

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

TO THE READER.

GOD ABOVE ALL.

THE present work was composed by a knight, in imitation of that of Cæsar. This knight left his country to acquire glory and renown in foreign lands, that his name might be had in perpetual memory. In this work will be found many things very healthful for the soul, and for the honour and safety of the body. You will find in it matter of great moment and notoriety. You will read letters from our Emperor himself, who now reigns, to the author, and also the author's dispatches to his sacred and Catholic Majesty, and to other persons, for the author held the office of gentleman in the royal palace. It is a very instructive and edifying work for all sorts and conditions of persons, treating of a great variety of subjects, both entertaining and important, and the author not only relates what happened to himself, but also what he saw and heard. Know then, O most inquisitive reader that, if you are curious to learn the transactions of the governments of this world, I am able to say, with truth, as regards this my writing, that I saw what I wrote, and I wrote what I saw.

Farewell.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

DEDICATION.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE VERY ILLUSTRIOUS LORD
DON JUAN ALONZO PEREZ DE GUZMAN, HEIR APPARENT
TO THE DUKEDOM AND LORDSHIPS OF MEDINA SIDONIA,
MARQUIS OF CAÇAÇA, COUNT OF NIEBLA, LORD OF GIB-
RALTAR.¹

MOST ILLUSTRIOUS SIRE.

When our God manifested his greatness in the creation of all things, he so ordered and arranged them that, for the preservation of the rest, the superiors should have the rule and governance over the inferiors, as the natural philosophers and sacred theologians prove, without which the order of things could not be preserved. Thus, most illustrious Sire, I find that if the works produced by the labour and anxiety of those who have written, and shall write, do not find favour with the great, they very soon perish. Mindful of this, I do not know in Spain, most

¹ This Don Juan Alonzo Perez de Guzman succeeded his brother, as sixth Duke of Medina Sidonia, and eighth Count of Niebla. His son, Don Juan Claros de Guzman, who is alluded to in the dedication, died in his father's lifetime, and on the death of the sixth duke, his grandson, Alonzo Perez de Guzman, who was Captain-General of Milan, Commander of the Armada sent against England, and employed on other important services, during the reign of Philip II, succeeded as seventh duke. He died in A.D. 1615.

The author, Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman, was descended from a daughter of the second Count of Niebla, and was, therefore, a third cousin of the Duke of Medina Sidonia, to whom he dedicated his work.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

DEDICATION.

3

illustrious Sire, one to whom I ought with more propriety to dedicate this work than to your Worship ; and this for many reasons. First, on account of what I know of your kindness, and your inclination to virtue ; second, because Don Garcia Enriquez de Guzman, my father, was the servant and relation of thine, so that we are also relations, and as such you may claim my services. You should, most illustrious Sire, take notice of my affairs, and examine them with your sagacious judgment ; as I have done those of your relations, especially of Don Juan Claros, your eldest surviving son. Thirdly, because you are sprung from the most Christian and most faithful knight, Don Alonzo Perez, the good ; who, when he was besieged by Moors, the enemies of our holy Catholic faith, in the castle of Tarifa, and when they had captured his son, and, that they might oblige him to surrender the castle, put him on the ground to behead him, thinking that he would give way to grief for the love of his son, which is the most natural feeling in the world ; loved most the service of God, and loyalty to his king, and, with a great heart, put his hand on his dagger, and with valiant and weighty speech he and his wife said that they had the anvil and hammer wherewith to make another son.¹ The

¹ This Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman, the good, was traditionally the most illustrious ancestor of the great house of Medina Sidonia. He was the third Lord of San Lucar de Barrameda, and grandfather of the first Count of Niebla. Don Alonzo Perez was one of the most famous captains of his age. The circumstance here alluded to by his descendant, is thus related by Alonzo Perez de Haro. "Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman was alcaide of the fortress of Tarifa, when he performed that celebrated act which proved his loyalty to his king, and to the pure blood of his ancestors. Tarifa was besieged by the Infante Don Juan and a large army of Moors, who brought with them Don Pedro de Guzman, the eldest son of Don Alonzo Perez, by his wife, Dona Maria Coronel. The Moors declared they would kill his son if he did not surrender the fortress, and they bound him to a block on the sandy beach in front of Tarifa, ready for execution. Don Alonzo Perez beheld all this from the walls, and his bosom was torn by his paternal love for a dear son so near death ; but he replied to the Infante, that if he had five more sons in

