

Granada Province during the Middle Ages -Study into its natural manifestations-

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Abstract:

Andalusia is considered one of the richest and most naturally diverse regions of the Islamic world. The country contains a group of regions, the most famous of which is Granada. Through this article, we attempt to highlight the most important natural features of the Granada region, including plains, mountains, and rivers. This region was distinguished by its richness and diversity of its natural features, which were represented by an extended mountain range, the most famous of which is Mount Shaleir. These mountain ranges are surrounded by a group of fertile and rich plains, the most important and prominent of which is the Granada Plain, or what is known as the Granada Prairie, The province of Granada is also distinguished by the abundance of its water sources, emanating from these mountain ranges.

Keywords: Andalusia; Granada; Province; Plain; Mountain; River.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Andalusia, located in the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula, is widely regarded as one of the wealthiest and most culturally diverse regions of the Islamic world, with a rich natural heritage that spans a variety of landscapes. Blessed by God with an extraordinary array of geographical features, Andalusia is home to high mountains, vast plateaus, and wide, flat plains that stretch across its territory. These geographical distinctions contribute to the region's remarkable natural wealth and diversity. The fertile soil, nourished by the region's varied climate, makes Andalusia a land capable of producing a broad array of agricultural crops, ranging from grains to fruits and vegetables.

Water sources are abundant and varied throughout the region, including rivers, springs, and wells, all of which have played a key role in supporting agricultural development. The moderate climate of Andalusia, with its mild winters and warm summers, is highly conducive to agricultural productivity, particularly in the cultivation of crops such as olives, citrus fruits, and wheat. The favorable climate and rich natural resources have long made Andalusia a center for both agriculture and pastoralism, with much of the region's economy dependent on the cultivation of the land and the raising of livestock.

As a result of these ideal conditions, Andalusia became one of the most important agricultural regions in the Islamic world, renowned for its high agricultural output and the diversity of crops produced. The region's agricultural success was not only a key contributor to the economy but also a defining aspect of its cultural identity, influencing everything from cuisine to trade practices.

Among the many regions of Andalusia, the province of Granada stands out as a particularly significant example of the region's agricultural prowess. Located in the southeastern part of Andalusia, Granada is celebrated for its natural beauty and the richness of its soil, which supports a wide variety of crops. The province's varied terrain, which includes both mountainous regions and fertile river valleys, has made it an agricultural powerhouse. Its climate and water resources have contributed to its reputation as one of the most important agricultural regions in all of Andalusia, making it a key player in the agricultural landscape of the Islamic world.

This leads us to the central question of this study: What are the most important natural features that shape the province of Granada? Understanding these features is crucial to comprehending how the region's agricultural success has evolved over time and what makes it unique within Andalusia.

The aim of this research is to provide a comprehensive exploration of the following topics:

1. Defining the specific terminological meaning of the term "region" as it pertains to the people of Andalusia.
2. Identifying the key regions of Andalusia and their significance in the broader context of the Islamic world.
3. Introducing the province of Granada, highlighting its geographical, cultural, and historical importance.
4. Examining the most important natural features that contribute to the unique landscape and agricultural productivity of the province of Granada.

By delving into these areas, this research will shed light on the factors that have shaped Granada's status as one of the most agriculturally significant and diverse provinces in Andalusia.

2. Andalusia regions:

2.1. Definition of the territory:

In the context of Andalusian terminology, the concept of "region" (or "territory") holds a specific meaning that refers to a geographical area centered around a major city, often the capital or metropolis of that region. This principal city serves as the focal point, from which the entire region derives its name and identity. It is the economic, political, and cultural hub of the region, and typically holds the distinction of being the most prominent urban center in the area.

A region, in this sense, is not limited to the urbanized capital alone, but encompasses the surrounding areas, including suburbs, smaller cities, towns, and villages that are administratively and financially linked to the central city. These outlying settlements form a network of interconnected communities that rely on the capital for governance, economic activities, and trade.

