

# Mediaeval Baebes, The Snake

middle-age Castilian

Era un ortolano byen siempre e syn mal  
En el mes de enero con fuerte tenporal  
Andando por su huerta, vido so un peral  
Una culebra chica, medio muerta atal

Con la nieve e con el viento e con la elada fria  
Estava la culebra medio amodorrida  
El omne piadoso que la vido aterida  
Doliose mucho della, quisole darla vida

Tomola en la falda e llevola a su casa  
Pusola erca del fuego, erca de buena blasa  
Abivo la culebra ante que la el asa  
Entro en un forada desa cosina rasa

Aqueste omne bueno davale cada dia  
Del pan e de la leche e de quanto el comia  
Cresio con el grand vyio e con el grand byen que  
Tenia, tanto que sierpe grande a todos paresia

Venido eselestio, la siesta affyncada  
Que ya non avia miedo de viento nin de elada  
Salyo de aquel forada sauda e ayrada  
Comeno de enponoar con venino en la posada

Dixole el ortolano, "Vete de equeste lugar  
Non fagas aqui dao" elle fuese en-saar  
Ablaolo tan fuerte que lo queria afogar  
Apretandolo mucho, cruelmente, syn vagar

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English translation

There was a simple honest gardener  
Who was walking through his garden  
In January, in a bad storm. Under a pear tree  
He spied a small snake which looked half dead

The snake was very sluggish  
Because of the snow and wind and ice  
When the kind man saw it stiff with cold  
He felt very sorry for it and tried to revive it

He wrapped it in his clothes and carried it to his house  
He put it near the fire, near the warmth of the blaze  
The snake perked up, and before it was roasted  
It went and found a hole in the smooth kitchen floor

Every day the good man gave it bread and milk  
And some of his own food  
The snake grew because it was happy and well cared for  
Until it looked like an enormous serpent to everyone

When the summer came, with the heat well established  
And no longer a threat from the wind and cold  
It came out of its hole angry and irate  
And began to poison the souse with its venom

The gardener said to it, &quot;Get out of here  
Don't you harm this place!&quot; And it grew enraged  
It wrapped itself 'round him tightly as if to strangle him  
Squeezing him cruelly, hissing all the time

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