

THE ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ENCYCLOPEDIA SCHOLARS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL CULTURE IN THE 9TH-12TH CENTURIES

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ABSTRACT

The Central Asian region achieved remarkable progress in science and culture during the ninth to twelfth centuries. This period produced numerous scholars and intellectuals who left an extensive spiritual and intellectual legacy. Their major works exerted considerable influence not only on the era in which they lived, but also on the subsequent development of science. The scholarly heritage of al-Khwarizmi, al-Biruni, Ibn Sina, al-Farabi, and other scholars occupies a distinctive place in the spiritual and cultural life of this period. One of the principal reasons for this development was the formation of centralized states in the region, which created favorable conditions for the advancement of science and architecture. As a result, a culture recognized throughout the world reached a high level of development.

Keywords: *Central Asia, Islam, Khurasan, spirituality, algebra, the Middle Ages, astronomy.*

INTRODUCTION

Ancient and glorious history, an enduring and majestic culture, and an unfading, distinctive spirituality are among the qualities that distinguish our homeland from many other peoples.

Historical evidence shows that the foundations of our unique spirituality and culture were formed in very ancient times. This can be observed in the sacred book Avesto, one of the earliest sources related to our history. From that period to the present, a broad and rich spiritual and cultural heritage has developed.

After the Arab conquest of our region in the seventh and eighth centuries, the sacred religion of Islam entered the area and spread widely. Islam exerted a major positive influence on the spiritual and cultural life of the region. In such major fields as science, art, and architecture, Transoxiana and Khurasan began to achieve significant advances. During the Great Eastern Renaissance of the ninth to twelfth centuries, outstanding geniuses of their age emerged in various fields of learning. In Abdulkarim al-Samani's *Al-Ansab* (he lived and worked in 1113-1167), it is stated: "At that time, there were eight cities in the Caliphate referred to as *madina* (major

city): Madina al-Munawwara, Baghdad, Isfahan, Nishapur, Merv, Bukhara, Samarkand, and Nasaf."¹ This indicates that three major cities of Central Asia were honored with the name *madina*. It is therefore evident that the spirituality and culture of the people living in those places were highly developed.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

In the ninth to twelfth centuries, Eastern scholars made a major contribution to world science through their views and writings. Great thinkers such as al-Khwarizmi, al-Farghani, al-Farabi, al-Biruni, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, a leading authority in medicine, and Imam al-Bukhari, a foremost scholar of Islamic hadith studies, emerged from our land. It is therefore appropriate to discuss these great figures below.

One of the great scholars who made an exceptional contribution to world science was Musa al-Khwarizmi. He founded a new branch of knowledge in world science - algebra. Through such works as *On Indian Calculation* and *al-Jabr wa al-Muqabala*, as well as various schematic tables, he made an invaluable contribution to world science. Even in his own time, he compiled tables for determining the longitude and latitude of geographical locations. The fact that an international conference entitled "The Historical Legacy of Medieval Eastern Scholars and Thinkers: Its Role and Significance in the Development of Modern Civilization" was held in Samarkand on May 15-16, 2014, is vivid confirmation of the exceptional importance of our ancestors in the world of knowledge. In his congratulatory address to the participants of the 2021 international forum "Central Asia at the Crossroads of World Civilizations," President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "During the ninth to twelfth centuries, recognized as the Golden Age of Islamic culture, the First Renaissance took place on the territory of our country. Great scholars such as Imam al-Bukhari, Imam al-Tirmidhi, Imam al-Maturidi, Burhan al-Din al-Marghinani, and Abu al-Mu'in al-Nasafi emerged from our land and became the pride of the entire Muslim world. The world-renowned scientific and creative discoveries of dozens of our great scholars, including Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, Ahmad al-Farghani, Abu Rayhan al-Biruni, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, and Mahmud al-Zamakhshari, had an incomparable influence on universal progress."² In this way, he placed special emphasis on the scholars who worked during the ninth to twelfth centuries.

