

El Cid

EPIC & LEGENDARY HEROES SERIES

SELECTED AUTHORS

El Cid

Selected Authors

Libraries of Hope

El Cid
Epic & Legendary Heroes Series

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Libraries of Hope, Inc.
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Website www.librariesofhope.com
Email: librariesofhope@gmail.com

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The Story of the World for the Children of the British Empire

A Spanish Hero

"Hadst thou lived in days of old,
O what wonders had been told."
—*KZATS.*

While the Vikings were sailing over the stormy seas in their great black ships, and while the Normans were crossing over to England to complete their conquests, the Moors from the far East were again overrunning Spain.

These Moors or Arabs were not pagans like the Northmen, the Goths, the Vandals, or the Saxons: they called themselves Mohammedans, or followers of the prophet Mohammed.

Mohammed was born in the sixth century after Christ, about the time when King Arthur was ruling over Britain. But not till he was forty years old did Mohammed come forth and assume the title of prophet.

One day, says an old story, he was wandering in the solitary desert-land around Mecca, depressed and melancholy, when he heard a voice, and beheld between heaven and earth an angel, who assured him that he—Mohammed—was the prophet of God. Nothing doubting, the new prophet came forth and began to teach this: That there was One God, and that Mohammed was his prophet.

To the ignorant wandering Arabs this was a new light. They flocked round Mohammed. His commanding presence, his keen black eyes, his flowing beard, his gracious smile and eloquent teaching, drew more and ever more to his side. His followers increased rapidly. He could not write, but he dictated his doctrines; and they were written down in a book

called the Koran, which is to the Mohammedans today what the Bible is to the Christians. Mohammedanism is still the religion used chiefly in the East.

"Who goes there?" cries the watchman nightly in the streets of Cairo; and the dusky Arab passes with the answer, "There is no God but God."

These Arabs, then, who had roamed unnoticed in their desert-lands since the very earliest times, now sprang into fame. United in one faith, their armies making converts as they went, they conquered North Africa, and finally became masters of Spain. Charlemagne and Roland had fought against them, but now they were rulers over a great part of the country.

It was at this time that the Cid—the great popular hero of Spain—arose to deliver his country from the power of the Arabs, to deliver Christians from the influence of Mohammedanism.

The story of the Cid is mixed with legend and fable; but there is much truth lying under the husks of legend, and many a sound kernel of history wrapped up in the old fables. And to tell the story of Spain without the story of the Cid would be like telling the story of old Greece without the story of Achilles.

Roderick Diaz is the glory of Spain, the hero of the people, the perfect warrior, the ideal man-at-arms; and he lives in the heart of the nation as does Arthur in England or Roland in France.

The Cid, from a word meaning Lord, was born in 1026, and soon rose to fame. When yet a stripling, not twenty summers old, he led an army of Christian warriors against the Arabs, who had entered a province called Castile in the north of Spain. Five kings led the Arab army, but the Cid defeated them among the Spanish mountains and drove them back.

Not only was their beloved Cid brave in battle and merciful in peace, sang the old poets, but he was kind to those

in trouble. Here is a story they tell. After his victory over the five Moorish kings he set out on a journey with his knights and followers. As they journeyed they found a poor leper, stuck fast in the mud, shouting for help. The Spanish knights passed by, but the Cid leaped from his horse, lifted the poor man to his saddle, and took him back. At table that night he shared his plate with the afflicted man, and took him to his own bed. At midnight he awoke. The leper was gone, but he saw a form clothed in dazzling white.

"I, whom thou didst take for a poor leper and didst help—I am St. Lazarus," said a voice. "And in return for what thou hast done for the love of God, thou mayst ask whatever thou wilt and it shall be accomplished. Thou shalt be feared by Moor and Christian, and never shall thy enemies prevail over thee."

Faithfully, indeed, did the Cid serve his king; but after a while there were men who whispered evil against him, and the king was angry with the Cid and bade him leave Spain within nine days, never to return. Sadly the Cid went forth from his own city, while men and women wept at the thought of their hero leaving them forever. But the king forgave him after a time, and the Cid came home again and helped his country against the Moors. He besieged Valencia, which was one of the richest towns in the kingdom, and took it after a desperate resistance from within.

The Cid ruled the city for some years both wisely and well. But again a great Moorish host came against the city led by a king from North Africa. The Cid had grown old and feeble, and his long beard was snowy white, and he knew that death was near. Yet he had been told in a vision that he should still conquer the Moors. The Cid called his people around him: then he spoke. He was very weak, but his voice was clear.

"Ye know that the king will soon be here with seven-and-thirty other kings and with a mighty power of Moors," he said. "After I have departed see that ye utter no cries, that the

Moors may not know of my death, but sound your trumpets and tambours and make the greatest rejoicings you can. Then saddle ye my horse and arm him well, and ye shall apparel my body full seemly, and place me upon the horse, and fasten and tie me thereon so that I cannot fall."

The next day the Cid died. And they dressed his body and set it on his beloved horse, supported by a framework of boards. They hung his shield about his neck, they placed his sword upright in his hand, and they led their dead hero against his foes.

The Moors came on. "But it seemed to them that there came against them on the part of the Christians full seventy thousand knights, all as white as snow, and before them a knight of great stature upon a white horse with a cross of blood, who bore in one hand a white banner, and in the other a sword which seemed to be of fire." The Moors were so terrified that they fled, never stopping till they reached the sea. And so great was the press that numbers were drowned before ever they could reach the ships.

So the Cid conquered the Moors even in death, according to this old story; but after all it is but a story of the old days in Spain.

Old Time Tales

The Cid Wins His Name

Rodrigo Diaz was born of a good family in Spain; in fact, his family was almost as good as that of King Ferando himself. Rodrigo's father was named Diego, but at the time our story begins he was an old man, weak and infirm of body, but still very sensitive about his honor.

It happened that Diego fell into a dispute with Gomez, a powerful warrior, who, in a moment of anger, struck Diego in the face. The old courtier was too feeble to resent the insult and retired to his home to brood in solitude over the offence which had been paid him.

Rodrigo was a mere boy at the time and by no means a match for Gomez, but he said to his father, "I shall resent the insult to my house, for on me alone can you depend for vengeance. Give me your sword and I shall ask nothing but a fair field and the justice of heaven."

Saying this, he took his father's sword and found Gomez, whom he challenged to mortal combat. Gomez looked at the youth and replied to his challenge, "I do not fight with boys, but since you wish to meet me I shall on the morrow break a lance with you."

When the day came for the battle so careless was Gomez and so valiant was Rodrigo that the youth's lance passed through the warrior's body, killing him outright and wiping out the insult done to his father.

When Diego heard of the vow of his son and how his house had been avenged of the insult, he told his son to sit at the head of the table, which was a sign that he was then the head of the house. Shortly after this the old man died, and Rodrigo really did become the head of the house.

Gomez had a daughter named Ximena. She went to King Ferando and threw herself at his feet, demanding justice. Seeing Rodrigo among the courtiers she denounced him for slaying her father and bade him take her life also as she had no wish to survive her parent.

Several times this appeal was repeated, only to be refused by the king. Each time she noticed with increased favor the comeliness of Rodrigo and each time he noticed the beauty of the daughter of the man he had killed. The last time she came she threw herself before the king and with downcast eyes said, "My lord, the king, I now forego my thoughts of vengeance on Rodrigo, for he did right to avenge the insult upon his father. My heart has changed towards him and I now beg that you will give him to me in marriage."

The king had suspected for some time that Rodrigo and Ximena had fallen in love with each other. Sending for Rodrigo, he told him of the strange request of the fair young woman. Rodrigo accepted her on the spot and their marriage was celebrated with much pomp and ceremony.

Rodrigo took his wife home and gave her to his mother to care for. After this he bade her good-bye, saying, "I am going to win five battles and then I shall consider myself worthy of your love." And then he asked the king to allow him to make a pious pilgrimage to Compostella. He set out with a band of twenty knights. The king had given him land and presents at the time of his wedding, so that now he was quite rich and traveled in great state. Nevertheless, he was always mindful of the needs of others and distributed much charity on his way.

The story goes, as he traveled along the highway, he saw a leper who had fallen into a quagmire and who cried out, "Help me, my lords and knights, or I will perish in this bog. I am a poor leper and I am sore in need."

The knights halted and looked at the awful object in the mire by the road. All of them spurred their horses to ride

away, but Rodrigo remained still. He alighted from his horse and helped the leper out of the quagmire and to the surprise and alarm of his knights put him on his horse and carried him to the inn. At this the knights were still more alarmed and surprised.

At the evening meal the knights, with frowns, kept away from the sick man, but Rodrigo shared his dish with him. He even did more; he ordered beds to be prepared for the company and in his own chamber ordered a bed to be made ready for himself and the leper. After bathing the leper, he shared with him his best linen and put him carefully to bed and lay down by him and was glad to notice that the sick man dropped into a comfortable sleep.

About midnight he awoke and reached out his hand to find his companion, but the bed was empty. Somewhat alarmed, he arose and called for a light and looked everywhere in the room to find the leper, but nowhere could he be found and the party again retired to their sleep. Shortly afterwards, while Rodrigo was still awake wondering at the strange occurrence, he saw standing before him an angel in white garments and it said to him, "Art thou awake or asleep, Rodrigo?"

The knight answered, "I do not sleep. But who art thou that bringest such brightness and so sweet an odor?"

The angel answered, "I am St. Lazarus. I was the leper to whom thou didst so much good, and because thou didst this for me and for His sake thou shalt gain honor in every way. Thou shalt be feared by thy enemies, thou shalt die an honorable death and thy name shall be immortal."

The angel disappeared and Rodrigo fell upon his knees and prayed for the remainder of the night. The next day he went on his pilgrimage, distributing alms and kind words on the way.

After awhile King Ferando died and Don Sancho reigned in his stead. Rodrigo was ever a faithful knight, never failing

in bravery and in justice or in alms-giving to the poor and needy. By this time he had many followers, and the people of Spain looked upon him as their most valiant leader. In many battles with the Moors he took much booty and for himself accumulated great riches and power.

So just was he that he quarreled with Don Sancho, his king, over some matter of injustice, which made the king banish him from his kingdom for a while. Rodrigo withdrew with his followers, surrendered all his possessions to the king and swore that he would never trim his beard for the rest of his life. After awhile, Don Sancho realized the mistake he had made and called him back from his exile and restored him to power.

To show the influence he had over his knights the story of Martin Pelaez, the Coward, is told. When he was engaged in the siege of Valencia, Martin Pelaez came to him and joined his band. He was a big, strong fellow, with a warlike appearance, but Rodrigo knew him to be a coward and a braggart and was not much pleased at his coming. Still, he thought he could make a good knight of him and let him stay.

Every day parties were sent out to fight the Moors who came forth from Valencia. One day Pelaez, who belonged to one of these parties, seeing all the knights fighting very hard and thinking that no one would notice him, ran away and hid until Rodrigo and his men came back to dinner.

Now it was the custom at meals, that Rodrigo, being the chief, should eat alone at the high table. At the next table sat the bravest and most renowned knights, while at the third table and still lower were placed those knights who had won no fame in arms. On the day of this adventure Pelaez having washed his hands, boldly walked in and was about to take his seat among the brave knights at the second table.

Rodrigo, however, had seen him run away, and so he took him by the hand and led him to his own table, saying, "You are not fit to sit with these men, but I will have you sit with

me."

Pelaez was so much astonished that he could make no reply, but not knowing that Rodrigo had detected his cowardice he held his head very high and sat at meat with his leader.

The next day there was another battle in which Rodrigo watched Pelaez to see if the lesson had had any effect. In the midst of the fight, however, the poor coward turned and ran home so as to hide himself again. This did not escape the eye of Rodrigo, though he did not show that he had noticed it.

At the afternoon meal Rodrigo took Pelaez by the hand and led him up to his own table, saying to him, "My friend, your valor is so great you deserve to eat with me out of the same dish." Then turning to the knights he spoke in praise of Pelaez, though for the life of them they could not tell wherein he had been so brave or what he had done.

Pelaez listened, but was finally much ashamed of himself. He thought he saw through the motives of his leader and said to himself in an undertone, "The next time I shall be worthy of this."

The next day a great encounter took place and, strange to say, Martin Pelaez was in the very front ranks of the knights, fighting with so much skill and bravery that his companions looked upon him with wonder and said to themselves, "Now we see why he deserves such praise from our master."

He killed many Moors with his own hands, and those who escaped reported that Rodrigo had engaged the devil to fight for him, for they never beheld such terrible features or heard so awful a voice or felt so weighty a sword as those of the one they called Pelaez.

At the evening meal Rodrigo took no notice of him, and Pelaez quietly walked in and sat down at the last table, but the valorous knights arose as one and called out, "Here is your place, Martin Pelaez; sit here with those who best defend the honor of Spain." From that time forth Martin Pelaez was one

of the bravest knights in Spain and one of the best friends Rodrigo had.

After a long siege, Valencia fell into the hands of Rodrigo and his followers. Here he established himself with all his knights and soldiers and sent to the king rich gifts, which he had taken from the Moors in their many battles around the city. He was now beginning to feel his years and longed to see his family again, so he sent for his wife and his daughters, who came to live with him at Valencia.

The months passed quietly and nothing came for a while to mar his peaceful life. The next spring, however, the Moors came again and besieged the city in great numbers. Rodrigo made preparations for a long siege, laid in a great store of provisions and strengthened the walls of the city.

Early in the morning Rodrigo led his four thousand knights to fight against fifty thousand of the savage Moors. His wife and daughters watched the battle from the towers of the city, saying they had never seen him in battle and wished to know what a battle was like. When they saw the long beard of Rodrigo, which had now grown white, waving around while he sat astride his horse, Babieca, they well understood why his men rallied around and called out, "The Cid! The Cid!" which means the chief.

At the end of the day only fifteen thousand of the Moors were left alive out of the fifty thousand which were encamped before the city in the morning. So terrible was the slaughter that every knight who returned from the battle looked as if he had been washed in blood and all the horses' flanks were dripping with the red gore of the battle.

A great deal of treasure was left on the field by the Moors. Rodrigo captured the Moorish king's sword, Tizona; also a wonderful tent of the Moorish chief and many gold and silver ornaments.

The next day he sent presents to the king of Spain, which, when they arrived, excited the envy and jealousy of the other

knights at the court.

"Surely," they said, "this knight Rodrigo, or the Cid, as his followers call him, must be as great as our king himself." And they looked with evil eyes upon the messengers.

But the king rebuked them sternly, saying, "If you had been as faithful in my service, and as valiant in battle against the enemies of my kingdom, as he whom his soldiers call the Cid, I should feel safer in my own household, and more secure on the throne of my ancestors."

The Story of the Cid for Young People

CHAPTER 1

The Cid. The Moors in Spain. Rodrigo Slays Count Gomez. He Gives Battle to the Moors and Captures Five Kings. He Marries the Daughter of Count Gomez.

We are about to tell you the story of a very famous and wonderful man, whose real life was more remarkable than any which novel writers could invent. This man did such extraordinary deeds that almost from the day of his death the poets and chroniclers and minstrels began to write and sing about them, and his name was carried about the world until everybody had heard of the glory of "The Cid." Especially in his own country, Spain, he has always been looked upon as the greatest and the noblest of men; and the writers of that land speak of him as "The Perfect One," "The One Born in a Happy Hour," "My Cid," and in other like terms of praise and endearment.

This most splendid of Spanish heroes, who is universally known as "The Cid," and whose real name was Rodrigo Diaz de Bivar, was born between the years 1030 and 1040, but the exact date is not certainly known. The poets and minstrels have mingled a good many legends with the facts of his life, but we shall relate the story with all its romance, and tell of the Cid as his countrymen have done. In spite of all the myths, it is beyond doubt that the real Rodrigo was one of the most wonderful men who has ever lived, and that he was the greatest warrior who fought in the long and fierce struggles between the Christians and the Mahometans.

You will be anxious to know what the title, "The Cid," means, and why it was given to Rodrigo Diaz, and we shall

not keep you in the dark, but explain this at the outset. This unique title was given to our hero by five Moorish kings whom he conquered in one battle, and who then acknowledged him as their lord, or, as that word is in the Arabic language, "El Seid." He was also called "Campeador" or Champion of his countrymen against the Moors. Thus he was often spoken of as "El Cid Campeador," or the Lord Champion.

In order to make clear the situation in Spain when the Cid lived and fought, we must go back for a moment into the history of that land previous to his time. Early in the eighth century the Moors, who were Arabs living in North Africa, made a raid into Spain, and having been entirely successful, they were encouraged to undertake the conquest of the country. This, under a succession of leaders, they partially accomplished, bringing a large part of Spain under their control, but they were unable to subdue all of that land. As the Moors were followers of the prophet Mahomet, Spain was now not only divided between two races, but two religions, the Mahometan and the Christian. Hence a series of struggles continued to take place between the two powers and the two religions, and lasted for many centuries.

In this period, when his country was occupied both by its natives and the Moorish invaders, and when constant warfare was going on between the two forces, Rodrigo Diaz, who was to become the greatest soldier of Spain, was born. He came of a good family, but it did not belong to the higher nobility of the Counts. One of his ancestors, however, was a very famous man; this was Layn Calvo, who had been a judge of great prominence and distinction. From him descended Diego Laynez, who was the father of the Cid; the mother was named Doña Teresa Rodriguez, and she was the daughter of Don Rodrigo Alvarez, who was Count and Governor of Asturias. It was their child Rodrigo who was to become known as "The Cid."

Rodrigo manifested a martial spirit at a very early age, and

showed a strong desire to do battle against the Moors, whom he learned to hate bitterly as soon as he knew that they were invaders of his country, and that they oppressed his people. He practised himself in the use of all sorts of warlike weapons, and became expert with them while yet a boy. The earliest example of his prowess that is told is this: While Rodrigo was still a youth, there arose a strife between his father, Diego Laynez, and Count Don Gomez, the Lord of Gormaz; and this Count in his anger insulted Diego and struck him. Diego was at this time an old man, was not able to fight with the Count, and could do nothing but go home and brood over the wrong that he had suffered; but he felt so keenly the insult he had received that he lost all appetite, was unable to sleep, sat alone in his house, and would not raise his eyes from the floor.

This Count was known as one of the best warriors in Spain, and he held a prominent place in the Cortes (as the Spanish Congress is called); while Rodrigo was scarcely more than a boy. Yet Rodrigo felt so deeply the wrong done to his father, and the insult offered to the blood of his ancestor, Layn Calvo, that he declared he would challenge the Count and slay him. When he told his father what he wished to do, Diego looked on him with joy, seeing that he was so strong and brave; and he said that for this great combat he would give him the sword of the famous hero, Mudarra. The old man bestowed on his son his blessing and the splendid sword, which had a jewelled cross for its handle; and when Rodrigo had caught hold of it he felt that his arm was even as strong as that of the celebrated man who had wielded it so effectively in many battles in past times, and he rejoiced greatly that he had so fine a weapon for the proposed fight.

Rodrigo now with a brave heart set forth, and sent a challenge to the Count who had insulted his father, defying him and asking him to appoint a time and place for the combat. The Count accepted the defiance promptly, thinking it would be a simple task for him to kill this audacious youth who

wished to cross swords with so noted a warrior as himself. But when they met for the fray the Count quickly learned that he had an antagonist of wonderful skill and strength. He fought hard, and thrust at Rodrigo furiously, but was unable to touch him. Suddenly Rodrigo made a great thrust that pierced right through the vitals of his enemy, and laid him dead at his feet. Then he stood over him and cut off his head, and taking it up he hung it at his saddle bow, and galloped to his home.

His father at that moment was sitting at the table, but eating nothing. Rodrigo hailed him in a cheerful voice, and having embraced him, he said, "Come out. Here is something to give you an appetite;" and led him forth to the threshold whence Diego could see the bloody head of his enemy hanging on the saddle.

"There," said Rodrigo, "is the tongue that insulted you." Then the old man embraced his son, and made him sit in the highest seat at the table, saying, "You who have brought home that head shall be the head of the house of Layn Calvo." Diego was now comforted, and regained his appetite; and he rejoiced greatly in so stout and daring a son.

The Moors soon after this began to make fresh trouble, and invaded the kingdom of Castile with a very large force. There came with them five kings, who plundered and robbed along their path, carrying away as prisoners both men and women, as well as horses, cattle, and sheep. After they had committed these depredations, they were making haste to return to their country and get off with the spoil; but news came to Rodrigo of what they were doing, and he at once mounted his horse and rode about among his countrymen, calling upon them to follow him and give battle to the Moors. Thus he raised a great company, and pursued the enemy until he overtook them in the mountains. There Rodrigo and his companions fell upon the Moors and after a hard battle defeated them, recovered all the prisoners and the spoil, and made the five kings captive.

Rodrigo then divided all the spoil among the noble-men and his other followers, and he set the five kings at liberty. These kings were so delighted with his magnanimity, that they promised to send him tribute, and became his vassals, calling him "El Seid"; that is, they acknowledged themselves dependent upon him as if he were a great king. So they returned to their own country. Thus Rodrigo had not only relieved his countrymen who were in distress, but he had won for himself allies and friends among the Moors themselves. From that time forward he began to have a great name among both the Spaniards and the Moors.

When Don Ferrando (who was king of Castile, Leon, and Portugal, that is, the greater part of Spain that the Moors did not control) heard of this deed of Rodrigo, he was greatly pleased, and knew he now had a man in his kingdom who was able to compete with any of his enemies. About the same time there appeared before the king a young lady, Ximena Gomez, who was the daughter of the Count who had insulted Diego and had been slain by Rodrigo. She had heard so much of the prowess and fame of this young hero that she conceived a violent desire to have him for her husband. As she was a lady of rank superior to that of Rodrigo, and as it was not in those days considered immodest for a woman to appeal to the king in such a matter, Ximena knelt before the king and said: —

"I am the youngest daughter of Count Gomez, who was slain by Rodrigo Diaz. I am come to crave of you a boon, that you will give me this Rodrigo for my husband; for I am sure that he will one day be the greatest man in your kingdom. It is right for you to do this, for it will be for God's service, and I will pardon Rodrigo for my father's death."

Don Ferrando was much pleased with this plan; and he commanded that a letter be sent to Rodrigo ordering him to come at once to Palencia where the king then was. When Rodrigo received this message, he rejoiced and made ready to obey, and to this end he dressed himself in holiday costume,

and took with him two hundred knights and friends, all in gay apparel, and set forth. When he drew near to Palencia, the king went out to meet him, and received him with great honor; this action excited the jealousy of the Counts, who were of the higher order of nobility, and they were much vexed that the king showed the youth Rodrigo more favor than he gave to them.

When the king had found a suitable time, he told Rodrigo that Doña Ximena Gomez had asked for him as her husband, and that she was willing to forgive him for slaying her father. The king urged him to accept her offer, and promised that in such case he would favor him in every possible manner.

This news pleased Rodrigo greatly, and he answered that he would do in this and every respect as the king commanded. The monarch expressed his pleasure at this obedience, and when the wedding took place soon after, he gave them many gifts of lands and other treasures, for he loved Rodrigo much for all that he had done, and for his loyalty and for his brave and manly nature.

Then Rodrigo took his lovely bride to the home of his mother, his father having recently died, and he charged his mother that she should love his wife even as she did him. When she had given this promise, he said he was now going away and would not return until he had won five battles. So he set forth to make war against the Moors.

CHAPTER 2

Rodrigo's Vision. His Combat with Don Martin Gonzales for Calahorra. The Envy of The Counts of Castile. A Plot Against His Life.

At this time the king, Don Ferrando of Castile, was having a violent dispute with King Don Ramiro of Aragon, in regard to the city of Calahorra, which, being at the boundary between their kingdoms, each claimed as his own. In order to settle this question the king of Aragon proposed that it should be decided by single combat, as it was not unusual in those days for kings or generals to select a distinguished warrior for each side, and to agree to abide by the issue, instead of having whole armies fight. The king of Aragon chose as his champion Don Martin Gonzales, who was thought to be the greatest knight in all Spain.

King Don Ferrando agreed to this combat, and selected as his champion Rodrigo Diaz. As this warrior was not then present, the kings appointed a time when they would again meet, with their knights; and they promised each other that the knight who was victorious should win Calahorra for his master. When they had returned to their own countries, Ferrando told Rodrigo of the engagement he had made for him to fight on his behalf. Rodrigo rejoiced at this news, and said he would most willingly fight; but meanwhile, before the day for the contest arrived, he must go on a pilgrimage, as he had made a vow to do so.

To this end, Rodrigo set forth, in the company of twenty knights, and as he went he gave money to many beggars, and assisted the poor and needy whenever they crossed his path. Of this journey the following legend is told, and it serves to

show the nature of the fanciful stories that are mixed up with the true tale of the Cid. This legend says that on the road they found a leper who was sinking in a bog, and who called to them to help him for the love of God; and that at this appeal Rodrigo got off his horse, and rescued the man from his peril, placed him before him on his horse, and carried him to an inn. The knights who were his companions found fault with this intimate treatment of one with so loathsome a disease.

But when supper was ready, Rodrigo went still farther in his kindness, and made the leper sit next to himself, and he ate with him out of the same dish. At this the knights rose up and left the room. But Rodrigo did not change his conduct toward the poor man, for he indeed slept with him in the same bed on that night. The legend tells that at midnight, when Rodrigo was fast asleep, the leper breathed against his back so strongly that the breath passed through his body. Then Rodrigo awoke, very much amazed at the strange feeling he had had, and he felt with his hands for the leper who had been with him in the bed, but he was not there; he called, but received no answer. Then he was afraid, and he rose up and asked for a light, and looked all through the room; but the man could not be found, so he returned to bed, and left the light burning.

After a while there appeared before him a figure dressed in white, and said, "Rodrigo, art thou asleep or awake?" Rodrigo answered, "I am not asleep; but who art thou, with light all about thee, and so pleasant an odor?" Then the other said: "I am St. Lazarus, and I was the leper to whom thou didst kindness for the love of God; and because thou didst this for His sake, God hath now granted thee a great gift. For whenever that breath which thou hast felt shall come upon thee, whatever thou desirest to do, and then begin, thou shalt accomplish, so that thy honor shall go on increasing from day to day. Thou shalt be feared both by Moors and Christians, and thy foes shall never prevail against thee; therefore go thou

on, and always persevere in doing good." With that the figure disappeared, and Rodrigo arose and prayed until morning that his body and soul might be watched over in all his enterprises. In the morning he went on until he had finished his pilgrimage.

The day came at last which had been appointed for the contest respecting the city of Calahorra, but Rodrigo had not appeared. As it was customary in those days on such an occasion for the party whose champion failed to arrive to be considered defeated, it was necessary in order to avoid this calamity to appoint another warrior to enter the lists; and for this purpose Alvar Fanez Minaya, who was a cousin of Rodrigo, offered to take his place, and ordered his horse to be made ready. But while Alvar was putting on his armor, Rodrigo came and took the horse of his cousin, and rode into the lists. Don Martin Gonzales, the champion of the king of Aragon, also entered. Then the judges assigned them to their positions in such a manner that the sun should not be in the eyes of either of them.

They then started their horses rapidly toward each other, and met with such great force that the lances of the champions broke in their hands, and they were both severely wounded. At this Don Martin thought to frighten Rodrigo by loud words, and he cried out: "Now, Don Rodrigo, thou dost repent that thou hast entered the lists with me. For thou shalt never see again Doña Ximena thy wife, whom thou dost love so well, and thou shalt never return alive to Castile!"

This speech angered Rodrigo, who answered: "You are a good knight, Don Martin, but such words are out of place here. In this enterprise we fight with hands, not with empty speeches. The power is in God, who will give the honor as He thinks best."

With these words, Rodrigo rushed upon Don Martin, and smote him with his sword on the helmet, and cut through it, and gave him a great wound on the head, so that the blood

streamed forth. Then Don Martin struck at Rodrigo, and his sword cut into the shield, so that when he drew his weapon back again, he took Rodrigo's shield along. But Rodrigo smote him again in the face. Then they grew very furious in their fighting, striking with all their force on every chance.

Now the great amount of blood that Don Martin had lost told on his strength, and he grew so weak that he could no longer hold himself upon his horse, but fell to the ground. Then Rodrigo alighted, and speedily put him to death. When this was done, he turned to the judges and asked if there was anything more to be accomplished to justify the claim of Don Ferrando to the city of Calahorra; but the judges declared that the right of the king of Castile was now undisputed.

After this Don Ferrando got off his horse and took Rodrigo in his arms, and with his own hands helped to unloose his armor; and the king rode with him from the field, while he and the Castilians praised their champion and rejoiced in his prowess in defeating one who had been considered the greatest knight in all Spain; while the king of Aragon and his followers lamented greatly over the loss of their cause and the death of their famous champion, whose body they now took up and carried into their own country.

But the good fortune and great honor now enjoyed by Rodrigo did not come to him without exciting the envy of the Counts of Castile. These were, indeed, so vexed by his successes that they determined, if possible, to destroy him, in order that they might not be outshone by this wonderful man. As they did not see how this could be accomplished directly by themselves without causing them to be suspected of the crime, they planned together that they should place Rodrigo in the power of the Moors. They agreed among themselves that they should arrange with the Moors to fight a battle with them on a certain day, and that they should invite Rodrigo to this conflict, and in the midst of it they would contrive to leave him surrounded by enemies, who could fall upon him

and slay him. They believed the Moors would be very glad to get this great champion in their power. In order to carry out their plan, they sent letters to the Moors, and among others to those five Moorish kings whom Rodrigo had set at liberty and who had become his vassals.

Those kings, however, remembering the kindness of Rodrigo to themselves, when they had the letters proposing this treachery, at once sent them to him whom they acknowledged as their lord.

When Rodrigo had received the messengers with the papers, he thanked them very heartily for their loyalty to himself; and he then carried the letters to his own king and told him of this plot against his life. The king was much amazed at this villany and was very angry, and speedily issued orders that all those Counts who had part in this base plot should be expelled from his kingdom. As the king was about to start to Santiago on a pilgrimage, he gave to Rodrigo power to execute these commands.

The wife of one of these Counts, who was called Count Don Garcia, was a cousin of Rodrigo himself; and when she knew that her husband was to be driven out of the country, she came to her kinsman and fell on her knees before him. Rodrigo very courteously took her by the hand and raised her up, saying he would not listen to her until she had ceased to kneel before him who was her relative and friend. When she was upon her feet, she said: "I beg you, my cousin, since you have banished my husband and myself, that you will give us a letter to one of those kings who are your vassals, asking him to befriend us and give us something whereby we may live." Being willing to make their banishment, which her husband had brought upon them by his treachery, as comfortable as possible, Rodrigo gave her a letter to his vassal, the king of Cordova. This Moor received the lady and her husband very kindly, for the sake of Rodrigo, and gave them the town of Cabra, that the false Count and his friends might live there;

but this Count was incapable of gratitude, and some time afterward made war against the king of Cordova from the very town of Cabra which that monarch had given him. When Rodrigo learned of this treachery, he went with his followers and fought against Cabra and took it, and punished the Count for his evil deeds.

CHAPTER 3

A Raid of the Moors. The Sieges of Yisru and Lamego and Coimbra. The Monks of Lorvam. Rodrigo Is Made a Knight. Hence-Forth He Is Called Cid.

The king, Don Ferrando, was now for time in Galicia, and while he was absent, the Moors came into Estremadura. The people of that region, being terrified by the approach of the enemy, sent word speedily to Rodrigo to come to their help. He at once gathered together his friends and kinsmen, and set off in pursuit of the Moors, who had taken many captives and flocks and were hastening away with the spoil. After a time Rodrigo overtook these robbers, and fell upon them with his soldiers, and there was a hard battle. At last he put the enemy to flight, followed them for more than twenty miles, and recovered all the spoil of two hundred horses and several thousands of dollars' worth of other property. All of this Rodrigo divided among his followers.

When the king had returned, he desired to have revenge upon the Moors who had made this invasion; and for this purpose he took with him a great company and entered into their country, burning and killing wherever he went; until he had conquered that region and made the people there promise to be his vassals and pay him tribute. And now that he had succeeded so well, the king went on taking other towns, and finally laid siege to the city of Viseu, for he had a desire to take vengeance upon that place because his wife's father had been killed there.

The people of Viseu had been anticipating this revenge ever since the king's father-in-law had been slain, and in order

to be ready for the coming of the king's army they had fortified their city and had laid away a great store of provisions. They also had great confidence in their Alcaid or governor, who was a Moor from Africa, named Alafum, and a famous warrior. This Alafum encouraged his people in every way, declaring that they need have no fear, for their city could not be taken in ten years by a much greater force than was now besieging it. There were also in the city many men who were very expert in the use of the great cross-bows then in vogue, and they could shoot so powerfully that their bolts would pierce through shields and armor.

King Don Ferrando therefore ordered his people to make mantles for themselves; that is, they were to use thick quilted cloth to swing in front of them, as it is more difficult to pierce a moving cloth than a rigid substance. He also had them use pavaises; that is, shields large enough to cover the whole body: such were held up by one man, while the archer was also protected. He further ordered that they should fasten heavy boards upon their shields, so that the bolts from the cross-bows could not pierce through them.

Then the king besieged the city for eighteen days, keeping such close watch that no one could go in nor out of the town. On the eighteenth day the king's forces stormed the city, and the greater part of the inhabitants were put to death. A few escaped for the time with Alafum into the castle, but on the next day these also surrendered on condition that the lives of all save one should be spared. This man was the Moor who had killed the king's father-in-law; him the king took vengeance upon by lopping off the hands that had held the bow and fitted the bolt that killed the king, and plucked out the eyes that had taken sight; and the living trunk of this man was then set up as a mark for the bowmen. At the taking of this city there was no one who performed more heroic deeds than Rodrigo.

The king, Don Ferrando, now proceeded to the city of

Lamego, and laid siege to it also. The king of this city was a very great warrior, by name Zadar Abem Huim, and he was held in great esteem by all the Moors in the country round about. As his city was very strong and was well stored with food, the principal Moors of that region, who had been terrified by the taking of the town of Viseu, entered Lamego to find protection there. In spite of all this, King Don Ferrando placed his army all around the city, and used so many great engines and catapults for throwing stones and battering against the walls, that this city was taken just twenty-five days after the capture of Viseu. The king of Lamego now became a vassal of Don Ferrando.

