

# Orgguin trí mac Diarmata mic Cerbaill

## The Death of the Three Sons of Diarmait son of Cerrbél

### Section 1

Do-lotar meic Diarmata meic Fergusa  
Cearrbeoil fechtus n-aili

hi tir Laigen for creich

conas táraigh Maelodrán hua Díma Chróin.

Do-ratsat meic Diarmata con rubatar, uair dia  
cois ro boí,

uair ní tárraid a gabair ó deoraid (.i. ón gilla).

Luid-side didiu for in ngabar dia tárachtain-seom.

Ro reith in gabar fon sluagh

co rubad in gilla.

Aon uair amháin, do chuaigh mic Dhíarmada  
mhic Fhearghasa Clearbháill

i gcrích Laighean ar chreich.

Thángadar ar Mhaolodhrán mac Dhíoma  
Chróin

agus do chuadar go díochra chuige. Is dá chois  
a bhí sé,

mar ní raibh sé d'uain aige a chapall d'fháil  
óna ghiolla.

Do tháinig seisean, áfach, ar a chapall féin dá  
theasargan.

Do rith an capall ar measc an tslua

i dtreo gur maraíodh an giolla.

Once, the sons of Diarmait son of Fergus  
Cerrbél

went on a raid into the land of Leinster

and they came upon Maelodrán, descendant of  
Dímmæ Crón.

The sons of Diarmait bore down on  
Maelodrán who was on foot

as he could not get his horse from his servant.

This boy then mounted the horse to take it to  
Maelodrán \*to protect him\*.

It charged into the host

and the boy was slain.

Do·scind dano in gabar  
fo gairm Maelodrán,  
conid ro gab a taeb friss  
iar fácbál in gilla.

Leis sin, do scinn an capall,  
nuair do ghlaoigh Maolodhrán air,  
agus do sheas taobh leis,  
tar éis an ghiolla d'fhágáil.

Then, at the call of Maelodrán,

the horse,  
leaving the boy behind,  
leaped over

and proffered its flank to Maelodrán.

Gabthi dano Maelodrán for a gabur  
ocus cotn·amaisc ar in sluag  
ocus do·beir tofonn foraib.

Seo le Maolodhrán de léim in airde ar mhuin  
an chapaill  
agus do chuaigh ar measc an tslua  
agus do thug tafann orthu.

Then Maelodrán threw himself on the horse,  
bewildering the host,  
and he began to hunt them down.

## Section 2

Ro ráthatar meicc Diarmata riam dochum in  
muilind

co ndecharat co mbátar im carr in muilinn  
isin fothigh.

Do-luid chucu iarson fothigh.

Ro boí caillech ic blith isin mulend.

Ad-raí a nguin la toescad in muilinn.

“Léc aire, a chaillech, léc aire!” ar  
Maelodrán.

Dos-comart trá uman mol, ar bátar occai ind  
fir,

co torchratar leis trí meic rígh Héireann .i. trí  
meic Diarmata,

dia n-ebairt Ultán:

Do rith mic Dhiarmada roimhe chun an  
mhuilinn.

Do chuadar isteach agus do shocraíodar iad féin  
um charr an muilinn san íoslach.

Tháinig sé chucu chun an íoslaigh.

Bhí seanbhean chríonna ag meilt sa mhuiileann.

Níor mhaith léi iad do mharú le fáscadh an  
mhuilinn.

“Scaoil leis, scooil leis, a chailligh!” ar  
Maolodhrán.

Do fáisceadh um an mol mar sin na fir óga,

gur maraíodh trí mhac rí Éireann leis, trí mhac  
Dhiarmada.

Is ina dtaobh sin adúirt Ultán:

The sons of Diarmait ran before Maelodrán  
towards a mill

until they were at the side of the mill-shaft in  
the lower house.

Maelodrán came alongside the lower house  
towards them.

There was an old woman grinding at the mill.

She did not want the men to die with the  
pressing of the beam.

“Let it go, \*let it go,\* old woman!” Maelodrán  
said.

They were crushed then upon the beam, as it  
was against them,

and the three sons of the King of Ireland \*,  
Diarmait’s three sons,\* perished there at the  
hands of Maelodrán,

concerning which it is said \*by Ultán\*:

“A muilinn  
ro milt anba di thuirinn;  
níba comelt for serbainn  
a ro milt for uíbh Cerbaill.

In grán meles in mulend  
ní corca acht dergthuirend;  
ba do géscaib in crainn máir  
fotha muilind Maelodráin.”

