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| **What did Marco Polo really think of Kublai Khan?** |

**Marco Polo: Concerning the Palace of the Great Khan**

**Excerpted**

…In the middle of the second enclosure is the Lord’s Great Palace, and I will tell you what it is like. You must know that it is the greatest palace that ever was…

…The roof is very lofty, and the walls of the Palace are all covered with gold and silver. They are also **adorned** with representations of dragons, beasts and birds, knights and idols, and **sundry** other subjects. And on the ceiling too you see nothing but gold and silver and painting. [On each of the four sides there is a great marble staircase leading to the top of the marble wall, and forming the approach to the Palace.]

The Hall of the Palace is so large that it could easily dine 6000 people; and it is quite a marvel to see how many rooms there are besides. The building is altogether so vast, so rich, and so beautiful, that no man on earth could design anything superior to it. The outside of the roof also is all coloured with **vermilion** and yellow and green and blue and other hues, which are fixed with a varnish so fine and exquisite that they shine like crystal, and lend a **resplendent** **lustre** to the Palace as seen for a great way round. This roof is made too with such strength and solidity that it is fit to last forever.

Source: Excerpt from The Book of Ser Marco Polo: The Venetian Concerning Kingdoms and Marvels of the East

Polo, Marco. The Book of Ser Marco Polo: The Venetian Concerning Kingdoms and Marvels of the East. Ed. Henry Yule. Vol. 1. London: John Murray, 1903. The Mongols in World History. Web. 31 July 2014. <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/figures/figu_polo.htm>

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| **Word Bank:**  adorned - decorated  sundry – various  vermilion – bright red color  resplendent – splendid or dazzling  lustre (luster) - shine |

Full Text Available: <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/figures/figu_polo.htm>

**First Read:** Circle any words or phrases that are unfamiliar or confusing.

**Second Read:** What did Marco Polo really think of Kublai Khan?

**Third Read:** Underline evidence to support your answer.