

0001 ON EADGARES DAGUM ÐÆS ÆÐELAN  
[CYNINCGES,  
0002 ÞAÐA se Cristendom wæs wel ðeonde þurh God  
0003 on Angelcynne under ðam ylcan cynincge,  
0004 þa geswutelode God þone sanct Swyðun  
0005 mid manegum wundrum, þæt he mære is.  
0006 His dæda næron cuðe ærðan þe hi God sylf cydde,  
0007 ne we ne fundon on bocum hu se bisceop leofode  
0008 on þysre worulde, ærðan þe he gewende to Criste.  
0009 Þæt wæs þæra gymeleast þe on life hine cuþon,  
0010 þæt hi noldon awritan his weorc and drohtnunge  
0011 þam towerdum mannum ðe his mihte ne cuðon;  
0012 ac God hæfð swa þeah his lif geswutelod,  
0013 mid swutelum wundrum and syllicum tacnum.  
0014 Ðes Swyðun wæs bisceop on Winceastre,  
0015 swa þeah ofer Hamtunscire, gesælig Godes þeowa,  
0016 and eahta bisceopas wæron betwux him and sancte  
[Aðelwolde.  
0017 Nu næs us his lif cuð swa swa we ær cwædon,  
0018 butan þæt he wæs bebyrged æt his bisceopstole  
0019 be westan þære cyrcan and oferworht syððan,  
0020 oþþæt his wundra geswutelodon his gesælða mid Gode.

In the days of the noble King  
[Edgar  
when, by God's grace, Christianity was thriving well  
in the English nation under that same king,  
God revealed Saint Swithin  
by many miracles, [showing] that he is illustrious.  
His deeds were not known before God Himself manifested  
them, nor have we found in books how the bishop lived  
in this world, before he departed to Christ.  
Such was their carelessness who knew him in life  
that they would not write down his works and conversation  
for future generations who knew not his power;  
but God has nevertheless brought his life to light  
by manifest miracles and wondrous signs.  
This Swithin was bishop of Winchester,  
as it were over Hampshire, a blessed servant of God  
(there were eight bishops between him and St  
[Æthelwold).  
Now as we said before, his life was not known to us,  
save that he was buried at his episcopal see  
to the west of the church, and afterwards covered up,  
until his miracles manifested his blessedness with God.

0021 Þrym gearum ærðan þe se sanct into cyrcan wære  
[gebroht  
0022 of ðære stænenan þryh þe stent nu wiðinnan  
0023 þam niwan geweorce, com se arwurða Swyðun  
0024 to sumum gelyfedan smyðe, on swefne æteowiende  
0025 wurðlice geglencged, and ðas word him cwæð to,  
0026 "Canst þu ðone preost þe is gehaten Eadzige,  
0027 "þe wæs of ealdan mynstre mid ðam oðrum preostum  
[adræfed  
0028 "for heora unþeawum þurh Aðelwold bisceop?"  
0029 Se smið þa andwyrde þam arwurðan Swyðune þus,  
0030 "Gefyrn ic hine cuðe, leof, ac he ferde heonon  
0031 "and ic nat to gewissan hwær he wunað nu."  
0032 Þa cwæð eft se halga wer to ðam ealdan smyðe,  
0033 "Witodlice he wunað nu on Wincelcumbe hamfæst,  
0034 "and ic ðe nu halsige on þæs Hælendes naman  
0035 "þæt ðu him min ærende ardlice abeode,  
0036 "and sege him to soþan þæt Swiðun se bisceop  
0037 "het þæt he fare to Aþelwolde bisceope,  
0038 "and secge þæt he geopenige him sylf mine byrgene,  
0039 "and mine ban gebringe binnan ðære cyrcan,  
0040 "forðan þe him is getiþod þæt ic on his timan  
0041 "beo mannum geswutelod." And se smið him cwæð to,  
0042 "La leof, Eadzige nele gelyfan minum wordum."  
0043 Ða cwæð se bisceop eft, "Gange him to minre byrgene,  
0044 "and ateo ane hringan up of ðære þryh,  
0045 "and gif seo hringe him folgað æt þam forman tige,  
0046 "þonne wat he to soðan þæt ic þe sende to him.  
0047 "Gif seo hringe nele up þurh his anes tige  
0048 "þonne ne sceall he nates hwon þinre sage gelyfan.  
0049 "Sege him eac siððan, þæt he sylf geriht-læce  
0050 "his dæda and þeawas to his drihtnes willan,  
0051 "and efste anmodlice to þam ecan life.

Three years before the Saint was brought into the  
[church  
out of the stone coffin that stands now within  
the new building, came the venerable Swithin  
to a certain faithful smith, appearing in a vision  
worshipfully appavelled, and said to him these words,  
"Do you know the priest who is called Eadsige,  
who with the other priests was driven out of the old  
[monastery  
for their misconduct, by bishop Æthelwold?"  
The smith then answered the venerable Swithin thus,  
"Long ago I knew him, sir, but he departed hence,  
and I do not know for certain where he dwells now."  
Then again the holy man said to the old smith,  
"Verily he now dwells settled at Winchelcomb,  
and I now adjure you in the name of Christ  
that you speedily announce my errand to him,  
and tell him truly that Swithin the bishop  
has commanded him to go to bishop Æthelwold,  
and say that he must himself open my grave  
and bring my bones within the church,  
for to him it is vouchsafed that in his time I should  
be made known to men." And the smith said to him,  
"Oh, sir, Eadsige will not believe my words."  
Then said the bishop again, "Let him go to my grave  
and draw up a ring out of the coffin;  
and if the ring yields at the first tug,  
then shall he know for a truth that I have sent you to him.  
If the ring will not come up at his unaided tug,  
then shall he in no way believe your words.  
Say to him also afterwards that he himself amend  
his deeds and conduct according to his Lord's will  
and hasten with single mind to the eternal life.

