

THE EXTENT OF GREATER AND LESSER INDIE ≠ MARCO POLO

VB *half tipsy*; and they do this because *they say that* when the elephant has drunk of that
 TA drink it *goes there more willingly* & becomes more fierce thereby and more proud and
 is much better worth for it in the battle. Now we have told you a great part of all
 things of this island, both of the men and of the beasts and of the merchandise;
 V *and* there is no other thing which does to mention and for this reason we will
 Z depart from it and will tell you of the great province of Abasce. But *yet* first of
 Z LT all we will tell you something *more* of Indie. You may know quite truly that *though*
 I have written many things of Indie & of the islands of it we have not told you of the
 Z TA islands of Indie except *only* about *the greater* & the most noble provinces and realms
 and islands which are there; for there is no man in the world who could tell the
 VL truth of all the islands of Indie *which are infinite so that the age of one man and of two*
would not be enough, & even of three, to search out all. But I have told you of all the best and
 of all the flower of Indie. For you may know that a great part of all the other islands
 of Indie of which I have not made mention to you [93a] are subject¹ to these of
 LT Z which I have told you *above*. And you may know quite truly that *from sunrising to*
 FB *sunsetting* there are 12700 islands *which they know, without those where one cannot go,*
 Z Z LT which are *some* inhabited and *some* uninhabited in this sea of Indie, according *as the*
 FB *sailors and the great pilots of those regions say and as the compass and the writing of*
 FB *skilful sailors who frequent that great sea of Indie show.* Now we will leave you
 P P then the greater Indie which is from *the province of Maabar* as far as to *the kingdom of*
 Kesmacoran, where there are thirteen very great realms of which we have told
 P FB VB you *briefly* of ten² of them, so that we shall pass *briefly* by three names; and it is upon
 TA FB *the sea on the firm land.* And know that the lesser Indie is from *the province of Ciamba*
 P FB as far as to *the kingdom of Mutifili*, where there are eight great realms, and it is firm
 TA TA land; and always understand that I have not told you [but of those on the firm
 FB land] (*and all these realms are on the firm land, for those of the islands are on the large*
 Z *islands which are not in this number*); *always* without those of the islands, which are a
 VB R very great quantity of realms.³ Now we will tell you of a province of the second or
 P rather the middle Indie which is called by *the particular name* of Abasce.

Z Z **H**ERE HE BEGINS TO TELL ABOUT ABASCE WHICH IS THE MIDDLE INDIE. Now
 V you may know that Abasce *which is called Ethiopia* is a very great province
 Z VB S which is *called* the middle or second Indie because it is between the greater &

¹ *sunt sour a cestes* FA: *sous* LT: *subiecte* Z: *subdite*

² TA: "nine"

³ *entendes qe ie ne uoç sanz celz de lisle* Some words like *ai contes for qe des.vi.* or *ai contes for qe de celz de la tere ferme* must be supplied after *uoç* TA': *Et sappiate chio nonvo detto di quegli dellisole*