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The Priest who Made Underpants from an Altar Cloth

*As Holy Mary is generous with her gifts
stealing from her is a most foolish thing.*

And so, if you will listen to me
I will tell you a very fine miracle which the Mother of
the Lord Jesus performed on this theme in Odemira
in a place where she performed many others.

This one, however, was very apt and much deserved:
a woman gave some cloth as an offering
to the Virgin's church, which was built many years ago
and which lies outside the town, as I heard tell.

The cloth was little more than a *vara** long, so I heard,
and was very well woven and also very delicate
and so the good woman placed it
on the altar in the church, where it could be seen.

A priest of that church who saw it there
was so covetous of it that he took it off the altar
and brought it back to his house, and had it made into
garments to cover his sinful parts.

And as soon as the clothes were made and he had put them on
he settled down to sleep, but little slumber did he get
for he suddenly felt both his heels into his back
pressing so hard that he could not move them.

And in his great pain and distress
he cried aloud, saying "O Mother of the Saviour
if it so pleases you, do not let me die in this way".
And in the presence of the people he confessed the sin

that he had committed, and did penance
and he had the altar dressed with a great fine cloth
And so my friends, if you hear this miracle,
do not be so bold as to wrong the Blessed Virgin.

And then they all took him at once to the church
and everyone prayed to our Lady of Goodness
and she healed him at once, without more ado
and so they all began to praise her holy name.

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*The medieval *vara* was about 84cm or 33 in. in modern units.