

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s THE HORSES OF CALATU

·196·

every time that the melic, *that is the lord*, of Curmos has war with another stronger VB
 than himself he comes away to this city of *Calatu*, because it is very strong and set FA Z
 in a strong place so that he is no longer¹ afraid of any. And they have no corn of V R
any kind, but they have it *carried* from elsewhere,² for the merchants bring it them V
 with *all* the ships. At this city is a *very great & very good* port. Moreover I tell FA FA
 you quite truly that *many merchants with many ships* come there with many wares Z
 from *Indie*, and they sell them³ very well in this town because from this town the
 wares and the spicery are carried inland to many cities and villages. And again I
 tell you that many good *Arab war-horses* are carried into *Indie* from this city, from FB
 which the merchants make great *gain and profit* of it. For you may know that from Z
 this country and from the others of which I have told you further back [96a] a
 great quantity of beautiful horses are carried into *Indie every year*, so great that one FA
 could hardly tell it. *And it is because none are bred there, and on the other hand because* FA
they die soon owing to bad keeping, for they do not know how to keep them and give them cooked
flesh to eat and all other things, as I have told you clearly another time above. And they have
also no grooms. Moreover I tell you that this city is *built* on the mouth and at the V
 entrance of the *said gulf* of *Calatu* so that no ship can go in there nor come out R
 without their will. And many times *the melic of Curmos, who is also the melic lord* FA V
 of this city of *Calatu which is under the sultan of Cherman*, has from it great power FA
 over the sultan of *Cherman*⁴ to whom he is subject. For when that sultan or king Z
 of *Cherman* puts any tax *beyond the ordinary* on the melic of *Curmos* or any other of R
 his brothers⁵ and these refuse to give it, and the sultan sends over an army to compel

¹ *pius* or *puis* LT: *postea*

² *doutre part* probably for *dautre part*. FA: *dautre part* V: *altri luogi* cf. Z, p. cv.

³ V: *le blaue* FB to the same effect.

⁴ *e mantes foies en a le melic de ceste cite grant par dou soudan de crermain* FA: *Et quant le melit des hormones qui est aussi le melit de calatu le quel est souz le soudan de querman a paour de son seigneur le soudan de querman si entre es nes des hormones et sen vient a calatu* Z(p. cv): *magna pacta cum rege* V: *molte volte milia signor de questa zitade ano gran pati chon el soldan* R follows Z,V; others omit. So it seems that the A MSS. ended the doubtful word with *r* (*par*, *paour*, or (conjecturally) *poir*), while the B MSS. ended it with *t* (translating it *pacta*, *pati*). As Z,V keep the same form of sentence as F, their evidence seems to outweigh that of FA. R, retaining *patti*, interprets the sentence differently.

⁵ *aucu dasio au melic de curmos ou aucun autre de sez firres* (or *firers*) V (*ouer ad alcuni di fradelli*) and Z (p. cv) evidently read *a aucun . . . freres*. R substitutes *oltra l'ordinario* for the difficult words. It does not appear that "brothers" is at all a likely word to be applied to such rulers, but on the other hand no better explanation suggests itself. Dr R. LEVY kindly tells me that DOZY, *Supplément aux Dict. Arabes*, II, 255, gives *firād*, le revenu de la douane (in Egypt), and it may be just possible that some Asiatic word underlies *firres*.