

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Illustrations of northern antiquities, from the earlier Teutonic and Scandinavian romances

Weber, Henry William

Edinburgh [u.a.], 1814

Adventure II. - Of Siegfried

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-161450](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-161450)

ADVENTURE II. OF SIEGFRIED.—Siegmond, king of Netherland, had, by his queen Sieghelind, a son of high renown, who, in his earliest youth, achieved many marvellous deeds of chivalry. He did not remain with his father in the burgh of Santen,¹ but traversed many a country, ever distinguished for the strength of his arm, and the courtesy of his behaviour; so that he obtained the love of many a fair lady. When he came to a ripe age, he returned to court. Then his father, the king, caused proclamation to be made, and commanded his knights to assemble on the day of the turn of summer,² when his son should be knighted, together with four hundred sons of the noblest of the realm. The ladies were employed in embroidering rich garments with many a precious stone, for the young prince. In honour of his knighthood, mass was sung at the cathedral, and a splendid tournament and jousting was held.

There they run and saddled many a tilting horse;
In the court of Siegmund run they many a course,
That far and wide the noise was heard, in palace and in hall:
There many a high-bred hero's name heralds did loudly call.

Many a fall to youthful knights, by ancient kemp's was given:
Lances shiv'ring, clash of swords, resounded to the heaven:
Full high the splinters flew about the warlike throng:
There was mirth and jollity virgins and dames among.

The king he bade them stint the strife; the horse were led away:
There many a buckler strong to shivers broken lay:
Many a stone of mound down in the grass was seen,
Struck from the edge of shields, by the falchions sharp and keen.

The evening was concluded with a splendid feast; palmers and pil-

¹ Xanten, in the ci-devant duchy of Juliers, forming now the department of the Boer.

² In the original, *sunnewende*, the turn of the sun, solstice. That of summer fell upon St John's day, and the winter-solstice on Christmas day. Both periods, particularly the former, were devoted to festivities, as well as Whitsuntide.

grims from distant countries were royally regaled. Siegfried was invited in his father's dominions, and his sword-companions¹ presented with rich gifts. In this manner the high feast was celebrated for seven days; at the end of which Siegfried took his leave, to search for deeds of arms; and refused the request of his father, who wished to resign to him his crown.

ADVENTURE III. HOW SIEGFRIED CAME TO WORMS.—During his search for adventures, Siegfried heard of the matchless beauty of Chrimhilt, and of her determination to refuse the love of any man. He immediately resolved to obtain her, and no other, for his spouse. This resolution he communicated to his parents, who spared no entreaties to dissuade him from the enterprise; and warned him to beware of the pride of Gunter and Ghernot, and the savage fierceness of Haghen. When they found themselves unable to divert him from his purpose, they advised him to conquer her by force of arms, and invade Burgundy with a large army; but Siegfried refused the offer, and only demanded twelve knights to accompany him, to the great sorrow of Siegmund and Sieghelind, and of the whole country. Then they provided him and his knights with the richest garments, and the most splendid armour.

Arrayed in this guise, they took leave at the court, and set out for Worms, where they arrived in seven days. The splendour of their apparel drew great crowds about them, who wished to take their horses and shields, and to lead them into the town. But Siegfried refused their offer, demanded where he could find Gunter, the king of Burgundy, and was informed that he was at that time sitting in his hall of state.

The king had by this time been informed of the arrival of these strangers, and beheld them from a window. Marvelling who they might be, he sent for his uncle Haghen, who had travelled far and

¹ This term (*schwert-genossen*, *Schwert-degen*) was peculiarly applied to squires who were knighted with a young sovereign, or the son of their suzerain; and were consequently in a peculiar manner attached to his service.