

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD'S CHURCHES IN CINGHIANFU

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by crafts. *And they have silk enough; and they make of it cloth of gold and of silk* FB FB FB  
*and of many kinds. And there are rich merchants and great. And it is a land of pleasure.* Z FB R  
*and they have hunting and chase enough of all sorts of beasts and of birds. And* FB R FB  
*they have great plenty both of corn and of the other things of life. And there are* Z L FB  
*also in this city two churches of Nestorian Christians. And this came about from* Z  
*the 1278 year from the incarnation of Christ our Lord onward, and I will tell you* TA  
*how it happened. It was true that there had never been a monastery of Christians*  
*there nor had there been Christian God<sup>1</sup> until that time; for it happened in the* V FB  
*1278 year of the said incarnation that the lord sent there for three years a baron who* FB FB  
*had for name Marsarchis, who was a Nestorian Christian,<sup>2</sup> who was to be governor* FB FB  
*there for the great Kaan. And this Marsarchis did so; and while he dwelt there three* FB  
*years for the lord he had those two Christian churches, of which I have told you, made* FB FB  
*there, and from that time onwards there have been churches where Nestorian* VB  
*Christians dwell, though before there was no church, nor Christian dwelt there. Now* VB  
*we will leave speaking to you of this matter<sup>3</sup> and will tell you of another city very* FB  
*great, which is called Ciangiu.<sup>4</sup>*

**H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE CITY OF CIANGIU. When one leaves the *aforesaid* V  
city of Cinghianfu he goes *riding* three days journeys towards the FB  
*sirocco* always finding cities and villages enough of great trade and of  
great handicrafts. *The people of which, they are all idolaters, and are subject to the* V V  
*rule of the great Kaan, and have money of notes. And at the end of these three days* FB  
*journeys then one finds the city of Ciangiu which is very great and noble & good &* TA  
*beautiful, full of artizans and merchants. And the people [65c] of it are idolaters and* V  
*are subject to the rule of the great Kaan, and their money is of notes. And they live* V FB FB  
*by trade and by crafts. And there is silk enough; and they make cloth of gold and* FB FB  
*of silk in great quantity and of many makes and very beautiful. It is a country of* V R  
*great delight. They have moreover fine chase and hunting enough both of various beasts* Z Z  
*& of birds. And they have great abundance of all things of life, for it is a very* FB V  
*fertile land. Moreover the inhabitants are very bad people and of evil nature. I will tell* R  
*you a very great wonder and an evil thing which those of that city did and how they* FB  
*bought it dearly. It was true that when the province of Mangi was taken by the*  
*men of the great Kaan and Baian (that is, Hundred Eyes) was their head of it for the* R FB

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<sup>1</sup> *ne neis en dieu cristienc* B. conjectures *ne neisun creant eu dieu cristienc*, which at least makes good sense, "nor any believer in the Christian God".

<sup>2</sup> VA: *marsachis veschouo*

<sup>3</sup> *maiuerie* Z: *de ista materia*

<sup>4</sup> *tingbingiu* See PN.