

A Virgen mui groriosa

Cantigas de Santa Maria no. 42

Alfonso el Sabio (Alfonso X), King of Castile and León (1221-1284)

Trans. Carol Anne Perry Lagemann (SCA Kasha Alekseeva)

This is how the postulant placed the ring on the finger of the statue of Holy Mary, and the statue curved its finger around it.*

9 Ho - ly Vir - gin, She most splen - did, She, the Spi - ri - tu - al Queen,
17 Those She loves has al - ways tend - ed, Keep - ing us from lives un - clean.
24
1. It's a mi - ra - cle de - light - ful, Mild and plea - sant to the
2. Once in Ger - ma - ny, some peo - ple Wished their church to re - no -
3. In the square there was a park where Lo - cal folk would spring and
4. At the park that day a gi - ant Troop of youths ar - rived to
5. He, for fear the ring would buck - le When he hit the ball too
6. Say - ing, "Now the girl I loved is No - thing in the world to
31
ear, vate. I will tell you of the Vir - gin, Mo - ther of our
sprawl. So they took the Vir - gin's sta - tue From the al - tar,
play, In the grass they'd rest and re - vel, And the ol - der
hard, And a - mong them was a boy who Loved a girl from
me, Looked a - round for where to put it In the green and
For my eyes have ne - ver looked on A - ny - thing so
37
Lord so dear, How she saved a vain ad - mir - er,
stand - ing straight, And they put it at the en - trance
boys played ball. This a - muse - ment was their fa - vo - rite;
down the way. On his fin - ger was a ring which
sun - ny yard. Then he spied the grace - ful sta - tue,
fair to see. Hence from now I am Your ser - vant
43
Who could ne square - ver per - se - vere And would al - ways
Of the the love where it most could wait By the por - ti -
Young men love it him to say all: Hit - ting, run - ning,
She had giv - en and him to say That she loved him
And with blithe - and live - ly heart Put the ring u -
And Your man will al - ways be. With this love - ly
43
change his fan - cies, As the Queen a - boye had seen.
co un - til the Church could move the fi - gur - ine.
out - door mo - tion On the lush and ver - dant green.
and she chose him, Which he knew the ring to mean.
pon its fin - ger, Where it glowed with daz - ling sheen.
ring I pledge You Birth and death and all be - tween."

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7. Kneeling there before the statue, With an Ave on his tongue,
To the Virgin Queen forever Binding promises were sung:
He would never love another, Be she old or be she young,
And to Her he would be faithful, Causing quite a brazen scene.
8. After he had made his promise, He stood up with boyish pride.
Then the statue closed its fingers, So the ring was trapped inside.
When the young man saw what happened, He was greatly terrified,
And he screamed, “¡Santa Maria! Save me; stop this; intervene!”
9. People heard the sound of screaming; To the young man’s side they flew,
And he told them what had happened, Just as I have told to you.
Everyone at once advised him What he really ought to do:
To Clairvaux make haste and join the Monks who worship Heaven’s Queen.
10. Though they thought he’d go, he didn’t, And it was the devil’s fault;
He convinced the boy to dawdle, Then to linger and to halt,
‘Til his memories had melted, Like the rain will melt the salt:
He forgot what he had promised To the Virgin on the green.
11. Nevermore did he remember, But he turned his thoughts once more
To the girl who had adored him, To the girl he’d loved before.
All their relatives were happy When to marry soon they swore.
For the joy of earthly pleasures He abandoned joys unseen.
12. When the wedding feast had ended And the night was dark and deep,
Then to bed the bridegroom scampered, Quickly falling fast asleep.
While he slept, he dreamed of Mary: She across his mind would sweep,
“Oh, you faithless, feckless liar!” Shrieking, filled with fiery spleen.
13. “Why on earth did you forsake me? Why’d you take another wife?
You forgot the ring you gave me When you promised me your life.
You must leave your bride behind and Go with me through peace and strife,
Otherwise, I swear you’ll suffer Mortal anguish, raw and keen.”
14. He woke up, confused and frightened But he did not wish to leave.
So the Splendid Virgin made him Sleep again and dreams receive.
At his side, his wife was lying Fast asleep, no griefs to grieve;
But the Virgin lay there angry In their marriage bed, between.
15. And She scolded him in fury: “Wicked, false, unfaithful one,
Why so shamelessly betray me? Do you know what you have done?
If you wish my love, you’ll listen: Leave before you see the sun.
Come with me! Leave now, and hurry! Go before I change my mien!”
16. He awoke and was so frightened, He ran out the door in shame,
Telling no one, taking no one, All alone when daylight came.
Through the wilderness he wandered Thirty days without an aim,
And took lodging near a pine grove, In a hermitage serene.
17. After that, as I found written, He made efforts to comply
With Her whims and Her commandments, Serving meekly, tame and shy,
Our beloved Holy Mary, Mother of the King on High.
In the end, She took him with Her To a Paradise unseen.