

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s GIRAFFES & OSTRICHES

·193·

him *and were gathered* at a strong pass; but it was all in vain that they should be v
able to keep them off[*and*] *guard the passes*, but they were always defeated and were z VA
killed and dead in great abundance. Now I tell [94b] you that when the king of
the Christians had stayed indeed in the land of the enemy about one¹ month and
when they have much wasted and destroyed it *for many days, setting all on fire*, and z VB
when they have put a very great multitude of Saracens to death, *then* he says that z
the shame of his bishop *which was done in his despite* is already well avenged and that FB
they can well return thence with honour to their country. And again I tell you
that *he saw also that* he could not hurt the enemy more because they had too strong z
passes *which he was bound* to cross, and because a few people could do them great z
harm at those *places or evil passes*; and for this reason they set off from the kingdom z
of Aden and put themselves on the road and go so far without stopping that
they were come to Abasce into their land. Now you have heard how the bishop
was well and highly avenged on those Saracen dogs, for indeed so many of them
were dead and killed that the number could hardly be told, and many lands also
were wasted and destroyed by them *for this thing*. And this was no wonder, for it z
is not a fit thing that the Saracen dogs must be superior to the Christians. And
now that we have told you this we will leave it² then and will tell you forward of
the other things, *and of the same province of Abasce*. Now you may know quite z
truly that this province *aforsaid of Abasce* is very rich *and greatly abounding* in all L z
the things of life. *And they live on rice, wheat, and on flesh, and on milk, and on* v z
sesame. *And they have oil made of the seed of sesame plant*. They have many elephants, G LT
but not that they are *much*³ bred there, but they have them from *many parts of the* z z
islands of the other Indie. But the giraffes [94c] are indeed bred there *and they have* z
them in great abundance. They have *bears & lions and leopards and lynxes enough*; FB
and they have many other beasts also in multitudes *very different* from those of L
our countries. *And wild asses enough* are also bred there. They have *likewise* birds v VB
of many kinds *totally distinct* from all the others. They have hens the most beautiful L
in the world to see. *And they have great ostriches*⁴ not at all smaller than an ass. FB
They have also many other *different things* of which we will not tell you here z
because it would be too long a matter to mention. But you may know well that
they have hunting and chase of beasts and of birds in *great abundance*. *And they* v z
have *popinjays or parrots enough and very beautiful & of different kinds*. *And they* LT TA LT Z

¹ FB: "two" L: *anno integro*

² *il en lairon for nos en lairon*

³ Z (p. cii): *pauci nascuntur*

⁴ P: "dogs"