

CLASSICS
Illustrated

Featuring Stories by the
World's Greatest Authors

No. 156 15¢

The CONQUEST of MEXICO

—Ernest Hemingway—
Delacorte



COMING NEXT



THE LIFE of a wild animal is spent in the line of battle. There is no such thing as a gentle decline in peaceful old age. Hunted both by other animals and by man, it wages a constant fight for survival. This fight is often heroic.

Be sure to read

LIVES OF THE HUNTED

by Ernest Thompson Seton

NEXT IN

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

On sale at your favorite newsdealer or variety store.

WHO AM I?

I am a famous literary character. Can you guess my name from the clues below? Rate your familiarity with me as follows: If you can identify me from CLUE I, your score is superior; from CLUE II—excellent; from CLUE III—very good; from CLUE IV—good; from CLUE V—fair. If after CLUE V you still cannot identify me, I suggest you read the exciting story in which I appear.

CLUE I: I was a member of a group of amateur actors. I dwelled in a little town surrounded by a large, quiet forest.

CLUE II: One day, the leader of our group told us we were to give a command performance before the duke and his bride on their wedding day.

CLUE III: We decided to practice reading our parts in the forest. Although we didn't know it at the time, the forest was inhabited by a group of fairies.

CLUE IV: I had the misfortune of meeting one of these impish fellows. For reasons of his own, he changed the appearance of my head to that of a donkey! When my fellow actors saw me, they were so frightened they fled the forest in terror.

CLUE V: As if this wasn't enough, that prankish fairy had also cast a spell over the queen of all the fairies which caused her to fall madly in love with me—donkey head and all. The exciting climax of my story can be found in the play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.

WOLVER JOHN

CLASSICS Illustrated MAY 1940 . . . Number 124 . . . Second class postage paid at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. MEYER A. EAPIAN, Production Director, ROBERTA STRAUSS FLEIBUSCH, Editor, LEONARD B. COLE, Art Director. Published bi-monthly, with special issues in July and December, by GIBBERTON COMPANY, INC., 101 Fifth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y. . . Subscription, \$1.50 for 10 issues. . . Copyright by GIBBERTON COMPANY, INC., 1940 in U. S. A. and all foreign countries. All rights reserved including the right to reproduce this publication or portions thereof in any form.

Printed in U. S. A.

yeqitla ti tetayad
yu mal ques.

The CONQUEST of MEXICO

Bernal Diaz Del

THE SPANISH DISCOVERED MEXICO IN 1519. IT WAS THEN A LAND INHABITED BY DIFFERENT TRIBES OF INDIANS. THE MOST POWERFUL WERE THE AZTECS.

IN 1519, A SPANIARD, HERNANDO CORTEZ, SET OUT TO CONQUER MEXICO. ONE OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WENT WITH HIM WAS BERNAL DIAZ DEL CASTILLO, WHOSE STORY THIS IS.

What I have seen, and the fighting I have gone through, with the help of God, I will describe quite simply, without twisting events. I am now an old man, and I have gained nothing of value to leave to my children but this, my true story, and they will soon find out what a wonderful story it is.

DIEGO VELASQUEZ, THE GOVERNOR OF CUBA, HEARD THAT RICHES WERE TO BE FOUND IN NEWLY DISCOVERED LANDS TO THE WEST AND ORDERED A FLEET TO BE SENT OFF AS CAPTAIN, HE APPOINTED HERNANDO CORTEZ.

PROCLAIM THAT WHOSEVER WISHES TO GO WITH ME SHALL RECEIVE HIS SHARE OF THE RICHES WHICH MAY BE GAINED



ABOUT THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY SOLDIERS ASSEMBLED AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA I WAS AMONG THEM

BE ON BOARD YOUR SHIPS BY NIGHTFALL



THE CAPTAIN IS IN HASTE TO SAIL, BERNAL

DIEGO VELASQUEZ' RELATIONS ARE ENVIDIOUS AND ARE TRYING TO MAKE HIM REVOKE CORTEZ' COMMISSION. THAT IS WHY CORTEZ WISHES TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



WE SET SAIL EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, STOPPING AT TRINIDAD AND HUANANA TO ENLIST MORE SOLDIERS. THEN, IN FEBRUARY, 1519, WE SAILED TO THE ISLAND OF COZUMEL, WHERE CORTEZ ORDERED A MUSTER OF HIS FORCES.

WE HAVE FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHT SOLDIERS, ABOUT ONE HUNDRED SAILORS, THIRTY-TWO CROSSBOWMEN, THIRTEEN MUSKETEERS, SIXTEEN HORSES, AND ELEVEN SHIPS.



THEN WE EMBARKED AGAIN, SAILING ALONG THE COAST TO TABASCO.

THE BANKS AND THICKETS ARE SWARMING WITH INDIANS.

AND THEY ARE PREPARED FOR WAR.



SEVERAL INDIANS WHO LOOKED LIKE CHIEFS PASSED NEAR US IN A LARGE CANOE.

I WILL SPEAK TO THEM. SEND MY INTERPRETER HERE.



WHEN THE INTERPRETER ARRIVED...

TELL THE CHIEFS WE HAVE NOT COME TO DO THEM HARM, BUT WANT TO TAKE WATER, AND BARTER OUR GOODS WITH THEM FOR FOOD.



C'ORTEZ' MESSAGE, HOWEVER, ONLY MADE THE CHIEFS MORE VIOLENT.

THEY SAY THEY WILL KILL US IF WE ENTER THE TOWN.



THEN GET THE BOATS READY AND PUT THREE CANNON IN EACH AND SEE TO YOUR ARMS!



THE NEXT MORNING WE STARTED UP THE RIVER. THE INDIANS, SEEING US ON THE MOVE, ATTACKED US WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS.



WE REACHED THE SHORE, BUT AS THERE WAS MUCH MUD AND SWAMP AT THE PLACE WE LANDED, WE COULD NOT EASILY GET CLEAR OF IT.



CORTEZ LOST A SHOE IN THE MUD AND GOT ON SHORE WITH ONE FOOT BARE.



THEN ALL OF US FELL UPON THE INDIANS AND FORGED THEM TO RETREAT.



BUT LIKE BRAVE WARRIORS THEY KEPT SHOOTING ARROWS AND DARTS UNTIL WE GAINED A GREAT COURT WITH LARGE HALLS AND THREE IDOL HOUSES.

THE ENEMY IS FLEEING!
DON'T PURSUE THEM!



FIRST I WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF
THIS LAND FOR SPAIN!



WE HAD CAPTURED SOME PRISONERS, AND FROM THEM WE LEARNED THAT THE CHIEFS FROM ALL THE NEIGHBORING TOWNS WERE COMING WITH THEIR FORGES TO MAKE WAR ON US

BRING THE HORSES
FROM THE SHIPS



WHEN THIS WAS DONE . . .

WE WILL FORM A CAVALRY
OF THE BEST HORSES AND
RIDERS, AND I WILL LEAD IT



VERY EARLY THE NEXT DAY, WE MARCHED OUT OF CAMP AND MET THE WHOLE FORCE OF INDIAN WARRIORS COMING TO ATTACK US.



THEY RUSHED ON US AND WE WERE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.



BUT CORTEZ AND THE HORSEMEN WHO HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM US, NOW CAME UP BEHIND THEM.



THE INDIANS HAD NEVER SEEN HORSES BEFORE THEY TURNED AND RAN.

THEY ARE AFRAID! THEY THINK THE HORSE AND RIDER ARE ALL ONE ANIMAL!

THEY FEAR THE CANNON, TOO. THEY SEEM TO THINK IT ALONE, CAN MAKE WAR ON THEM.



WE RETURNED TO CAMP AND CORTEZ SENT A MESSAGE TO THE INDIAN CHIEFS

I HAVE ASKED THEM TO COME AND MAKE PEACE. WHEN THEY DO, I WILL HAVE A SURPRISE FOR THEM.



