

Thorvald

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3.

Thorvald Eiriksson's Voyage (TE) (2nd expedition to Vinland)

Approximately Spring–Summer, c. y. 1002 AD

Δ **22/GD02/TE:** People now greatly debated Leif's voyage to Vinland. Leif's brother, Thorvald, wanted to do more explorations of Vinland. Leif sent his ship to transport Thorir's timber from the reef and then loaned his ship to Thorvald for the voyage to Vinland (G p. 59).

► **38RH/GD02/TE:** In Grænlinga Saga, this passage follows after another passage informing of a serious disease which broke out amongst Thorir's crew that winter and took the lives of Thorir and many of his men, and informing, as well, of the death of **Eirik the Red** the same winter. Did Leif send his ship shortly after he had arrived from Vinland to fetch the timber which Thorir had left on the reef, or did he send his ship for the timber the next year which followed the winter when Thorir and Eirik the Red died? First of all, let's notice that people “**now**” greatly debated Leif's voyage to Vinland. Naturally, there would be greatest debate about Leif's Vinland voyage when he arrived back home loaded with valuable cargo from this unknown country, where one could simply sail and serve himself freely of nature's abundant resources. Secondly, it would be logical that Thorir, who was Leif's guest, would want to fetch his valuable timber from the reef as soon as possible before someone else would find it and take possession of the abandoned timber. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that Leif sent his ship for the timber shortly after he had arrived from Vinland prior to loaning his ship to his brother, Thorvald, who was keen to do more exploration of Vinland. It was during the winter which followed after Thorvald had left for Vinland, that Thorir and Eirik the Red died. Nevertheless, the writer of Grænlinga Saga gave this information ahead of time, in order that he would not have to interrupt the story of Thorvald's adventures in Vinland.

Approximately Summer–Winter, c. y. 1002 AD

Δ **23/VD15/TE:** Thorvald made preparations for his expedition with the help of his brother, Leif, and he hired a crew of 30. After the ship was ready, they sailed to the sea. They arrived at Leif's Houses in Vinland. There they laid up the ship. They settled down for the winter. They lived on fish they caught (G p. 59).

► **39RH/VD15/TE:** It was not difficult to find few houses of Leif's base in North America, because following expeditions recorded in the Sagas (with exception of Thorstein's failed expedition) found Leif's Houses without any problem. There is no indication that Thorvald, in any way, diverted from the sailing instructions that Leif had followed on his voyage to Vinland.

Winter, c. y. 1002/1003 AD

Δ **24/GD03/TE:** In the meantime in Greenland, Thorir and many of his men died of a serious disease. Eirik the Red died the same winter as well (G p. 59).

► **40RH/GD03/TE:** **Eirik the Red**, who discovered, explored, and led the settlement of Greenland, died. Gudrid, who was the daughter of Eirik the Red's friend, Thorbjorn Vifilsson, became a widow after her first husband Thorir died.

Spring–Autumn, c. y. 1003 AD

Δ **25/VD16/TE:** In the springtime, Thorvald told his men to prepare the ship and initiated a small-scale westward exploration which would take place in the summer while the ship would be made ready. During the summertime, a small group of Thorvald's men sailed from Leif's base in the ship's boat to the west along the coast, and explored the western region. The landscape there was beautiful, with woodlands almost to the seashore and beaches of white sand. They found many islands and large shoals there. They did not see any human abodes or animals, with the exception of one island in the west, where they found a stack-cover made of wood. In the autumn they returned from the westward exploration, back to Leif's Houses (G p. 59, 60).

▶ **41RH/VD16/TE:** It is not clear why Thorvald wanted to prepare the ship. Grænlandinga Saga does not say that he took any voyage on the ship that year. It could have been preparation for a voyage the next year. In such case, it indicates that the ship needed some repairs. Since Bjarni, who was the earlier owner of the ship, sailed on it to America in 985 or 986, the ship was at least 17 years old by then.

▶ **42RH/VD16/TE:** West of ... are numerous islands, e.g. ...

...

Summer, c. y. 1004 AD

Δ **26/VD17/TE:** The next summer, Thorvald and part of his crew sailed on the ship east of Leif's base and then changed their course to the north along the coast. Thorvald's ship ran into a severe tempest off a promontory and was driven by it to a shore, where the ship's keel got seriously damaged. The repair of the ship took a long time, and they had to remain there. Thorvald asked his men to set up the old keel on the promontory, and he called the place Kjalarness (G p. 60).

► **43RH/VD17/TE:** Sailing east ... would bring Thorvald to ... “North along the coast,” ... indicates that Thorvald was now sailing ... In such case, Thorvald was the first one to try to sail ..., though he did not finish it. However, he sailed far enough to ... (Later this information was passed to Karlsefni.) They ran into a fierce gale off a promontory and were driven ashore. Thorvald had the old, shattered keel set up and named the place Kjalarness (Keelness, or Keel Point).

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