

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE WORSHIP OF FIRE

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make great wondering to themselves what [14c] it can be *that the infant had given* FB
them, not knowing the meaning of the stone. But it is this. The infant Christ had given Z TA
 it them to mean that they should be firm as rocks in the faith *received from him* LT
 which they had begun. For *when they presented their offerings to the infant, then he took* FB
them all three, and when the three kings saw that the infant had taken the gifts all
 and three, they said that he was *at once true* God and *true* earthly king and *true* Z FB FB FB
 physician, *as is declared above.* And because the infant knows these three kings have Z
 that faith he gives them the *said stone which was hard and strong* as a sign that they Z Z
 should be *in the same way* firm and constant to that which they believe, *for he well* Z FB
knew their thoughts. But the three kings who did not know that the *said stone bore the* Z FB
meaning, and thought themselves mocked, took that stone and threw it into a very deep LT V
 well, for they did not know why the stone was given to them. *Nothing of all this* VA
is true, but there is this belief in that people who have no true faith. And again they say that VA
 as soon as the stone was thrown into the well, a burning *flame of fire* came down VA
 from heaven and comes quite straight to the well into which they had thrown
 the stone. *And suddenly by divine miracle an immense flame began to rise through the* Z V Z
mouth of the well. And when the three kings saw this great marvel they become all
 dismayed at it and *much* repented that they had thrown the stone *so foolishly,* for FB L
 they see well *then* that it was of great meaning and good. *And they took of that* FB TA
 fire immediately and carried it *with them* into their country and put it in a very L
 beautiful and rich Church of theirs *as a thing come down from heaven.* And again all VB VA
this is false, but this is the truth that they make it burn and shine there always and those Z Z
who dwell there worship it, *the said fire which was from that well, as they say,* as God. And Z VA
 all their sacrifices and holocausts which they make they roast with that fire. And
 if it should happen any time that the fire is extinguished *in any of these cities* they VB
 go to the other *cities round about* who hold that same faith and worship the fire FB
 also and make them present them with some of their fire which is¹ *burning in the* VA
lamps in their Church, and go back and carry it into their Churches to light their fire FB
to make their sacrifice. Nor [14d] ever would they take it if it were not of that fire VB
 which I have told you. And many times they go *eight and ten days* journeys² to VL
 find that fire. *And if they do not find it they go sometimes as far as to the original fire* VL LT
which is in that well where they threw that stone which that boy who was born in Bethlehem
had given them, which is never quenched. For these reasons which I have told you do those
 of that country worship fire, and I tell you that they are many people *in those* VA
errors. And all this thing *aforsaid* do those of the³ village relate and tell to Master Z

¹ ait B. reads art, "burns".

² L: 4. dietis

³ donc