

Arithmetical Proportion in Laxdoela

by

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While the search for mathematical relations in the structure of works of medieval literature goes well back into the nineteenth century--one thinks of Karl Lachmann's "heptads"--in recent times it has been Ernst Robert Curtius who has again drawn attention to what he called "Zahlenkomposition."¹ By this he meant that certain segments of a work of literature--verses, cantos, strophes, chapters, or aggregations of these--manifest a recognizable mathematical relationship which in turn corresponds to a specific feature of the content of the work.

A well-known example of this kind of organization is Dante's Divine Comedy, which consists of 100 cantos--the number 100 being the so-called "perfect" number 10 multiplied by itself. The single introductory canto is followed by the main portion of the work, which consists of 3 sections of 33 cantos each, which correspond to the poet's progress through the three regions of the Inferno, the Purgatorio, and the Paradiso, respectively. To my knowledge, there has been no examination of the Icelandic sagas to see whether any structure of this kind may be found in them. As far as Laxdoela is concerned, it is my belief that the entire

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work has been constructed in such a way as to reflect certain mathematical relations, and it is my conclusions on this point which I would like to present in this paper.

The essential structure of the saga is presented in the diagram below.

The Structure of the Saga

- I: Chs. 1-13 (13 chs.) - from settlement to birth of Olaf the Peacock (seven generations)
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 - II: Chs. 14-26 (13 chs.) - Olaf's youth to death of Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson
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 - III: Chs. 27-39 (13 chs.) - Kjartan and Bolli
 - IV: Chs. 40-52 (13 chs.) - Kjartan vs. Bolli
 - V: Chs. 53-65 (13 chs.) - Thorgerd's and Gudrun's acts of vengeance
 - VI: Chs. 66-78 (13 chs.) - end of feud; from Osvif Helgason's death to Gellir Thorkelson and his descendants (seven generations)

First of all, the 78 chapters of Laxdoela saga fall into two equal parts of 39 chapters each.² These are in turn subdivided into three sections, each of which contains 13 chapters. The content of each of these "decatriads," or groups of thirteen chapters, is such that each group corresponds to its opposite in the other half of the saga. For example, both Decatriads III and IV deal primarily with the two foster-brothers Kjartan Olafsson and Bolli Thorleiksson. But the former decatriad describes them as growing up in friendship, while the latter traces their increasing enmity and death. Similarly, Decatriads II and V are

related through the figure of Olaf the Peacock; in the former, we see Olaf's rise to a position of prominence, initiated by the death of his father, Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson; the events of Decatriad V, on the other hand, take place after Olaf's death, and encompass the reciprocal acts of vengeance stimulated by Olaf's widow, Thorgerd, on the one hand, and by Gudrun Osvif's-Daughter, on the other. Decatriads I and VI are alike in that both deal with the historical events precedent and subsequent to the four central sections; the former opens with the departure of Bjorn Buna from Norway, and traces the experiences of his descendants through seven generations to the birth of Olaf the Peacock; the latter, Decatriad VI, begins with an account of the death of Osvif Helgason, Gudrun's father, and describes the events which take place through the seven generations of her descendants by her two husbands, Bolli Thorleiksson and Thorkel Eyjolfsson. These genealogies are given in Appendices A and B to this paper. Thus, we see that the six decatriads constituting the main structure of the saga may be defined, not only by reference to arithmetical proportion, but also by certain features of their content.

The principle of arithmetical proportion may also be discerned in the structure and organization of the individual decatriads, which, as we saw, consist of thirteen chapters each. In these sections, it appears that the central or seventh chapter is enclosed by two groups of six. This seventh or "pivotal" chapter contains the description of an event which in some way constitutes a turning point in the development of the plot. A breakdown of the respective decatriads appears in Appendix C to

to this paper. In Decatriad I, for example, the pivotal chapter is Chapter 7, which contains the description of Unn's feast, in which she passes on her property to her grandson, Olaf Feilan, and at the end of which she dies. Unn is the last of the original settlers; from now on, most of the prominent figures in the story will be born on Iceland. In Decatriad II, the pivotal chapter is Chapter 20, in which the concubine Melkorka acquires a husband, and with that, legitimacy for her son in the form of a trip to Ireland to establish his lineage. The events in the pivotal chapters of Decatriads III and IV, namely, Gudrun's dreams in Chapter 33, and the theft of Hrefna's headdress and Kjartan's sword in Chapter 46, foreshadow the tragedy which is to follow. Decatriad V is devoted to vengeance: in Chapter 59, Snorri and Gudrun plan to avenge the slaying of her husband, Bolli Thorleiksson. But this chapter is pivotal because Snorri's plans also include a resolution of the feud between the two families, which is in fact accomplished in Chapter 71. In the pivotal chapter of Decatriad VI, Chapter 72, Gudrun's sons turn their minds from vengeance to more peaceful activities as the story approaches its end.

