

Scéla Guairi meic Colmáin agus Meic Teléne

The story of Guaire mac Colmáin and Mac Teléne

Note to the reader

Excerpt from O’Keeffe’s notes:

“The general idea—which is somewhat obscure here and there in the text—may be summarised briefly as follows:—

A braggart named Mac Telene out of Munster boasted that Guaire’s people were not worth much; away in Munster they had the saintly Cummaine for their sportsman, a bishop, Moronoc, for a fool, and a fool, Mac Dá Cherda, who was equal to the best *fili* in the world. Guaire forcibly detains him until the boast is proved true. In due course the three come to Durlas and act up to their supposed characters. The bishop makes a spectacle of himself, the *óinmit* bursts into poetry and Cummaine proves himself a right good sportsman.”

Section 1

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| | | Once upon a time |
| Mac Telene do feraib Muman, | Mac Telene ón Mhumhain, | Mac Telene of the men of Munster, |
| cend imarbaga hErend, | príomh-údar mioscaise na hÉireann, | chief strife-fomenter in Ireland, |
| dorad imarbaigh | d’adhain iomarbháigh | made contention |
| feachtus | uair | |
| hi tig Guaire Aidne | in dteach Ghuaire Aidhne | in the house of Guaire of Aidne |

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| dia mbatar a muintir oc admolad Guaire agus a aesa dana | mar a raibh Guaire á mhóradh ag a mhuintir, é féin agus a aos dána, | as his people were glorifying Guaire and his artists |
| .i. ana hingenraidi agus na fileada | idir bhantracht, filí, | — viz., the women-folk, the poets, |
| ocus na segunna agus na druthu agus na hoinmiti. | laochra, draoithe agus óinmhidí. | the champions, the buffoons and the fools. |
| “Atat lenni,” or Mac Teleni, “aes ata ferr indate | “Tá againne,” arsa Mac Telene, “daoine is fearr ná iad; | “We have folk,” said Mac Telene, “who are better than they are, |
| .i. ata seguind na hErend lend .i. Cumaine Fota mac Fiachnai. | tá curadh na hÉireann againn, Coimín Fada mac Fiachna; | that is to say, we have the champion of Ireland, Cumaine Foda, son of Fiachna. |
| Ata espoc lend agus is oen oinmit fer nErenn. | tá easpag againn, <u>Morónóg</u> , *agus is é óinmhid fear na hÉireann é;* | We have a bishop and he is the fool of the men of Ireland. |
| Ata oinmit lind agus is e file fer nErenn | *tá óinmhid againn, <u>Mac Mo Chearda</u> ,* agus is é príomhfhile *fear* na hÉireann é. | We have a fool and he is the poet of the men of Ireland; |
| .i. Moronoc int espoc agus Mac Mo Cherda ind oinmit.” | *.i. Morónóg an t-easpag agus Mac Mo Chearda an t-óinmhid.”* | viz., Moronoc is the bishop and Mac Mo Cherda is the fool.” |
| Rogabad-som immorro la Guaire | Gabhadh le Guaire ansin é | Thereupon he was detained by Guaire |
| co tistais dia fhuaslugud. | nó go dtiocfadh <u>Coimín Fada</u> , <u>Morónóg</u> agus <u>Mac Dá Chearda</u> á fhuascailt. | till they would come to liberate him. |

Section 2

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| Bliadain lan do and ocus ni fetus for Cumaine dul fris. | Bliain lán dó ann agus níor féadadh a chur ar Choimín dul fána choinne. | He was there a whole year and Cumaine could not be got to go for him. |
| Co tuidhid andeas dia bliadna. | I gceann na bliana, ámh, tháinig sé aneas. | That same day next year he came from the south. |
| Cet mac for faithci Derlais ara chind oc ain liathroidi. | Bhí céad macaomh ar fhaiche Dhurlais ag imirt liathróide ar theacht dóibh. | There were a hundred youths before him on the green of Durlas playing ball. |
| Lingthi Mac Da Cherda co sudib co mbui isin troit na liathroití. | Léim Mac Dá Chearda eatarthu go raibh sé féin i gcoimheascar na liathróide leo. | Mac Da Cherda leaps into the midst of them so that he is in the contest of the ball. |
| Geibid didiu Moronoc a mbachla oc dul isan teach. | Ag dul isteach sa teach do Mhorónóg bhain sé a gcamáin díobh *ansin*. | Moronoc then takes their clubs going into the house. |
| Dobreth immorro la Guaire og chirce i cathair ar cind Cumaine ocus cerchaill tairis dia brisead do ocus dia gabail do Guaire foi cona bad second dia mbrised an og. | Chuir Guaire ubh chirce in gcathaoir Choimín*, áfach,* agus cuisín á clúdach ionas go mbriseadh sé í agus go mbéarfadh Guaire amuigh ansin air faoi gan bheith ina laoch dá mbriseadh sé an ubh. | There was placed by Guaire a hen-egg in the chair assigned for Cumaine*, however,* and a cushion over it so that he might break it and so that Guaire might seize him for it, for he would be no champion if he broke the egg. |

