



**PROLOGUE**



YOU MUST GUIDE ME WELL, MY DOG! THE TRAIL IS COLD AND **TREACHEROUS!** AND UNLIKE YOU, I HAVE **NO EYES** TO LEAD ME. IT IS UP TO **YOU** TO FIND US SHELTER FROM THE ELEMENTS!



IT WASN'T SO VERY LONG AGO THAT I COULD HAVE FOUND MY **OWN** SHELTER! EVEN AS **YOU** ARE NOW MY EYES, MY PET... SO WAS I THE **EYES** OF AN **OLD MAN!**

WHEN I HAD MY SIGHT, I, TOO, WAS A **BLIND MAN'S GUIDE!**

BUT MY MASTER WAS **CRUEL... MERCILESS!** HE LOVED **TORTURING** ME!

HE **HATED** THE WORLD AND TOOK HIS HATE OUT ON **ME!**

HE TAUGHT **ME** HOW TO **HATE**, TOO! WITH EVERY **BLOW...** EVERY **KICK** I RECEIVED FROM HIM, I **HATED** HIM MORE AND **MORE!**

THERE WAS **NO LOVE** BETWEEN **HIM** AND **ME**, AS THERE IS BETWEEN **US**, MY PET!

THAT IS WHY I HAD TO **KILL** HIM!



I REMEMBER THE  
OLD MAN WELL... TOO  
WELL! HIS RASPY  
VOICE STILL STICKS  
IN MY MEMORY...

# BLIND MAN'S GUIDE

LISTEN TO  
ME, GOOD PEOPLE  
OF VILLANUEVA! I  
AM A **BLIND MAN**...  
A PAUPER FORCED  
TO **BEG** IN THE  
STREETS! BUT I  
AM **RICHER** THAN  
YOU **ALL**!

FOR WITHIN ME, I  
CARRY THE ONLY **REAL  
BEAUTY** THIS WORLD HAS  
EVER KNOWN! I HAVE MEMOR-  
IZED THE **VERSES** OF **CERVANTES**  
... THE CANTATIONS OF **HERRERA**,  
**ARGENSOLA** AND **CALDERÓN**  
... THE POETRY OF **LOPE**  
AND **GONGORA**!

... **BEAUTIFUL**  
WORDS... WORDS  
THAT POSSESS THE  
**WISDOM** OF THE AGES!  
**BEAUTY** AND **WIS-**  
**DOM** THAT WILL  
MAKE YOU **CRY**  
IN **HAPPINESS**!

I BRING THESE  
VERSES TO YOU! SO  
YOU WILL **KNOW**, AS I  
HAVE KNOWN, ABOUT  
**LOVE** AND **HATE**, **VIR-**  
**TUE** AND **SIN**...  
ABOUT THE **HELL**  
AWAITING US **ALL**!

... IS THAT YOU  
**SHARE** WHAT YOU  
HAVE WITH **ME**!  
SPARE A FEW **GOLD  
PIECES** SO THAT AN  
OLD MAN AND A  
BOY MAY **EAT** YET  
ANOTHER DAY!

LET ME **SHARE**  
MY **BEAUTIFUL** VERSES  
WITH YOU AND IN  
RETURN ALL  
I ASK...



GRACE THE BOY'S PLATE WITH **RICHES** AND **MY WISDOM** WILL BE **YOURS!** IT'S THE **BAR-GAIN** OF YOUR LIVES!

WITH YOUR HELP, GOOD PEOPLE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO **LIVE** ANOTHER DAY... TO CARRY THE WORDS OF THE POETS TO THE NEXT TOWN! **GOD** WILL BLESS YOU FOR YOUR **GENEROSITY!**



THE OLD MAN'S **SILVER-TONGUED** SPIEL GOT THEM EVERY TIME...

**CLINK**

**CLINK**

**CLINK**

**CLINK  
CLINK**



THANK YOU, BROTHERS AND SISTERS! YOU WILL BE ALL THE **WISER** BECAUSE OF THIS..!

HE **SURE** WASN'T LYING ABOUT THAT!




AND WHEN OUR "**ACT**" WAS OVER...