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

fourth, because your lordship, being the representative according to law, of the most illustrious house of Medina Sidonia, which possesses seventy thousand golden ducats of rent, with many castles and vassals, enjoys all this inheritance like a most Catholic servant of God, and a most faithful vassal of the king. Thus you arrange all your affairs as you think fit. For these reasons it is proper that this little work should be dedicated to you, proceeding, as it does, from the marrow of my understanding. The said work, most illustrious Sire, I therefore beseech that you will accept, for I wrote it not for pomp and vain glory. When this work sees the light, I, by the will of Almighty God, shall have departed this life, and entered into eternal glory.

I date this on the wide ocean, without expecting to see you again, for I go with no thought of returning, in the year of our Lord 1534, and I remain your relation and faithful servant,

DON ALONZO ENRIQUEZ DE GUZMAN.

.

I dedicated this book after the greater part of it was written, but I did not wish to complete it until I had decided whom I should favour above others.

the same plight, he would deliver them over to death, and even supply the knife, before he would betray his trust. Astonished at such extraordinary heroism, the Infante raised the siege; and the King Don Sancho granted the tunny fishery to Don Alonzo Perez, as a reward for this great service." In the grant of this fishery he is compared to Abraham, who with equal cheerfulness offered up his son Isaac. Don Alonzo Perez de Guzman was killed in the battle of Gausin, in A.D. 1309, against the Moors, and was buried in the church of San Isidro, in Seville.

Berni relates that Don Alonzo Perez was at dinner when he received the message threatening his son's death, to which he gave a defiant answer. When the news came that his son was actually beheaded, he merely remarked, "My son's death signifies but little, as long as the place is well defended," and went on eating. *Nobiliario Genealogico de Uuro*, i, p. 57. *Berni, Creacion de los titulos de Castilla*, p. 121.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

THE
LIFE AND ACTS
OF
DON ALONZO ENRIQUEZ DE GUZMAN.

I.

I BEGIN LIFE.

IN the year 1518, being eighteen years of age and nearly nineteen, I found myself fatherless and poor of estate, though rich in lineage, with a mother, who was a very talkative yet honest, good, and pious woman. She was not able to provide for me, seeing that I was growing up, though not of an age to marry, and so from necessity I married.¹ Oppressed with poverty, and desirous of riches, I determined to go in search of adventures, and set out from the city of Seville, which was my native place, with a horse, a mule, a bed, and sixty ducats. I resolved to write down all that happened to me, and not to record anything which is not worthy of credit. My name is Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman. I am a descendant of the Count of Gijon, who was son of the King Don Enrique, of Castile. My mother was named Dona Catalina de Guevara.²

¹ He married a young lady of Seville, named Costança de Añasco, by whom he had no children.

² Our author, Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman, was the eldest son, by the second marriage, of Don Garcia Enriquez de Guzman, of Seville. By his first wife Don Garcia had two sons, Don Juan de Noroña, and

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

II.

HOW I SET OUT, IN THE NAME OF GOD.

I went to Cordova, and to Granada, and to Baeza, where I met with a captain named Montalvo. He was going to Italy, and I to the court of the King of Castille, who was in Barcelona. Our roads were the same as far as Murcia, and there we had to separate on our respective journeys. At a distance of four or five leagues from the said city of Baeza, where we met, we went to pass the night at an inn. Here I forgot my sixty ducats, which I had placed at my bed-head, so that the said captain was able to take them while I went outside, for some purpose which I now forget, for he had come in to awake me. What with his haste and my carelessness, we set out without my missing the purse, and having gone two leagues I remembered it, but not where I had left it. I, therefore, went back to look for it with great

Don Garcia de Noroña, who married and settled in the island of Madeira, and the former was the founder of a family there. By his second wife, Catalina de Guevara, Don Garcia had four sons: first, Don Alonzo, our author; second, Don Luis, who was some time in the Brazils, went as captain of a galleon to India, married a Portuguese lady named Leonora Correa, and had several children; third, Don Juan; and fourth, Don Fernando. There were also three illegitimate sons.

