



HISTORY OF THE LOMBARDS

Historia Langobardorum

Paul The Deacon

Transation to Fatima Immacolata Pretta

English Text



eBook
Barbaric Forum

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Paolo Diacono – Paulus Diaconus
History Of The Lombards

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Paul The Deacon
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Historia Langobardorum
Translated by Fatima
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CONTENT OF THE BOOK

The book contains a short preface divided into thematic sections, followed by the *Origo Gentis Langobardorum*, divided into seven paragraphs which contains the legend of the name and of Scandinavian origins. This is followed by Paolo Diacono's *Historia Langobardorum*. After Paolo's six books there is Andrea's *Chronicon* from Bergamo composed of nineteen sections which humbly completes the story of the *Historia* and makes us know, at least partially, the events that followed the Franca occupation.

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English

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History of the Lombards

Historia Langobardorum

Paul The Deacon

Paulus Diaconus

English Text

English Edition

eBook

Barbaric Forum

Volume 2

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BOOK OPTIMIZED FOR THE BLIND PEOPLE

On the cover, a digital copy of a detail of the frescoes in the Teodolinda chapel in Monza, a small town a few kilometers from Milan.

PREFACE

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you know the text of Paolo Diacono you can omit to read this preface or you can read only the parts that interest you.

However, it is divided into short and clear thematic sections, useful for framing the text correctly.

History

Why publish an old and manifestly biased book in Latin? The reason is right there, in the definition of "part": written history is always part because it is generated by a "cultural structure"; entity that often coincides with the "nation-state". In practice for history, the same concept is valid for art, each era gives a different judgment on a given work of art. As a boy, when I studied art in high school, I went to the school library to consult a famous and beautiful series dedicated to painters, in those books the critical judgments of art experts and artists of different eras were reported. There you could see the change of opinion over time. So a Baroque work first pleases, then is despised and then returns to be found beautiful. This change of opinion is closely linked to historical events and social changes. To explain some basic concepts I will continue to use the art-history parallelism, which I believe is the most suitable. Here I briefly describe a personal experience I had at the University in taking a Medieval History exam. Attending the exams of some students of my age, I noticed their difficulty in defining historical periods, their attachment to dates. The teacher of the Statale di Milano was greatly irritated to see the inability to argue about the beginning and end dates of the Middle Ages. The dates are school conventions, the ancient age does not end a day in a certain place, but it is a border that shifts and brings with it social changes, often

not uniform. The Gothic kingdom in Italy is perhaps already Middle Ages but we consider it late ancient, because we tend to start the Middle Ages in Italy with the twenty years of the Gothic wars or with the Lombard invasion in the peninsula. The right answer to the question "when does the Middle Ages begin?" Is the conventional date of the dismissal of the last Roman emperor of the West, accompanied by the clarification that it is, in reality, a long transition period going from Odoacre, to the Lombards, and does not involve the whole territory uniformly. If we look at art, we see the splendid mosaics of Ravenna, but then the imposing mausoleum of Theodoric appears, I point out that, after these, we move on to a paleo-Christian poor art: art marks well the passage from the ancient world to the new times. In the same way, regardless of the date on which Columbus was discovered to have discovered America, the art of the second quarter of Florence already showed the Renaissance, which appears briefly and immediately dissolves into Mannerism which will become Baroque already in the Michelangelo's dome of San Pietro . Thus the Municipalities become Lordships and politics reconnect the thread with classical antiquity which has in itself the symbols of power. A strange history of Classical art was born in democratic Athens to become an instrument of every imperial ambition. In any case, even art decrees the end of the Middle Ages, with the return to plasticity and Vasari's "stil novo". In practice it is Michelangelo's David and not Colombo, the right date to remember.

So, having clarified that it is the common sensitivity and not the dates that mark History, we add the concept of state education. Each state exalts the history that suits him to justify its existence, one could also add the geographic factor that is an integral part of it, but it would result in a discussion too long. Squeezing, the Lombards divided Italy and for the future nation-state, everything that does not have Rome as its capital, and the entire national territory as a domain is negative, ugly, not important. This was the interest of the Savoys, of the Risorgimento patriots, of the kingdom and also of the Duce, now, with a party called the Northern League, the "trumpets of Rome" have returned to make themselves heard by dirtying the historical truth. I believe that Risorgimento Italy has become a mature state, ready to become Europe and part of the world. After all, for a hundred and fifty years, Savoirdi have been famous biscuits excellent for tiramisu and anti-Germanic sentiment has turned into sporting antagonism. Therefore, allowing everyone to read a text like this in its original format without state cultural mediation allows contemporary, "scientific" man to judge for himself and to deepen the topic at his leisure.

Author

Paolo Diacono was born in Cividale del Friuli probably in 720 AD His Latin name was Paulus Diaconus, the Lombard one Paul Warnefried or even Paul of Varnefrido. He was a descendant of Leupichi, one of the Lombards following Alboino during the invasion of Italy. At a young age he was sent to Pavia, which at the time was the capital of the Lombard Kingdom of King Rachis. Here he was a pupil of Flaviano, he attended the school of the monastery of San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro where he later became a teacher. He stayed at the court also with the later Kings Astolfo and Desiderio, under the latter, he became tutor of his daughter Adelperga. When Desiderio's daughter married the Duke of Benevento Arechi, he followed her. With the fall of the Lombard Kingdom in 774, due to his brother's imprisonment, he agreed to move to the Carolingian court between 782 and 787, where he was appreciated above all as a grammarian. After the release of his brother Paolo he escaped from the court of Charlemagne and returned to Benevento, and here he entered the monastery of Montecassino becoming a Benedictine monk. Just in the monastery between 787 and 789 he wrote the *Historia Langobardorum*, his most famous and important work. Another fact that concerns him, even if indirectly, is related to music, and in fact, from his hymn dedicated to Saint Giovanni Battista, in the eleventh century, Guido d'Arezzo obtained the seven

musical notes, which made music a significant step forward. Paolo Diacono died in Benevento in 799 leaving his *Historia* deliberately unfinished because he was disappointed by the latest events of his beloved Lombards.

A final mention goes to *Historia Romana*, another work by Paolo, which was used for many centuries as an educational text.

What is the Langobardorum history

A beautiful story, in many compelling parts, unfortunately the national needs of the previous two centuries did not allow an objective view of this period. The main problem is the nationality of the Lombards, called Germanic descent, try to understand, with the Austrians in Milan and Venice, then in Trento and Trieste, one could not really look at the Lombard period with national pride. Rome was also a problem, ask Garibaldi and Cavour. About Garibaldi, it is a name known among the Lombards, you will not find it the same in Paolo's Historia but you will find a beautiful suggestion. In short, Italy was born anti-German and for a long time what the Italians did, and even the last war, influenced the imagination of all of us. Furthermore, it was the Lombards who broke the unity of the peninsula, which will last until 1918. But, importantly, studies on the ethnic origins of Europe have shown that the nation-state identification is artificial, cultural, often recently creation and the blood is so mixed that perhaps the only true European nation is Europe, so enjoy the story. Sometimes it will be a little boring, imprecise, manifestly pro-Catholic and pro-Lombard, unfinished, the ending is missing because the author, disappointed by the unglorious end of the kingdom, refuses to complete it. In short, an epic without the grand finale.

