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THE GREAT PROVINCES OF YARCAN AND COTAN = MARCO POLO

FB P had their stone with their great misadventure; and so the pillar is unto this day without
FB VB support of human prop, and will be as long as God shall please, through the intercession of
R the precious Saint. And from many parts there run together people all day long to see the
mighty miracle. Now let us leave you this of which enough is said, and we will go
forward and will tell you of a province which is called Yarcán.¹

·53·

VA VB FB LT

HERE HE TELLS OF THE PROVINCE OF YARCAN. Yarcán is a province which
lasts quite five² days journeys long. And the people of that province are all
of the religion of Mahomet, and there are some Nestorian Christians

FB VB LT and Jacobins, but not a great number. They belong to the domain of that same nephew
VB of the great Kaan of whom I have told you above. And it is a province where they
LT R have great abundance of all things which are generally necessary for the life of man, and
Z principally of cotton. The inhabitants are great craftsmen. And for the most part the dwellers
R L R in that province have one foot very large but the other small, and yet they walk very well;
TA of the water they drink. But because there is nothing else which does to mention in
FB FB our book, so then let us leave it [and] go forward, and we will tell you of another
province which is named Cotán.

·54·

V V V LT
V VB TA

HERE HE TELLS OF THE GREAT PROVINCE OF COTAN. Cotán is a province [22d]
between sunrising and the Greek wind, and is eight days marches long.
And they belong to the rule of the great Kaan. And the people of that province

all worship Mahomet. And there are cities and fine villages enough, and they are
noble people. And the most noble city and that which is chief of the realm is called
TA L Cotán, that is the name of the whole province. And it is fertile and it has abundance
R V L of all things needful for the life of man. And there grows cotton enough, & flax and
VL L hemp, & oil, wheat, corn, and wine & the rest as is done rightly in our lands. They
V have vines and closes and³ gardens enough. And they live by trade and by crafts,
V VB V and they are not men of arms, but mean enough and very cowardly. And in this province
TA there is nothing else to say, but now we will leave it and tell you of another province
which has for name Pem.

¹ Throughout this chapter VB puts the whole pillar in place of the stone base as taken from
and restored to the Saracens, ending like this: *venuto el terzo zorno a cristiani imposto trouorono
la collona spichata dal teto per modo che fazillissimamente fa moxe et senza lexion alguna delle la giexia.
fu trata e data a saraxini non senza suo grande amirazione e dispiazere . . .* In the extracts above
"stone" has been put for collona.

² VA: sete

³ de FB: et Just below FB has dras for dars.