him abuv and a lītel behīnd ðe fōlder so ðat ðe blād went þrœ ðe hart ov him and he sank dǣn diiŋ in hiz blud. Ðen ðe Kiŋ smōt hiz egel in hiz rōþ wið ðe but ov hiz spēr-fāft, but smōt her lītle and wið a glānsiŋ blo, and awa ƿe flu and wōz lost tœ sīt. And ðe Kiŋ wōz angre, for ōl ðat ðe bæŕ wōz slān, for ðe los ov hiz hǣnd and hiz hǣgard, and for her il behaveor. So he bad hiz huntsmen skin ðe bæŕ and briŋ hōm hiz skin tœ be a trofe, and so ternd hōmword.

Āfter a hŭl ðe Kiŋ kōld tœ him ðe Lord Gro tœ řīd forword a lītel wið him and ƿt ov ēŕƿot ov ðe rest. Ðe Kiŋ sed tœ him, "Ðǣ hast a diskontented lŭk. Iz it ðat I send not Korund intœ Demonland tœ krǣn ðe werk he began at Eƿgrar Ogo? Ðǣ bablst besīdz ov omenz."

Gro ānserd. "Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, pardon mi fērz. For omenz, indēd tiz oft az ðe sō saeþ, Az ðe fœl þinkeþ, so ðe bel blinkeþ.' I spāk in hāst. Hŭœ ƿal wēp Fāt from her determīnd perpōs? But sins u did nām Korundz nām----"

"I nāmd him," sed ðe Kiŋ, "bekōz I am stil řiŋiŋ in ðe ērz wið wīmenz tōk. Hŭērtœ ōlso I dǣt not ðǣ art þŕīve."

"Ōnle so mutƿ," ānserd he, "ðat ðis iz mi þōt: he wer ƿŕ best, O Kiŋ."

"Haple so," sed ðe Kiŋ. "But wŭdst hav me ðērfœŕ hōld mi strōk in ðe ēŕ hŭl okažon nōkeþ at ðe gāt? Īl tel ðe, I am potent in art madžikal, but skērs ma I sta tīmz wiŋ ðe hŭl I fetƿ Korund ƿt ov Impland and pak him westawa."

Gro held hiz pēs. "Wel," sed ðe Kiŋ, "I wil hēr mœr from ðe."

"Lord," he ânserd, "I līk not Korsus."

Ðe Kiŋ gāv him a frump tœ hiz fās. Gro held hiz pēs agān āhŷl, but seiŋ ðe Kiŋ wœd hav mœr, he sed, "Sins it līks yor madzeste tœ demānd mi kōnsel, I wil spēk. U no, Lord, ov ôl yor men in Karse Korinyus iz lēst mi frend, and if I bak him u wil be lītel apt tœ þink me mœvd bi interest. In mi klēr dʒudʒment, if Korund be bard from ðis dʒerne (az rezon iz, I frele embrās it, he must bīd in Impland, bōþ tœ harvest ðēr hiz viktorēz and tœ deni ðe rōd tœ Dʒus and Brandox Dahâ if haple ða retern from ðe Morunâ, and besīdz, tīm, az u mōst dʒustle sa, O Kiŋ, kōlep for spede akʃon): if he be bard, u hav no bēter ðan Korinyus. A komplēt sōldʒer, a trīd kaptān, yuŋ, fērs, and rézolūt, and wun ðat sīteþ not dōn agān hven wuns he standeþ up til ðat hiz wil be akumpliʃt. Send him tœ Demonland."

"No," sed ðe Kiŋ. "I wil not send Korinyus. Hast ðð not sēn hōks ðat be in ðēr pīrm and ʒul pīrd for bute and ʒudnes, but must be tāmð êr ða be flōn at ðe kwore? Sutʃ an wun iz he, and I wil tām him wið harʃnes and dʒures til I be sertān ov him. Ôlso I hav swœrn and tōld him, lāst yēr hven in hiz drunken'nes he betrād mi kōnsel and ôrset ôl þr planz, brōk me from Piksiland and set mi pīzonerz fre, ðat Korund and Korsus and Laksus ʃœd be preferd and advānst befœr him until bi kwiet servīs he ʃal pertʃās mi ʒœd wil agān."

"Giv ðen ðe glœere tœ Korsus, but tœ Korinyus ðe rūd werk ont for a tiriŋ. Send him az Korsusez sekretare, and yor werk ʃal be bēter performd, O Kiŋ."

But ðe Kiŋ sed, "No. Ðð art a ʃœl tœ þink he wœd resēv it, ðat bein in disgrās kœd not humbel himself but lœk bīger ðan befœr. And sertānle I wil not âsk him, and so giv him ðe glœere tœ refūz it."

"Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ," sed Gro, "hven I sed untœ u, I līk not Korsus, u did skof. Yet tiz no simpel nīsnes mād me sa it, but bekōz I dœ fēr he ʃal pœov a fōls kloþ: he wil ʃrink in ðe wētiŋ and kan abīd no trial."

"Bi ðe blīt ov Sāpanas," sed ðe Kiŋ, "hŷt kraze tōk iz ðis? Hast forgot ðe Gœlz twelv yērz ago? Tru, ðð wōst not hēr. And yet, hŷt skilz it? Hven ðe fām hap gon bak and færþ þœv ôl ðe werld ov ðēr grāt spil hven

Witfland stōd i' ðe gratest strāt ðat iver fe stōd, and  
mæc ðan әне ўðer Korsus wōz tō prāz for þr delīverīŋ.  
And sins ðen, fīv yērz later, hven he held Harkwem agānst  
Gōldre Bluzko, and mād him at lāst tō giv over ðe sēz and  
go hōm mōst inglōreþsle, and els had ōl ðe Sibreon kōst  
bēn ðe Demonz āpanādz not þrz."

Gro bōd hiz hed, hāviŋ nōt tō sa. Ðe Kiŋ wōz silent  
āhūl, ðen bērd hiz tēþ. "Hven I wōd bern mīn әнеmēz  
hþs," he sed, "I tŋūz me a gōd brand, fōl ov pitf and  
rōzin, apt tō spūter wel i' ðe fir and fri ðem. Sutŋ an  
wun iz Korsus, sins he fērd tō Goblinland ten yērz ago, on  
ðat il fariŋ huiŋf, had I bēn Kiŋ, I nēver had agrēd tō;  
hven Brandox Dahā tuk him prīzoner on Lormeron fēld and  
despītŋole ūzd him, stript him stark naked, fāvd him ōl  
ov wun sīd smōð az a tēnis bōl and pānted him yēlo and  
sent him hōm wið mīkel fām tō Witfland. Hel devþr me,  
but I þink hiz hart iz in ðis enterprīz. I þink þlīt  
se brāv dōiŋz in Demonland hven he kumz ðīðer."

Stil Gro wōz silent, and ðe Kiŋ sed āfter āhūl, "I hav  
gīven ðe rezonz eno, I þink, hvi I send Korsus intō  
Demonland. Ðēr iz yet ðis ўðer, ðat bi itself waep not  
wun dqt, yet wið ðe ўðerz bareþ dþn ðe bālans if mæc  
ðþ lōkst for. Untō mīn ўðer servants grāt tāsks hav I  
gīven, and grāt rewordz: tō Korund Impland and a kiŋz krþn  
ðērfor, tō Laksus ðe līk in Pīksiland, tō ðe bi  
antisipaŋon Goblinland, for so I dō intend. But ðis ōld  
hunting-dog ov mīn sīteþ yet inz kēnel wið nēr a bōn  
tō bīze hiz tēþ wīðōl. Ðat iz not wel, and fal no longer  
be niðer, sins ðērz no rezon fort."

"Lord," sed Gro, "in ōl argument and wīz prevīzon u hav  
kwīt ōrset me. Yet mi hart misgīvz me. U wōd rīd tō  
Galiŋ. U hav taen an hors ðērfor wið nēver a star inz  
færhed. Insted, I se ðēr iz a klþd inz fās; and sutŋ  
prōv kōmonle fureþs, dogd, fōl ov mistŋēf and  
misfortŋūn."

Ða kām dþn nþ ūpon ðe Wa ov Kiŋz. Westword befær ðem  
la ðe marfez, wið ðe grāt bulk ov Karse āt or ten  
mīlz distant ðēr tŋefest landmark, and ðe tþerz ov  
Tēnemos brakiŋ ðe lēvel horizon līn beþond it. Ðe Kiŋ,  
āfter a loŋ silens, lōkt dþn on Gro. Hiz lēn rāged  
kþntenans wōz þtīnd darkle agānst ðe ski, tēribel and  
prþd. "Ðþ tō," sed he, "falt be in ðis fariŋ tō  
Demonland. Laksus fal hav swa aflōt, sins ðat iz hiz  
ēlement ov wōter. Gālandus fal be sekretare tō Korsus, and



ðŕ ƒalt be wið ðem in ðêr kŕnselz. But ðe mán kománd, az I hav dekrêd, lieþ in Korsus. Ī not krop hiz ôporite, no, not bi an hêrz bredþ. Siþ Dzus haþ kôld ðe mán, I wil go házard wið Korsus. If I þro ŕt wið him, Hel rot him for a fôls di. But tiz not sutƒ a kâst ƒal kâst awa ôl mi fortƒün. I hav a langret in mi pers ƒal kros-bīt for me i' ðe end and win me ôl, hŕsoêr ðe Demonz kog agānst me."

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So ended ðat dāz spœrtiŕ. And ðat da, and ðe nekst, and nêr a munþ ðarāfter wôz ðe Dzūk Korsus bízêd up and dŕn ðe land prepariŕ hiz grāt armament. And on ðe fiftêŕþ da ov Dzuli wôz ðe flêt buskt and bŕn in Tênomos Rôdz, and ðat grāt arme ov fiv þŕzand men-at-armz, wið horsez and ôl instruments ov wor, martƒt from ðêr kamp wiðŕt Karse dŕn tœ ðe se.

Ferst ov ðem went Laksus wið hiz gard ov mārinerz, he wariŕ ðe krŕn ov Piksiland and ða lŕdle aklamiŕ him az kiŕ and Gorīs ov Witƒland az hiz overlord. A gālant man he sêmd, rêde-lŕkiŕ and hard, wel-armd, wið open kŕntenans and brīt semanz īz, and brŕn, krisp, kerle bêrd and hêr. Nekst kām ðe mán fot arme hêve-armd wið aks and spêr and ðe ƒort Witƒland hāŕer, yomen and farmerz from ðe lo landz abŕt Karse or from ðe sŕðern vīnyardz or ðe hil kuntre agānst Piksiland: berle swôƒiŕ ƒêlôz, ruf az bêrz, harde az wīld oxsen, adƒīl az an āþ; fær þŕzand fitiŕ men tƒôz ŕt bi Korsus up and dŕn ðe land az best for ðis grāt konkwest. ðe sunz ov Korsus, Dekalādzus and Goreus, rōd abrest befœr ðem wið twente piþerz piþiŕ a bātel soŕ. Sŕrle ðe tramp ov ðat grāt arme on ðe paven wa wôz līk ðe tramp ov Fāt mœviŕ from ðe êst. Gorīs ðe Kiŕ, siŕiŕ in stāt on ðe bātelments abuv ðe wôter-gāt, snift wið hiz nostrilz az a lion at ðe sent ov blud. It wôz erle morn, and ðe wind huŕ sŕðer[ŕ=]ly, and ðe grāt bānerz, blu and grên and perpel and gôld, êtƒ wið an īrn krab displād abuv it, flônted in ðe sun.

Nŕ kām fær or fiv kumpanêz ov hors, fær hundred or mœr in ôl, wið brazen armor and buklerz and glānsiŕ spêrz; and lāst ov ôl, Korsus himself wið hiz pikt lêdƒon ov fiv hundred vêteranz tœ briŕ up ðe rêr, fêrs sôldƒerz ov ðe kôst-landz ðat fôlôd him ov ôld tœ ðe êstern mán and Goblinland, and had stœd besīd him in ðe grāt dāz hven he smôt ðe Gœlz in Witƒland. On Korsusez left and rīt, a lītel behīnd him, rōd Gro and Gālandus. Rŕde ov kŕntenans wôz Gālandus, ga ov kārādƒ and līkle-lŕkiŕ, loŕ ov lim, wið loŕ brŕn mŕstāƒeôz and lardƒ kīnd īz līk a

dog.

Prezmirâ stōd besīd ðe Kiŋ, and wið her ðe ladēz  
Zenambreâ and Srivâ, wôtŋiŋ ðe loŋ kōlum martŋiŋ tōoword  
ðe se. Hemiŋ ðe sun ov Korund lēnd on ðe bātelments.  
Behīnd him stōd Korinyus, skornfōl-lipt, wið fōlded armz,  
mōst glōereðs in hōlida atīr, a rēp ov dwāl abōt hiz  
brōz, and wariŋ on hiz mite brest ðe gōld badz ov ðe  
Kiŋz kaptān dzēneral in Karse.

Korsus, az he rōd bi benēp ðem, plānted on ðe pōnt ov hiz  
sœrd hiz grāt helm ov bronz plūmd wið grēn-dīd  
estridz-plūmz and rāzd it hi abuv hiz hed in hōmādz tō  
ðe Kiŋ. ðe spars gra loks ov hiz hēr lifted in ðe  
brēz, and prīd flāmd on ðe hēve fās ov him līk a  
November sunset. He rōd a dark ba, hēvile bilt līk a bēr,  
ðat stept ponderōsle az wād dōn bi hiz riderz bulk  
and ðe grāt wāt ov gēr and bātel-harnes. Hiz vēteranz  
martŋiŋ at hiz hēl lifted ðēr helmz on spēr and sœrd and  
bil, síŋiŋ ðēr ōld martŋiŋ soŋ in tīm tō ðe klank ov  
ðēr mālđ fēt martŋiŋ dōn ðe Wa ov Kiŋz:

*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.*

ðe Kiŋ held aloft hiz stāf-rqal, reterniŋ Korsus hiz  
salūt, and ōl Karse ŋōted from ðe wōlz.

In sutŋ wīz rōd ðe Lord Korsus dōn tō ðe ŋips wið hiz  
grāt arme ðat ŋōd briŋ bāl and wo tō Demonland.

18. ðe Merðer ov Gālandus bi Korsus

OV ÐE UPRIZIŃ OV ÐE WORZ OV KIŃ GORIŚ 12. IN DEMONLAND;  
HJARIN IZ SĒN HŪ IN AN ŌLD MAN OV WOR STIFNEKTNES AND  
TĪRANE MA OVERLĪV ĠŪD D3ĒNERALSIŢ, AND HŪ A GRĀT KIŃZ  
DISPLĒ3ŪR D3UREŢ ŌNLE SO LOŃ AZ IT AGRĒŢ WIÐ HIZ PŌLISE.

Nŏt befel tŏ tel ov āfter ðe saliŃ ov ðe flĕt from  
Tĕnemos til Ōgust wŏz ni spent. Ðen kām a Ńip ov  
WitŃland from ðe west and sālđ up ðe řiver tŏ Karse and  
mŏord bi ðe wŏter-gāt. Her skĭper went strāt aland and  
up intŏ ðe rŃqal pālās in Karse and ðe nu bankwet hŏl,  
hvaraz wŏz KiŃ Gorĭs 12. etiŃ and drinkiŃ wið hiz fŏk.  
And ðe skĭper gāv lĕterz intŏ ðe hand ov ðe KiŃ.

Bi ðen wŏz nĭt fŏlen, and ōl ðe brĭt lĭts kindeld in  
ðe hŏl. Ðe fĕst wŏz þre parts dun, and þrŏlz pŏerd  
fŏerþ untŏ ðe KiŃ and untŏ ðem ðat sat at mĕt wið him  
dark wĭnz ðat krŏn ðe bankwet. And ða set befŏer ðe  
fĕsterz swĕtmĕts wundrŏs fĕr: bŏlz and pigz and grĭfonz  
and ũðer, mād ōl ov Ńugar pāst, sum wĭnz and spĭgots in  
ðĕr bĕlĕz tŏ tāst ov, ĕvere wun wið hiz silver fork.  
Merþ and plĕzŭr wŏz ðat nĭt in ðe grāt hŏl in Karse;  
but nŏ wer ōl fŏlen silent, lŏkiŃ on ðe KiŃz  
kŏntenans hŭil he red hiz lĕterz. But nun mĭt rĕd ðe  
kŏntenans ov ðe KiŃ, ðat wŏz inskrutabel az ðe hi blĭnd  
wŏlz ov Karse broođiŃ on ðe fen. So in ðat watiŃ silens,  
sĭtiŃ in hiz grāt hi sĕt, he red hiz lĕterz, hŭitŃ wer  
sent bi Korsus, and rit in māner fŏloiriŃ:

*"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 prostrate miself befoare your Greateness, evene befoare  
the face of the erthe. The Goddes graunte unto you moste nowble  
Lorde helthe and continewance and saf fetie 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 furneshed  
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 xxviij schyppes and the moare partt of my peopell I sayling  
upp ynto the Frith Micklefrith did fynde x or xi Daemouns*

*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-about 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 out of Breakingdal fallet 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 thousand souldiers. Who returning nexte daie towarde Owlsyke I dyd followe aftir, and so toke them facyng me in a plaise cauled Crosbie Owtisykes 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, makyng 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 Vizzi 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 Spit fire being att my cominge fledde into the mowntaynes all do submytt and become your Majesties vassalls. But I wyll nat conclud nor determyn of peace no not with man weoman nor chyld of them but kyll them al, havinge 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 puf fe 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 counsailles, 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."*

Ðe Kiŋ pŋt up ðe ritiŋ in hiz bŋzom. "Briŋ me Korsusez kup," sed he.

Ða did so, and ðe Kiŋ sed, "Fil it wið Pramnyan wīn. Drop me an ěmerald in it tŋ spŋn luk i' ðe kup, and drink him fortjŋn and wizdom in viktore."

Prezmirā, ðat had wŋtft ðe Kiŋ til nŋ az a mŋðer wŋtfez her tŋild in ðe krisis ov a fever, rŋz up rādžant in her sēt, kriiŋ, "Viktore!" And ōl ða fel a-ŋŋtiŋ and smitiŋ on ðe bŋerdz til ðe roof-bēmz ŋuk wið ðer grāt ŋŋtiŋ, huīl ðe Kiŋ drank ferst and pāst on ðe kup ðat ōl mīt drink in tern.

But Gorīs ðe Kiŋ sat dark amuŋ ðem az a klif ov  
serpentīn ðat fr̄nz abuv dānsiŋ serdʒez ov a sprinŋtīd  
sūmer se.

Hven ðe wīmen left ðe bankwet hōl ðe Lade Prezmirâ kām too  
ðe Kiŋ and sed, "Yor br̄ iz too dark, Lord, if indēd ðis  
nūz iz ōl ƒud ðat līts yor hart and mīnd from  
wīðinword."

Ðe Kiŋ ānserd and sed, "Mādam, it iz vēre ƒud nūz. Yet  
remember ðat hard it iz too lift a fōl kup wīðōt spīliŋ."

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N̄ wōz sūmer wœrn and harvest brōt in, and on ðe  
twente-sēvenþ da āfter ðēz tidiŋz afœr-rit kām anūðer  
ƒip ov Witfland ʒt ov ðe west saliŋ over ðe temiŋ  
dēp, and rōd on a fōl tīd up Drumâ and þrœ ðe  
Ergaspean Mēr, and so ankord belo Karse an ʒr befœr  
sūper tīm. Ðat wōz a kâlm klēr sunƒīn eveniŋ, and Kiŋ  
Gorīs rōd hōm from hiz huntiŋ at ðat instant hven ðe ƒip  
mād fâst bi ðe wōter-gāt. And ðēr wōz ðe Lord Gro aboard  
ov her; and ðe fās ov him az he kām up ʒt ov ðe ƒip and  
stōd too grēt ðe Kiŋ wōz ðe kŭlor ov kwiklīm a-slakiŋ.

Ðe Kiŋ lōkt nārole at him, ðen gretiŋ him wið mutƒ  
ʒtword ƒo ov kēlesnes and plēzŭr mād him go wið him  
too ðe Kiŋz ōn lodziŋz. Ðēr ðe Kiŋ mād Gro drink a  
grāt stōp ov red wīn, and sed too him, "I am ōl ov a muk  
swet from ðe huntiŋ. Go in wið me too mi bâps and tel me  
ōl hŭl I bād me befœr sūper. Prinsez ov ōl men be in  
gratest dāndʒer, for ðat men dēr not akwānt ðem wið ðēr  
ōn pēril. Ðʒ lōkst prodidʒʒs. No ðat ƒudst ðʒ  
proklām too me ōl mi flēt and arme in Demonland brōt too  
ƒēr destrukƒon, ðat ƒud not dul mi stŭmak for ðe  
fēst too-nīt. Witfland iz not so pœr I mīt not pa bak  
sutƒ a los þrīs and fœr tīmz and yet hav mŭne in mi  
pers."

So spekiŋ, ðe Kiŋ wōz kum wið Gro intoo hiz grāt bâp  
tƒāmber, wōld and flœrd wið grēn serpentīn, wið  
dolfinz karvd in ðe sām stōn too beltƒ wōter intoo ðe bâps  
ðat wer līnd wið hŭt marbel and sunken in ðe flœr, bōp  
wīd and dēp, ðe hot bâp on ðe left and ðe kōld bâp, mēne  
tīmz grater, on ðe rīt az ða enterd ðe tƒāmber. Ðe  
Kiŋ dismist ōl hiz atendants, and mād Gro sit on a bentƒ  
pīld wið kŭƒonz abuv ðe hot bâp, and drink mœr wīn.  
And ðe Kiŋ stript of hiz dʒerkin ov blak kʒhīd and hiz  
hōz and hiz ƒert ov hŭt Beftrean wōl and went dʒn intoo

ðe stemiņ bāp. Gro lukt wið wonder on ðe mite limz ov Gorīs ðe Kiņ, so lēn and yet so stroņ tō behōld, az if he wer bilt ōl ov īrn; and a grāt marvel it wōz hļ ðe Kiņ, hven he had pūt of hiz rament and rǫal apārel and went dðn stark naked intō ðe bāp, yet sēmd tō hav pūt of not wun hvit ov hiz kiņlines and ðe madzeste and dred hvitf belongd tō him.

So hven he had plundzd āhvīl in ðe swerliņ wōterz ov ðe bāp, and sōpt himself from hed tō fot and plundzd agān, ðe Kiņ la bak lukfureðsle in ðe wōter and sed tō Gro, "Tel me ov Korsus and hiz sunz, and ov Laksus and Gālandus, and ov ōl mi men west over sēz, az ðļ fudst tel ov ðōz huoz lif or deþ in þr konsēt impærteþ az mutf az ðat ov a skarab fli. Spēk and fēr not, kepiņ nūpiņ bak nor gloziņ over nūpiņ. Ōnle ðat fud māk me dredful tō ðe if ðļ fudst praktīs tō desēv me."

Gro spāk and sed, "Mi Lord ðe Kiņ, u hav lēterz, I þink, from Korsus ðat hav tōld u hļ we kām tō Demonland, and hļ we gat a viktore over Vol in ðe se-fīt, and landed at Grundā, and fōt tō bātelz agānst Viz and overpru him in ðe lāst, and he iz ded."

"Didst ðļ se ðēz lēterz?" āskt ðe Kiņ.

Gro ānserd, "I."

"Iz it a tru tāl ða tel me?"

Gro ānserd, "Mānle tru, O Kiņ, ðo sumhvōt nļ and ðen he wīndeþ trūþ tō hiz tern, swēliņ overmutf hiz ōn atfēvment. Az at Grundā, hvēr he makeþ tō grāt ðe Demonz arme, ðat bi a dzust komputaþon wer fuer ðan us, and ðe bātel wōz not þrz nor ðērz, for hvīl þr left held ðem bi ðe se ða stormd þr kamp on ðe rīt. And wel I þink twōz tō envegel us intō kuntre ðat fud be līkleer tō hiz perpōs ðat Viz fel bak tōword Þlswik in ðe nīt. But az tutfiņ ðe bātel ov Krosbe Þtsīks Korsus brāgeþ not tō mutf. Ðat wōz grātle fōt and grātle devīzd bi him, huoz ōlso slu Viz wið hiz ōn handz in ðe þik ov ðe bātel, and mād a grāt viktore over ðem and skāterd ōl ðēr streņþ, kūmiņ ūpon ðem at ūnawērz and takiņ ðem ūpon advāntādz."

So saiņ Gro stretft færþ hiz dēlikāt hvīt fingerz tō ðe goblet at hiz sīd and drank. "And nļ, O Kiņ," sed he, leniņ forword over hiz nēz and rūniņ hiz fingerz þrō ðe blak perfūmd kerlz abuv hiz ērz, "I am tō tel u ðe

upriziŋ ov ðōz diskontents ðat infekted ôl ųr fortŷunz and konfŷnded us ôl. Nų kām Gǎlandus wið sum fu men dŷn from Brakiŋdāl, leviŋ hiz mǎn fœers ov fœertēn hundred men or so tō hōld ðe Stīl az wōz agrēd ŷpon afœertīm. Nų Gǎlandus had advertīzment ov Spitfir kum ųt ov ðe west kuntre hŷer he wōz sōdzerniŋ hŷen we kām into Demonland, dispœertiŋ himself in ðe mŷntānz wið huntiŋ ov ðe bērz ðat dō ðēr inhābit, but nų kum hot-fot ēstword and agǎðeriŋ ov men at Galiŋ. And on Gǎlandusez erdzent āskiŋ, wōz held a kŷnsil ov wor þre dāz āfter Krosbe ųtsīks, hŷarin Gǎlandus set fœerþ hiz kŷnsel ðat we ŷud fēr norþ tō Galiŋ and dispers ðem.

"Ôl þôt wel ov ðis kŷnsel, sāv Korsus. But he tŷk it mite il, beiŋ stŷborn set tō kǎre ųt hiz predetermīnd perpōs, hŷitf wōz tō fōlo up ðis viktore ov Krosbe ųtsīks bi so mēne kruel merðerz, rāps, and berniŋz, up and dŷn ðe kuntre sīd in Ūper and Loer Tivarandardāl and dŷn bi Onwordlīð and ðe sŷðern sebœerd, az ŷud ŷo ðōz vermin he wōz ðēr māster hŷōm ða did rekwīr, and ðe skerdz in yor hand, O Kiŋ, ðat must skerdz ðem tō ðe bēr bōn.

"Tō hŷitf Gǎlandus makiŋ ānser ðat ðe preparafonz at Galiŋ did argu sumþiŋ tō be dun and not afar of, and ðat ðis wer a þrite mǎter, if ųlswik and Drēpabe ŷal be abel tō enfors us kǎst ųr īz over ųr ŷōlderz hŷīl ðōz befœer us (meniŋ in Galiŋ) strīk us in ðe brānz; Korsus ānsereþ mōst unhandsumle, 'I wil not sǎtisfi miself wið ðis intēlīdzens until I fīnd it mœer sŷndle sēkoneded.' Nor wŷd he līsen, but sed ðat ðis wōz hiz mīnd, and ôl we ŷud abīd bi it or an il þiŋ ŷud els befōl us: ðat ðis sŷþ-ēstern kornor ov ðe land beiŋ gānd wið grāt tēror and kruelte ðe nek ov ðe worz in Demonland ŷud ðen be broken, and ôl ðe ŷðerz hŷēðer in Galiŋ or ŷðerhŷēr kud not tŷūz but di līk dogz; ðat twōz pŷr fōle, bekōz ov ðe hardnes and nōte wāz ov ðe kuntre, tō set ŷpon Galiŋ; and ðat he wŷd kwikle ŷo Gǎlandus he wōz lord ðēr. So wōz ðe kŷnsil brōk up in grāt diskontent. And Gǎlandus abōd befœer ųlswik, hŷitf az ðų nōst, O Kiŋ, iz a mite stroŋ plās, seted on an arm ov ðe land ðat rŷnep ųt into ðe se besīd ðe harbor, and a paven wa goeþ ðērtō ðat iz kŷverd wið ðe se sāv at lo tīd ov a sprīŋ-tīd. And we dru grāt stœer ov provīzonz ðīðer agānst a sēz if sutf ŷud befōl us. But Korsus wið hiz mǎn fœerse went sŷþ abųt ðe kuntre, merðeriŋ and rǎvīfiŋ, on hiz wa tō ðe nu hŷs ov Gōldre Bluzko at Drēpabe, gīviŋ ųt ðat from hensfœerþ ŷud fōk



spēk no mæc ov Drēpabe Mīr and Drēpabe Kombust ðat ðe  
Gæolz did bern, but bōþ fōd fortle be bernt alīk az tō  
sinderz."

"I," sed ðe Kiŋ, kŭmiŋ ʒt ov ðe bāþ, "and did he bern  
it so?"

Gro ānserd, "He did, O Kiŋ."

Ðe Kiŋ lifted hiz armz abuv hiz hed and plundʒd hed  
færmōst into ðe grāt kōld swīmiŋ bāþ. Kŭmiŋ færp anon,  
he tōk a tʒel tō dri himself, and hōldiŋ an end ov it in  
iðer hand kām and stōd bi Gro, ðe tʒel rūfiŋ bak and  
færp behīnd hiz fōlderz, and sed, "Prosēd, tel me mæc."

"Lord," sed Gro, "so it wōz ðat ða in ʒlswik gāv up ðe  
plās at lāst untō Gālandus, and Korsus kām bak from ðe  
berniŋ ov Drēpabe Mīr. Ōl ðe fōk in ðat part ov Demonland  
had he brōt tō mīzere in her mōst farp kondīfon. But nʒ  
wōz he tō fīnd bi sʒr eksperēens huōt ðat neglekt had bred  
him huen he went not norþ tō Galiŋ az Gālandus had  
kʒnseld him tō dō.

"For nʒ wōz werd ov Spitfīr martfiŋ ʒt from Galiŋ wið an  
hundred and ten skæc fōt and tō hundred and fifte hors.  
Ūpon hwiŋ tidiŋz we plāst ʒrselʒz in vēre worlīk fāfon  
and mōvd norþ tō mēt ðem, and on ðe lāst morn ov Ōgust  
fel in wið ðer arme in a plās kōld ðe Rāps ov Brimā in  
ðe open parts ov Loer Tivarandardāl. Ōl we wer blīð at  
hart, for we held ðem at an advāntādʒ bōþ in numberz (for we  
wer mæc ðan þre þʒzand fæc hundred fitiŋ men,  
hvarov wer fæc hundred a-horsbak), and in ðe gōdnes ov  
ʒr fitiŋ sted, beiŋ pertft on ðe edʒ ov a lītel  
vāle ʒukiŋ dʒn on Spitfīr and hiz fōk. Ðer we abōd  
for a tīm, wōtfiŋ huōt he wōd dō, til Korsus gru were  
ov ðis and sed, We ar mæc ðan ða. I wil martf norþ  
and ðen ēst akros ðe hed ov ðe vāle and so kut ðem  
of, ðat ða eskāp not norþ agān tō Galiŋ āfter ðe  
bātel huen ða ar wersted bi us.'

"Nʒ Gālandus na-sed ðis stronʒle, wīliŋ him tō stand and  
abīd ðer onset; for beiŋ mʒntanērʒ ða must sertānle  
tʒūz at lenþ, if we kept kwiet, tō atak us up ðe slōp,  
and ðat wer mitile tō ʒr advāntādʒ. But Korsus, ðat stil  
gru from da tō da mæc hard tō dēl wið, wōd not hēr  
him, and at lāst stikt not tō akūz him befæc ðem ōl  
(hwiŋ wōz mōst fōls) ðat he did praktīs tō gān ðe komānd  
for himself, and had kōzd Korsus tō be set ūpon tō hav him  
and hiz sunz merðerd az ða went from hiz lodʒiŋ ðe nīt

befær.

"And Korsus gāv order for ðe martƿ akros ðær frunt az I hav tōld it u, O Kiŋ; hwiƿ indēd wōz ðe kǣnsel ov a madman. For Spitfīr, hven he sō ƿr kōlum krōsiŋ ðe dāl-hed on hiz rīt, gāv order for ðe tƿardƿ, tƿk us i' ðe flank, kut us in tō, and in tō ƿrz had ƿr arme smaƿt līk an eg ðat iz dropt from a wōtƿ-tƿer on pāvment ov hard grānīt. Nēver sō I so evil a destrukƿon rōt on a grāt arme. Hardle and in evil kās we wun bak tō ƿlswik wið but sēventēn hundred men, and ov ðem sum hundredz wōnded sœr. And if tō hundred fel o' ðe ūðer sīd, tiz a wunder and pāst ekspektaƿon, so grāt wōz Spitfīrz viktore ūpon us at ðe Rāps ov Brimā. And nƿ wōz ƿr wo wersend bi fūdƿitīvz kūmiŋ from ðe norƿ, tēliŋ hƿ Zig had fōlen ūpon ðe smōl fœrs ðat wōz left tō hōld ðe Stīl and klēn ōrhuelmd ðem. So wer we nƿ fut up in ƿlswik and klōs besēzd bi Spitfīr and hiz arme, hƿ but for ðe dēvilij fōle ov Korsus, had nēr mād hed agānst us.

"An il nīt wōz ðat, O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, in ƿlswik bi ðe se. Korsus wōz drunk, and bōp hiz sunz, guzliŋ dǣn goblet ūpon goblet ov ðe wīn from Spitfīrz sēlarz in ƿlswik. Til at lāst he wōz fōlen spuiŋ on ðe flœr betwikst ðe tabelz, and Gālandus standiŋ amunst us ōl, gōld tō ðe kwik āfter ðis fām and ruin ov ƿr fortƿūnz, krīd ƿt and sed, Sōldƿer ov Witƿland, I am aware ov ðis Korsus: a rioter, a letƿer, a serfeter, a brōler, a spīler ov armēz, ƿr ōn not ƿr ēnemēz, hƿ must briŋ us ōl tō hel and we tāk not order tō prevent him.' And he sed, 'I wil go hōm agān tō Witƿland, and hav no mœr fēr nor part in ðis fām.' But ōl ða krīd, Tō ðe dēvil wið Korsus! Be ðƿ ƿr dƿženeral.'"

Gro wōz silent a mīnūt. "O Kiŋ," he sed at lāst, "if so it be ðat ðe mālīs ov ðe Godz and mīn unfortƿūn hav brōt me tō ðat kās ðat I am part gilte ov ðat hwiƿ kām abƿt, blām me not overmutƿ. Lītel I ƿōt ēne werd ov mīn fud help Korsus and ðe goiŋ forword ov hiz bad enterƿīz. Hven ōl ða kōld stil ūpon Gālandus, saiŋ, Hā, hā, Gālandus! wēd ƿt ðe wēdz, lest ðe best korn fester! Be ðƿ ƿr dƿženeral,' he tƿk me asīd tō spēk wið him; bekōz he sed he wud tāk ferðer dƿudƿment ov me befær he wud konsent in so grāt a māter. And I, seiŋ dedle dāndƿer in ðēz disorderz, and ƿinkiŋ ðat ðær ōnle la ƿr sāfte if he fud hav komānd hƿ wōz bōp a sōldƿer and hƿoz mīnd wōz bent tō hi atempts and nobel enterprizez, did eg him forword tō aksept it. So ðat he, ōlbeit unwīliŋ, sed ya tō ðem at lāst. Hwiƿ ōl aplōded; and Korsus sed nōt

agānst it, beiŋ tō slepe-sōden az we þōt wið  
drunken'nes tō spēk or mōov.

"So for ðat nīt we went tō bed. But in ðe mōrn, O Kiŋ, wōz  
a grāt klāmōr betīnz in ðe mān kōert in ʒlswik. And I,  
rūniŋ fōerþ in mi fert in ðe miste gra ov dōn, beheld  
Korsus standiŋ fōerþ in a gālere befōer Gālandusez lodziŋz  
ðat wer in an ūper tʃāmber. He wōz naked tō ðe wāst, hiz  
hare brest and armz tō ðe armpits klōted and adrip wið  
blud, and in hiz handz tō blūde dāgerz. He krīd in a grāt  
vqs, Trezon in ðe kamp, but I hav skotft it. He ðat  
wil hav Gālandus tō hiz dzēneral, kum up and I ʃal mix hiz  
blud wið hiz and māk ðem famīlear."

Bi ðen had ðe Kiŋ drōn on hiz silken hōz, and a klēn  
silken fert, and wōz abʒt lasiŋ hiz blak dublet trimd  
wið dimondz. "Ðʒ telst me," sed he, "tō fōlts  
komīted bi Korsus. Ðat ferst he lost me a bātel and ni  
hāf hiz men, and nekst did merðer Gālandus in a splēn  
agānst him huen he wōd hav amended ðis."

"Kīliŋ Gālandus in hiz slēp," sed Gro, "and sendiŋ him  
from ðe ʃād intō ðe hʒs ov darknes."

"Wel," sed ðe Kiŋ, "ðēr be tō dāz in ēvere munþ huen  
hūōtēver iz begun wil nēver rētf kompleʃon. And I þink it  
wōz on sutʃ a da he did eksekūt hiz perpōs ūpon Gālandus."

"Ðe hūōl kamp," sed Lord Gro, "iz up in a mutine agānst  
him, beiŋ marvelʒsle ofended at ðe merðer ov so werðe a  
man in armz. Yet derst ða not openle go agānst him; for hiz  
vēteranz gard hiz person, and he haþ let slīs ðe guts ʒt  
ov sum dūzen or mōer ðat wer fōermōst in mermeriŋ at him,  
so ðat ðe rest ar afērd tō māk open rebēleon. I tel  
u, O Kiŋ, yor arme ov Demonland iz in grāt dāndzer and  
pēril. Spitfīr sīteþ dʒn befōer ʒlswik in mīkel  
streŋþ, and ðēr iz no ekspektaʃon ðat we ʃal hōld ʒt  
loŋ wiðʒt supli ov men. Ðēr iz dāndzer tō lest Korsus dō  
sum desperāt akt. I se not hʒ, wið so mutiŋs an arme az  
hiz, he kan dēr tō atempt ēniþiŋ at ōl. Yet haþ he hiz  
ērz fild wið ðe kontīnual sʒnd ov reputaʃon, and ðe  
kontempt hūtf wil be spred tō ðe disgrās ov him if he  
repēr not sōon hiz fōlt on ðe Rāps ov Brimā. It iz þōt  
ðat ðe Demonz hav no ʃips, and Laksus komādeþ ðe se.  
Yet hard it iz tō māk ēne goiŋ betwēn betwikst ðe flēt and  
ʒlswik, and ðēr be mēne gūdle harborz and plasez for  
bildiŋ ov ʃips in Demonland. If ða kan stop ʒr releiviŋ  
ov Korsus, and prevent Laksus wið a flēt at sprīŋ, ma be we  
ʃal be drīven tō a grāt kalāmīte."

"H8 kāmst ð8 of?" sed ðe Kiŋ.

"O Kiŋ," ânserd Lord Gro, "âfter ðis merðer in 8lswik I did dale fêr a fig or a nīf, so for mīn 8n help and Witflanz devīzd 8l ðe wāz I kud t8 kum awa. And gat at lāst t8 ðe flēt bi stelp and ðêr t8k rēd wið Laksus, h8 iz mōst hot ūpon Korsus for ðis il dēd ov hiz, h8erbi 8l 8r hōps ma end in smōk, and prād me kum t8 u for him az for miself and for 8l tru harts ov Witflanz ðat d8 sēk yor grātnes, O Kiŋ, and not deka, ðat u mīt send ðem sūkor êr 8l be fent. For fūrle in Korsus sum wīld distrakŋon hap overternd hiz 8ld kondīfion and spilt ðe g8dnes u wuns did no in him. Hiz luk hap gon from him, and he iz n8 wun ðat w8d f8l on hiz bak and brāk hiz n8z. I pra u strīk, êr Fāt strīk ferst and strīk us int8 ðe hāzard."

"Tuf!" sed ðe Kiŋ. "D8 not lift me befær I f8l. Tiz sūper tīm. Atend me t8 ðe bankwet."

Bi n8 w8z Gorīs ðe Kiŋ in f8l festival atīr, wið hiz dublet ov blak tīfane slaft wið blak velvet and br8qderd 8r wið dimondz, blak velvet h8z kros-garterd wið silver-spangeld bandz ov silk, and a grāt blak b8r-skin mantel and k8lar ov ponder8s g8ld. ðe Īrn kr8n w8z on hiz hed. He t8k d8n from hiz t8fāmbler w8l, az ða went bi, a s8erd hāfted ov blu stēl wið a p8mel ov bludst8n karvd līk a ded manz skul. ðis he b8r naked in hiz hand, and ða kām int8 ðe bankwet h8l.

ða ðat wer ðêr r8z t8 ðêr fēt in silens, gaziŋ ekspektant on ðe Kiŋ h8er he st8d betw8n ðe pīlarz ov ðe d8er wið ðat farp s8erd held on hi, and ðe d3ueld krab ov Witflanz ablāz abuv hiz br8. But m8st ða markt hiz īz. Sūrle ðe līt in ðe īz ov ðe Kiŋ under hiz betel br8z w8z līk a līt from ðe under-skīz fed upword from ðe pit ov hel.

He sed no werd, but wið a d3estfūr b8kond Korinyus. Korinyus st8d up and kām t8 ðe Kiŋ, sl8le, az a nīt-w8ker, ob8d3ent t8 ðat dred gāz. Hiz kl8k ov ski-blu silk w8z flun8 bak from hiz f8lderz. Hiz t8fest, br8d az a b8lz, sweld ben8p ðe finiŋ silver skālz ov hiz berne, ðat w8z fort-sl8vd, leviŋ hiz stron8 armz b8r t8 vu wið g8lden riŋz ab8t ðe rists. Pr8dle he st8d befær ðe Kiŋ, hiz hed ferm plānted abuv hiz mite 8r8t and nek; hiz pr8d lukfure8s m8p, mād for wīn-kups and for lad8z lips, ferm set abuv ðe skw8r faven t8fin and d38; ðe 8ik f8r kerlz ov hiz h8r b8nd wið blak brione; ðe insolens

ðat dwelt in hiz dark blu īz tām̄d for ðe hūil in fās ov  
ðat grēn bāl-līt ðat rōz and fel in ðe stedfāst gāz  
ov ðe Kiŋ.

Hven ða had so stōd silent hūil men mīt kōnt twente  
breps, ðe Kiŋ spāk saiŋ: "Korinyus, resēv ðe nām ov  
ðe kiŋdom ov Demonland huitf ði Lord and Kiŋ giv ðe, and  
māk hōmād̄z tō me ðarov."

Ðe brep ov amāzment went abōt ðe hōl. Korinyus nēld.  
Ðe Kiŋ gāv him ðat sœrd huitf he held in hiz hand, bēf  
for ðe slōter, saiŋ, "Wið ðis sœrd, O Korinyus, falt  
ðō wēr ūt ðis blēmif and blot ðat until nō rested ūpon  
ðe in mīn i. Korsus hap prōvd hāgard. He hap mād mis  
in Demonland. Hiz sōtif fōle hap fut him up in Țlswik  
and lost me hāf hiz fœrs. Hiz dzēlōse, tō malifōsle and  
blūdile bent agānst mi frendz sted ov mīn ēnemēz, hap  
lost me a gud kaptān. Ðe wunderfōl disorder and distrēsez  
ov hiz arme must, if ðō amend it not, swiŋ ōl Țr fortjūn  
at wun tjop from blis tō bāl. If ðis be rītle handeld bi  
ðe, wun grāt strōk fal tjāndz ēvere dēl. Go ðō, and  
prōv ði demērits."

Ðe Lord Korinyus stōd up, hōldiŋ ðe sœrd pōnt-dōnword in  
hiz hand. Hiz fās flām̄d red az an ōtum ski hven lēden  
klōdz brāk apart on a sūden westword and ðe sun lōks ūt  
betwēn. "Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ," sed he, "giv me hūer I ma sit  
dōn: I wil māk hūer I ma li dōn. Êr anūðer mōon fal  
waks agān tō ðe fōl I wil set fœrþ from Tēnemos. If I dō  
not fortle rēmede for u Țr fortjūnz huitf ðis blūde fōl  
hap labord tō ruināt, spit in mi fās, O Kiŋ, wiðhōld  
from me ðe līt ov yor kōntenans, and pōt spelz ūpon me  
fal destrō and blāst me for ēver."

19. Premnerz Hu

OV ÐE LORD SPITFĪRZ BESE3IŊ OV ÐE WITΣEZ IN HIZ ŌN  
KĀSEL OV ȚLSWIK; AND HȚ HE DID BĀTEL AGĀNST KORINYUS  
UNDER PĒMNERZ HU, AND ÐE MEN OV WITΣLAND WUN ÐE DA.

Lord Spitfīr sat in hiz pavīleon befœr Țlswik in mīkel  
diskontent. A brazeer ov hot kōlz mād a plēzant wormp  
wīðin, and līts fild ðe ritf tent wið splendor. From  
wīðōt kām ðe nōz ov rān stēdile fōliŋ in ðe dark  
ōtum nīt, splāfiŋ in ðe pūdelz, pāteriŋ on ðe silken  
roof. Zig sat bi Spitfīr on ðe bed, hiz hōk-līk

køntenans fǣdōd wið an unwōnted lōk ov kē. Hiz sǣrd stōd betwēn hiz nēz pǣnt dǣnword on ðe flǣr. He tipt it dǣntle wið iðer hand nǣ tō ðe left nǣ tō ðe rīt, wōtfinj wið pensiv gāz ðe worm līt fift and glēm in ðe bōl ov balas rube ðat mād ðe pōmel ov ðe sǣrd.

"Fel it ȝt so akerstle?" sed Spitfīr. "Ōl ten, ðȝ sādst, on Rāmerik Strandz?"

Zig nōded asent.

"Hūer wōz he ðat he sāvð ðem not?" sed Spitfīr. "O, it wōz vile miskārēd!"

Zig ānserd, "Twōz a swift and sēkret landinj in ðe dark a mīl ēst ov ðe harbor. Ðȝ must not blām him unherd."

"Hūot mǣr remān tō us?" sed Spitfīr. "Kontent: Īl hēr him. Hūot fips remān tō us, iz mǣr tō ðe perpōs. Pre bi Norpsandz Êrz, belo Elmersted: fiv on Prowōter: tō bi Litfnes: tō mǣr at Orwap: siks bi mi direkfon on Stropardon Ferþ: sēven hēr on ðe bētj."

"Besīdz fǣr at ðe ferþ hed in Westmark," sed Zig. "And order iz taen for mǣr in ðe Īlz."

"Twente and nīn," sed Spitfīr, "and ðōz in ðe Īlz besīd. And not wun aflōt, nor kan be ēr sprinj. If Laksus smel ðem ȝt and tāk ðem az lītle az ðēz he bernd under Volz nōz on Rāmerik Strandz, we dō but plȝ ðe dēzert bildinj ðem."

He rōz tō pās ðe tent. "Ðȝ must rāz me nu fǣrsez for tō brāk intō ȝlswik. Fǣr hēven!" he sed, "ðis veksez me tō ðe guts, tō sit at mīn ōn gāt ful tō munþs līk a bēgar, hūlz Korsus and ðōz tō kubz hiz sunz drink ðemselvz drunk wīðin, and pla at kokfīz wið mi trēzūrz."

"O' ðe roj sīd ov ðe wōl," sed Zig, "ðe māsiter-bilder ma dǣudȝ ðe ekselens ov hiz ōn bildinj."

Spitfīr stōd bi ðe brazeer, sprēdinj hiz stronj handz abuv ðe glo. Āfter a tīm he spāk mǣr soberle. "It iz not ðēz fu fips bernt in ðe norþ fūð trūbel me; and indēd Laksus hap not fiv hundred men tō man hiz hūl flēt wīðōl. But he hōldeþ ðe se, and ēver sins hiz pōtinj ȝt intō ðe dēp wið þerte sāl from Lōkinjhaven I dō ekspekt frej sūkorz ȝt ov Witfland. Tiz ðat makeþ me tǣamp stil on ðe bit til ðis hōld be wun agān; for ðen wer we fre at

lēst tō mēt ðēr landiŋ. But twer mōst unfit at ðis tīm  
ov ðe yēr tō käre on a sēz in lo and wōtere grōndz, ðe  
ēnemēz arme beiŋ on fōt and unengādzd. Hwērfær, ðis iz mi  
mīnd, O mi frend, ðat ðŷ go wið hāst over ðe Stīl and  
fetf me supli ov men. Lēv færs tō word þr fips  
a-bildiŋ, hwērsoēver ða be; and a gūd færs in Krōðeriŋ  
and ðarabŷt, for I wil not be fōnd a fōls stfuword ov hiz  
lade sisterz sāfte. And in ðīn ōn hŷs māk fūr. But  
ðēz þiŋz beiŋ provided, fēr up ðe wor-āro and briŋ  
me ŷt ov ðe west fiftēn or atēn hundred men-at-armz. For  
I dō þink ðat bi me and ðe and sutf a hed ov men ov  
Demonland az we fal ðen komānd ŷlswik gāts ma be brast  
open and Korsus plukt ŷt ov ŷlswik līk a hwilk ŷt ov hiz  
fel."

Zig ānserd him, "Iī be gon at pōnt ov da."

Nŷ ða rōz up and tōk ðēr wēponz and mūfeld ðemselvz  
in ðēr grāt kampaniŋ klōks and went færþ wið  
tortf-barerz tō wōk þrō ðe līnz, az ēvere nīt ēr he  
went tō rest it wōz Spitfīrz wōnt tō dō, vīzitiŋ hiz  
kaptānz and sētiŋ ðe gard. Ðe rān fel dzentleer. Ðe  
nīt wōz wiðŷt a star. Ðe wet sandz glēmd wið ðe līts  
ov ŷlswik Kāsel, and from ðe kāsel kām bi fits ðe sōnd  
ov fēstiŋ herd abuv ðe wōf and mōn ov ðe sūlen  
slēples se.

Hven ða had mād ōl fūr and wer kum ni agān tō  
Spitfīrz tent and Zig wōz ŷpon saiŋ gūd-nīt, ðēr rōz  
up ŷt ov ðe fādo ov ðe tent an ānfent man and kām  
betwikst ðem intō ðe glēr ov ðe tortfez. Σrīveld and  
rinkeld and bŷd he sēmd az wið ekstrēm ādz. Hiz hēr and  
hiz bērd huŋ dŷn in elf-loks adrip wið rān. Hiz mŷþ wōz  
tōþles, hiz īz līk a ded fīfez īz. He tutft  
Spitfīrz klōk wið hiz skīne hand, saiŋ in a vq̄s līk  
ðe nīt-ravenz, "Spitfīr, bewēr ov Premnerz Hu."

Spitfīr sed, "Hwōt hav we hēr? And hwitf wa ðe dēvil kām  
he intō mi kamp?"

But ðat ādzd man stil held him bi ðe klōk, saiŋ,  
"Spitfīr, iz not ðis ðīn hŷs ov ŷlswik? And iz it not  
ðe mōst stroŋ and fēr plās ðat ēver man sō in ðis  
kuntre?"

"Filþ, unhand me," sed Spitfīr, "els fal I prēzente  
þrust ðe þrō wið mi sœrd, and send ðe tō ðe  
Tartarus ov hel, hwēr I dŷt not ðe dēvilz ðēr tō loŋ  
awāt ðe."

But ðat ādzd man sed agān, "Hot stūriņ hedz ar tō ezile entrapt. Hōld fāst, Spitfīr, tō ðat hvitf iz ðīn, and bewēr ov Premnerz Hu."

Nþ wōz Lord Spitfīr wōd angre, and bekōz ðe ōld karl stil held him bi ðe klōk and wōd not let him go, plukt fœrþ hiz sœrd, þinkiņ tō hav strīken him abþt ðe hed wið ðe flat ov hiz sœrd. But wið ðat strōk went a gust ov wind abþt ðem, so ðat ðe tortf-flāmz wer ni blōn þt. And ðat wōz strānz, ov a stil windles nīt. And in ðat gust wōz ðe ōld man vānift awa līk a klōd pāsiņ in ðe nīt.

Zig spāk: "Ðe þin hābit ov spīrits iz beƵond ðe fœrs ov wēponz."

"PiƵ!" sed Spitfīr. "Wōz ðis a spīrit? I hōld it rāðer a simulakrum or iluzon prepērd for us bi WitƵlandz kūniņ, tō darken þr kōnsel and fāk þr rezoluƵon."

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On ðe moro hƵl yet sunrīz wōz red, Lord Zig went dþn tō ðe se-fœr tō bād in ðe grāt rok pōlz ðat fās sþpword akros ðe lītel ba ov Þlswik. Ðe sōlt ēr wōz freƵ āfter ðe rān. Ðe wind ðat had vērd tō ðe ēst blu in kōld and pintƵiņ gusts. In a rift betwēn slāt-blu klōdz ðe lo sun flāmd blud-red. Far tō ðe sþ-ēst hvēr ðe wōterz ov Mīkelferþ open on ðe mān, ðe lo klifs ov Lūkiņhaven-nes lōmd fādoe az a bank ov klōd.

Zig lād dþn hiz sœrd and spēr and lukt sþpēst akros ðe ferþ; and behōld, a Ƶip in fōl sāl rþndiņ ðe nes and steriņ norþword on ðe larbord tak. And hven he had pūt of hiz kertel he lukt agān, and behōld, tō mœr Ƶips a-steriņ rþnd ðe nes and saliņ hard in ðe wāk ov ðe ferst. So he dond hiz kertel agān and tōk hiz wēponz, and bi ðen wer fiftēn sāl a-steriņ up ðe ferþ in līn ahead, drāgonz ov wor.

So he fērd hāstile tō Spitfīrz tent, and fþnd him yet abed, for swēt slēp yet nerst in her bōzom impetƵuþs Spitfīr; hiz hed wōz þrōn bak on ðe brqderd pīlo, displaiņ hiz stron Ƶaven þrōt and tƵiņ; hiz fērs mþþ benēþ hiz brisliņ fēr mōstāfeōz wōz relaxst in slumber, and hiz fērs iz klōzd in slumber benēþ ðēr yēlo brisliņ þbrþz.

Zig tōk him bi ðe fōt and wākt him and tōld him ōl ðe



māter: "Fiftēn fips, and ēvere fip (az I mīt plānle se az ða dru ni) az fūl ov men az ðēr be egz in a hēriņz ro. So kūmeþ þr ekspektaþon tō ðe berþ."

"And so," sed Spitfīr, lepiņ from ðe kōtþ, "kūmeþ Laksus agān tō Demonland, wið freþ mēt tō glut þr sœrdz wīðōl."

He kōt up hiz wēponz and ran tō a lītel nol ðat stōd abuv ðe bēþ over agānst Þlswik Kāsel. And ōl ðe hōst ran tō behōld ðōz drāgonz ov wor sāl up ðe ferþ at dōn ov da.

"Ða dþz sāl," sed Spitfīr, "and pūt in for Skaramze. Tiz not for nūþiņ I tōt ðēz Witþlanderz on ðe Rāps ov Brimā. Laksus, sins he witnest ðat dþn-pro ov ðēr arme, nþ akþnteþ ilandz mœr huōlsumer ðan ðe mānland, wel noiņ we hav nor sālz nor wiņz tō strīk akros ðe ferþ at him. Yet skērsle bi skulkiņ in ðe ilandz þal he brāk up ðe sēz ov Þlswik."

Zig sed, "I wōd no huēr be hiz fiftēn ūðer fips."

"In fiftēn fips," sed Spitfīr, "it iz not pōsibel he bareþ mœr ðan sikstēn hundred or sēventēn hundred men ov wor. Agānst so mēne I am stroņ enuf tō-da, þud ða adventþūr a landiņ, tō þro em intō ðe se and stil kontān Korsus if he māk a sālē. If mœr be āded, I am ðe les sekūr. Ðērfœr okaþon kōleþ but ðe lþder for ði perpōst fariņ tō ðe west."

So ðe Lord Zig kōld him þt a dūzen men-at-armz and went a-horsbak. Bi ðen wer ōl ðe fips rōd āþœr under ðe sūðern spit ov Skaramze, huēr iz gūd ankorādþ for fips. Ða wer ðēr hīden from vu, ōl sāv ðēr māsts ðat þōd over ðe spit, so ðat ðe Demonz mīt obzerv nōt ov ðēr disembarkiņ.

Spitfīr rōd wið Zig þre mīlz or fœr, az far az ðe brþ ov ðe desent tō ðe fœrdz ov Eþriwōter, and ðēr bad him fērwel. "Lītniņ þal be slo tō mi hāstiņ," sed Zig, "til I be bak agān. Mēntīm, I wōd hav ðe be not tō skornfōle unmīndful ov ðat ōld man."

"Tþerkiņ ov spārōz!" sed Spitfīr. "I hav forgot hiz brābel." Nēverðeles hiz glāns fifted sþþword beþond Þlswik tō ðe grāt bluf ov tre-huņ þrēsipīs ðat standz līk a sentinel abuv ðe mēdōz ov Loer Tivarandardāl, leviņ but a nāro wa betwikst its loest kragz and ðe se. He lāft: "O mi frend, I am yet a bq in ðīn īz it semeþ, ōlbeit I am wel-ni twente-nīn yērz ōld."

"Lâf at me and ðð wilt," sed Zig. "Wíððt ðis werd sed  
I kʊd not lēv ðe."

"Wel," sed Spitfīr, "tʊ lul ði fērz, Īl not go  
a-berdsnestiŋ on Premnerz Hu til ðð kum bak agān."

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Nð for a wēk or mœr wōz nôt tʊ tel ov sāv ðat  
Spitfīrz arme sat befœr ʝlswik, and ða on ðe iland  
sent ēver and agān þre or fœr fīps tʊ land sūdenle abðt  
Lʊkiŋhaven or at ðe hed ov ðe ferþ, or sðþawa beʏond  
Drēpabe, az far az ðe kōstlandz under Rimon Armon, hāreiŋ  
and berniŋ. And az oft az fœrs wōz gǣðerd agānst ðem,  
ða fērd abord agān and sāld bak tʊ Skaramze. In ðōz  
dāz kām Vol from ðe west wið an hundred men and dʒɔŋd  
him wið Spitfīr.

Ðe ātþ da ov November ðe wēðer wersend, and klðdz  
gǣðerd from ðe west and sðþ, til ðl ðe ski wōz a welter  
ov hūdʒ wōtere lēden klðdz, sēparated wun from anūðer bi  
qle strēks ov hūit. Ðe wind gru fitful az ðe da wœr.  
Ðe se wōz dark līk dul ĩrn. Rān began tʊ fōl in big  
drops. Ðe mðntānz fōd monstrðs and fǣdoe: sum dark  
inke blu, ūðerz in ðe west līk wōlz and bastfonz ov  
klōted mist agānst ðe hules mist ov hēven behīnd ðem.  
Eveniŋ klōzd wið þunder and rān and lītŋiŋ-tœrn banks  
ov vapor. Ōl nīt loŋ ðe þunder rœrd in sūlen  
intermīʃon, and ðl nīt loŋ nu banks ov þunder-klðd  
swuŋ tʊgēðer and parted and swuŋ tʊgēðer agān. And ðe  
līt ov ðe mœn wōz abated, and no līt sēn sāv ðe  
lēvin-brand, and ðe kamp-fīrz befœr ʝlswik, and ðe līt  
ov révelre wíðin. So ðat ðe Demonz kampt befœr ðe kâsel  
wer not wēr ov ðōz fiftēn fīps ðat pʊt ʝt from  
Skaramze on ðat wīld se and landed tʊ or þre mīlz tʊ ðe  
sðþword bi ðe grāt bluf ov Premnerz Hu. Nor wer ða  
wēr at ðl ov ðem ðat landed from ðe fīps: fiftēn or  
sikstēn hundred men-at-armz wið Hemiŋ ov Witfland and hiz  
yuŋ brūðer Kargo for ðēr lederz. And ðe fīps rōd bak  
tʊ Skaramze þrœ ðe lðd storm and fure ov ðe wēðer,  
ðl sāv wun ðat flðnderd in Boðre Sðnd.

But on ðe morn, hven ðe tempest wōz abated, mīt ðl behōld  
ðe pʊtiŋ fœrþ ov fœrtēn fīps ov wor from Skaramze,  
ēvere fīp ov ðem laden wið men-at-armz. Ða had pāsādʒ  
swiftle over ðe ferþ, and kām aland tʊ mīlz sðþ ov  
ʝlswik. And ðe fīps stʊd of agān from ðe land, but ðe  
arme marfald for bātel on ðe mēdz abuv Mingarn Hōp.

N8 Lord Spitfir let drô up hiz men and mœvd 8t s8pword from ðe līnz befœr 8lswik. Hven ða wer kum wīðin sum hâf mīlz distans ov ðe Witfland arme, so ðat ða mīt se klērle ðêr rūset kertelz and ðêr fēldz and bōde-armor ov bronz, and ðe dul glint ov ðêr særd-blādz and ðe hedz ov ðêr spērz, Vol, ðat rōd bi Spitfir, spāk and sed, "Markst ð8 him, O Spitfir, ðat ride8 bak and fær8 befœr ðêr bātel, mar8ali8 ðem? So ēver rōd Korinyus; and wel māst ð8 no him even afar of bi hiz foines and d3ōnti8 kārād3. Yet se a grāt wunder n8: for huœ ēver herd tel ov ðis yu8 hotsper gīvi8 bak from ðe fīt? And n8, or ēver we be göten wīðin spēr-fot----"

"Bi ðe brīt i ov da," krīd Spitfir, "tiz so! Wil he bōlk me kwīt ov a bātel? 8l lœs a handfœl ov hors 8pon ðem tœ dela ðêr hāst êr ða be flōn be8ond sīt and findi8."

Ðêrwið he gāv komānd tœ hiz horsmen tœ rīd fær8 8pon ðe ēneme. And ða rōd fær8 wið Astar ov Retra, ðat wōz brūðer-in-lō tœ Lord Zig, for ðêr leder. But ðe Witfland hors met ðem bi ðe fālōz ov Aron P8 and held ðem in ðe fālōz huīl Korinyus wið hiz mān arme wun akros ðe rīver. And hven ðe mān bōde ov ðe Demonz wer kum up and ðe pāsād3 færst, ðe Witflanderz wer göten klēn awa akros ðe wōter-mēdōz tœ ðe pās betwikst ðe fœr and ðe stēps ov Premnerz Hu.

Ðen sed Spitfir, "Ða sta not tœ form even i' ðe nāro wa twikst ðe se and ðe Hu. And ðat wer ðêr säfte, if ða had but ðe hart tœ tern and stand us." And he f8ted wið a grāt f8t 8pon hiz men tœ t8ard3 ðe ēneme, and sūfer not a Witf tœ overlīv ðat slōter.

So ðe fœtmen kōt hōld ov ðe stīrup-lēðerz ov ðe horsmen, and rūni8 and ridi8 ða pœrd intoœ ðe nāro pās; and ēver wōz Spitfir fœrmōst amu8 hiz men, hui8 tœ left and tœ rīt amu8 ðe pres, ridi8 on ðat hvelmi8 bātel-tīd ðat sēmd tœ bêr him on tœ triumf.

But n8 on a sūden wōz he, huœ wið but twelv hundred men had so hotle fōlōd fiftēn hundred intoœ ðe strāt pāsād3 under Premnerz Hu, mād wêr tœ lāt ðat he must hav tœ doœ wið pre 88zand: Korinyus rālei8 hiz fōk and terni8 līk a wulf in ðe pās, huīl Korundz sunz, ðat had landed az afœrsed in ðe storm in ðe merk ov nīt, swept d8n wið ðêr batāleonz from ðe wōded slōps behīnd ðe Hu. In sutf wīz ðat Spitfir wist not sœner ov ēne fœrfādo8 ov dizāster ðan ov dizāsterz self: ðe 8under ov ðe blo in

flank and frunt and rēr.

Den befel grāt manslainj betwēn ðe se-klifs and ðe se. Ðe Demonz, taken at ðat advāntādȝ, wer līk a man tript in mid-strīd bi a rōp akros ðe wa. Bi ðe sœr onset ov ðe Witfez ða wer drīven dȝn int∞ ðe fālōz ov ðe se, and ðe spūm ov ðe se wōz red wið blod. And ðe Lord Korinyus, nȝ ðat he had dun wið fānd retrēt, fērd þr∞ ðe bātel līk a strēm ov unkwentfabel wildfir, ðat nun mīt sustān hiz strōks ðat wer abȝt him.

Nȝ wōz Spitfirz hors slān under him wið a spēr-þrust, az ridiņ fetlok-dēp in ðe yēldiņ sand he rālēd hiz men t∞ fliņ bak Hemiņ. But Bremere ov Σōz brōt him anūðer hors, and so mitile went he færþ agānst ðe Witfez ðat ðe sunz ov Korund wer fān t∞ giv bak befær hiz onslōt, and ðat wiņ ov ðe Witfland arme wōz prest bak agānst ðe broken grȝnd belo ðe Hu. Yet wōz ðat ov lītel avāl, for Korinyus brāk þr∞ from ðe norþ, þrustiņ ðe Demonz wið grāt slōter bak from ðe se, so ðat ða wer pend betwikst him and Hemiņ. Ðērwið Spitfir ternd wið sum pikt kumpanēz agānst Korinyus; and wel it sēmd for āhūl ðat a grāt fœrs ov ðe Witfez must be hvelmd or drȝnd in ðe sōlt wāvz. And Korinyus himself stȝd nȝ in grāt pēril ov hiz līf, for hiz hors wōz bōgd in ðe soft sandz and mīt not win fre for ôl hiz plundȝiņ.

In ðat nik ov tīm kām Spitfir þr∞ ðe stor, wið a band ov Demonz abȝt him, slaiņ az he kām. He fȝted wið a tēribel vȝs, "O Korinyus, hātfol t∞ me and mīn az ar ðe gāts ov Hel, nȝ wil I kil ðe, and ði ded karkās fal fāten ðe swēt mēdz ov ȝlswik."

Korinyus ānserd him, "Blūde Spitfir, lāst ov þre hvelps, for ði brūðerz ar bi nȝ ded and rōten, I fal giv ðe a tȝok-pēr."

Ðērwið Spitfir fȝt a twerl-spēr at him. It mist ðe man but smōt ðe grāt hors in ðe fōlder so ðat he plundȝd and fel in a hēp, hert t∞ ðe dēp. But ðe Lord Korinyus litiņ nimble on hiz fēt kōt Spitfirz hors bi ðe bridel rān and smōt it on ðe müzel, even az he rōd at him, so ðat ðe hors rērd up and swervd. Spitfir mād a grāt blo at him wið an aks, but it kām slāntwīz on ðe helmet ridȝ and glented asīd in êr. Ðen Korinyus þrust up under Spitfirz fēld wið hiz sœrd, and ðe pȝnt enterd ðe big müsel ov ðe arm nēr ðe armpit, and glānsiņ agānst ðe bōn tær up þr∞ ðe müselz ov ðe fōlder. And ðat wōz a grāt w∞ond.

Nëverðeles Spitfir slakt not from ðe fit, but smöt at him agān, þinkij tō hav hūn of hiz arm ðe hand hvarov stil klutft ðe bridel-rān. Korinyus kōt ðe aks on hiz fēld, but hiz fingerz lōst ðe rān, and ōlmōst he fel tō erþ under ðat mite strōk, and ðe gūð bronz fēld wōz dented and bāterd in.

Nþ wið ðe lōsiņ ov ðe rānz wōz Spitfirz hors plundzð forword, käreij him pāst Korinyus tōoword ðe se. But he ternd and hāld him, kriij, "Get ðe an hors. For I kōnt it unwerðe tō fit wið ðe bariņ ðis advāntādz over ðe, I a-horsbak and ðþ on fūt."

Korinyus krīd þt and ānserd, "Kum dþn from ðīn hors ðen, and mēt me fūt tō fūt. And no it, mi pñte þrōsel-kok, ðat I am kiņ in Demonland, hviť dignite I hōld ov ðe Kiņ ov Kiņz, Gorīs ov Witfland, mīn ōnle overlord. Mēt it iz ðat I fo ðe in kombat singular, ðat vōntst ðiself gratest amuņ ðe rēbelz yet left alīv in ðis mi kiņdom, hþ mutf grater iz mi mīt ðan ðīn."

"Ðēz be grāt and þumpiņ werdz," sed Spitfir. "I fal þrust ðem dþn ði þrōt agān."

Ðērwið he mād az if tō līt dþn from hiz hors; but az he strōv tō līt dþn, a mist went befœr hiz īz and he rēld in hiz sādēl. Hiz men ruft in betwikst him and Korinyus, and ðe kaptān ov hiz bōdigard bēr him up, saiņ, "U ar hert, mi lord. U must not fit no mœr wið Korinyus, for yor hines iz unmet for fitiņ and ma not stand alōn."

So ða ðat wer abþt him bēr up grāt Spitfir. And ðe mēla ðat wōz stād hūl ðōz lordz delt tūgēðer in singel kombat brāk fœrþ afref in ðat plās. But ōl ðe hūl had fureþs wor swuņ and rävend belo Premnerz Hu, and wundrþs wōz ðe vālor ov ðe Demonz; for mēne hundred wer slān or wōnded tō ðe deþ, and but a smōl fœrs wer ða ðat yet remānd tō bēr up ðe bātel agānst ðe Witfez.

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Nþ ðōz ðat wer wið Spitfir departed wið him in ðe sēkretest māner ðat ða kud þt ov ðe fit, rāpiņ abþt him a wōtjet-kūlord klōk tō hīd hiz finiņ armor. Ða stāntft ðe blud ðat ran from ðe grāt wōnd in hiz fōlder and bþnd it up kērfōle, and kārēd him a-horsbak bi Volz komānd intō Trēmerdāl bi sēkret mōntān pāps up tō a dēzolāt kore ēst ov Stēre Gap, under ðe grāt

skre-ƿoot ðat flanks ðe prēsipisez ov ðe sƿp sūmit ov Dinā. A loŋ tīm he la ðēr sensles, līk tō wun ded. For mēne herts had he taken in ðe ūnēkwāl fīt, and grātīe wōz he brūzd and bāterd, but werst ov ōl wōz ðe sœer hert Korinyus gāv him ēr ða parted betwikst ðe līmits ov land and se.

