

THE ORIGIN OF THE CARAUNAS & CANOSALMI  $\neq$  MARCO POLO  
 and bad. And when they have taken all these provinces they enter into Indie in  
 R FB the borders of a province which is called Dilivar. They take by storm a very noble  
 FB VB city which also has Dilivar for name, and he stays in that city and stopped with his  
 FB army, and took the [16c] kingdom,<sup>1</sup> which he took from a king who was of that province  
 R who had Asidin Soldan as name, who was very great and rich. For he came upon  
 VB R him at unawares. And there he began to reign at rest. And the white Tartars began to mix  
 with the Indian women who were black, and begat sons of them who were called Caraunas,  
 that is, in their language, mixed; and these are they who go scouring through the country of  
 Reobar and through each other country as best they can. And when they came into Dilivar<sup>2</sup>  
 they learned the magical and devilish arts with which they make darkness come and hide the  
 Z daylight, so that unless one is near the other they are not seen; and thus sometimes they ride  
 R for thirty or forty days journeys, and usually towards the direction of Reobar, because all  
 the merchants who come to trade in Curmos, until they learn that the merchants from the  
 parts of Indie are coming, send in the winter time the mules and camels, which are become lean  
 through the length of the journey, to the plain of Reobar where, through the abundance of grass,  
 they are bound to grow fat. And these Caraunas, who are waiting for this, come carrying  
 everything off, and they take the men and sell them. Nevertheless if they can ransom themselves  
 VA they let them go.<sup>3</sup> And there Negodar stays with his people and is in so strong a  
 VB region that he has no fear of anyone. He makes war on his own people, on all the other  
 V Tartars who dwell round his kingdom in the way I have told you above. Now I have  
 VA told you of this plain and of the people who have darkness made to come that they  
 VB may rob; by the which people of Negodar all those countries were at war and the roads cut.  
 L TA Moreover I tell you that Master Marc Pol himself was as good as taken or killed  
 V FB VB by that people in that darkness on this plain, but as God willed it he escaped with  
 FB the greatest speed to a village which was near there which is called Canosalmi, and many  
 FB of his companions were taken and were sold, and some were killed, so that only  
 seven persons escaped with him. So I have told you just as it happened. Now we shall go  
 on to tell you of other things.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> & pro le regne FA,FB: et par cellui Regne VA: per lo regniame V: e tolse el reame B., following V, reads & pri le regne "and took the kingdom", probably rightly.

<sup>2</sup> Malabar see p. 44 and PN.

<sup>3</sup> It seems as if RAMUSIO had perhaps retold this story in his own words, but for the sake of the new matter which he gives it has seemed to be worth while to insert part of his version at the risk of some repetition.

<sup>4</sup> VA: E siue digo io marcho che fu vna fiada in grande pericolo deser prexo da quella zente in quella oschurita ma eschanpi a vno chastello che era li appresso auea nome chalosebini . . . VB,P,LT similarly in the first person.