The work

The work was written by Paolo Diacono in the Benedictine monastery of Montecassino in the two years after his return from the Frankish court of Charlemagne where he worked as a grammarian. The *Historia* tells the story of a part of the people called Winili, who will later take the name of Lombards after the heroic and mythical battle against the Vandals. So following the events of the various kings, the story takes us to Pannonia and from there to Italy. At this point the author tells us about Italy at the time of the Lombard conquest, of Alboino and Rosmunda, of the ten years of anarchy followed by the election of a king. From here, the *Historia* takes up the narration of the court events. Autari, Teodolinda, Rotari, the compelling story of Grimoaldo and the last king mentioned by Paolo, the famous Liutprando, the one of the much discussed donation of Sutri to the Pope, the presumed beginning of the temporal power of the popes, enter the scene, but this donation is in fact a refund, the real donation is prior to Liutprando.

The author does not fail to broaden his gaze, also by telling ecclesiastical events, from a strictly Catholic point of view, he does not fail to tell us about the Byzantine emperors and the events of the near and fatal Franco kingdom. The story is often inaccurate and sometimes patently wrong, but still gives a correctly pro-Lombard picture of the whole that highlights the

Franco-Papal factionalism in the Italic affairs.

Another peculiarity of the story is the Friulian note, Paolo, originally from Cividale, keeps us constantly informed about what happens in the north east of Italy but also in Benevento, his place of residence, Duchy closely linked to Friuli and the Lombard crown .

Paolo's historical sources are: *Origo gentis Longobardorum*, an ancient song that narrates the legend of Scandinavian origin, *Secondo di Non*, *Gregorio di Tours*, *Isidoro of Seville*, *Beda the Venerable* and the *Annals of Benevento*.

Book I (First) tells us about the origins of the Lombards, describing the various stages of approach to Italy until the victory of Alboino over the Gepidi and the departure for the peninsula, in addition to the events of San Benedetto.

Book II (Second) tells the entry into Italy (with a description of the peninsula), the conquest of Pavia by Alboino, the intrigue of his wife Rosmunda and the assassination of the beloved king, to end with the ten years of anarchy of the dukes.

book III (Third) tells us about the difficulties of the Empire of Constantinople, the three frank invasions, of Autari who marries the Catholic Teodolinda.

Book IV (Quarto) tells of the kings Agilulfo, Rotari and Grimoaldo with all its history, from the sack of Cividale by the Avari, to the conquest of the royal palace of Pavia.

Book V (Fifth) continues the detailed narration of the difficult period of the reign, Grimoaldo defeats Franks and Byzantines,

deceives the Avars and consolidates the Kingdom. The chapter ends with the battle between Cuniperto and Alachis.

Book VI (Sesto) restarts from Cuniperto, tells us of his reign but also ranges over the Franco kingdom, the Empire and the Saracens. Then comes the despotic but capable Ariperto, the long struggle with the noble Ansprando, father of Liutprando, the last of which the author speaks to us, because Paolo, disappointed, will leave the work unfinished.

I must add that the copyist, the one who manually copied the original text, probably added many errors to the text that was already inaccurate in itself, or rather, copying from a copy produced a sum of errors.

This inconvenience will be solved with the invention of printing. Paolo himself confuses places and peoples, wrong years, in short, it is not a scientific text, but its historical importance because it shows us those centuries from the Lombard point of view.

**ORIGINS OF THE
LOMBARDS PEOPLE
King Rotari**

English text

What is it about the origin of the Lombard people

The Origo is a short text that was inserted in the Edict of Rotari, it tells us the origins of the Lombard people, in particular it tells us the origin of the name "long beards". The same legend is also told to us by Paul where, however, it is defined ridiculous. There is also a partial list of Lombard kings.

The text was always carefully studied because it substantially preceded the narration of Paolo Diacono, in it we look for useful elements to understand the genesis and evolution of the Lombard lineage.

Origins of the Lombards people

Origo gentis Langobardorum

IN THE NAME OF GOD, I BEGIN THE STORY OF THE ORIGINS OF THE LOMBARD PEOPLE HERE.

1.

There is an island in the northern areas called "Scadanan" (Scandinavia), a word that literally has the meaning of "massacre". Many populations live on this island, among which there was a small one called Winnili. Among them lived a woman named Gambara mother of two children, the first named Ybor, the other Aio. These, together with his mother, commanded the Winnili.

It happened that the leaders of the Vandals, that is, Ambers and Aces, marched with their army against the Winnili and ordered them: "Either you pay us tributes, or you will have to prepare yourself for war against us." Then Ybor and Aio, together with their mother Gambara, replied thus: "It is better for us to prepare ourselves to fight rather than pay tributes to the Vandals".

Then Ambri and Assi, leaders of the Vandals, prayed to the god Godan to grant them victory over the Winnili. Godan replied: "I will grant the victory to the first ones that I will see in the morning at sunrise." Then Gambara and her two sons, Ybor

and Aio chief of the Winnili invoked Frea, Godan's wife, to bring help to the Winnili.

Freia advised them to show up at sunrise, and to bring, together with their husbands, even their wives with their hair loose around their faces like beards. At first dawn, while the sun was rising, Freia turned the bed on which her husband slept and turned him to the East, then woke him up. He opened his eyes and saw the Winnili and their wives with their hair loose and gathered around the face like a beard and said: "Who are these long beards?". So Freia replied, "Just as you gave them a name, grant them victory too." So it happened that from that moment the Winnili took the name of Lombards.

2.

The Lombards moving from those places arrived in Golaida, then occupied Aldonus, Anthaib, Banaib and the land of the Burgundians. It is said that they named Agilmundo, son of Aio, of the Guginghi family as king. After him Lamissone reigned, of the Guginghi family; followed by Leti, of whom it is said that he reigned for about forty years.

Ildeoc, son of Leti, followed him; then reigned Godeoc.

3.

At that time King Odoacre left Ravenna with an army of Alani, went to Rugilandia, fought against the Rugi, and killed their King Feleteo, bringing many prisoners back to Italy. Then the Lombards moved from their regions to settle in the land of the Rugi and stayed there for several years.

4.

Godeoc was followed by his son Claffone, after which Tatone, son of Claffone, reigned. The Lombards moved to the territory of Feld for three years. Tatone fought with Rodolfo, King of the Eruli and killed him, took possession of his helmet and his banner; after him the Eruli no longer had a kingdom. After these events, Vacone son of Unichis killed King Tatone, his paternal uncle, together with Zuchilone. Vacone also fought Ildichi, son of Tatone, who, defeated, fled to the Gepids where he died. So the Gepids, to avenge the offense, declared war on the Lombards.

At that time Vacone forced the Swabians to submit to the Lombard Kingdom. Vacone had three wives: Raicunda, daughter of Fisud King of the Thuringes. Then he married Austrigusa, a Gepide woman, with whom she had two daughters: the first, named Wisigarda, went to Theudiperto King of the Franks as wife; the second, named Walderada, went to Scusualdo to marry another King of the Franks, who then took her in hatred and married her to Garibaldo. Vacone had a third wife, Silinga daughter of the King of Eruli; from her he had a son named Waltari. When Vacone died, his son Waltari reigned for seven years but had no successors. All of these were Letingi.

5.

After Waltari reigned Audoino, these led the Lombards to Pannonia. After him the Kingdom passed to his son Alboino, whose mother was Rodelenda.

In those times Alboino fought with the King of Gepidi

Cunimondo. Cunimondo died in that fight and the Gepids were defeated. Alboino married Rosmunda, daughter of Cunimondo, captured as a prey to war, as his first wife Flutsuinda, daughter of Flothario King of the Franks, had died, from whom he had a daughter named Albsuinda. The Lombards lived in Pannonia for forty-two years.

