

## Chapter Two

### **On the Boundaries of the Lands of Takruur**

**T**he beginning of these lands from the direction of the east in accordance with their expression is the country of Fur<sup>1</sup>. It is followed by the country of Wodai in the direction of the west and the country of Baghirma.

#### Bilad Fur

As for the country of Fur, it is an extensive land full of forestry, rivers and farmland. The basic foodstuffs of its people are millet, sorghum, black-eyed peas and many livestock. Arabic speaking Africans and Arabs speaking the language of Fur inhabit the country. Islam has spread extensively among its people. The majority of the inhabitants of this region are pilgrims who completed the *hajj* to Mecca. They claim that they honor and show great reverence to pilgrims and do not interfere with the roads leading to the Two Sacred Places.

#### Bilad Wodai

Near in description to Dar Fur are the people of Wodai and Baghirma. However, the people of Baghirma were destroyed. The cause of their destruction, according to what they claim, was that their *sultan* increased in corruption and sinfulness even to the point of marrying the daughter from his own loins! Thus, Allah subjected his kingdom to Saabura, the *Amir* of Wodai. He then destroyed his palace and had him killed. (“*These are their homes destroyed because of what injustice they did.*”)[an-Naml:52].

As for the country facing it in the direction of the north it is mainly desert wasteland and desert oasis. No one inhabits this region except livestock herders during the springtime from the uncivilized Berbers and the above-mentioned Bedouin Arabs. As for the lands south of Wodai and Baghirma, they comprise many countries inhabited by the least developed of the *Sudanese* people all with different languages. Islam has not spread much among them. I have not been successful at obtaining news of these lands, nor its extraordinary affairs, the narrations concerning its kingdoms, its scholars and righteous men. For this reason it is not necessary for us to mention them based upon the conditions mentioned before.



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<sup>1</sup> This land today and for the past two centuries has been known as *Darfur* or ‘the lands of the Fur’. There has been west African migration into the area for centuries. *Darfur* has the most diverse collection of ethnicities in the whole of the Sahelian belt.