Tracing the Scholars of Islam

Series 33

Al-Idrisi

The Geographer Who Drew a Map of the World at the Court of Sicily



AI-generated image — imaginative depiction, not a real likeness

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

TRACING THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

SERIES 33

AL-IDRISI

The Geographer Who Drew a Map of the World at the Court of Sicily

هُوَ ٱلَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلۡأَرۡضَ ذَلُولٗا فَٱمۡشُواْ فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُواْ مِن رِّزۡقِهِۦۖ وَإِلَيۡهِ ٱلنُّشُورُ

"It is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection."

SURAH AL-MULK 67:15

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise is due to Allah, who made the earth easy to travel, and told us to walk among its slopes. Blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, and upon his family and his Companions.

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 thirty-third book of Tracing the Scholars of Islam tells the story of a traveller and geographer from Ceuta, who spent about fifteen years compiling the most complete map of the world of his time. May his story teach us to explore with knowledge, to check every report, and to be just to all people.

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ABOUT THE COVER OF THIS EBOOK

The cover of this eBook is an **AI-generated image** — an ***imaginative depiction, not a real likeness*** of al-Idrisi. This label is also printed on the cover. This time the viewpoint is different: ***an object in the foreground***, with the scholar standing ***behind it***.

In front lies a large **silver disc** engraved with a map of the world, on a wooden table. Behind it al-Idrisi stands touching a **stack of manuscript pages**, with maps on the walls and a **window facing the sea** of Sicily.

The real disc was ***destroyed in 1160 CE*** and no drawing of it survives. The map on the disc in this image is only imagined — al-Idrisi's real maps place ***south at the top***. Text added by the AI to the disc has been removed.

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

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AL-IDRISI

The thirty-third book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam** tells the story of ***Abu 'Abdillah Muhammad ibn Muhammad al-Idrisi***, geographer, traveller and expert in medicinal plants from ***Ceuta*** (Sabtah), known in Europe as ***Dreses***.

His masterpiece, ***Nuzhat al-Mushtaq fi Ikhtiraq al-Afaq*** — "The Delight of One Who Longs to Traverse the Horizons" — was compiled for King ***Roger II*** of Sicily. It contains ***70 maps*** and was a leading work of geography for centuries.

This eBook also covers ***Sicily*** in the Islamic and Norman eras, ***al-Idrisi's method of checking reports***, the lost ***silver disc***, why Islamic maps put ***south at the top***, the ***manners of travel***, his book on ***medicinal plants***, and the journey of map-making all the way to ***GPS*** today.

Note: The translation of Qur'anic verses in this eBook is that of Sahih International. The grading of each Hadith is stated in the Hadith box. Information from books of history and modern research is **biographical narration (not Hadith)** *and is placed in the brown "History Note" boxes. A cover image that shows the scholar is an AI-generated image and is marked as such. His years of birth and death are estimates.*

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WALK AMONG ITS SLOPES

SURAH AL-MULK 67:15

هُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلْأَرْضَ ذَلُولًا فَٱمْشُوا۟ فِى مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا۟ مِن رِّزْقِهِۦ ۖ وَإِلَيْهِ ٱلنُّشُورُ ﴿١٥﴾

It is He who made the earth tame for you - so walk among its slopes and eat of His provision - and to Him is the resurrection.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/67:15

Allah made the earth ***tame*** for mankind, and commanded: ***"so walk among its slopes"*** and seek His provision. The verse closes with the reminder that ***to Him is the resurrection***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 67:15.

Travel, trade and the Hajj meant that Muslims greatly needed ***knowledge of roads, distances and lands***. From this need grew ***Islamic geography***, and al-Idrisi is one of its most famous figures.

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TRAVEL AND OBSERVE

SURAH AL-'ANKABUT 29:20

قُلْ سِيرُواْ فِي ٱلْأَرْضِ فَٱنظُرُواْ كَيْفَ بَدَأَ ٱلْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ ٱللَّهُ يُنشِئُ ٱلنَّشْأَةَ ٱلْآخِرَةَ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿٢٠﴾

Say, [O Muhammad], "Travel through the land and observe how He began creation. Then Allah will produce the final creation. Indeed Allah, over all things, is competent."

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/29:20

Allah says: ***"Travel through the land and observe how He began creation"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 29:20.

This verse makes travel an ***act of reflection***. A Muslim traveller does not merely sightsee, but ***observes, records and takes lessons***.

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL	EXAMPLES IN ISLAMIC HISTORY
Hajj and 'umrah	Pilgrims from al-Andalus to Southeast Asia heading to Makkah.
Seeking knowledge	Hadith scholars travelled in search of chains of narration.
Trade	Muslim merchants sailed as far as the Malay world and China.
Geography	Al-Idrisi travelled and recorded the lands.

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THE EARTH SPREAD OUT

SURAH NUH 71:19–20

وَٱللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلۡأَرۡضَ بِسَاطٗا ١٩

And Allah has made for you the earth an expanse.

لِّتَسۡلُكُواْ مِنۡهَا سُبُلٗا فِجَاجٗا ٢٠

That you may follow therein roads of passage.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/71:19-20

Allah ***"has made for you the earth an expanse"***, ***"That you may follow therein roads of passage"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 71:19.

To a person standing on it, the earth appears ***spread out***. Roads, valleys and passes between mountains make travel easier — and ***geography*** begins by recording these roads.