In addition to the urban centers, the Andalusian region extends to include the natural landscapes surrounding these cities and villages. These areas often consist of fertile orchards, expansive farms, and wooded forests. These agricultural and natural spaces are vital to the economic fabric of the region, supporting the livelihoods of its inhabitants through the cultivation of crops, the raising of livestock, and the provision of natural resources such as timber and fuel.

Moreover, the forests and pastures of the region are commonly shared by the people of the territory, serving as vital communal resources for grazing livestock, gathering firewood, and other uses essential to the agrarian economy. These shared resources are typically managed in a manner that reflects both local customs and administrative regulations, with the cooperation of local communities playing a key role in their sustainable use.

As Hussein Mu'nis describes, the term "region" in Andalusian usage thus encapsulates not only the urban and administrative heart of the area but also the rural landscapes and communal resources that support the broader population (Mu'nis, 1986, p. 565). It is a holistic view of a geographical territory, one in which cities, villages, and natural environments are all interconnected and interdependent. This understanding of "region" emphasizes the integration of urban and rural spaces, where each aspect—whether it is the central city, the surrounding suburbs, or the agricultural and forested lands—plays a vital role in the overall structure and identity of the Andalusian territory.

2.2. The most important regions of Andalusia:

Andalusia, a historically rich and culturally significant region of Spain, consists of a series of distinct provinces, each with its own unique natural features that made the area so fertile and agriculturally prosperous. The natural diversity within these regions is key to understanding the agricultural abundance that defined Andalusia throughout history. From rolling plains to towering mountain ranges, and from vibrant rivers to lush plateaus, the landscape fostered an environment where crops could thrive, making it one of the most important agricultural hubs in both the Islamic world and Europe.

The individual provinces of Andalusia are notable for their distinct landscapes and ecological advantages, each contributing to the region's overall agricultural success:

1. **Granada Province:** The province at the heart of the study, Granada is renowned for its historical significance, particularly due to the Alhambra. It also benefits from diverse natural features, including fertile plains and nearby mountainous regions that support a wide range of crops and a flourishing agricultural industry.
2. **Cordoba (Cordova):** Situated centrally in Andalusia, Cordoba is famous for being the "mother of cities" and the capital of the region. The city is surrounded by a large, fertile plain, rich with vineyards, olive groves, and grain fields. The Guadalquivir River flows through this region, providing vital irrigation to this agricultural land, while the Sierra Morena mountains provide natural protection and add to the area's beauty.
3. **Jaén Province:** Located to the south of Cordoba, Jaén is considered one of the richest provinces in Andalusia. It is abundant in fruits, especially olives, and boasts countless springs, making it one of the most fertile areas in the region. The landscape here is a blend of hilly terrains and rich plains that contribute to its agricultural bounty.
4. **Rejio (Malaga) Province:** Situated in the southeast of Andalusia, Malaga, also known as Rejio, enjoys an abundance of springs and rivers. The region is blessed with a mild climate, making it ideal for cultivating a wide variety of crops. Its fertile plains and proximity to the sea also make it an important agricultural and trade hub.
5. **Almeria Valley:** Known for its long, 40-mile stretch, this valley is one of the most fertile areas in Andalusia. Its lush orchards and productive gardens are nurtured by the temperate climate, allowing for the growth of a wide range of crops, including fruits and vegetables.
6. **Province of Tudmir (Murcia):** Located in eastern Andalusia, Murcia's land is famously fertile, benefiting from extensive irrigation systems powered by rivers. The region's agricultural success is reminiscent of the irrigation techniques used in ancient Egypt with the Nile. This province produces a diverse array of crops, particularly fruits.
7. **Moron Region:** Located in southwestern Andalusia, Moron is recognized for its fertile lands and abundant harvests. The region benefits from the blessings of a temperate climate and fertile soil, which allows for the growth of an array of good fruits and other agricultural products.
8. **Sidonia Province:** Connected to Moron and situated in the far south of Andalusia, Sidonia is a region endowed with a remarkable blend of coastal and inland blessings. Its fertile soil and perfect climate ensure that it produces a wide variety of crops, making it a highly productive area in terms of agriculture.
9. **Ocsonoba Region:** This region, located in the southwest of Andalusia, features a flat, fertile plain that is both abundant in agricultural produce and blessed with a temperate climate. The variety of crops grown here and the blessings of the land make it a key agricultural area in the region.
10. **Baja Province:** Situated in the western part of Andalusia, Baja's agricultural landscape is dominated by fertile lands that are well-suited for crop production. Its climate and soil conditions contribute to the region's productivity in grains and other staple crops.

