

Acallamh na Senórach

The Colloquy with the Ancients: Extracts

The story of Fiacha's spear and Find's defence of Tara (ll. 1654-1761)

Section 129 (ll. 1654-1673)

Is ansin tuc Ilbrec a láim secha suas,	Is ansin thug Ilbhreac a lámh seacha suas	Hereupon Ilbhrec reached up his hand
ocus tucastar gáí [nemnech — Fr. 27b] áith uillindglas da haidhlinn,	agus thug ga nimhneach áith uillinnglas dá haidhlinn	and from its rack took down a sharp blue-angled javelin *of deadly property*,
ocus tuc a láim Cáilti hí.	agus thug i láimh Chaoilte í:	which he put into Caeilte's hand, <u>saying</u> :
“Decha lat, a anum, a Cháilti, cia in tsleg sin,	“Féach leat, a anam, a Chaoilte, cén tsleá sin	“Caeilte, my soul, examine now what spear is that,
ocus cia d'fhiannaib Eirenn ica raibhi.”	agus cé d'Fhiannaibh Éireann ag a raibh.”	and which of the Fianna *of Ireland* he was that owned it.”
Ro benastar Cáilte a foirtcedh ocus a hincasnaidí don tsleig,	Do bhain Caoilte a foirtcheadh agus a hinchosnaí den tsleá,	Caeilte took from the javelin its shoe and its wraps,
ocus do bátar tricha semann d'ór thíre Araibe ar a (chró.	agus do bhíodar tríocha seam d'ór thíre Araibe ar a cró.	and there in its socket were thirty rivets of Arabian gold.

“Aithnimsi so,” bar Cailte):	“Aithnámse seo,” arsa Caoilte.	*“I recognise this,” said Caeilte.*
“sleg Fiachach meic Congha,	“Sleá Fhiachach mhic Chongha;	“That is the spear of Fiacha mac Congha
(ocus is ón tsleigh-si) do ghabh Find mac Cumuill ríghi Fíann Éirenn [ocus Alban — Fr. 27b] artús,	agus is ón tsleá seo do ghabh Fionn mac Chumhaill ríge Fhiann Éireann agus Alban ar dtús,	. . . by means of which it was that at the first Finn son of Cumall acquired chief command of Ireland’s *and of Scotland’s* Fianna;
ocus a sídh fhéruaine Fhinnachaid tugad í,	agus a Sí féaruaine Fionnachaidh tugadh í;	and out of Finnachadh’s green-grassed <i>sídh</i> 'twas brought.
ocus Aillén mac Midhna do Thuathaib dé Danann	agus Oilleán mac Mhíona de Thuathaibh Dé Danann	For it was Aillén mac Midhna of the Tuatha Dé Danann
do tigidh ó Charn Fhinnachaid atuid co Teamraig,	do thagadh ó Charn Fionnachaidh aduidh go Teamhraigh,	that out of Sídh Finnachaidh to the northward used to come to Tara:
ocus is amlaid ticedh, ocus timpan ciuil ’na láimh,	agus is amhlaidh thagadh, agus tiompán ceoil ina láimh,	the manner of his coming being with a musical <i>timpán</i> in his hand,
ocus do codlad gach nech atluinedh hé,	agus do chodlaíodh gach nech do chluineadh é,	the which whenever any heard he would at once sleep.
ocus do chuireadh ainn-sein cairche teined as a bheol,	agus do chuireadh ansin cairche tine as a bhéal;	Then, <u>all being lulled thus</u> , out of his mouth <u>Aillen</u> would emit a blast of fire.
ocus ticedh co Temhraigh i líthlaithi na samhna gacha bliadhna,	agus thagadh go Teamhraigh i líthló na Samhna gach bliain	It was on the solemn <i>samhain</i> -day he came *to Tara* in every year,
ocus do seinnedh a thimpan,	agus do sheinneadh a thiompán,	played his timpan,

ocus do chodladais cách risin ceol sídhi doníth,

ocus do shéidedh a anáil fon cairche teined,

ocus no loiscedh Temhair cona turrscar gacha bliadna amlaid sin fri ré trí mbliadan fichet.

