
Document 1565W

Legazpi's narrative of his voyage, dated 27 May 1565

Sources: Manuscript in MN Madrid, formerly MBU 170-20-3, caja n° 22; copy in Chicago, Ayer ms. 1391, Vol. XXII, doc. 6; translated in B&R 2:196-216, 333-334 & reproduced in FBG 8:90-103.*

Illustrious Sir:¹

I wrote to your Excellency from Puerto de la Navidad giving as full all account as possible up to that port. Now I shall do the same, for I consider it a debt justly due, and I shall always consider it so whenever the opportunity presents itself. I am enjoying good health, thanks be to our Lord; and the same can be said of the whole camp, a thing which ought not to be looked upon as of little importance. May our Lord grant to your Excellency the good health that I wish.

On Tuesday, November 21, three hours before dawn, I set sail with the fleet that was at the port of Navidad. For five days the fleet sailed south-west, but on the sixth we directed our course westward² until we reached 9 degrees. We sailed on in this latitude in search of the island of **Los Reyes** [of Villalobos], in order that we might go from that point to the Philippines. A week after we had taken this course, we awoke one morning and missed the patache **San Lucas**, with Captain Don Alonso de Arellano in command. There had been no stormy weather to make it lose sight of us; nor could it have been Don Alonso's fault, for he was a gallant man, as he showed. It is believed that it was due to the malice or intent of the pilot. And as he had already been informed about the expedition that we were making, and the course we were to sail, and as he was fully instructed what he must do in case he should lose sight of us (as actually happened), and whither he must proceed to await us, we expected all the time that we would find the vessel in some of these islands. But up to this time we have heard nothing of it, which gives me not a little uneasiness. After the fleet had sailed for fifty days in the same course

1 Ed. note: The addressee is not known but he was probably the President of the Royal Audiencia of Mexico, who had taken over from Viceroy Velasco, as Legazpi himself alludes in the closing paragraphs. He may have been the Visitor Valderrama.

2 Ed. note: It was W 1/4 SW, i.e. W by S, according to the pilots.

between 9 and 10 degrees, a degree more or less, we reached land which proved to be an **island** [Mejit] inhabited by poor naked fishermen. This island was about 4 leagues in circumference, and had a population of about 200 men. That same day we sailed between two other small **islands** [Ailuk and Jemo], which were uninhabited and surrounded by many reefs, which proved very troublesome to us for five or six days. At the end of that time we decided that the fleet should continue its course along the 13th degree of latitude, so that we might make a better landfall in the Philippines than the pilots had previously found, and should not strike Vindanao.

[Arrival at Guam]

We continued our course on this latitude, and on Monday, 21 January, we came in sight of **land**, which afterward proved to be one of the Ladrone Islands, called **Gua**. We steered for that island, but we were no more than two leagues from it when 50 or 60 proas under sail surrounded the fleet. These proas were rigged with lateen sails of palm mats and are as light as the wind; this is a kind of boat that sails with remarkable speed, either with the wind or at random. In each canoe were from 6 to 8 Indians, altogether naked, covering not even the privy parts, which men are wont to cover. They laughed aloud, and each of them made signs inviting us to his own town (for they were from different villages) and promising to give us food there. At nightfall we coasted the island and the next morning we cast anchor in a very good port [Umatac]. The day had scarcely begun when a great number of those proas appeared about us. There were so many of them, who came to trade with us, that some of our men who counted them affirm that there were more than four or five hundred of them around the ships. All that they had to sell us were articles of food, namely, potatoes, rice, yams, coconuts, sugar-cane, excellent bananas, and several other kinds of fruit. They also brought ginger, which grows on this island in such a great quantity that it is a thing to wonder about; and they do not till nor cultivate it, but it comes up and grows of itself in the open fields, just as any other herb.¹

The natives shouted at us, each one inviting us to buy from him. The men of the fleet began to give them the face-cards from old playing cards, and to put bits of woollen cloth and other objects around their necks and on their heads. The Indians seeing this asked for these articles, and adorned themselves therewith as they had seen our men do. In these transactions many ridiculous things happened, and many jests were played. Afterward our men began to give them nails, which the Indians liked so much that they desired nothing else after that. They would smell them before taking them. For each

