

Lazarillo of Tormes

Lazarillo of Tormes is a Spanish picaresque novel that follows the adventures of the impoverished and cunning Lazarillo, as he navigates a series of corrupt masters, offering a satirical commentary on society, class, and human nature.

TO THE READER

In the foreword to the Second Part of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," the author, J. de Luna, addresses the reader to clarify his motivations for continuing Lazarillo's story. De Luna explains that a misleading and fantastical book about Lazarillo has come into his possession, one that preposterously claims Lazaro transformed into a tuna after falling into the sea, leading a life under the waves, including marrying another tuna, fathering fish children, and engaging in naval battles amongst tunas. De Luna criticizes this account for its absurdity, lacking any basis in truth, dismissing it as either a foolish fabrication or a nonsensical dream.

Compelled to correct these falsehoods, De Luna presents the Second Part drawn directly from notebooks found in the rogues' archives in Toledo, promising adherence to the recorded facts without alteration. He also references childhood memories of family stories about Lazarillo, particularly debates over the plausibility of surviving underwater as mentioned in this Second Part. Highlighting a community divided on the matter, he recounts an anecdote of an elderly swimmer who confirmed such feats were possible, citing personal observation and a story of a man who navigated underwater caverns in the Tagus River, emerging unharmed after a night, much to the amazement of his mourning relatives.

This introduction sets the stage for a narrative grounded in authenticity, aiming to dispel the myths surrounding Lazarillo while inviting the reader into a tale enriched by communal folklore and substantiated by eyewitness accounts. Through this prologue, De Luna engages the reader's curiosity, promising a story that melds the fantastical elements of folklore with the credence of personal and historical testimony.

Translator's Note

The introductory commentary and translator's note for the second part of *The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes* provide essential context and appreciation for Juan de Luna's continuation of the original work. Despite Luna's necessity to leave Spain influencing the sequel's tone, his storytelling prowess ensures a vibrant and engaging narrative. Unlike the "First Part," Luna's sequel is renowned for its entertaining and highly descriptive scenes filled with wit and humor.

In this continuation, memorable moments highlight Lazaro's encounters and the vividly chaotic sequences that unfold—ranging from a dinner scene turning into a spectacular brawl to a chase that could be likened to a comedic act from the seventeenth century, reminiscent of what one might find in modern farce. Each instance is richly described, showcasing Luna's skill in narrating encounters filled with humor and surprising twists, such as the "quarter of kid" episode that humorously illuminates characters' traits through a lively and mishap-filled feast.

The text also underlines the effort to offer a faithful translation of Luna's work, referring to the careful selections made from editions that strive to remain true to the original manuscripts while acknowledging the intermediary role the anonymous sequel of 1555 plays between the first and second parts of Lazarillo's life story. This effort reflects a commitment to preserving the nuanced humor and social commentary that define

Luna's sequel, with thanks given to Professor Julio Rodriguez Puertolas for his contributions to the translation process.

By emphasizing these elements—the careful translation approach, Luna's storytelling flair, and the seamless weaving of comedy and action—readers are invited to appreciate the continuation of Lazarillo's adventures not just as a simple extension but as a richly depicted journey filled with engaging narratives that reflect both the era's comedic tendencies and the timeless nature of storytelling.

INTRODUCTION

"Lazarillo of Tormes" emerged in sixteenth-century Spain as a groundbreaking work amidst the plethora of chivalric novels, offering a refreshing perspective with its focus on the realistic struggles of its protagonist, Lazarillo, for survival and sustenance, rather than the fantastical exploits of knights. The novel quickly gained popularity, leading to several editions in its debut year, 1554, and translations into numerous languages, establishing the picaresque genre.

The text underwent censorship due to its critical portrayal of the clergy, leading to abridged versions that excised controversial sections until the complete work was accessible in Spain in the nineteenth century. The novel's authorship remains a topic of speculation, with suggestions ranging from Juan de Ortega and Sebastian de Horozco to the more favored Diego Hurtado de Mendoza. Some scholars suggest the author might have been a Jewish convert to Christianity or an adherent of Erasmian thought, based on thematic elements in the book.

The narrative intertwines with European folklore and biblical references, notably aligning its protagonist, Lazarillo (little Lazaro), with the biblical Lazarus, enhancing its thematic depth through allusions to traditional tales and societal commentary. The novel's depiction of sixteenth-century Spanish society—marked by inflation, social disparity, and moral decay, particularly among the clergy and nobility—provides a critical lens on the era's socio-economic and cultural dynamics.

Though "Lazarillo of Tormes" paints a mainly negative image of Spanish society by focusing on its ills and ignoring the positive aspects, it represents a segment of the broader societal experience, contrasting sharply with the idealized narratives common in contemporary chivalric and pastoral literature. Critics have debated the novel's unity and completeness, noting its innovative use of recurring themes, detailed episodes, and character development as elements that contribute to its narrative cohesion and literary significance.

The novel's influence is profound, contributing to the emergence of modern narrative forms and setting precedents for character development and social satire. Its style, characterized by linguistic plays and conceits, adds layers of meaning, enriching the text's thematic concerns and reader engagement.

Sequels and adaptations followed, though none matched the original's critical acclaim or impact. These subsequent works variously continued Lazarillo's story with varying degrees of success and narrative coherence, reflecting the enduring appeal and influence of the original novel in the literary canon.

I. Lazaro Tells about His Life and His Parents

The chapter begins with the author's preface, stating his intention to entertain the reader with his life story, marked by numerous misfortunes and challenges. Born on the banks of the Tormes River to Tome Gonzales and Antona Perez, Lazaro's early life is shaped by his father's arrest for theft and subsequent death in military service. His mother moves them to the city, where she struggles to provide for her family, eventually giving birth to Lazaro's half-brother through an affair with a black man, Zaide. Zaide supports the family but is later

punished for theft, leading to their further impoverishment.