And hwen nīt wōz fōlen and ōl ðe wāz wer darkend, kām ðe Lord Vol wið a fu kompanyonz ūterle werēd tō ðat lōnle kore. Ðe nīt wōz stil and klōdles, and ðe maden mōon wōkt hi hēven, blākeniŋ ðe fādōz ov ðe grāt pēks ðat wer līk farks tēp agānst ðe nīt. Spītfīr la on a bed ov liŋ and klōks in ðe le ov a grāt bōlder. Gāstle pāl wōz hiz fās in ðe silver mōonlīt.

Vol lēnd ūpon hiz spēr lūkiŋ ernestle ūpon him. Ða āskt him tidiŋz. And Vol ānserd, "Ōl lost," and stil lukt ūpon Spītfīr.

Ða sed, "Mi lord, we hav stāntft ðe blud and bōnd up ðe wōond, but hiz lordfip abidep yet sensles. And grātīe we fēr for hiz līf, lest ðis grāt hert yet prōov hiz bān-sœer."

Vol nēld besīd him on ðe kōld farp stōnz and tended him az a mūðer mīt her sik tƿīld, apliŋ tō ðe wōond lēvz ov blak horhōnd and milƿql and ūðer heliŋ simpelz, and gīviŋ him tō drink ƿt ov a flāsk ov prēfƿs wīn ov Arfalmar, ripend for an ādz in ðe dēp sēlarz belo Krōðeriŋ. So ðat in a hƿl Spītfīr opend hiz īz and sed, "Drō bak ðe kertānz ov ðe bed, for tiz mēne a da sins I wōk up in ƿlswik. Or iz it nīt indēd? Hƿ went ðe fīt, ðen?"

Hiz īz stērd at ðe naked roks and ðe naked ski beƿond ðem. Ðen wið a grāt grōn he lifted himself on hiz rīt elbo. Vol pōt a stroŋ arm abƿt him, saiŋ, "Drink ðe gōd wīn, and hav pafens. Ðēr be grāt dōiŋz tōword."

Spītfīr stērd rōnd him āhƿl, ðen sed violentle, "Σal we be foksez and fūdƿitīv men tō dwel in hōlz o' ðe hōlo mōntān sīd? So ðe brīt da iz dun, hā? Ðen of wið ðēz trāmelz." And he fel a-tariŋ at ðe bandādƿ on hiz wōondz.

But Vol prevented him wið stroŋ handz, saiŋ, "Bēpink ðe hƿ on ðe alōn, O glœereƿs Spītfīr, and on ði wīz hart and valeant sōl ðat delitep in fureƿs wor, restep ōl ƿr hōp tō word of from ƿr lade wīvz and dēr tƿildren and ōl ƿr gōd land and fe ðe fure ov ðe men ov Witƿland,

and tō sāv alīv ðe grāt nām ov Demonland. Let not ði  
prōd hart be kapabel ov despēr."

But Spitfīr grōnd and sed, "Sertān it wōz ðat wo and  
evil hap must be tō Demonland until mi kinzmen be gōten hōm  
agān. And ðat da I þink fal nēver dōn." And he krīd,  
"Bōsted he not ðat he iz kiŋ in Demonland? and yet I had not  
mi sœrd in hiz umbelz. And ðð þinkst I liv in fām?"

Ðērwiðōl he strōv agān tō tēr of ðe bandādʒez, but Vol  
prevented him. And he rāvd and sed, "Hū wōz it fœrst me  
from ðe bātel? Tiz pīte ov hiz līf, tō hav abūzd me so.  
Bēter ded ðan run from Korinyus līk a beten pūpe. Let me  
go, fōls tratorz! I wil amend ðis. I wil di fitiŋ. Let  
me go bak."

Vol sed, "Lift up ðīn īz, grāt Spitfīr, and behōld ðe  
lade mōon, hð verdʒin fre ʒe wōkeþ ðe wīd fēldz ov  
hēven, and ðe glære ov ðe starz ov hēven hviʒ in ðēr  
multitʒūdz atend her. And az lītel az erple mists and  
stormz dō dim her, but ðo ʒe be hid āhūī yet hven ðe  
tempest iz abated and ðe ski swept bēr ov klōdz ðēr ʒe  
apereþ agān in her stedfāst kœrs, mistres ov tīdz and  
sezonz and swaer ov ðe fāts ov mortal men: even sutʒ iz ðe  
glære ov se-gert Demonland, and ðe glære ov ðīn hðs, O  
Spitfīr. And az lītel az komofonz in ðe hēvenz ʒud  
avāl tō remōv ðēz ēverlāstiŋ mðntānz, so lītel avaleþ  
dizāstrðs wor, ðo it be a grāt fit lost az wōz tō-da,  
tō fāk dðn ʒr grātnes, ðat ar miteest wið ðe spēr  
from ov ōld and abel tō māk ōl erp bð tō ʒr glære."

So sed Vol. And ðe Lord Spitfīr lukt ʒt akros ðe  
mist-tʒōkt slepiŋ vāle tō ðe grāt rok-fasez dim in ðe  
mōnlīt and ðe lēn pēks grand and silent benēþ ðe mōon.  
He spāk not, hvēðer for streŋþlesnes or az tʒarmd tō  
silens bi ðe mite influencez ov nīt and ðe mðntān  
sōlitʒūdz and bi Volz vq̄s spekiŋ dēp and kwiet in hiz  
ēr, līk ðe vq̄s ov nīt herself kālmiŋ erp-born tʒumults  
and despērʒ.

Āfter a tīm Vol spāk wuns mœr: "Ði breðren ʒal kum  
hōm agān: dðt it not. But til ðen art ðð ʒr streŋþ.  
Ðērfoer hav pafens; hēl ði wōondz; and rāz fœrsez  
agān. But ʒudst ðð in desperāt madnes destrq̄ ði līf,  
ðen wer we fent indēd."

OV ÐE ENTRE OV ÐE LORD KORINYUS INTƆ ƆLSWIK AND HƆ HE WƆZ  
KRƆND IN SPITFĪRZ SĂFĪR TƆĒR AZ VĪSRŪ OV GORĪS ÐE  
KIŅ AND KIŅ IN DEMONLAND: AND HƆ ÔL ÐAT WER IN ƆLSWIK  
KĂSEL DID SO RESĒV AND AKNŌLEDƆ HIM.

Korinyus, hăviŋ kompleted đis grăt viktore, kām wiđ hiz  
arme norþ agān tƆ Ɔlswik az dalīt began tƆ fād. Ðe  
drôbridz wôz let dĕn for him and đe grăt gāts fluŋ wĭd,  
đat wer stŭded wiđ silver and ribd wiđ ādamant; and in  
grăt pomp rōd he and hiz intƆ Ɔlswik Kăsel, over đe  
kôzwa bided ov đe lĭviŋ rok and grăt bloks ov hŭn  
grănĭt Ɔt ov Trĕmerdāl. Ðe mœr part ov hiz arme la in  
Spitfĭrz kamp befœr đe kăsel, but a þłzand wer wiđ him  
in hiz entre intƆ Ɔlswik wiđ Korundz sunz and đe lordz Gro  
and Laksus besĭdz, for đe flĕt had pŭt akros tƆ ankor đĕr  
hven đa sô đe da wôz wun. Korsus greted đem wel, and  
wud hav brôt đem tƆ đĕr lodzĭŋz nĕr hiz ōn tġamber,  
đat đa mĭt pŭt of đĕr harnes and don klĕn lĭnen and  
festival garments befœr sŭper. But Korinyus ekskŭzd himself,  
saiŋ he had ĕt nôt sins brekfast-tĭm: "Let us  
đĕrfœr not pās for sĕremone, but briŋ us l pra u  
fœrþrĭt tƆ đe bankwet hłs."

Korinyus went in wiđ Korsus befœr đem ôl, pŭtiŋ lŭviŋle  
abłt hiz fōlder hiz arm ôl befłld wiđ dust and klōted  
blud. For he had not so mutġ az stād for wōġiŋ ov hiz  
handz. And đat wôz skĕrs gŭd for đe brqderd klōk ov  
perpel tăfete đe Džŭk Korsus wœr abłt hiz fōlderz.  
Hłbeit, Korsus mād az if he markt it not.

Hven đa wer kum intƆ đe hōl, Korsus lŭkt abłt him and  
sed, "So it iz, mi Lord Korinyus, đat đis hōl iz sumþiŋ  
lĭtel for đe grăt pres đat hĕr befōlep. Mĕne ov mĭn  
ōn fōk đat be ov sum akłnt ġod bi loŋ kustom sit dĕn  
wiđ us. And hĕr be no sĕts left for đem. Þrĭđe komānd  
sum ov đe kōmon sort đat kām in wiđ đe tƆ giv plās,  
đat ôl ma be dun orderle. Mĭn đġiserz must not skrambel  
in đe bŭtere."

"Īm sore, mi lord," ānserd Korinyus, "but nĕdz must đat  
we bĕpink us o' đĕz ladz ov mĭn huitġ hav tġĕfle bœrn  
đe tġl ov bătel, and wel l wĕt þłlt not deni đem đis  
ōnor tƆ sit at mĕt wiđ us: đĕz đat đł hast mōst tƆ  
þank for openiŋ Ɔlswik gāts and raziŋ đe sĕz Ɔr  
ĕnemĕz held so loŋ agānst u."

So đa tŭk đĕr sĕts, and sŭper wôz set befœr đem: kidz  
stuft wiđ wōlnuts and ālmondz and pistăfeōz; hĕronz in



sôs kamelīn; t̄fīnz ov bēf; gēs and bustardz; and grāt bekerz and d̄zarz ov rube-harted wīn. Rīt fān ov ðe ḡud bankwet wer Korinyus and hiz fōk, and silens wōz in ðe hōl for āhvīl sāv for ðe klāter ov dīfez and ðe t̄fampiņ ov ðe m̄l̄ps ov ðe fēsterz.

At len̄p Korinyus, kwōfiņ d̄h̄n at wun drāft a mite goblet ov wīn, spāk and sed, "Ðēr wōz bātel in ðe mēdz bi P̄remnerz Hu t̄o-da, mi lord D̄zūk. Wōst ð̄l̄ at ðat bātel?"

Korsusez hēve t̄fēks fluft sumhvōt red. He ānserd, "Ð̄l̄ nōst I wōz not. And I f̄ud ak̄nt it mōst blamebel hothēdednes t̄o hav sālēd f̄er̄p hven it sēmd Spitfīr had ðe viktore."

"O mi lord," sed Korinyus, "þ̄ink not I mād ðis a kworel t̄o ðe. Ðe rāðer let me fo ðe h̄l̄ mut̄f I hōld ðe in ōnor."

Ðērwið he kōld hiz b̄q̄ ðat st̄ud behīnd hiz t̄fēr, and ðe b̄q̄ reternd anon wið a diadem ov p̄ōlīft gōld set ōl ab̄lt wið topazez ðat had p̄āst þ̄r̄o ðe fīr; and on ðe fruntlet ov ðat diadem wōz ðe smōl figūr ov a krab-fīf in dul īrn, ðe īz ov it t̄o grēn b̄erilz on stōks ov silver. Ðe b̄q̄ set it d̄h̄n on ðe tabel bef̄er ðe Lord Korinyus, az it had bēn a dīf ov mēt bef̄er him. Korinyus t̄ok a ritiņ from hiz pers, and lād it on ðe tabel for Korsus t̄o se. And ðēr wōz ðe signet ūpon it ov ðe werm Ōroboros in skarlet waks, and ðe sīn mānual ov Gorīs ðe Kiņ.

"Mi Lord Korsus," sed he, "and ye sunz ov Korsus, and ye ūðer Wītfez, I d̄o u t̄o wit ðat þ̄r̄ Lord ðe Kiņ mād me bi ðēz tokenz hiz vīsr̄q̄ for hiz pr̄ovins ov Demonland, and wild ðat I f̄ud b̄er a kiņz nām in ðis land and ðat under him ōl f̄ud render me obēdzens."

Korsus, l̄skiņ on ðe kr̄h̄n and ðe r̄q̄al worant ov ðe Kiņ, wakst in wun instant dedle pāl, and in ðe nekst red az blud.

Korinyus sed, "T̄o ðe, O Korsus, þ̄t ov ōl ðēz grāt wunz ðat hēr be gāðerd t̄ugēðer in Þ̄lswik, wil I submit me for ðe t̄o kr̄h̄n me wið ðis kr̄h̄n, az kiņ in Demonland. Ðis, ðat ð̄l̄ māst se and no h̄l̄ mōst I ōnor ðe."

N̄l̄ wer ōl silent, watiņ on Korsus t̄o sp̄ek. But he spāk not a werd. Dekalād̄zus sed pr̄ivile in hiz ēr, "O mi fāðer, if ðe munke rānz, dāns bef̄er him. Tīm fal briņ us okazon t̄o rīt u."

And Korsus, disregarding not ðis hōlsum rēd, for ôl he mīt not hvole rūl hiz kŕntenans, yet rūld himself tō bīt in ðe indzurēz he wōz fān tō ūter. And wið no il grās he did ðat ôfis, tō set on Korinyusez hed ðe nu krŕn ov Demonland.

Korinyus sat nŕ in Spirtfirz sēt, huens Korsus had mōovd tō māk plās for him: in Spirtfirz hi sēt ov smōk-kŕlord dzād, kureŕsle karvd and set wið velvet-lusterd sāfirz, and rīt and left ov him wer tō hi kandelstiks ov fīn gōld. ðe bredþ ov hiz fōlderz fild ôl ðe spās betwēn ðe pīlarz ov ðe spaŕŕs sēt. A hard man he lukt tō dēl wið, klōðd ūpon wið ūþ and strenþ and ôl armd and yet smokiŕ from ðe bātel.

Korsus, sītiŕ betwēn hiz sunz, sed under hiz brēþ, "Rubarb! briŕ me rubarb tō perdꝫ awa ðis kōler!"

But Dekalādꝫus huisperd him, "Softle, tred eze. Let not ŕr kŕnselz wōk in a net, þinkiŕ ða ar hīden. Ners him tō sekurite, hwiŕf fal be ŕr sāfte and ðe mēn tō ŕr wipiŕ ŕt ðis famiŕ. Wōz not Gālandus az big a man?"

Korsusez dul i glēmd. He lifted a brīmiŕ wīn-kup tō tōst Korinyus. And Korinyus hāld him and sed, "Mi lord Dzūk, kōl in ðīn ôfiserz I pra ðe and proklām me, ðat ða in tern ma proklām me kiŕ untō ôl ðe arme ðat iz in ŕlswik."

Hwiŕf Korsus did, ôlbeit sœr agānst hiz likiŕ, noiŕ not huēr tō fīnd a rezon agānst it.

Hven ðe plōdits wer herd in ðe kœrts wīðŕt, aklamiŕ him az kiŕ, Korinyus spāk agān and sed, "I and mi fōk be a-were, mi lord, and wōd beŕimz tō ŕr rest. Giv order, I pra ðe, ðat ða māk rēde mi lodziŕz. And let ðem be ðōz sām lodziŕz Gālandus had huēnaz he wōz in ŕlswik."

Hwarat Korsus mīt skērs forbēr a start. But Korinyusez i wōz on him, and he gāv ðe order.

Hwīl he wated for hiz lodziŕz tō be mād rēde, ðe Lord Korinyus mād grāt gōd tŕēr, kōliŕ for mœr wīn and freŕ dāntēz tō set befœr ðōz lordz ov Witŕland: ôlīvz, and botargōz, and konservz ov gōsez līver ritŕle sezond, taken from Spirtfirz plentŕŕs stœr.

In ðe mēntīm Korsus spāk softle tō hiz sunz: "I līk not hiz namiŕ ov Gālandus. Yet semeþ he kērles, az wun ðat

fereþ no gīl."

And Dekalādʒus ānserd in hiz ēr, "Peradventfūr ðe Godz ordānd hiz destrukʒon, tō māk him tʒūz ðat tʒāmbēr."

So ða lāft. And ðe bankwet dru tō a klōz wið mutʒ plēzūr and mērimakiŋ.

Nʒ kām serviŋ men wið tortʒez tō līt ðem tō ðēr tʒāmbēr. Az ða stūd up tō bid ɡud-nīt, Korinyus sed, "Īm sore, mi lord, if, āfter ði plēzant usādʒ, I ʒud dō òt ðat iz not konvenabel tō ðe. But I dʒt not ʒlswik Kāsel must be erksum tō ðe and ði sunz, ðat wer so loŋ mūd up wīðin it, and I dʒt not ye ar werēd bi ðis sēʒ and loŋ worfēr. Ðērfōer it iz mi wil ðat u dō instantle depart hōm tō Witʒland. Laksus haþ a ʒip mand rēde tō trānsþært u ðīðer. Tō þut a fit and frendle term tō ʒr festīvitēz, wēl briŋ u dʒn tō ðe ʒip."

Korsusez dʒō fel. Yet he skōld hiz tun tō sa, "Mi lord, so az it ʒal plēz ðe. Yet let me no ði rezonz. ʒūrle ðe sœrdz ov me and mi sunz avāl not so lītēl for Witʒland in ðis kuntre ov ʒr evil-wīlerz ðat we ʒud ʒēð em and go hōm. Hʒbeit, tiz a māter demāndeþ no swēte hāst. We wil tāk rēd heron in ðe morniŋ."

But Korinyus ānserd him, "Kri u merse, nēdʒul it iz ðat ðis vēre nīt u go āʒipbœrd." And he ɡāv him an il lʒk, saiŋ, "Siþ I li tō-nīt in Ǵālandusez lodʒiŋz, I þink it fit mi bödigard ʒud hav ði tʒāmbēr, mi lord Dʒūk, hviʒ, az I lātēl lernd, ādʒŋneþ it."

Korsus sed no werd. But Goreus, hiz yunger sun, ðat wōz drunk wið wīn, lēpt up and sed, "Korinyus, in an evil ʒr art ðʒ kum intō ðis land tō demānd servitʒūd ov us. And ðʒ art informd ov mi fāðer rīt malīʒsle if ðʒ art afērd ov us bekōz ov Ǵālandus. Tiz ðis viper sīteþ besīd ðe, ðe Goblin swōber, tōld ðe fōlsle ðis bad tāl ov us. And tiz þite he iz stil inword wið ðe, for stil he plōteþ evil ɡānst Witʒland."

Dekalādʒus þrust him asīd, saiŋ tō Korinyus, "Hēd not mi brūðer ðo he be hāste and rūd ov spētʒ; for in wīn he spekeþ, and wīn iz anūðer man. But mōst tru it iz, O Korinyus, and ðis ʒal ðe Dʒūk mi fāðer and òl we swēr and konferm tō ðe wið ðe miteest ōps ðʒ wilt, ðat Ǵālandus sōt tō uzerp ōþorite for ðis sāk ōnle, tō betra ʒr huōl arme tō ðe ēneme. And twōz ōnle ðērfōer Korsus slu him."

"Ðat iz a flat li," sed Laksus.

Gro lâft litle.

But Korinyusez særd læpt hâf naked from ðe skåbard, and he mād a strīd tōoword Korsus and hiz sunz. "Giv me ðe kinz nām hven ye spēk tōo me," he sed, skǫliŋ ūpon ðem. "U sunz ov Korsus ar not men tōo māk me a stōk tōo katf berdz wið or tōo serv yor ōn tern. And ðǫ," he sed, lŋkiŋ fērsle on Korsus, "wert best go mēkle, and not bande werdz wið me. Ðǫ fœ! þinkst ðǫ I am Gǣlandus kum agān? Ðǫ ðat didst merðer him falt not merðer me. Or þinkst I delīverd ðe ǫt ov ðe tǫlz ðīn ōn fōle and þrōart wāz had bǫnd ðe in, ōnle tōo sūfer ðe lord it agān hēr and kāst ōl amis agān bi ðe unkwietnes ov ði mālīs? Hēr iz ðe gard tōo briŋ u dǫn tōo ðe fip. And wel it iz for ðe if I slaŋ not of ði hed."

Nǫ Korsus and hiz sunz stōd for a litlel dǫtiŋ in ðēr harts hveðer it wer fiter tōo læp wið ðēr wēponz ūpon Korinyus, pŋtiŋ ðēr fortjūnz tōo ðe hāzard ov bātel in ǫlswik hōl, or tōo embrās nesēsite and go dǫn tōo ðe fip. And ðis sēmd tōo ðem ðe bēter tǫqs, tōo go kwietle āfipbærd; for ðēr stōd Korinyus and Laksus and ðēr men, and but fu tōo fās ðem ov Korsusez ōn pepel, ðat fŋd be fūr for hiz parte if it kām tōo fitiŋ; and wiðōl ða wer not eger tōo hav tōo dōo wið Korinyus, not ðo it had bēn on mœr even termz. So at ðe lâst, in anger and biŋernes ov hart, ða submīted ðem tōo oba hiz wil; and in ðat sām ǫr Laksus brōt ðem tōo ðe fip, and pŋt ðem akros ðe ferþ tōo Skaramze.

Ðēr wer ða sǫf az a mǫs in a mil. For Kadarus wōz skīper ov ðat fip, a trusted lēzŋman ov Lord Laksus, and her kru men lēl and tru tōo Korinyus and Laksus. Sē la at ankor az for ðat nīt in ðe le ov ðe iland, and wið ðe ferst strēk ov dōn sǫld dǫn ðe ferþ, bariŋ Korsus and hiz sunz hōmword from Demonland.

21. Ðe Parle Befœr Krōðeriŋ

HVARIN IZ ΣŌN Hǫ WORLĪK PŌLISE AND A PIKTΣŪR PĀNTED DRU ÐE WOR WESTWORD: AND Hǫ ÐE LORD GRO WENT ON AN EMBASĀD3 TŌO KRŌÐERIŋ GĀTS, AND OV ÐE ĀNSER HE GAT ÐĒR.

Nŕ it iz too be sed ov Zig ōat he fāld not too fulfil  
Spitfirz behest, but gāðerd hāstile an arme ov mœr ðan  
fiftēn hundred hors and fūt ʒt ov ðe norðern dālz and  
ðe habitafonz abʒt Salgreþ Hēþ and ðe pāstfūr-landz ov  
Keliland and Switfwōter Wa and ðe rēdzon ov Rāmerik, and  
kām in hāst over ðe Stīl. But hven Korinyus nu ov ðis  
fariŋ from ðe west, he martft þre þʒzand stronŋ too mēt  
ðem abuv Mœnmēr Hed, too deni ðem ðe wa too Galiŋ. But  
Zig, beinŋ yet in ðe ūper defīlz ov Brakiŋdāl, nŕ for  
ðe ferst tīm had advertīzment ov ðe grāt slōter at  
Premnerz Hu, and hŕ ðe fœrsez ov Spitfir and Vol wer  
broken and skāterd and ðemselvz fled up intoo ðe mōntānz;  
and so deminŋ it smōl gān wið so lītēl an arme too giv  
bātel too Korinyus, he ternd bak wiððt mœr adoo and  
reternd hāstile over ðe Stīl hvens he kām. Korinyus sent  
līt fœrsez too hāre hiz retrēt, but beinŋ not mīnded az ðen  
too fōlo ðem intoo ðe west kuntre, let bild a berg in ðe  
þrōt ov ðe pās in a plās ov vāntādʒ, and stafond ðēr  
sufīfent men too word it, and so kām agān too ʒlswik.

Ða ðat wer wið Korinyus in Demonland numberd nŕ mœr  
ðan fīv þʒzand fitiŋ men: a grāt and redʒtabel arme.  
Wið ðēz, ðe wēðer beinŋ fīn and open, he in a fort tīm  
lād under him ōl ēstern Demonland, sāv Galiŋ alōn.  
Bremere ov Sōz wið but sēvente men held Galiŋ for Lord Dʒus  
agānst ōl asōlts. So ðat Korinyus, þinkiŋ ðis frūt  
fʒd ripen later and drop intoo hiz hand hven ðe rest had  
bēn gāðerd, rezolvd at winterz end too martf wið hiz mān  
arme intoo ðe west kuntre, leviŋ a smōl fœrs too hōld dʒn  
ðe ēstlandz and kontān Bremere in Galiŋ. Too ðis  
determinafon he wōz led bi ōl arguments ov sʒnd sōldzerfip,  
mōst hāpile sēkondiŋ hiz ōn inklinafonz. For besīdz ðis  
ov worlīk pōlise too skērs weker lōdstōnz dru him  
westword: ferst ðe ōld kankerd mālis he bē in hiz hart  
agānst ðe Lord Brandox Dahā, ðat mād Krōðeriŋ hiz  
derest pra; and nekst, hiz ōn lustfōl dezīrz mōst  
ʒtrādʒʒsle berniŋ for ðe Lade Mevrean. And ðis ōnle for  
ðe sīt ov her piktūr, fʒnd bi him in Spitfirz klōzet  
amuŋ hiz penz and inkstandz and ūðer trinkets, hviŋ wuns  
lōkt on he swœr ðat wið Hēvenz wil (i, or wiððt if  
so it must be) fe fʒd be hiz pāramœr.

So on ðe fortēnþ da ov Martf, ov a brīt froste morn, he  
wið hiz mān arme martft up Brakiŋdāl and over ðe Stīl,  
bi ðat sām rōd ðat Lord Dʒus fērd bi and Lord Brandox  
Dahā, ðat sūmerz da hven ða went too tāk kʒnsel in  
Krōðeriŋ befœr ðe Impland ekspedīfon. So kām ðe Witfez  
dʒn too ðe wōterzmēt and ternd asīd too Mēne Bʒfez. Ðēr  
ða fʒnd not Zig nor hiz lade wīf nor ēne ov hiz fōk, but

fłnd ðe hłs dęzolāt. So ða robd and bernd and went ðer wa. And a famłs kāsēl ov Džusez ða sakt and bernd in ðe konfinz ov Keliland, and anūðer on Switfwōter Wa, and a sūmer pālās ov Spītfīrz on a lītel hil abuv Rāmerik Mēr. In sutf wīz ða martft viktærełsle dñ Switfwōter Wa, and ðer wōz nun tō dispūt ðer prōgres but ōl fled at ðe aprōtf ov ðat grāt arme and hid ðemselvz in ðe sēkret plasez ov ðe młntānz, avqđiq dep and fāt.

Hven he wōz kum ꝑrō ðe strāts ov Gafterndāl up on tō Krōðeriđ Sīd, Korinyus let pitf hiz kamp under Erngāt End, at ðe fut ov ðe skre-strūn slōps ðat rīz stēple tō ðe hi western fās ov ðe młntān, hvēr ðe lēn embāteld kragz far aloft stand līk a wōl agānst hi hēven.

Korinyus kām tō Lord Gro and sed tō him, "Tō ðe wil I entrust mīn embasādž tō ðis Mevrean. Ðł falt go wið a flag ov trūs tō gān ðe entre tō ðe kāsēl; or if ða wil not admit ðe, ðen bid her parle wið ðe wīðłt ðe wōl. Ðen falt ðł ūz hvōt fantastik kōertferz dzargon nātjūr and ðīn invenfjon fal lītleest kłnsel ðe, and sa, Korinyus, bi ðe grās ov ðe grāt Kiđ and ðe mīt ov hiz ōn hand kiđ ov Demonland, sīteꝑ az ðł wel māst se in ꝑłer invinsibel befōer ðis kāsēl. But he wild me let ðe no ðat he iz not kum for tō māk wor agānst ladēz and dāmozēlz, and be ðł ov ðis jūr, ðat niðer tō ðe nor tō nun ov ði fortres he wil nōt sa nor hert. Ōnle ðis ōnor he ꝑrōfereꝑ ðe, tō wed ðe in swēt mārādž and māk ðe hiz kwēn in Demonland.' Hvērtō if je sa ya, wel and gōd, and we wil go up pesable intō Krōðeriđ and pozes it and ðe wōman. But if je deni me ðis, ðen falt ðł sa untō her rīt fērsle ðat I wil set on agānst ðe kāsēl līk a lion, and niðer rest nor giv over until I hav beten it ōl tō a ruin abłt her ērz and slān ðe fōk wið ðe edž ov ðe sōerd. And ðat hvitf je refuzeꝑ me tō hav in ꝑēsfol luv and kīndnes I wil hav ov mi ōn violent dēd, ðat je and her stif-nekt Demonz ma no ðat I am ðēr kiđ, and māster ov ōl ðat iz ðēr, and ðēr ōn bōdēz but tјātēlz tō serv mi plēžūr."

Gro sed, "Mi Lord Korinyus, tјūz I ꝑra ðe anūðer hvō fal be fīter ðan I tō dō ðis ērand for ðe;" and so for a lođ tīm mōst ernestle besōt him. But Korinyus, ðe mōer he ꝑersēvd ðe dzute hātfol tō Gro, ðe fermer bekām hiz rezoluđon ðat nun but Gro jūd undertāk it. So ðat in ðe end Gro ꝑerfors konsented, and in ðe sām łr went wið elēven up tō ðe gāts ov Krōðeriđ, and a hvīt flag ov trūs wōz bōern befōer him.

He sent hiz hērald up tō ðe gāt tō dezīr spētƿ ov ðe Lade Mevrean. And in a hūl ðe gāts wer opend, and ƿe kām dōn atended tō mēt Lord Gro in ðe open garden befōer ðe bridz-gāt. It wōz bi ðen lāt âfternoon, and ðe bernij sun swam lo amid strēkt lēvel klōdz inkarnadīn, sētiſ aflām ðe wōterz ov Punderferp wið ðe refleƿon ov hiz bēmz. From ðe horizon, hi beƿond ðe pīn-klad hilz ov Westmark, a rāndz ov klōdz rērd ðemselvz, sōlid and ov an īrn hu; so hard-edzđ agānst ðe vapore ski ov sunset, ðat ða sēmd substānƿal mōntānz, not klōdz: ſnerple mōntānz (a man mīt fanse) divīnle rāzd up for Demonland, for hūom not ōl her ānƿent hilz gāv ēne longer rēfūdƿ agānst her ēnemēz. Hēr, in Krōðeriſ gāts, winterswēt and ðe lītel perpel dafne bƿƿ ðat blōomz befōer ðe lēf brēōd frāgrans abrōd. Yet wōz it not ðis swētnes in ðe ēr ðat trūbeld ðe Lord Gro, nor ðat western glōere bernij ðat dāzeld hiz īz; but tō lōk ſƿon ðat lade standij in ðe gāt, hūl-skīnd and dark, līk ðe divīn Huntres, tōl and prōd and luvle.

Mevrean, seiſ him spētƿles, sed at lāst, "Mi lord, I herd ðō hadst sum ērand tō deklēr untō me. And seiſ a grāt kamp ov wor gāðerd under Erngāt End, and hāviſ herd ov rōberz and evil-dōerz rīf abōt ðe land ðēz mēne mōonz, I lōk not for soft spētƿ. Tāk hart, ðērfōer, and deklēr plānle hūōt il ðō menest."

Gro ānserd and sed, "Tel me ferst if ðō ðat spēkst art in trūp ðe Lade Mevrean, ðat I ma no hūēðer tō human kīnd I spēk or tō sum Gōdes kum dōn from ðe ƿiniſ flōer ov hēven."

Se ānserd, "Ov ði kompliments I hav nōt tō dō. I am ƿe ðō nāmst."

"Mādam," sed Lord Gro, "I wōd not hav brōt yor hines ðis mēsādƿ nor delīverd it, but ðat I no ƿul wel ðat did I refūz it anūðer ƿud bē it ðe ƿul spedile, and wið les kompliment and les soro ðan I."

Se nōded grāvle, az hūō ƿud sa, Prosēd. So, wið hūōt kōntenans he mīt, he reherst hiz mēsādƿ, saiſ hven it wōz ended, "Ðus, mādam, sāp Korinyus ðe kiſ: and ðus he tƿardzđ me delīver it untō yor hines."

Mevrean herd him atentīvle wið hed erekt. Hven he had dun ƿe wōz silent a lītel, stil stūdeij him. Ðen ƿe spāk: "Mēpinks I no ðe nō. Ðō art Lord Gro ov Goblinland ðat bērst me ðis mēsādƿ."

Gro ânserd, "Mădam, he đŷ nāmst went yērz ago from đis erþ. I am Lord Gro ov Witþland."

"So it semeþ, from đi tōk," sed þe; and wōz silent agān.

De stēde kontemplaþon from đat ladēz īz wōz līk a nīf skrapīþ hiz tender skin, so đat he wōz il at ēz wel ni pāst bariþ.

Āfter a lītel þe sed. "I remember đe, mi lord. Let me ster đi mēmōre. Elēven yērz ago, mi brūðer went tō wor in Goblinland agānst đe Witþez, and overkām đem on Lormeron fēld. Đēr slu he đe grāt Kiþ ov Witþland in singel kombat, Gorīs 10., đat until đat da wōz held for đe miteest man-at-armz in ōl đe werld. Mi brūðer wōz az đen but atēn winterz ōld, and đat wōz đe ferst blaziþ up ov hiz grāt fām and glōere. So Kiþ Gazlark mād grāt fēstiþ and grāt rēdžqsiþ in Zādze Zakulo bekōz ov đe rīdiþ ov hiz land ov đe oprēsorz. I wōz at đōz rēvelz. I sō đe đēr, mi lord; and beiþ but a lītel mād ov elēven sūmerz, sat on đi ne in Gazlarks hōlz. Đŷ didst þo me buks, wið pikþfūrþ in strāndž kŷlorz ov gōld and grēn and skarlet, ov berdž and bēsts and distant kuntrēz and wunderz ov đe werld. And I, beiþ a lītel harmles mād, þōt đe gŷd and kīnd ov hart, and luvd đe."

Se sēst, and Gro, līk a man haþ taken sum drŷze drug, stŷd lŷkiþ on her konfōnded.

"Tel me," sed þe, "ov đis Korinyus. Iz he sutþ a fiter az men sa?"

"He iz," sed Gro, "wun ov đe mōst famŷsest kaptānz đat ēver wōz. Đat mīt not hiz werst ēnemēz gānsa."

Mevrean sed, "A līkle konsort, þinkst đŷ, for a lade ov Demonland? Remember, I hav sed na tō krŷnd kiþz. I wŷd no đi mīnd, for dŷtles he iz đi vēre famīlear friend, sins he mād đe hiz go-betwēn."

Gro sō đat þe makt, and he wōz trŷbeld at hart. "Mădam," sed he, and hiz vqþs þŷk sumhvōt, "tāk not in tō grāt skorn đis vīl part in me. Vērile đis I brōt đe iz đe mōst fāmþolest mēsādž, and flatle agānst mi wil did I delīver it untō đe. Yet wið sutþ konstrānt ŷpon me, hŷ kŷd I tþŷ but strīk mi fōerhed intō dōntles marbel and werd bi werd delīver mi tþardž?"

"Đi tunþ," sed Mevrean, "haþ struk hot īrnz in mi fās. Go bak tō đi māster. If he lŷk for an ânser, tel him he



ma rēd it in lēterz ov gōld abuv ðe gāts."

"Ði nobel brūðer, mādam," sed Gro, "iz not hēr tō māk gōd ðat ānser." And he kām nēr tō her, saiŋ in a lo vq̄s so ðat ōnle ða tō f̄ud hēr it, "Be not desēvd. Ðis Korinyus iz a nōte, wīked, and lukfureðs ūþ, ðat wil ūz ðe wīððt ēne respekt if wuns he brāk in bi fōers intō Krōðeriŋ Kāsel. It wer wīzleer kārēd tō māk sum open fo tō resēv him; so bi fēr werdz and p̄utiŋ ov him of ðð māst yet eskāp."

But Mevrean sed, "Ðð hast mīn ānser. I hav no ērz tō hiz rekwest. Sa tō ðat mi kūzin ðe Lord Spitfīr haþ hēld hiz wōndz, and haþ an arme afōt fal hup ðēz Witfez from mi gāts ēr mēne dāz be pāst bi."

So saiŋ fe reternd in grāt skorn wīðin ðe kāsel.

But ðe Lord Gro reternd agān tō ðe kamp and tō Korinyus, hū āskt him hð he had sped.

He ānserd, fe did ūterle refūz it.

"So," sed Korinyus; "dup ðe p̄s þump me of? Ðen pōz mi hot dezīrz an instant, ōnle ðe mōer þunderiŋle tō klap it on. For I wil hav her. And ðis k̄q̄nes and pert rēdzekfon haþ ðe mōer fikstle konfermd me."

## 22. Orwap and Switfwōter

Hð ðe LADE MEVREAN BEHELD FROM KRÖÐERIŊ WŌLZ ðE WITSLAND ARME AND ðE KAPTĀNZ ÐAROV: AND OV ðE TIDIŊZ BRŌT HER ÐĒR OV ðE WOR IN ðE WEST KUNTRE, OV ORWAP FĒLD AND ðE GRĀT SLŌTER ON SWITZWŌTER WA.

Ðe fōerþ da āfter ðēz dōiŋz afōerit, ðe Lade Mevrean wōkt on ðe bātelments ov Krōðeriŋ kēp. A blusteriŋ wind blu from ðe norþ-west. Ðe ski wōz kl̄ðdles: klēr blu overhed, ōl els perl-gra, and ðe ēr a lītel miste. Her ōld stf̄uword, stōlwort and sōldzer-līk, grēvd and helmd and klad in a plated dzerkin ov b̄ulz hīd, wōkt wið her.

"Ðe þr f̄ud be abðt strikiŋ," sed fe. "Tiz tō-da or tō-moro mi Lord Zig nāmd tō me hven ða wer hēr a-gestiŋ. If but Goblinland kēp trist it wer ðe p̄riteest fēt, tō tāk ðem so pat."

"Az yor ladīfip mīt klap a nat twikst ðe pālmz ov yor tō handz," sed ðe ōld man; and he gāzd agān sǫpword over ðe se.

Mevrean set her gāz in ðe sām kworter. "Nūþiņ but mist and spra," fe sed āfter a fu mīnūts sertfiņ. "Īm glad I sent Lord Spitfīr ðōz tō hundred hors. He must hav ēvere man kan be skrāpt up, for sutf a da. Hǫ þinkst ðǫ, Ravnor: if Kiņ Gazlark kum not, haþ Lord Spitfīr fōers eno tō kōp ðem alōn?"

Ravnor tǫkeld in hiz bērd. "I þink and mi lord yor brūðer wer hēr he fōd tel yor hines i tō ðat. Sins ferst I bōld a hōp, ða tōt me a Demon wōz under-matft agānst fiv Witfez."

Se lōkt at him a lītel wistfōole. "Ā," fe sed, "wer he at hōm. And wer Dzus at hōm." Ðen on a sūden fe fāst rōnd norþword, pǫntiņ tō ðe kamp. "Wer ða at hōm," fe krīd, "ðǫ fōdst not se ǫtlanderz insultīņ in armz on Krōðeriņ Sīd, sendīņ me fāmful ōferz, kādziņ me līk a berd in ðis kāsel. Hav sutf þiņz bēn in Demonland, until nǫ?"

Nǫ kām a bǫ rūniņ alonj ðe bātelments from ðe far sīd ov ðe tǫer, kriiņ ðat fips wer hōv in sīt salīņ from ðe sǫp and ēst, "And ða māk for ðe ferþ."

"Ov hōt land?" sed Mevrean, hūī ða hasend bak tō lōk.

"Hōt but Goblinland?" sed Ravnor.

"O sa not so tō hāstile!" krīd fe. Ða kām rōnd ðe tūret wōl, and ðe se and Stropardon Ferþ opend wīd and vǫd befōer ðem. "I se nōt," fe sed; "or iz yon flīt ov se-mūz ðe flēt ðǫ sōst?"

"He menep Þunderferþ," sed Ravnor, hūō had gon on ahead, pǫntiņ tō ðe west. "Ða fāp ðēr kōers tōoword Orwap. Tiz Kiņ Gazlark for fūr. Mark but ðe blu and gōld ov hiz sālz."

Mevrean wōtft ðem, her gluvd hand drūmiņ nervōsle on ðe marbel bātelment. Vēre stātle fe sēmd, mūfeld in a floiņ klōk ov hūī wōterd silk kōlard and līnd wið ermīn. "Atēn fips!" fe sed. "I drēmd not Goblinland mīt māk so grāt a fōers."

"Yor ladīfip ma se," sed Ravnor, wōkiņ bak alonj ðe wōl, "hūēðer ðe Witflanderz hav slept hūī ðēz fips

sāld tō pœrt."

Se fōlōd and lukt. Grāt ster ðēr wōz in ðe Witfland  
arme, marfaliŋ befœr ðe kamp; ðēr wōz kŭmiŋ and goiŋ  
and lepiŋ on horsbak, and fāntle on ðe wind ðēr  
trumpets blēr wōz bærn tō Mevreanz ērz az je beheld ðem  
from her hi wōtŋ-tŋer. Ðe hōst mœvd fœrþ dŋn ðe  
mēdōz, ôl orderle, a-glīter wið bronz and stēl.  
Sŷþword ða kām, pāsiŋ at lenþ þrœ ðe hōm-mēdz  
ov Krōðeriŋ, so nēr ðat ētŋ man wōz plānle sēn from ðe  
bātelments, az ða rōd benēþ.

Mevrean lēnd forword in an embrazūr, wun hand on iðer  
bātelment at her left and rīt. "I wōd no ðēr nāmz,"  
sed je. "Ðŷ, ðat hast oft fērd tō ðe worz, māst tētŋ  
me. Gro I no, wið a loŋ bērd; and hart-hēvines it iz tō  
se a lord ov Goblinland in sutŋ a fēloŋip. Hŷts he besīd  
him, yon bērded galant, wið a wiŋd helm and a diadem abŷt  
it, līk a kiŋz, and bareþ a glāv krimzon-hāfted? He  
lŷkeþ a þrŷd wun."

Ðe ōld man ānserd, "Laksus ov Witfland: ðe sām ðat wōz  
admiral ov ðēr flēt agānst ðe Gœlz."

"Tiz a brāv man tō lŷk on, and werðe a bēter kōz. Hŷts  
he rideþ nŷ belo us, hēdiŋ ðēr hors: rūde and sworðe  
and līt ov bild, haþ a brŷ līk ðe þunder-klŷd, and  
wareþ armor from nek tō to?"

Ravnor ānserd, "Hines, I no him not sertānle, ðe sunz  
ov Korund so favor wun anŷðer. But mēþinks tiz ðe yuŋ  
prins Hemiŋ."

Mevrean lâft. "Prins kwopâ?"

"So mœveþ ðe werld, yor hines. Sins Gorīs set Korund in  
kiŋdom in Impland----"

Sed Mevrean, "Nām him þrīðe Hemiŋ Faz: I worant ða trap  
ðem nŷ wið barbarŷs adŷŋonz. Hemiŋ Faz, gŷd lak!  
lordiŋ it nŷ in Demonland.

"Ðe þrīm huf-kap ov ôl," sed je āfter a lītēl, "hōldeþ  
abak it semeþ. O hēr he kumz. Swēt hēven, hŷt fureŷs  
horsmanŋip! Trop, and he kan sit a hors, Ravnor, and haþ  
ðe grāt figūr ov an aþlēt. Lŷk hŷer he gālopeþ  
bēr-hēded dŷn ðe līn. I wēn hēl nēd mœr ðan gōlden  
kerlz tō kēp hiz hed hŷōl ēr he hav dun wið Gazlark, i,  
and þr ōn fōk gāðeriŋ from ðe norþ. I se he bareþ hiz  
helm at ðe sādēl-bo. Tō āp us so!" je krīd az he dru

nerer. "Ōl silks and silver. Þǫdst hav swærn nun but a  
Demon went tō bātel so kostle apǎreld. O, for a sizorz tō  
kut hiz kōm wiðōl!"

So spekiŋ je lēnd forword ōl je mīt, tō wōtƒ him. And  
he, gǎlopiŋ bi belo, lōkt up; and markiŋ her so wōtƒiŋ,  
rānd mitile hiz grāt tƒesnut hors, þroiŋ him wið ðe  
tƒek wel ni on hiz hōntƒez. And huī ðe hors plundʒd  
and rērd, Korinyus hāld her in a grāt vǫs, kriiŋ,  
"Mistres, gʊd-moro!" kriiŋ, "Wiƒ me viktore, and swift tō  
ðīn armz!"

So nēr belo wōz he a-ridiŋ, je mīt skan ðe vĕre  
linyaments ov hiz fās and rēd it az he lōkt up and ƒōted  
tō her ðat gretiŋ. He saluted wið hiz sǫerd, and sperd  
onword tō overtāk Gro and Laksus in ðe van.

Az if sīkend on a sūden, or az if je had bēn rēde tō  
tred on a dedle stīŋiŋ āder, ðe Lade Mevrean lēnd  
agānst ðe marbel ov ðe bātelments. Ravnor stept tōwordz  
her: "Iz yor ladīƒip il? Hui, huōts ðe māter?"

"A sīle kwālm," sed Mevrean fāntle. "If þǫdst mēdisīn  
it, ƒo me ðe ƒēn ov Spitƒirz spērz tō ðe norþword.  
Ðe blank land dāzelz me."

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So wær ðe āfternōon. Twīs and þrīs Mevrean went ūpon ðe  
wōlz, but kʊd se nōt sāv ðe se and ðe ferþs and ðe  
mōhtān-buzomd plān fēr and pēsƒul in ðe sprīŋ-tīm: no  
sīn ov men or ov worz alārumz, sāv ōnle ðe māsts ov  
Gazlarks ƒips sēn over ðe landz brþ þre mīlz or mær  
tō ðe sþ-west. Yet je nu ƒūrle ðat nēr ðōz ƒips  
besīd Orwaþ harbor must be desperāt ƒitiŋ tōword,  
Gazlark ðe kiŋ engādʒd at hēve odz agānst Laksus and  
Korinyus and ðe spērz ov Witƒland. And ðe sun huēld lo  
over ðe dark pīnz ov Westmark, and stil no sīn from ðe  
norþ.

"Ðþ didst send wun færþ for tidiŋz?" je sed tō Ravnor,  
ðe þerd tīm je went on ðe wōl.

He ānserd, "Betīmz ðis morniŋ, yor hines. But tiz  
slo fariŋ until a be a mīl or twān klēr ov ðe kāsēl, for  
a must elūd ðēr smōl bandz ðat go up and dþn gardiŋ ðe  
kuntrisīd."

"Briŋ him tō me o' ðe instant ov hiz retern," sed je.

Wið a fœt on ðe stêr, fe ternd bak. "Ravnor," fe sed.

He kām tœ her.

"Ðŷ," fe sed, "hast bēn yērz eno mi brūðerz stfuword in Krōðeriŋ, and ŷr fāðerz befœr him, tœ no huôt mīnd and spīrit dwēleþ in ðem ov ŷr līn. Tel me, trule and sadle, huôt ðŷ mākst ov ðis. Lord Spitfīr iz tœ lāt: ŷðer els, Goblinland tœ sūden-erle (and ðat wōz hiz fōlt from ov ōld). Huôt sēst ðŷ in it? Spēk tœ me az ðŷ fœdst tœ mi Lord Brandox Dahâ wer it he ðat âskt ðe."

"Hines," sed ðe ōld man Ravnor, "I wil ânser u mi vēre þôt: and it iz, wo tœ Goblinland. Sins mi Lord Spitfīr kūmeþ not yet from ðe norþ, ōnle ðe deþles Godz desendiŋ ŷt ov hēven kan sāv ðe kiŋ. Ðe Witfez number at an humbel rēkoniŋ twīs hiz strenþ; and man tœ man u wer az wel pit a hŷnd agānst a bēr, az agānst Witfez Goblinz. For ōl ðat ðēz be fērs and fœl ov fire kūrādʒ, ðe bēr hap it at ðe lāst."

Mevrean līsend, lŷkiŋ on him wið sorofœl stēde īz. "And he so dzēnerŷs-nobel flōn tœ kumfort Demonland in ðe blaknes ov her dāz," fe sed at lāst. "Kan fāt be so ungālant? O Ravnor, ðe fām ov it! Ferst Lâ Firēz, nŷ Gazlark. Hŷ fal ēne luv us ēne mœr? Ðe fām ov it, Ravnor!"

"I wœd not hav yor hines," sed Ravnor, "tœ hāste tœ blām us. If ðēr plan and kompakt hav gon amis, tiz līkleer Kiŋ Gazlarks misprīzon ðan Lord Spitfīrz. We no not for fūr hwiƒ da wōz set for ðis landiŋ."

Hŷil he so spāk, he wōz lŷkiŋ pāst her seword, a lītel sŷþ ov ðe rēdest part ov ðe sunset. Hiz īz widend. He tutft her arm and pœnted. Sālz wer hœsted amuŋ ðe māsts at Orwaþ. Smōk, az ov berniŋ, rēkt up agānst ðe ski. Az ða wōtft, ðe mōst part ov ðe fīps mœvd ŷt tœ se. From ðōz ðat remānd, sum fīv or siks, fīr lēpt and blak klŷdz ov smōk. Ðe rest az ða kām ŷt ov ðe le ov ðe land, mād sŷþword for ðe open se under œr and sāl.

Niðer spāk; and ðe Lade Mevrean leniŋ her elbōz on ðe pārapet ov ðe wōl hid her fās in her handz.

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Nŷ kām Ravnorz mēsendʒer at lenþ bak from hiz fariŋ, and ðe ōld man brōt him in tœ Mevrean in her bŷer in ðe sŷþ part ov Krōðeriŋ. Ðe mēsendʒer sed, "Hines, I briŋ no

ritiņ, sins ņat wer tō pērilšs had l fōlen in mi wa  
amun Witfez. But l had ōdžens ov mi Lord Spitfir and mi  
Lord Zig in ņe gāts ov Gafterndāl. And ņus ņēr  
lordfips komānded me deliver it untō u, ņat yor hines  
fōd be at ēz and sekūr, seiņ ņat ņa dō in sutf sort  
hōld ōl ņe wāz tō Krōᆑeriņ, ņat ņe Witfland arme kanot  
eskāp ņt ov ņis kuntrisid ņat iz betwikst Punderferp and  
Stropardon Ferp and ņe se, but and if ņa wil giv bātel  
untō ņēr lordfips. But if ņa t fūz rāᆑer tō abid hēr  
bi Krōᆑeriņ, ņen ma ņr armēz klōz on ņem and opres  
ņem, sins ņr fōrsez dō eksēd ņēr z bi nēr a pūzand  
spēr z. Huitf tō-moro wil be dun hvōtēr betid, sins  
ņat iz ņe da apqnted for Gazlark ņe kiņ tō land wiᆑ a  
fōers at Orwap."

Mevrean sed, "ᆑa no nōt ņen ov ņis dīrfōl  
miskārādž, and Gazlark hēr ōlrēde befōer hiz tīm and  
pōn bak intō ņe se?" And fe sed, "We must apriz ņem  
ont, and ņat hāstile and tō-nīt."

Hven ņe man understōd ņis, he ānserd, "Ten mīnūts for a  
bīt and a stīrup-kup, and l am at yor ladifips servīs."

And in a fort hvīl, ņat man went fōerp agān sēkretle ņt ov  
Krōᆑeriņ in ņe dusk ov nīt tō briņ werd tō Lord Spitfir  
ov hvōt wōz befōlen. And ņe wōt fmen wōt fiņ in ņe nīt  
from Krōᆑeriņ wōlz beheld norpword under Erngāt End ņe  
kamp-fir z ov ņe Witfez līk ņe starz.

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Nīt pāst and da dōnd, and ņe kamp ov ņe Witfez fōd  
empte az an empte fel.

Mevrean sed, "ᆑa hav mōvd in ņe nīt."

"ᆑen fal yor hines hēr grāt tidiņ z ēr loņ," sed  
Ravnor.

"Tiz līk we ma hav gests in Krōᆑeriņ tō-nīt," sed  
Mevrean. And fe gāv order for ōl tō be mād rēde agānst  
ᆑēr kūmiņ, and ņe t fāsest bed-tfāmberz for Spitfir and  
Zig tō welkum ņem. So, wiᆑ bīze preparafonz, ņe da went  
bi. But az eveniņ kām, and stil no ridiņ from ņe norp,  
sum fādōz ov impafens and ank fšs dᆑt krept wiᆑ nīts  
fād z krepiņ akros hēven akros ņēr eger ekspektanse in  
Krōᆑeriņ. For Mevrezanz mēsēndžer reternd not. Lāt tō rest  
went ņe Lade Mevrean; and wiᆑ ņe ferst pepiņ līt fe wōz  
abrōd, mūfeld in her grāt mantel ov velvet and swōnz dᆑn

agānst ðe eger windz ov morniņ. Up tō ðe bātelments fe went, and wið ōld Ravnor sertft ðe blank prospekt. For pāl morniņ rōz on an empte landskāp; and so ōl da until ðe eveniņ: wōtfin, and watiņ, and kwestfoniņ in ðēr harts.

So went ða at lenþ tō sūper on ðis þerd nīt āfter Orwaþ fēld. And ēr sūper wōz hāf dun wōz a ster in ðe ȝter kœrts, and ðe rātel ov ðe bridz let dȝn, and a klāter ov hors-hoovz on ðe bridz and ðe dzasper pāvments. Mevrean sāt erekt and ekspektant. Se nōded tō Ravnor hōō wōntiņ no ferðer sīn went hāstile ȝt, and reternd in an instant hāstile and wið hēve brȝ. He spāk in her ēr, "Nūz, mi Lade. It wer wel u bad him tō privāt ōdzens. Drink ðis kup ferst," pœriņ ȝt sum wīn for her.

Se rōz up, saiņ tō ðe stfuword, "Kum ðȝ, and briņ him wið ðe."

Az ða went he hwisperd her, "Astar ov Retra, sent bi ðe Lord Zig wið māter ov erdzent impœert for yor hinesez ēr."

Ðe Lade Mevrean sat in her ivore tfēr kōfond wið ritf stuff silks ov Beftreā, wið lītel gōlden berdz and strōbere lēvz wið ðe flȝerz and ritf red frūts ōl figūrd ðaron in gordzȝs kūlorz ov nedelwerk. Se rētft ȝt her hand tō Astar hōō stōd befœr her in hiz bātel harnes, mūde and beblūdēd from hed tō fot. He bȝd and kist her hand: ðen stōd silent. He held hiz hed hi and lōkt her in ðe fās, but hiz īz wer bludfed and hiz lōk wōz gāstle līk a mēsēndzēr ov il.

"Ser," sed Mevrean, "stand not in dȝt, but deklēr ōl. Ðȝ nōst it iz not in ȝr blud tō kwāl under dāndzērz and misfortfūn."

Astar sed, "Zig, mi brūðer-in-lō, gāv me ðis in tfardz, mādam, tō tel ðe ōl trule."

"Prosēd," sed fe. "Ðȝ nōst ȝr lāst nūz. ȝr bi ȝr sins ðen, we wōtft on viktore. I hav no mēn welkum fēst prepērd agānst yor kūmiņ."

Astar grōnd. "Mi Lade Mevrean," sed he, "u must nȝ prepēr a sœrd, not a bankwet. U did send a rūner tō Lord Spitfīr."

"I," sed fe.

"He brôt us advertīzment ðat nīt," sed Astar, "ov Gazlarks overþro. Alâs, ðat Goblinland wôz a da tœ soon, and so bêr alôn ðe brunt. Yet wôz vendzans rēde tœ ųr hand, az we supōzd. For ēvere pās and wa wôz garded, and ųr ðe grater fœrs. So for ðat nīt we wated, seiŋ Korinyusez fīrz alīt in hiz kamp on Krōðeriŋ Sīd, meniŋ tœ smīt him at dôn ov da. Nų in ðe nīt wer mists abrōd, and ðe mœon erle sunken. And tru it iz az il it iz, ðat ðe huōl Witfland arme martft awa pāst us in ðe dark."

"Huôt?" krīd Mevrean, "and slept ye ôl tœ let ðem bi?"

"In ðe mīdel nīt," ânserd he, "we had fūr tidiŋz he wôz afot, and ðe fīrz yet berniŋ in hiz kamp a fo tœ mok us wiðôl. Bi ôl fūr sīnz, we mīt no he wôz brōk fœrþ norþ-westword, huēr he must tāk ðe ųper rōd into Meland over Brokste Hôz. Zig wið sēven hundred hors gālopt tœ Hēðbe tœ hed him of, huīlz ųr mān fœrs fērd ðēr swiftest up Lītel Ravendāl. Ðų sēst, mādam, Korinyus must martf alon ðe bų and we alon ðe bōstriŋ."

"Yes," sed Mevrean. "Ye had but tœ tfejek him wið ðe hors at Hēðbe, and he must fit or fōl bak tœword Džustdāl huēr he wôz līk tœ looz hāf hiz fōk in Mēmere Mos. ųtlanderz fal skērs fīnd a ferm wa ðēr in a dark nīt."

"Sertān it iz we fōd hav had him," sed Astar. "Yet sertān it iz he dūbeld līk a hēr and fœld us ôl tœ ðe top ov ųr bent: ternd in hiz traks, az later we konkluded, sumhuēr bi Gœos'sand, and wið ôl hiz arme slipt bak ēstword under ųr rēr. And ðat wôz ðe wunderfœlest fēt herd tel ov in ôl krōnikelz ov wor."

"Tuf, nobel Astar," sed Mevrean. "Labor not Witflandz prazez, nor imadžīn not ĩl dēm les ov Spitfīrz nor Zigz džēneralfīp bekōz Korinyus, bi art or fortfūnz favor, dodzd em in ðe dark."

"Dēr Lade," sed he, "even lūk for ðe werst and prepēr yorself for ðe sām."

Her gra īz stēdile beheld him. "Sertān intēlīdzens," sed he, "wôz brôt us ov ðēr fariŋ wið ôl spēd ða mīt ēstawa pāst Switfwōter; and êr ðe sun lukt wel over Džemzar Edz we wer hot on ðe trak ov ðem, noiŋ ųr fœrs ðe stronger and ųr ônle hōp tœ briŋ ðem tœ bātel êr ða rētft ðe Stīl, huēr ða hav mād a fortres ov grāt streŋþ we mīt skērs hōp tœ hųster ðem ųt from if ða



ƒud win ðīðer."

He pōzd. "Wel," sed ƒe.

"Mādam," he sed, "ðat we ov Demonland ar grāt and invinsibel in wor, tiz mōst sertān. But in ðēz dāz ƒit we az a man ðat ƒiteþ hōbeld, or wið hāf hiz gēr lād bi, or az a man hāf rōzd from slēp. For we be reft ov ƒr gratest. Bereft ov ðēz, sutƒ sorōz befōl us and sutƒ dōom az at Premnerz Hu lāst ôtum ƒāterd ƒr strenþ in pesez, and nð ðis vère da yet mœr tērible haþ pūt us dðn on Switƒwōter Wa."

Mevreanz ƒƒēk ternd hūit, but ƒe sed no werd, watiŋ.

"We wer eger in ðe ƒƒās," sed Astar. "I hav tōld ðe hvi, mādam. Ðð nōst hð nēr tō ðe mðntānz rūnep ðe rōd pāst Switƒwōter, and ðe ƒœrz ov ðe lāk hem in ðe wa for mīlz agānst ðe mðntān sperz, and wōdz klōð ðe loer slōps, and delz and gordzez run up betwikst ðe sperz intō ðe mðntān sīd. Ðe da wōz miste, and ðe mists huŋ bi ðe ƒœrz ov Switƒwōter. Hven we had martƒt so far ðat ƒr van wōz abðt over agānst ðe sted ov Hibank ðat standz on ðe farðer ƒœr, ðe bātel began: grātle tō ðēr advāntādƒ, sins Korinyus had plāst stroŋ ƒœrsez in ðe hilz on ƒr rīt flank, and so ambōƒt us and tøk us at ūnawēr. Not tō grēv ðe wið a wofōl tāl, mādam, we wer mōst blūdile overþrōn, and ƒr arme nērle brōt tō not-beiŋ. And in ðe mid rðt, Zig stōl an instant tō ƒƒardƒ me bi mi luv for him rīd tō Krōðeriŋ az if mi līf la on it and ðe wēl ov ôl ov us, and bid u ƒli hens tō Westmark or ðe ƒlz or hūðer u wil, êr ðe Witƒez kum agān and hēr entrap u. Sins sāv for ðēz wōlz and ðēz ƒu brāv sōldzerz u hav tō word ðem, no help standeþ ðne mœr twikst u and ðēz dēvilif Witƒez."

Stil ƒe wōz silent. He sed, "Let me not be tō hātƒol tō u, mōst graƒðs Lade, for ðis rūd tāl ov dizāster. Ðe sūdenes ov ðe ƒimz bar ðne plēzant gloziŋ. And indēd I þōt I ƒud sātisƒi u mœr wið plān'nes, ðan ƒud opinyon ov I no not hvōt fōls kœrtlines bīnd me tō ƒo u kumfort hvēr kumfort iz not."

Ðe Lade Mevrean stōd up and tøk him bi bōþ handz. Σūrle ðe līt ov ðat ladēz īz wōz līk ðe nu līt ov morniŋ glānsiŋ þrō mists on ðe gra stil serƒās ov a mðntān tarn, and ðe aksent ov her vq̄s swēt az ðe vq̄sez ov ðe morniŋ az ƒe sed, "O Astar, þink me not so unhandsum, nor yet so ƒoolif. Þanks, dƒzentel Astar. But ðð hast not supt, and ƒūr in a grāt sōldzer bātel and swift far ridiŋ ƒud

brēd hunger, hŷ il soēver ðe nūz he bareþ. Ði welkum  
ƿal not be ðe kōlder bekōz we lŷkt for mœr ðan ðe,  
alās, and for far ŷðer tidiŷz. A tƿāmbær iz prepērd for  
ðe. Ēt and drink; and hven nīt iz dun iz tīm enuf tōo  
spēk mœr ov ðēz þiŷz."

"Mādam," he sed, "u must kum nŷ or tiz tōo lāt."

But ƿe ānserd him, "No, nobel Astar. Ðis iz mi brŷðerz  
hŷs. So loŷ az I ma kēp it for him agānst hiz kŷmiŷ hōm  
I wil not krēp ŷt ov Krōðeriŷ līk a rat, but stand tōo mi  
wōtƿ. And ðis iz sertān, I ƿal not open Krōðeriŷ gāts  
tōo Witƿez huīlz I and mi fōk yet liv tōo bar ðem agānst  
ðem."

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So ƿe māð him go tōo sŷper; but herself sat lāt ðat nīt  
alōn in ðe Tƿāmbær ov ðe Mōon, ðat wōz in ðe dondzon kēp  
abuv ðe īner kœrt in Krōðeriŷ. Ðis wōz Lord Brandox  
Dahāz bankwet tƿāmbær, devīzd and fernīft bi him in yērz  
gon bi; and hēr he and ƿe kōmonle sat at mēt, uziŷ not  
ðe bankwet hōl akros ðe kœrt sāv hven grāt kumpane wōz  
prēzent. Rŷnd wōz ðat tƿāmbær, fōloin ðe rŷnd wōlz ov  
ðe tŷer ðat held it. Ōl ðe pīlarz and ðe wōlz and ðe  
vōlted roof wer ov a strāndz stōn, huīt and smœð, and  
yēldin sutƿ a glisterin ƿo ov pālid gōld in it az wōz  
līk ðe gōlden ƿēn ov ðe ƿul mōon ov a worm nīt in  
midsŷmer. Lamps ðat wer milke opalz self-efuldzent fild  
ōl ðe tƿāmbær wið a soft rādzans, in huīt ðe bā-relēfs  
ov ðe hi dado, dēlikātle karvd, portraiŷ ðōz imortal  
blōmz ov amaranþ and nepenþe and mole and Elīzan asfodel,  
wer sēn in ōl ðēr dēlikāt bute, and ðe fēr pānted  
piktƿŷrz ov ðe Lord ov Krōðeriŷ and hiz lade sister, and ov  
Lord Dzus abuv ðe grāt open firplās wið Gōldre and  
Spitfir on hiz left and rīt. A ƿu ŷðer piktƿŷrz ðēr  
wer, smōler ðan ðēz: ðe Prinses Armelīn ov Goblinland,  
Zig and hiz lade wīf, and ŷðerz; wundrŷs butifŷl.

Hēr a loŷ huīl sat ðe Lade Mevrean. Se had a lītēl lūt  
rōt ov swēt sandalwōd and ivore inlād wið dzemz. Huīl  
ƿe sat a-þinkiŷ, her fingerz strād idle on ðe strinŷ,  
and ƿe saŷ in a lo swēt vqqs:

*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.*

Wið ðe lâst siiŋ swētnes trembliŋ from ðe stringz, fe  
lād asīd ðe lūt, saiŋ, "Ðe diskord ov mi þōts, mi  
lūt, dup il agre wið ðe harmonēz ov ði stringz. Pōt it  
bi."

Σe fel too gaziŋ on her brūðerz piktūr, ðe Lord Brandox  
Dahā, standiŋ in hiz dzueld hōberk lāst abšt wið gōld,  
hiz hand ūpon hiz sœrd. And ðat laze lâfter-lūviŋ yet  
impereŋs lōk ov ðe īz hviŋ in līf he had wōz ðēr,  
wundrŋs līvle kōt bi ðe pānterz art, and ðe luvle  
līnz ov hiz brŋ and lip and dʒō, hŋer pŋer and māsterful  
determinaŋon slumberd, az brazen Arēz mīt slumber in ðe  
armz ov ðe Kwēn ov Luv.

A loŋ huīl Mevrean lukt on ðat piktŷūr, muziŋ. Ðen, bēreiŋ her fās in ðe kuŷonz ov ðe loŋ lo sēt ŷe sat on, ŷe berst into a grāt pāŷon ov tērz.

23. Ðe Wērd Begun ov Iŷnān Nemartrā

OV ÐE KŷNSEL TAKEN BI ÐE WITŷEZ TUTŷIŋ ÐE KONDUKT OV ÐE WOR: HUARĀFTER IN ÐE FIFÞ ASŌLT ÐE KĀSEL OV LORD BRANDOX DAHĀ WŌZ MĀD A PRA UNTŌO KORINYUS.

Nŷ wōz lītel tīm for debāt or kondŷektŷūr, but wið ðe morōz morn kām ðe Witŷland arme wuns mœr befœr Krōðeriŋ, and a hērald sent bi Korinyus tō bid Mevrean yēld up ðe kâsel and her ōn prōper person lest a wers þiŋ befōl ðem. Hwiŷ ŷe stōtle refuziŋ, Korinyus let strāt asōlt ðe kâsel, but wun it not. And in ðe nekst þre dāz fōloiŋ he þrīs asōlted Krōðeriŋ, and, faliŋ wið sum los ov men tō win an entre, klōsle invested it.

And nŷ sūmond he ðōz ŷðer lordz ov Witŷland tō tōk wið him. "Hŷ sa ye? Or huôt rēd ŷal we tāk? Ða be fu ōnle wīðin tō man ðe wōlz; and grāt ŷām it iz tō us and tō ōl Witŷland if we get not ðis hōld taken, so mēne az we be hēr gon up agānst it, and so grāt kaptānz."

Laksus sed, "Ðŷ art kiŋ in Demonland. Ðīn it iz tō tāk order huôt ŷal be dun. But if ðŷ dezīr mi rēd, ðen ŷal I giv it ðe."

"I dezīr ētŷ wun ov u," sed Korinyus, "tō ŷo fœrþ tō me frankle and frele hiz rēd. And wel ye no I strīv for nōt els but for Witŷlandz glœere and tō māk ferm ŷr konkwest hēr."

"Wel," sed Laksus, "I tōld ðe wuns ōlrēde mi kŷnsel, and ðŷ wōst angre wið me. Ðŷ mādst a mite viktore on Switŷwōter Wa; hwiŷ had we fōlōd up, þuŷiŋ hōm ðe sœrd ov ŷr advāntādŷ til ðe hilts kām klap agānst ðe brestplāt ov ŷr adversare, we mīt nŷ hav eksterminated from ðe land ðe huōl nest ov ðem, Spitfīr, Zig, and Vol. But nŷ ar ða göten awa ðe dēvil nōz huīðer, for ðe prepariŋ ov freŷ þornz tō prik ŷr sīdz wīðōl."

Korinyus sed, "Klām not wizdom āfter ðe event, mi lord. Twōz not so ðŷ didst advīz. Ðŷ didst bid me let go Krōðeriŋ; a þiŋ I wil not dō, wuns I hav set mīn hand tō

it."

Laksus ânserd him, "Not ðnle did I so advīz ðe az I hav sed, but Hemiņ wōz bi, and wil bē me ʒt, ðat I did ðfer ðat he or I wið a smōl fœrs ƒud kēp ðis kumfit-boks ƒut for ðe til ðʒ ƒudst hav dun ðe mān biznes."

"Tiz so," sed Hemiņ.

But Korinyus sed, "Tiz not so, Hemiņ. And wer it so, tiz ezile sēn hvi he or ðʒ ƒudst hanker for ferst suk at ðis lūƒʒs frūt. Yet not so eze tœ se hvi I ƒud yēld it u."

"Ðat," sed Laksus, "iz vēre il sed. I se ði mēmore nēdz dzōgiņ, and ðʒ art slidiņ intœ ingrātifūd. Hʒ mēne sutƒ līk frūts hast ðʒ endʒɑd sins we kām ʒt hīðer, ðat we had ôl ðe pānz and plūkiņ ov?"

"O kri ðe merse, mi lord," sed Korinyus, "I ƒud hav rememberd, drēmz ov Srivāz mɑst lips kēp ðe from straiņ. But enuf ov ðis fœliņ: tœ ðe māter."

Lord Laksus fluƒt. "Bi mi fāp," sed he, "ðis iz vēre mutƒ tœ ðe māter. Twer wel, Korinyus, if ði loos þōts wer kept from straiņ. Spend men on a fortres? Bēter āsa Galiņ, ðen: ðat wer a prīz werþ mœr tœ ʒr sāfte and ʒr lordƒip hēr."

"I," sed Hemiņ. "Sēk ʒt ðe ěneme. Tiz ðērfœr we kām hīðer: not tœ ƒind wīmen for ðe."