0052 "Sege eac eallum mannum þæt sona swa hi  
 0053 "geopeniað mine byrgene, þæt hi magon ðær findan  
 0054 "swa deorwurðne hord, þæt heora dyre gold  
 0055 "ne bið naht wurð wið þa foresædan maðmas."  
 0056 Se halga Swyðun þa ferde fram þam smið up,  
 0057 and se smiðe ne dorste secgan þas gesihðe ænigum  
 [menn,  
 0058 nolde beon gesewen unsoðsagul boda.  
 0059 Hwæt ða se halga wer hine eft gespræc  
 0060 and git þryddan siðe, and swyðe hine þreade,  
 0061 hwi he nolde gehyrsumian his hæsum mid weorce.  
 0062 Se smið þa æt nextan eode swa ðeah to his byrgene,  
 0063 and genam ane hringan earhlice swa ðeah,  
 0064 and clypode to Gode þus cwæðende mid wordum,  
 0065 "Eala ðu Drihten God ealra gesceafta scyppend,  
 0066 "getiða me synfullum þæt ic ateo þas hringan  
 0067 "up of ðysum hlyde, gif se lið her on innan  
 0068 "seðe me spræc to on swæfne þriwa."  
 0069 He teah ða þæt isen up swa eadēlice of ðam stane  
 0070 swilce hit on sande stode, and he swyðe þæs  
 [wundrode.  
 0071 He ða hit eft sette on þæt ylce þyrl,  
 0072 and þyde mid his fet, and hit swa fæste eft stod  
 0073 þæt nan man ne mihte hit þanon ateon.  
 0074 Þa eode se smið geegsod þanon,  
 0075 and gemette on cypincge þæs Eadzies mann,  
 0076 and sæde him gewislice hwæt Swyðun him bebead,  
 0077 and bæd hine georne þæt he hit abude him.  
 0078 He cwæð þæt he hit wolde cyðan his hlaforde,  
 0079 and ne dorste swa ðeah hit secgan æt fruman,  
 0080 ærþan ðe he bepohte þæt him ðearflic nære  
 0081 þæt he ðæs halgan hæse forhule his hlaforde;  
 0082 sæde þa be endebyrdnysse hwæt Swyðun him bebead.  
 0083 Þa onscunode se Eadsige Aðelwold þone bisceop  
 0084 and ealle ða munecas þe on ðam mynstre wæron,  
 0085 for þære utdræfe þe he gedyde wið hi,  
 0086 and nolde gehyran þæs halgan bebod,  
 0087 þeah ðe se sanct wære gesib him for worulde.  
 0088 He gebeah swa þeah binnan twam gearum  
 0089 to þam ylcan mynstre and munuc wearð þurh God,  
 0090 and þær wunode oðþæt he gewat of life.  
 0091 Geblætsod is se ealmihtiga God þe geeadmed þone  
 [modigan,  
 0092 and ða eadmodan ahæfð to healicum geðincpum,  
 0093 and gerihlæcð þa synfullan, and symle hylt ða godan  
 0094 þe on hine hihtað forðan þe he Hælend is.

0095 Eft wæs sum earm ceorl egeslicc gehoferod,  
 0096 and ðearle gebiged þurh ðone bradan hofor.  
 0097 Þam wearð geswutelod on swefne gewislice,  
 0098 þæt he sceolde gefeccan æt Swyðunes byrgene  
 0099 his lichaman hæle, and þære alefednysse.  
 0100 He aras ða on mergen micclum fægnigende,  
 0101 and mid twam criccum creap him to Wynceastre,  
 0102 and gesohte ðone sanct swa swa him gesæd wæs,  
 0103 biddende his hæle gebigdum cneowum.