WHEN THE CHIEFS ARRIVED, CORTÉZ SPOKE TO THEM GRAVELY.

THE FAULT FOR THIS WAR IS YOURS, AND YOU DESERVE TO BE PUT TO DEATH. SOME OF THE CANNON ARE STILL ANGRY AND WOULD JUMP OUT AND KILL YOU.



CORTÉZ THEN SPOKE IN A KINDLY MANNER.

BUT OUR MASTER, THE EMPEROR, HAS ORDERED US TO HELP AND FAVOR THOSE WHO RENDER OBEDIENCE TO HIM.



AT THIS MOMENT, A MATCH WAS PUT TO A CANNON, AND IT WENT OFF WITH A THUNDERCLAP THE CHIEFS WERE TERRIFIED.



THEN A HORSE THAT CORTÉZ HAD ORDERED TIED UP NOT FAR FROM HIM BEGAN TO PAW THE GROUND AND NEIGH, FURTHER TERRIFYING THE CHIEFS.



THE CHIEFS QUICKLY DECLARED THEMSELVES THE VASSALS OF OUR EMPEROR AND BROUGHT US PRESENTS. AMONG THEM WAS A VERY EXCELLENT WOMAN WHOM WE NAMED DONA MARINA, AND WHO WAS TO SERVE US FAITHFULLY THROUGH ALL OUR CAMPAIGNS.



SHE KNOWS MANY LANGUAGES AND WILL BE A GOOD INTERPRETER.

THIS WAS THE GREAT BEGINNING OF OUR CONQUESTS. WE SAILED ON TO SAN JUAN DE ULUA. WHERE WE WERE MET BY A DELEGATION OF AZTEC INDIANS

WE CAME FROM THE GREAT MONTEZUMA WHO WISHES TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF MEN YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU SEEK



WE WISH TO TRADE WITH YOUR GREAT PRINCE IN GOOD FRIENDSHIP WHERE CAN WE MEET WITH HIM SO THAT WE CAN CONFER TOGETHER?

I WILL GO TO HIM AND BRING BACK A REPLY



THE AZTECS DEPARTED THEY RETURNED LADEN WITH PRESENTS WHICH THEY SPREAD OUT UPON MATS THERE WERE WONDERFUL OBJECTS MADE OF GOLD, AS WELL AS PLUMES AND CLOTH



LOOK AT THAT GOLD WHEEL! IT MUST BE WORTH TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!



SURELY THIS MONTEZUMA IS A GREAT AND RICH PRINCE! WE MUST GO TO SEE HIM!

I WISH WE WERE ALREADY THERE!



WHEN ALL WAS DISPLAYED,
THE AZTEC GRIEFS GAVE
BEFORE CORTEZ

MONTEZUMA ASKS YOU TO
ACCEPT THESE PRESENTS
AND DIVIDE THEM AMONG
YOUR MEN.



HE ALSO BIDS US TELL YOU THAT
HE IS PLEASED THAT SUCH VALIANT
MEN SHOULD COME TO HIS COUNTRY.
BUT HE ASKS THAT YOU STAY IN
PORT AND, AS FOR MEETING HIM,
HE SAYS THERE IS NO NEED FOR IT.



BUT WE JOURNEYED FROM DISTANT LANDS
SOLELY TO SEE AND SPEAK WITH HIM. OUR
GREAT KING WILL NOT RECEIVE US WELL IF
WE RETURN WITHOUT DOING THIS.



MONTEZUMA SAYS THAT HE WILL
ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY HE CAN,
BUT NO MORE SHOULD BE SAID
ABOUT MEETING WITH HIM.



AFTER THE AZTECS LEFT OUR CAMP, CORTÉZ GAVE ORDERS TO CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY.

BUT WE HAVE NO PROVISIONS! ALREADY THIRTY-FIVE MEN HAVE DIED FROM WOUNDS AND SICKNESS AND HUNGER.



LET US GO BACK TO CUBA AND RENDER AN ACCOUNT TO DIEGO VELASQUEZ FOR THE GOLD WE HAVE GAINED, AND THE PRESENTS MONTEZUMA HAS GIVEN US.



BUT CORTÉZ PROCLAIMED THAT WE WERE COMING HERE TO SETTLE THE COUNTRY, AS THAT WOULD BE THE GREATEST SERVICE TO GOD AND THE KING. WE CANNOT GO BACK NOW!



THE PARTISANS OF CORTÉZ FOUND A GOOD SITE AND SET TO WORK AT ONCE TO BUILD A TOWN WHICH WAS CALLED THE VILLA RICA DE LA VERA CRUZ. THIS ANGERED THOSE WHO WISHED TO RETURN TO CUBA.



TAKE CARE THAT YOUR INSOLENCE DOES NOT BRING US TO BLOWS.

SOME WERE SO ANGRY THAT CORTÉZ MADE THEM PRISONERS. THEY REMAINED IN CHAINS UNTIL CORTÉZ WON THEM OVER WITH GOLD, WHICH IS SUCH A PACIFIER!

COME, WE MUST BE FRIENDS TOGETHER, WE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN.



WE THEN MARCHED ALONG THE COAST UNTIL WE CAME TO GEMPALA, WHERE THE CHIEF RECEIVED US WITH PRESENTS.

IF I HAD MORE, I WOULD GIVE IT TO YOU, BUT MONTEZUMA, WHO IS LORD OVER THIS COUNTRY, HAS CARRIED OFF ALL THAT I HAVE.



WE ARE GRIEVOUSLY OPPRESSED AND DARE DO NOTHING WITHOUT MONTEZUMA'S ORDERS, FOR HE HAS GREAT ARMIES OF WARRIORS.



WE WENT ON TO THE NEXT TOWN AND SPOKE TO THE CHIEF THERE. WHILE WE WERE DOING THIS, WORD CAME THAT FIVE OF MONTEZUMA'S TAX-GATHERERS HAD ARRIVED. THE CHIEFS TURNED PALE AND TREMBLED WITH FEAR.

WE MUST GO TO RECEIVE THEM.



IN A SHORT TIME, A ROOM DECKED WITH FLOWERS WAS PROVIDED FOR THEM. WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS GOING ON, CORTESZ SUMMONED THE CHIEFS TO HIM.

WHY ARE YOU SO AGITATED? WHAT DO THESE MEN WANT?



THEY HAVE SCOLDED US FOR ENTERTAINING YOU WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THEIR LORD MONTEZUMA, AND THEY DEMAND TWENTY MEN AND WOMEN TO SACRIFICE TO THEIR GODS.



OUR KING HAS SENT US TO PUNISH EVIL-DOERS AND HE WOULD NOT PERMIT EITHER SACRIFICE OR ROBBERY. YOU MUST MAKE THESE TAX COLLECTORS PRISONERS AT ONCE!



WE WOULD NOT DARE MALTREAT THE MESSENGERS OF THE GREAT MONTEZUMA!

DO NOT BE AFRAID I WILL PROTECT YOU



THE TAX-GATHERERS WERE THROWN INTO PRISON.

NOW YOU MUST MAKE PROCLAMATIONS IN ALL FRIENDLY AND ALLIED TOWNS THAT NO MORE TRIBUTE OR OBEDIENCE SHALL BE PAID TO MONTEZUMA.



THE NEWS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. WE FORMED A FEDERATION OF MORE THAN TWENTY REBELLING TOWNS.

NO MEN WOULD DARE OBEY MONTEZUMA IN THIS WAY! THE STRANGERS MUST BE EITHER GODS OR DEMONS!



BUT THE INDIANS DID NOT KNOW CORTESZ HAD SECRETLY RELEASED TWO OF THE TAX-GATHERERS

RETURN TO YOUR LORD MONTEZUMA AND TELL HIM WE ARE HIS GOOD FRIENDS. I DO NOT KNOW WHY YOU WERE SEIZED BY THESE PEOPLE, BUT I AM RELEASING YOU TO PROTECT YOU FROM HARM.



