

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> CACANFU AND CIANGLU

one sets out and goes *riding* four days journeys finding cities and villages enough. <sup>v</sup>  
 The people are of great trade and of great industry, and they are idolaters and have <sup>v</sup>  
 money of the great Kaan their lord, that is notes. And at the end of *these* four days <sup>v</sup> <sup>FB</sup>  
 journeys one finds the city of Cacanfu which is toward midday, going back by the <sup>R</sup>  
*other side of the province*, and is *the most noble and greatest city* in all the province of Catai. <sup>VB</sup> <sup>VB</sup>  
 And we shall tell you of it, of this Cacanfu, its circumstances as you shall be able  
 to hear below.

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**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE CITY OF CACANFU. Cacanfu is a great city of Catai <sup>FB</sup>  
 and noble, and it is toward midday. The people are *all* idolaters and <sup>VB</sup>  
 have *the bodies* of their dead burnt when they die. There too are some Christians <sup>VB</sup> <sup>Z</sup>  
 who have a Church in the aforesaid city. They are subject to *the rule* of the great Kaan <sup>v</sup>  
 and have the money of notes with the stamp of the great Kaan. They live by trade and <sup>VB</sup>  
 by crafts, for they have silk enough in great abundance of which they make cloths of <sup>FB</sup>  
 gold and of silk and *the finest* sendal in great abundance. This city has *other* cities <sup>R</sup> <sup>Z</sup>  
 and villages enough under her rule. A certain great river passes through the middle of the <sup>Z</sup>  
 city, by which much merchandise is carried over to the city of Cambaluc, for with many <sup>R</sup>  
 channels and ditches they make it run right up to the said city. But now we will depart  
 from here and will go *riding* forward by midday three days marches and shall find <sup>FB</sup> <sup>FB</sup>  
 there and tell you of another city which has the name of Cianglu.

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**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE CITY OF CIANGLU. Cianglu is also [59d] a very great <sup>FB</sup>  
 city and is toward midday, and it is subject to the great Kaan, and it <sup>v</sup> <sup>FB</sup> <sup>L</sup>  
 also is in the province of the great Catai. Their money is of notes,  
 namely money. [with] the stamp of the great Kaan; and they are idolaters, and *these* too <sup>L</sup> <sup>VB</sup> <sup>L</sup> <sup>FB</sup> <sup>VB</sup>  
 have the dead bodies burnt when they are dead. And you may know that salt is made <sup>TA</sup>  
 from earth in this town<sup>1</sup> and district in very great quantity, and I will tell you how. <sup>VB</sup> <sup>Z</sup>  
 It is true that they take a kind of vein of earth which is very salt, and of this earth <sup>L</sup>  
 they dig and make very great<sup>2</sup> mounds; and over these mounds they throw water <sup>L</sup> <sup>TA</sup>  
 in plenty, so much that the water penetrating through them goes to the bottom of the mound <sup>L</sup> <sup>FB</sup>  
 of earth, and then they take and collect that poured on water which comes out of that earth, <sup>FA</sup> <sup>Z</sup> <sup>FA</sup>  
 when it has taken up salt from the virtue of the earth, through conduits and put it in great <sup>Z</sup>  
 jars and in great and broad cauldrons of iron not more than four fingers deep, and make <sup>Z</sup> <sup>R</sup>  
 it boil enough. And then, when it is well boiled and purified by the force of the fire, they <sup>FB</sup> <sup>Z</sup> <sup>VB</sup> <sup>FB</sup>  
 leave it to cool, and then the water thickens & they take it and salt is made from it very <sup>VB</sup> <sup>Z</sup>  
 beautiful and white and fine. Moreover I tell you that they make so much of it that it <sup>VB</sup>  
 not only suffices for the city & region but some of this salt is carried through many

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<sup>1</sup> V: prouinzia VB: paixe

<sup>2</sup> L: parua VB: montesselli