

THE STORY OF MAGNUS THE GOOD.

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## CHAPTER I. THE BEGINNINGS OF KING MAGNUS THE GOOD.

**M**AGNUS, the son of Olaf, set on foot his journey after Yule from the east from Holmgarth down to Aldeigia-burg; and they fell to arraying their ships as soon as the ice broke up in the spring. Thereof Arnor the earls' skald maketh mention in Magnus-drapa :

Now know I that the reddener  
Of the edge of fight-keen Hneitir  
Ruled men; although wealth-breakers  
Tell nought, full well I wot it,  
Bold worm-seat's hater was not  
Eleven winters wholly,  
When he, the Hords' friend, bravely  
Decked warships out from Garthrealm.

King Magnus made for Sweden from the east  
in the spring. So sayeth Arnor :

Bade now the young edge-reddener  
The folk unto the war-thing :  
O eagles' feeder, aboard bore  
Their war-gear nimble courtmen.

The bold folk-king the brine shore  
With hoar hull from the eastward.  
Sharp weathers bore to Sigtun  
The shearer of the surf-flame.

Here it is said how King Magnus, whenas he fared from the east from Garthrealm, sailed first to Sweden and then up to Sigtun. Then was king in Sweden Emund, son of Olaf; there too was Queen Astrid, whom the holy King Olaf had had to wife; she gave right good welcome to Magnus her stepson, and let straightway summon a thronged Thing at the place called Hangrar. But at that Thing Astrid spake and said: "Here is now come among us the son of the holy King Olaf, who is hight Magnus. He is minded for faring to Norway to seek his heritage. Mickle am I bound to strengthen him for this journey, for that he is my stepson, even as is known to all folk, both Swedes and Northmen. Hereto shall I spare nought that my havings may compass, so that his might be as great as may be, both of men-hosts whereover I have rule, and of wealth withal; moreover, all those who betake them to the faring with him shall have freely my full friendship. I will also make it known, that I shall betake myself to the faring with him, and thereby it will be manifest to all that I spare nowise other things for his helping, of such as I may give him."

Sithence she spoke long and deftly; but when she made an end, then answered a many, and said thus: that the Swedes had fared a faring of but little fame to Norway, when they followed his father Olaf, "nor is there aught better to look for

whereas this king is," said they; "and for that reason men are uneager for this faring."

Astrid answers: "All those men who are somewhat of stout hearts will begrudge nought about such matters. But if men have lost their kinsmen with the holy King Olaf, or have gotten wounds themselves, then is that manliness to fare now to Norway and avenge it." And so Astrid brought it about by her words and helpfulness, that much folk betook them with Astrid to following him to Norway. Hereof telleth Sigvat the Skald:

The daughter of Olaf, wedded  
 Erewhile to the victory-keenest  
 Lord King the Thick, we guerdon  
 With our praise for plenteous jewels.  
 Full mickle host of Swede-ground  
 Bode Thing-mote east at Hangrar,  
 When Astrid did unfold there  
 The affairs of the son of Olaf.

She might not more hail-redy  
 With the venturous Swedes have pleaded,  
 Though Magnus the much-stirring  
 Had son been of her body.  
 She caused it most of any,  
 After the Christ the mighty,  
 That Magnus king gat fain of  
 All heritage of Harald.

The bounteous Magnus certes  
 Must guerdon Astrid's kindness,  
 Which made mens' friend wide-landed,  
 And we thereof full fain are.  
 She, the deep-redy woman,  
 Hath served her stepson suchwise  
 As had done but few others.  
 Words frame I to her glory.

So says also Thiodolf the Skald in Magnus' Flock :

All-wielder, out thou shootedst  
 A war-craft ; dipped the swung yard :  
 Hard tide that for a thirtier  
 To slip into the sea-flood.  
 Wild weather, lord, about thee  
 The swayed mast spared in nowise ;  
 So furled the valiant courtmen  
 At Sigtun the knop-picture.

## CHAPTER II. KING MAGNUS' JOURNEY FROM THE EAST.

**M**AGNUS OLAFSON began his journey from Sigtun, and had then a great company which the Swedes had got for him. They went a-foot over Sweden, and so on to Helsingland. So says Arnor the earls' skald :

Sithence ruddy shields ye carried,  
 Ygg of battle, round Swede dwellings ;  
 Neither gat'st thou host-choice sorry ;  
 Sought unto thy hands the land's-folk.  
 Reddener of the tongue of wolf-droves,  
 Kenned of folk on there thou dravest,  
 And thy chosen to the fame-Things,  
 With white shields and spears be-carven.

Sithence fared Magnus Olafson west over Iamtland, and over the Keel, and down into Thrandheim, and straightway all the folk of the land gave him a good welcome. But the men of King Svein, forthwith when they heard that Magnus, son of King Olaf, was come there into the land, fled all far and wide, and saved themselves, and no with-

standing was given against Magnus. King Svein was south in the land. So says Arnor the earls' skald :

Reddener of Ygg's sea-mew's feathers,  
 From the east to Thrandheim's dwelling  
 Cam'st thou with most highest dread-helm ;  
 Told they that thy foemen faltered.  
 Feeder of wound-waves' blue vulture,  
 Knew thy foes their woe a-spreading ;  
 Therewithal thy foemen frightened  
 Needs must turn to save their life-days.

### CHAPTER III. MAGNUS TAKEN TO KING.

**M**AGNUS OLAFSON went with his company down to Cheaping, and a good welcome he had there. Sithence he let summon the Ere-Thing ; and when the bonder-folk came to the Thing, then was Magnus taken to king over all the land, as far and wide as King Olaf his father had owned it. Then King Magnus took to him a bodyguard and made landed-men, and in all counties he appointed men to stewardships and bailiwicks. Straightway that autumn King Magnus called out a muster from all about Thrandheim, and sped well in his hosting ; and thereafter he held with his host southward along the land.

## CHAPTER IV. THE FLIGHT OF KING SVEIN.

**K**ING SVEIN, son of Alfiva, was then abiding in South Hordland, when he heard this war-tale. Straightway let he shear the war-arrow and send four ways from him ; he summoned to him the bonder-folk, and let that follow, that all the people should be out, with folk and ships, and ward the land with him. All that folk which was nighest to the king came to meet him, and the king held a Thing and had parley with the bonders, and put forth his errand, thus saying, that he will hold on to meet King Magnus, son of King Olaf, and give him battle, if the bonders will follow him. The king spoke somewhat short, and the bonders made but little cheer of his speaking. Sithence the Danish chiefs who were with the king talked long talks and dest. But the bonders answered and spake in their turn, and many said that they would follow King Svein, and fight with him, but some said nay thereto ; othersome held their peace wholly, and some said thus, that they would seek to meet King Magnus as soon as ever they might bring it about.

Then answered King Svein : “ Meseemeth that here have come but few of those bonder-folk unto whom we sent word ; and those bonders who are here, and tell our very selves that they will follow King Magnus, seem to us just the same, as to help and avail, as those others who say that they will to keep quiet ; and in the same case are those who keep silent. But among them who say that they will

themselves follow us, there will be every other man or more on whom there will be no good for us to fall back, if we give battle to King Magnus. So it is my rede that we put not our trust in the good faith of these bonders, but fare rather thither where all folk is true and trusty to us; there we have strength enough to win this land under our sway."

And straightway, when the king had thus settled the matter, all his men followed this rede. So therewith they turn their stems about, and hoisted sail; and King Svein sailed east along the land, and letted not till he came to Denmark, where he had good welcome.

