

Cantiga 147: The Kinght who cut off his tongue

Just as the Virgin is grieved by wilful sin, so is she pleased with true contrition

This is what came about for a kinght, who truly loved Holy Mary and always put his faith in her. And one day he was playing dice with another, and when he lost his money he blasphemed most fearsomely.

However bad were the things he said against God, much worse was what he said of the Blessed Virgin. And as soon as he had said it, he left the gambling den and wept bitterly, like one who feels remorse

for the grievous sin they have committed. And still weeping greatly, he took out his knife and cut off the tongue with which he had so badly insulted the Virgin. But this caused him such pain that he left the place

and went to his house, in pain and distress, and lay there for three days or more, wounded and suffering, calling silently on Holy Mary, as her faithful servant, to forgive him the sin that he had committed in speech.

As he made this plea, he soon slumbered, and while asleep he saw the Virgin Queen of Heaven, who appeared to him bright as the rising sun, and brought him comfort in his pain,

and said "Wretched man, though you insulted me badly, I have great compassion for you because you cut off your tongue, but I will heal you because you put your trust in me, as he who turns from his sin deserves reward.

And as you have repented, I will now return you to health". And then Holy Mary placed her hand in his mouth and healed his tongue; and he was so well healed that from then on he never had any pain of his mouth, his tongue or his teeth.

He praised the Blessed Virgin, and we too should sing her praises, as she aids us in our distress, even though we are sinners, and even when we cause her sorrow, she always gives us favours and wins for us the blessings of her son, God the Father omnipotent.