Ðarūpon ðe Lord Korinyus struk him akros ðe tabel a grāt būfet in ðe fās. Hemiņ, mad rop, snatƒt ʒt a dāger; but Gro and Laksus katƒiņ him wun bi iðer hand restrānd him. Gro sed, "Mi lordz, mi lordz, u must not werd it so dāndʒerʒs il. We hav but wun hart and mīnd hēr, tœ magnifi ʒr Lord ðe Kiņ and hiz glœre. Ðʒ, Hemiņ, forget not ðe Kiņ haþ pœt ôþorite in ðe hand ov Korinyus, so ðat ði dāger set agānst him sēteþ mōst trezonable agānst ðe Kiņz madʒeste. And ðʒ, mi lord, I pra be temperāt in ði pʒer. Σūr, for wōnt ov open wor it iz ðat ʒr handz be so rēde for ðēz privāt brōlz."

Hven bi fēr werdz ðis stƒu wōz kœld agān. Korinyus bad Gro sa fœrþ hiz mīnd, hvôt he þôt la nekst tœ dœ. Gro ânserd. "Mi lord, I am ov Laksusez opinyon. Abidiņ hēr bi Krōðeriņ, we fēr az idel kœks tqiņ wið swētmēts hvi ðe rōst spqłz. We ƒud sēk ʒt pʒer and destrq it hvēr stil it fareþ fre, lest it swel agān tœ a grōþ ma

dāndʒer us: hvērsoēver ðēz lordz be fled, þink not ðāl  
be slak tō prepēr a mistfēf for us."

"I se." sed Korinyus, "ye be ôl þre ov an akord agānst  
me. But ðēr iz no wun bēm ov ðēz þōts yor diskœers  
hap plānted in me, but iz abel tō disern a grater klīd ðan  
u dōo go in."

"It iz vēre tru," sed Laksus, "ðat we dōo þink sumhōt  
skornfœle ov ðis wor agānst wīmen."

"I, ðērz ðe kūver of ðe dif!" sed Korinyus, "and a  
þrite mes wiðin. Yar wuman-mad, ēvere dzak ov u, and  
ðis blērz yor īz tō þink me sik o' ðe sām fōle. Ðþ  
and ði lītel dark-īd bāgādʒ, ðat I dēr swēr hap munþs  
ago forgot ðe for anūðer. Hemiņ hēr and I no not hōt  
swēt mād hiz yuņ hart dotep on. Gro, hā! hā!" and he fel  
a-lāfiņ. "Hvērfœer ðe Kiņ sādeld me wið ðis Goblin, he  
ōnle noep, and hiz sekretare ðe Dēvil: not I. Bi Satan,  
ðþ hast a starvd lūk i' ðe īz gīveþ me tō þink ðe  
ērand I sent ðe tō Krōðeriņ gāts did ðe no gud. Mi  
kats leriņ lūk Joep me ðat mi kat goep a kāterwōiņ.  
Dust nþ fīnd ðe ravenz wiņ a sēmleer hu in a wentfez hēr  
tō set ði kōld blud a-lepiņ ðan tōne red? Or dust þink  
ðis wun hap a softer brest ðan ði Kwēnz tō kufon ði  
perfūmd loks?"

Wið ðat werd spoken, ôl þre ov ðem lēpt from ðēr  
sēts. Gro, wið a fās āfen gra, sed, "At me ðþ māst  
spit hōt filþ ðþ wilt. I am skœold tō bēr wið it for  
Witflanz sāk and until ðīn ōn vēnom tʒōk ðe. But ðis  
falt ðþ not dōo hīlz I liv, ðþ or ēne ūðer: tōo let ði  
bōde tuņ mēdel wið Kwēn Prezmirāz nām."

Korinyus sat stil in hiz tʒēr in a postfūr ov stūdēd ēz,  
but hiz sœerd wōz rēde. Hiz grāt dzʒl wōz set, hiz insolent  
blu īz skornfœle lukt from wun tōo anūðer ov ðōz lordz  
hvēr ða stōd mēnasiņ him. "Pʒô!" sed he, at lāst. "Hōo  
brōt her nām intō it but ðiself, mi Lord Gro? not I."

"Ðþ wert best not briņ it in agān, Korinyus," sed Hemiņ.  
"Hav we not wel fōlōd ðe and upheld ðe? And so fal  
we dōo hensfœrþ. But remember, I am Kiņ Korundz sun. And if  
ðþ spēk ðis wīked li agān, it fal kost ðe ði līf  
if I ma."

Korinyus þru þt hiz armz and lāft. "Kum," sed he,  
standiņ up, wið mutʒ fo ov dzōle frendlines, "twōz but a  
dzest; and, I frele aknōledʒ, an il dzest. Īm sore for it,

mi lordz.

"And nǣ," sed he, "kum we agān tō ðe mǣter. Krōðerīn Kāsel wil I not forgo, sins tiz not mi wa tō tern bak for ðne man on erþ, no not for ðe Godz ōlmitē, wuns I hav taen mi kōers. But I wil māk a bargān wið u, and ðis it iz: ðat we tō-moro dō asōlt ðe hōld a lāst tīm, uziŋ ōl ƿr men and ōl ƿr mī. And if, az I þink iz mōst unlikle and mōst fāmful, we get it not, ðen ƿal we fēr awa and dō akordiŋ tō ði kǣnsel, O Laksus."

"Tiz nǣ fōer dāz lost," sed Laksus. "Ðǣ kanst not retrēv ðem. Hƿso, be it az ðǣ wilt."

So brāk up ðēr kǣnsil. But ðe mīnd and hart ov ðe Lord Gro wōz nōt pēsful wiðin him, but tƿumultƿuðs wið mǣnifōld imadʒiniŋ ov hōps and fēr and ōld dezīr, ðat interwīnd lik serpents twistiŋ and kontendiŋ. So ðat nōt wōz klēr tō him sāv ðe unklēr trūbel ov hiz diskontent; and it wōz az if ðe konfens ov a sēkret grāt hiz inword mīnd mād had sūdenle kāst a vāl betwikst hiz þōts and him ðat he derst not pluk asīd.

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Betīnz on ðe moro Korinyus let fēr agānst Krōðerīn wið ōl hiz hōst, Laksus from ðe sƿþ, Hemiŋ and Kargo from ðe ēst agānst ðe mǣn gāts, and himself from ðe west hƿer ðe wōlz and tƿerz fōd strongest but ðe natƿural streŋþ ov ðe plās weker ðan elshƿer. Nǣ ða wiðin wer fu, bekōz ov Mevreanz sendiŋ ov ðōz tō hundred hors tō fōlo Zig and ðōz kām not bak āfter Switƿwōter; and az ðe da wōer, and stil ðe bātel went forword, and stil wer woondz gīven and taken, ðe odz swuŋ yet hēveer agānst ðem ov Demonland, and mōer and mōer must ðe kāsel hōld ov its ōn streŋþ ōnle, for ðēr wer not hƿōl men left eno tō man ðe wōlz. And nǣ had Korinyus wel ni wun ðe kāsel, fariŋ up on ðe wōlz west ov ðe dondzon tƿer hƿer he and hiz fel tō kleriŋ ðe bātelments, rūfiŋ on lik wōlvz. But Astar ov Retra stād him ðēr wið so grāt a sœrd-strōk on ðe helm ðat he overþru him ōl astonēd dƿn wiðþt ðe wōl and intō ðe ditf; but hiz men dru him fōerþ and sāvð him. So wōz ðe Lord Korinyus pūt þt ov ðe fit; but grātle stil he egd on hiz men. And abþt ðe fifþ ƿr āfter nōon ðe sunz ov Korund gat ðe mǣn gāt.

Lade Mevrean bē in ðat ƿr wið her ōn hand a stōop ov wīn tō Astar in a lul ov ðe bātel. Hƿil he drank, ƿe sed, "Astar, ðe ƿr demāndeþ ðat I pledz ðe tō

obēdzens, even az I pledʒd mīn ōn fōk and Ravnor đat hēr komāndep mi gārison in Krōđeriŋ."

"Mi Lade Mevreat," ānserd he, "under yor sāfte, I ʒal oba u."

Se sed, "No kondīʒonz, ser. Harken and no. Ferst I wil þank ðe and ðēz valeant men đat so mitile worded us and gōlden Krōđeriŋ agānst ʒr ēnemēz. Ðis wōz mi mīnd, tō word it untō ðe lāst, bekōz it iz mi dēr brūđerz hūs, and I kłnt it unwerðe Korinyus ʒūd stabel hiz horsez in ʒr tʒāंबरz, and karʒziŋ amid hiz drunkardz dō hert tō ʒr fēr bankwet hōl. But nʒ, bi hard nesēsite ov dizāstrūs wor, haþ ðis þiŋ kum tō pās, and ōl fōlen intō hiz hand sāv ōnle ðis kēp alōn."

"Alās, mādam," sed he, "tō ʒr ʒām I ma not deni it."

"O trampel ʒt ēne þōt ov ʒām," sed ʒe. "A skær ov ðem agānst ēvere wun ov us: ðe glære ov ʒr defens ʒal be for ēver. But nʒ tiz for me mānle he stil bareþ agānst Krōđeriŋ so grāt and pazant strōks az þik az rān fōlep from ðe ski. And nʒ must ye oba me and dō mi komāndment; els must we pēriʒ, for even ðis tþer we ar not enuf tō hōld agānst him mēne dāz."

"Divīn Lade," sed Astar, "but wuns ʒal wun pās ðe kruel pās ov dep. I and yor fōk wil defend u untō đat end."

"Ser," sed ʒe, standiŋ līk a kwēn befær him, "I ʒal nʒ defend miself and ʒr prēʒʒs þiŋz in Krōđeriŋ mær sertānle đan ye men ov wor ma dō." And ʒe ʒōd him ʒortle đat ðis wōz her dezīn, tō yēld up ðe kēp untō Korinyus under prōmīs ov a sāf kondukt for Astar and Ravnor and ōl her men.

"And submit ðe tō ðis Korinyus?" sed Astar. But ʒe ānserd, "Ði sœerd haþ līkle kut hiz klōz for āhʒīl. I fēr him not."

Ov ōl ðis wud Astar at ferst hav nōt tō dō, and ðe ōld stʒuword wīðōl wōz wel ni mutiŋs. But so ferm ov perpōs wōz ʒe, and wīðōl ʒōd ðem so plānle đat ðis wōz ðe ōnle hōp tō sāv herself and Krōđeriŋ, and ðe Witʒez must els sak ðe hūs ov Krōđeriŋ and in a fu dāz win ðe kēp, "and ðen, snake despēr; and ðe fōlt ont not in ʒortʒūn but in ʒrselvz, đat kud not frām ʒrselvz tō ʒr ʒortʒūn"; đat at lāst wið hēve harts đa konsented tō dō her bīdiŋ.



Wīðl̥t m̥ær ad̥, w̥z a parle k̥old, Mevrean spekiŋ for herself from a hi windo openiŋ on ðe k̥ært and Gro for Korinyus. In h̥itf̥ parle it w̥z artikeld ðat fe ƒud render up ðe t̥l̥er; and ðat ðe fitiŋ men h̥itf̥ wer wīðin ƒud hav p̥ēs and s̥āf̥ p̥āsād̥z̥ h̥ið̥er ða w̥d; and ðat ð̥er ƒud be no sk̥āð̥ nor ƒtrād̥z̥ dun t̥o Kr̥ōðeriŋ nið̥er t̥o ðe landz̥ ðarov; and ðat ôl̥ ðis ƒud be rit̥ d̥l̥n and s̥ēld̥ under ðe handz̥ ov Korinyus, Gro, and Laksus, and ðe g̥āts̥ opend̥ t̥o ðe Wit̥fez̥ and ôl̥ k̥ēz̥ del̥iverd̥ up wīðin an h̥āf̥ ƒr̥ ov ðe g̥iviŋ ov ðe s̥ēld̥ ritiŋ int̥o Mevreanz̥ hand.

N̥ð̥ w̥z̥ ôl̥ ðis̥ performd̥ akordiŋle, and Kr̥ōðeriŋ k̥ēp̥ renderd̥ t̥o ðe Lord Korinyus. Astar and Ravnor and ð̥er̥ men w̥d̥ hav abided az̥ p̥rizonerz̥ for Mevreanz̥ s̥āk̥, but Korinyus w̥d̥ not s̥ūfer̥ it, v̥l̥iŋ̥ wið̥ bl̥ūde̥ imprekaŋonz̥ ðat he w̥d̥ let̥ sla ƒt̥ ov hand̥ ěne man ov ð̥em̥ he ƒud̥ t̥āk̥ āfter an ƒrz̥ sp̥ās̥ wīðin̥ p̥re mīlz̥ ov Kr̥ōðeriŋ. So, under Mevreanz̥ strāt̥ komāndz̥, ða departed.

#### 24. A Kiŋ in Kr̥ōðeriŋ

H̥ ƒ̥E LORD KORINYUS W̥D̥ T̥ĀK̥ UNT̥O HIMSELF A KWĒN̥ IN DEMONLAND, AND MĀD̥ HIM A BRIDAL FĒST̥ ĐĒRT̥O: H̥ARIN̥ IZ̥ A NOTABEL̥ INSTANS̥ H̥ UNT̥O ĐEM̥ H̥IT̥Z̥ ĐE GODZ̥ D̥O LUV̥ HELPERZ̥ AŖ RĀZD̥ UP AND KUMFORTERZ̥ EVEN IN ĐE MIDST̥ OV ĐĒR̥ ĒNEMĒZ̥.

Đat̥ s̥ām̥ eveniŋ̥ Korinyus let̥ d̥ī̥t̥ a bankwet̥ in ðe T̥f̥āmb̥er ov ðe M̥oon̥ for sum̥ t̥o sk̥ær̥ ov hiz̥ t̥f̥efest̥ men, a v̥ēre pomp̥l̥s̥ and kiŋle̥ entertānment; and konseviŋ̥ ðat he mī̥t̥ n̥ð̥ v̥ēre wel̥ avāl̥ t̥o akumpliŋ̥ hiz̥ pl̥ēz̥ūr̥ tut̥fiŋ̥ ðe Lade Mevrean, he sent her werd̥ bi wun̥ ov hiz̥ d̥zentelmen̥ ðat fe ƒud̥ atend̥ him ð̥er̥. And fe sendiŋ̥ ānser̥ t̥o tel̥ him d̥zentle̥ ôl̥ els̥ in ðe k̥āsel̥ w̥z̥ at hiz̥ servīs̥, but for herself fe w̥z̥ kwī̥t̥ fordun̥ and grāt̥le̥ dezīrd̥ rest and sl̥ēp̥ ðat nī̥t̥, he fel̥ a-lāfiŋ̥ imōderāt̥le̥ and saiŋ̥, "A m̥ōst̥ unsezonabel̥ dezīr̥, and wun̥ ðat̥ sm̥ākep̥ besīdz̥ ov m̥ōkere, sins̥ wel̥ fe noeþ̥ h̥v̥ôt̥ ðis̥ nī̥t̥ I d̥o̥ intend̥. Wiŋ̥ her̥ t̥o rep̥ēr̥ t̥o us, and ðat̥ rī̥t̥ swif̥tle, lest I fet̥f̥ her."

T̥o ðat̥ m̥ēsād̥z̥ sent her k̥ām̥ fe in a ƒort̥ h̥vī̥l̥ herself t̥o ānser̥, drest̥ ôl̥ in funereal̥ blak̥, her g̥b̥n̥ and kl̥ōs̥-fitiŋ̥ b̥ōdīs̥ ov blak̥ sendal̥ slaft̥ wið̥ blak̥

sarsenet, and abŕt her þröt a tġān ov sāfirz darkle lustrŕs. Vĕre nŕble ġe kārĕd her hed. Frāmđ wiđ đe pīld and braded māsez ov her nīt-dark hĕr, her fās fōđ pāl indĕd, but unrŕfeld and undismād.

Ōl at her kŕminġ in stōđ up tō grĕt her; and Korinyus sed, "Lade, đŕ didst tġāndġ đi mīnd kwikle sins đŕ didst ferst aferm đŕ nĕver wōđst yĕld up Krŕđĕriġ untō me."

"Az kwikle az l mīt, mi lord," sed ġe, "for l sŕ l wŕz roġ."

He abōđ silent a mīnŭt, hiz ĩz lĭk āmorŕs serfeterz over-rŕniġ her fĕr form. Đen sed he, "Đŕ didst wiġ tō pertġās sāfte for đi frendz?"

Σe ānserd, "Yes."

"For đīn ōn self," sed Korinyus, "it had mād no đġot ov điferens. Be witnes untō me đe omnĭġense ov đe Godz, hvaruntō iz nŕþiġ konselabel, l mĕn đe ōnle ġōđ."

"Mi lord," sed ġe, "l embrās đe kumfort ov đat werd. And no đat ġōđ tō me iz mīn ōn fredom: not kondĭġonz ov ĕne manz tġuziġ."

Hŕĕrtō he, beġ wel tĭpeld wiđ wīn, framġ đe mŕst luvle kŕntenans he mīt, mād ānser, "l đŕt not but tō-nīt, mādam, đŕ ġalt be wel advĭzd tō tġŭz đat hiest kondĭġon, and til tō-da ũnŕn, hŭtġ l ġal prŕfer đe: tō be Kwĕn ov Demonland."

Σe þankt him in her best māner, but sed ġe wŕz mīnded tō forgo đat supozedle pleziġ ĕminens.

"Hŕ?" sed he. "Iz it tō lĭtel a þiġ for đe? Or iz it az l þink, đat đŕ lāfst?"

Σe sed, "Mi lord, it ġōđ lĭtel besĕm me đat am ov đe sĕđ ov men ov wor sins loġ đġeneraġonz tō trap mi mīnd wiđ đe fŕls fŕz ov a grātnes đat iz gon. Yet l pra u forget not đis: đe dominyon ov đe Demonz hap ũst tō sĕr a pitġ abuv kŕmon rŕalte, and lĭk đe i ov da regarded kiġz from abuv. And for đis stĭl ov Kwĕn đŕ đferst me, l sa untō đe it iz an adĭġon l dezĭr not, hŭ am sister untō him đat rit đat ritiġ abuv đe ġāt đat ōl ye had tāsted đe trŭþ đarov had he bĕn hĕr tō mĕt wiđ u."

Korinyus sed, "Tru it iz, sum hav ŕt-bragd đe werld,

yet I êr ðis hav ūzd ðem līk nāvz. Mi dzakbōot haþ  
nōn þiņz in Karse, mādam, Īl not gōl ði hart tō tel  
ðe ov." But perseviņ a grāt lo ov disdānfōl anger blāz  
in Mevreanz i, "Kri u merse," sed he, "inkomparabel lade;  
ðis wōz besīd ðe mark. I wōd not sūle þr nu frendþip  
wið mēmōrēz ov----Ho ðêr! a tþêr besīd me for ðe Kwēn."

But Mevrean mād ðem set it on ðe far sīd ov ðe bærd, and  
ðêr sat her dōn, saiņ, "I pra ðe, mi Lord Korinyus,  
unsa ðat werd. Ðþ nōst it dislīks me."

He lukt on her in silens for a mīnūt, lēnd forword akros  
ðe bærd, hiz lips parted a lītel and betwēn ðem hiz breþ  
kūmiņ and goiņ þik and swift. "Wel," he sed, "sit ðêr,  
and it līk ðe, mādam, and mānādþ mi delīts bi stādþez. Lāst  
yêr ðe wīd werld betwikst us: ðis yêr ðe mōntānz:  
yesterēv Krōðeriņ wōlz: tō-nīt a tabelz bredþ: and êr  
nīt be dun, not so mutþ az----

Gro sō ðe wīld-dêr lūk in Lade Mevreanz īz. Se sed,  
"Ðis iz tōk I hav not lernd tō understand, mi lord."

"I þal lern it ðe," sed Korinyus, hiz fās aflām.  
"Lūverz liv bi luv az larks bi lēks. Bi Satan, I dō luv  
ðe az ðþ wert ðe hart þt ov mi böde."

"Mi Lord Korinyus," sed þe, "we ladēz ov ðe norþ hav  
lītel stūmak for ðēz fāþonz, hþêr ða komend ðem in  
wōteriþ Witþland. If þþlt hav mi frendþip, briņ me  
servīs ðêrfor, and ðat in sezon. Ðis iz no fit  
tabel-tōk."

"Hi ðêr," sed he, "wêr in fāst agrement. Īl blīðle  
fo ðe ôl ðis, and a kwānter þiņ besīd, in ðīn ōn  
tþāmber. But twōz beþond mi hōps þþdst grāt me ðat so  
sūdenle. Ar we so hāpe?"

In grāt fām and anger ðe Lade Mevrean stōd up from ðe  
tabel. Korinyus, sumþiņ unstedīle, lēpt tō hiz fēt. For  
ôl hiz bignes, so tōl þe wōz þe lukt him lēvel in ðe  
i. And he, az hven in ðe fās ov a nīt-rāndziņ bēst  
sūdenle a man brandīþez a brīt līt, stōd stþupid under  
ðat gāz, ðe sprinþ ov akþon strāndþle frozen in him on a  
sūden, and sed sūlenle, "Mādam, I am a sōldzer. Trule mīn  
afekþon standeþ not ūpon kompliment. Ðat I am impafent,  
þut ðe wīt on ði bute not on me. Pra u, be seted."

But Mevrean ānserd, "Ði langwādþ, mi lord, iz tō bōld and  
vijþs. Kum tō me tō-moro if ðþ wilt; but Īl hav ðe  
no, þafens ōnle and kertese þal get gūd ov me."

Se ternd tœ ðe dœr. He, az if wið ðe terniŋ awa ov ðat ladēz īz ðe spel wōz brōk, krīd lōdle ūpon hiz fōk tœ sta her. But ðēr wōz nun sterd. Ðērwið he, az wun ðat kanot komānd hiz ōn indesent āpetīts, ōrsētiŋ bentf and bærd in eger hāst tœ la handz on her, it so betided ðat he tript up wið wun ov ðēz and fel a-sprōliŋ. And ēr he wōz gōten agān on hiz fēt, ðe Lade Mevrean wōz gon from ðe hōl.

He rōz up pānfœle, prōferiŋ from hiz lips a mud-spriŋ ov barbarŋs and filþe imprekafonz; so ðat Laksus hœ helpd rāz him up wōz fān tœ tŋd him, saiŋ, "Mi lord, unman not ðiself bi sutf a bestfal trānsformaŋon. Ar not we yet wið harnes on þr baks in a kiŋdom nule gānd, ðe ōld lordz ðarov diskomfited in dēd but not yet taen nor slān, stūdeinŋ belīk tœ rāz nu pþerz agānst us? And abuv sutf and so mēne afērz wilt ðþ māk plās for ðe alūrments ov luv?"

"!" ānserd he. "Nor fal sutf a saples nīne az ðþ avāl tœ kros me ðarin. Āsk ði lītel gāmsum Srivā, hven ðþ kumst hōm tœ wed her, if I be not bēter abel ðan ðþ tœ plēz a wōman. Σēl tel ðe! I' ðe mān sezon mēdel not in māterz ðat be tœ hi for sutf az ðþ."

Bōþ Gro and ðe sunz ov Korund wer bi and herd ðōz werdz. Ðe Lord Laksus skœold himself tœ lāf. He ternd tœword Gro, saiŋ, "Ðe dzēneral iz far gon in wīn."

Gro, markiŋ Laksusez fās fluft red tœ ðe ērz for ōl hiz stūdēd kērlesnes, ānserd him softle, "Tiz so, mi lord. And in wīn iz trūþ."

Nþ Korinyus, bēpinkinŋ him ðat it wōz yet erle and ðe fēst bērle wel begun, let set a gard on ōl ðe pāsādzez huitf led tœ Mevreanz lodziŋz, tœ ðe end ðat þe mīt not īfu ðērfrom but ðēr wāt on hiz plēzūr. Ðat dun, he bad renu ðēr fēstiŋ.

No stint ov lūfþs mēts and wīnz wōz ðēr, and ðe lordz ov Witfland sat ðem dþn agān rīt egerle tœ ðe gūd bankwet. Laksus spōk sēkretle tœ Gro: "I wot wel ðþ tākst in vēre il part ðēz dœiŋz. Let it stand ferm in ði mīnd ðat if ðþ ŋudst dēm it fītiŋ tœ pla him a trik and stēl ðe lade from him, Īl not stand i' ðe wa ont."

"In a buntf ov kardz," sed Gro, "nāvz wāt ūpon ðe kiŋz. It wer not so il dun and we mād it so hēr. I herd a berd siŋ lātle ðþ hadst a kworel tœ him."

"Ðǫ must not þink so," ânserd Laksus. "Ī giv ðe stil a Roland for ðin Ōliver, and tel ðe tiz mōst apǣrent ðiself dust luv ðis lade."

Gro sed, "Ðǫ tǣardʒst me wið a swēt fōle iz forān tō mi nātfūr, bein a grāv skōlar ðat if ēver I did frekwent sutf tǣz hav loŋ estfūd ðem. Ōnle mesēmz tiz an il þin if ʒe must be gīven over untō him agānst her wil. Ðǫ nōst him ov a ruf and mēr sōldʒerle mīnd, besīdz hiz dīsolūt kumpane wið ūðer wīmen."

"Tuf," sed Laksus, "he ma go hiz gāt for me, and be az klōs az a būterfli wið ðe lade. But ʒt ov pōlise, twer best rid her hens. Īd not be sēn int. Ðat provided, Ī sēkond ðe ōl wāz. If he li hēr ðe sūmer loŋ in āmorʒs dǣleans, dʒustle mīt ðe Kiŋ abrād us ðat midst o' ðe dāz spǣrt we gāv hiz gūd hōk a gordʒ, and so lost him ðe gām."

"I se," sed Gro, smilin in himself, "ðǫ art a man ov sober gūvernment and understanding, and þinkst ferst ov Witfland. And ðat iz bōþ dʒust and rīt."

Nǫ went ðe fēst forword wið grāt serfetiŋ and swīgin ov wīn. Mevreanz wīmen ðat wer ðēr, mutf agānst ðēr ōn gūd wil, tō serv ðe bankwet, set ēver freʒ dīʒez befōer ðe fēsterz and pǣrd fǣrþ freʒ wīnz, gōlden and tōne and rube-red, in ðe goblets ov dʒād and kristal and hāmerd gōld. Ðe ēr in ðe fēr tǣamber wōz þik wið ðe stēm ov bāk-mēts and ðe vinʒs breþ ov ðe fēsterz, so ðat ðe luster ov ðe opal lamps bernd kōpere, and abʒt ētf lamp wōz a buʒ ov kōpere bēmz līk ðe bēmz abʒt a tortʒ ðat bernz in a fog. Grāt wōz ðe klāter ov kups, and grāt ðe klinkiŋ ov glās az in ðēr drunken'nes ðe Witʒez kāst dʒn ðe prīsles bekerz on ðe flǣr, smǣʒiŋ ðem in ʒiverz. And hūdʒ din ðēr wōz ov lāfter and soŋ; and amidst ov it, wīmenz vqsez sīŋiŋ, ōlbeit nēr drʒnd in ðe herle berle. For ða konstrānd Mevreanz dāmozeln in Krōðeriŋ tō siŋ and dāns befōer ðem, hʒsoēver woful at hart. And tō ūðer entertānment ðan ðis ov dāns and soŋ wōz mēne a blak-bērded rēveler wīliŋ tō konstrān ðem; and sōt okaʒon ðērtō, but ðis bi stelp ōnle, and ʒt ov i-ʒot ov ðēr dʒēneral. For hēvile eno wōz hiz rōþ fōlen on sum hʒ rafle flōnted in hiz fās ðēr līt dispǣrts, prēʒumiŋ tō hunt in sutf fēldz hʒl ðēr lord went stil a-fāstiŋ.

Āfter a hʒl Hemiŋ, hʒ sat nekst tō Gro, began tō sa tō him in a hʒisper, "Ðis iz an il bankwet."

"Mesēmz rāðer tiz a vēre ġud bankwet," sed Gro.

"Wud I sō sum ūðer ĳfu ðarov," sed Hemiņ, "ðan ðat he perposeþ. Or hþ þinkst ðþ?"

"I skērs kan blām him," ânserd Gro. "Tiz a mōst luvsum lade."

"Iz not ðe man a mōst horibel open swīn? And iz it tōo be endzūrd ðat he ĳud werk hiz lūd perpōs on so swēt a lade?"

"Hūôt hav I tōo dōo wið it?" sed Gro.

"Hūôt les ðan I?" sed Hemiņ.

"It dislīks ðe?" sed Gro.

"Art ðþ a man?" sed Hemiņ. "And ĳe ðat hateþ him besīdz az blūde Atropos!"

Gro lukt him a swift sertĳiņ lūk in ðe i. Ðen he hūisperd, hiz hed bþd over sum razinz he wōz a-pīkiņ: "If ðis iz ði mīnd, tiz wel." And spekiņ softle, wið hēr and ðēr sum snatĳ ov lþder diskœers or dzest betwēn hūīlz lest he ĳud sēm tōo ernestle engādʒd in sēkret tōk, he tōt Hemiņ orderle and klērle hūôt he had tōo dōo, diskūveriņ tōo him ðat Laksus ôlso, beiņ bit wið dzēlþse, wōz ov ðēr akord. "Ði brūðer Kargo iz aptest for ðis. He standeþ abþt her hīt, and bi rezon ov hiz ūþ iz yet bērdles. Go find him þt. Rehers untōo him werd bi werd ôl ðis tōkiņ ðat haþ bēn betwēn me and ðe. Korinyus hōldeþ me tōo dēþ suspekt tōo sūfer me þt ov hiz i tōo-nīt. Untōo u sunz ov Korund ðērfœer iz ðe tâsk; and I bidiņ at hiz elbo ma avāl tōo hōld him hēr i' ðe hōl til it be performd. Go; and wīz kþnsel and ġud spēd wāt on yor atempts."

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Ðe Lade Mevrean, beiņ eskāpt tōo her ōn tĳāamber in ðe sþþ tþer, sat bi an ēstern windo ðat lukt akros ðe gardenz and ðe lāk, pāst ðe se-loxs ov Stropardon and ðe dark hilz ov Ēstmark, tōo ðe stātle rāndʒez afar hūitĳ overhaņ in mid-ēr Mōzdāl and Merkdāl and Swortrīverdāl and ðe inland se ov Þrowōter. Ðe lāst līts ov da stil lingerd on ðēr lofteer sūmits: on Ironbēk, on ðe gōnt wōl ov Skartâ, and on ðe distant twin tþerz ov Dinâ sēn beƳond ðe loer Mōzdāl rāndʒ in ðe deprēĳon ov Nēverdāl Hōz.

Behīnd ðem rōld up ðe asent ov hēven ðe huēlz ov kwiet  
Nīt: hole Nīt, mūd̄er ov ðe Godz, mūd̄er ov slēp, tender  
ners ov ôl līt̄el berdz and bēsts ðat dwel in ðe fēld  
and ôl tīrd harts and were: mūd̄er besīdz ov strāndz  
t̄fildren, afrīts, and rāps, and midnīt merderz bōld.

Mevrean sat ðēr til ôl ðe erp wōz blerd in darknes  
and ðe ski a-prob wið starlīt, for it wōz yet an ųr  
until ðe riziŋ ov ðe m̄oon. And Je prād t̄oo Lade Artemis,  
kōliŋ her bi her sēkret nāmz and saiŋ, "Gōdes and Maden  
t̄fāst and hole; triūn Gōdes, Huitf in hēven art, and on  
ðe erp Huntres divīn, and ôlso hast in ðe vāld sunles  
plasez belo erp ði dwēliŋ, vuiŋ ðe lardz stafonz ov  
ðe ded: sāv me and kēp me ðat am ði maden stil."

Se ternd ðe riŋ ųpon her finger and skand in ðe  
gāðeriŋ gl̄oom ðe bēzel ðarov, huitf wōz ov ðat  
krisoprāz ðat iz hid in līt and sēn in darknes, beiŋ az  
a flām bi nīt but in ðe da-tīm yēlo or wōn. And behōld,  
it palpitated wið splendor from wiðinword, and wōz az if a  
þ̄zand gōlden sparks dānst and swerld wiðin ðe stōn.

Hūl Je ponderd huōt interpretaŋon la līkleest on ðis  
sūden fl̄beriŋ ov ųnakustomd splendor wiðin ðe  
krisoprāz, behōld wun ov her wīmen ov ðe bed-t̄fāmber huō  
brōt līts, and sed, standiŋ bef̄er her, "Twān ov ðōz  
lordz ov Witfland wōd spēk wið yor ladīfip in privāt."

"T̄oo?" sed Mevrean. "Ðēr̄z sāfte yet in numberz. Huitf be  
ða?"

"Hines, ða be tōl and slim ov bōde. Ða be  
blak-advīzd. Ða bē̄r ðem diskret̄ az dormīs, and mōst  
komendable sober."

Mevrean āskt, "Iz it ðe Lord Gro? Hap he a grāt blak  
bērd, mutf kerld and perfūmd?"

"Hines, I markt not ðat iðer wareþ a bērd," sed ðe  
wōman, "nor ðēr̄ nāmz I no not."

"Wel," sed Mevrean, "admit ðem. And d̄oo ð̄l and ði fēlōz  
atend me huīlz I giv ðem ôdzens."

So it wōz dun akordiŋ t̄oo her bīdiŋ. And ðēr̄ enterd in  
ðōz t̄oo sunz ov Korund.

Ða greted her wið respektf̄ol salutaŋonz, and Hemiŋ sed,  
"ųr ěrand, mōst werfipf̄ol lade, wōz for ðīn ōn ěr ōnle  
if it plēz ðe."

Mevrean sed tō her wīmen, "Māk fāst ðe dærz, and atēnd me in ðe ante-tfāmbēr. And nþ, mi lordz," sed fe, and wated for ðem tō bēgin.

Se wōz seted sīdwāz in ðe windo, betwikst ðe līt and ðe dark. Ðe kristal lamps fīniġ from wīðin ðe rōom fōd deper darknesez in her hēr ðan nīts darknes wīðþt. Ðe kerv ov her huīt armz restiġ in her lap wōz līk ðe yuġ mōon kradeld abuv ðe sunset. A fōliġ brēz þt ov ðe sþþ kām laden wið ðe mermer ov ðe se, far awa beþond fēldz and vīnyardz, restlesse serdzīġ even in ðat kālm wēðer amid ðe se-kāvz ov Stropardon. It wōz az if ðe se and ðe nīt enfōldiġ Demonland gāspit in indignafon at sutf þiġz az Korinyus, hōldiġ himself ōlrēde an undþted pozēsor ov hiz dezīrz, devīzd for ðat nīt in Krōðeriġ.

Ðōz brēðren stūð abaft in ðe prēzens ov sutf rēr bute. Hemiġ wið a dēp brēþ spāk and sed, "Mādam, huīt slender opinyon soēver ðþ hast held ov us ov Witfland, I pra ðe be sātisfīd ðat I and mi kinzman hav sōt tō ðe nþ wið a klēn hart tō dō ðe servīs."

"Prinsez," sed fe, "skērs mīt ye blām me did I misdþt u. Yet, seiġ ðat mi līfs dāz hav bēn not amuġ ambideksterz and kone-katferz but lūverz ov klēn handz and open deliġ, not even āfter ðat huīt f I ðis nīt endzūrd wil mīn hart belēv ðat ōl sivilite iz wœrn awa in Witfland. Did I not frele resēv Korinyusez self hven I did open mi gāts tō him, fermlē beleviġ him tō be a kiġ and not a rāveniġ wōlf?"

Ðen sed Hemiġ, "Kanst ðþ wēr armor, mādam? Ðþ art sumþiġ ov an hīt wið mi brūðer. Tō briġ ðe pāst ðe gard, if ðþ go armd, az I fal kondukt ðe, ðe wīn ða hav drunken fal be ði mīnister. I hav provided an hors. In ðe līknes ov mi yuġ brūðer māst ðþ rīd fœrþ tō-nīt þt ov ðis kāsel, and win klēn awa. But in ðīn ōn fāþ ðþ māst nēver pās from ðēz ði lodziġz, for he hap set a gard ðaron; beiġ rezolvd, kum ðarov huīt ma, tō vīzit ðe hēr ðis nīt: in ðīn ōn tfāmbēr, mādam."

Ðe sþndz ov fureþs rēvelre floted up from ðe bankwet tfāmbēr. Mevrean herd bi snatfez ðe vq̄s ov Korinyus sīġiġ an unsēmlē soġ. Az in ðe prēzens ov sum dark influens ðat þrētend an il fe mīt not komprehend, yet felt her blud kwāl and her hart gro sik bekōz ov it, fe lukt on ðōz brēðren.

Se sed at lāst, "Wōz ðis yor plan?"



Hemiņ ânserd, "It wôz ðe Lord Gro did mōst indzēnušsle konsēv it. But Korinyus, az he haþ ēver held him in distrust, and mōst ov ôl hven he haþ drunken overmutf, kepeþ him mōst fermle at hiz elbo."

Kargo nð did of hiz armor, and Mevrean kôliņ in her wīmen tō tāk ðis and ũðer gēr fērd strātwa tō an īner tġāamber tō tġāndz her fǎfon.

Hemiņ sed tō hiz brūðer, "Ðð falt nēd tō go abłt it wið grāt serkumspekġon, tō kum of hven we ar gon so az ðð be not aspīd. Wer I ðð, I ġud be tempted for ðe rēnes ov ðe dzest tō awāt hiz kūmiņ, and āsa huēðer ðð kōdst not māk az ġud a kðnterfēt Mevrean az ġe a kðnterfēt Kargo."

"Ðð," sed Kargo, "māst wel lāf and be ga, ðð ðat must kondukt her. And art rezolvd, I dēr la mi hed tō a ternip, tō dō ði utmōst endēvor tō despql Korinyus ov ðat felisite he haþ tō-nīt dekrēd him, and bles ðiself ðērwið."

"Ðð hast fōlen," ânserd Hemiņ, "intō a mōst barbaršs þōt. Šal mi tuņ be so fōls a trator tō mīn hart az tō sa I luv not ðis lade? Kompēr but her bute and mi ũþ tūgēðer, hð ġud it ũðer be? But wið sutġ a hīt ov fervor I dō luv her ðat Īd az lēf ōfer violens tō a star ov hēven, az rekwīr ov her ôt but ōnest."

Sed Kargo, "Huôt sed ðe wīz lītel bq tōoz elder brūðer? Šip ððst ġōten ðe kāk, brūðer, I must ēn māk ġift wið ðe krumz.' Hven u ar gon, and ôl hviġt and kwiet, and I left hēr amid ðe watiņ wīmen, it ġal go hard but Īl tētġ em sumhvôt afcer ġud-nīt."

Nð opend ðe dær ov ðe īner tġāamber, and ðēr stōd befcer ðem ðe Lade Mevrean armd and helmd. Še sed, "Tiz no līt māter tō hōlt befcer a krīpel. Þink u ðis wil pās i' ðe dark, mi lordz?"

Ða ânserd, twōz beġond ôl komendaġon ekselent.

"Īl þank ðe nð, Prins Kargo," sed ġe, stretġiņ łt her hand. He błd and kist it in silens. "Ðis harnes," ġe sed, "ġal be a kēpsāk untō me ov a nobel ēneme. Wud sumda I mīt kôl ðe frend, for sutġwīz hast ðð bœrn ðe ðis nīt."

Ðêrwið, bïðin yuŋ Kargo ādzu, ƒe wið hiz brüðer went  
foerp from ðe tƒāmbèr and þrœ ðe ante-tƒāmbèr tœ ðat  
ƒādoe stêrwa huêr Korinyusez söldzerz stöd sentinel.  
Ðêz (az mêne mœr be drënd in ðe beker ðan in ðe  
ofan), not over-hêdful āfter ðêr tiplinz, seiŋ tœ go  
bi tögêðer wið klankin armor and noiŋ Hemiŋz vq̄s  
hven he ānserd ðe tƒälendz, mād no kwestƒon but hêr wer  
Korundz sunz reternin tœ ðe bankwet.

So pâst he and ƒe litle bi ðe sentinelz. But az ða  
fêrd bi ðe lofte koridor wiððt ðe Tƒāmbèr ov ðe Mœn,  
ðe dœrz ov ðat tƒāmbèr openin südenle left and rīt ðêr  
kām foerp tortƒ-barerz and minstrelz tœ bi tœ az in a  
prögres, wið simbalz kläfin and flüts and tamborēnz, so  
ðat ðe koridor wôz fultild wið ðe flêr ov flambqz and  
ðe din. In ðe midst wôkt ðe Lord Korinyus. Ðe luste blud  
wiðin him bernd skarlet in ôl hiz finiŋ fās, and mād  
stand ðe vānz līk kordz on ðe stroŋ nek and armz and  
handz ov him. Ðe þik kerlz abuv hiz brü huêr ða strād  
belo hiz koronal ov slepiŋ nītƒād wer a-drip wið  
swet. Plān it wôz he wôz in no gūd trim, āfter ðat ƒrūd  
nok on ðe hed Astar ðat da had gīven him, tœ wiðstand  
dêp kwôfiŋz. He went betwēn Gro and Laksus, swaiŋ hêvile  
nÿ on ðe arm ov ðis wun nÿ ov ðe ūðer, hiz rīt hand  
betiŋ tīm tœ ðe muzik ov ðe bridal soŋ.

Mevrean hwisperd tœ Hemiŋ, "Let us bêr ðt a gūd fās so  
loŋ az we be alīv."

Ða stöd asīd, hōpiŋ tœ be pâst bi ūnotīst, for retrêt  
nor konsêlment wôz ðêr nun. But Korinyus hiz i litiŋ  
on ðem stopt and hāld ðem, katƒiŋ ðem êtƒ bi an arm,  
and kriiŋ, "Hemiŋ, ðÿrt drunk! Kargo, ðÿrt drunk, swêt  
ūþ! Tiz a damnabel föle, drink az drunk az u be, and  
ðêz böne wentƒez Īv provided u. Hÿ ƒal I sātisfi em,  
þink ye, hven ða kum tœ me wið ðêr plānts tœ-morn, ðat  
êtƒ must sit wið a snoriŋ drunkardz hed in her lap ðe  
nīt loŋ?"

Mevrean, az if ƒe had ôl her part bi rôt, wôz lēnd ðis  
hūl hêvile ūpon Hemiŋ, hāŋiŋ her hed.

Hemiŋ kœd þink on nôt līkleer tœ sa, ðan, "Trule, O  
Korinyus, we be sober."

"Ðÿ līst," sed Korinyus. "Twôz êver sīn mānifest ov  
drunken'nes tœ deni it. Lœk u, mi lordz, I deni not I am  
drunk. Ðêrfœr iz sīn mānifest I am drunk, I mēn, sīn  
mānifest I am sober. But ðe ðr kôleþ tœ ūðer werk ðan  
kwestƒoniŋ ov ðêz hi mäterz. Set on!"

So spekiŋ he rēld hēvile agānst Gro, and (az if mōovd bi sum are influens đat, hwisperiŋ him ov skemiŋz afot, yet konspīrd wiđ đe wīn đat he had drunken tō māk him lōk ôl ūđerhūēr for trezon đan hūēr it la under hiz hand tō diskūver it) gript Gro bi đe arm, saiŋ, "Bīd bi me, Goblin, đō wert best. I dō luv đe vēre diskrētle, and wil stil hōld đe bi đe ērz, tō se đō bīt me not, nor go no mœr a-gādiŋ."

Beiŋ bi sutf hāpe fortjūn delīverd ūt ov đis pēril, Hemiŋ and Mevrean wiđ hūōt prudent hāst đa mīt, and wīđōt mishap or hindrans, got đem đēr horsez and fērd fœrp ov đe mān gāt betwēn đe marbel hīpogrifs, hūōz mite formz jon abuv đem stark in đe lo bēnz ov đe riziŋ mōon. So đa rōd silentle p̄ro đe gardenz and đe hōm-mēdz and đens tō đe wīld wōdz beŷond, kwīkeniŋ nō đēr pās tō a gālop on đe yēldiŋ terf. So hard đa rōd, đe ēr ov đe windles Āpril nīt wōz laft intō storm abōt đēr fasez. Đe trampel and p̄nder ov hōfbēts and đe fliiŋ glimpsez ov đe trēz wer tō yuŋ Hemiŋ but an undertōn tō đe p̄nder ov hiz blud huitf nīt and spēd and đat lade gālopiŋ besīd him ne tō ne set a-gālop wīđin him. But tō Mevreanz sōl, az fe gālopt alon đōz wōdland rīdz, đōz mōonlīt glādz, đēz piŋz and nīt and đe stedfāst starz atjūnd a hēvenleer muzik; so đat fe wakst momentle wundrōs pēsful at hart, az wiđ đe mōst ferm āfurans đat not wīđōt đe abidiŋ glœere ov Demonland must đe grāt mutafonz ov đe werld be akted, and but for a lītel jūd đēr evil-wīlerz uzerp her dēr brūđerz sēt in Krōđeriŋ.

Đa dru rān in a kleriŋ besīd a brōd stretf ov wōter. Pīn-wōdz rōz from its ferđer edz, fādoe in đe mōonjīn. Mevrean rōd tō a lītel ēminens đat stūd abuv đe wōter and ternd her īz tōword Krōđeriŋ. Sāv bi her instruktēd and lūviŋ i skērs mīt it be sēn, mēne mīlz awa be-ēst ov đem, dimd in đe obskūr soft rādžans under đe mōon. So sat fe āhūil lukiŋ on gōlden Krōđeriŋ, hūil her hors grāzd kwietle, and Hemiŋ at her elbo held hiz pēs, ōnle behōldiŋ her.

At lāst, lukiŋ bak and metiŋ hiz gāz, "Prins Hemiŋ," fe sed, "from đis plās goep a hīden pāp norp-abōt besīd đe ferp, and a dri rōd over đe marf, and a fœrd and an upland hors-wa ledep intō Westmark. Hēr and ôl-hūēr in Demonland I mīt fēr blīndfōld. And hēr Īl sa fērwel. Mī tuŋ iz a pœr orator. But I mīnd me ov đe werdz ov đe poet hūēr he sāp:

Mi mīnd iz līk tōo ðe azbeston stōn.  
Hūtƒ if it wuns be hēt in flāmz ov fīr,  
Denieƒ tōo bekomen kōld agān.

Be ðe lāter ƒƒu ov ðēz worz in mi grāt kinzmenz  
viktore, az I mōst fermle trǎ it ƒal be, or in Gorisez hiz,  
I ƒal not forget ðis ekspērimēt ov yor nobīlite mānifested  
untōo me ðis nīt."

But Hemiƒ, stil behōldiƒ her, ānserd not a werd.

ƒe sed, "Hǎ fērz ðe Kwēn ði step-mūðer? Sēven sūmerz  
ago ðis sūmer I wōz in Norvasp at Lord Korundz wēdiƒ  
fēst, and stōd bi her at ðe bridal. Iz ƒe yet so fēr?"

He ānserd, "Mādam, az Dzūn brīƒeƒ ðe gōlden rōz untōo  
perfekƒon, so wakseƒ her bute wið ðe yērz."

"ƒe and I," sed Mevrean, "wer plamāts, ƒe ðe elder bi  
tōo sūmerz. Iz ƒe yet so māsterƒul?"

"Mādam, ƒe iz a Kwēn," sed Hemiƒ, naliƒ hiz vēre īz on  
Mevrean. Her fās hāƒ ternd tōowordz him, swēt mǎƒ hāƒ  
klōzd, klēr īz uplifted tōoword ðe ēst, ƒōd dim in ðe  
glāmor ov ðe mōn, and ðe lilt ov her bōde wōz az a līle  
fōlen a-dreimiƒ besīd sum entƒānted lāk at midnīt. Wið  
a dri ƒrōt he sed, "Lade, until tōo-nīt I had not supōzd  
ðēr livd on erƒ a wōman mōer butifūl ðan ƒe."

Ðērwið ðe luv ðat wōz in him went līk a wind and līk an  
up-swōopiƒ darknes aƒwort hiz brān. Az wun hūo haz tōo  
loƒ, unbōld, unrezolvd, delād tōo lift ðat dōerz latƒ  
hūtƒ must open on hiz harts tru hōm, he kōt hiz armz  
abǎt her. Her tƒēk wōz soft tōo hiz kis, but dedle kōld: her  
īz līk a wīld berdz kōt in a pers-net. Hiz brūðerz  
armor ðat kāst her bōde wōz not so ded nor so hard under  
hiz hand, az tōo hiz luv ðat yēldiƒ tƒēk, ðat aleen lōk.  
He sed, az wun a-stāger for hiz wits in ðe ƒrēzens ov sum  
unlōkt-for tƒāns, "Ðǎ dust not luv me?"

Mevrean ƒōk her hed, ƒutiƒ him dzentle awa.

Līk ðe ƒāsiƒ ov a fīr on a dri hēƒ in sūmer ðe flām  
ov hiz ƒāƒon wōz ƒāst bi, leviƒ but a smōlderiƒ  
dezolaƒon ov skornƒul sūlen rōƒ: rōƒ at himself and fāt.

He sed, in a lo ƒāmd vōs, "I pra u forgiv me, mādam."

Mevrean sed, "Prins, ðe Godz giv ðe gʊd-nīt. Be kīnd tʊ Krōðeriŋ, I hav left ðēr an evil stʃuword."

So saiŋ, ʃe rānd up her horsez hed and ternd dʌn westword tʊwordz ðe ferp. Hemiŋ wōtʃt her an instant, hiz brān a-rēl. Ðen, strikiŋ sperz tʊ hiz horsez flanks so ðat ðe hors rērd and plundʒd, he rōd awa at a grāt pās ēst agān þrʊ ðe wʊdz tʊ Krōðeriŋ.

## 25. Lord Gro and ðe Lade Mevrean

Hʒ ðE LORD GRO, KONDUKTED BI A STRĀNDʒ ENĀMORMENT WIÐ LOST KŌZEZ, FĒRD WIÐ NUN SĀV ÐIS Tʊ BE HIZ GĪD INTOO ÐE RĒDʒONZ OV NĒVERDĀL, AND ÐĒR BEHELD WUNDERZ, AND TĀSTED AGĀN FOR A SEZON ÐE GŪDNES OV ÐŌZ ÞIŋZ HE DID MŌST DEZĪR.

Nīnte dāz and a da āfter ðēz dʊiŋz afærsed, in ðe lāst ʒr befær ðe dōn, wōz ðe Lord Gro a-ridiŋ tʊword ðe paliŋ ēst dʌn from ðe hilz ov Ēstmark tʊ ðe færdz ov Mardardāl. At a wōkiŋ pās hiz hors kām dʌn tʊ ðe wōter-sīd, and hōltd wið fetloks awōʃ: hiz flanks wer wet and hiz wind gon, az from swift fariŋ on ðe open fel sins midnīt. He stretʃt dʌn hiz nek, snift ðe freʃ rīver-wōter, and drank. Gro ternd in ðe sādēl, līseniŋ, hiz left hand þrōn forword tʊ slak ðe rānz, hiz rīt flat-plānted on ðe krūper. But nōt ðēr wōz tʊ hēr sāv ðe bābel ov wōterz in ðe ʃālōz, ðe sūkiŋ nqz ov ðe hors drinkiŋ, and ðe plaʃ and krunʃ ov hiz hʊvz huen he ʃifted fēt amuŋ ðe pēbelz. Befær and behīnd and on iðer hand ðe wʊdz and strap and serkliŋ hilz ʃōd dim in ðe obskūr gra betwikst darknes and twilīt. A līt mist hid ðe starz. Nōt sterd sāv an ʒl ðat flīted līk a fantom ʒt from a hōle-bʊʃ in a krāge bluf a bo-ʃot or mærdʌn strēm, krōsiŋ Grōz pāp and litiŋ on a brāntʃ ov a ded tre abuv him on ðe left, hʊēr ʃe sat az if tʊ obzerv ðe goiŋz ov ðis man and hors ðat trespass in ðis vāle ov kwiet nīt.

Gro lēnd forword tʊ pat hiz horsez nek. "Kum, gōsip, we must on," he sed; "and marvel not if ðʒ fīnd no rest, goiŋ wið me huiʃ kud nēver fīnd ēne stedfāst sta under ðe mʊnz glōb." So ða færded ðat rīver, and fērd þrʊ lo ruf grās-landz beʏond, and bi ðe skerts ov a wʊd up tʊ an open hēp, and so a mīl or tʊ, stil ēstword, til ða ternd tʊ ðe rīt dʌn a brōd vāle and krost a rīver

abuv a wôterzmēt, and so ēst agān up ðe bed ov a stone  
strēm and over ðis tō a ruf mōntān trak ðat krost  
sum böge grōnd and ðen klīmd hier and hier abuv ðe  
flœr ov ðe nāroiŋ vāle tō a pās betwēn ðe hilz. At  
lenþ ðe slōp slākend, and ða pāsiŋ, az þrō a  
gātwa, betwēn tō hi mōntānz hwiþ impended fēr and  
stark on iðer hand, kām fœrþ ūpon a mōor ov liŋ and  
bog-mertel, strūn wið lāklets and abōndiŋ in strēmz and  
mos-hagz and ūtkrops ov ðe līviŋ rok; and ðe mōntān  
pēks afar stōd rōnd ðat mōorland wāst līk woreor kiŋz.  
Nþ wōz kŭlor wakiŋ in ðe ēstern hēvenz, ðe brīt  
firiŋ morniŋ bēgiŋiŋ tō klēr ðe erþ. Konēz skūrēd  
tō kŭver befœr ðe horsez fēt: smōl berdz flu up from ðe  
hēðer: sum red dēr stōd at gāz in ðe fern, ðen tript  
awa sþpword: a mōorkok kōld.

Gro sed in himself, "Hþ fal not kōmon opinyon akōnt me  
mad, so raf and prezumpþs dāndzerōsle tō pŭt mi līf in  
hāzard? Na, agānst ōl sōnd dzudzment; and ðis fōle I  
enakt in ðat vēre sezon hven bi pafens and kūrādz and mi  
pōlitik wizdom I had wun ðat in despīt ov fortþūnz tēþ  
hwiþ obstinātle hiðertō þe had denīd me: hven āfter ðe  
brunts ov diverz tradzikal fortþūnz I had marvelōsle gānd  
ðe favor and grās ov ðe Kiŋ, hŭō vēre ōnorable plāst me  
in hiz kœrt, and tendereþ me, I wel þink, so dērle az he  
dup ðe bōlz ov hiz tō īz."

He pŭt of hiz helm, bariŋ hiz hwiþ fœrhed and smōð blak  
kerliŋ loks tō ðe êrz ov morniŋ, flīriŋ bak hiz hed tō  
drink dēþ þrō hiz nostrilz ðe swēt stroŋ êr and its  
pete smel. "Yet iz kōmon opinyon ðe fōol, not I," he sed.  
"He ðat imadzineþ āfter hiz laborz tō atān untō lāstiŋ  
dzŋ, az wel ma he bēt wōter in a mortar. Iz ðēr not in ðe  
wīld bēnefit ov nātþūr instansez eno tō lāf ðis fōle ūt  
ov fāfon? A fabel ov grāt men ðat arīz and konker ðe  
nafonz: Da goeþ up agānst ðe tirant nīt. Hþ dēlikāt a  
spīrit iz þe, hþ līk a fōn þe fŭteþ it ūpon ðe  
mōntānz: pāl þītifol līt matþt wið ðe primeval dark.  
But ēvere swēt hōverz in her batāleonz, and ēvere hēvenle  
influens: kōlþ ov ðe waword lītel windz ov morniŋ,  
flōerz awakeniŋ, berdz a-kārol, dzūz a-sparkel on ðe  
fin-drōn webz ðe tine spīnerz haŋ from fern-frond tō  
þorn, from þorn tō wet dānte lēf ov ðe silver bertþ; ðe  
yur da lāfiŋ in her streŋþ, wīld wið her ōn bute;  
fir and līf and ēvere sent and kŭlor born anu tō triumf  
over kaos and slo darknes and ðe kinles nīt.

"But bekōz da at her dōniŋ ūrz haþ so bewitþt me,

must I yet luv her hven glūted wið triumf ꝥe sētelz tōo  
garif nōon? Rāðer tern az n̄ I tern tōo Demonland, in ðe sad  
sunset ov her prīd. And hu∞ dērz kōl me ternkōt, hu∞ d∞ but  
fōlo n̄ az I hav fōlōd ðis rēr wizdom ōl mi dāz: tōo  
luv ðe sunrīz and ðe sundl̄n and ðe mornīŋ and ðe  
evenīŋ star? sins ðēr ōnle abideþ ðe sōl ov nobīlīte,  
tru luv, and wunder, and ðe glœere ov hōp and fēr."

So brōoðīŋ he rōd at an eze pās bariŋ ēst and a lītel  
norþ akros ðe m∞r, fōliŋ bekōz ov ðe strāndz harmonē  
ðat wōz betwēn ūtword þīŋz and ðe inword þōts ov hiz  
hart intōo a dēp stūde. So kām he tōo ðe m∞rz end, and  
enterd amuŋ ðe skerts ov ðe m̄ntānz beꝥond, krōsiŋ lo  
pāsez, þrēdiŋ a wa amuŋ wudz and wōter-kærses, up and  
d̄n, ab̄t and ab̄t. ðe hors led him hwiŋ wa ðat he  
wud, for no hēd nor advīs had he ov ōt ab̄t him, for  
kōz ov ðe dēp kontemplaŋon ðat he had wīðin himself.

It wōz n̄ hi nōon. ðe hors and hiz rider wer kum tōo a  
lītel del ov grēn grās wið a bek wīndīŋ in ðe midst  
wið kool wōter floiŋ over a bed ov fīngel. Ab̄t ðe del  
gru mēne trēz bōþ tōl and strāt. Abuv ðe trēz hi  
m̄ntān kragz a-bāk in ðe sun fōd ēpereal þrōo ðe  
fīmerīŋ hēt. A mermer ov wōterz, a hum ov tine wiŋz  
flītiŋ from fl̄er tōo fl̄er, ðe s̄nd ov ðe hors graziŋ  
on ðe luŋ pāstfūr: ðēr wōz nōt els tōo hēr. Not a lēf  
m∞vd, not a berd. ðe huŋ ov ðe sūmer nōon-da, brēples,  
bernt þrōo wið ðe sun, mæer ōf̄ol ðan ēne fāp ov nīt,  
pōzd abuv ðat lōnle del.

Gro, az if wākt bi ðe vēre silens, lukt kwikle ab̄t him.  
ðe hors felt belīk in hiz bōnz hiz riderz ūnēz; he gāv  
over hiz fedīŋ and stōd alert wið wīld i and kwīveriŋ  
flanks. Gro pāted and mād mutf ov him; ðen, gided bi sum  
inword promptīŋ ðe rezon hvarov he nu not, ternd west bi  
a smōl trībutare bek and rōd softle tōoword ðe wud. Hēr he  
wōz stopt wið a number ov trēz so þikle plāst tūgēðer  
ðat he wōz afrād he ŋud wið ridiŋ þrōo be swept from  
ðe sādel. So he lited d̄n, tīd hiz hors tōo an ōk, and  
klīmd ðe bed ov ðe lītel strēm til he wōz kum huens he  
mīt lukt norþ over ðe tre-tops tōo a grēn tērās ab̄t at  
a lēvel wið him and sum fifte pasez distant aloŋ ðe  
hilsīd, fēlded from ðe norþ bi þre or fæer grāt roan  
trēz on ðe far sīd ov it, and on ðe tērās a lītel tarn  
or rok sistern ov fēr wōter vēre kool and dēp.

He pōzd, stēdeīŋ himself wið hiz left hand bi a dzūtiŋ  
rok overgrōn wið rōz-kampeon. Sūrle no t̄fildren ov men  
wer ðēz, f̄tiŋ it on ðat sēkret lōn besīd ðat

fłntānz brink, nor no krētjūrz ov mortal kīnd. Sutj it ma  
be wer ðe gōts and kidz and soft-īd dōz ðat on ðēr  
hīnd-legz mērile dānst amuŋ ðem; but nēver sutj ðōz  
ūðerz ov manle fāp and wið pŋnted hare ērz, fāge legz,  
and kloven hœvz, nor ðōz madenz hūit ov lim benēp ðe  
tred ov hœoz fēt ðe blu dzenfan and ðe lītel gōlden  
sinkfŋl bent not ðēr blōsomz, so are-līt wōz ðēr  
dānsiŋ. Tœ māk ðem muzik, lītel gōt-fŋted tŋildren wið  
loŋ pŋnted ērz sat on a hūmok ov terf-klad rok pipiŋ on  
pan-pīps, ðēr bōdēz bernt tœ ðe hu ov red erp bi ðe  
wind and ðe sun. But, hvēðer bekōz ðēr muzik wōz tœ fīn  
for mortal ērz, or for sum ūðer rezon, Gro mīt hēr no  
słnd ov ðat pipiŋ. Ðe hēve silens ov ðe wāst hūit nœon  
wōz lord ov ðe sēn, hūil ðe młntān nimfs and ðe simpel  
dzēnyi ov sedz and strēm and krag and mœrland sōlitfūd  
þrēded ðe mazez ov ðe dāns.

Ðe Lord Gro stōd stil in grāt admirafon, saiŋ in  
himself, "Hūit mēnz mi drłze hed tœ drēm sutj fansēz?  
Spīrits ov il hav l hērtœfœr beheld in ðēr  
manifestafonz; l hav sēn fantastikōz frāmd and prezented  
bi art madzjik; l hav drēmd strāndz drēmz a-nīts. But til  
ðis ŋr l did akłnt it an idel tāl ov poets faniŋ, ðat  
amid wōdz, forests, fertīl fēldz, se-kōsts, fœrz ov  
grāt rīverz and fłntān brinks, and ôlso ūpon ðe tops ov  
hūdiz and hi młntānz, dœ stil apēr untœ sertān favord  
īz ðe sundre-sorted nimfs and fēldiŋ dēmigodz. Hūitf  
þiŋ if l nł vērile behōld, tiz a grāt marvel, and sorteþ  
wel wið ðe strāndz alūrments hvērbi ðis oprest land  
haþ so lāttele fłnd a mēnz tœ gūvern mīn afekfonz." And he  
þōt āhūil, rezoniŋ ðus in hiz mīnd: "If ðis be but an  
aparīfon, it haþ no ēsens tœ dœ me a hert. If o' ðe  
kontrare ðēz be vēre esenfal beinŋz, nēdz must ða  
dzŋfœle welkum me and ūz me wel, beinŋ ðemselvz ðe tru  
vital spīrits ov mēne-młntānd Demonland; untœ hœoz kumfort  
and ðe restœrment ov her ôld renłn and prāz l hav wið  
sutj a strāndz determinafon bent ôl mi pānfŋl þōts and  
rezolufon."

So on ðe moŋon he diskūverd himself and hāld ðem. Ðe  
wīld þiŋz błnded awa and wer lost amuŋ ðe flanks ov ðe  
hil. Ðe kapripedz, leviŋ on ðe instant ðēr pipiŋ or  
ðēr dānsiŋ, krłtft wōtŋiŋ him wið distrustfŋl starteld  
īz. Ônle ðe Oreadz stil in a dazliŋ drift perŋūd ðēr  
rłnd: kwiet maden młps, butifŋl brests, slender līð  
limz, hand dzŋnd tœ dēlikāt hand, partiŋ and kloziŋ and  
partiŋ agān, in rīðmz ov unstāld variete; hēr wun ðat,  
wið hūit armz klāspt behīnd her hed hvēr her braded hēr  
wōz az bernift gōld, serkeld and swād wið a langorłs



mofon; hēr anūðer, ðat lēpt and pōzd hōveriŋ a-tipto,  
līk an āro ov ðe sun fot þrō ðe lefe rōof ov an ōld  
pīn-forest hven ðe worm hil-wind sterz ðe tre-tops and  
openz a tine windo tō ðe ski.

Gro went tōword ðem alon ðe grāse hilsīd. Hven he wōz  
kum a dūzen pasez ðe strenþ wōz gon from hiz limz. He  
nēld dōn kriiŋ þt and saiŋ, "Divīnitēz ov erþ! deni  
me not, niðer rēdzekt me, ōlbeit kruise hav I til nō  
oprest yor land, but wil dō so no mæc. Ðe fotsteps ov  
mīn overtrōden vertfu li stil az bīter akuzafoz untō  
me. Briŋ me ov yor merse huēr I ma fīnd þt ðem ðat  
pozest ðis land and ōfer ðem atōnment, huō wer drīven  
færþ bekōz ov me and mīn tō be þtlōz in ðe wōdz and  
mōntānz."

So spāk he, bōiŋ hiz hed in soro. And he herd, līk ðe  
trembliŋ ov a silver lūt-strīŋ, a vq̄s in ðe ēr ðat  
krīd:

Norþ tiz and norþ tiz!  
Hu nēd we ferðer?

He rāzd hiz īz. Ðe vīzon wōz gon. Ōnle ðe nōon and ðe  
wōdland, silent, sōlitare, dazliŋ, wer abþt and abuv him.

Lord Gro kām nō tō hiz hors agān, and mōnted and rōd  
norþawa þrō ðe felz ōl ðat sūmer āfternōon, ful ov  
klōde fansēz. Hven it wōz eventīd hiz wa wōz hi up alon  
ðe stēp sīd ov a mōntān betwēn ðe skrēz and ðe grās,  
fōloiŋ a lītel pāþ māð bi ðe wīld fēp. Far benēþ in  
ðe vāle wōz a smōl rīver tortfuðsle floiŋ alon a  
bōldere bed amid hīloks ov ōld morānz hūitf wer līk  
wāvz ov a se ov grās-klad erþ. Ðe Džuli sun huēld lo,  
flīŋiŋ ðe fādōz ov ðe hilz far up ðe westword-fasiŋ  
slōps huēr Gro wōz a-riðiŋ, but huēr he rōd and abuv him  
ðe hilsīd wōz yet aglo wið ðe worm lo sunfīn; and ðe  
distant pēk ðat fut in ðe hed ov ðe vāle, reriŋ hiz  
hūdʒ frunt līk ðe gabel ov a hōs, wið swepiŋ ribz ov  
bēr rok and skre and a krest ov krag līk a grāt braker  
frozen tō stōn in mid karēr, bāðð yet in a rādʒans ov  
opalēsant līt.

Terniŋ ðe fōlder ov ðe hilsīd at a plās huēr ðe hil  
wōz kut bi a fālo gūle, he sō befær him a hōlo or  
felterd nōk. Ðēr, protekted bi ðe grāt bōde ov ðe hil  
from ðe blāsts ov ðe ēst and norþ, tō roan trēz and sum  
hōlēz gru in ðe klefts ov ðe rok abuv ðe wōterkærs.

Under ðær fǣdo wōz a kāv, not lardz but so big az a man  
mīt wel abīd in and be dri in wīld wēðer, and beYond it  
on ðe rīt a lītel wōterfōl, so butifol it wōz a wunder  
tō behōld. ðis wōz ðe fǣfon ov it: a slab ov rok, twīs a  
manz hīt, tilted a lītel forword from ðe hil, so ðat  
ðe wōter fel klēr from its ūper edz in a þin strēm intō  
a rōke basin. ðe wōter in ðe basin wōz klēr and dēp, but  
a-tʃern ōlwāz wið būbelz from ðe plundziŋ dzet from abuv;  
and over ōl ðe roks abʃt it gru mōsez and litʃenz and  
lītel wōter-flūerz, nūriʃt bi ðe strēm at rōot and  
refreʃt bi ðe spra.

ðe Lord Gro sed in hiz hart, "Hēr wōd I dwel for ēver  
had I but ðe art tō māk miself lītel az an eft. And I wōd  
bild me an hūs a span hi besīd yonder kōʃon ov mos  
ēmerald-hūd, wið ðōz pink foksgluz tō fād mi dær huiʃ  
bālans ðær belz abuv ðe fomiŋ wōterz. ðis ʃi grās ov  
Parnāsus ʃud be mi drinkiŋ kup, wið pūr hūit tʃālīs  
pōzd on a hēr-þin stem; and ðe kertānz ov mi bed ðat  
lītel þerste sandwort huiʃ, līk a grēn hēven sōn wið  
milk-hūit starz, kertānz ðe ʃade sīdz ov ðēz roks."

Restiŋ in ðis imādziŋaʃon he abōd loŋ tīm lūkiŋ on ðat  
fare plās, so sēkretle bestōd in ðe fōld ov ðe naked  
mōntān. ðen, unwīliŋ tō depart from so fēr a spot, and  
bēþinkiŋ him, besīdz, ðat āfter so mēne ųrz hiz hors wōz  
were, he dismōnted and la dʃn besīd ðe strēm. And in a  
ʃort hūil, hāviŋ hiz spīrits sublīmd wið ðe swēt  
imādziŋaʃon ov ðōz wunderz he had beheld, he wōz fān tō  
sūfer ðe loŋ dark lǣʃez tō droop over hiz lardz and likwid  
īz. And dēp slēp overkām him.

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Hven he awōk, ōl ðe ski wōz afīr wið ðe red ov sunset. A  
fǣdo wōz betwikst him and ðe western līt: ðe fāp ov wun  
bendiŋ over him and saiŋ in māsterfōl wīz, yet in aksents  
hvarin ðe ēkōz and mēmōrēz ov ōl swēt sʃndz sēmd  
mingeld and lād up at rest for ēver, "Li stil, mi lord, nor  
kri not a resku. Behōld, ðīn ōn sœrd; and I tōk it from  
ðe slepiŋ." And he wōz wēr ov a ʃarp sœrd pōnted  
agānst hiz þrōt huēr ðe big vānz li benēþ ðe tunj.

He sterd not at ōl, niðer spāk ōt, ōnle lūkiŋ up at  
her az at sum vīzon ov delīt strād from ðe fūdʒitīv  
flok ov drēmz.

ðe lade sed, "Hūer be ði kumpāne? And hʃ mēne? Ånser me  
swiftle."

He ânserd her līk a dremer, "Hŷ fal I ânser ðe? Hŷ fal I number ðem ðat be beƷond ôl kŷnt? Or hŷ nām untō yor grās ðēr habitafon hwiƷ ar even vēre nŷ kloser tō me ðan hand or fēt, yet o' ðe nekst instant ar abel tō trānsend a mān wīlder belīk ðan even a starbēm hap dzernēd ōr?"

