

Ceart Claidib Cormaic

The Decision as to Cormac's Sword

Note to the reader

This saga is part of the longer text edited by Stokes. In this presentation, §§1-21 correspond to §§58-78 of Stokes' edition.

Section 1

Ba mor, tra, agus ba dirim smacht Cormaic
for Erin andsin.

Ba mhór, *mar sin,* agus ba dhian smacht
Chormaic ar Éirinn *ag an am sin*.

Great, then, and not to be told was
Cormac's control over Erin at that time.

Badar geill Erenn fria laim.

Bhí gialla Éireann uile ar láimh aige.

The hostages of Erin were in his
hand.

Æn dibhsidhe Socht mac Fithil

Duine dhíobh sin ab ea Socht mac Fíthil

One of them was Socht son of Fithel,

meic Ængusa meic Glangen

mhic Aonghasa *, mhic Ghlangen,

son of Oengus, son of Glangen,

meic Seich meic So[i]cht

mhic Sheich, mhic Shoicht,

son of Sech, son of Socht,

meic Fhachtna meic Seanchadha

mhic Fhachtna, mhic Sheanchadha,

son of Fachtna, son of Senchaid,

meic Aillello Ceastaig, meic Rudraighi.

mhic Aillello Cheastaigh, mhic Rudhraighe.

son of Ailill Cestach, son of Rudraige.

A Leabur Nahuaconguala cecinit.

As Leabhar Nuachongbhála *cecinit*.*

Out of the Book of Navan *cecinit*.

Section 2

Bai claideb amra la Socht,

orduirn a elta,

airgidi a fulang,

forordha a comet,

breachtfæbrach a éo.

Rothaitnidh 'sin aidhchi amal coindill.

Da fillti a rind conici a dhornchar

dosineadh amal cholg.

Doletradh finda for usci.

No athcumadh finda for ceand, agus ni fhaiscead in toind.

Do[g]níd da leth don duine

ocus ní forcluinedh agus ní fhairighidh co hetircen in leth araile dhe.

Bhí claíomh cáiliúil ag Socht,

a dhornchla d'ór,

a chrios d'airgead,

breachtra óir ar a fhorgharda,

géire faghartha ar a fhaobhar.

Shoilsíodh sé mar bheadh coinneal ann san oíche.

Dob fhéidir a rinn a fhilleadh go sroichfeadh a dhornchla

agus lingeadh sé ar ais arís mar dhéanfadh colg.

Theascfadh sé ribe ar snámh ar uisce.

Ghearrfadh sé ribe de cheann duine gan baint dá chraiceann.

Dhéanfadh sé dhá leath de dhuine

ar shlí *nach gcluinfedh agus* nach n-aireodh a leath dhe go ceann i bhfad an leath eile uaidh.

Socht had a wonderful sword,

with a hilt of gold

and a belt of silver:

gilded was its guard,

diverse-edged its point (*éó*).

It shone at night like a candle.

If its point (*rind*) were bent back to its hilt

it would stretch (back again) like a rapier.

It would sever a hair (floating) on water.

It would cut off a hair on (a man's) head, and without touching the skin.

It would make two halves of a man,

and for a long time one half would not hear or perceive what had befallen the other.

Atbert-som ba hesin in Cruaidin
Coiditcheann

.i. claideb Conculainn.

Audacht ceneoil agus aistri agus seanaitri
leosom in claideb sin.

Dúirt Socht go mba é an claíomh sin an
Cruaidin Coititcheann,

claíomh Chon Culainn,

agus go mba seod oidhreacht cine é a bhí
ag a shinsir roimhe.

Socht said that that it was the Hard-headed
Steeling,

Cúchulainn's sword.

They held this sword to be a tribal bequest
(?) both of fathers and grandfathers.

Section 3

Bai reachtaire amra isin Temraig in inbaidh
sin, .i. Duib[d]reann mac Uirgreand.

