

# Compert Mongáin ocus Serc Duibe-Lacha do Mongán

## The Conception of Mongán and Dub-Locha's love for Mongán

### Section 1

Feacht n-aen	Uair amháin	Once upon a time
da n-deachaid	chuaign	
Fiachna Find mac Bædáin	Fiachna Fionn mac Baodáin	Fiachna Finn, son of Baetán,
mheic Murcertaigh mheic Muredhaigh	mhic Muircheartaigh mhic Muireadhaigh	son of Murchertach, son of Muredach,
mheic Eogain mheic Néill	mhic Eoghain mhic Néill	son of Eogan, son of Niall,
		went
a Héirind amach, co ráinic a Lochlandaibh.	as Éirinn amach, go dtáinig go Lochlainn.	forth from Ireland, until he came to Lochlann,
Ocus is e ba rígh Lochlann an tan sin .i. Eolgharg Mór mac Maghair	Is é ba rí Lochlann an t-am sin Eolgharg Mór mac Maghair,	over which Eolgarg Mór, son of Magar, was at that time king.
ocus dofhúair miadh ocus grádh ocus anoir mhór and.	agus fuair Fiachna miadh is grá is onóir mhór <u>uaidh</u> *ann*.	There he found great respect and love and honour.
Ocus ní cían do bí ann	Ní fada a bhí sé ann	And he was not long there,

an tráth do gabh galar rígh Lochlann	nuair a ghabh galar rí Lochlann	when a disease seized the king of Lochlann,
ocus do fhiarfaigh da leagaibh ocus da fhísicibh	agus d'fhiarfraigh sé dá lianna agus dá fhisicithe	who asked of his leeches and physicians
ca do fhoirfeadh é.	cad d'fhóirfeadh é.	what would help him.
Ocus adubhradur ris	Dúradar leis	And they told him
nach roibh ar bith ní do fhoirfedh é	nach raibh ar domhan aon ní a d'fhóirfeadh é	there was in the world nothing that would help him,
ach[t] bó clúaisderg glégeal	ach bó chluais-dearg ghlégeal	save a red-eared shining-white cow,
ocus a berbhadh dó.	is í a bheiriú dó.	which was to be boiled for him.
Ocus do síredh an cinedh Lochlann don bhoin	Shir an cine Lochlann i gcomhair na bó <u>sin</u>	And the people of Lochlann searched for the cow,
ocus do fríth énbó Chaillighi Duibhe	is fuerthas aon-bhó Chaillí Duibhe.	and there was found the single cow of Caillech Dub (Black Hag).
ocus do tairgeadh bó aile dí da cind	Tairgeadh bó eile di dá cionn,	Another cow was offered to her in its stead,
ocus d'éisigh an chailleach.	ach dhiúltaigh an chailleach í.	but the hag refused.
Ocus tucadh a cethair dí .i. bó gacha coisi	Tugadh ceithre cinn di — bó ar gach cois —	Then four were offered to her, viz., one cow for every foot,

ocus nir'għabb an chailleach cor aislech	agus <u>sa mhargadh sin</u> ní ghlaċfadħ sí le aon chor eile	and the hag would not accept any other condition
ach[t] coraigheacht Fhiachna.	ach coraíocht Fhiachna.	but that Fiachna should become security.
Ocus is í sin úair ocus aimsir táncadur teachta ar cend Fiachna Find mheic Baedáin	Agus is í sin an uair *agus an aimsir* a tháinig teachtairí thar ceann Fiachna Find mheic Baedáin	Now this was the hour and the time that messengers came for Fiachna Finn, the son of Baetán,
ocus táinic leisna teachtaibh sin	agus chuaigh sé leis na teachtairí seo	and he went with those messengers,
ocus ro għabb ríghi n-Uladh	gur għabb ríghte Chúige Uladh	and took the kingship of Ulster,
ocus do bí blíadhain 'na rígh.	is bhí bliain ina rí.	and was king for one year.

## Section 2

Laithe n-æn a cinn blíadhna	Lá amháin i gceann bliana	One day at the end of a year
do chúalaidh éighmhe a n-dorus an dúnaidh	chuala sé éamh i ndoras an dúnaidh	he heard cries of distress in front of the fort,
ocus adubert a fhis	agus d'fhoráil sé a fháil amach	and he told <u>(his men)</u> to go and see
cia do dénadħ an éigheam	cé bhí ag déanamh na héimhe	who made those cries,
(ocus cipé) do dénadħ, a légon asteach.	(agus cibé duine) a rinne, a ligint isteach.	and to let the person that made them into <u>the house</u> .

Ocus (is í) ro bí ann an chailleach  
Lochlannach

do iaraidh corraigheachta.

Do aithin Fiachna hí

ocus ferais fáilti fria

ocus fiarfaighis scéla dí.

“Atát scéla agum,” ar an chailleach.

“Rígh Lochlann

... do choraigeachta-sa

ocus feall

arna ceithribh búreibh

do gellad damh-sa (tar) éis mo bó.”

“Dobér-sa ceithre bá arason duit, a  
chailleach,” ar Fiachna.

Ocus adubert an chailleach ná gébhadh.

Is í bhí ann an chailleach Lochlannach

ag iaraidh coraíochta.

D'aithin Fiachna í

is chuir sé fáilte roimpi

is d'fhiabraigh scéal di.

“Tá scéala agam,” ar an chailleach.

“Rí Lochlann

a d'fheall orm

faoi na ceithre ba

\*a ghealladh dom mar chúiteamh ar mo bhó\*

d'ainneoin do choraíochta.”

“Béarfaidh mé ceithre ba ar a son duit, a  
chailleach,” ar Fiachna.

Ach dúirt sise nach nglacfadh sí iad.

And there was the hag from Lochlann

come to demand her security.

Fiachna knew her

and bade her welcome

and asked tidings of her.

“Evil tidings I have,” said the hag.

“The king of Lochlann

\*despite your security\*

has deceived me

in the matter of the four kine

that were promised to me for my cow.”

“I will give thee four kine on his behalf, O  
hag,” said Fiachna.

But the hag said she would not take them.

“Dobér-sa fiche bó arason,” ar Fiachna.

“Ni gébh,” ar an chailleach.

“Dobér-sa ceithre fichit bó,” ar Fiachna,

“fichi bó arson gacha bó dar . . . ar rígh  
Lochlann.”

“Is bríathar dhamh-sa,” ar an  
chailleach,

“(dia) tuctha a fuil do bhúaibh a coigid Uladh .  
. .

nach gébhaind

co tísta féin do dén(am catha) ar rígh  
Lochlann,

amail tánac-sa anair . . . sa

tarsa an-aister leam-sa mairs(in).”

“Béarfaidh mé fiche bó ar a son,” ar Fiachna.

“Ní ghlacfaidh mé iad,” ar an chailleach.

“Béarfaidh mé ceithre fichid bó,” ar Fiachna,

“fiche bó ar son gach bó nár thug rí  
Lochlann.”

“Dar mo bhriathar,” ar sí,

“dá dtabharfá a bhfuil de bha i gCúige Uladh  
dom,

nach nglacfainn iad

go dtiocfá féin chun cath a dhéanamh ar rí  
Lochlann.

Mar tháinig mise anoir chugatsa,

tar tusa in aistear liomsa \*mar sin\*.”

“I will give twenty kine on his behalf,” said  
Fiachna.

“I shall not take them,” said the hag.

“I will give four times twenty kine,” said  
Fiachna,

“twenty kine for each cow.”

“By my word,” said the hag,

“if all the kine of the province of Ulster were  
given to me,

I should not take them,

until thou come thyself to make war upon the  
king of Lochlann.

As I have come to thee from the east,

so do thou come on a journey with me.”

### Section 3

... Fiachna maithi Uladh

ocus a fhuair do maith(ibh) ...

coroibhe deich catha comóra

ocus rái(nic) ...

ocus do fógradh cath úadha for  
Lochlannchaibh

ocus (ro ba)dar trí láithi ac timsugudh 'cum an  
chatha

... regh comhrac ó rígh Lochlann ar feraib  
Eirenn

ocus do thuit trí chét láech ó Fhiachna 'sa  
comrac

ocus doléigid . . . cáirigh neimhe a phuball  
rígh Lochlann chuca

ocus do thuit fo . . . na trí chét láech an lá sin  
leisna cáiribh

ocus do thuit trí chét láech an dara lá

Bhailigh Fiachna maithe Uladh

agus a bhfuair de mhaithe eile

go raibh deich gcatha cómóra aige

agus chuaigh sé

agus fógradh cath uathu ar Lochlainn.

Bhíodar trí lá ag tiomsú chun an chatha.

Cuireadh comhrac ó rí Lochlann ar fhir  
Éireann

agus thit trí chéad laoch le Fiachna ann.

Scaoileadh caoirigh nimhe as pubaill rí  
Lochlann chuca

agus thit na trí chéad laoch an lá sin leis na  
caoirigh

agus thit trí chéad laoch ar an dara lá

Then Fiachna assembled the nobles of Ulster

until he had ten equally large battalions,

and went

and announced battle to the men of Lochlann.

And they were three days a-gathering unto the  
battle.

And combat was made by the king of  
Lochlann on the men of Ireland.

And three hundred warriors fell by Fiachna in  
the fight.

And venomous sheep were let out of the king  
of Lochlann's tent against them,

and on that day three hundred warriors fell by  
the sheep,

and three hundred warriors fell on the second  
day,

ocus trí chét láech an tres lá.

Fa doiligh le Fiachna sin ocus adubert:

“As trúagh an turus táncamair-ne

do marbad ar muindtire dona cáiribh.

Uair dam(ad) a cath nó a comlann do thuitfidis  
le slóg Lochlann,

ní budh aithmhéla linn a tuitim,

úair do dígheoldais féin íad.

Tabhraidh,” ol sé, “mh’arm ocus  
mh’ eirred dam-sa

co n-dechar féin isin comrac risna cáiribh.”

“Ná habair sin, a rígh,” ol síat,

“úair ní cubaidh frit dul do comrac riu.”

“Is briathar dam-sa,” ar Fiachna,

agus thit trí chéad laoche ar an dtríú lá.

Ba dhoiligh le Fiachna é sin agus dúirt:

“Is trua an turas a thágamar

le go marófaí ár muintir leis na caoirigh.

Óir dá mba i gcath nó i gcomhlann a thitfidís  
le slua Lochlann,

níorbh aiféala \*orainn\* a dtitim,

mar go ndíolóidís iad féin.

Tabhraigí,” ar sé, “m’airm agus m’earraí dom

go dtéim féin sa chomhrac leis na caoirigh.”

“Ná habair sin, a rí,” ar siad,

“óir ní cuí duit dul i gcomhraic leo.”

“Ar m’anam,” ar Fiachna,

and three hundred on the third day.

That was grievous to Fiachna, and he said:

“Sad is the journey on which we have come,

for the purpose of having our people killed by  
the sheep.

For if they had fallen in battle or in combat by  
the host of Lochlann,

we should not deem their fall a disgrace,

for they would avenge themselves.

Give me,” saith he, “my arms and my dress

that I may myself go to fight against the  
sheep.”

“Do not say that, O King,” said they,

“for it is not meet that thou shouldst go to  
fight against them.”

“By my word,” said Fiachna,

“ná tuitfe d’feraibh Érenn leó ní as mó,  
co n-dechar-sa féin ’sa comhrac risna cáiribh  
ocus mas ann do cinded damh-sa bás d’  
fhághbhail,  
do gébh,  
úair ní fhétar dul seoch an cindeamhain,  
ocus munab ann,  
tuitfid na cárig leam.”

“nach dtitfidh níos mó d’fhir Éireann leo  
go dtéimse sa chomhrac leis na caoirigh,  
agus más ann cinneadh domsa bás a fháil,  
gheobhaidh mé é,  
mar ní féidir dul thar an gcinniúint;  
agus murab ann,  
titfidh na caoirigh liom.”

