

ΔΣ ΖΕΔΡΤΑΪ ΘΔΙΛΕ ΘΥΪ, Δ ΡΙΝΝ ΜΙΣΕ ΔΝ ΖΝΪΟΪ,
Δ ΒΪ ΔΜΑΙΘΕΔΑΪ ΒΥΔΘΑΪ¹ ΘΕΑΝΤΑ;
ΈΔΛΥΖΑΘ ΛΕ ΜΝΑΟΙ, ΣΕΛ ΤΑΜΑΙΛΤ ΑΝΝΣ ΔΝ ΟΙΘΪ,
ΔΡ ΝΕΔΪΘ-ΘΕΑΘ ΘΔ ΡΑΙΘ ΡΑΟΙ ΝΑ ΣΡΕΔΡΤΑ.
ΜΔΡ ΒΪ ΜΙΣΕ ΖΑΝ ΒΡΪΖ, ΖΑΝ ΜΙΣΝΕΔΑΪ ΔΝΝ ΜΟ ΘΡΟΪΘΪ,
ΔΖΥΣ Ϊ ΑΖΑΜ ΔΡ ΜΑΛΑΙΘ ΣΛΕΪΘΕ,
ΘΪ ΔΝ ΕΘΛΑΘ ΘΟΛΑΙΝΝ ΖΑ ΜΟ ΘΛΑΟΪΘ, ΔΖΥΣ ΒΪ ΕΪΣΕΑΝ ΘΑΪΘ-ΣΑ ΛΥΪΖΪ,
ΔΖΥΣ ΘΪ ΜΤΪΖ ΣΪ, ΔΝ ΡΪΘΡ ΜΑΪΖΘΕΑΝ.

ΔΣ ΖΑΘΔΑΙΛ² Ϊ ΛΥΪΖΕ ΘΕΪΝ ΖΡΕΪΝ, ΡΑΪΝ ΔΝ ΣΕΘ ΙΠΘΕ,
ΘΑΪ ΑΖΑΜ-ΣΑ Δ ΒΪ ΔΝ ΣΘΕΑΛ ΒΥΔΘΑΡΤΑ;
ΘΑΪ ΣΑΪΘΑΙΛΤ ΘΑΪΘ ΔΝ ΤΕ, Δ ΣΪΝΘΑΘ ΑΝΝΣ ΔΝ ΘΡΕ,
ΪΖΥΣ Δ ΜΪΥΙΡΕ, ΝΑΪ ΜΕ ΔΝ ΤΡΥΔΪΖΕ.
ΪΣΕ ΘΕΪΡΕΑΘ ΜΟ ΘΑΪΡΘΕ ΛΙΘΜ, ΔΝ ΜΕΪΘ ΑΘΑ ΒΪ ΛΑΪΔΑΪΡ
ΑΛΛΤΥΪΖΗ(?) ΛΕΪΣ ΝΑ ΜΝΑ Δ ΒΥΔΑΪΛΛ,
ΔΪ ΔΝ ΜΕΪΘ Δ ΝΖΟΙΛΛΕΑΘ ΟΡΤΑ ΜΟ ΘΑΣ, ΖΟΛΑΘ ΣΙΔΘ Δ ΣΑΪΘ,
ΡΑ ΜΟ ΘΟΣΑ³ ΔΖΥΣ ΜΟ ΛΑΪΘ ΒΕΪΘ Ν-Α ΝΖΥΑΛ ΘΥΘ.

