

My precious!

If you take the name Hagen von Tronje, one of the main characters from the famous Song of the Nibelungs, literally, he is the protector, guardian and caretaker of a throne. This is exactly how he is portrayed in the Song of the Nibelungs. He is regarded as the most important advisor and loyal subject of the Burgundian king Gunther. Hagen apparently does everything in his power to preserve the honor and power of his king and his queen Brunhild.

Hagen is the only one at Gunther's court to recognize the dragon slayer Siegfried as soon as he arrives. He later persuades Siegfried's wife Kriemhild to reveal her husband's only vulnerable spot to him. He uses this knowledge to stab Siegfried fatally in the back with his spear.

Hagen persuades Gunther and his brothers Gernot and Giselher to persuade their sister Kriemhild to bring the Nibelung gold to Worms, which she succeeds in doing. And it is he who steals the Nibelung treasure from Kriemhild and sinks it in the Rhine. On the surface, Hagen is therefore not the most likeable character in the song.

Only he, the king and his two brothers know where the treasure is hidden. The four are bound together by an oath not to reveal this secret. And they remain faithful to each other until death. In the end, Hagen is the last person to know the location of the treasure. But he does not reveal it to Kriemhild. We read:

„Nun ist von Burgunden der edle König tot
Geiselher der junge dazu Herr Gernot
Den Hort weiß nun niemand als Gott und ich allein
Der soll dir Teufelsweibe immer wohl verholen sein.“

„Now the noble king of Burgundy is dead
Geiselher the young one in turn Lord Gernot
No one now knows the hoard but God and I alone
It shall always be well hidden from you Devil's wife.“

Kriemhild then kills this monster with Siegfried's sword Balmung.

However, I have a few doubts about the obvious depiction of the figure of Hagen of Tronje. At Isenstein Castle, Hagen wears raven-black clothing. The two ravens Hugin and Munin were Odin's faithful companions. Hagen is described as a fearsome warrior. He kills the hero Siegfried with a spear. The spear Gungir is Odin's most feared weapon. Like Odin, Hagen has only one eye. Odin can see into the future from his throne in Valhalla. Hagen also has this ability. Before crossing the Danube, the three water-women reveal to Hagen the death of all the Nibelungs. Hagen has a striking number of parallels with the Germanic god Odin. The resemblance to Odin and his behavior lead me to assume that Hagen embodies the protector, guardian and caretaker of Odin's throne in Valhalla or even Odin himself. That he did not stand up for his king on Siegfried's arrival, that he refused to play Gunther's messenger, that he ignored Gunther's decision to let the Brunhild story rest, and, and, and. This clearly shows that Hagen was not a vassal of Gunther.

What is contradictory about him is that all his advice and actions ultimately do not help his king, but harm him! The story continues to escalate due to Hagen's intervention, as a result of which all the Nibelungs are slain in the end and the Nibelung hoard is lost. This raises the question of whether Hagen may have had something else in mind with his advice and actions. The scene above, which is supposed to make us believe that Hagen faithfully follows Gunther to his death, betrays his true intentions. You only have to read the preceding verses from the perspective that Hagen was not concerned with loyalty to his 'lord', but with the disappearance of the treasure.

Da sprach der grimme Hagen: „Die Red' ist gar verloren
Viel edle Königstochter Den Eid habe ich geschworen
Dass ich den Hort nicht zeige solange noch am Leben
Blieb einer meiner Herren so darf ich ihn niemand geben.“

Then the fierce Hagen said: "The speech is lost
Much noble king's daughter I have sworn an oath
That I would not show the hoard while still alive
If one of my lords remains, I must not give it to anyone."

Gernot and Giseler have already perished in the final battle in the hall. Only he and King Gunther still know about the treasure. In the verse, he subtly demands Gunther's death from Kriemhild. Only then would he be released from his oath and only then could he reveal the location of the treasure. Kriemhild believes him and has her brother's head cut off. And how does Hagen react?

Als der Unmutsvolle seines Herren Hauptes ersah
Wider Kriemhilden sprach der Recke dar:
„Du hast's nach deinem Willen zu Ende nun gebracht
Es ist auch so ergangen **wie ich mir hatte gedacht**.“

When the displeased man saw his lord's head
To Kriemhilden the warrior spoke:
"You have now brought it to an end according to your will
It has also turned out **as I had thought**.“

It turned out the way he wanted it to. His plan worked out. He used Kriemhild to kill Gunther. So the much-vaunted loyalty to the Nibelungs cannot have been so far off the mark. The opposite is the case. He doesn't care about Gunther. He sacrifices Gunther by misusing Kriemhild for his own purposes. She has fallen for him again, as she did before when she revealed Siegfried to him. Hagen has reached his goal. He is the only one who still knows where the treasure is, but he does not reveal it. He accepts his own death for this. He could save himself by revealing the location. But he doesn't. He says the sentences mentioned in the first verse and is slain by Kriemhild.