But when he met Hordaknut his brother, he bade to King Svein to have there rule with him in Denmark, and that bidding Svein took.

## CHAPTER V. AND VI. THE DEATH OF KNUT THE RICH AND OF SVEIN.

**K**ING MAGNUS went that autumn all the way east to the land's end, and he was taken to king over all the land, and all the folk of the land were fain thereof, that Magnus was become king. That same autumn died Knut the Rich in England, on the ides of November. He was then forty years of age; he was laid in earth at Winchester. By that time he had been king over Denmark for seven and twenty winters, and over Denmark and England together for twenty-four winters, and over Norway withal for seven winters. Then was taken to king in England Harald, the son of Knut. That same

winter died Svein Alfiva's son in Denmark. About King Magnus Thiodolf sang in this wise :

Reddener of eagles' footsoles,  
Ye trudged the sand from Sweden ;  
A valiant host thee followed,  
Lord, from the east to Norway,  
Sithence fled Svein, full soothly  
Betrayèd, from the land here.  
Alfiva's son, so heard I  
To alien countries drifted.

Biarni Goldbrow-skald wrought this on Kalf Arnison :

Young kings thou lett'st have heirship  
Such as they turned to after.  
Sooth is that Svein had seized him  
Of Denmark, and that only.  
Thou showed'st fight-eager Magnus  
Back to his land from Garthrealm,  
And in such wise thou wroughted'st  
That the king won back his country.

## CHAPTER VII. PEACE BETWEEN KING MAGNUS AND KING HORDAKNUT.

**N**EXT spring both kings called out a muster, and the word fared about that they would join battle at the Elf. But whenas both hosts sought to meeting with each other, then the landed-men in either host sent word to their kinsmen and friends ; this followed the word-sending, that men should make peace between the kings. But whereas both kings were but bairns, and young, then had the land-rule for them mighty men who were taken thereto in either

host. So things came to this, that a peace-meeting was appointed between the kings. Thereupon they met themselves, and then peace was talked over, and this was the matter agreed on, that the kings beswore each other brotherhood and settled peace between them while they should both be alive; but if either should die without a son, then should he who lived after take after the other land and thanes. Twelve men, such as were most noblest out of either realm swore moreover with the kings that this peace should hold good while any one of them was alive. Thus sundered the kings, and either fared home into his own realm; and this peace held good while both lived.

## CHAPTER VIII. OF QUEEN ASTRID.

QUEEN ASTRID, whom Olaf the Holy had had to wife, came into Norway with Magnus her stepson, and was with him in right good cheer, as she was worthy of. Therewithal came to the court Alfild, the mother of King Magnus, and the king took her to him straightway with the dearest love, and seated her in honourable wise. But to Alfild befell what can be to many who come into power, that her pride waxed no less therewith, and it misliked her that Queen Astrid was in any way more honoured than she, either in seat or in any other service. Alfild would to sit nigher to the king, but Astrid called her her handmaiden, even as she had been before, when Astrid was queen over Norway, whenas King Olaf ruled the land. And Astrid would in nowise share a

seat with Alfhild, nor might they abide together in one chamber.

## CHAPTER IX. OF SIGVAT THE SKALD.

**S**IGVAT the Skald had fared to Rome whenas the battle was at Sticklestead. But when he was on his way from the south he heard of the fall of King Olaf, and that was the greatest grief to him. Then sang he :

On Alps by a burg one morning  
I stood, and me I minded  
Where targes broad a-many  
And side byrnies flew asunder.  
Of the king I then me minded,  
Who of his land was joyous,  
Erst in his days the early.  
There then was Thord my father.

Sigvat walked on a day through a certain thorpe and heard how a husband bewailed him sorely for that he had lost his wife ; he beat on his breast and rent his clothes from him, greeted much, and said that he would fain die. Then sang Sigvat :

He's fain of dying, saith he,  
For the maiden's bosom missing ;  
Dear-bought is love, if ever  
We needs must weep the dead one.  
But this flight-shunning stout-heart,  
E'en he his lord that loveth,  
Sheds slaughter-tears now ; worsen  
My loss to the king's men seemeth.

Sigvat came home to Norway ; he had house and children in Thrandheim. He fared round by

the south of the land on a ship of burden ; and when they lay in Hill-sound they saw where flew many ravens. Sigvat sang :

I see the ravens flocking  
 To the haven where aforetime  
 Floated the ship all under  
 The right good son of Northmen.  
 Yell high the greedy eagles  
 Each day inside of Hill-isle,  
 E'en they whom Olaf gluttoned  
 In bygone time so often.

But when Sigvat came north to Cheaping, then was King Svein there, and bade Sigvat to come to him, whereas he had aforetime been with King Knut the Rich, father of King Svein. Sigvat said he will fare home to his household. One day it betid, as Sigvat was walking in the street, that he saw where the king's men were at play, and he sang :

All thwart go I from the playing  
 Of the courtmen of the lord-king.  
 Grief in my breast is swelling,  
 Thence am I bleak as bast is.  
 I mind me how aforetime  
 Full oft we played together,  
 My famed lord, and we others  
 At his good men's odal-dwellings.

Then he went to his house. He heard many men blame him, and say that he had run away from King Olaf. Sigvat sang :

Hot fire may White-Christ let me  
 Have for my wite, if willed I  
 To hold aloof from Olaf ;  
 Of that am I all guiltless.

To Rome was I a-wending  
 On others' peril: thereto  
 Have I witness water-plenty;  
 From folk I hide that never.

Sigvat was ill content at home; one day he was walking abroad, and sang:

Whiles Olaf lived medeemed it  
 That laughed the cliffs high-stony  
 All Norway through. Aforetime  
 Kenned was I on the ship-board.  
 Now, when is all gone from me  
 The king's grace, much unblither  
 The fair hill-slopes are seeming:  
 Such and so sore my sorrow!

Sigvat went in the early winter east over the Keel to Iamtland, and thence to Helsingland, and came down into Sweden, and went forthwith to Queen Astrid, and was with her in good cheer for a long time. He was also with King Emund, her brother, and had from him ten marks burned, as it says in Knut's-drapa. Sigvat would often ask, when he met chapmen out to Holmgarth, what they had to tell him of Magnus Olafson. He sang:

Yet yearn I to be hearing  
 From the east: for oft are spreading  
 From Garthrealm many praises  
 Of the young lord, and are spared not.  
 E'en though there fly betwixt us  
 The smallest fowls air-cleaving,  
 Of the small king's son a-faring  
 I hear, and my hope appeaseth.

CHAPTER X. HOW MAGNUS FIRST  
CAME TO SWEDEN.

**B**UT when Magnus Olafson came to Sweden out of Garthrealm, Sigvat was there already with Queen Astrid, and all of them, they were much fain. Then sang Sigvat :

In venturous wise thou soughtest  
Home to our hands, King Magnus.  
Of land and men well mayst thou  
Be fain : thy might I uphold.  
I might not fare to fetch thee  
In Garthrealm, king of people,  
Whereas that I was warder  
Elsewhere of thy kinswoman.

Then Sigvat betook himself, together with Queen Astrid, to the following of Magnus to Norway. Sigvat sang :

I say my thoughts, O Magnus !  
Unto the men of Thing-drifts,  
That fain exceeding am I  
Of life thine, by God's blessing.  
If this folk-lord a son be  
Of glory, like his father,  
Then few of folk were living  
Who such a king should get them.

