

# Oidhe Chloinne Lir

## The Fate of the Children of Lir

### Note to the reader

Ua Ceallaigh's Modern Irish version is not entirely based on O'Curry's edition of the text, but also on Ua Ceallaigh's independent study of the manuscripts. This accounts for some extra phrases in Ua Ceallaigh's Modern Irish version and the extra stanzas in the poems in Sections 24, 35 and 42.

### Section 1

Iomthus Thuath De Danann ó chath Taillten  
anuas.

Iomthusa Thuatha Dé Danann ó chath  
Tailltean anuas:

Of the history of the Tuatha De Danann from  
the battle of Taillten down;—[it is as follows]:

### Section 2

Do thiomsuigheadar as gach áird do chuíg  
chúigeadhaibh Eireann,  
  
go rabhadar an aon aonach,  
  
ocus an aon bhaile comhairle.

Ocus a dúbhradar maithe Thuath De Danann:  
“As fearr dhuinn”, ar siad,

Do thiomsuigheadar agus do thionóladar as  
gach áird de chuíg chúigeadhaibh Éireann  
  
go rabhadar i n-aon ionad agus i n-aon aonach  
  
agus i n-aon bhaile comhairle.

Agus adubhradar, maithe Tuath Dé Danann:  
“Is fearr dhúinn,” ar siad,

They congregated from all parts of the five  
provinces of Erinn  
  
into one assembly,  
  
and into one place of council.  
  
And the chiefs of the Tuatha Dé Danann said:  
  
“It is better for us”, said they,

“aon rígh do bheith oruinn,  
ná bheith fodhailte mar atamaid,  
ag foghnamh do ríghthibh ele ar feadh  
Éireann”.

“aon rí orainn  
ioná bheith fodhailte mar atáimíd,  
ag foghnamh do rightibh eile ar feadh  
Éireann.”

“to have one king over us,  
than to be dispersed as we are,  
serving various kings throughout Erinn”.

### Section 3

Bá do mhaithibh na ndream sin ag araiibh súil  
re righe d’fhágail dóibh féin for Thuath Dé  
Danann,

Bodhbh Dearg, mac an Daghda;  
agus Ilbhreach Easa Ruaidh;  
agus Lir Shithe Fionnachaidh;  
agus Míodhair mor-uallach Breлага Léith;  
agus Aenghus Og mac an Dághdha,  
acht nír shanntaigh sidhe righe Thuath Dé  
Danann d’iarraidh,  
oir dob’ fhéarr lais a bheith ina richt féin,

Ba de mhaithibh na ndream soin ag a raibh  
súil le righe d’fhagháil dóibh féin ar Thuath  
Dé Danann

Bodhbh Dearg mac an Daghda,  
agus Ilbhreach Easa Ruaidh,  
agus Lir Sithe Fionnachaidh  
agus Míodhair móruallach Breлага Léith,  
agus Aonghus Óg mac an Daghda,  
acht níor shanntuigh seisean righe Tuath Dé  
Danann d’iarraidh,  
óir do b’fhéarr leis bheith i n-a riocht féin

Among the chiefs of these various bodies who  
expected sovereignty for themselves, over the  
Tuatha Dé Danann, were

Bodhbh Dearg, son of the Daghda;  
and Ilbhreach of Eas-Ruaidh;  
and Lir of Sidh Fionnachaidh;  
and Midhir the Proud of Bri Leith;  
and Aenghus Og, the son of the Daghda,  
— but he did not covet to seek the sovereignty  
of the Tuatha Dé Danann,  
for he preferred being in his own condition, [i.e., remaining as he was]

'ná ina righ for Thuath De Danann.

Do chuadar na maithe sin uile an aen  
chomhairle,

acht an cúigear sin ag a raibhe súil le righe  
d'faghail.

Ocus as í comhairle ar ar cinneadh aca,  
an rige do thabhairt do Bhodhbh Dearg mac an  
Daghda,

ar tri hádhbharaibh

.i. ar fheabhus a athar;

ar a fheabhus féin,

ocus ar a bheith na shinnsear chloinne an  
Daghda dhó.

ioná i n-a righ ar Thuath Dé Danann.

Do chuadar, na maithe sin uile, i n-aon  
chomhairle

acht an cúigear ag a raibh súil le righe  
d'fhagháil.

Agus is í comhairle air ar cinneadh aca

an rige do thabhairt do Bhodhbh Dearg mac  
an Daghda

ar trí adhbharaibh

.i. ar fheabhas a athar,

ar a fheabhas fhéin,

agus ar bheith i n-a shínsear chlainne an  
Daghda dhó.

than in that of king over the Tuatha Dé  
Danann.

All these nobles went into council together,

except these five who expected to obtain the  
sovereignty.

And the conclusion to which they came was,  
to give the sovereignty to Bodhbh Dearg, son  
of the Daghda,

for three reasons,

namely: for the sake of his father;

for his own sake;

and on account of his being the eldest son  
among the Daghda's children.

## Section 4

O chualaigh Lir an righe do thabhairt do Bhodhbh Dearg,

nír mhaith leis é,

ocus do fhág sé an taonach ocus an toireachtas

gan chead, gan cheileabhradh do chách,

óir do shaoil gur bha dhó fém

do béalfaidhe righe ocus tighearnas;

ocus ge gur fhág se an taonach ocus an toireachtas,

ní lúgaide do rioghadh Bodhbh Dearg;

oir nir ghaibh aoin fhear d'on chuígear sin chuige

gan an righe d'fhaghail dófén

acht Lir a aonar.

Ó chualaidh Lir an righe do thabhairt do Bhodhbh Dearg

níor mhaith leis é,

agus d'fhág sé an t-aonach agus an t-oireachtas

gan chead, gan cheileabhradh do chách,

óir do shaoil gur dó féin

do bhéalfaidhe righe agus tighearnas.

Agus cé gur fhág sé an t-aonach agus an t-oireachtas,

ní lughaidhe do rioghadh Bodhbh Dearg,

óir níor ghaibh aon fhear de'n chuígear soin chuige

gan an righe d'fhagháil dó féin

acht Lir i n-a aonar.

When Lir heard that the sovereignty had been given to Bodhbh Dearg,

he did not deem it well;

and he left the assembly

without taking leave, without a farewell to any one;

for he thought it was to himself

that the sovereignty and lordship should have been given;

and although he did leave the assembly,

yet Bodhbh Dearg was proclaimed king;

for no man of the five took umbrage

at not having obtained the sovereignty

but Lir alone.

Ocus do cinneadh aco Lir do leanmhain  
ocus a theach do loscadh,  
ocus a chur féin fo ghuin gae ocus cloidhimh,  
do chinn gan úmhla do thabhairt do'n té  
d'a tugadar féin righe ocus tighearnas.  
  
“Ní dhéantar an chomhairle sin linn”, ar  
Bodhbh Dearg,  
“oir do chosnofadh an fear sain an chrich ina  
fuil,  
ocus ní lúghaide as rígh mise ar Thuath Dé  
Danann  
gan é sin do bheit úmhal dham”.

Agus do cinneadh aca Lir do leanmhain  
agus a theach do loscadh  
agus a chur féin fó ghoin gae agus claidhimh  
do chionn gan umhla do thabhairt do'n té  
d'a dtugadar féin righe agus tighearnas.  
  
“Ná déantar an chomhairle sin,” arsa Bodhbh  
Dearg,  
“óir do chosnóchadh an fear soin an chríoch i  
n-a bhfuil,  
agus ní lughaidhe is rí mise ar Thuath Dé  
Danann  
gan é sin do bheith umhal dom.”

And they resolved to pursue Lir,  
and to burn his house,  
and to expose himself to [i. e., to inflict on  
him Lir] wounds of spear and sword,  
for not having yielded obedience to him  
to whom they had given sovereignty and  
lordship.  
  
“We shall not act upon that counsel”, said  
Bodhbh Dearg;  
“for that man [Lir] would defend the territory  
in which he is;  
and I am not the less king over the Tuatha Dé  
Danann  
because he is not submissive to me”.

## Section 5

Do bhádar seal fada fo'n samhail sin.

Acht cheana, tarla tubaist mhór do Lir

.i. a bhean-chéile d'fhághail bháis do ghalar trí noidhche.

Ocus do chuir sin go mór ar Lir,

gur bhudh tuirosioch leis a mhenmna da héis;

ocus do budh mór an sgéal eág na mná sin 'na haimsir féin.

Do bhíodar seal fada fá'n samhail sin.

Acht cheana, thárla tubaist mhór do Lir

.i. a bhain-chéile d'fhagháil bháis de ghalar trí noidhche.

Agus do chuir san go mór ar Lir,

gur ba thuirseach leis a mheanmna d'a héis;

agus do ba mhór an scéal éag na mná soin i n-a haimsir féin.

Matters continued thus between them a long time.

But at last a great misfortune happened Lir,

for his wife died after an illness of three nights.

And this preyed greatly upon Lir,

so that he felt his spirit depressed after her.

And the death of this woman was a great event in her own time.

## Section 6

Ocus do clos fo Eirinn uile an sgéal soin,

ocus ráinig go longphort mhic an Dághdha

mar a rabhadar maithe Thuath De Danann an éin ionad.

Adúbhait Bodhbh Dearg:

Do chlos fó Éirinn uile an scéal sin,

agus ráinig go longphort mhic an Daghda

mar a rabhadar maithe Tuath Dé Danann i n-aon ionad.

Adubhairt Bodhbh Dearg:

And this event was heard of throughout all Erinn;

and it reached the mansion of the son of the Daghda,

where the nobles of the Tuatha Dé Danann were assembled together.

Bodhbh Dearg said:

“Damadh áil le Lir”, arsé,  
“do budh maith mo chongnamhsa, ocus mo  
cháirdios dó,  
ó nach mairionn a bhean aige,  
dóigh amh, atáid agomsa na trí hinghiona  
is fearr dealbh, ocus déanamh, ocus  
tuarusgbháil da bhfhuil a nEirinn  
.i. Aobh, Aoife, ocus Ailbhe  
.i. trí hinghiona Oilolla Arann,  
ocus mo thrí bronn-daltadha féin”.  
Adúbhradar Tuatha De Danann gur mhaith an  
comhrádh sin,  
ocus gur bhfhíor.

“Dámadh áil le Lir,” ar sé,  
“do budh mhaith mo chongnamh-sa agus mo  
cháirdeas dó,  
ó nach maireann a bhean aige;  
dóigh ámh atáid agam-sa na trí hingheana  
is fearr dealbh agus déanamh agus  
tuarasgbháil d'a bhfuil i nÉirinn  
Aobh agus Aoife agus Ailbhe,  
trí ingheana Oilealla Áran  
agus mo thrí bronn-daltadha féin.”  
Adubhradar Tuatha Dé Danann gur mhaith an  
comhrádh soin  
agus gur bh'fhíor.

“If Lir chose”, said he,  
“my assistance and my friendship would be  
useful to him,  
since his wife does not live (to him);  
for \*, indeed,\* I have here the three maidens  
of the fairest form and best repute that are in  
Erinn,  
namely, Aobh, Aoife, and Ailbhe,  
the three daughters of Oilioll Arann,  
and my own three bosom-nurslings”.  
The Tuatha Dé Danann answered to him that  
this was good language,  
and that it was true.

## Section 7

Do cuireadh feasa ocus teachta

ó Bhódhbh Dearg go hairm a raibh Lir,

da rádh damadh áil leis cleamhnus do  
dhéanamh ré mac an Daghdha, ocus  
tighearnus do thabhairt dhó,

go ttiobhradh dalta dá dhaltaibh dhó.

Iomthusa Lir, do budh maith leis a mheanmna  
do'n chleamhnus sin do dhéanamh,

ocus táinig roimhe arnamhárach,

caocat cairptheach ó Shíoth Fionnchaidh,

a nathghairid gacha conáire,

goráinig Síoth Buidhbh Deirg os Loch  
Deirgdheirc,

ocus do fearadh fáilte fris ann,

Do cuireadh feasa agus teachta

ó Bhodhbh Dearg go hairm a raibh Lir

d'a rádh dá mbudh áil leis cleamhnas do  
dhéanamh le mac an Daghdha agus tighearnas  
do thabhairt dó

go dtabharfadhbh dalta d'a dhaltaibh dó.

Iomthusa Lir, do budh mhaith leis a  
mheanmna do'n chleamhnus soin do  
dhéanamh,

agus tháinig roimhe ar n-a mháireach

caogad cairbtheach ó Shíoth Fionnachaidh

i n-athghairid gacha conaire

go ráinig Síoth Bhuidhbh Dheirg ós Loch  
Deirgdheirc,

agus do fearadh fáilte fris ann,

Then messages and messengers were sent

from Bodhbh Dearg to the place at which Lir  
was,

to say that if he were willing to yield [the]  
lordship to the son of the Daghdha, and make  
alliance with him,

he would give him a foster-child of his foster-  
children.

Now, Lir thought well of making this alliance;

and he set forward accordingly on the next day

with fifty chariots, from Síoth Fionnachaidh;

and he took the shortest way,

till he reached the Síoth of Bodhbh Dearg,  
which was over Loch Deirgdheirc;

and he was bade welcome there;

ocus do budh súbhach somheanmnach cách roimhe,

ocus do freasladh ocus do fritheóladh go maith iad an oidhche sin.

agus do ba subhach soimheanmnach cách roimhe,

agus do freastaladh agus do fritheóladh go maith iad an oidhche sin.

and all the people were merry and cheerful before him;

and they were well attended to and supplied that night.

## Section 8

Ocus do bhádar trí hinghiona Oilolla Arann a naon chathaoir

á bhfhochair bhanríoghan Thuath De Danann,  
óir is í bean Bhoidhbh Deirg do budh buime dhoibh.

Adúbhait Bodhbh Dearg:

“Do rogha dona hinghionaibh dhuit, a Lir”.

“Ní fheadarsa”, ar Lir, “cia is rogha dhíobh, acht gurab í an bhean is sine dhíobh is uaisle, ocus is í is fearr dham do thabhairt”.

“Maisead”, ar Bodhbh Dearg,

Agus do bhíodar, trí ingheana Oilealla Áran, i n-aon chathaoir

i bhfochair bhainrioghna Tuath Dé Danann,  
óir is í bean Bhuidhbh Dheirg do ba bhuime dhóibh.

Adubhairt Bodhbh Dearg:

“Do rogha de na hingheanaibh duit, a Lir.”

“Ní fheadar-sa,” arsa Lir, “cia is rogha dhíobh, acht gurab í an bhean is sine dhíobh is uaisle, agus is í is fearr dom do thabhairt.”

“Má’s eadh,” arsa Bodhbh Dearg,

And the three daughters of Oilioll Arann were on the same couch

with the queen of the Tuatha Dé Danann, for the wife of Bodhbh Dearg was their foster-mother.

Then Bodhbh Dearg said:

“Take thy choice of the maidens, O Lir”.

“I do not know”, said Lir, “which is the choicest of them, but the eldest of them is the noblest, and it is she that I had best take”.

“If so”, said Bodhbh Dearg,

“Aobh, inghion Oiliolla is sine dhiobh,  
ocus ragaidh sí dhuitsi más ail leat”.  
“Is áil”, ar sé.

Ocus do snadhmaadh Aobh re Lir an oidhche  
sin.

“Aobh inghean Oilealla is sine dhíobh;  
agus rachaidh sí dhuit-se má’s áil leat.”  
“Is áil,” ar sé;

agus do snadhmaadh Aobh le Lir an oidhche  
sin.

“Aobh the daughter of Oilioll is the eldest,  
and she shall be given to thee if thou willest”.  
“I do so will”, said he.

And Aobh was united to Lir that night.

## Section 9

Cóicthídios do Lir san bhaile sin,  
ocus annsin, rug Aobh leis dá thigh féin  
go ndearnadh riogh-bhainis ró mhór leis ann.

Coithcidheas do Lir ’san bhaile sin,  
agus annsoin rug Aobh leis d'a thigh féin  
go ndeárnadh riogh-bhainis ró-mhór leis ann.

Lir remained a fortnight in that mansion,  
and then he took Aobh away with him to his  
own house,  
where he celebrated a great and royal wedding  
feast.

## Section 10

Ocus ina dhiaigh sin tarla an inghion taobh-  
throm, torrach,  
ocus do rug dias do'n toirbheart sin .i. inghean  
ocus mac;  
Fionnghuala, ocus Aodh, a nanmonna.

Agus i n-a dhiaidh sin thárla an inghean taobh-  
throm, torrach,  
agus do rug dias de'n toirbheart soin .i.  
inghean agus mac:  
Fionnghuala agus Aodh a n-ainmneacha.

And in due time after this his wife became  
pregnant,  
and she brought forth two children at a birth, a  
daughter and a son;  
Fionnghuala and Aodh were their names.

Ocus tarla toirchios oilé dhi, ocus do rug dias mhac,

Fiachra, ocus Conn a nanmonna;

ocus fuair sí féin bás aga mbreith.

Ocus do chuir sin go mór ar Lir,

ocus muna beith méad do luigh a aigne ar a cheathrar cloinné,

is beag náic bhfhuighe bás da cumhaidh.

Agus thárla toircheas eile dhi leis an aimsir,  
agus do rug dias mhac.

Fiachra agus Conn a n-ainmneacha súd;

agus fuair sí féin bás ag a mbreith.

Do chuir san go mór ar Lir,

agus muna mbeadh méad do luigh a aigne ar a cheathrar clainne

is beag nach faghadh bás d'a cumhaidh.

And she became pregnant again, and brought forth two sons;

Fiachra and Conn were their names;

and she herself died in giving them birth.

And this preyed greatly upon Lir;

and were it not for the greatness [of love] with which his mind rested upon his four children,

he would almost have died of grief.

## Section 11

Do ráinig an sgéal soin go Sioth Buidhbh Deirg;

ocus tugadar lucht an tsíotha trí gartha ós árd ag caoineadh a ndalta.

Ocus adúbhait Bodhbh Dearg. “Is olc linn an inghion sin,

ar son an fir mhaith dá ttugamair í,

Do ráinig an scéal soin go Síoth Bhuidhbh Dheirg,

agus thugadar lucht an tsíotha trí gártha ós ard ag caoineadh a ndalta.