1 Ed. note: In October 1568, when Legazpi was negotiating with the captain of a Portuguese ship, he said the following about his stopover at Guam: "[In 1565] it was agreed by all that we should sail through there [the Ladrone], as was done; and the 600 craft which we said came alongside the ship[s] came to beg and not to give. For, in all the 10 days of our stay there, we could not buy 10 fanegas of rice; and if they brought anything it was coconuts, bananas, tamales, and other articles of the fruit kind, of very unsubstantial and ordinary quality. This will prove to be the truth, rather than what is said in opposition thereto." (B&R 2:279)



Pencil sketch of Legazpi by Amorsolo Tuason. *It is based on a painting that used to be in the Museo-Biblioteca de Ultramar, Madrid.*

nail they gave measures of rice containing about half a fanega, more or less. After the rice was drawn up into the boat by means of a rope, because the Indians would not trade outside of their canoes, and the packages were opened, it was found that only the top layer was rice and the rest straw and stones. The Indian who had practiced this jest would clap his hand in glee, and laugh long and loud, and go from that vessel to another, to play the same trick. Then again they would take the nails, and take flight without giving anything in return. These and many other deceptions were practiced by them. They are such great thieves that they even tried to pull out the nails from our ships.

They are better proportioned than the Spaniards. Often they attain the great strength fitting to their statures. One of them went behind one of our soldiers and snatched away the arquebus from his shoulder. When good opportunity offered, they discharged their weapons on those who were taking on water. Notwithstanding that some of the natives ashore were shot down, the others did not discontinue trading with our ships; but rather those at the ships, after they had sold their goods went ashore in their canoes, and there with their hardened sticks, stones, and slings (which comprise their weapons, and which they manage very skilfully) they took the place of those who were fighting, and those who were fighting embarked in the canoes, and came also to the ships to trade. All this seems to be the proceeding of savages, as these people really are, for they have only the form of men. They have no laws nor chiefs whom they obey; and therefore every one goes wherever he wishes. They eat no meat. A soldier who went ashore received a wound in the hand. The wound was apparently small; and indeed it was through negligence on the part of the wounded man himself that he died within two weeks.

One day, after a slight engagement between my men and the natives, we got ready at sunset to leave the shore, without noticing the absence of a young deck hand who, either through carelessness, or because he had not heard the call to assemble, must have advanced too far into the bush. As our small boats reached the ships, the Indians, who had not lost sight of us during the hour while we remained there, came out on the shore. As the boy came down from the bush to the shore, the Indians, when they saw him, fell upon him and in a moment with great cruelty tore him to pieces, giving him at least thirty lance thrusts through the body. When the men of our ship saw the Indians discharging blows, and discovered that they did not have the boy with them, they returned to shore with great fury; but at their arrival the natives had already fled up a hill. They found the boy as I have said above; and I charged the Master-of-camp to punish the natives for this act. At midnight he went ashore, and marched inland, but meeting no Indians, he arranged his men for an ambush ashore, in which he killed a few of them and wounded many others. Our men burned many houses all along the coast. The town inland on this island is large and thickly populated, and abounds in all things which are raised on the island. There our men found about two pounds of very good sulphur, and

took one of the natives alive, who was brought to the ship, and whom I am sending to that New Spain.¹ This island is called **Ladrones** which according to the disposition of the inhabitants, is the most appropriate name that could have been given it. Eleven days after reaching this island, we set sail following our course in the aforesaid latitude.²

[Arrival at the Philippines]

After sailing eleven days more with good weather, we finally came in sight of the Philippines, where we finished our voyage. According to the experiments and opinions of the pilots, we covered more than 2,000 leagues from the Port of Navidad to this island, although I have heard that they were deceived as to the distance. On the afternoon of the same day in which we came to this land, we cast anchor in a beautiful bay, called **Cibabao**³, and there we remained 7 or 8 days. Meanwhile we sent two boats, one south and the other north (for this island is laid out north and south) to see whether they could find some good port or river. One of them returned minus a gentleman of my company, called Francisco Gomez, and with the report that for ten leagues north, they had found neither port nor river. The gentleman was killed by some Indians, after he disembarked to make blood-friendship with them, a ceremony that is considered inviolable. This is observed in this manner: one from each party must draw two or three drops of blood from his arm or breast and mix them in the same cup with water or wine. Then the mixture must be divided equally between two cups, and neither person may depart until both cups are alike drained. While this man was about to bleed himself, one of the natives pierced his breast from one side with a lance.

