

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> AND CANNOT GO BACK  
*beholding his greatness & gracious courtesy. And Berca Kaan took them very willingly and* LT  
*they pleased him beyond measure. And like a gentle lord he made give them for them* VB  
*other things which were well worth more than twice as much as the jewels were worth, & also* VA VA O R  
*very great & rich gifts; the which things he sent them in several directions to sell, & they* VA  
*were very well sold in those parts.<sup>1</sup> And when they the said brothers had stayed in this city in* VA LT LT  
*the land of Berca through the round of one year and wished to return to Venese, then arose a* LT P  
*most violent war between the said Berca Kaan and Ulau Kaan the lord of the Tartars of* LT LT LT LT  
*the sunrising. They went the one against the other [4d] with all their might. They*  
*fought together most bitterly and suffered there great loss of people both on the one side* LT  
*and on the other, but yet at the last Berca the lord of the Tartars of the sunsetting was defeated.* LT FB  
*and his army had the greatest discomfiture and Ulau was conqueror. And by reason of that* R FB  
*battle and of that war the roads not being safe, no man was able to go by road through those* R LT  
*regions who was not taken, and that danger was towards the road whence they were* FB FB  
*come; but forward they were well able to go riding safely and turn back. And then the* FB  
*two brothers seeing that they could not go back said between themselves, Since we cannot* LT  
*turn back to Constantinople with our merchandise, then let us go on proceeding farther* LT  
*by the way of the sunrising until we go round the realm of Berca by unknown roads; so shall* R  
*we be able to turn back at last to Venese<sup>2</sup> by another way. They made themselves ready* L LT

<sup>1</sup> *illes enuoia. a parer en plosor parties e furent mout bien pares.* The only other texts where I have found any trace of this sentence are VA<sup>3</sup>: *le qual cosse egli lemandano auender in quelle parte sono molto ben vendute* and VL: *i qual doni loro mandano a uendere in diuerse parte.* The latter appears in SANTAELLA'S Spanish, 1503, fol. i b.: *los quales ellos embiaron a vender a diuersas partes* (copied by FRAMPTON, 1579, ed. Pe p. 16: *whiche they sent into dyuers partes to sell*). I have ventured to use this contemporary version, supported by the word *doni* and to a slight extent by GODEFROY: *parerie s.f., étalage, boutique, and lesquelles pareries les marchans portent vendre en divers royaumes* (15 cent.). The text has also been translated by CHARTON, *Voyageurs anc. et mod.*, 1854, II, p. 259: *il les envoya loger en plusieurs lieux où ils furent moult bien reçus*; in B.<sup>1</sup> p. 4: *E le mandò a legare in più luoghi e vennero legate assai bene* (= RR p. 3: *He sent the jewels to be set in various places, and they were very well set.*); and in *El Millón*, 1934, p. 7: *y les invitó a pasar una temporada en varias partes del reino, en donde balláronse con gran contentamiento.* B.'s version conforms more exactly to the known meanings of the verbs *parer* or *parare*, but VA seems to give very much better sense; namely, that they were able to sell at a good profit in places in the neighbourhood the things which Berca gave them in exchange for the jewels. VA may well be right too in making *enuoia* plural.

<sup>2</sup> *retorner autaesse.* The version is conjectural, based on the fact that if the original had been *retorner au dereain a uenese* it might very easily have become corrupted to what we find, and on the following readings: L: *ad taesse tandem reuerti* LT: *ut per aliam uiam possent reuerti uenetias* and F (c. 134 below): *autature* (for *auenture*, with exactly the same corruption which would here turn a *uenesse* into *autaesse*). B. (following VA, *per tornar possa per trauersso*) reads here *retorner au traverse.* cf. p. 519 n. 133. For R: *uie incognite* P reads *vias oppositas.*