Agus adúbhait Bodhbh Dearg: “Is olc linn an inghean soin

ar son an fir mhaith d'a dtugamair í,

This news [soon] reached the Sioth of Bodhbh Dearg;

and the people of the Sioth raised three loud shouts in lamentation for their nursling.

And Bodhbh Dearg said: “We grieve for that girl,

on account of the good man to whom we gave her,

óir is buidhioch sinn da charadradh, ocus dá chomann,  
gidheadh, ní dhealóchaidh ar ccaradradh re chéile,  
óir do bhéarsa a deirbhshiúr eile mar mhnaoi dhó .i. Aoife”.

óir is buidheach sinn d'a charadradh agus d'a chumann;  
gidh, ní dhealóchaidh ár gearadradh le chéile,  
óir do bhéarfad-sa a deirbhshiúr eile mar mhnaoi dhó .i. Aoife.”

because we are grateful for his friendship and his constancy;  
however, our friendship shall not be rent asunder,  
for I shall give him her other sister to wife, namely, Aoife”.

## Section 12

O'd chualaigh Lir sin,  
do chuaidh a ccéadóir da tabhairt,  
ocus do snadhmadh iad re chéile,  
ocus rug leis dá thig í.  
  
Ocus do bhí onóir ocus muirn ag Aoife ar chloinn Lir ocus a deirbhsheathar féin;  
  
ocus gach neach do chífeadh an ceathrar cloinne sin  
do bhearfadhbh grádh anma dhóibh.

Ó do chualaidh Lir san  
do chuaidh i gcéadóir d'a tabhairt,  
agus do snadhmadh iad le chéile,  
agus rug leis d'a thigh í.  
  
Agus do bhí onóir agus muirn ag Aoife ar chlainn Lir is a deirbhshéathar féin;  
  
agus gach neach do chífeadh an ceathrar cloinne úd  
do bhéarfadh grádh anma dhóibh.

When Lir heard of this,  
he repaired immediately to espouse her;  
and they were united together;  
and he took her with him to his house.  
  
And Aoife felt honour and affection for the children of Lir and of her own sister;  
  
and [indeed] every one who should see these four children could not help giving them the love of his soul.

## Section 13

Ocus do thigeadh Bodhbh Dearg go minic go Síoth Lir, do ghrádh na cloinne sin;

ocus do bheireadh leis da thigh féin iad ré headh ocus ré hathaidh fhada;

ocus do léigeadh tar ais da ttigh féin arís iad.

Ocus do bhídís Tuatha Dé Danann an tan sin ag caithiomh Fleidhe Aoise ann gach Síoth fá seach;

ocus an uair do thighdís go Síoth Lir

is iad an ceathrar sin fá húrghardúghadh, ocus fá hóirfideadh dhóibh,

ar feabhus a ndeilbhe ocus a ndéanmhusa;

ocus is ann do luighdís do ghnáth a niomdhaibh a ar bhéalaibh a nathar;

ocus do eirgheadh [Lir] go moch do ló gacha maidne

ocus do luigheadh ameasg a chloinne.

Do thigeadh Bodhbh Dearg go minic go Síoth Lir de ghrádh na claimne sin,

agus do bheireadh leis d'a thigh féin iad ré headh agus re hathaidh fhada,

agus do leigeadh thar ais d'a dtigh féin arís iad.

Do bhídís, Tuatha Dé Danann, an tan soin ag caitheamh Fleidhe Aoise i ngach Síoth fó seach;

agus an uair do thigidís go Síoth Lir

is iad an ceathrar soin ba úrghardughadh agus ba oirfideadh dhóibh

ar fheabhas a ndeilbhe agus a ndéanmhusa.

Is ann do luighdís de ghnáth í n-iomdhaíbh ar bhéalaibh a n-athar,

agus d'eirgheadh Lir féin go moch gach maidean

agus do luigheadh i measc a chlainne.

And Bodhbh Dearg used often to come to Síoth Lir, for love of these children;

and he used to take them with him to his own house for a long while,

and then to let them return to their own home again.

And the Tuatha Dé Danann used to consume the Feast of Age in each Síoth in turn;

and when they went to Síoth Lir,

these four were their joy and their delight,

for the beauty and symmetry of their form;

and where they constantly slept was in beds in front of their father;

and he used to rise at early dawn of every morning,

and lie down among his children.

## Section 14

Acht atá ní cheana,  
do chuaidh doigh éada an Aoife dhe sin,  
ocus tug fuath ocus fíor-mhioscais do chloinn  
a seathar,  
ocus do léig galar bréige da hionnsaighe,  
go raibh bunadhas bliadhna 'sa ngalar sin,  
ocus iseadh do rinne iar sin, meabail  
ghranna, ocus fionghal éadmhar  
iondúthrachtach do dhéanamh ar chloinn Lir.

Acht atá nidh cheana:  
do chuaidh doigh éada i nAoife dhe sin,  
agus thug fuath agus fíor-mhioscais do chlainn  
a séathar,  
agus do leig galar bréige d'a hionnsuighe  
go raibh bunadhas bliadhna 'san ghalar soin;  
agus is eadh do rinne sí iarsoin meabail  
ghránda agus fionghal éadmhar  
iondúthrachtach do dhéanamh ar chlainn Lir.

But the consequence of all this was,  
that a dart of jealousy passed into Aoife on  
account of this,  
and she regarded the children of her sister with  
hatred and thorough enmity.  
Then she assumed a feigned illness,  
under the influence of which she continued the  
greater part of a year.  
And at the end of that time, she perpetrated an  
act of hateful treachery, as well as of  
unfaithful jealousy, against the children of Lir.

## Section 15

Ocus lá naon do hinnliodh a carbad dhi,  
ocus rug lé ceathrar cloinne Lir 'san ccarbad;  
ocus rainig, roimpe fá'n samhail sin  
d'ionnsaighe tíghe Bhuidhbh Dheirg;

Lá n-aon do hinnleadh a carbad di,  
agus rug léi ceathrar clainne Lir 'san gcarbad.  
Ráinig roimpe, fá'n samhail sin, d'ionnsuighe  
tíghe Bhuidhbh Dheirg.

And [for] one day her chariot was yoked for  
her,  
and she took with her the four children of Lir  
in the chariot;  
and she went forward in that way towards the  
house of Bodhbh Dearg.

ocus níor bh'áil le Fionnghuala dhul ar aoinrian lé,

óir tug aithne uirre go raibh ar tí a millte, no a marbhtha;

óir tárfas dhi rún feille, ocus fionghaile a naigne Aoife.

Acht cheana, níor fhéad sí a heimneadh do sheachnad, ná an téadualang do bhí a ndán dí.

Níor bh'áil le Fionnghuala dul ar aon rian léi,

óir thug aithne uirthe go raibh sí ar tí a millte no a marbhtha,

óir tárfas dhi rún feille agus fionghaile i naigne Aoife.

Acht cheana, níor fhéad sí a heimneadh do sheachnad ná an t-éadfulang do bhí i ndán di.

Fionnghula was not willing to go with her on the journey;

for she knew by her that she had some intention of ruining, or of killing them;

for, she dreamed of a design of treachery and fratricide in the mind of Aoife.

But, however, she was not able to avoid the misfortune and fate that were destined for her.

## Section 16

Ocus do ghluais Aoife a Síoth Fionnachaidh;

ocus adúbhait Aoife re a muinntir iarsin:

“Marbhaidh”, ar sí, “ceathrar cloinne Lir

ar ar tréigeadh mo grádhsa le na nathair,

ocus do bhéar bhur mbreith féin dhíbh do gach maithios ar domhan”.

Agus do ghluais Aoife a Síoth Phionnachaidh

agus adúbhait sí le n-a muinntir iar soin:

“Marbhaidh” ar sí, “ceathrar clainne Lir

air ar tréigeadh mo ghrádh-sa le n-a n-athair,

agus do bhéarfad bhur mbreith féin díbh de gach maitheas ar domhan.”

And so, Aoife set out from Síoth Fionnachaidh;

and (on the way) Aoife said to her attendants:

“Kill”, said she, “the four children of Lir,

for whom my love has been abandoned by their father,

and I shall give you your own reward of all kinds of the world’s wealth”.

“Aadh, idir”, arsiad, “ní muirbhfighthearr linne iad,

ocus is olc an gníomh do smuainis,

ocus budh misde thú a luadh”.

“Aadh idir,” ar siad, “ní marbhóchar linne iad;

agus is olc an gníomh do smaoinis,

agus budh miste thú a luadh.”

“Not so, indeed”, said they; “they shall not be killed by us;

and it is an evil deed you have thought of,

and evil will it be to you to have thought of it”.

## Section 17

Ocus ó nár faomhadar soin do dhéanamh,

tug féin cloidhiomh amach do mharbhadh  
ocus do mhilleadh chloinne Lir;

ocus do bhac a banndacht ocus a bith-mheatacht, ocus anbhfainne a haigonta dhi sin do dhéanamh;

ocus tángadar as siar go tráigh Locha Dairbhreach,

ocus do scuireadh a neachra ann sin,

ocus do iarr sisi ar chloinn Lir a bhfothrughadh do dhéanamh,

ocus dul do shnamh ar an loch:

Agus ó nár fhaomhadar san do dhéanamh

thug sí féin claidheamh amach do mharbhadh agus do mhilleadh Chlainne Lir.

Acht do bhac a bandacht agus a bith-mheathtacht agus anbhfainne a haigeanta di san do dhéanamh.

Agus thángadar as siar go tráigh Locha Dairbhreach,

agus do scuireadh a n-eachra annsoin,

agus do iarr sise ar Chlainn Lir a bhfothrughadh do dhéanamh

agus dul do snámh ar an loch.

And when they did not consent to do this,

she herself drew forth a sword to kill and destroy the children of Lir;

but her womanhood, and her natural cowardice, and the weakness of her mind prevented her \*from doing this\*.

And so they went westward to the shore of Loch Dairbhreach;

and their horses were unyoked there.

And she [Aoife] desired the children of Lir to bathe,

and go out to swim upon the lake;

ocus do rinneadar amhail adhúbhait Aoife  
leo.

Ocus mar fuair Aoife ar an loch iad,  
buailios do fhleisg doilbhthe droighiochta  
iad,  
ocus do chuir a reachtaibh cheithre  
néaladh, nálainn, naoinghil iadh;  
ocus do rinne an aoidh ann:—

“Amach daoibh a chlann an righ,  
Do sgaras bhúr síol ré séan;  
Do bhúr ccáirdibh is sgéal truagh,  
Biaidh bhúr nuall ré healtaibh éan”.

“A bhaidhbh! ro fheadamair tainm,  
Do thraothais gan eathar inn,  
Sinn gé curthaoi tuinn ar tuinn,  
Biaidhmíd seal ó rinn go rinn.

Ro gheabham cobhair gan chleith,  
Do gheabham rogha ocus rath,  
Acht gé luidhfiom ar an loch,  
Ar meanmna do budh moch amach”.

Do rinneadar amhail adubhaint Aoife leó.

Agus mar fuair Aoife ar an loch iad  
do bhual do fhleisc dhoilbthe  
draoidheachta iad,  
agus do chuir i ricth cheithre n-eala n-  
áluinn n-aengheal iad;  
agus do rinne an laoi seo:

“Amach díbh, a chlann an riogh,  
Do scaras bhur síol le séan;  
Do nbhur gcáirdibh is scéal truaigh,  
Beidh bhur n-uaill le healtaibh éan.”

Thug Fionnghuala an freagra so uirthe:

“A bhaidhbh-bhean! do feadamair  
Cé taoi-se gan bheith linn,  
Gé curthaidhe sinne ar thuinn,  
Beimíd seal ó rinn go rinn.

Do gheobham cabhair gan clódh,  
Do gheobham robhadh agus rath;  
Acht cé go luidhfeam ar an loch  
Ár meanmna budh moch amach.”

and they did as Aoife told them.

And when Aoife found them upon the lake,  
she struck them with a metamorphosing druidical  
wand,  
and so put them into the forms of four beautiful  
perfectly white swans;  
and she made this lay there:

“Out with you [on the water] O children of the king,  
I have deprived your descendants of [all] good luck;  
To your friends your story will be a sad one;  
Your shouts shall be with flocks of birds”.

[Fionnghuala].—

“Thou witch! we know thy name.  
Thou hast struck us down without a vessel; [but]  
Though thou mayest us send from wave to wave,  
We shall be sometimes from cape to cape [i. e. on the  
dry land].

We shall receive relief,—without concealment;  
We shall receive warning and grace;  
Even though we light upon the lake;  
Our minds [at least] shall be early [i. e. range] abroad”.

## Section 18

A haithle na laoidhe sin

tugadar clanna Lir iona cceathrar a naighthe a  
néinfheacht ar an inghin,

ocus do labhair Fionnghuala léi,

ocus iséadhbh ro ráidh:

“Is olc an gníomh do rinnis, a Aoife,

ocus fos is olc an comhall caradradh dhuit ar  
milleadh gan ádhbhar,

ocus díegeóltar ort go follas é,

ocus tuitfir ann,

óir ní fearr do chomhachta so ar ar milleadhne,

ná droidhiocht ar ccaradne ar a dhíoghailt ort;

ocus tabhair tréimse ocus ceann dhuinn

A haithle na laoi sin

thugadar, Clanna Lir i n-a gceathrar, a n-  
aighthe i n-aenfheacht ar an inghin;

agus do labhair Fionnghuala léi,

agus is eadh do ráidh:

“Is olc an gníomh do rinnis, a Aoife,

agus fós is olc an comhall caradraíd dhuit ár  
milleadh gan adhbhar.

Acht díoghal far ort go follus é,

agus tuitfir ann;

óir ní fearr do chomhachta-sa ar ár milleadh-  
na

ioná draoidheacht ár gcarad-na ar a dhíoghailt  
ort.

Agus, tabhair tréimhse agus ceann dúinn

After this lay,

the four children of Lir turned their faces  
together towards the woman, [Aoife];

and Fionnghuala spoke to her,

and this was what she said:

“Evil is the deed which thou hast perpetrated,  
O Aoife,

and an ill act of friendship it is for thee to ruin  
us without cause;

and it shall be manifestly avenged upon thee;

and thou shalt fall in revenge for it;

for thy power to ruin us is not greater

than the druidism [druidic power] of our  
friends to avenge it upon thee;

therefore assign us some period and  
termination

ar an milleadh tugais orrainn”.

ar an milleadh thugais orainn.”

to the ruin which thou hast brought upon us”.

## Section 19

“Do bhéar imorro”, ar Aoife,

“ocus is misde dhuit a iarraidh orm

.i. nó go ccomhraice an bhean aneas ocus an  
fear atuaidh

.i. Lairgnén mac Colmáin, mic Cobhthaigh

.i. mac, rígh Chonnacht,

ocus Deoch inghean Finghin,

mic Aodha Alainn, rígh Mumhan;

ocus ni tualanig caraid na comhachta da  
bhffuil agaibh bhúr mbreith as na reachtaibh  
sin,

ó do shíriomhair é

“Do bhéarfad iomorro,” arsa Aoife,

“agus is miste dhuit a iarraidh orm

.i. no go gcomhracfaidh an bhean a ndeas agus  
an fear a dtuaidh

.i. Lairgnéan mac Cholmáin mhic  
Chobhthaigh

.i. mac riogh Chonnacht,

agus Deoch inghean Fhinghin

mhic Aodha Áluinn rí Mumhan;

agus ní tualaing caraid ná comhachta d'a  
bhffuil agaibh bhúr mbreith as na riochtaibh  
sin,

ó do shíreabhair é,

“I shall indeed”, said Aoife,

“and it will be the worse for you to ask it of  
me;

namely [the period I assign to you shall be  
this] until the woman from the South and the  
man from the North are united:

that is, Lairgnen, the son of Colman, the son  
of Cobhthach,

that is the son of the king of Connacht;

and Deoch, the daughter of Finghin,

the son of Aodh Alainn, king of Munster;

and no friends [are able], nor any power that  
ye have is able to bring you out of these  
forms,

since ye have sought it [i. e., since ye have  
called on me to declare it],

ar feadh bhur saoghail,  
nó go rabhthaoi trí chéd bliadhain ar Loch  
Dairbhreach;  
ocus trí chéad bliadhain ar Sruth na Maoile  
idir Eirinn ocus Albain;  
ocus trí chéad bliadhain a nIorrás Domnann,  
ocus a nInis Gluaire Bréanainn;  
ocus budh hiad sin bhur nimtheachta feasda”.

ar feadh bhur saoghail  
no go rabhthaoi trí chéad bliadhain ar Loch  
Dairbhreach  
agus trí chéad bliadhain ar Shruth na Maoile  
idir Éirinn agus Albain,  
agus trí chéad bliadhain i nIorrus Domhnann  
agus i nInis Gluaire \*Bréandain\*,  
agus ba hiad san bhur n-imtheachta feasta.”

during your lives,  
until ye shall have been three hundred years  
upon Loch Dairbreach;  
and three hundred years upon Sruth na Maoile,  
between Erinn and Albain;  
and three hundred years at Iorrus Domnann,  
and Inis Gluaire of Brendainn;  
and these shall be your adventures  
henceforth”.

## Section 20

Ocus do ghabh aithreachas ann sin Aoife,  
ocus adúbhait:

“ónach féadaim aon chabhair oilé do  
thabhairt orraibh feasda,

biaidh bhúr núrlabhra féin agaibh;

ocus canfaidhe ceól síreachtach síthe,

Annsoin do ghaibh aithreachas Aoife,  
agus adubhairt:

“Ó nach féadaim aon cabhair eile do  
thabhairt oraibh feasta,

beidh bhur n-úrlabhra féin agaibh,

agus canfaidh sibh ceól síreachtach  
sidhe

And then repentance seized upon Aoife, and she said:

“Since I cannot afford you any other relief henceforth,

ye shall retain your own speech;

and ye shall sing plaintive \*fairy\* music,

fris a ccoideóldaois fir an bheatha,

ocus nocha mbiaidh ceól san domhan a mhacsamhla;

ocus biaidh bhúr ttreóir ocus bhúr noirbheart agaibh;

ocus nocha ccuirfidh orraibh bheith in bhúr néanaibh”;

ocus adúbhairt in laoid:—

“Eirghídh uaim a chlanna Lir,  
Go ngnúis ngil, go nGaoidheilg mbailb,

Is móir oirbhír mhaccaomh mhaoith,  
Beith dha seóladh ris an ngaoith ngairbh.

