

## Aided Fergusa maic Róich

### The Death of Fergus mac Róich

#### Note to the reader

A complete version of this saga appears in the manuscript Adv. MS. 72.1.40 (Gaelic XL) in the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. In Meyer's footnotes, which are incorporated into this presentation, this manuscript is referred to as [MS].

#### Section 1

CID DIATA A[i]ded Fergusa maic Róich?	Cad de atá Oidhe Fhearghais mhic Róigh?	Whence is the tragical death of Fergus mac Róich?
Ní hansa.	Ní hansa.	Not hard to tell.
Búi Fergus for luinges i Connachtaib	Bhí Fearghas ar loingeas i gConnachtaibh	Fergus was in exile in Connacht
iarna sárugud im maccuib Usnech,	iarna sharú im mhacaibh Uisneach,	after his honour had been violated in the matter of the sons of Usnech;
úair is é in tres comairci tucad friu	óir is é an treas coimircí tugadh leo,	for he was one of the three guarantors that were given to them,
ocus Dubthach Dóeltenga	agus Dubhthach Daoltheanga	<u>the other two being</u> Dubthach Chafertongue
ocus Cormac Conlonges mac Conchobair.	agus Cormac Conloingeas mac Conchobhair [ <u>an bheirt eile</u> ].	and Cormac Conlonges the son of Conchobar.

Bátar dono uili tíar forsan loingis co cend cethri mbliadna déc	Bhádar uile thiar ar an loingeas go ceann ceithre mbliana déag,	These were all in exile in the west to the end of fourteen years,
ocus ní an dono gul ná crith leo a nUltaibh,	agus níor stop gol ná crith leo in Ultaibh,	and ( <u>during all that time</u> ) wailing and trembling in Ulster never ceased through them [ <i>i.e. through their deeds of vengeance</i> ],
acht gul ocus crith gach n-oidhchi.	ach gol is crith gach n-oíche.	but there were wailing and trembling every night.
Is é romarb Fiachraig [romarb- <b>MS</b> ] mac Conchobair	Is é do mharbh Fiachra mac Conchobhair,	'Tis he who slew Fiachra the son of Conchobar,
ocus is é romarb Geirgi mac nIlleda ocus as é romarb [romarb- <b>MS</b> ] Eogan mac Durthact.	agus is é do mharbh Geirge mac nIlleadha, agus is é do mharbh Eoghan mac Durthacht.	and Gerg the son of Illand, and Eogan the son of Durthacht [ <i>i.e. the murderer of the sons of Usnech</i> ].
Is lais tucad in táin [antain intain <b>MS</b> ] .i. la Fergus.	Is leis tugadh an Táin .i. le Fearghas.	By him, even Fergus, the Táin was brought.
Mór tra do gnímaib dorine sium a tegluch Aillello ocus Medba	Mór do ghníomhaibh do rinne-sean i dteaghlach Oilealla agus Mheidhbhe,	Many deeds he did while in the household of Ailill and Medb;
ocus ba minca nobíd som ocus a muintir ar fot in tíre cena	agus ba mhinca do bhíodh san agus a mhuintir ar fud na tíre	and he and his people were more often abroad in the land
ná isin tegluch.	ná isan teaghlach.	than in Ailill's household.
Trícha cét rob é lín na loingsi	Tríocha céad dob é líon na loingse,	Three thousand was the number of the exiled company;

ocus is é roba fer cumtha dó-som a tegluch  
Aillello .i. Lugaid Dailléigis

.i. bráthair do Oilill in Lugaid sin.

agus is é do ba fear cumtha dó-san i  
dteaghlach Oilealla .i. Lughaidh Dailléigis

— bráthair do Oilill an Lughaidh sin.

and his comrade in Ailill's household was  
Lugaid the blind poet,

to wit, a brother of Ailill's was that Lugaid.

## Section 2

Bátar ann iar ngnímaib acon loch ar Mag Ái.

Dúnad mór leo .i. cluichi [cl-ti **MS** *with dot over stroke*] oculus céti ann.

Laa n-aon ann dono luid in slóg uili i[s]in loch  
dia fothrucad.

“Erg síis, a Fergus,” ar Ailill “ocus báid na  
firu!”

“Nít maith a n-uscí,” ar Fergus.

Luid-som síis ar ái sin.

Nír fúlaing a crídi do Meidb co ndeachaid isin  
loch.

Bhádar ann, iar ngníomhaibh ag an loch, ar  
Mhagh Aoi.

Dúnadh mór leo: cluichí agus céadta ann.

Lá n-aon ann do chuaigh an slógh uile isan  
loch dá bhfothragadh.

“Éirigh síos, a Fhearghais,” ar Oilill, “agus  
báigh na feara!”

“Níid maith in uisce,” ar Fearghas.

Chuaigh-sean síos ar aoí sin.

Níor fhulaing a croí do Mheadhbh sin, go  
ndeachaigh isan loch.

Once after deeds of valour they were by the  
lake [*i.e. Findloch*] on Mag Ái,

where they had a large encampment, in which  
games and gatherings were held.

Now on a certain day the whole host went into  
the lake to bathe.

“Go down, O Fergus,” said Ailill, “and drown  
the men!”

“They are not good in water,” said Fergus.

Nevertheless he went down.

