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**EPITAPH OF PHILIPPA OF LANCASTER, QUEEN
OF PORTUGAL, 1387-1415, WIFE OF D. JOÃO I,
TAKEN FROM HER TOMB IN BATALHA ABBEY**

(Translated from Latin by Heather Shearer)

The fairest, most eminent and modest and indeed she longed for Queen Philippa, beautiful grand-daughter of the most powerful and distinguished King Edward of England, and from good parentage on both sides, most famous sister of the distinguished King Henry IV of England, daughter of the Lord John, Duke of Lancaster who was the most admirable son of the said King Edward, and of the Lady Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster.

This same John of Lancaster, after the death of the said Duchess of Lancaster, took in marriage Constance the daughter of Pedro, the most distinguished King of Castile, as a result of which having the legal right to the Kingdom of Castile without hesitation he went on to take it up and having the name and title of King he also came as Lord to rule over the English people. In the ships of the most eminent and powerful King João of Portugal, he crossed the sea and came to Galicia, and there he laid hold of the stronghold of Corunna and others, which had rendered obedience to the ancestor of the King, and the acclaimed Duke of Lancaster coming to Portugal and seeing the aforementioned most invincible King João, who took in marriage the most well-born Lady Philippa, his first and most admirable child, in the year 1387, for the betrothed King was indeed at the time 29 years old, and the lady being 26 years old, together these leaders entered the Kingdom of Castile commanding various strongholds; so demanding and grand were the works they undertook,

that they continued so long in the realm of Castile because they were most illustrious and excellent.

The powerful King Juan of Castile entered into an agreement with this Duke because the Infante Lord Enrique, the first born son of the King was bound in marriage with the Lady Catalina, (his daughter by his second wife), the daughter of King Pedro of Castile. And King Juan of Castile having been given 2000 measures of gold (in francs) by his nephew, obliged himself to repay the measures with 40 for each year of the Duke's life, and with this bond the Duke returned to Portugal. And there on account of João the most glorious and famous King of those lands, the Duke of Lancaster endowed with so many honours and to the greatest number was pleasant and esteemed.

This Queen was supremely happy from her youth and till the end of her life entirely devoted to God, and in all her accustomed religious duties she applied herself so diligently that through that very practice she became learned in religious observances. Since some time was necessarily lost to the government of her life, she devoted all the rest to continuous discussion, contemplation, reading and prayers of worship. Indeed she led many honourable men faithfully and she taught morality to her honourable sons having justly restrained them; and those material goods distributed throughout the churches and monasteries she gave to the poor, and to the noble married domicile she extended her most generous hand. For she was entirely the people's sweetheart and defender of peace and most efficient petitioner for peace with Christ's followers, freely supporting the destruction of the unfaithful before God. She fought against injustice but she herself was so prone to the remission of punishment that she could never extract vengeance from those who had done wrong, her resort (to act) upon it. This good lady stood as a fine example of wholesome living, a guidance for domicile, and an example of total honesty; she was a most restrained teacher for all these people in her refined care. Striving after these and so many other virtues (which would have demanded the humbleness of stone of any one else) at length she came to the appointed end of her transitory life, just as her life was the best and very much holy, so then was her death esteemed and glorious in the sight of God, and having been received by all the holy ones, it brought blessing on her sons, keeping safe and ensuring her divine indulgence and honour and advantage for her kingdoms, and on account of these things she doubtless hoped to be saved from the fire, most virtuously, she had brought to completion finally her labours in this world, that

those present who heard these (deeds) related, would maintain one firm hope of her salvation. She died on the 19th day of July in the year 1415 and in the Monastery of Odivelas before a gathering of monks, on the same day she was buried and in the following year of the 9th day of October. By the side of her precious body which was found intact and smelling sweetly, her husband King João, her excellent children, Prince Duarte, the first born, Prince Pedro of Coimbra, Prince Henrique of Viseu, Prince João and Prince Fernando and the Infanta Lady Isabel, themselves most glorious children of a blessed Queen, accompanied by great numbers of people, and the body of the Queen was taken to the monastery of the Victory where so many noble lords and ladies have been buried. On the greater and more importante day of the 18th of October 1416 her body was taken to the chapel and later the body of her most noble and virtuous husband was buried in the same tomb under the same cast that bears this epitaph. The Allpowerful and everlasting God deigned to bless these people with happiness.