WE'VE HAD A **LONG** AND **PROFITABLE** DAY, MY FRIEND! IT'S NOT OFTEN ONE FINDS SO MANY **GENEROUS** SOULS IN ONE VILLAGE!

**GENEROUS AND STUPID!**







AH, PRECIOUS GOLD!  
COLD, INDIFFERENT,  
BUT SO SWEET TO  
THE TOUCH!

LET'S  
COUNT  
OUR  
PROFITS,  
BOY!

HEY!  
WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
THIS?

I MAY BE  
BLIND, BOY...  
BUT I'M NOT AS  
DUMB AS THOSE  
MARKS IN THE  
VILLAGE...

YOU ARE A  
THIEF, BOY!



IS THIS HOW YOU  
REPAY ME FOR ALL  
I HAVE DONE FOR  
YOU...? FOR PICKING  
YOU OUT OF THE SEWERS,  
FEEDING YOU, PUTTING  
CLOTHES ON YOUR  
BACK...

...EDUCATING  
YOU!!?



THERE'S  
ONLY ONE  
WAY TO MAKE  
AN HONEST  
MAN OF A  
THIEF LIKE  
YOU...


...BY BREAKING  
IN YOUR BACK!

DO YOU  
HEAR  
ME, BOY?  
AH, YOUR  
FAST  
BREATHING  
GIVES YOU  
AWAY!

I'LL TEACH  
YOU RESPECT  
FOR ME AND  
RESPECT FOR  
THE WHIP..!

NO!  
DON'T HIT  
ME, MASTER,  
PLEASE!

I'LL RETURN  
THE COIN! I'LL NEVER  
STEAL FROM YOU  
AGAIN!!



I COUNTED  
THE SOUND OF  
FIVE GOLD COINS  
HITTING THE PLATE!  
THERE ARE ONLY  
FOUR HERE!!



**NOOOOOOO!**



**DAMNED BRAT!**

... YOU'LL LEARN...

... EVEN IF I HAVE TO BEAT **HOLY HELL** OUT OF YOU!!



**NOOO!**



**NOOO!**



**NO!**



SOB  
SOB





THOUGH EACH DAY THE OLD MAN DISGUSTED ME MORE, I BIDED MY TIME... WAITED FOR THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY... TO END HIS MISERABLE LIFE...

THEN ONE DAY, JUST OUTSIDE A SMALL VILLAGE...

WHAT SOLITUDE! THERE'S NO ONE AROUND! THIS WOULD BE THE IDEAL PLACE FOR MY REVENGE!

WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?

WOLF TRACKS! AND THEY'RE FRESH! THE COLD MUST BE MAKING PICKINGS LEAN FOR THE WOLVES IF THEY VENTURE SO NEAR THE VILLAGE!

AND IF THEY'RE AS HUNGRY AS I SUSPECT... JUST THE SMELL OF BLOOD COULD INCITE THEM TO ATTACK!

MY CANE! GIVE IT TO ME, YOU DAMNED BRAT...

...OR YOU'LL REGRET THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!

THERE THEY ARE... WAITING... THEY WON'T ATTACK US UNLESS...

YOU'VE ALREADY MADE ME REGRET THAT DAY, MASTER...

...TODAY IS THE DAY I REJOICE!

IT IS THE DAY YOU DIE!

THE OLD MAN HAD NO IDEA THE WOLVES WERE NEAR. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR HIS BLINDNESS AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GRAB HIS STAFF...





TWICE I CRACKED HIS SKULL WITH THE HEAVY STAFF! HE WAS **DAZED**... BUT HE **HEARD** THE EXCITED **WOLVES** NEARBY...

...AND **REASON** TOLD HIM MY DEADLY **PLAN**...!

**BOY! NO! DON'T DO IT! STOP!!** THOSE **WOLVES** WILL KILL ME!

**PLEASE!**

BUT IT WAS **TOO LATE!** NOTHING COULD STOP THE **WOLVES!** INCITED BY **HUNGER**, ROUSED BY THE SMELL OF **FRESH BLOOD**, THE **WOLVES** LEAPED FOR THE OLD MAN...

HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE IN **HELL**...



**NOOOO!**

BUT WITH HIS DYING BREATH, HE UTTERED A **CURSE!** IT STILL STICKS IN MY HEAD...

