

The Poetic Edda: Heroes

From Carolyne Larrington's translation

(N.B.: page numbers refer to Larrington, Carolyne. *The Poetic Edda*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. Print.)

Pages	Poem	Notes
102 – 107	<i>The Lay of Volund</i> <i>Volundarkvida</i> <i>Volundarkviða</i>	Volund - neither human nor divine - a.k.a. Weland the smith
	The Helgi Poems	
114 – 122 hero	<i>The 1st poem of Helgi</i> <i>Hundingsbani</i> <i>Helgakviða Hundingsbani I</i>	Helgi, Sinfiotli, - flyting: unnatural behaviour, sexual deviancy, taboo acts - events summarized in Volsunga Saga ch. 8-9
123 – 131 hero	<i>The Poem of Helgi Hiorvardsson</i> <i>Helgikvida Hiorvardssonar</i> <i>Helgikviða Hjorvardssonar</i>	Helgi, troll woman, valkyrie - flyting, - incoherent plot – flyting no relevance and vow no tragic consequences
132 – 141 hero	<i>2nd Poem of Helgi Hundingsbani</i> <i>Helgakviða Hundingsbani II</i>	Helgi, valkyrie - Sigrun - similar to the 1 st poem, reduced flyting, Sigrun's sense of conflict, Gothic ending – night in the burial mound
	The Volsung Poems	
142	<i>The Death of Sinfiotli</i> <i>Frá dauða Sinfjotla</i>	Sigmund, Sinfiotli, Borghild, Sigurd - one page prose summary.
143 - 150	<i>Gripir's Prophecy</i> <i>Gripisspa</i> <i>Gripisspá</i>	- late poem, summarizes the story of Sigurd , - “adds little, artistically or thematically, to the later poems of the cycle
151 – 156	The Lay of Regin <i>Reginsmal</i> <i>Reginsmál</i>	Regin, Sigurd, Odin/Hnikar, Loki, Andvari -cursed gold, Otter's ransom, future strife - change in metre indicates wisdom segment
157 - 165	The Lay of Fafnir <i>Fafnismal</i> <i>Fáfnismál</i>	Fafnir, Sigurd, Regin, nuthatches, Gudrun, Sigdrifa - wisdom motif – licking thumb - role of birds in providing prophetic and insightful advice
166 – 173	The Lay of Sigdrifa <i>Sigrdrifumal</i> <i>Sigrdrifumál</i>	Sigurd, Sigdrifa, - runic and gnomie wisdom
174 - 176	<i>Fragment of a Poem about Sigurd</i> <i>(fragment from the Codex Regius)</i> <i>Brot af Sigurparkviðu</i>	Sigurd, Brynhild, Guthorm, Gunnar, Hogni, - focus is on Brynhild's reaction to the death of Sigurd
177 – 181	<i>The First Lay of Gudrun</i> <i>Gudrunarkvida I</i> <i>Guðrúnarhviða I</i>	Gudrun, Gullrond, - Gudrun's sister Gullrond displays “the covered body of Sigurd bringing Gudrun to give vent to her sorrow”
182 - 191	<i>A Short Poem about Sigurd</i> <i>Sigurdarkvida in skamma</i>	Sigurd, Gudrun, Gunnar, Oddrun - not especially “short”

	<i>Sigurbarkviðu hin skamma</i>	- center of poetic interest is the characterization of Brynhild
192 – 194	<i>Brynhild's Ride to Hell</i> <i>Helreið Brynhildar</i>	Brynhild, (Sigrdrifa) - conflation of the with the valkyrie history of Sigrdrifa
195	<i>The Death of the Niflungs</i> (from the Codex Regius) <i>Dráp Niflunga</i>	- probably written by the compiler of the Codex Regius - “ certain details in the passage are not borne out by the poetry. ”
196 - 202	<i>The Second Lay of Gudrun</i> <i>Gudrunarkvida II</i> <i>Guðrúnarhviða II</i>	Gudrun - Gudrun recounts her sorrows up until the death of her brothers - fills in the events between the end of The First Lay of Gudrun and The Lay of Atli
203 – 204	<i>The Third Lay of Gudrun</i> <i>Gudrunarkvida III</i> <i>Guðrúnarhviða III</i>	Gudrun, Atli, Thiodrek(?? Theodoric ??) - “The combination of possibly contemporary trial by ordeal and archaic Germanic punishment, drowning in a bog , is striking.”
205 - 209	<i>Oddrun's Lament</i> <i>Oddrúnargrátr</i>	Oddrun (Atli's sister) - provides more motivation than is needed for Atli's killing of his brothers-in-law - continuing the theme: sorrows and sufferings of women
210 216	<i>The Lay of Atli</i> <i>Atlakvida</i> <i>Atlakviða</i>	Atli, Gunnar, Hogni, Gudrun, - likely to be one of the oldest poems in the Edda - Gudrun's terrible revenge
217 – 233	<i>The Greenlandic Poem of Atli</i> <i>Atlamal</i> <i>Atlamál hin grælenzku</i>	Gudrun, Atli - colloquial and idiomatic - bickering and reflecting on their marital disappointments
234 - 237	<i>The Whetting of Gudrun</i> <i>Gudrunarhvot</i> <i>Guðrúnarhvot</i>	Gudrun - close affinities with The Lay of Hamdir - Gudrun urges her sons to avenge the death of their sister
238 - 242	<i>The Lay of Hamdir</i> <i>Hamdismal</i> <i>Hamðismál</i>	Hamdir, Sorli, Erp - the brothers kill their half-brother on their way to avenge the death of their sister - thought to be amongst the oldest poems in the Edda - Erp's proverbial riddle - metaphor of hands and feet
	Svipdag	
140 – 152 in Hollander	<i>The Lay of Svipdag</i> <i>Svipdagsmál</i> 2 poems combined: 1) <i>The Spell of Gróa</i> (<i>Grógaldr</i>) 2) <i>The Lay of Fjolsvith</i> (<i>Fjolsvinnsámál</i>)	- conglomerate of mythical elements and verse fragments borrowed from older poems in late 12th century 1) Svipdag, Mengloth, Gróa, - Svipdag's evil stepmother gives him the task of winning the hand of Mengloth in Giantland. He goes to his mother Groa's grave and she chants 9 spells to aid him. 2) Svipdag, Fjolsvith, Mengloth

	not in the Edda	- Svipdag reaches the castle and is confronted by Fjolsvith. Svipdag reveals his true name because he learns that only the “one choosen hero – Svipdag” can enter the castle. He enters and Mengloth hails him as her deliverer.
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