



Medieval Education and Learning in the Islamic World

By Horace Mann

Education and learning in the Islamic world achieved great heights during the Middle Ages. When Europe was held in a "Dark Age", the Islamic Empires established a "Golden Age" of learning, science, art, and architecture.

The Arabs benefited greatly from the Greeks and other cultures. They eagerly translated this classical knowledge in philosophy, medicine, math and science into Arabic. They established great universities and libraries. They built upon the knowledge of Greece, India, North Africa, and China and shared this knowledge throughout the Islamic World. Students flocked to these universities and schools.

The knowledge that was preserved and created during this period of history was a source for the later achievements in Europe, a later golden age of learning and art known as the European Renaissance.

But learning was not only for the scholars! Every Muslim was supposed to learn as much as possible.

What do the Qur'an and Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad) say about education?

A. Religious and Secular (not religious) Knowledge

There are two kinds of knowledge which are very important for a human being. Secular knowledge (non-religious knowledge) is for day to day problem-solving and religious knowledge is "for a smooth life on earth and hereafter." Religious knowledge included knowledge of the Qur'an and the laws of Islam which was the basis for the Muslim way of life.

The Prophet Muhammad said: "Attainment of knowledge is a must for every Muslim."

B. Respect for Knowledge

The text of the Qur'an is filled with verses inviting man to use his intellect (mind, intelligence), to ponder (think deeply), to think and to know. To Muslims, "the goal of human life is to discover the Truth which is none other than worshipping God in His Oneness." The Hadith literature is also full of references to the importance of knowledge. "Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave", and "Verily (truly) the men of knowledge are the inheritors of the prophets", and "Seek knowledge, even as far as China". These ideas have echoed throughout the history of Islam and encouraged Muslims to seek knowledge wherever it might be found. During most of its history, Islamic civilization has been witness to a true celebration of knowledge. That is why every traditional Islamic city possessed public and private libraries, and some cities like Cordoba and Baghdad boasted of libraries with over 400,000 books. Scholars have always been held in the highest esteem (respect) in Islamic society."

The Importance of Literacy (being able to read)

A. Libraries in Islamic Cities and in European Cities

1. Islamic culture valued literacy. In the ninth century, the library of the

monastery of St. Gall was the largest in Europe. It boasted 36 volumes. At the same time, that of Cordoba contained 500,000.

2. It took much more than paper to create an intellectual and scientific culture like that of Islamic Spain. Islam, with its tolerance and encouragement of both secular and religious learning, created the necessary climate for the exchange of ideas. It has been estimated that today there are 250,000 Arabic manuscripts in Western and Eastern libraries, including private collections. Yet in the 10th century private libraries existed which contained as many as 500,000 books.

3. Later destruction of books - The Mongols and Spanish Christians

In later conquests, many of the written works were destroyed. In 1256, the Mongols destroyed Baghdad. Two million Muslims were massacred (killed, wiped out). The major scientific institutions, laboratories, schools, and even roads and waterways in leading Muslim centers of civilization were destroyed. The books from the House of Wisdom were either burned or dumped into the Euphrates River. There were so many books dumped into the river that the waters turned black with their ink.

Another wave of destruction came when the Christians took over Spain in 1492. More than one million volumes of Muslim works on science, arts, philosophy and culture were burnt in the public square in Granada.

