In my edition of Audacht Morainn, line 28 is printed as follows:

Comlan congrēt

It may be translated into English this way: ‘make the hero perfect’.

I have no improvement to suggest regarding the translation. The text itself is another matter. Since the best manuscript clearly reads chongrēt, with lenition of the initial consonant of the object of the sentence, I have started wondering whether this reading ought not to be adopted in the text.

To be sure, the pattern of post-verbal lenition in the earlier glosses is such that it is only after the copula that we find regularly lenited initial consonants following imperative forms. However, since very many other imperative singulars originally ended in vowels, lenition is not entirely unexpected in a case like this. Indeed, it seems by no means impossible that the lenition that is ‘found, though not consistently, after any verb’ in sources like Mi. and Sg. may be derived from cases where the verbal forms originally ended in a vowel. Also, Welsh has grammaticalised lenition as a kind of object marker after finite verbs.

In lines 73–4, I read:

tress bláib buaid cuirm thige co coimbaib co mannaib mórab mid-chóartaib medárd a mbail a mbáth 7 gaith, gnáith 7 ingnáith

This I have translated into French in a manner such as to suggest the following English rendering: ‘the third immunity among them is the privilege of the ale-house, with friends, with great abundances and mead-circuits, where foolish and wise ones, familiar and strange ones get drunk’. This time, I have no improvements to suggest for the text.


2The French translation in my edition (p. 155; cited in note 1) probably sounds more felicitous: ‘perfectionner le héros’.


4Thurneysen, Grammar, 144 § 233.1 [b].

5ibid., 374 § 587.

6ibid., 144–5 § 233.2.


itself. Regarding the translation, on the other hand, I now feel that I had been wrong in believing that there was asyndetic co-ordination between co mannaib mórib and midchóartaib. Instead, I should prefer to take midchóartaib as an independent dative, with a locative meaning ‘in’. Thus, a better translation might be: ‘the third immunity among them is the privilege of the ale-house, with friends and great abundances in the mead-circuits, where foolish and wise ones, familiar and unfamiliar ones get drunk’. The fact that the preposition co before coimneab is repeated before mannaib mórib but that midchóartaib is left without, surely indicates that the last word is an independent dative, where the case-ending carries a meaning other than that of co.

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\[10\] It seems worth a footnote to observe that ‘unfamiliar’ feels closer to the original than ‘strang[er]’.

\[11\] Thurneysen, Grammar, 161-2 § 251.3.