

# Warriors at Helgeland by Henrick Ibsen

M/M S&S, BS, R&D

Warriors at Helgeland by Henrik Ibsen

SCENE: A frozen hillside by the sea in the time of King Athelstan and Eric Bloody-Axe. Sigurd, a young warrior, is trying to break down the door of a boatshed. Ornulf appears, recognizes him and calls out to him:)

Ornulf: Stand Back, Warrior!

Sigurd: (turns and lays a hand on his sword) If I did that, it would be the first time!

Ornulf: You must and shall! I need this boat-shed for a night's shelter for my men, who are half-frozen.

Sigurd: And I need it for a weary woman.

Ornulf: My men are of more worth than your woman!

Sigurd: Outlaws must be of great worth in Helgeland, then!

Ornulf: (draws) You shall pay dearly for those words!

Sigurd: (draws) It shall go ill with you, old man!

(They Fight)

Ornulf: I will draw your blood!

Sigurd: You shall see your own, first!

(Sigurd wounds Ornulf)

Ornulf:  
A good stroke, Warrior! -  
Swift the sword thou swingest,  
Keen thy weapon's aim;  
Sigurd's self, the Strong One,  
It would put to shame.

Sigurd: (smiles) Then he would have shame and honor at the same time!

Ornulf: But it was a keener stroke you dealt me the night you stole away Dagny, my Daughter! (throws back his hood, gestured reassuringly to Sigurd) There is no need! I knew you as soon as I saw you and that is why I provoked a quarrel; I wanted to try whether they speak truly who say of you that you are the best swordsman in Norway.

Now, let there be peace and reconciliation between us!

Sigurd: I ask nothing better, if it may be arranged!

Ornulf: There is my hand. You are a doughty hero; such swashing blows has no one before exchanged with old Ornulf.

Sigurd: (Taking his hand) Then may it be the last time we exchange blows!