

## Feis tigh Chonáin

### The feast at Conán's house: Extracts

#### Note to the reader

While Joynt's edition is based on the version of this saga in the manuscript H. 4. 14 in Trinity College Dublin Library, she also gives alternative readings from two other manuscripts in the same library, H. 3. 18 (**H**) and H. 5. 4 (**H**<sup>3</sup>), as well as from the following manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy Library: 23 M 25 (**M**), 23 K 7 (**K**), 12 F 7 (**F**), 23 N 19 (**N**) and 23 L 39 (**L**). In this presentation, these alternative readings are included in the text. One other alternative reading is taken from UCC MS 96 (**U**).

### Fionn's names / The Leap of Breac Bládha (ll. 148-204)

#### Section 3 (ll. 148-204)

“Indeosad dhuit ámh,” ar Fionn.

“Inseoidh mé duit \*ámh\*,” arsa Fionn.

“I will tell you indeed,” said Fionn.

“Glas Díge [Glas Díoghuin **M**. Glais  
Dioghuinn **KFL**] mo c[h]éad-ainm agus  
Giolla an chuasáin m'ai[n]m 'na dhiaigh sin,

“Glas Díge mo chéad ainm agus Giolla an  
Chuasáin m'ainm ina dhiaidh sin.

“Glas Díge was my first name, and Giolla an  
Chuasáin ('Lad of the [Tree] Hollow') my  
name after that;

ocus ag Tioprait Crithirlinde [Crithne **NL** ( —  
na) **K**] do leathaoibh tshléibhe Smóil mic  
Eighleachair

Ag Tiobraid Chrithirlinne ar leataobh Shliabh  
Smóil \*mic Eidhleachair\*,

and it was at Tiobraid Chrithirlinne, by the  
side of Sliabh Smóil mic Eidhleachair

ar a dtugtar Sliabh Bladhma inniu,

[i.e. Sliabh Bladhma],

dorinni[u]s mo c[h]éad-shnámh	a rinneas mo chéad shnámh,	that I had my first swim;
ocus ag Dún mBrocna [dún buidhe (baoi <b>FL</b> ) theas risa ráightear dún an brogha a ndeisgert Eirionn <b>K</b> <i>et al.</i> ] dorindi[u]s mo c[h]éad- c[h]reach ariamh	agus is ag Dún Brocna a rinneas mo chéad chreach riamh	and it was at Dún mBrocna that I performed my first ever hunt:
.i. an p[r]easleacha [an phraslacha <b>MKFL</b> ] gona dá hén déig;	— *i. an* phraslacha gona dhá héan déag.	i.e. a teal with her twelve ducklings;
ocus is a[i]re lingim-si léim na Brice Bladha gacha bliadhna	Agus is ar a léimimse Léim na Brice Blá gach bliain,	and the reason for which I jump the leap of Breac Bladha every year:
.i. an céad-lá do scarus ré mo bhuime .i. ré Boghmuinn,	*i.* an chéad lá a scaras le mo bhuime, Bodhmann	i.e. the first day I parted from my foster mother, i.e. from Bodhmann ( <u>Bodhmall</u> )
arna marbadh do c[h]lannuibh Mórna,	— arna marú ag clanna Morna —	following her slaying by the sons of Morna
do gabhus seachrán sligheadh cugum co ránac co Luachair Deagh[adh] theas,	*do* ghabhas seachrán slí chugam go dtáinig go Luachair Deá ó dheas,	I went astray, until I reached Luachar Deaghadh in the south.
ocus mé am' óg-macaomh bhaoth éigiallaidhi and;	agus mé i m'ógmhacaomh baoth éigiallta *ansin*	And I was only a giddy, senseless young lad then;
ocus ní raibhe d' éadach umum an[n] acht beart do croicend óglaogh allaidh;	gan d' éadach orm *ansin* ach beart de chraiceann óg-lao allta	And I wore no other clothing then, but a garment of a young, wild fawn's hide;
[ocus do bhí ainim eile orm fán am sin, eadhon, Giolla na gCroiceann <b>U</b> ]	*agus do bhí ainm eile orm faoin am sin, eadhon, Giolla na gCroiceann*.	and I had another name by that time, i.e. Giolla na gCroiceann ('Lad of Skins').

