

Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

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CHAPTER EIGHT

AI-RAZI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF NEXUS BETWEEN HUMAN MIND AND BODY

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8.1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of this chapter is to discuss Razi's contribution to the development of traditional psychology, linking the human mind and body. It is of note that the significance of this chapter is appreciating efforts of Islamic thinkers and scientists like Razi and his valuable and outstanding contributions to the field of psychology. The method adopted in this research is based on library materials, internet sources and academic discussions. The theory and the research framework are limited to focusing mainly on reviewing the person of Al-Razi, nexus between the human mind and body and other similar Razi's outstanding contributions.

8.2 ABU BAKR MUHAMMAD IBN ZAKARIYA IBN YAHAYA AL-RAZI

Known as Rhazes in the West, Muhammad Ibn Zakariya al-Razi was born in the city of Rey on 26th August, 865 in Iran. A prominent figure in Islamic Golden Age, Razi later became a preeminent pharmacist, physician, alchemist, philosopher, scholar and psychologist. (Arberry, A.J., 1950, p. 2). He was first placed in-charge of the Royal Hospital at Ray, from where he soon moved to a similar position in Baghdad where he remained the head of its famous Muqtadari Hospital for a long time. He gained practical experience at the Muqtadari Hospital helped him in his chosen profession of medicine. At an early age he gained eminence as an expert in medicine and alchemy, so that patients and students flocked to him from distant parts of Asia. His name is commemorated in the Razi Institute near Tehran in Iran.

His contribution in medicine was so significant that it can only be compared to that of Ibn Sina. (www.ummah.net). Some of his works in medicine e.g. Kitab al-Mansoori, Al-Hawi, Kitab al-Mulooki and Kitab al-Judari wa al-Hasabah earned everlasting fame. In addition to being a physician, he went beyond his predecessors in dividing substances into plants, animals and minerals, thus in a way opening the way for inorganic and organic chemistry. This classification of the three kingdoms still holds. He was the first to differentiate smallpox from measles, write extensive notes on diseases such as smallpox and chickenpox, and produce acids such as sulfuric acid. (Adlrd, C.J. 1848. p. 252).

Razi was a rationalist and very confident in the power of ratiocination; he was widely regarded by his contemporaries and biographers as liberal, free of prejudice, and bold in expressing his ideas. He was surrounded by several circles of students and was a