Ocus ba sí sin aimser a tucad cath Cnucha,

ocus do thuit Cumull mac Trénmhóir and,

ocus do fhácaibh ben torrach da éis

.i. Muirne Munchaemh ingen Taidg meic Nuadat.”

agus do chodlaídís cách leis an gceol sí do níodh;

agus do shéideadh a anáil fán gcairche tine

agus do loisceadh Teamhair gona turrscar gach bliain amhlaidh sin le ré trí bliana fichead;

agus ba í sin aimsir a tugadh cath Chnucha,

agus do thit Cumhall mac Thréanmhóir ann

agus d’fhág bean torrach dá éis,

.i. Muirne Mhuinchaomh iníon Thaidhg mhic Nuadhat.”

and to the fairy music that he made all hands would fall asleep.

With his breath he used to blow up the flame

and so, during a three-and-twenty years’ spell, yearly burnt up Tara with all her gear.

That was the period when the battle of Cnucha was fought,

in which fell Cumall son of Trenmor.

Now he left after him a pregnant wife:

Muirenn smooth-hair, daughter of Teigue mac Nuadat.”

Section 130 (ll. 1674-1685b)

“Ar ndíth Chumhaill	“Ar ndíth Chumhaill,	“Cumall being gone
tugad ríghfhéinnidhecht Eirenn do Gholl mórghlonnach mac Morna,	tugadh rífhéinníocht Éireann do Gholl mórghlonnach mac Mhorna,	the Fian-chiefry was made over to Goll mac Morna *of the mighty deeds*,
ocus do bí deich mbliadna aigi.	agus do bhí deich mbliana aige.	who held it for ten years.
Rucad iarum mac do Chumhall .i. Finn,	Rugadh iaramh mac do Chumhall, .i. Fionn,	But a son had in due course been born to Cumall, which was Finn;
ocus do bhí ar foghuil ocus ar díbhfeirg cu cenn a dheich mbliadan.	agus do bhí ar foghail agus ar díbheirg go ceann a dheich mbliana;	and up to the age of ten years he was [<u>perforce</u>] a marauder and an outlaw.
Ocus dorónad feis na Temra isin dechmad bliadain le Conn Cédchathach,	agus do rinneadh feis na Teamhrach sa deichiú bliain le Conn Cédchathach;	In this his tenth year Tara’s Feast was made by <u>the king</u> : Conn Cédchathach or ‘of the hundred battles’;
ocus amail ro bátar fir Eirenn ag ól ocus ag áibhnes i Tigh mor Midchuarda	agus amhail do bhíodar fir Éireann ag ól agus ag aoibhneas i dTigh mór Meáchuarta,	and as all Ireland drank and enjoyed themselves in the great House of the Midchuart,
nír’ rathaisget ní nogu riacd in maccamh óg ildealbach cucu,	níor rathaíodar ní nó gur ráinig an macaomh óg ildealbhach chucu,	they never noticed anything until among them appeared there [<i>lit.</i> ‘ <u>until there arrived to them</u> ’] one that was quite a stripling, and of varied aspect
[a cind a deich mbliadna — Fr. 27b],	*agus é ina deichiú bliain,*	*and in his tenth year*.

ocus ro shuidestar a bhfhiadnaise Cuind
Chétchathaig, ocus Ghuill meic Morna,

cu maithib Fian Eirenn uime isin tig,

ocus ba do bhuaibh feisi na Temra

na lamadh nech fala ná frithfala do thabairt

fri ré caeicdigis ar mhís airté bíte ag ól — nó
do chaithim — feisi na Temra.

Ro dhech rí Eirenn in macamh,

doigh nir' aithnidh dho hé ná do nech eli da
raibhi isin bruidin [bruigin, **Lism.**].”

agus do shuigh i bhfianaise Choinn
Chéadchathaigh agus Ghoill mhic Mhorna,

go maithibh Fhiann Éireann uime, sa tigh;

agus ba de bhuaibh fheise na Teamhrach

nach leomhadh neach fala ná frithfhala do
thabhairt

le ré coicise ar mhí oiread bhítí ag ól nó do
chaitheamh fheise na Teamhrach.

D'fhéach rí Éireann an macaomh,

dóigh níobh aithnid dó é ná do neach eile dá
raibh sa bhruín.

