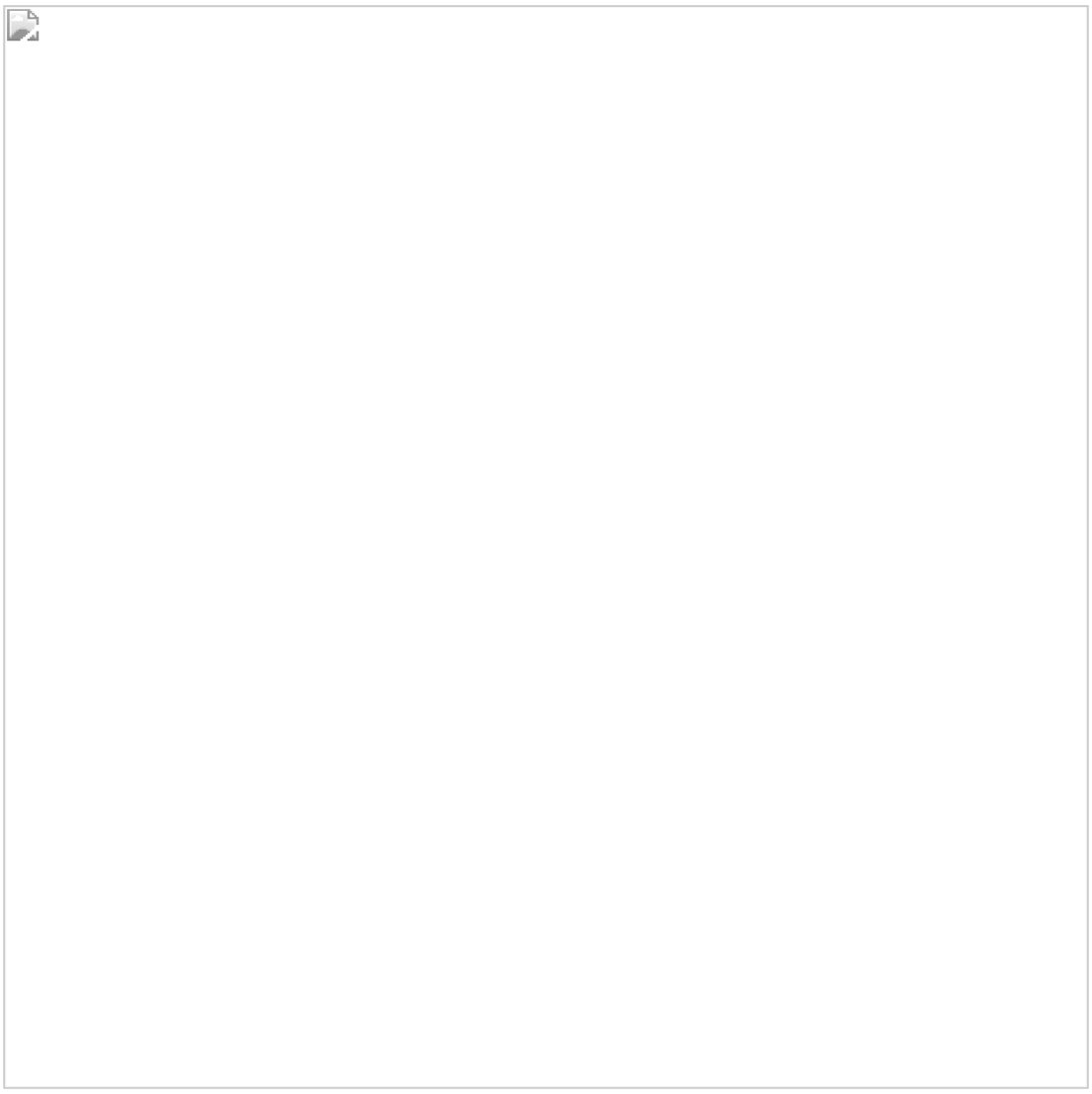
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Cid

A Hero of Spain



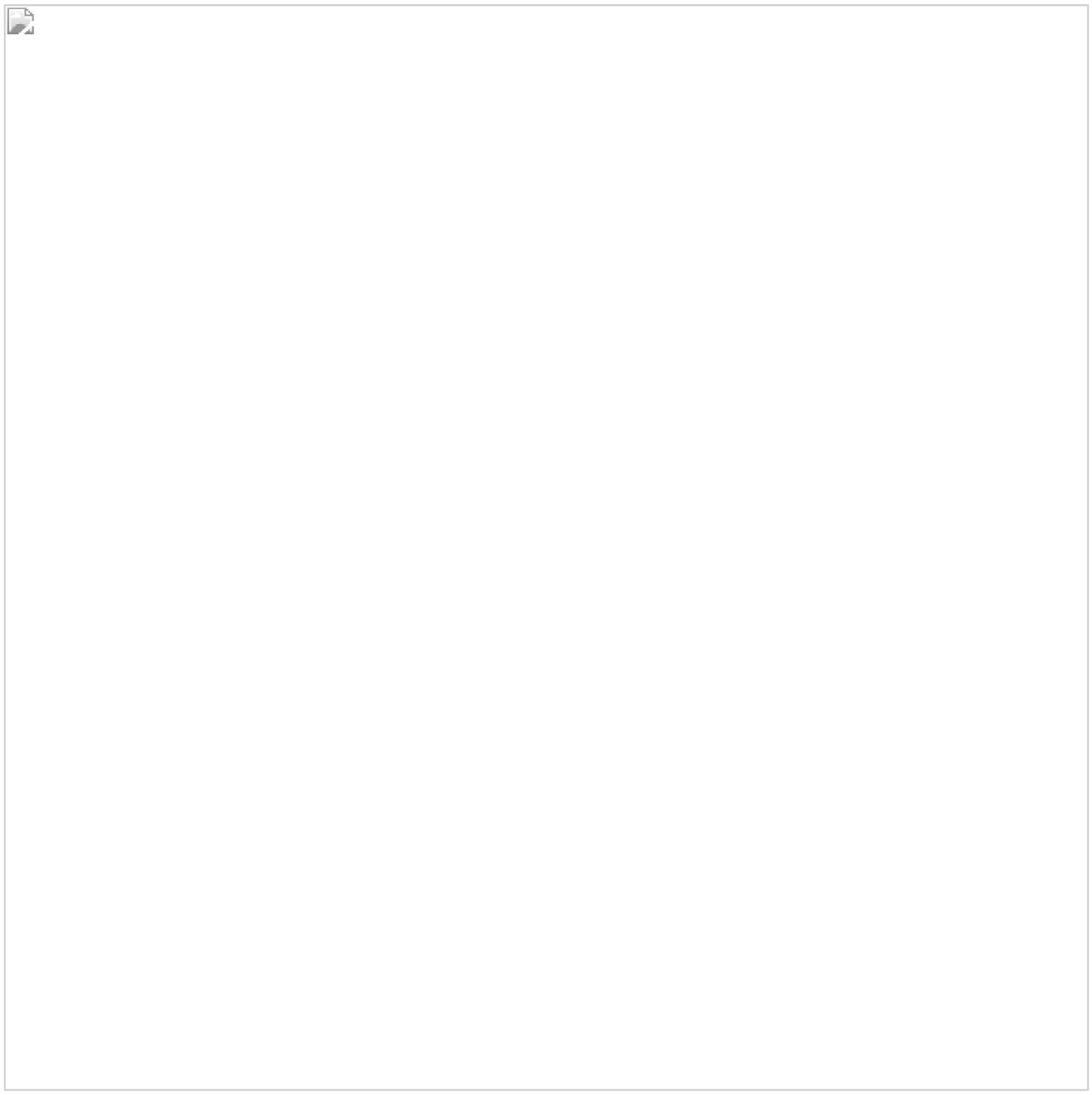
A young knight named Rodrigo set out on a long road, and twenty knights went with him. As he went, he gave food to the poor and needy. One day, in a muddy bog beside the road, they found a man with leprosy, a sickness that other people were afraid of. The man was stuck in the mud, and he cried out to them with a loud voice to help him.

TALK ABOUT IT

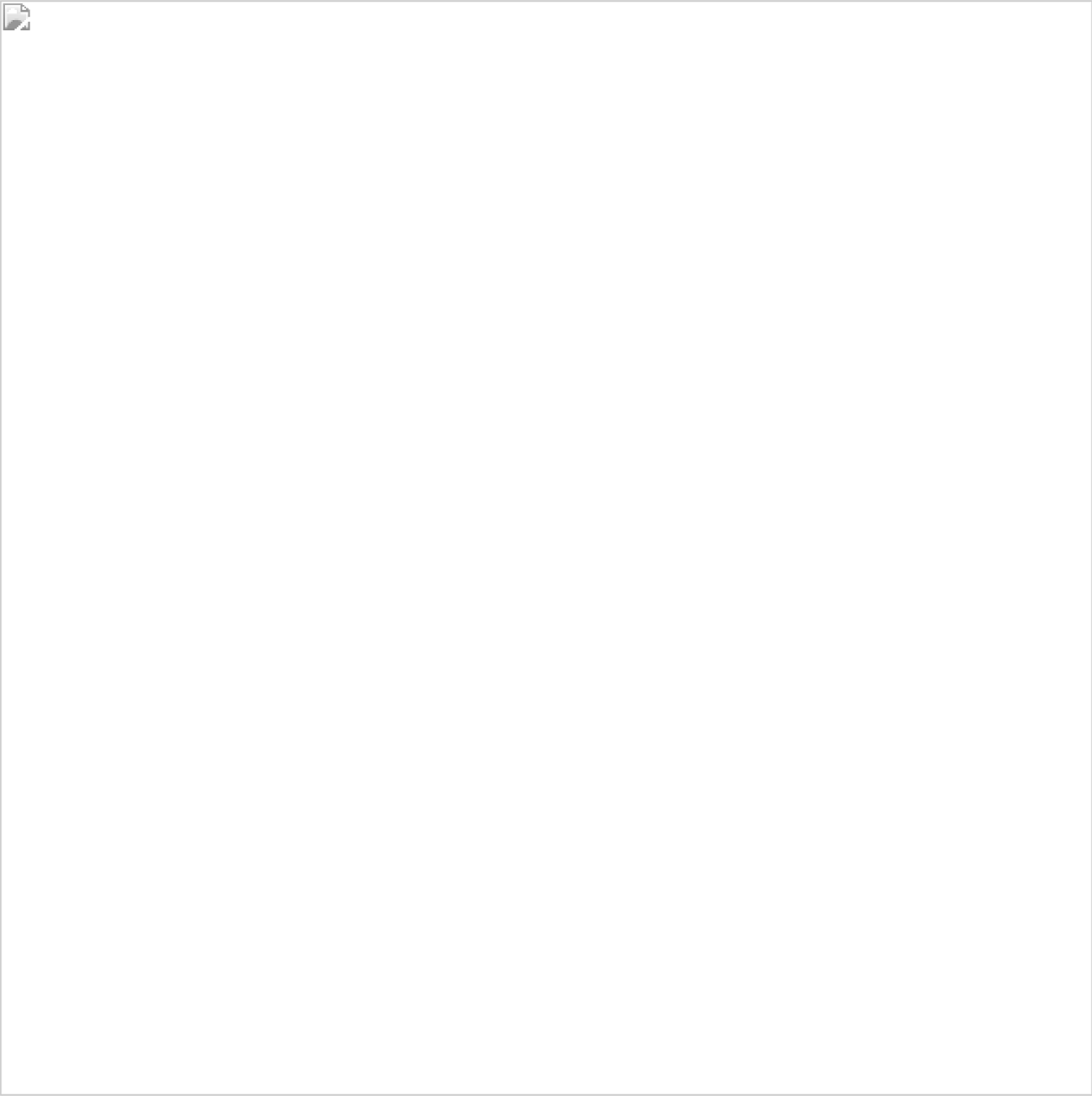
Most people kept away from anyone with leprosy. Why do you think this man cried out to a group of strangers anyway?

This book belongs to _____

The Cid · another picture



A Man in the Mud

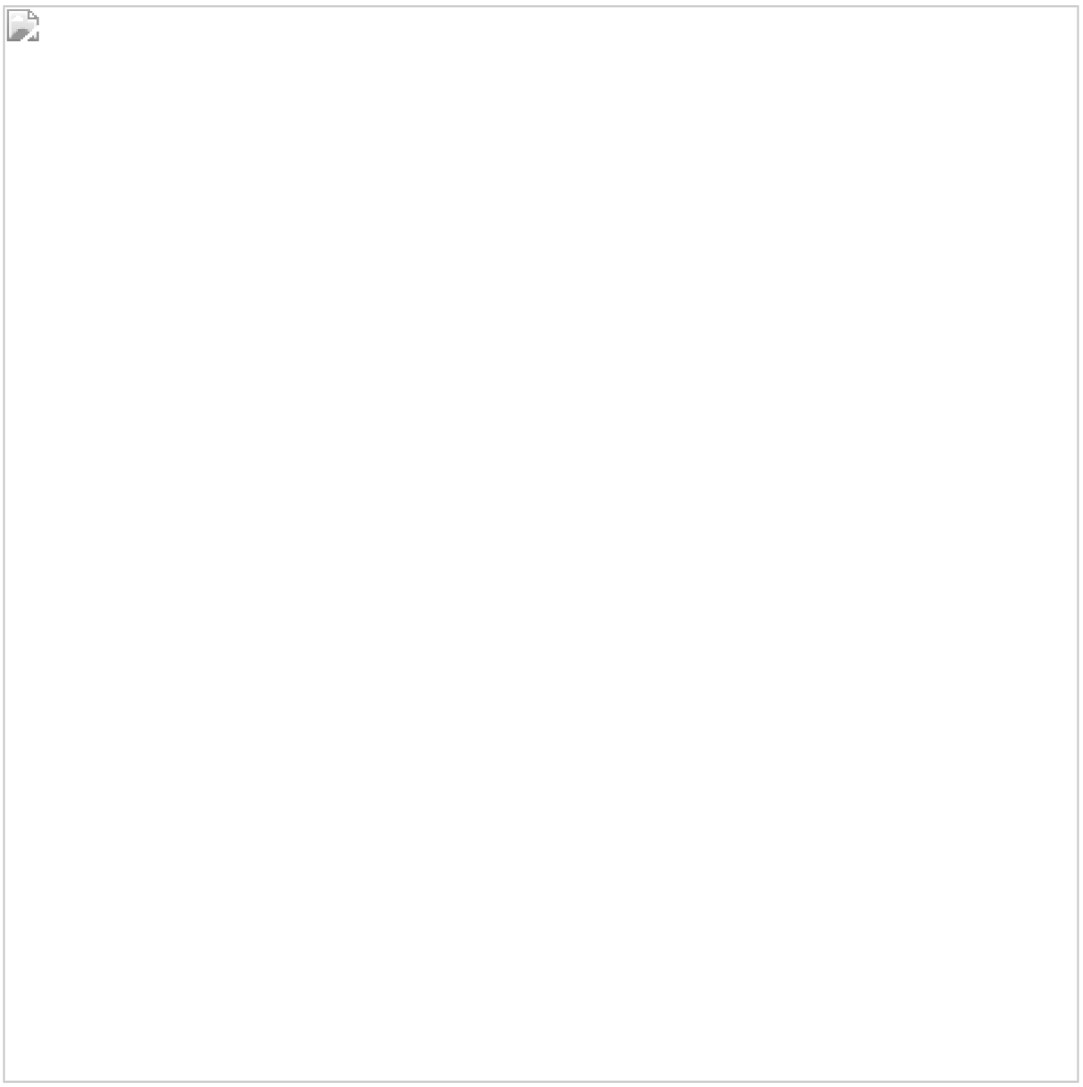


Rodrigo heard the cry for help, and he climbed down from his horse at once. He pulled the man out of the mud, set him on the horse in front of himself, and carried him along the road to the inn where they would stay that night.

