3.5: Chapter X- The Assault from the Indians (Excerpt)

The morning having come,* many natives arrived in canoes who asked us for the two that had remained in the boat. The Governor replied that he would give up the hostages when they should bring the Christians they had taken. "With the Indians had come five or six chiefs, who appeared to us to be the most comely persons, and of more authority and condition than any we had hitherto seen, although not so large as some others of whom we have spoken. They wore the hair loose and very long, and were covered with robes of marten such as we had before taken. Some of the robes were made up after a strange fashion, with wrought ties of lion skin, making a brave show. They entreated us to go with them, and said they would give us the Christians, water, and many other things. They continued to collect about us in canoes, attempting in them to take possession of the mouth of that entrance; in consequence, and because it was hazardous to stay near the land, we went to sea, where they remained by us until about mid-day. As they would not deliver our people, we would not give up theirs; so they began to hurl clubs at us and to throw stones with slings, making threats of shooting arrows, although we had not seen among them all more than three or four bows. "While thus engaged, the wind beginning to freshen, they left us and went back...

When day came, the boats had lost sight of each other. I found myself in thirty fathoms. Keeping my course until the hour of vespers, I observed two

* The morning having come,
boats, and drawing near I found that the first I ap-
proached was that of the G-overnor. He asked me
what I thought we should do. I told him we ought
to join the boat which went in advance, and by no
means to leave her; and, the three being together, we
must keep on our way to where Grod should be pleased
to lead. He answered saying that could not be done,
because the boat was far to sea and he wished to reach
the shore; that if I wished to follow him, I should
order the persons of my boat to take the oars and
work, as it was only by strength of arm that the land
could be gained. He was advised to this course by a
captain with him named Pantoja, who said that if he
did not fetch land that day, in six days more they
would not reach it, and in that time they must inevit-
ably famish. Discovering his will I took my oar, and
so did every one his, in my boat, to obey it. We
rowed until near sunset; but the Governor having in
his boat the healthiest of all the men, we could not by
any means hold with or follow her. Seeing this, I
asked Mm to give me a rope from his boat, that I
might be enabled to keep up with him; but he an-
swered me that he would do no little, if they, as they
were, should be able to reach the land that night. I
said to him, that since he saw the feeble strength we
had to follow him, and do what he ordered, he must
tell me how he would that I should act. He answered
that it was no longer a time in which one should com-
mand another] but that each should do what he
thought best to save his own life; that he so intended
to act; and saying this, he departed with his boat...

Near the dawn of day, it seemed to me I heard the
tumbling of the sea; for as the coast was low, it roared
loudly. Surprised at this, I called to the master, who
answered me that he beheld we were near the land.
We sounded and found ourselves in seven fathoms.
He advised that we should keep to sea until sunrise;
accordingly I took an oar and pulled on the land side,
until we were a league distant, when we gave her
stem to the sea. Near the shore a wave took us, that
knocked the boat out of water the distance of the
throw of a crowbar,* and from the violence with which
she struck, nearly all the people who were in her like
dead, were roused to consciousness. Finding them-
selves near the shore, they began to move on hands
and feet, crawling to land into some ravines. There
we made fire, parched some of the maize we brought,
and found rain water.