

Document A - Francisco de Xeres's Account

As soon as the first entered the open space they moved aside and gave space to the others. On reaching the centre of the open space, Atabaliba remained in his litter on high, and the others with him, while his troops did not cease to enter. A captain then came to the front and, ascending the fortress near the open space, where the artillery was posted, raised his lance twice, as for a signal. Seeing this, the Governor asked the Father Friar Vicente if he wished to go and speak to Atabaliba, with an interpreter. He replied that he did wish it, and he advanced, with a cross in one hand and the Bible in the other, and going amongst the troops up to the place where Atabaliba was, thus addressed him: I am a Priest of God, and I teach Christians the things of God, and in like manner I come to teach you. What I teach is that which God says to us in this Book. Therefore, on the part of God and of the Christians, I beseech you to be their friend, for such is God's will, and it will be for your good. Go and speak to the Governor, who waits for you.

Atabaliba asked for the Book, that he might look at it, and the Priest gave it to him closed. Atabaliba did not know how to open it, and the Priest was extending his arm to do so, when Atabaliba, in great anger, gave him a blow on the arm, not wishing that it should be opened. Then he opened it himself, and, without any astonishment at the letters and paper, as had been shown by other Indians, he threw it away from him five or six paces, and, to the words which the monk had spoken to him through the interpreter,

he answered with much scorn, saying: "I know well how you have behaved on the road, how you have treated my Chiefs, and taken the cloth from my storehouses." The Monk replied: "The Christians have not done this, but some Indians took the cloth without the knowledge of the Governor, and he ordered it to be restored." Atabaliba said: "I will not leave this place until they bring it all to me." The Monk returned with this reply to the Governor. Atabaliba stood up on the top of the litter, addressing his troops and ordering them to be prepared.

The Monk told the Governor what had passed between him and Atabaliba, and that he had thrown the Scriptures to the ground. Then the Governor put on a jacket of cotton took his sword and dagger and, with the Spaniards who were with him, entered amongst the Indians most valiantly; and, with only four men who were able to follow him, he came to the litter where Atabaliba was, and fearlessly seized him by the arm, crying out Santiago. Then the guns were fired off, the trumpets were sounded, and the troops, both horse and foot, sallied forth.

Source:

de Xeres, F. (1872). Report of Francisco de Xeres. In C. R. Markham (Ed. & Trans.), Reports on the discovery of Peru. New York: Burt Franklin. Retrieved from <http://archive.org/details/reportsondiscove04mark>

Document B - Pedro Pizarro's Account

The Marquis Don Francisco Pizarro, observing how Atabalipa had now drawn near to the plaza, sent Padre Fray Vicente de Valverde, first bishop of Cuzco, Hernando de Aldana, a good soldier, and Don Martinillo, the interpreter, with orders to go and speak Pedro Pizarro to Atabalipa and require it of him in the name of God and of the King that he subject himself to the law of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the service of His Majesty, and [to say] that the Marquis would regard him as a brother, and would not consent that any injury be done to him nor any damage be done to his land.

When the Padre had arrived at the litter in which Atabalipa travelled, he spoke to him and told him the things he had come to say, and he preached unto him the matters pertaining to our holy faith, they being declared [unto the Inga] by the interpreter. The Padre carried in his hands a breviary from which he read the matters, which he preached. Atabalipa asked him for it, and he [Valverde] closing it, handed it to him [Atabalipa]. When he had it in his hands he did not know how to open it, and he threw it upon the ground.

He [Valverde] called upon Aldana to draw near to him [Atabalipa] and give him the sword, and Aldana drew it and brandished it, but did not wish to plunge it into the Inga. When this occurred he told them to get them thence, as they were mere scurvy rogues, for he was going to have all of them put to death. Hearing this, the Padre returned and related all to the Marquis, and Atabalipa entered the

plaza with all his pomp and the Lord of Chincha in his train. When they had entered the plaza and had seen that no Spaniard made his appearance, he asked his captains where were these Christians who failed to appear, and they said to him: Lord, they are in hiding for very fear. The Marquis Don Francisco Pizarro seeing the two litters did not know which was that of Atabalipa, so he ordered Juan Pizarro his brother to attack one with the infantry and he would attack the other. This being ordered, he made the signal to Candia, who began to fire and at the same time caused the trumpets to sound, and the cavalry came out in troop formation, and the Marquis with the infantry, as has been said, and it all happened in such wise that, with the noise of the firing, and the blowing of the trumpets and the bells on the horses, the Indians were thrown into confusion and were cut to pieces.

Source:

Pizarro, P. (1921). Relation of the discovery and conquest of the kingdoms of Peru. In P.A. Means (Trans.), Documents and narratives concerning the discovery and conquest of Latin America. New York: Cortes Society. (Original work published 1571). Retrieved from <http://archive.org/details/relationofdiscov00pizauoft>