

# Skim - Intro, Books 1, 3, 4 of *Orsoda*.

## Introduction

- (b)
- ix - *Orsoda* + Her Handbook
- written 841-843
  - warfare among Frankish nobility
- X - D married to Bernard of Septimania
- Xi - text "stands as a memorial to the failure of Orsoda's hopes"
- husband killed by Charlemagne's son + her son William was killed
  - tried to teach her sons to "flourish in God's eyes"
- Xii - context of the century

## Importance of Orsoda's Text

- only such book surviving from Carolingian period
  - not very well studied.
- Xiii - Riche's definition, Constanta Bouchard
- Xiv - Composition, Sources, + context
- = coherent plan
- ★ XV - The Outline
- Comp theme: religious life + secular noble life → relationship b/w temporal + eternal life
- Xvi - D's education based on Vulgate bible
- refers primarily to psalms
- Xvii - Thought that cleric wrote text for her, emotional nature underlies these arguments
- Moral Perspective
  - "positive spiritual value of ordinary secular activity"
- Xviii - "all right social behavior is modeled on the worship of God"
- Xix - trinky metaphor, Father > King
- xx - Readership + Maternal Authority
- expected work to be read by others

xxi

- "private + ambitious"
- Once switched <sup>to</sup> gender of a bible verse
- Supports patriarchy
- challenged reader to unravel everything

xxii - D's Understanding of Christian Society

- biblical references

xxiii

- ideas spring from violent circumstances

\* everything colored by such circumstances

xxiv

- complexity of her vision.

xxv

Manuscript

style critical as well, rambling.

# Book 1

## 1. On loving God

7

- references Genesis - Moses' vision of God
- can't see God's face

## 2. On seeking God

8

## 3. On God's Greatness

9

- "humble yourself often so that you may be exalted by Him" <sup>as you</sup>
- knows weaknesses of men
- It's not the struggle

## 4. On God's Sublimity

- references Paul
- this is a partial attempt (already?)

## 5. More on the same topic. On God.

10

- unrecruited quote
- goes through the spelling of Deus ← (Comfort is human construct being memory!)
- 5 letters = 5 senses of the body
- 4 virtues: Justice, strength, wisdom, moderation

10

11

12

- Nebuchadnezzar

- Daniel

## 6. Moral Inter

- God is everywhere
- references Psalms

## 7. Cautionary words on the same topic

13

- "don't be distracted by multiple cares of this earthly world from acquiring my virtues" ← Yes
- Job references
- little brother - will be advised how

Book 3: Secular Success + Social Order

21

1. On reverence you shall show your father throughout your life

- father = Bernard

- quotes (probe) psalms

- "Remember that thou hadst not been born but through him"

- Elias son

\* she doesn't say vs.

22

- Curser 'gainst those who don't supp. father

- Son becomes the father

I don't get this heading system.

23

2. On the same topic, on reverence for your father

- royal/imperial app + power seem prominent in the world

1. love God, 2. love father

3. Examples of the early Fathers

- Sen + Japheth, sons of Noah

- Isaac, Joseph (son of Jacob)

- More on Joseph

Focus on growing

no corp.



24

25

4. Direction on your comportment toward your lord

- Charles = lord, chosen by Bernard

- "excellent servant of the Patriarch Abraham"

\* "There is no power but from God" ← [divine right of kings deal]

26

27

5. On taking Counsel.

- How to give advice.

- "do everything w/ counsel"

comfort

28

- Samuel + David

- Previous Fathers found worthy by God

29

6. More on the same topic. On counselors

- Some give bad counsel, but it's not God's fault.

30

7. Special Direction on the same topic

- avoid bad people

- 31 8. Regarding yr lord's family
- 32 - examples of great comportment
- 33 - hopes he follows examples

9. Regarding the Magister

"while you are a young boy still growing"

- Show them love
- be glad w/ Joquace

34 10. That you accommodate yourself to great & lesser men

- not a respecter of ~~things~~ persons, but all things
- "Carry burdens for each other, the strong for the weak"
- don't hesitate to imitate strength
- Obligation to give
- respect

36 - - Speaks on the heart

37 - Verses - From a poet



"Man be fashioned out of the mud of the earth to resemble the # of his angels." Et. 140 - history of the cosmology