Naoi ccéad bliadhain dhaoibh ar muir,  
Is mise do chuir tré cheilg,  
No go rabhthaoi a nInis Gluair  
Don taobh thiar thuaidh d’Eirinn dheirg.

Ionnsaighidh amach an Mhaoil,—  
Budh córa dhaoibh bheith dom’ réir,—  
Go ccomhraice Lairgnén is Deoch;  
Fada do neach bheith a bpéin.

fris a gcdlochaidís fir an bheatha,

agus nocha mbeidh ceól ’san domhan a mhacsamhla;

agus beidh bhur dtreoir agus bhur n-oirbheart agaibh,

agus nocha gcuirfidh sé oraibh bheith i nbhur n-éanaibh.”

Agus adúbhairt an laoi:

“Éirighidh uaim, a chlanna Lir,  
Go ngúis ngil, go nGaoihilg mbailbh;

Is móir oirbheart mhacaoimh mhaoith  
Bhur seóladh leis an ngaoith ngairbh.

Naoi gcéad bliadhan dhíbh ar mhuiar,  
Is mise do chuir tré cheilg;  
Go rabhthaoi i nInis Gluaire  
Taobh thiar thuaidh d’Éirinn deirg.

Ionnsuighidh amach an Mhaoil,  
Budh chóra dhíbh bheith dhom’ réir;  
Go gcomhracfaidh Lairgnéan is Deoch  
Fada do neach bheith i bpéin.

at which the men of the Earth would sleep,

and there shall be no music in the world its equal;

and ye shall have [retain] your own direction [reason] and dignity [of nature];

and ye shall not be distressed by being in [shapes of] birds”;

and she spoke this lay:—

“Depart from me, O children of Lir,  
[Ye of the] white faces, of the stammering Gaedhilg [i. e.  
but half articulate].

It is a great disgrace to soft youths  
To be driven by the rough wind [i. e. as birds].

Nine hundred years for you upon the tide,—  
It was I that sent ye through treachery,—  
Until ye shall be upon Inis Gluaire,  
Upon the north-west side of red [i. e. red flowering] Erinn.

Advance ye out upon the Maoil,  
(It were best for you to be obedient to me);  
Until Lairgnen and Deoch are united;  
It is a long time for one to be in pain.

Croidhe Lir 'na chrotal cró,  
Cidh mór nurchar náigh ró theilg;  
Is saoth liom osnadh an laoich luinn,  
Gidh mise ro thuill a fheirg".

Croidhe Lir 'n-a chrotal cró,  
Ró-throm brón ar Bhodhbh Dearg  
Saoith liom osnadh na laoch lonn,  
Gidh mise do thuill a bhfearg."

Lir's heart is a husk of gore,  
Though many a victorious throw has he cast;  
Sickness [i.e., bitterly sad] to me is the groan of the active  
champion,—  
Though it is I that have deserved his anger".

## Section 21

A haithle na laoidhe sin do gabhadh a heich  
d'Aoife,  
ocus do hinnleadh a carbad,  
ocus táinig roimpe go Síoth Buidhbh Deirg;  
ocus do fearadh fáilte fria ag maithibh in  
bhaile;  
ocus d' fhiabraigh mac an Daghdha dhí  
créad um nach tug clanna Lir lé da  
ionnsaighidh féin.

A haithle na laoi sin do gabhadh a heich do  
Aoife,  
agus do hinnleadh a carbad,  
agus tháinig roimpe go Síoth Bhuidhbh  
Dheirg;  
agus do fearadh fáilte fria ag maithibh an  
bhaile;  
agus d'fiafruigh mac an Daghdha dhi  
créad um nach tug clanna Lir léi d'a  
ionnsuighe féin.

After this lay, her steeds were caught for  
Aoife,  
and her chariot was yoked,  
and she went on to the Síoth of Bodhbh  
Dearg;  
and the nobles of the court bade her welcome.  
  
And the son of the Daghdha asked  
why she had not brought the children of Lir  
with her to him.

## Section 22

“Adéarsa riot”, ar an inghion,  
“nach ionmhain le Lir thuso,  
ocus nách tairise leis a chlann do chur chugad  
ar eagla a ngabhála dhuit”.

“Deirim-se leat,” arsa an inghean,  
“nach ionmhuin le Lir tusa,  
agus nach tairise leis a chlann do chur chughat  
ar eagla a ngabhála dhuit.”

“I say unto thee”, said she [in answer],  
“that Lir does not love thee,  
and that he does not trust to send his children  
to thee,  
for fear that thou wouldst capture them”.

## Section 23

“Is iongnadh liomsa sin”, ar Bodhbh Dearg,  
“óir is tairise liomsa an chlann sin, ’na mo  
chlann féin”;  
ocus tug Bodhbh da uidhe  
gurab cealg do rinne an inghion chugha;  
ocus iséadhbh do rinn, teachta do chur budh  
thuaigh go Síoth Fionnachaidh.  
Ocus fiafraighios Lir cidh uma ttángadar.

“Is iongnadh liom-sa san,” arsa Bodhbh  
Dearg,  
“óir is tairise liom-sa an chlann san ioná mo  
chlann féin”;  
agus thug Bodhbh d'a uidhe  
gurab cealg do rinne an inghean chucha,  
agus is eadh do rinne sé teachta do chur budh  
thuaidh go Síoth Fionnachaidh.  
Agus fiafruighios Lir díobh cad uma  
thángadar.

“I wonder at that”, said Bodhbh Dearg,  
“because these children are dearer to me than  
my own children”.  
And Bodhbh thought in his own mind  
that it was treachery the woman had played  
upon them;  
and he accordingly sent messengers to the  
North to Síoth Fionnachaidh.  
Lir asked what they came for.

“Ar cheann do chloinnesi”, ar siad.

“An é nach rágodar chugaibh maille re hAoife?” ar Lir.

“Ní rágodar”, ar na teachta,

“ocus adúbhairt Aoife gur tuso nar léig lé iad”

“Ar cheann do chlainne-se,” ar siad.

“An é nach rágadar chugaibh maille re Aoife?” arsa Lir.

“Ní rágadar,” arsa na teachtaidhe,

“agus adubhairt Aoife gur tusa nár leig léi iad.”

“For your children”, said they.

“Is it that they have not reached you with Aoife?” said Lir.

“They have not”, said the messengers;

“and Aoife said that it was you that did not let them go with her”.

## Section 24

Budh dúbhach, dobhrónach Lir dona sgéalaibh sin,

óir do thuig gurab í Aoife do mhill, nó do mharbh a chlann.

Ocus do gabhadh a eich a moch na maidne arnamhárach do Lir,

ocus ráinig ’san slíche siardheas gac ndírioich

nó go ráinig go tráigh Locha Dairbhreach;

ocus do chonncadar clanna Lir an marcshluagh chucha,

Ba dhubhach dobhrónach Lir do na scéalaibh sin,

óir do thuig gurab í Aoife do mhill no do mhairbh a chlann.

Agus do gabhadh a eich i moch na maidne ar n-a mháireach do Lir,

agus ráinig ’san slíche siar ó dheas gach ndíreach

no go ráinig go tráigh Locha Dairbhreach.

Do chonncadar, Clanna Lir, an marcshluagh chucha,

Melancholy and sorrowful was Lir at these tidings;

for he understood that it was Aoife that ruined or killed his children.

And his steeds were caught at early morning of the next day for Lir;

and he set out upon the road, south-west, in all directions,

until he reached to the shore of Loch Dairbhreach.

And the children of Lir saw the cavalcade coming towards them,

ocus adúbhairt Fionnghuala an laoidh:—

“Mochean do mhareshluagh na neach,  
Do chím láimh ré Loch Dairbhreach;  
Dream chumhachtach chiamhair go beacht,  
D’ar niarraidh d’ar niarmhóireacht.

Druidiom ré hoirior, a Aodh,  
A Fhiachra, ocus a Chuinn chaoimh,  
Ní sluaigh fá nimh fir na neach,  
Acht madh Lir ocus a theaghach”.

agus adubhairt Fionnghuala an laoi seo:

“Mochean do mhareshluagh na n-each  
Do chím láimh le Loch Dairbhreach:  
Dream chumhachtach chiamhair go beacht  
D’ár n-iarraidh, dár n-iarmhaireacht.

Is faoilteach mo chroidhe im’ chliabh  
’S is ionmhuin an drong so ’niar  
Is linn féin atá a n-aoigh  
An mharclann do chiú ’s do chím.

Druideam le hoirear, a Aoidh,  
A Fhiachra is a Chuinn chaoimh,  
Ní sluagh fá neimh fir na n-each  
Acht m’athair is a theaghach.”

and Fionnghuala spoke the lay:—

“Welcome the cavalcade of steeds  
Which I see hard by Loch Dairbhreach;—  
A company, indeed, powerful and mysterious,  
Seeking us, following after us.

Let us move to the shore, O Aodh,  
O Fiachra, and O comely Conn,  
No host under Heaven can those horsemen be  
But only Lir and his household”.

## Section 25

A haithle na laoidh sin, táinig Lir go hoirior an chuain,

ocus tug da aire glór daonna do bheith ag na héanaibh;

ocus do fhiarfraighe dhíobh cíd fódeara dhoibh  
glór daonna dho bheith aca.

A haithle na laoi sin, tháinig Lir go hoirear an chuain

agus thug d’ a aire glór daonda do bheith ag na héanaibh;

agus do fhiarfraighe díobh cad fó dheara dhóibh  
glór daonda do bheith aca.

After this poem, Lir came to the verge of the shore;

and he noticed the birds as having human voices;

and he asked what caused them to have human voices.

## Section 26

“Tuigse, a Lir mhic Lúighdhiuch”, ar Fionnghuala,

“gurab sinne dho cheathrar cloinne,  
ar nar milleadh dot nmhaoi,  
ocus do dheirbhshiúr ar máthar féin,  
tré aingídiocht éada”.

“An féidir bhur ccur ann bhur reachtaibh féin  
aris?” ar Lir.

“Ní héidir”, ar Fionnghuala,  
“óir ní fhéadfaidís fir an bheatha ar ccabhair,  
no go ccómhraice an bhean andeas ocus an  
fear attuaigh  
i. Lairgnéan mac Colmáin,  
ocus Deoch inghion Fhíngín mhic Aodha  
Dhuibh,  
a naimsir an Tailginn,

“Tuig-se, a Lir mhic Luighdheach,” arsa Fionnghuala,

“gurab sinne do cheathrar claimne  
ar n-ár milleadh dot’ mhnaoi  
.i. deirbhshiúr ár máthar féin,  
tré aingidheacht éada.”

“An féidir bhur gcur i nbhur riochtaibh féin  
aris?” arsa Lir.

“Ní féidir,” arsa Fionnghuala,  
“óir ní fhéadfaidís fir an bheatha ár gcabhair  
no go gcomhracfaidh an bhean a ndeas agus  
an fear a dtuaidh  
i. Lairgnéan mac Cholmáin  
agus Deoch inghean Finghin mhic Aodha  
Dhuibh  
i n-aimsir an Tailghinn

“Understand thou, O Lir, son of Lughaidh”,  
said Fionnghuala,

“that we are thy four children,  
who have been ruined by thy wife,  
and the sister of our own mother,  
through the malignity of her jealousy”.

“Is it possible to put you into your own forms  
again?” said Lir.

“It is not possible”, said Fionnghuala,  
“for the men of Earth could not relieve us,  
until the woman from the South and the man  
from the North are united,  
that is, Lairgnen, the son of Colman,  
and Deoch, the daughter of Finghin, son of  
Aodh Dubh,  
in the time of the Tailginn,

ocus chreidimh, ocus chrábhaidh do theacht a nEirinn”.

agus an chreidimh agus an chrábhaidh do theacht i nÉirinn.”

and of the coming of Faith and Devotion into Erinn”.

## Section 27

Ar na chlos sin do Lir ocus da mhuinnir,  
tugadar trí gártha cúmhaidh, guil, ocus caointe  
ós árd.

At n-a chlos san do Lir agus d'a mhuinnir,  
thugadar trí gártha cumhaidh is guil is caointe  
ós árd.

When Lir and his people heard this,  
they raised three shouts of grief, crying, and  
lamentation, on high.

## Section 28

“An áil libh”, ar Lir, “teacht a ttír cugainn,  
ótá bhúr cciall ocus bhúr cceuimhne féin  
agaibh?”  
  
“Ní fhuil comas againn”, ar Fionnghuala,  
“taobh do thabhairt re haonduine feasda,  
acht atá ar nurlabhra Gaoidhilge féin againn,  
ocus atá ar comas dhuinn ceól síreachtach do  
chantainn,  
  
ocus is leór do'n chineadh dhaonna uile do  
shásadh,

“An áil libh,” arsa Lir, “teacht i dtí chughainn  
ó tá bhur gcíall agus bhur gceuimhne féin  
agaibh?”  
  
“Ní'l cumas againn,” arsa Fionnghuala,  
“taobh do thabhairt le haon duine feasta;  
acht tá ár n-úrlabhra Gaedhilge féin againn,  
agus tá ar chumas dúinn ceól síreachtach do  
chantain.

Is leór do'n chineadh dhaonna uile de shásamh

“Do ye wish”, said Lir, “to come to land to us,  
since ye have your own senses and your  
memory?”  
  
“We have not the power”, said Fionnghuala,  
“to associate with any person henceforth;  
but we retain our own language, the Gaedhilg;  
and we have the power to chant plaintive  
music,  
such that it would be sufficient happiness to  
the whole human race

bheith ag éisteacht leis an cceól sin,  
ocus anaídh againn anocht ocus canfom ceól  
dhaóibh”.

bheith ag éisteacht leis an gceól soin;  
agus fanaidh-se againn anocht agus canfam  
ceól díbh.”

to be listening to that music;  
and so remain ye with us to-night, and we  
shall chant music for you”.

## Section 29

Dála Lir gona mhuinnitir, d’fhanadar ag  
éisteacht ré ceól na nealadh,  
ar bhruach Locha Dairbhreach,  
ocus do chodhladar go sámh leis, an oidhche  
sin;

ucus do éirigh Lir a moch na maidne  
arnamhárach,

ucus do rinne an laoidh:—

“Mithid éirgid ó’n ionadso,  
Ní chodhlaim, gé ’táim am luíghe;  
Sgaradh rém’ aos ionmhuiine  
Is é chráidhios mo chroidhe.

Olc an séan dá ttugas in bhur cceann,  
Aoife, inghion Oiliolla Arann,  
Da bhfeasainnsi a bhfhuil dhaóibh dhe,  
Ní dhiongnainn an chomhairle.

Dála Lir go n-a mhuinnitir, d’fhanadar ag  
éisteacht le ceól na n-ealadh  
ar bhruach Locha Dairbhreach,  
agus do chodladar go sámh leis, an oidhche  
sin.

Agus d’eirigh Lir i moch na maidne ar n-a  
mháireach

agus do rinne an laoi seo:

“Mithid éirge ó’n iomdha so  
Ní chodlaim cé táim im’ luighe;  
Scaradh libhh, a ionmhuiine,  
Is eadh bhrisios mo chroidhe.

Olc an séan thugas i nbhur gcionn  
Aoife inghean Oilealla Áran  
Dá bhfeasainnsi a mbeadh dhe,  
Ní dhéanfaínn an chomhairle.

So Lir and his people remained listening to the  
music of the swans,  
upon the brink of Loch Dairbhreach;  
and they slept composedly by it that night;

and Lir arose at early morning of the next day

and he made this lay:—

“It is time to depart from this place;  
I sleep not, though I lie down to sleep.—  
To part from my beloved children  
Is what embitters my heart.

Evil was the fate by which I brought over you  
Aoife the daughter of Oilioll Arann.  
Had I known what you have got by it,  
I would never have followed that advice.

A Fionnghuala, 'sa Chuinn chaoimh,  
A Aodh, 'sa Fhiachra arm-chaoin;  
O bhórd an chuain a bhfhuil sibh,  
Triall uaibh ní leam is mithid".

A Fionnghuala is a Chuinn chaoimh,  
A Aodh 's a Fhiachra arm-chaoin,  
Ó bhórd an chuain i n-a bhfuil sibh  
Triall uaibh-se, dúinn is mithid."

O Fionnghuala, and O Conn the comely,  
O Aodh, and O Fiachra of the beautiful weapons,  
From the verge of the shore upon which ye are,  
It is not yet time for me to depart from you".

### Section 30

Iomthuso Lir, ráinig roimhe as soin go Síoth  
Bhudhbh Deirg,

ocus ro fearadh fáilte fris ann;

ocus tugadh achmhasán dó ó Bhudhbh Dearg

fa gan a chlann do thabhairt leis.

"Truagh sin", ar Lir, "ní mise nach tiobhradh  
mo chlann chugat,

acht Aoife annsúd,

do dhalta féin ocus deirbhshiúr a máthar,

ar na ccur areachtaibh cheithre nealadh  
naoingheal,

ar Loch Dairbhreach

Iomthusa Lir, ráinig roimhe as soin go Síoth  
Bhudhbh Dheirg,

agus do fearadh fáilte fris ann.

Agus tugadh achmhusán do ó Bhudhbh Dearg

fá gan a chlann do thabhairt leis.

"Truagh san," arsa Lir, "ní mise nach  
tabharfadhbh mo chlann chughat,

acht Aoife annsúd,

do dhalta féin agus deirbhshiúr a máthar,

ar n-a gcur i riochtaibh cheithre n-ealadh n-  
aengheal

ar Loch Dairbhreach

So Lir went on from that place to the Síoth of  
Budhbh Dearg;

and they bade him welcome there;

and he was rebuked by Bodhbh Dearg

for not having brought his children along with  
him.

"Alas," said Lir, "it was not I that would not  
bring my children to you;

it was Aoife, yonder,

your own nursling and the sister of their  
mother,

who has put them into the forms of four pure-  
white swans

upon Loch Dairbhreach,

a bhfiadhnaise bhfhear nEirionn,

ocus atá a cciall ocus a cconn, a nglór, ocus a  
nGaoidhilg féin aca”.

i bhfiadnaise bhfear nÉireann;

acht tá a gcíall agus a gconn, a nglór agus a  
nGaedhilg féin aca.”

in the presence of the men of Erinn;

and [there they are swans, though] they  
preserve their own sense and their reason,  
their voice, and their Gaedhilg”.

