

Exercise 2.2: “Christ was on the cross”

Using the futhorc (given in the box) transliterate Text 2.2 (copied in below).

ƿ	feoh (f)	u	ur (u)	þ	thorn (þ, th)	o	ós (o)	ƿ	rad (r)	ƿ	cen (c/k)	X	gyfu (ǰ, g/j)	ƿ	wynn (w)	h	hægl (h)
ƿ	nyd (n)	i	is (i)	ǰ	ger (j)	eoh	eoh (eo)	ƿ	peorð (p)	Y	eolh (x)	ƿ	sigel (s)	T	Tiw (t)	B	beorc (b)
M	eh (eoh) (e)	M	mann (m)	l	lagu (l)	ƿ	ing (ŋ)	ƿ	éðel (æ)	ƿ	dæg (d)	ƿ	ac (a)	ƿ	æsc (æ)	yr	yr (y)
*	ior (ia, io)	Y	ear (ea)														

YRHT. ƿƿh. ƿt. Rƿƿi. NƿMƿRƿ. þMR. ƿN ƿh.
 ƿTRRƿt. YƿƿƿN. ƿƿƿiƿ. Tƿ. ƿtN ƿ. l. ƿƿt. Yt.
 BIn... ƿiþ. ƿTRMƿN ƿ. XƿN tƿƿ.
 ƿMXXN t. Nl. Ntƿ. NƿƿORIXtƿ. Xlht ƿXXN t.
 Nlƿ

Text 2.2: Christ was on the Cross

Exercise 3.5: A riddle

Riddles are popular in many cultures. They are chiefly oral in tradition and go back beyond the beginnings of literary expression. They are verbal puzzles that try the wit of the teller against that of the listeners. Like the one given below they are comparisons and usually consist of two parts, a straightforward description and a more precise, but contradictory or misleading block, plus, of course, an answer. In Text 3.5 lines 1-2 are the description; lines 3-7, the block. In addition to this general structure, Riddle 42, like the others in the Exeter Book consist of lines typical of OE poetry: they are divided into two halves, each with two strong beats and a caesura in between.

What is your guess about the answer to the riddle?

Wrætlic hongað	bi, weres þeo	1	ofer cneo hefeð,	wile þæt cuþe hol	5
Wonderously it hangs	by a man's thigh		over his knee raises	he wants the well-known hole	
frea under sceate.	Foran is þyrel.	2	mid his hangellan	heafde gretan	6
Noble under a cloak	in front a hole.		with its hanging	head to greet	
Bið stiþ ond heard,	stede hafað godne;	3	þæt he efenlang	ær oft gefylde.	7
It is stiff and hard,	has a good stand.		that he even so long	before did often fill.	
þonne se esne	his agen hrægl	4			
Then this man	his own coat				

Exercise 3.6: Insular script

This is from the entry for 871, a year of battles between the forces of Wessex and the Vikings. Following the text you will find a partial transcription of it. Your task is to complete it.