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*The Runaway Calf*

*The favours of the Blessed Virgin are so well known, that even dumb beasts want to have their share.*

On this the Lady called the Rod of Jesse performed a miracle in the church of hers which is in Vila Sirga a good two leagues from Carrion, where people of high and low estate go to pray.

Many sick people go there, and find health, and many healthy people go to give alms there and for this reason people are so impressed that they willingly go there or send their gifts.

And so it was that a country man who lived in a village in Segovia had lost a cow that he loved dearly and at that time other cows had been taken and eaten or savaged by wolves.

And as the man feared this greatly, he said, in the presence of his wife, "O Holy Mary, if you help me and protect my cow from wolves and thieves, I will give you as a thank-offering the calf she is carrying.

for what you cherish is truly protected. And so I ask you to watch over this cow for me." And the cow appeared at once free from harm and from danger, with its drooping ears and it produced a perfect calf with the same feature.

And when that calf grew and became a strong beast, the peasant said to his wife. "I will go to market tomorrow, and that bullock will not be one of the animals who are given to the saints as offerings."

He said that in the evening, and the next day he tried to sell the beast, but it escaped and ran headlong for many days as if it was being driven on with barbs.

Once it arrived at the Virgin's town, it showed itself to be a wise beast, and went into the church and stopped before the statue, and went to claim its feed where they had put the cattle which had been given or sold to that house.

And from that day onwards there was no ox or beast of all those which have cloven hooves that could pull a cart so well or work as hard without being beaten with a stick or secretly wounded with a goad.

When the farmer who had hastened to follow him saw him in Vila Sirga, he recognised the great miracle, and made a proclamation, and many people came to hear, to whom he recounted what had happened