**Creative Cartography**

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The [20th century Anglo-American map and the 10th century Anglo-Saxon map] are two maps of nof the same area drawn some ten centuries apart. While the modern map is the truer to geographical accuracy, the older one is truer to the values of the Middle Ages. More important to the Irish scholar who drew the world map for Bishop Sigeric was the socio-theological accuracy represented.

The Irishman's map shows the important position that the Mediterranean Sea held for Medieval people. It was the major avenue for trade and the usual means taken to reach the Holy Land, the center not only of the map but of the crusader's and their families' thoughts. The forces of greed and devotion did get mixed in those troubled times. Such is the nature of a "Holy War".

One of the most powerful forces in the exploration and mapping of the furthest reaches of the known world was the quest for Prester John. He was the fabulous Christian king of the mysterious East who would be the help needed to win back the Holy Land from the Moslems. It wasn't until several centuries later that the Portuguese missionaries discovered that Prester John was a mistranslation of the Abyssinian title Precious Jeanam and a confusion with the Mongol King Yelutashih who fought the Turks in the middle of the twelfth century.

The search for the wealth in both riches and manpower of the kingdom of Prester John extended throughout the Three Indias. This included not only the subcontinent of Asia that we now call India but also India Ethiopia and India Egyptii of Africa. The travelers tales of all the strange peoples and creatures of those far-off places blended into a grand legend of a lost island. It was enough to revive the stories of the Fortunate Islands of Saint Brendan of a thousand years before and enough to lead Columbus and Cortez on their own voyages of discovery of a new world.

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