

Gemini Version 3

April 25, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

I have a document in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Please do your best to transcribe.

This document is a significant administrative and personal letter from **April 30, 1387**, likely issued by **Queen Violant de Bar**. It provides a detailed and dramatic account of a sudden medical crisis suffered by **King John I of Aragon** (Joan el Caçador).

The handwriting is a classic late 14th-century **Gothic Secretarial** (cursiva gòtica), characterized by the long descenders, the looped "s" and "f," and the specific "ç" and "r" forms typical of the Chancery of the Crown of Aragon.

Transcription

Below is the diplomatic transcription. I have expanded common abbreviations (such as *nre* to *nostre* or *ppa* to *present*) to make it readable while preserving the original medieval Catalan orthography.

Ales jnhibicions generals e commissio contengudes en les dites letres no pes als trobat sino que ço que fa saber per sa letra lo dit senyor / qui daço e dales altres coses tocades en vostres letres queu al present poguesse vosaltres hauets fet saber. Quant es daço que desus dehets que an nos fassa res qui pogues tornar en lesio alguna o torb dels capitols que en hauets portats / hajats per ffi que nos ffarem / Com en aquells lo senyor Rey e nos siam e estiam certs constants sens tota variacio. **[Item] sapials que diumenge prop passat apres vespre vench al senyor Rey fort gran accident de sincopi / per lo qual perdet la paraula e li refredaren fortment les extremitats / e vench en article de mort a tal hora de mija nuyt estach fortment abatus / mas ladonchs o aço algun poch per gracia de nostre senyor Deu pres millorament / en lo qual pprosseda tot lendema que fo fo diluns apres mig jorn. E en aquella hora vench li altre fort accident per lo qual se aguera entes que tot hom romas quasi desesperat de sa vida / e cert d'oppinio que ja o en la nuyt prop passada ell degues finir sos dies / de que tots los de la Cort / e de la Ciutat foren greument torbats / mostrants be lur naturalesa e puresa affeccio / e singularment ne haguem nos en turbacio e tribulacio transcendent / com ne haguessem e hajam singulars raons. Et ladonchs lo dit senyor molt solemnement e devota **combrega / e rebe lo cors de Jhesu Xpist**. Mas apres obrant la gracia divinal / a la qual era e es tot merit recorregue lo dit senyor tan gran millorament / lo qual de hora en hora per ara e encara continuat que ell**

esta ara molt be / beneit ne sia nostre senyor / en lo qual esperam que dins breu lo veurem en plena sanitat / e veurem lo y conservar longament. E notificam vos aquest ffet per tal que sapials la veritat / e que del bon millorament del senyor Rey hajats plaer e consolacio / en retents laors e gracies a la sua majestat ffahents hi oracions especials per la salut del dit senyor. Et si tro aci hauets entes dili- gentment als afers seys e nucs per que sots aqui / daciavant hi entendereu ab diligencia puixlatina. Donants nos hi tots ab tot esforç de guisa que breu hagen la conclusio que desijam. Et abans nos moguessets daquí per res que oïssis del estament de la persona del senyor Rey ne per altres coses / tro que los dits afers hagen deguda fi car puix talment que va molt al senyor Rey e a nos / e a tota la terra / e que ell nos prosequex tost al nostre cor fort jmmpreso. **Dada en Barchelona sots nostre segell secret a XXX d'abril. Al any M. CCC. LXXX set.**

Historical Context & Key Details

- **The Medical Event:** The letter describes a "fort gran accident de sincopi" (a very great accident of syncope/fainting). This was a recurring issue for John I, whose health was a constant concern for the court. The description of his extremities turning cold ("refredaren fortment les extremitats") and losing his speech ("perdet la paraula") suggests a severe cardiovascular or neurological episode.
- **The Religious Response:** Because the King was "en article de mort" (at the point of death), he received the last rites and took communion (*combrega*).
- **The Recovery:** The letter shifts to a tone of relief, noting that by the grace of God, he had a "gran millorament" (great improvement) by the time of writing.
- **The Location:** The document was signed in **Barcelona** on **April 30, 1387**, just a few months after John I ascended the throne following the death of his father, Peter the Ceremonious, in January of that year.

This is a beautiful example of how the royal chancery communicated urgent personal and political news to officials across the territory.

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.