The attention of Don Ferrando was called to the city of Coimbra in this manner: The Abbot of Lorvam, a monastery near Coimbra, grieved very much that this city was in the power of the Moors, and he said to his monks: "Let us go to the king, Don Ferrando, and tell him how he can take Coimbra;" and to this end they chose two monks to carry the message. The Moors, when they went hunting in the mountains, were accustomed to lodge in the monastery, in order to find shelter and food; and shortly after the Abbot had made his proposal, certain of the Moors came to find lodging. The two who were to act as messengers said to the Moors, "We desire to go to the holy Dominicum to say prayers for our sins;" and having given this reason for their errand, they set forth and came to the king in the town of Carrion.

Then they said to him: "Sir, we have come over rivers and mountains to bring you news of the condition of Coimbra. If you desire to know, we can tell you how many Moors are there, and how carelessly they guard the city." To this the king said: "I wish very much to know this very matter. Go on, and tell me what you can." Then the monks gave him information as to the state of the city and how he might take it. When the king had learned these things, he called Rodrigo to him, asking what he thought ought to be done, and Rodrigo

said: "Surely the Lord will help you to win this city! Also I am very anxious to be made a knight by your own hand, and I believe now that I shall receive knighthood at your hand in Coimbra;" for although Rodrigo was now the most famous soldier in Spain, he had not yet been made a knight.

The king told the monks that he would take his army against Coimbra in the month of January, it being at that time October. The king at once sent word to his people to assemble and to proceed to do all the damage they could around Coimbra, and to ravage the country so that the city could not lay in supplies for a siege. Now Rodrigo advised the king to make a pilgrimage to Santiago as a religious duty, that he might have success in this campaign; this the king did, remaining three days and nights in prayer, and offering great gifts.

Then by the help of St. James, as he believed, he assembled a great army and went against Coimbra in the month of January, and besieged that place through all of February, March, April, May, and June — five months — but was unable to take it. When July came, the army of King Don Ferrando had but little food left, and they were in nearly as bad a plight as those within the city. In these circumstances, the king was about to give up the siege and announcement was made that they would remain yet four days, and on the fifth every man could go to his own house.

But the monks of Lorvam and the Abbot consulted together and said: "Let us now go to the king and give him all the food we have — oxen and cows and sheep and goats and swine; wheat and barley and maize, bread and wine, fish and fowl. For if the city should not be won by the Christians, the Moors, knowing what we have done to bring the king against them, will destroy us." Then they took to the king all their store of food and drink, which was a great quantity, for they had laid these up through many years.

Thus the camp of the king was well supplied, and the siege

was undertaken with new vigor. But the people in the city were growing weak with hunger. The king's army now used their engines against every part of the walls, and broke them down in some places, and fought constantly with great fury. The Moors, seeing this, were filled with despair, and coming out, fell at the king's feet, begging him to spare their lives and let them go away, and they would leave to him their city and everything within it. The king granted them their prayer, and the city surrendered in less than a week from the day when the monks succored the army with their supplies of food.

King Don Ferrando now gathered about him his counts and generals, and told them what the monks of Lorvam had done, having advised him to lay siege to the city, and having supplied the army with food when they were almost in despair. The officers replied, "Surely, O king, if the monks had not given us food, you could not have taken the city." The king then sent for the Abbot and the brethren, who were with the army saying prayers on their behalf, nursing the sick, and burying in the monastery such as died. These came gladly to the king, and congratulated him on his victory; and the king said to the monks, "Since by your advice and the favor of God I have won this town, you may have as much of this city as you desire."

But the monks answered: "We thank God that through you and your ancestors our monastery has all that it needs. We only ask that you will give us one church, with its dwelling houses, in the city, and that you will confirm to us the gifts already made by your ancestors and other good men." With that the king turned to his officers and said: "Truly, these men are of God, who ask almost nothing! Now, since they desire so little, let us grant their request." The charters were brought, and the king confirmed them; and then the monks brought a crown of gold and of silver, set with precious stones; and when the king saw this, he asked, "Why do you bring here this crown?" And they said, "That you should take it in return

for the good you have done us." But he said: "By no means will I take from your monastery what good men have given it. Take back the crown, and also this money, with which you are to erect a cross to remain with you forever."

So the king signed the documents, as did his sons and officers also, and in the writings he commanded them and their descendants to always honor and protect the monastery of Lorvam.

At this time also Rodrigo was made a knight, on account of the great deeds he had done at this siege and in former battles. This ceremony was performed in the great Mosque of Coimbra, which having been a Mahometan temple was now dedicated as a Christian church. In the presence of a great company Rodrigo knelt down before the king, and the king girded on him his sword, and gave him a kiss, but he did not dub him with a blow as the custom often was.

In order to do him the greater honor, the queen herself held the rein of his horse, and the Princess Doña Urraca fastened on his spurs; so that he was more honored than any other knight had been.

The king commanded him also to knight nine noble squires with his own hand; and he took his sword before the altar and knighted them. Then the King appointed a governor of the city of Coimbra, and departed; but soon after, Benalfagi, who was a great leader among the Moors, gathered a great host, and entered the town of Montemor and from there made war against Coimbra; so that the people of that place sent word to the king to come to their help. So the king returned and laid siege to Montemor. There Rodrigo gained great honor, for the enemy came out against him, and three times in one day he was attacked by them. Though he was in great peril, he refused to send to the camp for help, but put forth all his strength and drove the foe back with great slaughter. From that day the king made him head over all his household.

About this time the king received a request from the people of the kingdom of Leon that he would re-people the city of Zamora, which had been desolate since it was destroyed by Almanzor. The king thought well of this plan, and carried thither many men and women, and reorganized the city. During the time the king was at this place, messengers came from the five kings who were vassals of Rodrigo, bringing him their tribute. These came to Rodrigo, while he was in the presence of the king, and called him "El Seid," or Cid, which signifies Lord; and they would have kissed his hands, but he would not permit them to do so until they had kissed the hand of Don Ferrando. Then Rodrigo offered one-fifth of the tribute to the king as an acknowledgment of loyalty to him as his sovereign, but the king would not receive it. Don Ferrando, having heard the Moors call Rodrigo "Cid," was pleased with the title, and ordered that he should be called so by the Spaniards also. So from that time forward Rodrigo began to be known as the Cid.

CHAPTER 4

The Cid Advises Don Perrando Not to Pay Tribute, and Fights Great Battles. The Pope Declares That Spain Should Never Be Asked for Tribute. Don Perrando Divides His Kingdoms.

In those days even kings were usually subject to a still higher power, as all kings and emperors were held to be subject to the Pope, who could put on them their crowns or refuse to do so. Then the Frankish emperor, who asserted that he was the heir of the Empire of Charlemagne, which included a great part of Europe, claimed many kings as his subjects, and that they should pay him tribute; but Don Ferrando held that his kingdoms of Castile and Leon were free from the emperor.

In those days Pope Victor II held a council at Florence, and the Emperor Henry there complained that King Don Ferrando did not acknowledge his rule and pay him tribute like other kings, and he asked the Pope to command him to do so. Now this Pope was a German, as was also the Emperor Henry, and he sent Ferrando word that unless he paid tribute to Henry he would proclaim a crusade against him; that is, he would call together all other Christian kings and make war on him. Also the Emperor Henry and the king of France and the other kings sent him word to obey, and threatened him with war if he should refuse.

Don Ferrando was very much disturbed by these messages, for he knew that if he yielded to the demand of the emperor it would cause great trouble in his kingdoms. He therefore called together his counsellors, and presented the

case before his wisest men. They realized also the trouble that would be brought on the kingdoms; but they feared the great power of the Pope, and they advised that Don Ferrando should obey the command of the pontiff. While this council was being held, the Cid had been absent on a visit to his wife; but when he returned, the king told him the situation and urged that he give his advice.

When the Cid heard what had been done, he was grieved chiefly on account of the advice that had been given the king, and not through fear of the Pope, and he turned to the king and said: —

"In an evil day, sir, were you born in Spain, if in your time it is to be made to pay tribute, which it has never done before. If you do this, your honor is lost. And whoever gives you this advice is not a true man, and does not regard your honor nor your power. I counsel you to send a defiance to the emperor and all who would have you pay tribute, and we will carry the war home to them. You shall take with you five thousand knights, and the Moorish kings who are your vassals will give you two thousand knights; and thus, sir, your honor shall be preserved." This brave advice seemed good to the king, for he was a man of noble and daring spirit.

Then Don Ferrando sent letters to the Pope, to the emperor, and to the other kings, urging that Spain was an independent kingdom, and that the claim for tribute was unjust, and begging that the claim be done away; but if they would not yield, he sent his defiance to them. He did not wait for a reply, but gathered an army of nine thousand knights and set forward. Of this host the Cid led the advance guard. When they had passed beyond Aspa, they found the people would not sell them food; so the Cid proceeded to burn the country and to plunder all who would not sell to them. Thus he provided all things in readiness when the king's army came up. The news of these events was carried everywhere, and the people were terrified.

CHAPTER 4

The king of France sent Count Remon, Lord of Savoy, with twenty thousand knights, to Tobosa to stop the army of Don Ferrando; but the Cid with his advance guard met this army, and after a hard battle defeated it and made the count prisoner, as well as many others, and slew many. Shortly after the Cid fought another battle with all the powers of France, and defeated them, while at neither of these battles did the king, Don Ferrando, with his army arrive.

The report of these fierce battles in which the Cid was victorious went to the kings and to their council, and they urged that the Pope should send word to Ferrando to turn his armies back into his own country, and to say that he need not pay the tribute. When King Don Ferrando heard that this was being considered, he asked the Cid and his other great men what to do, and they advised that two messengers be sent to the Pope, who should send a cardinal to make agreement that tribute should never be asked again from Spain, and that the emperor and the other kings should also send men to agree to this. He said he would at present stay where he was, and if they would not agree, he would lead on his armies and force them to do as he asked.

When the Pope received the messengers of Don Ferrando, he was much dismayed, and he assembled his council and asked what to do. They replied that he should do as the king asked, as none would be so rash as to fight against the Cid. Then the Pope sent a cardinal and representatives of the emperor and other kings, and they signed a covenant that the king of Spain should never again be asked to pay tribute; and these writings were confirmed by the Pope and the emperor and the other kings. Then Don Ferrando turned about with his army and went into his own country, having gained great honor; and from that time he was called Don Ferrando the Great, and no emperor ever afterward asked him to pay tribute.

When Don Ferrando grew old, he desired to dispose of his

kingdoms so that there should be no strife among his children, and to this end he thought it best to divide his dominions among them; but this plan brought about much evil. He had three sons, Don Sancho, Don Alfonso, and Don Oaroia, and two daughters. Doña Urraca and Doña Elvira. He divided his lands in this way: He gave to Don Sancho, the eldest, the greater part of the kingdom of Castile, and to Don Alfonso the kingdom of Leon, and to Don Garcia the kingdom of Galicia. To his daughter Urraca he gave the city of Zamora, with its dependencies, and to Elvira the city of Toro, with its dependencies.

When the eldest son, Don Sancho, knew what the king had done, he was displeased, for he had expected to inherit all his father's dominions, and he said to his father that the division was not lawful, for the Gothic kings in old times had made a law that Spain should never be divided. But Don Ferrando said he had won the kingdom in war and would do as he thought best. Don Sancho replied that he would not consent to this plan. Nevertheless, Don Ferrando made the division. Shortly after this Don Ferrando died, having reigned thirty-one years in Castile, and his kingdoms were divided according to his will.

CHAPTER 5

One of the New Kings, Don Garcia, Robs His Sister. Don Sancho Makes War Against His Brother, Don Garcia, Defeats Him, and Takes His Kingdom. He Also Defeats Don Alfonso. The Cid Rescues Don Sancho.

While King Don Sancho was engaged in wars, his brother, King Don Garcia of Galicia, took by force a great part of the lands which their father had given their sister. Doña Elvira. Don Sancho, who in his own mind desired to have all that his father had possessed, and not to divide with his brothers and sisters, was pleased that his brother had broken the oath they had made to their father, as he thought he would now be free to take what he wished. He therefore gathered his great men about him and said that since his father had unjustly given to his brothers and sisters what should have been his, and since his brother Don Garcia had broken the oath and disinherited his sister, he asked their advice as to the manner in which he should proceed, as he intended to take the kingdom from Don Garcia. The Count Don Ordonez arose and said, "There is not a man in the world that would counsel you to break the command of your father and the vow you made to him," The king was very angry at this, and said, "Go from before me, for I shall never receive good counsel from you."

Then Don Sancho took the Cid by the hand and led him to one side, saying: "My Cid, my father charged me upon pain of his curse that I should take you for my adviser, and that whatever I did I should do it with your counsel; and I have done so even to this day. Now tell me how I may best recover

these kingdoms." The Cid was greatly troubled at this, and said: "It would ill become me to advise you against the will of your father. You well know that he made me swear that I would always counsel his sons as best I could; and while I can, I will do this." But the king answering, said: "My Cid, I do not hold that in this I am breaking any oath to my father, for I always said the kingdoms should not be divided, and the oath which I made was forced from me. Now my brother Don Garcia has broken the oath, and all these kingdoms are of right mine. I ask you to counsel me how to unite these kingdoms, for nothing in this world shall stop me from doing this." When the Cid saw that he could not change him, he advised him to ask his brother Don Alfonso to give him the right to march his army through his kingdom to go against Don Garcia, and that if he could not get this permission, not to attempt it.

The king was pleased with this advice, and sent letters to Don Alfonso, asking him to meet him at Sahagum. When they met at that place, Don Sancho said to his brother: "Brother, you well know that Don Garcia has broken his oath and disinherited our sister. For this I will take his kingdom from him, and I wish you to join me." But Don Alfonso said he would not go against his oath to his father. Then Don Sancho said if he would allow him to pass through his kingdom, he would give him part of what he would gain, and to this Don Alfonso agreed.

Then King Don Sancho gathered a great host and sent a messenger to Don Garcia that he should yield his kingdom to him. When Don Garcia received this message, he cried out, lamenting that he had been the first to break the oath to his father; and he told the messenger to say to his brother that he should keep his promise to his father, but if he would not, then he must defend himself. Then Don Garcia sent a messenger to Don Alfonso, asking that he would not allow his brother to pass through his dominions; but he received the

answer that he would neither help nor hinder him.

Shortly afterward, the army of Don Sancho invaded Galicia, and for a time met little resistance, and gained many lands.

After that, many were the heavy blows given on both sides, and many were the horses slain, and many the men.

In one of the battles that followed, Don Garcia Ordonez was made prisoner, while the banner of Don Sancho was thrown down, as was the king himself.

King Don Garcia being anxious to join in the battle again, left his brother, Don Sancho, prisoner in the hands of six knights. These Don Sancho tried to bribe to give him his liberty, but they would not do this. Just then there came up Alvar Fanez, the cousin of the Cid, and he, seeing his king a prisoner, cried out with a loud voice, "Let loose my lord, the king!" Then he spurred his horse and rode at them, overthrew two of the knights, and put the others to flight. He and the king mounted their horses and went toward a little hill where they saw a small body of their friends, and to these Alvar cried: "Ye see here the king, our lord, who is free again. Now remember the name of Castilians, and let us not lose it this day." Then about four hundred knights gathered around him.

While they stood there they saw a green pennon approaching, and the king rejoiced, for he knew it was the banner of the Cid, who was coming with three hundred knights. Then they all went down the hill, and the king welcomed the Cid joyfully, saying, "In good time are you come, my fortunate Cid!" And the Cid answered, "Sir, you shall recover the day, or I will die; for wherever you go you shall conquer, or I will meet my death."

Now Don Garcia returned from the pursuit, singing joyfully, for he thought his brother was a prisoner; but a messenger came at that time, saying his brother had been rescued, and was ready to give him battle again. Then the battle was joined a second time, and it was bravely fought on both sides;

and it was only the valor of the Cid that enabled Don Sancho to overcome. And now Don Garcia was taken prisoner in his turn, and Don Sancho took care that he should not escape, but put him in chains and sent him to the castle of Luna.

Now Don Sancho took as his own the kingdom of Galicia and Portugal that had belonged to Don Garcia, and he sent word to his brother, Don Alfonso, commanding him to yield to him the kingdom of Leon. To this demand Don Alfonso replied that he would defend his kingdom to the last. Then Don Sancho entered Leon, plundering and slaying wherever he went. Upon this Don Alfonso sent him word to cease this work of murdering the innocent, and challenging him to a pitched battle. This defiance was accepted, and a place appointed for the contest on a certain day at Lantada.

The army of Don Alfonso was commanded by Don Pero Ansures, a very valiant knight; and that of Don Sancho by the Cid. Great was the battle on that day, and it was fought with as much hatred as if it had been against the Moors, instead of between Christians who were brethren. But in the end the valor of the Cid was victorious, and King Don Alfonso was compelled to put his horse to its speed to save himself.

Yet Don Alfonso was not ready to yield up his kingdom, but sent a challenge to his brother for a second battle, agreeing that whoever conquered that day should be king of Leon. Again the two armies met, and a great battle was fought at Yulpegera, and the victory was on the side of Don Alfonso, and Don Sancho fled; and the Cid was not in this battle.

But as the king fled, he once more saw the green pennon of the Cid coming up; and when the Cid saw that the king had been defeated he was sorry; but he encouraged him, saying: "This is nothing, sir; gather your people together and bid them take heart. Your brother's followers are now, no doubt, feeling secure, and taking no thought of you. They will spend the night in boasting, and at daybreak we shall find them

sleeping and fall upon them." The Cid had judged rightly, for the followers of Don Alfonso took no thought of their enemies, and did not set a watch. So early in the morning the Cid fell upon them, and overcame them before they could get their arms to fight. Then King Don Alfonso fled to the town of Carrion, but he was quickly taken at that place.

When the followers of Don Alfonso had gathered together after their flight, and found that their king was a prisoner, they were so ashamed of their conduct that they turned back and once more gave battle to the Castilians. It happened also that they found King Don Sancho with only a few knights around him, and they took him prisoner once more, and gave him for safe keeping in the charge of thirteen knights. But the Cid saw these knights leading away the king, and he set spurs to his horse and went after them, alone and without a lance. When the Cid came up to these men, he said, "Knights, give me my king, and I will give you yours." They knew him by his arms, and said, "Go back in peace, and do not seek a quarrel with us, or we will carry you off as a prisoner also." At this the Cid was angry, and said, "Give me a lance, and I will alone rescue my king from all of you!" They thought he could do nothing against so many, and they gave him a lance; but he attacked them all so fiercely that he slew eleven of the knights, leaving only two alive, and rescued his king.

CHAPTER 6

Don Alfonso Enters a Monastery, and Then Flees to Toledo. Don Sancho Takes His Brother's Kingdom, and Goes Against His Sister's. The Cid Refuses to Fight. The Siege of Zamora. Don Sancho Is Killed, Don Alfonso Becomes King.

When Doña Urraca, sister of these kings, heard that her brother King Don Alfonso had been made a prisoner by Dan Sancho, she was afraid that he would be put to death. She therefore took with her the Count Don Peransures, and went to Bulges, the city where the king was, and there she sought the Cid. She begged the Cid to go with her to the king, and ask him to free Don Alfonso from prison, and permit him to become a monk. As the Cid was always glad to do anything to please this lady, they went together to Don Sancho; and there she knelt before the king, and asked him to be merciful to their brother.

Don Sancho took her by the hand, and lifted her up, and made her sit by him, saying, "Now, my sister, tell me what you wish me to do."

Then Doña Urraca said, "I desire that you will permit Don Alfonso to become a Benedictine monk, in the monastery of Sahagum."

The king asked the Cid privately what he advised him to do, and the Cid said that if Don Alfonso was willing to become a monk, he thought Don Sancho should give him his liberty. Acting upon this advice, the king permitted Don Alfonso to enter the monastery at Sahagum; but Don Alfonso soon after fled by night, and went to the Moorish King

Alimaymon of Toledo, where he was made welcome and given great possessions. Then Doña Urraca sent her exiled brother three men to be his counsellors, and Alimaymon loved Don Alfonso as if he had been his own son. Don Alfonso promised this Moorish king to love him and serve him as long as he should be with him, and not to go away without his permission; and the king promised to love and to defend him. Yet when Don Alfonso saw that this Moor was great and powerful and ruled over one of the best parts of Spain, it grieved him.

When Don Sancho learned that his brother had fled from the monastery, he took his army and went against the city of Leon, and took the city and all the towns and castles that had belonged to his brother, Don Alfonso; and he put the crown of Leon on his head, and proclaimed himself king of the three kingdoms. Then Don Sancho went against his sisters, pretending that they had helped Don Alfonso to escape, and he took from Doña Elvira the city of Toro, and went to Zamora, demanding that Doña Urraca should give up this city to him. But she said she would not give up what her father had granted her.

As it was now winter, Don Sancho determined to put off the siege of Zamora until March, and sent word to his vassals that they should assemble in Sahagum at that time. On the day appointed, his army gathered together, and he ordered it to march to Zamora, where three days afterward they arrived and pitched their tents. Then Don Sancho rode on his horse outside the city, and looked on its strong walls and towers placed on a great rock, and he said to his knights: "This city is so strong that neither Moors nor Christians can take it. If I could buy it from my sister or exchange it for another city, I should be lord of Spain."

Then he sent for the Cid, and said to him: "I beseech you to go to my sister and say that I will give her a price for this city, or I will give her two others in exchange for it, and will

promise never to take back what I give. But if she will not agree to this, I will take this town by force." The Cid did not wish to go on this errand, but at last consented, and took with him fifteen knights, and rode toward Zamora, calling upon the guards not to shoot, as he had a message from Don Sancho for Doña Urraca.

At this, the gate was opened, and the Cid with his followers passed within. When Doña Urraca heard that the Cid had come with a message, she was pleased, and when he had come to her palace, she greeted him cordially and had him sit by her side, asking what his message was. Then the Cid told her the demands of her brother. At this she lamented aloud, saying: "Wretched woman that I am! Don Sancho has taken the kingdom of Don Garcia and put him in irons. He has taken the kingdom of Don Alfonso and driven him to live among the Moors! He has taken the lands of my sister. Doña Elvira, and now he would take Zamora from me also. Now let the earth open and swallow me, that I may see no more trouble. I am a woman and cannot fight against Don Sancho in battle, but I will have him slain secretly or openly!"

But her counsellor, Don Arias Gonzalo, said that she should call all the men of the city together, and ask them if they would fight for her; that if they would, she should hold the city, and if they would not, then she should go to Toledo among the Moors to her brother Don Alfonso. When this was done, the men of Zamora declared they would hold the city, and eat mules and horses, before they would give it up without her command. Doña Urraca was greatly pleased at this, and asked the Cid to urge her brother to give up his attack upon her city; but if he would not, then they would hold the city and die with it.

When the Cid carried this message to Don Sancho, the king was very angry, and accused him of having given this counsel to his sister because he had been bred up with her and was fond of her. But the Cid answered: "I have faithfully done

your commands. Nevertheless, I will not fight against your sister, because of the kindness of old days; and I beg you not to besiege this city." But Don Sancho grew more angry, and said: "If it were not that my father commanded me to do you no harm, I would order you to be hanged. But I now command you to leave my kingdom within nine days." At this the Cid went to his tent and called together his followers, twelve hundred men, and departed, meaning to go to Toledo, to Don Alfonso.

But when the followers of Don Sancho knew what was done, they went to the king, and said: "Why do you send away one who has done you such good service? If he should go to Don Alfonso, he will bring an army against you." The king now saw that what they said was true, and he sent messengers after the Cid, begging him to come back, and agreeing to any terms he would make. When the messenger found the Cid, and said that the king asked him not to bear in mind the words he had spoken, being in anger, the Cid counselled with his friends, and agreed to return to Don Sancho.

So when the Cid was returning, the king took five hundred knights and went out to meet him and did him great honor, and the whole army rejoiced because the Cid had come back; but the people of Zamora were grieved, for they had hoped that by the Cid's departure the siege would be broken up. Still the Cid said he would not fight against Zamora.

But the king with the rest of his army attacked the town and fought against it for three days and nights, and filled up the ditches, and the waters of the river were red with blood. When Count Don Garcia de Cabra saw how great was their loss, he begged Don Sancho to cease fighting and to besiege the town and reduce it by famine. Then the king ordered the fighting to stop, and upon inquiry he found that he had lost more than a thousand men. Now the king ordered his men to surround the city so that no one could go out nor in. The

great suffering in the city caused the counsellors of Doña Urraca to say to her that she had best tell the men of the city that they had done enough, and that they should give up the town within nine days, and she would go to Toledo to Don Alfonso. Then the men of Zamora determined that they would all go with her.

But there was there a knight named Vellido Dolfos, who went to Doña Urraca, and said: "Lady, I came here with thirty knights to do you service; and if you will grant my demand I will relieve Zamora, and make Don Sancho break up the siege." To him Doña Urraca said: "I would not have you do any evil, but if you can relieve Zamora, I will grant whatever you require." Then Vellido kissed her hand, and went to a porter who kept one of the gates of the town, and said to him, that he should open the gate when he saw him riding toward it.

Vellido armed himself and mounted his horse, and rode to the house of Don Arias Gonzalo, and called out to him a dreadful insult that made him very angry. Then the sons of Don Arias arose and armed themselves, and went after Vellido, who rode toward the gate of the town. When the porter saw him coming he opened the gate, and he passed through and galloped into the camp of Don Sancho, followed by the others until they dared venture no further.

Vellido now went to Don Sancho and kissed his hand, and said: "Because I urged the Council of Zamora to yield the town, the sons of Gonzalo would have killed me, as you saw. Therefore I am come to you, and will serve you. And I will show you how you may take Zamora." The king believed what he said, and received him as a vassal. That night, Vellido told the king his plan, and told of a secret gate by which he could admit him to Zamora.

And the next morning, a knight of the city cried from the wall, saying: "A traitor, Vellido Dolfos, has gone into your camp to kill you. Beware, and do not say you have not been

warned." Other messages were sent to Don Sancho from Zamora, telling him the same tale. When Vellido heard this, he said, "The old Arias Gonzalo has sent yon this word, because he knows I would help you to win the town." Then the king took Vellido by the hand, telling him to give no thought to what had occurred.

After this Vellido took the king aside, saying: "Let us ride out together alone; we will go around Zamora, and I will show you the secret gate by which we may capture the town, for it is never closed. When night comes, give me one hundred knights, and we will go on foot, and we will enter and let all your army in." The king and Vellido then rode around the city, and looked at the trenches, and Vellido showed him the gate of which he had told him. When they were riding, the king had occasion to alight for a moment, and handed Vellido his spear to hold. Then Vellido took the spear, and thrust it between the king's shoulders, so that it went through him and came out at his breast.

Then he turned his horse, and rode as fast as he could toward the gate. Now the Cid saw him going at speed, and asked why he was in haste, but he got no answer. The Cid feared that he had killed the king, and he called for his horse, but in the meanwhile Vellido had ridden far away. And the Cid in his haste took only a lance, and did not wait for his spurs, and he followed him to the gate, but Vellido got in. It is said that the only mistake the Cid ever made was that he did not ride after Vellido into the town; but he thought it was possibly a stratagem arranged between the king and this man, and that he fled by the command of Don Sancho. Nothing else could have kept the Cid from going into the town and slaying Vellido in the street.

When Vellido was once inside the gate, he was as much afraid of those in the city as of those outside; and he fled to the palace of Doña Urraca, and covered himself with her mantle. When the governor of the town, Don Arias Gonzalo,

knew what had been done, he went to Doña Urraca, and said that since Vellido had killed the king, which was an act of treason, all of them in Zamora would be considered guilty unless Vellido was given into the hands of the followers of Don Sancho, the Castilians.

But as Doña Urraca was anxious to save his life, Don Arias Gonzalo said he would take him in charge for three days, and if the Castilians demanded Vellido, they would give him up, and if they did not, he would put him out of the town and let him go.

Meanwhile Don Sancho's followers went to look for him, and found him lying by the river, dying, with the spear in his body. He was still able to speak, but they did not dare take the spear out for fear he would at once bleed to death. Therefore, one sawed off the spear. Then the king said, "The traitor Vellido has killed me, and I die for my sins because I broke the oath I made to my father." At this time the Cid came up, and kneeling by the king said: "I am more desolate than any of your followers, for I have made enemies of your brothers by fighting against them for you. The king commended me to them as well as you, but I have lost their love for your sake. Now, remember me." The king therefore told his chief men that if Don Alfonso should come from the land of the Moors, they should ask him to show favor to the Cid, and then in a few moments Don Sancho died.

Now since Don Sancho was dead, Don Alfonso, who was at Toledo among the Moors, was the heir to the throne. But his sister Doña Urraca was afraid that the Moors would do some injury to Don Alfonso to keep him from his inheritance, therefore she sent messengers secretly to Don Alfonso that he should come and take his kingdom; and she bade these deliver their letters privately. The Castilians also, who were encamped before Zamora, sent Don Alfonso word secretly. However, certain spies that the Moors had among the Christians, went at once with messages to the Moors of the

death of Don Sancho.

Don Alfonso told Alimaymon that he wished to go into his own country, where his vassals needed him, and he asked Alimaymon to give him some soldiers to go with him; but he said nothing about Don Sancho's death. King Alimaymon answered that he feared to let him go, lest his brother Don Sancho should do him an injury; but Don Alfonso said he had no fear, if the king would lend him some Moors to go with him.

Now all this time Alimaymon knew the report about Don Sancho, and he had placed soldiers in the roads and passes to prevent Don Alfonso from going away, if he intended to do so without his consent. But now as Don Alfonso did not speak of the death of his brother, Alimaymon thought the report might not be true, and he said: "I am glad, Alfonso, that you have told me of your wish to go into your own country; for in this you have dealt loyally with me, and have saved me from that which might have happened, for the Moors have always urged me to take your life. And had you departed secretly, you could not have escaped death. Now go and take your kingdom, and I will give you whatever you need to bestow on your own people to win their hearts." Then he besought Alfonso to make again the oath that he would not fight against him nor his sons. And Alimaymon made the same oath, and included in it his own sons. But Alimaymon had a grandson whom he loved greatly, who was not named in the oath, and Don Alfonso was not bound to keep his oath in regard to him. Then Don Alfonso made preparations to go away from Toledo, and King Alimaymon and many of his chief men rode with him part of the way; and the king made him many rich presents, and they parted with great love.

When Don Alfonso had come to Zamora, he pitched his tents nearby, and asked the advice of his sister, and Doña Urraca sent letters throughout the land, asking the Cortes to meet and receive Don Alfonso as king. When the people of

Leon, over whom he had reigned before Don Sancho took his crown, knew that Don Alfonso had come from the country of the Moors to rule over them again, they rejoiced greatly and acknowledged him as their king. The Castilians also declared they were ready to acknowledge him as king, if he would swear that he had had no part in the death of Don Sancho, but he did not take the oath. Yet the Castilians kissed his hands, with the exception of the Cid.

When Don Alfonso noted that the Cid did not do homage to him, he said: "I would know of the Cid why he does not acknowledge me. For I would do something for him, as I promised my father." Then the Cid arose, and said: "All who are here present suspect that by your advice Don Sancho came to his death; and therefore, unless you clear yourself, as you should do, I will never acknowledge you as my king." Then Don Alfonso said: "Cid, what you say pleases me, and here I swear that I never slew him, nor took counsel for his death, neither did it please me, though he had taken my kingdom from me. I beseech you all therefore, as friends and vassals, to tell me how I can clear myself."

Then the chief men said that he and twelve of the knights who came with him from Toledo should make this oath in the Church of St. Gadea at Burgos, and so he should be cleared. So Don Alfonso and his company rode to Burgos, and on the day appointed the king, Don Alfonso, went to the church, with his sisters. There the king took his place on a high stage where all the people could see him, and the Cid took the Gospels and opened the book, and laid it on the altar, and the king laid his hands on it, and the Cid said: "King Don Alfonso, you have come here to swear concerning the death of King Don Sancho, your brother, that you neither slew him nor took counsel for his death. Do you and these knights now swear to this?" And Don Alfonso and his knights said, "Yes, we swear it." Then the Cid said, "If ye knew of this thing, or gave command that it should be done, may you die even such

a death as your brother Don Sancho, by the hand of a villain whom you trust." To this Don Alfonso and his knights said, "Amen." Then the Cid repeated the oath a second and a third time; but now Don Alfonso grew very angry, and said: "Why do you press me thus to repeat my oath? Today you swear me, and tomorrow you will kiss my hand." And from that day Don Alfonso did not love the Cid, until a long while after.

CHAPTER 7

The Cid Fights Against Don Garcia Ordonez. Don Alfonso Renews His Friendship with the King Of Toledo. The Cid Gives Battle to the King of Granada. The Cid is Banished. He Borrows Money and Leaves Chests of Sand in Pawn. He Leaves Don Alfonso's Kingdom with a Company of Knights.

Soon after this, Don Alfonso was crowned king of Castile, Leon, Galicia, and Portugal, and he called himself Emperor of all Spain, as his father had done. He proved to be in every respect a good king, and he established poor and rich alike in security, and no man dared take arms against another under penalty of having his eyes put out. In his reign a man could go from one end of his dominions to the other, carrying gold and silver, and be unmolested. Merchants and pilgrims were likewise protected; Don Alfonso was also a friend to the poor, and a just judge, and a defender of the churches.

At this time there was a quarrel between the Cid and Count Garcia Ordonez, and the Cid gathered his followers and went into the Count's territory burning and plundering. He also laid siege to the castle of Faro, which belonged to Count Garcia, and took it. He then sent messengers to the Count, saying that he would wait seven days for him to come and give battle; but though many men gathered about the Count, they were afraid to go out against the Cid.

In the second year of the reign of King Don Alfonso, the Moorish king of Cordova made war upon Alimaymon, king of Toledo, the friend of Alfonso. After doing much harm in his territory this king of Cordova laid siege to the city of Toledo.

Then Don Alfonso gathered a great army and went to the help of his friend; but when Alimaymon heard of his coming with such a host, he was afraid, thinking Don Alfonso was going to help his enemies in the siege. So Alimaymon sent messengers to remind him of their friendship and of their oath; but Don Alfonso kept his messengers and sent no answer, but went on marching into the country. When the king of Cordova knew Alfonso was coming, he took his army and fled.

Now Alfonso took five of his knights and the messengers of Alimaymon and rode to Toledo; and when they came to the gate, he entered and sent word to the king that he was coming. When Alimaymon heard this, he would not wait for a horse, but went on foot and met Alfonso, and they embraced each other; and the king of Toledo was filled with joy at seeing his friend, and he was glad for what he had done to help Alfonso when he was in trouble, and thanked him for his loyalty in coming to his help. That whole night they rejoiced together, and the people of Toledo were glad that Alimaymon had such a friend. But the Castilians were sad, for they thought their king would be harmed by the Moors.