11. **Saragossa Province:** Located in the far northeastern part of Andalusia, Saragossa is known for its rich soil and abundance of fruit orchards. The agricultural bounty of the area is unparalleled, making it one of the most fruitful areas of the region.
12. **Toledo Province:** Positioned in northern Andalusia, Toledo boasts fertile land with lush orchards, rivers, and gardens. The variety of fruits grown here, coupled with the quality of the crops, demonstrates the province's success in agricultural production.
13. **Sevilla Province:** In the southwest of Andalusia, Sevilla is both expansive and fertile, with a wealth of agricultural benefits. It is one of the largest and most prosperous provinces, known for its diverse crops, abundant water resources, and ideal agricultural conditions. Its western part, in particular, is especially fertile, with productive soils contributing to its reputation for abundance.

In conclusion, Andalusia is a region marked by its diverse and fertile landscape, with varying natural features across its provinces that contribute to its agricultural wealth. The favorable combination of soil, climate, and water resources resulted in an impressive array of crops being cultivated across the region. This rich natural environment played a significant role in making Andalusia one of the most prominent and influential agricultural centers in both the Islamic world and Europe. The prosperity of Andalusia's agricultural production not only shaped the region's economy but also helped establish its cultural legacy as a land of abundance and natural beauty.

3. Natural characteristics of the Granada region:

3.1. Introduction to the Granada Province:

This province is also called the Elvira Province, where it was attributed to the city of Elvira, because it was its base and the mother of its cities, and since the beginning of the fifth century AH/eleventh century AD, and after the creation of the city of Granada (and in other accounts the reconstruction of the city of Granada, because it was then a small city), It is located to the southwest of the city of Elvira, and is six miles away from it. People moved to Granada, and devastation has spread over Elvira since then, and its painting was obliterated, and only some dilapidated ruins remained. In return, the city of Granada grew and became great, and it became the capital of the region, and it has It is then called the region (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 1973, pp. 92-93), located in the southeastern corner of Andalusia. It is bordered to the north by the province of Jaén, to the east by the provinces of Tudmir and Almeria, to the west by the province of Rejio, and to the south by the Mediterranean Sea. This region includes a group of cities and villages, the most important of which are:

***The city of Granada:** It is also called Granada. The capital of the region and its largest city, and it is called the region. An Andalusian city with a glorious history, good spot, located to the southeast of Cordoba, a hundred miles away from it.

***The city of Guadix:** And It is spoken in Arabic as Wadi Ash. one of the works of Granada, and it is also called the city of Al-Achat. It is the second largest city in the region after Granada. It is located to the northeast of Granada and is forty miles away from it (about sixty (60) km) (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 23). It is a large and venerable city.

***The city of Loja:** And It is spoken in Arabic as Lushah. From the works of Granada, it is located west of the city of Granada, and is thirty-six miles away from it (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 2009, p. 89).

***The city of Baza:** And It is spoken in Arabic as Bastah. It is located in the northeast of Granada, 123 km away from it (Ibn Al-Khatib, 1983, p. 31), and it is near the city of Guadix. It is characterized by fertility and good air, and is famous for its abundance of water and orchards.

***The city of Amunecar:** And It is spoken in Arabic as Munakab. from the works of Granada, located on the Mediterranean coast, south of Granada, at a distance of forty miles from it (Al-Idrisi, 2002, p. 564).

***The city of Juliana:** A fortress and a medium city, one of the works of the city of Guadix, about a distance from it 12 miles (al-Maqarri, 1988, pp. 149-150).