Doringart in reachtaire in claideb do reicc ris
do Socht,

ocus asbert in reachtaire rom-biadh beth am
ænproind riseomh cach n-aidhchi,

ocus biadh cethrair gach nóna dia muntir i
fuluagh in claidib,

ocus a lanluagh dia reir fein do iarsein.

“Ní tho,” ol Socht,

Bhí reachtaire uasal i dTeamhair ag an am
sin, Duibhdreann mac Uirgreann.

D'iarr an reachtaire ar Shocht an claíomh a
dhíol leis

agus dúirt sé le Socht go mbeadh comh-
mhaith a bhídh féin le caitheamh ag Socht
gach oíche

agus go ndáilfí bia ceathrair gach nóin ar a
mhuintir — é sin go léir mar éirnis i luach
an chlaímh,

agus go bhfágfadh sé lánluach an chlaímh
ina dhiaidh sin faoi bhreith a bhéil féin ag
Socht.

“Ní dhéanfad,” arsa Socht.

At that time there was a famous steward in
Tara, even Dubdrenn son of Urganu.

The steward asked Socht to sell him the
sword,

and told him that he should have a ration of
the same meal as he (Dubdrenn) had every
night,

and that his family should have, every day,
four men's food in sub-payment for the
sword,

and the full value thereof, at his own award,
after that.

“No,” says Socht;

“nídam tualaing reca sed mo athar cen beous beo.”

“Ní ceadmhach dom seoda m’athar a reic lena bheo.”

“I am not competent to sell my father’s treasures while he is alive.”

Section 4

Badar cein mair uime sin.

Bhíodar ar feadh i bhfad ar na ionas sin.

For a long time they went on thus,

Baí Dubdreann i[c] a tur ocus ic imradud in claidib.

Bhíodh Duibhdreann ag lorg an chlaímh agus i gcónaí ag meabhrú air.

Dubdrenn seeking and thinking about the sword.

Tucad Socht chuici da sainol feacht and.

Tugadh Socht chuige uair ar féasta óil.

Once upon a time he brought Socht to a special drinking-bout.

Ailis iarum Dubdreann in dalim

D’iarr Duibhdreann ar an dáileamh

Then Dubdrenn begged the cupbearer

im thabairt in fhina ocus in medha fair co mbo measc.

fíon agus miodh a choinneáil le Socht nó go mbeadh sé ar meisce.

to press wine and mead upon Socht until he became drunk.

Dogníth iarum samlaid cona fitir Socht cia hairm i mbaí,

Deineadh amhlaidh i dtreo ná feadair Socht cá háit a raibh sé

Thus was it done, so that Socht knew not where he was,

ocus contuil samlaid.

agus chuaigh sé a chodladh fán ionas sin.

and so he fell asleep.

Section 5

Atetha in rechtaire iarum in claideb,
ocus luid co cerd in rígh, Connu.

D'ardaigh an rechtaire an claíomh leis
ansin
agus thug leis é go dtí Connu, ceard an rí
Cormac.

Then the steward takes the sword
and went to the king's brazier, Connu.

Section 6

“IN etar leat,” ol se, “dornchur in claidib do
tuaslucud?”

“Is edir”, ol in ceard.

“An féidir leat,” ar sé le Connu, “dornchla
an chlaímh seo a oscailt.”

“Is féidir,” arsa an ceard.

“Art thou able,” says Dubdrenn, “to open
the hilt of this sword?”

“Yea, I am able,” says the brazier.

Section 7

Dogní iarum in cerd taithmeach in claidib
ocus scribus ainm in rechtaire ina dornchur
.i. Dubdreann,

ocus suidhis doridisi in claideb amal robai
riam.

Rinne an ceard ansin dornchla an chlaímh a
scaoileadh agus scríobh sé laistigh ann ainm
an rechtaire, Duibhdreann,

agus chóirigh sé an claíomh arís sa chuma
ina raibh sé roimhe sin.

Then the brazier sundered the sword, and in
the hilt he wrote the steward's name, even
Dubdrenn,

and set the sword again [by Socht] as it was
before.

