

Moctezuma's greeting to Hernan Cortes is a letter by Hernan Cortes - letter from Mexico. Of my understanding the two different groups of people; the Aztecs and the Europeans were trying to understand and greet one another. Though from the letter the encounter seemed a bit awkward at first; the natives displayed respect in their own way and both parties communicated their mutual respect for one another.

Contrary to what the Europeans probably initially expected, Montezuma was not fearful nor was he aggressive. Instead, he gave the Europeans a short speech letting them know that he fully understands what their preconceptions must be of him and he doesn't hesitate to tell them otherwise. When he tells them his walls are made of clay and he is made of flesh just like them. Montezuma welcomes the Europeans with open arms telling them they can have what they ask for and that they are indeed in their own land and in their own house. With that being said in the beginning of the text there is some formal respect being shown by both parties with the exchange of necklaces.

Montezuma does not act superior nor does he make himself seem subordinate. He does however make the Europeans understand that they are equal to him by showing them his flesh and reassuring them that he is too made of flesh and blood and therefore mortal. However with all of this being said I believe that he still seems superior to them with the way he is dressed in costume along with the two chiefs on each side. One of the chiefs also did not allow the Hernan Cortes to touch Montezuma acting like a bodyguard. In my understanding of the other, I believe that the Europeans would have been intimidated by the other they were witnessing. The appearance of having a body guard on each side of a person makes them seem superior or important. He also has servants who bring him necklaces made of gold to give to the Europeans, so in a sense this shows his wealth and power along with respect he is paying to the Europeans. I am still trying to fully grasp the idea of "otherness" as it is a bit blurry to me.