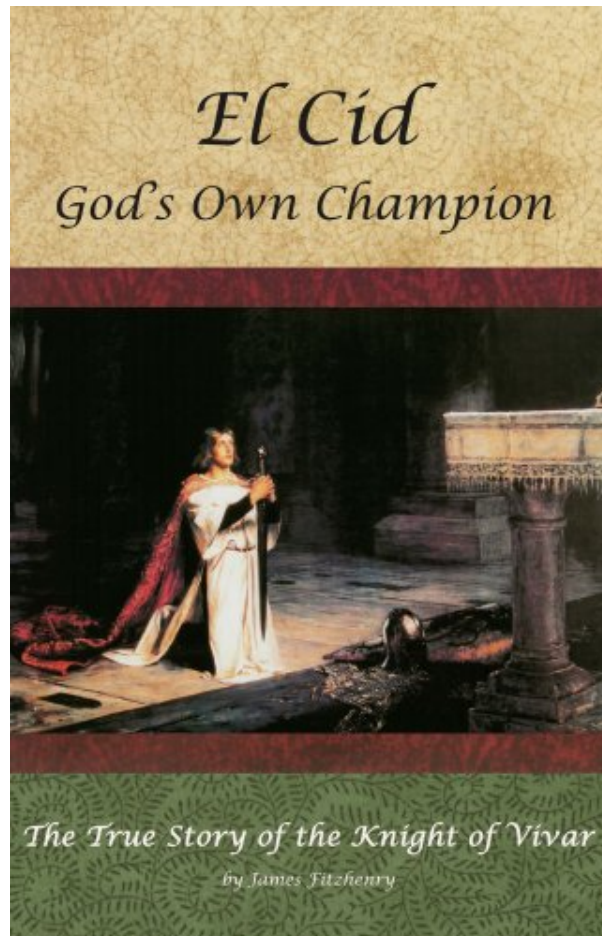


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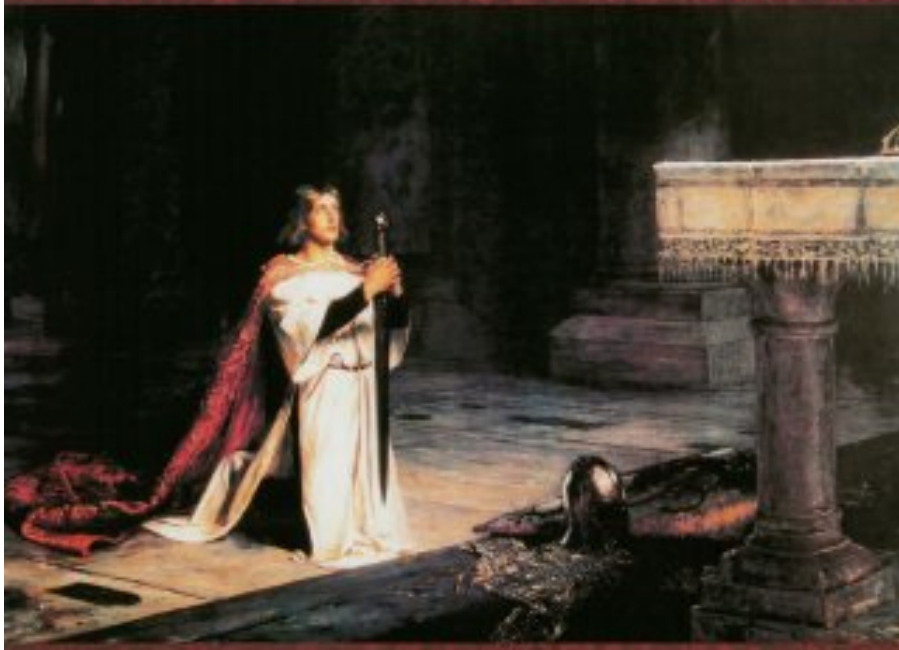


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El Cid

God's Own Champion



The True Story of the Knight of Vivar

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El Cid, God's Own Champion is an inspiring biography of the extraordinary Catholic knight chosen by God to save his nation from Islamic aggression. Known by the honorary title of El Cid, Rodrigo Diaz is a legendary hero who is directly relevant to modern times. Exiled by his king, insulted and maligned by those who should have supported him, he selflessly fought against seemingly insurmountable odds to save Christian Spain. Commanding the respect even of his enemies, upon his death a Muslim historian acclaimed him, a miracle among the great miracles of the Almighty. The Cid is an example of what can be achieved through devotion to duty, prayer, and trust in God.

- Sales Rank: #601187 in Books
- Published on: 2007-12-10
- Number of items: 1
- Binding: Paperback
- 186 pages

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An historical hero with a message for today

By Florentius

I'm embarrassed to admit that I have almost no knowledge of Rodrigo Diaz of Vivar, known to history as El Cid, the national hero of Spain. In this, sadly, I suspect I'm not alone among Americans. So I was very happy to find this book.

El Cid: God's Own Champion is a historical narrative, meant specifically for older kids, perhaps ages 12 and up. It is well written and Fitzhenry's prose has an easy grace that flows well and keeps the reader's attention. Based mainly on Ramon Menendez Pidal's work, *The Cid and His Spain*, the text chronicles the amazing life of El Cid and gives a glimpse into a time when the threat of radical Islam was even more immediate and dangerous than it is today. The Iberian peninsula in the 11th century was rent with conflicts between the various petty Christian and Islamic principalities, and it was not uncommon for Christian nobles to ally with Islamic ones against other Christians--and vice-versa. Into this confusing morass enters El Cid, an unconquerable hero who accomplishes what seems impossible with the barest handful of men.

But El Cid's successes provoked the jealousy of his rivals who had the ear of King Alfonso of Castile. Time and again, Alfonso punished and exiled his greatest champion, but through all the injustice, El Cid remained unwaveringly loyal, ever seeking to win back the good graces of his sovereign.

Fitzhenry also portrays El Cid as a paragon of Christian manhood. He is honest to a fault, pious, and humble before his king. He also shows mercy to his enemies and repeatedly tries to win the allegiance of the faithless Muslims of Valencia who repay his friendly overtures and honest justice with sedition and rebellion.

Overall, I enjoyed *El Cid, God's Own Champion* very much. Because it serves as both a history lesson and an inspiring tale of Catholic manhood, it is an ideal book for parents to read with their kids.

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

A beautiful little book of strength and faith!

By Adriana Attar

I highly recommend reading this beautiful book and adding it to your libraries - *El Cid* is a heartwarming and inspiring story giving glorious tribute to the triumph of human faith-and its well detailed events will forever dwell in your mind! *El Cid*, a book for all ages, will make you forget where you are and take you far into its story. This wonderful little book will strengthen the faith of its readers, no matter how weak or strong it may be. Mr. James Fitzhenry is a very creative and brilliant author. *El Cid: God's Own Champion* was rated super-high by my husband and two young adult children, and voted the best story book Fitzhenry has put together yet!

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

An amazing book!

By Jannette Attar

A story told so well, you won't want to put this book down! The real life characters motivate any reader to get out and take a stand for what they believe in. A must read for any Catholic, regardless of age!

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