

INVASION OF THE FENCED CITIES OF MANGI ≠ MARCO POLO

FB VB of arms nor had he any other care, but his delight was with women, and he was a quiet
 FB and peaceful ruler and a man who greatly did good to poor people. And know that in
 FB all his province were no horses, nor were they used to battle nor to arms nor to
 VB troops; nor did he believe that any ruler in the world could harm him, because this province
 L TA of Mangi is a very exceedingly strong place and of very strong passes, that he who
 P wished might defend it against the world; and it was considered impregnable, nor did any dare
 P P to invade it. For [61d] all the cities of the kingdom are surrounded with ditches full of
 water broad and deep, so that there is no city which has not water round it more
 TA TA than a cross-bow shot wide and very deep, so that I tell you that if the people
 had been men of arms to defend the entrance they would never have lost it, nor would
 the great Kaan ever have taken it. But they lost it because they were not valiant nor used
 FB to arms. For I tell you that into all the cities the entry is by this bridge.¹ Now
 it happened that in the 1268 year of the incarnation of Christ the great Kaan who
 VB now reigns, that is Cublai lord of the Tartars, a man of the contrary nature to king Facfur,
 who took delight in nothing but in war and in conquest and in making himself a great lord,
 R VB thought after his vast conquests of many provinces and kingdoms to conquer the province of
 VA Mangi, and he sends there a baron of his who was a very valiant knight who had Baian
 VB Cingsan for name, which means to say in our tongue Baian Hundred Eyes. Moreover
 FB I tell you that the king of Mangi found by his astronomy that he cannot lose his
 FB kingdom except by a man who should have a hundred eyes. So he held himself to
 be very safe, because he could not think that any natural man could have a hundred eyes. But
 he was deceived in this because he did not see the name of this man. This Baian came away to
 VA conquer that province of Mangi with a vast people whom the great Kaan gives him on
 FB FB horseback and on foot. And then he had a great number of men and of boats which
 VB carried the horsemen and men on foot when he required. The king Facfur, having
 always in his days kept his country in peace, and his people not fitted for war, though he might
 have had a much greater number of people, gathered together a great multitude of troops and set
 himself to meet the enemy. When he could not withstand the vigour of the armies of the Tartar,
 they, entering into the country, conquered a great part of the country in a very short time;
 and the king Facfur retired to his city called Quinsai. And when Baian was come with all
 his people to the entry of Mangi, that is to this city of Coigangiu where we are
 now and of which we will tell you all afterwards, he told them that they should
 FB give themselves up to his lord the great Kaan. They answer that they would do

¹ FB: *ce pont* i.e., apparently, the entry into Mangi at Coigangiu. Rustichello perhaps thought that the Caramoran was crossed by an actual bridge, forgetting what he had written in c. 110. The natural meaning of the text (*sentre por pont*) is that every city, having a moat, is entered by bridge. V: *ponente*