The weapons generally used throughout the Philippines are cutlasses and daggers; lances with iron points, one and one-half palms in length; *lenguados*⁴, enclosed in cloth sheaths, and a few bows and arrows. Whenever the natives leave their houses, even if it be only to go to the house of a neighbor, they carry these weapons; for they are always on the alert, and are mistrustful of one another.

While we were in this bay, Indians and chiefs came in several boats, displaying prominently a white flag at the bow of one of them. Another flag was raised on the stern of the flagship as a sign that they could approach. These people wear clothes, but they go barefoot. Their dress is made of cotton or of a kind of grass resembling raw silk.⁵ We spoke to them and asked them for food. They are a crafty and treacherous race, and understand everything. The best present which they gave me was a sucking pig, and a cheese of which, unless a miracle accompanied it, it was impossible for all in the fleet

1 Ed. note: This Chamorro became the first Guamanian to cross the Pacific. Father Urdaneta was to report later (See Doc. 1565AC1) that he unfortunately did not survive the crossing.

2 Ed. note: For the act of possession of the Ladrones, see Doc. 1565Z2 below.

3 Ed. note: According to the pilots, they hit Samar above 12°, anchored among the islands offshore, one of which is still called Tubabao, but this was misunderstood as Cibabao, name eventually applied to the whole eastern coast of Samar by the early colonists.

4 A short dagger with a broad blade.

5 Ed. note: Probably made of pineapple fiber or *husi*.

to partake. On the occasion of the death of the gentleman whom they killed, the natives scattered themselves through the island. They are naturally of a cowardly disposition, and distrustful, and if one has treated them ill, they will never come back. They possess, in common with all these islands, pigs, goats, hens of Castile, rice, millet, and in addition a great variety of excellent fruit. The people wear gold earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. Wherever we went we found a great display of these articles. Although people say that there are many mines and much pure gold, yet the natives do not extract it until the very day they need it; and, even then, they take only the amount necessary for their use, thus making the earth their purse.

Leaving this bay, we sailed south until we reached the end of the island, where the land turns west. Just south of this island are other islands between which and this island there is a straight channel running west. The fleet passed through this channel, and on the second day from our departure from Cibabao, after having sailed nearly 30 leagues, we reached a port of **Tandaya** [Samar] Island.

In this port a small river empties itself into the sea through an estuary. Some of our boats sailed up this river and anchored at the town of Cangiungo.¹ The natives received them neither with peace nor war; but they gave our men food and drink. When they were about to eat, an Indian came to them, who spoke a few words in the Castilian tongue, saying "Comamos" ["let us eat"], "bebamos" ["let us drink"], and answering "Sí" ["yes"], when questioned by Antón Bautista, "Billalobos [Villalobos]" and "Captain Calabaza." It seems as if he had traded with the people of the fleet of Villalobos, according to what we gathered from him. And because he said this, this native vexed the ruler of the village, and never came back. The next day I wished to go to the same village, and found the natives hostile. They made signs that we should not disembark, pulled grass, struck trees with their cutlasses, and threateningly mocked us. Seeing that in this case cajolery could not suffice, we withdrew in order not to disturb them; but as we departed, they began to shower sticks and stones after us and I was obliged to order the soldiers to fire their arquebuses at them; and they never appeared again. This town has a population of 20 or 30 Indians.

On arriving at that port, I despatched Captain de Goiti with a boat and a frigate, well supplied with men and provisions, to discover some port along the coast. On the way he was to examine thoroughly the town of Tandaya, which was not very far from where we were, and other towns of the island of **Abbuyo** [Leyte]. Deceived by the appearance of the coast, he sailed on past the coast for 15 leagues, without seeing anything. Finally he reached a large bay on which was situated a large town² containing many families; the people had many pigs and hens, with abundance of rice and potatoes. He returned to the fleet with this news, which gave us not a little content, for all were longing for land products. The fleet left this port, and in the afternoon of the next

1 Ed. note: Recognizable as Balangiga (then and now), from the name of its chief, given in the other, anonymous, account, Doc. 1565X.

