

# Dane-Geld

A.D. 980-1016

Words: Rudyard Kipling

Music: Michael Longcor (Moonwulf)

It is al-ways a temp - ta-tion to an armed and a-gile na-tion To call up-on a neigh-bour and to say:  
"We in - va - ded you last night-we are quite pre-pared to fight, Un - less you pay us cash to go a - way."  
And that is called ask - ing for Dane - geld, And the peo - ple who ask it ex - plain  
That you've on - ly to pay 'em the Dane - geld And then you'll get rid of the Dane!

It is always a temptation to an armed and agile nation

To call upon a neighbour and to say: --

"We invaded you last night--we are quite prepared to fight,

Unless you pay us cash to go away."

*And that is called asking for Dane-geld,*

*And the people who ask it explain*

*That you've only to pay 'em the Dane-geld*

*And then you'll get rid of the Dane!*

It is always a temptation for a rich and lazy nation,

To puff and look important and to say: --

"Though we know we should defeat you, we have not the time to meet you.

We will therefore pay you cash to go away."

*And that is called paying the Dane-geld;*

*But we've proved it again and again,*

*That if once you have paid him the Dane-geld*

*You never get rid of the Dane.*

It is wrong to put temptation in the path of any nation,

For fear they should succumb and go astray;

So when you are requested to pay up or be molested,

You will find it better policy to say: --

*"We never pay any-one Dane-geld,*

*No matter how trifling the cost;*

*For the end of that game is oppression and shame,*

*And the nation that pays it is lost!"*