

# Bóroma

## The Bóroma: Extracts

### Note to the reader:

While Stokes' edition is based on the version of the saga in the Book of Leinster (**LL**), he incorporates some extracts from the version in the Book of Lecan (**L**). Alternative readings from the latter are also given in footnotes. In this presentation, these footnotes are incorporated into the text.

## The daughters of Tuathal Techtmar (§§1-12)

### Section 1

ARDrí ro gab for Herinn

.i. Túathal Techtmar mac Fiachach  
Findolaid

maic Fheradaig Fhind fhechtnaig.

IS é in Tuathal-sain ro gab Herinn arécin.

IS leis romarbad Ellim mac Conrach i cath  
Aichle i tæb Themrach,

ocus robris cōic catha fhicet for Ultaib,

Do ghabh ardrí ar Éirinn,

eadhon, Tuathal Teachtmhar, mac Fiachach  
Findolaidh,

mhic Feradaigh Finn Feachtuaigh.

Is é an Tuathal sin do ghabh Éire ar éigean.

Is leis do marbhadh Ellim mac Conrach i  
gcath Aichle i dtaoibh Teamhrach;

agus is é do bhris cūig catha fichid ar Ultaibh,

There was a chief-king that overcame Erin,

even Tuathal Techtmar son of Fiacha Find-  
holaid

son of Feradach Find-fhechtnach.

It is that Tuathal who seized Ireland perforce.

By him was slain Ellim son of Conra in the  
battle of Aichle beside Tara;

and he routed the Ulaid in five and twenty  
battles

ocus a cóic fichtet aile for Laigniu,  
ocus a .xxxu. for fir [leg. firu] Muman  
ocus a .xxu. for Connachta.  
I Ndígail sain marbtha a athar ocus a shenathar  
sain  
romarsat athechthúatha Herenn.  
Ar is for athechthuathaib Herenn  
robris Tuathal Techmar na catha-sa uile.

agus cúig fichid eile ar Laighnígh,  
agus cúig triochad ar fhearaibh Mumhan,  
agus cúig fichid ar Chonnachtaibh.  
Ba h-é sin i ndioghail marbhtha a athar agus a  
shean-athar,  
do marbhadh le Athechthuathaibh Éireann;  
óir is ar Athechthuathaibh Éireann  
do bhris Tuathal Teachtmhar na catha seo uile.

and the Leinstermen in other five and twenty,  
and the men of Munster in thirty-five,  
and the Connacians in twenty-five.  
That was in revenge for the slaying of his  
father and his grandfather  
whom the vassal-tribes of Ireland slew.  
For it was the vassal-tribes of Ireland  
whom Tuathal Techmar routed in all these  
battles.

## Section 2

Co ndessid i Temraig iartain ocus co ndernad  
Feiss Temrach leis.

Co tancatar fir Herenn chuai, feraib, mnáib,  
scéo maccaib ocus ingenaib.

Ocus co tartsat ráth fris na n-uile ndúl.

na coscentáis ríge nHerenn fris nach fria shil  
co brath.

D'fhan sé i dTeamhraigh iar sin, agus  
rinneadh Feis Teamhrach leis;  
agus tháinig fir Éireann cuige, idir fearaibh,  
mnáibh, macaibh agus ingheanaibh;  
agus thug siad ráth leis "na n-uile ndúl,"

nach coiseonadaois ríghe Éireann leis ná le n-a  
shíol go bráth.

So afterwards he settled in Tara, and the Feast  
of Tara was held by him.

To him came the men of Erin, men, women,  
boys and girls.

And they gave him a guarantee of all the  
elements

that they would never contest the kingship of  
Erin with him or with his offspring.

### Section 3

IT iat inso ríg na cóiced batar acond fheis sin

.i. Fergus Febail rí Ulad.

Eogan mac Ailella Érand ri choicid Chonrui.

Eocho mac Dáire rí chóicid Echach maic Luctai.

Conrach mac Deirg rí Connacht.

Eochu mac Echach Domlén for Lagnib.

Is iad so ríthe na gcúigí do bhí ag an bhfeis sin,

eadhon, Fergus Feabhal, rí Uladh;

Eoghan mac Ailealla Erann, rí Cúigidh Chon Raoi;

Eocha mac Daire, rí Cúigidh Eachach mhic Luchtai;

Conrach mac Deirg, rí Connacht;

Eocha mac Eachach Doimhléan ar Laighnigh.

These are the provincial kings who were present at that feast,

namely Fergus Febail king of Ulster,

Eogan, son of Ailill Erand, king of Cúrói's province,

Eocho son of Dáire, king of Eocho mac Luchtai's province,

Conrach, son of Derg, king of Connaught.

Eochu son of Eochu Domlen, over Leinster.