Se sed, "Rīdel me no rīdelz. Ânser me, ðŷ wert best."

"Mādam," sed Gro, "ðēz ðat I tōld ðe ov be ðe kumpane ov mīn ōn silent þōts. And, but for mīn hors, ðis iz ôl ðe kumpane ðat kām hiðer wið me."

"Alōn?" sed fe. "And slēp so sekūrle in ðīn ěnemēz kuntre? Ðat fōd a strāndz konfidens."

"Not ěnemēz, if I ma," sed he.

But fe krīd, "And ðŷ Lord Gro ov Witfland?"

"Ðat wun sīkend loŷ sins," he ânserd, "ov a mortal siknes; and tiz nŷ a da and a nīt sins he iz ded ōarov."

"Hŷt art ðŷ, ðen?" sed fe.

He ânserd, "If yor grās wōd so resēv me, Lord Gro ov Demonland."

"A vēre praktīst ternkōt," sed fe. "Belīk ða ôlso ar werēd ov ðe and ði wāz. Alās," fe sed in an ôlterd vqŷ, "ði dzental pardon! hven dŷtles it wōz for ði dzěnerŷs dēdz tō me-word ða fel ŷt wið ðe, hven ðŷ didst so nōble befrend me."

"I wil tel yor hines," ânserd he, "ðe pūr trūþ. Nēver stōd māterz bēter twikst me and ôl ov ðem ðan hven yesternīt I rezolvd tō lēv ðem."

Ðe Lade Mevrean wōz silent, a klŷd in her fās. Ðen, "I am alōn," fe sed. "Ðērfær þīnk it not lītēl-harted in me, nor forgetfōl ov pāst bēnefits, if I wil be ferðer sertifīd ov ðe ēr I sŷfer ðe tō rīz. Swēr tō me ðŷ wilt not betra me."

But Gro sed, "Hŷ fōd an ōþ from me avāl ðe, mādam? Ōþs bīnd not an il man. Wer I mīnded tō dō ðe roŷ, lītēl fōd I swēr ðe ôl ōþs ðŷ mītst rekwīr, and lītēl o' ðe nekst instant be forsworn."

"Ðat iz not wel sed," sed Mevrean. "Nor helpeþ not ði

säfte. U men dœ sa ðat wīmenz harts be fānt and febel,  
but I fal fo ðe ðe kontrare iz in me. Stūde tœ sātisfi  
me. Els wil I āfūrdle smīt ðe tœ dep wið ðīn ōn  
sœrd."

Ðe Lord Gro la bak, klāspiŋ hiz slender handz behīnd hiz  
hed. "Stand, I pra ðe," sed he, "o' ðe ūðer sīd ov me,  
ðat I ma se ði fās."

Se did so, stil þrēteniŋ him wið ðe sœrd. And he sed  
smiliŋ, "Divīn lade, ōl mi dāz hav I had dāndzer for mi  
bedfēlo, and pēril ov dep for mi famīlear frend; hvilom  
lediŋ a dēlikāt līf in prinsle kœrt, huēr merðer  
sīteþ in ðe wīn-kup and in ðe alkōv; hvilom dzerneiŋ  
alōn in mœr pērilðs landz ðan ðis, az witnes ðe Morunā,  
huēr ðe kuntre iz fōl ov vēnomðs bēsts and krōliŋ  
pŋzond serpents, and ðe dīvelz be az abundant ðēr az  
grāshōperz on a hot hilsīd in sūmer. He ðat fereþ iz a  
slāv, wer he nēver so ritf, wer he nēver so pðerfōl. But he  
ðat iz wiððt fēr iz kiŋ ov ōl ðe werld. Ðð hast mi  
sœrd. Strīk. Dep fal be a swēt rest tœ me. Þrōldom, not  
dep, fud tēriŋ me."

Se pōzd āhvīl, ðen sed untœ him, "Mi Lord Gro, ðð didst  
dœ me wuns a rīt grāt gūd tern. Σūrle I ma bild mi  
säfte on ðis, ðat nēver yet did kīt briŋ fœrþ a gūd  
fliiŋ hōk." Se fīfted her hōld on hiz sœrd, and vēre  
přitile gāv it him hilt-fœrmōst, saiŋ, "I giv it ðe  
bak, mi lord, nūpiŋ dðtiŋ ðat ðat huitf wōz gīven in  
ōnor ðð wilt ōnorable ūz."

But he, riziŋ up, sed, "Mādam, ðis and ði nobel werdz hap  
gīven sutf rœtfāstnes tœ ðe pakt ov fāþ betwikst us ðat it  
ma nð unfōld huôt blōsom ov ōps ðð wilt; for ōps ar  
ðe blōsom ov frendfip, not ðe rœt. And ðð falt fīnd me  
a tru hōlder ov mi vðd āmite untœ ðe wiððt spot or  
rinkel."

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For sundre nīts and dāz abōd Gro and Mevrean in ðat plās,  
huntiŋ at huīlz tœ get ðēr sustenans, drinkiŋ ov ðe  
swēt spriŋ-wōter, slepiŋ a-nīts fe in her kāv benēþ  
ðe hōle bŋfez and ðe roanz besīd ðe wōterfōl, he in a  
kleft ov ðe roks a lītel belo in ðe gūle, huēr ðe mos  
mād kŋfonz soft and rezīleent az ðe grāt stuft bedz in  
Karse. In ðōz dāz fe tōld him ov her fariŋz sins ðat  
nīt ov Āpril hven fe eskāpt þt ov Krōðeriŋ: hð ferst  
fe fðnd harborādž at Bi in Westmark, but heriŋ in a da or  
tœ ov a hu and kri fled ēst agān, and sōdzerniŋ āhvīl

besīd Prowôter kām at lenþ abŷt a munþ ago ŷpon ōis kāv besīd ðe lītel fŷntān, and hēr abōd. Her mīnd had bēn too win over ðe mŷntānz too Galiņ, but ŷe had āfter ðe ferst atempt gīven over ðat dezīn, for fēr ov kumpanēz ov ðe ēneme huoz handz ŷe bērlē eskāpt hven ŷe kām fœrþ intoo ðe loer vālēz ðat open on ðe ēstern kōst-landz. So ŷe had ternd agān too ōis hidiņ plās in ðe hīlz, az sēkret and remōt az ēne in Demonland. For ōis dāl ŷe let him no wōz Nēverdāl, hvēr no rōd ran sāv ðe wa ov ðe dēr and ðe mŷntān gōts, and no garþ opend on ðat dāl, and ðe rēk ov no manz harpstōn berdend ðe windz ðat blu đīðer. And ðat gabel-krested pēk at ðe hed ov ðe dāl wōz ðe sūðernmōst ov ðe Forks ov Nantreganon, nersere ov ðe vultfūr and ðe egel. And a hīden wa wōz rŷnd ðe rīt fōlder ov ðat pēk, over ðe toopt ridz bi Nēverdāl Hōz too ðe ŷper wōterz ov Tivarandardāl.

On an āfternoon ov sultre sūmer hēt it so befel ðat ða rested belo ðe hōz on a bastŷon ov rok ðat dzūted from ðe sŷp-western slōp. Benēþ ðēr fēt prēsipisez fel sūdenle awa from a gīde verdz, swepiņ rŷnd in a grand serk abuv hviť ðe mŷntān rōz līk sum Tartārean fortres, ponderŷs, kruel az ðe se and sad, skard and gaft wið grāt līnz ov klevādz az ōo ðe fās ov ðe mŷntān had bēn slaft awa bi ðe aks-strōk ov a dziant. In ðe dep̄ps ðe wōterz ov Džūl Tarn slept plāsīd and fāðomles.

Gro wōz stretft on ðe brink ov ðe klif, fās dŷnword, propt on hiz too elbōz, stūdeīņ đōz dark wōterz. "Σūrle," he sed, "ðe grāt mŷntānz ov ðe werld ar a prēzent rēmede if men did but no it agānst ŷr mōdern diskontent and ambīfonz. In ðe hīlz iz wizdomz fŷnt. Ða ar dēp in tīm. Ða no ðe wāz ov ðe sun and ðe wind, ðe lītniņz fire fēt, ðe frost ðat jātereþ, ðe rān ðat frŷdeþ, ðe sno ðat p̄teþ abŷt ðēr nakednes a softer kūverlet ðan fīn lōn: hviť if ðēr lardz filōsofe kwestŷon not if it be a bridal fēt or a frŷd, haþ not ōis unpōlisēd kālm hiz dzustifikaŷon ēver in ðe reterniņ yēr, and iz it not an instans too lāf ŷr kērfolnes ŷt ov fāŷon? ov us, lītel tŷildren ov ðe dust, tŷildren ov a da, huoz wið so mēne berdenz doo berden us wið takiņ þōt and wið fērz and dezīrz and deveŷs skemiņz ov ðe mīnd, so ðat we waks ōld befœr ŷr tīm and fōl were ēr ðe brēf da be spent and wun repiņ-hŷk gāðer us hōm at lāst for ōl ŷr pānz."

He lukt up and ŷe met ðe gāz ov hiz grāt īz; dēp poolz ov nīt ða sēmd, hvēr strāndz māterz mīt moov unsēn, disterbiņ too lūk on, yet fild wið a soft slumbrŷs tŷarm

đat luld and sođd.

"Đłst fōlen a-dremin, mi lord," sed Mevrean. "And for me tiz a hard þin tō wōk wiđ đe in đi drēmz, huō am awāk in đe brōd dalīt and wōd be a-dōiņ."

"Serts it iz an il þin," sed Lord Gro, "đat đł, huō hast not bēn nūriřt in mendīsite or pōverte but in superfluite ov đnor and larzes, řudst be mād fūdžitiv in đin ōn dominyonz, tō lodž wiđ foksez and bēsts ov đe wīld młntān."

Sed ře, "It iz yet a sweter lodziņ đan iz tō-da in Krōđeriņ. It iz đērfōer l řāř tō dō sumhōt. Tō win þrō tō Galiņ, đat wer sumpiņ."

"Hōt prōfit iz in Galiņ," sed Gro, "wīđłt Lord Džus?"

Ře ānserd, "Đł wilt tel me it iz even az Krōđeriņ wīđłt mi brūđer."

Lōkiņ sīdloņ up at her, huēr ře sat armd besīd him, he beheld a tēr a-trembel on her ilid. He sed dzentle, "Huō řal fōerno đe wāz ov Fāt? Yor hines iz bēter hēr belīk."

Lade Mevrean stōd up. Ře pąnted tō a print in đe līviņ rok befōer her fēt. "Đe hīpogrifs hōfmark!" ře křid, "strīken in đe rok ādžez ago bi đat hi berd huiř prezideþ from ov ōld over đe predestīnd glōere ov řr līn, tō pąnt us on tō a fām advānst abuv đe rēdžon ov đe glīteriņ starz. Tru iz đe werd đat đat land huiř iz in đe governans ov a wōman ōnle iz not řūrle kept. I wil abīd řdle hēr no mōer."

Gro, behōldiņ her so stand ōl armd on đat hi brink ov krag, sētiņ wiđ so mutř perfekřon in wōmanle bute manlīk vālor, bēþōt him đat hēr wōz đat tru embōdiment ov morn and ēv, đat řfarm huiř kōld him from Krōđeriņ, and for huiř đe profētik spīrits ov młntān and wōd and fēld had pąnted hiz pāþ wiđ a hēvenle bēnison, meniņ tō bid him go norþword tō hiz harts tru hōm. He nēld dłn and kōt her hand in hiz, embrasiņ and kīsiņ it az ov her in huōm ōl hiz hōps wer plāst, and saiņ pāřonātle, "Mevrean, Mevrean, let me but be armd in đi ģud ģrās and l defi huōtēver đēr iz or kan be agānst me. Even az đe sun liteþ brōd hēven at nōon-da, and đat ģiveþ līt untō đis drere erþ, so art đł đe tru līt ov Demonland huiř bekōz ov đe makeþ đe huōl werld glōerełs. Welkum

untō me be ôl mizerēz, so ōnle untō ðe l ma be welkum."

Se spran bak, snatfiŋ awa her hand. Her særd lept siŋiŋ from ðe skābard. But Gro, ðat wōz so rāviŋt and abūzd ðat he rememberd ov nūpiŋ werldle but ōnle ðat he beheld hiz ladēz fās, abōd mojonles. Se krīd, "Bak tō bak! Swift, or tiz tō lāt!"

He lēpt up, bērlē in tīm. Siks stl̥t fēlōz, sōldzerz ov Witfland stolen softle ūpon ðem at ūnawērz, klōzd n̥ ūpon ðem. No brēp tō wāst in parle, but ðe klank ov stēl: he and Mevrean bak tō bak on a tabel ov rok, ðōz siks sētiŋ on from iðer sīd. "Kil ðe Goblin," sed ða. "Tāk ðe lade unhert: tiz dep tō ôl if je be tutft."

So for a tīm ðōz tō defended ðem ov ôl ðēr p̥her. Yet at sutf odz kud not ðe iŋfu stand loŋ in d̥lt, nor Grōz hi mētel māk up huōt he lakt ov strenp bōdile and skil in armz. Kūniŋ ov fens indēd wōz ðe Lade Mevrean, az ða gest not tō ðēr hert; for ðe ferst ov ðem, a grāt t̥uf-hēded fēlo ðat p̥t tō bērlē her d̥n wið r̥fiŋ in ūpon her, je wið a deft prust p̥asiŋ hiz gard ran klēn p̥rō ðe p̥rōt; bi huōz takiŋ of, hiz fēlōz t̥k sum lēson ov kōfon. But Gro beiŋ at lenp brōt tō erp wið mēne wōndz, ða had ðe nekst instant kōt Mevrean from behīnd huīlz ūðerz engād̥zd her in ðe fās, hven in ðe nik ov tīm az bi ðe intervenfon ov hēven wōz ôl ðēr biznes taken in revers, and ôl fiv in a moment lād bledīŋ on ðe stōnz besīd ðēr fēlōz.

Mevrean, l̥kiŋ ab̥t and seiŋ huōt je sō, fel wēk and fānt in her brūðerz armz, overkum wið so mutf rād̥zant d̥z̥q āfter ðat stres ov akfon and p̥ril; behōldiŋ n̥ wið her ōn īz ðat hōm-kūmiŋ hvarov ðe d̥zēnyi ov ðat land had had f̥ernōled̥z and in Grōz sīt fōn ðemselvz wīld wið d̥z̥q ðarov: Brandox Dahâ and D̥zus kum hōm tō Demonland, l̥k men arīzen from ðe ded.

"Not tutft," je ānserd ðem. "But l̥k tō mi Lord Gro: l fēr he be hert. L̥k tō him wel, for he hap aprōvd him ūr frend indēd."

26. Ðe Bātel ov Krōðeriŋ Sīd

H̥ WERD WŌZ BRŌT UNTŌ ÐE LORD KORINYUS ÐAT ÐE LORDZ D̥ZUS AND BRANDOX DAHÂ WER KUM AGĀN INTOŌ ÐE LAND, AND H̥ HE

REZOLVD TŌO GIV ĐEM BĀTEL ON ĐE SĪD, UNDER ERNGĀT END;  
AND OV ĐE GRĀT FLANK MARTΣ OV LORD BRANDOX DAHĀ OVER ĐE  
MŪNTĀNZ FROM TRĀNZDĀL; AND OV ĐE GRĀT BĀTEL, AND OV ĐE  
ĪΣU ĐAROV.

Laksus and đōz sunz ov Korund wōkt on an āfternoon in  
Krōđeriŋ hōm mēd. Đe ski abuv đem wōz hot and kŭlord  
ov led, prēsādziŋ þunder. No wind sterd in đe trēz đat  
wer livid-grēn agānst đat lēden pōl. Đe nqz ov mātōk  
and kro-bar kām wiđłt intermĭjon from đe kâsel. Hŭēr  
gardenz had bēn and arborz ov fād and swētnes, wōz nł  
but rek: broken kōlumz and smaft porfire vâzez ov rēr  
werkmanfĭp, młndz ov erþ and rōtiŋ vēdzetafjon. And đōz  
grāt sedarz, emblemz ov đēr lordz estāt and prĭd, la  
prostrāt nł wiđ đēr roots ekspōzd, a tangel ov sēr  
foleādꝯ and brāntfej broken, wiđerd and lĭfles. Over đis  
deþ-bed ov ruind luvlines đe tłerz ov ōniks fōd  
gāstle agānst đe ski.

"Iz đēr not a vertfu in sēven?" sed Kargo. "Lāst wēk wōz  
đe siksp tĭm we þōt we had gōten đe ēl bi đe tāl in  
yon fli-blōn hilz ov Meland and kām empte hōm. Hven  
þinkst, Laksus, falz run em tōo erþ indēd?"

"Hven eg-pĭz fal gro on āpel-trēz," ānserd Laksus.  
"Na, đe dzēneral sēteþ grater stœr bi hiz proklamafoz  
konserniŋ đe yuŋ wōman (hŭōo lĭkle nēver hereþ ov đem,  
and āfjurdle wil not be bi đem tĭst hōm agān), and bi  
đēz tqz ov revendꝯ, đan bi słnd sōldzerfĭp. Hark! đēr  
goeþ đis dāz werk."

Đa ternd at a fłt from đe gāts, tōo behōld đe norđern  
ov đōz tōo gōlden hĭpogrĭfs tōter and kraf dłn đe  
stēps intōo đe mōt, sendiŋ up a grāt smōk from đe stōnz  
and rūbel hviť pœrd in its wāk.

Lord Laksusez brł wōz dark. He lād hand on Hemiŋz arm,  
saiŋ, "Đe tĭmz nēd ōl sādꝯ kłnsel we kan rētĭ untōo, O  
ye sunz ov Korund, if łr Lord đe Kiŋ fal hav indēd from  
đis ekspedĭjon intōo Demonland đe viktore at lāst ov ōl hiz  
evil-wĭlerz. Remember, đat wōz a grāt mis tōo łr strenjþ  
hven đe Goblin went."

"łt ūpon đe viper!" sed Kargo. "Korinyus wōz rĭt in đis,  
not tōo worant him đe ōneste ov sutĭ slĭpere kātel. He had  
not servd abuv a munþ or tōo, but đat he ran tōo đe ēneme."

"Korinyus," sed Laksus, "iz yet but grēn in hiz estāt. Dup  
he supōz đe rest ov hiz rān fal be but pla and đe  
endꝯqiŋ ov a kiŋdom? Đōz left-handed strōks ov fortĭun ma



yet őrpro him, őr hūl őrāt he stremep őr hiz ūp in  
wīn and venere and mǎnǎdžep hiz privāt spīt agānst őris  
lade. Slīper ūp must be under-propt wiđ elder kǎnsel,  
lest őrl go mis."

"A mōst rēverend őrld kǎnselor art őrǎ!" sed Kargo; "ov  
siks-and-ŗerte yērz ov ādž."

Sed Hemiņ, "We be ŗre. Tǎk komānd őriself. I and mi  
brūđer wil bak őre."

"I wil őrāt őrǎ swōlo bak őrōz werdz," sed Laksus, "az  
őrō őrā had nēver bēn spōk. Remember Korsus and  
Gǎlandus. Besīdz, őrlbeit he semep nǎ rǎđer tō be a man  
strōt őrān wun őrāt hǎp hiz wits, yet iz Korinyus in hiz  
sober self a valeant and pwesant sōldžer, a pōlitik and  
přovident kaptān az iz not fǎnd besīdz in Demonland, no, nor  
in Witřland niđer, and it wer not yor nobel fǎđer; and  
őris wun in hiz ūple ādž."

"Đāt iz tru," sed Hemiņ. "Đǎ hast džustle reprōvd me."

Nǎ hūl őrā wer a-tōkiņ, kām wun from őrē kǎsel and  
mǎd obazans untō Laksus saiņ, "U ar inkwīrd for, O  
kiņ, so plēz u tō wōk intō őrē norŗ tǎmber."

Sed Laksus, "Iz it he őrāt wōz nule řiden from őrē ēst  
kuntre?"

"So it iz, so plēz u," wiđ a lo leg he mǎd ānser.

"Hǎp he not had őrdzens wiđ Kiņ Korinyus?"

"He hǎp sōt őrdzens," sed őrē man, "but wōz denīd. Đe  
mǎter přeseŗ, and he erdzd me őrērfōer sēk untō yor  
lordřip."

Az őrā wōkt tōword őrē kǎsel Hemiņ sed in Laksusez ēr,  
"Nōst őrǎ not őris brāv nu pēs ov kōert sēremone? O'  
őrēz dǎz, hven he hǎp strǎd an hostǎdž tō spīt őrē Lade  
Mevrean, az tō-da wōz strǎd őrē hors-hēded egel, he  
gīveŗ not őrdzens til sundǎn. For, őrē dēd ov vendžans  
dun, a retireŗ himself tō hiz őrn tǎmber and a wentř wiđ  
him, őrē dǎntest and gǎmsumest he ma prokūr; and so, for  
tō őrz or ŗre drǎnd in őrē mǎn se ov hiz őrn  
plēžŭrz, he abateŗ sum řitel dēl for a sezon őrē paņ ov  
luv."

Nǎ hven Laksus wōz kum fōerŗ from tōkiņ wiđ őrē mēsendžer  
from őrē ēst, he fērd wīđǎt dela tō Korinyusez tǎmber.

Ðêr, þrustiŋ ašid ðe gardz, he fluŋ wīd ðe finiŋ  
dœrz, and f̄l̄nd ðe Lord Korinyus mēriŋe dispōzd. He wōz  
reklīnd on a k̄l̄t̄f dēp-k̄f̄ond wið dark grēn þre-pīl  
velvet. An ivory tabel inlād wið silver and ēbone stōd at  
hiz elbo bariŋ a kristal flāgon ôlrēde tō parts emptēd ov  
ðe fomiŋ wīn, and a fêr gōld goblet besīd it. He wœr a  
loŋ lœs slēvles ḡl̄n ov h̄it silk edzd wið a gōld  
frindz; ðis, fōlen open at ðe nek, left naked hiz t̄fest and  
wun stronŋ arm ðat in ðat moment hven Laksus enterd rēt̄ft  
l̄t tō grāsp ðe wīn kup. Ūpon hiz ne he held a dāmozal ov  
sum sēventēn yērz, fêr and freŋ az a rōz, wið h̄œm he  
wōz plānle on ðe p̄q̄nt tō pās from frendle konvers tō  
āmor̄s privase. He l̄kt angrile ūpon Laksus, h̄œ wiðl̄t  
sēremone spōk and sed. "Ðe h̄ōl ēst iz in a t̄f̄umult. Ðe  
berg iz fœrst h̄it̄f we bilt astrīd ðe Stīl. Spitfir hap  
pāst intō Brakiŋdāl tō vītel Galīŋ, and hap overþrōn  
l̄r arme ðat sat in sēz ðarov."

Korinyus drank a drāft and spat. "Frut!" sed he. "Mut̄f  
brūt, lītel frūt. I wōd no bi h̄ōt worant ðl̄  
trubl̄st me wið ðis tītel-tātel, and I plēzantle  
dispoziŋ miself tō merp and rekreaŋon. K̄ud it not wāt  
til sūper tīm?"

Êr Laksus mīt sa mœr, wōz a grāt klāter herd wiðl̄t on  
ðe stērz, and in kām ðōz sunz ov Korund.

"Am I a kiŋ?" sed Korinyus, gāðeriŋ hiz rōb abl̄t him,  
"and fal I be fœrst? Av̄q̄d ðe t̄f̄āmb̄er." Ðen markiŋ ðem  
stand silent wið disorderd l̄ks, "H̄ōts ðe māter?" he  
sed. "Ar ye taen wið ðe swindel or ðe tern-siknes? Or  
ar ye l̄t ov yor wits?"

Hemiŋ āns̄erd and sed, "Not mad, mi lord. Hērz Didarus  
ðat held ðe Stīl-berg for us, rīden from ðe ēst az fāst  
az hiz hors mīt wōlop, and gōten hēr hard o' ðe hēlz ov  
ðe former mēs̄endz̄er wið freŋ and mœr sertān advertīzment,  
frēfer bi fœr dāz ðan ðat wunz. I pra u hēr him."

"Īl hēr him," sed Korinyus, "at sūper tīm. Nōt sooner,  
if ðe roof wer afīr."

"Ðe land benēp ði fēts afīr!" krīd Hemiŋ. "Dz̄us and  
Brandox Dahā hōm agān, and hāf ðe kuntre lost ðe êr  
ðl̄ herdst ont. Ðēz dēvilz ar hōm agān! Sal we hēr  
ðat and stil be swil-bōlz?"

Korinyus līs̄end wið fōlded armz. Hiz grāt dz̄ō wōz lifted  
up. Hiz nostrilz widend. For a mīnūt he abōd in silens, hiz  
kōld blu īz fikst az it wer on sumh̄ōt afar. Ðen, "Hōm

agān?" sed he. "And ðe ēst in a hūbub? And not unlikle. Pank Didarus for hiz tidiņz. He ƿal sweten mīn ērz wið sum mœr at sūper. Til ðen, lēv me, unles ye mēn tō be stretƿt."

But Laksus, wið sad and sereðs brð, stōd besīd him and sed, "Mi lord, forget not ðat u ar hēr ðe vīkar and lēgāt ov ðe Kiņ. Let ðe krðn ūpon yor hed ƿot ƿērīlz in yor ƿōts, so az u ma harken pesable tō ðem ðat ar wīliņ tō lēson u wið sðnd and sādƷ advīs. If we tāk order tō-nīt tō martƿ bi Switƿwōter, we ma vēre wel ƿut bak ðis dāndƷer and stifel it ēr it waks tō tō mutƿ bignes. If o' ðe kontrare we sūfer ðem tō enter intō ðēz western parts, līk enuf wiððt let or sta ða wil overun ðe hūl kuntre."

Korinyus rōld hiz i ūpon him. "Kan nūƿiņ," he sed, "ƿreskrīb untō ðe obēdƷens? Lūk tō ðīn ōn tƿardƷ. Iz ðe flēt in ƿrōper trim? For ðērz ðe strenƿ, ēz, and ancor ov Ʒr ƿðer, hūðer for vitliņ, or tō ƿift Ʒr wāt agānst em hūtf wa we tƿūz, or tō giv us ƿūr asilum if it wer kum tō ðat. Hūōt ālz ðe? Hav we not ðēz fœr munƿs dezīrd nōt bēter ðan ðat ðēz Demonz ƿd tāk hart tō strīk a fēld wið us? If it be tru ðat DƷus himself and Brandox Dahā hav ƿrōn dðn ðe kāsels and strenƿs hūtf I had i' ðe ēst and mœv wið an arme agānst us, hūi ðen I hav ðem in ðe fœrdƷ ōlrēde, and ƿal nð briņ ðem tō ðe hāmer. And be sātisfīd, lī tƿūz mīn ōn grðnd tō fīt ðem."

"ðērz yet māter for hāst in ðis," sed Laksus. "A dāz martƿ, and we opōz em not, wil briņ ðem befœr Krððeriņ."

"ðat," ānserd Korinyus, "dƷumpeð pat wið mīn ōn dezīn. lī not go a lēg tō bar ðēr wa, but resēv em hēr hūer ðe grðnd lieƿ mōst favorabel tō mēt an ēneme. Hūtf advāntādƷ lī emplō tō ðe gratest stretƿ ov servīs, standiņ on Krððeriņ Sīd, restiņ mi flank agānst ðe mðntān. ðe flēt ƿal rīd in Orwāƿ haven."

Laksus strōkt hiz bērd and wōz silent a mīnūt, konsīderiņ ðis. ðen he lukt up and sed, "ðis iz sðnd dƷēneralfīƿ, I ma not gānsa it."

"It iz a ƿerpōs, mi lord," sed Korinyus, "I hav loņ had in miself, stord bi for ðe event. Let me alōn, ðērfœr, tō dœ ðat mi rīt iz. ðērz ðis Ʒud in it, tō, az it befōleƿ: twil sūfer ðat dīv-dāƿer tō behōld hiz hōm

agān afœr I kil him. A ƿal fīnd it a sīt for sœr īz,  
I þink, âfter mi tendiſ ont."

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Ðe þerd da âfter ðēz dœiſz, ðe farmer at Holt stœd in  
hiz pœrtƿ ðat opend westword on Tivarandardāl. An ōld man  
wōz he, krœked līk a mœntān þorn. But a brīt blak i  
he had, and ðe hēr kerld krisp yet abuv hiz brœ. It wōz  
lāt âfternoon and ðe ski overkâst. Tœzel-hêrd ƿœp-dogz  
slept befœr ðe dœr. Swōlōz gâðerd in ðe ski. Nēr tœ  
him sat a dāmozal, dānte az a mœdo-ƿīpit, līð az an  
antelœp; and ƿe wōz grīndiſ grān in a hand-mil, sīſiſ  
ðe hūl:

Grīnd, mil, grīnd,  
Korinyus grīndz us ōl;  
Kīſiſ it in wīdōd Krœðeriſ.

Ðe ōld man wōz ferbīſiſ a ƿēld and moreon-kap, and ūðer  
tākel ov wor la at hiz fēt.

"I wunder ðœ wilt stil be bīze wið ði tākel, O mi  
fāðer," sed ƿe, lœkiſ up from her sīſiſ and grīndiſ.  
"If il tīd il agān hœt ƿœd an ōld man dœ but grēv and  
be silent?"

"Ðēr ƿal be tīm for ðat herâfter," sed ðe ōld man.  
"But a lītel hūl iz hand fān ov blo."

"Ðāl be for firiſ ðe roof-tre, līkle, if ða kum  
bak," sed ƿe, stil grīndiſ.

"Ðœrt a disobēdzent las. If þœdst but flit az I bad  
ðe tœ ðe ƿēl-hœs up ðe dāl, īd fœrs not a bēn for  
ðēr berniſz."

"Let it bern," sed ƿe, "if he be taken. Hœt avāl ðen for  
ðe or for me tœ be a-tœreiſ? Ðœ ðat art an ōld man and  
ƿœd ov gœd dāz, and I ðat wil not be left so."

A grāt dog awōk besīd her and ƿœk himself, ðen dru nēr  
and lād hiz nōz in her lap, lœkiſ up at her wið kīnd  
sœlem īz.

Ðe ōld man sed, "Ðœrt a disobēdzent las, and but for  
ðe, kum sœrd, kum fīr, not a strō kêr I; noiſ it  
ƿal be but a ƿāsiſ storm, nœ ðat mi Lord iz hōm agān."

"Ða tœk ðe land from Lord Spitfīr," sed ƿe.

"I, hīne," sed ðe ōld man, "and ðǣ falt se mi Lord  
fal tāk it bak agān."

"I?" sed fe. And stil fe grǣnd and stil fe saŋ:

Grīnd, mil, grīnd,  
Korinyus grīndz us ōl.

Āfter a tīm, "Hist!" sed ðe ōld man, "wōz not ðat a  
hors-tred i' ðe lān? Get ðe wīðin-dærz til I no if  
ōl be frendle." And he stœpt pānfœle tœ tāk up hiz  
wēpon. Wofœle it fœk in hiz febel hand.

But fe, az wun ðat nu ðe step, hediŋ nôt els, lept  
up wið fās ferst red ðen pāl ðen fluft agān, and ran tœ  
ðe gāt ov ðe garp. And ðe fēp-dogz bǣnded befœr her.  
Ðēr in ðe gāt fe wōz met wið a yuŋ man ridiŋ a were  
hors. He wōz garbd līk a sōldzer, and hors and man wer so  
bedrāgeld wið mīr and dust and ōl māner ov defīlment ða  
wer a sore sīt tœ se, and so dʒaded bōp ðat skērs it  
sēmd ða had mīt tœ dzerne anūðer ferloŋ. Ða hōlted  
wīðin ðe gāt, and ōl ðōz dogz dʒumpt up ūpon ðem,  
huniŋ and barkiŋ for dʒɑ.

Ēr ðe sōldzer wōz wel dǣn from ðe sādēl he had a swēt  
armfōl. "Softle, mi hart," sed he, "mi fōlderz sumhuôt  
rō. Na, tiz nôt tœ spēk on. Īv brôt ðe ōl mi  
limz hōm."

"Wōz ðēr a bätel?" sed ðe ōld man.

"Wōz ðēr a bätel, fāðer?" krīd he. "Īl tel ðe,  
Krōðeriŋ Sīd iz þiker wið ded men slān ðan ʒr garp  
wið fēp i' ðe ferīŋ tīm."

"Alak and alak, tiz a mōst horid wœnd, dēr," sed ðe  
gerl. "Go in, and Īl wōf it and la tœ it milfql pǣnded  
wið hūne; tiz mōst sovran agānst pān and los ov blud,  
and driep up ðe lips ov ðe wœnd and makeþ huōl þōdst  
no krēdit hǣ sœn. Ðǣ hast bled over-mutf, ðǣ fœliŋ wun.  
And hǣ kudst ðǣ þrīv wīðōt ði wīf tœ tend ðe?"

Ðe farmer pœt an arm abǣt him, saiŋ, "Wōz ðe fēld ʒrz,  
lad?"

"Īl tel u ōl orderle, ōld man," ānserd he, "but I must  
stabel him ferst," and ðe hors nūzeld hiz brest. "And ye  
must bālast me ferst. God fēld us, tiz not a tāl for an

empte man tō tel."

"Las, fāðer," sed ðe dāmozēl, "hav we not wun swēt sīpet i' ðe mǫþ, ðat we hōld him hēr wuns mærf? And, swēt or sǫr, let him tāk hiz tīm tō fetf us ðe nekst."

So ða wōft hiz hert and lād kīndle herbz ðērtō, and bǫnd it wið klēn līnen, and pūt fref rament ūpon him, and māð him sit on ðe bentf wīðlēt ðe pœrtf and gāv him tō ēt and drink: kāks ov barle mēl and dark hēðer-hūne, and ruf hūīt wīn ov Tivarandardāl. ðe dogz la klōs abǫt him az if ðēr wōz wormþ ðēr and sāfte hvaraz he wōz. Hiz yuŋ wīf held hiz hand in herz, az if ðat wer enuf if it fōd lāst for i. And ðat ōld man, etiŋ dǫn hiz impafens līk a skōlbq tʃafinŋ for ðe bel, fingerd hiz partizan wið trembliŋ hand.

"Ðǫ hadst ðe werd I sent ðe, fāðer, āfter ðe fīt belo Galin?"

"I. Twōz gōd."

"Ðēr wōz a kǫnsil held ðat nīt," sed ðe sōldzer. "Ōl ðe grāt men tūgēðer in ðe hi hōl in Galin, so az it wōz a hēven tō se. I wōz wun ov ðēr kupbarerz, kōz Īd kild ðe standard-barer ov ðe Witfez, in ðat sām bātel belo Galin. Mēpōt twōz no grāt þin I did; til āfter ðe bātel, lūk u, mi Lordz self standinŋ besīd me; and sāþ he, Arnod (i, bi mi nām, fāðer), Arnod,' a sāþ, ðǫst dun dǫn ðe pēnon o' Witfland ðat gānst ǫr fredom strēmd so prǫd. Tiz ði līk ʃal best sted Demonland i' ðēz dog-dāz,' sāþ he. Bēr mi kup tō-nīt, for ðīn ōnor.' I wōd, las, þǫdst sēn hiz īz ðat tīd. Tiz a lord tō pūt māro in ðe sœrd-arm, ǫr Lord.

"Ða had fœrþ ðe grāt map o' ðe werld, ov ðis Demonland, tō stūde ðēr biznes. I wōz bi, pœriŋ ðe wīn, and I herd ðēr disputaŋonz. Tiz a wundrǫs map rōt in kristal and bronz, mōst artifjal, wið wōterz a-glisterinŋ and mǫntānz standinŋ substānfjal tō ðe tutf. Mi Lord pǫnts wiðz sœrd. Hēr,' a sāþ, standeþ Korinyus, bi ōl fūr tēliŋz, and budzeþ not from Krōðeriŋ. And, bi ðe Godz,' a sāþ, tiz a wīz dispozīŋon. For, mark, if we go bi Gafterndāl, az go we must tō kum at him, he strikeþ dǫn on us az hāmer on anvil. And if we wil pās bi tōword ðe hed ov Punderferþ,' and hēr a pǫnteþ it ǫt wiðz sœrd, dǫn a kūmeþ on ǫr flank; and ēvere-gāt ðe landz slōp serveþ hiz tern and fiteþ agānst us.'

"I mīnd me o' ðōz werdz," sed ðe yuŋ man, "kōz mi Lord

Brandox Dahâ lâft and sed, Ar we grōn so strāndz bi ȝr trāvelz, ȝr ōn land fitep o' ðe ōpozīt parte? Let me stūde it agān.'

"I fild hiz kup. Dēr Godz, but Īd fil him a bōl ov mīn ōn harts blud if he rekwīrd it ov me, âfter ȝr tīmz tūgēðer, fāðer. But mœr o' ðat anon. Ðe stȝtest dʒentelman and kaptān wiðȝt pēr.

"But Lord Spittfīr, ðat wōz ðis huīl vōntiņ up and dȝn ðe tȝamber, krīd ȝt and sed, 'Twer fōle tō trāvel hiz rōd prepērd us. Tāk him o' ðat sīd he tūkep lēst tō se us: sȝp þrō ðe mȝntānz, and ūpon him in hiz rēr up from Mardardāl.'

"Ā,' sāþ mi Lord, and be prest bak intō Merkdāl Hagz if we mis ov ȝr ferst sprinj. Tiz tō pērilȝs. Tiz wers ðan Gafterndāl.'

"So went it: a na for ēvere ya, and nōt tō plēz em. Til i' ðe end mi Lord Brandox Dahâ, ðat had bēn loņ tīm bīze wið ðe map, sed: Nȝ ðat y' hav þrefst ðe huīl stak and fȝnd not ðe nedel, I wil ȝo u mi rēd, kōz ye ȝal not sa I kȝnseld u rafle.'

"So ða bad him sa hiz rēd. And he sed untō mi Lord, "Ðȝ and ȝr mān pȝer ȝal go bi Switȝwōter Wa. And let ðe huīl landz fās blāz yor kūmiņ befoer u. Ye ȝal li tō-moro nīt in sum gȝd fitiņ-sted huīðer it ȝal not be tō hiz vāntādʒ tō mœv agānst u: huple in ðe ōld ȝeliņz abuv Renþwāt, or at ēne līkle spot afœr ðe rōd dīpeþ sȝp intō Gafterndāl. But at pȝnt ov da strīk kamp and go bi Gafterndāl and so up on tō ðe Sīd tō dō bātel wið him. So ȝal ōl fōl ȝt even az hiz ōn hōps and ekspektafoņz dō dezīr it. But I,' sāþ mi Lord Brandox Dahâ, wið sēven hundred tȝozen hors, wil hav fērd bi ðen klēn alon ȝe mȝntān ridʒ from Trānzdāl even tō Erngāt End; so az hven he terneþ ōl hiz bātel norþword dȝn ðe Sīd tō hvelm u, ðēr ȝal haņ abuv ðe sekurite ov hiz flank and rēr ðat huitȝ he nēr drēmd on. If he supœrt mi tȝardʒiņ ov hiz flank at ūnawērz, wið u in frunt tō kōp him, and he wið so smōl an advāntādʒ ūpon us in strenþ ov men: if he stand ðat, hvi ðen, gȝd-nīt! ðe Witȝez ar ȝr māsterz in armz, and we ma of kap tō em and strīv no mœr tō rīt us.'

"So sed mi Lord Brandox Dahâ. But ōl kōld him dāft tō þink ont. Kāre an arme a-horsbak in so smōl tīm kros

sutf kerst grōnd? It mīt not be. Wel,' kwōþ he, siþ u  
kōnt it not pōsibel, so mutf ðe mœr fal he. Kōfþs  
kōnselz nēver wil serv us ðis tīd. Giv me but mi pik ov  
man and hors tō ðe number ov sēven hundred, and Īl so set  
ðis māsik u fal not dezīr a bēter māster ov ðe  
rēvelz.'

"So i' ðe end he had hiz wa. And pāst midnīt ða wer at  
it, I wis, plāniþ and stūdeinþ.

"At dōn wōz ðe huōl arme marfald in ðe mēdōz belo  
Mōnmēr, and mi Lord spāk amuþ ðem and tōld us he wōz  
mīnded tō martf intō ðe west kuntre and ekstermināt ðe  
Witfez þt ov Demonland; and he bad ēne man ðat dēmd he  
had nþ hiz fil ov fureþs wor and dēmd it a sweter þin  
tō go hōm tō hiz ōn plās, sa fœrþ hiz mīnd wiðþt fēr,  
and he wōd let him go, ya, and giv him gūd gifts ðērtō,  
seiþ ðat ōl had dun manful servīs; but he wōd hav no  
man in ðis enterprīz huō went not tō it wið hiz huōl hart  
and mīnd."

Ðe dāmozal sed, "I wis ðēr wōz not a man wōd tāk ðat  
ōfer."

"Ðēr went up," sed ðe sōldzer, "sutf a fþt, wið sutf a  
stampinþ, and sutf a klāfiþ tugēðer ov wēponz, ðe land  
fōk wiðt, and ðe ēkōz rōld in ðe hi korēz ov ðe  
Skarf ĩk þunder, ov ðem fþtiþ Krōðeriþ!' Dzus!  
Brandox Dahâ! Lēd us tō Krōðeriþ! Wiðþt mœr adō wōz  
ðe stuf pakt up, and ēr nōn wōz ðe huōl arme gōten  
over ðe Stīl. Huōl we hōlted for damēl hard bi Blakwōd  
in Amadardāl, kām mi Lord Brandox Dahâ a-ridiþ amuþ ðe  
ranks for tō tāk hiz pik ov sēven hundred ov þr āblest  
hors. Nor a wōd not komit ðis tō hiz ōfiser, but himself  
kōld on ētf lad bi nām huēso he sō a ĩkle wun, and  
spērd wōd a rīd wið him. I trþ he gat nēver a na tō  
ðat speriþ. Mi hart wōz a-kōld lest hēd ōrlōk me,  
wōtfinþ him rīd bi az dżōnte az a kiþ. But a rānd inz  
hors and sāþ, Arnod, tiz a bōne hors ðþ rīdst. Kōd  
he kāre ðe tō a swīn-hunt dþn from Erngāt End i' ðe  
morniþ?' I saluted him and sed, Not so far ōnle, Lord, but  
tō berniþ Hel so ðþ but lēd us.' Kum on,' sāþ he.  
'Tiz a bēter gāt I fal lēd ðe: tō Krōðeriþ hōl ēr  
eventīd.'

"So nþ wōz þr strenþ sunderd, and ðe mān arme mād rēde  
tō martf westward dþn Switfwōter Wa; wið ðe Lord Zig tō  
lēd ðe hors, and ðe Lord Vol and mi Lordz self and hiz  
brūðer ðe Lord Spittfir fariþ in ðe midst amuþst em ōl.



And wið ðem yonder ȝtland trator, Lord Gro; but I doo þink him mæc a stik ov fȝgar-pāst ðan a man ov wor. And mēne dzentelmen ov werþ went wið ðem: Dʒizmor Glēm ov Dʒustdāl, Astar ov Retra, and Bremere ov Σôz, and mēne mæc men ov mark. But ðêr abōd wið mi Lord Brandox Dahâ, Arnund ov Bi, and Parmrod ov Kenarve, Kamerar ov Stropardon, Emeron Galt, Hesper Golþriņ ov Elmersted, Sterkmer ov Blakwōd, Melxar ov Strufe, Kwăzez þre sunz from Dalne, and Stipmar ov Fālz: fērs and kōlerik yuņ dzentelmen, âfter hiz ōn hart, mēþinks; grāt horsmen, not vēre fœrkāstiņ ov fūtūr þiņz afar of but entertanerz ov fortfūn bi ðe da, tō raf tō gūvern an arme, but best ov ōl tō oba and fōlo him in so glœereȝs an enterprīz.

"Êr we parted, kām mi Lord tō spēk wið mi Lord Brandox Dahâ. And mi Lord lukt intō ðe lift ðat wōz ōl dark klȝd and wind; and kwōþ he, Fāl not at ðe trist, kūzin. Tiz ði werd, ðat ðȝ and I be finger and þum; and nēver mæc fūrle ðan tō-moro fal ðis be sēn."

"'O frend ov mi hart, kontent ðe,' ânsereþ mi Lord Brandox Dahâ. Didst ēver no me neglekt mi gests? And hav I not bīden u tō brekfast wið me tō-moro morn in Krōðeriņ mēdz?'"

"Nȝ we ov ðe sēven hundred ternd leftword at ðe wōterzmēt up Trānzdāl intō ðe mȝntānz. And nȝ kām il wēðer ūpon us, ðe werst ðat ēver I nu. Tiz soft eno and lītel rōd eno in Trānzdāl, az ðȝ nōst, fāðer, and were werk it wōz wið ēvere dēr-trak ternd a wōter-kœrs and underfot ōl sluf and mīr, and nôt for a man tō se sāv hūit mist and rān abuv and abȝt him, and sōpe bent and wōter underz hors-hōovz. Lītel ðêr wōz tō tel us we wer wun at lāst tō ðe top ov ðe pās, and twer not ðe klȝd blu þiker and ðe wind wīlder abȝt us. Ēvere man wōz wet tō ðe brētʃ, and bēr a pīnt o' wōter inz tō fōz.

"Hūilz we wer hōlted on ðe Sādel mi Lord Brandox Dahâ rested not at ōl, but gāv hiz hors tō hiz man tō hōld and himself fērd bak and fœrþ amuņ us. And for ēvere man he had a dʒest or a mēre lūk, so az twōz mēt and drink but tō hēr or tō behōld him. But a lītel hūil ōnle wōd he sūfer us tō hōlt; ðen rīt we ternd, up alonj ðe ridʒ, hvēr ðe wa wōz yet wers ðan in ðe dāl had bēn, wið roks and pits hīden in ðe hēðer, and slīðere slabz ov grānīt. Bi mi fāþ, I þink no hors ðat wōz not born and bred tōt mīt kros sutʃ kuntre, wet or fīn; he fȝd be fȝnderd or fȝd brāk hiz legz and hiz riderz nek êr he fȝd be gōten tō ȝrz dʒerne alonj ðōz ridʒez; but we ðat rōd

wið mi Lord Brandox Dahâ tœ Kröðeriñ Sīd wer ten Ūrz  
ridiñ so, besīdz Ūr hōlts tœ wōter Ūr horsez and longer  
hōlts tœ fēd em, and ðe lāst part o' ðe wa þrœ merk  
nīt, and ôl ðe wa i' ðe windz tēþ wið rān blōn on  
ðe wind līk spra, and hāl at hūlz. And hven ðe rān wōz  
dun, ðe wind vērd tœ ðe norþ-west and blu ðe ridʒez  
dri. And ðen ðe lītel bits ov rōten grānīt blu in Ūr  
fazez līk hālstōnz on ðe wind. Ðēr wōz no felter, not o'  
ðe le sīd ov ðe roks, but ēveriħvēr ðe storm-wind  
bāfeld and būfeted us, and klapt hiz wiñz amuñ ðe kragz  
līk þunder. Dēr Hēven, were we wer and līk tœ drop, kōld  
tœ ðe māro, ni blīnded man and hors, yet wið a dredfōl  
industre prest on. And mi Lord Brandox Dahâ wōz nŪ in ðe  
van nŪ in ðe rēr-gard, tferiñ menz harts hœ markt  
wið hōt blīð kŵntenans himself did sūfer ðe sām  
hardʒips az hiz menest trœper: līk tœ wun ridiñ at ēz tœ  
sum grāt wēdiñ-fēst; kriiñ, Hōt, ladz, mēriple on!  
Ðēz fen-tōdz ov ðe Drumā ʒal lern tœ lāt hōt wa Ūr  
mŵntān ponēz dœ go līk stagz ūpon ðe mŵntān.'

"Hven it began tœ be morniñ we kām tœ Ūr lāst hōlt, and  
ðēr wōz Ūr sēven hundred hors hid in ðe kore under ðe  
tōl klifs ov Erngāt End. I worant u we went kērfole  
abŵt it, so az no priiñ swīn ov Witʒland lŵkiñ up from  
belo ʒœd aspi a glimps ov man or hors o' ðe skilīn. Hiz  
hines ferst set hiz sentinelz and let kōl ðe muster, and  
sō ðat ēvere man had hiz morniñ mēl and ēvere hors hiz  
fēd. Ðen he tŵk hiz stand behīnd a krag ov rok hvens he  
kœd overlŵk ðe land belo. He had me bi him tœ dœ hiz  
ērandz. In ðe ferst līt we lŵkt dŵn westword over ðe  
mŵntānz edʒ and sō Kröðeriñ and ðe armz ov ðe se, not  
so dark but we mīt behōld ðēr flēt at ancor in Orwap  
rōdz, and ðēr kamp līk a batʒ ov behīvz so az a man  
mīt þink tœ kāst a stōn intœt belo us. Ðat wōz ðe ferst  
tīm Īd ēr gon tœ ðe worz wið him. Fāþ, hēz a þrite  
man tœ se: lēnd forword ðēr on ðe hēðer wiðz tʒin on  
hiz fōlded armz, hiz helm lād asīd so ða ʒœd not se it  
glint from belo; kwiet līk a kat: hāf aslēp ūd sa; but  
hiz īz wer awāk, lŵkiñ dŵn on Kröðeriñ. Twōz wel  
sēn even from so far awa hŵ vile ða had ūzd it.

"Ðe grāt red sun lēpt ŵt o' ðe ēstern klīd-banks. A  
ster began in ðēr kamp belo: standardz set up, men gāðeriñ  
ðērtœ, ranks formiñ, bugelz sŵndiñ; ðen a skœr ov hors  
gālopiñ up ðe rōd from Gaʒterndāl intœ ðe kamp. Hiz  
hines, wīðŵt terniñ hiz hed, bēkond wiðz hand tœ me  
tœ kōl hiz kaptānz. I ran and fetʒt em. He gāv em swift  
komāndz, þŵntiñ dŵn hŵer ðe Witʒland swīn rōld ŵt

ðêr bätel; þêvz and piräts hƿ∞ robd hiz hines  
subdžekts wīðin hiz strēmz; wið standard and pēnonz and  
glisteriŋ naked spērz, mœviŋ norþword from ðe tents. Ðen  
in ðe kwiet kām a sðnd mād a manz hart lēp wīðin him:  
fānt ʒt ov ðe far hōlōz ov Gafterndāl, ðe trumpet ov mi  
Lord Džūsez bätel-kōl.

"Mi Lord Brandox Dahâ pôzd a mīnūt, ʒkiŋ dðn. Ðen a  
ternd him abʒt wið fās ðat ʒon līk ðe morniŋ. Fêr  
lordz,' a sāþ, nð lītle on horsbak, for Džus fiteþ  
agānst hiz ènemēz.' I þink he wōz wel kontent. I þink he  
wōz ʒūr he wōd ðat da get hiz harts siþ ov èvere wun  
ðat had roŋd him.

"Ðat wōz a loŋ rīd dðn from Erngāt End. Wið ôl ʒr  
harts blud drūmiŋ us tœ hāst, we must yet go warile,  
þīkiŋ ʒr wa i' ðat trīke grðnd, stēþ az a roof-slōþ,  
ūeven and wið no ʒūr foðhōld, wið sīks in wet mos and  
roks ʒtkropiŋ and ʒiftiŋ skrēz. Ðêr wōz nôt but  
lêv it tœ ðe horsez, and brāvle ða brôt us dðn ðe  
stēps. We wer not hāf wa dðn êr we herd and sô hð  
bätel wōz džqnd. So intent wer ðe Witflanderz on mi Lordz  
mān arme. I þink we wer of ðe stēþ grðnd and formiŋ for  
ðe tʒardž êr ða wer wêr ov us. ʒr trumpeterz sðnded hiz  
bätel tʒälendž. Hœ mēdelz wi' Brandox Dahâ? and we kām  
dðn on tœ Kröðeriŋ Sīd līk a rok-fōl.

"I skêrs no hƿôt wa ðe bätel went, fâðer. Twōz līk a  
metiŋ ov strēmz in spāt. I þink ða opend tœ us rīt  
and left tœ êz ðe ʒok. Ða ðat wer befœr us went dðn  
līk standiŋ korn under a hālstorm. We hƿēld bōþ wāz,  
sum gānst ðêr rīt ðat wōz þrōn bak tœword ðe kamp,  
ðe mœr part wið mi Lord Brandox Dahâ tœ ʒr ōn rīt. I  
wōz wið ðêz in ðe mān bätel. Hiz hines rōd a hot  
stūriŋ hors vère fêrs and dōged; ne tœ ne wið him  
went Sterkmer ov Blakwōd o' ðe wun sīd and Þarmrod o' ðe  
ūðer. Niðer man nor hors mīt stand up befœr em, and  
ða fariŋ az in a māz nð ðis wa nð ðat, amid ðe  
þrumbliŋ and þraŋtiŋ o' ðe fotmen, hedz and armz smīten  
of, men hūn in sunder from krðn tœ bële, i, tœ ðe sādēl,  
riderles horsez mādend, blud splaft up from ðe grðnd  
līk ðe sluf from a marf.

"So for a tīm, til we had spent ðe vāntādž ov ʒr onset and  
felt for ðe ferst tīm ðe wāt ov ðêr streŋþ. For  
Korinyus, az it apereþ, wōz nð himself rīden from ðe  
vanword hƿêr he had bêt bak for a tīm ʒr mān arme, and  
set on agānst mi Lord Brandox Dahâ wið horsmen and  
spërmen; and komānded hiz sliŋ-kāsterz besīdz tœ let frele

at us and drīv us tōoword ðe kamp.

"And nǝ in ðe grāt swiŋ ov ðe bātel wer we kārēd bak tō ðe kamp agān; and ðēr wōz a swēt dēvilz hōlida: horsez and men trīpiŋ over tent-rōps, tents tærn dǝn, krāŋez ov broken krōkere, and Kiŋ Laksus kum ðīðer wið salorz from ðe flēt, hamstrīŋiŋ ǝr horsez hūil Korinyus tƒardʒd us from ðe norþ and ēst. Ðat Korinyus bareþ him in bātel mæc līk a dēvil from Hel ðan a mortal man. I' ðe ferst tō strōks ovz sœrd he overþru tō ov ǝr best kaptānz, Romenard ov Dalne and Emeron Galt. Sterkmer, ðat stōd inz wa tō stop him, a fluŋ dǝn wiðz spēr, hors and man. Ða sa he met twīs wið mi Lord Brandox Dahâ ðat da, but ētƒ tīm wer ða parted in ðe pres êr ða mīt rītle skwēr tŋgēðer.

"I hav stōd in sum gōdle bātelz, fāðer, az wel ðǝ nōst: ferst fōloŋ mi Lord and mi Lord Gōldre Bluzko in forān parts, and lāst yēr in ðe grāt rǝt at Krosbe ǝtsīks, and agān wið mi Lord Spitfir hven he smōt ðe Witƒez on Brimâ Rāps, and in ðe merðeriŋ grāt bātel under Premnerz Hu. But nēver wōz I in fit līk tō ðis ov yesterda.

"Nēver sō I sutƒ fēts ov armz. Az witnes Kamerar ov Stropardon, hŋ wið a grāt tōo-handed sœrd hūd of hiz ēnemēz leg klōs tō ðe hip, so hūdʒ a blo ðe blād jērd þrō leg and sādēl and hors and ôl. And Sterkmer ov Blakwōd, riziŋ līk a dēvil ǝt ov a hēp ov slān men, and ðōz helm wōz lösen and a wōz blediŋ from þre or fœr grāt wōndz a held of a dūzen o' ðe Witƒez wiðz dedle þrusts and sœrd-strōks, til ða had enuf and gāv bak befœr him: twelv befœr wun, and he gīven over for ded a hūil befœr. But ôl grāt dēdz sēmd traƒ besīd ðe dēdz ov mi Lord Brandox Dahâ. In wun fort hūil had he þre tīmz a hors slān stark ded under him, yet gat nēver a wōnd himself, hwiƒ wōz a marvel. For wiðǝt kêr he rōd þrō and abǝt, smitiŋ dǝn ðēr tƒampeonz. I mīnd me ov him wuns, wiðz hors ript and kild under him, and wun ov ðōz Witƒland lordz ðat tilted at him on ðe grǝnd az he lēpt tōoz fēt agān; hǝ a kōt ðe spēr wiðz tōo handz and bi mān strenþ yerkt hiz ēneme ǝt o' ðe sādēl. Prins Kargo it wōz, yungest ov Korundz sunz. Loŋ ma ðe Witƒland ladēz strān ðēr dēr īz, ðāl nēr se yon hende lad kum saliŋ hōm agān. Hiz hines swōpt him sutƒ a swīp o' ðe nek-bōn az he pitƒt tōo erþ, ðe hed ov him flu i' ðe êr līk a tēnis bōl. And i' ðe twinkliŋ ov an i wōz mi Lord Brandox Dahâ horst agān onz ēnemēz hors, and ternd tō tƒardʒ em anu. Ūd sa hiz arm must fāl at lāst

for werines, ov a man so līð and dzimp tō lūk on. Yet I þink hiz lāst strōk i' ðat bātel wōz not liter ðan ðe ferst. And stōnz and spērz and sœrd-strōks sēmd tō kum ūpon him wið no mœr imprēfon ðan blōz wið a strō wōd giv tō an ādamant.

"I no not hþ loŋ wōz ðat fit amuŋ ðe tents. Ōnle twōz ðe best fit I ēver wōz at, and ðe blūdeest. And bi ōl tēliŋz twōz az grāt werk o' ðe ūðer part, huēr mi Lord and hiz fōk fōt ðēr wa up on tō ðe Sīd. But ov ðat we nu nūþiŋ. Yet sertān it iz we had ōl bēn ded men had mi Lord not ðēr prevāld, az sertān tiz he had nēver so prevāld but for þr tʃardziŋ ov ðēr flank hven ða ferst advānst agānst him. But in ðat lāst þr ōl we ðat fōt amuŋ ðe tents þōt ētʃ man ōnle ov ðis, hþ he mīt sla yet wun mœr Witʃ, and yet agān wun mœr, afœr he ʃōd di. For Korinyus in ðat þr pʊt fœrþ hiz mīt tō kruf us; and for ēvere ēneme ðēr feld tō erþ tō mœr sēmd tō be rāzd up agānst us. And þr ōn fōk fel fāst, and ðe tents ðat wer so huīt wer wun gœr ov blud.

"Hven I wōz a lītel tine bŋ, fāðer, we had a spœrt, swīmiŋ in ðe dēp pōolz ov Tivarandarwōter, ðat wun bŋ wōd katʃ tūðer and hōld him under til he kōd no mœr for wōnt ov breþ. Mēþinks ðēr z no lōŋiŋ i' ðe werld so sœr az ðe lōŋiŋ for ēr hven he ðat iz stronger ðan ðþ grīpeþ ðe stil under ðe wōter, nor no gladnes i' ðe werld līk ðe bōne swēt ēr i' ði luŋz agān hven a lēteþ ðe ʃōt up tō ðe fre dalīt. Twōz rīt so wið us, huō had nþ sed ādʒu tō hōp and sō ōl lost sāv līf itself, and ðat not līk tō tāre loŋ; hven we herd sūdenle ðe þunder ov mi Lordz trumpet sþndiŋ tō ðe tʃardʒ. And ēr þr starteld wits mīt rītle þink huōt ðat portended, wōz ðe huōl serdziŋ bātel hvipt and skāterd līk ðe wōter ov a lāk kōt up in a huīt skwōl; and ðat mast strenþ ov ðe ēneme huītʃ had invested us rþnd wið so grāt a strēm ov ʃot and stēl rēld ferst forword ðen bakword ðen forword agān ūpon us, konfōnded in a vāst konfuʒon. I trþ nu strenþ kām tō þr armz; I trþ þr sœrdz opend ðēr mþps. For norþword we beheld ðe ensīn ov Galiŋ stremiŋ līk a blaziŋ star; and mi Lordz self in a moment, hi advānst abuv ðe rþt, and Zig, and Astar, and hundredz ov þr hors, huŋi ðēr wa tōword us huīlz we hūd tōwordz ðem. And nþ wōz repiŋ tīm for us, and tīm ov pament for ōl ðōz were blūde þrz we had held on tō līf wið þr tēþ amuŋ ðe tents on Krōðeriŋ Sīd, huīl ða o' ðe ūðer part, mi Lord and hiz, had wið ōl ðe odz ov ðe grþnd agānst ðem pānfōole and yard bi yard fōt þt ðe

fit too viktoze. And nŕ, êr we wel wist ov it, ðe da wôz  
wun, and ðe viktoze ŕrz, and ðe êneme broken and put too so  
grât a rŕt az hap not bēn sēn bi līviŕ man.

"Ðat fôls kiŕ Korinyus, âfter he had tǎrēd too se ðe end  
ov ðe bǎtel, fled wið a fu ov hiz men ŕt ov ðe grât  
slôter, and az it later apērd gat him ǎfipbœerd in  
Orwaŕ harbor and wið þre fips or fœer eskāpt too se.  
But ðe mōst ov ðēr flēt wôz bernd ðēr in ðe harbor too  
sāv it from ŕr handz.

"Mi Lord gāv komānd too tāk up ðe wœnded and tend em,  
frend and fo alīk. Amuŕ ðem wôz Kiŕ Laksus taen up,  
stund wið a mās-blo or sum sutf. So ða brôt him  
befœer ðe lordz hvēr ða rested a lītel wa dŕn ðe Sīd  
abuv ðe hōm mēdz ov Krōðeriŕ.

"He lukt em ôl in ðe i, mōst prŕd and sōldzer-līk.  
Ðen a sǎp untœ mi Lord, It ma be pān, but no fām too us  
too be vankwiŕt âfter so êkwal and so grât a fit. Herin  
ōnle dœ I blām mi il luk, ðat it denīd me fôl in bǎtel.  
Ðŕ mǎst nŕ, O Dzus, strīk of mi hed for ðe trezon I  
rôt u þre yērz ago. And sins I no ðe ov a  
kertfŕs and nobel nǎtfūr, Ī not skorn too āsk ov ðe ðis  
kertese, not too tǎre but tāk it nŕ.'

"Mi Lord stud ðēr līk a wor-hors âfter a breðer. He tok  
him bi ðe hand. 'O Laksus,' sǎp he, 'I giv ðe not ði hed  
ōnle, but ði sœrd;' and hēr a gāv it him hilt-fœermōst.  
For ði deliŕz wið us in ðe bǎtel ov Kartadzâ, let tīm  
ðat hap an art too māk dust ov ôl þiŕz so dœ wið ðe  
mēmore ov ðēz. Sins ðen, ðŕ hast fōn ðiself stil ŕr  
nobel êneme; and so fal we akŕnt ðe stil.'

"Ðērwið mi Lord komānded briŕ Kiŕ Laksus dŕn too ðe se,  
and fip him aboard ov a bôt, for Korinyus stil held of ðe  
land wið hiz fips, watiŕ no dŕt too se if he or êne ŕðer  
ov hiz fōk kud yet be sāv.

"But az Kiŕ Laksus wôz ŕpon partiŕ, mi Lord Brandox Dahâ,  
spekiŕ wið grât fo ov kērlesnes az ov sum trīfliŕ  
mǎter a had bi tfāns kôld too mīnd, Mi lord,' sǎp he, 'I  
nēr āsk favor ov êne man. Ōnle in a mǎner ov retern ov  
kertesēz, mēþôt ðŕ mītst be wīliŕ too bēr mi  
salutafonz too Korinyus, siþ Īv no ŕðer mēsēndzer.'

"Laksus ānsereþ he wud frele dœ it. Ðen sǎp hiz  
hines, Sa too him I wil not blām him ðat he abōd us not  
i' ðe fēld âfter ðe bǎtel wôz lost, for ðat had bēn a

simpel part, flatle gānst ōl maksimz ov rīt sōldzerfip,  
and but tō kâst hiz līf awa. But frekiƿ Fortfūn I blām,  
đat twīnd us wun from ðe ūðer hven we ƿud hav delt  
tugēðer ðis da. He haƿ bærn him in mi hōlz, I am let tō  
no, mœr i' ðe fāƿon ov a swīn or a bēstle āƿ ðan a  
man. Pra him kum āƿœr êr u sāl hōm, đat I and he,  
wið no man els tō māk betwikst us, ma kâst up ƿr akłnt.  
We swēr him pēs and griƿ and a sāf kondukt bak tōz ƿips  
if he prevāl agānst me or if I so ūz him đat he kri for  
merse. If hēl not tāk ðis ōfer, ðen iz he a dâstard; and  
ðe huōl werld ƿal so aklām him.'

"Ser,' sāƿ Laksus, Īl punktƿuale distƿardz ði mēsādƿ.'

"Huðer he did so or no, fāðer, I no not. But if he did, it  
semeƿ it wōz lītel tō Korinyusez likiƿ. For no sōner had  
hiz ƿip taen Laksus abord, ðan ƿe hƿzd sāl and ƿot ƿt  
intō ðe dēƿ, and so gud-bi."

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Ðe yuƿ man sēst, and ða wer ōl ƿre silent āhuīl. A  
fānt brēz rīpeld ðe foleādƿ ov ðe ōkwudƿ ov  
Tivarandardāl. Ðe sun wōz dħn behīnd ðe stātle Pornbaks,  
and ðe huōl ski from bærn tō bærn wōz alīt wið ðe  
sunset glœre. Dāpeld klłdz, wið ski ƿoiƿ hēr and ðēr  
betwēn, kŭverd ðe hēvenz, sāv in ðe west huēr a grāt  
artƿwa ov klēr êr opend betwēn klłdz and erƿ: êr ov an  
āzŭr đat sēmd tō bern, so ƿŭr it wōz, so dēƿ, so tƿardƿd  
wið wormƿ: not ðe harƿ blu ov nœn-da nor ðe sumpƿłs  
dēƿ ēstern blu ov aprōtƿiƿ nīt, but a brīt hēvenle  
blu borderiƿ on grēn, dēƿ, tender, and dēlikāt az ðe  
spīrit ov eveniƿ. Aƿwort ðe midst ov đat windo ov ðe west  
a blād ov klłd, hard-edƿd and dzāged wið tēƿ kŭlord az  
ov līv kōlz and ded, fire and ĩrn-dark in tern, stretƿt  
līk a bāterd sœrd. Ðe klłdz abuv ðe artƿ wer ƿāl  
rōz: ðe zēniƿ līk blak opal, dark blu and ƿunderłs gra  
dāpeld wið ƿir.

27. Ðe Sēkond Ekspedīƿon tō Impland

Hƿ ÐE LORD DƿUS, NOT TŌ BE PERSWADED FROM HIZ SET PERPŌS,  
FƿND, HUĒR LĒST IT WŌZ TŌ BE LŪKT FOR, UPHŌLDIƿ IN ĐAT  
REZOLV; AND OV ÐE SALIƿ OV ÐE ARMAMENT TŌ MŪLVĀ BI WA OV  
ÐE STRĀTS OV MELIKAFKAZ.

Dat wōz ðe lâst ember ov red sūmer bernij hven ða kut ðem ðat harvest on Krōðeriġ Sīd. Ōtum kām, and winter munþs, and ðe lenþeniġ dāz ov ðe reterniġ yēr. And wið ðe ferst breþ ov sprinj wer ðe harborz fild wið fips ov wor, so mēne az had nēver in former dāz bēn sēn in ðe land, and in ěvere kuntrisīd from ðe western Īlz tō Biland, from Σalgreþ and Keliland tō ðe hedlandz under Rimon Armon, wer sōldzerz gāðerd wið ðēr horsez and ōl instruments ov wor.

Lord Brandox Dahâ rōd from ðe west, ðe da ðe Pāsk flþerz ferst opend on ðe blufs belo Erngāt End and primrozez mād swēt ðe bertf-forests in Gafterndāl. He set fœrþ betīmz, and hard he rōd, and he rōd intō Galiġ bi ðe Lion Gāt abþt ðe þr ov nœn. Ðēr wōz Lord Dʒus in hiz privāt tʃāmber, and greted him wið grāt dʒɑ and luv. So Brandox Dahâ āskt, "Hūōt spēd?" And Dʒus ānserd, "Þerte fips and fiv aflōt in Lōkiġhaven, hvarov ōl sāv fœr be drāgonz ov wor. Zig I ekspekt tōmoro wið ðe Keliland lēvēz; Spitfīr lieþ at þlswik wið fiftēn hundred men from ðe sþplandz; Vol kām in but þre þrz sins wið fœr hundred mœr. In sum, Īl hav fœr þþzand, rēkoniġ fips kumpanēz and þr ōn bōdigardz."

"Āt fips ov wor hav I," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, "in Stropardon Ferþ, ōl buskt and bþn. Fiv mœr at Orwap, fiv at Lornaga in Morve, and þre on ðe Meland kōst at Stakra Ūs, besīdz fœr mœr in ðe Īlz. And I hav sikstēn hundred spērmen and siks hundred hors. Ōl ðēz ʃal kum tʒgēðer tō dʒɑn wið ðīn in Lōkiġhaven at ðe snāpiġ ov mi fingerz, giv me but sēven dāz notīs."

Dʒus gript him bi ðe hand. "Bēr wer mi bak wiðþt ðe," he sed.

"In Krōðeriġ Īv fifted not a stōn nor swept not a tʃāmber klēn," sed Brandox Dahâ. "Tiz a muk-pit. ěvere manz hand I mīt komānd I set ōnle tō ðis. And nþ tiz rēde." He ternd ʃarp tōword Dʒus and lūkt at him a mīnūt in silens. Ðen wið a grāvite ðat sat not often on hiz lips he sed, "Let me be erdʒent wið ðe wuns mœr: strīk and dela not. Dōo him not agān ðat kīndnes we did him afœrtīm, fribliġ þr strenþ awa on ðe kerst ʃœrz ov Impland, and bi ðe tʃarmd wōterz ov Ravare, so az he mīt az sekūr az slēp send Korsus hīðer and Korinyus tō werk hāvok i' ðe land; and so pot on us ðe gratest ʃām wōz ěver lād on mortal men, and we not bred up tō sūfer ʃām."

"Ðþ sādst sēven dāz," sed Dʒus. "Snap ði fingerz and kōl up ði armēz. Īl dela ðe not an þr."