But when Magnus had become king over Norway, Sigvat the Skald followed him, and was most dear to the king. This he sang once, when Queen Astrid, and Alfild, the king's mother, had been bandying words together :

Alfild, now let thou Astrid  
E'en than thyself be higher !  
Although thy state wax better  
Much greatly ; that God willèd.

## CHAPTER XI. KING OLAF LAID IN SHRINE.

**K**ING MAGNUS let make a shrine, and dight the same with gold and silver, and set stones therein. This shrine was done after the fashion of a coffin, both as to greatness and other shape. But under it were arches, and over it a lid after the fashion of a roof, going up into a gable top with a head thereon; on the lid there are hinges at the back, but in front there are hasps, and there the shrine is locked with a key. Then King Magnus let lay in shrine the holy relic of King Olaf, and many miracles were wrought there at the holy relic of King Olaf, as is told by Sigvat the Skald :

To my lord who good heart bore him  
 A golden shrine is fashioned.  
 The holidom I praise now  
 Of the king ; to God he wended.  
 Full many a ring-stem thither  
 Came blind, who thence next morning  
 Whole-sighted goes, from the noble  
 Bed of the king, the clean heart.

Then was it taken to law throughout all Norway to hold holy the feast of King Olaf, and that day was straightway so holden there, even as the greatest high-tides. Hereof telleth Sigvat the Skald :

Of Olaf, Magnus' father,  
 The mass behoves us hallow  
 In house of mine whole-hearted,  
 Might to the king God giveth.

Bound am I to hold guileless  
 The feast of the king bemoanèd,  
 E'en he who mine arm-branches  
 Bedecked with gold the ruddy.

## CHAPTER XII. OF THORIR HOUND.

**T**HORIR HOUND fared away from the land a little after the fall of King Olaf. Thorir fared out to Jerusalem, and it is the say of many folk that he has never come back. Sigurd was hight the son of Thorir Hound, and was father to Ranveig, who was wedded by Joan, the son of Arni, who was the son of Arni; their children were Vidkunn of Birchisle, and Sigurd Hound, Erling, and Jartrud.

## CHAPTER XIII. THE SLAYING OF HAREK OF THIOTTA.

**H**AREK of Thiotta sat at home on his lands even until Magnus Olafson came into the land and became king. Then went Harek south to Thrandheim to see King Magnus. There was then with King Magnus Asmund, the son of Grankel. But as Harek was a-walking up from the ship whenas he came to Nidoyce, Asmund was standing on the loftswale with the king; they saw Harek, and knew him. Then spake Asmund to the king: "Now will I reward Harek the killing of my fâther." He had in his hand a broad-axe, little, and thinnish.

The king looked to him, and said: "Have my

axe rather." (Now that was one wedge-beaten and thick.) And again the king said : " Look to it, Asmund ; hard are the bones in that carle."

Asmund took the axe and went down and out of the garth, and when he came down to the thwart-street, then were Harek and his a-walking up from below against him. Asmund hewed Harek in the head, so that straightway the axe stood down in the brain of him, and that was the bane of Harek. But Asmund walked up again into the garth unto the king, and all the edge of the axe was perished.

Then said the king : " How then would have done that thin axe of thine ? Meseemeth this one is all undone."

Thereafter King Magnus gave Asmund domain and bailiwick in Halogaland ; and many and great tales are told of the dealings of Asmund and the sons of Harek.

#### CHAPTER XIV. OF THORGEIR FLECK.

**A**T first Kalf, the son of Arni, had most chiefly the land-rule with King Magnus for some time. But then people took on themselves to call to the king's mind where Kalf had been at Sticklestead, and after that it was a harder task for Kalf to give due heed to the temper of the king. It befell on a time, whenas there was a throng about the king, and men pleaded their causes, that there came before him with his pressing errand the man who hath been named before, Thorgeir, to wit, of Sula in Verdale. The king paid no heed to his words, but hearkened

them who were nigher to him. Then spoke Thorgeir to the king aloud, so that all heard who were there anigh :

Speak thou to me,  
 Magnus, king.  
 I was a-following  
 On with thy father.  
 Then bare I thence  
 Mine head to-hewen,  
 When over the dead king  
 These were striding.  
 Now dost thou cherish  
 That wretched host,  
 The lord's-betrayers  
 Who joyed the devil.

Then made men huge clamour thereat, and some bade Thorgeir go out. But the king called Thorgeir to him, and ended his errands in such wise that Thorgeir was well pleased, and the king behight him his friendship.

## CHAPTER XV. OF KING MAGNUS AND KALF.

**T**HAT was a little thereafter that King Magnus was at a feast at Howe in Verdale. And as the king sat at meat-board, there sat on one hand of him Kalf Arnison, and on the other Einar Thambarskelfir. By that time matters had come to this, that the king would have little to do with Kalf, and now held Einar in the greatest honour.

The king said to Einar : " We will ride unto Sticklestead to-day ; I wish to see what tokens be

of what there befell." Einar answered: "I know not how to tell thee thereof. Let Kalf thy loving; he knoweth how to tell of the tidings there."

So when the boards were drawn, the king arrayed him to go, and spake to Kalf: "Thou shalt fare with me to Sticklestead." Kalf answered that that was not needful. Then the king stood up, and spoke somewhat angrily: "Fare shalt thou, Kalf!" and therewith the king walked out.

Kalf clad himself swiftly, and spake to his swain: "Thou shalt ride up to Eggja, and bid my house-carles have every vat aboard ship before sun-down."

The king rode to Sticklestead, and Kalf with him, and they got off their horses and walked to the spot where the battle had been. Then said the king to Kalf: "Where is the stead whereas the king fell?" Kalf answered and stretched forth his spear-shaft: "Here he lay fallen," said he. Then the king said: "Where wert thou then, Kalf?" He answered: "Here, where now I stand." The king said, and was then red as blood: "Then might thine axe have taken on him." Kalf answered: "Nought took mine axe on him." And therewithal he walked away to his horse, leapt aback thereof, and rode off on his way, and all his men with him. But the king rode back to Howe.

Kalf came in the evening up to Eggja; his ship lay all night at the gangways with all chattels come aboard it, and manned with his house-carles. Forthwith at night they made down the firth, and Kalf fared day and night as the wind blew; he

sailed west over the sea and tarried there long, and harried about Scotland, Ireland, and the South-isles. This telleth Biarni Goldbrow-skald in Kalf's-flock :

O Thorberg's brother, heard I,  
That the brother's son of Harald  
Was good to thee ; thou mad'st thee  
Worthy thereof. That held on  
Till folk therein wrought evil.  
All busily thine enviers  
Waked up the strife betwixt you.  
The hurt of the son of Olaf  
Behold I in these matters.

## CHAPTER XVI. OF KING MAGNUS OLAFSON.

**K**ING MAGNUS cast his owning over Vigg, which Ram had had, and Quiststead, which Thorgeir had had, Eggja withal, and all that wealth which Kalf left behind, and many other big havings he let fall into the king's garth, even such as they had had who fell at Sticklestead in the host of the bonders. He did also many heavy punishments on those who had been in that battle against King Olaf ; some he drove from the land, from others he took much wealth, and the cattle of othersome he let hew. Then the bonders began to bewail them, and said among themselves : " What can abide in the mind of this king, in that he breaks for us the laws, even they which Hakon the Good set up ? Doth he not remember that we have never tholed unright ? He will have to fare the same way as his father,

or other lords, they whom we have taken from life when we got weary of their masterfulness and lawlessness."

