

2. Arwyrain Owain Gwynedd

Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr

edited and translated by Ann Parry Owen

- Arddwyreaf hael hwyl gyfrgain—yng nghad,
Hwrdd fleiniad feiddiad, flaidd cyfwyrain,
Yn ail arwar mawr myn yd gyngain,
Yn ail awduriaeth, meddfaeth madiain,
5 Yn ail awyddfalch, gwalch goradain,
Yn ail awen ddofn o ddwfn gofiain,
Yn ail arwraidd, gŵr huadain,
Yn ail arwyre ail arwyrain,
Yn ail gerdd i'm rhwyf, yn rhwydd yd fain,
10 Yn ail air moliant, moli Owain.
Cyfarfu ag Eingl am Degeingl diredd,
Gwaedlaw ar ddarwedd, gwaed ar ddarwain.
Cyfarfu ddreigiau: rhiau Rhufain
Ac esillydd Rhun rhudd ei gigwain,
15 Dragon o ddwyrang, draig o ddwyrain,
Draig wen wollewin well ei dichwain.
Oedd cleudaer, oedd claer cleddyf uch gwain
A llinon yng ngnif a llif rhag llain;
Llafn yn llaw a llaw yn lladd pennain,
20 Llaw ar llafn a'r llafn ar llu Norddmain;
Ac eryfoedd trwm rhag tremid angau
Ac eryfed crau ac eryfain;
Arwyar ar wŷr, ar wŷr gnofain,
Ar gnawd y ciglau adnau ednain;
25 Ar edrywan gwân gwayw yn adain,
Ar edrywedd gwaed gwaeddai gigfrain:
Marchogynt ar feirw, ar fil frain,
Marchogion Brynaich branes Owain!
Celyrnedd dachwedd, calanedd crain,
30 Celennig uddudd coludd celain.
Cyrdd ydd awn am ddawn, am ddadwyrain—glyw,
Cerddorion amryw am rodd Owain,
Ar hil cadr Cadell, Hiriell hiriain,
Ar berging Coeling am eu coelfain.

35 Ergyrwayw cludlan, clod huysgain,
 Eryr huysgwr ysgwyd arwain,
 Erchwyniawg trylew, trylwyn uch prain,
 Tryliw ei ongyr, angerdd rysgain.
 Gwaith Aberteifi torrynt grain—waywawr
 40 Fal Gwaith Faddon fawr wriawr oriain;
 Gwelais gadau geirw a rhudd feirw rhain
 Oedd rydd i fleiddiau eu hargyfrain;
 Gwelais eu hadaw heb eu hadain
 I dan draed adar, gwŷr gwanar, gwain;
 45 Gwelais eu trychni, trychant celain,
 Gwelais wedy cad coludd ar ddrain;
 Gwelais rhag terfysg twrf adfirain,
 Torfoedd ymosgryn, tarf ymysgrain;
 Gwelais drydar crain i ar ddrumain—môr,
 50 Gwelais eu hesgor, ysgar ddilain;
 Gwelais beleidr gwŷr am fagwyr fain,
 Gwelais barau rhudd rhag rhuthr Owain;
 Gwelais ar Saeson trychion, truain,
 Tru ddydd difedydd, fedel cyngrain;
 55 Gweithfuddig gwledig gwlad feibionain,
 Gwaith Bryn Dygannwy, eu dyganrain;
 Gwelais yn Rhuddlan yn rhuddlanw cain
 Torf arwr am ŵr am orwyrain;
 Gwelais rhag Penfro penadur digardd,
 60 Gwelais rhag Pennardd pen ar ddigrain;
 Gwelais eu berthladd berthlu yng nghrain
 Yn yd byrth berthdud golud gwylain;
 Gwelais dyrff dygen, gwelais ddyrain,
 Gwelais ddyrawr awr arwydd ddatsain;
 65 Gwelais darf ar gyfarf, ar gyfaniain,
 Gwelais aer uch Caer, uch Coed Llwyfain.
 Nid oeddynt Wynedd wryd fychain,
 Nid oeddud fygwyl, fugail Prydain!

2. In praise of Owain Gwynedd
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I am magnifying a generous man whose assault in battle is splendid,
a challenger who is a leader in an onslaught, an exalted hero,
the image of great delight wherever he is found,
4 the image of authority, nourished on mead and born fortunate,
the image of proud vigour, a winged hawk,
the image of profound inspiration, of profound memories,
an heroic image, a swift hero,
8 the image of an exultation in a second song of praise,
a second poem for my lord, it succeeds easily,
a second greeting of praise, praising Owain.
He met with the Angles (= English) concerning the lands of Tegeingl,
12 when there was a raining of flowing blood, blood pouring.
Dragons met: a king recognised by Rome
and the descendant of Rhun with his blood-stained spear,
dragons in a conflict between two: a dragon of the east
16 and the splendid dragon of the west whose circumstances were superior.
There was a swift and keen sword, shining above its scabbard,
and there were spears in the conflict and a stream of blood flowing due to
the sword's action;
a blade in a hand and a hand cutting off heads,
20 a hand on a blade and the blade on the army of the Normans;
and heavy carousals [for crows] because of the agony of death
and the drinking of blood and feasting;
blood on warriors, on the bones of soldiers,
24 upon the flesh I heard birds of prey;
at the piercing of a blow a spear deep in an arm,
on the trail of blood ravens would scream:
they would ride on dead men, above a thousand crows,
28 Owain's flight of ravens were like knights riding on the men of Bernicia!
Slaughter for cauldrons, corpses fallen,
the corpse's bowels were a New Year's gift for them.
Let us go in multitudes to receive a reward, to praise the prince once again,
32 several poets seeking Owain's gift,
going to the descendant of Cadell's handsome lineage, tall Hiriell,

to the defender of the descendants of Coel to receive their reward.
 He who is like a thrusting spear on the battlefield, of widespread praise,
 36 a steadfast hero, bearing a shield,
 an incredibly brave protector, splendid in a feast,
 blood-stained his spear, scattering violence.
 In the Battle of Cardigan falling spears would shatter,
 40 as in the great Battle of Badon, an assault of battle cries;
 I saw cruel armies and blood-stained, stiffened dead men,
 wolves were free to bury them;
 I saw them left without an arm
 44 beneath the feet of birds, fierce, slain warriors;
 I saw their destruction, three hundred corpses,
 I saw after battle bowels hanging on thorns;
 I saw in the face of tumult a savage host,
 48 thrusting against armies who were wallowing in retreat;
 I saw a collapsing conflict on the sea cliffs,
 I saw them cast away, the enemy's destruction;
 I saw warriors' spears around a stone fortification,
 52 I saw blood-stained lances because of Owain's attack;
 I saw upon the wounded and wretched Saxons,
 on a wretched and savage day, the reaping of warriors;
 victorious in battle was the king of the descendants of a kingdom,
 56 at the Battle of Bryn Degannwy I saw them being pursued;
 I saw at Rhuddlan, in a beautiful blood-stained tide,
 an heroic host gathered around a hero because of his fame;
 I saw before Pembroke a faultless prince,
 60 I saw before Pennardd a head astray;
 I saw them killed splendidly, a splendid army in a collapse,
 where splendid people carry away the riches of sea-gulls;
 I saw sad hosts, I saw exultation,
 64 I saw a fierce attack, the echo of an omen;
 I saw an armed warrior in flight, and men of a similar nature,
 I saw a battle above Chester, above Coed Llwyfain.
 The men of Gwynedd were not insignificant in their bravery,
 68 you were not cowardly, defender of Britain.