

Professor: Dr. Turk

Pauline Garth

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8.4 Worldly Travelers

(1) Some important elements of success for merchants operating in this part of the world described by Ibn Battuta, is they were men of high moral values, and devoted to their religion. They were humble with good standing in their morals. Giving generously and doing good works and kind deeds to their fellow men was also an attribute of distinction, Obeying the law by the command of paying what is due unto God in tithes, If someone wanted to become a merchant they would have to see the Sultan before they can take up a lodging. After their ships have been inspected by someone who works under the Sultan, Information has to be collected, such as who is the owner, who is the captain, what kind of cargo is in the vessel, and who has come on it. This information clarifies to the Sultan as to who should be assigned lodging as a guest after his authorization.

(2) The title "Doctor of Law" Ibn Battuta receives when he is welcomed in Mogadishu signifies a high honor and one who establishes rules of conduct, and also commands respect. His reception shows that there is a togetherness in the Islamic world. Those who are in high authority are respected and are treated with special honor. The Islamic religion is an established habit of action. They have a different system in their religious beliefs. The code of conduct is followed through

every area, from specific days for religious meeting and seating formation of guests, dignitaries are arranged in ranks but the Sultan reigns supreme.