This complaining was widespread in the land. The men of Sogn had an hosting, and gave out the word that they would hold on to battle against Magnus if he should fare thereabouts. King Magnus was then in Hordland, and had dwelt there much long, and had a big host, and made as if from time to time he would fare north into Sogn. Thereof were the friends of the king ware, and met together on a parley, twelve of them, and settled between them to allot it to one man to tell the king of this complaining; and in such wise brought the matter about, that the lot fell on Sigvat.

## CHAPTER XVII. THE STAVES OF NAKED SAYS.

**S**IGVAT wrought a Flock called the Staves of Naked Says, beginning with this first, that they deemed the king over much weltered in his rede in beating down the bonders, they who threatened to raise up unpeace against him. He sang:

Strife hear I south mid Sogn-folk;  
 Sigvat the king has letted  
 From trying a folk-battle;  
 Yet if we fight, then fare I.  
 Don weapons! be we warding  
 The king full well with war-swords,  
 All eager for that meeting.  
 How long shall the land be sundered?

In that same lay there are these staves :

Hakon, who fell at Fitjar,  
Was hight most good, yet did he  
Of foe-thiefdom avenge him,  
And well did men-folk love him.  
Sithence folk held the laws fast  
Of the foster-son most kindly  
Of Athelstane ; the bonders  
Are slow to his forgetting.

I deem that the carle-folk rightly  
Made choice ; whereas the Olafs,  
And therewithal the earls, gave  
Peace to the lands of people.  
The Harald's heir, the ever  
Full trusty son of Tryggvi,  
Let hold the laws leek-equal  
Which folk took from those namesakes.

Thy rede-givers bewroth not,  
Lord ! for the naked-speaking,  
O king, that word the way clears  
Unto the ruler's glory.  
Unless the land-host lieth,  
Quoth the bonders they have other,  
Worse laws, than thou behighted'st  
Erewhile to men in Wolfsound.

O lord of the hard vengeance,  
Who is it now that eggs thee  
From thy word to go a-backward ?  
Oft triest thou the thin steel.  
The lord of men victorious  
To his word should be fast-bounden.  
Fight-furtherer, it behoves thee  
Never to rive thine oath sworn.

Who eggs thee on, fight-heeder,  
To hew thine own thanes' cattle ?  
In his land such work to win him  
For a king is over-boldness.

Ne'er erst hath any counselled  
 A young lord thus : thy lads, king,  
 Of robberies are weary.  
 Thereat is the whole folk angry.

Give heed, O thieves' o'erthrower,  
 To that murmur of the bonders  
 Which fareth now around us !  
 Hold thou thine hand in measure.  
 O gladdener of the falcon  
 Of wounds' warm tears ; a friend 'tis  
 Who biddeth warning : hearken  
 Unto the husbands' willing.

Peril, when all men hoary  
 Against the king are minded,  
 E'en as I hear ; now shalt thou  
 Take rede thereto beforehand.  
 Hideous it is, when the Thing-men  
 Lay head to head, and thrust down  
 Nose into cloak-lap : soothly  
 Silence the thanes hath smitten.

One thing most ugly, bonders  
 The noble now are saying :  
 His hand my lord-king layeth  
 Upon the thanes' own heir-lands.  
 For reiving will folk tell it  
 If their heritage they render  
 Unto the king's reeves, e'en as  
 A hasty-passed doom doeth.

After this warning the king changed for the better, and many furthered this same matter before the king. And so it came about, that the king had talk with the wisest men, and then they framed their laws. Sithence King Magnus let write the law-book which is still in Thrandheim, and is called "Greygoose." Sithence King Magnus became well befriended and beloved of all folk of the

land, and for that sake was he called Magnus the Good.

## CHAPTER XVIII. OF THE KNUT-LINGS.

**H**ARALD, King of the English, died five years after the death of Knut his father, and was laid in earth beside his father in Winchester. After his death took kingdom in England Knut, the brother of Harald, another son of Knut the Old. So he was then king both over England and the Dane-realm, and ruled thereover for two winters. He died sick in England, and is laid in earth beside his father in Winchester. After his death was taken to king Edward the Good, son of Æthelred, King of the English, and of Queen Emma, the daughter of Richard the Rouen-earl. King Edward was brother by the same mother of Harald and Hordaknut. Gunnhild hight the daughter of Knut the Old and Emma, and was wedded to Kaiser Henry of Saxland, who was called Henry the Bounteous. Gunnhild was three winters in Saxland or ever she took sick and died; she died five winters after the death of Knut her father.

## CHAPTER XIX. KING MAGNUS GETS DENMARK.

**K**ING MAGNUS OLAFSON heard of the death of Hordaknut; then sent he men forthwith south to Denmark, and did with them messages to those men who had bound themselves to him with sworn oaths, when peace and covenant were made between Magnus and Hordaknut, and called to mind of them their words, and let that follow, that he himself would be coming, so soon as summer was, to Denmark with his host, and the ending word let go herewith, that he would get to him all the Dane-realm, even as stood thereto covenant and sworn oaths, or himself to fall in battle with his host. So sayeth Arnor the earls' skald :

Of mastery was the word-store  
 Allotted to the earls' lord.  
 Wrought out was what the luller  
 Of the woe of wolf was speaking,  
 When the king said he was ready  
 Beneath the claw of raven  
 Grovelling to fall in shield-din  
 The grim, or get him Denmark.

## CHAPTER XX. THE HOSTING OF KING MAGNUS.

**T**HEN King Magnus gathers his host together, and summoned to him landed-men and rich bonders, and gat to him longships. And when that host was all together it was of the bravest to behold and right well

arrayed. He had seventy ships when he sailed from Norway. So says Thiodolf:

Thou brooked'st longships boldly,  
 O lord the battle-valiant ;  
 Whereas men had to eastward  
 Of keels a ten times seven.  
 Southward the ship-boards murmured ;  
 Topped sails with tackle wrangled ;  
 The mast-long oak the bay clove ;  
 His bent board bowed the Bison.

Here it is said that King Magnus had the Great Bison which King Olaf had done make ; that was by tale of more than thirty rowing benches, and on the prow thereof was the head of a bison, but aft there was a tail ; and the head, the tail, and both beaks were all laid with gold. This Arnor the earls' skald telleth of :

Drave loath lather from withoutward  
 On the poop-side ; shook the red-gold  
 On ship's rudder : speedy fir's hound  
 Stooped down on the rushing fir-craft ;  
 From the north stark stems thou heldest  
 Round Stafanger ; all ahead there  
 Quaked the deep : and glowed as fire  
 Storm-steeds' topmasts in the Dane-realm.

King Magnus put to sea out from Agdir over to Jutland. So sayeth Arnor :

I shall tell how the Bison,  
 Rime-smitten, lee-board-leaning  
 Bare on the lord, the deed-swift,  
 Of the Sogn-folk from the northward.  
 The byrny-Thing's fierce bidder  
 Laid prow unto broad Jutland ;  
 And fain the folk did take him,  
 The driver of the belt-shaft.

## CHAPTER XXI. KING MAGNUS CAME TO DENMARK.

**B**UT when King Magnus came to Denmark, there had he a good welcome; and speedily he had Things and Motes with the folk of the land, and craved to be taken to king of them, even as had been covenanted afore. And whereas the chiefs of the land, they that were of the highest renown in Denmark, were bound by oaths to King Magnus and desired to keep their words and oaths, they furthered much this matter before the folk. This again went thereto, that King Knut the Rich was passed away, and all his offspring dead; and this was the third thing, that by then the holiness of Olaf had become known over all lands, and the working of his miracles.

