

The *Heliand*

Muspilli in the Old High German *Muspilli* (c. 870)

“

sulizot lougiu der himil,

mano uallit, prinnit mittilagart,

55

sten nikistentit. uerit denne stuatago in lant,

uerit mit diu uuiru uiriho uuison.

dar nimac denne mak andremo helfan uora demo **muspille**.

”

Kinsmen Motif

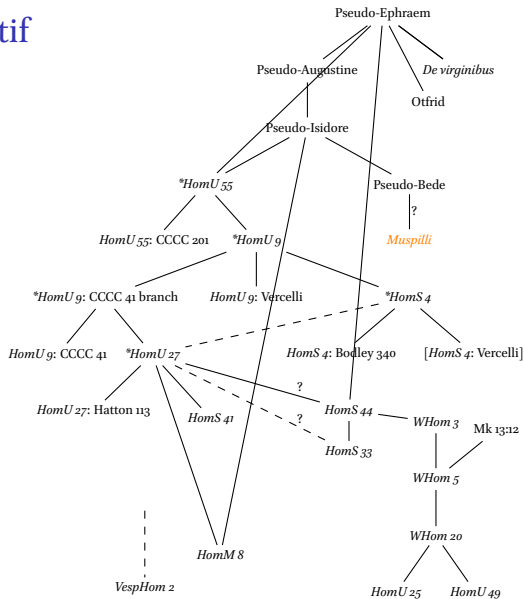


Figure: Source

Mutspellī in the Old Saxon *Heliand* (c. 830)

“

thoh sculun sie hêr uuahsen forð,

2590 thea forgriponon gumon, sô samo sô thea gôdun man,
anntat **mûdspelles** megin oþar man ferid,
endi thesaro uueroldes.

”

“

Mûtspellī cumit

4360 an thiustrea naht, al sô thiof ferid
darno mid is dâdiun, sô kumid the dag mannun,
the lazto theses liohtes.

”

Contextual Understanding of *mutspelli*

- ▶ “Verdens Ende” (Bugge)
- ▶ “destruction of the world, day of judgment, the last day” (Wright)
- ▶ “weltenbrand” (Gallée)
- ▶ “ende der welt, weltuntergang,” “weltuntergang durch feuer,” “weltbrand” (Braune)
- ▶ “Weltuntergang” (Holthausen)
- ▶ “apocalypse” (Cathey)
- ▶ “Weltuntergang, Vernichtung der Welt” (Jeske)
- ▶ “the day of judgment, the last day” (Cleasby and Vigfusson)
- ▶ “the end of the world or doomsday” (Faulkes)
- ▶ “the ‘world conflagration causing the end of the world’” (Simek)
- ▶ “doomsday” (Orchard)
- ▶ “the end of the world” (Larrington)

Muspellr in Old Norse Eddic Poetry

“

- 51 Kióll ferr austan, koma muno Muspellz
 um lög lýðir, en Loki stýrir;
 fara fífls megir með freca allir,
 þeim er bróðir Býleiptz í for. (*Völuspá*, c. 1000)

”

“

- 42 Gulli keypta léztu Gymis dóttur
 oc seldir þitt svá sverð;
 enn er Muspellz synir ríða Myrcvið yfir,
 veizta þú þá, vesall, hvé þú vegr. (*Lokasenna*, before c. 1225)

”

Etymology of *mutspelli*

- ▶ ? Mouth-speaker (Docen)
- ▶ ? Oracle (Seneca: “voluntas divina hominis ore enunciata”; Hagen)
- ▶ ? World-prophecy (< *mundus*) (Bugge)
- ▶ ? Mouth-destroyer (Krogmann)

“ And out of his mouth proceedeth a sharp two edged sword;
that with it he may strike the nations. (Apc 19:15) ”

Muspell in the Old Norse *Gylfaginning* (1220s)

“

her segir fra **mvspellz** hemi ok fra **svrti**.

Fyst var þo **mvspellz** heimr sa er sva heitir. hann er lioss ok heitr ok ofært er þar vtlendvm monnvm. **Svrtr** ræþr þar fyrir ok sitr a heims enda. hann hevir loganda sverþ i hendi. ok i enda veralldar mvn hann koma ok sigra oll goþin ok brenna heiminn með elldi. Sva segir i volo spa.

Svrtr ferr svnnan
með sviga levi
skinn af sverþi
sol valtiva

griotbiorg gnata
en gyttar hrata
traþa halir helvega
en himinn klofnar (§4)

”

Umlaut/Vowel Mutation in Old Norse

- ▶ *a*-umlaut: (esp.) following /a/ causes lowering of
 - ▶ /i/ to /e/
 - ▶ /u/ to /o/
- ▶ *i*-umlaut: following /i,j/ causes fronting of
 - ▶ /u/ to /y/ e.g. *lúka* but *ek lýk*
 - ▶ /o,o:/ to /œ,ø:/ e.g. *fótr* but *fæti*
 - ▶ /a,a:/ to /e,æ/ e.g. pret. *þú talðir* but pres. *þú telr*
 - ▶ /au/ to /ey/ e.g. *hlaupa, ausa* but *hann hleypr, ek eys*
 - ▶ /ju:,jo:/ to /y:/ e.g. *ljúga, bjóða* but *þú lýgr, hon býðr*
 - ▶ /ɔ/ to /ø/ e.g. *koma* but *þú kømr*
- ▶ *u*-umlaut: following /u,v/ causes rounding, esp. of short vowels:
 - ▶ /ɪ/ to /y/
 - ▶ /ɛ/ to /ø/
 - ▶ /a/ to /ɔ/ e.g. *allr* but *øllum, barn* but *børn*

i-Mutation and *u*-Mutation in Action

aka							
strong VI transitive/intransitive							
“drive (a vehicle); cart; move, travel”							
active voice							
<i>present indicative</i>			<i>present subjunctive</i>				
1sg	ek ek	1pl	vér ǫkum	1sg	ek aka	1pl	vér akim
2sg	þú ekr	2pl	ér akið	2sg	þú akir	2pl	ér akið
3sg	hann ekr	3pl	þeir aka	3sg	hann aki	3pl	þeir aki
<i>preterite indicative</i>			<i>preterite subjunctive</i>				
1sg	ek ók	1pl	vér ókum	1sg	ek œka	1pl	vér œkim
2sg	þú ókt	2pl	ér ókuð	2sg	þú œkir	2pl	ér œkið
3sg	hann ók	3pl	þeir óku	3sg	hann œki	3pl	þeir œki
<i>preterite infinitive</i>			óku				
<i>past participle</i>	<i>m.</i>	ekinn	<i>f.</i>	ekin	<i>n.</i>	ekit	
<i>imperative</i>	2sg	ak	1pl	ǫkum	2pl	akið	

Figure: *aka* “drive” (source)

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