Heroes of Islam
Series 30

Piri Reis

Ottoman Admiral and Cartographer, According to the Qur'an, Authentic Hadith and the Books of History



Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron
AK (Kelantan)
quranscience.my

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron AK (Kelantan) • quranscience.my • @QuranScienceMY
This eBook is FREE for Muslims — not for sale.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

HEROES OF ISLAM

SERIES 30

PIRI REIS

Ottoman Admiral and Cartographer, According to the Qur'an, Authentic Hadith and the Books of History

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلنُّجُومَ لِتَهْتَدُواْ بِهَا فِى ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلْبَرِّ وَٱلْبَحْرِ ۗ قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا ٱلْأَيَٰتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

"And it is He who placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea. We have detailed the signs for a people who know."

Surah Al-An'am 6:97

HJ CHE ALIM HJ CHE HARON

quranscience.my | @QuranScienceMY

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH quranscience.my — free eBook. Not for sale.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who placed the stars as guides through the darknesses of the land and sea, and detailed His signs for a people who know. May blessings and peace be upon our master, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, upon his family and Companions, and upon those who followed his path in excellence — among them Piri Reis, admiral and cartographer.

This eBook is specially dedicated to my beloved wife,

ZAHARAH MOHD LATIF;

my dear children,

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ, NOOR HAZWANI, ABDUL HAKIM, NOOR HIDAYAH, NOR AQILA and **NOR ATIQAH**;

and my sons- and daughters-in-law,

FAZILAH, MALEK, HANIN, FAIRIZAL and **FIRWAN**.

This thirtieth book of Heroes of Islam tells the story of Piri Reis: the nephew of Kemal Reis who learned the science of the sea aboard ship, drew a world map in 1513, wrote the Kitab-ı Bahriye, led the Ottoman fleet in the Indian Ocean in old age, and was executed in Cairo on charges that are still disputed. His story is told with honesty about its sources, including the sea raids of his youth and pseudo-scientific claims about his map. May this knowledge be ‘ilmun yuntafa‘u bih — knowledge that benefits.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

This eBook's cover does not depict any human being or animal. It shows ***the harbour of Gallipoli*** on the Dardanelles in the early sixteenth century, on a calm morning beneath a wide blue sky.

In the foreground, on a stone wall overlooking the sea, lies ***an antique map on gazelle-skin parchment*** showing coastlines, islands and compass lines, together with ***a brass astrolabe***, ***a compass***, ***a quill pen*** and an inkwell — the tools of a cartographer.

Behind it, several ***Ottoman galleys*** lie at anchor in the calm water, and across the harbour stand ***a stone lighthouse*** and hills dotted with cypress trees — recalling the city where Piri Reis was born and wrote the Kitab-ı Bahriye.

The ***dark blue band*** at the bottom, framed by ***fine gold lines***, is where the author's name appears — the same as on the covers of Series 1 to Series 29, so that all the covers of Heroes of Islam match.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CONTENTS

PIRI REIS — *Introduction*
1. WHO WAS PIRI REIS? — *Books of history and biography*
2. A SON OF GALLIPOLI — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye*
3. WITH HIS UNCLE, KEMAL REIS — *Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye; TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Sahih al-Bukhari 3015*
4. IN THE OTTOMAN FLEET — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye; Sahih al-Bukhari 2924*
5. RETURN TO GALLIPOLI TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Sahih Muslim 2699*
6. THE WORLD MAP OF 1513 — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye; Surah Al-An'am 6:97*
7. A MAP FOR THE SULTAN IN CAIRO (1517) — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye*
8. THE KITAB-I BAHRIYE: THE BOOK OF THE SEA — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye; Surah Taha 20:114*
9. THE SECOND EDITION AND THE SECOND MAP (1526–1528) — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye*
10. CAPTAIN OF THE INDIAN OCEAN — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Ottoman archival records; Sahih al-Bukhari 7138*
11. THE RECAPTURE OF ADEN (1548–1549) — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources; Sahih al-Bukhari 2442*
12. THE TAKING OF MUSCAT (1552) — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources*
13. THE SIEGE OF HORMUZ AND THE ACCUSATIONS — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources; Surah Al-Hujurat 49:6*
14. EXECUTION IN CAIRO (1553) — *TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Ottoman archival records; Sahih al-Bukhari 1*
15. THE 1513 MAP AND PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS — *Modern historical research*
16. STORIES AND FIGURES THAT NEED ASSESSMENT — *Study of the sources*
17. SOURCES OF THE STORIES OF PIRI REIS — *Table*
18. PEOPLE, PLACES AND TIMELINE — *Tables*
19. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PIRI REIS — *12 questions*
20. LESSONS AND CONCLUSION
REFERENCES
SUPPORT & DONATIONS

Colour guide: green box = verses of the Qur'an; gold box = Hadith; brown box = sirah note (report from the books of sirah); blue table = comparison. Underlined blue narrator names can be clicked to open the narrator's page on sunnah.com.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

PIRI REIS

In 1929, as the Topkapı Palace in Istanbul was being turned into a museum, researchers found an old map drawn on gazelle skin. It was dated 919 AH (1513 CE) and showed the coasts of Spain, West Africa and the eastern coast of the Americas — only twenty-one years after Columbus's first voyage. Its maker was an Ottoman admiral named ***Piri Reis***.

