

Táin Bó Cúalnge

The Cattle-raid of Cooley: Extracts

Note to the reader

While O’Rahilly’s edition is based on the version of the saga in the Book of Leinster (**LL**), she frequently makes reference in her footnotes to versions of the saga in other manuscripts: **LU** = Lebor na hUidre, **YBL** = Yellow Book of Lecan, **C** = O’Curry MS. I, **St** = RIA MS. C vi 3 (formerly in the Stowe Collection), **Eg.** = Egerton 93, **H** = **H 2. 17**. Other references in these footnotes include **Rec. III** = Recension III of TBC in Eg. and H 2.17; *Dipl. Edn.* = Diplomatic Edition of LL (Vol. II 1956), *Windisch* = Windisch’s edition of TBC from LL and *Facs.* = RIA Facsimile of LL. In this presentation, these footnotes are incorporated into the Medieval Irish text.

The pillow-talk held by Ailill and Medb (ll. 1-278)

Section 1 (ll. 1-146)

Section 1.1 (ll. 1-54)

| Incipit Táin Bó Cúalnge | *Táin Bó Cuailnge anseo síos* | Here begins Táin Bó Cúalnge |
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| Fec[h]t n-óen | Feacht n-aon | Once upon a time |
| do Ailill ocus do Meidb | | it befell Ailill and Medb that, |
| íar ndérgud a rígleptha dóib i Crúachanráith Chonnacht, | dá raibh a leaba ríoga cóirithe dóibh i ráth Chruachan Chonnacht | when their royal bed had been prepared for them in Ráth Crúachain in Connacht, |
| arream comrád chind cherchaili eturru. | tharla comhrá cinn chearchaille | they spoke together as they lay on their pillow. |

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| | idir Ailill agus Meadhbh. | |
| “Fírbriathar, a ingen,” bar Ailill, “is maith ben ben dagfhir.” | “Is fíorbhriathar é a ’níon ó” arsa Ailill, “is maith an bhean bean dea-fhir”. | “In truth, woman,” said Ailill, “she is a well-off woman who is the wife of a nobleman.” |
| “Maith omm,” bar ind ingen, “cid dia tá lat-su ón?” | “Is maith cheana” arsa an iníon, “ach cén fáth duit sin a rá?” | “She is indeed,” said the woman. “Why do you think so?” |
| “Is de atá lim,” bar Ailill, “ar it ferr-su indiu indá in lá thucus-sa thú.” | “Tá,” arsa Ailill, “gur fearr tusa inniu ná an lá a thógas-sa thú.” | “I think so,” said Ailill, “because you are better off today than when I married you.” |
| “Ba maith-se remut,” ar Medb. | “Ba mhaith mise romhat,” arsa Meadhbh. | “I was well-off before (<u>marrying</u>) you,” said Medb. |
| “Is maith nach cúalammar agus nach fetammar,” ar Ailill, | “Is maith é nár chualamar agus nár bh eol dúinn,” arsa Ailill, | “It was wealth that we had not heard of and did not know of,” said Ailill, |
| “acht do bith-siu ar bantincur mnáa | “ach tú a bheith ar bantionchar mná | “but you were a woman of property |
| ocus bidba na crích ba nessom duit | agus naimhde na gcríoch ba neasa duit | and foes from lands next to you |
| oc breith do shlait agus do chrech i fúatach úait.” | ag breith do shlad agus do chreach i bhfuadach uait.” | were carrying off spoils and booty from you.” |
| “Ní samlaid bá-sa,” ar Medb, | “Ní amhlaidh sin a bhíos-sa,” arsa Meadhbh, | “Not so was I,” said Medb, |
| “acht m’athair i n-ardrígi Hérend | “ach m’athair in ardríochas Éireann | “but my father was in the high-kingship of Ireland, |
| .i. Eocho Feidlech mac Find | .i. Eochaidh Feidhleach mac Fhinn | namely Eochu Feidlech mac Find |

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| meic Findomain meic Findeoin | mhic Fhinndomhain mhic Fhinneoin | meic Findomain meic Findeoin |
| meic Findguill meic Rotha | mhic Fhinnguill mhic Rotha | meic Findguill meic Rotha |
| meic Rigéoin meic Blathachta | mhic Righeoin mhic Bhlathachta | meic Rigéoin meic Blathachta |
| meic Beothechta meic Enna Agnig | mhic Bheotheachta mhic Eana Agnuigh | meic Beothechta meic Enna Agnig |
| meic Óengusa Turbig. | mhic Oenghusa Turbhaigh. | meic Óengusa Turbig. |
| Bátar aice sé ingena d'ingenaib: Derbriu, Ethí [Ethne St , <i>sic leg.</i>] agus Éle, Clothru, Mugain, Medb. | Bhí seisear iníon aige, Deirbhre, Eithne, Éile, Clothra, Mughain, Meadhbh. | He had six daughters: Derbriu, Ethne and Éle, Clothru, Mugain and Medb. |
| Messi ba úasliu agus ba urraitiu díb. | Mise ab uaisle agus ab oirirce díobh. | I was the noblest and worthiest of them. |
| Bam-sa ferr im rath agus tidnacul díb. | Mé ab fhearr féile agus tíodhlacadh díobh. | I was the most generous of them in bounty and the bestowal of gifts. |
| Bam-sa ferr im chath agus comrac agus comlund díb. | Mé ab fhearr díobh um chath agus um chomhrac agus chomhlann. | I was best of them in battle and fight and combat. |
| Is acum bátar cóic cét déc rígamus do maccaib deórad dar tír | Is agam a bhí cúig chéad déag rí-amhas de mhic deoraithe thar tír | I had fifteen hundred royal mercenaries of the sons of strangers exiled from their own land |
| agus a chomméit n-aill do maccaib aurrad ar medón, | agus an oiread céanna de mhic shaorfhír na tíre | and as many of the sons of native freemen within the province. |
| agus dechenbor cach amuis díbside, | agus deichniúr in aghaidh gach amhais díobhsan | And there were ten men for each mercenary of these, |

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| [ocus nónmair la cec[h] n-amhus <i>add. St</i>], | *agus naonúr le gach amhas* | [and nine men for every mercenary] [<i>following St</i>], |
| ocus ochtúr ri cach n-amus, | agus ochtar le gach amhas | and eight men for every mercenary, |
| ocus mórfessiúr cach amuis, | agus mórsheiseár in aghaidh gach amhais | and seven for every mercenary, |
| ocus sessiúr cach amais, | agus seisear in aghaidh gach amhais | and six for every mercenary, |
| ocus cóicfhiúr cach amuis, | agus cúigear in aghaidh gach amhais, | and five for every mercenary, |
| [ocus cethrar cecha hamuis <i>add. St</i>], | *agus ceathrar in aghaidh gach amhais* | [and four for every mercenary] [<i>following St</i>] |
| ocus triúr ri cach n-amus, | agus triúr le gach amhas | and three for every mercenary, |
| ocus días cach amuis, | agus beirt le gach amhas | and two for every mercenary, |
| amus cach amuis. | agus amhas le gach amhas. | and one mercenary for every mercenary. |
| Bátar ocom sain ri gnáthteglach,” ar Medb, | Bhí siad sin agam mar gnáth-theaghlach,” arsa Meadhbh, | I had these as my standing household,” said Medb, |
| “conid aire dobert m’athair cúiced de chóicedaib Hérend dam | “agus is uime sin a thug m’athair cúige de chúigí Éireann dom, | “and for that reason my father gave me one of the provinces of Ireland, |
| .i. cóiced Crúachna. | is é sin, cúige Cruachna. | namely, the province of Crúachu. |
| Conid de asberar Medb Chrúachna frim. | Is uime sin a thugtar Meadhbh Chruachna orm. | Whence I am called Medb Chrúachna. |

