

THE BATTLE OF ACOMA Q&A

Q. Did the Indians understand the Spanish?

A. Yes through interpreter don Tomás.

Q. Did Acoma have a treaty with the Spanish?

A. Yes and they each had obligations to one another.

Q. How did Acoma break the treaty?

A. By stealing the payment for the cornmeal they agreed to provide, by ambushing and brutally killing 13 Spanish, throwing their bodies off a cliff and by stealing the arms and supplies left by the few survivors.

Q. Who instigated the war with the settlers ?

A. **Zutacapan** he did not want the Spanish to stay in New Mexico.

Q. How did the settlers handle the murder of their relatives?

A. After a mass to honor the dead, they met with the priests to discuss their options.

Q. Did the Spanish go to war to take revenge on Acoma?

A. No they went to reestablish peace and seek justice for the deaths of their men.

Q. Did the Acoma want peace?

A. No they refused peace 3 times.

Q. Did the Spanish fight women and children?

A. No Oñate authorized the punishment only of fighting aged men.

Q. Did the other Pueblos support Acoma?

A. No, they gave food and supplies to the Spanish soldiers, in support of the treaties.

Q. Why were the people of Acoma put on trial?

A. For wantonly killing don Juan de Zaldivar and Twelve others and for having refused the peace offered them by Vicente de Zaldivar.

Source: *Historia de la Nueva Mexico*, Villagrà,
UNM PRESS