

1- Btül Sena ÖZER

My dear sister,

thank you verry much for your last lëtter. Thank God, I am verry well. How are you, my sister? I hope that you are in good health. You asked me about my pilgrimage to Canterbury and I want to tell you some things about my journey. First of all, as you know I went to visit the shrine of Thomas á Beckett together with our brother. What a glorious man he is! May the lord bless his soul. He is a great example for all devoted Christians as us, he is the perfect example for what I always preach. We as clergymen have to set good examples for other believers and we have to be their role models. After all, if we cannot practice what we preach, how should other people be able to do it? People like Thomas á Beckett died for our religion, for what we believe in. I find him very fascinating as a person and I would have certainly done the same were I in his position. I would like to stay longer, but you know I do not like to leave my people alone for too long. I have to visit the poor and needy, and help them with their problems. Nothing can stop me from doing the job God gave me; no illness, thunder, rain or else.

You know that I do not like to talk ill about other people or be judgmental, but I would like to speak about some people I encountered on my way to Canterbury. We had a story-telling competition on our way to Canterbury. I normally do not like stories, since I consider them to be sinful. So, I chose not to tell a story, but to use this opportunity to preach. We were going on a spiritual journey, but all the others seemed as if they were not taking this as seriously as they should have. They were still talking about earthly matters. I told a story about penitence and the three steps of penitence: contrition, confession and satisfaction. I also talked about sin and the seven deadly sins and the remedies for them. Basically, I tried to teach them how to find back to the right path. I wanted to give my audience a map on how to lead a good life and go to heaven.

Some of the people that took part in the contest did shock me, may the lord lead them to the right path. For example, there was a pardoner, who always talked about how money is the root of all evil, but he himself loved living a rich lifestyle. He does commit one of the seven sins: Greed. I think that religious figures like us have to be genuine. We should not be rich in worldly terms but in our religious beliefs, education, holy thoughts and works. There was also a woman, the Wife of Bath, who did not behave as a proper Christian. She did openly talk about private matters; she dressed fancily; and she had been married five times. Can you believe it, my sister, five husbands! She also said ridiculous things, for example that woman should have more opportunity to make decisions and that there should be equality between the genders. But I was amazed on how many pilgrimages she had. She had been in Jerusalem three times. I hope that God will grant me my wish to go there one day. And this time, we could go together my sister.

The journey was very eye-opening and spiritual for me, but now that I am back in my city, I will return to my everyday life. I preach the gospel and visit my parishioners. With the little I have I will try to help the needy more. So, tell me, what have you been up to? How are things going in the monastery? I look forward to reading from you.

Sincerely,