On the next day, Alfonso asked Alimaymon to go with him to Olias, to his camp, and see the host he had brought to his help. So Alimaymon went with only a few of his followers, and when the Castilians saw their king again they rejoiced. The two kings went through the camp, and then they sat down to eat in the large tent of Alfonso. While they were there, Alfonso gave a secret order that five hundred knights should surround the tent; and when the king of Toledo saw these armed men, he was afraid, and asked Alfonso what it meant; but Alfonso said for him to eat, and then he would tell him.

When they had eaten, Alfonso said to Alimaymon, "When you had me in Toledo, you made me swear that I would never do you any evil; now when you are in my power,

I ask that you release me from that promise." Alimaymon said he would do so, but begged him to do him no wrong. Then Alfonso took the Gospels, and said: "Now that you are in my power, I swear to never go against you nor against your son, and to help you against all other men in the world. I promise this because my other oath was made under compulsion, when I was in your hands; but now I freely promise;" and he swore on the Gospels to do as he said. At this, Alimaymon was greatly rejoiced, and they remained together all that night. And on the next day Alfonso took his army, and Alimaymon his own, and they went together against the king of Cordova, who had besieged Toledo; and they burned towns, and destroyed castles, and plundered everywhere, so that the king of Cordova never dared again to attack the king of Toledo.

Shortly after this, Alfonso ordered the Cid to challenge a knight of Navarre, called Ximen Garcia de Fiogelos, as the king claimed certain castles which this man held. The Cid overcame this knight, and gained for the king three castles. The Cid also fought in Medina Celi against a Moorish knight who was called Faras, and he slew him also. In the fifth year of the reign of Alfonso, he sent the Cid to the kings of Seville and Cordova to receive tribute from them.

Now there was war between the Moorish kings, Almocanis of Seville and Almundafar of Granada; and there were with Almundafar certain men of Castile helping him in his battles: Count Don Garcia Ordonez, and Fortun Sanchez, and Lope Sanchez, and Diego Perez. These men fought against the king of Seville, who was Alfonso's vassal. This matter troubled the Cid greatly, and he asked these men not to fight against the king of Seville, saying that if they did, King Alfonso would have to defend him. However, the king of Granada and his knights paid no attention to the letters of the Cid, but entered the land of Seville, as far as Cabra, and burned and plundered as they went.

When the Cid knew this, he gathered as many followers as he could and went against them, and fought with them nearly a whole day, and he slew many of the followers of the king of Granada, and at length put them all to flight. He took as prisoners Count Garcia Ordonez, and Lope Sanchez, and Diego Perez, and others without number; and he left a great multitude dead on the field, and took much spoil. The Cid held his prisoners for three days, and then set them free, and he returned to Seville with great riches and honor.

Then King Almocanis of Seville received him with joy, and gave him riches for himself, and paid him the tribute for the king, Don Alfonso. Don Alfonso was pleased with this deed of the Cid, and his other achievements; but there were many who tried to set the king against him.

Some time after this, the Moors began to make trouble, and Don Alfonso gathered his army and went against them, but the Cid was sick and could not go at that time. While the king was in Andalusia, a great host of Moors assembled on the other side and entered the country, and laid siege to the castle of Gormaz. By this time the Cid felt his strength return, and hearing the Moors were in the country, he gathered what men he could and went after them, but the Moors were so afraid that they began to fly. The Cid followed them as far as Toledo, slaying and killing, and he took seven thousand prisoners; then he and his people returned with great spoils and honor.

When the king of Toledo heard of the Cid's deeds of burning and destroying in his country, he sent a complaint to Don Alfonso, and the king was much distressed. Then the Cid's enemies who were about Alfonso said, "You see the Cid has broken your oath to the king of Toledo, and he has done this that the king of Toledo may come here to fight against us and slay us all." This the king believed, as he had no love for the Cid since he had made him take the oath three times that he had not been guilty of the death of Don Sancho. So he

hastened to Burgos, and sent for the Cid to come to him.

Now the Cid knew that the king did not feel kindly to him, and he made answer that he would meet Alfonso between Burgos and Bivar, his own town. When they had met there, the Cid went up and would have kissed the hand of the king, but Alfonso would not permit this, but said to him, "Sir, leave my land!" Then the Cid put spurs to his mule, and rode to a piece of ground which was his inheritance, and answered, "I am not in your land, but in my own." But the king answered angrily, "Go out of my kingdom at once!" The Cid replied, "Give me thirty days' time, which is my right as a knight." The king said he would not, but if he were not gone in nine days, he would go and look for him. The Cid's enemies about the king were pleased at this, but the people were very sorry. Thus Alfonso and the Cid parted.

Then the Cid called for all his friends and relatives and vassals, and told them Alfonso had banished him, and asked if they would follow him. Then his cousin, Alvar Fanez, answered, "Cid, we will go with you wherever you go, and never fail you, and we will spend for you our wealth, and our mules and horses, and while we live will be your loyal friends and followers." All the others agreed to what Alvar had said; and the Cid thanked them, and said there would come a time when he could reward them.

As the Cid was about to depart, he looked toward his home, and saw it deserted, the doors open, the chests unfastened, no seats in the porch, no hawks upon the perches, and tears came into his eyes, and he said, "My enemies have done this." Then he knelt down and prayed that he might be given strength to destroy all the Moors, and to win enough to reward his friends and all his followers. He called Alvar to him, and said, "Cousin, the poor have no part in the wrong the king has done us; see that no wrong be done to them." An old woman who was standing at her door said, "Go in a lucky minute, and make spoil of whatever you wish." As the

Cid rode away, he said, "Friends, we shall return to Castile with great honor and riches." As they went out from Bivar, they saw a crow to their right, and when they came to Burgos, they saw a crow to the left; and these they considered good signs.

The Cid entered Burgos with sixty banners. The people of the town stood at their windows as he passed, and wept, saying, "How good a vassal he is, if he had a good master." And they would gladly have asked him into their houses, but they did not dare break the command of the king, for Don Alfonso had sent letters saying that if anyone gave the Cid lodging he should lose all he had, and have his eyes put out.

Then the Cid went to his own door, and found it fastened, for fear of the King. His people called, but there was no answer from within. The Cid rode to the door, and gave it a kick with his foot, but did not break it, for it was strongly fastened. Then a little girl came from one of the houses, and said: "O Cid, the king has forbidden us to receive you. We dare not open the doors, lest we lose our heads, and all that we have, and our eyes." When the Cid heard what the king had done, he went to the church and there knelt down and prayed. He then mounted his horse and rode from the town, and pitched his tent upon the sands, because there was no one who would receive him within his door.

The king had also commanded that no one in Burgos should sell him or his men food; but a nephew of the Cid, named Martin Antolinez, supplied the company with bread and wine. This man said: "Cid, we will rest here tonight, and tomorrow we will go away. I shall be accused for what I have done for you; but by following you I shall afterwhile have the king for my friend; and if not, I do not care a fig for what I leave behind." And the Cid said to him: "You are a bold lancer; if I live, I will pay you double. You see I have nothing with me, and yet must have money for my followers. I will take two chests and fill them with sand, and do you go secretly

to the Jews Rachel and Vidas, and tell them to come privately to me; and say to them that I cannot take my treasures with me because of their weight, but I wish to leave them in their hands for a small sum of money. Let them come for the chests at night. I say to you I do this thing from necessity; but I shall redeem the boxes honestly."

Now Rachel and Vidas were rich Jews to whom the Cid had been accustomed to bring the spoils he got in war, and to receive money for them. Martin went to these men, and taking them to a place where he could talk with them privately, he said: "Promise not to reveal what I say to Moor or Christian, and I will make you rich men forever. The Cid has two chests full of gold; but as the king is angry with him, he cannot carry them away without being seen. He wishes to leave them with you, and have you lend him money on them, if you will swear not to open them for a year." Then the two Jews consulted together, and answered: "We know the Cid got riches among the Moors, and we will keep the chests. But how much money does he wish from us, and what interest will he pay?" Martin said he needed six hundred marks, and this the Jews agreed to advance. So they took horses and rode away; they did not cross the bridge, but forded the stream, so that no one should see them, and they came to the tent of the Cid.

In the meanwhile, the Cid had taken the two chests, that were covered with red leather and gold, and bound with iron, and each fastened with three locks, and he filled them with sand. When Rachel and Vidas had entered his tent, they kissed his hand, and the Cid smiled, saying, "I am banished from the land by the king, but I have something to leave with you." Then the Jews agreed to lend him the six hundred marks, and to not open the chests for a year. Martin said they should now take the chests, and he would go with them and bring the money, as the Cid wished soon to depart. So they took hold of the chests, and found them so heavy they could

not lift them, and they were greatly pleased at their bargain. But Martin and his people helped them, and went with them to their home, where they placed the chests in safety, and gave Martin the marks in silver and gold, and he loaded this money on five of his men to carry. When this was done, Martin said to the Jews, "You see I got these chests for you and I deserve a pair of hose." And the Jews said to each other, "Let us give him a good gift for what he has done." And they gave him thirty marks to buy hose and a doublet and a cloak. Don Martin thanked them and took the marks and went away joyfully.

When Martin had returned to the Cid's camp, they took their horses, and all the company set off, except Martin, who said he would follow them later, but he must first see his wife. At daybreak the Cid came to St. Pedro's, where his own wife and children were, and the Abbot received him joyfully. The Cid told them all that he was a banished man, and he gave the Abbot fifty marks for himself, and a hundred for the Cid's wife, Doña Ximena, and his children. And he said, "Abbot, I leave my wife and children in your care, and when this money is gone, supply them abundantly, and for every mark you spend I will give the monastery four." The Abbot promised to do this with a right good will.

Then the Cid's wife came up with her children in her arms, and she knelt before him, weeping bitterly, saying: "Now you are banished, and here I am with your little daughters. Tell me what we shall do." The Cid took the children in his arms, and held them to his heart and wept, for he loved them dearly. And he said: "I shall yet live to give these daughters in marriage, and to serve you whom I love as my own soul."

That day a great feast was made in the monastery in honor of the Cid, and the bells rang merrily. When the people of Castile learned that the Cid was banished, they were filled with sorrow, and many left their houses and their honors to

follow him. That day one hundred and fifteen knights came with Martin to join the Cid, and when he saw such a company coming, he rejoiced, and rode out to meet them, and they kissed his hand.

Six days of the nine that were allowed the Cid to stay in Don Alfonso's kingdom were now gone, and after the nine days he was found within the king's dominions, he would be attacked. That day they feasted, and in the evening the Cid divided all his money among his followers, and said they would meet early in the morning and depart. So long before daybreak the Abbot said prayers, and then all left the church and took horse. The Cid embraced his wife and daughters and blessed them; and their parting was like taking the nail from the finger; and the Cid wept and looked around after them.

Then Alvar Fanez came up to him, and said: "Where is your courage, Cid? Think of our journey now. Your sorrow will yet be turned into joy."

And Alvar said to the Abbot, "If you see any who care to follow us, tell them our road, and bid them hasten, that they may reach us." Then they put spurs to their horses and hastened away.

That night they passed at Spinar de Can, and many people joined them, and on the next day they passed the borders of Castile; and they went by the Calzada de Quinea, and crossed the river Douro on rafts. That night, being the eighth, they rested at Figeruela, and many more men joined them. There the Cid had a vision, while he was asleep, as it is said; and the angel Gabriel appeared to him, saying, "Go on boldly and fear nothing; for everything shall go well with you as long as you live, and all that you begin shall end well, and you shall be rich and honored." Then the Cid awoke and knelt down and thanked God for his mercy, as he was made glad by the vision.

Early on the next morning they started again, this being the last day of the nine. And they went on toward the Sierra

de Miedes, and before sunset the Cid halted his company and counted them, finding that he had three hundred men with horses and lances, and a great many foot-soldiers. He ordered them to eat, as he said they must pass the mountain that night to get out of King Alfonso's dominions, for on the morrow they might be attacked. After having eaten they hastened onward, and passed the Sierra that night.

CHAPTER 8

The Cid in the Land of the Moors. Alvar Forages the Country, and the Cid Captures Castrejon. The Siege and Capture of Alcocer. A Great Army of Moors Comes Against the Cid. A Great Battle Takes Place in Which the Cid is Victorious. The Cid Sends a Present of Thirty Horses to Don Alfonso.

The Cid and his followers were now in the land of the Moors, and they halted on the mountain and fed their horses and remained there until evening; and in the darkness they set forward again that they might not be seen, and rode all night, and before dawn they came to Castrejon.

Then Alvar Fanez said to the Cid that he would take two hundred horsemen and scour the country and lay hands on whatever he could without fear of Alfonso or the Moors. And he advised the Cid to lie in ambush where he was and take the Castle of Castrejon by surprise, and this counsel seemed good to the Cid. Then Alvar Fanez rode off with his troop, and left the Cid in ambush.

When the morning came, the Moors of Castrejon, not knowing that an enemy was near, opened the castle gates and went to work in the fields as they were used to do. Then the Cid rose from ambush, and fell upon them and took their flocks, and pursued them to the gates. There arose a cry from within the castle, that the Christians were making an attack, and many ran to the gates to defend them; but the Cid came up with his sword in his hand, and slew eleven Moors with his own hand, and the others ran to hide themselves. So that the Cid quickly won the castle, and took gold and silver and

whatever he could.

Meanwhile Alvar Fanez rode over the country, plundering whatever he could seize, and presently came back driving flocks and herds before him, and bringing much clothing and other spoils. When the Cid saw what had been done, he rejoiced greatly, and he ordered that all the spoil taken by both parties should be put in a heap, and that Alvar should take a fifth, as he well deserved. But Alvar said the Cid had need of it all for the support of his men; so the Cid divided his spoil among all his followers. And he allowed the Moors to come freely and give money for the stuff that they wished to buy back, so that all who were in the company of the Cid were made rich. Then he sent word to Don Alfonso that he and his companions would yet serve him against the Moors.

The Cid now told his followers that they could not stay in this castle, as it had no water, and that Alfonso had a treaty of peace with these Moors, and that if they remained there, the king would come against them, and as they had all received a share of the spoils, he thought best that they ride elsewhere. So on the next day they set forth again, restoring the castle to the Moors, who were grateful for this kindness.

They rode all that day and the next, taking some spoils on the way, and then came to Alcocer, which the Cid wished to capture. There they pitched their tents upon a great hill, near the river Salon. This was a strong place, with the mountain on one side and the river on the other, and he made his men dig a trench, so that they might not be surprised by day nor by night.

When the Moors knew that the Cid had come, they were in great fear, and offered to pay him tribute if he would leave them in peace; but he refused to do this and laid siege to the town. There he stayed for fifteen weeks, and when he saw that the town did not surrender, he ordered his men to break up camp, as if they were about to go away, and they left one tent behind, and went along the river with their banners flying. At

this sight the Moors were greatly pleased, thinking that the Cid's bread and barley had failed, and that he had fled, leaving one of his tents. And the Moors said, "Let us follow them and take their spoil." So the Moors went out after the Cid, leaving the gates open, and shouting as they went.

When the Cid saw them coming, he ordered his men to go faster, as if they were afraid, and he would not let them turn upon the Moors till they were far from the town. Then the Cid ordered his men to turn, and riding fast toward them, he cried, "Lay on, knights, and the spoil will be ours!" Then his men laid on without mercy, and the Cid and Alvar got between them and the castle, and stood in the gateway, sword in hand, and in an hour many hundreds of Moors were slain, and the Cid won the town, and Pero Bermudez planted his banner on the highest point of the castle. Then the Cid cried to his men: "Hear me; we shall get nothing by killing more of these Moors. Let us capture them, and make them show us their treasures hid in their houses, and we will dwell here, and they shall serve us." Thus the Cid won Alcocer and took up his abode in it.

Then the Moors in other places sent word to the king of Valencia that the Cid had come, and had taken Alcocer, and that if he were not stopped he would take the whole country. When the king of Valencia, whose name was Alcamin, heard this, he was much troubled, and he sent word to two Moorish kings who were his vassals to take three thousand horsemen and all the men they could gather, and to take the Cid alive, that he might punish him for coming into his land.

These kings, named Fariz and Galve, then set out and came with a great host against Alcocer, and pitched their tents round about the castle. And the Moors cut off the water supply, so that the Castilians would have sallied out and given battle, but this the Cid would not let them do. Thus they were besieged for three weeks and when the fourth week began the Cid called for Alvar and his company, and said: "You see that

the Moors have cut off our water, and we have little bread. They increase in numbers every day, and we grow weak, and they are in their own country. They will not let us go out if we would; we cannot depart by night, for they surround us on all sides, and we cannot pass through the air nor into the ground. Now let us go out and fight them, though they are so many, and either conquer them or die bravely."

Alvar answered: "We are banished from our own land, and if we do not conquer the Moors, they will not give us food. We are but few, but we are of a race of warriors, and are of one heart and one will. Let us therefore go out tomorrow early in the morning, and give them battle." And they all thought well of what Alvar said. Then the Cid ordered all the Moors who were in the town to be put outside the gates, that they might not know what was to be done, and the rest of that day and night they passed in getting ready for the battle.

On the next day at sunrise the Cid and his men went out of the town, leaving only two foot-soldiers to keep the gates. When the Moorish scouts saw them they ran to the camp with the alarm. Then there was a noise of tambourines in the camp, as if the earth had been broken, and the Moors hurried to get their arms. The Moors drew up their men in two great bodies, and they moved forward, thinking to take the Cid and his men alive; and the Cid commanded his followers to stand still till he should bid them move.

But Pero Bermudez, who bore the Cid's banner, could not endure to remain still, but holding the banner in his hand he cried, "Cid, I shall put your banner in the middle of that army, and you are bound to stand by it." Then he began to spur his horse, while the Cid cried for him to stop as he loved him, but Pero answered that he would stop for nothing; and away he went and carried his banner into the middle of the Moors. Then the Moors fell upon him to get his banner, and hit him many hard blows to overthrow him. But as his armor was of the strongest kind, they could not pierce it, nor could they

overthrow him, nor take the banner, for he was a man of great strength and most brave.

When the Cid saw him in this plight, he cried to his followers to move on to his help, and they placed their shields before their breasts, and lowering their lances, they bent forward and rode on. Each of the three hundred lancers slew a Moor at the first charge. "Smite them, knights!" cried the Campeador; "I am the Cid of Bivar." Then began a terrific battle, in which many a shield was pierced, and many a corselet broken, and many a horde left without a rider. The Moors called on Mahomet, and the Christians on St. James, and the noise of the tambourines and the trumpets was so great that no man could hear his neighbor.

The Cid and his company rescued Pero Bermudez, and they rode through the host of the Moors, slaying as they went, and rode back in like manner, slaying thirteen hundred men. Wherever the Cid went on his gilt saddle, the Moors made a path for him, for he smote them without mercy. The Moors killed the horse of Alvar Fanez, and his lance was broken, and he fought with his sword on foot. When the Cid saw him, he singled out a Moor who rode a good horse, and cut him down, and gave the horse to Alvar, saying: "Mount, for you are my right hand."

They fell upon the Moors once again, and these having suffered great loss began to give way. The Cid, seeing King Fariz, rode toward him, cutting down all in his path; and when he had come up to him, he struck at him three times: two of these blows missed their aim, but the third went through his cuirass, so that the blood ran down his legs. Then Fariz, feeling himself sorely wounded, turned his horse and fled. Martin Antolinez gave King Galve a blow on the head, that scattered all the jewels from his helmet, and cut through it to the skin, and this king fled also. Seeing their kings retreating, the Moors began a general flight.

The Christians pursued them as far as Calatayud, and

Alvar slew thirty-four men in this pursuit, and his arm was all red, and the blood dropped from his elbow. As Alvar was returning, he said, "I am now well pleased, for tidings will go to Castile how the Cid has won a battle against the Moors." The Cid also turned back, and the hood of his mail hung down upon his shoulders, but his sword was still in his hand, and he rejoiced when he found that of all his people only fifteen had been killed. Then they gathered up the spoil, and found weapons of all kinds in abundance, and much wealth, besides five hundred and ten horses. The Cid divided the spoil fairly among all his men, and took the Moors who had been put out of the castle before the battle again into Aloocer, and gave them also a part of the booty to that they were well content. And all the vassals of the Cid rejoiced with him. The Cid offered to give Alvar whatever he would take of the Cid's fifth, for it was custom to allow the leader a fifth of all that was taken, but Alvar said he was content with his own portion.

The Cid said then to Alvar: "I will send King Alfonso a present from my part of the spoils. You shall go to Castile, and take with you thirty horses, the best of those captured from the Moors, all saddled and bridled, and each having a sword hanging from the saddle bow; and you shall give them to the king for me, and kiss his hand for me, and tell him that we know how to make our way among the Moors. Take also this bag of gold and silver, and give it to the Church of St. Mary at Burgos, and hang up there these banners of the Moorish kings whom we have conquered. Go then to St. Pedro's and salute my wife and my daughters, and tell them how I am, and that if I live I will make them all rich women. Salute for me the Abbot, and give him fifty marks of silver; and whatever money is left, give to my wife, and bid them all pray for me. We have now taken all the spoils in this region, and we will have to fight elsewhere. If when you come back we are not here, you will learn where we are."

Alvar went his way to Castile, and found the king in Valladolid, and made ready to present to him the gifts of the Cid. When the king saw them, before Alvar could do his errand, Alfonso said, "Who sends me this goodly present?" And Alvar replied, "The Cid, the Campeador, sends it, and kisses by me your hands." He then told him the wonderful story of their adventures, and added, "Of his fifth of the horses that were taken, the Cid has sent you these, as to his king, whose favor he desires." Then Alfonso answered: "It is soon for a banished man to ask favor of his king; nor is it befitting for a king to be angry so short a time. Nevertheless, because the horses were won from the Moors, I will take them, and rejoice that the Cid is faring so well. And I give you your pardon, Alvar, and give again to you all lands which were yours, and you have my permission to go and come as you will. Of the Cid I shall say nothing now, except that all who wish to follow him may do so, and their persons and property will be safe." Then Alvar said: "May God grant you many happy years! Now I beg that you also grant that the property of those who are now in the company of the Cid may be safe." And the king gave orders that this should be as Alvar requested. Then Alvar kissed the king's hand and said, "You have done this much now, and you will do the rest hereafter; meaning that later he would pardon the Cid.

CHAPTER 9

The Cid Leaves Alcocer, and Camps in the Forest of Tebar. He Makes Friends with the King of Zaragoza. Alvar Brings Him More Knights from Castile. The Old Fights with The King of Zabagoza Against the King of Denia and Don Ramon, and Defeats Them and Captures the Sword Colada. The Cid Takes Great Spoils. He Helps the King of Zaragoza a Second Time Against the King of Denia. The Cid Also Helps His King, Don Alfonso, Against a Castle, and is Pardoned. After Another Great Battle He Returns to Castile.

The Cid remained a while in Alcocer, and when King Fariz got well of his wound, the Cid sent word to him and the Moors that if they would give him three thousand marks of silver he would leave Alcocer and go elsewhere. At this the Moor was pleased, and they sent the Cid the money which he divided among his men. But the Moors of Alcocer were sorry to see him go away, as he had been to them a kind master, and the men and women wept as he raised his banner and departed.

The Cid rode on until he came to a high hill above Monte Real, and there he pitched his tents; and from that place he did much harm to the Moors of Medina, and of the country round about, and he made many towns pay him tribute. When this news reached the king of Zaragoza, he was much displeased. And that hill was always called afterward, "The Hill of the Cid."

After the Cid had waited a long time for Alvar, and he did not come, he removed by night and pitched his camp in

the pine forest of Tebar; and from there he fought the Moors of Zaragoza and made them pay him tribute. When this agreement was made, Almundafar, the king of Zaragoza, became his friend and received him into his town. In three weeks after this Alvar came from Castile. And with him came two hundred knights of good families, everyone with a sword at his side, and foot-soldiers in great numbers. When the Cid saw Alvar coming, he rode to meet him and kissed him on the mouth and on his eyes. Alvar told him all that he had done, and the face of the Cid brightened, and he said, "It will go well with me, as long as you live." The whole host rejoiced to see Alvar, for he brought them messages from their wives and families. The Cid, with the fleecy beard, was most joyful that he had tidings of his wife and daughters.

While the Cid tarried in Zaragoza, the King Almundafar died, and left his kingdom to be divided between his two sons, Zulema and Abenalfange, and Zulema took the kingdom of Zaragoza, and Abenalfange the kingdom of Denia. And Zulema put his kingdom under the protection of the Cid and bade all his people obey him even as they would himself.

Soon after these two brothers became enemies and made war on each other, and King Don Pedro of Aragon, and the Count Don Ramon Berenguer of Barcelona, helped Abenalfange, and they became enemies of the Cid because he defended Zulema. Then the Cid took two hundred horsemen and went out by night and spoiled the land of Alcaniz; and he was away three days on this expedition, and he brought away great spoil. This stirred up much excitement among the Moors of Monzon and Huesea, but those of Zaragoza rejoiced, for they paid tribute to the Cid and were safe. The Cid divided this spoil among his companions, and said: "Ye know, my friends, that for all who live by their arms as we do, it is not good to remain long in one place. Let us be off again tomorrow." So on the next day they moved to Puerto de Alucant, and from there spoiled Huesca and Montalban, and were ten

days on this adventure. And the news went everywhere that this banished man was overrunning the country.

When Don Ramon Berenguer heard this, he was very angry, and held that he was dishonored, because that part of the land of the Moors was in his keeping, and he declared that he would have vengeance. So he and King Abenalfange gathered a great host of Moors and Christians, and went in pursuit of the Cid, and came up with him in the pine forest of Tebar. They came on bravely, thinking to lay hands on him.

Now the Cid was coming back with much spoil, when news came to him that Count Don Ramon and the king of Denia were at hand with a great force to take his booty and capture or slay him. Then the Cid sent word to Don Ramon that the booty was his own and bidding the Count to go on his way in peace. But the Count answered that the Cid should learn whom he had dishonored, and make amends once for all.

Then the Cid sent his spoil to a safe place, and ordered his knights to make ready to fight, saying: "They have come upon us with a great force, to take the booty we have fairly won, and we cannot get rid of them without fighting. If we should proceed, they would follow us. Therefore let the battle be here, and we shall win more honor, and spoils beside. A hundred such as we ought to be equal to their whole company. Before they get upon the even ground let us give them the points of our lances. For one whom we run through, three will jump out of their saddles. And Don Ramon will see whom he has overtaken today."

While the Cid was speaking, the knights had taken their arms and were ready for the charge. Presently they saw the banners of their foes coming down the hill, and had not set their feet upon the plain, when the Cid ordered his men forward. They rode the charge with such good will that every man hurled another from his horse. So many were slain and wounded that the Moors were terrified and began to fly. The

Count's people stood firm a little longer, gathering about their master. But the Cid was looking for Don Ramon, and when he saw where he was, he rode up to him and gave him such a stroke with his lance that he felled him to the ground. When the Count's followers saw their master in this plight, they fled and left him. The Cid's men then followed the fleeing troops for nine miles, until they had tired their horses.

Then they turned about and collected the spoils, which were more than they could carry. Don Ramon was made prisoner, and the Cid took his sword Colada, which was worth a thousand marks in silver. That night the Cid and his men made merry, rejoicing over their gains.

The Count was taken to the Cid's tent, and supper was set before him, but he would not eat. On the next day the Cid ordered a feast for the Count, but Don Ramon said that for all Spain he would not eat a mouthful, but would rather die, having been beaten in battle by such a set of ragged fellows. Then the Cid urged him, saying, "Eat and drink, Count, for this is the chance of war; if you do as I say, you shall be free; and if not, you will never again return to your own lands." But Don Ramon said, "Eat you, Cid, for your fortune is fair and you deserve it; take your pleasure, but leave me to die." In this mood he continued for three days, refusing all food. Then the Cid said to him, "Take food, Count, and be sure I will set you free, you and any two of your knights, and give you horses to return to your own country." When Don Ramon heard this, he was comforted, and said, "If you will indeed do this thing, I shall admire you as long as I live." "Eat, then," said the Cid, "and I will do it. But I will not give you any of the spoil we have taken from you, for we are banished men and must live by what we can take."

Then was the Count glad at the prospect of liberty, and he washed his hands, and chose two of his kinsmen to be set free with him. And the Cid sat at the table with them, and said, "If you do not eat well. Count, you and I shall not part

yet." Never in his life did the Count eat better than on that day; and when they had finished, he said, "Now, Cid, if it is your pleasure, let us depart." The Cid then clothed him and his kinsmen with fine skins and mantles, and gave them each a good horse, with rich caparisons, and he rode with them on their way. When he took leave of the Count he said to him: "Now go freely, and I thank you for what you have left behind. If you wish to play for it again, let me know, and you shall either have something back in its stead, or leave what you bring to be added to it." The Count answered, "Cid, you jest safely now, for I have paid you and all your company for a year, and shall not be coming to see you soon again." Then Count Ramon spurred his horse, and looked back many times for fear the Cid would repent and take him again. But the Cid would not have done a disloyal thing for the world.

Then the Cid returned to Zaragoza and divided the spoil, which was so great that none of his men knew how much they had. And the Moors of this town rejoiced in his good luck, for he protected them so well that they were safe from all harm. Again the Cid went out from Zaragoza, and rode over the country. King Pedro of Aragon came out against him, but the Cid took the Castle of Monzon before his eyes. Then he went to Tamarit, and one day as he was hunting with twelve of his knights, he met one hundred and fifty of the people of the king of Aragon, and he fought with them, and put them to flight, and took seven knights prisoners, but let them go again.

Then he turned toward the seacoast, and won many towns, and the people of Valencia were dismayed by his great deeds. When he had spoiled all that country, he went back to Tamarit, where Zulema was. Zulema had sent for the Cid for the following reason: His brother, the king of Denia, had agreed with Count Ramon and the Count of Cordova and with others that they should lay siege to the Castle of Almenar, which the Cid had fortified by command of King Zulema. And they went to attack it while the Cid was away

besieging the Castle of Estrada, which he took by force. These men fought against the Castle of Almenar, and cut off the water supply.

When the Cid came by his request to Zulema at Tamarit, the king asked him to go and fight with the army that was besieging Almenar; but the Cid said it would be better to pay King Abenalfange a price to go away, as his army was too numerous for them to fight with. Then Zulema sent to his brother and offered him a reward if he would break up the siege, but he refused to do this.

Then the Cid, seeing they could not be persuaded to go away in this manner, decided to give them battle. To this end he armed his people, and fell upon the host about Almenar. Then there was a great battle, and both sides fought well, but the Cid, who never was conquered, at last won the day.

Then Abenalfange and Count Ramon fled, and the Cid with his men followed for many miles, killing many and taking prisoners. The Cid returned with great glory and much spoil, and gave his prisoners to King Zulema, who kept them for eight days, and then the Cid begged that they might be set free, and this was done. The Cid and Zulema then returned to Zaragoza, and were received with shouts of welcome; and Zulema gave the Cid great honor and power in his kingdom.

Almofalez, a Moor of Andalusia, took the Castle of Rueda, which belonged to King Don Alfonso. There he held prisoner the brother of Adefir, another Moor, and Adefir sent to Don Alfonso asking him to come to rescue his brother, and to regain the castle. The king sent his cousin, Don Ramiro, and Don Sancho, son of the king of Navarre, and Count Don Gonzalo Salvadores, and Count Don Nuno Alvarez, with many knights; and when they came to the castle, Almofalez said he would not open the gates to them, but if Don Alfonso would come he would open them to him.

When Alfonso heard this, he came at once to Rueda, and Almofalez asked him to enter and partake of a feast he had

prepared. But the king would not go in, neither would his followers have permitted him to risk such a danger. But Don Sancho, Don Nimo, Don Gonzalo, and fifteen other knights entered; and as soon as they were inside the gates the Moors threw down great stones upon them and killed them all.

The king, Don Alfonso, was much grieved at this treacherous crime, and he sent for the Cid, who was not far away; and the Cid came with many followers. Alfonso told him of this villany and treated him very courteously, and told him he could return with him into Castile. The Cid thanked him, but said he would not go unless the king would promise that hereafter a banished knight should have thirty days to leave the country, and not nine as in his case; and that every accused man should have the chance to be fairly and lawfully heard; and that the king should not go against the charters, customs, or privileges of any town or place; or impose taxes against their right; and that if he did, it should be lawful for the land to rise against him.

To all this the king agreed, and said the Cid should go back with him to Castile; but the Cid said he would not go back till he had taken the Castle of Rueda, and punished these Moors. So the king thanked him, and returned to his country, while the Cid laid siege to the Castle of Rueda. The Cid stayed so long about this castle, that the food of the Moors failed, and they offered to yield if they should be permitted to leave the place and go wherever they desired; but he wished to carry them as prisoners to the king. When they could make no other terms, most of the Moors came out and were made prisoners. Then the Cid stormed the castle, and took Almofalez and all the others, and he sent all of these to the king, who punished all the guilty ones, and then sent word to the Cid, thanking him for avenging him.

Then the Cid went with the King Zulema into Aragon, slaying and plundering, and they retired to the Castle of Monzon with much spoil. The Cid then went into the country

of Abenalfange and overcame all in his path, and destroyed the Castle of Morilla. Now Abenalfange sent to King Pedro of Aragon, asking him to come and help him against the Cid. As Pedro was very angry, he was glad to do this, so he gathered a great host, and he and Abenalfange came against the Cid and attacked him. A great battle was fought that day, but the Cid won, and Abenalfange fled, and Don Pedro was taken prisoner with many of his knights. So the Cid returned to Zaragoza with his prisoners, but soon after he set them free. In a few days he left Zaragoza and set forth for Castile with great riches and full of honors.

CHAPTER 10

The Cid in Favor with Don Alfonso. Don Alfonso Makes War on Yahia. The Grandson of His Old Friend, the King of Toledo. The City of Toledo is Taken. Moors from North Africa Trouble Don Alfonso. The Cid Makes the French Depart. Weaker Kingdoms Seek the Protection of the Cid.

Thus the Cid returned from the land of the Moors and from his exile to Castile. The king received him with many honors, and gave him seven castles with their lands. He also signed a promise that the Cid should keep forever for himself and his descendants whatever castles, towns, and places he might win from the Moors or from others. Thus the Cid was again high in the favor of the king.

Now King Yahia, who was the grandson of Alimaymon, reined in Toledo. It is to be remembered that Alimaymon was the friend of Don Alfonso, who received him when he fled from Don Sancho, and that Don Alfonso had sworn to do no evil to Alimaymon nor to his sons, but the grandson Yahia was not mentioned in the oath. At this time Alimaymon was dead, and his son Hocem also, and Yahia, the grandson, was on the throne.

