



## Canticle (St. Francis of Assisi)

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*The Canticle of the Sun is a prayer that Francis of Assisi in the 13th Century wrote. It praises the beauty of creation and thank God for that.*

### General

Francis wrote his hymn to the creation (*Il Cantico di Frate Sole*) at the end of his life, probably late 1224 or early 1225, when he gravely ill at San Damiano in Assisi was. He calls it the people to praise God in all His creatures. The authenticity of the biography by Thomas of Celano testifies (2 Celano, 213). He compares the song with the singing of the three youths in the fiery furnace ( Dan 3.51 EU ). Celano says, Francis had to sing the song in the hour of death of two of his brothers. Some sources [1] assume that the first nine verses were created earlier, and the peace stanza was added later. The death of Francis verse was written shortly before his death.

The song was originally written by Francis of Assisi on old Italian and then transferred by a literate brother into Latin. Unlike most other texts of St. Francis Canticle of the old Italian version has been preserved. Poetry in the everyday language was in the Italian culture of the time still highly unusual. The Canticle of the Sun is therefore rezipiert well as the beginning of the Italian-language literature.

In the Italian original of "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon" is mentioned, because in Italian as in Latin, the sun Male (*Il Sole*), the moon is feminine (*la luna*) is the same goes for "Sister Death" (*la morte* ). German translations fit the text here often in the German language and talk of "Brother Sun", etc. The translation is reproduced below, however, literally.

The Canticle of the Sun is one of the most rezipierten prayers of Francis. It is often considered in terms of a pure natural romance. But this is not true, the creation is indeed the focus of the prayer directed to God but the Creator. Creation is not glorified for its own sake, romantic, but serves as a basis for praise and thank God.



## The Canticle

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Canticle fratris SOLIS VEL LAUDER CREATURARUM  
Incipiunt laudes creaturarum quas fecit beatus Franciscus  
Laudem ad et cum eat infirmus honorem Dei apud sanctum Damianum  
Altissimu onnipotente bon signore,  
pretend le laude la gloria et honore e l'onne benediction.  
Ad te solo, altissimo, konfano se,  
nullu et homo dignu ene te mentovare.  
Laudato si, mi signore, do cun tucte le creature,  
spetialmente Messor lo Frate Sole,  
lo qual'è iorno, et allumini per noi loi.  
Et ellu è bellu radiante cun e grande Splendor  
de te, altissimo, porta significatione.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per sora luna e le stelle,  
formats in celu CLARIT et l'Al preciosnesses et belle.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per frate vento,  
per acre, et et et nubilo sereno et onne tempo,  
by a quale lo le dai sustentamento doing creature.  
Laudato si, mi signore, sorted by aqua  
la quale è Multo et utile et humile pretiosa et casta.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per frate focu,  
by lo la quale enn'allumini nocte,  
ello ed è bello et iocundo et robustoso et forte.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per sora nostra terra matre,  
ne la quale sustenta et governa,  
and co-produce diversified Fructi con coloriti floristic et herba.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per Quelli perdonano by ke lo tuo amore  
et sostengo infirmitate et tribulatione.  
Beati Quelli ke 'l sosterrano in pace,  
ka da te, altissimo, sirano incoronati.  
Laudato si, mi signore, per sora nostra morte corp oral,  
da la quale nullu homo vivente pò skappare.  
Acquelli Guai ke, ne le Morrano peccata mortali:  
beati Quelli ke ne le trovarà do sanctissime voluntati,  
ka la morte secunda nol farra male.  
Laudate et benedicete signore mi,  
et et rengratiate humilitate serbiateli cum grande.



Original pages from the Codex 338 from the Fondo Antico the Biblioteca Comunale of Assisi preserved in the Sacro Convento di San Francesco, Assisi, Italy:

huus seculi. Scā humilitas. q̄fundit su  
 pbiam. 7 om̄s homines qui sunt i mundo.  
 simul 7 om̄ia que i mundo sūt. Scā ca  
 ritas. q̄fundit om̄s diabolicas 7 carnales  
 temptationes. 7 om̄s carnales timores.  
 Scā obedientia. q̄fundit om̄s corporales 7  
 carnales uolūtates. 7 habet mortificatū co  
 pus suū ad obedientiā sp̄s 7 ad obedientiā  
 fr̄is suū. 7 ē subditus 7 sup̄posit̄ oib; hoib; q̄  
 sūt i mundo. 7 nō tantū solis hoib;. s; etia;  
 oib; bestis 7 feris. ut possint facere de eo  
 quicq̄ uolūnt. quātū fuit eis datū desi  
 p̄ a dño. **sc̄p̄uit laude creaturay q̄s fecit bea  
 tificatus. ad laudē 7 honore dei. cū eēt i firm̄ ap̄  
 sc̄m d̄manū.**

**M**aximū omnipotente ioh̄n̄nore. tue  
 sole laude la gloria et honore 7 onne  
 dote soloatissimo se  
 konfano. 7 nullu homo  
 ene dignu te m̄conare.  
 benedictione.