The brackets connecting the various pairs of decatriads in the diagram above were placed there to reinforce the notion that the two halves of the saga are, in some respects, mirror images of one another. Thus, there is a definite relation between the first and the sixth, the second and the fifth, and the third and the fourth. This principle of bilateral symmetry has been carried through to the point that we find many striking correspondences between events in chapters in the first half of the saga

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and events in the corresponding chapter of the other. The corresponding chapters are listed on the table below.

 Corresponding Chapters in the Six Decatriads

Decatriads	I	VI	II	V	III	IV
	1	78	14	65	27	52
	2	77	15	64	28	51
	3	76	16	63	29	50
	4	75	17	62	30	49
	5	74	18	61	31	48
	6	73	19	60	32	47
Pivotal Chapters	(7)	(72)	(20)	(59)	(33)	(46)
	8	71	21	58	34	45
	9	70	22	57	35	44
	10	69	23	56	36	43
	11	68	24	55	37	42
	12	67	25	54	38	41
	13	66	26	53	39	40

Looking now at the content of the various sections, we may begin with the third and fourth decatriads; the content of those chapters is summarized in Appendix D to this paper. In Chapter 27, we are told of Olaf's offer to foster Bolli Thorleiksson; in the collateral Chapter 52, the latter's son, Thorleik Bollason, is born to Gudrun. More striking is the parallel between Chapters 28 and 51; in the former, Kjartan Olafsson is born at Hjarðarholt; in the latter, he is buried at Borg. Moreover, in Chapter 28, Kjartan's brother Halldor leaves Hjarðarholt to be fostered by Holmgöngu-Bersi at Tongue; in Chapter 51, Halldor returns to Hjarðarholt as its master after the death of his father, Olaf the Peacock.

Rather less meaningful are the connections between Chapters 29 and 50: in the former, Olaf's daughter Thurid marries the Norwegian Geirmund the Noisy; in the latter, his daughter-in-law

Hrefna, Kjartan's wife, dies. On the other hand, the events in Chapters 30 and 49 have an unmistakable connection with one another: in Chapter 30, Geirmund lays a curse on the sword "Leg-Biter," and it passes into the hands of Olaf's daughter Thurid, who gives it to her foster-brother Bolli; in Chapter 49, Geirmund's curse is fulfilled when Bolli uses this very sword to kill his foster-brother Kjartan.

In Chapter 31, Olaf slaughters the great ox Harri, and then dreams of the angry woman and her rage over the death of the animal, whom she calls her son. She then foretells Kjartan's death. In the collateral Chapter 48, An the Black also dreams, in this case, that he has been disembowelled by an angry woman and his entrails replaced with brushwood. In this chapter, too, the Os-vifssons plan to ambush Kjartan.

In Chapter 32, we are introduced to the inhabitants of Laugar for the first time, to Osvif Helgason, his sons, and his daughter Guðrun. The saga-teller also mentions Osvif's purchase of land up in the valley from Thorarin, the owner of the farm at Tongue. In Chapter 47, Kjartan lays siege to Laugar, and prevents the use of the outdoor privy. Moreover, he forces out Bolli in the purchase of the remainder of Thorarin's farm at Tongue. The parallel here is established by the reference to the same two farms in both chapters.

In the case of Chapters 33 and 46, we are dealing with the seventh chapter in each decatetriad, that is, the central or pivotal chapter, one in which the events which occur have a special, often premonitory force. In Chapter 33, for example, Gudrun relates her four dreams to Gest Oddleifsson, who interprets them

for her. His prophecies, of course, come true. In somewhat more direct fashion, the thefts of the headdress and of Kjartan's sword "King's-Gift" in Chapter 46 not only foreshadow, but also motivate the animosities between the Olafssons and Gudrun's family.

Chapter 34 contains an account of Gudrun's reluctant marriage to her first husband Thorvald, and her subsequent divorce. In a sense parallel to this is Kjartan's marriage to Hrefna in Chapter 45, which was also arranged, and which was, at least initially, without much feeling. There is also a similarity of opposites in these two chapters: Gudrun, in 34, demands a gift from Thorvald, whereas Kjartan, in 45, refuses a gift from his foster-brother Bolli.