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MOUNTAINS, RIVERS AND FRUITS

SURAH AR-RA'D 13:3

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى مَدَّ ٱلْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ فِيهَا رَوَٰسِىَ وَأَنْهَٰرًا ۖ وَمِن كُلِّ ٱلثَّمَرَٰتِ جَعَلَ
فِيهَا زَوْجَيْنِ ٱثْنَيْنِ ۖ يُغْشِى ٱلَّيْلَ ٱلنَّهَارَ ۚ إِنَّ فِى ذَٰلِكَ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

٣

And it is He who spread the earth and placed therein firmly set mountains and rivers; and from all of the fruits He made therein two mates; He causes the night to cover the day. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/13:3

Allah ***"spread the earth and placed therein firmly set mountains and rivers"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 13:3.

ELEMENT IN THE VERSE	RECORDED IN AL-IDRISI'S BOOK
The earth spread out	Lands and the distances between cities.
Mountains	Ranges that form borders and passes.
Rivers	The Nile, Euphrates, Tigris and the rivers of Europe.
Fruits	The crops and trade of each land.

Al-Idrisi's book is not just maps. It describes ***the produce, markets, customs and roads*** of each land.

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THE STARS AS GUIDES

SURAH AL-AN'AM 6:97

وَهُوَ ٱلَّذِى جَعَلَ لَكُمُ ٱلنُّجُومَ لِتَهۡتَدُواْ بِهَا فِى ظُلُمَٰتِ ٱلۡبَرِّ وَٱلۡبَحۡرِۗ قَدۡ فَصَّلۡنَا ٱلۡأٓيَٰتِ لِقَوۡمٍ يَعۡلَمُونَ ﴿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

Allah ***"placed for you the stars that you may be guided by them through the darknesses of the land and sea"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 6:97.

SURAH AN-NAHL 16:16

وَعَلَٰمَٰتٍۚ وَبِٱلنَّجۡمِ هُمۡ يَهۡتَدُونَ ﴿١٦﴾

And landmarks. And by the stars they are [also] guided.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/16:16

"And by the stars they are [also] guided". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 16:16.

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A TRAVELLER'S GUIDING TOOLS

TOOL OR METHOD	USE
The Pole Star (Polaris)	Shows north in the northern hemisphere.
Astrolabe	Measures the altitude of stars to find latitude and time.
Kamal	A simple sailor's tool to measure a star's height.
Maps and route books	Record distances and directions between cities.

Muslim sailors in the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean used the stars to ***find their direction***. Their information was what geographers like al-Idrisi gathered.

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THE AGE: ISLAMIC AND NORMAN SICILY

Sicily is a large island in the middle of the Mediterranean. Muslims began to conquer it in ***827 CE***, and Palermo became the centre of Muslim rule. The island was ruled by Muslims for more than ***two centuries***.

HISTORY NOTE: AN ISLAND OF THREE CULTURES

The ***Normans*** from northern Europe conquered Sicily between ***1061 and 1091 CE***. Yet many of its people were still Muslim, and Arabic continued to be used in administration.

At the court of ***Roger II***, ***Arabic, Greek and Latin*** cultures met. In this setting al-Idrisi compiled his book of geography.

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Tabula Rogeriana". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabula_Rogeriana

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SICILY IN HISTORY

YEAR	EVENT
827 CE	Muslim forces land in Sicily.
831 CE	Palermo is taken and becomes the seat of government.
1061–1091 CE	The Normans conquer Sicily.
1130 CE	Roger II is crowned King of Sicily.
c. 1138 CE	Al-Idrisi arrives in Palermo.
1154 CE	The Book of Roger is completed; Roger II dies.
1160 CE	The silver disc is destroyed in unrest.

The story of Sicily reminds us that the ***knowledge*** built by Muslims continued to benefit people even after ***political power*** had changed hands.

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WHO WAS AL-IDRISI?

Al-Idrisi was ***born around 1100 CE*** in ***Ceuta***, at the northern tip of Morocco. He descended from the ***Idrisids*** (the Hasani line), a family that once ruled Morocco — hence the name "al-Idrisi".

He studied in ***Córdoba***, and from a young age travelled widely: to ***Anatolia*** (at about the age of 16), Morocco, al-Andalus, France and reportedly as far as England. Around ***1138 CE*** he was invited by the Norman King ***Roger II*** to ***Palermo***, Sicily.

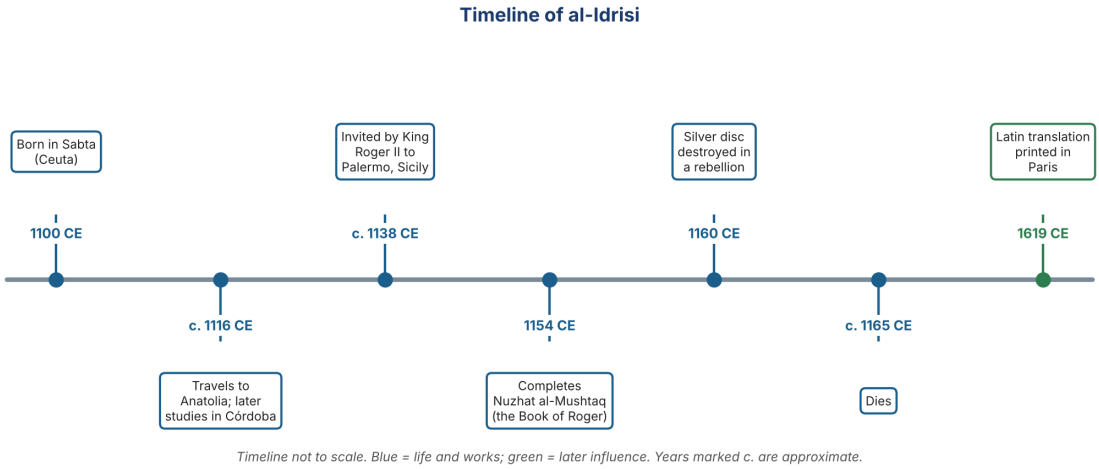


Figure 1: Timeline of al-Idrisi.

