

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:17,146

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:17,146 --> 00:00:21,671

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:21,671 --> 00:00:31,681

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:31,681 --> 00:00:36,446

They were called the people of the sun and believed that they were elected by their tribal

5

00:00:36,446 --> 00:00:52,261

god to carry out the destiny of the world.

6

00:00:52,261 --> 00:00:57,106

Guided by this religious imperative, the Aztecs fought their way to domination of the Western

7

00:00:57,106 --> 00:00:58,107

Hemisphere.

8

00:00:58,107 --> 00:01:02,832

They exacted tribute from over 30 other city-states.

9

00:01:02,832 --> 00:01:11,641

In 1519, ruled by the priest king Montezuma, they were at the zenith of their power.

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00:01:11,641 --> 00:01:18,728

But on April 22nd of that year, a small army of 508 soldiers led by conquistador Hernán

11

00:01:18,728 --> 00:01:22,571

Cortés landed on the shore of Mexico.

12

00:01:22,571 --> 00:01:28,377

Why did Montezuma refuse to fight this enemy that would ultimately imprison him and change

13

00:01:28,377 --> 00:01:38,027

the face of the new world?

14

00:01:38,027 --> 00:01:42,431

Montezuma, king of the Aztecs, is about to meet his destiny.

15

00:01:42,431 --> 00:01:48,077

It is the 8th of November, 1519, and it is one of the most unusual confrontations in

16

00:01:48,077 --> 00:01:49,798

all of history.

17

00:01:49,798 --> 00:01:52,841

He believes he is meeting a god.

18

00:01:52,841 --> 00:01:58,647

But this god is in the form of conquistador Hernán Cortés, who had reached Tenochtitlan,

19

00:01:58,647 --> 00:02:04,293

the capital of the Aztec Empire, by a combination of shrewd strategy and a mystical confidence

20

00:02:04,293 --> 00:02:07,296

that his time in history has arrived.

21

00:02:07,296 --> 00:02:12,461

At his side is the Indian woman known as La Malinche, who is his translator and a key

22

00:02:12,461 --> 00:02:16,465

to his understanding of the Indian people.

23

00:02:17,466 --> 00:02:24,833

Today, in the center of Mexico, workers are uncovering the great temple of the Aztecs.

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00:02:24,833 --> 00:02:30,839

The site was discovered by chance in 1978, and both as a structure and as a symbol is

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00:02:30,839 --> 00:02:35,003

the most important single site in the Aztec world.

26

00:02:35,003 --> 00:02:41,129

Dr. David Carrasco is a professor at the University of Colorado.

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00:02:41,129 --> 00:02:45,334

The Aztecs lived in the north, in a place called Chico Móstoc, or the place of seven

28

00:02:45,334 --> 00:02:50,819

caves, and there their god, Huychilo Pocely, appeared to the Shaman priest in a dream,

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00:02:50,819 --> 00:02:55,424

telling the priest that he should move the people to another location, and that location

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00:02:55,424 --> 00:02:58,427

would be marked by an omen in the landscape.

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00:02:58,427 --> 00:03:01,830

And there they were told that if they built their city in this place, their city would

32

00:03:01,830 --> 00:03:05,754

be the queen of all of the cities in Mexico, to whom people would come as one supreme among

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00:03:05,754 --> 00:03:06,755

all the others.

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00:03:06,755 --> 00:03:11,760

It was at this very spot that the temple mayor was built.

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00:03:11,760 --> 00:03:16,284

The remains of the temple and the few other artifacts that survived the conquest tell

36

00:03:16,284 --> 00:03:19,688

us of the awesome power of the Aztecs.

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00:03:19,688 --> 00:03:24,252

Since religion was at the core of their society, their pyramids were built on a scale more

38

00:03:24,252 --> 00:03:27,936

fitting of gods than men.

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00:03:27,936 --> 00:03:32,581

The Aztec calendar was invented by priests who were well versed in astronomy, and it

40

00:03:32,581 --> 00:03:34,843

was remarkably accurate.

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00:03:34,843 --> 00:03:39,948

More accurate, in fact, than the Roman calendar we use today.

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00:03:39,948 --> 00:03:44,873

The nobles and priests were schooled in history, religion, and prophecy.

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00:03:44,873 --> 00:03:50,759

They were not only learning from their past, but believed they could predict their future.

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00:03:50,759 --> 00:03:55,844

Their conquest had enabled them to create a world of luxury, and their lush gardens fed

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00:03:55,844 --> 00:04:03,732

their growing armies and put flowers on the tables of their nobility.