This Yahia was a bad king, insolent, cruel, and he oppressed his people so that they could bear his yoke no longer. Neither did he make any effort to protect his subjects from their enemies, who came and spoiled the land as they pleased, and his people went to him and said, "Stand up for your people and your country, or we must find a king who will do so;" but he paid no attention to what they said.

When his people found that they could hope nothing from Yahia, certain of them went to the king of Badajoz, saying that if he would come and be their protector, they would deliver the city of Toledo into his hands. But others who dwelt in the city sent to Don Alfonso urging him to win Toledo, as he could do so, as he was no longer bound by his oath. Then both kings came, but the king of Badajoz arrived first, and the gates were opened to him.

But soon after Don Alfonso came, and the king of Badajoz, knowing he could not withstand Alfonso, fled, and Don Alfonso followed him into his own kingdom and compelled him to submit. King Alfonso then overran the country about Toledo, despoiling it; and he did this for four years, so that he was master of the land.

In all these battles the Cid helped his king. The son of the Cid was slain — a young man who was well beloved, and who promised to be much like his father.

King Don Alfonso had for several years cut down the vines and trees and destroyed the harvests in the country around Toledo, so that the people were not able to store up provisions in that city; and now Alfonso made ready to lay siege to that place. When this news was known, men came from all parts of his kingdom to take part, and King Sancho Ramirez of Aragon came also with the best of his knights; there came also Germans, Italians, Frenchmen, and men from other countries, for this war against one of the chief strongholds of the Moors interested all the Christians of Europe. This was the greatest force of Christians ever gathered till that time in Spain, and it was the greatest effort ever made against the Moors.

Of this whole mighty army the Cid was leader. In the spring the host began to march, and when they came to the ford of the Tagus, the bravest feared to pass through the swollen river, for it was a great torrent. But there was a Benedictine monk in the camp named Lesines, who, being

mounted on a mule, led the way and passed safely.

Though Toledo was the chief stronghold of the Moors, and they defended it as long as they could, knowing it was the very heart of their empire, and though the flower of the soldiery of Spain and all Christendom took part in that great siege, unfortunately the details of this conflict have been forgotten, and the chroniclers omitted to tell them. But we know that there was a long siege, and that many struggles took place, and that the army of Alfonso was at last almost in despair of accomplishing their purpose. Then it is told that when Don Cabrian, the Bishop of Leon, was engaged in prayer for the success of the Christian army, St. Isidro appeared to him, saying that in fifteen days the city should be surrendered. So it came to pass, for the gates were opened on May 25th, 1085. The first Christian banner that entered the city was that of the Cid, and the Cid was made the first Christian governor of Toledo.

About this time a race of people called Almoravides, being part of the Moors still living in Barbary in North Africa, arose and began to pass over into Spain and make war. They came with such force that they threatened to overturn the throne of Don Alfonso, who, having enough to do to defend himself, sent for Alvar to come to his assistance with his men, and to leave the city of Valencia and its king, Yahia, to take care of themselves.

The Cid afterward made war on the king of Denia and laid a great part of the country waste. Having done this, he pitched his camp near Tortosa and cut down everything before him, orchards and vines and corn. When Abenalfange saw this, he sent for Don Ramon to come to his help. Don Ramon, desiring to take revenge for his former defeat, gathered a great army of Christians and Moors, so vast that they thought the Cid would not dare to fight them.

The Cid realized that it would not be wise for him to meet this great host, so he considered how he might scatter them.

And he got among the mountain valleys, where the entrances were narrow, and he fortified these points so that the Frenchmen might not be able to come into the country. On the next day Don Ramon came in sight and camped three miles away, and at night sent spies to view the Cid's camp. The next day he sent word that the Cid should come out and fight; but he received the answer that he did not wish to have any quarrel with him, but that he and those with him should pass on to their homes. Then Don Ramon's army came nearer and defied the Cid, saying that he was afraid to come out and fight. But the Cid cared nothing for this; they thought he refused because of his weakness, but he did it to wear out their patience.

On the next day, the Cid sent some of his men away to pretend that they were fleeing, and so arranged this that the French would see them, and he instructed them what they should say when they should be captured. The French pursued these men and took them, and asked of them what the Cid intended to do. They answered that he intended to flee that night by way of the mountain. They also said that the Cid did not think Don Ramon intended to give him battle, or he would not have awaited his coming; and they advised Don Ramon to take possession of the passes by which the Cid intended to escape, and thus he might easily capture him and his men.

The Frenchmen, upon this, divided their force into four parts and sent them to guard the mountain passes, and Don Ramon remained with one part at the entrance of the valley. Now the Cid had sent his Moors forward to the passes, where they had hidden in ambush; and when the Frenchmen began to ascend the mountain, the Moors rose from their hiding places and slew many, and took many prisoners. And the Cid went out and attacked Don Ramon, who was thrown from his horse, but his men put him on another. The battle lasted a long time, and was bravely fought, but in the end the

unconquerable Cid won the day.

The Cid took a thousand prisoners, and many chiefs, and he put them all in irons. He reproached them also for coming against him, saying that he was engaged in good service, taking vengeance upon the Moors, and that he had done the Frenchmen no wrong, but they had come against him through envy. He took their tents, and horses, and arms, much gold and silver, and fine linen, so that the spoils made him and all his men rich.

When Don Ramon, who had fled, heard that the Cid had taken his captains, and nearly all his force was taken or slain, he thought it best to come to the Cid and give himself up to his mercy. The Cid received him well and honorably, and then set him free; but he took the swords of the chiefs and made them pay a great ransom. When he had done this, he restored a good part of the ransom to them again, and showed them great courtesy, and they promised never to come against him again.

When Abenalfange, king of Denia, knew that the Cid had overcome this great army, he was so grieved that he fell sick and died. He left one little son, placing him under the guardianship of two men who were the children of a man named Buxar. One of these guardians was to hold Torosa for the little king, and the other to hold Xativa; and a third, who was their cousin, was to hold Denia. These men, knowing that they could not live in peace, and that they had not strength for war unless they could have the protection of the Cid, sent him word that if he would protect their lands they would pay him a yearly tribute of whatever sum he might demand. So the whole country that had belonged to Abenalfange was placed under his protection, and he fixed the tribute that each castle should pay. Valencia was also at this time under the command of the Cid, and as the king, Yahia, was sick, the Cid appointed a governor for the place, called Abenalfarax. The Cid also appointed trusty men in the city to collect the rents;

and he put a knight in every village to protect it, so that none dared do wrong to another nor take anything from him.

CHAPTER 11

The Cid is Summoned to Help Don Alfonso Against the Almoravides. The Cid's Enemies Again Vex Don Alfonso Against Him. Again They Become Friends. Abeniaf Takes Valencia. King Yahia is Slain.

In the meanwhile, a Moor named Ali Abenaxa, who was a chief of those Almoravides, the Moors who had recently come from North Africa, came with a great force of the Moors of Andalusia to besiege the Castle of Aledo. He did this, thinking that Alfonso would come against him with a small army and that he would be able to take or kill the king. When the king heard of this, be gathered a very large army, and sent word to the Cid to come to his help.

The Cid went to Requena, thinking he should meet the king there, but Alfonso went by another way, and the Cid waited for him several days, as that was the chief road on which he might be expected to come. But when the Moors knew that Alfonso was coming with so large an army, they fled as quickly as they could. Don Alfonso came to the castle, and there found that he was short of provisions, but he supplied the castle with arms and food as best he could.

The enemies of the Cid now told Alfonso that the Cid had delayed at Requena, knowing that the king had gone another way and hoping that the Moors might fall upon him. The king believed this, and was very angry, and ordered that all the Cid's possessions in Castile be taken from him, and sent orders that his wife and daughters should be made prisoners. When the Cid heard this, he sent a knight to the king to defend himself, saying that if there was a knight who would

maintain that he had a better will to serve the king than he had, he would do battle with him body to body. But the king was so angry that he would not listen to this messenger.

Alfonso decided to go against Ali. The queen of Alfonso and the knights who were friends of the Cid wrote to the Cid that he should now come and help the king in his need in such a way that Alfonso should know he was his friend. When he had gotten these letters, the Cid left Zaragoza, where he was at this time, and went with a great following to Martos, where he found the king. Alfonso received him gladly, and they went on together for a time, but presently the Cid went into the plain and continued on before the king. The envious men who hated the Cid now said, "The Cid came after you like one who was wearied, and now he goes before you." In this way they again set the king against him.

The Moors now were afraid to give Alfonso battle, and they retreated. When the Cid saw that the king was once more angry with him, he returned to Valencia, while Alfonso went back to Toledo.

After this Alfonso took a great army and went toward Valencia, and sent word to all the castles in that land, saying that for five years they should pay him the tribute that they had been paying the Cid. When the Cid learned this, he sent word to the king, saying he could not understand why the king sought thus to dishonor him, and that he trusted soon to make him know what bad advisers he had about him.

Presently the Cid gathered a great army of Moors and Christians and entered the land of King Don Alfonso, burning and destroying whatever he found, and he took Logrono and Alfaro also and sacked it. While he was at Alfaro, Count Garcia Ordonez and other knights sent word to him that if he would wait seven days they would give him battle. He waited for them twelve days, but they did not dare to come. And when the Cid saw this, he returned to Zaragoza.

When Alfonso learned that the Cid had been burning and

destroying in his land, and that his chiefs dared not fight him, he saw that he had been wrong when he listened to evil counsel against him. He sent letters to the Cid, saying that he forgave him all that he had done, since he had given him the occasion to do it; and he urged him to come to Castile, where his property should all be restored to him. At this, the Cid was greatly rejoiced, and he wrote the king thanking him and asking that he would never again listen to bad counsel against him, as he was always at the king's service.

The Cid now tarried a long time in Zaragoza, and the people of Valencia forgot their fear of him, and complained that he oppressed them; and they conspired against him. When Abenalfarax, the governor the Cid had appointed, learned that one Abeniaf was at the head of this conspiracy, he wished to take this man and put him in prison; but he did not dare to do this until the Cid should come; and he knew besides that when the Cid should arrive all the disturbance would cease.

Now Abeniaf knew that the governor would put him in prison if he dared, so he sent word to Ali, of the Almoravides, telling him to come to Valencia, and he would deliver the city to him. Ali at once set out, and on the way compelled many castles to submit to him, taking possession also of Denia and Xucar. When these tidings reached Valencia, the Christians who were in the city were afraid, and took their goods and went away. The governor of the city also was terrified and knew not what to do, and Yahia, the king, stayed in his house in fear. Then the governor, Abenalfarax, went to him and advised that they should take their goods and go to the Castle of Segorbe, one of the strongest forts in the city; so they set forth with many beasts laden with goods to the Castle of Benaecab. There Yahia and his governor gathered foot-soldiers and crossbowmen to defend themselves, and sent word quickly to Zaragoza to urge the Cid to come to their help. But he could not come at once; so that Valencia was in

peril for twenty days.

Then the governor of Xucar, whom Ali had appointed over that place, set forward early in the night with forty horsemen all clad in green, after the manner of the Almoravides; and they came by night to Valencia to the gate called Tudela, and sounded their drums, so that a rumor spread through the town that five hundred knights had come to take the town. Then the governor was in great fear, and he went into the castle to counsel with the king; and he gave orders that the gates of the town should be barred, and that the walls should be manned.

The king's soldiers now sent to the house of Abeniaf who had made all this trouble and called him to come out and go before the king; but he was afraid and would not come out. The men of the town came to his help, and when he saw how many were on his side, he put himself at their head, and went to the palace and captured the Cid's governor. The townsmen then went to the gates of the city and drove away the king's soldiers who were guarding them, and as they could not break down the gates, they burned them. Others let ropes down from the walls and drew up the Almoravides.

King Yahia now put on women's garments, and fled with his women and hid himself in a house near a bath. The Almoravides took possession of the palace and plundered it. In this manner Valencia was taken.

When this Abeniaf saw that all the people were on his side, he thought himself a great man. As he knew the king was still in the town, he searched for him and found him in the house where he had hidden with the women. When the king had fled from his palace, he had taken with him the best of his treasures, pearls, among which was one of the finest in the world, precious stones, sapphires, and rubies, and emeralds, and a casket of pure gold; and in his girdle he had hidden a string of precious stones, and of pearls, so that no king had so rich and precious a thing as that carkanet. It was said that

in former times it had belonged to a famous queen in Africa, and that afterwards it came to the lords of Andalusia; and that after that Alimaymon, king of Toledo, possessed it and gave it to his wife, and that she gave it to the wife of her son, who was the mother of Yahia.

Abeniaf greatly coveted these jewels, and he thought he might obtain them by killing Yahia, and no one would know what had been done. Therefore, on that night he commanded that the head of Yahia should be cut off and thrown in a pond. This was done accordingly, and Abeniaf took the most of the treasures, while some were taken by the murderers. The body lay where the murder took place until the next day; and then a kind man who grieved at the death of his king placed it on the cords of a bed, and covered it with an old horsecloth and carried it out of the town and made a grave for it where camels were accustomed to lie down, and he buried it there, without any honors, as if the body had been that of a villain.

CHAPTER 12

The Cid Makes Ready to Avenge Yahia. He Takes His Army Toward Valencia. He Captures a Suburb. He Punishes a False Friend.

When once Abeniaf had slain his master, King Yahia, he began to act as if he were now king himself. He put guards round about his houses day and night. He appointed secretaries who should write his secret letters. He chose a body of the better men to be his guard. When he rode out he took with him many knights and huntsmen, all armed, who guarded him like a king; and when he went through the streets, the women came out to gaze at him, and shouted and rejoiced in him. All this made him so arrogant that he assumed in every respect the manners of a king. He did whatever he could to debase a kinsman of his own who was a chief officer of the city, and who was wiser and better than he. He made no account of the governor of the Almoravides, who held the chief castles, declined to counsel with him, and did nothing for him except to supply him and his men with their money.

When King Yahia had been slain, his servants and other members of his household fled to the Castle of Juballa, while others went to Zaragoza and told the Cid what had been done. The Cid was greatly troubled, and went as fast as he could to Juballa, and met those who had fled from Valencia. These besought him to revenge the death of their master, and promised that they would follow him for life or for death. Then the Cid sent letters to Abeniaf, letting him know that he was aware what he had done, and reproaching him for casting the king's body into a pond, and letting the body be

buried shamefully. He also bade him give him the corn which he had left in the granaries at Valencia.

Abeniaf replied that the granaries had all been plundered, and that the city now belonged to the king of the Almoravides; and that if the Cid would serve that king, he would help him get his good will. When the Cid read this letter, he saw that Abeniaf was a fool, that he had written about one matter and the man had answered about another; and he knew that Abeniaf was not a man to keep the power which he had gained. So he sent other letters, calling him and all who were with him traitors, and saying that he would make war on him until he had avenged the death of Yahia.

The Cid also sent letters to all the castles in that region, ordering them to supply his men with food at once or he would destroy them all. All obeyed his commands, except Aboeza. This man sent word that he would obey the Cid; but at the same time he sent also to Abenrazin, the lord of Albarrazin, saying that he would give him Monviedro and the other castles which he held, and bidding him make terms with the Cid. Then Abenrazin went with all speed to Monviedro, and took possession of that castle. Now twenty-six days had passed since Yahia was slain.

When Abenrazin had possession of the Castle of Monviedro, he went to the Cid and made an agreement with him that his castles should provide food for the Cid's men, and that the Cid should not make war upon him. Then Abenrazin returned to his own land, leaving one of his men in charge of the Castle of Monviedro; and Aboeza went with him, glad to have escaped with his life from the power of the Cid.

The Cid lay before Juballa, and sent out his men twice a day toward Valencia, and they slew many Moors, and made many prisoners, and took all the flocks that they found outside the walls. But the Cid protected the land and those who labored to produce bread and wine, thinking that what was

thus raised could be used by him when he should besiege the town.

Now Abeniaf gathered about him more than three hundred knights, and he took no counsel with the governor of the Almoravides; and when the Almoravides saw that he followed only his own will, they were offended. The sons of Aboegib were offended also, and they made friends with the Almoravides. Now the Cid was lying in front of Juballa, and his men every day scoured the country up to the gates of Valencia. And the three hundred knights of Abeniaf, with men from the town, went out against the Cid's men, but the Cid's men slew many of them. In one of these skirmishes, the Cid's followers captured a rich Moor, and they forced him to give them a large sum of silver money; and he gave them the houses that he owned in Valencia, to be theirs if they could take the town.

When the Cid knew there was strife between the various parties in Valencia, he strove to make this difference greater. And he sent secretly to Abeniaf, offering him his friendship if he should expel the Almoravides from the town, and saying he would befriend him if he did this. Abeniaf was well pleased, thinking he would now be king of Valencia, and he denied the Almoravides their supplies, pretending he had nothing for them.

At this time Abeniaf received word from Ali, who was in Denia, saying that he should send some of the treasure he had taken from Yahia to the Miramamolin, the great chief of the Moors in Africa, with which he could get him to send a great army and come and fight the Cid. So Abeniaf took part of the treasure, and hid the rest, and sent it away secretly lest the Cid should know. But Abenalfarax, who was the governor whom the Cid had placed in Valencia, sent a messenger to the Cid, who at once sent horsemen who took the treasure and brought it to the Cid. Greatly did he thank Abenalfarax for this deed, and he made him chief over all the Moors who

were his subjects.

At this time, the Castle of Juballa surrendered, and the Cid took his army and went toward Valencia and encamped in a village called Deroncada. And as seed-time was now over, he burned all the villages round about, and burned the mills and the boats on the river. He beset the city on all sides, and pulled down the houses that were outside, and sent the wood and stone to build a town near Juballa.

Presently the governor of the king of Zaragoza came to the Cid with treasures that the king had sent for the ransom of captives. He also came to counsel with Abeniaf and advise him to give up the city to the king of Zaragoza, and then the king would protect him; but Abeniaf would not heed this advice. On the second day after this governor had come, the Cid attacked a suburb of Valencia and slew many, and took it and pulled down the houses, and put a guard there that the Moors might not recover it.

On the next day, the Cid attacked another suburb, and he also sent a part of his host to attack the gate of the city. The Cid and his company rode among the great multitude of the Moors, smiting and slaying without mercy, and the Cid's horse stumbled over the dead and fell, and the Cid fought on foot. His friends soon brought him another horse, and he continued smiting them so fearfully that the Moors were amazed at the number that fell, and they strove to flee into the town. Those who had been sent against the gate would have succeeded had it not been for the boys and women who were upon the walls and in the towers, and threw stones down upon them. Then many horsemen came forth from the city and fought with the Christians, and the battle lasted from morning until midday. Then the Cid returned to his camp, and when he had taken food, he returned to the attack on the suburb.

This attack was so vigorous that those who dwelt in this part thought they would be taken, and cried out, "Peace,

peace," being in great fear. The Cid then bade his men cease fighting, and the leading men of this suburb came out, and the Cid granted them the terms they asked; and he took possession of the suburb that night and set his guards there. On the next day, the Cid went to these people who had surrendered, and promised them his favor, and told them to cultivate their fields and tend their flocks securely, saying that he would take only a tenth of the fruit. He placed a Moor there named Yucef, to be his receiver. He gave orders that all Moors who would live there might dwell securely, and they could bring food and merchandise for sale. So much food and merchandise were brought there from all parts that that suburb became like a city.

Since the Cid had possession of the suburbs, he cut off Valencia so that no one could go out nor in, and the people of the city knew not what to do, and were sorry that they had not listened to the offer of the king of Zaragoza. The Almoravides were also in bad circumstances, for they had no one to look to, and were not receiving any pay. All this time Abeniaf secretly pretended friendship for the Cid. Then the men of the town and the Almoravides talked together as to a way by which they could make peace with the Cid until the Miramamolin could send them help from beyond the sea. They therefore sent word to the Cid that they wished to make a treaty with him, but he answered that he would not do this until they had sent the Almoravides out of the town. These Africans were well pleased at this message, for they were very weary of being in that place, and said they would count it the happiest day of their lives when they were able to depart. So the men of the town made a treaty with the Cid that the Almoravides should be permitted to depart in peace, and they agreed to pay him for all the corn that was in his granaries when Yahia was slain, and that they should pay him the amount that had been promised every week while they had been in arms, and also from that time forth. They agreed, also,

that the suburb that he had won should be his, and that his troops should remain in Juballa as long as they stayed in that part of the land. Then the Africans departed from Valencia, and horsemen were sent with them to conduct them in safety.

Then the Cid went with all his army to Juballa, leaving only men to collect his rents. Abeniaf now made ready to pay the Cid for his com, and he made terms with the castles about Valencia that they should pay him one-tenth of all their fruits and of all their other rents. As this was the harvest, he appointed a Moor and a Christian in each place to see the corn gathered into the granaries; and thus the Cid was well paid.

At this time news came to Valencia that the Almoravides were approaching with a great force, and the Cid planned how he could keep them from coming, or fight them if they succeeded in reaching that land. He sent to Abeniaf telling him to forbid the Africans from marching into that region, saying that if the Africans entered Valencia, he would cease to be lord of Valencia; but if they did not come, the Cid would protect him from all his enemies.

Abeniaf was well pleased with this plan, that he should continue to be lord of Valencia and have the protection of the Cid; and he talked with the governors of some of the castles, and they agreed to what the Cid had said. So they came to Valencia, and the Cid to his suburb; and they made friendship with him in great secrecy. But the governor of the Castle of Algezira would not take part in this treaty, so the Cid sent his troops into his land and cut down his corn and brought it to Juballa, which the Cid had made into a great town, and where he kept his corn and other supplies and had his rents brought, so that men marvelled that in so short a time he had made so prosperous a town.

Now Abenrazin, the lord of Albarrazin, made an agreement with the king of Aragon that the king should help him win Valencia, and he would give him great treasures, and as a guarantee of what he would do he gave him the Castle of

Toalba; but in this he gained nothing, but lost the castle. This Abenrazin had before made a treaty with the Cid, so that they were friends, and the Cid had never done him any injury. But when the Cid knew of his agreement with the king of Aragon, he felt that he had been dealt with falsely; but he said nothing of his anger until the corn had been gathered into Juballa.

When the harvest was over, the Cid told his men to get ready for a campaign, but did not tell them where he intended to lead them, and he set forward by night toward Albarrazin. As that land was at peace, the inhabitants did not keep watch; so the Cid's men fell upon them, and slew many and took many prisoners, and drove off great flocks and herds, sheep and kine and horses and prisoners all together, and carried away the corn. And they sent the spoil to Juballa, and it was so great that Valencia and Juballa and all their dependencies were rich with cattle and other supplies.

The Cid besieged Albarrazin, and on one day he rode forth with five of his knights, and there came twelve knights out of the town, thinking to kill him or capture him. But he spurred his horse forward and slew two, cast two others from their horses so that they were taken, and put the rest to flight. But in this encounter the Cid received a wound in his throat from a spear, and it was thought he would die; and it was three weeks before the wound was healed.

CHAPTER 13

News of the Almoravides. A Mighty Rain and Flood Frightens the Africans. The Cid Besieges the City. The Despair of the Valencians. The Cid Turns Against Abeniaf.

At this time certain news came to Valencia that the Almoravides were approaching, and that the son-in-law of the Miramamolin was at their head, for the chief himself, being sick, could not come. The people of Valencia rejoiced at this, and began to devise means by which they could take vengeance upon Abeniaf and all who had oppressed them. Abeniaf accordingly sent word to the Cid to come to his help. The Cid was then before Albarrazin, but he broke up his camp and came with his army to Juballa; and Abeniaf and the governors of Xativa and Carchayra came to him, and they again made a treaty to stand by each other.

They also sent a letter to the leader of the Almoravides, in which they told him that the Cid had made a treaty with the king of Aragon, who had promised to help him; and that the Africans had better beware how they came toward Valencia, unless they were ready to do battle with eight thousand Christian horsemen, covered with iron, and the best warriors in the world. They did this, thinking to terrify the leader of the Moors, but he kept on his march in spite of the letter.

Now there was a garden near Valencia which had belonged to Abenalhazis, and the Cid asked Abeniaf to give it to him that he might have it for a resting place. In this the Cid had a cunning purpose, as he thought that when the

Almoravides heard how this garden so near the city had been given him, they would think the people of Valencia had given it to him, and would conclude that the Valencians were more anxious for the friendship of the Cid than that of the Africans. So Abeniaf gave him the garden.

At last tidings came that the army of the Africans was indeed quite near, though they had been delayed by the sickness of their leader. At this news the sons of Aboegib and many of the people rejoiced; but Abeniaf was in great fear and began to excuse himself for having given the garden to the Cid, for the people had complained of this, and to say that he had granted it only for a few days for the Cid's comfort, and that he would leave it again whenever the people wished him to do so. He also said that since they were displeased with him he would break off his treaty with the Cid. Thus he thought he could deceive them and make peace; but they understood his motives, and they said they would not counsel with him, but would do whatever the sons of Aboegib advised. These men gave orders that the gates of the town should be fastened and watchmen set upon the walls and towers. Then Abeniaf increased the guard about his own person. And the war was renewed between the Cid and the people of Valencia.

The Almoravides had now come as far as Xativa, and the people of Valencia rejoiced as they thought they should now be delivered from the oppressions of the Cid. When the Cid heard these tidings, he left the garden and went to the place where his army was encamped, which was called Xarosa, and he was perplexed what to do, whether to depart or wait for the coming of the Africans; but he resolved to remain and see what would happen. Then he gave orders that the bridges over the river should be destroyed, and the canals that were used for irrigating that region should be opened, that the plain might be flooded, so that the Africans could only come by one way, which was a narrow pass.

The Almoravides had now approached as far as Algezira,

and the people of Valencia went upon the walls and the towers to see them come. When night came, they remained still upon the walls, and they saw the great campfires of the Africans; and they resolved that as soon as the Almoravides were engaged in battle with the Cid they would come out and plunder his camp.

But that night there was the greatest rain storm that had ever been known in that country, and such a flood that at daybreak, when the people of Valencia looked from the wall to see the banners and the camp of the Africans, they could see nothing, and they were filled with anxiety and dread for several hours when they learned that the Almoravides had turned back and would not come to Valencia. The Africans were so dismayed by the rains and floods, to which they were not accustomed in their own country, that they thought they should be swept away, and that the hand of God was against them.

When the people of Valencia heard this, they held themselves as dead men, and they wandered about the streets like drunkards, and they smeared their faces with black, and seemed to have lost their senses. Then the Christians drew near to the walls, calling the Moors traitors, and saying, "Give up the town to the Cid, for ye cannot escape from him." But the Moors made no reply on account of their misery.

Then Abenalfarax took account of the food in the city to see how long it would hold out, and the Moors in the suburbs carried all their best goods into the city. When the Cid was certain that the Africans were not coming, he returned again to his garden and gave order to spoil the suburbs; and the Moors fled into the city with their wives and children. Then the Cid's followers pulled down all the houses except those that could be defended by arrows, and those that were too near the walls for them to pull down they set fire to at night. Then they began to dig in the foundations, and they found great wealth there and stores of garments and hoards of

wheat.

Then the Cid drew nearer to the city and hemmed it all in with his army, and there was fighting every day, for often the Moors would come and fight hand to hand. While the city was thus besieged there came letters from the leader of the Africans saying that he had not turned back through fear, but for want of food, and also on account of the waters; but that he was still preparing with all diligence to deliver the city, and he bade them take courage and to hold out against the Cid. Then the Moors of Valencia took heart and joined the sons of Aboegib, and resolved that they would maintain the city. They also accused Abeniaf of having advised the Africans to retreat, as he had told them there was strife in the city between the different parties, so that Abeniaf had to guard himself carefully lest he be harmed.

The Cid now kept so close watch that no one dared go in or out of the city. And the Cid gave orders that the land all about the suburb Alcudia where his garden was should be tilled; for this was now become a great place like a city, and the Moors from other parts came there and dwelt safely; tents and shops were made there for all kinds of merchandise, and merchants in that place became rich. The Cid and his governor also administered justice there in such a way that none needed to complain.

News now came from Denia that the Africans had returned into their own country, and that the city had no hope of help from them; and the Valencians were greatly distressed at this message. Those who held the castles round about came to the Cid, offering their friendship and bringing tribute, desiring to be placed under his protection. These he received, and he ordered that they should send him cross-bowmen and foot-soldiers to fight against the city, and they dared not disobey. Thus Valencia was forsaken by all other Moorish people and had to depend upon itself, and it was attacked every day.

The trouble which had come upon the people of Valencia

pleased Abeniaf well, for they had forsaken him and gone to the side of the sons of Aboegib; and he told the people that if they had done as he advised, they would have avoided these evils, and that the sons of Aboegib had not sense enough to counsel anyone well. Thus he talked to all who came to him; and all classes of people took up what he said, and declared that Abeniaf had been right.

The Christians fought against them every day and pressed them closely, and food began to fail; and the people became more and more angry at the sons of Aboegib, and blamed them for all the evil that had come upon them. And the people asked Abeniaf to forgive them and protect them, and to devise means for their deliverance; but he said he would have nothing to do with them, except that he was one of them; that if they were in trouble, so was he; and that he would not give counsel to people who were divided among themselves, that they must all agree to one thing, either to forsake the advice of the sons of Aboegib, or to stand by it. He said that if they would agree to follow his counsel, he would see what could be done. Then they with one accord answered that they would trust him and obey him, for it had always been well with them when they followed his advice.

Then many of the men of Valencia made Abeniaf their chief and agreed to follow him; but many of the people held with the other party. Abeniaf said they must give him his appointment as their chief in writing and have it confirmed by the principal men of the town, and this was done. After this he made an offer to the Cid that they should pay him tribute, and that they should put the sons of Aboegib and their followers outside the walls; he advised that the Cid should come near and speak to the people of the town, that so long as they followed the sons of Aboegib he would never be friendly with them, and that they must put these men out and make Abeniaf chief.

This plan pleased the Cid, and he came and spoke to the

people of the city. Abeniaf also daily urged the matter, but the people of the town said it was a hard matter to send the sons of Aboegib away. Thus the affair stood for three days. Then Abeniaf took counsel privately with the Cid and his knights how he might seize these sons of Aboegib. So one of the chief persons of Abeniaf's household went out with a great company of horse and foot to take these men; and when they knew this they took refuge in the house of a lawyer who was held in much honor by the Moors; and in this house, which was surrounded by a fortified wall, they thought they could defend themselves until their friends would come to their help. Then those who went to take them set fire to the outer gates of this house, and many of the rabble gathered to see what the trouble was. Those within went to the roof and threw down tiles upon the assailants. But the house was finally forced open, and the sons of Aboegib were taken and carried to prison, and at night they were conveyed to the Cid and lodged in his cave.

On the next day there was great stir in the city because of this deed. But Abeniaf, thinking he should now have all his desire, took horse and rode with all his company to see the Cid. He was met by the Bishop of Albarrazin and many of the chief knights and brought to the Cid, who embraced him and made much of him. The Cid asked him why he had not put on the robes of a king, for he was now indeed king; and the Cid made pretence as if he would have held his stirrups. And they stood talking awhile.

Now the Cid thought Abeniaf would not have come empty-handed, but would have brought some of the jewels he had taken from Yahia; but when he saw that he brought nothing, the Cid began to talk of terms, and to say that if he wished his friendship he must divide the rents of the town with him, as well as those from the castles. And to this Abeniaf agreed. Then the Cid demanded of him his son as hostage, that he might keep him in Juballa to make sure that

he would fulfil the agreement. To this also Abeniaf acceded; and having appointed another meeting for the next day, he went back to the city very sorrowful, and regretting that he had sent the Almoravides away.

On the next day the Cid sent for him to come out and confirm their agreement; but Abeniaf sent word that he would not give him his son if he had to lose his head for it. The Cid wrote him a letter saying that their friendship was at an end, as he knew he could not rely upon him. Then the hatred between them became very great.

Now the Cid sent for the Moor who had taken the sons of Aboegib and ordered him to leave the town and go to the Castle of Alcala, which he at once did. And the Cid began to give great honor to the sons of Aboegib, and provided all that they needed, and promised to be their friend.

The Cid renewed his efforts to take the city, and by this time the price of bread was three times as great as it had been in the beginning. And the Cid drew near to the town so as to fight hand to hand with the people. Abeniaf now had grown proud and insolent, and when any went to him for justice he treated them evilly. He lived like a king, apart from other men, and had singers and dancers to amuse him. The people of the town were in great distress with the famine within and war without.

Abeniaf also oppressed them in every way: he took the goods of those who died, and took from all others whatever he could lay hands on; and those who gave him nothing he had beaten and thrown into prison, till he could get something from them. People began to care nothing for their property; there was no flesh to eat; and if a beast died, its flesh would bring a great price by the pound. They grew so weak with hunger that when the Cid's men came near and threw stones over the walls with their hands there was no one with strength to drive them back.

Then the Cid made engines and placed them at the three

gates of the town and battered the gates with these. And food grew dearer every day within the city, and those who could get them ate rats and mice and dogs and cats. Many men and women and children watched when the gates were open for a moment and crept out and gave themselves up to the Christians, who took many of them and sold them to the Moors in Alcudia, and the price of one of these slaves was a loaf of bread and a pitcher of wine; and many of them were so weakened by hunger that when food was given to them and they ate heartily they died. Others were Bold to merchants who came there by the river from all parts.

Now Abeniaf thought that he would send to the king of Zaragoza and beseech him to help him. So a messenger was sent by night with a letter. But when he came to the king of Zaragoza, the king paid no attention to him, and he waited day by day for three weeks, not daring to depart without an answer lest Abeniaf should slay him. At last he began to cry aloud at the king's gate, until the king asked what the messenger was complaining about, and he was told that the man waited for an answer. Then the king wrote a letter saying that he could not make war with the Cid without asking King Alfonso; and he exhorted them to defend themselves as best they could while he procured horsemen from Alfonso, and that they should send him word from time to time how they came on.

So the messenger returned in great sorrow, lamenting to Abeniaf that the king had not given him a present as he had been promised, and that he thought the king of Zaragoza did not intend to help him. The famine now was so great that there was no food for sale, and Abeniaf searched everywhere for supplies, and when he found any that had been hidden, he took all except what would last for two weeks; and he gave out that the king of Zaragoza was coming to their help as soon as he could collect food for his army. This he said to keep the people quiet. Of the food which he captured he kept the most

for himself and his guards, and he put enough on sale to last each person only for one day. Those who had any food left, buried it; many ate leather, and the poor ate dead bodies.