One of the more interesting conclusions which follow from our observation that the two halves of the saga are in some ways mirror images of one another is our perception of the role of Kotkel the sorcerer and his kin. Though the events of the respective chapters of the two decatriads are moving in opposite directions, so to speak, Kotkel's influence on Gudrun in the earlier chapters appears to rise and fall in direct proportion to Bolli's and in inverse proportion to Kjartan's influence on her in collateral chapters. Thus, Kotkel's impact on Gudrun is greatest in Chapter 35, where he causes the death of her second husband Thord. In the collateral Chapter 44, Kjartan returns to Iceland, only to find the woman for whom he bears a secret passion married to his foster-brother Bolli. Kotkel's taking up residence in Laxriverdale in Chapter 36 is parallel to Bolli's marrying Gudrun in Chapter 43. In this chapter, too, Kjartan

receives the gifts of the sword and the headdress from King Harald and Princess Ingibjorg, both of which play a fateful role later in the saga. Kotkel's death in Chapter 37 neutralizes his influence, and corresponds to Bolli's position in Chapter 42, where Gudrun rejects his offer of marriage. And finally, the death of Stigandi in Chapter 38 completely eliminates Kotkel's influence on further events in the saga. In the collateral Chapter 41, Kjartan and Bolli are being held as hostages by King Olaf Tryggvason of Norway, and hence are also in a kind of neutral state. This comparison of these two groups of chapters, namely, Chapters 35 through 38, and 41 through 44, suggests that the saga-teller not only used Kotkel as an instrument for getting rid of Gudrun's second husband, Thord, but in addition elaborated the story of his relatives and their adventures as a symbolic parallel to Bolli's influence on Gudrun, one with strong negative connotations.

The last two chapters in these two decatriads, namely, Chapters 39 and 40, are unique in terms of the structure of the saga in that they not only stand in a position of structural correspondence with one another, but also in sequence, one to the other. At the end of Chapter 39, we hear Olaf's premonitory warning to Kjartan about the relations between their family and Gudrun's, and at the beginning of Chapter 40, Gudrun's entreaty to Kjartan, when she asks him to take her with him to Norway. Chapters 39 and 40 lie across the arithmetical midpoint of the saga, and hence we should not be surprised that there is an event in Chapter 40 which has the gravest consequences for Kjartan in the second half of the saga: his conversion to Christianity.

Let us now compare the second and the fifth decatriads to look for events in collateral chapters which have some relation or correspondence. The main events in each chapter are given in Appendix E to this paper. Events in Chapters 14 through 17 and 62 through 65 appear to take their own course. The first clear-cut correspondence between the two decatriads occurs in Chapters 18 and 61: in each we have a case of duplicity and treason involving two characters named Thorstein Black the Wise and Thorstein the Black, respectively. In Chapters 19 and 60, we hear demands for justice: in the former chapter, Hrut Herjolfsson claims his share of his mother's property, which had been unlawfully taken over by his half-brother, Hoskuld; in the latter, Gudrun incites her sons to vengeance for the killing of her husband Bolli.

Chapters 20 and 59 are the central chapters in their respective decatriads, and are clearly turning points within those groups of chapters. In Chapter 20, we witness Melkorka's marriage to Thorbjorn the Feeble, which she enters into out of spite for Hoskuld's neglect of her. Hoskuld, however, is beginning to show the marks of old age. By contrast, Olaf is entering into the period of his manhood, and Melkorka's marriage makes it possible for him to embark on his cavalier's tour to Norway and Ireland. In the collateral Chapter 59, Gudrun's son Bolli is also coming of age, and Gudrun and Snorri plan vengeance for the killing of the boy's father. It is more than coincidental that the plot involves Melkorka's son by her husband Thorbjorn, namely, Lambi Thorbjornson.

Chapters 21 and 58 appear to continue lines of action in

their respective sections of the saga without manifesting any specific correspondences. Chapters 22 and 57 have the feature in common that an important personage returns to Iceland from abroad and expresses an interest in marriage. In 22, Olaf the Peacock seeks the hand of Thorgerd, the daughter of Egill Skalla-Grimsson, and in 57, Thorkel Eyjolfsson declares his interest in becoming Gudrun's fourth husband.

Chapters 24 and 55 are highly interesting as evidence for parallelism between the two halves of the saga. To begin with, we have in Chapter 24 the unforgettable picture of Olaf the Peacock's household moving to Hjarðarholt in a procession which reminds one of the Biblical patriarch Noah entering the ark with all of the animals, two by two. In Chapter 55, on the other hand, we have a procession away from Hjarðarholt: all of Olaf's nine sons, followed by their mother, go forth to kill Olaf's foster-son, Bolli Thorleiksson. In connection with Bolli, it was suggested earlier that the saga-teller had constructed a relationship between him and Kotkel such that the good fortune of the one corresponded to the ill luck of the other, and for this reason it was assumed that the saga-teller harbored a secret animosity toward Bolli. In these chapters, 24 and 55, we may detect another correspondence which is susceptible of a similar interpretation. For it is in Chapter 24 that the corpse of Killer-Hrapp is exhumed and burnt, and the ashes scattered at sea, thus putting an end to his hauntings. While not ruling out other interpretations, we must note that this action corresponds to the killing of Bolli Thorleiksson in the collateral Chapter 55. By linking these two events through the structure of the saga, the saga-teller seems

to imply that Bolli's death constitutes the end of an unpleasant episode. Chapters 26 and 53 are the end and the beginning of their respective decatriads: in 26, Hoskuld dies, and Olaf clearly assumes the role of leader of the family; in 53, Olaf's widow Thorgerd taunts her sons, inciting them to the vengeance which takes place in the decatriad which follows.

