

# TOGAIL NA TEBE THE THEBAID



# TOGAIL NA TEBE

E. 1<sup>a</sup> 1 Eg. 173<sup>a</sup> 1

AROILE righ uasal oirmuidnech onorach rogabh forlamhus Theb.

7 ferandus ar an ardcathraigh n-aibind n-alaind .i. Teibh isin
nGreic dar-ua comainm Laius, 7 is do-sidhe robo mac Eidhip,
7 is on Eidhip sin rocindset na da mac aildi oiregda .i. Polinices
5 7 Etioccles, 7 is iat na braithri sin romarb a chele isin cathugud
mor na Tiabhanta 7 na nGrec ic cosnum righe na hardcathrach
na Teibhe do cechtar leithi.

Acht cena is andsin tainic ar menmain do Stait don airdfilid Frangcach sochinelach bunadh-indruim na Tiabanta, indus 4 10 rocinset o Caithim, mac Aghenoir, 7 is e ant Aighenoir sin rop airdrigh na Tirde 7 na Sidoindoine, 7 is aice roui in ingen sochinelach dar-ua comainm Eoropa, 7 is di tuc Iob in gradh ndermair, co rob hecin do tiachtain a richt tairbh da breith leis tar muinchind mara 7 morfaircee. Et o rosiacht dar in 15 muir sin cu Cred, dochuaidh 'na richt fen, 7 rouai in ingen sin aige co morgradhach, 7 is don ingin sin tuc Iop in tirfochraice n-adhbul i. tres primrand in betha do ainimniugud uaithi i. Eoraip.

Agenoir immorro rogabh ferce γ londus adhbul γ toirrsi mor 20 o fuair esbaid a ingine Eoropa morgradhaich. Is i immorro comairle dorinne andsin Aghenoir, a mac morgradhach do chur ar fud mara γ tire do iarraidh a sheathar uan domun, γ is ed adbert ris (col. β), muna faghbad¹ a shiair, can tiachtain aris, γ gan a fhaicsin dosum. Is andsin immorro rosirastar 25 Caithim dingnada in domain γ oilena ingantacha na haibheisi moraidhbhle thimchellas in bith, γ fuair mor do dhuad γ do dochar γ do ghaibthibh mora γ tire sechnon in domain iter muir γ tir, γ ni fuair in ingin risin ré sin, ge r-ces mor d' imnedh, γ is ed uadera sin nar-fédedh taidhecht i n-aigid 30 Ioip mic Shatuirnd², cend na ndee, a ghradh goiti d'fis fair.

E. is illegible on page 1. Eg. alone is followed up to Eg. 174<sup>a</sup> 1, E. page 2.

<sup>1</sup> Eg. fadhbad

<sup>2</sup> MS. Shatruinn



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#### BOOK I

A certain noble, revered, and honourable king, had assumed sway and proprietorship over the pleasant and splendid capital city of Thebes in Greece. His name was Laius; and he had a son, Oedipus; and from that Oedipus sprang the two fair distinguished sons, to wit, Polynices and Eteocles. They are those brothers that killed one another in the great war between the Thebans and the Greeks, as they contended on each side for the sovereignty of Thebes, the capital city.

Now at that time it came into the mind of Statius the well-born eminent poet of the Franks to describe the origin of the Thebans, how they sprang from Cadmus, son of Agenor, that Agenor who was high-king of Tyre and Sidon, and whose daughter was the well-born maiden named Europa. With her Jove fell deeply in love so that he must needs go in the shape of a bull to fetch her over expanse of sea and ocean. And when he had crossed that sea to Crete, he returned to his own shape, and he held that maiden in great affection, and to that maiden Jove gave the great reward that Europe, one of the three principal divisions of the world, should be named from her.

As for Agenor, however, anger, intense rage, and deep grief took possession of him when he discovered the loss of his well-beloved daughter Europa. Now the plan Agenor then took was to send his well-beloved son over sea and land to seek his sister throughout the world, and he told him, unless he found his sister, not to come again or be seen by him. Then indeed Cadmus searched the world's fastnesses and the wondrous isles of the vast ocean that girds the globe, and he experienced a deal of toil, trouble, and perils of sea and land throughout the world both by sea and by land, and found not the maiden during all that time, though he suffered much tribulation, and for that the reason was that he might not cross Jupiter the son of Saturn, head of the gods, to make known against him his stolen love.

