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ALBANIAN *BËRTET* ‘SHOUT’: INNER-ALBANIAN PREHISTORY AND INDO-EUROPEAN ETYMOLOGY

Abstract: This paper discusses the etymology of the Albanian verb *bërtet* ‘shout’. Most etymological analyses of this word prove to be untenable, the only exception being an insightful – though not fully developed – proposal by Mann (1977: 180). While building on Mann, I argue that Albanian *bërtet* is etymologically related to the rare Latin verb *fritinniō* ‘twitter’ and goes back to a so-far overlooked Proto-Indo-European root, namely, **b^hrejt-* ‘shout, make noise’. I offer a detailed discussion of the Albanian and Italic continuants of this root and propose that two Celtic forms (i.e., Old Irish *briathar* f. ‘word’ and Middle Welsh *brwydyr* f. ‘battle’) may possibly also belong here etymologically.

Keywords: Albanian; Latin; Celtic; Proto-Indo-European; etymology; words for ‘shout, make noise’

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