Take a look at the following lines 485-487 ("But Beowulf / Longed only for fame, leaped back / Into battle"). Fame was vitally important to a warrior because of its practical rewards, such as wealth and the loyalty of both kinspeople and other tribes. However, fame had an added importance in cultures whose religion offered no hope for an afterlife. Then, it was only through fame that a person could hope to achieve immortality. The poet who sang the story of the hero, therefore, was the agent upon whom the hero's immortality depended. For this reason, scops and bards held important positions in the royal courts of northern Europe for centuries.