

p. 62 In Beowulf the combination of Christian and heathen elements, though sometimes incongruous, is certainly better harmonized than in the passage from the Andreas, quoted above.¹ The scholars of a generation ago were chiefly interested in trying to strip off the Christian element in Beowulf - the work, as they believed, of monkish interpolators and revisers. Thus they hoped to be able to disentangle the original heathen lays from which they believed that Beowulf had been pieced together. Here and there a stalwart scholar can still be discovered engaged on this labour. But most students have long ago abandoned the attempt, and have come to agree that 'the Christian elements are, almost without exception, so deeply ingrained in the very fabric of the poem that they cannot be explained away as the work of a reviser or later interpolator. Whilst the episodes are all but free from these modern influences, the main story has been thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Christianity.'¹

Footnote 1 Klaebner, Beowulf, p. 1

See 3,52-2
3,52-4