

A PROGRAMMED COURSE IN OLD ENGLISH

by

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How to use this book

If you are to learn to read a language fluently it is important to accept the words and phrases in the order in which the writer presents them to you. In any language you will find that there are signals (for instance word-order, or endings added to words) which help you to understand how a sentence fits together. This book is intended to help you to recognise these signals in Old English.

If you look at pages 1 and 2 of your book you will see that on the left-hand page the left-hand column contains sentences in Old English. If you look at the right-hand column you will find a glossary to these sentences. This glossary does not contain all the words in the text, since you can easily guess the meaning of some words. Usually a word is listed in the glossary only once; this means that you must try to remember the meaning of words, otherwise you may have to look back through the book to find the word you want. If you look at page 2 you will find some grammatical notes on the text. These notes explain to you the structure of the sentences on the left-hand page. At the beginning of the book the sentences are very short, and you will find that they are very like short sentences in modern English. Later on, when you are reading longer sentences, you will find that they are split up into phrases, and that each phrase is put on a separate line, in order to help you to understand how the sentences fit together.

You will probably find that the best way to use this book is to play one page of text on your tape, while you listen to it. When you reach the bottom of the first page, stop the tape, and read through the text again, looking at the glossary and the grammatical notes, to make sure that you understand the meaning of each sentence. Then rewind your tape, and play the text again; this time, try to repeat each sentence after the reader. You can play each page of text as many times as you like, until you are quite sure that you can understand it and repeat it. When you feel that you have mastered the first page of text, go on to the next, and study that in the same way. At the end of five pages of text you will find some exercises on grammatical points. As you play the tape you will hear the question; then there will be a pause in which you can give the answer, and then you will hear the correct answer. If you are doubtful about what answer to give, stop your tape while you think about it; never listen to the answer on the tape until you have tried to answer the question yourself. If you get an answer wrong, stop the tape, and try to find out why you went wrong. The grammatical notes should help you with this.

Preface to second edition

This book owes its existence in the first place to the students attending the Keele Summer School for External Degree Students, for whom it was devised, and among whom it was tested and re-written several times before being published in 1967. Since 1967 a number of friends and colleagues have suggested ways in which the course might be improved, and the publication of a second edition has allowed me to make use of these suggestions. The text remains the same as in the first edition, but I have made some small changes in the lay-out and have added an index to the vocabulary. My thanks are due to all those students, friends and colleagues who have helped in the writing and publication of the book, and in particular to Professor Ralph Elliott and Mr. John Levitt for help of various kinds, and to Mrs. G. M. Allin who has typed the manuscript.

This book is intended for students beginning their study of Old English. To them I should like to say, as Ælfric did in the Preface to his Grammar:

Stæfcræft is seo cæg ðe ðæra boca andgit unlicð.

And ic pohte

pæt ðeos boc mihte fremian iungum cildum

to anginne pæs cræftes

oððæt hi to maran andgyte becumon.

Barbara C. Raw

Pronunciation

You will meet some unfamiliar symbols in this text.

- (1) The symbol ð (capital Ð) is used for the two sounds represented in modern English by th:

the, thin

Another symbol which can be used for the same two sounds is ȥ. These symbols are usually referred to as barred d (ð) and thorn (ȥ).

- (2) The symbol æ (capital Æ) is used for the two sounds found in modern English

hat, hair.

This symbol is usually referred to as ash.

Most vowels in Old English have two pronunciations, described as long and short. In conventional textbooks long vowels are marked like this: ā. In this book the long vowels are not marked. If you listen to the tape carefully, and try to imitate the pronunciation accurately, you will learn to pronounce the vowels with the correct quantity (e.g. to pronounce wæs with a short vowel and wæron with a long vowel). It is important to learn to pronounce words with the correct quantity for two reasons:

- (1) sometimes a difference of meaning is indicated by a difference in vowel length between two otherwise identical words:

god = 'god'

ful = 'full'

gōd = 'good'

fūl = 'foul'

- (2) the position of the stresses in Old English poetry depends to a large extent on the position of the long vowels.

The main stress usually falls on the first syllable of a word, unless the first syllable is a prefix. Prefixes are usually unstressed, unless they dominate the meaning of a word. The prefix ge- is never stressed.

In Old English texts the spelling is not always consistent, and these inconsistencies have been retained in the text, so that you will get used to the main variations. Most dictionaries, however, use a normalised spelling, so words are entered in the glossary in the form used in H.Sweet, The Student's Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon.

Now turn to page 1 of your book, and start your tape.

Old English Lesson 1

This lesson is about Onthere, the whale-hunter, who lived in Hālogaland in northern Norway, and about his journey round the north of Norway to the White Sea. The text is adapted from a passage inserted by King Alfred in his translation of Orosius's History.

Onthere was hwælhunta	<u>hwælhunta</u> = whale-hunter
He was swiðe spedig man	<u>swiðe spedig</u> = very wealthy
He was mid þam fyrstum mannum	<u>mid</u> = among <u>fyrst</u> = first
on þam lande	= in that land
On þam lande	
wæron Finnas	<u>Finnas</u> = Lapps
Ða Finnas wæron fisceras	<u>fiscere</u> = fisherman
and fugeleras	<u>fuglere</u> = bird-catcher, fowler
ac Onthere was hwælhunta	<u>ac</u> = but
Ðæt land is Hālogaland	
Hālogaland is swiðe lang	<u>Hālogaland</u> : part of Norway
and swiðe smæl	<u>smæl</u> = narrow
Hit is on sumum stowum	<u>stow</u> = place
swiðe cludig	<u>cludig</u> = rocky
On suðewearðum þam lande	<u>on suðewearðum</u> = to the south (lit. 'in that southwards land')
is Sciringesheal	
Toemnes þam lande suðewearðum	<u>toemnes</u> = alongside
is Sweoland	<u>Sweoland</u> = Sweden
Toemnes þam lande norðewearðum	cf. <u>suðewearðum</u>
is Cwenaland	<u>Cwenaland</u> : Lappland

- (1) Old English, like modern English, has certain basic sentence patterns. One such pattern consists of:

subject + verb 'to be' + complement

On there was hwælhunta

Each item in this basic pattern can be expanded and varied.

alterations in the subject

On there was hwælhunta

He was hwælhunta

Se man was hwælhunta Se = the, that (masculine)

Hie wæron fisceras

Ða Finnas wæron fisceras Ða = the, those

Hit is Halgoland

Ðæt land is Halgoland Ðæt = the, that (neuter)

Normally the three items, subject, verb and complement, come in that order, but N.B.:

On þam lande wæron Finnas
On suðewearðum þam lande is Sciringesheal
complement + verb + subject

- (2) Words like on, mid, to-ennes (prepositions) mark the beginning of a linguistic unit which will correspond to the pattern:

mid mannum
on lande

The noun part of this linguistic unit will usually have the ending -e (indicating that it is singular) or -um (indicating that it is plural). The basic unit can be expanded:

mid	mannum	} plural
mid þam	mannum	
mid þam fyrstum	mannum	
on	lande	} singular
on þam	lande	
on þam lande	suðewearðum	

Onthere bude on Halgoland

bude = (he) lived (permanently)

He bude on þam lande norðewearðum

Onthere sæde

sæde = (he) said

þæt he bude on Halgoland

He sæde þam cyninge

cyning = king

þæt on feawum stowum

fea = few

budon Finnas

budon = (they) lived

He sæde him

þæt ða Finnas

wæron fisceras

and fugeleras

He sæde him

þæt ða Finnas wicodon

wicodon = (they) lived (in a
nomadic way)

on huntoðe

huntoð = hunting

and on fiscaðe

fiscoð = fishing

Onthere sæde þam cyninge

þæt Halgoland

was swiðe lang

and swiðe smæl

ac hit was eal weste

eall = all weste = uninhabited

buton on feawum stowum styccemalum

buton = except styccemalum =
here and there

wicodon Finnas

on huntoðe

and on fiscaðe

be þære sæ

be = beside þære sæ = the sea
(dat.)

(1) The second basic sentence pattern is:

subject + verb (other than 'to be')

Ohthere bude

Ohthere sæde

alterations in the complement

The pattern

Ohthere was

is incomplete

It can be completed in three main ways:

Ohthere was hwælhunta (noun)

Ohthere was spedig (adjective)

Ohthere was on þam lande (phrase)

The pattern

Ohthere bude

might be complete or incomplete
(depending on the verb).

It could be completed by the addition of a phrase:

Ohthere bude on þam lande

The other ways of completing this pattern are different from those used with the pattern Ohthere was. If was / wæron are followed by a noun complement, the complement is in the same case as the subject:

Da Finnas wæron fisceras

If the verb other than was / wæron is followed by a noun complement (or its equivalent) it is in a different case from the subject. e.g.

Da Finnas sædon þam cyninge

Ohthere sæde þam cyninge

He sæde þam cyninge

He sæde him

} indirect object

(2) Indirect objects

The dative case is used for the indirect object.

We know that þam cyninge is a dative singular because:

- (a) the demonstrative þam (=the, that) marks the dative case
- (b) the ending -e on cyning indicates that the noun is singular not plural.

In the sentence

Ohthere sæde þam cyningum

we know that þam cyningum is a dative plural because:

- (a) the demonstrative þam marks the dative case
- (b) the ending -um on cyning indicates that the noun is plural.

Onthere sæde

ƿæt he æt sumum cirre

cierr = occasion

wolde fandian

wolde =(he)wished fandian =(to) discover

hwæðer ænig man

hwæðer = whether

be norðan ƿæm westenne

westenn = uninhabited area cf. weste

bude

He siglde norðryhte

siglde =(he) sailed norðrihte = due north

be ƿæm lande

He hæfde ƿæt weste land

hæfde =(he) had

on ƿæt steorbord

steorbord = starboard

and ƿa widsæ

= and the open sea.

on ƿæt bæcbord

bæcbord = port

ƿrie dagas

= for three days

Ða wæs he

ða = then

swa feor norƿ

swa = as (as far north)

swa ƿa hwælhuntan

cf. ƿa Finnas

firrest sigldon

fierrest = furthest cf. feorr = far

Ða siglde he norðryhte

swa feor

swa he meahthe gesiglan

meahthe =(he) could gesiglan = (to) sail cf. siglde

on ƿæm oƿrum ƿrim dagum

oƿer = second, other ƿrim cf. ƿrie

BUT the difference between

on ƿæm lande and

on ƿæm landum is important, because one is a singular and the other is a plural, and this distinction is necessary to the meaning.

(1) Subjects

The second basic sentence pattern is:

subject + verb)	
Ohthere	sæde	} singular
Se hwælhunta	sæde	
he	sæde	
Da Finnas	sædon	} plural
Da hwælhunta	sædon	
hie	sædon	

We know that the last three examples are plurals because:

- (a) the demonstrative ða(the/those) is a marker of the plural
- (b) the ending -on is a marker of the plural of a verb

We know that se hwælhunta sæde is singular because:

- (a) the demonstrative se(the/that) is a marker of the singular
- (b) the ending -e is a marker of the singular of a verb

(2) Prepositions

Words like on, mid, be mark the beginning of a linguistic unit. They will be followed by a noun(or pronoun):

on Halgoland
on huntoðe
be lande
mid mannum

This basic unit can be expanded by the addition of demonstratives and/or other qualifying words:

be pæm lande
be pære sæ
on pæm lande
on pæt steorbord
on feower dagum
on sumum stowum
mid pæm fyrstum mannum

In some of these examples the noun is in the dative case; in some it is in the accusative case. Some of the nouns are masculine, some feminine and some neuter. These differences of case and gender are indicated by the use of different parts of the demonstrative. But these differences are not important for the purposes of translation, because modern English does not make these distinctions.

be pæm lande } have different parts of the demonstrative, because
be pære sæ } land is a neuter noun, and sæ is a feminine one,
but they function in the same way in the sentence.

on pæt steorbord is in the accusative case and
on pæm lande is in the dative case, but they function in the
same way.

continued on opposite page

Ða siglde he east

be lande

swa swa he meahte

on feower dagum gesiglan feower = four

Ða siglde he ponan suðryhte

panon = from there suðrihte
cf. norðrihte

be lande

swa swa he meahte

on fif dagum gesiglan fif = five

He ne mette nan gebun land

ne = not nan = none 'he did not
encounter any cultivated land'
sippan = after

sippan he

from his agnum ham

agen = own ham = home

siglde

ac he hæfde a weste land

a = always

on þæt steorbord

butan fiscerum

and fugelerum

and huntum

and hie wæron eall Finnas

hie = they

and he hæfde a widsæ

on þæt bæcbord

Swipost he siglde pider

swipost = most of all cf. swiðe

for þam horshwælum

horshwæl = walrus

Hie habbað

habbað = (they) have cf. hæfde/
hæfdon

swiðe apele ban

apele = valuable ban = ivory,
bone

on þam topum

top = tusk, tooth

Singulars and plurals

The distinction between singular and plural is a meaningful one.

(1) Subjects

(a) the subject pronouns are as follows:

singular: he 'he' plural: hie 'they'
 heo 'she'
 hit 'it'

(b) singular subjects are marked as follows:

se (m)
seo (f) + noun + verb ending in -e
pæt (n)

plural subjects are marked as follows:

ða + noun + verb ending in -on

(2) Noun endings. If there is a demonstrative you can tell from that whether a noun is singular or plural; if there is no demonstrative you must look at the ending of the noun. Here are some typical plural endings:

(a) se cyning ða cyningas
 se fiscere ða fisceras
 se hwæl ða hwalas
 se dæg ða dagas

Nouns with plural in -as are always masculine.

Notice that nouns with -a- in the plural have -æ- in the singular: hwæl, hwalas

(b) se hwælhunta ða hwælhunta
 se wita ða witan
(c) ðæt scip ða scipu
 ðæt land ða land

Nouns with no ending in the plural are usually neuter; nouns with plural in -u are always neuter.

(3) Indirect objects

(a) singular indirect objects are marked as follows:

pæm + noun with ending -e or -an

He sæde pæm cyninge
He sæde pæm fiscere
He sæde pæm huntan

(b) plural indirect objects are marked as follows:

pæm + noun with ending -um

He sæde pæm cyningum
He sæde pæm fiscerum
He sæde pæm huntum

Se hwæl is micle læssa

se hwæl = that whale micle læssa
= much smaller

ponne oðre hwalas

ponne = than

Ohthere sæde

pæt on his agnum lande

is se betsta hwælhuntað

betst = best

Ohthere sæde pām cyninge

pæt he wæs

swiðe spedig man

Ohthere sæde Ælfrede cyninge

pæt he wæs

swiðe spedig man

He sæde him

pæt he wæs

swiðe spedig man

on wilddrum

wild(d)eor = wild animal

Da deor

deor = animal

hie hatað hranas

hran = reindeer hatað = (they)
call

Syx wæron stælhhranas

siex = six stælhhran = decoy
reindeer

Hie beoð swiðe dyre

beoð = (they) are diere =
valued

mid Finnum

Mid pām

hie foð pa wildan hranas

foð = (they) capture wilde =
wild

(1) Plurals of verbs

- (a) -on marks the plural of the past tense of verbs
- (b) -a^o marks the plural of the present tense of verbs e.g. hata^o
- (c) if the stem of the verb ends in a vowel, the -a of the ending disappears. The marker is then -^o. e.g. beo^o; fo^o
- (d) plural verbs must have plural subjects.

(2) Plural subjects

wæron is a plural verb. The following are possible plural subjects:

hie	wæron
Ða Finnas	wæron
Ða hwælhuntan	wæron
Ða land	wæron

(3) The dative

pæm cyninge	is singular
pæm cyningum	is plural

The demonstrative indicates the case; the noun ending indicates the number. Sometimes you find a noun qualified by an adjective but no demonstrative:

æt sumum cirre
on his agnum lande

The adjective indicates the case (dative) but not the number because, like the demonstrative, it is the same for dative singular and dative plural. The noun ending indicates the number:

on his agnum lande	singular
on his agnum landum	plural

- (4) him = both singular and plural, just as pæm = both singular and plural.

EXERCISES

Fill the space in each of the following sentences with the correct form out of the two forms in brackets:

1. Se ----- wæs swiðe spedig (cyning, cyningas)
2. Ða ----- budon on ðæm lande (fiscere, fisceras)
3. Se ----- sæde ðæm cyninge (hunta, huntan)
4. Ða ----- wicodon on huntoðe (hwælhunta, hwælhuntan)
5. Ðæt land ----- swiðe cludig (wæs, wæron)
6. Ða land ----- Halgoland and Sweoland (wæs, wæron)
7. Ðæt ban ----- æðele (wæs, wæron)
8. Ða ban ----- be pære sæ (wæs, wæron)
9. Se hwæl ----- swiðe æðele ban (hæfde, hæfdon)
10. Ða fugeleras ----- norðryhte (siglde, sigldon)
11. Ðæt deor ----- on ðæm lande (bude, budon)
12. Ða huntan ----- on suðewearðum ðæm lande (wicode, wicodon)
13. Se cyning ----- Ohthere (mette, metton)
14. ----- wæs swiðe spedig man (he, hie)
15. ----- wæron fisceras and fugeleras (he, hie)
16. ----- wæs eal weste (hit, hie)
17. ----- Finnas wicodon on huntoðe (se, ða)
18. ----- hwælhunta bude on ðæm lande norðewearðum (se, ða)
19. ----- huntan hæfdon syx hranas (se, ða)
20. ----- land wæs swiðe smæl (ðæt, ða)
21. ----- dæg wæs swiðe lang (se, ða)

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 22. ---- deor budon on Halgoland | (ðæt, ða) |
| 23. ---- ban wæron swiðe æðele | (ðæt, ða) |
| 24. Ohthere sæde ðæm ----- | (cyning, cyninge) |
| 25. Ohthere bude on ðæm ----- | (land, lande) |
| 26. Ða Finnas wicodon on ----- | (huntoð, huntoðe) |
| 27. He wicode mid ðæm ----- | (hunta, huntan) |
| 28. He siglde norðryhte æt sumum ----- | (cierr, cierre) |
| 29. He siglde swa feor swa he meahte
gesiglan on prim ----- | (dagas, dagum) |
| 30. Ohthere siglde mid ðæm ----- | (fisceras, fiscerum) |
| 31. Se cyning sæde ----- | (he, him) |
| 32. Ða huntan sædon ðæm ----- | (cyningas, cyningum) |
| 33. Ða fugeleras budon mid ----- | (hie, him) |
| 34. Ða Finnas wicodon on ðæm ----- | (land, landum) |

Old English Lesson 2

This lesson is about Oswald, king of Northumbria from 633 to 641, and about the conversion of Northumbria to Christianity by bishop Aidan. It is adapted from a life of Oswald written by the late tenth century homilist, Ælfric.

Oswold was swiðe æðele cyning

He was cyning on Norðhymbra lande

He ferde

on his geogoðe

fram his freondum

and magum

to Scotlande

Ceadwalla was Brytta cyning

He cwealde Eadwine

Norðhymbra cyning

and to sceame tucode

Norðhymbra leode

Se Ceadwalla wende

pæt nan werod

ne meahte him wiðstandan

Ac Oswald adwæscte his yfelnyse

He hæfde lytel werod

ac Crist him gefylste

to his feonda slege

Oswold pa arærde ane rode

and clypode to his geferum

and hie feollon ealle

mid Oswolde cyninge

on gebedum

and sippan eodon to pæm gefeohte

and aledon heora fiend

= Northumbria (the land of the Northumbrians)

feran = (to) travel

geogop = youth

freond = friend

mæg = kinsman, for the vowel a in the plural cf. hwæl, hwalas

Brytta = of the British

cwellan = (to) kill

Norðhymbra = of the Northumbrians

scamu = shame, to sceame = shamefully tucian = (to) ill-treat
leode = people

wenan = (to) believe

werod = army, company

wiðstandan = (to) withstand

a-dwæscan = (to) put an end to

lytel = little

fylstan = (to) help

feond = enemy feonda cf. Norðhymbra

pa = then aræran = (to) raise
rod = cross

clipian = (to) call gefera = companion

feollon = (they) fell — past tense of a strong verb but the plural still ends in -on

gebed = prayer

eodon = (they) went gefeocht = battle

aledon = (they) overcame hira = their fiend = plural of feond

(1) Expansion of noun groups

Oswold was cyning

This is a basic sentence pattern, in which the third item is a noun. This unit can be expanded by the addition of a demonstrative and/or other qualifying words:

Oswold was	<u>se</u>	cyning	{ demonstrative)
Oswold was	<u>æðele</u>	cyning	{ adjective)
Oswold was	<u>his</u>	cyning	{ genitive of a pronoun)
Oswold was	<u>Norðhymbra</u>	cyning	{ genitive of a noun)

The extra words come before the noun.

When a construction like

Oswold was

is followed by a demonstrative or by the genitive of a noun or pronoun, this indicates that the linguistic unit is incomplete:

Oswold was se	}	all require a noun to complete them.
Oswold was his		
Oswold was Norðhymbra		

In the case of

Oswold was æðele

you cannot be certain whether the construction is complete or not:

Oswold was æðele	}	are both possible constructions.
Oswold was æðele cyning		

(2) Possession

- (a) Possession is indicated by the genitive
- (b) The genitive of the personal pronoun is

- (i) his in the singular, masculine and neuter
- (ii) hira in the plural for all genders

- (c) The genitive plural of all nouns is marked by the ending -a. e.g. Brytta, Norðhymbra, feonda
- (d) The possessive, like other qualifiers, usually precedes the noun to which it refers, just as we say 'John's book', 'the king's book', but in Old English this extends to expressions like his feonda slege 'his enemies' slaying' (where modern English would have, 'the slaying of his enemies') or Norðhymbra cyning 'the Northumbrians' king' (where we would say 'the king of the Northumbrians').

