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The Wonders of the East

Seo land-bunis is on fruman from Antimolime þæm lande. Þæs landes is on gerime þæs læssan mil-getæles þe *stadio* hatte fif hund, ond þæs miclan þe *leones* hatte þreo hund ond eahta ond .lx. On þæm ea-lande bið micel mænegeo sceapa, ond þanon is to Babilonian þæs læssan mil-getæles *stadio* hundteontig ond eahta ond .lx., ond þæs miclan mil-getæles þe *leones* hatte fiftyne ond hundteontig.

Seo lond-bunis is swyðust cepe-monnum geseted. Þær beoð weðras acenned on oxna micelnesse, þa buað oð Meda burh. Þære burge nama is Archemedon; sio is mæst to Babilonia burh, þonon syndon þæs læssan mil-getæles *stadi*.ccc. ond þæs maran þe *leon* hatte.cc. from Archemedon. Þær syndon þa miclan mærða, þæt syndon þa weorc þe se micla macedonisca Alexsander het gewyrcan. Ðæt land is on lenge ond on bræde.cc. þæs læssan mil-getæles *stadi* ond þæs miclan þe *leones* hatte.cxxx. ond healf mil.

Sum stow is þonne mon fereð to þære Readan Sæ seo is haten Lentibelsinea, þæm beoð henna acenned onlice ðam þe mid us beoð reades heowes. Gif hi hwylc man niman wile oþþe him o æthrineð, þonne forbærnað hy sona eal his lic. Þæt syndon ungefrægelicu liblac.

Eac bonne bær beoð wildeor acenned; þa deor bonne hy

The settled area starts from the country Antimolima. The length of that country by count of the smaller measure of distance called stades is five hundred; of the large variety called leagues, three hundred sixty-eight. On that island there is a vast multitude of sheep, and from there to Babylon it is one hundred sixty-eight of the lesser measure of distance stades, and of the large measure of distance called leagues one hundred fifteen.

The settled area is inhabited chiefly by merchants. Rams propagate there the size of oxen, which populate the area as far as the city of the Medes. The name of the city is Archemedon; it is the largest city excluding Babylon, to which it is three hundred of the smaller measure of distance, stades, and two hundred of the larger called leagues from Archemedon. Those great monuments are there, that is, the works that the Macedonian Alexander the Great directed to be made. That country is in length and breadth two hundred of the lesser measure of distance, stades, and of the large that is called leagues one hundred thirty, plus one half mile.

There is a certain place when one is going to the Red Sea that is called Lentibelsinea, where hens are hatched like those that are among us of a red color. If anyone wants to capture them or touch them at all, they immediately burn up his entire body. That is unparalleled black magic.

In addition, wild animals are native there; when those



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Msumon lande bood men acende habead

mannes stefne gehyrað, þonne fleoð hy feor. Þa deor habbað eahta fet ond wælcyrian eagan ond twa heafdu; gif him hwylc mon onfon wille, þonne hiera lic-homan þæt hy onælað. Þæt syndon þa ungefrægelicu deor.

Hascellentia hatte þæt land, þonne mon to Babilonia færð, þæt is þonne ðæs læssan mil-getæles þe *stadia* hatte .ix. mila lang ond brad; þæt bugeð to Meda rice. Þæt land is eallum godum gefylled. Þeos stow hafað nædran; þa nædran habbað twa heafdu, þara eagan scinað nihtes swa leohte swa blæc-ern.

On sumon lande eoselas beoð acende þa habbað swa micle hornas swa oxan. Þa syndon on ðam mæstan westene þæt is on þa suð-healfe from Babiloniam. Þa bugað to þæm Readan Sæ, for þara nædrena mænego þe in þæm stowum beoð þa hatton *corsias*. Þa habbað swa micle hornas swa weðeras. Gif hy hwilcne man sleað oþþe a æthrineð, þonne swylteð he sona. On þam landum bið pipores genihtsumnis; þone pipor healdaþ þa næddran on heora geornfulnysse. Þone pipor mon swa nimeð þæt mon þa stowe mid fyre onæleð, ond þa nædran þonne of dune on þa eorþan þæt hi fleoð; forþon se pipor bið sweart.

From Babiloniam oð Persiam þa burh þar se pipor weaxeð is þæs læssan mil-geteles þe *stadia* hatte eahta hund mila; of þæm is geteald þæs miclan mil-geteles þe *leones* hatte .vi. hund ond .xxiii. ond an healf mil. Seo stow is unwæstmberenlicu for þara nædrena mænego.