***The city of Pego (Priego):** from the works of Granada, located north of the city of Loja.

***The city of Andorax:** from the works of Granada, fertile soil, abundant water.

***The village of Salobrena:** one of the works of Granada, located on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, south of Granada, east of the city of Amunecar, and ten (10) miles away from it.

***The village of Finana:** one of the works of Granada. It is a village near the city of Guadix, located to the south of it, with many orchards and types of fruits.

***Turrox village:** one of the works of Granada, a semi-coastal village, located west of the city of Amunecar.

***The village of Comares:** one of the works of Granada, and located near it, is a rich agricultural area, especially famous for the cultivation of fruit trees, such as grapes, olives, and figs.

***The village of Abila:** A village in the Granada province, located south of the village of Finana.

***The village of Motril:** a small semi-coastal village, belonging to the province of Granada.

3.2. Natural characteristics of the Granada region:

The terrain in this region varied, ranging from high mountains, wide flat plains, and abundant rivers. The most important natural landmarks of this region:

3.2.1. The plains of the Granada Province:

In Andalusian terminology, the term used to describe a plain is **Al-Mahrath**. This word reflects the distinctive agricultural nature of the Andalusian landscape, where plains were often used for farming and crop cultivation. The term "Al-Mahrath" is deeply rooted in the region's agricultural identity, as the plains were essential for growing grains, fruits, and other crops that sustained the population.

Another term associated with the plains of Andalusia is **Kanbaniya**, which appears in sources such as al-Maqarri (al-Maqarri, 1988, pp. 154, 460), And Ibn Al-Khatib (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 1973, p. 96). This term is thought to have derived from the Castilian word **Campo**, which in Old Spanish referred to a simple, easy-to-farm land or field. "Campo" reflects the fertile and manageable quality of the plains in Andalusia, which were ideal for agricultural activities. In this context, "Kanbaniya" emphasizes the usability and productivity of the land, making it central to Andalusian agricultural prosperity.

There is also a suggestion that the term **Al-Kanbaniyah** or **Al-Qanbaniyah** may be derived from the Latin word **Campania**. Campania, historically referring to a region in ancient Italy, means "spacious plain" or "field." This connection highlights the widespread cultural and linguistic exchange in the Mediterranean world, where Latin influence left its mark on the Andalusian lexicon, especially in relation to agriculture and land.

Additionally, the Andalusian plain is also referred to as **the Bekaa**, a term that traces its origins to the Arabic word for plain or fertile land. This term is closely linked to the **Spanish word "La Vega"**, which is the plural form of **"Las Vegas"** (Mu'nis, 1986, p. 564). The term "Vega" specifically refers to the fertile floodplain of a river, often surrounded by mountains or hills, which is ideal for agricultural production. The word "La Vega" has become a widely recognized term in Spanish to denote lush, productive plains. Its roots can be traced back to the Arabic influence on Andalusian agriculture, where terms like **Bekaa** and **Vega** became synonymous with abundant farmland and agricultural richness.

In summary, the terms used in Andalusian agriculture, such as **Al-Mahrath**, **Kanbaniya**, **Campania**, **Bekaa**, and **Vega**, reflect the region's long history of agricultural development and the influence of various linguistic and cultural sources. These terms not only describe the land but also highlight the significance of plains in the region's agricultural economy and its interactions with the broader Mediterranean and European cultures. The legacy of these terms continues to shape how the fertile plains of Andalusia are understood today, emphasizing their role in supporting a thriving agricultural tradition.

***Granada Plain:**

The most important plain of the Granada region is the famous plain called "Marej Granada" (the Meadow of Granada), Fahs Granada, and in Spanish La Vega de Granada (Enan, 1997, p. 23), which is a simple, monotonous, vast, green, and fertile plain. Ibn al-Khatib said about it: "And God Almighty has praised it [i.e., the Meadow of Granada]. In a simple plain penetrated by streams and rivers, and in which villages and gardens crowd together in the best of conditions, and it is a spacious plain, far in the regions" (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 2009, p. 45). Al-Maqarri said about him: "If it had [Granada] nothing but what God Almighty has allocated for it of the long, wide meadow, it would have been sufficient for it" (al-Maqarri, 1988, p. 148).

