

THE GREAT PROWESS OF PRINCESS AIGIARUC ≠ MARCO POLO

TA Z & damsels was in the chief hall of the palace, with his tents on the plain. For the Tartars  
 TA FB always dwell on plains. Then came the kings daughter all alone in a narrow coat of  
 LT FB [98d] sendal<sup>1</sup> or of some cloth of silk very richly embroidered[and]very well fitted into  
 Z TA the middle of the hall to the king. The damsel was very fair & adorned with all beauties.  
 FB Then came also the young man in a coat of sendal very well fitted. The agreement  
 LT however or bargain was that<sup>2</sup> if the young man were able to vanquish her so that he  
 TA put her on the ground by force that she must take him for her husband & that he should  
 Z have her for wife, and if the kings daughter should vanquish the youth that he  
 Z lost a hundred horses or more, according to what he offered, and they were for the damsel.<sup>3</sup>  
 Z And in this way the damsel had won very many pledges; indeed it was rumoured that she  
 had won more than ten thousand<sup>4</sup> horses from them, for she can find no squire  
 LT nor any youth whom she did not vanquish. And it was no wonder if she conquered,  
 for she was so well fashioned in all the limbs and was so tall and so big-bodied  
 that it wanted but little that she was a giantess. Now it happened that about the  
 FB FB year 1280 from the incarnation of Christ there came a rich and powerful kings son  
 FB who was very fair and young, who had heard much talk of the strength of this damsel, and  
 LT would have been very glad if he could have her for wife. This man came away with a great  
 V & very fine company and bringing with him more than one thousand very beautiful  
 horses to try his strength with the damsel. And when this son of the king was  
 come there he said that he wished to try his strength with the damsel. The king  
 TA Caidu was much pleased at it because he wished with his goodwill in his heart that  
 TA he should have his daughter for wife, for he knew that he was a fine youth & son to  
 TA<sup>3</sup> TA a great king who was named the king of Pumar.<sup>5</sup> Moreover I tell you that the king  
 LT Caidu made one say to his daughter privately that by all means she must let herself  
 LT TA be vanquished by him. But his daughter said that father must know that she would  
 FB not do it for anything in the world, but would exert all the strength that she could.  
 But if he could conquer her she could well be his wife, as the agreement was; and otherwise  
 not. And what shall I tell you about it? You may know that one day the king was  
 FB assembled and the queen [99a] and many men and many women of the country in  
 Z FB LT LT the great hall of the great pavilion, and on all sides, for this sight. And then came also  
 into the hall of the palace those two, namely the kings daughter and the kings son who

<sup>1</sup> FA,FB: "samite" Z: "deerskin"

<sup>2</sup> V inserts "whoever should wish to prove himself with her he should run upon her with a lance without head, and" LT has "young men" in the plural.

<sup>3</sup> de la damesele <sup>4</sup> FB: 1000

<sup>5</sup> au roi de e si TA<sup>1</sup>, not here but at the beginning of the story: de Re di pumar and TA<sup>3</sup>: dun gran re lo quale auea nome lo re sumar