"I, but I mēn tō Karse," sed he.

"Tō Karse, hūðer els?" sed Džus. "But Īl tāk mi brūðer Gōldre wið us."

"But I mēn ferst tō Karse," sed Brandox Dahâ. "Let mi opinyon swa ðe wuns. Hi, a skulbq fʊd tel ðe, klēr ði flank and rēr êr ðð go forword."

Džus smīld. "I luv ðis nu garb ov kōfon, kūzin," sed he; "it dup mōst pñtile bekum ðe. I kwestfon ðo hūðer ðis be not ðe tru kōz: ðat Korinyus tʊk not up ði tʃälendz lâst sūmer, but let it li, and ðat hap left ðe hungre stil."

Brandox Dahâ lʊkt him sīdloŋ in ðe i, and lâft. "O Džus," he sed, "ðð hast tutʃt me nēr. But tiz not ðat. Ðat wōz in ðe wērd ðat brīt lade lād on me, in ðe spāro-hōk kâsel in Impland forlorn: ðat he I held mōst in hāt fʊd ruin mi fēr lordʃip, and ðat tō mi hand fʊd vendzans be denīd. Ðat I ēn must brʊk. O no. Pink ōnle, delāz ar dāndzērðs. Kum, be advīzd. Be not mulif."

But ðe Lord Džūsez fās wōz grāv. "Erdz me no mæŕ, dēr frend," sed he. "Ðð slēpst soft. But tō me, hven I am kâst in mi ferst slēp, kūmeþ mēne a tīm ðe līknes ov Gōldre Bluzko, held bi a malefīfal tʃarm on ðe mðntān top ov Zorâ Rax, ðat standeþ apart, ʃt ov ðe sunlīt, ʃt ov ôl sðnd or wormþ ov līf. Loŋ ago I mād vð tō tern niðer tō ðe rīt nor tō ðe left, until I set him fre."

"He iz ði brūðer," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "Ôlso iz he mīn ōn famīlear frend, hʊm I luv skērs les ðan ðe. But hven ðð spēkst ov ōps, remember ðēr z Lâ Firēz tō. Hʊt ʃal he þink on us âfter ʃr ōps tō him þre yēr z ago, ðat nīt in Karse? Yet ðis wun blo fʊd rīt him tō."

"He wil understand," sed Džus.

"He iz tō kum wið Gazlark, and ðð tōldst me ðð dust ēn nð ekspekt ðem," sed Brandox Dahâ. "Īl lēv u. I kanot for ʃām sa tō him, Pafens, frend, trule tiz not tō-da konvēnyent. Ðð ʃalt be pād in tīm.' Bi hēvenz, Īd skorn tō entrēt mi mantel-maker so. And ðis ʃr frend ðat lost ôl and langwīʃeþ in eksīl bekōz he sāvð ʃr līvz."

So saiŋ, he stʊd up in grāt diskontent and ĩr az if tō

lēv ðe tƒāmbēr. But Dƒus kōt him bi ðe rist. "ÐŪ dust upbrād me mōst undƒustle, and wel ðŪ nōst it in ði hart, and tiz ðat māks ðe so angrē. Hark, ðe horn sŷndēþ at ðe gāt, and tiz for Gazlark. Ī not let ðe go."

"Wel," sed Lord Brandox Dahā, "hav ði wil. Ōnle āsk not me tō plēd ði rōten kās tō ðem. If I spēk it ƒal be tō ƒām ðe. Nŷ ðŷrt wornd."

Nŷ went ða intō ðe hi prēzens tƒāmbēr, hŷēr wer brīt ladēz not a fu, and kaptānz and nobel personz from up and dŷn ðe land, and stōd on ðe dais. Gazlark ðe kiŷ wōkt up ðe ƒiniŷ flōer, and behīnd him hiz kaptānz and kŷnsilorz ov Goblinland wōkt tō bi tō. Ðe Prins Lā Firēz strōd at hiz elbo, prŷd az a lion.

Blīðle ða greted ðōz lordz ov Demonland ðat rōz up tō grēt ðem benēþ ðe stāre kānope, and ðe Lade Mevrean ðat stōd betwikst her brŷðer and Lord Dƒus so az twer hard tō sa hŷitƒ ov ðe þre wōz farest tō lŷk on, so mutƒ ða dīferd in ðēr butēz glōere. Gro, standiŷ nēr, sed in himself, "I no a fōerþ. And wer ƒe but dƒƒnd wið ðēz, ðen wer ðe krŷn ov ðe hŷōl erps luvlines ƒited in ðis wun tƒāmbēr: in a rīt kāsket ƒūrle. And ðe Godz in hēven (if ðēr be Godz indēd) ƒŷd go pāl for enve, hāviŷ in ðēr stāre gālere no fēr tō matƒ wið ðēz; not Febus Apōlo, not ðe tƒāst Huntres, nor ðe fōm-born Kwēn herself."

But Gazlark, hven hiz i lited on ðe loŷ blak bērd, ðe lēn ƒigūr slītly stōpiŷ, ðe pālīd brŷ, ðe kerlz smōðd wið perfūmd uŷwents, ðe sīkel-līk nōz, ðe grāt likwid īz, ðe līle hand; he, behōldiŷ and noiŷ ðēz ov ōld, wakst in a moment dark az þunder wið ðe blud-ruƒ benēþ hiz sun-brŷnd skin, and wið a grāt swēþ snatƒt ŷt hiz sœrd, az if wīðŷt gēr or bewēr tō þrust him þrō. Gro stept hāstīle bak. But ðe Lord Dƒus kām betwēn ðem.

"Let alōn, Dƒus," krīd Gazlark. "Nōst not ðis fēlo, hŷōt a vīl ēneme and viper we hav hēr? A þrite perfūmd vīlān! hŷō for so mēne yērz did spin me a þred ov mēne sedīƒonz and trŷbelz, hŷīl hiz smōð tuŷ gat mŷne from me stil. Blēsed okaƒon! Nŷ wil I let hiz sōl ŷt."

But ðe Lord Dƒus lād hiz hand on Gazlarks sœrd-arm. "Gazlark," sed he, "lēv of ði rādƒez, and pŷt up ði sœrd. A yēr ago þðdst dun me no roŷ. But tō-da þðdst hav slān me a man ov mīn ōn men, and a lord ov Demonland."

Nŕ hven ōa had dun ōēr greiŕz, ōa wŕft ōēr handz and sāt at dīner and wer nŕble servd and fēsted. And ōe Lord Džus mād pēs betwikst Gro and Gazlark, ōlbeit twŕz no līt tāsƙ tŕ prevāl ũpon Gazlark tŕ forgiv him. Đarāfter ōa retīrd ōem wiō Gazlark and Lā Firēz intŕ a tƒāمبر apart.

Gazlark ōe kiŕ spāk and sed, "Nun kan gānsa it, O Džus, ōat ōis fīt ye wun lāst harvest tīd wŕz ōe gratest sēn on land ōēz mēne yērz, and ov gratest konsekwens. But I hav herd a berd siŕ ōēr ƒal be yet grater dēdz dun ēr mēne mŕonz be pāst. Đērfoer it iz we kām hīōer tŕ ōe, I and Lā Firēz ōat be yor frendz from ov ōld, tŕ pra ōe let us go wiō ōe on ōi kwest akros ōe werld āfter ōi brŕōer, for soro ov huŕz los ōe huŕl werld langwīƒeƒ; and đarāfter let us go wiō u on yor goiŕ up tŕ Karse."

"O Džus," sed ōe Prins, "we wŕd not in āfter-dāz ōat men ƒŕd sa, On sutƒ a tīm fērd ōe Demonz intŕ pērilŕs landz entƒānted and bi ōēr strenƒ and vālorŕsnes set fre ōe Lord Gŕldre Bluzko (or haple, ōēr ended ōēr līfs dāz in ōat glŕereŕs kwest); but Gazlark and Lā Firēz wer not in it, ōa bad ōēr frendz fērwel, huŕ up ōēr sŕerdz, and livd a kwiet and mēre līf in Zādze Zakulo. So let ōēr mēmore be forgot."

Lord Džus sat silent a mīnŕt, az wun mutƒ mŕovd. "O Gazlark," he sed at lenƒ, "Ī tāk ōīn ōfer wiōŕt anŕōer werd. But untŕ ōe, dēr Prins, I must bēr mīn hart sumhuŕt. For ōŕ hēr art kum not strest in ŕr kworel tŕ spend ōi blud, ōnle tŕ pŕt us yet deper in ōi det. And yet smŕl blām it wer tŕ ōe ƒŕdst ōŕ in disŕnorabel sort revīl me, az mēne ƒal kri ŕt agānst me, for a fŕls frend intŕ ōe and a frend forsworn."

But ōe Prins Lā Firēz brāk in ũpon him, saiŕ, "I pŕŕōe hav dun, or ƒŕlt ƒām me kwīt. Huŕtēr I did in Karse, twŕz but ēkwāl pament for yor saviŕ ov mi līf in Lidā Nangunā. So wŕz ōl evend up betwikst us. Pīnk ōen no mŕer ont, but deni me not tŕ go wiō u tŕ Impland. But up tŕ Karse Ī not go wiō u: for ōlbeit I am klēn brŕk wiō Witƒland, agānst Korund and hiz kin I wil not drŕ sŕerd nor agānst mi lade sister. A blak kers on ōe da I gāv her huīt hand tŕ Korund! Se hŕldeƒ tŕ mutƒ ov ŕr stok, mēpinks: her hēraldre iz harts not handz. And gīviŕ her hand ƒe gāv her hart. Tiz a strāndz werld."

"Lā Firēz," sed Džus, "we wa not so lītle ŕr obligāƒon untŕ ōe. Yet must I hŕld mi kŕers; hāviŕ swŕern a stronƒ

ōp ðat I wōd tern asīd niðer tō ðe rīt nor tō ðe  
left until I had delīverd mi dēr brūðer Gōldre ʒt ov  
bondādʒ. So swēr I or ēver I went ðat il dʒerne tō Karse  
and wōz klōzd in prizon fāst and bi ðe delīverd. Nor fal  
blām ov frendz nor roŋful misprizon nor ěne pʒer ðat iz  
fāk me in ðis determinaʒon. But hven ðat iz dun, no rest  
remanep untō us til we win bak for ðe ði rītful relm  
ov Pīksiland, and mēne gōd þiŋz besīdz tō be a token ov ʒr  
luv."

Sed ðe Prins, "Ðʒ dōost rīt. If ðʒ didst ũðer  
þʒdst hav mi blām."

"And mīn ðērtō," sed Gazlark. "Dō not I grēv, þinkst  
ðʒ, tō se ðe Prinses Armelīn, mi swēt yuŋ kūzin,  
gro ěvere da mœr wōn o' ðe tʒĕk and pāl? And ôl for  
soro and tēn for her ōn tru luv, ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko.  
And Je so kērfōole brōt up bi her mūðer az nūþiŋ wōz  
tō dēr or hard tō be brōt tō pās for her dezīr, þinkīŋ  
ðat a krētʒūr so nobel and perfekt kōd not be trānd up  
tō dĕlikātle. I dēm tō-da bĕter ðan tō-moro, and  
tō-moro bĕter ðan hiz moro, tō set sāl for wīd-frunted  
Impland."

Ôl ðis hūl ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ sed nĕver a werd. He sat  
bak in hiz tʒĕr ov ivore and krisoprāz, nʒ tqiŋ wið hiz  
gōlden finger-riŋz, nʒ twistiŋ and untwistiŋ ðe yĕlo  
kerlz ov hiz mōstāʒeōz and bĕrd. In a hūl he yōnd, rōz  
from hiz sĕt and fel tō pasiŋ lazile up and dʒn. He had  
hitʒt up hiz sœrd akros hiz bak under hiz tō elbōz, so  
ðat ðe ʒō ov ðe skābard stōd ʒt under wun arm and ðe  
dʒueld hilt under ðe ũðer. Hiz fingerz strumd lītēl  
tʒūnz on ðe frunt ov ðe ritʒ rōz velvet dublet ðat kāst  
hiz tʒĕst. Ðe sprīŋ sunlīt az he pāst from ʒīn tō ʒād  
and tō ʒīn agān, pāsīŋ ðe tōl windōz, sēmd tō kares  
hiz fās and form. It wōz az if sprīŋ lâft for dʒŋ  
behōldiŋ in him wun ðat wōz her ōn tʒīld, klōðd tō ʒtword  
vu wið so mutʒ luvlines and grās, but ʒl besīdz tō ðe  
īz and finger-tips wið ʒīr and vital sap, līk her ōn budz  
berstiŋ in ðe Brankdāl kōpisez.

In a hūl he sĕst hiz wōkiŋ, and stōd bi ðe Lord Gro hōo  
sat a lītēl part from ðe rest. "Hʒ þinkst ðʒ, Gro, ov  
ʒr kʒnselz? Art ðʒ for ðe strāt rōd or ðe krōked?  
For Karse or Zorâ Rax?"

"Ov ðe rōdz," ānserd Gro, "a wīz man wil tʒūz ěver ðat  
wun hūitʒ iz indirekt. For but konsīder ðe māter, ðʒ ðat  
art a grāt kragzman: þink ʒr līfs kœrs a lofte klif. I

am tō klīm it, sumtīm up, sumtīm dǫn. I pra, hūðer  
ledeþ ðe strāt rōd on sutf a klif? Hvi, nohūðer. For  
if I wil go up bi ðe strāt wa, tiz not pōsibel; I am  
left gapiŋ hūlz ðǫ bi krūked kærsez hast gānd ðe top.  
Or if dǫn, hvi tiz eze and swift; but ðen, no mæc klimiŋ  
ēver mæc for me. And ðǫ, klamberiŋ dǫn bi ðe krūked wa,  
falt fīnd me a ded and unsītle korps at ðe bōtom."

"Grāmerse for ði mēz and ðēz," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ.  
"Wel, tiz a mōst wate prinsipel, bakt wið a mōst dǫst  
and līvle ekspozīfon. Hǫ dust ðǫ interpret ði maksim in ǫr  
prēzent kwestfon?"

Lord Gro lukt up at him. "Mi lord, u hav ūzd me wel, and  
tō dezerv yor luv and advāns yor fortfūnz I hav ponderd  
mutf hǫ u ov Demonland mīt best obtān revendǫ ūpon yor  
ēnemēz. And I dale þinkiŋ herūpon, and konseviŋ in mi  
hed diverz imādǫinafonz, kan devīz no mēnz but wun ðat in  
mi fanse semeþ best, hvi f iz ðis."

"Let me hēr it," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ.

Sed Gro, "Twōz ēver a fōlt in u Demonz ðat u wōd not  
persēv hǫ tiz oft-tīmz gōd tō drō ðe snāk from her  
hōl bi anūðer manz hand. Konsīder nǫ yor māter. U hav  
a grāt færs bōþ for land and se. Trust not tō mutf in  
ðat. Oft hap he ov ðe lītel færs ōrkōm mōst pǫerful  
ēnemēz, goiŋ abǫt tō entrap ðem bi slīt and pōlise. But  
konsīder yet agān. U hav a þiŋ iz miteer far ðan ōl  
yor horsez and spērmen and drāgonz ov wor, miteer ðan  
ðīn ōn scærd, mi lord, and ðǫ akǫnted ðe best scærdzman  
in ōl ðe werld."

"Hvōt þiŋ iz ðat?" āskt he.

Gro ānserd, "Reputafon, mi Lord Brandox Dahâ. Ðis  
reputafon ov u Demonz for open deliŋz even tō yor werst  
ēnemēz."

"Tuf," sed he. "Tiz but ǫr wa i' ðe werld. Mærover,  
tiz, I þink, a þiŋ natfural in grāt personz, ov hvōtsoēver  
kuntre ða be born. Tretfere and dūbel deliŋ prosēd  
kōmonle from fēr, and ðat iz a þiŋ hvi f I þink no man in  
ðis land komprehendeþ. Miself, I dō þink ðat hven ðe hi  
Godz mād a person ov mi kwōlite ða trāst twēn hiz tō īz  
sumþiŋ, I no not hvōt, hvi f ðe kōmon sort derst not  
lūk ūpon wīðǫt trembliŋ."

"Giv me but lēv," sed Lord Gro, "and lī pluk u a  
braver triumf in a lītel ǫr ðan yor scærdz fōd win u

in tō yērz. Spēk smōð werdz tō Witfland, ōfer him kompozīfon, briņ him tō a kōnsil and ōl hiz grāt men alon wið him. Ī so devīz it, ða fal ōl be sūdenle taken of in a nīt, hable bi sētiņ ūpon ðem in ðēr bedz, or az we ma fīnd mōst konvēnyent. Ōl sāv Korund and hiz sunz; ðem we ma wīzle spēr, and konklūd pēs wið ðem. It fal not bi ten dāz dela yor salīņ tō Impland, hūðer u mīt ðen prosēd wið līt harts and mīndz sat ēz."

"Vēre pŕītile konsēvd, ūpon mi sōl," sed Brandox Dahā.  
"Mīt I advīz ðe, þōdst best not tōk tō Dzus i' ðis māner. Not nŕ, I mēn, hūl hiz mīndz so bent on māterz ov wāt and moment. Nor I fūd not sa it tō mi sister Mevrean. Wīmen wil oft-tīmz tāk in sad ernest sutf a konsēt, ðo it be but tōk and diskœrs. Wið me tiz ūðerwīz. I am sumpiņ ov a filōsofer miself, and ði dżest ambleþ wið mi humor vēre plēzantle."

"Ðŕ art plēzd tō be mēre," sed Lord Gro. "Mēne ēr nŕ, az ðe event hap prōvd, rēdżekted mi hūlsum kōnselz tō ðēr ōn grāt hert."

But Brandox Dahā sed lītle, "Fēr not, mi Lord Gro, wēl rēdżekt no ōnest rēdz ov so wīz a kōnselor az ðŕ. But," and hēr wōz a līt in ðe i ov him mād Gro startel, "did ēne man wið sereŕs intent dēr bid me dō a dāstard dēd, he fūd hav mi sœrd þrō ðe derest part ovz bōde."

Lord Brandox Dahā nŕ ternd him tō ðe rest ov ðem. "Dzus," sed he, "frend ov mi hart, mesemeþ yar ōl ov wun mīnd, and nun ov mi mīnd. Ī ēn bid u fērwel. Fērwel, Gazlark; fērwel, Lā Firēz."

"But hūðer awa?" sed Dzus, standiņ up from hiz tfēr.  
"Ðŕ must not lēv us."

"Hūðer but tō mīn ōn plās?" sed he, and wōz gon from ðe tfāmber.

Gazlark sed, "Hēz mutf insenst. Hūôt hast ðŕ dun tō anger him?"

Mevrean sed tō Dzus, "Ī fōlo and kool him." Σe went, but soon reternd saiņ, "No avāl, mi lordz. He iz rīden fœrþ from Galīņ and awa az fāst az hiz hors mīt käre him."

Nŕ wer ða ōl in a grāt stfu, sum kondżektfuriņ wun þiņ and sum anūðer. Ōnle ðe Lord Dzus kept silens and a kālm kōntenans, and ðe Lade Mevrean. And Dzus sed at lenþ tō Gazlark, "Ðis it iz, ðat he tfafep at ēvere dāz dela ðat

lëteþ him from häviŋ at Korinyus. Serts, Ī not blām him, noiŋ ðe vīl indzurēz ðe fēlo did him and hiz insolens tæword ðe, mǎdam. Be not trūbeld. Hiz ōn self ƒal briŋ him bak tæ me hven tīm iz, az no ũðer pþer ƒud dæ gānst hiz ƒud wil; he huoz grāt hart Hēven kanot færs wið færs."

And even so, ðe nekst nīt âfter, hven fōk wer abed and aslēp, Dʒus, in hiz hi bed-tƒāmbes sītiŋ lāt at hiz bōk, herd a bridel riŋ. So he kōld hiz bōz tæ go wið him wið tortƒez tæ ðe gāt. And ðēr in ðe dānsiŋ tortƒ-līt kām ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ a-ridiŋ into Galin Kâsel, and sumhuôt ov ðe bignes ov a grāt pumpkin tīd in a silken kloþ huŋ at hiz sādels-bo. Dʒus met him in ðe gāt alōn. "Let me dŕn from mi hors," he sed, "and resēv from me ði bedfēlo ðat ðŕ must slēp wið bi ðe Lāk ov Ravare."

"Ðŕ hast göten it?" sed Dʒus. "Ðe hīpogrifs eg, ŕt ov Dʒūl Tarn, bi ðiself alōn?" and he tuk ðe bundel rīt tenderle in hiz tæ handz.

"I," ānserd he. "Twōz huēr ðŕ and I mād ƒūr ov it lāst sūmer, akordiŋ tæ ðe werd ov her lītel martlet ðat ferst ƒōnd it for us. Ðe tarn wōz frozen and twōz trīke werk diviŋ and mōst vīlanŕs kōld. It iz smōl marvel ðŕt a lūke man in ðīn undertakiŋz, O Dʒus, hven ðŕ hast sutƒ an art tæ drō ði frendz tæ sēkond ðe."

"I þōt þŕdst not lēv me," sed Dʒus.

"Þōt?" krīd Brandox Dahâ. "Didst ēver drēm Īd sūfer ðe tæ dæ ði ƒooliƒnesez alōn? Na, Ī kum ferst tæ ðe entƒānted lāk wið ðe, and let be Karse i' ðe mēntīm. Hŕbeit Ī dæ it gānst ðe strēm ov mi rezoluƒon kwīt."

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Nŕ wōz but siks dāz mæer ov preparaƒon, and on ðe sēkond da ov Āpril wōz ōl rēde in Lŕkiŋhaven for ðe saliŋ ov ðat mite armament: fīte and nīn ƒips ov wor and ƒiv ƒips ov berðen and þrīs tæ þŕzand ƒitiŋ men.

Lade Mevrean sat on her milk-hūit mēr overlŕkiŋ ðe harbor huēr ðe ƒips ōl orderle rōd at ankor, ƒādoe gra agānst ðe sun-brīt ƒīmer ov ðe se, wið hēr and ðēr a splaf ov kŕlor, krimzon or blu or grās-grēn, from ðēr pānted hulz or a bēm ov ðe sun glānsiŋ from ðēr gōlden māsts or ƒigūr-hedz. Gro stōd at her bridel-rān. Ðe Galin rōd, wīndiŋ dŕn from Haverƒō Turŋ, ran klōs belo ðem

and so alon ðe se-fær tœ ðe kēz at Lōkinhaven. Alon  
ðat rōd ðe hard erp ran wið ðe tramp ov armd men and  
ðe tramp ov horsez, and ðe līt west wind wōfted tœ Gro and  
Mevrean on ðēr grāse hil snatfez ov dēp-vqst  
bātel-tfānts or ðe gālopiņ nōts ov trumpet and pīp and  
ðe drum ðat sets menz harts a-þrob.

In ðe van rōd ðe Lord Zig, fær trumpeterz wōkiņ befær  
him in gōld and perpel. Hiz armor from tfin tœ to fon wið  
silver, and dzuelz blāzd on hiz gordzet and bōldrik and ðe  
hilt ov hiz loņ strāt scærd. He rōd a blak stāleon  
sāvādž-īd wið ērz lād bak and a tāl ðat swept ðe  
erp. A grāt kumpane ov hors fōlōd him, and hāf az mēne  
tōl spērmen, in rūset lēðer dzerkinz plated wið brās and  
silver. "Ðēz," sed Mevrean, "be ov Keliland and ðe  
fær-stedz ov Āroferþ, and hiz ōn vāsālādž from  
Rāmerik and Amadardāl. Ðat iz Hesper Golþriņ rideþ a  
lītel behīnd him on hiz rīt hand; he lūveþ tœ þiņz in  
ðis werld, a gud hors and a swift fip. He on ðe left, he  
o' ðe helm ov dul silver set wið ravenz wiņz, so loņ ov  
ðe leg þōdst sa if he rōd a lītel hors he mīt  
strādel and wōk it: Sterkmer ov Blakwūd. He iz ov þr kin;  
not yet twente yērz ōld, yet sins Krōðeriņ Sīd akūnted  
wun ov þr āblest."

So fe fōd him ōl az ða rōd bi, Pēridor ov Σūl, kaptān  
ov ðe Melanderz, and hiz něfu Stipmar. Fendor ov Σalgreþ  
wið Emeron Galt hiz yuņ brūðer, ðat wōz nule hēld from  
ðe grāt wœnd Korinyus gāv him at Krōðeriņ Sīd; ðēz  
lediņ ðe fepherdz and herdzmen from ðe grāt hēps norþ  
ov Switfwōter, hœ wil hōld bi ðe stīrup and so wið ðēr  
līt buklerz and lītel brūn scærdz go into bātel wið ðe  
horsmen fūl gālop agānst ðe ēneme. Bremere in hiz  
ramz-horn helm ov gōld and brqderd serkōt ov skarlet  
velvet, lediņ ðe dālzmen from Onwordlīð and  
Tivarandardāl. Trentmar ov Skoradāl wið ðe norþ-ēstern  
lēvēz from Biland and ðe Strandz and Brakiņdāl. Astar ov  
Retra, lēn and līð, bone-fāst, gālant-īd, hūit ov  
skin, wið brīt red hēr and bērd, ridiņ hiz luvle rōn at  
ðe hed ov tœ kumpanēz ov spērmen wið hūdž īrn-stūded  
fēldz: men from abūt Drēpabe and ðe sļþ-ēstern dālz,  
landed men and hōm-men ov Lord Gōldre Bluzko. Ðen ðe iland  
dwēlerz from ðe west, wið ōld Kwaz ov Dalne ridiņ in ðe  
plās ov ōnor, nobel tœ lūk on wið hiz snoe bērd and  
fīniņ armor, but yunger men ðēr tru lederz in wor:  
Melxar ov Strufe, grāt-tfested, fērs-īd, wið pik  
brūn kerliņ hēr, horst on a plundziņ tjesnut, hiz berne  
brīt wið gōld, a ritf mantel ov kreme silk brokād fluņ  
abūt hiz ampel fōlderz, and Parmrod on hiz lītel blak  
mēr wið silver berne and bats-wiņd helm, he ðat held  
Kenarve in fe for Lord Brandox Dahâ, kēn and rēde līk an



āro drōn tōo ðe barbz. And āfter ðem ðe Westmark men, wið  
Arnund ov Bi ðêr kaptān. And āfter ðem, fœr hundred hors,  
not tōo be serpāst for bute or orderd ara bi ěne in ðat  
grāt arme, and yuŋ Kamerar ridiŋ at ðêr hed, berle az a  
džiant, strāt az a lâns, apāreld līk a kiŋ, bariŋ on  
hiz mite spēr ðe pēnon ov ðe Lord ov Krōðeriŋ.

"Lŭk wel on ðēz," sed Mevrean az ða pāst bi. "Ūr ōn  
men ov ðe Sīd and Punderferþ and Stropardon. ÐŪ māst  
sertf ðe wīd werld and not fīnd ðêr līk for spēd and  
fir and ōl worlīk gŭdlines and rēdines tōo ðe werd ov  
komānd. ÐŪ lŭkst sad, mi lord."

"Mādam," sed Lord Gro, "tōo ðe ēr ov wun ðat uzeþ, az I  
ūs, tōo konsīder ðe vānite ov ōl hi erþle pomps, ðe  
muzik ov ðēz pþerz and glœrēz hap a dēp underdrōn ov  
sadnes. Kiŋz and gŭvernorz ðat dōo eksult in strenþ and  
bute and lustihŭd and ritf apārel, fōiŋ ðemselvz for  
āhŭl ūpon ðe stādž ov ðe werld and open dominyon ov hi  
hēven, hŭt ar ða but ðe gilded sŭmer fli ðat dekaeþ  
wið ðe diiŋ da?"

"Mi brŭðer and ðe rest must not sta for us," sed ðe lade.  
"Ða ment tōo go aboard az sœon az ðe arme fŭd be kum  
dŭn tōo ðe harbor, for ðêr fips be tōo sāl Ūt ferst dŭn  
ðe ferþ. Iz it determīnd indēd ðat ðŪ gōst wið ðem on  
ðis dzerne?"

"I had so determīnd, mādam," ānserd he. Se wōz bēgīniŋ tōo  
mœon dŭn tōowordz ðe rōd and ðe harbor, but Gro put a hand  
on ðe rān and stopt her. "Dēr lade," he sed, "ðēz þre  
nīts tŭgēðer I hav drēmd a drēm: a strāndž drēm, and  
ōl ðe partīkularz ðarov betokeniŋ hēve anksiete, inkrēs  
ov pēril, and sāvādž mistfēf; prōmisiŋ sum tēribel īfu.  
Mēþinks if I go on ðis dzerne ðŪ falt se mi fās no  
mœr."

"O fi, mi lord," krīd fe, rētfiŋ him her hand, "giv nēver  
a þōt tōo sutf fond imadziniŋz. Twōz ðe mœon but glānsiŋ  
in ðīn i. Or if not, sta wið us hēr and tŷēt Fāt."

Gro kist her hand, and kept it in hiz. "Mi Lade Mevrean," he  
sed, "Fāt wil not be tŷeted, kog we nēver so wīzle. I dōo  
þink ðêr be not mēne ekstant ðat in a nobel wa fēr ðe  
fās ov dep les ðan miself. Īl go o' ðis dzerne. Ðêr  
iz but wun þiŋ fŭd tern me bak."

"And tiz?" sed fe, for he fel silent on a sŭden.

He pōzd, lŭkiŋ dŭn at her gluvd hand restiŋ in hiz. "A

man bekūmeþ hærs and dum," sed he, "if a wɔlf haþ ðe advântādƷ ferst tɔ i him. Didst ðʒ prokūr ðe a wɔlf tɔ dum me hven I wɔd tel ðe? But I did wuns; enuf tɔ let ðe no. O Mevrean, dust ðʒ remember Nēverdāl?"

He lɔkt up at her. But Mevrean sat wið hed erekt, līk her Pātrones divīn, wið swēt kool lips set ferm and stēde īz fikst on ðe haven and ðe ridiŋ Ʒips. DƷentle Ʒe dru her hand from Grōz, and he strōv not tɔ retān it. Σe ēzd forword ðe rānz. Gro mʒnted and fōlōd her. Ða rōd kwietle dʒn tɔ ðe rōd and so sʒpword sīd bi sīd tɔ ðe harbor. Êr ða kām wiðin ērfot ov ðe ke, Mevrean spāk and sed, "Þʒlt not þink me grāsles nor forgetfɔl, mi lord. Ôl ðat iz mīn, O âsk it, and lī giv it ðe wið bōþ handz. But âsk me not ðat I hav not tɔ giv, or if I gāv Ʒud giv but fōls gōld. For ðats a þiŋ not Ʒud for ðe nor me, nor I wɔd not dɔ it tɔ an ěneme, far les tɔ ðe mi friend."

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Nʒ wōz ðe arme ôl gōten āƷipbœrd, and fêrwelz sed tɔ Vol and ðōz huɔ Ʒud abīd at hōm wið him. Ðe Ʒips rōd ʒt intɔ ðe ferþ ôl orderle, ðēr silken sālz unferld, and ðat grāt armament sāld sʒpword intɔ ðe open sēz under a klēr ski. Ôl ðe wa ðe wind favord ðem, and ða mād a swift pāsādƷ, so ðat on ðe þerteep morniŋ from ðēr saliŋ ʒt ov Lɔkiŋhaven ða sited ðe loŋ gra klif-līn ov Impland ðe Mœr dim in ðe lo blōn spra ov ðe se, and sāld þrɔ ðe Strāts ov Melikafkaz in kōlum ahead, for skêrs mīt tɔ Ʒips pās abrest þrɔ ðat nāro wa. Blak prēsipisez Ʒut in ðe strāts on iðer hand, and ðe se-berdz in ðēr þʒzandz hwtend ěvere lītēl ledƷ ov ðōz klifs līk sno. Grāt flīts ov ðem rōz and serkeld overhed az ðe Ʒips sped bi, and ðe êr wōz fɔl ov ðēr plānts. And rīt and left, az ov yuŋ huālz bloiŋ, kōlumz ov huīt spra fot up kontīnuale from ðe serfās ov ðe se. For ðēz wer ðe stātē-wiŋd gānets fīƷiŋ ðat se-strāt. Bi þrēz and fœrz ða flu, ētƷ fōloŋ ũðer in orderd līn, mēne māst-hīts hi; and ěver and anon wun tƷekt in her flīt az if a bolt had smīten her, and swɔpt hed-fœrmōst wið wiŋz hāf-spred, līk a brōd-barbd dart ov dazliŋ huītnes, til at a fu fēt abuv ðe serfās Ʒe klapt klōs her wiŋz and kleft ðe wōter wið a nqz az ov a grāt stōn kâst intɔ ðe se. Ðen in a moment up Ʒe bobd, huīt and sprūs wið her pra in her Ʒūlet; rōd ðe wāvz a mīnūt tɔ rest and konsīder; ðen wið grāt swepiŋ wiŋ-strōks up agān tɔ rēzūm her flīt.

After a mīl or too ðe nārōz opend and ðe klifs gru  
loer, and ðe flēt sped pāst ðe red rēfs ov Uāmnaz and ðe  
lofte staks ov Paŋnemaŋprā huīt wið se-gulz on too ðe  
blu sōlitfūd ov ðe Didornyan Se. Ôl da ða sāld  
sǫp-ēst wið a faliŋ wind. Ðe kōstlīn ov Melikafkaz  
fel awa astern, pāld in ðe mists ov distans, and wōz lost  
too sīt, until ōnle ðe skwēr kloven ʒtlīn ov ðe  
Paŋnemaŋðran ilandz brōk ðe lēvel horizon ov ðe se. Ðen  
ðēz too sank ʒt ov sīt, and ðe ʒips rōd on  
sǫp-ēstword in a ded kālm. Ðe sun stœpt too ðe western  
wāvz, enteriŋ hiz bāp ov blud-red fir. He sank, and ôl  
ðe wāz wer darkend. Ôl nīt ða rōd dzentle on under  
ðe strāndz sūðern starz, and ðe broken wōterz ov ðat se  
at ēvere œr-strōk wer līk fir berniŋ. Ðen ʒt ov ðe se  
too ēstword kām ðe da-star, ūferiŋ ðe dōn, briter ðan  
ôl nīts starz, trasiŋ a lītēl pāp ov gōld alon ʒe  
wōterz. Ðen dōn, filiŋ ðe lo ēstern skīz wið a flēt  
ov tine kōkel-felz ov brīt gōld fir; ðen ðe grāt fās  
ov ðe sun ablāz. And wið ðe goiŋ up ov ðe sun a līt  
wind spraŋ up, bēleiŋ ðēr sālz on ðe starbord tak; so  
ðat êr da deklīnd ðe se-klifs ov Mūlvā huŋ huīt abuv  
ðe spra-mist on ðēr larbord bʒ. Ða bētʒt ðe ʒips on  
a huīt fel-strand behīnd a hedland ðat felterd it from  
ðe ēst and norp. Hēr ðe bāreer ov klifs stōd bak a  
lītēl from ðe ʒœr, giviŋ plās for a fertīl del ov grēn  
pāstfūr, and wōdz klusteriŋ at ðe ʒot ov ðe klifs, and a  
lītēl sprīŋ ov wōter in ðe midst.

So for ðat nīt ða slept on bærd, and nekst da mād ðēr  
kamp, distʒardziŋ ðe ʒips ov berðen ðat wer laden wið ðe  
horsez and stuf. But ðe Lord Dʒus wōz mīnded not too tāre an  
ʒr mœr in Mūlvā ðan ʒud sufīs too giv ôl nēdfōl  
orderz too Gazlark and Lā Firēz huôt ða ʒud dœ and hven  
ekspekt him agān, and too māk provīzon for himself and ðōz  
huœ must fêr wið him beʒond ðēz ʒādoiŋ klifs into ðe  
hōnted wāsts ov ðe Morunā. Êr nœn wōz ôl ðis  
akumpliʒt and fêrwelz sed, and ðēz lordz, Dʒus,  
Spitfir, and Brandox Dahā, set ʒœrþ alon ðe bētʒ  
sǫpword toowordz a pœnt huēr it sēmd mōst hōpfōl too skāl  
ðe klifs. Wið ðem went ðe Lord Gro, bōp bi hiz ōn wiʒ  
and bekōz he had nōn ðe Morunā afœrtīm and ðēz  
partīkular parts ðarov; and wið ðem went besīdz ðōz too  
brūðerz-in-lō, Zig and Astar, bariŋ ðe præʒʒs berden ov  
ðe eg, for ðat ōnor and trust had Dʒus lād on ðem at  
ðēr ernest sekiŋ. So wið sum pānz after an ʒr or mœr  
ða wun up ðe bāreer, and hōltd for a mīnūt on ðe klifs  
edʒ.

Ðe skin ov Grōz handz wōz hert wið ðe ʒarp roks. Tenderle

he dru on hiz lamzwøl gluvz, and fiverd a lītel; for ðe  
brēp ov ðat dēzert blu snel and fror and ðēr sēmd a  
fādo in ðe êr sǫpword, for ôl it wōz brīt and dʒentel  
wēðer belo huens ða wer kum. Yet ôlbeit hiz frāl bōde  
kwāld, even so wer hiz spīrits wiðin him rāzd wið hi  
and nobel imadziniņz az he stōd on ðe lip ov ðat rōke  
klif. Ðe klīdles vōlt ov hēven; ðe ūnumberd lāfter  
ov ðe se; ðat kwiet kōv benēp, and ðōz fīps ov wor and  
ðat arme kampiņ bi ðe fīps; ðe emptines ov ðe blāsted  
wōldz tō sǫpword, huēr ēvere rok sēmd līk a ded manz  
skul and ēvere rank tuft ov grās hag-rīden; ðe bariņ ov  
ðōz lordz ov Demonland huō stōd besīd him, az if nōt  
fōd be ov kōmoner kœers tō ðem perfuiņ ðēr rezolv  
ðan tō tern ðēr baks on līviņ land and enter ðōz rēdʒonz  
ov ðe ded; ðēz piņz wið a pǫer az ov a mite muzik  
mād Grōz brēp katf in hiz prōt and ðe tēr sprīņ in  
hiz i.

In sutf wīz āfter mœer ðan tō yērz did Lord Dʒus bēgin hiz  
sēkond krōsiņ ov ðe Morunā in kwest ov hiz dēr brūðer ðe  
Lord Gōldre Bluzko.

28. Zorā Rax Nam Sāreon

OV ÐE LORD DʒŪSEZ RIDIŅ OV ÐE HĪPOGRIF TŌO ZORĀ RAX, AND  
OV ÐE ILZ ENKŪNTERD BI HIM IN ÐAT AKERST PLĀS, AND ÐE  
MĀNER OV HIZ PERFORMIŅ HIZ GRĀT ENTERPRĪZ TŌO DELĪVER HIZ  
BRŪÐER ʒT OV BONDĀDʒ.

Luld wið līt-stūriņ êrz tō dʒentel-soft tō rūfel her  
glāse serfās, worm insens-laden êrz swēt wið ðe perfūm  
ov imortal flǫerz, ðe tʒarmd Lāk ov Ravare drēmd under  
ðe mœn. It wōz ðe lāst ʒr befœer ðe dōn. Entfānted  
bōts, ðat sēmd bilded ov ðe glo-wermz līt, drifted on  
ðe stāre buzom ov ðe lāk. Over ðe slopiņ wudz ðe limz  
ov ðe mōntānz loerd, unmēzūrd, vāst, misterebbs in ðe  
mœnz glāmor. In remōt hi spasez ov nīt beʒond glīmerd  
ðe spīrz ov Koftrā Pivrarxā and ðe verdʒin snōz ov Romʒer  
and Koftrā Belorn. No berd or bēst mœovd in ðe stilnes:  
ōnle a nitingāl sīņiņ tō ðe starz from a kōpīs ov  
ōlīv-trēz nēr ðe Kwēnz pavīleon on ðe ēstern ʒœr. And  
ðat wōz a nōt not līk a berdz ov mīdel erp, but a nōt  
tō tʒarm dʒn spīrits ʒt ov ðe êr, or tō wītʒ ðe  
impēriʒabel sensez ov ðe Godz huen ða wud hōld komūnyon  
wið hole Nīt and māk her perfekt, and ôl her lamps and  
vqsez perfekt in ðēr īz.

Ðe silken hǎnjinz ov ðe pavileon dœr, partiŋ az in ðe portal ov a vīzon, mād wa for ðat Kwēn, fosterliŋ ov ðe mōst hi Godz. Se pōzd a step or tō beƳond ðe þrēfōld, lŋkiŋ dŋn hŋer ðōz lordz ov Demonland, Spitfir and Brandox Dahā, wið Gro and Zig and Astar, rapt in ðer klōks, la on ðe goane dzue banks ðat slōpt dŋn tō ðe wōterz edz.

"Aslēp," je hŋisperd. "Even az he wīðin slepeþ agānst ðe dōn. I dō þink it iz ōnle in a grāt manz brest slēp haþ so dzentel a bed huen grāt events ar tōword."

Līk a līle, or līk a mōonbēm strād þrō ðe lefe rōof intō a silent wōd, je stōd ðēr, her fās uplifted tō ðe stāre nīt hŋer ōl ðe ēr wōz drentft wið ðe silver rādžans ov ðe mōon. And nŋ in a soft vŋs je began suplikaŋon tō ðe Godz hŋitf ar from ēverlāstiŋ, kōliŋ ūpon ðem in tern bi ðer hole nāmz, ūpon gra-īd Pālas, and Apōlo, and Artemis ðe flēt Huntres, ūpon Afrodite, and Herā, Kwēn ov Hēven, and Arēz, and Hermēz, and ðe dark-trest Erþfaker. Nor wōz je afrād tō adres her hole prērz tō him hŋō from hiz vāld pœrtf besīd Ākeron and Lēpe Lāk bīndz tō hiz wil ðe dēvilz ov ðe under-glōom, nor tō ðe grāt Fāðer ov Ōl in Hŋōz sīt tīm from ðe bēginiŋ until tō-da iz but ðe dīpiŋ ov a wōnd intō ðe bŋndles oŋan ov eternite. So prād je tō ðe blēsed Godz, mōst ernestle rekwiriŋ ðem ðat under ðer kŋntenans mīt be ðat rīd, ðe līk hvarov erþ had not nōn: ðe ridiŋ ov ðe hīpogrif, not rafle and bi an as az hērtōfœr tō hiz ōn destrukŋon, but bi ðe man ov men hŋō wið klēn perpōs and rezoluŋon undismād fŋd enfors it käre him tō hiz harts dezīr.

Nŋ in ðe ēst beƳond ðe fēðere hiltops and ðe grāt sno wōl ov Romfer ðe gāts wer openiŋ tō ðe da. Ðe sleperz wakend and stōd up. Ðēr wōz a grāt nŋz from wīðin ðe pavileon. Ða ternd wīd-īd, and fœrþ ov ðe hǎnjinz ov ðe dœrwa kām ðat yuŋ þiŋ nu-hatft, pāl and dŋtful az ðe nu līt hŋitf trembeld in ðe ski. Dzus wōkt besīd it, hiz hand on ðe sǎfir mǎn. Hi and rēzolūt wōz hiz lŋk, az he gāv gud-moro tō ðe Kwēn, tō hiz brŋðer and hiz frendz. No werd ða sed, ōnle in tern gript him bi ðe hand. Ðe ŋr wōz ūpon ðem. For even az da stridiŋ on ðe ēstern sno-fēldz stormd nīt ŋt ov hi hēven, so and wið sutf swift inkrēs ov splendor wōz mīt bōdile and ðe dezīr ov ðe ūper ēr born in ðat wīld stēd. It ŋon az if lited bi a mōoniŋ lamp from wīðinword, snift ðe swēt moriŋ ēr and hŋinēd, pōiŋ ðe grās ov ðe wōter-sīd and tariŋ it up wið its klōz ov gōld. Dzus

pāted ðe krētƒūr artƒiŋ nek, lukt tō ðe bridel he had  
fited tō its mǫþ, māð ƒūr ov ðe fāseniŋz ov hiz armor,  
and lōsend in ðe skābard hiz grāt sœrd. And nǫ up spran  
ðe sun.

Ðe Kwēn sed, "Remember: hven ðǫ ƒalt se ðe lord ði  
brūðer in hiz ōn ƒāp, ðat iz no iluzon. Mistrust ōl  
els. And ðe ōlmitte Godz prezerv and kumfort ðe."

Ðērwið ðe hīpogrif, az if māðend wið ðe da-bēmz,  
plundʒd līk a wīld hors, spred wīd its rānbo pinyonz,  
rērd, and tuk wiŋ. But ðe Lord Dʒus wōz sprun astrīd ov  
it, and ðe grip ov hiz nēz on ðe ribz ov it wōz līk brazen  
klamps. Ðe ferm land sēmd tō ruƒ awa benēþ him tō ðe  
rēr; ðe lāk and ðe ƒœr and ilandz ðarov ƒōd in a  
moment smōl and remōt, and ðe ƒigūrz ov ðe Kwēn and hiz  
kompanyonz līk tǫz, ðen dots, ðen ƒrunken tō nūþiŋnes,  
and ðe vāst silens ov ðe ūper ēr opend and resēvd him  
intō ūter lōnlines. In ðat silens erþ and ski swerld  
līk ðe wīn in a ƒaken goblet az ðe wīld stēd rōketed  
hier and hier in grāt spiralz. A klǫd bīloe-hūit ƒut  
in ðe ski befœr ðem; briter and briter it gru in its  
dazliŋ hūitnes az ða sped tōwordz it, until ða tutƒt  
it and ðe glœre wōz dizolvd in a gra mist ðat gru stil  
darker and kōlder az ða flu til sūdenle ða emerdʒd from  
ðe ferðer sīd ov ðe klǫd intō a rādʒans ov blu and gōld  
blīndiŋ in its glœre. So for a hūil ða flu wið no set  
direkƒon, ōnle ēver hier, til at lenþ obēdʒent tō Dʒūsez  
māstere ðe hīpogrif sēst from hiz spœrts and ternd  
obēdʒentle westword, and so in a swift strāt kœrs,  
mǫntiŋ ēver, sped over Ravare tōwordz ðe departiŋ nīt.  
And nǫ indēd it wōz az if ða had vērile overtaken nīt in  
her western kāvz. For ðe ēr wakst darker abǫt ðem and  
ōlwāz darker, until ðe grāt pēks ðat stōd rǫnd Ravare  
wer hīden, and ōl ðe grēn land ov Zimeamveā, wið its  
plānz and wīndiŋ wōterz and hilz and uplandz and entƒānted  
wōdz, hīden and lost in an evil twilīt. And ðe ūper  
hēven wōz atēm wið pœrtents: huōl armēz ov men skermīƒiŋ  
in ðe ēr, drǫgonz, wīld bēsts, blūde stremerz, blaziŋ  
kōmets, fire strāks, wið ūðer aparīfonz innumerabel. But  
ōl silent, and ōl kōld, so ðat Dʒūsez handz and fēt wer  
numd wið ðe kōld and hiz muštāseōz stif wið hœr-frost.

Befœr ðem nǫ, invīzibel til nǫ, lōmd ðe gōnt pēk ov  
Zorā Rax, blak, wintre, and vāst, stil tǫeriŋ abuv ðem  
for ōl ða sœrd even hier, grand and lōnle abuv ðe  
frozen wāsts ov ðe Sāreon Glaƒerz. Dʒus stērd at ðat  
pēk til ðe wind ov ðēr flīt blīnded hiz īz wið tērz;  
but it wōz yet tō far for ēne glimps ov ðat huiƒ he  
hungerd tō behōld: no brazen sītadel, no koronal ov flām, no

wōtfer on ðe hīts. Zorâ, līk sum dark kwēn ov Hel ðat disdānz ðat prezumpfōs mortal īz fōd dêr tō lōk luvle on her dred butēz, dru akros her brō a vāl ov þunderklōd. Ða flu on, and ðat stēl-blu pōl ov þunderōs vapor rōld fōerþ til it kānopēd ōl ðe ski abuv ðem. Dzus tukt hiz tō handz for wormþ intō ðe fēðere armpits ov ðe hīpogrifs wiņz hvēr ðe wiņz dzqnd ðe krētūrz bōde. So bīter kōld it wōz, hiz vēre ibōlz wer frozen and fikst; but ðat pān wōz a līt þiņ besīd sumhōt he nō felt wīðin him ðe līk hvarov he nēver befōer had nōn: a dep-līk horror az ov ðe hōsles lōnlines ov naked spās, hvitf gript him at ðe hart.

Ða landed at lāst on a krag ov blak obsidzan stōn a lītel belo ðe klōd ðat hid ðe hiest roks. Ðe hīpogrif, krōtft on ðe stēp slōp, ternd its hed tō lōk on Dzus. He felt ðe krētūrz bōde benēþ him kwīver. Its ērz wer lād bak, its i wīd wið tēror. "Pōr tñld," he sed. "I hav brōt ðe an il dzerne, and ðō but wun þr hatft from ðe eg."

He dismōnted; and in ðat sām instant wōz berēvd. For ðe hīpogrif wið a hors-skrēm ov tēror tōk wiņ and vāniþt dōn ðe merk ēr, diviņ hedlōņ awa tō ēstword, bak tō ðe werld ov līf and sunlīt.

And ðe Lord Dzus stōd alōn in ðat rēdzon ov fēr and frost and ðe sōl-kwaliņ glōom, under ðe blak sūmit-roks ov Zorâ Rax.

Sētiņ, az ðe Kwēn had kōnseld him tō dō, hiz hvōl hart and mīnd on ðe dred gōl he intended, he ternd tō ðe ise klif. Az he klīmd ðe kōld klōd kūverd him, yet not so þik but he mīt se ten pasez distans befōer and abōt him az he went. Il sīts eno, and eno tō kwāl a stroņ manz rezoluþon, fōd in hiz pāþ: fāps ov damd fēndz and gorgonz ov ðe pit rūniņ in ðe wa, þrēteniņ him wið dep and dōm. But Dzus, grītiņ hiz tēþ, klīmd on and þrō ðem, ða beiņ unsubstanfal. Ðen up rōz an eldritf kri, "Hvōt man ov mīdel-erþ iz ðis ðat trubleþ þr kwiet? Māk an end! Kōl up ðe bāzilisks. Kōl up ðe Gōlden Bāzilisk, hvitf bloeþ ūpon and sēteþ on fir hvōtsoēver he sēþ. Kōl up ðe Stāre Bāzilisk, and hvōtso he sēþ it imēdzātle frinks up and pērīfēþ. Kōl up ðe Blūde Bāzilisk, hvō if he se or tutf ēne līviņ þiņ it floeþ awa so ðat nōt ðēr remaneþ but ðe bōnz!"

Ðat wōz a vq̄s tō frēz ðe mārō, yet he prest on, saiņ in himself, "Ōl iz iluzon, sāv ðat alōn je tōld

me ov." And nôt apêrd: ònle ðe silens and ðe kôld, and ðe roks gru ëver steper and ðêr îs-glâz mœer dândzerðs, and ðe dîfikulte lîk ðe dîfikulte ov ðôz Bäreerz ov Emfer, up huiƒ mœer ðan tœ yêrz ago he had fôlôd Brandox Dahâ and on huiƒ he had enkônterd and slân ðe bêst mantikorâ. Ðe lëden þrz drifted bi, and nð nît ƒut dðn, bîter and blak and silent. Sœer werines bôdile wôz kum ũpon Dzus, and hiz hvol sôl were wîðôl and nêr tœ dep az he enterd a sno-bêded gûle ðat kut dêp intœ ðe fâs ov ðe mðntân, ðêr tœ awât ðe da. He derst not slêp in ðat freziŋ nît; skêrsle dêrd he rest lest ðe kôld ƒud mâster him, but must kêp for ëver mœviŋ and stampiŋ and tƒafiŋ handz and fêt. And yet, az ðe slo nît krept bi, dep sêmd a dezirabel þiŋ ðat ƒud end sutƒ ũter werines.

Morniŋ kâm wið but a kôld ôlteraƒon ov ðe mist from blak tœ gra, diskloziŋ ðe sno-bðnd roks silent, drere, and ded. Dzus, enforsiŋ hiz hâf frozen limz tœ rêzûm ðe asent, beheld a sît ov wo tœ têribel for ðe i: a yuŋ man, helmd and grâðd in dark îrn, a blak-a-mœor wið gôgel-îz and hviƒ têþ agrin, hœ held bi ðe nek a fêr yuŋ lade neliŋ on her nêz and klâspiŋ hiz az in suplikaƒon, and he môt blûdile brandîfiŋ aloft hiz spêr ov siks ƒot ov leŋþ az mînded tœ rêv her ov her lîf. Ðis lade, seiŋ ðe Lord Dzus, krîd þt on him for sÿkor vœre pitƒðsle, kôliŋ him bi hiz nâm and saiŋ, "Lord Dzus ov Demonland, hav merse, and in yor triumf over ðe pðerz ov nît pôz for an instant tœ delîver me, pœor aflikted dâmozel, from ðis kruel tirant. Kan yor tðeriŋ spîrit, huiƒ haþ kworêd ũpon kiŋdomz, mâk a stœp at him? O ðat ƒud aprœv u nobel indêd, and bles u for ëver!"

Σurle ðe vœre hart ov him grônd, and he klapt hand tœ sœerd wîfiŋ tœ rît so kruel a roŋ. But on ðe moƒon he bêpôt him ov ðe wîlz ov evil ðat dwelt in ðat plâs, and ov hiz brÿðer, and wið a grât grôn pâst on. In huiƒ instant he beheld sîdloŋ hð ðe kruel merðerer smôt wið hiz spêr ðat dêlikât lade, and detrentƒt and kut ðe tœ mâster-vânz ov her nek, so az ƒe fel diiŋ in her blud. Dzus mðnted wið a grât pâs tœ ðe hed ov ðe gûle, and lœkiŋ bak beheld hð blak-a-mœor and lade bôþ wer tƒândzð tœ tœ kqlin serpents. And he labord on, ƒaken at hart, yet glad tœ hav so eskâpt ðe pðerz ðat wud hav lîmd him so.

Darker gru ðe mist, and hëveer ðe brœdiŋ dred huiƒ sêmd elemental ov ðe êrz abðt ðat mðntân. Pôziŋ wel



ni eksōsted on a smōl stāns ov sno Dzus beheld ðe  
aperans ov a man armd hū∞ rōld prostrāt in ðe wa,  
tariŋ wið hiz nālz at ðe hard rok and frozen sno, and  
ðe sno wōz ôl wun gœr ov blud benēþ ðe man; and ðe man  
besōt him in a stifeld vq̄s tō go no ferðer but rāz him  
up and briŋ him d̄h̄n ðe m̄htān. And hven Dzus, âfter an  
instants d̄h̄t betwikst p̄ite and hiz rezolv, wōd hav p̄ast  
bi, ðe man kr̄id and sed, "Hōld, for I am ði v̄ere brūðer  
ð̄l s̄ekst, ôlbeit ðe Kiŋ hap bi hiz art frāmd me tō  
anūðer l̄iknes, hopiŋ so tō delūd ðe. For ði luv sāk  
be not deluded!" N̄l ðe vq̄s wōz l̄ik tō ðe vq̄s ov hiz  
brūðer Gōldre, h̄lbeit w̄ek. But ðe Lord Dzus b̄þp̄ot him  
agān ov ðe werdz ov Sofonizbā ðe Kw̄en, ðat he f̄ud se  
hiz brūðer in hiz ōn f̄ap and nōt els must he trust; and  
he þ̄ot, "It iz an iluzon, ðis ôlso." So he sed, "If  
ðat ð̄l be trule mi d̄er brūðer, tāk ði f̄ap." But ðe  
man kr̄id az wið ðe vq̄s ov ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko, "I ma  
not, til ðat I be brōt d̄h̄n from ðe m̄htān. Briŋ me  
d̄h̄n, or mi kers be ūpon ðe for ēver."

Ðe Lord Dzus wōz tærn wið p̄ite and d̄h̄t and wunder, tō h̄er  
ðat vq̄s agān ov hiz d̄er brūðer so besēt̄fiŋ him. Yet he  
ânserd and sed, "Brūðer, if ðat it be ð̄l ind̄ed, ðen  
b̄id til I hav wun tō ðis m̄htān top and ðe s̄itadel ov  
brās h̄itf in a drēm I sō, ðat I ma no trule ð̄l art  
not ð̄er, but h̄er. Ðen wil I tern agān and s̄ukor ðe.  
But until I se ðe in ð̄in ōn f̄ap I wil mistrust ôl.  
For h̄iðer I kām from ðe endz ov ðe erp̄ tō delīver ðe,  
and I wil set mi ḡud on no d̄h̄tful k̄ast, h̄aviŋ spent so  
mutf and p̄ut so mutf in dāndzer for ði d̄er sāk."

So wið a h̄eve hart he set hand agān tō ðōz blak roks,  
t̄st and sl̄ipere tō ðe tutf. Ð̄erwið up rōz an eldritf  
kri, "R̄ēdzq̄s, for ðis erp̄-born iz mad! R̄ēdzq̄s, for ðat  
wōz not perfekt frend, ðat relinkwiŋt hiz brūðer at hiz  
n̄ed!" But Dzus kl̄imd on, and bi and bi lōkiŋ bak beheld  
h̄l in ðat semiŋ manz plās r̄iðd a grizful serpent. And  
he wōz glad, so mutf az gladnes m̄it be in ðat m̄htān ov  
aflik̄jon and desp̄er.

N̄l wōz hiz strenþ n̄er gon, az da dru agān tōword n̄it  
and he kl̄imd ðe lāst kragz under ðe p̄ek ov Zorā. And he,  
hū∞ had ôl hiz dāz drunk d̄ep ov ðe f̄htān ov ðe dz̄q̄ ov  
l̄if and ðe gl̄ære and ðe wunder ov beiŋ, felt ēver dedleer  
and darker in hiz sōl ðat lōnle horror h̄itf he ferst had  
tāsted ðe da bef̄er at hiz ferst n̄er s̄it ov Zorā, h̄il he  
flu þ̄rō ðe kōld êr p̄ertent-laden; and hiz h̄ol hart  
gru sik bekōz ov it.

And n8 he w6z kum t6 8e riŋ ov fir 8at w6z ab8t 8e s8mit ov 8e m8nt6n. He w6z be8ond t8ror or 8e dez8r ov l8f, and trod 8e fir az it had b8n hiz 8n h8mz 8r8f8ld. 8e blu tunz ov fl6m d8d under hiz fut-tred, making a wa bef8er him. 8e brazen g6ts st8d w8d. He enterd in, he p6st up 8e brazen st8r, he st8d on 8at hi r8of-fl8er huitf he had beheld in dr8mz, he l8kt az in a dr8m on him he had krost 8e konf8nz ov 8e ded t6 f8nd: Lord G8ldre Bluzko kepiŋ hiz l8n w8tf on 8e unh6l8d h8ts ov Zor6. Not 88erw8z w6z 8e Lord G8ldre, not bi an h8rzbred8, 8an az Dzus had af8ert8m s8n him on 8at ferst n8t in Koftr6 Belorn, so loŋ ago. He rek88nd propt on wun elbo on 8at bentf ov br6s, hiz hed erekt, hiz 8z fikst az on distant sp6s, vuiŋ 8e dep8s be8ond 8e star-f8n, az wun watiŋ til t8m f8d hav an end.

He ternd not at hiz br88erz gretiŋ. Dzus went t6 him and st8d bes8d him. 8e Lord G8ldre Bluzko m88vd not an ilid. Dzus sp8k ag6n, and tutft hiz hand. It w6z stif and l8k dank er8. 8e k8ld ov it struk 8r8 Dz8sez b88e and sm8t him at 8e hart. He sed in himself, "He iz ded."

Wi8 8at, 8e horror fut d8n 8pon Dz8sez s8l l8k madnes. F8rf88le he st8rd ab8t him. 8e kl8d had lifted from 8e m8nt6nz p8k and huŋ l8k a p8l abuv its nakednes. T8fil 8r 8at w6z l8k 8e bre8 ov 8e hv8l werldz gr6v: v6st blank kl8d-b6reerz: dim far formz ov sno and 8s, silent, s8litare, p6l, l8k m8nt6nz ov 8e ded: it w6z az if 8e b8tom ov 8e werld wer opend and tr8p l6d b8r: 8e ultim6t N88iŋ.

T6 h8ld of 8e horror from hiz s8l, Dzus ternd in m88more t6 8e d8r l8f ov er8, 88z 8iŋz he had m8st set hiz hart on, men and w8men he luvd derest in hiz l8fs d6z; b6telz and triumfs ov hiz openiŋ manh8d, hi festivalz in Gal8ŋ, g8lden s8mer n88nz under 8e Westmark p8nz, hunt8ŋ mornz on 8e hi h88s ov Meland; 8e da he ferst bakt a hors, ov a spr8ŋ morniŋ in a primr8z gl6d 8at opend on M88nm8r, hven hiz sm8l br8n legz wer sk8rs 8e len8 ov hiz f8er-arm n8, and hiz d8r f688er held him bi 8e fut az he tr8ted, and f8d him hv8r 8e skw8rel had her nest in 8e 8ld 8k tre.

He b8d hiz hed az if t6 av8d a blo, so pl6n he s8md t6 h8r sumhv8t w88in him kriiŋ wi8 a hi v8s and l8d, "88 art n88iŋ. And 8l 8i dez8rz and m88or8z and luvz and dr8mz, n88iŋ. 8e l8tel ded er8-l8s wer ov grater av6l 8an 88, wer it not n88iŋ az 88 art n88iŋ. For 8l iz n88iŋ: er8 and ski and se and 8a 8at dwel 8arin. Nor fal 88is iluz8n kumfort 8e, if it

mīṭ, ḏat hven ḏḅ art abōlīft ḏēz þīnz ƒal endzūr  
for a sezon, starz and munþs retern, and men gro ōld and  
di, and nu men and wīmen liv and luv and di and be  
forgōten. For hvōt iz it tō ḏe, ḏat ƒalt be az a blōn-ḅt  
flām? and ōl þīnz in erþ and hēven, and þīnz pāst and  
þīnz for tō kum, and līf and deþ, and ḏe mēr ēlements  
ov spās and tīm, ov beīn and not beīn, ōl ƒal be nūþīn  
untō ḏe; bekōz ḏḅ ƒalt be nūþīn, for ēver."

And ḏe Lord Dzus krīd alḅd in hiz āgone, "Flīn me tō  
Tartarus, delīver me tō ḏe blak infernal Furēz, let ḏem  
blīnd me, sēḏ me in ḏe bernīn lāk. For so ƒud ḏēr  
yet be hōp. But in ḏis horror ov Nūþīn iz niḏer hōp nor  
līf nor deþ nor slēp nor wakin, for ēver. For ēver."

In ḏis blak mōd ov horror he abōd for āhvīl, until a sḅnd  
ov weþīn and waliṅ māḏ him rāz hiz hed, and he beheld a  
kumpane ov mœrnerz wōkiṅ wun behīnd anūḏer abḅt ḏe brazen  
flœr, ōl klōkt in funeral blak, mœrniṅ ḏe deþ ov Lord  
Gōldre Bluzko. And ḏa reherst hiz glœreḅs dēdz and  
prāzd hiz bute and prḅes and gḅdlines and streṅþ:  
soft wīmenz vqsez lamentīn, so ḏat ḏe Lord Džūsez sōl  
sēmd az he līsēnd tō arīz agān ḅt ov aniīlafonz  
wāst, and hiz hart gru soft agān, even untō tērz. He felt  
a tutʃ on hiz arm and lḅkiṅ up met ḏe gāz ov tō īz  
dzentel az a duvz, sufūzd wiḏ tērz, lḅkiṅ intō hiz from  
under ḏe darknes ov ḏat hvōd ov mœrniṅ; and a wōmanz  
vqz spāk and sed, "ḏis iz ḏe obzervabel da ov ḏe deþ  
ov ḏe Lord Gōldre Bluzko, hvitʃ hap bēn ded nḅ a yēr;  
and we hiz fēlōz in bondādž dō bewāl him, az ḏḅ māst se,  
and ƒal so bewāl him agān yēr bi yēr hvīlz we ar on  
līf. And for ḏe, grāt lord, must we yet mœr sorofōle  
lament, sins ov ōl ḏi grāt werks dun ḏis iz ḏe empte  
gerdon, and ḏis ḏe pereod ov ḏīn ambīʃon. But kum, tāk  
kumfort for a sezon, sins untō ōl dominyonz Fāt hap set  
ḏēr end, and ḏēr iz no kiṅ on ḏe rōd ov deþ."

So ḏe Lord Dzus, hiz hart ded wīḏin him for grēf and  
despēr, sūferd her tāk him bi ḏe hand and kondukt him dḅn  
a wīndiṅ stērwa ḏat led from ḏat brazen flœr tō an īner  
tʃāamber frāgrant and delīʃs, lited wiḏ flīkeriṅ lamps.  
Sūrle līf and its termqīlz sēmd faded tō a distant and  
futiīl mermer, and ḏe horror ov ḏe vqḏ sēmd ḏēr but a  
vān imādžinaʃon, under ḏe hēve swētnes ov ḏat tʃāamber.  
Hiz sensez swōond; he ternd tōwordz hiz vāld konduktres.  
Se wiḏ a sūden moʃon kāst of her mœrniṅ klōk, and stōd  
ḏēr, her hvōl fēr böde bērd tō hiz gāz, open-armd, a  
sīt tō rāvīʃ ḏe sōl wiḏ luv and ōl delīf.

Wel ni had he klāspt tōo hiz bʊzom ðat vīʒon ov dazliŋ luvlines. But fortʃūn, or ðe hi Godz, or hiz ōn sōlz mīt, wōk yet agān in hiz drugd brān remembrans ov hiz perpōs, so ðat he ternd violentle from ðat bāt prepêrd for hiz destrukʃon, and strōd from ðe tʃāmbèr up tōo ðat rooʃ hvêr hiz dêr brūðer sat az in deþ. Dʒus kōt him bi ðe hand: "Spêk tōo me, kinzman. It iz I, Dʒus. It iz Dʒus, ði brūðer."

But Gōldre mōovd not niðer ānserd ðe werd.

Dʒus lʊkt at ðe hand restiŋ in hiz, so līk hiz ōn tōo ðe vêre ʃāp ov ðe finger nālz and ðe grōþ ov ðe hêrz on ðe bak ov ðe hand and fingerz. He let it go, and ðe arm dropt līʃles. "It iz vêre sertān," sed he, "ðʌ art in a māner frozen, and ði spīrits and understandiŋ frozen and kondzēld wīðin ðe."

So saiŋ, he bent tōo gāz klōs in Gōldrêz īz, tutʃiŋ hiz arm and ʃōlder. Not a lim sterd, not an ilid flīkerd. He kōt him bi ðe hand and slêv az if tōo fœers him up from ðe bentʃ, kōliŋ him lʊdle bi hiz nām, ʃakiŋ him rufle, kriiŋ, "Spêk tōo me, ði brūðer, ðat krost ðe werld tōo ʃind ðe;" but he abōd a ded wāt in Dʒūsez grāsp.

"If ðʌ be ded," sed Dʒus, "ðen am I ded wið ðe. But til ðen īl nêr þink ðe ded." And he sat dʌn on ðe bentʃ besīd hiz brūðer, takiŋ hiz hand in hiz, and lʊkt abʌt him. Nōt but ūter silens. Nīt had fōlen, and ðe mōonz kālm rādʒans and ðe twinkliŋ starz mingeld wið ðe pāl ʃirz ðat hedʒd ðat mʊntān top in an unsertān līt. Hel loost no mœr her dēnizenz in ðe êr, and sins ðe moment hven Dʒus had in ðat īner tʃāmbèr ʃaken himself fre ov ðat lāst iluzon no prêzens had he sēn nor simulakrum ov man or dēvil sāv ōnle Gōldre hiz brūðer; nor mīt ðat horror ðe mœr māster hiz hi hart, but ðe mēmore ov it wōz but az ðe bīter tʃil ov a winter se ðat tākz ðe swīmerz brêp for an instant az he plundʒez ferst into ðe ise wōterz.

So wið a kālm and a stedfāst mīnd ðe Lord Dʒus abōd ðêr, hiz sêkond nīt wīðʌt slêp, for slêp he dêrd not in ðat akerst plās. But for dʒŋ ov hiz ʃōnd brūðer, ōlbeit it sēmd ðêr wōz in him niðer spêʃ nor sīt nor heriŋ, Dʒus skêrs wist ov hiz grāt werines. And he nūriʃt himself wið ðat ambrozā gīven him bi ðe Kwēn, for wel he þōt ðe ūtermōst streŋþ ov hiz bōde ʃud nʌ be trīd in ðe tâsk he nʌ dekrêd him.

Hven it wōz da, he arōz and takiŋ hiz brūðer Gōldre bōdile

on hiz bak set færþ. Pâst ðe gâts ov brâs Dzus bær him, and pâst ðe bãreerz ov flâm, and pânføole and bi slo degrēz dġn ðe loŋ norðern ridz hwiƒ overhanz ðe Säreon Glaferz. Ôl ðat da, and ðe nīt föloin, and ôl ðe nekst da âfter wer ða on ðe mġntân, and wel ni ded wōz Dzus for werines hven on ðe sġkond da an ȳr or tō befær sun-dġn ða rġtƒ ðe morân. Yet wōz triumf in hiz hart, and gladnes ov a grât dġd dun. Ða la ðat nīt in a grōv ov strōbere trēz under ðe stġp ƒot ov a mġntân sum ten mīlz beƳond ðe western ƒær ov Ravare, and met Spitƒir and Brandox Dahâ hu∞ had wated wið ðġr bōt tō nīts at ðe apŕnted spot, abġt eventīd ov ðe föloin da.

Nġ az soon az Dzus had brōt him of ðe mġntân, ðis frozen kondīƒon ov ðe Lord Gōldre wōz so far þōd ðat he wōz abel tō stand ūpon hiz fġt and wōk; but nġver a werd mīt he spġk, and nġver a lŭk ða gat from him, but stil hiz gâz wōz set and untƒândzīŋ, semiŋ hven it rested on hiz kompanyonz tō lŭk þrō and beƳond ðem az at sum far þīŋ sġn in a mist. So ðat ġtƒ wōz sġkretle trŭbeld, ferīŋ lest ðis kondīƒon ov ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko ƒud þrōv rġmediles, and ðis ðat ða nġ resġvd bak from þrizon but ðe þrō remân ov him ða had so mutƒ dezīrd.