Piri Reis was the nephew of Admiral Kemal Reis, and he learned the science of the sea from his youth aboard his uncle's ships. He later wrote the ***Kitab-ı Bahriye*** (Book of the Sea), a sailing guide to the Mediterranean with more than two hundred maps, and in old age led the Ottoman fleet in the Indian Ocean against the Portuguese. Yet his life ended tragically: he was executed in Cairo in 1553 on charges that are disputed to this day.

This eBook is the thirtieth in the ***Heroes of Islam*** series, and the last in the Ottoman Era group. Every story is given with its source and grade honestly — including the sea raids of his youth, the accusations at Hormuz and the pseudo-scientific claims about his map — and its lessons are grounded in the Qur'an and authentic Hadith.

Piri Reis's story is that of a sailor who made knowledge his weapon, and a scholar whose work was only valued centuries after his death.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

WHO WAS PIRI REIS?

His full name was ***Muhyiddin Piri son of Hajji Mehmed***. He was born in Gelibolu (Gallipoli) on the Dardanelles strait around the 870s AH (c. 1465–1470 CE), and died in Cairo in 960 AH (1553 CE).

He was an Ottoman admiral, geographer and cartographer. He is famous for his two world maps (1513 and 1528) and for the ***Kitab-ı Bahriye***, one of the most important sailing works of the sixteenth century.

HIS NAMES AND TITLES

NAME / TITLE	EXPLANATION
Muhyiddin Piri	His original name; "Muhyiddin" means "reviver of the religion"
Piri Reis	"Reis" means captain
Piri Kethüda	A title possibly linked to his work at the Gallipoli shipyard
Piri Bey	His title after becoming Captain of the Indian Ocean (1547)
Author of the Kitab-ı Bahriye	The title by which he is best known today

LESSONS

A good name is a trust. A person is remembered not for his titles, but for the knowledge and deeds he leaves behind.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

A SON OF GALLIPOLI

HISTORICAL NOTE: A CITY OF SAILORS

According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", Piri was born in Gelibolu, the harbour city on the Dardanelles that was the main base of the Ottoman fleet at that time. His year of birth is not known exactly; based on the years he spent with his uncle, he is estimated to have been born around 1470.

Most of what we know of his life comes from his own words in the Kitab-ı Bahriye. He grew up in a family of sailors, and his uncle, ***Kemal Reis***, was one of the most famous Muslim seamen of his time.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis's own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

LESSONS

A good environment shapes a person. Family and the place of upbringing give great provision for a child's future.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

WITH HIS UNCLE, KEMAL REIS

HISTORICAL NOTE: 1480S–1495

From his youth Piri sailed with Kemal Reis in the Mediterranean. In his own words in the Kitab-ı Bahriye, before Kemal Reis entered Ottoman state service they raided Venetian forts and coasts and other places in the Mediterranean, capturing merchant ships and taking spoils. These raids are believed to have continued until 901 AH (1495–1496 CE).

This is stated here honestly because it is part of history. At that time such sea raids were carried out by both sides, Muslim and Christian. But Islamic law sets strict ethics of war, and the customs of that age were not all in line with them.

Status of the report: These raids are described by Piri Reis himself in the Kitab-ı Bahriye.

REFERENCES:
Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye; TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis".

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ forbade the killing of women and children in war:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 3015

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْحَاقُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، قَالَ قُلْتُ لأَبِي أُسَامَةَ حَدَّثَكُمْ عُبَيْدُ اللَّهِ، عَنْ نَافِعٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَ وُجِدَتِ امْرَأَةٌ مَقْتُولَةً فِي بَعْضِ مَغَازِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم، فَنَهَى رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم عَنْ قَتْلِ النِّسَاءِ وَالصِّبْيَانِ.

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Umar said: A woman was found killed in one of the expeditions of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, ***so the Messenger of Allah ﷺ forbade the killing of women and children.***

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ishaq ibn Ibrahim, from Abu Usamah, from 'Ubaydullah ibn 'Umar, from Nafi', from 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Jihad and Expeditions, Chapter: Killing Women in War, Hadith No. 3015.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:3015

LESSONS

We acknowledge the bitter side of history honestly. The ethics of war in Islam are higher than the customs of any age.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

IN THE OTTOMAN FLEET

HISTORICAL NOTE: 1495–1510

Around 1495 Sultan Bayezid II called Kemal Reis into the service of the Ottoman fleet, and Piri went with him. According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, “Pîrî Reis”, Piri commanded a galley under his uncle at the conquest of Koron (1500) and Navarino (1501) in Greece.

