





## Romance del Marqués de Mantua

This romance is made famous by being quoted in *Don Quixote*.

Carloto, one of Charlemagne's sons, covets Count Baldwin's (Baldovinos) wife, so he waylays Baldwin in the forest and mortally wounds him. Baldwin's uncle, the Marquis of Mantua, happens to be passing through the forest and hears Baldwin's lament, as quoted by Quixote:

"Where art thou, my lady,  
That thou weepest not for my ills?  
Dost not know of them, lady,  
Or art thou truly false?"

But apparently this song relates to an earlier time when Baldwin is courting his future wife.

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"You sigh, Baldwin,  
[for] the things I wanted the most.  
Either you fear the Moors,  
or you have a girlfriend in France."

"I do not fear the Moors,  
nor have I a girlfriend in France,  
but you as Moor and I a Christian  
would have a bad life [here].

"If you come to France with me,  
all shall be joyful to us,  
I will joust and tourney  
to serve you each day.

"And you will see the flower  
of the best order of knighthood.  
I will be your knight;  
you will be my beautiful girlfriend."