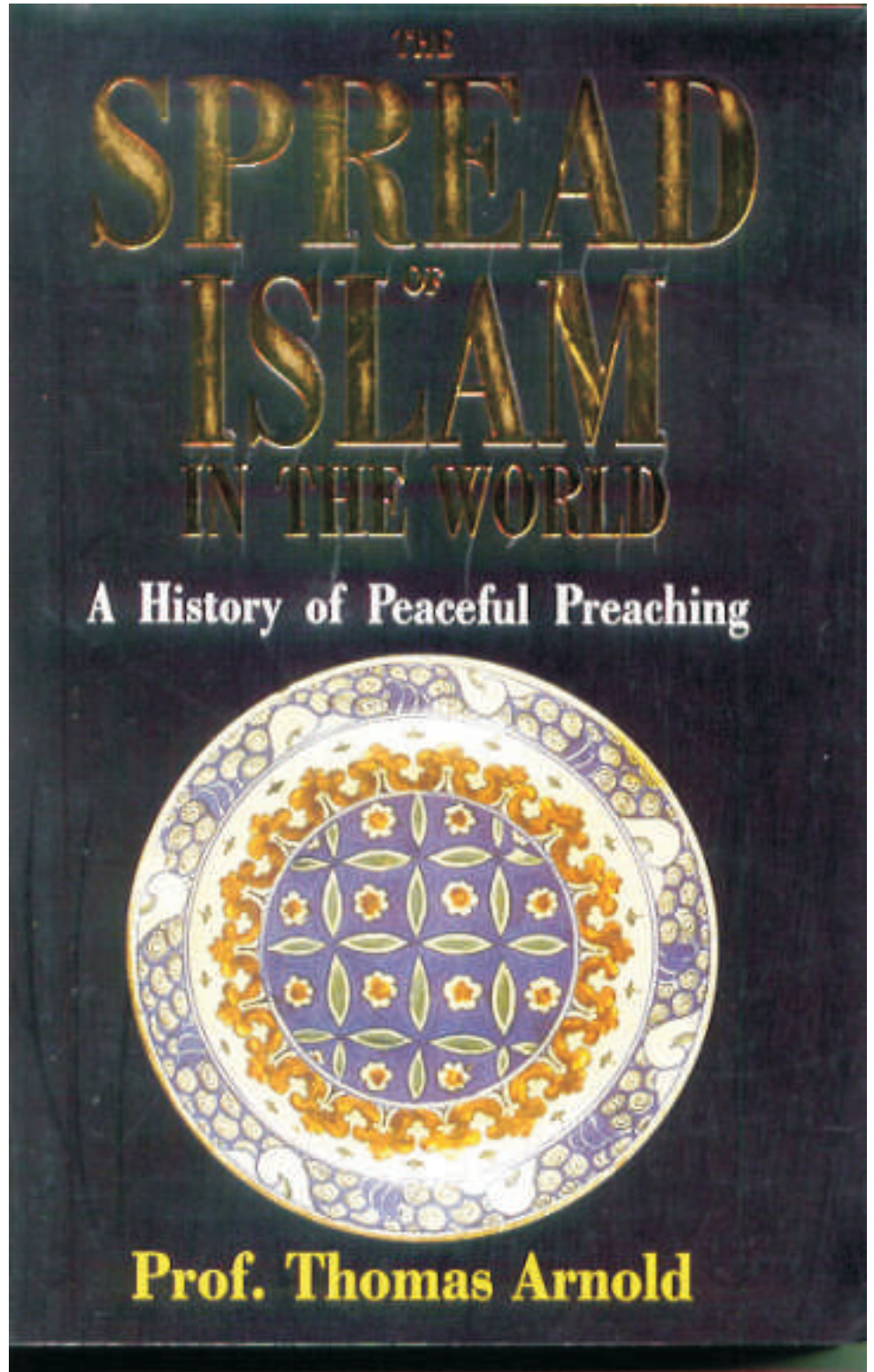
Literally millions of books must have perished, and with them the achievements of a great many scholars and scientists. If these books had survived, they might have changed the course of history. Only a tiny portion of existing Arabic scientific texts have been studied, and it will take years to learn more of the contributions of Muslim scientists to the history of ideas.

B. Exchanging Ideas and Debating

Ideas were studied, discussed, and debated freely. Below is a miniature painting which gives a feel for the debates. What do you think this debate is about? What are the books that are being studied? Who do you think are the two men that are seated higher than the others?

C. The Importance of Paper

Paper was first invented in China and then the Muslims learned how it was made. (Actually Chinese paper makers were taken prisoner and forced to teach their captors how to make paper!) Soon paper replaced parchment (the skin of animals) and papyrus (a plant made into a kind of "paper" in ancient Egypt). A paper mill (factory) was built in Baghdad and books written in Arabic were kept in libraries, homes, and sold in bookstores. The development of paper made it possible for a great many people to get books and learn from them. This was an important advance which affected education and scholarship, which shows the slow spread of paper making through the Middle East, across North Africa, and into Europe.



