
Vindicta Salvatoris II THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE

INTRODUCTION

The *Saviour's Revenge* is included in the Pilate Cycle, even though Pontius Pilate plays only a minor part in the narrative. The story tells of two Roman rulers – Titus and Tiberius, who are both cured of the afflictions by through the power of a portrait of Christ.

There are numerous Latin manuscripts for the work, which vary considerably, both in their style and content; the [Latin](#) text here presented is from Constantine von Tischendorf's 1853 publication, *Evangelia Apocrypha*, which is based on two MSS (from the 14th & 15th Centuries); since his day, an earlier MS has been discovered, Saint-Omer 202, dating to the 9th Century, from which the Anglo-Saxon text was likely derived. The English text is based [on M.R. James' 1924 translations](#); we also include, in this collection, the [Anglo-Saxon text](#) published in 1851 by Charles Wycliffe Goodwin. There is no extant Greek manuscript.

AUTHORSHIP AND DATES

The work, in its current form, probably dates from the 8th or 9th Century, but it – like *Mors Pilati* – is clearly derived from a much older (possibly 4th Century) Latin text, *Cura Sanitatis Tiberii*. The author is unknown but may have lived in the Aquitaine region of France (wherein much of the story is set).

Vindicta Salvatoris I

In diebus Tiberii Caesaris imperatoris, Herode tetrarcha, sub Pontio Pilato traditus fuit Christus a Iudaeis et revelatus a Tiberio.

In diebus illis erat Titus regulus sub Tiberio in regione Equitaniae in civitate Libiae quae dicitur Burgidalla. Titus namque vulnus habebat in nare dextra propter cancrum, et habebat faciem dilaceratam usque ad oculum.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 1

In the days of the Emperor Tiberius Caesar, when Herod was tetrarch, Christ was delivered under Pontius Pilate by the Jews and revealed by Tiberius.

In those days, Titus was a prince under Tiberius in the region of Equitania, in a city of Libia which is called Burgidallaⁱ. And Titus had a sore in his right nostril, on account of a cancer, and he had his face torn even to the eye.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 1

ⁱ 'Burgidalla' is the Latin name for Bordeaux; the Anglo-Saxon version has 'the city called Lybie', which is possibly Latin for Albi, a city in southern France.

Vindicta Salvatoris II

Exivit quidam homo de Iudaea nomine Nathan filius Naum: erat enim Ismaelita, qui pergebat de terra in terram et de mari in mare et in omnibus finibus terrae. Nathan vero missus a Iudaea ad Tiberium imperatorem ad portandum pactum eorum ad urbem Romanam. Erat autem Tiberius insanus et ulceribus et febribus plenusⁱ, novemque genera leprae habebat.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 2

There went forth a certain man from Judaea, by name Nathan the son of Nahum; for, he was an Ishmaelite who went from land to land, and from sea to sea, and in all the ends of the earth. Now, Nathan was sent from Judaea to the Emperor Tiberius, to carry their treaty to the city of Rome. And Tiberius was ill, and full of ulcers and fevers, and had nine kinds of leprosy.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 2

ⁱ In place of *et febribus plenus*, *Saint-Omer 202* has *sanus plenus de fimbrie*.

Vindicta Salvatoris III

Voluitque Nathan ad urbem Romanam pergere. Insufflavit vero ventus septentrionalis et impedivit navigium illius, et deduxit eum ad portum Libiae civitatis. Videns autem Titus navem venientem cognovit quod de Iudaea esset: et admiratiⁱ sunt omnes et dixerunt quod nunquam viderant aliquod lignum sic inde venisse.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 3

And Nathan wished to go to the city of Rome. But the north wind blew and hindered his sailing, and carried him down to the harbour of a city of Libia. Now Titus, seeing the ship coming, knew that it was from Judaea; and they all wondered, and said that they had never seen any vessel so coming from that quarter.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 3

ⁱ In place of *admirati*, *Saint-Omer 202* has *admirans*.

Vindicta Salvatoris IV

Iussit autem Titus nauclerum venire ad se, et interrogavit quisnam esset. Et dixit Ego sum Nathan filius Naum de genere Ismaelitarum, et subditus sum in Iudaea Pontio Pilato. Et missus sum ut irem ad Tiberium imperatorem Romanum ad portandum pactum de Iudaea. Et irruit validus ventus in mari et adduxit me in terram quam nescio.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 4

And Titus ordered the captain to come to him and asked him who he was. And he said, "I am Nathan the son of Nahum, of the race of the Ishmaelites,ⁱ and I am a subject of Pontius Pilate in Judaea. And I have been sent to go to Tiberius the Roman emperor, to carry a treaty from Judaea. And a strong wind came down on the sea and has brought me to a country that I do not know."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 4

ⁱ In place of 'of the race of the Ishmaelites', Saint-Omer 202 has 'from the kingdom of the Greeks' (*de regno Grecorum*).

Vindicta Salvatoris V

Et ait Titus Si aliquando posses invenire aliquam rem aut pigmentorumⁱ aut herbarum quae valeret curare vulnus quod in facie habeo, ut vides, ut sanus fierem et reciperem sanitatem pristinam, multis bonis erogarem te.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 5

And Titus said, "If you could at any time find anything, either of cosmetics or herbs, which could cure the wound that I have in my face, as you see, so that I should become whole, and regain my former health, I would bestow on you many good things."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 5

ⁱ In place of pigmentorum, Saint-Omer 202 has pigmentarium.

