

ΔΣ ΖΕΔΡΤΑΪ ΘΔΙΛΕ ΘΥΪ, Δ ΡΙΝΝ ΜΙΣΕ ΔΝ ΖΝΪΟΪ,  
Δ ΒΪ ΔΜΑΠΘΕΔΑΪ ΒΥΔΘΔΑΪ<sup>1</sup> ΘΕΑΝΤΑ;  
ΈΔΛΥΖΑΘ ΛΕ ΜΝΑΟΙ, ΣΕΛ ΤΑΜΑΙΛΤ ΑΝΝΣ ΔΝ ΟΙΘΪ,  
ΔΡ ΝΕΔΪΜ-ΘΕΔΘ ΘΔ ΡΑΙΘ ΡΑΟΙ ΝΑ ΣΡΕΔΡΤΑ.  
ΜΔΡ ΒΪ ΜΙΣΕ ΖΑΝ ΒΡΪΖ, ΖΑΝ ΜΙΣΝΕΔΑΪ ΔΝΝ ΜΟ ΘΡΟΪΘΪ,  
ΔΖΥΣ Ϊ ΑΖΑΜ ΔΡ ΜΑΛΑΙΘ ΣΛΕΪΘΕ,  
ΘΪ ΔΝ ΕΘΕΛΕΘ ΘΟΛΑΙΝΝ ΖΑ ΜΟ ΘΛΑΟΪΘ, ΔΖΥΣ ΒΪ ΕΪΣΕΑΝ ΘΑΪΜ-ΣΑ ΛΥΪΖΪ,  
ΔΖΥΣ ΘΪ ΜΤΪΖ ΣΪ, ΔΝ ΡΪΘΡ ΜΑΪΖΘΕΑΝ.

ΔΣ ΖΑΘΔΑΙΛ<sup>2</sup> Ϊ ΛΥΪΖΕ ΘΕΪΝ ΖΡΕΪΝ, ΡΑΪΝ ΔΝ ΣΕΘ ΙΠΘΕ,  
ΘΑΪ ΑΖΑΜ-ΣΑ Δ ΒΪ ΔΝ ΣΘΕΑΛ ΒΥΔΘΑΡΤΑ;  
ΘΑΪ ΣΑΪΜΑΙΛΤ ΘΑΪΜ ΔΝ ΤΕ, Δ ΣΪΝΘΕΘ ΔΝΝΣ ΔΝ ΘΡΕ,  
ΪΖΥΣ Δ ΜΪΥΙΡΕ, ΝΑΪ ΜΕ ΔΝ ΤΡΥΔΪΖΕ.  
ΪΣΕ ΘΕΪΡΕΘΘ ΜΟ ΘΑΪΡΘΕ ΛΙΟΜ, ΔΝ ΜΕΪΘ ΑΘΑ ΒΪ ΛΑΪΑΪΡ  
ΑΛΛΤΥΪΖΗ(?) ΛΕΪΣ ΝΑ ΜΝΑ Δ ΒΥΔΑΪΛΛ,  
ΔΪ ΔΝ ΜΕΪΘ Δ ΝΖΟΙΛΛΕΘΘ ΟΡΤΑ ΜΟ ΘΑΣ, ΖΟΛΑΘ ΣΙΔΘ Δ ΣΑΪΘ,  
ΡΑ ΜΟ ΘΟΣΑ<sup>3</sup> ΔΖΥΣ ΜΟ ΛΑΪΜ ΘΕΪΘ Ν-Α ΝΖΥΑΛ ΘΥΘ.

Θ Δ ΜΪΥΙΡΕ ΪΖΥΣ Δ ΡΪ, ΝΑΪ ΜΑΪΡΖ ΟΡΑΪΘ ΒΪΟΣ,  
Ϊ ΘΘΟΪΣΕΔΑΪ Δ Τ-ΣΑΘΖΑΪΛ ΛΕ ΠΛΕΪΣΪΥΡ,  
ΝΘ Ϊ ΝΖΙΟΡΡΑΪΤ ΖΥΡ Δ ΒΪΟΣ, ΔΝ ΤΙΝΝΕΑΣ Δ ΘΟ ΘΛΑΟΪΘ  
ΪΖΥΣ ΔΪ ΤΑΡΡΑΪΝΖΤ ΔΡ ΝΑ ΚΡΪΘΪΑ ΘΕΪΡΕΔΑΝΝΑΪΘΪ.  
ΝΪΛ ΣΕ ΔΡ ΔΝ ΘΟΪΜΑΝ ΝΪΘ ΔΡ ΒΪΘ ΝΪΟΣ 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 ΘΑΪΣ,  
ΔΖΥΣ ΚΛΥΝΝΪΜ-ΣΕ ΘΟ ΪΛΘΡ ΙΝ ΕΪΡΙΝΝ;  
ΖΟ Ν-ΘΕΪΘΟΘΑΪΝΝ ΖΟ ΣΑΪΝ, ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΒΡΑΘΔΝ ΔΡ ΔΝ Τ-ΣΝΑΪΜ,  
Ϊ ΝΠΥΘΕΔΑΖΑΝ Ϊ ΛΑΡ ΝΑ ΗΘΙΡΝΕ.  
ΡΟΘΑΛ ΔΡ ΒΪΘ ΜΝΑ ΝΪ ΚΡΕΪΘΡΪΘ ΜΕ ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΘΑΪ,  
ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΖΑΘΘ ΜΙΣΕ ΣΚΡΪΘΘΑ Ϊ ΜΒΕΔΑΡΛΑ Ε,  
ΝΘ ΖΥΡ ΘΑΪΘ ΜΕ ΝΑΟΙ ΛΑ, ΔΣ ΚΛΕΔΑΪΘΕΔΑΪΤ ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΒΑΣ,  
ΝΘ ΖΥΡ ΘΑΪΜ ΜΕ ΘΥΪΘ ΣΡΑΣ ΔΡ ΕΪΖΪΝ<sup>4</sup>.

