



# Torquemada en la Cruz (Spanish Edition)

*Benito Pérez Galdós*

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## **Torquemada en la Cruz (Spanish Edition)** Benito Pérez Galdós

Torquemada en la cruz (1893). Su protagonista, Francisco Torquemada, es un prestamista que ejerciendo la usura prospera en el Madrid isabelino de los primeros años de la Restauración. La crítica lo considera "uno de los grandes avaros de la literatura universal". El sainetero esperpento de la primera entrega de las novelas de Torquemada tomó cuerpo con la reaparición del personaje en una trilogía narrativa con categoría de obra independiente. El usurero de barrio, cómico por mísero, va a convertirse por la magia de su avaricia en el Midas del cuento (que todo lo que tocaba lo convertía en oro). Quizá sea necesario recordar que en la ideología de Galdós, hombre lúcido del siglo XIX, "el negociante en dinero tiene un sentido negativo opuesto por completo al creador de riqueza." Dicho con otras palabras —y la misma fuente, Casalduero de nuevo—, Torquemada sale del papel de usurero para convertirse en financiero moderno... Pero "en los negocios de dinero, Galdós no ve sino una actividad social parasitaria". La trilogía compacta que se abre con Torquemada en la cruz va a moverse en un triple escenario: el siglo XIX "encenagado en lo material"; el Madrid galdosiano del multimillonario Torquemada contemplado sin piedad; y el esperpento familiar de los Águila, aristócratas arruinados (los hermanos Cruz, Fidela y Rafael). Galdós, narrando la trama urdida por Cruz, casará a Fidela con el ambicioso Torquemada, ante la mirada escandalizada del ciego Rafael. Una trama que le servirá al novelista para mostrar el fenómeno social común a la España y la Europa del último cuarto del siglo XIX, la actitud de una clase dominante "que no transige con la democracia política, pero sí con la democracia del dinero".

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