

Beowulf 702b-53a

Translation Policy:

Similar to my other verse translation, I have attempted to stay close to the original tone. I have generally tried to preserve the original word order, the compounds and kennings, but took liberty in punctuation, repeating and omitting particular words and changing the singular form into plural. What I have attempted to convey visually, as well as by splitting apart and rearranging the parts of the sentences, is the threefold perspective of the approach of Grendel. The diagonally arranged lines are meant to reflect the gradual intrusion of Grendel, the invasion of the steady columns of the hall and Beowulf. On the first page, the lines gradually merge and finally meet in the last line of the middle column, which is meant to be the hall and its thanes. Then Grendel's approach continues on the second page, and his lines progressively enter the textual column of Beowulf, and meet finally in the last line, Beowulf's grip.

Translations consulted:

Alexander, Michael (ed.), *Beowulf* (London: Penguin Books, 1995).

Bradley, S. A. J. (ed.), *Anglo-Saxon Poetry* (London: Everyman, 1998).

Crossley-Holland, Kevin, *Beowulf* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Hall, Clark, J., R., *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, fourth edition* (Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press, 1996).

Jack, George (ed.), *Beowulf: A Student Edition* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994).

Mitchell, Bruce and Robinson, Fred, C., *A Guide to Old English, fifth edition* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1992).

In the dark night
came gliding
the shadow walker.

**The warriors,
who should guard
the horned building
were sleeping
It was known to men,
that he,**

all but one.

the sinful ravager

**was not able to drag them
into the shadows,
when the creator
did not wish.**

**Yet he awaited
enraged
the outcome
of the fighting
watching**

the hostile one

in anger.

Then from the moor
under the misty slopes
came striding
Grendel.
He bore God's anger.
the evil ravager
intended to entrap

**some of the human race
in the high hall.**

He waded under the clouds
to the point,
where he discerned most clearly

**the wine hall.
the gold hall
shining with gold-plates.**

It was not the first time
that he came to

Hrothgar's home.

Never in the days of his life,
before or after,
did he find

**hall thanes
with worse fortune.**

Then Came stalking
to the hall

the warrior deprived of joy.

**The door
the firmly forged bar
sprang open immediately**

as soon as he touched it
with his hand.

Then
enraged and
intending destruction
he pulled open
the mouth of the building.

Quickly after that
he stepped on

the decorated floor
 angry at heart.
 From his eyes shone forth
 an unlovely light,
 like a flame.

He saw in the building
 many warriors,
 a band of kinsmen
 sleeping together,
 a troop of young warriors.
 Then his heart laughed.

Before the day comes
 he, the fierce assailant
 intended to sever
 the life from the body
 of each one.
 Then the hope of a lavish feast befell him.

It was no longer destined,
 that he was allowed to take
 any more of mankind
 after that night. **Hygelac's mighty kinsman
 watched,**

how the evil ravager
 would proceed
 with his sudden grips.
 The evil assailant
 did not mean to delay any longer,
 but he quickly seized
 at the first opportunity
 a sleeping warrior,
 tore him unrestrainedly,
 bit his muscles,
 drank the blood from his vein,
 and swallowed the sinful morsel.
 Soon he had consumed
 the whole, lifeless man,
 even his hands and feet.

He stepped forward,
 he stepped nearer,
 then with his hand
 he took **the strong-hearted warrior
 on his bed.**

He reached out with his hand
**towards the fiend.
 Quickly, with hostile purpose
 he seized**

him, **and sat up against**
 his arm.

Immediately
 the master of crime
 found out that
 nowhere in the world
 nowhere in the region of the earth,
 had he met a greater hand grip
in another man.