

Versions of Cædmon's Hymn

(<https://www.csun.edu/~sk36711/WWW/engl400/caedmon.pdf>)

Cædmon's Hymn occurs in a number of manuscripts, which vary in their spelling of the poem. The two earliest manuscripts, the 'Moore' and the 'Leningrad' versions date to the eighth century and give the poem in a Northumbrian dialect. The other versions occur in tenth-century manuscripts and give the poem in West Saxon. In the texts below, the macrons, capitalisation, and punctuation have all been added by modern editors. The translation is as literal as possible without violating the norms of Modern English syntax.

Northumbrian 'Moore' Version Northumbrian 'Leningrad' Version (CUL MS Kk 5.16, **c. 737**) (St Petersburg Public Library MS Q.v.I.18, c. 746)

Nū scylun hergan hefaenrīces Uard, Nū scilun herga hefenrīcæs Uard, Metudæs maecti end his mōdgīdanc, Metudæs mehti end his mōdgiþanc, uerc Uuldurfadur, suē hē uundra gihwæs, uerc Uuldurfadur, suē hē uundra gihuæs, ēci dryctin, ōr āstelidæ. ēci Dryctin, ōr āstelidæ. Hē āērist scōp aelda barnum Hē ærist scōp aeldu barnum heben til hrōfe, hāleg Scepen. heben tō hrōfæ, hālig Sceppend. Thā middungeard moncynnæs Uard, Thā middingard moncynnæs Uard, ēci Dryctin, æfter tiadæ ēci dryctin, æfter tiadæ firum foldu, Frēa allmectig. firum foldu, Frēa allmehtig.

West Saxon Version (Bodleian Library, Tanner MS 10, **10th century**) Translation
Nū sculon herigean heofonrīces Weard, Meotedes meahte ond his mōdgeþanc, weorc Wuldorfæder, swā he wundra gihwæs, ēce Drihten, ōr onstealde Hē ærest sceōp eorðan bearnum heofon tō hrōfe, hālig Scyppend. Þā middangeard moncynnes Weard, ēce Drihten, æfter tēode firum foldan, Frēa ælmihtig

Latin (Bede's Translation)

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
creavit.
omnipotens

Translation #1

Now [we] must honour the guardian of heaven,
the might of the architect, and his purpose,
the work of the father of glory
as he, the eternal lord, established the beginning of wonders;
he first created for the children of men
heaven as a roof, the holy creator
Then the guardian of mankind,
the eternal lord, afterwards appointed the [middle earth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midgard),
the lands for men, the Lord almighty.

Translation #2

Now we must praise the Guardian of heaven,
The Measurer's might, and the thought of His mind the Glory-
Father's work, as he for every wonder.
the eternal Lord—established the beginning.
He first made for the earth's children heaven as a roof, the holy Creator.
Then middle-earth he Guardian of mankind—the eternal Lord—
afterwards adorned, the earth for men, the Lord almighty.
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A6dmon's_Hymn)

Translation #3

Google Bede's Latin to English

Now to praise the Maker of the heavenly kingdom,
the power of the Creator, and his counsel
deeds of the Father of glory, as the One,
since it is the eternal God, the author of all;
the sons of men
the sky for a roof
thereafter the guardian of the human race
created.
Almighty