Alboino himself led the Lombards to Italy, at the invitation of the secretaries of Narsete. Alboino, King of the Lombards, left from Pannonia in April, in the first call after Easter. Surely in the second indiction they began to plunder in Italy and in the third indiction he became master of Italy. Alboino reigned in Italy for three years, and was killed in his Verona Palace by Elmichi and his wife Rosmunda through Peritheo.

Elmichi wanted to reign but could not do it because the Lombards wanted to kill him. Then Rosmunda wrote to the prefect Longinus to welcome her to Ravenna. When Longinus heard this request he rejoiced and sent a ship from the fleet to pick them up. Rosmunda, Elmichi and Albsuinda, daughter of Alboino, embarked bringing with them to Ravenna all the treasures of the Lombards. Later the prefect Longinus tried to convince Rosmunda to kill Elmichi and then become his bride. Listening to his requests, Rosmunda prepared a poison and after Elmichi had bathed, he offered it to him to drink in a hot drink. But, as soon as he drank, he realized that he had swallowed a mortal potion, then he ordered that Rosmunda also drink, even if she didn't want to, and so they both died. Then Longinus

took the treasures of the Lombards and Albsuinda, daughter of King Alboinus, loaded on a ship bound for Constantinople, and ordered that they be handed over to the Emperor.

6.

The remaining Lombards chose themselves as King Clefi, of the Belei family, Clefi reigned for two years and then died. The Dukes of the Lombards governed themselves for twelve years, after which they chose as their King Autari, son of Claffone. Autari married Teodolinda, daughter of King Garibaldo, and Walderada of the Bavari. Together with Teodolinda his brother named Gundaldo came, and the King Autari appointed him Duke of the city of Asta (Este = Asti). Autari reigned for seven years. Acquo (Agilulfo), Duke of Thuringia, left Turin and joined the Queen Teodolinda becoming King of the Lombards.

Agilulfo killed the dukes who opposed him, Zangrolf of Verona, Mimulf of the island of S. Giuliano, Gaidulf of Bergamo and the others who were rebels against him. Aquo (Agilulfo) begat a daughter named Gunperga from Teodolinda and reigned for six years. After him Arioaldo reigned for twelve years. After that, Rotari reigned, of the Arodingi dynasty. He destroyed the cities and fortresses of the Romans that were located along the coast, from the surroundings of Luni to the land of the Franks and east to Oderzo. He fought at the Scultenna river and in that battle eight thousand Romans fell.

7.

Rotari reigned for seventeen years, after him Ariperto reigned

for nine years, and then Grimoaldo reigned. At that time the Emperor Constantine left Constantinople and came to the Campania region, then moved to Sicily and was killed by his own. Grimoaldo reigned for nine years and then Pertarito reigned.

HISTORY OF THE LOMBARDS

Paul The Deacon

English text

First book

1.

The northern region, the further away it is from the heat of the sun and cold from the frost of the snow, the more it is healthy for the human body and suitable for spreading bloodlines. On the contrary, the regions located at midday, the closer they are to the sun, the more they are rich in diseases and less suitable for raising mortals. So it happens that many peoples are born under the bear, so that the whole region, from Tanai to the West, even if, in it, the individual localities have their own name, it is commonly called Germany. When the Romans occupied it, they called the two provinces beyond the Rhine, Upper Germany and Lower Germany.

From this populous Germany innumerable prisoners were led away and dispersed, sold as slaves to the southern peoples. But it is true that many bloodlines came out of it, because too many of them do not feed them, and in so doing they afflicted parts of Asia and especially neighbouring Europe. This is evidenced by the cities destroyed throughout Illyria and in Gaul, but above all those of the tried and tested Italy, which experienced the cruelty of almost all those peoples. From Germany came the Vandals, the Rugi, the Eruli, the Turcilingi and other ferocious barbarian populations. In the same way came the lineage of the Winili, or the Lombards, who then happily reigned in Italy. They too are

Germanic, although some narrate that they came down from the Scandinavian island.

2.

Pliny Second also speaks of this island in his books On the nature of things. It, as those who visited the year tell us, is not on the sea, but is surrounded by marine waves, these penetrate into the land, favoured by the low level of its coasts. The populations who settled there, very prolific, not being able to live all of them together, are divided, as they say, into three parts, and with the draw they chose who was to leave the land of their fathers.

3.

So that part which fell to the fate of having to abandon the native soil and look for foreign lands, gave two leaders, Ibore and Aione. Two young brothers, flourishing and most vigorous of all. They all said goodbye to their loved ones and the land of their fathers, then set off to find new lands to live in and establish their home. Among them, there was the mother of the two leaders, she had the name Gambará, a keen woman of genius and provident in advising and giving wisdom. In moments of uncertainty, they made no difference to her.

4.

I do not think of moving away from the subject matter, if for a while I invert the order of the narration and I tell, in short, as long as my pen is wandering in Germany, of a prodigy, which is known there to all, besides to something else. In the extreme territories of Germany, to the north east, on the shores

of the ocean, under a high cliff, you can see a cavity in which seven men, it is not known for how long, rest dormant in a long sleep, intact not only in the body but also in the guise, precisely because they have resisted without corrupting for so many years, they are the object of veneration, by those uncultivated and barbaric people. They, in clothes, look like Romans. A man pushed by greed wanted to strip one and, as it is said, his arms dried up immediately. This punishment frightened the others, so that no one dared to touch them anymore. You can imagine, why divine Providence keeps them intact for so many seasons, perhaps because one day, since it is believed that they could only be Christians, awakening, with their preaching they will bring salvation to those peoples.

5.

The Scritobini live near this place. This is the name of those people who are not free from snow and fairs even in summer. They feed only on raw meat of wild animals, and from their bristly skins they get what to cover. They derive their name from a word that in their barbaric language means "to jump", in fact they hunt the fairs, running in leaps, on woods curved with a certain art like a bow. A similar animal lives near them to the deer, I myself have seen a dress made with its skin, left bristly with hair as it was on the beast, it was similar to a tunic, knee-length as they use as I have been told. days of the summer solstice, even at night you can see a very clear light and the days are much longer than elsewhere. Conversely, around the winter

solstice, although there is daylight, the sun is never seen and the days are very short, more than elsewhere, and longer nights. Moreover, the further you move away from the sun and the lower it is on the horizon and the shadows lengthen. In Italy, as the ancients wrote, on Christmas day, the shadow of the human body measures nine feet, I in the Gaul Belgica, in a place called Villa of Tatone, measuring my shadow I found it nineteen and a half feet. So, on the contrary, the more you are there approaching the sun, going southward the more the shadows become short, to the point that during the summer solstice, when the sun is in the middle of the sky, in Egypt, in Jerusalem and in the neighbouring regions, no shadows are seen. In Arabia, in the same period, the sun is seen over half the sky, towards the north, and consequently the shadows are facing south.

6.

Not very far from the coast we talked about before, to the west, where the ocean stretches endlessly, there is that deep chasm of water that is normally called the "navel of the sea", it is said that twice a day it swallows the waves of the sea, and twice you reject them, as is demonstrated by the rapidity of the tide on those beaches. A similar chasm or vortex is called by the poet Virgil, Charybdis; he places it in the Strait of Sicily and describes it thus:

Occupy the right side Scylla, the left the emplaced Charybdis, and three times from the deep eddy of the abyss swallows the vast waves in its abyss, and again in the air it re-invents them, and flails the stars with the wave.

