

Miracle of St Martin, Bishop of Tours. Trans. W.L. North from the edition of I.V.D.G.,
“Miraculum S. Martini Episcopi Turonensis.” *Analecta Bollandiana* 21 (1902): 403-404.

This narrative is found in Brussels II.1058, ff. 74-75. The ms has been described in *Catalogus cod. hagiogr. bibl. reg. Bruxell. II*, pp. 486-487.

In the diocese of Liège there is a village in which a church has been built in honor of the blessed Martin. In this village there was a certain peasant (rustic) who was called Erlebald Ollula; Ollula was his last name. One day, since this fellow was the caretaker of his village's fields, he was passing through the fields to a nearby village, and there was a small forest in the middle of the field, through which he needed to pass. As he was passing through it, he saw a certain man adorned with episcopal vestments and a mitre sitting on the trunk of an oak. For that oak had two trunks emerging from one root, and it was upon the cut one that he was sitting. Now then, when the peasant spied him, he was absolutely terrified and backed away. But when [the bishop] saw him, he called to him saying: *Do not be afraid, come closer. I am Martin, bishop of Tours. Tell that man who injured my chaplain Alard the priest, whoever he may be, to stop bothering him further with his injuries and restore what has been unjustly taken. Otherwise he shall feel the justice of God, which he has held in contempt by acting unjustly.* For there was a certain rich man from a castle near this village who often troubled it greatly.

The man answered St Martin saying: *My Lord, that man won't believe me.* The saint then said to him: *As you pass through this forest, you shall see a multitude of demons on horses running before your eyes and the many souls of sinning usurers with them. From these you shall hear the sign on account of which he must believe what you say, and do not be afraid, because I shall protect you and be by your side.* And as the peasant was passing through the aforesaid forest, he saw just what the blessed Martin had predicted. For there, amidst a crowd of demons, there was a certain usurer named Bernerus, recently deceased, who had taken from a certain widow the widow's garden as interest on a loan (*usura*) [a garden] which his son, who was still alive, possessed by hereditary right. After the peasant saw him, he asked the usurer how he was. The usurer answered: *I am grievously tortured, especially on account of the garden of that widow <that I claimed>. Therefore, tell my son that, if he has compassion for my punishment, he should restore the garden to the widow. And as sign which he must believe, tell him that you shall not taste of the grain which you guard because you shall die before the next harvest.*

The peasant returned to the aforementioned priest of his village and made known to him what he had seen and heard. To the son of the usurer and the enemy of the priest, he told everything that had been commanded of him. And the peasant died before the next harvest, just as had been predicted. But that wealthy man [the usurer's son] also died not long thereafter. And so the priest, when so great a miracle was learned, turned away from the uncleanness of his fornication and all his sins towards perfect penitence. And his partner in fornication did the same, for she had been afraid and anxious over how she would render satisfaction for the great crime which she had committed with the priest and had often begged the blessed virgin Mary <for help> in this matter.