In regard to the last pair of decatriads, the first and the sixth, we observed earlier that these are alike in that both cover a period of seven generations from the first chapter to the last in each group of thirteen. As we may see in Appendices A and B, most of these genealogies have been placed in the first and last chapters of the saga, Chapters 1 and 78. The main events in these decatriads are listed in Appendix F. In Chapter 2, Bjorn Ketilsson's arrival in Iceland is described, in Chapter 77 Bolli Bollason returns from a trip abroad. In Chapter 3 Bjorn Ketilsson's high-seat pillars wash ashore at Bjarnarhaven in Breidafjord; similarly, in Chapter 76 Thorkel Eyjolfsson drowns in the same body of water, and his cargo of church-timber is dispersed over the whole fjord. It is also noteworthy that the high-seat pillars, with their pagan connotations, have been placed, not only in contrast to the church-timber, with its Christian associations, but also stand in conjunction with the witch's bones discovered under the church floor at Helgafell by Gudrun through the vision in her grand-daughter's dream. Since the church at Helgafell is very close to the place where Bjorn's high-seat pillars washed ashore, the removal of the bones suggests the change of faith since the days of settlement, perhaps also that the series of events initiated by Bjorn's settlement was

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coming to an end.

In Chapters 4 and 75, we have two characters named Thorstein, both of whom are unsuccessful in their attempts to secure a piece of land. In Chapter 4, Thorstein the Red, the son of Unn the Deep-Minded, tries to maintain his position as ruler over part of Scotland, but is eventually killed; in 75, Thorstein Kuggason (Thorstein the Red's great-great-grandson) tries unsuccessfully to buy the estate of Hjarðarholt from its owner, Halldor Olafsson, but is thwarted by Beinir the Strong.

The accounts of mean-spiritedness and incipient megalomania in Chapters 5 and 74 can best be understood as counter-examples to the liberality and prodigality of Chapters 6 and 73, respectively. In Chapter 5, Unn the Deep-Minded is received by her brother Helgi Bjolan, who ungenerously offers to house only half of her group of retainers. Her other brother, Bjorn the Easter-ner, shows himself to be much more accommodating, and accepts the entire company. The stinginess manifested by Helgi contrasts sharply with Unn's liberality in Chapter 6, where she makes a generous grant of land to her former slaves.

Helgi's niggardliness in Chapter 5 also contrasts with the megalomania of Thorkel Eyjolfsson in Chapter 74--we recall the scene where King Olaf discovers Thorkel at daybreak crawling about on the roof-beams of his unfinished church, taking measurements so that his church on Iceland would be bigger than the king's. The giving of gifts is an important matter in medieval Scandinavia, and Unn's example of due measure and proportion in Chapter 6 stands in contrast to Bolli's free-spending style in Norway in Chapter 73.

Chapters 7 and 72 are again the central chapters in their respective decatriads, and consequently the events recounted in them serve as turning points in the action of the saga. In Chapter 7, the saga-teller's account of the settlement is complete: Unn the Deep-Minded dies, her youngest grandson, Olaf Feilan, inherits the estate at Hvammr, her grandson-in-law Dala-Koll dies, her granddaughter Thorgerd returns to Norway, and her great-grandson Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson inherits the family's property, which is named Hoskuldstead. Similarly, in Chapter 72, Bolli Bollason's obligations to seek vengeance for his father's slaying have been satisfied, and his thoughts turn to travel abroad to Norway.

Both Chapter 8 and Chapter 71 involve the transfer of property: in the former, Hoskuld takes over his parents' estate, including the portion belonging to his half-brother Hrut Herjolfsson, thus contributing to the quarrels which follow; in Chapter 71, Thorleik and Bolli Bollason agree to accept compensation from the Olafssons for the killing of their father.

In Chapter 9, Hoskuld marries Jorunn; in 70, Bolli Bollason marries Thordis, the daughter of Snorri Sturluson. In Chapter 10, Killer-Hrapp makes his presence known; in Chapter 69, Gunnar Thidrandi's-Killer suddenly appears at Gudrun's wedding party. In Chapter 11, Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson sails to Norway in order to obtain timber for his hall; in Chapter 68, Thorkel Eyjolfsson arrives from Norway with two ship-loads of timber. In Chapters 12 and 67 we again have a correspondence of opposites: in 12, Hoskuld buys a concubine, Melkorka; by contrast, in 67, Snorri arranges the slaying of Gudrun's unwelcome suitor, Thorgils Hollu-

son. As we observed earlier, the first decatriad closes with the birth of Olaf the Peacock in Chapter 13, whereas the sixth and last decatriad opens in Chapter 66 with the death of Osvif Helgason.

