

**DAS NIBELUNGEN LIED
OR THE LAY OF THE
LAST NIBELUNGERS**

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Das Nibelungen Lied or the Lay of the last Nibelungers by Jonathan Birch

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JONATHAN BIRCH

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OR THE LAY OF THE
LAST NIBELUNGERS**

DAS NIBELUNGEN LIED.

PT
1579
A3B5
1848

THIS FIRST

AND ONLY TRANSLATION

OF

THE NIBELUNGEN LIED

IS DEDICATED,

by *Special Permission,*

TO

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY

FREDERICK WILLIAM IV.,

THE WISE, THE ENERGETIC, THE GOOD

KING OF PRUSSIA,

BY

HIS MAJESTY'S

GRATEFUL, LOYAL,

AND MOST DEVOTED SERVANT,

Jonathan Birch.

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PATRONS.

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF PRUSSIA.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE CHARLES OF PRUSSIA.

HIS SERENE HIGHNESS PRINCE BIRON OF COURLAND.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF ARGYLE.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF WESTMORLAND.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF CRAVEN.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE BARON VON HUMBOLDT.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE CHEVALIER BUNSEN, *Prussian Ambassador.*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE CONSUL GENERAL THEREMIN.

CHEVALIER HERLER, *Consul General for Prussia.*

PROFESSOR C. LACHMANN.

PROFESSOR J. GRIMM.

PROFESSOR W. GRIMM.



INTRODUCTION.

LEGENDS of bygone times reveal wonders and prodigies,
Of heroes worthy endless fame, — of matchless braveries, —
Of jubilees and festal sports, — of tears and sorrows great, —
And knights who daring combats fought: — the like I now relate.

In Burgundie there lived and throve, a truly handsome maid:
Such as in all the countries round — was not, might well be said.
Chriemhilda fair, the maiden hight, — a beauteous dame was she;
On her account did many a knight, lose life and high degree.

Three rich and nobly-meaning kings, her kin and guardians were;
Gunter and Gernot twain were named — both knights beyond compare;
The third one Giselher was called, — young, strong, and versed in arms.
— These brother-princes heeding watched — an only sister's charms.

In Rhenish-Burgundie they dwelt, — at Worms was held their court:
There — from far lands frank-fee to do, did lofty knights resort,
Who served life-long with loyalty, and honourable fames:
Until right woefully they fell — through strife of royal dames.

*Queen Utic was their mother dear — a wealthy dame was she!
Their father, royal Dankrath was: — he left unto the three
When near his end an ample realm, — ere then a stalwart man!
Who in his early manhood-days — chivalric honours wan.*

*Now these joint-kings of Burgundie — as I've just told to you,
Were strong and very valiant men, with subjects bold and true,
And knights they had of great renown — no better could there be
For strength of arm and daring deed: the pride of chivalry!*

*E'en such was Hagen, Tronyie's chief; — and such his brother-kin
Bold Dankart — he so swift of foot! — and Metz born Ortewin;
Besides — the margraves eminent, Garie and Eckewart;
And Volcher brave of Alzeie, so skilled in every art.*

*Rumolt — chief-steward was, and eke a knight of good report:
Sindolt and Hunolt likewise held — high office at the court:
Moreover, there were many else of far extended fame
Within the realm; — but they are sooth too manifold to name.*

*Dankart was marshal, — and his kin (own sister's son more'er)
The valiant Ortewin of Metz, was royal Gunther's sewer.
Sindolt cupbearer to the kings — was knight of great import;
And chamberlain was Hunolt keen: all honouring the court.*

THE LAY OF THE LAST NIBELUNGERS.

L E G E N D I.

Showing how Chriemhilda dreamed — also treating of prince Siegfried's departure from the Netherlands and arrival at Worms.

1.

13

CHRIEMHILDA, innocent as fair — dreamed as night whiled away,
That she a noble falcon mewed for many an anxious day;
But soaring it was fiercely clutched, by wrathful eagles twain:
— That she, entranced, must see it torn, did cause her heartfelt pain.

2.

14

Awake — she to her mother went, and told her frightful dream;
To solve it thus, and then and there, — it Utie did beseem:
'The falcon thou didst foster so, a noble knight may be?
'Heaven guard his life! or ere long time, he'll die through treachery.'

3.

15

'Oh, hint not at the nuptial-tie — dear mother! unto me,
'For I, by every wooing knight would unaccosted be:
'My beauty — as a royal maid, I'll carry to the grave, —
'That so no husband bring me woe — however bland and brave.'