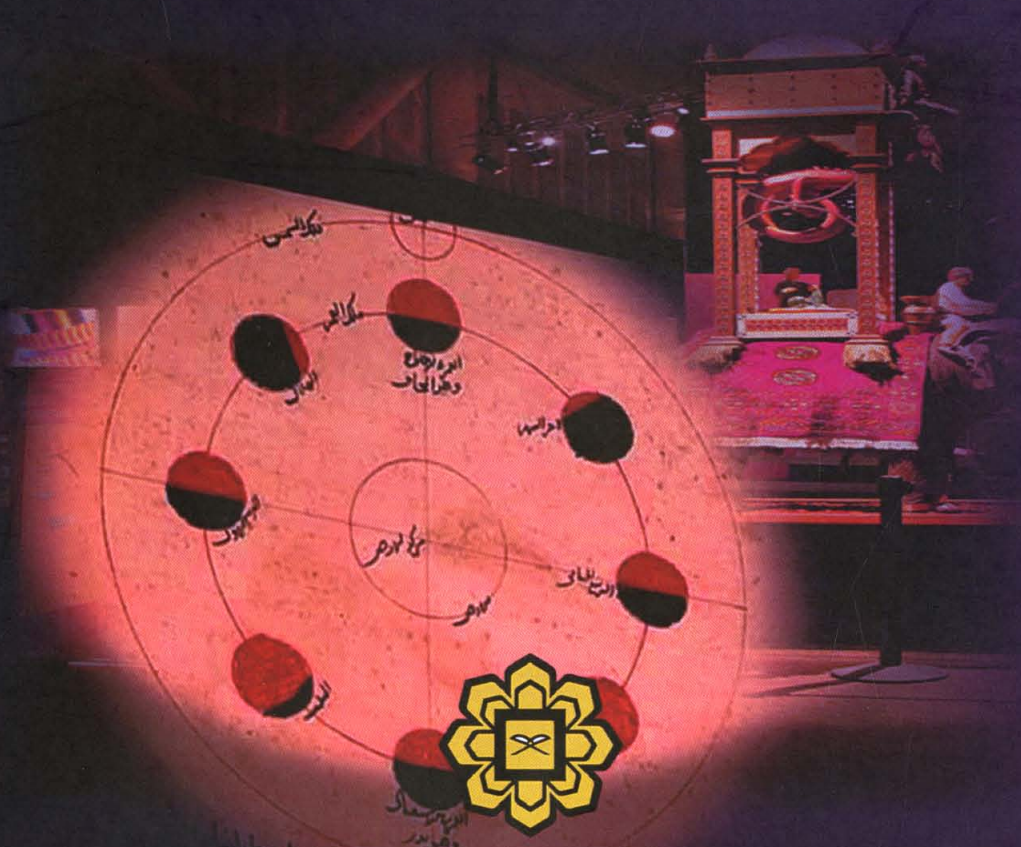


Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

Abdi O. Shuriye
Raihan Othman



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CHAPTER ELEVEN

IBN ZUHR ON DISEASES AND TREATMENTS

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11.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter investigates the contributions of Ibn Zuhr on diseases and treatments. The methodology adopted in this chapter is library based and data is collected from reliable sources. The main focus of the chapter is to provide answers on the causes and effects of disease and the treatments involved. The research explores the famous work of Ibn Zuhr namely Kitab Al-Taysir which is a medical encyclopedia.

11.2 CONTRIBUTIONS ON DISEASES AND TREATMENTS

11.2.1 Tracheotomy

Abu-Marwan Abdel-Malik Zuhr Al-Eyadi Al-Eshbeely lived Eshbeelia, now Spain. His Kitab al-Taysir is one of the important early works on medicine. He discussed diverse diseases and attempted to provide treatments.

Tracheotomy is the surgical incision into the trachea usually performed when the upper air passage has been blocked. In a research article conducted by Abdel-Halim (2005), he reported the original Arabic edition of the book Al-Taisir Fil-Mudawat Wal-Tadbeer (Book of Simplification Concerning Therapeutics and Diet) written by Ibn Zuhr (Avenzoar, 1093-1162 AD) aimed at evaluating his contributions to the progress of surgery and providing English translations of relevant excerpts. Abdel-Halim mentioned that Ibn Zuhr's unique experiment performing a tracheotomy on a goat, proved the safety of this operation in humans and represented a further step in the development of the experimental school started by Al-Razi (Rhazes) of Baghdad in the ninth century who is known to have given monkeys doses of mercury to test it as a drug for human use.

Furthermore, Ibn Zuhr also performed post mortems on sheep in the course of his clinical research on treatment of ulcerating diseases of the lungs. Moreover, he invented the surgical procedure of tracheotomy (Makki, 2006). He was the first to give a correct description of the tracheotomy operation for suffocating patients. The following translation (Al-Khoori, 1983, p.129) from Al-Taysir of Ibn Zuhr shows how he used experimentation on animals in his search for evidence in the course of looking for a treatment for lung ulceration:

“....Thus remedies for lung ulcerations are there around in the universe but are yet unknown to us. That is because sheep when caught with a lung disease do leave