

## Of Epigrams and Epics

### Epigrams

I would have written you a poem  
Or fought with the dragon in his den  
But ere I could raise my sword or pen  
I was beset by little gnomes—  
And now all play of pen *and* sword  
Must transcribe these epigrams.  
Although I cannot write your poem,  
I would slay your dragons with pointed words.

### Penelope's Epic

When I am finished with the wars of men,  
Have withstood forever and the nether shore,  
Renounced eternity, visited the dead,  
And wagered with strange gods  
To find *you* once more,  
In the ranks of death you will find me then  
Vanquished in the epic of your...  
—Well, let's just say "your epic"—  
In the ranks of death whose cry is "ever more."

Here is my epic\*. If you can come up with 12,000 lines for the middle, we can publish it jointly.

### *Faustus Returns*

(*Vitup ér enn, eða hvat?*)

Hearing of voice in a black weather sky,  
We made for that Arc of All Nine Worlds  
—*The Thunder Span*  
    *To realms of fire and light!*—  
And searched the nine Dominions  
    of the voice.

..... \*  
.....*hic desunt pauca verba*..... \*  
.....] —words: \*  
\* Shapes from which Old Chaos \*  
\* Hopes always to return. \*  
\* —Nothing else. \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
*hic 12,000 versus desiderantur* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* \*

I have come back,  
Amid ceaseless Thunder,  
From reeling vaults of Sky  
To sing of  
Night.

*Would you know yet more?*

\* *Epic—a story which pretends in the very least to recount the crucial events of a time, but more frequently the crucial events of time itself. Thus, if this urgency often translates into an historical vision, the e. need not be limited by history, but may spill over into the causes of the world--and into the causes of consciousness as well.*