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) anon. Fearr beagn cloinne na clanann; (2) anon. Iocadh Criost cuimaoin a mhathar (see L. McKenna, Dioghaim dein (1938), nos. 27a, 30 [Best2 1323a]; (3) Gin go gearthair cam siur by Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (1487) (see L. McKenna, Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (1931), poem 13 [Best2 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 matheir Dé and Iomhla rod dreach go Dia (see L. McKenna, Dán Dé (1922), nos. 2 and 6 [Best2 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 matheir Dé
- Fearr beagn cloinne na clanann
- Gin go gearthair cara siur
- Iocadh Criost cuimaoin a mhathar
- Iomhla rod dreach go Dia

Author/Textual Sources:

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

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