ISBN: 8187570229

Author: Prof Thomas Arnold

Publisher: Goodword Books (2002)

Pages: 467

Binding: Paperback

This book which forms Prof. Thomas Arnold's magnum opus deals with a subject which few have broached to this day and gives an authoritative history of the expansion of Islam through peaceful preaching and missionary activity. The author has covered most of the countries where Muslims live. This book is a chronicle of fundamental importance and worth possessing.



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YOUR COMMENTS

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Please ensure to include your contact telephone number.

Note: Due to space constraints, your contributions should be concise to be considered for publishing.



PASSING OF BENAZIR BHUTTO

28 December 2007

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel today expressed deep sadness of the Muslims of Australia at the passing of Ms Benazir Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the first female Prime Minister in the Muslim world and popular opposition leader of Pakistan.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils is saddened with the ongoing cycle of violence in Pakistan, President Ikebal Patel commented. Violence is not a means of solving political differences.

At the end of the day the will of the people through the democratic process will be needed to solve the present crises in Pakistan.

Mr Patel further stated that whilst the people of Pakistan are going through a very testing and trying period, the Australian Muslims hope and pray that dialogue, patience and tolerance of all views will be the winner in achieving an amicable and long lasting solution.

"It is also hoped that during these difficult times for the people of Pakistan, the entire world community will provide the country with support and not take advantage of the present turmoil for their own vested interests." Mr Patel urged.



PM'S APOLOGY TO INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

12 February 2008

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel today welcomed the Prime Minister, Mr Rudd's pledge to offer an apology to the stolen generations of indigenous Australians.

Mr Patel said that the Muslims of Australia strongly support reconciliation with indigenous Australians and apologising to the owners of this land for any wrongdoings in the past will build a deep and solid foundation for Australia to move forward and build a strong nation based on inclusiveness that has been a corner stone of our multicultural country in the past. The Muslims of Australia are always willing to extend a helping hand to the disadvantaged and is looking forward to establishing closer relationship with Indigenous Communities.

The whole country can now embrace this significant event and use it as a stepping stone to make tangible difference to the lives of our indigenous Australians and some form of monetary compensation from the government to recompense the pain and suffering would be a good start. Mr Patel further said an apology will be a significant landmark in the history of Australia and once again congratulates Mr Rudd and his government for making it a reality on Wednesday 13 February 2008.

AFIC CONDEMNS ISRAELI AGGRESSION

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils unequivocally condemns the brutal atrocities inflicted upon the people of Palestine.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils calls upon the Australian Government to take a stand with the rest of the world in not only to stop the aggression but to become proactive in calling for an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories and finding a just and peaceful solution to the long and brutal conflict that has seen the deaths of thousands of innocent people.

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC), Mr Ikebal Adam Patel said that Israel has a proven record of committing brutal atrocities causing immense suffering to thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians. "Where is the call for Israel's accountability?" asked Mr Patel. He further said that justice for all must be applied equally if we are to see an end to this cycle of violence. He added that it will be wise for all parties not to continue to inflame and deteriorate the situation. If the aggression continues, there may be retaliation and many innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives will be lost.

AFIC also expresses deep concern at the muted responses from the US and other countries including Australia against the Israeli aggression. This is a moral, historical and humanitarian duty, as it is clear that the Israeli authorities have taken advantage of the world's silence to continue its aggression. The international community including the US and Australia cannot continue to ignore the plight of the Palestinian people any longer. The situation is explosive not only for the middle east but for the peace and security of the entire world. The security of the region cannot be dictated by one country alone. Urgent action must be taken by the world community to find a just solution to this long conflict that is tearing apart the peace and security of the entire globe.

