have been made good, and no small part of Spain was brought back into the fold of the rest of Christendom, receiving the government and the laws that were given to it—a great joy in which the rest of Christian nations shared.

Letters were written to Pope Innocent and to kings, and ambassadors were sent to give them such happy news and to inform them that the war with the Moors was over, with the enemies of Christ now dead and subjected, with the yoke having been placed on Granada, a city formerly built and adorned with the spoils of Christians. Finally with this victory all of Spain belonged to Christ our Lord, whose it had once been. Cities and provinces near and far celebrated the news with great rejoicing and bonfires...

As a sign of his happiness and to recognize the responsibility for that great event, the pope, the cardinals, and the Roman people ordered and made a solemn procession to the Church of Santiago of the Spaniards. There services were celebrated, and in a sermon the preacher praised and exalted, as was fitting the king and queen and the entire nation of Spain, their accomplishments, their courage, and their remarkable victories.

4. Surrender Treaty of the Kingdom of Granada (1491)

Seven centuries of intermittent efforts by Christians to win back territories lost to the Moors in the eighth century finally culminated in the Christian victory over the Moors in the Kingdom of Granada. The Christian armies had been taking pieces of the remaining Moorish lands in a series of sieges and campaigns in the area from 1484 on, and by 1491, the Christians had reduced the Moorish lands to those surrounding the city of Granada itself. Ferdinand and Isabella achieved their victories through a combination of military and diplomatic means, as they exploited bitter divisions between two members of the same Muslim royal family: Boabdil (referred to in this document as Abi Abdilehi) and his uncle, El Zagal. In October 1491, Boabdil, seeing the futility of holding out against the besieging Christians, opened negotiations, and soon the two sides worked out the following terms of surrender. In January 1492, Boabdil formally surrendered, handing the keys to the city personally to Ferdinand.


First, that the Moorish king and the military chiefs, jurists, judges, religious advisers, governors, learned men, and all of the commanders and men of substance and all of the commoners of the city of Granada, including the Albaicín and its surrounding areas, shall, with love, peace, and goodwill, within the next forty days turn over to Their Highnesses or to their agent the fortress of the Alhambra and the Alhízán, with all their towers and gates, and all the other fortresses, towers, and gates of the city of Granada and of the Albaicín and the surrounding areas extending out into the countryside, so that they may occupy them in their name with their people and at their will...

At the end of the forty days, all the Moors shall surrender to Their Highnesses freely and without coercion, and they shall do what good and loyal vassals are obliged to do for their kings and natural lords. And to assure secure conditions during this surrender, one day ahead of surrendering the fortresses, they shall offer as hostages the minister Juçef Aben Comixá, with five hundred persons, children and siblings of the leading citizens of the city and of the Albaicín and its surrounding areas, so that they may remain under the power of Their Highnesses for ten days, while the fortresses are surrendered and secured, placing people and supplies in them, and during all of this time they shall be given everything they need for their sustenance; and once all is surrendered, they will be freed.

Once the fortresses are surrendered, Their Highnesses and the prince, Don Juan, their son, shall, for themselves and for the monarchs who succeed
them, receive as their vassals and natural subjects the King Abi Abdilehi [Boabdil] and the military governors, judges, jurists, religious advisers, learned men, governors, commanders and squires, and all the greater and lesser common people, including men and women, inhabitants of Granada and the Albaicin and its surrounding areas and its fortresses, villages and other places, and also of the Alpujarras [region] and of other places that shall fall under this accord and treaty in any way, and they shall be allowed to stay in their houses, estates, and inherited properties at that time and forever, and they will not allow any harm or damage to be done to them without intervening. . . . Nor shall their goods or their estates be taken away from them, nor even any part of them; but rather they will be revered, honored, and respected by their subjects and vassals, as are all of those who live under their government and rule. . . .

On the day when King Abi Abdilehi shall surrender the fortresses and towers, Their Highnesses shall order that his son shall be returned to him, along with all the hostages, and their wives and children, with the exception of those who have converted to Christianity.

Their Highnesses and their successors forever shall let King Abi Abdilehi and his military chiefs, judges, religious advisers, governors, commanders, and other men of substance and all of the greater and lesser commoners live under their own law, and they shall not allow anyone to take away their mosques or minarets or muezzins, nor shall they take away the endowed properties of their mosques and the rents they receive, nor shall they interfere with their ways and customs.

The Moors shall be judged under their own laws and courts by the Islamic law they are accustomed to observing, under the authority of their judges.

Neither at this time nor at any future time shall [Their Highnesses] take their arms and horses away, or allow these to be taken away, except for their large and small artillery, which they must promptly turn over to agents sent by Their Highnesses.