As the king of Zaragoza was the only hope of Abeniaf, he sent word to him every night of the great misery in the city; and the king replied that Alfonso had sent him horsemen under Garcia Ordonez, and that he would himself come after them. This letter was in the handwriting of the king, and he confirmed with great oaths that he would come to their deliverance. Certain of the king's chief men also wrote, telling Abeniaf that they would surely come. But another man sent a secret message, that all the king said was only to put them off.

Then the king of Zaragoza sent two messengers to the Cid with jewels and rich presents, beseeching him not to distress the people of Valencia so greatly, and asking that he would permit his messenger to enter the town to confer with Abeniaf. This the Cid would not allow, but secretly means were found by which a letter was sent into the city, which gave a dissembling promise of help. For the king of Zaragoza and the Cid were friends, and it was understood that the Cid should take Valencia and give it to the king, who should give him great treasures in return.

CHAPTER 14

The Riot of Abenmoxis. The Cid Makes an Attack. Moors Are Burned Alive. The Awful Famine in Valencia. How Martin Palaez Became a Brave Knight.

Now the Cid began to conspire with a leading Moor of Valencia, named Abenmoxis, that he should kill Abeniaf or deliver him into his hands, and that he would make him lord of Valencia. So Abenmoxis talked with some of his friends about this matter; but Abeniaf heard of it and put the men in prison. Abenmoxis then talked with his keepers, and told them what he planned to do, and promised them if they could release him to give them great rewards when he succeeded; so they were persuaded and joined him. When night came, Abenmoxis and his friends and the keepers agreed to seize the Alcazar, the place where they were imprisoned, and to beat the alarm, and raise a cry for the king of Zaragoza. So they beat a drum, and sent a crier upon the top of the Mosque to bid the people to assemble at the Alcazar. The people were terrified at the sounds and knew not what to do.

When Abeniaf heard it he was dismayed, and asked what the uproar was about. When he heard what the trouble was, he ordered his soldiers to go to the Alcazar and capture Abenmoxis and his friends. Abenmoxis was at this time at the gate of the Alcazar thinking that the whole town would join him; but Abeniaf s company came up and charged him. Then he thought to defend himself with those he had, but most of them fled, and he with four others was taken and led with great shame into the presence of Abeniaf, who sent him to prison, and gave orders to cut off the heads of all the others.

Then he sent messengers to the king of Zaragoza telling him what had happened.

Men were now seen to drop and die in the streets from the famine, and the Place about the Alcazar was full of graves, and each grave had no fewer than ten bodies in it. As many as could, fled from the town and gave themselves up as prisoners to the Christians. The Cid thought that the leading men of the city were putting out the poor people that they might have more food for themselves, and it troubled him, for he feared the coming of the Almoravides. At another time, some of the chief men of the city came out and advised the Cid to make an attack, as the men at arms were so few and weak that he could easily take the city.

The Cid thought well of this advice, and he gathered his army and advanced against the gate, called the Gate of the Snake. All the people of the town assembled upon the wall and threw down stones from the gate and the wall, and shot their arrows so that they did great harm. And the Cid and his men who had come close to the wall went into a bath which was near to be under cover from the arrows.

Now Abeniafs men opened the gate and came out, seeing that they had hurt so many; and the Cid and his men who had gone into the bath were shut up there and had to break through the wall of this house and go out the other way to escape, thus being defeated. He now thought he had received bad advice in having attacked the town and in putting himself into a place from which he had escaped with such great danger, and he decided to let the people of Valencia die of hunger. So he ordered a proclamation to be made that all the Moors on the walls could hear, bidding all who had come out from the town to return into it, and that no others should come out, or he would burn all that he found. Nevertheless, in order to escape hunger, they continued to let themselves down from the walls, and the Christians took them as slaves without the Cid's knowledge. But as many as he found, he

burned alive before the walls, so that the Moors could see them.

The followers of Abeniaf were now in despair of help from the king of Zaragoza or the Almoravides, or of holding out themselves, and they went to a prominent man of the city and asked him to go to Abeniaf and find out what hope of rescue he had, or why he let them all thus perish. This man said if they would all hold together and show great anger at having been brought to this misery, he would do all that he could to relieve them. He therefore went to Abeniaf, and they agreed to give up all hope of help, and that this man, who was an Alfaqui, should go to the Cid and make the best terms that he could.

At this time Martin Pelaez came with a caravan of laden animals, bringing provisions to the army of the Cid; and as he passed near the town, the Moors came out in great numbers and attacked him to get the food he carried. But though Martin had few men with him, he drove them back into the town. Of this man Martin, who was naturally a coward, the Cid had made a good knight in the following manner. When the Cid first besieged Valencia, Martin, who was a knight of Asturia and large of body and limb came to him; and the Cid was sorry, for he knew that he had proved himself a coward many times. However, he determined that since he had come he would make him brave whether he wished or not. One day when a party was attacking the town, as they did daily, the Cid and his friends were engaged in a great encounter, and this Martin was well armed; but when he saw the Christians and Moors fighting furiously, he fled and hid himself in his lodging. The Cid saw what he had done, and when he had beaten the Moors he returned to his own lodging for dinner. Now it was the custom of the Cid to eat at a high table, seated on his bench, at the head. And other great knights ate in another part, also at high tables, and no other knights dared take their seats with them unless they were such as deserved

to be there. The others who were not so distinguished in arms ate at tables with cushions.

This was the order in the house of the Cid, and everyone knew the place where he was to sit, and everyone strove to do such great deeds that he would be allowed to sit at table with Alvar Fanez and other famous knights. This Martin, thinking that no one had seen his cowardice, washed his hands in turn with the other knights and would have taken his place among them. But the Cid took him by the hand, and said, "You are not such an one as deserves to sit with these, for they are worth more than you or I, but I will have you with me." The Cid seated him at the table with himself; and Martin was so stupid that he thought the Cid did this to honor him above all others.

On the next day, the Cid and his company rode toward Valencia, and the Moors came out to fight; and Martin went out well armed, and was among the foremost who charged the enemy; but when he was in among them, he turned his reins and went back to his lodging, and the Cid saw what he had done, but thought that though he had done badly he had done better than the first day. When the Cid had driven the Moors into the town, he went back to his lodging, and as he sat down at the table he took Martin by the hand and seated him by his side and bade him eat of the same dish with himself, saying that Martin had deserved more that day than he had at first. Martin understood now that the Cid had observed him, and he was ashamed; however, he did as the Cid commanded him.

After he had eaten and gone to his lodging, he began to think of what had been done, and he saw that the Cid would not let him sit with the bravest knights, but had seated him with himself more to affront him than to do him honor. Then he resolved to do better than he had done before.

On another day the Cid and his company and Martin rode toward Valencia, and the Moors came out furiously, and

Martin charged them boldly; and he smote down and slew a good knight, and he lost all fear, and on that day was one of the best knights there. He remained while the fight lasted, smiting and slaying until the rest of the enemy were driven into the gate, in such manner that the Moors wondered at him, asking where that demon had come from, for they had never seen him before. The Cid was in a place where he could see all that was going on, and he had great pleasure in seeing how he had forgotten his fear. When the Moors were all shut up in the town, the Cid and all his people returned to their lodging, and Martin went along leisurely like a good knight.

When it was time to eat, the Cid waited for Martin, and took him by the hand, saying, "My friend, the deeds you have done this day have made you a companion of Alvar Fanez and these other good knights, and from henceforth you shall sit with them." From that day forward, Martin sat with the best knights; and he was always afterward a good knight and valiant, and he lived always with the Cid, and served him well. Later, when Valencia was taken, Martin fought better than any man there except the Cid himself, and he returned from the battle with the sleeves of his mail clotted with blood up to his elbows; and the Cid honored him more on that day than he did any other knight, and took him into all his secrets.

But we must now return to the Alfaqui of Valencia, who sent his messengers to a governor of the Cid whose name was Abdalla Adiz, who was a good man, and one whom the Cid loved. When Abdalla heard that the Valencians wished to make terms of peace, he told the Cid, who ordered him to go into the town and ask the people what they would have. So he went into the town and then reported to the Cid, until he had made terms between them. The agreement was that the Valencians should send messengers to the king of Zaragoza and to Ali Abenaxa, who was the lord of the Almoravides, beseeching them to succor them in fifteen days; and that if, within that time, they did not come to their relief, they should

give up the city to the Cid, with the conditions that Abeniaf should remain a great man in the town, and that he should be overseer of the rents together with the officer of the Cid, and that a Moor named Musa should be Guazil of the town, that is, keep the keys and the guard. It was arranged that the Cid should dwell in Juballa, and that he should not change any of their customs, or the rents, or their money.

CHAPTER 15

Messengers Are Sent from Valencia to Zaragoza and the Almoravides. Valencia Surrenders to the Cid. The Terms. The Cid Demands the Surrender of Abeniaf. The Cid Enters Valencia. The Cid Takes the Treasures of Abeniaf and Has Him Stoned.

On the next day the messengers from Valencia to the king of Zaragoza and to Ali came out of the city, and it was decided that they could carry only a small sum of money with them, and they were to go as far as Denia by sea in a vessel of the Christians. These messengers, ten in number, got on board with their company, and the Cid sent word to the master not to sail until he came. Presently the Cid arrived, and gave orders that the messengers should be searched to see if they carried more money than had been agreed upon. Then there was found upon them great riches in gold and in silver and in pearls and in precious stones; part belonged to them, and part to other merchants who wished to send their money away and then to leave Valencia. All this the Cid took, leaving them no more than the amount that had at first been allowed.

The Christians now ceased to make war upon the people, but they kept guard as before. When the fifteen days had expired, the messengers had not returned, and Abeniaf asked for three days more; but the people of the town themselves said they could endure the famine no longer. And the Cid sent to them demanding that they yield up the town, as they had agreed to do; and he declared that if they delayed a single hour after the time was expired, he would not keep the terms which he had made, and moreover that he would slay the

hostages.

Nevertheless, they let a day pass over and above the time. Then those who had made the agreement with the Cid went out to him and said they were ready to yield the city to him. But the Cid said angrily that he was not bound to keep the terms, as they had let the appointed time pass. Then they yielded themselves into his hands to do as he pleased; but he was moved with compassion, and had pity upon them; and Abeniaf and other leading men came out, and the agreement was confirmed. The gates of the city were opened at noon on Thursday, the last day of June. When the gate was opened, Abeniaf was there within, with a great company round about him, both of his own people and those of the town.

All the people of Valencia gathered together like men risen from the grave. Hucksters came from Alcudia and brought bread to sell, and others of the town went out to Alcudia to buy food. The poor, who had nothing with which to buy, went out into the fields and ate green herbs, and they thought themselves rich that they could go in and out again without fear. Those who were wise took food only little by little after their long fast, but those who ate greedily died in great numbers.

On the next day, the Cid entered the town with a large company, and he ascended the highest tower of the wall, and beheld all the city; and the Moors came and kissed his hand. His followers took possession of the towers on the walls; and the Cid gave orders that all the windows of the towers which looked in upon the town should be closed up, that the Christians might not see what the Moors did in their houses, and the Moors thanked him much for this. The Cid also commanded his men that they should show honor to the Moors, and greet them when they met. And the Moors thanked the Cid for the honor which the Christians did them, saying they had never seen so good a man, nor one so honorable, nor one who had his people under such obedience. Now Abeniaf

thought to gain the friendship of the Cid by making him a present of the money he had made by selling the food he had taken from the people during the siege, but the Cid would not accept his gifts. Then the Cid caused a proclamation to be made through the town and all that region that the chief men should assemble in his garden. When they were all there he went to them, to a place made ready with carpets and mats, and he made them take their seats before him, and he began to speak to them, saying: "When I first beheld this city, I desired that I might be its lord. When I laid siege to Juballa, I had but four loaves of bread, and now I have won Valencia. If I administer right and justice here, God will let me enjoy it; but if I do evil and act proudly and wrongfully, I know that he will take it away. Now let everyone go to his lands and possess them and cultivate them. I have given orders that they who collect my dues take from you no more than a tenth. I have resolved to hear your complaints two days in the week; but if causes arise that need haste, come to me when you will and I will give judgment, for I do not shut myself up with women to sing and to drink as your lords have done, but will watch over you as friend over friend and kinsman over his kinsman." When he had said these things, they all replied that they prayed God to preserve him through long and happy years, and four of the chief men stood up and kissed his hand, and the Cid bade them take their seats again.

Then the Cid continued: "It is told me that Abeniaf has done much evil and wronged many of you, and that he has taken great riches from you to give them to me, saying that he did this because you sold food for a great price during the siege. But I will accept no such gift; for if I were so disposed, I could take your riches and ask no one for them. Let those from whom Abeniaf has taken go to him, for I will order him to restore the whole amount. Here are the riches that I took from the messengers; they are mine by right, for I took them in war when they broke the agreement and would have

deceived me; nevertheless I will restore them all. You shall promise me that you will abide in this place and will obey me, and never break the agreement you make with me. For I love you, and am grieved at the evil and misery you endured during the famine. If you had done before that which you have done now, you would not have been brought to these sufferings.

"Be now secure in your lands, and till your fields and rear cattle, for I have given my men orders that they do you no wrong. My people shall carry on all their dealings in Alcudia that you may not be disturbed. I have commanded my people not to take a captive into the town; but if this should be done, do you lay hands on the captive and set him free; and if anyone resist, kill him and fear not. I myself will not enter your city nor dwell there." When he had said these things, he dismissed the men, and they went away marvelling at the greatness of his promises, and they put away all fear.

Then the Cid sent Abdalla Adiz to the Custom House to collect the rents of the town for him. The Moors wished to take possession again of their property, as the Cid had promised, but they found that the Christians were cultivating their fields, and would not give them up. The Moors waited until Thursday, for the Cid had appointed Mondays and Thursdays as the days when he would hear complaints, and the chief men went to his garden; but the Cid sent word to them that he could not hear them on that day because of other matters, and asked them to come again on Monday. He did this to show that they were in his power.

On Monday they came once more, and the Cid took his seat, and the Moors made their complaints; and he said to them that he had to take care of his own men first, in order that they might be able to serve him, and that if they wished his friendship, they must deliver to him that traitor Abeniaf, who slew their King Yahia.

Then the Moors were dismayed; they knew that what he said of the death of the king was true, but they saw also that

he was not willing to fulfil his promises to them. They asked the Cid to give them time to take counsel, and five of the most honorable of them went to Abdalla and stated their case to him, saying: "The Cid promised us many things, and now he says nothing of what he said before. You know his ways better than we do; therefore, tell us what is his wish, for although we may want something else, this is not a time when we can do anything except what he commands." Abdalla answered: "Good men, it is easy to understand what he would have and to do what should be done. We all know the treason of which Abeniaf has been guilty in killing your king, and you should by all means deliver him into the hands of the Cid. Fear not and take no thought for the rest; for though the Cid may do his own pleasure in some things, yet it is better to have him for your master than this traitor. Moreover, my heart tells me that we shall before long come from under the yoke of the Cid and of the Christians; for the Cid is now nearly at the fulness of his days, and we who remain alive after his death will be masters of our city."

These men thanked Abdalla for his advice, and thought it good, and said they would do as he bade them; and they returned to the Cid and said they would obey him. They at once returned to the city and gathered a large company of men, and went to the dwelling of Abeniaf and broke down the doors and took him and his son and all his company and carried them before the Cid. The Cid ordered Abeniaf to be cast into prison and all those who had conspired for the death of King Yahia.

When this was done the Cid said to these men: "I hold it good now to show you favor. Say, therefore, what you would have; but this I demand, that my dwelling shall be within Valencia, and that my men have all the fortresses in the city." When these men heard this they were much troubled, but they concealed their feelings, and said, "Sir Cid, command as you think good, and we will obey." Then he promised that he

would observe the customs of their law, but that he would have all power, and that they should tend their flocks and cultivate their fields, and give him his tenth, and he would demand no more.

At this the Moors were well pleased, and since they were to remain in the town and retain their own customs, and that their mosques were not to be disturbed, they thought themselves not badly off. They asked the Cid to let their Guazil be the same as he had first appointed, and that he would give them for their Cadi the Alfaqui Alhagi, and let him appoint whom he would to assist him in doing justice; and thus the Cid would be relieved from the trouble of hearing them except when any great occasion might arise. The Cid granted these requests, and they kissed his hand and returned into the city.

When the Cid had made all these arrangements, which happened ten months after he had begun the siege, for he spent nine months in the siege and one month planning that Abeniaf be given into his hands, he took horse with all his company, his banner being carried before him and his arms behind, and in this manner, with great rejoicings, he entered the city of Valencia. He alighted at the Alcazar, and gave orders that his men should lodge round about it, and he bade them plant his banner upon the highest tower of the Alcazar. Glad was the Cid and all his company when they saw his banner in that place. Then was the Cid possessed of all the castles and fortresses in the kingdom of Valencia.

On the next day the Cid sent Abeniaf to Juballa, where he was put to torture until he was almost dead. They kept him there two days, and then brought him to the garden of the Cid, who commanded him to write with his own hand an account of all that he had. He did this, and wrote down the carkanets and rings and costly garments and rich apparel, and also many other precious household things, and the money that was owed him. This the Cid did that he might see if all

was there which Abeniaf had taken when he slew Yahia.

Then the Cid sent for certain Moors who were prominent men, and made Abeniaf be brought before them, and demanded of him if he had anything more than what he had written down; and he answered that he had not. Then the Cid sent secretly to the houses of the friends of Abeniaf to make search, declaring to them that if they had anything of his and denied it, and it was afterward found, they should be put to death. When they heard this they were in great fear, and that they might find favor with the Cid they brought him great riches, saying, "Abeniaf gave us this in keeping that if it was saved he might share it with us."

The Cid then gave orders to search and dig in the houses of Abeniaf, and they found great treasure there in gold and in silver and in pearls and in precious stones, all of which a servant discovered for them. When the Cid saw it all before him, he was much pleased, and he called for the Moors who had been before him when Abeniaf had taken his oath, and he took his seat and ordered Abeniaf and the other prisoners to be brought in. He bade Alfaqui, whom he had made Cadi, and the others to judge by what death a man should die who had slain his king, according to their law, and who was also perjured. The Cadi and the Moors said that according to their law he and his accomplices should be stoned. Yet they asked mercy for his son, who was but a child. The Cid said that on account of his friendship for them he would pardon the child, but that he must go away from the city, as he would not have the child of a traitor dwell there.

Then he commanded that they should stone Abeniaf and all those who had conspired for the death of Yahia. The Moors kissed his feet and his hands for his mercy to the child, and they took Abeniaf and twenty-two others out to stone them.

CHAPTER 16

The King of Seville with Thirty Thousand Men Is Defeated by the Cid. The Cid's Beard. The Bishop Don Hieronymo. The Cid Sends for His Family. He Sends Presents to the King and to the Monastery, and Redeems the Chests of Sand. His Wife and Daughters Arrive at Valencia.

That night the Cid talked with Alvar Fanez and Pero Bermudez and all the others of his council in regard to the manner in which they should live among the Moors. On the next day the chief men of the Moors came again to the Alcazar, and the Cid took his seat, and he said to them; "Good men of Valencia, you know how I served and defended your king Yahia and you also until his death. I had great sorrow for him and tried to revenge him, and endured great hardships in winning Valencia. Now I will have it for myself and those who have helped me, under the sovereignty of my king Don Alfonso. You are all now in my power to do with you whatever I will. But I will do you no harm. I will that the honorable men among you who have always been loyal shall remain in their dwellings with all their families, and that none of you keep more than one beast, which shall be a mule, and that you shall not use arms, nor have them in your possession except when I permit you. All the rest of the people shall go out of the city and dwell in the suburb Alcudia. You shall have two Mosques, one in the city and one in the suburb. You shall have your Alfaquis, and follow your own law. You shall have your Cadis and your Guazil. You shall have your inheritances and pay me a tenth, and the power of justice shall be mine. Do you therefore who wish to dwell here stay, and let those

who wish depart, and good luck go with them; but they shall take only their own persons."

When the Moors of Valencia heard this, they were very sorrowful; however, this was no time to do anything but obey. So they began to go from the city into Alcudia, and as the Moors went out, the Christians came in. So great was the multitude that left the city that it took two whole days for them to remove. From that day the Cid was called "My Cid the Campeador, Lord of Valencia."

Now the news spread everywhere how the Cid had won the noble city of Valencia. When Ali Abenaxa, the chief of the Almoravides, knew this, he sent his son-in-law, the king of Seville, with thirty thousand men to besiege the Cid in his city; and the Cid made ready with all his people, and went out to fight him. The battle took place near Valencia, by the Cid's garden. It was a hard fight, but in the end the Cid, who was called "He of Good Fortune," conquered, and he pursued the enemy as far as Xativa, smiting and slaying. At the passage of the river Xucar, the chroniclers say the Moors drank plenty of water without liking it. They say that fifteen thousand Moors were drowned there, and the king of Seville fled after having received three great blows.

On that day the knight Martin Pelaez, who had once been a coward, fought most bravely, so that there was no one who carried away such honor as he. When the pursuit was ended, the Cid returned to the field of battle, and ordered the spoils of the field and of the tents to be collected. There was such great spoil that every foot-soldier received a hundred marks of silver that day. And the Cid returned with great joy to Valencia. The Cid had now allowed his beard to grow until it was of great length, and he said of his chin, "For the love of King Don Alfonso, who has banished me from his land, no scissors shall come upon it, nor shall a hair be cut away, and Moors and Christians shall talk of it."

That night the Cid advised with Alvar Fanez, who never

left his side, and with the others of his council concerning what should be done. For now that all his people were rich, he feared that they would wish to return to their own country, since he had no way of preventing them, as they were free men. Then Alvar advised that a proclamation should be made through the city, that no man should depart without the permission of the Cid, and that if anyone went without his permission and having kissed his hand, he should be pursued and overtaken, and should lose all that he had and be fastened to a stake. And in order to make certain that no one should depart without his knowledge, the Cid said he would take a census of his men. Then Pero Bermudez and Martin Antolinez made the roll; and there were found a thousand knights of good families, and five hundred and fifty other horsemen, and four thousand foot-soldiers, beside boys and others. When he found he had so many people the Cid rejoiced, smiling and saying, "We had a smaller company when we left Bivar."

At this time there came the Bishop Don Hieronymo, a very learned man and also a great soldier. He came asking for the Cid, and saying that he was anxious to fight the Moors in the field as he thought it a good deed to fight the Mahometans who were the enemies of the Christian church. He said he desired to have his fill of fighting and slaying these men. When the Cid heard this it pleased him greatly, and he took his horse and went to visit the Bishop, resolving to make a bishopric of Valencia and give it to this man.

Then they took counsel together, and it was decided that on the next day the Bishop and his clergy should turn the Mosques into churches, wherein they might worship according to their belief. So nine parish churches were made, the greatest of which was called St. Pedro's, and another was called St. Mary of the Virtues. Rents were appointed for the table of the Bishop and for his Canons and for all the clergy of Valencia. After this manner the Cid ordered that his city

should be a bishopric, for the honor of Christianity. Then all Christendom was joyful that there was a Lord Bishop in the land of Valencia.

Now the Cid determined to send for his wife and daughters and have them brought to him, as he hoped to live many years in his new city. So he called for Alvar Fanez and Martin Antolinez and asked them to go to Castile to the King Don Alfonso and take him a present of a hundred horses, bridled and saddled; and that they would kiss the king's hand for him, and beseech him to send him his wife and daughters, and that they would tell him how he had become lord of a great city, and that he was at the king's service with Valencia and all that he had. He told them also to take much silver to the Monastery of St. Pedro, and give them to the Abbot, and gold for his wife and daughters, that they might come in a manner suited to their station.

The Cid also told them to take gold and silver sufficient to redeem the chests of sand that he had left with the Jews in Burgos, and to ask Rachel and Vidas to forgive him the deception, as he had at that time been in great need, and to tell them that they should have more interest than they had asked. He sent with them two hundred and fifty knights that his wife might be escorted with honor and safety.

Alvar and Martin soon went on their journey and arrived safely at Palencia, where they found the king. When they came, the king was at church, and seeing this goodly company he stopped in the church porch and asked who they were. He was told that they were the people of the Cid, and that they had come with a great present. Then Alvar and Martin alighted, and went to the king and kissed his hand, and he received them well, and said, "What tidings do you bring me of the Cid, my true vassal, the most honorable knight that was ever knighted in Castile?" Then Alvar was well pleased at this reception, and said: "We have come to ask a boon, Sir King Don Alfonso. My Cid bade me kiss your hands and your feet,

as his natural lord, at whose service he is. You banished him from the land, but, though in another country, he has done you only service. Five pitched battles has he won since that time, some with Moors and some with bad Christians. He has taken Xerica, and Ondra, and Almenar, and Monviedro, and Cebola, and Castrejon, and Bena Cadiella, and withal the right noble city of Valencia. He has made Valencia a bishopric and made Don Hieronymo bishop of it. Behold, here are a hundred horses of the spoils he has taken; they are great and swift, and are all bridled and saddled, and he kisses your hand and beseeches you as his lord to receive them."

When the king heard this he was greatly astonished, and he said, "I rejoice in the good fortune of the Cid, and willingly receive his gift." But though this pleased the king it did not please Garcia Ordonez, who said, "It seems there is not a man left in the land of the Moors, that the Cid can do as he wishes." But the king said, "Hold thy peace, for in all things he serves me better than you."

Then Alvar kissed the king's hand again, and said, "Sir, the Cid beseeches you that he may have his wife Doña Ximena and his two daughters, that they may go to Valencia to him, for it is many days since he saw them, and if it please you this would rejoice him." The king answered, "It pleases me well, and I will give them a guard to conduct them to the borders of my kingdom; after that the Cid must look after them." And he said: "All those who have lost their property for following the Cid shall have it again. All who wish to serve him have my permission to go and join him. And I grant him Valencia and all that he has won or shall win hereafter, that he shall be called Lord thereof, and he shall hold it under no lordship but mine, as I am his liege lord."

Alvar and Martin again kissed the king's hand for this, in the Cid's name. The king gave orders that they should have all that they needed while they were in his dominions. Then Alvar and Martin went on their way to Burgos; and when they

had reached that place, they sent for the Jews Rachel and Vidas, and demanded of them the chests, and paid them the money, and asked them to forgive the deception of the sand, for it was done in a time of great need. They said they forgave him heartily, and held themselves well paid, and prayed God to grant him long life and good health, and to give him power to put down the pagans. When it was known in Burgos that the Cid had redeemed the chests of sand, the people held it for a great wonder, and throughout the town they talked of the gentleness and loyalty of the Cid.

Then Alvar and Martin went to the Monastery, where Doña Ximena and her daughters were like people beside themselves with the great joy they had, and they came out running on foot, weeping plenteously for joy. When the men saw them coming, they jumped off their horses, and Alvar embraced his cousins, and their pleasure was unspeakable.

Then Doña Ximena asked how the Cid fared. Alvar said he had left him safe and sound in Valencia, and that he had won many castles from the Moors, and lastly the noble city of Valencia, to which he was now to carry her and her daughters, as the Cid had sent for them. When Doña Ximena heard this, she and her daughters fell on their knees and thanked God for the favor he had shown to the Cid and to them.

While they were getting ready for the journey Alvar sent three knights to the Cid to tell him how kindly they had been received by the king, and that he now waited only until Doña Ximena could be ready. Then Alvar began to deck the ladies with the best trappings that could be found in Burgos, and he provided a great company of damsels and good riding horses and mules. He gave the Abbot the silver the Cid had sent for the Monastery, and to pay all the expense they had been at for Doña Ximena and her daughters.

All this caused a great stir in that region; and when the people learned of the permission the king had granted that as many as chose could join the Cid, sixty knights came to the

Monastery, and a great number of squires on foot. These Alvar was glad to welcome, and he promised them the friendship of the Cid. The Abbot wept when Alvar departed, and bade him kiss the Cid's hand, and say that the Monastery would never forget him and would pray for him every day in the year. Then Alvar departed with his company, and after five days they came to Medina Celi.

Now the three knights that Alvar had sent came to the Cid and delivered the message. When the Cid heard this he rejoiced, and said, "Blessed be God, since King Don Alfonso rejoices in my good fortune." Then he called for certain of his knights and for the Bishop, and bade them take a hundred knights and go to Molina, to Abencano, who was his friend, and bid him take another hundred knights and go with them as fast as they could to Medina. "There," said he, "you will find Alvar and my wife and daughters; bring them to me with great honor. I will remain here in Valencia, which has cost me so much. It would be folly for me to leave it."

These men accordingly set off, and when they came to Molina, Abencano received them honorably and took with him two hundred knights. On the next day they took horse, and they crossed the mountains, which are great and wild, and passed Mata without fear, and they thought to go through the valley of Arbuxedo. The knights at Medina were keeping a good lookout, and Alvar sent a messenger to ask who these were who were coming. When he learned that men of the Cid had come to meet them, Alvar cried, "This instant let us to horse." Then all mounted, and they rode on goodly horses with bells and trappings of silk, and they had their shields round their necks, and lances with streamers in their hands. It was a brave sight to see Alvar with the ladies leave Castile.

The other party now came on spurring their horses, couching their spears and then raising them. When Abencano came up he kissed Alvar on the shoulder, for that was his custom, and he said, "On a good day, do you bring

these ladies, the wife and daughters of the Cid, whom we all honor. Whatever ill we may wish him, we can do him none. In peace or in war, he will have our wealth, and he must be a fool who does not acknowledge this truth."

At this Alvar smiled, and told him he should lose nothing by this service which he had done the Cid. Then they asked them to partake of supper, and Abencano said he was well pleased to eat with them, and that within three days he would return the entertainment twofold. Then they entered Medina, and Alvar served them.

On the next morning, they all took horse and left Medina, passed the river Saloj, spurred up the valley of Acbuedo, and crossed the plain of Torancio. The ladies rode between the Bishop and Alvar. When they came to Molina they were lodged in a rich house, and Abencano served them. He also had their horses new shod, and did for them all the honor that he could. On the next day they left Molina, and Abencano went with them.

When they were within nine miles of Valencia, news of their coming was brought to the Cid. Never had he such joy as then, for tidings had come of what he loved best. He ordered two hundred knights to go out to meet them, and he bade others keep the Alcazar and the other high towers and all the gates and entrances. Then he ordered them to bring him his horse Bavieca, one that he had won a short time before, and he had never yet tried him. Then they saddled Bavieca and threw on his trappings. The Cid wore light armor and his surcoat over it; and his long beard seemed very beautiful. Then the Cid put spurs to Bavieca and ran a career with him, and all marvelled at his speed, so that from that day Bavieca was famous all over Spain.

At the end of the course, the Cid alighted and went toward his wife and daughters. Who can tell the joy of that meeting? They fell at his feet, and their joy was such that they could not speak. He raised them up and embraced them and

kissed them many times, weeping for joy that he saw them alive. Then he said, "You dear and honored wife, and ye my daughters, my heart and my soul, enter with me into Valencia, the inheritance which I have won for you."

While they were thus rejoicing, the Bishop, who had gone rapidly into the city and brought out the priests, came with the procession to meet them and make them welcome. Thus they entered the city. Then there were games in their honor and bull fights and all manner of sports. The Cid led them to the Alcazar, and took them to the highest tower of it, and there they looked about and saw Valencia, how it lay before them, and the great garden with its thick shade, and the sea on the other side.

On that day the Cid did great honor to Abenoano for all the service he had done to Doña Ximena. Then Abencano said, "This, Sir, I was bound to do, for since I have been your vassal I have always been protected from all my enemies and kept in safety. How then should I do otherwise than serve you? If I did not, I should lack understanding." Then the Cid thanked him for what he had done, and what he had said, and promised him his favor in the future. After this Abencano took his leave and returned to Molina.

CHAPTER 17

King Yucef from Morocco Comes to Besiege Valencia. Doña Ximena's Fear. The First Charge Under Alvar Salvadores. The Cid Defeats This Vast Host and Gathers Immense Spoil. The Cid Takes King Yucef's Sword Tizona. The Cid Sends King Alfonso a Present of Two Hundred and Fifty Horses and King Yucef's Tent. The Infantes of Carrion Ask for the Cid's Daughters.

Doña Ximena had been in Valencia three months, and March was coming, when news came to the Cid from beyond the sea that King Yucef, the son of the Miramamolin, who lived in Morocco, was setting out with fifty thousand men to besiege Valencia. When the Cid heard this, he gave orders that all his castles should be well stored with food, and that they should be put in good repair. He also had the walls of the city made ready, and he laid up supplies of food and all things necessary in war. And he gathered a great army of the Christians and Moors under his rule.

He had not more than made these preparations when he heard that Yucef was near at hand, and coming as fast as he could. Then the Cid assembled the Christians in the Alcazar, and stood on his feet before them, saying: "Friends and kinsmen and vassals, all the goods which I have in the world are here in Valencia. With hard labor I won this city, and I hold it for my heritage, and for nothing but death will I leave it. My daughters and my wife shall see me fight; they shall see with their own eyes our manner of living in this land, and how we get our bread. We will go out against the Moors and give them battle, and God who has thus far shown favor to us will

continue to be our helper." When they heard this, they all cried that they would do his bidding, and go out with him and fight under his banner, and that they were sure that by his good fortune the Moors would be conquered.

On the next day, the Cid took his wife by the hand and her daughters with her, and made them go up to the highest tower of the Alcazar, and they looked toward the sea and saw the army of the Moors, how they came on and began to pitch their tents around Valencia, beating their tambourines and making a great uproar. Then Ximena's heart began to fail her, and she asked the Cid if he thought God would deliver them from these enemies. "Fear not," said he, "you are but lately arrived in this land, and these people come to bring you a present, which shall be a marriage portion for your daughters. Fear not, for you shall see me fight; my heart kindles because you are here. The more Moors the more spoil."

Just then the tambourines sounded with a great noise, and the sun was shining. "Cheer up," said the Cid; "this is a glorious day." But Ximena was seized with such fear as if her heart was broken; never before had she and her daughters felt such fear. Then the Cid stroked his beard, and said: "Fear not, all this is for your good. Before fifteen days are over, those tambourines shall be laid before you and shall be sounded for your amusement, and then they shall be given to the Bishop to hang them in the church of St. Mary."

Now the Moors began to enter the gardens which were round about the town, and the watchmen saw them and struck the bell. The Cid looked back and saw Alvar Salvadores beside him, and he said: "Go now, take two hundred horse and charge those Moors who are entering the gardens. Let Ximena and her daughters see the good-will you have to serve them." Down went Alvar Salvadores in haste and ordered a bell to be rung which was a signal for two hundred knights to make ready; for the Cid had arranged the signals, so that the men knew when one hundred were called

for, and two, and so forth.

