

Al-Qurṭubī on the Shape of the Earth

The Mufasssir al-Qurṭubī wrote:

“The saying of the Exalted, **‘And the earth, we spread out (madadnāhā)’** (15:19), this is also from his favours and from what indicates the perfection of His power. Ibn ‘Abbās said: ‘We have spread it out on the face of water’ just as He said, **‘And thereafter He spread out the earth (daḥāhā)’** (79:30), meaning he spread it out (basaṭahā), and He said, **‘And the earth we spread out (farashnāhā) and what an excellent spreader we are’** (51:48) and he (Ibn ‘Abbās) is refuting the one who claims it is a sphere, and this has already preceded.”¹

Al-Qurṭubī also said regarding the verse, **“He is the one who spread out (madda) the earth”** (13:3), the following: “Meaning, he spread it out (basaṭa), in both length and width... and within this verse is a refutation of the one who claimed that the Earth is like a sphere.”²

¹ *Al-Jāmi‘ Li-Aḥkām al-Qur’ān*, Mu’assasat al-Risālah (1427H), 12/190-191.

² *Ibid.*, 12/8.