Additional Commentary on Gothic Lord’s Prayer

*þiudinassus* ‘kingdom, rule’: for expected *þiudan-assus*, deverbal to *þiudan-on* ‘be king, rule’, with suffix *-assus* < *-*at-tu-* (Krahe-Meid 1967: 159–62; cf. Schumacher 2000: 209); the suffix *-inassus* has been generalized from nouns like *frauininassus* ‘dominion’, deverbal to *frauijn-on* ‘be lord, rule’. Both verbs are denominal; cf. *frauja* ‘lord’, *þiudans* ‘king’. The latter is in turn a *-*Hno-derivative of *þiuda* ‘people’, like the Latin type *tribūnus* ‘chieftain’ to *tribus* ‘tribe’, i.e. *tribhu-Hno-* ‘who incarnates the tribe’ (LSDE 151). Note also the compound *þiudan-gard-i* (f.) [king-court] ‘kingdom’ (*gard-* = Eng. yard).

*weih-s* ‘holy’ is the base of transitive (ga)-*weih-an* ‘consecrate’ and inchoative *weih-n-an* *‘be(come) holy; be hallowed’*, lit. 'let thy name be(come) holy'.

*sinteins* *‘daily’* is a compound found only in Gothic, consisting of *sin-* < *-*sem-* ‘one’ plus *-teins* < *-*dey-no-; cf. Skt. *dīnam* ‘day’ (GED S65).

*af-letan* [let off] ‘release; forgive’: the ambiguous object *uns* ‘us’ (~ *unsis*, with *-is* after *mis* ‘to me’ etc.) is likely dative on the evidence of *þaim skulam* in the next line, unless object plus clausal complement behaves differently from a single object.

*skula* (m. *-*n-stem) ‘debtor; guilty person’: lit. ‘forgive us this-that we be debtors’: *þat-ei* (lit. ‘that-that’) is frequent with factive predicates (Miller 1975), i.e. ‘forgive us the fact that we are guilty’.

*fraistubni* (f. -jō-) ‘temptation’, to *fraisan* ‘tempt’, or rather to *-*fraistan-, as in Olc *freista* ‘tempt’. For the derivational suffix, cf. *fastubni* ‘fasting; observance’ < *fastubnjan* (HGE 95), *waldufni* ‘power, control, authority’, and *witubni* ‘knowledge’ < *widmn-yo-*, a derivative of *wid-men-* = Ved. *vid-mán-* ‘wisdom’ to *-*weid-* ‘know’ (Krahe-Meid 129f.).

*ubils* (adj., -a-) ‘evil’ (dat. sg. weak *-in*) < *ubilaz* < *h-*up-élo-s; see 'Indo-European and the Indo-Europeans', p. 9, and 'Germanic Vowels' §2.

Supplemental references


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1 An asterisk after a word (like *weihnan*) signals that this particular form is not attested but is safely reconstructable from other forms of the paradigm which occur in the Gothic corpus.