

Gemini Version 3

March 2, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

You said

I have a document in Catalan, again in fourteenth-century Gothic secretarial hand. The document was written in 1387. The first part is in the image file with the title f23v and the second part is in the image file with the title f24r. Please do your best to transcribe this document.

Gemini said

This document is a fascinating piece of royal correspondence from the Chancery of **John I of Aragon** (the Hunter), written shortly after he ascended the throne in early 1387. It is addressed to the Governor of Aragon, **Sancho Martínez de Biota**, regarding the seizure of properties belonging to the **Fortià family**—specifically Pere de Fortià and his sister, Queen Sibila de Fortià (the widow of John's father, Peter the Ceremonious).

John I was notoriously hostile toward his stepmother, Sibila, and her family, and this letter captures the King's anger at the Governor's delay in carrying out royal orders.

Transcription

Folio 23v

1. **El Rey**
2. Governador. A cierto somos maravillados ende estamos so indignatio
3. contra vos porq[ue] no compliestes lo que vos hemos embiado mandar
4. sobre la ocupacion delos lugares de Borja et Magallon et otros bienes
5. de moss[en] P[er]jo de Fortian et de su germana la qual ocupacion man-
6. damos seer feyta razonablement et por dreyto del qual no hemos
7. a vos la conscientia ni determinatio cometida mas la executio porq[ue]
8. reputantes vos fuessedes de la inobediencia et menospreto q[ue] en
9. esto cometestes vos dezimos et mandamos espressament et de cierta sciencia
10. q[ue] luego vista la p[re]sent sea cumplido el d[ic]to n[uest]ro mandamiento

Folio 24r

1. et tornedes a n[uest]ra mano los d[ic]tos lugares et bienes realment
2. et de feyto executando las prissons que d'aq[ue]sto havedes como
3. dito es. En otra manera agora por la hora vos suspendemos
4. del officio de la governatio et vos tiramos integrament toda
5. auctoritat et exercitio d'aq[ue]lla et no es menos sed cierto q[ue]
6. faremos de vos tal escarmiento q[ue] a los p[re]sents et a los otros
7. sea terror et exemplo. Dada en Barcelona su n[uest]ro siello secreto
8. a .x. dias de Março del anyo m.ccc.lxxx.vii. Rex Joh[ann]es.

[Lower Left] 9. Dirigitur Sancho Martines de Biota 10. Gubernatori Aragonia

[Lower Right Signature Block] 11. d[omi]nus Rex ma[ndavit] 12. m[ih]i P[etrus] de Benviure

Key Points of the Text

- **The Conflict:** The King is "marvelled" and "under indignation" because the Governor has not followed previous orders to occupy the towns of **Borja** and **Magallón**.
- **The Target:** The properties belong to **Mossén Pere de Fortià** and "**sa germana**" (his sister, Sibila de Fortià). Following the death of Peter IV in January 1387, John I immediately moved to strip the Fortià family of their power and assets.
- **The Threat:** The King explicitly warns the Governor that if he does not comply immediately, he will be **suspended from office** and stripped of all authority. He even threatens to make a "punishment" (*escarmiento*) of him to serve as a "terror and example" to others.
- **The Secretary:** The document is signed by **Pere de Benviure**, one of the most prominent secretaries of John I's reign.

Paleographical Notes

- **Language:** This is a late medieval administrative script where Catalan and Aragonese forms blend. Notice words like *feyta* (made) and *dreyto* (right), which are characteristic of the Aragonese chancery style.
- **Abbreviations:**
 - **p[re]sent:** The 'p' with a horizontal stroke through the descender.
 - **n[uest]ro / d[ic]to:** Common contractions for "nuestro" and "dicto" (said/aforementioned).
 - **m.ccc.lxxx.vii:** Roman numerals for 1387.

Would you like me to provide a formal modern translation of the full text into English or Catalan?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.