In presence of Conn of the Battles and of Goll
mac Morna he sat down,

having Ireland's nobles round about him in the
house.

Note that one of the prerogatives attaching to
the Feast of Tara was

that for the space of six weeks [*lit.* ‘a fortnight
plus a month’] — so long that is to say as men
were busied with the Feast of Tara —

none might dare to broach either feud or cross-
feud.

The king of Ireland looked at the youth;

for whether to him or to any other that was in
the *bruidhen* the same was unknown.

Section 131 (ll. 1685c-1694)

“Is ann sin do riacht a chorn dála gu righ
Eirenn,

ocus tuc a láimh in macaeimh é.

[As ann sin adubairt rí Érenn: ‘Táí, a fhiru
Érenn!’

ocus ro táietar ríghrad co táí tostadach fria
guth in uasail ocus in ardrigh .i. Cuind — **Fr.**
27b].

Ocus do fiarfaig iarsin cuich in macaemh?

‘As misi Finn mac Cumaill,’ ar an macaem,

‘mac don ólach oca mbái rígi na Féinne
annallana,

ocus tánac do dhénum mu mhuintearais ritsa,
a rí Eirenn.’

‘Mac carut ocus fir grádha thu, a mhacaeim’,
(ar Conn).

“Is ansin ráinig a chorn dála do rí Éireann,

agus thug i láimh an mhacaeimh é.

Is ansin adúirt rí Éireann: ‘Taígí, a fheara
Éireann!’

Agus do thaíodar ríora go taoi tostach le guth
an uasail agus an ardrí, .i. Choinn;

agus d’fhiafraigh iar sin cé an macaomh.

‘Is mise Fionn mac Chumhaill,’ arsa an
macaomh,

‘mac don óglach ag a raibh ríge na Féinne
anallód,

agus thánag do dhéanamh mo mhuintearais
leatsa, a rí Éireann.’

‘Mac carad agus fir ghrádha thú, a
mhachaeimh,’ arsa Conn.

“His horn of state was brought to the king *of
Ireland* then,

and he put it into the lad’s hand.

*Then the king of Ireland said: ‘Silence, men
of Ireland!’

And then the nobles stayed mute and silent for
the voice of the nobleman and the high-king,
i. e. Conn.*

He enquired of him *then*: ‘whose boy is
this?’

‘I am Finn mac Cumall,

son to the warrior that formerly had the
Fianna’s command in chief

and, king of Ireland, I am come to procure my
friendship with thee [i. e. to be reconciled with
thee and to enter thy service].’

Conn said: ‘boy, thou art a friend’s son and
son of a man of trust.’

Ocus do éirigh in macaem	Agus d' éirigh an macaomh	Then the lad rose
ocus dorinne a cora(igecht ocus a mhuinteras fri) rígh Eirenn,	agus do rinne a choraíocht agus a mhuintearas le rí Éireann,	and as towards the king of Ireland made pact of service and of fealty.
ocus gabus Conn ar lethláim hé,	agus do ghabh Conn ar leathláimh é,	Conn took him by one hand,
ocus tic ar gualainn Airt meic Cuinn,	agus tháinig ar ghualainn Airt mhic Choinn	placed him at the shoulder of [<u>i. e. next to</u>] Art mac Conn,
ocus do gabsat ag ól ocus ag áibnes re hedh is re hathaid.”	agus do ghabhadar ag ól agus ag aoibhneas le hea is le hatha.”	and for a space and season they devoted themselves to quaff and to enjoy themselves.

Section 132 (ll. 1695-1703)

“Is ann sin adracht rí Eirenn re beinn
mbláthcháin mbuabhaill do bhí ’na láim, agus
adubairt:

‘Da bhfhaghainn aguibh, a fhira Eirenn,

nech do choimétfaidh Temair gu tráth éirghi
do ló amárach

gan a loscad d’Aillén mac Midhna

dobhérainn a dhúthchus do, gémad beg,
gémad mór hé.’

