



Terrestrial map, *Takvim-i Tarihi*, Chester Beatty Library, T. 402, 12v-13r.

A world map prepared during the reign of Sultan Murad II (r. 1421-1444, 1446-1451). This south-oriented map is one of five circular representations—and the only one in double folios—in a historical calendar (*Takvim-i Tarihi*) of eighteen folios. It includes the 'Mountain of the Moon' even though its representation is not as schematic. In fact, this earlier map is much more naturalistic in its representation, where rivers do not flow in straight lines and the 'Mountain of the Moon' is depicted as a triangular heap of irregular forms in the far south west. A brief explanation in a peninsula hanging north from the western end of the mountain states that it is where the river Nile originates and that it is a deserted area to which no man goes. Indeed the base of the mountain is placed on a red line drawn above the first line of the first of seven climes that the world is divided. The distance between this line and the line beginning the first clime is about one and a half times the distance between each clime.

To the south and east of the mountain in this map is an area that is empty of any cities. Yet this section is also where most of the explanatory prose text is written. The

anonymous cartographer of the representation has designated this large section, almost one third of the size of the entire world, as the uninhabitable hot zone of a fiery climate, which does not allow any vegetation or animal life. Inversely, a small black area beyond the seventh clime in the far north is also delineated from the rest and is named Darkness (*Zulmat*). In other words, both extremes of the world are cast off as uninhabitable.

**Reference:**

Imaz, Fatma Sinem Ery, "Where Geography, Myth, and Politics Meet: An Interpretation of the Terrestrial Disk of the Ottoman Imperial Scroll", 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Turkish Art. October 3-5, 2019, Ankara: Proceedings, vol. 16.