

The Statue that Spoke to a Naughty Girl

Whoever does not have great faith in the Virgin is truly foolish
for she is our strength in fear and our aid in distress.

On this I will recount a miracle which took place in the convent [of las Huelgas] in Burgos – listen well and I will tell the whole story – which Holy Mary performed to take away fear and boldness from a girl who very clearly had both.

It is usual that girls who have been brought up in the convent sometimes do very naughty things and so the nuns who look after them take steps to discipline them so that they do not do anything by which they may go astray.

And so in this way it came about that a girl often did naughty things which caused great pain to her aunt, who punished her for them, for she felt greater affection for her than for herself or anything else, and so, to be sure,

the girl was so fearful of her that she did not dare to go where her aunt could see her when she was behaving badly, and the nun would sometimes chastise her and punish her and other times give her many gifts and much affection.

And one day the girl did a very naughty thing which made her aunt very angry, and she sought her out to chastise her, but the girl had the good fortune to go at once to the statue of the Virgin.

And weeping and trembling she said “O glorious Virgin you who are so merciful, and aid those who suffer, help me in my distress; and so, Lady of great worth, make my aunt forget about the bad thing I have done

so that it does not ever come to her mind. The statue replied to her, calmly and with a good countenance “I will gladly do what you are asking of me, as long as you do not do anything, from now on, to get into trouble.”

The girl was amazed at what the statue said to her, but she took heart and was greatly relieved, and the next day her aunt found her, and once she learned what the Virgin had done, she had great faith in Her.

And straightway she took her niece back with her, and loved her and cherished her from that day on, and instead of punishing her she caressed her and gave her freely whatever pleased her.