Section 8

Batar and tremsi iarsin,	D'fhan an scéal amhlaidh sin an feadh tréimhse,	So things remained for three months after,
ocus bai in rechtaire beous ic tothlugad in claidib,	an rechtaire fós ag iarraidh an chlaímh <u>ar Shocht</u>	and the steward kept on asking for the sword,
ocus nir' fhetus o Shocht.	agus ná tiúrfadh Socht dó é.	and he could not (<u>get it</u>) from Socht.
Aidbris iarum in rechtaire in claideb fadeoidh,	D'éiligh an rechtaire an claíomh ansin ar scáth an dlí	At last the steward sued for the sword,
ocus dorigni tecta n-adbriuda occa,	agus chomhlíon sé coinníollacha an dlí sa chúis,	and fulfilled all the requirements of the suit,
ocus isbert didiu Socht ba les fein he	á rá go mba leis féin an claíomh	and declared that the sword was his own,
ocus conidh uadha dorucad.	agus gurbh amhlaidh goideadh uaidh é.	and that it had been taken from him.
Aspert didiu Socht conid les fein tuinithi in chlaidib	Dhearbhaigh Socht go mba dhual dó féin seilbh an chlaímh	Then Socht pleaded that he himself had a prescriptive title to the sword
ocus a atharchtu ocus a imdhenom.	maille lena threalamh agus a ghléasra	and its trappings (?) and ornament,
Bai didiu cerd occa uime sin.	agus go raibh teideal cóir aige dhóibh.	and, moreover, that he had an equitable right to it.

Section 9

Luidh Socht do agallaim Fithil	D'imigh Socht <u>ansin</u> ag triall ar Fhítheal, <u>a athair</u> ,	Socht went to consult Fithel
ocus do fhochmarc a dhala imon caingin sin,	chun a chúnamh a lorg sa chás	and to request him to take part in that action,
ocus do thobairt a athar leis do cosnum in claidib.	agus chun é thabhairt leis chun an claíomh a chosaint.	and to bring his father to defend [<u>his claim to</u>] the sword.
“Nítho,” ol Fithil, “imodcuri fein it [d]alaibh	“Ní dhéanfad,” arsa Fítheal. “Pléigh féin do chúis.	“No,” says Fithel: “act for thyself in thy causes.
ocus ní ba m[i]si itercertbus duid tria bhithu,	Ní mise dhéanfaidh idirghabháil ar do shon *choíche,	It is not I who will ever arbitrate for thee,
ol is mor nodcuri ocus nodgabai fein id dhalaib,	mar cuireann tú féin agus gabhann tú féin go mór id chúiseanna,	for greatly dost thou put thyself and take thyself (?) in thy causes;
ocus ní firindi gan gáí do rad.	agus ní fírinne gan bhréag do rá.	and (<u>it is</u>) not to say truth without falsehood.
Friscoirter gai in gai.	Cuirtear bréag i gcoinne bréige.	Falsehood is opposed in falsehood.
Raiged immorro, arrocureat do imdemna sealbai in claidib	Dar ndóigh, beidh sé deacair duit seilbh an chlaímh a chruthú go lán-chinnt.	*However, it will be hard to prove your complete certainty of the ownership of the sword.
is asa lim fuaidridh do cur.”	Dar liom, beidh sé níos fusa duit cúis dlí a chur ina choinne*.”	It is easy for me to raise a cross-suit.*”

Section 10

Dognít[h]er in ceart agus doberar do Socht
denum cor'bo leis in claideb,

agus dobeir Socht [in] luighi corbo sed fine
do in claideb

agus cor' fo leis fein hé.

Déantar an ceart. Tugadh caoi ansin do
Shocht a chruthú go mba leis féin an
claíomh

agus thug sé a bhriathar móide ann go mba
seod oidhreachta leis an claíomh

agus go mba leis féin é.

The right is done, and Socht is allowed to
prove that the sword is his,

and Socht gives the oath that the sword was
a family treasure of his,

and that it belonged to him.

Section 11

Asbert in rechtaire: “Maith ameind, a
Cormaic;

in t-æth ud adbert Socht is eitheach hé.”