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| Táncas ó Fhind mac Rosa Rúaid rí Lagen dom chungid-sa | Thángthas ó Fhionn mac Rosa Rua, rí Laighean, do m'iarraidhse | Messengers came from Find mac Rosa Rúaid, the King of Leinster, to sue for me, |
| ocus ó Chairpriu Nia Fer mac Rosa rí Temrach, | agus ó Chairbre Nia Fear mac Rosa, rí Teamhrach | and from Cairbre Nia Fer mac Rosa, the King of Tara, |
| ocus táncas ó Chonchobur mac Fhachtna rí Ulad, | agus thángthas ó Chonchobhar mac Fhachtna, rí Uladh, | and they came from Conchobor mac Fachtna, the King of Ulster, |
| [ocus] táncas ó Eochaid Bic. | agus thángthas ó Eochaidh Beag. | and they came from Eochu Bec. |
| Ocus ní dechad-sa, | Agus ní dheachaigh mise | But I consented not, |
| dáig is mé ra chunnig in coibchi n-ingnaid | mar is mé a d'iarr an choibhche neamhgnách | for I demanded a strange bride-gift |
| nára chunnig ben ríam remom ar fer d'fheraib Hérend | nár iarr bean riamh romham ar fhear d'fhir Éireann, | such as no woman before me had asked of a man of the men of Ireland, |
| .i. fer cen neóit, cen ét, cen omon. | is é sin, fear gan neoid, gan éad, gan eagla. | to wit, a husband without meanness, without jealousy, without fear. |
| Diambad neóit in fer 'gá mbeind, | Dá mbeadh an fear agá mbeinn neoid | If my husband should be mean, |
| níbad chomadas dún beith maróen | níor chóir dúinn a bheith le chéile | it would not be fitting for us to be together, |
| fo bíth am maith-se im rath ocus tidnacul, | mar is maith mise um fhéile agus thíodhlacadh | for I am generous in largesse and the bestowal of gifts |
| ocus bad cháined dom fhir | agus ba cháineadh do m'fhear | and it would be a reproach for my husband |

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| combadim ferr-sa im rath secha, | mise a bheith níos fearr féile ná é | that I should be better than he in generosity, |
| ocus níbad cháined immorro | agus níorbh aon cháineadh é *áfach* | but it would be no reproach |
| combar commaithe acht combadar maithe díb línaib. | dá mbeimis ar aon fheabhas ach sinn araon a bheith maith. | if we were equally generous provided that both of us were generous. |
| Diambad úamain m'fher, | Dá mbeadh m'fhear eaglach | If my husband were timorous, |
| ní mó bad chomdas dún beith maróen, | ní mó ba chuí dúinn a bheith le chéile | neither would it be fitting for us to be together, |
| úair brissim-sea catha agus cumlenga agus congala m'óenur, | óir brisimse cathanna agus comhlainn agus comhraic i m'aonar | for single-handed I am victorious in battles and contests and combats, |
| ocus bad cháined dom fhir | agus ba cháineadh do m'fhear | and it would be a reproach to my husband |
| combad beódu a ben indá | dá mba bheoga a bhean ná é | that his wife should be more courageous than he, |
| ocus ní cáined | agus níor aon cháineadh é | but it is no reproach |
| a mbeith combeóda acht combat beóda díb línaib. | sinn a bheith ar chomhbheogacht ach go mbeimis araon beoga. | if they are equally courageous provided that both are courageous. |
| Dámbad étaid in fer 'cá mbeind, | Dá mba éadmhar an fear agá mbeinn | If the man with whom I should be were jealous, |
| níbad chomdas béus, | níor chóir é ach an oiread, | neither would it be fitting, |

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| dáig ní raba-sa ríam can fher ar scáth araile ocum. | mar ní raibh mise riamh gan fear ar scáth a chéile agam. | for I was never without one lover quickly succeeding another [<i>lit.</i> without a man in the shadow of another]. |
| Fuarusa dano in fer sain .i. tussu .i. Ailill mac Rosa Rúaid do Lagnib. | Fuair mise an fear sin áfach, is é sin tusa, Ailill mac Rosa Rua de Laighne. | Now such a husband have I got, even you, Ailill mac Rosa Rúaid of Leinster. |
| Nírsat neóit, nírsat étaid, nírsat déaith. | Níl tú neoid, níl tú éadmhar, ní tú neamhbheoga. | You are not niggardly, you are not jealous, you are not inactive. |
| Tucusa cor ocus coibchi duit amal as dech téit do mnaí | Thug mise cor agus coibhche duit mar is fearr a thagann do bhean, | I gave you a contract and a bride-price as befits a woman, |
| .i. timthach dá fher déc d'étuch, | is é sin, tiomthacht dáréag d'éadach, | namely, the raiment of twelve men, |
| carpat trí secht cumal, | carbad (<u>ab fhiú</u>) trí sheacht gcumhal, | a chariot <u>worth</u> thrice seven <i>cumala</i> , |
| comlethet t'aigthi do dergór, | leithead d'aghaidhe de dheargór | the breadth of your face in red gold, |
| comthrom do riged clí do fhinddruini. | agus cothrom do rí clé d'fhionndruine. | the weight of your left arm in white bronze. |
| Cipé imress méla ocus mertain ocus meraigecht fort, | Cibé a imreann méala nó meirtne nó mearbhall ortsa | Whoever brings shame and annoyance and confusion on you, |
| ní fhuil díri nó eneclann duit-siu ind acht na fil dam-sa," ar Medb, | níl éiric ná eineachlann duitse ann ach a bhfuil domsa," arsa Meadhbh, | you have no claim for compensation or for honour-price for it except what claim I have," said Medb, |
| "dáig fer ar tincur mná atatchomnaic." | "mar is fear ar tionchar mná atá ionat." | "for you are a man dependent on a woman's marriage-portion." |

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| “Ní amlaid sin bá-sa,” ar Ailill, “acht dá bráthair limm, | “Ní amhlaidh sin a bhíos-sa,” arsa Ailill, “ach beirt deartháir liom, | “Not so was I,” said Ailill, “but I had two brothers, |
| fer díb for Temraig agus fer for Lagnib | fear díobh ar Teamhair agus fear ar Laighne, | one of them reigning over Tara, the other over Leinster, |
| .i. Find for Lagnib agus Carpre for Temraig. | is é sin, Fionn ar Laighne agus Cairbre ar Teamhair. | namely, Find over Leinster and Cairbre over Tara. |
| Léicsius rígi dóib ara sinsirecht | Lig mise ríochas dóibh i dtaobh a sinsireachta | I left the rule to them because of their seniority |
| ocus níp [<i>sic. read níptar</i>] ferra im rath nó thidnacul andú-sa, | agus níorbh fhearr um fhéile ná thíodhlacadh iad ná mise, | but they were no better in bounty and the bestowal of gifts than I. |
| ocus ní chúala chúiced i nHérind ar bantinchur | agus níor chuala cúige in Éirinn a bheith ar bantionchar | And I heard of no province in Ireland dependent on a woman |
| acht in cúiced sa a óenur. | ach an cúige seo amháin. | except this province alone, |
| Tánac-sa dano, gabsus rígi sund i tunachus [a dualgus St] mo máthar, | Thánga mar sin agus ghabh mé ríochas anseo i gceart mo mháthar | so I came and assumed the kingship here in virtue of my mother’s rights [<i>following St</i>], |
| dáig ar bíth Máta Murisc ingen Mágach mo máthair, | mar ba í Máta Muirisc iníon Mágach mo mháthair | for Máta Muirisc the daughter of Mága was my mother. |
| ocus gia ferr dam-sa rígan no biad ocum andaí-siu, | agus cá fearr domsa ríon a bheadh agam ná tusa | And what better queen could I have than you, |

dáig ingen ardríg Hérend atatchomnaic.”

mar is iníon Ardrí Éireann tú.”

for you are the daughter of the high-king of Ireland.”

“Atá dano,” ar Medb, “is lia mo maith-sea indá do maith-siu.”

“Mar sin féin,” arsa Meadhbh, “is mó mo mhaithsa ná do mhaithsa.”

“Nevertheless,” said Medb, “my property is greater than yours.”

“Is ingnad linni anísin,” ar Ailill,

“Is ionadh liom sin,” arsa Ailill,

“I marvel at that,” said Ailill,

“ar ní fhil nech is lia seóit agus moíne agus indmassa andú-sa,

“mar níl neach is mó seod agus maoin agus ollmhaitheas ná mise

“for there is none who has greater possessions and riches and wealth than I,

ocus rafetar ná fail.”

agus tá a fhios agam nach bhfuil.”

and I know that there is not.”

Section 1.2 (ll. 55-87)

Tucad dóib

Tugadh chucu

There were brought to them

anba táriu dá sétaib

an chuid ba lú luach dá seoda

what was least valuable among their possessions

co festais

chun go mbeadh a fhios acu

that they might know

cia díb dámbad lia seóit agus moíne agus indmassa.

cé acu ba mhó seod agus maoin agus ollmhaitheas.

which of them had more goods and riches and wealth.

