certainly he seems to have been more familiar with their customs and psychology than any other Spanish writer of his age. In any case, Cervantes’ tale is not a sociological book, but rather a joyous celebration of the freedom that comes from a wandering life and of Preciosa’s beauty. His female leading character has haunted writers of succeeding ages: she reappears in Goethe’s Mignon, in Pushkin’s The Gypsies, in Victor Hugo’s Esmeralda (in Notre Dame de Paris), as well as in a modern ballad by Federico Garcia Lorca, Preciosa y el aire (Preciosa and the Wind).

As the contemporary Spanish critic Joaquín Casalduero has pointed out, this short story was composed with aesthetic goals in mind, not with the object of portraying faithfully reality or a social milieu. There is a rhythm of song and dance: Preciosa dances and sings in an exceptional manner and we can almost hear the music she dances to. Preciosa is a poetic being, a female Ariel who turns everything she touches into grace and poetry. Her travels constitute a strange adventure, yet there is nothing absurd or impossible in what she does or says. She is exceptional, yet she is not an artificial or impossible being: her grace and agility are always down-to-earth. To sum up: this long short story has always been a favorite among Cervantes’ readers; there is a touch of magic in it, yet we are never far away from daily life.

IV The Generous Lover

This story follows after The Little Gypsy in the published text. Many scholars think it was written early. In any case, it is one of the weakest and least interesting of the book. Its theme relates it to some of Cervantes’ comedies dealing with prison life. Many details seem to come from Cervantes’ experiences as a soldier and his captivity in North Africa, although the action does not take place in Africa but in Turkey, and the protagonists are not Spaniards but Sicilians. It is clearly a story influenced by the “Italian Style.” It deals with the voyages of two young lovers, Ricardo and Leonisa, who wander off into the Eastern Mediterranean and are taken prisoner by the Turks. They manage to ward off all the amorous advances to which they are subject during their captivity, and finally regain their freedom and “live happily ever after.” The male hero is too romantic and perfect to be credible. Some of the adventures are also hard to believe. The best feature is the description of sea travel.

V Rinconete and Cortadillo

This is, many believe, one of the best short stories ever written by Cervantes. To read it after The Generous Lover can be compared to the experience of reading a good short story in the magazine The New Yorker after reading an old-fashioned story by a second-rate imitator of O. Henry. As J. L. Alborg states, “even if Cervantes had not written Don Quixote, he would have a place of honor in Spanish literature simply as the author of Rinconete and Cortadillo. Furthermore, while recognizing the hazards in any absolute judgment, we would dare to maintain that after Don Quixote this novel is the most outstanding work of its kind that has ever been written in Spanish.”

It is difficult to give a résumé of its plot since there is really no plot, not in any traditional sense of the term. It is rather a picturesque frieze or fresco, a succession of vignettes populated by human types that represent every aspect of the underworld of Seville. We meet at the very outset two young boys, two "apprentice rogues" who have left their homes and are wandering towards Seville in search of fortune and adventures. Within a short time they come in contact with a union of rogues: it is made up of ruffians, assassins for hire, beggars, prostitutes, and other riffraff. They are all perfectly organized under the leadership of a formidable character whose name is Monipodio. This gang has all the characteristics of an institution, following rules and bylaws: one can say that it has industrialized delinquency and has managed to stabilize its relationships with society and the police. Since they work as a group and always help each other, they have achieved a remarkable efficiency. The warm sense of brotherhood, of goals shared, of dangers to be surmounted by sticking together, permeates each act of this gang. They know how to elude the pressures of the police—that is, when they are not cooperating with it by corrupting it and offering the policemen a share of the business, "a piece of the action." In order not to leave anything to chance, they even have their heavenly patrons, their favorite saints to whom they offer gifts and masses, like any other honorable institution. They want to be on good terms with everybody, and succeed most of the time.

This picture is remarkable for its mixture of cynicism and realism, the precision in the details of its setting, the ease and charm of the
Ceramics a Short Story Writer

The character faces a moral dilemma. Does my action have consequences? Will this decision affect me and others? The ethics of my actions are at stake. I must consider the long-term impacts of my choices.

Ceramics is a reflective and introspective figure. Their struggle is universal, a battle between good and evil, right and wrong. The world around them is a microcosm of larger societal issues. Through their experiences, readers can gain insights into the complexities of life.

The story explores themes of responsibility, forgiveness, and redemption. Ceramics' journey is one of self-discovery, learning to navigate the fine line between action and inaction.

Ceramics, the protagonist, is a symbol of the human condition. Their story is a mirror, reflecting the choices we all face. The moral questions raised are timeless, applicable to any era.

Ceramics is a mirror to society, a cautionary tale for the ages. Their story teaches us to be mindful of our actions, to consider the consequences, and to strive for a better tomorrow.
Lucy's Desires

Her determination to find her home was not just an instinctive longing, but a fierce will to reclaim her birthright. She knew the land was hers, despite all the forces that sought to夺 her from her. Her heart was set on returning to the place where she had been born, to the land of her ancestors.

To accomplish this, she had to overcome obstacles and face challenges. She knew that her journey would not be easy, but she was determined to see it through. Her perseverance was her strength, and she refused to give up.

As the sun rose, she set out on her journey, her heart filled with hope and determination. She was ready to face whatever lay ahead, for she knew that with her will, she could overcome any obstacle.

Her journey was long and arduous, but she did not falter. She had a purpose, and she was determined to see it through. Her heart was set on returning to her home, and nothing would stop her.
The Spanish Enlightenment

At an Experiential Writer.

To read this afternoon, and contriving it to feel despair.

Cervantes' a Short Story Writer.