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*The Monks who Left their Monastery*

The name of the Holy Virgin is so much to be feared  
that when the devil hears it, his evil powers are spent.

Whence there came to pass in France a mighty miracle  
which Holy Mary performed, and can be well pleased with it;  
and so it is fit to be retold among her other miracles  
for I know that you will deem it a fine and fair one.

There were two monks who left their monastery one day  
to have respite from the trials and deprivations  
which they suffered in their order; and for a whole day  
they walked along the banks of a river, which was a pleasant spot,

As they walked they said foolish, wild and disorderly things,  
and playfully kicked and punched each other  
and forgetting their prayers and devotions,  
they both eagerly served the devil.

And as they went they saw a small boat  
coming down the river, with men on board, and heard those inside it  
talking at length to one another; and they pondered all this  
and asked the men, "Who are you?". And one replied wrathfully

"We may look like men, but we are really devils  
carrying off the soul of Ebron, a bailiff."  
And the monks cried "May Holy Mary help us  
and free us from your hands, with the aid of her glorious son".

The devils replied, "You did well to call on  
the name of the Holy Virgin, and to put your trust in her  
for if it had not been so, as you have run away from your  
monastery, you would have had to come with us to the dismal

place, where those who enter suffer many torments".  
When the monks heard this, they at once returned  
to their monastery, and immediately made their confession  
and they had absolution from God, the merciful Lord