Vindicta Salvatoris VI

Dixitque ei Nathan Nescio, neque talia novi, domine, qualia tu mihi dicis. Sed tamen si fuisses praeterito tempore in Ierusalem, ibi invenisses electum prophetam, cui nomen erat Emanuel: ipse enim salvum faciet populum a peccatis eorum. Qui primum signum in Cana Galileae de aqua vinum fecit, et verbo suo leprosos mundavit, nato caeco oculos illuminavit, paralyticos sanavit, daemones effugavit, tres mortuos suscitavit: mulierem in adulterio deprehensam, iudicatam a Iudaeis ut lapidaretur, liberavit: et aliam mulierem nomine Veronicam quae sanguinis fluxum patiebatur duodecimⁱ annis et accessit ad eum retro et tetigit fimbriam vestimenti eius, et sanavit eam: et de quinque panibus et duobus piscibus quinque millia hominum satiavit, exceptis parvulis et mulieribus, et remanserunt de fragmentis duodecim scophini: ista omnia et alia multa ante suam passionem completa sunt. Post resurrectionem suam vidimus eum in carne sicut ante fuerat.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 6

And Nathan said to him, "I do not know, nor have I ever known, of such things of which you speak to me. But, for all that, if you had been some time ago in Jerusalem, there you would have found a chosen prophet, whose name was Emanuel; for, heⁱⁱ will save his people from their sins. And he, as his first miracle in Cana of Galilee, made wine from water; and, by his word he cleansed lepers, opened the eyes of one born blind, healed paralytics, made demons flee, raised up three dead; a woman caught in adultery, and condemned by the Jews to be stoned, he set free; and another woman, named Veronica, who suffered twelve years from an issue of blood, and came up to him behind, and touched the fringe of his garment, he healed;ⁱⁱⁱ and, with five loaves and two fishes, he satisfied five thousand men, to say nothing of little ones and women, and there remained of the fragments twelve baskets. All these things, and many others, were accomplished before his passion. After his resurrection, we saw him in the flesh as he had been before."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 6

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 has the numeral, 'XII', in place of *duodecim*.

ⁱⁱ Throughout his work, Walker capitalizes pronouns that refer to Jesus.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. Mt 9:20–22, Mk 5:25–34, Lk 8:43–48; the haemorrhagic woman is also called 'Veronica' in the Gospel of Nicodemus (6:3).

Vindicta Salvatoris VII

ⁱ *Dixit autem Titus ad eum Quomodo resurrexit a mortuis, quia mortuus fuit? Respondens autem Nathan dixit Manifeste mortuus fuit et in cruce suspensus et iterum de cruce depositus, et per tres dies iacuit in sepulcro: deinde resurrexit a mortuis, et descendit ad infernum, et patriarchas et prophetas et omne genus humanum liberavit: deinde apparuit discipulis suis et manducavit cum illis: deinde viderunt eum ascendentem in coelum. Et sic veritas est, hoc omne quod dico vobis. Vidi ego oculis meis et tota domus Israel.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 7

And Titus said to him, "How did he rise again from the dead, if he was dead?" And Nathan answered and said, "He was clearly dead, and hung up on the cross, and again taken down from the cross; and, for three days, he lay in the tomb, after which he rose again from the dead, and went down to Hades, and freed the patriarchs and the prophets, and the whole human race; thereafter, he appeared to his disciples and ate with them; thereafter, they saw him going up to heaven. And so, it is the truth, all this that I tell you. For, I saw it with my own eyes, and all the house of Israel."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 7

ⁱ *Saint-Omer 202 has a rather different text for this chapter: Ista omnia et alia multa ante passionem impleuit, quem adprehenderunt Iudei et principes sacerdotum, invidia commoti; flagellauerunt eum et petierunt a Pilato ut interficerent eum, quem suspenderunt in ligno et dederunt ei uinum cum felle myxtum bibere. Ipse uero emisit in cruce spiritum et ad infernum descendit, et inde sanctos, quos tenebat, liberauit, et genus humanum uisitauit adque saluauit. Corpus uero illius Ioseph, uir iustus, sepeliuit. Et Iudaei custodes ne resurgeret uigilantes miserunt, quem nos uidimus et testificati sumus, sicut ipse antea predixerat, ipsa carne in qua natus, in ipsa passus, in ipsa sepultus, in ipsa per dies duos in sepulchro iacuit, in ipsa die tertia sicut uerus Deus et uerus homo a mortuis resurrexit, in ipsa per dies .XL. apparuit discipulis suis, et ad celos, nobis uidentibus, cum uirtute et potestate magna ascendit, dicens: Viri Galilei quid admiramini aspicientes in caelum? Sic ueniet quemadmodum uidisti me euntem in caelum.*

Vindicta Salvatoris VIII

Et dixit Titus in verbis suis Vae tibi, Tiberi imperator, plenus ulceribus et a lepra circumdatus, quia tale scandalum commissum est in regno tuo; quod tales leges in Iudaea fecisti, in terra nativitatis domini nostri Iesu Christi, qui apprehenderunt regem et gubernatorem populorum occiderunt, et non fecerunt eum venire ad nos ut te curaret a lepra et me mundaret ab infirmitate mea: propter quod si fuissent ante faciem meam, cum meis manibus occiderem eorum Iudaeorum corpora et in lignum crudum suspenderem, quia perdiderunt dominum meum, et non fuerunt digni oculi mei videre faciem suam.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 8

ⁱ And Titus said in his own words, "Woe to you, O Emperor Tiberius, full of ulcers, and enveloped in leprosy, because such a scandal has been committed in your kingdom; because you have made such laws in Judaea, in the land of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and they have seized the King, and put to death the Ruler of the peoples; and they have not made him come to us to cure you of your leprosy, and cleanse me from my infirmity; on which account, if they had been before my face, with my own hands I should have slain the carcasses of those Jews, and hung them up on the cruel tree, because they have destroyed my Lord, and my eyes have not been worthy to see his face."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 8

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 has an expanded opening: *Immediately, Tyrus and the whole of his entire household believed in Christ, and he said in his own words.*

