Cantiga 68: The Wife and the Mistress

The Glorious Virgin performs fine miracles to restore peace

Now I will tell you a fine miracle, which I found in writing, performed by the wise mother of the High King,

for the wife of a merchant, who had lost the pleasure and comfort that she used to have of him, because he loved another woman

And so she bore mortal hatred for her husband’s other woman, and openly begged the Virgin Mary to give her all possible sorrow and pain, because it was she who made her lose the great pleasure she once had of her husband, there in the town of Arras.

And when she had spoken this prayer she fell asleep and saw a vision of the Blessed Virgin with a great host of angels, and the Virgin said to her “I have heard your prayer but it is not my way nor does it please me to be cruel

What is more, that woman goes to kneel at my altar and gives thanks to me a hundred times a day, bowing her head to the ground”

No sooner had the wife awoken than she went out to the street and met the other woman, who knelt before her and said “It was the wicked devil,

black as pitch, who led me to wrong you in this way, but I will do it no more, as it grieves you.”

And so the Blessed Virgin truly reconciled these two, who previously, without exaggeration, were at each other’s throats.