

Quen a omagen da Virgen

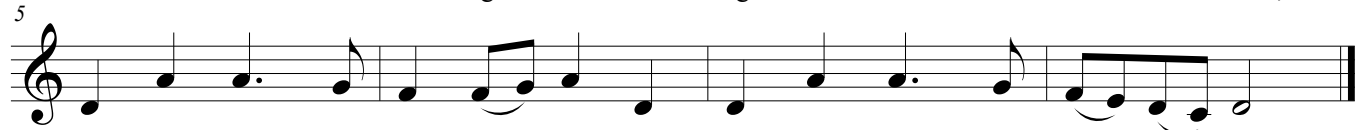
Cantiga de Santa Maria no. 353

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

Trans. Carol Anne Perry Lagemann (SCA Kasha Alekseeva)



When the i - mage of the Vir - gin or her no - ble Son we see,



no - thing else on Earth is — great - er; no - thing else could e - ver be.



1. I will sing to you a sto - ry. It's a tale you'll want to hear
2. Af - ter meet - ing Ho - ly Ma - ry, those with good - ness and with - out
3. There was once a place called Mac - ca. Sol - diers had been sta - tioned there.
4. Here the mi - ra - cle was wit - nessed; ma - ny peo - ple told me so.
5. In des - pair, he went to see a near - by ab - bot, a good man,
6. In the mo - na - ste - ry they would be ap - pren - ticed, ev - ery one,
7. Once the boys were sweet - ly play - ing in the clois - ter, not too wild,
8. Af - ter that, they al - ways went there, vis - it - ing each day they could.



of sought a mi - ra - cle by Ma - ry, she who al - ways holds us dear,
sought and seek for new em - ploy - ment, for they now are so de - vout
Now the store - hous - es were emp - ty, and there was no food to spare,
In the coun - try - side near Mac - ca lives a man whom they all know.
who was saint - ly, who was friend - ly, help - ing a - ny - one he can,
and they would be ve - ry hap - py, be - ing loved and called "my son",
and they went to church, for they want - ed to see Ma - ry and her child,
They were hum - bled by the sta - tue, but to be with it felt good,



17
whe - ther it's be - cause she loves us or be - cause she hopes to steer
that with God the Son and Fa - ther, Hea - ven's rul - ers, have no doubt,
since the sol - diers ate each mor - sel. But the men of Mac - ca swear
He is wise, but though he la - bored, he had no re - sults to show,
And he asked to leave his child - ren with the ab - bot, who would plan
and they'd say at ev - ery mo - ment, "Mine is yours un - til you're done."
When they stood in awe of the sta - tue, Ma - ry with af - fec - tion smiled,
and they had no thought of re - pay - ment, want - ing to do as they should.



21
all our paths from sin and sor - row and to make us whol - ly free.
they will al - ways and for - e - ver live in bliss - ful pu - ri - ty.
in the land of Pa - ra - y - sel they will work for food to eat.
and his child - ren all were starv - ing, suf - fer - ing as he could see.
all their feed - ing and their rais - ing. And the ab - bot did a - gree.
They would spend their free time play - ing in the clois - ter joy - ful - ly.
and she wished that all of the boys would feel her love e - ter - nal - ly.
No one fed the ba - by sta - tue, and they wor - ried cease - less - ly.

9. When they saw the hungry baby,
they wished deep within their hearts
that it would be time for dinner
so the plan they made could start.
When they ate, they separated
from their food the larger part,
and they guarded it in secret,
keeping it excitedly.

10. When the time for food was over,
they ran to the sacred place,
to the altar went directly,
knelt before the statue's base
as they'd seen the monks give offerings,
and the youngest, with sweet face,
asked one question of the baby,
made a simple, humble plea.

11. He began by telling Jesus,
"I am poor and little, too,
but the food that I was given
I will set aside for you,
and I beg you, friend, to eat it.
You know what we had to do:
You know how we go without it
though so hungry we might be."

12. Fifteen days the child went hungry
and the Son of Mary ate.
And so pleased was Holy Jesus
that he then refused the plate,
and he said, "We'll eat together
in a little while. Just wait—
we will soon be with my Father,
and we'll dine at his decree."

13. But the abbot, who was caring,
saw the boy was losing weight
and was growing slowly weaker,
that alone he always ate.
Said the abbot, "Child, please listen:
If you do not clean your plate
of the healthy food I give you,
sick you'll get, and rapidly."

14. Then the child spoke to the abbot,
saying, "Meat and wine and bread
to us children, oh good Father,
you have always kindly fed,
but I'm giving most of the food
to the Child of God instead
All we children save a portion
that I take him faithfully."

15. After he had gently listened,
then the abbot said, "My son,
which of all these precious children
do you love the most—which one?"
And the boy said, "More than others,
I love him for whom I've done
all these sacrifices gladly.
He is deeply loved by me."

16. When the abbot heard him say this,
then he asked, "My son, please tell:
does he eat the food you give him?"
And the boy considered well.
"Yes, he eats each bite I bring him,
more than I could eat myself.
But he always ate in silence
'til he spoke today to me.

17. "He invited me to join him
and His Father when they dine."
Said the abbot, "I believe you.
This is certainly a sign
that you will indeed in Heaven
eat a feast with the Divine,
and so I request to join you
when you meet the Deity."

18. Then the abbot called the brothers,
saying, "Friends, who have served God
faithfully for many seasons
in this world that's foul and flawed,
I'm resigning as your abbot.
By our Lord be ever awed!
I have chosen Sir Mateus;
your new abbot he will be."

19. My good friends, the tale I sing you
is for those whose minds are wise,
who submit themselves to Reason,
hear with ears and see with eyes,
and for him who hears and blesses
all who love our God on high:
God the Son and God the Father—
on Their worth we all agree.

20. When the night was almost over
but the sun had yet to rise,
first the boy and then the abbot
fell down ill with piercing cries,
as I tell you in this story.
When the sixth of hours came by,
when Lord Jesus died for sinners,
they both died so reverently.