

## **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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