“A mhuilinn  
do dheinis-se mó-r-chuid cruithneachta do mheilt  
ach níorbh aon mheilt choirce do dheinis  
nuair do mheilis ói Cearbhaill.

An grán a mheileann an muileann  
ní coirce é ach dearg-chruithneacht.  
Ba de ghéagaibh an chrainn mhóir  
an bia a tugadh do mhuileann Mhaolodhráin.”

“O water-mill,  
many grains of wheat you have ground  
but it was no crushing of oats,  
the crushing Cerrbél’s grandsons found.

What the mill grinds is seed,  
not of oats but of red wheat.  
From the branches of the famous tree  
came the grist to the mill of Maelodrán.”

### Section 3

Do-luid Diarmait fessin fecht n-aili do dígail a  
macc for Laidinu,

cu mboí ic Loch Gabur co feraib Éirenn imbi.

Ocus at·rub(air)airt do·bérad slán fri Laidinu

ar Moelodrán do tidlacan dó i ngiallcertai.

As·bertatar Laigin amal bidh a haengen  
ná tidnastis

Ina dhiaidh sin do chuaigh Diarmaid féin ag  
dioghail a mhac ar Laighnibh

agus do shrois sé Loch Gabhar agus fir  
Éireann uime ann.

Adúirt sé go dtabharfad sé lán-mhaithiúnas  
do Laighnigh

ar Mhaolodhrán do thabhairt suas chuige ina  
ghíall.

Adúradar Laighnigh, agus ba ghuth as béal  
aoinfhir é,

ná tabharfaidís é uathu,

Then Diarmait \*himself\* came to avenge his  
sons upon the Leinstermen.

He was at Loch Gabur with the men of Ireland  
all around him.

Diarmait said that he would grant immunity to  
the Leinstermen

in return for the surrender to him of  
Maelodrán as a hostage.

The Leinstermen replied \*as one man\*  
that they would not surrender him

ce no marbdaiss.

dá mba rud é go marófaí féin iad.

even though they should all be killed because of it.

No bíth Maelodrán coa mbrostad dia tignaccal.

Do bhíodh Maolodhrán á mbrostú chun é féin do thabhairt suas.

Maelodrán, however, was urging them to surrender him.

“Menum thuaid-se

“Muna dtugaidh sibh suas mé,

“\*If you do not surrender me,\*

ragh-sa m’oenar

raghad féin im aonar

I shall go alone,” he said,

ocus ní bia slán dúib-si do[m] chinn-sa.”

agus ní slán a bheidh sibhse dá chionn sin.”

“and there will be no immunity for you on my account.”

#### Section 4

Ba fir ón.

Agus dob fhíor dó.

That fell so.

Luig-sium

D’imigh sé leis

Maelodrán departed

co mboí issint sluagh for brú Innsi Locho Gabur.

go dtí go raibh sé ar measc an tslua úd a bhí ar bhruach Inse Locha Gabhar.

and he came upon the host on the shore of the island of \*Loch\* Gabur.

Lottur in rí[g] do ól co mbátar issin innsi.

Do bhí na ríthe imithe isteach ar an inis ag ól.

The kings had gone for a ceremonial drink and they were on the island.

Anaid-sium chaidhти forsin phurt.

D’fhan seisean go hoíche ag an bport.

Maelodrán waited at the landing-place until dusk.

Antar dono don immramh.

Ar ball éiríodh as an iomramh.

The rowing came to an end \*then\*.

Téit-sium issin lestar

ocus luid-sium issin n-innsi.

Con-tolat in rígh.

Boí-sium fri dorus in rígtighe.

Luid dano Diarmait amach oenar

do dhul for áinsuide

cen fis do neoch,

co comarnaicc fri Moelodrán i nddorus ind  
tighi.

Do chuaigh seisean san gcoite,

agus siúd chun na hinse é.

Do bhí na ríthe ina gcodladh

agus d'fhan seisean ar dhoras an ríthí.

Cé thiocfadh amach ina aonar ach Diarmaid.

I ngan fhios do chách

do bhual sé amach d'fhoínn suí.

He got into the boat.

He came to the island.

The kings were sleeping.

He remained at the door of the royal dwelling.

Without anyone knowing of it,

\*then\* Diarmait came out alone

to go and bend his knees

and there he met Maelodrán at the door of the  
house.

## Section 5

“Toboing dlaí lat dam,” ar Diarmait.

“Tó immorro,” ar Maelodrán.