“no more of the men of Ireland shall fall by  
them,  
till I myself go to fight against the sheep;  
and if I am destined to find death there,  
I shall find it,  
for it is impossible to avoid fate;  
and if not,  
the sheep will fall by me.”

#### Section 4

Mar do bhádar isin imagallaim sin,  
do chonncadar ænóglach mór míleta da n-  
innsaighe.  
  
Brat úaine ændatha uime  
ocus casán gelairgit isin brutt ós a bhruinde  
ocus léine do shróll re geilchnes dó.

Mar a bhí siad san agallamh sin  
chonaiceadar óglach mór míleata ag teacht  
chucu.  
  
Brat uaithne aon-datha uime  
agus dealg geal-airgid sa bhrat ar a bhruinne,  
is léine sróill lena gheal-chneas.

As they were thus conversing,  
they saw a single tall warlike man coming  
towards them.  
  
He wore a green cloak of one colour,  
and a brooch of white silver in the cloak over  
his breast,  
and a satin shirt next his white skin.

Fleasc óir a timchill a fhuilt  
ocus dá asa óir fona tráighthib.

Ocus adubert ant óglach:

“Ca lúach dobért[h]a dontí  
do dingébad na cáirigh dít?”

“Is bríathar damh-sa  
. . . da roibh agum, co tiubrainn.”

“Biaidh,” ar ant óclach,  
“ocus indeosat-sa duit hí.”

“Abair an breath,” ar Fiachna.

“Adér,” ol sé;  
“an fainde óir sin fot’ mér-sa do thabairt do  
chomartha damh-sa  
co Héirinn ’cum do bhanchéile,  
co cumaiscther ria.”

Fleasc óir timpeall a fhoilt  
agus dhá as óir faoina chosa.

Agus dúirt an t-óglach ansin:

“Cad é an luach a bhéarfá don té  
a dhionghbhódh na caoirigh díot?”

“Ar mo choinsias,  
bhéarfainn a n-iarrfá dá mbeadh sé agam.”

“Beidh,” ar an t-óglach,  
“agus inseoidh mé duit é.”

“Abair an bhreith,” ar Fiachna.

“Déarfaidh mé é,” ar sé;  
“an fáinne óir sin faoi do mhéar a thabhairt  
mar chomhartha dom

chun do bhean chéile in Éirinn  
le go luífinn léi.”

A circlet of gold around his hair,  
and two sandals of gold under his feet.

And the warrior said:

“What reward wouldest thou give to him  
who would keep the sheep from thee?”

“By my word,” said Fiachna,  
“[whatever thou ask], provided I have it, I  
should give it.”

“Thou shalt have it (to give),” said the warrior,  
“and I will tell thee the reward.”

“Say the sentence,” said Fiachna.

“I shall say it,” said he;  
“give me that ring of gold on thy finger as a  
token for me,

when I go to Ireland to thy wife  
to sleep with her.”

“Is bríathar dam-sa,” ol Fiachna,

“nach léicfind ænfer d’ fheraibh Éirenn do thuitim

arba na comha sin.”

“Nocha meisde duit-si hí,

oir geinfidh gein búadha úaim-si ann

ocus is úait-si ainmneochaidh

.i. Mongán Find

mac Fiachna Finn.

Ocus rachad-sa ad’ richt-sa ann

indus ná ba heisindracaide do ben-sa.

Ocus misi Manannán mac Lir

ocus gébha-sa ríghe Lochlann ocus Saxon  
ocus Bretan.”

Is and sin dorat ant óglach brodchú as a choim

“Ar mo bhriathar,” ar Fiachna,

“ní ligfinn d’ aon fhear in Éirinn titim

ar son na comha sin.”

“Ní miste duit é,

óir ginfidh gin bhua uaimse ann

agus is uaitse a ainmneofar é,

mar atá Mongán Fionn

mac Fiachna Finn.

Rachaidh mé i do riochta ann

ionas nach loitfear onóir do mhná.

Agus is mise Manannán mac Lir,

agus gheobhaidh tú ríghe Lochlann is Saxon is  
Breatain.”

Is ansin a thóg an t-óglach brodchú as a ucht

“By my word,” said Fiachna,

“I would not let one man of the men of Ireland fall

on account of that condition.”

“It shall be none the worse for thee;

for a glorious child shall be begotten by me there,

and from thee he shall be named,

even Mongan the Fair (Finn),

son of Fiachna the Fair.

And I shall go there in thy shape,

so that thy wife shall not be defiled by it.

And I am Manannan, son of Ler,

and thou shalt seize the kingship of Lochlann and of the Saxons and Britons.”

Then the warrior took a venomous hound out of his cloak,

ocus slabhra fuirre . . .

“ocus as bríathar damh-sa nach béra ænchæira  
díbh a cend leo úaithi

co dúnadh rígh Lochlann,

ocus muirfidh sí trí chét do shlúaghaibh  
Lochlann

ocus gébha-sa a m-biaidh de.”

Táinic ant óglach a n-Éirinn

cor’comhraic fri mnái Fiachna a richt Fiachna  
fén,

cor’toirchedh hí an adhaigh sin.

Atrochadar na cáirigh laisin coin an lá sin ocus  
trí chét do mhaithibh Lochlann

ocus do gabh Fiachna ríghi Lochlann ocus  
Saxan ocus Bretan.

a raibh slabhra uirthi, agus dúirt sé:

“Ar m’anamní bhéarfaidh aon chaora diobh a  
ceann léi uaithi seo

fhaid le dúnadh rí Lochlann,

agus maróidh sí trí chéad de shluaithe  
Lochlann,

agus gheobhaidh tusa a mbeidh dá bharr.”

Chuaigh an t-óglach go hÉirinn

i riocth Fhiachna féin gur tháinig sé agus bean  
Fhiachna le chéile,

agus toirchíodh an oíche sin í.

Thit na chaoirigh leis an gcú an lá sin agus trí  
chéad de mhaithe Lochlann,

agus ghabh Fiachna ríge Lochlann is Saxon  
is Breatan.

and a chain upon it, and said:

“By my word, not a single sheep shall carry its  
head from her

to the fortress of the king of Lochlann,

and she will kill three hundred of the hosts of  
Lochlann,

and thou shalt have what will come of it.”

The warrior went to Ireland,

and in the shape of Fiachna himself he slept  
with Fiachna’s wife,

and in that night she became pregnant.

On that day the sheep and three hundred of the  
nobles of Lochlann fell by the dog,

and Fiachna seized the kingship of Lochlann  
and of the Saxons and Britons.

## Section 5

Dála na Caillighi Duibhe imoro,  
dorad Fiachna a duthaig di  
.i. seacht caislena cona crích ocus cona ferann  
ocus cét da gach crudh  
ocus táinig a n-Éirinn íar sin  
ocus fúair a bhean tæbhtrom torrach  
ocus rug mac an tan táinic a hinbhaidh.  
Ocus do bí gilla ac Fiachna Find  
.i. an Damh a ainm  
ocus ruc a bhean mac an adhaigh sin  
ocus do baisdedh íat faræn  
ocus tucadh Mongán ar mac Fiachna  
ocus tucadh Mac an Daimh ar mac an ghilla.

Dála na Caillí Duibhe, \*ámh\*,  
thug Fiachna a dúthaigh di,  
is é sin seacht gcaisleáin lena gcríoch is lena  
bhfearann  
agus céad de gach crodh.  
Ansin tháinig sé go hÉirinn  
agus fuair a bhean taobh-throm torrach  
is rug sí mac an uair tháinig a hionú.  
Agus bhí giolla ag Fiachna Fionn,  
b'é an Dámh a ainm,  
agus rug a bhean siúd mac freisin an oíche sin,  
agus baisteadh iad araon.  
Tugadh Mongán ar mhac Fhiachna  
agus Mac an Daimh ar mhac an ghiolla.

Now, as to the Cailleach Dubh,  
Fiachna gave her her due,  
viz., seven castles with their territory and land,  
and a hundred of every cattle.  
And then he went into Ireland  
and found his wife big-bellied and pregnant,  
and when her time came, she bore a son.  
Now Fiachna the Fair had an attendant,  
whose name was An Damh,  
and in that (same) night his wife brought forth  
a son,  
and they were christened together,  
and the son of Fiachna was named Mongan,  
and the son of the attendant was named Mac  
an Daimh.

Ocus do bí óclach eile a comfhlaitheamhnus re  
Fiachna Finn

.i. Fiachna Dubh mac Demáin

ocus do laig sim co mór ar a fhlaithius

ocus rucadh inghen dó-san an adhaigh cétna

ocus tucadh Dubh-Lacha Láimhgheal d' ainm  
fuirre

ocus do cuiridh ar seilbh a chéile Mongán  
ocus Dubh-Lacha.

A cind tri n-oidhche Mongáin táinig  
Manannán ar a cheann

ocus rug leis dá oileamhain é a Tir Tairngaire

ocus tuc a chubhais nach léicfidh a n-Érinn  
arís

co cend a dhá bliadhan déag.

Agus bhí óglach eile i gcomh-fhlaitheáin le  
Fiachna Fionn,

mar a bhí Fiachna Dubh mac Deamháin,

a bhíodh ag cur isteach go mór ar a fhlaitheas.

Rugadh iníon dósan an oíche chéanna

agus tugadh Dubh Locha d'ainm uirthi

agus cuireadh ar sheilbh a chéile í féin agus  
Mongán.

I gceann trí oíche tháinig Manannán ar cheann  
Mhongáin

agus rug leis é lena oiliúint i dTír Tairngire,

agus thug sé a mhóid nach ligfeadh sé in  
Éirinn arís é

go ceann a dhá bhliain déag.

And there was another warrior reigning  
together with Fiachna the Fair,

to wit Fiachna the Black, son of Deman,

who lay heavily on his rule.

And to him in the same night a daughter was  
born,

to whom the name Dubh-Lacha (Black Duck)  
White-hand was given,

and Mongan and Dubh-Lacha were affianced  
to each other.

When Mongan was three nights old,  
Manannan came for him

and took him with him to bring him up in the  
Land of Promise,

and vowed that he would not let him back into  
Ireland

before he were twelve years of age.

## Section 6

Dála imoro Fiachna Duibh meic Demái,

fúair a bæghal ar Fiachna Find mac Bhaedáin  
ocus fúair a n-úathad shlúaigh ocus  
tshochraide hé

ocus dochúaidh fona dúnad

ocus do loisc ocus do mhúir an dúnadh

ocus do mharbh Fiachna féin

ocus do ghabh ríghi n-Uladh ar écin don ulagh  
sin.

Ocus dob' áil le hUlltachaibh uile Mongán do  
thabairt chuca

a cind a shé m-bliadan

ocus ní thuc Manannán d' ul(ltachaibh) é

co cend a shé m-bliadhan dég.

Ocus táinic a n-Ulltachaibh íar sin

ocus dorónsat maithi Uladh sídh eturra ocus  
Fiachna Dubh

Dála Fhiachna Dhuibh mhic Dheamháin,

fúair sé deis Fiachna Fionn mac Báedáin a  
ionsáí, nuair a fuair sé amach gurb beag a  
shlua agus a \*chuallacht\*,

agus thug ionsáí ar a dhún.

Loisc sé agus mhúir sé an dún

agus mharaigh sé Fiachna féin

agus ghabh ríge Uladh ar éigin \*ar an ócáid  
sin\*.

B'áil leis na hUltaigh uilig go dtabharfaí  
Mongán ar ais chucu

i gceann a shé bhliain,

ach ní thabharfadhbh Manannán dóibh é

go ceann a shé bhliain déag.

