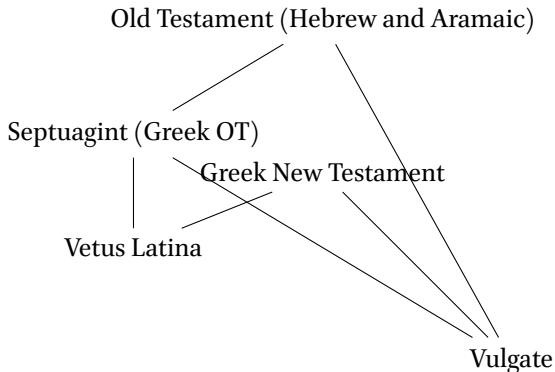


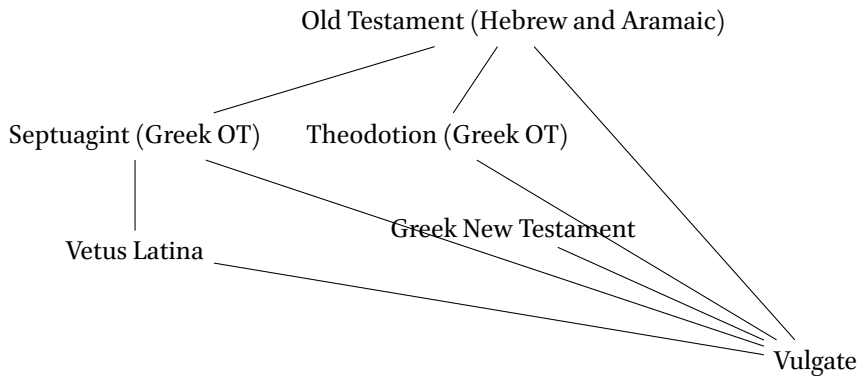
Gods and Giants

Vulgate Bible: Traditional Understanding of Sources



(The Vetus Latina is a textual tradition, not a unified redaction.)

Vulgate Bible: More Realistic Account of Sources



(The relationship between the Septuagint and Theodotion is uncertain.)

Giants of Genesis: Vulgate

“

6:1 Cumque coepissent homines multiplicari super terram, et filias procreassent,

6:2 Videntes filii Dei filias hominum quod essent pulchrae, acceperunt sibi uxores ex omnibus, quas elegerant.

6:4 Gigantes autem erant super terram in diebus illis: postquam enim ingressi sunt filii Dei ad filias hominum, illaeque genuerunt, isti sunt potentes a saeculo viri famosi.

”

Giants of Genesis: Vulgate

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6:4 Gigantes autem erant super terram in diebus illis: postquam enim ingressi sunt filii Dei ad filias hominum, illaeque genuerunt, isti sunt potentes a saeculo viri famosi. ”

→ sons of God + daughters of men = powerful, renowned people/giants!

(The Hebrew source for *gigantes* means “falling ones”.)

Giants of Genesis: Vetus Latina

“

6:1 Et factum est, postquam coeperunt homines multi fieri super terram, et filiae natae sunt illis.

6:2 Videntes autem **angeli Dei filias hominum**, quia bonae sunt, sumpserunt sibi uxores ex omnibus, quae elegerant.

6:4 **Gigantes** autem erant super terram in diebus illis. Et post illud, cum intrarent **filius Dei** ad **filiis hominum**, et generabant sibi, illi erant **gigantes** a saeculo **homines nominati**.

”

Giants of Genesis: Vetus Latina

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6:1 Et factum est, postquam coeperunt homines multi fieri super terram, et filiae natae sunt illis.

6:2 Videntes autem **angeli Dei filias hominum**, quia bonae sunt, sumpserunt sibi uxores ex omnibus, quae elegerant.

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”

→ **angels of God** + **daughters of men** = **men of renown/giants!**

Cross-Breeding in *Genesis A*

“

oðþæt **bearn Godes** bryda ongunnon
on **Caines cynne** secan,

1250 wergum folce, and him þær wif curon
ofer metodes est monna eaforan,
scyldfulra mægð scyne and fægere.

Pa reordade rodora waldend
wrað moncynne and þa worde cwæð:

1255 'Ne syndon me on ferhðe freo from gewitene
cneorisc Caines, ac me þæt cynn hafað
sare abolgen. Nu me **Sethes bearn**

torn niwiað and him to nimað
mægð to gemæccum minra feonda;

1260 þær wifa wlite onwod grome,
idesa ansien, and ece feond
folcdriht wera, þa ær on friðe wæron.'

”

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1260 þær wifa wlite onwod grome,
idesa ansien, and ece feond
folcdriht wera, þa ær on friðe wæron.'

