

NESCRADINS CONQUEST OF MIEN & BANGALA = MARCO POLO

V FB to his house. And after all this is done the sick dies, or is healed and gets up quite well  
 L immediately. These answers, even though they sometimes fail, are nevertheless very often  
 R true, they say. And if by God's providence the sick man is healed, they say that that idol to  
 which the sacrifice was made has healed him. But if he dies, they say that the sacrifice has been  
 cheated, that is that those who prepared the food tasted it before his part had been given to the  
 idol. And these ceremonies are not done for every sick man, but once or twice a month for some  
 great rich man. And this thing is practised also in all the province of Catai and of Mangi  
 and by almost all the idolaters, because they have not many physicians. And in this way the  
 demons mock the blindness of those unhappy people. Now I have told you the manner and  
 FB FB the bad customs of these bad people and how these magicians know how to charm  
 V FB FB the spirits of this people. Now we will leave telling you of these people and this  
 FB province and we will tell you of the others as you will be able to hear and understand  
 after this all clearly in order one after the other.

HOW THE GREAT KAN CONQUERS THE KINGDOM OF MIEN AND OF BANGALA.

FB Now you may know that we had forgotten to tell you of a very fine battle  
 R VA FB which was in the aforesaid kingdom of Caragian and of Uncian which is in  
 V the province of Cardandan, which does well to mention in [55d] this our book. And so  
 R before we go farther we will tell you quite clearly how it happened and in what way.  
 It was true that in the 1272 year of the incarnation of Christ the great Kaan sends  
 LT a great prince of his who was called Nescradin, with a great army into the kingdom of  
 Uncian and of Caragian by which they might be guarded and saved, that other  
 R FB R V strange evil people who might wish to attack them, should do them no harm, because they  
 FB VB are the borderlands of the great Kaan. For the great Kaan had not yet sent any of his  
 sons there for lord as he did afterwards; for he made Esentemur his grandson, who  
 R was son to his son who had died, king of it. Now it happened that the king<sup>1</sup> of  
 Mien and of Bangala in Indie who was a very powerful king both in lands and in  
 treasure and in people; and this king was not<sup>2</sup> subject to the great Kaan,<sup>3</sup> but then  
 not much time passes before the great Kaan conquers him and took from him  
 both the kingdoms which I have named to you above; and this king of Mien and  
 VA of Bangala, which borders on Caragian, when he knows that the army of the great  
 VB P Kaan was at Uncian, was displeased at it and terrified, fearing that perhaps they were come  
 R to invade his lands. He said to himself that it is necessary that he go there to fight

<sup>1</sup> P,LT have "kings", and the verbs plural, throughout. TA,Z,L omit the story.

<sup>2</sup> e cestui roi cun cestui rois ne estoit FA,FB omit cun cestui rois, which nevertheless may just possibly mean "with this king[of Bangala]".

<sup>3</sup> FA,FB reproduce this ungrammatical sentence exactly.