

An Unknown Poem on the *Germanies* Revolt in Xàtiva (c. 1522)

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Cagliari, Biblioteca Universitaria, Inc. 71, f. [kk]10r/v. Spelling has been modernized (as far as rhyming and metrics allow). The translation is meant to be as verbatim as possible. For further information on the incunabulum and the poem see Translat Library, vol. 2, no. 5: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/tl/>

[Song against the Xàtiva Brotherhood]

*De les males més malvada,
la pijor de les pijors,
Xàtiva desventurada,
cova de lladres traidors!*

You're the evilest of all evil [towns], /the worst one among the worse, /alas
unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

I

5 Plena de grans lladronicis,
de sacrilegis i homei,
d'adulteris, maleficis
i molts exemplaris vicis,
rebel·la contra ton rei.
10 Orfe seràs reprovada,
plena de dolors i plors,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[*cova de lladres traidors!*]

Full of terrible thefts, /sacrilege and homicide, /adultery, malefic practices, /and a
long array of sins, /rebellious against your king, /you'll be chastised as an
orphan, /filled with pain and lament, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous
thieves!

II

15 Regida per un jueu
i per un moro serrano,
Julià que en Déu no creu,
i el biscaí que no hi veu
i Valladolid marrano.
Per villans amotinada,
20 roïns te donen socors,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[*cova de lladres traidors!*]

You're being ruled by a Jew (*) /and by a moor from the mountains, / that Godless man named Julià, /by the almost blind Biscayan /and Valladolid *marrano* [i.e. a derogatory term for *converso*] (**). /Vile people led you to mutiny, /vicious men come to your help, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

(*) The Hidden King (*el Rey Encubierto*) was said to be a *converso* of Castilian origin. He is often identified as Enrique Manrique de Ribera. His preaching at Xàtiva in March 1522 fuelled the repression of those against the Brotherhoods.

(**) Gaspar Julià (mason) and Pedro Valladolid (weaver) were two of the early leaders of the Xàtiva Brotherhood and they later became the more radical when the moderate stage of the movement gave way to revolution. The Biscayan might be Íñigo Eñego, captain of nearby Alzira, who often joined with the Xàtiva militia.

III

I per conseller has pres
un catiu de la Canària
25 i el ribalt del Portuguès,
apòstata, frare y convès
.....
De bells draps has fet bugada,
digna eres de grans llaors,
30 *Xàtiva desventurada*,
[*cova de lladres traidors!*]

And as counselor you've taken /a captive from the Canary [Islands], /that thug [named] the Portuguese (*), /renegade, friar and converted [*missing line omitted by the scribe*] /You washed away all rich garments, /you used to be worth of praise, / alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

(*) Joao Longo (or Vilhalongo) de Fuerteventura was a priest who acted as ambassador on behalf of the Xàtiva Brotherhood.

IV

I has elet governador
un dement apotecari
perquè et purgue el humor
35 que de ira tens al cor
amb censal i violari.
Mas seràs executada
de moltes males clamors,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[*cova de lladres traidors!*]

And you have elected governor/a demented apothecary, (*) /so that he may purge the humor /that by rage grows in your heart, /by means of annual payments [i.e. by suppressing the payment of loan debts]. /But you will be executed /for many of your evil claims, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

(*) Dionís Glaudes, a pharmacist who was elected treasurer of Xàtiva to make sure that the Brotherhood's decree that had cancelled payment of debts was enforced.

V

I lo gran frare Miquel,
 home just de vida santa,
 que de bondat no en té pèl,
 dels que caigueren del cel
 45 porta al cor cent i noranta.
 I per esser més honrada
 has pres fillol per espòs,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[cova de lladres traidors!]

And [what about] the great friar Miquel (*), /a good man of saintly life, /who has no good in the least, /and of those [i.e. angels] who fell from heaven, /holds at heart a hundred and ninety. /And to be properly honored, /you have married your godson, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

(*) The Franciscan Miquel Garcia, general of the Xàtiva militia. According to Martí de Viciana, fray Garcia was forced to leave the convent in order to benefit from his former experience as a veteran soldier.

VI

50 ¿A on és la llealtat tua
 del temps de la Unió,
 que restares nua i crua,
 sense taca ni menys rua
 de tot crim de traició?
 55 Ara restes maxcarada
 en l'ànima y en lo cos,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[cova de lladres traidors!]

Where has your loyalty gone, /that of the Union (*) times, /when you remained stark naked, /with neither stain nor blemish /of any crime of high treason? /Now you must remain smudged /in both your soul and your body, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!

(*) Xàtiva and Borriana were the only cities in the Kingdom of València that did not adhere to the Revolt of the Union (1347-8) against Peter III of Aragon, according to his chronicle.

VII

Penit-te, penit-te, folla!
 60 No esperes lo que serà,
 perquè ton fet és bambolla,
 que ja no es troba Sorolla,
 resuscita a Julià.
 Restaràs tan maxcarada
 65 en lo cap pudent, tinyós,
Xàtiva desventurada,
[cova de lladres traydors!]

Repent, repent, O you foolish! /Do not hope for what's to come, /as all your deeds
are just bubbles, /since now that Sorolla (*) is gone, /you resuscitate Julià. /You
will get ever so dirty /in your smelly head full of lice, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den
of treacherous thieves!

(*) Guillem Sorolla was a leading member of the València Junta of the Thirteen. He
was taken prisoner in November 1522 and executed the very same day of the fall of
Xàtiva.

VIII

.....
..... ans
70 de certes illes
..... corretges ni manilles
..... vergueres en les mans
..... viuràs tan maltractada
com lo gos que és rabiós,
75 *Xàtiva desventurada,*
[cova de lladres traidors!]

[*The first lines of the stanza are partly lost*] ... you will live on harshly treated /as a
dog that's caught the rabies, /alas unfortunate Xàtiva, /den of treacherous thieves!