Of the vortex we mentioned earlier, it is said that it drags ships violently, so quickly as to equal the flight of arrows through the air, so much so that sometimes they get lost in the hideous abyss without escape. Often, however, while they are already being submerged, they are rejected away from the water suddenly and with the same speed with which it sucked them. Another similar vortex is said to be located between the British island and Gaul, this is confirmed by what happens on the beaches of Sequania and Aquitaine. These two times a day are suddenly submerged, so much so that those who are caught a little far from the shoreline can barely escape it. The waters of the rivers of those regions can be seen rising rapidly towards the source for many miles and the sweet waters becoming bitter. The island of Evodia is thirty miles from the beaches of the Sequania but its inhabitants claim to hear the roar of the waters that pour into that of Cariddi. I have heard from a person who enjoys great esteem among the Gauls that many ships, which were overwhelmed by a storm, ended up swallowed by this vortex. Only one of those men who was on those ships escaped there, found himself still floating, unique among his own, dragged by the violent currents towards the precipice, arrived on the edge of that terrible abyss, already dead of fear, he saw that very deep endless chasm, when he had already lost hope, was thrown on a boulder, clung to it. All the water had flowed into the whirlpool leaving the bottom of the sea uncovered, and while he waited anxiously and full of fear for the inevitable end, suddenly, he saw large mountains of water

coming, these rose from the bottom; he first saw the ships that had been swallowed up emerge, so when one was near him, he attacked it with all his might. In an instant, quickly, it flew close to the beach, so it escaped the cruel fate and could later tell the danger. Even our sea, the Adriatic, even if in a lesser way, invades the beaches of Venice and Istria, so there is to be thought that there are whirlpools, certainly small and hidden, which swallow and reject the Adriatic waters and of the other Italian seas. After reporting these things, it's time to resume the story.

7.

Under the guidance of Ibore and Aione the Winili left Scandinavia and arrived in a region called Scoringa, where they stayed for a few years. In those times Ambri and Assi, leaders of the Vandals, followed all the neighbouring populations with continuous wars. Emboldened by the many victories, they sent messengers to the Winili with a request for a tribute, giving war as an alternative. So, Ibore and Aione, driven by their mother Gambara, decided that it was better to defend freedom with weapons rather than accept the infamy of paying the tribute. So they sent messengers with the answer to the Vandals, this said they would fight rather than submit. In those times the Winili were all in the prime of their youth but scarce in number, as they were only a third of a people living on an island not very large.

8.

At this point the ancients tell a ridiculous tale. The Vandals went to Godan to ask for the victory over the Winili, but the God

replied that he would give the victory to those he had seen first at sunrise. Gambara instead went to Freia, Godan's wife, and asked for the victory for the Winili, the Goddess gave her advice: she said that the women had to untie their hair and adjust it around the face like a beard, then they had to join the men and place themselves with the battle in a place where they were visible from that window from which Godan used to look to the east. So the Winili did and, at sunrise, Godan saw the women dressed like that and not seeing the ingot He did not ask his wife, "Who are those Lungibarbi?" Then Freia asked him to give the victory to those to whom he had just given the name. Thus the God gave the victory to the Winili. These are trivial and ridiculous things, where victory is not the merit of men but given by the gods.

9.

In any case, it is certain that, from that moment, the Winili were called Lombards because of the particularity of their long, never cut beard. Moreover, in their language "lang" means long, and "bard", beard.

Wotan, who changed a letter becomes Gotan, is the same that the Romans call Mercury and is worshiped as God by all the peoples of Germany. It is said that in ancient times this God was not in Germany but in Greece.

10.

So the Winili, also called Longobards, attacked battle, with fury, fighting for the glory of being free, won the victory.

Subsequently, affected by famine in that province called

Scoringa, they lost much of their courage.

11.

Emigrating from those regions, while preparing to enter Mauringa, they found the road closed by Assipitti, these were determined not to grant transit to their lands under any conditions. The Lombards, given the large number of enemies and the small number of their army, dared not fight. Deciding what to do, in need, they devised a stratagem, made the enemies believe that they had in their field of Cynocephalic, dog-headed men who fight relentlessly and drink the blood of killed enemies or, in case they cannot grab an enemy, quench their thirst with their own. To give credit to these voices they expand the camp and tents, as well as lighting many fires. The enemies fell into deception and no longer dared to try their luck in the war that they were looking for before.

12.

The Assipitti, however, had among them a warrior considered very strong, and with this very strong champion they wanted to win. They therefore proposed to the Lombards to choose their own champion to compete in a duel with their own. The strict pact was that if the Assopitto warrior had won, the Lombards would have retraced their steps, renouncing to go through those lands, if the Lombard had won they would have had the green light. The Lombards were uncertain on which to choose between them to send against that very strong warrior. Then, a servile condition man offered to fight on behalf of the Lombards on

condition that he and all his descendants be removed from the bondage of slavery. What else to say? The Lombards, grateful, accepted and promised to grant him what he asked for. The latter, out of the Lombard ranks, faced the enemy, won, obtained the right of passage for the Lombards and for himself and his loved ones freedom.

13.

Finally arrived in Mauringa, the Lombards decided to remove slavery from many in order to increase the number of fighters. The elevation of these to the status of free men involved a ceremony with the gift of an arrow and the murmuring of an ancient formula in the language of their fathers. After this act they left the Mauringa and entered Golanda where they stopped for some time, it is said indeed, a few years. They occupied Anthab, Banthaib and Vurgundaib, we can believe they are villages or places of little importance.

14.

In the fourth century after Christ.

Dead at the same time Ibore and Aione, who had led the Lombards out of Scandinavia and governed up to this point, not wanting to be submissive only to the Dukes imitating the other Germanic lineages, elected their King. First Agelmondo, son of Aione, reigned his dignity from the Gugingi, a lineage that was the most noble among them. The ancestors handed down that he reigned for thirty-three years.

15.

In those days a harlot, who had given birth to seven babies, a cruel mother more than a beast, threw them into a pond to make them die. If this seems strange, and someone believes it impossible, reread the writings of the ancients where he will find that not only seven, but also nine children were generated at one time, this was typical especially among the Egyptians. The King Agelmondo, passing through that pond, seeing the poor children, stopped the horse and with the spear tried to remove them, one of them reached out and grabbed the rod of the King. Agelmondo, deeply affected, declared that he would become a great and having him removed from the water, he entrusted him to the care of a nurse, also gave orders that he should be bred with every care and since he had been extracted from a pond, which in their language is called "lama", gave him the name Lamissione. Growing up, the Mission became brave and also the most valiant in war, so much so that he became regent at the death of Agelmondo. It is said that one day, while the Lombards were marching with their King, they arrived on the banks of a river, there they found the step blocked by the Amazons. LamissioneE threw himself into the river and went to fight with the strongest of them, killed her and gained glory for himself and the passage for the Lombards. In fact, a pact had been established between the two hosts, if the Amazon had beaten Lamissione, the Lombards would have withdrawn from the river, if instead, as happened, Lamissione had won, the Lombards would have had the right to cross the river. However, the chronology of this story seems

hardly credible, those who know the stories of the ancients know that the race of the Amazons was exterminated long ago, and that it was located in places other than these. However, considering that the ancient stories were hardly and vaguely and imprecisely preserved, it can be assumed that a part of them continued to exist in those remote wild lands of Germany. Moreover, I have also heard that a tribe of such women still lives in the remote internal regions of Germany.

