

A Plague of Vermin



Part I

Frozen in time, glued to the Cauldron of Warming,
Mother and son, Rhiannon and Pryderi. Meanwhile
A plague of vermin (mice that eat like rats) ravage
The land, and no songbirds to ward them off.

Those mice of the newly established order possess
An ancient pedigree - swarming into power. They
Ravage the land - no songbirds to ward them off,
Gwawl still bitter - 'a woman's place is in my castle.'

Manawyddan, a tradesman and maker of saddles,
A lover of horses - Rhiannon's second husband -
Does not own a castle (and the land is ravaged,
A plague of vermin). Luckily, he is quick-witted

He captures a mouse - it eats corn like a rat -
Prepares to have it hung - no songbirds to ward
Off the vermin. But the mouse - indeed all the mice -
Are enchanted, servants at the court of Gwawl.

Part II

Frozen in time, the Goddess of Horses and her
Young foal - stuck to the Cauldron of Warming.
Trapped in the gloomy fortress, time passes slowly
Until the spell is broken (was the spell ever broken?).