

Gemini 3

February 27, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

I am uploading an image of a fourteenth-century document written in Gothic secretarial hand. The language is Catalan. It was written in the year 1387 and is from the Archive of the Crown of Aragon. Please do your best to give me a transcription of this letter.

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Gemini said

This is a fascinating specimen of late 14th-century Catalan chancery script (specifically a Gothic cursive or "secretarial" hand). The document is a royal letter from the Archive of the Crown of Aragon, dated March 2, 1387.

The text is a message from the King (likely John I of Aragon, as Peter IV died in January 1387) addressed to the Marquis of Villena (Alfonso of Aragon), discussing the Marquis's health and upcoming travel.

Transcription (Paleographic)

Below is a line-by-line transcription. Note that in this period, "u" and "v" are often interchangeable, and abbreviations (indicated by tildes or flourishes) have been expanded here for clarity.

Lo Rey

1. Marques car cosí. Entès em ço que messer P. Marrades nos ha dit per part
2. vostra, que haviets voluntat de posar-vos en camí d'aquí fins a set dies. Havem gran
3. plaer d'açò, car haviem gran desig de la vostra venguda per la necessitat que havem d'anar
4. en vostra persona, e per les rahons a nos significades de part vostra. E
5. dit messer P. Emperò, per saber que podets guardar solament en semblant
6. camí, us manam que vengats promptament a nostres plaers, assenyalant-nos el
7. terme de vostres retorns de lurs deutes, axí com d'altre que per avant

8. existissets vers que nos en reebem satisfacció, per saber que podets
 9. cavalcar i no us embarga necessitat que haviets en vostra persona. [...]
 10. metem vos per lo dit messer P. la orden de nostra empresa e per lo dit
 11. P. a don Alfonso vostre fill. Dada en Barcelona sota nostre segell
 12. secret a .ii. dies de març de l'any M.ccc.lxxx.vii. Ex[ecuta] per Bernat
 13. Marques de Villena consanguineo d[omi]ni Regis.
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Modern English Translation

The King Marquis, dear cousin: We have understood that which Messer P. Marrades has told us on your behalf—that you intended to set out on your journey within seven days from now. We take great pleasure in this, for we have a great desire for your arrival due to the need we have for your presence, and for the reasons signified to us on your behalf and by the said Messer P. However, knowing that you can only travel in such a manner, we command that you come promptly at our pleasure, notifying us of the terms of your return of their debts, as well as others that you may have hereafter, so that we may receive satisfaction therefrom, knowing that you are able to ride and that the ailment you had in your person no longer hinders you. [...] We send you via the said Messer P. the order of our enterprise and through the said P. to Don Alfonso your son. Given in Barcelona under our secret seal on the 2nd day of March in the year 1387. Executed by Bernat. [To the] Marquis of Villena, kinsman of the Lord King.

Key Paleographic Features

- **The "Secret" Seal:** The mention of the *segell secret* (secret seal) indicates this was a more personal or confidential royal correspondence rather than a public decree.
- **The Year:** The Roman numerals **M.ccc.lxxx.vii** (1387) are clearly visible in the second to last line.
- **The Recipient:** The Marquis of Villena at this time was **Alfonso of Aragon and Foix**, a high-ranking noble and cousin to the King.
- **The Hand:** Notice the long "s" (which looks like an "f") and the "r-rotunda" (which looks like a "2") used after the letter "o."

Would you like me to focus on a specific phrase or analyze the linguistic transition from Old Catalan to the modern form used in this text?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.