*de Honore et Ca  
 lano pag. 263.  
 vnde scribitur in  
 q̄ndā d̄manū  
 in d̄manū  
 neque h̄nt  
 h̄nt f̄cisse  
 ad in ultimū  
 d̄manū  
 i. v. pag. 263.*

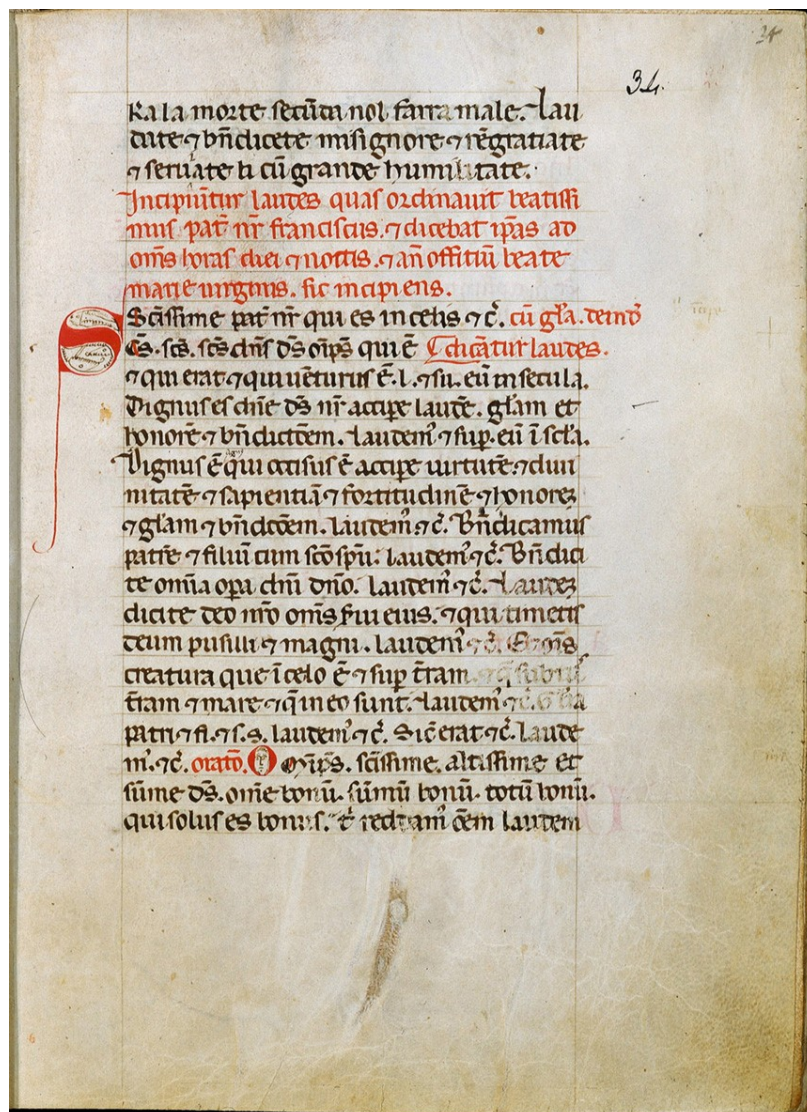


Original pages from the Codex 338 from the Fondo Antico the Biblioteca Comunale of Assisi preserved in the Sacro Convento di San Francesco, Assisi, Italy:

Laudato se mi signore cū tuete le tue crea-  
ture. sicut mte messor lo frē sole. loqua-  
le uano ⁊ allumina noi p lo. Et ellu etella  
et radiante. cū grande splendore. de te altissi-  
mo pta significatē. Laudato si mi signore  
p sora luna et stelle. in celu la formate  
clante ⁊ ptioste ⁊ belle. Laudato si mi signore  
p frē ueto ⁊ p aere ⁊ nubilo ⁊ sereno ⁊ omne  
tēpo. p lo quale ale tue creature tu susten-  
tante. Laudato si mi signore p sora aqua. la  
quale emulto utile ⁊ huile ⁊ ptiosta ⁊ casta.  
Laudato si mi signore p frē focu. p lo quale  
emallumina la nocte. et ello etello ⁊ iocūto  
⁊ robusto ⁊ forte. Laudato si mi signore p  
sora mā mltre tra. la quale ne sustenta  
⁊ gouerna. ⁊ pduce chūsi fructi cō coloriti  
flor ⁊ herba. Laudato si mi signore p quelli  
Re ptonano p lo tuo amore. ⁊ sostengo in  
firmate ⁊ tribulatione. beati quelli Re  
sosterrano in pace. ⁊ da te altissimo sirano  
incoronati. Laudato si mi signore p sora  
nostra morte corpale. da la quale nullu  
hō uolte tollapare. quai acquelli Re  
morano ne le peccata mortali. beati quel  
li ⁊ trouarane le tue sissime uoluntati.



Original pages from the Codex 338 from the Fondo Antico the Biblioteca Comunale of Assisi preserved in the Sacro Convento di San Francesco, Assisi, Italy:





*Momentum of Francis Assisi*

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*Momentum used by  
St. Francis de Assisi*