

December 23, 2025

Chat GPT Transcript, Version 5.2

You said:

I would like your help with some medieval Catalan. I am going to type in what I think is the correct transcription. Please help me translate it into English. I will likely make some transcription mistakes and also there might be some irregular spellings or unusual word separations. Please take this into account as you help me to translate into English. Here is the transcription I need help with: On nos volents esser coniformes a la volentat del dit nostre car senyor e marit vos pregam tan afectuosament un podem que per honor hi esguard dels dits senyors e nostre vullats los dits studiants benignament pertractar en tal manera quels dits senyors e nos conegam que les nostros pregaries son estados e aquelles fructuoses.

ChatGPT said:

This is a good, careful transcription overall, and the sense is quite clear despite a few normal late-medieval irregularities. I'll proceed in three steps:

1. **Lightly normalized reading** (without over-correcting)
2. **Idiomatic English translation**
3. **Notes on tricky words and constructions**

1. Lightly normalized medieval Catalan

On nos, volents esser coniformes a la volentat del dit nostre car senyor e marit, vos pregam tan afectuosament com podem que, per honor hi esguard dels dits senyors e nostre, vullats los dits studiants benignament pertractar, en tal manera que·ls dits senyors e nos conegam que les nostres pregaries son estados e aquelles fructuoses.

Key very minor normalizations:

- *un podem* → **com podem** (“as much as we can”)
- *hi* → **e** (common graphic variant)
- *nostros* → **nostres**

- *estados* → **estades**
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2. English translation

Wherefore we, wishing to be in accord with the will of our said dear lord and husband, beg you as affectionately as we can that, for the honor and consideration of the said lords and of ourselves, you may treat the said students kindly, in such a way that the said lords and we may recognize that our prayers have been heard and have borne fruit.

This is very polished courtly-chancery prose.

3. Notes on specific words & constructions

On

- Functions as “*wherefore / therefore / for which reason*”
- Very common in royal and queenly letters as a transition into a request

nos volents esser conformes

- Literally: “*we, wishing to be in conformity*”
- A classic humility-and-obedience formula

del dit nostre car senyor e marit

- “of the said our dear lord and husband”
- Confirms the speaker is a queen writing in her own voice, but rhetorically aligned with her husband’s will

vos pregam tan afectuosament com podem

- Formulaic but sincere: “*we beg you as affectionately as we can*”
- *afectuosament* often signals emotional appeal rather than mere courtesy

per honor e esguard

- *eguard* = regard, consideration, respect
- The pairing *honor e esguard* is very common in petitions

vullats ... pertractar

- *vullats* = polite subjunctive (“may you wish / may it please you”)
- *pertractar* = to deal with, treat, handle (administratively and socially)

los dits students

- Clearly identifiable as students (often clerics-in-training or university scholars)

que les nostres pregaries son estades

- Literally: “that our prayers have been”
- Idiomatic meaning: *that our entreaties have been accepted / granted*

e aquelles fructuoses

- “and [that] they are fruitful”
 - Moral-rhetorical payoff: good governance produces visible results
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Overall characterization

This is a **formal intercessory petition**, almost certainly:

- Written by a **queen or high-ranking noblewoman**
- Addressed to an official with authority over students (possibly university or ecclesiastical)
- Carefully framed to:
 - Align the request with the king’s will
 - Appeal to honor and reputation
 - Emphasize reciprocity and moral outcome

If you’d like, next steps could include:

- A **more literal word-by-word gloss**
- Comparison to **parallel formulas in Aragonese or Catalan chancery letters**
- Discussion of **what kind of “students”** these likely were (university? clerical household?)