Da Oswold cyning smeade

embe Godes willan

and wolde gebigan his leoda

to geleafan

and to pam lifigendan Gode

Sende pa to Scotlande

per se geleafa was pa

and hie sendon pam cyninge

Aidan Bisceop

He was meres lifes man

and he wilnode nanes pinges

butan Godes willan

Da Oswold cyning fagnode

his cymes

Se geleaffula cyning

gerehte his witan

on heora agenum gereorde

pes biscopes bodunge

mid blipum mode

and was his wealhstod

for-pan-pe se bisceop Aidan

ne meahte gebigan his spræc

to Norðhymbriscum gereorde

swa hrape pa git

smeagan =(to) consider

embe = about willan = will, desire cf. hwælhunta

gebigan =(to) convert, turn

geleafa = belief cf. hwælhunta, willan

lifigend = living

sendan =(to) send

per = where pa = then

mare = famous lif= life

wilnian =(to) desire ping = thing

fagenian =(to) rejoice

cyme = coming

geleafful = believing

gerehte =(he) explained, told
wita = wise man witan = council
gereord = language

bodung = preaching

blipe = glad mod = heart, mind

wealhstod = interpreter

for-pon-pe = because

spræc = speech

hrape = quickly, 'so quickly as yet'

(1) The sentence

Wolde gebigan his leoda to
is incomplete. The word to makes us expect it to be completed
by a noun or pronoun:

to geleafan.

This unit could be expanded:

to pām geleafan

to his geleafan

to his agenum geleafan

The possessive comes in the same position as the demonstrative
and the construction is incomplete until you have a noun to
complete it.

(2) The sentence

He was bisceop

can be expanded:

He was se bisceop

He was æðele bisceop

He was his bisceop

He was Oswoldes bisceop

He was mæres lifes bisceop

The genitive mæres lifes indicates that the structure is incom-
plete and needs a noun to complete it (just as se, his, Oswoldes,
need nouns to complete them). But this construction has not
been preserved in modern English.

cf. to his feonda slege (which is not preserved in modern
English)

and to his geferum (which is preserved in modern English)

(3) Genitives

(a) the ending -es indicates a genitive singular:

Aidan was pæs cyninges bisceop

He was mæres lifes man

(b) the ending -an also indicates a genitive singular:

Oswold was pæs pearfan cyning

The ending -an is ambiguous, because it is used for several
cases, whereas -es is only used for the genitive singular.
In the sentence

Oswold was pæs pearfan cyning

you can infer that pearfan is in the genitive case because
it is preceded by the demonstrative pæs.

(c) the ending -a indicates a genitive plural:

He was Norðhymbra cyning

He was para bisceopa cyning

(4) Some verbs are followed by an object in the genitive case:

He wilnode nanes pinges

He fægnode his cymes

Se bisceop pa ferde

geond eall Norðhymbra land

geond = throughout

bodigende geleafan and fulluht

bodigende = preaching (present participle) cf. bodung fulluht = baptism

He gebigde ða leode to Godes

geleafan

and him wel gebysnode mid weorcum

gebisnian =(to) set an example
weorc = work

and sylf swa leofode

leofode =(he) lived self = he himself

swa swa he lærde oðre

swa swa = just as læran = (to) teach

He lufode forhæfednysse

forhæfednes = temperance

and halige rædinge

halig = holy ræding = reading

Ealle his geferan

pe mid him eodon

pe = who

sceoldon leornian sealmas

sceoldon =(they) had to

oððe sume rædinge

leornian =(to) learn sealm = psalm

swa-hwider-swa hie ferdon

hwider = whither (wherever)

pam folce bodigende

folc = people

Seldon he wolde ridan

seldan = seldom ridan = (to) ride

ac siðode on his fotum

siðian =(to) travel fot = foot

and munuclice leofode

munuclice = like a monk

betwux læwedum folce

betweox = among læwed = unlearned, lay

mid miclum wisdom

micel = great wisdom = wisdom

and sopum mægenum

sop = true mægen = power, virtue

The genitive

- (1) The genitive singular of most masculine and neuter nouns ends in -es. e.g. cyninges, biscopes.
- (2) Weak nouns like hunta, ending in -a, have a genitive huntan. In fact, practically all cases of these weak nouns end in -an.
- (3) The genitive plural of all nouns ends in -a. e.g. cyninga, biscopa, huntena, witena (cf. witena-gemot = the assembly of wise men, or advisers).
- (4) The genitive singular of the demonstrative is pæs. e.g. pæs cyninges, pæs biscopes, pæs huntan, pæs witan. You can tell that pæs huntan is a genitive singular because of the demonstrative, but you could not tell from the ending of the noun, because it is the same as several other case-endings. (Practically all cases of nouns like hunta end in -an.)
- (5) The genitive plural of the demonstrative is para. e.g. para cyninga, para biscopa, para huntena, para witena.
- (6) The genitive normally precedes the noun to which it refers. e.g. pæs cyninges willa, pæs biscopes geleafa, pæs huntan land, para witena geleafa.
- (7) When a noun is qualified by a genitive the genitive can be subjective or objective (as in modern English):-
to Oswoldes geleafan { the faith professed by Oswold)
to Godes geleafan { faith in God)
- (8) Remember that his = { his, of him
 { of it

On summe sæl

sum = certain sæl = occasion

hie wæron atgædere

atgædere = together

Oswold and Aidan

on þam halgan Easterdæge

and man feroðe þam cyninge

ferian =(to) carry (do not confuse with feran)

cynelice penunga

cynelic = royal pegnung = dish of food

on anum disce

disc = dish

Ða inn eode an þæs cyninges pegna

pegen = servant

and sæde

þæt fela pearfan wæron

pearfa = poor person, beggar

on þære stræte

stræt = street

Ða sende se cyning þam pearfum

pone disc

mid sande mid ealle

sand = course of food

and het toceorfan pone disc

het =(he) commanded toceorfan =(to) carve up

and syllan þam pearfum

sellan =(to) give

and man dyde ða swa

dyde =(he) did swa = thus 'then they did just that'

(1) The direct object

The basic sentence pattern

subject + verb other than 'to be'

can be followed by a preposition:

Se bisceop ferde geond ...

This indicates that a linguistic unit containing a noun or pronoun will follow:

Se bisceop ferde geond eall Norðhymbra land

Or it can be followed by a noun (or noun group) in the dative case, indicating an indirect object:

Ohthere sæde ðæm cyninge

Man ferode ðæm cyninge

Se cyning sende pæm pearfum

Or it can be followed by a noun (or noun group) in the accusative or genitive case, indicating a direct object:

Man ferode cynelice penunga }

He lufode forhæfednysse }

He gebigde ða leode }

Se cyning sende pone disc }

accusative

He wilnode nanes pinges }

He fægnode his cymes }

genitive

(2) The genitive case is marked as follows:

(a) demonstrative para + ending -a marks the plural

(b) demonstrative pæs + ending -es or -an marks the singular (masculine and neuter)

(c) demonstrative pære + ending -e or -an marks the singular (feminine)

(3) man dyde. This is an impersonal construction, meaning literally, 'man did'. In modern English the equivalent would be 'they did'.

Oswoldes cynerice was swiðe brad	<u>cynerice</u> = kingdom <u>brad</u> = broad
Feower peoda hine hæfdon	<u>peod</u> = nation <u>hine</u> = him(acc.)
to hlaforde	<u>hlaford</u> = lord, ruler
Peohtas and Bryttas Scottas and Angle	
Ælmihtig God hie geanlæhte to ðæm	<u>ælmihtig</u> = almighty <u>geanlæhte</u>
for Oswoldes ge-earnungum	= (he) united <u>to ðæm</u> = thus <u>ge-earnung</u> = merit
Oswold fulworhte on Eferwic	<u>fulworhte</u> = (he) completed <u>Eferwic</u> = York
þæt ænlice mynster	<u>ænlic</u> = splendid, peerless <u>mynster</u> = minster
He ne hogode	<u>hogian</u> = (to) consider, think about
hu he geheolde on worulde	<u>geheolde</u> = (he) could retain <u>woruld</u> = world
þa hwilwendlican gepincðu	<u>hwilwendlic</u> = transitory <u>gepyncðu</u> = dignity
þe he hwonlice lufode	<u>hwonlice</u> = slightly, little <u>lufian</u> = (to) love
He wolde æfter uhtsange hine gebiddan	<u>uhtsang</u> = matins <u>hine gebiddan</u>
and on cyrcan standan	= (to) pray <u>cirice</u> = church <u>standan</u> =
on syndrigum gebedum	(to) stand <u>syndrig</u> = various
of sunnan upgange	<u>sunne</u> = sun <u>upgang</u> = rising
and swa-hwær-swa he wæs	<u>swa-hwær-swa</u> = wherever
he weorðode æfre God	<u>weorðian</u> = (to) honour

The accusative case

- (1) The accusative case is the same as the nominative in the singular of neuter nouns and the plural of all nouns:
- (a) ðæt land is Halgoland (nominative)
O~~h~~there hæfde ðæt land (accusative)
- (b) ða Finnas wæron fisceras (nominative)
O~~h~~there mette ða Finnas (accusative)
- (c) ða hwælhuntan wæron Finnas (nominative)
O~~h~~there mette ða hwælhuntan (accusative)
- (2) The accusative singular of masculine nouns is distinguished by the demonstrative ðone and, in the case of nouns like hunta, the ending -an:

Se cyning hæfde lytel werod (nominative)
Ceadwalla cwealde ðone cyning (accusative)
Se hunta hæfde syx hranas (nominative)
Se cyning cwealde ðone huntan (accusative)

- (3) The personal pronoun follows the same rules:
- (a) hit = nominative and accusative singular neuter
(b) hie = nominative and accusative plural
(c) he = nominative singular masculine
hine = accusative singular masculine

Weak nouns

sunne is a feminine noun, but it has exactly the same endings as the masculine noun hunta except for the nominative singular.

EXERCISES

I. In the following sentences there are two noun positions. Substitute the item in brackets for the appropriate item in the preceding sentence.

1. Se wealhstod lārde ðone cyning (ðone pearfan)
2. ----- lārde ----- (se ðegn)
3. ----- lārde ----- (ða folc)
4. ----- lārde ----- (he)
5. ----- lārde ----- (se gefera)
6. ----- lārde ----- (ða magas)
7. ----- lārde ----- (hie)
8. ----- lārde ----- (se hwālhunta)
9. ----- lārde ----- (ða witan)
- lārde -----
10. Ða pearfan lufodon ðæt land (ðæt werod)
11. -----lufodon ----- (ðone geleafan)
12. -----lufodon ----- (hit)
13. -----lufodon ----- (ðone bisceop)
14. -----lufodon ----- (hine)
- lufodon -----
15. Ðæs cyninges ðegn wæs spedig (man)
16. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (hlafordes)
17. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (fisceres)
18. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (hlaford)
19. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (werodes)
20. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (wita)
21. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (gefera)
22. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (folces)

23.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(land)
24.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(witan)
25.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(pearfan)
26.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(geferan)
27.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(folc)
28.	Ðæs	-----	-----	was	spedig	(ðara wealhstoda)
29.	---	-----	-----	was	spedig	(ðara bisceopa)
30.	---	-----	-----	was	spedig	(his)
31.	---	-----	-----	was	spedig	(ðara huntena)
32.	---	-----	-----	was	spedig	(hira)
33.	-----	-----	-----	was	spedig	(mynster)
	-----	-----	-----	was	spedig	

II. Reverse the position of the two nouns in the following sentences, making any necessary changes in the endings of words.

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Se cyning cwealde ðone bisceop | Se bisceop cwealde ðone cyning |
| 2. | Se pearfa lufode ðone hlaford | Se ----- lufode ðone ----- |
| 3. | Se wealhstod sende ðone witan | -- ----- sende ---- ----- |
| 4. | Se ðegn clypode ðæt werod | -- ----- clypode --- ----- |
| 5. | Ðæt folc weorðode ðone geferan | -- ----- weorðode --- ----- |
| 6. | Ða folc weorðodon ðone huntan | Se ----- ða ----- |
| 7. | Se hwæl cwealde ða cyningas | Ða ----- -- ----- |
| 8. | Ðæt deor lufode ða pearfan | Ða ----- -- ----- |
| 9. | Ða mynster lærdon ðone cyning | Se ----- -- ----- |

III. Substitute the correct part of the personal pronoun for the words underlined in the following sentences:

e.g. Ðæt land is Halgoland

Hit is Halgoland

1. Ohthere lufode ðæt land
2. Ða land wæron Cwenaland and Sweoland
3. Se cyning hæfde lytel werod
4. Oswold and Ceadwalla wæron cyningas
5. Ða cyningas wæron Oswold and Ceadwalla
6. Ða huntan budon on Halgoland
7. Se cyning lufode ða pearfan
8. Se pegn ferode ða discas pæm cyninge
9. Se cyning sende pone disc pæm pearfum
10. Se bisceop lufode pone cyning
11. Se cyning hæfde pone geleafan
12. Se cyning lufode pone pearfan
13. Ðæs cyninges bisceop wæs Aidan
14. Ðæs pearfan cyning wæs Oswold
15. Ðara pearfena bisceop wæs Aidan
16. Ða pearfan budon on Oswoldes lande
17. Ðara cyninga land wæron Norðymbra land and Brytta land
18. Se cyning sende pæm bisceope ða pearfan
19. Se cyning sende pæm huntan syx hranas
20. Ðæs cyninges hunta sende pæm bisceopum syx hranas
21. Ðæs cyninges pegn ferode pone disc pæm pearfum
22. Ðara pearfena cyning sende ða discas pæm bisceope

Old English Lesson 3

This lesson is about the nativity of Christ and the coming of the wise men to Bethlehem. It is adapted from parts of two homilies by Ælfric and from part of the West Saxon translation of the Gospels.

Joseph, Cristes foster-fæder, ferde mid Marian

fram Galileiscum earde	<u>earde</u> = country, land
of pære byrig Nazareth	<u>burg(byrig)</u> = city
to Judeiscra byrig	
to Bethleem	
for-pan-pe he was of Davides mægðe	<u>mægð</u> = family, tribe
Hie wicodon on pære byrig Bethleem	
and hire tima was gefyllid	<u>hire</u> = her <u>gegyllan</u> = (to)fulfil
pæt heo cennan sceolde	<u>heo</u> = she <u>cennan</u> = (to)bear (a child)
and heo acende hire frumcennedan sunu	<u>acende</u> cf. <u>cennan</u> , <u>frumcenned</u> = first-born <u>sunu</u> = son
and heo alede pæt cild	<u>alede</u> = (she) laid <u>cild</u> = child
on assena binne	<u>assa</u> = donkey <u>binn</u> = manger
Hyrðas wæron on ðam earde	<u>hierde</u> = shepherd
Hie wacodon ofer heora eowde	<u>wacian</u> = (to)keep watch
and Godes engel stod on emn hie	<u>eowode</u> = flock
and Godes beorhtnys hie bescan	<u>stod</u> = (he)stood <u>on emn</u> = beside
and hie wurdon micclum afyrhte	<u>beorhtnes</u> = brightness
and se Godes engel cwæð to ðam hyrdum	<u>bescan</u> = shone around
'todæg is acenned Hælend Crist	<u>wurdon</u> = (they) became <u>micclum</u> = greatly <u>afyrht</u> = afraid
on Davides ceastre'	<u>cwæð</u> = (he)said
	<u>acenned</u> cf. <u>cennan</u> <u>Hælend</u> = Saviour
	<u>ceaster</u> = city
Da hyrdas spræcon him betweonan	<u>spræcon</u> = (they)spoke <u>betweonan</u> = among
and comon hrædlice	<u>comon</u> = (they) came <u>hrædlice</u> = quickly
and gemetton Marian and Joseph	<u>gemetton</u> = (they) found
and pæt cild geled on anre binne	<u>geled</u> = laid, cf. <u>alede</u>
swa swa se engel sæde	

Old English nouns do not have distinctive endings for every case. Therefore the best indication of case is often the demonstrative.

(1) The demonstrative

- (a) The masculine and neuter demonstrative are alike except in the nominative and accusative singular (se, ðone; ðæt, ðæt).
- (b) The feminine differs from both the masculine and the neuter in the singular:-

seo	(nominative)	
ða	(accusative)	
ðære	(genitive)	
ðære	(dative)	on þære byrig Bethleem

- (c) The plural is the same in all genders.

(2) The feminine personal pronoun

- (a) The personal pronoun has endings similar to those of the demonstrative:-

heo	(nominative)	heo cennan scolde
hie	(accusative)	
hire	(genitive)	hire tima
hire	(dative)	

- (b) The plural of the personal pronoun is the same for all genders.

- (3) Notice that (a) ða = accusative singular feminine
nominative) plural all genders
accusative)
(b) hie = accusative singular feminine
nominative) plural all genders
accusative)
(c) the genitive and dative singular of feminine nouns, demonstratives and pronouns are identical.
- (4) If there is no demonstrative an adjective often provides a guide to the case of a noun.

The endings of adjectives are partly related to the endings of nouns and partly to those of the pronouns.

Distinctive adjective endings are:

- ne accusative singular (masculine) cf. þone, hine
-es genitive singular (masculine and neuter) cf. þæs, his.
-um dative plural (all genders) or dative singular (masculine and neuter) cf. þæm, him
-re genitive or dative singular (feminine) cf. þære, hire

Se Hælend acenned was on Judeiscra Bethleem
on þæs cyninges dagum Herodes

And prie tungelwitegan comon fram
eastdæle
Hie gesawon þæs Hælendes steorran
on eastdæle
and hie ascodon

tungol-witega = astrologer

east-dæl = the east gesawon
=(they)saw steorra = star
ascian =(to) ask

'hwær is Iudeiscra leoda cyning?'
Herodes cyning gegaderode
ealle þa ealdorbiscopas
and þæs folces writeras
and ascode be cristes cennungstowe
Hie sædon

hwær = where leode = people

gadrian =(to) gather

ealdor-biscop = chief-priest

writere = scribe

cennung-stow = birth place

'On Iudeiscra Bethleem'

Herodes þa clypode ða tungelwitegan
on sunderspræce
and axode hie

clipian =(to)summon

sundor-spræc = private speech

axode alternative spelling to

ascode / acsode / ahsode

hwonne = when æt-iewan =(to)
appear

asendan =(to)send

And he asende hie to Bethleem
And se steorra ferde him beforan
oð þæt he stod
ofer þæt þæt cild was

oð þæt = until

þæt = that(place) 'over where
the child was'

Ða tungelwitegan gesawon þone steorran
and hie pearle blissodon

pearle = greatly blissian =
(to)rejoice

Hie eodon in to þam huse
and gemetton þæt cild
mid Marian his meder

eodon =(they)went hus = house

modor = mother

Hie apenedon hine
and to him gebædon

a-penian =(to) worship

gebædon =(they)prayed cf. gebed
= prayer

Hie geopenodon heora hordfatu
and him lac brohton

openian =(to)open hord-fatu =
coffers (singular hord-fæt) cf.
hwæl, hwalas)

brohton =(they)brought lac =
offering

þæt was gold and recels and myrre
Hie ne hwyrfdon eft to Herode
ac hie ferdon on heora rice
on oðerne weg

recels = incense myrre = myrrh

hwierfan =(to) return

rice = kingdom

weg = way

- (1) Genitive complements usually precede the noun to which they refer:

ƿæs Hælendes steorran
Iudeiscra leoda cyning

But sometimes a heavy group is split so that half comes after the noun:

ƿæs cyninges dagum Herodes

(2) The past tense of verbs

- (a) The plural of the past tense can be easily recognised because it always ends in -on.

hie wicodon. hie eodon. hie a-penedon. ƿa hyrdas
spræcon... and comon... and gemetton. ƿa tungel-
witegan gesawon.

- (b) In some verbs this ending is preceded by a -d- or -t-. In fact, the ending is really -don.

- (c) The past participle of these verbs is also typified by a -d ending:

hire tima was gefylled
todæg is a-cenned Hælend Crist
se Hælend a-cenned was

- (d) The main part of these verbs (called the stem) usually remains unchanged throughout the declension:

gaderian	gaderode	gaderodon
clipian	clipode	clipodon
ascian	ascode	ascodon
a-cennan	a-cende	a-cendon
sendan	sende	sendon

- (3) NOTE that was / is / wæron can be followed by a past participle. This construction is like that with an adjective:

Se Hælend was æðele
Se Hælend was acenned

Godes sunu sende his bydel toforan him	<u>bydel</u> = messenger
Johannem pone Fulluhtere	
pæt he scolde cyðan	<u>cyðan</u> =(to)proclaim
Cristes tocyme mannum	<u>to-cyme</u> = coming
pæt he gelyfdon	<u>geliefan</u> =(to)believe
on ðone godcundan cyning	<u>godcund</u> = divine
Johannes ferde to westenne	
and pær wunode	<u>wunian</u> =(to)live
He ne dranc naðor ne win	<u>naðor...ne</u> = neither...nor
ne beor	<u>win</u> = wine
ne ealu	<u>beor</u> = beer
ac he æt ofet	<u>ealo</u> = ale
and pæt pæt he findan mihte on wuda	<u>æt</u> =(he)ate <u>ofet</u> = fruit
Godes bebod com to him	<u>findan</u> =(to)find <u>wudu</u> = wood
pæt he scolde faran to mannum	<u>wuda</u> = dat. sing.
and bodian fulluht	<u>bebod</u> = command <u>com</u> = came, cf. <u>comon</u>
on synna forgifenysses	<u>faran</u> =(to)journey(a strong verb; do not confuse with <u>feran</u> = to journey, which is a weak verb).
and scolde fullian pæt folc	<u>bodian</u> =(to)announce
mid his agenum fulluhte	<u>synn</u> = sin <u>forgiefenes</u> = forgiveness
and he sceolde eac cyðan	<u>fullian</u> =(to)baptise cf. <u>fulluht</u>
ymbe Cristes fulluht	<u>ymbe</u> = about, concerning

(1) We understand how an Old English sentence fits together in much the same way as we understand the structure of a modern English sentence:-

- (a) by the word order: subjects, objects and so on normally come in fixed places in a sentence.
- (b) by a signalling system i.e. words like the, of, and, inflections and so on, which tell us how the parts of the sentence fit together.