### Section 31

Bíodhgas Bodhbh do'n sgéal sin,

ocus tuigios gur bhfhíor a ndúbhairt Lir,

ocus tug achmhasán athgharbh d'Aoife, ocus  
adúbhairt:

“Budh measa dhuitsi an mheabhal úd, a Aoífe,  
ná do chloinn Lir,

óir do gheabhaidsiad cobhair a ndeireadh  
aimsire,

ocus biaidh a nanmonna ar neamh fádheóidh”.

Bíodhgas Bodhbh do'n scéal soin,

agus tuigios gur bh'fhíor a ndubhairt Lir,

agus thug achmhusán athgharbh do Aoife,  
agus adubhairt:

“Budh measa dhuit-se an mheabhal úd, a  
Aoife, ioná do Chlainn Lir,

óir do gheobhaid súd cabhair i ndeireadh  
aimsire

agus beidh a n-anamna ar neamh fá dheoidh.”

Bodhbh Dearg started at this news;

and he understood that what Lir spoke was  
true;

and he fiercely rebuked Aoife, and said:

“This treachery will be worse for thee, Aoife,  
than for the children of Lir;

for they shall obtain relief towards the end of  
time,

and their souls will be in Heaven at last”.

## Section 32

Do fhiabraigh Bodhbh Dearg d'Aoife  
cá rocht in budh measa lé bheith ar bith.

Adúbhait sisi gurab a rocht deamhain aéoir.

“Cuirfeadsa tuso san rocht sin anois”, ar  
Bodhbh Dearg.

Ocus is cuma do bhí aga rádha  
ocus do bhual do Fhleisg doilbhthe  
droidhiochta í

gur chuir a rocht dheimhain aéoir í;

ocus do léig ar eitill fó chéadóir;  
ocus ata fós 'na deamhan aéoir  
ocus biaidh go bráth.

Do fhiabraigh Bodhbh Dearg de Aoife  
cá rocht budh measa léi bheith ar bith.

Dubhaint sise gurab i rocht deamhain aeir.

“Cuirfead-sa thíu 'san rocht san anois,” arsa  
Bodhbh Dearg.

Agus is cuma do bhí ag a rádh  
agus do bhual do fhleisc doilbhthe  
draoidheachta í  
gur chuir i rocht deamhain aeir í.

Agus do leig ar eitill fó chéadóir í,  
agus atá fós i n-a deamhan aeir,  
agus beidh go bráth.

Bodhbh Dearg then asked Aoife  
what shape on Earth she would think the worst  
of being in.

She said that it would be in the form of a  
demon of the air.

“I shall put you into that form then”, said  
Bodhbh Dearg.

And as he spoke,

he struck her with a metamorphosing druidical  
wand,

and put her into the form of a demon of the  
air;

and she flew away at once;

and she is still a demon of the air,

and shall be so for ever.

### Section 33

Iomthuso Bhoidhbh Dheirg, ocús Thuatha Dé Danann,  
tángadar go hoirior Locha Dairbhreach  
ocus do ghabhadar longphort ann,  
ag éistiocht ré ceól na nealadh.  
  
Dála Mhac Míleadh imorro,  
ní lúgha tángadar as gach áird a nEirinn  
gur ghabhadar longphort ag Loch Dairbhreach  
mar an ccéadna;  
  
óir ní áirmhid eólaigh ceól ná óirfideadh dár  
clos a nEirinn riamh  
roimh cheól na nealadh sin;  
  
ocus do bhídís ag innsin sgél ocus ag  
agallmhadh a bhfhear nEirionn gach laoi,  
  
ocus ag comhrádh ré a noideadhaibh, ocus re  
na ccomhaltaidhibh,  
  
ocus re na ccáirdibh uile ar cheana;

Iomthusa Bhuidhbh Dheirg agus Tuatha Dé Danann,  
thángadar go hoirear Locha Dairbhreach  
agus do ghabhadar longphort ann  
ag éisteacht le ceól na n-ealadh.  
  
Dála mac Míleadh, iomorro,  
ní lugha thángadar as gach áird i nÉirinn  
gur ghabhadar longphort ag Loch Dairbhreach  
mar an gcéadna,  
  
óir ní áirmhid eólaigh ceól ná oirfideadh da'r  
chlos i nÉirinn riamh  
roimh cheól na n-ealadh soin.  
  
Agus do bhídís ag innsin scéal agus ag  
agallamh do fhearaibh Éireann gach lá  
  
agus ag comhrádh le n'a n-oidíbh agus le n-a  
gcomhdhaltaíbh  
  
agus le n-a gcáirdibh uile ar cheana.

Then Bodhbh Dearg and the Tuatha Dé Danann  
came to the shore of Loch Dairbhreach,  
and they took up an encampment there,  
listening to the music of the swans.  
  
And the Milesian Clans too,  
no less did they come from all points of Erinn  
to take up an encampment at Loch  
Dairbhreach in like manner;  
  
for historians do not count any music or  
delight that ever was heard in Erinn  
to be preferred to the music of these swans;  
  
and they used to be telling stories and  
conversing with the men of Erinn each day,  
and discoursing with their tutors and their  
fellow pupils,  
  
and with their friends all in like manner;

ocus ro chandaois ceól sír-bhinn síthe gach noidhche;

ocus gach aon do chluineadh an ceól sin, do chodhladh go sámh, socair,

gibé galor nó treabhlaoid fhada do bheith air;

ro budh súbhac soimheanmnach tar éis an cheóil do chandaois na héin, gach oen do chlos.

Agus do chanaidís ceól sír-bhinn síthe gach noidhche,

agus gach aon do chluineadh an ceól soin do chodaladh go sámh socair,

gibé galor no treabhlaoid fhada do bheadh air;

budh subhach, soimheanmnach tar éis an cheoil a chanaidís, na héin, gach aon d'a gcloiseadh.

and they used to chant slow, sweet, fairy music every night;

and every one who heard that music slept soundly and easily,

no matter what disease or long illness might be upon him;

for, happy and delighted after the music the birds chanted was every one who heard it.

## Section 34

Cidh trá acht ro bhádar an dá longphort sin  
Mhac Mhileadh ocus Thuath De Danann a ttímchioll Locha Dairbhreach

ar feadh trí chéad bliadhain.

Is annsin adúbhait Fionnghuala ré na bráithre:

“an bhfheadamhair, a óga”, ar sí,

“go ttairnig libh bhúr ttréimse do chaithiomh annso,

Cidh trá, acht do bhíodar an dá longphort úd Mac Míleadh agus Tuatha Dé Danann i dtímeall Locha Dairbhreach

ar feadh trí chéad bliadhán.

Is annsoin adúbhait Fionnghuala le n-a bráithribh lá:

“An bhfeadabhair, a óga,” ar sí,

“go dtáinig libh bhur dtréimhse do chaitheamh annso

Well, then; these two encampments of the sons of Milesius and the Tuatha Dé Danann continued around Loch Dairbhreach

for the space of three hundred years.

And then Fionnghuala said to her brothers:

“Do ye know, O men”, said she,

“that ye have come to the end of your term here,

acht an oidhche anocht amháin”.

Ocus do gabh tuisi, ocus dobrón ádhbal na mic

ó do chualadar an sgéal sin,

oir dob ionann leó ocus bheith 'na ndaoine,

bheith ar Loch Dairbhreach,

ag agallamh a ccarad ocus a ccompánach

seach dul ar fhraoch-fhairrge fhuachda na Maoile budh thuaidh.

acht an oidhche anocht amháin.”

Agus do ghaibh turse agus dobhrón ádhbal na mic

ó do chualadar an scéal soin,

óir do b'ionann leó agus bheith i n-a ndaoinibh

bheith i Loch Dairbhreach

ag agallamh a gcarad agus a gcompánach

seoch dul ar fhraoch-fhairrge na Maoile budh thuaidh.

all but this night only”.

And great distress and sorrow seized upon the sons [of Lir]

when they heard this news;

for they thought it the same as being human beings,

to be upon Loch Dairbhreach

discoursing with their friends and their companions,

in comparison with going upon the angry, quarrelsome sea of the Maoil in the North.

## Section 35

Ocus tángadar go moch arnamhárach d'agallaim a noide ocus a nathar,

ocus thiomnadar ceiliobhradh dhóibh,

ocus do rinne Fionnghuala an laoidh:—

Agus thíngadar go moch ar n-a mháireach d'agallmhadh a n-oideadh agus n-athar,

agus thiomnadar ceileabhradh dhóibh,

agus do rinne Fionnghuala an laoi seo:

And they came early on the next day to speak to their foster-father and their father;

and they bade them adieu;

and Fionnghuala made the lay:—

“Ceileabhradh dhuit a Bhuidhbh Dheirg,  
A ghiolla d’ar ghiall gach ceárd,  
Duitsi mar aon is d’ar nathair,  
Do Lir Síthe Fionnachaidh cháidh.

Táinig mithid dhuinn, dar liom,  
Sgaradh da nach cómhruicfiom,  
Go tí an bhráth, adream shuairc,  
Gan ar ndol chugaibh ar cuaird.

Biamoid ón lá aniugh da’r naois,  
A cháirde chródhe, chómhaois,  
Gan ghlór daonna ’nar ngoire,  
Ar Sruth na Maoile mearaighe.

Rachmaoid as sin dá’r bpianadh,  
A ceionn trí chéad ceirt-bhliadan,  
Eolas is mó dá’r bpianadh ann,

Siar go rinn Iorrais Domhnann.

Trí chéad bliadhain gan fheall  
Tiar a rinn Iorrais Domhnann;  
O loch go loch, truagh an dál,  
Go ccomhraicid Deoch is Lairgneán.

Ba hiad ar ccuilceadha cuanna,  
Tonna sáile searbh ruadha,  
Ionar cceathrar caomh cloinne Lir  
Gan oidhche dhuinn d’á eas bhuidh.

“Ceileabhradh dhuit, a Bhuidhbh Dheirg,  
A ghiolla d’ar ghéill gach ceárd:  
Duit-se maraon is d’ár n-athair,  
Do Lir Síthe Fionnachaidh cháidh.

Tháinig mithe dúinn, dar liom,  
Scarmhain ó nach comhraigfeam  
Go dtí an bhráth, a dhream shuairc,  
Gan ár ndul chugaibh ar ath-chuaird.

Béam ó’n lá indiu d’ár n-aois,  
A cháirde chroidhe chomhaois,  
Gan glór daonda ’n-ár ngoire  
Ar Shruth na Maoile mearaighe.

Rachaimíd as soin d’ár bpianadh  
Go ceann trí chéad ceart-bhliadhna:  
Eolas is mó d’ár bpianadh ann

Go rinn Iorruis Domhnann.

Trí chéad bliadhan gan feall  
I rinn Iorruis Domhnann,  
Ó loch go loch, truagh an scéal  
Go gcomhracfaidh Deoch is Lairgnéan.

Budh hiad ár gcuilcheadha cuanna  
Tonna sáile searbh-ruadha  
’N-ár gceathrar caomh-chlainne  
Gan oidhche dhúinn n-a n-easbaidh.

“Adieu to thee, O Bodhbh Dearg,  
Thou man to whom all science has done homage,  
[Adieu] to thee, together with our father,  
Lir of the famous Sioth Fionnachaidh.

The time has come for us, we think,  
For separation—after which we shall not meet  
Till the judgment come—O pleasant company,  
It is not on a visit that we are going to you.

From this day of our age we shall be,—  
O ye heart-loved friends, our contemporaries,—  
Without human voice near us,  
Upon the raging Sruth na Maoile.

We shall go from that to be punished,  
At the end of three hundred proper [i. e. full] years;  
(Greater knowledge of our punishment we shall have  
there),  
Westwards to the point of Iorrus Domhnann.

Three hundred years, without fail [we must be]  
In the west at the point of Iorrus Domhnann;  
From lake to lake—alas the condition—  
Until Deoch and Lairgnen are united.

Our beautiful garments shall be [but the]  
Waves of the salt-water, bitter, briny;  
As the four comely children of Lir,  
Without a night for us without it.

A thriar bráthar as dearg dreach,  
Eirgeadh uainn ó Loch Dairbhreach,  
An drong chómhachtach so rómchar,  
Is dúbhachanois ar sgarad”.

Agus d'a n-éis sin uile  
I ndeireadh ár n-aimsire  
Béaraidh arís crábhadh orainn  
I nInis Gluaire Bréandain.

A thriar bhráthar is dearg dreach,  
Éirghidh ó Loch Dairbhreach;  
A dhrong chúmtha rómchar,  
Is dubhach ár gceileabhradh.”

Ye three brothers of once ruddy cheeks,  
Let [them] depart from us, from Loch Dairbhreach,  
This powerful tribe which have loved us;  
Sorrowful now is our separation”.

### Section 36

A háithle na laoidhe sin, do ghabhsad ar eitiollach,

go hárd, éattrom, aédharda,

nó go rángodar Sruth na Maoile, ideir Eirinn  
ocus Albain;

ocus ba hole lé fearaibh Eireann sin;

ocus do fógradh aca ar feadh Eireann

gan aon eala do mharbad

da mhéid cumas da mbeith aca re a dhéanamh  
ó sinamach.

A haithle na laoi sin, go ghabhadar ag eiteallach

go hárd éadtrom aerda

no go rángadar Sruth na Maoile idir Éirinn and Albain;

agus do b'olc le fearaibh Éireann a n-imtheacht uatha;

agus do fógradh aca ar feadh Éireann

gan aon eala do mharbadh

d'a mhéid de chumas do bheadh aca re n-a dhéanamh ó shoin amach.

After that lay, they took to flight;

[flying] highly, lightly, aerially,

until they reached Sruth na Maoile between Eirinn and Albain;

and the men of Eirinn were grieved at this,

and they proclaimed throughout Eirinn,

that no swan should be killed,

however easy it might be to do so, from that time out.

### Section 37

Dobh olc an taitreabh do chloinn Lir  
bheith ar Sruth na Maoile.  
  
Mar do chonncadar crioslach an chuain  
chóimleathain iona ttimchioll,  
do líon fuacht ocus maoithi, ocus aithmhéala  
iat,  
ocus ní thugadar olc dá bhfhuadar riamh  
roimhe sin da nuidhe,  
a bfarraidh a bhfhuadar ar an sruth sin.

Do b'olc an t-áitreabh do chlannaibh Lir  
bheith ar Sruth na Maoile.  
  
Mar do chonncadar crioslach an chuain  
choimhleathain i n-a dtimcheall,  
do líon fuacht agus maoithe agus aithmhéala  
iad,  
agus ní thugadar olc do n-a bhfuaireadar riamh  
roimhe sin d'a n-oidhe  
i bhfarraidh a bhfuaireadar ar an sruth soin.

It was a bad residence for the children of Lir,  
to live upon Sruth na Maoile.  
  
When they saw the shore of the extensive  
coast around them,  
they were filled with cold, and grief, and  
regret;  
  
and they thought nothing of any evil which  
they had before suffered,  
compared with that which they suffered upon  
that current.

## Section 38

Ocus do bhádar ar Sruth na Maoile

no go ttáinig gloim doininne, oidhche  
áiríthe chucca.

Adúbhait Fionnghuala:

“A bhráithre ionmhuine”, ar sí,

“is olc an ní do nímid,

óir is cinnte go ndealóchaidh doinionn na  
hoidhche seo anocht lé céile sinn,

ocus órduighiom ionad cinnte coinne chum a  
racham,

dá ttugadh Dia orruinn sgaradh ré chéile”.

“Gabham a shiúr”, ar siad

“ionad, cinnte coinne ag carraig na rón,

Agus do bhíodar ar Shruth na Maoile

no go dtáinig gloim doininne oidhche áirithe  
chucha.

“A bhráithre ionmhuine,”

arsa Fionnghuala annsoin,

“is olc an nidh do ghnímíd,

óir is cinnte go ndealóchaidh doineann na  
hoidhche seo anocht le chéile sinn,

agus órduigheam ionad cinnte coinne chum a  
racham

má thugann Dia orainn scaradh le chéile.”

“Gabham, a shiúr,” ar siad,

“ionad cinnte coinne ag Carraig na Rón,

And they remained there upon Sruth na  
Maoile,

until one night a thick tempest came upon  
them,

and Fionnghuala said:

“My beloved brothers”, said she,

“bad is the preparation we make,

for it is certain that the tempest of this night  
will separate us from one another;

therefore let us appoint a place of meeting to  
which we shall repair,

if God shall cause us to separate from each  
other”.

“Let us settle, O sister”, said they,

“an appointed place of meeting at Carraig na  
Rón,

oir is cóimheólach sinn uile uirre”.

óir is coimheólach sinn uile uirthe.”

for we are all equally acquainted with it”.

### Section 39

Cidh trá acht táinig meadhón oidhche  
chucca,

ucus do thuirl an ghaoth ré,

ucus do mhéadaigheadar na tonna a  
ttreathan ucus a ttormán,

ucus do lonnraigh teine ghealáin,

ucus táinig scuabadh garbh-anfaidh ar fud  
na fairrge,

ionnas gur sgaradar clanna Lir lé chéile ar  
feadh an mhór-mhara;

ucus tucadh seachrán an chuain chris-  
leathain orra,

go nach fheadair neach dhíobh cá slighe, nó  
cá conair a ndeachaидh an chuid eile.

Táinig trá, féith-chiuim for san bhfairrge  
tar éis na doininne móire sin,

Cidh trá, acht tháinig meadhon oidhche  
chucha,

agus do thuirl an ghaoth léi,

agus do mhéaduigheadar, na tonnta, a  
dtreathan agus a dtormán,

agus do lonnruigh teine ghealáin,

agus tháinig scuabadh garbh-anfaidh ar  
fuid na fairrge

ionnuas gur scaradar clanna Lir le chéile ar  
feadh an mhór-mhara.

Agus tugadh seachrán an chuain chris-  
leathain ortha

go nach feedair neach díobh cá slighe no  
cá conair a ndeachaидh an chuid eile.