Tucad chucu

Tugadh chucu

There were brought to them

a n-éana agus a ndabcha agus a n-iarnlestair,

a n-éana agus a ndabhcha agus a n-iarnlestair,

their wooden cups and their vats and their iron vessels,

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| a mílain agus a lóthommair agus a ndrolmacha. | a gcanáí agus a mbáisíní níocháin agus a ndromhlaigh. | their cans, their washing-basins and their tubs. |
| Tuait dano cucu a fánne ocus a falge agus a fornasca ocus a n-órdúse agus a n-étguda, eter chorcair agus gorm ocus dub agus úaine, buide agus brecc agus lachtna, odor, alad agus riabach. | Tugadh chucu freisin, a bhfáinní agus a bhfailí agus a n-ordnasca agus a n-órdhuaiseanna agus a n-éadaí idir chorcra agus ghorm agus dhubh agus uaine, buí agus breac agus lachna, odhar, alabhreac agus riabhach. | There were brought to them *then* their rings and their bracelets and their thumb-rings, their treasures of gold and their garments, as well purple as blue and black and green, yellow and vari-coloured and grey, dun, and chequered and striped. |
| Tuait a murthréta cáirech d'aicthib [= d'fhaithchib] agus d'urlannaib agus réidib. | Tugadh <u>chucu</u> a mórthréada caorach d'faichí agus d'úrlanna agus de réite. | Their great flocks of sheep were brought from fields and lawns and open plains. |
| Ra rímit agus ra hármít ocus ra achnít corbatar cutrumma comméti comlínmair. | Ríomhadh agus áiríodh iad agus aithníodh go raibh siad cothrom cóimhéid, comhlíonmhar. | They were counted and reckoned and it was recognised that they were equal, of the same size and of the same number. |
| Acht baí raithi sainemáil for caírchaib Medba ocus ba gabálta i cumáil é, | Ach bhí reithe sainiúil i measc chaoirigh Mheidhbhe arbh fhiú cumháil é | But among Medb's sheep there was a splendid ram which was the equivalent of a <i>cumal</i> in value, |

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| ocus boí rethi a [fh]recartha for caírchaib Ailella. | agus bhí reithe a fhreagartha ar chaoirigh Ailealla. | and among Ailill's sheep was a ram corresponding to him. |
| | | From grazing lands and paddocks |
| Tucait a n-eich agus a nechrada agus a ngrega | Tugadh a n-eich agus a n-eachra agus a ngraíonna | were brought their horses and steeds. |
| d'fhérgeltaib agus scoraib. | d'fhéarghoirt agus de bhanracha. | |
| Baí ech sainemail ar graig Medba | Bhí each sainiúil ar ghraí Mheidhbhe | In Medb's horse-herd there was a splendid horse |
| ocus ba gabálta i cumail. | arbh fhiú cumhail é, | which might be valued at a <i>cumail</i> . |
| Baí ech a [fh]recartha oc Ailill. | ach bhí each a fhreagartha ag Ailill. | Ailill had a horse to match him. |
| Tucait dano a murthréta muc | Ansin tugadh a mórthréada muc | Then their great herds of swine |
| a fedaib agus fánghlentaib agus díamairib. | as coillte agus fánghleannta agus diamhra. | were brought from woods and sloping glens and solitary places. |
| Ra rímit agus ra hármit agus ra hachnít. | Ríomhadh agus áiríodh agus aithníodh iad. | They were counted and reckoned and recognised. |
| Boí torc sainemail oc Meidb agus araile dano la hAilill. | Bhí torc sainiúil ag Meadhbh agus ceann eile ag Ailill. | Medb had a special boar and Ailill had another. |
| Tucait dano a mbótháinte bó agus a n-alma agus a n-immirge dóib | Tugadh a dtáinte bó agus a n-eallaigh agus a dtréada chucu *ansin* | Then their herds of cows, their cattle and their droves were brought to them |

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| a fedaib agus fásaigib in chúicid. | as coillte agus fásaigh an chúige. | from the woods and waste places of the province. |
| Ra rímit agus ra hármít agus ra hac[h]nít, | Ríomhadh agus airíodh agus aithníodh iad | They were counted and reckoned and recognised, |
| agus roptar cutrumma comméti comlínmair dóib. | agus bhí siad cothrom, cóimhéid, comhlíonmhar. | and they were of equal size and equal number. |
| Acht boí tarb sainemail ar búaiib Ailella | Ach bhí tarbh sainiúil ar bha Ailealla | But among Ailill's cows there was a special bull. |
| agus ba lóeg bó do Meidb atacomnaic agus Findbennach a ainm. | agus ba lao le bó de chuid Mheidhbhe é agus Finnbeannach a ainm, | He had been a calf of one of Medb's cows, and his name was Findbennach. |
| Acht nírbó miad leis beith for bantinchur, | ach níor mhian leis a bheith ar bantionchar | But he deemed it unworthy of him to be counted as a woman's property, |
| acht dochúaid co mboí for búaiib in rí, | agus d'imigh sé leis go raibh i measc bó an rí. | so he went and took his place among the king's cows. |
| agus ba samalta re Meidb ná beth penning a selba lé | B'ionann le Meadhbh é sin agus a bheith gan phingin ina seilbh aici | It was to Medb as if she owned not a penny of possessions |
| ar ná baí tarb a chomméit lé fora búaiib. | mar nach raibh tarbh dá mhéid sin aici lena ba. | since she had not a bull as great as that among her kine. |
| Is and sain conacrad Mac Roth ind eachlach co Meidb | Ansin glaoth Mac Roth an t-eachlach chun Meidhbhe | Then Mac Roth the herald was summoned to Medb |

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| ocus conscomarc Medb [Meidb <i>MS.</i>] de ar co fessed Mac Roth | agus d’fhriafraigh sí de arbh eol dó | and she asked him to find out |
| airm i mbiad tarb a shamla sút i cúiciud de chúicedaib Hérend. | áit a mbeadh a leithéid siúd de tharbh i gcúigí Éireann. | where in any province of the provinces of Ireland there might be a bull such as he. |
| “Rofetar omm,” bar Mac Roth, | “Tá a fhios agam go deimhin,” arsa Mac Roth, | “I know indeed,” said Mac Roth |
| “airm i fail tarb as dech agus is fherr dorísi | “áit a bhfuil tarbh chomh maith agus is fearr fós ná é, | “where there is a bull even better and more excellent than he, |
| i cúiciud Ulad i tríchait cét Cúalnge | i gCúige Uladh i dtríocha céad Chuailnge, | in the province of Ulster in the cantred of Cúailnge |
| i tig Dáire meic Fhachtnai [<i>sic, for</i> Fhiachnai] | i dtigh Dháire mhic Fhachtna: | in the house of Dáire mac Fiachna. |
| .i. Dond Cúalnge a ainm.” | An Donn Cuailnge a ainm.” | Donn Cúailnge is his name.” |
| “Tó duit-siu connici sain, a Meic Roth, | “Imigh ort go dtí an áit sin, a Mhic Roth,” <u>arsa</u> <u>Meadhbh</u> , | “Go you there, Mac Roth, |
| ocus cunnig dam-sa for Dáire íasacht mbliadna do Dund Cúalnge, | “agus iarr domsa ar Dháire íasacht bliana den Donn Cuailnge | and ask of Dáire for me a year’s loan of Donn Cúailnge. |
| ocus ragaid lóg a íasachta dó i cind bliadna .i. coíca samaisci | agus rachaidh luach a íasachta dó i gceann bliana, is é sin, caoga samhaisc | At the year’s end he will get the fee for the bull’s loan, namely, fifty heifers, |
| ocus Dond Cúalnge fadessin. | agus an Donn Cuailnge féin. | and Donn Cúailnge himself (<u>returned</u>). |
| Ocus ber-siu comaid aile latt, a Meic Roth: | Agus beirse comha eile leat, a Mhic Roth, | And take another offer with you, Mac Roth: |

| | | |
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| mad olc ra lucht na críchi agus ind fheraind | más olc le lucht na críche agus an fhearainn | if the people of that land and country object |
| in sét sainemail sin do thabairt .i. Dond Cúailnge, | an seod sainiúil, Donn Cuailnge, a thabhairt, | to giving that precious possession, Donn Cúailnge, |
| taít-sum féin ra tharb. | tagadh sé féin lena tharbh | let <u>Dáire</u> himself come with his bull |
| Ragaid comméit a fheraind féin do mín Maige Aí dó | agus rachaidh cóimhéid a fhearainn féin de mhínmhá Aoi dó | and he shall have the extent of his own lands in the level plain of Mag Aí |
| ocus carpat trí secht cumal, | agus carbad trí sheacht gcumhal | and a chariot <u>worth</u> thrice seven <i>cumala</i> , |
| ocus ragaid cardes mo [sh]liasta-sa fessin.” | agus cairdeas mo shliasta féin freisin.” | and he shall have my own intimate friendship.” |

Section 1.3 (ll. 88-102)

| | | |
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| Lotar iar sain na echlacha dó co tech Dáire meic Fhiachnai. | Ansin d’imigh na teachtairí go teach Dháire mhic Fhachtna. | Thereupon the messengers proceeded to the house of Dáire mac Fiachna. |
| Is é lín luid Mac Roth nónbór echlach. | Is é an líon a chuaigh Mac Roth naonúr teachtaire. | The number of Mac Roth’s embassy was nine messengers. |
| Ra ferad fáilti iar tain fri Mac Roth i tig Dáire. | Fearadh fáilte roimh Mac Roth i dteach Dháire *ansin*, | Then Mac Roth was welcomed in the house of Dáire. |
| Deithbir sin, prímechlach uile Mac Roth. | mar ba chóir óir ba é Mac Roth príomhechlach na tíre. | That was but right for Mac Roth was the chief herald of all. |

