

Dative case complements of some other adjectives occurring as complements of **bēon** were also common in Old English: **þæt wæs monegum cūþ** 'that was known to many'; **bið him ēac uncūð hwæðer ...** 'it is also unknown to him whether ...'; **hit is swīpe uncūþ ūs eallum, hwænne ...** 'it is entirely unknown to us, when ...'; **hīe sint wilcuman Deniga lēodum** 'they are welcome to the people of the Danes'; **Sē wæs him dýre** 'He was dear to them.' As the translations illustrate, this construction, too, has been superseded in Modern English by a pattern requiring a preposition to mark the complement; and while a complement in Modern English—whether for pronoun or noun—normally follows the adjective, the position was variable in Old English. (*OES* 192–219, *HSEL* 333–347)

Hē wæs lēof Gode.

He was dear to God.

Hē wæs eallum his gefērum lēof.

He was dear to all his companions.

Gode is swiðe lēof ðæt gē earmum
monnum syllo.

It is very acceptable to God that
you give to poor people.

Lēofre mē ys ðæt ic hīg sylle ðē
ðonne oðrum men.

It is more acceptable to me (or I
would rather) that I give her to
thee than to another man.

Ūs biþ ðonne lēofre ðonne eal
eorþan wela gif hē ūs miltsian
wile.

It shall then be more desirable to
us than (*or* we shall prefer it
over) all the earth's wealth, if
he will show mercy to us.

Sē wæs lāð Gode.

He was loathsome to God.

Ġif him is lāð tō ðonne þis.

If it is grievous to him to do this.

Him wæs lāð tō āmyrrene his
āgenne folgað.

It was displeasing to him (*or* he was
loath) to injure his own followers.

þā ðe him ... lāðost wæron.

Those who were most hateful to him.

Hē wolde on eallum ðingum him
gehýrsum bēon.

He wished to be obedient to him in
all things.

Hē nāt hwæt him tōweard biþ.

He doesn't know what is in store
for him.

And uton gēpenčan, þæt ūs ys
uncūð sēo tīd and sēo dæg,
þe wē sceolon þās lænan
woruld forlætan.

And let us consider that to us is
unknown the time and the day
that we shall relinquish this
transitory world.