The twenty knights were little pleased.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rodrigo did not stop to ask what other people would think. What would you have done on that road?

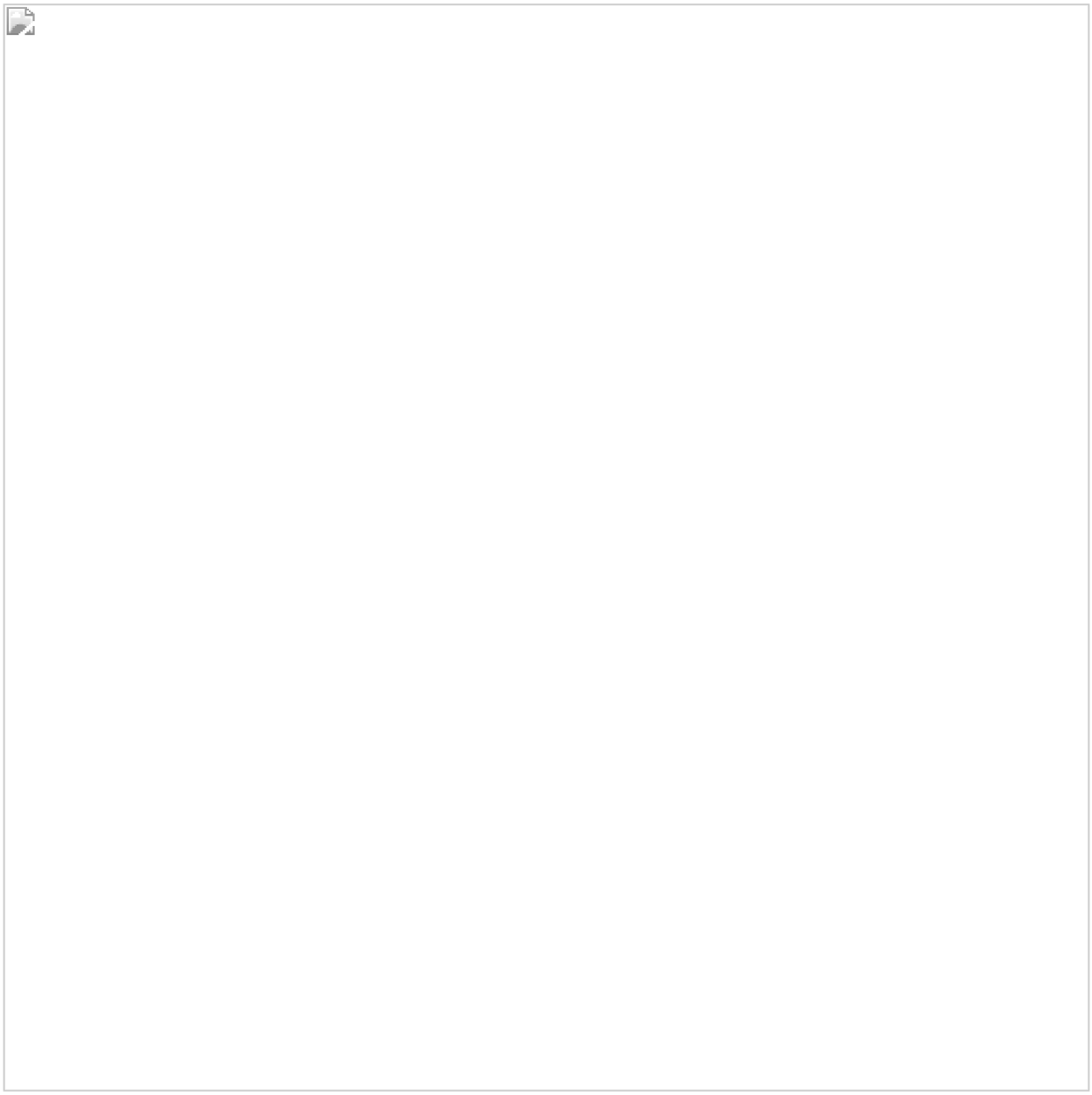


Think about it

1. Where did Rodrigo find the man with leprosy?

- ○ In a bog beside the road
- ○ In a river
- ○ At the castle gate

One Dish



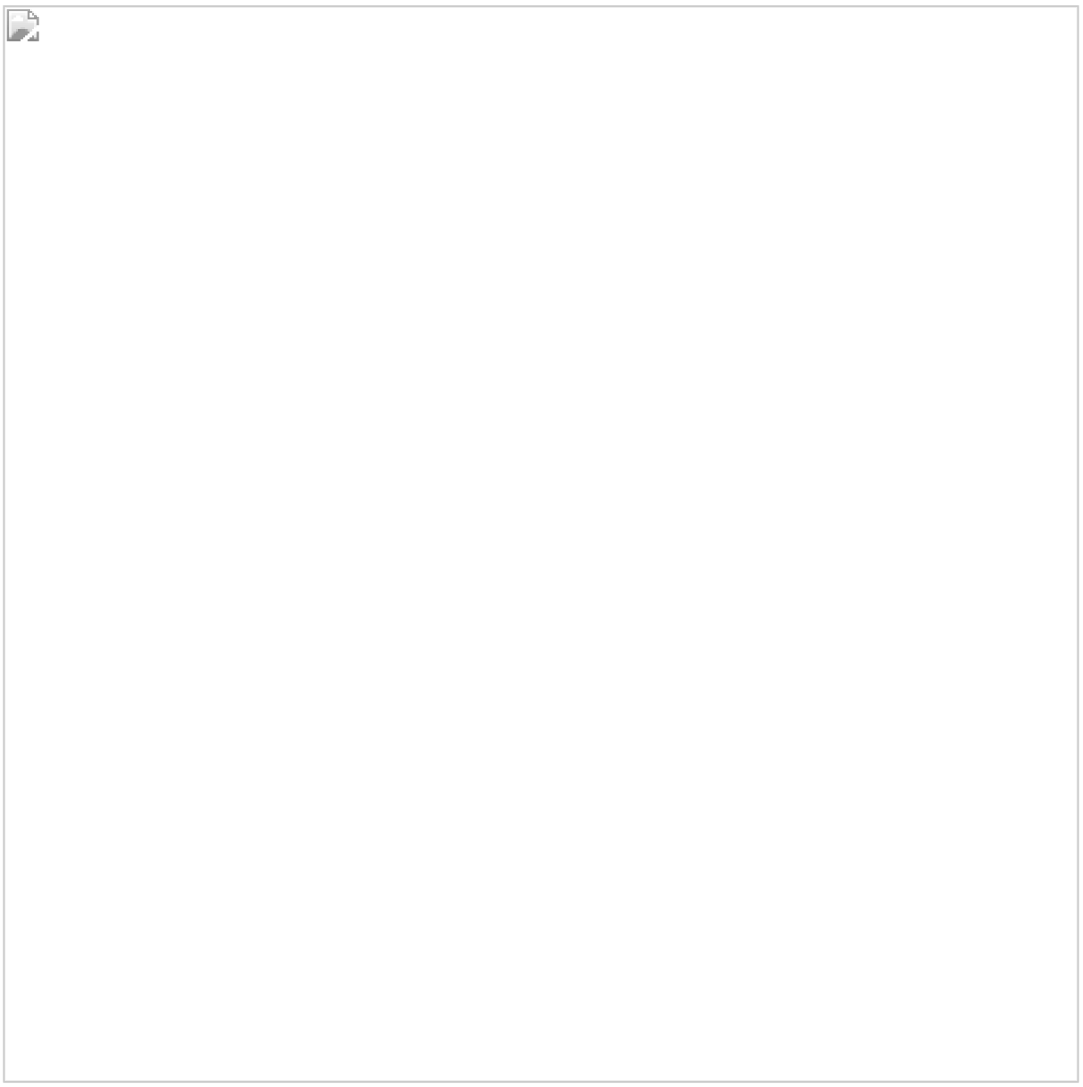
At supper, Rodrigo told the knights to sit down. Then he took the man by the hand, sat him down right next to himself, and ate with him from the same dish.

The knights could not stand it. They stood up and left the room.

Rodrigo did not go after them. He asked for one bed to be made for himself and the man, and the two of them lay down and slept.

TALK ABOUT IT

A very old book says that anything we do for someone in need is something we do for God: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40, KJV). What do you think of that?



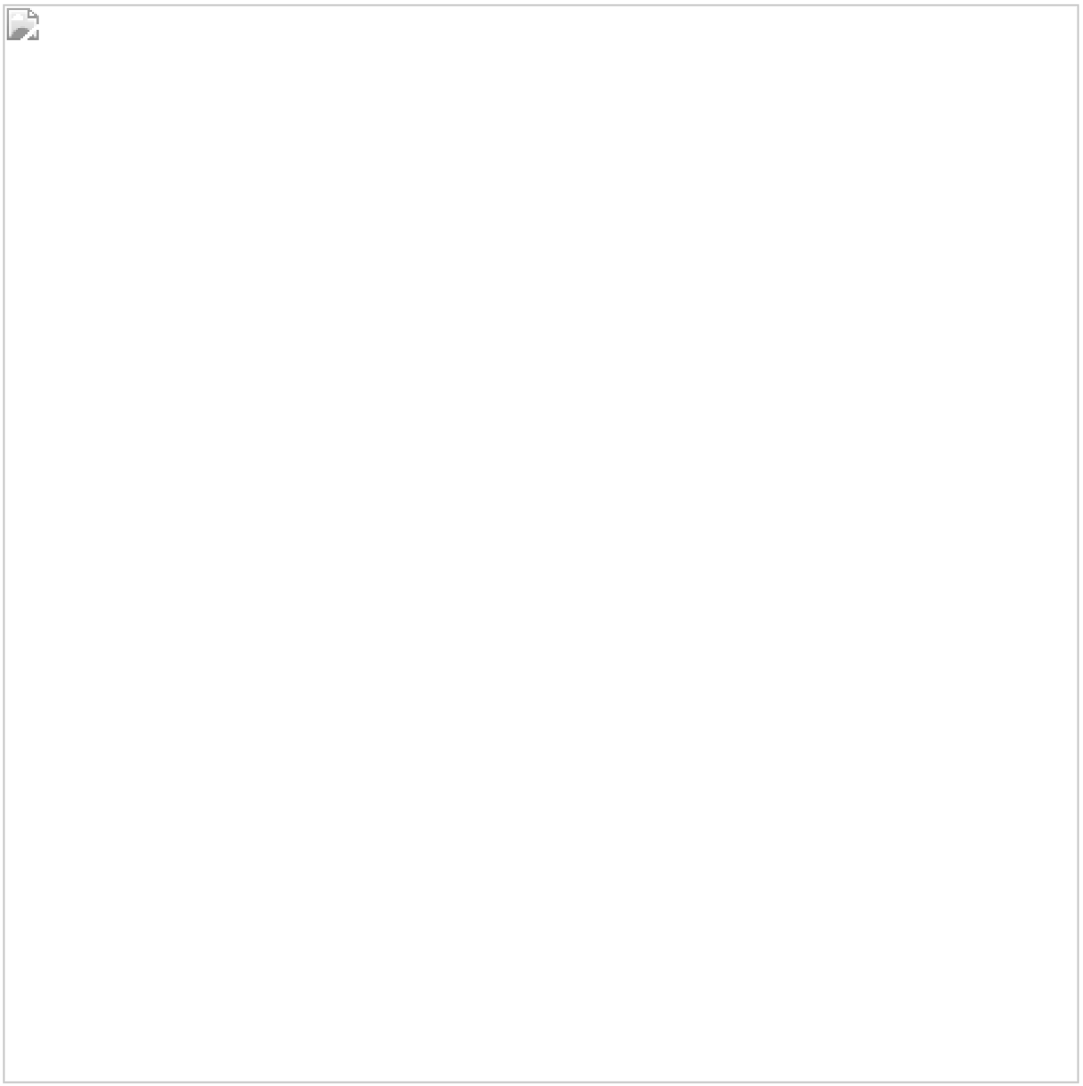
Think about it

1. Where did Rodrigo sit the man at supper?

- ○ At the far end of the table
- ○ Right next to himself
- ○ Outside

2. How would you have felt if you were one of the knights who left?

The Visitor in White



At midnight, while Rodrigo was fast asleep, a strong breath passed all the way through him, from his back to his chest. He woke up astonished. He felt for the man beside him, and the man was gone.

