

***La muerte de Apetito* plot summary**
by Sarah Haynie

The play begins as Alma and Mortificación converse. Mortificación tells Alma to deny her passions, but Alma is annoyed at her harshness, and asks her to leave. We soon find that Alma has been carrying on a flirtation with Apetito. He enters and as she begins to give in to his requests, Mortificación re-enters and the three engage in an argument. In the end, Mortificación blames Alma for allowing Apetito to influence her, and warns her that if she wants to be free, she must kill Apetito. Alma is shocked at the prospect of killing, but Mortificación explains that killing *Apetito* is actually a righteous action. While Apetito sleeps, Mortificación tells Alma the story of Adam and Eve to help her understand why she is affected by Apetito so much, and how it can harm her to continue to allow him to influence her. When Apetito awakes, he mocks Mortificación, and tries to persuade Alma to follow him. Alma, frustrated and perplexed, separates herself from both of them while she tries to make a decision, and eventually decides that while it will be difficult to live without Apetito, she will try to follow Mortificación. Apetito is angered by this decision, and storms off. While he is gone, Alma prays, and is visited by Mortificación's sister, Oración. Mortificación teaches Alma that she should manifest her devotion through her works rather than her words, and Apetito returns, ready to make his case. He informs them that they cannot kill him- that he is able to enter, even in sacred places where the devil himself cannot. Alma is upset by this, but with Mortificación's encouragement, she declares once again that she will kill Apetito, but asks again for Mortificación's counsel. Mortificación suggests that they send for her youngest sister, Desnudez. Apetito, overhearing the plan, is terrified, knowing that Desnudez has power to destroy him. Apetito begs Alma not to send for Desnudez, but it is too late- Desnudez enters and offers her support to Alma, reaffirming Mortificación's desire that Apetito be killed. Apetito tries a new tactic, feigning reform, and begging Desnudez not to kill him. Desnudez is not convinced, and eventually her patience with his deceit runs out, and she strangles him. Alma rejoices that he is finally gone, but Mortificación is not certain that he is really dead, and Desnudez warns that Apetito tends to come back, sometimes stronger than before. Alma thanks Desnudez for her help, and Desnudez tells Alma that she should show her gratitude through good works and obedience. Apetito suddenly returns from the grave, hungry and needy as ever, begging food from Alma, Mortificación and Desnudez, as well as the audience. Alma asks Desnudez to kill Apetito again, and Desnudez tells her that for the moment, she must ignore him, and learn to resist his pleas. Apetito becomes frustrated that no one is paying attention to him, and again feigns reform. Desnudez will not allow it, and with the help of Alma, Mortificación and Oración, she kills him again, this time with a sword to ensure that he will not return. Alma, the three virtues (Mortificación, Oración and Desnudez) rejoice as the play ends.