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THE EVIL ACTS AND END OF THE ASSASSINS ≠ MARCO POLO
VA orders them to kill that man¹ whom he described. They go immediately and do their
TA lords command. Then those who escape return to court to their lord; for some
VA LT there are sometimes who are taken and slain; after they have killed the man. And if
one was caught he wished to die, believing that he would come back to this Paradise.²

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HOW THE ASSASSINS ARE TRAINED TO DO EVIL. And when those who are
escaped are come back to their lord, they tell him that they had per-
formed the duty well. The Old Man makes great rejoicing and great
feasting for them. And he well knew him who had shown greater courage, for he
VA had sent some of his men after each one secretly when they went that they might be
able to tell him which is the boldest and best to kill a man. And when the Old
Man wished to have any lord or any other man killed he took some of these his
assassins and sends them where he wished, and told them that he wished to send
FB them carried by his angels to Paradise, and that they go to kill such a man, and if
they should die that they will go immediately to Paradise. Those to whom this
was commanded by the Old Man did it very willingly more than anything that
they could do; and they went and did all that the Old Man commanded them
VA for the great desire that they had that they might come back to Paradise. And in this way
no man escaped who was not killed when the Old Man of the Mountain wished.
VB And if it happened that the first man died before the command of the Old Man was carried
out, he sent a second, & so on till his enemy was killed. And thus did these villains do mischief.
Z Moreover I tell you quite truly that very many kings and many barons [19b] made
FB him presents and were on good terms with him to have peace and friendship with him
Z for fear that he should have them killed. And this was because the people were not then under
one rule, but divided in hearts and purposes. Now I have told you of the doings of the
Old Man of the Mountain and of his assassins. Now I shall tell you how he was
destroyed and by whom. And also I wish to tell you another thing about him
R which I had left. For I tell you that this Old Man had made him two deputies who
R were subject to him and observed all his manners and his customs [and] the same
order with the young men whom he sent. And the one he sends into the regions of
R Domas and the other he sends into Curdistan; and however great a man he might be, if
he were an enemy of the said Old Man he could not escape that he should not be killed.
VB The said Old Man was subject to the dominion of the lord Ulan, of which lord I have told

¹ *cel homes* FA: *tel* Perhaps read *tel*

² FA, FB have the above to the same effect but partly in direct speech. For instance, FB, fol. 27r^o: *Alez si occiez celle personne. Et quant vous serez retourne je vous feray porter par mes angelz en paradis*