

Chapter 6 - *The Owl & the Nightingale*

Transcription

Ich þas in one sume dale•
 In one suþe dizele hale•
 Iherðe Ich holde grete tale•
 An hule and one ni3tingale•
 þat plait þaf ftaf 7 ftaf 7 ftrōg•
 sumþile softe 7 lud among•
 An aþer* a3en oþer sval•
 7 let þat wole mod ut al•
 7 eiþer feide of oþeres cufte•
 þat alere þorfte þat hi þufte•
 7 hure 7 hure of oþere songe
 hi holde plaiding suþe fstronge•
Pe ni3tingale bigon þe speche•
 In one hurne of one breche•
 7 sat upone vaire bo3e•
 þar þere abute blofme ino3e•
 In ore þafte þicke hegge•
 Imeind mid spire 7 grene segge•
 Ho þas þe gladur uor þe rise•
 7 song a uele cunne þife•
 Het* þu3te þe dreim þat he þere•
 Of harpe 7 pipe þan he nere•
 Bet þu3te þat he þere ishote•
 Of harpe 7 pipe þan of þrote•
 [P]o ftoð on old ftoð þarbi3ide•
 Þar þo vle song hire tide•
 7 þas mid iui al bigroþe•
 hit þaf þare hule eardingftoþe•
 Þe ni3tingale hi ise3•
 7 hi behold 7 ouerfe3•
 7 þu3te þel wl of þare hule•
 For me hi halt lodlich 7 fule
 vn þi3t ho feðe a þei þu flo•
 œe if þe wrs þat ich þe fo

 I þif for þine wle lete•
 þel oft ich mine song forlete•
 Min horte atflif 7 falt mi tonge•
 þonne þu art to me iþrunge•
 Me lufte bet speten þane singe•
 Of þine fule 3o3elinge•

Conventional printing of OE

Ich was in one sumere dale,
 In one suþe dizele hale;
 Iherde Ich holde grete tale
 An hule and one ni3tingale•
 Þat plait was stif and starc and strong,
 Sumwile softe and lud among;
 And eiþer a3en oþer sval
 And let þat vuele mod ut al;
 And eiþer seide of oþeres custe
 Þat alreworste þat hi wuste;
 And hure and hure of oþeres songe
 Hi holde plaiding suþe stronge•
 Þe ni3tingale bigon þe speche
 In one hurne of one breche,
 And sat up on one vaire bo3e
 Þar were abute blosme ino3e,
 In ore waste þicke hegge
 Imeind mid spire and grene segge•
 Ho was þe gladur uor þe rise
 And song a uele cunne wise•
 Bet þu3te þe dreim þat he were
 Of harpe and pipe þan he nere;
 Bet þu3te þat he were ishote
 Of harpe and pipe þan of þrote•
 Þo stod on old stoc þarbi3ide,
 Þar þo vle song hire tide,
 And was mid iui al bigrowe:
 Hit was þare hule earding-stowe•
 Þe ni3tingale hi ise3
 And hi behold and ouerse3,
 And þu3te wel wl of þare hule,
 For me hi halt lodlich and fule
 'Vnwi3t,' ho sede, 'awei þu flo
 Me is þe wrs þat Ich þe so:

 Iwis, for þine wle lete
 Wel oft Ich mine song forlete;
 Min horte atflif, and falt mi tonge,
 Wonne þu art to me iþrunge;
 Me luste bet speten þane singe
 Of þine fule 3o3elinge•

Literal translation

I was in a summery dale
 In a very hidden corner
 Heard I hold great debate
 An owl and a nightingale
 That debate washard & fierce & strong
 Sometimes soft & loud by turns
 And each against other swelle up
 And let that evil mind all out
 And each said of other's qualities
 The worst possible that they knew
 And especially of other's song
 They hold debate very strong
 The nightingale began the speech
 In a corner of a clearing
 And sat upon a fair bough
 About which were blossoms enough
 In a deserted thick hedge
 Mingled with reeds and green sedge
 She was the gladder for the spray
 And sang many kinds (of) song
 The melody seemed rather that it was
 On harp or pipe than it were
 It seemed rather that it was sent out
 From harp & pipe than from throat
 There stood an old stump beside
 Where the owl sang her hours
 And was with ivy vergrown
 It was the owl's dwelling-place
 The nightingale her saw
 And her beheld and looked down on
 And thought very foully of the owl
 For people hold her loathly and foul
 Monster she said, away you fly
 It's the worse for me that I see you

 Indeed for your foul appearance
 Very often I forsake my song
 My heart fails and my tongue falters
 When you are brought close to me
 I'd rather spit than sing
 Because of your foul hooting.

