

## Cath Almaine

### The Battle of Allen

#### Note on the reader

This presentation is based on Stokes' edition of the Medieval Irish text. While Stokes' edition is mainly based on the version of the text in the Yellow Book of Lecan, he inserts words and phrases from the versions in two other manuscripts, which he identifies as follows: **F.** = the Book of Fermoy; **B.** = Bibliothèque Royale 5301–20.

#### Section 1

		For a long while
Bai cocad mor	Bhí cogadh mór	there was great warfare
	ar feadh tréimhse fada	
iter Chathal mac Findgune	idir Chathal mac Finghuine,	between Cathal son of Findguine,
[ri Lethe Mogha, F.]	rí Leath Mhogha,	king of Leth Mogha,
ocus Fergal mac Maili duin	agus Feargal mac Maoldúin,	and Fergal son of Mael duin,
[ri Lethe Cuind F.]	rí Leath Choinn.	king of Leth Cuinn.
fri re fota.		
Do crech Laigniu tra Fergal mac Mailiduin	Creachadh Laighin le Feargal mac Maoldúin	Fergal son of Mael duin raided Leinster

ar ulcuib fri Cathal mac Findgaine.	le hól ar Chathal mac Finghuine	in order to injure Cathal son of Findguine;
Ro airg dono Cathal mac Findgani Mag mBreg uili,	agus chreach Cathal mac Finghuine ansin Máigh Bhreá uile.	so Cathal son of Findguine wasted the whole of Magh Bregh,
co ndernsad sid ocus comosad.	Rinne siad sa deireadh síocháin agus sos cogaidh.	until they made peace and truce.

## Section 2

Doluid tra fecht and Fergal atuid	Tháinig Fergal aduidh uair amháin	Then once upon a time Fergal marched from the north,
do saigid boroma ar Laignib	agus fir an tuaiscirt ina theannta chun bóramha a bhaint de Laighin.	with the Northerners around him, to demand the <i>boroma</i> ('tribute') from the Leinstermen.
co feraib in tuaiscirt uime.		
Ba fada tra ro bas acan tinol sin la Fergal,	Is fada a bhí an tionól sin á dhéanamh ag Fergal.	Long had Fergal been mustering his forces,
ocus is ed adbered cach fer fris:	Is é deireadh gach fear leis:	and this is what every one was saying to him:
“dia ndechad Dond bó lat ragadsa lat.”	“Má théann Donn Bó leat, raghadsa leat.”	“If Donn-bó go with thee, I will go with thee”.

### Section 3

Baintrebthach immorro máthair Duind bo,

[ocus ní deachaidh lá na aidhchi a taigh a máthar imach ríamh — **B.**]

Is amlaid immorro bai Dond bo,

mac as aine ocus is ailli ocus is chaime bai a n-Erinn esen.

[Ni rabha i n-Eirinn uile

budh gribhdhu no budh seghaine inás,

ocus as uadh budh ferr ra[i]nn espa ocus rí[g]scéla for domhon.

As é budh ferr do ghlés each

ocus do indsma slegh ocus d'fighe folt,

ocus bud fer i[n] aichni 'na einech — **B.**]

Nir' leic a máthair do Dunn bo

dul araen re Fergal

Mac baintrí ab ea an Donn Bó seo

agus níor chaith sé lá ná oíche ríamh amuigh as teach a mháthar go dtí sin.

Ba é Donn Bó

an mac ba dheise agus ba áille agus ba chaoimhe bhí in Éirinn.

Ní raibh in Éirinn uile duine

ba shéimhe ná ba chróga ná é;

ba é ab fhearr ar domhan chun rannta magaidh a dhéanamh agus chun na mórscéalta a insint

agus ba é ab fhearr, freisin, ag oiliúint each

agus ag cóiriú sleá agus ag fí foilt,

agus dob fhearr aigne agus oineach.

Ní ligfeadh a mháthair do Dhonn Bó

dul in éineacht le Fergal

Now Donn-bó's mother was a widow,

and he had never gone for a day or a night out of his mother's house.

Donn-bó was in this wise:

the brightest and handsomest and dearest boy in Ireland was he.

Not in all Erin was there one

who was pleasanter or cleverer than he,

and from him came the best wanton staves and king-stories in the world.

'Tis he who was best to train horses,

to set spears, to plait hair,

and whose wit was clearest in his countenance.

His mother did not let him

go along with Fergal

co tardad ratha agus cura Coluim chilli fris

co tísad slán ar culu.

Tuatha do sin.

#### Section 4

Tic 'arsin Fergal d'indsaigid Laigen.

Badar immorro drocheolaig ria Fergail,

agus túsad i n-aimréidib na críche uili hé.

Isi iarum conair thúsad ind eolaig

.i. do Cluain Dobhail [in Almain **B.**],

agus gabsad longport ar bru na cilli,

agus túsad imadall mor ar in cill

.i. araili clam bai intansin

agus aen bo ogai,

go dtugadh Feargal baránta Cholm Cille air

go bhfillleadh sé slán abhaile.

Tugadh an baránta sin di.

Chuaigh Feargal ansin d'ionsaí Laighean.

Bhí droch-eolaigh, ámh, aige

agus thug siad ar strae é trí aimhréidh na críche uile.

Is é conair thug na heolaigh sa deireadh é

go Cluain Dobhail in Almhain.

Shuíodar longfort san áit sin le taobh na cille ann

agus thugadar droch-íde don cill.

Bhí clamh ina chónaí ann \*ag an am sin\*

agus bó amháin aige.

until the king had given Columkill's guarantees and bonds for him

that he would come back safe.

Those were given to him.

Thereafter Fergal comes to invade Leinster;

but there were bad guides before him,

and they brought him into all the rugged parts of the province.

This is the way the guides brought him,

to Cluain Dobhail, in Allen,

where they pitched a camp at the edge of the church.

They greatly maltreated the church,

for at that time there was a certain leper (there),

and he had a single cow.

Tancus iartain dochum in chlainm,  
co ro benad a tech dia chind,

ocus tardad forgom do gai fair,  
co tárla triana brat,

ocus co ro marbad a énbo,

ocus ro hindeonad ar beraib iaraind in bo  
iarsin.

