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THE STRONG CASTLE OF THE MELIC OF CALATU ≠ MARCO POLO

Z them *by force*, they depart from Curmos and enter into ships and come away to  
FA this city of Calatu and there they stay and do not let any ship pass *into the gulf*;  
Z FA from which the *aforesaid* sultan of Cherman has too great loss of it, *because he loses*  
*the duty on the merchandise which came into his country from Indie & from elsewhere*; for there  
Z *come a very great number of ships with all their merchandise, from which he receives very great*  
Z *duty*; and so of necessity it is convenient that he make peace with the melic of Curmos  
Z and take not so much money from him as he *had* asked of him. And again I tell  
FA you that this melic of Curmos has a castle which is *as strong and even stronger than*  
FA R the city of Calatu and better controls the gulf and the sea, *holding them in a manner*  
*of speaking locked, because it discovers all the ships that pass at any time*. And again you  
R may know quite truly that these people of this country live on dates and on *fresh*  
R LT *and salt fish*, for they have them *both continually in great plenty beyond measure*. But  
Z yet it is true that there are several gentle and rich men who do indeed eat of the  
R other better food and better things, *the grain which is brought from other lands*. Now  
V we have told you of this city of Calatu and of the gulf and of their affairs. Then  
Z one sets out from the [96b] city of Calatu and he goes *about 300 miles between*  
*the plough-beam and tramontaine then one finds the city of Curmos*. And again  
I tell you that setting out from Calatu, and he goes between the plough-beam and  
Z L L the sunsetting *about 500 miles, he finds the city called Chisci about which we have told*  
*above*. And then we will leave Chisci and will talk to you of Curmos.

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Z Z L Z H ERE HE TELLS OF THE CITY OF CURMOS. Curmos is a great city and noble  
FB *which is set on the sea. And they have a ruler called melic, which is the*  
FB *name of a rank as it might be said marquis or duke,<sup>1</sup> & he is under the sultan of*  
Z V TA *Cherman, and they have several cities and villages under them. They are all Saracens*  
R *there who worship Mahomet. And there is very great heat so that one can hardly*  
VB *escape there; and for the great heat which is there they have arranged all their houses*  
FA *with windsails & devices to catch the wind. For on that side from which the wind*  
VB FA *blows then they set the windsail there and make the wind go down into their*  
VB FA *house, and into their rooms, where they please. And they do this to be more cool, because*  
FA *they cannot otherwise bear the great heat which is there. But we will not tell you*  
FA *more of it because we told you of it all in order in our book behind, both of this*  
FA FA Z *same city of Curmos and of Chisci and of Cherman also. But because we went then*  
*by another way it is necessary for us to come back here again, but, as I have told*  
*you, because we have told you all the affairs of this country we will depart from*

<sup>1</sup> FB: *qui vault a dire Roy*