16.

Crossed the river, the Lombards arrived in new lands and lived there for some time. Since those places were quiet and without suspicion of nasty surprises, they became less attentive and neglected safety, which is always the mother of misfortunes and which brought them not a little misfortune. In fact, at night, while everyone rested relaxed and without any precaution, the Burgundians suddenly fell upon them. Many were wounded and many others killed, as well as King Agelmondo himself, also dragging his only daughter into slavery.

17.

After this defeat they thought about recovering their strength, then the Lombards gave themselves the king of the LamissionE we talked about. The latter, with the ardour of his youth, was ready to compete in war to avenge the death of Agelmondo the one who had raised him. So he turned his arms against the Burgundians, but at the first clash the Lombards turned their s balls to the enemy and took refuge in the camp. Seeing this,

the King LamissionE, overwhelming everything with his voice, shouted to his warriors that they remembered the outrage at once, reviewing the shame, how the enemies slaughtered their king, how they had led his daughter into slavery, who they had hoped to see their queen. He urged them to defend themselves and their loved ones with weapons, saying that it is better to die in battle than to endure the ridicule of enemies as worthless slaves. Shouting these things, threatening and making promises, he refreshed the spirits to face the battle, he also said that if he had seen someone of servile condition fight, he would have given him, in addition to the prizes, also freedom. Inflamed by the incitements and by the example of their leader, who before all had launched into the battle, the Lombards burst on the enemies and fighting fiercely, exterminated their opponents by massacring them, so they took the victory over their winners, avenging the death of their own kings and wrongs suffered. From the remains of the killed enemies, they also collected a large loot and this made them more daring in facing the risks of war.

18.

Dead LamissionE who had been the second King of the Lombards, ascended the throne Lethu. He reigned for about forty years, and left the throne to Hildehoc who was the fourth king and upon his death, the fifth was Godehoc.

19.

In those times, between Odoacre, who had reigned in Italy for some years, and Feleteo, called Feba, King of the Rugi, a

great enmity originated. At the time Feleteo inhabited the lands beyond the Danube, those which the Danube itself divides from Norico. Also in that area there was the monastery of Blessed Severinus, who lived there in holy abstinence and, at the time, was already worthy of great esteem for his many virtues. And although he had lived in those places until his death, now it is Naples that preserves its miserable little remains. Blessed Severinus had often admonished Feleteo and his wife Gisa to refrain from iniquity, but these, despising his words, did not listen to him, so the blessed foretold them those misfortunes which then struck them. Odoacre therefore, gathered the peoples under his command, Turcilingi, Eruli, part of the Rugi already submitted by him, and also others from Illyria, entered Rugiland, defeated the Rugi, made an almost total massacre and also killed the King Feleteo. Returning to Italy after having devastated the whole region, he brought with him many prisoners leaving those lands almost uninhabited. Then the Lombards, taking advantage of the moment, left their region to occupy Rugiland. In Latin Rugiland means "the ancestral land of the Rugi", this was a very fertile land and here the Lombards lived for several years.

20.

During these events Godehoc died and was succeeded by his son Claffone. Dead also Claffone, who was the seventh, his son Tatone ascended the throne. Also abandoned Rugiland, the Lombards lived in open fields, in the barbarian language called "feld". For three years the Lombards lived in these lands when

the war broke out between Tatone and Rodulfo, King of the Eruli. The two sovereigns tried to make a pact of friendship between Eruli and Longobardi but the discord between them ignited. The cause was this, a brother of King Rodulfo had come to offer peace to Tatone, ended the mission, while returning home he happened to pass in front of his daughter's house of the King, Rumetruda, this, intrigued by the large following that preceded him, asked who that man was surrounded by such a noble court, they replied that it was the brother of Rodulfo King of the Eruli, who after having made the embassy to Tatone, he was returning home. Rumetruda sent a messenger to invite him to her, offering him a cup of wine. The latter, with a straight heart as he was, accepted. The girl, seeing that he was of small stature, with the haughtiness born of pride, he humiliated him with mocking words, the nobleman, blazing with shame and at the same time with indignation, replied with words that in the girl caused an even greater disturbance. Rumetruda, lit with feminine fury, unable to hold back the pain in her soul, hastened to perform the misdeed that her irresponsible mind had conceived. She simulated not being offended, with a smiling face and sweet words she coaxed her host, made him sit in a place with a window behind her that she had covered with a precious fabric, as if to honour her guest, in reality she didn't want to suspect him. In the meantime, the ferocious beast had given orders to her servants to take a position behind the window and to the agreed signal, that is when she, addressing the cupbearer, had ordered "petty"

to stab him with the spears. And so it happened. As soon as that cruel woman gave the signal, the wicked orders were executed. Rodulfo's brother, pierced by spears, fell to the ground and died.

When Rodulfo was told about the cru of the fate of his brother, he suffered greatly and the desire for revenge ignited in him. Then he broke the bargain pact with Tatone and declared war. What to add to this? The clash took place in the open field. Rodulfo, after deploying his troops for the battle (about 512), certain of the victory, retired to his camp where he played at the board. In those times, the Eruli were trained in war and known to have massacred many peoples. The Eruli fought naked, both for being more agile and for not giving importance to the wounds inflicted by the enemies; so they fought with covered only what needs for modesty. Rodulfo, while playing quietly at the board, ordered a servant to climb a nearby tree to communicate the progress of the victory. Having absolute faith in his, he threatened the servant to have his head cut off if he dared to tell him that the Eruli were running away. The servant, although he soon saw that his King's army was falling back, said nothing, indeed, questioned more and more often by the King, he replied that they fought magnificently. He dared not say anything even when he saw the last ranks of the Eruli turn his back on the enemy, then, even if late, he burst into complaints. "Woe to you miserable Erolia," he said, "that you are struck by the wrath of heaven." At these words the king, troubled, asked: "Could it be that my Eruli are fleeing?" And the

servant: "Not me, but you yourself, sir, have said it." Thus, as often happens in these cases, uncertain as to what to do, taken by surprise by the arrival of the Lombards, they were massacred. Even the King, while performing vain acts of heroism, was killed. Meanwhile, the army of the Eruli fled scattered here and there and the anger of the sky struck them, they, seeing the green expanse of the flax plants in the plain, believed them waters that could be crossed by swimming, so they tried to cross them and, while they stretched their arms in vain, they were cruelly struck by the Lombard swords. These, completed the victory, divided the huge loot found in the field of the Eruli. Tatone took the banner of Rodulfo, which they called "ban", and also the helmet that he used to use in war. From that moment, the Etruscans lost importance among the peoples, to the point that they no longer had a King. The Lombards instead, having become richer and greatly increased the army with the submissive peoples, began to seek other wars without being provoked and greatly increased their fame and valour in battle everywhere.

21.

But Tatone could not rejoice much of this triumph, shortly after he was confronted and killed by Wacone son of his brother Zuchilone, therefore Wacone had to face Ildichi, son of Tatone. Wacone also defeated Ildichi who was forced into exile and took refuge with the Gepids where he lived until his death. For this reason a long enmity was born between Gepidi and Longobardi. Also in these times Wacone attacked the Swabians and subdued

them. If anyone doubts this, reread Rotari's edict on Lombard laws and in almost all the codes he will find what we have said in this little story.

