Much of Beowulf is devoted to illustrating the Germanic Hero Code, which values strength, courage, loyalty, hospitality, generosity, glory and treasure. Traditional and much respected, this code is essential to the Anglo-Saxon society. All of the characters' moral judgments are based on the code's requirements. Thus individual actions can be seen only as either conforming to or violating the code.

In Beowulf, aspects of the Germanic Hero Code are not only represented by description but also through the character's actions. Beowulf is an ideal representation of the Hero Code for he not only is loyal and keeps his promise, but also shows how he is brave and mighty. The Men who display characteristics of the Germanic hero code have a higher status than everyone else. In the Germanic hero code reputation and glory was achieved by being "brave and mighty". The Men who display characteristics of the Germanic Hero Code have a higher status than everyone else.

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