THE VALUE OF Education *in Islam*



Sayings of Prophet Muhammad (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

The superiority of the learned

Kathir ibn Qais said: I was sitting with Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him) in a mosque in Damascus when a man came and said, "O Abu Darda! In truth, I have come to you from Madina, the city of the Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) for a tradition which I have heard you relate from the Prophet of Allah, and I have not come on any other account". Hadrat Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Verily, I heard the Prophet of Allah say: "He who treads the path of knowledge, Allah makes him tread a path that leads to Paradise, and the angels take him under the shelter of their wings. Everything in the heaven and on the earth and in the depths of the seas pray for benediction for the man of learning. Truly, the superiority of a learned man over a mere devotee is like that of the full moon over the stars. Indeed, the learned are the heirs of the Prophets. The Prophets leave no heritage of gold or silver, their heritage is nothing but knowledge. Whoever therefore receives this heritage, his portion is indeed great". (Ahmad, Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah and Darimy)

Hadrat Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) related that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said, "One man of learning is harder on the devil than a thousand devotees". (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah)

Acquire knowledge from the cradle to the grave
Hadrat Abu Said Al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said, "A believer is never satiated with gainful knowledge. He goes on acquiring it till his death and entry into Paradise". (Tirmidhi)

Knowledge and Good Deeds

Hadrat Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) reported Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) as saying, "Two people only may be envied: a man to whom Allah (The Glorified and the Exalted) has given property, empowering him to dispose of it on what is right; and a man to whom Allah (The Glorified and the Exalted) has given wisdom and who acts according to it and teaches it". (Bukhari and Muslim)

The merit of the teacher of the Qur'an

Sayyidina 'Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him) reported Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) as saying, "The best among you is he who learns and teaches the Qur'an". (Bukhari)

Intelligent Questioning

Hadrat Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrates that Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said: "Moderation in expenditure is half of economy, friendship with good people is half of wisdom and intelligent questioning is half of knowledge". (Bayhaqi)

The learned will intercede

Sayyidina 'Uthman ibn 'Affan (may Allah be pleased with him) reported Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) as saying, "Three groups will make intercession on the Day of Resurrection: the Prophets, next the learned, next the martyrs". (Ibn Majah)



1. Coffee

The story goes that an Arab named Khalid was tending his goats in the Kaffa region of southern Ethiopia, when he noticed his animals became livelier after eating a certain berry. He boiled the berries to make the first coffee. Certainly the first record of the drink is of beans exported from Ethiopia to Yemen where Sufis drank it to stay awake all night to pray on special occasions. By the late 15th century it had arrived in Mecca and Turkey from where it made its way to Venice in 1645. It was brought to England in 1650 by a Turk named Pasqua Rosee who opened the first coffee house in Lombard Street in the City of London. The Arabic qahwa became the Turkish kahve then the Italian caffè and then English coffee.



2. Chess

A form of chess was played in ancient India but the game was developed into the form we know it today in Persia. From there it spread westward to Europe - where it was introduced by the Moors in Spain in the 10th century - and eastward as far as Japan. The word rook comes from the Persian rukh, which means chariot.

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INVENTIONS *by Muslims*

GREATEST



3. Parachute

A thousand years before the Wright brothers a Muslim poet, astronomer, musician and engineer named Abbas ibn Firnas made several attempts to construct a flying machine. In 852 he jumped from the minaret of the Grand Mosque in Cordoba using a loose cloak stiffened with wooden struts. He hoped to glide like a bird. He didn't. But the cloak slowed his fall, creating what is thought to be the first parachute, and leaving him with only minor injuries. In 875, aged 70, having perfected a machine of silk and eagles' feathers he tried again, jumping from a mountain. He flew to a significant height and stayed aloft for ten minutes but crashed on landing - concluding, correctly, that it was because he had not given his device a tail so it would stall on landing. Baghdad international airport and a crater on the Moon are named after him.



4. Shampoo

Washing and bathing are religious requirements for Muslims, which is perhaps why they perfected the recipe for soap which we still use today. The ancient Egyptians had soap of a kind, as did the Romans who used it more as a pomade. But it was the Arabs who combined vegetable oils with sodium hydroxide and aromatics such as thyme oil. One of the Crusaders' most striking characteristics, to Arab nostrils, was that they did not wash. Shampoo was introduced to England by a Muslim who opened Mahomed's Indian Vapour Baths on Brighton seafront in 1759 and was appointed Shampooing Surgeon to Kings George IV and William IV.



