

# A PAGE FOR THE JUNIOR CALL

## MONTEZUMA'S SEAL HOW NAM AND ITAL BORE IT TO THE CITY OF CHOLULA AND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN CACIQUES MADE A PLOT AGAINST CORTEZ

By Acton Archer

MONTEZUMA, lord of the empire of ancient Mexico before the white man came to explore the new world across the sea, paced backward and forward in one of the magnificent halls in his great palace where he held his court. Nobles and slaves watching him saw that his face was clouded and that there was a frown on his brow.

"He has had bad news," they whispered among themselves, and they stood in silence waiting his pleasure.

All the Aztec subjects of the gloomy emperor knew that there was only one source from which bad news could come. The empire was at the highest point of its power. Its armies had extended its borders on every side, adding new cities and new provinces year by year until nearly all the people north and south between the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific ocean had been conquered. Here and there, to be sure, was a city that had refused to admit defeat and had managed by courage to retain its freedom. The largest of these was the city of Tlascala, high up on the lofty tableland that lay southeast of the Mexican capital. It was inhabited by people who were fully as brave as the Aztecs themselves, and although they were surrounded on every side by the enemy they loved their freedom so deeply that they were willing to undergo the severest hardships rather than give it up.

But the Tlascalans had all that they could do to defend themselves, so that Montezuma had nothing to fear from them. His uneasiness could have been caused, as every courtier agreed, only by some fresh news from the strange beings who had landed not long before upon the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and who had announced their intention of visiting the emperor in his capital. Many of the Aztecs believed that they were gods because their faces were white and because they rode upon the backs of great animals with deadly feet. It was said that they bore death shut up in long tubes, the nature of which was unknown, except that they seemed to carry lightning and thunder inside of them.

Montezuma did not know whether these strangers were gods, but one thing he did know, and that was that he did not wish them to enter his capital, for he feared that if they did so some grievous harm would befall him and the empire. The question was how to prevent them without offending them in case it should turn out that they were gods after all. He had sent them rich presents in the hope that they would take away in the great winged boats that had brought



The Great Animals They so Much Dreaded Trampled Backward and Forward, While Their Riders Thrust with Their Long Swords

them, but this plan had not succeeded and each new runner who reached the capital from the eastern provinces brought news that they were advancing nearer and nearer.

"Send for Nam and Ital," said Montezuma at last, raising his head.

"What can he want with those two boys?" the courtiers whispered jealously, but they hastened to obey the order.

Nam and Ital quickly entered the hall and advanced to the emperor, bowing respectfully. Nam walked with a limp, for he was lame and small, but Ital was as straight as an arrow, and he met the scowling looks of the courtiers with a proud glance. Like the white strangers, the boys had recently come to Mexico, but they had arrived from the unknown regions of the north and their skins were the

same color as those of the Aztecs. Montezuma had much confidence in them, which the courtiers could not understand, and he showed them high favor. As soon as he saw them he beckoned them aside to the other end of the hall, where the courtiers could not overhear their talk.

"I have an errand for you," he said briefly.

"Command us, your highness," replied Nam.

"Tlascala has been taken by the white strangers," the emperor said. "It is impossible," Ital exclaimed. "No, it is true. I have just received news of it," Montezuma continued. "I had hoped that when the strangers took the road to that city of our enemies they would destroy each other. They have fought two battles, and thousands of the Tlascalans have been

killed; but now they are friends and the strangers are guests in the city." "Where are they going next?" Nam asked.

"They intend to go to Cholula," the emperor replied. "This was a great city not far from Tlascala, with which it had often been at war, for its people were subject to Montezuma. They were famous for their metal work, but they were not regarded as warriors. They were more cunning than brave. Why not send your army and destroy these men who insist upon advancing against your will?" asked Ital hotly. "They are only a handful and you can send a thousand soldiers for each one of them."

