

**TITLE:**

The Wrath of the Water and Its Relationship with *Geasa* in the Celtic Mythology

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**ABSTRACT:**

This thesis examines two similar medieval Irish narratives, 'Boann' and 'Sinann', from so called *dindshenchas*, interpreting the concept of the well of wisdom and the right to approach it, as well as looking for probable parallels of the story in other Celtic sources. Although it works towards encompassing the theories of other scholars, who used to be concerned mainly about parallels

of this theme in other Indo-European cultures, the main aim here is different. The thesis is trying to explain the chosen narrative from the inside of the medieval Irish society, namely through a specific Irish ideology of a learned class of poets, the *filid*.

It is also aiming to show how the relationship between physical boundaries, such as rivers, and social boundaries (which were connected to the institution of *geasa*, so called Irish taboos) could have had an influence on the narrative. Though we cannot deny pre-Christian mythological roots of the story, the author maintains that it was revised by the medieval *filid* to help them face a peculiar problem: an ambivalent position of a female poet within the structure of the Irish society.

**KEYWORDS:** taboo, cult of waters, Celtic mythology, sunken cities, medieval Ireland, poetry