38 11. On respect for priests

- revere them
- Sacerdotes
- Shepherd metaphor

39 - - etymology focus

40 - - priests "eat the sins of the people"

angelic nature

41 - Don't be hasty to judge

Priests are God's chosen

42 - "True confession liberates the soul from death"

- "For there is no man who sineth not, even if his life is as short as a single day"

Book Four - Moral Life

43 1. Special direction on various aspects of moral betterment  
- attaining perfection = app of great + constant effort  
- Synonyms  
- envy is the cause of evil

44  
- deal is everywhere  
- "Let us praise men of renown"  
- Although we are unimportant esiles  
- Free the bond

45 2. On the same topic.

"while you fight in this sec. world"

46 3. On the same topic. Useful direction

- don't let pride swell up  
- plague of pride

47 4. On arming yourself w/ 7-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Carry words of Christ daily  
- 7 fold thing comes from Isaiah  
- humble heart, chaste body  
- Holy Spirit

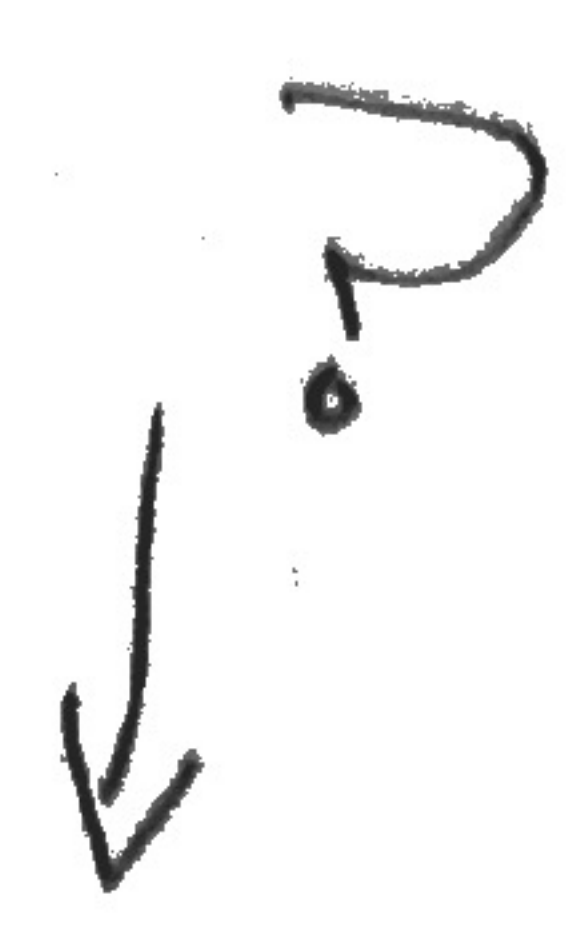
48  
49  
50  
51 5. More on the same topic. Useful Direction on various aspects of moral betterment

- Fight the fight

6. On the same topic. Setting opposites against each other

- realize certitude of Joseph  
- Avoid prostitutes  
- haughtiness of my eyes  
- Part chaste folk

52  
53 7. That you may be patient in mind + body  
- Avoid Anger



Q. the handwriting system?

2/25/2019 Skim Unvoda 5, 7, 8

### Book 5: God's Chastisement

#### 65 1. On being tested in various troubles.

- troubles, sorrows, temptations follows
- birds express grief w/ song
- ~~Let~~ <sup>Let</sup> us As though we are sorrowful, yet always rejoicing<sup>m</sup>
- "As though"
- life is short, fragile
- life of a man is a trial
- the world is illusion
- tree bearing good/bad fruit
- cling to good trees

correct ✓

#### 69 2. On Making Amends, if you go astray

- hasten to improve, turn to God
- Joy

#### 70 3. On various temptations, if they befall you

- show courage

#### 4. If there is difficulty

bear up patiently

From a woman in these times

#### 5. On Persecution

- have no anxiety, endure

#### 6. In hardship

- have faith. Job, Tobias

Curse even in pain

#### 7. In dejection

- call out to the Lord

#### 8. In stress

- may fall ill for their own good

when I am weak, then I am strong

72

Health illness have various effects

Some Plato in there

- Lazarus was sick so that Jesus could be glorified
- health of body → Salvation of Soul
- read Pastoral Care

