

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE BRIDGE OF SINDUFU
of cities and of villages on this river *and through the surrounding country*. There are so Z
large ships, that is so large a multitude, that there is no man's body or eyes which
did not see them *and bear it told* which could believe it. It is so great, the multitude FB FB
and the great abundance of the great merchandise which the merchants carry up
and down by this river *to the foresaid cities*, that there is not a man in the world who Z
did not see it who could believe it. It is not like a river but a sea, it is so broad,
& on the banks are very high & great mountains. And I will tell you of a great bridge VB
which is inside the town of *Sindufu* over this great river. The bridge is all of stone VA
and is quite eight¹ paces wide and quite half a mile long, just as I have told you FB
that the river is broad. From length to length of the bridge on each side are beautiful Z
pillars of marble, which pillars hold up the roof of the bridge. For I tell you that
the bridge is covered *from one end to the other very well* with an exceedingly beautiful FB
roof of timber all drawn out and painted with very beautiful red painting, whose Z Z
covering is with tiles of black stones. And there are also many very beautiful little houses V Z
and stores on this bridge *throughout the length* in which they do *and practise all sorts of* Z Z Z
trade and handicrafts enough;² but then I tell you that *these houses are planned like* LT
this, they are made of poles which are brought in the morning and taken away in
the evening *and folded up*. And again there is *in one house which is larger than any of the* P LT
other houses the custom-house of the great lord, that is *where those sit* who receive VA VA
the revenue of the lord, that is the duty on the goods which *pass over[or]were sold* VB
on the bridge. And I tell you that the duty of that bridge is worth, *as is said*, quite P
a thousand bezants of gold *each day*,³ and more. The people *indeed of the city and province* FA Z
of *Sindufu* are all idolaters. And from this city one sets out and rides five days
journeys through plains and through *fair* valleys, and one finds villages and hamlets VB
& towns enough. The men live on the *return and profit* which they take [50d] from Z Z
the land. There are *found domestic & wild* beasts enough, lions and bears and very Z VB Z
many other beasts *such as stags and the like*. They live also by industry, for some very L Z VA
beautiful sendal and other cloths of gold *and of silk of several kinds* are made there in TA FB VA
great quantity. They belong to the same *Sindufu*. And when one is gone *riding these* FB

to all the bridges. And after the account of the revenue derived from the bridge R, but not Z,
adds: "And when the said rivers leave the city they join together and make a vast river which is
called Quian, which runs a hundred days journeys to the Ocean sea; of the nature of which one
will speak below in the book."

¹ VB: "nine"

² VA: *arte de stagnio et dellegniam*

³ So FB, VA, P. LT: *quolibet anno bene mille biçantos* R: *ogni giorno piu di cento bisanti* TA'
as F. TA³, L omit altogether. Z, V, VB specify no amount or period.