Do éistetar immorro fir Eirenn co táí
tostadhach rissin,

uair no choidelduis mná co n-idhnaib agus
laeich letairthe

risin ceol sírrechtach sídhi

“Is ansin d’éirigh rí Éireann le binn
mbláthchaoín mbuabhaill do bhí ina láimh,
agus adúirt:

‘Dá bhfaighinn agaibh, a fheara Éireann,

neach do choimeádfadh Teamhair go tráth
éirithe de ló amárach

gan a loscadh d’Oilleán mac Mhíona,

do bhéarfainn a dhúchas dó, cémadh beag
cémadh mór é.’

D’éisteadar, iomorra, fir Éireann go taoi
tostach leis sin,

óir níor shoirbh le haon díobh ab eolach ar
Oilleán an t-imchoimhead sin do ghabháil lena
ais,

óir do chodlóidís mná go h-iodhnaib agus
laoich leadartha

leis an gceol síreachtach sí

“Then with a smooth and polished drinking-
horn that was in his hand the king of Ireland
stood up and said:

‘if, men of Ireland, I might find with you [i. e.
among you]

one that until the point of rising day upon the
morrow should preserve Tara

that she be not burnt by Aillen mac Midhna,

his rightful heritage (were the same much or
were it little) I would bestow on him.’

To this the men of Erin listened mute and
silent however,

for they knew that

at the ever-entrancing fairy strain

ocus risin ngadan [*leg.* gothán] ngléasta
nguithbinn

do chanad in fer soinemail sídhi no loiscedh
Temair gacha bliadna.”

agus leis an nguthán ngléasta nguthbhinn

do chanadh an fear sainiúil sí do loisceadh
Teamhair gach bliain.”

and at the subtle sweet-voiced notes

produced by the wondrous elfin man that
yearly used to burn Tara,

women in the pangs and warriors gashed
about would fall to sleep.”

Section 133 (ll. 1705-1710)

“Is ann sin do eirig Finn agus adubairt re rígh Eirenn:	“Is ansin d’éirigh Fionn, agus adúirt le rí Éireann:	“Finn rose now and to the king of Ireland said:
‘Créd bus cuir agus bus tennta damsa tar do cheann im a chomhall sin?’	‘Céard bhus coir agus bhus teannta domsa thar do cheann um a chomhall sin?’	‘who will in thy behalf go security and be sureties to me for the fulfilment of this?’
‘Cóicedaig Eirenn,’ ar Conn,	‘Cúigigh Éireann,’ arsa Conn,	Conn answered: ‘the provincial kings of Ireland,
‘ocus Cithruadh [mac Fir cóecat — Fr. 28a] cona dráithib.’	‘agus Cithrua mac Fhir Chaogad gona dhraoithibh.’	and Cithruadh *son of Fear Chaogad* with his magicians.’
Ocus tugaid uili isin coraighecht [coraidecht, Lism.],	Agus thugadar uile sa choraíocht,	They all of them enter into the bond,
ocus gabus Finn do láim	agus do ghabh Fionn de láimh	and Finn takes in hand
Temair cona turscar do coimét gu trath éirighi arnamhárach.	Teamhair gona turscar do choimhead go tráth éirithe arna mhárach;	to safeguard until the morrow’s daybreak Tara with all her substance.
Ocus do bhí óglach grádha do Chumhall a comhuidecht rígh Eirenn	agus do bhí óglach grádha do Chumhall <u>mac Thréanmhóir</u> an tan sin i gcoimhdeacht rí Éireann,	Now in the king of Ireland’s retinue was one that to Finn’s father Cumall had been a young man of trust:
.i. Fiacha mac Conga.”	.i. Fiacha mac Chongha.”	Fiacha mac Congha,”

Section 134 (ll. 1711-1720)

