

What is that"? and someone who knew Latin said, "Oh, this means that this indulgence cannot take anybody out of Purgatory." He said, "It does." What does that next one mean?" "Why, that next one means that if the Pope has the power of giving an indulgence and releasing people from eternal suffering, why doesn't he just do it as a free gift for the people's sake instead of charging money for it?" And they went on, and when they heard a few of these, they said, "Say, I'd like to show those to my friends. Won't you write me out a translation?" So they translated them into German, and printed them, and they began to take them, and sell them here and there, and within a month or two they were on sale all over Germany. And within three months, they had reached Rome.

One day the Pope came in from one of his huntings--he'd been hunting, and he was going to a great banquet that evening-- he was in a hurry to get dressed for it; but as he came down the hall an attendant came rushing up to him and said, "Your Holiness! Your Holiness!" he said "Look at this!" The Pope said "What's that?" "Why," he said, "a monk up in Germany has written these theses attacking indulgences."

Now Leo X, the pope, was not like some of his predecessors. The papacy had fallen into great corruption and degradation then. The pope 20 years before him, Alexander VI, had had his mistresses living right with him in the Vatican, and had made his illegitimate sons Cardinals. The pope who followed him, Julius II, had led an army and captured cities and sold the people into slavery in order to increase the lands held by the central power of the papacy. But Leo X wasn't like any of these; he was a cultured, refined gentleman. He loved music, he loved poetry, he loved