Lazaro's life takes a pivotal turn when he becomes the guide to a blind man, his first master. Through various misadventures, Lazaro learns to fend for himself, developing cunning and resourcefulness to survive the blind man's stinginess and abuse. The blind man, adept at swindling others for money under the guise of religious piety, provides a harsh but effective education for Lazaro in the ways of the world. Despite the hardships, Lazaro's witty and resilient nature allows him to outsmart his master on several occasions.

The relationship between Lazaro and the blind man is characterized by a mix of dependence, manipulation, and betrayal. Lazaro's narration includes humorous and cunning schemes to satiate his hunger and retaliate against the blind man for his cruelty, showcasing a complex relationship where Lazaro is both a victim and an active agent in his fate. Through these experiences, Lazaro gains a cynical but practical perspective on life, acknowledging the necessity of wit and deception for survival among those more powerful and deceitful than himself.

Their journey together ends in Escalona, where Lazaro, driven by desperation and the desire for revenge, replaces a sausage meant for the blind man with a turnip, finally leading to a violent confrontation. Despite the violence and humiliation he endures, Lazaro's reflection on his escapades reveals a sense of pride in his ability to navigate and sometimes overcome the challenges posed by his harsh circumstances. The chapter closes with Lazaro separating from the blind man, marking the end of his first apprenticeship in the harsh realities of life.

I. Where Lazaro Tells about How He Left Toledo to Go to the War of Algiers

In the first chapter of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," Lazaro shares the story of a significant change in his life, leading him to the war in Algiers. He starts by reflecting on his good fortune in Toledo, where he lived comfortably, was well-dressed, and had a job that would be envied by many. Despite this, drawn by a desire for adventure and to follow in his father's footsteps, he decides to join a fleet heading to Algiers, aiming to show courage and serve under a valiant captain. Before departing, he leaves his wife and daughter in the care of the archpriest of Toledo, confident that they will be well taken care of.

Lazaro's journey to Cartagena, from where he intends to embark, turns his fortunes. In Murcia, he encounters a disheveled man at an inn who turns out to be a former master of his, a squire he served in Toledo. The squire is in a dire state, wearing patched and mismatched clothes, a clear decline from his previous stature. The squire recounts his own misadventure since their last meeting, involving being tricked by a veiled woman who led him on a wild goose chase to Madrid under the pretext of seeking justice against a man who dishonored her. Upon reaching Madrid, the woman abandons him for a group of soldiers, leaving the squire ridiculed and without recourse. This event marks a significant downturn in the squire's fortunes, leading him to his current state of poverty and desperation.

Through Lazaro's narrative of his own change of fortune and the squire's fall from grace, the chapter paints a vivid picture of the unpredictability of life and the whims of fate. The themes of adventure, the desire for a legacy beyond the mundane, and the harsh realities of the world are explored through the lens of Lazaro's and the squire's experiences, setting the stage for the trials and tribulations that Lazaro would face himself. The chapter closes with a sense of anticipation for what the future holds for Lazaro as he proceeds with his journey, leaving Toledo and its familiar faces behind.

II. How Lazaro Took up with a Priest and the Things That Happened to Him with That Man

In this chapter, we delve into the continuing misadventures of Lazarillo, starting from a cunning ploy to trick his blind master, leading to misfortune for the blind man and Lazarillo's swift departure to Torrijos. Further escapades lead Lazarillo to Maqueda, where he meets a miserly priest and becomes his servant. The stark contrast in their characters is swiftly unveiled through Lazarillo's struggles with hunger due to the priest's stinginess. Desperate to supplement his meager food rations, Lazarillo devises clever schemes to access a locked chest containing bread, employing tactics from feigning rodent damage to personally creating access. His resourcefulness demonstrates a survival instinct, continually adjusting his plans to react to the priest's increasingly stringent measures to protect the chest's contents.

Lazarillo's life under the priest's roof is marked by extreme hunger, only momentarily alleviated by his inventive thefts from the chest and the scant meals provided at funerals they attend. His constant hunger leads him to pray for the death of others, highlighting the dire straits of his existence. Despite considering escape, Lazarillo is deterred by his weakened state and the fear of encountering a worse fate with another master. His strategies evolve from blaming non-existent mice to physically altering the chest, which sparks an escalation of countermeasures from the priest, culminating in a mousetrap and, eventually, total seal off of the chest.

The narrative expertly portrays Lazarillo's desperation and cunning intelligence as he navigates his fraught relationship with the priest. His fear and resourcefulness blaze a trail of dark humor through the grim reality of his struggles for survival. This precarious situation reaches a climax when the priest, mistaking a whistling sound caused by Lazarillo's makeshift key storage for a snake, delivers a violent blow to Lazarillo, mistaking him for the snake he feared was invading their home. This chapter not only advances Lazarillo's tale of survival but also weaves themes of desperation, deception, and the lengths to which one will go to overcome adversity.

II. How Lazaro Embarked at Cartagena

Lazarillo of Tormes recounts his experiences of hardship and survival, portraying a vivid image of his life and the characters he encountered. Forced to leave his previous masters due to uncontrollable circumstances, Lazarillo finds himself alone and mocked by the people around him for his ragged appearance. Despite the hardships, he embraces a sense of resilience, spurred by the belief that perseverance in adversity could yield greater rewards than the losses faced.

Lazarillo's journey takes a dramatic turn when he embarks on a ship at Cartagena, filled with the hope of escaping his dismal situation. However, the voyage quickly becomes perilous as a storm brews, pushing the ship and its passengers to the brink of despair. Amid the chaos of the storm, where fear and the anticipation of death grip the passengers and crew, Lazarillo's focus shifts to survival—his instincts drive him to the ship's hold, where he indulges in the provisions stored away, a testament to his knack for seizing opportunities in the face of imminent doom.

The narrative also unfolds the stark contrast in human behavior during crises, from the desperation seen in passengers confessing their sins to unlikely saviors, to Lazarillo's unique approach to facing death. He doesn't succumb to fear; instead, he humorously confesses people who are too agonized to speak, unabashedly prioritizing his survival by eating and drinking as if to prepare for the afterlife.