“‘Maith a mhacaeim,’ ar Fiacha:	“‘Maith, a mhacaoimh,’ arsa Fiacha,	“and: ‘good now, my lad,’ he said,
‘cá luaighidhecht dobértha damsa	‘cá luaíocht do bhéarfá domsa	
da fagainn sleg neimhnech [áith uillendglas — Fr. 28a] duit,	dá bhfaighinn sleá nimhneach áith uillinnglas duit,	‘suppose that I furnished thee a certain *sharp blue-angled* spear of deadly property,
ocus nír’ dibraicedh urchar n-imraill dhi?’	agus níor diúracadh urchar iomraill riamh di?	and with which no devious cast was ever made, what guerdon wouldst thou give me?’
‘Gá luagh chuingi oram?’ ar Finn.	‘Cá luach achainír orm?’ arsa Fionn.	‘What fee demandest thou of me?’
‘Gid beg mór do rath ghéba do lámh dheas [a trian] damsa	‘Cé beag mór de rath ghabhfaidh do lámh dheas, a thrían domsa,	“‘Whatsoever prosperous result thy right hand wins at any time, one-third of it to be mine;
ocus trian do chocair agus do chomairli.’	agus trian do chogair agus do chomhairle.’	a third part moreover of thine innermost confidence and privy counsel [<u>i. e. of thy three most privy counsellors I to be one</u>].’
‘Raghaidh dhuit,’ ar Finn,	‘Rachaidh duit,’ arsa Fionn,	‘It shall pass for thee [<u>i. e. thou shalt have it</u>],’ Finn said,
ocus do naidm air fo a bréithir.	agus do shnaidhm air fána bhriathar.	and under his word took on him the obligation.

As ann do ráidh Fiacha: ‘Mar atluinfe in ceol [sirrechtach — Fr. 28a] síde	Is ann do ráigh Fiacha: ‘Mar do chluinfir an ceol síreachtach sí	Then Fiacha prescribed: ‘whenever thou shalt hear the *ever-entrancing* fairy melody:
ocus an timpan téitbhinn agus an fedán fogurbinn,	agus an tiompán téadbhinn agus an feadán fogharbhinn,	sweet-stringed timpan and dulcet-breathing tube,
ben a cumhdach do chenn na cráisighi,	bain a chumhdach de cheann na craoisí	from the javelin’s head strip its casing
ocus tabuir redt édan nó re ball eli dot ballaib,	agus tabhair le d’éadan nó le ball eile de do bhallaibh,	and apply the weapon whether to thy forehead or to some other of thy parts;
ocus ní léicfe gráin na sleigi neme codlad fort.’”	agus ní ligfidh gráin na sleá nimhe codladh ort.’”	so shall <u>the point of the spear</u> forbid that sleep fall on thee.’”

Section 135 (ll. 1721-1732)

“Is ann sin do éirig Find i fiadhnaisi fher nEirenn do choimét Temrach,	“Is ansin d’éirigh Fionn i bhfianaise bhfear nÉireann do choimhéad Teamhrach,	“Then in presence of all Ireland Finn rose to ward Tara;
ocus tuc Fiacha mac Congha sciath agus sleg dhó	agus thug Fiacha mac Chongha sciath agus sleá dó	
gan fhios do mhacuibh Morna ná do neoch eli dá raibe a tigh Themra,	gan fhios do mhacaibh Mhorna ná do neach eile dá raibh i dtigh Teamhrach,	unknown to the sons of Morna or to any other that was in Tara’s mansion *Fiacha* mac Congha gave him shield and spear,
ocus táinic roime mar sin i timcheall na Temra,	agus tháinig roimhe mar sin i dtimpeall na Teamhrach;	and he made the complete circuit of Tara.
ocus ní r’ chian dó gu cuala in ceol sirrechtach,	agus ní or chian dó gur chuala an ceol síreachtach,	He was not long before he heard an ever- entrancing strain,
ocus tuc slinn na sleigi agus a forgraín re a éadan,	agus thug slinn na sleá agus a forghráin lena éadan;	and to his forehead he held the flat of the spear-head and its point.
ocus gabhaidh Aillén ac seinm a thimpain	agus do ghabh Oilleán ag seinm a thiompáin	Aillen began and played his timpan
nogur’ chuir cách ’na codladh mar do chleacht,	nó gur chuir cách ina gcodladh mar do chleacht;	till (as his use was) he had lulled every one <u>else</u> to sleep,
ocus léicidh iarsin a chairce teined asa bheol do loscad na Temhrach,	agus do lig iar sin a chairche tine as a bhéal do loscadh na Teamhrach;	and then to consume Tara emitted from his mouth his blast of fire.