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| Deisid in cleireach isin chathair iar mbendochad do Guaire do. | Shuigh an cléireach sa chathaoir tar éis beannú do Ghuaire dhó. | The cleric, after greeting Guaire, sits down on the chair. |
| Dorad immorro Moronoc corra in c[h]oicat bachall ar in comloid | Chuir Morónóg cinn an chaoga camán *ansin* le comhla an dorais. | Moronoc then placed the twisted ends of the fifty clubs on the door, |
| ocus tarail a asa oc dul isinn tech in comla. | Ag dul isteach dó ghreamaigh a bhróg sa chomhla, | and as he went into the house his shoe caught against the door |
| Tuslis ocus timmortis in chomlai | baineadh tuisle as gur sháigh sé an chomhla | He fell and pressed to the door |
| co rusdruiti in chomla frisin dorus | agus gur dhruid é | so that it shut in its place |
| co torchradar a cenda don coicit bachall | i gcaoi gur thit a gcinn den chaoga camán | and their heads fell from the fifty clubs, |
| co mbadar al-lorga maela for lar in tige uile. | agus go raibh a lorga maola uile ar urlár an tí. | and their headless handles were all on the floor of the house. |
| Rotibset imsodain. | Gháir siad ar fad uime sin. | They laughed thereat. |
| “Tairr ille, a cleric,” | “Tair i leith, a chléirigh, | “Come hither, cleric,” |
| or Guaire, “for in cholcaig, | ar an choilceach <u>anseo</u> ,” arsa Guaire <u>le Coimín</u> <u>Fada</u> . | said Guaire, “on the flock-bed, |
| acht ni segondacht duit | “Ní laoch tú, ámh, | though you are no champion |
| ma robrisi an uigh | má bhris tú an ubh | if you have broken the egg |
| rodermadad isin chathair.” | a fágadh sa chathaoir trí dhearmad.” | which has been forgotten in the chair.” |

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| <p>“Ni fetamar” or Cumaine, “ar mad in bar cathairib nodothaidis bar cerca. Ata sund bar n-og agus ni robrised.”</p> | <p>“Ní fheadramar,” arsa Coimín, “gur in bhur gcathaoireacha a bhéaradh na cearcha agaibh. Tá bhur n-ubh anseo agus níor briseadh í.”</p> | <p>“We knew not,” said Cumaine, “that it was in your chairs that your hens laid. Your egg is here and it has not been broken.”</p> |
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Section 3

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| <p>Aitt inn-acai Moronoc Cumaine forsin coilcid, luid cona asaib lana do chechair. Rotibset didiu in gillai imsodain. “Bes as e a suide dogres,” ar Guaire, “for laim in cleirich.” “Is e immorro,” ar Cumaine. “Insen for n-oinmit an espoc sin,” or Mac Telene. “Dothoet oinmit de-seom immorro,” or Guaire;</p> | <p>Nuair chonaic Morónóg Coimín ar an choilceach chuaigh sé anonn chuige agus a bhróga lán múirín. Gháir na giollaí uime sin *go deimhin*. “Is dócha gur mar sin a shuíonn sé de ghnáth, le taobh an chléirigh,” arsa Guaire. “Is ea, go deimhin,” arsa Coimín. “An t-easpag sin,” arsa Mac Telene, “sin é agaibh bhur n-óinmhid.” “Tompar óinmhíde atá faoi, gan amhras,” arsa Guaire.</p> | <p>Moronoc seeing Cumaine on the flock-bed went there to him with his shoes full of mire. The youths *then* laughed thereat. “Perhaps it is his usual seat,” said Guaire, “beside the cleric.” “It is, in sooth,” said Cumaine. “That bishop, it is he is your fool,” said Mac Telene. “He has shown himself a fool, *indeed*,” said Guaire;</p> |
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“tiagar do gairm Mac Mo Cherda.”