Tháinig sé go Cúige Uladh ansin

agus rinne uaisleacht Uladh síocháin le  
Fiachna Dubh

Now as to Fiachna the Black, son of Deman,

he watched his opportunity, and when he  
found that Fiachna the Fair, son of Baedan,  
had with him but a small host and force,

he went up to his stronghold,

and burnt and destroyed it,

and killed Fiachna himself,

and seized the kingship of Ulster by force \*on  
that occasion\*.

And all the men of Ulster desired Mongan to  
be brought to them

when he was six years old,

but Manannan did not bring him to Ulster

till he had completed sixteen years.

And then he came to Ulster,

and the men of Ulster made peace between  
themselves and Fiachna the Black,

.i. leth Uladh do Mongán

ar an gcoinníoll go dtabharfaí leath Uladh do Mhongán

to wit, one-half of Ulster to Mongan,

ocus Dubh-Lacha do mhnái ocus do bhanchéile

agus Dubh Locha do mhnaoi is do bainchéile dó

and Dubh-Lacha to be his wife and consort

a n-éiric a athar

in éiric a athar,

in retaliation for his father.

ocus do bí mairsin.

agus sin mar a bhí.

And it was done so.

## Section 7

A thaiglaithe (?) n-æn dia roibhe Mongán . . .  
a bhanchéle ocus íat ag imeirt fhi[dh]chille,

Lá amháin le linn do Mhongán agus a bhean bheith ag imirt fichille

One day while Mongan and his wife were playing *fidchell*,

co facadar cléirchín ciar círdubh isin ur(s)aind  
ocus is ed adubert:

chonaic siad cléirchín ciar cíordhubh ag ursain  
an dorais agus is é dúirt sé:

they saw a dark black-tufted little cleric at the door-post, who said:

“Ni thocht budh cubhaidh (l)e rígh Uladh

“Ní suaimhneas cuí do rí Uladh

“This inactivity in which thou art, O Mongan,

an tocht so fil fort, a Mongáin,

an suaimhneas seo tá ort, a Mhongáin,

is not an inactivity becoming a king of Ulster,

gan dul do díghailt t'athar

gan dul a dhíoghailt d'athar

not to go to avenge thy father

ar Fiachna Dubh mac Demáin,

ar Fhiachna Dubh \*mac Deamháin\*,

on Fiachna the Black, son of Deman,

ach[t] cidh olc le Duibh-Lacha a rádha frit,

úair atá sé a n-úathad shlúaigh ocus  
shochraide

ocus tarr lem-sa ann

ocus loiscim an dúnadh

ocus marbham Fiachna.”

“Ní fhes ca sen ar an dubhartus sin, a  
cléirchín,” ol Mongán,

“ocus rachmait leat.”

Ocus dogníther amhlaidh,

úair ro marbadh Fiachna Dubh léo.

Ro gabh Mongán ríghi n-Uladh

ocus is é cléirchín do bí a[g] dénum an braith

.i. Manannán mór-chumachtach.

bíodh gurb olc le Dubh Locha a lua leat,

óir is beag slua agus cuallacht atá ag Fiachna  
Dubh.

Ach tar liomsa ann

go loiscimid an dún

agus go maraímid Fiachna.”

“Ní fios cad é an toradh a mbeadh leis an  
gcomhairle sin, a chléirchín,” ar Mongán,

“ach rachaimid leat.”

Agus déantar amhlaidh

agus maraítéar Fiachna Dubh leo

agus ghabh Mongán ríge Uladh.

Is é an cléirchín a thug an scéala

Manannán mor-chumhachtach féin.

though Dubh-Lacha may think it wrong to tell  
thee so.

For he has now but a small host and force with  
him;

and come with me thither,

and let us burn the fortress,

and let us kill Fiachna.”

“There is no knowing what luck there may be  
on that saying, O cleric,” said Mongan,

“and we shall go with thee.”

And thus it was done,

for Fiachna the Black was killed by them.

Mongan seized the kingship of Ulster,

and the little cleric who had done the treason

was Manannan the great and mighty.

## Section 8

Ocus do timsaighedh maithi Uladh co Mongán

ocus adubert riu:

“Dob áil lem dul d’iarraidh fhaigh[dh]e

ar chúigeadhachaibh Érenn,

co fhág[bh]aind ór ocus airgit ocus innmhus  
do thidhlocadh.”

“As maith an comhairle sin,” ol síat.

Ocus táinic roimhe ar cóigidhaibh Éirenn,

co ráinig a Laighnibh

ocus is é fa rígh Laighen an tan sin .i.  
Brandubh mac Echach

ocus ro fher firchain fáilti re rígh Uladh

ocus do fheisidar an adhaigh sin isin mbaile

ocus mur (do) éirigh arnamháirech Mongán

Thiomsaigh Mongán uaisleacht Uladh ansin

agus dúirt leo:

“B’áil liom dul ag cur iarratais

ar ríthe cúige na hÉireann,

go bhfaighinn ór is airgead is ionmhas le  
tíolacadh.”

“Is maith an chomhairle sin,” ar siad.

Tháinig sé roimhe \*go dtí cúigí na hÉireann,\*

i dtús báire go Laighin,

agus is é ba rí Laighean an t-am sin Brandubh  
mac Eachach.

Agus chuir sé fiorchaoin fálte roimh rí Uladh

agus chodlaíodar an oíche sin sa bhaile.

Nuair a d’éirigh Mongán ar an lá dáir gcionn

And the nobles of Ulster were gathered to  
Mongan,

and he said to them:

“I desire to go to seek boons

from the provincial kings of Ireland,

that I may get gold and silver and wealth to  
give away.”

“That is a good plan,” said they.

And he went forth into the provinces of  
Ireland,

until he came to Leinster.

And the king of Leinster at that time was  
Brandubh mac Echach.

And he gave a hearty welcome to the king of  
Ulster,

and they slept that night in the place,

and when Mongan awoke on the morrow,

adchonnairc na (c)æca[i]t bó find óderg  
ocus laegh finn fri cois gach (b)ó díbh  
ocus mar as taisce adchonnairc,  
grádhaighes íat  
ocus tuc rígh Laighen aithne fair ocus asbert  
fris:  
“Do grádhaighes na bá, a rígh,” ol sé.

“Is bríathar damh-sa,  
nach faca ríamh ach[t] ríghi (n)-Uladh  
ní budh ferr lem agum féin anáit.”  
“Is bríathar damh-sa,” ar rígh Laighen,  
“co rob cubhaidh re Duibh-Lacha íat,  
úair as í ænben as áille a n-Éirinn  
(ucus as) hí ac siut sealbh chruidh as áille a n-Éirinn

chonaic sé an caoga bó fhionn chluais-dearg  
agus lao fionn le cois gach bó diobh.

Chomh luath is chonaic sé iad  
ba bhreá leis iad.

D'aithin rí Laighean air é agus dúirt leis,

“Is breá leat na ba, a rí,” ar sé.

“Ar m'anam  
nach bhfaca mé riamh, ach ríghe Uladh féin,  
ní ab fhearr liom agam féin ná iad.”

“Dearbhaím,” ar rí Laighean,  
“gur cothrom le Dubh Locha iad,  
mar is í an bhean is áille in Éirinn í,

\*agus is í siúd an bhólacht is áille in Éirinn,\*

he saw the fifty white red-eared kine,  
and a white calf by the side of each cow,

and as soon as he saw them  
he was in love with them.

And the king of Leinster observed him and  
said to him:

“Thou art in love with the kine, O king,” saith  
he.

“By my word,” said Mongan,  
“save the kingdom of Ulster, I never saw  
anything that I would rather have than them.”

“By my word,” said the king of Leinster,  
“they are a match for Dubh-Lacha,  
for she is the one woman that is most beautiful  
in Ireland,

and those kine are the most beautiful cattle in  
Ireland,

ocus ní fuil ar bith comha ar a tibhrinn-si í at  
ach[t] ar chairdeas gan éra do dénamh dúind.”

ach níl ar domhan comha ar a dtabharfainnse  
iad  
ach ar chairdeas gan éaradh a dhéanamh idir  
tusa agus mise.”

and on no condition in the world would I give  
them  
except on our making friendship without  
refusal.”

## Section 9

Dorónsat amlaidh ocus do shnайдm cách ar a  
chéli díbh

ocus do chúaith Mongán dia t[h]igh

ocus ruc leis a trí chaecait bó find

ocus do fiarfuigh Dubh-Lacha:

“Ce hí ant shelbh cruidh as áil(le do)connairc  
riamh?

ocus antí tuc súd,” ol sí,

“bera . . . ferr,

oir ní tuc duine siut acht ar cend chomaine . . .”

Rinne siad amhlaidh agus chuir siad ceangal  
ar a chéile.

Chuaigh Mongán abhaile  
agus thug leis dhá chaoga bó fionn.

D’fhiabraigh Dubh Locha de,

“Cad é an sealbh chroidh seo is áille dá bhfaca  
mé riámh?

An té a thug iad siúd,

iarrfaidh sé rud níos fearr,

óir níor thug éinne a leithéidí ach ar ceann  
comaoine.”

They did so, and each bound the other.

And Mongan went home

and took his thrice (*sic*) fifty white kine with  
him.

And Dubh-Lacha asked:

“What are the cattle that are the most beautiful  
that I ever saw?

and he who got them,” saith she,

“. . . ,

for no man got them except for . . .”

Ocus do indis Mongán dí amail fúair na bá

ocus (ní chí)an do bhádar ann

an tan do chonncadar na slóigh, cum an bhaile

ocus is é ro bí ann .i. rígh Laighen.

“Créd (tán)gais d’íarraidh?” ol Mongán,

“oir as bríathar dam-sa,

da roibh a cóigidh Uladh aní atáí d’íarraidh,

co fuighir é.”

“Atá imoro,” ar rígh Laighen.

“D’íarraidh Duibhe-Lacha thánac.”

D’inis Mongán di ansin conas a fuair sé na ba.

Ní fada a bhí siad ann áfach

nuair a chonaic siad na sluaite chun an bhaile.

Rí Laighean a bhí ann.

“Cad é a tháinig tú ag iarraidh?” ar Mongán,

“óir geallaim duit,

má tá i gCúige Uladh aní atá tú ag iarraidh,

gheobhaidh tú é.”

“Is amhlaidh atá,” ar rí Laighean,

“gur ag iarraidh Dubh Locha a tháinig mé.”

And Mongan told her how he had obtained the kine.

And they were not long there

when they saw hosts approaching the place,

and ’tis he that was there, even the king of Leinster.

“What hast thou come to seek?” said Mongan.

“For, by my word,

if what thou seekest be in the province of Ulster,

thou shalt have it.”

“It is, then,” said the king of Leinster.

“To seek Dubh-Lacha have I come.”

## Section 10

Do mhoidh tocht ar Mhongán.

Ocus adubert: “Ní chúalus-sa neach romam do thabairt a mhná amach.”

“Cin co cúalais,” ar Dubh-Lacha,

“tabhair, oir is búaine bladh ’ná sæghal.”

Gabhais ferg Mongán

ocus deónaighis do rígh Laighen a breith leis.

Gairmis Dubh-Lacha rígh Laighen le ar fot  
foleith ocus adubert ris:

“An fhuil agat-sa, a rígh Laighen,

co tuitfedh fir ocus leth Uladh trím-sa

acht muna bheind fénar tabhairt grádha doit-  
si?

Ocus is bríathar damh-sa ná rach let-sa

Tháinig tost ar Mhongán.

Agus dúirt sé, “Níor chuala mé riamh faoi  
fhear a thug a bhean uaidh.”

“Bíodh féin nár chloise tú,” ar Dubh Locha,

“tabhair, mar is buaine bladh ná saol.”

Chuir sin fearg ar Mhongán

agus cheadaigh sé do rí Laighean í a thabhairt  
leis.