Don Garcia Enriquez de Guzman, our author's father, was son of Don Juan Enriquez, and grandson of Don Diego Enriquez, who married Beatriz de Guzman, daughter of the second Count of Niebla, and sister of the first Duke of Medina Sidonia. (The duke was born in 1414, and created duke by King John II in 1445). This Don Diego Enriquez, who was a knight of Santiago, after serving many years against the Moors of Granada, finally settled in Seville. He was a natural son of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Castilla, who was created Count of Noroña and Gijon in 1373, and, having been in rebellion against his half brother, King John I, and his nephew, King Henry III, eventually fled into France. This Count of Gijon was a natural son of Henry II, King of Castile, by Dona Elvira Iniguez de la Vega.

Our author could also trace his descent from the kings of Castile, through the Guzmans: the mother of his ancestor, the second Count of Niebla, having been Beatriz de Castilla, daughter of King Henry II.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

haste and no less anxiety. When I reached the inn I sought advice from the captain, who said to me: "Console yourself, that the first mishap that has befallen you is not greater than the loss of sixty dollars, and that you have still got your horse, which you can sell, and I, for the sake of your company, will give you something to eat while you sell it at your ease." After thanking him for his kindness and courtesy, I replied: "I am not able to sell it at my ease, for I intend to appear before the King, with whom I go to live." He then said that he could supply a remedy for my misfortune, for that, near at hand, there was a great lord named the Marques de los Velez, Don Pedro Fajardo,¹ in a place which we had to pass next day, called Velez el Blanco. "If," he continued, "you are the person you represent yourself to be, relate your misfortune, and I have no doubt but that it will be remedied." Next day we arrived at the place, and I went before the Marquis, and related my misfortune in the best way I could, and with as much sorrow as I was able to depict. I then besought him, for mercy's sake, to help me, and he said he would; but two days passed without his doing so, though not for want of asking. Seeing that he would not help me, I gave him a petition in writing, the tenor of which was as follows: "Most illustrious and best of lords, the other day I spoke to your lordship on the subject of giving me assistance to continue my journey, relating my misfortunes and stating who I am. For the love of God, if you have any doubt, ask Ortiz, your carver, who

¹ The first Marques de los Velez was Don Pedro Fajardo, created by Juana the Mad in 1505. He was hereditary adelantado mayor of Murcia, an office granted to his mother's family by John II. His maternal grandfather, Pedro Fajardo, adelantado of Murcia, married Leonora, daughter of Don Rodrigo Manrique, Count of Paredes. The first Marques de los Velez served in the Alpujarras against the Moors, in the time of Ferdinand and Isabella, and afterwards in the wars of Charles V. His son, Don Luis, the second Marquis, was captain-general of Valencia under Philip II. *Berni*, p. 202; *Haro*, ii, p. 342.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

was my father's page. I shall be satisfied with ten ducats, which I will return to you." He answered that he would see what he could do hereafter, but that at present he could do nothing. The said carver, however, gave me two ducats out of his poor purse. I then went to the inn where I found the captain, and he asked me how I had fared. As I was relating my sorrows, he put his hand into his sleeve, and took out the purse with the sixty ducats, and gave it to me, saying: "I took this purse that you might know the want which the loss of the money would cause you, and that you might see how to remedy the loss." We started again with great joy, and went to Murcia, where our roads separated, and we parted after resting for eight days.

III.

OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IN BARCELONA.