þos hule abod fort hit þaf eve•
 ho ne mizte no leng bileue•
 vor hire horte þas fo gret•
 þat þelnez hire fnast at schet•
 7 þarp a þorb þaraft longe•
 'hu þincþe nu bi mine songe•
 þeft þu þat ich ne cunne singe•
 þez ich ne cunne of þritelinge•
 Ilome þu deft me g^fme•
 7 faft me boþe tone 7 schame•
 3if ich þe holbe on mine note•
 So hit bitide þat ich mote•
 7 þu þere vt of þine rise•
 þu sholdest singe anoþer þfe•

Pe niztingale 3af anfware•
 3if ich me loki þit þe bare•
 7 me schilde þit þe blete
 Ne reche Ich no3t of þine þrete•
 3if ich me holbe in mine hegge•
 Ne recche ich neū þhat þu segge•
 Ich þot þat þu art un milbe•
 wiþ hom þat ne muze frō *fe
 schilde• (* should be þe)
 7 þu tukest wroþe 7 vuele•
 whar þu mizt over smale fuzele•
 vorþi þu art loþ al fuel kunne•
 7 alle ho þe driueþ honne•
 7 þe bi schricheþ 7 bigredet
 7 wel nar þe þe bi ledet

Pos hule abod fort hit was eve -
 Ho ne mizte no leng bileue:
 Vor hire horte was so gret
 Þat welnez hire fnast atschet -
 And warp a word þarafter longe:
 'Hu þincþe nu bi mine songe?
 Wenst þu þat Ich ne cunne singe,
 Þez Ich ne cunne of writelinge?
 Ilome þu dest me grame
 And seist me boþe tone and schame•
 3if Ich þe holde on mine note
 (So hit bitide þat Ich mote!)
 And þu were vt of þine rise,
 Þu sholdest singe anoþer wise•'

Pe niztingale 3af answare:
 3if Ich me loki wit þe bare
 And me schilde wit þe blete,
 Ne reche Ich no3t of þine þrete;
 3if Ich me holde in mine hegge,
 Ne recche Ich neuer what þu segge•
 Ich wot þat þu art unmilde '
 Wiþ hom þat ne muze from þe
 schilde;
 And þu tukest wroþe and vuele,
 Whar þu mizt over, smale fuzele•
 Vorþi þu art loþ al fuel-kunne,
 And alle ho þe driueþ honne
 And þe bischricheþ and bigredet
 And wel narewe þe biledet;

This owl wailed till it was evening
 She could no longer keep silent
 For her heart was so swollen
 That her breath well nigh left her
 And she uttered a word long after
 How does my song seem to you now
 Do you think I can't sing
 Though I don't know how to trill
 Often you do me wrong
 And saying to me both insult and shame
 If I were to hold you to my advantage
 (If only it turned out that I might)
 And you were off that branch
 You'd sing another tune.

The nightingale gave answer
 If I protect myself against exposure
 And shield myself against the cold
 I reckon nothing of your threat
 If I keep myself within the hedge
 I don't bother about what you say
 I know that you are harsh
 Against those who can't defend
 themselves
 And you ill-treat cruelly and evilly
 Wherever you may, small birds
 Therefore you are hateful to all birds
 And they all drive you away
 And shriek and scold you
 And mob you closely