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THE WORKS OF AL-IDRISI

WORK	DESCRIPTION
Nuzhat al-Mushtaq (Book of Roger)	A book of geography with 70 maps, completed 1154 CE.
Silver planisphere	A world map on a silver disc; destroyed in 1160 CE.
A geography for William I	Compiled later; only an abridgement survives.
Book of medicinal plants	A list of plants with names in several languages.

His works show a combination of ***travel, research and writing*** — the three foundations of geography.

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TRAVELLING FOR KNOWLEDGE

Al-Idrisi travelled from a young age. The tradition of ***travelling for knowledge*** goes back to the generation of the Successors, as in the story of ***Sa'id ibn Jubayr***:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 4590

حَدَّثَنَا آدَمُ بْنُ أَبِي إِيَاسٍ، حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، حَدَّثَنَا مُغِيرَةُ بْنُ النُّعْمَانِ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ سَعِيدَ بْنَ جُبَيْرٍ، قَالَ {آيَةٌ} اخْتَلَفَ فِيهَا أَهْلُ الْكُوفَةِ، فَرَحَلْتُ فِيهَا إِلَى ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ فَسَأَلْتُهُ عَنْهَا فَقَالَ نَزَلَتْ هَذِهِ الآيَةُ {وَمَنْ يَقْتُلْ مُؤْمِنًا مُتَعَمِّدًا فَجَزَاؤُهُ جَهَنَّمُ} هِيَ آخِرُ مَا نَزَلَ وَمَا نَسَخَهَا شَيْءٌ.

TRANSLATION:

Sa'id ibn Jubayr said: **"The people of Kufah differed about a verse, so I travelled to Ibn 'Abbas because of it and asked him."** He (Ibn 'Abbas) said: "This verse was revealed — {And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell} — it was among the last to be revealed, and nothing abrogated it."

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Adam ibn Abi Iyas, from Shu'bah, from Mughirah ibn an-Nu'man, from Sa'id ibn Jubayr, from Ibn 'Abbas رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Tafsir, Surah an-Nisa', Hadith No. 4590.

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:4590

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Sa'id ibn Jubayr ***travelled*** from Kufah to Makkah just to ***be certain about one verse***. He was not content with disagreement, but ***asked one who knew better***. This is the same spirit found in al-Idrisi's method.

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THE BOOK OF ROGER AND ITS 70 MAPS

Roger II wanted to know ***the whole inhabited world***. Al-Idrisi gathered Arabic and Greek works of geography, including that of ***Ptolemy***, and compared them with new information.

After about ***15 years***, the book was completed in ***1154 CE***. It is also known as the ***Book of Roger*** (Kitab Rujar), and its maps are known in the West as the ***Tabula Rogeriana***.

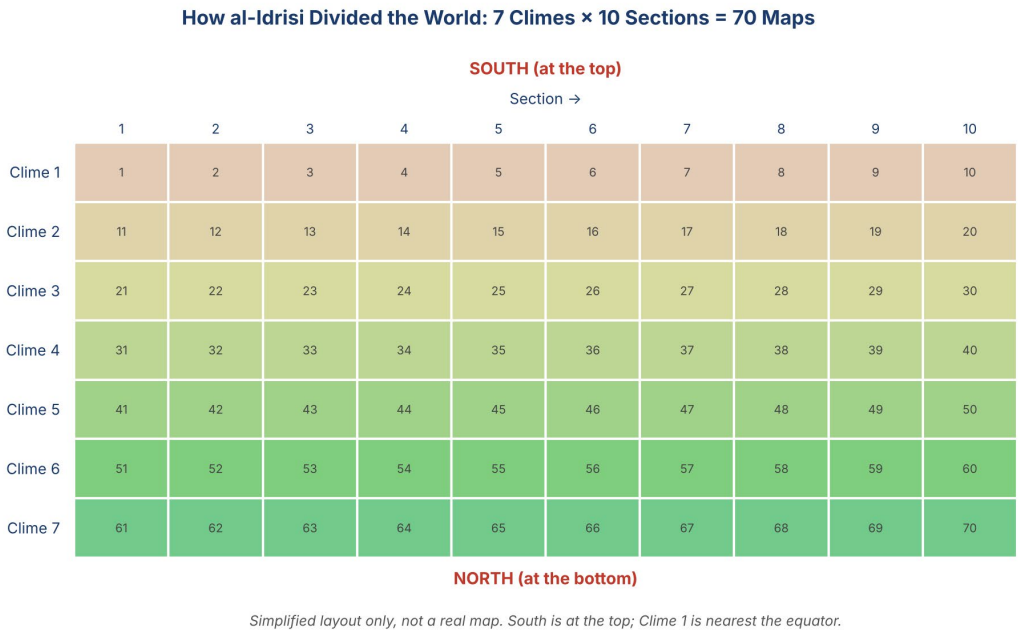


Figure 2: The arrangement of the 70 maps — 7 climes from south to north, each divided into 10 sections from west to east.

The world was divided into ***seven climes*** (bands from the equator northward), and each clime into ***ten sections***.

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WHAT THE BOOK OF ROGER CONTAINS

CONTENT	EXAMPLE
Cities and ports	Names, locations and distances between cities.
Roads and routes	How many days' travel from one place to another.
Produce	Crops, minerals and trade goods.
Peoples	Languages, customs and occupations.
Rivers and mountains	The source of the Nile shown as a lake in Africa.

