

Gemini Version 3

March 5, 2026

### Conversation with Gemini

You said

I have another letter in Catalan (with a little Castilian maybe) from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. It is in two parts, the first part in the image file titled f95v and the second part in the image file titled f96r. Please do your best to transcribe.

### Gemini said

This is a fascinating pair of documents. This letter is written in **Aragonese/Castilian** (the language often used by the chancery of the Crown of Aragon when corresponding with the Castilian court) in a very clear **Gothic Secretarial hand** (*cursiva formata*).

The sender is **Violant de Bar**, the Queen of Aragon (wife of Joan I), writing in March **1387**. She is addressing a "dear brother king" (likely the King of Castile) regarding a diplomatic request brought by ambassadors.

Below is the line-by-line transcription. I have expanded the abbreviations in brackets [ ] for clarity.

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### Transcription: folio 95v

**1.** Rey muyt caro et muyt amado hermano . Nos la Reyna d'aragon vos embia- **2.** mos muyto a saludar como aquell por quien querriemos q[ue] diesse dios tanta vida **3.** pau e honra quanta vos mismo querriedes . Saber hermano muyt caro e **4.** [~~line struck through~~] recibimos la carta q[ue] nos embiastes por el honrado padre en **5.** xp[ist]o el bispo d'osme e l'archidiano de Trevinyo v[uest]ros ambaixadores . **6.** E aq[ue]lla entendida plenerament e la credenca q[ue] de v[uest]ra part nos han **7.** explicada los d[ic]tos ambaixadores muyt sauia ment e bien sobre las cosas **8.** q[ue] demandastes del senyor Rey marido e senyor n[uest]ro muyt caro . Responde- **9.** mos vos q[ue] iassia el d[ic]to senyor e nos hayamos fraternal e cordial affec- **10.** cion a vos muyt caro hermano e a v[uest]ra casa e reputemos v[uest]ros feytos **11.** n[uest]ros p[ro]prios e por conseq[ue]nt deseyemos sobiranamen[t] a vos complacer **12.** en todo lo q[ue] podiessemos . Empero las d[ic]tas cosas no se son podidas **13.** ne se puedan fazer a p[re]sent por las razones necessarias e urgentes posadas **14.** en la letra de r[es]ponsuia del d[ic]to senyor q[ue] vos embio sobre aquesto . El qual **15.** por q[ue] non ha podido passar a v[uest]ro voler como

voldrie (romania no sin **16.** grand desplazer e nos e no con menor) assi hayades por firmo hermano **17.** muyt caro q[ue] en estos feytos n en todos otros tocante v[uest]ra honra n el **18.** bien e p[ro]p[er]idat de v[uest]ra casa entenda fazer el d[ic]to senyor toda cosa **19.** a ell possible . E nos otrossi entendemos todos tiempos promover aq[ue]llos **20.** e con el d[ic]to senyor e en otra manera fazer lo q[ue] fariamos en n[uest]ros

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### Transcription: folio 96r

**1.** p[ro]prios afferes . E sobre esto vos fablaran mas largament los d[ic]tos v[uest]ros **2.** ambaixadores q[ue] se n tornan a vos ynformados mas plenament d' n[uest]ra **3.** intencion . E si otras cosas vos plazen q[ue] fer podemos embiat las nos **4.** dezir e nos complir lo hemos volenterosament . E sea todos tiempos guar- **5.** da de v[uest]ra la s[an]ta trinidad . Dada en bar[celona] s[ub] n[uest]ro siello secreto acostum- **6.** brado a xiiii dias de mar[c]o del anno m ccc lxxxvii . La reyna .

**Scribal Note/Subscription:** (D[omi]na) r[egi]na ex p[re]misso f[ia]t l[itte]ra / man[u] m[agistri] Barth[olome]i Siruent / p.

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### Key Paleographic & Historical Notes

- **The Scribe:** The note at the end identifies the scribe as **Bartholomeu Sirvent** ("man[u] m[agistri] Barth[olome]i Siruent"), who was a well-known official and scribe in the chancery of King Joan I of Aragon.
- **The Ambassadors:** The letter mentions the **Bishop of Osma** (*bispo d'osme*) and the **Archdeacon of Treviño** (*archidiano de Trevinyo*). These are Castilian ecclesiastical titles, confirming that this was a diplomatic exchange between the Crown of Aragon and the Kingdom of Castile.
- **Language:** Notice the hybrid nature of the language. While it uses Aragonese/Castilian forms (like *muyt*, *fazer*, *feytos*), it is written in the administrative context of Barcelona (*Dada en bar[celona]*).
- **Context:** The Queen is essentially apologizing. The King (Joan I) cannot fulfill a specific request "at present" for "urgent and necessary reasons," but she reassures the recipient of their "fraternal and cordial affection."

Would you like me to provide a full modern translation of the text or perhaps analyze specific abbreviations that are giving you trouble?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.