

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> EGRIGAIA AND TENDUC

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comely and fair woman and she is poor and born of low descent, yet a great baron or  
a great man, the greatest of the land, who is rich takes her to wife for her beauty and  
gives silver enough for her to her father and mother as they can best have agreed  
together, and they are valued according as they are fair. Now we will depart from here  
and we shall go and we shall tell you of another province towards the sunrising.

**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE KINGDOM OF THE PROVINCE OF EGRIGAIA. [31b] And  
when one leaves Ergiuul and goes riding towards the sunrising eight  
days marches he finds a very good province which is called Egrigaia  
where there are cities and villages enough under it, and it is also under the name of the  
great province of Tangut. And the capital city in it is called Calacian. The people  
who dwell there are for the most part idolaters, and there are many Saracens, and there are  
also three<sup>1</sup> very beautiful churches of Christians who follow the law Nestorian.<sup>2</sup> And  
they all moreover belong to the great Tartar Kaan. And in this city of Calacian are  
made many cloths which are called camlets of camels hair, the most beautiful that  
are to be found in the world and the best; and again of white wool, for they have white  
camels, they make of it white camlet very beautiful and good, and they make very  
great quantity of it. And thence many of the said camlets are sent for sale to other parts, or  
the merchants carry them to sell through many places and specially to Catai and  
into other places through the midst of the world.<sup>3</sup> Now let us come out of this  
province toward the Greek wind & sunrising and we will enter and will tell you of another  
province which one calls Tenduc; and so we shall enter into the lands which were  
of Prester Johan.

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**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE GREAT PROVINCE OF TENDUC. When one sets out  
from here he finds Tenduc which is a province toward sunrising which has  
towns and villages enough; and it is one of the provinces where that great  
king most famous in the world, who was called by the Latins Prester Johan, used to stay.  
Now however they are subject to the rule of the great Kaan, for all the descendants of  
Prester Johan who reign there are subject to the great Kaan. And the capital city is  
named Tenduc. And one of the line of Prester Johan is king of this province;  
and indeed he is still a Christian priest,<sup>4</sup> because all the Christians of those parts are made

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<sup>1</sup> VB: quatro

<sup>2</sup> V: e la non sono giexie ne christiani

<sup>3</sup> VA: la zente adora vno dio . . . In questa zitade se fano i zanbelloti de pello de ganbeli plui belli che someglia li nostri E fano el fillo dela lana bianca che par veluto bianco e signiori grandi ne portano per tuto el paixe del grande chaam;

<sup>4</sup> encore est prestre iohan and so TA,LT,VA,P—VA adding: Et e suo nome proprio L: et usque ad hoc tempus sic dicitur. Set proprium nomen regnantis ad presens est georgius, clearly based on the reading