WE THEN RETURNED TO GEMPOALA, WHERE WE WERE AGAIN RECEIVED WITH GIFTS

BEFORE WE CAN ACCEPT THESE GIFTS AND BECOME BROTHERS, YOU MUST GET RID OF YOUR IDOLS AND PUT AN END TO HUMAN SACRIFICE



WE CANNOT GIVE UP OUR GODS AS THEY GIVE US HEALTH AND GOOD HARVESTS AND EVERYTHING WE NEED

NEVERTHELESS, THEY MUST BE OVERTHROWN



CORTEZ ORDERED SOME OF US TO CLIMB UP TO THEIR LOFTY TEMPLE.

IF YOU DESTROY OUR IDOLS, WE WILL ALL PERISH, AND YOU ALONG WITH US



CORTEZ IGNORED THEIR PLEAS

THROW DOWN THE IDOLS!



WE DID THIS, WHILE THE CHIEFS AND PRIESTS WEPT AND COVERED THEIR EYES, AND PRAYED TO THEIR GODS TO PARDON THEM



THEN THE INDIANS BEGAN TO PREPARE TO SHOOT ARROWS AT US



BUT WE LAID HANDS ON THE CHIEF AND SIX PRIESTS

IF YOU ATTACK US, WE WILL KILL THESE MEN



THE CHIEF ORDERED HIS WARRIORS TO LEAVE, AND WE BROKE UP THE KIDLS AND BURNED THEM



WHEN ALL WAS FINISHED

NOW WE WILL TREAT YOU AS BROTHERS, AND HELP YOU AGAINST MONTEZUMA AND THE AZTECS.



WE DECIDED TO MARCH TO MONTÉZUMA'S CAPITAL, TENOCHTITLÁN. WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. BEFORE WE LEFT, CORTÉZ ORDERED ALL OUR SHIPS TO BE DESTROYED.

NOW THE MEN WHO ARE DISCONTENTED AND WISH TO GO HOME WILL NOT BE ABLE TO.



WITH THE SAILORS FROM THE SHIPS, AS WELL AS TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY INDIANS WHO WENT WITH US, WE SET OUT IN AUGUST, 1519, MARCHING ON THE ALERT AND IN GOOD ORDER.

SIRS, LET US FOLLOW OUR BANNER WHICH BEARS THE SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS. THROUGH IT WE SHALL CONQUER.



IN TIME, WE CAME TO A PLACE CALLED TLAXCALA, WHERE MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND INDIANS FELL UPON US FROM AMBUSH.



WE DROVE THEM BACK, BUT THE NEXT DAY OVER FORTY THOUSAND WARRIORS ATTACKED US.



OUR SHOTS DID MUCH DAMAGE, FOR THEY WERE IN SUCH CLOSE FORMATION.



WE KILLED SO MANY OF THEIR LEADERS THAT THEY WITHDREW. WE DID NOT FOLLOW THEM, FOR WE WERE SO TIRED WE COULD HARDLY STAND.



WORD OF HOW WE, BEING SO FEW, HAD CONQUERED SUCH A GREAT FORCE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE.

THEY ARE GODS!



THE CHIEFS CAME TO US TO MAKE PEACE.

ONE OF OUR IDOLS TOLD OUR FOREFATHERS THAT MEN WOULD COME FROM LANDS IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RISING SUN TO SUBJUGATE US AND GOVERN US. WE THINK YOU ARE THESE MEN.



WE WILL RENDER OBEDIENCE TO YOUR KING AND ASK PARDON FOR HAVING TAKEN UP ARMS AGAINST YOU.



WHILE WE RESTED IN TLAXCALA, THE PEOPLE TOLD US MUCH ABOUT THE GREAT WEALTH OF MONTEZUMA

I THINK WE SHOULD DEPART FOR TENOCHTITLAN AT ONCE



IS IT NOT RASH TO ENTER SUCH A STRONG CITY? WE ARE SO FEW IN NUMBER!

WE WISH TO SEE MONTEZUMA, SO THERE IS NO OTHER COURSE OPEN TO US



BEFORE WE COULD LEAVE, FOUR AMBASSADORS FROM MONTEZUMA CAME BEARING MANY PRESENTS

MONTEZUMA BEGS THAT YOU COME AT ONCE TO HIS CITY, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU GIFTS FROM ALL THAT HE POSSESSES



THE AMBASSADORS ACCOMPANIED US TO A PLACE CALLED GHOLULA THERE, SOME INDIANS FRIENDLY TO US BROUGHT US A WARNING

TAKE HEED. OUTSIDE THE CITY ARE REGIMENTS OF MONTEZUMA'S, HIDDEN IN AMBUSH. YOU CANNOT ESCAPE DEATH OR CAPTURE



THE GHOLULANS ARE TO JOIN IN THE ATTACK. TWENTY OF YOU ARE TO BE KEPT FOR SACRIFICE TO THEIR IDOLS



THE NEXT DAY, GORTIZ CALLED TOGETHER THE CHIEFS AND WARRIORS OF THE TOWN

WHY DO YOU WISH TO KILL US, WHO HAVE DONE YOU NO HARM? YOUR TREASON IS DISCOVERED, AND YOU SHALL NOT REMAIN UNPUNISHED.



HE GAVE A SIGNAL, AND WE DEALT THEM A BLOW THEY WILL REMEMBER FOREVER, FOR WE KILLED MANY OF THEM.



WHEN THE REGIMENTS SENT BY MONTEZUMA HEARD WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, THEY RETURNED, FASTER THAN AT A WALK, TO TENOCHTITLAN. WE CONTINUED OUR JOURNEY TO THE AZTEC CAPITAL.

I THINK MONTEZUMA MAY ALLOW US TO ENTER THE CITY AND, ONCE INSIDE, KILL US AS HE CHOOSES.



WE WILL NOT TURN BACK NOW →

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, WE WERE MET BY MONTEZUMA'S NEPHEW, THE LORD OF TENCOGO.

THE GREAT MONTEZUMA HAS ORDERED ME TO WELCOME YOU AND TO PLACE MYSELF AT YOUR SERVICE.



WE WERE CONDUCTED TO A BROAD CAUSEWAY WHERE WE SAW MANY CITIES AND VILLAGES BUILT IN THE WATER, AND OTHERS ON DRY LAND.

I MUST BE DREAMING, FOR I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.



IN FRONT OF US STOOD THE GREAT CITY OF TENOCHTITLAN, AND WE DID NOT EVEN NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED SOLDIERS! WHAT MEN HAVE THERE BEEN IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE SHOWN SUCH DARING?



THEN WE SAW A RICH LITTER APPROACHING.

IT IS MONTEZUMA!



MONTEZUMA GOT DOWN FROM HIS LITTER WITH GREAT CEREMONY.

I DID YOU WELCOME.

MY HEART REJOICES AT SEEING SUCH A GREAT PRINCE.



SO, THROUGH LUCK AND DARING, WE ENTERED THE CITY OF TENOCHTITLAN ON THE EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1519. THANKS TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR IT ALL!



WE WERE TAKEN TO LODGE IN SOME LARGE HOUSES.
WHEN WE HAD DINED, MONTEZUMA CAME TO SEE US.

IT MUST BE TRUE THAT YOU ARE THOSE
WHO ARE TO COME FROM WHERE THE
SUN RISES TO RULE OVER THESE LANDS.



YES, WE ARE SENT HERE BY
OUR EMPEROR, DON CARLOS,
TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR
VASSALS TO BECOME
CHRISTIANS SO THAT
YOUR SOULS MAY BE
SAVED.



HERE, THROUGHOUT ALL
TIME WE HAVE WORSHIPPED
OUR OWN GODS AND
THINK THEY ARE GOOD.
SO DO NOT SPEAK ANY
MORE ABOUT IT AT
PRESENT.



SOME DAYS LATER, MONTEZUMA
TOOK US TO SEE HIS CITY. WE
FIRST WENT TO A GREAT
MARKET PLACE.

