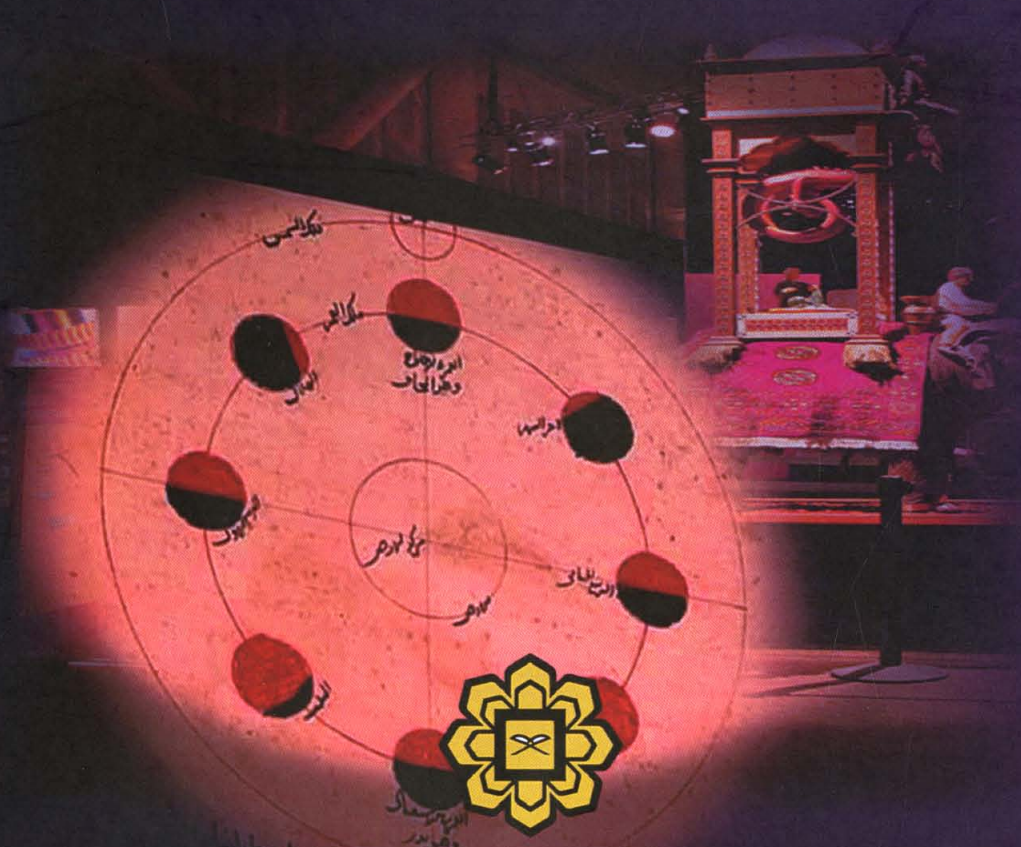


Contributions of Muslim Scientists to Medicine and Related Sciences

Abdi O. Shuriye
Raihan Othman



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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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CHAPTER TWENTY SIX

AL-ZAHRAWI CONTRIBUTION TO MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS

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26.1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of this chapter is to illustrate the Muslim heritage in medical aspect especially and its contribution to medical instruments. The methodology that applies for this chapter is data compilation from various academic sources. The significance of this chapter is to acknowledge the contribution of Al Zahrawi in medicine and instrumentation used which influent today medicine.

26.2 THE MEDICAL ASPECT BACKGROUND IN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Initially, in the early days of Islam, there were some arguments to source from which medical technique among Greek, Chinese and Indian. After intense arguments, the Islamic physicians were given free option to study and adopt any techniques they wished with Islamic faith as filtration. The major contribution of the Islamic Age to the history of medicine was the establishment of hospitals, paid for by the endowment donations known as Zakat tax (Shuttleworth M., 2010). Islamic hospital began in 8th century Baghdad they looked after lepers, the invalid and the destitute. The first proper hospital as shown in Figure 1 was built in Cairo between 872 and 874 CE. The name of this free of charge hospital is Ahmad ibn Tulun. It comes with two bath houses, one for men and one for women, a rich library, and a section for the insane, medical services includes bloodletting, bone setting and cauterization. It has an incredible management where patients could deposit their street clothes and their valuable belonging for safe keeping. Then the hospital will provide ward clothes and bring them to their beds (Al-Hassani, Salim T.S, 2007, p.154).



Figure 1. The First organized hospital, Ibn Tulun Mosque, Cairo, Egypt.
This figure is adopted from: (Al-Hassani, Salim T.S, 2007, p.154)

These hospitals, as well as providing care to the sick on site, sent physicians and midwives into rural areas, famine community. It also facilitated place for physicians and