

No living human being will ever know the exact appearance of the Aztec Capitol of Tenochtitlan ^{and exactly as it} nor indeed of any part of it. ^{even} A serious scholar would ~~never~~ attempt ~~it~~ ^{such an} assault on impossibility. So why in the world would anyone attempt it? The problems confronting such a person

No living human being can ever know the exact appearance ^{as it appeared to the victorious conquerors,} of the Aztec Capitol of Tenochtitlan, the city that the conquerors ~~entered~~ ^{entered} on that November day in 1520. Bernal Diaz, ~~writing~~ ^{one} of those men writing some forty years later

No living human being can ever know the exact appearance of the Aztec Capitol of Tenochtitlan as it lay before its future conquerors on that ^{cool} November day in 1520 at sometime ^{around} ^{whose cheerful countenance had to have been disguising his deep apprehensions} noon when Bernal Cortes, dismounted, handed his horses ~~scraped~~ ^{scraped} to a page and together with his top aides and his two translators Dona Marina and Francisco ^{de} Aguilar

No living human being can ever know the exact appearance of the Aztec Capitol of ^{Mexico} Tenochtitlan as it lay before its future conquerors on that cool November day in 1520. At sometime ^{Capitan} near noon ~~when~~ ^{his} Bernal Cortes, ~~with~~ ^{his} cheerful countenance ~~disguising the deepest~~ ^{disguising} ^{handed} ^{handed} his horses reins to a page and with his principle aides and his two translators stepped forward to embrace the great king Montezuma's Xocoyotzin ruler of this

most land and a king of kings. That he was prevented from doing so by the kings' covens, kings in their own right must have been one of those little great moments in history

What followed, surely one of the great tragic epics of human history witnessed the destruction of an empire, the deaths of kings the mass annihilation of entire peoples by disease and sword and perhaps, ^{most tragic} of all, the loss of a way of life and identity utterly defined by ~~foreign~~ ^{by} ~~religion~~ ^{as} a profound devotion to a ~~religious~~ ^{religion} system ^{too} ~~which in its many variations reached back~~ ^{to} ~~to the dimmest shadows of antiquity~~ whose origins and variations reached back ^{deeply} ~~to the~~ into the dimmest shadows of antiquity

The city itself because of its lacustrine nature, ^{and on} its network of canals ^{created} ~~which~~ ^{on almost} ~~was~~ ^{held} with every house, a virtual moated fortress ^{necessitated} ~~requiring~~ ^{almost} total destruction, house by house and canal by canal before it could be captured

Of the two cities, Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco, the first fell to the Spaniards and their allies in the first three days of what was to become a seventy day ^{struggle} ~~seige~~. This was due in part to the large areas of dry land over which horses ^{outletting} and squadrons could move. Tlatelolco even more laced by canals and larger bodies of open water was by far the more defensible and held out for the balance of the siege

Cortez, ~~at the time~~ ^{sincerely}, ~~testified~~ ^{testament} that

Cortez sincerely lamented the fact that it was his enemies indomitable spirit and bravery which ^{had} prolonged the agony, that day by day the prize was slipping from his ~~hands~~ ^{and that} grasp. His Indian allies whose hatred of