THERE MUST BE EVERY SORT OF
MERCHANDISE HERE THAT IS TO
BE FOUND IN THE WHOLE OF
THIS COUNTRY.



I HAVE TRAVELLED
IN MANY PARTS OF
THE WORLD AND
HAVE NEVER SEEN
ANYTHING SO WELL
REGULATED AND
ARRANGED.



WE THEN CAME TO SOME COURTS WHICH STOOD BEFORE THEIR GREAT TEMPLE.

IT IS SO CLEAN HERE!

THERE IS NOT A PIECE OF DUST OR STRAW TO BE FOUND IN THE WHOLE PLACE!



WE APPROACHED THE TEMPLE AND ASCENDED ITS 114 STEPS.



FROM THE TOP ONE COULD SEE OVER THE WHOLE CITY.

SEE, THE GREATER PART IS BUILT IN A LAKE.

ONE CANNOT PASS FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE EXCEPT BY DRAWBRIDGE OR BOAT.



THERE WERE THREE CAUSEWAYS THAT LED INTO THE CITY, WITH BRIDGES ON THEM AT INTERVALS, SO THAT THE WATER COULD FLOW FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER.



IT WAS MARVELOUS TO BEHOLD, AND STRANGE TO THINK THAT ALL THESE WONDERS ARE NOW OVERTHROWN AND LOST. THEN CORTESZ ASKED TO SEE MONTEZUMA'S GODS, AND WE ENTERED A SMALL APARTMENT

THIS IS TEZCATLIPOCA, THE OTHER IS HUITZILOPUCHTLI, THE GOD OF WAR.



THERE WERE ALTARS WHERE HUMAN BEINGS WERE SACRIFICED AND BRAZIERES WHERE THEIR HEARTS WERE BURNED



IT WAS A HORRIBLE SIGHT, AND WE HASTENED TO LEAVE

THESE ARE NOT GODS, BUT EVIL THINGS



THEY GIVE US HEALTH AND RAIN AND MANY VICTORIES. IF I HAD KNOWN YOU WOULD SAY SUCH THINGS ABOUT THEM, I WOULD NOT HAVE SHOWN THEM TO YOU



WE THEN RETURNED TO OUR QUARTERS. IN ONE OF OUR CHAMBERS WE FOUND A DOOR THAT HAD BEEN CLOSED UP AND CONCEALED. WE OPENED IT AND FOUND A GREAT STORE OF GOLD AND JEWELS.

THIS MUST BE THE TREASURE OF MONTEZUMA'S FATHER, WHICH I HAVE HEARD HE KEEPS IN THIS BUILDING.



WE MUST LEAVE IT UNTOUCHED FOR THE PRESENT.



ONE DAY SOME OF US SPOKE TO CORTES.

MONTEZUMA PRETENDS TO SHOW US GOOD WILL, BUT HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE HE ATTACKS US?

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD SEIZE HIM WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.



BUT HOW CAN WE SEIZE SUCH A GREAT PRINCE, SURROUNDED AS HE IS BY GUARDS AND WARRIORS?



WE WILL GET HIM OUT OF HIS HALLS AND INTO OUR QUARTERS, AND THERE HOLD HIM PRISONER.

VERY WELL, WE WILL DO THIS TOMORROW.



THE NEXT DAY WE WENT TO SEE MONTEZUMA.

WE KNOW THAT YOU PLOT TO KILL US THEREFORE, YOU MUST COME WITH US TO OUR QUARTERS, WHERE YOU WILL BE WELL SERVED. BUT IF YOU MAKE ANY DISTURBANCE, YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY BE KILLED.



MONTEZUMA WAS DUMBFOUNDED AND BEGAN TO ARGUE WITH CORTES AT THIS, SOME OF THE CAPTAINS BECAME IMPATIENT.

LET US EITHER TAKE HIM PRISONER OR STAB HIM BEFORE HE MAKES AN UPRAR.



WHEN MONTEZUMA SAW WE WERE IN EARNEST, HE SAID HE WOULD GO WITH US.

TELL THE MEN OF YOUR GUARD THAT YOU GO WILLINGLY, BECAUSE YOUR IDOL HAS TOLD YOU TO DO SO.



HIS LITTER WAS BROUGHT, AND WE ACCOMPANIED HIM TO OUR QUARTERS. WE TREATED HIM WITH GREAT FLATTERY AND ATTENTION, AND HE BECAME FAIRLY CONTENT.

I REGARD YOU AS A BROTHER, AND I WILL MAKE YOU LORD OF MANY COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT NOW OBEY YOU.



SOON HIS CAPTAINS CAME TO SEE HIM.

SHALL WE ATTACK THESE STRANGERS?

NO, YOU MUST NOT EXCITE YOURSELVES OR THE CITY.



**CORTEZ VISITED
MONTEZUMA OFTEN.**

IT WOULD BE WELL, PRINCE
MONTEZUMA, FOR YOU TO PAY
TRIBUTE TO OUR EMPEROR.

VERY WELL I WILL GIVE
HIM THE TREASURE
THAT BELONGED TO MY
FATHER, WHICH IS
SEALED UP IN YOUR
APARTMENTS I KNOW
THAT AS SOON AS YOU
CAME HERE, YOU
OPENED THE CHAMBER
AND BEHELD IT



**IT WAS BROUGHT OUT, AND MUCH
OF IT WAS MELTED DOWN AND
MADE INTO BARS**



**WHEN THIS WAS DONE,
CORTEZ PUT ASIDE A
FIFTH FOR THE KING AND
A FIFTH FOR HIMSELF.
THEN...**

THE REST WILL BE
DIVIDED AMONG YOU, BUT
FIRST WE MUST TAKE OUT
SOME FOR MY EXPENSES IN
CUBA, AND FOR THE CAPTAINS,
AND THE PRIEST, AND THOSE
WHO BROUGHT HORSES.



**THROUGH THIS AND OTHER
TRICKERIES THERE REMAINED
VERY LITTLE FOR US.**

MY SHARE IS SO SMALL, I
WILL NOT EVEN TAKE IT!



**BUT CORTEZ SPOKE TO
US WITH HONEYED
WORDS**

THIS GOLD IS BUT A
BREATH OF AIR. WE
SHALL SOON BE LORDS
OF MANY CITIES. WE
SHALL BE PROSPEROUS
AND RICH.



ABOUT THIS TIME, WE GOT WORD THAT A FLEET OF NINETEEN SHIPS UNDER PANFLO NARVAEZ HAD ARRIVED AT SAN JUAN DE ULUA.

THANK GOD! AT THE RIGHT MOMENT HE PROVIDES FOR US.



BUT THEN CORTEZ BECAME THOUGHTFUL.

I FEAR IT IS A FLEET SENT AGAINST US BY DIEGO VELASQUEZ BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT GONE BACK TO CUBA TO REPORT TO HIM, AND HAVE NOT SENT HIM ANY GOLD.



HE THEN DISTRIBUTED SOME GOLD TO US TO MAKE SURE WE WOULD REMAIN LOYAL.

CORTEZ IS VERY CLEVER. THIS GOLD IS NOT FROM HIS OWN SHARE, BUT FROM THAT WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN OURS ALL ALONG.



CORTEZ ALSO LOOKED FOR FRIENDS AMONG NARVAEZ' MEN.

TAKE THESE INGOTS AND CHAINS OF GOLD AND GIVE THEM SECRETLY TO NARVAEZ' CAPTAINS.



AND TAKE THIS LETTER TO NARVAEZ. I HAVE ASKED HIM TO GO ELSEWHERE AND NOT CAUSE A DISTURBANCE HERE WHICH WOULD DESTROY HIM AND US AS WELL.



NARVAEZ, HOWEVER, MADE CAMP AT THE TOWN OF CEMPALA. WHEN CORTES HEARD OF THIS

I THINK WE SHOULD FALL UPON HIM IMMEDIATELY.



BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN HERE IN TEMOCHTITLAN?

