

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD<sup>s</sup> TO SEND HIS ENVOYS

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or in the field, and I pray all our companions, friends, & brothers that we do such exploits in this battle to this degree that we make ourselves the talk of all the world. Then this proved man is silent that he speaks no more. And what shall I tell you about it? You may know quite truly that after this one there was none who wished to say anything but all agree with him, and they desired nothing else but to be in the battle with their enemies. And when the morrow was come Argon and his people get up early in the morning and set themselves on the way much inspirited to hurt the enemy. And they ride till they were come into the plain where the enemy were in tents. And they pitched their camp well and orderly, near to that of Acmat by ten miles. And when they have pitched their camp then a baron rose up & said, It seems good to me that we send an embassy to the Soldan & know what he wishes of us. And this was done. And Argon takes two of his men in whom he much [101c] trusted and sends them to go to Acmat his uncle, and sends him such words as you shall be able to hear.

**H**OW ARGON SENDS HIS MESSENGERS TO ACMAT. When these two wise men who were of very great age have the leave and the charge of their lord they make no delay but set themselves all immediately on the road on two horses. And they go off quite straight to the camp and dismount at the tent of Acmat where they find him with a great company of barons, who immediately led them before Acmat. They know him very well, and Acmat them. They salute him courteously. And Acmat with fair face says to them that they are welcome, and makes them sit before him in the tent.<sup>1</sup> And when they have stayed some time, then one of the two messengers rises and stands up and speaks in such a way: Fair lord Acmat, says he, your nephew Argon wonders much at that which you have done, that you have taken from him the land and his rule and are also coming against him to fight with him in mortal and pitched battle. And truly it is not at all good, nor have you done as a good uncle ought to do to his nephew. Wherefore he sends word to you by us that he prays you sweetly, as to his uncle and to his father, for which he holds you, that you ought to desist from this so evil thing and that there be no battle nor other harm between you, for you are one. And he tells [101d] you that he is willing to hold you for elder and for father and that you may be lord and ruler of all his land. Now this is what your nephew sends you word<sup>2</sup> and prays you by us. And having said this then he is silent that he says no more.

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<sup>1</sup> LT: "And they did not know Acmat, & saluted him courteously. And Acmat . . . the tent, and said that he was Acmat, and so they would say what they pleased and why they were come."

<sup>2</sup> or ce est qe notre uenue uoç mande It seems to be almost certain that *notre uenue* should be *uotre neveu*, but it may be observed that LT reads: *or ista est causa propter quam uenimus ad uos missi ab eo.* Z, V: "your nephew" 1824: *votre nevue* B.: *votre neveu*