Ghlaough Dubh Locha i leataoibh ar  
Bhrandubh agus dúirt leis,

“An bhfuil fhios agat, a rí Laighean,

do dtitfeadh fir agus leath Uladh ar mo shonsa,

mura mbeinn fénar i ndiaidh grá a thabhairt  
duit?

Ach geallaim nach rachaídh mé leat

Silence fell upon Mongan.

And he said: “I have never heard of any one  
giving away his wife.”

“Though thou hast not heard of it,” said Dubh-  
Lacha,

“give her, for honour is more lasting than  
life.”

Anger seized Mongan,

and he allowed the king of Leinster to take her  
with him.

Dubh-Lacha called the king of Leinster aside  
and said to him:

“Dost thou know, O king of Leinster,

that the men and one half of Ulster would fall  
for my sake,

except I had already given love to thee?

And, by my word, I shall not go with thee

co tuca tú breth mo beóil féin damh.”

“Créd í an breath?” ar rígh Laighen.

“Do bríathar rena comhall,” ol sí.

Tuc rígh Laighen a bhríathar

a n-écmais a fhácbhala co tibradh dí.

“Mased,” ar Dubh-Lacha,

“as áil leam-sa gan a m-breith co cenn m-bliadhna ænadhaigh a n-éntigh

ocus da tísair-si ar cúairt læ a n-énteach riúmsa

gan teacht a n-ænchatháir rum

ach[t] suidhe a catháir am’ aghaidh,

úair eagail lem-sa an grádh romhór doradus-sa  
duid-si,

co tibartha-sa miscais damh-sa

go dtí go dtugann tú breith mo bhéil féin dom.”

“Cad é an bhreith?” ar Brandubh.

“Do bhriathar lena comhlíonadh,” ar sí.

Thug rí Laighean a bhriathar di,

ach gan cead fanacht a thabhairt di.

“Más ea,” ar Dubh Locha,

“is mian liomsa nach mbeimis aon oíche go ceann bliana in aon-teach

agus dá dtiocfá ar cuairt lae in aon-teach liom,

gan teacht in aon-chathaoir liom,

ach suí i gcathaoir os mo chomhair,

mar is eagal liom an grá ró-mhór a thug mé  
duitse

ar fhaitíos go dtabharfá mioscals dom

until thou grant me the sentence of my own lips.”

“What is the sentence?” said the king of Leinster.

“Thy word to fulfil it,” saith she.

The king of Leinster gave his word,

with the exception of his being left . . .

“Then,” said Dubh-Lacha,

“I desire that until the end of one year, we be not brought for one night into the same house,

and if in the course of a day thou comest into the same house with me,

that thou shouldst not sit in the same chair with me,

but sit in a chair over against me,

for I fear the exceeding great love which I have bestowed upon thee,

that thou mayst hate me,

ocus nach fa háil lem' fher féin arís mhe,

agus nár bh áil le m'fhear féin arís mé,

and that I may not again be acceptable to my own husband;

úair da rabham ac suirghe risin m-bliadhain so anall

ach má bhímid ag suirí ar feadh na bliana seo atá chugainn,

for if we are a-courting each other during this coming year,

ní rach( ar n-)grádh ar cúla."

ní rachaidh ár ngrá ar gcúl."

our love will not recede."

## Section 11

Ocus tuc rígh Laighen dí an choma sin

Thug Brandubh an chomha sin di

And the king of Leinster granted her that condition,

ocus rug dia thig hí

agus rug abhaile leis í.

and he took her to his house,

ocus ro bái treimsi ann

Bhí sí tamall ann

and there she was for a while.

ocus Mongán a sirg sírghalair risin treimsi sin

agus Mongán i seirg síor-ghalair lena linn.

And for that while Mongan was in a wasting sickness continually.

ocus an adhaigh tuc Mongán Dubh-Lacha

Tharla, an uair a ghlac Mongán Dubh Locha chuige,

And in the night in which Mongan had taken Duhh-Lacha,

tuc Mac an Daimh (a com)alta

gur ghlac Mac an Daimh a comhalta,

Mac an Daimh had taken her foster-sister,

ocus fa ben fritheolmha thairisi dí hí

agusanois ba bhean dílis friothálaimh do Dhubh Locha í

who was her trusty attendant,

... bh a Laignibh le Duibh-Lacha hí-

Co táinic Mac an (Daimh) laithe

isin tech a roibe Mongán ocus adbert:

“Olc atáthar ann sin, a Mhongáin,” ol sé,

“ocus olc do thurus a Tír Thairrngaire co teach  
Manannáin,

ó nach dernais d’fhoghlaim ann

ach[t] bíadh do chaithim ocus obhlóirecht

ocus as dona damh-sa mo bhen do breith a  
Laignibh,

ó nach dernais ‘cairdis gan éra’ re gilla rígh  
Laighen

amhail dorighnis-[s]e re rígh Laighen

ocus nach túalaing tú do bhen do lenmhain.”

agus bhí sí imithe go Cúige Laighean léi.

Is mar sin a tháinig Mac an Daimh lá amháin

sa teach a raibh Mongán agus dúirt,

“Olc atá tú ansin, a Mhongáin,

agus olc do thuras i dTír Tairngire go teach  
Mhanannáin

nuair nach ndearna tú d’fhoghlaim ann

ach bia a chaitheamh agus amhlóireacht a  
chleachtadh.

Is dona domsa gur rugadh mo bhean i gCúige  
Laighean uaim,

tharla nach ndearna mise ‘cairdeas gan éaradh’  
le giolla rí Laighean

mar rinne tusa leis an rí féin,

agus nach bhfuil ar do chumas do bhean a  
leanúint.”

and who had gone into Leinster with Dubh-  
Lacha.

So one day Mac an Daimh came

into the house where Mongan was, and said:

“Things are in a bad way with thee, O  
Mongan,” saith he,

“and evil was thy journey into the Land of  
Promise to the house of Manannan,

since thou hast learnt nothing there,

except consuming food and practising foolish  
things,

and it is hard on me that my wife has been  
taken into Leinster,

since I have not made ‘friendship without  
refusal’ with the king of Leinster’s attendant,

as thou didst with the king of Leinster,

thus being unable to follow thy wife.”

“Ní mesa le neach sin ’ná leam-sa féin,” ar Mongán.

“Ní measa le hénne é sin ná liom féin,” ar Mongán.

“No one deems that worse than I myself,” said Mongan.

## Section 12

Ocus adbert Mongán fri Mac an Daim:

“Éirigh,” ol se, “coruige an uaimh dorais

ar fhágamar an clíabh gúalaigh

ocus fót a Héirinn ocus fót a hAlbain ann,

co n-dechar-sa let ar do mhuin,

úair fiarfochaidh rígh Laighen dá dráidhibh  
mo scéla-sa

ocus adéraid sium mo beith ocus cos a n-  
Éirind damh ocus cos a n-Albain

ocus adéra san cin rabar-sa mair sin,

ní bu egail lais féin mhé.”

Ansin dúirt Mongán le Mac an Daimh arís,

“Éirigh,” ar sé, “gabh go dtí an uaimh dhorais

inár fhágamar an cliabh gualainne

agus fód as Éirinn agus fód as Albain ann,

le go rachaidh mise leat ar do dhroim,

óir fiafróidh Brandubh mo scéal dá dhraoithe,

agus déarfaidh siadsan go bhfuil cos in Éirinn  
agus cos in Albain agam,

agus ceapfaidh seisean an fhaid atá mé mar sin

nach eagal dó mé.”

And Mongan said to Mac an Daimh:

“Go,” saith he, “to the cave of the door,

in which we left the basket of . . . ,

and a sod from Ireland and another from  
Scotland in it,

that I may go with thee on thy back;

for the king of Leinster will ask of his wizards  
news of me,

and they will say that I am with one foot in  
Ireland, and with the other in Scotland,

and he will say that as long as I am like that

he need not fear me.”

## Section 13

Ocus do ghlúaisidar rompa amlaith sin

ocus is í sin úair ocus aimsir ro comórad  
æn(ach) Mhuige Life a Laignib

ocus ráncadar co Mach(aire) Chille Camáin a  
Laighnibh

ocus atchonncadar nad . . . agha slúagh ocus  
sochraide

ocus rígh Laighen secha isin ænach

ocus do aithnígheadar é.

“Trúagh sin, a Mhic an Daimh,” ol Mongán,

“as olc an turus tángamar.”

Ocus adconnadar an næmhcléirech seoche .i.  
Tibraide sagart Cille Camáin

ocus a chethair soisgéla ana láim féin

ocus sceota na n-aidhbheagh ar muin cléirigh  
re chois

Agus ghluaiseadar rompu mar sin.

Ba é sin an uair \*agus an aimsir\* a comóradh  
aonach Mhagh Life i Laighin

agus nuair a thágadar go Machaire Chill  
Chamháin \*i Laighin\*

chonaiceadar na sluaite ann

agus rí Laighean ag dul thart san aonach

\*agus d’ aithníodar é.

“Trua sin, a Mhic an Daimh,” ar Mongán,

“is olc an turas a thágamar.”

Agus chonaic siad an naomh-chléireach,  
Tiobraide sagart Chill Chamháin, ag dul thart

agus a cheithre soiscéil ina láimh \*féis\* aige

agus mála na n-earraí eaglasta ar mhuin  
cléirigh eile lena chois.

And in that way they set out.

And that was the hour and time in which the  
feast of Moy-Liffey was held in Leinster,

and they came to the Plain of Cell Chamain in  
Leinster,

and there beheld the hosts and multitudes

and the king of Leinster going past them to the  
feast,

and they recognised him.

“That is sad, O Mac an Daimh,” said Mongan,

“evil is the journey on which we have come.”

And they saw the holy cleric going past them,  
even Tibraide, the priest of Cell Chamain,

with his four gospels in his own hand,

and the . . . upon the back of a cleric by his  
side,

ocus iat a[g] dénamh a tráth

ocus ro gab ingantus Mac an Daimh crét  
adubert an clérech

ocus do bí ag a fhiarfaighi do Mongán

“Créd adubert?”

Adubert Mongán corub léighind

ocus do fhiarfaigh do Mac an Daimh

ar thuic féin a bec úatha.

“Ní thuicim,” ar Mac an Daimh,

“ach[t] adeir an fer atá ana dhiaidh ‘amén,  
amén.’ ”

Bhí an bheirt acu ag déanamh a dtráth

agus ghabh iontas Mac an Daimh cad é an  
chaint a rinne an cléireach

agus bhí sé ag fiafraí de Mhongán,

“Cad a dúirt sé?”

Dúirt Mongán gurb léitheoireacht é sin

agus d’fhiarfaigh de Mhac an Daimh

ar thuig sé aon bheagán uathu.

“Ní thuigim,” ar Mac an Daimh,

“ach go n-abrann an fear atá ina dhiaidh  
‘Amén, Amén.’ ”

and they reading their offices.

And wonder seized Mac an Daimh as to what  
the cleric said,

and he kept asking Mongan:

“What did he say?”

Mongan said it was reading,

and he asked Mac an Daimh

whether he understood a little of it.

“I do not understand,” said Mac an Daimh,

“except that the man at his back says ‘Amen,  
amen.’ ”

## Section 14

Dealbas Mongán íar sin abhann mhór  
tré lár an magha ar cinn Tibraide

ocus droichid mór tairsi.

Dhealbhaigh Mongán ansin abhainn mhór  
trí lár an mhachaire os comhair Thiobraide

agus droichead mór thairsti.

Thereupon Mongan shaped a large river  
through the midst of the plain in front of  
Tibraide,

and a large bridge across it.

Ocus fa hingnad le Tíbraide sin  
ocus ro gabh ag a choisregadh.

“Is ann so rugad mh’athair-si ocus mo  
shenathair  
ocus ní fhaca ríamh abhann ann  
ocus ó tharla an abhann ann,  
as greama mur tharrla in droichid tairsi.

