



DON QUIXOTE VOL. I

Don Quixote, Volume 1

by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616)
translated by John Ormsby (1829-1895)

This is volume 1 of 2

Written in the picaresque style of the late sixteenth century, and published in two volumes a decade apart, *Don Quixote* is the most influential work of literature to emerge from the Spanish Golden Age and perhaps the entire Spanish literary canon. As a founding work of modern Western literature, it regularly appears at or near the top of lists of the greatest works of fiction ever published.

Cervantes created a fictional origin for the story in the character of the Morisco historian, Cide Hamete Benengeli, whom he claims to have hired to translate the story from an Arabic manuscript he found in Toledo's bedraggled old Jewish quarter. The protagonist, Alonso Quixano, is a minor landowner who has read so many stories of chivalry that he descends into fantasy and becomes convinced he is a knight errant. Together with his companion Sancho Panza and his faithful steed Rocinante, and inspired by his "Lady" Dulcinea del Toboso (an imaginary object of his courtly love crafted from a neighbouring farmgirl by the illusion-struck "knight") -- the self-styled Don Quixote de la Mancha sets out in search of adventures. (*Wikipedia*)



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Total running time: 21:16:36

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