## CHAPTER XXII. MAGNUS MADE KING IN DENMARK.

**T**HEN King Magnus let summon the Thing of Vebiorg: thereat the Danes, both of old time and new, take their kings; and at this Thing the Danes made Magnus Olafson king over all the Dane-realm. Dwelt King Magnus for a long while that summer in Denmark, and all folk welcomed him well where-soever he came, and gave him obeisance. And he appointed over all the land men to bailiwicks and counties, and made grants to men of might. But when the autumn wore, he made for Norway with his host, and tarried in the Elf for a while.

## CHAPTER XXIII. THE UP-COMING OF SVEIN, WOLF'S SON.

A MAN is named Svein, the son of Earl Wolf, the son of Thorgils Sprakalegg. The mother of Svein was Astrid, the daughter of King Svein Twibeard. She was the sister of Knut the Rich by the same father, but of the same mother as Olaf the Swede-king, the son of Eric; their mother was Sigrid the Haughty, daughter of Skogul-Tosti. Svein, the son of Wolf, had by then dwelt a long while with the Swede-kings, his kinsmen, all along since the fall of his father, Earl Wolf, whereof it is written in the story of Knut the Old, that he let slay Wolf his brother-in-law at Roskild. For that sake Svein was not in Denmark afterwards.

Svein, the son of Wolf, was of all men the goodliest to look upon, the greatest and strongest moreover, and a man of the greatest prowess and excellence. It was the say of all men to whom he was known, that he had all things which make fair a good lord.

Svein, Wolf's son, came to see King Magnus whenas he lay in the Elf, as was said afore; and the king gave him a good welcome. Withal there were many to further him, for Svein was a man most well befriended, and he told his matters himself before the king most fairly and deftly, so that it came to this, that he went to King Magnus' hand and became his man. Whereupon he and the king talked many things over privily between themselves.

## CHAPTER XXIV. SVEIN GIVEN AN EARL'S NAME.

ONE day, when King Magnus sat in the high-seat with a throng around him, Svein sat on the footstool before the king, and the king took up the word and said: "I will make known unto my lords and to all the all-folk that counsel which I will let be. Unto me here is come a man worthy both as to kin and as to himself, Svein, Wolf's son, to wit. He has now become my man, and has handselled me his faith to that end. But inasmuch as ye know, that this summer all Danes have become my men, now is that land headless, whereas I am gone away; and as ye wot, there is much war-risk both from Wends and Courlanders, and other folk of the East-ways, or even from Saxons. Now I behight them to get a lord for the warding of the land and the ruling thereof, and I see no man as meet thereto for all sakes as Svein, the son of Wolf; for he hath kin thereto to be a lord. Now therefore I shall make him my earl, and give into his hands the Dane-realm to rule over whiles I am in Norway, even as Knut the Rich set Earl Wolf his father to be lord over Denmark, when Knut was in England."

Einar Thambarskelfir answered: "Overmuch-earl, overmuch-earl, foster-son!"

The king spake wrathfully: "Thou thinkest I know but few; but to me it seemeth that some ye deem overmuch-earls, and othersome no men at all."

Then stood up the king and fastened a sword to the belt of Svein, and sithence took a shield and did it on his shoulder; sithence set a helm on his head, and gave him earl's name and the same grants in Denmark as Wolf his father had had there aforetime. Then a shrine with holy relics was brought forth, and Svein laid his hands thereon and swore oaths of fealty to King Magnus; sithence the king led the earl into the high-seat beside him. So says Thiodolf:

Wolf's son himself was east there  
 At the Elf; there Svein betook him,  
 Hand on the shrine, to swearing,  
 And there behight he fairly.  
 The lord-king of the Skanings,  
 E'en Olaf's son, the oath framed.  
 To him hath been more short-lived  
 Their covenant than should be.

Then fared Earl Svein to Denmark, and had there good welcome of all the folk. Then he took to him a bodyguard, and became speedily a great lord; and through the winter he went far and wide about the land and made much friendship with the great men, and thereto was he well beloved of the commonalty.

#### CHAPTER XXV. WARFARE TO WENDLAND.

**K**ING MAGNUS held his host north into Norway, and tarried there through the winter. But when spring came, King Magnus had out a mickle host, and held with it

south to Denmark. But when he came there he heard the tidings from Wendland that the Wends had turned away from his obeisance in Jomsburg. There had the Dane-kings had a mickle earldom ; they had reared Jomsburg from the beginning, and now was that become an all-stark stronghold. But when King Magnus heard such said, he bade out from Denmark a mickle ship-host, and made that summer for Wendland with all the host, and a right mickle host he had. Thereof telleth Arnor the earls' skald :

Thou, king's son, shalt hear in stave-lay  
 How the war-shield unto Wendland  
 Bare ye. Then thou drewest, O happy,  
 Rimy boards off the smooth rollers.  
 Heard I ne'er of king that ever  
 More ships hosted to their heir-land.  
 Then by ships was ploughed the sea-flood ;  
 Wrought ye, king, once more Wend-sorrow.

But when King Magnus came to Wendland, he laid on to Jomsburg, and won the burg forthwith ; there he slew much folk, and burned the burg and the country wide away out from it, and wrought there the greatest deeds of war. So sayeth Arnor the earls' skald :

Shielding ! far'd'st thou forth with fire  
 Through a wild folk, then to warriors  
 Death was fated : thieves'-bane ! South there  
 Fire-gleam highest at Jom ye kindled.  
 In the work the heathen people  
 Nowhere durst their halls be warding.  
 King, ye wrought with the bright fire  
 Drooping hearts unto the Burgmen.

Much folk in Wendland went under King

Magnus' hand, but much more was that which fled away. Then fared King Magnus back to Denmark, and arrayed him there for winter-seat, but sent away from him the host, both the Danish host, and therewithal a great company of the band that had followed him from Norway.

## CHAPTER XXVI. KING'S NAME GIVEN TO SVEIN.

**T**HE same winter that Svein, son of Wolf, had got the rule over Denmark, and had made great friendship with a many big men, and gotten much the praise of the commonalty, he let give him the king's name, and that rede many chiefs turned to. But in the spring, when he heard that Magnus fared from the north from Norway, and had a great host, then fared Svein to Skaney, and thence up into Gautland, and so on to Sweden, to find King Emund his kinsman, and tarried there through the summer, but had spies in Denmark about the journey of King Magnus and the multitude of his host. But when King Svein heard that King Magnus had let fare from him a great part of his host, and therewith that he was south in Jutland, then Svein rode down from Sweden, having with him a great host which the King of Sweden got for him. But when Svein came west to Skaney, the Skanings gave him a good welcome, and upheld him there for king, and then a great host drifted to him. Sithence he went over unto Sealand, where he was well taken, and all that land he laid under

him. Then he went to Fion, and laid under him all islands, and the folk went under him, and Svein had a great host and many ships.

## CHAPTER XXVII. OF THE HOST OF KING MAGNUS.

**K**ING MAGNUS heard these tidings, and therewithal too that the Wends had an host out. Then King Magnus summoned an host to him, and there drew to him speedily an host from all Jutland. To him came Duke Otta of Saxland from Brunswick; he had to wife Ulfhild, the daughter of King Olaf the Holy, the sister to King Magnus. The duke had a mickle following of men. The chiefs of the Danes urged King Magnus to go against the war-host of the Wends, and let not heathen folk overrun the land there and waste it. And that rede was taken, so the king turned with his host south to Heathby. But when King Magnus lay by Skotburg-water on Lyrshaw-heath, there came to him news of the war-host of the Wends, and that withal, that they had so mickle an host as none might tell, and that King Magnus had no deal against that multitude, and that that alone would avail him, to flee away.

