

# **THE COMING OF CUCULAIN**

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The coming of Cuculain by Standish O'Grady

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**STANDISH O'GRADY**

**THE COMING  
OF CUCULAIN**



**THE COMING OF CUCULAIN**

By the same Author.

*The Cuchulain Cycle.*

- I.—THE COMING OF CUCULAIN.
  - II.—IN THE GATES OF THE NORTH.
  - III.—THE TRIUMPH AND PASSING OF CUCULAIN.
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"If the boy comes now, ere I can chain the dog,  
verily he will be torn into small pieces."



# THE COMING OF CUCULAIN

*Cuculain*

BY

STANDISH O'GRADY

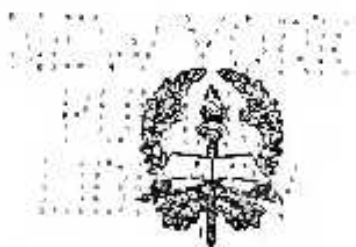
*Author of*

"THE TRIUMPH AND PASSING OF CUCULAIN"

"IN THE GATES OF THE NORTH"

"THE FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE"

ETC.



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P R E F A C E  
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THERE are three great cycles of Gaelic literature. The first treats of the gods ; the second of the Red Branch Knights of Ulster and their contemporaries ; the third is the so-called Ossianic. Of the Ossianic, Finn is the chief character ; of the Red Branch cycle, Cuculain, the hero of our tale.

Cuculain and his friends are historical characters, seen as it were through mists of love and wonder, whom men could not forget, but for centuries continued to celebrate in countless songs and stories. They were not literary phantoms, but actual existences ; imaginary and fictitious characters, mere creatures of idle fancy, do not live and flourish so in the world's memory. And as to the gigantic stature and superhuman prowess and achievements of those antique heroes, it must not be forgotten that all art magnifies, as if in obedience to some strong law ; and so, even in our own times, Grattan, where he stands in artistic bronze, is twice as great as the real Grattan thundering in the Senate. I will therefore ask the reader, remembering the large manner of the antique