

326. The Thieves who Stole Beehives

The Virgin is greatly pained when men dare steal what is hers.

Since our Lady is so generous, no man has need to filch, steal or take what is hers, for if he serves her he will be given all.

Whereof I will tell you of a great miracle which this worthy lady performed in Tudia; I learned it from people who were there.

Many people come devoutly as pilgrims to this place, to serve the noble Mother of God, and they all make precious offerings.

And once a man who was a very faithful servant of Our Lady gave her his beehives, so that the church could have an abundance of honey and wax.

And if you want to know the whole truth of it, I tell you that he placed them around the church; and I was told that a poor woman watched over them.

And one night before daybreak, thieves came and stole them all and made off with them, and had no shame at robbing her or her son who died on the cross.

The next day, when they saw the outrage, the people of the village lamented, and asked the Virgin to take vengeance.

And forthwith there arrived a lord who dispensed justice throughout the region; and when he learned of the deed, he ordered the thieves to be pursued.

And he himself joined in the search with great diligence, until he found them lying hidden, like rabbits or mice.

And the hives on their backs pinned them down, so that they could not escape with them; and he did not lose any time in capturing them.