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Ocus o nach fuair-sium a shiair, is i comairle dos-rat ina Theb. menmain trena ghais, dul co tempall Apaild, dei na faistine, d' iar[r]aidh fhessa 7 eolais uadha cuith a roiphi in ingen. Et is ed adbert Apaill ris, gan a sirthain, uair ni bfuighbedh¹, 35 acht eirghedh amach amarach isin magh minscothach maighreidh moradhbul amach, 7 tæceradh bó bendach bithalaind duit isin magh minalaind sin, 7 len-sa hi nocon-luighe, 7 in baile a luighfea, cumdaigther letsa cathair caomcumdachta co muraib moraibhle, 7 co tigibh righ[dh]a rofarsenga, 7 co 40 griananaib seimidhi solusglana, co mad cathair ordain 7 oirechtais na nGrec in cathair sin, 7 co mad e a hainm .i. Boetia no Tebae tre nertudh 7 tre forgill in dei Apaill.

Roan-sum andsin, 7 rogabh itaidh, 7 rocuirther techtaire tairisi uadha ar cend dighe, co sithil alaind umaidhé co 45 n-imdenum oir 7 airgit umpi, co huamaidh adbul imdorcha uai a comfogus do, ar lar fualascaigh coirneacdai, 7 tobar firalaind fondfuar ar a lar. O rosiacht an techtaire dochum na tibra, 7 tuc a sithil uan usci, as andsin tainic in naithir nemhnach a hiarthar na huama, co ceithri [174]2 cendaibh 50 moraidhbhle fuirri, 7 co tri linaibh fiacul in cach cend fo leth, 7 co ndeilbh torathair o hiarthar co hoirther. O dochonairc in techtaire os cind na tibraid, tuc beim da glomraib a naen[fh]echt cuige, go rofagadh can anmain andsin. O ropo fada iarum le Caithim, mac Aghenoir, roui a fer muinntire, 55 rofaidhestar fer eli da muinntir dochum na huama 7 dochum in usque, 7 tuc i[n] naithir in aradhain cetna fair. Cidh tra acht coica oclach torchair da muinntir amlaidh sin. Is andsin roeirigh Caithim, mac Aghenoir, 7 roghabh a edegh<sup>3</sup> 7 rotrealaim a arma, co mbruth miled, co feirg leoman, co neimh 60 nathrach co dorus na huama da digail ar an ti romarbh a mhuinntir. Et o rainic, adconnaire a[n] nathraigh ndigfrecra ndimoir, 7 dorinne sduagh luib moir di o iarthar co hoirther, amal seolcrand lunga lanaidhbhle. O'tchonnairc in fer mor da hindsaigidh, rocathaighset aræn andsin co fuilech guinech 65 crechtach crolinntech andsin, 7 torchuir a[n] naithir fadheoidh, 7 dochuaidh a neimh ar nemhfni. Tainic-sium roime iartain

3 Eg. ededh

<sup>1</sup> Eg. bfuidhbedh

² p. 88 r. a. 1.



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And since he found not his sister, the plan he formed in his mind through his wisdom was this, to go to the temple of Apollo, the god of prophecy, and ask of him information and direction where the maiden was. And this Apollo told him, not to seek her, for he would not find her, but to fare forth to-morrow away on the delicately flowering level far-extended plain, "and a horned ever-beautiful cow would meet you on that delicately beautiful plain. Follow her until she lie down, and where she will lie down let a fair-built city be built by you, with great vast walls, with very spacious palaces, and with mild sollers bright with light," so that that city might be the city of the pomp and assembly of the Greeks, and that its name might be Boeotia or Thebes, owing to the power and the oracle of the god Apollo.

Cadmus remained there, and experienced thirst; and a trusty messenger was sent by him for a draught, with a beautiful brazen vessel embossed around with gold and silver, unto a vast darksome cave that was near him, in the midst of an overhanging grove, with a very beautiful earth-cool well in the midst of it. When the messenger had reached the well, and dipped his vessel down into the water, from the back of the cave there came a venomous serpent, with four huge heads upon it, and with three rows of teeth in each several head, and of monstrous shape from tail to head. When it saw the messenger above the well, it at once dealt him a blow with its muzzle, and he was left there lifeless. Afterwards when Cadmus, son of Agenor, deemed his servant tarried long, he sent another of his following unto the cave and unto the water, and the serpent meted out the same treatment to him. Nay, fifty youths of his following fell thus. Then Cadmus, son of Agenor, rose, donned his armour, and prepared his arms with a soldier's heat, a lion's rage, and a serpent's venom, going to the door of the cave to avenge him on the man that had killed his retainers. And when he arrived, he saw the unspeakable huge serpent, and it made a great arched coil of itself from tail to head, like a mast of a very huge ship. When it saw the great man come nigh it, they fought together there a bloody, wounding, gory, blood-dripping fight then, and the serpent fell at last, and its poison came to nought. Thereafter



