

## **Confession 16** **Pierre Magre de Rabat**

### Confession of Pierre Magre, of Rabat

The year of the Lord 1320, the 21st of April. 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 Pierre Magre of Rabat was strongly suspected of heresy, that he knew of the heretication of the late Pierre Amiel of Rabat, and that he has committed crimes in this matter of heresy, which he has not yet confessed, my said lord bishop, wishing to know the truth about that which precedes, had him called into the chamber of the house of the provost of the abbey of Rabat, with the assistance of Brother Gaillard de Pomiès, substitute for my lord the inquisitor of Carcassonne and in the presence of the venerable person my lord Pierre du Verdier, archdeacon of Majorca and of myself, Guillaume Peyre-Barthe, notary for my lord the bishop, witnesses to this convocation.

The said Pierre, having taken an oath on the four holy Gospels of God to tell the pure and entire truth on that which precedes and other facts touching the Catholic faith, as much concerning himself as cited as concerning others living and dead as witness, said and avowed:

When Pierre Amiel was sick with the illness of which he was to die -- I do not recall the time, probably about 18 years ago -- one Tuesday, I came to Rabat from Tarascon where I had been to the market. Having arrived at the place called Plan de Serres, in the parish of Rabat, at the hour of dusk, I found there Guillaume Delaire of Quié with another man. He asked me to go with them to the place called La Campagne, and I did so. Along the way, Guillaume told me that this man was called André and he was one of those they call good Christians, and that he was going to Pierre Amiel's house in Rabat where the said André had received Pierre Amiel into his sect and faith, and had made him a good Christian.

I went along with them just to the place called La Campagne.

-Did you hear this heretic say anything about this affair? -No.

-Did you believe that Pierre Amiel had been made a heretic? -Yes, because Guillaume Delaire told me so.

-Did you believe that Pierre Amiel had done well to make himself a heretic? -At the time, I believed that what he had done was good. But now, I believe that he did ill.

-In what sort of fabric was this André clothed? -I do not remember, and I could not see it very well, because it was dark.

-By what road were you and Guillaume Delaire leading this heretic? -We passed near by field and the orchard of the provost of Rabat.

-Did you see this heretic anytime after this? -No.

-What were the height and physique of this André? -He was the same height as Guillaume Delaire, and he walked looking down, with his hood on and very fast, as if he were hurrying away, but he did not run.

-Have you confessed yourself otherwise to my lord the inquisitor of Carcassonne? -No, because I was not interrogated about this.

-Did rumors of this heretication circulate through Rabat? -There was talk of it.

-Did you adore this heretic? -No.

And he said nothing else of relevance, though interrogated diligently.

After this, the year of the Lord 1321, the 7th of March, the said Pierre, appearing judicially in the chamber of the bishop's palace of Pamiers before my said lord bishop and the religious person Brother Jean de Beaune, of the order of preachers, inquisitor of the heretical deviation in the realm of France, commissioned by the apostolic see, on the day for which he had been cited by the letters of my said lords bishop and inquisitor, said and acknowledged under oath and by faith that the confession he had made before my said lord bishop, which was read intelligibly to him in the vulgar tongue, as it is contained above, was true in fact and contained the truth, that he wished to hold and persevere in the said confession and never contravene it, nor propose defenses by which it could be rendered invalid or any point of it annulled.

He added to this confession that he believes and believed that Prades Tavernier, the heretic, was a good man, and he had believed this for a long time.

And for all and each one of these facts he submitted himself to the will and mercy of the said bishop and inquisitor, renounced and finished with the above-mentioned facts and asked that sentence be given.

And the above-mentioned lords bishop and inquisitor assigned a day to the said Pierre to hear definitive sentence of the facts avowed above, to wit, the following Sunday, March 8th in the house of the Preachers of Pamiers.

Done the year and day above, in the presence of the religious persons my lord Germain de Castelnau, archdeacon of the church of Pamiers, and Brother Pons, companion of my said lord inquisitor, and of us Guillaume Peyre-Barthe, notary of my lord the bishop, and Barthélemy Adalbert, notary of the Inquisition, who have received and written the said ratification of the confession of the said Pierre.

On the Sunday assigned to the said Pierre, he appeared in the cemetery of Saint-Jean-Martyr of Pamiers and he was given a sentence by our said lords bishop and inquisitor as follows: "Let all know..." See this sentence in the Book of Sentences of the Inquisition.

And I, Rainbaud 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

Prades Tavernier, weaver of Prades, was a Cathar perfect, arrested for the first time in 1305 with Jacques Authié, who evaded the dungeon of the Wall of Carcassonne, but was recaptured and burned later. He had taken the name André and was called André de Prades by believers. One finds his story told in the depositions of the believers of Prades and Montailou, many of whom are from his family.

Pierre Magre was condemned to the dungeon of the Wall on March 8, 1321 but released with a simple wearing of crosses in a sermon given on July 4, 1322. (Historia Inquisitionis p. 294)

