

**Zorro: The Curse of Capistrano**  
**By: David Richmond and Drew Fracher**

*( Felipe is unrolling a large cloth on to the floor. Inside is one ornate sword and the cloth itself is a complex diagram. He carefully adjusts the cloth on the ground and stares at it in thought. Suddenly he reaches down and draws the hem of his habit up between his legs and secures it around his loins with his belt. He takes a sword and begins to pace the measures indicated by the diagram, almost as if it were a dance. As he is thus engaged Don Diego enters. He stops)*

FELIPE

You're laughing at my skirts.

DIEGO

I? Never.

FELIPE

Ever seen this before?

DIEGO

As pictures in old books-

FELIPE

Those pictures are frauds. The system was so perfect it killed itself.

DIEGO

I thought the Italians-

FELIPE

The Italians are very good. It works perfectly only with right attention. When mind and body are one they are near invincibility. This- is the geometry of the Moor, the Kabbala of the rabbis, the song of St. John of the Cross: "The way up and the way down are one and the same." Takes a lifetime.

DIEGO

I don't have a lifetime.

FELIPE

Yes you do. You just don't know how long it is. Now:

*(Diego takes up a separate sword and the master class begins. The old Indian appears at the edge of the scene to watch. After one pass in which Felipe wins: they continue under this following dialogue)*

FELIPE

How's your chess?

DIEGO

Fair. I played occasionally in Seville.

FELIPE

You remember when I taught you to play?

DIEGO

You said...a good player..can attack. A master can defend.

FELIPE

Even so. Now attack.

*(As they circle, it becomes apparent that Felipe is goading Diego to test his composure- a few passes and Felipe zeros in on Diego frustrating Diego to lose. Felipe blesses him. Felipe points to the cloth. Diego stares for a moment, Felipe takes Diego through several movements of the secreto.)*

FELIPE

This will save your life. Practice, every single day. *(They begin to practice as the Indian joins in the movements...lights fade.)*