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co tempoll Apaill, γ roraidhset na dei ris ar do denum isin Theb. moigh a r-marbad an nathair¹; γ a silad in air sin o fhiaclaib na nathrach, roeirgetar fir fon armghaisced arin tulaigh.
70 Rothreabh in n-uir roime, γ docathaighsit co feg, feochair, fercach; γ romarbh cach dibh a chéle acht æn coicer nammá; γ is lesin coicer sin rochumdaighedh in Teibh, maræn re Caithim, mac Aghenoir. Ba he oenta oiregdha in cuiger (col. β) sin .i. Echion, rouoi a[c] cumdach na Teibhe maræn 75 re Caithim, mac Aghenoir.

Cid tra acht rochumdaighedh in Teibh amlaidh sin re Caithim mac Aghenoir, 7 rouoi co soinmech setach innte re ré foda, co [f]huair doinmed e uadheoidh. Uair rosoad e fen ק a shetigh a ndelbaibh nathrach co cend secht mbliadan, noco 80 tainic craidhi na ndei forro uadeoidh, 7 co roighsit (p. 2) inna corpaib fen iar sin, 7 is do shil innd fhir sin rochinsead na rig tromglana Thiabanda uile, 7 is da sil Eidip mic Lai, 7 robai in Lai hisin i forlamus 7 i fearandas na Teibe fri re fata, 7 is do rothirchansatar faidi 7 druidi, intan atchifead neach da 85 chlaind, gu nach biad a shoegal ni bud fhaiti; conid imi sin donithea gach duine claindi roberthea do, do mudugud' uili. Is andsin darala oenda feacht Edip mac Lai do breith don morrigain Iochasta, 7 rucad he iarna breith co coill commoir comfhaceais, 7 roaithin a mathair gan a malairt n[a] a 90 mudugud2, acht a thochhail i crand comard comreid isinn fhidbaid, 7 rafacbad3 Eidip amlaid sin, 7 o rafacad he [a Eg.] ænur, rogab a chuideran noeidean4.

Atchualaig immorro araile mac rig, robai ar fogail 7 ar dibeirg, in geran sin na noidean arna cengul isin chrund 95 dar-ba comainm Polipus ainm in gilla sin. Tanic in fer sin remi d'indsaigid na naidean, 7 adchondaire in naidin isinn eceandail i rroibe. Tucastair grad ndermair do, 7 ruc leis e da aileamain 7 da altrom amal mac mbunaid do fen. Is andsin rogabastair Polius rigi a thiri 7 a thalman fen, 7 100 tucastar rigdamnacht a fheraind don mac roleasaiged aicei i. do Eidip mac Lai. Is andsin dorala don Eidip sin tecmaill

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Eg. anathrach

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> E. mugugud

<sup>3</sup> E. rafachbad

<sup>4</sup> Eg. a caiderana noidhin



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he proceeded to the temple of Apollo, and the gods told him to plough the plain whereon the serpent had been killed, and from the sowing of that tilth with the serpent's teeth men arose under arms upon the hill. He tilled the soil before him, and they fought fiercely, furiously, angrily; and each one of them killed the other save a single quintette only, and Thebes was built by that quintette along with Cadmus, son of Agenor. That quintette was an illustrious unity, to wit Echion, who was engaged in building Thebes along with Cadmus, son of Agenor.

Well! Thebes was thus built by Cadmus, son of Agenor, and he dwelt in it for a long time prosperously and in wealth, till ill-luck found him in the end. For he himself and his wife were turned into serpent-shapes for the space of seven years, until the heart of the gods turned to them in the end, and then they got back into their own bodies, and of that man's seed sprang all the great and pure Theban kings, and of his seed was Oedipus, son of Laius. That Laius was in the sovereignty and occupation of Thebes for a long time, and of him prophets and wizards had foretold that when he should see any one of his children, his life would last no longer; so that on this account it was usually so done that in the case of every man-child that might be born to him, they were all destroyed. Then it chanced upon a time that Oedipus, son of Laius, was born of the witch Jocasta and after his birth he was carried to a very great wood near by, and his mother gave orders that he should not be lost or destroyed but lifted up into a very high and smooth treetrunk in the wood; and Oedipus was left thus, and when he was left alone, he sang his childish little strain.