9. Give Glory to God in all Circumstances

- attribute accomplishment to God
- learn Wisdom

73

Book 7

79 1. On the same topic. Special direction of Great Usefulness

- help ment to set in order earthly existence
- ★ - Acting as mother from this pt. on - Takes in 1st person in readings
- 2 births

2. I wish that you be strong in your first birth

- all are born in sin

80

3. ~~I wish~~ I direct you to be steadfast in 2nd birth

in these times, many men have many, many offspring

4. On the 1st + 2nd deaths

- 1. body to heaven/hell. 2. death of soul

5. Consider death 1.

- no escape

6. Escape death 2

81

- Can escape if worthy. Read + pray often.

Book 8: How to Pray + for Whom

83 1. I direct you to grow strong through reading + prayer

- reading teaches how to pray

2. On the past, present, + the future

pray

But what about the ph: perfect? D?

3. I suggest how you may pray for all the ranks of the clergy



84 4.-7. Pray for priests, kings, your lord, your father  
8. On the same topic, for all the following

85 9. End w/ the words, "and for the holy people of God"  
10. Pray for the dead faithful

11.-12. For truly + not truly good

13. Here you will find something appropriate to offer for those who were not worthy

- It is uncertain on whose behalf God accepts any gift of prayer

- despair of none

86. - Pray <sup>especially</sup> for the baptized  
- the fate of sinners who have not corrected  
- pray for the father

Really a  
Christian  
empathy

87. - consider yourself in their position

14. Pray for dead relations of your father

88. Father does not pray

15. For the late lord Theoderic

↳ adopted W as a son of Christ

16. Pray for the dead

89. 17. On the same topic, especially for you

- hopes he will be found worthy

↳ not ~~just~~ simply "be"

# William

For 3/3

- Close read 25-30 pgs. of BCS 1, 3, 4

Book 1

## 1. On loving God

Comfort

- love good
- climb the tree, "to its secure height"  
 - along w/ those who are worthy <sup>if able to</sup> love God
- D advertises that W should offer her book to his friends
- D chastises herself humble brag
- More reverence - can't see God's face

8

## 2. On seeking God

Competitive

- compares to dog reaching for crumbs from table
- Scripture references

## 3. On God's Greatness

humble yourself often so that you may be exalted by him forever

Plaid!

9

- For to know of what formed matter you're made
- God knows everything about our weaknesses

## 4. On God's Sublimity

Paul: Beyond human understanding.

D's partial attempt of explaining what will an understood ab. of

## 5. More on the same topic. On God

Deus - 2 syllabus, 4 letters

10

4 = # of perfection. > Comfort in linguistic structure

Nebuchadnezzar

D contains #500

4 virtues: Justice, Strength, Wisdom, + Moderation

11

God is and does great things

Some think they truly own things in this world: they don't

"There is none that can resist thy will"

12

## 6. Moral Interpretation

comfortable view of death

- "Join the majority as their companion"
- love God
- "He fills us and satisfies us w/ good things"

## 7. Cauterous Words on same topic

13

- Don't be distracted from acquiring many virtues
- draw saying "what more can I say"
- D's heart burns on his behalf
- W is to teach his brother
- Hopes W goes to heaven
- First mention of Bernard



## Book 3: Social Order & Sec. Success

21

- "For God hath made his father who flourishes in his children <sup>honorable</sup>"
- You would not be born but through father
- Don't hate him when you become strong
- ref: Abraham, Elias' sons

22

- Scripture promises condemnation for those that don't honor fathers
- ~~So~~ What God, as a father, would seek in children
- follow instruction.

27

## 5. On Taking Counsel

- "do everything w/ counsel, and thou shalt not repent <sup>when thou hast done</sup>"
- Metal work metaphor

28

- value of a great man's eulogy
- cling to God's wisdom - James reference
- pray in song
- associate w/ Old + young
- Samuel & David were judges at an young age

Comfort in example

- 29 . Fathers who care look  
 ↳ God tried Adam, and found them worthy  
 ↳ = humble + pure in mind + body, informed in their understanding...  
 so that the Lord is known to have joined them,  
 pure as gold, to himself

↳ humble brags

6. More on the Same Topic On Counselors

- some counselors are bad, but it's not God's fault  
 ↳ explanation is all over the place

34 10. That you accommodate yourself to great + to lesser men

- All should follow examples of Magistrates
- God is great, chooses form of servant
- "for he is not a respecter of persons, but in all things"
- "Carry business for each other, the strong for the weak."

