

## Aided Bresail

### The Death of Bresal

#### Note to the reader

While Stokes' edition is based in the main on the version of the saga in the Book of Lismore, he inserts one word from the version in the Book of Leinster, which he identifies as follows: **LL**.

An updated and modernised version of Ó Cadhlaigh's text is used in this presentation.

#### Section 1

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Fleadh mhor dorinne a mac do Dhiarmait mac<br>Cerbail .i. Breasal mac Diarmata,              | Fleá mhór do rinne a mhac Breasal mac<br>Dhiarmada do Dhiarmaid mac Ciorrbheoil                     | For Diarmait son of Cerball his son, even<br>Bresal son of Diarmait, made a great feast, |
| ocus ní thesda ní on fleidh  | agus níor theastaigh aon ní ón bhfleá   | and to that feast naught was wanting   |
| acht bo co n-æib nitha.  | ach bó go n-aenna n-íotha.  | save a cow with *livers of tallow*.  |
| Co cuala Breasal a beith   | Do chuala Breasal go raibh <u>a leithéid</u>  | And Bresal heard that there was <u>one</u>   |
| ac caillig Cilli hEgn. [Elgraige, <b>LL</b> .] i termann<br>Cenannsa, Luchair a hainm-sidhe, | ag cailleach Chille Ealgraighe i dtearmann<br>Cheanannais. Luchair ab ainm don bhean<br>rialta sin. | belonging to a nun named Luchair of Cell<br>Elgraige (?) in the sanctuary of Kells.      |
| co ndeachaid Bresal dia cennach  | Do chuaigh Breasal chun í a cheannach   | So Bresal went to buy it   |
| go targuidh .uii. mbai ocus tarbh diacind,   | agus do thairg seacht mba agus tarbh,   | and offered <u>therefor</u> seven kine and a bull.                                       |

ocus ní thuc in chaillech,  
ocus ruc Breasal in mboin ar eicin,  
ocus dorat in fhleidh dia athair i Cenannus.  
Intan rob aine doibh ic ol,  
is and tainic in caillech  
do chasait Bresail cusin righ,  
ocus a heighmhe eisdi.

ach do dhiúltaigh an chailleach.  
Mar sin, do rug Breasal an bhó ar éigean  
agus do thug an fhleá dá athair i gCeanannas.  
An uair is somheanmnaí a bhíodar ag ól  
is ansin tháinig an chailleach.  
Do ghearán sí Breasal leis an rí  
agus d'éigh sí.

And the nun refused,  
and Bresal took the cow perforce  
and gave the feast to his father in Kells.  
When they were happy carousing,  
then came the nun  
to complain of Bresal to the king,  
and she screamed out.

## Section 2

“Ecoir a ndernuis,” ol in ri,  
“in chaillech do sharugud imon mboin  
ocus si ina cill,  
ocus techt anaguidh mo ríghi-si ocus mu  
smachta;  
ar ní bás athardha dhuid a dhenum;

“Éagóir a rinne tú,” arsa an rí,  
“an chailleach do shárú um a bó  
agus í ina cill,  
agus dul in aghaidh mo ríghese agus mo  
reachta.  
Ní bás athartha duit a leithéid do dhéanamh

“Unjust is what thou hast done,” saith the king  
(to his son),  
“to outrage the nun as regards her cow  
while she was in her church,  
and to resist my kingship and my discipline.  
For it is not an ancestral usage for thee to do  
so.

ocus muirbhfider leamsa thu isin ghnímh  
doronuis.”

Marbhtar iarum intí Bresal.

agus marófar thú liomsa mar gheall ar an  
gníomh do rinne tú.”

Ina dhiaidh sin, maraítear Breasal.

And thou shalt be killed by me for the deed  
thou hast done.”

Then Bresal is killed.

### Section 3

IS ann asbert Diarmait fria Colum cille:

“in bhfhil mo chabhair-si on ghním-sa  
doronus?”

“Ata,” or Colum cille.

