

1317 (lesser Armenia)

Accusations against Segurano Salvaygo and other Genoese merchants, by Guillaume Adam O.P.

Gulielmus Adae, 'De modo Sarracenos extirpandi', in *Recueil des Historiens des Croisades: Documents Arméniens*, vol. 2 (Paris, 1906), pp. 525–6, 531; cf. Benjamin Z. Kedar, 'Segurano-Sakrān Salvaygo: Un mercante genovese al servizio dei Sultani Mamalucchi, c. 1303–1322', in *Fatti e idee di storia economica nei secoli XII–XX*, ed. by Franco Borlandi (Bologna, 1977), pp. 75–91. The translation is mine (CC).

Ecce, pater et domine, quanta mala faciunt hii nostri animarum hominum venditores, quantam ponunt maculam in gloriam fidei nostre, quantam confusionem faciunt in domo Domini, quale exhibent sceleris
5 incentivum, quantam bonorum morum destructionem procurant et excidium honestatis. Sed hoc flagitium non perpetrant mercatores superius nominati ut plurimum, sed maxime Januenses, nec omnes Januenses, sed potissime ille, caput peccati, Segruanus Salvatici et illi
10 qui de sua domo sunt et parentela, quos secum ad hec attraxit servicia inimici Sathane, quosque secum in hoc diabuli ministerium dedicavit, in tantum quod predictus Seguranus, cum illis qui de parentela sua secum consenciant, non ad aliud videtur intendere, nisi
15 quomodo possit per hec opera, Deo contraria, Ecclesiam confundere et Sarracenos, inimicos crucis et persecutores nostre fidei, roborare.

Ipse Seguranus frater soldani appellatur, Sarracenus esse creditur, et, ut hostis fidei, Machomistarum fautor
20 et promotor dicitur et defensor. In tantum est soldano conjunctus, quod ipse soldanus eum fratrem suum in suis appellat litteris et amicum. In tantum est Sarracenus, quod ipse permisit predicta peccata contra naturam in suis navibus perpetrari. Vexillum eciam
25 Machometi et soldani Babilonie gestatum fuit in suis navibus et galeis, per se et aliquos de parentela sua, sicut ego, cum horrore et detestacione, oculis meis vidi. Quod fautor Sarracenorum existat manifeste apparet, quia cum soldanus aliquam legacionem vellet mittere,
30 vel nuncios, ad imperatorem Tartarorum aquilonis, pro culto sarracenco ampliando, ipse hujusmodi legacionem et nuncios transvehebat, sicut dicitur inferius magis clare.

Promotorem eciam se exhibuit eorundem, sic quod
35 numquam aliquis fuit ante eum non Sarracenus existens, qui tantam illam sectam pestiferam auxerit et

See, O Father and Lord [= the Pope], how much evil these our vendors of souls are doing, what stain they are placing on the glory of our faith, what confusion they cause in the House of the Lord, what incentive to crime they offer, how much destruction and moral decline they cause! But it is not the above merchants in general who perpetrate this crime but mostly the Genoese, nor all of the Genoese but above all that head of all vice, Segurano Salvaygo and those who are of his house and kin whom he drew with him into these services to the Enemy, Satan, and committed with him to that ministry of the devil, so much that the said Segurano, together with those who of his kin consent with him, appear to intend nothing but how they can, by these works against God, destroy the Church and strengthen the Saracens, the enemies of the Cross and persecutors of our faith.

This Segurano is called the Sultan's 'brother'; people think he is a Muslim and, like some enemy of the faith he is called a supporter, promotor and defensor of the Muslims. He is so close to the sultan that the sultan himself calls him his brother and friend in his letters. So much is he a Muslim that he permits the above-mentioned sins against nature to be committed on his own ships. The banner of Muhammad and the sultan of Egypt was flown on his ships and galleys, too, both by himself and by some of his kin, as to my horror and disgust I saw with my own eyes. That he is a supporter of the Saracens is manifest to the eyes, for whenever the sultan wanted to send some envoys to the emperor of the northern Tartars in order to extend the Islamic cult, he carried these envoys and messengers, as will be more clearly described below.

He also showed himself as their promotor, more than any non-Muslim before had helped and promoted their pestiferous

promoverit, portando eis predictorum puerorum christianorum et aliorum multa milia, ad exercendam miliciam, vel alios actus illicitos superius nominatos, portando eciam ferri et lignorum, ut predictur, magnam copiam et aliorum rerum que portari per Ecclesiam prohibentur. Non solum atuem ipse, et fratres eius et nepotes et propinqui, per hunc modum Sarracenis talem fortitudinem prebuerunt, sed et multi alii Januenses, quos, exemplo suo, attraxit ad similia peragendum; quos ipse precedit et precellit iniquitatis hujus dux et doctor nequicie contra Deum. Unde hoc veraciter est compertum, quod vix sit Janue aliqua nobilis parentela, neque alicuius valoris sit aliqua popularis, cuius aliqui Alexandriam iverint vel miserint, quorum aliqui pueros, aliqui alia prohibita portaverint. Et cum solus predictus Seguranus decem milia pueros Sarracenis portasse dicatur, nec multitudo nec numerus sciri potest quos alii portaverunt.

[. . .]

Has vero societates predicti duo imperatores per se tractant et firmant, scientibus et cooperantibus Januensibus, sine quibus has collegaciones inter se minime facere possent, nec soldanus ille Tartaro imperatori facarios, id est monachos sarracenos, et alios nuncios, ad pervertendum eum in suum populum, nec Tartarus soldano posset mittere pueros et hujusmodi encenia pravitatis. Quicquid enim isti duo, videlicet Tartarus et soldanus, sibi mutuo volunt mittere, hoc Januenses transvehunt in suis navibus et galeis; et talis iniquitatis ministri et cooperatores effecti, exardescentes ad lucrum et ad pecunias iniantes, ad omne quod contra Deum et Ecclesiam est, et ad omnium Sarracenorum et Tartarorum crimina fautores et promotores se exhibent et actores.

sect, in delivering them many thousands of the afore-mentioned Christian, and other, boys for use in their armies, and in other illicit dealings named above: carrying a great quantity of iron and woods, as above, and of other goods, transport of which is prohibited by the Church. Not only he and his brothers and kinsmen have offererd such reinforcement to the Saracens, but many other Genoese too, whom he has attracted to so similar things though his example: He himself preceded and excelled them as the leader in such wrongdoing and teacher of evil against God. There is evidence that there is almost no noble clan in Genoa and almost no popular one of major fortune, of whom not some have gone or sent to Alexandria, and of whom some have carried boys, some, other prohibited goods. And since Segurano alone is said to have carried 10.000 boys to the Saracens, the multitude and numbers carried by others is impossible to know.

The said two emperors negotiate and conclude these alliances between themselves, with the knowledge and cooperation of the Genoese, without whom they could never hold these meetings, nor could the sultan send the emperor fakirs (Arab. pl. *fuqarā*'), i.e., Muslim monks and other envoys, in order to pervert him to his own people, nor could the Tartar send the sultan boys and suchlike gifts of depravity. For whatever these two, the Tartar and the sultan, want to send each other, the Genoese carry it in their ships and galleys. Thus having become servants and collaborators of evil, they burn for profit and run after money and thus after everything wich is against God and the Church, showing themselves as supporters and promotors of all the crimes committed by the Saracens and Tartars.