5. Metal Armor

Quilting is a method of sewing or tying two layers of cloth with a layer of insulating material in between. It is not clear whether it was invented in the Muslim world or whether it was imported there from India or China. But it certainly came to the West via the Crusaders. They saw it used by Saracen warriors, who wore straw-filled quilted canvas shirts instead of armour. As well as a form of protection, it proved an effective guard against the chafing of the Crusaders' metal armour and was an effective form of insulation - so much so that it became a cottage industry back home in colder climates such as Britain and Holland.



6. Surgery

Many modern surgical instruments are of exactly the same design as those devised in the 10th century by a Muslim surgeon called al-Zahrawi. His scalpels,

bone saws, forceps, fine scissors for eye surgery and many of the 200 instruments he devised are recognisable to a modern surgeon. It was he who discovered that catgut used for internal stitches dissolves away naturally (a discovery he made when his monkey ate his lute strings) and that it can be also used to make medicine capsules. In the 13th century, another Muslim medic named Ibn Nafis described the circulation of the blood, 300 years before William Harvey discovered it. Muslims doctors also invented anaesthetics of opium and alcohol mixes and developed hollow needles to suck cataracts from eyes in a technique still used today.



7. Soup

Ali ibn Nafi, known by his nickname of Ziryab (Blackbird) came from Iraq to Cordoba in the 9th century and brought with him the concept of Ali ibn Nafi, known by his nickname of Ziryab (Blackbird) came from Iraq to Cordoba in the 9th century and brought with him the concept of the three-course meal - soup, followed by fish or meat, then fruit and nuts. He also introduced crystal glasses (which had been invented after experiments with rock crystal by Abbas ibn Firnas - see No 4)



8. Pay Cheques

The modern cheque comes from the Arabic saqq, a written vow to pay for goods when they were delivered, to avoid money having to be transported across dangerous terrain. In the 9th century, a Muslim businessman could cash a cheque in China drawn on his bank in Baghdad.



9. Rocket and Torpedo

Though the Chinese invented saltpetre gunpowder, and used it in their fireworks, it was the Arabs who worked out that it could be purified using potassium nitrate for military use. Muslim incendiary devices terrified the Crusaders. By the 15th century they had invented both a rocket, which they called a "self-moving and combusting egg", and a torpedo - a self-propelled pear-shaped bomb with a spear at the front which impaled itself in enemy ships and then blew up.



10. Windmill

The windmill was invented in 634 for a Persian caliph and was used to grind corn and draw up water for irrigation. In the vast deserts of Arabia, when the seasonal streams ran dry, the only source of power was the wind which blew steadily from one direction for months. Mills had six or 12 sails covered in fabric or palm leaves. It was 500 years before the first windmill was seen in Europe.



11. Refinement

Distillation, the means of separating liquids through differences in their boiling points, was invented around the year 800 by Islam's foremost scientist, Jabir ibn Hayyan, who transformed alchemy into chemistry, inventing many of the basic processes and apparatus still in use today - liquefaction, crystallisation, distillation, purification, oxidation, evaporation and filtration. As well as discovering sulphuric and nitric acid, he invented the alembic still, giving the world intense rosewater and

other perfumes and alcoholic spirits (although drinking them is haram, or forbidden, in Islam). Ibn Hayyan emphasised systematic experimentation and was the founder of modern chemistry.



12. Shaft

The crank-shaft is a device which translates rotary into linear motion and is central to much of the machinery in the modern world, not least the internal combustion engine. One of the most important mechanical inventions in the history of humankind, it was created by an ingenious Muslim engineer called al-Jazari to raise water for irrigation. His 1206 Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices shows he also invented or refined the use of valves and pistons, devised some of the first mechanical clocks driven by water and weights, and was the father of robotics. Among his 50 other inventions was the combination lock.



