

A Happy Death



...In some Gaelic speaking communities of Scotland and the West of Ireland the phrase: 'BÁS SONA,' (lit, a happy death), is recorded to have been heard among the people until the early 20th century. When these words were used they implied that the dying person had confessed, been anointed, and special death-hymn-prayers (like the litany below) had been intoned over them. Other rituals dating back to pre-Christian times were also sometimes incorporated.

Under these conditions the consolation of the living in the loss of the loved one is touching. The old people would speak of 'bás sona' with exultant satisfaction, and would wish above all things on earth that a happy and blessed death would be their own portion when the time came for them to transition ...

A Joyous Death

Death with oil,
Death with joy,
Death with light,
Death with gladness,
Death with surrender.

Death without pain,
Death without fear,
Death without death,
Death without horror,
Death without grieving.

May the seven angels of the Holy Spirit
And the two guardian angels
Shield me this night and every night
Till light and dawn shall come;

Shield me this night and every night
Till light and dawn shall come.