Vindicta Salvatoris IX

*Et cum hoc dixisset, statim cecidit vulnus de facie eius Titi, et restituta est sanitati caro et facies eius. Et omnes infirmi qui ibidem erant salvi facti sunt in illa hora. Exclamavit autem Titus simul cum omnibus voce magna dicens Rex meus et deus meus, quia nunquam te vidi et sanum me fecisti, iube me ambulare cum navigio super aquas in terram nativitatis tuae, ut faciam vindictam de inimicis tuis; et adiuva me, domine, ut possim eos delere et mortem tuam vindicare: tu domine trade eos in manu mea.*ⁱ

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 9

And, when he had thus spoken, immediately the wound fell from the face of Titus, and his flesh and his face were restored to health. And all the sick who were in the same place were made whole in that hour. And Titus cried out, and all the rest with him, in a loud voice, saying, "My King and my God, because I have never seen you, and you have made me whole, bid me go with the ship over the waters to the land of your birth, to take vengeance on your enemies; and help me, O Lord, that I may be able to destroy them, and avenge your death; deliver them, Lord, into my hand."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 9

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 ends with: *ut non remaneat de eos quicquam nisi in manus meas traditi fuit* ('so that nothing of them remains except what was delivered into my hands').

Vindicta Salvatoris X

Et cum hoc dixisset, praecepit se baptizari. Vocavit autem ad se Nathan et dixit ei Quomodo vidisti baptizari eos qui in Christo credunt? Venias ad me et baptiza me in nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti, amen. Nam et ego firmiter credo in dominum Iesum Christum ex toto corde meo et ex tota anima mea: quia nusquam est alius in universo mundo qui me creavit et a vulneribus me salvum fecit.

Et cum hoc dixisset, nuntios misit ad Vespasianum cum omni festinatione venire cum viris fortissimis, sic paratis quasi ad bellum.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 10

And, having thus spoken, he ordered that he should be baptized. And he called Nathan and said to him, "How did you see those who believe in Christ baptized? Come to me, and baptize me in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spiritⁱ. Amen. For, I also firmly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart, and with all my soul; because nowhere in the whole world is there another who has created me and healed me of my wounds."

ⁱⁱ And, having thus spoken, he sent messengers to Vespasian urging him to come with all haste with his bravest men, so prepared as if for war.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 10

ⁱ Walker has 'Holy Ghost' in place of 'Holy Spirit'.

ⁱⁱ The paragraph break here follows both Tischendorf and Walker.

Vindicta Salvatoris XI

Tunc Vespasianus tulit secum quinque millia viros armatos, et concurrerunt ad Titum. Et cum venissent ad civitatem Libiae, dixit ad Titum Quidnam est quod huc me venire fecisti? Ille autem dixit Scias quod Iesus venit in hunc mundum, et in Iudaea in loco qui dicitur Bethleem natus est, et traditus fuit a Iudaeis et flagellatus et crucifixus in calvario monte, et tertia die resurrexit a mortuis: et viderunt eum discipuli eius in eadem carne qua natus est: et manifestavit se discipulis eius, et crediderunt in eum. Et nos quidem volumus discipuli eius fieri. Nunc eamus et deleamus inimicos eius de terra, ut nunc cognoscant quia non est similis domino deo nostro super faciem terrae.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 11

Then Vespasian brought with him five thousand armed men, and they went to meet Titus. And, when they had come to the city of Libia, he said to Titus, "Why is it that you have made me come hither?" And he said, "Know that Jesus has come into this world, and has been born in Judaea, in a place that is called Bethlehem,ⁱ and has been given up by the Jews, and scourged, and crucified on Mount Calvary, and has risen again from the dead on the third day. And his disciples have seen him in the same flesh in which he was born, and he has shown himself to his disciples, and they have believed in him. And we, indeed, wish to become his disciples. Now, let us go and destroy his enemies from the earth, that they may now know that there is none like the Lord our God on the face of the earth."

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 adds 'the City of David'.

Vindicta Salvatoris XII

Consilio autem inito exierunt de civitate Libiae quae dicitur Burgidalla, et ascenderunt in navigio et perrexerunt Ierosolimam, et circumdederunt regnum Iudaeorum et coeperunt mittere illos in perditionem. Cum audissent reges Iudaeorum eorum opera et dissipationem terrae, irruit timor super eos et turbati sunt valde. Tunc Archelaus est turbatus in sermonibus suis et dixit filio suo Fili, accipe regnum meum et iudica illud, et apprehende consilium cum aliis regibus qui sunt in terra Iuda, ut possitis evadere de inimicis nostris. Et cum hoc dixisset, evaginavit gladium suum et incubuit super eum, et flexit gladium suum acutissimum et inserait in pectore suo, et fuit mortuus.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 12

With this design, then, they went forth from the city of Libia which is called Burgidallaⁱ, and went on board a ship, and proceeded to Jerusalem, and surrounded the kingdom of the Jews, and began to send them to destruction. And, when the kings of the Jews heard of their doings, and the wasting of their land, fear came on them, and they were in great perplexity. Then Archelausⁱⁱ was perplexed in his words, and said to his son, “My son, take my kingdom and judge it; and take counsel with the other kings who are in the land of Judah, that you may be able to escape from our enemies.” And, having thus said, he unsheathed his sword and leaned on it; and turned his sword, which was very sharp, and thrust it into his breast, and died.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 12

ⁱ ‘Burgidalla’ is the Latin name for Bordeaux.

ⁱⁱ A blatant anachronism: Herod the Great died in 4 BCE and his son, ‘Archelaus’, was exiled to Gaul in 7 CE.