13. Pointed Arch

The pointed arch so characteristic of Europe's Gothic cathedrals was an invention borrowed from Islamic architecture. It was much stronger than the rounded arch used by the Romans and Normans, thus allowing the building of bigger, higher, more complex and grander buildings. Other borrowings

from Muslim genius included ribbed vaulting, rose windows and dome-building techniques. Europe's castles were also adapted to copy the Islamic world's - with arrow slits, battlements, a barbican and parapets. Square towers and keeps gave way to more easily defended round ones. Henry V's castle architect was a Muslim.



14. Pin-Hole Camera

The ancient Greeks thought our eyes emitted rays, like a laser, which enabled us to see. The first person to realise that light enters the eye, rather than leaving it, was the 10th-century Muslim mathematician, astronomer and physicist Ibn al-Haitham. He invented the first pin-hole camera after noticing the way light came through a hole in window shutters. The smaller the hole, the better the picture, he worked out, and set up the first Camera Obscura (from the Arab word qamara for a dark or private room). He is also credited with being the first man to shift physics from a philosophical activity to an experimental one.



The Messenger of Allah,

sallaAllahu `alaybi wa sallam

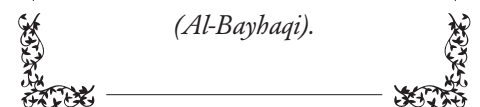
(peace and blessings be upon him)

said, "Verily, Allah loves that

when anyone of you does a job he

should perfect it"

(Al-Bayhaqi).





15. Vaccination

The technique of inoculation was not invented by Jenner and Pasteur but was devised in the Muslim world and brought to Europe from Turkey by the wife of the English ambassador to Istanbul in 1724. Children in Turkey were vaccinated with cowpox to fight the deadly smallpox at least 50 years before the West discovered it.



16. Fountain Pen

The fountain pen was invented for the Sultan of Egypt in 953 after he demanded a pen which would not stain his hands or clothes. It held ink in a reservoir and, as with modern pens, fed ink to the nib by a combination of gravity and capillary action.

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 0

17. Numerical Numbering

The system of numbering in use all round the world is probably Indian in origin but the style of the numerals is Arabic and first appears in print in the work of the Muslim mathematicians al-Khwarizmi and al-Kindi around 825. Algebra was named after al-Khwarizmi's book, *Al-Jabr wa-al-Muqabilah*, much of whose contents are still in use. The work of Muslim maths scholars was imported into Europe 300 years later by the Italian mathematician Fibonacci. Algorithms and much of the theory of trigonometry came from the Muslim world. And Al-Kindi's discovery of frequency analysis rendered all the codes of the ancient world soluble and created the basis of modern cryptology.



18. Carpets

Carpets were regarded as part of Paradise by medieval Muslims, thanks to their advanced weaving techniques, new tinctures from Islamic chemistry and highly developed sense of pattern and arabesque which were the basis of Islam's non-representational art. In contrast, Europe's floors were distinctly earthly, not to say earthy, until Arabian and Persian carpets were introduced. In England, as Erasmus recorded, floors were "covered in rushes, occasionally renewed, but so imperfectly that the bottom layer is left undisturbed, sometimes for 20 years, harbouring expectoration, vomiting, the leakage of dogs and men, ale droppings, scraps of fish, and other abominations not fit to be mentioned". Carpets, unsurprisingly, caught on quickly.



19. Gardens

Medieval Europe had kitchen and herb gardens, but it was the Arabs who developed the idea of the garden as a place of beauty and meditation. The first royal pleasure gardens in Europe were opened in 11th-century Muslim Spain. Flowers which originated in Muslim gardens include the carnation and the tulip.



20. Earth is in sphere shape?

By the 9th century, many Muslim scholars took it for granted that the Earth was a sphere. The proof, said astronomer Ibn Hazm, "is that the Sun is always vertical to a particular spot on Earth". It was 500 years before that realisation dawned on Galileo. The calculations of Muslim astronomers were so accurate that in the 9th century they reckoned the Earth's circumference to be 40,253.4km - less than 200km out. The scholar al-Idrisi took a globe depicting the world to the court of King Roger of Sicily in 1139.