Yet would King Magnus fight if men thought he had any chance of victory; but most letted him, saying all with one consent that the Wends had an host not to be turned to flight. But Duke Otta somewhat urged to fight.

So the king had the whole host blown together, and let all men do on their war-gear, and they lay

out the night through under their shields ; for they were told that the host of the Wends was come anigh them. The king was much heart-sick, and deemed it ill if he must needs flee away, for that he had never tried ; and little he slept through the night, and sang his prayers.

#### CHAPTER XXVIII. KING MAGNUS' DREAM.

**T**HE next day was Michaelmas Eve. Now when it was hard on day the king slept, and dreamed that he saw the holy King Olaf, his father, who said to him : " Art thou now much heart-sick and fulfilled of fear, whereas the Wends fare against thee with a great host ? Nought shalt thou dread of an heathen host, though they be many together. I shall follow thee up in this battle ; betake thee to battle with the Wends, so soon as ye hear mine horn."

But when the king awoke he told his dream. Then the light of day began to show, and all the folk heard the sound of bells up in the air, and such of King Magnus' men as had been in Nidoyce thought they knew the sound, that it was as if Glad were being rung, even that bell which King Olaf had given to the church of Clement at Cheaping.

## CHAPTER XXIX. BATTLE ON LYR-SHAW-HEATH.

**T**HEN stood up King Magnus, and called to blow the blast of war. Therewithal fared the Wend-host over the river at them, from the south. Then the whole host of the king sprang to their feet and made for the heathen. King Magnus cast from him his ring-byrny, and had outwards a red silken shirt, and he took in his hand the axe Hell, which King Olaf had owned. King Magnus ran before all other men against the host, and hewed forthwith with both hands one man after another, as saith Arnor the earls' skald :

Rushed forth the king unwearry  
 With broad axe ; there was sword-din  
 About the lord of Hord-folk ;  
 But he cast his byrny from him.  
 Then fallow heads did Hell cleave  
 When the king's two hands the heft clasped ;  
 But the ever-living warden  
 Of Heaven dealt the field out.

This battle was nought long ; the king's men were most eager. And wheresoever they came together the Wends fell as thick and fast as if they lay in wave-drifts ; but those who stood backwarder turned to flight, and there were they hewn down like to cattle. The king himself drave the flight east over the heath, and the folk fell all about the heath. So says Thiodolf :

The brother's son of Harald  
 Meseems stood first of all men

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In the hundred's-flock. The raven  
Knew hunger-bann the keenest.  
Wide lay the route of Wend-folk ;  
Needs must the hewen slaughter  
A heath mile-broad hyll over,  
There whereas Magnus battled.

It is the say of all folk that no man-fall hath been so mickle in the North-lands in Christian time as that which was of the Wends on Lyrshaw-heath. But of King Magnus' host fell not a many, though a multitude were wounded. After the battle King Magnus let bind the wounds of his men, but leeches were not so many in the host as were needed then. Then went the king to such men as seemed good to him, and felt their hands ; but whenas he had taken and stroked the hollow of their hands, then named he twelve men who seemed to him would be the softest handed, and told them to bind up the wounds of men, and yet none of them had bound a wound before, but all these became the greatest of leeches. There were two Iceland men there : one was Thorkel, son of Geiri of Lings, the other Atli, the father of Bard the Black of Sel-waterdale, and from them came many leeches sithence. After this battle, became renowned far and wide over lands that miracle which the holy King Olaf had wrought, and it became the talk of all men, that none need fight against King Magnus Olafson, and that King Olaf, his father, was so heedful of him, that for that reason his unfriends might in no way withstand him.

## CHAPTER XXX. BATTLE AT RE.

**K**ING MAGNUS turned his host forth-  
with against Svein, whom he called his  
earl, though the Danes called him king.  
King Magnus betook him to shipboard and arrayed  
his host, and either side drew together thronging.  
There were then a many chieftains in the host of  
Svein, Skanings, men of Halland and Sealand and  
Fion-dwellers. But King Magnus had mostly  
Northmen and Jutes. So he made with his host  
to meet Svein.

Their meeting befell at Re off Westland, and  
there was a mickle battle, and such was the end  
thereof, that King Magnus had the victory; but  
Svein turned to flight, and lost much folk. He  
fled back to Skaney, for he had shelter up in  
Gautland if he should need to take to it. But  
King Magnus went back to Jutland, and sat there  
with much folk over the winter, and gave heed to  
his ships. Hereof telleth Arnor the earls' skald :

The king all eager-hearted  
Let the hard Thing of Glammi  
Be held at Re; he reddened  
Welsh brands off the wide Westland.

CHAPTER XXXI. BATTLE AT RIVER-  
OYCE.

**S**VEIN WOLFSON fared straightway  
aboard his ships, whenas he heard that  
King Magnus had gone from off board.  
Svein drew to him company all he could get, and

fared that winter over Sealand and Fion and over the islands ; and when it drew towards Yule he held south to Jutland, and went first to Limbfrith, and much folk went under him. But of some he took tribute, othersome fared to find King Magnus. But when King Magnus heard this, what Svein was setting about, he went to his ships, having with him the host of Northmen that then was in Denmark and some company of Danes, and held therewith from the south along the land. Svein was then in Riveroyce, and had a great host, and when he had news of the host of King Magnus he laid his whole host out of the town and arrayed him for battle.

But when King Magnus had heard where Svein was, and wotted that now there must be a short way betwixt them, then had he a House-thing and spake to his host, and said thus : “ Now have we heard that the earl with his host must be lying here before us, and it is told me that they have a great host ; so I will make known unto you my mind hereon. I will betake me to find the earl, and will give battle to him, though we have folk somewhat fewer. Now will we have trust, as aforetime, there whereas God is himself, and the holy King Olaf, my father, who has sundry times already given victory to us when we have fought, and often have we had lesser company than our unfriends. Now will I that my men array them so that we seek them out ; and so soon as we meet together, then shall we row on them, and fall to battle straightway ; then let all my men be ready to fight.”

Sithence they did on their war-gear, and every man arrayed himself and his berth. So King Magnus and his men rowed forth until they saw the host of the earl, and therewith they gave way. But the men of Svein weaponed them and lashed their ships together, and a hard fight there befell forthwith. So saith Thiodolf:

Short while since earl and lord-king,  
They laid the shields together.  
Then play of brands all bitter  
Came on the thorns of sea-gleeds;  
That they the sark who markèd  
Of the Thing of Odin's handmaid  
Minded no greater battle.  
There wrought the host the spear-din.

They fought over the stems, and they only might come to hewing who were in the prows; but they who were in the fore-room thrust with spears, but all such as were more aft shot twirl-spears or gavelocks or war-arrows; but some hurled stones or shaft-flints; but those aft of the mast shot with bows. This Thiodolf telleth of:

Heard I that men shot swiftly  
Shaft-flints against the broad shields,  
And many a spear. The raven  
Gat meat when we made battle.  
Men used to their most the arrows  
And stones in weapons' wrangle.  
Forsooth the thorns of gold rings,  
They lay there sorely beaten.

The Thrandheimers, they would not  
Come to an end of shooting,  
Until the bowmen bare not  
More shafts that day to the tugged flax.

Then flew about the battle  
 Twirl-spears so thick together  
 That ill one saw betwixt them.  
 Wild say they was the shaft-drift.