### Section 4

Bátar dano dá ingin gradacha la Túathal .i.  
Fithir ocus Dairine a n-anmand.

Co tarat Eochu mac Echach Domlén rí Lagen  
in n-ingin ba siniu .i. Fithir,

ar ní ba gnáth sósar d'fheiss i fiadnaisi shinsir  
intan sin i nHerinn.

Do bhí áfach dá iníon grádhacha le Tuathal,  
Fithir agus Dáiríne a n-anmanna.

Do phós Eocha mac Eachach Doimhléan, rí  
Laighean, an iníon ba shine, eadhon, Fithir;

óir ní ba ghnáth an sósar do phósadh roimh an  
sinsear ag an am sin in Éirinn.

Now Tuathal had two lovable daughters  
whose names were Fithir and Dárfhine.

And Eochu son of Eochu Domlen, king of  
Leinster, took to wife the elder daughter, even  
Fithir,

for at that time it was not the custom in Erin  
for the younger to be married before the elder.

Dos-rat iarum Eochu a mnáí leis co Ráith Immil il-Lagnib.

Dalta dil immorro do ríg Connacht ind ingen sin Tuathail.

Atbertatar immorro Lagin friss

“is ferr ind ingen rofhácbais”.

Conid iarsain dochuáid-sium fothúaid aridisi co Temraig,

co n-erbairt fri Tuathal, “Marb”, ar se, “ind ingen rucusa lem,

ocus ba hail lem th’ingen-su aile do thabairt”.

Atribairt immorro Tuathal: “Da mbeth,” ar se, “ingen ar chóicait acum

doberthá duit-siu co tormalta ben dib.”

Ansin do thug Eocha a bhean leis go Ráth Immil, i Laighnigh.

Dalta dil do rí Connacht, áfach, an iníon sin Tuathail.

Ach dúirt Laighnigh le Eocha:

“Is fearr an iníon d’fhágais”;

agus iar sin do chuaigh sé fo thuaidh arís go Teamhraigh,

agus dúirt sé le Tuathal: “Marbh,” ar sé “an iníon rugas liom,

agus ba h-áil liom d’iníon eile do thabhairt.”

Dúirt Tuathal áfach: “Dá mbeith,” ar sé, “iníon ar chaogadh agam,

do bhéarfaí duitse iad gus an deireadh mhnaoi dhíobh.”

Then Eochu brought his wife to Raith Immil in Leinster.

Now that daughter of Tuathal’s was a beloved fosterchild of the king of Connaught.

Howbeit the Leinstermen said to Eochu:

“Better is the daughter whom thou leftest”.

Wherefore he went northwards again to Tara

and said to Tuathal: “The daughter whom I wedded is dead,

and I desire that thine other daughter be given to me”.

So Tuathal answered and said: “If I had one and fifty daughters,

they would be given to thee till one of them were enjoyed as a wife”.

## Section 5

Tucad dó iarsin ind ingen aile .i. Dárine

— dalta sede dano do ríg Ulad —

ocus dos-rat leis co Ráith Immil,

áit imbái ind ingen aile ara cind.

Amal atchondairc immorro Fithir Dárine

atbail Fithir de náre fochetóir.

Amal atchondairc sede éc a sethar

atbail de chumaid.

Doringned iarsain a tanach na da ingen [i n-Áth Toncha,],

co n-aprad cách “is garb in tonach-sa”.

Conid aire ráter Garb-thanach.

Tugadh dó, iar sin, an iníon eile, Dáiríne.

Dalta sise áfach do rí Uladh,

agus thug Eocha go Ráth Immil í,

áit ina raibh an iníon eile, Fithir, ar a ceann.

Ach an uair chonnaic Fithir Dáiríne,

d'éag Fithir de náire ar an mball;

agus an uair chonnaic Dáiríne bás a deirfear

d'éag sí de chumha.

Iar sin do rinneadh tonach an dá iníon in Áth Toncha,

agus dúirt cách: “Is garbh an tonachsa.”

Is de sin ráitear Garbh-thonach.

Thereafter there was given to him the second daughter, even Dárfhine

— she \*however\* was fosterchild of the king of Ulaid —

and Eochu brought her to Raith Immil,

the place wherein the other daughter was before her.

But when Fithir beheld Dárfhine

she dies at once of shame.

When Dárfhine beheld her sister's death

she dies of grief.

Thereafter the washing of the two maidens was performed in Áth Toncha (“Ford of Washing”),

so that every one said: “Rough is this washing.”

Hence Garb-thonach “Rough Washing” is so called.

## Section 6

Ránic íarsain firindi in scéoil sin co Temraig co Túathal.

Rucad fiss iartain o Thuathal co ríg Connacht .i. co haite Fithirni,

ocus co ríg Ulad .i. co haite Dáirine.

Rathinolsat-saide a slúagu leo co áit i mbái Tuathal Tectmar.

