

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD'S RIVER OF PULISANGHIN

·104·

into God. And so on the contrary, if he shall have behaved ill, being the son of a gentleman R
he will be born again a son of a rustic, from a rustic he is made into a dog, always descending Z
to lower life. R

And since we have finished speaking of the rule and administration of the province of Catai R
and of the city of Cambaluc and of the magnificence of the great Kaan, we shall leave the
city of Cambaluc to speak of the other regions to which Master Marc went for the purposes R
of the government of the great Kaan, and shall enter into Catai to tell of the great
things and rich which are there.¹

HERE HE BEGINS ABOUT THE GREAT PROVINCE OF CATAI AND WE WILL TELL
OF THE RIVER OF PULISANGHIN. Now you may know that I judge it to VB
be worthy of memory not to be passed by that the said Master Marc² Pol himself FB FB
who tells all this, the great lord sends him as a messenger to the parts towards sunsetting. FB FB
And he set out from Cambaluc and went quite four months³ of days journeys
toward sunsetting, and therefore we shall tell you all that he saw on that road,
going and coming. When indeed one sets out from the town aforesaid, namely of Z Z
Cambaluc,⁴ and he is gone riding ten miles toward the sunsetting, then he finds a FB L
great river which is called Pulisanghin, which river goes as far as to the Ocean
sea. And here go many merchants[in]many ships with very much merchandise to the VA R VA
Ocean sea. And over this river is a very beautiful great stone bridge, worthy of mention. VB VB
For you may know that there are few of them⁵ in all the world so beautiful, nor
its equal. [And I shall show you]reason how. It is made like this. I tell you that it is FB
quite three hundred⁶ paces long and quite eight⁷ paces wide, for ten horsemen⁸ can well FB V
go there the [47d] one beside the other. And it has twenty-four arches and twenty- VA
four⁹ piers in the water supporting them, and it is all of grey marble very well worked R
and well founded. There is above on each side of the bridge a beautiful curtain or FB R P

·105·

¹ The long passages in this chapter from Z and R have, more perhaps than any others in the book, something of the appearance of having been added later and out of their natural place.

² V: nichollo

³ VL makes the whole mission occupy fourteen months.

⁴ VB: "... Cambaluc, I reached a town very rich & fair in which I rested for some days, & at a distance of twelve leagues from this town is a river named pullicanzino ..."

⁵ *qe poutna* FB: *pou en ya* supported by FA, Z, V, R; while no MS. known to me supports the reading of 1824 (copied in B. without note), *que pont n'a*.

⁶ VA: *bem quatrozento*

⁷ V: *nuoue* Others "eight"

⁸ TA: *charre*

⁹ TA, LT: 34 R: 24 . . . 25 FA: . *xxiiij* . arches & . *xxiiij* . moulins—followed by PAUTHIER & YULE!