

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD^s ACMAT BEGINS TO RULE

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Hands and arms are cut off, horses are killed by them, they are ill-handled very villainously. It was so great, the noise and shouting, that one did *not* hear [99d] v God thundering for it. Moreover I tell you that in few hours the earth was all covered with the dead men and with the mortally wounded. And why should I go speaking many words to you? You may know quite truly that *the battle lasted till in the end* Barac and his men could not resist the force of Argon. And then he departed *immediately* with his people and goes back beyond the river *whence they had come*. And Argon with his men chase them some way and killed them in great numbers *and ill-treated them just as they pleased as they fled*. So that in such a way goes this battle as you have heard, *that* Argon had the better part of it *and Barac was defeated and escaped by the might of his good horse which bore him away swiftly*. And since I have begun to *speak* to you about Argon we will leave you *Caidu and Barac his brother*, and I will tell you all the truth about him, how he was taken and how he was afterwards lord after the death of Abaga his father. FA Z V L Z FA FA TA FA FA

HOW ARGON GOES TO TAKE THE RULE. Now you may know quite truly that when Argon had won the battle from Barac *the brother of Caidu* and from the people of the king Caidu, he does not stay a great while before he had news *from the people of king Caidu* how Abaga his father was dead. *When he heard this news* he had great vexation & distress & conceived sorrow at this and prepares himself with all his army and sets himself on the way to return to the court of the father and to take the rule of his land *as he ought to do*. But yet I tell you that he had to go *riding* quite forty days journeys before he was come there *where he must be*. Now it happened that a brother of Abaga who had for name Acmat Soldan, *and* who was become a Saracen,¹ as soon as he hears how his brother Abaga was dead he says to himself that he can *well* be lord since *his nephew* Argon was so [100a] far away. And then he prepares *himself with* a very great people and goes off quite straight to the court of Abaga his brother and *arrived before Argon arrived, & immediately* took the rule and made himself lord, & *restored order to the land separately*. Moreover I tell you that he finds there such vast quantity of treasure that one could hardly well believe it if he heard tell the amount of the value. *And he took this treasure and* he gives so largely of it to the barons and to the knights of the land *with evil intent, to win their hearts and their favour*, that it was a wonder. *And* both barons and knights, when they saw *that* Acmat Soldan had given to them so largely, they said that this was a good ruler, and each one loved him *equally* and wished him very well, and they said that they wished no other lord *nor other king* than him. *This* Acmat Soldan made very good rule and acted to please & LT FA TA LT FA Z Z V LT TA TA

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¹ FA: *car il estoit* . . as if explaining the name and title.