In a striking display of irony and wit, Lazarillo details his interaction with a dying corporal, whose last wish is to confess a sin. He cleverly commutes the corporal's penance, offering a peculiar yet humorous form of absolution that highlights Lazarillo's adaptive and quick-witted nature.

As the ship succumbs to the sea's fury, encapsulating the doom faced by its passengers, Lazarillo's account does not turn to despair but arguably adopts a tone of dark comedy. His description of being so full that he negates the very threat of drowning brings a surreal layer to his survival story, underlining the narrative's

inherent critique of societal norms and the human condition.

Lazarillo's tale, marked by its vivid characterizations, satirical undertones, and a keen portrayal of human resilience and folly, offers a rich glimpse into the life of an individual whose fortunes and misfortunes are as much a product of his circumstances as they are of his cunning and will to survive.

III. How Lazaro Escaped from the Sea

In Chapter III of "The Life of Lazaro of Tormes," Lazaro finds himself on the brink of death and great fortune simultaneously. With the duality of fear and delight battling within him, he makes a desperate attempt to seize the treasure by swimming, driven by sheer necessity despite his lack of skill in the task. His journey is marked by the painful encouragement of fish, which nip at him and spur him on until he surfaces, only to be ensnared in a fisherman's net alongside the fish. In this precarious position, he almost drowns, swallowed up by the sea and the overwhelming taste of its waters, which he unfavorably compares to a vile drink his wife once tricked him into consuming.

His predicament escalates when the fishermen, upon reeling in their catch, discover Lazaro entangled within. Mistaking him for some aberrant sea creature or devilish apparition due to his human visage on one end and the rope tied to his foot on the other, they initially pull harder, jeopardizing their vessel. Just in time, they sever the rope, inadvertently also severing Lazaro's dreams of wealth and status. Upon realizing Lazaro is alive, albeit barely, they offer him wine, which miraculously revives him like fuel to a flame.

Struck by curiosity yet weakened, Lazaro remains silent until he is offered sustenance. Once revived, his first inquiry is about the shackles that had bound him to his ill fate. The fishermen's astonishment at Lazaro's survival and their subsequent actions paint a picture of a man narrowly escaping death, yet losing his opportunity for prosperity in the process. This chapter vividly encapsulates Lazaro's continued struggle with his fate, marked by fleeting hopes and enduring misfortunes, all relayed through his engagingly sardonic perspective.

III. How Lazaro Took up with a Squire and What Happened to Him Then

"The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes, His Fortunes and Misfortunes as Told by Himself" captures the life of a young man, Lazarillo, who traverses a series of misfortunes amidst 16th-century Spain. After being forced by his previous master to fend for himself, Lazarillo arrives in Toledo, only to struggle for survival due to his desperate conditions. Fortune briefly smiles on him when he encounters a well-dressed squire, who takes him under his wing, providing a glimmer of hope for better days. However, Lazarillo's new master proves to be as impoverished as he is proud, leading them into a cycle of hunger and pretense.

Navigating life with the squire, Lazarillo discovers the facade of respectability that conceals their dire poverty. The squire's determination to maintain his honor, despite their desperate circumstances, exposes Lazarillo to the complexities of social standing and pride. Their days are marked by scant meals, with Lazarillo often relying on the charity of neighbors and his ability to scavenge for food. This bleak existence continues until local authorities decree the expulsion of beggars from the city, threatening their fragile survival.

In a turn of events, the squire miraculously acquires a silver piece, momentarily uplifting their spirits with the promise of a hearty meal. However, Lazarillo's joy is short-lived as he mistakenly fears that a funeral procession for a man described as heading to "the dark and gloomy house, the poor, unhappy house, the

house where they never eat or drink" is directed to their residence, a moment that highlights his deep-seated anxiety and the grim humor in their predicament.

The squire, harboring delusions of grandeur, reveals his disdain for common courtesies beneath his status, attributing his departure from his homeland to a squabble over respect with a higher-status neighbor. His ideals, rooted in the preservation of honor above all, including basic human needs, illuminate the absurdities of societal expectations. As the narrative unfolds, the squire's pretenses unravel, culminating in his abandonment of Lazarillo to evade debt collectors, leaving him in a precarious position yet again.

Lazarillo's journey with the squire ends with a stark realization of the hollowness behind social pretensions and the harsh realities of survival. Through Lazarillo's eyes, the reader witnesses the absurd lengths to which individuals will go to uphold their honor, often at the expense of their livelihood. This chapter of Lazarillo's life encapsulates the humor and tragedy of human dignity in the face of poverty, as he continues to navigate the societal labyrinths of 16th-century Spain.

IV. How They Took Lazaro through Spain

In Chapter IV of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," the narrative takes a dramatic turn as Lazaro recounts the unforeseen chapter of his life in which fishermen, seizing an opportune moment, decided to exhibit him across Spain under the sanction of the Inquisition. This decision comes after Lazaro miraculously survives an encounter that he likens to the biblical story of Jonah and the whale, expressing profound gratitude towards divine intervention for his unexpected deliverance. Notably lacking in swimming skills and knowledge for self-rescue, Lazaro humorously acknowledges his sheer luck in surviving the ordeal.

The fishermen, resolved to recoup their losses, gain permission from the ministers of the Inquisition to parade Lazaro as a marine curiosity, presenting a novel spectacle to the Spanish populace. Dressing Lazaro in a manner that emphasizes his bizarre ordeal—he is adorned with a mossy wig and beard, making him resemble a living statue, wrapped in seaweed to further accentuate his supposed aquatic origin—Lazaro becomes a symbol of both wonder and misfortune. Distressed by his circumstances, Lazaro philosophically laments his fate, criticizing fortune for its cruel and fickle nature, elevating men to dizzying heights only to plunge them into the depths of despair.