An abridged Arabic version was printed in ***Rome in 1592 CE***, and a Latin translation in ***Paris in 1619 CE*** (EBSCO Research Starters: al-Idrisi).

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THE METHOD OF CHECKING REPORTS

Al-Idrisi ***interviewed travellers, merchants and sailors*** who passed through Palermo. Only information on which they ***agreed*** was accepted; where they differed, he sent ***agents*** with measuring instruments to check for themselves.

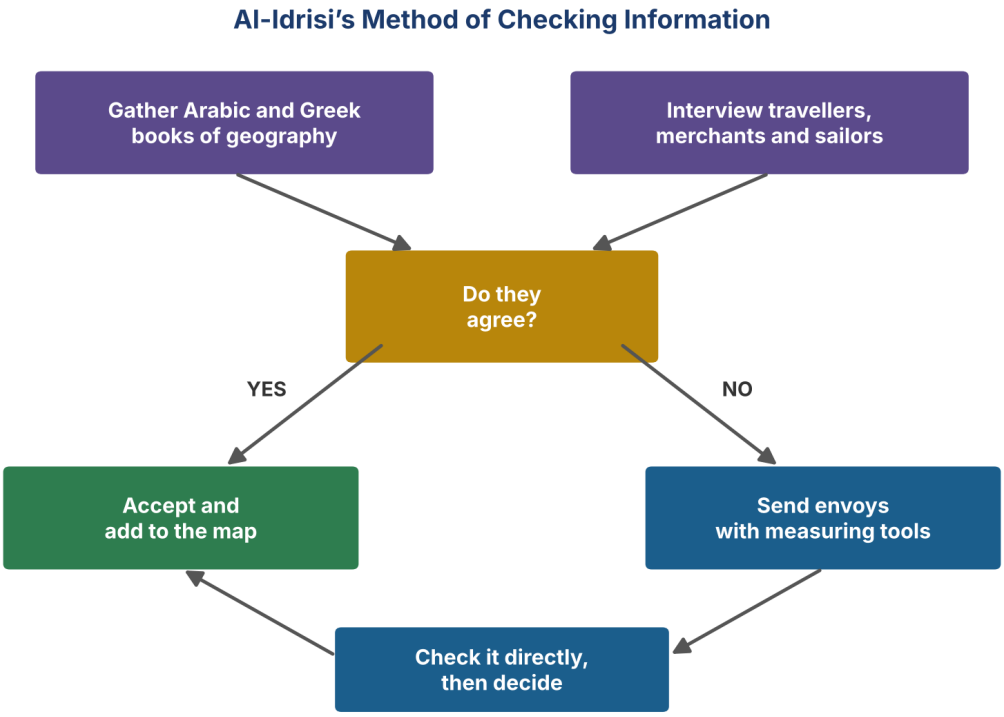


Figure 3: Al-Idrisi's method of checking information.

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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

Allah commands: ***"if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 49:6.

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, INTRODUCTION NO. 5 — FROM IMAM MUSLIM'S OWN INTRODUCTION

وَحَدَّثَنَا عُبَيْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مُعَاذٍ الْعَنْبَرِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبِي ح، وَحَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ الرَّحْمَنِ بْنُ مَهْدِيٍّ، قَالاَ حَدَّثَنَا شُعْبَةُ، عَنْ خُبَيْبِ بْنِ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ، عَنْ حَفْصِ بْنِ عَاصِمٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم «كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ كَذِبًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ».

TRANSLATION:

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **"It is enough of a lie for a person to narrate everything he hears."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from 'Ubaydullah ibn Mu'adh al-'Anbari, from his father Mu'adh ibn Mu'adh; and from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn Mahdi, both from Shu'bah, from Khubayb ibn 'Abd ar-Rahman, from Hafs ibn 'Asim. In the following narration, Imam Muslim narrates it with a connected chain: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah, from 'Ali ibn Hafs, from Shu'bah, with the same chain, from Hafs ibn 'Asim, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in the Introduction to Sahih Muslim, Hadith No. 5; the connected narration through Abu Hurairah is in the Introduction, narration 7 (sunnah.com/muslim/introduction/7).

GRADE: SAHIH — Imam Muslim placed it in the Introduction to Sahih Muslim and narrated it with a connected chain through Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:5

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

It is enough of a lie for a person to narrate everything he hears. In the age of social media this Hadith is very relevant: ***check before you share***, just as al-Idrisi checked reports before putting them on his map.

THE LOST SILVER DISC

Besides the book, al-Idrisi is reported to have built a ***planisphere*** — a map of the world engraved on a large disc of ***silver***.

HISTORY NOTE: ROGER II'S SILVER DISC

According to historical sources, the disc was made from about ***400 ratl of silver*** (around ***140 kg***), and engraved with the lands, rivers, seas and roads of the world.

The disc ***no longer exists***. It is reported to have been ***destroyed in 1160 CE*** during unrest in Palermo, in the rebellion led by ***Matthew Bonnellus*** against King William I.

Only the ***book*** remains. About ***ten manuscript copies*** survive; the oldest is now kept at the ***Bibliothèque nationale de France*** (MS Arabe 2221).

REFERENCES:

Wikipedia, "Tabula Rogeriana". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabula_Rogeriana

LESSON: KNOWLEDGE OUTLASTS SILVER

Costly silver was ***destroyed in a day***, but the ***book*** he wrote has been read for nearly ***900 years***. Knowledge that is written down and shared lasts longer than wealth.

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SOUTH AT THE TOP

On al-Idrisi's maps, ***south is placed at the top***. This was the custom of many Islamic maps of the time. For Muslims in the Maghrib, al-Andalus and Syria, ***Makkah lay to the south***.

