

An Mhaighdean Mhara

Song



An Mhaighdean Mhara

Is cosúil gur mheath tú nó gur thréig tú an greann,
Tá sneachta go freasach fá bhéal na mbeann',
Do chúl buí daite 's do bhéilín sámh,
Siúd chugaibh Mary Chinidh 's í i ndiaidh an Éirne 'shnámh

A mháithrín dhílis, dúirt Máire Bhán,
Fá Bhruach an chladaigh 's fá bhéal na trá
'Mhaighdean Mhara, mo mhaithrín ard,
Siúd chugaibh Mary Chinidh 's í i ndiaidh an Éirne 'shnámh

Tá mise tuirseach agus beidh gach lá
Mo Mháire bhroinngeal 's mo Phádraig bán
Ar bharr na dtonn a 's fá bhéal na trá
Siúd chugaibh Mary Chinidh 's í i ndiaidh an Éirne 'shnámh

Translation from the Irish by Dr. Philip O'Leary, Boston College

It's likely you have languished and given up fun,
Snow is abundant on the mountain peaks,
Your yellow-coloured hair and your lovely little mouth,
There coming towards you is Mary Chinidh and she after swimming Lough Erne.

O my own dear mother, said fair-haired Máire,
Around the edge of the shore and around the mouth of the strand,
O mermaid, my tall dear mother,
There coming towards you is Mary Chinidh and she after swimming Lough Erne.

I am tired and will be every day
My white-breasted Máire and my fair-haired Pádraig
On top of the waves and around the mouth of the strand
There coming towards you is Mary Chinidh and she after swimming Lough Erne.