[ocus do condaicc Find sin, — Fr. 28a]	agus do chonaic Fionn sin,	*And Finn observed that.*
ocus chuireas Find in brat corcra corrtharach búi ime a n-agaidh in cairce,	agus do chuir Fionn an brat corcra corrtharach do bhí uime in aghaidh an chairche,	But to this Finn opposed the crimson and fringed mantle which he wore,
ocus tuitit anuas asin aier,	agus do thit anuas as an aer,	so that [<u>instead of speeding horizontally on its mission</u>] the flame fell down [<u>perpendicularly</u>] through the air,
co ruc cairche in brat ceithirfhillti sé láma fichet a talmain.	gur rug an cairche an brat ceathairfhillte sé lámha fichead i dtalúin;	carrying with it the fourfold mantle a twenty- six spans' depth into the earth;
Conadh Ard na teinedh ainm in aird,	gonadh Ard na Tine ainm an aird	whereby Ard na Teinedh or 'fire hill' is the name of <u>that</u> eminence,
ocus conidh Glenn an brait ainm an ghleanna.”	agus gonadh Gleann an Bhrait ainm an ghleanna.”	and Glenn an Bhruit or 'the mantle glen' that of the glen <u>adjacent</u> .”

Section 136 (ll. 1733-1741)

“Mar do rathaigh Aillén mac Midhna a dráidhecht do mhilled uime,	“Mar do rathaigh Oilleán mac Mhíona a dhraíocht do mhilleadh uime,	“When Aillen mac Midhna was aware that his magical contrivance was all baffled,
tainic tar a ais d’innsaigid Sídhna Findachaid agus gu mullach Sléibi Fuait.	tháinig ar a ais d’ionsaí Shí Fionnachaidh agus go mullach Shléibhe Fuaid;	he returned to Sídh Finnachaidh on the summit of Sliabh Fuaid.
Ocus leanus Find hé co Carn Finnachaid,	agus do lean Fionn é go Carn Fionnachaidh,	Thither Finn followed him
ocus mar do bhí Aillén ac dul tar dorus in tsídha anunn	agus mar do bhí Oilleán ag dul thar dhoras an tsí anonn,	
tuc Find mér a suaineamh na sleigi,	thug Fionn méar i suaineamh na sleá	and, putting his finger into the spear’s thong as Aillen passed in at the <i>sídh</i> ’s door,
ocus tuc urchar ádhmhar urmaisnech,	agus thug urchar ámhar urmhaiseach,	delivered a fortunate and successful throw
co tarla a mullach a droma a n-Aillén,	go dtarla i mullach a dhroma in Oilleán,	that entered Aillen in the upper part of his back,
gur’ chuir a chraidhi ’na lia dubhfhola tar a bhél.	gur chuir a chroí ina lia dúfhola thar a bhéal;	and in form of a great flood of black blood drove his heart out through his mouth.
Ocus ros-díchenn Find hé,	agus do dhícheann Fionn é	Finn beheaded him,
ocus tuc in cenn for cúla co Temraig,	agus thug an ceann ar gcúla go Teamhraigh	carried the head back to Tara,
ocus do chuir ar cuaili bhadhbhdha,	agus do chuir ar chuaille badhbha,	fixed it upon a warlike stake,

ocus do bhí ann co héirgi gréine

agus do bhí ann go héirí gréine

and there it remained until rising of the sun
aloft

ós airdibh agus ós innberaibh an talman.”

os airdibh agus os inbhearaibh an talún.”

over the heights and invers of the land.”

Section 137 (ll. 1742-1751)

“Táinic iarum a máthair co hAillén,
ocus tuc treas ar thoirrsi,
ocus do chuaidh d’iarraid leagha dhó.

‘Toir-che a bainnliagh Amhartha
do gaet Aillén mac Midhna
do shleigh Fiacha meic Conga
don brat bodh[b]dha, don birgha!

Uchán adrochair Aillén!
táncatar a tri tonna,
atá sunn fuil a chraidhi
maraen is smir a dhroma.

Uchan adrochair Aillén
sídhaidi Benne Boirche,
anois tairnic a mhaill-néill
a Boirche a bainnliagh toir-che.

Uch ba suairc
Aillén mac Midhna a sléib Fuait,
cuma náí ro loisc Temair
ar gach n-arbhlaid ba hí a chuairt.”

“Tháinig iaramh a mháthair go hOilleán,
agus thug dreas ar thuirse,
agus do chuaigh d’iarraidh leá dó.”