But Montezuma shook his head and sighed. "It is too late to think of that, at least for the present," he said. "The Tlascalans will fight on their side

and together they are too strong. But once they have left Tlascala we may think of your plan, and meanwhile I have another. They are going to Cholula. They will be attacked there and probably they will never leave the city. If they do, they will have to meet our forces, which will be posted along the road that they will be compelled to take. It is my desire that you should carry these letters to the caciques of Cholula. They contain my commands regarding the treatment of the strangers when they arrive there, and it is of the greatest importance that they should be delivered without delay. I know that I can trust you, and of others I am not so certain. Go at once, and send a messenger to me when you reach the city."

He gave Nam the letters, sealed with the royal seal, and immediately the

two boys set out on their journey. They hastened toward Cholula with all possible speed, borne in their litters upon the shoulders of relays of swift runners; but the strangers had entered the city before they came in sight of the great pyramid of earth and stone, larger than the pyramids of Egypt, where the god of the air was worshipped. They came in the night, and from the top of this pyramid they saw the eternal fire blazing through the darkness, with smaller fires shedding their light from 400 towers rising above the roofs of the houses.

Although the gates of the city had been closed the sentinels opened them as soon as they learned that Nam and Ital came from Montezuma, and they were conducted through the dark streets with secrecy to the house of the chief cacique. There they found the leading men of the city assembled in conference. As the boys were inclined to look upon the two boys with suspicion, but the sight of the seal of Montezuma was enough.

Some Aztec nobles who had been sent by Montezuma several days before with new presents for the white strangers, went with the caciques and they took part in the council. The letters of the emperor were opened and read. It was found that he commanded the people of Cholula to treat the intruders kindly if they showed an intention to return to the sea, but if they insisted upon advancing toward the capital to destroy them.

This order greatly pleased the caciques, who hated and feared the strangers. It was already known that they proposed to march to the capital when they left the city, so that there was nothing to be done but to plan their destruction in accordance with the order of the emperor.

Nam and Ital soon learned that this all along had been the intention of the treacherous caciques. A large number of warriors from Tlascala had accompanied the strangers to Cholula, but the caciques had objected to admitting them within the walls on the ground that they were ancient enemies and they had, therefore, remained outside. This reduced the strangers to a party of small force which was greatly outnumbered by the troops of the city.

It was agreed by the council that the white men should be treated in a friendly manner and that the attack should be delayed until they were marching through the streets toward the city. Orders were given to erect barriers to impede their progress and to dig deep pits in the streets through which they must pass. Sharp stakes were to be placed in the bottoms of these pits so that when the great animals upon which the strangers rode all into them they would be hurled upon the tops of the houses to be hurled upon the heads of the white soldiers as they passed below. All the fighting men of the city were to attack them when they were off their guard and not expect to be delivered without delay. I know that I can trust you, and of others I am not so certain. Go at once, and send a messenger to me when you reach the city."

He gave Nam the letters, sealed with the royal seal, and immediately the

two boys set out on their journey. Nam after the council ended and they were dismissed to rest. "This fighting from ambush strikes me as cowardly and for my part I shall have no share in it. I'd like to tell the strangers what is going on against them," he said. "I don't like it, either," Nam replied, "but it is not our affair. We are merely to obey the orders given to us by Montezuma, who has been kind to us. It is my opinion that the emperor is making a great mistake, and that he can not save the empire by half way measures such as this."

"Do you really think that the empire is in any danger?" Ital asked incredulously.

Nam shook his head. "I fear so," he said. "And as for this plot they have made against the strangers, too many people know it. I don't believe it will succeed."

All remained quiet the next day, and the departure of the strangers had been set for the following day. There was no sign that they suspected anything and the caciques were certain that the affair was as good as finished. They were especially pleased when Cortez, as the leader of the enemy was called, sent to them for a thousand men to drag the heavy tubes in which he carried the death dealing thunder and lightning that the natives feared so much.

"This will deprive him of the use of the tubes," they said to themselves, "and he will be in our power!" So they gave him not only the thousand men asked for, but twice that number.

