

Hé mandu

Hé mandu
'S truagh nach tigeadh
HE MANDU
Siod 'gam iarraidh
HE MANDU
Gille 's litir
HI RI ORO
Each is diollaid
HE MANDU HI RI ORO HO RO HU O

*Alas that this does not come
to fetch me:
a messenger and a letter
a horse and a saddle.*

HE MANDU
Gille 's litir
HE MANDU
Each is diollaid
HE MANDU
Nam biodh agam
HI RI ORO
Sgiath a' ghlaisein
HE MANDU HI RI ORO HO RO HU

*If only I had
the sparrow's wing,*

Iteag an eòin
Spòg na lachainn.

*the bird's power of flight,
the wild duck's foot,*

Shnàmhainn na caoil
Air an tarsuinn

*I would swim the narrows
right across*

An Caol Ileach
'S an Caol Arcach

*the Sound of Islay,
the Sound of Orkney,*

'S rachainn a steach
Chon a' chaisteil

*I would go into
the castle*

'S bheirinn a mach
As mo leannan.

*and I would bring out
my sweetheart.*

Chan fhoighnichdinn
Có bu leis i.

*I would not ask
whose she was.*

'S e mo Dhòmh'all
Fhuair an togail

*My Donald
was well reared*

Cha b' ann le bùrn
Gorm a' lodainn

*not on water
all green from a pond*

Ach le bainne
Nam ban donna.
HE MANDU HI RI ORO HO RO HU O
HE MANDU
HE MANDU HI RI ORO HO RO HU O

*but on the milk
of brown-haired women.*