46

00:04:03,732 --> 00:04:12,140

The primary sources that we have depict Moctezuma II as a highly sensitive, very spiritual,

47

00:04:12,140 --> 00:04:19,667

and deeply concerned Klatwani, or king, who had a very close relationship to the major

48

00:04:19,667 --> 00:04:23,191

deity of the Aztecs, Huitzilopochtli.

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00:04:23,191 --> 00:04:27,835

He carried the influence and the power of Huitzilopochtli in his own heart.

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00:04:27,835 --> 00:04:33,601

He was the spokesman for this great deity.

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00:04:33,601 --> 00:04:37,165

The Aztecs had a cyclical concept of time.

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00:04:37,165 --> 00:04:42,910

Every 52 years, a new cycle began, and the gods had to be appeased at these crucial periods

53

00:04:42,910 --> 00:04:46,934

to assure the continued prosperity of their civilization.

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00:04:46,934 --> 00:04:52,540

The year 1519 was the beginning of a new cycle, and there were ominous signs that their world

55

00:04:52,540 --> 00:04:54,902

was in danger.

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00:04:54,902 --> 00:05:00,027

The Aztecs tell their story of the conquest in a very unusual way.

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00:05:00,027 --> 00:05:06,354

They begin their story of how their world came to an end by telling not how the Spanish

58

00:05:06,354 --> 00:05:11,439

first came to their land, but by telling that there were omens in the sky, signs in their

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00:05:11,439 --> 00:05:17,084

own heavens, which indicated that their world or their cosmos was coming to an abrupt and

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00:05:17,084 --> 00:05:18,686

violent end.

61

00:05:18,686 --> 00:05:24,452

The first omen that appears is a rip in the sky, which bleeds drop by drop onto the Aztec

62

00:05:24,452 --> 00:05:26,854

world celestial influences.

63

00:05:26,854 --> 00:05:34,862

The second omen is a thunderbolt, which hits, burns down the temple of the great god Huitzilopochtli.

64

00:05:34,862 --> 00:05:41,308

A number of omens follow, which indicate that the Aztecs understood their own collapse as

65

00:05:41,308 --> 00:05:46,794

originating with celestial influences, not the presence of Spaniards.

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00:05:46,794 --> 00:05:49,597

The final omen was the most frightening.

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00:05:49,597 --> 00:05:53,641

One night throughout Tenerstitlan, a woman's cry was heard.

68

00:05:53,921 --> 00:05:57,965

My children, my children, we are lost.

69

00:05:57,965 --> 00:06:04,051

It came from everywhere and from nowhere, and the people were afraid.

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00:06:04,051 --> 00:06:11,979

It is an eerie fact that the arrival of Cortes was foretold by the Aztec prophecies.

71

00:06:11,979 --> 00:06:16,183

Irony and coincidence played instrumental parts in the collision of these two great

72

00:06:16,183 --> 00:06:17,625

cultures.

73

00:06:17,625 --> 00:06:22,389

It was as though some guiding force had arranged the elements of this great drama, which the

74

00:06:22,389 --> 00:06:24,792

characters then acted out.

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00:06:24,792 --> 00:06:29,797

We have records of this historic event, in a personal account written by Bernal Diaz,

76

00:06:29,797 --> 00:06:35,763

a soldier in Cortes' army, and in the colorful picture writings of the Aztecs themselves.

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00:06:35,763 --> 00:06:39,566

Both cultures seem to confirm the warning of the omens.

78

00:06:39,566 --> 00:06:43,610

But Professor James Lockhart has a different interpretation.

79

00:06:43,610 --> 00:06:49,696

The omens tell us mainly what the Aztecs or the Indians of that area were thinking many

80

00:06:49,696 --> 00:06:52,379

years after the conquest.

81

00:06:52,379 --> 00:06:56,503

Most of the ones we have, or generation or generation and a half, they're their attempt

82

00:06:56,503 --> 00:06:58,866

to explain what happened.

83

00:06:58,866 --> 00:07:05,792

And the kinds of things that we have, astronomical phenomena, strange animals and the like, are

84

00:07:05,792 --> 00:07:11,118

part of a standard repertoire that these people often use to explain bad things that happened

85

00:07:11,118 --> 00:07:14,281

to them after the fact.

86

00:07:14,281 --> 00:07:20,047

Cortes was totally unaware of the Aztec situation when he approached the shores of Mexico.