In the sentence Godes sunu sende his bydel toforan him we know that

Godes sunu is the subject
sende is the verb
his bydel is the direct object

because of the word order. We expect the subject to precede the verb (and normally it does). We expect the verb to be placed near the subject (and normally it is).

But we also know that Godes sunu / his bydel are linguistic units, because the first word in each group is a possessive. Godes (=God's) could not stand by itself; it needs to be completed by a noun, sunu.

(2) We know that sende is a verb from its position in the sentence, but we also know that it is the past tense of a verb because it ends in -de. The present tense, 3rd person singular (because the subject is sunu), would be sendeþ.

Verbs which end in -de / -don or -te / -ton in the past tense are called weak verbs. They are like the regular verbs in modern English. Old English also has verbs which correspond to modern irregular verbs (e.g. sing, sang, sung). These verbs are called strong verbs. They have no ending in the singular of the past tense; in the plural of the past tense they end in -on.

They can be recognised as verbs because of their position in the sentence:

Godes sunu <u>sende</u> his bydel	(weak verb)
Godes engel <u>stod</u> on emn hie	} (strong verbs)
se Godes engel <u>cwæð</u> to ðam hyrdum	
Godes bebod <u>com</u> to him	
Joseph and Maria <u>wicodon</u> on Bethleem	(weak verb)
hyrdas <u>wæron</u> on ðam earde	} (strong verbs)
ða hyrdas <u>spræcon</u> him betweonan	
and <u>comon</u> hrædlice	

Johannes com þa

to þære ea Jordanis

and clypode to eallum folce

'Behreowsiað

and wyrcað dædbote

forþan-þe Godes rice genealæcð'

Crist com to Johannes fulluhte

æt þære ea

þe is gehaten Jordanis

He wolde beon gefullod

æt his handum

Johannes hine geseah

and cwæð be him

'Her gæð Godes Lamb'

Johannes gefullode Crist

and seo heofon wearð geopenod

bufon his heafde

and Godes Gast com

and gesæt bufon Criste

and þæs Fæder stemn clypode of
heofenum

and cwæð

'Þes is min leofa sunu

and he me wel licað'

ea = river

behreowsian =(to)repent

wyrcan =(to)do dædbot =
penance

nea-læcan =(to)approach

gehaten = called

beon =(to)be gefullod =
baptised

hand = hand

geseah =(he)saw

be = concerning,about

gæð =(he)goes

heofon = heaven wearð =(he)
became

bufan = above heafod = head

Gast = Spirit

gesæt =(he)sat

stemn = voice Fæder is in the
genitive case

þes = this leof = beloved

lician =(to)please

(1) The present tense

Just as the past tense is marked by a particular set of endings (e.g. -on in the plural) so the present tense has a distinctive set of endings.

- (a) The plural of the present tense usually ends in -aþ except for a few verbs like don, beon where the -a- of the ending disappears after the vowel, giving doþ, beoþ.
- (b) The third person singular of the present tense ends in -t or sometimes -eþ, or -aþ, or -t.
e.g. Godes rice genealæcþ. He me wel licaþ.
- (c) The plural of the imperative is exactly the same as the plural of the present tense.
e.g. Behreowsiaþ and wyrcaþ dædbote.

(2) Verbs can be recognised from their position in the sentence: normally immediately after the subject.

(3) The present tense can be distinguished from the past tense as follows:

- (a) the present has an ending with a -þ in it (or occasionally -t).
- (b) the past of weak verbs ends in -de / -don.
- (c) the past of strong verbs ends in -on in the plural; there is no ending in the singular.
- (d) cwæþ = 'he said' wearþ = 'he became'

These are the past tenses of two strong verbs (cwepan, weorþan) whose stems end in -þ. Do not confuse with present tenses.

(4) The infinitive

Verbs like scolde

mihte

need an infinitive to complete them:

he scolde cyþan

he scolde faran

he scolde fullian

he mihte findan

Infinitives always end in -an.

EXERCISES

I. Substitute the words in brackets for the appropriate part of the preceding sentence.

1. Se engel lufode ðone pegn (se sunu)
2. ----- lufode ----- (seo geogoð)
3. ----- lufode ----- (ðone bydel)
4. ----- lufode ----- (seo ceaster)
5. ----- lufode ----- (ða hyrdas)
6. ----- lufode ----- (ðone witan)
7. ----- lufode ----- (seo burg)
8. ----- lufode ----- (ða lac)
9. ----- lufode ----- (ða geferan)
10. ----- lufode ----- (seo cyrce)
11. ----- lufode ----- (ða bodunge)
- lufode -----
12. Ða pearfan blissodon mid ðæm cyninge (ðæm writerum)
13. ----- blissodon mid ----- (ða wealhstodas)
14. ----- budon mid ----- (ðæm witan)
15. ----- budon mid ----- (ðæm lande)
16. ----- budon on ----- (ðære stowe)
17. ----- budon on ----- (ða werod)
18. ----- budon on ----- (ða mægðe)
19. ----- budon on ----- (ðære heofenan)
- budon on -----
20. Ðæs hlafordes pegn wæs spedig (witan)
21. Ðæs ----- wæs spedig (hand)
22. Ðæs ----- wæs halig (willa)
23. Ðæs ----- wæs halig (engles)

Old English Lesson 4

This lesson is about the destruction of the world and the last judgment. It is adapted from a poem in the Exeter Book, one of the four manuscripts of Old English poetry which have survived.

Se micla dæg dryhtnes bihlæmeð

pære sciran gesceaft

swa peof

pe on pystre fareð

on pære sweartan niht

Mægenfolc micel

somod up cymeð

on Syne beorg

Englas ælbeorhte blawað heora byman

from feowerum foldan sceatum

Hie hlydað tosomne

wið tungla gong

Hie singað and swinsiað

supan and norpan

eastan and westan

ofer ealle gesceaft

Hie weccað of deaðe

dryhtgumena bearn

eall monna cynn

to meotodsceaft

of pære ealdan moldan

Hie hatað hie upp astandan

micel = great dæg = day dryhten
= lord bihlæmeð = falls on,
shall fall

scir = bright gesceaft =
creation
peof = thief

piestro = darkness faran =
(to)go
sweart = dark niht = night

mægen-folc = mighty people

samod = together cuman =(to)
come
Syne = Sion beorg = mountain

blawan =(to)blow bieme =
trumpet

folde = earth sceat = corner
(of the earth)

hlydan =(to)sound out tosamne
= together

tungol = star gang = path
wið = against

singan =(to)sing swinsian =(to)
make melody
supan = from the south

ofer = over

weccan =(to)wake deap = death

dryht-guma = noble man bearn
(plural) = sons, children
cynn = race mann = man

metodsceaft = judgment

molde = earth

hatan =(to)command astandan =
(to)rise

(1) Verbs

- (a) The ending -að or -iað marks the plural of the present tense:

blawað, hlydað, singað, swinsiað

- (b) The ending -eð, -ð or -t marks the third person singular of the present tense:

bihlæmeð, fareð, cymeð, genealæcð

But N.B. licað which is singular not plural.

- (c) There is no future tense in Old English. The present tense often has a future meaning.

(2) Prepositions introduce a construction of the type

on pystre

This construction can be expanded:

on þære sweartan niht
of þære ealdan moldan

We know from the demonstrative þære that the case of niht/moldan is either genitive or dative, but the adjectives do not have the form one associates with these cases. When a noun is qualified by a demonstrative there is no need for a distinctive ending of the adjective, because the demonstrative conveys the necessary grammatical information.

When an adjective is used as well as a demonstrative it is declined like nouns such as hunta EXCEPT that the nominative singular, feminine, and the nominative and accusative singular neuter end in -e. This feature, of course, occurs whenever a noun is qualified by a demonstrative and an adjective:

Se micla dæg bihlæmeð þære sciran gesceafte

BUT if there is no demonstrative, the adjective indicates the case of the noun:

on sweartre niht
of ealdre moldan

(3) from feowerum foldan sceatum

is an expanded form of

from foldan sceatum
cf. wið tungla gong

The genitive comes immediately before the noun it qualifies and other qualifiers such as eall or numbers precede the whole group.

eall monna cyn
is similar. It is parallel to

drihtgumena bearn
but has the additional qualifier eall.

Donne semninga

sunnan leoma cymeð

supan-eastan

Donne Godes bearn

hider oðyweð

Cristes onsyn cymeð wundorlic

eastan

from roderum

He bið þam godum

glædmod on his gesihpe

He bið wlitig and wynsumlic

þam halgan werode

and leofum monnum

Hie gecwemdon him wel

heora wordum and weorcum

He bið þam yflum

synnegum monnum

egeslic and grimlic

Hie cumað þær mid firenum

Se man þe hafeð wisne gepoht

him ne ondrædeð

He ne weorðeþ forht on ferhðe

ðonne he frean gesihð

semninga = suddenly

sunne = sun leoma = light

oðiewan =(to) appear

onsyn = face wundorlic =
wonderfully

rodor = sky

bið =(he)is, will be god =
good

glædmod = pleasant gesihp =
way of looking, appearance

wlitig = beautiful wynsumlic
= pleasant

halig = holy

leof = beloved

gecweman =(to)please

yfel = evil

synnig = sinful

egeslic = terrible grimmlic
= fierce

firen = crime

gepoht = thought

ondrædan =(to)fear

weorðan =(to), become forht =
afraid

ðonne = when frea = lord
gesihð =(he)sees, from seon

(1) Expansions of the subject

A basic sentence pattern is:

he cymeð or
se bearn cymeð

An expansion of this might be:

se Godes bearn cymeð or
Godes bearn cymeð

The ending -es clearly indicates that Godes is in the genitive case and therefore needs a noun to complete it. But remember that nouns like hunta have -an not -es in the genitive.

Sunnan leoma cymeð
Godes bearn cymeð
Cristes onsyn cymeð

are all formed on the same pattern.

(2) The dative

(a) indicates the indirect object:

He bið glædmōd pam godum
He bið wlitig pam halgan werode and leofum monnum

(b) has an instrumental function

Hie gecwemdon him heora wordum and weorcum 'They pleased Him with their words and deeds'

(3) When a noun is accompanied by a demonstrative as well as an adjective you can tell its case from the demonstrative:-

He bið wlitig and wynsumlic pam halgan werode

But when there is no demonstrative you need to look at the ending of the adjective:-

He bið wlitig ... leofum monnum.
Hafeð wisne gepoht.

Deop gesceaft dyneð	<u>deop</u> = deep <u>dynian</u> =(to)resound
and wælmfyr a mæst færeð fore dryhtne	<u>fore</u> = before <u>wælmfyr</u> = surging fire <u>mæst</u> = greatest <u>færeð</u> from <u>faran</u>
Hata leg hlemmeð	<u>hat</u> = hot <u>lieg</u> = flame
heofonas berstað	<u>hlemman</u> = {to}clash <u>berstan</u> = {to}burst
tungol ofhreosað	<u>tungol</u> (singular & plural)=star/s <u>ofhreosan</u> =(to)fall
Sunne weorðeð sweart	
mona niper gehreosað	<u>niper</u> = downwards
and steorran stredað of heofone	<u>stregdan</u> =(to)be scattered
Se ælmihtiga peoden	<u>peoden</u> = lord
mid his engla gedryht	<u>gedryht</u> = company
wile on gemot cuman	<u>wile</u> =(he)will <u>gemot</u> = meeting place
Halge sawle farað	<u>farað</u> from <u>faran</u> <u>sawol</u> = soul
mid hyra frean	
Heofonbyman stefn	<u>heofonbieme</u> = heavenly trumpet <u>stefn/stemn</u> = voice
weorðeð hlud gehyred	<u>hlud</u> = loudly
geond sidne grund	<u>geond</u> = throughout <u>sid</u> = broad <u>grund</u> = earth
Windas swogað on seofon healfa	<u>swogan</u> =(to) resound <u>healf</u> = side

- (1) Sometimes a noun stands by itself without either adjective or demonstrative. e.g. sunne, windas.
- (2) If the noun has a distinctive ending such as -es -um we can tell its case from that.

But more often the noun has no distinctive ending. e.g. weak nouns, where the ending -an is used for 5 cases.

- (3) You can usually tell the function of a particular noun (or any other part of speech) by its position in the sentence.

Se Hælend cymeð supan-eastan

We know that se Hælend is the subject partly because the demonstrative se tells us that Hælend is in the nominative case, but also because se Hælend comes before the verb. i.e. where we expect the subject to be. The relationship would be clear even if the demonstrative were not there:

Hælend cymeð supan-eastan.

- (4) You could put a whole series of linguistic pieces into this slot in the sentence and they would all have the same function:-

Se Hælend cymeð supan-eastan
Hælend cymeð supan-eastan
He cymeð supan-eastan
Godes bearn cymeð supan-eastan
sunnan leoma cymeð supan-eastan
heofonbyman stefn cymeð supan-eastan

- (5) deop gesceaft dyneð
hata leg hlemmeð
halge sawle farað

We could guess that the underlined words in these sentences were the subjects because of their position. But N.B. gesceaft, leg have no ending which suggests that they are nominatives (and so, possible subjects).

Hie weccað and woniað woruld mid storme	<u>wanian</u> =(to)diminish <u>storm</u> = uproar, tumult, storm
Hie fyllað mid fere foldan gesceafte	<u>fyllan</u> =(to)fill <u>fer</u> = terror
Se gifra gæst grundas geondseceð	<u>gifre</u> = greedy <u>gæst/gast</u> = spirit <u>geondsecan</u> =(to)search through something
Burgweallas hreosað	<u>burgweall</u> = city wall <u>hreosan</u> =(to)crumble, collapse
Beorgas gemeltað	<u>meltan</u> =(to)melt
Water byrneð swa weax	<u>water</u> = water <u>biernan</u> = (to) burn <u>weax</u> = wax
Se swearta leg seoðeð	<u>seoðan</u> =(to)purify, afflict (lit.to boil)
and forswelgeð	<u>forswelgan</u> =(to)swallow up, devour completely
eall ær-gestreon epel-cyninga	<u>ær-gestreon</u> = ancient treasure
Donne mihtig God cymeð	<u>epel-cyning</u> = king of the land <u>mihtig</u> = mighty
on pone mæran beorg	<u>mære</u> = famous, glorious
Heofon-engla cyning halig scineð	<u>scinan</u> =(to)shine
Seo unclæne gecynd woruldmonna	<u>unclæne</u> = sinful, unclean
him hearde ondrædeð	<u>gecynd</u> = race, species, kind <u>hearde</u> = greatly
Seo halge gecynd	
heah-engla mægen	<u>heah-engel</u> = archangel <u>mægen</u> = power
bideð beofiende dryhtnes domes	<u>bidan</u> =(to)await <u>beofiende</u> = trembling from <u>beofian/bifian</u> =(to)tremble <u>dom</u> = judgment

- (1) The important thing in learning to read Old English is to recognise the signals which tell you how the sentence fits together.

Hie weccað and woniað woruld
Burgweallas hreosað
Georgas gemeltað
Wæter byrneð

In all these examples the case of the underlined words is not clear from the words themselves: all of them could be either nominative or accusative. But we know from their position in the sentence and from their agreement, or lack of agreement, with the verb, that all except woruld are subjects, while woruld, which comes after the verb and which is a singular form (whereas the verbs are plural forms), must be an object.

Usually the subject comes before the verb and the object after the verb, but this is not invariable:

e.g. Se gifra gæst grundas geondseceð.

- (a) We recognise se gifra gæst as a nominative singular, and therefore potentially the subject of the sentence, because the demonstrative se is only found in the nominative singular.
- (b) grundas (either nominative or accusative plural) might be the subject or the object.
- (c) geondseceð is a singular form of the verb, therefore se gifra gæst must be the subject and grundas the object.

(2) Genitive complements

- (a) usually come before the noun they qualify:

foldan gesceafte
heofon-engla cyning
dryhtnes domes

- (b) are placed half before and half after if they are very long:

on pæs cyninges dagum Herodes

- (c) sometimes come after the noun if there is some other qualifier:

eall ær-gestreon epel-cyninga }
seo unclæne gecynd woruld-monna }

but cf. eall monna cynn

Donne wuldor-cyning hateð men arisan of foldgrafum cuman to gemote	<u>Donne</u> = then <u>wuldor-cyning</u> = glorious king <u>hateð</u> from <u>hatan</u> <u>fold-græf</u> = grave
Donne moncyn bið ge-yced and ge- edniwad purh meotud	<u>iecan</u> =(to)increase <u>edniwian</u> =(to)renew <u>metod</u> = lord
Micel folc ariseð to dome sippan liffruma toleseð deapes bend	<u>lif-fruma</u> = author of life <u>toliesan</u> =(to)loose <u>deapes</u> <u>bend</u> = the band of death <u>lyft</u> = heaven <u>onbærned</u> = burned, from <u>bærnan</u>
Lyft bið onbærned Heofonsteorran hreosað gifre glede hypað wide gæstas hweorfað on ecne eard	<u>gled</u> = flame <u>hypan</u> =(to) plunder <u>ece</u> = eternal <u>eard</u> = land,home
Monna dæde weorðað opene ofer mid- dangeard pær bið dryhtne cuð on pam miclan dæge hu monna gehwylc ær earnode eces lifes Se mæra dæg ætyweð ealle heortan gepohtas	<u>dæd</u> = deed <u>middangeard</u> = earth <u>cuð</u> = known <u>gehwelc</u> = each <u>ær</u> = previously <u>earnian</u> = (to)earn <u>æt-iewan</u> =(to)reveal

Linguistic units

A basic sentence pattern in Old English consists of noun (or pronoun) + verb:

cyning cymeð
he cymeð

This is not the smallest possible structure since cymeð = 'he comes' would be possible in Old English, though not in modern English.

The words cyning/he make the reader expect a verb; they also make one expect a singular form of the verb, whereas cyningas/hie would make one expect a plural form of the verb:

cyning cymeð / cyningas cymað
he cymeð / hie cymað

The sentence cyning cymeð could be expanded by the addition of qualifying words placed before the word cyning:

cyning cymeð
halig cyning cymeð
æلميhtig and halig cyning cymeð
his cyning cymeð
Godes cyning cymeð
se cyning cymeð
se halga cyning cymeð
se æلميhtiga cymeð

All these groups of words function exactly like cyning in the basic form of the sentence. Grammatically cyning is the most important word in the sentence, and it comes at the end of the linguistic group, so that it comes just before the next unit (i.e. the verb). Notice that the demonstrative (se) marks the beginning of the unit; possessives like his, Godes also mark the beginning of a series of modifiers, as does eall.

EXERCISES

I. Say whether the verbs underlined in the following sentences are singular or plural:

1. Mægenfolc micel cymeð on Syne beorg.
2. Se micla dæg bihlæmeð þære sciran gesceafte.
3. Hie singað and swinsiað.
4. Hie hatað hie upp astandan.
5. Se man hafeð wisne gepoht.
6. He ne weorpeð forht on ferhðe.
7. Halge sawle farað mid hyra frean.
8. Deop gesceaft dyneð.
9. Windas swogað on seofon healfa.
10. Wælmfýra mæst færeð fore dryhtne.

II. Pick out the complete subject in the following sentences:

1. Se micla dæg bihlæmeð þære sciran gesceafte.
2. Se ælmihtiga peoden wile on gemot cuman.
3. Se gifra gæst grundas geondseceð.
4. Seo unclæne gecynd him ondrædeð.
5. Seo halge gecynd bideð dryhtnes domes.
6. Mægenfolc micel cymeð on Syne beorg.
7. Englas ælbeorhte blawað heora byman.
8. Halge sawle farað mid hyra frean.
9. Deop gesceaft dyneð.
10. Hata leg hlemmeð.
11. Heofen-engla cyning scineð.
12. Monna dæde weorpað opene.
13. Godes bearn hider oðýweð.
14. Cristes onsyn cymeð wundorlic.
15. Sunnan leoma cymeð supan eastan.
16. Heofonbyman stefn weorðeð gehyred.

III. The sentences in question II have subjects which consist of more than one word. Pick out the subject word in each.

IV. Pick out the genitive complements in the following sentences:

1. Godes bearn hider oðyweð.
2. Cristes onsyn cymeð wundorlic.
3. Heofonbyman stefn weorðeð hlud gehyred.
4. Heofon-engla cyning halig scineð.
5. Monna dæde weorðað opene.
6. Englas ælbeorhte blawað heora byman.
7. Hie weccað of deaðe dryhtgumena bearn.
8. Hie fyllað mid fere foldan gesceafte.
9. Lif-fruma to-leseð deapes bend.
10. Se dæg ætyweð heortan gepohtas.
11. Hie hlydað tosomne wið tungla gong.
12. Hie blawað from foldan sceatum.
13. Se peoden mid engla gedryht wile cuman.
14. Halge sawle farað mid hyra frean.
15. Englas blawað from feowerum foldan sceatum.
16. Hie weccað eall monna cynn.
17. Se dæg ætyweð ealle heortan gepohtas.
18. Seo halge gecynd bideð dryhtnes domes.
19. Seo unclæne gecynd woruld-monna him ondrædeð.
20. Leg forswelgeð eall ær-gestreon epel-cyninga.
21. Se micla dæg dryhtnes bihlæmeð.

Old English Lesson 5

This lesson is about Pope Gregory the Great and his meeting with the English slaves in the market at Rome. It is adapted from one of Ælfric's homilies.