Θ Δ ΜΪΥΙΡΕ ΪΖΥΣ Δ ΡΪ, ΝΑΪ ΜΑΪΡΖ ΟΡΑΪΘ ΒΪΘΣ,
Ϊ ΘΘΟΪΣΕΔΑΪ Δ Τ-ΣΑΘΖΑΪΛ ΛΕ ΠΛΕΪΣΪΥΡ,
ΝΘ Ϊ ΝΖΙΟΡΡΑΪΤ ΖΥΡ Δ ΒΪΘΣ, ΔΝ ΤΙΝΝΕΑΣ Δ ΘΟ ΘΛΑΟΪΘ
ΪΖΥΣ ΔΪ ΤΑΡΡΑΪΝΖΤ ΔΡ ΝΑ ΚΡΪΘΪΑ ΘΕΪΡΕΔΑΝΝΑΪΘΪ.
ΝΪΛ ΣΕ ΔΡ ΔΝ ΘΟΪΘΑΝ ΝΪΘ ΔΡ ΒΪΘ ΝΪΘΣ ΜΘ,
ΝΑ ΔΝ ΡΕΔΑΘΘ ΪΣ ΜΘ ΘΑ ΝΘΕΑΝΤΑΡ.
ΝΑΪΝ ΜΑΪΖΘΕΑΝ ΘΕΑΣ ΘΖ, Δ ΜΕΑΛΛΑΘ ΛΕ ΘΟ ΡΘΪΖ,
ΪΖΥΣ Δ ΡΑΪΖΑΪΛ ΡΑΟΙ ΒΡΘΝ ΪΝ-Α ΘΪΑΘ ΣΙΝ.

ΘΑ ΜΒΕΪΘΪΝΝ-ΣΕ ΘΑΛΛ ΣΑ ΣΡΑΪΝΝ, ΜΟ ΛΥΪΖΕ ΔΡ ΛΕΔΒΑΘΘ ΒΑΪΣ,
ΔΖΥΣ ΚΛΥΝΝΙΜ-ΣΕ ΘΟ ΪΛΘΡ ΙΝ ΕΪΡΙΝΝ;
ΖΟ Ν-ΘΕΪΘΟΪΑΙΝΝ ΖΟ ΣΑΪΘ, ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΒΡΑΘΔΝ ΔΡ ΔΝ Τ-ΣΝΑΪΘ,
Ϊ ΝΠΥΘΕΔΑΖΑΝ Ϊ ΛΑΡ ΝΑ ΗΘΙΡΝΕ.
ΡΟΚΑΛ ΔΡ ΒΪΘ ΜΝΑ ΝΪ ΚΡΕΪΘΡΘΪ ΜΕ ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΘΑΪΘ,
ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΖΑΘ ΜΙΣΕ ΣΚΡΪΘΘΑ Ϊ ΜΒΕΔΑΡΛΑ Ε,
ΝΘ ΖΥΡ ΘΑΪΘ ΜΕ ΝΑΟΙ ΛΑ, ΔΣ ΚΛΕΔΑΪΘΕΔΑΪΤ ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΒΑΣ,
ΝΘ ΖΥΡ ΒΑΪΘ ΜΕ ΘΥΪΘ ΣΡΑΣ ΔΡ ΕΪΖΙΝ⁴.

ΪΣ ΑΖΑΜ-ΣΑ ΤΑ ΔΝ ΜΑΪΣΤΡΕΔΑΣ, ΪΣ ΜΕΔΣΑ ΤΑ ΛΕ ΡΑΪΖΑΪΛ⁵,
ΘΕ ΖΥΡ ΣΟΪΝΝΕΑΝΤΑ ΚΛΑΡ Α ΗΘΕΔΑΪΝ.
ΘΥΪΡΦΕΑΘ ΣΪ ΜΟ ΘΑΪΛ Ϊ ΒΡΑΘ ΪΖΥΣ Ϊ ΝΖΙΟΡΡΪ
ΔΖΥΣ ΒΪ ΡΥΡΥΣΤ ΔΡ ΖΘΑΣ Δ ΡΕΪΤΥΖΑΘ
ΜΑΘΑΘ ΡΥΑΘ ΒΕΪΘ ΣΥΖΑΘ, ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΘΑΟΪΡΪΖ ΘΥΪΘ ΔΡ ΡΑΪΖΑΪΛ,
ΝΪ ΚΛΥΪΝΦΕΑΡ ΜΕ ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΘΑΪΘ ΔΣ ΕΪΛΕΑΪΘ.
ΔΡ ΜΪ ΡΟΚΑΛ ΘΥΪΘ, Δ ΣΕΔΑΖΑΪΝ, ΖΟ ΒΡΥΪΛ ΔΝ ΕΑΛΑΘΑΝ ΑΝΝΣ ΝΑ ΜΝΑ
ΔΖΥΣ ΘΟΪΛΑΪΖ ΖΟ ΣΑΪΘ ΪΝ ΘΪΘΪΖΘΑΪΛ⁶.