Eac swylce þær beoð cende healf-hundingas þa syndon hatene *conopenas*. Hy habbað horses mana ond eoferes tuxas ond hunda heafdu, ond heora oroð bið swylce fyres leg. Þas animals hear a human voice, they flee far away. The animals have eight feet and Valkyries' eyes and two heads; if anyone wants to capture them, they send their body up in flames. Those are unique creatures.

Hascellentia is the name of that country, when one is going to Babylon, which in length and breadth is nine of the smaller measure of distance called stades; it is subject to the kingdom of the Medes. That region is filled with all good things. This place has snakes; the snakes have two heads, of which the eyes shine at night as bright as a lamp.

In a certain region asses propagate that have horns as large as oxen have. They are in the greatest desert that is to the south of Babylon. They retreat to the Red Sea, on account of the multitude of snakes that are called *corsiae* which are in those places. They have horns as large as rams have. If anyone strikes them or touches them at all, he will die immediately. In that region there is an abundance of pepper; the snakes keep the pepper under their watch. The pepper is obtained in such a way that the area is set ablaze, and the snakes then flee down into the earth; therefore the pepper is black.

From Babylon to the city called Persia where the pepper 25 grows is eight hundred of the smaller measure that is called stades; from the same the count is six hundred twenty-three of the large measure of distance called leagues, plus one half mile. The area is unfruitful on account of the multitude of snakes.

Likewise, cynocephali are born there which are called conopenae. They have the mane of a horse and the tusks of a boar and dogs' heads, and their breath is like the blaze of a fire. These regions are near the cities that are filled with all

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THE WONDERS OF THE EAST

land beoð neah þæm burgum þe beoð eallum world-welum gefylled; þæt is on þa suð-healfe Egyptana landes.

On sumon lande beoð men acende þa beoð on lenge syx fot-mæla. Hi habbað beardas oþ cneow side ond feax oð helan. *Homodubii* hy syndon hatene, þæt beoð twi-men, ond be hreawum fixum hy lifiað ond þa etaþ.

Capi hatte seo ea in þære ilcan stowe þe is haten Gorgoneus, þæt is Wælkyrging. Þær beoð cende æmetan swa micle swa hundas. Hy habbaþ fet swelce swa græs-hoppan; hy syndon reades heowes ond blaces heowes. Þa æmettan delfað gold up of eorþan from foran-nihte oð ða fiftan tid dæges. Þa men þe to þon dyrstige beoð þæt hi þæt gold nimen, þonne lædað hy mid him olfendan meran mid hyra folan ond stedan. Þa folan hy gesælað ær hy ofer þa ea faren. Þæt gold hio gefætað on þa meran ond hy sylfe onsittað, ond þa stedan þær forlætað. Þonne þa æmettan hy onfindað, ond þa hwile þe þa æmettan embe þone stedan abysgode beoð, þonne þa men mid þam merun ond mid þam golde ofer þa ea fareð. Hy beoð swa hrædlice ofer þære ea þæt men wenað þæt hy fleogan.

Betwih þysson twam ean is lond-bunis Locotheo hatte; þæt is betwih Nile ond Bryxontes geseted. Seo Nil is ealdor eallicra ea, ond heo floweð of Egypta lande, ond hi nemnað þa ea Archoboleta, þæt is haten þæt micle wæter. On þyssum stowum beoð acende þa miclan mænego ylpenda.

Đær beoð cende men, hy beoð fiftyne fota lange, ond hy habbað hwit lic ond twa neb on anum heafde, fet ond cneowu swyðe reade ond lange nosa ond sweart feax. Þonne hy cennan willað, þonne farað hi on scipum to Indeum, ond þær hyra gecynda in world bringaþ.

Ciconia in Gallia hatte þæt land, þær beoð men acende

worldly treasures; that is to the south of the land of the Egyptians.

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In a certain region there are native people who are six 30 feet in height. They have beards down to the knee and hair to the heel. They are called *Homodubii*, that is, "maybepeople," and they live on raw fish and eat them.

Capi is the name of the river in the same place that is called Gorgoneus, that is, "Valkyriean." Ants as large as dogs propagate there. They have feet such as grasshoppers have; 35 they are of red color and of black color. The ants dig gold up out of the earth from dusk until the fifth hour of the day. People who are daring enough to go after the gold take with them female camels with their calves and males. They tie up the calves before they cross the river. They load the gold on the females and seat themselves on them, and they leave behind the males. When the ants find them, and while the ants are busy with the male, the people cross the river with the females and the gold. They are across the river so quickly that people suppose they fly.