Ahmad al-Farghani, who was born in Fergana and carried out his scholarly work mainly at the Bayt al-Hikma in the capital of the Caliphate, became known in the West as Alfraganus. He was the author of major works such as *al-Kamil fi al-*

¹ N.Muhammad, «Nasaf va Kesh allomalari», G'afur G'ulom nomidagi nashriyot matbaa uyi, T- 2006, 12-bet.

² SH.M. Mirziyoyevning 2021-yil 15-sentabrda o'tkazilgan «Markaziy Osiyo – jahon sivilizatsiyalari chorrahasida» xalqaro forumi ishtirokchilariga yo'llagan tabrigidan. <https://www.xabar.uz>.

Usturlab, *The Seven Climes*, and *Fi Sina'at al-Usturlab*. His masterpiece *Jawami Ilm al-Nujum wa al-Harakat al-Samawiyya*, which made an exceptional contribution to astronomy, was translated into Latin by Gerard of Cremona as early as the twelfth century. Western scholars benefited from his major scientific innovations and discoveries. It is also noteworthy that the Italian writer Dante mentioned the great Alfraganus in his masterpiece *The Divine Comedy*. The renowned academician I. Yu. Krachkovsky described al-Farghani as a "great astronomer and geographer from Central Asia."³ These views and facts make it clear that al-Farghani's scholarly legacy is valued throughout the world.

It is impossible to imagine world science and our spiritual culture without the scholarly legacy of the great scientist and discoverer Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. This outstanding scholar, who devoted more than thirty-one years of his life to science, was an encyclopedic scholar of his time. Many scholars, including I. Yu. Krachkovsky, P. G. Bulgakov, G. Jalolov, U. Karimov, and A. Irisov, conducted extensive research on al-Biruni. P. G. Bulgakov prepared the monograph *The Life and Works of al-Biruni*, while Academician I. Yu. Krachkovsky wrote a major book about him. Krachkovsky highly assessed Abu Rayhan al-Biruni's legacy, stating that "it is easier to list the fields of knowledge in which he was not interested than those in which he was." Al-Biruni's works in the sciences are numerous. According to the medieval Arab traveler Yaqt, in one of the mosques of Merv he encountered, among documents, a sixty-page list of al-Biruni's works.⁴

Abu Ali Ibn Sina, a major scholar of medicine known in the East as Shaykh al-Ra'is and in the West as Avicenna, occupies an important place in the history of world medicine. His *Canon of Medicine* alone was translated into Latin as early as the twelfth century. It is noteworthy that this work was translated into Latin more than thirty times. In this regard, it is important to mention a historical fact: one of the teachers who gave Abu Ali Ibn Sina extensive knowledge of medicine was Abu Mansur ibn Nuh al-Qamari of Bukhara. This figure was among the most respected physicians of the Samanid period. His contemporaries praised Abu Mansur as "the outstanding figure of his age and the unique scholar of his time, renowned for the perfection of his intellect in the art of medicine, well versed in medical practice, and wise in the principles and branches of medicine."⁵ This shows that, even before Ibn Sina, there were highly accomplished physicians in Central Asia. Ibn Sina was a great scholar who attained a level of excellence in the world of science recognized globally.

³ H. Hasanov, «Sayyoh olimlar», T, «O'zbekiston», T - 1981, 20-bet.

⁴ A. Sagdullayev, B. Aminov, O'. Mavlonov, N. Norqulov, «O'zbekiston tarixi: Davlat va jamiyat taraqqiyoti», I qism, «Akademiya» T – 2000, 116-bet.

⁵ A. Juvonmardiyev, «Nodir Sahifalar», «Fan», T – 1977, 11-bet.

In conclusion, it may be stated that many outstanding scholars such as those mentioned above emerged in the Central Asian region and left an indelible mark on the world's scholarly heritage.

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