

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s CLOTHES & SALT & MUSK
 that they have had more paramours and that more men have lain with them, that
 one is held better and they take her more willingly and say that she is more gracious
 with the gods than the others. Nor can they give more worthy dowries to the husbands than
 the many presents which they have received from the wayfarers; thinking them a great glory to
 prize, nor would she be valued but rather even despised who should not show at least twenty
 tokens that she had been with twenty wayfarers; and at the celebrations of their weddings they
 show the tokens & gifts to everybody; and the husbands hold them dearer, saying that their idols
 have made them more pleasing to men. And if she conceives by any of the said men [the child]
 is brought up by him who takes her to wife, and is heir in the house with the others who are
 born. And when they have taken wives like these in this way they hold them very
 dear & count it for too great an evil if one should touch the wife of the other;
 & they all keep themselves from this thing much. Now I have told you of this
 marriage, which it does well to tell & to say the manner of it. And into that country
 the young gentlemen from sixteen years to 24 will do well to go to have as many
 of these girls at their will as they should ask for and should be begged [to take] without any
 cost. The people are idolaters and extremely treacherous and cruel & wicked, for they
 hold it for no sin to rob and to do evil, and I believe they are the greatest scoundrels
 and the greatest thieves in the world. They live by chase and by hunting, and on
 the flocks, and on their fruits which they get from the land. And I tell you quite
 truly that in that country are many animals which make musk, and in such numbers
 that that scent is perceived through the whole country. For once every moon those animals
 discharge musk. For, as is said elsewhere, a pustule full of blood like a tumour is found near
 the navel of this animal, and that blood is musk. But that pustule from being too full discharges
 some of that blood every moon. And so because there are many such animals in those parts they
 discharge in many places, so that the whole province smells of it; and they are called in their
 language¹ gudderi, the flesh of which is very good. And these wicked men have very
 many good dogs very swift and large which are trained to catch them in great abundance,
 and so they have much of this musk in great quantity. They have no silver money
 nor notes of those² of the great Kaan, but they make money of salt [and] they spend
 coral for their money. They dress very poorly, for their clothes are of leather and of
 the skins of animals and of horses, and of canvas and of coarse buckram; and they have
 a language [51d] for themselves. And they are called Tebet.³ And this Tebet is a

¹ LT: lingua tartarica

² monnaie ne carte de cele Perhaps read ne cele de carte R: monete, nè anche di quelle di carta
 FB: monnaie de chartre du seel. du grant VA: ano moneta per si But most texts seem to support
 F as it stands.

³ sapellent tebet P: ad prouinciam thebeth pertinent Perhaps read sapellent de tebet cf. p. 188.