2 Ed. note: This was Cabalian, in Cabalian Bay, in the SE corner of Leyte; see below.

day we reached the above-mentioned bay, where we anchored in front of the large town of Cavalian. One thing is specially worth noting—namely, that wherever we went, the people entertained us with fine words, and even promised to furnish us provisions; but afterward they would desert their houses. Up to the present, this fear has not been in any way lessened. When we asked the people of this village for friendship and food, they offered us all the friendship we desired, but no food whatever. Their attitude seemed to me to be quite the contrary of what had been told me by those who had gone there; for they had said that, in this village of Cavalian, which is located on the island of Buyo [Leyte], Spaniards were received and were well treated. Now they did not wish to see us, and on the night of our arrival, we were made thoroughly aware of this; for they embarked with their wives, children, and property, and went away. The next day, a chief called Canatuan¹, the son of Malate[c] who is the principal chief of the town, came to us; but I detained him in the ship, until provisions should be sent us from land (paying for them to their satisfaction), because of his not returning to the village and because his father was very old and blind. But this proved no remedy, to make them give us anything but words. It was determined that our men should go ashore. And so they went and we made a fine festival, killing for meat on that same day about 45 pigs, with which we enjoyed a merry carnival—as payment for which articles of barter were given to the chief whom I had with me. The latter sent us ashore with an Indian, to give these articles to the owners of the pigs.

This chief, Canatuan, by signs and as best he could, informed me of the names of the islands, of their rulers and people of importance, and their number. He also promised to take us to the island of Mañagua [Limasawa] which was 8 leagues from this island. We set sail with the Indian, and when we reached Mañagua I sent him and three others, who went with him to their village in a canoe, after giving them some clothes. He was quite well satisfied, according to his own words, and became our friend.

This Mañagua, although small, was once a thickly-populated island. The Spaniards who anchored there were wont to be kindly received. Now the island is greatly changed from former days, being quite depopulated—for it contains less than twenty Indians; and these few who are left are so hostile to Spaniards, that they did not even wish to see or hear us. From this island we went to another, called Canuguinen [Camiguin]. Here we met with the same treatment. As the natives saw our ships along the coast, they hastened to betake themselves to the bush. Their fear of the Spaniards was so great that they would not wait for us to give any explanation.

From this island the fleet directed its course towards Butuan, a province of the island of Vindanao, but the tides and contrary winds drove us upon the coast of an island called **Bohol**. Here we cast anchor, and within a small bay of this island we made some necessary repairs to the flagship. One morning the *almiranta* sighted a junk at some distance away. Thinking it to be one of the smaller proas, the Master-of-camp despatched against it a small boat with six soldiers, after which he came to the flagship

¹ Ed. note: Rather, Chief Camotuan in the anonymous narrative, Doc. 1565X.

to inform me of what he had done. Seeing that he had not sent men enough, I despatched another small boat with all the men it could hold; and the Master-of-camp himself with instructions how he was to proceed, reached the boat and junk, which were exchanging shots. The junk seeing that the boat contained so few men, defied them. When the second boat arrived it found some of the men wounded, and that the junk had many and well-made arrows and lances, with a culverin and some muskets. The junk defied the second boat also. Shouting out in Spanish "a bordo! a bordo!" ["board! board!"] they grappled it, and on boarding it, one of our soldiers was killed by a lance-thrust in the throat. Those aboard the junk numbered 45 soldiers. Fourteen or fifteen of them jumped into a canoe which they carried on their poop deck, and fled. Eight or ten of the others were captured alive, and the remainder were killed. I have been assured that they fought well and bravely in their defence, as was quite apparent; for besides the man they killed, they also wounded more than twenty others of our soldiers. In the junk were found many white and colored blankets, some damasks, *almaizales* [gauze] of silk and cotton, and some decorated silk; also iron, tin, sulphur, porcelain, some gold, and many other things. The junk was taken to the flagship. Its crew were Burnei [Borneo] Moros. Their property was returned to them, and what appeared, in our reckoning, its equivalent in articles of barter was given to them, because their capture was not induced by greed. My chief intent is not to go privateering, but to make treaties and to procure friends, of which I am in great need. The Burneans were much pleased and satisfied with this liberality displayed toward them, thus showing how fickle they were.