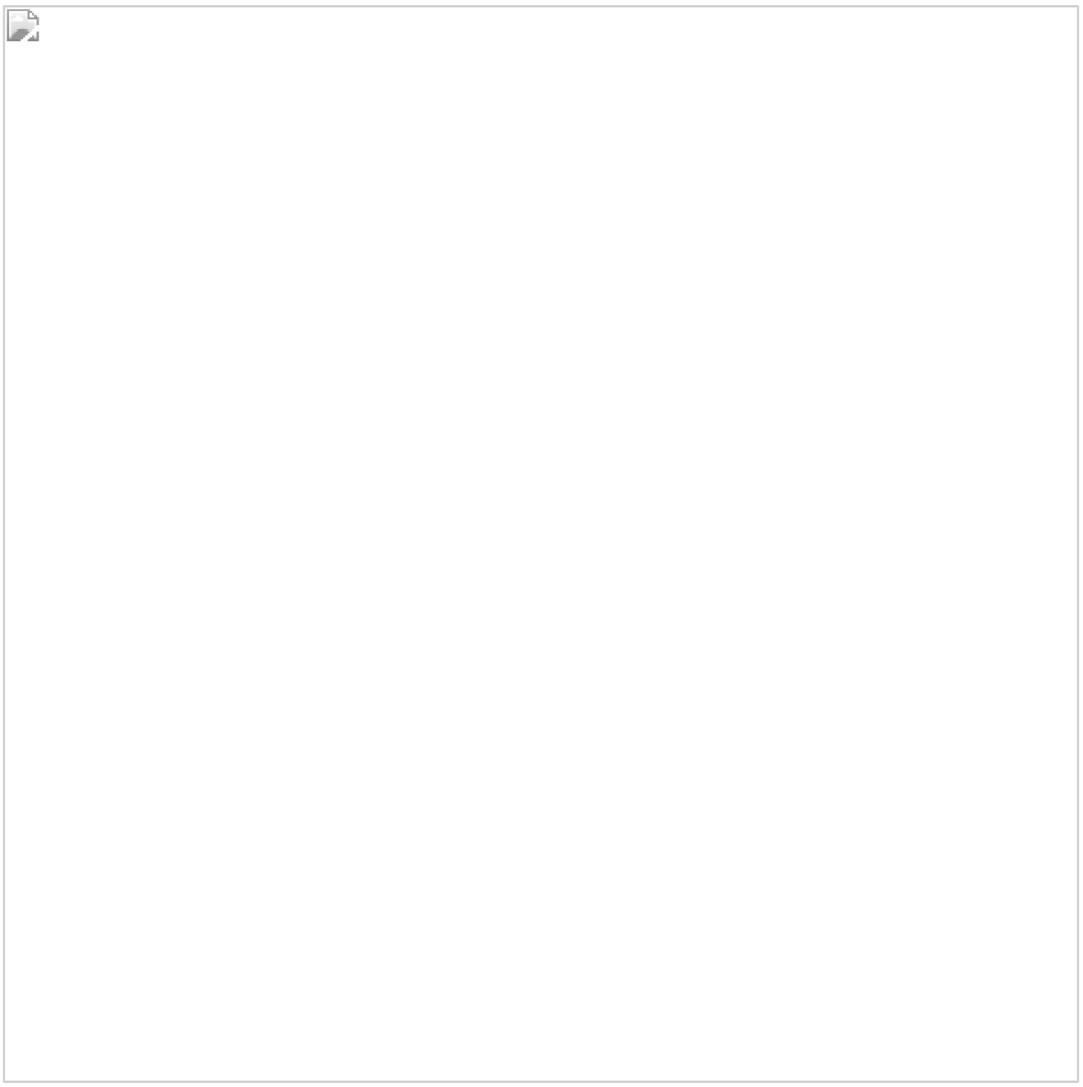
Rodrigo called out, but there was no answer. A light was brought, but the man was nowhere to be seen.

Then someone in white garments appeared before him, bright and sweet-smelling. “Sleepest thou or wakest thou, Rodrigo?” the visitor asked.

“I am Saint Lazarus,” the visitor said, “and know that I was a leper to whom thou didst so much good.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The leper was not who he seemed. How do you think we should treat people, when we cannot tell who they really are?

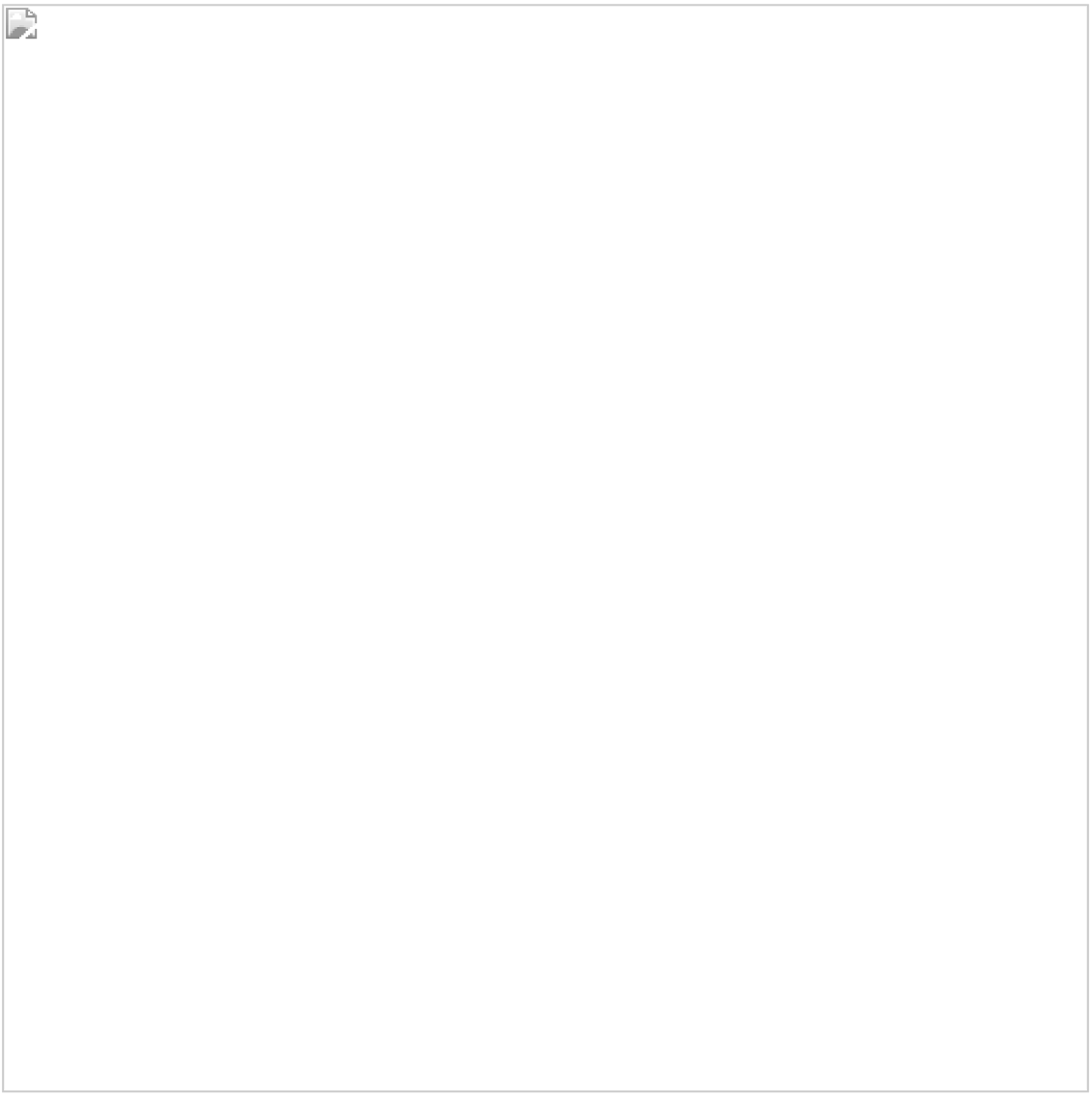


Think about it

1. Who was the visitor in white?

- ○ A king
- ○ A knight
- ○ Saint Lazarus

A Gift for a Kindness



Saint Lazarus told Rodrigo that because he had done this kindness, he would be given a gift. Whenever that same breath came upon Rodrigo, whatever he set out to do, he would finish.

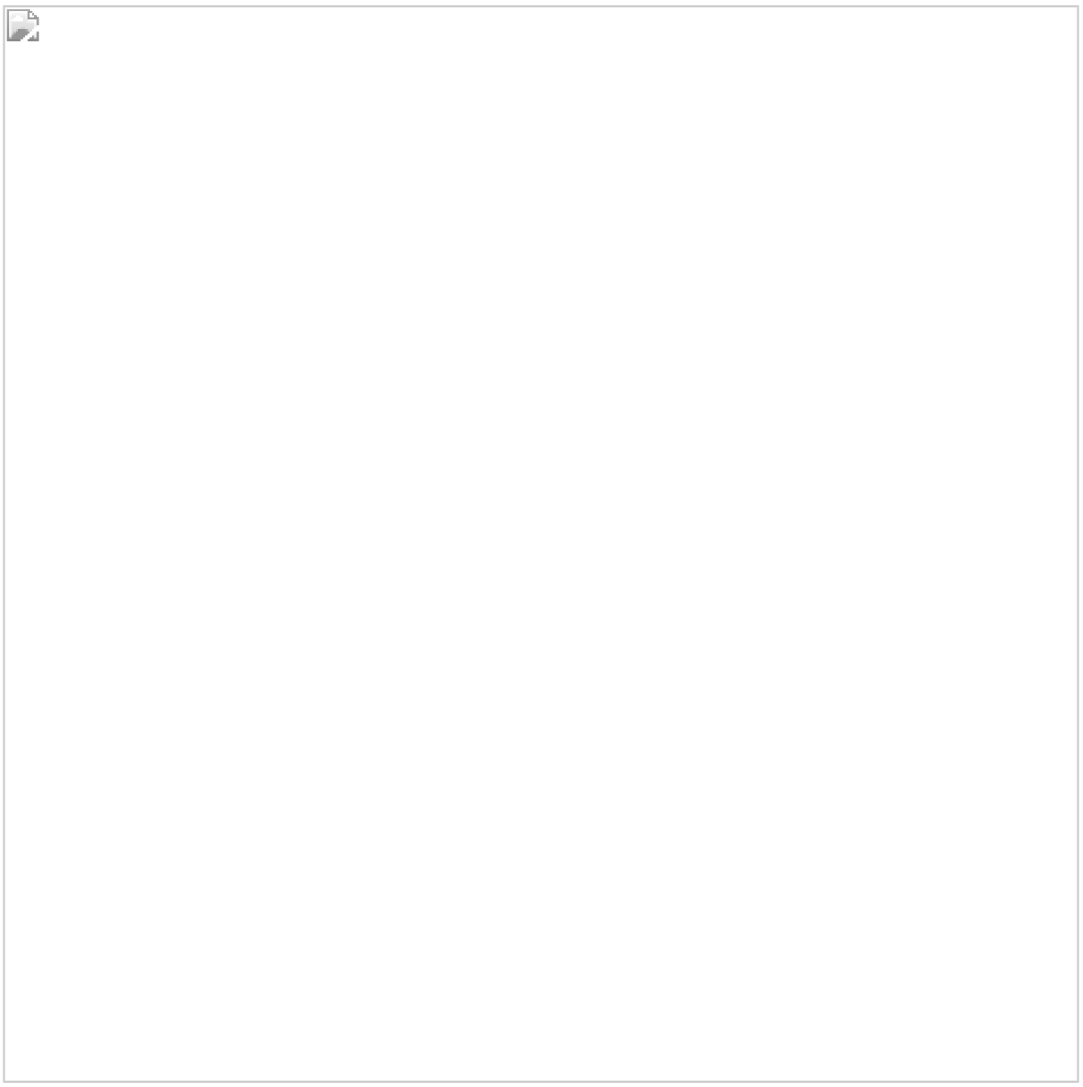
His honor would grow from day to day, and he would die an honorable death in his own house.

Then the visitor said, “evermore persevere in doing good.” And he was gone.

Rodrigo got up and prayed until daybreak. Then he went on his way and carried out his pilgrimage, doing good as he went.

TALK ABOUT IT

“Keep doing good” was the whole message. What is one good thing you could keep doing, even when it is hard?

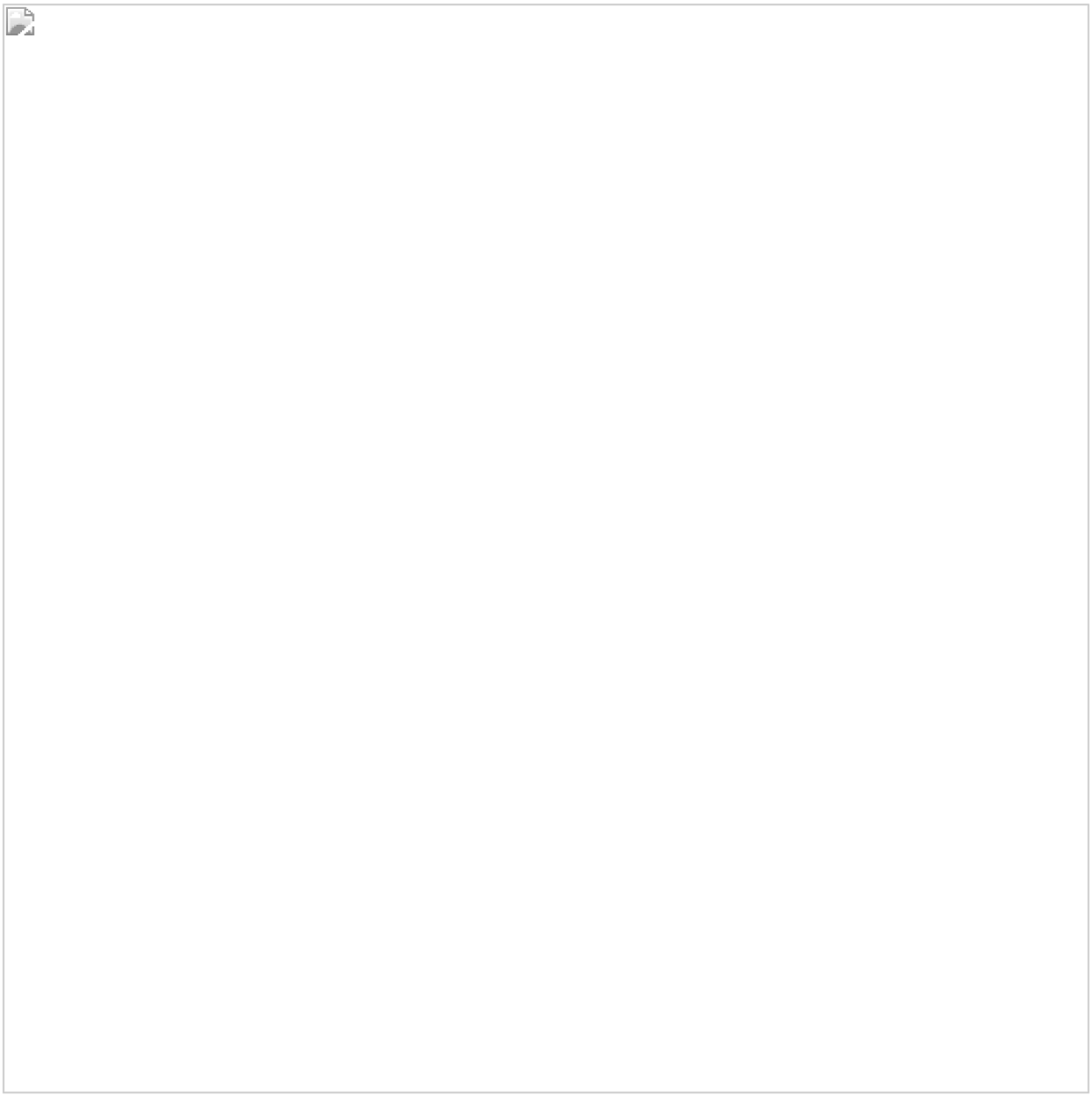


Think about it

1. What was the visitor's last word of advice?

- ○ Keep doing good
- ○ Go home
- ○ Buy a bigger horse

Knight by a King



Years went by. When King Don Ferrando won the city of Coimbra, he made Rodrigo of Bivar a knight in its great hall.

