

Le Diable d'Argent/The Money Devil

From de Meyer, M, 1967, 'Le Diable d'Argent: Évolution du theme du XVI-ieme au XIX-ieme Siècle', *Arts et Traditions Populaires*, Vol 15, No.3/4:283-90.

(bracketed sections in the French version are de Meyer's reconstructions of a damaged text. The translation is my own, probably very inaccurate, effort).

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On voit icy cet[te gravure]
Des gens enclin á tir[er par] natu[re]
A ce vieu diable d'arge[n]t pernicieux,
Moynes, & Prelats y f[...] curieux
Do[n]t je m'eston[n]ne de voir [s]ai[n]ctes ge[n]ts
Tirer si fort á ce diable [d']argent.

Puis on peut voir tirer de toutes parts
Une gra[n]d' troupe q[ui] veut avoir sa p[ar]t,
De tirer fort ilz font tour leur devoir
Petits et grans, chacun en veut avoir
Mesmes les roys, empereurs, & rege[nt]s
Chacun en veut á ce diable d'argent.

Amy lecteur l'argent de sa nature
Fait forvoyer beaucoup de creature,
Fuis avarice & toute ambition
Pour subvenir de sainte affection
A ton prochain, & n'y sois negligent,
Laisse moy lá ce vieu diable d'argent.

We see in this print
People by nature inclined to fire
On that pernicious old Money Devil
Monks, and prelates very curiously
I am astonished to see saintly men
Shooting so fiercely at this Money Devil.

Then one sees shooting from all sides
A large troop that wants to have its part,
To shoot strongly they do their duty
Young and old, everyone wants to have
Even the kings, emperors, and regents
Everyone wants a piece of the Money Devil.

Dear reader it is the nature of money
To mislead many creatures,
Flee avarice and all ambition
To bestow holy affection
On your neighbour, and do not neglect,
To leave me there that old Money Devil.