Vindicta Salvatoris XIII

ⁱ *Filius autem coniungit se cum aliis regibus qui sub ipso erant, et acceperunt consilium intra se et conduxerunt intra Ierusalem cum optimatibus eorum qui fuerunt in consilio suo, et steterunt ibidem annis septem.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 13

And his son allied himself with the other kings who were under him; and they took counsel among themselves and went into Jerusalem with their chief men who were in their counsel; and they stood in the same place seven years.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 13

ⁱ *Saint-Omer 202 has a significantly different text for this chapter: Archalaus ergo, filius eius, uenit ad alios reges feceruntque sibi inuicem conuiuium et concluserunt se in Hierosolimam cum omnibus optimatibus qui fuerant cum eis et non remansit ex eis quicquam nisi infra ciuitatem ibique steterunt septem annorum numero.*

Vindicta Salvatoris XIV

Ceperunt autem consilium Titus et Vespasianus ut civitatem illorum circumdarent. Et ita fecerunt. Impletis autem septem annis aggravata est valde fames, et pro necessitate panis coeperunt terram comedere.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 14

And Titus and Vespasian took counsel to surround their city. And they did so. And, the sevenⁱ years being fulfilled, there was a very sore famine; and, for want of bread, they began to eat earth.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 14

ⁱ In place of 'seven', *Saint-Omer 202* here has 'eight'.

Vindicta Salvatoris XV

Tunc omnes milites qui fuerunt de quatuor regibus apprehenderunt consilium intra se et dixerunt Nos autem morituri sumus: quid faciet nobis deus? aut quid prodest nobis vita nostra, quia venerunt Romani nostrum locum et gentem accipere? Melius est nobis ut nosmetipsos interficiamus, quam dicant Romani quod illi occidissent nos et fecissent super nos victoriam. Et extraxerunt gladios suos et percusserunt se, et mortui sunt numero duodecim millia hominum ex ipsis.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 15

Then all the soldiers who were of the four kingsⁱ took counsel among themselves, and said, "Now we are sure to die. What will God do to us? Or of what good is our life to us, because the Romans have come to take our place and nation? It is better for us to kill each other, than that the Romans should say that they have slain us, and gained the victory over us." And they drew their swords and smote themselves, and died, to the number of twelve thousand men of them.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 15

ⁱ In place of 'four kings' (quatuor regibus), Saint-Omer 202 has 'eight regions' (octo regiones).

Vindicta Salvatoris XVI

Tunc factus est foetor magnus in civitate illa ex cadaveribus illorum mortuorum. Et timuerunt timore magno valde reges eorum usque ad mortem, et non potuerunt sustinere foetorem illorum nec sepelire eos nec foris civitatem illos proiicere. Et dixerunt intra se Quid faciemus? Nos quidem tradidimus in mortem Christum, et iam nos ad mortem traditi sumus. Declinemus capita nostra et tradamus claves civitatis ad Romanos, quia iam ad mortem tradidit nos deus. Statimque ascenderunt muros civitatis et clamaverunt omnes voce magna dicentes Tite et Vespasiane, accipite claves civitatis, quae vobis datae sunt per Messiam qui dicitur Christus.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 16

Then there was a great stench in that city from the corpses of those dead men.ⁱ And their kings feared with a very great fear even to death; and they could not bear the stench of them, nor bury them, nor throw them forth out of the city. And they said to each other, "What shall we do? We indeed gave up Christ to death, and now we given up to death ourselves. Let us bow our heads and give up the keys of the city to the Romans, because God has already given us up to death." And, immediately, they went up on the walls of the city, and all cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Titus and Vespasian, take the keys of the city, which have been given to you by Messiah, who is called Christ."

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 lacks the 1st sentence.

Vindicta Salvatoris XVII

*Tunc tradiderunt se in manibus Titi et Vespasiani, et dixerunt
Diiudicate nos, cum debeamus mori, quia Christum nos
iudicavimus et sine causa traditus fuit. Titus et Vespasianus
apprehenderunt eos, et ex parte lapidaverunt, et ex parte
suspende runt in lignum, pedes sursum et caput deorsum, et
lanceis percusserunt eos; alios autem tradiderunt in
venditionem, et alios diviserunt inter se, et fecerunt quatuor
partes sicut et illi fecerunt de vestimentis domini. Et dixerunt
Vendiderunt Christum trigintaⁱ argenteis, et nos vendamus
triginta ex ipsis pro uno denario: et sic fecerunt. Et cum hoc
fecissent, apprehenderunt omnes terras Iudaeae et Ierusalem.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 17

Then they gave themselves up into the hands of Titus and Vespasian, and said, "Judge us, seeing that we ought to die, because we judged Christ; and he was given up without cause." Titus and Vespasian seized them, and some they stoned, and some they hanged on a tree, feet up and head down, and struck them through with lances; and others they gave up to be sold, and others they divided among themselves, and made four parts of them, just as they had done of the garments of the Lord. And they said, "They sold Christ for thirty pieces of silver,ⁱⁱ and we shall sell thirty of them for one denarius." And they did so. And, having done so, they seized all the lands of Judaea and Jerusalem.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 17

ⁱ In place of *triginta* (twice in this chapter), *Saint-Omer* 202 has XXX.

ⁱⁱ Cf. Mt 26:14–15.

Vindicta Salvatoris XVIII

Tunc inquisitionem miserunt de facie sive vultu Christi, quomodo possent invenire eum. Et invenerunt mulierem nomine Veronicam habentem eum. Tunc apprehenderunt Pilatum et miserunt eum in carcerem custodiendum a quatuor quaternionibus militum ad ostium carceris.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 18

Then they made a search about the face or portrait of Jesus, how they might find it. And they found a woman named Veronica who had it. Then they seized Pilate, and sent him to prison, to be guarded by four squadronsⁱ of soldiers at the door of the prison.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 18

ⁱ Walker has 'quaternions' in place of 'squadrons' (cf. Ac 12:4).