He also took part in the naval battles against Venice in the war of 1499–1502. Through these years he carefully recorded the coasts, harbours, winds and currents he passed — notes that later became the basis of the Kitab-ı Bahriye.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis’s own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, “Pîrî Reis”; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ gave glad tidings of the first army of his ummah to campaign at sea:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2924

حَدَّثَنِي إِسْحَاقُ بْنُ يَزِيدَ الدِّمَشْقِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ حَمْزَةَ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي ثَوْرُ بْنُ يَزِيدَ، عَنْ خَالِدِ بْنِ مَعْدَانَ، أَنَّ عُمَيْرَ بْنَ الأَسْوَدِ الْعَنْسِيَّ، حَدَّثَهُ أَنَّهُ، أَتَى عُبَادَةَ بْنَ الصَّامِتِ وَهُوَ نَازِلٌ فِي سَاحِلِ حِمْصَ، وَهُوَ فِي بِنَاءٍ لَهُ وَمَعَهُ أُمُّ حَرَامٍ، قَالَ عُمَيْرٌ فَحَدَّثَتْنَا أُمُّ حَرَامٍ أَنَّهَا سَمِعَتِ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم يَقُولُ " أَوَّلُ جَيْشٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يَغْزُونَ الْبَحْرَ قَدْ أَوْجَبُوا ". قَالَتْ أُمُّ حَرَامٍ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَنَا فِيهِمْ. قَالَ " أَنْتِ فِيهِمْ ". ثُمَّ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صلى الله عليه وسلم " أَوَّلُ جَيْشٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي يَغْزُونَ مَدِينَةَ قَيْصَرَ مَغْفُورٌ لَهُمْ ". فَقُلْتُ أَنَا فِيهِمْ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ. قَالَ " لاَ ".

TRANSLATION:

‘Umayr ibn al-Aswad al-‘Ansi related that he came to ‘Ubadah ibn al-Samit while he was staying on the coast of Hims, and Umm Haram was with him. ‘Umayr said: Umm Haram told us that she heard the Prophet ﷺ say: “The first army of my ummah to campaign by sea has made (Paradise) certain for itself.” Umm Haram said: I said, “O Messenger of Allah, am I among them?” He said: “You are among them.” Then the Prophet ﷺ said: ***“The first army of my ummah to attack the city of Caesar will be forgiven.”*** I said, “Am I among them, O Messenger of Allah?” He said: “No.”

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Ishaq ibn Yazid al-Dimashqi, from Yahya ibn Hamzah, from Thawr ibn Yazid, from Khalid ibn Ma'dan, from 'Umayr ibn al-Aswad al-'Ansi, from Umm Haram bint Milhan رضى الله عنها.

REFERENCE: Imam al-Bukhari, Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Jihad and Expeditions, Hadith No. 2924.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:2924

LESSONS

Whoever records his experience carefully turns it into useful knowledge for the generations after him.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

RETURN TO GALLIPOLI TO SEEK KNOWLEDGE

HISTORICAL NOTE: AFTER 1510

Kemal Reis died in 916 AH (1510 CE) when his ship was wrecked in a storm. His uncle's death opened a new chapter in Piri's life. He returned to Gelibolu and devoted himself to the study of maps and the science of navigation.

He gathered old maps from East and West, compared them with his own experience, and began drawing new maps. These were the years that produced his first world map.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis's own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis".

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ promised an easy path to Paradise to whoever travels a path in search of knowledge:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2699

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ يَحْيَى التَّمِيمِيُّ، وَأَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ وَمُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْعَلاَءِ الْهَمْدَانِيُّ - وَاللَّفْظُ لِيَحْيَى - قَالَ يَحْيَى أَخْبَرَنَا وَقَالَ الآخَرَانِ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو مُعَاوِيَةَ، عَنِ الأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ أَبِي صَالِحٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم " مَنْ نَفَّسَ عَنْ مُؤْمِنٍ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ الدُّنْيَا نَفَّسَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرَبِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَمَنْ يَسَّرَ عَلَى مُعْسِرٍ يَسَّرَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَمَنْ سَتَرَ مُسْلِمًا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالآخِرَةِ وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَمَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَيَتَدَارَسُونَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلاَّ نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ وَغَشِيَتْهُمُ الرَّحْمَةُ وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلاَئِكَةُ وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ وَمَنْ بَطَّأَ بِهِ عَمَلُهُ لَمْ يُسْرِعْ بِهِ نَسَبُهُ " .

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Whoever relieves a believer of a hardship of this world, Allah will relieve him of a hardship of the Day of Resurrection. Whoever eases things for one in difficulty, Allah will ease things for him in this world and the Hereafter. Whoever conceals the faults of a

Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults in this world and the Hereafter. Allah helps His servant as long as the servant helps his brother. Whoever follows a path seeking knowledge, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise. No people gather in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and studying it among themselves, except that tranquillity descends upon them, mercy covers them, the angels surround them, and Allah mentions them among those with Him. ***And whoever is slowed down by his deeds will not be hastened by his lineage.***"

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya ibn Yahya al-Tamimi, Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah and Muhammad ibn al-'Ala', from Abu Mu'awiyah, from Sulayman al-A'mash, from Abu Salih al-Samman, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Remembrance and Supplication, Hadith No. 2699.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim, the second most authentic book of Hadith after Sahih al-Bukhari.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2699a

LESSONS

Misfortune can be the beginning of a new chapter. Time spent seeking knowledge is never wasted.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE WORLD MAP OF 1513

HISTORICAL NOTE: 919 AH

In 919 AH (1513 CE) Piri Reis completed his first world map on gazelle skin. According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", he used old maps from East and West as sources, including a map drawn by ***Christopher Columbus***. Sources differ on where he drew it, whether in Gelibolu or in Cairo.

Only a small part of the map survives. It shows Spain, Portugal, the coast of West Africa and the eastern coast of the Americas, and is considered the oldest surviving world map in the Ottoman tradition. Piri Reis's own notes in the margins of the map honestly name his sources.