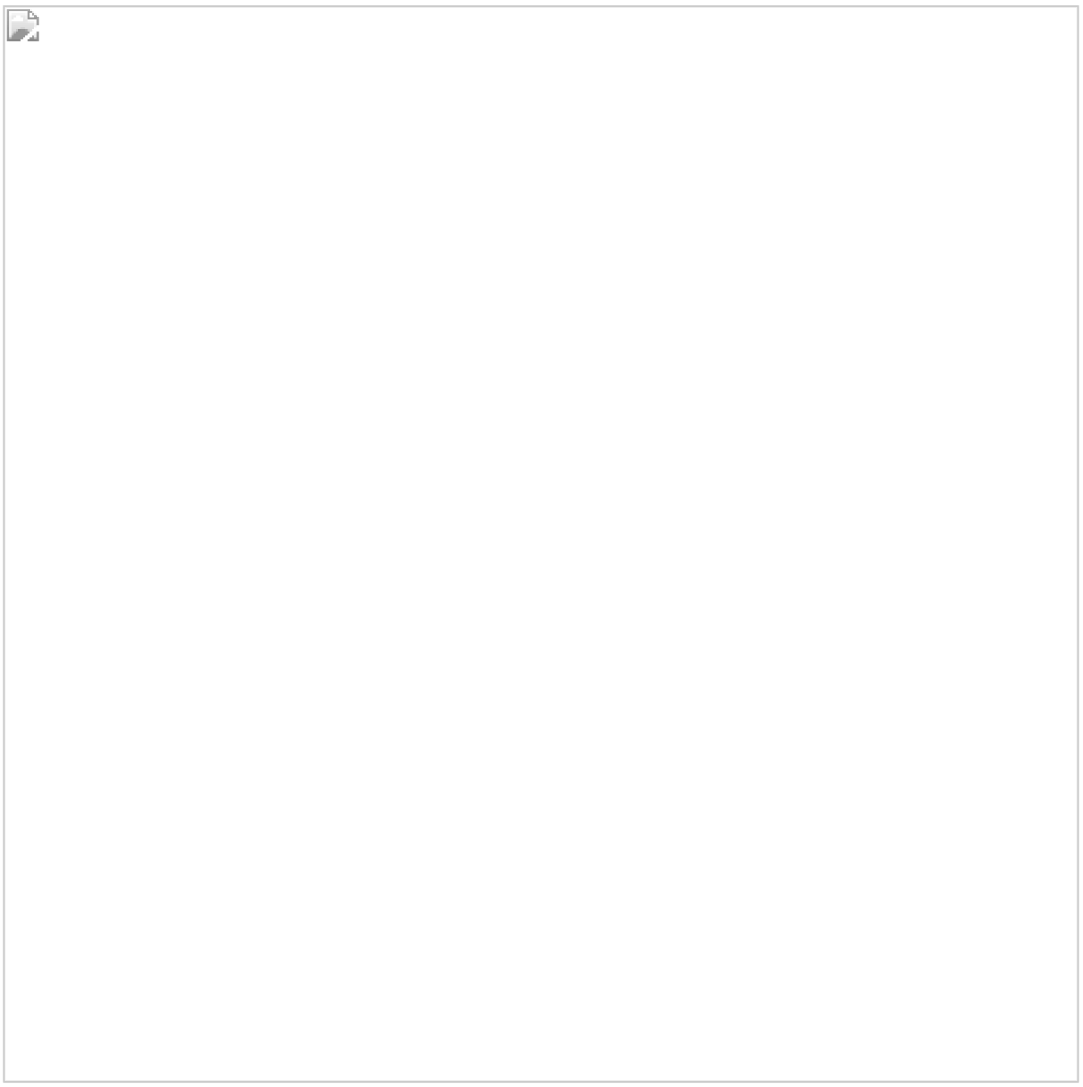
The King put the sword at Rodrigo's side and kissed him. The Queen gave him a horse, and the Princess Urraca fastened on his spurs.

From that day, he was called Ruydiez. The King asked him to make nine young squires into knights, and Rodrigo did it, one at a time, before the altar.

TALK ABOUT IT

A knight made other knights. Who made you braver, or kinder, or wiser? How could you do that for someone else?

Knight by a King · another picture

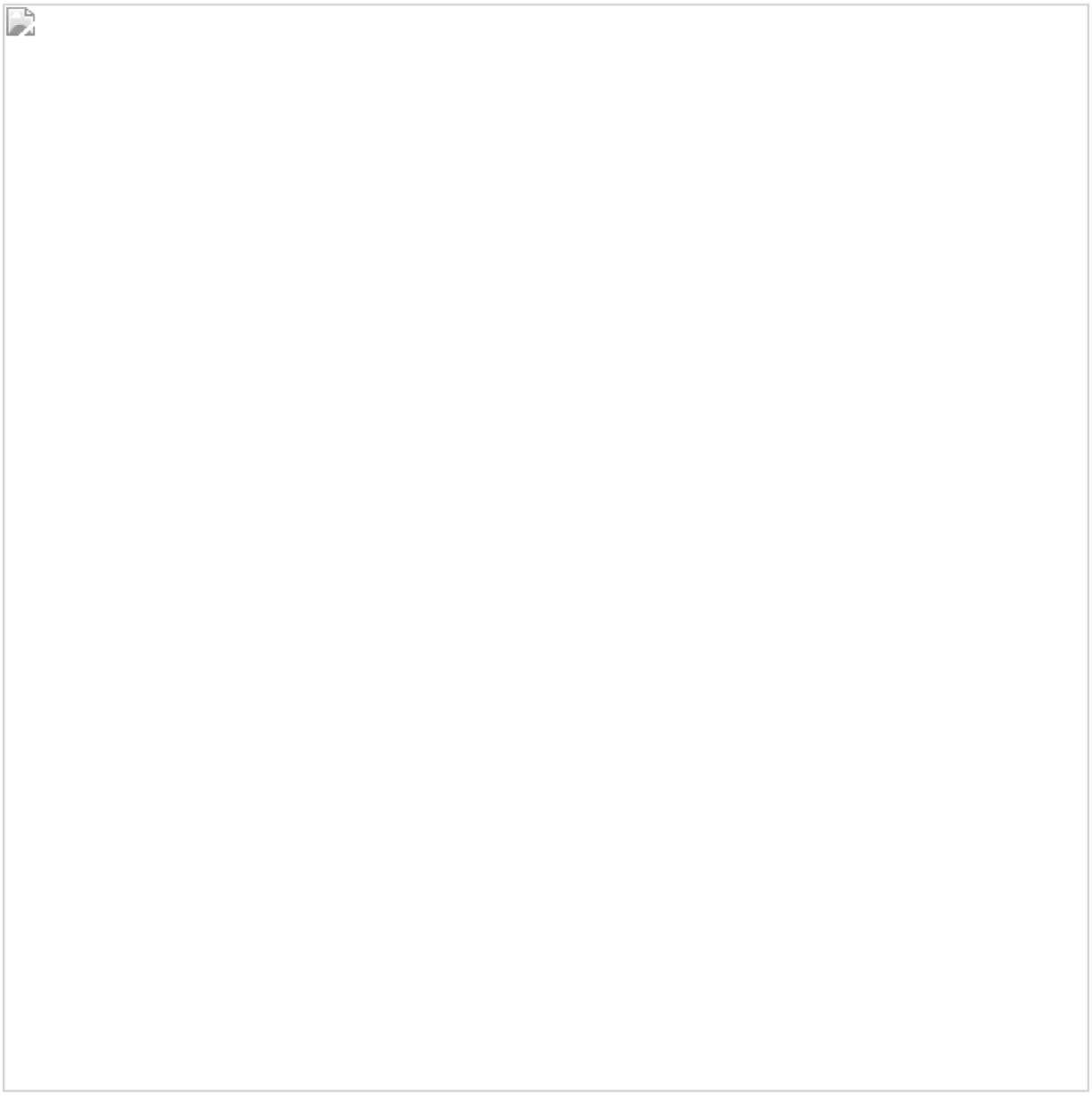


Think about it

1. Who fastened on Rodrigo's spurs?

- ○ The King
- ○ The Princess Urraca
- ○ The Queen

Why He Was Called the Cid



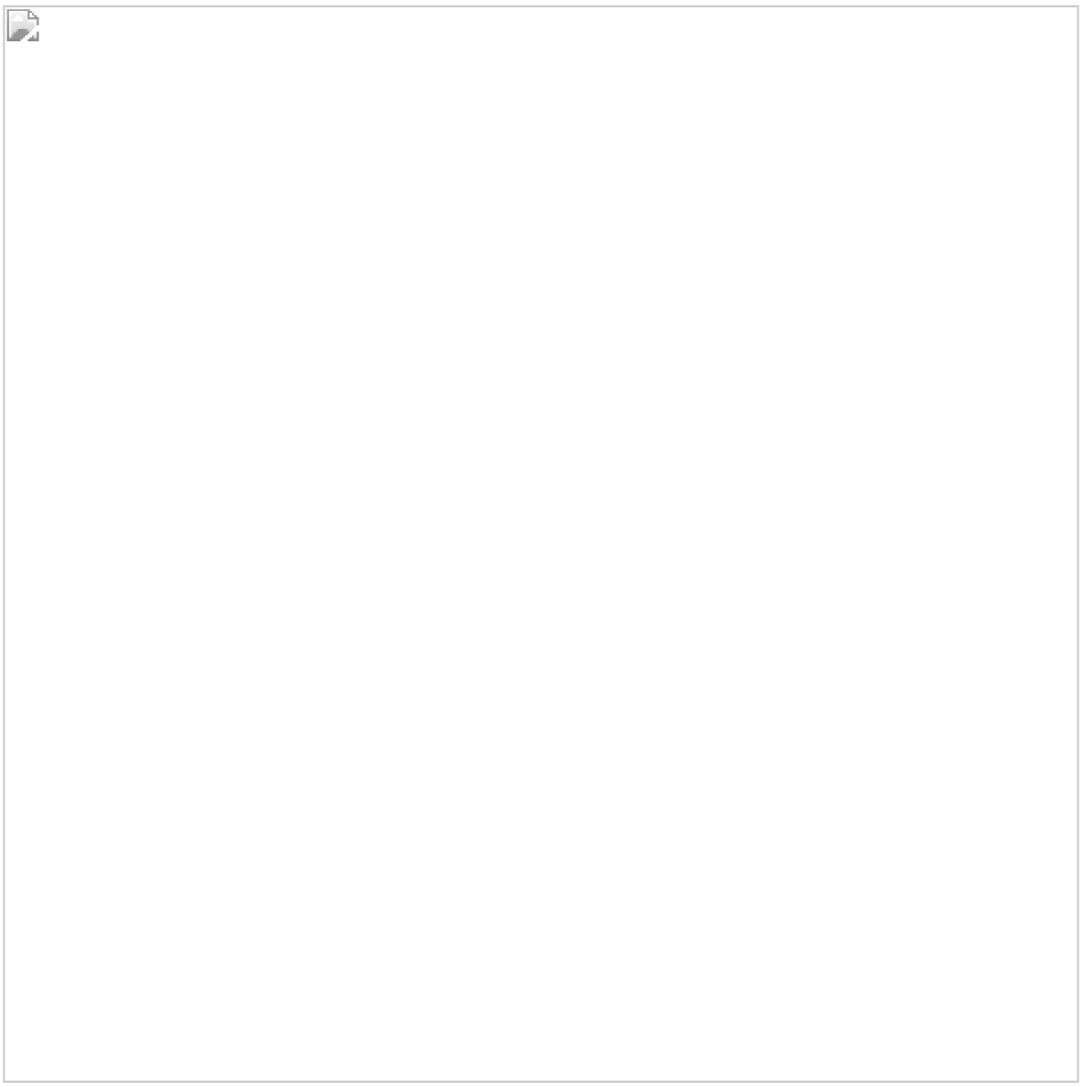
Rodrigo kept winning honor. Messengers from five kings who owed him loyalty came to bring him gifts, and they called him Cid, a word that means “lord.”

They wanted to kiss his hand, but he would not give it until they had kissed the hand of the King.

Then Rodrigo offered the King a fifth of the gifts, to show that the King was his lord. The King thanked him but would not take it. From that time, everyone called him the Cid.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rodrigo gave honor to the King first. When have you let someone else go first?