His soliloquy on fate is abruptly interrupted by one of his captors, who threatens him with even worse treatment should he continue to protest or claim his humanity. The fishermen are instructed to take Lazaro through various villages and towns, presenting him as a "monster of nature" to the awe and curiosity of the people. Despite Lazaro's protests of his ordinary human nature and his insistence that his presence in the ocean was merely the result of an accident, the fishermen dismiss his pleas, firmly entrenched in their mission to exploit his misfortune for their own gain.

This chapter insightfully blends humor with a critique of human nature and society's fascination with the extraordinary, encapsulating Lazaro's ongoing struggle with adversity, misfortune, and the fickleness of fate. Through Lazaro's eyes, the reader witnesses the capriciousness of human destiny, underscored by the irony of his situation—a man turned into a spectacle, journeying through Spain not as a victor but as a victim of circumstance.

V. How They Took Lazaro to the Capital

In his tale, Lazaro recounts a grim period during which he was confined in a makeshift "coffin," a display reminiscent of a fish tank, orchestrated by his captors to exploit him for financial gain. For six excruciating months, Lazaro endured a harsh existence, subsisting solely on the insubstantial nourishment provided by tub

water. This meager diet, tainted and unclean, ironically sustained him primarily through its unintentional side effect of severe, prolonged diarrhea, likened by Lazaro to enduring a watery purgatory.

The chapter progresses with Lazaro's journey being taken to the capital, a venture overseen by three individuals: the mule driver, the rope handler, and the orator. This trio of exploiters transported Lazaro from location to location, showcasing him as an oddity—a man purportedly transformed into a fish. Throughout the journey, whenever privacy allowed, they engaged in conversations with Lazaro, humorously indulging his inquiries about their motives while firmly upholding the fantastic narrative of his transformation. Resigned to the absurdity of his situation, Lazaro reluctantly embraced the identity imposed upon him, internalizing the populace's belief in his metamorphosis.

Upon arriving in the capital, Lazaro's exhibitors capitalized on the local population's affinity for novelties, garnering significant attention and profit from the idle curiosity of the city's inhabitants. Among the throngs of spectators, two discerning students scrutinized Lazaro closely, concluding with a conviction that defied the widespread deception. They recognized Lazaro for what he truly was—a man, not a fish—and voiced a determination to unveil the truth through more direct means if given authority.

Lazaro's account of this chapter of his life paints a vivid picture of extreme exploitation and survival, marked by physical deprivation, psychological manipulation, and an ever-present yearning for deliverance from his plight. Through his ordeal, Lazaro's resilience and adaptability shine as testament to the lengths to which he would go to preserve his life, albeit in the guise of a creature from beneath the waves.

V. How Lazaro Went to Work for a Pardoner and the Things That Happened to Him Then

Chapter V of "The Life of Lazaro of Tormes" narrates Lazaro's experiences while working for a pardoner, a cunning seller of papal indulgences, known for his deceptive practices. Initially, the pardoner attempts to win over clergy with modest gifts to persuade them into encouraging their congregations to purchase indulgences. He employs various tactics to appeal to both educated clergy and those with less formal education, adjusting his use of Latin accordingly.

In the town of Sagra, despite his efforts, the sale of indulgences proves unsuccessful, leading to a planned altercation between the pardoner and the constable to garner attention. The dispute, staged over a game of chance, escalates into a public confrontation, drawing the townspeople's interest. The following day, during a sermon aimed at selling more indulgences, the constable denounces the pardoner's indulgences as forgeries, declaring his own repentance and accusing the pardoner of deceit.

The pardoner, in a theatrical display of piety, prays for divine judgment. Instantly, the constable appears to suffer a divine retribution, collapsing and convulsing on the floor, which the assembled crowd interprets as a sign of his guilt and deceit. Despite his violent convulsions, the people restrain him, believing he is being rightfully punished. The pardoner, maintaining an appearance of divine communion, is eventually implored by the congregation to aid the seemingly afflicted constable.

This chapter illuminates the pardoner's manipulative prowess, his ability to exploit both the gullible and the skeptical, and the extent to which religious belief and superstition can be manipulated for personal gain. Lazaro's observations reveal a critique of religious hypocrisy and the exploitation inherent in the sale of indulgences, showcasing the pardoner's role as a master manipulator who capitalizes on the fears and beliefs of the populace.

VI. How They Took Lazaro to Toledo

In the bustling streets of Toledo, an uproar ensued that would forever mark the life of Lazarillo. One evening, as neighbors and authorities, including a constable and six deputies, converged at the inn due to a commotion, they encountered a scene straight from a chaotic drama. The cause of the stir? Sailors accused of stealing their own fish led to a frenetic search for phantom thieves. Amidst this, Lazarillo found himself ensnared yet again, positioned back into his vat by his custodians.

The chaos inadvertently unveiled an intimate, hidden rendezvous gone awry. A young priest and the innkeeper's daughter, finding themselves caught in an unexpected deluge from Lazarillo's vat, fled in panic through a window, stark naked under the bright moonlight. Mistaken for the supposed thieves, their desperate escape caught the eyes of the crowd and authorities, leading to their swift capture and imprisonment, a mix-up born from a series of unfortunate events propelled by innocent actions.

As dawn broke, the aftermath of the night's bedlam left many puzzled, especially the fishermen who, oblivious to the true extent of the mess their claims had stirred, headed towards Toledo, leaving behind a tale that mingled the divine with the comedic.

Chapter VI unveils a harsher turn for Lazarillo. The incident, steeped in misunderstanding and misfortune, branded him as a scapegoat for the chaos. His guardians, fueled by frustration and anger from the previous night's events, subjected him to a brutal journey to Toledo. The beatings were relentless; their words, a testament to their misplaced wrath, likening Lazarillo to an oak stubbornly holding onto its acorns, worthy of punishment to yield. The transition to Toledo was marked not by the promise of new beginnings but by a testament to human fallibility when divinity's guidance is absent. Lazarillo's reflection on the vanity of human efforts without divine aid underscores the chapter, highlighting a journey marked by suffering, reflection, and the unpredictable course of life's misfortunes.

