

El Corrido de Gregorio Cortez
Interpretado por Pedro Rocha y Lupe Martínez
Performed by Pedro Rocha and Martínez

Anonymous, c. 1910

Courtesy of Pedro Rocha and Lupe Martínez



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**En el condado del Carmen
miren lo que ha sucedido:
murió el Cherife Mayor,
quedando Román herido.**

Look what has happened
in the county of Carmen:
the Major Sheriff has died
and Román has been wounded.

**Otro día por la mañana
cuando la gente llegó,
unos a los otros dicen:
"No saben quien lo mató".**

The next morning,
when people arrived,
they said to each other:
"Nobody knows who killed him."

**Se anduvieron informando,
como tres horas después
supieron que el malhechor
era Gregorio Cortez.**

They investigated
and about three hours later
they discovered that
Gregorio Cortez was the wrongdoer.

**Insartaron a Cortez
por toditito el estado:**

**"Vivo o muerto que se aprehenda
porque a varios ha matado".**

A warrant for Cortez's arrest
was issued throughout the state:
"Bring him in dead or alive,
he is wanted for murder."

**Decía Gregorio Cortez
con su pistola en la mano:
"No siento haberlo matado,
al que siento es a mi hermano".**

Gregorio Cortez said,
with his pistol in his hand:
"I'm not sorry for killing him,
my concern is for my brother."

**Decía Gregorio Cortez
con su alma muy encendida:
"No siento haberlo matado,
la defensa es permitida".**

Gregorio Cortez said,
with his soul ablaze:
"I'm not sorry for killing him,
self-defense is justifiable."

**Venían los americanos
que por el viento volaban
porque se iban a ganar
tres mil pesos que les daban.**

The Americans were coming
as fast as the wind,
because they would earn
a reward of 3,000 pesos.

**Tiró con rumbo a González,
varios cherifes lo vieron,
no lo quisieron seguir
porque le tuvieron miedo.**

He fled toward González.
Several sheriffs saw him
but they didn't want to pursue him
because they were afraid.

**Venían los perros jaunes,
venían sobre la huella,
pero alcanzar a Cortez
era alcanzar a una estrella.**

The hound dogs were coming,
following his trail,
but catching Cortez
was like reaching for a star.

**Decía Gregorio Cortez:
"¡Pa' qué se valen de planes,
si no pueden agarrarme
ni con esos perros jaunes!"**

Gregorio Cortez said:
"Why do you even try?
You can't even catch me,
with those hound dogs."

**Decían los americanos:
"¿Si lo vemos qué le haremos?
si le entramos por derecho
muy poquitos volveremos".**

The Americans said:
"What shall we do if we find him?
In an open confrontation

only a few of us will make it back."

**En el redondel del rancho
lo alcanzaron a rodear,
poquitos más de trescientos
y allí les brincó el corral.**

By the corral of the ranch
they surrounded him.
There were more than 300 men,
but he jumped through their ring.

**Allá por el Encinal,
asegún por lo que dicen,
se agarraron a balazos
y les mató a otro cherife.**

Around El Encinal,
according to what they say,
they had a shoot out
and he killed another sheriff.

**Decía Gregorio Cortez
con su pistola en la mano:
"No corran rinches cobardes,
con un solo mexicano".**

Gregorio Cortez said,
with his pistol in his hand:
"Don't run you cowardly Rangers,
from one lone Mexican."

**Giró con rumbo a Laredo
sin ninguna timidez:
"¡Sígueme rinches cobardes,
yo soy Gregorio Cortez!"**

He turned toward
Laredo without any fear:
"Follow me, you cowardly Rangers,
I am Gregorio Cortez."

**Gregorio le dice a Juan
en el rancho del Ciprés:
"Pláticame qué hay de nuevo,
yo soy Gregorio Cortez".**

Gregorio says to Juan,
at the ranch of the cypress:
"Tell me, what's new?
I am Gregorio Cortez."

**Gregorio le dice a Juan:
"Muy pronto lo vas a ver,
anda háblale a los cherifes
que me vengán a aprehender".**

Gregorio says to Juan:
"You will soon find out.
Go and call the sheriffs,
tell them to come and arrest me."

**Cuando llegan los cherifes
Gregorio se presentó:
"Por las buenas si me llevan,
porque de otro modo no".**

When the sheriffs arrived
Gregorio turned himself in.
"You can take me only on my terms,
no other way."

**Ya agarraron a Cortez,
ya terminó la cuestión,**

**la pobre de su familia
la lleva en el corazón.**

They caught Cortez
and the case is closed.
His poor family
is always in his heart.

**Ya con esta ahí me despido
con la sombra de un Ciprés,
aquí se acaba cantando
la tragedia de Cortez.**

I now take my leave,
by the shade of a cypress tree.
Here I end singing
the tragedy of Cortez.