



The coming of Grendel

Now from the marshlands under the mist-mountains
Came Grendel prowling ; branded with God's ire.
This murderous monster was minded to entrap
Some hapless human in that high hall.
On he came under the clouds, until clearly
He could see the great golden feasting place,
Glimmering wine-hall of men. Not his first
Raid was this on the homeplace of Hrothgar.
Never before though and never afterward
Did he encounter hardier defenders of a hall.

*from "Beowulf" (10th century or earlier)
translated by Gerard Benson*