The Journey's of Marco Polo – Findings Worth Investigating

When Marco Polo returned from the Orient, he was captured by the Genoese and thrown in prison with a ghostwriter who wrote about his exploits.

A Barbarian leader (Genghis Khan) who hosted banquets for 40 000 people and received gifts of 100 000 horses.

Europeans could not believe these tales when Venice their largest city was only 100 000 people, how could a Barbarian lead such a civilized life?

BUT EVENTUALLY THE STORIES WERE AUTHENTICATED AND BELIEVED

Genghis Khan battled the Christians and had conquered most of Asia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe. He had THE largest Empire in the history of the world!

Marco Polo was the son of a merchant who traded in Asia. When Marco Polo was seventeen his father returned and took him on his next journey back to the orient and this is where the story begins. Marco Polo's father had been asked by Kublai Khan (son of Genghis Khan – new ruler) to bring back Holy Oil from Jerusalem along with one hundred priests to inform him about Christianity. This journey was to last twenty-three years.

Marco Polo, a young lad, was captivated by all that he saw and experienced:

* Great plains of a length of eight days journey that had Oasis for the traveler to stop and rest at
* He reports on the customs of each area "The Old Man of the Mountain" the tale that recounted the stories of how assassins were enticed and kept in service.
* The boats at the port of Hormus in Persia were not sea worthy therefore they had to travel by land to China.
* China had been closed for centuries during the Song Dynasty to foreigners, under Kublai Khan… China had opened up for business.
* Zanadu was Kublai Khans summer palace of sixteen square miles made of marble and which enclosed manicured parks with animals.
* Marco Polo worked for Kublai Khan as an envoy to other place to tell him of their riches and trade goods. He spoke and wrote multiple languages and translated texts from Latin to Chinese for the Khan.
* Kublai Khan had a VAST communication network of stations 25 – 30 miles apart which had three to four hundred horses and a rest area with rooms and food. Riders could cover 250 miles per day to take information anywhere in the empire. This was a NEW for Europeans.
* Marco Polo told of the vegetation and spices in great detail along with wild life
* He explained customs such as witnessing human flesh eating tribes, groups that would murder a man so that his "shadow" or spirit would remain with them, the very unusual idea that the woman were more valued if they had experience – the opposite of European values.
* He spoke of the cities – where people had leisure time after they had finished their day's work, and floated on the water and went to restaurants, of beautifully laid out parks and lakes to float on. He told of the palatial buildings that were gilded and made for their beauty.
* The use of a personal credit card to guarantee safety in the realm
* Paper money instead of coin used across the empire for trade
* Yogis who could live up to 150-200 years and be fit because of a life of abstinence and healthy diet.

As Europeans considered these ideas, some became interested in trade, some in creating beauty, some in adventuring and seeing what other riches abounded in unknown places. New ideas flowed and were discussed and explored – the good, the bad, the ugly and the lucrative!