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BEOWULF

Translated by Gummere

BEOWULF

PRELUDE OF THE FOUNDER OF THE DANISH HOUSE

LO, praise of the prowess of people-kings
 of spear-armed Danes, in days long sped,
 we have heard, and what honor the athelings won!
 Oft Scyld the Scefing from squadroned foes,
 from many a tribe, the mead-bench tore,
 awing the earls. Since erst he lay
 friendless, a foundling, fate repaid him:
 for he waxed under welkin, in wealth he throve,
 till before him the folk, both far and near,