

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE KINGS OF MAABAR
find men of arms when they have war with some lord, then they have them from other V FB
countries, and specially Saracens, *for pay.* There is no other thing which does to VB
mention and so we will leave it and will go forward and will tell you of a province V
[called]Maabar.¹

·173·

HERE HE TELLS OF THE GREAT PROVINCE OF MAABAR. When one departs
from the isle of Seilan and goes towards sunsetting about sixty miles
then he finds the great province of Maabar which is called the greater
Indie. And it is the best Indie² that is *in the world*; and it is *not an island but part of* V P
the solid land. And you may know that there are five³ kings in this province who
are *all* real brothers, and we shall tell you of each of them by himself. Moreover Z
you may know quite truly that this province is the noblest and the most rich that
is *to be found* in the world. [78b] Moreover I shall tell you the truth of it how. Z
Now you may know that at this end of the province reigns one of these brothers
who has the name Senderbandi devar,⁴ *who is the chief and elder.* And very large and Z
good and beautiful pearls are found in *this* his kingdom; and you shall know that the Z Z
greater number of pearls and of precious stones which is found is found in Maabar and Seilan;
and I will tell you how *in this kingdom the stones and the pearls are found and are taken.* Z
Now you may know that in this sea of *this province* there is a gulf or arm of the sea which VA P
is between the *said island*⁵ and the solid land and in all this gulf there is no water L
more than ten paces *deep* or than twelve, and in some places there is some which Z
is not more than two paces *deep of water.* And in this gulf the *best* pearls are taken, Z V L
and I will tell you how. *There will be several merchants who will form a company and* Z
agreement together and will take a large ship specially fitted out for this on which each by
himself will have a room fitted and furnished for him, and in it a tub full of water and other
necessary things. Those who do this, they take ships, & boats both large and small, R
with anchors to be able to anchor, and go into this gulf, that is from *the kalends* of the R VB
month of April till mid May, in⁶ a place *where the scallops are found in greater number,* R
which is called Bettala, *which is on the firm land.* And from there they go into the sea, R R
namely the foresaid gulf, sixty miles straight towards midday, and there they cast their L R
anchors, and then *from their large ships* they enter into those small barques. And these FB

·174·

¹ In FA,FB,L c.178 follows here as part of this chapter.

² TA,VB: *la mazor ixolla* a reading rather supported by P just below. V: *mazor india*

³ Z,R: "four"

⁴ VA: *che a nome senderba E e apelado re de uar* followed by P: *regno nomine var; rex est nomine senderba*

⁵ P: *insulam quamdam*

⁶ L: *a quodam loco*