This completes our survey of the correspondences between the collateral chapters of the two halves of Laxdoela saga. This and the earlier comparisons support the positions taken at the beginning of this paper, which are: first, that the two halves of the saga are in effect mirror images of one another, in that in many cases a significant event or motif in a given chapter in the one half will have a corresponding event or motif in the collateral chapter in the other; second, that the two halves of the saga may be further subdivided into three segments of thirteen chapters each on the basis of certain features of the content of the saga; and third and finally, that the central or seventh chapter in each decatriad may be regarded as "pivotal," in that it contains material which marks a turning point in the line of action in that segment.

It is obvious that these findings, if they be accepted, have important implications for our understanding of the way in which this saga was conceived and written. While it may be that there was a period in which the subject matter of the work was transmitted orally from individual to individual, as some adherents of the free-prose theory might claim, it is virtually certain that the version which we have before us is the product of a single mind, which composed and constructed this work at a specific, if not determinable point in time. It is inconceivable to me that the mathematical relations which have been set forth above are

the product of pure chance.

Furthermore, the very idea of a mathematical principle of organization implies an intellect of some sophistication, and probably, if not certainly, a tradition which could foster and develop such an intellect, and in which such a technique of literary composition could be transmitted. And finally, given the existence of similarly organized works on the continent, it seems likely that there may have been closer connections between Scandinavia and the continent that has hitherto been supposed.³ Limitations of time prohibit a fuller exploration of these matters in this paper. They are put forward merely to suggest lines of further inquiry which are opened up by the presence of arithmetical proportion as a principle of composition in Laxdoela saga.

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¹Ernst Robert Curtius, Europäische Literatur und lateinisches Mittelalter, 2nd ed. (Bern: Francke, 1954), pp. 491ff.

²Not all manuscripts of Laxdoela have the same number of chapter divisions, nor are all chapter divisions in the same place in each manuscript. The remarks in this paper reflect the chapter divisions in the edition by Einar Ó. Sveinsson (Laxdoela saga, Íslenzk Fornrit, VI [Reykjavík, 1934/]), which is based on the version in the Mödruvallabók. It is the intention of the author to examine the only other complete version of the saga, i.e., that in the Vatnshyrnaafrit, in the near future.

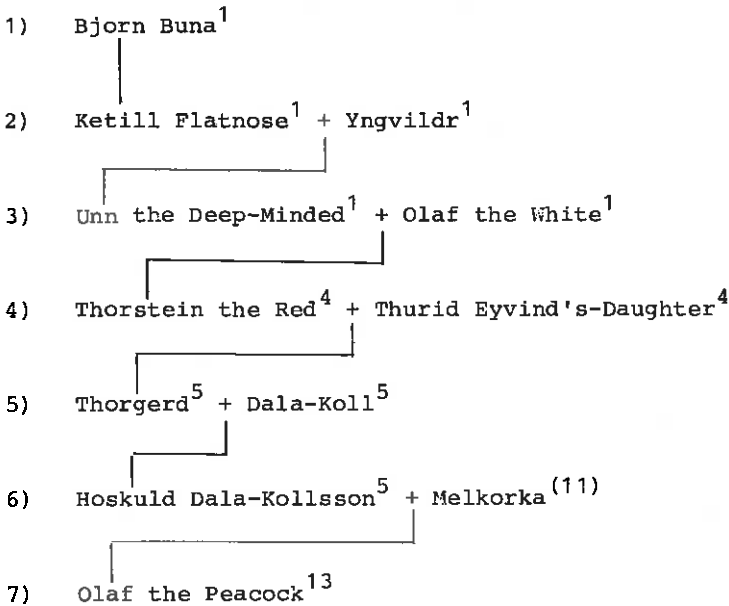
³Cf. Edward G. Fichtner, "Patterns of Arithmetical Proportion in the Nibelungenlied," in Essays in the Numerical Analysis of Medieval Literature (Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Bucknell University Press, forthcoming).

