

## The Devil and a Thirteenth-Century Schoolboy: Caesar of Heisterbach, *Miracula* 2.14

The passage with notes is also on line:

<http://www.usu.edu/markdamen/Latin1000/Handouts/37Devil.PDF>

In illā ecclesiā<sup>1</sup> erat scholaris<sup>2</sup> parvus. Cum hic die quādam<sup>3</sup> versūs componere ex eā materiā<sup>4</sup> a magistro datā non posset et tristis<sup>5</sup> sederet,<sup>6</sup> diabolus<sup>7</sup> in formā hominis vēnit. Cum dixisset: “Quid est, puer? Cur sic tristis sedes?” respondit puer: “Magistrum meum timeo quod versūs componere non possum de themate<sup>8</sup> quod ab eo recepi.” Et ille: “Visne mihi servire si ego versūs tibi componam?” Puer, non intellegens quod<sup>9</sup> ille esset diabolus, respondit: “Etiam, domine, paratus sum facere quidquid<sup>10</sup> iusseris—dummodo<sup>11</sup> versūs habeam et verbera<sup>12</sup> vitem.” Tum, versibus statim<sup>13</sup> dictatis,<sup>14</sup> diabolus abiit. Cum puer autem hos versūs magistro suo dedisset, hic, excellentiam<sup>15</sup> versuum miratus, timuit, ducens scientiam in illis divinam,<sup>16</sup> non humanam. Et ait: “Dic mihi, quis tibi hos versūs dictavit?” Primum puer respondit: “Ego, magister!” Magistro autem non credente et verbum interrogationis<sup>17</sup> saepius repetente, puer omnia tandem<sup>18</sup> confessus est.<sup>19</sup> Tum magister “Fili,” inquit, “ille versificator<sup>20</sup> fuit diabolus. Carissime, semper illum seductorem<sup>21</sup> et eius opera cave.<sup>22</sup>” Et puer diabolum eiusque opera reliquit.

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<sup>1</sup> **ecclesia, -ae**, church

<sup>2</sup> **scholaris, -is**, scholar

<sup>3</sup> **die quādam: dies** *is sometime f.*

<sup>4</sup> **materia, -ae**, material

<sup>5</sup> **tristis, -e**, sad

<sup>6</sup> **sedeo, -ere, sedi, sessum, sit**

<sup>7</sup> **diabolus, -i**, devil

<sup>8</sup> **thema, -atis, n.**, theme, subject

<sup>9</sup> **quod**, that, *introducing an indirect statement, common in Medieval Lat.*

<sup>10</sup> **quidquid**, whatever

<sup>11</sup> **dummodo**+ *subj.*, provided

<sup>12</sup> **verbera, -um, n.**, blows, a beating

<sup>13</sup> **statim**, immediately

<sup>14</sup> **dicto (1)**, dictate

<sup>15</sup> **excellētia, -ae**

<sup>16</sup> **divinus, -a, -um; divinam** *is pred. acc.*

<sup>17</sup> **interrogatio, -onis, f.**

<sup>18</sup> **tandem**, at last

<sup>19</sup> **confiteor, -eri, -fessus sum**

<sup>20</sup> **versificator, -oris**, versifier

<sup>21</sup> **seductor, -oris**, seducer

<sup>22</sup> **caveo, -ere, cavi, cautum**, beware, avoid

## The Devil and a Thirteenth-Century Schoolboy — Worksheet

a. The questions below pertain to the forms underlined in the passage

b. When you're asked to change a word from one form to another, change only **that** form of the word. For instance, if you're asked to change *habet* to the passive voice, make *habet* passive but leave it in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular, present indicative.

1. Change **erat** to perfect subjunctive. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Make **parvus** dative. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Make **die** genitive. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Make **quādam** plural. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Make **componere** perfect passive (neuter singular). \_\_\_\_\_
6. Change **posset** to indicative. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Make **sederet** passive plural. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Make **tristis** neuter plural. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Change **recepti** to subjunctive. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Make **servire** future modifying *ille*. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Change **paratus sum** to subjunctive plural. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Change **iusseris** to future perfect indicative plural. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Make **vitem** passive. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Make **dictatis** present active. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Change **abiit** to present subjunctive. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Change **dedisset** present imperative singular. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Change **miratus** to pluperfect subjunctive (3<sup>rd</sup> sing.). \_\_\_\_\_

18. Make **dic** plural. \_\_\_\_\_

19. Make **credente** perfect passive (fem. sing. nom.). \_\_\_\_\_

20. Make **saepius** superlative. \_\_\_\_\_

21. Change **confessus est** to present imperative plural. \_\_\_\_\_

22. Make **carissime** comparative. \_\_\_\_\_

23. Make **illum** dative. \_\_\_\_\_

24. Change **cave** to indicative future passive. \_\_\_\_\_

25. Make **reliquit** passive (neuter singular acc.). \_\_\_\_\_