

HERE HE TELLS OF THE ISLAND OF SONDUR AND OF THOSE OF CONDUR.¹
 And when one departs from this *great* island of Java² and he sails between
 midday and the south-west-wind 700 miles, then one finds *these* two
 islands, one large and one smaller, which are called *the one* Sondur and the other
 Condur,³ *which islands are uninhabited, and so let it be passed over about them.* And then
 from these two islands one sets out *because there is nothing which does to mention,* and goes
 again still sailing about 500 miles by the sirocco, and then one finds a province
 which is on the firm land, which is called Lochac, which is very great and rich. And
 in that province there is a great king, and *the people of it* they are idolaters and have
 a language for themselves. And they pay tribute to none *but to their own king,* because
 it is very strong and they are in such a *strange and out of the way* place that none in
 the world in any way can go upon their land to do *them any* harm. For if he could go
 there in any way *whatever* the great Kaan would *very gladly and very soon* put them under
 his rule. For he has very often put himself to trouble and all the others with him to know how
 he could overcome them; but he could never do anything. And you may know that in this
 province the cultivated brazil⁴ grows in very great quantities, which are like lemons
 and are very good to eat; and also much musk and ebony.⁵ They have gold in very great

¹ F here repeats the rubric of 163, so that the rubrics of 164 and 165 are given to 165 and 166 and the proper rubric of 166 is omitted. The rubrics are now restored to the right places.

² Read Ciamba. See PN.

³ V: *vna sono chiamata aira laltra sardan aira sono tonda* The last four words look like a corruption of *sondur & lautre condur*; but B. has printed *aira sono tonda*, "Aira is round", as a possible addition to the text.

⁴ *le beçi domesce* This troubled the old translators, and their interpretations vary from "mastic" and "domestic gold" (a substance much to be desired) to "Turks who are domestic" or "tame bears as big as lions which are very good". (B. p.170) If *beçi* or *berçi* is rightly translated brazil, even R (where the remark comes twice—*verzin* and *Berci*) seems to have been misled to say that the dye-wood is "very good to eat". FA: *bresil dont nous vsons* Confusion seems to be carried even further by LA and G (*Der mitteldutsche Marco Polo* pp. 53, 54). LA¹: *ibi nascuntur quedam animalia que domesticantur et sunt similes hominibus* (G: *und do sint tyr glich menschin, di man ist.*) . . . *nascuntur etiam ibi portulace* (G: *das krut borgil tante grossitudinis in stipite, quod in ligni duritiem conversi stipites earum fiunt ex eis pulcerime scutelle utiles ad pulmentum ministrandum* (LA^{2,3}: *ad comedendum* B.: *immiscendum* G: *do man uz essin mak*). Ex his etiam portulacis siccatur (LA^{2,3}: *secatur*) et scinditur ad formam denarii moneta pluribus provinciis usualis. This confusion of the brazil with cowries (*porcelaine*) may be partly due to the double meaning of *porcellana*, "purslain" and "cowry". In the former sense it is given as a definition of *portulaca* by BOERIO, s.v. *Portulaca*. PF¹ suggests a further confusion by reading *habonde . . . en terre porcellane que len despent . . .* See also PN.

⁵ *muschio et hano*