

The woeful tale of Walca

Following his older brother Hereward's advice, Walca leaves his failing farm and uproots his family from Anglia and sets sail for Britain.



Along with many other Angle families, Walca's wife (Mildgyth) and two children make the long journey across the North Sea.

Upon landing, the men are told that they must leave their families at their temporary camp and march to the local British village to seize supplies. Walca embraces his children and kisses his wife goodbye. He feels uncertain, but knows that he needs to repay his countrymen for safe passage across the sea.

In the middle of the night, Walca returns. Bloody, dirty and covered in soot. His eyes are wide with terror. "Wake the children. Gather your things. We need to leave."

Walca is appalled by what he has seen his fellow Angles – including his brother – do in the British village.

Others wake up: women, children, the men who were too old or young to fight. They hear Walca's tale and react in horror.

Together, they decide to flee into the countryside before the warband return. Gathering up what food and resources they can, they pile into two boats.

For a night and a day, they travel up stream trying desperately to find a suitable place to make a new home far from the savage mercenaries that they used to call friends and family. Twice, they had to pull the boats up onto the shore and carry them to avoid rocks.

Finally, they come to the confluence of two rivers and Walca announces that they have come far enough and it's time to make camp.