

ACMAT MAKES REPLY TO HIS NEPHEW ARGON ≠ MARCO POLO

LT **H**OW ACMAT ANSWERS *THE SAID* MESSENGERS OF ARGON. And when Acmat  
 V V Soldan had heard what his nephew Argon enjoins him he answered  
 V LT *the said ambassadors immediately* in such manner: O lords messengers, says  
 he, my nephew says nothing *true in what you have said, that I have taken his land*, for  
 the land is mine and not his. For I conquered it as well as his father did. And so  
 say to my nephew that if he wishes I will make him a great lord.<sup>1</sup> And I will give  
 V LT him land enough and he shall be *treated by me* like my son & nephew and the greatest  
 LT TA baron that is *in my court* after me. And if he does not wish this then let him *prepare*  
*himself for the battle* & be sure that I shall exert all my might to put him to death.  
 V Now this is what I am willing to do to my nephew, nor will you ever *be able to*  
 find any other thing or any other agreement in me. At this word Acmat is silent  
 that he spoke no more. And when the messengers have heard what the Soldan  
 had said they said to him a second time, And shall we not find in you other than  
 z what you have told us?<sup>2</sup> Nothing else, says he, will you find there in all *the time*  
 v of my life. *Now depart immediately; if not I will put you to death.* The messengers who  
 have heard this stay there no longer but set themselves on the way and ride [102a]  
 until they were come to the camp of their lord and dismount in the middle of the  
 v tent,<sup>3</sup> and told Argon all that he had found in his uncle. *And when Argon hears*  
 v what word *Acmat* his uncle sends him he has great vexation at it and says so loudly  
 z z that all those who were *waiting* about him *could very well bear*, Since so great wrong  
 is come from my uncle and so great wickedness, I will never live nor hold land  
 if I do not take so great vengeance on him that all the world shall talk of it.  
 v *And after this word* he says to his barons and to his knights, Now there is no more  
 delay but to go<sup>4</sup> as soon as we can to put the treacherous and disloyal ones to death;  
 v and I wish that *to morrow early* in the morning we shall assault them and do all  
 we can to destroy them. And what shall I tell you about it? All that night they  
 provide themselves with all that they needed for a battle on a plain. And Acmat  
 Soldan who had well known by his spies how Argon must come to the battle  
 z *very early* in the morning, prepares himself also very well and exhorted his people  
 z to do well and that they be valiant *and trusty* men.

<sup>1</sup> Between *gran sire.* and *Et i li dorrai* line 16 is left blank in the manuscript for no apparent reason.

<sup>2</sup> LT: *Et illi dixerunt ad Archomac nos non rediremus ad uos nisi aliud audiamus a uobis.*

<sup>3</sup> LT ends here unfinished with the words *ad temptorium suum*, having put chapters 216-218 before the stories of Caidu and Argon.

<sup>4</sup> *or nia plus demor mes delalere* B. corrects cleverly: *demor, mes[desormes procacion]de l'alere* cf. Z p.cxv. V: *io non voio far alguna induxia*