Tháinig siad \*go dtí an clamh\*  
agus bhain siad an ceann dá theach,

mharaigh siad an aon-bhó

agus bhruith siad ar bheara iarainn í \*iar sin\*,

agus tugadh fobha le ga faoi féin

go ndeachaigh an ga trína bhrat.

Then they came to the leper

and unroofed his house,

and they dealt him a spear-thrust

which went through his mantle,

and they killed his only cow,

and cooked it afterwards on spits of iron.

## Section 5

[Co n-erbert an clamh co mba dighal go bráth for Uibh Néill an digal do bheredh an Coimdi fair sin,	Dúirt an clamh leo go mbainfeadh Dia díoltas go brách de Uí Néill as ucht an ghnímh sin.	And the leper said that the vengeance which the Lord would wreak on the Húi Néill for that would be an eternal vengeance;
ocus tainic an clamh remhe go puball Fergail,	Chuaigh sé <u>ansin</u> *roimhe* chuig pubaill Fheargail	and he came forward to Fergal's tent,
ocus battur riograidh Leithe Cuinn uile arachinn 'sin phuball intan sin.	agus bhí ríthe Leath Choinn ar fad roimhe ag doras na puible *ag an am sin*.	wherein were the kingfolk of all Conn's Half then before him.
Ro báoi an clamh ag acaoine a imnidh 'na ffiadhnaisi,	Thosaigh an clamh ag éagaoineadh <u>leo</u> a imní ina bhfianaise	The leper was bewailing his tribulation in their presence;
ní tainig cride neich dibh fair	ach níor bogadh croí duine ar bith acu <u>ón éagaoineadh sin</u>	but the heart of none of them moved towards him
achteridhe Con-bretan meic Congusa,	ach croí Chú Bhreatain mhic Aonghusa,	save the heart of Cú-Bretan son of Congus,
ri Ffer Ross;	rí Fear Rois, <u>amháin</u> ,	king of the Men of Ross;
ocus as edh ón ná ba aithreach do Coin-bretan,	agus níorbh aithreach le Cú Bhreatain a ndearna sé,	and of this Cú-Bretan had no reason to repent,
uair ni terna rí do nech ro bháoi isin phuball	mar níor tháinig beo de na ríthe bhí sa phubaill <u>an lá sin</u>	for of all the kings who were in the tent none escaped
acht Cu-bretan mac Congusa a áonar as in cath — <b>B.</b> ]	as an chath ach Cú Bhreatain mac Aonghusa amháin.	from the battle save Cú-Bretan alone.

## Section 6

Is annsin asbert Cu Bretan mac  
Aengusa, ri Fer Rois:

Adágur cath forderg fland,  
a fhir fhergaile adgliunn,  
brónach muintir Maic Maire  
iar mbreith a taige dia ciunn.

Bo in chlainm  
ro gáet indegaid in daim,  
mairg láim ler' tollad a brat  
ria techt i cath co mac mBrain.

Da mbeith neach doberad cath  
matain dreman ria mac mBrain,  
andsa leam oldas ind rae  
in cae ro canad in chlainm.

Is ansin adúirt Cú Bhreatan mac Aonghusa,  
Rí Fear Rois:

Is eagal liom an cath áirdhearg,  
a fhir na gaile, gidh téim ina chionn,  
is brónach muintir Mhic Mhuire  
iar ngabháil an tí os a gcionn.

Bó an chlainmh,  
maraíodh í i ndiaidh an daimh;  
mairg don láimh a tholl a bhrat  
roimh theacht sa chath le mac Bhrain.

Dá mba mise neach a bhéarfadh cath  
ar maidin fíochmhar do mhac Bhrain,  
measa liom ioná an cath  
an chaoi a chan an clamh.

Then said Cú-Bretan son of Oengus, king of the Men  
of Ross:

I dread the red bloody battle,  
O Man of valour, I seek it out:  
sorrowful is the Son of Mary's servant  
after the roof has been taken off his house.

The leper's cow  
has been slaughtered after the ox:  
woe to the hand by which his mantle was pierced  
before going into battle to the son of Bran.

If there be any who would deliver violent battle  
in the morning against the son of Bran,  
harder than the fight I deem  
the leper's lamentation which has been uttered.

## Section 7

IS andsin asbert [Fergal F.] fria Dond mbo in aidhchi sin re tobairt in chatha:	Is ansin a labhair Fergal le Donn Bó an oíche *sin* sarar tugadh an cath.	Then that night, before delivering the battle Fergal said to Donn-bó:
“Dentar lat ar n-airfided innocht, a Duind bo,” ar Fergal,	“Seinn thusa ceol anocht dúinn, a Dhonn Bó,” ar seisean.	“Make minstrelsy for us tonight, O Donn-bó”, quoth Fergal
ar is é Dond bo fer airfidig as dech bai inn Erinn	Mar ba é Donn Bó an ceoltóir ab fhearr dá raibh in Éirinn	— for Donn-bó was the best minstrel in Ireland
iter senchas	pé acu le linn scéalaíochta	both for stories
ocus rundu	nó <u>ag gabháil</u> rannta <u>dhó</u>	and staves
ocus cuslind	nó <u>ag seinnt ar na</u> píobaí	and pipes
ocus cach ciniul airfidig archeana.	nó ar ghléas ar bith ceoil.	and every other kind of amusement.
Adbert Dond bo:	Arsa Donn Bó:	Said Donn-bó:
“Ni fedaimsea em aenfocol ar mo bel anocht,	“Ní fhéadaimse focal a chur as mo bhéal anocht,” <u>ar seisean.</u>	“I cannot have a single word on my lips to-night,
ocus airfided nech aili thu anocht.	“Seinneadh duine éigin eile dhuit anocht.	so to-night let some one else amuse thee.
Acht chena cid be airm a rabais[i] amarach dagaid	Ach san oíche amárach, pé áit a mbeidh tú,	Howbeit in whatever place thou mayst be tomorrow evening
dogénsa th’ airfided.	déanfadsa ceol duit.	I will make minstrelsy for thee.



Denad iarum Húa Maiglindi innocht ar n-airfided,

ar is é rigdruth Erenn he.”

Seinneadh Ua Maighlinne anocht dúinn,

óir is é rí-dhruth Éireann é.”

But to-night let Hua Maiglinni amuse us,

for he is the king-buffoon of Ireland”.

### Section 8

Dorónadh dono amlaid sin an aidchi sin.

