

Jennifer Nicholson
 HIS 113: World Civilization 1(NO)
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#8 Primary Source

8.4: Worldly Travelers: From Travels (Ibn Battuta, c 1355)

1. Judging from Ibn Battuta's descriptions, what are some important elements of success for merchants operating in this part of the world? If someone wanted to become a merchant there, who, or what would they need to know?

The Agrarian era, they slaughter hundreds of Camels everyday for food and quantities of Sheep are manufactured for woven fabrics. These woven fabrics are exported to Egypt and else where. Interestingly, once the vessel that brings the imported goods arrived a young man of the town brings covered platter containing food and presented it to one of the merchant, because they are their guess. The host then sells the merchants goods at the highest price. In order to become a merchant there, they would need to know the law first of all and their culture. It appears they must be wealthy to produce quantities of sheep to manufactured woven fabrics.

2. Ibn Battuta receives a welcome in Mogadishu as a "Doctor of Law." Why does this make him valuable to his host? What does his reception tell us about the unity of the Islamic world and about the variety within?

Ibn Battuta an Egyptian by origin title reflects the culture of reciprocity in which he lived. His warm welcome is part of the East African circuit of the Indian Ocean network of exchange. He is a valuable man of God who pays his tithes as the Law commands. He was an educated humble man and highly respected. He could have gone any where in the world, but he chooses

to visit their country. The Islamic world is very structured and organized. They have unity, loyalty and know how to entertain their special guest. I just can't imagine the cost of such royalty treatment and them celebrating their guest up to four days with salutation of troops and officers, wow. If this is a welcome on earth, I just came wait to walk the street of gold in heaven.