Presently they were ready, and the gate nearest the gardens was opened, and the knights fell upon them fiercely, smiting and slaying. Great was the pleasure of the Cid to see how they behaved themselves. But Doña Ximena and her daughters stood trembling, like women who had never seen such things before; and when the Cid saw it, he made them seat themselves so that they could not behold the fight. The Bishop was mightily pleased to see how their men fought. Alvar and his men soon drove the enemy back to their tents, and then they turned back. But Alvar went on hacking and hewing, thinking the ladies were looking on, and he went on so far that, being alone, he was taken prisoner. The others returned to the city, having slain two hundred and fifty Moors. Then the Cid went down from the tower and received these men and praised them for what they had done. He was sorrowful that Alvar Salvadores had fallen into the hands of the Moors, but he trusted to rescue him on the next day.

Then the Cid assembled his chief captains and knights and people, and said: "Kinsmen and friends and vassals, today has been a good day, but tomorrow shall be a better. Be all armed and ready in the dark of the morning. Then we will to horse, and go out and smite our enemies. But let us take counsel in what manner we may go forth, so as to receive the least hurt; for they are a mighty host, and we can only defeat them by mastery in war." When Alvar Fanez heard this, he answered: "You have achieved greater things than this. Give me three hundred horse, and we will go out when the first cock crows and put ourselves in ambush in the valley of Albuhera; and when you have opened the battle, we will come out and fall upon them on the other side, and on one side or the other we shall overcome them." The Cid was well pleased with this advice and said he would follow it. So he bade them feed their horses in time and sup early, and as soon as it was cock-crow they would assemble.

At cock-crow they all came together, and the Bishop who had pronounced absolution said he craved a boon from the Cid. He said, "Let me have the first wounds in the battle;" and the Cid granted him his boon. Then being all ready they went out through the gate which is called the Gate of the Snake, for the greatest force of the Moors was on that side. Alvar Fanez was already gone out with his company and had formed their ambush. The Cid had four thousand men with whom to attack fifty thousand on that day.

They went through all the narrow places and bad passes, leaving the ambush on the left, and struck to the right hand, so as to get the Moors between them and the town. And the Cid put his armies in good order, and bade Pero Bermudez carry his banner. When the Moors saw all this, they were greatly amazed, and they put on their armor in great haste and came out of their tents.

Then the Cid bade his banner move on, and the Bishop spurred forward with his company, and they fought in such a manner that the two armies were soon mingled together. Many a horse was soon running without a rider, and many a horseman was upon the ground. Terrible was the fighting and slaying; but as the Moors were so many in number they pressed hard upon the Christians and were about to overcome them. The Cid began to encourage them, shouting for "God and St. James."

And Alvar Fanez at this time came out of the ambush and fell upon the Moors on the side nearest the sea; and the Moors thought a great army had arrived to help the Cid, and they were dismayed and began to fly. The Cid and his men pursued them, punishing them greatly. It would be impossible to realize all the feats that were done that day, for every man did marvels. The Cid made such havoc among the Moors that the blood ran from his wrist to his elbow; and his good horse Bavieca proved to be a fine mount for him.

In the pursuit, the Cid came up with King Yucef and

smote him three times; but the king escaped, for the horse of the Cid passed on so rapidly he could not check him, and when he turned, the king, being on a fleet horse, was far off. The king escaped to the Castle of Guyera, for so far did the Christians follow them, smiting and slaying without mercy. Hardly fifteen thousand of the fifty escaped. Those who were in the ships, when they saw this defeat, set sail and went to Denia.

Then the Cid and his people returned and began to plunder the tents. The spoil was so great that the men knew not what to take and what to leave of the gold and silver and horses and arms. Never had they seen such a tent as that of King Yucef, and it was filled with great riches, and there they found Alvar Salvadores, who had been made prisoner on the day before. The Cid rejoiced greatly to find him alive and well, and had his chains taken off. Then he left Alvar Fanez to look after the spoil while he went into the city. It was a wonderful sight to see the Cid then riding into Valencia; he had taken off his helmet, and his brow was full of great wrinkles, and he rode upon Bavieca with his sword still in his hand.

Doña Ximena and her daughters were awaiting and great was their joy when they saw him coming. He stopped by them, and said: "Great honor have I won for you while you kept Valencia this day; and goodly spoil have we. Look, with this bloody sword, and a horse covered with sweat — this is the way that we conquer the Moors. Pray God that I may live yet awhile for your sakes, and you shall enter into great honor, and they shall kiss your hands."

Then the Cid alighted, and the ladies knelt down before him and kissed his hand and wished him long life. Then they entered the palace with him and took their seats upon the benches. "Wife, Doña Ximena," said the Cid, "These damsels who have served you so well I will give in marriage to my vassals, and to every one of them two hundred marks of silver, that it may be known in Castile what they have got for their

services." They all rose and kissed his hand; and great was the joy in the palace, and what the Cid promised was done.

Alvar Fanez remained in the field taking account of the spoil and writing down what was found, according to their custom, so that none could be carried off unfairly. The tents and arms and precious garments were so many that they cannot be told, and the horses were beyond all reckoning; they ran about the field, and there was no one to take them, and the Moors of that land profited by that victory, for they caught many of the horses. The Cid's own share of the horses was fifteen hundred good ones. The Cid won in this battle from King Yucef his famous sword Tizona, which name means a firebrand. The Cid gave orders that the tent of the king of Morocco, which was supported by two pillars wrought with gold, should not be touched, for he wished to send it to King Alfonso. The Bishop had his fill of battle that day, as he had desired, fighting with both hands, and no one can tell how many he slew.

King Yucef, who had taken refuge in a castle, when the pursuit was over, and he saw that he could come forth, went to Denia, and returned by ship to Morocco. There he brooded on his defeat, and how he had been conquered by so few, and how he had lost so many of his people, and he fell sick and died. But before he died he begged his brother Bucar, on account of the tie between them, that he would revenge him for the dishonor he had received at the hands of the Cid before Valencia; and Bucar promised to do this, and swore upon the Koran, the sacred book of the Mahometans, that he would do this.

Then the Cid sent Alvar Fanez and Pero Bermndez with a present to King Alfonso. He sent two hundred horses saddled and bridled, each with a sword hanging from the saddlebow; he also sent the splendid tent which he had taken from the king of Morocco. He gave this present because the king had sent him his wife and daughters when he asked for them,

and because of the honor which he had done them. So Alvar and Pero went their way toward Castile, over mountains and rivers; and they asked where the king was, and when they learned he was at Valladolid, they went there.

When they came near that city, they sent to let the king know of their coming, and to ask whether they should go into the city to him, or if he would come out to them, as they were a great company, and they brought a great present that could be seen better outside than within the town. The king sent word that he would come out of the city, and he took his horse and ordered all the noblemen with him to mount likewise. Now the two Infantes of Carrion were there, Diego Gonzalez and Ferrando Gonzalez, the sons of Count Don Gonzalo. And they found the company of the Cid about a mile and a half from the town, and when the king saw them, he blessed himself, for they seemed like a host.

And Alvar and Pero spurred their horses when they saw the king, and they came to him and alighted, and knelt down and kissed the ground, and kissed both his feet; but he bade them rise and mount their horses, and would not hear them until they were again in their saddles and had taken their places, one at his right hand and the other at his left. And they said: "Sir, the Cid commends himself to you as his liege lord, and thanks you greatly for having sent him with such honor his wife and daughters. And know, Sir, that since they arrived he has won a great victory over the Moors and their King Yucef of Morocco, the Miramamolin, who besieged Valencia with fifty thousand men. The Cid went out against them, and defeated them, and has sent you these two hundred horses from his fifth."

Then Alvar ordered the horses to be led forward, and they came in this manner. The two hundred horses came first, each one being led by a child, and each having a sword hanging from the saddle on the left side. After them came the pages of all the knights in the company, carrying their spears,

and then the company, and after them a hundred couple with spears in rest. When they had all passed by, the king blessed himself again, and he laughed and said that never before had so goodly a present been sent to a king of Spain by his vassal.

Alvar said further, "Sir, the Cid has sent you a tent, the noblest that ever man saw, which he won in this battle." Then the king gave orders that the tent should be spread, and he alighted and went into it, and he and his people said they had never seen so splendid a tent as this. The king said he had won many tents from the Moors, but never such an one as this. Though all others were pleased, the Count Don Garcia was envious of what the Cid had done; and he and ten of his kinsmen talked together and said that this which the Cid had done was to their shame, for they hated the Cid in their hearts. The king said, "Thanks to God, those horses may do me good service." And he gave three of them to Alvar and three to Pero, and told them to choose which ones they liked best; he also ordered that food and clothing be given them while they remained, and that they should have new armor when they were ready to return, such as was fit for them to wear before the Cid.

When the Infantes of Carrion saw the noble present which the Cid had sent the king, and heard how his riches and power increased daily, and thought what his wealth must be when he had given those horses out of his fifth won in one battle, and that he was lord of Valencia, they talked together and agreed that if the Cid would give them his daughters, they might think themselves well and honorably married. They agreed that they would talk with the king privately about this matter. So they went after a while to him, and said, "Sir, we beseech you to help us in a matter that will be to your honor; for we are your vassals, and the richer we are the better shall we be able to serve you." The king asked them what they would have, and they told him their desire.

The king thought upon this awhile, and then came to

them and said: "Infantes, this thing which you ask is not to be decided by me, but by the Cid. It is in his power to marry his daughters, and it may be that he does not wish to do this yet. Nevertheless, I will send him your request." Then they kissed his hand for his favor. And the king sent for Alvar and Pero, and talked with them privately, and he praised the Cid, and thanked him for his services, and said he had a great desire to see him. "Say to him," said the king, "that I beseech him to come and meet me, for I would speak with him about a matter which is for his good and his honor. Diego and Ferrando, the Infantes of Carrion have told me they wish to marry his daughters, if he will; and I think this would be a good marriage." When Alvar and Pero heard this, they answered the king, and said: "We are sure that in this and in all things the Cid will do as you shall command or advise. When you have your meeting, you will agree concerning it as is best." Then they kissed his hand and took their leave.

CHAPTER 18

The Cid and Part of His Knights Visit Alfonso. The King Arranges the Marriage of the Cid's Daughters. The Infantes Return with the Cid to Valencia. The Great Wedding.

On the next day, Alvar and Pero, with their company, left Valladolid and started for Valencia. When the Cid knew they were approaching his city, he went out to meet them, and embraced them, and asked tidings of King Alfonso. They told him how honorably they had been received, and how the king loved him; and they told of the proposed marriage, and that it seemed to them that the matter pleased the king.

When the Cid heard this, he became very thoughtful, and asked, "What do you think of this marriage?" And they answered, "What pleases you seems to us good," And the Cid said: "I was banished from my own country, and was dishonored, and I have gained what I possess by hard labor. And now I stand in the king's favor, and he asks of me my daughters for the Infantes of Carrion. They are of a great family and very haughty, and I have no liking for this match. But if the king advises it, I cannot oppose him."

So they entered Valencia, and the Cid spoke to Doña Ximena of the marriage, and it did not please her; yet she said if the king thought it good, they could do no otherwise. Then the Cid sent letters to the king saying that he would meet him as he commanded, and whatever the king wished he would do. When the king saw the letters, he was well pleased, and sent a reply appointing a meeting three weeks later upon the river Tagus.

The preparations for this meeting on both sides were of a splendid kind. The king sent a great supply of food to the Tagus; and he made ready his company upon the best horses and mules, and with streamers upon their spears, and shields adorned with gold and silver, and mantles and skins. The Infantes also made ready a great company, and they decked themselves richly. The Cid took with him many of his best knights; but he bade Alvar Salvadores and Galin Garcia and all those who were under them to remain and look with heart and soul after the safety of Valencia, and not open the gates of the Alcazar by day or night, for his wife and daughters were there. And he told these ladies that not one of them should stir out of the Alcazar till he returned. Then his company put spurs to their horses and set forth; more than a thousand knights, all ready for war, were in this company.

The king, Don Alfonso, arrived at the meeting place one day earlier than the Cid, and when he learned that the Cid was coming he went out more than three miles to meet him. When the Cid saw the king, he ordered his company to halt, and with fifteen of his best knights he alighted and took herbs from the ground and put them between his teeth as if he would have eaten them, weeping for great joy. Thus he knew how to humble himself before his king; and he approached the king's feet and would have kissed them, but the king said, "The hand, Cid, not the foot." And the Cid drew near upon his knees, and said, "In this manner give me your love, so that all may hear." The king then said that he forgave him, and granted him his love with his heart and soul. The Cid kissed both his hands, being still upon his knees; and the king embraced him and gave him the kiss of peace. At this sight, all were well pleased, except Alvar Diez and Garcia Ordonez, who hated the Cid.

Then all went together to the town, the king and the Cid talking together on the way. And the Cid asked the king to eat with him, but the king said: "We arrived yesterday, and

you came but now. You are not prepared. Do you and your company eat with me today, and tomorrow we will do as pleases you." Now the Infantes of Carrion came up and humbled themselves before the Cid, and he received them well. Then the Cid's company came up and kissed the king's hand. So they alighted and went to the table. The king would have had the Cid sit at table with him, but he would not. Then the king ordered a high table to be placed for the Cid and Count Don Gonzalo, the father of the Infantes of Carrion.

All the while they were eating the king looked at the Cid and wondered at his great beard. On the next day, the king and his company were entertained by the Cid, and they agreed that they had not eaten better for three years. There was not a man there who did not eat upon silver, and the king and his chief men ate upon dishes and trenchers of gold. When the Infantes saw all this, they were more anxious than before for the marriage.

On the next day, after the Bishop had sung mass before the king, the king said to all who were assembled: "Counts and Infantes and knights, hear what I shall say to the Cid. Cid, I have appointed this meeting for two reasons. First, that I might see you, which I greatly desired, for I love you much for the many and great services you have done me, although I was at one time angry with you and banished you. But in spite of that you never did me a wrong, but on the other hand you have served me and have won Valencia and so enlarged Christendom. For these reasons I am bound to favor you and love you always. The second reason was that I might ask you for your two daughters. Doña Elvira and Doña Sol, that you would give them in marriage to the Infantes of Carrion, for I think this would be a suitable marriage and for your honor and good."

When the Cid heard this, he was in a manner bound to consent, having his daughters thus demanded of him; and he answered: "Sir, my daughters are of tender years, and if it

might please you, they are yet too young for marriage. I do not say this as if the Infantes of Carrion were not worthy to match with them and not better than they." But the king bade him make no excuses, saying that he would think himself well served if the Cid gave his consent. Then the Cid said: "Sir, they are my daughters, and you give them in marriage. Both I and they are yours. Give them to whom you please, and I am pleased therewith." When the king heard this, he was well pleased, and he bade the Infantes kiss the hand of the Cid, and they did homage to him as sons-in-law to their father-in-law. Then the king turned to the Cid, and said: "I thank you that you have given me your daughters for the Infantes of Carrion. And I here give them to the Infantes to be their brides. The Infantes I put into your hands; they will go with you, and I order that three hundred marks of silver be given to them for their marriage, and they and your daughters will all be your children."

This meeting lasted for eight days; one day they all dined with the king and the other with the Cid. Then it was appointed that on the next morning at sunrise they should depart to their homes. The Cid then began to give to everyone a gift, to many a great mule, to others a good palfrey or a rich garment; everyone had what he asked, and he said no to none. Sixty horses the Cid gave away; and all were well pleased who went to that meeting. The king took the Infantes by the hand and delivered them to the Cid, saying, "See here your sons; from this day you will know what to make of them." And the Cid answered, "Sir, may it please you, seeing it is you who have made this marriage, to appoint someone to whom I may deliver my daughters, and who may give them, as from your hand, to the Infantes."

Then the king called to him Alvar Fanez, and said: "You shall have charge of the damsels. I command you, when you come to Valencia, to take them with your own hands and give them to the Infantes, as I should do if I were present; and be

you the brides' father." Then the Cid said: "Sir, you must accept something from me at this meeting. I bring for you twenty palfreys, these that are gayly trapped, and thirty horses fleet of foot, these that are well caparisoned. Take them, and I kiss your hand." — "Greatly have you bound me," said the king, Don Alfonso; "I receive this gift, and may God grant that it may be well requited. If I live, you shall have something from me." Then the Cid sprang upon Bavieca, and said; "Here I say before my lord the king that if any will go with me to the wedding, they shall receive something for it. And I ask the king to let any who desire go with me." And the king said they could go. And when they were ready to part the company that went with the Cid was greater than that with the king. The Cid kissed the king's hand and received his favor, and the king returned to Castile.

When the Cid had returned to Valencia, he appointed Pero Bermudez and Muno Gustios to keep company with the Infantes, and be their guards and to spy out their habits. The Count Don Suero Gonzalez, the uncle of the Infantes, was with them; he had bred them up from childhood, and he had done it very badly; he was a man of great words, good of tongue, and of nothing else. He was a scornful and proud man, and the Cid was so little pleased with all of these men that he would gladly have broken off the marriage, but he could not, as the king had arranged it. The Cid lodged the Infantes and all the company that had come to the wedding in the suburb of Alcudia, and he himself went to the Alcazar.

On the next day, the Cid mounted his horse and rode into Alcudia and brought the Infantes from there into the city to the Alcazar that they might see their brides. Doña Ximena had her daughters ready to receive them in fine dress, for since midnight they had done nothing but arrange their toilet for this meeting. On that day the Alcazar was splendidly prepared with hangings of purple and rich cloth and samite.

The Cid entered between the Infantes, and all the

company went in after them; and they went into the chief hall of the Alcazar where Doña Ximena and her daughters were. When they saw the Infantes, they rose up and welcomed them right well. Then the Cid took his seat upon the bench with one of the Infantes on each side of him. The other distinguished men seated themselves, each in the place where he ought to be; and they remained for a time.

Then the Cid rose and called for Alvar Fanez, and said: "You know what the king commanded. Do now his bidding, and take your cousins and deliver them to the Infantes, for it is the king who gives them in marriage, and not I." Alvar Fanez took the damsels one in each hand, and delivered them to the Infantes, saying: "Diego Gonzalez and Ferrando Gonzalez, I deliver to you these damsels, the daughters of the Cid, by command of the king, Don Alfonso. Receive them to be your helpmates."

"The Infantes took each his bride by the hand, and went to the Cid and kissed his hand, and they did the same to Doña Ximena. Then they were espoused by the Bishop Don Hieronymo, and they exchanged rings. When this was done, the Cid went and seated himself with the ladies, he and Doña Ximena in the middle, and beside him he placed Doña Elvira, his eldest daughter, and by her her husband, Diego Gonzalez; and Doña Sol was seated on the other side by her mother, and Ferrando by her.

After a time the Cid said they would now partake of food, and that the marriage should be performed on the next day; and he commanded the Bishop to perform it in such a manner that no cost should be spared, that they who came from Castile to this wedding might always have something to tell of.

On the next day they went to the Church of St. Mary, and there the Bishop sat waiting for them, and he blessed them all four at the altar. Who can tell of the sports at the wedding, of the feasts and the bull-fights, and the throwing at the target,

and the throwing canes? As soon as they came out of the church they took horse and rode to Glera. There there was a great tournament, and the Cid entered it, and three times that day he changed his horse. Seven targets were set up on the next day, and before they went to dinner all seven were broken.

Fifteen days did the feasts at this wedding continue. Then all who had come there to do honor to the Cid took leave of him and the Infantes. To all of these, great and little, the Cid gave gifts, to each according to his rank, vessels of gold and silver, rich doth, cloaks, furs, horses, and money, so that all were well pleased. When it was told in Castile with what gifts they who had been to the wedding returned, there were many who repented that they had not also gone.

CHAPTER 19

The Cid's Pet Lion. The Anger of the Infantes.
King Bucar from Africa Comes with a Great Army.
A Great Victory for the Cid. The Vast Spoils.

At this time the Moorish king, Bucar, across the sea in Morocco, remembering the oath he had taken to his brother, King Yucef, that he would take vengeance upon the Cid, ordered proclamation to be made throughout all the dominions of his father that he wished for a great army to go against the Cid. As his father was Miramamolin, that is Emperor, he soon was able to gather so great a host that among them there were twenty-nine kings. When he had assembled this host, he took ship and started across the sea.

Now for two years after their marriage the Infantes of Carrion had lived in Valencia in peace and pleasure, much to their own satisfaction and that of their uncle who was with them. At the end of that time, they had an adventure by reason of which they became angry with the Cid, but without any fault on his part.

There was in the house of the Cid a large lion, nimble and strong, which the Cid kept for his amusement. This beast was kept by three men in a den which was in the courtyard; and when these men cleansed the court they were accustomed to shut him up in his den, and afterward to open the door that he might come out and eat. Now it was the custom of the Cid to dine every day with his company, and after he had dined he was used to sleep upon his seat.

One day when he had dined there came a man who told him a great fleet was arrived in the port of Valencia, bringing

a great army of Moors under King Bucar. When the Cid heard this, his heart rejoiced, for it was nearly three years since he had had a battle with the Moors. He at once gave orders that a signal should be given that all the chief men of the city should assemble. When they were all together in the Alcazar and his sons-in-law with them, the Cid told them the news, and took counsel with them in what manner they should go out against the Moors. When they had advised together, the Cid went to sleep upon his seat, and the Infantes and others sat at the tables playing chess.

Now at this time the men who were the keepers of the lion were cleaning the court; and when they heard the cry that the Moors were coming, they opened the den, and came down into the palace where the Cid was and left the door of the court open. When the lion had eaten his meat and saw that the door was open, he went out of the court and came down into the palace, into the hall where they were. When those who were there saw the lion, there was a great stir; but the Infantes showed greater cowardice than any others. Ferrando crept under the seat where the Cid was sleeping, and in his haste he burst his mantle and his doublet. The other, Diego, ran to a rear door, crying, "I shall never see Carrion again;" this door opened upon a courtyard where there was a wine-press, and he jumped out and fell among the lees of the wine, covering himself with them.

All the others who were in the hall wrapped their cloaks around their arms, and stood by the seat where the Cid was sleeping, that they might defend him. The noise which they made awakened the Cid, and he saw the lion coming, and he lifted up his hand and said, "What is this?" And the lion hearing his voice stood still; then he rose up and took him by the mane as if he had been a gentle dog, and led him back to the court, and ordered his keepers to look after him better in the future. When he had done this, he returned to the hall and took his seat again, and all who saw this were astonished.

After some time, Ferrando crept out from under the seat where he had hidden himself, and he came out with a pale face. Soon Diego came out of the wine-press, and when he came in covered all over with the stains, all who were present made sport of him and his brother. But the Cid forbade them to laugh. Diego went out to wash himself, and sent for his brother, and when they were together they said: "The Cid, our father-in-law, has let this lion loose to put us to shame, and make fools of us. But we will be revenged on his daughters. We were badly matched with them in any case, and now he makes sport of us. But we must keep this secret and not let him know we are angry, or he will not let us depart or take our wives with us. We will therefore make merriment of this matter, that he may suspect nothing." While they were talking, their uncle Suero Gonzalez came in, and they told him what they intended to do; but he advised them to do nothing until the fight with the Moors should be over; then they could demand their wives, as if they would go to their own country. "This," said he, "the Cid can have no reason to refuse, and when you have gone out of this land, you can revenge yourselves on his daughters."

After they had thus counselled together, they went to their lodging, and on the next day they went to the Alcazar where the Cid was preparing for war. When they came in, the Cid rose and greeted them kindly, and they made sport of what had happened about the lion. And the Cid began to give orders as to the battle. While they were thus talking, a great cry was heard in the town and a great tumult, for King Bucar had come within three miles of Valencia and was pitching his tents there. This camp made a great show, and the chroniclers say there were five thousand pavilions, besides common tents.

After the Cid had heard this, he took his sons-in-law and their uncle, and went with them into the highest tower of the Alcazar, and showed them the army of Bucar. The Cid looked on this sight and began to laugh, and he was exceeding glad;

but Suero and his nephews were in great fear. When they came down from the tower the Cid went first, and the others stayed behind, and said, "If we go into this battle, we shall never return to Carrion." Now it so happened that Muno Gustios heard them, and he told it to the Cid, and he was grieved at their cowardice; but he presently made sport of it, and said to his sons-in-law, "You, my sons, shall remain in Valencia and guard the town, and we who are used to this business will go out to the battle." Having heard this they were ashamed and knew someone had overheard them, and they answered, "We will go with you to the battle, and protect your body as if we were your sons, and you were the Count our father." At this the Cid was much pleased.

While they were talking thus, word was brought that a messenger from King Bucar was at the gate of the town, who wished to speak with the Cid. The Cid gave orders that this Moor, whose name was Ximena de Algezira, should be admitted. It is said that the Cid was so wonderful and powerful in his appearance that no Moor was ever able to look upon him without fear; and this Ximena began to gaze upon his countenance, but said nothing. The Cid saw his fear and bade him take courage and deliver the message of his master without fear or shame. When the Moor heard this, he recovered heart, and said; "Sir Cid, King Bucar, my lord, has sent me to you to say that you have done him great wrong in holding Valencia, which belonged to his fore-fathers; and you have defeated his brother. King Yucef. Now he is come with twenty-nine kings to revenge his brother, and to win Valencia in spite of you and all who are with you. However, he says, that as he has heard that you are a wise man, he will show you favor, and let you leave Valencia and go into Castile, and take with you all that is yours. If you will not do this, he will fight you and take you and your wife and your daughters, and torture you in such a way that all Christians who hear of it will talk of it forever. This is the message of my lord, King Bucar."

Then the Cid answered in a few words: "Go tell your lord, King Bucar, I will not give up Valencia to him; I had hard labor to win it, and I am beholden to no man in the world for it, except to my kinsmen and friends and vassals who helped me to win it. Tell him I am not a man to be besieged, and when he does not expect it, I will give him battle in the field. I would that even as he has brought twenty-nine kings, so had be brought all the Moors in the world; for I trust that by the help of God I could conquer them all. Bear this answer to your lord, and come here no more with messages on this account or any other."

Ximena then left Valencia and went to his lord and told him before the twenty-nine kings all that the Cid had said. They were astonished at the brave words of the Cid; for they did not think he would have resisted, as they had such a great army; nor did they think he would so soon come out to battle. They began at once to lay siege to the city and to place their army around it. This King Bucar was a kinsman of Alimaymon, who had been king of Toledo and Valencia, and this was the reason why Bucar said that Valencia had belonged to his forefathers.

When the messenger had left the town, the Cid ordered the bell to be struck, at the sound of which all the men at arms in Valencia were to gather together. They assembled at once, and he told them to be ready early in the morning to go out and give battle to the Moors. They answered as one man that they were well pleased to do this, for they trusted in God and in his good fortune that they should conquer. On the next morning, at cock-crow, they, according to their custom, received the sacrament; and before the dawn broke they went forth from Valencia. When they had got through the narrow passes among the gardens, the Cid set his army in array. The front he gave to Alvar Fanez and to Pero Bermudez, who carried his banner; and he gave them five hundred horsemen and fifteen hundred footmen. In the right wing was the

Bishop Don Hieronymo, with the same number of horse and foot; and in the left Martin Antolinez and Alvar Salvadores. The Cid came in the rear with a thousand horsemen, all in coats of mail, and twenty-five hundred foot-soldiers. In this array they proceeded until they came in sight of the Moors.

As soon as the Cid saw their tents, he ordered to go more slowly, and he got upon his horse, Bavieca, and put himself in the front of the whole army, and his sons-in-law went with him. Then the Bishop said: "Cid, I left my own country and came to you through the desire I had to kill the Moors and to do honor to my order and to my own hands. Now I would be foremost in this business. I have my banner and will employ them so that my heart may rejoice. If you do not for love of me grant me this, I will go my ways from you." But the Cid bade him do his pleasure.

Then the Moors came from their tents in haste, and formed their battle quickly and came against the Christians, with the sound of trumpets and tambourines. As they came in haste, not thinking the Cid would come against them so soon, they did not advance in order, as Bucar had commanded. When the Cid saw this, he ordered his banner to be carried forward, and bade his people lay on. The Bishop put spurs to his horse, and slew two Moors with the first two thrusts of his lance; the haft broke and then he took his sword. How the Bishop did fight! He soon felled five with his sword; the Moors came round him and laid on him a load of blows, but they could not pierce his armor. The Cid had his eyes upon him, and took his shield and placed it before him, and lowered his lance, and gave that good horse Bavieca the spur. With heart and soul he went at them and made his way into their ranks, smiting down seven and slaying four. Now the battle was very hot, and so great was the noise from the blows and the tambourines that no one could hear what another said.

In the course of this fight the Infante Diego encountered

a Moor of great stature, and this man came at him fiercely; and when the Infante saw him coming so savagely, he turned and fled. No one saw this but Felez Munoz, a nephew of the Cid, who was a squire; he set himself against the Moor with his lance under his arm, and gave him such a thrust in the breast that the streamer of the lance came out between his shoulders all red with blood, and he seized the horse by the bridle and began to call the Infante. At this the young man turned, and when he saw that it was his cousin Felez, he came back. Then Felez said, "Take this horse and say that you killed the Moor, and no one shall ever know otherwise unless you give cause." While they were talking the Cid came up after another knight, whom he slew beside them, and smote him with his sword upon the head so that he split it down to his teeth. When Felez saw the Cid, he said, "Sir, your son-in-law has great desire to help you this day, and he has just slain a Moor from whom he won this horse." This pleased the Cid much, for he thought it was true.

Then they all three advanced into the midst of the battle. But the power of the Moors was so great that they could not put them to flight, and the battle hung in the balance until noon. So many Moors and Christians were lying dead on the field that the horses could scarcely move among their bodies. But after noon the Cid and his men smote the Moors so hard that they could no longer stand against them, and they turned their backs and fled. The Christians followed, hewing them down, smiting and slaying. They drove them through their camp beyond it for seven miles. In this pursuit the Cid saw King Bucar and made at him, and the Moorish king knew him when he saw him coming. "Turn this way, Bucar," cried the Cid, "you who came from beyond the sea to see the Cid with the long beard. We must greet each other and cut out a friendship." — "I want no such friendship," cried Bucar, and turned his horse and began to flee toward the sea, and the Cid after him. But Bucar had a good horse and fresh, while

Bavieca had had a hard day's work. When they were near the ships, the Cid saw that he could not reach him, so he threw his sword at him and struck him between the shoulders. But Bucar being badly wounded rode into the sea and got to a boat, and the Cid alighted and picked up his sword.

Then his people came up, hewing down the Moors before them, and the Moors in their fear ran into the sea, so that twice as many died in the water as in the battle. It is said that seventeen thousand were slain on the field, and that a greater number perished in the sea. Of the twenty-nine kings, seventeen were slain. When the Cid saw that some of the Moors had gotten to the ships, and that others were slain or captured, he returned toward their tents.

When the Cid returned from the slaughter, the hood of his mail was thrown back, and the coif upon his head bore marks of the battle. When he saw his sons-in-law, he said, to do them honor, "Come here, my sons, for by your help we have conquered in this battle." Presently Alvar Fanez came up; the shield that hung from his neck was all battered; more than twenty Moors had he slain, and the blood was running from his wrist to his elbow. "Thanks to God," said he, "and to you, Cid, we have won the day. All these spoils are yours and your vassals'."

Then they gathered the spoils, which were great riches in gold and silver, in pearls and precious stones, and in tents and horses and oxen. The poorest man among the Christians was rich that day. So great was the spoil that six hundred horses fell to the Cid as his fifth, besides camels and twelve hundred prisoners. Then the Cid said: "God be praised, once I was poor, but now I am rich in lands and in possessions and in gold and in honor. Moors and Christians both fear me; even in Morocco among their mosques do they fear lest I should set upon them some night. Let them fear it. I shall not go to seek them, but here will I be, in Valencia, and they shall pay me tribute." Great was the joy in Valencia over this victory;

and great was the joy of the Infantes of Carrion, whose portion of the spoil was five thousand marks. When they saw themselves so rich, they and their uncle took counsel together, and agreed to do the wickedness of which they had before spoken.

CHAPTER 20

The Infantes Ask the Cid to Let Them and Their Wives Return to Carrion. The Infantes Start on Their Journey and Abuse Their Wives on the Way.

One day the companions of the Cid were talking before him of this victory, and they were saying who were the young knights that had done well in the battle and who had not; but no mention was made of the Infantes; for though there were some who whispered about them, none would speak ill of them before the Cid. And the Infantes saw this, and took counsel with their uncle, and determined to quickly carry out their wickedness, for they began to think that their cowardice in the battle would soon be talked about.

So they went before the Cid, and Ferrando began to speak, saying: "Cid, thou knowest well what tie there is between you and us, for we hold you in the place of a father; from the day you gave us your daughters we have always abode with you and have always striven to serve you. If we have at any time failed in this, we have not done so wilfully, but for want of better understanding. Now as it is long time since we left Castile and our father and mother we would now, if you and Doña Ximena should think good, return to them and take our wives with us. So shall our kinsmen see how honorably we are mated, and how greatly to our profit; and our wives shall be put in possession of the towns which we have given them for their dower. Whenever you shall call upon us, we will be ready to come and serve you." Then the Cid, thinking they spoke sincerely, said: "My sons, I am troubled at what you say, for when you take my daughters you

take my very heartstrings. Yet it is fitting that you do as you have said. Go when you will, and I will give you such gifts that it shall be known in Galicia and Castile and Leon with what riches I have sent my sons-in-law home."

Then the Cid rose from his seat and went to Doña Ximena and told her and Alvar Fanez what had passed between him and the Infantes, and what answer he had given. His wife and cousin were greatly troubled that the Cid had consented to the request of the Infantes; and Doña Ximena said, "I do not think it wisely done to let them take our daughters into another land; for our sons-in-law are false at heart, and if I read them rightly they will do our daughters some dishonor when there will be none to call them to account." Alvar was of the same mind; but the Cid, who was of a generous, unsuspicious nature, was displeased at them, and wondered greatly that they should think so much evil, and he bade them speak no more in this way. He said the Infantes were not of so base a family as to do such wrong, neither would it come into their minds to do it, as the king had made the marriage; but he said if they did any harm it would cost them dear.

So the Infantes made ready for their departure. The two sisters came and knelt before their father and mother, and said, "You send us to the lands of Carrion and we must obey. Now give us your blessing, and let us have some of your people in our new home." The Cid embraced them and kissed them, and the mother kissed them and embraced them twice as much, and they gave them their blessing.