Tháinig, trá, féith chiuin ar an bhfairrge tar  
éis na doininne móire sin,

However, when the midnight reached them,

the wind descended with it,

and the waves increased their violence and their  
thunder;

and the lightnings flashed;

and a rough sweeping tempest passed all over the  
sea,

so that the children of Lir were scattered from each  
other over the great sea;

and they were set astray from the extensive shore,

so that not one of them knew what way or what path  
the rest went.

There came [afterwards], however, a placid-calm  
upon the sea after that great tempest;

ocus do bhí Fionnghuala 'na haonar ar an  
sruth;

ocus tug da haire a bráithre 'na heasbuidh,

ocus do bhí ag a néagcaoine go mór,  
go ndúbhairt an laoidh:—

“Am riocht is maирг atá beó,  
Mo sgiathain do reóidh ream thaoibh  
Suail nár mhionaigh an ghaoth dhian,  
Mo chroidhe am chliabh taréis Aoidh.

Trí chéad bliadhain ar Loch Dairbhreach,  
Gan dul a reachtaibh daoine,  
Doilge liom, is ní samhail,

Mo shear ar Shruth na Maoile.

Ionmhain triúr, ón ionmhain triúr,  
Do chodhladh fá bhun mo chlúimh,  
Go ttiocfaid na mairbh go cách,  
Ní chómhraicfead go bráth 'sa triúr.

Taréis Fhiachra, ocus Aodh,  
Ocus Chuinn chaoimh, gan a bhffios,  
Is truagh m'fhuirioch ris gach olc,  
Is maирг atá anocht am riocht”.

agus do bhí Fionnghuala i n-a haonar ar an  
sruth

agus thug d'a haire a bráithre i n-a  
heasbaidh

agus do bhí sí ag a n-éagcaoineadh go mór  
go ndúbhairt an laoi:

“Im' riocht, is maирг atá beo,  
Mo sciathán ar reoidh rem' thaoibh;  
Is uaill nár mionadh go dian  
Mo chroidhe im' chliabh tar éis Aoidh.

Trí chéad bliadhan ar Loch Dairbhreach  
Gan dál i reachtaibh daoine:  
Doilghe liom 'ná san uile

Mo shear ar Shruth na Maoile.

Ionmhuin triúr, ón, ionmhuin triúr,  
Do chodladh fá bhun mo chlúimh,  
Go dtiocfaid na mairbh go cách  
Ní chómhraicfead go bráth mo thríúr.

Tar éis Fhiachrach is Aoidh  
Is Chuinn chaoimh, gan a bhffios,  
Is truagh m'fhuireach ris gach olc  
Is maирг atá anocht im' riocht.”

and Fionnghuala found herself alone upon the  
current;

and she observed that her brothers were absent  
[separated from her];

and she lamented them greatly;

and she spoke this lay:—

“In my condition it is woe to be alive;  
My wings have frozen to my sides;  
It is little that the furious wind has not shattered  
My heart in my body after [i. e. away from] Aodh.

Three hundred years upon Loch Dairbhreach  
Without going into human forms,—  
It distresses me more, and not alike [i. e. not merely  
as much]  
My time upon Sruth na Maoile.

Beloved the three,— oh beloved the three,  
Who slept under the shelter of my feathers.  
Until the dead return to the living  
I and the three shall never meet.

After Fiachra and Aodh,  
And Conn the comely,—with no account of them,—  
Pity that I have remained, for all [these] evils.  
Woe to be this night in my condition”.

## Section 40

Iomthusa Fhionnghualann, do bhí an oidhche  
sin ar an ccarraig

go tráth eirghe do'n ló arnamhárach

ag feithiomh na fairrge da gach árd, 'na  
tímcéall,

go bhfaca Conn chúicthe

go ceann-trom clúimh-fhliuch;

ocus fáiltighios croidhe na hinghine roimhe go  
mó;

ocus táinig Fiachra go fuar, fliuch, fior-  
anbhfhann,

ocus níor tuigeadh innsge ná úrlabhradh uaidh,

lé ro mhéad a fuair dh'fhuacht ocus  
d'imshníomh;

ocus do chuir sisi fóna sgiathánaibh é, ocus a  
dúbhaint:

Iomthusa Fhionnghualan, do bhí sí an oidhche  
sin ar an gcarraig

go tráth eirghe do'n ló ar n-a mháireach

ag féachain na fairrge ar gach leith i n-a  
timcheall

go bhfaca sí Conn chúiche

go ceann-trom clúimh-fhliuch,

agus d'fháiltigh croidhe na hinghine roimhe  
go mó.

Iarsoin, tháinig Fiachra go fuar fliuch fior-  
anbhfhann,

agus níor tuigeadh innsce ná urlabhra uaidh

le ró-mhéad a fuair de fhuacht agus de  
imshníomh:

acht do chuir sise fó n-a sciathánaibh é agus  
adubhairt:

\*Now\* Fionnghuala remained that night upon  
the rock,

until the rising of the day upon the morrow,

watching the sea in all directions around her;

and at last she saw Conn coming towards her,

with heavy head, and drenched feathers;

and her heart joyfully welcomed him;

and Fiachra came also, cold, wet, and quite  
faint;

and neither word nor speech of his could be  
understood,

such was the excess of cold and hardship  
which he had suffered;

and she put him under her wings, and said:

“Da ttigheadh Aodh chugainnanois, is maith do bheimís”.

“Dá dtigeadh Aodh chughainnanois,” ar sí, “is maith do bheimís.”

“If Aodh would but come to us now, how happy should we be”.

## Section 41

Níor chian dóibh ’na dhiagh sin,  
in tan do chonnchadar Aodh chucca,  
go ceann-tirim, clúmh-álainn;  
ucus fáiltíghios Fionnghuala go mhór roimhe,  
ucus curios fá chlúmh a hochta, ucus a  
hurbhruinne é,  
ucus Fiachra fóna sgiathán deas, ucus Conn  
fóna sgiathán clé;  
ucus do dheasaigh a clúmh társa fá’n samhail  
sin.

“A óga”, ar Fionnghuala,  
“gidh olc libh an oidhche araoir,  
budh mór da macsamhla do gheabhthaoi ó so  
amach”.

Níor chian dóibh i n-a dhiaidh sin  
an tan do chonnacadar Aodh chucha  
go ceann-tirim clúmh-áluin.  
Agus fáiltíghios Fionnghuala go mór roimhe,  
agus curios fá chlúmh a huchta agus a  
húrbhruinne é,  
agus Fiachra fó n-a sciathán deas, agus Conn  
fó n-a sciathán clé,  
agus do dheasaigh a clúmh tharsta fá’n  
samhail sin.

“A óga,” arsa Fionnghuala,  
“gidh olc libh an oidhche aréir,  
is mór d'a macsamhlaibh do gheobhthaoi ó so  
amach.”

It was not long after that  
when they saw Aodh coming towards them,  
with dry head and beautiful feathers;  
and Fionnghuala welcomed him greatly;  
and she put him under the feathers of her  
breast and chest;  
and Fiachra under her right wing; and Conn  
under her left wing;  
and she disposed her feathers over them in that  
way.

“O youths”, said Fionnghuala,  
“though evil ye may think this last night,  
many of its like shall ye find from this time  
forwards”.

## Section 42

Do bhádar, imorro, clanna Lir re headh  
imchian, ocus re naimsir fhada

ag fulong fuachta, ocus anshocracha ar Sruth  
na Maoile mar sin,

go ttainic oidhche áirighthe oile chuca,

ocus ní bhfhuardar riamh roimpe,

coimhmhéad a reóidh, ocus a fuachta, a  
sneachta ocus a gaoithe;

ocus do rinne Fionnghuala an laoidh:—

“Olc an bheatha so  
Fuacht na hoidhche so,  
Méad an tsneachcha so,  
Cruas na gaoithe so.

Is ann do chómluighsiod  
Fám’ chaomh-sgiathairbh,  
Tonn d’ar tréan-thuargainn,  
Conn is caomh-Fhiachra.

Do bhíodar, iomorro, Clann Lir, le headh  
imchian agus le aimsir fhada

ag fulaing fuachta agus anshocracha ar Shruth  
na Maoile mar soin

go dtáinig oidhche áirithe eile chucha,

agus ní bhfuaireadar riamh roimpe

coimhmhéad a reodha agus a fuachta, a  
sneachta agus a gaoithe,

agus do rinne Fionnghuala an laoi seo:

“Olc an bheatha so:  
Fuacht na hoidhche seo,  
Méad an tsneachta so,  
Cruadhas na gaoithe seo.

Is ann do chodlaidís  
Fám’ chaemh-sciathaibh,  
Tonn d’ar dtréan-tuargain,  
Conn is Caemh-Fiachra.

The Children of Lir after that continued a long  
time there,

suffering cold and wretchedness \*like that\*  
upon the current of the Maoil;

until at last a night came upon them so cold

that never before did they experience

anything like the frost, and the cold, the snow  
and the wind of that night;

and Fionnghuala made the lay:—

“Evil is this existence,—  
The cold of this night,—  
The greatness of this snow,—  
The hardness of this wind.

Where they have lain together, is  
Under my graceful wings,—  
The wave beating violently upon us,—  
Conn and comely Fiachra.

Do chuir an leasmháthair  
Sinn, an ceathrar so,  
Anocht 'san dochar so,  
Is olc an bheatha so".

Lem' thriar bháthar-sa  
Ann do scaras-sa,  
Fuar an cuma so,  
Sruth an mhara so.

Do chuir ár leas-mháthair  
Sinn, an ceathrar so,  
Anocht 'san dochar so,  
Is olc an bheatha so."

Our stepmother has put  
Us, these four of us,  
This night, into this misery;—  
Evil is this existence".

#### Section 43

Cidh trá acht do bhádar clanna Lir ag fulong  
fuaire-bheatha mar sin  
  
go ceann bliadhno ar Sruth na Maoile,  
  
go rug oidhche orro  
  
ar bheinn Chairrge na Rón,  
  
a ccallann Ianuair go sonnradhach, an tam  
soin,  
  
ocus teachtaighios an tuisge,  
  
ocus fuaraighios gach aon aca iona áit;

Cidh trá, acht do bhíodar, Clanna Lir, ag  
fulaing fuaire-bheatha mar soin  
  
go ceann bliadhna ar Shruth na Maoile  
  
go rug oidhche ortha  
  
ar bheinn Charraige na Rón  
  
i gCalain Eanair go sonnrádhach.  
  
Agus téachtuighios an tuisce  
  
agus fuaraighios gach aon aca i n-a áit;

So the Children of Lir continued thus to  
endure a life of extreme cold  
  
to the end of a year, upon the current of the  
Maoil,  
  
until at last a night came upon them,  
  
upon the pinnacle of the Seal Rock;  
  
and the \*particular\* time was that of the  
Calends of January;  
  
and the waters congealed,  
  
and each of them became chilled in his place;

ocus mar do bhádar ar an ccarraig  
do leanadar a ccosa, ocus a cclúmh, ocus a  
sgíatháin d'on charraig,  
go nár fhéadadar cor do chur dhíobh 'san  
ionad a rabhadar;  
ocus tugadar feadhmanaibh fíor-chruaidhe fá  
na ccollaibh,  
gur fhágħadár crocionn a ttroightheach,  
clúmh a nocta,  
ocus barra a neiteadh a leanmhain na cairrge  
in tan sin.

agus mar do bhíodar ar an gcarraig  
do leanadar a geosa agus a gelúmh agus a  
sciatháin do'n charraig  
go nár fhéadadar cor do chur dóibh 'san ionad  
a rabhadar;  
agus thugadar feadhmana fíor-chruadha fá n-a  
gcolnaibh  
gur fhágħadár croiceann a dtroightheach  
agus clúmh a n-ucht  
agus barra a n-eiteadh ag leanmhain na  
gcarraig an tan san.

and as they lay upon the rock,  
their feet, and their feathers, and their wings  
adhered to the rock,  
so that they were not able to move them from  
where they were;  
and they made such vehement efforts with  
their bodies [to move away],  
that they left there the skin of their feet,  
and the feathers of their breasts,  
and the tips of their wings attached to the rock  
*\*at that time\**.

## Section 44

“Truagh ámh; a chlanna Lir”, ar Fionnghuala,  
“is olc a táthar againn anois,  
óir ní fhéadmaoid fulang an tsáile,  
ocus is geis dhuinn bheith ina éagmuis;

“Truagh, ámh, a Chlanna Lir,” arsa  
Fionnghuala:  
“is olc atáthar againn anois,  
óir ní fhéadaimid fulang an tsáile,  
agus is geis dúinn bheith i n-a éagmuis;

“Alas, \*indeed,\* O Children of Lir”, said  
Fionnghuala,  
“evil indeed is our condition now\*,  
for we cannot support the salt-water,  
and yet it is prohibited to us to be absent from  
it;

ocus má théidh an sáile ionár ccréachtaibh  
do gheabham bás”;

ocus do rinne an laoidh:—

“Eaccaointeach againn anocht,  
Gan clúmh ag tuighiodh ár ccorp,  
’Sas fuar d’ár mbonnaibh bláithe,  
Ar chairrgibh andóbhráidhe.

Dob olc ar leasmháthair ruinn,  
D’ar imir droíghiocht orruinn,  
D’ar ccur ar fud mara amach  
A riocadh ealadh niongantach.

As é ar bhfolcadh ar dhruim cuain,  
Cúbhar an mhara mhong-ruaidh  
Así ar ccuid thall do’n chuirm,  
Sáile an mhara mhong-ghuirm.

Aoin inghion, ocus triar mac,  
Cleachtmaoid a ccuasaibh carrach,  
Ar na cairrgibh cruaidh doneoch,  
Ar mbeatha as éaccaointeach”.

agus má théigheann an sáile i n-ár  
gcréachtaibh  
do gheobham bás.”

Agus do rinne an laoi:

“Éagcaointeach againn anocht  
Gan aon chlúmh ag tuigheadh ár gcorp;  
Is fuar d’ár mbonnaibh bláithe.  
Ar charraigibh an dóbhráidhe.

Do b’olc ár leas-mháthar linn  
D’ar imir draoidheacht orainn  
D’ár gcur fad mara amach  
I riocadh ealadh n-iongantach.

Is é ár bhfolcadh ar dhruim chuain  
Cubhar an mhara mhong-ruaidh;  
Is í ár gcuid thall de’n chuirm  
Sáile an mhara mhong-ghuirm.

Aon inghean agus triar mac,  
Cleachtaimíd i gcuasaibh carrach;  
Ar na carraigibh, cruaidh do neach,  
Ár mbeatha is éagcaointeach.”

and if the salt-water enters into our sores,  
we shall die”;  
and she made this lay:—

“Moanful are we this night,  
Without feathers covering our bodies,  
And cold are our delicate soles  
On the rough, uneven rocks.

Bad was our stepmother to us,  
When she played druidism upon us,  
Sending us out upon the sea,  
In the shapes of wonderful swans.

Our bath upon the shore’s ridge is  
The foam of the brine-crested tide;  
Our share of the ale-feast is  
The brine of the blue-crested sea.

One daughter and three sons,  
We frequent the clefts of rocks;  
Upon the rocks, so hard for all,  
Our existence is moanful”.

## Section 45

Cidh trá acht tángador for Shruth na Maoile  
arís,

ocus géar dhoiligh,

ocus géar gharbh, ghoirt leó an sáile,

níor fhéadsad a sheachna

'na iadféin do sháir-dhídion air.

Ocus do bhádar ar an ccuan fá'n ionnas sin,

no gur fhás a cclúmh, ocus a neitheadha,

ocus gur chneasaigheadar a ccréachta go  
hiomlán;

ocus do théighdís gach laoi go hoirear Eireann  
ocus Alban,

ocus do thighdis go Sruth na Maoile gach  
noidhche,

óir fa hé fa hionad bunaidh dhóibh.

Cidh trá, acht thíngadar ar Shruth na Maoile  
arís,

fó na gcréachtaibh

agus cé géar, garbh, goirt leó an sáile,

níor fhéadadar a sheachnad

ná iad féin do sháir-dhídean air.

Agus do bhíodar ar an ccuan fá'n ionnas soin

no gur fhás a gclúmh agus a n-eiteadha

agus gur chneasraigheadar, a gcréachta, go  
hiomlán.

Agus do théighdís gach lá go hoirear Éireann  
agus Alban,

agus do thigdís go Sruth na Maoile gach  
oidhche,

óir ba hé ba hionad bunaidh dhóibh.

However, they went out again upon the  
current of the Maoil;

and though distressing, indeed,

and sharp, and fierce, and bitter they felt the  
salt-water,

they were not able to avoid it,

or to shelter themselves effectually from it.

And so they continued by the shore

until their feathers grew (anew), and their  
wings,

and until their sores were perfectly healed;

and then they used to go every day to the  
coasts of Erinn and of Albain;

and they used to come back to the current of  
the Maoil each night,

for it was their original [i. e. they were obliged  
to return to it as their] place of abode.

## Section 46

Tángadar aon do ló go bun na Banna budh  
thuaidh,

ocus do chonncadar marcshluagh álainn,  
aondatha,

go neachaibh gasda, glangheala fúthaibh,

ag sír-shiúbal na slighe aniar-ndeas gach  
ndíreach.

“An ttabhair sibh aithne ar an marcshluagh  
úd, a chlanna Lir?” ar Fionnghuala.

“Ní fheadamair”, ar iadsan,

“acht gurab dream éigin do Mhacaibh Mileadh  
no do Thuathaibh De Danann is dócha do  
bheith ann”.

Thángadar aon lá go bun na Banna budh  
thuaidh,

agus do chonncadar marcshluagh álúinn  
aondatha

go n-eachaibh gasta glan-gheala fútha

ag siubhal na slighe aniar is a ndeas gach  
ndíreach.

“An dtugann sibh aithne ar an marcshluagh  
úd, a chlanna Lir?” arsa Fionnghuala.

“Ní fheadamair,” ar siadsan,

“acht gurab dream éigin de Mhacaibh Mileadh  
no de Thuathaibh Dé Danann is dócha do  
bheith ann.”

They came one day to the mouth of the Banna  
in the north;

and they saw a splendid rare-coloured  
cavalcade,

mounted upon trained pure-white steeds,

constantly walking upon the road from the  
south-west in all directness.

