

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE QUEEN OF MUTIFILI
 years since her lord the king died, and she who wished great good to her lord and bore him great[reverence],¹ said that God never wishes her to take another lord since he whom she loved more than herself is dead. Now this was the reason why she did not wish to take *another* lord. Moreover I tell you quite truly that this queen has well maintained her realm with very great justice and with great right all this term of forty years as well as her lord did *while he lived*. Moreover I tell you that she is more loved, *feared, and respected* by those *her people* of her realm than ever was lady or lord of *that race* by their people. *The people of this realm* they are idolaters and make tribute to none. *And they live on rice and on flesh and on milk, on fishes and on fruits*. And diamonds are found in this kingdom of *Mutifili* and we will tell you how. You may know that in this kingdom there are many very great mountains in which the *precious stones* diamonds are found so as you shall hear; *on which mountains none can go because of the great heat, for they would die of heat*. And in winter very great rain falls there. For you may know that when it rains the water runs down in very great torrents making great noise through these mountains, making great havoc through great ravines and through great caverns, and washes the diamonds down from the mountains. And when the rain is stopped and the water is gone the men go on their search² among the sands through these ravines by which the water is come, and find enough of them. And again it was told the foresaid Master Marc that in summer when one drop of water would not be found there then [81d] they climb up with great labour and find plenty of them through those mountains. And such men as these who fish for diamonds dwell at the foot of the mountain with some of their cabins. But there is so great heat there because of the sun that one can hardly bear it there. Moreover I tell you that there is so great a multitude of serpents both large and stout & of venomous vermin on account of the heat in those mountains that it is a great wonder & the men cannot go there but with great peril, & they have great fear, and they are often devoured by those vermin. But nevertheless they go there as they can and find some very good and large ones. Moreover I tell you that these serpents are very poisonous and very evil so that the men have not courage to go to the caves where the evil great serpents are, which seem that they dwell there to guard those diamonds, that they should not be taken. And again I tell you that the men have diamonds

¹ & li portoit grant. B., following ROUX, supplies *amor*, which seems to repeat *uoluit grant bien*.

² *uont alor cercant* B. prints *alor* and translates *allora*. *alor* in the sense of *adonc* is to say the least very rare in this text, but on the other hand *cercant* in the sense of *cerca* or of *cherche* does not seem to be attested. FB: *si cherchent* V: *vano zerchando* Z: *uadunt scrutando* All other texts seem to omit *alor*.