Do·beir téora dlaii doo:

dloí di úrnenaigh,

ocus dlaí do fomthonn

ocus dlaí do athrathai luaid.

“Ac so at láim mo cloigem,” ar Diarmoit.

Ro ngab Maelodrán.

“Fé frit, a gilla!” ar Diarmait,

“rom goin dlaí, rom loisc dlaí, rom tesc dlaí.

Amai, a gilla, cia h'ainm[-siu]?”

“Ním ragbais fri baithis samlaid

“Tabhair dlaoi chugham,” ar Diarmaid.

“Tá go maith,” ar Maolodhrán.

Do thug dlaoi chuige trí huairé:

dlaoi de neantóga úra

is dlaoi d'fheochadáin

is dlaoi de athraithneach.

“Seo mo chláiomh duit,” ar Diarmaid.

Do thóg Maolodhrán é.

“Ach, mo léir!” ar Diarmaid,

“do ghoin dlaoi mé, do loisc dlaoi mé, do  
ghearr dlaoi mé.

Cé hé túsa?” ar sé.

“An ám shéanadh, mar dhea gur strainséir mé,  
ataoi?

Ní id bhaclainn a bhíos agus mé ám baisteadh

“Fetch me a leaf,” Diarmait said to him.

“Certainly I shall,” replied Maelodrán.

\*He passed three handfuls to him:

a handful of fresh nettles,

a handful of thistles

and a handful of old fern.\*

“Here is my sword,” Diarmait said.

Maelodrán took it.

“Alas!

\*a leaf has pierced me, a leaf has stung me, a  
leaf has cut me\*.

Who are you?” asked Diarmait.

“Are you making a stranger of me?” he  
replied.

\*“I wasn’t in your arms when I was being  
baptised,

in tan (ní)nád aithgén mo ainm.

Nó in fuil ainm n-aile lat dam and ná ráithfi?

Maelodrán ua Díma Chrón sund, di  
Scorbraige Lagen,

iar marbad do mac

ocus do béin do cind dít fesin ind-or-so”

— la gabáil a cind chucaí.

“Do riар duit, a Maelodráin,” ar Diarmait.

“Do riар-sa uaim-si dano,” ar Maelodrán.

Tiagait dib línaib iar córa issin tech.

“Tair-siu edrum ocus crann, a Maelodráin,” ar  
Diarmait.

agus a rá ná haithníonn tú mé.

Nó an bhfuil ainm eile agat orm nach ndéarfá?

Maolodhrán mac Dhíoma Chrón de  
Scorbraighe Laighean atá anseo agat,

an té úd do dhein do mhic a mharú,

agus chun do chinn do bhaint díot féin is ea  
thánaganois,”

agus do rug ar cheann air agus do tharraing  
chuige é.

“Do riар duit, a Mhaolodhráin,” ar Diarmaid.

“Do riар uaimse dhuitse, más ea,” ar  
Maolodhrán.

Siúd isteach sa tigh iad ar aon le chéile tar éis  
siocháin a dhéanamh eatarthu.

“Tarsa eadram agus an crann, a  
Mhaolodhráin,” ar Diarmaid.

that you don’t recognize me.

Have you another name for me which you will  
not say?\*

It is Maelodrán descendant of Dímmae Crón  
\*of the Scorbraige of Leinster\*:

he who, having slain your sons,

will now strike off your head,” Maelodrán said

drawing the head of the king towards him.

“I am entirely at your will, Maelodrán,”  
Diarmait said.

“Then you shall have your will from me,”  
Maelodrán replied.

They entered the house together \*after making  
peace\*.

“Go between me and the timber, Maelodrán,”  
Diarmait said.

## Section 6

Amail do·chuaid Maelodrán issin n-imdaid,

ro gési a brú na mná .i. Mugain

ingen Chonchraíd máthair chlainne Diarmata.

“Fé amai!” ar in ben, “cid erchóit do·taed issin n-imdai[d]?”

“Fear do·rat ríghi duit-siu, a bhen,” ar Diarmait,

“.i. Maelodrán hua Díma Chróin.”

“Maith in loech,” ar in ben, “atta·chualumar.

Cóir gním dó nárot geogna a mbaegal ocus rot anacht.

Nuair do bhí Maolodhrán ag dul isteach sa tseomra,

do ligeadh géis as broinn na mná, .i. Mughain,

iníon Chonchraíd, máthair chlainne Diarmada.

“Ologón ó!” ar an bhean, “cá díobháil atá ag teacht sa tseomra?”

