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SANTIAGO APPEARS TO THE GREEK BISHOP

This genial piece, one of many Spanish miracles attributed to the Apostle James, is edited here from "Chronicle of the Cid," an 1808 compilation of sources by the English poet Robert Southey.

Now it came to pass that, while the king lay before Coimbra, there came a pilgrim from the land of Greece on pilgrimage to Santiago; his name was Estiano, and he was a bishop. As he was praying in the church, he heard certain of the townsmen and of other pilgrims saying that Santiago was known to appear in battle like a knight, in aid of the Christians. But when he heard this it did not please him, and he said to them, "Friends, call him not a knight, but rather a fisherman." After saying this it pleased God that he should fall asleep, and in his sleep Santiago appeared to him with a good and cheerful countenance, holding in his hand a bunch of keys, and said to him, "You think it a fable that they should call me a knight, and say that I am not so: for this reason I have come to you, that you may never again doubt concerning my knighthood; for a knight of Jesus Christ I am, and a helper of the Christians against the Moors." While he was speaking, a horse was brought to him which was exceeding white, and the Apostle Santiago mounted upon it, himself being well-clad in bright and fair armor, after the manner of a knight. Then he said to Estiano, "I go to help King Don Ferrando who has lain these seven months before Coimbra, and tomorrow, with these keys that you see, I will open the gates of the city to him at the third hour, and deliver the city into his hand." Having said this, he departed. When he awoke in the morning the bishop called together the clergy and people of Compostela, and told them what he had seen and heard. And as the saint had said, even so did it come to pass; for tidings came that on that day, at the third hour, the gates of the city had been opened.

Chronicle of the Cid (Canto I:XVI)

Opposite: St. James Matamoros.