Here it is told how wild was the shot-storm. King Magnus was at first in the beginning of the battle in a shieldburg, but when he deemed the work sped slowly, he sprang forth from the shieldburg and so along the ship, and called high aloud and egged on his men, and went right forth on into the prow into the hewing-fight. And when his men saw this, each egged on the other, and then was there mickle shout throughout all the host. So saith Thiodolf :

Much Magnus bade the warriors,  
 And each the other, briskly  
 To shove forth war-clouds. There where  
 They fought, were boards hard handled.

Then befell the battle of the fiercest. In that brunt was cleared the ship of Svein afore about the prow and the bows. Then went Magnus himself with his following up on to the ship of Svein, and sithence his men, one after the other ; then was made so hard an onset, that Svein's men shrank before it, and King Magnus cleared that ship, and sithence one after the other. Then Svein fled and a mickle deal of his host, and many fell of his men, and a many gat quarter. So saith Thiodolf :

Magnus, the ward of keel-wains,  
 Went forth in fight on fore-stem,  
 Fair wrought—that was far famed—  
 Of the raven of the harbour.

There did we so that the war-host  
Of the house-carles was for-wasted  
To the earl ; but the king's catch waxèd.  
And rid the host the ships there.

The earl's host fell to fleeing  
Ere the dear one, he the waster  
Of the sun of the swan-field, hanselled  
A truce of life to the sword-staves.

This battle befell on the Lord's day next before  
Yule. So saith Thiodolf :

Fell was the fight there foughten,  
Whenas the stems of hard-squall  
Of Hrammi fought that Sunday ;  
The swift host went to battle.  
On every wave corpse floated  
Whenas fey stems of sword-din  
Lost life, and sank the people  
Adown from off the dragons.

There King Magnus took seven ships from the  
men of Svein. So says Thiodolf :

The son of the Thick Olaf  
Seven ships of late hath ridded.  
The king won victory. Drooping  
The Sogn women hear not.

And still he sang :

Svein's fellows missed home-coming ;  
For sooth 'tis clear, O Sword-Gaut,  
That the journey of the warriors  
E'en somewhat hard is waxen.  
The storm-stirred wave is tossing  
The skulls and legs of these ones  
On the sands' ground, and roareth  
The sea-flood o'er the wealth-wights.

Svein fled forthwith that night to Sealand with

such of his host as got away and would follow him ; but King Magnus laid his ships to the land, and let straightway that night his host fare aland, but early in the morning they came down with a mickle strand-hew. Thereof Thiodolf telleth :

But yesterday beheld I  
Big stones cast ; they were flying  
Fast on their ranks of battle ;  
Before stones skulls were gaping.  
The strand-hew down we drave there ;  
In midmost land the ship-stems  
Have taken stead ; Svein will not  
With words alone the land ward.

CHAPTER XXXII. THE FLIGHT OF KING SVEIN.

**K**ING MAGNUS straightway held his host from the south to Sealand after Svein. But when the host of King Magnus came in sight, Svein fled forthwith up into the land and all his host, but King Magnus pushed on after them, and drave the chase ; and they slew such as they caught. So saith Thiodolf :

One word asked the Sealand maiden,  
Who bore the shields blood-reddened ?  
Sooth is that folk a many  
Had even such-like tokens.  
But fated was the wealth-staff  
To stride across the woodland.  
Flight manifold bare swiftly  
The foot-soles unto Ringstead.

The swift lord of the Skanings  
Bare neck all mire bespattered.

A wonder that the world-proud  
Lund's Allwielder may hold out !  
But yesterday the banners  
Of the strong earl flew o'er moorland  
And mould forth to the sea-flood.  
Swift darts o'er the howe-ways drifted.

Then fled Svein over to Fion, but King Magnus fared the war-shield over Sealand, and wide about burnt the abodes of those who in the autumn-tide had joined them to the flock of Svein. So says Thiodolf :

Of the kingly seat that winter  
The earl he gat him quittance :  
Thou lettest not a little  
Land-warding come from theeward.  
Thou mightest, bounteous Magnus,  
Risk thee in fight 'neath war-shield :  
Then 'twas unto the doughty  
Knut's neave as he were undone.

Thrands' king, thou durst in anger  
Maim shield ! thou lett'st give houses  
Fire-doomed to gleeds and blazing ;  
Each one of them thou tookest.  
Friend of thy goodmen, wouldst thou  
Pay the earl's fellows throughly  
For that their scathesome foeship.  
They fled in haste before thee.

## CHAPTER XXXIII. ROBBERY AND BURNING.

**F**ORTHWITH, when King Magnus heard of the whereabouts of Svein, he held his host over to Fion. But when Svein heard that, he went aboard ship and sailed off, and hove in to Skaney, and fared thence into Gautland, and

sithence to see the King of the Swedes. But King Magnus went on to Fion, and let burn and rob there for a many. All Svein's men who were there fled away far and wide. So saith Thiodolf:

From oaken walls wind whirleth  
The gleeds aloft in Rook-land;  
The fire all wrought to madness  
Is playing in the Southland.  
Homestead in Fion flames higher  
By the half, and roof and bark-thatch  
Thole need above the dwellers.  
The Northmen halls are burning.

Web-Gefn, this have Svein's men  
To mind them of, and ken it  
Sithence they fought—three man-motes  
With the men of the Frey of battle.  
In Fion we hope fair women;  
On then 'midst din of weapons,  
All in our ranks arrayèd!  
Behoves us redden weapons.

After this all folk in Denmark went under King Magnus. Then was there good peace through the latter lot of the winter, and King Magnus set his men to ruling all throughout the land in Denmark. But when the spring wore, he fared his war-host north into Norway, and tarried there much long through the summer.

#### CHAPTER XXXIV. BATTLE AT HOLYNESS.

**B**UT when Svein heard that he rode forth-with out to Skaney, and had much folk out of the Swede-realm, and the Skanings took him well; wherefore he grew strong in folk.

Sithence he fared west over to Sealand, and laid it under him, and Fion withal, and all the islands.

But when King Magnus heard that, he gathered him together strength of men and ships, and held sithence south for Denmark. He heard where Svein lay with his host ; then held King Magnus to meet him, and their meeting befell there where it is hight Holy-ness, and that was at evening of day. And when it came to battle King Magnus had the less company, but bigger ships and better manned. So saith Arnor the earls' skald :

Now widely have I heard it,  
That Holy-ness 'twas hight there,  
Where the far-famed wolf-gladdener  
Full many a seas' elk rided.  
Bade at the dusk's beginning  
The pine of the wind of troll-wife  
Lock shields ; the rain of the fight-cloud  
Held through a night of autumn.

The fight was of the sharpest, but as the night wore on, mickle grew the fall of folk. King Magnus shot hand-shot all night long. Hereof Thiodolf telleth :

By Holy-ness hight yonder  
The folk of Svein, they louted  
Before the spears ; bane-worthy  
There sank the wounded warriors.  
Meet lord of Meres he held there  
In thong full many a sling-spear ;  
Land-ruler eager reddened  
The ash-be-steadied dart-point.

That is the speediest to tell of this battle, that King Magnus had the victory, but Svein fled ; his

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ship was rid from stem to stern, and all other ships of Svein were rid. So saith Thiodolf :

Folk-friend, away the earl fled  
Thence from his ship all empty,  
There where to Svein King Magnus  
Wrought the hurt-laden murder.  
There did the host-king redden  
In gore the edge of Hneitir ;  
On whetted brand blood spouted.  
For his own land the king fought.

And further says Arnor :

The king, the fierce to Skanings,  
Took there of Biorn's brother  
All ships around ; and rowed on  
That tide the warriors thither.