source	text word	MnE	OE	3af	gave
OE an	a	<i>a</i>	OE giefan (imitative)	3o3elinge	<i>youling, wailing</i>
OE abidan	abod	<i>stay, remain, wait</i>	OA halh (<i>dat</i> hale)	hale	<i>corner, nook</i>
OE abutan	abute	<i>þar abute</i> = <i>around which</i>	OE healdan/haldan	halt	<i>held</i>
OE ongean	a3en	= <i>against</i>	OE hearpe	harpe	<i>harp</i>
OE eall	al/alle	<i>all</i>	OE heo	he	<i>she</i>
OE alra + wyrsa	alreworste	= <i>worst possible</i>	OE hecge	hegge	<i>hedge</i>
OE onmang/onmong	among	= <i>at imes,</i> <i>by turns</i>	OE hie	hi	<i>they</i>
OE and/ond	an/and	<i>and</i>	OE hire	hire	<i>her</i>
OE an + oþer(e)	anoþer	<i>another, different</i>	OE hit	hit	<i>it</i>
OE andswaru	answare	<i>answer</i>	OE heo	ho	<i>she</i>
OE eart	art	<i>art, are</i>	OE healdan/haldan	holde	<i>hold</i>
OE ætflēon	atflīþ	= <i>runs away, fails</i>	OE heom	hom	<i>them</i>
OE æt + sceat (sceotan)	atschet	<i>departed, left</i>	OE heonan	honne	<i>hence, away</i>
OE on weg	awei	<i>away</i>	OE heorte	horte	<i>heart</i>
OE bæc	bare	= <i>in the open</i>	OE hu	hu	<i>how</i>
OE behealdan	behold	<i>look at, examine</i>	OE hule	hule	<i>owl</i>
OE bet	bet	<i>better, rather</i>	OE huru	hure	<i>hure an hure =</i> <i>especially</i>
OE be/bi	bi	<i>by, near</i>	OE hyrne	hurne	<i>corner</i>
OE beginnan	bigon	<i>began</i>	OE ic	ich	<i>I</i>
OE be + grædan	bigredet	<i>cry out at, scold</i>	OE geheran	iherde	<i>heard</i>
OE be + growan	bigrowe	<i>overgrown</i>	OE gelome	ilome	<i>often</i>
OE belædan	biledet	= <i>harass</i>	OE mengan	imeind	<i>mingled</i>
OE belæfan	bileue	= <i>keep silent</i>	OE genog	ino3e	<i>enough</i>
OE be	bischriceþ	<i>screech at</i>	OE geseon	ise3	<i>saw</i>
+ ME schrichen			OE sceotan	ishote	= <i>sent out</i>
OE be + tidan	bitide	= <i>may it so happen</i>	OE ifig	iui	<i>ivy</i>
OE bleat	blete	= <i>exposure, lack of</i> <i>cover</i>	OE gewiss	iwis	<i>certainly, indeed</i>
OE blo3ma	blosme	<i>flowers, blossoms</i>	OE þringan	iþrunge	= <i>brought close</i>
OE bog	bo3e	<i>bough</i>	OE lang/long	leng	<i>long</i>
ON baðir	boþe	<i>both</i>	OE lætan	let	<i>let</i>
OE bræc	breche	<i>clearing</i>	OE gelæte	lete	<i>appearance</i>
OE cunnan	cunne	<i>can</i>	OE laplic	lodlich	<i>loathsome</i>
OE cyst/cysta (pl)	custe	<i>qualities, character</i>	OE locian	loki	= <i>protect</i>
OE dæl	dale	<i>dale, valley</i>	OE lang/long	longe	<i>long</i>
OE don	dest	<i>do, does</i>	OE lap	loþ	<i>loathsome, hateful</i>
OE diegol	dizele	<i>hidden, secluded</i>	OE hlud	lud	<i>loud</i>
OE dream	dreim	<i>sound</i>	OE lystan	luste	<i>me luste bet = I</i> <i>would rather</i>
OE drifan	driuæ	<i>drive</i>	OE mid	mid	<i>with</i>
OE eardung stowe	earding-stowe	<i>dwelling-place</i>	OE min	min/mine	<i>my/mine</i>
OE ægþer	eipþer	<i>either, each, both</i>	OE mihtest f magan	mist	<i>mist over = have</i> <i>power over</i>
OE eac	ek	<i>also</i>	OE mihte f magan	mi3te	<i>might</i>
OE æfen, efen	eve	<i>evening</i>	OE mod	mod	<i>mind, hart, feeling</i>
OA faldan	falt	<i>falters, grows weak</i>	OE mase	mose	<i>timouse</i>
OE fleon	flo	<i>flee/flew</i>	OE mot	mote	<i>may</i>
OE fnæst	fnast	<i>breath</i>	OE mæg	mu3e	<i>may</i>
OE for/fore	for	<i>for, because</i>	OE nearwe	narewe	<i>closely</i>
OE forlætan	forlete	<i>forsake, give up</i>	OE næfre	ner	= <i>ne were</i>
OE forþ to	fort	<i>until</i>	OE næfre	neuer	<i>never</i>
OE for þy	forþe	<i>therefore</i>	OE nihtegale (galan = sing)	ni3tingale	<i>nightingale</i>
OE fram/from	from	<i>from</i>	OE notu	note	<i>advantage, profit</i>
OE fugel cynn	fuel-kunne	= <i>to the race of</i> <i>birds</i>	OE na wiht	no3t	<i>nothing</i>
OE ful	fule	<i>foul, dirty</i>	OE nu	nu	<i>now</i>
OE fugol	fuzele	<i>bird</i>	OE oft	oft	<i>often</i>
OE gif	3if	<i>if</i>	OE eald/ald	old	<i>old</i>
OE glæd	gladur	<i>happier</i>	OE an	one	<i>one, a</i>
OE grama	grame	<i>harm, wrong</i>	OE an	ore	(<i>dat fem</i>) = <i>one</i>
OE grene	grene	<i>green</i>	OE oferseon	ouerse3	<i>looked over,</i> <i>surveyed</i>
OE great	gret/grete	<i>grat = sharp, severe</i>	OE ofer	over	<i>over</i>

