

It has been many years now since I have thought about that particular day when we were first in Mexico Tenochtitlan that day we <sup>first</sup> <sup>what was</sup> saw <sup>inside</sup> the great square where ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup> their great temples, and the houses of their principle gods. But as I think upon it, <sup>now</sup> it all comes back to me as clearly as if it were yesterday.

Our Captain Cortez had shown an interest in visiting all of the strong places of the city and had mentioned to the king Moctezuma that he would, <sup>particularly</sup> like to see the holy places that lay behind the great wall in front of our lodgings. Moctezuma with great deference in his quiet way said through the interpreters that such a thing would require the permission of his principal priests even to him but that he thought that it would be no problem and that would be some time after ~~and~~ the midday observance when the priests fumigated the idols that they would be available to show us the way and that we should be prepared for when they came to fetch us.

True to his word, shortly before noon five important men entered the front courtyard of our palace and walked <sup>in</sup> stately across its length to the large, <sup>columned</sup> room at its northern end where our captain received his guests.

They bowed and ~~bowed~~ <sup>bringing</sup> and touched their hands to the stone pavement ~~bringing~~ <sup>again</sup> them back up close to their mouths in that gesture of sincere greeting they <sup>often showed us</sup> ~~went to the~~. The woman Moine and Aguilar who were never very far from our captain greeted these men in turn and then looked on as two of them unwrapped

some bundles of very white deerskin which contained  
some golden necklaces and other jewelry which they  
presented to our captains. Another <sup>two</sup> stepped forward, ~~their~~  
arms draped with many flower garlands which <sup>they</sup> ~~he~~ placed  
over our necks. There were enough for ~~seven~~ <sup>about ten of</sup> of  
us and I think that it was his way and his lords way  
of telling us just how many of our men would be  
allowed to enter the sacred square. Through Donna Marina  
and Aguilar, the one who acted as their spokesman  
let it be known that flowers could be worn <sup>on this occasion</sup> ~~there~~ but  
that the golden jewels were better worn at other times and  
in other places. Captain Cortez thanked them for their  
generosity and hardly had Donna Marina and Aguilar  
began their translations when <sup>many</sup> ~~the sound of many~~  
Conch horns and other instruments began to sound ~~in~~  
from the temples in the square. ~~Strangely as they~~  
~~went in and out of harmony~~ It was very loud  
even here in the palace and strange sounding as the  
notes went in and out of harmony with each other.

Cortez turned to me and reminded me that it was my duty  
to note everything that I would see that could be of use to us.  
and to be careful