

The Story of the Jewish Desecration of the Eucharist (Paris 1290)

An extract from Giovanni Villani, *Nuova Cronica* VIII.143

Translated by W. L. North from the edition of G. Porta, *Nuova Cronica*, 3 vols (Parma, 1990), I. 616.

Concerning a great miracle concerning the body of Christ
that happened in Paris

In the aforesaid year [1290] there was a Jew who had loaned money at interest to a Christian woman who had pawned her clothes, and she wished to recover them in order to have them to wear on Easter day. The Jew said to her: *If you bring me the body of your Christ, I will return your clothes without payment.* The simple and covetous woman promised him [to do so], and on the morning of Easter, when she went to receive communion, she kept the sacrament and brought it to the Jew. He put a pot on the fire with boiling water and threw the body of Christ in, but it could not consume it. Seeing this, he stabbed it many times with a knife and it poured forth a copious amount of blood so that the water turned all vermillion. Then, he removed it [from the boiling water] and put it in cold water, and it became vermillion in a similar manner. When some Christians arrived to borrow money, they realized the Jew's sacrilege, and the holy body sprung onto a table all by itself. When this was learned, the Jew was captured and burned, and the holy body was collected by the priest with great reverence. Of that house where the miracle occurred, a church was built which is called the Savior of the Boiling Water.