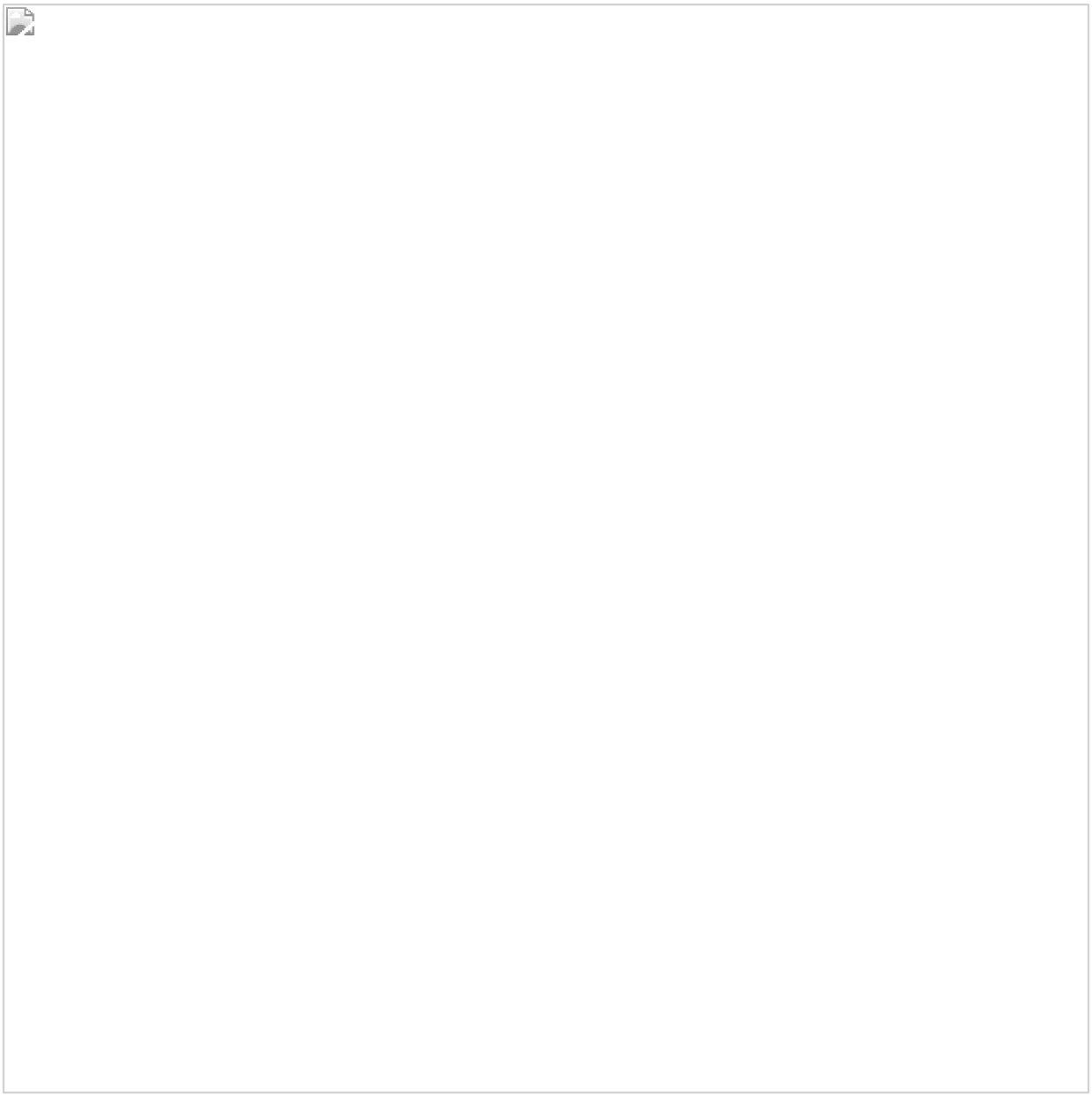


Think about it

1. What does the word “Cid” mean?

- ○ Friend
- ○ Horse
- ○ Lord

The Knight Who Ran Away



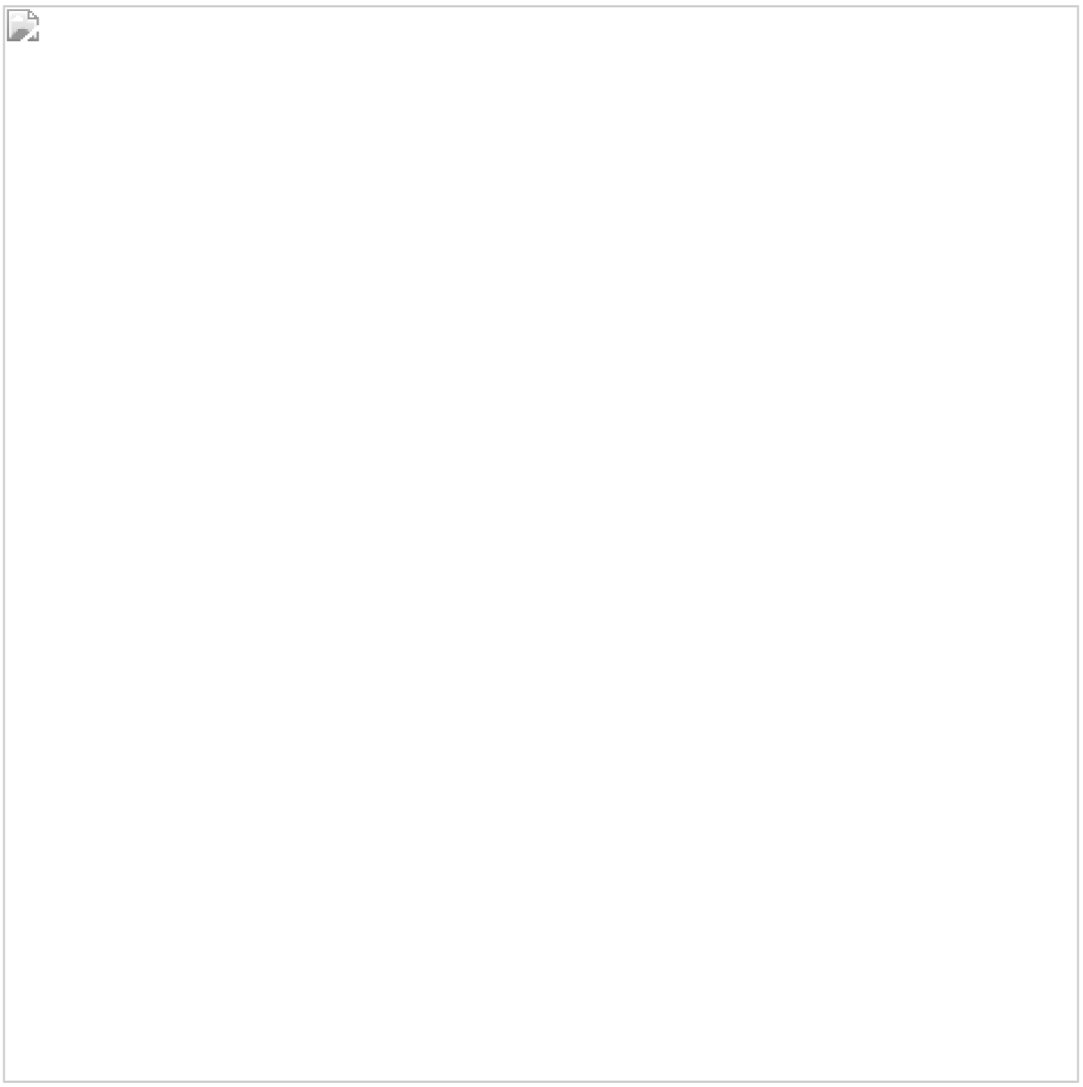
A big, strong knight named Martin Pelaez came to join the Cid. He looked like a great warrior, but in his heart, he was a coward.

The Cid was sorry to see him, though he did not let it show. He knew Martin was not ready to fight beside him. But he made up his mind to help him.

One day, when the fighting began, Martin ran back to his lodging and hid. The Cid saw it.

TALK ABOUT IT

Martin looked brave but did not feel brave. Can a person look one way outside and feel another way inside? What might help?

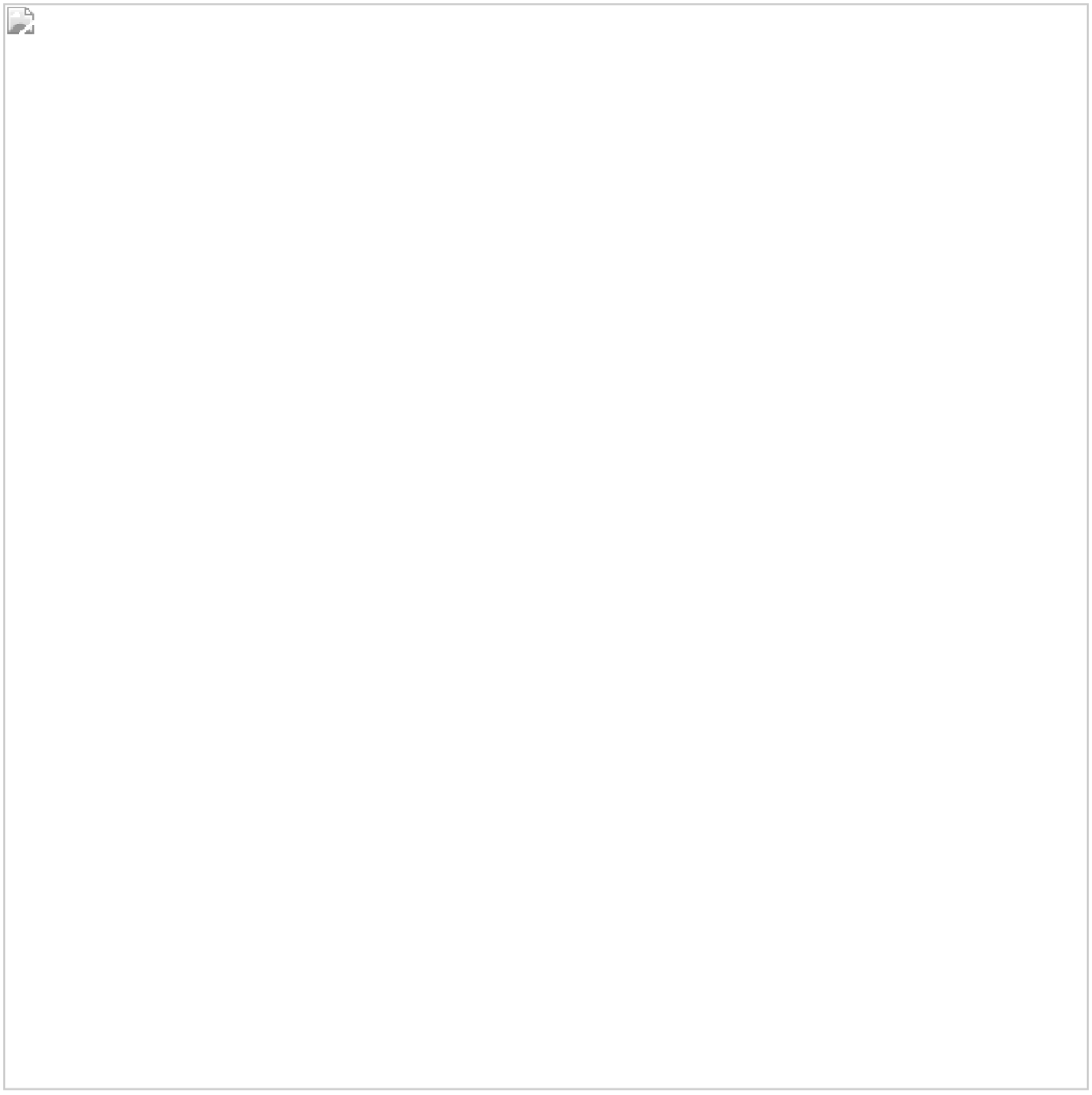


Think about it

1. What did Martin Pelaez do when the fighting began?

- ○ He hid in his lodging
- ○ He charged ahead
- ○ He sang a song

A Seat Beside the Cid



At dinner, Martin washed his hands with the other knights and tried to take his seat with the best of them, as if nothing had happened.

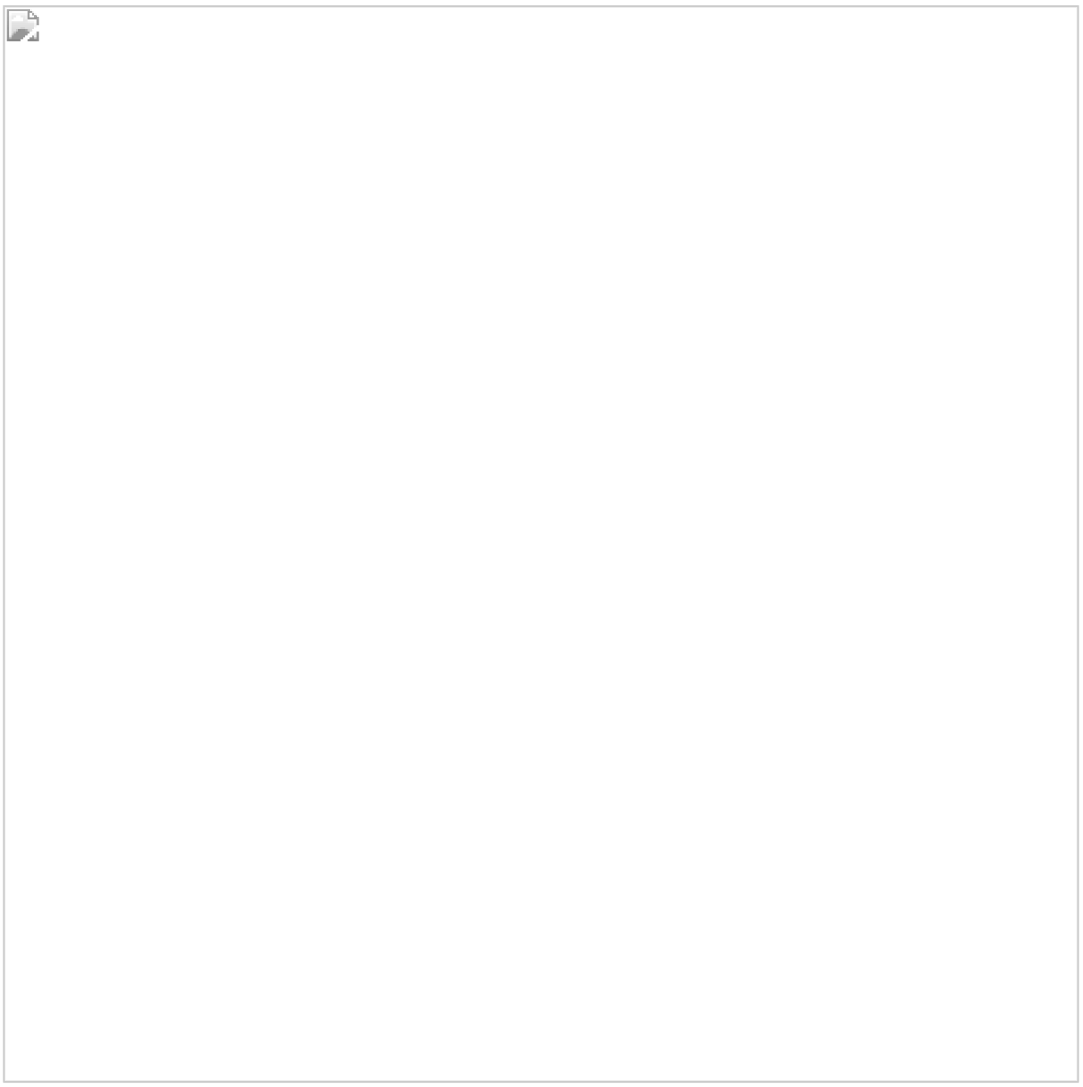
The Cid took him by the hand. “I will have you with me,” he said, and sat him down at his own side. He did not shame Martin in front of everyone.

