

# "THREE SCENES FROM SIXTEENTH-CENTURY RELIGIOUS CONQUEST"

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Unpacking of the history of Aztec religious practice from the 11th to the 16th century is challenging. The Aztecs conquered many cities in Mexico and the trading of goods and people brought about the expansion of their gods. Everywhere for the Aztecs was religion, in the forest, in the deserts and in the cities, these are places where gods were present and they did their rituals. So when Christianity arrived on the shores of Mexico, it came with its own set of gods and rituals: Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary. And they brought their map of the world defining where and when they could talk to God along with an army to conquer the New World territory for Spain and for Christ. I hope to shed light on three examples of that time that show how the native peoples both adopted and resisted Christianity in that first century of conquest in Mexico.