

May 2013

RENAISSANCE MONTHLY

Your monthly update on The Renaissance Project



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDER

Mohamed Al Qadhi

Friends,

Ramadan is fast approaching and with it, comes the opportunity to give back to our community. There is something about this month that drives people to go out of their way and do something good.



Ramadan thus offers the perfect opportunity to organize a charity event aimed at improving the lives of the less fortunate.

Last year, we launched a blood donation campaign that witnessed a great turnout. This year, I would like to reach out to all our readers and ask them for ideas on what we can do. If you have anything in mind, please contact me directly at moqadi@gmail.com or 0097150-101-6026

On the publishing front, I am currently in London where I am discussing the content of Chapter 12 with my editors and dear friends. Hopefully, Chapter 12 and 13 can be released in June of this year, right before Ramadan.

On the scholarship front, I am currently working on completing a sponsorship deal that would bring much needed revenue to the purpose of expanding our program. I have also started working on raising funds for the 2013/2014 academic year from private donors and the response has been great so far. If you are interested in contributing, please contact me directly.

Finally, we are in the process of redesigning our logo. Alanoud has been kind enough to create a few prototypes that we are fine tuning. I hope to introduce the new logo soon and would love to get your feedback when this is done.

Thank you

Mohamed Al Qadhi

"The Father of Optics"

Al Haythem - Muslim of the Month

By Yasmine Sager

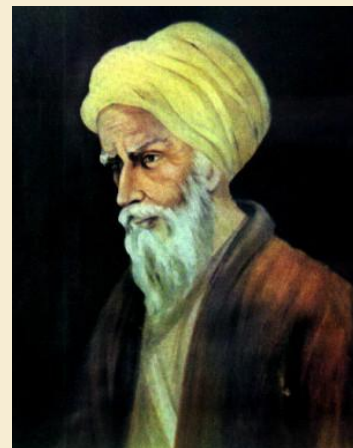
In the line of influential physicists, Sir Isaac Newton first comes to mind. But centuries before there was Newton, another physicist laid the foundation for those to follow. Considered the father of modern optics and one of the most important physicists of the early Middle Ages, his name was Ibn al-Haytham.

Born in 965, al-Haytham (Alhazen in Latin) received his education in Basra. Of his many contributions to a number of fields, he is most regarded for his achievements in optics.

Examining the passage of light and its dispersion into colors, he was the first to discover that light travels in straight lines. He was also the first to correctly describe the eye and the process of vision, proving Ptolemy's and Euclid's theory invalid.

Al-Haytham's discoveries in optics led to his work with the camera obscura (al-Bayt al-Muthim), a device that projects an image of its surroundings onto a screen. He used it to explain the connection of the optic nerve with the brain, and why we view and define images the way we do. Camera obscura, Latin for "private" or "dark room," later led to the invention of the camera, and in some variation is still used to this day. In addition to his work in optics, al-Haytham possessed an extensive background in mathematics and physics. He created analytical geometry and studied the mechanics and motions of the body—arguing that the body moves perpetually unless stopped by an external force, or what was later referred to as the first law of motion.

Medieval biographers believe al-Haytham wrote more than 200 works in his time, of which 96 scientific works are known. Though most of his publications have been lost with time, few of them have survived, including his most noteworthy, "Book of Optics" (Kitab al-Manazir). Through his writing style, al-Haytham developed a systematic relationship between observation, hypothesis, and verification, now known as the scientific method. In doing so, he established the very basis for experimentation used by past and present scientists. A Muslim and an esteemed physicist, Ibn al-Haytham contributed to many essential scientific discoveries, in theory and practice, and provided instrumental guidance to later physicists.



Watch AYAH of the Month!

Our new feature videos, AYAH of the Month, can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheRenaissanceProj>

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AYAH OF THE MONTH EPISODE 4

إِنَّا عَرَضْنَا الْأَمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَبَيْنَ أَنْ يَحْمِلْنَهَا وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحَمَلَهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ ظَلُومًا جَهُولًا (٧٢) – سورة الأحزاب



The Power of Motivation What Drives us to Work?



What motivates us to work? Is it money? Or is it our desire to contribute to society? To master a skill? To do something meaningful with our life?

The video above presents the results of various research studies that address motivation; the results of which are shocking.

WHO WE ARE GRATEFUL TO Heya El Assi Shamma – Geologist



In this segment, we recognize the work of individuals who have contributed to the success of the project. This month, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to **Heya El Assi Shamma**, who's support has been critical to the development of Part 2 of Al Kitab.

Trying to find a geologist that was willing to edit and review this part of the book proved to be a nightmare. Thankfully, I was introduced to Heya who was kind enough to take time out of her busy schedule and provide valuable feedback that made Part 2 a success. I would like to take this time to personally thank Heya for her contribution; it will not be forgotten.

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