Status of the report: The 1513 map survives and its date is written on it; its sources are named by Piri Reis himself.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

Allah made the stars guides on land and at sea:

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:97

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلنُّجُومَ لِتَهْتَدُوا۟ بِهَا فِى ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلْبَرِّ وَٱلْبَحْرِ ۗ قَدْ فَصَّلْنَا ٱلْـَٔايَٰتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

And it is He who placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea. We have detailed the signs for a people who know.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/6:97

LESSONS

An honest scholar names his sources. Acknowledging the work of others is part of the trust of knowledge.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

A MAP FOR THE SULTAN IN CAIRO (1517)

HISTORICAL NOTE: THE EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN

In 1516–1517 Sultan Selim I launched a campaign against the Mamluk state in Egypt. Piri Reis commanded a ship in the fleet of Admiral Cafer Bey, sent to support the campaign by sea.

He sailed up the Nile to Cairo, and there presented his world map to Sultan Selim I in 923 AH (1517 CE). During this voyage he also studied the Nile carefully, and later drew a detailed map of the Nile in the Kitab-ı Bahriye.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis's own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

LESSONS

Knowledge presented to leaders can benefit the whole ummah. Scholars and leaders need each other.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE KITAB-I BAHRIYE: THE BOOK OF THE SEA

HISTORICAL NOTE: 927 AH (1521)

In 927 AH (1521 CE) Piri Reis completed the first version of the ***Kitab-ı Bahriye***. It is a sailing guide describing the coasts, harbours, bays, islands, safe anchorages, sources of fresh water and dangers along the Mediterranean Sea.

Each section is accompanied by a map. According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", the surviving copies of the first version contain 134 maps. The book was written in Ottoman Turkish so that sailors, not only scholars, could understand it easily.

Status of the report: The Kitab-ı Bahriye survives in many copies.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

Allah taught His Prophet to pray for increase in knowledge:

SURAH TAHA 20:114

فَتَعَٰلَى ٱللَّهُ ٱلۡمَلِكُ ٱلۡحَقُّۗ وَلَا تَعۡجَلۡ بِٱلۡقُرۡءَانِ مِن قَبۡلِ أَن يُقۡضَىٰٓ إِلَيۡكَ وَحۡيُهُۥۖ وَقُل رَّبِّ زِدۡنِي عِلۡمٗا ١١٤

So high [above all] is Allāh, the Sovereign, the Truth. And, [O Muḥammad], do not hasten with [recitation of] the Qur'ān before its revelation is completed to you, and say, "My Lord, increase me in knowledge."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/20:114

LESSONS

Knowledge written in language that is easy to understand benefits more people.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE SECOND EDITION AND THE SECOND MAP (1526–1528)

HISTORICAL NOTE: WITH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF İBRAHIM PASHA

In 930 AH (1524 CE) Piri Reis served as pilot in the fleet of Grand Vizier ***İbrahim Pasha*** sailing to Egypt. İbrahim Pasha read the draft of the Kitab-ı Bahriye on board and encouraged Piri to complete it more fully.

Piri returned to Gelibolu, and in 932 AH (1526 CE) completed a fuller second edition, partly in verse, with 223 maps. This edition was presented to Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent. In 935 AH (1528 CE) he also presented his second world map, which shows the northern Atlantic and the coasts of North and Central America.

Status of the report: Both editions and the second map survive and are kept in the Topkapı Palace.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye.

LESSONS

A leader's encouragement can bring a scholar's work to completion. Good work can always be improved.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

CAPTAIN OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

HISTORICAL NOTE: 954 AH (1547)

In the sixteenth century Portuguese fleets dominated the sea routes of the Indian Ocean, attacking Muslim merchant and pilgrim ships and trying to close the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Ottoman state built a fleet at Suez to oppose them.

In 954 AH (1547 CE), at about seventy-five years of age, Piri Reis was appointed ***Captain of the Indian Ocean*** (Hint Kaptanı), commander of the Ottoman fleet in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis's own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Ottoman archival records.

Every office is a trust for which one will be questioned:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 7138

حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، حَدَّثَنِي مَالِكٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ دِينَارٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ " أَلاَ كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ، وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، فَالإِمَامُ الَّذِي عَلَى النَّاسِ رَاعٍ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ رَاعٍ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ رَاعِيَةٌ عَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا وَوَلَدِهِ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْهُمْ، وَعَبْدُ الرَّجُلِ رَاعٍ عَلَى مَالِ سَيِّدِهِ وَهْوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْهُ، أَلاَ فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ ".

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Umar narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"Indeed, each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be asked about his flock. The ruler over the people is a shepherd and will be asked about his flock;*** a man is a shepherd over his household and will be asked about them; a woman is a shepherd over her husband's house and children and will be asked about them; a servant is a shepherd over his master's wealth and will be asked about it. Indeed, each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be asked about his flock."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Isma'il ibn Abi Uways, from Malik ibn Anas, from 'Abdullah ibn Dinar, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Judgements, Hadith No. 7138.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:7138

LESSONS

A great trust can come in old age. The believer bears a trust as long as he is able.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE RECAPTURE OF ADEN (1548–1549)

HISTORICAL NOTE: THE HARBOUR AT THE GATE OF THE RED SEA

Piri Reis left Suez on 29 October 1547 with about sixty ships. The harbour city of ***Aden*** in Yemen, at the entrance to the Red Sea, had rebelled and received Portuguese help.

