

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> AND COME UNTO PERSIE  
*great sea of Indie quite eighteen<sup>1</sup> months before they were come to the land of king* FB VB  
*Argon where they wished to go, & in this journey they saw strange & different things &* R  
*they find many great marvels which again we shall tell you in that book. And when*  
*they were come there they find that king Argon to whom these barons were going with* V LT  
*the lady was already dead; and his lady was given by the said ambassadors when they* L V  
*saw this to Caçan the son of Argon to wife. And I tell you without fail that* P  
*when they entered into the ships in the land of the great Kaan they were between ladies* VA VB  
*& men [9a] quite six hundred persons without the sailors. And when they reached the* VA  
*land where they were going they made a count that they had all died on the way except* VA P  
*only eighteen. And of those three ambassadors there remained but one, who was named* V R  
*Coja; and of all the women and girls none died but one.<sup>2</sup> They find that one named* R  
*Quiacatu held the lordship of Argon for the boy who was not yet fit for rule, for he was* P R  
*young; to whom it seemed right to them to send to say how, having brought that queen by*  
*order of the king Argon, they would do whatever seemed to him right. He made answer to*  
*them that they ought to give her to Caçan, son of the king Argon, who was at the time in*  
*the distant parts of the Dry Tree, on the borders of Persie, with sixty thousand men to* L R  
*guard certain passes that certain enemy people should not enter by them to spoil his land.*  
*And so they did. They entrust the lady to him and did all their embassy and their*  
*mission. And when Master Nicolau and Master Mafeu and Master Marc have*  
*done all the duties about the lady and the missions with which the great Kaan*  
*had charged them wholly, they returned to Quiacatu, because their road must be that way,* VA R  
*and there they stayed nine months. And then they took leave of the lady and departed and* V  
*set themselves on the way. Moreover you may know quite truly that before they* FB  
*set out Quiacatu<sup>3</sup> gives to those three messengers of the great Kaan; they were*  
*Master Nicolau & Master Mafeu & Master Marc; four tablets of gold of orders,* FB  
*the two with gersfalcons & the one with a lion and the other was plain,<sup>4</sup> each of* R  
*which was one cubit long and five fingers wide, of a weight of three or four marks each; which*

<sup>1</sup> V: *nuoue* VB: *zorni disenoue*

<sup>2</sup> R: *dal di, che introrno in mare, fino al giunger suo, morirono fra marinari, & altri, ch'erano in detti nauì, da seicento persone. &c.* V: *et de queli tre anbassadori vno solo rimaxe e de zento femene che iera non romaxe se no la regina et li do frатели chon misier marchò* B. incorporates a modified form of V in his *Marco Polo*, p. 17, though he retains the mysterious statement of F (below, p. 92) about the daughter of the king of Mangi which implies that at least two ladies survived. The total number is given "without the sailors" as follows: FA,P: 600 FB: 500 LT,TA: 700 (?600 men & 100 women) V: 600 persons, 100 women VB: between men and women more than 600 L: *plusquam centum*

<sup>3</sup> FA,FB: *cogatra la dame* V: *il dito signor*

<sup>4</sup> V: *blaua* L: *palnam*