

13. UNARMED INTELLECT IN ANCIENT WISE MEN
WAS SUBJECTED TO THE ARMS OF MADMEN¹

Astrologers, having foreseen in a country
a constellation that was to drive men mad,
decided to flee in order later
to rule sanely the afflicted people.

Returning then to carry out their leadership,
they advised those mad ones through fine speech
on the proper life, good food and dress.
But each one contested them with kicks and punches.

So, the wise were forced to live
like the fools were accustomed, in order to avoid death,
because the greatest madman held the highest throne.

They lived by their intellect only behind closed doors:
in public applauding, in deeds and name,
the nonsensical and crooked wishes of those others.

Settimontano Squilla
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1. An exemplary parable to understand how the world was driven mad by sin, and how the wise men, wanting to cure it, were forced to say, do, and live like the crazy ones, although they held another opinion secretly.