Gregorius, se halga papa

papa = pope

is Engliscre ðeode apostol

ðeod = nation

He gebigde us

to Godes geleafan

He æt-bræd us

æt-bregdan =(to)release

fram deofles big-gengum

deofol = devil bi-genga =
worshipper

Se eadiga papa Gregorius

eadig = blessed

was acenned

of æðel-borenre mægðe

æðel-boren = nobly born mægð
= family

Se halga papa Gregorius

com

of eaw-fæstre mægðe

æ-fæst = pious

Romanisce witan

Romanisc = Roman

wæron his magas

mæg = kinsman

Hit gelamp

gelimpan =(to)happen

æt sumum sæle

sæl = occasion

pæt Englisce cypmenn

ceap-mann = merchant

brohton heora ware

bringan =(to)bring waru = ware,
article of merchandise

to Romana byrig

Gregorius eode

be pære stræt

to ðam Engliscum mannum

He sceawode heora ðing

sceawian =(to)look at

He geseah

seon =(to)see

betwux ðam warum

cype-cnihtas

ceap-cniht = slave

(1) Prepositional phrases

A preposition — e.g. to, fram, of, on — always introduces a piece of language of the same pattern:

to mannum)
on lande) = preposition + noun (or pronoun)

This basic construction can be expanded, in much the same way as the subject part of the basic construction cyning cymeð can be expanded:

to mannum)
to ðam mannum)
to ðam Engliscum mannum)
of mægðe)
of ðære mægðe)
of ðære eaw-fæstan mægðe)
of eaw-fæstre mægðe)
to geleafan)
to ðam geleafan)
to Godes geleafan)

(2) Gregorius is Engliscre ðeode apostol

Engliscre ðeode is a genitive complement, qualifying apostol. The basic form of this sentence would be:

Gregorius is apostol.

The construction Gregorius is makes one expect a noun or noun group in the nominative case. Engliscre is clearly not a nominative since it has the ending -re which marks the genitive or dative of feminine adjectives. The adjective Engliscre indicates the case of ðeode and its syntactic relationship to apostol.

(3) Verbs

He gebigde us to Godes geleafan)
He ætbræd us fram deofles biggengum)

These two sentences are formed on exactly the same pattern:

pronoun + verb + pronoun + prepositional phrase

We know that in a sentence pattern:

subject pronoun + ----- + object pronoun

the space ----- must contain a verb.

So, we know from the shape of the sentence, from the order of the linguistic pieces in the sentence, that gebigde, ætbræd are verbs.

Da cype-cnihtas wæron

hwites lichaman

and fægeres andwlitan

Gregorius beheold

para cnapena andwlitan

He befran

of hwilcre peode

hie wæron

Man sæde him

pat hie wæron

of Englalande

Eft ða Gregorius befran

hwæðer þæs landes folc

cristen wære

ðe hæðen

Man sæde him

pat hie wæron hæðene

Eft he axode

be þære peode naman

pe hie of comon

Man sæde him

pat hie wæron Angle

Gregorius cwæð

'Rihtlice hie sind Angle
gehatene

Hie habbað engla wite'

hwit = white lic-hama = body

fæger = fair andwlita = face

behealdan =(to)look at

cnapa = youth

befrignan =(to)ask

hwelc = which

eft ða = again,once more

cristen = Christian wære =
was (subjunctive)

ðe = or hæðen = heathen

nama = name

pe = which

cwepan = (to)say

hie sind gehatene = they are
called

(1) Verbs

Gregorius	beheold	} all these linguistic constructions are formed on the same pattern: noun/pronoun + verb
He	befran	
Man	sæde	
He	axode	

All the subjects are singular, therefore all the verbs must be singular.

But the verbs do not have the same shape:

sæde } have the -de ending which we have learned to associate
axode) with the singular of the past tense of weak verbs.

beheold) have no ending. But they cannot be in the present
befran) tense because the third person singular of the present tense always ends in -ð (or -t, -eð, -að). In fact, these are past tenses, but past tenses of strong verbs.

Strong verbs form the past tense by a change in the vowel (ablaut), not by addition of an ending; in the (first and) third person singular there is no ending; in the plural, the ending -on, which is similar to the weak verb ending -don.

hie	<u>wæron</u>	<u>hæðene</u>	} are plurals of strong verbs.
pe	hie	of <u>comon</u>	

(2) Notice the different constructions after 'to be'

Romanisce	witan	wæron	<u>his</u>	<u>magas</u>	} (noun) (adjective) (prepositional phrase) (past participle, weak verb) (past participle, strong verb) (adjective + noun or noun group in genitive case; a descriptive use of the genitive case)	
Hie	wæron		<u>hæðene</u>			
Hie	wæron		<u>of</u>	<u>Englalande</u>		
Se	papa	Gregorius	was	<u>acenned</u>		
Hie	wæron			<u>gehatene</u>		<u>Angle</u>
Ða	cype-cnihtas	wæron		<u>hwites</u>	<u>lichaman</u>	

One expects the verb 'to be' to be followed by the nominative case. When it is followed by a genitive it warns us of an unusual construction.

Gyt ða Gregorius befran
 be þære scire naman
 þe hie of comon

giæt ða = still, yet
scir = county, shire

Man sæde him

þæt ða scirmen
 wæron Dere gehatene

scir-mann = man of that county
Dere = Deirans

Gregorius andswarode

'Wel hie sind Dere gehatene
 forðan-þe hie sind
 fram graman generode

wel = well, rightly
for-ðon-þe = because

and to Cristes mildheortnysse
 gecygede'
 Gyt ða he befran

grama = wrath (Latin ira) nerian
 =(to)save mildheortnes = mild
 heartedness

ciegan =(to)summon

'Hu is ðære leode cyning
 gehaten?'

Him wæs geandswarod
 'Elle'

= he was told (lit. 'it was
 answered to him')

Ða Gregorius gamenode
 mid his wordum
 to ðam naman
 and cwæð

gamenian =(to)joke, pun

to = about

'Hit gedafenað

dafnian =(to)be fitting

þæt Alleluia sie gesungen
 on ðam lande

sie gesungen = should be sung

to lofe þæs Elmihtigan Scyppendes'

Scieppend = Creator, Shaper
lof = praise

(1) Past participles

Se papa was acenned of æðel-borenre mægðe

The shape of this sentence is very simple: first there is an expanded form of the basic sentence type noun + verb:

Se papa + was acenned

followed by an expanded form of the basic linguistic piece of preposition + noun:

of + æðel-borenre mægðe

We recognise se papa as the subject of the sentence because

(a) it comes at the beginning, which is where we expect the subject to be

(b) the demonstrative se indicates that it is a nominative

We expect the verb to come after the subject.

We know that of introduces a separate part of the sentence.

In this sentence was acenned forms one unit; the verb 'to be' and the participle come next to each other. But sometimes the participle is placed separately:

Hie sind Angle gehatene

Ða scir-men wæron Dere gehatene

Hu is ðære leode cyning gehaten?

Hie sind fram gramam generode

Sometimes the participle is declined like an adjective:

He was hæðen (sing.adj.) Hie wæron hæðene (pl.adj.)

He is gehaten (sing.part.) Hie sind gehatene (pl.part.)

Hie sind Dere gehatene

Hie sind fram gramam generode

Hie sind to Cristes mildheortnysse gecygede

(2) Hu is ðære leode cyning gehaten?

This sentence is like the one on p.50:

Gregorius is Engliscre ðeode apostol

We expect the construction is gehaten to be completed by a noun or pronoun in the nominative case:

continued on next page

Hu is he gehaten?

Hu is se cyning gehaten ?

Hu is ðære leode cyning gehaten?

The demonstrative ðære indicates that the words underlined must be in either the genitive or dative case, therefore they must be dependent on the nominative cyning.

Gregorius befran be ðære scire naman

The words underlined here must be in either the genitive or dative case. Until we reach the word naman we cannot be sure of their case, because the sentence

Gregorius befran be ðære scire

(where ðære scire is a dative after be) would be perfectly possible. We know that the words ðære scire are in the genitive case in the sentence Gregorius befran be ðære scire naman because they are followed by naman and must be dependent on it.

Gregorius wearð papa

He asende bydelas

geþungene Godes peowan

to pißsum iglande

Dæra bydela naman sind

Augustinus, Mellitus, Laurentius

Petrus, Johannes, Justus

Se eadiga papa Gregorius

asende ðas lareowas

mid manegum oðrum munecum

to Angelcynne

Æpelbyrht cyning rixode

on ðam dagum

on Cantwarebyrig

His rice wæs astreht

fram pære miclan ea Humbre

oð suðsæ

Augustinus hæfde genumen wealh-
stodas

of Francena rice

swa swa Gregorius him bebead

and he bodade Godes word

pam cyninge and his leode

purh pæra wealhstoda muð

bydel = messenger

geþungen = capable, excellent

peowa = servant

pißsum = this(dative) iegland
= island

ðas = these lareow = teacher

manig = many oðer = other

munuc = monk

Angelcynn = the English race

ricsian =(to)rule

Cantwaraburg = Canterbury

rice = kingdom astreht =
extended

ea = river Humbre = Humber

suð-sæ = English Channel

niman =(to) take wealhstod =
interpreter

Francan = the Franks

be-beodan =(to)command

muð = mouth

- (1) geðungene Godes peowan is in apposition to bydelas. We might suspect that the adjective geðungene introduces a new item, because it comes after bydelas. If it qualified bydelas it would normally come before it. Because the adjective comes after bydelas we look on to find a second noun which it qualifies: peowan. The genitive complement Godes still comes immediately before the noun it qualifies.

(2) Strong verbs

- (a) form the past tense by a change in the stem vowel
- (b) have no ending in the 1st and 3rd person singular of the past tense.
- (c) have a past participle ending in -en (e.g. gehaten)

They can be recognised as verbs by their position in the sentence, after the subject:

Gregorius wearð papa
 He beheold para cnapena andwlitan
 Hie comon of Englalande
 Augustinus hæfde genumen wealhstodas

In order to look these verbs up in the dictionary you need to know the infinitive. In order to deduce the infinitive from some other part of the verb you need to know the pattern to which it belongs, i.e. the principal parts of the verb.

Strong verbs fall into the following main patterns:

<u>infinitive</u>	<u>past(singular)</u>	<u>past(plural)</u>	<u>past participle</u>
drifan(to drive)	draf	drifon	drifen
ceosan(to choose)	ceas	curon	coren
or			
beodan(to command)	bead	budon	boden
bindan(to bind)	band	bundon	bunden
helpan(to help)	healp	hulpon	holpen
beran (to bear)	bær	bæron	boren
sprecan(to speak)	spræc	spræcon	sprecen
faran (to go)	for	foron	faren

There are a number of exceptions to these patterns, but these are the most important ones. They must be learned by heart and any strong verb matched against them.

Augustinus sæde him

'Se mildheorta Hælend

mild-heort = gentle

alysde pysne scyldigan middan-
geard

a-liesan =(to)redeem, ransom
pysne = this(acc.) scyldig =
guilty

mid his agenre ðrowunge

agen = own ðrowung = suffering,
passion

and ge-openode

heofonan rices infær

infær = entrance

geleaffullum mannum'

geleaffull = believing

Se cyning Æðelberht andwyrde
Augustine

andwyrðan =(to)answer

and cwæð

pæt he ne mihte swa hrædlice
forlætan

forlætan =(to)forsake hrædlice
= quickly

pone ealdan gewunan

eald = old gewuna = custom

ðe he mid Angelcynne heold

healdan =(to)hold

He cwæð

pæt Augustinus moste freolice
bodian

moste =(he)was allowed freolice
freely

ða heofonlican lare

lar = doctrine(a feminine noun)

his leode

and pæt he wolde penian him

penian =(to)supply someone
(dat.) something (acc.)

and his geferum

bigleofan

bi-leofa = food

And he forgeaf him ða wununge

forgiefan =(to) give wunung =
dwelling (feminine)

on Cantwarebyrig

seo wæs

seo = which

ealles his rices heofod burh

heafod = chief, head

(1) Identifying strong verbs

Hit gelamp æt sumum sæle

This sentence consists of subject (pronoun) + verb + phrase introduced by æt. gelamp, which comes between the pronoun hit and the preposition æt (which must introduce a new piece of the sentence), must be the verb.

gelamp has no ending, therefore it is the singular of the past tense of a strong verb (a weak verb would end in -de or -don; the plural of the past of a strong verb would end in -on; the present of any verb would end in -ð, or -t, -eð or -að).

If we look at the table of strong verbs we see that gelamp (-a + -m + consonant) is most like band. The infinitive belonging to band is bindan so the infinitive belonging to gelamp is likely to be gelimpan.

Gregorius cwæð

cwæð is like either bær or spræc. Since the infinitives in both these patterns are similar, it does not matter for the purpose of looking the verb up which you match it against: the infinitive will still be cweþan. In fact, cweþan is more like sprecan but you could only tell this from the past participle.

Gregorius wearð papa

Two of the patterns have -ea- in the past: ceas / bead; healp

wearð has two consonants after the vowel: a liquid (r) + another consonant. This means that it is like healp (liquid, l, + consonant) rather than ceas (a single consonant). The infinitive should therefore be *werðan, but in fact it is weorðan.

There are quite a number of verbs whose stem ends in -r- or -l- + consonant which have diphthongs in the present and the singular of the past tenses.

(2) N.B. Se mildheorta Hælend

Se eadiga papa

Se halga papa

In a construction consisting of se + adjective + noun the adjective will end in -a. Do not confuse this with -a as the marker of the genitive plural of nouns:

Hie habbað engla wlite

Ðæra bydela naman sind

The demonstrative se tells you to expect any adjective to end in -a.

continued on next page

(3) Notice the genitive complements which are themselves expansions:

ge-openode	{		infær
		<u>rices</u>	infær
	{	<u>heofonan rices</u>	infær
seo wæs	{		burh
			heafod burh
		<u>his rices</u>	heafod burh
	{	<u>ealles his rices</u>	heafod burh

EXERCISES

I. Pick out the verb in the following sentences:

1. He gebigde us to Godes geleafan.
2. He æt-bræd us fram deofles big-gengum.
3. Gregorius eode be þære stræt.
4. He sceawode heora þing.
5. He geseah cype-cnihtas.
6. Gregorius beheold heora andwlitan.
7. Gregorius wearð papa.
8. Se cyning forgeaf him ða wununge.
9. Augustinus cwæð þam cyninge.
10. Ðara bydela naman sind Augustinus, Mellitus, Laurentius.

II. Say whether the verbs in the following sentences are singular or plural:

1. Se halga papa com of eaw-fæstre mægðe.
2. Se eadiga Gregorius geseah cype-cnihtas.
3. Ða cype-cnihtas wæron hwites lichaman.
4. Godes peowan comon to þissum iglande.
5. Godes geleafa æt-bræd us fram deofles big-gengum.
6. Romanisce witan wæron his magas.
7. Ðæs landes folc beheold þone biscop.
8. Ðære leode cyning cwæð to Augustinus.
9. Ða gepungene bydelas nomon wealhstodas.

III. Say whether the verbs in the following sentences are in the present tense or the past:

1. Hie habbað engla wlite.
2. Gregorius gamenode mid his wordum.
3. Hit gedafenað þæt alleluia sie gesungen on ðam lande.
4. Æpelbyrht cyning rixode on ðam dagum.
5. Micel folc ariseð.
6. Se mæra dæg ætyweð heortan gepohtas.
7. Windas swogað.
8. He forgeaf him ða wununge.
9. Gregorius wearð papa.
10. He cwæð 'Elle'.

IV. Pick out the complete verb in the following sentences:

1. Gregorius was acenned of æðelborenre mægðe.
2. Him was geandswarod 'Elle'.
3. Augustinus hæfde genumen wealhstodas.
4. Hie sind Angle gehatene.
5. Ða scirmen wæron Dere gehatene.
6. Hie sind fram gramam generode.
7. Hie sind to Cristes mildheortnysse gecygede.
8. Hu is pære leode cyning gehaten?

V. In the following sentences some of the words underlined are adjectives and some are nouns. Say which each of them is:

1. Se steorra ferde him beforan
2. He bodade fulluht on synna forgifenyse
3. Se leofa sunu me wel licað
4. Se micla dæg bihlæmeð ðære sciran gesceafte
5. Hie weccað of deaðe eall monna cynn
6. Wælmfyras mæst færeð fore dryhtne
7. Se ælmihtiga peoden wile on gemot cuman
8. Se gifra gæst grundas geondseceð
9. Monna dæde weorðað opene
10. Se cnapa beheold ðone papan

Old English Lesson 6

This lesson is about the creation and fall of the angels. It is adapted from Ælfric's homily on the creation.

God geworhte heofonas	<u>wyrcean</u> =(to)create
and eorpan	<u>eorpe</u> = earth
and ealle gesceafta	<u>gesceaft</u> = creation
He gesceop	<u>scieppan</u> =(to)shape,create
tyn engla werod	<u>tien</u> = ten <u>engel</u> = angel
þæt sind englas	<u>werod</u> = troop
and heahenglas	<u>sind</u> =(they)are
throni dominationes principatus	<u>heah-engel</u> = archangel
potestates virtutes	
cherubim seraphim	
Her sindon nigon engla werod	<u>her</u> = here <u>sindon</u> = <u>sind</u>
þæt teope werod abreap	<u>nigon</u> = nine
and awende on yfel	<u>teopa</u> = tenth <u>a-breopan</u> =
God hi gesceop ealle gode	(to)prove untrustworthy
He let hi habban	<u>a-wendan</u> =(to)turn aside,change
agenne cyre	<u>yfel</u> = wickedness
Dæs teopan werodes ealdor	<u>hi</u> = <u>hie</u> <u>god</u> = good
was swiþe fæger gesceapen	<u>lætan</u> =(to)allow
He was gehaten 'Leochtberend'	<u>cyre</u> = choice cf. <u>ceosan</u>
He begann to modigenne	<u>ealdor</u> = prince
for þære fægernysse	<u>fæger</u> = beautiful
pe he hæfde	<u>leoht-berend</u> = light-bearer,
He cwæp on his heortan	Lucifer
þæt he wolde	<u>be-ginnan</u> =(to) begin
and eape mihte beon	<u>modigian</u> =(to) become proud
his Scyppende gelic	<u>for</u> = because of <u>fægernes</u> =
	beauty
	<u>pe</u> = which
	<u>heorte</u> = heart
	<u>willan</u> =(to)wish
	<u>eape</u> = easily <u>magan</u> =(to)be able
	<u>beon</u> =(to)be
	<u>gelic</u> = equal

(1) Weak verbs

So far, most of the weak verbs you have met have been ones which formed their past tense by adding -de/-don or -te/-ton to the stem of the verb:

<u>feran</u>	'to travel'	past tense	<u>ferde</u>
<u>aræran</u>	'to raise'		<u>arærde</u>
<u>wenan</u>	'to believe'		<u>wende</u>
<u>adwæscan</u>	'to put an end to'		<u>adwæscte</u>

You have also met weak verbs which show minor variations on this rule. For instance, some verbs, where the stem ends in -d- do not add another -d- in the past tense:

<u>sendan</u>	'to send'	<u>sende</u>
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If the past tense of a verb has a -tt- before the ending, the infinitive will probably have a -t-:

<u>metan</u>	'to meet'	<u>mette</u>
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If the past tense of the verb has an -e- or -o- (a medial vowel) before the ending, the infinitive will probably end in -ian instead of -an.

<u>ferian</u>	'to carry'	<u>ferede</u>
<u>wician</u>	'to live'	<u>wicode</u>
<u>clypian</u>	'to call'	<u>clypode</u>
<u>fægnian</u>	'to rejoice'	<u>fægnode</u>

If the past tense of the verb has an -ht- before the -e or -on, the infinitive will probably have a -cc-:

<u>reccan</u>	'to explain'	<u>rehte</u>
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In this lesson you have a weak verb where there is a change in the vowel in the past tense:

<u>wyrcan</u>	'to create'	<u>worhte</u>
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There is a very small group of weak verbs, most of which have -oh- in the past tense, which are similar to wyrcan:

<u>bycgan</u>	'to buy'	<u>bohte</u>	'bought'
<u>bringan</u>	'to bring'	<u>brohte</u>	'brought'
<u>pencan</u>	'to think'	<u>pohte</u>	'thought'
<u>secan</u>	'to seek'	<u>sohte</u>	'sought'
<u>synnan</u>	'to seem'	<u>puhte</u>	'seemed'

(2) Inflected infinitives

Notice that when a verb like beginnan is followed by an infinitive with to, the infinitive will be inflected:

he began to modigenne

He wolde sittan	<u>sittan</u> =(to)sit, encamp
on þam norpdæle heofonan rices	<u>norþ-dæl</u> = northern part
He wolde habban andweald	<u>an-weald</u> = power
and rice	
ongean God ælmihtigne	<u>on-gean</u> = against <u>æl-mihtig</u> = almighty
He gefæstnode þisne ræd	<u>fæstnian</u> =(to) fix, ratify
wip þæt werod	<u>ræd</u> = plan of action
þe he bewiste	<u>be-witan</u> =(to) govern, watch over
and hi ealle gebugon	<u>bugan</u> =(to)be converted, to turn
to þam ræde	
Hi ealle gefæstnodon	
þysne ræd	
betwux him	
Ac Godes grama becom	<u>be-cuman</u> =(to)come
ofer hi ealle	<u>ofer</u> = upon
and hi ealle wurdon awende	
of þæm fægeran hiwe	<u>hiw</u> = shape, appearance
to laplicum deoflum	<u>lap-lic</u> = horrible

- (1) There is a small group of verbs, usually followed by an infinitive, which are rather irregular in their forms:

he wolde beon his Scyppende gelic (infinitive willan)
 he mihte beon his Scyppende gelic (infinitive magan)
 he wolde sittan on þam norpdæle heofonan rices
 he wolde habban andweald and rice
 he wolde mid modignysse beon betera

Another very common verb, similar to willan, is sculan, past tense sceolde.