Say also to all men that as soon as they  
 open my grave, they shall find there so  
 valuable a hoard that their precious gold shall be worth  
 nothing when compared with the aforesaid treasures."  
 The holy Swithin then vanished from the smith's [sight],  
 and the smith did not dare to tell this vision to  
 [anyone,  
 not wishing to be looked upon as an untruthful messenger.  
 So then the holy man spoke to him again  
 and yet a third time, and reproved him severely  
 because he would not actively obey his commands.  
 Then however at last the smith went to his burial-place  
 and took hold, though fearfully, of a ring,  
 and cried to God, saying these words,  
 "O Lord God, maker of all creatures,  
 grant to me, a sinful man, that I may pull up this ring  
 out of this lid, if he lies here within  
 who thrice spoke to me in a dream."  
 Thereupon he drew the iron out of the stone as easily  
 as if it had stood in sand, and greatly wondered  
 [thereat.  
 Afterward he replaced it in the same hole,  
 and pressed it with his foot, and it again stood so fast  
 that no man was able to draw it therefrom.  
 Then the smith went thence awestricken,  
 and in the market-place met a serf of this Eadsige  
 and told him exactly what Swithin bade him,  
 and earnestly prayed him to report it to him.  
 He [the serf] said that he would make it known to his lord,  
 but however did not dare to tell it at first,  
 until he bethought him that it would not be well for him  
 if he hid the saint's command from his lord;  
 he then told him in order what Swithin had enjoined him.  
 At that time this Eadsige shunned bishop Æthelwold  
 and all the monks who were in New Minster  
 because of the ejection that he had made regarding them,  
 and [therefore] did not want to obey the saint's command  
 though the saint was of worldly kindred to him.  
 Nevertheless, he retreated within two years to that  
 same monastery and became a monk by God's grace,  
 and remained there until he departed this life.  
 Blessed is the Almighty God who humbles the  
 [proud  
 and exalts the humble to a high state  
 and corrects the sinful, and for ever preserves the good  
 who hope in Him, because he is the Saviour.

Again, there was a poor peasant, awfully humpbacked,  
 painfully stooped as a consequence of the broad hump.  
 To him was revealed in a dream as truth  
 that he should obtain his bodily health (99) at Swithin's  
 sepulchre (98), and [recovery from] his crippledness.  
 He arose then in the morning, greatly rejoicing,  
 and crept to Winchester with two crutches  
 and sought the saint as it was told to him,  
 praying for his health on bended knees.



0153 and þa ealle wurdon swa wundorlice gehælede  
 0154 binnan feawa dagum, þæt man þær findan ne mihte  
 0155 fif unhale menn of þam micclan heape.

and they were all so miraculously healed  
 within a few days, that one could not find there  
 five unsound men out of that great crowd.

0156 On þam dagum wæron on Wihltlande þreo wif,  
 0157 þa twa wæron blinde geond nigon geara fec,  
 0158 and þæt þrydde ne geseah þære sunnan leoht næfre.  
 0159 Hi begeaton þa earfoðlice him ænne latteow,  
 0160 ænne dumbne cnapan, and comon to þam halgan,  
 0161 and ane niht þær wacodon and wurdon gehælede,  
 0162 ge ða blindan wif ge se dumba latteow.  
 0163 Þa sæde se cnapa þam cyrcwerde þæt,  
 0164 and cwæð þæt he næfre ær naht cweðan ne mihte,  
 0165 and bæd þæt hi sungon þone gesettan lofsang.

In those days there were in the Isle of Wight three women,  
 two of them had been blind for the space of nine years  
 and the third had never seen the sun's light.  
 With some difficulty, they got for themselves a guide,  
 a dumb boy, and came to the saint  
 and watched there for one night and were healed,  
 both the blind women and the dumb guide.  
 Then the boy told it to the sacristan  
 and said that he had never before been able to speak,  
 praying that they would sing the appointed hymn of praise.

0166 On þære ylcan tide wæs sum wyln gehæft to swinglum  
 0167 for swyðe lytlan gylte, and læg on hæftnedum  
 0168 þæt heo hetelice wære þæs on mergen beswungen.  
 0169 Þa wacode heo ealle ða niht and mid wope clypode  
 0170 to ðam halgan Swyðune þæt he hulpe hire earmre,  
 0171 and fram þam reðum swinglum hi ahredde þurh god.  
 0172 Mid þam þe hit dagode and man drihtnes lofsang  
     [ongan,  
 0173 þa feollan ða fotcopsas færllice hire fram,  
 0174 and heo arn to cyrcan to þam arwurðan halgan  
 0175 gebundenum handum swa swa se halga wolde,  
 0176 and se hlaford com æfter and alysde hire handa,  
 0177 and gefreode hi sona for Swyðunes wurðmynte.

At the same time, a bondwoman was caught to be flogged  
 for some very slight fault, and lay in custody  
 to be severely flogged for it in the morning.  
 Then she kept awake the whole night, and weeping cried  
 to the holy Swithin that he would help her, a poor wretch,  
 and, through God, would deliver her from the cruel flogging.  
 When it dawned and they began to sing the praise of God  
     [[i.e. Lauds],  
 then suddenly the fetters round her feet fell from her  
 and she ran to the church to the blessed saint,  
 with bound hands, as the saint willed,  
 and her lord came after her and loosed her hands  
 and freed her at once for the honour of Swithin.

0178 Sum þegn læg alefed lange on paralysin,  
 0179 and ne mihte of his bedde for manegum gearum.  
 0180 Þa cwæð he þæt he wolde to Wynceastre syðian  
 0181 huru on his horsbære, and biddan his hæle.  
 0182 Mid þam þe he þis cwæð to his cnihtum and freondum,  
 0183 þa wearð he gehæled, and gewende swa þeah  
 0184 to þam halgan sancte, siðigende on fotum  
 0185 fyrrest on þam flocce on ealre þære fare,  
 0186 and ðancode þam halgan his hæle geornlice.  
 0187 Fif and twentig manna myslice geuntrume  
 0188 comon to þam halgan heora hæle biddende;  
 0189 sume wæron blinde, sume wæron healte,  
 0190 sume eac deafe, and dumbe eac sume,  
 0191 and hi ealle wurdon anes dægges gehælede  
 0192 þurh þæs halgan ðingunge, and him ham gewendon.