Ða kām aland and brōt him tō Sofonizbâ ðe Kwġn huġr ƒe mād hâst tō mġt ðem on ðe fġr lōn befær her pavīleon. Ðe Kwġn, az if noiŋ befærhand bōþ ðġr kâs and ðe rġmede ðarov, tŭk bi ðe hand ðe Lord Dzus and sed, "O mi lord, ðġr yet remaneþ a þīŋ for ðe tō doo tō fre him þrōole, ðat hast ȳtƒâst tġrorz beƳond ðe ūs ov man tō briŋ him bak: a lītēl stōn indġd tō krġn ðis bildīŋ ov ðīn, and yet wiðġt it ôl wer in vān, az itself wer vān wiðġt ðe rest ðat wōz ôl ðīn: and mīn iz ðis lâst, and wið a þŭr hart I giv it ðe."

So saiŋ ƒe mād ðe Lord Dzus bġ dġn til ƒe mīt kis hiz mġþ, swġtle and soberle wun līt kis. And ƒe sed, "Ðis giv untō ðe lord ði brŭðer." And Dzus did so, kīsīŋ hiz dġr brŭðer in līk mǎner on ðe mġþ; and ƒe sed, "Tāk him, dġr mi lordz. And I hav ūterle þŭt ȳt ðe remembrans ov ðġz þīŋz from hiz hart. Tāk him, and giv þanks untō ðe hi Godz bekōz ov him."

Ðġrwið ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko lŭkt ūpon ðem and ūpon ðat fġr Kwġn and ðe mġntânz and ðe wōdz and ðe kool lāks luvlines, az a man awakend ȳt ov a dġp slumber.

Σŭrle ðġr wōz dʒŋ in ôl ðġr harts ðat da.

## 29. Ðe Flēt at Mūlvā

HƆ ÐE LORDZ OV DEMONLAND KĀM AGĀN TOO ÐĒR ΣIPS AT MŪLVĀ,  
AND ÐE TIDIŅZ ÐA LERNÐ ÐĒR.

For nīn dāz spās ðe lordz ov Demonland abōd wið Kwēn Sofonizbā in Koftrā Belorn and besīd ðe Lāk ov Ravare tāstiŋ sutf hi and pūr delīts az belīk nun els haþ tāsted, if it wer not ðe spīrits ov ðe blest in Elezum. Hven ða bad her fērwel, ðe Kwēn sed, "Mi lītel martlets fal briŋ me tidiŋz ov u. And hven u fal hav brōt too mēr perđifon ðe wīked redziment ov Witfland and reternd agān too yor dēr naīv land, ðen iz mi tīm for ðat, mi Lord Dzus, hvarov I hav often tōkt too ðe and often glāded mi drēmz wið ðe þōt ðarov: too vīzit erþ agān and ðe habitafonz ov men, and be yor gest in mēne-mǫntānd Demonland."

Dzus kist her hand and sed, "Fāl not in ðis, dēr Kwēn, hōtsoēr betīd."

So ðe Kwēn let briŋ ðem bi a sēkret wa Ƴt ūpon ðe hi sno-fēldz ðat ar betwikst Koftrā Belorn and Romfer, huens ða kām dǫn intoo ðe glen ov ðe dark wōter ðat desendz from ðe glafer ov Temarm, and so þroo mēne pērilǫs skāps āfter mēne dāz bak bi wa ov ðe Morunā too Mūlvā and ðe fips.

Ðēr Gazlark and Lā Firēz, hven ðēr gretiŋz wer dun and ðēr rēdʒsiŋz, sed too ðe Lord Dzus, "We abīd too loŋ tīm hēr. We hav enterd ðe bārel and ðe buŋ-hōl iz stopt." Ðērwiðōl ða brōt him Hesper Golþriŋ, huoo þre dāz ago saliŋ too ðe Strāts for forādʒ kām bak agān but yesterda wið a hot alārum ðat he met sertān fips ov Witfland: and brōt ðem too bātel: and gat wun sunken êr ða brāk of ðe fīt: and tuk up sertān pŕizonerz.

"Bi huooz eksaminafon," sāþ he, "az wel az from mīn ōn perseviŋ and noiŋ, it apereþ Laksus hōldeþ ðe Strāts wið āt skœr fips ov wor, ðe gratest fips ðat ēver ðe se bēr until ðis da, kum hīðer ov perpōs too destrœ us."

"Āt skœr fips?" sed Lord Brandox Dahā. "Witfland komāndeþ not ðe hāf, nor ðe þerd part, ov sutf a streŋþ sins we did ðem dǫn lāst harvest-tīd in Orwaþ haven. It iz not levebel, Hesper."

Hesper ânserd him, "Yor hines ƒal ƒind it trūþ; and mœr ðe soro ont and ðe wunder."

"Tiz ðe skǫriņz ov hiz subdzekt-ǎlīz," sed Spitfīr. "We ƒal ƒind ðem no sutƒ hard māter tœ dispatƒ âfter ðe ũðerz."

Dzus sed tœ ðe Lord Gro, "Huôt mākst ðǫ ov ðēz nūz, mi lord?"

"I þink no wunder in it," ânserd he. "Witƒland iz ov gœd mēmore and mīndep him ov yor semanƒip of Kartadzâ. He uzeþ not tœ idel, nor tœ set ôl on wun hāzard. Nor kumfort not ðiself, mi Lord Spitfīr, ðat ðēz be plēzūr-gǎlēz borōd from ðe soft Beftreanz or ðe simpel Foleots. Ða be nu ƒips bilded for us, mi lordz, and ƒr undœiņ: it iz bi no kondzektƒūr I sa it untœ u, but ov mīn ōn nōledz, ôlbeit ðe number apereþ far grater ðan êr I drēmd ov. But or ēver I sǎld wið Korinyus tœ Demonland, grāt bildiņz ov an arme naval wōz begun at Tēnemos."

"I dœ vēre wel belēv," sed Kiņ Gazlark, "ðat nun noep ôl ðis bēter ðan ðǫ, bekōz ðiself didst kǫnsel it."

"O Gazlark," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, "must ðǫ stil itƒ tœ pla at tƒop-tƒjere hven tƒjere-tīm iz pāst? Let him alōn. He iz ƒr frend nǫ."

"Āt skœr ƒips i' ðe Strāts," sed Dzus. "And ƒrz an hundred. Tiz wel sēn huôt grāt dīferens and odz ðēr iz betwikst us. Huitƒ we must nēdz enkǫnter, or els nēr sāl hōm agān, let alōn tœ Karse. For ƒt ov ðis se iz no se-wa for ƒips, but ōnle bi ðēz Strāts ov Melikafkaz."

"We ƒal dœ ov Laksus," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, "ðat he trǫep tœ dœ ov us."

But Dzus wōz fōlen silent, hiz tƒin in hiz hand.

Göldre Bluzko sed, "I wœd alǫ him odz and bēt him."

"It iz a grāt ƒām in ðe, O Dzus," sed Brandox Dahâ, "if ðǫ wilt be abaƒt at ðis. If ðat ða be in number mœr ðan we, huôt ðen? Ða ar in hōp, kworel, and strenjþ far infereor."

But Dzus, stil in a stūde, rētƒt ƒt and kôt him bi ðe slēv, hōldiņ him so a moment or tœ, and ðen lukt up at him and sed, "Ðǫ art ðe gratest kworeler, ov a frend, ðat ēver I nu, and if I wer an angre man I kœd not abêr

ðe. Ma I not þre mīnūts stūde ðe mēnz, but ðð ƒalt  
kri ʒt ūpon me for a milksop?"

Ða lâft, and ðe Lord Dʒus rōz up and sed, "Kōl we a  
kʒnsil ov wor. And let Hesper Golþriŋ be at it, and hiz  
skīperz ðat wer wið him o' ðat vq̄adʒ. And pak up ðe  
stuf, for we wil awa o' ðe morn. If we līk not ðēz  
lētus, we ma pʒl bak ʒr lips. But no tʒqs remaneþ. If  
Laksus wil deni us se-rōom þr∞ Melikafkaz Strāts, I  
trʒ ðēr ƒal go up ðens a kraƒ huiƒ huen ðe Kiŋ  
hereþ it he ƒal no it for ʒr ferst bāŋiŋ on ðe gāts  
ov Karse."

30. Tidiŋz ov Melikafkaz

OV NŪZ BRŌT UNT∞ GORĪS ÐE KIŊ IN KARSE ʒT OV ÐE SʒP,  
HŪÉR ÐE LORD LAKSUS LIIN IN ÐE STRĀTS WIÐ HIZ ARMĀDĀ HELD  
ÐE FLĒT OV DEMONLAND PRĪZOND IN ÐE MIDLAND SE.

On a nīt ov lāt sūmer leniŋ t∞wordz ōtum, āt wēks  
āfter ðe salin ov ðe Demonz ʒt ov Mūlvā az iz afœrit,  
ðe Lade Prezmirā sāt befoer her mīror in Korundz lofte  
bed-tʒāmbær in Karse. Ðe nīt wiððt wōz mīld and ƒul ov  
starz. Wiðin, yēlo flāmz ov kandelz berniŋ stēdile on  
iðer sīd ov ðe mīror rād fœrþ trēsez ov tinseliŋ  
brītnes in twin glœrēz or luminʒs sfērʒ ov wormþ. In  
ðat soft rādʒans grānz az ov gōlden fir swam and serkeld,  
l∞ziŋ ðemselvz on ðe konfīnz ov ðe gl∞m huēr ðe māse  
fernītʒūr and ðe āras and ðe ƒīgūrd hāŋiŋz ov ðe bed  
wer but klʒdeer diviʒonz and kondʒestʒonz ov ðe dzēneral  
dark. Prezmirāz hēr kōt ðe bēmz and imprīzond ðem in a  
tōne tangel ov splendor ðat swept abðt her hed and  
ƒōlderz dʒn t∞ ðe ēmerald klāspz ov her gerdel. Her īz  
restiŋ īdle on her ōn fēr īmādʒ in ðe ƒiniŋ mīror, ƒe  
tōkt līt nūþiŋz wið her wʒman ov ðe bed-tʒāmbær h∞,  
pliŋ ðe kōm, stud behīnd her tʒēr ov gōld and  
tortʒs-ƒel.

"Rētʒ me yonder bʒk, ners, ðat I ma rēd agān ðe werdz  
ov ðat serenād ðe Lord Gro mād for me, ðe nīt huen ferst  
we had tidiŋz from mi lord ʒt ov Impland ov hiz konkwest ov  
ðat land, and ðe Kiŋ did māk him kiŋ ðarov."

Ðe ōld wʒman gāv her ðe bʒk, ðat wōz bʒnd in gōt-skin  
tʒīzeld and ornamented bi ðe gilderz art, ƒited wið  
klāspz ov gōld, and enritʒt wið lītel dzemz, smaragdʒ and  
mardʒere-perlz, inlād in ðe pānelz ov its kūverz. Prezmirā



ternd ðe pād̥z 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.*

Σe abōd silent āhūl. Ðen, in a lo swēt vq̥s hū̥r ôl  
ðe kordz ov muzik sēmd t̥oo slumber: "Pre yē̥rz wil be  
gon nekst Ūl-tīd," Je sed, "sins ferst I herd ðat soŋ.  
And not yet am I grōn kustomd t̥oo ðe stīl ov Kwēn."

"Tiz pīte ov mi Lord Gro," sed ðe ners.

"Ð̥̥ pinkst?"

"Merp sat oftener on yor fās, O Kwēn, huen he wōz hēr, and  
u wer ūst t̥oo t̥farm hiz mēlankole and māk a pij ov hiz  
fantastikal humor̥̥s f̥ærbodinjz."

"Oft d̥̥tj̥ not hiz f̥ærd̥zud̥zment," sed Prezmirā, "even ðe  
hūl I p̥ript mi fingerz at it. But nēver sō I yet ðat ðe  
l̥̥rij̥ p̥under hap̥ ðat par̥fāl̥ite ov a tirant, t̥oo blāst him  
ðat fāst it and pās bi him ðat kwāld bef̥ær it."

"He wōz mōst dēple bĕnd servant tō yor bute," sed ðe ōld wōman. "And yet," je sed, vuiŋ her mistres sīdloŋ tō se hĕ je wōd resēv it, "ðat wer a mis ezile mād gōd."

Se bīzēd herself wið ðe kōm āhūīl in silens. Āfter a tīm je sed, "O Kwēn, mistres ov ðe harts ov men, ðēr iz not a lord in Witfġand, nor in erþ besīd, u mīt not bīnd yor servant wið wun þred ov ðis hēr ov yorz. Ðe līkleest and ðe gōdleest wer yorz at an i-glāns."

Ðe Lade Prezmirā lōkt dremile intō her ōn se-grēn īz īmādʒd in ðe glās. Ðen je smīld mōkiŋle and sed, "Hōom ðen akĕntst ðĕ ðe līkleest and ðe gōdleest man in ōl ðe stabliŋt erþ?"

Ðe ōld wōman smīld. "O Kwēn," ānserd je, "ðis wōz ðe vēre māter in dispūt amuŋst us at sūper ōnle ðis eveniŋ."

"A prīte disputaŋon!" sed Prezmirā. "Let me be mēre. Hōom wōz ādʒudʒd ðe farest and gālantest bi yor hi kōert ov senfūr?"

"It wōz not dʒēnerale determīnd ov, O Kwēn. Sum wōd hav mi Lord Gro."

"Alak, he iz tō fēminīn," sed Prezmirā.

"Ūðerz ħr Lord ðe Kiŋ."

"Ðēr iz nun grater," sed Prezmirā, "nor mōer werfipfōl. But for an huzband, ðĕ fōdʒt az wel wed wið a þunder-storm or ðe hungre se. Giv me sum mōer."

"Sum tʒōz ðe lord Admiral."

"Ðat," sed Prezmirā, "wōz a nerer strōk. No skipdʒak nor soft marmalade kōertfer, but a brāv, tōl, gālant dʒentelman. I, but tō wōtere a plānet bernd at hiz natīvite. He iz tō līk a statfuā ov a man. No, ners, ðĕ must briŋ me bēter ðan he."

Ðe ners sed, "Tru it iz, O Kwēn, ðat mōst wer ov mi þinkiŋ hven I gāv em mi tʒaʒs: ðe kiŋ ov Demonland."

"Fi on ðe!" krīd Prezmirā. "Nām him not so ðat wōz tō unmite tō hōld ðat land agānst ħr ēnemēz."

"Fōk sa it wōz bi foksif arts and praktisez madʒikal a wōz spilt on Krōðeriŋ Sīd. Fōk sa twōz dīvelz and not horsez

kārēd ðe Demonz dǣn ðe mǣntān at us."

"Ða sa!" krīd Prezmirā. "I sa tō ðe, he haþ fǣnd it apter tō hiz bent tō flōnt hiz krǣn in Witfland ðan māk em giv him ðe ne in Galiŋ. For a tru kiŋ bōþ ne and hart dō trule bǣ befær him. But ðis wun, if he had ðær ne twōz in ðe bak sīd ov him he had it, tō kik him hōm agān."

"Fi, mādām!" sed ðe ners.

"Hōld ði tun, ners," sed Prezmirā. "It wer gūd ye wer ôl wel huþt for a buntf ov sīle mērz ðat no not a hors from an as."

Ðe ōld wōman wōtfin her in ðe glās kǣnted it best kēp silens. Prezmirā sed under her breþ az if tōkiŋ tō herself, "I no a man, fūd not hav miskārēd it ðus." Ðe ōld ners ðat luvd not Lord Korund and hiz hōte fǣfonz and ruf spētŋ and wīn-bībiŋ, and wōz besīdz dzēlǣs ðat so rūd a stok fūd wēr so ritf a dzuel az wōz her mistres, fōlōd not her meniŋ.

Āfter sum tīm, ðe ōld wōman spāk softle and sed, "U ar fōl ov þōts tō-nīt, mādām."

Prezmirāz īz met herz in ðe mīror. "Hu ma I not be so and it līks me?" sed fe.

Ðat stone lūk ov ðe īz struk līk a goŋ sum twente-yēr-ōld mēmōre in ðe nersez hart: ðe lītēl wilfōl maden, il tō gōd but gūd tō gīd, lūkiŋ ǣt from ðat Kwēnz fās akros ðe yērz. Se nelt dǣn sūdenle and kōt her armz abǣt her mistresez wāst. "Hu must u wed ðen, dēr hart?" sed fe, "if u wer mīnded tō dō huōt līks u? Men luv not sad lūks in ðær wīvz. U ma rīd a lūver on ðe kerb, mādām, but wuns u wed him tiz ôl tūðer wa: ôl hiz wa, mādām, and bewēr ov had I wist."

Her mistres lūkt dǣn at her mōkiŋle. "I hav bēn wed sēven yērz tō-nīt. I fūd no ðēz þiŋz."

"And ðis nīt!" sed ðe ners. "And but an ǣr til midnīt, and yet he sīteþ at bærd."

Ðe Lade Prezmirā lēnd bak tō lūk agān on her ōn mīrord luvlines. Her prǣd mǣþ swetend tō a smīl. "Wilt ðǣ lern me kōmon wīmenz wizdom?" sed fe, and ðær wōz yet mæc volupfǣs swētnes trembliŋ in her vq̄s. "I wil tel ðe a stōere, az ðǣ hast tōld ðem me in ðe ōld dāz in

Norvasp tō wīl me tō bed. Hast ð̅ not herd tel h̅ òld  
D̅zūk Hilmānz ov Maltraene, amuŋ sum ūðer fantasēz sutf az  
apēr bi nīt untō mēne in diverz plasez, had wun in līknes  
ov a wōman wið òld fās ov lo and lītēl statfūr or bōde,  
hvitf did sk̅r hiz pots and panz and did sutf þiŋz az a mād  
servant òt tō dō, līberale and wīð̅t dōiŋ ov ēne harm?  
And bi hiz art he nu ðis þiŋ f̅ud be hiz servant stil,  
and briŋ untō him huòtsoēver he wōd, so loŋ tīm az he  
f̅ud be glad ov ðe þiŋz it brōt him. But ðis d̅zūk,  
beiŋ a f̅olif man and a grede, mād hiz famīlear briŋ him  
at wuns òl ðe yērz sezonz and ðēr sēveral gōdz and  
plēzūr̅z, and òl gōd þiŋz ov erþ at wun tīm. So az in  
siks muŋps spās, he beiŋ sated wið ðēz and òl gōd  
þiŋz, and hāviŋ no gōd þiŋ remaniŋ untō him tō ekspekt  
or tō dezīr, for vēre werines did haŋ himself. I wōd  
nēver hav taen me an huzband, ners, and I had not nōn ðat  
I wōz abel tō giv him ēvere tīm I wōd a nu hēven and a  
nu erþ, and nēver ðe sām þiŋ twīs."

Σe tuk ðe òld wōmanz handz in herz and gāðerd ðem tō her  
brest, az if tō let ðem lern, rokt for a mīnūt in ðe  
b̅h̅ntifol infinīt swētnes ov ðat plās, huòt f̅olif fērz  
wer ðēz. Sūdenle Prezmirā klāspt ðe handz titer in her  
ōn, and f̅ūderd a lītēl. Σe bent d̅hn tō h̅isper in ðe  
nersez ēr, "I wōd not wif tō di. ðe werld wīð̅t me  
f̅ud be sūmer wīð̅t rozez. Karse wīð̅t me f̅ud be a  
nīt wīð̅t ðe star-f̅in."

Her vq̅s d̅id awa līk ðe nīt brēz in a sūmer garden.  
In ðe silens ða herd ðe dip and wōf ov ær-blād̅z from  
ðe rīver wīð̅t; ðe sentinelz t̅f̅alend̅z, ðe ānser from  
ðe f̅ip.

Prezmirā stōd up kwikle and went tō ðe windo. Σe kōd se  
ðe f̅ips dark bulk bi ðe wōter-gāt, and kūmiŋz and goiŋz,  
but nōt klērle. "Tidiŋz from ðe flēt," fe sed. "P̅ut up  
mi hēr."

And ēr ðat wōz dun, kām a lītēl pād̅z rūniŋ tō her  
t̅f̅amber d̅ær, and h̅en it wōz opend tō him, stōd pantiŋ from  
hiz rūniŋ and sed, "ðe kiŋ yor huzband bad me tel u,  
mādam, and pra u go d̅hn tō him i' ðe grāt hōl. It ma be  
il nūz, I fēr."

"ð̅ f̅erst, pap-fās?" sed ðe Kwēn. "īl hav ðe  
h̅ipt if ð̅ briŋst ði fērz tō me. Dust no òt?  
Huòts ðe māter?"

"ðe f̅ips mutf bāterd, O Kwēn. He iz klōzeted wið ̅r

Lord ðe Kiŋ, ðe skīper. Nun dēr spēk els. Tiz fērd  
ðe hi Admiral----"

"Fērd!" krīd je, swīriŋ rðnd for ðe ners tō pot abðt  
her huīt fōlderz her mantel ov sendalīn and kloþ ov  
silver, ðat fīmerd at ðe kōlar wið perpel āmēpists and  
wōz sented wið sedar and galbanum and mer. Se wōz færþ in  
ðe dark koridor, dðn bi ðe wīndiŋ marbel stēr, þrō  
ðe mid-kœrt, hāstiŋ tō ðe bankwet hōl. Ðe kœrt wōz ful  
ov fōk tōkiŋ; but nōt sertān, nōt sāv suspens and  
wunder; rumor ov a grāt se-fit in ðe sðþ, a mite  
viktore wun bi Laksus ūpon ðe Demonz: Dzus and ðōz lordz ov  
Demonland ded and gon, ðe kaptīvz fōloin wið ðe  
morniŋz tīd. And hēr and ðēr līk an undertōn tō ðēz  
triumfant tidiŋz, kontrare rumorz, hūisperd lo, līk ðe  
hīsiŋ ov an āder from her fādoe lēr: ōl not wel, ðe  
lord Admiral wōnded, hāf hiz fips lost, ðe bātel dðtful,  
ðe Demonz eskāpt. So kām ðat lade intō ðe grāt hōl; and  
ðēr wer ðe lordz and kaptānz ov ðe Witfez ōl in a  
restles kwiet ov ekspektaŋon. Džūk Korsus loid forword in  
hiz sēt dðn bi ðe kros-bentf, hiz breþ stertorðs, hiz  
smōl īz fikst in a drunken stēr. On ðe ūðer sīd Korund  
sāt hūdž and moŋonles, hiz elbo propt on ðe tabel, hiz  
tjīn in hiz hand, somber and silent, stariŋ at ðe wōl.  
Uðerz gāðerd in nots, tōkiŋ in lo tōnz. Ðe Lord  
Korinyus wōkt up and dðn behīnd ðe kros-bentf, hiz handz  
klāsp̄t behīnd him, hiz fingerz snāpiŋ impaŋentle at huīlz,  
hiz hēve džō held hi, hiz glāns hi and defiant. Prezmīrā  
kām tō Hemiŋ huēr he stōd amuŋ þre or fær and tutft  
him on ðe arm. "We no nūþiŋ, mādam," he sed. "He iz wið  
ðe Kiŋ."

Se kām tō her lord. "Ðð didst send for me."

Korund lukt up at her. "Huī, so I did, mādam. Tidiŋz from  
ðe flēt. Mabe sumhuōt, mabe nōt. But þðdst best be  
hēr fort."

"Gud tidiŋz or il: ðat fakeþ not Karse wōlz," sed je.

Sūdenle ðe lo buz ov tōk wōz huft. Ðe Kiŋ stōd in ðe  
kertānd dœrwa. Ða rōz up ōl tō mēt him, ōl sāv  
Korsus ðat sat drunk in hiz tjēr. Ðe krðn ov Witfland fed  
bālful sparkelz abuv ðe darknes ov ðe dark fortres-fās  
ov Gorīs ðe Kiŋ, ðe glīter ov hiz dred ibōlz, ðe  
dedle līn ov hiz mðþ, ðe skwēr blak bērd džūtiŋ  
benēþ. Līk a tðer he stōd, and behīnd him in ðe fādo  
wōz ðe mēsēndžer from ðe flēt wið kðntenans ðe kūlor ov  
wet mortar.

Ɖe Kiŋ spāk and sed, "Mi lordz, hērz tidinȝ tutfiŋ ǿe trūp hvarov I hav wel sātisfid miself. And it impœertep ǿe mēr perđifon ov mi flēt. Ɖēr hap bēn bātel of Melikafkaz in ǿe Impland sēz. Dȝus hap sunken ȝr fips, ēvere fiŋ sāv ǿat hwiŋf brōt ǿe tidinȝ, sunk, wiǿ Laksus and ōl hiz men ǿat wer wiǿ him." He pōzd: ǿen, "Ɖēz be hēve nūz," he sed, "and Ī hav u bēer em in ǿe ōld Witfland fāfon: ǿe hēveer hit ǿe hēveer strīk agān."

In ǿe strāndȝ deformd silens kām a lītel gāspiŋ kri, and ǿe Lade Srivā fel a-swœniŋ.

Ɖe Kiŋ sed, "Let ǿe kiŋȝ ov Impland and ov Demonland atend me. Ɖe rest, it iz komānded ǿat ōl dœ get ǿem tœ bed o' ǿe instant."

Ɖe Lord Korund sed in hiz ladēz ēr az he went bi, takiŋ her wiǿ hiz hand abȝt ǿe fōlder. "Huōt, las? if ǿe brops split, ǿe mēt remanep. Tœ bed wiǿ ǿe, and nēver dȝt wēl pa ǿem yet."

And he wiǿ Korinyus fōlōd ǿe Kiŋ.

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It wōz pāst mīdel nīt hven ǿe kōnsil brāk up, and Korund sōt hiz tġamber in ǿe ēstern gālere abuv ǿe ĩner kœert. He fōnd hiz lade sītiŋ yet at ǿe windo, wōtfiŋ ǿe fōls dōn over Piksiland. Dismīsiŋ hiz lamp-barerz ǿat lited him tœ bed, he bolted and bard ǿe grāt ĩrn-stūded dœr. Ɖe bredp ov hiz fōlderz hven he ternd fild ǿe fādoe dœrwa; hiz hed wel ni tutft ǿe lintel. It wōz hard tœ rēd hiz kōntenans in ǿe unsertān glœom hvēr he stōd beȝond ǿe brīt rēdȝon mād bi ǿe kandel-līt, but Prezmirāz ĩz kōd mark hȝ kēr sat on hiz brȝ, and ǿēr wōz in ǿe kārādȝ ov hiz ponderȝs frām kiŋlines and ǿe strenȝ ov sum stroŋ determinaŋon.

Ȝe stōd up, ȝkiŋ up at him az on a māt tœ hvœm ġe kōd be tru and be tru tœ her ōn self. "Wel?" ġe sed.

"Ɖe tabelz ar set," sed he, wiǿȝt mœviŋ.

"Ɖe Kiŋ hap nāmd me hiz kaptān dȝġeneral in Karse."

"Iz it kum tœ ǿat?" sed Prezmirā.

"Ɖa hav hūn a lim from us," ānserd he. "Ɖa hav wit tœ no ǿe nekst strōk ġōd be at ǿe hart."

"Iz it trule so?" sed fe. "Āt þǫzand men? twīs dīn armēz strenþ þat wun Impland for us? ōl drǫnd?"

"Twōz ðe dēvilif semanþip ov ðēz akerst Demonz," sed Korund. "It apereþ Laksus held ðe Strāts huēr ða must go if ēver ða fōd win hōm agān, meniþ tōo fīt em in ðe nārōz and so kruþ em wið ðe wāt ovz þips az eze az kil flīz, hāviþ bi a grāt odz ðe bīger strenþ bōþ in þips and men. Ða o' ðēr part kept ðe se wiðþt, triiþ ðēr best tōo tīs him færp so ða mīt dōo ðēr salor triks i' ðe open. A wēk or mæer he wiðstōd it, til o' ðe nīnþ da (ðe dēvil kers him for a fōol, huērfæer kōd a not hav had pafens?) o' ðe nīnþ morniþ, were ov inakþon and hāviþ wind and tīd sumpiþ in hiz favor"; ðe Lord Korund grōnd and snapt hiz fingerz kontemptþuðsle. "O Īl tel ðe ðe tāl tōo-moro, mādam. Īm serfeted wið it tōo-nīt. Ðe sum iz, Laksus drōnded and ōl ðat wer wið him, and Dzus wið hiz huōl grāt armament norþword bōnd for Witþland."

"And ðe wīd sēz hiz. And we ekspekt him, ěne da?"

"Ðe wind hāneþ ēsterle. ěne da," sed Korund.

Prezmirā sed, "Ðat wōz wel dun tōo rest ðe komānd in ðe. But huōt ov þr kwōlifid yuþ dzentelman huō had ðat ōfis afæertīm. Wil he pla o' ðēz termz?"

Korund ānserd, "Hungre dogz wil ēt derte þōdiþz. I þink hēl pla, ōlbeit he fōd hiz tēþ i' ðe ferst huīl."

"Let him kēþ hiz tēþ for ðe Demonz," sed fe.

"Ðis vēre þip wōz taen," sed Korund, "and sent hōm bi ðem in a bravādo tōo tel us huōt betid: a stþupid insolent part, þal kost em dēr, for it haþ færwornd us. Ðe skīper had ðis lēter for ðe: gāv it me monstrþs sēkretle."

Prezmirā tōk awa ðe waks and opend ðe lēter, and nu ðe riter ov it. Se held it þt tōo Korund: "Rēd it tōo me, mi lord. I am tīrd wið wōtþiþ; I rēd il bi ðis flīkeriþ kandel-līt."

But he sed, "I am tōo pōor a skōlar, mādam. I þrīðe rēd it."

And in ðe līt ov ðe gūteriþ kandelz, vekst wið an ēst wind ðat blu befæer ðe dōn, fe red ðis lēter, ðat wōz konsēvd in māner fōloinþ:

"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 manifold perjured Traitor, which Heaven above doth abhorre, the earth below detest, the sun moone and starres be eschamed of, and all Creatures doo curse and a judge unworthy of breath 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 accounte 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 Gowlldri 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 safetie, 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 serten 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 Domynton 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 thing more I telle you, that shall haply enforce my counsell unto you, the hevyste Newes of alle."*

"Tiz hēve nūz đat sutf a fōls troker az he iz fūd yet supervīv so mēne ōnest men," sed Korund.

Đe Lade Prezmirā held ʅt đe lēter tō her lord. "Mīn īz dāzel," fe sed. "Rēd đʅ đe rest." Korund pʅt hiz grāt arm abʅt her az he sat dʅn tō đe tabel befōer đe mīror and pord over đe ritiŋ, spēliŋ it ʅt wiđ wun finger. He had lītel bʅk-lerniŋ, and it wōz sum tīm ēr he had đe meniŋ klēr. He did not rēd it ʅt; hiz ladēz fās tōld him fe had red ōl ēr he began.

Đis wōz đe lāst nūz Grōz lēter tōld her: đe Prins her brūđer ded in đe se-fīt, fitiŋ for Demonland; ded and drʅnd in đe se of Melikafkaz.

Prezmirā went tō đe windo. Dōn wōz bēgīniŋ, blēk and gra. Āfter a mīnūt fe ternd her hed. Līk a fe-lion fe lōkt, prʅd and dāndzerʅs-īd. Se wōz vēre pāl. Her aksents, lēvel and kwiet, kōld tō đe blud līk đe rōl ov a distant drum, az fe sed, "Sūkorz ov Demonland: lāt or nēver."

Korund beheld her ūnezile.

"Đēr ōps tō me and tō him!" sed fe, "swōern tō us đat nīt in Karse. Fōls frendz! O, I kʅd ēt đēr harts wiđ garlik."

He pʅt hiz grāt handz on her tō fōlderz. Se prū đem of. "In wun piŋ," fe krīd, "Gro kʅnselep us wel: tō tāre no mōer on đis sinkiŋ fip. We must rāz fōersez. But not az he wʅd hav it, tō uphōld đēz Demonz, đēz ōp-brakerz. We must awa đis nīt."

Her lord had kāst asīd hiz grāt wolfskin mantel. "Kum, mādam," sed he, "tō bedz ʅr nerest dzerne."

Prezmirā ānserd, "Ī not tō bed. It fal be sēn nʅ, O Korund, if đat đʅ be a kiŋ indēd."

He sat dʅn on đe bedz edʅ and fel tō dōoiŋ of hiz bōots. "Wel," he sed, "ēvere wun az he līks, az đe gʅdman sed hven he kist hiz kʅ. Dāz nēr dōniŋ; I must be up betīmz, and a slēples nīts a pōor breder ov invenfon."

But fe stōd over him, saiŋ, "It ƿal be sēn if ðǣ be a tru kiŋ. And be not desēvd: if ðǣ fāl me hēr Īl hav no mœr ov ðe. Ðis nīt we must awa. Ðǣ ƿalt rāz Pīksiland, hwiƿ iz nǣ mīn bi rīt: rāz ƿǣer in ðīn ōn vāst kiŋdom ov Impland. Fliŋ Witƿland tō ðe windz. Hūōt kēr I if fe sink or swim? Ðis ōnle iz ðe mǣter: tō ƿūnif ðēz vīl perdzūrd Demonz, ēnemēz ov ƿrz and ēnemēz ov ōl ðe werld."

"We nēd rīd o' no dzerne for ðat," sed Korund, stil ƿstīŋ of hiz bōots. "Ðǣ ƿalt ƿortle se Dzus and hiz breðren befoer Karse wið þre skœr hundred fitiŋ men ats bak. Ðen kūmep ðe mētal tō ðe anvil. Kum, kum, ðǣ must not wēp."

"I dō not wēp," sed fe. "Nor I ƿal not wēp. But Īl not be taen in Karse līk a mǣs in a trap."

"Īm glad þǣlt not wēp, mādam. It iz az grāt ƿīte tō se a wōman wēp az a gōos tō go bērfōt. Kum, be not fōolif. We must not part fœrsez nǣ. We must bīd ðis storm in Karse."

But fe krīd, "Ðēr iz a kers on Karse. Gro iz lost tō us and hiz gōd kǣnsel. Dēr mi lord, I se sumpiŋ wīked ðat līk a ƿīk dark ƿādo ƿādoep ōl ðe ski abuv us. Hūōt ƿlās iz ðēr not subdzekt tō ðe ƿǣer and redziment ov Gorīs ðe Kiŋ? but he iz tō ƿrðd: we be ōl tō insolent overwenerz ov ƿr ōn werks. Karse haþ grōn tō grāt, and ðe Godz be ofended at us. Ðe insolent vīlnes ov Korinyus, ðe ōld dotard Korsus ðat must stil be at hiz bōziŋ-kan, ðēz and ƿr ōn ƿrivāt kworelz in Karse must be ƿr bān. Repūn not ðērfœr agānst ðe wil ov ðe Godz, but tāk ðe helm in ðīn ōn hand ēr it be tō lāt."

"Tuƿ, mādam," sed he, "ðēz be but fra-bugz. Ðalīt ƿal māk ðe lāf at em."

But Prezmirā, kweniŋ it no longer, kōt her armz abǣt hiz nek. "Ðe od man tō perform ōl perfektle iz ðǣ. Wilt ðǣ se us rūfiŋ on ðis hwerlƿœl and not swim for it ēr it be tō lāt?" And fe sed in a tƿōkt vqz, "Mi hart iz nēr brōk ōlrēde. Dō not brāk it ūterle. Ōnle ðǣ art left nǣ."

Ðe tƿil dōn, ðe silent rōom, ðe gūteriŋ kandelz, and ðat hi-harted lade ov hiz, dōnted for an instant from her nobel and ēkwāl kūrādz, kǣeriŋ līk a berd in hiz embrās: ðēz þiŋz wer līk an ise breþ ðat ƿāst bi and kwāld

him for a moment. He tok her bi her too handz and held her of from him. Se held her hed hi agān, ôlbeit her tġġk wōz blānft; he felt ðe brāv komrād-grip ov her handz in hiz.

"Dēr las," he sed, "I kâst me not too be od wið nun ov ðēz spōn ov Demonland. Hēr iz mi hand, and ðe hand ov mi sunz, hēve hūl breþ remaneþ us agānst Demonland for ðe and for ðe Kiŋ. But siþ ūr lord ðe Kiŋ haþ mād me a kiŋ, kum wind, kum wēt, we must wēðer it in Karse. Tru iz ðat sō, For fām wun makeþ a kiŋ, not for loŋ līviŋ."

Prezmirā pōt in her hart ðat ðēz wer fa werdz. But hāviŋ nŷ pōt behīnd her hōp and fēr, fe wōz rezolvd too kik agānst ðe wind no mœr, but stand ferm and se huōt Destine wōd doo.

### 31. ðe Demonz Befœr Karse

Hŷ GORĪS ðE KIŊ, ÔLBEIT SO STRONĀ A SORSERER, ELEKTED ðAT BI ðE SCERD, AND TŢĒFLE BI ðE LORD KORUND HIZ KAPTĀN DŢĒNERAL, ΣUD BE DETERMĪND AZ FOR ðIS TĪM ðE EVENT OV ðĒZ HI MĀTERZ; AND Hŷ ðŌZ TWĀN, ðE KIŊ AND ðE LORD DŢUS, SPĀK FĀS TOO FĀS AT LĀST; AND OV ðE BLŪDE BĀTEL BEFœR KARSE, AND HUŌT FRŪT WŌZ GARNERD ðĒR AND HUŌT MĀD RĪP AGĀNST HARVEST.

Gorīs ðe kiŋ sāt in hiz tġāmbere ðe þertēnþ morniŋ āfter ðēz tidiŋz brōt too Karse. On ðe tabel under hiz hand wer paperz ov akŷnt and ŷedŷūlz ov hiz armēz and ðēr ekwipment. Korund sāt at ðe Kiŋz rīt hand, and over agānst him Korinyus.

Korundz grāt hare handz wer klāspt befœr him on ðe tabel. He spōk wiððt bōk, restiŋ hiz gāz on ðe stēde klġdz ðat sāld akros ðe skwēr ov ski sēn þrō ðe hi windo ðat fāst him. "Ov Witġland and ðe hōm þrōvinsez, O Kiŋ, nōt but ġud. Ōl ðe kumpanēz ov sōldŷerz hwiġ wer apōnted too repēr too ðis part bi ðe tenþ ov ðe munþ ar nŷ kum hīðer, sāv sum bandz ov spērmen from ðe sŷþ, and sum from Estreganzā. ðēz lāst I ekspekt too-da; Viglus riteþ ða kum wið him wið ðe hēve troops from Baltare I sent him too asembl. So iz ðe muster ƒol az for ðēz parts: Þramne, Zorn, Permeo, ðe land ov Ar, Trās, Butene, and Estremeŷin. Ov ðe subdŷekt ālġz, ðērŷ les ġud ðēr. ðe kiŋz ov Mīnyā and Dŷiltā: Olis ov Tekapan: Kŷnte Eskobrīn ov Tŷuġā: ðe kiŋ ov Ēleen: ōl

be hēr wið ðēr kontindzents. But ðêrz miteer nāmz we mis. Džūk Makstlin ov Azumel haþ fluŋ ofs alēdzans and kut of yor envqz ērz, O Kiŋ; tiz þôt for sum supozed līt part ov ðe sunz ov Korsus dun tō hiz sister. Ðat dōkeþ us þerte skœr stłt fiterz. Ðe lord ov Ūftlan sendeþ no ānsēr, and nł ar we advertīzd bi Mīnyā and Džiltā ov hiz open mālis and trezon, hū did stūbornle let ðem ðe wa hīðer þrō hiz kuntre hūl ða hasend tō doo yor madžestēz komāndz. Ðen ðêrz ðe Ōdzēdzan lēvēz, fūd be ni a þłzand spērz, ten dāz overdžu. Hemiŋ, ðat razeþ Piksiland in Prezmirāz nām, wil briŋ ðem in if he ma. Hū ōlso haþ order, beiŋ on hiz wa, tō rłz Maltraene tō akfon, from hūom no werd az yet; and I doo fēr tretfere in em, Maltraene and Ōdzēdzā bōþ, ða hav bēn so loŋ ov kūmiŋ. Kiŋ Barft ov Toribeā sendeþ flat refuzal."

"It iz nōn tō u besīdz, O Kiŋ," sed Korinyus, "ðat ðe kiŋ ov Nevreā kām in lāst nīt, mēne dāz pāst ðe da apqnted, and but hāf hiz džust komplement."

Ðe Kiŋ dru bak hiz lips. "I wil not daf hiz spīrits bi blamiŋ him at ðis prēzent. Later, Īl hav ðat kiŋz hed for ðis."

"Ðis iz ðe sum," sed Korund. "Na, ðen, I had forgot ðe Red Foleot wið fōk, þre hundred pertfāns, kām in ðis morniŋ."

Korinyus þrust łt hiz tunj and lāft: "Wun hen-lobster sutf az he fal skērs afœrd a kœrs for ðis bankwet."

"He kepeþ fāþ," sed Korund, "hūr bīger men tern dāstardz. Tiz sēn nł ðat ðēz fœrst lēgz be az fūr az ða wer sēld wið būter. Yor madžeste wil dłtles giv him ōdzens."

Ðe Kiŋ wōz silent āhūl, stūdein hiz paperz. "Hūt strenþ tō-da in Karse?" he āskt.

Korund ānserd him, "Az nēr az ma be tō skœr hundred fūt and fite skœr hors: fiv þłzand in ōl. And, ðat I wa mōst, O Kiŋ, big brōd stronj set ladz ov Witfland ni ēvere džak ov em."

Ðe Kiŋ sed, "Twōz not wel dun, O Korund, tō bid ði sun dela for Ōdzēdzā and Maltraene. He mīt els hav bēn in Karse nł wið a þłzand Piksilanderz tō swel łr strenþ."

"I did ðat I did," ānserd Korund, "sekiŋ ōnle yor gūd, O Kiŋ. A fu dāz dela mīt bi us a þłzand spērz."

"Dela," sed ðe Kiŋ, "haþ favord mīn ěneme. Ðis we fʊd hav dun: at hiz ferst landiŋ giv him no tīm but wink, set on him wið ōl ʁr fœrsez, and þro him int∞ ðe se."

"If luk go wið us ðat ma yet be," sed Korund.

Ðe Kiŋz nostrilz widend. He krōtft forword, glariŋ at Korund and Korinyus, hiz dʒō þrust ʁt so ðat ðe stif blak bērd on it bruft ðe paperz on ðe tabel befœr him. "Ðe Demonz," sed he, "landed i' ðe nīt at Ralpâ. Ða kum on wið grāt dʒernēz norþword. Wil be hēr êr þre dāz be spent."

Bōþ ða gru red az blud. Korund spāk: "H∞ tōld u ðēz tidiŋz, O Kiŋ?"

"Kêr not ðʁ for ðat," sed ðe Kiŋ. "Enuf for ðe, I no it. Haþ it taen u nāpiŋ?"

"No," ânserd he. "Ðēz ten dāz pāst we hav bēn rēde, wið hvōt strenþ we mīt māk, t∞ resēv em, kum ða from hvōt kworter ða wil. So it iz, ðo, ðat hvīl we lak ðe Piksiland sūkorz Dʒus haþ bi sum odz ðe advāntādʒ over us, if, az ʁr intēlīdʒens sāþ, siks þʁzand fitiŋ men d∞ fōlo him, and ðēz fœrst besīdz wið sum ðat fʊd be ʁrz."

"Ðʁ wōdst," sed ðe Kiŋ, "awāt ðēz ʁt ov Piksiland, wið ðat els Hemiŋ ma gāðer, afœr we ōfer ðem bātel?"

Sed Korund, "Ðat wōd I. We must luk beʏond ðe nekst tern ov ðe rōd, O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ."

"Ðat wōd not I," sed Korinyus.

"Ðat iz stʁtle sed, Korinyus," sed ðe Kiŋ. "Yet remember, ðʁ hadst ðe grater fœrs on Krōðeriŋ Sīd, yet wōst overbœrn."

"Tiz ðat standep in mi mīnd, Lord," sed Korund. "For wel I no, had I bēn ðēr īd a fērd no bēter."

Ðe Lord Korinyus, hv∞z brʁ had darkend wið ðe namiŋ ov hiz defēt, lukt tʃērfoole nʁ and sed, "I pra u but konsīder, O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, ðat hēr at hōm iz no rōom for sutʃ a slīt or dʒin az ðat hvērbi in ðēr ōn kuntre ða tʊk me. Hven Dʒus and Brandox Dahâ and ðēr stinkiŋ gaberlunʏēz d∞ kri huf at us on Witʃland sʁl, tiz tīm t∞ giv em a tʃōk-pêr. Hvitʃ wið yor lēv, Lord, I wil

prōmīs n̄ tō dō, ūðer els tō lōz mi līf."

"Giv me ði hand," sed Korund. "Ov ôl men els wūd I a tfozen ðe for sutf a da az ðis, and (wert tō-da tō mēt ðe hōl p̄her ov Demonland in armz) tō stand perdzū wið ðe for ðis blūde servīs. But let us hēr ðe Kiņz komāndz: hūtf wa soēr he t̄fūz, we fal dō it rīt gladle."

Gorīs ðe Kiņ sat silent. Wun lēn hand rested on ðe īrn serpent-hed ov hiz t̄fērz arm, ðe ūðer, wið finger ūtstret̄ft agānst ðe dzūtiņ t̄fēkbōn, sup̄erted hiz t̄fin. Ōnle in ðe dēp f̄ado ov hiz i-sōkets a lambent līt mōovd. At len̄p he started, az if ðe sp̄irit, flōn tō sum uns̄nded gulfs ov tīm or spās, had in ðat instant reternd tō its mortal dwēliņ. He gāðerd ðe paperz in a hēp and tost ðem tō Korund.

"Tō mutf liep on it," sed he. "He ðat hap mēne pēz ma p̄ut m̄er in ðe pot. But n̄ ðe da aprōt̄fep hven I and Dzus must k̄ast up ȳr ak̄nt t̄gēðer, and wun or ôl fal be brōt tō dēp and bān." He st̄ud up from hiz t̄fēr and l̄ukt d̄h̄n on ðōz tō, hiz tfozen kaptānz, grāt men ov wor rāzd up bi him tō be kiņz over tō kworterz ov ðe werld. Ða wōt̄ft him līk līt̄el berdz under ðe i ov a snāk. "Ðe kuntre herab̄t," sed ðe Kiņ, "iz not ḡud for horsman̄fip, and ðe Demonz be grāt horsmen. Karse iz stroņ, and nēver kan it be f̄erst bi asōlt. Ōlso under mīn i f̄ud mi men ov Witf̄land akwit ðemselvz tō dō ðe gratest dēdz. Ðēr̄f̄er wil we abīd ðem hēr in Karse, until yuņ Hemiņ kum and hiz lēv̄ez ūt ov Piksiland. Ðen fal ye fōl ūpon ðem and nēver māk an end til ðe land be ūterle perdz̄d ov ðem, and ôl ðe lordz ov Demonland be slān."

Korinyus sed, "Tō hēr iz tō oba, O Kiņ. H̄soēver, not tō disem̄bel wið u, Īd lever at em at wuns, sted ov let ðem sit āh̄ūl and refref ðēr arme. Okazon iz a wōnton wentf, O Kiņ, ðat iz kwik tō bēkon anūðer man if wun l̄ok kōldle on her. M̄erover, Lord, k̄ud u not bi yor art, in smōl tīm, wið sertān kompozīfonz?----"

But ðe Kiņ brāk in ūpon him saiņ, "Ð̄l nōst not h̄ot ð̄l sp̄ekst. Ðēr iz ði s̄erd; ðēr ði men; ðēz mi komāndz. Se ð̄l perform ðem punkt̄fuale hven tīm fal kum."

"Lord," sed Korinyus, "u fal not fīnd me wōntiņ." Ðēr̄wið he did obazans and went f̄er̄p from bef̄er ðe Kiņ.

Ðe Kiņ sed untō Korund, "Ð̄l hast mand him wel, ðis

tāsel-džentel. Ðēr wōz sum dāndžer he fʊd so mislīk subdzekʃon unt∞ ðe in ðēz akts marʃal az it fʊd brēd sum kworel fʊd lītel spēd ʎr enterprīz."

"Pink not u ðat, O Kiŋ," ānserd Korund. "Tiz grōn līk an ōlmanak for ðe pāst yēr, pāst dāt. A wil fēd ʎt ov mi hand nʎ."

"Bekōz ðʎ hast kārēd it wið him," sed ðe Kiŋ, "in so ōnorabel and open plān'nes. Hōld on ðe rōd ðʎ hast begun, and be mīndfʊl stil ðat int∞ ðīn hand iz gīven ðe sœrd ov Witʃland, and ðarin hav I pʊt mi trust for ðis grāt ʎr."

Korund lʊkt ūpon ðe Kiŋ wið gra and kwik īz finiŋ līk unt∞ ðe egelz. He slapt hiz hēve sœrd wið ðe flat ov hiz hand: "Tiz a tuf foks, O mi Lord ðe Kiŋ; wil not fāl hiz māster."

Ðērwið, glad at ðe Kiŋz graʃʎs werdz, he did obazans unt∞ ðe Kiŋ and went færþ from ðe tʃāمبر.

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Ðe sām nīt ðēr apērd in ðe ski impendiŋ over Karse a blaziŋ star wið t∞ bʊʃez. Korund beheld it in an open spās betwikst ðe klʊdz az he went t∞ hiz tʃāمبر. He sed nōt ov it t∞ hiz lade wīf, lest it fʊd trūbel her; but ʃe t∞ had from her windo sēn ðat star, yet spāk not ov it t∞ her lord for a līk rezon.

And Kiŋ Gorīs, sītiŋ in hiz tʃāمبر wið hiz bālfʊl bʊks, beheld ðat star and its fire stremerz, hwiʃ ðe Kiŋ rāðer noted ðan līkt. For ōlbeit he mīt not no ov a sertān hūōt wa ðat sīn intended, yet wōz it apārent t∞ wun so dēple lerned in nīgromanse and sēkrets astronōmikal ðat ðis piŋ wōz fatal, beiŋ ov ðōz prōdīdzēz and ōminʎs prognostiks hwiʃ fær-run ðe tradzikal endz ov nobel personz and ðe ruinz ov stāts.

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Ðe þerd da fōloiŋ, wōtʃmen beheld from Karse wōlz in ðe pāl morniŋ ðe armēz ov ðe Demonz ðat fild ðe hūōl plān t∞ sʎpword. But ov ðe sūkorz ʎt ov Piksiland wōz az yet no sīn at ōl. Gorīs ðe Kiŋ, akordiŋ az he had determīnd, held ōl hiz pʎer kwiet wīðin ðe fortres. But for pāsiŋ ov ðe tīm, and bekōz it plēzd hiz mīnd t∞ spēk yet fās t∞ fās wið ðe Lord Dzus befær ðis lāst mortal trial in armz fʊd be begun betwikst ðem, ðe Kiŋ

sent Kadarus az hiz hērald wið flagz ov trūs and  
ōlīv-brāntfez intō ðe Demonz līnz. Bi hūtf mīʃon it wōz  
konkluded ðat ðe Demonz ʃud wiðdrō ðēr armēz þre  
boʃots from ðe wōlz, and ða ov Witʃland ʃud abīd ōl  
wiðin ðe hōld; ōnle ðe Kiŋ wið fœrtēn ov hiz fōk  
ūnarmd and Dʒus wið a līk number ūnarmd ʃud kum fœrþ  
intō ðe midst ov ðe batabel grōnd and ðēr spēk tʊgēðer.  
And ðis metiŋ must be at ðe þerd þr âfter nōon.

So iðer parte kām tō ðis parle at ðe þr apqnted. Dʒus  
went bēh-hēded but, sāv for ðat, ōl armd in hiz ʃiniŋ  
berne wið gordʒet and ʃōlder-plāts dāmasket and embost  
wið wīrz ov gōld, and gōlden leg-harnes, and riŋz ov red  
gōld ūpon hiz rists. Hiz kertel wōz ov wīn-dark silken  
tīʃu, and he wœr ðat duske klōk ðe silfs had mād for  
him, ðe kōlar hvarov wōz stif wið brōdere and strāndʒ  
bēsts werkt ðaron in silver þred. Akordiŋ tō ðe  
kompakt he bēr no wēpon; ōnle in hiz hand a ʃort ivore stāf  
inlād wið prēʃls stōnz, and ðe hed ov it a bōl ov ðat  
stōn hūtf men kōl Belus i, ðat iz hūit and haþ wiðin  
it a blak āpel, ðe midst hvarov a man ʃal se tō glīter  
līk gōld. Vēre māsterfōl and prōd he stōd befoer ðe Kiŋ,  
kāreiŋ hiz hed līk a stag ðat snifs ðe morniŋ. Hiz  
breðren and Brandox Dahâ remānd a pās or tō behīnd him,  
wið Kiŋ Gazlark and ðe lordz Zig and Gro, and Melxar and  
Parmrod and Sterkmer, Kwaz wið hiz tō sunz, and Astar, and  
Bremere ov Σōz: gʊdle men and lordle tō lōk on, unwēpond  
ōl; and wundrōs wōz ðe sparkel ov ðēr dʒuelz ðat wer on  
ðem.

Over agānst ðem, atendiŋ on ðe Kiŋ, wer ðēz: Korund  
kiŋ ov Impland, and Korinyus kōld kiŋ ov Demonland, Hakmon  
and Viglus Korundz sunz, Dʒūk Korsus and hiz sunz Dekalādʒus  
and Goreus, Uleen kiŋ ov Mīnyâ, Olis lord ov Tekapan, Dʒūk  
Avel ov Estreganzâ, ðe Red Foleot, Erp ðe kiŋ ov Éleen,  
and ðe kōnts ov Pramne and Tʒuʃâ; unwēpond, but armord  
tō ðe þrōt, big men and stroŋ ðe mōst ov ðem and ov  
lordle bariŋ, yet nun tō matʃ wið Korinyus and Korund.

Ðe Kiŋ, in hiz mantel ov kōbrâ-skinz, hiz stāf-rqal in hiz  
hand, topt bi hāf a hed ōl ðōz tōl men abōt him,  
frend and fo alīk. Lēn and blak he tþerd amuŋst ðem,  
līk a þunder-blāsted pīn-tre sēn agānst ðe sunset.

So, in ðe gōlden ôtum âfternōon, in ðe midst ov ðat sad  
mān ov sedʒlandz hūer betwēn slime banks ðe wēd-tʃōkt  
Drumâ deveðsle wīndz tōword ðe se, wer ðōz tō men met  
tʊgēðer for hūoz ambīʃon and ðēr prīd ðe werld wōz tō  
lītel a plās tō kontān ðem bōþ and pēs liiŋ betwēn  
ðem. And līk sum drōze drāgon ov ðe elder slīm, skwōt,



sīnister, and monstrŭs, ǝe sītadel ov Karse slept over ōl.

Bi and bi ǝe Kiŋ spāk and sed: "I sent for ǝe bekōz I þink it ġud I and ǝŭ fud tōk tŭġǝǝer huīl yet iz tīm for tōkiŋ."

Dzŭs ānserd, "I kworel not wiǝ ǝat, O Kiŋ."

"ǝŭ," sed ǝe Kiŋ, bendiŋ hiz brŭ ūpon him, "art a man wīz and fērles. I kŭnsel ǝe, and ōl ǝēz ǝat be wiǝ ǝe, tern bak from Karse. Wel I se ǝe blud ǝŭ didst drink in Melikafkaz wil not ala ǝi þerst, and wor iz tō ǝe ǝi perl and ǝi pāramœr. Yet, if it be, tern bak from Karse. ǝŭ standst nŭ on ǝe pīnakel ov ǝīn ambīfon; wilt lēp hier, ǝŭ fōlst in ǝe abis. Let ǝe fœr kornorz ov ǝe erþ be faken wiǝ ŭr worz, but not ǝis senter. For hēr fal no man ġǝǝer frūt, but and if it be deþ he ġǝǝer; or if, ǝen ǝis frūt ōnle, ǝat Zokum, ǝat frūt ov bīternes, huīf hven he fal hav tāsted ov, ōl ǝe brīt līts ov hēven fal bekum az darknes and ōl erþs ġudnes az āfez in hiz mŭþ ōl hiz līfs dāz until he di."

He pōzd. ǝe Lord Dzŭs stŭd stil, kwaliŋ not at ōl benēþ ǝat dredfŭl ġāz. Hiz kumpane behīnd him sterd and hŭisperd. Lord Brandox Dahā, wiǝ mōkere in hiz i, sed sumhuōt tō Ġōldre Bluzko under hiz breþ.

But ǝe Kiŋ spāk agān tō ǝe Lord Dzŭs, "Be not desēvd. ǝēz þiŋz I sa untō ǝe not az laboriŋ tō skēr u from yor set perpōs wiǝ frīts and fare-bābz: I no yor kwōlite tō wel. But I hav red sīnz in hēven: nōt klēr, but þretfŭl untō bōþ u and me. For ǝi ġud I sa it, O Dzŭs, and agān (for ǝat ŭr lāst spētġ leveþ ǝe fermest print) be advīzd: tern bak from Karse or it be tō lāt."

Lord Dzŭs harkend atentīvle tō ǝe werdz ov Ġorīs ǝe Kiŋ, and hven he had ended, ānserd and sed, "O Kiŋ, ǝŭ hast ġiven us tēribel ġud kŭnsel. But it wōz rīdelwīz. And heriŋ ǝe, mīn i wōz stil on ǝe krŭn ǝŭ wērst, mād in ǝe fīġŭr ov a krab-fif, huīf, bekōz it lŭks wun wa and ġōz anŭǝer, mēþōt did fitle pātern ŭt ǝi lŭkiŋ tō ŭr pērilz but sekiŋ ǝe huīl ǝīn ōn advāntādž."

ǝe Kiŋ ġāv him an il lŭk, saiŋ, "I am ǝi lord pāramŭnt. Wiǝ subdžekts it sits not tō ūz ǝis famīlear stīl untō ǝēr Kiŋ."

Dʒus ânserd, "Ðʒ dust ðe and ðʒ me. And indēd it wer  
fōle in iðer ov us twān tō bend ne tō tūðer, hven ðe  
lordʒip ov ôl ðe erp watep on ðe viktor in ʒr grāt  
kontenʒon. Ðʒ hast bēn open wið me, Witʒland, tō let me  
no ðʒ art ūneger tō strīk a fēld wið us. I wil be open  
tō, and I wil māk an öfer untō ðe, and ðis it iz: ðat  
we wil depart ʒt ov ði kuntre and dō no mœr unpēsful  
dēdz agānst ðe (til ðʒ provōk us agān); and ðʒ, ov  
ði part, ov ôl ðe land ov Demonland ʒalt giv up ði  
kworel, and ov Pīksiland and Impland besīd, and ʒalt yēld me  
up Korsus and Korinyus ði servants ðat I ma pūnij ðem for  
ðe bēstle dēdz ða did in ʒr land hvenaz we wer not ðēr  
tō gard it."

He sēst, and for a mīnūt ða beheld ētʒ ūðer in silens.  
Ðen ðe Kiŋ lifted up hiz tʒin and smīld a dredful smīl.

Korinyus hūisperd mōkiŋle in hiz ēr, "Lord, u ma lītle  
giv em Korsus. Ðat wer eze kompozīʒon, and fōls kqŋ tō  
mēpinks."

"Stand bak i' ði plās," sed ðe Kiŋ, "and hōld ði pēs."  
And untō Lord Dʒus he sed, "Ov ôl ensuiŋ harm ðe kōz iz  
in ðe; for I am nʒ rezolvd nēver tō pot up mi sœrd until  
ov ði bledij hed I ma māk a foʒbōl. And nʒ, let ðe  
erp be afrād, and Sinpeā obskūr her ʒin: no mœr werdz  
but mum. Punder and blud and nīt must uzerp ʒr parts, tō  
komplēt and māk up ðe katastrofe ov ðis grāt pēs."

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Ðat nīt ðe Kiŋ wōkt lāt in hiz tʒāmbor in ðe Īrn  
Tʒer alōn. Ðēz þre yēz pāst he had seldom rezorted  
ðīðer, and ðen kōmonle but tō bēr awa sum or ūðer ov  
hiz bʒks tō stūde in hiz ōn lodʒij. Hiz dʒarz and flāsks and  
bōtelz ov blu and grēn and perpel glās hvarin he kept hiz  
kerst drugz and elektʒuarēz ov sēkret kompozīʒon, hiz āpalz  
and āpanorz, hiz krusibelz, hiz horsbēlēd retorts and  
alembiks and bānz-marēz, stōd aro on ʒelvz koted wið  
dust and huŋ abʒt wið ðe dul spiderz weviŋz; ðe  
fernās wōz kōld; ðe glās ov ðe windōz wōz klʒded wið  
dert; ðe wōlz wer mildzūd; ðe ēr ov ðe tʒāmbor fuste and  
stagnant. Ðe Kiŋ wōz dēp in hiz kontemplaʒon, wið a big  
blak bʒk open befœr him on ðe siks-sided redij-stand: ðe  
damnāblest ov ôl hiz bʒks, ðe sām huiʒ had tōt him  
afœrtīm huōt he must dō hven bi ðe wīked pʒer ov  
entʒāntment he had wōnted but a lītel tō hav konfʒnded  
Demonland and ôl ðe lordz ðarov in ðep and ruin.

De open pādƷ under hiz hand wōz ov partfment diskūlord wið  
ādƷ, and ðe ritiŋ on ðe pādƷ wōz in kārakterz ov ānfent  
ŷt-ov-fāƷon krabdnēs, hēve and blak, and ðe grāt  
inīfal lēterz and ðe iluminated borderz wer pānted and  
gilded in dark and fire hūz wið reprezentaƷonz ov dredfōl  
fazez and formz ov serpents and tōd-fāst men and āps and  
mantikorz and sūkubi and inkubi and obsēn reprezentaƷonz  
and fīgūrƷ ov unlōfōl meniŋ. Ðēz wer ðe werdz ov ðe  
ritiŋ on ðe pādƷ hwiƷ ðe Kiŋ kond over and over,  
fōliŋ agān intō a dēp stūde betwēnhwīlz, and ðen kōniŋ  
ðēz werdz agān ov an ādƷ-ōld profētik ritiŋ tutƷiŋ ðe  
preordināt destinēz ov ðe rōƷal hōs ov Gorīs in Karse:

*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 lif fe lossit bee  
Broke ys thenne this serye  
Dampned are you thenne eternallie  
Yerth schuldestow 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.*

Gorīs ðe Kiŋ stōd up and went tō ðe sōp windo. Ðe  
kāsment bolts wer rusted: he fōerst ðem and ða flu bak  
wið a frēk and a klāter and a pin Ʒōer ov dust and grit.  
He opend ðe windo and lōkt ŷt. Ðe hēve nīt gru tō  
her depp ov kwiet. Ðēr wer līts far ŷt in ðe marfez,  
ðe līts ov Lord DƷūsez kamp-fīrz ov hiz armēz gāðerd  
agānst Karse. Skērsle wīðŷt a tƷil mīt a man hav lōkt  
ūpon ðat Kiŋ standiŋ bi ðe windo; for ðēr wōz in ðe  
tōl lēn frām ov him an īrn aspekt az ov no natƷural fleƷ  
and blud but sum harder kōlder ēlement; and hiz kōntenans,  
līk ðe piktƷūr ov sum dark divīnite graven ādƷez ago bi men  
loŋ ded, bōer ðe imprint ov ðōz ōld kwōlitēz ov  
unrelentiŋ pōer, skorn, violens, and oprēƷon, ānfent az  
nīt herself yet untutƷt bi ādƷ, yuŋ az ētƷ nīt huen it  
Ʒuts dōn and ōld and elemental az ðe primeval dark.

A loŋ hūil he stod ðêr, ðen kām agān tō hiz bŭk.  
"Gorīs 7.," he sed in himself. "Ðat wōz wuns in ðe bōde.  
And I hav dun bēter ðan ðat, but not yet wel enuf. Tiz  
tō hāzardŭs, ðe sēkond tīm, alōn. Korund iz a man  
undōnted in wor, but ðe man iz tō superstīfŭs and kwakeþ  
at ðat hwiþ hap not fleþ and blud. Aparīfonz and  
ertfin-fōz kan kwīt unman him. Ðêrz Korinyus, kareþ not  
for God or man a pŕnt. But he iz tō raf and unadvīzd: I  
wer mad tō trust him in it. Wer ðe Goblin hēr, it mīt be  
kārēd. Damnabel bōþ-sīdz vīlān, hēz kāst of from me."  
He skand ðe pādʒ az if hiz pērsiŋ īz wōd þrust beYond  
ðe bāreerz ov tīm and deþ and diskūver sum nu meniŋ in  
ðe werdz hwiþ fŭd agre bēter wið ðe þiŋ hiz mīnd  
dezīrd hūil hiz dʒudʒment forbād it. "He sez damd  
eternale:' he sez ðat brakeþ ðe serēz, and erþ  
fŭdst ðŭ ðen nēver mœr se.' Pŭt him bi."

And ðe Kiŋ slole fut up hiz bŭk, and lokt it wið þre  
padloks, and pŭt bak ðe ke in hiz bŭzom. "Ðe nēd iz not  
yet," he sed. "Ðe sœrd fal hav hiz da, and Korund. But  
if ðat fāl me, ðen even ðis fal not tern me bak but I  
wil dœ ðat I wil dœ."

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In ðe sām ūr huen ðe Kiŋ wōz but nŭ enterd agān into  
hiz ōn lodʒiŋz, kām þrœ a rūner ov Hemiŋz tō let ðem  
no ðat he, fiftēn hundred stroŋ, martʃt dŭn ðe Wa ov  
Kiŋz from Piksiland. Mœrover ða wer advertīzd ðat ðe  
Demon flēt la in ðe rīver ðat nīt, and it wōz not unlīk  
ðe atak fŭd be in ðe morniŋ bi land and wōter.

Ōl nīt ðe Kiŋ sāt in hiz tʃāmbēr hōldiŋ kŭnsil wið hiz  
dʒēneralz and orderiŋ ōl þiŋz for ðe moro. Ōl nīt loŋ  
he klōzd not hiz īz an instant, but ðe ūðerz he mād slēp  
bi ternz bekōz ða fŭd be brisk and rēde for ðe bātel.  
For ðis wōz ðêr kŭnsel, tō drō ūt ðêr hŭl arme on ðe  
left bank befœr ðe bridʒ-gāt and ðêr ōfer bātel tō ðe  
Demonz at pŕnt ov da. For if ða fŭd abīd wīðin dœrz  
and sŭfer ðe Demonz tō kut yuŋ Hemiŋ of from ðe  
bridʒ-gāt, ðen wer he lost, and if ðe bridʒ-hŭs fŭd  
fōl and ðe bridʒ, ðen mīt ðe Demonz lītle fip hŭt  
fœrs ða plēzd tō ðe rīt bank and so klōsle invest ðem  
in Karse. Ov an atak on ðe rīt bank ða had no fēr, wel  
noiŋ ðemselvz abel tō sit wīðin dœrz and lāf at ðem,  
sins ðe wōlz wer ðêr inekspugnabel. But if a bātel wer  
nŭ brōt abŭt befœr ðe bridʒ-gāt az ða wer mīnded,  
and Hemiŋ fŭd dʒŕŋ in ðe fīt from ðe ēstword, ðêr  
wōz gŭd hōp ðat ða fŭd be abel tō krumpel up ðe bātel

ov ðe Demonz, driviŋ ðem in ũpon ðêr senter from ðe west  
hũlſt Hemiŋ smõt ðem on ðe ũðer part. Hũrbi ðêz  
ƒud be kâst into a grât rłt and konfuŷon and not be abel  
too eskâp awa too ðêr ƒips, but ðêr in ðe fenlandz befœr  
Karse ƒud be mād a pra untō ðe Witƒez.

Hven it wōz ðe kōld lâst ƒr befœr ðe dōn ðe dzęneralz  
tok from ðe Kiŋ ðêr latest komāndz êr ða dru fœrþ  
ðêr armēz. Korinyus kām fœrþ ferst from ðe Kiŋz tƒāember  
a lĩtel hũl befœr ðe rest. In ðe drāfte koridor ðe  
lamps swuŋ and smōkt, makinŋ an unsertān winde lĩt.  
Korinyus espĩd bi ðe stêrhed ðe Lade Srivā standiŋ,  
hũðer wōtƒiŋ too bid her fāðer ādzu or but fōloinŋ idel  
kureōsite. Huitƒever it wer, not a fiko gāv he for ðat, but  
kũmiŋ swiftle ũpon her hũskt her asĩd into an alkōv hũer  
ðe lĩt wōz bêrle enuf too let him se ðe pāl ƒĩmer ov  
her silken głn, dark hêr pind lœsle up in dēp snake  
kqłz, and dark, ĩz ƒiniŋ. "Mi wĩte fōls wun, hav I  
kōt ðe? Na, ƒit not. Ði breþ smelz lĩk sĩnamon.  
Kis me, Srivā."

"Īl not!" sed ƒe, striviŋ too eskâp. "Nōte man, am I  
ũzd ðus?" But ƒindiŋ ƒe got nōt bi strugliŋ, ƒe sed  
in a lo vaŷs, "Wel, if ðł briŋ bak Demonland too-nĩt,  
ðen, lets hōld mœr tƒat."

"Harken too ðe nōte trātres," sed he, "ðat but lâst  
nĩt didst dœ me sum unsĩvil diskertesēz, and nł spekeþ  
me fêr: and huõt a dēvil for? if not kōz hersemep Īl  
lĩkle not kum bak āfter ðis dāz ƒit. But Īl kum  
bak, mistres kis-and-be-gon; i, bi ðe Godz, and Īl hav  
mi pament too."