(2) Strong Verbs

A very common strong verb in this passage is scieppan, past tense sceop. Basically, this verb is like faran. We know this because it has a long o in the past tense. The e in the past tense simply indicates that the sc is pronounced ʃ not sk. We would expect the infinitive to be *sceapan but in fact it is not. Another very common verb which has a similar irregularity is hebban 'to raise':

<u>scieppan</u>	past tense <u>sceop</u>	past participle <u>sceapen</u>
<u>hebban</u>	<u>hof</u>	<u>hafen</u>

Notice that in both these verbs the infinitive has a double consonant and a mutated vowel (i.e. one made higher and further forward in the mouth than one would expect), whereas the past tense has a single consonant and an un-mutated vowel.

gebugon This must be the past tense of a strong verb. Because the main syllable ends in u + single consonant, the verb must be like ceosan, past tense curon. But the infinitive is not *beogan but bugan. There is a small group of verbs which are declined like ceosan except that they have -u- in the present tense. The most commonly found are:

<u>bugan</u>	past tense <u>beag bugon</u>	past part. <u>bogen</u>
<u>brucan</u> 'to enjoy'	<u>breac brucon</u>	<u>brocen</u>
<u>scufan</u> 'to push'	<u>sceaf scufon</u>	<u>scofen</u>

becom This is the past tense of a compound of cuman, past tense com, comon. It is usually classified with verbs like beran, but it is better to learn it as an irregular verb. The only other similar verb is niman, past tense nom.

wurdon This is the past tense of weorpan. This verb is usually classified with verbs like drincan and helpan, though these do not have diphthongs in the infinitive. Two very common verbs which are like weorpan are:

<u>feohtan</u> 'to fight'	<u>feahrt fuhton</u>	<u>fohten</u>
<u>hweorfan</u> 'to turn'	<u>hwearf hwurfon</u>	<u>hworfen</u>

Notice that weorpan has a d instead of ð in the plural of the past tense and in the past participle. Other commonly found verbs with the same consonant alternation are:

<u>sniðan</u> 'to cut'	(like <u>drifan</u>)
<u>seoðan</u> 'to boil'	(like <u>ceosan</u>)

He wolde mid modignysse
 beon betera
 þonne he gesceapen wæs
He cwæp
 þæt he mihte beon
 þæm ælmihtigan Gode gelic
Ac he
 and ealle his geferan
 wurdon forcupran
 and wyrsan
 þonne ænig oþer gesceaft
He smeade
 hu he mihte dælan rice
 wip God
and se ælmihtiga Scyppend
 gearcode him
 and his geferum
 helle wite
and hi ealle adræfde
 of heofonan rices myrhpe
and let befeallan
 on þæt ece fyr

modignes = pride

betera = better(fr.god)

for-cu₂ = depraved (forcupran
is a comparative)
wiersa = worse (fr.yfel)

þonne = than

smeagan =(to)consider

hu = how dælan =(to)divide

gearcian =(to)prepare

hell = hell(feminine,helle is
a genitive sing.) wite =
punishment
a-dræfan =(to)drive out

myrigp = delight

be-feallan =(to)fall

ece = eternal fyr = fire

- (1) There are several comparative adjectives in this passage. Comparatives can usually be recognised because

(a) They are declined like weak adjectives (i.e. most cases end in -an)

(b) there is normally an -r- before the ending: forcupra
A small number of adjectives (as in modern English) have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<u>god</u>	'good'	<u>betra</u>	'better'	<u>betst</u>	'best'
<u>lytel</u>	'little'	<u>læssa</u>	'less'	<u>læst</u>	'least'
<u>micel</u>	'great'	<u>mara</u>	'greater'	<u>mæst</u>	'greatest'
<u>yfel</u>	'evil'	<u>wyrsa</u>	'worse'	<u>wyrst</u>	'worst'

Superlatives usually end in -ost: forcupost(a). They, too, are declined like weak adjectives.

Examples taken from texts you have read:

He wolde beon betera ponne he gesceapen wæs

On his agnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað

He and ealle his geferan wurdon wyrsan ponne ænig oper gesceaft

Se hwæl is micle læssa ponne oðre hwalas

- (2) Direct and indirect objects

Remember that if the object is a pronoun it often comes before the verb:

God hi gesceop ealle gode

Se ælmihtiga Scyppend ... hi ealle adræfde

He hi geworhte on six dagum

Remember that the indirect object normally comes before the direct object in Old English, whereas in modern English it often comes after:

Hie sendon þam cyninge Aidan bisceop

Se geleaffula cyning gerehte his witan þas bisceopes bodunge

Man ferode þam cyninge cynelice penunga

Se ælmihtiga Scyppend gearcode him and his geferum helle wite

- (3) Strong Verbs

let This must be the past tense of a strong verb. Very few verbs have long e in the past tense. The most common are:

lætan 'to allow' let leton læten

hatan 'to call, het heton haten
command'

fon 'to seize' feng fengon fangen

cwæp This is the past tense of cwæpan. Like other verbs with a -p- in the infinitive (sniðan, seoðan, weorðan) it has -d- in the plural of the past tense and in the past participle:

cwædon

cweden

A very common verb which has the same vowel series as cwæpan is sprecan:

sprecan 'to speak' spræc spræcon sprecen

cwæpan cwæp cwædon cweden

- (4) smeade This is the past tense of a weak verb. Notice that the infinitive is smeagan. There are very few verbs like smeagan: a fairly common one is twoe(ga)n 'to doubt', past tense, twoode.

pa sona

sona = immediately

pa nigon werod

pe pær to lafe wæron

laf = remnant wæron to lafe =
(they) remained

bugon to heora Scyppende

mid ealre eapmodnesse

eap-modnes = humility

and betæhton heora ræd

be-tæcan =(to) commit, entrust

to his willan

Se ælmihtiga God

getrymde pa nigon engla werod

trymman =(to) confirm, strengthen

swa pæt hi næfre ne mihton

næfre = never

ne noldon gebugan

noldon = ne woldon

fram his willan

God gesceop ealle gesceafta

heofonas and englas

sunnan and monan

steorran and eorpan

ealle nytenu and fugelas

nieten = animal fugol = bird

He hi geworhte

on six dagum

and on pam seofopan dæge

seofopa = seventh

he geendode his weorc

endian =(to) finish

and geswac

swican =(to) cease

and gehalgode pone seofopan dæg

halgian =(to) make holy

And he beheold pa

pa = then

ealle his weorc

pe he geworhte

and hi wæron ealle swiþe gode

- (1) betæhton This must be the past tense of a weak verb. Because the -t- is preceded by -h- you will expect a -c- at the end of the stem in the infinitive: betæcan. Cf. reccan, past tense rehte.
But remember that feahht/fuhton come from a strong verb, feohtan.
geswac This must be the past tense of a strong verb. Only one type of strong verb has a long a in the past tense (p.58, drifan), so the infinitive will be swican.

beheold This must be the past tense of a strong verb. Very few verbs have long eo in the past tense. The most common are:

<u>healdan</u>	'to hold'	<u>heold</u>	<u>healden</u>
<u>feallan</u>	'to fall'	<u>feoll</u>	<u>feallen</u>
<u>cnawan</u>	'to know'	<u>cneow</u>	<u>cnawen</u>
<u>wepan</u>	'to weep'	<u>weop</u>	<u>wopen</u>

- (2) Plural subjects and objects

God geworhte heofonas and eorpan and ealle gesceafta

God gesceop ealle gesceafta ... ealle nytenu and fugelas

In the above sentences it is clear from the word order that the underlined words are objects. So far most of the nouns you have met have had a plural ending in either -as (cyningas) or -an(huntan).

The ending -a is the usual plural ending for feminine nouns (other than weak nouns, and a few strong nouns which form a plural with -e); in late texts the -a is often replaced by -e. The ending -u is a very common plural ending for neuter nouns. Ealle is the normal plural form of eall, though early texts sometimes have different forms of the adjective for each gender (feminine -a, neuter -u, like the noun endings).

- (3) Remember that many neuter nouns (especially monosyllables with a long vowel or a short vowel followed by two consonants) have no ending in the nominative and accusative plural

He geendode his weorc

We cannot tell whether weorc in this sentence is singular or plural.

He beheold ealle his weorc

In this sentence weorc must be plural because ealle must be a plural. (It could be accusative singular feminine, but weorc, with no ending, is unlikely to be the accusative singular of a feminine noun.)

- (4) hi næfre ne mihton ne noldon gebugan fram his willan

Notice that you frequently find double negatives in Old English.
cf. He ne mette nan gebun land

- (5) The negative ne is often amalgamated with the verbs 'to be', 'to have' and 'to know' (see p.84)
noldon = ne woldon

Ealle þing he geworhte

buton ælcum antimbre

buton = without ælc = any
an-timber = material (i.e. He
created from nothing)

He cwæp

'Geweorpe leoht'

and þærrihte wæs leoht geworden

weorpe = subjunctive fr. weorþan
leoht = light
þær-rihte = immediately geworden
= past participle from weorþan
eft = again

He cwæp eft

'Geweorpe heofen'

and þærrihte wæs heofen geworht

swa swa he mid his wisdome

and mid his willan

hit gedihte

dihtan = (to) command

He cwæp eft

and het þa eorþan

þæt heo sceolde forþlædan

cuce nytenu

sculan = (to) have to forþ-
lædan = (to) bring forth
cucu / cwic = living

and he þa gesceop

of þære eorþan

eall nytencynn

and deorcynn

nieten-cynn = species of animals

deor-cynn = species of wild ani-
mals

ealswa eft of wætere

eallswa = in the same way

he gesceop fixas

fisc = fish

and fugelas

and sealde þam fixum sund

sellan = (to) give sund = the
power of swimming

and þam fugelum fliht

flyht = the power of flight

- (1) cuce nytenu is like ealle nytenu (neuter accusative plural).

Ealle ping he geworhte

ealle ping is like ealle his weorc (neuter accusative plural). Even though the object is placed at the beginning of this sentence, it can be recognised as an object since (a) it is clearly a plural and (b) the verb, geworhte, is a singular and has a singular subject, he.

- (2) Geweorpe leoht 'Let there be light'
Geweorpe heofen 'Let there be a heaven'

In both these sentences the verb is a present subjunctive. Subjunctives can easily be recognised since they always end in -e in the singular and -en in the plural:

present subjunctive:	<u>weorpe</u>	<u>weorpen</u>
past subjunctive:	<u>wurde</u>	<u>wurden</u>

Notice that the stem used in the past subjunctive of strong verbs is that of the plural of the past tense.

EXERCISES

I. The verbs in the following sentences are all strong ones. Give the infinitive form of each one.

1. He geendode his weorc and geswac
2. Onthere bad westanwindes
3. Ðæt teoƿe werod abreap
4. Gregorius ceas bydelas
5. Se ƿegn bead ƿam cyninge ƿone disc
6. He begann to modigenne
7. He ne dranc naðor ne win ne beor ne ealu
8. Hit gelamp on sumne sæl ƿæt hi sæton ætgædere
9. Lucifer wearð wyrsa ƿonne ænig oƿer gesceaft
10. God hine wearp into helle
11. Oswold tocearf ƿone disc
12. Oswold feaht mid lytlum werode
13. Oswold healp ƿearfum
14. He swealt on ƿam gefeohte
15. Se beorg mealt
16. Se halga papa Gregorius com of eaw-fæstre mægðe
17. Se ƿegn bær ƿam cyninge cynelice ƿenunga
18. Se dumba spræc
19. God cwæð 'Geweorðe leoht'
20. Oswold for on his geogoðe to Scotlande
21. He feoll on gebedum mid his geferum
22. Se ƿegn heold ƿone disc
23. Se ƿegn cneow ƿone cyning
24. Maria stod and weop

25. God let ða englas befeallan on þæt ece fyr

26. He het þa eorðan þæt heo sceolde forðlædan cuce nytenu

II. All the verbs in the following sentences are plurals of past tenses. Give the correct singular form of each verb.

1. Hie geendodon hira weorc and geswicon

2. Hie bidon westanwindes

3. Hie drifon hie of þam temple

4. Hie biton ðæt ofet

5. Ða pegnas budon þam cyninge pone disc

6. Ða englas bugon to heora Scyppende

7. Hie scufon pone dracan ofer ðæt weall-clif

8. Ða cyningas curon bydelas

9. Ða tungol ofhruron

10. Hie begunnon to modigenne

11. Hie druncon win

12. Hie bundon pone cyning

13. Hie sungon sealmas

14. Ða englas hine wurpon into helle

15. Hie tocurfon pone disc

16. Hie fuhton mid lytlum werode

17. Hie hulpon pearfum

18. Hie swulton on þam gefeohte

19. Ða beorgas multon

20. Ða pegnas bæron þam cyninge cynelice penunga

21. Ða dumban spræcon

22. Ða pegas wracon pone cyning
23. Hie cwædon him ða word
24. Hie foron to Scotlande
25. Hie stodon be ðære sæ
26. Hie slogon pone cyning
27. Hie feollon on gebedum
28. Hie stodon and weopon
29. Hie leton ða englas befeallan

III. In the following sentences the verbs are all compound tenses involving a past participle. Replace each of these verbs with the appropriate part of the simple past tense.

1. Hie hæfdon gedrifen hie of þam temple
2. He hæfde gebiten ðæt ofet
3. He hæfde geboden þam cyninge pone disc
4. He hæfde gecoren bydelas
5. Hie hæfdon gebogen to heora Scyppende
6. He hæfde gedruncon win
7. Hie hæfdon gesungen sealmas
8. He hæfde tocorfen pone disc
9. Hie hæfdon geholpen pearfum
10. Se pegn hæfde geboren þam cyninge cynelice penunga
11. Se pegn hæfde gebrocen pone disc
12. Ða dumban hæfdon gesprecen
13. Hie wæron gefarene to Scotlande
14. He was gestanden be ðære sæ
15. He was gefeallen on gebedum

Old English Lesson 7

This lesson is about the creation and fall of man. It is adapted from the same homily as lesson 6.

God ƿa geworhte ænne mannan

manna = man

of lame

lam = clay, earth

and him on ableow gast

a-blawan =(to) breathe

And God him sette naman Adam

nama = name

God ƿa hine gebrohte

on neorxnawange

neorxna-wang = paradise

and hine ƿær gelogode

logian =(to)place

and him to cwæp

'Ealra ƿæra pinga

ƿe on neorxnawange sindon

ƿu most brucan

ƿu = you(singular) most =
are allowed brucan =(to)enjoy
ƿe = dative or accusative of ƿu
be-tæcan =(to)entrust
treow = tree

Hi ealle beop ƿe betæhte

buton anum treowe

ƿe stent on middan neorxnawange

on middan = in the middle
stent = present of standan
hrepa = imperative of hrepian
=(to) touch
wæstm = fruit

Ne hrepa ƿu

ƿæs treowes wæstm

for-pan-ƿe ƿu bist deadlic

bist =(you)are deadlic =
subject to death

gif ƿu

ƿæs treowes wæstm

geetst'

ge-etst = (you)eat, from etan

- (1) Hi ealle beop pe betæhte

When the object of a verb is a pronoun it frequently comes before the verb instead of after it. In the same way, phrases such as 'into him' are placed before the verb:

and him on ableow gast

Other examples from this text are:

ic <u>pe</u> hate	God <u>him</u> sette naman
ic <u>pe</u> forbeode	God <u>hine</u> gebrohte on neorxnawange
ic <u>pe</u> secge	
he <u>hi</u> genamode	

When the indirect object is expressed by to + a pronoun (instead of by the simple dative case), it can either appear before the verb or after it:

and <u>him to</u> cwæp	God cwæp <u>to him</u>
and <u>hire to</u> cwæp	God gelædde <u>to him</u>

- (2) Pronouns

The first and second person pronouns have only three forms:

subjects	(nominative)	ic	pu
possessives	(genitive)	min	þin
all other functions		me	þe

Do not confuse pe 'you' (with a long vowel) and pe 'which' (with a short vowel).

- (3) Present tenses

There are special forms of verbs for the first and second person singular. The second person singular of the present usually ends in -st:

pu most brucan
pu bist deadlic
gif pu geetst
pu gearnast heofenan rices myrhpæ
gif pu pis lytle bebod tobrecst

Swylce God cwæp to him

'Nast pu na

pæt ic eom pin hlaford

and pæt pu eart min peowa

pu scealt don

pæt ic pe hate

pu scealt forgan

pæt ic pe forbeode

Ic pe secge

forga pu

anes treowes wæstm

and pu geearnast

heofenan rices myrhpe

and pone stede

pe se deofol of afeoll

purh ungehyrsumnesse

Gif pu pis lytle bebod tobrecst

pu scealt deape sweltan'

swelce = also

nast = ne wast 'do you not know'

na = never, not(emphatic)

ic eom =(I)am pin = your

hlaford = lord

pu eart = (you)are min = my

peowa = slave

for-gan =(to)abstain from

for-beodan =(to)forbid

secgan =(to)say (past tense
sæde)

forga = imperative of for-gan

earnian =(to) earn

stede = place

a-feallan =(to)fall

un-ge-hiersumnes = disobedience

be-bod = command to-breca =
(to) break

sweltan =(to)die

- (1) Some very common verbs have very irregular forms. The verb 'to be' is one example:

<u>ic eom</u> ƿin hlaford	<u>ic beo</u>	<u>ic wæs</u>
<u>ƿu eart</u> min ƿeowa	<u>ƿu bist</u> deadlic	<u>ƿu wære</u>
<u>he is</u>	<u>he bið</u>	<u>he wæs</u>
<u>we sind(on)</u>	<u>we beoð</u>	<u>we wæron</u>
<u>ge sind(on)</u>	<u>ge beoð</u>	<u>ge wæron</u>
<u>hie sind(on)</u>	<u>hie ealle beoƿ ƿe</u> betæhte	<u>hie wæron</u>

The present tense is used to express future time as well as present time. There is a tendency in Old English to use eom / eart etc. for present time and beo / bist etc. for future time.

- (2) Other verbs which are irregular are the auxiliaries like sceal:

<u>ƿu scealt</u> forgan	<u>ƿu most</u> brucan	<u>ƿu meaht</u> geseon
<u>ƿu scealt</u> don		
<u>ƿu scealt</u> sweltan		

The full declension of these verbs is as follows:

ic sceal	ic mot	ic mæg
ƿu scealt	ƿu most	ƿu meaht
he sceal	he mot	he mæg
we) sculon	we) moton	we) magon
ge)	ge)	ge)
hie)	hie)	hie)

The past tense is:

<u>singular</u>		
ic sceolde	moste etc.	meahte/mihte etc.
ƿu sceoldest		
he sceolde		
<u>plural</u>		
sceoldon	moston	meahton/mihton

- (3) Present tenses

The first person singular of the present tense usually ends in -e:

ic ƿe hate
 ic ƿe forbeode
 ic ƿe secge
 ic wille gan (ƿu wilt, he wile, we willað)

But remember that verbs like sceal, mot, mæg are irregular.

Adam wæs swa wis

wis = wise

ƿæt God gelædde to him

lædan =(to)lead

nytenu

and deorcynn

and fugelcynn

and Adam him eallum naman gesceop

and swa swa he hi genamode

namian =(to)name

swa hi sindon gyt gehatene

Ƣa cwæƿ God

'Nis na gedafenlic

nis = ne is gedafenlic =
proper, right

ƿæt ƿes man ana beo

ana = alone beo = subjunct-
ive of verb 'to be'

and næbbe nænne fultum

næbbe = ne hæbbe, from habban
=(to) have fultum = help

ac uton gewyrcean him gemacan

uton = let us gemacca =
mate

him to fultume

to fultume = as a help

and to frofre'

frofor = help, comfort

And God ƿa geswefode ƿone Adam

swebban =(to)put to sleep

and genam an rib of his sidan

side = side

and geworhte of ƿam ribbe

ænne wifman

wif-mann = woman

and axode Adam

hu heo hatan sceolde

- (1) Ðæt treow stent on middan neorxnawange

So far, the examples of the third person singular of the present tense have been of the kind which ends in -ð.

Godes rice genealæcð
 Her gæð Godes Lamb
 He me wel licað
 Se micla dæg dryhtnes bihlæmeð

In some verbs you will find a -t- instead. This is the result of a tendency to assimilate dissimilar sounds when they occur next to each other. If the third person form ends in -nt the infinitive will contain a -d instead of the -t:

He stent	standan
He bint	bindan
He fint	findan
He blent	blandan

If the third person singular ends in -tt the infinitive may contain either -d or -t or -dd or -tt:

He bitt can come from either bidan or bitan (all with long i)
He bitt (short i) comes from bidan
He sitt comes from sittan

If the third person singular ends in -hð, there will be a -g in the plural of the past tense; the infinitive may have a -g, or it may be a contracted verb with no medial consonant:

tyhð	teon	(past tense tugon)
fehð	feon	(" " fengon)
byrhð	beorgan	(" " burgon)

There is one verb where the past tense has -w instead:

seon 'to see' syhð seah sawon sewen

- (2) nis na gedafenlic pæt pes man ana beo and næbbe nænne fultum

The negative ne is often amalgamated with the verbs 'to be', 'to have' and 'to know', and also with the pronoun ic (nic = 'not I')

c.f. <u>Nast</u> pu na pæt ic eom pin hlaford	(= <u>ne wast</u>)
Hi næfre ne mihton ne <u>noldon</u> gebugan	(= <u>ne woldon</u>)
<u>Nis</u> hit na swa pu segst	(= <u>ne is</u>)
Ac hit <u>næs</u> na swa	(= <u>ne wæs</u>)

pa cwæp Adam

'Heo is ban of minum banum

ban = bone

and flæsc of minum flæsce

flæsc = flesh

beo hire nama Virago

pæt is fæmne

fæmne = woman

for-pan-pe heo is

of hire were

wer = man

genumen'

niman =(to) take

Da sette Adam hire operne naman

'Eva'

pæt is 'lif'

for-pam-pe heo is

ealra lybbendra modor

libban =(to)live libbend =
present participle
on-gietan =(to) perceive

Se deofol ongeat

pæt Adam and Eve

sceoldon geearnian

pa wununge on heofenan rice

pe he of feoll

feallan =(to)fall

for his upahfednysse

up-ahfednes = pride

He com on næddran hiwe

næddre = snake hiw = shape

to pam twam mannum

ærest to pam wife

and hire to cwæp

'Hwi forbead God eow

hwy = why eow = dative or accus-
ative of ge 'you'(plural)

pæs treowes wæstm

pe stent on middan neorxnawange?'

In some of the verbs on p.84, the vowel in the third person singular is not the same as the vowel in the infinitive:

stent	standan
blent	blandan
byrnhð	beorgan

The vowels in the second and third person singular of the present tense of strong verbs are normally mutated forms, that is, they are pronounced further forward and higher in the mouth.

