

HOW THE TWO BROTHERS AND MARC GO BEFORE THE GREAT KAAAN IN THE PALACE. (HOW THE TWO BROTHERS AND MARC SET OUT FROM ACRE BEFORE THE GREAT KAAAN IN THE PALACE.) And what shall I tell you about it? When *the noble brothers* Master Nicolau and Master Mafeu and Marc were come into that great city *aforesaid in which the great Kaan was*, they go off *immediately* to the chief palace where they find the great Kaan with a very great company of *all his barons*. And they kneel before him *with great reverence* and humble themselves the most that they are able *stretching themselves out on the earth*. The great Kaan makes them *rise and stand upright on their feet* and received them with *the greatest honour* and makes very great rejoicing and great feasting for them. And he questions them much about their life and how they had conducted it since *by the way*. The two [7c] brothers told him that they had done very well *by the grace of God* since they have found him in health and strength and happiness. Then he asked them to tell him *what dealings they had with the chief Pontiff*. They explained to him well and skillfully *with great eloquence and order* all that they had done, as was right, *being heard with great and long silence by the lord and all the barons, who wondered much at their great and long fatigues and at their great perils*. Then they present him with the privileges and the letters *and the gifts* which the Apostle lord Pope Gregor sends him, in which he had great delight. And when he had gladly received these, he greatly commended their laudable faithfulness & diligent care. Next they hand him the holy oil which they had brought *from the lamp of the sepulchre of our Lord Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, which he had so much desired before*, at which he made great rejoicing and holds it very dear and ordered it to be kept with great honour *and reverence, and nothing was ever more dear or welcome than that*. The great Kaan, when he sees Marc who was a young bachelor of very great and noble aspect, he asks who he is. Sir, says his father Master Nicolau, he is my son and your man, whom as the dearest thing I had in this world I have brought with great peril and ado *from such distant lands to present him to thee for thy slave*. May he be welcome, says the great Kaan, and it pleases me much; *and he held him in great favour and made them write him among the other honoured members of his household, for which reason he was held of great account and value by all those at the court*. And why should I make you a long story? You may know quite truly that very great was the joy and the feasting that the great Kaan makes and all his court, lords and barons and everyone generally both great and small, at the coming of these messengers, and they were greatly served and honoured with everything. They stay at the court of the said great Kaan and always had honour above all the other barons, when all men saw the singular love which the lord bore them.

HOW THE GREAT KAAAN SENDS MARC FOR HIS MESSENGER. Now it happened that while he stayed at the court of the great Kaan this youth, to wit Marc the son of Master Nicolau, being of a very distinguished mind, learnt the customs and