Between these two rivers is a settled area called Locotheo; it is situated between the Nile and the Brixontes. The Nile is the parent of all rivers, and it flows out of the land of the Egyptians, and they call the river Archoboleta, which is to say "the big water." In these places great herds of elephants propagate.

People are native to the place who are fifteen feet tall, 45 and they have a white body and two faces on a single head, very red feet and knees and a long nose and dark hair. When they intend to reproduce, they go on ships to India, and there they bring their offspring into the world.

The region in Gallia is called Ciconia wherein people of



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Begeondan Brixonte ðære ea, east þonon beoð men acende lange ond micle, þa habbað fet ond sconcan .xii. fota lange, sidan mid breostum seofan fota lange. Hi beoð sweartes hiwes, ond *Hostes* hy synd nemned. Cuþlice swa hwylcne man swa hy gelæccað, þonne fretað hi hyne.

Donne seondon on Brixonte wildeor þa hatton *lertices*. Hy habbað eoseles earan ond sceapes wulle ond fugeles fet.

Ponne syndon obere ealond suð from Brixonte, on bon beoð men acende buton heafdum, þa habbað on hyra breostum heora eagan ond muð. Hy seondon eahta fota lange ond eahta fota brade. Đar beoð dracan cende þa beoð on lenge hundteontige fot-mæla lange ond fiftiges; hy beoð greate swa stænene sweras micle. For þara dracena micelnesse ne mæg nan man na yþelice on þæt land gefaran.

From þisse stowe is oðer rice on þa suð-healfe garsegcges þæt is geteald þæs læssan mil-geteles þe *stadia* hatte .ccc. ond .xxxiii., ond þæs miclan þe *leones* hatte .cc.liii. ond an mil. Þær beoð cende *Homodubii*, þæt byð twi-men. Hi beoþ oð ðone nafolan on menniscum gesceape ond syþþan on eoseles gelicnesse; ond hy habbað longe sconcan swa fugelas ond liþelice stefne. Gif hy hwilcne man on þæm landum ongytað oððe geseoð, þonne fleoð hy feor.

Đonne is ober stow el-reordge men beoð on, ond þa habbað cynigas under him þara is geteald .c. Þæt syndon ða three colors are born whose heads are maned like lions' heads, and they are twenty feet tall, and they have a mouth as big as a fan. If they notice or see any person in that region, or someone is following them, they flee a long distance, and they sweat blood. They are thought to be humans.

Beyond the river Brixontes, east of there, big and tall 50 people are native who have feet and legs twelve feet long, flanks with chests seven feet long. They are of a dark color, and they are called Enemies. Evidently, whatever person they get hold of, they eat him.

Then in the Brixontes there are wild animals called *lertices*. They have the ears of an ass and the wool of a sheep and the feet of a bird.

Then there are other islands south from the Brixontes on which there are born people without heads, who have their eyes and mouth on their chest. They are eight feet tall and eight feet wide. There dragons propagate that are one hundred fifty feet long; they are as thick as large columns. On account of the abundance of the dragons, no one can travel easily to that region.

From this place there is another realm on the southern side of the ocean that is measured at three hundred thirty-three by the smaller measure of distance called stades, and by the large one that is called leagues two hundred fifty-three plus one mile. *Homodubii* are native to the place, that is, "maybe-people." They are in human shape as far as the navel and then similar to an ass; and they have long legs like hirds and a pleasant voice. If they notice or see any person in the region, they flee far away.

Then there is another place in which there are speakers of barbaric tongues, and they have kings under them who



wyrstan men ond þa el-reordegestan. Ond þar syndon twegen seaþas; oþer is sunnan oþer monan. Se sunnan seað, se bið dæges hat ond nihtes ceald, ond se monan seað, se bið nihtes hat ond dæges ceald. Heora widnes is .cc. þæs læssan mil-geteles *stadia*, ond þæs maran þe *leones* hatte .cxxxiii. ond an healf mil.

On þisse stowe beoð treow-cyn þa beoð lawern-beame ond ele-treowum onlice. Of þæm treowum balzamum se deor-weorðesta ele bið acenned. Seo stow is þæs læssan milgeteles þe *stadia* hatte .c.li. ond þæs miclan þe *leones* hatte . lii.

Đonne is sum ea-lond in þære Readan Sæ, þær is man-cyn þæt is mid us Donestre nemned, þa syndon geweaxene swa frihteras fram þam heafde oð ðone nafolan, ond se oðer dæl bið mennisce onlic, ond hy cunnon eall mennisce gereord. Þonne hy fremdes cynnes mannan geseoð, þonne nemnað hy hyne ond his magas cuþra manna naman, ond mid leaslicum wordum hy hine beswicað ond hine gefoð, ond æfter þan hy hine fretað ealne buton þon heafde ond þonne sittað ond wepað ofer þam heafde.