If the present tense vowel is short i the infinitive will have either e or i. i occurs before n or m; e occurs before other consonants:

he <u>b</u> int	<u>b</u> indan
<u>dr</u> incð	<u>dr</u> incan
<u>n</u> imð	<u>n</u> iman
<u>h</u> ilpð	<u>h</u> elpan
<u>b</u> irð	<u>b</u> eran
<u>spr</u> icð	<u>spr</u> ecan

There are some exceptions to this, especially with verbs which begin with g- like gifan (present gifð), or which have a double consonant in the infinitive, like biddan (bitt), hebban (hefð)

Verbs with long i in the infinitive keep the same vowel in the present tense:

<u>dr</u> ifð	<u>dr</u> ifan
---------------	----------------

æ in the present corresponds to either a or æ in the infinitive:

he <u>f</u> ærð	<u>f</u> aran
<u>cn</u> æwð	<u>cn</u> awan
<u>l</u> æt	<u>l</u> etan
<u>sl</u> æpð	<u>sl</u> apan

y in the present corresponds to either eo or u or y in the infinitive:

he <u>c</u> yst	<u>c</u> eosan
<u>b</u> rycð	<u>b</u> ruca
<u>by</u> rnð	<u>by</u> rn

Ða cwæp þæt wif

'God us forbead

þæs treowes wæstm

and cwæp

þæt we sceoldon deape sweltan

gif we his onbyrigdon'

Ða cwæp se deofol

'Nis hit na swa þu segst

ac God wat genoh geare

gif ge of þam treowe geetap

þonne beop eowere eagan
geopenode

and ge magon geseon

and tocnawan

ægper ge god ge yfel'

Ðæt wif wearp forspanen

purh þæs deofles lare

and genam of þæs treowes wæstm

and geæt

and sealde hire were

and he geæt

us = dative or accusative of we

his = genitive of hit (see p.18)
on-byrigan =(to)taste

wat =(he)knows from witan
gearwe = well genog = enough

eower = your eage = eye

magon =(you) are able

to-cnawan = to understand,
distinguish

ægper ge ...ge = both...and

for-spanan =(to)persuade

lar = teaching

etan =(to)eat

Nis hit na swa þu segst

segst comes from secgan. Most verbs where the stem ends in -g or -cg- show certain irregularities.

(1) Verbs with double consonant in the stem

Most of these verbs are weak verbs. The double consonant is only found in the first person singular of the present and the plural of the present tense, and in the present subjunctive and the plural of the imperative. In all other parts of the verb there is a single consonant:

ic secge		
we secgað	but	þu segst, he sæde/sægde
ic hycge 'think'		
hie hycgað	but	þu hogast, he hogode

There are a few strong verbs (the most important are licgan 'to lie' and fricgan 'to ask') which follow the same pattern

Verbs with -bb in the stem follow the same pattern alternating with -f:

ic hæbbe		
we habbað	but	þu hæfst, he hæfde

Verbs with -mm in the stem behave similarly:

ic fremme		
we fremmað	but	þu fremest, he fremede

(2) Strong verbs which have -g- in the plural of the past tense

These verbs may have -h instead of -g in the singular of the past tense:

teah	tugon
gefeah	gefægon
læg	lægon
feng	fengon

They will probably have no medial consonant in the infinitive, but one or two verbs have -cg:

teon	teah	tugon
gefeon	gefeah	gefægon

but

licgan	læg
--------	-----

(3) N.B. there is a weak verb lecgan 'to lay', (past tense, legde) as well as the strong verb licgan 'to lie' (past tense, læg).

EXERCISES

I. Substitute the first person pronoun and verb form for the words underlined in the following sentences:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <u>Du eart</u> his hlaford | 9. <u>Du wilt</u> tobrecan pis bebod |
| 2. <u>Du bist</u> ana | 10. <u>Du woldest</u> beon his hlaford |
| 3. <u>Du scealt</u> sweltan | 11. <u>Du mostest</u> wyrcan |
| 4. <u>Du most</u> etan pone wæstm | 12. <u>Du most</u> beon halig |
| 5. <u>Du meaht</u> gebugan fram his willan | 13. <u>Du bist</u> se cyning |
| 6. <u>Du sceoldest</u> herian God | 14. <u>Du eart</u> Adam gehaten |
| 7. <u>Du meahtest</u> forgan pone wæstm | 15. <u>Du meaht</u> drincan |
| 8. <u>Du ware</u> be pære sæ | 16. <u>Du meahtest</u> helpan |

II. Substitute singular forms for the plural ones underlined in the following sentences:

1. Ge wæron mid pæm cyninge
2. Ge sindon cyningas
3. Ge beoð on heofonan rice
4. We wæron cyningas
5. We sindon huntan
6. We beoð bisceopas
7. Hie wæron pegnas
8. Hie sindon men
9. Hie beoð on pæm lande
10. Ge sculon sweltan
11. Ge moton etan
12. Ge magon faran
13. We sculon sweltan
14. We moton etan
15. We magon faran

16. Hie sculon sweltan
17. Hie moton etan
18. Hie magon faran
19. Hie sceoldon faran
20. Hie moston faran
21. Hie meahton faran

III. Give the correct infinitive for the following verbs:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. He drifð | 16. He draf | 32. Hie foron |
| 2. He rist | 17. He bad | 33. Hie stodon |
| 3. He bint | 18. He bat | 34. Hie feollon |
| 4. He drincð | 19. He bead | 35. Hie heoldon |
| 5. He stent | 20. He ceas | 36. Hie leton |
| 6. He blent | 21. He dranc | 37. Hie fengon |
| 7. He hilpð | 22. He band | 38. Hie drifon |
| 8. He spricð | 23. He healp | 39. Hie curon |
| 9. He færd | 24. He wearð | 40. Hie bundon |
| 10. He slæpð | 25. He bær | 41. Hie hulpon |
| 11. He brycð | 26. He bræc | 42. Hie tigon |
| 12. He cyst | 27. He com | 43. Hie tugon |
| 13. He lyst | 28. He spræc | 44. Hie gefægon |
| 14. He tyhð | 29. He gefeah | 45. Hie sawon |
| 15. He fehð | 30. He seah | 46. Hie lægon |
| | 31. He teah | |

Old English Lesson 8

This lesson is about an incident at Dover in the year 1048. It is adapted from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

Da com Eustatius

fram begeondan sƿ

sona ƿfter ðam biscope

and gewende

to ðam cyngre

and spræc wið hine

ƿæt ƿæt he ƿa wolde

and gewende ƿa hamweard

Da he com to Cantwarabyrig east

ƿa snædde he ƿær

and his men

and to Dofran gewende

Da he wæs sume mila

beheonan Dofran

ƿa dyde he on

his byrnan

and his geferan ealle (dydon on heora
byrnan)

and foron to Dofran

Da hi ƿider comon

ƿa woldon hi innian hi

ƿær him sylfum gelicode

begeondan = beyond

sona = immediately

wendan = (to) go

i.e. cyninge

sprecan = (to) speak

ƿæt ƿæt = that which

hamweard = home

N.B. Cantwarabyrig is in the genitive case ƿa...ƿa = when ...then snædan = (to) have a meal

Dofre = Dover

sume mila = a few miles (lit. some of miles)

beheonan = this side of

don...on = (to) put on

byrne = coat of mail

faran = (to) journey

ƿider = to that place

innian hi = (to) lodge themselves

lician = (to) please (someone)

- (1) Up till now, most of the sentences we have had have been of the type

Ohthere was hwælhunta

He bude on Halgoland

Se cyning sende þam pearfum pone disc

that is: subject + verb + object(s) or complement

When a sentence begins with an adverb, particularly ne 'not' ða 'then' þar 'there', the verb comes immediately after the adverb:

Ða bude he on Halgoland

Ða sende se cyning pone disc þam pearfum

Se cyning ne mihte sendan pone disc

Ne mihte se cyning pone disc sendan

The word ða at the beginning of a sentence is a signal that the next word will be the verb and the next after that, the subject.

- (2) The word ða 'then' at the beginning of a sentence warns us that the next word will be the verb; we expect the verb to come next.

In the sentence

Ða hi pider comon, ða woldon hi innian hi

this expectation is not fulfilled; ða is followed by the subject, not the verb. Because of this we know that here ða means 'when' and that it will be followed later in the sentence by another ða meaning 'then'.

- (3) ða...ða = when...then

It is easy to tell which part of the sentence is which, because the 'when' part has the ordinary word order, subject + verb, and the 'then' part has the word order associated with simple sentences beginning 'then', i.e. verb + subject.

Ða he com to Cantwarabyrig east, ða snædde he þar
When he came then.....

Ða he was sume mila beheonan Dofran, ða dyde he on his byrnan
When he was.....then.....

Ða hi pider comon, ða woldon hi innian hi
When they came.....then.....

- (4) If ða 'then' does not come at the beginning of a sentence, it often comes immediately before the verb:

Oswold ða arærde ane rode

Se bisceop ða ferde geond eall Norðhymbra land

Herodes ða clypode ða tungelwitegan

The negative ne always comes in this position.

He ne mihte forlstan pone gewunan

Hie ne hwyrfdon eft to Herode

Adverbs frequently come in this position:

Hi pider comon

Mona niper gehreoseð

Da com an his manna

an = one, a certain one

and wolde wician

æt anes bondan huse

bonda = householder hus = house

his unpances

= against his will

and gewundode pone husbondan

wundian = (to) wound husbonda
= the master of the house

and se husbonda of sloh pone operne

of-slean =(to)kill

Da wearð Eustatius uppon his horse

weorðan = (to) become hors = horse
horse 'then Eustace mounted his horse'

and his geferan uppon heora

and ferdon to sam husbondan

and of slogon hine

from ofslean

binnaŋ his aġenūm heorðe

binna = within heorð =
hearth, home

and wendon him pa up

to ƿære burge weard

to...weard = towards

and ofslogon

ægper ge wiðinnan ge wiðutan

ma ponne twentig manna

twentig = twenty

And þa burh-menn ofslogon nigon-
tiene menn

nigontiene = nineteen

on oðre healfe

healf = side

and gewundedon

pæt hi nyston hu fela

nyston = ne wiston (they) did
not know hu fela = how many

- (1) Da com an his manna

The sentence begins with ða, so we expect the verb to come next. The verb comes in second place, confirming our expectation, so we know that ða = 'then'. Because the verb comes immediately after ða we know that the subject will come after the verb: an his manna (which is a linguistic unit) is therefore the subject.

Da wearð Eustatius uppon his horse

This sentence is similar in construction to the one above.

- (2) and wendon him pa up to pære burge weard

We know that this sentence divides into two main parts; the second part begins with to.

pa is an isolated word in the first unit:

and wendon up

would be a perfectly good piece of Old English.

ða 'then', is part of the expansion of this basic unit.

- (3) and pa burhmenn ofslogon nigontiene menn

Here ða is followed by a noun, and is the nominative plural of the demonstrative. We know this because:

(a) if ða meant 'then' the sentence would run

and ða ofslogon ða burhmenn nigontiene menn

(b) if ða meant 'when' the sentence would run

and ða ða burhmenn ofslogon nigontiene menn, ða...

- (4) to ... weard Compound prepositions often enclose the noun + qualifiers.

- (5) Numbers up to and including 19 behave like adjectives:

nigontiene men

'nineteen men'

feowertiene niht

'fourteen nights'

Numbers from 20 upwards may behave like adjectives, but they are frequently treated like nouns, and are then followed by the genitive case:

twentig manna

'twenty of men'

sum hund scipa

'about a hundred of ships'

- (6) Notice another use of the genitive case:

He wolde wician ... his unpances

This fulfils the function of an adverbial phrase such as 'against his will'.

And Eustatius atberst

æt-berstan =(to) escape

mid feawum mannum

and gewende ongean

ongean = back, in the opposite direction

to pam cyng

and cydde be dæle

cyðan =(to)announce be dæle
= in part 'gave an incomplete account'

hu hi gefaren hæfdon

And wearð se cyng swyðe gram

gram = angry

wið þa burhware

wið = towards, against

And ofsende se cyng Godwine eorl

ofsendan =(to)summon eorl = nobleman, earl

and bæd hine faran into Cent

biddan =(to)ask,demand(in late texts often acquires the meaning of beodan 'to command')

mid unfriðe to Dofran

unfrið = hostility, 'un-peace'

forpan Eustatius hæfde gecyðd pam
cynge

for-pon = because

þæt þære burhware gylt

burgwaru = the citizens(collective noun)

sceolde beon mara þonne his

sceolde beon = 'had to be'

Ac hit næs na swa

mara = greater

And se eorl nolde na gepwærian þære
innfare

næs = ne was

for þan he nolde amyrran

nolde = ne wolde gepwærian = (to)allow in-faru = entrance
amierran =(to) injure

his agenne folgað

folgað = retainers

(1) Sometimes the word-order

verb + subject + object or complement

is used even when the sentence does not begin with an adverb:

and wearð se cyng swiðe gram
and ofsende se cyng Godwine eorl

Here the demonstrative se marks clearly which part of the sentence is the subject.

(2) Some Old English sentences are very long. When reading them you need to recognise the words which mark the divisions of the sentences. Major divisions are marked by words like and, ac, pæt, forþan, hu, pe. Some of these words introduce a syntactic structure of the kind used in simple sentences:

(and) Eustatius ætberst mid feawum mannum
(and) gewende to þam cyng
(and) cydde be dæle
(forþan) Eustatius hæfde gecydd þam cyng
(pæt) þære burhware gylt sceolde beon mara þonne his
(forþan) he nolde amyrran his agenne folgað

The above examples show the ordinary, expected word order, and the linking word is simply a prefix. It does not change the word order.

But some linking words like pe, are followed by a different word order. They will be treated in lessons 11 - 13.

- (1) Ða sende se cyng
 Ða com Godwine eorl

These two sentences are straightforward-ones, beginning with Ða. We expect that the verb will come immediately after Ða, and then the subject immediately after the verb, and this is what happens.

(2) Expanded noun groups

neh þære æfterran Sancte Marie mæssan

A simpler form of this construction would be:

neh þære mæssan

or:

neh Sancte Marie mæssan = 'near St.Mary's mass'

The construction

neh þære mæssan

could be expanded by the addition of an adjective:

neh þære æfterran mæssan = 'near the second mass'

We know that in an expanded group the group is usually bounded by the demonstrative at the beginning and the head-word (i.e. mæssan) at the end.

neh warns us to expect a construction of the type neh þære mæssan.

þære warns us to expect a noun or noun group.

æfterran we recognise as a comparative adjective (-ra is the comparative ending) so we know that this is not the end of the group.

Sancte Marie we recognise as a genitive (if we know some Latin!) so we know that this is not the end of the group.

(3) Genitive complements

Genitive complements form part of expanded noun groups. They usually come before the noun which is the head-word:

his ræd

þæs cynges ræd

þæs cynges ræd and his fultum

When there are two genitives the second usually comes after the complete group. If we wish to combine the two following units:

þæs cynges ræd

ealra witenas ræd

we do it as follows:

þæs cynges ræd and ealra witenas

or, to expand this still further:

þæs cynges ræd and his fultum and ealra witenas

Another example is: þæs cynges bismer and ealles peodscipes

Ða wæron ða Weliscan men ætforan
mid pam cynge

Welisc = foreign ætforan =
before hand

and forwregdon ða eorlas
pæt hi ne moston cuman

for-wregan =(to) accuse

on his eage na gesihðe
for ðan hi sædon

eage = eye gesihð = the power
of looking 'into his presence'

pæt hi woldon cuman pider
for pæs cynges swicdome
Was pær cumen Siward eorl
and Leofric eorl

swicdom = treachery,deceit 'to
betray the king'

and micel folc mid him-
norpan
to ðam cynge

and man sæde pam eorle Godwine
and his sunum

sunu = son

pæt se cyng

and pa men

pe mid him wæron

woldon rædan on hi

rædan =(to)advise,(to)plot
on = against

and hi trymedon hi fæstlice ongear

trymman =(to)make strong 'they
made a strong show of force'

Ða geræddon pa witan

on ægðre healfe

pæt man ælces yfeles geswac

ælc = each,every geswican =
(to)cease from

And geaf se cyng Godes grið

giefan =(to)give grið =
peace, protection

and his fullne freondscipe

on ægðre healfe

- (1) Ða wæron ða Weliscan men ætforan
 Ða geræddon þa witan þæt man ælces yfeles geswac

These two sentences illustrate two of the uses of pa; ða = 'then' followed by the verb, and ða + noun, i.e. the demonstrative.

Notice that the past participle is often separated from the auxiliary:

was þær cumen Siward eorl

- (2) ðær when placed at the beginning of a sentence, is like ða: it is followed immediately by the verb, and the subject is placed after the verb. If the verb in this sentence was in the simple past tense the sentence would be:

þær com Siward eorl cf. Ða com Eustatius

But when the verb is in a compound tense, the adverb is often placed between the two parts of the verb:

was þær cumen Siward eorl

- (3) on hi
Words like on (prepositions) indicate the beginning of a construction on the pattern

on + noun (or noun group, or pronoun)

Usually these linguistic units have the following shape:

on þæm lande
on feawum stowum
be þære sæ
to his feonda slege
mid miclum wisdom

That is, the head-word is in the dative case.

on hi does not fit into this pattern: hi must be either nominative or accusative. on is one of a small group of prepositions which are followed by the accusative case when they involve motion, and by the dative case when they do not. Here, on = 'against' and rædan on = 'to advise against, to plot against'. It can be seen that the distinction motion/lack of motion is inadequate to describe the difference of meaning, because 'motion' includes things like attitudes of mind. cf.

þæt hie gelyfdon on ðone godcundan cyning = 'that they might believe in the divine king'

BUT N.B. also dyde he on his byrnan, where on is a part of the verb 'to put on'.

- (4) þæt man ælces yfeles geswac

Remember that some verbs take an object in the genitive case. cf.

He fægnode his cymes
He wilnode nanes pinges

EXERCISES

I. Read each of the following sentences aloud, pausing at the main divisions of the sentence. You should have one complete verb in each section.

1. Ða com Eustatius fram begeondan sæ sona æfter ðam biscope and gewende to ðam cyng and spræc wið hine and gewende ða hamweard.
2. Ða com an his manna and wolde wician æt anes bondan huse his unpances and gewundode pone husbondan and se husbonda ofsloh pone operne.
3. And se eorl nolde na gepwærian pære innfare forþan he nolde amýrran his agenne folgað.
4. Ða geræddon pa witan pæt man ælces yfeles geswac.
5. Hi forwregdon ða eorlas pæt hi ne moston cuman on his eagna gesihðe.
6. Ða wæron ða Weliscan men atforan mid pam cyng and forwregdon ða eorlas pæt hi ne moston cuman on his eagna gesihðe forðan hi sædon pæt hi woldon cuman pider for pæs cynges swicdome.
7. Ða he com to Cantwarabyrig east ða snædde he pær and his men and to Dofran gewende.
8. Ða hi pider comon ða woldon hi innian hi pær him sylfum gelicode.

II. Pick out the subjects in the following sentences:

1. Ða com Eustatius fram begeondan sæ.
2. Ða dyde he on his byrnan.
3. Ða com an his manna.
4. And wearð se cyng swiðe gram wið ða burhware.
5. And ofsende se cyng Godwine eorl.
6. Ða com Godwine eorl and Swegen eorl and Harold eorl togædere.
7. Ða wæron ða Weliscan men atforan mid pam cyng.
8. Ða geræddon ða witan on ægðre healfe pæt man ælces yfeles geswac. (Two subjects, because two clauses).
9. Wæs pær cumen micel folc to ðam cyng.

III. In each of the following sentences the word ða occurs. Pick out, by saying 'yes' or 'no', the sentences in which ða is a demonstrative and defines a noun.

1. Ða burh menn ofslogon nigontiene men.
2. Ða com an his manna.
3. Wendon him pa up to pære burge weard.
4. Wearð se cyng swiðe gram wið ða burhware.
5. Ða wæron ða Weliscan men atforan.
6. And forwregdon ða eorlas.
7. Ða geræddon ða witan.
8. He forgeaf him ða wununge on Cantwarebyrig.
9. Augustinus bodade ða heofonlican lare.
10. And spræc wið hine pæt pæt he pa wolde.

IV. Combine the following pairs of sentences to make sentences of 'when ... then' type:

e.g. Oswald was cyning on Norðhymbra lande
He wolde gebigan his leoda to geleafan.

Ða Oswald was cyning on Norðhymbra lande, ða wolde he
gebigan his leoda to geleafan.

1. Se bisceop ferde geond eall Norðhymbra land
He bodade geleafan and fulluht
2. Hie wicodon on pære byrig Bethleem
Heo acende hire frumcennedan sunu
3. Crist was pritig wintra
He com to Johannes fulluhte
4. Se hælend acenned was on Judeiscre Bethleem
Ðrie tungolwitegan comon fram eastdæle to Hierusalem
5. Se cyning sende ðam pearfum ðone disc
Se æðela bisceop genam ðæs cyninges hand mid blysse

Old English Lesson 9

This lesson is about the poet Cædmon, and about the gift of poetry he received in a dream. It is adapted from the Old English translation of Bede's Ecclesiastical History.

On pysse abbudissan mynstre
was sum broðor
synderlice gemæred and ge-
weorpad
mid godcundre gyfe

He was geseted in weoroldhade

oð pa tide

pe he was gelyfedre yldo

He næfre geleornade ænig leoð

and he for pon

oft

in gebeorscipe

ponne he geseah pa hearpan him
nealæcan

ponne aras he for scome

from þam symble

and ham eode

to his huse

He forlet pæt hus pæs gebeorscipes

and ut eode

to neata scypene

abbodisse = abbess mynster =
monastery

sum = a certain broðor =
brother

synderlice = specially mæran =
(to)make known weorþian = (to)
honour

godcund = divine giefu = gift

settan = (to)put, (to)place
woruld-had = secular state of
life

oð = until(+ accusative here)

tid = time

gelyfed = infirm ieldo = age

leoð = song, poem

for-pon = therefore

gebeorscipe = party, feast

hearpe = harp

arisan = (to)arise scamu = shame

symbol = feast, merry making

ham = home

neat = cow scipen = shed,
stall

pæt hus) each noun has its own demonstrative, so
pæs gebeorscipes) the genitive comes after the head word
 instead of before it.