Hiz lips fed dēp on her lips, hiz stroŋ and grede handz  
softle māsterd her agānst her wil, til wið a lĩtel  
smũðerd kri ƒe embrāst him, bruziŋ her tender bōde  
agānst ðe armor he wōz gert wiðōl. Betwēn ðe kĩsez ƒe  
hũisperd, "Yes, yes, too-nĩt." Σũrle he damd spĩtƒol  
fortƒũn, ðat sent him not ðis enkłnter bi an hāf-łr  
sooner.

Hven he wōz departed, Srivā remānd in ðe ƒādo ov ðe  
alkōv too set in order her hêr and apārel, not a lĩtel  
disarād in ðat hot wœiŋ. Łt ov huitƒ darknes ƒe had  
konvėnyens too obzerv ðe lēv-takiŋ ov Prezmirā and her  
lord az ða kām dłn ðat winde koridor and pōzd at ðe  
hed ov ðe stêrz.

Prezmirā had her arm in hiz. "I no hũer ðe Dēvil kepeþ

hiz tāl, mādam," sed Korund. "And I no a vēre trator huen I se him."

"Huen didst dō ēver yet fēr il bi fōloin ov mi kōnsel, mi lord?" sed Prezmirā. "Or did I refūz dē ēver ēne þin dō didst rekwīr me ov? Ðēz sēven yērz sins I pūt of mi māden zōn for dē; and twente kinz sōt me in swēt mārādʒ, but dē I preferd befær ðem ōl, seiŋ dē fōlkon ƒal not māt wið pōpindzāz nor dē ƒe-egel wið swōnz and bustardz. And wil u sa na tō me in dīs?"

Σe stōd rōnd tō fās him. Ðe pupilz ov her grāt īz wer lardz in dē dōtful lamplīt, swōloin dēr grēn firz in dēp pōolz ov mistere and darknes. Ðe ritƒ and gordʒōs ornaments ov her krōn and gerdel sēmd but a pōor kāsket for dāt matƒles bute huiƒ wōz herz: her fās, hvēr ēvere nobel and swēt kwōlite and ēvere þin dezirabel ov erþ or hēven had frāmd ētƒ fētƒūr tō itself: dē glære ov her hēr, līk dē red sunz glære: her hōl bōdēz pāz and postƒūr, līk a stātle berdʒ nu-lited āfter flīt.

"Ðo it be vēre rubarb tō me," sed Korund, "ƒal I sa na tō dē dīs tīd? Not dīs tīd, mi Kwēn."

"Þanks, dēr mi lord. Disarm him and briŋ him in if u ma. Ðe Kin ƒal not refūz us dīs tō pardon hiz fōle, huen dō ƒalt hav obtānd dīs viktore for him ūpon ōr ēnemēz."

Ðe Lade Srivā mīt hēr no mōer, harkend ƒe nēver so kureðsle. But huen dā wer nō kum tō dē stēr fōt, Korund pōzd a mīnūt tō tri dē būkelz ov hiz harnes. Hiz brō wōz klōded. At lenþ he spāk. "Ðis ƒal be a bātel mortal fērs and dōtōs for bōþ partēz. Gānst sutƒ mite ōpozīts az hēr we hav, tiz pōsibel: No mōer; but kis me, dēr las. And if: tuf, twil not be; and yet, īd not lēv it unsed: if il tīd il, īd not hav dē wāst ōl dī dāz a-greviŋ. Ðō nōst I am not wun ov yor sōr enveðs dʒaks, bēr so pōor a konsēt o' dēmselvz dā begrudʒ dēr wīvz ƒud wed agān lest dē nekst huzband ƒud prōv dē bēter man."

But Prezmirā kām nēr tō him wið gōd and mēre kōntenans:

"Let me stop dī mōþ, mi lord. Ðēz be fōlif þōts for a grāt kin goin intō bātel. Kum bak in triumf, and i' dē mēn sezon þink on me dāt wāt for dē; az a star wāts, dēr mi lord. And nēver dōt dē īƒu."

"Ðe īƒu," ānserd he, "īl tel dē huen tiz dun. Īm

no aströnomer. Ī hu wið mi scærd, luv; spq̄l sum ov ðêr gësez if I ma."

"Gud fortjūn and mi luv go wið ðe," Je sed.

Srivâ kŭmiŋ fœrp from her hidiŋ hasend tœ her müðerz lodziŋ, and ðêr fĥnd her ðat had dzust bid ādzu tœ her tœ sunz, her fās ôl blüberd wið tērz. In ðe sām instant kām ðe Dzūk her huzband tœ tġāndz hiz scærd, and ðe Lade Zenambreâ kôt him abĥt ðe nek and wœd hav kist him. But he fœk her of, kriiŋ ųt ðat he wōz were ov her and her slöberij mĥp; mēnasiŋ her besīdz wið filpe imprekaŋonz, ðat he wœd drag her wið him and kâst her tœ ðe Demonz, hœ, sins ða had a stron loðij for sutġ ugle tits and stāl ôld trots, wœd no dĥt haŋ her up or disembĥel her and so rid him ov hiz lâstiŋ konsumpfon. Ðêrwið he went fœrp hāstile. But hiz wīf and dōter, iðer wepiŋ ųpon ųðer, kām dĥn intœ ðe kœrt, meniŋ tœ go up tœ ðe tĥer abuv ðe wōter-gāt tœ se ðe arme marġald beyond ðe rīver. And on ðe wa Srivâ related ôl Je had herd sed betwikst Korund and Prezmirâ.

In ðe kœrt ða met wið Prezmirâz self, and Je goiŋ wið blīð kĥntenans and līt tred and hŭmiŋ a mēre tġūn bad ðem gud-moro.

"U kan bêr ðêz þiŋz mœr brāvleer ðan we, mādam," sed Zenambreâ. "We be tœ dzentel-harted mēþinks and pītiful."

Prezmirâ replīd ųpon her, "Tiz tru, mādam, I hav not ðe wēk sens ov sum ov u soft-īd hŭimperiŋ ladēz. And bi yor lēv Ī kēp mi tērz (hvitġ be grāt spq̄lerz ov ðe tġēks besīd) until I nēd em."

Hven ða wer pāst bi, "Iz it not a stone-līverd and a fāmles hŭse, O mi müðer?" sed Srivâ. "And iz it not skandalĥs her lâfiŋ and dzestiŋ, az I hav tōld it ðe, hven Je did bid him ādzu, deviziŋ ōnle hĥ best Je mīt kōks him tœ sāv ðe līf ov yonder tġāmberij tratorĥs hĥnd?"

"Wið hœm," sed Zenambreâ, "Je wōnt tœ dœ ðe þiŋ Īd þink fām tœ spēk on. Trule ðis forān mādam wið her lœs and wōnton wāz duþ skandal ðe hŭōl land for us."

But Prezmirâ went her wa, glad ðat Je had not bi an ilidz flīker let her lord ges hŭôt a dred pozest her mīnd, hœ had in ôl ðe biŋer nīt sēn strāndz and kruel vīzonz portendiŋ los and ruin ov ôl Je held dēr.

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Nŀ, hven dōn apērd, wōz ðe Kiŋz huōl arme drōn ŀt in bātel ara befōer ðe bridz-hŀs. Korinyus held komānd on ðe left. Ðēr fōlōd him fiftēn hundred tfozen trōops ov Witfland, wið ðe Dzūks ov Trās and Estreganzā, besīdz ðēz kiŋz and prinsez wið ðēr ŀtlandif lēvēz: ðe kiŋ ov Mīnyā, Kŀnt Eskobrīn ov Tzujā, and ðe Red Foleot. Korsus led ðe senter, and wið him went Kiŋ Erp ov Ēleen and hiz grēn-koted sliŋ-kāsterz, ðe kiŋ ov Nevreā, Akstakus lord ov Permeo, ðe kiŋ ov Dziltā, Olis ov Tekapan, and űðer kaptānz: sēventēn hundred men in ōl. Ðe rīt ðe Lord Korund had tfozen for himself. Tō þŀzand Witfland trōops, ðe līkleest and best, hardend tō wor in Impland and Demonland and ðe sŀþēstern borderz, fōlōd hiz standard, besīd ðe hēve spērmen ov Baltare and sœrdzmen ov Butene and Ar. Viglus hiz sun wōz ðēr, and ðe Kŀnt ov Pramne, Kadarus, Didarus ov Largos, and ðe lord ov Estremeŕin.

But hven ðe Demonz wer wēr ov ðat grāt arme standiŋ befōer ðe bridz-gāt, ða put ðemselvz in ara for bātel. And ðēr fips mād rēde tō mōv up ðe rīver under Karse, if bi ēne mēnz ða mīt atak ðe bridz bi wōter and so kut of for ðe Witfez ðēr wa ov retrēt.

It wōz brīt lo sunfīn, and ðe splendor ov ðe dzueld armor ov ðe Demonz and ðēr mēne-kūlord kertelz and ðe plūmz ðat wer in ðēr helmz wōz a wunder tō behōld. Ðis wōz ðe order ov ðēr bātel. On ðēr left nerest ðe rīver wōz a grāt kumpane ov hors, and ðe Lord Brandox Dahā tō lēd ðem on a grāt gōlden dun wið fire īz. Hiz iland men, Melxar and Parmrod, wið Kamerar ov Stropardon and Strikmer and Stipmar, wer ðe tŀfēf kaptānz ðat rōd wið him tō ðat bātel. Nekst tō ðēz kām ðe hēve trōops from ðe ēst, and ðe Lord Dzus himself ðēr leder on a tōl fērs big-bōnd tŀesnut. Abŀt him wōz hiz pikt bōdigard ov hors, wið Bremere ov Σōz ðēr kaptān; and in hiz bātel wer ðēz tŀfēfs besīdz: Astar ov Retra and Dzizmor Glēm ov Dzustdāl and Pēridor ov Σūl. Lord Spitfīr led ðe senter, and wið him Fendor ov Σalgreþ, and Emeron, and ðe men ov Dalne, grāt spērmen; ōlso ðe Dzūk ov Azumel, sumtīm āfīd wið Witfland. Ðēr went ōlso wið him ðe Lord Gro, ðat skand stil ðōz ānfent wōlz wið a hēve hart, þinkiŋ on ðe grāt Kiŋ wiðin, and wið huōt māstere ov intelekt and wil he rūld ðōz dark terbulent and blūde men huō bēr swa under him; þinkiŋ on Kwēn Prezmirā. Tō hiz sik imadziniŋ, ðe blaknes ov Karse huitf no brīt morniŋ līt mīt liten sēmd not az ov ōld ðe īmādz and emblem ov ðe rŀgal hŀs ov Witfland and ðēr hi magnīfisense and þŀer on erþ, but rāðer ðe fādo þrōn befōer ov destine



and deþ rēde tō þæt dān ðat p̄þer for ēver. Huitf huēðer it fud so befōl or no he did not grātle k̄er, beiŋ aware ov lif and lifs feverz, wīld lōŋiŋz, and eksorbitant afekts, hvarov he þōt he had n̄þ lernd mutf: ðat tō him, huō az it sēmd must stil adhēr tō hiz ōn fōz abandoniŋ ðe ūðerz servīs, fortfūn þrō huōtēver tʃop kud briŋ no pēs at lāst. On ðe Demon rīt ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko strēmd hiz standard, lediŋ tō bātel ðe s̄þ-ferðerz and ðe hēve sp̄ermen ov Mardardāl and Prowōter. Wið him wōz Kiŋ Gazlark and hiz arme ov Goblinland, and lēvēz from Ōdzēdzā and Ūftlan, lātle revolted from ðēr alēdzans tō Kiŋ Gorīs. ðe Lord Zig, wið hiz lit hors ov Rāmerik and Keliland and ðe norðern dālz, kūverd ðēr flank tō ðe ēstword.

Gorīs ðe Kiŋ beheld ðēz dispozīfonz from hiz t̄þer abuv ðe wōter-gāt. He beheld, besīdz, a þiŋ ðe Demonz mīt not se from belo, for a lītēl swēliŋ ov ðe gr̄nd ðat kut of ðēr vu, ðe martfiŋ ov men far awa alon ðe Wa ov Kiŋz from ðe ēstword: yuŋ Hemiŋ wið ðe vāsatre ov Piksiland and Maltraene. He sent a truste man tō aprīz Korund ov it.

N̄þ Lord Dzus let blo up ðe bātel kōl, and wið ðe l̄ðd braiŋ ov ðe trumpets ðe hōsts ov ðe Demonz swuŋ fœrþ tō bātel. And ðe klaf ov ðōz armēz hven ða met befœr Karse wōz līk ðe berstiŋ ov a þunderkl̄ðd. But līk a grāt se-klif paŋent for ādʒez under ðe storm-windz' furēz, ðat not wun nīts l̄ðd wind and tʃardziŋ brakerz kan wēr awa, nor yet a þ̄zand þ̄zand nīts, ðe embātelēd streŋþ ov Witʃland met ðēr onset, mikst wið ðem, fluŋ ðem bak, and st̄ud unremōvd. Korundz īrn batāleonz b̄er in ðis ferst brunt ðe hēveest lōd, and b̄er it þrō. For ðe fips, wið yuŋ Hesper Golþriŋ in komānd mōst fērsle erdzin ðem, ran up ðe rīver tō fœrs ðe bridʒ, and Korund huīlz he met on hiz frunt ðe onset ov ðe fl̄þer ov Demonland must stil be fot at bi ðēz behīnd. Hakmon and Viglus, ðōz yuŋ prinsez hiz sunz, wer tʃardʒd wið ðe wordin ov ðe bridʒ and wōlz tō bern and brāk up ðēr fips. And ða ov ōl handz bestūriŋ ðem twīs and þrīs þru bak ðe Demonz hven ða had gōten a f̄otiŋ on ðe bridʒ; until in fīn, bōþ sīdz for a loŋ spās fitiŋ v̄ere kruēle, it fel ūt v̄ere fatale agānst Hesper and hiz p̄þer, hiz fips ōl lited in a lo and ðe mœr part ov hiz fōk bernd or dr̄nd or slān wið ðe sc̄erd; and himself āfter mēne and grev̄s wōndz in hiz lāst atempt left alōn on ðe bridʒ, and krōliŋ tō hav got awa wōz stabd in wið a dāger and dīd.

After ðis ðe fips fel bak dǣn ðe rīver, so mēne az mīt  
avāl ðērt∞, and ðōz sunz ov Korund, ðēr tâsk manfōole  
fūfild, kām fœrp wið ðēr fōk t∞ dzɑn in ðe mǣn  
bātel. And ðe smōk ov ðe bernij fips wōz līk insens in  
ðe nostrilz ov ðe Kij wōtfin ðēz þinz from hiz tǣr  
abuv ðe wōter-gāt.

Lītel pōz wōz ðēr betwikst ðis ferst brunt and ðe nekst,  
for Hemiñ nǣ bēn dǣn from ðe ēst, drāv in Zigz  
horsmen ðat wer hamperd in ðe hēve grōnd, and prest  
hiz onset hōm on ðe Demon rīt. Aloŋ ðe huōl līn from  
Korundz pōst besīd ðe rīver t∞ ðe ēstern flank huēr  
Hemiñ dzɑnd Korinyus ðe Witfez nǣ set on mōst fērsle;  
and nǣ wer ðe odz ov numberz, hutf wer at ferst agānst  
ðem, swuŋ mitile in ðēr favor, and under ðis grāt  
sīd-blo on hiz flank not ōl ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzkōz  
sōldzerfip nor ōl ðe tēror ov hiz mīt in armz kūd  
uphōld ðe Demonz bātel-līn. Yard bi yard ða fel bak  
befœr ðe Witfez, mōst glœreþsle mǣntaniñ ðēr ara  
unbroken, ðo ðe ǣtland ālīz brōk and fled. Mēntīm on  
ðe Demon left Dzus and Brandox Dahā mōst stūbornle wiðstōd  
ðat onslōt, ōlbeit ða had t∞ d∞ wið ðe ferst and tfozen  
troops ov Witfland. In hutf strūgel befel ðe mōst blūde  
fitiñ ðat wōz yet sēn ðat da, and ðe stor ov bātel so  
asper and so mortal ðat it wōz hard t∞ se hǣ ēne man fōd  
kum ǣt from it wið līf, sins not a man ov iðer sīd  
wōd budz an intf but di ðēr in hiz steps if he mīt not  
rāðer sla ðe fo befœr him. So ðe armēz swād for an  
þr līk raslerz lokt, but in ðe end ðe Lord Korund had  
hiz wa and held hiz grōnd befœr ðe bridz-gāt.

Romenard ov Dalne, gǣlopiñ t∞ Lord Dzus huēr he pōzd a  
huōl pantiñ from violens ov ðe bātel brōt him bi  
Spitfirz komānd tidiñz from ðe rīt: tēliñ him Gōldrēz  
self kūd hōld no longer agānst sutf odz: ðat ðe senter  
yet held, but at ðe nekst onset wōz līk t∞ brāk, or ðe rīt  
wiñ els be drīven in ūpon ðēr rēr and ōl overhuelmd: "If  
yor hines kanot þro bak Korund, ōl iz lost."

In ðēz fort mīnūts lul (if lul it wer hven ōl ðe tīm  
ðe bātel līk a sǣndiñ se rōld on wið a sēsles nqz  
ov ridiñ and slaiñ and ðe klaŋ ov armz), Dzus tfoz.  
Demonland and ðe huōl werldz destinēz huŋ on hiz tfoqs.  
He had no kǣnselor. He had no tīm for slo deliberafon. In  
sutf a moment imādziñafon, rezolufoñ, swift desīzōn, ōl hi  
gifts ov nātfoŋ, ar nōt: swift horsez gulft and lost in  
ðe pit hutf fāt ðe ēneme digd in ðe wa befœr ðem;  
eksept pānfōl nōledz, stord up pafentle þro yērz ov  
praktis, fal hav prepērd a rōd foŋ and klēn for ðēr

fliiŋ hœvz tœ bêr ðem in ðe grāt ʒr ov destine. So it wôz from ðe bēgīniŋ wið ôl grāt kaptānz: so wið ðe Lord Dʒus in ðat ʒr hven ruin swœpt ūpon hiz armēz. For tœ mīnūts spās he stœd silent; ðen sent Bremere ov Σôz gālopiŋ westword līk wun mīnded tœ brāk hiz nek wið hiz orderz tœ Lord Brandox Dahâ, and Romenard ēstword agān tœ Spitfīr. And Dʒus himself ridiŋ forword amuŋ hiz sōldʒerz ʒʒted amuŋ ðem in a vɑs ðat wôz līk a trumpet þunderiŋ, ðat ða ʒœd nʒ māk rēde for ðe fērsest trial ov ôl.

"Iz mi kŭzin mad?" sed Lord Brandox Dahâ, hven he sô and understœd ðe hŭl substans and māter ov it. "Or haþ he fʒnd Korund so tām tœ dēl wið he kan māk ʒift wiðʒt me and wel ni hâf hiz streŋþ, and yet wiðstand him?"

"He loœseþ ðis hōld," ânserd Bremere, "tœ snatʒ at sâfte. Tiz desperāt, but ôl ūðer wāz we but wāt on destrukʒon. ʒr rīt iz klēn drīven in, ðe left hōldeþ but hardle. He tʒardʒeþ yor hines brāk ðēr senter if u ma. Ða hav sumhŭt dāndʒerʒsle advānst ðēr left, and ðarin iz ðēr momentare pēril if we be swift enuf. But remember ðat hēr, o' ðis sīd, iz ðēr gratest pʒer befœr us, and if we be hvelmd êr u kan kumpas it----"

"No mœr but Yes," sed Lord Brandox Dahâ. "Tīm gālopeþ: so must we."

Even so in ðat ʒr hven Gōldre and Zig, gīviŋ wa step bi step befœr supereor odz, wer bent bak wel ni wið ðēr baks tœ ðe rīver, and Korund on ðe Demonz left had âfter a bīter bātel tʒekt and held ðem and þrētend nʒ tœ komplēt in wun mœr grāt blo ðe ruin ov ðem ôl, Dʒus, tʒuziŋ a desperāt ekspēdʒent tœ mēt a dāndʒer ðat els must destrŋ him, wekend hiz hard-prest left tœ þro Brandox Dahâ and wel ni āt hundred hors intœ Spitfīrz bātel tœ drīv a wedʒ betwikst Korsus and Korinyus.

It wôz nʒ loŋ pāst nœn. Ðe tempest ov bātel ðat had kwietend āhŭl for ūter werines rœrd fœrþ anu from wiŋ tœ wiŋ az Brandox Dahâ herld hiz horsmen ūpon Korsus and ðe subdʒekt ālīz, hŭl ôl aloŋ ðe bātel-līn ðe Demonz rālēd tœ fliŋ bak ðe êneme. For a breþles hŭl, ðe īʒu huŋ in suspens: ðen ðe men ov Dʒiltâ and Nevreâ brōk and fled, Brandox Dahâ and hiz kávalre swept þrœ ðe gap, hŭeld rīt and left and tœk Korsus and Korinyus in flank and rēr.

Ðēr fel in ðis onset Akstakus lord ov Permeo, ðe kiŋz ov

Ēleen and Dziltā, Goreus ðe sun ov Korsus, ðe Kłnt ov Tzujā, and mēne ūðer nobelmen and men ov mark. Ov ðe Demonz mēne wer hert and mēne slān, but nun ov grāt nōt sāv Kamerar ov Stropardon, hƵoz hed Korinyus swōpt of klēn wið a blo ov hiz bātel-aks, and Trentmar hƵom Korsus smōt fōl in ðe stūmak wið a dzāvelin so ðat he fel dłn from hiz hors and wōz ded at wuns. Nł wōz ōl ðe left and senter ov ðe Witfejz bātel prōn intō grāt konfuʒon, and ðe ālīz mōst ov ōl fōlen intō disorder and fān tō yēld ðemselvz and pra for merse. Ðe Kiŋ, seiŋ ðe ekstent ov ðis dizāster, sent a gāloper tō Korund, hƵo strātwa sent tō Korsus and Korinyus komāndiŋ ðem get ðem at ðēr spedeest wið ōl ðēr fōk bak intō Karse huīl tīm yet servd. Himself in ðe mēntīm, fōiŋ nł, līk ðe sun, hiz gratest kłntenans in hiz loest estāt, set on wið hiz were arme tō stem ðe advāns ov Dzus, hƵo nł momentle gāðerd freʒ færs agānst him, and tō kēp open for ðe rest ov ðe Kiŋz færses ðēr wa bi ðe bridʒ-gāt intō Karse. Korinyus, hven he understud it, gālopt ðiðer wið a band ov men tō ād Korund, and ðis did līkwīz Hemiŋ and Dekalādʒus and ūðer kaptānz ov ðe Witfejz. But Korsus himself, kłntiŋ ðe da lost and konsideriŋ ðat he wōz an ōld man and had fōt nł loŋ enuf, gat him prīvile bak intō Karse az kwikle az he wōz abel. And trule he wōz blediŋ from mēne wōondz.

Bi ðis grāt stand ov Korund and hiz men wōz tīm wun for a grāt part ov ðe rēzīdʒu ov ðe arme tō eskāp intō Karse. And ēver ðe Witfejz wer pwt abak and lost mutʒ grłnd, yet ēver ðe Lord Korund bi hiz grāt valeans and nobel hart rekumforted hiz fōk, so ðat ða gāv bak vēre slole, mōst blūdile disputiŋ ðe grłnd fot bi fot tō ðe bridʒ-gāt, ðat ða ōlso mīt win in agān, so mēne az mīt. Dzus sed, "Ðis iz ðe gratest dēd ov armz ðat ēver I in ðe dāz ov mi līf did se, and I hav so grāt an admiraʒon and wunder in mi hart for Korund ðat ōlmōst I wud giv him pēs. But I hav swœrn nł tō hav no pēs wið Witʒland."

Lord Gro wōz in ðat bātel wið ðe Demonz. He ran Didarus prō ðe nek wið hiz sœrd, so ðat he fel dłn and wōz ded.

Korund, hven he sō it, hēvd up hiz aks, but tʒāndʒd hiz intenʒon in ðe mānādʒ, saiŋ, "O landskip ov inikwite, ʒalt ðł kil besīd me ðe men ov mīn hłshōld? But mi frendʒip siʒep not on a wēðer vān. Liv, and be a trator."

But Gro, beiŋ mitile mōovd wið ðēz werdz, and stariŋ at

grāt Korund wīd-īd līk a man rǣzd from a drēm,  
ânserd, "Hav I dun amis? Tiz eze rēmedēd." Ðērwið he  
ternd abǣt and slu a man ov Demonland. Hvitf Spitfir  
seij, he krīd ǣt ūpon Gro in a grāt rādƷ for a mōst filþe  
trator, and blūdile rūfiŋ in þrust him þrœ ðe bukler  
intœ ðe brān.

In sutf wīz and bi sutf a sūden vendƷans did ðe Lord Gro  
mōst mīzerable end hiz līf-dāz. Hœ, beij a filōsofer and  
a man ov pēs, kērles ov partīkular þiŋz ov erþ, had  
fōlōd and obzervd ōl hiz dāz stedfāstle wun hēvenle  
star; yet nǣ in ðe blūde bātel befœr Karse dīd in ðe  
kōmon opinyon ov men a mǣnifōld perdzūrd trator, ðat had at  
lenþ gōten ðe gerdon ov hiz gīl.

Nǣ kām ðe Lord DƷus wið a grāt rǣt ov men armd on hiz  
grāt hors wið hiz sœrd driþiŋ wið blud, and ðe bātel  
spran up intœ yet mœr nƷz and fure, and grāt man-slain  
befel, and mēne abel men ov Witfland fel in ðat stor and  
ðe Demonz had ōlmōst pœt ðem from ðe bridƷ-gāt. But ðe  
Lord Korund, rǣleiŋ hiz fōk, swuŋ bak yet agān ðe  
bātel-tīd, ōlbeit he wōz bi a grāt odz ǣtnumberd. And he  
sōt nun but DƷus himself in ðat dedle mēla; hœ hven he  
sō him kūmiŋ he refūzd him not but mād agānst him mōst  
fērsle, and wið grāt klǣŋiŋ blōz ða swōpt tƷgēðer  
ǣhƷīl, until Korund hūd DƷūsez fēld asunder and struk him  
from hiz hors. DƷus, lepiŋ up agān, þrust up at Korund  
wið hiz sœrd and wið ðe violens ov ðe blo brāk þrœ  
ðe riŋz ov hiz berne abǣt hiz mīdel and drāv ðe sœrd  
intœ hiz brest. And Korund feld him tœ erþ wið a grāt  
dǣn-strōk on ðe helm, so ðat he la sensles.

Stil ðe bātel rādƷd befœr ðe bridƷ-gāt, and grāt wœndz  
wer gīven and taken ov iðer sīd. But nǣ ðe sunz ov Korund  
sō ðat ðēr fāðer had lost mutf ov hiz blud and wakst  
febel, and ðe rēzīdzu ov hiz fōk seiŋ it tœ, and seiŋ  
ðemselvz so fu agānst so mēne, began tœ be abaft. So  
ðōz sunz ov Korund, ridiŋ up tœ him on iðer sīd wið a  
band ov men, mād him tern bak wið ðem and go wið ðem in  
bi ðe gāt tœ Karse, ðe hvitf he did līk a man amāzd and  
noiŋ not hvōt he dœep. And indēd it wōz a grāt marvel hǣ  
so grāt a lord, wœnded tœ ðe dep, mīt sit on horsbak.

In ðe grāt kœrt he wōz gōten dǣn from hiz hors. Ðe Lade  
Prezmirā, hven fe persēvd ðat hiz harnes wōz ōl red wið  
blud, and sō hiz wœnd, fel not dǣn in a swœon az anūðer  
mīt, but tœk hiz arm abǣt her fōlder and so supœrted,  
wið her step-sunz tœ help her, ðat grāt frām hvitf kud no  
mœr supœrt itself yet had til ðat Ʒr bœrn up agānst ðe

hūōl werldz strenþ in armz. Lētfez kām ðat fe had kōld for, and a līter, and ða brōt him tō ðe bankwet hōl. But âfter no loŋ hūōl ðōz lerned men konfest hiz hert wōz dedle, and ôl ðēr kūniŋ nôt. Hvarūpon, mutf disdaniŋ tō di in bed, not in ðe fēld fitiŋ wið hiz ėnemēz, ðe Lord Korund kōzd himself, komplētle armd and wēponð, wið ðe stānz and dust ov ðe bātel yet ūpon him, tō be set in hiz tfēr, ðēr tō awāt deþ.

Hemiŋ, hven ðis wōz dun, kām tō tel it tō ðe Kiŋ, hvēr from ðe tþer abuv ðe wōter-gāt he beheld ðe end ov ðis bātel. Ðe Demonz held ðe bridz-hþs. Ðe fit wōz dun. Ðe Kiŋ sat in hiz tfēr lŋkiŋ dþn tō ðe bātel-fēld. Hiz dark mantel wōz abþt hiz fōlderz. He lēnd forword restiŋ hiz tfin in hiz hand. Ða ov hiz bōdigard, nīn or ten, stod hūdeld tūgēðer sum yardz awa az if afrād tō aprōtf him. Az Hemiŋ kām nēr, ðe Kiŋ ternd hiz hed sole tō lŋk at him. Ðe lo sun, swīŋiŋ blud-red over Tēnemos, fon fōl on ðe Kiŋz fās. And az Hemiŋ lŋkt in ðe fās ov ðe Kiŋ fēr gat hōld ūpon him, so ðat he derst not spēk a werd tō ðe Kiŋ, but mād obazans and departed agān, trembliŋ līk wun hūō haz sēn a sīt beŷond ðe vāl.

### 32. Ðe Lāter End ov Ôl ðe Lordz ov Witfland

OV ÐE KÞNSIL OV WOR; AND HÞ ÐE LORD KORSUS, BEIŊ RĒDÞEKTED OV ÐE KIŊ, TERND HIZ PÔTS TŌ ŪÐER PIŊZ; AND OV ÐE LĀST KUNDÞURIŊ ÐAT WÔZ IN KARSE AND ÐE LĀST WĪN-BĪBIŊ; AND HÞ YET WUNS AGĀN ÐE LADE PREZMIRĀ SPĀK WIÐ ÐE LORDZ OV DEMONLAND IN KARSE.

Gorīs ðe Kiŋ held in hiz privāt tfāmbere a kþnsil ov wor on ðe moro ov ðe bātel befœr Karse. Ðe morniŋ wōz over-kāst wið sūlen klþd, and ðo ôl ðe windōz wer þrōn wīd ðe slūgiŋ ēr huŋ hēve in ðe rōm, az if it tō wer pervaded bi ðe kōld dark humor ðat klogd ðe vitalz ov ðōz lordz ov Witfland līk a drþze drug, or az if ðe starz wud brēð ðemselvz for a grater mistfēf. Pāl and drōn wer ðōz lordz fasez; and, for ôl ða strōv tō þut on a brāv kþntenans befœr ðe Kiŋ, klēn gon wōz ðe vīgor and wor-līk meen ðat klōðð ðem but yesterda. Ônle Korinyus kept sum sprīŋ ov hiz ôld valeanse and pœrtle bariŋ, seted wið armz akimbo over agānst ðe Kiŋ, hiz hēve under-dzō set forword and hiz nostrilz wīd. He had slept il or wōtft lāt, for hiz īz wer blud-fōten, and ðe breþ ov hiz nostrilz wōz hēve wið wīn.

"We tāre for Korsus," sed ðe Kiŋ. "Had he not werd ov mi bīdiŋ?"

Dekalādʒus sed, "Lord, I wil sūmon him agān. Ðēz misfortʒūnz I fēr me haŋ hēve on hiz mīnd, and, bi yor madʒestēz lēv, he iz skērs hiz ōn man sins yesterda."

"Doo it strāt," sed ðe Kiŋ. "Giv me ði paperz, Korinyus. Ðð art mi dʒēneral sins Korund gat hiz dep. I wil se hvōt yesterda haþ kost us and hvōt pðer yet remaneþ tō kruʒ me ðēz snāks bi fœrs ov armz."

"Ðēz be ðe numberz, O Kiŋ," sed Korinyus. "But þre þðzand and fīv hundred fitiŋ men, and wel ni hāf ov ðēz over mutʒ kriþeld wið wœndz tō doo ôt sāv behīnd klōzd wōlz. It wer but tō giv ðe Demonz eze viktore tō adventʒūr agānst ðem, ðat stand befœr Karse fœr þðzand sðnd men in armz."

Ðe Kiŋ blu skornfœle þrœ hiz nostrilz. "Hœ tōld ðe ðēr strenþ?" sed he.

"It wer dāndʒerðs tō rīt ðem dðn a man fuer," ānserd Korinyus. And Hakmon sed, "Mi Lord ðe Kiŋ, I wōd adventʒūr mi hed ða hav mœr. And yor madʒeste wil not forget ða be ōl flōn wið eɡnes and pīd āfter yesterdāz fēld, hvaraz þr men----"

"Wer ye sunz ov Korund," sed ðe Kiŋ, brakiŋ in kwietle on hiz spētʒ and lōkiŋ dāndʒerðsle ūpon him, "but twigz ov yor fāðerz tre, ðat he beiŋ kut dðn ye hav no manhūd left nor vital sap, but strāt wīðer in īdeotif dotādʒ? I wil not hav ðēz wōmanif kðnselz spōk in Karse; no, nor þōt in Karse."

Korinyus sed, "We had ʒūr intēlīdʒens, O Kiŋ, hvēnaz ða landed ðat ðēr mān arme wōz siks þðzand fitiŋ men; and lāst nīt miself spāk wið ʒol a skœr ov þr ōfiserz, and had a tru tāl ov sum fu ov ðe Demonz kaptʒurd bi us befœr ða wer slān wið ðe sœrd. Hven I sa tō u Dʒus standeþ befœr Karse fœr þðzand stroŋ, I swel not ðe trūþ. Hiz lōsez yesterda wer but a fle-bitiŋ gānst þrz."

Ðe Kiŋ nōded a kert asent.

Korinyus proseded, "If we mīt kontrīv indēd tō rāz help from wīððt Karse, wer it but fīv hundred spērʒ tō distrakt hiz mīnd sum part from usword, nōt but yor madʒestēz strikt komānd ʒud sta me but I ʒud asōlt him. It wer

përilës even so, but nëver hav u nōn me lēv a frūt  
unplukt at for fēr ov þornz. But until ðat tīm, nōt  
but yor strāt komānd mīt win me tō ēsa a sāle. Sins  
wel I wot it wer mi deþ, and ðe ruin ov u, O Kiņ, and  
ov ôl Witfland."

Ðe Kiņ līsēnd wið unmœvd kñntenans, hiz javen lip set  
sumhōt in a snēr, hiz īz hāf klōzd līk ðe īz ov a  
kat kñtft sfinks-līk in ðe sun. But no sun fon in ðat  
kñnsil tñamber. Ðe lēden pōl huņ darker wiððt, even az  
morniņ gru tōword nōn. "Mi Lord ðe Kiņ," sed Hemiņ,  
"send me. Tō overslip ðēr gardz i' ðe nīt, tiz not a  
þiņ beƷond invenfon. Ðat dun, Īd gāðer u sum smōl  
hed ov men, enuf tō serv ðis tern, if I must rāk ðe  
sēven kiņdomz tō fīnd em."

Hūl Hemiņ spōk, ðe dær opend and ðe Džūk Korsus enterd  
ðe tñamber. An il sīt wōz he, flābeer ov tñek and dūler  
ov i ðan wōz hiz wōnt. Hiz fās wōz blodles, hiz grāt  
pōntf sēmd frunken, and hiz fōlderz yet mœr huntft  
sins yesterda. Hiz gāt wōz unsertān, and hiz hand fōk az  
he mœvd ðe tñer from ðe bærd and tuk hiz sēt befœr ðe  
Kiņ. Ðe Kiņ lukt on him āhūl in silens, and under ðat  
gāz bēdz ov swet stōd on Korsusez brð and hiz under-lip  
twitft.

"We nēd ði kñnsel, O Korsus," sed ðe Kiņ. "Ðus it iz:  
sins þr il-fāst starz gāv viktore tō ðe Demon rēbelz in  
yesterdāz bātel, Džus and hiz breðren frunt us wið fœr  
þžzand men, hūl I hav not tō þžzand sōldžerz unhert in  
Karse. Korinyus akñntēþ us tō wēk tō risk a sāle but and  
if we mīt kontrīv sum diverzon from wiððt. And ðat  
(āfter yesterda) iz not tō be þōt on. Hīðer and tō  
Melikafkaz did we drō ôl þr pžerz, and ðe subdžekt ālīz  
not for þr luv but for fēr sāk and for lust ov gān flokt  
tō þr standard. Ðēz kāterpilarz drop of nð. Yet if we  
fīt not, ðen iz þr strenþ in armz klēn spent, and þr  
ēnemēz nēd but tō sit befœr Karse til we be starvd. Tiz a  
pąnt ov grāt dīfikulte and nōte tō solv."

"Dīfikult indēd, O mi Lord ðe Kiņ," sed Korsus. Hiz glāns  
fifted rðnd ðe bærd, avqđiņ ðe stēde gāz bent on him  
from benēþ ðe ēvz ov Kiņ Gorisez brð, and restiņ at  
lāst on ðe džueld splendor ov ðe krðn ov Witfland on ðe  
Kiņz hed. "O Kiņ," he sed, "u demānd mi rēd, and I  
fal not sa nor kñnsel u nūþiņ but ðat gūd and wel  
fal kum ðarov, az mutf az yet ma be in ðis pās we stand  
in. For nð iz þr grātnes ternd in wo, dōlor, and  
hēvines. And eze it iz tō be āfter-wīted."



He pōzd, and hiz under-dzō wōbeld and twitft. "Spēk on," sed ðe Kiņ. "Ðŷ stūterst fœrþ nūþiņz bi fits and gerdz, az an agu takeþ a gōos. Let me no ði rēd."

Korsus sed, "U wil not tāk it, I no, O Kiņ. For we ov Witfland hav ēver bēn rūld bi ðe rok rāðer ðan bi ðe rūder. I had lever be silent. Silens wōz nēver rīten dŷn."

"Ðŷ wōdst, and ðŷ wōdst not!" sed ðe Kiņ. "Hvens gotst ðŷ ðis lōk ov a dij ov hva wið blud spit in it? Spēk, or þŷlt anger me."

"Ðen blām me not, O Kiņ," sed Korsus. "Ðus it semep tō me, ðat ðe ŷr haþ struk huēnaz we ov Witfland must nēdz lōk kalāmite in ðe i and aknōledz we hav þrōn ŷr lâst, and lost ôl. Ðe Demonz, az we hav sēn tō ŷr undōwiņ, be unkonkerabel in wor. Yet ar ðēr mīndz prankt wið mēne sīle fantazēz ov ōnor and kertese hwiþ ma prezerv us ðe pōor dregz yet unspilt from ðe kup ov ŷr fortfūn, if we but lēv unsezonabel pīrd and se huēr ŷr advāntādz lieþ."

"Tjat, tjat, tjat!" sed ðe Kiņ. "Perdīfon katf me if I kan find a meniņ in it! Huōt dust ðŷ bid me dō?"

Korsus met ðe Kiņz i at lâst. He brāst himself az if tō mēt a blo. "Pro not yor klōk in ðe fīr bekōz yor hŷs iz berniņ, O Kiņ. Surrender ôl tō Dzus at hiz diskrēfon. And trust me ðe fōlif softnes ov ðēz Demonz wil lēv us fredom and ðe huērwiðôl tō liv at ēz."

Ðe Kiņ wōz lēnd a lītel forword az Korsus, sumhvōt dri-þroted but gāðeriņ hart az he spāk, blerted fœrþ hiz kŷnsel ov defēt. No man amuņ ðem lōkt on Korsus, but ôl on ðe Kiņ, and for a mīnūts spās wōz no sŷnd sāv ðe sŷnd ov breðiņ in ðat tġāmber. Ðen a puf ov hot êr blu a windo tō wið a þud, and ðe Kiņ wiððt mōwiņ hiz hed rōld hiz ôful glāns fœrþ and bak over hiz kŷnsil slole, fiksiņ ētġ in hiz tern. And ðe Kiņ sed, "Untō hwiþ ov u iz ðis kŷnsel akseptabel? Let him spēk and instrukt us."

Ôl did sit mum līk bēsts. Ðe Kiņ spāk agān, saiņ, "It iz wel. Wer ðēr ov mi kŷnsil sutġ anūðer vermin, so sōtiġ, so lŷs-harted, az ðis wun haþ proklāmd himself, I had bēn perswaded Witfland wōz a slepe pēr, korupted in her inword parts. And ðat wer so, I had gīven order strātwa for ðe sālē; and, for hiz tġaseniņ and yor disōnor, ðis Korsus ġud hav led u. And so an end, êr

ðe impostfūm ov ʒr fām brāk færp tō fʒl befær erp  
and hēven."

"I admīr not, Lord, ðat u dō strīk at me," sed Korsus.  
"Yet I pra u þink hʒ mēne Kīnʒ in Karse hav hēpt wið  
indʒureʒs indignitēz ðem ðat wer so harde az giv ðem  
hʒlsum kʒnsel afær ðēr fōl. Ðo yor madʒeste wer a  
hāf-god or a Fure ʒt ov ðe pit, u kōd not bi ferðer  
rezistiŋ delīver us ʒt ov ðis net hvarin ðe Demonz hav  
gōten us kōt and tīd. U kan kēp gēs no longer, O  
Kīnʒ. Wil u rend me bekōz I bid u be kontent tō kēp  
gozliŋʒ?"

Korinyus smōt ðe tabel wið hiz fist. "O monstrʒs vermin!"  
he krīd, "bekōz ðʒ wōst skōlded, must ōl we be afērd ov  
kōld wōter?"

But ðe Kīnʒ stōd up in hiz madʒeste, and Korsus frank benēþ  
ðe flām ov hiz rʒal anger. And ðe Kīnʒ spāk and sed, "Ðe  
kʒnsil iz up, mi lordz. For ðe, Korsus, I dīsmis ðe from  
mi kʒnsil. Ðʒ art tō þank mi klēmense ðat I tāk not ði  
hed for ðis. It wer for ði bēter sāfte, hviʒ wel I no  
ðʒ prīzst derer ðan mīn ōnor, ðat ðʒ fo not in mi  
pāþ til ðēz pērilʒs dāz be overpāst." And untō Korinyus  
he sed, "On ði hed it lieþ ðat ðe Demonz storm not ðe  
hōld, az hape ðēr hot prīd ma insens ðem tō atempt.  
Ekspekt me not at sūper. I li in ðe Īrn Tʒer tō-nīt, and  
let nun dīsturb me ðēr at pēril ov hiz hed. U ov mi  
kʒnsil must atend me hēr fær ʒrz ēr tō-morōz nōn.  
Lok tō it wel, Korinyus, ðat nōt falt ðʒ dō nor in ēne  
wīz adventʒūr ʒr færsez agānst ðe Demonz til ðʒ resēv  
mi ferðer bīdiŋ, sāv ōnle tō hōld Karse agānst ēne asōlt  
if nēd be. For ðis ði līf fal ānser. For ðe Demonz,  
ða wer wizest prāz a fēr da at nīt. If mīn ēneme  
uprōt a bōlder abuv mi dwēliŋ, so I be mite eno ov mīn  
handz I ma, even in ðe nik ov tīm ðat it tōtereþ tō lēp  
and kruf mīn hʒs, ōrset it on him and paʒ him tō a  
mūme."

So spekiŋ, ðe Kīnʒ mōvd rēzolūt wið a grāt stronʒ step  
tōword ðe dær. Ðēr pōzd he, hiz hand ūpon ðe silver  
latʒ, and lōkiŋ tigeriʒle on Korsus, "Be advīzd," he sed,  
"ðʒ. Kros not mi pāþ agān. Nor, hʒl I þink ont, send  
me not ði dōter agān, az lāst yēr ðʒ didst. Apt tō ðe  
spœrt ʒe iz, and wel eno ʒe servd mi tern afærtīm. But  
ðe Kīnʒ ov Witʒland sūpeþ not twīs ov ðe sām diʒ, nor  
lākeþ he freʒ wentʒez if he nēd ðem."

Hvarat ōl ða lāft. But Korsusez fās gru red az blud.

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On sutf wīz brāk up ðe kǫnsil. Korinyus wið ðe sunz ov Korund and ov Korsus went ūpon ðe wōlz orderiŋ ōl in obēdzens tō ðe werd ov Gorīs ðe Kiŋ. But ðat ōld Džūk Korsus betok him tō hiz tǫamber in ðe norp gālere. Nor mīt he abīd even a smōl hūl at ēz, but sāt nǫ in hiz karven tǫēr, nǫ on ðe windo-sil, nǫ on hiz brōd-kānopēd bed, and nǫ wōkt ðe tǫamber flōer twistiŋ hiz handz and nōiŋ hiz lip. And if he wer distrōt in mīnd, smōl wunder it wer, set az he wōz betwikst hōk and būzard, ðe Kiŋz rōp mēnasiŋ him in Karse and ðe hōsts ov Demonland wīðǫt.

So wær ðe da til sūper-tīm. And at sūper wōz Korsus, tō ðēr mutf amāz, sītiŋ in hiz plās, and ðe ladēz Zenambreā and Srivā wið him. He drank dēp, and hven sūper wōz dun he fild a goblet saiŋ, "Mi lord ðe kiŋ ov Demonland and ye ūðer Witǫez, gōd it iz ðat we, hū stand az nǫ we stand wið wun fōt in ðe dǫōz ov destrukfōn, fōd bēr wið wun anūðer. Niðer fōd ēne hīd hiz bōt from ūðer, but sa openle, even az I ðis morniŋ befōer ðe fās ov ǫr Lord ðe Kiŋ, hiz bōt and kǫnsel. Hūrfōer wīðǫt fām dō I konfes me il-advīzd tō-da, hven I erdzd ðe Kiŋ tō māk pēs wið Demonland. I waks ōld, and ōld men wil oft embrās tīmorǫs kǫnselz hwiŋ, if ðēr be wizdom and valeanse left in ðem, ða sōn renǫns hven ðe stres iz overpāst and ða hav lēzūr tō āfterpink ðem wið a sad mīnd. And klēr az da it iz ðat ðe Kiŋ wōz rīt, bōp in hiz tǫaseniŋ ov mi fānt kūrādǫ and in hiz bīdiŋ ðe, O Kiŋ Korinyus, stand tō ði wōtǫ and dō nōt til ðis nīt be wærn. For went he not tō ðe Īrn Tǫer? And tō hūōt end els spendēp he ðe nīt in yonder tǫamber ov dred ðan tō dō sorsere or hiz madǫik art, az afōertīm he did, and in sutf wīz blāst ðēz Demonz tō perdīfōn even in ðe sprīŋ-tīd ov ðēr fortǫūnz? At no pōnt ov tīm hāp Witǫland grater nēd ov ǫr wīǫez ðan at ðis kūmiŋ midnīt, and I pra u, mi lordz, let us mēt a lītel befōer in ðis hōl ðat we wið wun hart and mīnd ma drink fēr fortǫūn tō ðe Kiŋz entǫāntere."

Wið sutf plēzant werdz and simpāpētikal insinuaŋonz, werkiŋ at a sezon hven ðe wīn-kup had kōzd unfōld sum ganes in ðēr harts ðat wer fordun wið ðe hard skāps and tǫānsez ov dizāstrǫs wor, wōz Korsus grōn tō frendǫip agān wið ðe lordz ov Witǫland. So, hven ðe gard wōz set and ōl mād fūr for ðe nīt, ða kām tǫgēðer in ðe grāt bankwet hōl, hvaraz mōer ðan þre yērz ago ðe

Prins Lâ Firêz had fêsted and âfter fôt agānst ðem ov Witfland. But nŀ wôz he drŀnd amuŀ ðe fiftiŀ tīdz in ðe Strāts ov Melikafkaz. And ðe Lord Korund, ðat fôt ðat nīt in sutf valeant wīz, nŀ in ðat sām hōl, armd from þrōt tō fūt az bekūmeþ a grāt sōldzer ded, la in stāt, krŀnd on hiz brŀ wið ðe āmēpistēn krŀn ov Impland. Ðe spaŀŀs sīd-bentfēz wer untēnanted and vqđ ðēr hi sēts, and ðe kros-bentf wôz remœvd tō māk plās for Korundz beer. Ðe lordz ov Witfland sāt at a smōl tabel belo ðe dais: Korinyus in ðe sēt ov ōnor at ðe end nerest ðe dœr, and over agānst him Korsus, and on Korinyusez left Zenambreā, and on hiz rīt Dekalādžus sun tō Korsus, and ðen Hemiŀ; and on Korsusez left hiz dōter Srivā, and ðōz tō remaniŀ ov Korundz sunz on hiz rīt. Ôl wer ðēr sāv Prezmirā, and her had nun sēn sins her lordz dēþ, but fe kept her tŀfāمبر. Flambqz stōd in ðe silver standz az ov ōld, litiŀ ðe lōnle spasez ov ðe hōl, and fœr kandelz ŀīverd rŀnd ðe beer huēr Korund slept. Fēr goblets stōd on ðe bærd brimd wið dark swēt Pramnyan wīn, wun for ētŀ fēster ðēr, and kōld bakon pīz and botargōz and krō-fif in hīpokras sōs fernift a līt midnīt mēl.

Nŀ skērs wer ða set, huen ðe flambqz Bernd pāl in a strāndž līt from wiðŀt dœrz: an evil, pālīd, bāl-līk lo, sutf az Gro had beheld in dāz gon bi huen Kiŀ Gorīs 12. ferst kundžūrd in Karse. Korinyus pōzd ēr takiŀ hiz sēt. Gūdle and stōlwort he fōd in hiz blu silk klōk and silverd berne. Ðe fēr krŀn ov Demonland, huērwið Korsus had bēn enforst tō krŀn him on ðat grāt nīt in ŀlswik, ŀon abuv hiz līt brŀn kerliŀ hēr. Ūþ and lustihud stōd fœrþ in ēvere līn ov hiz grāt frām, and on hiz bēr armz smœð and brōne, wið ðēr ristlets ov gōld; but sumhōt gāstle wôz ðe korps-līk pālōr ov ðat līt on hiz ŀaven džŀl, and hiz þik skornfōl lips wer blākend, līk ðōz ov pqzond men, in ðat līt ov bāl.

"Sō ye not ðis līt afœrtīm?" he krīd, "and twôz ðe ŀādo befœr ðe sun ov ŀr omnīpotens. Fāts hāmer iz lifted up tō strīk. Drink wið me tō ŀr Lord ðe Kiŀ ðat laboreþ wið destine."

Ôl drank dēþ, and Korinyus sed, "Pās we on ðe kups ðat ētŀ ma drān hiz naborz. Tiz an ōld lūke kustom Korund tōt me ŀt ov Impland. Swift, for ðe fāt ov Witfland iz pqzd in ðe bālans." Ðērwið he pāst hiz kup tō Zenambreā, huœ kwōft it tō ðe dregz. And ôl ða, pāsīŀ on ðēr kups, drank dēþ agān; ôl sāv Korsus alōn. But Korsusez īz wer big wið tēror az he lōkt on ðe kup pāst on tō him bi Korundz sun.

"Drink, O Korsus," sed Korinyus; and seiŋ him stil waver, "Hūt ālz ðe ōld dotiŋ dizard?" he krīd. "He stareþ on ġud wīn wið an i az ġāstle az a mad dogz behōldiŋ wōter."

In ðat instant ðe ūnerþle glēr went ʒt az a lamp in a gust ov wind, and ōnle ðe flambqz and ðe funeral kandelz flīkerd on ðe fēsterz wið unsertān rādʒans. Korinyus sed agān, "Drink."

But Korsus set dōn ðe kup untāsted, and stād irēzolūt. Korinyus opend hiz mǽþ tō spēk, and hiz dʒō fel, az ov a man ðat konseveþ sūdenle sum dred suspīʒon. But ēr he mīt spēk werd, a blīndiŋ flaf went from erþ tō hēven, and ðe ferm flær ov ðe bankwet hōl rokt and ʒok az wið an erþkwāk. Ōl sāv Korinyus fel bak intō ðēr sēts, klutʒiŋ ðe tabel, amāzd and dum. Kraʒ āfter kraʒ, āfter ðe līseniŋ ēr wōz wel ni split bi ðe rær, ðe horor broken ʒt ov ðe bǽlz ov nīt þunderd and rävend in Karse. Lāfter, az ov damd sōlz bankwetiŋ in Hel, rōd on ðe tortʒurd ēr. Wildfīr tær ðe darknes asunder, hāf blīndiŋ ðem ðat sat abʒt ðat tabel, and Korinyus gript ðe bærd wið iðer hand az a lāst dēfeniŋ kraʒ ʒok ðe wōlz, and a flām ruʒt up ðe nīt, litiŋ ðe hōl ski wið a līvid glēr. And in ðat trisulk flaf Korinyus beheld þrō ðe sǽþ-west windo ðe Īrn Tǽr blāsted and kleft asunder, and ðe nekst instant fōlen in an āvalānf ov red-hot ruin.

"Ðe kēp hap fōlen!" he krīd. And, dedle werēd on a sūden, he sank hēvile intō hiz sēt. Ðe kataklizm wōz pāst bi līk a wind in ðe nīt; but nǽ wōz herd a sǽnd az ov ðe ēneme rūʒiŋ tō ðe asōlt. Korinyus strōv tō rīz, but hiz legz wer over febel. Hiz i lit on Korsusez untāsted kup, ðat hviʒ wōz pāst on tō him bi Viglus Korundz sun, and he krīd, "Hūt dēvilz werk iz ðis? I hav a strāndʒ numnes in mi bōnz. Bi hēvenz, ðǽ ʒalt drink ðat kup or di."

Viglus, hiz īz protrudiŋ, hiz hand klutʒiŋ at hiz brest, strūgeld tō rīz but kōd not.

Hemiŋ hāf stāgerd up, fumblīŋ for hiz sœrd, ðen pitʒt forword on ðe tabel wið a horid rätel ov ðe þrōt.

But Korsus lēpt up trembliŋ, hiz dul īz aflām wið triumfant mālīs. "Ðe Kiŋ hap þrōn and lost," he krīd, "az wel I fœrsō it. And nǽ hav ðe tʒildren ov nīt taken him tō ðemselvz. And ðǽ, damd Korinyus, and u sunz ov Korund, ar but ded swīn befær me. Ye hav ōl drunk vēnom,

and ye ar ded. Nŷ wil I delīver up Karse tō ðe Demonz. And it, and yor bōdēz, wið mīn elektjuare rōtiŋ in yor vitalz, fal bi me pēs from Demonland."

"O horibel! ðen I tō am pŋzond," krīd ðe Lade Zenambreā, and fe fel a-swōniŋ.

"Tiz pīte," sed Korsus. "Blām ðe pāsiŋ ov ðe kups for ðat. I mīt not spēk ēr ðe pŋzon had tġānd me ðe limz ov ðēz kerst dēvilz, and mād em harmles."

Korinyusez dʒō set līk a bŷldogz. Pānfōole grītiŋ hiz tēp he rōz from hiz sēt, hiz sœrd naked in hiz hand. Korsus, ðat wōz nŷ pāsiŋ nēr him on hiz wa tō ðe dœr, sō tō lāt ðat he had rēkond wiðŷt hiz hōst. Korinyus, ōlbeit ðe bānful drug bŷnd hiz legz az wið a sēr-klop, wōz yet tō swift for Korsus, hŷ, fleiŋ befœr him tō ðe dœr, had but tīm tō klutġ ðe hēve kertānz ēr ðe sœrd ov Korinyus tŷk him in ðe bak. He fel, and la a-riðŋ lumpiġle, līk a tōd spīted on a skuer. And ðe flœr ov stetīt wōz mād slīpere wið hiz blud.

"Tiz wel. Prō ðe guts," sed Korinyus. No mīt he had tō drō fœrp ðe sœrd, but stāgerd az wun drunken, and fel tō erp, propt agānst ðe dʒamz ov ðe lofte dœrwa.

Sum hŷl he la ðēr, harkenŋ tō ðe sŷndz ov bātel wiðŷt; for ðe Īrn Tŷer wōz fōlen apwort ðe ŷter wōl, makin a brētġ prō ōl līnz ov defens. And prō ðat brētġ ðe Demonz stormd ðe hōld ov Karse, ðat nēver unfrendle fŷt had enterd bi fœrs in ōl ðe sentġurēz sins it wōz bilded bi Gorīs I. An il wōtġ it wōz for Korinyus tō li harkenŋ tō ðat ūnēkwāl fīt, ūnabel tō ster a hand, and ōl ða ðat ġŷd hav hēded ðe defens ded or diiŋ befœr hiz ĩz. Yet wōz hiz brep litend and hiz pān sum part ēzd hven hiz i rested on ðe grōs bōde ov Korsus twistŋ in ðe āgone ov dep ŷpon hiz sœrd.

In sutġ wīz pāst wel ni an ŷr. ðe bōdile strenp ov Korinyus and hiz ĩrn hart bēr up agānst ðe pŷer ov ðe vēnom loŋ āfter ðōz ŷðerz had brēðd ŷt ðēr sōlz in dep. But nŷ wōz ðe bātel dun and ðe viktore wið ðem ov Demonland, and ðe lordz Dʒus and Gōldre Bluzko and Brandox Dahā wið sertān ov ðēr fitŋ men kām intō ðe bankwet hōl. Smērd ða wer wið blud and ðe dust ov bātel, for not wiðŷt grāt blōz and ðe dep ov mēne a stŷt lad had ðe hōld bēn wun. Gōldre sed az ða pōzd at ðe prēfōld, "ðis iz ðe vēre bankwet hŷs ov dep. Hŷ kām ðēz bi ðēr end?"

Korinyusez br̥ darkend at ðe sīt ov ðe lordz ov Demonland, and mitile he strōv tō rāz himself, but sank bak groniņ. "I hav göten an ėverlāstiņ t̥fil o' ðe bōnz," he sed. "Yon hēlif trator merðerd us ōl bi p̥qzon; els f̥ud sum ov u hav göten yor deþs bi me or ėver ye wun up intō Karse."

"Briņ him sum wōter," sed Dzus. And he wið Brandox Dahā dzentle lifted Korinyus and bēh him tō hiz t̥fēr h̥vēr he f̥ud be m̥ær at ēz.

Göldre sed, "Hēr iz a lade līveþ." For Srivā, ðat sītiņ on her fāðerz left hand had so eskāpt a p̥qzond drāft at ðe pāsini ov ðe kups, rōz from ðe tabel h̥vēr je had k̥berd in fērfol silens, and kāst herself in a flud ov tērz and tērifid suplikafonz ab̥t Göldrēz nēz. Göldre bad gard her tō ðe kamp and ðēr besto her in sāf asilum until ðe morniņ.

N̥ wōz Korinyus nēr hiz end, but he gāðerd strenþ tō spēk, saiņ, "I dō dz̥q ðat not bi yor s̥ærd wer we p̥ut d̥h̥n, but bi ðe ūnēkwal trumpere ov Fortfūn, h̥wōz tōal wōz ðis Korsus and ðe Kiņz dēvilif p̥rīd, ðat dezīrd tō harnes Hēven and Hel tō hiz t̥fāreot. Fortfūnz a rīt strumpet, tō fondel me in ðe nek and n̥ yerk me wun ðus i' ðe midrif."

"Not Fortfūn, mi Lord Korinyus, but ðe Godz," sed Göldre, "h̥wōz fēt be f̥od wið w̥ol."

Bi ðen wōz wōter br̥t in, and Brandox Dahā w̥od hav gīven him tō drink. But Korinyus w̥od hav nun ov it, but dzerkt hiz hed asīd and ōrset ðe kup, and l̥ukiņ fērsle on Lord Brandox Dahā, "Vīl fēlo," he sed, "so ð̥t tō art kum tō insult on Witflandz grāv? P̥ðdst strīk me n̥ intō ðe senter, and ð̥t wert not m̥ær a dānsiņ mādam ðan a sōldzer."

"H̥?" sed Brandox Dahā. "Sa a dog bīt me in ðe ham: must I bīt him agān i' ðe sām part?"

Korinyusez ilidz klōzd, and he sed wēkle, "H̥ l̥uk ði w̥omanif gu-gōz in Krōðeriņ sins I t̥zd em?" And ðērwið ðe krepini p̥qzon rētft hiz stron hart-strinż, and he dīd.

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N̥ wōz silens for a spās in ðat bankwet hōl, and in ðe

silens a step wōz herd, and ðe lordz ov Demonland ternd  
tōoword ðe lofte dærwa, ðat yōnd az an artft kǎvern-mǎþ  
ov darknes; for Korsus had tærn dǎn ðe āras kertānz in hiz  
deþ-prōz, and ða la hēpt aþwort ðe þrēfōld wið  
hiz ded bōde akros ðem, Korinyusez sœerd-hilts dʒamd  
agānst hiz ribz and ðe blād standiŋ a futs lenþ fœrþ  
from hiz brest. And hūīl ða gāzd, ðēr wōkt intō ðe  
fiftiŋ līt ov ðe flambqz over ðat þrēfōld ðe Lade  
Prezmirā, krǎnd and arād in her ritf rōbz and ornaments  
ov stāt. Her kǎntenans wōz blēk az ðe winter mœon fliiŋ  
hi amid līt klǎdz on a winde midnīt setliŋ tōowordz  
rān, and ðōz lordz, under ðe spel ov her sad kōld bute,  
stūd wiððt spētʃ.

In a hūīl Dʒus, spekiŋ az wun huō nedep tō komānd hiz  
vqʃ, and making grāv obazans tō her, sed, "O Kwēn, we  
giv u pēs. Komānd ʒr servīs in ōl þiŋz huōtsoēver.  
And ferst in ðis, hviʃ ʃal be ʒr erleest tāsks ēr we sāl  
hōmword, tō stabliʃ u in yor rītʃol relm ov Piksiland.  
But ðis ʒr iz overtʃardʒd wið fāt and desperāt dēdz tō  
sūfer kǎnsel. Kǎnsel iz for ðe morniŋ. Ðe nīt kōlep  
tō rest. I pra u giv us lēv."

Prezmirā lukt ūpon Dʒus, and ðēr wōz i-bīt in her īz,  
ðat glinted wið grēn metālik luster līk ðōz ov a  
ʃe-lion brōt tō bātel.

"Ðʒ dust ōfer me Piksiland, mi Lord Dʒus," sed ʃe, "ðat am  
Kwēn ov Impland. And ðis nīt, ðʒ þinkst, kan briŋ me  
rest. Ðēz ðat wer dēr tō me hav rest indēd: mi lord and  
lūver Korund; ðe Prins mi brūðer; Gro, ðat wōz mi frend.  
Dedle eno ða fǎnd u, huēðer az frendz or fōz."

Dʒus sed, "O Kwēn Prezmirā, ðe nest fōlep wið ðe tre.  
Ðēz þiŋz haþ Fāt brōt tō pās, and we be but Fāts  
huīpiŋ-tops bandēd huōt wa ʃe wil. Agānst ðe we wor  
not, and I swēr tō ðe ðat ōl ʒr kēr iz tō māk ðe  
amendz."

"O, ðīn ōps!" sed Prezmirā. "Huōt amendz kanst ðʒ māk?  
Ūþ I hav and sum pœor bute. Wilt ðʒ kundʒūr ðōz  
þre ded men alīv agān ðat ye hav slān? For ōl ði  
vōnted art, I þink ðis wer tō hard a tāsks."

Ōī ða wer silent, iij her az ʃe wōkt dēlikātle pāst  
ðe tabel. ʒe lukt wið a distant and, tō ʒtword semiŋ,  
unkomprehendiŋ i on ðe ded fēsterz and ðēr empte kups.  
Empte ōl, sāv ðat wun pāst on bi Viglus, hvarov Korsus  
wōd not drink; and it stūd hāf drānd. Ov kureʒs



werkmanƿip it wōz, ov pāl grēn glās, its stand formd ov  
þre serpents intertwīnd, ðe wun ov gōld, anūðer ov silver,  
ðe þerd ov īrn. Fingeriŋ it kērlesle ƿe rāzd her  
glīteriŋ īz wuns mæc on ðe Demonz, and sed, "It wōz ēver  
ðe wōnt ov u ov Demonland tō ēt ðe eg and giv awa ðe  
fel in ālmz." And pɑntiŋ at ðe lordz ov Witƿland ded at  
ðe fēst, ƿe āskt, "Wer ðēz ôlso yor viktimz in ðis  
dāz huntiŋ, mi lordz?"

"Ðŷ dust us roŋ, mādam," krīd Gōldre. "Nēver haþ  
Demonland ūzd sutƿlīk arts agānst her ēnemēz."

Lord Brandox Dahā lukt swifftle at him, and stept īdle  
forword, saiŋ, "I no not hōt art haþ rōt yon goblet,  
but tiz strāndzle līk tō wun I sō in Impland. Yet farer iz  
ðis, and ov mæc dʒust propœrƿonz." But Prezmirā færstōld  
hiz ŷt-stretƿt hand, and kwietle dru ðe kup tōwordz her  
ŷt ov rētf. Az sœrd krōsez sœrd, ðe glāns ov her grēn  
īz krost hiz, and ƿe sed, "Þink not ðat u hav a  
wers ēneme left on erþ ðan me. I it wōz ðat sent Korsus  
and Korinyus tō trampel Demonland in ðe mīr. Had I but sum  
spark ov maskulīn ƿerƿu, sum sōl at lēst ov u ƿūd yet  
be loost skweliŋ tō ðe fādʒ tō atend mi dēr wunz ēr I  
set sāl. But I hav nun. Kil me ðen, and let me go."

Dʒus, hōoz sœrd wōz bēc in hiz hand, smōt it hōm in ðe  
skābard and stept tōwordz her. But ðe tabel wōz betwikst  
ðem, and ƿe dru bak tō ðe dais hēr Korund la in stāt.  
Ðēr, līk sum triumfant gōdes, ƿe stōd abuv ðem, ðe  
kup ov vēnom in her hand. "Kum not beʒond ðe tabel, mi  
lordz," ƿe sed, "or I drān ðis kup tō yor damnaƿon."

Brandox Dahā sed, "Ðe dīs ar þrōn, O Dʒus. And ðe Kwēn  
haþ wun ðe hāzard."

"Mādam," sed Dʒus, "I swēr tō u ðēr ƿal no fœrs nor  
restrānt be ƿt ūpon u, but ōnor ōnle and ƿerƿip ƿōn  
u, and frendƿip if u wil. Ðat ƿūrle mītst ðŷ tāk  
ov us for ði brūðerz sāk." Ðarat ƿe lukt tērible ūpon  
him, and he sed, "Ōnle on ðis wīld nīt la not handz ūpon  
yorself. For ðēr sāk, ðat even nŷ hape behōld us ŷt ov  
ðe undiskūverd bāren landz, beʒond ðe dizmal lāk, dō not  
ðis."

Stil fasiŋ ðem, ðe kup stil aloft in her rīt hand,  
Prezmirā lād her left hand lītle on ðe brazen plāts ov  
Korundz berne ðat kāst ðe mite mūselz ov hiz brest. Her  
hand tutƿt hiz bērd, and dru bak sūdenle; but in an  
instant ƿe lād it dʒentle agān on hiz brest. Sumhōt her  
oreent luvlines sēmd tō soften for a pāsīŋ mīnūt in ðe

ôlteriŋ līt, and Je sed, "I wōz gīven tō Korund yuŋ.  
Ðis nīt I wil slēp wið him, or rān wið him, amuŋ ðe  
mite nafonz ov ðe ded."

Dʒus mœvd az wun ab̄t tō spēk, but Je stād him wið a  
lūk, and ðe līnz ov her bōde hardend agān and ðe liones  
lukt fœrþ anu in her pērles īz. "Haþ yor grātnes,"  
Je sed, "so muƿ ʒtgrōn yor wit, ðat u þink I wil  
abīd tō be yor penʒoner, ðat hav bēn a Prinses in  
Piksiland, a Kwēn ov far-frunted Impland, and wīf tō ðe  
gratest sōldʒer in ðis hōld ov Karse, huƿ til ðis da  
haþ bēn ðe ōnle skerdʒ and tēror ov ðe werld? O mi lordz  
ov Demonland, gʒd kumfortabel fœlz, spēk tō me no mœr, for  
yor spēƿ iz fōle. Go, dof yor hats tō ðe sīle hīnd ðat  
rūneþ on ðe m̄ntān; pra her dʒentle dwel wið u amid  
yor stōld kätel, hven u hav slān her māt. ƒal ðe  
blākeniŋ frost, hven it haþ blāsted and starvd ōl ðe  
swēt garden fl̄erz, sa tō ðe rōz, Abīd wið us; and ƿal  
Je harken tō sutƿ a wōlfij sūt?"

So spekiŋ Je drank ðe kup; and terniŋ from ðōz lordz ov  
Demonland az a kwēn terneþ her from ðe unregarded multifūd,  
nēld dʒentle d̄n bi Korundz beer, her huƿ armz klāspt  
ab̄t hiz hed, her fās pīlōd on hiz brest.

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Hven Dʒus spāk, hiz vq̄s wōz tʒōkt wið tērz. He komāded  
Bremere ðat ða ƿud tāk up ðe bōdēz ov Korsus and  
Zenambrea and ðōz sunz ov Korund and ov Korsus ðat la  
p̄zond and ded in ðat hōl and on ðe moro giv ðem  
reverent bēreal. "And for ðe Lord Korinyus I wil ðat ye māk  
a bed ov stāt, ðat he ma li in ðis hōl tō-nīt, and  
tō-moro wil we la him in h̄ befœr Karse, az iz fītiŋ  
for so ren̄nd a kaptān. But grāt Korund and hiz lade ƿal  
nun depart wun from ðe ūðer, but in wun grāv ƿal ða  
rest, sīd bi sīd, for ðēr luv sāk. Êr we be gon I wil  
rēr ðem sutƿ a mōnument az besemeþ grāt kiŋz and prinsez  
hven ða di. For r̄q̄al and lordle wōz Korund, and a mite  
man at armz, and a fiter klēn ov hand, ōlbeit ʒr bīter  
ēneme. Wundr̄ls it iz wið huƿt kordz ov luv he b̄nd tō him  
ðis unpāragond Kwēn ov hiz. Huƿ haþ nōn her līk amuŋ  
wīmen for trunes and hines ov hart? And ƿūr nun wōz  
ēver mœr unfortfunāt."