- 35 ☆ - Will is smart, but short in stature <sup>D</sup> concerned for physical weakness  
 - humility

"His hand will be against all men, and all men's hands against him"

"love all so that you may be loved by all"

- 36 ☆ Love all... "so that you may be found worthy" - not for its own sake

- 41<sup>st</sup> Psalm

"One heart + one soul" in God

- example in case we are lost in deep sea

Purpose of Man

not a modern belief

- 37 - Other books discuss roles of animals + plants  
 - Poetry

☆ God made man to replenish the rank of angels

↳ linked us to suffer + rise

↳ we will all be then joined by love

11. On Respect for Priests

↳ chosen for God's ministry + intercede for sins

↳ enemy system

↳ shepherd metaphor

43 1. Special Direction on Various aspects of Moral Betterment

- Perfection - great constant effort
- Evils have antidotes
- Avoid those in envy + wicked spirits - Apolly
- Synonyms - "hidden evil is deceived w/ sweet words"
- Focus on anger + envy

↳ Same as devil

44

• Seeks people whom he may devour

• The poet = prudentius

• learned men's books will teach

"Although we are unimportant exiles" - bear 12 patriarchs names

45

- Detest + flee the wicked

Comfort in example

- Observe example of great men

- 12 patriarchs were always headed toward heaven

↓  
\* Test: "Then they left behind for us an example, so that in seeking it we may do as they did."

2. On the Same topic

- While you fight in this secular world

- in <sup>good</sup> times your mind should never be putted up after the example <sup>of evil</sup> men

↳ in bad - "never lose yourself or be cut down"

↳ Math, Opposites quasi opposites - Apostle

53 4. "Your mind will be secure... like a continual feast"

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God"

already established that none see God.

2. That you be patient in mind + body

- Control anger as "anger rests in the bosom of a fool"

- avoid ~~evil~~ <sup>anger</sup> being an ingrained habit

Comfort

- ~~But~~ goal: peace w/ all men

Moses

- example of peaceful man who ruled 600,000

- So calm he never knew the darkness of confession, and he kept all his teeth

- sought conditions of peace

54

55

- give virtue accidental to merit

8. To Overcome all your faults w/ Ease - 8 beatitudes

"Slow to speak, slow to anger"

- Be a peace maker, make

- Offer a poor man as much hope as you can

words & deeds

56

- Bible - we are sojourners, immigrants + strangers 'as were all our Fathers

- Pity the poor

- Rich man - "Soul is wretchedly needy"

Perish together, oppressed by similar burdens

poor

62

- reprove, entreat, rebuke - evil  
- good

9. That you help the poor as you are able

- provide not the poor man crying out

- Golden rule

- interp of term "Flesh" - to be brotherhood

63-

- Frat camp - for strangers, needy + oppressed

- With good works - Call on God, and he will hear you

↳ motivated toward God

26 pages

Thomas  
William

extra pg count of books in 18

Close read 20-25 pgs - like 5, 7, + 8

For 3/5

65 Book 5

1. On Being Tested in Various Tribles

- tribles, sorrow, + difficult temptations follow one upon another
- birds have cry for grief
- Two griefs - each has failed good he ought to do
- Better to consider spiritual grief rather than forget it
- "we are" sorrowful, yet always rejoicing"
- "As though" - living dream here - not real

66

↳ continues "as though"  
↳ equates to <sup>impermanent</sup> joy in earthly things  
↳ Vanity

Psalms, Job, "All flesh is straw"

67

- Happiness of human condition is short
- ↳ life of man on earth is "but a trial"
- More on "As though"
- believe to love to be one who taketh away the spirit of princes
- Where are we after our body is consumed by death?