“Téitear do ghairm Mhac Dá Chearda,” ar seisean.

“let some one go to call Mac Da Cherda.”

Section 4

Is and asbert-side:

“Ni fetar citne briga
mo dul i teach cor-riga,
nimtha nach cundail atber,
ni fuiglim nímfuiglither.”

Is ansin adúirt Mac Dá Chearda:

“Ní fheadar cad é an mhaith
mé dhul i dteach an Fhlaithe;
níl agam ní is fiú a rá,
ní labhram, ní labhartar liom.”

Thereupon he said:

“I know not what is the good
of my going into the house with kings;
I have nothing appropriate to say,
I consult not, I am not consulted.”

“Ardfile na hÉirind asrubaird on,” or Guaire.

“Ard-fhile na hÉireann adúirt é sin, gan amhras,” arsa Guaire,

“The chief poet of Ireland has said that,” said Guaire.

“Is oinmit colleic,” or Guaire.

“ach is óinmhid é ar a shon sin,” ar sé.

“He is a fool nevertheless,” said Guaire.

“Is coir ind oinmid is teach,” or cach.

“Is cóir an t-óinmhid a ligint isteach,” arsa cách.

“It is proper that the fool should come in a house,” said all.

“Is e fil oc mo gerran-sa,” ar Cumaine;

“Eisean atá i bhfeighil mo ghearráinse,” arsa Coimín.

“It is he who is in charge of my nag,” said Cumaine;

“gatar aire

“Goidtear uaidh é

“let it be stolen from him

co fesaíd a iarair leis-seom.”

go bhfeice sibh cé mar lorgaíonn sé é.”

that you may know how he searches for it.”

“Rogadad do gerran,” ar cach.

“Goideadh do ghearrán,” arsa cách le Mac Dá Chearda.

“Your nag has been stolen,” said all.

“Fogebthar,” or seisem.

Luid for a slicht iaram

ait inarfarcaib,

cia noberthea itir graigib hErind.

“Ata sund,” or cach, “in gerran.”

“Cia ta-som andsin ata a slicht sund.”

“Ci[a] atchet-som in gerran

ni ainfed don slicht

co rised a thoin.”

“Ar ulc dogni,” or Guaire.

“Gheofar é,” ar seisean.

D’imigh sé ar a lorg ansin

go dtí an áit ar fhág sé é

gidh gur tugadh an gearrán idir dhá linn i measc graíthe each na hÉireann.

“Tá an gearrán anseo,” arsa cách.

“Má tá sé ansin tá a lorg anseo,” arsa Mac Dá Chearda.

“Bíodh go bhfeicfeadh sé an gearrán,” arsa Coimín Fada,

“ní scorfadh sé dá lorg

nó go sroichfeadh sé a thón.”

“Mar olc orainn a dhéanann sé amhlaidh,” arsa Guaire.

“It shall be found,” said he.

So he went on its traces

to the place where he had left it

though (meanwhile) it had been led through all the studs of Ireland.

“The nag is here,” said all.

“Though it is there its track is here.”

“Though he were to see the nag

he would not desist from following its track

until he reached its rump”, (said Cumaine.)

“It is for ill that he does it,” said Guaire.

Section 5

“Abair ris,” ar Cumain, “techt do thobairt
asclainde condaich

do denam fotraicthi dam-sa.

Berar tinne dot ór-so co farcaibthir ara chind.

Is oinmid mani thaisce,

dia taisce ni hoinmit.”

Dognither on.

“Or lind, a Maic Mo Cherda,” or a chele.

“Ta din, a bachlaich,” or seiseom;

“do chuindchid chondaich dodechamar;

intan regmai do chuindchid oir

bermaid linn.”

“Is o[i]nmid adrubairt on,” ar Guaire;

“Abair leis, “ arsa Coimín, “imeacht fá
choinne beart connaidh

chun folcadh a dhéanamh domsa.

