

*The Peasant who Placed a Host in a Beehive*

*Holy Mary is so closely bound to Jesus that wherever he is, there will she be found*

On this I will tell a wondrous miracle which Holy Mary and her glorious son performed for a peasant who longed to have bees which would give him honey and wax at no expense.

He lived in Flanders on the coast close to the sea, and he went to an old wise woman to ask her to show him a spell, and put him on the path to having many bees, and he asked her most urgently.

She replied "If you follow my counsel I will do this for you". He said, "I will" and she replied "Then when you take communion, hold the wafer in your mouth without swallowing it, and make sure that your teeth do not even touch it,

but keep it in your mouth the best you can, and then choose whichever of your hives you wish, and shut the wafer inside it, and if you do this your house will be well supplied with honey and wax."

The peasant believed what the old woman said, and did all that she told him, and when he had shut the body of Christ inside the beehive, he thought he would be rich. And when the time came to look inside his hives, he did not delay

but immediately opened the hive with the wafer inside, and there he saw Holy Mary, beautiful and radiant, with her son Jesus Christ in her arms, and they were embracing each other

When the peasant saw this he was so amazed that he closed the hive and hastened with all speed to the church, and said to the chaplain, "By God most holy, come with me this very moment

and I will show you such a sight that has never been seen or heard of." Then the priest, who was a goodly man, went with him, and saw the Virgin full of grace in the hive, with her son in her arms, a noble and wondrous sight.

When he saw it he returned at once and called the people together and had the bells rung, and they resolved to make a great procession for she who is the mirror of the saints and the whole world, and to bring her back with great pomp.

All the people went to the place and saw how the holy Virgin was inside the hive, and how she had her son Jesus in her arms, and she gave a perfume sweeter than lilies or violets or rose water.

Then the folk who had come there took the hive with a procession and singing, and once they had placed it on the altar, they sang all the Hours for that day and the next night, and everyone

looked upon the Virgin with her child, our noble and holy queen. The next day they sang the Lady mass, in every detail, and when the priest consecrated the communion wafer he had, they found nothing in the hive but the holy wafer

that the peasant had first put in the hive, in his great folly, intact and most fair, just as God had preserved it with his mother the Holy Virgin, Queen of Heaven. And so may he be praised, and may she be praised with him.