

personal english



Character #12

Musa I Of Mali Mali

Musa Keita I (ca. 1280-1337) was the tenth **Mansa** (king) of the wealthy **West African Mali Empire**. He was a devout Muslim, and his **pilgrimage to Mecca** in **1324-1325** made him famous all over northern Africa and the Middle East in that he was followed by **60,000 men** (12,000 of whom were slaves), **each carrying 4 pounds of gold bars** and **80 camels**, each carrying **between 50 and 300 pounds of gold dust**. On his way to Mecca, Musa lavished gold on the poor he met along his route. A variety of historical sources report Musa's generosity as well as the way in which this generosity **inadvertently destroyed the economy** of the regions through which he passed. In the cities of Cairo, Medina, and Mecca, the **sudden influx of gold devalued the metal for an entire decade**. To rectify the gold market, Musa borrowed all the gold he could carry from money-lenders in Cairo, at high interest. This is the **only time recorded in history that one man directly controlled the price of gold in the Mediterranean**.



Click on the pictures to watch
Two **DOCUMENTARIES**
on Musa I of Mali.