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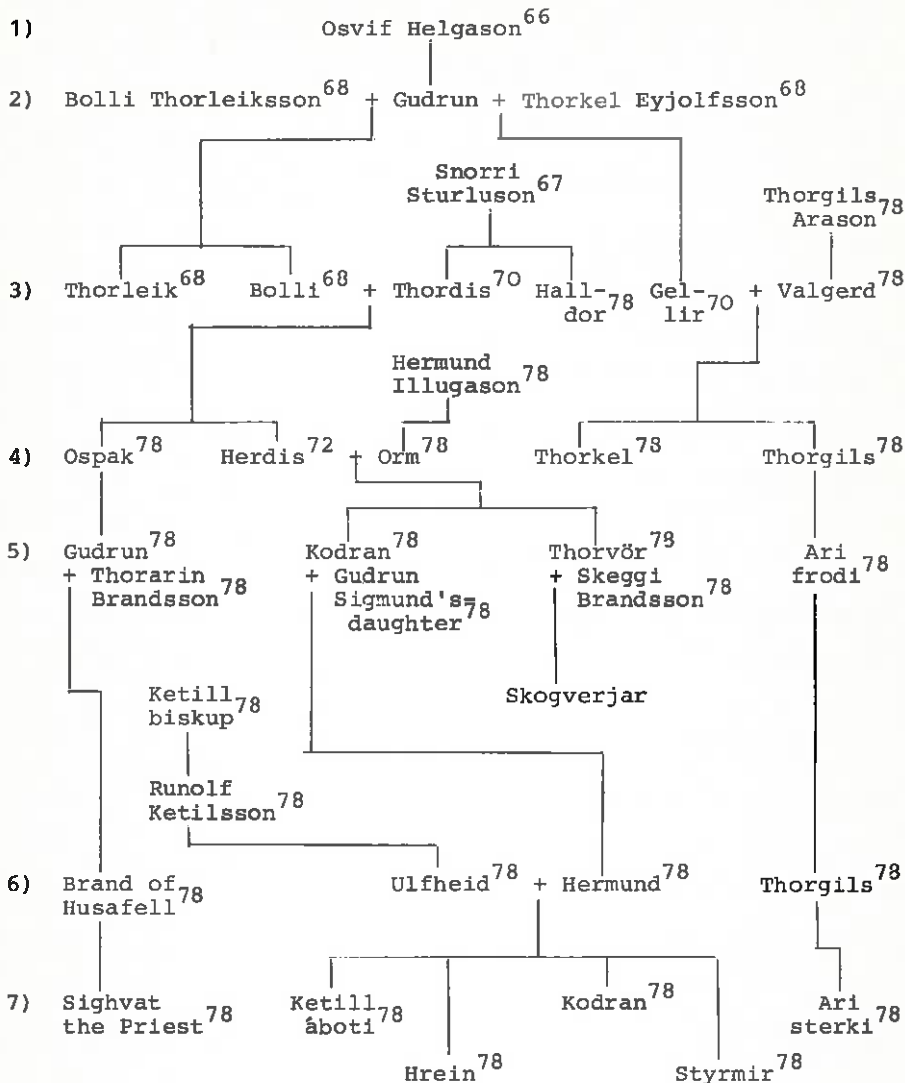
Appendices

Appendix A: The Descendants of Bjorn Buna
Mentioned in Chapters 1-13 (Decatriad I)

(The superscript numbers in Appendices A and B indicate the chapters in which the character so designated appears for the first time; the parentheses around the chapter number next to the name Melkorka refer to the fact that this character appears in Chapter 11, but is not mentioned there by name. The number in the left margin in these appendices indicates the number of the generation.)



Appendix B: The Descendants of Osvif Helgason
Mentioned in Chapters 66-78 (Decatriad VI)



Appendix C: The Six Decatriads
and Their Pivotal Chapters

Decatriad I: Chs. 1-13 (13 chs.)

- 1-6 (6) 1: Bjorn Buna's descendants.
2-3: Norway to Iceland.
4-6: Unn in Iceland.
- 7 (1) 7: Unn's last feast, her death and burial; gives her property to her grandson, Olaf Feilan.
- 8: Hrut Herjolfsson.
9: Hoskuld marries.
- 8-13 (6) 10: Killer-Hrapp.
11: Thord Goddi.
12: Melkorka, the concubine.
13: Olaf the Peacock born.

Decatriad II: Chs. 14-26 (13 chs.)

- 14-19 (6) 14-18: Olaf acquires an estate.
19: Hrut Herjolfsson claims his inheritance.
- 20 (1) 20: Melkorka marries; Olaf goes abroad.
- 21: Olaf abroad.
- 21-26 (6) 22-24: Olaf returns, marries, builds Hjardarholt.
25: Bolli Thorleiksson born.
26: Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson dies.

Decatriad III: Chs. 27-39 (13 chs.)

- 27: Hoskuld's memorial feast; Olaf fosters Bolli Thorleiksson.
- 27-32 (6) 28: Kjartan Olafsson born.
29-30: Geirmund and Thurid.
31: Olaf's dream.
32: Gudrun Osvif's-Daughter.
- 33 (1) 33: Gudrun's dreams.
- 34-39 (6) 34: Gudrun's first marriage.
35-38: Kotkel and his family.
39: Kjartan, Bolli, and Gudrun at Laugar.

Appendix C (cont.)