87

00:07:20,047 --> 00:07:25,292

His main concern was keeping his expedition together, and to prevent desertion, he burned

88

00:07:25,292 --> 00:07:29,296

his ships after he was ashore.

89

00:07:29,296 --> 00:07:35,222

The great god Quetzalcoatl was prophesied to return on the very day that Cortes lands,

90

00:07:35,222 --> 00:07:40,827

and Montezuma has his people watching the coast in anticipation of this momentous event.

91

00:07:40,827 --> 00:07:45,752

A messenger brings him drawings of these beings, and the light-skinned bearded figures are

92

00:07:45,912 --> 00:07:50,277

frighteningly similar to the traditional description of their god.

93

00:07:50,277 --> 00:07:56,202

Montezuma is overwhelmed and afraid to receive this mythical being, but also afraid to arouse

94

00:07:56,202 --> 00:08:01,207

his anger by keeping him away.

95

00:08:01,207 --> 00:08:06,493

What hand was guiding the Cortes expedition to land on that exact day?

96

00:08:06,493 --> 00:08:09,576

The mission was nearly aborted many times.

97

00:08:09,576 --> 00:08:14,701

Even as it got underway, conflict and uncertainty made it doubtful whether it would ever reach

98

00:08:14,741 --> 00:08:16,743

its destination.

99

00:08:16,743 --> 00:08:23,750

Yet Cortes' sense of destiny pushed him on, ironically fulfilling the Aztec promise.

100

00:08:24,551 --> 00:08:28,835

Who knows where or how the Quetzalcoatl legend originated.

101

00:08:28,835 --> 00:08:31,798

His image was on every temple in the empire.

102

00:08:31,798 --> 00:08:38,284

The more fantastic theories see in Quetzalcoatl and Irishmen, Norsemen, or even Atlantean,

103

00:08:38,284 --> 00:08:43,009

who had landed on Mexico's shore in some ancient time.

104

00:08:43,009 --> 00:08:47,173

Quetzalcoatl was important because he ruled a magnificent kingdom, a magnificent city

105

00:08:47,173 --> 00:08:53,179

state in which there was abundance, harmony between the gods and human beings, agricultural

106

00:08:53,179 --> 00:08:54,180

stability.

107

00:08:54,180 --> 00:09:00,026

But at a certain point in the golden day of Quetzalcoatl's kingdom, he had to leave,

108

00:09:00,026 --> 00:09:04,510

but he promised to return one day and restore the abundance and stability of this marvelous

109

00:09:04,510 --> 00:09:05,511

situation.

110

00:09:05,511 --> 00:09:10,076

It appears from the primary sources that we have that when the Spaniards began to march

111

00:09:10,116 --> 00:09:17,123

inland in 1519, led by Cortes, that the Aztecs and especially the Aztec king Montezuma interpreted

112

00:09:17,924 --> 00:09:22,929

the presence of the Spaniards as the return of this king Quetzalcoatl.

113

00:09:22,929 --> 00:09:25,411

And he investigated this identity in a number of ways.

114

00:09:25,411 --> 00:09:32,418

First of all, he sent out some representatives to paint pictures of Cortes and the Spaniards

115

00:09:32,778 --> 00:09:37,103

so that these pictures could be brought back and compared with the pictures that they had

116

00:09:37,103 --> 00:09:39,105

of their own Tolteque ancestors.

117

00:09:39,105 --> 00:09:46,112

Secondly, Montezuma sent out food to see if the Spaniards would eat the Indian food

118

00:09:46,112 --> 00:09:47,113

and recognize it.

119

00:09:47,113 --> 00:09:51,237

Were they indeed human beings or were they other kinds of beings or were they some sort

120

00:09:51,237 --> 00:09:57,243

of combination of beings, human beings and supernatural beings?

121

00:09:57,243 --> 00:10:02,248

Many of the Indians near the coast do not share Montesuma's reference for these intruders

122

00:10:02,248 --> 00:10:04,250

and want to drive them out.

123

00:10:04,370 --> 00:10:07,373

But their fighting methods are no match for the Spaniards.

124

00:10:14,380 --> 00:10:19,385

The battles between the Spaniards and the Indians usually ended in Spanish victory.

125

00:10:19,385 --> 00:10:26,392

The Spaniards had the great advantage of steel, which both offensive and defensive gave them

126

00:10:26,952 --> 00:10:30,956

an advantage that the Indians simply could not equal.