This plain is located southwest of the city of Granada, and extends west to the city of Loja. This plain is surrounded to the south and east by a high mountain range. As for the area of this plain, Al-Himyari estimated it to be more than a day's distance in its size (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 24). As for Ibin Saeed Al-Maghribi, he estimated the area at a distance of two days (Ibin Saeed Al-Maghribi A. i., 1993, p. 102); In general, its length is estimated at forty miles or so, its width is twenty-four miles, and its circumference is eighty-one miles (Ibin Al-Khatib, 1973, p. 99).

What increased the richness of this plain and the fertility of its soil was the flow of many rivers throughout it, and these rivers worked to fertilize the soil with the silt and rich and diverse organic materials they carried. And to provide the necessary water to irrigate agricultural lands. This contributed to the abundance and diversity of its agricultural crops, which bestowed on this plain a lot of goodness and more blessings, and made it one of the richest and most famous plains in all of Andalusia.

As for the agricultural value of this plain, it was described as: “The most useful spot, and the most generous soil. No tree is known to be used or exploited except that it gives birth in this plain, and there is no fruit that is described and admired [extraordinary], except that there is no fruit Above it [its superiority]” (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 24), and Muhammad Abdullah Annan described him as: “The days of the Islamic State were green and abundant in fertility, the greenest and most creative of the green parts of Andalusia, like one of the gardens of the world.” (Enan, 1997, p. 23).

As for its agricultural production, this plain has been described as: “Many fruits, many trees, and many types of good deeds” (Ibin Ghalib Al-Andalusi, 1955, p. 283). The most famous crops that the Granada Plain provides are:

Wheat, as this plain was described as a sea of wheat, and corn was also grown in this plain, and corn was the sustenance of many poor people, nomads, and peasants in this region of Granada, and the Granada Plain was also famous for growing pomegranates (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 1973, pp. 96, 137), so much so that the name Granada is said It is derived from the name pomegranate “Rummanah” in the language of the original inhabitants of Al-Andalus (al-Hamawi, 1977, p. 195), or from the Roman word Granata, which means pomegranate, and it was named that because of the large number of pomegranate gardens surrounding it (Enan, 1997, p. 22); Flax is also grown in this plain, and is distinguished by its high quality, and the surplus is exported to some Islamic countries (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 24).

In addition to the Granada Plain, the region includes other plains, but they are less in area and less famous than Granada Plain, the most important of which are:

***Guadix Plain:** This plain is located north of the city, and is penetrated by several small streams and rivers. It is an extremely fertile plain, abundant in water, fruits, and good things. This plain is famous for producing the following crops: olives, vines, and apples, especially for Juliana Fort, whose apples were distinguished by their large size, sweet taste, and the intelligence of their scent and purity (al-Maqarri, 1988, p. 149), and it was used as a proverb in Andalusia, in addition to the cultivation of cotton. And the spread of mulberry trees through it, as the establishment of the silk industry depends on it.

***Baza Plain:** It is located south of the city of Baza. This plain is characterized by fertility and good air, and is famous for its abundance of water and orchards. Its most famous crops: olives, mulberry trees, saffron, the latter’s economic importance lies in the fact that it was not only used in the manufacture of perfumes, but it was also included as a cooking ingredient in many Andalusian dishes (author, 1961-1962, p. various pages).

***Abla Plain:** The length of this plain (Al-Fahs) is twelve (12) miles (Al-Idrisi, 2002, p. 567), and it is a flat. monotonous plain Its most famous crops: vines (grapes), and mulberry trees.

***The Priego Plain:** an extremely fertile and prosperous plain, well-cultivated, abundant in fruits, and abundant in water. Its most famous crops: olives, vines, figs, mulberry trees, and saffron.

***Amunecar Plain:** A narrow coastal plain with abundant fruits, and is especially famous for growing bananas, which are distinguished by their high quality. Sugar cane is also grown there.