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| Ra iarfacht Dáire do Mac Roth cid dobretha imthecht fair | D'fhiafraigh Dáire de Mhac Roth céard faoi deara a thuras | Dáire asked Mac Roth what was the cause of his journey |
| ocus cid 'ma tánic. | agus céard uime a dtáinig sé. | and why he had come. |
| Innisis ind echlach inní imma tánic | D'inis an t-eachlach an ní faoina dtáinig sé | The herald told why he had come |
| ocus innisid immarbáig eter Meidb agus Ailill. | agus d'inis sé iomarbhá Mheidhbhe agus Ailealla. | and related the contention between Medb and Ailill. |
| “Ocus is do chungid íasachta don Dund Cúalnge | “Agus is d'iarraidh íasachta an Doinn Chuailnge | “And it is to ask for a loan of the Donn Cúailnge |
| i n-agid ind Fhindbennaig tánac,” arse, | in aghaidh an Fhinnbheannaigh a tháinig mé,” ar sé, | to match the Findbennach that I have come,” said he, |
| “ocus atetha lóg a íasachta | “agus gheobhairse luach a íasachta, | “and you shall get the fee for his loan, |
| .i. coíca samasci agus Dond Cúalnge fessin, | caoga samhaisc agus Donn Cuailnge féin | namely, fifty heifers and the return of Donn Cúailnge himself. |
| ocus araill aile dano béus, | agus rud eile freisin, | And there is somewhat besides: |
| tair-siu féin lat tarb | tarsa féin le do tharbh | come yourself with your bull |
| ocus fogéba comméit th'fheraind féin de mín Maige Aí | agus gheobhair chóimhéid d'fhearainn féin de mhínhá Aoi | and you shall get an area equal to your own lands in the level plain of Mag Aí |
| ocus carpat trí secht cumal | agus carbad trí sheacht gcumhal | and a chariot <u>worth</u> thrice seven <i>cumala</i> |

| | | |
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| ocus cardes sliasta Medba air sin anechtair.” | agus cairdeas shliasta Mheidhbhe ina theannta sin.” | and Medb’s intimate friendship to boot.” |
| Ba aitt la Dáire aní sin | B’ait le Dáire an ní sin | Dáire was well pleased with that |
| ocus ra mbertaig | agus chroth sé | and (<u>in his pleasure</u>) he shook himself |
| co raímdetar úammand a cholcthech faí oculus atrubairt: | chun gur thug uamanna a chuilce faoi agus dúirt: | so that the seams of the flock-beds beneath him burst asunder, and he said: |
| “Dar fir ar cubais, cid an ní ra Ultaib [<i>sic MS.</i> , <i>read</i> cid [olc] an ní [sin] ra Ultaib], | “Dar firinne ár gcúis, bíodh nár mhaith le hUltaigh é, | “By the truth of my conscience, even if the Ulstermen object, |
| bérthair in sét sa in cur sa do Ailill agus do Meidb .i. Dond Cúailnge, i crích Connacht.” | bhéarfair an seod seo, Donn Cuailnge, den chor seo d’Ailill agus do Mheadhbh i gcríoch Chonnacht.” | this precious possession, Donn Cúailnge, will now be taken to Ailill and Medb in the land of Connacht.” |
| Ba maith dano la Mac Roth ra ráde [Mac] Fiachna. | Ba mhaith le Mac Roth a ndúirt Mac Fhachtna. | Mac Roth was pleased to hear what [Mac] Fiachna said. |

Section 1.4 (ll. 103-120)

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| Ra frithálit iar sain ocus ra hecrait aíne ocus urlúachra fóthib. | Friotháladh ina dhiaidh sin iad agus cóiríodh tuí agus úrluachair fúthu. | Then they were attended to and straw and fresh rushes were strewn underfoot for them. |
| Tucad cáine bíd dóib ocus ra fordáled fled forro co mbáatar búadirmesca [<i>sic</i>], ocus dorécaim comrád eter dá echlaig díb. | Tugadh an bia ba chaoine dóibh agus dáileadh fleá orthu chun go raibh siad ar bogmheisce agus tharla comhrá idir dhá eachlach díobh. | The choicest food was served to them and a drinking feast provided until they were merry. And a conversation took place between two of the messengers. |
| “Fírbriathar,” ar indara eachlach, “is maith fer in taige i tám.” “Maith omm,” bar araile. “In fuil cid [d’]Ultaib nech is fherr andás?” ar ind eachlach táisech béus. “Atá omm,” bar ind eachlach tánaise. | “Is fíorbhriathar é,” arsa eachlach acu, “is maith é fear an tí ina bhfuilimid.” “Is maith cheana,” arsa an duine eile. “An bhfuil d’Ultaigh fear is fearr ná é?” arsa an chéad eachlach arís. “Tá cinnte,” arsa an dara eachlach, | “In sooth,” said one messenger, “generous is the man in whose house we are.” “Generous indeed,” said the other. “Is there among the Ulstermen any who is more generous than he?” said the first messenger *again*. “There is indeed,” said the second. |

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| <p>“Ferr Conchobor ’cá tá, ocus cid immi gabtais Ulaid uile ane, níbad nár dóib.”</p> | <p>“is fearr Conchobhar agá bhfuil sé, agus dá mba uime a gheobhadh Ultaigh uile níor náire dóibh é.”</p> | <p>“More generous is Conchobor whose vassal <u>Dáire</u> is, for though all Ulstermen should rally round <u>Conchobor</u>, it were no shame for them.”</p> |
| <p>“Mór in maith dó aní i mbiad opair cethri n-ollchóiced nHérend</p> | <p>“Is mór an mhaith uaidh an ní ba dhícheall do cheithre ollchúige Éireann</p> | <p>“A great act of generosity it is indeed for <u>Dáire</u> to have given to us nine messengers</p> |
| <p>do brith a crích Ulad .i. Dond Cúalnge</p> | <p>a bhreith as críoch Uladh, is é sin, Donn Cuailnge,</p> | <p>that which it would have been the work of the four great provinces of Ireland to carry off from the land of Ulster, namely, Donn Cúailnge.”</p> |
| <p>do thabairt dúnni nónbur eachlach.” And sain dano conarraid in tres eachlach comrád fhorru.</p> | <p>a thabhairt dúinne, naonúr eachlach.” Ansin chuir an triú heachlach comhrá orthu.</p> | <p>Then a third messenger joined their conversation.</p> |
| <p>“Ocus cid ráter lib-si?” ar sí.</p> | <p>“Agus cad tá á rá agaibh?” ar sé.</p> | <p>“And what are ye saying?” he asked.</p> |
| <p>“Ind eachlach út atbeir is maith fer fer in taige i táam.</p> | <p>“An t-eachlach sin a deir: ‘is maith an fear fear an tí ina bhfuilimid.’</p> | <p>“Yon messenger says that the man in whose house we are is a generous man.</p> |
| <p>Maith omm, bar araile.</p> | <p>‘Is maith cheana’ arsa duine eile.</p> | <p>He is generous indeed, says another.</p> |

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| In fail cid d’Ultaib nech is fherr andá? | ‘An bhfuil d’Ultaigh neach is fearr ná é?’ | Is there any among the Ulsterman who is more generous than he? |
| ar ind eachlach thaísech béus. | arsa an chéad eachlach fós. | asks the first messenger *again*. |
| Atá omm, ar ind eachlach tánaise. | ‘Tá cinnte,’ arsa an dara heachlach, | There is indeed, says the second. |
| Ferr Conchobor ‘cá tá, | ‘is fearr Conchobhar agá bhfuil | Conchobor, whose vassal <u>Dáire</u> is, is more generous, |
| ocus gid imme gabtais Ulaid uili ane, níbad nár dóib. | agus dá mba uime a gheobhadh Ultaigh uile níor náire dóibh é. | and if all Ulstermen adhered to him it were indeed no shame for them. |
| Mór in maith dó | Is mór an mhaith uaidh | It was generous of <u>Dáire</u> |
| | | to give to us nine messengers |
| aní i mbiad opair cethri n-ollchóiced nHérend do brith a crích Ulad | an ní ba dhícheall do cheithre ollchúige Éireann a bhreith as críoch Uladh, is é sin, Donn Cuailnge, | what only the four great provinces of Ireland could carry off from the land of Ulster.” |
| do thabhairt dúnni nónbor eachlach.” | a thabhairt dúinne, naonúr eachlach.”” | |
| “Nírb uráil limm sceith cró oclus fola ’sin mbel assa tic sain, | “Níorbh fhoráil liom scéith cró agus fola as an mbéal as a dtagann <u>an chaint</u> sin, | “I should like to see a gush of blood and gore from the mouth from which that (<u>talk</u>) comes, |
| dáig cenco tucthá ar áis, dobértha ar écin.” | mar mura dtúgtaí ar ais é tharbharfaí ar éigean,” <u>arsa an treas eachlach</u> . | for if the bull were not given willingly, he would be given perforce.” |