PEORD DE ALVARADO AND A SMALL FORCE WILL REMAIN TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS.



WE MADE SOME BARRIAGES AND MOUNTED SOME GANNON FOR THOSE WHO WERE TO STAY.

TAKE THE GREATEST CARE THAT MONTEZUMA DOES NOT ESCAPE. OBEY YOUR CAPTAIN, AND WITH THE HELP OF OUR LORD GOD, I WILL MAKE YOU ALL RICH MEN.



CORTES ALSO CAUTIONED MONTEZUMA.

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHIEFS TO START A REBELLION, FOR THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR IT WITH THEIR LIVES WHEN WE RETURN.



WE SET OUT ON OUR JOURNEY.

I DO NOT LIKE THIS. WE HAVE BUT TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SIX SOLDIERS. NARVAEZ HAS FIVE TIMES AS MANY.



AS WE APPROACHED NARVAEZ'S CAMP, CORTEZ SENT ONE OF HIS CAPTAINS AHEAD TO SECRETLY GIVE OUT CHAINS AND JEWELS TO NARVAEZ'S MEN.

YOU SEE, CORTEZ CAN MAKE YOU RICH.



HE THEN WENT TO SEE NARVAEZ.

I COME TO ASK IF YOU WILL AGREE TO KEEP PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH CORTEZ.



WHAT, MAKE FRIENDS WITH A TRAITOR WHO REBELLED WITH THE FLEET AGAINST DIEGO VELASQUEZ?



CORTEZ IS NOT A TRAITOR. HE IS A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF HIS MAJESTY. HE HAS DONE SOME GREAT THINGS IN HIS SERVICE.



BUT NARVAEZ WOULD NOT LISTEN. HE ORDERED HIS SOLDIERS OUT ON THE PLAIN TO AWAIT US.

DO NOT LET ONE OF CORTÉZ'S MEN ESCAPE DEATH OR CAPTURE.



HOWEVER, IT WAS RAINING, AND AS NARVAEZ'S MEN WERE UNACUSTOMED TO HARDSHIPS, THEY RETURNED TO THEIR QUARTERS.

I DO NOT THINK CORTÉZ WILL COME.

I WOULD NOT BE SORRY IF HE DID. I WOULD SOONER SERVE HIM THAN NARVAEZ.



THEREFORE, WE WERE ABLE TO MARCH RIGHT INTO NARVAEZ'S CAMP AND SEIZE HIS GUNS.



AFTER A SHORT BATTLE, NARVAEZ WAS WOUNDED AND HIS MEN SURRENDERED.



THEN CORTÉZ WON THEM OVER WITH MANY OFFERS AND PROMISES AND FLATTERING WORDS.

I PARDON YOU AND WILL TAKE YOU INTO MY ARMY.



BUT ILL LUCK WAS ON THE WAY, FOR A MESSAGE CAME THAT TENOCHTITLAN WAS IN REVOLT, AND ALVARADO AND HIS MEN WERE BEING BESIEGED.

WE WILL RETURN TO THE CITY IMMEDIATELY.



WE BEGAN OUR JOURNEY BY FORCED MARCHES. WHEN WE REACHED TLAXCALA, CORTÉZ ORDERED A MUSTER TO BE MADE OF HIS MEN.

WE HAVE NEARLY FIFTEEN HUNDRED MEN, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWERS OF HARVAEZ, AS WELL AS TWO THOUSAND INDIAN WARRIORS.



WE MARCHED INTO TENOCHTITLAN WITHOUT INTERFERENCE AND WENT DIRECTLY TO OUR QUARTERS. CORTÉZ SAW AND TALKED WITH ALVARADO.

WHAT CAUSED THIS REVOLT?



THE AZTECS WERE HOLDING A FESTIVAL. I KNEW THAT AS SOON AS THEY FINISHED, THEY WOULD COME AND ATTACK US.



SO IN ORDER TO TAKE THEM UNPREPARED AND SCARE THEM, WE HASTENED TO FALL ON THEM.

THAT WAS ILL COONE, AND A GREAT MISTAKE ON YOUR PART.



THEN A MESSAGE CAME THAT MANY SQUADRONS OF AZTEC WARRIORS WERE APPROACHING. A DETACHMENT WENT OUT TO MEET THEM. THEY HAD HARDLY REACHED THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WHEN SO MANY AZTECS FELL ON THEM THAT THEY WERE HARD PUT TO FORGE A PASSAGE TO THEIR QUARTERS.



SUCH WAS THE AZTECS' DARING THAT THEY PENETRATED INTO OUR QUARTERS AND SET FIRE TO THEM.



WE REMEDIED THIS BY FLINGING MUCH EARTH OVER THE FIRE.

IN TRUTH, THEY WOULD BURN US ALIVE.



THEIR TENACITY IN FIGHTING WAS SUCH THAT I DO NOT KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT.

NEITHER GUNS, CROSS-BOWS, NOR MUSKETS CAN FORCE THEM BACK.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN MEN WITH SUCH COURAGE!



FINALLY WE ARRANGED TO SALLY OUT WITH FOUR MOVABLE TOWERS BUILT IN SUCH A MANNER THAT FIVE AND TWENTY MEN COULD FIND SHELTER UNDER EACH.

WE WILL TRY TO TAKE THEIR GREAT TEMPLE.



WE KILLED MANY AZTECS BUT IT DID NOT MAKE THEM TURN THEIR BACKS. NEVERTHELESS, WE DETERMINED TO PUSH ON TO THE TEMPLE



THERE, WITHOUT TAKING THE TOWERS, FOR THEY WERE ALREADY DESTROYED, WE MADE OUR WAY TO THE SUMMIT



WE SET FIRE TO THEIR IDOLS AND DESCENDED, SOMETIMES TUMBLING DOWN SIX OR TEN STEPS AT A TIME.



WITH MUCH TOIL AND RISK TO OURSELVES, WE RETURNED TO OUR QUARTERS.



THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM. WE WILL HAVE TO SUE FOR PEACE AND LEAVE THE CITY

CORTÉZ THEN SENT A MESSAGE TO MONTEZUMA, WHO WAS STILL OUR CAPTIVE, THAT HE SHOULD SPEAK TO HIS PEOPLE AND TELL THEM THE WAR MUST CEASE.

I DO NOT THINK I CAN OBTAIN ANY RESULTS, FOR THEY HAVE ALREADY RAISED UP ANOTHER LORD IN MY PLACE.



NEVERTHELESS, MONTEZUMA WAS PLACED ON THE ROOF AND BEGAN TO SPEAK TO HIS PEOPLE. SUDDENLY THEY DISCHARGED A SHOWER OF STONES, AND MONTEZUMA WAS STRUCK DOWN.



WE DID ALL WE COULD TO HELP HIM, BUT HE DIED OF HIS WOUNDS. THE AZTECS CAME ON US AGAIN WITH GREATER FURY, AND SEEING THAT WE WERE STARING DEATH IN THE FACE, WE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE CITY.

WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT, CORTÉZ LOADED SOME FRIENDLY INDIANS AND SOME HORSES WITH PARCELS OF IT. THEN...

THE REST I GIVE TO ANY OF YOU WHO CAME TO TAKE IT.

BRING UP THE GOLD SO THAT WE MAY DIVIDE IT



MANY OF THE MEN LOADED THEMSELVES WITH GOLD, AND WE SET OFF THAT NIGHT. CORTÉZ, THE HORSEMEN, THE INDIANS AND HORSES CARRYING THE GOLD, AND ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS WENT FIRST.



THIS FIRST DETACHMENT HAD JUST PASSED OVER A BRIDGE WHEN THE CRIES AND WHISTLES OF THE AZTECS BEGAN TO SOUND, AND THEY CHARGED DOWN ON US



THOSE SOLDIERS WHO HAD NOT CROSSED THE BRIDGE WERE CUT OFF. HUNDREDS WERE KILLED--MANY SO WEIGHTED DOWN WITH GOLD THAT THEY COULD NEITHER ESCAPE NOR SWIM.



