

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE GREAT POST ROADS
 may know that when one goes off from Cambaluc by all the roads of which I
 have told you (*I speak of those which are the more principal and chief*) and he is gone R
 twenty-five miles or thirty, and more and less according to the distances of the cities, then R
 the messengers of the great lord who have [45c] gone these twenty-five miles they find
 a post which is called iamb in their language, and in our tongue means to say a
 post with horses. And at each post *wherever they go* the messengers find a very great FB
 palace and beautiful *and rich* where the messengers or envoys of the great lord may FB L
 lodge with dignity, and these lodgings have *the rooms full of very rich beds and very L FB FB*
 beautiful, furnished with rich silk cloths and have all the things which are right for
 exalted messengers *and are required by them*; and if a great king came there he would LT R
 yet be well lodged in any one of the like posts. They are provided with everything by the R
 neighbouring cities and villages; and some the court provides. And again I tell you that at
 these posts *where these palaces are* the messengers of the great Kaan change horses, for they LT LT TA
 find quite four hundred good horses at each which the great lord has appointed that R VB
 they always stay there and be ready for his messengers and ambassadors when he sends R
 them in any direction on his business, that they may be able to dismount there and leaving R
 the tired horses to take the fresh ones; and at some there are three hundred, according as more FB
 are needed at one than at the other. And when the lord desires horses he sends his messenger to VB
 these posts, & there are sent him as many horses as he demands. And again you may know
 that in this way at all ends of twenty-five miles or every thirty are made ready these VA TA TA
 posts of which I have told you, that is on all the main roads which go to all the VA
 provinces of which I have told you above. And at each of these posts the messengers FB
 find from three hundred horses to four hundred all ready for their orders. And again
 they find there so fine palaces or stations as I have told you above where the messengers VB TA
 lodge so richly as I have described to you above. And in this way it goes through all
 the principal provinces and realms, cities & places of the great lord up to the borders of FB V P
 the neighbouring provinces. And when the messengers go by places off the road strange VA
 & wild and mountainous, where one finds no house nor lodging, where there are no R R
 villages and the cities are far off, yet the great [45d] lord has had posts made there in
 each place off the road as in the other places of which I have told you, and palaces and all FB
 the things as the other posts have, no more nor less, and horses, four hundred to a post, FB R
 which are kept at the great Kaan's own expense, and harness and all the other necessary things. L R
 But in those places they are not found so close together, but they are greater days marches VA
 to ride, for they are made, the posts, at thirty-five miles and there are some at FB
 forty & sometimes more than forty¹ (*for the others are at twenty-five to thirty miles*). distant L FB VA

¹ FA: de.xxxv.a.xlv. FB,R omit V (above): 25 to 40 LT: aut ad quadraginta ad plus,
 "at 40 at most"? TA,P: 35 to 40.