Through a combined land and sea operation that began in Shawwal 955 AH (November 1548), Aden was retaken on 14 Muharram 956 AH (12 February 1549). Portuguese ships that came to help withdrew on seeing the Ottoman fleet. Piri Reis was promoted and rewarded with 100,000 akçe.

Status of the report: The recapture of Aden in 1549 is established in Ottoman and Portuguese sources.

REFERENCES:
TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught that a Muslim does not abandon his brother to oppression:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2442

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ بُكَيْرٍ، حَدَّثَنَا اللَّيْثُ، عَنْ عُقَيْلٍ، عَنِ ابْنِ شِهَابٍ، أَنَّ سَالِمًا، أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ بْنَ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ " الْمُسْلِمُ أَخُو الْمُسْلِمِ، لاَ يَظْلِمُهُ وَلاَ يُسْلِمُهُ، وَمَنْ كَانَ فِي حَاجَةِ أَخِيهِ كَانَ اللَّهُ فِي حَاجَتِهِ، وَمَنْ فَرَّجَ عَنْ مُسْلِمٍ كُرْبَةً فَرَّجَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً مِنْ كُرُبَاتِ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ، وَمَنْ سَتَرَ مُسْلِمًا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ ".

TRANSLATION:

'Abdullah ibn 'Umar narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: ***"A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he does not wrong him nor abandon him (to the enemy).*** Whoever fulfils the need of his brother, Allah will fulfil his need; whoever relieves a Muslim of a hardship, Allah will relieve him of a hardship on the Day of Resurrection; and whoever covers a Muslim's fault, Allah will cover his fault on the Day of Resurrection."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Yahya ibn Bukayr, from Al-Layth ibn Sa'd, from 'Uqayl ibn Khalid, from Ibn Shihab al-Zuhri, from Salim ibn 'Abdullah, from 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Oppressions, Hadith No. 2442.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:2442

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

LESSONS

Protecting the routes of pilgrims and Muslim trade is part of one's duty toward one's brothers in faith.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE TAKING OF MUSCAT (1552)

HISTORICAL NOTE: 959 AH

In Jumada al-Ula 959 AH (May 1552) Piri Reis left Suez with thirty ships for the Persian Gulf. His first target was ***Muscat*** in Oman, held by the Portuguese.

After a siege of about a week, the fort of Muscat surrendered. According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", 128 Portuguese soldiers, including the fort's commander, were captured. This success showed that the old admiral could still lead a fleet ably.

Status of the report: Narrated in the books of history — chiefly Piri Reis's own Kitab-ı Bahriye, Ottoman archival records and European sources — without a chain by the standards of the Hadith scholars. The story is accepted as history, but it cannot be used as proof in the way an authentic hadith can.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources.

LESSONS

Old age does not stop the knowledgeable and experienced from serving.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE SIEGE OF HORMUZ AND THE ACCUSATIONS

HISTORICAL NOTE: 1552

From Muscat, Piri Reis besieged the island of ***Hormuz*** at the mouth of the Persian Gulf with about twenty-eight ships and 850 soldiers. Most of the island was taken, but its inner fort, defended by the Portuguese, held out. The siege dragged on, morale fell, and he feared that a Portuguese fleet would come to attack.

He lifted the siege and sailed to Basra. Rumours then spread that he had taken gold and jewels as a bribe to lift the siege, and the governor of Basra, ***Kubad Pasha***, reported this to Istanbul. According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", the appearance of a Portuguese fleet at Hormuz soon afterward shows that his fear was well founded, and that the accusations may have been untrue.

Status of the report: The siege of Hormuz is established; the bribery accusations are disputed and cannot be confirmed.

REFERENCES:

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Portuguese sources.

Allah commands that every report be verified before acting:

SURAH AL-HUJURAT 49:6

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوٓاْ إِن جَآءَكُمۡ فَاسِقُۢ بِنَبَإٖ فَتَبَيَّنُوٓاْ أَن تُصِيبُواْ قَوۡمَۢا بِجَهَٰلَةٖ فَتُصۡبِحُواْ عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلۡتُمۡ نَٰدِمِينَ ٦

O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/49:6

LESSONS

Rumours can destroy the innocent. A Muslim must investigate before accusing.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

EXECUTION IN CAIRO (1553)

HISTORICAL NOTE: A TRAGIC END

Piri Reis left the main fleet at Basra and sailed for Suez with three galleys; one was wrecked on the way. From Suez he went to Cairo, but the governor of Egypt, Semiz Ali Pasha, received him coldly.

According to the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis", he was most likely executed in the Egyptian divan at the end of 960 AH (1553 CE), at more than eighty years of age. The charges against him were abandoning his command, plundering Muslim property at Hormuz, and taking bribes. His property was confiscated and sent to Istanbul. Many historians see this execution as an injustice against an old admiral who had served long.

Status of the report: His execution in 1553 is established; the truth of the charges against him is disputed.

REFERENCES:
TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis"; Ottoman archival records.