Medb's heart could not bear that, so that she  
went into the lake.

Mur docúaid Fergus isin loch	Mar do chuaigh Fearghas isan loch	As Fergus entered the lake,
dorala ana mbui do grenaig agus do clochaib a n-íchtar an loch[a] co raibi for úachtar uli.	do tharla ina mbí do ghrean agus do chlochaibh in íochtair an locha go raibhe ar uachtar uile.	all there was of gravel and of stones at the bottom of the lake came to the surface.
Luid Medb didiu co raibi for a bruindi-sium	Chuaigh Meadhbh go raibhe ar a bhroinne-sean	Then Medb went till she was on the breast of <u>Fergus</u> ,
ocus a gabla ime agus co taircell-som in loch annsin	agus a gabhal uime, agus do thimpeallaigh-sean an loch ansin	with her legs entwined around him, and then he swam around the lake.
ocus rogab ét Ailill.	agus do ghabh éad Oilill.	And jealousy seized Ailill.
Doluid didiu súas Medb.	Do chuaigh le sin Meadhbh suas.	Then Medb went up.

### Section 3

“Is álainn a ndogní [anndogni <b>MS</b> ] an dam, a Lugaid, agus an eilit isin loch,” ar Ailill.	“Is álainn a ndo ghní an damh, a Lughaidh, agus an eilit isan loch,” ar Oilill.	“It is delightful what the hart and the doe are doing in the lake, O Lugaid,” said Ailill.
“Cid nach gontar?” or Lugaid agus ní tuc urcor n-iomraill ríam.	“Cid nach gontar?” ar Lughaid, nár thug urchar n-iomraill ríamh.	“Why not kill them?” said Lugaid, who had never missed his aim.
“Teilg-su dún orchur forru!” ar Ailill.	“Teilg-se dúinn urchar orthu!” ar Oilill.	“Do thou have a cast at them!” said Ailill.
“Impó m’agaid [mad- <b>MS</b> ] cuctha,” or Lugaid, “ocus tabraid gáí dam.”	“Iompaigh m’aghaidh chucu,” ar Lughaidh, “agus tabhair ga dom.”	“Turn my face towards them,” said Lugaid, “and bring a lance to me.”

Robúi Fergus aca nige asin loch agus a bruinni fria	Do bhí Fearghas ag á ní isan loch agus a bhroinne leo.	Fergus was washing himself in the lake, and his breast was towards them.
ocus tucad a carpat docum Oilello co mbúi ina farrad	Agus tugadh a charbad dochum Oilealla go mbí ina fharradh,	And his chariot is brought to Ailill, so that it was near him;
ocus do teile Lugaid urcor don gái co mbói triana druim síar sechtair [sechtduir <b>MS</b> ].	agus do theilg Lughaidh urchar don gha go mbí triana dhroim siar seachtair.	and Lugaid threw the lance, so that it passed out through his back behind.
“Doriacht an t-urchur!” ar Lugaid.	“Do riacht an t-urchar!” ar Lughaidh.	“The cast has gone home!” said Lugaid.
“Is fíor on,” ar cách, “atát bruindi Fergus.”	“Is fíor san,” ar cách, “atá broinne Fhearghais.”	“That is true,” said all; “it is the end of Fergus.”

#### Section 4

“Trúag sin,” ar Lugaid,	“Trua sin,” ar Lughaidh,	“How sad,” said Lugaid,
“mo chomalta agus m’ fer cumtha do marbad dam-sa cin cinaid.”	“mo chomhalta agus m’fhear cumtha do mharú damsa gan cionaidh.”	“if I should have killed my foster-brother and comrade innocently.”
“Mo carpat dam-sa!” ar Ailill.	“Mo charbad damsa!” ar Oilill.	“My chariot to me!” said Ailill.
Téit in slóg uili for teiched, cach fer a leth fri tír	Téid an slógh uile ar teitheadh, gach fear i leith le tír,	All the host began to flee, each man towards the shore,
etir luinges agus Connachta.	idir loingeas agus Chonnachta.	both the exiled and the men of Connacht.

Gataid Fergus [Fergus <b>MS</b> ] an gáí as ocus teilcid a ndiaid Ailello	Gabhann Fearghas an ga as agus teilgeann i ndiaidh Oilealla	Fergus draws out the lance and hurls it after Ailill,
co ndecheid tresin milco[i]n	go ndeachaigh trésan míolchoin	so that it passed through the deerhound
búi etir dá fertas in carpait.	bhí idir dhá fheartas an charbaid.	which was between the two hind-shafts of the chariot.
Luid Fergus íarum asin loch	Chuaigh Fearghas iaramh as an loch	Thereupon Fergus came out of the lake,
ocus nusdírgenn forsan tulaig a taeib in locha	agus díríonn é féin ar an tulach ar thaoibh an locha,	and straightens himself out upon the hill by the side of the lake;
ocus luid a anum as focétóir	agus chuaigh a anam as fo chéadóir,	and his soul passed out of him forthwith.
ocus atá a lige ann fós.	agus atá a lige ann fós.	And his grave is there still.
Conid hí A[i]ded Fergus[a] connuici sin.	Gonadh hí Oidhe Fhearghais go nuige sin.	So this is the tragical Death of Fergus so far.