VII. What Happened to Lazaro on the Way to the Tagus River

In this gripping chapter from "The Life of Lazaro of Tormes," our protagonist, Lazaro, narrates a harrowing experience that nearly ends his life but ultimately reinvigorates it with newfound hope and fortune. Through a twist of fate and the undercurrents of divine intervention, Lazaro's journey from the brink of death to an unexpected windfall encapsulates themes of resilience, providence, and the fickle nature of fortune.

The chapter begins with Lazaro in dire straits, mistakenly presumed dead by fishermen after an unfortunate incident lands him in a cask of water. This critical moment, a culmination of misfortunes, initially seems the end for Lazaro. Yet, fate intervenes when the journey to discard his body inadvertently revives him. His cries for help attract the night watch, leading to the fishermen's arrest and Lazaro's delivery from a watery grave.

Lazaro's testament takes a humorous and satirical turn as he recounts the trial where his identity becomes a point of contention. The fishermen's absurd claims and his wife's feigned ignorance add layers of comedy and critique of Spanish society's idiosyncrasies. Lazaro's quick wit and the archpriest's embarrassed admission further highlight Lazaro's cunning and the oddities of his adventures.

The chapter shifts toward a reflection on fortune's capriciousness as Lazaro, now enriched by the fishermen's confiscated goods, indulges in the high life. This windfall allows Lazaro to don the airs of a nobleman, reveling in the social elevation that wealth bestows. However, Lazaro's musings on the temporary nature of prosperity and the inherent pride and stubbornness intrinsic to his character and, more broadly, to Spanish society, offer a poignant commentary on human nature and social norms.

A confrontation with his wife, who has since moved on, underscores themes of change and constancy, encapsulating the chapter's exploration of life's unpredictability and the human capacity for adaptation. Lazaro's resolution to secure a future for his daughter with his newfound wealth adds a layer of depth to his

character, illustrating growth and a forward-looking perspective amidst the caprices of fate.

This chapter skillfully weaves together thematic elements of survival, transformation, and the quest for dignity within the framework of 16th-century Spanish society, presenting a narrative rich in humor, satire, and human insight.

VII. How Lazaro Went to Work for a Constable and Then What Happened to Him

Lazarillo of Tormes, after years of hard work and various misadventures, finds himself climbing up the social ladder by dint of his perseverance and cunning. Having saved enough to purchase himself decent clothes from his earnings, he decides to elevate his social standing, shedding his former role as a chaplain's water carrier. Lazarillo's ambition leads him to work momentarily as a bailiff for a constable, a role he abandons when faced with the real dangers of confronting criminals. This decision marks a turning point in his narrative, pushing him towards seeking a peaceful and stable livelihood.

Divine providence, as Lazarillo sees it, guides him to a government job—a town crier, announcing items for sale and events in the city. This position not only gives him a voice in the community but also establishes him as an indispensable figure in the local economy. His success catches the attention of the Archpriest of San Salvador, who, recognizing Lazarillo's talents and resourcefulness, offers him an opportunity to marry his maid. This alliance brings Lazarillo further stability, providing him with social standing and financial support through the archpriest's benevolence, who ensures that Lazarillo and his wife are well-provided for with wheat, meat, bread, and even his used socks.

However, prosperity does not shield Lazarillo from the scourge of gossip and scandal. Rumors about his wife's intimacy with the archpriest circulate, suggesting personal services beyond the scope of her marital duties. Despite these whispers, the archpriest reassures Lazarillo, emphasizing the importance of ignoring slander to prosper. Lazarillo, choosing to align with the advice of the archpriest and viewing the situation through the benefits it brought him, confronts the gossip with a blend of pragmatism and denial, especially when accusations concerning his wife's past and supposed children before their marriage arise. Despite the uproar these allegations cause, Lazarillo's narrative concludes on a note of stoic acceptance and a pragmatic approach to his circumstances, underscoring his evolution from a passive sufferer of fate to an active participant in shaping his destiny.

VIII. How Lazaro Brought a Lawsuit against His Wife

In Chapter VIII of "The Life of Lazaro of Tormes," Lazaro, now relatively wealthy, faces a moral and societal dilemma spurred by the opinions of his newfound, fair-weather friends. These friends, multiplying as Lazaro's fortune improves, convince him that his honor is tarnished due to his wife's rumored infidelity with the archpriest, her alleged true lover. They paint his wife with derogatory terms and strongly advocate for Lazaro to sue both her and the archpriest for the damage to his reputation. Despite Lazaro's initial hesitation and his internal reflection on forgiveness and the complexities of love and honor, he is swayed by their arguments and the promise of a lucrative outcome.

Lazaro's friends, who reveal themselves as legal professionals with dubious expertise, encourage him to pursue the lawsuit, promising it would cost him nothing and possibly earn him a considerable financial reward. Enticed by their assurances and consumed by societal pressures to defend his honor, Lazaro proceeds with the legal action, putting his wife and the archpriest behind bars swiftly due to his financial commitment to the cause. The lawsuit progresses quickly, with evidence seemingly easy to gather due to the timely arrest

of his wife and the archpriest, caught in a compromising position.

However, as Lazaro's pocketbook thins from the legal expenses, his case loses momentum, and the archpriest's counteractions become effective. The legal battle takes a detrimental turn for Lazaro when, due to clever maneuvering by the archpriest's side and the use of false witnesses, Lazaro finds himself condemned. He is forced to apologize, bear the costs of the court, and face banishment from Toledo – the city he adores and where he found temporary prestige and a sense of belonging.

Finding himself impoverished and humiliated, Lazaro reflects on the fickleness of fortune and recalls the wisdom of a former master about the wheel of fortune and its inevitable rises and falls. Despite his present misfortune, he holds on to the hope of ascension, embodying the resilience of those who have tasted both the highs and lows of fate. Through Lazaro's experiences, the chapter explores themes of honor, societal pressure, betrayal, and the precarious nature of fortune, all narrated with a blend of satire and sincerity that resonates with the human condition's complexities.