Only Allah knows the intention behind every deed:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 1

حَدَّثَنَا الْحُمَيْدِيُّ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ الزُّبَيْرِ ، قَالَ : حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ ، قَالَ : حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ سَعِيدٍ الْأَنْصَارِيُّ ، قَالَ : أَخْبَرَنِي مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ التَّيْمِيُّ ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ عَلْقَمَةَ بْنَ وَقَّاصٍ اللَّيْثِيَّ ، يَقُولُ : سَمِعْتُ عُمَرَ بْنَ الْخَطَّابِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَلَى الْمِنْبَرِ، قَالَ : سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ، يَقُولُ : " إِنَّمَا الْأَعْمَالُ بِالنِّيَّاتِ، وَإِنَّمَا لِكُلِّ امْرِئٍ مَا نَوَى، فَمَنْ كَانَتْ هِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى دُنْيَا يُصِيبُهَا أَوْ إِلَى امْرَأَةٍ يَنْكِحُهَا، فَهِجْرَتُهُ إِلَى مَا هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِ

TRANSLATION:
'Alqamah ibn Waqqas al-Laythi said: I heard 'Umar ibn al-Khattab say from the pulpit: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: ***"Actions are only by intentions, and every person will have only what he intended.*** So whoever's emigration was for a worldly gain he seeks, or a woman he would marry, his emigration is for what he emigrated for."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Al-Humaydi 'Abdullah ibn al-Zubayr, from Sufyan ibn 'Uyaynah, from Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Ansari, from Muhammad ibn Ibrahim al-Taymi, from 'Alqamah ibn Waqqas al-Laythi, from 'Umar ibn al-Khattab رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Revelation, Hadith No. 1.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih al-Bukhari, the most authentic book of Hadith after the Qur'an by consensus of the Hadith scholars.

Source: https://sunnah.com/bukhari:1

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

LESSONS

People can err in judgement, but Allah wrongs no one. Every person will be judged by his intention and deeds.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

THE 1513 MAP AND PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC CLAIMS

SOURCE NOTE: GUARDING THE HONESTY OF KNOWLEDGE

After the 1513 map was rediscovered in 1929, some writers claimed that it shows Antarctica before it was covered by ice, or that it came from a "lost ancient civilisation" or from extraterrestrials. These claims are rejected by historians and map experts.

Piri Reis himself wrote in the margins of his map that he used old maps and a map of Columbus as sources. The coastline at the bottom of the map is more simply explained as the coast of South America drawn according to the knowledge of that time. Piri Reis's greatness lies in his effort to gather, compare and arrange knowledge honestly — not in invented wonders.

Status of the report: The Antarctica and "ancient civilisation" claims are not established and are rejected by experts.

REFERENCES:

Modern research in the history of cartography; Piri Reis's notes on the 1513 map.

LESSONS

Truth needs no marvellous tales. A Muslim guards the honesty of knowledge and does not spread claims without proof.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

STORIES AND FIGURES THAT NEED ASSESSMENT

SOURCE NOTE: BETWEEN FACT AND LEGEND

Some matters in Piri Reis's story need careful assessment. ***First***, his year of birth is not known exactly; some say 1465, others 1470. ***Second***, the place where he drew the 1513 map, Gelibolu or Cairo, is given differently. ***Third***, most information about his life comes from his own words in the Kitab-ı Bahriye.

Fourth, the truth of the bribery accusations at Hormuz and the justice of his execution are disputed. ***Fifth***, claims that his map shows Antarctica or comes from an ancient civilisation are baseless. What is established: the world maps of 1513 and 1528, both editions of the Kitab-ı Bahriye (1521 and 1526), the recapture of Aden (1549) and Muscat (1552), and his death in Cairo (1553).

Status of the report: The main events are established; some details are disputed.

REFERENCES:

A comparison of the Kitab-ı Bahriye, the TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, Portuguese sources and modern historical research.

LESSONS

A true hero needs no legends. Established facts are example enough.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

SOURCES OF THE STORIES OF PIRI REIS

This table summarises the source and grade of each story so that the reader can distinguish the authentic from the merely famous.

STORY	SOURCE	GRADE
Born in Gallipoli	TDV; Kitab-ı Bahriye	History; year varies
Sea raids with Kemal Reis	Kitab-ı Bahriye	Established
Prohibition of killing women and children	Sahih al-Bukhari 3015	Authentic
Koron (1500) and Navarino (1501)	TDV; Ottoman archives	Established
The first army at sea	Sahih al-Bukhari 2924	Authentic
The path of seeking knowledge	Sahih Muslim 2699	Authentic
World map of 1513	Original map in Topkapı	Established
Stars as guides	Al-An'am 6:97	Qur'an
Kitab-ı Bahriye (1521, 1526)	Original copies	Established
Captain of the Indian Ocean (1547)	Ottoman archives; TDV	Established
Each of you is a shepherd	Sahih al-Bukhari 7138	Authentic
Recapture of Aden (1549)	TDV; Portuguese sources	Established
A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim	Sahih al-Bukhari 2442	Authentic
Taking of Muscat (1552)	TDV; Portuguese sources	Established
Bribery accusations at Hormuz	Report of Kubad Pasha	Disputed
Verify reports	Al-Hujurat 49:6	Qur'an
Execution in Cairo (1553)	TDV; Ottoman archives	Established
The map shows Antarctica	Modern writers	Baseless