On the same day that the boats went to the junk, I despatched the patache **San Juan** with orders to go to Butuan and sail along its coast, and to find out in what part of this island the cinnamon is gathered, for it grows there. They were also to look for a suitable port and place ashore where a settlement could be made.

While the patache went on this mission, I kept the boat of the Burneans and the pilot. This latter was a man of experience, and versed in different dialects; and he informed me of much regarding this region that I wished to know. Among other things, he told me that, if the Indians of this land avoided this fleet so much, I should not be surprised, because they had great fear of the name of "Castilla". He said that while we were among these islands no Indian would speak to us; and that the cause for this was that about two years ago, somewhat more or less, some Portuguese from the Moluccas visited these islands with 8 large proas and many natives of the Moluccas. Wherever they went they asked for peace and friendship, saying that they were from Castile, and vassals of the King of Castile; then when the natives felt quite secure in their friendship, they assaulted and robbed them, killing and capturing all that they could. For this reason, the island of Maçagua was depopulated, and scarcely any inhabitant remained there. And in this island of Bohol, among the killed and captured were more than 1,000 persons. Therefore, the natives refused to see us and hid themselves—as it was in fact the case. Although, on my part, I did my best to gain their confidence, giving them to understand that the Portuguese belong to a different nation and are subjects of a different king than

we, they did not trust me; nor was this sufficient for they say that we have the same appearance, that we wear the same kind of clothing, and carry the same weapons.

In this island of Bohol live two chiefs, one called Çicatuna, and the other Çigala¹, who through the Bornean's going inland to call them, came to the fleet. From these chiefs I heard the same thing that I had been told by the Brunei pilot and his companions, in regard to the great robberies that the Portuguese committed hereabout in order to set the natives against us—so that upon our coming, we should find no friends. This fell out as they wished, because, although Çicatuna and Çigala made friendship with me, we could put no confidence in them; nor would they sell us anything, but only made promises.

While in this island, I despatched a frigate to reconnoiter the coast of certain islands that could be seen from this island. The Pilot Major [Rodriguez] and Juan de Aguirre accompanied it, and it was supplied with sufficient food, men, and provisions. Coming to the entrance between two islands, they were caught by the tide and drifted to the other entrance of the channel; and, in order to return, they sailed around the island [of Negros]. On this island they saw a town where the Moro pilot declared that he was known, and that he was on friendly terms with its inhabitants; but under pretence of friendship, the natives treacherously killed him with a lance-thrust. The space of one week had been given to them, but it took much longer; for the return could be accomplished only by sailing around the island which was 150 leagues in circumference.

When the patache returned from Butuan, it reported that they had seen the king, and that two Moro junks of the large and rich island of Luzon were anchored in the river which flows near the town. The Moros sold our men a large quantity of wax. When the men of Luzon saw our patache they were very much pleased with them, and they gave nearly twenty marks of gold, which they had there in that island, giving for six *tos-tones* [testoons] of silver one of gold; and they said that they had more gold, if our men would give them more testoons, and that in exchange for the latter they would give them 10 or 12 quintals of gold which they had there in that island. The soldiers of the patache were so desirous to plunder the junks that they besought permission to do so from the captain; thus importuned, and because his own desire was not less keen, he was on the point of granting it. Fortunately the officials (the treasurer and factor) aboard the patache opposed this, saying that it was not fitting to His Majesty's service, and that it would stir up the land and set it against us. As the men of Luzon had put some earth within the cakes of wax that they had sold, in order to cheat us with it; and inasmuch as they, moreover, insisted that the natives should not give anything in exchange for any other kind of trade goods, but only for testoons, and had uttered many lies and slanders against us, the soldiers said that this was sufficient to justify war; and that the war would not be the cause of stirring up the natives, because the latter were not at all well-disposed toward the Moros. Finally they did not touch the Moros, being persuaded to this by the captain and the officials. By my instructions, in case they should

1 Ed. note: That is, Mr. Catuna and Mr. Gala.

meet any strange or piratical junk that proved hostile, they returned where the fleet was stationed, bringing a small quantity of gold, wax, cinnamon, and other things. Nevertheless the natives of the island would have sold them a quantity of gold had not the Moros prevented it.

