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Ibn Battuta, was a Muslim historian who travelled through West Africa and in 1325 reached the capital of the Mali Empire where he was invited by the mansa, or king, to the royal court.

Their king shows no mercy to anyone who is guilty of the least act of it. There is complete security in their country. Neither traveler nor citizen in it has anything to fear from robbers or men of violence... They are careful to observe the hours of prayer, and in bringing up their children to them.