These themes of Eurocentric and Christian superiority carried over to the Portuguese's interactions with the Indians which can be seen by the failure of the crew to prepare adequate gifts for the Indian rulers. Additionally, they misidentified Hindu temples for Christian churches. They also violated the customs of Calicut due to an unwarranted fear of their military.

After the crew received a warm welcome in St. Helena and had a feast prepared for their crew, they pushed their limits by following the Africans back to their homes in curiosity about the natives’ private lives. This led the Africans to attack, which in turn led Vasco da Gama’s crew to ensure that they displayed their military superiority against other Africans by displaying their lances, assegais, crossbows, and breastplates.

The crew would continue their abysmal treatment and maintained compliance through the threat of force.

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References