127

00:10:31,036 --> 00:10:34,840

The steel sword could cut through anything the Indians had.

128

00:10:34,840 --> 00:10:38,844

The steel helmet could not be penetrated by anything the Indians had.

129

00:10:38,844 --> 00:10:45,351

The other great advantage that the Spaniards had was the horse, which fulfilled the function

130

00:10:45,351 --> 00:10:49,014

essentially of a tank in modern warfare.

131

00:10:49,014 --> 00:10:51,517

And these two then were used in conjunction.

132

00:10:51,517 --> 00:10:58,524

A fairly large body of Spanish footmen with their swords would hack away at huge numbers

133

00:10:59,525 --> 00:11:04,530

of Indians killing, killing, killing until they got tired.

134

00:11:04,530 --> 00:11:10,536

Whereupon the horsemen would burst out and push the Indians back, which they could do.

135

00:11:10,536 --> 00:11:15,541

And then they would return to inside the Spanish group and the Spaniards would begin doing it all over again.

136

00:11:18,543 --> 00:11:24,549

After being defeated on the battlefield, several tribal emissaries beg for peace and bring gifts

137

00:11:24,549 --> 00:11:26,551

as a sign of friendship.

138

00:11:26,551 --> 00:11:31,556

Cortez uses the occasion to further impress upon them his invulnerability.

139

00:11:31,556 --> 00:11:38,563

He has a horse brought to him, knowing that to them this is a beast of the most fearsome proportion.

140

00:11:52,577 --> 00:11:55,580

He is quick to take advantage of the moment.

141

00:11:55,580 --> 00:12:00,585

He takes the helmet of one of his soldiers and calls back the frightened emboids.

142

00:12:06,591 --> 00:12:11,596

He then commands them to take the helmet to Montezuma and have it filled with gold.

143

00:12:12,597 --> 00:12:16,601

Even this helmet seems to be an object of wonder to them.

144

00:12:17,602 --> 00:12:22,607

It appeared to them that this helmet was very similar, if not the same kind of helmet,

145

00:12:22,607 --> 00:12:26,611

which the great Aztec deity Huizula Pochli wore.

146

00:12:27,612 --> 00:12:31,616

We're told that the helmet was taken to Montezuma and when he saw it he marveled at this possibility

147

00:12:31,616 --> 00:12:37,622

and in fact compared it to the helmet which was associated with Huizula Pochli

148

00:12:37,622 --> 00:12:40,625

and was very impressed by the similarity and in fact afraid.

149

00:12:42,627 --> 00:12:49,634

Montezuma does as commanded, but still he sends the message for Cortez to come no further.

150

00:12:50,635 --> 00:12:53,638

At the heart of the Aztec belief system was fear.

151

00:12:53,638 --> 00:12:58,643

Fear of the apocalypse which would inevitably come and annihilate the tribe.

152

00:12:58,643 --> 00:13:04,649

The function of the Aztec priests was to postpone this apocalypse as long as possible

153

00:13:04,649 --> 00:13:10,655

and this could only be accomplished by pleasing the many gods with the hearts of human sacrificial victims.

154

00:13:11,656 --> 00:13:18,663

There are Aztec myths, Aztec stories which tell that the Aztec city itself,

155

00:13:18,663 --> 00:13:23,668

the great temple of the Aztecs was created as a result of the sacrifice of deities.

156

00:13:23,668 --> 00:13:29,674

These stories of sacrifice of gods became the models for the ritual system

157

00:13:29,674 --> 00:13:31,676

and the ritual processes of the Aztecs themselves.

158

00:13:31,676 --> 00:13:35,680

That is as the gods had sacrificed themselves to give life to human beings,

159

00:13:35,680 --> 00:13:42,687

human beings were asked to sacrifice other human beings which was understood to feed the deities and regenerate the world.

160

00:13:48,693 --> 00:13:53,698

The Aztecs were asked to sacrifice their lives for the sake of the Aztecs.

161

00:14:07,712 --> 00:14:11,716

Cortez receives his helmet along with the warning not to come.

162

00:14:11,716 --> 00:14:14,719

One of the other tribes is more emphatic.

163

00:14:14,719 --> 00:14:19,723

We are going to kill these who are called gods and offer them up for sacrifice.

164

00:14:19,723 --> 00:14:23,727

Cortez gathers his men to pray for good fortune and strength

165

00:14:23,727 --> 00:14:28,732

against an enemy that outnumbers them more than a thousand to one.

