

Al-Qaḥṭānī on the Astrologer Astronomers and the Spherical Earth

In the Nūniyyah poem of al-Qaḥṭānī—which outlines the Salafī creed and a refutation of what opposes it—there occurs:

كذب المهندس والمنجم مثله ... فهما لعلم الله مدعيان
الأرض عند كليهما كروية ... وهما بهذا القول مقترنان
والأرض عند أولي النهى لسطيحة ... بدليل صدق واضح القرآن
والله صيرها فراشا للورى ... وبني السماء بأحسن البنيان
والله أخبر أنها مسطوحة ... وأبان ذلك أيما تبيان

“The astronomer has lied [as has] the astrologer just like him. They both claim to hold the knowledge [that is with] Allāh. To them, the Earth is a sphere but with this saying they are fabricators. The Earth is stretched out, flat (*saṭīḥah*) by truthful evidence [that is] clear in the Qur’ān. Allāh has made it a spread out repose (*firāsh*) for the creation and He built the heaven with a most excellent construction. Allāh informed that it [the Earth] is flat, and made that clear with such elucidation.”¹

¹ Refer to *Nūniyyah al-Qaḥṭāniyyah* (Dār al-Ḥaramayn, Cairo, 1418H), p. 29.