Pero da Ponte

Rubrica
On her return from the Holy Land
Maria Perez, our crusaderess,
carried so many indulgences
that she couldn't possibly sink,
but they were filched along the way
until not a single one remained.

Indulgences are a precious thing,
to be kept under lock and key,
but she didn't have a decent box
with a lock in which to keep them,
for ever since the lock was broken
her box has been left open.

How can a box like that be safe
in lodgings full of young men
who are sure to go all through it?
For in every place where they abound
there's no indulgence that won't be found:
they'll turn the hospice upside down!

One more thing I would point out:
the indulgences deserved to be lost,
since they weren't very honestly got.

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