

# Viking Sagas

 adapted by Nigel Bryant

## 6. Thor and the giants - part 3

- LOKI: Well...would you be surprised to know that Thor's next words were:
- THOR: Very well – I'm not as good a drinker as I was. But I demand another challenge!
- SKRYMNIR: What do you say, my friends? What shall we give him next?
- LOKI: Oh, no. The next test the giant set was a bit of a surprise. Up he stood and said...
- SKRYMNIR: Bring me...my cat!
- LOKI: This is no joke. The next challenge was to lift his pet pussy off the floor. A doddle, you might think. But we're talking giants here, remember, and Skrymnir's cat was the size of your average cow.
- LOKI: Thor clutched the cat in a mighty hug...he strained till I thought he'd burst...and he managed to lift just one paw from the ground.



- SKRYMNIR: So much for the mighty gods!
- THOR: Enough! Let me wrestle with a proper fighter!
- SKRYMNIR: I know just the person. Send for Hel!
- LOKI: Uh, hell, I don't like the sound of that!
- THOR: Terrifying! Just the test I wanted!
- LOKI: What?!
- SKRYMNIR: Ah, here comes Hel. Welcome!
- HELL: Hello!
- THOR: How dare you! What kind of challenge is this?
- LOKI: Hel was about as frightening as a bag of old bones. In fact, Hel was a bag of old bones. A little old lady with no teeth and wobbly legs.
- THOR: I can't wrestle with your mother!
-  SKRYMNIR: She's not my mother. She's my great, grea, grandmother. And she's stronger than you think.

- THOR: Rubbish!
- LOKI: So, up went Thor and grabbed her round the waist. It was the most uneven contest you've ever seen. She had Thor pinned to the ground before you could say 'Round One'.
- SKRYMNIR: Victory! Well done, Hel! So, Thor, great god of Asgard, will you go home now and say how you fought the giants?
- THOR: You have won. I must accept it gracefully.
- SKRYMNIR: Oh, well said! What a very good loser!
- LOKI: Thor's face was like thunder. But it was nothing to how he looked next day, when Skrymnir said goodbye. The giant was about to wave us on our way when he suddenly said:
- SKRYMNIR: I defeated you by magic.
- THOR: You did what?



- SKRYMNIR: Yes! When I found you in my glove, and you threw your hammer at me, you'd have killed me if I hadn't used an invisible mountain as a shield!
- THOR: I don't believe this!
- SKRYMNIR: And the end of the cup you drank from reached into the sea. You drank more than any giant could.
- THOR: What?
- SKRYMNIR: The cat I set against you was no cat at all but a serpent dragon that winds itself right round our land – to lift one paw was a miracle.
- THOR: This is an outrage!
- SKRYMNIR: And don't be ashamed to lose to Hel - she is not an old woman but death itself – and no one can win against death. Thor, you are stronger than any giant, but we tricked you with magic.
- LOKI: Thor grabbed his hammer and aimed another blow at Skrymnir, but the giant...disappeared into thin air.



THOR

Where's he gone?

LOKI

And had Thor finally learnt his lesson? Not a bit of it...

THOR

I'll be back and next time – I shall win!

LOKI

So, that's the story of Thor.

