

HOW WAR AROSE BETWEEN ULAU AND BERCA ≠ MARCO POLO

z **H**ERE HE TELLS OF THE WAR WHICH AROSE BETWEEN ULAU AND BERCA AND
 L THE BATTLES WHICH WERE BETWEEN THEM. It was true that in the
 L 1261¹ year from the incarnation of Christ there arose a *very* great quarrel
 L & lord of the Tartars of the Sunrising and Berca king
 z z himself to *have* great² and good *right*. And they defy one another to war and each
 z says that he will go³ to take it and will like⁴ to see who will contest this. And
 when they have defied one another to war each has all those who belonged to him
 summoned and they make the greatest preparation which was ever hardly seen; for
 you may know that each exerts himself beyond his power to come to the top of
 this action. And you may know that after they had defied one another it does not
 go six months before they have each gathered quite 300000 horsemen very well
 equipped with all things for battle according to their usage. And when they were
 well prepared Ulau the lord of the Sunrising sets himself on the way with all his
 people. They ride many days journeys without finding adventure which does to
 z mention, *and* they go till they were come into a great plain which is between the
 Gates of Iron and the Sea of Saray. In that plain he pitched his camp well and
 orderly. Moreover [I tell] you quite truly that there were many rich pavilions and
 z many rich tents. It is indeed like a camp of a rich man. *And* he says that he will
 z wait there to see if Berca and his people will come *there*. There they stay and waited
 for their enemies. And you may know that this place where they are in camp is
 just on the borders of the one people with the others. But then we will leave Ulau
 and his people and will come back to Berca and to his people.

HOW BERCA AND HIS HOST GOES TO MEET ULAU. Now you may know quite
 truly that when the king Berca had made all [107a] his preparation and
 had gathered all his people and knew how Ulau was set out with all
 his hosts, he says that henceforth he could wait too long. And then he makes no
 z delay but they set themselves on the road. *And* they ride so far by their days marches
 z that they were come into the great plain where the enemy were *encamped* and pitched
 L z camp near to that of Ulau by *not more than* ten miles well and orderly. *And* moreover

¹ TA³: 1268 Z omits.

² *se tenoit grant* B., following Z, reads: *se creoit avoir droit grant* without mentioning the reading *tenoit*.

³ *hira* for *lira*

⁴ *naudra* perhaps for *woudra*