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The Pregnant Abbess

We should truly love Our Lady, and pray her to send us her grace, so that the shameless devil lead us not into sin and error.

On this theme I will tell you
of a miracle of which I heard,
which the mother of the great King
performed for an abbess
because, so I was told,
she was devoted to Her.
But the Devil ensnared her
so that she fell pregnant
by a man from Bologna
who was charged
with her accounts
and her business.

The bishop spoke to her thus:
Madam, so I have heard
your conduct has been very
bad; and this is why I have come
so that in my presence
you can make amends.
But the abbess straightway
went to entreat the Mother of God
and, as she slept,
Our Lady had the child taken
from her body and sent it
to be raised in Soissons

When the nuns learned
of this, there was
great rejoicing
for since the abbess was loath
to pardon their misdeeds
they bore her much ill-will.
And they denounced her to
their bishop
who came straightway from Cologne
and when he had her summoned,
she came unhurried,
happy and smiling

Then the abbess awoke
and found herself restored
and she at once went to the bishop.
And he examined her closely
and had her disrobed.
And when he saw her naked body
he began to praise God
and to berate the nuns
(who were of the order of Oña)
saying ' As God is my witness
this lady can be declared faultless
for I find nothing against her.