While in the bay of the island of Bohol, I was very anxious about the frigate, since it was to be gone but one week; while 21 days had passed, and it was nowhere to be seen. Meanwhile a proa which I had despatched with two soldiers and the chiefs Çicatuna and Çigala to the island of Çubu to endeavor to ascertain some news concerning it, had returned, bringing no news whatever of its whereabouts. On Holy Saturday, three hours before daybreak [sunset?], while we were thus plunged in great anxiety and grief, fearing that our companions might have been lost, captured, or killed, the shout "the frigate! the frigate!" was heard in our fleet. Turning my glance, I beheld it entering the bay. Only the Burnei pilot was missing; the others looked well and strong, although they had suffered from hunger. On arriving, they informed us that the island which they had coasted had a circuit of 150 leagues, and that on their return they had passed between it and the opposite coast of Çubu.

[Arrival at Cebu]

They reported that this island of Çubu was densely populated, containing many large villages, and among them were many people inhabiting the coast, and inland many cultivated districts. The above-mentioned soldiers who went to Çibu [sic] in the proas with Çicatuna and Çigala said that the same thing was to be observed on the other [eastern] coast, and that the port of the town of Çibu admitted of anchorage, and was excellent. I decided to take the fleet to that island—a plan I carried out, with the intention of requesting peace and friendship from the natives, and of buying provisions from them at a reasonable cost. Should they refuse all this I decided to make war upon them—a step I considered justifiable in the case of these people; for it was in that same port and town that Magellan and his fleet were [at first] well received. King Sarriparra¹ and nearly all the natives were baptized, and admitted to our holy faith and evangelical teaching, voluntarily offering themselves as His Majesty's vassals. Magellan and more than thirty of his companions were afterward killed while fighting in behalf of this island against the people of Matan [Mactan], a thickly-populated island situated near this one. Afterward the two islands made peace privately between themselves, and the inhabitants of the town of Çibu killed many of the Spaniards of the same fleet, and drove the remaining few away from their land. Hence we see that all this is sufficient occasion for any course whatever.

In accordance with this last opinion, the fleet left the port of Bohol and we reached the port of Çibu on Friday, 27 April 1565. We had scarcely arrived when an Indian came to the flagship in a canoe, who said that Tupas, the ruler of the island, was in the town, and that he was going to come to the fleet to see me. A little later there came from

1 Ed. note: The name of this king was in fact Humabon.

the village an Indian, an interpreter of the Malay language, who said, on behalf of Tupas, that the latter was getting ready to come to see me, that he would come on that very day, and that he would bring ten of the principal chiefs of that island. I waited for them that whole day; but as I saw that the people were much occupied in removing their possessions from their houses and carrying them to the bush, and that during all this day and until noon of the next, Tupas, the son of Saripara, who killed the men of Magellan did not come, I sent a boat with Father Fray Andrés de Urdaneta and the Master-of-camp, in order that, in their presence, the government notary, with Hieronimo Pacheco, interpreter of the Malay tongue (which is spoken by many of the natives of this land), might request the natives, as vassals of the King of Castile, to receive us peacefully. They were to assure the people that I did not come to do them any harm, but on the contrary to show them every favor, and to cultivate their friendship. Three times this announcement was made to them, with all the signs and kind words possible to win their friendship. But at length—seeing that all our good intentions were of no avail, and that all the natives had put on their armor of quilted cotton and had armed themselves with their lances, shields, small cutlasses, and arrows; and that many plumes and multicolored headdresses were waving; and that re-inforcements of men had come in proas from the outside, so that their number must be almost 2,000 warriors; and considering that now was the time for us to make a settlement and effect a colony, and that the present port and location were exactly suited to our needs, and that it was useless for us to wait any longer; and seeing that there was no hope for peace, and that they did not wish it, although we had offered it—the Master-of-camp said to the natives through an interpreter: “Since you do not desire our friendship, and will not receive us peacefully, but are anxious for war, wait until we have landed; and make sure you act as men, and defend yourselves from us, and guard your houses.” The Indians answered boldly: “So be it! Come on! We await you here.” And thereupon they broke out into loud cries, covering themselves with their shields and brandishing their lances. Then they returned to the place whence they had set out, hurling their lances by divisions of threes at the boat, and returning again to their station, going and coming as in a spear-throwing game. Our men got ready and left the ships in boats; and as the boats left the ships for the shore, in accordance with the order given them, some shots were fired from the ships upon the multitude of proas anchored near a promontory, as well as at the landmen upon shore, and upon the town. But, although they had shown such a great desire for war, when they heard the artillery and saw its effects, they abandoned their village without waiting for battle, and fled through the large, beautiful, and fertile open fields that are to be seen in this region. Accordingly we remained in the village, which had been left totally without provisions by the natives. We pursued the enemy, but they are the lightest and swiftest runners whom I have ever seen.

