

LIONS AND PAPIONES ARE CAUGHT IN FUGIU = MARCO POLO

Z VA many armies of the great Kaan stay there *always* to guard the country, because through-
 Z Z Z out the country many cities and villages very often rebel, because, as is said elsewhere,
 they are careless of death because they believe they will live in honour in the other world, and
 also because these people dwell in strong places in the mountains, and whenever they are intoxicated
 and stirred up against their rulers they kill them. And those of the army who stay in this
 VA city go there as soon as they rebel and take and destroy it, and do what is necessary
 to preserve the authority of the great Kaan. And for this reason many armies of the great
 Kaan stay there in this city. And you may know that a great river which is quite a
 R mile wide goes through the middle¹ of this city, upon the banks of which on one side
 & on the other are very beautiful buildings. And in this city are made many ships which
 R Z sail on that river with merchandise, & especially of sugar. Over this river is also a very
 beautiful bridge upon great barges, and the said barges are held with strong anchors, and
 Z great planks and strong are fixed over them. They make sugar also in so great abundance
 V that no one could tell it. Great trade in pearls and in other precious stones and spices
 V is done there, and this is because the ships from Indie come there in numbers with
 Z much merchandise and with many merchants who frequent the islands of Indie. In
 this country many lions are found, which are caught with a trap; namely, that in places
 suitable for this two very deep pits are made one beside the other. It is true that between either
 some ground is left perhaps for the width of one ell; and on either side of the pits a high hedge
 is made, but nothing at the ends. And at night the owner of the pits will tie a little dog on
 the ground which is in the middle and leaving him there will go away. Then the dog tied like
 this, when it is left by the master, will not cease to bark; and the dog shall be white. And the
 lion hearing from whatever distance thence the voice of the dog will run to him with much fury,
 and when he shall see him gleaming white, wishing to leap hastily to catch him, will
 fall in the pit. In the morning the master of the pits will come and will kill the lion in the
 pits. Then the flesh will be eaten up because it is good, and the skin will be sold, for they are
 very dear. And if he shall wish to have him alive, he will draw him out well with his tackle
 alive. There are also found in that district certain animals called papiones, which papiones are
 something like foxes. They indeed gnaw and do much harm to the canes which produce sugar.
 And when merchants passing through the district with caravans stop in any place for the sake
 of resting and sleeping by night, these papiones come to them secretly and whatever they are able
 to steal they steal and carry off, bringing much loss upon them. But they catch them in this way.
 For they have great gourds which they cut in the knob at the top, making a mouth for entry of
 a width calculated so that one of the papiones can put its head in with force. And that the
 mouth of the gourd may not be broken by the violent impress of the head of the papio, they bore

¹ Z: *ab una parte* For the width, just above, VA: *mezo meiaro*