

Echtra Fergusa maic Léti

The Saga of Fergus mac Léti

Section 1

Batar tri primcinela in here	Bhí trí phríomhchineál in Éirinn	There were three chief races in Ireland:
.i. feni agus ultaig agus gailni .i. laigin.	.i. Féine agus Ulaidh agus Gailne .i. Laighin.	the Féni, the Ulaid, and the Gáilni or Laigin.
robatar didiu tri rigtigernai consniset flaith(i) feni	Bhí, más ea, triúr ríthiarnaí a bhí ag cosnamh flaitheas Féine	Now there were three royal chiefs contending for the sovereignty of the Féni,
.i. cond cétcathach	.i. Conn Céadchathach,	viz. Conn Cétcathach ('of the hundred battles')
ocus conn cécorach	agus Conn Céadchorach,	and Conn Céchorach ('of the hundred treaties'?)
ocus eochu belbuidhi mac tuathail techtmair.	agus Eocha Béalbhuí mac Thuathail Theachtmhair.	and Eochu Bélbuide ('of the yellow lips') son of Tuathal Techtmar.
luid eochu for loinges co fergus mac leti ri ulath	D'imigh Eocha ar deoraíocht go Fearghas mac Léide rí Uladh	Eochu went into exile to Fergus mac Léti king of the Ulaid
do chuinnchid neirt agus sochraidi	ag lorg cabhrach agus slua	in quest of support and allies,
iar foglaib moraib fri conn ria techt.	tar éis dó foghla móra a imirt ar Chonn roimh dhul.	having inflicted many injuries on Conn before going.

bui iarum imale fri fergus re ciana.	Bhí sé fara Fearghas ar feadh i bhfad ina dhiaidh sin.	For a long time thereafter he remained with Fergus.
doluid eochu bélbuide iar dain co cinel	Tháinig Eocha Béalbhuí faoi dheireadh chun a chinéil féin	Eventually Eochu Bélbuide came to his own tribe
do imarchur choru friu.	chun réiteach a thairiscint dóibh.	to offer them terms of peace,
marbsi(de)		but was slain by
asal mac cuinn cetcataig	Ach, Asal mac Coinn Chéadchathaigh	Asal son of Conn Cétchathach
ocus .iiii. maic buide meic ainmirech	agus ceathrar mac Bhuí mhic Ainmhireach	and the four sons of Buide mac Ainmirech
.i. eochu oirisech	.i. Eocha Oireasach,	— viz. Eochu Oiresach,
ocus enna agenbras	Éanna Aigheanbhras,	Énda Aigenbras (‘broadmouthed’?),
ocus ailill antuarad	Ailill Anduaradh,	Ailill Antuarad (‘ill-omened’?)
ocus tibráiti traiglethan	agus Tiobraide Troigleathan,	and Tipraite Traiglethan (‘broadfooted’) —
ocus mac ronuc dorn ingen buide do deorath.	agus mac a rug Dorn iníon Bhuí do dheoraí,	and a son whom Dorn the daughter of Buide had borne to an outlander.
	— mharáigh siadsan é.	

Section 2

is de rocett:

foglaid forn
mac (?) dia duirnn
dia foghlaid a cin
do tuathaib targuth echtrann
dun a forus fil
co breith biru a bas ninn
mad rachtid adrorastar
no aurnaidet a mathair a mifolta
nis fol forreth
nach a finntiu foisither
cach connli cin
cinged hi cumalacht
ceim co nduiri fri saegalrith sir
nochotacertmaim
id laim lether
co .iii. mara muircrecha
ar is frit forruich.

Is faoi sin a canadh:

Is foghlaid orainn
Mac do Dhorn;
De fhoghlaid a chion,
De thuathaibh tar guth eachtrann.
Is eol dúinn a bhunús.
Daoraim é chun báis dá bharr
Más féidir a ghabáil go reachtach.
Nó iompraíodh a mháthair a chionta.
Ní fhóirfidh maoin
Ná ní chosnóidh a fearann gaoil.
A bhfuil páirteach so choir
Céimníodh i gcumhalacht,
Céim dhaoire ar feadh cúrsa fada a saoil.
Nó réitím a caingean mar seo:
Scaoiltear léi faoi do láimh
Trí muirchreacha
Óir is i d'aghaidh a chiontaigh.