Vindicta Salvatoris XIX

Tunc statim miserunt nuntios suos ad Tiberium imperatorem urbis Romanae ut mitteret Velosianum ad se. Et dixit ei Accipe omne quod necesse est tibi in mari et descende in Iudaeam et inquire unum de discipulis eius qui dicebatur Christus et dominus, ut veniat ad me et in nomine dei sui curet me a lepra et infirmitatibus quibus quotidie nimis gravor et a vulneribus meis, quia ego male iaceo. Et mitte super reges Iudaeorum qui sunt imperio meo subditi fortias tuas et terribilia tormenta, quia occiderunt Iesum Christum dominum nostrum, et condemna eos ad mortem. Et si inveneris ibi talem hominem qui me possit liberare ab ista mea infirmitate, ego credam in Christum filium dei et baptizabo me in nomine ipsius. Et Velosianus dixit Domine imperator, si invenero talem hominem qui nos iuvare et liberare possit, qualem ei promittam mercedem? Dixit autem ei Tiberius Dimidium regni sine fallo, ut sit in manu eius.ⁱ

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 19

Then they immediately sent their messengers to Tiberius, the emperor of the city of Rome, that he should send Velosianus to them. And he said to him, "Take all that is necessary for you in the sea, and go down into Judaea, and seek out one of the disciples of him who is called Christ and Lord, that he may come to me, and in the name of his God cure me of the leprosy and the infirmities by which I am daily exceedingly burdened, and of my wounds, because I am ill at ease. And send on the kings of the Jews, who are subject to my authority, your forces and terrible engines, because they have put to death Jesus Christ our Lord, and condemn them to death. And, if you shall there find a man as may be able to free me from my infirmity, I will believe in Christ the Son of God and will baptize myself in his name." And Velosianus said, "My lord emperor, if I find such a man as may be able to help and free us, what reward shall I promise him?" Tiberius said to him, "The half of my kingdom, without fail, to be in his hand."

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 19

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 ends: Tunc Tyberius dixit: Rex erit post unde est.

Vindicta Salvatoris XX

Tunc Velosianus statim perrexit et ascendit in navem et levavit velum in navigio, et perrexit per mare navigando. Navigavit autem uno anno et diebus septem, quibus pervenit Ierosolimam. Et statim iussit aliquos ex Iudaeis venire ad eius potentiam, et diligenter coepit inquirere quae fuerant gesta de Christo.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 20

Then Velosianus immediately went forth, and went on board the ship,ⁱ and hoisted the sail in the vessel, and went on sailing through the sea. And he sailed a year and seven days, after which he arrived at Jerusalem. And, immediately, he ordered some of the Jews to come to his power, and began carefully to ask what had been the acts of Christ.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 20

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 names the port as 'Licostratus' – cf. Jn 19:13, where Λιθόστρωτον ('Stone Pavement') is named.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXI

Tunc Ioseph ab Arimathia civitate et Nicodemus insimul convenerunt. Nicodemus autem dixit Ego vidi eum, et scio vere quia ipse est salvator mundi. Ioseph autem dixit ei Et ego deposui eum de cruce et posui eum in monumento novo, quod erat excisum de petra. Et Iudaei tenuerunt me clausum in die parasceve ad vesperam: et dum stare in oratione die sabbati, suspensa est domus a quatuor angulis, et vidi dominum Iesum Christum sicut fulgur lucis, et prae timore cecidi in terram. Et dixit ad me Respice in me, quia ego sum Iesus, cuius corpus sepelisti in monumento tuo. Et ego dixi ei Ostende mihi sepulcrum ubi posui te. Et Iesus tenens manum meam dextera sua adduxit me in locum ubi sepelivi eum.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 21

Then Joseph, of the city of Arimathea, and Nicodemus, came at the same time. And Nicodemus said, "I saw him, and I know indeed that he is the Saviour of the world." And Joseph said to him, "And I took him down from the cross, and laid him in a new tomb, which had been cut out of the rock.ⁱ And the Jews kept me shut up on the day of the preparation, at evening; and, while I was standing in prayer on the Sabbath day, the house was hung up by the four corners, and I saw the Lord Jesus Christ like a gleam of light; and, for fear, I fell to the ground. And he said to me, "Look at me; for, I am Jesus, whose body you buried in your tomb." And I said to him, "Show me the sepulchre where I laid You."" And Jesus, holding my hand in his right hand, led me to the place where I buried him.

ⁱ Cf. Lk 23:53, Mt 27:60.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXII

Venit autem et mulier nomine Veronica et dixit ei Ego autem tetigi in turba fimbriam vestimenti eius, quia annis duodecim sanguinis fluxum passa sum, et statim sanavit me.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 22

And there came the woman named Veronica, and said to him, "And I touched in the crowd the fringe of his garment because, for twelve years, I had suffered from an issue of blood; and he immediately healed me." ⁱ

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 22

ⁱ Cf. Mt 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXIII

Tunc dixit Velosianus ad Pilatum Tu Pilate impie et crudelis, quare interfecisti filium dei? Pilatus autem respondit Gens sua et pontifices Annas et Cayphas illum tradiderunt mihi. Velosianus dixit Impie et crudelis, morte dignus es et poena crudeli. Et remisit eum in carcerem.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 23

Then Velosianus said to Pilate, "You, Pilate, impious and cruel, why have you slain the Son of God?" And Pilate answered, "His own nation and the chief priests, Annas and Caiaphas,ⁱ gave him to me." Velosianus said, "Impious and cruel, you are worthy of death and cruel punishment." And he sent him back to prison.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 23

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 does not here include the names, 'Annas and Caiaphas'.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXIV

Et Velosianus demum inquisivit faciem sive vultum domini. Dixerunt ei omnes qui ibidem erant Mulier nomine Veronica est quae habet vultum domini in domo sua. Et statim iussit eam ante potentiam suam adduci. Et dixit ad eam Tu habes vultum domini in domo tua? At illa negavit. Tunc Velosianus iussit eam mitti in tormentis, donec vultum domini insinuaret. Illa autem coacta dixit Ego habeo illum in sindone munda, domine mi, et quotidie adoro illum. Velosianus dixit Monstra mihi illum. Tunc illa ostendit vultum domini. Velosianus ut vidit illum, prostravit se in terram; et prompto corde et recta fide apprehendit eum et involvit in sindone aurea et collocavit eum in scrinio, et sigillavit annulo suo. Et iuravit cum sacramento et dixit Vivit dominus dens et pro salute Caesaris, non videbit eum amplius homo super faciem terrae usque quo videam faciem domini mei Tiberii.ⁱ