Decatriad IV: Chs. 40-52 (13 chs.)

- 40-45 (6) 40-41: Kjartan and Bolli go abroad; Kjartan baptized.
42: Bolli returns to Iceland.
43: Bolli and Gudrun marry.
44: Kjartan returns to Iceland.
45: Kjartan marries Hrefna.
- 46 (1) 46: theft of Kjartan's sword and Hrefna's headdress.
- 47-48: feud between Olafssons and Osvifssons begins.
49-50: Kjartan's slaying; negotiations.
- 47-52 (6) 51: Olaf arranges compensation for Kjartan's death;
death of Olaf the Peacock.
52: Halldor Olafsson and his brothers slay Thorkel
of Hafratindar.

Decatriad V: Chs. 53-65 (13 chs.)

- 53-58 (6) 53-54: Thorgerd incites her sons to vengeance.
55: Helgi Hardbeinsson slays Bolli Thorleiksson.
56: Gudrun moves to Helgafell.
57-58: Gudrun's suitors.
- 59 (1) 59: Gudrun and Snorri plot vengeance.
- 60-65 (6) 61-64: slaying of Helgi Hardbeinsson.
65: Gudrun tricks Thorgils Holluson.

Decatriad VI: Chs. 66-78 (13 chs.)

- 66-71 (6) 66: Osvif Helgason dies.
67: Thorgils Holluson killed.
68: Gudrun marries Thorkel Eyjolfsson.
69: Gunnar Thidrandi's-Killer appears.
70: Thorleik and Bolli.
71: Snorri composes feud between Olafssons and
Bollasons.
- 72 (1) 72: Bolli and Thorleik Bollason plan to go abroad;
Herdis Bolli's-Daughter born.
- 73-78 (6) 73: The Bollasons go to Norway.
74: Thorkel Eyjolfsson goes to Norway to buy timber.
75: Thorstein Kuggason tries to buy Hjardarholt.
76: Thorkel Eyjolfsson drowns.
77: Bolli Bollason returns from Norway.
78: deaths of Snorri and Gudrun; her descendants.

Appendix D: Correspondences between

Decatriad III (Chs. 27-39) and Decatriad IV (Chs. 40-52)

27: Hoskuld's memorial feast; Olaf fosters Bolli Thorleikson.

28: Kjartan Olafsson born at Hjardarholt; Kjartan and Bolli Thorleiksson become foster-brothers; Halldor Olafsson leaves Hjardarholt to be fostered by Holmgöngu-Bersi at Tongue.

29: Geirmund marries Thurid Olaf's-Daughter; Olaf builds hall at Hjardarholt.

30: Geirmund and Thurid separate; Geirmund curses "Leg-Biter"; Thurid steals it and gives it to Bolli Thorleikson.

31: Olaf slaughters the ox Harri; he dreams of the angry woman and her prophecy.

32: Osvif Helgason and his sons introduced; Gudrun introduced; Laugar described; Osvif buys land up valley from Thorarin.

(33): Gudrun's four dreams; Gest Oddleifsson's prophecy.

34: Gudrun marries, then divorces Thorvald.

35: Gudrun marries Thord Ingunnarson; Kotkel causes Thord's death.

36: Kotkel settles at Lax-riverdale.

37: Kotkel killed.

38: Stigandi killed.

39: Kjartan, Bolli, and Gudrun together at Laugar.

52: Thorleik Bollason born to Gudrun and Bolli Thorleiksson; the Olafssons kill Thorkel of Hafratindar.

51: Kjartan buried at Borg; Halldor Olafsson inherits Hjardarholt; Olaf the Peacock dies.

50: Olaf attempts reconciliation after Kjartan's death; Hrefna dies.

49: Kjartan slain by Bolli Thorleiksson with "Leg-Biter."

48: An the Black's dream; he becomes known as "An Brush-wood-Belly"; the ambush of Kjartan is planned.

47: Kjartan besieges Laugar; he forces out Bolli in contest to buy land at Tongue from Thorarin.

(46): theft of the headdress and of Kjartan's sword "King's-Gift"; its recovery.

45: Kjartan rejects Bolli's gift of horses; he marries Hrefna.

44: Kjartan returns to Iceland, and attends feast at Laugar.

43: Gudrun marries Bolli Thorleiksson; Kjartan receives the headdress from Ingibjorg, the sword from King Olaf.

42: Bolli returns to Iceland.

41: Kjartan and Bolli hostages in Norway.

40: Kjartan and Bolli in Norway; they accept Christianity.

Appendix E: Correspondences between Decatriad II

(Chs. 14-26) and Decatriad V (Chs. 53-65)

14: Hall killed by Thorolf, who is in turn saved by Vigdis; Ingjald and Thord Goddi try to dupe Vigdis.

15: Vigdis dupes Ingjald.