[Tugadh Hua Maighléni chuca iarttain.

Ro gabh-saidhe og indisin

cath ocus comramha

Leithe Cuinn ocus Laighen

ó thoghail Tuama Tenbath

.i. Deanda rígh,

in ra marbhadh Cobhthach Caolbhregh,

conigi an aimsir sin;

ocus ní bá mór codalta dorinnedh leo in aidchi sin

Rinneadh amhlaidh sin an oíche sin.

Tugadh Ua Maighlinne chucu \*iar sin\*

agus thosaigh seisean ar a ríomh dóibh

catha agus comhlanna

Leath Choinn leis na Laighnigh,

ó thoghail Tuaim Teanbhadh,

is é sin Dinn Rí,

áit ar maraíodh Cobhthach Caolbhreá,

i leith go dtí an aimsir sin.

Ba bheag an codladh a rinne muintir Fheargail an oíche sin

So thus was it done on that night.

\*Then\* Hua Maiglinni was fetched to them,

and he began reciting

the battles and valiant deeds

of Conn’s Half and of Leinster,

from the Destruction of Tuaimm Tenbath,

that is of Dinn Rígh,

in which Cobhthach Coelbreg was killed,

down to that time.

And it was not much sleep that they slept that night

rá méid eglá leo Laighen	ón eagla mhór a bhí orthu roimh na Laighnigh	because of the greatness of their dread of the Leinstermen,
ocus la méid na doininne	agus ó mhéid na doininne	and because of the greatness of the storm,
.i. uair aídhche fhéle Fhinniaín gaimhridh sin, <b>B.]</b>	mar is é oíche Fhéile Finín sa gheimhreadh a bhí ann.	for it was the eve of the feast of Finnian in the winter.

### Section 9

Lodar Laigin arnamarach co Cruachan Claenta,	Lá arna bhárach chruinnigh na Laighnigh go Cruachan Chlaonta,	On the morrow the Leinstermen marched to Cruachan Claenta,
[dáigh ní mhaidh for Laighniu	mar níorbh fhéidir an bhuidh fháil ar na Laighnigh	because the Leinstermen are never defeated
da ndearnat a comairle ann,	dá mba ann a thionólfaidís a gcomhairle	if they hold their council ( <u>of war</u> ) there
ocus gurob as tiasad dochum an chatha, <b>B]</b> ,	agus dá mba as <u>an áit sin</u> a raghaidís <u>amach</u> chun an chatha.	and thence proceed to battle.
ocus tancadar iarsin co Dind Canand.	Ghluaiseadar as sin go Dinn Chanainn.	Thereafter they came to Dind Canann.

## Section 10

IS and sin tra do rancadar Leth Cuind ocus Laigin ceand i cend	Tháinig Leath Choinn agus na Laighnigh ansin in aghaidh a chéile	'Tis then that Conn's Half and Leinster came together,
ocus ro commorad and sin tra ind urgal ocus inn imargul is fichda	agus tugadh eatarthu ann an cath agus an coimheascar is fíochmhaire	and then was fought the fiercest battle and fray
ro ferad i nErinn riam.	a fearadh in Éirinn riamh.	that had ever been delivered in Ireland.
Ba fortren, ba ferrda ro figed in gleo guineach gáibtheach intan sin.	Ba an-tréan fearúil mar tugadh an gleo nimhneach naimhdeach ann.	Mighty and manly was the slaughterous, perilous combat fought at that time.
Badar imda tra andsin maic rig ocus ruirech ocus rodaine ocus tanaisti flatha fodesin, ocus saerclanda socheneoil	Ba iomaí mac rí agus mac taoisigh agus mac uasail agus tánaiste flatha féin agus saor-chlanna dea-chinéil	Many were the sons of kings and princes and magnates and even tanists of lords, and nobles of good race,
a n-egmais a n-anma.	a fágadh gan anam.	in lack of their life.
Ba buideach Badb birach belsalach in uair sin,	Is buíoch a bhí Badhbh bhiorach bhéalshalach *ag an uair sin*	Thankful was the javelin-armed foul-mouthed Badb that hour,
ocus bad brónaig máthair baeid	agus is dubhach a bhí máithreacha *geanúla*	and sad were the loving mothers,
ig gul ocus ig golgairi ac cainead na saerclann in uair sin.	ag gol agus ag caoineadh na saorchlanna i ndiaidh an chatha sin.	wailing and lamenting and keening for the noble children *at that hour*.

## Section 11

Ni ro an tra, agus nir' tairis menma Coluim cilli ar Uib Neill isin cath sin,	Níor fhan meanma Cholm Cille le Uí Néill chun fóirithint orthu sa chath sin	Now in that battle the mind of Columkill did not rest or stay for the Húi Néill,
la faicsin mBrigdi os cath Laigen	ar bhfeiscint dóibh Bríd, <u>ag foluain</u> os cionn sluaite Laighean	for above the battalion of Leinster, he saw Brigit
ac fubdad sloig Lethi Cuind,	ag cur sceoin i muintir Leath Choinn,	terrifying the host of Conn's Half,
conad la faicsin mBrigdi amlaid sin	agus ba le amharc Bhríde amhlaidh sin	whereupon *, seeing Brigit in that wise,*
ro mebaid in cath ar Fergal agus ar Leth Cuind	a briseadh an cath ar Fheargal agus ar Leath Choinn	Fergal and the Northerners were routed
ria n-Aed .i. ri desceirt Laigen,	<u>le Murchadh mac Bhrain, rí Laighean, agus</u> le Aodh, rí dheisceart Laighean.	by Aed the king of South-Leinster.
agus is é sin ro marb Fergail	Is é <u>an tAodh</u> sin a mharaigh Feargal	And it was he that killed Fergal
agus Buan mac Baili ri Alban,	agus Buan mac Bhaile, rí Alban.	and Buan son of Baile, king of Scotland.

ocus condorchair Dond bo dinni ro marbad  
Fergal.

[Ni ro marbud Fergal co torchair Donn bó.]

And Donn-bó fell since Fergal had been  
killed,

Níor maraíodh Feargal, ámh, nó gur thit Donn  
Bó roimhe á chosaint.

but Fergal was not killed until Donn bó had  
fallen (in his defence).