FEATURE	AL-IDRISI'S MAP AND THE MODERN MAP
Direction at the top	Al-Idrisi: south. Modern: north.
Division	Al-Idrisi: seven climes. Modern: lines of latitude and longitude.
Source of information	Al-Idrisi: books and travellers. Modern: satellites and measurement.
Form	Al-Idrisi: sheets and a disc. Modern: digital and spherical.

No direction is the "correct" one for the top of a map. It is only ***convention***. What matters is that the map is ***accurate and useful*** to its user.

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THE ROUND EARTH

Muslim geographers, including al-Idrisi, ***knew that the earth is round***. Al-Idrisi described the earth as ***round like a ball***, stable in space, with the waters clinging to it.

According to ***NASA***, the earth's equatorial radius is ***6,378 km***. This means its circumference at the equator is about ***40,075 km*** (NASA: Earth Fact Sheet).

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MEASURING THE EARTH IN HISTORY

FIGURE OR EFFORT	DESCRIPTION
Eratosthenes (Greek)	Measured the earth's circumference using the sun's shadows.
Al-Ma'mun's astronomers	Measured one degree in the desert of Iraq.
Al-Biruni	Measured the earth's radius from a mountaintop.
Al-Idrisi	Stated that the earth is round in his book of geography.
Modern satellites	Measure the shape of the earth very precisely.

The figure of ***37,000 km*** often linked to al-Idrisi ***needs checking***, as it is hard to trace to the original text. We hold to what is certain: he knew the earth is round.

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THE TRAVELLER'S PRAYER

Al-Idrisi and Muslim travellers began their journeys with ***prayer***. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught a prayer for mounting a riding animal to travel:

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1342

حَدَّثَنِي هَارُونُ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا حَجَّاجُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ، قَالَ قَالَ ابْنُ جُرَيْجٍ أَخْبَرَنِي أَبُو الزُّبَيْرِ، أَنَّ عَلِيًّا الأَزْدِيَّ، أَخْبَرَهُ أَنَّ ابْنَ عُمَرَ عَلَّمَهُمْ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم كَانَ إِذَا اسْتَوَى عَلَى بَعِيرِهِ خَارِجًا إِلَى سَفَرٍ كَبَّرَ ثَلاَثًا ثُمَّ قَالَ «سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ وَإِنَّا إِلَى رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ فِي سَفَرِنَا هَذَا الْبِرَّ وَالتَّقْوَى وَمِنَ الْعَمَلِ مَا تَرْضَى اللَّهُمَّ هَوِّنْ عَلَيْنَا سَفَرَنَا هَذَا وَاطْوِ عَنَّا بُعْدَهُ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الصَّاحِبُ فِي السَّفَرِ وَالْخَلِيفَةُ فِي الأَهْلِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ وَعْثَاءِ السَّفَرِ وَكَآبَةِ الْمَنْظَرِ وَسُوءِ الْمُنْقَلَبِ فِي الْمَالِ وَالأَهْلِ». وَإِذَا رَجَعَ قَالَهُنَّ. وَزَادَ فِيهِنَّ «آيِبُونَ تَائِبُونَ عَابِدُونَ لِرَبِّنَا حَامِدُونَ».

TRANSLATION:

Ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما reported that when the Messenger of Allah ﷺ mounted his camel to set out on a journey, he would say "Allahu Akbar" three times, then say: **"Glory be to Him who has subjected this to us, and we could not have done it ourselves, and to our Lord we shall return. O Allah, we ask You on this journey of ours for righteousness and piety, and for deeds that please You. O Allah, make this journey easy for us and shorten its distance for us. O Allah, You are the Companion on the journey and the One who looks after the family. O Allah, I seek refuge in You from the hardships of travel, from a distressing sight, and from an evil return to wealth and family."** And when he returned he said the same, adding: **"We return, repenting, worshipping, and praising our Lord."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Harun ibn 'Abdillah, from Hajjaj ibn Muhammad, from Ibn Jurayj, from Abu az-Zubayr, from 'Ali al-Azdi, from Ibn 'Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Pilgrimage, Chapter on What to Say When Mounting for a Journey, Hadith No. 1342.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1342

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

This prayer acknowledges that ***the means of travel is made subject by Allah***, asks for ***righteousness and piety*** on the journey, and seeks protection for ***the family left behind***.

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DO NOT TRAVEL ALONE

Al-Idrisi did not rely on a single traveller — he sought ***several witnesses*** and sent agents. Islam also teaches the manners of travel, including ***not travelling alone*** at night:

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2998

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو الْوَلِيدِ، حَدَّثَنَا عَاصِمُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي أَبِي، عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم. حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو نُعَيْمٍ، حَدَّثَنَا عَاصِمُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ زَيْدِ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «لَوْ يَعْلَمُ النَّاسُ مَا فِي الْوَحْدَةِ مَا أَعْلَمُ مَا سَارَ رَاكِبٌ بِلَيْلٍ وَحْدَهُ».

TRANSLATION:

Ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **“If people knew what I know about (the danger of) being alone, no rider would travel alone at night.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari through two chains: from Abu al-Walid, and from Abu Nu‘aym — both from ‘Asim ibn Muhammad ibn Zayd, from his father Muhammad ibn Zayd, from Ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Jihad and Expeditions, chapter on travelling alone, Hadith No. 2998.

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:2998

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ knew of ***dangers*** that we do not know. Travelling ***in company*** is safer — and travelling companions are also ***witnesses*** who check and correct information, like al-Idrisi’s method.

