

1. Pronoun used to anticipate a noun clause:

Pa þæt Offan mæg arest onfunde,
 þæt se eorl nolde yrhþo geþolian.

2. In noun clauses dependent statements are introduced by þæt, dependent desires are introduced by þæt or þaþte.
3. þæt clauses are more common in OE than their equivalent in MnE. We often use an accusative and infinitive:

bed þæt hyra randas rihte heoldon
 (requested them to hold their shields properly)

4. The verb of the þæt clause may be indicative or subjunctive. The indicative is used when the content of the noun clause is presented as a fact, as certain, as true, or as a result which has actually followed or will follow.

The subjunctive is used when some mental attitude towards the content of the noun clause is implied; one of the following ideas may be present--condition, desire, obligation, supposition, perplexity, doubt, uncertainty, or unreality.

5. The subjunctive is the natural mood in dependent desires; the indicative is the natural mood in dependent statements.
6. For exceptions, see Mitchell 155.