I had letters from Don Juan Alonzo to the Archbishop of Saragossa, and from Don Hernando Enriquez de Ribera to the Admiral of Castille,¹ his first cousin; by whom I was very well received, and taken to kiss the hand of the King. News had just arrived that he had been elected Emperor. On another day I went to speak of my affairs to the King; the Duke of Bejar and the Admiral going with me, to pray that I might receive the habit of Santiago, and a place at court. The Emperor referred me to Don Garcia de Padilla of his council, who was a wrong-headed man. I said to him: "His majesty the Emperor has

¹ Don Fadrique Enriquez, Admiral of Castille, and third Count of Melgar, was a first cousin of King Ferdinand the Catholic; the King's mother, Juana, Queen of Aragon, having been a half sister of Alonzo de Enriquez, third Count of Melgar, and Admiral of Castille, who died in 1485. Don Fadrique was, in 1522, one of the Regents of the kingdom, during the rebellion of the Commons.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

referred me to you, and I am well satisfied and give thanks to God, because he has sent me to a knight and a learned man, whose equal would not often be found. Your worship must know that I have come to the Emperor, as to my natural King, that he may receive me in his court, like other persons of good family whom he retains in his house, and that he may give me the habit of Santiago. For I understand that the habit is conferred on gentle knights who may conquer infidels, and I come well prepared to do so, and well qualified by my descent, like the Admiral of Castille and the Duke of Bejar. Your worship may be assured that I am of gentle blood, and that I merit the habit of Santiago for the services which I am prepared to render: and I beseech your worship to comply with my request, for I despise labour, and dread poverty." He replied that he knew not where I could go with a greater certainty of wasting my labour and my money.

I gave him many thanks, and went to the Secretary Francisco de los Cobos, giving him a letter from Don Rodrigo Ponce de Leon, Count of Belen, in which he stated who I was; and saying the same as I had said to Don Garcia. The Secretary told me that all the time I remained there would be lost, because the Emperor could not receive me, and that I should spend all my money, going from door to door soliciting favours. He added that I had come at a very bad time, and advised me, before I spent more money, to return home until a more opportune occasion offered; reminding me that I must not suppose that I could obtain what I wanted solely with the help of my long descent, for that others, as well supplied with that article as myself, spent many days in the same quest, with as little success. I went away very much discontented with his advice, and returned to Don Garcia, whom I followed about for six months, hearing very soft and deceitful speeches, such as he gave me on the first day. I spent all the money I

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01070-2 - The Life and Acts of Don Alonzo Enriquez de Guzman: A Knight of Seville, of the Order of Santiago, A.D. 1518 to 1543

Clements R. Markham

Excerpt

[More information](#)

had in food for myself and my beasts and servants, until I was obliged to sell the former and dismiss the latter ; and at last I had nothing left but shoes and doublet, and was forced to take a pike and go to the wars. There was then a war against the Moors, and I passed through the streets of Barcelona, before the Emperor and his courtiers, among whom were some of my relations, in the ranks, with the other soldiers, carrying a pike on my shoulder. Two knights of my native town, the one named Francisco del Alcazar, and the other, Juan Melgarejo, when they saw me, came down to take me away ; but I refused to go with them, and embarked as one of the soldiers.

 IV.

 OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ME IN THE EXPEDITION AGAINST THE
MOORS.

We disembarked on an uninhabited island called Formentera, where we found the people whom we were to join from Barcelona, consisting of five thousand foot soldiers and four hundred men at arms, and three hundred light infantry, under the command of Diego de Vera, a veteran knight. In a few days we sailed for the island of Sicily, where we were joined by Don Diego de Monçada, prior of Messina, of the order of St. John, who was appointed captain-general of the army. He was quartered, with the cavalry, in a town called Trapani, and the infantry were encamped at a distance of four or five leagues, at a place called Marsala, with Diego de Vera as lieutenant-general. We were thus encamped for five months, during which time I will first tell you what happened to myself, and then what befell the army.

I, being of tender of age, though self-willed, having left my mother's house and come to a land of strangers, who shut their doors in my face, was taken very dangerously ill