ocus ní cian do c[h]uadhus an tan do concas an dá comhdáil,	Ní cian a chuas an t-am a chonaiceas an dá chomhdháil	And I was not wandering for long when I saw the two assemblies,
oireachtus fortamail fearamail fear agus oireachtus bind comráiteach ban [bheann <i>MS.</i> ],	— oireachtas fortúil fearúil fear is oireachtas binn comhráiteach ban —	— a powerful, manly gathering of men, and a melodiously chatty gathering of women —
ar dhá cnoc c[h]omárda re taobh a chéile,	ar dhá chnoc chomharda le taobh a chéile,	on two hills, of equal height, opposite each other,
ocus all dubh dua[i]bhseach domain gáibteach gráineamail etorro;	agus poll duibheagáin duaiseach domhain gáifeach gráiniúil eatarthu.	and a gloomy, dark, deep, perilous, horrible precipice between them.
ocus táinic misi an ua[i]r-sin mur a raibhe na mná ar tús	Thángas an uair sin mar a raibh na mná ar dtús,	And I came at first at that time to where the women were,
ocus do bheannaigeas dhóibh treasna déibh adharthae	bheannaíos dóibh trí na déithe adhartha	and I greeted them through the gods of pagan worship;
ocus d'fhiauraigheas créad má [ <i>leg. fá</i> ] roibhadur an dá c[h]omdáiil [ <i>condáiil MS.</i> ] sin leath ar leith 'mun all.	agus d'fhiafraíos díobh cén fáth a rabhadar an dá chomhdháil sin leath ar leath ar an aill.	and I enquired the reason why those two assemblies were side-by-side around the precipice.
Do innsidur na mná domh-sa gurab é an adhpur	D'insíodar na mná domsa gurbh é an fáth a bhí leis sin	The women informed me that the reason was
.i. go raibhe Séadna mac Oilealla [ <i>S. mac Cairill Chais (mic Criomhthainn, add ML) K</i> ] ann .i. mac rí Ciarraidhe Lu[a]chra,	go raibh Séanna mac Ailealla, mac rí Chiarraí Luachra *ann*,	that Séadna mac Ailealla., i.e. the son of the king of Kerry Luachra, was present

ocus oireachtus fearda fearamail fear ina t[h]iomcioll,	agus oireachtas fortúil fear ina thimpeall,	and a masculine, manly gathering of men surrounding him;
ocus go ttuc searc ocus siar-grádh d’Athnait inghean Dáire an Sídh [do Dhánait i. Dáire as Síth Dáire <b>K</b> ]	agus go dtug sé searc agus síorghrá d’Adhnait, iníon Dáire an tSí	and he gave his affection and enduring love to Athnait, daughter of Dáire of the Sídh
go bfuil an t-oireachtus ccomálaind [ <i>leg.</i> comálaind] binn-briathrach bhan-sa ina tiomcioll;	— a bhfuil an t-oireachtas comhálainn binnbhriathrach ban seo ina timpeall —	who is surrounded by the comely, melodiously-worded assembly of women;
ocus is í cobchi do iar[r] sí fair,	agus is í an aisce *a* d’iarr Adhnait air mar choibhche:	and the bride-price she required of him was
léim an aill-si do thabhai[r]t;	léim na haille seo a thabhairt.	to attempt to leap this precipice;
ocus thig gach[a] bliadhna ionn[a] coinde an[n] so [do] tabha[i]rt in léime;	Tagann sé gach bliain ina coinne anseo ag tabhairt na léime,	and he comes here every year in expectation of attempting the jump,
ocus in uair thionscnas í tabhairt	agus nuair a thionscnaíos í a thabhairt	and when he tries to make it
ocus thig go bruach an aill,	agus nuair a thagann go bruach na haille,	and he comes to the edge of the precipice
tillighidh tar [a] ais arís gan a léim do thabha[i]rt.	filleann sé ar ais arís gan a léim a thabhairt.	he returns again without accomplishing the leap.
Do fhiafraighi[u]s don ingin ’nar c[h]uma léi cé dobeireadh an léim.	D’fhiafraíos den iníon ar chuma léi cé a bhéarfadh an léim.	I enquired of the girl, if she cared who would accomplish the leap.

