

## Gemini Version 3

March 9, 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. I am uploading a page that has most of the letter, but it is missing the first 25 words. Here is how the letter begins: Fem vos saber que depuis que vosaltres hit petis son venguts aci a nos certs missatgers de la Illa de Cerdanya ab tals ardots del mal scament... After these words, the document continues on the image file that I have uploaded. Please do your best to transcribe this document.

### Gemini said

This is a fascinating document from **King John I of Aragon** (Joan I "el Caçador"), dated **March 24, 1387**.

The text is a royal administrative letter concerning the defense of **Sardinia** (referred to in the image as the "Illa de Sardenya," though your prompt mentions "Cerdanya"—historically, the contexts of Cagliari and Alghero confirm it is Sardinia). The King is urgently requesting funds (the *decimes* or ecclesiastical tithes) to pay for crossbowmen and troops to be led by **Mossèn Ximeno Pérez d'Arenós**, the Governor of Cagliari and Alghero.

Below is the transcription of the page provided, with common abbreviations expanded in brackets for clarity.

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### Transcription (Old Catalan)

**[Missing intro provided by user: ...ab tals ardots del mal scament]**

1. de aqlla [aquella] que a nos coue [convé] prestament soldeyar e remetre cert nombre de
2. ballesters e altres companyes axi de cauall co [com] de peu ab armes y deffensio
3. de la dita illa y guardar ço que s'hi té per mes fuyt E de fer homenatges ma-
4. nar [amanar] emparar moss [mossèn] **Ximenezperez d'arenós** Governador de Caller e del

5. Alguer que ab les dites companyes e ab paga de soldats mees [més] qui ja hi son en-
6. prestosament a la dita illa e prouehir als perills que apellan si son ey aco [aquò]
7. coue [convé] de maleuar [manlevar] diuerses quantitats de moneda no sens gran interes e de la dita
8. ma [manera] tot estimam esser millor supportar aytals dapnatges que si aqlla [aquella] illa se
9. perdia a la nostra corona co [com] que deu no uollla faem [fent] dita e d'esta mateixa que lo dit
10. e molts altres manleuar faedors per saluament de la dita illa e reintegrar
11. aqlla [aquella] segons que-s pertany a nostra senyoria fan guidatges e factures de les deimes
12. per les quals a nos atorgadores per lo dit pare sant [el Papa] hauem donat especial càrrechs
13. e principal cautela e altres affers de la missatgeria que us es per nos comenada
14. perque es de gran necessitat us preguam deim e manam com ab millor ma-
15. yor expressio podem que deuant tots altres affers postferits e supliqueu ab gran
16. cura e diligencia sobrenom al pare sant el arreplegament dels dits deimes nos
17. faça prestament segons que les demanam e d'esta mateixa nos la bulla mantnent per
18. correu cuytat car siats certs que gran perill poria hauer en la triga e per coué [convé]
19. en estremuy axi cuytosament e exposta com segons los ardots que hauem que hora
20. es y car el aguy [algú] de pochhs dies seria irreparable dapnatge Dada en **Barchinona** [Barcelona]
21. sots nostre segell secret a **xxiiij dies de març del any m cc lxxx set** [1387] subsig-
22. nada ab mi Pere Mells.

### [Signatures]

- **Jno Rex ma.** (Joan Rex Manu - Signat per la mà del Rei Joan)

- Imp[erante] p[er] dominu[m]

**[Bottom left note]**

- Fuit missa Barne [Barcinone] archiepo [archiepiscopo] cesaraug [cesaraugustano] p[er] nri [nostri] decreto
- **Raymundo de França** (*The letter was sent to the Archbishop of Zaragoza by royal decree*).

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**Key Contextual Notes**

- **The "Cerdanya" vs "Sardenya" slip:** While your intro mentions Cerdanya, the text specifically mentions **Caller** (Cagliari) and **Alguer** (Alghero), which were the primary Catalan strongholds in Sardinia. It is very likely the original scribe wrote "Sardenya."
- **Ximeno Pérez d'Arenós:** He was a prominent noble and served as the Governor of Sardinia. The letter highlights the financial strain of the war there; the King is literally saying it is better to "borrow money at high interest" than to lose the island from the Crown of Aragon.
- **The "Pare Sant":** This refers to the Pope. The King is asking his ambassadors to hurry the Pope to release the *decimes* (taxes collected from the church) to fund the military campaign.

Would you like me to translate any specific section into modern English or Catalan for better clarity?

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.