Do innsaighidar an droichid ocus mar  
rángadar co médon an droichit,  
tuitis an droichit fuit[h]ib  
ocus gabhais Mongán an soiscéala a láim  
Tíbraide  
ocus léigis úadha le sruth iad  
ocus fiarfaighis do Mhac an Daimh an m-  
báidhfedh iat.  
“Báidhter ón,” ar Mac an Daimh.

“Ní dingnum itir,” ol Mongán,

Agus b’ionadh le Tiobraide é sin  
agus thosaigh sé á choisreacadh féin.

“Is anseo a rugadh m’athair is mo shean-athair  
agus ní fhaca mé riamh abhainn ann,  
ach ó tharla ann í,  
is maith mar tharla an droichead thairsti.”  
Nuair a tháinig siad go lár an droichid, ámh,  
thit an droichead fúthu.

Agus sciob Moingán an soiscéal as láimh  
Thiobraide  
agus lig uaidh le sruth an bheirt acu.

D’fhiabraigh sé de Mhac an Daimh an  
mbáithfeadh sé iad.

“Go mbá siad cinnte,” ar Mac an Daimh.

“Ní dhéanfaimid sin,” ar Mongán,

And Tibraide marvelled at that  
and began to bless himself.

“ ’Tis here,” he said, “my father was born and  
my grandfather,  
and never did I see a river here.  
But as the river has got there,  
it is well there is a bridge across it.”

They proceeded to the bridge, and when they  
had reached its middle,  
it fell under them,  
and Mongan snatched the gospels out of  
Tíbraide’s hand,  
and sent them down the river.

And he asked Mac an Daimh whether he  
should drown them.

“Certainly, let them be drowned,” said Mac an  
Daimh.  
“We will not do it,” said Mongan.

“ocus léicfemaid fadh míle le sruth íat

co tair dúind ar toisc do dénamh isin dúnadh.”

“ach ligfimid faid mhíle le sruth iad

go dtaga dúinn ár ngnó a dhéanamh sa dún.”

“We will let them down the river the length of  
a mile,

till we have done our task in the fortress.”

## Section 15

Delbhais Mongán é féin a richt Tibraide

Dhealbhaigh Mongán é féin i riocht Tiobraide

Mongan took on himself the shape of  
Tibraide,

ocus cuiris Mac an Daimh a richt an cléirigh

agus chuir Mac an Daimh i riocht an chléirigh

and gave Mac an Daimh the shape of the  
cleric,

ocus coróin mhór ana chinn

agus coróin mhór ar a cheann

with a large tonsure on his head,

ocus sceota nanaidhbéadh ar a muin

agus mála na n-earraí eaglasta ar a mhuin.

and the . . . on his back.

ocus tegaid rompó a n-agaid rígh Laighen

Ansin tháinig siad ar aghaidh go dtí Brandubh.

And they go onward before the king of  
Leinster,

ocus ferais fáilti re Tibraide ocus tic póc dó

Chuir seisean fáilte roimh Thriobraide agus  
thug póg dó.

who welcomed Tibraide and gave him a kiss,

ocus “is fada ó nach faca tu, a Tibraide,” ar an  
rígh,

“Is fada nach bhfacamar thú, a Thiobraide,” ar  
sé,

and “ ’Tis long that I have not seen thee, O  
Tibraide,” he said,

“ocus déna soiscél dúind

agusanois léigh soiscéal dúinn

“and read the gospel to us

ocus innsaigh romhaind coruig an dúnadh.

agus téigh romhainn go dtí an dún.

and proceed before us to the fortress.

Ocus éirgidh Ceibhín Cohlach gilla mo  
charbaid-si let

ocus atá an ríghan ben rígh Uladh and  
ocus dob' áil le a fáisidin do dhénamh duit."

Ocus an oiread ro bí Mongán ag rádha a  
shoiscéla,

aderedh Mac an Daimh "amén, amén."

Adubradar na slúaigh ní fhacadar ríamh  
cairneach

ac nach bíadh [acht] énfhocal ach[t] an  
cléirech út,

úair nocha n-abair do léighind ach[t] "amén."

Téadh Ceibhín Cohlach, mo ghiolla carbaid,  
leat.

Tá an ríon, bean rí Uladh, ann  
agus ba mhaith léi a faoistin a dhéanamh  
duit."

Agus an fhaid a bhí Mongán ag rá a shoiscéil  
deireadh Mac an Daimh "Amén, Amén."

Dúirt an slua nach bhfacadar riamh sagart  
nach mbeadh ach focal amháin aige ach an  
cléireach úd,

mar nach n-abradh sé de léann ach "Amén."

And let Ceibhin Cohlach, the attendant of my  
chariot, go with thee.

And the queen, the wife of the king of Ulster,  
is there  
and would like to confess to thee."

And while Mongan was reading the gospel,  
Mac an Daimh would say "Amen, amen."

The hosts said they had never seen a priest  
who had but one word except that cleric;  
for he said nothing but "amen."

## Section 16

Ocus tainig Mongán roimhe

co dorus an dúnaidh aroibhe Dubh-Lacha

ocus aithnigis Dubh-Lacha hé.

Ocus adubert Mac an Daimh: “Fágaidh uili an tech,

co n-derna an ríghan a fáisidin.”

Ocus an ben breatha nó dhalta do fhóbradh tré dhánacht anadh ann.

Do íadhadh Mac an Daimh a lámha tairsi

ocus docuiredh amach hí

ocus aderedh nach biadh a fharradh na ríghna

ach[t] an bean táinic le féin.

Ocus dúnais an gríanán ana n-diaidh

ocus cuiris an comhla gloinidhe ris

ocus osgla[i]s a fhuindeog glaine

Tháinig Mongán \*roimhe\* ansin

go doras an dúin a raibh Dubh Locha

agus d'aithin sise é.

Labhair Mac an Daimh. “Fágaigí uilig an teach

go ndéana an ríon a faoistin.”

Bhí an bhean chabhartha ag iarraidh tré dhánacht fanacht ann,

ach d'iaigh Mac an Daimh a lámha thart uirthi

agus chuir amach í,

ag rá nach mbeadh i bhfarradh na ríona

ach an bhean a tháinig léi.

Dhún sé an grianán ina ndiaidh

agus chuir an chomhla ghloiní leis

agus d'oscail an fhuinneog ghloine

And Mongan went onward

to the front of the fortress in which Dubh-Lacha was.

And she recognised him.

And Mac an Daimh said: “Leave the house all of ye,

so that the queen may make her confession.”

And her nurse or foster sister ventured out of boldness to stay there.

Mac an Daimh closed his arms around her

and put her out,

and said that no one should be with the queen except the woman that had come with her.

And he closed the bower after them

and put the glazen door to it,

and opened the window of glass.

ocus tócbhais a ben féin isin leabaidh leis.

Ní tusca ná ruc Mongán Duibh-Lacha leis

ocus suidhis Mongán ar a gúalaind

ocus toirbiris teora póc dí

ocus beris lais annsa leabaidh hí

ocus doní toil a menman ocus a aigeanta ria.

Ocus an tráth tairnic sin do dénam,

do labair cailleach coiméta na sét ro bí isin chuíl,

oir ní thucadar da n-úidh hí conuige sin.

Ocus do léigistar Mongán lúathanál  
dráidheachta fuithi,

co narbo léir dí ní dha fhacaigh sí roimhe.

“Trúagh sin,” ar an chailleach

“ná ben neam dím, a næmcléirigh,

agus thóg a bhean féin isteach sa leaba leis.

Ní túisce ná rug Mongán Dubh Locha leis

agus shuigh lena gualainn.

Thug sé trí phóg di

agus thóg leis sa leaba í

agus rinne toil a mheanman agus a aigne léi.

Agus ina dhiaidh sin

labhair cailleach choimeádta na séad a bhí sa chúinne,

ach nár airigh siad ann go dtí sin.

Lig Mongán luath-anáil draíochta fúithi

ar chaoi nár léir di éinní dá bhfaca sí roimhe.

“Trua sin,” ar an chailleach,

“ná bain neamh díom, a naomh-chléirigh,

And he lifted his own wife into bed with him,

but no sooner than Mongan had taken Dubh-Lacha with him.

And Mongan sat down by her shoulder

and gave her three kisses,

and carried her into bed with him,

and had his will and pleasure of her.

And when that had been done,

the hag who guarded the jewels, who was in the corner, began to speak;

for they had not noticed her until then.

And Mongan sent a swift magical breath at her,

so that what she had seen was no longer clear to her.

“That is sad,” said the hag,

“do not rob me of Heaven, O holy cleric.

oir is écoir an smúaineadh dorindius  
ocus gabh aithrighe úaim,

oir taidhbhsí bréige tadhbás damh  
ocus rográdh mo dhalta agum.”

“Druit chugam, a chailleach,” ar Mongán,  
“ocus déna t’fháisidin damh.”

Éirgis an chailleach  
ocus delbais Mongán bir chúaille isin catháir  
ocus tuitis an chailleach uman cúaille co fúair  
bás.

“Bennacht fort, a Mhongáin,” ar an ríghan,  
“as maith tarlla dúind an chailleach do  
marbudh,  
oir do inneósad beith mur do bhámair.”

mar is éagóir an smaoineamh a rinne mé.

Glac aithrí uaim,  
mar is taibhse bhréige a taibhsíodh dom,  
agus ró-ghrá mo dhalta agam.”

“Gabh i leith, a chailleach,  
agus déan d’fhaostin dom.”

D’éirigh an chailleach  
agus chuir Mongán bior sa chathaoir,  
agus thit sise ar an bhior go bhfuair bás.

“Beannacht ort, a Mhongáin,” ar an ríon,  
“is maith gur tharla dúinn an chailleach a  
mharú,  
óir d’inseodh sí sinn bheith mar a bhíomar.”

For the thought that I have uttered is wrong,  
and accept my repentance,  
for a lying vision has appeared to me,  
and I dearly love my foster-child.”

“Come hither to me, hag,” said Mongan,  
“and confess to me.”

The hag arose,  
and Mongan shaped a sharp spike in the chair,  
and the hag fell upon the spike, and found  
death.

“A blessing on thee, O Mongan,” said the  
queen,  
“it is a good thing for us to have killed the  
woman,  
for she would have told what we have done.”

## Section 17

Ocus do chúaladar íar sin an dorus ag a bhúaladh

ocus is é ro bí ann Tibraide

ocus trí nónbhair maræn ris.

“Ní fhacamair ríamh,” ar na doirrseoraidhe,  
“bliadhain budh lia Tibraide ’nan bliadhain so.

Tibraide astigh agaibh ocus Tibraide  
amuigh.”

“Is fir sin,” ar sé Mongán,

“Mongán táinic am’ richt-sa

ocus éirgid amach,” ar sé, “ocus dobeirim-si  
lóghadh dáibh

ocus marbtar na cléirigh út,

úair aes grádha Mongáin [iat]

arna cur a richtaibh cléirech.”

Ina dhiайдh sin chualadar an doras á bhualadh.

Tiobraide a bhí ann

agus trí naonúir leis.

“Ní fhacamar riamh,” ar na doirseoírí,  
“bliain ba lia Tiobraide ná an bhliain seo.

Tiobraide istigh agaibh agus Tiobraide  
amuigh.”

“Is fior sin,” ar Mongán,

“is é Mongán a tháinig i mo riochta.

Amach libh agus bhéarfaidh mé loghadh díbh

ach na cléirigh úd a mharú,

óir is aos grá Mhongáin iad

curtha i riochta cléireach.”

Then they heard a knocking at the door,

and ’tis he that was there, even Tibraide,

and three times nine men with him.

The doorkeepers said: “We never saw  
a year in which Tibraides were more plentiful  
than this year.

Ye have a Tibraide within and a Tibraide  
without.”

“ ’Tis true,” said Mongan.

