

THE BATTLES OF CAIDU WITH CIBAI & CABAN ≠ MARCO POLO

LT afraid that he would have him killed. *But the great Kaan refused unless he would go to him.* And this was the quarrel which was between the great Kaan and Caidu, and by this [96d] quarrel there arose a very great war and there were many great battles
 FB of the king & of the great Kaan between them. Moreover I tell you that all the year
 LT because of this the great Kaan kept¹ his hosts there all round the realm of Caidu so that Caidu nor his people could do no harm to his lands nor to his men. But the king Caidu for all the hosts of the great Kaan does not fail at all to enter into the lands of the great Kaan and has fought several times with the armies which came
 Z FA against him. Moreover I tell you quite truly that *you may know that the great king*
 FB Caidu if he were really to make his whole effort *is so powerful that he would put into*
 Z the field quite 100000 horsemen, *who are all proved men and well used to war and*
 Z to battle. And again I tell you that he has with him *very many barons of the imperial lineage, that is of that of Cinghis Kaan, because this was the beginning of the empire and he who first had the rule and conquered one half of the world,*
 FA *as I have told you clearly in this book above; and therefore I say² of the line of Cinghis Kaan that it is the imperial lineage. And then we will leave you this and will tell you of some battles which the king Caidu made with the people of the great Kaan,*
 FA FA *as you will be able to hear. Moreover we will tell you first how the Tartars they go*
 LT FA V *armed into battle. And you may know that they have for an order that each of them*
 L L *takes sword and club and bow with sixty³ arrows into the battle, thirty of which are*
 FA FA *smaller with small pointed irons, which are to transfix & to chase from far, and the other*
 FA Z *thirty are larger having great & broad irons, and these they shoot from near the*
 Z *enemy and strike in the middle of the face of them and in the middle of the arms,*
 L *and the bowstrings of the enemies are cut by them, and great damage is done by*
 Z *them on either side. And again I tell you that when they have shot all the arrows*
 LT V FA *they put their hands to the sword and to the staves or club of iron & the lances, and very great blows are given with them. Now [97a] I have told you how they go into battle, and henceforth we will come back to our matter. It was true that in the*
 Z 1266 year from the incarnation of Christ *it happened that this king Caidu with his*
 V *cousins, of whom the one had Iesudar for name, they assemble indeed a very great*
 FA *quantity of people & made war and go upon two barons of the great Kaan who were*
 Z *themselves cousins of king Caidu, but they held their land of the great Kaan. The*

¹ enoit FA,FB: tient LT: tenet but Z: retinebat V: tegnia

² e por ce ço dit perhaps "one says"

³ V: "ten" corrected to "forty", and "twenty" for "thirty". LT: "60 arrows and 30 smaller."