

## The Birch Trees

*Black Book of Carmarthen XVI*  
*From The Four Ancient Books of Wales*

Blessed is the birch in the valley of Gwy  
Whose branches will fall off one by one, two by two  
It will remain when there will be a battle in Ardudwy  
And the lowing together of the cattle about the ford of Mochnwy  
And spears and shouting at Dyganwy  
And Edwin bearing sway in Mona  
And youths pale and light  
In ruddy clothes commanding them.

Blessed is the birch in Pumlumon  
Which will see when the front of the stage shall be exalted  
and which will see Franks clad in mail  
About the hearth food for whelps  
And monks frequently riding on steeds.

Blessed is the birch in the heights of Dinwythy  
Which will know when there shall be a battle in Ardudwy  
And spears uplifted around Edrywy  
And a bridge in the Taw, and another on the Tawy  
And another, on account of a misfortun, on the banks of the Gwy  
And the artificer that will make it, let his name be Garwy;  
and the principle of Mona have dominion over it.  
Women will be under the Gynt, and men in affliction  
Happier than I is he who will welcome  
The time of Cadwaladyr: a song he may sing!

---

This poem is attributed to Myrddin, as one of his "prophetic" poems made during his madness in Celydon.