Of this was sung:

An aggressor against us (?) is
the son of (?) Dorn

I doom him to death for it
if he can be secured . . . ;
or let his mother sustain [responsibility for] his misdeeds.
Help (?) shall not support her
nor shall her kin-land protect her

let her advance into bondage
and servitude for the whole course of her life.
Or I decide her case [thus]:
that she (?) be left in thy hand [to be sent adrift]
as far as three *muirchreacha* out to sea,
for it is against thee she (?) has offended.

Section 3

Et doget snaduth fergus a ime agus a muintir.

Coilleadh coimirce Fearghasa maidir le
hEocha fêin agus a mhuintir.

And Fergus's protection was violated by the
slaying of him and his followers.

siacht fergus co slugaib a diguin.

Tháinig Fearghas le sluaite ar lorg cúitimh.

Fergus came with armies to avenge the
violation.

dobreth iarum a riar do	Tugadh ansin ar éiligh sé dó,	Eventually his own terms were given to him,
ocus roictha fris .iii. .iii. cumal	agus íocadh leis trí seacht gcumhala	and there were paid to him thrice seven <i>cumals</i> ,
.i. cumal do or ocus argat	.i. seacht gcumhal d'ór agus d'airgead,	viz. seven <i>cumals</i> of gold and silver,
ocus tir .iii. cumal	agus talamh seacht gcumhal	and land worth seven <i>cumals</i> ,
tir cuinn cétcoraig	de chuid Choinn Chéadchoraigh	the land of Conn Cétchorach
— Nítha ainm in tiri	(Níotha ainm na talún	— Níth was the name of this land
ara lin do nithaib ocus debthaib	de bharr an líon níoth agus cath	on account of the numerous contests (<i>nítha</i>)
robui imbi iar tain —	a bhí ina taobh ina dhiaidh sin)	and dissensions
ocus duine caṁ do fognam	agus banchumhal le fónamh dó	that arose about it subsequently —
.i. dornn ingen buidhi	.i. Dorn iníon Bhuí,	and a human <i>cumal</i> (bondwoman) to
.i. siur do macaib buidhe ditngegnatar	deirfiúr do mhic Bhuí a rinne an coilleadh air,	serve him,
ach[t] ba i ngill fri cimbid dobrethside	ach ba i ngeall le cime a tugadh ise	to wit Dorn daughter of Buide,
		a sister of Buide's sons who had violated his
		(<u>Fergus's</u>) protection,
		but it was as pledge for the surrender of a
		captivity that she was given

no co ruigletis .uii. cumala cach laime robbi	nó go ngeallfaí seacht gcumhala gach lámh a mharaigh é (<u>Eocha</u>);	— or it may be that seven <i>cumals</i> had to be pledged for every hand that had slain him (<u>Eochu</u>) —
conad o sunn romes fiach digona rig	ionas gurb as sin a measadh na fiacha i gcúiteamh coilleadh coimirce rí	so that it is from this that the penalty for breach of a king's protection has been fixed
cim[b]ith i cinaid .u.ir	.i. cime i gcúiteamh cion cúigir.	at a captive for every five persons concerned;
ocus dobert conn tir i ccinaid a m[e]ic et reliqua.	Agus thug Conn an talamh mar chúiteamh i gcoir a mhic &rl.	and Conn gave the land in atonement for the liability of his son (<u>Asal</u>), etc.

Section 4

	De bharr an chúitimh seo	In consideration of this mulct
Dogeni fergus ogcoru	rinne Fearghas lánsíocháin	Fergus concluded full peace
tarsa nericso		
ocus luid doa tir	agus d'imigh dá thír	and went to his own land,
ocus bir[t] a cumail lais i foghnum.	agus thug leis a chumhal i ndaoirse.	bringing with him his bondmaid into servitude.
IN tan ronainic fergus a methus	Nuair a shroich Fearghas a fhearann féin	When he had reached his domain
luid docum mara sechis	chuaigh sé ar aghaidh chun na mara	he went on to the sea

