



A SURVEY OF SATAN
Glauco Suarez

In 1526, Spanish Conquistador Francisco de Montejo (a veteran of previous Spanish expeditions to the New World) was given a charter by Carlos I of Spain to conquer the Yucatan. Under the title of Capitan General of Yucatan, he launched his first campaign in 1527 and, although his forces were decimated, he ranged across much of the peninsula before establishing a small fort at Xaman Ha.

Montejo was accompanied by a Spanish monk named Glauco Suarez. Suarez spent his time at Montejo's side collecting and recording all of the horrible, heretical beliefs of the native population. When Montejo returned to Spain, Suarez remained at Xaman Ha and continued his work, preparing a survey designed to demonstrate the dire need for Christian missionaries to bring the blighted souls of the New World to salvation.

This 1905 edition combines a faithful rendition of the original text with a short biography of Suarez and commentary on the ethnographic significance of his observations.

Of particular interest is his description of Golxumal, the "god of outcasts" who the local natives "believe to live in the ancient ruins they name Chichén Xoxul". According to Suarez, the Mayans describe Golxumal as "both bird and toad", which he equates directly to the "serpent of Satan which eats away at the heart of the Yucatan".

"Among the superstitious here, it is said that Golxumal is a fisher from outside – by which they mean, from beyond the limits of their curiously blasphemous charms. They recognize the danger of this Great Satan, for they say that it will pluck the souls of the unwary and bring them unto its bosom. They do not know it, but such words cry out for the blessed touch of Christ. They do not know what they yearn for, but their words cry out for it. Their doomsayers foretell that their Golxumal will return. We must make certain that what comes in its place is the holy power of Christ."