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Report on Juan Sebastion Elcano

Early Years

Juan Sebastián Elcano (pronounced del Cano in Spanish) was born in 1487 in Guetaria, a small fishing village in Spain. He was the oldest of the nine children of Domingo Sebastian de Elcano and Dona Catalina del Puerto, his Mother and Father. As a young adult he became a merchant sailor, but sold the ship to pay off his debt. This almost got him arrested until he sought a pardon from King Charles the fifth, which meant he had to serve under Ferdinand Magellan when he circumnavigated the earth.

# Circumnavigating the Earth

Elcano started his journey as a regular officer for one of Ferdinand’s ships. Eventually, because Ferdinand was portuguese and commanding 3 Spanish captains, there was an early on mutiny. Elcano sided with the mutineers, who, unlike Elcano, where execute. For unknown reasons, Ferdinand pardoned Elcano.

When Elcano landed on the island of Mactan, in what is now the Philippines, the leader of the expedition, Ferdinand Magellan was killed during a fight. The crew were helping a local king they had allied with when they had landed on Cebu several weeks earlier.

After Magellan's death, Elcano was given his title back, after being taken from him when assisting in the mutiny, and was now appointed the captain of the *Victoria* and took charge of the trip to the Maku Islands. When they finally made it back to Spain he was gifted a coat by the king, in honor of being the first to circumnavigate the earth.

Elcano had one last voyage, which was not completed. On this next voyage to the Maku islands he was made pilot commander. Once the leader of the voyage died, Elcano was appointed the new commander. Sadly, Elcano died 6 days later due to scurvy, concluding his life in 1526.

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