

The Poetic Edda: Gods

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

Pages	Poem	Notes
3 - 13	<i>The Seeress's Prophecy</i> <i>Voluspa</i> <i>Voluspá</i>	Odin: wisdom: Creation, Ragnarok - the poem exists in 2 mss, in rather different versions , and many of its verses are also to be found in Snorri's <i>Edda</i> - Dvergatal: Catalogue of Dwarfs – stanzas 9 - 16
14 - 38	<i>Sayings of the High One</i> <i>Havamal</i> <i>Hávamál</i>	Odin: wisdom: Ragnarok - this poem contains “human social wisdom, teasing allusions to runic mysteries, spells, and charms” - at times Odin speaks about “his own experience of questing after knowledge” - Gunnlod – st. 13 – 14; 104 – 110; - Billing's girl - 97 – 102; see Lindow pg. 79; - “Cattle die ...etc. “ st 76 – 77; - self sacrifice and runic knowledge: 138 – 144; 145 - 164
39 – 49	<i>Vafthrudnir's Sayings</i> <i>Vafthrudnismal</i> <i>Vafþrúðnismál</i>	Odin, Vafthrudnir: wisdom quest;riddles; Ragnarok - Vafthrudnir's questions – mythological facts - Odin's questions – history of the universe , past, present and future – Ragnarok, his own fate - once he hears about the wolf, he brings the contest to a speedy end
50 – 60	<i>Grimnir's Sayings</i> <i>Grimnismal</i> <i>Grímnismál</i>	Odin, Frigg, Grímnir - shamanistic practices , wisdom: mythological facts, topography of the world of gods, - “In its context in the <i>Poetic Edda</i> , Grímnir's Sayings both completes the exposition of Odinic wisdom and looks forward to the exploration of kingship which develops in the heroic poems.”
61 – 68	<i>Skirnir's Journey</i> <i>Skirnismal</i> <i>Skírnismál</i>	Freyr, Skirnir, - Freyr falls in love with a giant's daughter and Skirnir volunteers to go on a wooing mission. - this tale is also told in <i>Ynglinga Saga</i> and reveals that reason why Freyr is weaponless at Ragnarok is because he handed over his sword to Skirnir.
69 – 78	<i>Harbard's Song</i> <i>Harbardzljod</i> <i>Harbardzljóð</i>	Odin, Thor -flyting - establishes “the differences between the cults of the two deities” Odin has the nobles and Thor the serfs.
78 - 83	<i>Hymir's Poem</i> <i>Hymiskvida</i> <i>Hymiskviða</i>	Thor, Tyr, giants: Aegir and Hymir, Midgard Serpent - badly preserved in the ms, fill in the gaps from Snorri - fetching of the cauldron - contest of strength - Thor and Hymir's fishing expedition – Midgard Serpent

84 - 96	<i>Loki's Quarrel</i> <i>Lokasenna</i>	Loki, Thor, gods - flyting
97 – 101	<i>Thrym's Poem</i> <i>Thrymskvida</i> <i>Þrymskviða</i>	Freyja, Thor, Loki - Thor dresses as a woman
109 - 113	<i>All-Wise's Sayings</i> <i>Alvissma</i> <i>Alvíssmál</i>	Thor, dwarf – Alvis - unbeknown to Thor, Alvis intends to marry his daughter - catalogue poem, wisdom contest, kennings, taboo words - dwarf turned to stone
243 - 245	<i>Baldr's Dreams</i> <i>Baldrs draumar</i>	Baldr, Odin - not in the <i>Codex Regius</i> - Odin awakens a dead prophetess at the edge of Hel's kingdom
246 – 252	<i>The List of Rig</i> <i>Rigsthula</i>	Heimdall/Rig, - not in the <i>Codex Regius</i> - tells how the god Heimdall sets out to create the structures of human society
253 – 259	<i>The Song of Hyndla</i> <i>Hyndluliod</i> <i>Hyndluljóð</i> <i>The Short Seeress' Prophecy</i> <i>Voluspa hin skamma</i>	Freyja, Ottar, Angantyr, Hyndla, Battleswine, Christ ?? - not in the <i>Codex Regius</i> - 2 poems combined into one - verse 29, often known as <i>Volupa in skamma</i> lists all the Aesir and refers to “one who is greater than all” who will come after Odin - see Hollander pg. 137 – imitation of <i>Voluspa</i> ; system of 12 gods is a late development
260 – 263	<i>The Song of Grotti</i> <i>Grottasongr</i> <i>Grottasongr</i>	Frodi, Fenia, Menia, Grotti the magic millstone - at first the stone grinds out riches and treasures, peace and happiness but Frodi works the slave women too hard and they start grinding out an army against him - in <i>Snorri</i> , the millstone is used to grind salt and that is why the sea is salty