Nam and Ital were aroused at daybreak on the fifth morning by the news that the captain of the strangers had sent for the ambassadors from the emperor. They joined the others and hastened to the great square in which the white men had been placed by the caciques. They found the strangers not only astray, but drawn up on all sides of the square. They noticed also that the great death tubes—which, of course, were cannon—had been placed so that they pointed down the streets which led into the square. This sight made them uneasy, but it was too late to retreat.

Cortez met them in the middle of the square with a stern face and angry eyes. They tried, as usual, to say something polite to him, but he would not listen to them.

"I have learned that the caciques of this city have laid a plot against me," he said, and an interpreter explained to them the meaning of his words. "Pits have been dug and barriers have been built in the streets. On the roofs of the houses there are heaps of stones and many soldiers have been assembled to fall upon us. What does this mean?"

"We know not," cried the chief of the ambassadors. "Montezuma, our master, has ordered that kindness be shown to you as his friends, and if what you say is true he will punish his disobedient people."

"I am glad to hear that," Cortez replied. "I am sure that your master knew nothing of the plot. As to the punishment, we will spare him the trouble of inflicting it, for it is our intention, as you will see, to attend to that ourselves, and no doubt he will be grateful to us for it."

"He is not deceived," Nam whispered to Ital, "but he is making a pretense of believing us for reasons of his own. How did he ever find out?"

By the direction of Cortez the ambassadors were conducted to one corner of the square, in a position where they could not be seen from the streets. As they took up their station under guard of some of the white men, who scowled at them, the soldiers from the city who had been sent to help the strangers move the heavy death tubes entered the square. They came forward into the open space that had been left in the middle and halted there for orders. All carried weapons with which they were to aid in slaying the strangers when the signal was given. Hardly had they gathered before the ranks of the white soldiers closed and a trumpet was heard and then the horrified ambassadors saw the lightning and heard the thunder from the small death tubes which the white soldiers carried in their hands. A cloud of smoke filled the square. Hundreds of arrows and bolts from the crossbows rained upon the unfortunate escort, and worst of all, the great animals that they so much dreaded, carrying soldiers upon their backs, trampled backward and forward, while their riders thrust with their long swords.

At the outcry in the square the soldiers who had been waiting outside came running through the streets to the rescue of their comrades, but the cannon began to roar and they fell in heaps, faster than they could advance. To make their defeat complete, the Tlascalan soldiers, who had been camped outside the walls, entered the city and attacked the rear of the ranks. In a short time they were all over and the subjects of Montezuma who survived had forgotten their plot in their wild flight for safety.

Cortez turned to the trembling ambassadors. "You may go," he said, "and tell your master that we are following to receive his thanks for the punishment that we have inflicted for him upon his rebellious subjects."

Without a word of reply the terrified envoys, with Nam and Ital, made their haste back to the capital to tell the emperor what his seal had done.