Wacone had three wives: the first, Ranecunda, was the daughter of the King of the Thuringes, then married Astrigosa, daughter of the King of the Gepids, and from this he had two daughters, Wisigarda, who went to the wife of Teodeberto King of the Franks, Salderada, the another daughter married Cusupaldo, another King of the Franks, but he took her in hatred and married her to a man, such a Gariboldo. Wacone then had a third wife, Salinga, daughter of the King of Eruli, this gave Wacone a son whom he called Waltari. Upon Wacone's death, Waltari became the eighth Lombard king. All these kings were Lithingi, a noble Lombard lineage.

22.

Waltari held the kingdom for seven years before he died, after him the ninth king to conquer the kingdom was Audoino who shortly afterwards brought the Lombard people to Pannonia.

23.

The hostility between Gepidi and Longobardi finally came to the point and the war was being prepared on both sides. Then came the day of battle, the sides faced each other fiercely and neither of them could prevail over the other. It happened that, in the middle of the fray, Alboino son of Audoino and Turismondo son of King Gepido Turisindo met, Alboino, hitting him with the sword, made him fall from the horse and killed him,

the Gepids, seeing the son of their dead King, they lost heart. Moreover, Turismondo sustained most of the fatigue in battle, so in short, the Gepids fled. The Lombards pursued them fiercely, routing them and killing as many as they could, then went back to take the spoils from the dead. After taking full advantage of the victory, the Lombards returned to their headquarters and suggested to King Audoino to invite Alboino, who with his valor had obtained the victory, just as he had been his father's companion in danger, as he was in banquet. Audoino replied that he could not do it so as not to break the tradition of his people: "You know," he said, "that among us it is not allowed for a son to sit in conviviality with his father if he has not first received weapons as gifts from a Foreign King ».

24.

Having heard these words from his father, Alboino took only forty warriors and went to Turisindo, King of the Gepids, the one with whom he had fought in the war just before, and explained the reason for the sudden visit. The latter welcomed him with benevolence and made him sit on his right where Turismondo, the son who recently died in battle, used to sit. So it happened that while the variously laid table was filling up with food, Turismondo was overwhelmed by the thought of his dead son who used to sit in that place where his killer was now standing, so finally, after taking deep breaths, he gave voice to his pain and he said: "This place is dear to me, and it is bitter for me to see who is sitting there today." Then, stimulated by the words

of his father, the other son of the King, who was present in the room, began to insult the Lombards with insults, mocking their custom of covering the lower leg with small white bands, "they are like those mares they have knee-white feet, "he said." The mares you look like are good for nothing. " To these words a Lombard replied: "Go to the Asfeld field and you will have proof of how much they kick these mares of which you speak; where your brother's bones lie scattered, like those of a mare that is worthless. " Upon hearing this, the Gepids, not enduring humiliation, blazed with anger and tried to avenge the injury. The Lombards, before them, put their hand to the hilt of swords ready to fight but the King, jumping from the table, stood in the way, keeping his own from anger and from fighting and threatened to punish who would start the battle first, and also that "God does not like the victory of those who kill the guest in their own home". In this way, she resumed her banquet with a happy heart. Turisindo took the arms of his son Turismondo and gave them to Alboino and sent him unharmed to his father's kingdom. Returning from his father, Alboino since then became his guest and while receiving the sumptuous treatment of the Kings, he told, in an orderly way, all that had happened to him at the Gepids in the palace of Turisindo. Those present were admired and praised both the audacity of Alboino and the noble loyalty of the King Gepide.

25.

In this period Justin Augustus prosperously held the Roman

Empire, he successfully ended many wars and also left his mark in civil legislation. With the patrician Belisarius he definitively defeated the Persians and, always by the work of General Belisario, he cancelled, exterminating them, the lineage of the Vandals capturing also their leader Gelismero. So he regained the Roman Empire, after ninety-six years of barbarian rule, and all of Roman Africa. Then, still with the value of Belisarius, he defeated in Italy the lineage of the Goths, also here he captured their King Vitige, and then again the Mauri with their King Amtalan, who infested Africa. Always with the war he also subdued other people and for this he deserved the title of Alamannic, Gothic, Frankish, Germanic, Ancient, Alanic, Vandalic and African. He put order in the laws of the Romans which had become too long-winded and often useless and contradictory, abolished the numerous promulgations of the many principles that had preceded him in only twelve books and called this volume the Justinian Code. Even the laws of individual magistrates and judges, who reached almost two thousand books, ordered them in fifty and called this work the Digest Code or the Pandette. In a new form he composed the four books of the institutions which contain the general principles of all the laws. He also ordered that the new laws enacted by him be collected in a volume and called it the Code of Tales. Within the walls of Constantinople he had a temple erected at Chrysostom, at the Wisdom of God the Father and called it with the Greek word Agian Sophian, or Saint Wisdom. The

construction is magnificent and daring, so much so that nowhere in the world can one see such. Justinian was Catholic, righteous in working and righteous in judgments, and that is why he did everything well. Under his reign, near Rome, Cassiodorus lived, excellent both in human science and in divine things, in particular he composed, with a high spirit and acute interpretation, the darkest Psalms. Cassiodorus was first consul, then senator and finally monk. In the same period, the abbot Dionigi also settled in Rome and calculated the Easter cycle with great skill. And yet, Prisciano understood the most profound laws of the art of grammar and Aratore, subdeacon of the church of Rome, put the acts of the Apostles in hexameter verses.

26.

At the same time our blessed father Benedetto also shone for the merits of his extraordinary life and apostolic virtues, first in Subiaco, a place forty miles from Rome and then in the citadel of Cassino also called "La Rocca". As is known, the Blessed Pope Gregory in his Dialogues drafted his biography with beautiful style. I too, in my own small way, have listed his miracles in "elegiac meter" one by one, arranging them in the individual couplets as follows:

Whence I will begin with your triumphs, O blessed saint
with the accumulation of your virtues whence will I begin?

Glory to you, blessed father, who reveals your merit with the
name itself!

Shining light of the century, Glory to you, blessed!

Norcia, how much you can join the praise, or you exalted for those who, so great, you raised;

O you who bring the sun to the world, Norcia, how much you can join in praise.

O boyish decoration, which transcends its years with costumes
And the old men overtake, or boyish decorum!

Your flower, O paradise, did not care for what is blooming
in the world,

Your flower did not cure the splendour of Rome, o paradise.
Bitterly the nurse gathers the pieces of the broken vase,
Pleased can return the nurse's recomposed vase.

Those who have the name of Rome hide the recluse among
the rocks;

he who has the name of Rome offers the help of his pity.

From Lauds to you, Christ, the caves hidden from all mortals
resound;

But you know them well, the lairs of Lodi resound to you.

The colds, the freezing winds, the snows animatedly endured
for three years;

In love for God do not cure colds, freezing winds, snows.

Deception by veneration is accepted, thefts that inspire piety
are praised;

Since man consecrated to God has nourished himself with it,
deception is accepted.

It gives the signal that food has come, but the bruise wants to
oppose;

Nonetheless, the other faith gives the signal that food has come.

According to the rite, those who listen to Christ celebrate the feast;

By feeding those who fast, according to the rite, they celebrate the feast.

Greedy shepherds bring welcome sustenance to the cave

But they bring back pleasing food to soothed souls.

Fire extinguishers fire, while the flesh tears the brambles;

The carnal fire is extinguished by the celestial fire.

