

57 The Robbed Pilgrims to Montserrat

Night and day we must give hearty thanks to Holy Mary, for she defends her faithful from ill and guides them to safety without fail.

On this theme we will recount a worthy miracle, for we know that those who love the Holy Virgin will listen to it. She always casts down the proud and raises up the good and gives them wisdom and paradise with all its joys.

In Montserrat the Virgin performed a wonder which will be heard of far and wide if she gives me the power. It was for a good lady who on the wondrous great mountain there went down to a spring with all her company, to dine and rest before going on their way.

As they sat eating beside that spring, down from the mountain came rushing Reimundo, a fierce bandit knight, he and his band stole all they had, and left them without a farthing.

As soon as the robbery was over, the lady immediately set off with her retinue in deep sadness and distress, and went at once to Montserrat. The wretched woman arrived crying aloud "Holy Virgin, Queen of Heaven, grant me revenge for I was wronged on a pilgrimage to you."

All the monks came out at the sound of her cries, and when they heard the deed the prior set off on his horse with all haste, and coming over a hill he saw beside the spring a great crowd of robbers lying injured, blind and crippled, so that not one could stand up.

And he saw lying among those brigands a ruffian of the worst sort with a chicken leg in his hand, a morsel which he had plucked from a pie in his hunger, and which he had tried to eat under his cloak, but he had not been able to for God willed it otherwise.

And it stuck in his throat from the moment when he had thought to eat it, and he could not get it in nor out nor eat it nor spit it out, and he lay there blind and unable to speak in great distress at his plight, and well he deserved it.

When the prior and the monks came upon the robbers so punished for their wickedness, they had them carried hence slung over the pack animals they had brought, and laid them down in front of the altar to die there or to recover, as God willed.

And once they had put the thieves before the altar, the monks made prayers and intercessions for them. And immediately their eyes, feet and hands were healed and they swore an oath that never again would they rob good Christians and that they would give up their wicked life.