Section 1.5 (ll. 121-140)

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| Is and sin doruacht fer uird rainne Dáire meic Fiachnai 'sin tech | Is ansin a tháinig príomhdháileamh Dháire mhic Fhachtna isteach | Then Dáire mac Fiachna's butler came into the house |
| ocus fer fo lind leis ocus fer fo bíud, | agus fear faoi leann aige agus fear faoi bhia | with a man carrying liquor and another carrying meat, |
| ocus atchúala anra chansat, | agus chuala sé a ndúirt siad. | and he heard what the messengers said. |
| ocus táncatar fergga dó ocus turnaid a biad ocus a lind dóibh, | Tháinig fearg air agus thug sé an bia agus an leann dóibh | He flew into a passion and laid down the meat and drink for them, |
| ocus ní ebairt riu a chathim | agus ní dúirt leo é a chaitheamh | and he did not invite them to consume it, |
| ocus ní ebairt a nemchathim. | nó gan a chaitheamh. | neither did he tell them not to consume it. |
| Dochúaid assa aithle issin tech i rraibí Dáire mac Fiachnai ocus ra rádi: | Chuaigh sé ina dhiaidh sin sa teach ina raibh Dáire mac Fhachtna agus dúirt: | Thereafter he went to the house where Dáire mac Fiachna was and said: |
| “In tú thuc in sét suachnid út dona hechlachaib .i. Dond Cúailnge?” | “An tusa a thug an seod suaithnidh úd, Donn Cuailnge, do na heachlaigh?” | “Was it you who gave that excellent treasure, the Donn Cúailnge, to the messengers?” |
| “Is mé omm,” for Dáire. | “Is mé cheana,” arsa Dáire. | “It was I indeed,” said Dáire. |
| “Ní raib rígi airm i tucad, | “Ná raibh ríochas san áit ar tugadh, | “Where he was given may there be no (<u>proper</u>) rule, |
| ar is fíor aní rádit, | mar is fíor a n-abrann siad, | for what they say is true, |

| | | |
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| ar [cen]co tuca-su ar áis, | mura dtugann tú ar ais é | that if you do not give him of your own free will, |
| dombéra ar écin | tabharfaidh tú ar éigean é | you will give him by force |
| fri sochraití Ailella agus Medba | do shluaite Ailealla agus Mheidhbhe | by reason of the armies of Ailill and Medb |
| ocus ra móreólas Fergus mac Róig.” | agus trí mhóreolas Fhearghais mhic Róigh.” | and the guidance of Fergus mac Róig.” |
| “Dothung mo deo dá n-adraim ná co mberat [mbérat <i>MS.</i>] ar écin samlaid | “Dar mo dhéithe dá n-adhram mura dtógann siad ar éigean mar sin é | “I swear by the gods whom I worship unless they take him thus by force, |
| nacha mbérat ar áis.” | nach dtógfaidh siad ar ais é.” | they shall not take him by fair means.” |
| Fessit samlaid co matin. | Chaith siad an oíche ansin go maidin. | They spend the night thus until morning. |
| Atragat na echlacha co moch arnabárach | D’éirigh na heachlaigh go moch ar na mhárach | Early on the morrow the messengers arose |
| ocus dochúatar i tech i mbaí Dáire. | agus chuaigh siad sa teach ina raibh Dáire. | and went into the house where Dáire was. |
| “Eólas dún, a úasail, co rísem bail a tá in Dond Cúalnge.” | “Eolas dúinn, a uasail, go dtí an áit a bhfuil an Donn Cuailnge.” | “Guide us, noble sir, to the spot where Donn Cuailnge is.” |
| “Nithó omm,” ar Dáire, | “Ní thabharfaidh mé, *cheana,*” arsa Dáire, | “Not so indeed,” said Dáire, |
| “acht diambad bés dam-sa fell for echlacha nó for aes n-imthechta nó tastil sliged, | “agus dá mba bhéas domsa feall a dhéanamh ar eachlaigh nó lucht imeachta nó taistil slí, | “but if it were my custom to deal treacherously with messengers or travellers or voyagers |

ní ragadh nech úaib i mbethaid.”

“Cid són?” ar Mac Roth.

“Fail a mórabba,” ar Dáire.

“Ra ráidsebair cenco tucaind ar áis

dobéraind ar écin

ra sochraiti Ailella agus Medba

ocus ra móreólas Fergusa.”

“Aile,” ar Mac Roth,

“giped no ráditís echlacha

dot lind-su agus dot bíud,

ní hed ba tabartha do aíg nó do aire

nó d’airbire do Ailill agus do Meidb.”

“Ní thibér-sa trá, a Meic Roth, mo tharb din
chur sa dianetur.”

ní rachadh neach díbh uaim ina bheatha.”

“Cén fáth sin?” arsa Mac Roth.

“Fáth an-mhaith,” arsa Dáire.

“Dúirt sibhse mura dtugainn ar ais é,

go dtabharfainn ar éigean é

do shluaite Ailealla agus Mheidhbhe

agus trí mhóreolas Fhearghais.”

“Aililiú,” arsa Mac Roth,

“cibé a déarfadh eachlaigh

de thoradh do leannasa agus do bhia

níor cheart d’úidh ná d’aire a thabhairt dó

ná é a thabhairt ina oiríre d’Ailill agus do
Mheadhbh.”

“Ní thabharfaidh mise mo tharbh den chor seo
a Mhic Roth *áfach*.”

not one of you should escape alive.”

“What is this?” said Mac Roth.

“There is great cause for it,” said Dáire.

“Ye said that if I did not give the bull
willingly,

then I should give him under compulsion

by reason of the army of Ailill and Medb

and the sure guidance of Fergus.”

“Nay,” said Mac Roth,

“whatever messengers might say

as a result of indulging in your meat and drink,

it should not be heeded or noticed

nor accounted as a reproach to Ailill and
Medb.”

“Yet I shall not give my bull, Mac Roth, on
this occasion.”

Section 1.6 (ll. 141-146)

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| Lotar na echlacha ar cúl dó samlaid ocus ráncatar Crúachanráith Connacht. | D'imigh na heachlaigh ar ais mar sin agus shroich siad Ráth Chruachan Chonnacht. | Thus the messengers went on their way back and reached Ráth Crúachan in Connacht. |
| Conscodarc Medb scéla díb. | D'fhiafraigh Meadhbh scéala díobh. | Medb asked tidings of them. |
| Adféta Mac Roth scéla, ná tucsat a tharb ó Dáire. | D'inis Mac Roth an scéala, nár thug siad a tharbh leo ó Dháire. | Mac Roth told her that they had not brought back his bull from Dáire. |
| “Cid foterá són?” ar Medb. | “Cad faoi deara sin?” arsa Meadhbh. | “What was the cause of that?” asked Medb. |
| Rádis Mac Roth aní dia mbaí. | D'inis Mac Roth céard ba chúis leis. | Mac Roth told her the reason for it. |
| “Ní hécen féth dar fudbu de, a Meic Roth, ar rafess,” ar Medb, | “Ní gá féith thar fadhba a dhéanamh de, a Mhic Roth, óir bhí a fhios,” arsa Meadhbh, | “There is no necessity to ‘smooth the knots’, Mac Roth, for it was certain [<i>lit.</i> it was known],” said Medb, |
| “ná tibertha ar áis [cen]co tuctha ar écin, ocus doberthar ón.” | “nach dtabharfaí ar ais é mura dtabharfaí ar éigean agus tabharfar *mar sin*.” | “that he would not be given freely if he were not given by force, and he shall so be given.” |

Section 2 (ll. 147-278)

Section 2.1 (ll. 147-156)

Urthatar techta ó Meidb cosna Manib arco
tístaís co Crúachain,

na secht Mani cona secht tríchaib céad .i.

Mane Máithremail, Mane Athremail,

ocus Mane Condagaib Uili,

Mane Míngor ocus Mane Mórghor

ocus Mane Conda Mó Epert.

Urthatar techta aile co maccaib Mágach .i.

