

Seithenhin

This is an English translation by Diarmuid Johnson of the text *Seithenhin* from Llyfr Du Caerfyrddin/The Black Book of Carmarthen.

You, Seithenhin, go and stand outside
And witness the wrath of the sea;
The Plain of Gwyddnau has been roofed in.

Cursed be the maid who allowed it to enter
Once the feasting was over;
She bore a chalice from the source of the foaming sea.

Cursed be the juvenile female who allowed it in
After a struggle;
She bore a cup from the source of the barren sea.

A cry uttered by a young female voice atop the fortifications -
This is a cry sent out to God:
Arrogance soon leads to great desolation.

A cry uttered by a young female voice atop the fortifications -
Her plea for clemency she sends to god:
Arrogance soon leads to remorse.

A cry uttered by a young female voice
Has stirred my mind today
And there is no way at hand to reverse the damage:
Arrogance soon leads to the downfall of men.

A girl utters a cry mounted on a handsome chestnut horse;
The bountiful god has brought these things about.
Affluence soon leads to penury.

A cry uttered by a girl prompts me
To leave my room tonight:
Arrogance soon leads to great destitution.

Seithenhin's grave may be found
Between Caer Cenedir and the shore.
He was a man of high wisdom,
A great leader - such was he.

DJ, Oberpleis, Germany 08.2016