



"Walking out of an olive grove" | "Saliendo de un oliuar"

Text Information

Author | Carvajal

Language | Spanish

Period | 15th Century

Genre | Serranilla

Source | Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España, VITR/17/7, fol. 136v-137r.

Collection | Love Songs of the Medieval World: Lyrics from Europe and Asia; Gender, Sex and Sensuality: Writings on Women, Men and Desire

URL | https://sourcebook.stanford.edu/text/carvajal_walking_out/

Transcription and translation by Simón Andrés Villegas. Introduction by Albert Lloret.

Introduction to the Text

This poem is a *serranilla*, an evolution of the Provençal *pastorela*. Written in short verse (*arte menor*), *serranillas* narrate a courtly poet's encounter with a mountain woman. This is one of six compositions in the genre by fifteenth-century author Carvajal (or Carvajales). Very little is known about Carvajal's life. His poetry is linked to the Neapolitan court of Alfonso the Magnanimous in Naples (r. 1442-1458) and to that of Alfonso's son Ferrante (r. 1459-1494). In addition to his famous *serranillas*, Carvajal is also known for his literary epistles and ballads.

In this piece the poet clearly followed in the footsteps of the Marquis of Santillana, Íñigo López de Mendoza, who also composed *serranillas*. As the courtier tries to seduce a most beautiful mountain woman, his interest is met by her resistance and his own reawakened loyalty to his noble beloved back at court.

Introduction to the Source

The poem is copied in Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España, VITR/17/7, fol. 136v-137r. This manuscript is a copy of the poetry collection known as the *Cancionero de Estúñiga*, ca. 1465. It has been digitized: <http://bdh-rd.bne.es/viewer.vm?id=0000051837>. It contains a compilation of mostly Castilian poems, including ballads, as well as a few Italian compositions. Their authors accompanied the King of Aragon, Alfonso the Magnanimous, in Naples in the mid-fifteenth century.

About this Edition

The text has been punctuated. Word separation and capitalization follow modern usage. Elisions have been marked with an apostrophe.

Further Reading

Carvajal. *Poesie*. Edited by Emma Scoles. Edizioni dell'Ateneo, 1967.

- Critical edition of Carvajal's poetry.

Gerli, E. Michael. "Chapter 6. The Libro in the Cancioneros." *Reading, Performing, and Imagining the 'Libro del Arcipreste'*. University of North Carolina Press, 2016. esp. pp. 194-203.

- Reassessment of Carvajal's *serranillas* in view of their intertextual relationship with the *Libro de buen amor*.

Marino, Nancy F. *La serranilla española: notas para su historia e interpretación*. Scripta Humanistica, 1987.

- Study of the *serranilla* genre, with attention to Carvajal's poems in chapter 5.

fix spacing

replace with
comma

notas

All bullet points
should be smaller
font and italicized
(note the highlighted
Spanish words that
should in turn be un-
italicized as a result)



"Walking out of an olive grove" | "Saliendo de un oliuar"

Saliendo de un oliuar,

mas fermosa que arreada,

vi serrana que tornar

me fiso de mi iornada.

Walking out of an olive grove,

Much prettier than dressed up,

I saw a mountain girl who

Made me come back from my travel.

Torneme en su compannia

por faldas de una montanna,

supplicando si'l plasia

de mostrarme su cabanna.

Dixo: "Non podeys librar,

sennor, aquesta uegada,

que superfluo es demandar

quien non suele dar nada".

5 I went back to her company

By the slopes of a mountain,

And I begged if it would please her

To show me her hut.

She said, "You will not succeed,

10 Sir, this time around,

For it is useless to demand

To her who never gives anything."

Si lealtad non me acordara

de la mas lynda figura,

del todo me enamorara

tanta ui su fermosura.

Dixe: "¿Que quereys mandar,

sennora, pues soys casada?

Que uos non quiero enoiar

nin offender mi enamorada".

Had loyalty not awoken me,

With her most beautiful face

15 I would have completely fallen in love,

Such was the beauty I saw in her.

I said, "What can I do for you,

My lady, since you are married?

I do not want to bother you

20 Nor offend my beloved 🗑️

switch

Replico: "Yd en buen hora,

non cures de amar uillana

pues seruis a tal sennora,

non troques seda por lana,

njn querays de mi burlar

pues sabeys que so enaienada".

Vi serrana que tornar

me fiso de mi iornada.

She replied, "May you farewell;

Do not try to love a peasant,

For you love such a lady,

You should not swap silk for wool,

25 Or try to fool me,

For you know well that I am not yours."

I saw a mountain girl who

Made me come back from my travel.