Cet mac Mágach

ocus Anlúan mac Mágach

ocus Mac Corb mac Mágach

ocus Bascell mac Mágach

ocus Én mac [Mágach

D'imigh teachtaire ó Mheadhbh chun na
Mainí á iarraidh orthu teacht go Cruachain,

na seacht Mainí lena seacht dtríocha céad,

Maine Máithriúil, Maine Aithriúil,

agus Maine Connagaib Uile,

Maine Mionghor agus Maine Mórghor

agus Maine Condo Mó Epirt.

D'imigh teachtaire eile go dtí mic Mágach,

Ceat mac Mágach

agus Anluain mac Mágach

agus Mac Corb mac Mágach

agus Bascell mac Mágach

agus Éan mac Mágach

Messengers went from Medb to the Maines to
bid them come to Crúachu,

the seven Maines with their seven divisions of
three thousand, namely,

Maine Máithremail, Maine Aithremail,

Maine Condagaib Uile,

Maine Míngor, Maine Mórghor,

and Maine Conda Mó Epert.

Other messengers went to the sons of Máu,
namely,

Cet mac Mágach,

Anlúan mac Mágach,

Mac Corb mac Mágach,

Baiscell mac Mágach,

Én mac Mágach,

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| ocus] Dóche mac Mágach, Scandal mac Mágach. | agus Dócha mac Mágach, Scannal mac Mágach. | Dóche mac Mágach, and Scannal mac Mágach. |
| Táncatar sain agus ba sed a llín deich cét ar fhichit cét fer n-armach. | Tháinig siad sin agus ba é a líon deich gcéad ar fhichid céad fear armáilte. | These arrived, in number three thousand armed men. |
| Urthatar techta aile úathib [<i>b add. above line, also in marg. later</i>] co Cormac Cond Longas mac Conchobuir | D'imigh teachtaire eile uathu go dtí Cormac Conn Loingeas mac Chonchobhair | Other messengers went from them to Cormac Cond Longas mac Conchobuir |
| ocus co Fergus mac Róig, ocus táncatar deich cét ar fhichit cét a llín. | agus go dtí Fearghas mac Róigh agus tháinig siad le deich gcéad ar fhichid céad. | and to Fergus mac Róig, and they too came, in number three thousand. |
| Section 2.2 (ll. 157-160) | | |
| In cétna lorg cétaimus forthí berrtha forro. | An céad bhuíon ar fad bhí gruaig bhearrtha orthu, | The first band of all had shorn heads of hair. |
| Bruit úanidi impu. Delggi argait intib. | brait uaine umpu a raibh deilgne airgid iontu; | Green cloaks about them with silver brooches in them. |
| Lénti órshnáith fria cnessaib ba tórniud [<i>sic: read dergindliud (Windisch)</i>] do dergór. | lena gneas bhí léinte órshnáth innlithe le deargór; | Next to their skin they wore shirts of gold thread with red insertions of red gold. |
| Claidib gelduirn léo co n-imdurnaib argit. | claimhte gealdoirn go n-imdhoirne airgid acu. | They carried swords with white grips and handles of silver. |

“Inn é Cormac sút?” for cách. “Nád é om,” for Medb [*add. marg inf.*].

“An é siúd Cormac?” arsa cách. “Ní hé go deimhin,” arsa Meadhbh.

“Is that Cormac yonder?” they all asked. “It is not indeed,” said Medb.

Section 2.3 (ll. 161-164)

In lorg tánaise berrtha núa léo.

Bhí an dara buíon nuabhearrtha,

The second band had newly shorn heads of hair.

Bruitt forglassa uli impu. Léinti glégela fria cnessaib.

brait uaine umpu uile, léinte gléigeala lena geneas;

They wore grey cloaks and pure white shirts next to their skins.

Claidib co muleltaib óir agus co n-imdurnib argait léo.

cláimhte go maolailt óir agus go n-imdhoirne airgid acu.

They carried swords with round guards of gold and silver handles.

“Inn é Cormac sút?” for cách.

“An é siúd Cormac?” arsa cách.

“Is that Cormac yonder?” they all asked.

“Nád é omm,” bar Medb.

“Ní hé go deimhin,” arsa Meadhbh.

“It is not he indeed,” said Medb.

Section 2.4 (ll. 165-169)

In lorg dédenach berrtha lethna léo. Monga findbuidhe forórda forscáilti forru.

Bhí bearradh leathan ar an mbuíon dheireanach; monga fionnbhuí órga, dréimreacha orthu;

The last band had flowing hair, fair-yellow, golden, streaming manes.

Bruitt chorera cumtaichthi impu. Delgi órdai ecorthi ós ochtaib dóib.

brait chorera, chortharacha umpu agus deilgne órga inleáite ar a n-ucht acu;

They wore purple embroidered cloaks with golden inset brooches over their breasts.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Léinti sémi setai sítaidi co tendmedón traiged dóib. | léinte fada bogshíoda go bráid na coise orthu. | They had smooth, long, silken shirts reaching to their insteps. |
| I nn-óenfhecht dostor[g]baitis [no turgbadis (no tarcebhadais) St] a cossa ocus dofairnitis arís. | Thógaidís a gcosa in éineacht agus leagaidís síos arís iad. | All together they would lift their feet and set them down again. |
| “Inn é Cormac sút?” ar cách. | “An é siúd Cormac?” arsa cách. | “Is that Cormac yonder?” they all asked. |
| “Is é ón ém,” ar Medb. | “Is é, cheana,” arsa Meadhbh. | “It is he indeed,” said Medb. |
| Section 2.5 (ll. 170-175) | | |
| Ra gabsatar dúnad ocus longphort in n-aidchi sin | Ghabh siad dún agus longfort an oíche sin | That night they pitched their camp and stronghold |
| corba dlúim diad ocus tened | i dtreo gur dhlúimh deataigh agus tine | and there was a dense mass of smoke and fire (<u>from their camp-fires</u>) |
| eter chethri áthaib Aí | a bhí idir cheithre áth Aoi, | between the four fords of Aí, |
| .i. Áth Moga ocus Áth mBercna, | Áth Mogha, Áth Bearcna, | Áth Moga, Áth mBercna, |
| Áth Slissen ocus Áth Coltna, | Áth Sliosán agus Áth Coltna. | Áth Slissen and Áth Coltna. |
| ocus tarrassatar ed cían cóicthigis i Crúachanráith Connacht | D’fhan siad ar feadh coicíse i Ráth Chruachan Chonnacht | And they stayed for a full fortnight in Ráth Crúachan of Connacht |
| ic ól ocus ic ánius ocus ic aibnius | ag ól agus ag áineas agus ag aoibhneas | drinking and feasting and merrymaking |

combad esaiti léo a fecht agus a slógadh.

chun gurbh fhusaide leo a dturas agus a slógadh.

so that (presently) their journey and hosting should be the lighter for them.

Ocus is and sain rádis Medb fria haraid ar co ngabad a echraid di

Ansin dúirt Meadhbh lena hara a heachra a ghabháil di

And then Medb bade her charioteer harness her horses for her

co ndigsed d'acallaim a druad

go rachadh sí d'agallamh a draoi

that she might go to speak with her druid

d'iarfaigid fessa agus fástini de.

ag iarraidh feasa agus fáistine uaidh.

to seek foreknowledge and prophecy from him.

Section 2.6 (ll. 176-182)

A ránic Medb airm i mbaí a druí,
ra iarfach fíis agus fástini de.

Nuair a tháinig Meadhbh mar a raibh a draoi
d'iarr sí fíis agus fáistine air.

When Medb came to where her druid was,
she asked foreknowledge and prophecy of him.

