

THE MIRACLES OF ST. BENEDICT

(20) Proud as a Peacock

[adapted by Deacon Roy Goetz, from [The Dialogues, Book II](#) by [St. Gregory the Great](#)]



Once when Benedict was taking his evening meal, a young monk was instructed to hold a lamp for his abbot. Because the young man was the son of a high-ranking official, he thought the task was beneath him and his pride began to get the best of him. He thought to himself, “Who is this man and why should I have to hold the lamp for him while he eats? Who am I to be serving him?” Benedict, knowing the young man’s thoughts, scolded him, “Brother, what are you thinking to yourself? Cross your heart with the Sign of the Cross!” Then, calling the other monks together, he had one of them take the lamp instead and told the young complainer to sit down by himself and be quiet. Later the young monk was asked by his brothers what he had done wrong, and he admitted to giving in to the spirit of pride and had murmured against his abbot. At that, the monks realized that nothing could be kept secret from their holy abbot, not even the unspoken sentiments of their hearts.