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LIKE A TRAVELLER

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 6416

حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ، حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ أَبُو الْمُنْذِرِ الطُّفَاوِيُّ، عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ الأَعْمَشِ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي مُجَاهِدٌ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عُمَرَ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَ أَخَذَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم بِمَنْكِبِي فَقَالَ «كُنْ فِي الدُّنْيَا كَأَنَّكَ غَرِيبٌ، أَوْ عَابِرُ سَبِيلٍ». وَكَانَ ابْنُ عُمَرَ يَقُولُ إِذَا أَمْسَيْتَ فَلاَ تَنْتَظِرِ الصَّبَاحَ، وَإِذَا أَصْبَحْتَ فَلاَ تَنْتَظِرِ الْمَسَاءَ، وَخُذْ مِنْ صِحَّتِكَ لِمَرَضِكَ، وَمِنْ حَيَاتِكَ لِمَوْتِكَ.

TRANSLATION:

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ took hold of my shoulder and said: **“Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a traveller.”** Ibn ‘Umar used to say: “When evening comes, do not wait for the morning; when morning comes, do not wait for the evening. Take from your health for your sickness, and from your life for your death.”

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from ‘Ali ibn ‘Abdullah al-Madini, from Abu al-Mundhir at-Tufawi, from Sulayman al-A‘mash, from Mujahid, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Softening of Hearts, Hadith No. 6416.

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:6416

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Be in this world as though you were a stranger or a traveller. A traveller carries ***only the provisions he needs*** and always remembers ***his destination***. So too a Muslim: living in this world, but always ready for ***the Hereafter***.

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KINDNESS AND JUSTICE TO ALL

Al-Idrisi served a ***Christian king***. Is this permitted? The Qur'an gives guidance:

SURAH AL-MUMTAHANAH 60:8

لَّا يَنْهَىٰكُمُ ٱللَّهُ عَنِ ٱلَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَٰتِلُوكُمْ فِى ٱلدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُم مِّن دِيَٰرِكُمْ
أَن تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوٓا۟ إِلَيْهِمْ ۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ يُحِبُّ ٱلْمُقْسِطِينَ ﴿٨﴾

Allah does not forbid you from those who do not fight you because of religion and do not expel you from your homes - from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/60:8

Allah ***does not forbid*** us ***"from being righteous toward them and acting justly toward them"*** — those who do not fight us because of religion. Roger II was known for a court that ***honoured Muslim scholars***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 60:8.

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HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 2620

حَدَّثَنَا عُبَيْدُ بْنُ إِسْمَاعِيلَ، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو أُسَامَةَ، عَنْ هِشَامٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ أَسْمَاءَ بِنْتِ أَبِي بَكْرٍ ـ رضى الله عنهما ـ قَالَتْ قَدِمَتْ عَلَىَّ أُمِّي وَهْىَ مُشْرِكَةٌ، فِي عَهْدِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم، فَاسْتَفْتَيْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم قُلْتُ {إِنَّ أُمِّي قَدِمَتْ} وَهْىَ رَاغِبَةٌ، أَفَأَصِلُ أُمِّي قَالَ «نَعَمْ صِلِي أُمَّكِ».

TRANSLATION:

Asma' bint Abi Bakr رضى الله عنهما said: "My mother came to me in the time of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ while she was still a polytheist. So I asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ for a ruling. I said: My mother has come and she hopes (for kindness from me); may I keep ties with my mother? He said: **Yes, keep ties with your mother.**"

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from 'Ubayd ibn Isma'il, from Abu Usamah, from Hisham ibn 'Urwah, from his father 'Urwah ibn az-Zubayr, from Asma' bint Abi Bakr رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Gifts (Kitab al-Hibah), chapter on giving gifts to polytheists, Hadith No. 2620.

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:2620

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ allowed Asma' رضى الله عنها to ***keep good relations*** with her mother who was still a polytheist. Islam teaches ***kindness and justice*** toward non-Muslims who are not hostile, while remaining ***firm in faith***.

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THE STATION OF THE JUST

HADITH — SAHIH MUSLIM, NO. 1827

حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو بَكْرِ بْنُ أَبِي شَيْبَةَ، وَزُهَيْرُ بْنُ حَرْبٍ، وَابْنُ نُمَيْرٍ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنَا سُفْيَانُ بْنُ عُيَيْنَةَ، عَنْ عَمْرٍو، - يَعْنِي ابْنَ دِينَارٍ - عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ أَوْسٍ، عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو، قَالَ ابْنُ نُمَيْرٍ وَأَبُو بَكْرٍ يَبْلُغُ بِهِ النَّبِيَّ صلى الله عليه وسلم وَفِي حَدِيثِ زُهَيْرٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم « إِنَّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عَلَى مَنَابِرَ مِنْ نُورٍ عَنْ يَمِينِ الرَّحْمَنِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ وَكِلْتَا يَدَيْهِ يَمِينٌ الَّذِينَ يَعْدِلُونَ فِي حُكْمِهِمْ وَأَهْلِيهِمْ وَمَا وَلُوا ».

TRANSLATION:

‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr رضى الله عنهما narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **“Indeed, the just will be with Allah upon pulpits of light, at the right hand of the Most Merciful, Mighty and Majestic — and both His hands are right hands — those who are just in their judgements, with their families, and in whatever they are put in charge of.”**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam Muslim: from Abu Bakr ibn Abi Shaybah, Zuhayr ibn Harb and Muhammad ibn ‘Abdillah ibn Numayr, from Sufyan ibn ‘Uyaynah, from ‘Amr ibn Dinar, from ‘Amr ibn Aws, from ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘As رضى الله عنهما.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam Muslim in Sahih Muslim, Book of Government (Kitab al-Imarah), chapter on the virtue of the just ruler, Hadith No. 1827.