CORTEZ AND HIS GROUP, HOWEVER, SPURRED ALONG THE CAUSEWAY AND GOT AWAY IN SAFETY



WHERE SHALL WE GO NOW?

TO OUR FRIENDS, THE TLAXCALANS I TRUST TO GOD THAT WE SHALL FIND THEM TRUE AND LOYAL



ALTHOUGH THE AZTEGS WERE ALWAYS HARASSING US, WE FINALLY REACHED A TLAXCALAN TOWN.

REST YOURSELVES, FOR YOU ARE AT HOME.



FORTUNATELY FOR US, SEVERAL SPANISH SHIPS CAME INTO THE HARBOR AT THIS TIME.

THEY ARE SENT TO AID ANOTHER EXPEDITION, BUT AS THIS EXPEDITION HAS BEEN LOST, THEY WILL BE OF THE GREATEST HELP TO US.



IN ADDITION TO MEN, WE GOT HORSES, GUNS, AND POWDER, AND OTHER ARMS FROM THE SHIPS.

I BELIEVE WE ARE NOW STRONG ENOUGH TO ATTACK TENOCHTITLAN AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH ITS NEW KING, GUATEMOG, IS A VERY BRAVE AND RESOLUTE WARRIOR.



I WILL GIVE YOU TEN THOUSAND MEN, FOR WE TLAXCALANS WISH TO AVENGE OUR BROTHERS WHO WERE KILLED BY THE AZTEGS.



VERY GOOD—BUT FIRST WE MUST MAKE SOME BOATS FOR WE CAN NEVER MASTER THE LAKE NOR ENTER THE CITY WITHOUT THEM.



WE SET OUR CARPENTERS TO WORK, AND WITH THE HELP OF THE INDIANS, THEY BUILT THIRTEEN LAUNCHES.



WORD THAT WE PLANNED TO ATTACK TENDCHITLAN SPREAD THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, AND WE WERE JOINED BY MANY THOUSANDS OF INDIANS.



WE MARCHED INTO AZTEC TERRITORY AND ATTACKED SOME OF THE TOWNS NEAR TENDCHITLAN.



WE HAVE NOT TAKEN OFF OUR ARMOR IN MONTHS MANY OF THE MEN ARE SICK BECAUSE OF IT.



ON SOME OF THE EXPEDITIONS WE CAPTURED SLAVES WHO WERE BRANDED AND DISTRIBUTED, BUT IN AN UNFAIR MANNER.



IN SPITE OF OUR HARSHIPS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS, WE MARCHED ON TO TENOCHTITLAN. IN MAY OF 1519, CORTÉZ HELD A REVIEW OF OUR FORCES

WE HAVE ABOUT NINE HUNDRED SOLDIERS AND MANY THOUSANDS OF INDIAN WARRIORS.



I WILL DIVIDE YOU INTO THREE GROUPS. EACH WILL ENTER THE CITY OVER ONE OF THE THREE GREAT CAUSEWAYS WHICH LEAD INTO IT. WE MUST PUT OUR TRUST IN GOD AND FIGHT AS VALIANT MEN.



THOSE OF US WHO WERE TO ENTER BY THE TAGUBA CAUSEWAY FIRST MARCHED TO CHAMPULTEPEC TO BREAK THE WATER CONDUITS THERE

THIS WILL CUT OFF THE WATER SUPPLY TO TENOCHTITLAN



AND NOW LET US ADVANCE ALONG THE CAUSEWAY AND TRY TO GAIN POSSESSION OF A BRIDGE



THE CAUSEWAY WAS CROWDED WITH AZTEC WARRIORS, WHO DROVE US BACK.

GORTÉZ IS COMING WITH LAUNCHES TO REINFORCE US WE WILL WAIT FOR THEM BEFORE ATTACKING AGAIN.



FOUR LAUNCHES ARRIVED, AND WITH TWO OF THEM ON ONE SIDE OF THE CAUSEWAY, AND TWO ON THE OTHER, WE BEGAN TO FIGHT VERY SUCCESSFULLY



THE LAUNCHES VANQUISHED THE AZTEC CANOES WHICH ATTACKED US FROM THE WATER



WE THUS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CAPTURE SEVERAL BRIDGES AND BARRICADES, AND NOT UNTIL NIGHT PARTED US DID WE CEASE FIGHTING.



BUT HOWEVER MUCH WE CAPTURED BY DAY, THE AZTECS WOULD RETAKE BY NIGHT AFTER WE HAD RETIRED TO THE MAINLAND.



WE WILL HAVE TO CAMP ON THE CAUSEWAY.

WE DID THIS, AND THEREAFTER WHEN WE CAPTURED A BRIDGE OR A BARRICADE, WE GUARDED IT BY DAY AND BY NIGHT.



I'M WOUNDED. WHY SHOULD I STAND GUARD?

THERE ARE SCARCELY TWENTY MEN IN EACH COMPANY WHO ARE NOT WOUNDED.

WHEN WE WERE NOT FIGHTING, WE WERE LEVELING ALL THE NEAR-BY HOUSES TO THE GROUND AND FILLING IN THE OPENINGS IN THE CAUSEWAY.



THEN ONE SUNDAY MORNING, GREAT SQUADRONS OF WARRIORS BEGAN TO APPROACH FROM THREE DIRECTIONS.



THEY SURROUNDED US, BUT ALL OF US FOUGHT VALIANTLY AND FORGED THEM TO RETREAT ACROSS AN OPENING IN THE CAUSEWAY.



**THINKING WE WERE VICTORIOUS,
WE FOLLOWED AT A RUN**



**THEY RETREATED TO A PLACE WHERE THERE
WERE SOME GREAT HOUSES. A MULTITUDE OF
WARRIORS WERE HIDDEN THERE, AND WHEN WE
WERE LEAST EXPECTING IT, THEY JOINED THE
COMBAT**



**WE THEN DECIDED TO RETREAT,
BUT AT THE WATER OPENING WE
HAD GROSSED THERE WAS NOW
A FLEET OF GANGES**



**WE WERE FORCED IN ANOTHER
DIRECTION, WHERE THE WATER
WAS VERY DEEP**



WE CROSSED BY SWIMMING AND WADING, BUT MANY FELL INTO PITS THE AZTECS HAD DUG



THE GANDES ARE GOING UPON US!

THE LAUNCHES COULD NOT COME TO OUR ASSISTANCE BECAUSE THEY WERE IMPALED ON STAKES WHICH HAD BEEN FIRED THERE



SOME OF OUR COMPANIONS WERE CARRIED OFF ALIVE



IT IS A WONDER WE WERE NOT ALL KILLED. AS FOR ME, MANY INDIANS LAID HOLD OF ME, BUT I MANAGED TO SAVE MYSELF BY SOME GOOD SWORD THRUSTS.



WE RETREATED TO OUR CAMP, WHERE WE HELD OUR OWN AGAINST THE INDIANS WITH THE HELP OF SOME BRONZE CANNON AND HARD FIGHTING.



WE FOUGHT THE AZTECS EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT AS WELL. THEN CORTÉZ SENT WORD THAT ALL THREE OF OUR FORCES WERE TO MARCH INTO THE CITY AND MEET AT THE GREAT MARKET PLACE.

IF WE LEAVE THE CAUSEWAYS UNGUARDED, WILL NOT THE AZTECS RETAKE THEM?

WE MUST DO AS CORTÉZ COMMANDS.



WE SET OUT FROM OUR CAMP, CAPTURING BRIDGES AND BARRICADES AS WE WENT. THEN, WHEN WE LEAST EXPECTED IT, WE WERE ATTACKED BY MANY SQUADRONS OF AZTECS.



THE FURY AND COURAGE WITH WHICH THEY THREW THEMSELVES ON US WAS TERRIFYING.



IF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAD NOT GIVEN US STRENGTH WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH OUR CAMP, WHERE WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF.



