

OF PENTAN AND MALAIUR AND JAVA THE LESS ≠ MARCO POLO

FB FB abundance, and so great *profusion* that none could believe it who did not see it.  
 They have elephants, and chase and hunting enough. And from this kingdom go  
 Z FB all [75b] the cowries which are spent in all the *other* provinces of the world as I have  
 FB Z told you *before*. There is no other thing that is worthy of mention, except only  
 L R that I tell you that it is so *strong and out of the way and mountainous and wild* a place  
 L that few people go there, and they can go there with *difficulty*. And the king himself does  
 FB not wish that any may go there nor that any may know his treasure nor his condition.  
 FB Now then we will depart from *telling you of this* and will tell you onwards of another  
 thing.

FB FB HERE HE TELLS OF THE ISLAND OF PENTAN. Now you may know *again*  
 FB FB that when one sets out from the province of Lochac and he goes *sailing*  
 S H five hundred miles by midday then one finds an island *full of mountains*  
 Z which is called Pentan which is *in* a very wild place. They have all their woods  
 P VB all of a wood of great scent and of great hardness<sup>1</sup> and of great value. Much camphor  
 FB is found there. And not far off are two other islands. Now there is no other thing which does  
 FB FB to tell, so we will leave this and will go *sailing* between these two islands of which  
 FB Z I have told you about sixty miles. And in these sixty miles there is only four paces depth  
 Z of water found in many places, and it is necessary that the large ships passing there  
 TA lift<sup>2</sup> the rudder because they draw nearly four paces of water, so that it is necessary to  
 Z FB Z tow the ships.<sup>3</sup> And when one has gone *sailing* these sixty miles and goes again about  
 FB FB another thirty miles forward toward the sirocco then soon afterwards one finds an  
 VB VB island which is a kingdom, and the chief city is called Malaiur and the island is named  
 FB Pentan. They have a king over them and have a language for themselves. The city  
 L is very great and noble, and there is done very great trade in all things and chiefly  
 spices; for they are there in great abundance. There is no other thing which does  
 to mention and so we will set out from here and will go forward and will tell you  
 of the little Java so [75c] as you will be able to hear.<sup>4</sup>

Z FB HERE HE SPEAKS OF THE SMALLER ISLAND OF JAVA. When one departs  
 Z FB from the island of Pentan and one goes *sailing* about 100 miles by the  
 sirocco then one finds the island of Java the Less. But yet you may know

<sup>1</sup> *otorite* But most other texts have *utilita* or the like.

<sup>2</sup> *hi pasent ausent* Z: *nauigantes leuent* See also note 3 below.

<sup>3</sup> The group TA,LT have a different version of the sentence about the ships. Of the three TA<sup>3</sup> is perhaps the most intelligible:—*ennonsi porta timone alle naue per la picbola aqua onde si chonuengono tirare le naue*. For *chonuengono tirare* LT has *non oportet girare*. It may perhaps be possible that *tirare* means "to steer with an oar" (cf. BOERIO s.v. *tirare aqua*).

<sup>4</sup> The text of this chapter seems to be corrupt in places. See PN.