

006 OLAF

Grace before size, my friend. The
bird's beauty will do. The gods
love a pretty sacrifice.

007 BJORN

Fine, fine. We're almost out of the
forest, so the river should be
right up there. Once you toss the
bird in, tell Odin, Thor, and
whoever else is listening, I'll
send them a sacrifice...tomorrow.

008 OLAF

That I will.

BJORN LEAVES / OLAF WALKING THROUGH THE
UNDERBRUSH / RUNNING WATER OF THE RIVER

009 OLAF

Odin, all father, accept this
offering. Huph!

OLAF CHUCKS THE BIRD INTO THE RIVER / SPLASH.

010 OLAF

(softly)

The memory of that vision still
haunts me. That towering figure,
the sprawling darkness. Was it you
Odin? Why have you not spoken like
that before?

(beat)

I'm not one for visions. You were
real. So... Who are you?

(beat)

Thor? Where was your hammer? Your
thunder? You simply... Spoke...

(beat)

You could not be that woodworking
Christian God. You let yourself be
nailed to a tree! No, no. Listen -
you! This task is... Impossible.
There is no force that could unite
the people of my home. Unless you
do it yourself! You, you, mountain
of shade! Ahhhhhh!

CRUNCHING FOREST UNDERBRUSH

011 DUKE RICHARD

Prince Olaf!

START >>>

012 OLAF

Duke Richard! I uh, thank you again for sheltering my men and I through this winter. We are in your debt.

013 DUKE RICHARD

Any friend of Aethelred is always welcome here. I wanted to show you some of my favorite haunts here in the forest. I often come to this bank to offer prayer myself. That was a lovely sacrifice you gave to the river. A white dove, no?

014 OLAF

Yes. I want to know how to unite my people. The gods don't answer.

015 DUKE RICHARD

You wish to unify Norway, Olaf Haraldsson? Join me tomorrow at the cathedral. You will see how my great grandfather Rollo turned from a raging berserker into a Man of fire and grace.

016 OLAF

The famous Cathedral of the Normans. I do wish to see it... I am not a Christian, Duke, but... I will join you. I want for my people what I see you have done for yours here. Maybe this woodworker god of yours can give me some direction.

017 DUKE RICHARD

Good, good. You have done much, Haraldsson, especially for your twenty years of age. But this is the moment that your years of campaigning have led too.

(beat)

'Til the morning then. Farewell, Prince of Norway.

<< END

018 OLAF

'Til the morning, Duke of Normandy.

DUKE RICHARD WALKS AWAY.

019 OLAF

What have I agreed to?

TRANSITION WITH MUSIC