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

PEOPLE, PLACES AND TIMELINE

PERSON	ROLE
Kemal Reis	Piri Reis's uncle and teacher
Sultan Bayezid II	Called Kemal Reis into Ottoman service
Sultan Selim I	Received the 1513 map in Cairo (1517)
Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent	Received the Kitab-ı Bahriye and the 1528 map
İbrahim Pasha	Grand Vizier who encouraged the second edition
Christopher Columbus	One of the sources of the 1513 map
Kubad Pasha	Governor of Basra who reported the accusations
Semiz Ali Pasha	Governor of Egypt at the time of his execution

PLACE	EVENT
Gallipoli (Gelibolu)	His birthplace and centre of study
Koron and Navarino	Naval battles of 1500–1501
Cairo	Map presented (1517); place of his execution (1553)
Istanbul (Topkapı)	Where his maps are kept; rediscovered 1929
Aden	Retaken in 1549
Muscat	Taken in 1552
Hormuz	Siege of 1552

YEAR	EVENT
c. 1465–1470 CE	Birth of Piri in Gallipoli
c. 1495 CE	Joins the Ottoman fleet with Kemal Reis
1500–1501 CE	Koron and Navarino
1510 CE	Death of Kemal Reis
1513 CE	First world map
1517 CE	Map presented to Sultan Selim I in Cairo
1521 CE	First edition of the Kitab-ı Bahriye
1526 CE	Second edition of the Kitab-ı Bahriye
1528 CE	Second world map
1547 CE	Appointed Captain of the Indian Ocean
1549 CE	Aden retaken

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

YEAR	EVENT
1552 CE	Muscat; siege of Hormuz
1553 CE	Executed in Cairo
1929 CE	The 1513 map rediscovered in Topkapı

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PIRI REIS

This chapter answers questions often asked about Piri Reis. The answers are brief; the details are in the earlier chapters.

1. WHO WAS PIRI REIS?

An Ottoman admiral, geographer and cartographer, author of the Kitab-ı Bahriye, who died in Cairo in 1553.

2. WHERE WAS HE BORN?

In Gelibolu (Gallipoli), on the Dardanelles strait.

3. WHO WAS HIS TEACHER?

His uncle, Admiral Kemal Reis.

4. WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE 1513 MAP?

It is among the oldest maps showing the Americas, and the oldest surviving world map in the Ottoman tradition.

5. WHAT WERE THE MAP'S SOURCES?

Old maps from East and West, including a map of Christopher Columbus, as Piri Reis himself noted.

6. WHAT IS THE KITAB-I BAHRIYE?

A sailing guide to the Mediterranean with more than two hundred maps, in two editions (1521 and 1526).

7. WHEN DID HE BECOME CAPTAIN OF THE INDIAN OCEAN?

In 1547, at about seventy-five years of age.

8. WHAT DID HE TAKE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

Aden (1549) and Muscat (1552).

9. WHY WAS HE EXECUTED?

On charges of abandoning his command and taking bribes after the siege of Hormuz; the truth of these charges is disputed.

10. DOES HIS MAP SHOW ANTARCTICA?

No; that claim is rejected by experts in the history of maps.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

11. WHERE ARE HIS MAPS TODAY?

In the Topkapı Palace Library, Istanbul.

12. WHAT IS THE GREATEST LESSON OF HIS STORY?

Knowledge written honestly keeps giving benefit, even when its author is wronged or forgotten.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

Piri Reis's story is that of a sailor who became a scholar, a scholar who led a fleet in old age, and an admiral executed on disputed charges — while his work is valued to this day.

LESSON	FROM THE STORY OF PIRI REIS
The ethics of war	The raids of his youth; Sahih al-Bukhari 3015
Intention at sea	The Ottoman fleet; Sahih al-Bukhari 2924
Seeking knowledge	Return to Gallipoli; Sahih Muslim 2699; Taha 20:114
Honesty in knowledge	Naming the sources of the 1513 map; Al-An'am 6:97
Office as a trust	Captain of the Indian Ocean; Sahih al-Bukhari 7138
Protecting one's brothers	Aden and the pilgrim routes; Sahih al-Bukhari 2442
Verifying reports	The accusations at Hormuz; Al-Hujurat 49:6
Allah judges intentions	Execution in Cairo; Sahih al-Bukhari 1

May we follow Piri Reis in his earnestness in seeking knowledge, his honesty in naming his sources, and his service into old age, while taking a lesson from the end of his life about the danger of accusation without proof.

With this book, the Ottoman Era group of Heroes of Islam is complete. In sha' Allah, the series will continue with the story of Emir Abdelkader of Algeria, the resistance leader famed for his ethics of war.

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

REFERENCES

THE QUR'AN AND TAFSIR

The Noble Qur'an, Uthmani script and Sahih International translation. https://quran.com

Ibn Kathir, Tafsir al-Qur'an al-'Azim (Al-An'am 6:97; Taha 20:114; Al-Hujurat 49:6).

HADITH

Sahih al-Bukhari 1, 2442, 2924, 3015, 7138. https://sunnah.com/bukhari

Sahih Muslim 2699. https://sunnah.com/muslim

Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani, Fath al-Bari; al-Nawawi, Sharh Sahih Muslim.

