

# Systin Dreymir

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*This work is based on “Drømde mik en drøm i nat,” the oldest known piece of secular Nordic music written around 1300. The melody and first line of the song were written in Old Norse and recorded in the Codex Runicus.*

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I dreamt a pleasant dream last night of  
silk and finest fur.  
Their milky hue was heaven's glow, their  
touch was true allure.

But such delight was lost on me, whose  
nightmare never passed.  
For I was lost in memories when,  
love, you breathed your last.

I dreamt a joyful dream last night a  
newborn calf was named.  
It grew robust, so bounteous  
that soon the farm was famed.

But happiness could not be mine, whose  
life in two was torn.  
For I belonged to you the very  
day we both were born.

I dreamt a frightful dream last night a  
storm did strike at sea.  
Till morn the winds did wail and thunder  
shook the ship 'neath me.

But fear will not hold fast wherever  
might my ship be blown.  
For I am drifting endlessly  
the sea of life alone.

I dreamt a wondrous dream last night our  
souls were free to fly.  
We strolled among the glowing stars and  
skipped across the sky.

But awe, alas, eluded me, whose  
shine has surely dimmed.  
For I am blind without the light your  
being truly brimmed.

I dreamt a mournful dream last night I  
lit your laden pyre.  
It slipped from shore and out of sight to  
free you by its fire.

Now sorrow fills my fragile soul and  
silence holds my heart.  
For I have nothing now that we  
forever are apart.