

It was verdant and beautiful; most of its trees being coco-palms, areca-palms, clove-trees, Indian aloes, jack-trees,¹ Mangoes, Jamún,² sweet orange trees, and camphor-canes.

The port which they entered was called SARHA, four miles from the city of SUMATRA or Sumutra, the capital of the king called Malik Al-Dhahir, a zealous disciple of Islam, who showed the traveller much hospitality and attention.

Ibn Batuta remained at the Court of Sumatra, where he appears to have found officials and brethren of the law from all parts of the Mahomedan world, for fifteen days, and then asked leave to proceed on his voyage to China, as the right season had arrived. The king ordered a junk to be got ready, supplied the traveller with all needful stores, and sent one of his own people to accompany him and look after his comfort.³

After sailing, he says, for one and twenty days along the coasts of the country belonging to Malik-Al-Dhahir, they arrived at MUL-JAWA,⁴ a region inhabited by Pagans, which had an extent of some two months' journey, and produced excellent aromatics,

¹ *Shaki and Barki*. For details on which see *Fr. Jord.*, p. 13, and *supra*, p. 362.

² The French editors render this *Jambu*, but the *Jámun* which is meant here is quite another thing. On two former occasions (ii, 191; iii, 128) our traveller describes the fruit as being like an *olive*; which would be as like the *Jambu* or Rose-apple as a hawk is like a handsaw. The *Jámun*, which is common in Upper India and many other parts of the east, is really very much like an olive in size, colour and form, whilst the *Jambu* is at least as large as a duck's egg, in the different varieties exhibiting various shades of brilliant pink and crimson softening into white.

Erskine, in a note to Baber, notices the same confusion by a former commentator, and the source of it appears to be that the *Jámun* is called by botanists *Eugenia Jambolana*, the Rose-apple *Eugenia Jambu*, from which one must conclude them to be akin, though neither fruits nor trees have any superficial likeness (*Baber's Memoirs*, p. 325).

³ Respecting Malik-al-Dhahir, son of Malik-al-Salah, first Mahomedan King of Sumatra, see *Dulaurier*. The port of Sarha is identified by this scholar with *Jambu Air*, a village of the Batta coast between Pasei and Diamond Point. In that case the city of Sumutra or Samudra, which has given a name to the great Island, cannot have been so far west as Samarlanga (see *supra*, p. 86; *Journ. Indian Archip.*, ii, 610; *Journ. As.*, ser. iv, tom. ix, p. 124; *Id.*, tom. xi, p. 94).

⁴ See in note F at the end of the narrative, the editor's reasons for supposing Mul-Jawa to be a continental country on the Gulf of Siam.