



PENGUIN  CLASSICS

MARCO POLO

*The Travels*

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# The Travels by Marco Polo

Marco Polo

A gleaming new translation of 1 of the best trip books ever written: Marco Polo's seminal account of his trips within the east, *The Travels* in a collectible clothbound edition. Marco Polo used to be the main well-known traveler of his time. His voyages begun in 1271 with a trip to China, and then he served the Kublai Khan on various diplomatic missions. The *Travels* On his go back to the West he was once made a prisoner of struggle and met Rustichello of Pisa, with whom he collaborated in this book. His account of his travels bargains a desirable glimpse of what he encountered abroad: surprising religions, customs and societies; the spices and silks of the East; the dear gems, unique plants and wild beasts of far off lands. Evoking a distant *The Travels* and long-vanished international with color and immediacy, Marco's e-book revolutionized western rules in regards to the then unknown East and continues to be one of many maximum commute money owed of all time. For this version - the 1st thoroughly new English translation of the *Travels* in over fifty years - Nigel Cliff has long past again to the unique manuscript resources to provide a fresh, authoritative new version. the amount additionally includes priceless editorial materials, together with an advent describing the realm because it stood at the eve of Polo's departure, and studying the fantastical notions the West had built of the East. Marco Polo was once born in 1254, becoming a member of his father on a trip to China in 1271. He spent the subsequent 20 years traveling within the carrier of Kublai Khan. there's facts that Marco travelled widely within the Mongol Empire and it truly is particularly sure he visited India. He wrote his well-known *Travels* when a prisoner in Genoa. Nigel Cliff was once formerly a theatre and picture critic for the days and a standard author for *The Economist*, between different publications, and now writes ancient nonfiction books. His first book, *The Shakespeare Riots*, was once *The Travels* released in 2007 and shortlisted for the Washington-based nationwide Award for humanities Writing. His moment book, *The final Crusade: Vasco da Gama and the start of the trendy international* seemed in 2011 and used to be shortlisted for the PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize.

here is a booklet that appears significant at the cover: it is the tale of Marco Polo's excellent travels to the East, advised through the guy himself. then you definitely open the e-book and investigate it a piece and detect that it would be uninteresting opposed *The Travels* to all odds. For one, it's not the story of his adventure. Instead, it is a systematic description of the entire international locations you will discover east of Italy. money that: no narrative. Then you certainly begin interpreting and also you discover that no one--not Marco Polo, now not the scribe who wrote down his account as they either languished in prison--could bleach *The Travels* the ebook of its wonder. i am not kidding. regardless of their top efforts not to write an adventure, the journey shines through. I learn this ebook in lengthy spurts, cautious to not fear approximately absorbing the long, listlike info on each one country, as a substitute letting the sheer weirdness of the area wash over me. I flew via studies of roads manned via bandits and instructions from oasis to oasis within the deserts (much of the booklet reads like a seven-hundred-year-old Lonely Planet guide) so i may decelerate and wonder at tales like his account of the 1st assassins--young males drugged and brought to a paradise of girls and wine they have been advised used to be heaven. After every week there they have been drugged and lower back to

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the true world, in simple terms to be informed that obtaining again trusted their unbending devotion to the potentate who managed entry to "heaven." Alexander the good indicates up every now and then as well, the reality of his legacy already twisted by way of history. yet all of that pales to what Marco tells us concerning the nice Khan's court: i used to be floored. permit me positioned it into context for you. I constantly desired to be thoroughly dumbfounded by way of the good wonders of human construction--things just like the Eiffel Tower or Stonehenge--and it by no means occurred to me till I stood within the courtyard on the major palace in Seoul. anything concerning the large expanse paved by way of large stones, all performed for the affection and reverence a humans had for a king, knocked me senseless. i'll write an essay The Travels extolling the beauty of the place, anything intended to have fun the variety of guy hours and the huge wealth essential to build the sort of wonder. My essay may well simply be one-upped through one explaining the pyramids or the good Wall, pushing the immensity of human success to the limit. yet no matter what any essay totes because the end--all--skyscrapers, area shuttles, misplaced continents, you identify it--Marco Polo's account of Kublai's empire will break it. It used to be to big, too great, too much. And to best it all, the emperor feels like an honest guy. And that is in simple terms 1/2 the book. Polo will get to wander round for an additional 80 pages or so earlier than concluding that he is coated the recognized world. My verdict: solely worthy it. and there is no try on the end, so that you can breeze via all of the geography (though having a map convenient may be very fun--I can in simple terms think what a devoted Google Earthling may possibly do) and simply benefit from the feeling of peeking in on a global of tradition that has kind of disappeared completely.

## The Travels

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