The Cid gave his sons-in-law a great store of cloth of gold and of serge and of wool, and a hundred horses saddled and bridled, and a hundred mules with all their trappings, and ten cups of gold, and a hundred vessels of silver, and six hundred marks of silver in dishes and trenchers and other things. When all this was done, they took their departure and went out of Valencia, and the Cid rode three miles with them. He observed the flights of the birds, which were considered in

those times to be omens, and he found the signs to be bad, and he thought these marriages would not be without some evil. His heart smote him, and he began to think of what Doña Ximena had said, and to fear lest evil should come from these Infantes, for their manner of speech was not as it had been.

Then the Cid called his nephew Felez Munoz and said to him, "Go with my daughters to the land of Carrion and see the possessions that are given them, and bring me word of how they are treated." And Felez said he would do this. The Cid also bade him salute the Moor Abengalvon and bid him accompany his daughters as far as Medina, and to tell him that for all he would do the Cid would reward him. When the ladies came to take leave of their father and mother, great were the lamentations on both sides, as if they foresaw some evil; and the Cid tried to comfort them, saying that he would always think of them and care for them. He gave them his blessing and turned back, and they went their way with their husbands, the parting being like plucking the nail from the flesh.

So the Infantes went on until on the second day they came near Molina, the home of Abengalvon; and when that Moor knew that the daughters of the Cid were coming, he went out to meet them and took them food, and served them generously and carried them rich gifts and gave each of the Infantes a horse. He also took two hundred knights and accompanied them on their way, and lodged them in the place called Ansarera: all this he did for the love of the Cid.

Now the Infantes, seeing the riches of this Moor, said, "If we could kill this Abengalvon, we might have all these riches as safely as if we were in Carrion, and the Cid could never take vengeance on us." There was near by a Moor who understood their speech, and he went to Abengalvon, saying, "Take heed, Sir, for I heard the Infantes plotting to kill you." Abengalvon was a bold man, and when he was told this, he

went with his two hundred men before the Infantes, and what he said did not please them. "Infantes," he said, "tell me, what have I done? I have served you well, and you take counsel for my death. If it were not for the sake of the Cid, you should never reach Carrion. I would take his daughters back to the loyal Cid, and so deal with you that it would be talked about over the whole world; but I leave you for the traitors that you are. Doña Elvira and Doña Sol, I go with your favor." Having said this, the good Moor returned to his home.

The company travelled on for some time, and after they had crossed the river Douro they came into the Oak-wood of Corpes. The mountains were high, and the trees thick and lofty, and there were wild beasts in that place. Then they came to a spot of green grass in the forest, where there was a spring of clear water, and there they made a camp. They passed the night there. Early in the morning the Infantes ordered the beasts to be loaded and the tents struck, and they sent all their company on, so that no one remained with them; they gave the excuse that their wives would enjoy the quiet and rest there for a little while.

Then Doña Elvira asked her husband, "Why would you have us rest in this lonely place?" And he said, "Hold your peace, and you shall see." Then the Infantes tore away the mantles from their wives and all their garments but the inner one, and they held them by the hair of their heads, and with the other took the girths from their horses. And the women said: "Don Diego and Don Ferrando, you have strong swords with sharp edges, called Colado and Tizona, weapons that our father gave you; cut off our heads, and we shall become martyrs. But do us no dishonor, for that will be to shame yourselves."

But the Infantes paid no heed to what they said, but beat them cruelly with the saddle-girths, and kicked them with their spurs, so that their garments were torn and stained with blood. Oh if the Cid had come upon them in that hour! And

the women cried out and called upon God to have mercy on them; but the more they cried the more did the Infantes beat and kick them till they swooned away. Then the Infantes took their mantles and their cloaks and their furs of ermine and left them for dead, saying, "Lie there, daughters of the Cid, for it is not fitting that you should be our wives. We shall see now how your other will avenge you, and we have now taken vengeance for the shame he did us with the lion." Saying this, they rode away, leaving the ladies to the mountain birds and to the beasts of the forest. Oh if the Cid had come upon them in that hour! These wretches rode off glorying in what they had done, for they said the daughters of the Cid were not worthy to be their wives.

When the Infantes, before they did this deed, had ordered their company to ride on, Felez rode on with the rest. But the order did not please him, and he went aside from his companions and struck into the forest, and there waited until the ladies should come. Presently he saw the Infantes coming alone, and heard what they said to each other. They passed without seeing him, and he rode back to the spring and found the women lying senseless. There he knelt by them and lamented greatly. By this time the women were recovering their senses, but they could not speak, for their hearts were breaking.

Then Felez called out to them, "Doña Elvira, Doña Sol, for the love of God rouse yourselves that we may get away before night comes or the wild beasts will devour us." Then they came to themselves and opened their eyes and saw that it was Felez who spoke to them, and he said, "Take heart and let us be gone from this place, for if the Infantes come back, we shall all be killed." But Doña Sol cried for water, and Felez took his hat and filled it with water, and gave it to them; and he comforted them and bade them take courage. Then he placed them on his horse and covered them with his cloak and led them into the thicket of the forest, and made a bed of

grass and leaves and laid them on it and covered them with his cloak and sat down to weep, for he knew not what to do. He had no food, and if he went to seek it, the wild beasts and birds would attack them. On the other hand, unless he went to the Cid, there could no vengeance be taken. While Felez was in this great trouble, the Infantes joined their company, with bloody hands and spurs. When their people saw that their wives were not with them they thought some evil deed had been done; and the better men of the party, to the number of a hundred, went apart with one named Pero Sanchez, who said to them: "Friends, these Infantes have committed some crime upon the daughters of our lord, the Cid. They are our liege ladies; and the Cid made us knights, and we should discharge the duty we owe them. We must arm ourselves and demand of the Infantes what they have done with the ladies. If they will not deliver them to us, we must fight them to the death." This advice the others thought good. When the Infantes saw them coming, they were afraid and said: "Go to the Oak-forest, and there you may find them. We left them safe and sound, but we would not take them with us." — "I'll have you done," replied those knights, to forsake such wives and the daughters of such a father. Henceforth we renounce all friendship for you, and defy you for the Cid and for ourselves and for all his people." And the Infantes made no reply. When they saw the Infantes would not answer, they said: "Get you gone for traitors. There is no way in the world by which you can escape the enemies you have now made." But to all this the Infantes made no reply, but went their way.

Then Pero and his men rode back to the spring, and they saw there blood; but the ladies were gone, and they knew not where to look for them. So they went about the forest calling aloud. Now Felez and the women heard their voices, but they were afraid to answer, thinking it was the Infantes and their company. So Pero and his men went about seeking them in vain. Then Martin Ferrandez said: "Friends, it will not do for

us to turn back and go to the Cid without seeking vengeance. Rather must we follow the Infantes and give them battle. If we cannot overtake them, then we should go on to King Don Alfonso and tell him of this foul deed." The other knights thought this good counsel, and they followed the Infantes as rapidly as they could.

But the Infantes had ridden away so rapidly that they could not overtake them. When they saw this, they went on to Palencia to find the king, and they came before him and kissed his hands, and with sorrowful hearts told him of the dishonor of the daughters of the Cid. The king having heard this was greatly offended, as he had taken part in the marriage, and he said, "It must be that in a few days we shall receive tidings of this from the Cid, and upon his complaint we shall see justice done." Then Pero and his men kissed the king's hands, and waited at his court for word from the Cid.

When Felez heard that the voices in the forest had ceased, he went to a village near by to get food for the ladies; and in this manner he cared for them for seven days. In that village he found a kind man in whose house the Cid had often lodged, and he had heard of his great deeds. As Felez heard this man praise the Cid, he thought he could trust him, so he told him what had befallen the ladies. Then the good man took two mules and his two sons who were young men. When the ladies saw them, they were ashamed and would have hidden themselves, but they could not. But this good man bent his knees before them, and said: "Ladies, I am at the service of your father, who has many times lodged at my house, and he was always kind to me. Now I have come to carry you to my house, for you must not remain in this forest where there are wild beasts. When you are at my home, my wife and daughters will serve you as best they can. And you may send this squire to your father, and we will keep you secretly till your father shall send for you."

Then the ladies said to each other, "This good man says

well, and it is better to go with him than remain here and die, for so we shall see our father revenge our wrongs." So they were set upon the beasts and taken to the village after dark, and no one knew of their coming. There, this man's wife and daughters ministered to them with great kindness.

On the next day the ladies wrote a letter to their father, that he should believe what Felez would tell him, and they wrote this letter with the blood from their wounds. So Felez went on to Valencia, and on the way he met Diego Tellez of the company of Alvar Fanez and told him the affair. He at once took horses and raiment and went for the ladies and brought them to Santesteban. The men of Santesteban were always gentlemen, the Chronicle says; and they comforted the daughters of the Cid, and healed their wounds.

In the meantime Felez proceeded on his way, and met Alvar Fanez and Pero Bermudez going to the King Alfonso with a present from the Cid; they were taking two hundred horses, won from King Bucar, and a hundred Moorish prisoners, and many good swords and rich saddles. When they saw Felez, they wondered greatly, for they had thought he was on his way to Carrion; and as they came near they lamented, fearing something was wrong. Then they alighted and asked what had befallen, and he quickly told them. Great were their lamentations, and they agreed that Alvar and Pero should proceed on their way to the king, and demand justice in the name of the Cid, and that Felez should continue to Valencia.

CHAPTER 21

The Case of the Cid's Daughters is Reported to King Alfonso. The King Assembles the Cortes to Do Justice in the Matter. The Daughters Are Brought Safe to Valencia. The Cid Goes to the Cortes at Toledo. His Enemies Make Sport of the Cid's Ivory Seat.

Alvar and Pero went on their way to Valladolid, where they found the king. He received them right well, and they kissed his hand, and said: "Sir, the Cid has had a good battle with King Bucar and has defeated him and twenty-nine kings who came with him, and has gained great spoil, and slain many and taken many prisoners. In acknowledgment of you as his lord he sends you two hundred horses and a hundred black Moors, and many saddles and swords, beseeching you to accept them in token of his desire to do you service." King Don Alfonso answered that he took the present of the Cid with a right good will, and from the truest and most honorable vassal that a king ever had. Then he bade Alvar and Pero to seat themselves at his feet. After a while Alvar arose, and said: "Sir, when we departed from the Cid we left him in great honor and prosperity. But on our way we met Felez Munoz, and he has told us of the dishonor which the Cid and we endure from the villany that the Infantes of Carrion have done upon his daughters. You have already heard of this crime, and you know how nearly it touches you, for I gave the ladies to the Infantes by your command. You have heard that the ladies were dead, as the messenger then believed them to be; but we know they are alive, having been wounded by spurs and bridles and stripped of their garments. Now, therefore, we

beseech you to take justice for yourself and give us and the Cid ours."

To this the king answered: "I am troubled by this dishonor for many reasons, and the more I hear of it the more it troubles me. But as they are alive, they may be rightfully avenged by the Cortes. It is a grief to me that my vassals the Infantes should have done this wrong; but since it hath been, I cannot but do justice. I will therefore assemble the Cortes in Toledo three months from this day; and do you tell the Cid to come there with such of his people as he thinks good." Alvar and Pero were glad at this decision, and they kissed the king's hand and departed with mules and noble trappings of gold and doth of gold and of wool that the king sent for the Cid's daughters.

Then Pero Sanchez went with them, and they came to the Oak-forest of Corpes, and he showed them the place where the crime had been committed; and they lamented there as if the ladies were dead before them. They went on to the village where the good man lived who had taken the wounded women to his home, and they gave him a large reward for his kindness. And they took with them the two sons and two daughters of this man that they might recompense them, for the good deeds of their father; and the Cid's daughters gave them in marriage and made them rich and treated them as brothers and sisters.

When it was known at Santesteban that Alvar was coming for his kinswomen, the men of the town welcomed him and his company and offered him tribute. But Alvar would not take it, saying, "Thanks, men of Santesteban, for what you have done, and the Cid will thank and reward you." Then they went to visit the Cid's daughters, and lamented and rejoiced at the same time. That night they rested, and on the next day they set forward and came to Molina, where Abengalvon came out to welcome them, for love of the Cid. There the ladies rested some days, and sent Pero Bermudez to

let the Cid know what had been done.

When Pero arrived at Valencia, he found the Cid and his knights just risen from dinner, and he welcomed them right well; but he could not refrain from weeping, for Felez had before this told him all. Then he stroked his beard, and said, "By this beard, which no one has ever cut, the Infantes of Carrion shall not triumph in this." Then he was comforted when he heard what Don Alfonso had done in calling the Cortes. He took Pero Bermudez by the hand and led him to Doña Ximena, who wept at seeing him, and said, "Ah, Pero, what news do you bring me of my daughters?" And he comforted her, saying: "Weep not, lady, for I left them alive and well at Molina, and Alvar Fanez with them. And you shall have good vengeance for their wrongs."

Then the Cid seated himself near his wife, and Pero took a seat before them and told them all that had been done. And the Cid said: "I thank my lord King Don Alfonso for the answer which he gave you and for appointing the Cortes, to which I will go in such a manner as shall gall those who wish me ill. Do you now return to Molina and bring my daughters. I will talk with them of the whole matter, that I may know all when I go to the court of the king to demand vengeance."

Pero returned the next day to Molina, and brought away the ladies and their company and Abengalvon with them, for he would not leave them until he had brought them to Valencia to his lord the Cid. When the Cid knew they were coming near, he rode out a great way to meet them, and they all made great lamentations. But the Cid embraced them and smiled, and said: "You are come, my children, and God will heal you. I accepted this marriage for you, but I could not do otherwise. By God's pleasure you shall be better mated hereafter." When they reached Valencia and went into the Alcazar to their mother, who can tell the lamentation that was made by their mother over her daughters and the daughters over their mother? And the Cid thanked Abengalvon for

the honor he had shown his children and promised to protect him from all enemies, and Abengalvon returned to his home well pleased.

The Cid now made ready to appear at the Cortes in Toledo, and he left the Bishop Don Hieronymo and Martin Pelaez in command in Valencia. The Cid took with him Alvar Fanez with two hundred knights, and Pero Bermudez with one hundred, and Martin Antolinez with fifty, and Martin Ferrandez with other fifty, and Felez Ferruz and Benita Sanchez with fifty each; these were five hundred knights. And there went under other leaders four hundred more; nine hundred knights in all. There went also five hundred squires on foot.

King Alfonso had sent letters through all his dominions summoning the Cortes in Toledo and declaring that those who did not appear should no longer be accounted his vassals. At this the Infantes of Carrion were much troubled, for they feared the coming of the Cid. They took counsel with their kinsmen, and prayed the king to hold them excused from attendance; but the king answered that nothing but God could excuse them from attending, for the Cid was coming to demand justice from them, and those who did not appear must leave his dominions. When they found they must attend, they took counsel with the Count Don Garcia, the enemy of the Cid, and they gathered the greatest company they could, thinking to frighten the Cid, and they arrived at Toledo before him.

When the Cid came near Toledo, he sent Alvar forward to kiss the king's hand and let him know that he would be there that night. At this news the king was rejoiced, and he mounted his horse and went with a great company to meet him. When they came in sight, the Cid fell to the ground before the king, but the king cried out: "This must not be today. Mount, Cid, or I shall not be well pleased. I welcome you with my heart and soul, and my heart is grieved for your

grief. God send that the court be honored by you." — "Amen," said the Cid, and he kissed his hand. And he added, "I thank God that I see you, sir."

So they rode toward Toledo. And the king said, "I have ordered you to be lodged in my palaces of Galiana that you may be near me." But the Cid answered: "Sir, God grant you a long and happy life, but none should be lodged in your palaces but you. When you hold your Cortes, let it be in those palaces of Galiana, for there is more room there than in the Alcazar. I will not cross the Tagus tonight, but will hold a vigil here. Tomorrow I will enter the city and be in court before dinner." The king said this pleased him, and he went on into the city. The Cid then went to the Church of St. Ervans and ordered candles to be placed upon the altar, for he would keep a vigil there; and there he remained with Alvar and other knights in prayer. The tents of his company were pitched upon the hills round about.

When the king had entered the city, he bade his seneschal, Benito Perez, make ready the palaces of Galiana for the Cortes next day. He placed seats with carpets upon the ground, and hung the walls with cloth of gold. In the highest place he set the royal chair, one which the king had won in Toledo and which had belonged to the kings of that place. Round about it were noble seats for the counts and chief men. Now the Cid knew that they were fitting up the palaces, and he called for a squire and bade him take his ivory seat that he had won in Valencia, and which had belonged to the kings of that city, and to put it in the best place near the seat of the king. And he sent with him a hundred squires to guard this seat until the next day.

On the next day the king went into the palaces, where the Cortes was to assemble, and the Infantes of Carrion and the other counts and noblemen were with him, except the Cid, who had not yet come. When the enemies of the Cid saw his ivory seat, they began to make sport of it. Count Garcia

said to the king: "I beseech you to tell me for whom that couch is spread beside your seat? For what lady is it made ready? How will she be dressed? Sir, a seat like that is fit for none but yourself; take it for yourself, or have it taken away." When the squire who was guarding the seat, named Ferran Alfonso, heard this, he said: "Count, you talk foolishly, and speak ill of a nobleman. He who is to sit on this seat is better than you or all your family; and he has always appeared as a man to all his enemies, not like a woman as you say. If you deny this, I will make you acknowledge it before the king who is here present. And I am of such a race that you cannot say I am not your equal; and I will give you the advantage of half your arms."

At these words the king was greatly troubled, as were the counts also. And Count Garcia, who was a man of high temper, wrapped his mantle under his arm, and would have struck Ferran Alfonso, saying, "Let me get at the boy who dares me." Ferran laid his hand upon his sword and came forward to meet him, saying that if it were not for the king he would punish him there for his foolish words. But the king interfered, and said: "None of you have a right to speak thus of the seat of the Cid; he won it like a good and brave knight as he is. There is not a king in the world who deserves this seat better than my vassal the Cid; and the better and more honorable he is, the more I am honored through him. This seat he won in Valencia, where it had belonged to the kings of that place. Much gold and silver has he won; and many a battle has he fought against Christians and Moors; and of all the spoil that he has won, he has always sent me a part, and many great and rich presents, such as no other vassal has sent his lord; and he has done this in acknowledgment that I am his lord. You who are talking here against him, which of you ever sent me such gifts as he? If any of you are envious of him, let him achieve such feats as he, and I will seat him with myself to do him honor."

CHAPTER 22

How the Cid Dressed for the Cortes. He and His Companions Enter the Cortes. The Cid Demands the Swords Colada and Tizona. He Demands the Presents He Had Given the Infantes. The Cid Challenges the Infantes and Their Uncle to Mortal Combat. Messengers from the Kings of Aragon and Navarre Ask for the Cid's Daughters to be Given to the Sons of Those Kings.

Now after the Cid had performed his vigil he made ready to go to the Cortes with a hundred of his best knights, clad in mail bright as the sun; over this they had ermine or other skins, laced tight that the armor might not be seen, and under their cloaks were their sharp swords. The Cid drew over his legs hose of fine cloth, and put on over them richly worked shoes. He wore a shirt that was white as the sun; all the fastenings were wrought with gold and silver; over this was gold tissue; and over this a red skin with points of gold. On his head he had a coif of scarlet wrought with gold, which was made so that none might clip the hair of the Cid. His was a long beard, and he bound it with a cord. Then he bade Alvar and Pero assemble their companions, and when he saw them, he said, "If the Infantes of Carrion should seek a quarrel, I can go without fear where I have a hundred such knights as these." And he said: "Let us mount now and go to the Cortes, and go to make one defiance, and perhaps two or three if they make stir against us. You will be ready to aid me, saying and doing as I command, always saving the honor and authority of King Alfonso our lord. See now that none of you say or do aught amiss." Then he called for his horse and rode to the

Cortes.

When the Cid and his men had arrived at the palace, they went in gravely, he in the midst with his hundred knights around him. As he entered, the king rose up and so did all the counts except Don Garcia and those who were on the side of the Infantes of Carrion. All the others received him with great honor. And he said to the king, "Sir, where do you bid me sit with these my kinsmen and friends who are come with me?" And the king answered, "Cid, you are such a one, and have passed your time so well to this day that if you would listen to me I should hold it good that you took your seat with me; for he who has conquered kings ought to be seated with kings." But the Cid answered: "That, sir, would not please God. But I will be at your feet; for by the favor of your father Don Ferrando was I made his creature, and the creature of your brother. King Don Sancho am I, and it is not fitting that he who receives bounty should sit with him that dispenses it." Then the king said: "Since you will not sit with me, sit on your ivory seat, for you won it like a man; and from this day I order that none except a king or prelate sit with you, for you have conquered so many kings that there is none who is your peer or ought to be seated with you. Sit, therefore, like a king and lord upon your ivory seat." Then the Cid kissed the King's hand and thanked him for what he had said and for the honor he had done him, and he took his seat, and his hundred knights seated themselves around him. All who were in the Cortes sat looking at the Cid and at his long beard bound with a cord; but the Infantes of Carrion could not look on him for shame.

When they were all seated, the king commanded silence, and when the Cid saw that they were all still he arose to speak. He said: "Sir King Don Alfonso, I beseech you of your mercy that you will hear me, and give command that no one interrupt me, for I am not a man of speech, neither do I know how to set forth my words, and if they interrupt me I shall do

worse. Moreover, give command that no one be insolent to me, lest we should come to blows in your presence." Then the king arose and said, "Since I have been king I have held only two Cortes. This third I have assembled for the love of the Cid, that he may demand justice against the Infantes of Carrion for the wrongs which we all know. The Counts Don Anrrich and Don Remond shall be judges in this cause; and these other counts who are not on either side, give good heed, for you are to see that right judgment is given. I give order that no one shall speak without my command, or utter anything insolent against the Cid; whoever shall disturb the Cortes shall be banished from the kingdom. I am on the side of him who shall be found to have the right." Then the judges were sworn upon the Gospels that they would judge between the Cid and the Infantes of Carrion rightly and truly according to the law.

When this was done the king bade the Cid make his demand. Then the Cid rose and said: "Sir, there is no reason to make long speeches here. I demand of the Infantes of Carrion before you two swords which I gave into their keeping; the one is Colada and the other, Tizona. I won them like a man, and gave them into the keeping of the Infantes, that they might honor my daughters with them, and serve you. When they left my daughters in the Oak-forest of Corpes, they chose to have nothing to do with me, and renounced my love; let them, therefore, give back the swords, seeing they are no longer my sons-in-law."

Then the king bade the judges decide this matter, and they agreed that the swords should be restored to the Cid. Count Don Garcia said they would talk of that, and he conferred with the Infantes and their friends, and they thought they were well off, and that the Cid would ask nothing more, but leave the Cortes when he had the swords. So they brought the swords and delivered them to the king. The king drew the swords, and the whole court shone with their brightness; their

hilts were of solid gold; all the men in the Cortes marvelled at them. And the Cid rose and received them, and kissed the king's hand and went back to his ivory seat; and he took the swords in his hands and looked at them, and he knew them well, and he smiled. He laid them upon his lap, and said, "Ah, my swords Colada and Tizona, truly may I say of you that you are the best swords in Spain; and I won you, for I did not get you by buying or by barter. I gave you in the keeping of the Infantes of Carrion that they might do honor to my daughters with you; but you were not for them; they kept you hungry and did not feed you with the flesh with which you were used to be fed. Well is it for you that you have escaped from them and come again into my hands, and happy am I to recover you."

Then Alvar Fanez arose and said, "I beseech you give Colada into my keeping while this Cortes shall last, that I may defend you with it." The Cid said, "Take it; it hath changed its master for the better." Then Bermudez arose and made the same demand for the sword Tizona, and the Cid gave it in like manner. Then the Cid laid his hand on his beard as his habit was, and the Infantes of Carrion and they who were on their side thought that he meant to disturb the Cortes and they were afraid; but he sat still, like a wise man, for he was not rash with his words.

Again the Cid rose and said: "Sir King, I have now another demand against the Infantes of Carrion. You well know that you gave my daughters to these men, and not I; you did it for good, and not for evil; but what they did afterward was evil. Though they are of great blood, yet would I not have given my daughters to them unless in obedience to your commands; and this, sir, you well know, for I said so to you. I gave them, when they took my daughters from Valencia, horses and mules, and cups and vessels of fine gold, and much wrought silver, and many noble garments and other gifts, three thousand marks of silver in all, thinking that I gave it to

my daughters whom I loved. Now, sir, since they have cast off my daughters, and hold themselves to have been dishonored in marrying them, give command that they restore to me that which is my own, or show cause why they should not."

Then you might have seen the Infantes of Carrion much disturbed. Count Don Remond called upon them to speak; and they said, "We gave his swords to the Cid that he might ask nothing more of us."

But the king said they must answer the demand of the Cid. Then they consulted for a time with their friends, but they could find no good reason for opposing this demand of the Cid. However, Don Garcia spoke for them and said, "Sir, it is true that the Cid gave what he now asks back, but the Infantes have expended this money in your service; we hold therefore that they are not bound to make restitution of it, seeing the manner in which it has been used. Yet if you hold it lawful that they should restore this money, give them time to make payment, and they will go to Carrion and there discharge the demand."

The Cid now arose, when the Count had taken his seat, and said: "Sir, if the Infantes have expended anything in your service, that does not touch me. You and the judges have heard them say that I gave them this treasure, and they have found this excuse. I pray you that judgment be given whether they are bound to pay it or not." Then the king said, "If the Infantes have expended anything in my service, I am bound to repay it, for the Cid must not lose what is his own." And he bade the judges decide. The judges having taken counsel said that since the Infantes acknowledged that the Cid had given them treasure with his daughters, and that they had abandoned them, they must make restitution in the Cortes of the King. The king confirmed this sentence, and the Cid kissed his hand.

The Infantes were greatly troubled at this sentence, and they asked the king to have the Cid give them time; and the

king asked him to grant fifteen days, and that they should not leave the Cortes until they had made payment. The Cid granted what the king asked; and then they made their account with the king, and it was found that they had spent only two hundred marks of silver in his service. This the king said he would repay, and the remainder they must make up. Great was the difficulty the Infantes had to find this money; and they bought on trust horses and mules and silver and other precious things as they could get them, and delivered them to the Cid. They sent to Carrion to their father and mother to help them, and they raised for them all they could, so that they made up the sum within the time appointed. Then they thought the matter was at an end.

After this payment had been made the Cortes assembled again, and the Cid arose from his ivory seat, and said: "Sir, I have recovered my swords and my treasures; now I pray that you will hear this other demand which I have to make from the Infantes. It is hard for me to make it, though I have it rooted in my heart. I say, then, let them answer before you and tell why it was they besought you to marry them to my daughters, and why they took them away from Valencia, when they had it in their heart to dishonor me, and to strike them and leave them in the Oak-forest. Look, sir, what dishonor they did them. They stripped them of the garments which they had not given them. With less than mortal defiance, I will not let them go. How had I deserved this. Infantes, at your hands? I gave you my daughters to take with you from Valencia, with great honors and great treasures I give them to you. Dogs and traitors, you took them from Valencia when you did not love them, and with your bridles you smote them, and with your spurs you wounded them and left them alone in the forest to the wild beasts and to the birds of the mountain. King Don Alfonso, they neither remembered God nor you nor me nor their own good fortune. And here was fulfilled the saying of the wise man, that it is harder

for those who have no understanding to bear with good than with evil. Praise be to God and my king that from the day when I first took arms and horse until now, that not only the Infantes of Carrion, but saving yourself, sir, there is not a king in Christendom who might not think himself honored in marrying with either of my daughters, how much more then these traitors. I beseech you give me justice upon them for the evil and dishonor they have done me. And if you and your Cortes will not right me, through the mercy of God and my own good cause I will take it myself for the offence they have committed against God and the faith, and the truth which they promised and vowed to their wives. I will pull them down from the honor in which they now are; better men than they have I conquered and made prisoners ere now. And with your permission, sir, I will follow them to Carrion, even to their inheritance, and there will I besiege them and take them by the throat and carry them prisoners to Valencia to my daughters, and there make them do penance for the crime they have committed. If I do not perform this, call me a traitor." When the king heard this, he rose up, and said that this matter touched him likewise. "Cid," said he, "I asked your daughters of you for the Infantes of Carrion because, as they well knew, they besought me to do so, I having never thought of it. It seems now they are not pleased with this marriage that I made at their request, and great part of the dishonor they have done you touches me also. But as you are in my presence, it is not fitting that you make your demand except through the Cortes; do you therefore accuse them, and let them acquit themselves if they can before the judges, who will pass sentence according to what is right." Then the Cid kissed the king's hand and sat down on his ivory seat.

Then the Cid rose, and said, "God prosper you, sir, in life and honor and estate, since you have compassion for me and the dishonor done my daughters." Then he turned to the Infantes, and said: "Ferrando Gonzales and Diego Gonzales, I

say you are false traitors for leaving your wives as you left them in the Oak-forest. And here before the king I accuse you as traitors and defy you, and will produce your peers who shall prove it upon you, and slay you or thrust you out of the lists, or make you confess it in your throats." And they were silent. Then the king said that they must make an answer. Then Ferrando the elder arose and said: "Sir, we are your subjects, and of the best blood in Castile, and we hold that men of such station are not well married with the daughters of Rodrigo Diaz. For this reason we forsook them because they came not of blood fit for our wives. That we forsook them is true, and we hold that in doing so we did nothing wrong, for they were not worthy to be our wives, and we are to be more commended for having left them than we were while we were wedded to them. Now then, sir, there is no reason why we should do battle upon this matter with anyone."

Then Diego his brother arose and said, "You know, sir, what perfect men we are in our lineage, and it did not befit us to be married to the daughters of Rodrigo." When he had said this, he sat down. Then Don Garcia arose, and said: "Come away. Infantes, and let us leave the Cid sitting like a bridegroom in his ivory chair. He lets his beard grow, thinking to frighten us with it." The Cid put up his hand to his beard and said: "What have you to do, Count, with my beard? It is long because it is kept for my pleasure. Never a son of woman hath taken me by it. Never son of Moor or Christian has plucked it, as I did yours in your castle of Cabra, when I took your castle and took you by the beard. There was not a boy in the army but had a pull at it. What I plucked then is not grown yet."

Then the Count cried out: "Come away. Infantes, and leave him. Let him go back to Rio, to his own country, and set up his mills, and take toll as he used to do. He is not your equal that you should quarrel with him." At this the knights of the Cid looked at each other with fierce eyes; but none of

them dared speak till the Cid bade them, because of the command which he had given them.

When the Cid saw that none of his people answered, he turned to Pero Bermudez and said, "Speak, Pero Mudo, what are you silent for?" He called him Mudo, which is to say, "Dumb-ee," because he stuttered; and Pero was angry that he should be called so before all that assembly, and he said, "I tell you what, Cid, you always call me Dumb-ee in court, and you know I cannot help my words; but when anything is to be done, it shall not fail for me." And in his anger he forgot what the Cid had said to him and to the others to make no quarrel before the king. And he gathered up his cloak under his arm and went up to the eleven counts who were against the Cid, to Count Garcia, and when he was near him he clenched his fist and gave him a blow that brought him to the ground.

Then was the whole Cortes in an uproar, and many swords were drawn, and on one side the cry was "Cabra and Granon," and on the other it was "Valencia and Bivar"; but the strife was such that in a short time the counts left the palace. The king meanwhile cried out aloud, forbidding them to fight before him, and charging them to look to his honor. The Cid then tried to quiet his people, saying to the king, "Sir, you saw that I could bear it no longer, being thus insulted in your presence; if it had not been for you I would have punished him well." Then the king sent to call those counts who had been driven out, and they came again into the palace, though they would have preferred to stay outside, complaining of the dishonor they had received.

The king said to them that they should defend themselves with courtesy and reason, and not revile the Cid, who was not a man to be insulted; and he said he would defend as far as possible the rights of both parties.

Pero Bermudez rose and said to Count Garcia: "Foul mouth in which God has put no truth, you have dared to let loose your tongue to speak of the Cid's beard, an honorable

beard, one that has never been shamed nor overcome. And if you please you may remember when he fought against you in Cabra, hundred to hundred, he threw you from your horse, and took you by the beard and carried you away prisoner across a pack-saddle. His knights pulled your beard for you, and I had a good handful of it. How, then, shall a beard that has been dishonored speak against one that has never been shamed? If you deny this, I will fight you upon this quarrel before the king."

Then Count Suero Gonzales rose in haste, and said: "Nephews, go away and leave these rascals. If they are for fighting, we will give them their fill of that, if the king should think good. We will fight, though they are not our peers." Then Alvar Fanez stood up, and said: "Hold your peace. Count Gonzales, you have been to breakfast before you said your prayers, and your words are more like a drunkard's than one who is in his senses. You say your kinsmen are equal to those of the Cid; if it were not for reverence for the king, I would teach you never to talk in that way again." When the king saw that their words were going from bad to worse, and that they were not to the point, he commanded them to be silent, and said, "I will determine this business of the challenge with the judges as shall be found right; and I will not have these disputes carried on before me."

Then the king went apart with the judges into a chamber, and the Cid and the others remained in the hall. When the king and judges had counselled together what was right in this matter, they came out of the chamber and took their seats, and commanded all to be silent. Then the king said, "I have taken counsel with these judges in this case, and this is the sentence that I give, that both the Infantes and Count Suero Gonzales their uncle, inasmuch as he was the adviser in the dishonor of the Cid's daughters, shall do battle with such three of the Cid's people as he may appoint, and thereby acquit themselves if they can."

When the king had given this sentence, the Cid rose and kissed his hand, saying: "May God give you long and happy years, seeing you are judged justly as a just and righteous king. I receive your sentence, and I shall ever be at your service." Then Pero Bermudez rose up and went to the Cid, saying, "I ask a boon, sir; I beseech you let me be one of those who shall do battle on your part, for I trust in God to be able to take vengeance for this foul deed." And the Cid answered that he was well pleased it should be so, and that he should do battle with Ferrando the eldest; and then Pero kissed his hand. Then Martin Antolinez rose and besought the Cid that he might be another, and the Cid granted his desire, and said that he should do battle with the younger one, Diego. Then Muno Gustioz besought that he might be the third, and the Cid granted it and appointed him to do battle with Count Suero Gonzales the uncle.

When the Cid had appointed his champions, the king gave command that the combat should be performed on the next day; but the Infantes said they were not ready to fight so soon, and asked that they might go to Carrion to prepare for the battle. But the king would not allow them the time they asked; however, the king's sons-in-law begged the king to grant the Infantes three weeks, and the king granted this, with the consent of the Cid.

