

My quest was from its beginning a seeming simple one. Having been enthralled with Bernal Diaz del Castillo's vivid descriptions of the Aztec Capital of Tenochtitlan from his famous book The True Discovery and Conquest of Mexico, I wanted to see ~~it too~~ ^{what he saw}. Unlike the Maya whose long abandoned cities had been somewhat preserved by the engulfing forest, Aztec cities were razed to the ground in a destruction so thorough that one has to look carefully for even traces of it.

My dream was to come as close as possible to recapturing what it felt like to look upon those lost wonders. The key phrase here is "what it felt like" because no one will ever see it exactly as it was. Still being aware of ^{the} certain futility in an ultimate goal I none the less thought that there was "out there" sufficient knowledge that once mastered would provide me with the means for such an encounter with the past.

All of this began at a time before the discovery of the Coyolxauhqui Stone in the Zocalo of Mexico City which began the great interest in Aztec studies that continues today. It was before subsequent Archeological investigations that have added so much to our knowledge. It was before the decipherment of Maya Hieroglyphic writings had made their dramatic strides.

15 bird book print (mudbugzard)

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