68

- Good/bad tree → good/bad fruit
- list of good fruit virtues
- ↳ plant the fruits of good men in your mind

69 2. On Making Amends if you go astray

- Hasten to improve your own self
- Ask Lord to raise up part weight of sins
- "Now we will be able to separate you from 'God's joy'"
- Keep your self from your own sins + the sins of others

Tax collector  
quote

70 3. On Various temptations if they befall you

Thow courage → "With all watchfulness, keep thy heart"

70

4. If there is difficulty

- ↳ bear up patiently - "tribulation worketh patience"
- ↳ God will hear if you cry out for him

5. On Persecution

- ↳ have no anxiety, suffer for sake of justice

6. In hardship

- have faith

71

- will be able to, like Job + Tobias, recover prior rank if God allow

7. In Depression

- ↳ = suffering. Be mindful of good things

8. In Illness

- ↳ don't yield or become sorrowful

- many fall ill for their own good

- ↳ makes them aware of their limitations

- "For when I am weak, then I am strong"

- Suffering now < coming glory

72

Pilate + Herod's sickness different than that of Lazarus  
 ↳ punishment to glorify God

- Seek glory of dignity, use health as salvation for soul

- Book recommendation

9. That you give glory to God in all circumstances

- attribute all good things to God, not on your own merits

- give highest praise to him

- Wisdom → truly rich

- examples of wise folk

"Blessed are the poor in spirit" The end

73

79. Book Seven

1. On the same topic. Special direction of great usefulness

- D will act as his mother from this pt on (diff. books)

- ↳ instructing God's service to perfection



79

- 2 births - flesh + Spirit <sup>rubber</sup>
- need both
- D shifts context of Apostle quote

2. I wish that you be strong in your 1st birth

- (has it happened yet?)

- We are all born w/ sin. - calculated by greeks later

80

3. I direct you to be steadfast in your 2nd Birth

{ Spiritual birth

In 2nd Birth, "my men have many offspring"

4. On 1st + 2nd Deaths

{ - Crossing over of body to heaven / hell  
death & soul

5. Death 1

{ Unescapable. "Way of all flesh"

6. Escape Death 2

{ escapable through worthy struggle

"becomes a pillar of my temple" - new Jerusalem

- Tree of life, eternal life w/ Saints

- Grow in Christ, read + pray often

81

83

Book 8: How to pray + for whom

1. I direct you to grow strong through reading + prayer

{ reading will teach you how to pray

Apostle: "pray w/o ceasing"

{ doing good = constant prayer

mind: watched, alert, pure, + clean.

2. On the past, present, + future

Pray for them to escape their evils

are certain  
section.

3. I suggest how you may pray for all the Clergy ranks

"As best you can"

94  
4. For Bishops + Priests - so that they may pass forth to God pure  
5. For Kings + Others of highest rank - so that they may uphold

church's firm belief in Christ + maintain peace  
6. For your own Lord - so God will strengthen him a body + soul

7. For your Father  
- frequently, constantly - so that he may prevail. Amen

8. On the same topic, for all the following

- pray for those who oppose you
- make 'em peaceful
- pray for prisoners
- needy, those suffering, etc.

9. End w/ and for all the holy people of God. - Do it.

10. Pray for all the faithful ~~that~~ <sup>who</sup> have died - Do it.

11-12. For those who were + were not truly good - Do it.

13. For the ~~un~~ unworthy

? → - they will receive some comfort from merits of others  
- it is uncertain on whose behalf God accepts any gift of prayer

- despair of no one
- God may take pity during time of judgement
- mourn more for those who have not done penance for <sup>sins</sup>
- pray especially for the baptised
- Older punishment more bearable for unbaptised or unfamiliar w/ law
- David's remorse
- Everyone knows what answer he received <sup>power of common example</sup>

86  
- Always correct yourself if you fall  
Apothie - he that thinketh himself to stand, let him take heed lest he fall

87  
Pray more for living rather than dead

↳ families + those request us  
↳ Myself about to die

87

14. Pray for dead relations of your father

↳ names @ end of book

- their legacy has not gone on to others

- Bernard does not correctly do this, so will must

88

15. For the 1st Lord Theodoric.

↳ adopted Will as son in Christ

- Will doesn't know him?

↳ would have been his foster father

- Pray in case he hadn't reported

- Phrases to use

Run IN  
Place



16. And again, pray for all the dead, that they ~~be~~ R.I.P.

Prayer for Judas

89

17. On the same topic, especially for you

- bless God @ all times

- find salvation

- Amen

- Done