16: Thord Goddi fosters Olaf the Peacock.

17: Killer-Hrapp dies, is buried upright under his living room door.

18: Thorstein Black the Wise drowns; Thorkel Fringe takes possession of Hrappstead by ordeal and through duplicity.

19: Hrut Herjolfsson demands his inheritance.

(20): Melkorka marries out of spite, and to help Olaf the Peacock; he goes abroad.

21: Olaf visits Norway and Ireland.

22: Olaf travels to Norway, returns to Iceland; he expresses an interest in the hand of Thorgerd Egil's-Daughter.

23: Olaf marries Thorgerd.

24: Olaf builds Hjardarholt; he and his family enter in a procession; Killer-Hrapp's corpse disinterred and burned, his bones scattered.

25: Thorleik Hoskuldsson quarrels with his half-brother Hrut Herjolfsson; Bolli Thorleiksson born.

26: Hoskuld Dala-Kollsson dies; Olaf inherits much of his property.

65: Thorgils Holluson duped by Gudrun and Snorri.

64: Bolli Bollason kills Helgi Hardbeinsson with "Leg-Biter"; Killer-Hrapp killed.

63: Helgi's shepherd describes Bolli's party; Hrapp appears.

62: Thorgils and Bolli's party approach Helgi's farm.

61: Thorstein the Black agrees to join Bolli's party, as does Lambi Thorbjornson (treason).

60: Gudrun demands vengeance for Bolli Thorleiksson's killing.

(59): Gudrun plans vengeance; Bolli Bollason comes of age.

58: Thorkel Eyjolfsson and Grim; Snorri suggests Gudrun as a wife for Thorkel.

57: Thorgils Holluson described; Thorkel Eyjolfsson comes to Iceland.

56: Gudrun moves to Helgafell; Bolli Bollason born.

55: The Olafssons leave Hjardarholt in a procession of nine, with Thorgerd; Bolli Thorleiksson is killed.

54: The Olafssons plan an attack on Bolli Thorleiksson.

53: Thorgerd taunts her sons and urges them to vengeance on Bolli Thorleiksson.

Appendix F: Correspondences between Decatriad I
(Chs. 1-13) and Decatriad VI (Chs. 66-78)

- 1: Ketill Flatnose leaves Norway.
- 2: Bjorn Ketilsson comes to Iceland.
- 3: Bjorn Ketilsson's high-seat pillars wash ashore at Breidafjord near Bjarnarhaven.
- 4: Thorstein the Red tries unsuccessfully to establish himself in Scotland; he dies.
- 5: Unn received ungenerously by Helgi Bjolan, generously by Bjorn the Easterner (mean-mindedness vs. generosity).
- 6: Unn's grants of land to her family and followers (liberality).
- (7): Olaf Feilan inherits Hvammr; he marries; Dala-Koll dies; Hoskuld inherits Hoskuldsstead; his mother goes to Norway, marries Herjolf.
- 8: Hoskuld takes over the inheritance, including Hrut's share.
- 9: Hoskuld marries Jorunn; their children.
- 10: Killer-Hrapp causes trouble.
- 11: Thord Goddi, Thorbjorn the Feeble introduced; Hoskuld goes to Norway for timber.
- 78: Death of Snorri Sturluson and Gudrun; experiences of her son Gellir Thorkelsson abroad.
- 77: Bolli Bollason (Bjorn's great-great-great-grandson) returns to Iceland.
- 76: Thorkel Eyjolfsson (Bjorn's great-great-great-grand-nephew) drowns in Breidafjord; his load of timber is lost; Gudrun discovers the witch's bones under the church floor at Helgafell (10 km. from Bjarnarhaven).
- 75: Thorstein Kuggason (Thorstein the Red's great-great-grandson) tries unsuccessfully to buy the estate of Hjardarholt; he is foiled by Beinir the Strong.
- Thorkel Eyjolfsson (Bjorn's and Helgi's great-great-great-grand-nephew) tries to measure King Olaf's church so as to surpass it in Iceland (megalomania).
- 73: Bolli and Thorleik Bollason (Unn's great-great-great-great-grandsons) in Norway (their prodigality).
- (72): Bolli and Thorleik as joint owners of a ship; Bolli plans to go to Norway.
- 71: Thorleik and Bolli Bollason accept compensation from the Olafssons for the killing of their father.
- 70: Bolli Bollason marries Thordis Snorri's-Daughter.
- 69: Gunnar Thidrandi's-Killer causes trouble.
- 68: Thorkel Eyjolfsson returns from Norway with two shiploads of timber; marries Gudrun.

Appendix F (cont.)

- 12: Hoskuld buys Melkorka. 67: Thorgils Holluson, Gud-
run's unwelcome suitor,
killed.
- 13: Olaf the Peacock born. 66: Osvif Helgason dies.

