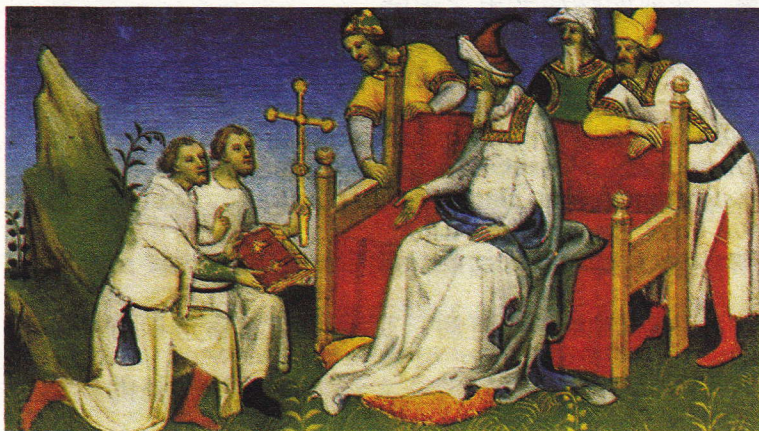


able to satisfy his curiosity about China. He decided, thus, to visit China. He wanted to find out for himself how mystical this country in the orient really was.

Soon, Marco Polo was able to muster his courage and proposed to his father his wish to visit China. His father objected staunchly to his request. He told his son, "This is a critical time for your growth into a fine, young man. What you really have to do is to attend school and receive a formal education. It's not your time to go out there and endure all sorts of hardships. Financially, I'm able to fulfill your every need."

Marco Polo reacted to his father's words with great disappointment. He was a sensible child and completely understood his father's thoughts. Yet he was also fervently seeking to explore a world that was



尼科洛·波罗与马泰奥·波罗第一次前来中国时，向忽必烈大汗献上一本书和一个十字架。  
Nicolò Polo and Matteo Polo presented a book and a crucifix to Kublai Khan on their first visit to China.