When we entered the village, all the food had already been taken away. However, I believe that there will be no lack of food. In exchange for our hardships this is a good prospect, although there is no hope of food except through our swords. The land is thickly populated, and so fertile that four days after we took the village the Castilian

seeds had already sprouted. We have seen some little gold here, on the garments worn by the natives. We are at the gate and in the vicinity of the most fortunate countries in the world, and the most remote; it is 300 leagues or thereabouts farther to great China, Burnei, Java, Luzon, Sumatra, the Moluccas, Malacca, Patani¹, Siam, Lequios², Japan, and other rich and large provinces. I hope that, through God's protection, there will be in these lands no slight result for his service and the increase of the royal crown, if this land is settled by Spaniards, as I believe it will be.

From this town of Çubu, I have despatched the ship with the Father Prior [Urdaneta] and my grandson, Felipe de Salcedo, with a long relation of the things³ which I boldly write here to your Excellency. They will inform His Majesty at length, as persons who have been eyewitnesses of it all, specially of what has taken place here, the state of the new settlement, and the arrangements made for everything. It remains to be said that, since the fleet was despatched by the most illustrious viceroy, my master, of blessed memory, and further, chiefly because of being an enterprise that every gentleman should all the more favor, inasmuch as it pertains naturally to your Excellency, as the heir of the glory resulting from this expedition—your Excellency should favor it in such a manner that we may feel here the touch of your most illustrious hand, and so that aid should be sent as promptly as the necessity of our condition demands. For we shall have war not only with the natives of this and other neighboring islands of the Philippines (which is of the lesser import), but—a thing of greater consequence—we shall have to wage war with many different nations and islands, who will aid these people, and will side against us. On seeing us settled in this island, the Portuguese will not be pleased, nor will the Moros and other powerful and well-armed people. It might happen that, if aid is delayed and is not sent by you to us with all promptitude, the delay will prove a sufficient obstacle, so that no result will follow from the work that we have accomplished.

I beg His Majesty to send us some aid with the promptness, which rightly should not be less than in that city of Spain, where His Majesty resides.

And, because it is worth knowing, and so that your Excellency may understand that God, our Lord, has waited in this same place, and that he will be served, and that pending the beginning of the extension of his holy faith and most glorious name, he has accomplished most miraculous things in this western region, your Excellency should know that on the day we entered this town one of the soldiers went into a large and well-built house of an Indian, where he found an image of the child Jesus (whose most holy name I pray may be universally worshipped).⁴ This was kept in its cradle, all gilded, just as it was brought from Spain; and only the little cross which is generally placed upon the

1 Ed. note: A town on the east side of the Malayan Peninsula.

2 Ed. note: Little Lequios was Formosa (Taiwan), whereas Lequios proper was the Riu-kiu or Okinawa Archipelago.

3 Ed. note: See previous document.

4 Ed. note: Recall that Pilot Major had told otherwise in Doc. 1565Q: "When we came into the town, we found in it a Child Jesus. It was found by a sailor named Mermeo. It was in a small and poor house."

globe in his hand was lacking. This image was well kept in that house, and many flowers were found before it, no-one knows for what object or purpose. The soldier bowed before it with all reverence and wonder, and brought the image to the place where the other soldiers were. I pray the holy name of this image which we have found here, to help us and to grant us victory, in order that these lost people who are ignorant of the precious and rich treasure which was in their possession, may come to a knowledge of Him.



Father Martín de Rada, O.S.A. *He is the author of the longest narrative of Legazpi's voyage. (From B&R 3:5, part of a painting in the Augustinian College at Valladolid)*