A certain thane lay a long time crippled by paralysis  
 and could not move from his bed for many years.  
 Then he said that he desired to travel to Winchester,  
 if only in his horse-litter, and pray for his healing.  
 Even while he was saying this to his servants and friends,  
 he was cured, but nevertheless he went  
 to the holy saint, travelling on foot  
 foremost in that company during the whole journey,  
 and earnestly thanked the saint for his recovery.  
 Twenty-five men, diversely afflicted,  
 came to the saint imploring their health;  
 some were blind, and some were halt,  
 some also deaf, and some also dumb,  
 and they were all healed in one day  
 through the saint's intercession, and went home.

0193 Sum þegn wæs on Engla lande on æhtum swyðe welig,  
 0194 se wearð færllice blind; þa ferde he to Rome,  
 0195 wolde his hæle biddan æt þam halgum apostolum.  
 0196 He wunode þa on Rome and ne wearð gehæled  
 0197 feower gear fullice; and befran þa be Swyðune,  
 0198 hwylce wundra he worhte syððan he gewende þanon;  
 0199 he efste þa swyðe and to his earde gewende,  
 0200 and com to þam halgan were and wearð gehæled þær,  
 0201 and ham gewende mid halre gesihðe.

There was a thane in England, very rich in possessions,  
 who suddenly became blind; then he journeyed to Rome,  
 desiring to pray for his cure from the holy Apostles.  
 He dwelt at Rome, but was not cured,  
 for four full years; then he heard of Swithin  
 what miracles he had wrought since he had went thence;  
 then he made much haste and returned to his country  
 and came to the holy man and was healed there,  
 and returned home with perfect sight.

0202 Sum wer wæs eac blind wel seofon gear fulle,  
 0203 se hæfde ænne latteow þe hine lædde gehwider.  
 0204 Ða sume dæg eode he swa swa he oft dyde,  
 0205 and se latteow wearð gebolgen and þone blindan forlet,  
 0206 arn him aweg, and se oðer nyste  
 0207 hu he ham come, ac clypode to Gode  
 0208 mid innewerdre heortan, and mid angsumnysse cwæð,  
 0209 "Eala þu mihtiga Drihten manna and engla,  
 0210 "geseoh mine yrmðe, ic geseon ne mæg,  
 0211 "and min lyðra latteow forlet me þus ænne.  
 0212 "Gemiltsa me, Drihten, þurh ðone mæran Swyðun,  
 0213 "and forgif me gesihðe, for ðæs sanctes geearnungum."  
 0214 Eft he clypode þus, and cwæð to ðam halgan,  
 0215 "Eala þu milda bisceop þe manega wundra of cumað  
 0216 "þurh þone lifigendan God, leof, ic þe bidde  
 0217 "þæt þu me geþingie to þam mihtigan hælende,  
 0218 "ic gelyfe þæt he wille gewislice þe tiðian."  
 0219 He wearð þa gehæled, and hæfde his gesihðe,  
 0220 and ham eode blyðe butan latteowe ana,  
 0221 se ðe lytle ær þanon wæs gelæd þurh ðone oþerne,  
 0222 and his magas ðancodon mycclum ðæs Gode.

Another man was also blind for seven full years,  
 and had a guide who led him everywhere.  
 One day he went out as he often did,  
 and the guide became angry and left the blind man,  
 ran away from him, and the other one did not know  
 how he should get home, but cried to God  
 from his inmost heart and said with anguish,  
 "Oh Thou mighty Lord of men and angels,  
 look upon my misery; I cannot see,  
 and my wicked guide has left me thus alone.  
 Have pity on me, Lord, because of the famous Swithin,  
 and grant me my sight for the saint's merits."  
 Again he cried thus, and said to the saint,  
 "Oh thou mild bishop, from whom many miracles often come  
 through the living God, master, I pray you  
 to intercede for me with the mighty Saviour,  
 I believe that He will certainly grant you [your petition]."  
 He was immediately cured, and had his sight;  
 and without a guide blithely went home alone  
 he who a little time before was led by the other,  
 and his kinsmen greatly thanked God for this.