An unjust death is hidden, but from afar he warns it shrewd;

The unjust death hidden does not bear the weapons of the cross.

They correct the mind that wanders slight rods and discipline it;

Slight rods close out the plague that is wandering.

A stream of perennial water flows from the native rock;

the arid hearts irrigate the wave of perennial water.

At the bottom of the whirlpool you had come down, fold like a scythe detached from the handle;

it rose to the surface, leaving the bottom of the eddy.

Dropped into the water while waiting for his father's order, he survives;

runs on the water, while waiting at the order of the father.

The wave led the way to those who were ready for the master's order;

to those who did not know where he was running, the wave made the road.

And you, little child, are drawn on the wave and do not drown;
and intervene, true witness too, little boy.

The perfidious hearts stirred by evil stimuli are attracted;
inflamed from hell perfidious hearts become sad.

The crow takes the food offered to him by benign hands;
and in command takes the deadly food away from the crow.

It pains the holy heart that his enemy died in the fall;
through the guilt of the disciple the holy heart hurts;

On the pleasant banks of the glorious Liri guides accompany
you;

from heaven you fell to the pleasant banks of the Liri.

Iniquitous snake, you rage stripped of the woods and the area;
for the peoples you have lost, O unjust serpent, you are raging.

Evil you are on top, go away: let the marble be placed on the
walls;

His order bends you: go away, wicked you're on.

You can see a voracious fire rising with false flames;
but you, shining Gemma, do not see that voracious fire.

As he pulls up the wall, his brother's bowels torn;

The brother comes back to safety as he pulls up the wall.

What has been done in secret appears, the gluttons are
revealed;

the fact appears secretly.

Ferocious tyrant, the nets of your deception are in vain.

receive a brake on your life, fierce tyrant.

The high walls of Nuka by no enemy will be torn down;
a whirlwind - he says - knocks down the excellent walls of
Numa.

You are beaten by the fierce enemy, because you do not offer
the sacred gift to the altar;

You offer the sacred gift to the altar; you are beaten by the
fierce enemy.

In the future he sees every enclosure of the flock given to a
lineage;

but that same lineage rebuilds every enclosure of the flock.

O servant friend of fraud, you are screwed by the serpent's
enticements;

but you are not prey to the serpent, a servant friend of fraud.

Silent mind, keep quiet: do not murmur of those who see silent
thoughts;

everything is revealed to the prophet; shut up, mind proud.

Foods brought down from heaven cast out black hunger;

and at the same time the black hunger of the mind is chased
away.

All hearts are amazed that you without a body are present;
that you in view disturb, the hearts are all amazed.

At the command of the voice they try to stop the tongues;
they flee the sepulchre under the command of the voice.

they are not allowed to remain in command during the rite;
together with the sacred rites in command of the voice.

The earth is split and the buried body is rejected from the womb;

at your command the broken earth holds the body in its womb.
The perfidious dragon seduces the fugitive to hurry;
but the evil dragon blocks the forbidden path.

A deadly disease has shaken the gold catkin of the head;
at his command he escaped g and the deadly disease.

Merciful he promises to those who need it the fawn metal
without having it;

by the work of heaven the pitiful finds the metal fawn.

You, worthy of compassion, Chuli spot snakeskin poisons;
get your skin intact as before, or worthy of compassion.

Fans bounce the rugged rocks off the glass, nor can they break
it;

the harsh rocks remain intact the glass.

Why dispenser, hesitate to offer a drop of the jar?

Look: the jars are overflowing. Why do you hesitate?

How can you have medicine that you have no hope of
salvation;

You who always give death, how can you have medicine?

Ah, miserable old man, you fall upon the blows of the enemy;
but suddenly you come back to yourself, old miserable.

The barbarian's ropes shake innocent hands;

The barbarian's ropes are united by themselves.

That superb horse screams threatening cries,

prostrate on the ground lies that superb horse.

Around the neck the father carries the beloved body of the extinct son;

the father carries the alive son around his neck.

Everything wins love: with the rain he bound his sister the blessed;

sleep stays away from the eyelids, everything wins love.

Accept for its simplicity, fly into the sky like a dove;

Reaches the kingdom of heaven, for its simplicity.

Or embraced God, to whom the whole universe is revealed, you that the arcane manifest.

In a sphere of fire the righteous one rises into the ether;

to which a sacred love burned or a sphere of fire closes.

Three times called came who must witness the prodigy;

precious for the love of his father, three times called he comes.

O good leader, who by exhorting to fight reinforces the spirits by example

I throw you first among the weapons, good leader, exhort to fight.

Sufficient signs he did leaving common life;

rushing to life, he made suitable signs.

A regular psalmist, he never gave rest to his plectrum;

singing to God the assiduous psalmist died.

Those who had only one heart, encloses the same sepulchre;

The same glory surrounds those who had one heart.

A splendid street appeared, lit with corpuscle torches;

a way by which the splendid ascent Saint appeared.

Reached the rocky fence, in his rambling he gets salvation;
escapes his rambling, reached the rocky fence.

Poor verses composed the supplicant servant on offer;
exile, poor, weak, poor verses he composed.

Accept they are, please, or guide them to the path of heaven,
O Father Benedetto, please accept them.

We also composed a hymn in the "iambic meter Archilochus",
which contains the individual miracles of the same Father
Benedict:

Briskly, Brothers, Come;
in Chorus we join in singing;
we live the joys of this
radiant holiday.

On these days Benedict
showing us the arduous path,
our father, went up to the golden kingdom,
taking the prize for his work.

As a new star shone,
that clears the mists of the world.

Still on the threshold of life
escape from the flowering meadows of the century.

Powerful to work miracles,
by the breath of God inspired,
shone by wonders and predicted
what the future held.

Intended to feed many,

reconstitutes the sieve of the wheat;
choosing for himself narrow prison,
fire extinguishers with fire.
With the weapon of the Cross he breaks
the cup that carries the poison;
discipline the wandering mind
with the mild scourge of the body.
Flow streams from the rocks;
iron returns from the bottom of the water;
obeying runs on the waves;
with a mantle the child escapes to death.
The hidden poison is revealed;
the winged executes the commands.
A collapse crushes the enemy;
the roaring lion comes back.
The motionless stone becomes light;
the imaginary stake disappears.
Those who were shattered are healthy;
the abuse committed elsewhere is revealed.
Shrewd king, you are exposed;
unjust that you oppress, you are put to flight.
You are already known, events of the future;
your mysteries no longer hide, O heart.
The foundations are laid in the dream;
the earth rejects corpses.
The fugitive is formed from the dragon;

coins rain the ether.

The crystal resists rock;
the jars are overflowing with oil.

Your sight melts the chains;
the dead come back to life.

The power of such a great light
it is overcome by the desire of the sister
the more one loves, the more to force
that he sees flying to the sky.

A splendour shines in the night
unknown to the people first;
the whole globe can be seen in it,
and in the flames the Saint jump.

Among these things he made it clear with his pick
admirable realities, similar to nectar;
in fact he drew a precise line
of consecrated life for the followers.

But you, now a powerful guide for your children,
be propitious to the sighs of the flock;
blaze it for good and beware of the snake
to follow you in your path.