“Mongan has come in my shape.

Come out,” said he, “and I will reward you,

and let yonder clerics be killed,

for they are noblemen of Mongan’s

that have been put into the shape of clerics.”

Ocus do éirgidar an teglach amach

ocus do marbhadar na cléirigh

ocus do thoitidar da nónbhar leó díbh

ocus tarrla ríg Laighen dóibh

ocus do fhiarfaigh díbh créd an seól ara  
rabhadar.

“Mongán,” ar síat, “ar toidhecht a richt  
Tibraide

ocus atá Tibraide isin bhaile.”

Do léic rígh Laighen fuithibh

ocus tarthaigh Tibraide tempall Cille Camáin

ocus ní deachaid duine don nónbhar aile gan  
gortugud.

Chuaigh an teaghlaich amach

agus mharaigh siad na cléirigh

agus thit dhá naonúr acu leo.

Tharla rí Laighean dóibh

agus d’fhiarfaigh sé cad a bhí ar siúl acu.

“Mongán,” ar siad, “atá i ndiaidh teacht i  
riocht Tiobraide

agus tá Tiobraide sa bhaile.”

Thug an rí fúthu

agus bhain Tiobraide Teampall Chill Chamáin  
amach

agus ní dheachaigh éinne den naonúr eile gan  
ghortú.

And the men of the household came out

and killed the clerics,

and twice nine of them fell.

And the king of Leinster came to them

and asked them what course they were on.

“Mongan,” said they, “has come in Tibraide’s  
shape,

and Tibraide is in the place.”

And the king of Leinster charged them,

and Tibraide reached the church of Cell  
Chamain,

and none of the remaining nine escaped  
without a wound.

## Section 18

Ocus táinic rígh Laighen dia thigh  
ocus do im[th]igh Mongán íar sin  
ocus do fhiarfaig rígh Laighen:  
“Cait a fhuil Tibraide?” ar sé.

“Ní hé Tibraide do bí ann,” ar an inghean,

“ach[t] Mongán, oir do chloisfea-sa é.”

“An robhai-si ag Mongán, a inghen?” ar sé.

“Do bhadhús,” ar ísi, “úair as ferr cert oram.”

“Curt[h]ar fis úaind ar cend Tibraide!” ar rígh  
Laighen,

“oir mur aith tarlla dúinn a mhuindtir do  
marbadh.”

Ocus tucadh Tibraide cuca

ocus do im[th]igh Mongán dia thigh

Tháinig Brandubh abhaile  
agus d'imigh Mongán ina dhiaidh sin,  
agus d'fhiarfraig an rí,  
“Cá háit a bhuil Tiobraide?”

“Ní hé Tiobraide a bhí ann,” ar an iníon,

“ach Mongán, óir chloisfeá ar aon nós é.”

“An raibh tusa le Mongán, a iníon?” ar sé.

“Bhí mé,” ar sí, “óir tá an ceart is fearr aige  
orm.”

“Cuir fios uainn ar Thiobraide!” ar Brandubh,

“óir is olc gur tharla dúinn a mhuintir a  
mharú.”

Tugadh Tiobraide chucu ansin.

Maidir le Mongán, d'imigh sé abhaile

And the king of Leinster came to his house,  
and then Mongan departed.

And the king asked:

“Where is Tibraide?” saith he.

“It was not Tibraide that was here,” said the  
woman,

“but Mongan, since you will hear it.”

“Were you with Mongan, girl?” said he.

“I was,” said she, “for he has the greatest  
claim on me.”

“Send for Tibraide!” said the king,

“for . . . we have chanced to kill his people.”

And Tibraide was brought to them,  
and Mongan went home

ocus do bí co cend ráithe gan teacht arís

ocus do bí a sirg galair risin ré sin.

agus bhí go ceann ráithe gan teacht arís

agus bhí i seirg ghalair ar feadh an ama sin.

and did not come again until the end of a quarter,

and during that time he was in a wasting sickness.

## Section 19

Ocus táinic Mac an Daimh cugi ocus adubert ris:

“As fada damh-sa,” ar sé,

“mo ben do beth am’ écmais tré obhlóir mar thusa,

ó nach dernus ‘cairdis gan éra’ re hóclach rígh Laighen.”

“Eirigh-si damh-sa,” ol Mongán,

“d’ fhis scél co Ráith Deiscirt m-Bregh

mar a fhuil Dubh-Lacha Láimghel,

oir ní inshuibhail mhsisi.”

As a haithle sin adubairt Dubh-Lacha:

Sa deireadh tháinig Mac an Daimh chuige agus dúirt leis,

“Is fada domsa,” ar sé,

“mo bhean bheith im éagmais trí amhlóir mar thusa,

nuair nach ndearna mise ‘cairdeas gan éaradh’ le hóglach rí Laighean.”

“Téigh ar mo shonsa,” ar Mongán,

“ag lorg sceál go dtí Ráith Deiscirt Bhreá

mar a bhfuil Dubh Locha Láimhgheal,

óir ní inniúil mise.”

Is é dúirt Dubh Locha ansin,

And Mac an Daimh came to him and said to him:

“ ’Tis wearisome to me,” said he,

“to be without my wife through a clown like myself (*recte* yourself),

since I have not made ‘friendship without refusal’ with the king of Leinster’s attendant.”

“Go thou for me,” said Mongan,

“to get news to Ráith Descirt of Bregia,

where Dubh-Lacha of the White Hand is,

for I am not myself able to go.”

Thereafter Dubh-Lacha said:

“Ticedh Mongán cucam,” ar sí,

“ocus atá rígh Laighen ar særchúairt Laighen

ocus atá Ceibhín Cohlach gilla carbaid an  
rígh am’ fharradh-sa ocus bíth ag a rádha riúm  
élofh do dénam

ocus co ticfadh féin leam

ocus is écrúaidh a n-dénann Mongán,” ar sí.

Ocus dochúaidh mac an Doimh do gresadh  
Mongáin.

“Go dtaga Mongán chugam,” ar sí.

“Tá rí Laighean ar saorchúairt Laighean

agus bíonn Ceibhín Cohlach, giolla carbaid  
an rí atá im’ fharradh, ag rá liom éalú a  
dhéanamh

is go dtiocfadh sé féin liom,

ach is cloíte a ndéanann Mongán,” ar sí.

Chuaigh Mac an Daimh ansin chun Mongán a  
ghríosadh.

“Let Mongan come to me,” said she,

“for the king of Leinster is on a journey  
around Leinster,

and Ceibhin Cohlach, the attendant of the  
king’s chariot, is with me and keeps telling me  
to escape,

and that he himself would come with me.

And Mongan behaves in a weak manner,” said  
she.

And Mac an Daimh went to incite Mongan.

## Section 20

Iar sin do glúais Mongán roime co Ráith  
Deiscirt m-Bregh

ocus do shuidh ar gúalaind na hingine

ocus tucadh fi[dh]chill órdhaidhe cuca

ocus do bhátar ag a himirt

Ina dhiaidh sin ghluais Mongán roimhe go  
Ráith Deiscirt Bhreá

agus shuigh le gualainn na hiníne.

Tugadh fichill órtha chucu

agus thosnaíodar ag imirt.

Thereupon Mongan set out to Raith Descirt of  
Bregia,

and he sat down at the shoulder of the girl,

and a gilded chess-board was brought to them,

and they played.

ocus do léig Dubh-Lacha a cíche re Mongán

ocus mar do dicercair Mongán forra,  
atcon[n]airc na cíche móra ocus íat mæthgel

ocus an medhón seng solusgheal  
ocus táinic ailges na hinghine dó  
ocus do airigh Dubh-Lacha sin.

Is ann sin do gairistair rígh Laighen cona  
shlúagaibh fon dúnadh

ocus do hoslaiged an dúnad roimhe  
ocus do fhiarfaig rígh Laighen don ingin,  
an é Mongán ro bí astigh.

Do ráidh sí corbé.

“Dob áil lem-sa athchuinghi d’[f]hághbail  
úait-si, a ingen,”

ar rí Laighen.

Nocht Dubh Locha a cíocha do Mhongán

agus nuair a dhearc sé orthu,  
chonaic sé na cíocha móra maothgheala

agus an meán seang solas-gheal  
agus tháinig áilíos na hiníne air  
agus d’airigh Dubh Locha sin.

Is ansin a tháinig Brandubh gona shluaite i  
ngar don dún.

Oscaíodh an dún \*roimhe\*  
agus d’fhiarfraig an rí den iníon  
arbh é Mongán a bhí istigh.

Dúirt sí gurbh é.

“B’áil liomsa achainí a fháil uait, \*a iníon,\*”  
ar seisean ansin.

And Dubh-Lacha bared her breasts to  
Mongan,

and as he looked upon them,  
he beheld the great paps, which were soft and  
white,  
and the middle small and shining-white.

And desire of the girl came upon him.  
And Dubh-Lacha observed it.

Just then the king of Leinster with his hosts  
was drawing near the fortress,

and the fortress was opened before him.  
And the king of Leinster asked of the girl  
whether Mongan had been in the house.

She said he had been.

“I wish to obtain a request of thee, girl,”  
said the king of Leinster.

“Dogébthar.

A n-écmais do beith agum co tí an bliadhain,

ní fhuil agum athchuinghi iarfás tú, nach  
tiubér duit hí.”

“Mased,” arsin rígh,

“da m-bé menma Mongáin meic Fiachna agad,  
a hindisin dam-sa,

oir an tan glúaisis Mongán,

bíaidh a menma agat-sa.”

“Gheofar í.

In éagmais tú bheith agam go ceann bliana,

níl agam achainí a iarrfaidh tú nach  
dtabharfaidh mé duit.”

“Más ea,” arsa an rí,

“dá mbeadh mian Mongáin ort, é sin a inis  
dom,

óir an uair a ghluaiseann Mongán

beidh a mhian ort.”

“It shall be granted.

Except thy being with me till the year is  
ended,

there is nothing that thou mayst ask which I  
will not grant thee.”

“If that be so,” said the king,

“tell me when thou longest for Mongan son of  
Fiachna;

for when Mongan has gone,

thou wilt long for him.”

## Section 21

Táinic Mongán a cinn ráithi

ocus do bí a menma fuirri-si

ocus do bhátar slúaigh an bhaile uile ann an  
tráth sin.

Iar sin táncatar slúaigh an bhaile amach

I gceann ráithe tháinig Mongán

agus bhí mian aici siúd air.

Bhí sluaite an bhaile uilig ann an tráth sin.

I gceann scaithimh tháinig sluaite an bhaile  
amach

At the end of a quarter Mongan returned,

and he was longing for her;

and all the hosts of the place were there at the  
time.

Then the hosts of the place came out,

ocus do impó Mongán ón dúnad

agus thiontaigh Mongán ón dún

and Mongan turned back from the fortress

ocus táinig dia thigh

agus thíainig abhaile.

and went home.

ocus do bí an ráithi sin a sirc shírghalair

Mhair sé an ráithe sin i seirg síor-ghalair.

And that quarter he was in a wasting sickness.

ocus ro thimsaighedair maithi Uladh a n-éninadh

Fá dheireadh thiomsaigh maithe Uladh in aon-ionad

And the nobles of Ulster assembled into one place

ocus targadar do Mhongán toidheacht lais do thabairt chatha fo chend a mná.

agus thairg siad do Mhongán teacht leis chun cath a thabhairt ar son a mhná.

and offered Mongan to go with him to make battle for the sake of his wife.