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 24

And Velosianus at last sought for the face or the countenance of the Lord. And all who were in that same place said, "It is the woman called Veronica who has the portrait of the Lord in her house." And, immediately, he ordered her to be brought before his power. And he said to her, "Have you the portrait of the Lord in your house?" But she said, "No." Then Velosianus ordered her to be put to the torture, until she should give up the portrait of the Lord. And she was forced to say, "I have it in clean linen, my lord, and I daily adore it." Velosianus said, "Show it to me." Then she showed the portrait of the Lord. When Velosianus saw it, he prostrated himself on the ground; and, with a ready heart and true faith, he took hold of it, wrapped it in cloth of gold, placed it in a casket, and sealed it with his ring. And he swore with an oath, and said, "As the Lord God lives, and by the health of Caesar, no man shall any longer see it on the face of the earth, until I see the face of my lord Tiberius."

Vindicta Salvatoris XXV

Et cum hoc dixisset, optimates qui erant Iudaeae optimi apprehenderunt Pilatum ut ducerent ad portum maris. Ille autem apprehendit vultum domini cum omnibus discipulis suisⁱ et omnibus stipendiis suis, et eadem die ascenderunt navem.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 25

And, when he had thus spoken, the princes, who were the chief men of Judaea, seized Pilate to take him to a seaport. And he took the portrait of the Lord, with all his disciples, and all in his pay, and they went on board the ship the same day.

ⁱ Some emend *discipulis suis* to *discipulos suos*.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXVI

Tunc Veronica femina dereliquit omnia quae possidebat pro amore Christi et secuta est Velosianum. Et dixit ad eam Velosianus Quid vis aut quid quaeris, mulier? At illa respondit Ego quaero vultum domini nostri Iesu Christi, qui me illuminavit non meis meritis sed per suam sanctam pietatem. ... Redde mihi vultum domini mei Iesu Christi: nam hoc morior desiderio bono. Si autem non reddideris mihi, non dimittam eum, usque dum videam ubi ponetis eum: quia ego miserrima serviam ei omnibus diebus vitae meae. Credo enim quod ipse redemptor meus vivit in aeternum.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 26

Then the woman Veronica, for the love of Christ, left all that she possessed, and followed Velosianus. And Velosianus said to her, "What do you wish, woman, or what do you seek?"ⁱ And she answered, "I am seeking the portrait of our Lord Jesus Christ, who enlightened me, not for my own merits, but through his own holy affection. Give back to me the portrait of my Lord Jesus Christ; for, because of this I die with a righteous longing. But, if you do not give it back to me, I will not leave it until I see where you will put it, because I, most miserable woman that I am, will serve him all the days of my life; because I believe that he, my Redeemer, lives for everlasting."

ⁱ Cf. Jn 20:15.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXVII

Tunc Velosianus iussit mulierem Veronicam deportari secum in navem. Et elevatis velis navigio pergere coeperunt in nomine domini, et navigaverunt per mare. Titus vero cum Vespasiano conscenderunt in Iudaeam, vindicantes omnes nationes terrae illorum. Anno completo pervenit Velosianus ad urbem Romanam, dimisit navigium suum in flumine quod dicitur Tiberis sive Tiber, et intravit civitatem quae vocatur Roma. Et misit nuntium suum ad dominum suum Lateranensem Tiberium imperatorem de adventu suo felici.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 27

Then Velosianus ordered the woman Veronica to be taken down with him into the ship. And, the sails being hoisted, they began to go in the vessel in the name of the Lord, and they sailed through the sea. But Titus, along with Vespasian, went up into Judaea, avenging all nations on their land. At the end of a year, Velosianus came to the city of Rome, brought his vessel into the river that is called Tiberis, or Tiber, and entered the city which is called Rome. And he sent his messenger to his lord Tiberius the emperor in the Lateranⁱ about his prosperous arrival.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 27

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 has 'Lateran' as the name of a city (in ciuitatem, que dicitur Lateranis).

Vindicta Salvatoris XXVIII

Tunc Tiberius imperator audito nuntio Velosiani summe gavisus est, et iussit ut veniret ad faciem. Qui cum venisset, vocavit eum dicens Velosiane, quomodo venisti, et quid vidisti in regione Iudaeae de Christo domino et discipulis eius? Indica mihi quaeso sanaturum me de infirmitate mea ut possim subito mundari a lepra ista quam habeo super corpus meum, et totum regnum meum in potestate tibi et sibi trado.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 28

Then Tiberius the emperorⁱ, when he heard the message of Velosianus, rejoiced greatly, and ordered him to come before his face. And, when he had come, he called him, saying, "Velosianus, how have you come, and what have you seen in the region of Judaea of Christ the Lord and his disciples? Tell me, I beg you, that he is going to cure me of my infirmity, that I may be at once cleansed from the leprosy that I have over my body, and I give up my whole kingdom into your power and his."