## WINNERS OF THE JUNIOR PAINT BOX PRIZES

- HERE is the picture of the children wading on the beach, and another fine chance for the artistic and industrious younger junior to do some more beautiful coloring. The boys sailing their boat brought a very large number of lovely pictures to the office of the Junior Call, and the editor hopes to have even more next week.
- This picture work is for the younger juniors only, those who are 10 years of age and younger. Twenty paint boxes will be awarded to 20 pictures most artistically and neatly colored.
- Color your picture as quickly as possible and mail it to the editor of The Junior Call, so that it will arrive not later than Wednesday afternoon, as pictures received after that time can not be used.
- The younger juniors who have been awarded prizes for painting the picture of the two boys sailing their boat are:
- Fred Brownworth, 52 Prospect avenue, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Florence M. McGrath, 1251 Nineteenth avenue, East Oakland, age 10 years.
- Emmett McKenny, 1315 Buchanan street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Daniel Geary, 816 Eighteenth street, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Lennie Gales, Sausalito, age 10 years.
- Cecil Swannet, R. D. box 78, Elmhurst, age 9 years.
- Rose Paulsen, 3129 Twenty-first street, San Francisco, age 7 years.
- Ethel Christianson, 639 Berlin street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Dennis Hunsley, 1014 Mendocino avenue, Santa Rosa, age 8 years.
- Grace Johnson, box 408, Grass Valley, age 9 years.
- Ruth Belden, Sausalito, age 8 years.
- Camilla Malone, Palm avenue, San Rafael, age 10 years.
- Margaret Poole, Ukiah, age 7 years.
- Charlie Stevens, 118 Fourth street, Marysville, age 7 years.
- Frank Pedro, 672 Keyes street, San Jose, age 10 years.
- Charlotte Morton, 1220 South Thirtieth avenue, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Miriam Morris, 1424 Lake street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Evelyn Thomas, Ukiah, age 9 years.
- Kenneth Miller, 580 Twenty-first avenue, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Corlis Hinds, 381 Monterey street, San Francisco, age 7 years.
- ROLL OF HONOR**
- In addition The Junior Call is very happy to be able to publish the following long roll of honor:
- Marie Hervien, 3757 West street, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Cecilia O'Connell, 66 Carmelita street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Edmund O'Connell, 66 Carmelita street, San Francisco, age 6 years.
- Sullivan Eskow, 447 Thirty-fourth avenue, Richmond district, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Willie Platt, Hayward, age 6 years.
- Katherine Steiger, Vacaville, age 7 years.
- Bernice Butler, 200 Illinois street, Vallejo, age 8 years.
- Olive Fugazi, 1428 Gilbert street, San Francisco, age 5 years.
- Fred Mathies, 681 Waller street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Samuel Fugazi, 1438 Gilbert street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Pearl V. Cooper, 1414 Leavenworth street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- James Baogalupi, box 25, Kentfield, age 10 years.
- Elsie Durematt, P. O. Presidio, age 10 years.
- Lois Smith, 458 Clark street, Fresno, age 10 years.
- Gladys Raynaud, 246 Cumberland street, age 10 years.
- John Loring Bennetts, 2002 I street, Sacramento, age 6 years.
- Johnnie Downie, 168 North Twelfth street, San Jose, age 9 years.
- John K. Larson, 605 Fair Oaks avenue, Alameda, age 7 years.
- Marian Whorff, Mill Valley, box 156, age 9 years.
- Helen Goldthwaite, 571 Cedar street, Alameda, age 8 years.
- Dorothy Jeffs, 1907 Leavenworth street, San Francisco, age 8 years.

This is the picture to be colored. Paint it in water colors or crayon and send immediately to the Editor of the Junior Call



Name ..... Age .....

Address .....

