

HERE HE TELLS AGAIN OF THE GREAT DESCENT AND OF THE CITY AND OF
 THE MEN OF CURMOS. It is true that this plain of which I have told you
 lasts towards midday for quite five days marches, and then at the end of
 these five days marches one finds another very great descent and slope which it is better to
 travel on foot, where one must go all down hill quite twenty miles, and it is a very bad
 road and bad men who rob and assault continually those who pass there come there in
 abundance and therefore it is a very dangerous road. And when one has gone down this
 slope of twenty miles he finds another very beautiful plain and it is called the plain
 of Curmos,¹ and it lasts quite two days journeys in length. And there are many
 waters & most beautiful rivers, and dates enough and much of other fruits. It is a very
 noble land. And birds there are many francolin and parrots and very many other
 birds which are not at all like ours of our lands this side of the sea; there are also many
 kinds of birds which we do not know how to name. And at the end of the said province when
 one has ridden these two days journeys he finds the Ocean sea; and note that on the
 shore of the sea is a city [16d] which is called Curmos² which has a very good harbour.
 And I tell you that all the merchants come there from all the different parts of Indie
 with their ships, bringing there all spiceries and other merchandise, that is precious
 stones and pearls and cloth of silk and of gold and of other different colours and
 elephants tusks and many other wares, and in that city they sell them to the various
 other men. There are merchants also of the city who then carry them through all the
 whole world, selling to the other merchant peoples. It is in truth a town of very
 various and great trade. It, namely Curmos, is the royal city and has under it cities and
 villages enough; for it is chief of the kingdom of Cherman. The king of the city has
 for name Rucnedin Acmat who rules tyrannically but is subject to the king of Cherman.
 And there is very great heat, for the sun is very hot there, and it is a very unhealthy
 land. And if it happen that any merchant from other lands die there the king takes
 and puts away for himself all his possessions. And in this land the wine is made of
 dates and with many other good spices, and it is very good. And yet when the men
 who are not used to drink it drink it at first it makes them go down much and
 purges them entirely; but afterwards when he is used to drink it it does great good and
 gives them flesh enough. And the men of that country do not use our food because
 if they eat wheat bread and flesh when they are well they fall ill for the most part
 immediately. And when they are ill then they eat flesh and wheat bread. But when they are

¹ formose R: Ormus followed by B. V: bellissima

² R: doue sopra vna Isola vicina vi è vna città chiamata Ormus This seems to be due to
 RAMUSIO's editing. cf. Y. I. p. 110. See p. 44 and PN.