

.7.

NICOLAU AND MAFEU ARE SENT TO THE POPE ~~≠~~MARCO POLO  
P delighted much to talk with them to learn of the things of the sunsetting, so that he often  
commanded them to be brought before him.

.8.

VA VA **H**OW THE GREAT KAAH SENDS THE TWO BROTHERS FOR HIS MESSENGERS TO  
LT THE APOSTLE OF ROME. [5c] And when the great *Kaan*, that is the lord of  
V V all the lords, who had Cublai Kaan for name, who was *king and lord of all*  
V V the Tartars of all the world and of all the provinces and kingdoms and regions of the  
VA greater part of the east, that vast part of the earth, had heard all the doings of the Latins  
V FB P so as the two brothers had told him well and skilfully he showed that it pleases him  
FB R beyond measure. And in his mind he thought[and]says to himself one day that he will send  
LT this. And when his barons had been summoned to council he told them that he wished to send his  
messengers to the lord Pope of the Christians, & the said barons with one mind declared it to be good.  
LT V And then he called these brothers to him, & with kindly words prays the said two brothers that  
LT FB they go on this embassy to the lord Pope with one of his barons. And they answered him  
LT VA VA prudently that they will be quick and ready to do completely all his commandment as that  
V of their liege lord. But it is true[,they said,]that it is a great while since we left those parts,  
and we do not know what may have happened or been done away, because the conditions of the  
lands are changed, and we are much afraid that we cannot fulfil thy commandment; but none the  
less we are ready to all our power to do all that thou shalt command us, and we promise thee by  
V the help of the grace of God to return to thee as soon as we can. Then the great lord, having  
heard that which the two brothers said, makes one of his barons come before him who had  
FB Cogatal for name, and says to him that he should make himself ready, for he wishes him  
to go with the two brothers to the Apostle. He says to him, Sir, I am your man, and  
VA TA am ready to do all your command with all my might. Then he had sealed charters made  
that his subject princes might see and honour the said ambassadors. After this the great lord  
V had his letters and privileges immediately made in the Turkish tongue to send to the  
Apostle and entrusts them to the two brothers and to his baron, and charges them  
that which he wishes them to say on his part to the Apostle.<sup>1</sup> And you may know  
FB that in the letter and in the embassy was contained that which he[*sent*]him, so as

<sup>1</sup> V has, ". . . privileges immediately made in the Tartar (*tartarescha*) tongue to send to the chief Pontiff; which letter spoke in this form: O Chief Pontiff of all the Christian Faith, I Cholai Emperor of all the sunrising pray thee to send as many as 100 men who are very discreet and instructed in the law of the Christians, and who know the seven arts to dispute with and overcome the Indians (cf. c. 126) and other kinds of people, and to destroy the idols which my people worship and keep in their houses, and know well to show by reason that the law of the Christians is better than ours."