

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s TOOK A CITY IN ÇIPINGU
 so much that they came to the ships of their enemies and, *not finding them occupied* Z
by any of the enemy, they climb up there all immediately. And they could well do
 this with ease because they find none who should defend them from them,¹ *for all* Z
had pursued them straight on that side by which they had fled, nor had they thought of this,
believing that they would take them starved and weak and tired without resistance. And what VB
 shall I tell [73a] you about it? When they were on the ships they *did nothing else but* FB
immediately boist the sails and left that island and like very valiant men go off to the VB VB
other great island of the enemies. And they went down to the land *all immediately,* and FB Z FB FB
 with the standards and with the ensigns of the lord of the *said island which were* FB V
on the ships they go off to the capital city. And those who had stayed in the city who *did* Z FB
not guard against this, for they saw that they were their ships, and their standards coming, VB FB
 believe truly that these were their people. So they *opened the gates and let them enter* FB VA
 into the town. And they, who find no men there but old ones and women,² *were so* Z LT
strong that they drove out those whom they found in the gate, and so took the forts as soon as FB
they were in it and chase all people out of it except only some fair young women VB
who were there, whom they kept to serve them. It seemed well to them not to keep VB VB
them for their need so that in any case the victuals which were in the land should suffice
them for a longer time. And they *did this for fear of treason[also].* In such way as you FB
 have heard the men of the great Kaan took that city. And when the lord and the
 people of the island saw that they had lost their city and their fleet and that the affair FB
 was gone in such a way, *seeing the courage and cunning of the Tartars, confessing their* VB
mistake, full of bitterness; when they had learned of the taking of the city and the fathers or
sons driven out and the women kept, to their extreme disgrace, and especially the king, they
wished to die of grief, knowing that so great a mistake with their so extreme disgrace of the VB
father-land was come about not through the power of the enemy but only through lack of prudence.
 But yet certain brave citizens encouraged the king, *[saying] that this was not a time to lament,*
but to put themselves all in one mind to avenge themselves of so great an injury, nor to think
of any other thing. They come back to their island with other ships which were left FB
to them, having found many of their ships about those harbours, because owing to the vast VB
multitude of ships the Tartars, who were only thirty thousand and also like men who flee, had
not been able to take them all away. So having gone on board of them as best they could they
carried themselves over to the island, and the king gathered from other islands round about all FB VB FB
 his host immediately, and with so great a number of men that it was a wonderful thing had VB

¹ FB: nul Rebelle

² V: non trouo alguna femena seno vna uechia This is given as an example of the strange corrup-
 tions with which V is filled. cf. B. p. clxxv.