[Ata didu ‘Cnoc [Fergail’, **B.**]

Tá, go deimhin, ‘Cnoc Feargail’

‘Fergal’s Hill’

ocus ‘Bri Buain maic Baile’ ri Alban andsin  
beos.

agus ‘Brí Bhuain mhic Bhaile,’ rí Alban, ansin  
fós.

and ‘Buan mac Baile’s berg’ are still there.

## Section 12

Seasca ar cét ro marbad and d’amsaib in rig  
and

Seasca ar chéad a maraíodh ann d’amhsanna  
an rí,

Of the king’s soldiers one hundred and sixty  
were killed there,

.i. Conall Meand

mar atá Conall Meann,

to wit, Conall Menn,

ri Ceneoil Cairpri,

rí Chinéil Chairbre,

king of the Kindred of Cairbre,

ocus Forbusach

agus Forbhasach,

and Forbasach,

ri Ceneoil Boguine,

rí Chinéil Bhoghaine,

king of the Kindred of Boguine,

ocus Fergal húa hAithechda,

agus Feargal ua Aitheachtaigh

and Fergal húa Aithechdaí,

ocus Fergal mac Echdach Leamnai  
ri Tamnaigi,

ocus Condalach mac Conaing,

ocus Eigneach mac Olcan,

ri na n-Airthir.

Coibdinach mac Fhiachrach

ocus Muirgius mac Conaill,

Lethait[hech] maic Concarad,

ocus Aedgen húa Mathgne,

Nuada mac Oirc

ri Gall,

ocus dech húi Mæili fithrig.

At e and sin tra riga in tuaisceirt docersad isin  
chath sin.

agus Feargal mac Eochaidh Leamhna,  
rí Thamhnaighe,

agus Connalach mac Conaing

agus Éigneach mac Olchon,

rí na nAirthear,

Coibhdeanach mac Fiachrach

agus Muirgheas mac Conaill,

Leathaitheach mac Concarad

agus Aodhgán ua Mathghamhna,

Nuadha mac Eairc,

rí Gall,

agus deichniúr de shíol Mhaoil Fithrigh.

Is iad siúd ríthe an tuaiscirt a thit sa chath sin.

and Fergal son of Eochaid Lemnai,  
king of Tamnach,

and Condalach son of Conang,

and Écnech son of Olcu,

king of the Airthir,

Coibdenach son of Fiachra

and Muirgius son of Conall,

Lethaithech son of Cú-charat

and Aedgen húa Mathgne,

Nuada son of Orc,

king of the Foreigners,

and ten descendants of Mael-fithrig.

Those are the kings of the North who fell in  
that battle.

### Section 13

At iat-so immorro riga Húa Neill in deiscirt ro marbaid and	*Is iad seo, ámh, ríthe Uí Néill an deiscirt a maraíodh ann,	Now these are the kings of the Southern Húi Néill who were killed there,
.i. Fland mac Ragnaill,	mar atá Flann mac Raghnaill,	to wit, Fland son of Ragnall,
Ailill mac Feradaig,	Ailill mac Feradaigh,	Ailill son of Feradach,
Aed Laignech húa Cernaig,	Aedh Laighnech ua Cearnaigh,	Aed Laignech húa Cernaig,
Suibni mac Congalaig,	Suibhne mac Conghalaigh,	Suibne son of Congalach,
Nia mac Cormaic,	Nia mac Cormaic,	Nia son of Cormac,
Dub da crich mac Duib dá inber,	Dubh-dhá-chríoch mac Duibh-dhá-inbher,	Dub-dá-crích son of Dub-dá-inber,
Ailill mac Conaill Grant,	Ailill mac Conaill Grant,	Ailill son of Conall Grant,
Flaitheamail mac Dluthaig, ri Corpri Cruim,	Flaitheamhail mac Dlúthaigh, rí Coirpre Croimm,	Flaithemail son of Dluthach, king of Corbre Cromm,
Fergus o hEogain.	Fergus ua hEoghain.	Fergus hua Eogain.
Hic totus numirus de reigibus ceciderunt et alii .ix. uolátiles.	<i>Hic totus numerus de regibus ceciderunt, et alii novem uolátiles.</i>	<i>Hic totus numerus de regibus ceciderunt, et alii novem uolátiles.</i>
uii. M. ceciderunt in [eo] bello ab utroque exercitu.	<i>Septem milia ceciderunt in eo bello ab utroque exercitu.*</i>	<i>Septem milia ceciderunt in eo bello ab utroque exercitu.</i>

## Section 14

Et inde Nuadu húa Lomthuile dixit:

Medon laithi Almaine  
ag cosnum buair Bregmaine,  
ro la Badb belderg birach  
ilach im cheand Feargaile.

Scarais Murchad fri midlaig,  
mrogais trénu for talmain,  
dosoí foebar fri Feargail,  
co féin dermair des Almain.

Adbath céat ruireach rathach,  
co cet costadach carnach,  
im naei ngelta gin míni,  
im secht míli fer n-armach.

Agus mar seo adúirt Nuadha ua Lomthuile:

I meán lae Almhaine  
sa troid fá bha Bhreá-mhuine  
do lig Badhbh bhéal-dearg bhiorach  
scread um cheann Fheargail.

Scar Murchadh le mílaochas,  
neartaigh le tréinfhir ar talamh,  
d'iompaigh faobhar ar Fhearghal  
le féinn díoscair deas-Almhaine.

D'éag céad ruireach rathath  
agus céad cosantóir creachach  
mar aon le naoi ngealta gan míne  
agus seacht míle fear n-armach.

*Et inde Nuadu húa Lomthuile dixit:*

At midday in Allen  
contending for the kine of Bregia,  
the red-mouthed, javelin-armed Badb uttered  
a paeán round Fergal's head.

Murchad parted from cowards:  
he increased the strong ones on earth:  
he turns a weapon against Fergal,  
with the vast champions south of Allen.

There died a hundred gracious princes,  
with a hundred brawny guardsmen,  
with nine ferocious flying madmen,  
with seven thousand men-at-arms.

## Section 15

A tertkl. [leg. tertíd] Decimpir arai laithi mis  
grene,

ocus dia mairt arai laithi sechtmaine,

ro figead cath Almaine.

Ar an tríú lá de mhí na Nollag do réir laethe na  
míosa

agus Dé Máirt do réir laethe na seachtaine

a tugadh Cath Almhaine.

