

# Contents

- 1 Introduction: a Word to the Wise — 1**
  - 1.1 Wisdom and Wisdom Literature — 1
  - 1.2 Approaching Old Norse Wisdom Poetry — 5
  - 1.3 Corpus and Preservation — 7
  - 1.4 Scholarship — 11
  - 1.5 Approaches to Contextualising Wisdom — 14
  
- 2 *Gáttir allar, áðr gangi fram, um scoðask scyli: Approaching Wisdom in Eddic Poetry — 17***
  - 2.1 Defining Wisdom in Old Norse — 17
  - 2.2 The Genres of Eddic Poetry — 20
  - 2.3 The Genre of Eddic Wisdom Poetry — 28
  - 2.4 The Expression of Wisdom in Eddic Poetry — 32
  - 2.5 Conclusion — 35
  
- 3 Mankind and the Supernatural World in Eddic Wisdom Verse — 37**
  - 3.1 Introduction: the Old Norse Gods in Context — 37
  - 3.2 Words for Men, Gods and Others — 40
    - 3.2.1 The Treatment of Mythological Figures in Eddic Diction — 41
    - 3.2.2 The Treatment of Mythological Figures in Skaldic Diction — 50
    - 3.2.3 The Treatment of the Christian God in Skaldic Diction — 55
  - 3.3 Case-Study: *Hávamál* — 61
    - 3.3.1 Traditions of Interpretation — 61
    - 3.3.2 Structure — 63
    - 3.3.3 Speaker and Identity in *Hávamál* — 65
    - 3.3.4 The First Person — 69
    - 3.3.5 The Second Person — 74
    - 3.3.6 Odinic Discourse and the Unity of *Hávamál* — 78
  - 3.4 Conclusion — 82
  
- 4 Speaker and Situation in the Mythological Frames of Wisdom Poetry — 85**
  - 4.1 Óðinn and the Acquisition of Wisdom — 86
  - 4.2 Acquiring Wisdom from the Dead — 95
  - 4.3 Óðinn Dispensing Wisdom — 102
  - 4.4 Conclusion — 115

<b>5</b>	<b>Traditional Forms and Christian Authority — 117</b>
5.1	Introduction — 117
5.2	Wisdom and Romance: <i>Málsháttakvæði</i> — 120
5.3	<i>Sólarljóð</i> — 124
5.4	<i>Hugsvinnsmál</i> — 133
5.5	<i>Alvíssmál</i> and <i>Svipdagsmál</i> — 142
5.6	Conclusion — 147
<b>6</b>	<b>The Authority of Wisdom — 149</b>
6.1	The Uses of Wisdom in Eddic Verse — 150
6.1.1	The Re-Use of Wisdom — 151
6.2	The Limits of the Eddic Wisdom Genre — 153
6.2.1	Oral and Literate Features of Eddic Wisdom Poetry — 156
6.2.2	Narration and Prose — 158
6.3	Wisdom beyond the Edda, and Situational Authority beyond Wisdom — 161
6.3.1	Wisdom and Skaldic Verse — 163
6.3.2	Eddic Memorial Poems — 164
6.3.3	Myth and Narrative in <i>Pórsdrápa</i> — 167
6.4	The Authority and Subjectivity of Wisdom — 168
<b>7</b>	<b>Abbreviations — 173</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Bibliography — 175</b>
8.1	Manuscripts — 175
8.2	Works Cited — 175
<b>9</b>	<b>Index — 196</b>