Arsa an reachtaire ansin: “Go deimhin, a
Chormaic,

an mhóid úd a ghlac Socht is éitheach í.”

Said the steward. “Well, in sooth, O
Cormac:

yon oath that Socht has uttered is
perjurous.”

Section 12

“Cid dogní latsú sin,” ol Cormac, “conid
breg he?”

“Cá bhfios duitse gur bréag í?” arsa
Cormac.

“What proof hast thou”, says Cormac, “that
the oath is false?”

Section 13

“Ní ansa,” for se,

“Is furasta sin a fhreagairt,” arsa an reachtaire.

“Not hard to say,” quoth the steward.

“masa limsa in claideb ata m’ ainm scribhtha and,

“Más liomsa an claíomh tá m’ainm scríofa ann

“If the sword is mine, my name stands written therein,

ocus se fortuighthi in imdorn in claidib i folach.”

agus é folaithe faoi chlúid sa ndornchla.”

covered up and concealed in the hilt of the sword.”

Section 14

Congairther Socht co Cormac, ocus isbert ris in ní sin.

Gairmeadh Socht i láthair Chormaic agus d’inis an rí dhó an ní a dúradh.

Socht is summoned to Cormac, who told him what had been said.

“Bid garscel co feastar sin,” ol Cormac.

“Is gearr go mbí a fhios againn an fíor é,” arsa Cormac.

“It will be a short story till this is known,” says Cormac.

“Congairear in cerd duind,” ol se.

“Glaoitear chugam an ceard,” ar sé.

“Let the brazier be summoned to us”, quoth he.

Tic in cerd, ocus taithmigis in dornear,

Tháinig an ceard agus scaoil sé an dornchla

The brazier comes, and breaks open the hilt,

ocus ariacht ainm in reachtaire scribhtha and.

agus fuarthas ainm an reachtaire scríofa ann.

and the steward’s name was found written therein.

IS andsin rodgella marbh for bíu

Agus is ansin a rug an marbh buaidh ar an bheo

Then a dead thing testified against a living,

inagar log don scribadh.

mar is don scríbhinn a tugadh luach.

value being ascribed (?) to the writing.

Section 15

Isbert Socht: “Rocluinti sin, a fhiru Erenn agus Cormac libh.

Arsa Socht ansin: “Cluinigí seo, a fheara Éireann agus a Chormaic in éineacht libh.

Said Socht: “hear ye this, O men of Erin, and Cormac with you.

Admair in fear so, is leis in claideb.

Admhaím gur leis an fhear seo an claíomh.

I acknowledge that this man is the owner of the sword.

A sealbh didiu cona chintaibh uaim-sea duid.”

A shealbh mar sin duit uaimse,” ar seisean leis an reachtaire, “agus a chionta chomh maith.”

The property therein, together with its liabilities, passes from me to thee.”

Section 16

“Admair-sea didiu,” ol in reachtaire,

“Glacaimse orm agus admhaím,” arsa an reachtaire,

“I acknowledge,” says the steward,

“cona cintaibh a sealbh.”

“cionta an chlaímh in éineacht lena sheilbh.”

“property therein, together with its liabilities.”

Section 17

Asbert Socht: “Is é in claideb so dofrith i meidi mo sheanathar-sa,

ocus ní fheadar-sa cid doghene in gnim-sin cusaníu,

ocus beir-seo breath fair sin, a Chormaic!”

Arsa Socht: “Is é an claíomh seo a fuarthas i muinéal mo shean-atharsa

agus ní fheadarsa cé rinne an gníomh sin go dtí inniu.

Beirse breith air sin, a Chormaic!” ar sé.

Then said Socht: “This is the sword that was found in my grandfather’s neck,

and till today I never knew who had done that deed.

And do thou, O Cormac, pass judgment thereon!”

Section 18

“IS mo sidhe do chin,” ol Cormac.

“Is mó do chion ná luach an chlaímh seo,” arsa Cormac leis an reachtaire.