ΪΣ ΑΖΑΜ-ΣΑ ΤΑ ΔΝ ΜΑΪΣΤΡΕΔΑΣ, ΪΣ ΜΕΔΣΑ ΤΑ ΛΕ ΡΑΪΖΑΪΛ<sup>5</sup>,  
ΘΕ ΖΥΡ ΣΟΪΝΝΕΑΝΤΑ ΚΛΑΡ Α ΗΘΕΔΑΪΝ.  
ΘΥΪΡΦΕΘΘ ΣΪ ΜΟ ΘΑΪΛ Ϊ ΒΡΑΘ ΪΖΥΣ Ϊ ΝΖΙΟΡΡΪ  
ΔΖΥΣ ΒΪ ΡΥΡΥΣΤ ΔΡ ΖΘΑΣ Δ ΡΕΪΤΥΖΑΘ  
ΜΑΘΑΘ ΡΥΑΘ ΘΕΪΘ ΣΥΖΑΘ, ΛΕΪΣ ΔΝ ΘΑΟΪΡΪΖ ΘΥΪΘ ΔΡ ΡΑΪΖΑΪΛ,  
ΝΪ ΚΛΥΪΝΦΕΔΑΡ ΜΕ ΖΟ ΒΡΑΪΘΑΪ ΔΣ ΕΪΛΕΑΪΜ.  
ΔΡ ΜΪ ΡΟΘΑΛ ΘΥΪΤ, Δ ΣΕΔΑΖΑΪΜ, ΖΟ ΘΡΥΪΛ ΔΝ ΕΑΛΑΘΑΝ ΑΝΝΣ ΝΑ ΜΝΑ  
ΔΖΥΣ ΘΟΘΛΑΪΖ ΖΟ ΣΑΪΜ ΪΝ ΟΪΘΪΘΒΑΪΛ<sup>6</sup>.

ΜΑΪΡΕ ΝΪ ΖΡΙΑΝΝΑ; ΡΑΝΝ ΝΑ ΡΕΪΡΣΘΕ  
Θ ΪΘΕΘΑΪΜ ΜΑΘ ΖΡΙΑΝΝΑ (29 ΒΛΙΑΘΑΪΜ); ΡΑΝΝ ΝΑ ΡΕΪΡΣΘΕ

At the gates of Baile Buí, I committed the deed  
That was silly, foolish (baoth), impetuous (deannta)<sup>7</sup>  
Eloping with a woman, for a short while in the night,  
In spite of its universal<sup>8</sup> prohibition  
Because I was without vigour, without courage in my heart,  
although she was with me on the brow of a hill,  
My flesh<sup>9</sup> 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 King<sup>10</sup>, 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.  
Sleep<sup>11</sup> you peacefully without them.

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

<sup>2</sup> Alternative: “ΔΣ ΘΥΛ Δ ΛΥΪΖΕ ΘΟΝ ΖΡΕΪΝ”

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

<sup>4</sup> Alternative: “ΔΣ ΘΥΪΛ ΖΟ ΘΡΑΪΖΪΝΝΣΕ ΣΡΑΣ ΔΡ ΕΪΖΪΝ” (Hoping to somehow acquire my freedom)

<sup>5</sup> Alternative: “ΪΣ ΜΕΔΣΑ Ϊ ΖΡΟΪΘΑΪ ΡΑΪΛ” (the worst within the borders of Ireland)

<sup>6</sup> Alternative: “ΪΝΑ ΗΘΕΔΑΪΜΑΪΣ” (in her absence)

<sup>7</sup> Alternative is “baoth-déanta”: foolishly or precipitately done

<sup>8</sup> (equiv. “under the sky”)

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

<sup>10</sup> God

<sup>11</sup> Imperative, singular