ocus a ara muena a ainm.	agus a ara darb ainm Muena leis.	accompanied by his charioteer, whose name was Muena.
contuilsit and for bru in mara.	Thit a gcodladh orthu ansiúd ar bhruach na mara.	There they fell asleep on the sea coast.
dolota(ta)r lucorpain dond rig	Tháinig lúchorpáin chun an rí	Sprites came to the king
conidmbert[at]ar asa carpat	agus rug leo as a charbad é;	and bore him out of his chariot,
ocus bertatar a claidem nuad i tosach.	thóg siad a chlaíomh nua leo i dtosach.	having first deprived him of his sword.
runucsat iarum co rainic a muir(e)	Ansin rug siad leo é nó go raibh sé ag an muir;	They then carried him as far as the sea,
conidforcualae		
o rancatar a cosa a muir.	agus nuair a chuaigh a chosa i bhfarraige,	and when his feet touched the sea
	bhraith sé é.	he became aware of it.
dofiuchtradar la sodain	Dhúisigh sé leis sin	At this point he awoke
ocus argab triar dib	agus ghabh triúr díobh,	and caught hold of three of them,
fer cechtar a da la(i)m	ceann gach lámh leis	one in each hand
ocus araile fora bruinnib.	agus ceann ar a ucht.	and one on his breasts.
“anmain i nanmain!” .i. anacal.	“Anam ar anam!” (.i. anacal) <u>arsan t-abhac</u> .	“Life for life!” [<u>said the chief dwarf</u>].

“tartar mu tri drindro(i)sc .i. roga” ol fergus.	“Tugtar mo thrí ghrinnmhian (.i. rogha) dom,” arsa Fearghas.	“Let my three wishes be granted to me” said Fergus.
“rodbia” ol int abac “acht ni bes ecmacht dun.”	“Gheobhaidh tú iad,” arsan t-abhac, “seachas rud a bheadh thar ár gcumas.”	“Thou shalt have anything that is not beyond our power”, said the dwarf.
atgege fergus fair didiu	Roghnaigh Fearghas dá bhrí sin	So Fergus chose to ask from him
eolas fobarta fo muirib agus lindaib agus lochaib.	an rún faoi conas imeacht faoi fharraigí agus linnte agus locha.	a charm for passing under seas and pools and lakes.
“rotbia” ar int abacc	“Gheobhaidh tú sin,” arsan t-abhac,	“Thou shalt have it,” said the dwarf,
“acht aen ar[a]cuillimm airiut	“ach aon ní amháin a choisim ort,	“save one that I bar to thee:
loch rudrige fil ad crích ni dechais fai.”	Loch Rudhraí atá i do chrích féin, ná téigh faoi.”	thou shalt not go under Loch Rudraige which is in thy own territory.”
Dobertatar didiu in lucuirp luibe dosom ina cluasa(ib)	Thug na lúchoirp luíonna dó ina chluasa	Then the sprites gave him herbs [<u>to put</u>] in his ears,
ocus imtigid leo fo muirib.	agus d’imíodh sé leo faoi fharraigí.	and he used to travel about with them underseas.

Section 5

asberat araile iss int abac dorat(a) a brat do	Deir daoine eile gurb ann a thug an t-abhac a bhrat dó	Some say that the dwarf gave him his cloak
ocus atcortad fergus ima cenn	agus go gcasadh Fearghas timpeall a chinn é	and Fergus used to wind (?) it about his head,
ocus fo(r)bered muire oculus uisce samlaid.	agus go dtéadh sé faoi fharraigí agus faoi uisce mar sin.	and in this way used to pass under seas and water.
iss esside abac dide a cichesom fergus	Is é sin an t-abhac a dhiúil cíocha Fhearghasa	This was the dwarf who sucked his, Fergus's, breasts
ocus gaba(i)s a gruaide i nnairide a anacuil.	agus a rug greim ar a ghrua in airí a anacail.	and caught hold of his cheek as a token of <u>[asking]</u> quarter from him.
ISbert fergus “Cid ara ndenesiu sin?”	Dúirt Fearghas: “Cad chuige a ndéanann tú sin?”	“Why dost thou do that?” said Fergus.
“ni anse” ar int abacc “fir fer linne in so.”	“Ní ansa,” arsan t-abhac, “cothrom na féinne é seo againne.”	“That,” said the dwarf, “is <u>[one of the rules of]</u> fair combat with us.”
is de ata inniu gabail ciche fer oculus a ngruaide	Is uaidh sin atá gabháil cíocha fear agus gabháil a ngruanna <u>mar nós</u> inniu	Hence comes today <u>[the custom of]</u> taking hold of men's breasts and cheeks
(Asberad araile dochuaid ogma lais gillae fergus dia roscar fria coin et reliqua)		
do chuinnche anacail oculus do denum fir dia inchaib et reliqua.	d'iarraidh anacail agus ag lorg cothrom na féinne dá bharr.	for the purpose of seeking quarter and making appeal (?) to their honour, etc.

(Deir daoine eile go ndeachaigh Oghma, giolla Fearghasa, ina theannta nuair a scar sé lena chú &rl).

