

THE MANNER OF HUNTING LIONS WITH DOGS ≠ MARCO POLO

FB VA on the road, *escaping from the noise of the dogs, to go into some thicket or to find some thick*
 TA FB tree against which he can lean *his back*, to show his face to the dogs so that they cannot
 VB worry him from behind. *but that both may stay in front of him. And therefore he goes off step*
 R *by step—nor by any means would he run—because the lion is not held by fear, so great is his*
 VB *pride and the height of his spirit. And while the lion is going off in this way by degrees*
 VB the dogs go biting him all the time behind, *and the man with the bow shooting at him;*
 VB VB and when he feels himself bitten the lion turns himself now this way now that towards
 TA FB one sees this he follows them and lays hand to his bow (*for they are very good archers*)
 VB lion is so much wounded with the arrows and weakened by loss of blood that he falls dead
 VB P before he has found a refuge; *for he is so intent on the dogs that the man can shoot freely.*
 FB And in this way the wayfarers save themselves from the lions which they find, [and] they kill
 L V has two good dogs. *Nevertheless they hunt the lion with caution.*¹ *And these of this province,*
 VL they have gold & silk enough and goods of all makes in great abundance, which are
 FB LT VB carried up and down by the branches of this river into many regions and lands of great
 FB one goes riding yet again twelve³ days journeys and one finds at all times cities and
 Z VB V villages in great abundance, the people of which are all idolaters and are subject to the
 L L rule of the great Kaan. *And their monies too are of notes, that is the money of the*
 V L V L great lord. They live by trade and by industries, *and some are valiant men at arms.*
 V FA And at the end [59c] of these twelve days journeys then one finds the city of Sindufu
 V FB seventy⁴ days journeys through cities and provinces & through lands in which we have
 FB FB been, and have written them in our book above all clearly in order. At end of these
 seventy days journeys one finds Giogiu where we have been. And from Giogiu

¹ VL, where these chapters are much shortened and perhaps corrupt, has here: "And also there are found unicorns. When they wish to catch the elephant they seek it (*cerchano*—FRAMPTON: they do compass him) with the dogs and chase it till they find it resting. And when they rest they stand on the feet leaning against a tree, because they cannot rest lying down, through not having jointed knees. The dogs stand round it and bark but dare not go up to it. But it stands always with the face towards the dogs which bark at it. Then the hunters expert at this shoot and kill it in that way."

² *paixe* repeated by mistake, from *paixe e tere* just above.

³ *sus por cest flunz alongz & encore.xii.*

⁴ VB,R: "twenty" cf. V (p. 298 n. 2 above).