“See ye yonder cavalcade, O Children of Lir?”  
said Fionnghuala.

“We do not know them”, said they;

“but it is most probable that they are some  
party of the sons of Miledh [Milesius], or of  
the Tuatha Dé Danann that are there”.

## Section 47

Do dhruideadar re hoirear an chuain ann sin,  
go ttiobhradaois aithne orro;  
ocus ód chonncadar an marchsluaigh, iadsan,  
do dhruideadar 'na ccoinne, ocus 'na  
ccómhdháil,  
go rangodar an ionad iomagallmha d'a chéile.

Do dhruideadar le hoirear an chuain annsoin  
go dtabharfaidis aithne ortha,  
agus ód' chonnacadar, an marcshluagh, iadsan  
do dhruideadar i n-a gcoinnibh agus i n-a  
gcomhdháil  
go rángadar i n-ionad iomagallmha d'a chéile.

They moved then to the border of the shore,  
that they might be able to recognize them;  
and when the cavalcade [on their side] saw  
them,  
they moved towards them also to meet them,  
until they were within reach of converse with  
each other.

## Section 48

Is iad is fearr do bhí ar an marcshluagh sin  
.i. Aodh Aithfiosach, ocus Fearghas  
Fithcheallach  
.i. dá mhac Bhuidhbh Dheirg,  
ocus an treas rann do'n mharcradh shíodha  
már aon riú;

Is iad is fearr do bhí ar an marcshluagh soin  
.i. Aodh Aithfiosach agus Fearghus  
Fithcheallach  
.i. dhá mhac Bhuidhbh Dheirg,  
agus an treas rann de'n Mharcradh Sidhe  
maraon leó;

The chief men of those who composed that  
cavalcade were,  
Aodh Aithfiosach, and Fergus Fithchiollach,  
that is, the two sons of Bodhbh Dearg,  
and [they had] a third of the Fairy cavalcade  
along with them;

ocus do bhádar an marcshluagh sin aga  
niarraidh re tréimsi roimhe sin;

ocus ar rochtain a chéile dhóibh,

do fheارadar fáilte fior-chaoин fria aroile, go  
miochair, muinnteardha;

ocus d'fiafruigheadar clanna Lir cionnas do  
bhádar Tuatha Dé Danann,

ocus go háirighthe Lir, ocus Bodhbh Dearg,  
ocus a muinntear cheana.

agus do bhíodar, an marcshluagh soin, ag a n-  
iaraidh le tréimhse roimhe sin.

Ar rochtain a chéile dhóibh,

do fearadhar fáilte fior-chaoин fria aroile go  
miochair, muinnteardha;

agus d'fiafruigheadar, Clanna Lir, cionnas do  
bhíodar, Tuatha Dé Danann,

agus go háirithe Lir agus Bodhbh Dearg agus  
a muinntear cheana.

and this cavalcade had been seeking [the  
swans] for a long time before that;

and when they reached each other,

they bade each other a truly joyous welcome  
in all love and friendship;

and the Children of Lir inquired after the  
Tuatha Dé Danann,

and particularly Lir, and Bodhbh Dearg, and  
their people.

## Section 49

“Atáid go maith, an éinionad”, ar siad,

“a ttigh bhur natharsa a Síoth  
Fionnachaidh,

ocus Tuatha De Danann mar aon ríú ann,

ag caithiomh na Fleighe Aoise, go  
súbhach, soimheanmnach,

gan imshníom gan anshocracht,

“Atáid go maith i n-aen ionad,” ar siad.

“I dtigh bhur n-athar i Síoth  
Fionnachaidh

agus Tuatha Dé Danann mar aon leó  
ann

ag caitheamh na Fleidhe Aoise go  
subhach soimheanmnach

gan imshníomh gan anshocracht

“They are well; [they are all] in one place [i. e.  
assembled together],” said they,

“in the house of your father, in Síoth Fionnachaidh,

and the Tuatha Dé Danann along with them there,

consuming the Feast of Age, merrily and happily,

without fatigue and without uneasiness,

acht bhur mbeithsi 'na bhfhéaghmais;  
ocus gan a fhios aca cá ar ghabhabhair  
uatha,  
ó'n ló a dhfhágabair Loch Dairbhreach".

"Nocha an ísin ar mbeathane re na  
hinnisin", ar Fionnghuala,

"óir is mórlorc ocus d'eadulaing, ocus  
d'anshódh

fuaramair seachnón na mara so Shrotha na  
Maoile go ttrásta";

ocus a dúbhaint an laoidh:—

"Aoibhinn anocht teaghlaigh Lir,  
Iomdha a miodh ocus a bhfhión;  
Gé tá anocht a nádhbhadh fhuar,  
Dream do chuan róghlan an riogh.

Isiad ar ccoilcibh gan locht,  
Folach ar ccorp do chlúmh chas,  
Gidh minic do deargthaoi sróll  
Iomainn ag ól mheadha mhas.

acht bhur mbeith-se i n-a n-éagmuis,  
agus gan a fhios aca cá ar ghabhabhair  
uatha  
ó'n ló a d'fhágabhair Loch  
Dairbhreach."

"Nocha an í sin ár mbeatha-na le n-a  
hinnsin," arsa Fionnghuala,

"óir is mórlorc agus de éadfulaing  
agus de anshodh

fuaireamair seachnón na mara so Srotha  
na Maoile go dtrásta;

agus adubhaint an laoi:

"Aoibhinn anocht teachlach Lir,  
Iomdha a mhiodh agus a fhión,  
Gidh tá anocht i n-ádhbhadh fhuar  
Dream de chuan róghlan an riogh.

Is iad ár gcoilchidhe gan locht  
Folach ár gcorp de chlúmh chas,  
Gidh minic do deargthaoi sróll  
Umainn ag ól meadha mas.

except for being without you,  
and not having known where ye had gone to,  
since the day ye left Loch Dairbhreach".

"Our life is not to be told", said Fionnghuala,

"for much indeed of evil and suffering and misery

have we endured on the tide of the current of the Maoil  
to this day";

and she spoke the lay:—

"Happy this night the household of Lir,  
Abundant their mead and their wine;  
Though there be this night in a cold home,  
A company of the king's pure-born children.

Our faultless bed-clothes are [but]  
The covering of our bodies of wreathed feathers;—  
[Yet] often ere now have we been clad  
In purple, while drinking the cheerful mead.

Ag soin ar mbhiadh ocus ar bhfhíon,  
Gainimh fhinn is síle searbh;  
Minic do ibhmís miodh cuill,  
A cuachán cruinn cheithre ccearn.

Isiad ár leapacha, isiad lom,  
Carraig ós cionn na ttonn ttréan;  
Minic do deargthaoi dhuinn,  
Leaba do chlúmh ochta éan.

Gidh í ar nobair snámh san sioc,

Ar Shruth na Maoile is trom toirm,  
Fá minic marcshluagh mhac ríogh,  
Ag dol 'nár ndiaigh go Síoth Bhoidhbbh.

Is é do chlaochlaidh mo neart,  
Beith ag dul 'sag teacht tar an Maoil,  
Mar na'r chleachtas roimhe riamh,  
'Snách fágaim grian a maigh mhaoith.

Leaba Fhiachra, ocus ionad Chuinn,  
Luighe fá thuinn m'eite, ar Maoil:  
Ionád ar sgáth m'ochta ag Aodh,  
Sinn 'nar cceathrar taoibh re taoibh.

Ag sin ár mbiadh agus ár lionn  
Gaineamh fhionn is síle searbh,  
Minic d'ibhimís miodh cuill  
A cuachaibh cruinne cheithre gcearn.

Ag sin fós ár leaba lom,  
Carraig ós ceann na dtonn dtréan;  
Minic do dheardhaoi fúinn  
Leaba de chlúmh uchta éan.

Cé í ár n-obair snámh 'san sioc

Ar Shruth na Maoile is mear toirn,  
Ba mhinic marcshluagh mac riogh  
Ag dul 'n-ár ndiaidh go Síot Bhuidhbbh.

Is é do chlaochlaidh mo neart  
Bheith ag dul 's ag teacht thar Maoil  
Mar nár chleachtas roimhe riamh,  
'S nach feicim grian i máigh maoith.

Leaba Fhiachra, ionad Chuinn  
Luighe fó thuinn m'eite ar Mhaoil,  
Ionad ar scáth m'uchta ag Aodh:  
Sinn ár gceathrar taobh le taoibh.

Our food and our wine are [but]  
White sand and bitter brine;—  
[Yet] often drank we hazel mead,  
From round cups with four lips [i. e. corners.]

Our beds, and bare [beds] they are, are [but]  
Rocks above the violent waves;—  
[Yet] often have been spread for us,  
Beds of the breast-feathers of birds.

Though it be now our work [though now we have] to  
swim in the frost,  
Upon the current of the heavy resounding Maoil,—  
Often a cavalcade of the sons of kings  
Has followed us to Síoth Buidhbbh.

It is this that has wasted my strength,—  
To be going and coming over the Maoil,  
As I was never accustomed to be;  
And that no more I enjoy the sun in a soft plain.

Fiachra's bed, and Conn's place,  
Is to nestle under the cover of my wings upon the Maoil.  
A place under the shelter of my breast hath Aodh;  
The four of us side by side.

Teagasc Mhanannáin gan cheilg,  
Cómhrád Bhuidhbh Dheirg ós Dhruim  
Chaoin,  
Glor Aonghusa, milsi a phóg,  
Do chleachtas gan bhrón ré a ttaoibh”.

Teagasc Mhanannáin gan cheilg,  
Comhrád Buidhbh Deirg ós Druim  
Chaoin,  
Glor Aonghusa, mílse a bpóg,  
Chleachtaimís gan bhrón re dtaoibh.”

The teaching of Manannan without guile,  
The conversation of Bodhbh Dearg over Drom Caoin,  
  
The voice of Aongus, the sweetness of his kisses,—  
I was wont to be without grief by their side”.

## Section 50

As a aithle sin tángadar an marcshluagh go  
Síth Lir,

ocus do innisiodar do mhaithibh Thuath Dé  
Danann

imtheachta na néan, ocus a richt.

“Ní fhuil comus againne orro”, ar na  
maithibh,

“acht gur maith linn a mbeith beó,

óir do gheabhair cabhair a ndeire aimsire”.

As a haithle sin thágadar an marcshluagh go  
Síth Lir

agus d’innseadar do mhaithibh Thuath Dé  
Danann

imtheachta na n-éan agus a riocth agus gach ar  
chanadar.

“Ní’l cumas againne ortha,” arsa na maithe,

“acht gur maith linn a mbeith beó,

óir do gheobhair cabhair i ndeireadh aimsire.”

After this the cavalcade came to Sioth Lir,

and they related to the nobles of the Tuatha Dé  
Danann

the adventures of the birds, and their  
condition.

“We have no power to help them”, said the  
nobles,

“but we are glad they are alive;

for they shall obtain relief in the end of time”.

## Section 51

Iomthusa chloinne Lir,  
d'ionnsuigheadar a nadhbhadh bunadh budh  
thuaigh,  
ar Shruth na Maoile,  
ocus do bhádar ann go ráinig leó a ttréimsi do  
chaithiomh ann;  
ocus adúbhairt Fionnghuala:  
“Is mithid dhuinn an tionad so d'fhágabháil,  
oir táinig ar ttréimsi ann”;  
ocus do chan an laoidh:—  
“Táirníg ar seal sonnana,  
Is mithid dhuinn a iomghabháil,  
An cuan so ’nar chleachtamair  
Trí chéad bliadhan buan-tsolais.  
  
Go Rinn Iorrais iarthetaigh,  
Ní budh husa a fholong sain,  
Luídhmídne gan mheارughadh dhe,  
Ré fulang na fuer-ghaoithe.

Iomthusa Chlainne Lir,  
d'ionnsuigheadar a n-ádhbhadh bunaidh bud  
thuaidh  
ar Shruth na Maoile,  
agus do bhíodar ann go ráinig leó a  
dtréimhse do chaitheamh ann.  
Agus adúbhairt Fionnghuala:  
“Is mithid dúinn an t-ionad so d'fhágabháil,  
óir tháinig ár dtréimhse ann;”  
agus do chan an laoi seo:  
“Tháinig ár seal soineana,  
Mithid dúinne iomghabháil  
Ó’n gcuán so ’n-ar chleachtamair  
Trí chéad bliadhan buan-tsólais.  
  
Luidhmíd-na gan mearughadh dhe  
Go rinn Iorrais thiар thuaidh  
Ní budh husa a fhulang soin,  
Le fulaing ó’n ngaoith fhuair.

As to the Children of Lir,  
they returned to their original home in the north  
upon the current of the Maoil;  
and they continued there until they had reached  
the consummation of their time there;  
and then Fionnghuala said:  
“It is time for us now to leave this place,  
for our time here has come”;  
and she spoke this lay:—  
“Our time has come here, indeed,  
It is time to depart now  
From this shore which we have frequented  
Three hundred years of lasting light.  
  
To the point of Western Iorras.  
(It will not be easy to bear it),  
Let us depart now without wandering,  
Upon the support of the cold wind.

Gan osadh, gan oiriseamh,  
Gan aoin díon ar dhúr-dhoinninn;  
Ní mochean a ccualamar,  
Táirnig ar seal sonnana”.

Gan osadh, gan oiriseamh,  
Gan díon dúr-dhoineana,  
Ní mochean a gcualabhair,  
Tháinig ár seal soineana (?)”

Without rest, without standing,  
Without any shelter from the thick tempests;—  
Unwelcome to us is what we have heard,—  
Our term has come here, indeed”.

## Section 52

Cidh trá acht, d’fhágadh clanna Lir Sruth  
na Maoile fá’n samhail sin,

ocus rángodar rómpa go Rinn Iorrais  
Domhnann,

ocus do bhádar ann ré headh ocus ré haimsir  
imchian,

ag fulong fuachta ocus fuair-bheatha,

go ttárla óglach saorchlanda dhóibh

do lucht [aithreibhte an fhearrainn,

edhon, Aibhric a ainm];

ocus do bhí a aire ar na héanaibh go minic,

ocus fá binn leis a cceiliobhradh,

Cidh trá, acht d’fhágadar, Clanna Lir, Sruth na  
Maoile fá’n samhail sin,

agus thángadair rómpa go Rinn Iorruis  
Domhnann;

agus do bhíodar ann re headh agus re haimsir  
imchian

ag fulaing fuachta agus fuair-bheatha

go dtárla óglach saorchlanda dhóibh

de lucht áitreibhthe an fhearrainn.

Aibhric do b’ainm dó,

agus do bhí a aire ar na héanaibh go minic;

agus ba bhinn leis a gceileabhradh

The Children of Lir then, accordingly, left the  
current of the Maoil in that manner,

and they passed on to the point of Iorruis  
Domhnann;

and there they remained for a long period of  
time,

suffering a life of cold and chilling,

until [at last it happened to them that] they met  
a young man, of a good family,

[one of the occupants of the lands

whose name was Aibhric],

and his attention was often attracted to the  
birds,

and their singing was sweet to him,

gur char iad go hiomarcach,  
ocus gur charadar san éision;  
ocus is é an tóglach so do leasaigh ocus  
d'fhaisnéis a nimtheachta uile.

gur char sé iad go hiomarcach  
agus gur charadar san eisean.  
Agus is é an t-óglach so do leasuigh agus do  
fhaisnéis a n-imtheachta uile.

so that he came to love them greatly,  
and that they loved him;  
and it was this young man that [afterwards]  
arranged in order and narrated all their  
adventures.

## Section 53

Acht atá ní cheana, do bhádar Clanna Lir,  
oidhche áirigthe ann,  
ocus mar fuardar an oidhche sin,  
ní bhfhuadar aon oidhche roimpe 'ná na  
diaigh riamh,  
lé méad a seaca, ocus a sneachta;  
óir do fhás leac oighre uile ar an sruth ideir  
Iorrus ocus Acaill;  
do leanadar a ccosa do'n lic oighre  
go na'r fhéadadar cor do chur dhíobh;  
ocus go ghabhadar na bráithre ag  
éaccaoine go mór,

Acht atá nidh cheana: do bhíodar, Clanna  
Lir, oidhche áirithe ann,  
agus mar fuairadar an oidhche sin  
ní bhfuairadar aon oidhche roimpe ná i n-a  
diaidh riamh  
le méad a seaca agus a sneachta;  
óir do fhás leac oighre ar an sruth uile idir  
Iorrus agus Achaill.  
Do leanadar a ccosa do'n lic oighre  
go nár fhéadadar cor do chur díobh;  
agus do ghabhadar, na bráithre, ag  
éagcaoineadh go mór

But at last it happened that the Children of Lir, one  
night that they were there, [at Iorrus],  
experienced a night  
such as [they] never [experienced] \*any\* night  
before or after it,  
for the intensity of its frost and its snow;  
for a flag of ice grew upon the whole of the current  
between Iorrus and Acaill,  
and their feet adhered to the ice flag,  
so that they could not move;  
and the brothers fell to moaning greatly,

ocus ag déanamh nuall-dhúbha dearmhár,  
ocus doghrainge díomhóir;

ocus do bhí Fionnghuala aga ccosc,

ocus níor fhéad sí;

ocus a dúbhaint an laoidh:—

“Truagh gáir na nealadh anocht;  
Is tráigh fódheara nó is tart;  
Gan uisce lionn-fhuar fá na nucht,  
A ccuirp is diombuan ó’n tart.

Gan uisce tana, tailc,tréan,  
Gan tonn mara ag teacht ré ttaoibh;  
Do theacht an mhuij mheadhrach mhór,  
Go bhfhuil na clár cóimhfhlíuch caoin.

A righ do chum neamh is lár,  
Ocus tug slán na sé shluaign,  
Foirthior leat an ealtan éan,  
Leantar an tréan go madh truaigh”.

agus ag déanamh a n-uallcubha ndéarmhar  
agus doghruinge díomhóir.

Agus do bhí Fionnghuala ag a gcosc,

acht níor fhéad sí;

agus adubhaint an laoi seo:

“Truagh é gáir na n-ealadh anocht,  
Truagh fó gheasaibh iad anois:  
Gan uisce lionn-fhuar fá n-a n-ucht,  
A gcuirp is díombuan ó’n dtart.

