

3. The Tears of Heroes

The Song of The Cid (Cantar de Mío Cid)

Islamic Spain, which flourished around Córdoba, split into lesser kingdoms and grew weak in the 11th century. The waves of re-conquest (Reconquista) by the Christians flowed into the south from the north of the Peninsula. The promoter of this wave was King Alfonso VI, later known as the king of Castilla-Leon. He reigned from 1072 to 1109. Once he had become the king of Leon in the west, he began to govern the territory of Sancho II (king from 1062-72), the king of Castilla in central Spain, who had been murdered by an unknown assassin.

Picture 3a shows the knight El Cid, Rodrigo Días de Vivar, serving Alfonso (picture 3a, 1043?-1099).



【Picture 3a: Statue of Cid in Burgos】