

THE GREAT CHARITY OF THE KING OF MANGI ~~≠~~ MARCO POLO  
 VB Baian, *that is* Hundred Eyes. And when the queen hears that this man had Hundred  
 P Eyes for name *her strength failed altogether*, for it immediately makes her remember  
 TA P the *aforesaid* astrology which [62b] said that *none ever but* a man who should have  
 P an hundred eyes must take the kingdom from them. Then, *having called the leader*  
 FB FB of the Tartar army and *learnt his name*, the queen gave herself up immediately to the  
 VA FB said Baian. And after the queen was surrendered to the great Kaan, and the chief city  
 FB FB of the kingdom, all the other cities and *villages* and all the remainder of the kingdom,  
 P P when they heard it, gave themselves up without ever making any defence, except the  
 FB city of Saianfu which for three years scorned to be obedient. And it was a very great conquest  
 FB FB because I tell you that in all the world there was no kingdom which was worth the  
 FB FB half of this; for you may know that the king had so *immensely* much to spend that it  
 FB VB was a most wonderful thing. Moreover I will tell you some among the rest of the noble  
 VB acts which he did *worthy of memorial*, who was loved by all his people more than any lord  
 VA master. And he was very kind to the poor persons. And you may know that each year he  
 VA had quite twenty thousand<sup>1</sup> little children cared for of those who were cast out and left  
 VA by the mothers, and I will tell you how. In that province they cast them out the child  
 VA as soon as he is born. And the poor women who cannot feed them nor bring them  
 FB up for poverty do this. And the king had them all taken, and caused to be written  
 FB for each one in what constellation and in what planet he was born. Then he had them  
 VA VB brought up in many directions and in many places, for he has nurses in great  
 VB abundance. And when a great or rich man had no child and wanted any of these children,  
 VB and those who pleased him most, promising the lord to have and keep them as his children  
 V and to treat them well. And if the father or the mother wished to redeem the son who was of  
 VA R age, it was necessary to show by writing how he was their son; and he had him given back to  
 FB TA them. And again, for those for whom none had asked, the king when they were grown up  
 FB TA had them set to work at some trade, or, when the boy and the girl were of age to marry,  
 VB he gave the girl to the boy for wife, and gave them so much that they could well live  
 FB TA in comfort. And in this way the king had these cast out boys & girls rescued and he brought  
 VB up between male and female quite twenty thousand of them every year. And again  
 FB VB V in the city or through the lands, and it happened that he found two beautiful great  
 V VB houses, and between these there might be a [62c] small one either ruined or in bad order;  
 VB FB then the king asks whose that house was and the reason why that house is so small

<sup>1</sup> LT: *quindecim milia*