

The Song of Roland

THE SONG OF ROLAND



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1880 edition. Excerpt: ... Karl will hear and his host return. i I were mad, said Roland, to do such deed; Lost in France were my glorys meed. My Durindana shall smite full hard, And her hilt be red to the golden guard. The heathen felons shall find their fate; Their death, I swear, in the pass they wait. r Lxxxvii. O Roland, sound on your ivory horn, To the ear of Karl shall the blast be borne: He will bid his legions backward bend, And all his barons their aid will lend. Now God forbid it, for very shame, That for me my kindred were stained with blame, Or that gentle France to such vileness fell: This good sword that hath served me well, My Durindana such strokes shall deal, That with blood encrimsoned shall be the steel. By their evil star are the felons led; They shall all be numbered among the dead. Lxxxviii. Roland, Roland, yet wind one blast! Karl will hear ere the gorge be passed, And the Franks return on their path full fast. I will not sound on mine ivory horn: It shall never be spoken of me in scorn, That for heathen felons one blast I blew; I I may not dishonour my lineage true. But I will strike, ere this fight be oer, A thousand strokes and seven hundred more, And my Durindana shall drip with gore. Our Franks will bear them like vassals brave. The Saracens flock but to find a grave. Lxxxix. I deem of neither reproach nor stain. I have seen the Saracen host of Spain, Over plain and valley and mountain spread, And the regions hidden beneath their tread. Countless the swarm of the foe, and we A marvellous little company. Roland answered him, All the more My spirit within me burns therefore. God and his angels of heaven defend That France through me from her glory bend.--;Death

were better than fame laid low. Our
Emperor loveth a...

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