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THEY GO FROM BERCA TO OUCACA & BUCARA ≠ MARCO POLO
LT there and set out from Berca and went off *in safety* to a city which has for name
R R Oucaca, which was *at the end of the realm of the lord of the Tartars of the sunsetting.*
P VB And from Oucaca they set out and *going further* crossed the river of Tigri, which is
VA VB *one of the four natural rivers which is said to come down from the Paradise of delight,* and
VB LT *afterwards* went through a desert which was seventeen marches long, in which they
R VA found no towns or villages or other fortified place but found a great multitude of Tartars
VA V *only who dwell in the open country with their tents, who lived on the milk of their animals*
FB *which grazed in the fields.*

·4·

HOW THE TWO BROTHERS PASS A DESERT AND CAME TO THE CITY OF BUCARA.
Z H And when they have passed that desert then they were come to a city
Z which is called Bucara. *It was very noble and great; the province also had*
Z Bucara *likewise* for name. King of it was one who had the name Barac. The city was
Z the best that was *to be found* in all Persie. The two brothers, when [5a] they were come
VB to this city they were unable to go forward any more *because the roads were cut* or to turn
R V V *back for the great war which was among the Tartars,* and so they determined to stay there and
FB V *dwelt in the said city of Bucara* three years. And while they stayed there, then peace
P *was made between those Tartars; and after some days there came a very wise man, sent as*
Z messenger from Ulau the lord of the sunrising, who was going to the great Kaan,
Z *to wit* lord of all the Tartars, *dwelling at the ends of the earth between sunrising and the*
Z VB *Greek wind,* who had Cublai Kaan for name. And when this messenger *had learnt that*
FB *the said two Latins were there and sees these two brothers* Master Nicolau and Master Mafeu
P P *who had now fully learned the Tartar tongue,* he has great wonder at it [and] *boundless joy,*
P *because they had never seen any Latin in that country. And when he had talked and had*
L *company with them very many days and had learned their pleasing manners, and when he knew*
P *them to be merchants, he persuaded them to go with him to the greatest king of the Tartars.* He
said to the two brothers, *Sirs, says he, if you will trust me you will have great profit*
from it and great honour. The two brothers said to him that they will trust him
gladly if it is a thing that they could do. The messenger says to them, *Sirs, I tell you*
that the great lord of the Tartars never saw any Latin and has great desire and wish
FB *to see some of them; and so if you will come with me all the way to him I tell you that,*
VB *as you are noble and wise men, he will see you very gladly and will do you great honour*
VB *and great good and will have the greatest pleasure and contentment in hearing from you the news*
and conditions of your lands, for he is a lord of the greatest power and has great wish to hear new
FB *things; and you will be able to come safely with me without any hindrance from any*
V *evil people or fear that any attack will be made on your persons while you are with me.*