BOOKS OF HISTORY AND STUDIES

Piri Reis, Kitab-ı Bahriye (editions of 1521 and 1526).

Kâtib Çelebi, Tuhfetü'l-Kibâr fî Esfâri'l-Bihâr.

Svat Soucek, Piri Reis and Turkish Mapmaking after Columbus.

Gregory C. McIntosh, The Piri Reis Map of 1513.

Giancarlo Casale, The Ottoman Age of Exploration.

TDV İslâm Ansiklopedisi, "Pîrî Reis". https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/piri-reis

RELATED SERIES ON QURANSCIENCE.MY

Heroes of Islam, Series 1: Hamzah ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib to Series 29: Turgut Reis.
https://quranscience.my/#pahlawan

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims

SUPPORT & DONATIONS

This eBook is published **entirely free** for Muslims and is **never to be sold**. Donations are most welcome to help with the costs of research, hosting the website quranscience.my and publishing further eBooks — but they are **not obligatory**. May Allah accept every donation as an ongoing charity (sadaqah jariyah).

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:261

مَّثَلُ ٱلَّذِينَ يُنفِقُونَ أَمۡوَٰلَهُمۡ فِي سَبِيلِ ٱللَّهِ كَمَثَلِ حَبَّةٍ أَنۢبَتَتۡ سَبۡعَ سَنَابِلَ فِي كُلِّ سُنۢبُلَةٖ مِّاْئَةُ حَبَّةٖۗ وَٱللَّهُ يُضَٰعِفُ لِمَن يَشَآءُۚ وَٱللَّهُ وَٰسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ٢٦١

The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:261

SURAH SABA' 34:39

قُلۡ إِنَّ رَبِّي يَبۡسُطُ ٱلرِّزۡقَ لِمَن يَشَآءُ مِنۡ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَقۡدِرُ لَهُۥۚ وَمَآ أَنفَقۡتُم مِّن شَيۡءٖ فَهُوَ يُخۡلِفُهُۥۖ وَهُوَ خَيۡرُ ٱلرَّٰزِقِينَ ٣٩

Say, "Indeed, my Lord extends provision for whom He wills of His servants and restricts [it] for him. But whatever thing you spend [in His cause] - He will compensate it; and He is the best of providers."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/34:39

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 2588

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ، وَابْنُ، حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - وَهُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « مَا نَقَصَتْ صَدَقَةٌ مِنْ مَالٍ وَمَا زَادَ اللَّهُ عَبْدًا بِعَفْوٍ إِلاَّ عِزًّا وَمَا تَوَاضَعَ أَحَدٌ لِلَّهِ إِلاَّ رَفَعَهُ اللَّهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Charity does not decrease wealth.

Allah does not increase a servant who forgives except in honour. And no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah except that Allah raises him in rank."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Virtue, Good Manners and Joining the Ties of Kinship (Kitab al-Birr wa al-Silah wa al-Adab), chapter on the encouragement of forgiveness and humility, Hadith No. 2588.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:2588

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1631

حَدَّثَنَا يَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ، وَقُتَيْبَةُ - يَعْنِي ابْنَ سَعِيدٍ - وَابْنُ حُجْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، - هُوَ ابْنُ جَعْفَرٍ - عَنِ الْعَلاَءِ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ « إِذَا مَاتَ الإِنْسَانُ انْقَطَعَ عَنْهُ عَمَلُهُ إِلاَّ مِنْ ثَلاَثَةٍ إِلاَّ مِنْ صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ ».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: an ongoing charity, knowledge that is benefited from, or a righteous child who prays for him."

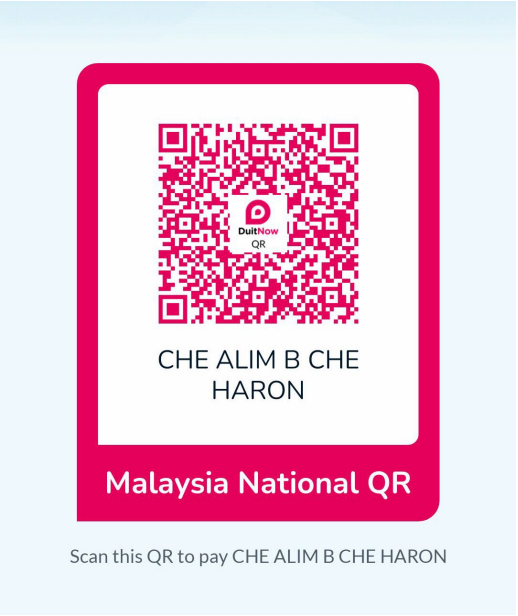
CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Yahya bin Ayyub, Qutaibah bin Sa'id and 'Ali bin Hujr, from Isma'il bin Ja'far, from al-'Ala' bin 'Abd al-Rahman, from his father 'Abd al-Rahman bin Ya'qub, from Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه .

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Wills (Kitab al-Wasiyyah), chapter on the reward that reaches a person after his death, Hadith No. 1631.

GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1631

JAZAKUMULLAHU KHAIRAN KATHIRA



Scan the QR code above (DuitNow, Malaysia) to donate.

DONATE

International donors: click the DONATE button or visit paypal.me/quranscience

© 2026 CE / 1448 AH All Rights Reserved Hj Che Alim Hj Che Haron — Free for Muslims