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*The German Priest who Doubted the Sacrament*

*Foolish beyond measure is anyone who doubts that the consecrated host becomes pure flesh.*

How indeed can anyone believe that the host cannot become flesh, since God saw fit to take our flesh and become man and rise from the tomb through his great power? All this is not of this world.

And so I will narrate a tale on this theme which I heard and recorded not long ago and I believe that you will find the case both a strange one and a fine tale.

In Germany there lived a priest who loved Holy Mary above all other and so sang her mass every day, but he had terrible doubts about the holy sacrament.

For this reason, every time he sang the Virgin's mass, he wept bitter tears and asked her to give him knowledge of what he doubted so that he would not end his life in remorse.

And so it befell that one Saturday as he was saying mass, when he had consecrated the host in which he did not believe, it disappeared from sight, and as he searched for it he saw that Lady who by her great wisdom became the mother of God,

fair and finely dressed, with her son in her arms, and even though she was beautiful she caused him great fear and he trembled and said, "O Glorious Lady if you have the host, show kindness and give it to me".

And she replied at once: "Ignorant man, what I hold in my arms is truly that thing, the host which you consecrate, in which you do not believe because it seems to you that it is made of bread.

But even though you can touch it and turn it in your hands thinking that it is bread, it is He who on the cross suffered the ignoble death the Jews and pagans dealt him so that we could be free.

He is the one you eat and divide into three and whose blood you drink, to have your fill. Whoever truly believes this and holds fast to it, will never be harmed by the Devil or his wiles.

He is what you elevate and lower and uncover; he deigned to be poor to reward the poor in his heavenly kingdom, and raise them up above all other beings that there are.

And though they appear to be bread and wine this is what God wishes for sinful man, who would think it monstrous to eat the flesh of a child or drink its blood, for that is not right."

When she had said all this, he immediately could see the host; and that priest wept and consumed it. He could no longer see the Virgin, but said, "I beg you, my Lady, to take me away from this dark prison

so that I may see your fair face in heaven." And from then on, he was so true in belief and deed that when his soul departed from his body angels came to carry him up to heaven.