On the third of the ides of December as  
regards the day of the solar month,

and on a Tuesday as regards the day of the  
week,

the battle of Allen has been fought.



## Section 16

IS and sin ro gabad Húa Maiglindi .i. in  
rigdruith, la Laigniu agus la Murchad,

agus doradad fair ‘géim drúith’ do denam.

Ba mor tra in geim sin agus ba bind,

co fuil ‘géim húi Maiglindi’ ac sochaide  
d’fearaib Erenn o sin ille.

Doradad iarsin béim dara munel

cor beanad a cheand de.

Adberaid aroili na heolach

ro bai géim húi Maiglindi isinn aér

co ceann tri trath.

IS desin ata

‘géim húi Maiglindi ac tofund na fer isin  
monaid.’

Gabhadh ua Maighlinne, an cháinte, ag na  
Laignigh \*agus ag Murchadh\* ansin

agus chuireadar d’fhiachaibh air ‘géim  
cháinte’ a ligean as.

Ba ard an ghéim é agus ba bhinn

agus is de sin atá ‘géim Uí Mhaighlinne’ mar  
nath ag a lán d’fhearaibh Éireann ó shoin i  
leith.

\*Tugadh béim iar sin thar a mhuineál,

gur baineadh a cheann de.\*

Deir eolaigh áirithe

go raibh géim Uí Mhaighlinne san aer ina  
dhiaidh sin

go ceann trí tráth.

Is uaidh sin atá an rá:

‘Géim Uí Mhaighlinne ag cur ruaig ar na fir sa  
mhónaidh.’

Then Hua Maiglinni, the royal buffoon, was  
captured by the Leinstermen and Murchad,

and he was enjoined to make a ‘buffoon’s  
shout’.

Great, then, was that shout, and melodious,

so that many of the men of Erin have ‘the  
shout of Hua Maiglinni’ from that time to this.

Then a blow was delivered across his neck,

so that his head was struck off him;

and certain scholars assert

that his shout remained in the air

to the end of three days and nights.

Hence is (the saying).

‘Hua Maiglinni’s shout chasing the men into  
the bog’.

## Section 17

IS andsin adbert araili laech maith do  
Chonnachtaib ria macaib:

“Nacham facbaid, a gillu,” ol se:

“bid fearr-di frib menma bar mathar  
dianum-ruca[id]sa libh.”

Impoid iarsin fris

ocus tocbaid leo he [for crann a sleg F.

“Nit berad,” or Laighin,

conadh ann sin ro marbhadh Aodh Laighen, ri  
Hua Maine.]

Doluid Aed Allan mac Feargaile asin cath

co ranic

in Gall dar’ comainm Craibthech,

Is ansin adúirt laoch maith áirithe de  
Connachta lena chlann mhac:

“Ná fágaigí mé, a mhaca,” ar sé,

“ba mhóide gean bhur mathár díbh  
má thugann sibh mise libh.”

Druideann siad chuige ansin

agus tugann siad leo é ar chranna a sleá.

“Ní thógfaidh siad thú,” arsa na Laighnigh,

agus is ansin a maraíodh Aodh Laighean, rí  
Ua Máine.

\*Theith Aedh Allán mac Fhearghail as an  
gcath

gur shroich sé

an Gall darbh ainm Cráifeach,

Then a certain good warrior of Connaught  
(Aed Laighen, king of Hy-Many), said to his  
sons.

“Do not leave me, my lads”, quoth he:

“your mother’s love for you will be the greater  
if you take me with you”.

So they turn towards him

and lift him up on the shafts of their spears.

“They shall not take thee”, say the  
Leinstermen,

and then Aed Laighen \*, king of Hy-Many,\*  
was killed.

Aed Allan son of Fergal fled from  
the battle

till he came to

Lilcach, belonging to

the foreigner called the Pious,

ocus adchi[s]seom in Gall	agus d'achainigh sé ar an nGall coimirce a thabhairt dó.	and entreated the foreigner for his protection.
(i. Lincach nó Lilcach leis)	(Ba leis <u>an nGall an chill sin</u> , Lilcach.)	
dia comairqui:		
Pruidens didu ainm in Gaill sin,	Pruidens ab ainm don Ghall sin,	Prudens was that foreigner's name.
co ndeachaid in t-aingel ar in cleith a richt in clerig,	go ndeachaigh an t-aingeal ar an gcleith i riocht an chléirigh,	So that the angel went on the roof-beam in the shape of the cleric,
air doarnkert bithanad isin chill sin.	mar bhí sé geallta aige go bhfanfaidh sé go brách san chill sin.	for he had promised to remain always in that church.
IS andsin adbert Aed Allan in rand sa:	Is ansin adúirt Aedh Allán an rann seo:	Then Aed Allan uttered this stave:
Ni rancamar ar talmain Almain badid-rédithir, ni fuaramar iarsin cath Lilcach badid-némithir.	Níor shroicheamar ar talamh Almhain a bhí chomh réidh; ní bhfuairamar i ndiaidh an chatha Lilcach a bhí chomh gheal.*	On earth we never reached an Allen that was as smooth: after the battle we found not a Lilcach that was as bright.
[Ba buadhach tra an lá sin do Laighnibh — <b>B.</b> ]	Ba bhuach an lá ag na Laighnigh é	So that was a victorious day for Leinster.
Ra anact immorro Cu-Bretan mac Aengusa .i. rí Fer Rois,	agus ní bhfuair anacal uatha ach Cú Bhreatan mac Aonghusa <u>amháin</u> , rí Fear Rois,	Howbeit Cú-Bretan son of Oengus, king of Fir Rois, was protected
[ar na runna dorighne an aidhche reimhe, <b>B.</b> ]	ar na ranna a rinne sé an oíche roimhe sin.	because of the quatrains which he had made the night before.

