

## Italo Calvino Racconta L Orlando Furioso

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over a period of 27 years the author created in this poem a world situated between fantasy and reality a kaleidoscope of fabulous adventures monsters barbaric splendour and romance all tempered by the unifying personality of the author his humour and serenity his humanity and moderation

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the appearance of david r slavitt s translation of orlando furioso mad orlando one of the great literary achievements of the italian renaissance is a publishing event with this lively new verse translation slavitt introduces readers to ariosto s now neglected masterpiece a poem whose impact on western literature can scarcely be exaggerated slavitt s translation captures the energy comedy and great fun of ariosto s italian

reproduction of the original orlando furioso by ludovico ariosto

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orlando furioso the frenzy of orlando more literally mad orlando is an italian romantic epic by ludovico ariosto published in its complete form in 1532 and exerting a wide influence on later culture it is a continuation of matteo maria boiardo s unfinished romance orlando innamorato orlando in love from the backdrop of war between charlemagne and his christian paladins and the saracen army attempting to invade europe the poem wanders at will from japan to the hebrides and includes many fantastical elements such as a trip to the moon and an array of fantastical creatures including a gigantic sea monster and the hippogriff many themes are interwoven in its complicated episodic structure the most important being the paladin orlando s unrequited love for the pagan princess angelica which develops into the madness of the title at 38 736 lines ariosto s work is one of the longest poems in european literature

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ludovico ariosto 1474 1533 was the oldest of 10 children being the successor to the patriarchal position of his family from his earliest years ludovico was interested in poetry but was obliged by his father a commander of the reggio emilia citadel to study law in 1517 he served under the cardinal s brother alfonso duke of ferrara and it was then that he began writing his masterpiece and romance epic orlando furioso the earliest version appeared in 1516 but was not published in its complete form until 1532 the poem is a prolongation of matteo maria boiardo s work orlando innamorato and is separated into two volumes consisting of forty six cantos in all volume ii includes cantos 25 46 describing the adventures of orlando charlemagne and the franks as they combat against the saracens with diversions into many side plots

ariosto includes many fantastical elements and creatures yet the most important plot centers around orlando s unreciprocated love for the pagan princess angelica which develops into the insanity of the title

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