A certain king's son, however, who was engaged in plunder and rapine, that lad's name by which he was named was Polybus, heard that plaint of the infant bound in the tree. That man came forward towards the infant, and saw the infant in the plight in which it was. He conceived an exceeding great love for it, and carried it away with him to be nursed and reared as a son originally his own. Then Polybus assumed the sovereignty of his own land and country, and he committed the government of his state to the boy who had been brought up by him, to wit, Oedipus, son of Laius. Then that Oedipus chanced on one



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Eg. 175ª 7

co hanbuinidi¹ anurlum for feachtus ina deagaid sin i cend a Theb. athar Lai, ¬ ni fhitir² Lai comad he Eidip tecmad do, ¬ ni fhitir² immorro Eidip commad he a athair Lai tachrad do. 105 Et bai cach dib ac iarraid a sloindti uar a chele, ¬ ni dearnaid neach dib a slondud da chele. Rofhearadar comlond feochair feargach andsin, ¬ torchair a athair Lai la hEidip tre ainbfhis ¬ aneolus.

Et rogob Eidip fearand a athar, 7 tucastair a mathair do 110 chaemchele chomadais ar ngabail rigi do, 7 ni fhitir-sium sin cein<sup>2</sup> noco tarla menma na rigna Iochassta ar [cosaibh Eg.] comnochta in rig .i. Eidip, uair is amlaid robadar 7 toll tre ceachtarde dib. Iarfaiges in rigan: "Cid rotreththoll do troichthi?" ar [s]i andsin. "Ni ansa," ar se. "Is amlaid frith 115 me ar lar na fidbaide i crund roard isin choill, 7 clo [a Eg.] cechtar adam chois acom-congbail isin chrund, 7 nad fetar cia nom-coraig ind3 ban samla sin. Acht romailead 7 romaltromad ac Polipus amal mac do fen, 7 nad fetar-sa nar-ba head cen no gor-hathisiged and me, 7 co n-ebrad rim mo bith 120 im thurcaire thuilighi can fis m' athar no mo mathar. D' fiarfaigus do Pholipus nar-fidir (col. 3) sin indissi dam mar fuair me; 7 as e ni doronnus, dul chom Apaill, dea na faistine, 7 a iarfaigid4 de cait a b[f]uigbind m' athairthir. Raidis Apaill rimsa gan mo slondud<sup>5</sup> do denam do enduine, 1257 in cetfher tecemad dam and, comlond do chur ris, 7 bagebaind fis m' athar [7 fis mo mhathar Eg.] thrit sin. Et is e cetfer dorala cucum asa haithli sin .i. Laius ar sechron (no sechran) selga acon chathraig ac Potchis, 7 darochair limsa é mar adchualabair sib<sup>7</sup>." "Truag am sin," ar si Iochosta, "robe 130 tra in Laius sin th' athair-siu, 7 is misi do mathair, 7 is me roaithin do chengul isin chrund gan da marbad ar met do grada, 7 is me ruc in cethrur cloindi-sea dit .i. Eothiocles 7 Polenitces, Andtigone 7 Ismene an da ingin." "Dur son damsa," ar Eidip, "geneamain, 7 na mignima sin do denam 135 dam, gid tre anfhis 7 aneolus dorala iat." Is andsin immorro tuc Eidip da da<sup>8</sup> laim i n-oenfheacht ceachtar a da shul, 7 <sup>1</sup> E. anbuinidi Eg. anbuiridi <sup>2</sup> Eg. ni fhetar...fitir-san a ghenel 3 E. nom-coraid Eg. frith mhe...adama cois a comcengul...amlaidh-sin 4 MS. iarfaidig 5 E. slondug 4 E. asa hili Eg. asa haithle 7 Eg. selgthi... dotorchair...si 8 Eg. a da



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occasion after that untowardly, unexpectedly to fall in with his father Laius; and Laius knew not that it was Oedipus that met him, and no more did Oedipus know that it was his father Laius that was facing him. And each of them was demanding from the other his name, and neither of them would give the other his name. Then they fought a fierce and angry duel, and his father Laius fell by Oedipus through ignorance and want of guidance.