O rachomraic immorro dóib i n-oeninud atbert Tuathal:

“IS mór”, ar se, “in t-écht doringni rí Lagen, bás mo dam ingen do thuidecht trina cheilg.”

Ránigh iar sin firinne an scéil sin go Tuathal go Teamhraigh.

Rugadh fios iar sin ó Thuathal go rí Connacht, eadhon, go h-oide Fithirne,

agus go rí Uladh, eadhon, go h-oide Dáiríne.

Do thionól siad a sluaite leo go h-áit a raibh Tuathal Teachtmhar.

Ó do chruinnigheadh in aon áit iad, áfach, dúirt Tuathal:

“Is mór,” ar sé, “an t-éacht do rinne rí Laighean, bás mo dhá iníon do theacht tré n-a cheilg.”

Thereafter the truth of that story came to Tara unto Tuathal.

Afterwards the news was sent by Tuathal to the king of Connaught Fithirne’s fosterfather,

and to the king of Ulaid the fosterfather of Dárphine.

They mustered their armies (and led them) to the place wherein Tuathal Techtmhar was biding.

Now when they met in one stead Tuathal said:

“Awful is the deed which the king of Leinster has done,

the death of my two daughters though his treachery”.

## Section 7

IS amlaid rabói 'ca rád ocus doringni láid:

“Fithir is Dáirine,” et reliqua.

Is amlaidh do bhí 'ga rá, agus do rinne laoi:

“Fithir is Dáiríne,” agus araile.

Thus was he speaking, and he made a lay:

“Fithir and Dárfhine,” etc.

## Section 8

ISs ed trá róráidset Connachta

na gébtais o Lagnib cen chath.

ISs ed a cétna ro ráidsetar Ulaid.

Atribairt immorro rí Herenn:

“Ní laind lemsa”, ar se, “cath do thabairt do Laiginib.

Ocus cid ed mad hí bar comairli-si,

téiged cách ’na chomair chucu.”

Is ea trá adúirt Connachta

nach rachaidís ó Laighnígh gan cath.

Dúirt Ulaidh an ní céanna.

Ansin adúirt rí Éirinn:

“Ní h-áil liomsa,” ar sé, “cath do thabhairt do Laighnígh;

agus mar sin féin, más í seo bhur gcomhairle,

téigheadh cách a n-aghaidh an té os a chómhair.”

This, then, said the Connacians,

that they would not go from Leinster without a battle.

The Ulaid said the same.

Howbeit the king of Erin declared:

“I have no desire”, saith he, “to give battle to the Leinstermen.

And if this be your counsel,

let each attack those who are opposite him”.

## Section 9

Ba hé immorro al-lín uile .xxii. míli.

Rogabsat trú cóiced Connacht rempu

dar Gúalu co Nás,

cor-ragbaiset longphort and.

Atraachtatar immorro slúaig Temrach im ríg  
nHerenn

dar Grafrend, dar Buaidgein, dar Rige, dar  
Mag Núadat, co Nás,

con ragbaiset longphort and.

Atraachtatar dano Ulaid

dar Ésa, dar Odba, dar Fithairt, dar  
Foendruim, co Lethduma,

ocus rogabsat longphort and.

Ba h-é a líon go léir, áfach, dá a's fichid míle.

Do chuaigh trú fir cúige Connacht rompu

thar Guala go Nás,

agus ghabhadar longfort ann.

Mar sin, do chuaigh slua Teamhrach um rí  
Éireann

thar Grafrend, thar Buaidhghean, thar an Rí,  
thar Maigh Nuad go Nás,

agus ghabhadar longfort ann.

Do chuaigh áfach na h-Ulaidh

thar Éasa, thar Odhbha, thar Fithairt, thar  
Faondruim, go Leathdhumha,

agus ghabhadar longfort ann.

Now this was their whole number, two and  
twenty thousand.

So the (men of the) province of Connaught  
fared forward

over Gúalu to Naas,

and there encamped.

Howbeit the hosts of Tara with the king of  
Ireland marched

over Grafrenn, over Buaidgein, over the Rye-  
water, over Maynooth, to Naas,

and there they encamped.

Then the Ulaid marched

over Ésa, over Odba, over Fithairt, over  
Foendruim, to Lethduma,

and there they encamped.

## Section 10

Cengait immorro Lagin ina ndáil, con fersat  
cath fri hUltu,

co torchair and Fergus Febail rí Ulad  
ocus borbraige Ulad archena.

Atraachtatar na slúaig archena

ocus raloscset Nás ocus Alind, Maistin ocus  
Ráirind,

ocus romúrsetar Báirc mBresail.

Báirc-sede feda nemchrínda

doringned ic Bresal Brathirchend ic ardríg in  
domain.