SOON WORD CAME THAT OUR OTHER FORCES HAD BEEN DEFEATED AS WELL.

WHAT IS THAT HORRIBLE NOISE COMING FROM THE TEMPLE?

THEY ARE TAKING SOME OF OUR COMRADES TO BE SACRIFICED!



OUR FORTUNES WERE SO LOW THAT MANY OF OUR INDIAN ALLIES DESERTED US, BUT ONE OF THE CHIEFS WHO REMAINED LOYAL CAME TO CORTÉZ.

DO NOT BE DISTRESSED BECAUSE YOU CANNOT WIN EVERY DAY. TAKE MY ADVICE AND STAY SOME DAYS IN YOUR CAMP.



BUT KEEP THE LAUNCHES ON THE MOVE TO PREVENT SUPPLIES OF FOOD OR WATER FROM GETTING INTO THE CITY. SOON THE AZTECS WILL SUFFER MORE FROM HUNGER AND THIRST THAN FROM WAR.



CORTÉZ DID AS HE WAS ADVISED, AND ALSO STARTED A NEW PLAN.

WE WILL ADVANCE VERY SLOWLY, DEMOLISHING EVERY HOUSE UNTIL ALL IS LEVELLED TO THE GROUND AND WHAT WAS WATER BECOMES DRY LAND.



WE DID THIS AND FOUND WE COULD MOVE FREELY THROUGH THE STREETS WE HAD CAPTURED.



THUS WE ADVANCED INTO THE CITY ONE DAY WE CAME TO THE GREAT TEMPLE AND ASCENDED IT AT GREAT RISK OF OUR LIVES.



WE BURNED THE IDOLS, DESCENDED, AND CONTINUED TO FIGHT UNTIL NIGHT TIME.



EVERY NIGHT, MANY POOR INDIANS CAME NEAR TO OUR CAMP LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO EAT.

IT IS CLEAR THAT THE CITY IS STARVING. I WILL SEND TO GUATEMOC BEGGING HIM TO SURRENDER.



GUATEMOC REPLIED THAT HE WOULD MEET CORTES IN THREE DAYS, AS WE STOOD WAITING, A GREAT FORCE OF AZTECS SALLIED OUT AND ATTACKED US.



WE PAID THEM OFF WELL AND AGAIN BEGAN TO ADVANCE INTO THE CITY. CORTES CALLED SANDOVAL, ONE OF HIS CAPTAINS, TO HIM.



SANDONVAL ADVANCED WITH ARROGANCE WHEN GUATEMOC SAW THIS, HE FLUNG HIS FAMILY AND GOLD AND JEWELS IN SOME LARGE CANNES AND SHOT OUT INTO THE LAKE.



ONE OF THE LAUGHES FOLLOWED AND OVERTOOK HIM

I AM GUATEMOC DO NOT SHOOT, BUT CARRY ME AT ONCE TO YOUR CAPTAIN.



CORTES RECEIVED GUATEMOC WITH DELIGHT.

NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, MY SPIRIT WILL TAKE REST.

I HAVE DONE MY DUTY IN DEFENSE OF MY CITY I CAN DO NO MORE. TAKE THAT DAGGER THAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR BELT AND KILL ME WITH IT.



NO, I ESTEEM YOU ALL THE MORE FOR HAVING BEEN SO BRAVE



We had besieged Tenochtitlan for ninety-three days On the thirtieth day of August in the year 1521, Guatemoc and his captives were captured, thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ Amen

BERNAL DIAZ DEL CASTILLO



BERNAL Diaz del Castillo saw action in every important battle in the Conquest of Mexico. He was one of the most dependable foot soldiers in Hernando Cortez' small army.

Of Bernal Diaz' early life, little is known. Even his birth date is in doubt. It is believed he was born in 1492 in Medina del Campo, Spain.

Some twenty-two years later, he sailed on the first large-scale expedition to Panama, then called Darien. Panama was a recent discovery in the New World. Balboa, in Panama, had sighted the Pacific only a year before. The Panama expedition proved a disappointment to Bernal Diaz. He soon returned to Cuba, then the central base of operations for the Spaniards in the New World.

In 1517, Bernal Diaz was aboard a Spanish ship sailing from Cuba to Florida when it was blown off course and touched upon the Yucatan coast of Mexico. Temples were found there, and skirmishes were fought with the Indians. When the ship reached Cuba, legends began to circulate about Indian cities in the interior—El Dorado and the Seven Enchanted Cities—with rich stores of gold.

Bernal Diaz enlisted in another expedition to explore the Yucatan coast. Then, in 1519, he sailed with a third expedition under Hernando Cortez. This was the important one, for Cortez landed on the eastern coast of the Aztec empire and marched inland, excited by tales of gold.

The route of march was from the coastal lowlands of Mexico to the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, high in the mountains. Battles along the way resulted in a terrible slaughter of the Indians. There

were many different tribal nations involved, all subject to the Aztec emperor, except the Tlaxcalans.

The Indians massed their troops in great numbers and concentrated on a forward-charge type of assault. This allowed only those in the front ranks to fight, while the largest part of the army pressed from behind, trying to get into the action. Cortez and his men were always outnumbered, but they had superior weapons and used European tactics of warfare. The Indians never successfully solved the problem of how to attack and make best use of their superior numbers.

Bernal Diaz relates that he took part in 119 battles. In Tenochtitlan, he was one of the soldiers who seized Montezuma and held the Aztec emperor captive. Bernal Diaz was wounded several times and, more than once, was nearly captured to be dragged off to the sacrificial block.

After the long siege of Tenochtitlan and the fall of the Aztecs in fierce hand-to-hand fighting, Bernal Diaz joined other expeditions into southern Mexico. They ended in disappointment. Eventually, he received a grant of land in Guatemala. There, in the 1560's, he wrote his *True History of the Conquest of Mexico*.

Bernal Diaz' book is the most complete of the few Spanish eyewitness accounts. Almost all of the Aztec accounts, consisting of drawings in books called *codices*, were burned by the Spanish. Of the original Aztec drawings, only a very small portion has survived. Several are reproduced on the first page of this book.

Bernal Diaz lived to some ninety years of age. His book was published in 1632, about fifty years after he died.

PROPHECY OF DOOM

IN 1790, a great round stone disc was dug up in present-day Mexico City. Upon its face was carved the Aztec calendar and elaborate religious symbols. The Aztec calendar stone, as it is called, weighs twenty-four tons and is as tall as three men. It represents the sun, for the Aztecs were sun worshippers. It was believed that an Aztec warrior who died in battle, or was sacrificed, went to live in the mansions of the sun.

The Aztecs' greatest god was both a sun god and war god. His name was Huitzilopochtli, pronounced Weet-zeel-o-potch-tly. The Aztecs believed Huitzilopochtli needed human blood to keep up his strength. Because of this belief, they sacrificed prisoners of war to him in staggering numbers.

The rapid growth of the Aztec empire was due in large part to this belief, which made every war the Aztecs fought a holy war. Even in times of peace, the Aztecs fought with tribal nations subject to them. They never tried to kill the enemy, but sought instead to take prisoners. These prisoners were sacrificed to Huitzilopochtli in temples atop pyramid-like structures.

Human sacrifice was also practiced in the name of many other gods. A chief god of the Aztecs was Tezcatlipoca, pronounced Tez-cat-li-po-ca. He has been traced back by some historians to an actual leader of the Toltecs, a tribal nation that came to power in the Valley of Mexico before the Aztecs.

Huitzilopochtli has also been traced back to a historic individual. He was modeled after an Aztec leader, Mexitli, who first led the Aztecs on a long migration out of the north and into the Valley of Mexico.

Almost all Aztec males were either

priests or warriors. The warrior schools were under the guidance of the god Tezcatlipoca. The religious schools were under the guidance of the god Quetzalcoatl, pronounced Kayt-zal-co-atl.

