

***Francisci Cervantis Salazari
Toletani, ad Ludovici Vivis
Valentini exercitationem,
aliquot Dialogi***

Civitas Mexicus—Exploration Begins

Among Salazar’s many writings were his didactic or teaching dialogues in the Latin language. Dialogues may serve various teaching functions, such as giving a more natural, enjoyable flow to literature and allowing the readers to picture the characters discussed and to internalize the word usage.

The excerpts given here from Salazar’s “aliquot dialogi” concern the description of La Ciudad de México, which takes its name from México-Tenochtitlán, the city upon whose ruins it is built. Salazar creates three fictional characters—two residents and one stranger, the three of whom explore and discuss the city together.

Cuacus, Camora, and the stranger Alfarus, the three speakers of the dialogue, are beginning a tour of the city.

CU (*Cuacus*): Plane tempus est, Camora, ut Alfarum
nostrum, Ulyssem alterum, quod tam anxie appetit,
per Mexicum deducamus tantae urbis magnitudinem
contemplaturum. Fiet enim inde, ut dum nos quae fuerint
5 praestantiora docemus, audiamus alia, quae aut omnino
sint nova, aut si vetera certiora fiant.

CA (*Camora*): Prudenter certe ut soles omnia, neque
umquam maiori commodo docebimus, quam si alios
instruendo, ipsi reddamur doctiores. Verum utrum ad id
10 videtur commodius: pedestres, an ut equestres incedamus?