ΜΑΪΡΕ ΝΪ ΖΡΙΑΝΝΑ; ΡΑΝΝ ΝΑ ΡΕΪΡΣΘΕ
Θ ΪΘΕΘΑΪΘ ΜΑΘ ΖΡΙΑΝΝΑ (29 ΒΛΙΑΘΑΪΝ); ΡΑΝΝ ΝΑ ΡΕΪΡΣΘΕ

At the gates of Baile Buí, I committed the deed
That was silly, foolish (baoth), impetuous (deannta)⁷
Eloping with a woman, for a short while in the night,
In spite of its universal⁸ prohibition
Because I was without vigour, without courage in my heart,
although she was with me on the brow of a hill,
My flesh⁹ was overcoming me and I had to lie down
And she went away, the pure maiden.

At the setting of the sun at this time yesterday
It was I who had the sad story to tell
I was like unto a person who was stretched out in the clay
And, O Mary, am I not the one to be pitied?
My friends would say to me, those who were there,
“Have nothing to do (?) with women, my boy.”
But those who grieved for my situation, would grieve their fill,
Because my hands and feet are like black coals.

O Mary and my King¹⁰, wasn't I a source of regret to you
At the start of this life on account of pleasure
And the closer I came, with sickness overcoming me (?)
And coming closer to death (the final border)
There is nothing in the world more grievous (larger)
Than the greatest sin which is committed
Than to tempt a lovely young maiden with your kisses
And then to leave her sorrowful afterwards.

Were I away in Spain, lying on my deathbed
And I heard your voice in Erin
I would quietly arise, like the salmon in a channel
In the deeps of the Erne.
Not another word from a woman will I ever believe
Until I receive it written in English
Or until I have spent nine days frolicking with death
Or until I've been away from you for a spell of time.

It is I who has the worst possible mistress
Although her brow is guileless
She would broadcast my character both far and near
And our difficulty could be easily resolved.
That a fox would be playful with a black sheep
I will never be heard demanding.
My advice to you, John, is that there is artifice in women.
Sleep¹¹ you peacefully without them.

¹ “buadhach”: Victorious, valuable, precious, joyous; other versions use “baoth” (foolish)

² Alternative: “ΔΣ ΘΥΛ Δ ΛΥΪΖΕ ΘΟΝ ΖΡΕΪΝ”

³ Alternative: “ΡΑ ΜΟ ΘΡΟΪΘ Δ ΒΕΪΘ ΙΜΪ ΛΑΡ ΙΝΑ ΖΥΑΛ ΘΥΘ.”, (my heart within being a black coal)

⁴ Alternative: “ΔΣ ΘΥΪΛ ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΖΙΝΝΣΕ ΣΡΑΣ ΔΡ ΕΪΖΙΝ” (Hoping to somehow acquire my freedom)

⁵ Alternative: “ΪΣ ΜΕΔΣΑ Ϊ ΖΡΟΪΘΪΑ ΡΑΪΛ” (the worst within the borders of Ireland)

⁶ Alternative: “ΪΝΑ ΗΘΕΔΑΪΜΑΪΣ” (in her absence)

⁷ Alternative is “baoth-déanta”: foolishly or precipitately done

⁸ (equiv. “under the sky”)

⁹ Other versions have used “codladh”, but Ms McGrianna’s transcription explicitly changes it to “colainn” (body, concupiscent flesh)

¹⁰ God

¹¹ Imperative, singular