

MAIREAD NAN CUIREAD

HI RI HOIREANN O (2)

Ach a Mhairead nan cuiread
's dàn' a chuir thu orm breug

HI RI RI RI OHO

RO HO HI HOIREANN O

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HI RI HOIREANN O (2)

Thuirt thu riumsa le urradh
Nach b' fhuilear dhomh bréid.

Gu robh leanabh am pasgadh
fo asna mo chléibh.

Cuim nach innseadh tu 'n fhìrinn
mar a dh'innsinn ort fhéin?

Ann an làthair mo thighearn'
far am bithinn 's tu réidh.

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Thilg thu orms' mar aithlis
gu robh m' athair an éis.

Cha b' ionnan dha m' athair
's dha d' athair-sa fhéin.

Cha b' ionnan dh' ar taighean
'n àm laighe do 'n ghréin.

'S ann a gheibht' an taigh t' athar-s'
Cinn is cnàmhan an éisg.

'S ann a gheibht' an taigh m' athar-s'
Cinn is casan an fhéidh.

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*But, crafty Margaret, /impudently you lied about me.
You told me forcefully /that I ought to have a wife's kertch*,
That there was a baby enfolded /under the rib of my body.
Why would you not tell the truth /as I would of you?
In the presence of my Lord (5) /where you and I would be equal.
You cast up as a reproach to me /that my father was in want.
Things were not alike /for my father and yours.
Things were not alike in our houses /at the time of sunset.
In your father's house would be found /the heads and bones of fish.
In my father's house would be found (10) /the heads and feet of deer.***

*The headdress which was the badge of a married woman. "Crafty Margaret" had accused the singer of being pregnant although unmarried.

**Eating fish was despised as a sign of poverty; venison was the meat of choice for the rich.