

Acallamh na Senórach

The Colloquy with the Ancients: Extracts

How Patrick's guardian angels approved the stories of the Fiann (ll. 290-303)

Section 29 (ll. 290-303)

Ocus do bhátur annsin co táinic maden
arnamárach,

ocus gabais Pátraic a eirredh uime, ocus táinic
ar in faithchi [faighthi, **Lism.**] amach,

ocus trí fichit sacart,

trí fichit sailmchétlaid

ocus trí fichit naeimescub 'na fharrad

ac silad creidmhe ocus crábaid sechnón
Eirenn.

Ocus doriachtadar a dhá aingel fhorcoiméta
cum Pátraic ann sin .i. Aibelán ocus
Solusbreathach,

Do bhíodar ann gur tháinig mochshoilse arna
mhárach, ag idirmholadh an Dúileamhan.

D'éirigh Padraig ansin agus do ghabh a earra
agus a éadach uime agus tháinig ar an
bhfaiche bhféaruaine amach,

agus trí fichid sagart,

trí fichid salmcheadlach

agus trí fichid naomheaspag ina fharradh,

ag síolú creidimh agus crábhaidh seachnón
Éireann i ngach aird agus ag beannú go
buansaothrach;

agus rágadar a dhá aingeal coimhdeachta go
Pádraig ansin, .i. Aoibheallán agus
Solasbreathach,

There they were until the morrow's morning
came,

when Patrick robed himself and emerged upon
the green;

together with his three score priests,

three score psalmodists,

and holy bishops three score as well,

that with him disseminated faith and piety
throughout Ireland.

Patrick's two guardian angels came to him
now: Aibelán and Solusbreathach,

ocus fiafraighios dibh in budh móid le rígh
nime ocus talman

beith dosom ag éisdecht re scéla na Féinne.

Freccrait na haingil dosom co comnart cubaidh:

“A anum, a naeimchléirigh,” ar siat, “ní mó
iná trian a scél innisit na senlaeich út

ar dáigh dermait ocus dichuimhne [orra — **Fr. 7a**].

Ocus scríbhthar [na scéla sin — **Fr. 7a**] letsá

i támlorguibh filed ocus i mbriat[h]raibh
ollaman,

ór budh gairdiugudh do dronguibh ocus do
degdáinibh deridh aimsire éisdecht frisna
scéluib sin.”

Ocus do imt[h]igset na haingil [uada — **Fr. 7a**] iarsin.

agus d’fiafraigh díobh ar mhóid le Rí neimhe
agus talún

beith dósan ag éisteacht le scéalaibh na
Féinne.

D’fhreagraídár na haingil dósan go cóineart
cuí:

“A anam, a naomhchléirigh,” ar siad, “ní mó
ná trian a scéal insíd na seanlaoich úd,

ar dhóigh dearmaid agus díchuimhne;

agus scríobhtar na scéala sin leatsá

i dtámhlongaibh fileadh agus i mbriathaibh
ollún,

óir budh gairdiú do dhrongaibh agus do dhea-
dhaoinibh deiridh aimsire éisteacht leis na
scéalaibh sin.”

Agus d’imíodar na haingil uaidh iar sin.

of whom he enquired whether it were the King
of heaven *and earth*’s wish

that it were convenient for him to be listening
to stories of the Fianna.

With equal emphasis, and concordantly, the
angels answered him:

“holy cleric, no more than a third part of their
stories do those ancient warriors tell,

by reason of forgetfulness and lack of
memory;

but by thee be it [such as it is] written

on tablestaves of poets, and in ollaves’ words;

for to the companies and nobles of the latter
time to give ear to these stories will be for a
pastime.”

Which said, the angels departed *from him*.