



## 'Si bien non comedes, conde': Food Rituals, Alimentary Imagery, and the Count of Barcelona's Comic Feast in the "Cantar de mio Cid" [

2013

text (article)

Analítica

One of the Cid's first responsibilities is to provide food for his men, yet the actual act of eating is rarely portrayed in the "Cantar de mio Cid". This essay is divided into two sections; the first examines three scenes that represent food rituals and alimentary imagery as oral gestures of submission to a power dynamic that is recast in each meal. The discourses of dominance and submission that order these feasts, figurative and real, also resonate with the social hierarchies that structure the entire poem. The second section unpacks the clash with the Count of Barcelona, and the poet's carnivalesque comic technique beginning with the battle in the pine forest, to the Count's forced feeding and final departure at the end of the first cantar. The essay concludes that the Cid-poet's humor redeploys the masculine and militarized discourses of conquest and defeat, combined with parody, comic reversals, and biblical allusion to humiliate the Count character and create a comic feast that reaffirms the Cid's status as ideal prince and epic hero

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