

Bideas. Org – October 2026

The famous curse of the parish priest of Masullas.

Edited by **Maria Farranca.**

The excommunication of Father Antioco II.

The theft. Five or six thieves, perhaps more, raided the parish priest's sheepfold and carried off the animals.

For those who do not know, (20)
at dawn on the twentieth,
of the month just past,
on a dark night,
as the sun was rising,
at two o'clock, nearly three (25)
there were more than five or six
who, armed with pistols and rifles,
went to Genneretta,
forced open the gate
and took the goats (30),
my very own, the Vicar's;

(...)

So let's speak up a bit:
there were twelve goats (45)
not counting
four ewes that had already lambed
and another three lactating ewes
who, five days earlier,
because they were too young, (50)
had miscarried.

There was also a little lamb
that wasn't yet a year old,
which, poor thing,
couldn't even go out to graze, (55)
so glossy was its coat
because it was so fat,
neither by day nor by night.
There was the old billy-goat,
there was the lead billy-goat, (60)
and there was another one
whom, every year at Easter,
for no particular reason,
I would give as a present
to a friend of mine. (65)

And as a sign of identification,
all my animals wore
a collar.

Only the billy-goat wore,
to keep him alert, (70)
a cowbell and a small bell.
The fool! He didn't ring them

when the year came
that I'd come out
with my dagger and my trumpets, (75)
and they would even
have shat their trousers.