*Source: wonderfulinfo.com Prepared by Alexander Timoshik
www.pravda.ru*

Exhibition recognises cameleers' place in history



Muslim cameleer Bejab Dervish at Mullewa, WA, leaving for the Calvert Expedition in 1896. (National Library: B10486/1 SLSA)

An exhibition recording the contribution of Muslim cameleers to Australia's history is now open at the National Library in Canberra.

Muslim cameleers - known as Afghans in Australia - were instrumental in establishing communication and supply links between Australian coastal and inland towns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Curator Dr Philip Jones says the Afghans contributed significantly to Australia's economic and cultural development.

"They successfully negotiated these enormous obstacles across the landscape and brought supplies and provisions and took wool and minerals back to ports from the inland in a way that was predictable and efficient," he said.

Dr Jones says that the cameleers have rarely been given adequate credit for their achievements and their place in Australian history has been largely unrecorded until now.

"The durability and the power of the European settler myth you might say, based entirely on the idea that it was Europeans that formed the pioneering spirit in central Australia, has really overwhelmed this story and marginalised it," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/12/11/2115630.htm?section=justin>



Message from the Chief Policing Officer for the ACT

I wish to extend my warmest greetings to all Australian Muslims and in particular, those within the ACT community. Having recently commenced as Chief Policing Officer for the Australian Capital Territory, I am strongly committed to ensuring ACT Policing continues to build on our already-strong relationship with all of Canberra's many diverse communities.

As part of this commitment, ACT Policing and the wider AFP actively seeks to recruit people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to make sure we adequately represent the community we serve. I would strongly encourage anyone with an interest in an exciting and challenging career in law enforcement to apply for a position with the AFP further details are available on our website at www.afp.gov.au/recruitment.

In Canberra, we run many different programs aimed at ensuring all members of our community can enjoy a positive relationship with police. Communication is a key ingredient to effective community policing and keeping the lines of communication open is vital. One way we facilitate open communication is through our Multicultural Liaison Officer (MLO), who is based in Canberra's city centre and performs a valuable role interacting with Canberrans and is providing CALD community members with information about ACT Policing.

I look forward to continuing our work with you, our community.



HALAL IN ISLAM

Within the Islamic religion, a strong emphasis is placed on cleanliness - both spiritually and in the context of food and drink. For a food or drink product to be approved for consumption it must conform to the Islamic dietary laws as specified in the Qur'an, the Hadith (sayings) of the Prophet Muhammad, his Sunnah (tradition) and in the Fiqh (understanding) of the Islamic Jurists: Hanafi, Shafi', Maliki and Hambali. The Qur'an has numerous injunctions instructing Muslims to choose and consume good and wholesome foodstuffs.

In the selection of food and drink, Islam has laid down three very important guidelines, namely;

1. Whether the consumption of the foodstuff is prohibited by Allah,
2. Whether the foodstuff is obtained through Halal or Haram means, and
3. Whether or not the material is harmful to health.

There are several factors that determine the Halal/Haram status of a particular foodstuff. Amongst others, it is dependent on its nature, how it was processed and where it originated from.

As an example, any pig product is considered Haram because the material itself is Haram. Whereas beef from an animal that has not been slaughtered according to Islamic rites would still be considered Haram.

Also Haram is food that has been stolen or acquired through unethical means. Islam also prohibits the usage of any materials that are detrimental to the spiritual or mental well-being of a person, such as alcoholic drinks and drugs.

The concept of Halal in Islam has very specific motives;

1. To preserve the purity of religion
2. To safeguard the Islamic mentality
3. To preserve life
4. To safeguard property

5. To safeguard future generations
6. To maintain self-respect and integrity.

Islam encourages its followers to choose Halal foods. This awareness is always propagated in Muslim societies and is strengthened by the widespread knowledge extolling the virtues of consuming clean and Halal foods.

Due to advancements in food technology and distribution, Muslims are more exposed to various ingredients and manufactured foods imported into Muslim countries.

The most common of these are food additives, gelatine, emulsifiers and rennet in cheese manufacture. The Muslim community would like to know whether or not the addition, the ingredients or the finished foods contain any Haram substance.

These products can become Halal if the raw materials are Halal and the process is compatible with the Islamic way.