

PASSION POEM

HOOPER EMENDATION OF STANZA 1

Here is how Hooper (Talek), founder of Kesva, emended the last three verses of Stanza 1:

**dh'y dherivas par dell wòn,  
may fo dhe Dhuw dh'y wordhyans  
Ha sylwans dhe Gristonyon.**

You'll see Hooper copied the phrase **par dell wòn** from Stanza 8. And abandoned the ACAC rhyme scheme of the second half of the stanza, so that the whole stanza ends up as AB couplets.

His **Gristonyon** also makes a theological statement that is not in the original – there is no reason why **dhe'n enevow** has to be restricted to Christians; indeed, it was official Church doctrine that figures of the Old Testament like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, etc were also saved by Christ's Passion even though they never were Christians. All because Hooper could not accept that the sixth verse of Stanza 1 might legitimately have eight syllables. This is not how true scholarship should be done.

Edwards rightly rejected this emendation. Strangely, Williams accepted it, and even noted it as a possible manuscript reading though Everson's transcription of the Harley manuscript makes clear it has no basis there.