“Fear do thug ríonacht duitse, a bhean,” ar Diarmaid,

“.i. Maolodhrán mac Dhíoma Chróin.”

Agus ansin d'inis sé di mar do casadh air é agus mar do fuair Maolodhrán faill air agus nár mhairbh é.

“Bua leis mar laoch,” ar sí. “Is maith an fear é agus ar chualamar ina thaobh.”

“Is cóir an gníomh dó a rá nár mhairbh sé thusa agus tú i mbaol agus mar do dhein sé thí theasargan.

As Maelodrán entered the chamber

there was a shriek from the womb of Diarmait's wife, Mugain

daughter of Conchrad, son of Duí, the mother of Diarmait's children.

“Alas!” the woman cried, “What demon has entered the room?”

“A man who has granted you the queenship of Ireland, wife,” Diarmait said,

“and he is Maelodrán son of Dímmæ Crón.”

\*And then he told her how they had met and how Maelodrán had caught him unawares and had not killed him.\*

“Well now,” the woman said, “he is a good warrior

to have spared the one he has wounded.

Ro mbia-som lógh in anacail, ar is ferr in-dás  
in guin.”

“Cid do-génam di sund?” ar Diarmait,

“ar níro ansem in fer ar in sluag.”

“Ní ansa,” ar si-si.

“Celtair Maelodrán;

con-gairther iarum ar ríg ocus ar ruirigh ar  
aenaib chuconn,

ocus nascar foesam Moelodráin forru

amal bid chuconn dáladh.”

Agus beidh aige luach saothair an anacail sin,  
mar is fearr sin ná a mharú.”

“Cad a dhéanfaimid ina thaobh sin?” ar  
Diarmaid,

“mar ní bheidh ar ár gcumas an fear d'anacal  
ar an slua.”

“Ná bíodh aon cheist ort ina thaobh sin,” ar  
sise.

“Cuirtear Maolodhrán faoi cheilt  
agus ansin glaotar chugainn ar thíre is ar  
ruirigh, ina nduine agus ina nduine,

agus nasctar faoiseamh Mhaolodráin orthu,

faoi mar ba chughainn a thabharfaí é.”

He will have his ransom, then, \*for sparing  
you,\* for that is better than to kill him.”

“What is to be done about it now?” Diarmait  
asked,

“We cannot protect the man from the host.”

“It is no difficult matter,” the woman replied.

“\*Let Maelodrán be hidden.\*

Let the kings \*and chiefs\* be summoned  
\*then in turn\* for a ceremonial drink

and let each one in turn be pledged to protect  
Maelodrán

\*, just as protection would be given to us\*.”

## Section 7

Do·gníther,

cu mbátar a láma uile taris resiu matain beth.

Is amalaid dono do·cu[a]id-sium cu Laigniu ar  
a b[ár]ach

ocus deceelt chorcra corratarach Diarmata co  
ndelg óir

acus a dí gabair cona n-allaiib ocus a mullán  
óir derc araib sechta.

Cor immorro ocus faesam ríg Hérenn

i. Diarmata mic Fergus[a] Cearrbeoil fair-  
sium.

Ocus as é ba cathmílid ocus ba tuairgnid catha  
la Diarmait ó sin.

Finit.

Agus sin mar a deineadh,

i dtreo go raibh a lámha uile thairis roimh  
mhaidin.

Agus ansin is amhaidh d'imigh seisean go  
Laighnibh arna mhárach

agus éide chorcra chortharach Dhiarmada  
uime agus a dhealg ór,

agus a dhá chapall lena srianaibh agus lena  
mullánaibh dearg-óir ar an taobh amuigh.

Ina theannta sin, bhí comhaontú agus  
faoiseamh rí Éireann,

Dhiarmada mhic Fhearghasa Cheapbháill,  
airsean.

Agus as sin amach dob é cathmhíle agus  
tuairgní catha Dhiarmada é.

*Finit.*

That was done

and so the hands of all were pledged to protect  
Maelodrán before dawn.

In this way, then, Maelodrán returned to  
Leinster \*the following day,\*

wearing a \*fringed, purple\* robe of Diarmait  
and its \*golden\* brooch

and with \*his\* two horses with their golden  
bridles \*and ornaments of red gold on the  
outside\*.

\*Moreover, he had the agreement and  
protection of the king of Ireland,

Diarmait son of Fergus Cerrbél.\*

And from that time forth Maelodrán was  
Diarmait's battle-chief \*and battle-smiter\*.

\**Finit.*\*