



## **The Song of the Cid (Penguin Classics) (Spanish Edition)**

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# The Song of the Cid (Penguin Classics) (Spanish Edition)

*Anonymous*

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**From a legendary translator: a magnificent new rendering of Spain's national epic**

Venture into the heart of Islamic Spain in this vibrant, rollicking new translation of *The Song of the Cid*, the only surviving epic from medieval Spain. Banished from the court of King Alfonso, the noble warrior Rodrigo Diaz, know as the Cid, sets out from Castile to restore his name. In a series of battles, he earns wealth and honor for his men and his king, as well as fame and admiration for himself. But it is in rescuing his daughters from their ill-suited marriages that the Cid faces the ultimate challenge to the medieval heroic ideal.

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Review

With a wonderfully informative introduction by María Rosa Menocal, this welcome translation by Burton Raffel gives us a "Song of the Cid" the foundational medieval epic poem of the Iberian peninsula that retains the excitement and fast pace of the original.

Edith Grossman

In the spirit of Robert Fagles' renditions of Homer, Burton Raffel makes a rich oral tradition immediate to us again. His "Song of the Cid" is a lesson in translation: in a way that seems effortless, it transports the reader to a past that at first sight appears closed. Along with his warhorse, Babieca, Mio Cid once more tests his knightly limits while showcasing the religious tensions of medieval Spain. The original text made available alongside the English turns this edition into a feast.

Ilan Stavans, author of "Spanglish: The Making of a New American Language"

A brisk and instantly captivating new English version . . . Raffel's rendition serves to remind readers of the straightaway power of oral narratives . . . and captures much of the genius of the poem.

María Rosa Menocal, Yale University (from the introduction)

An accurate, energetic, and much needed translation of "The Song of the Cid," The rhyming and flow are elegant and measured. They beautifully reflect the dashing lines and excitement of the poem. A remarkable achievement.

Francisco LaRubia-Prado, Georgetown University

"A powerful epic of loyalty and betrayal-and victory in battle. Burton Raffel . . . renders *The Song of the Cid* in a lively, dramatic yet informal style that conveys the heroic yet humorous tone of the original [and] memorably conveys the qualities that enliven the poem: a combination of heroic grandeur, humor and the careful observation of human failings." *The Wall Street Journal*

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Burton Raffel is Distinguished Professor of Arts and Humanities Emeritus and Professor of English Emeritus at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. His many translations include Cervantes's *Don Quijote*, Rabelais's *Gargantua and Pantagruel* (winner of the 1991 French-American Foundation Translation Prize), Chrétien de Troyes's *Arthurian Romances*, Balzac's *Père Goriot*, and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. His translation of *Beowulf* has sold more than a million copies. María Rosa Menocal is Sterling Professor of the Humanities and Director of the Whitney Humanities Centre at Yale. Her books include *The Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain* and, as coauthor, *The Arts of Intimacy: Christians, Jews, and Muslims in the Making of Castilian Culture*.

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