

PEOPLE CUSTOMS & VAST SIZE OF CAMBALUC \neq MARCO POLO

R lord (and wherever he holds his court the people come there from every side for various reasons)
 and for this that the town is in so good a market that the merchants and the other
 R men come there for their business. And to each kind of people one factory is set apart, as if one
 said one for the Lombards, another for the Germans, and another for the French. Moreover I
 tell you that there are as beautiful houses and as beautiful palaces in the suburbs as
 in the town, except those of the great lord. And you may know that no man who
 VB dies is allowed for anything in the world to be buried in the town. But if he is an idolater
 FB then he is carried to the distant place where the body must be burnt, which is
 FB outside the town and outside all the suburbs. And so it happens with the other dead
 FB (if he is of another faith when it is right to bury him, as a Christian and Saracen and other
 FB FB FB manner of person), who are also carried to be buried far outside all the suburbs in an
 R appointed place, so that the land is more valuable and more healthy in consequence. And likewise
 no evil deed is done in the city,¹ but only outside the suburbs. And again I tell you another
 R thing, that inside the town dare live no sinful woman (unless it is secretly) as is said
 before,² these are women [43d] of the world who do service to men for money,
 R FB but I tell you that they all live outside in the suburbs. And you may know that there
 FB are so great a multitude of them for the foreigners that no man could believe it, for I
 VB FB R dare tell you in truth that they are quite twenty thousand³ (reckoning those of the new
 FB city and those of the suburbs of the old city) who all serve men for money, and they all
 find a living. Moreover I tell you that they are all wanted for the vast numbers of
 R R merchants and of other foreigners who come and go there every day for the court. And
 they have a general captain, and there is a head for each hundred and for each thousand, and
 they are all responsible to the general. And the reason why these women have a captain is that
 whenever ambassadors come to the great Kaan for the things and affairs of that lord, and
 lodge at his expense, which is done for them in the most honourable manner, this captain is
 obliged to give to the said ambassadors and to each one of the retinue one harlot each night;
 and they are changed every night, and they have no pay because this is the tax which they pay
 to the great Kaan. Then you can see if there is great abundance of people in Cambaluc
 VA since the worldly women there are as many as I have told. And again you may know
 VB quite truly that I believe there is not a place in the world to which so many merchants come &
 FB that dearer things and of greater value and more strange come into this town of

¹ *& parimente nessuno maleficio si fa nella città*, MARSDEN: "There, likewise, all public executions take place." B.: *Nessun sinistro spettacolo è permesso nella città*

² R has this passage in full in his chapter 7 (p. 213 above, just before "Besides this the guards . . .") and repeats it briefly here. LT has this whole chapter in the earlier position and omits it here.

³ VB: *oltra miara xx* R: *venticinquemila*