

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s CUNCUN·ACBALEC MANGI

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For you may know that there are many *great* woods in which there are many wild FB
beasts; these are lions and bears, *wolves* and lynxes and fallow-deer and roe-deer VA
and stags and other *sorts* of beasts in plenty, so that the people of the country catch FB
them much and have much great profit from them. And in this way one rides *quite* L
twenty¹ days journeys, that is through mountains and through valleys & *through* VA
plains and through woods, always finding towns and villages and *many good forests* FB
and *many good large* inns where the travellers are lodged in comfort. Now we will V FA
leave this land and will tell you of another province so as you shall be able to
hear below.

HERE HE TELLS OF THE PROVINCE OF ACBALEC MANGI. And when one has
ridden the twenty [50a] days journeys *aforesaid·toward sunsetting* in the P L
mountains and valleys of the province of Cuncun of which I have told you Z L
above, then one finds a province which is called Acbalec Mangi, which is all plain.
There are cities and villages enough. And they are *found in going* towards the sun- FB Z
setting. And the people of *that province* are all idolaters. And they live by trade and LT LT LT FB
by crafts. Moreover I tell you that so great quantity of ginger grows in this province²
that it is spread through all the great province of Catai,³ and the men of the province
have great gain from it and great good. They have wheat and rice and *barley and* VA
all other corn in great plenty and very cheap, and it is a land very fruitful of all
good things. The capital city is called *like the province, that is* Acbalec Mangi which VB
means to say *in our tongue* the white city of the border of Mangi.⁴ This plain lasts VB R
for two days marches so beautiful as I have told you, and with so many towns and
villages. And at end of *these* two days marches then one finds great mountains and FB
great valleys and great forests enough, and *riding by this way* goes quite twenty days FB
journeys by sunsetting *always* finding towns and villages enough. The men are all FB VA
idolaters. And they live on the fruit of the land and on game and on flocks. For FB FB
there are *many wild beasts, very large* lions and bears and lynxes, fallow-deer, roe-deer, VB

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¹ FB: viij. FA omits. Others, "twenty"

² FB: cite

³ LT: Catha siue Cathay

⁴ *acmelec mangi qe uaut a dire le une de le confin dou mangi* VA: *zioe adir vna delle confine de mangi*
L: *quod sonat vna ex confinibus de mangi* V: *che tanto vien a dire chomo vno di chonfini de mangin*
VB: *uen a dir i confini di manzi* *leune* is an easy corruption of *lacite*; B. suggests *le uile*, and does
not notice the interesting agreement of VA, L, V with F, nor the repetition of the phrase in
the next chapter. There is considerable MS support for some difference between the name of
the city and of the province, but L: *sicque nominatur eius principalis ciuitas*, & VB are probably
right, and in this case the name of the province has been repeated in place of *Acmelec*. cf. PN.