

Francisco Gómez de Quevedo y Santibáñez Villegas



Early life

Quevedo was born on 14 September 1580 in Madrid into a family of *hidalgos*^[2] from the village of Vejorís, located in the northern mountainous region of Cantabria. His family was descended from the Castilian nobility.

He attended the Imperial School run by the Jesuits in Madrid. He then attended university at Alcalá de Henares from 1596 to 1600. By his own account, he made independent studies in philosophy, classical languages, Arabic, Hebrew, French and Italian.

Family life

His friend Antonio Juan de la Cerda, the Duke de Medinaceli, forced Quevedo to marry against his will with Doña Esperanza de Aragón, a widow with children. The marriage, made in 1634, barely lasted three months.

He accompanied Pedro Téllez-Girón, 3rd Duke of Osuna as secretary to Italy in 1613. Quevedo accompanied the young king in trips to Andalusia and Aragon. In 1632 he would become secretary to the king.

Facts about the nobleman politician and writer

- Quevedo's enemies included, the dramatist Juan Ruiz de Alarcón . Quevedo also attacked Juan Pérez de Montalbán, and the poet Góngora.
- The elevation of Philip IV to the throne in 1621 meant the end of Quevedo's exile, and his return to Court and politics.
- Quevedo killed a man, who was someone of importance. Quevedo thus retired temporarily to the palace of his friend and patron, Pedro Téllez-Girón, 3rd Duke of Osuna.
- In 1639, he was arrested. His books were confiscated.

Works

- He wrote his first important collection of poems in 1613(Heráclito Cristiano).
- He only wrote one novel, a picaresque called "El Buscón"
- In his prose, he wrote about politics, theology and literary criticism, and he published many books and papers on those subjects

End of life

He died in the Dominican convent of Villanueva de los Infantes, on 8 September 1645. He was buried Iglesia de San Andrés

Letrilla: The Lord of Dollars

*Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.*

Mother, unto gold I yield me,
He and I are ardent lovers;
Pure affection now discovers
How his sunny rays shall shield me!
For a trifle more or less
All his power will confess,
*Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.*

In the Indies did they nurse him,
While the world stood round admiring;
And in Spain was his expiring;
And in Genoa did they hearse him;
And the ugliest at his side
Shines with all of beauty's pride;
*Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.*

He's a gallant, he's a winner,
Black or white be his complexion;
He is brave without correction
As a Moor or Christian sinner.
He makes cross and medal bright,
And he smashes laws of right,—
*Over kings and priests and scholars
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.*

Noble are his proud ancestors
For his blood-veins are patrician;
Royalties make the position
Of his Orient investors;
So they find themselves preferred
To the duke or country herd,—
*Over kings and priests and scholars,
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars!*

Of his standing who can question
When there yields unto his rank, a
Hight-Castilian Doña Blanca,
If you follow the suggestion?—
He that crowns the lowest stool,
And to hero turns the fool,—
*Over kings and priests and scholars,
Rules the mighty Lord of Dollars.*