(Some say that Ogma, Fergus's servant, went with him when he had parted from his hound, etc.)

Section 6

Laithe nann iarum

Lá áirithe ina dhiaidh sin

One day

admidair fergus fobairt locha rudraighe

thug Fearghas amas ar imeacht faoin uisce i Loch Rudhraí

Fergus essayed to pass under Loch Rudraige,

ocus facba(i)d a ara ocus a carpat for bru in locho.

agus fágann sé a ara agus a charbad ar bhruach an locha.

leaving his charioteer and his chariot on the brink of the loch.

A lluid fon loch

Nuair a chuaigh sé faoin loch

When he dived under the lake

con(f)aca[e] in muirdris and

chonaic sé muirdhris ann,

he saw there a *muirdris*,

peist uiscide uathmar.

míol uafar uisce,

a fearful water-monster

ala nuair rosraigid in uair naili nosnimairced amal bolg ngobenn.

a bhíodh á síneadh féin agus á crapadh féin gach re turas mar bhoilg gabhann.

which kept alternately inflating and contracting itself like a smith's bellows.

La diuderc do fuire

Nuair a d'fhéach sé uirthi,

At the sight of it

rosiapartha a beoil doa díb culadaib

síofradh a bheola siar do dtí a chúilfhéithe

his mouth was wrenched back as far as his occiput,

ocus doluid as for tir ar omon

agus tháinig sé i dtír as an uisce le heagla.

and he came out on land in terror.

ocus asbert fria araid

“cia cuimacci?”

“is olcc do gne” ol int ara

“acht nib lia.

berthi cotlud dit.”

la sodain danalaig int ara ina carpat

ocus contuil.

Section 7

cein contuilsium

teit int ara calleicc co gaotha ulath

batar i nemain macha

ocus inset doaib imthechta in rig

ocus a mbui fair.

friscomarca[i]r doaib

Dúirt sé lena ara:

“Conas a fhéachaim, dar leat?”

“Is olc é do dhealramh,” arsan t-ara,

“ach ní bheidh tú amhlaidh.

Bainfidh codladh díot é.”

Chuir an t-ara ina luí siar ansin é *ina charbad*

agus thit a chodladh air.

Fad a bhí sé ina chodladh

chuaigh an t-ara, idir an dá linn, go lucht gaoise Uladh

a bhí in Eamhain Mhacha

agus d’inis imeachta an rí dóibh

agus a raibh air.

D’fhiafraigh sé díobh

He said to his charioteer:

“How do I appear to thee?”

“Ill is thy aspect”, said the charioteer,

“but it will be nothing more (?);

sleep will take it from thee.”

Thereupon the charioteer laid him down *in his chariot*

and he fell asleep.

While he slept

the charioteer went in the meantime to the wise men of Ulster

who were [assembled] in Emain Macha

and told them of the king’s adventures

and his present condition.

He inquired of them

cia ri(g) nogebdaís tara eisi	cén rí a gheobhaidís ina dhiaidh	what king they would take in his stead,
ar nibud urusa ri co nainim i nemain.	mar níorbh fhurasta rí le hainimh a bheith in Eamhain.	since it would not be proper to have a blemished king in E. M.
Ba si comairle gaoth nulad	B'é comhairle lucht gaoise Uladh	The decision of the wise men of Ulster was
in ri do tuidecht dia tig	an rí a theacht abhaile	that the king should come to his house,
ocus glanadh ara cinn o cach doescurslua(i)g	agus gach daoscarshlua a ghlanadh ar shiúl roimhe	and that beforehand a clearance should be made of all the base folk
arna beth druth na hoinmid ann	le nach mbeadh amaid ná óinmhid ann	so that there should be neither fool nor half-wit therein
arna toirbeitis a ainme ina inchaib	le heagla go ndéanfaidís a ainimh a chasadh leis;	lest these should cast his blemish in the king's face;
ocus folcad faon do do gres	agus é á fholcadh i gcónaí ina luí faon	and further that he should always have his head washed while lying on his back
arnach aiced a scath i nuisciu.	chun nach bhfeicfeadh sé a scáth in uisce.	so that he might not see his shadow in the water.
dognith iarom a imcomet co leir co cend .uii. mbliadan.	Rinneadh é a aire go géar go ceann seacht mblian.	For seven years he was diligently guarded [<u>in this manner</u>].