When all these arrangements had been made, and while the court was still in session, there came messengers from the kings of Aragon and of Navarre, with letters to King Alfonso and to the Cid, in which these kings asked the king for the daughters of the Cid in marriage, the one for Don Sancho the son of the king of Aragon, the other for Garcia Ramirez the son of the king of Navarre. When they came before the king, they bent their knees and gave him the letters and delivered their message. They also did the same to the Cid. Much were the king and the Cid pleased with this news, and the king said to the Cid, "What do you say to this?" And the Cid answered,

"I and my daughters are at your disposal; do with us as you shall think good." Then the king said, "I hold it good that they wed with the kings' sons, and that from henceforward they be queens; and that for the dishonor they before received they now receive this honor." And the Cid rose and kissed the hands of the king and all his knights did the same.

The king and the Cid ordered that letters of consent to these marriages be given to the messengers; the one who came from Aragon was named Ynigo Ximenez, and the one from Navarre Ochoa Perez. These knights arranged that in three months from that day the princes or Infantes of Aragon and Navarre should come to Valencia to be married to the daughters of the Cid. Great was the joy of the comrades of the Cid that these marriages were to be, for they increased their honor; and great was the sorrow of the Infantes of Carrion and their friends, for this was to their confusion. Then Alfonso said aloud to the Cid before them all, "Praised be the name of God, because it has pleased him that the dishonor that was done to me and to you and to your daughters should thus be turned into honor; for they were the wives of the sons of counts, and now shall they be the wives of the sons of kings, and shall be queens hereafter." Great was the pleasure of the Cid and his company at these words of the king. The Infantes went away from the palace very sorrowful, and made ready to go to Carrion to prepare for the combat which was to take place in three weeks.

Then the Cid said to the king: "Sir, I have appointed those who are to do battle for my honor; and as there is nothing more for me to do here, I will leave them in your hand, knowing that you will defend their right. If it please you, I will return to Valencia; for I would not that the Moors rise up in my absence. Moreover, I have to make ready for these marriages." The king bade him go when he pleased and good fortune go with him, and said he would protect his knights and his right in all things. The king called for Don

Remond his son-in-law and gave the knights of the Cid into his charge and bade them not depart from him, and then the king arose and returned to the Alcazar.

Then the Cid took off his coif and he loosed his beard and took it out of the cord that bound it. All who were there could not be satisfied with looking at it. The Counts Don Anrrich and Don Remond came up to him and he embraced and thanked them and the men who had been judges in his matter for upholding his right; and he promised to do for them whatever they would ask, and he offered them part of his treasure. They thanked him for this offer, but said it was not fitting that they should accept these; yet he sent great presents to each of them, and some accepted them and some did not. Before the Cid departed he forgave the king the two hundred marks which should have been paid on the account of the Infantes; for the Cid had not been so anxious for the money as to compel those men to lose what he had given them. He also gave to the knights who had come from Aragon and Navarre concerning the marriages many horses and money in gold, and he sent them with great honor into their own country. On the next day the Cid went to take leave of the king, and the king went some way out of the town with him with many of his chief men. When he was about to part from the king they brought him his horse Bavieca, and he turned to the king and said: "Sir, it does not become me to take away so good a horse as Bavieca; I will leave him for you, for such a horse as this is fit for you and for no other master. And that you may see what he is, I will do before you what I have not done for a long time except in battle." Then he mounted his horse and gave him the spur, and all were astonished at his speed. As the Cid was riding his career, the horse broke one of his reins, yet he came and stopped before the king as easily as if both the reins had been whole, at which all wondered greatly. And the Cid urged the king that he would be pleased to take this horse, but he said: "Rather would I give you a better one if I had one, for he

is better in your hands than in mine or those of any other man; upon that horse you have done honor to yourself and to us and to all Christians. Let him go as mine, and I will take him when I please." Then the Cid kissed the king's hand, and the king embraced him and returned to Toledo.

When the king had taken leave, Pero and Martin Antolinez and Muno rode on with the Cid for a time, and he advised them as to the manner in which they should conduct themselves in the combat with the Infantes and their uncle. And they took his counsel well, as was afterward shown. Then he bade them return to the king, praying to God to have them in his keeping and assist them, as he knew their cause was right.

CHAPTER 23

The King Takes the Knights and His Company to Carrion for the Combat with the Infantes. The Combat. Pero Burmudez Slays Ferrando. Martin Antolinez Drives Diego from the Lists, and Muno Defeats Suero. The Infantes and Their Uncle Declared Traitors. The Cid's Knights Return to Valencia and Rejoice Him with the News.

Now King Alfonso doubted if the Infantes of Carrion would appear at the time appointed for the combat with the Cid's knights, and therefore he said that he would go to Carrion and have the battle fought there. He took with him the counts whom he had appointed as judges, and Pero Bermudez and Martin Antolinez and Mimo Gustioz went with the Count Don Remond. On the third day after the Cid had left Toledo the king set forth for Carrion, but it happened that he became sick on the way and could not arrive within the three weeks, so that the time was extended to five weeks. When the king was strong again he went on to Carrion, and gave order that the combat should take place on a certain day in the plain of Carrion. The Infantes came with a great company of their friends and kindred, for their kinsmen were many and powerful; and they all came with one accord, that if before the battle they could find any cause they would kill the knights of the Cid. Yet though they had determined to do this, they dared not for fear of the king.

On the night before the combat each party kept vigil in one or another church. At daybreak, a great multitude assembled in the field, and the king sent and commanded the champions to make ready. He made the two counts his sons-

in-law and the other counts and their people arm themselves and keep the field, that the kinsmen of the Infantes might not make a tumult there.

The father of the Infantes was in great distress because they had to do battle that day, and he cursed the day he was born, for his heart foresaw the fate of his children. Vast was the multitude that was gathered from all Spain to behold this battle. There in the field near the lists the champions of the Cid armed themselves on one side, and the Infantes on the other. Count Don Remond armed the knights of the Cid, and gave them their instructions, and Count Garcia Ordonez helped arm the Infantes and their uncle; and the Infantes sent to ask the king that the swords Colada and Tizona should not be used in that combat. But the king answered that each must take the best arms and sword that he could. They were greatly troubled at this reply, and feared those swords and were sorry that they had taken them to the Cortes at Toledo. From that hour the Infantes and their uncle showed in their faces that they knew they had done ill and would have thought themselves happy men if they had not committed that great villainy, and gladly would they have given all that they had in Carrion if it could now have been undone.

The king went to the place where the Infantes were arming, and said: "If you feared those swords you should have said so in the Cortes, for that was the place and not this. There is nothing now to be done but to defend yourselves stoutly, as you have need to do against those you will meet." Then he went to the knights of the Cid, whom he found armed; and they kissed his hand and said, "Sir, the Cid has left us in your hand, and we beseech you to see that no wrong is done us here, where the Infantes have their party." The king bade them have no fear for that.

Then their horses were brought, and they mounted, with their shields hanging from the neck; and they took their spears, each of which had a streamer, and they went with

their company to the lists. On the other side the Infantes and their uncle came with a great company of their friends. And the king said with a loud voice: "Hear what I say. Infantes of Carrion, this combat I would have waged in Toledo, but you said you were not ready to perform it there, and therefore I have come to this your native place and have brought the knights of the Cid with me. They are come here under my safeguard. Let not you nor your kinsmen attempt to overpower them by tumult or in any other way but by fair combat, for I have given my people orders to cut to pieces anyone who shall begin a tumult."

Very sorrowful were the Infantes for this command of the king. And the king appointed twelve knights to place the combatants in the lists and show them the bounds, at what point they were to win or be conquered, and to divide the sun between them. He went with a wand in his hand and saw them placed on both sides; then he went out of the lists and gave command that the people should fall back and not approach within seven spears' lengths of the lines of the lists.

Now the six combatants were left alone in the lists, and each of them knew his opponent. They laced their helmets, put their shields on their arms, and laid their lances in the rest. And the knights of both parties advanced against each other. Each bent down with his face to the saddle bow and gave his horse the spur. And they all six met with such a shock that they who looked on expected to see them all fall dead. Pero Bermudez and Ferrando Gonzales encountered, and the shield of Pero was pierced, but the spear passed through on one side and did not hurt him, and broke in two places; but he kept his seat firm. He received one blow, but he gave another; he drove his lance through Ferrando's shield at his breast, and though his breastplate was three-fold, the spear went through two plates and drove in the third before it with the shirt into the breast near his heart; and the girth of his saddle broke and he and the saddle went together over the

horse's heels, and the spear in him, and all thought him dead. However, he rose up and the blood began to run out of his mouth, and Pero drew his sword and went against him; but when he saw the sword Tizona over him, he cried out that he confessed himself conquered and that what Pero had said against him was true. When Pero heard this, he stood still, and the twelve men heard the confession and pronounced him conquered. This Ferrando did, thinking to save his life, but his wound proved mortal.

Martin Antolinez and Diego Gonzales broke their lances on each other, and laid hands upon their swords. Martin drew forth Colada, the brightness of which flashed over the whole field, for it was a marvellous sword; and in their strife he dealt him a back-handed blow which sheared off the top of his helmet, and cut away hood and coif and the hair of his head and the skin. Diego was dismayed at this, and though he had his own sword in his hand, he could not use it for fear; but he turned his horse and fled, and Martin went after him and dealt him another blow with the flat part of the sword, for he missed him with the edge; and the Infante began to cry out, "God help me and save me from that sword." And he rode away as fast as he could, and Martin called after him, "Get out, Don Traitor," and drove him from the lists, and remained conqueror.

Mono and Suero dealt each other some marvellous strokes with their spears; and Suero, being a powerful knight and brave, struck the shield of Muno and pierced it through; but the spear passed on and touched him not. Muno lost his stirrups with that stroke, but he presently recovered them and gave him such a stroke in return that it went clear through the middle of the shield and through all his armor and came out between the ribs, missing the heart; then laying his hand on him he wrenched him out of the saddle, and threw him down as he drew the spear out of his body, and the point of the spear and the haft and the streamer came out all red.

Then all thought he was stricken to death. And Muno turned to strike him again; but when Gonzalo Ansures his father saw this, he cried aloud, "Do not strike him again, for he is conquered." And Muno asked the judges whether he were to be held conquered for what his father said; and they said no, unless he confirmed it with his own mouth. And Muno turned again to Suero as he lay on the ground, and lifted his spear against him; but Suero cried out, "Strike me not, for I am vanquished." Then the judges said it was enough, and that the combat was ended.

Then the king entered the lists and many knights with him, and he called the twelve judges and asked them if the knights of the Cid had anything more to do to prove their accusation. And they answered that the knights of the Cid had won the field, and all the knights who were there said this was true. Then King Alfonso cried aloud: "Hear me, all ye who are here present. Inasmuch as the knights of the Cid have conquered, they have won their cause," and the judges said that what the king said was true, and all the people said the same. The king then gave commandment to break up the lists, and gave sentence that the Infantes of Carrion and their uncle, Suero, were notorious traitors, and ordered that their horses and coats of arms be taken from them. And from that day forth their family was dishonored, and they and their uncle fled away, having been put to shame. Great was their shame, and may the like or worse come to him who abuses a fair lady and then leaves her.

Then the king went to dinner and took the knights of the Cid with him; and great crowds followed them, praising their courage and skill. The king gave them great gifts and sent them away by night and with a good guard to protect them till they should be in safety, for fear the friends of the Infantes of Carrion might pursue them. When the Cid knew that they were coming near Valencia, he went out to meet them and received them with great joy and honor. Then they told him

all that had happened, and how the king had declared the Infantes and their uncle to be notorious traitors. At this the Cid lifted up his hands to heaven and blessed God because of the revenge which he had for the great dishonor that had been put upon him. He took with him Martin and Pero and Muno and went to his wife and daughters, and said, "Blessed be God, now are you and your daughters avenged;" and he made the knights tell them the whole story. Doña Elvira and Doña Sol embraced the knights many times and would have kissed their hands and their feet. And the Cid said, "Now may you marry our daughters to the Infantes of Aragon and Navarre, and I trust in God that they may be well married, better than they were at first." Eight days the rejoicings lasted in Valencia for the vengeance which had been taken on those who had dishonored the Cid's daughters.

CHAPTER 24

The Great Sultan of Persia Sends Presents to the Cid. His Messenger Trembles Before the Cid. The Messenger Is Honorably Treated and Explains to the Governor Why His Master Wished the Friendship of the Cid. The Marriage of the Cid's Daughters to the Princes.

Some time after this, the great Sultan of Persia, who had heard of the greatness of the Cid and of his wonderful feats at arms, and how he had never been vanquished by any man, and how he had conquered many kings. Moors and Christians, and had won the great city of Valencia, and had defeated King Bucar of Morocco and twenty-nine kings with him, was anxious to gain his friendship. Holding him to be one of the noble men of the world, he sent messengers to him with great gifts, and with them one of his own kinsmen, an honorable man, with letters of love.

This kinsman reached the port of Valencia and sent word to the Cid of his arrival with a message from the great Sultan of Persia, who had sent him a present. The Cid was well pleased, and in the morning he took his horse and went out with all his company, and his knights rode before with lances erect. When they had gone about three miles, they met the messenger of the Sultan coming to Valencia; and when he saw the manner of his coming, he understood what a great man the Cid was.

As he drew near the Cid stopped his horse Bavieca and waited to receive him; and when the messenger came before the Cid and looked on him, his flesh began to tremble, and he wondered at his own fear; and his voice failed him, and he

could not speak a word. The Cid said he was welcome and went forward to embrace him; but the Moor made no reply, being amazed. After he had somewhat recovered and could speak, he would have kissed the Cid's hand, but the Cid would not give it to him, and he thought this was done from pride; but they made him understand that it was done to honor him. He was greatly rejoiced, and said: "I humble myself before you, O Cid, who are the fortunate one, the best Christian and the most honorable who has girded on a sword or bestrode a horse for a thousand years. The great Sultan of Persia, hearing of your great fame and renown, has sent me to salute you and receive you as his best friend. He has sent a present by me who am his kinsman, and beseeches you to receive it as from a friend."

The Cid answered that he thanked him greatly, and he bade his people make way that the camels and horses that bore the present might pass, and also the strange animals that the Sultan had sent. When they were passed by, he returned to the town and the messenger with him. Whenever the messenger spoke with the Cid, he recalled how his voice had failed him and his flesh had crept, and he wished to ask the Cid why that was. As they entered Valencia, a great crowd assembled to see the animals that bore the present, and the strange beasts, such as they had never seen before; and they wondered at them.

The Cid gave orders that the beasts should be cared for; and he took the messenger with him to the Alcazar, where he humbled himself before the Cid's wife and daughters. He commanded that the camels and other beasts should be unloaded in their presence, and he opened the packages. He laid before them a great quantity of gold and money, which came in leather bags, each having its lock, and wrought silver in dishes and trenchers and basins and pots for preparing food — all these were of silver and weighed ten thousand marks. He brought out five cups of gold, in each of which were ten

marks of gold, with many precious stones set in them, and three silver barrels which were full of pearls and of precious stones. He presented to him many pieces of cloth of gold and of silk. He gave also a pound of myrrh and of balsam in little caskets of gold; this was held to be very precious, for with this ointment they were accustomed to anoint the bodies of kings who had died, to preserve their bodies that they might not corrupt. He gave also a chessboard made of ivory, riveted with gold, and set with precious stones; and the chessmen were of gold and silver, and the squares were wrought with fine stones.

When the Persian had produced all these things, he said, "All this, sir, with the animals you have seen, my lord, the Sultan of Persia has sent to you, because of the fame of your goodness, and he asks you to accept it for love of him." The Cid thanked him, and said he would do him more honor than he had ever yet done to anyone. He embraced him in the name of the Sultan, and asked if there was anything among these presents that had belonged to the Sultan that he might give it a kiss of honor, according to their custom, for he knew that his master was one of the noblest men in the world. This great courtesy of the Cid rejoiced the Persian, and he saw how noble a man he was. Then the Persian said: "Sir Cid, if you were before my master, he would give you the head of his horse to eat; but as this is not your custom, I give you my living horse, which is one of the best horses of Syria, and do you give order that he be taken in honor of my lord, the Sultan, and he will be better than his head would be, boiled. I kiss your hand, sir, and hold myself a more honored man than I have ever been before." The Cid accepted the horse and gave his hand to be kissed, and then he called for the governor and bade him take the kinsman of the Sultan and lodge him in the Garden, and honor him as he would himself.

Great honor was done to this man, even as if he had been the Cid himself. When the governor and the Persian had

eaten together, the stranger asked "what manner of man the Cid was. The governor told him that the Cid was the bravest man in the world and the best knight, and one whose word never failed, and the best friend to his friend, and to his enemy the most deadly foe; that he was merciful to the vanquished and thoughtful and wise in all that he did, and that his face was one that no man could see for the first time without fear. "And this," said the governor, "I have many times observed; for when any messengers of the Moors come before him, they are so abashed that they do not know where they are." After the Persian heard this, he called to mind how it had been with him; and he said to the governor that as they were both Mahometans he asked him to keep secret what he would say, and he would tell his own experience; and this the governor promised, and he said that when he first saw the Cid he for a long time was not able to speak, and he thought this power was given him of God so that none of his enemies might behold his face without fear. After the Persian had said this, the governor saw that he was a man of understanding, and he asked him if he would answer him a question; and the governor asked why the Sultan had sent so great a present to the Cid, and why he desired his friendship when he lived so far away.

Now the Persian thought the governor wished to find out the state of his master's country, and that the Cid had told him to do this. And he made answer that the great renown of the Cid had moved his master to do this. But the governor said he thought there must have been some other motive. And the Persian saw that the governor understood him, and wished to know the whole matter; and he said he would tell him if he would keep it secret, and the governor promised that he would do this. Then he told him that a great Crusade had gone forth from Europe and had won Antioch, and now lay before Jerusalem. And the Sultan was afraid that the crusaders would take his country. The Sultan having heard of the

greatness of the Cid, and thinking he would join the Crusade, wished to have his friendship. Then the governor said he believed this to be the truth.

While this Persian was still in Valencia, news came that the Princes of Aragon and Navarre were coming to their marriage. The Prince of Navarre was called Don Ramiro; and he of Aragon was named Don Sancho, and was the son of the King Don Pedro, whom the Cid had once made a prisoner; and he, remembering the great courtesy of the Cid, and knowing his great courage and worth, had held it good that his son match with the Cid's daughter, that the race of so good a man be preserved in Aragon.

When the Cid knew the princes were coming, he and all his people went six leagues to meet them, all gallantly attired, and he ordered his tents to be pitched in a meadow where he waited until they came. When they were all met, they proceeded to Valencia, and there the Bishop came out to meet them, and great rejoicings were held for eight days before the marriage.

After eight days were passed the Bishop married the Prince Don Ramiro of Navarre to Doña Elvira, and the Prince Don Sancho of Aragon to Doña Sol. Wonderful were these weddings, and for eight days more there was feasting every day, where all ate out of silver. Many bulls were killed every day, and many of the wild beasts that the Sultan had sent. Many sports were devised, and many garments and saddles and noble trappings were given to those who took part. The Moors also exhibited their sports in so many ways that men knew not which to go to first.

The marriage having been concluded, the Cid took his sons-in-law by the hand and led them to Doña Ximena and showed them all the gifts of the Sultan, and they were astonished, and said they had not thought any man in Spain so rich as the Cid. While they were marvelling, the Cid said, "My sons, this and all I have is for you and for your wives, and I

will give you the noblest dowry that was ever given women; for you shall have half of all that is here, and the other half Doña Ximena and I will keep while we live, and after our death all shall be yours; and my days are now almost full."

The Princes answered that they prayed God to grant him life for many years, and they thanked him greatly and held him as their father, and that they would ever honor him and hold themselves honored to be his sons. Three months these Princes stayed with the Cid in Valencia. Then they made ready to depart, and the Cid gave them great treasures, as he had promised, and gave them some of the wild beasts the Sultan had sent. He rode with them twelve leagues, and when they took leave, the Cid gave something to every knight in all their company. Then he blessed his daughters and returned to Valencia, while they went to their own countries.

When the Cid had returned, he sent for the messenger of the Sultan and gave him many of the rare things of Spain to carry back to his lord. He gave him a sword with the device of the Sultan wrought in gold, and a coat of mail and sleeve armor, and he sent letters with assurance of his friendship. Much was the messenger pleased with the honorable treatment he had received, and much was he pleased that he had seen the weddings. So he departed and went to the port and embarked on board his ship.

The Cid now spent a year in settling the affairs of the castles of the Moors that were subject to him and in settling the Moors of Valencia well with the Christians. From this time he dwelt in peace and labored always to serve God and to make amends for his faults, for he knew he had not long to live.

CHAPTER 25

News Comes of Another Invasion by King Bucar. The Vision of the Cid. He Tells His Friends of His End. The Death of the Cid. His Company Leaves Valencia with His Body on His Horse.

For five years the Cid remained in peace and strove to serve God and keep the Moors quiet, so that Moors and Christians dwelt as if they had always lived together; and they all loved and served the Cid with wonderful good-will.

When these five years were over, tidings came that King Bucar of Morocco, whose father had now died, and who had become Miramamolin, or emperor, thinking himself disgraced because the Cid had conquered him near Valencia and driven him into the sea, had gone in person throughout all his kingdom and stirred up the people to raise a vast army to cross the sea to take revenge upon the Cid. It was said that his host was so great that no man could number it.

When the Cid heard this, he was troubled, but he allowed no one to know this. When he knew certainly that Bucar was coming, he bade all the Moors of Valencia to come into his presence, and said to them: "You know well that since I have been lord of this city you have lived in peace and have been protected, neither have I done to you anything except what was right. But now tidings come to me that King Bucar of Morocco is arriving with a mighty power from beyond the sea to take from me this city. Now, therefore, I command all of you to leave the town and go into Alcudia and the other suburbs to dwell there with the other Moors, until we see the end of this business between me and King Bucar." Then the

Moors were loath to do this, but they obeyed; and then the Cid felt safer than before, for though these men had lived peaceably with him, he feared that when Bucar would come they might join him and fight against himself, as they were of the same race and religion as the men from Morocco.

Shortly after this, in the middle of the night, the Cid was lying in his bed, planning how he might meet Bucar, for when he was alone he thought of nothing else. At midnight there came a great light into the palace and a great odor wonderfully sweet. As he was marvelling what this might be, there appeared to him a man white as snow, and he carried certain keys in his hand; and before the Cid could speak, he said, "Sleepest thou, Rodrigo, or what art thou doing?" And the Cid made answer, "What man art thou who askest me?" And he said, "I am St. Peter, who comes to thee with more urgent tidings than those for which thou art taking thought concerning King Bucar, and it is that thou art to leave the world and go to that which hath no end; and this will be in thirty days. But God will show you favor, so that your people shall defeat King Bucar, and thou being dead shalt win this battle. Do thou strive to make atonement for thy sins, and thou shalt be saved."

When the Cid heard this, he had pleasure at heart, and he fell upon the earth that he might kiss the feet of St. Peter; but the Apostle said, "Strive not to do this, for thou canst not touch me, but all that I have told thee will come to pass." Then the Apostle disappeared, and the Cid was greatly comforted by what St. Peter had said to him, being as certain that all this could come to pass as if it were already over.

Early on the next day he called all his chief men into the Alcazar, and he began to say, with tears on his cheeks: "Friends and kinsmen and true vassals, many of you remember when Alfonso our lord twice banished me from his land, and most of you, for the love you bore me, followed me into banishment and I have guarded me ever since. God has

shown such mercy to you and to me that we have won many battles. Moreover, we won this city, which is not under the dominion of any man save our king, Alfonso, and that by reason of our loyalty to him rather than any other obligation. Now I would have you know that I am in the latter days of my life, and that thirty days hence will be my last. Of this I am assured, for these seven nights I have seen visions. I have seen my father and my son, and they said to me, 'You have tarried here long enough, let us now go among the people who live forever.' Also St. Peter appeared to me last night, when I was awake and not sleeping, and told me that when thirty days are past I should leave this world. Now you know that Bucar is coming against us with thirty-six kings. But be you certain that I shall so counsel you that you shall conquer Bucar in the field and win great honor, and my wife and all of you shall then go from this place in safety. How you are to do this, I will tell you hereafter."

After this the Cid grew sick, and the day before he grew very ill he ordered the gates of the city to be shut and he went to the Church of St. Peter, and there, before the Bishop and the clergy and the knights and honorable ladies, the Cid stood up and preached a noble sermon showing how none can escape death, to which he said he drew near. Then he said: "Since you know this body of mine has never been conquered, I beseech you let it not happen now. How this is to be done, I will leave in the hands of the Bishop and of Alvar and Pero."

When he had said this, he placed himself at the feet of the Bishop, and there made a general confession of all his sins. And the Bishop appointed him penance and absolved him. Then he arose and took leave of the people, weeping much, and returned to the Alcazar, and went to bed and never rose from it again. Every day he grew weaker, till only seven days of the appointed time remained.

Then he called for the caskets of gold in which the balsam and myrrh were which the Sultan had sent him. When these

were before him, he bade them bring him the golden cap, of which he was accustomed to drink; and he took of that balsam and mirrh as much as a little spoonful, and mingled it in the cup with rose water, and drank of it. And for the seven days that he lived he neither ate nor drank anything else than a little of that myrrh and balsam mixed with water. Then his body and his face appeared fairer and fairer than before, and his voice clearer, though he grew weaker and weaker, so that he could not move in his bed.

On the twenty-ninth day he called for his wife and the Bishop and Alvar and Pero and Gil Diaz, and began to direct them what to do after his death. He said to them: "King Bucar will be here presently to besiege the city with mighty power of the Moors. Now the first thing you do when I am dead, wash my body with rose water many times, then dry it well and anoint it with this myrrh and balsam from head to foot. And do you, my wife, and your women see that no cries are made, that the Moors may not know of my death. When King Bucar arrives, order all the people to go upon the walls sound your trumpets, and make the greatest rejoicing that you can. When you would set out for Castile, let all the people know in secret, that they may be ready; but let none of the Moors in the suburbs know. For you cannot keep the city after my death. See that beasts be laden with all that there is in Valencia, so that nothing of value be left. Then saddle my horse Bavieca and arm him well; and you shall clothe my body, and put me upon the horse and tie me on so that it cannot fall; and fasten my sword Tizona in my right hand. Let the Bishop go on one side of me and Gil Diaz on the other, and he shall lead my horse. You, Pero, shall carry my banner; and you, Alvar, gather your company together and put the army in order. And go you forth and fight Bucar; and be certain you will win this battle. When you have won the fight, take all the spoil you can find. What you are to do afterward I will tell you tomorrow in my will."

Early on the next day these persons came again to the Cid, and he began to make his will. He ordered that his body should be buried in the Church of St. Pedro de Cardena, where it now lies, and he bequeathed to the monastery much riches. He left to his company and his household according to the deserts of everyone. To the knights who had served him ever since he left his own country, he gave much wealth. To the others who had not served him so long, he gave to some a thousand marks of silver, to others two, and to others three. He bade them when they arrived at the church to give clothing to four thousand poor people. He gave to his wife all other things that he had that she might live honorably in the monastery of St. Pedro, and he commanded Gil Diaz to remain with her and serve her all her life.

He commanded Alvar and Pero, when they had conquered King Bucar, to proceed to Castile and carry out his orders. Then the Bishop gave him the sacrament, and he received it upon his knees, weeping. Then he sat upon his bed and prayed, "I beseech thee, pardon me my sins, and let my soul enter into the light which hath no end." When the Cid had said this, this noble man yielded up his soul to God, on the twenty-ninth of May, in the year 1099, in the seventy-third year of his age. Then his body was cared for as he had commanded.

Three days after the death of the Cid, King Bucar came with his host. There came with him thirty-six kings and one Moorish queen, who was a negress, and she brought with her two hundred horsewomen, negresses like herself; and they were all armed in coats of mail and with Turkish bows. King Bucar ordered his tents to be pitched around Valencia, and there were fifteen thousand tents.

The Moors at once received great loss, for they went blindly up to the walls, and were killed there. The Christians went upon the walls and sounded trumpets and tambourines, as the Cid had commanded. This continued for eight days,

until the companions of the Cid had made all things ready. And Bucar thought the Cid and his people did not dare to come out, and they were encouraged and began to think of making engines to break down the walls.

When the Cid's people had made all things ready, they placed the Cid's body on his horse, and fitted boards to the body and fastened them to the saddle, so that the body could not move; and it seemed alive. And they put on a surcoat of green sendal, so painted that it seemed like iron; his shield was around his neck, and his sword in his right hand, and they fastened his arm upright. The Bishop went upon one side, and Gil Diaz on the other, and he led the horse as the Cid had commanded.

When all was ready, they went out of Valencia at midnight, Pero went first with five hundred knights, and after these came the baggage, then came the body of the Cid with a hundred knights, and behind him Ximena with her company, and six hundred knights in the rear. All these went out silently, and by the time they had all gone out it was broad day.

CHAPTER 26

The Final Victory Over Bucar. The Great Spoils. They Go Toward Castile with the Body of the Cid. The Funeral of the Cid. His Body is Set on a Throne. The Death of Bavieca. The Death of Doña Ximena.

Now Alvar led his host against the Moors, while the Bishop and Gil Diaz led away the body of the Cid and his wife and the baggage. First he attacked the tents of the negress queen, and this onset was so sudden that they killed a hundred and fifty Moors before they had time to arm. But the queen was the first that got on horseback, and with fifty of her company she did hurt to the Cid's people; but they at last slew her, and her people fled. So great was the confusion that there were few who took arms, but they turned their backs and fled to the sea. When Bucar and his kings saw this, they were astonished. And it seemed to them as if seventy thousand knights, all white as snow, came against them. Before them they saw a knight of great stature upon a white horse, with a bloody cross, who bore in one hand a white banner and in the other a sword that seemed to be of fire, and he made a great mortality among the flying Moors.

King Bucar and the other kings were so dismayed that they never checked their horses until they had ridden into the sea, and the company of the Cid rode after them, smiting and slaying. When they came to the sea, there was such great crowding to get to the ships that more than ten thousand perished in the waters. Of the six and thirty kings twenty and two were slain. And King Bucar and those who escaped hoisted sails and went their way.

Then Alvar and his people spoiled the field, and there was so much booty that they could not carry it away. They loaded camels and horses with the noblest things they found, and went after the Bishop and his company. When they had all met together, they took the road toward Castile.

The Moors of the suburbs thought that the Cid had gone out alive, as they saw his sword in his hand; but when they saw him go toward Castile, they were astonished. All that day they remained in amazement and did not dare go to the tents of King Bucar nor into the town, as they thought the Cid did this for a stratagem. On the next morning they looked toward the town and heard no noise there. Then the governor took a horse and a man with him and went to the town, where he found all the gates shut except the one through which the Cid's party had come out. And he went into the city and found no one. Then he went and called the Moors from the suburbs and told them the Christians had deserted the city. But they were so amazed that they did not venture in until midday.

When they saw no one return, a great company went into the city and looked through it and found no one; but they saw written upon the wall in Arabic letters that the Cid was dead, and that they had carried him away to conquer Bucar, and that none might oppose their going. When the Moors saw this they were exceeding glad, and they came with their families into the city, each to the house he had before the Cid won it. From that day on Valencia remained in the hands of the Moors till King Don Jayme of Aragon took it.

On the next day the Moors went into the tents of King Bucar and found there many arms; but the tents were deserted except by a few women who had hidden themselves, and they told of the defeat of Bucar. They saw no ships in the port, and they began to gather up the spoils so that they had enough to provide for the city of Valencia for two years.

Whenever the Cid's company halted, they took his body

off his horse, and when they went forward again, they placed it in like manner upon the horse. When they had come into Castile, they sent messengers to their friends bidding them come to the funeral. And they wished to put the body in a coffin, but Ximena said that while his countenance remained so fresh she would not have this done. Presently the Prince of Aragon with his wife came, and as they drew nigh they wept. When Doña Sol saw her father, she unloosed her hair and began to tear it, but her mother held her and said, "Daughter, you do ill, for your father commanded that none should lament in this way for him."

Then a great multitude assembled, for they had never seen so strange a sight; for with the body of no man had so strange a thing been done before. After a few days, the king of Navarre came with his wife, for this Prince's father had died and he had become king. Greatly did they marvel to see the body of the Cid, for he seemed alive and not dead. When King Don Alfonso heard of this, he came to take part in the funeral to Cardena; and as he saw the company coming with the Cid sitting nobly on his horse, he was amazed. Then they told him of what they had done, and he did not think it so wonderful, for he had heard that in Egypt they had so done for their kings.

When they had all come to the monastery, they took the Cid from off his horse and set the body upon a frame and placed it before the altar, where holy services were held. On the third day after that they would have buried the body of the Cid, but when Alfonso heard what Doña Ximena had said that she would not have it buried while it looked so fair, he held that what she said was good. He sent for the ivory chair and gave order that it be placed on the right of the altar, and he laid a cloth of gold upon it, bearing the arms of the king of Castile and Leon, and the king of Navarre, and the Prince of Aragon, and of the Cid himself. Then he himself helped the Bishop take the body from between the boards and they found

that the body was firm and erect, and they clothed it in purple and set it in the ivory chair; and in his left hand they placed the sword Tizona in its scabbard, and put the strings of his mantle in his right hand. In this fashion the body of the Cid remained there for ten years.

For three weeks did the king and the company stay there doing honor to the Cid, and then they departed to their homes, the Cid's knights dividing themselves between the service of the king. Alfonso, and the king of Navarre and the Prince of Aragon. Doña Ximena remained in the monastery in the care of Gil Diaz, according to the will of the Cid.

Gil Diaz delighted in caring for the horse Bavieca, and led him to water with his own hand. From that day on no man rode upon Bavieca. But his noble race was perpetuated, that they might remain in Castile. This good horse lived two years and a half after the death of the Cid, and then he died at a good old age and was buried before the gate of the monastery. Gil Diaz planted two elms upon the grave, one at the head and another at the feet, and he gave orders that he himself should be buried after his death by that good horse which he loved so well.

The Cid's wife lived four years after him, and her daughters came with their husbands and a great company, and they buried her at the Cid's feet. Then the Cid's daughter, Doña Elvira, having no son, asked her sister to let her adopt one of her sons; and she gave her Don Garcia Ramerez, who after the death of his father became king of Navarre.

The body of the Cid remained in this position for ten years, and then, as it began to be discolored, a vault was made and it was placed therein. Thus lived and died the great Cid Campeador of Spain, most wonderful of heroes, who was never defeated, and who became the ancestor of kings.

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