0223 Aþelwold þa se arwurða and se eadiga bisceop,  
 0224 þe on ðam dagum wæs on Winceastre bisceop,  
 0225 bead his munecum eallum þe on ðam mynstre wunodon,  
 0226 þæt hi ealle eodon endemes to cyrcan,  
 0227 and mid sange heredon þæs sanctes mærdæ,  
 0228 and God mærsodon swa on þam mæran halgan,  
 0229 swa oft swa ænig wanhal mann wurde gehæled.  
 0230 Ða dydon hi sona swa, and sungon þone lofsang,  
 0231 oðþæt heom laðode eallum þæt hi swa oft arisan,  
 0232 hwilon þrywa on niht, hwilon feower syðum,  
 0233 to singenne þone lofsang þonne hi slapan sceoldon;  
 0234 and forleton ealle endemes þone sang,  
 0235 forðam þe se bisceop wæs bysig mid þam cynincge,  
 0236 and nyste butan hi sungon þone lofsang forð on.  
 0237 Hwæt ða se halga Swyðun sylf com on swefne  
 0238 wundorlice geglencged to sumum godan menn and  
 [cwæð,  
 0239 "Gang nu to ealdan mynstre, and þam munecum sege  
 0240 "þæt Gode swyðe oflicað heora ceorung and slæwð,  
 0241 "þæt hi dæghwamlice geseoð Drihtnes wundra mid him,  
 0242 "and hi nellað herian þone hælend mid sange,  
 0243 "swa swa se bisceop bebad þam gebroðrum to donne,  
 0244 "and sege gif hi nellað þone sang gelæstan,  
 0245 "þonne geswicað eac sona ða wundra,  
 0246 "and gif hi þone lofsang willað æt þam wundrum singan,  
 0247 "swa oft swa wanhale menn þær wurðað gerihte,  
 0248 "þonne wurðaþ mid him wundra swa fela,  
 0249 "þæt nan man ne mæg gemunan on life  
 0250 "þæt ænig man gesawe swylce wundra ahwær."  
 0251 Ða awæcnode se wer of þam wynsuman slæpe,  
 0252 and swyðe besargode þæt he geseon ne moste  
 0253 ne nan læncg brucan þæs beorhtan leohtes,  
 0254 þe he mid Swiðune hæfde ða gesewen.

Then Æthelwold, the venerable and blessed bishop  
 who in those days was bishop of Winchester,  
 bade all his monks who dwelt in the monastery  
 that they should all go in procession to church  
 and praise with hymns the merits of the saint  
 and thus magnify God on behalf of the great saint  
 as often as any sick man should be healed.  
 Forthwith they then did so, and sang the Te Deum,  
 until they all loathed to arise so often,  
 sometimes three and sometimes four times in a night,  
 to sing the Te Deum when they were expected to sleep;  
 and at last they all left off the chanting,  
 because the bishop was busy with the king  
 and did not know but that they continued to sing the praise.  
 Behold then, the holy Swithin himself appeared in a vision  
 wondrously adorned to a certain good man and  
 [said,  
 "Go now to the Old Minster and say to the monks  
 that God greatly dislikes their murmuring and sloth,  
 in that they daily see God's wonders among them  
 and yet will not praise the Saviour with chanting  
 even as the bishop bade the brethren do,  
 and say if they will not perform the chanting,  
 then straightaway the miracles will cease [to occur];  
 and if they will sing the Te Deum at the miracles,  
 as often as sick men will there be made whole,  
 then so many miracles will be done among them  
 that no man shall be able to remember in his lifetime  
 that any man has seen such miracles anywhere."  
 Then the man awoke from his happy sleep  
 and greatly lamented that he could no longer see  
 nor any longer enjoy the bright light  
 which he had seen around Swithin.

0255 He aras swa ðeah and swiðe hraðe ferde  
0256 to Aþelwolde bisceope, and him eall þis sæde.

Nevertheless he arose and very quickly went  
to Bishop Æthelwold, and told him all this.

0257 Aþelwold þa asende sona to þam munecum  
0258 of cyninges hyrede, and cwæð þæt hi sceoldon  
0259 þone lofsang singan, swa swa he geset hæfde,  
0260 and se þe hit forsawe, sceolde hit mid fæstene  
0261 seofon niht on an swarlice gebetan.  
0262 Hi hit heoldon þa syððan symle on gewunon,  
0263 swa swa we gesawon sylfe for oft,  
0264 and þone sang we sungon unseldon mid heom.

Æthelwold thereupon immediately sent to the monks  
from the king's court, and said that they should  
sing the song of praise as he had appointed,  
and he that neglected it should heavily atone for it (261)  
by fasting (260) for seven days continuously.  
Thenceforth they ever observed the custom,  
as we ourselves have very often seen it,  
and have often sung this hymn with them.

0265 Sum wer wæs betogen þæt he wære on stale,  
0266 wæs swa ðeah unscyltig, and hine man sona gelæhte  
0267 and æfter worulddome dydon him ut þa eagan,  
0268 and his earan forcurfon; þa arn him þæt blod  
0269 into þam heafde, þæt he gehyran ne mihte.  
0270 Þa wæs he seofon monðas wunigende swa blind,  
0271 and his hlyst næfde, oþþæt he mid geleafan ferde  
0272 to þam halgan Swyðune, and gesohte his ban  
0273 biddende þone halgan þæt he his bene gehyrde,  
0274 and him huru geearnode þæt he gehyran mihte  
0275 forþan ðe he ne gelyfde þæt he onliht wurde,  
0276 and cwæð þæt he wurde wolice swa getucod.  
0277 Þa wearð Godes wundor geworht an þam menn  
0278 þurh Swyðunes þingunge þæt he geseah beorhte  
0279 ansundum eagum, þeah ðe hi ær wæron ut adyde  
0280 of þam eahhringum, and se oðer æppel was geemtigod,  
0281 and se oðer hangode gehal æt his hleore.  
0282 Him wæs eac forgifen þæt he wel mihte gehyran,  
0283 se ðe ær næfde ne eagan ne hlyst.