“Thy liability”, says Cormac (to the steward), “is greater than (the value of) this (sword).”

Section 19

Berthar .uii. cumala andsin a breth Cormaic,

ocus taisic in claidib forculu doridhisi.

Tugadh seacht gcumhala bó i mbreith Chormaic

do Shocht ón reachtaire

agus tugadh an claíomh féin ar ais dó chomh maith.

Then seven *cumals* are adjudged by Cormac

(as compensation for the slaying of Socht’s grandfather),

and also restitution of the sword.

Section 20

“Admaim,” ar in rechtaire, “a dhala in claidib,”

ocus adfet a scel uili ’ar n-urd,

ocus indisidh dono in cerd in scel cétna imdala in claidib.

Sechais Cormac .uiii. cumala andsin on rechtaire

ocus a .uiii. ele on cerd.

Asbert Cormac: “Mainech neim naiscid Nere naidm coir combrothaib.

IS ed is fir,” ol Cormac,

“is e siud claideb Conculainn,

ocus is de siud romarbad mo sheanathair-sea .i. Cond Cétchathach,

do laim Thibraiti Tirigh rígh Ulad,

dia n-eabrad:

“Admhaím scéal an chlaímh,” arsa an reactaire,

agus d’inis an scéal uile in ord

agus d’inis an ceard freisin é.

Bhain Cormac seacht gcumhala den reachtaire arís

agus seacht gcumhala eile den cheard.

Labhair Cormac ansin:

“Is é fírinne an scéil,” ar seisean,

“gurb é seo claíomh Chon Culainn

agus is leis a maraíodh mo shean-athairse, Conn Ceadchathach,

le láimh Thiobraide Thirigh, rí Uladh *,

dá ndúradh*:

“I confess”, says the steward, “the story of the sword.”

And then he relates the whole tale of it in order,

and the brazier tells the same tale concerning the sword.

Cormac then levied seven *cumals* from the steward,

and other seven from the brazier.

Said Cormac: “*Mainech* etc.

This is true”, says Cormac:

“yon is Cúchulainn’s sword,

and by it my grandfather was slain, even Conn the Hundred-battled,

by the hand of Tibraite Tírech, king of Ulaid,

of whom was said

Co sluag dar buidhnibh balca
ma da luidh co Condachta
is mairg dochondaire cru Cuind
ar tæbh claidib Conculaind.”

Le slua thar bhuíonta daingne
d’imigh leis go Connachta,
is mairg chonaic fuil Choinn
ar lainn chlaímh Chon Culainn.”

With a host over valiant bands
Well did he go to Connaught.
Alas that he saw Conn’s blood
On the side of Cúchulainn’s sword!”

Section 21

Etarcertsat uime la sodhain .i. Cormac agus
Fithal,

agus ba Cormac dogæth,

agus beridh Cormac a cirt in claidib a n-eric
Chuind.

Ni geibhthi didiu cath no comruc risin
claidib sin

agus risinti a mbí laim,

agus is e sin in treas sed is fearr do-bhi a n-
Erinn

.i. Cuach Cormaic

agus a craeb

Is mar sin sa deireadh a socraíodh an cás
idir Chormac agus Fítheal,

go bhfuair Cormac ceart an chlaímh in éiric
bhás Choinn.

Is é Cormac mar sin a mheall Socht.

Níor buadh cath ná comhrac riamh in éadan
an chlaímh sin

ná in éadan an té a mbeadh sé ina láimh
aige,

agus is é an claíomh sin an treas seod is
fearr a bhí in Éirinn

— Cuach Chormaic,

a chraobh,

With that they, even Cormac and Fithel,
decided the case,

and it was Cormac that ensnared (Socht),

and Cormac obtains by (his) decision the
sword as a wergild for Conn.

Now neither battle nor combat was ever
gained against that sword

and against him who held it in his hand.

And it is the third best treasure that was in
Erin,

namely (first), Cormac’s Cup,

and (secondly) his Branch,

ocus a claidib.

agus a chlaíomh.

and (thirdly) his Sword.