## Section 18

Badar Laigin tra ac fleadugud agus ag ol an aidchi sin.	Bhí na Laighnigh ag ól agus ag ragairne an oíche sin	Now that night the Leinstermen were feasting and drinking.
IS annsin adbert Murchad mac Brain	agus dúirt <u>rí Laighean</u> , Murchadh mac Bhraín,	'Tis then Murchad son of Bran
re haen dona sluagaib badar isin tig	le duine den slua a bhí sa teach,	told one of the troops which were in the house
teacht ar ceand cind duine isinn armuig,	dul amach agus ceann duine a thabhairt chuige ó pháirc an áir	to go into the battlefield for a man's head,
ocus doberad secht cumala	agus <u>dúirt sé</u> go dtabharfadh sé seacht gcumhala <u>bó</u>	and that he would give seven <i>cumals</i>
donti no ragad risin.	don té a raghadh á lorg.	to him who should go for it,
“Ragat-sa and,” ar	“Raghadsa ann,” arsa <u>Baethgalach</u> ,	“I will go”, says <u>Baethgalach</u> ,
aenoclach amra d’ feraib Muman.	óglach uasal de shlua na Mumhan.	a valiant warrior of the men of Munster.
Luid sen amach	D’imigh sé amach	Forth he fared,
ocus a errad catha agus comhlann uime,	agus a éide catha agus comhlann uime	wearing his dress of battle and combat,
co rocht co hairm a mbai corp Fergail.	go dtáinig sé don áit a raibh corp Fheargail.	till he reached the place where Fergal’s body lay.
Amal bai [and] co cualai inni nescairi isin áer,	Is ansin a chuala sé an chaint <u>ag an ghuth</u> san aer	As he was there he heard the proclamation in the air,

ar rocloss uili fris hé:	agus chuala gach uile dhuine <u>chomh maith</u> leis é:	for all heard it:
“Timarnad duib o maig nime	“hOrdaíodh ó neamh díbh	“Ye have been commanded from the Plain of Heaven
airfided bar tigerna do denam anocht	seinnt do bhur dtiarna anocht,	to make minstrelsy to-night for your lord,
.i. Fergal mac Maili duin,	do Fheargal mac Maoldúin.	Fergal son of Mael Duin.
[cia] dorochrabair uili in bar n-eicsib sunn	Gidh go bhfuil sibh uile, in bhur bhfilí, tar éis titim anseo	Though all ye poets have fallen here
aræn re bar tigerna .i. ri Fergal,	in éineacht leis *an rí Fergal, bhur dtiarna*,	together with your lord, *Fergal the king,*
[ná tairmesccadh erfhuath no héccomnart sib	ná coisceadh an eagla ná an anbhainne sibh	let not fear or feebleness prevent you
d’airfidedh anocht d’Fergal, <b>B.</b> ”]	ar cheol a dhéanamh dó anocht.”	from making music tonight for Fergal”.
Ro chualadar immorro in ceol iartain,	Chualadar ansin na ceolta <u>éagsúla dá seinnt</u> ,	They heard the music afterwards,
iter aes dana agus cornairi	idir <u>cheol</u> filí, <u>ceol</u> cornairí,	both poets and hornplayers
ocus cuisleannach agus cruitiri,	<u>ceol</u> píbe agus <u>ceol</u> cruite	and pipers and harpers,
co cuala immorro na ceola ecsamla,	agus chuala <u>Baothghalach</u> iad	and he ( <u>Baethgalach</u> ) heard the various melodies;
ocus ni cuala riam na iarum ceol bud ferr.	agus níor chuala sé riamh roimhe ná ina dhiaidh sin ceol ab fhearr ná é.	and never did he hear, before or after, better music.

Co cuala didu in guth isin tsup illuachra,	Chuala sé an guth ansin amach as <u>lár</u> sop luachra	Then he heard a voice ( <u>from a head</u> ) in the wisp of rushes,
ba bindi in ceol isin anad ceola in domain.	agus ba bhinne ceol an ghutha sin ná ceolta an domhain.	and sweeter was that tune than the tunes of the world.

### Section 19

Luid in t-oclaech iarsin ina dochum.	Chuaigh <u>Baothghalach</u> anonn chuig <u>an sop luachra</u> .	Then the warrior went towards it.
“Na tairr cucum,” ar in cenn fris.	“Ná tair níos gaire dhom,” arsa an ceann leis <u>amach as an sop</u> .	“Do not come to me”, says the head to him.
“Cid on, cindus atáí?” ar in t-oclaech.	“Cé thusa,” arsa an t-óglach, “agus conas atá agat?”	“What, how art thou?” asks the warrior.
“Misi Donn bo,” ar in ceand,	“Mise Donn Bó,” arsa na ceann.	“I am Donn-bó,” says the head;
“ocus ro naisced orm	“Ceanglaíodh orm	“and I have been pledged
airfided dom thigerna anocht .i. do Fergal:	ceol a dhéanamh dom thiarna, Feargal, anocht.	to make music to-night for my lord, that is, for Fergal,
ni do Murchad iter,” ar in ceand,	Níor ceanglaíodh orm seinnt do Mhurchadh, ámh,	not by any means for Murchad.
[“ocus na erchoididh dham, <b>B.</b> ”]	agus ná maslaigh mé dá bhrí sin.”	So do not annoy me”.

“Cait ata Fergal fen?” ar an t-oclaech.	“Cá bhfuil Feargal féin?” arsa an t-óglach.	“Where is Fergal himself?” says the warrior.
“Is e a chorp in taitneamach rit anall,” ar in ceand.	“Is é a chorp é siúd atá ag taitneamh leat anall,” arsa na ceann.	“That is his body, the shining one, beyond thee”, says the head.
“Cest,” ar in t-oclaech,	“Ceist <u>agam ort</u> ,” arsa an t-óglach,	“A question”, says the warrior:
“cia nod-ber lium?	“cé bhéarfaidh mé liom?	“whom shall I take with me?
Is tu is deach lium.”	Is tusa is fearr liom.”	’Tis thou whom I most prefer”.
“Nom-bera ar bith,” ar in ceand,	“Is mise a bhéarfaidh tú leat,” arsa an ceann,	“Thou shalt take me”, says the head,
“acht nama menum-berad Crist mac De.	“ar acht amháin, go nglacann Críost mac Dé mé.	“but only if Christ the Son of God take me.
Dia nom-bera,” ar in cend,	Má thugann tú leat mé, ámh,	If thou take me”, says the head,
“curam-tuca doridisi com cholaind.”	tabhair ar ais chun mo cholann arís mé.”	“bring me again to my body”.
“Dot-bertar eigin,” ar in t-oclaech.	“Bhéarfar ar ais gan amhras thú,” arsa an t-óglach.	“Indeed thou wilt be brought”, says the warrior.

