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THE TRADE WAYS FROM ADEN TO ALEXANDRE ≠ MARCO POLO
Z have monkeys of several kinds. *And* they have mercats and other baboon-cats so
V strange that it wants but little that there are some which seem to have a mans
V face.¹ Now we will tell you no more of this sort² and we will leave this *and* will
V speak of the province of Aden. But first of all we will tell you again of this same
V province of Abasce. For you may know quite truly that there are many cities and
Z villages in this province of Abasce, and there are many merchants who live by trade,
L V *and* craftsmen. For many beautiful cloths of gold and of cotton and buckram cloths are
P R made there in very great quantity. *And* it is a province most exceedingly rich in gold, and
V it is found there in plenty; and the merchants go there gladly with their goods because they
V carry away great gain. There is also plenty of other things, but it does not to tell
Z Z in our book, and so we will set off and proceeding farther will tell you of the noble
V and great province of Aden.

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Z Z **H**ERE HE BEGINS TO TREAT ABOUT THE CONTENTS AND BEING OF THE PROVINCE
Z OF ADEN. Since we have told you of the being of the province of Abasce
V so we will tell you also of the province of Aden as you will be able
[94d] to hear. Now you may know that in this province of Aden is a lord who
G Z has great power over all the kings of the Saracens and is called Sultan of Aden. They of
V this province are all Saracens who worship Mahomet and wish very great ill to
V Z Christians. *And* in this province there are many cities and villages. In this province of
P VB Z Aden is the best port on the sea where all the ships of the merchants of Indie come
L with all their wares, and great quantity of merchants come there bringing pepper &
P other Indian spices. And from this port the merchants who buy spices there to carry
TA R them to Alexandre transfer them from the ships of that port and put the goods into other
R small ships which go about seven days journeys down by a river,³ or more or less
R according to the weather which prevails, and at the end of these seven days journeys
V arrived at a port they take the goods from ships and load them on camels and carry
V them about thirty days journeys by land. *And* at the end of thirty days journeys
Z VB they find the river⁴ of Alexandre which is called Nil, where they load their merchandise
VB VB into little ships called çerme, and by that river of Nil it is then easily carried to Chaiero.
V From Chaiero by the said river they go conveniently in a channel made by hand called the Calizene

¹ *il ont gat paulz & autre gat maimon si devisez qe pou sen faut de tiel hi a qe nen senblent a uix domes*
We should perhaps read *qe pou sen faut qe ne senblent* "that it wants but little that they seem
to be with face of man." For *gat paulz* see p. 416 & PN.

² *mainere* B. corrects to *matiere*; cf. p. 323.

³ The word *flum* is omitted by FA, but kept by FB. cf. Y.I.93 R: *vn colfo di Mare per venti giornate*

⁴ TA: *mare* and so below.