Martin did not understand. He thought he was being honored.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Cid could have scolded Martin in front of everyone. He took Martin by the hand instead. Why do you think he did?

A Seat Beside the Cid · another picture



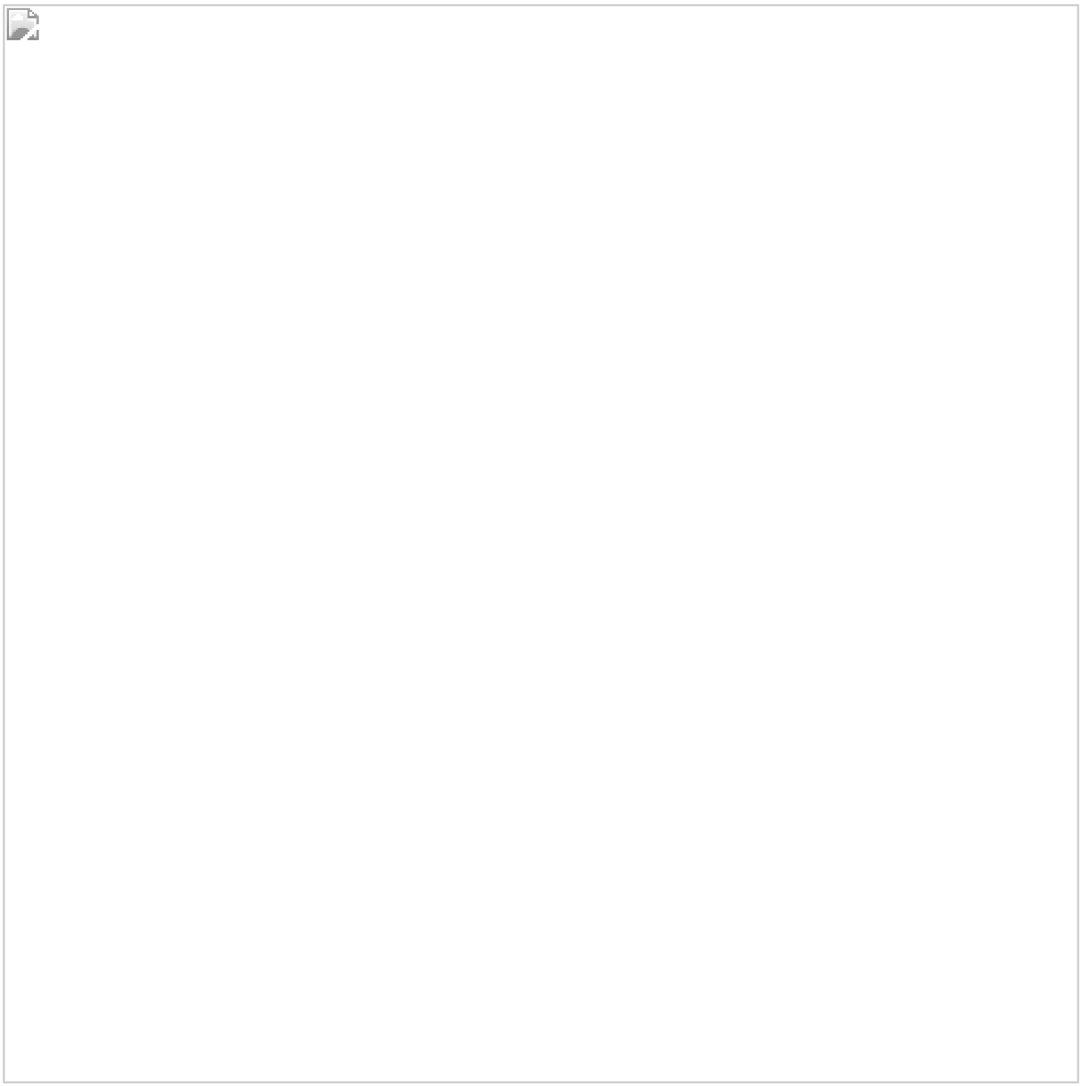
Think about it

1. Where did the Cid seat Martin at dinner?

- ○ Outside
- ○ Next to himself
- ○ At the end of the table

2. Have you ever been treated kindly when you did not deserve it? What was that like?

A Little Braver Each Day



The next day, Martin rode out with the others. He charged in with the first of them, then turned back to his lodging. The Cid saw that Martin had done better than the day before, and sat him beside himself again.

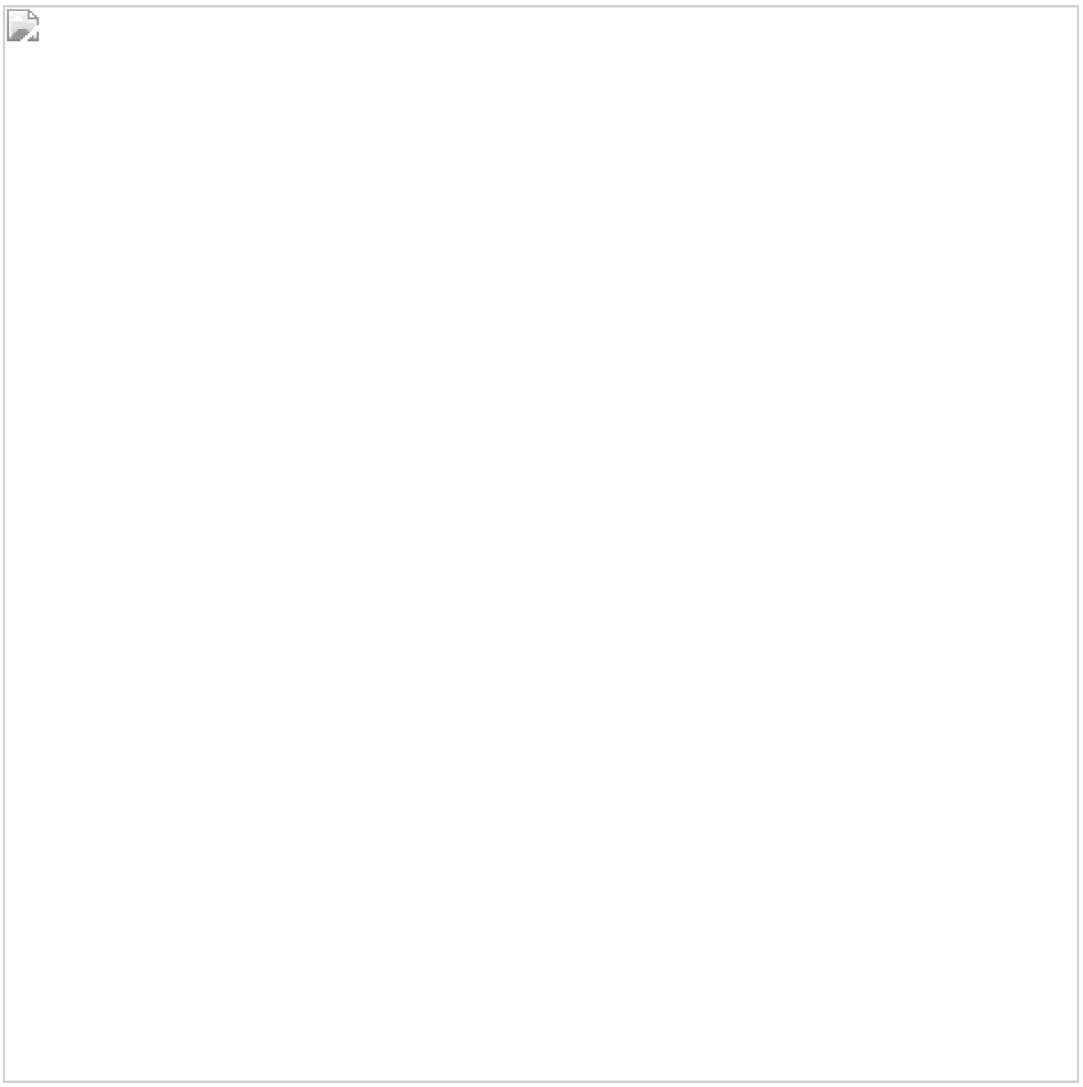
That night, Martin thought it over. He understood now that the Cid had seen everything.

The third day, Martin charged boldly, and this time he stayed. By the end, he was one of the best knights there.

At dinner the Cid took him by the hand. “My friend,” he said, “sit you here with Don Alvar Fañez,” and Martin took a seat among the best.

TALK ABOUT IT

Martin got a little braver each day. What is something that is hard for you now, and might get easier if you tried a little every day?

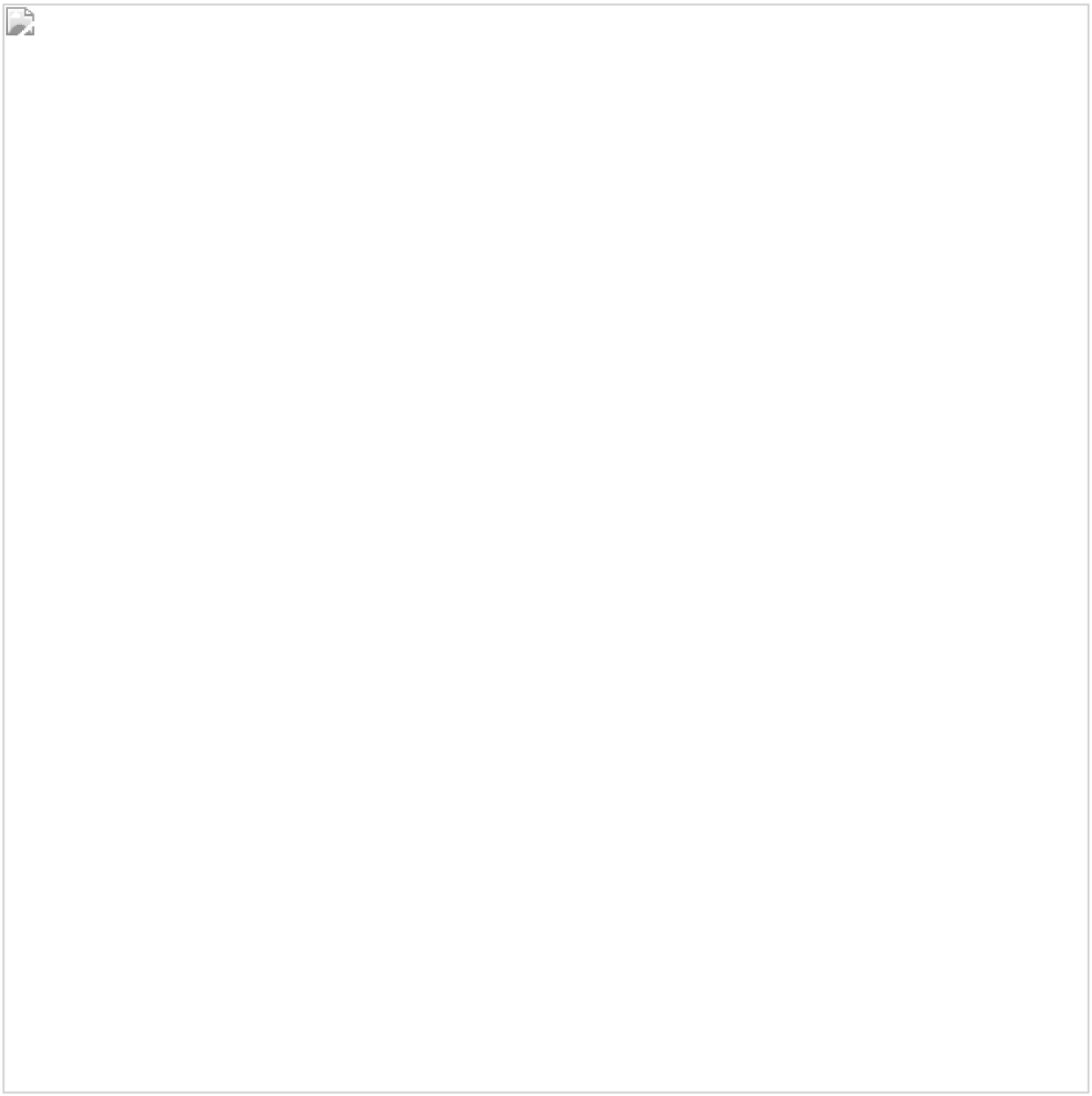


Think about it

1. Where did the Cid finally seat Martin?

- ○ In the kitchen
- ○ In the stable
- ○ With Don Alvar Fañez and the best knights

The City of Valencia



Years later, the Cid won the city of Valencia, after a long siege. The next day, he rode in and climbed the highest tower to look out over it all.

