

Arnaud Cogul de Lordat Confession 30

Against Arnaud Cogul de Lordat

The year of the Lord 1320, the 5th of December. Since it has come to the attention of the Reverend Father in Christ my lord Jacques, by the grace of God bishop of Pamiers, that Arnaud Cogul of Lordat has said and affirmed before many people that God did not create the devil or the wolf, nor any other things harmful to humans, and that the devil and the wolf have their own beings in and of themselves, not being created by anyone else; that he has also held many propositions of the Manichaeian sect, which leads one to believe that he is a believer of this sect; and since it has also come to his attention that he has contracted, in the past, a great familiarity and friendship with the heretics of this sect and with their believers, and that he has made jokes about the inquisitors and mocked them, saying if he were cited in a matter of faith he would have nothing to confess; my said lord bishop, wishing to inquire regarding this subject and the above mentioned facts and others touching the Catholic faith, with the assistance of Brother Gaillard de Pomiès, substitute for my lord the inquisitor of Carcassonne, had him brought before him in the episcopal chamber of Pamiers. The same swore on the four holy Gospels of God to tell the pure and entire truth concerning these facts, as much concerning himself as charged as concerning others both living and dead as witness. The oath having been taken by him, he said and avowed:

For about six years, I was of the belief that since God is good and simple, and there is not and can be no wickedness in him, that it was not he, God, who created the devil or the demons. And since I have cows and sheep and since sometimes the wolf carries off and eats these animals, I have believed during this time that God did not create an animal as wicked as the wolf.

During the same period, I did not believe that the devil was created by God nor by anyone else, but that he was in himself a being neither created nor engendered.

Although during this time I knew very well that it is a wolf who gives birth to another wolf, I nevertheless believed that in its origin the wolf was a being in and of itself, not created by anyone, but that he came into the world just like this, and that no one knew where he had come from or by whom he was sent. But I believed and I still believe that all the other bodies and spirits, like the good angels, the sky, the earth, the waters, human bodies and more generally all other bodies and all other things, were created by God.

Although I have always believed that the human soul on Judgment Day will return to the same flesh and bones that it inhabited in the present life, I have always believed that, when Judgment is over, all the human bodies will return and dissolve into the earth, just as they do now after death, when human bodies are reduced to earth.

I have always believed that God has always existed and always will, and that he entered into the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and remained in her womb for nine months, and that he was born at Christmas. The Lord, although he appeared to be a man and had the semblance of a man, was never in reality a true man, although he was a true God, and he never ate or drank, except by the grace of God.

Interrogated diligently on all the articles of the faith and the articles of the Manichaeian sect, he responded to all catholically and appropriately.

After this, the same year as above (1320), the 11th of December, the said Arnaud appeared judicially in the episcopal chamber before my said lord bishop assisted by the said Brother Gaillard de Pomiès, and the witnesses named below: my lord the bishop read his preceding confession to him intelligibly in the vulgar tongue and asked him if had believed everything contained in his said confession for the precise time specified therein. He said yes, and that he wished to hold and persevere in these confessions, and he had believed it because he, as far as he remembers in his forty years, had never had anyone to teach him the catholic faith as preserved and preached by the Roman church, which is contrary to what he has confessed to have believed as far as these heretical articles go. And, he said, he repents greatly of having held these beliefs. But now, instructed by my said lord bishop, he believes and will continue to believe in the future that God has created everything: the angels, good and bad, or demons, the sky, the earth, the waters, and generally all the bodies, even wolves and all human spirits.

Item, that the devil was made by God, and the wolf also, and that they are not beings in and of themselves, and there is nothing at all which has not been created by God himself.

Item that human bodies, after the universal Judgment, will never be reduced and dissolved into earth, but that they will remain forever incorruptible, either in glory or in torment; that the bodies will once again have their own souls who will be united to them and will never be separated from them.

Item, that although the Son of God has always been God, and only God before the Incarnation, that nonetheless, after having been incarnated, he is true God and true man, having a true human body and a true rational soul, just like other men.