Quetzalcoatl means Plumed Serpent. In all the years of Indian civilization in Mexico, Quetzalcoatl was worshipped as a god of culture and learning. About 300 A.D., a great temple was built to him by an unknown Indian nation. Many tribal chiefs down through the centuries added the title Quetzalcoatl to their own names.

The Toltecs came to power in the Valley of Mexico about 1200 A.D. This was some two hundred years before the Aztecs. The Toltecs had a legend about a god called Quetzalcoatl, who taught them civilized ways. It is not known whether this Quetzalcoatl was a Toltec ruler who added the title of Quetzalcoatl to his name, or a stranger who came from outside the Toltec region. Whoever he was, this particular Quetzalcoatl brought peace and prosperity to the Toltecs.

For some reason, he left the Toltecs and promised to return at a later date and rule them. The legend of Quetzalcoatl's return continued through the years. When Cortez arrived in Mexico, Montezuma feared the prophecy had been fulfilled and that Cortez was, in reality, Quetzalcoatl. This fear prevented Montezuma from pitting the full might of his empire against Cortez on the Spanish march inland. Instead, Montezuma ordered the subject tribal nations to try to stop Cortez.

When Cortez defeated each small army sent against him, Montezuma became convinced he faced a god whom he could never defeat. Thus, for Montezuma, Cortez fulfilled the prophecy.

THE OLD WORLD

"IT IS like Venice," the Spaniards said to one another when they first looked upon Tenochtitlan. Venice was then one of the three leading cities of Europe. Tenochtitlan resembled Venice because they both were built upon water. In both cities, canoes were used to transport people through the canal-like streets.

"How clean the Aztecs are," the Spaniards said in wonder. This was because European cities and towns in the sixteenth century were often uncared for, and dirt and refuse were everywhere. When rain fell, the unpaved streets turned to mud. Chickens and pigs ran wild. Palaces were cold and drafty in winter, and they were surrounded by stagnant moats.

Traveling from town to town was dangerous. Highwaymen and bands of robbers roamed the countryside, robbing and sometimes killing travelers. Even in the cities and towns, the streets were usually unlighted and dangerous at night.

Murder and sudden death were common. Many known murderers were never arrested, as some courts ruled that men who were "unique in their professions were not subject to the laws." Benvenuto Cellini, a famous artist, bragged about killing several men without being punished for it.

Executions were public. A wooden platform was set up in the main

square of the town or city. Crowds came for miles to watch. Special seats were sometimes built for royalty.

The condemned prisoners were led through the crowd, which jeered and laughed at them. When the prisoners were led up onto the platform, the crowd often hurled insults and garbage at them.

The usual manner of execution was hanging or being burned at the stake. Men, women and children met the same fate. Torture was used to obtain confessions. Minor crimes were punished by public whippings.

Little was known of medicine then and plagues swept mercilessly across large parts of Europe. Wars destroyed villages and towns. Looting often followed.

Soldiers wounded in battle were left to die where they had fallen, unless friends helped them. Townspeople did a brisk trade after a battle by going among the wounded selling charms. The wounds, however, generally had to heal by themselves or not at all. There were no hospitals. Surgery and bloodletting were practiced by barbers.

A revival of past learning had begun in Europe that was already bringing waves of reform and advance to European cities. It is called the Renaissance. By means of this movement, Europe came out of that medieval period known as the Dark Ages.

BUILD YOUR OWN LIBRARY

COLLECT AND PRESERVE YOUR COPIES OF

CLASSICS

Illustrated

IN AN ATTRACTIVE, PERMANENT BINDER



HANDSOME, durable, permanent—made to last a lifetime of handling. Each binder holds 12 books securely. Each is covered in beautiful, brown simulated leather and is richly imprinted in gold on both cover and backbone.

Simple instructions make binding possible in a matter of minutes.

GET YOURS **\$1.00** EACH
NOW POSTPAID
(\$1.50 in Canada)

Fill out coupon below or a facsimile and

MAIL NOW! TODAY!

GILBERTON CO., Inc. DEPT. 5 101 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Herewith is \$ _____ Please send _____ binders, postpaid.

Name _____

Address _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

**READ THE BEST IN THE WORLD'S FINEST
JUVENILE PUBLICATION**



CLASSICS
Illustrated

**MAKE YOUR SELECTION FROM THESE
THRILLING - EXCITING - ROMANTIC
ADVENTURE STORIES.**

THEY'RE ONLY 15¢ EACH

- | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Three Musketeers | 42. Sir's Family Adversity | 83. The Jungle Book | 129. King Crockett |
| 2. Tom Sawyer | 43. Hatterjack | 84. The Sea Wolf | 130. Cassin's Conquests |
| 3. The Court of Wende Child | 44. Twenty Thousand Leagues
Under the Sea | 85. Captain Tom Pogo | 131. The Covered Wagon |
| 4. The Quest of the Malabar | 45. David Copperfield | 86. Men of Iron | 132. The Bark Pirate |
| 5. Nelly Deck | 46. Alice in Wonderland | 87. Clive and Peveril | 133. The Tomy Machine |
| 6. 8 Tails of Tom O'Riel | 47. The Adventures of
Tom Sawyer | 88. Green Swallows | 134. Bones and Joliet |
| 7. Robin Hood | 48. The Spy | 89. The Call of the Wild | 135. Whitefox |
| 8. Robinson Crusoe | 49. The House of the Seven Gables | 90. David Boreas | 136. Lord Jim |
| 9. Rip Van Winkle | 50. The Man in the Iron Mask | 91. King Solomon's Mines | 137. The Little Sergeant |
| 10. St. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | 51. Silver Horse | 92. The Red Badge of Courage | 138. A Journey to the Center
of the Earth |
| 11. Uncle Tom's Cabin | 52. The Song of Hiawatha | 93. Hunchback | 139. In the Days of Daniel |
| 12. The Boatlayer | 53. The Prairie | 100. Money on the Beauty | 140. On Jungle Trails |
| 13. The Buccaneers of Malabar | 54. Western Stories | 101. William Tell | 141. Gentle Benjamins |
| 14. Huckleberry Finn | 55. Treasure Island | 102. Men Against the Sea | 142. Marston Lincoln |
| 15. The Pathfinder | 56. Benjamin Franklin | 103. From the Earth to the Moon | 143. Kim |
| 16. Oliver Twist | 57. The Scottish Chiefs | 104. Buffalo Bill | 144. First Men in the Moon |
| 17. A Connecticut Yankee in
King Arthur's Court | 58. Around the World in
Eighty Days | 105. King-of-the-Klondike Billie | 145. The Galois |
| 18. Huckleberry Finn | 59. The Pilot | 106. Her Caravan | 146. With Fire and Sword |
| 19. The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn | 60. The Viking | 107. The Bull's Eye | 147. Sea War |
| 20. Michael Strogoff | 61. The Dogon Trail | 108. Wild West Kidnab | 148. The Buccaneer |
| 21. The Prince and the Pauper | 62. The Lady of the Lake | 109. The Whirlwind | 149. Out on a Limb |
| 22. The Black Arrow | 63. The Princess of Ozark | 110. Long and Clear | 150. The Virginian |
| 23. Lorna Doone | 64. The Flood | 111. The War of the Worlds | 151. Was by the Sword |
| 24. My Darling Clementine | 65. Men of Iron | 112. The Brother Incident | 152. Wild Billings: Three Stories |
| 25. The Phantom | 66. Cyrus de Bergerac | 113. The Dwarfs | 153. The Sorcerer's Son |
| 26. Tom Sawyer | 67. White Fang | 114. The King of the Mountains | 154. The Conspiracy of Pontiac |
| | | 115. Hunchback | 155. Lion of the North |
| | | | 156. Conquest of Mexico |

**CLASSICS Illustrated may be obtained at newsstands everywhere
or directly from us by filling in and mailing the coupon below.**

GILBERTON CO., INC. • DEPT. 5. • 101 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Here with is \$ _____ for _____ issues of CLASSICS Illustrated as circled below:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78
79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114
115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140
141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156

Name _____ Age _____
(Please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____