

## THE GREAT RICHES OF SENDERBANDI DEVAR ≠ MARCO POLO

L cord there are one hundred and four<sup>1</sup> between very large and fair pearls and very good  
 VB rubies which are of very great value, *just as our ladies wear paternosters*. I will tell you  
 Z the reason why there are one hundred and four stones *and pearls* upon that<sup>2</sup> cord.  
 You may know truly that he wears those one hundred and four stones because it  
 is right for him every day morning and evening to say one hundred and four  
 L prayers to the honour of his idols *or god*, and thus their faith commands and their  
 V Z custom, and thus do *all* the other kings his ancestors *observe the same manner* and  
 leave to this one that he must do it. [79a] And this is the reason why the king  
 Z R wears those one hundred and four stones on the neck. *The prayer indeed which they*  
 Z R Z *say every day is this, pauca, pauca, pacauca,<sup>3</sup>. & they say it one hundred and four times, and*  
*other thing they do not say*. And again I tell you that the king wears also in three  
 places on the arm bracelets of gold all full of costliest stones and pearls very large  
 and of great value. And again you may know that this king wears on the legs likewise  
 Z in three places bracelets of gold all covered with very dear pearls and *precious*  
 L stones. And on *all the fingers and toes both of the hands and of the feet* I tell you<sup>4</sup> again  
 that this king wears beautiful pearls and other stones so that it is a marvel to see.  
 And what shall I tell you about it? You may know quite truly that this king wears  
 L *every day* so many stones and so many pearls that they are well worth more than a  
 good city; and there is none who could say nor tell the great sum which those  
 which the king wears are worth. And it is no wonder if he has so many of them as  
 V I have told you, because I tell you that those dear stones and pearls are *all* found in his  
 kingdom. Moreover I tell you another thing that no man can take out of his  
 kingdom any large stone and dear nor any pearl which weighs from half a saggio  
 FA upward, *unless one finds them and takes them out secretly*. And he does this because he wishes  
 FB *to have them all for himself*. And indeed it is true that the king sends *and has his ban*  
 Z *cried several times* yearly through all his kingdom *commanding* that all those who have  
 beautiful pearls and good stones must bring them to the court; and that he will  
 have twice as much as they cost them given to them. And it is the custom of the  
 V kingdom to give the double [79b] of that which all the good stones cost[or]of  
 V *that which they could have from others*. And so the merchants and all the other people,  
 Z V when they have any of those good stones *and pearls*, take them very gladly to the  
 court because they are well paid. Now this is the reason why this king has so

<sup>1</sup> G,VA: 114 LT: "about 400"

<sup>2</sup> tel But probably read cel Z: illa

<sup>3</sup> R: Pacauca, Pacauca, Pacauca See PN.

<sup>4</sup> Et apres uoç di for Et a pies uoç di B. keeps apres and adds es dois des pie copied from aux doiz des piez which FG has in a different sentence.