Item, that Christ, insofar as he lived a mortal life with us, ate and drank of natural food and drink, corporeal and sensible, and felt hunger and thirst, slept, kept vigil, and met all the human needs of human souls, although he did these things voluntarily.

-Have you been informed or instructed in these errors which you have claimed to have believed, by a heretic of the Manichaeian sect or by a believer? -No.

-Did any other man or woman instruct you? -No.

-How have you fallen into these errors? -By myself, and by my own stupidity.

-Have you taught these errors to anyone else? -No.

-Have you seen any heretics, have you heard them speak, have you given or sent them anything, have you sheltered them or accompanied them? -No, none that I knew to be heretics. But, I have certainly seen Guillaume and Pierre Authié, the heretics, before they fled and left the country for Lombardy. But I have never talked about these things with them.

The said Arnaud made this confession spontaneously and of his own free will, not having been incarcerated, although he was retained by my lord the bishop, and free to move about the city of Pamiers and its limits.

In the presence of our lords the bishop, Brother Gaillard de Pomiès, Brother Arnaud du Carla, O.P. of the convent of Pamiers, Brother David, monk of Fontfroide and of myself Guillaume Peyre-Barthe, notary of my said lord bishop, who has written that which precedes.

After this, the same year as above (1320), the 22nd of December, the said Arnaud, appearing judicially in the episcopal chamber before my lord the bishop, said and avowed:

About sixteen years ago, I do not recall the exact time, I went to Prades d'Alion to shear the sheep that Pierre Dejean de Prades was keeping for me. When I was there, I had terrible pains one night. The next morning I got up and I was in the courtyard of Pierre Dejean's house, because I was ready to leave. Then Gaillarde, Pierre Dejean's wife, asked me if I wanted to speak to the good men. I told her to go to the devil with her good men. And I realized that this Gaillarde was talking of the heretics, and she mentioned them to me, so that, since I had been sick, I might be received into their sect if I died.

-Why did you believe that this was what this Gaillarde meant? -Because I believe, and I had believed this before, that this Gaillarde was a believer.

-Did this Gaillarde speak any more heretical words to you at this time or any other? -No.

About twenty years ago, but I do not recall the exact time, I was coming one day from the wood of Bannières, in the territory of Bestiac and I was with the late Arnaud Excalas of Lordat, who was wearing crosses for heresy. I asked him why he had had these crosses imposed on him. He told me that one day he was with his cows in the woods, and Arnaud Record of Caussou, the now-dead heretic, came by with another heretic, whom he did not name. And this Arnaud gave these heretics something to eat. And for this he had had crosses imposed by the Inquisition.

-Did he say anything else to you about the sect of heretics, at this time or any other? -No.

-Have you revealed this to my lord the inquisitor of Carcassonne when you were called by him in the matter of heresy? -No.

-Why? -I did not remember it.

And he said nothing else relevant.

This deposition was made in the episcopal chamber of Pamiers before my said lord bishop, in the presence of master Hugues de Bilhères, jurist of Pamiers, and of myself, Guillaume Peyre-Barthe, notary of my said lord bishop, who has received and written that which precedes.

After this he took the same vow on March 7th, the same year as above (1320) before the inquisitor in the house of the Preachers of Pamiers.

The same Sunday assigned to the said Arnaud, he appeared in the cemetery of Saint-Jean-Martyr, and we said lords bishop and inquisitor proceeded to the pronouncement of the sentence against the said Arnaud as follows here below: "Let all know, etc." See the sentence in this case in the Book of sentences of heresy.

And I, Rainaud Jabbaud, cleric of Toulouse, sworn in the matter of the Inquisition, have, on the order of my lord the bishop, faithfully corrected the said confessions against the original.

NOTES

Condemned to the dungeon of the Wall on March 8, 1321, he was released with simple crosses on July 4, 1322. (*Hist. Inquisitionis*, p. 294)