

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD & THE STORY OF BATTLE  
 story? You may know quite truly that as long as they have arrows they did not  
 cease to shoot, those that were whole and hearty; for you may know well that  
 there were among them dead and wounded to death in *very* great quantity, so that z  
 in an evil hour was that battle begun for both sides, so many of them were dead  
 both of one *side* and of other. And when they have shot and drawn out all the z  
 arrows they put the bows into the bow-cases. Then they laid hands on the swords  
 and on the clubs and run the one upon the other, *and* huge blows with the sword z  
 and with the clubs began to be given. *And* they begin a very cruel and most evil z  
 battle. Now<sup>1</sup> can one see the giving and receiving of huge blows; now can one see  
*feet and* hands and arms cut off; now can one see many men cast dead on the ground; z  
 for you may know quite truly that it does not stay long after they begin the  
 battle of brands before all the ground was covered with men dead and wounded  
 to death, *and with horses also*. And without mistake king Caidu showed great prowess FA  
 of arms there, and if his body only were not there they will have [98a] many times  
 forsaken the field, and he would be discomfited. But he did so well *in all things* and z  
 gave so great comfort to his people *in every place where the danger was greater* that VB  
 they kept themselves up very bravely. And on the other side *those two barons*, LT  
*namely* the son to the great Kaan and the son to the son of the Prester Johan, did  
 likewise very well *in all things*. For they rushed most valiantly into the great presses and Z FA  
 did such great feats of arms and cheered their men so well that it was a wonder. And what  
 shall I go telling you? You may know truly that this battle lasted so long that it was FA  
 one of the most cruel *and evil* battles that ever was with so many men between Tartars, V Z  
 as those who were present said. The noise of people was so great there<sup>2</sup> and the clash LT  
 of the swords & of the clubs that one did not hear God thundering for it. Again I tell  
 you without mistake that both the sides exert themselves with all their might to put  
 the one people the others to discomfiture, and therefore they exerted themselves  
 to fight each beyond measure. But all this avails nothing that the one people should v  
 be able to put the other to discomfiture, but I tell you quite truly that the battle  
 lasts *from morning* until after vespers, nor can the one chase the other from the LT  
 field. But so many of them were dead both on one side and on other that it was  
 a pity to see; for in evil hour was that battle begun for both sides. For many men  
 died thereby and many ladies were widows thereby and many children were orphans  
 thereby and many other ladies were for ever thereby in mourning and in tears—

<sup>1</sup> *ilor* possibly for *alor*, but *il* should probably be omitted as the following clauses begin with *or*. Z: *tunc* B. suggests *alor* but prints *or*. cf. p. 395 n. 2.

<sup>2</sup> *entre tartars de iens il hi estoit si grant la nose* 1824: *Tartars. De jens* B.: *Tartars de jens. Il*  
 In either case the phrase is unusual, if not unique.