YOU'LL **DIE** FOR THIS, **BOY**... I **CURSE** YOU... TO DIE JUST AS I DO... YOU'LL KNOW... **AGONY!**



IT WAS OVER...

... I WAS **FREE** FROM MY **WICKED** MASTER...!





**BUT I STILL HAD TO ESCAPE THE WOLVES! WHEN THEY FINISHED PICKING THE OLD MAN'S BONES CLEAN... I KNEW I WOULD BE NEXT...**

**GOTTA RUN... ESCAPE!**

**HE CURSED ME TO DIE JUST AS HE HAS... TORN TO BLOODY PIECES TO FEED STARVING ANIMALS! BUT HE WAS MAD! I CAN'T LET HIS CURSE WORRY ME...**

**... GOTTA RUN... RUN...**

**I'LL TELL THE VILLAGERS IT WAS AN ACCIDENT... THAT THE WOLVES ATTACKED US... BUT I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE!**

**THEY'LL BELIEVE ME!**

**I WAS OBSESSED! I RAN AS FAST AND AS FAR AS I COULD... AND STILL PUSHED FURTHER! THE OLD MAN'S LAST WORDS REVERBERATED IN MY MIND...**

**AND THEN I WAS IN THE TOWN...**

**HELP! HELP WOLVES HAVE KILLED MY MASTER... THE OLD BLIND MAN... WOLVES!**

**IN MY EXCITEMENT... EXHAUSTION... I DIDN'T SEE THE CARRIAGE COMING! I RAN RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT...**

**MY LIFE WAS SAVED BY THE VILLAGE PHYSICIANS! BUT... AND THERE WAS A BIG BUT...**

**I WAS A POOR BLIND MAN'S GUIDE, MY PET! BUT ONLY AS POOR AS MY WORTHLESS MASTER!**

**MY GOD! HE'S UNDER THE WHEELS!**

**WE CAN DO NO MORE!**

**HE WILL LIVE...**

**BUT THE BOY WILL BE BLIND FOR LIFE!**

**YOU ARE A MUCH BETTER GUIDE... AND A BETTER FRIEND TO ME THAN I WAS TO MY MASTER!**

**GET HIM OUT!**

**OOF!**

**DAMN ROOTS! I'M TRAPPED!**





YOU MUST BE MORE CAREFUL WHERE YOU LEAD ME, MY FRIEND! SEE... I HAVE CUT MY HAND! IT'S BLEEDING!



EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER? STOP BARKING LIKE THAT...! GROWLING!

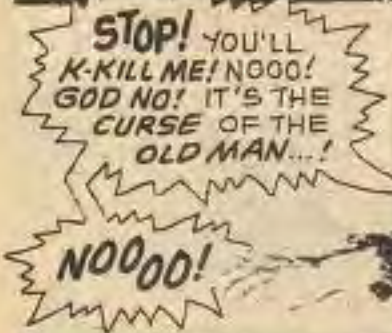
ARF!  
ARF!  
ROWWWLL!



WAIT! DON'T LICK MY BLOOD! I DON'T LIKE IT!

OW! OW! YOU'RE HURTING ME!

STOP BITING, YOU DAMNED BEAST!



STOP! YOU'LL K-KILL ME! NOOO! GOD NO! IT'S THE CURSE OF THE OLD MAN...!

NOOOO!



NOOOOO!



Nooo!

IT'S CALLED *DIVINE PUNISHMENT*... *JUSTICE! IRONY!* THE BLIND BOY COULD NOT SEE THAT HIS "DOG" WAS A *WOLF*... TAMED, TRAINED BY THE MAN WHO HAD SOLD HIM TO THE BOY...FOR *ONE GOLD PIECE!*



THE WOLF HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF A PACK THAT HAD *DEVoured* A *BLIND MAN* AGES AGO... A *BLIND MAN* *DESERTED* BY HIS *GUIDE!*

THE KEEN, TANGY TASTE OF THE BOY'S *BLOOD* REVIVED THE *KILLER INSTINCTS* IN THE ANIMAL...

... AND, IN THE END, THE OLD MAN'S CURSE HAD COME *TRUE!*