**Inquisitional Records of Jacques Fournier**

**Created in the early thirteenth century to record the investigation of the Cathar heresy in southern France, the Fournier records are a useful source for both understanding personal relations and perceptions of time and space in a small French village. What follows is an excerpt from these records, detailing one of the many times Beatrice, a widow and suspected heretic, was brought before the Bishop and questions. On this occasion, responding to testimony they had received concerning Beatrice’s relationship with the local priest, the interrogators chose to question her sexual history. Later in the day they called Guillaume of Montaut to testify further on Beatrice’s character. Carefully read this text and observe the different ways time is noted and recorded. Finally, I should add that clerical notaries recorded these texts following a documentary formula, hence why some of the sentences and statements repeat.**

**Trial of Beatrice, widow of Otho Lagleize of Dalou**

The 22nd of August in the chamber of the bishop's palace, before the bishop and Brother Gaillard de Pomiès.

-Have your known men other than your husband carnally?

At the time when I was living in Prades, after the death of my first husband, I was living in a small house touching that of Jean Clergue, rector of Prades at the hostel (l'hôtel) of Pierre Gulihem of the said place. Since this house was next to that of the curé all that passed in one could be heard in the other. Pierre Clergue, curé of Montaillou, who had come to see me, told me that he would send me Jean, his student, whose family name I have forgotten the following night to seek me to sleep with him the following night. I agreed to this.

I was thus at my house at the time of the first sleep awaiting this student. He arrived and I followed him through a very dark night and we arrived at the church of Saint Peter of Prades, where we entered. We found Pierre Clergue who had made a bed in the church. I said to him "Alas! How can we do such a thing in the church of St. Peter?" He replied "Oh what a great shame it will be to St. Peter.” This said, we placed ourselves on the bed and slept together in the church and that night he knew me carnally in church. Later, before dawn, he himself took me from the church and back to the door of the house where I was living.

**-Do you know other persons, living or dead, who had any type of relations or intimacy or who committed anything in life or death related to this crime of heresy?**
No. But, when I was a little girl, and I was staying at Celles, about 6 years before marrying my first husband, the people went one day to see the body of Christ at the church there. I heard a mason (I do not know his name but I think he was called Oudin) ask where the people were going. Someone replied that they were going to see the body of Christ. He said "They have no great need to rush or hurry to see it, because even if the body of Christ were as big as the Pech de Boulque, it would have already been eaten many times over as pastry!" And these words, which I had heard spoken by this man, I cited sometimes, and repeated at Dalou without adding a word. I do not remember if it was when the people were going to see the body of the Lord at Dalou or some other occasion. It seems to me that it has been 12 years since I cited those words.

-The same year and day as above, Guillaume of Montaut, rector of the church of Dalou, a sworn witness, was interrogated about that which precedes, and said the following

It was 12 years ago - it seems to me, though for sure I do not entirely recall the day or the season - that I was at the church of Dalou and found there Mabille Vaquier, of Dalou, who is now dead. She said to me that she had reprimanded this Beatrice, who was the wife of her uncle, because she did not attend church, and also because she had heard her speak such an evil utterance that she was completely astonished. This utterance was the following: "You believe that what the priests hold on the altar is the body of Christ! Certainly, if that was the body of Christ and even if it was as big as this mountain (gesturing toward Mont Margail), the priests by themselves would already have eaten it!" Around the same time, the late Jean Roussel said to me at my home, where we were eating, that he had heard Beatrice say "You believe that what the priests have on the altar is the body of Christ! Indeed, if that was the body of Christ, even if it was as big as this mountain, the priests would have already eaten it all!" And because of this, he himself, Jean, had exchanged insulting words with this Beatrice.

**-Do you know other persons, living or dead, who have said anything related to this crime of heresy?**

Several years ago, it seems to me, we were sitting, Guillemette Benet and I, under the elm at the season when elms have put forth their leaves. It was onthis occasion that Guillemette Benet said to me: 'My poor friend, the soul is nothing but blood.'