

EL CAMINO DEL DIABLO

by

Joseph Arnone

Copyright © 2018 MonologueBlogger.com All rights reserved.

EXT. 18TH CENTURY - DESERT - DAY

CONQUISTADOR JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA and his men surround a beaten up shack in the desert.

ROBERTD, steps out.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
You are the bull man?

ROBERTD
I am no bull man.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Are you not the man who rescued
the people of Pimeria Alta from a
bull?

ROBERTD
I am that man but I am no bull
man.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Where did you learn such skill?

ROBERTD
Sir, I am only a gravedigger and
drinker. Any skill that I had
left, is now all used up.

CORTÉS (TO ROBERTD)
Can you slay my Becerrillo?

All the men on horses laugh.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA (TO ROBERTD)
So you admit you had a skill?

ROBERTD
Some.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
And from where did you first
obtain this skill, you now seemed
to have lost?

ROBERTD
I was born in Spain. I come from a
family of Toreros who fight in the
Plaza de toros de Ronda.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
What is your name?

ROBERTD
Robertd Romero.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
And have you ever stepped into the
Plaza de toros de Ronda to
challenge?

ROBERTD
Me? ...No...

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Why not?

ROBERTD
I became something else.

CORTÉS (OUTLOUD)
A drunk!

All the men laugh. Juan raises his hand and the men stop
laughing.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Not drunk enough to save the lives
of five children. (beat) Why are
you here?

ROBERTD
There are many travelers who do
not make the footpath. If I do not
find them in time, I bury them.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Why?

ROBERTD
This is my way of helping
Francisco Garcés and the visitas
set by Father Eusebio Kino but I
am no Jesuit. I do what I must do,
alone and for reasons that are my
business only.

Juan throws a bag of gold at Robertd's feet. Robertd looks
inside.

ROBERTD (CONT'D)
I do not want this gold.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA
Why is that?

ROBERTD

There is no reason for me to take
it.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA

I am giving it to you as an
appreciation for having saved
innocent lives.

ROBERTD

I will not take this payment.

JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA

So, you see, you are more than
just a drinking gravedigger.

Robertd tosses the gold sack back up to Juan.
I too am from Spain...

Juan Bautista de Anza stares at Robertd.
I wish you well on your path.

Robertd and Juan exchange nods.

Conquistador Juan Bautista de Anza and his men ride off on
their horses.