N̄ went ða fœrþ intō ðe ʒter word ov Karse. Ðe nīt  
bœr stil sum sīnz ov ðat komoƿon ov ðe skīz ðat had  
so lātle berst fœrþ and pāst awa, and sum tœrn pōlz ov  
þunderkl̄d yet huŋ aþwort ðe fās ov hēven. Betwikst ðem  
in ðe swept plasez ov ðe ski a fu starz ƿīverd, and ðe

mōon, mœr ðan hâf waksen tœwordz her fōl, wōz sinkiŋ over  
Tēnemos. Sum fānt breþ ov ôtum wōz abrōd, and ðe Demonz  
fūderd a lītel, fref from ðe hēve êr ov ðe grāt  
bankwet hōl. Ðe ruinz ov ðe Īrn Tþer smokiŋ tœ ðe ski,  
and ðe tœrn and tumbeld mæsez ov masonre abþt it, fōd  
monstrþs in ðe glœm az fragments ov ōld kaos; and from ðem  
and from ðe rīven erþ benēþ stēmd up pundzent fūmz az ov  
brimstōn berniŋ. Ēver bīzile, bak and fœrþ þrœ ðōz  
sulfurþs vaporz, obsēn berdz ov ðe nīt flīted a were  
rþnd, and bats on lēðern wiŋ, fitfœole and dimle sēn in  
ðe unsertān merk, sāv hven ðēr pāsādþ brōt ðem dark  
agānst ðe mōon. And from ðe sōlitfūdþ ov ðe mœrnful fen  
afar vqsez ov lamentafon floted on ðe nīt: wīld waliŋ  
krīz and sōbiŋ nqzez and loŋ mōnz riziŋ and fōliŋ and  
kwīveriŋ dþn tœ silens.

Dþus lād hiz hand on Gōldrēz arm, saiŋ, "Ðēr iz nōt  
erþle in ðēz laments, nor be ðōz ðat ðþ sēst serkliŋ  
in ðe rēk vēre bats or þlz. Ðēz be hiz māsterles  
famīlearz waliŋ for ðēr Lord. Mēne sutf servd him, simpel  
erþe dīvelz and dīvelz ov ðe êr and ov ðe wōter, held bi  
him in þrōl bi sorserþs and artifīal praktisez, kūmiŋ and  
goiŋ and dœiŋ hiz wil."

"Ðēz avāld him not," sed Gōldre, "nor ðe scœrd ov  
Witfland agānst þr mīt and mān, ðat brāk it asunder in  
hiz hand and slu hiz mite men ov vālor."

"Yet tru it iz," sed Lord Dþus, "ðat nun grater haþ livd  
on erþ ðan Kiŋ Gorīs 12. Hven āfter ðēz loŋ worz we  
held him az a stag at ba, he fērd not tœ āsa a sēkond  
tīm, and ðis tīm ūnaded and alōn, huōt no man els haþ so  
mutf az wuns performd and livd. And wel he nu ðat ðat  
hvitf wōz sūmond bi him þt ov ðe dēp must spil and blāst  
him ūterle if he fūd slip wun hvit, az slip he did in  
former dāz, but hiz disipel sūkord him. Behōld nþ wið  
huōt lþd strikiŋ ov þunder, unkonkerd bi ēne erþle  
pþer, he haþ hiz partiŋ: wið ðis Karse blak and smokiŋ  
in ruin for hiz mōnument, ðēz lordz ov Witfland and hundredz  
besīdz ov þr sōldþerz and ov ðe Witfez for hiz funeral  
bāk-mēts, and spīrits wepiŋ in ðe nīt for hiz tþēf  
mœrnerz."

So kām ða agān tœ ðe kamp. And in dþu tīm ðe mōon set  
and ðe klþdz departed and ðe kwiet starz perfūd ðēr  
eternal wa until nīts deklīn; az if ðis nīt had bēn  
but az ūðer nīts: ðis nīt hvitf had beheld ðe pþer and  
glœre ðat wōz Witfland bi sutf a hāmer-strōk ov destine  
smīten in pesez.

### 33. Kwēn Sofonizbā in Galij

OV ÐE ENTERTĀNMENT ĠĪVEN BI LORD DʒUS IN DEMONLAND TŌO KWĒN  
SOFONIZBĀ, FOSTERLIŅ OV ÐE GODZ, AND OV ÐAT SERKUMSTĀNS  
HUITΣ, BEYOND ÔL ÐE WUNDERZ FĒR AND LUVLE TŌO BEHÖLD ΣŌN  
HER IN ÐAT KUNTRE, MĀD HER MŌST TŌO MARVEL: HJARIN IZ A RĒR  
EKSĀMPEL Hʒ IN A FORTΣUNĀT WERLD, ʒT OV ÔL EKSPEKTAΣON, IN  
ÐE SPRIŅ OV ÐE YĒR, KŪMEP A NU BERP.

Nʒ ðe reternij munps brôt ðe sezon ov ðe yēr hven  
Kwēn Sofonizbā ƒod kum akordij tō her prōmīs tō gest  
wið Lord Dʒus in Galij. And so it wōz ðat in ðe huf ov a  
windles Āpril dōn ðe Zimeamvean karavel ðat bēr ðe Kwēn  
tōo Demonland rōd up ðe ferp tōo LūkiŅhaven.

Ôl ðe ēst wōz a bʒer for ðe gōlden dōn. Kartadzā,  
ƒarp-ʒtlīnd az if kut in bronz, stil hid ðe sun; and in  
ðe grāt ƒādo ov ðe mʒntān ðe haven and ðe lo hilz  
and ðe grōvz ov hōm-ōk and strōbere tre slumberd in a  
dēp obskurite ov blūz and perpelz, agānst huitƒ ðe āvenūz  
ov pink ālmond blōsom and ðe hūit marbel kēz wer bōdēd  
fōerp in pāl wakenij bute, ĩmādzd az in a lūkiŅ-glās in  
ðat trankwīlite ov ðe se. Westword akros ðe ferp ôl ðe  
land wōz aglo wið ðe openij da. Sno lingerd stil on ðe  
hier sūmits. Klʒdles, bađij in ðe gōlden līt, ða  
stōd agānst ðe blu: Dinā, ðe Forks ov Nantreganon, Pīk o'  
Σardz, and ôl ðe pēks ov ðe Pornbak rāndʒ and Nēverdāl.  
Mornij lāft on ðēr hi ridʒez and kist ðe wōdz ðat  
kluŅ abʒt ðēr loer limz: bīloe wōdz, hūēr ritƒ hūz  
ov brʒn and perpel tōld ov ēvere twig on ôl ðēr mīread  
brāntƒez pik and afīr wið budz. Hūit mists la līk  
kūverlets on ðe wōter-mēdōz hūēr Tivarandardāl openz tōo  
ðe se. On ðe ƒærz ov Boðre and Skaramze, and on ðe  
mānland nēr ðe grāt bluf ov Premnerz Hu and a lītel  
sʒp ov ʒlswik, klēr spasez amuŅ ðe bertƒwōdz ƒōd  
gōlden yēlo: dāfodilz ablōom in ðe sprij.

Ða rōd in tōo ðe norðernmōst berp and mād fāst ðe  
karavel. Ðe swētnes ov ðe ālmond trēz wōz ðe swētnes ov  
sprij in ðe ēr, and sprij wōz in ðe fās ov ðat Kwēn az  
ƒe kām wið her atendants up ðe ƒiniŅ steps, her lītel  
martlets serkliŅ abʒt her or pertƒij on her ƒōlderz: ƒe  
tōo hūōm ðe Godz ov ōld gāv ūp ēverlāstiŅ, and pēs  
ēverlāstiŅ in Koftrā Belorn.

Lord Dʒus and hiz breðren wer on ðe ke tōo mēt her, and

ðe Lord Brandox Dahâ. Ða bþd in tern, kīsiŋ her handz  
and bīdiŋ her welkum tō Demonland. But fe sed, "Not tō  
Demonland alōn, mi lordz, tō ðe werld agān. And tōword hwiƒ  
ov ôl erþs harborz ƒud l stēr, and tōword hwiƒ land  
if not tō ðis land ov yorz, hƳ hav bi yor viktorēz  
brôt pēs and dzŋ tō ôl ðe werld? Σūrle pēs slept not  
mœr softle on ðe Morunâ in ôld dāz befœr ðe nāmz ov  
Gorīs and Witƒland wer herd in ðat kuntre, ðan fe ƒal  
slēp for us on ðis nu erp and Demonland, nþ ðat ðōz  
nāmz ar drþnd for ēver under ðe hwerlƳœlz ov oblīveon and  
darknes."

Dzus sed, "O Kwēn Sofonizbâ, dezīr not ðat ðe nāmz ov  
grāt men ded ƒud be forgot for ēver. So ƒud ðēz worz  
ðat we lāst yēr brôt tō so mite a konkluzon tō māk us  
undisputed lordz ov ðe erp go dþn tō oblīveon wið ðem  
ðat fôt agānst us. But ðe fām ov ðēz þiŋz ƒal be  
on ðe lips and in ðe sonz ov men from wun dzeneraƒon tō  
anūðer, so loŋ az ðe werld ƒal endzūr."

Ða tƳk hors and rōd up from ðe harbor tō ðe ūper rōd,  
and so þrœ open pāstƒūrz on tō Haverƒô Tuŋ. Lamz  
friskt on ðe dzue mēdōz besīd ðe rōd; blakberdz flu  
from bƳƒ tō bƳƒ; larks trild in ðe sītlēs ski; and az  
ða kām dþn þrœ ðe wudz tō Bekƒut wud-pidzonz kœd  
in ðe trēz, and skwīrelz pēpt wið bede īz. Ðe Kwēn  
spōk lītel. Ðēz and ôl ƒi þiŋz ov ðe wudz and fēld  
held her in þrōl, tƒarmiŋ her tō a silens ðat wōz broken  
ōnle nþ and ðen bi a lītel eksklamaƒon ov dzŋ. Ðe Lord  
Dzus, hƳ himself ôlso luvd ðēz þiŋz, wôtƒt her delīt.

Nþ ða wœnd up ðe stēp asent from Bekƒut, and rōd into  
Galiŋ bi ðe Lion Gāt. Ðe ävenu ov Iriƒ ūz wōz līnd bi  
sōldzgerz ov ðe bōdigardz ov Dzus, Gōldre, and Spitƒir, and  
Brandox Dahâ. Ðēz, in ōnor ov ðēr grāt māsterz and ov  
ðe Kwēn, lifted ðēr spērz aloft, hƳl trumpeterz blu  
þre fanfērz on silver trumpets. Ðen tō an akumpaniment ov  
lūts and þeorbōz and sīðernz mœviŋ abuv ðe puls ov  
mūfeld drumz, a kwīr ov madenz saŋ a son ov welkum,  
struiŋ ðe pāþ befœr ðe lordz ov Demonland and ðe Kwēn  
wið swēt hƳl hiasinþs and narsīsus blœmz, hƳl ðe  
ladēz Mevrean and Armelīn, mœr luvle ðan ēne kwēnz ov  
erp, wated at ðe hed ov ðe gōlden stēr kās abuv ðe  
īner kœrt tō grēt Kwēn Sofonizbâ kum tō Galiŋ.

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A hard māter it wer tō tel ov ôl ðe plēzūrz prepērd for  
Kwēn Sofonizbâ and for her delīt bi ðe lordz ov Demonland.

Ɖe ferst da ƒe spent amuŋ ðe parks and plēzūr gardenz ov Galiŋ, hŷer Lord Dʒus ƒōd her hiz grāt līm āvenūz, hiz u-hłzez, hiz frūt gardenz and sunk gardenz and hiz privāt wōks and błerz; hiz wōks ov krepiŋ tīm hŷitʒ beiŋ trōden on sendz up swēt odorz tōo refref ðe trēder; hiz ānfent wōter-gardenz besīd ðe Brankdāl Bek, hŷiðer ðe wōter nimfs rezort in sūmer and ar sēn under ðe mōon sīŋiŋ and komiŋ ðēr hēr wið kōmz ov gōld.

On ðe sēkond da he ƒōd her hiz herb gardenz, diskloziŋ tōo her ðe sēkret prōpertēz ov herbz, hvarin he wōz dēple lerned. Ɖēr gru ðat Zamalentīʒon, hŷitʒ beiŋ wel beten up wið fat wiðłt sōlt iz sovran for ōl wōondz. And Dītane, hŷitʒ if eten sōon pōts łt ðe āro and helep ðe wōondz; and not ōnle bi its prēzens staep snāks hŷērsoēver ða be hande tōo it, but bi rezon ov its smel kārēd bi wind and ða smel it ða di. And Mandragorā, hŷitʒ beiŋ taken into ðe mīdel ov an hłs kompēlep ōl eviliz łt ov ðe hłs, and relevep ōlso hēdāks and prōdʒusep slēp. Ōlso he ƒōd her Se Hōle in hiz garden, ðat iz born in sēkret plasez and in wet wunz, and ðe rōot ov it iz az ðe hed ov ðat monster hŷitʒ men nām ðe Gorgon, and ðe rōot-twigz hav bōp īz and nōz and kūlor ov serpents. Ov ðis he tōld her hł hven takiŋ up ðe rōot, a man must se tōo it ðat no sun ƒīn on it, and he hŷō wōd karv it must avert hiz hed, for it iz not permitted ðat man ma se ðat rōot unharmd.

Ɖe perd da Dʒus ƒōd ðe Kwēn hiz stabelz, hŷer wer hiz wor-horsez and horsez for ðe tʒās and for tʒāreot rasiŋ stabeld in stōlz wið fernitʒūr ov silver, and mutʒ ƒe marveld at hiz sēven hŷīt mērz, sisterz, so līk ðat nun mīt tel wun from anūðer, gīven him in dāz gon bi bi ðe prēsts ov Artemis in ðe landz beʒond ðe sunset. Ɖa wer imortal, bariŋ ikor in ðēr vānz, not blud; and ðe ƒīr ov it ƒōd in ðēr īz līk lamps berniŋ.

Ɖe fœrþ nīt and ðe fiƒþ ðe Kwēn wōz at Drēpabe, gestiŋ wið Lord Gōldre Bluzko and ðe Prinses Armelīn, ðat wer wēded in Zādʒe Zakulo lāst Ūl; and ðe siksp and sēvenþ nīts at ʒlswik, and ðēr Spitfīr mād her lordle entertānment. But Lord Brandox Dahā wōd not hav ðe Kwēn go yet tōo Krōðeriŋ, for he had not yet mād fēr agān hiz gardenz and plezōnsez and restœrd hiz ritʒ and gōdle trēzūrz tōo hiz mīnd āfter ðēr il handliŋ bi Korinyus. And it wōz not hiz wil ðat ƒe ƒōd lŷk on Krōðeriŋ Kāsel until ōl wōz ðēr stabliʒt anu akordiŋ tōo its ānfent glœre.

Ɖe ātþ da ƒe kām agān tōo Galiŋ, and nł Lord Dʒus

fōd her hiz stūde, wið hiz astrolābz ov orikalk, figūrd  
wið ôl ðe sīnz ov ðe Zōdzak and ðe manfonz ov ðe mōon,  
standiŋ a tōl manz hīt abuv ðe flær, and hiz  
perspektīvz and gluvz and kristalz and hōlo  
lŋkiŋ-glāsez; and grāt kristal glōbz hŋer he kept  
homunkule huom he had mād bi sēkret prosesez ov nātūr, bōp  
men and wīmen, les ðan a span loŋ, az butiful az wun kŋd  
wif tō se in ðēr lītel kōts, etiŋ and drinkiŋ and  
goiŋ ðēr wāz in ðōz mite glōbz ov kristal hŋer hiz  
art had gīven ðem beiŋ.

Ēvere nīt, hŋeðer at Galiŋ, ʒlswik, or Drēpabe Mīr, wōz  
fēstiŋ held in her ōnor, wið muzik and dānsiŋ and  
mēre-makiŋ and ôl delīt, and poētikal resitaŋonz and  
fēts ov armz and horsmanŋip, and māsks and interlūdiz ðe  
līk hvarov hap not bēn sēn on erp for bute and wit and  
ôl magnīfisens.

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Nð wōz ðe nīnþ da kum ov ðe Kwēnz gestiŋ in  
Demonland, and it wōz ðe ēv ov Lord Džŋsez berpda, hven ôl  
ðe grāt wunz in ðe land wer kum tŋgēðer, az fær yēr  
ago ða kām, tō doo ōnor on ðe moro untō him and untō hiz  
breðren az wōz ðēr wōnt afærtīm. It wōz fīn brīt  
wēðer, wið ēvere lītel huil a ʒber tō briŋ freŋ  
swētnes tō ðe êr, kŋlor and refrefment tō ðe erp, and  
gladnes tō ðe sunfīn. Džus wōkt wið ðe Kwēn in ðe  
morniŋ in ðe wŋdz ov Mōngarþ Bōtom, nð berstiŋ intō  
lēf; and āfter ðēr mid-da mēl fōd her hiz trēzurēz  
kut in ðe līv rok under Galiŋ Kāsel, hŋer ʒe beheld barz  
ov gōld and silver pīld līk trunks ov trēz; unhūn kristalz  
ov rube, krisoprāz, or hiasinþ, so hēve a stroŋ man mīt  
not lift ðem; staks ov ivore in ðe tusk, pīld tō ðe  
seliŋ; tʒests and džarz fild wið perfūmz and kostle  
spisez, ambergre, frankinsens, swēt-sented sandalwŋd and  
mer and spikenard; kups and bekerz and ērd wīn-džarz and  
lamps and kāsks mād ov pūr gōld, werkt and tʒāst wið ðe  
formz ov men and wīmen and berdiz and bēsts and krepiŋ  
piŋz, and ornamented wið dželz beŋond prīs, margarīts and  
pink and yēlo sāfirz, smaragdiz and krisobērilz and yēlo  
dimondz.

Hven ðe Kwēn had had her fil ov gaziŋ on ðēz, he kārēd  
her tō hiz grāt lībrare hŋer statfūz stōd ov ðe nīn Muzez  
abʒt Apōlo, and ôl ðe wōlz wer hīden wið bŋks:  
historēz and soŋz ov ōld dāz, bŋks ov filōsofe, alkime  
and astrōnome and art madžik, romansez and muzik and līvz ov  
grāt men ded and grāt tretezez ov ôl ðe arts ov pēs and  
wor, wið piktŋurz and iluminated kārakterz. Grāt windōz

opend sþpword on ðe garden from ðe lībrare, and kliminj  
rōz-trēz and plānts ov hūnisukel and evergrēn magnoleā  
klusterd abþt ðe windōz. Grāt tʃērz and kþtʃez stōd  
abþt ðe open harþ huēr a fir ov sedar logz bernd in  
winter tīm. Lamps ov mōonstōnz self-efuldʒent faded wið  
klāde grēn tōrmalēn stōd on silver standz on ðe tabel and  
bi ētʃ kþtʃ and tʃēr, tō giv līt hven ðe da wōz over;  
and ōl ðe ēr wōz swēt wið ðe sent ov drīd rōz-lēvz  
kept in ānfent bōlz and vāzez ov pānted erpenwēr.

Kwēn Sofonizbā sed, "Mi lord, I luv ðis best ov ōl ðe  
fēr þinjz ðþ hast fōn me in ði kāsēl ov Galij: hēr  
huēr ōl trūbel sēmz a forgōten ēko ov an il werld left  
behīnd. Σūrle mi hart iz glad, O mi frend, ðat ðþ and  
ðēz ūðer lordz ov Demonland ʃal nþ endʒŋ yor gōdle  
trēʒūrz and fēr dāz in yor dēr natīv land in pēs and  
kwietnes ōl yor līvz."

Ðe Lord Dʒus stōd at ðe windo ðat lukt westword akros  
ðe lāk tō ðe grāt wōl ov ðe Skarf. Sum ʃādo ov a nobel  
mēlankole hōverd abþt hiz swēt dark kþntenans az hiz gāz  
rested on a kertān ov rān ðat swept akros ðe fās ov ðe  
mþntān wōl, hāf valiŋ ðe hi rok sūmits. "Yet þink,  
mādam," sed he, "ðat we be yuŋ ov yēr. And tō strēnuþs  
mīndz ðēr iz an unkwietʃūd in over-kwietnes."

Nþ he kondukted her þrō hiz armorēz huēr he kept hiz  
wēponz and wēponz for hiz fitinj men and ōl pānople ov  
wor. Ðēr he fōd her sœrdz and spērz, masez and aksez and  
dāgerz, orfrēd and dāmāsēnd and inlād wið dʒuelz;  
bernēz and bōldriks and ʃēldz; blādz so kēn, a hēr blōn  
agānst ðem in a wind ʃōd be parted in twān; tʃarmd helmz  
on huitʃ no ordinaire sœrd wōd bīt. And Dʒus sed untō ðe  
Kwēn, "Mādam, huōt þinkst ðþ ov ðēz sœrdz and spērz?  
For no wel ðat ðēz be ðe lāderz ruŋz ðat we ov  
Demonland klīmd up bi tō ðat sinyore and prinsipālite huitʃ  
nþ we hōld over ðe fœr kornerz ov ðe werld."

Σe ānserd, "O mi lord, I þink nōble ov ðem. For an il  
part it wer huīl we dʒŋ in ðe harvest, tō kontem ðe tōlz  
ðat prepērd ðe land for it and rēpt it."

Huīl ʃe spōk, Dʒus tok dþn from its hʃk a grāt sœrd  
wið a hāft bþnd wið plāted kordz ov gōld and silver wīr  
and kros-hilts ov latþn set wið studz ov āmēpist and a  
drāks hed at iðer end ov ðe hilt wið krimzon almandīnz  
for hiz īz, and ðe pōmel a bōl ov dēp amber-kūlord opal  
wið red and grēn flāʃez.

"Wið ðis sœrd," sed he, "I went up wið Gazlark tō ðe



gāts ov Karse, fær yērz gon bi ðis sūmer, beinj klǣded  
in mi mīnd bi ðe bak-wōf ov ðe sendiŋ ov Gorīs ðe Kirj.  
Wið ðis sœrd I fôt an Ʒr bak tō bak wið Brandox  
Dahâ, agānst Korund and Korinyus and ðēr āblest men: ðe  
gratest fit ðat ēver I fôt, and agānst ðe fērfœlest  
odz. Witfland himself beheld us from Karse wōlz þrō ðe  
wōtere mist and glēr, and marveld ðat tō men ðat ar born  
ov wōman kūd perform sutf dēdz."

He untīd ðe bandz ov ðe sœrd and dru it sīŋiŋ from its  
fēþ. "Wið ðis sœrd," he sed, Ʒkiŋ lūviŋle alon ðe  
blād, "I hav overkum hundredz ov mīn ēnemēz: Witfez, and  
Goolz, and barbarƷs pepel Ʒt ov Impland and ðe sūðern  
sēz, pirāts ov Ezamofâ and prinsez ov ðe ēstern mǣn. Wið  
ðis sœrd I gat ðe viktore in mēne a bātel, and mōst  
glœereƷs ov ôl in ðe bātel befær Karse lāst September.  
Ðēr, fitiŋ agānst grāt Korund in ðe pres ov ðe fit  
I gāv him wið ðis sœrd ðe wœond ðat wōz hiz deþ-wœond."

He pŷt up ðe sœrd agān in its fēþ: held it a mīnūt az if  
ponderiŋ hŷðer or no tō gerd it abƷt hiz wāst: ðen slole  
ternd tō its plās on ðe wōl and huŋ it up agān. He  
kārēd hiz hed hi līk a wor-hors, kepiŋ hiz gāz  
averted from ðe Kwēn az ða went Ʒt from ðe grāt armore  
in Galiŋ; yet not so skilfœole but fe markt a glīseniŋ in  
hiz i ðat sēmd a tēr standiŋ abuv hiz loer ilaf.

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Ðat nīt wōz sūper set in Lord Džūsez privāt tfāmbere: a  
līt regāl, yet mōst sumpfƷs. Ða sat at a rǣnd tabel,  
nīn in kumpane: ðe þre breðren, ðe Lordz Brandox Dahâ,  
Zig, and Vol, ðe Ladēz Armelīn and Mevrean, and ðe  
Kwēn. Brite flōd ðe wīnz ov Krōðeriŋ and Norvasp and  
blīðle went ðe tōk tō Ʒtword semiŋ. But ēver and agān  
silens swuŋ aþwort ðe bærd, līk a gra pōl, til Zig  
brōk it wið a dżest, or Brandox Dahâ or hiz sister Mevrean.  
Ðe Kwēn felt ðe tƷil behīnd ðēr mērimēt. Ðe silent  
fits kām oftener az ðe fēst went forword, az if wīn and  
gud tƷēr had lost ðēr natīv kwōlite and ternd fāðerz ov  
blak mœdz and glōome meditaƷonz.

Ðe Lord Gōldre Bluzko, ðat til nƷ had spōk lītel, spāk  
nƷ not at ôl, hiz prƷd dark fās fikst in stād pensīv  
līnz ov þōt. Spitfīr tō wōz fōlen silent, hiz fās  
lēnd ŷpon hiz hand, hiz brƷ bent; and hŷlīz he drank amān,  
and hŷlīz he drumd hiz fingerz on ðe tabel. Ðe Lord  
Brandox Dahâ lēnd bak in hiz ivore tƷēr, sīpiŋ hiz wīn.  
Vēre demūr, þrō hāf-klōzd īz, līk a panþer doziŋ in  
ðe nœon-da, he wōtƷt hiz kompanyonz at ðe fēst. Līk

sunbēmz tƿāst bi kl̥d-ƿādōz akros a m̥ntān-sīd in  
winde wēðer, ðe līts ov humor̥s endz̥qment plād akros  
hiz fās.

Ðe Kwēn sed, "O mi lordz, u hav pr̥mīst me I ƿud hēr  
ðe ƿul tāl ov yor worz in Impland and ðe Impland sēz, and  
h̥ u kām t̥o Karse and ov ðe grāt bātel ðat ðēr  
befel, and ov ðe lāter end ov ôl ðe lordz ov Witƿland and  
ov Gorīs 12. ov mēmore akerst. I pra u let me hēr it  
n̥, ðat ƿr harts ma be glādend bi ðe tāl ov grāt  
dēdz ðe remembrans hvarov ƿal be for ôl d̥generafonz, and  
ðat we ma rēdz̥qs anu ðat ôl ðe lordz ov Witƿland ar  
ded and gon bekōz ov h̥om and ðēr tīrane erp hap  
grōnd and labord ðēz mēne yērz."

Lord D̥zus, in h̥oz fās h̥en it wōz at rest ƿe had beheld  
ðat sām mēlankole h̥itƿ ƿe had markt in him in ðe lībrare  
ðat sām da, p̥erd f̥erp m̥er wīn, and sed, "O Kwēn  
Sofonizbā, ð̥ ƿalt hēr it ôl." Ðērwið he tōld ôl ðat  
had befōlen sins ða lāst bad her ād̥zu in Koftrā Belorn:  
ov ðe mart̥ t̥o ðe se at M̥lvā; ov Laksus and hiz grāt flēt  
destr̥qd and sunk of Melikafkaz; ov ðe bātel bef̥er Karse  
and its swīn̥j fort̥jūnz; ov ðe unhālōd līt and flarin̥  
sīnz in hēven h̥ērbi ða nu ov ðe Kīnz kund̥zurin̥ agān  
in Karse; ov ðēr watin̥ in ðe nīt, armd at ôl p̥ants,  
wið t̥farmz and amulets rēde agānst h̥ôt dredƿul berp mīt  
be from ðe Kīnz entfāntments; ov ðe blāstin̥ ov ðe līn  
T̥er, and ðe stormin̥ ov ðe hōld in pit̥ darknes; ov ðe  
lordz ov Witƿland merðerd at ðe fēst, and nōt left at  
lāst ov ðe p̥ler and pomp and t̥ror ðat wōz Witƿland sāv  
dii̥ emberz ov a funeral ƿir and v̥qsez wali̥ in ðe wind  
bef̥er ðe dōn.

H̥en he had dun, ðe Kwēn sed, az if tōkin̥ in a drēm,  
"Σūrle it ma be sed ov ðēz kīnz and lordz ov Witƿland  
ded--

Ðēz ret̥fed ēminent ƿin̥z  
Lēv no m̥er fām behīnd em ðan ƿud wun  
Fōl in a frost, and lēv hiz print in sno;  
Az s̥on az ðe sun ƿīnz, it ēver melts  
Bōp form and māter."

Wið ðōz werdz spoken dropt silens agān līk a pōl  
apwort ðat bankwet tabel, m̥er tristƿul ðan bef̥er and ƿul  
ov hēvines.

On a sūden Lord Brandox Dahā st̥ud up, unbuklin̥ from hiz  
ƿōlder hiz gōlden bōldrik set wið āprikot-k̥lord  
sāƿirz and dimondz and ƿir-opalz ðat īmād̥zd ƿunderbolts.

He þru it befær him on ðe tabel, wið hiz særd, kläteriŋ amuŋ ðe kups. "O Kwēn Sofonizbā," sed he, "ðŋ hast spoken a fit funeral derdz for ŋr glære az for Witflanz. Ðis særd Zeldornyus gāv me. I bē it at Krōðeriŋ Sīd agānst Korinyus, hven I þru him ŋt ov Demonland. I bē it at Melikafkaz. I bē it in ðe lāst grāt fit in Witflanz. Ðŋ wilt sa it brōt me gūd luk and viktore in bātel. But it brōt not tō me, az tō Zeldornyus, ðis lāst best luk ov ôl: ðat erþ ŋud gāp for me hven mi grāt dēdz wer ended."

Ðe Kwēn lukt at him amāzd, marveliŋ tō se him so mutf mœvd ðat ŋe had nōn until nŋ so laze mōkiŋ and so debonêr.

But ðe ŋðer lordz ov Demonland stod up and fluŋ dŋn ðēr dzueld særdz on ðe tabel besīd Lord Brandox Dahâz. And Lord Dzus spāk and sed, "We ma wel kâst dŋn ŋr særdz az a lāst öferiŋ on Witflanz grāv. For nŋ must ða rust: semanŋip and ôl hi arts ov wor must wiðer: and, nŋ ðat ŋr grāt ênemēz ar ded and gon, we ðat wer lordz ov ôl ðe werld must tern ŋepherdz and hunterz, lest we bekum mēr mŋntebanks and fops, fit fēlōz for ðe tŋamberiŋ Beftreanz or ðe Red Foleot. O Kwēn Sofonizbā, and u mi breðren and mi frendz, ðat ar kum tō kēp mi berþda wið me tō-moro in Galiŋ, hvôt māk ye in hōlida atīr? Wēp ye rāðer, and wēp agān, and klōð u ôl in blak, þinkiŋ ðat ŋr miteest fēts ov armz and ðe hi sððiŋ ov ðe brīt star ov ŋr magnīfisens ŋud briŋ us untō tīmler ruin. Þinkiŋ ðat we, ðat fôt but for fitiŋz sāk, hav in ðe end fôt so wel we nēver ma fīt mœr; unles it ŋud be in fratrisidal rādž etŋ agānst etŋ. And êr ðat ŋud betīd, ma erþ klōz over us and ŋr mēmōre pēriŋ."

Mitile mœvd wōz ðe Kwēn tō behōld sutf a violent soro, ôlbeit ŋe kud not komprehend ðe roots and rezon ov it. Her vqs ŋuk a lītel az ŋe sed, "Mi Lord Dzus, mi Lord Brandox Dahâ, and u ŋðer lordz ov Demonland, it wōz lītel in mīn ekspektaŋon tō fīnd in u sutf a pāŋon ov sŋr diskontent. For I kām tō rēdzqs wið u. And strāndžle it sŋndep in mīn êr tō hēr u mœrn and lament yor werst ênemēz, at so grāt hāzard ov yor līvz and ôl u held dēr, struk dŋn bi u at lāst. I am but a mād and yuŋ in yēr, ôlbeit mi mēmōre goep bak tō hundred sprinž, and il it befīteþ me tō kŋnsel grāt lordz and men ov wor. Yet strāndž it semep if ðēr be not pēsful endžqment and nobel dēdz ov pēs for u ôl yor dāz, hvœ ar yuŋ and nobel and lordz ov ôl ðe werld and ritf in ëvere trēžūr and hi gifts ov lerniŋ, and ðe farest kuntre in ðe werld for

yor dēr natīv land. And if yor sœrdz must not rust, ye ma bē̄r ðem agānst ðe unsīvil rasez ov Impland and ūðer distant kuntrēz tō briŋ ðem tō subdzekʃon."

But Lord Gōldre Bluzko lâft bīterle. "O Kwēn," he krīd, "ʃal ðe korekʃon ov febel sāvādʒez kontent ðēz sœrdz, hvitʃ hav word agānst ðe h̄s ov Gorīs and agānst ōl hiz tʃozen kaptānz ðat upheld ðe grāt p̄ðer ov Karse and ðe glœere and ðe fēr ðarov?"

And Spitfir sed, "Hvôt dzɔ ʃal we hav ov soft bedz and dēlikāt mēts and ōl ðe delīts ðat be in mēne-m̄ntānd Demonland, if we must be stiŋles drōnz, wið no akʃon tō ʃarpen ʃr āpetīt for ēz?"

Ōl wer silent āhvīl. ðen ðe Lord Dʒus spāk saiŋ, "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, hast ð̄l lukt ēver, on a ʃ̄ðere da in sprīŋ, ūpon ðe rānbo fluŋ akros erp and ski, and markt h̄l ōl piŋz ov erp beʏond it, trēz, m̄ntān-sīdz, and rīverz, and fēldz, and wōdz, and hōmz ov men, ar trānsʃigūrd bi ðe kŭlorz ðat ar in ðe bo?"

"Yes," ʃe sed, "and oft dezīrd tō rētʃ ðem."

"We," sed Dʒus, "hav flōn beʏond ðe rānbo. And ðēr we f̄lnd no fabeld land ov harts dezīr, but wet rān and wind ōnle and ðe kōld m̄ntān-sīd. And ʃr harts ar a-kōld bekōz ov it."

ðe Kwēn sed, "H̄l ōld art ð̄l, mi Lord Dʒus, ðat ð̄l spēkst az an ōld man mīt spēk?"

He ānserd, "I ʃal be ɓerte-ɓre yērz ōld tōmoro, and ðat iz yuŋ bi ðe rēkoniŋ ov men. Nun ov us be ōld, and mi breðren and Lord Brandox Dahā yunger ðan I. Yet az ōld men ma we n̄l lŭk fœrɓ on ʃr līvz, sins ðe ɡōdnes ðarov iz gon bi for us." And he sed, "ð̄l O Kwēn kanst skērsle no ʃr grēf; for tō ðe ðe blēsed Godz ɡāv ði harts dezīr: ūɓ for ēver, and pēs. Wōd ða mīt giv us ʃr ɡōd gift, ðat ʃōd be ūɓ for ēver, and wor; and unwaniŋ strenɓ and skil in armz. Wōd ða mīt but giv us ʃr grāt ēnemēz alīv and hvōl agān. For bēter it wer we ʃōd run hāzard agān ov ūter destrukʃon, ðan ðus liv ʃt ʃr līvz līk kätel fāteniŋ for ðe slōter, or līk sīle garden plānts."

ðe Kwēnz iz wer lardʒ wið wunder. "ð̄l kōdst wif it?" ʃe sed.

Dʒus ānserd and sed, "A tru saiŋ it iz ðat 'a ɡrāv iz a

rōten fōndaſon.' If ðſ fōdſt proklām tō me at ðis instant ðe grāt Kiſ agān and ſiſiſ agān in Karse, bīdiſ us tō ðe dred arbitrāment ov wor, ðſ fōdſt kwikle se I tōld ðe trūp."

Hwīl Dzus spāk, ðe Kwēn ternd her gāz from wun tō anūðer rōnd ðe bærd. In ēvere i, hwen he spāk ov Karse, ſe sō ðe līſniſ ov ðe dʒſ ov bātel az ov līf reſerniſ tō men held in a dedle trāns. And hwen he had dun, ſe sō in ēvere i ðe līſ go ſt. Līk Godz ða sēmd, in ðe glære ov ðēr ūp and prīd, ſeted abſt ðat tabel; but sad and tradʒikal, līk Godz eksīld from wīd Héven.

Nun spāk, and ðe Kwēn kāst dōn her īz, ſiſiſ az if rapt in pōt. Ðen ðe Lord Dzus rōz tō hiz fēt, and ſed, "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, forgiv us ðat ſr privāt ſorōz fōd māk us so forgetfōl ov ſr hoſpitālite az were ſr geſt wið a merples fēſt. But þink tiz bekōz we no ðe ſr dēr frend we ūz not tō muſ ſēremone. Tō-moro we wil be mēre wið ðe, hūôtēr betīd ðarāfter."

So ða bad gōd-nīſ. But az ða went ſt into ðe garden under ðe ſtarz, ðe Kwēn tok Dzus aſīd privātle and ſed tō him, "Mi lord, ſins ðſ and mi Lord Brandox Dahā kām ferſt ov mortal men into Koftrā Belorn, and fōlfild ðe wērd akordiſ tō preordānment, ðis ōnle hap bēn mi dezīr: tō ferðer u and tō enhāns u and tō obtān for u hūôt u wōd, so far az in me lieþ. Ðo I be but a wēk mād, yet hap it sēmd gōd tō ðe blēſed Godz tō ſo kīndnes unto me. Wun hole prēr ma werk þiſz we skērs drēm ov. Wilt ðſ ðat I pra tō Ðem tō-nīſ?"

"Alās, dēr Kwēn," ſed he, "ſal ðōz eſtrāndʒd and divided āfez unīſ agān? Hwō ſal tern bak ðe flud-tīd ov ſnōlterabel neſēſite?"

But ſe ſed, "Ðſ haſt kristalz and perſpektīvz kan ſo ðe þiſz afar of. I pra briſ ðem, and ro me in ði bōt up tō Mōnmēr Hed ðat we ma land ðēr abſt midnīſ. And let mi Lord Brandox Dahā kum wið us and ði brūðerz. But let nun els no ov it. For ðat wer but tō mok ðem wið a fōls dōn, if it fōd prōv at lāſt tō be akordiſ tō ði wiſdom, O mi lord, and not akordiſ tō mi prēr."

So ðe Lord Dzus did akordiſ tō ðe werd ov ðat fēr Kwēn, and ða rōd her up ðe lāk bi mōnlīſ. Nun spāk, and ðe Kwēn ſāt apart in ðe blz ov ðe bōt, in ernest ſuplikaſon tō ðe blēſed Godz. Hwen ða wer kum tō ðe

hed ov ðe lāk ða went āƿær on a lītel spit ov silver sand. Ðe Āprīl nīt wōz abuv ðem, mīld wið mœnlīt. Ðe ƿādōz ov ðe felz rōz inke blak and beƿond imādƿinaƿon hūdƿ agānst ðe ski. Ðe Kwēn nēld āhūī in silens on ðe kōīd grōīd, and ðōz lordz ov Demonland stūd tƿgēðer in silens wōtƿīn her.

In a hūī ƿe rāzd her īz tœ hēven; and behōīd, betwēn ðe tœ mān pēks ov ðe Skarf, a meteor krept slole ƿt ov darknes and akros ðe nīt-ski, leviſ a trāl ov silver ƿīr, and silentle departed intœ darknes. Ða wōtƿt, and anūðer kām, and yet anūðer, until ðe western ski abuv ðe mōīntān wōz ablāz wið ðem. From tœ pōīnts ov hēven ða kām, wun betwikst ðe foreklōz ov ðe Lion and wun in ðe dark sīn ov Kanser. And ða ðat kām from ðe Lion wer sparkliſ līk ðe hūī ƿīrz ov Rīdzēl or Altēr, and ða ðat kām from ðe Krab wer hōte red, līk ðe luster ov Antarēz. Ðe lordz ov Demonland, leniſ on ðēr sœrdz, wōtƿt ðēz pœrtents for a loſ hūī in silens. Ðen ðe trāveliſ meteorz sēst, and ðe stedƿāst starz ƿon lōīle and serēn. A soft brēz sterd amuſ ðe ōīderz and wīlōz bi ðe lāk. Ðe lāpiſ wōterz lāpiſ ðe ƿīnle ƿær mād a kwiet tƿūn. A nitingāl in a kōpīs on a lītel hil saſ so pāƿonāt swēt it sēmd sum spīrit sīniſ. Az in a trāns ða stūd and līsēd, until ðat sīniſ ended, and a huƿ fel on wōter and wūd and lōn. Ðen ōī ðe ēst blāzd up for an instant wið ƿēt lītniſz, and ƿunder grōīd from ðe ēst beƿond ðe se.

Ðe ƿunder tœk form so ðat muzik wōz in ðe hēvenz, ƿīniſ erƿ and ski az wið trumpets kōīniſ tœ bātel, ferst hi, ðen lo, ðen ƿūderiſ dōīn tœ silens. Dƿus and Brandox Dahā nu it for ðat grāt kōī tœ bātel hūīƿ had preluded ðat muzik in ðe dark nīt wīðōt her pālās, in Kōƿtrā Belorn, hven ferst ða stūd befær her portal diƿīn. Ðe grāt kōī went agān ƿrœ erƿ and ēr, sōīdiſ defians; and in its trān nu ƿqsez, gropiſ in darknes, riziſ tœ pāƿonāt lament, hōveriſ, and diiſ awa on ðe wind, til nōt remāīd but a rōī ov mūfeld ƿunder, loſ, lo, kwiet, big wið mēnās.

Ðe Kwēn ternd tœ Lord Dƿus. Sūrle her īz wer līk tœ starz ƿīniſ in ðe glœm. Se sed in a drōīd ƿqs, "Ðī perspektīvz, mi lord."

So ðe Lord Dƿus mād a ƿīr ov sertān spisez and herbz, and smōk rōz in a ƿīk klōīd ƿul ov fire sparks, wið a swēt ƿarp smel. And he sed, "Not we, O mi Lade, lest ƿr dezīrz tƿēt ƿr sensez. But tœk ðōī in mi perspektīvz ƿrœ ðe smōk, and sa untœ us hūōt ðōī ƿalt behōīd in ðe ēst

beƵond ðe unharvested se."

Ðe Kwēn lukt. And fe sed, "I behōld a harbor tþn and a slūgij řiver kūmiņ dþn tō ðe harbor þrō a mēr set abþt wið mud flats, and a grāt wāst ov fen stretfij inland from ðe se. Inland, bi ðe řiver sīd, I behōld a grāt bluf standij abuv ðe fenz. And wōlz abþt ðe bluf, az it wer a sītadel. And ðe bluf and ðe wōld hōld pertft ðaron ar blak līk ōld nīt, and līk þrōnd inikwite sītiņ in ðe plās ov pþer, darkeniņ ðe dezolafon ov ðat fen."

Dʒus sed, "Ar ðe wōlz þrōn dþn? Or iz not ðe grāt rþnd tþer sþp-westword þrōn dþn in ruin apwort ðe wōlz?"

Se sed, "Ōl iz hūl and sþnd az ðe wōlz ov ðīn ōn kāsēl, mi lord."

Dʒus sed, "Tern ðe kristal, O Kwēn, ðat ðþ māst se wiðin ðe wōlz if ēne personz be ðarin, and tel us ðēr fāp and semiņ."

Ðe Kwēn wōz silent for a spās, gaziņ ernestle in ðe kristal. Ðen fe sed, "I se a bankwet hōl wið wōlz ov dark grēn dʒasper spēkeld wið red, and a māse kornīs bœrn up bi dʒiants þre-hēded karvd in blak serpentīn; and ētf dʒiant iz bþd benēþ ðe wāt ov a hūdʒ krab-fif. Ðe hōl iz sēven-sided. Tō loņ tabelz ðēr be and a kros-bentf. Ðēr be īrn brazeerz in ðe midst ov ðe hōl and flambqz bernij in silver standz, and rēvelerz kwōfiņ at ðe loņ tabelz. Sum dark yuņ men blak ov brþ and grāt ov dʒō, mōst sōldʒer-līk, brūðerz mahap. Anūðer wið ðem, rūde ov kþntenans and kīndleer tō lūk on, wið loņ brþn mōstāfeōz. Anūðer ðat wareþ a brazen berne and se-grēn kertel; an ōld man he, wið spars gra hūskerz and flābe tʒēks; fat and unwēlde; not a kumle ōld man tō lūk ŷpon."

Se sēst spekiņ, and Dʒus sed, "Hūom sēst ðþ els in ðe bankwet hōl, O Kwēn?"

Se sed, "Ðe flēr ov ðe flambqz hideþ ðe kros-bentf. I wil tern ðe kristal agān. Nþ I behōld tō divertiņ ðemselvz wið dīs at ðe tabel befœr ðe kros-bentf. Wun iz wel-lūkiņ enuf, wel nit, ov a nobel pœrt, wið kerle brþn hēr and bērd and kēn īz līk a salor. Ðe ŷðer semeþ yunger in yērz, yunger ðan ēne ov u, mi lordz. He iz smōð fāvd, ov a fref komplekʒon and fēr kerliņ hēr, and hiz brþ iz rēðd wið a festal garland. A mōst big brōd stroņ and sēmle yuņ man. Yet iz ðēr a sumhūot makeþ me il at ēz behōldiņ him; and for ōl hiz fēr

kŕntenans and rŕqal bariŕ he semep displeziŕ in mŕn  
īz.

"Đēr iz a dāmozal đēr tŕ, wŕtŕiŕ đem huī đā pla.  
Σoile drest fe iz, and haŕ sum bute. Yet skērs kan I  
komend her--" and, il at ēz on a sŕden, đe Kwēn sŕdenle  
pŕt dŕn đe kristal.

Đe i ov Lord Brandox Dahā twinkeld, but he kept silens.  
Lord Dzus sed, "Mŕer, I entrēt đe, O Kwēn, ēr đe rēk be  
gon and đe vīzon fād. If đis be ŕl wīđin đe bankwet  
hŕl, sēst đŕ nŕt wīđŕt?"

Kwēn Sofonizbā lŕkt agān, and in a huī sed, "Đēr iz a  
tērās fasiŕ tŕ đe west under đe īner wŕl ov đat  
fortres ov ŕld nīt, and wŕkiŕ on it in đe tortŕlīt a  
man krŕnd līk a Kiŕ. Vēre tŕl he iz: lēn ov bŕde, and  
loŕ ov lim. He wareŕ a blak dublet bēdizend ŕr wīđ  
dimondz, and hiz krŕn iz in đe figŕr ov a krab-fif, and  
đe dzuelz đarov ŕt-fās đe sun in splendor. But skērs  
ma I mark hiz apārel for lŕkiŕ on đe fās ov him, huitŕ iz  
mŕer tēribel đan đe fās ov ēne man đat ēver I sŕ. And đe  
huī aspekt ov đe man iz ful ov darknes and pŕer and  
tēror and stern komānd, đat spīrits from belo erŕ must  
trembel at and dŕ hiz bīdiŕ."

Dzus sed, "Hēven forfend đat đis ŕud prŕov but a swēt  
and gŕlden drēm, and we wāk tŕ-moro tŕ find it flŕn."

"Đēr wŕkeŕ wīđ him," sed đe Kwēn, "in intimāt  
konvers, az ov a servant tŕkiŕ tŕ hiz lord, wun wīđ a loŕ  
blak bērd kerle az đe fēps wŕl and glŕse az đe ravenz  
wiŕ. Pāl he iz az đe mŕon in dalīt ŕrz, slender, wīđ  
fīn-kut fētŕŕz and grāt dark īz, and hiz nŕz hŕkt līk  
a repiŕ-hŕk; dzentel-lŕkiŕ and mēlankole-lŕkiŕ, yet  
nobel."

Lord Brandox Dahā sed, "Sēst đŕ nun, O Kwēn, in đe  
lodziŕ đat be in đe ēstern gālere abuv đe īner kŕert  
ov đe pālās?"

Đe Kwēn ānserd, "I se a lofte bed-tŕāmbel huŕ wīđ āras.  
It iz dark, sāv for tŕ brāntŕiŕ kandelstiks ov līs  
berniŕ befŕer a grāt mīror. I se a lade standiŕ befŕer đe  
mīror, krŕnd wīđ a kwēnz krŕn ov perpel āmēpists on her  
dēp hēr đat haŕ đe kŕlor ov đe tipmost tunz ov a  
flām. A man kŕmep ŕŕ đe dŕer behīnd her, partiŕ đe  
hēve hāŕiŕz left and rīt. A big man he iz, and lŕkeŕ  
līk a kiŕ, in hiz grāt wŕlf-skin mantel and hiz kertel ov  
rŕset velvet wīđ ornaments ov gŕld. Hiz bŕld hed set abŕt



wið grīzeld kerlz and hiz bŷfe bērd flekt wið gra spēk  
him sumpiŷ pāst hiz pŷm; but ðe līt ov ūp bernz in  
hiz eger īz and ðe vīgor ov ūp iz in hiz tred. Σe  
terneþ tō grēt him. Tōl fe iz, and yuŷ fe iz, and  
butifol, and prōd-fāst, and swēt-fāst, and mōst  
gālant-harted tō, and mēre ov hart tō, if her lōks beli  
her not."

Kwēn Sofonizbā kūverd her īz, saiŷ, "Mi lordz, I se no  
mōer. Ðe kristal kerdelz wiðin līk fōm in a hwerlpool under  
a hi fōers in rane wēðer. Mīn īz gro sōer wið  
wōtŷiŷ. Let us ro bak, for ðe nīt iz far spent and I am  
were."

But Dzus stād her and sed, "Let me drēm yet āhŷil. Ðe  
dūbel pīlar ov ðe werld, ðat member ðarov hŷitŷ we, blīnd  
instruments ov inskrutabel Hēven, did fāter, restōerd agān?  
From ðis tīm fōerþ tō māntān, I and he, hiz and mīn,  
ādʒles and deples for ēver, for ēver ŷr hi kontenŷon  
hŷēðer he or we ŷud be grāt māsterz ov ōl ðe erp? If  
ðis be but fantomz, O Kwēn, ðŷt tīst us tō ðe vēre  
hart ov bīternes. Ðis we kōd hav mist, unsēn and  
ūnimadʒīnd: but not nŷ. Yet hŷ wer it pōsibel ðe Godz  
ŷud relent and ðe yērz retern?"

But ðe Kwēn spāk, and her vŷs wōz līk ðe fōliŷ ŷādʒ  
ov eveniŷ, pulsiŷ wið hīden splendor, az ov a sens ov  
wakeniŷ starlīt alīv behīnd ðe fadiŷ blu. "Ðis Kiŷ,"  
fe sed, "in ðe wīkednes ov hiz impeŷs prīd did wēr on  
hiz þum ðe līknes ov ðat werm OOroroboros, az mutŷ az tō  
sa hiz kiŷdom ŷud nēver end. Yet wōz he, hven ðe  
apŷnted ŷr did kum, þunderd dŷn intō ðe depþs ov  
Hel. And if nŷ he be rāzd agān and hiz dāz kontīnūd,  
tiz not for hiz vertŷu but for yor sāk, mi lordz, hŷom ðe  
Ōlmitē Godz dō luv. Ðērŷer I pra u pozes yor harts  
āhŷil wið humīlite befōer ðe mōst hi Godz, and spēk no  
unprōfitabel werdz. Let us ro bak."

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Dōn kām gōlden-fingerd, but ðe lordz ov Demonland la alon  
abed āfter ðēr wōtŷ in ðe nīt. Abŷt ðe þerd ŷr  
befōer nōn, ðe prēzens wōz fild in ðe hi prēzens  
tŷāmber, and ðe þre breðren sat ŷpon ðēr þrōnz, az fōer  
yērz ago ða sat, betwēn ðe gōlden hīpogrīfs, and besīd  
ðem wer þrōnz set for Kwēn Sofonizbā and Lord Brandox  
Dahā. Ōl els ov bute and splendor in Galiŷ Kāsel had ðe  
Kwēn beheld, but not til nŷ ðis prēzens tŷāmber; and mutŷ  
fe marveld at its matŷles butēz and raritēz, ðe  
hāŷiŷ and ðe karviŷ on ðe wōlz, ðe fēr piktŷŷurz, ðe

lamps ov mœnstōn and eskarbunkel self-efuldʒent, ðe monsterz  
on ðe fœr-and-twente pīlarz, karvd in prēʃʊs stōnz so  
grāt ðat tœ men mīt skērs serkel ðem wið ðēr armz,  
and ðe konstelaʒonz bernij in ðat fermament ov lāpis  
lāʒule belo ðe gōlden kānope. And hven ða drank untœ Lord  
Dʒus ðe kup ov glœere tœ be, wīʃij him loŋ yērz and dʒɑ and  
grātnes for ēver mœr, ðe Kwēn tœk a lītēl sīðern  
saiŋ, "O mi lord, I wil siŋ a sōnet tœ ðe and tœ u mi  
lordz and tœ se-gert Demonland." So saiŋ, ʃe smōt ðe  
striŋz, and saŋ in ðat kristal vq̄s ov herz, so tru and  
dēlikāt ðat ōl ðat wer in ðat hōl wer rāvift bi its  
bute:

*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.*

Hven ʃe had dun, Lord Dʒus rōz up vĕre nōble and kist her  
hand, saiŋ, "O Kwēn Sofonizbā, fosterliŋ ov ðe Godz,  
ʃām us not wið prazez ðat be tœ hi for mortal men. For  
wel ðŷ nōst huōt piŋ alōn mīt briŋ us kontent. And  
tiz not tœ be pōt ðat ðat hviʃ wōz sēn at Mœnmēr  
Hed lâst nīt wōz vĕre trūp indēd, but râðer ðe drēm ov  
a nīt vīʒon."

But Kwēn Sofonizbā ânserd and sed, "Mi Lord Dʒus,  
blasfēm not ðe bŷnte ov ðe blĕsed Godz, lest Ða be  
angre and wiðdrō it, Huœ hav grānted untœ u ov Demonland  
from ðis da fœrþ ūp ēverlāstiŋ and unwaniŋ strenþ and  
skil in armz, and--but hark!" ʃe sed, for a trumpet sŷnded  
at ðe gāt, þre strident blāsts.

At ðe sŷnd ov ðat trumpet blōn, ðe lordz Gōldre and  
Spitfīr spranʒ from ðēr sĕts, klāpiŋ hand tœ sœrd. Lord  
Dʒus stv̄d līk a stag at gāz. Lord Brandox Dahâ sat stil in

hiz gōlden t̄fēr, skērs t̄fāndziŋ hiz pōz ov ēzful grās.  
But ôl hiz frām sēmd alīt wið ak̄ʃon nēr t̄o berp, az  
ðe aktīv prinsipel ov līt pulsez and grōz in ðe ski at  
sunrīz. He lukt at ðe Kwēn, hiz īz fild wið a wīld  
sermīz. A serviŋ man, obēdʒent t̄o Dʒūsez nod, hasend from  
ðe t̄fānber.

No s̄lnd wōz ðēr in ðat hi prēzens t̄fānber in Galiŋ til  
in a mīnūts spās ðe serviŋ man reternd wið starteld  
k̄lntenans, and, b̄līŋ bef̄er Lord Dʒus, sed, "Lord, it iz  
an Ambāsador from Wit̄land and hiz trān. He kravep prēzent  
ôdʒens."

## DE WERM COBOROS

Argument: wið Dāts

[Dāts Āno Karsez Kondita. ðe ak̄ʃon ov ðe st̄ere k̄uverz  
eksaktle f̄er yēr; from ðe 22nd Āpril 399 t̄o 22nd Āpril 403  
A.C.C.]

Yēr A.C.C.

171. Kwēn Sofonizbā born in Mornā Morunā.

187. Gorīs 3. ēt up wið mantikorz beʏond ðe Bhavinan.

188. Mornā Morunā sakt bi Gorīs 4. Kwēn Sofonizbā lodʒd  
bi divīn ādʒense in Koftrā Belorn.

337. Gorīs 7., kundʒuriŋ in Karse, slān bi evil sp̄īrits.

341. Berp ov Zeldornyus.

344. Berp ov Korsus in Tēnemos.

353. Korund born in Karse.

354. Berp ov Zenambreâ, dut̄fes t̄o Korsus.

357. Berp ov Helterānyus.

360. Vol born at Darkl̄ersted in Demonland.

361. Berp ov Dzalkanius Fostus.

363. Berp ov Viz at Darklêrsted.

364. Gro born in Goblinland at ðe kœert ov Zādze Zakulo, ðe foster-brūðer ov Gazlark ðe Kiŋ.

Gazlark born in Zādze Zakulo.

366. Laksus, hi Admiral ov Witfland and âfter kiŋ ov Piksiland, born in Estremerīn.

367. Berp ov Gālandus in Butene.

369. Zig born at Mēne Būfez in Amadardāl.

370. Dzus born at Galiŋ.

371. Gōldre Bluzko born in Galiŋ.

Dekalādžus, eldest ov ðe sunz ov Korsus, born in Witfland.

372. Spitfir born in Galiŋ.

Brandox Dahâ born in Krōðeriŋ.

374. Lâ Firēz born in Norvasp ov Piksiland.

Goreus, sēkond ov Korsusez sunz, born in Witfland.

375. Korinyus born in Karse.

376. Prezmirâ, sister tœ ðe Prins Lâ Firēz, sēkond wīf tœ Korund, and âfter Kwēn ov Impland, born in Norvasp.

379. Berp ov Hakmon, eldest ov ðe sunz ov Korund.

Mevrean, sister tœ Lord Brandox Dahâ, born in Krōðeriŋ.

380. Hemiŋ born, sēkond ov Korundz sunz.

381. Dormānz born, þerd ov Korundz sunz.

382. Berp ov Viglus, Korundz fœrp sun, in Karse.

Resedor, Kiŋ ov Goblinland, þrīvile pœzond bi Korsus:

Gazlark rānz in hiz sted in Zādze Zakulo.

Srivâ, dōter tœ Korsus and Zenambreâ, born in Karse.

383. Armelīn, kūzin-džerman tœ Kiŋ Gazlark, âfter betrōðd and wed tœ Gōldre Bluzko, born in Karse.

384. Kargo, yungest ov ðe sunz ov Korund, born in Karse.

388. Goblinland invaded bi ðe Goolz: ðe flit ʒt ov Zādʒe Zakulo: Tēnemos bernt: ðe p̄ber ov ðe Goolz kruft bi Korsus.

389. Zeldornyus, Helterānyus, and Dzalkanius Fostus sent bi Gazlark wið an armament into Impland, and ðer ensorseld.

390. Ðe Witfez hāre in Goblinland: ðer defēt bi ðe help ov Demonland on Lormeron fēld: ðe slaiŋ ov Gorīs 10. bi Brandox Dahā: Korsus taken kaptiv and fāmd bi ðe Demonz: Gro, abandoniŋ ðe Goblin kōz, dwelz in eksil at ðe kært ov Witfland.

393. Lā Firēz, besēʒd bi Faks Fa Faz at Lidā Nangunā in ʒter Impland, delivverd bi ðe Demonz: Gōldre Bluzko repulst bi Korsus befær Harkwem.

395. Korund wedz in Norvasp wið ðe Prinses Prezmirā.

398. Ðe Goolz berst færþ in ūnimadʒind ferosite: ðer hāreiŋ in Demonland and berniŋ ov Gōldrēz hʒs at Drēpabe.

399. Hole wor ov Witfland, Demonland, Goblinland, and ūðer polīt nafonz agānst ðe Goolz: Laksus, wið ðe kʒntenans ov hiz māster Gorīs 11. and bi ðe kʒnsel ov Gro, dezerts wið ōl hiz flēt in ðe bātel of Kartadzā (ēstern seabērd ov Demonland): ðe Goolz nēverðeles overhuelmd bi ðe Demonz in Kartadzā Sʒnd, and ðer huōl rās eksterminated: Gorīs 11. demāndz hōmādz ov Demonland, rāselz wið Gōldre Bluzko, and iz in ðat enkʒnter slān. Gorīs 12., renuiŋ wið hāpeer fortʒūn ðe artifiʒal praktisez ov Gorīs 7. in Karse, tāks Gōldre wið a sendiŋ madʒikal: Dʒus and Brandox Dahā, partle strōt ov ðer wits, unadvīzdle go up wið Gazlark agānst Karse and ar ðer klapt up: ðer delivere bi ðe ādzense ov Lā Firēz, and retern too ðer ōn kuntre: Dʒūsez drēm: ðe kʒnsil in Krōðeriŋ: ðe ferst ekspedīʒon too Impland. Ðe Kiŋz revendʒ on Piksiland eksekuted bi Korinyus, and Lā Firēz dispozest and drīven into eksil: Korundz grāt martʒ over Akrā Skabranþ, sūden irupʒon into ʒter Impland, and konkwest ov ðat kuntre: ʒiprek ov ðe Demon flēt: karnādz at Salapantā: martʒ ov ðe Demonz into Ūper Impland: āmorʒs kōmers ov Brandox Dahā wið ðe Lade ov Iʒnān Nemartrā, huō lāz a wērd ūpon him: Korund beseʒez and kaptʒurz Efgrar Ogo: Dʒus and Brandox Dahā eskāp akros ðe Morunā and winter bi ðe Bhavinan.

400. Nūz ov Eƒgrar Ogo brôt t∞ Karse: Korund ōnord bi ðe Kiŋ ðerfor wið ðe stīl ov kiŋ ov Impland. Dzus and Brandox Dahâ kros ðe 3â Pâs: fīt wið ðe mantikor: asent ov Koftrâ Pivrarxâ, entrans int∞ Koftrâ Belorn, and entertānment bi Kwēn Sofonizbâ: Džusez vīzon ov Göldre bŕnd on Zorâ: ðe Kwēnz ferðerans ov ðer dezīnz: ðe hīpogrif hatƒt besīd ðe Lāk ov Ravare: ðe fatal fōle ov Mivarƒ: Dzus in despīt ov ðe Kwēnz admonīfonz āsāz Zorâ Rax on fut and kumz wiðin a lītel ov l∞ziŋ hiz līf. Prezmirâ Kwēn ov Impland and Laksus kiŋ ov Piksiland krŕnd in Karse: ðe Kiŋ sendz an ekspedījon t∞ pūt dŕn Demonland, sētiŋ Korsus in tƒfē komānd ðarov: Laksus defēts Vol bi se of Lŕkiŋhaven, and Korsus Viz bi land at Krosbe Ūtsīks, Viz slān on ðe fēld: kruel and despītƒol pōlise ov Korsus: disenjonz betwikst him and Gālandus: grāt reversal ov ðēz dizāsterz bi Spitfīr, Korsusez arme kut in pesez bi him on ðe Rāps ov Brimâ and ðe survivorz besēzđ in Ūlswik: diskontent ov ðe arme: Korsus wið hiz ōn handz merðerz Gālandus in Ūlswik: tidiŋz brôt bi Gro t∞ Karse: Korsus degraded bi ðe Kiŋ, h∞ komījonz Korinyus az kiŋ ov Demonland t∞ retrēv ðe māter: bātel ov Premnerz Hu, wið ðe overpro ov Spitfīrz pŕer: Korinyus krŕnd in Ūlswik: arest ov Korsus and hiz sunz and ðer despatƒ hōm t∞ Witƒland.

401. Redukjon ov ēstern Demonland bi Korinyus, sāv ōnle Galiŋ huiƒ Bremere hōldz wið sēvente men: Korinyus m∞vz west over ðe Stīl: hiz insolent demāndz t∞ Mevrean: miskārādž ov Gazlarks ekspedījon t∞ ðe relēf ov Krŕðeriŋ, hiz defēt at Orwap: māsterle retrēt ov Korinyus from Krŕðeriŋ befœr supereor numberz: hiz ambuƒiŋ and destraiŋ ov Spitfīrz arme on ðe ƒœrz ov Switƒwōter: fōl ov Krŕðeriŋ and surrender ov Mevrean: her eskāp bi ðe kŕnsel ov Gro, ðe help ov Korundz sunz, and ðe konivans ov Laksus: her flīt t∞ Westmark and ðens ēst agān int∞ Nēverdāl: Gro abandonz ðe kōz ov Witƒland for ðat ov Demonland: hiz and Mevreanz metiŋ wið Dzus and Brandox Dahâ on ðer retern hōm āfter t∞ yērz: revolt ov ðe ēst and relēf ov Galiŋ: māsterle dispozījonz bōp bi Korinyus and bi ðe Demonz for a desisīv enkōnter: bātel ov Krŕðeriŋ Sīd and ekspuljon ov ðe Witƒez from Demonland.

402. Sēkond ekspedījon t∞ Impland, in huiƒ Gazlark and Lâ Firēz džŕŋ ðe Demonz, landz at Mŭlvâ on ðe Didornyan Se: Dzus, Spitfīr, Brandox Dahâ, Gro, Zig, and Astar kros ðe Morunâ: Džusez ridiŋ ov ðe hīpogrif t∞ Zorâ Rax and deliverans ov Göldre: Laksus sent bi ðe Kiŋ wið an overhuelmiŋ pŕer ov ƒips t∞ klōz Melikafkaz Strāts agānst ðe Demonz on ðer hōmword vqādž: bātel of Melikafkaz: destrukjon ov ðe Witƒland armādâ: Laksus and Lâ

Firēz slān: a singel serviviņ fip briņz ðe tidiņz tō  
Karse: Korund kōld kaptān dzēneral in Karse: gāðeriņ ov ðe  
Witfland armēz and ðēr subdzekt ālīz: landiņ ov ðe  
Demonz in ðe sðp: parle befær Karse: ðe Kiņz worniņ tō  
Dzus: implākabel enmite betwēn ðem: sīnz and prognostiks in  
ðe hēvenz: ðe Kiņz desperāt rezoluġon if ðe fīt  
fūd go agānst him: bātel befær Karse: slaiņ ov Gro and  
Korund: defēt ov ðe Kiņz færsez: kðnsil ov wor in Karse,  
Korinyus ðe sēkond tīm kaptān dzēneral: Korsus, kðnseliņ  
surrender, fōlz grātle intō ðe Kiņz displēzūr and iz bi  
him fāmd and dismiss: in despēr he kumpasez ðe takiņ  
of ov Korinyus and ðe sunz ov Korund, and unhāpile ov hiz  
ōn sun tō and hiz dutfes, bi pāzon, but iz himself slān bi  
Korinyus: blāstiņ ov ðe Īrn Tðer in ðe miskārādž ov ðe  
Kiņz lāst kundzuriņ: ðe Demonz enter intō Karse: ðēr  
enkðnter ðēr wið Kwēn Prezmirā: her tradžikal end and  
triumf: in ōl ov hwiġ iz kompleted ðe fōl ov ðe empīr  
and kiņdom ov ðe hðs ov Gorīs in Karse.

403. Kwēn Sofonizbā in Demonland: ðe marvel ov marvelz ðat  
restærd ðe werld on Lord Dzūsez natal da, ðe þerte-þerd  
yēr ov hiz līf in Galiņ.

Bibleogrāfik Nōt on ðe Versez

### CHAPTER 3

Ðe Funeral derdz on Kiņ Gorīs 11. Wīleam Dunbar (lāt 15th  
sentjure) "*Lament for the Makaris: quhen he wes seik.*"

Lampōon on Gro Epigram in mēmore ov Wīleam Päre, "a kăpital  
trator," eksekuted for trezon in 1584: kwoted bi Holinft.

### CHAPTER 4

Prōfese konserniņ ðe lāst þre Kiņz ov ðe hðs ov Gorīs  
in Karse ----

### CHAPTER 7

Soņ in prāz ov Prezmirā Tōmas Karu (1598-1639).

Korundz Soņ ov ðe Tġin "An Antidōt agānst Mēlankole"  
(1661).

Korsusez "Hvĕnĕr I bib ěe wĭn dĕn" Anakreontĕ 25.;  
transl. from ěe Grĕk, E. R. E.

Korsusez ůěer dĭtĕz From ěe "Roksberg Bĕladz" (kolekted  
1774).

#### TSAPTER 9

Mivarĵez stĕvz on Salapantĕ Hĕrik (1591-1674),  
"Hespĕridĕz."

#### TSAPTER 15

Prezmirĕz soj ov Lŭverz Don (1573-1631)

Korinyusez luv dĭte: "Hŭt an As iz he" "Mĕre Drolere"  
(1691).

Korinyusez soj on hiz Mistres Ibid.

#### TSAPTER 16

Laksusez Serenĕd Anakreontĕ 2.; transl. from ěe Grĕk, E. R.  
E.

#### TSAPTER 17

Martĵ ov Korsusez vĕteranz ----

#### TSAPTER 22

Mevreanz bĕlad ov ěe Ravenz Őld Bĕlad: "ěe Pre Ravenz."

#### TSAPTER 24

Mevreanz kwotaĵon on ěe azbeston stĕn. Rĕbert Grĕn  
(1560-92), "Alfonsus, Kiĵ ov Āragon."

#### TSAPTER 30

Grĕz serenĕd tŭ Prezmirĕ. Ser Henre Wĕton (1568-1639),  
versez tŭ Elĭzabĕĵ, Kwĕn ov Bohemeĕ.

#### TSAPTER 31

Prĕfese konserniĵ kundĵuriĵ ----

#### TSAPTER 33



Līnz kwoted bi Kwēn Sofonizbā on ðe fōl ov Witfland Webster (bēgīniņ ov 17th sentjūre); "Ðe Dutjes ov Malfe," Akt 5. 5.

Kwēn Sofonizbāz Sōnet Σākspēr, Sōnet 18.

Ðe tekst hēr printed ov Wōtonz poem iz ðat ov "Relikwea Wōtonyāna," 1st ed., 1651, ědited bi Izāk Wōlton; eksept ðat I red (wið ðe erleer teksts) 1. 5 Mōon, 1. 8 Pāfonz, 1. 16 Prinses, insted ov Sun, Vqsez, Mistris ov ðe 1651 edījon.

Σākspērz Sōnet iz from ðe Kworto ov 1609.

Ðe pāsādž from Nŷālz Sāgā in ðe Indukjon iz kwoted from ðe lāt Ser Džordž Dasents klāsik trānzlajon.

[End ov Ðe Werm Oroboros, bi E. R. Ĕdison]