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K. Jonas Nordby

A prayer or what?

**Abstract**

There are three or four runic inscriptions cut in walls and pillars of Nore stave-church in Numedal. Inscription N131 is on the centre pillar—a spot considered one of the most prominent in the church. In *Norges innskrifter med de yngre runer*, vol. 2, pp. 151–53, Magnus Olsen presents the reading **unþum**(**e**)**ralskþrs** which he interprets *Unn þú mér alls góðs*, "Grant me all that is good". This seems to allude to the phrase *Guð ann oss góðs*, "God grants us good" at the beginning of one of the sermons (*Sermo necessaria*) in *The Old Norwegian Homily Book* (AM 619 4to). The inscription is thus apparently a pious prayer to God begging for a good and happy life. But is this really what it says? An inspection of the inscription last summer made me think that it is a request to someone else concerning something quite different.