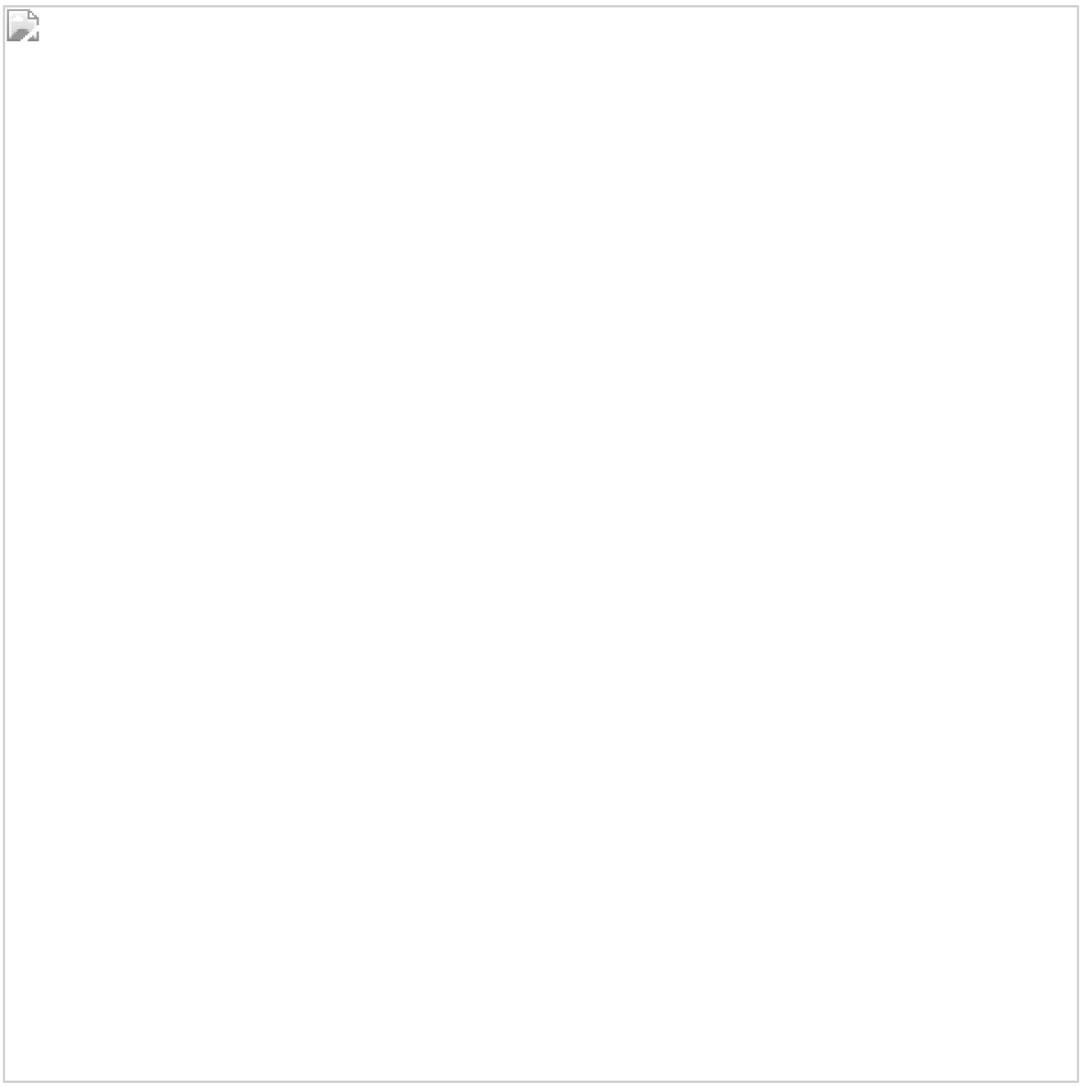
He ordered that the tower windows facing the town be closed up, so that his own men could not look into the people's houses. He also commanded his men to greet the people of the city with respect.

The people said they had never seen “so good a man.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Cid shut the windows so no one could peek into other people's houses. What are some ways we show respect for other people's homes and private places?

The City of Valencia · another picture

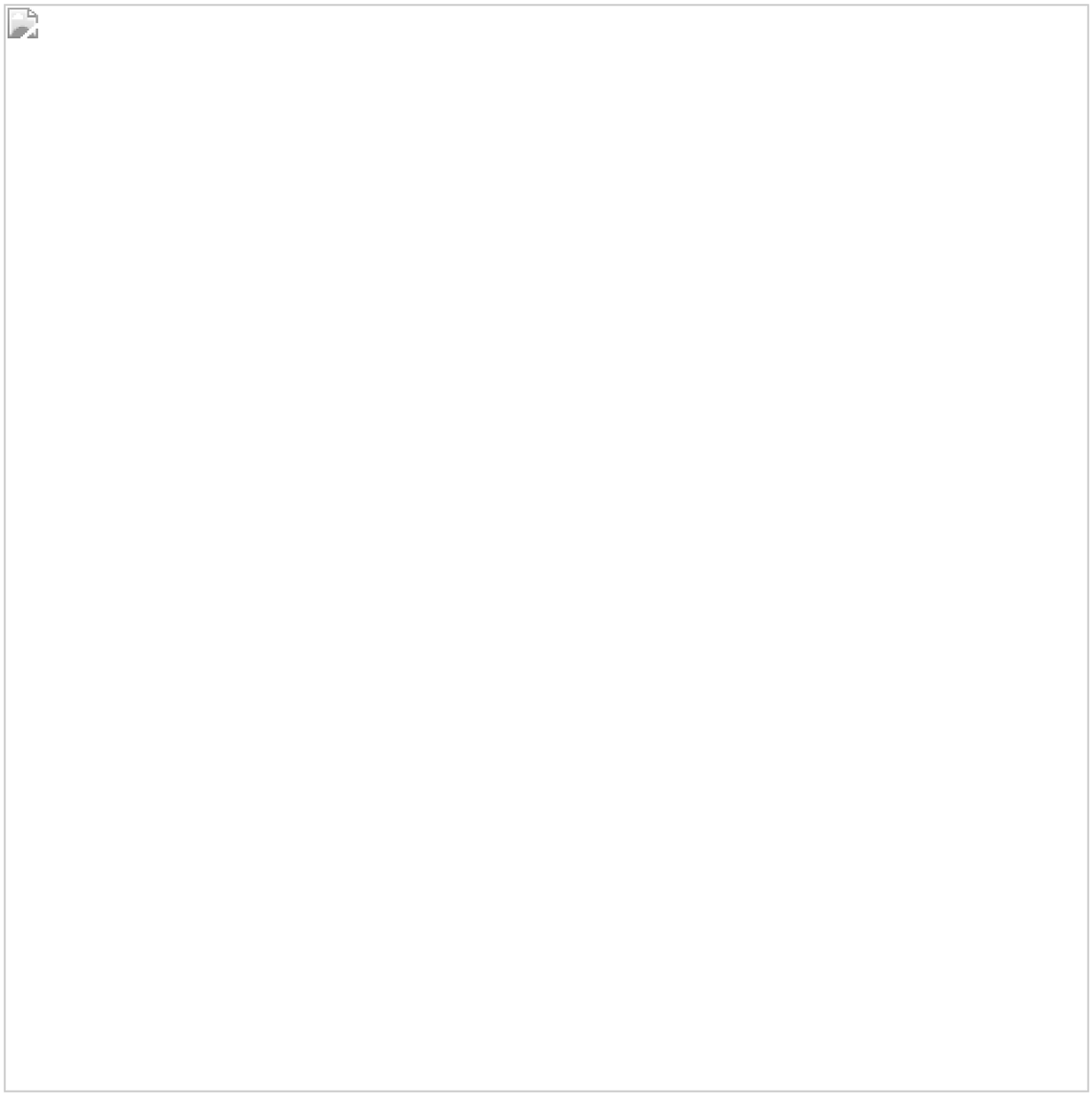


Think about it

1. Why did the Cid close the tower windows?

- ○ So his men could not see into the people's houses
- ○ To keep out the wind
- ○ To paint them

Four Loaves of Bread



The Cid called the leading men of Valencia together in a garden. He said that he had never had a kingdom, and that on the day he sat down before another town, he had "no more than four loaves of bread."

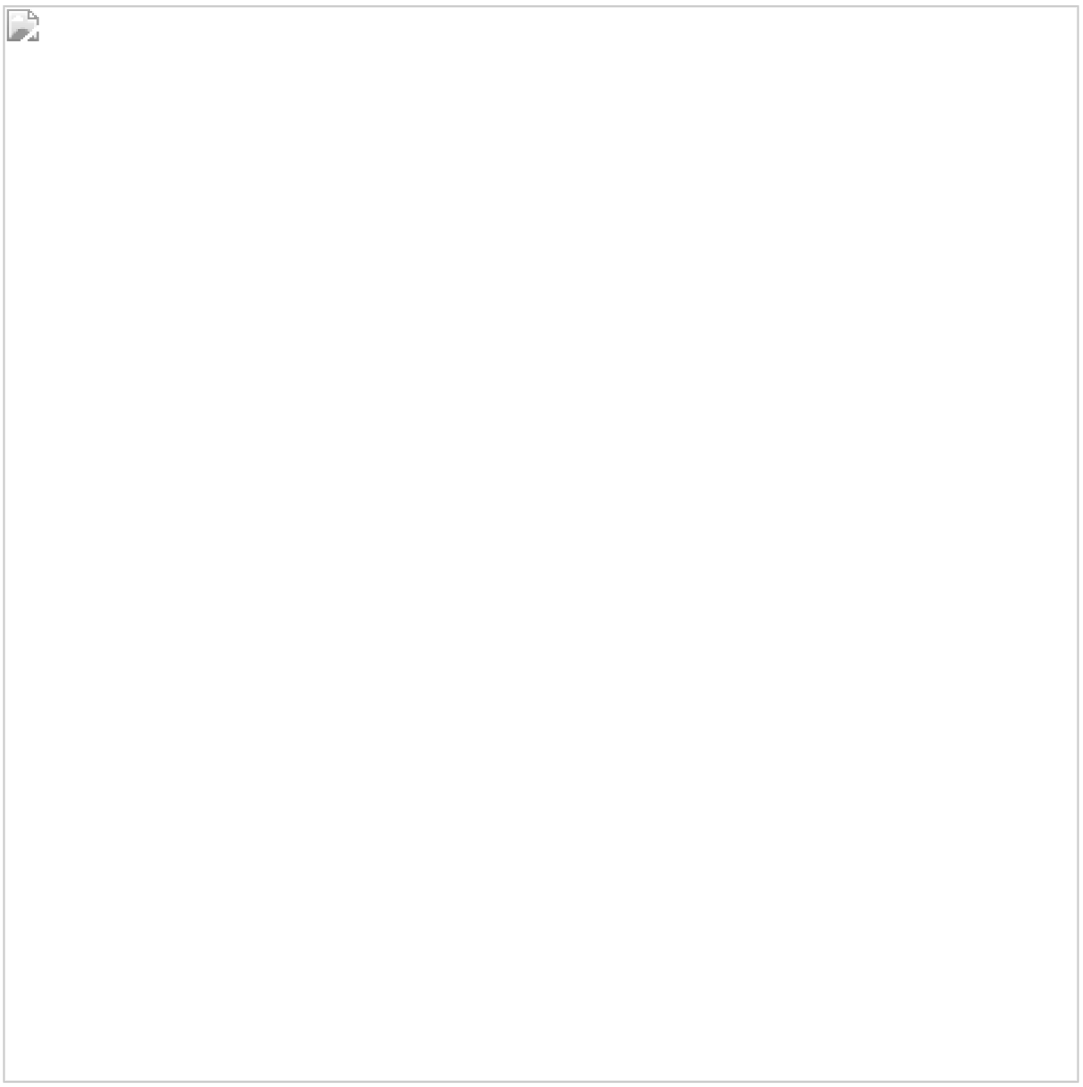
He said, "If I administer right and justice here, God will let me enjoy it," and that if he did wrong, God would take it away.

A man named Abeniaf had brought the Cid gifts of riches he had taken from the people who sold bread during the siege. But the Cid said, "I will accept no such gift," and told Abeniaf to give it back.

TALK ABOUT IT

Once the Cid had almost nothing, and now he had a whole city. What do you think he should do with so much?

