

THE NIBELUNGEN

REEL ONE

101

VOLKER:

Wondrous are the tales, from olden times still told,  
Tales of glorious heroes, Knights ... strong and bold.  
Tales of festive days, tales of calamities,  
Tales of battles, tales of treason, my songs recount  
these ...

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101 OUT

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102

VOLKER:

The town of Worms upon the Rhine, a mighty prince  
did rule, who servants had and vassals, and Knights  
at his bid and call. Burgundia was the name of this  
favored land, nowhere on earth did a finer Kingdom  
stand. It's king a man of honor and wealth. A  
reasonable man, without a blame. His equal, yet  
unfound ... And Gunther is his name. No queen yet has  
he taken, will then his throne go forsaken?

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103

VIEUX:

Do as I tell you, my son.

MAN I:

I shall respect your wishes, father.

VIEUX:

And all shall be well again.

104

VOLKER: The king two brothers had, Gernot and Giselher. Stalwart and young were they, adept at sword and spear. In Burgund there dwelled a maiden, sister to the king, go seek through the land, no greater beauty shines. And this beauty for whom birds trilled, bore the name Kriemhild.

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105

UTE: I shall go to mass.  
KRIEMHILD: I'll come there mother, later

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106

VOLKER: And there was also, Hagen von Tronje, uncle to the king of the Rhine. And Dankwart his valiant brother, and Ortwin of Metzenter now.

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107

HAGEN: The hounds are impatient and you sit here at the fire-place!

GUNTHER: I shall not hunt. I will not transgress this Easter day.

HAGEN: Is the King of Burgund frightened of the Lamb? Wotan forbids none to go hunting.

GUNTHER: The God of the Heathens. I will not offend the church. Attila, the Hun stands at the Danube, and is making plans to cross the Rhine.

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108

HAGEN: His dream shall be cut with this sword!  
GERNOT: And with this!  
GISELHER: And with this!  
VOLKER: And mine too, Sire!

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109

GUNTHER: And I do depend on you, yet do we know ... that the  
Papal host is strong, and I'll have need of it some  
time. That is why there'll be no hunt upon this day  
of the lamb. Come now, listen ... Here is news. Siegfried  
von Xanten ... is coming to visit us.  
GERNOT: Siegfried von Xanten?  
GISELHER: The Dragonslayer?  
GUNTHER: Come, Volker, play us Siegfried's ballad.  
GISELHER: Yes, sing to us of Siegfried.  
HAGEN: And of Brunhild, the lovely queen of Iceland. That's  
what you desire ... or isn't that permitted on Easter?

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110

GUNTHER: Hagen von Tronje ... your bride is battle, your child,  
death, and that, my uncle, will not do for a King. I  
seek a bride who will give me a son and heir.  
GISELHER: Pluck the strings and sing the song of Siegfried.  
GUNTHER: And of Brunhild.

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111

VOLKER: In Netherlands they sing of the son of a wealthy king.  
Siegfried was his name, and glorious his fame. To  
find the Nibelunger gold, he did ride bravely forth.  
Into the land of Clouds, into the cold, dark North.

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112

GUSHUN: Lady Ute says you're to come.  
VOLKER: To Mime the Blacksmith, did Siegfried go. To learn  
from him all he did know. And there he learned the  
secret, how steel and fire meld. And Siegfried did a  
sword make, as no hand ever held.

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112 OUT

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113

SIEGFRIED: Hhh ...  
GEHILFE: Oh ... hhh ...  
MIME: No, no, I did not, I stood aside, I could not see.  
SIEGFRIED: You knew what he planned. You told him to do it.  
MIME: No, I never did. He was blind with envy of your might.  
SIEGFRIED: You lie ... you lie!  
MIME: No, Sire. You have made the hardest of steel, you  
plunged it into his blood. Do you know what that has  
done?

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114

**MIME:** The Alben's blood is cold ... colder than ice water ..  
Let me show you. We'll try the blade, Siegfried.  
We'll prove its sharpness now! Hold it and dip it  
into the stream, Sire.

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115

**MIME:** Its fullest strength will be proven when iron strikes  
on iron! Iron on Iron! Iron on Iron!  
**SIEGFRIED:** A trusty sword, you'll serve me well, and I'll call  
you Not-hung.

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116

**MIME:** The earth trembles ... Fafnir the Dragon has awakened!  
**SIEGFRIED:** Such quaking and trembling caused by a mere dragon!  
**MIME:** His poisonous breath will choke you! You can't defeat  
Fafner, I know!

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**END OF REEL ONE**