

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD & THE TAKING OF BAUDAC

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another part are Saracens who [11b] worship Mahomet. And they are valiant¹ & good archers, but very evil people, and rob the merchants gladly when they can find them with merchandise in the places where they dwell. With this province is a certain other province named Mus and Meridin in which cotton grows in the greatest quantity & a great manufacture of buckram is done in it and many other manufactures. And there are many merchants and artizans and they are subject to the king of the Tartars. Now let us leave the realm of Mosul, and we will speak to you of the great city of Baudac.

VA I
FB I
Z R Z
V

HERE HE TELLS HOW THE GREAT CITY OF BAUDAC WAS TAKEN. In those parts is a great city which is called Baudac, which in Holy Scripture is called Susis.²

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Baudac is a very great city, and different races of people dwell there, namely Jews, pagans, & the greater part Saracens, where the chief prelate who was called calif of all the Saracens of the world is, just as at Rome for the most part is the see of the Pope & of all the Christians of the world. And there are some Christians, & bad ones, & also some, but few, who are good Catholics. And it is said to be so great that a man can go round the circuit in three days. And through the midst of the city passes a very great river which runs into the sea in the direction of midday, and by that river one can well go to the sea of Indie, and there go and come continually a very great number of the merchants with their much merchandise. And you may know that the said river is quite eighteen³ days journeys long from Baudac to the sea of Indie, & more & less according to the current of the water and the direction⁴ of the ships, and the merchants who wish to go into Indie go by that river as far as to a city which is named Chisci, which is on the sea of Indie, where the said river enters the sea, and from there they enter into the sea of Indie. And I tell you also that Baudac⁵ ends at that city which is called Chisci. And again on that said river between Baudac and Chisci up the stream is a great city which has the name of Basora. And all round the city & its suburbs in the great woods of palm trees grow a vast supply of the best dates which may be found in the world. And in the said city of Baudac are made many kinds of cloth of gold and of silk. They are nascici & nac & cremosi and many other cloths, damasks & velvets, of various kinds worked very richly with fishes, animals, and with birds, & with other patterns; which are carried to Indie. And all the pearls which are carried into Christendom from Indie are for the most part bored in Baudac. And again in Baudac they

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¹ prodomes VA: prodomini Z: probi V: volenti (sic) L: fortes R: cattui suggesting that he found or guessed improbi. TA: male gente VB: homeni da strada pessimj et crudel robatorj

² I: fuit antiquitus dicta niniueh

³ R: 17

⁴ zereza

⁵ Possibly a mistake for "the said river", as L.