Focengat Lagin ina ndáil .ix. mili al-lín Lagen.

Co rochuirset cath oc Ráith Immil frisin apar  
in Garbthanach indiu.

Rofherad cath fíchda amnas eturru

Téid Laighnigh ina ndáil, áfach, agus  
rinneadar cath le h-Ultaibh;

do thit Feargus Feabail, rí Uladh,  
agus borbairighe Uladh go coitcheann.

D'éirigh na sluaite eile

agus do losc siad Nás, Aileann, Mullach  
Maistean, agus Mullach Raoileann,

agus do sgrios siad Báirc Breasail.

Ba Báirc adhmaid neimhcríona an Bháirc so,

do rinneadh ag Breusal Braithircheann, ardrí  
an domhain.

D'éirigh Laighnigh, naoi míle a líon,

agus rinneadar cath ag Ráth Immil, risa n-  
abair an Garbhthanach inniu.

Do rinneadh cath fiochta amhnas eatarthu,

Now the Leinstermen advance to meet them,  
and delivered battle to the Ulaid,

and Fergus Febail king of Ulaid fell therein,  
and besides him the champions of Ulaid.

The rest of the hosts marched on

and burnt Naas and Alinn, Maistiu and Ráiriu,

and they razed Báirc Bresail

(this was a stronghold of undecaying wood

which was built by Bresal Brathirchenn, the  
over-king of the world).

The Leinstermen — nine thousand in number  
— advanced to meet them,

and they delivered battle at Ráith Immil which  
today is called the Garb-thonach.

A fight fierce and warlike was fought between  
them,

cor-róemid for Lagnib,  
uair ni rodamad fir comlaind dóib.

Romarbad tra Eochu mac Echach Domlen ri  
Lagen 'sin chath sin,  
ucus fichi ríg malle ris.

ach do claoideadh na Laighnigh,  
óir níor tugadh “firinne comhlainn” dóibh.  
Do marbhadh Eocha mac Eachach Doimhléan  
rí Laighean ins an gcath sin  
agus fiche rí maille ris.

and the Leinstermen were routed,  
for “truth of combat” was not granted to them.  
Now Eochu son of Eochu Domlen king of  
Leinster was killed in that battle,  
and a score of kings along with him.

## Section 11

O thati fhogmair co tati samna

O thosach fóghmhair go tosach samhna

From the beginning of autumn to the  
beginning of All-hallowtide

do Leith Cuind ac indriud Lagen,

do bhí slua Leithe Chuinn ag déanamh ionradh  
ar Laighean,

Leth Cuinn was raiding Leinster,

co ndernsat Lagin síd fadeóid ra Túathal

nó go ndearnadar Laighnígh síth faoi  
dheireadh le Tuathal,

till at last the Leinstermen made peace with  
Tuathal

.i. eraic a ingen dó.

eadhon, éiric a iníonacha do thabhairt dó.

(and agreed to give) him the *eric* of his  
daughters.

Ocus rofhácaib rígi Lagen oc Erc mac Echach  
Domlén.

Do fágadh ríge Laighean ag Earc mac  
Eachach Doimhléan.

And he left the kingship of Leinster with  
Eochu [*recte* Erc] son of Eochu Domlen.

## Section 12

IS í seo immorro inn éraic: .i.

Tri choicait cét bó.

Tri cóicait cét mucc.

Trí cóicait cét lendbratt.

Tri cóicait cét slabrad argit.

Tri cóicait cét molt.

Tri cóicait cét coire uma.

Cóire mór uma i téigtís da muic déc ocus dá ag dec i tech Temrach fein.

Tricha bó find óiderg col-lóegaib a comdatha

ocus co nascaib crésuma ocus co mbuargib  
crésuma

ocus cona cóidib creduma fair sin anuas.

Is í so, áfach, an éiric:

Trí caogad céad bó.

Trí caogad céad muc.

Trí caogad céad lennbrat.

Trí caogad céad slabhradh airgid.

Trí caogad céad molt.

Trí caogad céad coire umha.

Coire mhór umha in a dtéidhdís dá mhuic déag agus dá ag déag i dteach Teamhrach fénin.

Triochad bó finn, cluasdearg, le laoghaibh a gcomhdatha,

le nascaibh cré-umha, agus le buargaibh cré-umha,

agus le cóidhibh cré-umha ar sin anuas.

Now this is the *eric*:

Thrice five thousand cows:

Thrice five thousand swine:

Thrice five thousand mantles:

Thrice five thousand chains of silver:

Thrice five thousand wethers:

Thrice five thousand caldrons of brass:

A great caldron of brass whereinto twelve swine and twelve beeves would go in the house of Tara itself:

Thirty white, red-eared cows with calves of the same colour,

and with ties of bronze and with tethers of bronze,

and with their milkpails (?) of bronze in addition thereto.