

and he resolved to embrace an order of monks, whose vocation it was to work to obtain funds to purchase the release of the Christians in bondage, both in Spain and Africa. He had not much difficulty in obtaining the consent of his friends, for in those days, a contempt for the world and an indifference to self-interest was considered fanatical *only by infidels*. Accordingly, through the patronage of his relatives, the Counts of Foix and Cardona, he was admitted to the religious habit.

He had not been long in the monastery before his extraordinary piety induced his superior to involve upon him the office of ransom. He was sent with a large sum of money to Barbary, where his funds were soon exhausted in purchasing the freedom of many of his fellow countrymen. But still there remained numbers of Spanish captives, and he said to one of these, whose condition seemed the most wretched, owing to the excessive cruelty of his master, "Silver and gold have I none, but I offer myself a hostage for your ransom." The hostage was accepted; but Raymund's conduct, which afforded his Moorish master so striking a view of the super-human excellence of Christianity, seemed only to heighten his malignity. He cast his new slave into a low, damp dungeon, the grate of which emitted just enough light to discover the reptiles and vermin which crawled on its walls. But Raymund would not have exchanged his position for all that worldly ambition could offer—rejoicing that he was counted worthy to suffer.

At length, his health declined so fast that his master, fearing that his life would fail a sacrifice, and that he should thereby lose the sum which was bargained to be paid for his ransom, gave him liberty to walk out occasionally.

Raymund gladly availed himself of this liberty to instruct in the way to heaven such of the Moors as understood Spanish. His discourses had a powerful effect; but it was not so much by arguments as by his example, that he found his way to the hearts of these infidels, and induced many of them to embrace the true faith. It mattered little that they had been educated in the belief that all Christians were wicked idolaters, the conduct of Raymund had shewed them that a true Christian is an "angel in disguise."

The Governor, on being told that Raymund had converted and baptized several Mahometans, condemned him to die by empalement, but his master, unwilling to lose his ransom, prevailed that by a change of punishment he should suffer a *bastinado*, which was accordingly inflicted. Unmoved by this torture, Raymund still continued to preach Christianity to all who would listen to him. The Governor, more enraged than ever, now sentenced him to be scourged at the corners of the principal streets; and in order to prevent him from speaking of Christ and his religion, without putting him to death, caused an iron hook to be forced through both his lips, which was only removed when he ate. In this state, with his mouth festering from the iron, he was thrown into a dungeon, where he remained till his ransom was brought by some monks of his order.

Raymund was very unwilling to leave his fellow captives in Africa, but he submitted to the will of his superior. On arriving in Spain, he was created Cardinal by Gregory IX. but he could not be induced to change his cell in the monastery, his coarse habit, or his manner of conforming to the rules of his order. Like St. Bernard, he wished