

It wasn't until I arrived in the New World that I truly realized what soulless peoples inhabited these parts of the world. The Papacy in its infinite wisdom had correctly theologized the bitter truth and with divine inspiration had charged the kingdoms of Europe with the task of purging paganism from the world by spreading the teachings of Christianity. I deeply regret the doubt which laid in my heart and have vowed to carry out this holy crusade as I find myself not in the fabled spice islands of Moluccas but in an unknown archipelago which I have discovered for Christ and King Charles V of Spain.

At present I am the honored guest of the chieftain Humabon of the island Cebu. He and many others share that title but with my backing he has certainly become one of the more powerful. He has made it simple for me to manipulate his own greed and ambition to gain for myself a position of power. I find it amusing that he thinks it is otherwise but I am content to let him believe that for the moment. When he and his wife accepted the sacrament of baptism and claimed Christ as their Savior, they became mine. Soon I shall seize power and truly begin the purging of this heathen land and claim its riches in the name of the crown.

Yet, one obstacle lies in my way. Everything was going so well. One by one the other chieftains had submitted to Humabon's (and my) demands of accepting Christ and the sovereignty of the King of Spain. Each day brought in more converts and tribute. That is until Chief Zula from the small island of Maktan arrived with word that a rival chieftain, Lapu-Lapu, had refused. I can still recall the smirk on his face as he recounted how this Lapu-Lapu had dared to stand against my holy crusade and bound duty to my liege lord. Another game, I thought, a local squabble between two petty chieftains and one seeks to use me to end his rival's threat. But what other choice did I have? The savages needed to be shown that there was no other alternative. Their fate was sealed and they had to learn to accept it. I would bring my ships to that small island of Maktan and in a dazzling display of superior European martial skills make an example of this scoundrel and would-be chieftain, Lapu-Lapu.

