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*Al-Samaw'al and the Errors of the Astronomers: Where the Mistake Really Lies*

Ibn Yahya al-Maghribi al-Samaw'al, a 12th-century converted Jew most known for his contributions to an arithmetical revolution in algebra, also wrote an intriguing but rarely studied book entitled *Exposure of the Errors of the Astronomers*. In it he takes shots at many of his predecessors, as far back as Ptolemy, for choices that they had made in their astronomical methods. Some of his criticisms seem odd, almost off the wall to a modern reader, but perhaps there are lessons here for an understanding of the medieval scientific mind. We shall explore some of his criticisms and attempt to put into historical context the rationality behind his criticisms.