

In the late 14th century, the great scholar Ibn Khaldun stood at the crossroads of history—a witness to the Arab civilization’s fading glory. He looked at a world where the East—once a beacon of knowledge and cultural flourishing—was declining. In his monumental work—*Al-Muqaddimah*—Ibn Khaldun did not just chronicle the events of his time. He depicted the very soul of a crumbling civilization. With poignant clarity, Ibn Khaldun saw the erosion of what once made the Arabs great—their native mastery of the Arabic language. He spoke of “al-Malaka”—that instinctive, natural command of Arabic, which had been the bedrock of Arab identity and intellectual achievements.

According to Ibn Khaldun, this linguistic purity began to weaken as the Arab world became more urbanized and mixed with other cultures and tongues. The Arabs once shaped the world with their words. But, they were now losing their grip on the very language that had carried their civilization to its zenith. In this loss of linguistic mastery, Ibn Khaldun identified a deeper, more troubling decline. The soul of the Arab civilization was decaying; its days of leadership in global intellectual and cultural affairs were slipping away.

Although he could only glimpse its early beginnings, Ibn Khaldun sensed the rising tide of the West on the horizon. In *Al-Muqaddimah*, he alludes to mysterious developments in Western Europe with a mixture of curiosity and resignation. He may have suspected that the torch of innovation and progress is passing from East to West.