

Cantiga 283: The Priest who Scorned the Virgin

*Whoever is so proud as to oppose Our Lady,
does himself great harm*

For no man's pride should set them against the Lady who defeated the Devil by being able to be humble and behave so that God wished to be born of her; for had it not been so, God would not have wished to become man, in any way.

And so I will tell you a great miracle that I discovered, which the mother of the High King performed in Terena, and I know well that she performed many there, and still does so every day, to those who come there to seek her.

A priest lived close by the holy place dedicated to the matchless Virgin, and one day he thought to give his sermon in his church, and tell the people that "It will be great folly, "as he said "believe you me,

for any of you to abandon your churches and go off to Terena to worship or to give of your goods as an offering. And I truly swear to you that for this reason I would excommunicate everyone who went there from here

And if by any chance, on the feast day which is to come in August, you should be unwise enough to go there for any reason, I will excommunicate you for it." And as he made to say this, his mouth was twisted, so that

he could not utter a word, nor could he sing mass, and thus he was struck down and could not move hand nor foot, by the power of the Lady whom he insulted by what he had said. And he was so quickly paralysed

that as he tried to say "excommunicate" he could not say another word, nor even form a sentence, but just bleated like a goat. And so everyone heartily praised the Lady who guides us, and feared her all the more for it.

But when the priest realised that he was paralysed and saw himself in such a poor state, he truly repented of the mistake he had made, and so was immediately restored, and he even gave of his own goods to Terena, as I heard in the tale.