

ChatGPT Version 5.2

January 20, 2026

You said:

I have another medieval Catalan transcription that I would like you to help me translate. I will paste the transcription here. It is my original transcription of a very short 1387 letter from Violant to her cousin, King Charles III of Navarre. In my transcription, I might have been wrong about a few letters here and there, but the transcription is at least 90% accurate. Please help me make transcription corrections where needed. Then help me translate and contextualize the information. Here is the transcription: Molt car cosi nos emimam a vos lo feel nostre Guerau de Vullats serveus alguatzir e nostre molt car frare lo Duch de Montblanch pregans vos affectuosament que a les paraules del dit Guerau Vullats donar creença axi com fi nos les dehiem. Et aquelles complits per obra segons de vos speram lo sant spirit molt car cosi sia vostre guarda.

ChatGPT said:

This is a very nice, tight little chancery letter, and your transcription is indeed very close. I'll proceed in three stages, as you requested:

1. **Targeted transcription corrections (with rationale)**
2. **Normalized translation into English**
3. **Historical and diplomatic context (1387, Violant → Charles III of Navarre)**

I'll be conservative in emendation and flag what is essentially certain vs. merely preferable.

1. Corrected / normalized transcription

Your transcription (for reference):

Molt car cosi nos emimam a vos lo feel nostre Guerau de Vullats serveus alguatzir e nostre molt car frare lo Duch de Montblanch pregans vos affectuosament que a les paraules del dit Guerau Vullats donar creença axi com fi nos les dehiem. Et aquelles complits per obra segons de vos speram lo sant spirit molt car cosi sia vostre guarda.

Proposed corrected transcription

Molt car cosí, nos enviam a vós lo fidel nostre Guerau de Vullats, servent alguatzir, e nostre molt car frare lo duc de Montblanch, pregant-vos afectuosament que a les paraules del dit Guerau de Vullats doneu creença, axi com si nos les dèiem. E aquelles

compliu per obra, segons de vós **esperam**. **Lo Sant Esperit**, molt car cosí, **sia vostre guarda**.

Notes on key corrections

- **emimam** → **enviam**

This is the most important correction. *Emimam* is not meaningful here, whereas *enviam* is formulaic and expected: “we send to you...”

- **feel** → **fidel**

Orthographic normalization; *feel* is a common phonetic spelling, but *fidel* is the normalized form.

- **serveus alguatzir** → **servent alguatzir**

Serveus is understandable but *servent* is more standard chancery usage. The sense is “serving as alguatzir.”

- **pregans** → **pregant-vos**

Required syntactically to govern *vos* and matches epistolary formulae.

- **donar creença** → **doneu creença**

Finite verb required; this is a polite imperative/subjunctive.

- **axi com fi nos les dehiem** → **axi com si nos les dèiem**

fi is almost certainly *si*; *dehiem* → *dèiem* is normalization.

- **complits** → **compliu**

Again, finite verb required; imperative/subjunctive.

- **speram** → **esperam**

Minor orthographic normalization.

- **sant spirit** → **Lo Sant Esperit**

Formulaic closing; capitalization normalized.

Overall, the structure and meaning of your original transcription were already correct; these are refinements, not reinterpretations.

2. English translation

Very dear cousin, we send to you our faithful **Guerau de Vullats**, serving as alguatzir, and our very dear brother the **Duke of Montblanch**, affectionately begging you to give credence to the words of the said Guerau de Vullats, just as if we ourselves were saying them. And

that you carry them out in deed, as we hope from you. **May the Holy Spirit**, very dear cousin, **be your guardian**.

This is a classic **letter of credence**, compact and purely functional.

3. Historical and diplomatic context

Persons involved

- **Violant of Bar** (queen of Aragon) — writing shortly after the death of Pere IV (January 1387), when political communication and alliance-maintenance were especially sensitive.
- **Charles III of Navarre** — her cousin and an important dynastic and diplomatic interlocutor.
- **Martin of Aragon** — “lo duc de Montblanch,” Violant’s brother-in-law, acting here as co-emissary.
- **Guerau de Vullats** — described as *fidel nostre* and *servent alguatzir*, clearly a trusted royal officer, likely tasked with conveying specific oral instructions.

Genre and function

This letter is a **formal letter of credence (carta de creença)**:

- It **authorizes an envoy’s spoken words**, explicitly equating them with the queen’s own speech (*axi com si nos les dèiem*).
- It requests **both belief and execution** (*donar creença* → *complir per obra*), signaling that Guerau’s message involves concrete action, not mere information.
- The brevity is deliberate: the **real content is oral**, protected from interception or archival exposure.

Political significance (1387)

In early 1387:

- The Crown of Aragon was in a moment of **dynastic transition**.
- Navarre was a **kin-based ally but also a diplomatically delicate partner**.
- Sending **both** a trusted alguatzir **and** the Duke of Montblanch underscores the seriousness of the mission.

- Violant's phrasing carefully balances **authority** (royal command) with **affectionate kinship language** ("molt car cosí"), a hallmark of late-medieval dynastic diplomacy.

Why this letter matters

Even though it is short, this document:

- Confirms **Violant's active diplomatic role** immediately in 1387
- Shows how **oral authority** was formally authenticated in writing
- Illustrates the **interweaving of family, office, and trust** in Aragonese–Navarrese relations

If you'd like, next steps could include:

- A **comparison with other Aragonese cartas de creença** from the 1380s
- A **prosopographical dive on Guerau de Vullats**
- Or a **diplomatic formula analysis** suitable for an article or digital edition

Just tell me where you want to take it next.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.