444. **Breeze (Andrew):** The Virgin’s tears of blood.


Concludes that ‘the Virgin’s tears of blood’ of modern Irish folklore, rather than being ‘native’ or ‘Celtic’, is a relic of an international European tradition that was well developed in England. Refers to four Irish instances:

1. *Fearr beagán cloinne ná clann* (see L. McKenna, *Dioghshim dána* (1938), no. 27a, 30 [Best 2 1323a];
2. *Íochadh Críost cumaoín a mháthar* (see L. McKenna, *Dioghshim dána* (1938), no. 26, 30 [Best 2 1323a];
3. *Gin go gceithair cam siur* by Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (1487) (see L. McKenna, *Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn* (1931), poem 13 [Best 2 1728];
4. A prose translation of *The long charter of Christ* by Uilliam Mac an Leagha, dated to ca. 1461-63 (see A. Breeze, in Celtica 19 (1987), pp. 111-120). Cf. also the motif of numbered tears in two poems by Tadhg Óg Ó hUiginn (1448) in poems beg. *Aoidhe meise ag máthair Dé* and *Iomdha róid direach go Dia* (see L. McKenna, *Dán Dé* (1922), nos. 2 and 6 [Best 2 1323a]).

**Classifications:**

- F 3.2: Literature and learning: Typology: Themes, motifs
- F 4.1: Literature and learning: Comparative literature: General and various

**Indexes:**

First Lines of Verse:

- *Aoidhe meise ag máthair Dé*
- *Fearr beagán cloinne ná clann*
- *Gin go gceithair cam siur*
- *Íochadh Críost cumaoín a mháthar*
- *Iomdha róid direach go Dia*

Author/Textual Sources:

- Mac an Leagha, Uilliam
- Ó hUiginn, Philip Bocht (1487)
- Ó hUiginn, Tadhg Óg (1448)
- The Long Charter of Christ