Beirtear unga óir leatsa agus fágtar sa tslí
roimhe é.

Is óinmhid é mura dtaisceann sé é,

má thaisceann ní óinmhid.”

Déantar amhaidh.

“Tá ór anseo, a Mhac Dá Chearda,” arsa a
chompánach.

“Éist, a bhachlaigh,” ar seisean,

“d’iarraidh chonnaidh a thángamar.

Nuair raghaimid d’iarraidh óir

bhéarfaimid linn é.”

“Óinmhid adúirt sin, go deimhin,” arsa
Guaire.

“Tell him,” said Cumaine, “to go fetch a
bundle of firewood

to make a bath for me.

Let an ingot of your gold be taken and left in
front of him.

He is a fool if he does not pocket it,

if he pockets it he is no fool.”

That is done.

“Here is gold for us, Mac Mo Cherda,” said
his companion.

“Be quiet, churl,” said he;

“to seek firewood we have come,

when we go to seek gold

we shall take it with us.”

“It is a fool who has said that,” said Guaire;

Section 6

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| “atberat at segunda.” | “Deirtear gur laoch tú,” <u>ar seisean le Coimín.</u> | “they say you are a champion.” |
| “A cleirig,” ar Guaire, “imrem fithchill.” | “An imreoidh muid ficheall, a chléirigh?” ar seisean. | “O cleric,” said Guaire, “let us play chess.” |
| “Ni dernus riam,” ar Cumaine; | “Ní dhearnas riamh é,” arsa Coimín. | “I have never done (<u>so</u>),” said Cumaine, |
| “muin iarum dam-sa ocus imerat.” | “Múin dom é, ámh, agus imreod.” | “teach me therefore and I will play.” |
| “Is andso fri hairec,” or Guaire | “Is deacair a fhoghlaim,” arsa Guaire. | “It is difficult to acquire,” said Guaire. |
| “Dodechad-sa aiccept ba handsa dam-sa,” or Cumaine. | “D’fhoghlaimíos ceacht ba dheacra liom ná é,” arsa Coimín. | “I have come to a lesson that was more difficult to me,” said Cumaine. |
| “Gaib dus in tucfa mo fili-se .i. Senchan.” | “Gabh <u>ceacht</u> féachaint an dtuigfeadh mo fhile, Seanchán, tú,” arsa Guaire leis. | “Recite (<u>a lesson</u>) to see if my poet, Senchan, will understand.” |
| “Rotbia on,” or Cumaine. | “Bíodh mar sin,” arsa Coimín. | “I shall do so for you,” said Cumaine. |
| Gebid-side da liachtan dec dont soscela. | Ghabh sé dhá cheacht dhéag as an Soiscéal. | He repeats twelve lessons from the Gospel. |
| “Is doraid inn aircetul,” ar Senchan; “geib dorisi.” | “Is doiligh an chantaireacht é,” arsa Seanchán, “gabh arís é.” | “Difficult is the poetry,” said Senchan; “recite again.” |
| Gaibid. | Ghabh. | He recites. |
| “Is dorcha a fidrad inn airchedail,” or Senchan; “gaib in tres fecht.” | “Is doiléir brí na cantaireachta,” arsa Seanchán, “gabh an tríú uair é.” | “The interpretation of the poetry is obscure,” said Senchan; “recite a third time.” |

Gebid didiu Senchan fochetoir.

D'aithris Seanchán ansin láithreach é.

Senchan then repeats straightway.

Section 7

“Gaib airchedal, a Senchan,” ol Guaire,

“Gabh duan, a Sheancháin,” arsa Guaire,

“Recite a poem, Senchan,” said Guaire,

“dus in tuicfea Cummaine.”

“féachaint an dtuigfeadh Coimín é.”

“to see if Cumaine will understand.”

Gaibid-side iarcuae Guaire.

Ghabh Seanchán duan molta Ghuaire.

He recites a poetical composition of Guaire.

Nosgeb Cummaine didiu.

Ghabh Coimín láithreach ina dhiaidh é.

Cumaine *then* repeats it.

“Roscuala riam, a Cummaine,” ar Guaire.

“Chuala tú roimhe seo é, a Choimín,” arsa Guaire.