VIII. In Which Lazaro Tells of the Friendship He Struck up in Toledo with Some Germans and What Happened to Them

In the eighth chapter of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," Lazaro narrates a period of his life in Toledo where he enjoyed unparalleled prosperity thanks to his association with some Germans. He had become a popular figure, carrying a pan full of delicious fruits indicative of the delicacies he promoted throughout the city. This visibility and his generosity in sharing the best with his new acquaintances granted him wide-ranging favor among both locals and foreigners, to such an extent that he believed any predicament would see him swarmed with support.

Lazaro and his friends reveled in the camaraderie, often entering establishments on their own accord but leaving in a state of jubilant disarray, courtesy of their indulgences. Notably, Lazaro never had to spend his own money during these times; his friends vehemently refused his attempts to contribute financially, insisting that when together, expenses were communal. This bond extended beyond mere financial generosity as they often stuffed Lazaro's pockets and his home with copious amounts of ham, mutton cooked in exquisite wines, spices, beef, and bread. This abundance assured that Lazaro and his wife were well-provisioned for weeks, a stark contrast to his past experiences of hunger, for which he was profoundly grateful to God.

However, Lazaro alludes to the transient nature of good fortune by mentioning a significant change: the court's decision to relocate, a common occurrence that would disperse the group of friends. As they prepared to depart, these companions persuaded Lazaro to consider moving with them, marking a poignant moment of transition in his narrative. This chapter, rich in vivid descriptions and marked by Lazaro's astute reflections on camaraderie, generosity, and the ephemeral nature of prosperity, provides a critical insight into the character's evolving fortunes and his ability to navigate the oscillating landscapes of fortune and misfortune.

IX. How Lazaro Became a Baggage Carrier

In Chapter IX of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," Lazaro delves into his adventures as a baggage carrier in Madrid, offering a humorous yet insightful exploration of his ongoing struggle for survival and dignity. Upon arriving in Madrid, fueled by advice from an experienced picaro, he purchases a porter's strap and positions himself in the town square, keenly entering the workforce with an optimism likened to a cat's contentment with giblets. His first assignment comes from a young woman, whose appearance is meticulously groomed, yet deceiving. She leads Lazaro through a labyrinth of streets to a house of ill repute, where Lazaro is momentarily absorbed into the underbelly of Madrid's social structure.

This woman, a seasoned professional in the city's covert economy, shares with Lazaro a glimpse of her life story—an account punctuated by exploitation and transience, starting with a Father Rector in Seville and leading her through a series of guardians who viewed her as little more than an asset to be traded. When it comes time for payment, Lazaro learns a harsh lesson in the duplicity of those living on society's margins; he is violently denied the wages for his labor under the pretense of a misunderstanding, a moment that starkly contrasts his expectations of fair compensation for honest work.

Undeterred, Lazaro then agrees to assist a Franciscan friar, transporting a bundle to a monastery with the promise of payment fueling his determination. The weight of the bundle strains him physically, a metaphor for the burden of his circumstances and his hopes for a better life. However, upon arrival, Lazaro is met with a dismissal cloaked in sanctity; the friar offers heavenly rewards in lieu of earthly payment, once again leaving Lazaro without material compensation.

This chapter artfully captures the resilience of the human spirit amidst exploitation and disappointment, with Lazaro's naïveté and hope progressively tempered by the realities of his environment. His encounters—first with the deceitful woman and then with the sanctimonious friar—underscore the varied faces of exploitation and the irony of seeking virtue in a world rife with vice. Lazaro's journey is a poignant reflection on the universal quest for dignity and the frequent injustice of labor and reward, rendered with a blend of cynicism and humor that characterizes his narrative voice.

X. What Happened to Lazaro with an Old Bawd

In a chapter narrated by Lazaro, a young man struggling to survive in a world filled with deceit and hardship, he encounters an old bawd who offers him the task of carrying a heavy trunk for forty coppers. Driven by extreme hunger, Lazaro accepts, even though he is barely strong enough to carry the trunk. He carefully transports it, driven by the promise of payment, to the house of a young, plump maiden, who is evidently the intended recipient. The old woman instructs the maiden to keep the trunk safe until she returns from a trip to Segovia, leaving Lazaro enchanted by the maiden's beauty, yet more consumed by his hunger.

Upon delivering the trunk and receiving his payment, Lazaro ponders the transformative power of money, which momentarily uplifts his spirits and grants him a fleeting sense of strength and valor. The following day, adhering to the old woman's instructions, he returns to retrieve the trunk, this time finding it mysteriously lighter. His journey back takes a calamitous turn when he trips and falls, causing the trunk to burst open and reveal not linens, but a dashing young man dressed in green satin, complete with a sword and dagger, who quickly makes his escape.

The household, initially stunned, erupts into chaos. The sons of the house vow vengeance against the young man for reasons Lazaro can only guess at, while Lazaro, injured and immobile from the fall, fears he will be the scapegoat for the young man's untimely appearance. Indeed, the family's anger swiftly turns towards him. Subjected to a flurry of abuse from every member of the household, from the young boys to the slaves, Lazaro endures a brutal beating. The sons brandish empty threats of tracking down the elusive young man, and in their frustration, they and the rest of the household unleash their fury on Lazaro.

The chapter paints a vivid picture of the treachery and betrayal lurking in every corner of Lazaro's world, where survival often depends on one's ability to navigate a landscape filled with danger and deception. His encounter with the old bawd and the subsequent tumultuous events at the maiden's house highlight the precarious nature of his existence, where even the most straightforward tasks can descend into violence and chaos, leaving him worse off than before. Through Lazaro's eyes, we witness the cruel irony of his fortunes, where hope is continually overshadowed by misfortune.