Four Loaves of Bread · another picture

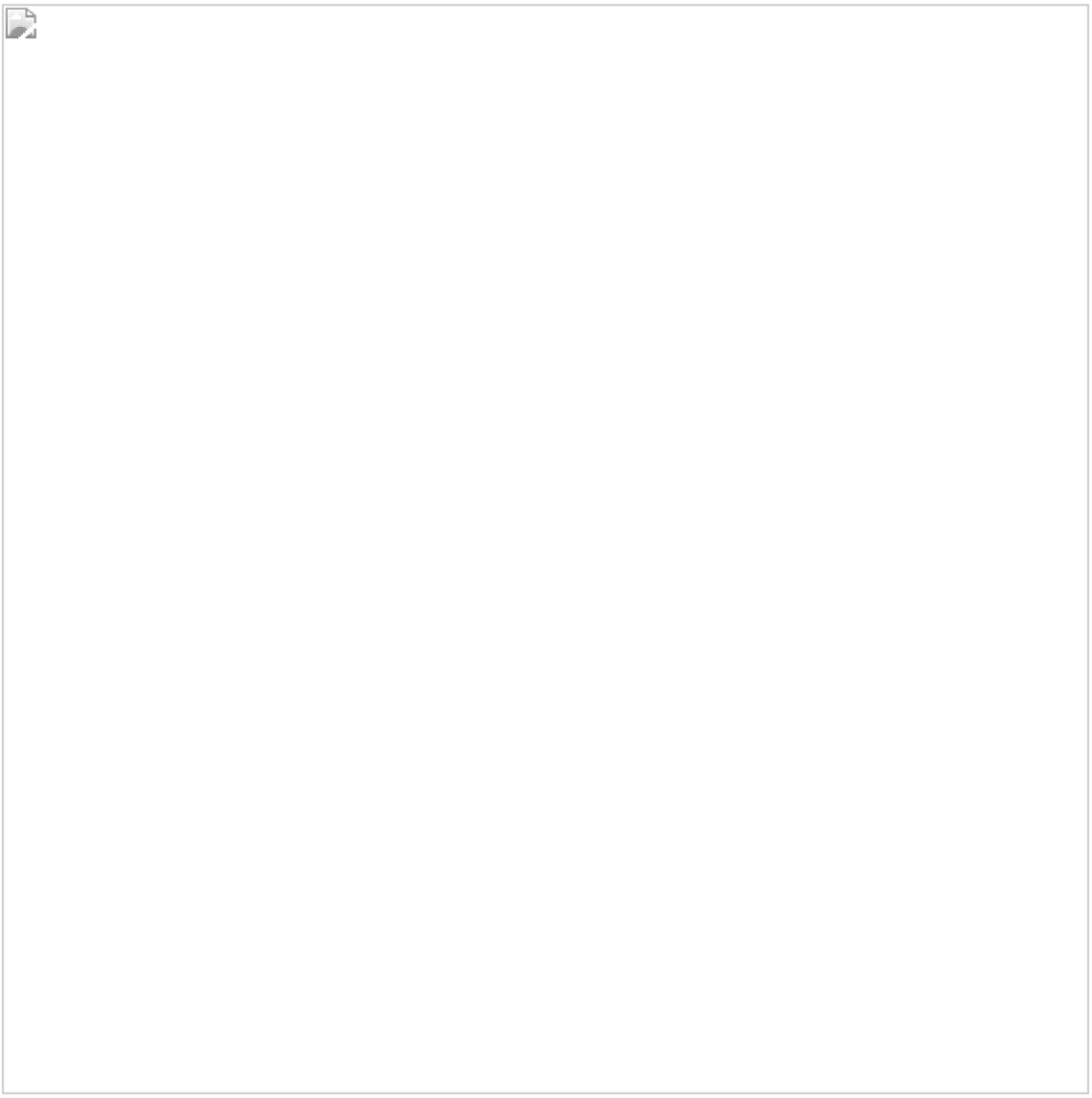


Think about it

1. How much bread did the Cid say he once had?

- ○ A hundred loaves
- ○ Four loaves
- ○ None at all

One More Ride



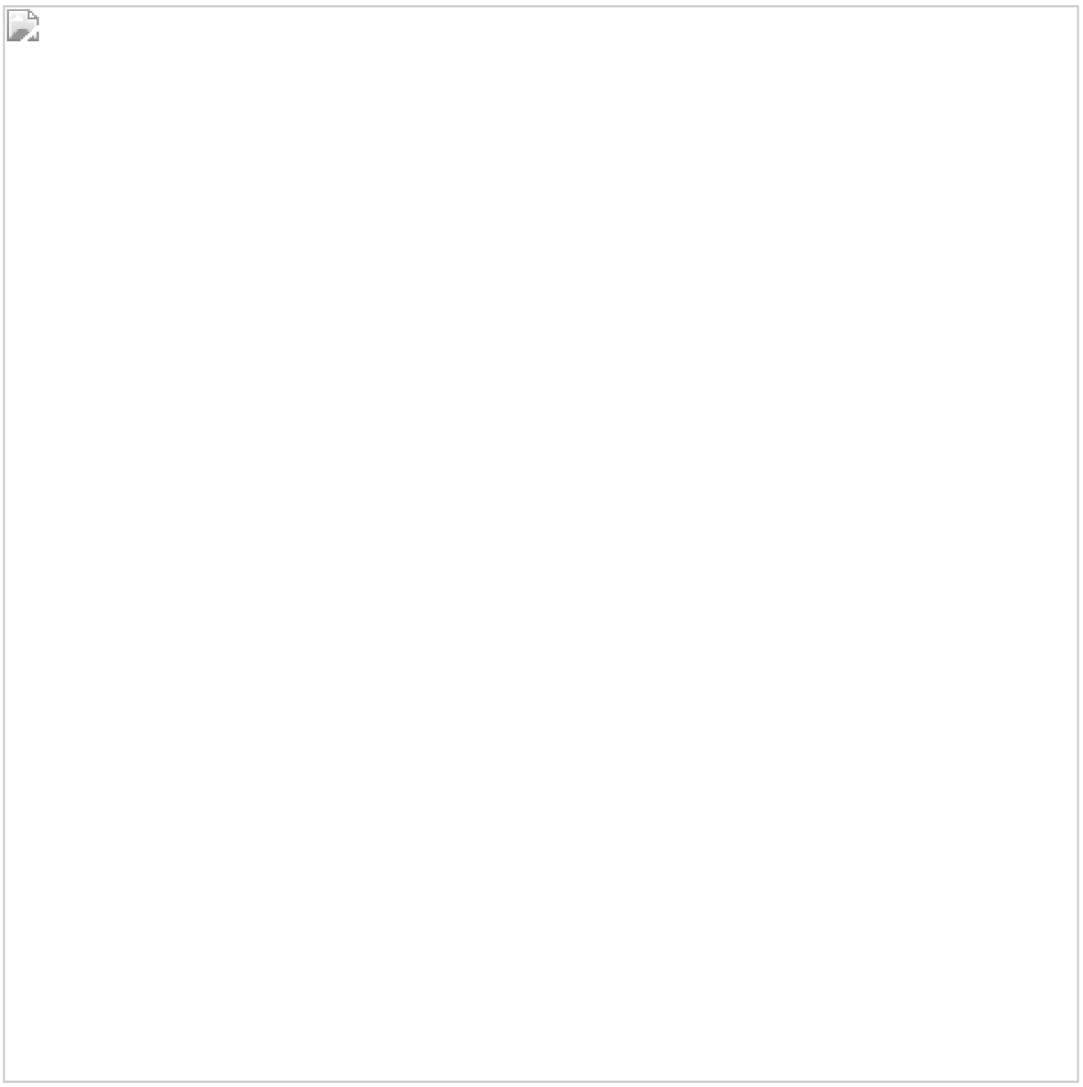
In time the Cid died. Three days later, King Bucar sailed into the port of Valencia with a huge army and set up his tents around the city.

The Cid had left plans for what to do, and his friends followed them. They prepared to leave for Castile. Late at night, they set the Cid, sitting upright, upon his horse Bavieca, with his sword Tizona in his hand.

Bishop Don Hieronymo rode on one side. Gil Diaz walked on the other, leading the horse as the Cid had asked. They went out through the gate at midnight, and it seemed like a small band, though it was hundreds.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Cid made his plans before he died. Why do you think he cared so much about how his people would be kept safe after he was gone?

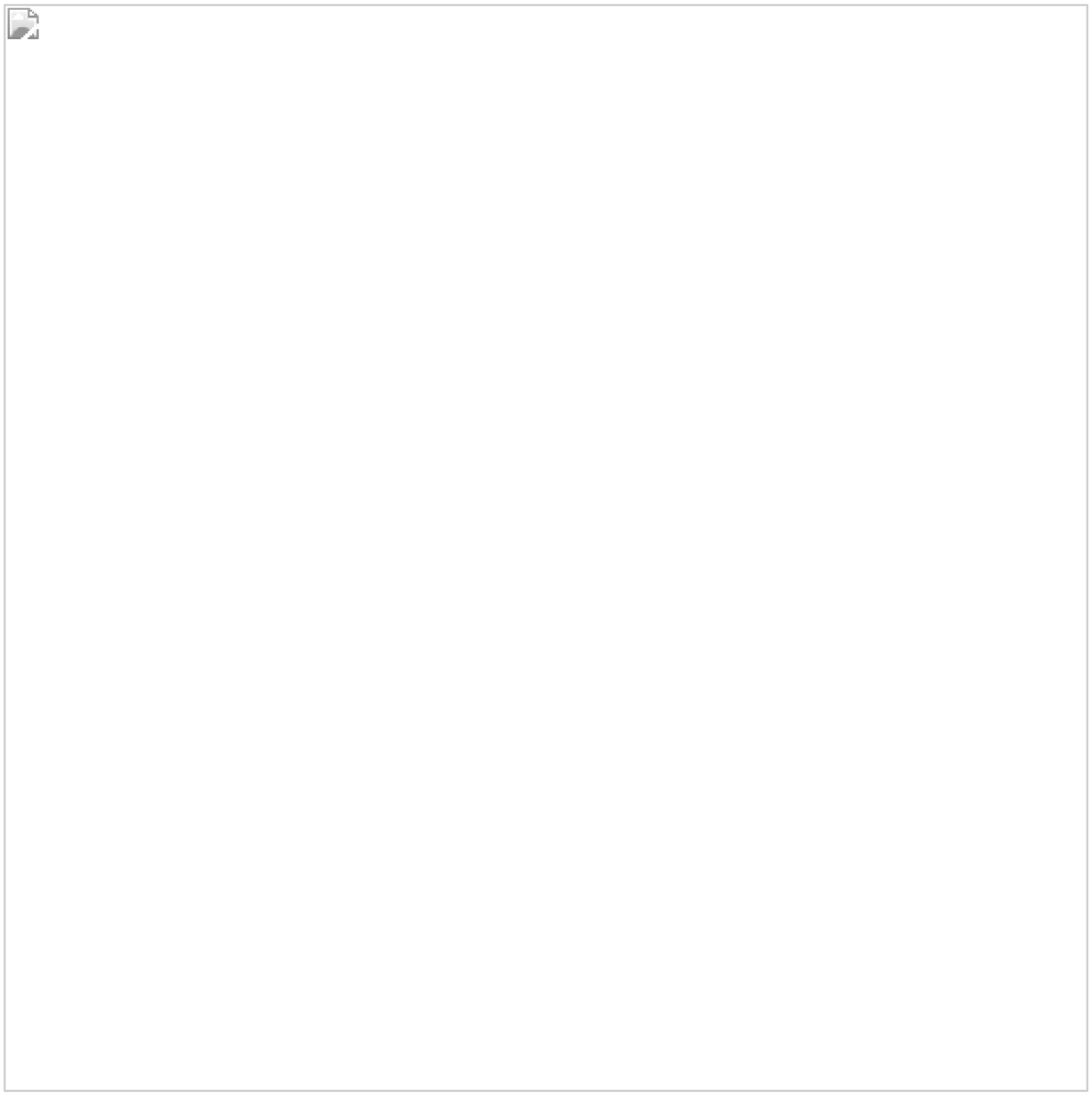


Think about it

1. What was the name of the Cid's horse?

- ○ Tizona
- ○ Gil Diaz
- ○ Bavieca

The Knight in White



While the Cid's people rode away, Don Alvar Fañez led the rest out against King Bucar's army. It was sudden, and the army was thrown into confusion.

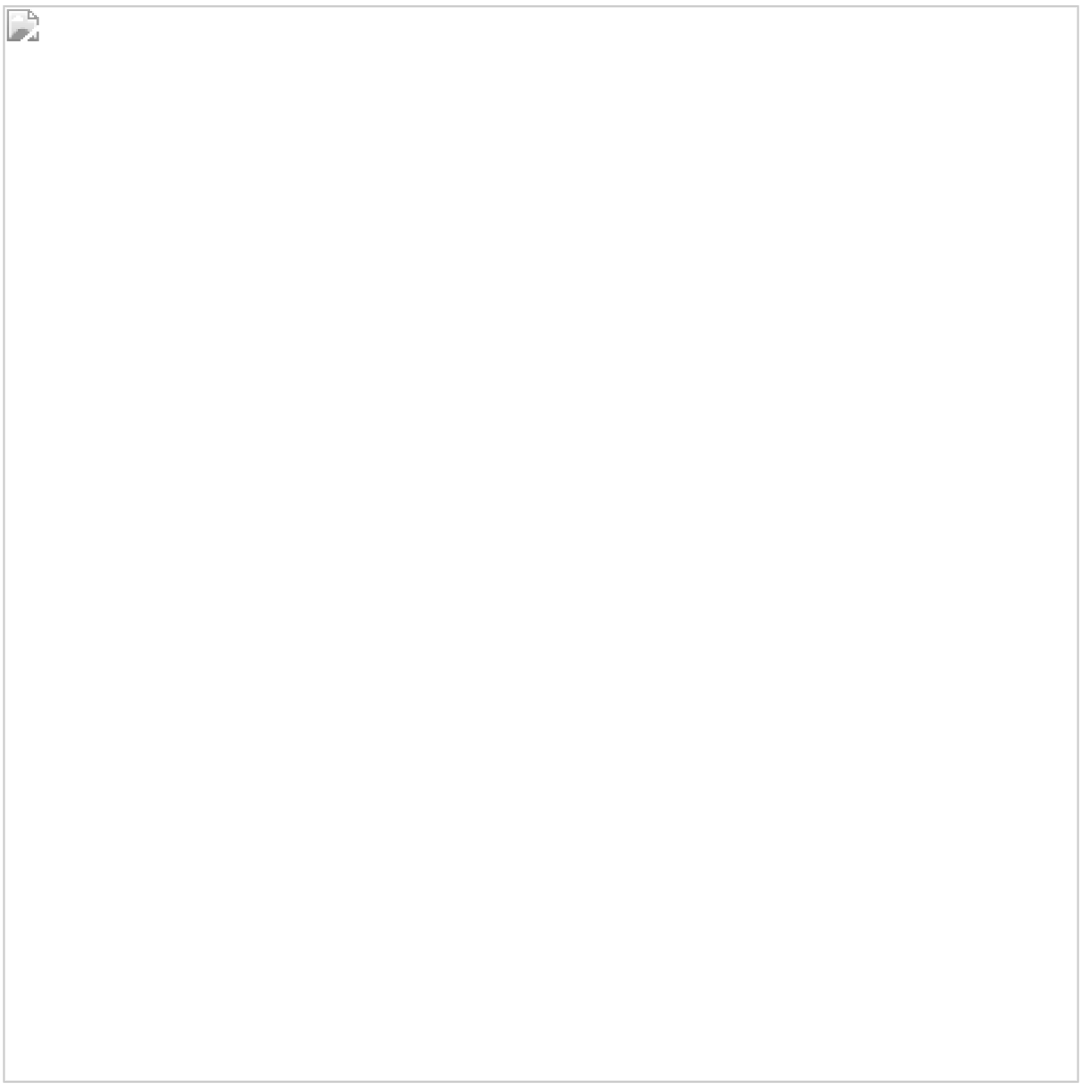
To King Bucar and his men, it seemed that a huge host of knights “all as white as snow” was riding against them, led by a tall knight on a white horse with a white banner.

King Bucar's army ran down to the sea. They climbed into their ships, sailed away, and never came back.

The Cid's people took the long road toward Castile, and the city of Valencia was left in peace.

TALK ABOUT IT

Nobody knew who the knight in white was. Why do you think the old stories tell it this way?



Think about it

1. What did King Bucar's army do at the end?

- ○ Sailed away and never came back
- ○ Stayed and built more tents
- ○ Took the city

2. What do you think the Cid would want people to remember about him?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

Free to read, color, and print in the Book Library

Made with love by Love is a Habit