“Sochaide scaras fria chóemu agus fria chairdiu sund indiu,” ar Medb,

“Is iomaí duine a scarann lena chompánaigh agus lena chairde inniu,” arsa Meadhbh,

“There are many who part here today from comrades and friends,” said Medb,

“ocus fria chrích agus fria fherand,

“agus le críoch agus le fearann,

“from land and territory,

fria athair agus fria máthair,

le hathair agus le máthair

from father and mother,

ocus meni thíset uli i n-imshlánti,

agus mura bhfilleann siad uile ina sláinte,

and if not all return safe and sound,

forom-sa combenfat a n-osnaid agus a mmallachtain.

ormsa a thitfidh a n-osnaí agus a mallachtaí.

it is on me their grumbles and their curses will fall.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Araí sin ní théit immach agus ní anand i fus as diliu lind oldámmit fadessin. | Mar sin féin, ní théann amach ná ní fhanann abhus duine is measa linn ná sinn féin | Yet none goes forth and none stays here who is any dearer to us than we ourselves. |
| Ocus finta-ssu dún in tecam fo ná tecam.” | agus faighse amach dúinn an dtiocfam nó nach dtiocfam.” | And find out for us whether we shall come back or not.” |
| Ocus ra ráid in druí: “Cipé [tic] nó ná tic, ticfa-su fessin.” | Agus dúirt an draoi: “Cibé a thig nó nach dtig, tiocfairse féin.” | And the druid said: “Whoever comes or comes not back, you yourself will come.” |

Section 2.7 (ll. 183-196)

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Impáis in t-ara in carpat agus dotháet Medb for cúlu. | D’iompaigh an t-ara an carbad agus chuaigh Meadhbh ar ais. | The driver turned the chariot and Medb came back. |
| Co n-accai ní rap ingnad lé | Chonaic sí ní ab ionadh léi, | She saw something that she deemed wonderful, |
| .i. in n-áenmnaí for fertais in charpait ’na farrad ina dochum. | an t-aonbhean chuici feadh fearsaide an charbaid. | namely, a women coming towards her by the shaft of the chariot. |
| Is amlaid boí ind ingen ic figi chorrthairi ocus claideb findruini | Is amhlaidh a bhí an iníon agus í ag fí corrthaire agus claíomh fionndruine, | The girl was weaving a fringe, holding a weaver’s beam of white bronze |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| ina láim deiss | | in her right hand |
| cona shecht n-aslib do dergór ina déssaib [dessaib <i>MS.</i>]. | a raibh seacht síog óir ina dhiasa, | with seven strips of red gold on its points (?). |
| | ina deasláimh. | |
| Bratt balla breccúani impi. | Brat ballach, breacuaine uimpi | She wore a spotted, green-speckled cloak, |
| Bretnas torrach tréncend 'sin brutt ósa brunni. | agus dealg chruinn thréanchinn sa bhrat os a bhrollach. | with a round, heavy-headed brooch in the cloak above her breast. |
| Gnúis chorera chrúmaínech [chaoimhoineach St] lé. | Gnúis chorera, chaomhaoinigh aici | She had a crimson, rich-blooded [fair-faced St] countenance, |
| Rosc glass gáirectach lé. | agus súil ghlas, gháiriteach. | a bright, laughing eye, |
| Beóil derga thanaide. | Beoil dhearga, thanaí | thin, red lips. |
| Dét níamda némanda. | agus déada niamhracha, péarlacha aici: | She had shining pearly teeth; |
| Andar let batar frossa findnémand | dar leat ba chith de ghealphéarlaí iad | you would have thought they were showers of fair pearls |
| erctais ina cend. | a suíodh ina ceann. | which were displayed in her head. |
| Cosmail do núapartaing a beóil. | Ba chosúil le nuaphratainn a beoil. | Like new <i>partaing</i> were her lips. |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Binnidir téta mendchrot acá seinm a llámaib shírshúad | Bhí binnfhoghar a gutha agus a caoinlabhra chomh binn le téada meannchrot á seinm i lámha sárshua. | The sweet sound of her voice and speech was as melodious as the strings of harps plucked by the hands of masters. |
| bindfhogur a gotha agus a cáinurlabra. | | |
| Gilidir snechta sniged fri óenaidchi | | As white as snow falling in one night |
| taídlech a cniss agus a colla secha timthach sechtair. | Bhí loinnir a cnis agus a colainne trína héadaí amach | was the lustre of her skin and body (<u>shining</u>) through her garments. |
| | ar ghile sneachta a thiteann in aon óiche. | |
| Traigthi seta sithgela, ingni corcra córi crundgéara lé. | Troithe fada síthgheala aici agus ingne corcra, córacha cruinnghéara. | She had long and very white feet with pink, even, round and sharp nails. |
| Folt findbudi fata forórda furri. | Bhí folt fionnbhuí fada órga uirthi, | She had long, fair-yellow, golden hair; |
| Teóra trillsi dá fult imma cend. | trí thrilis dá folt um a ceann; | three tresses of her hair wound round her head, |
| Trilis aile combenad foscad fri[a] colptha. | trilis eile ag déanamh foscaidh dá colpaí. | another tress (<u>falling behind</u>) which touched the calves of her legs. |

Section 2.8 (ll. 197-205)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Forrécacha Medb furri. | D'fhéach Meadhbh uirthi. | Medb gazed at her. |
| “Ocus cid dogní-siu and sain innossa, a ingen?” for Medb. | “Agus cad tá á dhéanamh agatsa anseo anois a iníon?” arsa Meadhbh. | “And what are you doing here now, girl?” said Medb. |
| “Ic tairdeilb do lessa-su ocus do lítha. | “Ag neartú do leasasa agus do shéin | “(I am) promoting your interest and your prosperity, |
| Ic teclaim ocus ic tinól cethri n-ollchóiced nHérend lat-su | ag tionól cheithre ollchúige Éreann leatsa | gathering and mustering the four great provinces of Ireland with you |
| i crích nUlad ar cend Tána Bó Cúailnge.” | i geríoch Uladh i gcomhair Táin Bó Cuailnge.” | to go into Ulster for Táin Bó Cúailnge.” |
| “Cid ’má ndénai-siu dam-sa sain?” ar Medb. | “Cad uime a ndéanann tú sin domsa?” arsa Meadhbh. | “Why do you do that for me?” said Medb. |
| “Fail a mórabba dam. | “Tá a mhórábhar agam. | “I have good reason to do so. |
| Banchumal dít muntir atamchomnaic.” | Banchumhal de do mhuintir mé.” | I am a bondmaid of your people.” |
| “Cóich dom muntir-sea tussu?” ar Medb. | “Cé acu de mo mhuintirse tusa?” arsa Meadhbh. | “Who of my people are you?” said Medb. |
| “Ni handsa ém. | “Ní deacair sin (<u>a insint</u>). | “That is not hard to tell. |
| Feidelm banfháid a Síd Chrúachna atamchomnaic-se.” | Feidhealm banfháidh as sí Chruachna mise.” | I am Feidelm the prophetess from Síd Chrúachna.” |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| “Maith and sin, a Fheidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?” “Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad.” | “Is ea mar sin.” “Fheidhealm *bhanfháidh* cé mar chír ár slua?” “Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.” | “Well then, Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?” “I see red on them. I see crimson.” |
|---|--|---|

Section 2.9 (ll. 206-210)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| “Atá Conchobor ’na chess noínden i nEmain ém,” ar Medb. | *“Tá Conchobhar ina cheas naíon in Eamhain, ámh,” arsa Meadhbh. | “Conchobor is suffering in his debility in Emain,” said Medb. |
| “Ráncatar m’echl[ach]a-sa connice. | “Chuaigh mo theachtairí chuige. | “My messengers have gone to him. |
| Ní fhail ní itágammar-ne la Ultu. | Ní heagal linne ní ar bith ó Ultaigh. | There is nothing we fear from the Ulstermen. |
| Acht abbair a fír, a Fheidelm. | Ach abairse a fhíor, a Fheidhealm.” | But tell the truth, Feidelm. |
| Feidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?” “Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad.” | “Fheidhealm bhanfháidh cé mar chír ár slua?” “Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.”* | O Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?” “I see red on them, I see crimson.” |

Section 2.10 (ll. 211-215)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| “Atá Cuscraid Mend Macha mac Conchobuir i nInis Cuscraid ina chess. | “Tá Cuscraidh Meann Macha mac Chonchobhair *i nInis Cuscraidh* ina cheas. | “Cuscraid Mend Macha mac Conchobuir is in Inis Cuscraid in his debility. |
| Ráncatar m’echlacha [connice]. | Chuaigh mo theachtairí chuige. | My messengers have gone to him. |
| Ní fhail ní itágammar-ne la Ultu. | Ní heagal linne ní ar bith ó Ultaigh. | There is nothing we fear from the Ulstermen. |
| Acht abbair-siu fir, a Fheidelm. | Ach abairse a fhíor, a Fheidhealm.” | But speak truth, Feidelm. |
| Feidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?” “Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad.” | “Fheidhealm *bhanfháidh* cé mar chír ár slua?” “Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.” | O Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?” “I see red upon them, I see crimson.” |

Section 2.11 (ll. 216-220)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| “Atá Eogan mac Durthacht ic Ráith Airthir ’na chess. | “Tá Eoghan mac Dhurthachta ag Ráth Oirthir ina cheas. | “Eogan mac Durthacht is at Ráth Airthir in his debility. |
| Ráncatar m’echlacha connice. | Chuaigh mo theachtairí chuige. | My messengers have gone to him. |
| Ní fuil ní itágammar-ne la Ultu. | Ní heagal linne aon ní ó Ultaigh. | There is nothing we fear from the Ulstermen. |
| Acht abbair-siu fir rind, a Feidelm. | Ach abair a fhíor linn, *a* Fheidhealm.” | But speak truth to us, Feidelm. |
| Feidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?” “Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad.” | “Fheidhealm *bhanfháidh* cé mar chír ár slua?” “Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.” | O Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?” “I see red on them, I see crimson.” |

