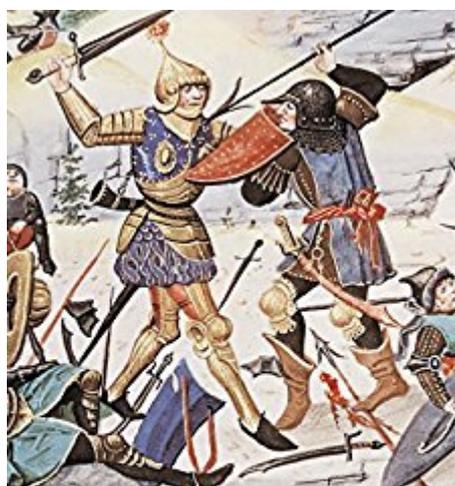


The book was found

# The Song Of Roland (Classics)



PENGUIN CLASSICS

*The Song of Roland*



## Synopsis

On 15 August 778, Charlemagne's army was returning from a successful expedition against Saracen Spain when its rearguard was ambushed in a remote Pyrenean pass. Out of this skirmish arose a stirring tale of war, which was recorded in the oldest extant epic poem in French. The Song of Roland, written by an unknown poet, tells of Charlemagne's warrior nephew, Lord of the Breton Marches, who valiantly leads his men into battle against the Saracens, but dies in the massacre, defiant to the end. In majestic verses, the battle becomes a symbolic struggle between Christianity and paganism, while Roland's last stand is the ultimate expression of honour and feudal values of twelfth-century France.

## Book Information

File Size: 696 KB

Print Length: 210 pages

Publisher: Penguin (August 6, 2015)

Publication Date: August 6, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00X0PNUPO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #257,318 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #5 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > French #45 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > European > French #60 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Epic

## Customer Reviews

The Song of Roland is the most famous of the "chansons de geste" (songs of deeds) of the Middle Ages. It provides a fascinating view into the spirit of warriors of that time and their motivation. The Song of Roland gives an idealized picture, of course, and if we can believe the historians, the medieval knights never lived up to their chivalric ideal. The Song of Roland is not commonly included in the canon of must-read classics. Except in France, maybe. I assume the reason is that people in

our time do not trace back their roots to the feudalism of the Middle Ages, and that they consider the chapter of chivalry closed after Cervantes's satirical portrait of knighthood in "Don Quixote". In one respect, however, this gory tale of slaughter, martyrdom and revenge is very contemporary. It illustrates the mindset of crusaders who see the world in terms of Good and Evil, and the language they use to incite contempt of the other party. Apart from its historical value, the Song of Roland is also worth reading as literature - as an outstanding example for the heroic epic and as a piece of art whose "simple yet elevated style and tone of high moral purpose" (R. Harrison) is reminiscent of the Old Testament. The three most easily available translations of the Song of Roland in the market are: W.S. Merwin's 1963 prose translation with introduction, re-published in paperback by Random House's "Modern Library" in 2001 (ISBN 0375757112). His nine-page introduction is a succinct but sufficient overview of the historical events of AD 778 that became the basis of the Song of Roland.

The Song of Roland is an epic poem celebrating the heroic death of Roland, a Frankish knight and nephew of Charlemagne, in a battle against Saracen forces in Spain in 778. The poem is loosely based on historical events, with the scale and importance of the battle being enlarged many-fold until it becomes a titanic and conclusive engagement between the forces of Christianity and Islam. The poem begins with Charlemagne having campaigned for seven years in Spain, subduing all the country except the city of Saragossa and its king Marsile. Knowing that his forces cannot stand against the Franks, but that his enemy is eager to end the war and return home, Marsile pretends to submit to Charlemagne, giving him gifts and hostages. But Marsile finds an unexpected ally in Charlemagne's camp, the emperor's brother-in-law Ganelon who nurtures a deep hatred for his own stepson, Roland, who is the greatest and most feared of the Frankish knights. Ganelon helps Marsile plan an ambush of the Frankish army's rear guard as it marches back to France, then arranges for Roland to be in command of the rear guard detachment. The Song of Roland is contemporary with the development of the Arthurian legends, and there are some obvious similarity in the themes of chivalry and the stylized descriptions of knightly combat. The Roland epic, however, bears more resemblance to The Iliad, with its prolonged and gory battle scenes, than the more personal Arthurian Romances. Unfortunately, there are no characters in The Song of Roland who even approach the depth of an Yvain, a Lancelot, or a Gawain, to say nothing of an Achilles or Odysseus. Roland, his compatriots, and his enemies are all simply straightforward fighting machines, purely good or purely evil depending on the side for which they are fighting.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Song of Roland (Classics) The Song of Roland (Hackett Classics) Medieval Epics: Beowulf,

The Song of Roland, The Nibelungenlied, and The Cid (The Modern Library of the World's Best Books) Song of Roland La Chanson De Roland: Student Edition Oxford Text and English Translation (English and French Edition) The Ransomed Crown (The Saga of Roland Inness Book 4) Roland Penrose: The Life of a Surrealist Tell Me Why: The Beatles: Album By Album, Song By Song, The Sixties And After Ten Russian Folk Song, Two Russian Folk Song Op. 104 Vocal Score (Shostakovich Complete Edition) The American Song Treasury: 100 Favorites (Dover Song Collections) Three Song Cycles in Vocal Score: Songs of a Wayfarer, Kindertotenlieder and Das Lied Von Der Erde (Dover Song Collections) On Eagle's Wings (Song Based on Psalm 91) - SAB (S.A.B.) Voices & Keyboard Accompaniment - Choral Sheet Music; Song Composed by Michael Joncas, Choral Setting by Douglas E. Wagner The New Broadway Song Companion: An Annotated Guide to Musical Theatre Literature by Voice Type and Song Style Time Song 1 (Time Walkers: Time Song) From Cuba With a Song (Sun & Moon Classics) The Song of the Cid (Penguin Classics) A Dual-Language Edition with Parallel Text Contemporary Christian Song Collection: Piano/Vocal/Guitar You're a Grand Old Flag: A Patriotic Book based on the Classic Song (4th of July Favorites for all ages) JUKE BOX COMICS 1 (Issues 1-2-3): TRUE STORIES OF BAND LEADERS, SINGERS, SONG WRITERS, MUSICIANS AND ENTERTAINERS FROM THE 'SWING MUSIC BIG BAND' ERA Booker's Song

[Dmca](#)