

THE WONDER OF THE MOUNTAIN IN BAUDAC ≠ MARCO POLO

FB that if there were a Christian who had as much faith as a mustard seed, and should  
 tell a mountain to lift itself up it would be lifted up. And know that this is the truth that by  
 Z his prayer which he should make to his Lord God the Majesty on high he would  
 Z make two mountains join together, rushing or being moved from the place. And when  
 Z R Z they have found this they have great joy because, not believing that this could ever by  
 any means be fulfilled, they said that this was a thing to make the Christians turn  
 V Saracens or to put them all together to death. For it is impossible that there will be  
 any among them to make the mountains move from one place to the other, and when they cannot  
 do this we shall have the excuse needed to do what we wish. And so this counsel pleased all the  
 V Saracens. And then immediately the calif sends for all the Nestorian and Jacobite  
 V LT Christians who were in the said city and in the other districts of his land beyond the river,  
 LT V who were a very great number, and struck fear into them. And when they were gathered  
 V V together in a few days and were come before the said calif saying, What do you command  
 VB us? Then he put this before them: You are here a very great quantity and multitude of  
 Christians of all nations. Are you all called Christians? To whom they all answered that  
 they were and were called Christians. The calif shows them that Gospel and makes one  
 FB LT read it to them, the point therein which I have told you. And the Gospel was the Gospel  
 Z of Saint[Matthew]. And when they have read it he asks, If the truth was so as the  
 V text of your Gospel declares, it is a wonderful thing. The Christians said that indeed  
 V it was truth, and that a much greater thing than this could be done. Then you say, says  
 the calif, that a Christian who should have as much faith [12c] as a seed of mustard,  
 LT that by his prayer which he should make to his Lord God he would make two  
 FB mountains join together. Truly we say this, say the Christians. Then, since you say  
 that it is true, I will put a choice before you, says the calif. Since you are so many  
 V LT Christians gathered here, it needs indeed be that you have among you<sup>1</sup> all one who  
 FB VB LT has such a little faith as to be able to fulfil the Gospel of Christ. Wherefore if it is so,  
 I wish, and thus I say to you, Either you will make that mountain which you see  
 Z Z FB standing there remove by the power of your God as you say; and he shows them with the  
 finger a mountain which was near; or I shall make you all die by an evil death. For  
 VB if I shall see the proof of this faith in you I shall judge you all faithful Christians as you say;

if he shall say to the mountain that it be taken away from its place and go elsewhere, that it  
 will depart. Do you have all the Christians gathered together and tell them to make one of  
 these our mountains move. . . ."

<sup>1</sup> *bien cri doit auoir entre uos* FB: *bien doit auoir entre vous* B. silently and perhaps rightly  
 corrects *cri* to *en*; but the fact that it is omitted by FG may show that it is an early and  
 puzzling mistake.