Section 2.12 (ll. 221-225) (Old. Ir. p. 6, Mod. Iri. p. 8, Eng. p. 144)

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| “Atá Celtchair mac Cuthechair ina dún 'na chess. | “Tá Cealltchair mac Chuitheachair ina dhún ina cheas. | “Celtchair mac Cuthechair is in his fortress in his debility. |
| Ráncatar m'echlacha connice. | Chuaigh mo theachtairí chuige. | My messengers have reached him. |
| Ní fuil ní itágammar-ne la Ultu. | Ní heagal linne aon ní ó Ultaigh | There is nothing we fear from the Ulstermen. |
| Act abbair fir, a Feidelm. | ach abair a fhíor, a Fheidhealm.” | But speak truth, Feidelm. |
| Feidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?” “Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad.” | “Fheidhealm *bhanfháidh* cé mar chír ár slua?” “Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.” | O Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?” “I see red on them, I see crimson.” |

Section 2.13 (ll. 226-231)

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| “Ní bá lim-sa aní dá tá lat-su sain, dáig ó condricfat fir Hérend óenbaile, betit debtha ocus irgala ocus scandlacha scandrecha eturru im chomríchtain tossaig nó derid nó átha nó aband, | “Ní tairbhe liomsa an ní sin atá á rá agatsa mar nuair a thiochfaidh fir Éireann le chéile in aon bhaile beidh deabhaidh agus iorghail agus scannal agus scannair eatarthu faoi ghluaiseacht ar tosach nó ar deireadh nó faoi <u>ghabháil</u> abhainne nó átha, | “I care not for your reasoning, for when the men of Ireland gather in one place, among them will be strife and battle and broils and affrays, in dispute as to who shall lead the van or bring up the rear or (<u>first cross</u>) ford or river, |
|--|---|---|

im chétguine muicce nó aige nó fiada
nó fiadmíla.

Acht abbair fir rind, a Feidelm.

Feidelm banfháid, cia fhacci ar slúag?”
“Atchíu forderg forro, atchíu rúad
[Atchiu fer fínd fírfes chless *written*
here in stain; misplaced, omiss.].”

faoi chéadghoin muice nó daimh, nó fia, nó
fiamhíl.

Ach abair a fhíor linn, a Fheidhealm.”

“Fheidhealm *bhanfháidh* cé mar chír ár slua?”
“Chím fordheargtha iad, chím rua.”

or first kill swine or cow or stag or game.

But speak truth to us, Feidelm.

O Feidelm Prophetess, how do you see our army?”
“I see red on them, I see crimson.”

Section 2.14 (ll. 232-275)

Ocus ro gab ic tairngiri

ocus remfhástine Con Culaind d' fheraib Hérend,

ocus doringni laíd:

“Atchíu fer find firfes chless
co lín chret [crechta **LU**, crecht **St**] ima cháemcnes,
lond láith i n-airthiur a chind,
óenach búada ina thilchind.

Fail secht [n]gemma láith ngaile
ar lár a dá imcaisne,
fail fuidrech fora rinne,
fail leind deirg drolaig imme.

Ro fail gnúis is grátam dó,
dober mod do banchuireo,
gilla óc is delbdu dath
tadbait delb drecoin don chath.

Cosmail a fhind sa [= innas a **LU**, *sic leg.*] gaile
fri Coin Culaind Murthemne,
nocon fhetar cóich in Cú
Culaind asa Murthemniu,
acht rafetar-sa trá imne
bid forderg in slúag-sa de.

Agus thosaigh sí ag tairngire

agus ag réamhfháistine Chon Culainn
d' fhir Éireann

agus rinne sí laoi:

“Feicim fear lionn ’fhearfaidh cleas
go líon créacht um a chaomhchneas,
lonn láith in oirthear a chinn,
aonach bua ina thulchinn.

Tá seacht ngeama láith ghaile
ar lár a dhá imleasan,
tá fuidhreach ar a rinne,
tá leann dearg drolach uime.

Tá'n ghnúis is gráta aige,
bheir sé modh do banchuire,
giolla óg is deilbhe dath
taibhsíonn i ndeilbh draic sa chath.

Cosúil ionnas a ghaile
le Cú Chulainn Muirtheimhne,
ní fheadarsa cé an Cú
Chulainn seo as Muirtheimhne,
ach go bhfeadar, tráth inní,
beidh an sluasa fordhearg de.

And Feidelm began to prophesy

and foretell Cú Chulainn to the men of
Ireland,

and she chanted a lay:

“I see a fair man who will perform weapon
-feats, with many a wound in his fair flesh.
The hero's light is on his brow, his forehead
is the meeting-place of many virtues.

Seven gems of a hero
are in his eyes.
His spear-heads are unsheathed.
He wears a red mantle with clasps.

His face is the fairest.
He amazes womenfolk,
a young lad of handsome countenance;
(yet) in battle he shows a dragon's form.

Like is his prowess
to that of Cú Chulainn of Muirtheimne.
I know not who is the Cú
Chulainn from Muirtheimne,
but this I know, that this army
will be bloodstained from him.

Cethri claidbíní cless n-án
ra fail cehtar [fil í cehtar **LU**, **St**] a dá lám,
condricfa a n-imbirt for slúag,
i[s] sain gním ris téit cech n-aí úad.

A gae bulgae mar domber
cenmothá a chlaideb 's a shleg,
fer i furchrus [*read* i cathfóchrus (i cathfóchrus **LU**, i
cathocras **St**)] bruitt deirg,
dobeir a choiss for cach leirg.

A dá shleig dar fonnad nglé,
ard ás gail in riastarde,
cruth domarfáit air co se
derb limm no chlóemchlaífed gnée.

Ro gab tascugud don chath,
meni faichlither bid brath,
don chomlund is é farsaig,
Cú Chulaind mac Sualtaim.

Slaidfid for slúaga slána,
concurfe far tiugára,
faicébhath leis óg for cend;
ní cheil in banfháid Feidelm.

Ceithre chlaímhín na ngleas n-án
tá i gceachtar a dhá láimh,
tig leis a n-imbirt ar slua,
téann sainghníomh le gach ní uaidh.

An ga bulga nuair a bheir
mar aon lena chlaíomh's a shleá,
an fear i bhforchas an bhrait deirg,
cuireann a chos ar gach leirg.

A dhá shleá thar fonsa glé
ard os gail an riastartha
an cruth taibhsíodh dom go seo
dearbh liom go gclaochlóidh a ghné.

Do ghabh sé ascnamh don chath,
mur bhfaichilltear beidh 'na bhrath,
sa chomhlann tig bhur n-aghaidh
Cú Chulainn mac Shualdaimh.

Slaidfidh bhur sluaite slána,
cuirfidh oraibh tiubh ára,
fágfaidh sibh le hóg bhur gceann,
ní cheileann an bhanfháidh Feidhealm.

Four swordlets of wonderful feats
he has in each hand.
He will manage to ply them on the host.
Each weapon has its own special use.

When he carries his *ga bulga*
as well as his sword and spear,
this man wrapped in a red mantle
sets his foot on every battle-field.

His two spears across the wheel-rim of his
battle chariot. High above valour (?) is the
distorted one. So he has hitherto appeared to
me, (but) I am sure that he would change his
appearance.

He has moved forward to the battle. If he is
not warded off, there will be destruction.
It is he who seeks you in combat,
Cú Chulainn mac Sualtaim.

He will lay low your entire army,
and he will slaughter you in dense crowds.
Ye shall leave with him all your heads.
The prophetess Feidelm conceals it not.

Silfid crú a cnessaib curad,
bud fata bas chianchuman;
beit cuirp cerbtha, caínfit mná,
ó Choin na Cerdda atchú-sa.”

A.

Sílfidh cró as cneasa curadh,
is fada bheidh cian cuimhne:
beidh coirp cearbtha, caoinfidh mná,
ó Choin an cheardaí a chímse.”

Blood will flow from heroes' bodies.
Long will it be remembered. Men's bodies
will be hacked, women will lament,
through the Hound of the Smith that I see.”

Section 2.15 (ll. 276-278)

Tairngire agus remfhástini

agus cendphairt in sceóil

agus fotha a fagbála agus a dénma,

agus comrád chind cherchaille doringni Ailill
agus Medb i Crúachain

connice sain.

Tairngreacht agus réamhfháistine

agus ceannpháirt an scéil;

fotha a cheaptha agus a dhéanta

agus comhrá cinn chearchaille a rinne Ailill
agus Meadhbh i gCruachain

go nuige sin.

Thus far

the prophecy and augury,

and the prelude to the tale,

the basis of its invention and composition,

and the pillow-talk held by Ailill and Medb in
Crúachu.