A certain man was accused of stealing who was  
however innocent, and they at once seized him and  
according to the sentence of worldly [law] put out his eyes  
and cut off his ears; then the blood ran  
into his head so that he could no longer hear.  
Then for seven months he thus continued blind  
and without his hearing, until he went in faith  
to the holy Swithin, and sought his bones,  
praying the saint that he would hear his petition  
and at least grant him that he might hear,  
because he did not think that he could ever see again,  
and said that he had been punished unjustly.  
Then God's wonder was wrought in that man  
through Swithin's intercession, that he saw clearly  
with perfect eyes, though they had before been cut out  
of the sockets, one appel being removed,  
and the other hanging down whole, at his cheek.  
It was also granted to him that he could hear well,  
he who formerly had neither eyes nor hearing.

0284 Is swa ðeah to witenne þæt we ne moton us gebiddan,  
0285 swa to Godes halgum swa swa to Gode sylfum,  
0286 forðan þe he is ana God ofer ealle þingc,  
0287 ac we sceolon biddan soðlice þa halgan,  
0288 þæt hi us þingion to þam þrymwealdendum Gode,  
0289 seþe is heora hlaford, þæt he helpe us.

Nevertheless you must know that we must not pray  
to God's saints as to God himself,  
because He alone is God, and above all things;  
but we should truly pray the saints  
to intercede for us with the all-ruling God  
who is their Lord, that He may help us.

0290 Hwilon wacodon menn swa swa hit gewunelic is  
0291 ofer an dead lic, and ðær wæs sum dysig mann  
0292 plegol ungemetlice, and to þam mannum cwæð  
0293 swylce for plegan þæt he Swyðun wære.  
0294 "Ge magon to soðum witan þæt ic Swyðun eom  
0295 "se ðe wundra wyrçð, and ic wille þæt ge beran  
0296 "eower leoht to me and licgað on cneowum,  
0297 "and ic eow forgife þæt þæt ge gyrnende beoð."  
0298 He woffode ða swa lange mid wordum dyslice,  
0299 oþþæt he feoll geswogen swylce he sawilleas wære,  
0300 and hine man bær ham to his bædde sona,  
0301 and he læg swa lange his lifes orwene.  
0302 His magas ða æt nextan þone mann feredon  
0303 to þam halgan Swiþune, and he sylf andette  
0304 his dyslican word þe he dyrstiglice spræc,

Once men, as is customary, were keeping vigil  
by a corpse, and there was a foolish man,  
jesting unmeetly, who said to the men -  
as if in sport - that he [himself] was Swithin.  
"You may know in sooth that I am Swithin  
who works these miracles, and I command that you bring  
your tapers to me, and that you prostrate yourselves,  
and I will [then] grant you what you are desiring."  
He thus blasphemed a long time with foolish words  
until he fell silenced as if he were lifeless,  
and they carried him straightaway home to his bed,  
and he lay thus for a long time, despairing of his life.  
Then at last his kinsmen carried the man  
to Saint Swithin, and he himself confessed  
his foolish words that he had presumptuously spoken,

0305 and bæd him forgifnyse, and he wearð þa gehæled,  
0306 swa þæt he hal eode ham mid his magum.

and entreated pardon for himself, and then he was healed,  
so that he went home in health with his kinsmen.

0307 Is eac to witenne þæt menn unwislice doð  
0308 þa ðe dwollice plegað æt deadra manna lice,  
0309 and ælce fulnyse þær forðteoð mid plegan,  
0310 þonne hi sceoldon swyðor besargian þone deadan,  
0311 and ondrædan him sylfum þæs deaðes tocyme,  
0312 and biddan for his sawle butan gewede georne.  
0313 Sume menn eac drincað æt deadra manna lice  
0314 ofer ealle þa niht swiðe unrihtlice,  
0315 and gremiað God mid heora gegafspræce,  
0316 þonne nan gebeorscype ne gebyrað æt lice,  
0317 ac halige gebedu þær gebyriað swiþor.

You must likewise know that men do unwisely  
when they foolishly jest at dead men's corpses  
and introduce by their sport any licentiousness,  
when they should rather sorrow for the dead  
and dread the coming of death for themselves  
and earnestly pray for his soul without any madness.  
Some men also most unrighteously (314) drink  
the whole night at a lyke-wake (313)  
and blaspheme God with their wanton speech,  
whereas no beer-drinking is seemly at a wake,  
but rather holy prayers are fitting there.

0318 Hwilon comon to ðam halgan hundtwelftig manna  
0319 mislice geuntrumode mid manegum brocum,  
0320 and þa wurdon ealle wundorlice gehælde  
0321 binnan þrym wucum, and hi wendon ham,  
0322 þancigende þam ælmihtigan Gode and þam arwurðan  
[Swiþpune.

Once there came to the saint a hundred and twenty men,  
diversely afflicted with many diseases,  
and they were all wondrously healed  
within three weeks and returned home,  
thanking Almighty God and the venerable  
[Swithin.

0323 Sumes þegnes cniht feoll færlice of his horse  
0324 þæt him tobærst se earm and se oðer sceanca,  
0325 and swiðe wearð gecwysed þæt hi sona wendon  
0326 þæt he þærrichte sceolde sweltan heom ætforan.  
0327 He wæs his hlaforde swyþe leof ærþan,  
0328 and se hlaforde þa besargode swyðe þone cniht,  
0329 and bæd þone ælmihtigan mid inwerdre heortan,  
0330 þæt he þam menn geheolpe þurh ðone mæran Swiþun.  
0331 He clypode eac to Swiðune þus secgende mid  
[geomerunge,  
0332 "Eala ðu halga Swiðun, bide þone Hælend  
0333 "þæt he lif forgife þysum licendum cnihte,  
0334 "and ic beo þæs þe geleaffulra þam lifigendan Gode  
0335 "eallum minum dagum gif he deð þis þurh þe."  
0336 Se cniht ða aras hal gehæled þurh sancte Swiþun,  
0337 and se hlaforde þæs fægnode, and mid geleafan God  
[herede.

