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The Chaplain who Swallowed a Spider

*Whosoever has full and steadfast faith in the Virgin
will not be harmed by poison and will have everlasting life.*

For she bore in her womb the true life and light of the world, by which she leads aright those who have strayed, she stands guard for us against the Devil, so that he cannot harm us in this toilsome life.

Now I want to tell you of a very fine miracle she performed, and I believe you will enjoy hearing it, and I am sure it will be good for your souls; for my part, from what I have learned, the time will not be wasted.

In Portugal, by a town, nay, a very rich city called Lisbon, as I truly learned, there is a rich convent of nuns, who guard their chastity so that they can have eternal rest in heaven.

In this convent, which has the name of Chelas, the nuns' chaplain, a good and learned man, was saying mass, as was his custom, and it so happened that, before mass was over

when he was to take the body of Jesus Christ, by whom the devil was forever defeated and enthralled. there fell into the chalice, in front of his eyes, a big, black ugly spider on a thread.

The chaplain was some time in doubt, and knew not what to do; but putting his trust in the Virgin Mary, without more ado he swallowed the spider with the blood of Christ

When mass was over, the chaplain at once told the nuns what had happened, and then told the prioress and for fear that he might have been poisoned, she called for him to be bled, and all the nuns with him, so it was ordained.

But now hear the great wonder that the Virgin performed - you never heard the like: from the chaplain's arm the spider came out alive before any blood came from the surgeon's wound.

The nuns were most amazed at this and showed the spider to all the people, and praised the Mother of God Omnipotent, who calls all together to his Kingdom.

And let us all praise the Virgin Mary for so fair a miracle and implore her night and day to guard us from the wiles of the devil, so that we may go straight to to heaven.