Donne is east þær beoð men acende þa beoð on wæstme fiftyne fota lange ond .x. on brade. Hy habbað micel heafod ond earan swæ fon. Oþer eare hy him on niht underbredað, ond mid oþran hy wreoð him. Beoð þa earan swiðe leohte ond hy beoð swa on lic-homan swa hwite swa meolc. Gyf hy hwilcne mannan on þæm lande geseoð oðþe ongytað, þonne nymað hy hyra earan him on hand ond fleoð swiðe, swa hrædlece swa is wen þæt hy fleogen.

Đonne is sum ea-lond on þæm beoð men acende þara ea-

number one hundred. Those are the worst people and the most barbaric. And there are two lakes there: one is of the 65 sun, the other of the moon. The lake of the sun is hot by day and cold by night, and the lake of the moon is hot by night and cold by day. Their breadth is two hundred of the smaller measures of distance, stades, of the larger that are called leagues, one hundred thirty-three plus one half mile.

In this place there are species of trees that are like laurels and olive trees. From those trees balsam, the most precious oil, is produced. The area is one hundred fifty-one of the 70 smaller measure of distance that is called stades, and fifty-two of the large one that is called leagues.

Then there is a certain island in the Red Sea where there are humans who are called Donestre among us, who are formed like soothsayers from the head to the navel, and the other part is similar to a human, and they know all human languages. When they see a person of a foreign race, they name him and his kinsmen with the names of acquaintances, and with devious words they delude him, and they get hold of him, and after that they eat him, all but the head, and then sit and weep over the head.

Then it is to the east where people are native who are fifteen feet tall in stature and ten wide. They have a large head and ears like a fan. One ear they spread under them at night, and with the other they cover themselves. The ears are very light, and in their body they are as white as milk. If they spot or notice any person in that region, they take their ears in their hands and flee like mad, so quickly that it is supposed they fly.

Then there is a certain island on which people are born



gan scinab swa leohte swa man micel blac-ern onele on beostre nihte.

Donne is sum ea-lond þæt is þæs læssan mil-geteles þe stadia hatte on lenge ond on bræde .ccc. ond .lx., ond þæs miclan þe leones hatte .cx. Þær wæs getymbro on Beles dagum þæs cyninges ond Iobes templ of isernum geworcum ond of glæs-gegotum. Ond on þære ilcan stowe is æt sunnan up-gange ðanon eac oþer templ sunnan halig, to þam is sum geþungen ond gedefe sacerd to gesett, ond he ða hofa gehealdeð ond begymeþ ond setl Quietus þæs stillestan bisceopes, se nænine oþerne mete ne þige buton sæ-ostrum, ond be þam he lifede.

Donne is gylden win-geard æt sunnan up-gonge se hafað bergean hundteontiges fot-mæla ond fiftiges. Of þæm bergean beoð cende sara-gimmas.

Donne is ober rice on Babilonia landum þær is seo mæste 85 dun betwih Meda dune ond Armoenia. Seo is ealra duna mæst ond hyhst. Þær syndon gedefelice menn þa habbað him to cynedome þone Readan Sæ ond to anwalde. Þær beoð cende saro-gimmas.

Ymb þas stowe beoð wif acenned þa habbað beardas swa side oð hyra breost, ond horses hyda hy habbað him to hrægle gedon. Þa syndan hunticgean swiðast nemde, ond fore hundum tigras ond leon ond loxas þæt hy fedað, þæt syndon þa cenestan deor, ond ealra þara wildeora cyn þe on þære dune acende beoð, mid heora scinlace þæt hy gehuntiaþ.

Donne syndan opere wif þa habbað eoferes tuxas ond feax oð helan side, ond oxan tægl on lendunum. Þa wif syn-

whose eyes shine as bright as if a large lamp were lighted on a dark night.

Then there is a certain island that is in length and breadth three hundred sixty of the smaller measure of distance that is called stades, and one hundred ten of the large that are called leagues. A building was there in the days of King Belus, and a temple of Jove made out of ironwork and of molten glass. And in the same place there is in the direction of the rising sun also another temple sacred to the sun, to which a certain virtuous and proper priest is dedicated, and he tends and maintains the tabernacle and the seat "Quiet" of the most serene bishop, who takes no other food than sea-oysters and lived on them.