There fell much folk of Svein's men, and the king and his men gat great plunder to share. So saith Thiodolf :

A Gautish shield from battle  
Bore I, and byrny therewith.  
That was my lot : that summer  
Strong sword-din was in Southland.  
There where the king hard-fashioned  
Beat Danes, I gat fair weapons.  
Gat shield—but I have erewhile  
Told thee this, O mild lady !

Therewith Svein fled up unto Skaney, and all that host of his which got away ; but King Magnus and his host drove the flight far up inland, and then was there but little withstanding from Svein's men or the bonders. So saith Thiodolf :

Bade Olaf's son but lately  
To fall upon the land there ;

Magnus with mickle man-worth  
 From off the ships went angry.  
 The swift king bade the harrying :  
 In Denmark here is turmoil ;  
 O'er howes hard run the horses  
 In western parts of Skaney.

Sithence King Magnus let fare the war-shield  
 all over the countryside. So saith Thiodolf :

Now Northmen take to push on  
 The Magnus' banners ; wend we  
 Anigh the staves : not seldom  
 On side my war-shield bear I.  
 Even the shambling speeds not  
 With faltering foot o'er Skaney  
 To Lundward ; and meseemeth  
 Few roads are found more fairer.

Then they fell to burning the built country,  
 and all folk fled away far and wide. So saith  
 Thiodolf :

Full well we bare the irons  
 Ice-cold against the earl's folk ;  
 Fair houses of the Skanings  
 Now speedily they tumble.  
 Fierce plays the ruddy fire  
 O'er broad towns at our rede now ;  
 But the up-blowers eager,  
 That trouble are they wielding.  
 The king with an host most mighty  
 Wastes the built-land of Dane-realm ;  
 Bright fire burns its keenest  
 About abodes of men-folk.  
 The warrior worn fight-weary  
 Bears shield o'er Denmark's upland ;  
 The victory gat we : Svein's men,  
 Wounded they run before us.  
 Now let be spurned, O Firth-lord,  
 Fion's field of old betridden !

Little from me is hidden  
 'Twixt the hosts of the two shieldings.  
 Now fare up on this morning  
 Banners a many : Svein's men,  
 E'en they who run, will nowise  
 Gainsay great deeds to Magnus.

Then Svein fled to the eastward of Skaney, but King Magnus went to his ships, and sithence held east round Skaney-side, and had to array all things in hot haste. Then sang Thiodolf this :

Nought else have I for drinking  
 But this sea, as the king I follow ;  
 Suck I my drink to swallow  
 From out the salted sea-flood.  
 Now Skaney-side before us  
 Lies wide : hard have we toilèd  
 For the king, but little fear we  
 Those churls there of the Swede-folk.

Svein fled up into Gautland, and then sithence sought to the meeting of the Swede-king, and tarried with him through the winter in good entertainment.

## CHAPTER XXXV. WARFARE OF KING MAGNUS.

**K**ING MAGNUS turned back on his journey when he had laid under him all Skaney ; and first he held for Falster, and made there onset, and harried there, and slew a much folk which had before gone under Svein. So saith Arnor :

Unstinting the All-wielder  
 Repaid the Danes their treason ;

The stout-heart king let fall there  
 The host of the folk of Falster.  
 The young wealth-thorn up-laded  
 Full heavy heaps of slaughter  
 For the ernes, but high the courtmen  
 Stood by the eagles' feeder.

Sithence King Magnus held his host to Fion,  
 and harried there, and wrought there then mickle  
 war-work. So saith Arnor the earls' skald :

Reddened the ring-sark's dyer  
 Once more in Fion bright banners ;  
 That land sought the lord of people.  
 From him must folk bear robbing.  
 Let folk mind which of warriors  
 Filled second ten of life-years  
 As gainful for blue ravens !  
 An eager heart the king had.

## CHAPTER XXXVI. KING MAGNUS SAT IN DENMARK.

**T**HAT winter King Magnus sat in Den-  
 mark, and then was a good peace. He  
 had had many battles in Denmark, and  
 got the victory in all. Odd, the Kikina-skald,  
 sayeth thus :

Stour metal-grim was waged  
 Ere Michaelmas : the Wends fell,  
 And much therewith the people  
 Grew wont to the voice of weapons.  
 But yet was a brunt but doubtful  
 To the south of Riveroyce there,  
 A little ere the Yule-tide  
 Grim war with wights upheaved.

And further says Arnor :

Gattest thou, O Olaf's venger,  
 Stuff for song ; now shall the lay wax.  
 Hlokk's hawks lett'st thou drink the corpse-stream ;  
 Such shall I make things to tell of.  
 Waster keen of seat of shield-reed,  
 Shaft-storms four in but one winter  
 Hast thou wrought : therefor, All-wielder,  
 Art thou callèd full unyielding.

Three battles King Magnus had with Svein  
 Wolfson. So says Thiodolf :

Held with good luck was battle  
 As Magnus willed ; brunt-raiser  
 The hap now giveth to me  
 Of victory to rehearse me.  
 The Thrander's king brand reddened :  
 Syne bare he through three host-fights  
 Unceasing higher war-shield  
 To pay aback his foemen.

CHAPTERS XXXVII. AND XXXVIII.  
 KING MAGNUS' WORD-SENDING TO  
 ENGLAND.

**K**ING MAGNUS now ruled both over  
 Denmark and Norway. But after that  
 he had gotten the Dane-realm, he sent  
 messengers west to England, who went to see  
 King Edward, and brought him letters and the seal  
 thereon of King Magnus. But this stood on these  
 letters, along with the greeting of King Magnus :

“ Thou wilt have heard of that covenant which  
 we, Hordaknut and I, made between us, that he  
 of us twain who should outlive the other, sonless,  
 should take land and thanes which the other had  
 owned. Now hath it so betid, as I wot ye have

heard, that I have taken the Dane-realm as heritage after Hordaknut ; but he had, when he died, no less of England than Denmark ; we claim therefore that I have England after right covenant. Now I will that thou give up the realm to me, or otherwise I shall seek thereto by might of host, both from Dane-realm and Norway, and then let him rule over the lands to whom the victory shall be fated."

#### CHAPTER XXXIX. KING EDWARD'S ANSWER.

**B**UT when King Edward had read this letter, he answered thus :  
"That is known unto all men here in the land that King Æthelred, my father, was heritage-born unto this realm both from of old and new. We were four sons of his ; but when he was fallen from his lands, took realm and kingship Edmund my brother, whereas he was the oldest of us brethren, and well content I was therewith, whiles he lived. But after him took the realm Knut, my stepfather, and that was not easy to claim whiles he lived. But after him was Harald, my brother, king whiles life was fated to him. But when he was dead then ruled Hordaknut, my brother, over the Dane-realm, and deemed it the only right brother-sharing between us, that he should be king both over England and Denmark, but I had no dominion to rule over. Now, he died, and it was the mind of all the folk here in the land to take me for king here in England.

But while I bore no title of dignity, I did no more service to my lords than such men who had no birthright to the realm here. Now I have taken here the ordination of a king, and kingship as full as my father had before me, and that name shall I not give up whiles I live. But if King Magnus come hither to the land with his host, then will I not gather host against him; he will have that choice, to make England his own, and to take me first from my life-days. Tell ye him this my word."

So the messengers went back and met King Magnus, and told him all their errand. The king answered slowly, and spake thus: "I think that were meetest and best befallen, to let King Edward have his realm in quiet for me, but to hold this realm which God has made me to own."