Da stod him sum mon æt
 purh swefn
and hine halette and grette
'Cædmon

 sing me hwæthwegu'
Da andswarode he
 and cwæð
'Ne con ic noht singan
and ic for þon
 of pyssum gebeorscipe
 ut eode
and hider gewat
for þon ic noht cuðe'
Eft he cwæð
'Hwæðere þu meaht me singan'
Cwæð he
'Hwæt sceal ic singan?'
Cwæð he
'Sing me frumsceaft'

standan =(to)stand æt = near,
by
purh = through, by means of
swefn = dream
halettan =(to)salute gretan =
(to) address,speak to

hwæthwegu = something

ic cann =(I) know how, from
cunnan noht/na-wiht = nothing
ic = I

ut = out

gewitan =(to)depart

cuðe =(I,he)knew how,past tense
of cunnan

hwæpere = however magan =
(to)be able

hwæt = what

frumsceaft = creation

(1) Prepositions

Usually prepositions indicate the beginning of a linguistic group:

of pyssum gebeorscipe

Compound prepositions (e.g. to weard) often enclose the noun + qualifiers:

to pære burge weard

Sometimes prepositions come after the item with which they are linguistically connected; this is particularly common when prepositions are used with pronouns.

Ða stod him sum mon æt

This sentence begins with an inversion. The word Ða indicates that the verb will come next (stod).

We would expect the subject to come next, but the word him cannot be the subject (why?), so we go on to the next item (sum mon).

æt is an isolated bit at the end of the linguistic unit, but we know that it belongs to this part of the sentence not the next because purh is also a preposition, and forms a linguistic unit with swefn.

(2) ne con ic noht singan

ne (like ða) indicates that the verb will come next.

Notice that double negatives can be used in Old English.

Ƣa he onfeng Ƴas andsware

onfon = (to) receive

Ƣa ongan he sona singan

onginnan =(to)begin

in herenesse Godes Scyppendes

herenes = praise Scieppend = Creator

'Nu we sculon herian

herian =(to)praise

heofonrices Weard

Weard = guardian

Metodes mihte

Metod = God miht = power

and his modgeƳonc

mod-geƳanc = intelligence

weorc Wuldorfæder

weorc = work Wuldorfæder = glorious Father (here genitive case)

Halig Scyppend ærest gesceop heofon

to hrofe

to = as hrof = roof

eorðan bearnum

bearn = child 'for the children of the earth'

Moncynnes Weard

mann-cynn = mankind

ece Dryhten

Dryhten = lord

Frea ælmihtig

Frea = lord eall-mihtig = almighty

æfter teode middangeard

teon =(to)adorn

(teode)firum foldan'

folde = earth firas = men

(1) ða ... ða

if ða is followed by the subject + verb it means 'when' and will be followed later by another ða + verb + subject, meaning 'then'.

Ða he onfeng þas andsware

Because ða is followed by normal word order (i.e. subject + verb) we know that this construction is incomplete.

ða ongan he sona singan

Because ða is followed by inverted word order (verb + subject) we know that:

(a) it means 'then'

(b) it introduces a construction which is complete.

ða ongan he sona singan could exist as a separate, independent piece of language.

ða he onfeng þas andsware needs something else to complete it.

(2) in herenesse Godes Scyppendes

This is a construction similar to

þæt hus þæs gebeorscipes

in that the genitive comes after the head-word instead of before it. In this case, Godes Scyppendes has probably been put after herenesse because it is rather long:

in Godes herenesse sounds all right

in Godes Scyppendes herenesse is clumsy.

Da aras he

from pæm slæpe

slæp = sleep

Da com he

on marne

morgen = morning

to pæm tungerefan

tun-gerefa = bailiff

and sæde him

hwylce gyfe he onfeng

hwelc = what sort of

He gelædde hine sona

to pære abbudyssan

and hire pæt cyððe

and sægde

Da het heo gesomnian

samnian =(to) assemble

ealle pa gelærdestan men

gelæred = learned gelærdest(a)
= most learned

and pa leorneras

leornere = pupil

and him andweardum het secgan pæt
swefn

andweard = present

and pæt leoð singan

Da was him eallum gesegen

seon =(to)see

swa swa hit was

swa swa = just as

pæt him wære

wære = was(subjunctive)

from Dryhtne sylfum

self = self

heofonlic gyfu

forgifen

- (1) and sæde him hwylce gyfe he onfeng

and sæde him could either be a complete unit ('and spoke to him'), or it could be completed by a direct object:

and sæde him 7æt spell 'and told him that story'

Objects need not always consist of a noun group.

he geseah pa hearpan

he geseah pa hearpan him nealæcan

Here we have an accusative + infinitive as object of geseah.

In the sentence

and sæde him hwylce gyfe he onfeng

we have a noun clause as object of sæde.

- (2) ealle pa gelærdestan men

Notice that ealle precedes the noun group; normally pa (or other parts of the demonstrative) closes the group, but ealle either precedes or follows the whole group. cf. p.46.

- (3) Notice that when the past participle does not come next to its auxiliary, it is placed right at the end of the linguistic unit:

Da was him eallum gesegen

7æt him wære from Dryhtne sylfum heofonlic gyfu forgifen

he was godcundlice gefultumod

was he in weoroldhade geseted

ponne 7ær was blisse intinga gedemed

Ða rehton hie him
and sægdon sum halig spel
and godcundre lare word

reccan =(to) tell

spell = story

bebudon him þa

be-beodan =(to) command

gif he mihte

gif = if

þæt he him sum sunge

'that he should sing them something'

and in swinsunge leoðsonges

swinsung = harmony leoðsang = poetry

þæt gehwyrfe

'should convert that' hweorfan =(to) convert

Ða eode he ham

to his huse

and com eft on morgen

and ageaf

a-giefan =(to) give back

þæt him beboden wæs

Ða ongan seo abbudysse clyppan

clyppan =(to) cherish

and lufian

lufian =(to) love

Godes gyfe

in þam men

Heo onfeng hine

in þæt mynster

mid his godum

god = good 'with his property'

and hine gepeodde

peodan/piedan =(to) join

to gesomnunge

gesamnung = assembly

para Godes peowa

peow = servant

- (1) Notice that the subject of the verb need not be expressed:

bebodon him pa
and hine gepeodde

- (2) Remember that in can mean 'in' or 'into' according to the case which follows it. What case is mynster in the following phrase?

in pat mynster

What does in mean here?

- (3) And hine gepeodde to gesomnunge para Godes peowa.

This is like

in herenesse Godes Scyppendes (p.108)
pat hus pas gebeorscipes

The demonstrative para indicates the beginning of a genitive construction. The unit introduced by para must be dependent on something else in the sentence.

- (4) in ðam men

We know from the demonstrative ðam that the word men is in the dative case. Usually datives end in -um in the plural and -e in the singular, but a few nouns have no ending in the dative singular. These nouns form the dative singular, and the nominative and accusative plural by a change of vowel instead of the addition of an ending. There is usually no difficulty in identifying their function in a sentence, because there is usually some structural signal, such as a demonstrative, which makes this clear.

In order to look these words up, you must know the nominative case. Dative forms with -e- will correspond to nominatives with -a- or -o-:

dative	<u>men</u>	nominative	<u>man</u>	
	<u>fet</u>		<u>fot</u>	'foot'
	<u>bec</u>		<u>boc</u>	'book'
	<u>teþ</u>		<u>top</u>	'tooth'

Dative forms in -y- will correspond to nominatives with -u-:

	<u>byrg</u>		<u>burg</u>	'city'
	<u>mys</u>		<u>mus</u>	'mouse'

Many of these nouns retain irregular plurals in Modern English (e.g. foot/feet, tooth/teeth, goose/geese, mouse/mice). Other nouns which frequently show vowel changes in Old English are nouns of relationship (brother, mother, daughter) and the two nouns freond 'friend' and feond 'enemy'.

EXERCISES

I. Pick out the whole phrase of which the word underlined forms the head-word.

1. Ða het heo gesomnian ealle þa gelærdestan men.
2. Ða was him eallum gesegen.
3. He forlet þæt hus þæs gebeorscipes.
4. He ongan singan in herenesse Godes Scyppendes.
5. Sægdon sum halig spel, and godcundre lare word.
6. Hine gepeodde to gesomnunge þara Godes peowa.
7. He com to Gleaweceastre neh þære æfterran Sancte Marie mæssan.
8. Hi woldon faran to þam witum eallum.
9. His geferan ealle foron to Dofran.
10. Hu is ðære leode cyning gehaten?
11. Alleluia is gesungen to lofe þæs Ælmihtigan Scyppendes.
12. Gregorius asende lareowas mid manegum oðrum munecum.
13. Seo was ealles his rices heafod burh.

II. The verb in each of the following sentences consists of part of 'to be' plus a past participle. Pick out the complete verb:

1. He was geseted in weoroldhade.
2. Ða witan mid him gegaderode wæron.
3. Was þær cumen Siward eorl.
4. Hie sind to Cristes mildheortnysse gecygede.
5. Him was from Dryhtne sylfum heofonlic gyfu forgifen.
6. He was godcundlice gefultumod.
7. Was he in weoroldhade geseted.
8. Ðær was blisse intinga gedemed.
9. He was mid wylme micelre ellenwodnesse onbærned.
10. He was licumlicre untrymnesse prycced and hefigad.

III. Listen to the following text. It is the same as the text of Lesson 9 but it is read as a connected piece of prose, instead of being divided up into small items. Listen to it several times until you are sure you recognise the structure of the sentences.

Old English Lesson 10

This lesson is adapted from the account of Alfred's wars against the Danes, given in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

Ond þa

sona æfter þam

on ðys gere

gear = year

for se here

here =(Danish) army

of Wirheale

= the Wirral

in on Norðwealas

= Wales

for þam hie þær sittan ne mehton

for þam = forþan, forþon

þæt wæs

for þy þe hie wæron benumene

for-þy-þe = because be-niman
=(to)deprive

ægðer ge þæs ceapes

ceap = cattle

ge þæs cornes

corn = corn

þe hie gehergod hæfdon

hergian =(to)plunder

Hie wendon eft

ut of Norðwealum

mid þære herehyðe

here-hyð = plunder

þe hie þær genumen hæfdon

Ða foron hie

ofer Norðhymbra lond

and Eastengla

op þæt hie comon

on Eastseaxna lond easteweard

on an igland

þæt is ute

on þære sæ

þæt is Meresig haten

Meresig = Mersea(Essex)

(1) Đa for se here of Wirheale

This would be the basic form of the first sentence. Because the sentence begins with Đa the verb comes before the subject. This rule would apply if the sentence began with ond Đa:

Ond Đa for se here of Wirheale

When we have expanded forms of sentences the expansion may take the form of single words or of units of more than one word. The expansion usually comes before the word it expands.

If we want to expand the verb part of a sentence we can do so by the addition of

(a) adverbs

(b) prepositional phrases

For instance:

Ond Đa sona for se here of Wirheale

Ond pa after pam for se here of Wirheale

Ond Đa on đys geare for se here of Wirheale

Or (as in the sentence in the text) we could expand the basic sentence by the addition of all these units.

(2) ægper ge ... ge

ægper ge indicates that a double, parallel construction, the second part introduced by ge, is beginning.

(3) ofer Norðhymbra lond and Eastengla

Notice the second genitive after the head-word.

Ond pa se here eft hamweard wende

pe Exanceaster beseten hæfde

pa hergodon hie up on Suðseaxum

neah Cisseceastre

ond pa burgware hie gefliemdon

Ond py ylcan gere

worhte se foresprecena here
geweorc

be Lygan

twentig mila bufan Lundenbyrig

Da foron micel dæl para burgwara

ond eac swa opres folces

pæt hie gedydon æt

para Deniscana geweorc

ond pær wurdon gefliemde

ond sume feower cyninges pegas

(wæron) ofslægene

Da sume dæge rad se cyng

up be pære ea

ond gehawade

hwar mon mehte pa ea forwyrcean

pæt hie ne mihton pa scipu ut
brengan

Da worhton hie tu geweorc

on twa healfes pære eas

be-sittan =(to) besiege

Suðseaxe = the south Saxons

= Chichester

burg-ware = citizens flieman
=(to)put to flight

ilca = same 'in the same year'

wyrcean =(to)build geweorc =
a fortification fore-sprecen
= above mentioned

Lyge = the Lea

Lunden-burg = London bufan =
above

micel dæl = a great part

eac = also swa = similarly

ge-don æt = (to)reach

Denisc = Danish

flieman =(to)put to flight

of-slean =(to)kill

ridan =(to)ride

hawian =(to)survey

for-wyrcean =(to)obstruct, dam
up

tu = two (neuter of twegen)

twa = feminine of twegen

- (1) The first sentence on this page is an expanded form of a 'when, then' sentence:

Đa se here eft hamweard wende
Đa hergodon hie up on Suðseaxum

The first part of this basic sentence is an expanded form of the sentence:

se here wende

Just as nouns are added to by placing qualifiers before them, so words qualifying and extending the verb are usually placed before it.

Pronoun objects are sometimes placed before the verb, too, though normally one expects the object to come after the verb:

ond pa burgware hie gefliemdon

(Grammatically, either Đa burgware or hie could be the subject, and the other, the object, but we can tell from the context which really is the subject.)

- (2) Đa (sume dæge) rad se cyng up be pære ea

We expect that Đa will be followed by (a) the verb if it means 'then'

(b) the subject if it means 'when'

In this sentence, the words sume dæge, which follow Đa are an expansion of the verb. They are placed before the verb, just as hamweard is placed before wende in the sentence:

Đa se here (eft hamweard) wende ...

- (3) Đy ylcan gere

Đy is what is called the instrumental case of se/Đæt. It is used to form adverbial phrases, as it is here, or to form compound conjunctions:

pæt was for-Đy-pe hie wæron benumene ægper ge pæs ceapes
ge pæs cornes pe hie gehergod hæfdon

An alternative form of the instrumental is pon:

wel hie sind Dere gehatene for-pan-pe hie sind fram
graman generode

... for-pan he nolde amyrran his agenne folgað

The dative Đæm is often used instead of Đon:

... for-pam-pe heo is ealra lybbendra modor

Da onget se here	<u>on-gietan</u> =(to) perceive
pæt hie ne meiton pa scipu ut brengan	
Da forleton hie hie	<u>for-letan</u> =(to) abandon
ond eodon ofer land	
ƿæt hie gedydon æt Cwatbrycge	<u>Cwatbrycg</u> = Bridgnorth
be Sæfern	<u>Sæfern</u> = Severn
ond ƿær geweorc worhton	
Da rad seo fird west	<u>fierd</u> =(English)army
after ƿæm herige	
ond ƿa men of Lundenbyrig gefetodon	<u>fetian</u> =(to)fetch
pa scipu	
Da sæton ða Deniscan pone winter	
at Cwatbrycge	
Da on ðysum gere tofor se here	<u>to-faran</u> = (to)disperse
By ilcan geare drehton ƿa hergas	<u>dreccan</u> =(to)trouble
Westseaxna lond	
be ƿæm suðstæde	<u>suð-stæp</u> = south coast
mid stælhergum	<u>stæl-here</u> = raiding army
ealra swipust	'most of all'
mid ðæm æscum	<u>æsc</u> = warship
ƿe hie fela geara ær timbredon	'which they had built many years
	before'
Da het Elfred cyng timbran lang scipu	
ongen ða æscas	
Da wæron fulneah tu swa lange	<u>fullneah</u> = nearly
swa ƿa oðru	
sume hæfdon sixtig ara	<u>ar</u> = oar
sume ma	<u>ma</u> = more

- (1) When a sentence begins with ðā, meaning 'then', the verb follows and then the subject after the verb:

Ða onget se here
Ða forleton hie hie
Ða rad seo fyrd west
Ða sæton ða Deniscan pone winter
Ða het Ælfred cyning timbran lang scipu

- (2) Sometimes an adverbial phrase is added to the ðā, and comes between it and the verb:

Ða on ðysum gere tofor se here
Ða sume dæge rad se cyng

- (3) Sometimes an adverbial phrase (without ðā) begins the sentence and is followed immediately by the verb:

Ðy ilcan geare drehton pa hergas Westseaxna lond

This is understandable.

Normally when part of a basic sentence structure is extended, this is done by adding words to the beginning of the linguistic unit. Nouns are extended by adding adjectives, demonstratives and other qualifiers before the noun; verbs are extended by adding adverbs and other qualifiers before them (though not prepositional phrases as a rule). Ðā = 'then' is an adverb and we would expect it to come immediately before the verb. If ðā comes at the beginning of the sentence, for the sake of emphasis, the verb must come next, so the subject has to come after the verb. Ða = 'when' is a conjunction, so it behaves like ond or ac:

ðā se here eft hamweard wende... 'when the army went home again'
ond pæt an scip oðwand 'and that one ship escaped'

- (4) Normally we expect adverbial phrases to come after the verb:

Hie wæron gebrocede on pām prim gearum mid ceapes cwilde
ond monna 'They were afflicted in those three years with
the death of cattle and of men'

But if one of these phrases is brought forward to the beginning of the sentence to emphasise it, it has the same effect as an adverb like ðā or ðær: the verb follows it:

Ðy ylcan gere worhte se foresprecena here geweorc be Lygan

- (5) Notice that ðā is not only a demonstrative adjective but a demonstrative pronoun:

Ða wæron fulneah tu swa lange swa ða oðru

This is a more specific way of saying

Hie wæron

i.e. 'Those were nearly twice as long as the others' not simply 'They were...'

ƿa wæron ægƿer ge swiftran	<u>swift</u> = swift
ge unwealtran	<u>un-wealt</u> = steady
ge eac hierran	<u>hierra</u> = higher (<u>heah</u>)
ƿonne ƿa oðru	
Ɗa æt sumum cirre	
ƿæs ilcan geares	
comon ƿær sex scipu to Wiht	<u>Wiht</u> = Isle of Wight
Ɗa het se cyng faran to	
mid nigonum ƿara niwena scipa	<u>niwe</u> = new
ond forforon him	<u>for-faran</u> =(to)intercept
ƿone muðan foran	<u>muða</u> = mouth(of river)
on utermere	<u>foran</u> = before
	<u>uter-mere</u> = open sea
Ɗa foron hie	
mid ƿrim scipum	<u>preo</u> = three
ut ongen hie	
ond ƿreo stodon	
æt ufeweardum ƿæm muðan	<u>ufeweard</u> = upper part of
on drygum	<u>dryge</u> = dry(land)
Ɗa gefengon hie	<u>fon</u> =(to) capture
ƿara ƿreora scipa tu	
æt ðæm muðan uteweardum	
ond ƿa men ofslogon	<u>ƿa men</u> is the object
ond ƿæt an (scip) oðwand	<u>op-windan</u> =(to)escape

- (1) Just as nouns can be extended almost indefinitely, so can verbs, either by a series of parallel items or by a series of interrelated items.

Se here for of Wirheale in on Norðwealas

If we begin this sentence with ðā 'then' it becomes:

ðā for se here of Wirheale in on Norðwealas

We could continue adding adverbs and adverbial phrases as follows:

ðā sona for se here ...

ðā sona æfter pām for se here...

ðā sona æfter pām on ðys gere for se here...

The phrases we have added are all independent ones.

- (2) But we could have a sentence where the additions were inter-related.

Sex scipu comon to Wiht

If we add ðā we get:

ðā comon sex scipu to Wiht

We can now expand it with a phrase:

ðā æt sumum cirre comon sex scipu to Wiht

We could expand this further:

ðā æt sumum cirre on dys gere comon sex scipu to Wiht

These two phrases are independent of each other: either could exist without the other.

But if we say:

ðā æt sumum cirre pæs ilcan geares comon sex scipu to Wiht

the underlined phrase is dependent on the first phrase.

On þam wæron þa men ofslægene

buton fifum

Ða comon hie on weg

for-ðy-ðe ðara operra scipu
asæton

þa wurdon eac swiðe uneðelice
aseten

þreo asæton

on þa healfe þæs deopes

pe ða Deniscan scipu aseten
wæron

ond þa oðru eall

on oðre healfe

þæt hira

ne mehte nan to oðrum(cuman)

Ac ða þæt water was ahebbad fela
furlanga
from þam scipum

ðá eodon ða Deniscan

from þam prim scipum

to þam oðrum prim

ond hie þa þær gefuhton

þær wearð ofslægen Lucumon

cynges gerefa

ond Wulfheard Friesa ond Æbbe
Friesa
ond Æðelhere Friesa

ond Æðelferð cynges geneat

Fresiscra ond Englisra lxii

ond para Deniscena cxx

on weg = away

a-sittan =(to)run aground

un-iepelice = awkwardly

deop = deep(water)

nan = none

a-ebbian =(to)ebb furlang =
furlong

feohtan =(to)fight

Friesa = Frisian

geneat = companion

- (1) Normally you expect a sentence to begin with the subject, followed by the verb. This word order is changed, and the subject comes after the verb when the sentence begins with an adverb or its equivalent.

The following openings to sentences warn you that the subject will come after the verb.

Ða comon hie on weg
Ðær wearð ofslagen Lucumon
On pæm wæron ða men ofslægene
Ðy ilcan geare drehton ða hergas Westseaxna lond

- (2) But remember that adverbs and adverbial phrases do not have to come at the beginning of a sentence:

ond hie pa pær gefuhton
preo stodon æt ufewardum pæm muðan

- (3) Ða + noun means 'the, that, those' (remember it can be either plural or accusative feminine singular)

Ða + demonstrative + noun + verb means 'when' (Ac ða pæt wæter was ahebbad)

Ða + verb + noun/pronoun means 'then' (Ða eodon ða Deniscan...)