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

Source: https://sunnah.com/muslim:1827

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

The just will be upon pulpits of light — those who are just in judgement, with their families and in their responsibilities. A scholar must also be ***just in reporting***: not praising excessively, and not belittling without evidence.

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PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES

Al-Idrisi's book describes ***many peoples*** — Arabs, Berbers, Europeans, Africans and Asians — with their languages and customs.

SURAH AL-HUJURAT 49:13

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقۡنَٰكُم مِّن ذَكَرٖ وَأُنثَىٰ وَجَعَلۡنَٰكُمۡ شُعُوبٗا وَقَبَآئِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوٓاْۚ إِنَّ أَكۡرَمَكُمۡ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ أَتۡقَىٰكُمۡۚ إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٞ ١٣

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/49:13

Allah ***"made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 49:13.

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SURAH AR-RUM 30:22

وَمِنْ ءَايَٰتِهِۦ خَلْقُ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ وَٱلْأَرْضِ وَٱخْتِلَٰفُ أَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَلْوَٰنِكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ فِى
ذَٰلِكَ لَءَايَٰتٍ لِّلْعَٰلِمِينَ ﴿٢٢﴾

And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed in that are signs for those of knowledge.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/30:22

Among the signs of Allah is ***"the diversity of your languages and your colors"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 30:22.

LANGUAGE AT ROGER II'S COURT	USE
Arabic	Learning, administration and al-Idrisi's book.
Greek	The Eastern Church and older books.
Latin	The Western Church and relations with Europe.

The diversity of languages and peoples is ***a sign of Allah's greatness***, not a reason for hostility. Geography helps people ***know one another***.

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THE BOOK OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

Besides geography, al-Idrisi also wrote a book on ***medicinal plants***. He listed plant names in several languages so that travellers and physicians could recognise them in other lands.

HADITH — SAHIH AL-BUKHARI, NO. 5678

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ الْمُثَنَّى، حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو أَحْمَدَ الزُّبَيْرِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا عُمَرُ بْنُ سَعِيدِ بْنِ أَبِي حُسَيْنٍ، قَالَ حَدَّثَنِي عَطَاءُ بْنُ أَبِي رَبَاحٍ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رضى الله عنه - عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صلى الله عليه وسلم قَالَ «مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ دَاءً إِلاَّ أَنْزَلَ لَهُ شِفَاءً».

TRANSLATION:

Abu Hurayrah رضى الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: **"Allah has not sent down any disease except that He has also sent down its cure."**

CHAIN OF NARRATION: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari: from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from Abu Ahmad az-Zubayri, from 'Umar ibn Sa'id ibn Abi Husayn, from 'Ata' ibn Abi Rabah, from Abu Hurairah رضى الله عنه.

REFERENCE: Narrated by Imam al-Bukhari in Sahih al-Bukhari, Book of Medicine, Hadith No. 5678.

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:5678

LESSONS FROM THIS HADITH

Allah has not sent down any disease except that He has also sent down its cure. This Hadith urged Muslim scholars to study plants from ***every corner of the world*** — something a traveller like al-Idrisi could readily do.

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GEOGRAPHY AND MEDICINE

CONNECTION	EXAMPLE
Plants differ by climate	Spices from the East, herbs from the Mediterranean.
Names differ by language	One plant has many names.
The trade in medicines	Trade routes brought medicines from distant lands.

Al-Idrisi shows that the sciences ***are interconnected***: geography helps medicine, and medicine needs geography. This eBook is ***not medical advice***; seek treatment from a qualified doctor.

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HAJJ, QIBLAH AND GEOGRAPHY

Islamic geography grew because of ***the needs of worship***. Muslims across the world need to know ***the direction of the qiblah*** and ***the way to Makkah***.

SURAH AL-BAQARAH 2:144

قَدْ نَرَىٰ تَقَلُّبَ وَجْهِكَ فِي ٱلسَّمَآءِ ۖ فَلَنُوَلِّيَنَّكَ قِبْلَةً تَرْضَىٰهَا ۚ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ
شَطْرَ ٱلْمَسْجِدِ ٱلْحَرَامِ ۚ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنتُمْ فَوَلُّوا۟ وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُۥ ۗ وَإِنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ
أُوتُوا۟ ٱلْكِتَٰبَ لَيَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّهُ ٱلْحَقُّ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ ۗ وَمَا ٱللَّهُ بِغَٰفِلٍ عَمَّا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٤٤﴾

We have certainly seen the turning of your face, [O Muhammad], toward the heaven, and We will surely turn you to a qiblah with which you will be pleased. So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram. And wherever you [believers] are, turn your faces toward it [in prayer]. Indeed, those who have been given the Scripture well know that it is the truth from their Lord. And Allah is not unaware of what they do.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/2:144

Allah says: ***"So turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Haram"***. Tafsir Ibn Kathir 2:144.

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SURAH AL 'IMRAN 3:97

فِيهِ ءَايَٰتُۢ بَيِّنَٰتٞ مَّقَامُ إِبۡرَٰهِيمَۖ وَمَن دَخَلَهُۥ كَانَ ءَامِنٗاۗ وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى ٱلنَّاسِ
حِجُّ ٱلۡبَيۡتِ مَنِ ٱسۡتَطَاعَ إِلَيۡهِ سَبِيلٗاۚ وَمَن كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ ٱللَّهَ غَنِيٌّ عَنِ
ٱلۡعَٰلَمِينَ ٩٧

In it are clear signs [such as] the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it shall be safe. And [due] to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find thereto a way. But whoever disbelieves - then indeed, Allah is free from need of the worlds.