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 lacks 'the emperor'.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXIX

Dixit autem Velosianus Domine mi imperator, ego servos inveni Titum et Vespasianum in Iudaea timentes dominum, et mundati sunt ab omnibus ulceribus et passionibus suis. Et inveni per Titum omnes reges et dominatores Iudaeae suspensos; Annas et Cayphas lapidati sunt, Archelaus in semetipso lanceatus; Pilatum autem in Damasco dimisi ligatum et in carcere positum sub fida custodia. Sed etiam de Iesu comperi, in quem pessime Iudaei irruerunt cum gladiis et fustibus et armis et crucifixerunt eum, qui nos debuit liberare et illuminare et venire ad nos, et suspenderunt eum in ligno. Et venit Ioseph ab Arimathia et Nicodemus cum eo, ferens mixturae myrrhae et aloes quasi libras centum propter corpus Christi ungendum: et deposuerunt eum de cruce et posuerunt in monumento novo. Tertia autem die certissime resurrexit a mortuis, et manifestavit se discipulis suis in eadem carne in qua natus fuerat. Demum post quadraginta dies viderunt ascendentem in coelum. Multa quidem et alia signa fecit Iesus ante passionem suam et post. Primum de aqua vinum fecit, mortuos suscitavit, leprosos mundavit, caecos illuminavit, paralyticos curavit, daemones fugavit, surdos audire fecit, mutos loqui; Lazarum quadriduanum de monumento

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 29

And Velosianus said, "My lord emperor, I found your servants Titus and Vespasian in Judaea fearing the Lord, and they were cleansed from all their ulcers and sufferings. And I found that all the kings and rulers of Judaea have been hanged by Titusⁱ; Annas and Caiaphas have been stoned, Archelaus has killed himself with his own lance; and I have sent Pilate to Damascus in bonds and kept him in prison under safe keeping. But I have also found out about Jesus, whom the Jews most wickedly attacked with swords, and staves, and weapons; and they crucified him who ought to have freed and enlightened us, and to have come to us, and they hanged him on a tree. And Joseph came from Arimathaea, and Nicodemus with him, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds, to anoint the body of Jesus; and they took him down from the cross, and laid him in a new tomb.ⁱⁱ And, on the third day, he most assuredly rose again from the dead, and showed himself to his disciples in the same flesh in which he had been born. At length, after forty days, they saw him going up into heaven. Many, indeed, and other miracles did Jesus before his passion and after. First, of water he made wine; he raised the dead, he cleansed lepers, he enlightened the blind, he cured paralytics, he put demons to flight; he made the deaf hear, the dumb speak,ⁱⁱⁱ Lazarus, when four days

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 29

ⁱ In place of 'Titus', Saint-Omer 202 has 'the emperor'.

ⁱⁱ Cf. Jn 19:38–42.

ⁱⁱⁱ Cf. Mt 11:5, 15:30–31, Mk 7:37, Lk 7:22.

*suscitavit; mulierem Veronicam quae fluxum sanguinis
patiebatur duodecim annis et tetigit fimbriam vestimenti eius
sanam fecit.*

dead, he raised from the tomb; ^{iv} the woman Veronica, who suffered
from an issue of blood twelve years, and touched the fringe of his
garment, he made whole.^v

^{iv} Cf. Jn 11:11-17.

^v Cf. Mt 9:20-22, Mk 5:25-34, Lk 8:43-48.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXX

Tunc placuit domino in coelis quod filius dei, qui in hunc mundum missus protoplastus mortuus est in terris, mitteret angelum suum, et imperavit Tito et Vespasiano, quos novi in loco isto ubi est solium tuum. Et placuit deo omnipotenti quod perrexerunt in Iudaeam et Ierusalem, et apprehenderunt subditos tuos et miserunt in eo iudicio quasi quomodo fecerunt quando apprehenderunt subditi tui Iesum et ligaverunt eum.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 30

“Then it pleased the Lord in the heavens, that the Son of God, who, sent into this world as the first-created, had died on earth, should send his angel; and he commandedⁱ Titus and Vespasian, whom I knew in that place where your throne is. And it pleased God Almighty that they went into Judaea and Jerusalem, and seized your subjects, and put them under that sentence, as it were, in the same manner as they did when your subjects seized Jesus and bound him.

ⁱ In place of ‘commanded’, Saint-Omer 202 has ‘entered into’.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXI

Et Vespasianus postea dixit Quid faciemus de his qui remanebunt? Titus respondit Suspenderunt illi dominum nostrum in ligno viridi et lancea percusserunt eum: nos autem suspendamus eos in ligno arido et lancea perforemus corpora eorum. Et ita fecerunt. Vespasianus autem dixit Quid de istis qui remanserunt? Titus respondit Apprehenderunt tunicam domini nostri Iesu Christi et de illa quatuor partes fecerunt: nunc apprehendamus illos et dividamus in quatuor partes, tibi unam, mihi unam, ad viros tuos aliam, et pueris meis quartam partem. Et ita fecerunt. Et dixit Vespasianus De iis qui remanserunt quid autem faciemus? Titus respondit illi Iudaei vendiderunt dominum nostrum triginta argenteis : nos autem vendamus ex eis triginta pro uno argenteo. Et ita fecerunt. Et apprehenderunt Pilatum et tradiderunt illum mihi, et ego illum posui in carcere ad custodiendum quatuor quaternionibus militum in Damasco.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 31

“And Vespasian afterwards said, “What shall we do about those who shall remain?” Titus answered, “They hanged our Lord on a green tree, and struck him with a lance; now let us hang them on a dry tree, and pierce their bodies through and through with the lance.” And they did so. And Vespasian said, “What about those who are left?” Titus answered, “They seized the tunic of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of it made four parts; now let us seize them, and divide them into four parts – to you one, to me one, to your men another, and to my servants the fourth part.” And they did so. And Vespasian said, “But what shall we do about those who are left?” Titus answered him, “The Jews sold our Lord for thirty pieces of silver;ⁱ now let us sell thirty of them for one piece of silver.” And they did so. ⁱⁱ And they seized Pilate, and gave him up to me, and I put him in prison, to be guarded by four quaternions of soldiers in Damascus.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 31

ⁱ Cf. Mt 26:14–15.

ⁱⁱ *Saint-Omer 202* lacks this last sentence.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXII

Inde miserunt inquisitionem cum magna diligentia ad inquirendum vultum domini: et invenerunt mulierem nomine Veronicam habentem vultum domini.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 32

“Then they made a search with great diligence to seek the portrait of the Lord; and they found a woman named Veronica who had the portrait of the Lordⁱ.”