Gan uisce tana tailc tréan,  
Gan tonn mara ag teacht re dtaoibh;  
Do théacht an mhuij mheadhrach mhór  
Go bhfui ’n-a clár coimhfhlíuch caoimh.

A Rí, do chum neamh is lár,  
Is a thug slán na sé sluaigh,  
Foirthear leat an ealta éan,  
Iad anocht i bpéin is truaigh.”

and to lamenting loudly, and to grieving intensely;

and Fionnghuala was consoling them,

and she could not,

and she spoke the lay:—

“Pitiful the lament of the swans this night,—  
Is it the ebb that has caused it, or it is a drought?—  
Without cold-flowing water under their breasts,  
Their bodies will be short-lived from thirst.

Without thin water, firm, and strong,—  
Without a sea wave coming against their sides;  
The merry great sea has congealed,  
So that it has become a beautiful damp-wet plain.

O King who hast formed Heaven and Earth,  
And who broughtest safe the six hosts,  
By thee be relieved the tribe of birds,  
Let the strong be chastised till they become pitiful”.

## Section 54

“A bhráithre” ar Fionnghuala,

“creidigh an fir-Dhia forórdha na fírinne,

do chum neamh go na néallaibh,

ocus talamh go na thorthaibh,

ocus an fhairrge go na hiongantaibh,

ocus do gheabhthaoi cobhair ocus  
cómhfhurtacht o'n cCoimhdhe”.

“Creidmíd”, ar iad;

“ocus creidimsi libh”, ar Fionnghuala,

“do'n fhír-Dhia fhoirfe, fhír-eólach”.

Ocus do chreidiódár ar an uair chóir,

ocus fueradar cabhair ocus cobhsanadh ó'n  
cCoimhdhe da éis sin,

ocus níor chuir doiníonn ná doirbhshíon orra ó  
sin amach.

“A óga,” arsa Fionnghuala,

“creididh i bhfír-Dhia forórdha na fírinne

do chum neamh go n-a néallaibh

agus talamh go n-a thorthaibh

agus an fhairrge go n-a hiongantaibh,

agus an uile dhúil feicse agus neamh-fhaicse,

agus do gheobhthaoi cabhair agus  
comhfhurtacht ó'n gCoimhde.”

“Creidimíd,” ar siad.

“Agus creidim-se libh,” arsa Fionnghuala,

“do'n fhír-Dhia fhoirbhthe, fhír-eólach.”

Agus do chreideadar ar an uair chóir,

agus fuaireadar cabhair agus cobhsanadh ó'n  
gCoimhde d'a éis sin,

agus níor chuir doineann na doirbhshíon ortha  
ó shoin amach.

“My brethren”, said Fionnghuala,

“believe ye in the truly splendid God of truth,

who made Heaven with its clouds,

and Earth with its fruits,

and the sea with its wonders;

and ye shall receive help and full relief from  
the Lord”.

“We do believe”, said they.

“And I believe with you”, said Fionnghuala,

“in the true God, perfect, truly intelligent”.

And they believed in the proper hour;

and they received help and protection from the  
Lord after that;

and neither tempest nor bad weather affected  
them from that time out.

## Section 55

Ocus do bhádar a Rinn Iorrais Domhnann

nó go dtáinig leó a ttréimsi do chaithiomh ann,

ocus adubhairt Fionnghuala:

“Is mithid dhuinn dul go Síoth Fionnachaidh

mar a bhfhuil Lir gona theaghlaigh, ocus ar  
muinntir uile”.

“Is maith linne sin”, ar iadsan.

Agus do bhíodar i Rinn Iorrus Dhomhnann

no go dtáinig leó a dtréimhse do chaitheamh  
ann,

agus adubhairt Fionnghuala:

“Is mithid dúinn dul go Síoth Fionnachaidh

mar a bhfuil Lir go n-a theaghlaigh agus ár  
muinntear uile.”

“Is maith linne san,” ar siadsan.

And they continued at the point of Iorrus  
Domhnann

until they consummated their [assigned]  
period there.

And then Fionnghuala said:

“It is time now that we go to Síoth  
Fionnachaidh,

where Lir is with his household, and \*all of\*  
our people”.

“We think well of that”, said they.

## Section 56

Ocus do ghluaiseadar rómha go huréadtrom,  
aégheartha

nó go rangodar Síoth Fionnachaidh;

ocus is amhlaidh fuaradar an baile, fás,  
folamh ar a ccionn,

gan acht maol-rátha glasa,

Agus do ghluaiseadar rómha go húiréadtrom  
éanamhail aerda

no go rángodar Síoth Fionnachaidh;

agus is amhla fuaireadar an baile i n-a fhásach  
fhollamh ar a gcionn,

gan acht maol-rátha glasa

And they set out forward, lightly and airily,

until they reached Síoth Fionnachaidh;

and they found the place deserted and empty  
before them,

with nothing but unroofed green raths,

ocus doireadha neannta ann,  
gan teach, gan teine, gan treib.

Ocus tángadar a néiníonad iona cceathrar,  
ocus tugadar trí gártha éaccointe ós árd,  
ocus adúbhairt Fionnghuala an laoidh:—

“Longnadh liom an baile so.  
Mar ’tá gan tigh, gan toighe,  
Mar do chím an baile so,  
Uchán is cráidh lém’ chroidhe.

Gan cona, is gan conarta,  
Gan mná, ’sgan ríoghraídh Rathmhar,  
Mar ’tá anois ní chualamar,  
An áitsi riámh ag ár nathair.

Gan corna, gan copána  
Gan ól ’na múraibh soillse;  
Gan marcraíd, gan macáimha,  
Mar tá anocht, is tuar tuirse.

agus doireadha neannta ann,  
gan treabh, gan teach gan tigheas gan teine.

Agus thángadar i n-aon ionad i n-a gceathrar,  
agus thugadar trí gártha goil is éagcaointe ós ard,  
agus adubhairt Fionnghuala an laoi seo:

“Longnadh liom an baile seo  
Mar tá gan tigh gan tuighe;  
Mar do chím an baile seo,  
Uchán, is crádh lem’ chroidhe.

Gan cona is gan conartha,  
Gan mná, gan rioghra Rathmhar:  
Mar tá anois ní fhacamair  
An áit seo riámh ag ár n-athair.

Gan corna, gan copana,  
Gan ól ’n-a múraibh soillse:  
Gan marcraíd, gan macaomha,  
Mar tá anocht is tuar tuirse.

and forests of nettles there;  
without a house, without a fire, without a residence.

And the four drew close together,  
and they raised three shouts of lamentation aloud;  
and Fionnghuala spoke the poem:—

“A wonder to me this place,—  
How it is without house, without dwellings,  
This place as I see it now—  
*Uchone*, it is bitterness to my heart.

Without hounds, and without packs of dogs,  
Without women, and without prosperous kings,  
We have never heard of it as now it is,  
This place, before, with our father.

Without drinking horns, without cups,  
Without drinking in its lightsome halls,  
Without cavalcades, without youths,  
As it is to night is an omen of grief.

Mar atáid lucht an bhailes,  
Ochán is cráidh léim' chroidhe,  
Atá anocht ar mairesi,  
Nach marionn triath an tighe.

A bhailesi 'na bhfacamar,  
Ceól is imirt, ocus aonach,  
Dar liom is é an tatharach,  
Mar atá anocht anaonar.

Méid na ndochar fuaramar,  
O'n tuinn mara go chéile,  
A leithéid ní chualamar  
D'imtheacht ar dhaoinibh eile.

Dobh annamh an bailesi  
Taobh ré fér is ré fiódhbhaidh,  
Ní mhair fear ar naithnidhne,  
Sinn san áitsi leis gé'r bhiongnad".

Mar atáid lucht an bhaile seo,  
Uchán is crádh lem' chroidhe:  
Atá anocht ar m'aire-se  
Nach maireann triath an tighe.

A bhaile seo 'n-a bhfacamair  
Ceol, imirt agus aonach,  
Dar liom is é an t-atharrach  
Mar tá anocht 'n-a aonar.

Méid na ndochar fuaireamair  
Ó thuinn mara go céile,  
A leithéid ní chualamair  
D'imtheacht ar dhaoinibh eile.

Do b'annamh é an baile seo  
Taobh le féar 's le fiódhbhadh  
Ní maireann fear ár n-aithne-na,  
Sinn 'san áit seo leis nár bh'iongnadh."

The state in which are the people of this place,  
*Uchone*, it is bitterness to my heart,  
It is clear this night to my perception,  
That the lord of this house is not alive.

O thou, this place in which we have seen  
Music, playing, and the fair-assembly;  
To me it seems a sad reverse,  
How it stands this night deserted.

The greatness of our misfortunes,  
From the one ocean wave to the other,  
The like of which we have not heard  
To have happened to any other persons.

Seldom has been this place  
Trusting to grass and to wood,  
The man to recognize us liveth not,  
To find us here, though to him it were a wonder".

## Section 57

Cidh trá acht do bhádar Clanna Lir an oidhche sin

a nionad a nathar, ocus a seanathar

mar ar hoileadh iad;

Cidh trá, acht do bhíodar Clanna Lir an oidhche sin

i n-ionad a n-athar agus a sean-athar

mar ar oileadh iad;

However, the Children of Lir remained that night

at the place of their father and their grandfather,

where they had been nursed;

ocus do cansad ceól sír-bhinn síthe;	agus do chanadar ceól sír-bhinn sidhe.	and they chanted plaintively sweet, fairy music;
ocus do éirgheadar a mocha na maidne arnamhárach,	Agus d'eirgheadar i mocha na maidne ar n-a mháireach,	and they arose at early morning next day,
ocus do ghluaisiodar rómpa go hInis Gluaire Bréanainn;	agus do ghluaiseadar go hInis Gluaire *Bréandain*;	and they set out forward to Inis Gluaire of Brendainn;
ocus do thionóladar éanlaith na críche go coitchionn chucca,	agus do thionóladar éanlaith na críche go coitcheann chucha	and the birds of the country in general congregated near them
ar Lochán na hEanlaithe a nInis Gluaire Bréanainn;	ar Locán na nÉanlaithe i nInis Gluaire *Bréandain*.	upon the Lake of the Birds in Inis Gluaire of Brendainn.
ocus do thigdís d'ingheilt gach laoi fa reannaibh imchiana na críche .i. go hInis Geóidh, ocus go hAchaill, ocus go Teach Duinn;	Agus do théighdís d'ingheilt gach lá fó rannaibh imchiana na críche .i. go hInis Geoidh agus go hAcaill agus go Tigh Dhuinn	And they used to go forth to feed each day to the remote points of the coast, namely, to Inis Geadh and to Acaill, and to Teach Duinn,
ocus gus na hoiléanaibh iarthalacha ar cheana;	agus gus na hoileánaibh iarthalacha ar cheana.	and to the other western islands in like manner;
ocus do théighdís go hInis Gluaire Bréanainn gach oidhche.	Acht do thigidís go hInis Gluaire *Bréandain* gach oidhche.	and they used to return to Inis Gluaire of Brendainn each night.

## Section 58

Ocus do bhádar ar an ordúghadh sin ré headh,  
ocus ré haimsir fhada,  
  
go haimsir chreidimh Chríost,  
  
ocus go ttáinig Pátraic naomhtha a nEirinn;  
  
ocus go ttáinig Mochaomhóg naomhtha go  
hInis Gluaire Bréanainn.  
  
Ocus an chéad oidhche táinig do'n inis  
  
do chualadar Clanna Lir guth a chluig aga  
bhuain 'san iairméisge láimh leó;  
  
gur bhíogadar,  
  
ocus gur bhuain-sginneadar go adhuathmhar  
aga chloisdin;  
  
ocus d'fhágħad a bráithre Fionnghuala na  
haonar.

Do bhíodar ar an órdughadh soin re headh  
agsu re haimsir fhada,  
  
go haimsir Chreidimh Chríost  
  
no go dtáinig Pádraig Naomhtha i nÉirinn  
  
agus fós go dtáinig Mochaomhóg naomhtha  
go hInis Gluaire Bréandain.  
  
Agus an chéad oidhche táinig sé do'n Inis  
  
do chualadar, Clanna Lir, guth a chluig ag a  
bhuain 'san iairmeirghe láimh leó  
  
gur bhíodhgadar  
  
agus gur bhuain-sceinneadar go  
hadhfhuathmhar ag a chlos.  
  
Agus d'fhágadar, a bráithre, Fionnghuala i n-a  
huath agus i n-a haonar.

And they continued living thus for a long  
period of time,  
  
till the time of the Faith of Christ,  
  
and until holy Patrick came into Erinn;  
  
and until holy Mochaomhóg came to Inis  
Gluaire of Brendainn.  
  
And the first night that he came to the island,  
  
the Children of Lir heard the voice of his bell,  
ringing at matins, near them;  
  
and they started,  
  
and leaped about in terror at hearing it;  
  
and her brothers left Fionnghuala alone.

## Section 59

“Créad sin, a bhráithre ionmhaine?” ar sí.

“Ní fheadamair” ar siad, “cia an guth anbhffhann adhfhuathmhar do chualamar”.

“Guth chluig Mhochaomhóig sin”, ar Fionnghuala,

“ocus is é sgarfas sibhsí ré péin, ocus ré peanaid,

ocus fhóirfeas sibh maille re toil Dé”;

ocus adúbhait an laoidh:—

“Eisdigh ré clog an chléirigh,  
Tógbhaidh bhur neite ocus éirgidh,  
Beiridh a bhuidhe ré Dia a theacht,  
Ocus altaighidh a éisteacht.

Córaide dhaobh bheith dhá réir,  
Is é sgarfas sibh ré péin,  
Sgarfaidh ribh cairrge is clocha  
Ocus sgarfaidh garbh shrotha.

“Créad soin, a bhráithre ionmhuine?” ar sí.

“Ní fheadamair,” ar siad, “cia an guth anbhffhann adhfhuathmhar do chualamair.”

“Guth chluig Mhochaomhóig san,” arsa Fionnghuala,

“agus is é sgarfas sibh-se le péin agus le peanaid,

agus is é fhóirfios sibh maille le toil Dé.”

Agus adúbhait an laoi seo:

“Éistidh le clog an chléirigh,  
Tógbhaidh bhur n-eite is éirghidh,  
Beiridh a bhuidhe le Dia A theacht,  
Agus altuighidh A éisteacht.

Córaide dhíbh bheith dh'a réir,  
Is é sgarfas sibh le péin;  
Scarfaidh libh carraig is cloch,  
Maraon agus luas na sroth.

“What is this, O beloved brothers?” said she.

“We know not”, say they, “what faint fearful voice it is we have heard”.

“That is the voice of the Bell of Mochaomhóg”, said Fionnghuala;

“and it is that [bell that] shall liberate you from suffering and from pain,

and shall relieve you according to the will of God”;

and she spoke the lay:—

“Listen to the Cleric’s bell;  
Elevate your wings and arise;  
Give thanks to God for his coming,  
And be grateful for having heard him.

It is the more proper that ye to be ruled by him,  
Because it is he that shall liberate you from pain,  
Shall bring you away from the rocks and stones,  
And shall bring you away from the furious currents.

A deirimsi ribhse, dhe,  
Déanaidh creideamh cóir cinnte,  
A cheathrar chaomh Chloinne Lir,  
Eistigh ré clog an chléirigh”.

Adeirim-se libh-se dhe,  
Deinidh creideamh inchreidthe:  
A cheathrar chaomh-Chlainne Lir,  
Éistighidh le clog an chléirigh.”

I say unto you, therefore,  
Make you a confession of proper accurate faith;  
Ye comely four [three ?] Children of Lir,  
Listen to the bell of the Cleric”.

## Section 60

Cidh trá, acht do bhádar Clanna Lir agh  
éistiocht ris in cceól sin do rinne an cléirioch,  
nó gur chríochnaigh a thrátha.

“Canam ar cceolanois”, ar Fionnghuala,  
“d’áird-righ nimhe ocus talmhan”.

Ocus do chanadar a ccedoir, ceól síreachtach,  
sír-bhinn, síthe,  
ag moladh an choimhdhe, ocus do adradh an  
áird-righ.

Cidh trá, acht do bhíodar, Clanna Lir, ag  
éisteacht leis an gceól soin do rinne an  
cléireach

no go dtáinig dó a thrátha do cheileabhradh.  
“Canam ár gceólanois,” arsa Fionnghuala,  
“do Áirdrigh neimhe agus talmhan.”

Agus do chanadar i gcéadóir ceól síreachtach  
sír-bhinn sidhe  
ag moladh an Choimhde agus ag adhradh an  
Áirdriogh.

The Children of Lir, therefore, continued  
listening to that music which the cleric  
performed,

until he had finished his matins.  
“Let us chant our music now”, said  
Fionnghuala,

“for the High King of Heaven and Earth”.  
And they immediately chanted a plaintive,  
slow-sweet, fairy music,  
in praise of the Lord, and in adoration of the  
High King.

## Section 61

Ocus do bhí Mochaomhóg ag éisteacht riú,

ocus do ghuidh Dia go dúthrachtach

fána fhoillsiúghadh dhó, cia ro chan an ceól  
sain;

ocus ro foillsigheadh dhó gurab iad Clanna Lir  
do rinne é.

Ocus iar tteacht na maidne arnamhárach,

gluaisios Mochaomhóg go Loch na hEanlaithe

ocus do chonnairc na héin uadha ar an loch;

ocus do chuaidh go hoirear an chuain mar a  
bhfhacaidh iad,

ocus do fhiarfraigh dhíobh:

“An sibh Clann Lir?” ar sé.

“As sinn go deimhin”, ar iadsan.

Do bhí Mochaomhóg ag éisteacht leó,

agus do ghuidh Dia go dúthrachtach

fá n-a fhoillsiúghadh dhó cia do chan an ceól  
soin.

D’fhoillsigheadh dó gurab iad Clanna Lir do  
rinne.

Iar dteacht na maidne ar n-a mháireach,

do ghluais Mochaomhóg roimhe go Loch na  
hÉanlaithe,

agus do chonnaic na héin uaidh ar an loch;

do chuaidh go hoirear an chuain mar a  
bhfhacaidh iad,

agus d’fhiarfraigh díobh:

“An sibh Clann Lir?”

