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## *Tradition*

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*Tradition*

# Tradition

by

Joe Christopher

Much like the head of John Baptizer  
To Salome borne, his death's deviser;  
Much like the head of a Keltic foe,  
To next be placed for shelving's show—  
On a platter held, so came a head,  
The platter filled with blood be-shed:  
Thus Peredure in silence saw  
The strange procession, arousing awe—  
Most strange it seemed, most strange it was,  
A bloody strangeness, in thought ablaze.  
How odd that after-poets told  
Not of a head by blade unsouled,  
Not of much blood but wine to sup,  
Not of a platter but a cup.