

Almighty God, to whom alone
The hearts of all Thy saints are known,
Sinless and just, to Thee I pray
To guide me on my dangerous way;
Lord of the heavens that roof the land,
Hold o'er me Thy protecting hand!

(Eric the Red's discovery of Greenland in 982 encouraged possibly more than a thousand Icelanders to emigrate. On the way, the expedition was overtaken by a furious storm, and many of the ships were wrecked. The memory of the storm has lingered through the centuries through the poem that one of the Norsemen wrote at the height of the danger. The first verse is above.)

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