***Salobrena Plain:** A narrow coastal plain, in which bananas and sugar cane are plentiful.

***Motril Plain:** A small, rich coastal plain, planted with various fruits and vegetables.

3.2.2. Mountains:

Among the prominent natural landmarks in the province of Granada are the mountains surrounding its plains. Among the most prominent of these mountains is Mount Shalier (It is spoken in Arabic as Shulayr), which is called the Snow Mountain, because the snow does not leave this mountain range in winter or summer (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 112). It is called Sierra Nevada in Spanish, meaning the snowy mountain range, and the Arabic pronunciation is Schaleir; Taken from the Latin Solarius or Solarus, meaning the mountain of the sun, because of the sun's reflection on the bright snow that covers it (Enan, 1997, p. 23).

This mountain is located in the southeast of Granada (its qibla), and is at a distance of two farsakhs (that is, six miles, where a farsakh is estimated at three miles) (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 1973, p. 96), and it is said ten miles (Al-Qalqashandi, 1915, p. 215); It extends south, where its southern slopes overlook the coast of the Mediterranean Sea (Al-Idrisi, 2002, p. 570), and this mountain is extremely high and lofty, and due to its great height, it is visible from most of Andalusia, and even from the far north of Morocco; The length of this mountain was estimated to be two days' journey (Al-Himyari, 1988, p. 112).

Thanks to this mountain and its distinctive natural characteristics, there was an abundance of water in the province of Granada and its plains, as it was mentioned that more than twenty rivers flowed from it (Ibn Saeed Al-Maghribi A. b., 1970, p. 167). Rather, it was said that thirty-six rivers flowed from it (Ibn Al-Khatib, 1973, p. 96), and many springs gush from its slopes. Thanks to this mountain, the air of the entire region was also healthy, orchards and gardens multiplied, and taffy grew, and medicinal herbs and medicinal drugs abounded (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 2009, p. 46). Its important agricultural crops include flax and mulberry trees.

In addition to the Shaleir mountain range, there are other mountains in the Granada region, including: Alpujarras Mountains, which are plateaus and highlands located south of the central Shaleir Mountains (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 1973, p. 164), close to the Mediterranean Sea, and are famous for their fertile lands and abundant gardens (Tawil, 1994, p. 46). There is also Mount Al-Fakhar, which represents an extension of the Shaleir Mountains overlooking the Granada Plain from the northern side, and today it is called Monte Alfacar in Spanish (Ibn Al-Khatib, 1973, p. 121). Ibn Battuta also mentioned two other mountains in the province of Granada: Mount Al-Uqab overlooking the outside of Granada, which is adjacent to the ruins of the city of El Beira, and is about eight miles from the city of Granada; And Jabal Al-Sabika, which is connected to the valley of Najd from outside Granada (Ibn Battuta, 1987, p. 685).

3.2.3. Rivers:

Among the most prominent natural landmarks in the Granada region are its rivers, which are integral to both the geography and the prosperity of the area. The region is widely renowned for its abundance of springs and rivers, which are often described as having copious amounts of water that contribute to the area's lushness and fertility. These rivers have played a crucial role in sustaining the surrounding environment and supporting the agricultural and urban development of Granada throughout history. Among the most important of these rivers, in terms of both abundance and significance, is **the Shenil River**, which has held particular historical and economic importance.

The Shenil River, also known by several different names in various sources, was referred to as Shinjil and Shinjl by Ibn Al-Khatib (Ibn Al-Khatib, 1973, p. 211). The name Sinjil was used by Annan, and in Spanish, it is known as Genil or Xenil (Enan, 1997, p. 23). The river originates from the Shaleir mountain range, situated in the southern part of Granada. It flows from this mountainous region, traveling south before reaching the western part of the city of Granada. Once it approaches the city, the Shenil River cuts through the fertile Granada Plain, or marj, which extends over an impressive distance of forty miles. This vast plain is dotted with orchards, villages, farms, and homes, all of which benefit from the river's nourishing water (Ibn Fadlullah Al-Umari, 2010, p. 117).