I want to report here about a fact that Blessed Gregory does not mention in the life of St. Benedict, our founding father. When, by divine inspiration, he came from Subiaco to these places where he now rests, he was followed by three crows that he used to feed, they flew around him for fifty miles. Arriving here

at a crossroads, two angels appeared in the form of young men to show him the way to take. Always here lived a Servant of God in a humble hut to which heaven had said: "Take care of these places, another friend is here". Arriving here, in the Rocca di Cassino, Benedetto mortified himself in a severe and continuous abstinence, above all, in the time of Lent he lived a retreat, away from the worries of the world. I found these news in the song of the poet Marco, who came to visit Benedict and composed some verses in his praise, I don't report them below because I don't want to lengthen my story too much. Heaven was surely the one who led Benedict to this fertile place under which a luxuriant valley lies: he wanted a congregation of many monks to meet here, just as it actually happened, thanks to the guidance of God.

Once I have finished narrating these things, which I could not leave out, I return to our story.

27.

Audoino, King of the Lombards, had Rodelinda as his wife, this generated a son, Alboino, suitable for war and valiant in action. Died Audoino, the tenth king was therefore Alboino who became him with the votes of all. The many exploits of Alboino made him famous and Clotario, King of the Franks, wanted to join him by giving him his daughter Clotsuinda as wife, from this union only a daughter was born, Albsuinda.

At the same time Turisindo, King of the Gepids, died, followed by Cunimondo. The latter, wanting to avenge the old wrongs suffered, broke the peace treaty with the Lombards and

prepared the war. Alboino had made a perpetual pact with the Avars, those who were once called Huns and only later Avars, named after their King. Alboino left for the war provoked by the Gepids and while the latter, from various directions, moved against of him, as per agreements made with the Lombard King, the Avars invaded the territory of the Gepids. A sad messenger reached Cunimondo with the news that the Avars had entered their lands. Depressed in morale, faced with an anguished choice, Cunimondo decided to face the Lombards first and urging them to battle added that after winning them they would drive the Huns out of their homeland.

The inevitable battle was waged with all forces, the Lombards were victors and cruelly raged on the Gepids with such fury that they massacred them almost completely, so much so that those who brought the news of the extermination barely escaped. In that battle Alboino killed Cunimondo and, taking his head off, made a glass to drink, on the type of what are called "scala" with them and "patera" in Latin. He also took prisoner the daughter of King Gepides named Rosmunda and a multitude of men and women of all ages. Alboino, given that Clotsunda had died, took Rosmunda as his wife to his future ruin, as it became clear. With that victory the Lombards collected a great wealth. The lineage of the Gepids was destroyed, those who escaped ended up subject in part to the Lombards and in part under the harsh yoke of the Hun empire that still occupies their homeland.

The name of Alboino, however, rose to great fame, so much

so that at Bavari, Sassoni and other men who speak the same language, his deeds, luck in war, valor in battle and glory are told. Under his rule, the Lombards also manufactured many new weapons of particular shape as is still told today.

End of the First Book

Second book

1.

While the fame of the continuous victories of the Lombards spread everywhere, Narsete, "Cartulario Imperiale" and governor in Italy, was busy preparing the war against Totila the Goth. Having already been the federated Lombards of the Empire, Narsete sent ambassadors to Alboino asking him to provide an auxiliary contingent for the imminent war against the Goths. Alboino sent a contingent of selected men who arrived in Italy by crossing the Gulf of the Adriatic Sea. These allies of the Romans took part in the battles by defeating and exterminating the Goths, also killing King Totila, honoured and full of gifts, they returned to their lands.

For as long as they remained stationed in Pannonia, the Lombards were Federations of the Roman Republic and helped them against their enemies.

2.

In those years Narsete undertook a war against Duke Buccellino. King Franco Teodeberto, when he returned to Gaul, had left him in Italy together with another Duke, Amingo; they had the task of subjugating the whole peninsula. Buccellino sent rich gifts to his King, these were part of the great accumulated booty, and while he was preparing to winter in Campania, he was reached and won by Narsete in a hard battle in the place

known as Tanneto. In the battle Buccellino himself was killed. Later Amingo tried to bring help to Windin, a Goto Count who had rebelled against Narsete, both were defeated by the Roman general, Windin was sent into exile in Constantinople while Amingo was killed by the sword of Narsete. A third Duke, Leutarius, Buccellino's brother, laden with much booty, tried to return to his homeland, but between Verona and Trento, near Lake Benaco, he died of illness.

3.

Narsete still had to wage war against Sindualdo, King of Brioni, a part of the lineage of Eruli that Odoacer brought with him when he came to Italy. To Sindualdo, Narsete had given many privileges as an ally of Rome, but then Sindualdo, taken with pride and a desire to reign, rebelled against Narsete. He defeated him in battle and captured him, then Sindualdo ended up hanging from a high beam.

In addition to this, Patrick Narsete, through General Digisteo, a strong and belligerent man, occupied the whole of Italy. Narsete arrived in Italy as Cartulario but thanks to his value he obtained the Patriziato. He was a pious man, of Catholic religion, generous with the poor and zealous in the restoration of churches. So fervent in vigils and prayers that he obtained victory more with supplications to God than with arms.

4.

At the time when Narsete governed Italy, a very serious plague broke out in the province of Liguria. Suddenly stains appeared

in the houses, on doors, vases and clothes, when someone tried to clean them they became even more evident. After a year, men had glands the size of a walnut or date gland in the groin and other delicate parts of the body. This was followed by a strong fever that led to death in three days. Those who made it through the three days had a good chance of surviving. Everywhere there were mourning and tears, and since the word had spread among the people that those who left their homes could survive, they were abandoned, empty, only the dogs remained to keep them. The flocks were left alone in the pastures, without shepherds to watch over them. Where before you could see villages and camps full of people, now they were deserted and abandoned because everyone had fled. The children fled, leaving the corpses of their parents unburied, the parents fled, leaving their children in strong fevers. Those who lingered and remained to give a pitiful burial according to ancient customs, were infected and in turn remained unburied. In giving the last honour to the corpse of the deceased he left his corpse without the honour of burial.

The places returned to primordial silence, no voices in the fields, no whistling of shepherds, no danger of beasts for cattle, no danger for domestic birds. The harvest, which already had to be reaped, waited in vain for the reaper, the vineyard, already without leaves, and with the reddish grapes, remained unharmed on the vine while winter was already looming.

Silence reigned supreme, where before the trumpets of war and the roar of arms were heard, no traveller and no bandits, yet

there were corpses as far as the eye could see. The shepherds' shelters had become tombs for men, and the dwellings dens for the beasts. But this misfortune struck only the Romans within Italian territory, as far as the border with the Alemanni and Bavarians.

While this was happening in Italy, Justinian died and in Constantinople Justin II (The Second) took the leadership of the state. Narsete instead captured Vitale, bishop of the city of Altino, who had long before fled to Agunto in the Kingdom of the Franks and condemned him to exile in Sicily.

5.

Narsete, having conquered every Gota lineage in Italy and also the others we have mentioned before, put together such riches of gold, silver and other precious things, arousing great envy in those Romans whom he had defended and protected from many enemies. Their hatred produced a message that they secretly sent to Augustus Justin and his wife Sophia, a message that read: "The Romans are pleased to be slaves of both Goths and Greeks, since we are ruled by a eunuch, Narsete, and kept us oppressed in slavery, and our pious prince ignores him. Deliver us from his hands, or we shall surely deliver the city of Rome and with it ourselves, to the heathen. Upon learning of this, Narsete answered with these words: "If I have acted badly with the Romans, I will have bad. The emperor, outraged with Narsete, sent Longinus to Italy as Prefect to take his place.

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