Adubhairt nár c[h]uma,	Adúirt sí gur chuma.	She said that she did not mind,
‘ocus cidh gránna h’eireadh-sa agus h’éadach ocus do c[h]ulaidh,	‘Cé gur gránna d’earra is d’éadach is do chulaith,’ <u>ar sí</u> ,	‘and however hideousness your apparel, your clothing and your attire are,
ocus ní do cháinead[h] do dheilbe féin é,	‘agus ní ag cáineadh do dheilbhe féin é,	it is not a criticism of my own appearance;
dá ttugteá in léim,	*dá dtugthá an léim,*	if I were to make the jump,
do bhiadh sisi agud agus do fuighfeadh leat.’	bhéinnse agat agus do luífinn leat.’	you would have her and she would lie with you.’
Arna chlos [sin] damh-sa	Arna chloisteáil sin domsa	After hearing that,
tugus lán-c[h]ruinughadh orm a meadhón mo c[h]roicinn	thugas lán-chruinniú orm féin i meán mo chraicinn,	I puckered myself in the midst of my skin,
ocus do scuchus ar mo c[h]úl ón aill	d’imíos ar mo chúl ón aill	and I moved backwards from the precipice,
ocus tucus dighrim reatha rind-luaithe doc[h]um an aill,	agus thugas rith reatha rinn-luath chun na haille,	and I took off running swiftly, at top-speed towards the precipice,
gur éirgeas co hárd-éadrom eaduruasach rum féin ós cionn an aill,	gur éiríos go hard-éadrom eadarbhuasach liom féin ós chionn an duibheagáin	so that I easily rose ( <u>jumped</u> ) soaringly over the precipice
gur turlingus ar taobh na tulcha don taobh thall don aill,	agus gur thuirlingíos ar an tulach taobh thall den aill.	so that I landed on the side of the hill on the other side of the precipice.
ocus do thillus a fritheing na conaire céadna arís cum an aill	D’fhilleas i bhfrithing na conaire céanna arís chun na haille,	I returned back by the same route to the precipice once more,

ocus tucus an léim tar mh'ais,	thugas an léim thar mh'ais	and I made the leap back,
ocus dobéaraínd ní ba mionca dámad áil liom féin.	agus *do* bhéarfainn ní ba mhinice í dá mba áil liom féin é.	and I could have accomplished [ <u>the jump</u> ] more often if I wished.
Arna fhaicsin [sin] d'Aithnait, táinic dom' ionnsaigh[e]-si	Arna fheiceáil sin d'Aidhnait, tháinig sí chugam,	After Aithnait seeing that, she approached me:
ocus [do] c[h]uir a lámh fom uráguít,	chuir a lámh faoi m'aghaidh	and she threw her arms about my neck,
ocus tuc teóra póg dam	agus thug teora póg dom.	and she gave me three kisses
ocus do bhain mo croi[c]end dhíom	*Agus do* bhain sí mo chraiceann díom ansin	and she stripped me of my hide,
ocus tug éadach mo diongmála dam umum,	agus thug éadach mo dhiongbhála dom.	and she gave me clothing more fitting of me to put on;
ocus do chuadhas léi dá teigh an oidhche sin	Chuas léi chun a tí an oíche sin	and I went with her to her house that night
ocus do éirgheas co moch arna uhárach.	agus d'éiríos go moch arna mhárach.	and I arose early the next morning.
Táinic sisi cugam oculus do iair aiscidh maidne [mainde MS.] orum	Tháinig sise chugam agus d'iarr aisce mhaidine orm:	She came to me and asked a 'morning request' of me:
.i. an léim-si do t[h]abha[i]rt gach[a] bliadhna;	*.i.* an léim sin a thabhairt gach bliain.	i.e. to perform this leap every year;
ocus tugus sin dí;	Thugas sin di	and I obliged her thus;
ocus do fhág mur geasuibh orm,	agus d'fhág sí mar gheasa orm,	and she bound me by <i>gessa</i> ('binding injunctions'),

an bliadha[i]n nach ttiurain[n] hé,

éag nó oigheadh d'f[h]agáil damh.

Agus is iad sin scéala d'f[h]iarfaigis díom, a C[h]onán,” for Fionn.

an bhliain nach dtabharfainn an léim,

éag nó oidhe a fháil.

Agus is iad sin na scéalta a d'fhiafraís díom, a Chonáin,” arsa Fionn.

the year I would fail to accomplish the jump

I would die, or murder would befall me.

And these are the stories that you requested of me, oh Conán,” said Fionn.