And Oedipus took his father's land, and on assuming sovereignty espoused his mother as a fitting consort, and knew nothing of that fact till the attention of Queen Jocasta fell upon Oedipus the king's naked feet, for thus they were with a hole through each of them. The queen asked: "What has pierced thy feet?" said she then. "Not hard," said he. "Thus was I found in the middle of a wood in a very high tree in the forest, with a nail through each of my feet keeping me in the tree, and I do not know who had placed me there in that fashion. But I was nursed and brought up by Polybus as his own son, and I knew not that it was not so, till I was reproached therefor, and I was told that I was a bastard waif, with no knowledge of my father or my mother. I ascertained of Polybus that he could not tell me how he had found me: and what I did was to go to Apollo, the god of prophecy, and to ascertain from him where I should find my fatherland. Apollo told me to make my name known to no man, and to do battle with the first man that met me there, and I should obtain tidings of my father and my mother thereby. And the first man that chanced to approach me thereafter was Laius, wandering in hunting near the city of Phocis, and he fell by me, as ye have heard." "That is sad indeed," said Jocasta; "that Laius was in truth thy father, and I am thy mother; and it is I that gave orders that thou shouldest be bound in the tree and not killed, so much did I love thee; and it is I that bore thee these four children, Eteocles and Polynices, Antigone and Ismene being the two daughters." "Hard is that for me," said Oedipus, "that they should be born, and that these misdeeds should be done by me, though it be through ignorance and want of guidance that they happened." Then, moreover, Oedipus with his two hands seized his two eyes at once, and



E. 2<sup>b</sup> 18

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Eg. 175b 22

robean asa chind'iat, arbithin gu nnaran-aiced-sum<sup>1</sup> neach ar Theb. met a naire a haithli na morchol sin do denam do, cona faictis² sluaig na sochaide he.

Inthusa immorro da mac Eidip i. Eothiocles γ Polenices, roeirig tnuth γ trenchosnum eturu im rigi na Tebe, gu nar-fhæm neach dib comroind na cathrach na in chiniuda d' aroile d' eis dallta a n-athar. Ni thucsad onoir na huaisli da n-athair, acht robadar fein co diumsach drochaicentach a[c] 145 caithim a n-atharda γ ind [fh]eraind³, γ adar le gach mac dib ba he fen bid ri and.

Dala immorro Eidip ar sin, robai co dubach domenmach 46 i n-uamthig4 thalman gan rigi gan roflaithus arna malairt 7 arna mudugud<sup>5</sup> do fhen. Is andsin dorigne Eidip lam-150 chomairt moir 7 [toirsi\* Eg.] n[d]o[fh]olachta cosna deib aduathmaraib iffernaide, 7 co Teissifone cussin mbandea n[d]eamnaig n[d]asachtaig do sonrud, 7 is ed so adrubairt: 56 "Roailis misi, 7 roaltrumais co ndernes ulca imda ilerda tre t' aslach 7 tre t' adanugud8, co romarbus m' athair crin 155 cianæsta acin chathraig dianaid comainm Foiceida, 7 rothuaslucus tre t' [fh]or[t]acht-su cesta doilgi dithuaslaicthi in torathair diar-ba comainm Spinx, 7 is e in torathar sin robai i tír na Tiabanda, 7 is e rofiarfaigead do gach oen tecmad da indsaigid<sup>11</sup>: 'Cade int anmanda<sup>12</sup> cetharchosta, dechosta<sup>13</sup>, tre-Et in te na tabrad tuaslucud<sup>14</sup> arin ceist do, 160 chosta?' romarbad sin<sup>15</sup> uile iad, cein nogo ranac-sa<sup>16</sup> da indsaigid, intan roba ac iar[r]aid m' athar, 7 rofhiarfaig in torathar na ceasta cetna damsa<sup>17</sup>, 7 adrubart-sa ris cor-be in duine sin<sup>18</sup>, uair ceatharchosach he ina naideanntacht i. cona da 19 chois 1657 cona da laim i n-enfheacht ac imluad dho: dechosta20 immorro [é<sup>21</sup> Eg.] inna ocuataid<sup>22</sup> .i. 7 ina ferdacht<sup>23</sup> (p. 3) .i. a da chois amain aicci ac imtheacht, trechosta immorro é ina seanntacht 7 ina sheanordacht24 .i. a da chois 7 a lorg aicci ac

<sup>1</sup> Ég. cu nach faiced san 2 Eg. conach faicidis é 3 Eg. an ferainn cach 4 Eg. uamaibh 5 E. mugugud 6 Eg. 7 toirsi E. toirrsi 7 Eg. bandei 8 Eg. tre h asloch...tre todhannudh 9 Eg. rothuasluigius 10 Eg. difhuaslaicthi 11 MS. rofiarfaidead...indsaigig 12 Eg. ant ainmide 13 Eg. dochosta 14 Eg. in té...fuaslucadh 15 nomarbad son 16 gen go ranagus 17 E. rofiarfaid... Eg. dimsa 18 sin om. 19 noidhintacht i. adha 20 dochosta 14 Ég. cocuadhtaid 23 MSS. ferrdacht 24 Eg. senoracht