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# Violence in Religious Imagery: Representations of the Virgin Mary in Alfonso X's *Las Cantigas De Santa María*

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Oral Presentation O4.4

**VIOLENCE IN RELIGIOUS IMAGERY: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE VIRGIN  
MARY IN ALFONSO X'S *LAS CANTIGAS DE SANTA MARÍA***

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*Las Cantigas de Santa María* is a thirteenth-century collection of over 400 poems commissioned by King Alfonso X of Castile and Leon. These Marian miracle poems are represented in a variety of media including written text, songs, and illuminations. Throughout these works, Mary takes on many roles including: the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of Christ, and God's divine intercessor. This investigation will use select *cantigas* and their respective illuminations to examine the image of Mary when she intervenes on God's behalf. Special attention will be paid to instances of violence, as we try to understand the representations and implications of the "violent Virgin".