

# Cædmon's Hymn

*West Saxon Version: Verse Early Saxon*<sup>1</sup>

Nu sculon herigean heofonrices weard,  
meotodes meahte and his modgeþanc,  
weorc wuldorfæder, swa he wundra gehwæs,  
ece drihten, or onstealde.

He ærest sceop eorðan bearnum  
heofon to hrofe, halig scyppend;  
þa middangeard moncynnes weard,  
ece drihten, æfter teode  
firum foldan, frea ælmihtig.

*Northumbrian Version: Verse Early Anglian*<sup>2</sup>

Nu scylun hergan hefaenricaes uard,  
metudæs maecti end his modgidanc,  
uerc uuldurfadur, sue he uundra gihuaes,  
eci dryctin, or astelidæ.

He aerist scop aelda barnum  
heben til hrofe, haleg scepenn;  
tha middungeard moncynnæs uard,  
eci dryctin, æfter tiadæ  
firum foldu, frea allmectig.

*Bede's Latin paraphrase of "Cædmon's Hymn"*<sup>3</sup>

Nunc laudare debemus auctorem regni caelestis  
potentiam Creatoris, et consilium illius  
facta Patris gloriae: quomodo ille,  
cum sit aeternus Deus omnium miraculorum auctor exstitit;  
qui primo filiis hominum  
caelum pro culmine tecti  
dehinc terram custos humani generis  
omnipotens creavit.

*Modern English Translation*

Now we ought to praise the maker of the heavenly kingdom  
the power of the Creator, and his intention  
the deeds of the Father of glory: how he,  
since he is the eternal Lord of all miracles has been the author;  
who first for the sons of men  
heaven for a roof above  
next, the earth, the keeper of the human-race  
the all-powerful created.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www8.georgetown.edu/departments/medieval/labyrinth/library/oe/texts/a32.2.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www8.georgetown.edu/departments/medieval/labyrinth/library/oe/texts/a32.1.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.heorot.dk/bede-caedmon.html#bede-l>