

# Arabian Nights in Spain

## Introduction -

In 711 A.D. a Berber chieftain & his Syrian army of 12,000 crossed a narrow body of water ~~which bridged~~ & landed without opposition not far from where the Pillars of Hercules had once stood. The enormous Rock where the landing took place still bears the name of the chieftain - Gibraltar. From Africa

1

Soon after Tanq's <sup>initial</sup> advance, another larger body of men joined him & one region <sup>of Spain</sup> after another gradually succumbed to the <sup>Arabian</sup> invasion almost without struggle.

The Prologue strongly reflects the Arab melody w/ that was to echo through the palaces of the <sup>epic</sup> Caliphs in the next several centuries throughout Spain. The first Arabian Dynasty <sup>known</sup> as the ~~Umayyad~~ <sup>Umayyad</sup> Dynasty was established in Cordoba.

The ~~young~~ <sup>young</sup> ~~king~~ who ruled Cordoba was Abdur Rahman I. When he was 20, his grand father's caliphate in Damascus was overthrown. All were murdered in the family except Abdur & his brother, who fled from village to village, ~~the two~~ <sup>the two</sup> brothers were

Paraphrased

Camaron Abd's brother was caught at a river crossing & ~~beheaded~~ <sup>beheaded</sup> Abdur <sup>managed to</sup> escape his would be murderers by swimming across the river <sup>to find as</sup> he went from castle to castle. There is a

managed to bring some degree of unity to the Arab states that had already been established throughout the Arabian Peninsula.

rebellion. There he established the first Arabian emirate at the head of the Old Moorish Castle Cordoba & Our Spanish selection tells the story of

a travelling lute player who comes upon a mysterious castle somewhere in Andalusia. (etc) Perhaps the stranger was Abdur Rahman. As he draws near to the castle he hears a mournful song. He looks up at the castle parapets but he sees nothing. He hears the song again.

put you in the mood for Arabian nights with the Prologue from the Arabian Nights

Strumming his lute ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~soberly~~ <sup>soberly</sup> than before he

To open our program here is the melancholic Preludio from the Suite Española by A. Al. which is typical of the kind of music one might expect to hear at the Palace of an Arab. King, no sooner decides to cross the drawbridge which has been let down, silently, he hears the song again.

As he approaches the massive, wooden doors they begin to open silently, mysteriously. He passes into the courtyard. There is no one there. The courtyard is empty. His heart is hammering in his chest.

He has heard strange tales about some of the castles in Andalus. He seems to wonder whether he will be rescued or casually or thrown over the castle walls to his death.

Suddenly the courtyard begins to fill with people, soldiers, musicians & dancers. He is shown warm Andalusian hospitality. All too soon, he must take his leave & as he sets off down the dusty road, strumming his lute he hears the castle festivities in the distance.

9

The greatest Arabian ruler of Spain was Abdur Rahman III who ruled in the 9th century. Not only did he bring peace to Spain with his impressive administration & military leadership but he also made Spain a caliphate & himself the first Caliph, with Cordoba its capital.

Rahman's ~~was~~ powerful rule, Spain ~~was~~ became the richest country in all of Europe. Writing paper & the zero sign were introduced. Innovation Techniques were given special attention. The Great Mosque begun by Rahman I now had 21 gates & 1,200 columns made from jasper & porphyry & gilded capitals.

Because of poetry, paper, poetry & music flourished at the court of Abdur Rahman III. In addition to 3 beautiful women <sup>singers</sup> he had a <sup>astrologer</sup> court musician named Ziryak who with his family had also fled from Baghdad. An evening at Rahman's court <sup>showed</sup> <sup>entertainment</sup> provided good food wine &