

Archivio Segreto Vaticano

Arciconfraternita del Gonfalone 36 (formerly Mazzo XII)

Fragment V, hand α (f. 126r): sonnet, inc. “Sì como soccoresti al grande errore”; f. 126v: blank.

The sonnet is a prayer, in the name of Rome, to the Virgin, and through her to the Saviour who is coming to visit, asking them to assist Rome in the city’s time of great need. There is no contextualising information, but the sonnet may relate to the annual “visit” for the feast of the Assumption of the Santissimo Salvatore icon to the *Salus Populi Romani* icon at the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, and to the disastrous condition of Rome after the Sack of 1527.

Sì como soccoresti al grande errore
~~Della gente che si giva ad eterna pena~~
che conducea la gente ad eterna pena,
Vergene d’ogni gratia e virtù piena,
soccorri ~~alle~~ al danno mio molto maggiore.

As once you remedied the great sin
that led people to eternal suffering,
Virgin full of all grace and virtue,
bring succour now in my far greater peril.

Io te prego che preghi el Salvatore,
per la visitatione che già el mena,
che salvi el popol mio che vive a pena,
senza ~~aiuto~~ ben, senza pace e senza honore.

I beseech you to beseech the Saviour,
in the visit that brings him here,
to save my people who are barely alive,
without good, without peace and without
honour.

Senza honor, senza pace io mi nascondo,
consiglio, aiuto, compassion, mercede,
ché la religion se ne va al fondo!

I’m hidden without honour, without peace,
counsel, aid, compassion, mercy,
for religion is failing.

Sì che tua Maestà che tucto vede,
o Re del Cielo, o Salvator del Mondo,
provedi alla tua Roma, alla tua fede.

May your all-seeing Majesty,
O King of Heaven, Saviour of the World,
provide for your city of Rome, for your faith.