

Künc Constantin der Gap sô Vil  
*Walther von der Vogelweide*

King Constantine, as I will relate,  
Bestowed a whole lot on the Holy See.  
Arms, cross, and crown—  
At which the angel cried aloud:  
“Woe, woe, and a third time woe!  
Christendom once lived according to the Golden Rule.  
Now poison has entered the system,  
Turning its honey to gall.  
The world will live to rue it bitterly.”  
All the princes are held in high esteem,  
While their overlord is humiliated,  
And this due to the prelates’ decision.  
O God, what a mess.  
The prelates want to twist secular law.  
The angel was talking truth.

*(from the Middle High German, ca. 1939-1943)*