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 adds ‘because she had painted it’.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXIII

ⁱ Tunc Tiberius imperator dixit Velosiano Quomodo illum habes? Qui respondit Habeo illum in sindone munda aurea involutum pallio. Dixit autem Tiberius imperator Duc eum ad me et pande ante faciem meam, ut ego procidens in terram et genua flectens adorem eum super terram. Tunc Velosianus expandit pallium suum cum sindone aurea, ubi erat vultus domini consignatus: et vidit eum Tiberius imperator. Qui statim adoravit imaginem domini puro corde, et mundata est eius caro sicut caro pueri parvuli. Et omnes caeci leprosi claudi muti surdi et variis detenti languoribus, qui ibi aderant, sanabantur, et curati ac emundati sunt.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 33

Then the Emperor Tiberius said to Velosianus, "How do you have it?" And he answered, "I have it in clean cloth of gold, rolled up in a shawl." And the Emperor Tiberius said, "Bring it to me, and spread it before my face, that I, falling to the ground and bending my knees, may adore it on the ground." Then Velosianus spread out his shawl with the cloth of gold on which the portrait of the Lord had been imprinted; and the Emperor Tiberius saw it. And he immediately adored the image of the Lord with a pure heart, and his flesh was cleansed as the flesh of a little child. And all the blind, the lepers, the lame, the dumb, the deaf, and those possessed by various diseases, who were there present, were healed, and cured, and cleansed.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 33

ⁱ Saint-Omer 202 has a rather shorter text for this chapter: Tunc dixit Tyberius: "Ego multum desiderans uolo uidere eum et adorare et custodire illum." Tunc Volosianus expandit eum pallium ubi erat uultus domini, et uidit eum Tyberius et adorauit illum. Statimque cecidit lepra eius de eo et mundata est caro eius sicut caro pueri paruuli. (Then Tiberius said, "With great desire I wish to see it and worship and guard it." Then Velosianus spread out that cover in which was the portrait of the Lord, and Tiberius saw it and worshiped it. And, at once, his leprosy fell from him and his flesh was cleansed like the flesh of a small child.)

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXIV

ⁱ *Tiberius autem imperator inclinato capite et flectens genua, considerans illum sermonem Beatus venter qui te portavit et ubera quae suxisti, ingemuit ad dominum cum lacrimis dicens Deus coeli et terrae, non me permittas peccare, sed confirma animam meam et corpus meum et colloca in regno tuo, quia in nomine tuo confido semper; libera me ab omnibus malis sicut liberasti tres pueros de camino ignis ardentis.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 34

And the Emperor Tiberius bowed his head and bent his knees, considering that saying, "Blessed is the womb which bore You, and the breasts which You have sucked." And he groaned to the Lord, saying with tears, "God of heaven and earth, do not permit me to sin, but confirm my soul and my body, and place me in Your kingdom, because in Your name do I trust always; free me from all evils, as You freed the three children from the furnace of blazing fire."

ⁱ *Saint-Omer* 202 lacks this chapter.

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXV

ⁱ *Deinde dixit Tiberius imperator Velosiano Velosiane, vidisti aliquem hominem de his qui vidissent Christum? Velosianus respondit Vidi. Dixit Interrogasti quomodo baptizant eos qui credebant in Christum? Velosianus dixit Hic, domine mi, habemus unum ex discipulis ipsius Christi. Tunc praecepit vocari Nathan venire ad se. Venit ergo Nathan et baptizavit eum in nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti, amen. Statim Tiberius imperator factus sanus ab omnibus languoribus suis ascendit super solium suum et dixit Benedictus es, domine deus omnipotens et laudabilis, qui liberasti me de laqueo mortis et mundasti me ab omnibus iniquitatibus meis, quia multum peccavi coram te, domine deus meus, et non sum dignus videre faciem tuam. Et tunc Tiberius imperator fuit instructus in omnibus articulis fidei plenarie et firma fide.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 35

Then said the Emperor Tiberius to Velosianus, "Velosianus, have you seen any of those men who saw Christ?" Velosianus answered, "I have." He said, "Did you ask how they baptize those who believed in Christ?" Velosianus said, "Here, my Lord, we have one of the disciples of Christ himself." Then he ordered Nathan to be summoned to come to him. Nathan, therefore, came and baptized him in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Immediately, the Emperor Tiberius, made whole from all his diseases, ascended on his throne, and said, "Blessed are you, O Lord God Almighty, and worthy to be praised, who has freed me from the snare of death, and cleansed me from all my iniquities; because I have greatly sinned before you, O Lord my God, and I am not worthy to see your face." And then the Emperor Tiberius was instructed in all the articles of the faith, fully, and with strong faith.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 35

ⁱ *Saint-Omer 202 has a much shorter text for this chapter: Credidit ille et baptizatus est et omnis domus eius tota. In dominum nostrum Iesum Christum, cui est honor et gloria et imperium et laus, in secula seculorum. Amen. (He believed and was baptized with his entire household into our Lord Jesus, to whom be honour and glory and rule and praise forever and ever. Amen.)*

Vindicta Salvatoris XXXVI

ⁱ *Ipse deus omnipotens qui est rex regum et dominantium dominus, ipse nos in fide sua protegat et defendat et liberet ab omni periculo et malo, et dignetur nos perducere ad vitam aeternam, vita temporali deficiente. Qui est benedictus in saecula saeculorum, amen.*

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 36

May that same God Almighty, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, himselfⁱⁱ shield us in his faith, and defend us, and deliver us from all danger and evil, and deign to bring us to life everlasting, when this life, which is temporary, shall fail; who is blessed for ever and ever. Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S REVENGE 36

ⁱ *Saint-Omer* 202 lacks this chapter.

ⁱⁱ Throughout his work, Walker capitalizes pronouns that refer to God.