The Shenil River, along with other smaller tributaries that feed into it, played a vital role in enhancing the fertility of the Granada Plain. It provided the necessary irrigation for the many crops grown in the region, ensuring the area's agricultural productivity, particularly during periods of drought. This reliable water source allowed the Granada Plain to flourish as one of the most fertile and productive areas in Andalusia, known for its abundance of fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural goods.

In addition to benefiting the agricultural landscape, the Shenil River was also an essential water source for the city of Granada itself. The river supplied water for the city's residents, providing for their daily needs. Furthermore, it powered numerous mills (or millstones), which were essential for grinding grain and processing various goods. These mills were driven by the various streams and channels branching off from the main river, showcasing the river's critical role in the economic and industrial activities of the city (Ibn Al-Khatib, 1973, p. 119).

Thus, the Shenil River was not only a natural feature that enhanced the beauty of the region but also a lifeline that supported both the agricultural and urban development of Granada. Its steady flow helped sustain the population, powered local industries, and contributed to the prosperity of the entire Granada Plain, cementing its status as one of the most important rivers in Andalusia. Through centuries of history, the river remains a symbol of the region's resilience and resourcefulness, crucial to the livelihoods of its people.

***The El-Darro** (or Hadaro) River, historically referred to as the Al-Fallum River (Ibn Ghalib Al-Andalusi, 1955, p. 283), holds significant historical and geographical importance. This river has its origin in the mountain range located east of the Shaleir mountain range. From its source, it meanders through fertile lands, passing between orchards and farms, nourishing the agricultural life of the region. As it approaches the city of Granada from the east, the river splits the city into two halves, providing essential water to the urban landscape.

The water from the Hadaro River was crucial to the functioning of various important city features, including the grand baths, mosques, bustling markets, halls, and residences of prominent figures. Additionally, numerous districts within Granada were established along the river's banks, emphasizing its centrality to the city's development (Ibn Fadlullah Al-Umari, 2010, p. 118). The river's role was far-reaching, supporting the daily life of the population and contributing to the city's success and sustainability.

It is noteworthy that the Hadaro River, along with the Shenil River, shares a unique connection. After flowing through Granada, these two rivers converge outside the city, on the

southern side (the qibla direction). Once merged, they form a single watercourse that flows westward, making its way across the fertile Granada Plain. This joint river system continues its journey until it eventually empties into the Guadalquivir River (Ibn Al-Khatib L. A.-D., 2009, p. 46).

The combined impact of the Shenil and El-Darro Rivers cannot be overstated. These rivers played a vital role in irrigating the fields and orchards along their path, particularly in times of drought. Thanks to this life-giving water, the Granada Plain blossomed into a lush, verdant paradise, rich with a wide variety of fruits, berries, and other agricultural products. The plain, nourished by the consistent flow of these rivers, became one of the most fertile and prosperous regions in Andalusia. Its fame as a thriving agricultural hub, teeming with abundance, further cemented its reputation as one of the richest and most important plains in the entire region.

Through their historical, agricultural, and cultural contributions, the El-Darro and Shenil Rivers stand as key elements in the legacy of Granada, helping to shape the landscape into a fertile and thriving center of life in medieval Andalusia.

4. CONCLUSION:

Finally, the province of Granada, located in the southeast of Andalusia, has diverse natural features, including fertile plains, high mountains, and abundant rivers. Perhaps the most prominent of these natural features is the famous plain or meadow of Granada, which was distinguished by its richness, thanks to its fertile soil and moderate climate. And the abundance and abundance of its water sources, especially rivers, the most important of which are the Shenil and Hadaro(El-Darro) rivers. Most of these rivers originate from the mountain ranges surrounding those rich plains. Among the most famous of these mountain ranges are the Shaleir Mountains, the latter distinguished by its extended length and great height. This diverse and rich nature in the province of Granada had a positive impact on the abundance and diversity of agricultural crops in this region, which gave the province of Granada fame and leadership in the entire country of Andalusia.

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