THE FRANCIS TRILOGY
OF
THOMAS OF CELANO

The Life of Saint Francis
The Remembrance of the Desire of a Soul
The Treatise on the Miracles of Saint Francis

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became his helper. Cherishing and comforting him, he embraced him in the depths of charity.

Look!
Now he wrestles naked with the naked.
After putting aside all that is of the world, he is mindful only of divine justice.
Now he is eager to despise his own life, by setting aside all concern for it.
Thus there might be peace for him, a poor man on a hemmed-in path, and only the wall of the flesh would separate him from the vision of God.

Chapter VII
HOW, WHEN CAPTURED BY BANDITS, HE WAS THROWN INTO THE SNOW, AND HOW HE SERVED LEPERS

16 He who once enjoyed wearing scarlet robes now traveled about half-clothed. Once while he was singing praises to the Lord in French in a certain forest, thieves suddenly attacked him. When they savagely demanded who he was, the man of God answered confidently and forcefully: "I am the herald of the great King! What is it to you?" They beat him and threw him into a ditch filled with deep snow, saying: "Lie there, you stupid herald of God!" After they left, he rolled about to and fro, shook the snow off himself and jumped out of the ditch. Exhilarated with great joy, he began in a loud voice to make the woods resound with praises to the Creator of all.
someone begging in the name of such a great King would be both a
shame and a disgrace. And so he fixed this in his heart: to the best of
his ability, never to deny anything to anyone begging from him for
God's sake. This he did and with such care that he offered himself
completely, in every way, first practicing before teaching the gospel
counsel: "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not turn away from the
one who wants to borrow from you."