

Ibn Jubayr

My name is Abu Hussein Muhammed ibn Ahmed Ibn Jubayr al-kenani. I was born in Valencia, in Spain, about forty years before the eruption of the great volcano on an Aeolian island (I think that people in the future will call it Stromboli). I was very lucky to have witnessed that terrible sign of Allah: flames coming up in the air, fire rivers coming down on the earth... I travelled a lot. I was on a pilgrimage to Mecca; I crossed the Mediterranean Sea from one end to the other and visited a lot of places. As one of our ancestors from another civilisation, Ulysses, would say – he also stopped on the same island near Sicily thousands of years ago on his way back to his homeland from Troy – “I’ve seen the cities of many people and I got to know their mentality”. But I think that the land of Sicily is the blessed land, Allah’s favourite land. And not only from those who believe in Allah: let me quote King William II, who said addressing his people, regardless their religious beliefs: “Let each of you pray to the God he adores, he who has faith in his God will feel peace in his heart”. Bal’harm (which in the future will be called Palermo) is actually a link of the chain of civilisations and it will always be in the centuries to come. And I will always remember this charming city, with its churches, mosques, palaces, beautiful gardens ... Now, let me rest in peace...

