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Islamic Golden Age

1150 words

In the middle of the 8th century, there was a very prosperous civilization of the Muslims, which spread across the world, started in the capital of Baghdad. The dynasty of Abbasid was a ruler at that time and they sought the importance and value of knowledge. The Abbasid caliph did followed The Prophet Muhammad's assertion which clearly said that the knowledge of a man is much more valuable than the blood of sufferer who dies for religion¹. Therefore the Muslims started to develop many new inventions and finally became the center in many fields. Furthermore, there was a House of Wisdom² in Baghdad where all the scholars discussed new ideas and it was also a place that translation began. As a result, this most successful period was called the Islamic golden age or Islamic Renaissance, which lasted for 400 years. **During this progressive period, the Muslims invented many new innovations, which gave extremely splendid benefits to the modern world, in the fields of science, medication and technology.**

In science, astronomy, a subfield of science, was the most popular and successful in the golden age. In the reign of Abbasid Caliphate, Islamic astronomer brought the work

¹ "The knowledge of a man is much more valuable than the blood of sufferer who dies for religion" Islamic Golden Age. 10 Sep 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

² "The house of Wisdom" Islamic Golden Age. 10 Sep 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

of Ptolemy, the Persian astronomer, in order to study and advance the theory³. The enhancement made by the Muslims allowed new generations of astronomers to understand the evolution of the Sun, Moon and the many planets in the universe⁴. Moreover, this study made the Arabic scholar to be able to determine that there were 365 days in one year⁵. The great contrivance made by the Arabs allowed everyone to know that there are something exist outside the planet Earth. Furthermore, without this study, no one would know what year is it or what time is it right now. It may be difficult to live a life because ones could not manage their time. Another subfield of science that was prosperous in the period of the golden age was mathematics. The useful methods of algebra and geometry were originated in Greek but they were made advances by Islamic mathematicians, Euclid, Archimedes, and Apollonius⁶. Algebra is one of the most beneficial methods due to its everyday use in everybody's life. For example, in daily life, everyone adapts the principal of algebra for calculating money when they go to buy something or use its basic principal for doing account after finish their shopping. Another important method that had developed by the Muslims is geometry. Without the basic principal of geometry, architectures and engineers would find it hard to design and build buildings. It is evident that if the Muslims did not develop these mathematic theories, our world would not be this civilized or people might live in houses that were made out of straw like Stone Age people.

³ "...brought the work of Ptolemy..." Islamic Golden Age-Science. 10 Sep 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

⁴ "...allowed the new generations of astronomers..." Islamic Astronomy. 10 Sep 2012. < <http://www.experiment-resources.com/islamic-astronomy.html>>

⁵ "...there were 365 days in one year" Islamic Astronomy. 10 Sep 2012. < <http://www.experiment-resources.com/islamic-astronomy.html>>

⁶ "Euclid, Archimedes, and Apollonius" Islamic Golden Age-Science. 10 Sep 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate >

The development in medicine took place in the 9th century due to the interaction with foreign countries through trade, Islamic scholars started to study the system of medicine. The Islamic physicians had diagnosed many symptoms such as small pox. Furthermore, they found remedies for particular diseases from natural resources, for example, *Papaver somniferum* Linnaeus, and *Cannabis sativa* Linnaeus⁷. The physicians did not find treatments only from natural resources but also invented techniques that required skills, which are bloodletting and cauterization⁸. These two techniques are used for stop the bleeding but bloodletting was used with more serious case of illness. Moreover, they developed surgery and established hospitals⁹. Islamic hospitals were real perfect model for the modern hospital because there were both inpatient and outpatient sectors, as well as the delivery unit that were sent to serve soldiers who were harmed. Due to intelligence of the Muslims in their golden age, today's medical profession is very successful. If the Arabs did not introduce innovations, there would not have a development in the medication field. For instance, if the Muslims did not introduce the surgery, there might not be the technology of Laparoscopic Surgery, the way that the surgeon inserts the camera into patient's body in order to make it easier for them to do the operation. Imagine that without their discoveries and inventions, medical field would not be this prosperous and the rate of death of the entire world would increase as the lack of good quality in medical system.

⁷ “*Papaver Somniferum* Linnaeus, and *Cannabis sativa* Linnaeus” *Medicine in the Medieval Islamic World*. 13 Sep 2012. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_in_the_medieval_Islamic_world>

⁸ “...bloodletting and cauterization” *Medicine in the Medieval Islamic World*. 15 Sep 2012.< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_in_medieval_Islam>

⁹ “...established hospitals” *Medicine in the Medieval Islamic World*. 15 Sep 2012.< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine_in_medieval_Islam>

Even though the Muslims did not originally invent most of the achievements, they did enhance those theories that they brought from Greek and Chinese until they became perfectly useful. One of the good examples is papermaking¹⁰. The Arabs learned how to make paper from Chinese and produced it in their own way by using linen, which makes it much easier to write on. Consequently, the process of making paper by the Muslims were developed by latter generations time after time and finally become the process we are using nowadays. Moreover, the Arabs invented lots of things especially in farming. As everyone knows that Agriculture has been number one job since the New Stone Age or about 5000-year ago. As well as in the Islamic golden age, agriculture was also one the most famous jobs. Since many people worked in this field, they started to develop new technology for a better cultivation. The first technology that they develop is irrigation and later they began to use windmill¹¹. Furthermore, new source of energy was introduced. It was a watermill¹², the source for industry because many types of machine do need this power in order to produce something. Nowadays, waterpower invention of the Muslims is still in use. It helps producers to reduce their input cost and helps people to perform fewer tasks. Moreover, machines facilitate the process of producing and also reduce time in each step. Evidently, it is undeniable to say that these Islamic technologies are one of the best of all technologies that were invented in that era. Assume that if irrigation and some machines had not been created, farmer might not have known how to make an efficient irrigation or people might have had to work instead of using machine or ways of

¹⁰ “Papermaking” Islamic Golden Age-Technology. 12 Sep 2012.<
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

¹¹ “The first technology that they develop is irrigation and later they began to use windmill” Islamic Golden Age-Technology. 12 Sep 2012.< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

¹² “watermill” Islamic Golden Age-Technology. 12 Sep2012.<
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbasid_Caliphate>

producing energy from natural resources may still be undiscovered and people would have consume more of energy from other sources that have limited amount.

The modern world would not be flourishing if there were lack of intellectuals in the past. Therefore, everyone must thank the Arabic scholars in the Islamic Golden Age who invented many contrivances in literature, science, medicine, and technology. It is obvious that without them life would be much harder. No one would know why the sky was dark or hospital might not exist and patients might die immediately after they caught the disease because remedies were not yet be founded. In addition, people may have to work harder as machines were not invented by the Muslims. As everyone can see that no such a thing is more important than knowledge of a man. It is the only thing that could change the world.

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