

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE ROBBER CARAUNAS
 there are also sheep large as asses, and they have the tail so thick, long, and so broad¹ Z LT
 that it weighs in my judgement quite thirty pounds and more. They are white and VB Z TA
 very beautiful and fat, and are very good to eat. And in this plain are several FB V
 cities & villages and towns which have the ramparts of earth high and thick and TA VL
 high towers to defend them from their enemies the people called Caraunas who are there VL L FB
 in plenty; these are a most cruel & wicked race and robbers who go scouring the land VB
 & doing great harm. And why are they called Caraunas, which means to say as much as VA VB
 guasmul or mongrels in our tongue? Because long ago their mothers were Indian and VB
 their fathers Tartars. And these people when they wish to scour the whole land and V
 to rob, they make the whole day become dark like a dark night by their enchant- L
 ments and by devilish work, so that one does not see far or hardly at all, and one VA FB
 hardly sees his comrade at his side. And this darkness they make from distant places to LT
 last seven days journeys² in length through that plain so that men cannot protect themselves V LT
 from them. And then they who know the country very well, they ride through that L L V
 plain silent & one very close beside the other when they have made the darkness; and VL FB
 they are sometimes quite [16b] ten thousand in a company, and sometimes more, and V
 sometimes less, and are divided in many parts, so that they make so long a line that V VA
 they seize the whole plain from which they wish to rob, so that all those whom
 they find on the plains outside town or castle cannot escape them, neither men nor FB V FB
 women nor beasts nor things, without being taken. And it is true that when they L
 have taken the men, they kill all the old without any pity, & the young & the women VB FB
 they take & sell them in other places for serfs & for slaves, so that they greatly destroy the FB FB
 land & have made it almost all desert. These have a king, & their king is called Negodar, LT
 a man of very great spirit. And this Negodar once went to the court of Ciagatai, lord VB V VB
 of a noble province, who was own brother to the great Kaan with quite ten thousand
 horsemen of his people and stayed with him for some time because he was his uncle FB VB
 and a very great lord. And while he stayed with him then that Negodar thought to FB
 himself and did a very great crime, and I will tell you how. He seduced ten thousand VB
 armed men of the best brigade which Ciagatai had, and one day he left his uncle Ciagatai V
 who was in Great Armenie and fled away with quite ten thousand horsemen of his FB
 people who were very cruel and wicked, and with these twenty thousand valiant & VB
 brave men he passed thence through Badascian and through a second province which FB
 is called Pasciai and through another province which has for name Chescemir, and FB
 there³ he lost many of his people and of his animals because the ways were narrow

¹ VB adds: *come castronj de tartarja*, "like Tartary wethers". ² VA: *sete di*

³ & *ellan* FA: *et illec* FB: *et illecques* VB: *qujuj* V: *prese molta zente*. R: *doue* B. prints
elluuc, but suggests *allan* "as he went".