As we discussed several empires throughout this semester, we have all formulated our own opinions of the people and their lifestyle. Some of us more impressed than others have wondered how a culture so advanced could fall so easily. On the other hand, we wonder how an invader could destroy such a culture for their benefit instead of work with it and gain wealth through partnership. This also raised a question of what the Spanish actually thought if these people. I found it amazing that the individuals who also visited Rome and were now here were sharing the same awe as the rest of their crew members, almost imagining they were in a dream. If this really was the case, I may have been underestimating the beauty and power of such a society and not even realizing it!

One of the most frustrating bits out of the reading this time comes from how the Spanish saw themselves. I may have misunderstood the context, but it appears as though Cortez’s account of the situation makes him out to be overly polite, respectful, and in awe of the civilization. The text notes in *numerous* locations that Cortez’s interactions are of “utmost sincerity and politeness”. If this was actually the case, it was just a false show put on to trick the natives into trusting the visitors, if not, it is just an over dramatization of the actual accounts and Cortez is hiding any ill interactions with the people. From what I can tell, he tries to paint a picture that the natives are fascinated with them, which they were –seeing them as godly visitors, but it is overstressed.

Finally, I expected the conquest of Tenochtitlan to play out differently than it did. Though I didn’t believe it would be an easy task in any way, I found it interesting that it happened very slowly, closing in on the capital. I also found it interesting that at one point the flayed heads of the invaders were sent to them to make them think twice in addition to sending the horse heads and human hands and feet from the conquerors too. This may have further motivated the conquest, but it would definitely have made me think twice before moving on.