A certain thane's servant fell from his horse suddenly  
so that his arm and left leg broke,  
and he was so much crushed that they thought that  
he would at once die right before them.  
He had previously been very dear to his lord,  
and the lord greatly lamented for the servant  
and besought the Almighty from his inmost heart  
that he would help the man through the great Swithin.  
He also cried to Swithin, thus saying in his  
[lamentation,  
"Oh thou holy Swithin, pray to the Saviour  
that He may grant life to this sick servant,  
and I will be for this the faithfuller to the living God  
for the rest of my life, if He does this through you."  
Then the servant arose, made whole through Saint Swithin,  
and the lord rejoiced at that, and with faith praised  
[God.

0338 Sum eald þegn wæs eac on Wihlände untrum,  
0339 swa þæt he læg bæddryda sume nigon gear,  
0340 and of ðam bedde ne mihte buton hine man bære.  
0341 Him comon þa on swefne to twegen scinende halgan,  
0342 and heton hine yrnan ardlice mid him.  
0343 Þa cwæð se adliga, "Hu mæg ic yrnan mid eow,  
0344 "þonne ic ne aras of þysum bedde ana,  
0345 "nu for nigon gearum butan oþres mannes fylste?"  
0346 Þa cwædon þa halgan, "Þu cymst to ðære stowe  
0347 "gif ðu færst mid us nu, ðær þær ðu underfehst þine  
[hæle."  
0348 He wearð þa swyðe fægen, and wolde faran mid heom,  
0349 ac þa þa he ne mihte heom mid syðian,

A certain old thane in the Isle of Wight was also afflicted  
so that he lay bedridden for some nine years  
and could not leave the bed unless he were carried.  
In a dream two shining saints came to him  
and commanded him quickly run with them.  
Then said the sick man, "How can I run with you  
when I have not arisen from this bed alone,  
without some man's help, now for nine years?"  
Then said the saints, "You will come to that place,  
if you now go with us, where you will receive your  
[health."  
He was then very glad and desired to go with them,  
but as he could not journey with them,



0399 He ferde eac siððan to Winceastre forraðe,  
 0400 and cydde Aðelwolde þam arwurþan bisceope,  
 0401 hu he wearð gehæled þurh þone halgan Swiþun,  
 0402 and Landferð se ofersæwisca hit gesette on Læden.

Afterwards he also went very quickly to Winchester  
 and told the venerable Bishop Æthelwold  
 how he had been healed through the holy Swithin,  
 and Landferth, the foreigner, wrote it down in Latin.

0403 Nu is to witenne þæt we ne sceolan cepan ealles  
 0404 to swyðe be swefnum, forðan þe hi ealle ne beoð of  
 [Gode.  
 0405 Sume swefna syndon soðlice of Gode,  
 0406 swa swa we on bocum rædað, and sume beoð of deofle  
 0407 to sumum swicdome hu he ða sawle forpære,  
 0408 ac his gedwimor ne mæg derian þam godum,  
 0409 gif hi hi bletsiaþ, and hi gebiddað to Gode.  
 0410 Þa swefna beoð wynsume þe gewurðað of Gode,  
 0411 and þa beoð egefulle ðe of þam deofle cumað,  
 0412 and God sylf forbead þæt we swefnum ne folgion  
 0413 þe læs ðe se deofol us bedydrian mæge.

Now it is to be known that we should not at all put too  
 much trust in dreams, because they are not all from  
 [God.

Some dreams are in truth from God,  
 as we read in books, and some are sent by the devil  
 for some deceit, [seeking] how he may pervert the soul,  
 but his phantasms cannot harm good men  
 if they cross themselves and commend themselves to God.  
 Those dreams are pleasant which come from God,  
 and those are fearful which come from the devil,  
 and God Himself forbade us to follow dreams,  
 lest the devil have power to bewitch us.

0414 Sum man on Winceastre wearð yrrer his ðeowan men  
 0415 for sumere gymeleaste, and gesette hine on fetera.  
 0416 He sæt ða swa lange on þam laðum bendum,  
 0417 oðþæt he bestæl ut mid his stafe hoppende,  
 0418 and gesohte ðone sanct Swyðun mid geomerunge.  
 0419 Se scyttel ða asceat sona of þære fetere,  
 0420 and se ðeowa aras ahred þurh ðone halgan.

A certain man in Winchester was angry with his serf  
 for some carelessness and put him in fetters.  
 He sat there for a long time in the hated bonds  
 until he stole out, hopping by the help of his staff,  
 and sought Saint Swithin with lamentation.  
 The bolt at once shot out of the fetter,  
 and the serf rose up, freed by the saint.

0421 Sum mann wæs gebunden onbutan þæt heafod  
 0422 for his hefigum gylte, se com to þam halgan,  
 0423 and his swara heafobend sona tobærst, swa he hine  
 [gebæd.