## Section 20

Dochuaid immorro in t-oclaech dia thig agus in ceand lais.	Thug an t-óglach an ceann leis ar ais go dtí an teach	So the warrior went to his house and the head with him,
[ocus fuair Laighin og ól ara chenn 'sin aidhchi cétna, <b>B.</b> ]	agus fuair sé na Laighnigh roimhe ag ól ann *an oíche chéanna*.	and on arriving he found the Leinstermen carousing that same night.
“An tucais lat ní asan armuig?” ar Murchad.	“Ar thug tú leat an ní <u>d'iarr mé ort</u> ó pháirc an áir?” arsa Murchadh.	“Hast thou brought anything from the battlefield?”, says Murchad.
“Tucus tra,” ar in t-oclaech [“cenn Dhuinnbo, <b>B.</b> ”]	“Thug go deimhin,” arsa an t-óglach, “ceann Dhonn Bó.”	“I have brought Donn-bó’s head”, the warrior answered.
“Tobair ar an uaitni thall,” ar Murchad.	“Cuir ar an chuaille úd thall é,” arsa Murchadh.	“Put it on the pillar yonder”, says Murchad.
Dorat in slog uili aichni ar in ceand, agus raidsead uli:	D’aithin an slua go léir an ceann agus ar siadsan uile:	The whole army recognised the head, and they all said:
“Nirb [sh]irsan duid, a Duind bo, bith amlaid sin.	“Is mairg duit, a Dhonn Bó, bheith sa riocht a bhfuil tú.	“It was no luck for thee, O Donn-bó, to be like that,
IS tu is ailli agus is fearr airfidid bai i n-Erind!”	Ba tusa an ceoltóir ab áille agus ab fhearr dá raibh in Éirinn!”	for thou wert the best and most beautiful minstrel in Erin!”



## Section 21

“Maith,” ar in laech das-bert a maig in ceand,	“Anois,” arsa an t-óglach a thug leis an ceann <u>ó pháirc an áir,</u>	“Well”, says the warrior who brought the head from outside,
“dena airfided duind, a Duind bo,	“déan ceol dúinn, a Dhonn Bó,	“make minstrelsy for us, O Donn-bó,
fodaig Maic De	ar son Mhic Dé	for the sake of God’s Son,
.i. Isa Crist, i ndeachaid gnúis.	*.i. Íosa Chríost, go ndeachaigh sé ina láthair*.	(to wit, Jesus Christ, into whose presence he had gone).
Airfid Laigniu anocht	Déan ceol do na Laignigh anocht	Amuse the Leinstermen tonight
feib ro airfedis do thigerna ó chianaib.”	faoi mar rinne tú dod thiarna ó chianaibh.”	as thou amusedst thy lord not long ago”.

## Section 22

IMpais [Donnbó, F.] iarum a aiged	D’iompaigh Donn Bó ansin a aghaidh	Then Donn-bó turned his face
re fraighidh in tigi	le balla an tí	to the wall of the house
ardaig cumad dorcha do,	ó scalladh an tsolais	so that it might be dark to him,
ocus tocbais a chruisich os aird	agus thóg a ghuth os ard	and he raised his <i>cruinsech</i> (?) on high
co mbo bindi [oldas F.] cach ceol ar tuind talman,	go mba bhinne é ná ceol ar bith ar chlár talún	so that it was sweeter than any melody on the earth’s sward;

co mbadar in slog uili ag cai agus ac toirrsi	agus bhí an slua uile ag caoi agus ag déanamh bróin	and all the host were weeping and sad
ria truaigi agus ri taidiuiri in ciuil ro chan.	le truamhéil agus le brónaí an cheoil a chan sé.	at the piteousness and misery of the music that he sang.

### Section 23

INtan tra ba scith in sluaigh ac toirrsi	Nuair a bhí an slua cortha de bheith ag caoi	Now when the host was weary of the sorrow <u>caused by</u>
ac estehd frisin ceol,	ag éisteacht leis an cheol,	listening to the music,
luid in t-oclaech cétna lasin cend	thug an t-óglach céanna an ceann leis	the same warrior went with the head
co riacht an corp.	go dtáinig sé go dtí an corp.	till he reached <u>its</u> body.
“Maith em,” ar in ceann risin oglaech,	“Anois,” arsa an ceann leis an óglach,	“Good indeed,” says the head to the warrior:
“tuidmi [dam F.] mo cheand rim chorp.”	“cuir mo cheann lem chorp.”	“join my head to my body”.
Coraigis didu in t-oclaech in cend risin colaind,	Chóirigh an t-óglach an ceann leis an cholainn	Then the warrior fitted the head to the body
ocus leanaid de fochétoir:	agus lean <u>an ceann den cholainn</u> láithreach.	and straightway it adhered thereto.
do comall brethri Coluim cille on,	Is chun briathar Cholm Cille a chomhlíonadh <u>a tharla sin,</u>	<u>That took place</u> in order to fulfil Columkill’s word,

air is e Colum Cille bai 'na slanaigeacht	mar is é Colm Cille a bhí ina shlánaíocht ann	for Columkill was security
fona techt i tuaid doridisi dochum a máthar,	go bhfillleadh <u>Donn Bó</u> ar ais ó thuaidh chun a mháthar	that <u>Donn-bó</u> should go northward again to his mother
co ro indised scela in catha agus aided Fergail disí agus do chach.	le go n-inseodh sé scéala an chatha agus oidheadh Fheargail *dise agus* do chách.	and tell to her and to every one tidings of the battle and Fergal's death.

## Section 24

Ann ecmais dono Cathail maic Findgaine	Is i nganfhiós do Chathal mac Finghuine	
ro fhersad Laigin in cath-sa Almaine,	a tugadh an cath seo ag Almhain le Laighnigh	The Leinstermen had delivered this battle of Allen in the absence of Cathal mac Finguini,
ocus rob olc ríá Cathal	agus ba olc le Cathal	and Cathal was grieved
in cath do chur ina aecmais féin,	an cath dá thabhairt ina éagmais féin.	that the battle was fought while he himself was away.
ocus adcuiladar Laígin grug Cathail do beith riu,	Chuala na Laighnigh go raibh olc ag Cathal dóibh	They heard of Cathal's grudge against them,
conad hi comairli doronsad:	agus rinne siad comhairle	so this was the counsel they framed,
ceann Fergail do breith co Cathal	ceann Fheargail a bhreith chuige	to carry to Cathal Fergal's head
da comaideam in gníma.	mar chomhartha buaidhe.	as a trophy of the action.