“You have heard it before, Cumaine,” said Guaire.

“Mo chobais, ní chuala,” ar Cummaine.

“Dar mo chubhais, níor chuala,” arsa Coimín.

“My conscience, I have not,” said Cumaine.

Gaibid Senchan trí hairchedail.

Ghabh Seanchán trí duanta.

Senchan recites three poetical compositions.

Nosgab Cummaine a triur.

D'aithris Coimín na trí cinn ina dhiaidh.

Cumaine repeats all three.

Section 8

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| “Maith,” or Guaire, “imrem fithchell.” | “Maith,” arsa Guaire, “imrímis ficheall.” | “Good,” said Guaire, “let us play chess.” |
| “Cindas gontar ind fir?” or Cummaine. | “Conas a gointear na fir?” arsa Coimín. | “How are the men taken?” said Cumaine. |
| “Ni anse, dias dub dam-sa im óinfer find duid-seo forsin n-óintí oc imchosnam na saigti thall.” | “Ní deacair é: dís dubh agamsa ar an aon-líne timpeall ag seasamh an ionsaí thall,” <u>arsa Guaire</u> . | “Not difficult to say; a black pair of mine about one white man of yours on the same line (?) disputing the attack from the other side.” (?) |
| “Mo chubais, immorro,” or Cummaine, “ni cumgaim-se anaill; acht ni gonab-sa ni gonfa-so mo moindter-sa.” | “Dar mo chubhais, go deimhin,” arsa Coimín, “ní maith liom go ndéanfaí ceachtar acu — ní ghoinfeadsa <u>do mhuintirse</u> ná ní ghoinfidh tusa mo chuidse.” | “My conscience, *indeed*,” said Cumaine, “I cannot do either; I shall not slay (<u>your men</u>), you will not slay my men.” |
| Laa chaidchi do Guaire oca thetarracht ocus ni ruba fer dia muintir. | Lá iomlán do Ghuaire dá ionsaí agus níor mharaigh duine dá mhuintir. | For a whole day Guaire was attacking him and he could not slay one of his men. |
| “Segonda sein, a clerich,” or Guaire. | “Is curata an gníomh sin, a chléirigh,” arsa Guaire. | “That is champion-like, O cleric,” said Guaire. |

Section 9

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| Rofuaslaiced iarum inti Mac Telene. | Fuasclaíodh ansin Mac Telene. | Mac Telene was then released. |
| “Anaid, a c[h]leirchiu,” ar Guaire. | “Fanaigí <u>linn</u> , a chléireacha,” arsa Guaire. | “Stay, clerics,” said Guaire. |
| “Ni anfam,” or Cummaine. | “Ní fhanfaimid,” arsa Coimín. | “We will not,” said Cumaine. |
| Gebid Moronoc a assa ime forsín colcaig, | Chuir Morónóg a bhróga uime ar an choilceach, | On the flock-bed Moronoc puts his shoes on him, |
| iall inn asai lais trí bruac[h] na seichi beos | iall na bróige trí fhabhra na seiche <u>bhí ar an choilceach</u> *, áfach,* | his shoe-string through the border of the hide*, however,* |
| ocus triasan asai. | agus <u>as sin</u> tríd an bhróig. | and through the shoe. |
| Berid iarum a cem annuas | Thug céim ansin anuas <u>den choilceach</u> | He *then* steps down |
| co tuc in seichi ina diaid cosín colcig | go dtug sé an tseiche agus an coilceach ina dhiaidh | bringing the hide and flock-bed after him |
| co mbai Cummaine agus Guaire agus cechtar de for tairr aroile for lar ind taigi. | nó go raibh Coimín agus Guaire *araon* caite ar tharr a chéile ar urlár an tí, | so that Cumaine and Guaire were both sprawling over each other on the floor of the house. |
| Conid teasarcain rotheasarcthe asin tenid. | gur ar éigin a teasargadh ar an tine iad. | So that it was a deliverance wherewith they were delivered out of the fire. |
| Celebrad iarum don rig | D’fhágadar slán ansin ag an rí | They bade farewell then to the king |

ocus tíagait dia tir ocus a n-eneach leo.

Finit.

agus chuadar dá dtír féin agus a n-oineach leo. and go to their country with their honour.

Finit.

Finit.