Ða + verb but no following subject means 'those, they' (ða wurdon eac swiðe uneðelice asetn)

EXERCISES

I. Pick out the subject in the following sentences:

1. Ond ða sona æfter ðam for se here of Wirheale.
2. Ða foron hie ofer Norðhymbra lond.
3. Ða se here eft hamweard wende
4. Ða burgware hie gefliemdon.
5. Ða foron micel dæl para burgwara.
6. Ða sume dæge rad se cyng up be pære ea.
7. Ða worhton hie tu geweorc.
8. Ða men of Lundenbyrig gefetodon pa scipu.
9. Ða sæton ða Deniscan pone winter æt Cwatbrycge.
10. Ða wæron fulneah tu swa lange swa pa oðru.
11. Ða wæron ægper ge swiftran ge unwealtran þonne pa oðru.
12. Ða foron hie ut ongen hie.
13. Ða het se cyng faran.
14. Ða gefengon hie para preora scipa tu.
15. Ða wurdon eac swiðe uneðelice aseten.
16. Ða eodon ða Deniscan from pæm prim scipum.
17. Ðreo asæton on pa healfe pæs deopes.

II. Listen to the following text several times until you are sure you recognise the structure of the sentences. It is the same as the text of Lesson 10.

Old English Lesson 11

This lesson is a fuller version of the story of Cædmon which you read in lesson 9.

On pysse abbudissan mynstre

was sum broðor

synderlice

mid godcundre gyfe

gemæred and geweorpad

for þon he gewunade

gerisenlice leoð wyrcan

pa pe to æfastnesse

and to arfæstnesse

belumpon

swa pætte

swa hwæt swa he

of godcundum stafum

purh boceras

geleornade

pæt he

æfter medmiclum fære

in scop-gereorde

mid þa mæstan swetnesse

and inbryrdnesse

geglencte

and in Englisc-gereorde

wel geworht

forðbrohte

wunian =(to)be in the habit of

gerisenlic = proper, suitable

æfastnes = piety

arfæstnes = virtue

belimpan =(to)belong

swa hwæt swa = whatever

stæf = letter stafas =
learning

bocere = scribe

medmicel = small fære =
period of time

scop-gereord = poetic language

onbryrdnes = inspiration

glengan =(to)adorn

geworht , past participle of
wyrcan

forð-bringan =(to)produce

(1) So far we have had two main sentence patterns:

(a) subject + verb + object/complement

(b) adverb or adverbial phrase + verb + subject

There is a third sentence pattern, in which the verb comes at the end:

pa pe to æfastnesse and to arfæstnesse belumpon

This word order is particularly common in relative clauses (which are usually introduced by pe), and in other subordinate clauses, e.g.

pa pe to æfastnesse and to arfæstnesse belumpon
swa hwæt swa he of godcundum stafum purh boceras
geleornade

(2) Infinitives are frequently placed at the end of a linguistic unit just as past participles are:

he gewunade gerisenlice leoð wyrca
hie ealle sceolden purh endebyrdnesse be hearpan singan

and for his leoðsongum

monigra monna mod

mod = heart, mind

oft

to worolde forhohnesse

for-hohnes = contempt N.B.

and to gepeodnesse þæs heofon-
lican lifes

woruld is a feminine noun

gepeodnes = association

onbærnde wæron

on-bærnan =(to)kindle

And eac swylce

swelce = likewise

monige oðre

æfter him

in Ongelpeode

Angel-peod = the English
nation

ongunnon æfæste leoð wyrcan

ac nænig swapere

him æt gelice

him gelice = like him

don ne meahte

don =(to) do

for þon he

nalas

nealles = not at all

from monnum

ne purh mon

gelæred was

læran =(to)teach

þæt he þone leoðcræft geleornade

leoð-cræft = art of poetry

ac he was godcundlice gefultumod

fultumian =(to)help

and purh Godes gyfe

þone songcræft onfeng

- (1) The word order in which the verb comes at the end is frequently found in coordinate constructions as well as in subordinate ones.

In the sentence

ac he was godcundlice gefultumod
and purh Godes gyfe pone songcraft onfeng

the two parts are coordinate but (a) has common word order whereas (b) has the verb at the end — i.e. coordinate word order (called 'coordinate' because it occurs in coordinate as well as subordinate constructions).

- (2) If a sentence with coordinate word order contains a compound verb, the auxiliary usually comes at the end, with the past participle immediately preceding it:

pe hie gehergod hæfdon
pe hie þær genumen hæfdon
and to gepeodnesse þæs heofonlican lifes onbærnde wæron
forþan he nalæs from monnum ne purh mon gelæred was

Sentences in which there is an infinitive dependent on the main verb behave in the same way:

ac nænig hwæpere him þæt gelice don ne meahte
he forþan næfre noht leasunga wyrcan ne meahte

and he for þon næfre noht leasunga leasung = falsehood, fable

ne idles leopes idel = empty, vain

wyrcean ne meahte

ac efne þa an efne = just an = alone

þa þe to æfæstnesse belumpon

and his þære æfæstan tungan geda- tunge = tongue dafnian =
fenode singan (to)suit

Wæs he

se mon

in weoroldhade geseted

oð þa tide

þe he wæs gelyfedre ylðo

and he næfre ænig leoð geleornade

and he for þon oft

in gebeorscipe

þonne þær wæs blisse intinga bliss = joy intinga =
gedemed cause deman =(to)judge
þæt hie ealle sceolden

purh endebyrdnesse

ende-byrdnes = order 'in
turn'

be hearpan singan

þonne he geseah þa hearpan him nea-
læcan

þonne aras he for scome from þæm
symble

and ham eode to his huse

ƿa he ƿæt ƿa

ƿa...ƿa = 'when'

sumre tide dyde

ƿæt he forlet ƿæt hus ƿæs gebeorscipes

and ut wæs gongende to neata

gan =(to)go (eode)

scypene

para heord him wæs ƿære nihte

heord = custody be-beodan =

beboden

(to) entrust

ða he ƿa ƿær

in gelimplicre tide

gelimplic = suitable

his limo on reste gesette

lim = limb rest = rest, bed

and onslæpte

on-slæpan =(to)sleep

ƿa stod him sum mon æt ƿurh swefn

and hine halette and grette

and hine be his naman nemde

nemnan =(to)call

'Cædmon, sing me hwæthwegu'

ƿa andswarode he and cwæð

'Ne con ic noht singan

and ic for ƿon of ƿyssum gebeorscipe ut eode

and hider gewat

for ƿon ic noht cuðe'

Eft he cwæð

se ƿe mid him sprecende wæs

sprecende, present participle
of sprecan

'Hwæðere ƿu meaht me singan'

Cwæð he

'Hwæt sceal ic singan?'

Cwæð he

'Sing me frumsceaft'

- (1) The structure of long sentences is often marked out by a series of correlatives:

ða he his limo on reste gesette
ða stod him sum man æt purh swefn

Here the word order together with the ða ... ða defines a construction of the 'when' ... 'then' kind.

Notice that the 'when' part often has a double ða:

ða he pa pær ... his limo on reste gesette

- (2) There are many other forms of correlative construction in Old English:

ic for pon of pyssum gebeorscipe ut eode
for pon ic noht cuðe

The first for pon ('for that reason') anticipates the second (= 'because').

A similar anticipation is seen in the sentence:

pa he pæt pa sumre tide dyde
pæt he forlet pæt hus pæs gebeorscipes

'when he did that ... namely that ...'

- (1) The word order in 'then' clauses is fixed: the verb must come immediately after the ðā. In the 'when' clause the subject comes immediately after the ðā but the verb can come either next to the subject or at the end of the linguistic unit.

Ða he com to Cantwarabyrig east
ðā snædde he pær
or þa he þa þas andsware onfeng
ðā ongan he sona singan
or Ond þa se here eft hamweard wende
þa hergodon hie up on Suðseaxum

(2) Relatives

The relative particle pe is used to introduce relative clauses:

þa fers and þa word pe he næfre ne gehyrde
and ealle þa pe he slæpende sang fæste in gemynde hæfde
oð þa tide pe he wæs gelyfedre ylðo

Very often, the demonstrative pronoun is used as well as the relative particle:

Eft he cwæð, se pe mid him sprecende wæs
ac efne þa an þa pe to æfæstnesse belumpon

Sometimes the demonstrative pronoun is used alone as a relative pronoun:

and ut wæs gongende to neata scypene
þara heord him wæs pære nihte beboden

- (3) In a construction introduced by a relative the verb usually comes at the end.

Old English Lesson 12

This lesson continues the story of Cædmon.

Ða com he on marne to þam tungerefan

se þe his ealdormon was ealdormann = chief, ruler, officer
sæde him

hwylce gyfe he onfeng

and he hine sona to þære abbudyssan gelædde

and hire þæt cyððe and sægde

Ða het heo gesomnian ealle þa gelærdestan men

and þa leorneras

and him andweardum het secgan þæt swefn

and þæt leoð singan

þætte ealra heora dome gecoren wære dom = judgment ceosan =(to)
distinguish

hwæt oððe hwonon þæt cumen wære 'what(it was) or whence it had
come'

Ða wæs him eallum gesegen

swa swa hit wæs

þæt him wære from Dryhtne sylfum heofonlic gyfu forgifen

Ða rehton hie him

and sægdon sum halig spel

and godcundre lare word

bebudon him þa

gif he mihte

þæt he him sum sunge

and in swinsunge leoðsonges þæt gehwyrfde

Ða he þa hæfde þa wisan onfangene wise = manner, way, method

þa eode he ham to his huse

and com eft on morgen

and þy betstan leoðe geglenced betsta = best

him asong a-singan =(to) sing

and ageaf þæt him beboden wæs

- (1) In subordinate or coordinate constructions the verb frequently comes at the end. These constructions usually have some distinctive opening word. For instance, the relative particle pe introduces a relative clause, in which the verb will normally be at the end:

pa fers and pa word pe he næfre ne gehyrde

Relative clauses are also introduced by the demonstrative pronoun + pe:

Ða com he to pam tungerefan se pe his ealdormon was

- (2) Other words on this page which introduce subordinate clauses (which may have the verb at the end) are:

hwilc = 'what kind of' sæde him hwylce gyfe he onfeng

patte = 'so that' patte ealra heora dome gecoren wære

pæt = 'that' bebudon him pa pæt he him sum sunge

hwæt = 'what' hwæt oððe hwonon pæt cumen wære

hwonon = 'from where'

- (3) This word order is not confined to subordinate clauses; it is frequently found in coordinate clauses:

and he hine sona to pære abbudyssan gelædde

and hire pæt cyððe and sægde

and com eft on morgen

and py betstan leoðe geglenced him asong

Moreover, some subordinate clauses have the verb immediately after the subject (i.e. common word order). Compare:

He sæde pæt Norðmanna land wære swype lang

with:

Bebudon him pa pæt he him sum sunge

and in swinsunge leoðsonges pæt gehwyrfde

Ða ongan seo abbudysse clyppan and lufian

pa Godes gyfe in þam men

N.B. gyfe is a feminine noun

and heo hine pa monode

manian =(to)exhort

and larde

þæt he weoroldhad forlete

and munuchade onfenge

munuchad = monastic orders

and he þæt wel pafode

pafian =(to)consent to

and heo hine in þæt mynster onfeng

mid his godum

and hine gepeodde to gesomnunge para Godes þeowa

and het hine laran

'ordered him to be taught'

þæt getæl þæs halgan stæres

getæl = narrative stær = history

and spelles

and he

eall þa he in gehernesse

gehiernes = hearing

geleornian mihte

mid hine gemyngade

myndgian =(to)remember

and swa swa clæne neten eodorcende

clæne = clean neten = animal eodorcan =(to)ruminate

in þæt sweteste leoð gehwyrfde

and his song and his leoð

wæron swa wynsum to gehyrenne

wynsum = pleasant

þæt þa sylfan his lareowas

at his mūðe

writon and leornodon

writan =(to)write

- (1) The verb in a subordinate clause is sometimes in the subjunctive. Subjunctives can be recognised because the past subjunctive ends in -e in the singular and in -en in the plural. e.g.:

heo hine in pæt mynster <u>onfeng</u>	past <u>indicative</u> of a strong verb (no ending)
and munuchade <u>onfenge</u>	past <u>subjunctive</u> (with ending -e)

The singular of the subjunctive is the same as the second person singular; that is, in the case of strong verbs it has the same vowel as the plural:

<u>drifan</u> past indicative:	ic draf	we)	
	pu drife	ge)	drifon
	he draf	hie)	
in the subjunctive:	<u>drife</u> is used right through the singular	<u>drifen</u> right through the plural	

- (2) In the case of weak verbs, the singular already ends in -de, so it is impossible to distinguish the subjunctive from the indicative in the singular, except in the second person singular, where the indicative ends in -dest.
- (3) In general the use of the subjunctive implies something conjectural, or hypothetical; its use is largely a matter of convention and does not affect the meaning. i.e. convention demands that a clause introduced by peah 'although' should have the verb in the subjunctive, but this does not matter for the purposes of translation since this construction is not contrasted with one using the indicative. But there is one construction in which the distinction between subjunctive and indicative is meaningful.

pæt + indicative introduces a clause of result
pæt + subjunctive introduces a clause of purpose

His song and his leoð wæron swa wynsum to gehyrenne pæt
 pa sylfan his lareowas
 at his muðe writon and leornodon (indicative, 'with the result that')

On eallum pam he geornlice gymde pæt he men atuge fram
 synna lufan (subjunctive, 'he took care that he should draw men' not 'he took care with the result that he drew men')

pæt + subjunctive is also found after verbs of saying or thinking or suggesting:

heo hine pa monode pæt he weoroldhad forlete (subjunctive, 'that he should forsake his worldly state' not 'so that he left his worldly state')

bebudon him pa pæt he him sum sunge (subjunctive, 'they commanded him that he should sing them something')

Song he ærest

be middangeardes gesceape	<u>gesceap</u> = creation
and be fruman monncynnes	<u>fruma</u> = beginning
and eal pæt star Genesis	
pæt is seo æreste Moises boc	<u>boc</u> = book
and eft be utgonge Israela folces	<u>ut-gang</u> = departure, exodus
of Egypta londe	
and be ingonge pæs gehatlondes	<u>gehat-land</u> = promised land
and be oðrum monigum spellum	
pæs halgan gewrites	<u>gewrit</u> = scripture
canones boca	<u>canon</u> = the canon (canonical books)
and be Cristes menniscnesse	<u>menniscnes</u> = incarnation
and be his prowunge	<u>prowung</u> = passion, suffering
and be his upastignesse on heofonas	<u>up-astigennes</u> = ascension
and bi pæs Halgan Gastes cyme	<u>cyme</u> = coming
and para apostola lare	<u>apostol</u> = apostle
and eft bi pam ege pæs toweardan	<u>ege</u> = fear <u>to-weard</u> =
domes	future
and be fyrhto pæs tintreglican	<u>fyrhto</u> = terror <u>tintreglic</u> =
wites	full of torment <u>wite</u> =
	punishment
and be swetnesse pæs heofonlican	
rices	
he monig leop geworhte	

Expansions of nouns

- (1) simple genitive complement placed before the noun:

be middangeardes gesceape

placed after the noun (probably stylistic variation):

be fruman monncynnes

- (2) expanded form of this:

seo æreste Moises boc = seo æreste boc + genitive
complement

- (3) complements placed after the noun:

be utgonge Isræla folces

be ingonge pæs gehatlondes

the same, with other qualifiers placed before the noun:

be oðrum monigum spellum pæs halgan gewrites
+ a second complement to gewrites (canones boca)

bi pam ege pæs toweardan domes

and swylce eac oper monig

be pam godcundum fremsumnessum fremsumnes = benefit

and domum

he geworhte

On eallum pam he geornlice gymde

geornlice = eagerly gieman =
(to) take care

pæt he men atuge

a-teon =(to) draw

fram synna lufan and mandæda

lufe = love man-dæd = wicked
deed

and to lufan and to geornfulnessse
awehte

a-weccan =(to) rouse

godra dæda

for þon he wæs

se mon

swiðe æfæst

and reogollicum peodscypum eaðmod-
lice underpeoded

regollic = regular, belonging to
the monastic rule peodscipe =
discipline eaðmodlice = humbly
under-peodan =(to) subject

and wið ðam

ðe on opre wisan don woldon

he wæs

mid wylme micelre ellen-
wodnesse
onbærned

wielm = fervour ellen-
wodnes = zeal

and he for þon

fægere ende

his lif betynde

be-tynan =(to) finish

and geendade

endian =(to) die

- (1) The rules about word order are not inflexible. The general rule is that main statements have the subject first and then the verb, whereas coordinate or subordinate statements have the verb at the end:

His song and his leoð wæron swa wynsum to gehyrenne
pæt pa sylfan his lareowas æt his muðe writon

- (2) But the word order can be varied for stylistic effect:

On eallum pam he geornlice gymde
pæt he men atuge fram synna lufan and mandæda
and to lufan and to geornfulnesse awehte godra dæda

- (3) This sentence also illustrates the splitting up of grammatically connected groups of words:

synna lufan and mandæda the two genitives are separated
by the head-word;
to lufan and to geornfulnesse awehte godra dæda the verb
is placed between the head-word and the genitive which
qualifies it.

The result is to emphasise the contrast between mandæda and
godra dæda.

For þon

pa þære tide nealæcte his
gewitenesse
and forðfore

nealæcan =(to)approach
gewitennes = death, departure
forðfor = departure

þa wæs he feowertyne dagum ær

þæt he wæs licumlicre untrym-
nesse
prycced and hefigad

lichamlic = bodily untrumnes
= sickness
pryccan =(to)afflict hefigian
=(to)oppress

hwæpere to þon gemetlice

gemetlice = moderately to þon
= to such an extent 'so moder-
ately'

þæt he ealle þa tid

mihte ge sprecan

ge gangan

Wæs þær on neaweste

nea-wist = neighbourhood

untrumra manna hus

on þam hyra þeaw wæs

þeaw = custom

þæt hi þa untruman

and þa þe æt forðfore
wæron

in lædan sceoldan

lædan =(to)lead, carry

and him þær ætsomne þenian

ætsamne = together

Ða bæd he his þen

on æfenne þære nihte

æfen = evening

þe he of worulde gangende wæs

þæt he

on þam huse

him stowe gegearwade

stow = place

þæt he restan mihte

Old English Lesson 13

This lesson completes the story of Cædmon.

Ða wundrade se peng

wundrian =(to)wonder peng =
pegn

for hwon he pæs bæde

for hwon = why

for þon him puhte

þyncan =(to)appear, seem

þæt his forðfore swa neh ne wære

dyde hwæpere

swa swa he cwæð

and bebead

And mid py

he þa þær on reste eode

and he

gefeonde mode

gefeon =(to)rejoice

sumu ping

N.B. ping is a neuter noun

ætgædere mid him

sprecende and gleowiende was

gliwian =(to)joke

þe þær ær inne wæron

ær = before, previously

þa was ofer middeniht

midde-niht = midnight

þæt he frægn

frignan =(to)ask

hwæper hi ænig husl þærinne hæfdon

husl = the Eucharist

Ða andswarodon hie

and cwædon

cwæpan = (to) say

'Hwīlc pearf is þe husles?

pearf = need

ne þinre forðfore swa neh is

nu þu þus rotlice

rotlice = cheerfully

and þus glædlice

glædlice = cheerfully

to us sprecende eart'

Cwæð he eft

'Berað me hwæpere husl to'

beran = (to) carry

Ða he hit þa on handa hæfde

þa fræng he

hwæper hi ealle smylte mod hwæper = whether smylte = gentle

and butan eallum incan

inca = grudge bliðe = kindly

bliðe

disposed

to him hæfdon

þa andswarodon hi ealle

and cwædon

þæt hi nænigne incan to
him wistan

witan = (to) know (wistan = wiston)

ac hi ealle him swiðe bliðemode
wæron

bliðemode = kindly disposed

and hi wrixendlice hine bādon
þæt he him eallum bliðe wære
þa andswarode he

wrixendlice = in turn

and cwæð

'Mine bropro þa leofan
ic eom swiðe bliðmod to eow

bropro = bropru(pl.) leof =
beloved

and to eallum Godes monnum'

And he swa was hine getrymmende

trymman =(to)strengthen

mid þy heofonlican wegneste

weg-nest = viaticum(traveller's
food)

and him opres lifes ingang gearwade

in-gang = entry gearwian =
(to) prepare

Ða gyt he frægn

hu neh þære tide wære

þætte þa bropor arisan sceold-
on

bropor(pl.)

and Godes lof ræran

ræran =(to)raise,offer

and heora uhtsang singan

uht-sang = matins

Andswarodon hi

'Nis hit feor to þon'

feorr = far,long

Cwæð he

'Tela

tela = good, well

utan we wel þære tide
 bidan'

uton = let us

and þa him gebæd

gebiddan = (to) pray

and hine gesenade mid Cristes
 rodetacne
and his heafod onhylde to þam
 bolstre

segnian = (to)sign (oneself)
rode-tacn = sign of the cross
on-hieldan = (to)bow bolster =
bolster, pillow

and medmycel fæc onslæpte

and swa mid stillnesse his lif
 geendade

And swa wæs geworden þætte

ge-worden from weorðan = (to) become,
to happen, come about

swa swa he hluttre mode

hluttur = pure

and bylewite

bile-wit = innocent, kind

and smyltre wilsumnesse

willsumnes = willingness

Dryhtne peowde

peowian = (to)serve

þæt he eac swylce swa smylte deaðe

 middangeard wæs forlætende

and to his gesyhðe becom

And seo tunge

pe swa monig halwende word halwende = healing

on þæs Scyppendes lof gesette gesettan =(to)compose

he þa swylce eac

pa ytemestan word ytemest = last

on his herenesse

hine sylfne seniende

and his gast in his handa bebeodende

betynde be-tynan = (to)finish

Eac swylce þæt is gesewen : geseon =(to)see

þæt he wære gewis gewiss = certain(of)

his sylfes forðfore

of þam þe we nu secgan hyrdon

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