“Is sinn go deimhin,” ar siad san.

And Mochaomhóg was listening to them,

and he prayed God fervently

to reveal to him who it was that chaunted the  
music;

and it was revealed unto him that it was the  
Children of Lir that performed it.

And upon the coming of the morning of the  
next day,

Mochaomhóg went forward to the Lake of the  
Birds;

and he saw the birds out upon the lake;

and he went to the brink of the shore where he  
saw them,

and he inquired of them:

“Are ye the Children of Lir?” said he.

“We are, indeed”, said they.

“Do bheirim a bhuidhe sin ré Dia”, ar Mo chaomhógh,

“óir as ar bhur son tangusa chum na hinnesi,

tar gach ninnsi oile in Eirinn;

ocus tígídh a ttír,

ocus tabhraidh taobh friomsa,

óir as annso atá a ccinneadh dhíbh  
deaghoibreacha do déanamh,

ocus dealúghadh ré bhur bpeacthaibh”.

“Do bheirim a bhuidhe sin le Dia,” arsa  
Mochaomhóg,

“óir is ar bhur son do thánga-sa chum na hinse  
seo

thar gach inis eile i nÉirinn.

Agus tígídh i dtír

agus tugaidh taobh liom-sa,

óir is annso atá i gcinneadh dhíbh deagh-  
oibreacha do dhéanamh

agus dealughadh le nbhur bpeacaíb.”

“I return thanks to God for it”, said  
Mochaomhóg,

“for it is for your sakes that I have come to  
this island

beyond every other island in Erinn;

and come ye to land now,

and put your trust in me,

for it is here it is destined for you to perform  
good works,

and separate from your sins”.

## Section 62

Tángadar i ttír iar sin, ocus tugadar taobh ris  
an ccléireach;

ocus do rug lais da adhbhuidh féin iad;

ocus do bhídís ag déanamh tráth,

ocus ag éisteacht aifrinn a bhfhocair an  
chléirigh.

Thángadar i dtír iarsoin agus thugadar taobh  
leis an gcléireach.

Do rug seisean leis d'a adhbhaidh féin iad,

agus do bhídís ag déanamh tráth

is ag éisteacht Aifrinn i bhfocair an chléirigh.

They came to land after that, and they put trust  
in the Cleric;

and he took them with him to his own abode,

and they used to keep the canonical hours  
there,

and to celebrate mass along with the Cleric.

Ocus tug Mochaomhog ceárd maith chuige,

ocus d'fhuráil air slabhradha airgid aoinghil  
do dhéanamh dhóibh;

ocus do chuir slabhraíd idir Aodh ocus  
Fionnghuala,

ocus slabhraíd idir Chonn ocus Fhiachra;

ocus do bhídís na cceathrar ag  
urgháirdiúghadh intinni,

ocus ag méadúghadh meanmna ag an  
ccléireach;

ocus níor chuir imshníomh ná atuirse ar na  
hénuibh aon ghuasacht ná aon riocht d'ar  
imthigh orra conuige sin.

Agus thug Mochaomhóg ceárd maith chuige,

agus d'fhuráil air slabhradha airgid aenghil do  
dhéanamh dóibh;

agus do chuir slabhradh idir Aodh agus  
Fionnghuala

agus slabhradh idir Chonn agus Fhiachra.

Do bhídís i n-a gceathrar ag úrgháirdiúghadh  
intinne

agus ag méadughadh meanman ag an  
gcléireach,

agus níor tháinig imshníomh ná athuirse ar na  
héanaibh mar gheall ar aon ghuasacht ná aon  
riocht d'ar imthigh ortha go nuige sin.

And Mochaomhóg took a good artificer to  
him,

and he ordered him to make chains of bright  
white silver for them;

and he put a chain between Aodh and  
Fionnghuala,

and a chain between Conn and Fiachra;

and the four of them gave much joy of mind

and increase of spirits to the Cleric;

and no danger nor distress in which the birds  
had been hitherto, caused them any fatigue or  
distress now.

## Section 63

As é fá rígh ar Chonnachaibh an tan sin,  
Lairgnén mac Colmáin, mic Cobhthaigh,  
ocus Deoch inghean Fhinnghin mhic Aodha  
Allainn  
.i. inghean rígh Mumhan,  
as í bá bhan chéile dhó.

Is é ba rí ar Chonnachaibh an tan soin  
Lairgnéan mac Cholmáin, mhic Chobhthaigh;  
agus Deoch inghean Fhinghin mhic Aodha  
Áluinn  
.i. inghean riogh Mumhan,  
is í ba bhainchéile dhó.

He who was king of Connacht at this time was  
Lairgnen, the son of Colman, son of  
Cobhthach,  
and Deoch the daughter of Finghin, son of  
Aodh Allainn,  
that is, the daughter of the King of Munster,  
was his wife.

## Section 64

Ocus do chualaigh an inghean tuarusgbháil na  
nén  
ocus do líon da searc ocus da síor ghrádh;  
ocus do iarr ar Lairgnén na heón d'fhágħail  
dhi.  
Ocus adúbhait Lairgnén nách iarrfadħ ar  
Mhochaomhóg iad.  
Ocus tug Deoch a briathar

Do chualaidh an inghean tuarasgabháil na n-  
éan  
agus do líon d'a seirc agus d'a síor-ghrádh,  
agus do iarr ar Lairgnéan na héin d'fhagháil  
di.  
Acht adúbhait Lairgnéan nach iarrfadħ ar  
Mhochaomhóg iad.  
Agus thug Deoch a briathar

And the woman heard the account of the birds,  
and she was filled with affection and fast love  
for them;  
and she entreated of Lairgnen to procure the  
birds for her.  
And Lairgnen said that he would not ask them  
of Mochaomhóg.  
And Deoch gave her word

nách beith féin aon oidhche ag Lairgnén,

muna bhfaghaidh na heóin;

ocus do ghluais roimpe as an mbaile.

Ocus do chuir Lairgnén teachta go luath da  
tóruigheacht,

ocus ní rugadh uirre go ráinic Cill Dalua.

Ocus táinig sisi tar a hais do'n bhaile iarsin;

ocus do chuir Lairgnén teachta d'iarraidh na  
néan ar Mhochaomhóg;

ocus ní bhfhuair iad.

nách beadh féin aon oidhche ag Lairgnéan

muna bhfaghadh na heoin,

agus do ghluais roimpe as an mbaile.

Do chuir Lairgnéan teachta go luath d'a  
tóruidheacht,

acht ní rugadh uirthe go ráinig Cill Dálua.

Tháinig sise thar a hais d'on bhaile iarsoin,

agus chuir Lairgnéan teachta d'iarraidh na n-  
éan ar Mhochaomhóg,

acht ní bhfuair iad.

that she would not remain one night longer  
with Lairgnen

if she did not obtain the birds;

and she set out at once from her residence.

And Lairgnen sent messengers quickly after  
her,

and she was not overtaken till she reached Cill  
Dalua.

And she went back to the residence then;

and Lairgnen sent messengers to ask the birds  
from Mochaomhóg;

and he failed to get them.

## Section 65

Do bhí fearg mhór ar Lairgnén uime sin,

ocus tainig fén go hairm araibh  
Mochaomhóg,

ocus d'fhiafhraigh dhe ar bhfhíor a rádha gur  
dhiúlt im na héanaibh é.

"As fior go deimhin", ar Mochaomhóg.

Ann sin do eirigh Lairgnén, ocus tug sítheamh  
ar na héanaibh,

ocus tug chuige do'n altóir iad

.i. dá éan ann gach láimh dhó;

ocus gluaises roimhe go hairm araibh Deoch,

ocus leanas Mochaomhóg é.

Acht ar nglacadh na néan dó,

do chuaidh a ttlacht cochaill dhíobh,

Do bhí fearg mhór ar Lairgnéan uime sin,

agus tháinig fén go hairm a raibh  
Mochaomhóg,

agus d'fhiafhraigh de ar bh'fhíor a rádh gur  
dhiúlt um na héanaibh é.

"Is fior go deimhin," arsa Mochaomhóg.

Annsoin d'eirigh Lairgnéan, agus thug  
sítheamh ar na héanaibh,

agus thug chuige do'n altóir iad

.i. dhá éan i ngach láimh dó.

Agus do ghluais roimhe go hairm a raibh  
Deoch,

agus lean Mochaomhóg é.

Acht ar ghlacadh na n-éan dó,

do chuaidh a dtlacht cochaill díobh;

Great anger seized upon Lairgnen on this  
account,

and he came himself to where Mochaomhóg  
was,

and he asked him if it was true that he had  
refused him the birds.

"It is true, indeed", said Mochaomhóg.

Then Lairgnen arose, and grasped at the birds,

and snatched them to him off the altar,

namely, two birds in each hand;

and he went forth towards the place in which  
Deoch was;

and Mochaomhóg followed him;

but as soon as he had laid hands on the birds

their feathery coats fell off them,

ocus do rinneadh trí seanoire críona,  
cnámhacha dona macaibh;

ocus sean chailleach, lom, arsaidh, gan fhuil,  
gan fhéoil, do'n inghin.

agus do rinneadh trí seanóire críonna  
cnámhacha de na macaibh

agus sean-chailleach lom ársaíd gan fhuil gan  
fheoil de'n inghin.

and the sons were transformed into \*three\*  
withered, bony old men,

and the daughter into a lean, withered old  
woman [real men and woman], without blood  
or flesh.

## Section 66

Ocus do ghabh bíodhgadh Lairgnén iar sin,

ocus do gluais as an mbaile amach;

ocus ní cian do chuaidh

an tan do eascain Mochaomhóg é go  
díochrach.

Do ghaibh bíodhgadh Lairgnéan iar soin

agus do gluais as an mbaile amach;

agus ní cian do chuaidh

an tan d'eascain Mochaomhóg é go díocrach.

And Lairgnen started at this,

and he went out of the place;

and he had not gone far

when Mochaomhóg cursed him fervently.

## Section 67

Is ann sin adúbhairt Fionnghuala.

“Tar d’ar mbaisdeadh a chléirigh,  
oir as gairid uainn dul do’n éag;  
ucus as dearb nách measa leatsa dealúghadh  
linne,  
na linne dealúghadh leatsa;  
ucus déana ar nadhlacadh as a haithle,  
ucus cuir Conn dom’ leith dheas, ucus Fiachra  
dom’ leith chlé,  
ucus Aodh do leith m’aignthe”;  
ucus adúbhairt an laoidh:—  
“Tar d’ar mbaisdeadh a chléirigh,  
Gabh umat ucus éirigh,  
Glan dinn ar niomad smáil,  
’Sar ccionta uile, a chompáin.

Is annsoin adubhairt Fionnghuala:

“Tair d’ár mbaisdeadh, a chléirigh,  
óir is gairid uainn dul do’n éag;  
agus is dearbh nach measa leat-sa dealughadh  
linne  
ioná linne dealughadh leat-sa.  
Agus déin ár n-adhlacadh as a haithle.  
Chuir Conn agus Fiachra do leith mo chúil  
agus Aodh do leith m’aignthe;”  
agus adubhairt an laoi seo:  
“Tair d’ár mbaisdeadh, a chléirigh,  
Gaibh umat agus éirigh,  
Glan dinn ár n-iomad smáil  
’S ár ccionta uile, a chompáin.

It was then that Fionnghuala said:

“Come to baptize us, O Cleric,  
for our death is near;  
and assuredly you do not think worse of  
parting with us  
than we do at parting with you;  
therefore make our grave afterwards,  
and place Conn at my right side, and Fiachra  
on my left side,  
and Aodh before my face”;  
and she spoke the poem:—  
“Come to baptize us, O Cleric;  
Take upon thee and arise;  
Clear away from us our many stains,  
And all our faults, O companion.

Guidh si Dia do dhealbh neamh,  
Go ttigh leatsa ar mbaisteadh;  
Gurabh luchtmhar ar nuaigh,  
'Sar mbuinn re haltóir aonuair.

As amhlaidh órdaighim an uaigh,  
Fiachra, is Conn for mo dhá thaobh,  
Am ucht, idir mo dhá láimh,  
A chléirigh cháidh cuir Aodh.

A Mhochaomhóg an ghlórí ghlic,  
Sgarthainn ribh cia doiligh leam,  
Déana go héasgaidh an uaigh,  
Imthigh go luath is tar a nam”.

Guidh-se Dia do dhealbhuiigh neamh  
Go dtig leat ár mbaisteadh  
Go raibh lucht úird ós ár n-uaigh  
Is ár mboinn le haltóir fhuair.

Is amhlaidh órduighim an uaigh,  
Fiachra is Conn cruaidh rem' thaobh;  
Roimh m'ucht, idir mo dhá láimh,  
A chléirigh cháidh, cuir Aodh.

A Mhochaomhóg an ghlórí ghlic,  
Scarmhain libh gidh doiligh liom,  
Déin go héascaidh an uaigh  
Imthigh go luath, is tair i n-am.”

Pray thou the God who formed Heaven,  
That thou mayest succeed in baptizing us;  
Let our grave be capacious,  
And our feet at once to the altar.

Thus do I order the grave:  
Fiachra and Conn by me on either side,  
And in my lap, between my two arms.  
Thou chaste Cleric, place Aodh.

O Mochaomhóg of the subtle speech.  
Though grievous to me to part from thee,  
Prepare thou hastily the grave;  
Depart quickly, and come in time”.

## Section 68

A haithle na laoidh sin, do baisteadh; ocus do éagadar, ocus do hadhlacadh, Clanna Lir;

ocus do cuireadh Fiachra ocus Conn for a dá taobh,

ocus Aodh do leith a haighthe, mar do ordaigh Fionnghuala;

ocus do tógbhadh a lia ós a leacht,

A haithle na laoi sin do baisteadh iad, agus d'éagadar. Do hadlacadh Clanna Lir leis an gcléireach annsoin.

Cuireadh Fiachra is Conn do leith a cúil do'n inghin,

agus Aodh do leith a haighthe, mar do órduigh sí.

Do tógbhadh a lia ós a leacht,

After this lay, the children of Lir were baptized; and they died, and were buried;

and Fiachra and Conn were placed at either side [of Fionnghuala],

and Aodh before her face, as Fionnghuala ordered;

and their tombstone was raised over their tomb,

ocus do scríobhadh a nanmanna oghaim,  
ocus do fearadh a ccluiche caointe;  
ocus do fríth neamh dia nanmannaibh, tré  
impidhe Mhochaomhóig.

do scríobhadh a n-ainmneacha oghaim,  
do fearadh a geluiche caointe,  
agus do frith neamh do n-a n-anamnaibh tré  
impidhe Mhochaomhóig.

and their Oghaim names were written;  
and their lamentation rites were performed;  
and Heaven was obtained for their souls  
through the prayers of Mochaomhóig.

## Section 69

Ocus do bhí Mochaomhóig go cúmach,  
tuirseach ina ndiaigh;  
ocus do bhí ag tabhairt achmhusáin ocus  
eascaine ar Lairgnén,  
ocus adúbhairt an laoidh:—

“A Lairgéin! mo mhallacht ort,  
As géar do chrádhais mo chaomh-chorp;  
Go ccráidheadh Dia do chorp slán,  
Mar do chrádhais an bochtán.

Mo cheithre peataidhe dil, éan.  
Mar do mhillis a Lairgnén,  
Go milleadh Dia thusa féin,  
Fád’ bhainchéile, a Lairgnén.

Agus do bhí Mochaomhóig go cumhach  
tuirseach i n-a ndiaidh  
agus do bhí ag tabhairt achmhusán is  
eascaine ar Lairgnéan,  
agus adubhairt an laoi seo:

“A Lairgnéin! mo mhallacht ort  
Tré mar do chrádhais-se mo chorp;  
Go gcráidheadh Dia do chorp slán  
Mar do chrádhais-se an bochtán.

Mo cheithre pheataidhe díl-éan  
Mar do mhillis, a Lairgnéin,  
Go millidh Dia tusa féin  
Fód’ bhain-chéile, a Lairgnéin.

And Mochaomhóig was sorrowful and  
distressed after them;  
and he was bestowing reproaches and  
maledictions upon Lairgnen;  
and he spoke the lay:  
“O Lairgnen! my curse upon thee,  
Sharply hast thou tortured my fair body.  
May God torture thy living body,  
As thou hast tortured this poor wretch.

My poor beloved pets of birds,  
As thou hast ruined, O Lairgnen,  
May God ruin thee thyself  
In thy wife [lit. woman companion,] O Lairgnen.

An bhean tug ort a labhradh,  
Mas déoin ré mo thighearna,  
Go raibh dhi ar son an fhill,  
Giorra saoghail is ifrinn.

Andiaidh mo cheathrar daltadh,  
Gan chompán, gan chomhaltadh;  
Mar táim anocht, truag an sgéal,  
Mo mhallacht ort a Lairgnén!"

An bhean thug ort a labhradh,  
Má's deoin le mo thighearna,  
Go raibh dhi ar son an fhill  
Giorradh saoghail, pian ifrinn.

I ndiaidh mo cheathrar daltadh,  
Gan chompán, gan chomhdhalta,  
Mar táim anocht, is truagh an scéal:  
Mo mhallacht ort, a Lairgnén!"

The woman who induced thee to speak,  
If it be willing to my Lord,  
May she have, in return for this guile,  
Shortness of life and Hell.

After my four pets,  
Without a companion, without a pet,  
As I am, this night—sad the tale,  
My curse upon thee, O Lairgnen!"

## Section 70

Níor chian iar sin

go bhfuair Lairgnén, maille re na bhainchéile,  
bás go hobann,

tré eascaine Dé ocus Mhochaomhóig.

Níor chian iarsoin

go bhfuair Lairgnéan, maille ré n-a bhain-  
chéile, bás go hobann

tré eascaine Dé agus Mochaomhóig

i ndioghail an droich-ghníomha soin do  
rinneadar.

It was not long after this

until Lairgnen, together with his wife, came to  
a sudden death

through the curse of \*God and\* Mochaomhóig.

## Section 71

Conadh í Oidheadh Chloinne Lir conuige sin.

Gonadh Oidhe Chlainne Lir go nuige sin.

And that is the Fate of the Children of Lir, so  
far.