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Solt Ich den Pfaffen Râten an den Triuwen Mîn

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Walther von der Vogelweide

If the prelates would take some honest advice from me,
They'd tell the poor: "See here, that belongs to you";
They'd then confine themselves to singing mass
And keep their cotton-picking fingers off other people's property.
They should, furthermore, remember they used to live on alms.
It was King Constantine who first cut them in on a share of the state's
revenue.
If he'd foreseen the evil that would come of it,
He'd certainly have prevented it, for the good of the nation.
But their behavior, in those days, was still civil, not arrogant.

(from the Middle High German, ca. 1939-1943)