A certain man was bound about the head  
 for his heavy guilt; he came to the saint,  
 and his sore head-bond immediately burst asunder, as he  
 [requested of him.

0424 Ne mage we awritan ne mid wordum aseccan  
 0425 ealle þa wundra þe se halga wer Swiðun,  
 0426 þurh God gefremode on ðæs folces gesihþe,  
 0427 ge on gehæftum mannum, ge on unhalum mannum,  
 0428 mannum to swutelunge þæt hi sylfe magon  
 0429 Godes rice geearnian mid godum weorcum,  
 0430 swa swa Swiþun dyde, þe nu scinð þurh wundra.  
 0431 Seo ealde cyrce wæs eall behangen mid cricum,  
 0432 and mid creopera sceamelum, fram ende oð oþerne  
 0433 on ægðrum wage, þe ðær wurdon gehælede,  
 0434 and man ne mihte swa ðeah macian hi healfre up.  
 0435 Þyllice tacna cyþað þæt Crist is ælmihtig God  
 0436 þe his halgan geswutelode þurh swylce weldæda,  
 0437 þeah ðe ða Iudeiscan þurh deofol beswicene  
 0438 nellon gelyfan on þone lyfigendan Crist,  
 0439 ærðan þe Antecrist ofslagen bið þurh God.  
 0440 Þonne bugað þa earmingas on ende þysre worulde  
 0441 ðe þær to lafe beoð mid geleafan to Criste,  
 0442 and ða ærran losiað þe ær noldon gelyfan.

We cannot write nor recount in words  
 all the miracles which the holy man Swithin worked by the  
 power of God in the sight of the people,  
 both on prisoners and on sick men,  
 to manifest to men that they themselves may  
 merit the kingdom of heaven by good works,  
 even as Swithin did who now shines through his miracles.  
 The Old Church was hung all round with crutches  
 and with the stools of cripples (from one end to the other  
 on both walls) who had been healed there,  
 and not even so could they put half of them up.  
 Such tokens declare that Christ is Almighty God  
 who revealed His saint by such good deeds,  
 though the Jews, deceived by the devil,  
 will not believe in the living Christ  
 until Antichrist will be destroyed by God.  
 Then shall those miserable people who remain (441) at  
 the end of this world (440) submit with faith to Christ, and  
 the men of old will be lost who formerly would not believe.

0443 We habbað nu gesæd be Swiðune þus sceortlice,  
 0444 and we secgað to soðan þæt se tima wæs gesælig  
 0445 and wynsum on Angelcynne, þaða Eadgar cynincg  
 0446 þone cristendom gefyrðrode, and fela munuclifa arærde,  
 0447 and his cynerice wæs wunigende on sibbe  
 0448 swa þæt man ne gehyrde gif ænig scyphere wære  
 0449 buton agenre leode þe ðis land heoldon;  
 0450 and ealle ða cyningas þe on þysum iglande wæron,  
 0451 Cumeras and Scottas, comon to Eadgare,  
 0452 hwilon anes dæges eahta cyningas,  
 0453 and hi ealle gebugon to Eadgares wissunge.  
 0454 Þærtocan wæron swilce wundra gefremode  
 0455 þurh þone halgan Swyðun, swa swa we sædon ær,  
 0456 and swa lange swa we leofodon þær wurdon gelome  
 [wundra.

0457 On ðam timan wæron eac wurðfulle bisceopas,  
 0458 Dunstan se anræda æt ðam ercestole,  
 0459 and Æþelwold se arwurða, and oðre gehwylce;  
 0460 ac Dunstan and Æþelwold wæron drihtne gecorene,  
 0461 and hi swyðost manodon menn to Godes willan,  
 0462 and ælc god arærdon Gode to cwemednyse,  
 0463 þæt geswuteliað þa wundra þe God wyrceð þurh hi.  
 0464 Sy wuldor and lof þam welwillendan Scyppende,  
 0465 þe his halgan mærsað mihtiglice mid wundrum,  
 0466 se ðe ana rixað on ecnysse. Amen.

[ed. Skeat, EETS OS 76+82 (1881-85), pp. 440-470]

We have now spoken thus briefly of Swithin,  
 and we say of a truth that the time was blessed  
 and happy in England, when King Edgar  
 furthered Christianity, and built many monasteries,  
 and his kingdom continued in peace  
 so that no fleet was heard of  
 save that of the people who held this land;  
 and all the kings who were in this island,  
 of the Cymry and Scots, came to Edgar,  
 eight kings once upon a day,  
 and they all submitted to Edgar's rule.  
 Then moreover were such wonders wrought  
 through Saint Swithin, as we said before,  
 and as long as we have lived frequent miracles were done  
 [there.

At that time there were also worthy bishops,  
 Dunstan the resolute in the archbishop's see,  
 and Æthelwold the venerable, and others like them;  
 but Dunstan and Æthelwold were chosen of God,  
 and they most of all exhorted men to do God's will  
 and advanced every good to the pleasure of God,  
 as the miracles testify which God works through them.  
 Glory and praise be to the benevolent Creator  
 who glorifies his saints mightily by miracles,  
 He who alone reigns eternally. Amen.

[transl. ed. Skeat, with corr. Busse]