

The Godless

I pray they did not see me,
through the flames and through the smoke
and I pray, Lord, for forgiveness
for the Godless Norsemen folk.

For they worship Thor and Odin,
and they slaughter and they kill;
they do not know of mercy,
and know nothing of God's will.

I pray you will forgive me
as I ran into this church
away from those who need me
in hope they'll stop their search.

Their swords and spears were flying;
red rain had filled the air,

they burnt down all the houses
and all the people there.

Hush! I hear them coming!
Their laughter scares me more.
As I kneel down praying to you, Lord,
they're smashing down the door.

I smell their ale and blood, Lord,
as I crouch and now I lie,
their footsteps'r edging near, Lord,
but I do not fear to die.

They've got me, Lord, it's over,
they've stabbed me – Lord, I'm broke!
Forgive them, Lord, I beg you:
the Godless, Norsemen folk.



1. Who are 'they'?



2. 'red rain had filled the air'

What sort of image does this create in your mind?



Look at the verse beginning 'Hush! I hear them coming!...'

Read the lines carefully and try to visualise what is happening. Now write a few sentences below summarising what you think is happening in this verse.



Read the third verse and think about the person narrating the poem. Why do you think he asks for forgiveness?
