

The Extrasocietal World



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Landscape Terms Around Grendel's Kind I

ān·pæþ single track, defile

bearu grove, wood

brim sea; surf, wave, surge of the sea

fenn marsh; mire, mud

flōd river, stream; sea; wave; water; tide; estuary; deluge

fyrge·bēam mountain tree (*less likely*: giant tree)

holm·clif sea-cliff, headland

mere sea; lake, pool

mōr *in charters*: marsh; *most places else*: mountain

næsse headland, promontory

Landscape Terms Around Grendel's Kind II

næs·hlīp seaboard cliff, headland slope

genip darkness, mist

(nīp·)sele (hostile) hall

sǣ- sea-

(stān·)hlīp (rocky) slope

stīg ascent

wald·swæþ forest track

wang plain

wæter (body of) water

wudu wood, grove

Inner Logic?

The combination of fenland and mountains, of wind-swept headlands and woods overhanging the pool is not possible: it is a gallimaufry of devices, each of which is horrific in its associations.

(Stanley 441)

Blickling Homily 16 (17)

Swa sanctus Paulus wæs geseonde on norðanweardne þisne middangeard þær ealle wætero niðer gewitað, and he þær geseah ofer ðæm wætere sumne **harne stan**; and wæron norð of ðæm stane awexene swiðe **hrimige bearwas**, and ðær wæron **þystro genipo**. And under þæm stane wæs **niccra eardung** and wearga, and he geseah þæt on ðæm clife hangodan on ðæm **isgean bearwum** manige swearte saula be heora handum gebundne, and þa fynd þara on **nicra** onlicnesse heora gripende wæron swa swa grædig **wulf**; and þæt wæter wæs sweart under þæm clife neoðan, and betuh þæm clife on ðæm wætre wæron swylce twelf mila, and ðonne ða twigo forburston þonne gewitan þa saula niðer þa þe on ðæm twigum hangodan, and him onfengon ða **nicras**.

(Princeton University Library, Scheide Collection MS 71, fols 126v–127r)

Direct Comparison

Beowulf

Hīe dȳgel lond
warigeað, **wulf**hleopu, windige næssas,
frēcne fengelād, ðær fyrgenstrēam
under næssa **genipu** niþer gewiteð,
flōd under foldan. Nis þæt feor heonon
milgемearces þæt se mere standeð,
ofer þāem hongiað **hrinde bearwas**,
wudu wyrtum fæst wæter oferhelmað.
(1357b–1364)

Blickling Homily 16

and wæron norð of ðæm stane awexene swiðe
hrimige bearwas, and ðær wæron **þystro**
genipo. And under þæm stane wæs niccra
eardung and wearga, and he geseah þæt on
ðæm clife hangodan on ðæm **isgean bearwum**
manige swearte saula be heora handum
gebundne, and þa fynd þara on nicra onlicnesse
heora gripende wæron swa swa grædig **wulf**.

Creatures I

brim·wylf water-she-wolf

eoten postdiluvian giant

fēond enemy; demon

g̃æst spirit, creature; *confusion with gyst “guest”*

gigant antediluvian giant

grund·wyrge accursed creature of the deep

mere·wīf water-woman

nicor water-monster

orc·nē (?) monster, evil spirit; *Tolkien*: undead

s̃æ·dēor sea creature

Creatures II

sǣ·draca sea-dragon

wer man

wyrm serpent; dragon

ylf elf, malignant sprite

Anthropomorphism

- ▶ *wonsælig wer* (105), *gromheort guma* (1682), “morðres scyldig” (1683)
- ▶ “Nō hīe fæder cunnon, / hwæþer him ænig wæs ær acenned / dyrnra gāsta” (1355b–1317a)
- ▶ *mōdor* (1276, 1282, 1538, 1683), *māge* (1391)
- ▶ “Hēo þā fæhðe wræc” (1333b); “wolde hire bearn wrecan” (1546b)
- ▶ (Some terms, such as *āg·lāca* “(terrible) adversary, combatant,” shared by Grendel and Beowulf)

Gender Fluidity?

► *hē* (1392, 1394)

► *sē* (1497)

Ārīs, rīces weard, uton hraþe fēran,
Grendles māgan gang scēawigan.
Ic hit þē gehāte, nō **hē** on helm losað,
nē on foldan fæþm nē on fyrghholt
nē on gyfenes grund, gā þær **hē** wille.

(1390–1394)

These are sometimes explained as phonological variants or scribal errors. But then there's
felasinnigne secg

(1379a)

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