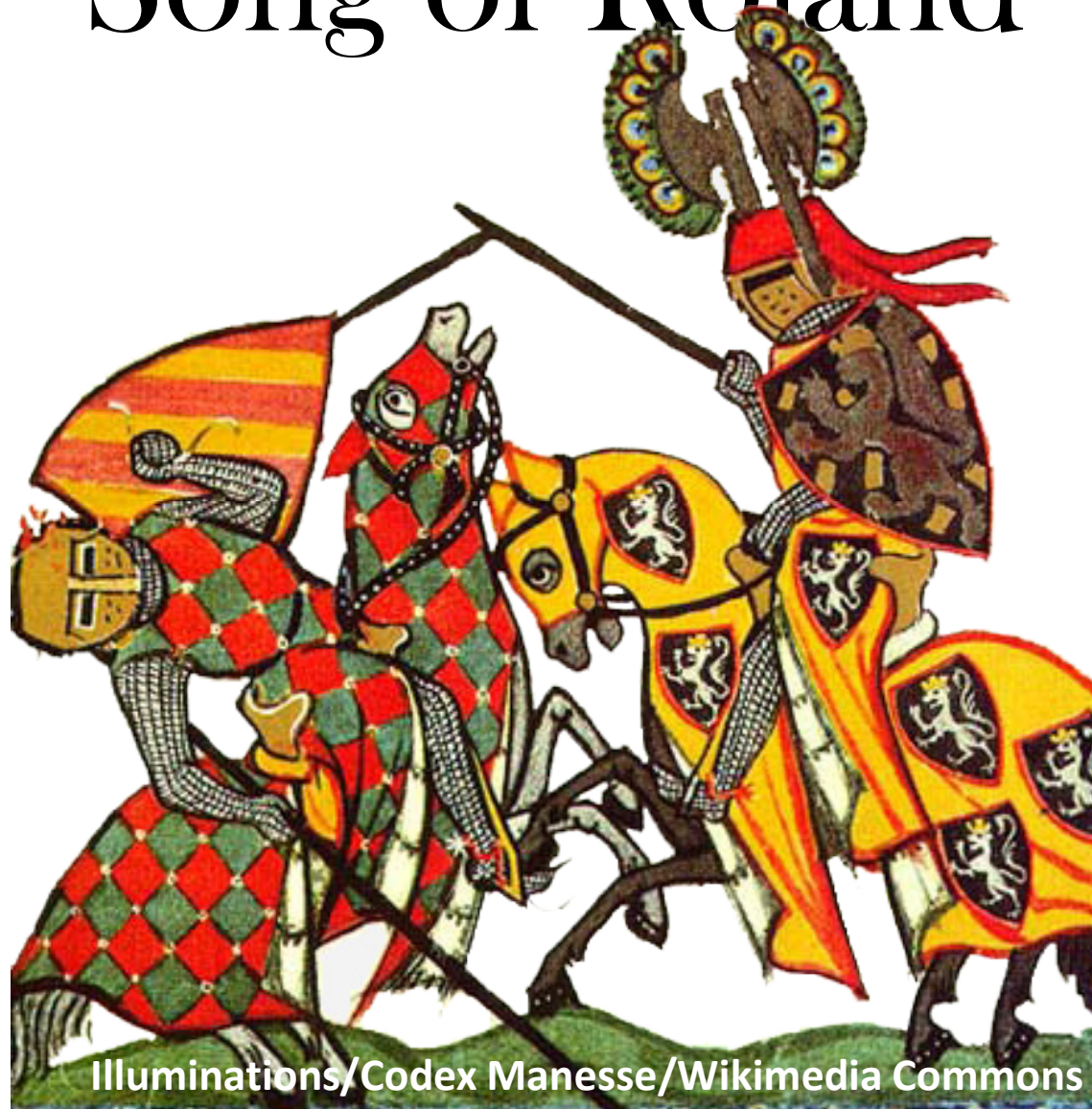


# Song of Roland



Illuminations/Codex Manesse/Wikimedia Commons

# August 15, 778 A.D

- Charlemagne, crowned Emperor of the West by the Pope, fights Muslims in Saragossa, Spain
- At Ronces Valles, Basque fighters ambush Charlemagne's forces from behind as they march home to France
- 1100-1150 A.D. – Song of Roland, an epic poem, composed in French during Crusades
  - Not meant as an accurate historical record
  - Meaning of AOI refrain unknown



# Saragossa

- Frankish Emperor Charlemagne accepts surrender of Marsilla King Marsilla
- Roland nominates his stepfather Ganelon to accept the terms of surrender
- Ganelon hates, envies his stepson
- He tells the Saracens not to honor their treaty, but to ambush the Christian army as it leaves

# Roland

- As expected, Roland volunteers to lead the rear guard
- Joined by Oliviet, Archbishop Turpin
- Saracens attack at Roncesvals





# Pride

- Roland is told to blow his oliphant, a horn made from elephant ivory, for help
- He does not, believing that the rear guard can defend itself
- The rear guard is destroyed
- Roland blows his oliphant once in desperation
- His temples burst, he dies and is escorted to heaven by Michael the Archangel



# Return

- Charlemagne finds the whole rear guard dead
- Baligant of Babylon comes to Saragossa's aid
- A Saracen army attacks the Franks as they bury their dead
- Charlemagne kills Baligant in battle
  - Saragossa recaptured
  - Bramimonde, wife of Marsilla, captured



# Homecoming

- Franks return to Aix, France
- Bramimonde converts to Christianity
- Ganelon openly confesses his betrayal, refuses to apologize
  - Tortured to death



# End

- Charlemagne, exhausted, goes to sleep
- Michael the Archangel visits Charlemagne
  - Imphe is under attack, needs Charlemagne's help

“God,  
how  
tiring  
is my  
life!”



So ends  
the tale  
which  
Tuold  
hath  
conceived

AOI

