

MUSLIM'S CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE



An inside story by: Jamil Nsubuga

It should be noted that majority of people both Muslims and Non-Muslims are so ignorant about the Muslim's contribution to modern science and technology.

I therefore decided to undertake an empirical research in this field so as to provide evidence that a number of Muslim scholars and scientists have done or did a lot in the advancement of science in the world. The entire world has benefited much from these scientific discoveries and Islamic civilization. It has also been discovered that Muslims pioneered in most these discoveries that have been advanced by modern scientists worldwide.

Under the Abbasids rule, the Islamic empire enjoyed a brief but brilliant golden age in arts and sciences. This specifically took place during the reign of Caliph Haruna Al-Rashid from 786 to 809 AD.

These early Muslim scholars were inspired by ancient Greek sources from the ideas of Aristotle and Plato, medical knowledge of Galen and from the manuscripts taken to Baghdad's **House of Wisdom**. This was a huge library where scholars translated Greek texts into Arabic. After mastering these Greek sources, many Muslim scientists went

on to make their own discoveries and inventions.

SOME OF THE NOTABLE WORKS OF MUSLIM SCIENTISTS

a) First Chemical Laboratories

The first chemists to work in laboratories were Islamic alchemists, who tried to turn ordinary metals into gold. It was an impossible task, but as they worked, alchemists found ways to separate one chemical compound from another.

b) Treatment of Disease

The greatest names in Islamic medicine were **Rhazes** and **Ibun Sina**. Rhazes (850-923AD) wrote more than 100 treatises on medicine. The most famous of these directed doctors on how to diagnose small pox and treat it before the patient's condition became worse.



Ibun-Sina (980-1037AD) wrote a five volume encyclopedia that guided doctors of Europe and southwest Asia for six centuries.



Muslim doctors also excelled in the preparation of medicines.

- c) **Use of the Astrolabe.** This was first by ancient Greeks; the astrolabe was rediscovered and improved by Muslim astronomers.
- d) **Mathematics.** One of the Muslim's many mathematical wizards was called Al-Khwarizmi. He wrote a textbook in the 800's explaining "the art of bringing together unknowns to match a known quantity." He named this technique **Al-Jabr** which is today called Algebra in modern Mathematics.

Al-khwarizmi, A muslim mathematician, father of Algebra and Algorithm. A true super hero of all time.



Invention of zero (0) digit.

Muslims mathematicians pioneered the discovery of the zero digit which missed in the Greeks and Romans number system. From then it was spread to Western Europe. Without zero, higher mathematics would have been almost impossible. We therefore today speak of using **Arabic numerals or symbols from (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 used to represent numbers.**

In other international languages these Arabic numerals are as follows;

French → chiffre arabe

German → arabische ziffer

Italian → numero arabo

Portuguese → algarismo arabico

Spanish → numero arabigo.

For evidence check any English dictionary for the word, "Arabic numeral".