

the rule. Now since it is so as I have told you I pray you that we defend our right against Argon and that the kingdom and the rule remain to us all *together*. For I tell you that I wished the honour of it and the renown alone, and you may have the profit of it and the possessions and the domains through all our lands and provinces. Now I do not wish to say more to you for I know well that you are wise *and experienced* and that you love right and that you will do things which will be honour and good to us all. Then he is silent without speaking more. And when the barons and knights and the other people who were there had well understood what Acmat had said they answered¹ all together that they will not come less² to him as long as they shall have life in body, and that they will help him against all men in the world and *will go valiantly* against Argon especially. And they said that he may have no fear but that they will take him *dead or alive* and put him in his hands. In such way as you have heard Acmat talks to his people and knows their goodwill. *And* they desired no other thing so much as *that* Argon with his people should come to fight with them. Now then we will leave you Acmat and his people and we will come back to Argon and to his men.

HOW ARGON WAS COUNSELLED BY HIS BARONS TO GO TO FIGHT WITH ACMAT.

H [100d] Now you may know quite truly that when Argon knows certainly that Acmat was waiting for him³ on the field with so great multitude of people he has great wrath at it. But nevertheless he says to himself that to give himself⁴ melancholy and to show *his men* that he has dread and fear of his enemies could do too much harm, for his people would be of worse value for it. And so he says that he must *of necessity* show valour and courage. *He showed that he did not fear them at all, so as to encourage his people like a wise man that he was.*⁵ *And immediately* he sends for all his barons and wise men. And when a great number of them have⁶ assembled in his tent, for they had pitched camp in a very beautiful place, he talks then *to his people* and speaks in such a way: Fair lords and brothers and very dear friends, says he, you know certainly how *in the time past* my father loves you tenderly, *and* as long as he lived he holds you for brothers and for sons, and you

¹ *Et quant les baronç . . . qe iluec estoient e qe bien auoient entandu ce qe abbaga auoit dit. il respondirent*
We must either omit *e qe*, or change *quant* into *adonc* (Z: *tunc*), or add something like *ont oi cestes paroles*. For *abbaga* read *acomat*

² *uendront moin* possibly for *uandront moin* FA: *faudront* and so Z p. cxiii, V: *mancheraue*
LT: *deficerent* TA³: *seguirebbono*

³ TA: *glera attendato*

⁴ *qe le doner* V: *loi daraue* B. reads *que se doner*

⁵ FA ends here unfinished.

⁶ *il ont*