- Dorothy E. John, 203 Hoffman avenue, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Genevieve Kerdel, 2021 Encinal avenue, Alameda, age 10 years.
- Eddie Davis, 2148 Union street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Louis White, 1935 Virginia street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Alice Hotop, 2003 Golden Gate avenue, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Charlie Church, Sausalito, age 9 years.
- Marcella Adela Collins, 227 Orange street, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Joseph Fogarty, 1670 Sanchez street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Irene Lober, 324 Eighteenth street, Oakland, age 10 years.
- Robert Gemetti, Martinez, box 188, age 8 years.
- Palmer Welspiel, 1140 East Nineteenth street, Oakland, age 7 years.
- Jacqueline Snyder, 670 Oakland avenue, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Leo Sattler, 324 Broadway, Oakland, age 10 years.
- Faye Snyder, 670 Oakland avenue, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Ruth Quinben, 1905 Baker street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Evelyn Decker, 22 Hoffman avenue, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Harber Sanford, 420 Dwight way, Berkeley, age 8 years.
- Thelma E. Prickett, 2827 Regent street, Berkeley, age 9 years.
- Charles Hedger, 3726 Sixteenth street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Frances Bunnell, 1742 Valdez street, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Alice Lee Gardner, 115 Ridgeway avenue, Oakland, age 6 years.
- Thomas Anderson, 20 Goethe street, Ocean View, age 9 years.
- Russell Higginson, 609 Third street, Oakland, age 9 years.
- Ellen Minali, 3014 Shattuck avenue, Berkeley, age 10 years.
- Edna Schroeder, 3126 Twenty-second street, San Francisco.
- Bernice Kopp, 5 East E street, San Rafael, age 9 years.
- Alice Lee Gardner, 165 Lawton avenue, Oakland, age 9 years.
- Lois Loraine Drecksler, Sausalito, age 10 years, P. O. box 374.
- Marie Frevost, Coalbridge, age 8 years.
- Muriel McConlogue, 808 Main street, Benicia, age 7 years.
- Herbert French, 2316 Bryant street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Helen Hall, 5 Eugene street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Gerald Mullany, 2105 Howard street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Lucille La Brie, 1027 Fourth street, Sacramento, age 10 years.
- Helen Bronson, 72 Monte Vista avenue, Oakland, age 10 years.
- Daphne Dow, Johnson avenue, Los Gatos, age 8 years.
- Jamie Boyles, 527 College street, Woodlands, age 8 years.
- Jack Legeroff, Agnew, age 10 years.
- Marie Junta, Black Diamond, age 10 years.
- Ruth Sweeney, 1935 Linden street, Oakland, age 10 years.
- William Crutchett, R. F. D. 5, box 15, Santa Rosa, age 9 years.
- Stella Witherwood, 6234 A street, Fruitvale, age 10 years.
- Irma Richardson, 408 Sixty-fifth street, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Helen Finley, Santa Rosa, R. F. D. No. 4, age 10 years.
- Dorothy Scribner, Orland, age 8 years.
- Edward McCall, 146 Boyce street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Willie Terry, Pinole, age 9 years.
- May Terry, Pinole, age 6 years.
- Hazel Terry, Pinole, age 7 years.
- Muriel Amaranth Boyse, Le Grand, age 7 years.
- Christian Grietzmaier, 1340 Eddy street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Evelyn Stevens, 211 1/2 Polson street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Minerva Tubbs, 35 Prague street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Stella Witherwood, 1086 Capp street, San Francisco, age 7 years.
- Isabelle Bradley, 246 North Fourth street, San Jose, age 9 years.
- Tony Caniglia, 302 infirmary road, San Jose, age 10 years.
- Anna Regan, 382 Missouri street, Portola, age 9 years.
- Alice Adelaide Raiche, Gustine, age 8 years.
- Lorena Burger, Burlingame, age 10 years.
- Anna Friberg Elk, age 8 years.
- Loretta M. Garodwin, Jackson, age 9 years.
- Grace Smith, 1535 Eighth avenue, East Oakland, age 9 years.
- Frankie, 1224 Bonita avenue, Berkeley, age 9 years.
- Melvin Joy, Dixon, age 7 years.
- William Guillelmo Jacob, Blanco, age 9 years.
- Ruth Holden, 3179 Twenty-third street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Dorothy Wiley, Willows, age 9 years.
- Evelyn Macdonald, 420 Allover street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Iva Wright, Paso Robles, age 9 years.
