

Church adopted the doctrine that by the consecration of the priest the Host was changed into the real body of Christ. Indeed, it is said that the general acceptance of this doctrine, which was so much combated in the Church itself in earlier times, is attributable to a wonderful circumstance which happened at Bolsena in the year 1264. When, namely, a priest at that place, who had hitherto doubted the reality of the transubstantiation, was blessing the food provided for the evening meal, there fell drops of blood upon his linen gown. This was looked upon as a decisive proof of the doctrine of transubstantiation, and for the glorification of the same, Pope Urban IV. ordained in the same year the feast of Corpus Christi, which, as is well known, is celebrated even to-day in the Roman Catholic Church with great ceremony. Since then the appearance of blood in bread, and especially in the consecrated wafer, has attracted the closest attention, and has been, for the most part, considered as a miracle pointing to some terrible crime.

The Jews, especially, who in the Host have ever been charged with the persecution and suffering of Christ, have, on numberless occasions, become propitiatory offerings. As early as the year 1290 it is said that a woman in Paris took the wafer from her mouth after communion and conveyed it to a Jew in consideration of a small bribe. The Jew boiled the wafer in water and pierced it, whereupon the water was colored entirely red. He afterwards confessed the deed and was burned, and from his house was built the church *Salvatoris del bolgente*.

In 1453 the Jews at Breslau bought nine hosts which a peasant had stolen from the church at Langenwiese; when the elders laid them on a linen cloth and struck them with wands, so much blood flowed from them that it colored the cloth almost entirely. At the instigation of a Franciscan, the Jews at Breslau were, on the second of May, imprisoned and tortured, and forty-one of them were burned together with the peasant; the rest were condemned to perpetual exile, while their goods were confiscated. Shortly after, a similar course of procedure was instituted against the Jews in several other places in this region. Only a