Translation: Sahih International — quran.com/3:97

"to Allah from the people is a pilgrimage to the House - for whoever is able to find thereto a way". Tafsir Ibn Kathir 3:97.

NEED OF WORSHIP	KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED
Direction of the qiblah	The position of a city relative to Makkah.
The Hajj journey	Roads, distances and stopping places.
Prayer times	The position of the sun at each place.
The start of a Hijri month	Sighting the new moon from different places.

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FROM PAPER MAPS TO GPS

Al-Idrisi depended on travellers and agents. Today, our position can be known within seconds through ***GPS*** (the Global Positioning System).

The GPS system has a core of at least ***24 satellites*** orbiting at about ***20,200 km***, and each satellite circles the earth ***twice a day*** (GPS.gov: Space Segment).

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FROM CAMELS TO SATELLITES

ERA	HOW POSITION WAS FOUND
Al-Idrisi's time	Asking travellers, measuring distance in days of travel.
The age of sail	Compass, astrolabe and marine chronometer.
20th century	Radio and aerial maps.
Today	GPS satellites and digital maps on a phone.

Technology changes, but the principle is the same: ***accurate*** and ***checked*** information. Digital maps can also be wrong if their data is wrong — just like maps of old.

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ESTABLISHED REPORTS AND POPULAR STORIES

The table below separates what is established from what needs checking about al-Idrisi.

STORIES AND THEIR STATUS

POPULAR CLAIM	STATUS
Al-Idrisi compiled Nuzhat al-Mushtaq for Roger II, completed in 1154 CE.	Established. Its manuscripts still exist.
His maps place south at the top.	Established in the surviving manuscripts.
He built a silver disc weighing about 140 kg.	Reported in historical sources; the disc was destroyed in 1160 CE.
He calculated the earth's circumference as about 37,000 km.	Needs checking. The figure is widely repeated but hard to trace to the original text.
He was "the first to say the earth is round".	Exaggerated. Greek and earlier Muslim scholars already knew the earth is round.
Christopher Columbus used al-Idrisi's map.	No firm evidence. The claim circulates without a clear source.

REFLECTION — HONOURING WITHOUT EXAGGERATING

Al-Idrisi's greatness needs no exaggerated claims. ***His method of checking reports*** and ***his book that still survives*** are proof enough.

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LESSONS AND CONCLUSION

LESSONS FROM THIS EBOOK

First: Travel the earth to seek provision and knowledge (67:15; 29:20).

Second: Reflect on the earth spread out with its mountains and rivers (71:19–20; 13:3).

Third: The stars are guides on land and sea (6:97; 16:16).

Fourth: Travel for knowledge (Sahih al-Bukhari 4590).

Fifth: Check every report before accepting it (49:6; Introduction to Sahih Muslim 5).

Sixth: Knowledge outlasts silver — write it down and share it.

Seventh: Begin journeys with prayer (Sahih Muslim 1342).

Eighth: Do not travel alone; live like a traveller (Sahih al-Bukhari 2998, 6416).

Ninth: Be kind and just to all (60:8; Sahih al-Bukhari 2620; Sahih Muslim 1827).

Tenth: Get to know other peoples and languages (49:13; 30:22).

Eleventh: Every disease has a cure (Sahih al-Bukhari 5678).

Twelfth: Distinguish established history from popular stories.

CONCLUSION

Al-Idrisi later served King ***William I***, and is believed to have ***died around 1165 CE***. A brief Latin translation of his book was printed in ***Paris in 1619 CE***. The next book of **Tracing the Scholars of Islam**, in sha' Allah, will tell the story of ***al-Jazari***, the engineer who invented clocks and automatic machines. Wallahu a'lam.

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GLOSSARY AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GLOSSARY

TERM	MEANING
Geography	The study of the earth, its lands, peoples and environment.
Clime (in old books)	A band of the earth from the equator northward.
Planisphere	A map of the world or sky on a flat surface.
Latitude	Distance north or south of the equator.
Longitude	Distance east or west.
GPS	A satellite system for finding position.
Normans	A people from northern France who conquered Sicily.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What purposes of travel are mentioned in verses 67:15 and 29:20?

2. How did al-Idrisi check information from travellers?

3. How does verse 49:6 relate to sharing news on social media?

4. Why do al-Idrisi's maps put south at the top?

5. Why does knowledge last longer than silver?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Draw a map of the route from your home to the nearest mosque. Try drawing it with south at the top.

Activity 2: Memorise the prayer for mounting a vehicle and say it every time you begin a journey.

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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 رضي 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 رضي 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 رضي الله عنه .

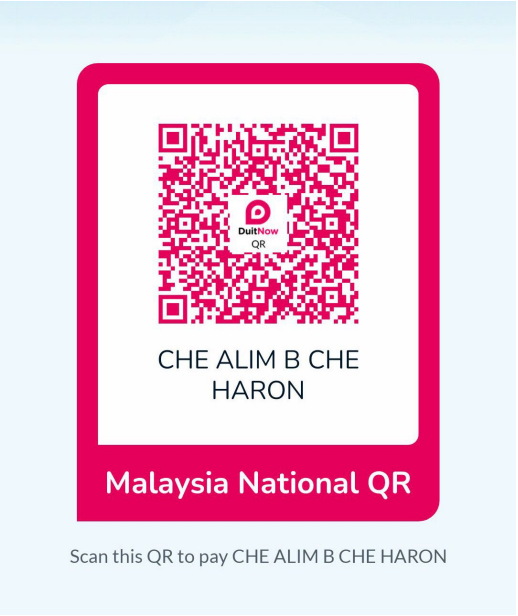
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GRADE: SAHIH — contained in Sahih Muslim.

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

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