Rucad iarsin in ceand siar co Cathal, conad and sin asbert Rumand fili Fergail and so:	Tugadh an ceann siar go Cathal *iar sin*. Agus is ansin adúirt Rumann, file Fheargail:	Thereafter the head was taken westward to Cathal; whereupon Rumann, Fergal's poet, said:
Ro bith Fergal, fer cain cnedhmar grib glond galann, ro gob oengol amal toraind ota Indsi Mod co Manann.	Maraíodh Feargal, fear caoin cneámhar, gríobh laochta gaisce — do ghabh aon-ghol amhail toirneach ó Inse Mod go Manainn.	Fergal has been slain, a man fair, full of wounds, a griffin, a champion, a foe: there is one wail like thunder from the Clew Bay islands to Mann.

## Section 25

IS andsin didu bai Cathal a nGlendamain na rig ac Sleb Chrot, ocus in slog dodeochaid lasin ceand, ro triallad a marbad la Cathal, uair ba h-olc lais dith Fergail darceand a shida.	Bhí Cathal *ag an am sin* i nGleann Domhain na Rí ag Sliabh gCrot agus an slua a tháinig leis an cheann do thriail Cathal iad a mharú mar ba olc leis marú Fheargail trí shárú na síochána.	Cathal was then dwelling in Glendamain of the Kings at Mount Grud; and he tried to kill the troops that came with the head, for Fergal's destruction, in violation of his peace, was grievous to him.
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## Section 26

Do foilced, ro figedh, ro slemanchirad do chind Fergail iarsin la Cathal,	Do folcadh ceann Fheargail ansin, cíoradh an ghruaig air agus fíodh é le Cathal	Then Fergal's head was washed and plaited and combed smooth by Cathal,
ocus dobretha breid sroill uime iarsin,	agus cuireadh bréid sróill ina thimpeall.	and a cloth of satin was put round it,
ocus dobretha	Ansin tugadh	and
secht ndoim ocus secht muilt	seacht ndaimh agus seacht moilt	seven oxen, seven wethers
ocus secht tindi,	agus seacht muca	and seven bacon-pigs
ocus siad uili fonaigthi,	agus iad uile bruite	— all of them cooked —
ar belaib cind Fergail.	<u>gur leagadh</u> os comhair cheann Fheargail iad.	were brought before the head *of Fergal*.
Ro himdergad iarsin imon ceand	Tháinig luisne ansin in gceannacha an chinn	Then the head blushed
a fiadnaisi fer Muman uili,	i láthair mhuintir na Mumhan *uile*	in presence of all the men of Munster,
ocus dofoslaic a shuili ria Dia	agus d'ardaigh sé a shúile chun Dé	and it opened its eyes to God
do altugud na hairmiden ocus na honora moiri sin tucad do.	do ghabháil bhuíochais san onóir mhór sin a tugadh dó.	to render thanks for the respect and great honour that had been shewn to it.
Ro fodlad iarsin la Cathal in biad sin	Roinneadh ansin an bia sin le Cathal	Then that food was distributed by Cathal
do bochtaib na cell comfhocus bai doib	ar bhochta na gceall ab fhoigse dhóibh,	to the poor of the neighbouring churches,

.i. Ath Chros MoLaga

Áth Chros Molaga

to wit, Áth Cros Molaga (the Ford of MoLaga's crosses)

ocus Tulach Min MoLaga.

agus Tulach Mín Molaga.

and Tulach Mín Molaga (the smooth Hill of Molaga).

### Section 27

Luid iarsin Cathal

Agus chuaigh Cathal

After that Cathal went

co ngléri tinoil fer Muman les

agus uaisle na Mumhan in éineacht leis

with a chosen gathering of the men of Munster

d'idnocol chind Fergail,

chun ceann Fheargail a adhnacal

to bury Fergal's head,

co mo tarad fen d'Uib Neill,

agus thug sé féin ar ais d'Uí Néill é.

and he himself gave it to the Húi Néill,

ocus co tarad rigi Húa Neill

Thug sé ansin ceannas Uí Néill

and he conferred the kingship of the Húi Néill

do Flaithbertach mac Aeda,

do Fhlaitheartach mac Aodha

on Flaithbertach son of Aed.

ocus facbais Cathal amlaid sin iad,

agus d'fhág mar sin iad

Thus then Cathal left them,

ocus tanic co Gleandamain na rig i cind chaectigis ar mis.

agus tháinig ar ais i gceann sé seachtaine go Gleann Domhain na Rí.

and at the end of a month and a fortnight he came to Glendemain of the Kings.

## Section 28

IS iarsin tra ro figh cocad mor i Laignib  
inagaid Cathail maic Findgune,

ocus co ro thinoil Cathal fir[u] Muman les,

ocus co ndeachaid anagaid Faelain rig Laigen  
co Laignib uili araen ris,

ocus cuirther and sin cath Feli

iter Faelan ocus Cathal,

ocus docer Faelcar ri Osraidi and,

ocus brister an cath ar Laignib.

Is ina dhiaidh sin d'éirigh cogadh mór i  
Laignibh in aghaidh Chathal Mac Finghuine

agus do thionóil Cathal fir Mhumhan chuige

agus chuaigh in aghaidh Faoláin, rí Laighean,

agus na Laignigh uile in éineacht leis

agus tugadh ansin cath Éile

idir Fhaolán agus Chathal

agus do thit Faolchar, rí Osraí, ann

agus briseadh an cath ar na Laignigh.

Now afterwards a great war against Cathal  
mac Findguni sprang up in Leinster,

so Cathal mustered the men of Munster

and marched against Faelán, king of Leinster,

who had all the Leinstermen along with him.

And then the battle of Feile was fought

between Faelán and Cathal,

and Faelchar, king of Ossory, fell there,

and the Leinstermen were defeated.

## Section 29

Imscarad Cathail ocus Laigin conuigi sin.

Finit. amen. FINIT.

Iomscaradh Chathail agus Laighean go nuige  
sin.

*\*Finit. Amen. Finit.\**

So far the severance of Cathal and the  
Leinstermen.

It endeth. Amen. It endeth.