“Is bríathar dam-sa,” ol Mongán,

“Dar mo bhriathar,” ar Mongán,

“By my word,” said Mongan,

“an ben rucadh úaim-si trém’ ainghlicus féin,

“an bhean a rugadh uaimse trí mo ainghliceas féin,

“the woman that has been taken from me through my own folly,

nach tuitfe mac mná ná fer d’Ulltachaibh impe

ní thitfidh mac mná ná fear d’Ultaigh \*uimpi\*

no woman’s son of the men of Ulster shall fall for her sake

ag a tabairt amach,

á tabhairt amach,

in bringing her out,

noga tucar-sa féin lem trém’ glicus hí.”

nó go dtugaim féin liom trí mo ghliceas í.”

until, through my own craftiness, I myself bring her with me.”

## Section 22

Ocus táinic an bliadhan fasin

ocus do glúais Mongán ocus Mac an Daim  
rompo co tech rígh Laighen.

Is ann sin do bátar maithi Laighen a[g] teacht  
isin m-baili

ocus fledh mhór fa chomhair fheisi Duibhi-  
Lacha

ocus do geall a tabairt

ocus táncatar ar an faith[ch]i amuich.

“A Mhongan,” ar Mac an Daim,

“ca richt a rachum?”

Ocus mar do bádar ann, do chíd cailleach an  
mhuilind i. Cuimne

ocus fa garm[n]ach caillighe móire ísein

ocus madra mór ar nasc aice

D’imigh an bhliain mar sin

agus ghluais Mongán agus Mac an Daimh  
rompu go teach rí Laighean.

Is ansin a bhí maithe Laighean ag teacht sa  
bhaile

agus fleadh mhór á hullmhú faoi chomhair  
feise Dhubb Locha.

Gheall Mongán go mbéarfadh sé leis í

agus tháinig siad go dtí an fhaiche taobh  
amuigh den dún.

“A Mhongáin,” ar Mac an Daimh,

“cén riocht ina rachaidh muid?”

Agus mar a bhíodar ann chonaiceadar  
Cuimhne, cailleach an mhuiinn.

Bhí airde garman inti

agus bhí madra mór

\*a raibh Brothar mar ainm air\*

And in that way the year passed by,

and Mongan and Mac an Daimh set out to the  
king of Leinster’s house.

There were the nobles of Leinster going into  
the place,

and a great feast was being prepared towards  
the marriage of Dubh-Lacha.

And he vowed he would marry her.

And they came to the green outside.

“O Mongan,” said Mac an Daimh,

“in what shape shall we go?”

And as they were there, they see the hag of the  
mill, to wit, Cuimne.

And she was a hag as tall as a weaver’s beam,

and a large chain-dog with her

	ar nasc aici	
	*is sealán faoina bhráid*	
ocus é ag lighe cloch an mhuilind	agus é ag lí chloch an mhuilinn.	licking the mill-stones,
ocus [s]elan gadraigh fo bráight		with a twisted rope around his neck,
ocus Brothar a ainm.		and Brothar was his name.
Ocus do chonncadar gerrán banmaircech	Chonaiceadar fosta gearrán bán-mhairceach	And they saw a hack mare
ocus sensrathar fair	agus sean-srathair air	with an old pack-saddle upon her,
neoch do bí a[g] tarrang arbha ocus mhine ó muilenn.	a bhí ag tarraigts arbhair agus mine ón mhuiileann.	carrying corn and flour from the mill.

## Section 23

Ocus mar do chonnaic Mongán íat,	Nuair a chonaic Mongán iad	And when Mongan saw them,
adbert re Mac an Daimh:	labhair sé le Mach an Daimh:	he said to Mac an Daimh:
“Atá agum richt a racham,” ar sé,	“Tá agam an riocht ina rachaidh muid,” ar sé,	“I have the shape in which we will go,” said he,
“ocus da m-bé a n-dán dam-sa mo ben co. . . . d’fhagháil,	“agus má tá i ndán dom mo bhean a fháil	“and if I am destined ever to obtain my wife,

do gébh don cur sa hí.”

“Cubhaidh ritt, a deg[fh]laith.”

“Ocus tarra, a Mhic an Daimh,

ocus gairm Cuimne an mhuilind dam amach  
dom’ agallaim.”

“Atát tri fichit bliadhan,

ór nár íar duine mé da agallaim,”

ocus tainic amach ocus do len an madra hí,

ocus [ó] adchonnaic Mongán cuge íat,

do memhaidh a gean gáire fair ocus adubert  
fria:

“Da n-dernta mo chomairle,

do chuirfind a richt ingine óigi tú

ocus do betha ad’ mnái agum féin

nó ag rígh Laighen.”

“Dorghén co deimhin,” ar Cuimne.

gheobhaidh mé don chor seo í.”

“Sin mar is cóir duit, a dhea-fhlaithe.”

“Imigh leat, a Mhic an Daimh,

agus gairm Cuimhne an mhuilinn amach chun  
cainte liom.”

“Tá trí fichid blian ann,” ar sise,

“ó d’iarr éinne chun cainte mé,”

agus tháinig sí amach is lean an madra í.

Nuair a chonaic Mongán chuige iad,

mhaígh a ghean gáire air is dúirt sé léi:

“Dá ndéanfá mo chomhairle,

chuirfinn i rocht chailín óig thú

agus bheifeá i do bhean agam féin

nó ag rí Laighean.”

“Déanfaidh mé go deimhin,” ar Cuimhne.

I shall do so this time.”

“That becomes thee, O noble prince,” [said Mac an Daimh].

“And come, O Mac an Daimh,

and call Cuimne of the mill out to me to  
converse with me.”

“It is three score years” [said Cuimne]

“since any one has asked me to converse with  
him.”

And she came out, the dog following her,

and when Mongan saw them,

he laughed and said to her:

“If thou wouldst take my advice,

I would put thee into the shape of a young girl,

and thou shouldst be as a wife with me

or with the King of Leinster.”

“I will do that certainly,” said Cuimne.

Ocus tuc buille dont shlait dráidheachta  
don mhadra

co n-derna mesán mingeal is áille do bí 'sa  
bith de

ocus slabradh airgit 'ma brághait

ocus cluigín óir air,

co d-toillfedh ar boiss duine

ocus tuc buille don chailligh

co n-derna ingin ó[i]c dob fherr delbh ocus  
dénamh d'inginaibh an betha di

.i. Ibhell Grúadhsholus inghin rígh Mumhan.

Ocus dochúaidh féin a richt Aedha meic rígh  
Con[n]acht

ocus do chur Mac an Daimh a richt a ghilla

ocus dorinde falafroigh glégeal ocus folt  
corcra uirre

I bhfaiteadh na súl thug sé buille den tsalt  
draíochta don mhadra

go ndearna measán mín-gheal ar áilleacht an  
domhain de

is slabhra airgid faoina bhráid

a raibh cloigín óir air.

Bheadh a sháith fairsinge aige ar bhois duine.

Ansin thug sé buille don chailleach

go ndearna di an ainnir óg ab fhearr dealbh is  
déanamh d'iníona na beatha,

mar a bhí Ibheall Grua-Sholas, iníon rí  
Mhumhan.

Chuaigh sé féin i rocht Aodha, mac rí  
Chonnacht,

agus chuir Mac an Daimh i rocht a ghiolla.

Ansin chruthaigh sé falaire glégeal is folt  
corcra uirthi

And with the magic wand he gave a stroke to  
the dog,

which became a sleek white lap-dog, the  
fairest that was in the world,

with a silver chain around its neck

and a little bell of gold on it,

so that it would have fitted into the palm of a  
man.

And he gave a stroke to the hag,

who became a young girl, the fairest of form  
and make of the daughters of the world,

to wit, Ibhell of the Shining Cheeks, daughter  
of the king of Munster.

And he himself assumed the shape of Aedh,  
son of the king of Connacht,

and Mac an Daimh he put into the shape of his  
attendant.

And he made a shining-white palfrey with  
crimson hair,

ocus doroine díallait órdha co n-ilbreacaibh óir  
ocus leg loghmar dont shrathar.

Ocus tucadar dá chapall ele a rícht each futha

ocus táncatar fon samhail sin 'cum an dúnaid.

agus rinne díallait órtha faoi ilbhreaca óir is  
liag luachmhar den tsrathar.

Chuireadar freisin dhá chapall eile fúthu,

agus sin mar a tháinig siad chuig an dúin.

and of the pack-saddle he made a gilded  
saddle with variegated gold and precious  
stones.

And they mounted two other mares in the  
shape of steeds,

and in that way they reached the fortress.

## Section 24

Ocus dercaighdar na doirseoiri

ocus adubradar re rígh Laighen

curbhé Aedh Alaind

mac rígh Con[n]acht

ocus a ghilla

ocus a ben .i. Ibheall Grúadhsholus

ingin rí[gh] Muman

ar ec[h]tar ocus ar innarba a Con[n]achtaibh

ar comairce rígh Laighen tángatar

Bhreathnaigh na doirseoirí iad

agus dúirt le Brandubh

gurbh é Aodh Álainn

mac rí Chonnacht é

is a ghiolla

is a bhean, Ibheall Grua-Sholas,

iníon rí Mhumhan,

ar loingeas agus ar ionnarba as Connachta,

agus ó tharla gur ar choimirce rí Laighean a  
thángadar

And the door-keepers saw them

and told the king of Leinster

that it was Aed the Beautiful,

son of the king of Connacht,

and his attendant,

and his wife Ibhell of the Shining Cheek,

daughter of the king of Munster,

exiled and banished from Connacht,

that had come under the protection of the king  
of Leinster,

ocus nirbh áil leis teacht slúagh ná sochraide  
budh mhó.

Ocus dorinde an doirseoir an uigill

ocus táinic an rí ana n-aighidh

ocus ro fher fáilti friu

ocus do gairm rí Laighen mac rí[gh]  
Con[n]acht ar a ghúalaind.

“Ní hé sin as bés againd,” ar mac rí[gh]  
Con[n]acht,

“acht suidhe ar slis rígh don dara duine is ferr  
sa bruidin

ocus as misi at’ égmais-[s]i an dara duine as  
ferr astigh

ocus ar slis rígh bíad.”

nár bh áil leis teacht le slua ná fórsa ní ba mhó.

Rinne an doirseoir an fógra

agus tháinig an rí ina choinne

agus chuir fáilte roimhe.

Ghairm sé mac rí Chonnacht ar a ghualainn.

“Ní hé sin is béas dúinn,” ar seisean,

“ach go suíonn os comhair rí an dara duine is  
fearr sa bhruíon,

agus is mise id’ éagmais-se an dara duine is  
fearr istigh

agus is os comhair an rí a bheidh mé.”

and he did not wish to come with a greater  
host or multitude.

And the door-keeper made the announcement,  
and the king came to meet them,  
and welcomed them.

And the king of Leinster called the son of the  
king of Connacht to his shoulder.

“That is not the custom with us,” said the son  
of the king of Connacht,

“but that he should sit by the side of the king  
who is the second best man in the palace,

and next to thee I am the second best in the  
house,

and by the side of the king I will be.”

## Section 25

Ocus do heagrad an tech n-ólá

ocus ro chur Mongán blicht serce a n-grúadhaibh na caillige

ocus d' fhechain da tuc rígh Laighen uirre do

lín a sercc ocus a grádh é,

gu nach roibh cnáim méd n-ordlaigh de

nár lín do shercc na caillighe

ocus do gairm gilla fritheolmha cuge ocus  
adubert ris:

“Eirigh mar a fhuiil ben meic rígh Con[n]acht

ocus abair fria co ‘tuc rígh Laighen serc ocus  
grádh mór duitt

ocus curob ferr rígh ’ná ríghdhamna.’ ”

Ocus tuic Mongán ar an cogar ocus adubert re  
Cuimne:

Eagraíodh an teach óil

agus chuir Mongán briocht seirce i ngrua na  
caillí

agus d'fhéachaint dá dtug rí Laighean uirthi

líon a searc agus a grá é

ar chaoi nach raibh méid orlaigh de chnámh  
ann

nár bh lán seirce don chailleach.