XI. How Lazaro Left for His Homeland and What Happened to Him on the Way

In this chapter of **The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes**, Lazaro encounters his former master, the squire who had stolen his clothes, by chance in Madrid. Seizing the opportunity for revenge, Lazaro incites a local family, wronged by the squire, to attack him. As the squire is beaten and taken to jail, believing Lazaro's family is seeking restitution, Lazaro escapes the city, cursing his profession.

Lazaro then recounts his time in Madrid, where he survived on alms due to his weakened state from beatings. He overhears a beggar discussing the fate of the squire, learning of his trial and subsequent banishment from Madrid for vagrancy. Fearing retribution from those tricked by the trunk scheme and the squire's pursuit, Lazaro disguises himself and quickly departs Madrid, heading towards his homeland, Tejares, but not before reflecting on the majesty of the unfinished Escorial and its healthful climate.

En route, Lazaro encounters a band of gypsies outside Escorial. Initially mistaken for one of their own due to his appearance, Lazaro is invited to share their meal and subsequently recounts his life story to the gypsies. His tale, especially the incident involving the barrel at the inn in Madrid, amuses the gypsies, particularly a man and woman among them who reveal themselves to be the priest and maiden involved in the same incident Lazaro had described. The maiden takes over the narration, detailing her scandalous escape from prison with the priest, now disguised as a gypsy, and their integration into the gypsy community.

Through a blend of fortune and misadventure, Lazaro, the priest, and the maiden find themselves interlinked by the consequences of their actions and choices, humorously illustrating the unpredictable nature of life and human connections. Their stories, marked by cunning and adaptation, continue to unfold amidst the backdrop of 16th-century Spain, revealing the social complexities and personal struggles of the time.

XII. What Happened to Lazaro in an Inn Three Miles outside of Valladolid

In this chapter from "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," Lazaro reflects on his departure from Madrid and recounts his experiences with gypsies and a surprising encounter at an inn outside of Valladolid. After securing two hundred pieces of silver and selling a diamond band for four hundred gold pieces, Lazaro sets free from his past entanglements and heads toward Valladolid. Along the way, he ponders the gypsies' way of life, astonished by their freedom despite their notorious reputation for thievery and by the fact that many among them were once members of the clergy or other religious orders who had abandoned their posts for a life of crime.

Upon arriving at an inn three miles from Valladolid, Lazaro encounters the old lady from Madrid and her young maiden friend, now in the company of a gallant young man. Unrecognized due to his disguise, Lazaro observes their impoverished state firsthand; the trio could only afford a meager meal of pork liver, while Lazaro opts for a quarter of kid, which becomes a source of envy for the others at the table. This meal leads to a comical moment of shared hunger and desperation as the three companions of Lazaro begin to siphon off his food under the guise of communal generosity.

The tension sharply rises with the arrival of two armed men believed to be the brothers of Clara (the young maiden) seeking to reclaim her. A dramatic confrontation unfolds, revealing the young man's valor as he single-handedly disarms and dominates the brothers, turning the tables on them. They are mistaken for thieves, disarmed, and confined by the innkeeper with the help of Lazaro and the women. The chapter culminates in a chaotic but ultimately triumphant moment for Lazaro and his companions as they assert their control over the situation, capturing the brothers and securing their belongings, all while under the mistaken

premise that they were merely thieves after their riches. This episode adds to the picaresque nature of Lazaro's adventures, highlighting themes of survival, deception, and the fluid boundaries between appearances and reality.

XIII. How Lazaro Was a Squire for Seven Women at One Time

In Chapter XIII of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," our narrator finds himself in Valladolid, clothed in a laughably makeshift ensemble, attracting both mockery and compassion from the public. With his appearance deliberately crafted to elicit pity, Lazaro secures a modest sum of money. His fortunes take a turn when he encounters a woman, Juana Perez, who, impressed by his squire-like demeanor, quickly employs him. Lazaro discards his cane, symbolically shedding his feigned infirmity, and embarks on his new role with gusto.

Juana, veiled and mysterious, introduces Lazaro to a peculiar arrangement. She cannot afford him on her own; thus, she proposes that Lazaro serve not only her but also six other women, promising him wages from each. Lazaro's employment with these women is diverse; his tasks range from menial to companionate. The narrative offers a glimpse into each woman's life, with Lazaro's services fetching him a meager but sufficient 70 coppers a day. This group of mistresses includes the wife of a tanner, a constable's wife, a gardener's wife, a claimed niece of a chaplain, a lively girl, and a tripe merchant who provides Lazaro with more than just monetary compensation, feeding him generously.

The last of Lazaro's employers is a devout woman whose sanctimonious exterior belies her worldly pursuits. Her house is a hive of clandestine activity, with friars frequently visiting, often leaving behind gifts or tokens for Lazaro to spirit away.

Lazaro's narrative lays bare the inherent contradictions and duplicity in the lives of those around him, himself included. His role as a squire to seven women underscores the precariousness of his social standing, yet it also highlights his adaptability and cunning in navigating the complex social web of Valladolid. Despite the meagerness of his earnings and the indignity of his lodgings, Lazaro's shrewdness and humor shine through, painting a portrait of a survivor, ever resourceful in the face of adversity. This chapter not only advances Lazaro's personal saga but also richly contributes to the picaresque genre's exploration of societal hypocrisies and the human condition.

XIV. Where Lazaro Tells What Happened to Him at a Dinner

In this chapter of "The Life of Lazarillo of Tormes," Lazaro describes a series of humorous and chaotic events leading up to and during a dinner party. After being criticized by the tailor's wife for his ragged appearance, they rush to a gathering where other attendees contribute various dishes, creating a potluck-style feast. The men entertain themselves with the ladies, while Lazaro, assigned as the doorman, humorously contemplates the practicality of carrying meals in pockets as he witnesses the attendees do.