166

00:14:33,737 --> 00:14:39,743

Against such overwhelming odds it seems foolhardy for Cortez to continue his advance

167

00:14:39,743 --> 00:14:45,749

but his ambition propels him forward and the lure of wealth and power keeps his troops behind him.

168

00:14:48,752 --> 00:14:55,759

One of the most repulsive dimensions which the Aztecs felt about the Spanish invasion of their country

169

00:14:55,759 --> 00:14:57,761

was the Spanish greed for gold.

170

00:14:57,761 --> 00:15:04,768

The Aztecs said of the Spaniards, they are like dogs seeking gold. Gold is their sickness.

171

00:15:05,769 --> 00:15:10,774

The lure he holds out to the Indians of Mexico is freedom from Aztec domination.

172

00:15:10,774 --> 00:15:17,781

He will use every tactic at his disposal, every weapon in his arsenal and every person in his path

173

00:15:17,781 --> 00:15:21,785

in his determination to become master of the new world.

174

00:15:22,786 --> 00:15:25,789

People have been saying for a long time that Cortez didn't tell it right.

175

00:15:25,789 --> 00:15:33,797

He overpraises Mexico as to its great extent and population and wealth.

176

00:15:33,797 --> 00:15:38,802

Not that it wasn't impressive but he doesn't really care about that so much as he wants to impress

177

00:15:38,802 --> 00:15:45,809

the emperor back home that he, what a service he has done in giving him such a huge principality.

178

00:15:45,809 --> 00:15:54,818

He also over-evaluates the religious component and the patriotic component in what he's doing.

179

00:15:54,818 --> 00:15:59,823

They may have been very real too but that wasn't really the reason that he did what he did

180

00:15:59,823 --> 00:16:05,829

but in his letters back home it appears that his whole motivation is Christianity and service to the emperor.

181

00:16:05,829 --> 00:16:11,835

What actually his motivation is that he be confirmed as governor.

182

00:16:11,835 --> 00:16:18,842

Even after consulting with his gods, Montezuma can think of nothing to avoid the impending disaster.

183

00:16:18,842 --> 00:16:25,849

Cortez is invulnerable in battle and immune to magic spells. He certainly must be a god.

184

00:16:25,849 --> 00:16:30,854

It was ages ago that Quetzalcoatl was driven out of the land by a rival deity

185

00:16:30,854 --> 00:16:37,861

and now with his return there will be a clash between the two powers that will do incalculable damage.

186

00:16:39,863 --> 00:16:45,869

As the Spaniards were approaching the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, they expected to see something magnificent and great

187

00:16:45,869 --> 00:16:50,874

because they had heard about Montezuma's great city, the great temple of Tenochtitlan

188

00:16:50,874 --> 00:16:55,879

and the mighty power of the Aztec nobility.

189

00:16:55,879 --> 00:16:59,883

When they entered the city what they saw was even much more magnificent.

190

00:17:00,884 --> 00:17:04,888

Bernal Diaz describes the Spaniards approach to the capital city.

191

00:17:04,888 --> 00:17:12,896

When we saw the town with buildings rising from the water all made of stone, it seemed like an enchanted vision.

192

00:17:12,896 --> 00:17:16,900

Some of our soldiers asked whether it was not all a dream.

193

00:17:17,900 --> 00:17:22,905

Montezuma himself greets them as they enter the city center with these words.

194

00:17:22,905 --> 00:17:26,909

Oh Lord, with what trouble have you journeyed to reach us?

195

00:17:26,909 --> 00:17:34,917

Have arrived in this land, your own city of Mexico, to sit on your throne which I have been guarding for you this while.

196

00:17:34,917 --> 00:17:39,922

I have been watching for you, for my ancestors told that you would return.

197

00:17:39,922 --> 00:17:44,927

Welcome to this land, rest of wild, rest in your palace.

198

00:17:47,930 --> 00:17:54,937

I believe that Cortez in fact was taking an enormous risk in going into Tenochtitlan.

199

00:17:54,937 --> 00:17:59,942

But I am not sure that the Spaniards realized that they were.

200

00:17:59,942 --> 00:18:06,949

They had a long history behind them of entering into the presence of the Cacique or chieftain or king,

201

00:18:06,949 --> 00:18:11,954

seizing him in the course of some friendly parlay and getting away with it.

202

00:18:11,954 --> 00:18:14,957

They also had an equally long history of winning battles.

203

00:18:14,957 --> 00:18:19,962

So I am not sure that they fully realized the risk to themselves that they were taking.

