

pushed the ship to a burial ground called Compostela, the field of stars. The knights covered the ship with earth and disappeared."

Elenor noticed mouths were hanging open and closed her own. Compostela. A shiver ran down her back.

"Do you think that's the end of the story?"

Several children shook their heads. Gregory leaned forward, his fingertips touching.

"Have you heard of the Moors?"

Again children nodded, and several crossed their arms over their chests.

"The Moors came to Spain from Africa some five hundred years ago, under the banner of the Prophet Muhammad, and in place after place, throughout Spain, people left their churches and began to worship Allah in the mosques of the Moors. The Moors were such mighty fighters, and the fear of them was so great, that soon the only people who were still Christian in Spain were those in the very north, in the mountainous regions, and those in the part near the sea where the pagan queen had reigned. One evening some of the last Christian soldiers were camping up in the mountains, huddled in a cave, almost ready to give up.

"It was then, so they say, that a bright star appeared to them. They followed it to Compostela, and there they found the ship that was the tomb of

Saint James, shining in the night. They built a church around it. They prayed and found courage. At their next battle, they were led by a vision of Saint James riding before them on a white horse. They won the battle, and many more, and because they did, Spain is Christian again, as James set out to make it so long ago."

"Is that a true story?" Billy asked.

"What do you think?" Father Gregory asked.

There was a long silence. At last Elenor spoke up.

"James the fisherman was true. . . ." The listeners nodded all around. "And maybe the pagan priestess and the wild bulls." Nods and head-shakings. "And I think the rest of it was made up."

"By me?" Father Gregory asked.

"No!" said all the children.

"By the soldiers?" said one.

"I don't know," Gregory said. "Why would they have made it up?"

"So they could fight better?" said Billy.

"Maybe so," Gregory said.

"Why do people still go there?" asked Maude.

"Why is Ellie going there?"

"It's a good place to pray," said Father Gregory.

"It has always been a good place to pray. Even in the days of the pagan queen."