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THE GREATNESS AND POWER OF CUBLAI KAAAN & MARCO POLO
LT womens names; & they give them such names that they may induce women to worship
FB FB them. Now let us leave speaking to you of this, and we shall tell you of the very great
V deeds and of the wonders of the very great lord of the lords of all the Tartars of
FB LT the world, that is the very noble and powerful great Kaan who is called Cublai. The
first book of Master Marc Pol concerning the wonders of the eastern regions ends, and the
second book on the same subject begins.

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HERE HE TELLS OF ALL THE DEEDS OF THE GREAT KAAAN WHO NOW REIGNS
WHO IS CALLED CUBLAI KAAAN, AND TELLS HOW HE HOLDS COURT AND
HOW HE MAINTAINS HIS PEOPLE WITH GREAT JUSTICE, AND AGAIN HE
VA SPEAKS OF HIS AFFAIRS. NOW I WISH TO BEGIN TO TELL YOU IN *this part* of our book
LT all the very great doings and all the very great marvels of *the very great lord of*
the Tartars, namely the great Kaan who now reigns, who is called Cublai Kaan,
VA FB VA which *Kaan* means to say in our language¹ the great lord of lords, emperor, and *this*
VA *lord who now reigns* indeed he really has this name of *lord of lords* by right because
everyone knows truly that this great Kaan is the most powerful [34a] man in
FB R from *the time* of Adam our first father till this moment; and *under him all the peoples*
are set with such obedience as has never been done under any other former king. And this I shall
R LT P show you quite clearly in *the course of this* our second book, that it is a true thing
FB VA which I have told you, so that each will be sure that he is as we say without contra-
FB P diction the greatest lord that ever was born in the world or that now is; and in *the*
following chapters I shall show you reason how.

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HERE HE TELLS OF THE GREAT BATTLE WHICH WAS BETWEEN THE GREAT
KAAAN AND THE KING NAIAN HIS UNCLE. NOW YOU MAY KNOW QUITE
FA VA truly that *it is true that this king who is named Cublai, he is of the direct*
L FA *descent from the imperial line of Cinghis Kaan the first lord of all the Tartars of the world;*
FB Cublai Kaan is the sixth great Kaan, as I have told you before in *this book*; this means to
TA say that he is the sixth great lord of all the Tartars who have been until now. And you
P may know that he had the rule in the 1256 year that was since Jesus Christ was born,

“... in the world in their monasteries.”) could easily have dropped out, or could easily have become *e* (“&”) as in V; and that “their monasteries are all women”, though accepted by B., seems to be improbable. The most plausible reading is perhaps that of VB: *ano lellor chiexe ouer tenpli separati dai altri et ano issuo idolli tuti de nomi femenil* VA: *tute lidolle . . . anno nomi de femene.*

¹ FB: *en francoiz* L: *in latino*