

During the centuries of the Spanish War, the knights, the Moors, and the Christians often got weary of killing each other. Every once in a while, to take care of their boredom, they would go hunt wildlife. Deer and other animals were easy to kill and didn't put up much of a fight when cornered. However, whenever they faced an Iberian Bull, things changed. This creature would rather die fighting than flee. Often soldiers would prove their bravery by fighting a bull. Supposedly, a nobleman herded some together and brought them to a village and recreated the hunt for the villagers. This is supposedly how bullfighting got started.

The first recorded bullfight took place in Vera, Logrono, in 1133. It was in honor of the coronation of King Alfonso the 8th. After that many kings organized bullfights for their guests and important events. After the Spanish War, bullfighting expanded throughout Spain and became the place where noblemen could show off their zeal. Even kings would fight the bull in the arena.

My mother used to tell me of a cousin that she had who was a bullfighter. She would tell me how he was very famous in Mexico during his time. She would tell me that he moved with great zeal and grace. When I asked her what happened to him, she said a bull impaled him one day. It seemed like he wouldn't recover, but in a few months he was back in the arena doing what he loved. Unfortunately, he later was injured again and had to retire because of his injuries. I wish I could go back and see him bullfighting, moving with the grace of a swan and fighting with the courage of an Iberian Bull.