

The King's Ferret

The Virgin Mother of all-seeing God grants favours to all her servants, both in great matters and small ones.

Whereof I will tell you of a great miracle,
which the Heavenly Queen, mother of our Lord Jesus Christ,
performed for a king who put great trust in her,
for she brought him great sorrow and gladness on one occasion by her favours

The sorrow was for a small creature which the king loved dearly
and took everywhere with him and cared for with great love.
It was a ferret, which the Galicians call "little lady",
and the king set it to catching birds, hidden in their holes, or in plain view.

But this ferret could do many other clever things
playing and jumping, which gave the king great pleasure
so that he loved it so dearly that he thanked God
for his favour in giving it to him.

And for its sake he made a very strong box for it
made of solid wood, to keep it in, and shut it inside
to keep it from harm, for he was in great fear of cats,
those beasts who can see better in the dark than in daylight.

And it befell one day, that, as he travelled on the highway,
he went to take the ferret out of its box; but as it was so light,
it fell between the hooves of the horses, so that the King
cried out in anguish "Holy Mary, help me!

Protect my little lady for me, lest it die and I lose it."
All those who were there were greatly distressed
for the King's horse was treading over it so heavily
and the King cried out "Men, who can see it?

Bring it back to me, be it alive or dead,
and I will be comforted by it in my distress."
Then Holy Mary, our gateway to heaven, by her mercy
made the ferret come out unharmed from under the horse's hooves.

And all who were there witnessed this wonder
performed by the Virgin, Mother and daughter of God,
through whom the ferret was not hurt by the horse whose hooves do such harm.
And this miracle was ordained by the Lord who sees all

for the sake of the Glorious Virgin, his mother, to whom
the King had entrusted his ferret, when it fell under the horse's hooves.
And so we bless Him and praise her
and to both offer our faith and thanks.