

Adam of Saint Victor vs. Hildegard of Bingen on the opposition of Eve and Mary

Adam:

Eva prius interemit,
Sed Maria nos redemi
Mediante filio;
Prima parens nobis luctum,
Sed secunda vitae fructum
Protulit cum gaudio.

Eve once destroyed us,
But Mary redeemed us
By means of her Son.
One mother bore sadness;
The other with gladness
Fruit second to none.

Sequences are regular, highly finished, and easy to memorize.

Hildegard:

O clarissima mater
Sancta medicine.
Tu Ungenta
Per sanctum Filium tuum
Infudisti
In plangentia vulnera mortis.
Que Eva edificavit
In tormenta animarum.

O most radiant mother
of sacred healing,
you poured
ointments
through your holy Son
on the sobbing wounds of death
that Eve built
into torments for souls.

Directness, imagistic; eliminates boundary between dogmatic statement and rhapsodic expression; sentence structure lacks refinement