

STOLEN HORSES · INDIGO & SKINS IN CAMBAET ≠ MARCO POLO

Z VB *and* great trade is done in horses through all *the* province of Indie for the great gain which is made from it. For the merchants carry great quantities of them to sell there, so  
 Z V that few ships come to Indie which do *not* bring horses, because they do great trade  
 FB in them,<sup>1</sup> & other merchandise also. And for this reason which you have heard the  
 Z king has made *this* agreement with<sup>2</sup> the corsairs that they are pledged to give him<sup>3</sup>  
 V all the horses which they take, and all other goods, *that is* both gold and silver and  
 FB precious stones, belong to the corsairs. Now this is an evil thing and is not *kingly*  
 work.<sup>4</sup> Now we have told you of the kingdom of Tana and we will depart from it  
 and will tell you of the kingdom of Cambaet.

FB **H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBAET. Cambaet is a very great  
 VB FB V kingdom of greater Indie toward sunsetting. And they have a king and the  
 V people of it have a language for themselves, and pay tribute to none, and  
 they are idolaters. And from this kingdom the star of tramontaine is seen more  
 Z high; for you may know that henceforth when you go<sup>5</sup> more toward sunsetting<sup>6</sup> so  
 V much the better will you see the star of tramontaine *more high*. Great trade is done  
 in this kingdom, and there is very good indigo and in great abundance. There is  
 Z FB L *also* made very fine buckram and cotton in very great quantity, for they are carried  
 from this kingdom through many provinces and kingdoms. And great trade is also  
 VB done there in skins very beautiful & well made up [90a] and tanned, and this is in  
 great quantity, for they work them as well as in other countries. And again I tell  
 you that there are also many other wares of which I will not make memorial[in]

<sup>1</sup> *des cheualz se fait grant mercandie pour toute endie car les mercant hi en portent grant quantite por uendre si qe pou nes uient en indie por cauaus en portent en grant quantite por uendre si qe pou en uient en indie qe aportent cheualz* The correction of this passage, following Z (p. xcii) and V, by the omission of the words *por cauaus . . . en indie* and the addition of *ne* before *aportent* is the simplest that suggests itself and is adopted by B., but it is not wholly satisfactory as the words omitted are by no means a mere repetition of what has been written above, *por cauaus* being specially hard to explain, and the form *cauaus*, with *cheualz* above and below, rather suggesting some confusion with *corsaus*.

<sup>2</sup> *qe* But Z: *cum* V: *chon*

<sup>3</sup> *qe les corsaus qe il li demorent donent* The version is very uncertain. Z, V omit *li demorent* and that is perhaps the true correction. B., remembering *car les corsaus li doivent doner* above, reads, *con les corsaus: que il li devoient doner* The version "that they remain giving him" i.e. "that they continue to give him" does not seem to be supported by GODEFROY, who does however give *se porter garant* as a meaning for *demorer*.

<sup>4</sup> *e ne est entre* FB: *si que ce nest pas oeuvre de Roy.*

<sup>5</sup> *nos ales for uos ales* FB: *tant plus irez par ponent*

<sup>6</sup> Z: *magistrum* and so V.