

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> MAGICIANS OF SCOTRA

•190•

quantity of salt fish both very large and good, in which they do great trade. And they live on rice,<sup>1</sup> of which there is much, and on flesh and fish, of which there is enough, and on milk, for they have no other corn at all but rice. They all go quite naked both men and women, only covered in front & behind in the manner and in the custom of the other idolater Indians. Moreover I tell you that many ships come to this island with many merchants and with many wares which they sell in this island, and they carry away again with them of the things which are in the island, of which they make great gain and profit. And you may know that all the ships and the merchants which wish to go to Aden come to this island. This archbishop of this island has nothing to do with the Apostle of Rome, but I tell you that he is subject to another Archbishop<sup>2</sup> who lives at the city of Baudac. And this Archbishop of Baudac sends this Archbishop of<sup>3</sup> this island, or those of the island choose him and the Catholicus confirms him; and he also sends all the prelates, archbishops, bishops, & clergy whatever into many parts of the world over there even as the Apostle of Rome does here. [91a] And all these clergy and prelates are not obedient to the Church of Rome but they are all obedient to that great prelate of Baudac whom they have for their Pope. And again I tell you that many corsairs come to this island with their ships when they have made their cruise, and make camp there and sell all the things which they have stolen at sea. Moreover I tell you that they sell them very well there, for the Christians who are there know that all those things are robbed from idolaters and from Saracens and not from Christians, and for this reason the Christians hold that they can lawfully buy them all gladly. And again you may know that if the Archbishop of this island of Scotra dies it is the rule that the next come from Baudac, nor otherwise would they ever have Archbishop there; or if they themselves choose him, that he be confirmed in Baudac. Moreover I tell you that the Christians of this island are the best & the most wise necromancers & charmers that are to be found in the world; though it is true that the Archbishop does not wish them to do those enchantments and forbids as much as he can and chastises and admonishes them for it, & says that it is sin. But it avails nothing, because they say that their ancestors did them of old and therefore they say that they wish to do them still. And the Archbishop can do no more than those are willing, so he bears with it so far, since he can do no other,<sup>4</sup> nor can know who has done them, and though he excommunicates them yet it is of no

<sup>1</sup> V here, as often, substitutes sorgo for "rice".

<sup>2</sup> Z: catholic V: gerolio VB: arziuescono che si apellado califo che demora in baldach

<sup>3</sup> Z: ad

<sup>4</sup> E le arceuesqe ne puet faire plus que celz uelent si sen sofre autant puis que il ne puet autre fare B. adds puis after plus V: et dixeno che lore vol chelil faza siche larziueschouo non puol far piu de quello cheli uol