

## The Penance of Arduin or the Roman Synod of 999 under Emperor Otto III and Silvester II

Trans. W. L. North from the edition of L. Weiland. MGH *Constitutiones*. Legum Sectio IV.1. Hannover: Hansche Buchhandlung 1893. (Document 25, p. 53)

THE PENANCE OF ARDUIN THAT WAS IMPOSED UPON HIM IN THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED APOSTLE PETER AND DECREED IN SYNOD AND IN A CATHOLIC MANNER BY THE LORD POP E SILVESTER AND THE AUGUST EMPEROR OTTO III AND BY THE BISHOPS OF ITALY.

May it be known to all that Ardoin (sic) confessed before the most holy lord Silvester and our august emperor of the Romans Otto III and all the bishops in attendance there that he led those men who murdered Bishop Peter of Vercelli, was present at his murder, brought these same men back and kept them with him, and afterwards continued to interact with them. It was therefore decided (*inventum*) in holy synod to impose no light penance upon him, as a participant in such a great crime, because although he did not personally commit this foul deed with his own hands, he was nevertheless the cause of his death, since he brought the murders there. So, too, did Judas, who did not, it is true, hand over the Lord to be crucified in this manner but because he led others, he was in like manner the cause of His death and eternally damned. Yet Judas acted more mildly in this regard: he at least did not interact with the Lord's killers. Now then, because [Ardoin] has confessed publically, the holy synod wishes to impose on him the same penance as it would have given him, if he confessed privately that he had killed the bishop with his own hand, namely, that from now on he set aside his arms; he not eat meat; he kiss neither man nor woman; he not dress in linen clothing; if he be healthy, he not remain in one place more than two nights; he not receive the Lord's body except at his departure from life, and he do penance in that place where he may harm none of those who have taken oaths against him. Alternatively, he may immediately become a monk.