

WHY CUBLAI KAAH DID NOT BECOME CHRISTIAN \neq MARCO POLO
 talk about the faith of Christ. He said to them, How do you wish me to make myself a Christian?
 You see that the Christians who are in these parts are totally¹ ignorant so that they do nothing
 and have no power; and you see that these idolaters do whatever they wish, and when I sit at
 table the cups which are in the middle of the hall come to me full of wine or drink or of other
 things without anyone touching them, and I drink with them. They compel storms to go in
 whatever direction they please, and do many wonderful things, and as you know their idols
 speak and foretell them all that they wish. But if I am converted to the faith of Christ and am
 made a Christian, then my barons and other people who are not attached to the faith of Christ
 would say to me, What reason has moved you to baptism, and to hold the faith of Christ?
 What virtues or what miracles have you seen of him? And these idolaters say that what they
 do they do it by the holiness and virtue of the idols. Then I shall not know what to answer them,
 so that there will be very great error between them and these idolaters who do such things with
 their arts and sciences; and they will easily be able to make me die. But you shall go to your
 Pontiff and pray him on our behalf to send me a hundred wise men of your religion, that before
 these idolaters they may be able to reprove what they do, and may tell them that they know and
 can do such things but are unwilling, because they are done by the art of the devil and of evil
 spirits, and may so restrain them that they have not power to do such things before them. Then
 when we shall see this we shall reprove them and their law, and so I shall be baptized, and
 when I shall be baptized all my barons and great men will be baptized, and then their subjects
 will receive baptism; & so there will be more Christians here than there are in your parts.
 And if, as has been said at the beginning, men fitted to preach our faith to him had been sent
 by the Pope the said great Kaan would have been made a Christian, because it is known for
 VB certain that he had a very great desire for it. And for three days he wished that all should go
 to eat and drink in his Court. The great and bountiful feasts of every kind last for many
 days. They make very great sacrifices to the gods. And though Cambaluc city is six miles long
 and has very large suburbs, all the people could not dwell in it, but lodged some in the suburbs
 and some outside. When the feasts and entertainments were ended² he dismissed his armies,
 FB and all went away to their houses. And the other [36a] Tartar baron who was a king,
 V who had Caidu for name, who ought to have been with Naian against the great Kaan,
 VA when he hears this news that Naian had been defeated and killed he had great vexation
 VA at it and did not any more think to go to war against the lands of the Tartar, as he
 TA had determined, but had³ great dread of him and great fear of being so treated as Naian

¹ *totalmente* BALDELLI-BONI, following the later editions and followed by B., prints *talmente*.

² *fornite* which I have supposed to be for *finite*.

³ *mes auent* B.: *més, avent* "ever, having" But FA,FB: *mes(maiz) il ot* TA': *ma auea* TA':
ma ebbe VA,V: *aué* LT: *imo habuit* So probably read *mes auoit*