

*PURGE
IN
BEOWULF*

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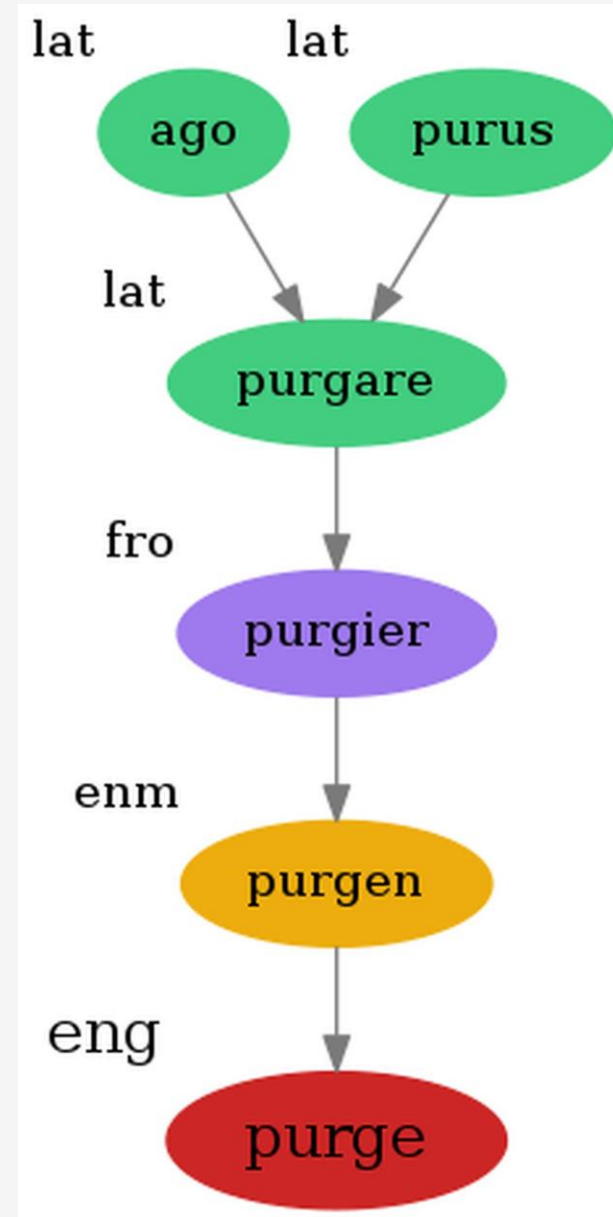
- Comes from the Latin word *purgare*: meaning to “purify”.
- Can be used as a verb or noun.
- Originally used in French writing in the early 14th century.
- Usually used in an extreme context.
- Mostly used in Middle-English



BREAKDOWN

Word Web

- Old-French, Latin, and Middle-English origins.
- Used in multiple contexts.
- Roughly always had the same meaning.



Ex.

1. “That I, alone and with the help of my men may purge all evil from this hall.”
2. “The doctor had to purge the disease out of his system.”
3. “She attempted to purge her fear of heights”
4. “They attempted to purge that terrible thought from their minds.”

How does the word relate?

- The hero is trying to cleanse himself of the wrongdoings from his past

PERSONS AND PLACES.

Abel, slain by Cain, 108.
Ælfhere. Wiglaf is called “kinsman of Ælfhere,” 2604.
Eschere, Hrothgar’s dearest counsellor and comrade in arms, slain and carried off by Grendel’s dam in revenge for her son, 1294—1340, 2120—2130.
Ær-Scyldingas, 464, Honour-Scyldings, a name of the Danes; see *Scyldingas*.
Beanstān, Breca’s father, 524.
Beorht-Dene, 427, 609, Bright-Danes; see *Dene*.
Beowulf the Dane (not the hero of the poem), 18, 53, an ancestor of the Danish king Hrothgar.
Beowulf the Geat (the second scribe, who begins in the MS. in l. 1399, favours the spelling *Biowulf*, 1987, 1999, etc.; *gen.* *Biowulfes*, 2194, 2681, 2807; *dat.* *Biowulfe*, 2324, 2842, 2907, 3066), the hero of the poem, first mentioned in l. 194, as “Hygelac’s thane,” first named in l. 343. He is the son of Ecgtheow; his mother’s name is not given, but she was the daughter of Hrethel, king of the Geats, and therefore sister of Hygelac. The whole poem is a record of Beowulf’s life, exploits, death, and burial; but a few facts deserve special mention. After his seventh year he was brought up at the court of his grandfather, Hrethel, with his uncles, Herebeald, Hæthcyn, and Hygelac (2428—34). In his youth, he was for a long time despised as slothful and unwarlike (2183—9), but when he grew up his hand had the strength of thirty other men’s (379). It is therefore as a “hand-slayer” (2502) that he attains his chiefest fame (2684 ff.). He accompanied Hygelac in his fatal expedition against the Hetware, and saved his own life, after the fall of the Geat king, by swimming home across the sea (2359 ff.). He refused the throne, offered him

CONTEXT