

THE FLOCKS AND FELT TENTS OF THE TARTARS ≄ MARCO POLO

less, all the people whom they met by the way by which the bodies are carried are  
 TA V FB put to *the edge* of the sword by those who conduct the *said* body. And they say *thus*.  
 LT LT to them when they kill them, Go serve your<sup>1</sup> lord in the other world. For they have  
 P come to such foolishness and the devil has so blinded them and surrounded them with such  
 LT madness that they believe truly that all those whom they kill [28b] for this cause must  
 VA VA go to accompany & to serve the great lord in the other world. And they do the same  
 VA with the horses which they find on the road, & say that he has so many horses in the other  
 VL V world. For when the lord dies they kill all the best horses, camels, & mules that are  
 L left that the lord had. They have [them] killed<sup>2</sup> believing that the lord may have them  
 V LT in the other world; & so they all believe. And you may know that when Mongu the  
 FB fifth Kan died more than twenty thousand<sup>3</sup> men were killed on the way, as I have told  
 V R you, all those who met the body when it was being carried by the horsemen, who held  
 FB this wicked and firm belief, to that mountain to burial. And since we have begun to speak  
 about the Tartars for you, I will even tell you many things of them. The Tartars  
 P R commonly feed many flocks of cows, mares, and sheep, for which reason they never stay in one  
 V place, but retire to live in the winter in plains and in hot places where they have grass  
 R L in plenty and good pasture for their beasts; and in the summer they move themselves  
 over to live in cold places in mountains and in valleys where they find water and woods  
 R L R and good pasture for keeping their beasts; and also for this cause, that where the place is cold  
 flies are not found nor gnats and suchlike creatures which annoy them and their beasts; and they  
 go for two or three months ascending continually and grazing, for they would not have enough  
 V V P grass for the multitude of their beasts, feeding always in one place. And they have their small  
 P V houses like tents of rods of wood and cover them with felt;<sup>4</sup> and they are round;  
 VB R and they always carry them with them on four-wheeled waggons wherever they go. For  
 R they have the wooden rods tied so well and orderly that they can fit them together like  
 P R VB a pack and spread them, take them up, put them down, and carry them very easily where they  
 VB please. And every time that they stretch and set up their house they set it so that the  
 VB R R door is always looking towards midday.<sup>5</sup> They have beside this very beautiful carts with

<sup>1</sup> *uostre* FA: *vostre* TA,R: *vostro* FB: *nostre* VA,V,LT,P: *nostro*

<sup>2</sup> *il occient . . . seingnor auoit font ocire* FB: *il ait* omitting the redundant *font ocire* B. reads *avoit*, [et] *font ocire*

<sup>3</sup> FB: "9000" VL: *trecentomillia* R: "10000" VB consistently makes the persons kill themselves.

<sup>4</sup> *feunes* FA,FB: *cordes* L: *feno*, so attesting the early date of *feunes*; but TA,LT,V,VL,P,R all have "felt", and the omission of a very small mark would turn *feutres* into *feunes*. VB: *tauolle*

<sup>5</sup> VL: "And they always set the door of their house in the summer toward the south (*austro*) and in the winter toward the north."