

## Reunion scríofa ag Breandán Ó Súilleabháin (ainm cleite)( aois >30)

“Great meeting with you again,” said Crom Dubh sarcastically as he raised a glass to Saint Brendan in O'Connor's Bar & Guesthouse in Cloghane.

“Oh, you came back?”, said St Brendan.

“I did, and this time you are not going get rid of me that easily. I'm here to stay”, said Crom Dubh.

“I had nothing to do with it. You can blame yourself for that”, said St Brendan.

“What do you mean?”, said Crom Dubh.

“Go on now , stop pretending, do you think that the people of Cloghane wouldn't notice? They knew what you were up to!”, said St Brendan.

“Gradually changing your face with that white stuff so that you'd look more like me. And then probably plotting to eventually take over. Well that was a silly thing to do”, he continued.

“Were you hoping that they would eventually start calling you by my name?”

To the readers who may not know, before Crom Dubh disappeared he had a big white patch on his forehead. This patch had grown over the years as can be seen from older photographs. Google it on the internet to see for yourself.

“Somebody decided enough was enough and it was time for you to go and get rid of you. You may have noticed the lovely statue of me that the lovely people of Cloghane erected to replace you since you've been gone”,said St Brendan in a sneering way.

“Well I can see you are very disappointed to see me back,” said Crom Dubh “but I am hearing locally that the same people of Cloghane are all excited by the news. Some are saying that I look better than ever and I should be given a permanent home so the likes of you can't kidnap me again.So there...” he said angrily.

Then there was a long pause of tension between the two, both thinking back on the good old days of when and how St Brendan converted Crom Dubh to Christianity.

They both looked into their almost empty glasses in silence and contemplated the situation in their minds.

Eventually Crom Dubh couldn't take it any more. He broke the silence and ordered two pints of the black stuff. It was time for him to own up and come clean. After Mícheál placed the pints on the counter Crom Dubh explained.

'Do you see that black liquid in the glass with the white head?'

"Yes", said St Brendan

"Well the last time I was around I used to get very lonely. Very few visited me. A lot of people did not even know where I was or even if I existed at all. I used to hear the music and craic coming from O'Connors and I so badly wanted to drink a pint of the black stuff with the white froth on top and to mingle with the locals at the same time. Then I noticed the white growth in my forehead. Over the years it got bigger and bigger as I got more desperate. It was as if these thoughts were changing my colour. It was going out of control. I was frantic so I had get out of the place and leave", said Crom Dubh

"You mean... you weren't kidnapped?" said St Brendan

"No, I left on my own free will . I went far beyond to get away from it all. To clear my head, so to speak...pardon the pun!", said Crom Dubh

"But I missed Cloghane so much. I longed to come back for years and years. Eventually I plucked up the courage and here I am now again today...." he continued

"I see" says St Brendan

"But I want a new home, in a more prominent place in front of the Cloghane people. Do you think they would allow it? Would you allow it?" said Crom Dubh

Saint Brendan was listening in amazement to this news. To think that he thought all this time that Crom Dubh was stolen because of jealousy? How wrong he was.

St Brendan's christian values and thinking then kicked in and he smiled and welcomed Crom Dubh with the new form of greeting....elbow touching (covid19 precautions!)

“I can assure you that the people of Cloghane will welcome you back and this time they will not put you into a hole in a wall. But let them decide that. I’ll tell you this though, I will be canvassing that you should be placed right beside me outside my own St Brendan's Church’, said St Brendan

“Oh I’d like that very much” said Crom Dubh

“But I’d need one guarantee”, said St Brendan

“What is that?”, said Crom Dubh

“That you won’t try to change the name of my church to Crom Dubh Church” said St Brendan

“Oh no, I would never try to do such a thing” chuckled Crom Dubh

With that they both laughed out loud and raised their glasses to a very happy future together.....