“Eirig cusan athlæch fil isin innsi

.i. Becan Uladh.”

“Ni lamhaim dhul,” ol in rí.

“Ragat-sa lat,” ar Colum cille.

Is ansin dúirt Diarmaid le Colum Cille:

“An bhfuil aon chabhair agam ón ngníomh seo  
do rinne mé?”

“Tá,” arsa Colum Cille.

“Éirigh chun an athlaoich atá san inse,  
chun Beagáin Uladh.”

“Ní leomhfainn dul,” arsa an rí.

“Rachadsa leat,” arsa Colum Cille.

Then Diarmait (repented, and) said to Colomb  
cille:

“Is there any help for me from this deed that I  
have done?”

“There is,” saith Colomb cille.

“Go to the ex-hero who is in the island,  
even Becan of the Ulaid.”

“I dare not go,” saith the King.

“I will go with thee,” saith Colum cille.

#### Section 4

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| O rancatar iarum is ed fuaratar Becan                 | Nuair a shroiseadar an áit a raibh Beagán, is amhlaidh a bhí sé rompu | Now when they arrived, thus they found Becan,                |
| occ denumh chaisil                                    | agus é ag déanamh caisil  | building a stone wall,                                       |
| ocus cuilche fliuch uimme,                            | agus aibíd fhliuch uime   | with a wet sheet around him,                                 |
| [ocus ic irnaigthi simul.]                            | agus é ag urnaí san am céanna.  | and praying at the same time.                                |
| O rodech Becan ar Diarmait, is ed asbert fris:        | Nuair do chonaic Beagán Diarmaid, do labhair sé leis.                 | When Becan looked on Diarmait this he said to him:           |
| “Fon talmain, a fhinghalaig!” or se,                  | “Faoin talamh leat, a fhionáiolaigh!” ar sé.                          | “Under the earth, thou parricide!” he said.                  |
| co ndeachaid conice a ghluinibh isin talmain.         | Agus, leis sin, do chuaigh <u>Diarmaid</u> go glúine sa talamh.       | So <u>Diarmait</u> went into the earth as far as his knees.  |
| “As cen anad in chomairce, a Becain,” ar Colum cille, | “Coimirce a anama gan mhoill ort, a Bheagáin,” arsa Colum Cille.      | “The protection is without stay, O Becan,” says Colum cille: |
| “ár is ed tháinic in ri chugatsa,                     |   | “for the king hath come to thee                              |
| d’iarraidh dilghudha                                  | “D’iarraidh maithiúnais ortsa   | to ask thee to forgive him                                   |
| ocus d’aithbeoudh a mheic duit.”                      | agus go ndéanfása a mhac d’athbheochan                                | and to restore his son to life.”                             |
|   | is ea a tháinig an rí anseo.”   |  |

Tocbhuis Becan in laimh ndeis,

ocus doghni urnaigthe fo trí d'aithbheoadh  
Breasail mheic Dhiarmata,

co tuc .L. Bresal la gach n-urnuighthe a  
hithfern,

ocus tainic Bresal mac Diarmata, leisín  
urnaighthe ndéidhinach leisín lucht  
ndéidhinach dhibh.

IS ann sin rofócht Becan scela dhe ocus rofer  
failti fris.

Do thóg Beagán a lámh dheis suas

agus do rinne urnaí trí huairé d'athbheochan  
Bhreasail mhic Dhiarmada

agus do thug caoga Breasal le gach guí díobh  
a hifreann.

Tháinig Breasal mac Diarmada leis an nguí  
dheireanach, leis an roinn deireanach díobh.

Ansin, d'fhiafraigh Breasal scéala de agus do  
chuir fáilte roimhe.

Becan raised his right hand

and thrice made prayer to resuscitate Bresal  
son of Diarmait,

and at each prayer he brought fifty Bresals out  
of hell;

and at the last prayer Bresal son of Diarmait  
came with the last batch of them.

Then Bresal asked tidings of him and made  
him welcome.