

A Terrible Journey

A long time ago, in the sixteenth century, a Spanish general named Hernando Cortés set off to conquer the new lands, which had been discovered earlier by Christopher Columbus. He set off to America with only two hundred men, whom he called Conquistadors. Their journey was long and perilous. It was very difficult for Cortés to find the inhabitants of America for he didn't have a map.

Cortés set off from the Straits of Gibraltar with fifteen armed galleons. As they crossed the Atlantic ocean they met various sea storms. A vile tragedy happened when the galleons crossed the rough sea in which three of the galleons sank. In June, they found America. Cortés marched for many days in the tropical, Southern forests till he reached the city of Tlaxcalans. The male inhabitants greeted the Conquistadors and gave them food and the other things they needed. Cortés asked these men if they had any gold. The Tlaxcalans didn't have any gold for they were warriors, but they did know who had. They told him about their enemy, the other tribe, which had gold. The city of the other Aztecs was called Tenochitlan. Cortés left the Tlaxcalans and visited Tenochitlan. There ruled the emperor Montezuma who offered Cortés

various ornaments and things. He also offered to build a step pyramid in Cortés' name. To Montezuma's dismay Cortés was more interested in gold. He wanted to trade some Spanish herbs with the Aztec gold. Unfortunately Montezuma refused, but Cortés still wanted the gold. He made an alliance with the Tlaxcalans and together they attacked Tenochitlan, and captured Montezuma. Cortés thought that if he tortured Montezuma he would get his gold, but it was all in vain.

Hernando Cortés put aside Montezuma and attacked Tenochitlan once again. The city was now ruled by a new emperor who was a jaguar-warrior and the nephew of Montezuma. The fighting was fierce and Cortés' men were reduced to eighty. This did not stop Cortés from conquering Tenochitlan. He destroyed the gates of the city and was triumphant. Houses and religious temples were burned and destroyed and the city was burned. The emperor fled into the forest along with a few Aztecs.

Cortés re-built the city and named it 'Mexico'. He went back to Spain where he died in 1549. This journey was one of the most terrible journeys in all the world's history.