Ghairm sé giolla friothálaimh chuige agus  
dúirt leis,

“Téigh mar a bhfuil bean mhic rí Chonnacht

agus abair léi go dtug rí Laighean searc agus  
grá mór di,

agus gur fearr i gcónaí rí ná rídhambna.”

Thuig Mongán an cogar agus dúirt sé le  
Cuimhne,

And the drinking-house was put in order.

And Mongan put a love-charm into the cheeks  
of the hag,

and from the look which the king of Leinster  
cast on her

he was filled with her love,

so that there was not a bone of his of the size  
of an inch,

but was filled with love of the girl.

And he called his attendant to him and said to  
him:

“Go to where the wife of the king of  
Connacht’s son is,

and say to her ‘the king of Leinster has  
bestowed great love upon thee,

and that a king is better than a king’s heir.’ ”

And Mongan understood the whispering, and  
said to Cuimne:

“Ac siud gilla ó rígh Laighen dod’ chuibhe re  
teachtaireacht cugad

ocus aithnim-si an cogar út dobeir sé

ocus da n-dernta mo chomairle,

ní bethea ac fer budh mhesa ’ná mhisi nó rígh  
Laighen.”

“Ní túgha nuachuir lem-sa,

cibé agaibh fer bías agum.”

“Mased,” ar Mongán, “mar ticsas cugad,

abair-si co tiubhartha féin aithne ar shédaibh  
ocus ar mháinibh anté do beradh grádh duit

ocus íar an corn dobeir sé cugad air.”

“Siúd giolla ó Bhrandubh le teachtaireacht  
chugat

agus aithním an cogar a bheir sé

agus dá ndéanfá mo chomhairle

ní bheifeá ag fear ba mheasa ná mise nó rí  
Laighean.”

“Is mar a chéile liom é

cibé fear agaibh bheas agam.”

“Más ea,” ar Mongán, “nuair a thiocfaidh sé  
chugat

abair thusa go n-aithneofá ar a shéada is ar a  
mhaoine an té a mbéarfadh grá duit

agus ansin iarr an corn a bheir sé chugat.”

“There is an attendant coming from the king  
of Leinster with a message to thee,

and I know the secret message which he  
brings,

and if thou wouldst take my advice,

thou wouldst not be with a worse man than  
myself or the king of Leinster.”

“I have no choice of bridegroom,

whichever of you will be husband to me.”

“If that be so,” said Mongan, “when he comes  
to thee,

say that by his gifts and precious things thou  
wilt know him who loves thee,

and ask him for the drinking-horn which he  
brings thee.”

## Section 26

Ocus táinic óclach rígh Laighen d[a] agallaim  
ocus adubert:

“Ac so corn úasal tucadh cugad.”

“Dobérmais aithne ar shétaibh ocus ar  
mháinibh anté doberadh grádh dúind.”

Ocus adbert rí Laighen risin n-gilla: “Tabair  
mo chorn dí.”

Adbert teaghlaigh rígh Laighen:

“Ná tahair do sheóid do mnái maic rígh  
Connacht.”

“Dobér,” bhar rígh Laighen,

“oir ticfaidh an ben ocus mo sheóit chugam.”

Ocus tarthaídh Mac an Daimh an corn úaithi  
ocus gacha fhúair do shétaibh co matain.

Tháinig óglach rí Laighean chun cainte léi, ag  
rá:

“Seo corn uasal a tugadh chugat.”

“D’aithneoimis ar a shéada agus ar a mhaoine  
an té a bhéarfadh grá dúinn,” arsa an  
chailleach.

Nuair a dúirt Brandubh ansin leis an ngiolla,  
“Tabhair mo chorn di,”

thosaigh teaghlaigh an rí ag rá:

“Ná tabhair do shéada do bhean mhic rí  
Chonnacht.”

“Tabharfaidh mé,” ar seisean leo,

“óir tiocfaidh an bhean agus mo shéada  
chugam.”

Agus thóg Mac an Daimh uaithi an corn  
agus gach a bhfuair sí de shéada go maidin.

And the king of Leinster’s attendant came to  
converse with her, and said:

“Here is a noble horn brought to thee.”

“We should know him who loves us by gifts  
and precious things.”

And the king of Leinster said to the attendant:  
“Give her my horn.”

But the king’s household said:

“Do not give thy treasures to the wife of the  
King of Connacht’s son.”

“I will give them,” said the king of Leinster,

“for the woman and my treasures will come to  
me.”

And Mac an Daimh takes the horn from her  
and whatever else she got of treasures till the  
morning.

## Section 27

Ocus adbert Mongán re Cuimne:

“Iar a chris ar rígh Laighen.”

Ocus as amhlaidh do bí an cris ocus ní ghabhad galar ná aingcis an tæbh tar a m-bíth

ocus do shír an cris

ocus tuc rígh Laighen an cris dí ocus beiridh Mac an Daimh a cétóir úaithi.

“Ocus abairanois re gilla rígh Laighen,

da tucadh an bith duit,

ná tréicfea t’ fher féin air.”

Ocus do indis an gilla do rígh Laighen sin  
ocus adubert rígh Laighen:

“Cad ara fhuiil bhar n-aire?”

“A fhuiil sibh astigh ort-sa?” bhur iat-sian.

Dúirt Mongán ansin le Cuimhne,

“Iarr a chrios ar rí Laighean,”

óir is amhlaidh a bhí an chrios nach ngabhfadhl galar ná tinneas an corp a chaithfeadh é.

D’iarr sí an chrios

agus ní luaithe a thug Brandubh di é ná thógl Mac an Daimh uaithi é.

“Agus abairanois le rí Laighean,

dá dtugadh sé an domhan duit

nach dtréigfeá d’fhear féin air.”

D’inis an giolla an méid sin do Bhrandubh  
agus duirt seisean,

“Cad air a bhuiil bhur n-aire?

“An bhuiil sibh istigh?” ar siad.”

And Mongan said to Cuimne:

“Ask the king of Leinster for his girdle.”

And the girdle was of such a nature that neither sickness nor trouble would seize the side on which it was.

And she demanded the girdle,

and the king of Leinster gave it her, and Mac an Daimh forthwith took it from her.

“And now say to the king of Leinster’s attendant,

if the (whole) world were given thee,

thou wouldst not leave thy own husband for him.”

And the attendant told that to the king of Leinster, who said:

“What is it you notice?”

“Are you in the house . . .?” said they.

“Is aithnidh dáib-si an ben so ar mo ghúalainn-si

.i. Dubh-Lacha Láimghel

ingin Fiachra Duibh meic Demáin.

Rugus ar ‘chairdis gan éra’ úadha hí

ocus damadh áil let-sa, do dhénaind imlaid riut.”

Ocus ro gabh ferg ocus loindes mór ocus adubert:

“Da tucaind eich ocus greagha lem,

do budh chóir a n-iaraidh oram,

ocus gidh edh

ní dlegar tigerna d’éra

fam reracha a aire,

gidh lesc lem,

“Is aithnid daoibh an bhean seo ar mo ghualainn,

mar atá Dubh Locha Láimhgheal

iníon Fhiachna Dhuibh mhic Dheamháin.

Rug mé ar ‘chairdeas gan éaradh’ ó Mhongán í

agus dá mb’áil leatsa dhéanfainn malartú leat.”

Ghlac fearg is loinneas mór Mongán agus dúirt sé,

“Dá dtugainn eich agus graí liom

b’é do cheart iad a iarraidh orm,

ach gan seo a iarraidh.

Bíodh sin mar atá, áfach,

níl sé dleathach diúltú do thiarna,

agus cé gur leisc liom é,

“You know this woman by my side,

to wit, Dubh-Lacha of the White Hands,

daughter of Fiachna Dubh son of Deman.

I took her from him on terms of ‘friendship without refusal,’

and if thou like, I would exchange with thee.”

And great anger and ferocity seized him, and he said:

“If I had brought steeds and studs with me,

it would be right to ask them of me.

However,

it is not right to refuse a lord

...,,

though I am loath it should be so,

ber-si cugad hí.”

Ocus mar dorónsat iumlaid,

tuc Mongán teóra póc don ingin ocus adubert:

“Aderadais cách nach ó chraidhe do dénmais  
an imlaidid,

munu tuaind-si na póca so.”

Ocus do ghabhadar ago co rabhadar mesca  
medharchain.

glac chugat í.”

Le linn an mhalartú

thug Mongán trí phóg don chailín agus dúirt,

“Déarfaidís cách nach ó chroí a rinneamar an  
malartú

mura dtugainn na póga seo.”

Ansin ligedar leo féin, go raibh siad meisiciúil  
meadhar-chaoin.

take her to thee.”

And as they made the exchange,

Mongan gave three kisses to the girl, and said:

“Every one would say that we did not make  
the exchange from our hearts,

if I did not give these kisses.”

And they indulged themselves until they were  
drunk and hilarious.

## Section 28

Ocus do éirigh Mac in Daimh ocus adubert:

“As mór a náire gan énduine do beradh deoch  
a láimh meic rígh Connacht.”

Ocus mar nár’ fregair duine é,

do gabh an dá each as ferr do bí ’sa dúnadh

ocus do chur Mongán lúas gáithi isna hecha

Sa deireadh d’éirigh Mac an Daimh is dúirt,

“Is mór an náire gan éinne ann a bhéarfadh  
deoch i láimh mhic rí Chonnacht,”

agus nuair nár fhreagair duine ar bith é

ghabh sé an dá each ab fhearr sa dún

agus chuir Mongán luas na gaoithe iontu.

And Mac an Daimh arose and said:

“It is a great shame that no one puts drink into  
the hand of the king of Connacht’s son.”

And as no one answered him,

he took the two best steeds that were in the  
fortress,

and Mongan put swiftness of wind into them.

ocus do chur Mongán Duibh-Lacha ar a cúlaibh

ocus do chur Mac an Doim a ben féin ocus do ghlúaisidar rompo.

Ocus mar do éirgidar arnamhárach teaghlach rígh Laighen,

atconcadar bratach na caillige

ocus an chailleach liathgharmnach ar leabaidh rígh Laighen

ocus doconnadar an madra ocus selan gadraigh 'ma brágaid

ocus doconnadar an gerrán banmaircech ocus ant shrathar arpersian (?) edaigh

ocus do bhádar an mhuindter ar gáire ocus do muscail rígh Laighen

ocus dochonnaic an chaillech láimh ris ocus adubert:

“An tú Cuimne Cúllíath an mhuilind?”

“As mé,” ar sí.

Chuaigh Dubh Locha ar cún Mhongáin

is a bhean féin ar cún Mhic an Daimh agus ghlúaiseadar leo.

An lá arna mhárach nuair a d'éirigh teaghlach rí Laighean,

chonaiceadar bratach na caillí

agus an chailleach liath ar leaba rí Laighean,

agus freisin an madra faoina shealán

agus an gearrán bán-mhairceach agus an tsrathair.

Thosaigh siad ag gáire agus mhuscail Brandubh.

Nuir a chonaic sé an chailleach lena thaoibh chuir sé ceist uirthi,

“An tú Cuimhne an mhuillinn?”

“Is mé,” ar sí.

And Mongan placed Dubh-Lacha behind him,

and Mac an Daimh his own wife, and they set forth.

And when on the morrow the household of the king of Leinster arose,

they saw the cloak of the hag,

and the grey tall hag on the bed of the king of Leinster.

And they saw the dog with a twisted halter round his neck,

and they saw the hack mare and the pack-saddle. . . .

And the people laughed and awoke the king of Leinster,

who saw the hag by his side and said:

“Art thou the grey-backed hag of the mill?”

“I am,” said she.

“Trúagh mar tharrla dam-sa cumusc riut-sa, a  
Chuimne!”

“Nach trua mar tharla dom luí leatsa, a  
Chuimhne!”

“Pity that I should have slept with thee, O  
Cuimne!”