

249 The Stonemason who Survived a Great Fall

Whosoever gladly serves Our Lady will surely be protected from accidents and other ills.

On this kind of theme I will tell a miracle which the mother of our High King, the Blessed Virgin Mary, performed in Castroxeriz, as I know because I heard it. By our Lord take heed and listen to this tale.

When they were building the Church called Almanzano, which is close to the town, many fine builders came to work there for the wages that were given, as they are now, to those who do such work. But one of them would not ask

for any money, but worked there willingly to earn the grace and favour of the Blessed Virgin. And so give ear to what then happened to him, so that you will always be able to speak of it and tell the tale.

He was a stonemason, and worked hard to square off the stones and lay them out in a row at the highest part of the construction, as a good mason does. And one day as he was at his work, he lost his footing

and fell right from the top of the works, and as he fell he called upon the Blessed Virgin Mary, who very quickly rescued him; and even though he struck his head on the masonry, so the Virgin protected him, and he did not suffer any injury,

nor did he realise he had fallen, nor did he come to any harm, but rather he got up and ran for his life, without looking at anything else, and went at once to the altar of the holy Virgin to praise her goodness and give thanks for her bounty.

And all who were there gave thanks therefore to the Glorious Virgin, who helps and guards her own. And so let us beseech her to give us her favour and to secure for us the favour of her Son, who came to redeem us.