- Robert Kelly, Corte Madera, age 10 years.
- Bertha Iverson, 3635 Twentieth street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Fairy Graham, Ukiah, age 10 years.
- Pearl Oppinger, postoffice box 572, Mill Valley, age 10 years.
- Dunbar Smith, 341 Broadway, Oakland, age 10 years.
- Adele Labaree, 213 Willow street, Pacific Heights, age 8 years.
- Clarence B. Gandy, Spreckels, age 6 years.
- Earl Robinson, 258 Brighton avenue, Ingleside, San Francisco, age 7 years.
- Ella Keville, 38 Lundy lane, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Annetta Clark, 748 Ashbury street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Bernice L. Moore, 5502 Telegraph avenue, Oakland, age 8 years.
- Gertrude Noland, 4095 Eighteenth street, San Francisco, age 6 years.
- Aileen Duirolo, Sutter Creek, age 9 years.
- Lucille Williamson, 702 Railroad avenue, South San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Leslie Goddard, 800 Shotwell street, San Francisco, age 6 years.
- Henry Alfred Goodard, 809 Shotwell street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Louis Parrish, 1523 Fairview street, South Berkeley, age 10 years.
- Allegria Benley, 241 Central avenue, Palo Alto, age 9 years.
- Bernardine Aherm, Menlo Park, age 7 years.
- Joseph Weber, 303 Junipero avenue, Pacific Grove, age 8 years.
- Madeline Nilson, Sausalito, age 10 years.
- Genevieve Bohan, Napa, P. O. box 203, age 8 years.
- Alleen Parsons, 373 East Fourteenth street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Frank Weiman, 140 Third avenue, San Francisco, Richmond district, age 8 years.
- Josephine Freitas, Concord, age 9 years.
- Helen McCarty, Alvarado, age 9 years.
- Dorothy Bernard, 2921 Sacramento street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- John A. Egan, 167 Dolores street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Ares Hill Chford, Chico, age 7 years.
- Charlotte Brown, 1377 Regent street, Alameda, age 9 years.
- Agnes Kennedy, 416 Duncan street, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Minnie Beck, Colma, age 9 years.
- Pauline Niel, 552 Albin street, Oakland, age 10 years.
- Gertrude Aherm, 61 Twenty-eighth street, San Francisco, age 6 years.
- Mary Elizabeth Gallet, 244 Eighth avenue, San Francisco, age 7 years.
- Cecilia Lee, 48 Brazill avenue, Berkeley, age 10 years.
- Zabell Egunian, R. No. 2, box 67, Visalia, age 6 years.
- John A. Egan, 167 Dolores street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Irene Egan, 167 Dolores street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Robert Holtey, 810 Alvarado street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Lawrence Herriott, 157 Twentieth avenue, San Francisco, age 9 years.
- Gertie Crenna, Concord, age 8 years.
- Frances William Robertson, 2421 Fifth street, West Berkeley, age 8 years.
- Louis Taylor, 1509 South Joaquin street, Stockton, age 10 years.
- Cecilia Lee, 48 Brazill avenue, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Rita Fischer, 2102 Sutter street, San Francisco, age 8 years.
- Lola Mills, Soledad, box 300, age 8 years.
- Ruth Churchman, Sebastopol, age 9 years.
- Carrie Palmer, 1536 Morton street, Alameda, age 10 years.
- Carl W. Kjolstad, Chico, age 8 years.
- Robert Doda, Fort Ross, age 10 years.
- Willie Callaghan, 935 Hayes street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Evelyn Compton, Princeton, age 6 years.
- Ruth Little, Dixon, age 6 years.
- Bridget McKenzie, Mountain View, age 9 years.
- Dorothy Nordwell, Sunnyside and Lake avenues, Oakland, age 9 years.
- Edward Breschini, Blanco, age 8 years.
- Karl Erickson, 35 Bache street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- Armand White, box 336, Gilroy, age 10 years.
- Carl Feilerbach, 1752 Thirteenth avenue, East Oakland, age 10 years.
- William Green, 184 Michigan avenue, Elmhurst, age 7 years.
- Robert Albers, 473 Ellis street, Santa Rosa, age 10 years.
- Clayton Nicola, age 7 years.
- Ashby Edwards, Crockett, age 10 years.
- Thomas H. Cook, Napa, R. D. 2, age 3 years.
- Victor Stride, 2431 Dana street, Berkeley, age 3 years.
- Vivian Aspell, Sausalito, age 6 years.
- Francis Rogers, 1360 Dolores street, San Francisco, age 10 years.
- William Hawkins, Nineteenth avenue and Sloat boulevard, San Francisco, age 6 years.
- Robertta Edwina Dunbar, 174 Glenview avenue, San Francisco, age 5 years.
- Geraldine Murray, 331 Bay View, San Rafael, age 8 years.