204

00:18:20,963 --> 00:18:24,967

Montezuma has actually moved out of his palace to make room for Cortez.

205

00:18:24,967 --> 00:18:31,974

It is a time of great anxiety and Montezuma feels it is more necessary than ever to continue the sacrifices.

206

00:18:31,974 --> 00:18:34,977

The Lord of the dead needs victims.

207

00:18:34,977 --> 00:18:43,986

From their quarters Cortez and his men can see the grisly spectacle of the sacrificial victims being thrown down the steps of the pyramids.

208

00:18:44,987 --> 00:18:47,990

Finally Cortez can endure it no more.

209

00:18:47,990 --> 00:18:52,995

When Cortez and his troops first arrived in the city, Montezuma took them to the great temple.

210

00:18:52,995 --> 00:18:58,000

And standing on top of the great temple Cortez is, according to Granadisa del Castillo,

211

00:18:58,000 --> 00:19:01,003

turns to his own priest and says to the priest,

212

00:19:01,003 --> 00:19:07,009

perhaps this is a good time to ask Montezuma to remove his own sacred idol so we can put a cross here.

213

00:19:07,009 --> 00:19:12,014

Montezuma like many of the other priests and chieftains and leaders in Mexico

214

00:19:12,014 --> 00:19:15,017

were repulsed by this possibility.

215

00:19:24,026 --> 00:19:29,031

The presence of the Spaniards is causing conflict among the Aztec leaders.

216

00:19:29,031 --> 00:19:32,034

Rumors of uprising are heard throughout Tenochtitlan.

217

00:19:32,034 --> 00:19:38,040

In a desperate attempt to avert disaster Cortez takes Montezuma prisoner.

218

00:19:38,040 --> 00:19:42,044

This is a bold maneuver while in the heart of the Aztec Empire.

219

00:19:42,044 --> 00:19:47,049

And to further assert his power he displays the bound king to his people.

220

00:19:56,058 --> 00:20:00,062

The Spaniards now feel free to put up their crosses and altars

221

00:20:00,062 --> 00:20:04,066

and demand that the sacrifices stop immediately.

222

00:20:04,066 --> 00:20:12,074

There were many uprisings of the same kind as that that led to Montezuma's death all over the Spanish Indies.

223

00:20:12,074 --> 00:20:15,077

It was a quite predictable process.

224

00:20:15,077 --> 00:20:20,081

The first you seized the casique or chieftain and through him you ran his kingdom.

225

00:20:20,081 --> 00:20:28,089

But the people began not to like it and so invariably you get secondary rebellions after the initial conquest.

226

00:20:29,090 --> 00:20:35,096

As the uprising spreads Cortez sends Montezuma out to persuade his people to stop the fighting.

227

00:20:35,096 --> 00:20:37,098

But the situation is out of control.

228

00:20:37,098 --> 00:20:40,101

Suddenly stones rain down on Montezuma.

229

00:20:40,101 --> 00:20:44,105

He is mortally wounded and will die three days later.

230

00:20:45,106 --> 00:20:51,112

Though the fighting goes on for some time, the death of Montezuma marks the end of the Aztec Empire.

231

00:20:52,113 --> 00:20:58,119

The most powerful nation in the Western Hemisphere has come to an abrupt and tragic end

232

00:20:58,119 --> 00:21:02,123

defeated by a force smaller than Montezuma's palace guard.

233

00:21:02,123 --> 00:21:06,127

The legend of Quetzalcoatl is curiously fulfilled

234

00:21:06,127 --> 00:21:10,131

and who is to say that the same omnipotent hand that created the legend

235

00:21:10,131 --> 00:21:17,138

did not also push Cortez to the shores of Mexico on that April day in 1519.

236

00:21:18,139 --> 00:21:21,142

So many questions remain about the conquest.

237

00:21:21,142 --> 00:21:24,145

What if there had been a different king at the time?

238

00:21:24,145 --> 00:21:27,148

One not so superstitious as Montezuma.

239

00:21:27,148 --> 00:21:30,151

What if Cortez had not landed in 1519?

240

00:21:30,151 --> 00:21:32,153

Would history have been different?

241

00:21:32,153 --> 00:21:34,155

Perhaps not.

242

00:21:34,155 --> 00:21:38,159

Perhaps it was as Cortez believed and no matter what the odds,

243

00:21:38,159 --> 00:21:42,163

it was his destiny to be conqueror of Mexico.

244

00:22:17,198 --> 00:22:21,202

The End