Then there is a golden vineyard in the direction of the rising sun that has grapes a hundred fifty feet across. From those grapes are produced jewels.

Then there is another realm in the region of Babylonia where there is the greatest mountain between the mountain of the Medes and of Armenia. It is the largest and tallest of all mountains. There are estimable men there who hold the Red Sea in their rule and in their control. Jewels are produced there.

About that area women are born who have beards as far down as their breast, and they have put to use horsehide for their clothing. They are known foremost as huntresses, and to serve as hunting dogs they raise tigers and lions and lynxes, that is, the fiercest animals, and with their illusion they hunt the species of all the wild animals that propagate on that mountain.

There are other women who have the tusks of a boar and 90 hair down to the heel, and an oxtail on their hindquarters.



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don þryttyne fota lange, ond hyra lic bið on marmor-stanes hiwnesse, ond hy habbað olfendan fet ond eoseles teð. Of hyra unclennesse hie gefylde wæron from þæm miclan macedoniscan Alexandre. Þa cwealde he hy þa he hy lifiende oferfon ne mehte, forþon hy syndon æwisce on lic-homan ond unweorþe.

Be þæm garsecge is wildeora cyn þa hatton catinos, þa syndon frea-wliti deor, ond þær syndon men þe be hreawum flæsce ond be hunie hy lifiað. On þæm wynstran dæle þæt rice is þe þa deor on beoþ catinos, ond þær beoð gæst-liþende men, cyningas þa habbaþ under him monigfealde leodhatan. Heora land-gemæra buaþ neah þæm garsecge; þanon fræm þæm wynstran dæle syndon fela cyninga. Ðis man-cyn lyfið fela geara, ond hy syndon fremfulle men. Gif hwilc mon him to cymð, þonne gifað hy him wif ær hy hine onweg læten. Se Macedonisca Alexander, þa he him to com, þa wæs he wundriende hyra menniscnesse, ne wolde he hi cwellan ne him nan lað don. Ðonne syndon treow-cyn on þæm þa deor-wyrþystan stanas synd of acende, þonon hy growað. Đær moncyn is; seondan sweartes hyiwes on onsyne, þa mon hateð Sigel-wara.

Đonne is sum land win-geardas weaxat on swiðast; þær bið rest of elpenda bane geworht, seo is on lenge þreo hund fot-mæla lang ond syxa.

Đonne is sum dun Aðamans hatte. On ðære dune bið þæt fugel-cynn þe *grifus* hatte. Þa fugelas habbað feower fet ond hryðeres tægl ond earnes heafod.

On þære ylcan stowe byð oðer fugel-cynn fenix hatte, þa habbað cambas on heafde swa pawan, ond hyra nest þætte hi wyrcaþ of ðam deor-weorðestan wyrt-gemangum þe man Those women are thirteen feet tall, and their body has the appearance of marble, and they have the feet of a camel and the teeth of an ass. For their filthiness they were slaughtered by the Macedonian Alexander the Great. He killed them when he could not capture them alive, because they are obscene and disgraceful of body.

By the ocean is a species of wild animal called *catini*, which are noble-looking beasts, and there are people there who live on raw meat and on honey. On the left-hand edge is that realm wherein are the animals *catini*, and there are hospitable people there, kings who have under them various despots. Their regional borders lie near the ocean, and along it from the left-hand edge there are many kings. This race lives many years, and they are well-disposed people. If any man comes to them, they give him a woman before they will let him go away. The Macedonian Alexander, when he visited them, was amazed at their humanity, and he would not kill them or do them any harm. Then there are species of trees from which the most precious stones are produced, [trees] on which they grow. There are humans there; they are of a dark color in their appearance, who are called Ethiopians.

Then there is a certain region in which grapevines grow profusely; there is there a couch made of elephants' bone which is three hundred six feet long.

Then there is a certain mountain called Adamant. On the mountain is the species of bird which is called a griffin.

These birds have four feet and the tail of an ox and the head of an eagle.

In the same place there is another species of bird called the phoenix, which have crests on their head like peacocks, and they build their nest of the most precious mixtures of



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cinnamomum hateð. Ond of his æðme æfter þusend gearum he fyr onæleð ond þonne geong upp of þam yselum eft ariseþ.

Donne is oðer dun þær syndon swearte menn, ond nænig oðer man to ðam mannum geferan mag forðam þe seo dun byð eall byrnende.

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the spice that is called cinnamon. And with its breath after a thousand years it kindles a fire and then rises up again young from the ashes.

Then there is another mountain where there are dark people, and no other person can travel to those people because the mountain is all aflame.