

The Conversation of the Mórrígan with Cú Chulainn

Cú Chulainn saw coming towards him a young woman of surpassing beauty, clad in clothes of many colours. 'Who are you?' asked Cú Chulainn. 'I am the daughter of Búan the king,' said she. 'I have come to you for I fell in love with you on hearing your fame, and I have brought with me my treasures and my cattle.'

'It is not a good time at which you have come to us, that is, our condition is ill, we are starving (?). So it is not easy for me to meet a woman while I am in this strife.' 'I shall help you in it.' 'It is not for a woman's body that I have come.'

'It will be worse for you', said she, 'when I go against you as you are fighting your enemies. I shall go in the form of an eel under your feet in the ford so that you shall fall.' 'I prefer that to the king's daughter,' said he. 'I shall seize you between my toes so that your ribs are crushed and you shall suffer that blemish until you get a judgment blessing.' 'I shall drive the cattle over the ford to you while I am in the form of a grey she-wolf.' 'I shall throw a stone at you from my sling so and smash your eye in your head, and you shall suffer from that blemish until you get a judgment blessing.' 'I shall come to you in the guise of a hornless red heifer in front of the cattle and they will rush upon you at many fords and pools yet you will not see me in front of you.' 'I shall cast a stone at you,' said he, 'so that your legs will break under you, and you shall suffer thus until you get a judgment blessing.' Whereupon she left him.

—(According to one version) he was a week at Áth nGreacha and every day a man fell by him at Áth nGrencha, that is, at Áth Darteisc.

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