All of the Moors, great and small, men and women, from Granada and its lands as well as from Alpujarras and all its places, who shall want to go live in the Berber lands or any other place they wish may sell their estates, furniture, and goods in any way they wish and to whomever they wish, and neither Their Highnesses nor their successors shall ever take away or permit to take away these things from those who purchased them. . . .

Their Highnesses shall give free and safe passage to those Moors who may wish to go to the Berber lands or other places, along with their families, movable goods, merchandise, jewels, gold, silver, and all types of weapons except for artillery. And for those who may wish to go, they shall provide ten large ships that will take them where they want to go for seventy days, leaving them free and safe in the ports of the Berber lands where Christian merchant ships are accustomed to going to trade. Moreover, all those who shall wish to go within three years may do so, and Their Highnesses shall send ships wherever they ask to go, giving them safe passage, as long as they are requested fifty days in advance. . . .

Once these three years are up, they may still go to the Berber lands whenever they wish, and they shall be allowed to do so upon payment of one décimo per person plus the cost of the passage in the ships in which they travel. . . .

Neither Their Highnesses nor their son, the prince don Juan, nor those who succeed them shall ever order the Moors who are their vassals to wear signs on their clothing, as the Jews wear.

Neither King Abdilehi nor the other Moors of the city of Granada or of the Albaicin and its surrounding areas shall pay the taxes that are levied on houses and possessions for the next three years, and they shall only pay the harvest tax of one-tenth in August and autumn, and the one-tenth on cattle they had, . . . as the Christians are accustomed to paying.

At the time of the surrender of the city and its areas, the Moors are obliged to turn over to Their Highnesses all of the Christian captives, male and female, so that they may be freed without any kind of ransom being asked or given. . . .

Their Highnesses shall order that at no time shall either beasts of burden or servants be taken from King Abdilehi, the military governors, judges [and others] for any reason without their approval and without their being compensated fairly.

They shall not allow any Christians to enter in the mosques of the Moors where they pray, without the consent of their officials, and anyone who enters otherwise shall be punished for it.

Their Highnesses shall not permit Jews to have any power or authority over Moors, nor shall they be allowed to collect any kind of rent from them.

King Abdilehi and his military chiefs, judges, jurists, religious advisers, governors, learned men, commanders and squires, and all the common people of the city of Granada and of the Albaicin and its surrounding areas and of the Alpujarras region and other places shall be respected and treated well by Their Highnesses and their ministers, and their views shall be heard and their customs and rites guaranteed, and all the officials shall be allowed to charge their rents and enjoy the privileges and liberties to which they are accustomed, and it is just that these things be maintained.
Their Highnesses shall order that they shall not be forced to take in boarders, nor shall any clothing, birds, animals, or supplies of any kind be taken from the Moors without their consent.

Legal disputes that arise among Moors shall be judged by their Islamic law...and by their judges and jurists, as is their custom, and if a dispute shall arise between a Christian and a Moor, judgment shall be made by one Christian and one Moorish official, so that neither party can complain about the sentence... The Moors shall not give or pay to Their Highnesses more tribute than that they are accustomed to paying to the Moorish kings...It shall not be allowed for any person to mistreat, by deed or by word, any Christian man or woman who, previous to this treaty, has converted to Islam; and if any Moor has a wife who is a renegade [a Christian who converted to Islam], that person shall not be forced to become Christian against her will, and she shall be interviewed in the presence of Christians and Moors, and her will shall be followed; and the same will be done with the boys and girls born to a Christian woman and a Moorish man.

No Moor shall be forced to become Christian against his will. And if a woman in love, either married or a widow, should wish to become Christian, she shall not be allowed to convert until she is interviewed...

Neither Their Highnesses nor their successors shall ever ask King Abdilehi or those from Granada and its lands, nor the others who enter into this agreement, to give back horses, property, cattle, gold, silver, jewels, nor any other thing that was won in any way during the war and rebellion, either from Christians or from Moors who are or are not Mudejares [Muslims who lived under Christian rule]...

If any Moor has injured or killed a Christian man or woman who was his captive, he will not be held accountable for it.

Once the three years are up, the Moors shall not pay any greater amount in rent for estates and lands than it shall appear fair for them to pay in light of their value and quality.

The judges, officials, and governors Their Highnesses shall appoint in the city of Granada and its surrounding areas shall be persons who will honor the Moors and treat them affectionately, and shall observe this treaty; if anyone should do anything improper, Their Highnesses shall order them to be replaced and punished.

Their Highnesses and their successors shall not ask or inquire of King Abdilehi or any other person covered by this agreement about anything they have done, no matter what it is, previous to the day of the surrender of this city and its fortresses.