”

→ **sons of Seth** + **daughters of Cain** = **ethnic/moral corruption!**

Cross-Breeding in *Genesis A*

“

Siððan hundtwelftig geteled rime
wintra on worulde wræce bisgodon
1265 fæge þeoda, hwonne Frea wolde
on wærlogan wite settan
and on deað slean dædum scyldige
gigantmæcgas, Gode unleofe,
micle mansceaðan, metode laðe.
1270 Þa geseah selfa sigora waldend
hwæt wæs monna manes on eorðan
and þæt hie wæron womma ðriste,
inwitfulle. He þæt unfægere
wera cneorissum gewrecan þohte,
1275 firgripan gumcynne grimme and sare,
heardum mihtum.

”

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1275 firgripan gumcynne grimme and sare,
heardum mihtum.

”

→ **Descendants of Cain** (+ **sons of Seth?**) = **giants!**

Grendel and Cain

“

Wæs se grimma gæst Grendel haten,
mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold,
fen ond fæsten; fifelcynnes eard

105 wonsæli wer weardode hwile,
siþðan him scyppend forscrifen hæfde
in Caines cynne. Þone cwealm gewræc
ece drihten, þæs þe he Abel slog;
ne gefeah he þære fæhðe, ac he hine feor forwræc,
110 metod for þy mane, mancynne fram.

Þanon untydras ealle onwocon,
eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas,
swylce gigantas, þa wið gode wunnon
lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.

”

Grendel and Cain

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mære mearcstapa, se þe moras heold,
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eotenas ond ylfe ond orcneas,
swylce gigantas, þa wið gode wunnon
lange þrage; he him ðæs lean forgeald.

”

→ **Descendants of Cain = monsters!**

Grendel, His Mother, Cain, and Landscape

“

Grendles modor,
ides aglæcwif, yrmþe gemunde,
1260 se þe wæteregesā wunian scolde,
cealde streamas, siþðan Cain wearð
to ecgbanan angan breþer,
fæderenmæge. He þa fag gewat,
morþre gemearcod, mandream fleon,
1265 westen warode. Ðanon woc fela
geosceftgasta; wæs þæra Grendel sum,
heorowearh hetelic.

”

Grendel, His Mother, Cain, and Landscape

“

Grendles modor,
ides aglæcwif, yrmþe gemunde,
1260 se þe wæteregeſan wunian ſcolde,
cealde ſtreamas, ſiþðan Cain wearð
to ecgbanan angan breþer,
fæderenmæge. He þa fag gewat,
morþre gemearcod, mandream fleon,
1265 weſten warode. Þanon woc fela
geosceaftgasta; wæs þæra Grendel ſum,
heorowearh hetelic.

”

→ **Monsters** aroſe in **water**, **wasteland**

Exterminate

“ 6:5 And God seeing that the wickedness of men was great on the earth, and that all the thought of their heart was bent upon evil at all times,
6:6 It repented him that he had made man on the earth. And being touched inwardly with sorrow of heart,
6:7 He said: I will destroy **man**, whom I have created, from the face of the earth, **from man even to beasts (*animantia*), from the creeping thing even to the fowls of the air**, for it repenteth me that I have made them. (**Douay-Rheims**) ”

The Efficacy of H₂O as a Means of Universal Extermination

“

It was not necessary for those creatures which are able to live in the waters to be preserved on board the ark, including not only the ones that are submerged, such as fish, but also those that float, such as many birds. (Augustine, *DcD* 15.27)

”



Figure: Honan Chapel mosaic, Cork

The Grendel Habitat

- ▶ *mearcstapan* (“walkers of the borderland”, 103, 1348)
- ▶ “of more” (“from the mountain” or “from the marsh”, 710)
- ▶ “on fenhopu” (“to fen-retreats”, 764)
- ▶ “on nicera mere” (“into a pool of water-monsters”, 845)
- ▶ “mearcað morhopu” (“will stain the mountain-retreats / marsh-retreats”, 450)
- ▶ *brimwylf* (“sea-wolf”, *1506, 1599)
- ▶ *merewif* (“water-woman”, 1519)
- ▶ *grundwyrge* (“accursed creature of the deep”, 1518)
- ▶ *floda begong* (“expanse of waters”, 1497)

The Grendel Residence

“

Hie dygel lond
warigeað, wulfhleoþu, windige næssas,
frecne fengelad, ðær fyrgenstream
1360 under næssa genipu niþer gewiteð,
flod under foldan. Nis þæt feor heonon
milgemeanres þæt se mere stan[d]eð;
ofer þæm hongiað hrinde bearwas,
wudu wyrtum fæst wæter oferhelmað.

”

Norse Analogues

- ▶ A troll or giant lives in a cave behind a waterfall
- ▶ (*Grettis saga*) the giant's blood reaches the pool, scaring off the guard



Figure: Skógafoss, Suðurland, Iceland

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