The dinner turns raucous as the guests indulge in food, drink, and merry-making, leading to a scandalous and tumultuous scene when an argument over payment escalates into a brawl. The chaos attracts the attention of law officers, prompting guests to scatter and hide in humorous fashion - including one couple found in a compromising position inside a rolling cask, sparking Lazaro's innocent speculation about supernatural involvement.

As the officers conduct a thorough but ultimately slapstick search, they inadvertently uncover more hidden guests, including one man submerged in a jug of oil and another incident involving a flour ambush that incapacitates the law enforcement, leading to their humiliation and eventual overpowering by the attendees.

The chapter closes with the officers bound and handled like livestock, marking a complete and farcical overturning of authority.

Throughout, Lazaro's observations and the exaggerated mishaps serve as a comedic reflection on social norms, indulgence, and the lengths to which individuals will go to avoid the consequences of their revelry. His narrative maintains a mix of innocence and sly wit, offering a satirical look at human behavior under the guise of feasting and festivity.

XV. How Lazaro Became a Hermit

After undergoing a severe beating that left him injured, Lazaro finds himself begging at a church door, reflecting on his difficult life and concluding that success isn't solely the result of hard work but also divine assistance. His fortunes take a dramatic turn when a kind hermit, impressed by Lazaro's tale of suffering, invites him to his well-kept hermitage, offering him a glimpse into a serene, fulfilled life far removed from his tumultuous past. The hermitage, with its little garden and comfortable accommodations, represents a stark contrast to the hardships Lazaro has endured.

The hermit reveals to Lazaro the simple, contemplative life he leads, marked by a balance of solitude and companionship, work and rest, joy and sorrow, a life that deeply appeals to Lazaro. However, this idyllic existence is soon disrupted when the hermit, after a joyful meal, suddenly declares he is dying. Despite his weakened state, Lazaro smartly ensures he is named the hermit's sole heir in the presence of shepherds brought as witnesses, securing his newfound position through a hastily arranged last will and testament confirmed with the hermit's repetitive affirmations until his death.

Following the hermit's peculiar yet timely demise, Lazaro explores the hermitage, discovering a cache of provisions and, eventually, after a divine intuition, unearths a hidden fortune. With this newfound wealth, Lazaro adopts the hermit's role, convincing the local religious community of his suitability despite his youth and lack of a beard, a humorous caveat that underscores the era's emphasis on superficial qualifications.

In noting his inheritance of the hermitage dedicated to Saint Lazarus, Lazaro sees a fortuitous connection to his own life, suggesting a hopeful future. His narrative, punctuated by remarks on societal and religious norms, sarcastically highlights the disparity between one's outward appearance and innate capabilities, further enriching the story's exploration of fortune, fate, and the pursuit of a genuinely fulfilling life.

XVI. How Lazaro Decided to Marry Again

Lazarillo, in his ongoing adventures, recounts his experiences with fortune and misfortune. Despite his content life at the hermitage, Lazarillo decides to marry again, driven not by necessity but by circumstances that convince him his fortunes might finally be changing. He humorously observes the unpredictability of fate, noting how unqualified men often rise to wealth and status, seemingly blessed by fortune, while the wise and prudent are left in despair. Lazarillo sees himself as a victim of misfortune, perpetually tormented by a cruel fate that now leads him into a peculiar and troubling marriage proposal.

While begging in the city, Lazarillo is invited upstairs at a house, where women, mistaking him for someone else, warmly receive him. As they recognize their error, their laughter turns to mourning upon learning of Father Anselmo's death. The women, who reveal themselves as Anselmo's secret family, express outrage at Lazarillo being his heir. Fearing legal reprisal and swayed by the widow's sorrow, Lazarillo agrees to share the inheritance, ignorant of the true nature of hermits' supposedly solitary lives. The widow's family then cunningly entangles Lazarillo into a marriage scheme under the guise of rectifying Anselmo's oversight.

The narrative transforms into a farcical series of "wedding ceremonies" that lead to Lazarillo's humiliation and abuse. The absurdity peaks as Lazarillo, seeking to protect himself from physical harm, manages to escape, only to find himself chased by local boys and causing a commotion in a church, mistaken for a devil or a madman. This episode serves not only to highlight Lazarillo's naïveté and perpetual misfortune but also to satirize societal norms, the institution of marriage, and the hypocrisy within religious circles. Through a blend of humor and tragedy, Lazarillo's tale portrays the resilience required to navigate the unpredictabilities of life and fortune.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The provided excerpt does not contain narrative content from "The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes, His Fortunes and Misfortunes as Told by Himself" but rather a bibliography related to the text and its academic discussion. The bibliography cites a variety of sources, from critical editions and academic articles to broader studies on the picaresque novel and its significance in Spanish literature. These works span a period from the early 20th century to the 1960s, illustrating the sustained academic interest in "Lazarillo de Tormes" and its impact on literary studies.

The text mentions contributions by scholars like Francisco Ayala, Marcel Bataillon, and Jose Caso Gonzalez, among others, providing insight into various aspects of the novel, such as its narrative structure, thematic elements, and historical context. Bataillon's work is noted for exploring the significance and originality of "Lazarillo de Tormes," indicating a deep dive into what makes the novel a foundational work in the picaresque genre. Francisco Ayala's examination suggests a nuanced analysis of overlooked facets of the text, hinting at the depth of literary exploration that "Lazarillo de Tormes" invites.

Eduard Boehmer and Americo Castro's entries suggest a focus on comparative literature and the broader influence of "Lazarillo de Tormes" on Spanish literary thought, particularly its relation to Cervantes. The inclusion of studies by Frank Wadleigh Chandler and H. J. Chaytor highlight an international interest in the text, showcasing "Lazarillo de Tormes" as a subject of study beyond Spanish-speaking countries.

Overall, the bibliography underscores the complex and multifaceted nature of "Lazarillo de Tormes," highlighting the novel's role in shaping the picaresque genre and its enduring relevance in literary studies. The works cited provide a roadmap for understanding the novel's place in Spanish literature, its thematic depth, and its influence on subsequent narrative traditions.