

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> INCENSE & SKINS IN TANA  
*couches and cushions are made there so beautiful, embroidered with gold drawn* VB  
*through a gauge, that they are worth quite six marks<sup>1</sup> of silver each.* And of those Z  
*mats of which I have told you they make some of them which are worth quite*  
*ten marks of silver. And what shall I tell you about it? You may know quite truly*  
*that in this kingdom works of embroidery of leather<sup>2</sup> are better made [89c] and more* Z  
*cunningly and with greater skill than is done in all the world beside, and those which* R Z  
*are of greater value. Now we have told you all the facts of this kingdom in order,*  
*& then we will depart from it and will tell you of the others in front, and will*  
*tell you of a kingdom which is called Tana.*

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HERE HE TELLS OF THE KINGDOM OF TANA. Tana is also a great kingdom TA  
*when one leaves Goçurat & goes by sea toward sunsetting, very great and* VA  
*good & like the one above. And let toward sunsetting be understood, because* TA Z  
*Master Marc Pol was then coming from toward sunrising<sup>3</sup> and we are told of the lands which* R  
*be found with regard to his steps and passage. And they have a king also for themselves* Z V TA  
*and pay tribute to none. And they are idolaters and have a language for themselves.* FB  
*Pepper does not grow there in great abundance nor other spices as they are in those* Z  
*other provinces of which we have told you further back. Incense enough grows there* V  
*on trees but it is not at all white but brownish.<sup>4</sup> Great trade is done there and ships* VB  
*and merchants go there in plenty, for there are carried away thence skins made up*  
*in many fashions very good and beautiful. And again buckrams in plenty and good*  
*are taken thence and cotton likewise. And the merchants who come there with their* Z  
*ships bring and carry in with them several things, these are gold, silver, and brass,* Z Z  
*and many other things which are necessary to the kingdom, and carry away of those*  
*goods of the kingdom from which they trust to make profit and gain. And again* Z  
*I tell you another thing which is not good, for I tell you that very many corsairs* Z  
*come out from this kingdom also, who go about the sea doing great harm to the* Z  
*merchants. Moreover I tell you that it is by the will of the king, and they share with* FB  
*the king, for he has made this agreement with those who go on cruise, namely that* Z  
*the corsairs must give him all the horses which they take. And you may know that*  
*they take them often. For, as [89d] I have told you before, the king has no horses,* FB

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<sup>1</sup> *uauat.vi.mars* Read perhaps *uallant* (FB: *uallent*), cf. *ualent* just below. B.: *valent*

<sup>2</sup> *se labore roiaus dere usse de cuir* Z: *melius laboratur de operibus suendi* (p. xcii) R: *si lauora meglio di opere da cucire* The version follows B.'s emendation, which is based on Z: *se labore miaus des euvre de cuir* It seems that the original of Z must have misunderstood *cuir*, or that *cuir* is part of the corruption of the present text of F. The only uncertain letter is the *u* of *usse*: the two strokes are far apart and are as tall as the *ss* which follows them.

<sup>3</sup> V: *et queste se intende in verso ponente per che in quella volta io vegniua de leuante*

<sup>4</sup> Z, V: "black"