OE oþer	oþer/oþeres	<i>other</i>	OE for þy	vorþi	<i>therefore</i>
OE pipe	pipe	<i>pipe</i>	OE ut	vt	<i>out</i>
OF plaidier	plaiding	<i>debate</i>	OE yfel	vuele	<i>evil</i>
OF plait	plait	<i>debate</i>	OE weorpan	warp	= <i>uttered</i>
OE reccan	recche/reche	<i>care</i>	ONF wast	waste	<i>deserted</i>
OE hris	rise	<i>branch, leafy spray</i>	OE wel	wel	<i>well</i>
OE sittan	sat	<i>sat</i>	OE wel neah	welneȝ	<i>almost</i>
OE seamu	schame	<i>shame, insult</i>	OE wenan	wenst	<i>think</i>
OE scildan	schilde	<i>shelter, protect</i>	OE hwær	whar	<i>where</i>
OE secgan	sede/seide/seist	<i>said/sayest</i>	OE hwæt	what	<i>what</i>
OE secg	segge	<i>sedge</i>	OE wise	wise	= <i>song, tune</i>
OE sculan	sholdest	<i>should</i>	OE wiþ	wit	<i>with</i>
OE singan	singe	<i>sing</i>	OE full	wl	= <i>full</i>
OE smæl	smale	<i>small</i>	OE willan	wolde	<i>would</i>
OE softe	softe	<i>quiet, soft</i>	OE hwanne	wonne	<i>when</i>
OE singan/song	song/songe	<i>sang/song</i>	OE word	word	<i>word</i>
OE sp(r)æc	speche	<i>speech</i>	OE witan	wot	<i>know</i>
OE spætan	speten	<i>spit</i>	OE writian	writlinge	<i>trilling, chirping</i>
OE spir	spire	<i>reeds</i>	OE wraþ	wroþe	<i>angry</i>
OE stearc	starc	<i>hard, fierce</i>	OE wyrs	wrs	<i>worse</i>
OE stif	stif	<i>hard</i>	OE witan	wuste	<i>knew</i>
OE stocc	stoc	<i>stump</i>	OE þanne	þan/þane	<i>than</i>
OE standan	stod	<i>stood</i>	OE þær	þar	<i>there</i>
OE strang/strong	strong/stronge	<i>stong</i>	OE þær æfter	þarafter	<i>thereafter</i>
OE self	sulue	<i>self</i>	OE ær besidan	þarbiside	<i>near by</i>
OE sumor	sumere	<i>summery</i>	OE þære	þare	<i>the</i>
OE sum + hwil	sumwile	<i>sometimes</i>	OE þæt	þat	<i>that</i>
OE swiþe	suþe	= <i>very</i>	OE þe (late)	þe/þo	<i>the</i>
OE swellan	sval	<i>swelled up, raged</i>	OE þeah	þeȝ	<i>though</i>
OE talu	tale	= <i>debate</i>	OE þicce	þicke	<i>thick</i>
OE tid	tide	<i>time = canonical hours</i>	OE þyncan	þinče	<i>Hu þinče nu bi = what do you think of</i>
OE teona	tone	= <i>insult</i>			<i>of</i>
OE tunge	tonge	<i>tongue</i>	OE þin	þine	<i>thine</i>
OE to + tasan	totose	<i>tear to pieces</i>	OE þis	þos	<i>this</i>
OE tucian	tukest	<i>ill-treat</i>	OE þu	þu	<i>thou</i>
OE fela	uele	<i>many</i>	OE þanc	þonkes	<i>hire þonkes = willingly</i>
OE unmilde	unmilde	<i>harsh, cruel</i>			<i>threatening</i>
OE for	uor	<i>for</i>	OE þreat	þrete	<i>throat</i>
OE ut	ut	<i>out</i>	OE þrote	þrote	<i>thou</i>
OE fæger	vaire	<i>fair</i>	OE þu	þu	<i>seemed</i>
OE ule	vle	<i>owl</i>	OE þyncan	þuȝte	
OE un + wiht	vnwiȝt	<i>evil creature</i>			
OE for	vor	<i>for</i>			