



HOW CUNNING WAS EL CID?

ARABO-ANDALUSIAN HIYAL
IN MEDIEVAL CASTILIAN
LITERATURE

In Arabo-Islamic civilization, both in word and in praxis, *hila* and its linguistic correlates (e.g. *makr*, *kaid*) signify a complex range of cultural and ethical appraisals of "cunning" as "applied intelligence." Its poetic embodiments in Arabic *belles-lettres* (e.g. *exempla* literature, *maqamat*, *adab* treatises on *'ilm al-hiyal*, etc.) offer a particularly revealing cipher of its possible valuations, whether as a cherished virtue or as an agent of social corruption. This presentation will canvass some of its literary expressions with an Old Spanish case study: i.e. a brief examination of the *Cid*, the Castilian epic hero, as a poetic avatar of Arabo-Andalusian *makr*.

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THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 2009
5:30 PM

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