Now let's take a look at the influence of the treasure on the behavior of the people involved.

The superhero Siegfried deceives Brunhild, who is waiting for him, with his invisibility cloak. Through deception, King Gunther wins Brunhild as his wife. Brunhild senses the deception and once again Siegfried behaves disgracefully by helping Gunther to rob her of her virginity and thus her divine magic powers. He sullies Brunhild's divine abilities. Why? Out of pure self-interest, because he gets Kriemhild in return. Siegfried then steals Brunhild's girdle and her ring and hands them over to his wife callously and without appreciation. The treasure had obviously changed the superhero for the worse. Years later, Kriemhild publicly mocks Brunhild and calls her her husband's bitch in front of everyone. She shows the stolen belt as proof. But it is a lie. Siegfried had not deflowered her. He had previously swapped roles with Gunther. Kriemhild knows this. Nevertheless, she hurts Brunhild in the worst possible way with this lie, and she also drags Siegfried into the affair. The basest motives come to light.

And now Hagen appears on the scene.

He does everything in his power to get hold of the treasure. He wrests the only vulnerable part of Siegfried from Kriemhild and kills him. Legally, the treasure now passes to Kriemhild. Driven by revenge, she uses it to recruit brave warriors. Hagen springs into action again. He persuades Kriemhild's brothers to persuade her to bring the treasure to Worms, which she succeeds in doing. Without hesitation, he steals the treasure from Kriemhild and has it sunk in the Rhine. From this point on, only he and the three kings know the location. The treasure is the first thing Kriemhild asks for when the Burgundians arrive at Etzel's court and it is also the last thing Kriemhild asks for (see above). But she does not get it. The treasure is lost forever. Hagen triumphs.

„It also turned out as I had imagined.“

The whole thing only makes sense to me. Hagen knows the destructive power of the hoard. He knows the greed, the arrogance and the stubbornness that grows out of it. This explains all his actions in the Song of the Nibelungs. Hagen punishes all misdeeds. Even Ortlieb's manslaughter is a reaction to the betrayal of his brother Dankwart. He recognizes the cause of the evil, the cursed treasure. In the end, Hagen sacrifices his own life. He heroically accepts his own death for a higher goal. He redeems the people from the treasure that brings death.

The last victim of the treasure curse is Kriemhild. She is also slain and thus shares the fate of all the previous owners of the treasure.

But where has the treasure gone? Don't look in the Rhine. It's where it can no longer do any harm, in Valhalla. And it is safely guarded there. How I know that?

Wallhall has 800 doors, through each of which 540 Einherjer move out, i.e. exactly 432000 Einherjer.

The size of the treasure is described in the original as follows:

19th adventure, 22nd verse:

„Ir muget von dem horte wunder hoeren sagen
Swaz zwelf kanzwegene meist mohten tragen
In *vier* tagen und nahten von dem bergedan;
Ouch muos ir ieslicher des tages *dristunde* gan“

Nun mögt ihr von dem Horte -	Wunder hören sagen
Zwölf Leiterwagen konnten –	ihn kaum von dannen tragen
In vier Tag` und Nächten –	aus des Berges Schacht
Hätten sie des Tages –	den Weg auch dreimal gemacht

Now you may hear of the hoard -	miracle tell
Twelve wagons could -	hardly carry it away
In four days and nights -	from the mountain's shaft
If they had -	made the journey three times that day

Four verses later, we learn that the treasure could be 1000 times greater.

„Unde waer sin tusement (thousand) stunde noch also vil gewesen“

Do you recognize it? You need 12 wagons for transportation. You need 4 days if you walk three hours a day out of 24 hours (day and night). These figures are no coincidence.

12 (kanzwegene) + 24 (Day and night) = 36

36 x 4 (day) = 144

144 x 3 (tristund) = 432

432 x 1000 (tusement)= 432000

The numbers in the verse add up exactly to the number of Einherjer. A clear reference to Valhalla and that Hagen's loyalty was to Odin's throne, or that Hagen probably embodies Odin. With regard to the Germanic understanding of God, I refer to Odin's knowledge of God in video 2. The greatest treasure still lies within every human being. The Song of the Nibelungs wants to point this out to us. And as long as we do not understand this, it will be said again and again:

Ich kann euch nicht bescheiden	was seither auch geschah
Als das man Fraun und Kinder	nur noch weinen sah
Dazu die edlen Knechte	um lieber Freunde Tod
Hier hat die Mär ein Ende	das ist die Nibelungennot

I cannot tell you	what has happened since then
When women and children	were only seen weeping
And the noble servants	for the death of dear friends
Here the tale has an end	that is the Nibelungennot