Section 8

Laithe nann asbert fria cumail folcad do denam do.	Dúirt sé lena chumhal lá áirithe folcadh a thabhairt dó.	One day he told his bondmaid to wash his head.
ba mall leis didiu dogena[i] in ben in folcad.	Ba mhall leis, más ea, a rinne sí an folcadh.	Thinking that the woman was too slow in carrying out this,
dobertsom buille di co nechlaisc.	Bhuaíl sé í le heachlasc.	he gave her a blow with his whip.
gabsi tuirsi	Tháinig míshásamh uirthi	Resentment overcame her
ocus dobi a an(a)im fria enechsom.	agus chas sí a ainimh leis suas lena phus.	and she taunted him to his face with his blemish.
dobert builli ndi co claidem	Bhuaíl sé buille dá chlaíomh uirthi	He gave her a blow with his sword
co ndene di bloig di	agus rinne dhá leath di.	and cut her in two.
imeso. IAr suidiu	Ansin d'iompaigh ar a sháil	Thereupon he turned away
co luith fa(n) loch rudraidhi	agus d'imigh faoi Loch Rudhraí.	and went under Loch Rudraige;
laa co naidche rofich in loch	Bhí an loch ar coipeadh lá agus oíche	for a whole day and night the loch seethed
dib ocus in muirdris	dá bharr féin agus na muirdhrise	from <u>[the contest between]</u> him and the <i>muirdris</i> ,
co tigid a tonngar for tir.	i dtreo go dtagadh an tonnaíl ar talamh.	and the surge of its waves kept coming on to the land.

do(t)luidsiuim iarom co mbui forsan loch	Faoi dheireadh tháinig sé ar barr sa loch	Eventually he emerged on the surface of the loch,
ocus cend na piasta	le ceann na péiste,	<u>holding</u> the head of the monster,
conidnacatar ulaid	i dtreo go bhfaca Ulaidh é,	so that the Ulaid saw him,
ocus isbert friu	agus dúirt sé leo:	and he said to them:
“meisi is tiugba” olse.	“Mise a tháinig as beo,” ar sé.	“I am the survivor.”
focairt fai iarum marb	Thit sé síos marbh ansin.	Thereupon he sank down dead,
ocus ba derg in loch dib co c(o)enn mis.	Bhí an loch dearg uathu go ceann mí.	and for a whole month the loch remained red from [<u>the battle between</u>] them.

Section 9

Is desom rocet:

Fergus mac leidi in ri(g)
luid i fertus rudraigi
huath do[d]nارفas fa gann (n)gle
ba he fochond a ainme.

Is faoi sin a canadh:

Fearghas mac Léide, an rí,
Chuaigh ar fheartas Rudhraí,
Taibhsigh uafás dó, dian gleo,
Cúis a ainmhe ab ea é dó.

Of this was sung:

King Fergus, son of Léte
Went on the sandbank of Rudraige;
A horror which appeared to him — fierce was the conflict —
Was the cause of his disfigurement.

Section 10

Tír boíe (?) Chuind chéthhoraig
asa ngabtha ilbenna

bertai Fergus ferglethech
i ndígail a thromgreise
di guin Echach bélbuidi.
Brethae Dorn i n-ansoíri,
do cer inna firinni
seiches i ngnúis Fergus.
Ferais Fergus ferfhechtas
finech i lloch Rudraige
dia marbad i márchinta.

Taisic a tír immurgu
fo selba Cuind comorbae.

Tír ba le Conn an chéad conradh,
As ar tógadh mórán eallaigh (ina dhiaidh sin),

Ghlac Fergus F. seilbh air
I gcúiteamh ar shárú a einigh
Trí Eochu B. a mharú.
Tógadh Dorn i mbraighdeanas (chomh maith),
Cailleadh í i ngeall ar an bhfirinne
A nocht sí i ngnúis Fergus.
Chuaigh Fergus ar eachtra
Ina thír féin i Loch Rudraige,
Áit ar maraíodh trína chionta é.

Chuaigh an talamh i bhfrithdhílse, áfach,
Chuig oidhrí Chuind.

Land which belonged to Conn of the hundred treaties (?),
out of which many horned beasts (lit. ‘horns’) were
[afterwards] seized,

Fergus the manly warrior (?) took it
as atonement for the grievous outrage done to him
by the slaying of Eochu of the yellow lips.
Dorn was brought [by him] into captivity;
she perished on account of the truth
which she uttered in Fergus’s face.
Fergus made a manly incursion
into the tribal (?) Loch of Rudraige,
as a result of which he was killed for [his] grave
wrongdoing.

The land, however, reverted
to the estates of Conn’s heirs.