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The Talking Sheep

Just as God made Balaam's ass speak, so did his Mother give speech to a sheep

Our Lady did this
for a poor woman
who served her willingly,
wanted only to give good service.
And so one day
She helped her in her need,
and performed one of her miracles
which you will not think meagre

That wretched woman
put together every penny she had
and bought a little sheep
and at once entrusted it to a
shepherd to look after
and at shearing time
she went to ask for its wool,
to sell it for what she could get.

But the villainous shepherd
hid the sheep
and, greedy fellow,
said "It was taken by wolves"
The old woman was sure
that he was lying, and was so
distressed on account of her sheep
that her face turned black as pitch

And she cried
Glorious Virgin
Give me back my sheep
for you have the power to do it.
And forthwith
the poor sheep spoke from where it lay hidden
and said "Here I am"
Thus did Our Lady undo that deceit.