

A Madre do que a bestia

Cantigas de Santa Maria no. 147

Alfonso el Sabio (Alfonso X), King of Castile and León (1221-1284)
 Trans. Carol Anne Perry Lagemann (SCA Kasha Alekseeva)

How a poor woman gave her sheep into the keep of a shepherd, and when the sheep were sheared, the old woman came to demand her sheep, and the herder said that the wolf had eaten it. She called on Holy Mary of Rocamadour, and the sheep bleated from where the shepherd had it hidden and said: "He-e-ere I-I a-a-am."*

The Mo - ther of Him who once made The don - key of Ba - laam

6 speak Did once make a sheep to talk, for She al - ways de - fends the weak. **Fine**

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1. Ho - ly Ma - ry did this fa - vor For a wo - man
 2. Scrimp - ing, sav - ing ev - ery pen - ny, This poor wo - man
 3. But the shep - herd, mean and wi - ly, Hid the sheep with
 4. Say - ing, "Queen in Hea - ven's splen - dor, Please give back - my
 5. Af - ter she had done her shear - ing, She went walk - ing

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who was poor, Who for Ma - ry glad - ly la - bored,
 bought a sheep. To a shep - herd who had ma - ny
 bla - tant greed. To the wo - man, he said sly - ly,
 lit - tle lamb. Since You are the Great De - fend - er,
 with her sack, Mov - ing quick - ly, per - se - ver - ing

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Ea - ger to do a - ny chore. Ho - ly Ma - ry kind - ly
 Beasts, she gave her sheep to keep. When the shear - ing time be -
 "When the wolf came by to feed, Your small sheep was eat - en
 I be - lieve You sure - ly can." From the bush - es came a
 31 With the wool u - pon her back. At Ro - ca - ma - dor ap -

31

saved her In her time of need, there - fore. The mi - ra - cle
 gan, she. Went to claim the wool he reaped, In hopes she could
 vile - ly." But she knew he lied in - deed, She black - ened her
 slen - der, Sheep - ish - bleat, "Oh, he - e - ere I am." And that is how
 pear - ing, She de - clared as she un - packed: "This work is the

36 **D.C. al Fine**

she per - formed was Sig - ni - fi - cant and u - nique.
 turn a pro - fit, The mea - ger - est life to eke.
 an - gry fea - tures And loud - ly be - gan to shriek,
 Ho - ly Ma - ry Con - vict - ed the ly - ing to sneak,
 Vir - gin's do - ing, De - fend - er of all the meek."

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*Trans. Kathleen Kulp-Hill: "Songs of Holy Mary of Alfonso X, the Wise"