Agus adúirt Caoilte:

“‘Toirche, a bhanlia amhra,
goineadh Oilleán mac Mhíona
de shleá Fhiacha mhic Chongha,
den bhrat badhbha, den bhiorgha!

Ochón! Do thorchair Oilleán!
Thángadar a thrí tonna:
atá sunn fuil a chroidhe
mar aon is smior a dhroma.

Ochón! Do thorchair Oilleán,
síogaí Bhinne Boirche;
anois thairnig a mhallnéil;
a Boirche, a bhanlia, toirche.

Och! Ba shuairc
Oilleán mac Mhíona a Sléibh Fuaid,
go mba naoi do loisc Teamhair —
ar gach ardbhlaidh ba í a chuairt.”

“To Aillen then his mother came
and, after giving way to great grief,
went to seek a leech for him:—

‘Come hither, O she-leech of Amartha,
by Fiacha mac Congha’s spear
— by the fatal mantle and by the pointed javelin —
Aillen mac Midhna is slain!

Ochone, Aillen is fallen!
three jets have spurted from him:
here is his heart’s blood,
together with the marrow of his back.

Ochone, Aillen is fallen,
fairy chief of Benn Boirche:
now are the numbing death mists come upon him
— out of (Benn) Boirche, O she-leech, come hither.

Ochone but he was joyous, and ochone but he was blithe,
was Aillen son of Midhna of Sliabh Fuaid,
nine times he burnt up Tara,
and to gain high fame was his constant endeavour.”

Section 138 (ll. 1752-1755)

“Is and sin do éirghetar fir Eirenn uili um a rígh

ar faithchi [faighthe, **Lism.**] na Temhrach airm a mbúi Find.

‘Atchí sin, a rí’, ar Find, ‘cenn an fir do loisced Temair,

ocus a fheadán agus a thimpan agus a chairchi ciuil,

ocus dar leam ro saeradh Temair cona turscar.’”

“Is ansin d’éiríodar fir Éireann uile um a rí

ar fhaiche na Teamhrach, airm a raibh Fionn.

‘Do chír sin, a rí,’ arsa Fionn, ‘ceann an fhir do loisceadh Teamhair,

agus a fheadán agus a thiompan agus a chairche ceoil,

agus dar liom do shaoras Teamhair gona turscar.’

‘Is deimhin go ndearnais!’ arsa cách i gcoitinne.

“Then with their king all Ireland came

upon Tara’s green where Finn was,

and he said: ‘King, thou seest that man’s head that used to burn Tara;

his pipe also, his timpan and all his music;

I opine therefore that Tara with all her stuff is saved.’”

Section 139 (ll. 1756-1761)

“Is and sin do línadh láthair leo, ocus do cruthaighedh comhairli, ocus as í comairle do crichnaighedh acu, ríghfhéinnidhecht Eirenn do tabairt d’Find.	“Is ansin do líonadh láthair leo agus do cruthaíodh comhairle, agus is í comhairle do críochnaíodh acu, ríghéinníocht Éireann do thabhairt d’Fhionn.	“Hereupon the place <u>of assembly</u> was filled by them, and a course of action proposed; the plan finally adopted being to confer Ireland’s Fian-command-in-chief on Finn.
‘Maith, a anam, a Ghuill mheic Morna,’ ar Conn Cétchathach, ‘(do ro)gha duit, Eire d’fhacbáil nó do lámh do thabairt i láim Find.’	‘Maith, a anam, a Ghoill mhic Mhorna,’ arsa Conn Céadchathach, ‘do rogha duit: Éire d’fhágáil nó do lámh do thabhairt i láimh Fhinn.’	‘Good now, my soul, Goll mac Morna,’ said Conn of the Hundred Battles, ‘what is thy choice: whether to quit Ireland, or to lay thy hand in Finn’s.’
‘(Dar mu b)réithir,’ ar Goll, ‘as í mu lámh do b)éirfidh i lámh Find.’”	‘Dar mo bhriathar,’ arsa Goll, ‘is í mo lámh do bhéirfidh i lámh Fhinn!’”	Goll made answer: ‘I pledge my word that ’tis my hand I will lay in Finn’s [<u>rather than take the alternative</u>].’”