

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE REALM OF TAIANFU

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may know quite truly that one rides by the sunsetting through the province of Catai quite ten¹ days journeys from the city of Giogiu to the realm of Taianfu. And one always finds many beautiful cities and many beautiful villages, people of great trade and of great industry, and finds beautiful & well cultivated fields in which much silk is produced and beautiful vines and many trees, and they are all settled people & comfortable. and very affable. because of the number of the cities little removed one from another; and the ways of those cities are so much frequented. by the inhabitants. that people are always found passing by, because of the many goods which are continually carried from one city to the other; and in each of them fairs are held. And from here the wine is carried into the province of Catai, because wine is not produced there. There are also many mulberry trees of which the inhabitants make much silk with their leaves. And at the end of five days journeys of the foresaid ten they say there is a city more beautiful and greater than the others, called Achbaluch, to which in that direction approaches the boundary of the lord's hunting, where none dares go hunting except the lord with his retinue and whoever is enrolled under the captain of the falconers. But from that boundary forward one can go, provided that he is a nobleman. Nevertheless the great Kaan as it were never went hunting on that side; for which reason the wild animals were so much increased and multiplied, and specially the hares, that they destroyed the corn of the whole of the said province. And when this thing was made known to the great Kaan he went there with all the court, and animals were taken without number. There is nothing which does to mention, so we shall tell you nothing about it. And then we shall leave this matter and shall tell you of a kingdom which is called Taianfu.

HERE HE TELLS OF THE KINGDOM OF TAIANFU. And when one has ridden the foresaid ten days marches after he has left this city of Giogiu, then he finds a kingdom which is called Taianfu. And head of the province or realm is this city where we are come which is likewise called Taianfu, which is very large and beautiful,² in which is done great trade and industry. For in this city is made a very great quantity of equipments which are needed for the troops of the great lord. There are many beautiful vines from which they have wine in great abundance. And in all the cities of the province of Catai³ subject to the great Kaan wine is

FB VB

¹ FB: xij Others "ten"

² appelle taianfu. & chief de la prouence ceste cite ou nos sommes uenus qui est apeles tainan fu qe est mout grant & biele Z: nomine tayanfu. & capud prouincie siue regni est ciuitas quam intrauimus que nominatur similiter tayanfu est magna & pulcra ualde FB: appelle taianfu. et est chief de la prouince ceste cite ou nous sommes venuz qui aussi a nom.taianfu. TA: chiamato taianfo. Et di chapo di questa provincia oue Noi siamo venuti e vna Citta chanome Tiafu The reading of R is to be noticed: nominato Tainfu, & è capo di questa prouincia, con vna città, che ha il medemo nome.

³ R: in tutta Tainfu L: in nulla enim prouincia de Catay